

Similar research was published by other professionals, including *Hill Folk* by Davenport and Danielson; *The Dack Family*, by Finlayson; and *Mongolian Virginians*, the *Win Tribe*, by Estabrook and McDougle. *The Almoses: A study of the feeble-mindedness* was a popular text for emerging special educators. (The "Almoses" referred to the people with mental retardation as being almost human.) These studies supported similar conclusions to Goddard's research, and further stigmatized people with disabilities and their families. Not until many years later was Goddard's research rejected as invalid.

**RESPONSES TO DISABILITY:**  
Incarceration; sterilization; blame people with disabilities for social problems.

**INVOLVEMENT BY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:**  
Victims of forced sterilizations and incarceration.

**STERILIZATION STATUTE URGED**  
Psychiatrists Favor It to Reduce Feeble-Minded, Doctor Reports  
**WOULD PROTECT NORMAL PUPILS**  
New Jersey Man Favors Segregation of Delinquents.  
**ADDRESS BEFORE TEACHERS**



Using the case history of a resident in his institution named Deborah "Kallikak" (Kallikak being a fictitious name taken from the Greek words for "good" and "bad"), Dr. Henry Goddard learned that her great grandfather, Martin, was a Revolutionary War soldier of normal intelligence who had relations with a "feeble-minded" bar maid, producing a child. Later, Martin returned home to Philadelphia where he married a woman of the upper class. From this history, Goddard traced the lineage of Martin "Kallikak's" upper class family, finding only successful, upstanding individuals of normal or better intelligence. Of Martin's lineage through his offspring with the bar maid, Goddard found criminals, prostitutes, and vagabonds - people of below normal intelligence.



The eugenic research of superintendents in the US had a direct influence on attitudes toward people with disabilities in Nazi Germany.



Goddard's conclusion, which he published in his widely read book entitled *The Kallikak Family*, was that mental retardation is the root cause of many of our social problems, and that it is hereditary. Although his research methods were questionable, the book told many people what they wanted to believe: that people with disabilities could ruin the genetic strain.

**KILL ALL IMBECILES, SAYS CLUB WOMAN**  
Chicago Wife Pleads for Eminent Disgrace of Idiots and Epileptics at Birth.

A popular belief at this time was that mental retardation and mental illness were completely genetic, and were the cause of most, if not all, social ills: poverty, drunkenness, prostitution, crime, and violence. The response was to segregate or sterilize all of these people so that they could not reproduce their "evil habits" and "destroy the gene pool."

In reaction to misguided fears about persons with developmental disabilities, and as a means of social control, the eugenics movement led to tens of thousands of forced sterilizations.

**PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ARE MADE SCAPEGOATS FOR MANY OF SOCIETY'S PROBLEMS.**



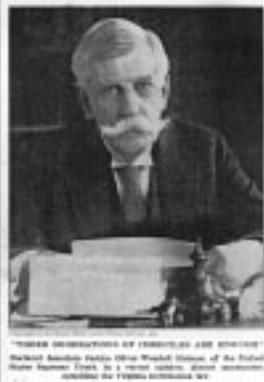
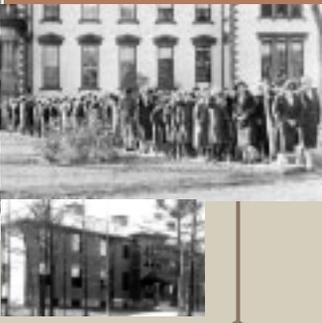
As American professionals were calling for sterilization, Nazi Germany was blaming people with disabilities for wasting valuable resources.

One case of sterilization came before the Supreme Court concerning a woman labeled "feeble-minded." Those who brought her to court produced a family tree, showing that the girl was already in the third generation of people with limited intelligence. Chief Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes proclaimed "three generations of imbeciles are enough," and he ordered sterilization. Later studies proved that the woman was in fact not "feeble-minded," and that her family tree was concocted.

Billed as "A Eugenic Photoplay," this 1917 movie was taken from the headlines and even featured the real Dr. Haiselden, who refused to operate to save the lives of disabled infants. This controversy highlighted the public's fear of disability and the power of doctors to choose who should live or die.



As demand increased, institutions continued to grow larger and become more crowded.



**STEREOTYPE**  
During the "genetic scare" of the 1920s, people with developmental disabilities were often the objects of fear, believed to be driven by rage and intent upon harming others. The fear of persons with physical deformities has long been popular in the media, with figures such as Quasimoto, Captain Hook, Dr. Strangelove, Frankenstein, and the Wolfman. In addition to typesetting persons with disabilities as villains, this stereotype contributes to our fear of persons with disabilities living in the community.

This overcrowding continued well into the 1970s



- 1880 The National Association of the Deaf is founded.
- 1882 Institution in Syracuse, NY opens farms colonies.
- 1883 Francis Galton, a cousin to Charles Darwin, coins the term "eugenics."
- 1887 Women admitted to the National Deaf-Mute College (now Gallaudet).
- 1888 Maryland opens the Asylum and Training School for the Feeble-Minded.
- late 1880s Pennsylvania adds a "girls' cottage" for 80 women of childbearing age.
- 1889 Laura Bridgman, world-famous blind student of the Perkins School, dies at age sixty of pneumonia.
- 1892 Ellis Island opens.
- 1894 National Deaf-Mute College becomes Gallaudet College.
- 1896 Charles Eliot Norton (Editor of the *North American Review*) advocates for the "painless destruction" of insane and deficient minds.
- 1897 Martin Barr discusses benefits of desexualization at the Association for Medical Officers of American Institutions for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Persons.