

***The 1890 State Care Act*** created state-run institutions for people with mental health conditions who were traditionally confined to privately operated "poor houses. This was viewed as a major reform and by 1955, 98,000 patients were confined to 28 institutions, many for decades. Following WWII, many books and reports highlighted the abuses of psychiatric confinement, and the "open hospital" concept took root, first in the UK and then in New York. It was felt people could live the majority of their life in the community and use the hospital on as-needed basis.