

# Teaching with Primary Sources: Student Research Assignments

## Race & Segregation Research Guide

The institutional mental health care system was segregated until after the Civil Rights Movement. Some states – primarily in the South – admitted Black patients to separate buildings or constructed entirely separate institutions to house them. There was only one mental health institution for Indigenous Peoples, the Asylum for Insane Indians (Hiawatha Asylum) in Canton, SD. Conditions were drastically poorer in these segregated facilities as compared to the buildings designated for white patients.

### About the Annual Reports

Historically, every asylum and state hospital submitted a report annually to their Board and state government. These reports contain day-to-day details about the operations of an institution for a given year. Typical reports list patient demographics and statistics, operational highlights, struggles the institution is facing, and financial reports. Some reports will also feature case studies, floor plans, or even photographs. They are a rich resource for information on the history of disease classification, treatment philosophy and adoption, and institutional experiences.

The [Archives of the History of American Psychology](#) holds the largest multi-region collection of asylum and state hospital reports in the U.S. The Cushing Memorial Library Collection of Asylum Reports was collected and donated by Ludy T. Benjamin, Jr. It contains over 570 reports representing 33 states between the years 1834 to 1967.

The bulk of the collection is digitized and searchable through our website at:

<https://collections.uakron.edu/digital/collection/AsylumReport>

### Recommended Reports

Not all annual reports include a discussion of race. The suggestions below are intended to help start the research process; they are not a complete listing of discussions of race in the collections.

## Central Lunatic Asylum for Colored Insane (Petersburg, VA)

The Central Lunatic Asylum for Colored Insane opened as the first mental health institution for emancipated persons in the U.S.

Year	Report Title	Call number
1877-1878	Reports of the Board of Directors and of the Medical Superintendent of the Central Lunatic Asylum (for Colored Insane,) Virginia	<a href="#">RC445 .V5 C4 1878</a>
1878-1879	Reports of the Board of Directors and the Medical Superintendent of the Central Lunatic Asylum (for Colored Insane,) Virginia	<a href="#">RC445 .V5 C4 1879</a>
1930-1931	Sixty-first Annual Report of the Central State Hospital	<a href="#">RC445 .V8 P3 1931</a>

## Eastern North Carolina Insane Asylum (Goldsboro, NC)

The Eastern North Carolina Insane Asylum (later, Cherry Hospital) was opened in 1880 to serve the Black population of North Carolina.

Year	Report Title	Call number
1887	Superintendent's Report of the Eastern N.C. Insane Asylum, also the Report of the Treasurer	<a href="#">RC445 .N8 E27</a> <a href="#">1887</a>
1888	Superintendent's Report of the Eastern N.C. Insane Asylum, also the Report of the Treasurer	<a href="#">RC445 .N8 E27</a> <a href="#">1888</a>
1890	Superintendent's Report of the Eastern N.C. Insane Asylum, also the Report of the Treasurer	<a href="#">RC445 .N8 E27</a> <a href="#">1890</a>
1892	Superintendent's Report of the Eastern Hospital, Goldsboro, N.C., also the Report of the Treasurer	<a href="#">RC445 .N8 E27</a> <a href="#">1892</a>

## Montevue Hospital (Frederick, MD)

The Montevue Hospital was a segregated institution that was cited for its poor standards several times by the State Lunacy Commission. Our collection includes one report from this institution, featuring photographs and detailed descriptions of the environment.

Year	Report Title	Call number
1908	Twenty-Third Report of the Lunacy Commission to His Excellency the Governor of Maryland ( <i>see pp. 113-121</i> )	<a href="#">RC445 .M3 L86</a> <a href="#">1904</a>

Like this resource? Consider donating to the Cummings Center for the History of Psychology at <http://www.uakron.edu/chp/support>

## Government Hospital for the Insane (Washington, DC)

The Government Hospital for the Insane (later, St. Elizabeths Hospital) was the first federally operated mental health institution in the U.S. Black patients were segregated in separate buildings from the white patients. Annual reports for the Government Hospital represent the most extensive collection of any single institution in the Cushing Memorial Library Collection of Asylum Reports.

Our collection contains 64 annual reports from this institution, all of which touch on the subject of race to some degree. [The full selection of reports from this institution are searchable on our website.](#)

## Central Kentucky Lunatic Asylum (Anchorage, KY)

The Central Kentucky Lunatic Asylum was the fourth mental health institution to open in the State of Kentucky. It segregated patients by race in separate buildings.

Year	Report Title	Call number
1882	Annual Report of the Central Kentucky Lunatic Asylum (Anchorage, Kentucky)	<a href="#">RC445 .K4 C46 1882</a>
1887	Annual Report of the Central Kentucky Lunatic Asylum, Anchorage, Kentucky	<a href="#">RC445 .K4 C46 1887</a>