Governor Bev Perdue established the N.C. Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation as a Division of the N.C. Department of Administration in 2010 to provide justice and compensate victims who were forcibly sterilized by the State of North Carolina's Eugenics Board program. The Foundation functions as a clearinghouse to assist victims of the former N.C. Eugenics Board program and thereby serves as the primary point of contact for victims, potential victims and the general public who are seeking guidance about North Carolina's former sterilization laws and program. During 2011 and 2012, Foundation staff also supported the separate Gubernatorial Task Force on Eugenics Compensation established under Executive Order 83.

The N.C. Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation is dedicated to providing information and assistance to individuals impacted by the North Carolina Eugenics Board program.

N.C. Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation
301 N. Wilmington St - Suite 762
Raleigh, N.C.

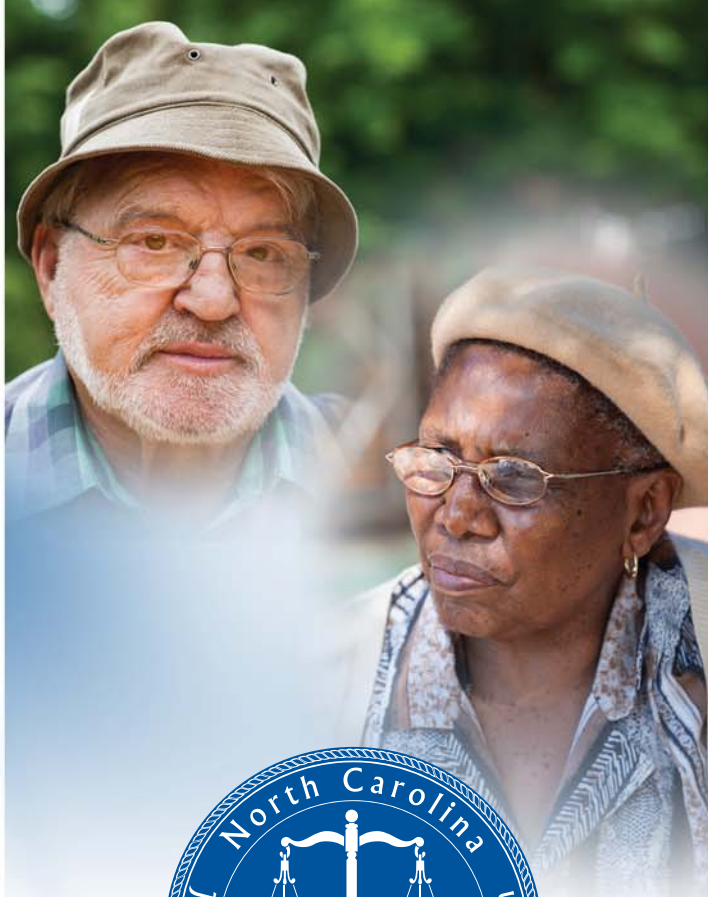
Appointment Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday through Thursday

Phone: 919-807-4270
(1-877-550-6013, toll free in N.C.)
Fax: 919-807-4275
www.sterilizationvictims.nc.gov

Mailing Address:
1330 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1330

The photos depict models that represent victims of sterilization and have not been sterilized themselves.

This online public document was produced in January 2013.



N.C. Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation

A Division of the
N.C. Department of Administration

Questions & Answers on Eugenics in N.C.

What is eugenics?
The concept or term eugenics refers to the intentional and selective breeding of humans and animals to rid the population of characteristics deemed unfit by those administering this practice. In the U.S., eugenics was carried out by individuals, nonprofit organizations and state governments that felt that human reproduction should be controlled.

What is sterilization?
Sterilization is a medical procedure or form of birth control that leaves a male or female unable to reproduce or conceive children. Sterilizations under North Carolina's former Eugenics Board program were surgical procedures.

How was eugenics administered in North Carolina?
The N.C. Eugenics Board program was created by the legislature in 1933 after a 1929 state sterilization law was ruled unconstitutional by the N.C. Supreme Court. The program was a part of the former N.C. Department of Public Welfare and petitions for sterilization were considered by a five-member panel of state officials.

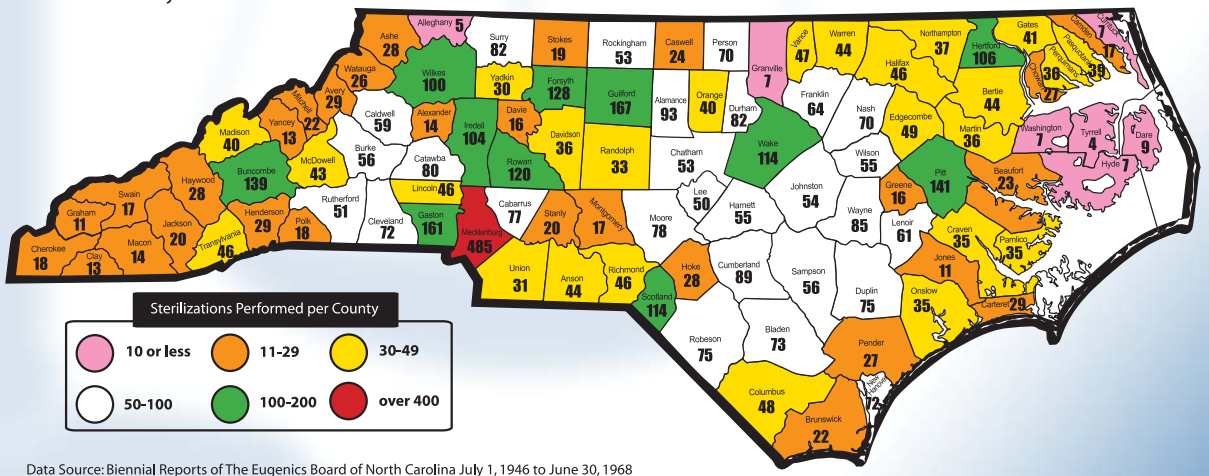
In the late 1940s, the Department of Public Welfare began to promote increased sterilizations as one of several solutions to poverty and illegitimacy. In the late 1950s, a dramatic rise of sterilizations occurred amongst women that did not reside in state institutions and African Americans. Prior to the 1950s, many of the sterilization orders primarily impacted persons residing in state institutions.

Did every county in North Carolina participate in the state's sterilization program known as the N.C. Eugenics Board program?
Yes. All 100 counties in North Carolina participated in the program. Some counties were more active than others in the sterilizations that were performed. (***see map***)

How many victims have been affected by the N.C. Eugenics Board and how many are alive today?
Between 1929 and 1974, nearly 7,600 documented males and females were sterilized by choice, force or coercion under the authority of a 1929 sterilization law and the creation of the N.C. Eugenics Board program in 1933. The youngest victims were ten (10) years of age. 85% of victims were female. 40% of victims were minorities including African Americans and Native Americans.

The exact number of victims alive today is unknown. However, the State Center for Health Statistics estimates that 2,944 victims may alive as of 2010. It is more realistically estimated by the State Center that 1,500 to 2,000 victims may still be alive.

Peak of Eugenics Program in North Carolina
July 1946 – June 1968



Data Source: Biennial Reports of The Eugenics Board of North Carolina July 1, 1946 to June 30, 1968

If I believe that I or someone in my family may have been sterilized under the N.C. Eugenics Board, what should I do?
Contact the N.C. Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation's Information Line at 1-877-550-6013 (toll free) or 919-807-4270. Callers seeking to have their names checked against N.C. Eugenics Board program records will be mailed a Verification Request Form to complete and return. Forms are also available at www.sterilizationvictims.nc.gov. Persons impacted by this program were born in or prior to 1961 and would have been sterilized within North Carolina between 1929 and 1974.

If my name is found in the N.C. Eugenics Board records, do I get money?
A copy of your individual patient case file will be provided to you if your name is found. The verification process at this time does not guarantee any type or form of compensation. Legislation to provide compensation to victims has not been adopted. The state legislature must formally address and approve any recommendation to compensate victims.