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## "Racial Aufartung" in Ravensburg

"Racial improvement" in Ravensburg

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### Summary

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After the law for the prevention of genetically ill offspring came into force on January 1, 1934, the first forced sterilizations were carried out at the Ravensburg Municipal Hospital (Heilig-Geist-Spital). 389 sterilization procedures were performed between April 1934 and March 1938. No data are available for the following years, but it can be assumed that the total number is significantly higher. Affected patients were referred to the municipal hospital by the Weissenau sanatorium, the Gertrudisheim and the Wilhelmsdorf asylum for the deaf and dumb. The reason for the sterilization was only given in about half of the cases. The main reasons included: dementia (57%), schizophrenia (23%), and epilepsy (6%). This was similar to the total data published for the whole of Germany.

## Abstract

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After implementation of the Law for the Prevention of Progeny with Hereditary Diseases on January 1, 1934 the first enforced sterilizations were undertaken at the Städtische Krankenhaus-Heilig-Geist-Spital in Ravensburg. Between April 1934 and March 1938, 389 sterilization operations were performed. For later years no data is available, but it can be assumed that the total number is significantly greater. Patients affected were transferred to the Städtische Krankenhaus by the Psychiatric Clinic Weissenau, Gertrudisheim, and the Clinic for Deaf and Dumb in Wilhelmsdorf. In only about half of the cases was the rationale for the sterilization program stated. The main reasons included: mental illness (57%), schizophrenia (23%), and epilepsy (6%). This was similar to the total data published for all of Germany.

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## Notes

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1. 1.

On May 17th, 1939 the population of the Oberamt or the district of Ravensburg was 76,379.

2. 2.

StR AI Bü 3652 L 89.

3. 3.

StR AI Bü 3655 L 42.

4. 4th

StR AI Bü 3652 L 89.

5. 5.

StR AI Bü 3652.

6. 6th

StR AI Bü 3652 L 7.

7. 7th

StR AI Bü 3652 L 24.

8. 8th.

StR AI Bü 3652 L 19 and 22.

9. 9.

State Archives Sigmaringen: Denazification documents

10. 10.

State Archives Sigmaringen, Wü 13, T2, No. 1499 (A29 / V / 1030); Wü13 T2, No. 1499 (A29 / V / 1036); Wü 13, T2, No. 1499 (A29 / V / 1020).

11. 11.

City archive Ravensburg: files on the internal operation of the city hospital. Human resources files at the Municipal Hospital.

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## Conflict of interest

The corresponding author states for himself and his co-author that there is no conflict of interest.

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- German Empire
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## Keywords

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