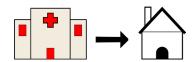
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# What is the Deinstitutionalization Movement?

The Deinstitutionalization movement seeks to transition people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) from psychiatric institutions to community-based settings.



The movement also advocates for the closure of these institutions.



"We believe that all institutions, both private and public should be closed. All people regardless of the severity of their disabilities should live in the community with the support they need."

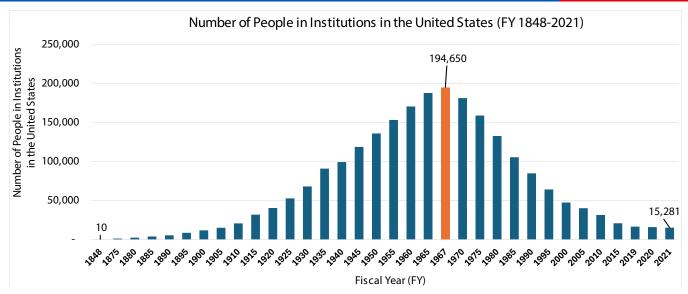
-Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), 1995

### Why is Deinstitutionalization Important?

- Many residents of institutions and their families have reported abusive, unsafe, and unsanitary living conditions.
- According to Robert Burns' *Christmas in Purgatory*, many residents of all ages did not receive the proper essentials such as food, clothing, and education.
- Residents were often treated like prisoners rather than as patients. Some reported that they were frequently isolated from their fellow patients and their families.
- Many residents of institutions lose their autonomy and ability to advocate for themselves. Until 2003, any residents with IDD were also involuntarily sterilized.

#### **Deinstitutionalization Timeline** 1773 The first psychiatric hospital in the United States is opened in Williamsburg, Virginia. Schoolteacher Dorothea Dix 1841 visited a Massachusetts jail and was appalled by how it was filled with people with mental illnesses. The ruling of **Brown v.** 1954 **Board of Education** allowed for people with IDD to participate in traditional educational settings. President John F. Kennedy 1963 signed the Maternal and Child Health and **Retardation Planning** Amendment to the Social **Security Act.** Burton Blatt publishes the 1965 photo essay, **Christmas in Purgatory**, which exposes the living conditions for residents of mental institutions The number of Institutions 1967 in the United States starts to decrease. Geraldo Rivera conducted an expose of the Willowbrook State School, further exposing the appalling conditions of institutions 1990 The **Americans with** Disabilities Act (ADA) is passed. Institutions in the United States have decreased to less than 16,000.

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Since 1967, the number of people with IDD in institutions has decreased dramatically.

#### **Causes of Deinstitutionalization**

- The Supreme Court's 1954 ruling on Brown v. Board of Education, allowing for people with IDD to integrate in traditional school settings.
- Robert Burns' 1965 Christmas in Purgatory exposing the disgusting living conditions of its residents.
- Geraldo Rivera's 1972 expose of the Willowbrook State School
- The passing of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Residents transitioned from institutions to community-based settings.
- Many institutions were privately-owned and focused more on profit than healthcare.



The State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Project is a national longitudinal comparative study of financial and programmatic trends in spending on supports and services for people

with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) in the United States, The project is funded by the U.S. Administration on Community Living as a Longitudinal Data Project of National Significance.

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