



North Carolina Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation



NORTH CAROLINA EUGENICS AND THE ROLE OF THE FOUNDATION

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www.sterilizationvictims.nc.gov

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Overview



- ✦ Eugenics in America
- ✦ NC's Eugenics Laws
- ✦ The Eugenics Board of NC
- ✦ Repeal of Eugenics Laws
- ✦ State Efforts
- ✦ Establishment of the Foundation

Eugenics in America



What is Eugenics?

- Developed in the late 1800s
- Selective breeding of humans and animals to rid the population of characteristics deemed unfit

What is Sterilization?

- Medical procedures that leave a person unable to conceive children

Eugenics in America

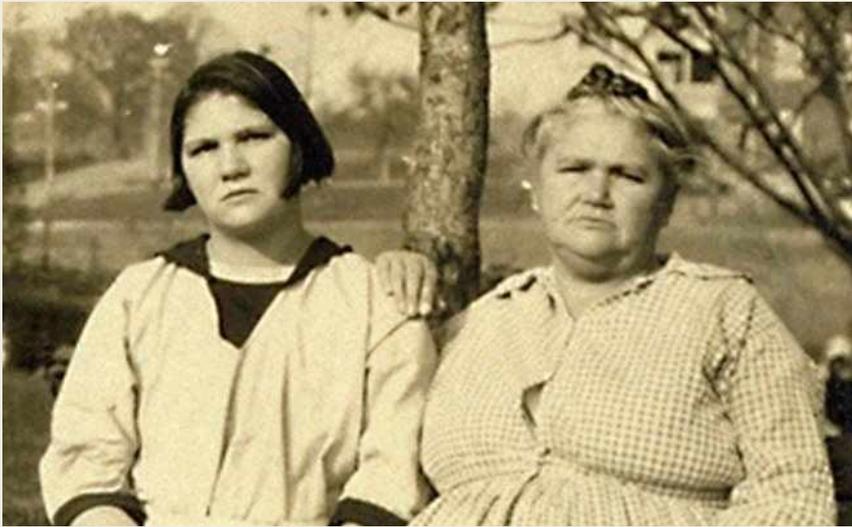


1907: INDIANA

First U.S. State to pass sterilization law



Eugenics in America



L-R: Carrie Buck and mother at Virginia insane asylum

Buck v. Bell 1927

Historic U.S. Supreme Court Decision upheld sterilization laws in U.S. States

States increasingly pass laws to carry out sterilizations

Ruling never overturned

Eugenics in America



By 1935: 25 states have sterilization laws

LEGISLATIVE STATUS OF EUGENICAL STERILIZATION IN THE SEVERAL STATES OF THE UNITED STATES, JANUARY 1935

STATES WITH STERILIZATION LAWS NOW IN EFFECT—1935	STATES WITH BILLS NOW PENDING —	BILLS VETOED SINCE 1907	STATES IN WHICH BILLS HAVE NEVER BEEN INTRODUCED	AMENDMENTS NOW PENDING	AMENDMENTS PASSED WITHIN ONE YEAR—	AMENDMENTS KILLED WITHIN ONE YEAR—
28	7	7	6	4	2	3
Alabama Arizona California Connecticut Delaware Idaho Indiana Iowa Kansas Maine Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Montana Nebraska New Hampshire North Carolina North Dakota Oklahoma Oregon *South Carolina South Dakota Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin	Illinois Maryland Missouri New Jersey New York Pennsylvania Texas	Georgia Kentucky Massachusetts Nevada Ohio Tennessee Arkansas	Colorado Florida Louisiana New Mexico Rhode Island Wyoming	Iowa Nebraska Oklahoma West Virginia	Indiana South Dakota	Kansas Washington Wisconsin

* effective May 17, 1935

North Carolina's Eugenics Laws



1919: FIRST STERILIZATION LAW ENACTED

**NO DOCUMENTED STERILIZATIONS
UNDER THE 1919 LAW**

CHAPTER 281, PUBLIC LAWS OF NC, SESSION 1919

North Carolina's Eugenics Laws



**1929: 2ND STERILIZATION LAW
PASSES**

**49 PEOPLE
STERILIZED UNDER THIS LAW**

CHAPTER 34, PUBLIC LAWS OF NC, SESSION 1929

North Carolina's Eugenics Laws



1933: 1929 STERILIZATION LAW STRUCK DOWN

NC SUPREME COURT STRIKES LAW

- 1. LACK OF NOTICE OF HEARING**
- 2. LACK OF RIGHT TO APPEAL**

**CHAPTER 34, PUBLIC LAWS OF NC, SESSION
1929**

North Carolina's Eugenics Laws



**1933: 3RD STERILIZATION LAW
ENACTED**

**LEGISLATURE RE-DRAFTS
STERILIZATION LEGISLATION THAT INCLUDES**

**NOTICE OF HEARING
RIGHT TO APPEAL
CREATION OF EUGENICS BOARD OF NC**

**ARTICLE 7, CHAPTER 35,
NC GENERAL STATUTES, SESSION 1933**

North Carolina's Eugenics Laws



**1937: STERILIZATION HOSPITAL
STAY LAW ENACTED**

**TEMPORARY ADMISSION OF INDIVIDUALS
INTO STATE HOSPITALS
FOR THE PURPOSE OF STERILIZATION**

CHAPTER 221, NC GENERAL STATUTES, SESSION 1937



Eugenics Board of NC Members:

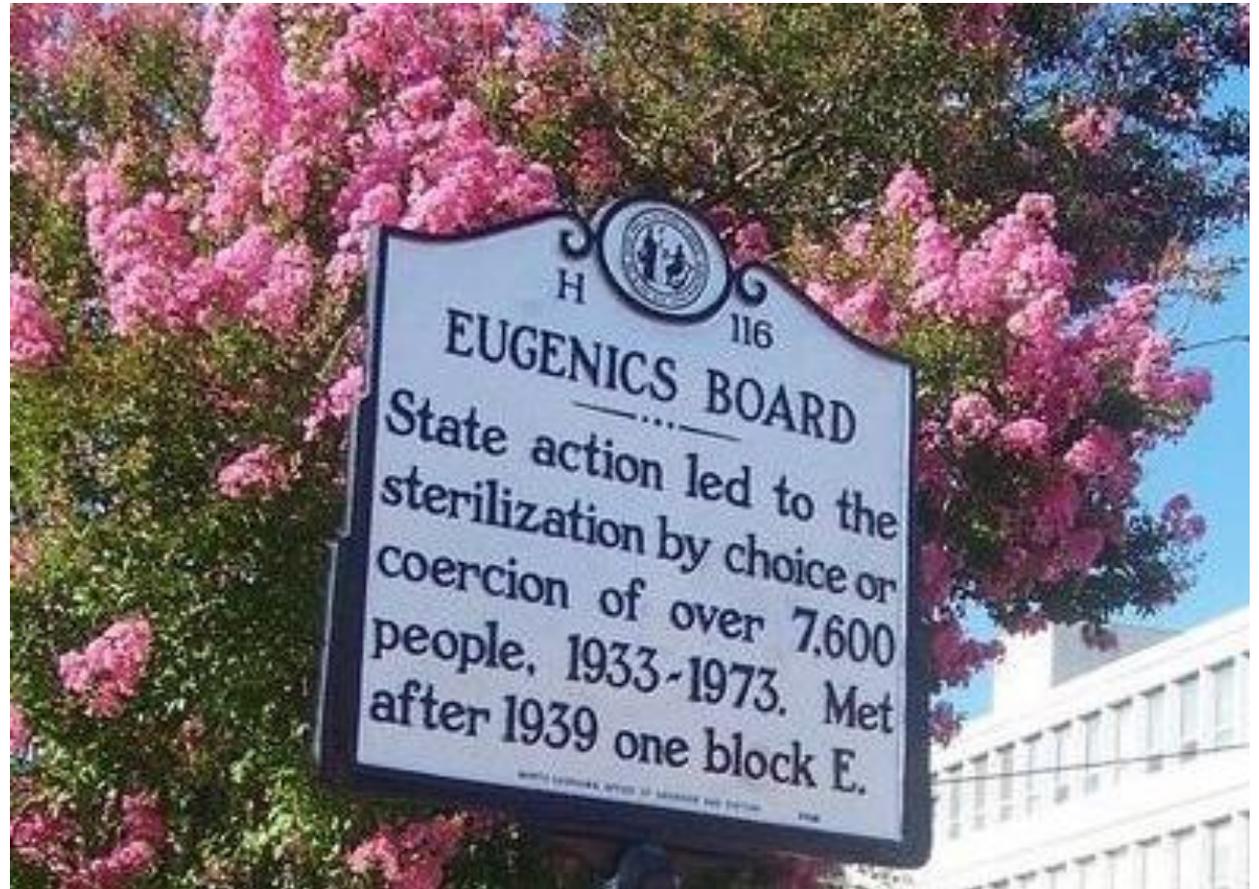
Commissioner of
Public Welfare

Secretary of State
Board of Health

Chief Medical Officer
of State Hospital

Chief Medical Officer
of Institution for
Feeble-minded

NC Attorney General

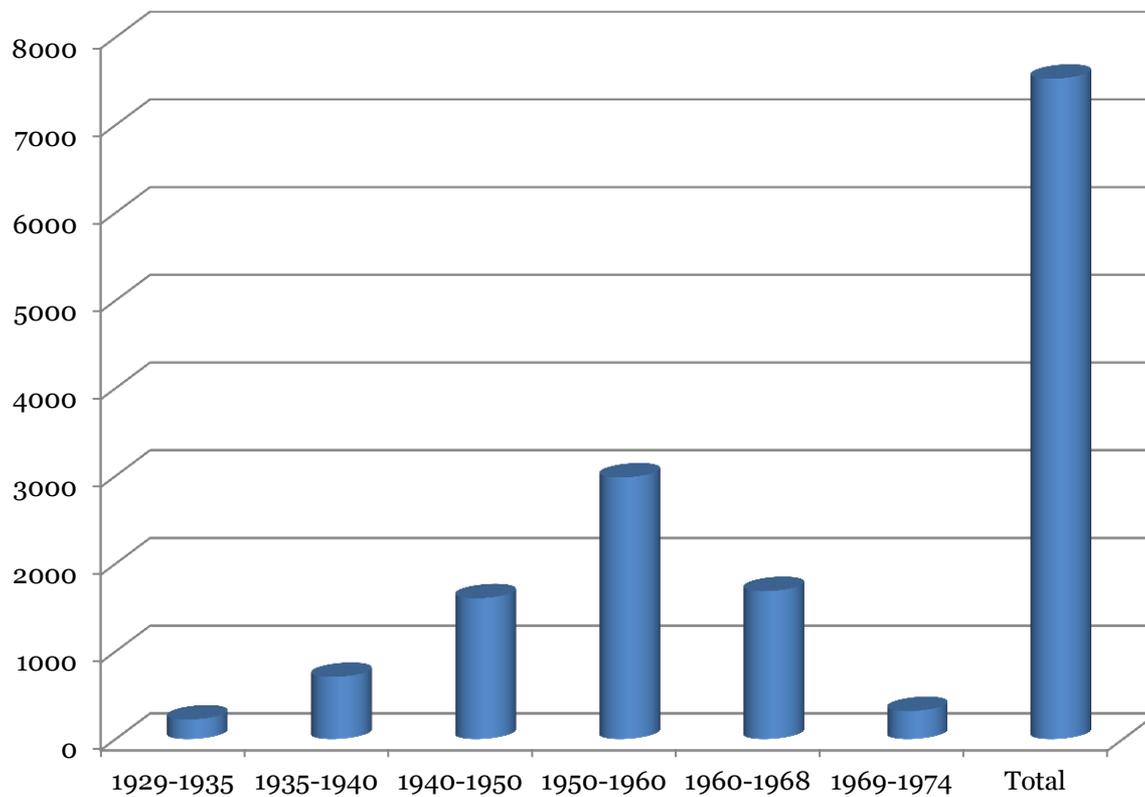


**Board reviewed petitions for sterilization
and authorized sterilization procedures
1933 - 1977**

Eugenics Board of NC



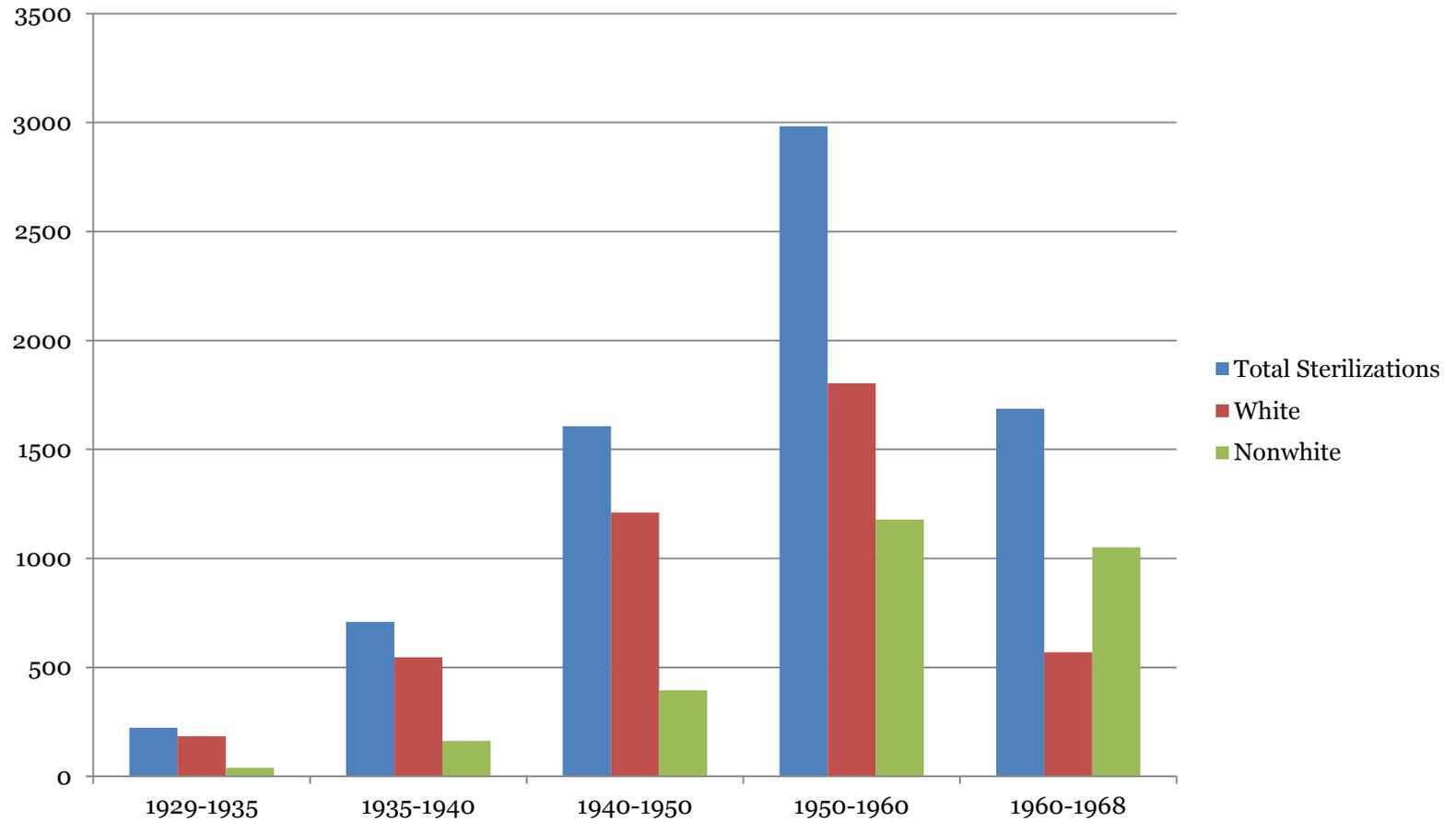
Total Sterilizations



Year	Total Sterilizations
1929-1935	223
1935-1940	709
1940-1950	1606
1950-1960	2983
1960-1968	1687
1969-1974	320
Total	7528

■ Total Sterilizations

Eugenics Board of NC



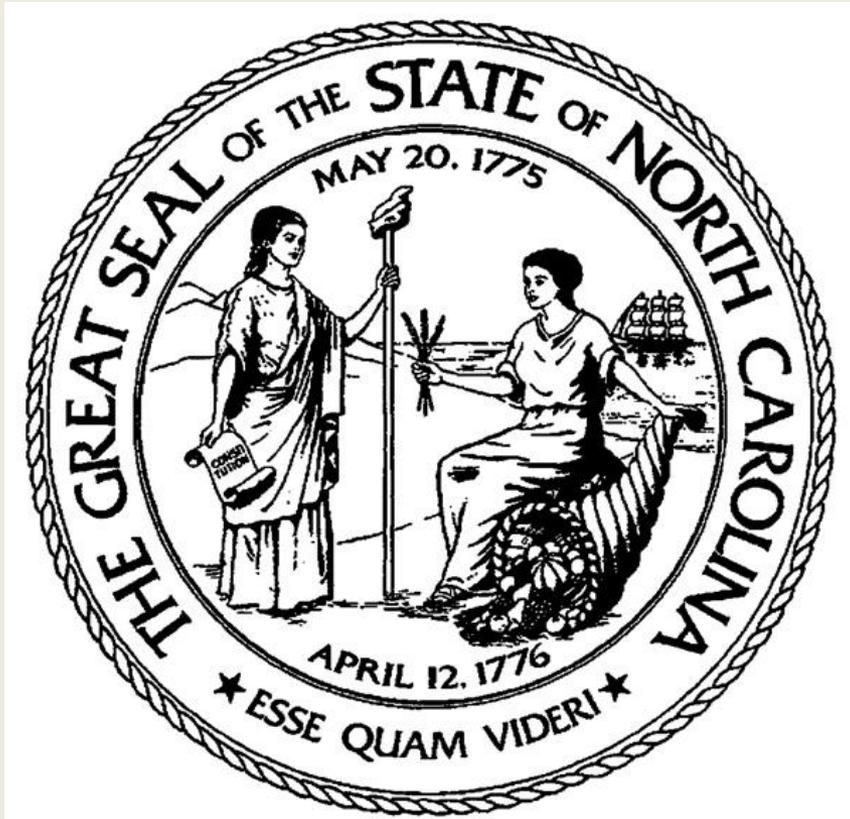
Repeal of Eugenics Laws in North Carolina



**1977:
EUGENICS BOARD OF NC
ABOLISHED**

**1977-2003:
INVOLUNTARY STERILIZATION
LAWS REMAIN IN GENERAL
STATUTES**

State Efforts in 2002-2003



- Governor issues apology to victims
- Governor establishes Task Force to review NC's Eugenics program
- Involuntary Sterilization laws removed from General Statutes

State Efforts Post 2003



- Eugenics Exhibit travels state
- NC House Select Committee appointed to review compensation for victims
- \$20,000 recommended per victim; no funds appropriated
- Eugenics Board Historical Marker erected
- Foundation established

Establishment of Foundation



- Established by Governor Bev Perdue to provide justice to victims of NC's Eugenics Board
- General Assembly provided non-recurring \$250,000 appropriation in FY 2009-2010 for the Foundation to carry out its duties
- Functions as a clearinghouse to assist victims
- Provides staff support to Gubernatorial Task Force for Sterilization Victims (2011)

NC Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation



Efforts 2010-2011

- Division created in Department of Administration
- Staff hired
- Clearinghouse Search Procedures developed
- Clearinghouse Information line launched
- Clearinghouse information distributed to public agencies throughout NC

Clearinghouse Verifications

Oct 2010 – Feb 2011

Phone Inquiries: 70

1st Party: 44

3rd Party: 18

Other: 8

Verifications: 26

Matches: 5

(7 since March 2010)

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For more information,

Call

1-877-550-6013

Visit

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