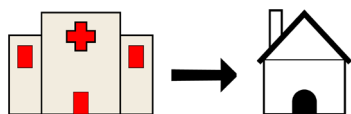


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## What is the Deinstitutionalization Movement?

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.



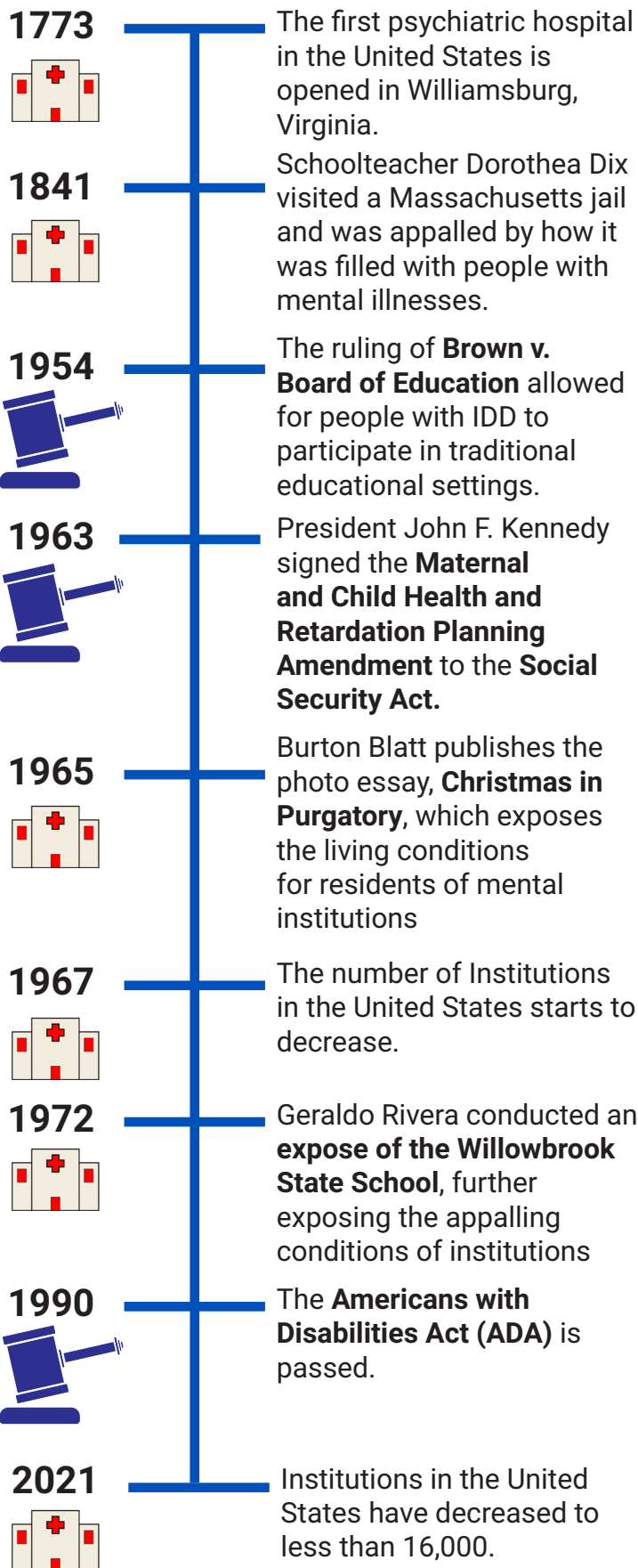
.....  
"We believe that all institutions, both private and public should be closed. All people regardless of the severity of their disabilities should live in the community with the support they need."

-Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), 1995

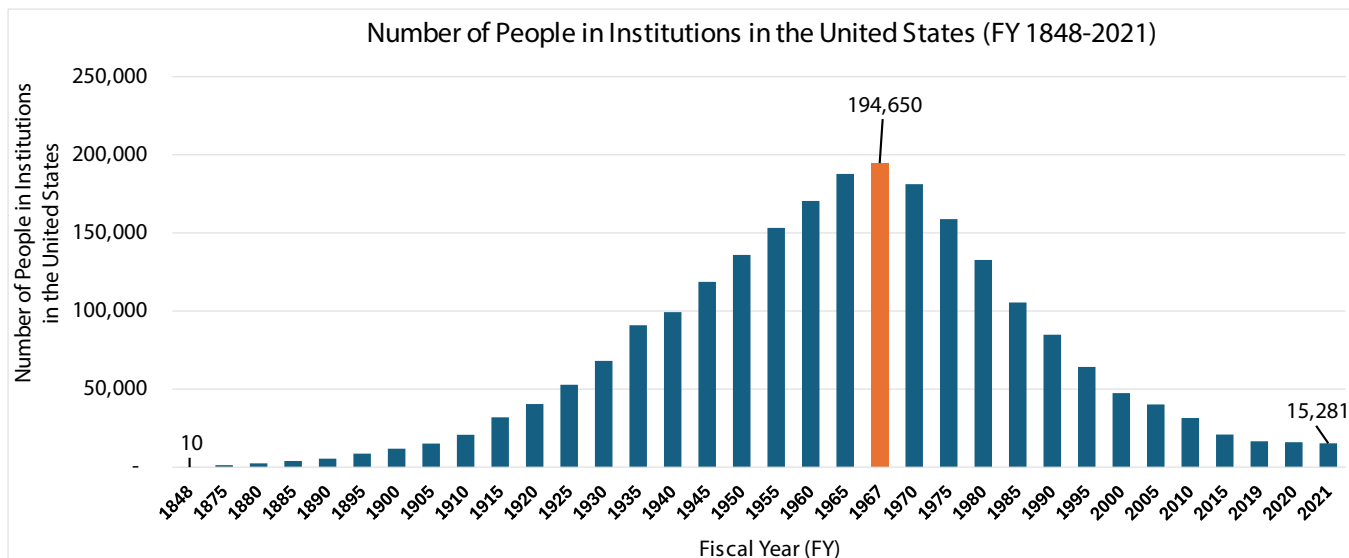
## Why is Deinstitutionalization Important?

- X** 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.
- X** Residents were often treated like prisoners rather than as patients. Some reported that they were frequently isolated from their fellow patients and their families.
- X** 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



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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.



State of the States  
in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

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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