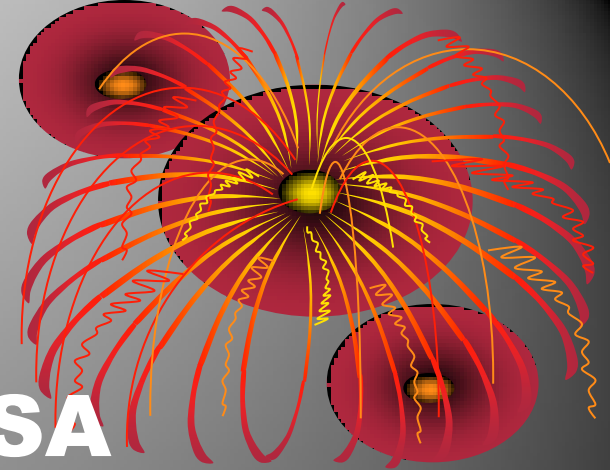


# **Youth with Disabilities: Emerging Issues in the USA**



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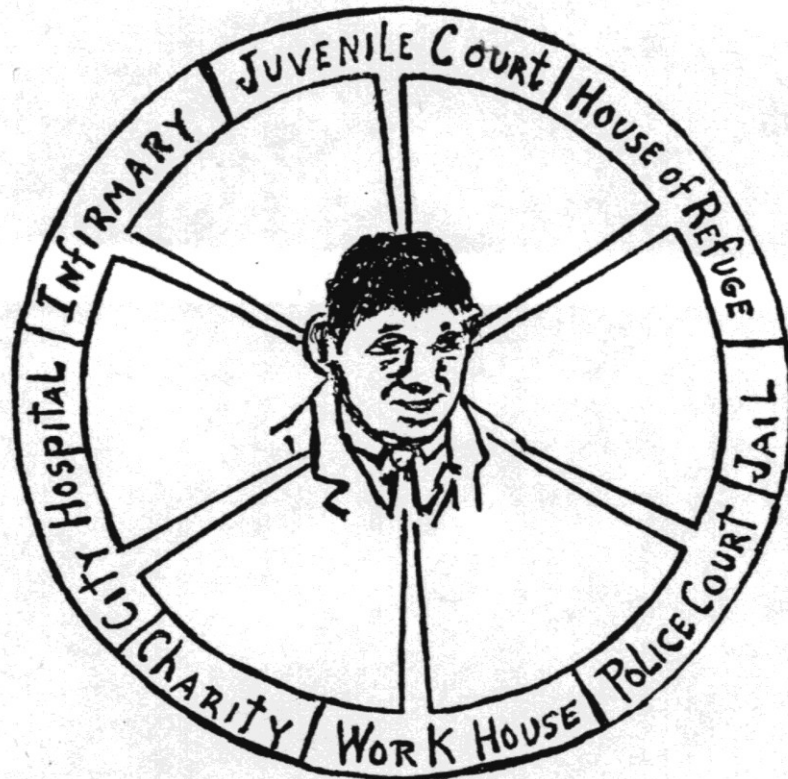
# Goals of presentation

- **Overview history and government structures**
- **Overview of special education and vocational rehabilitation**

# THE FEEBLE-MINDED

OR THE

HUB TO OUR WHEEL OF VICE, CRIME  
AND PAUPERISM



*Cincinnati's Problem*

**Federal system in USA - 50 states with strong states rights**

**for example: In some states personal marijuana use is not criminal but in others it is**

**US federal government pays for 10.8% of education – the rest is paid by states and local city. For special education, it pays 14%, but cost is much higher**

**Funding for special education is much higher per pupil than general education – therefore trend is for fewer services**

**Change increasingly falls to state, rather than federal government**

**– 50 states in US, therefore 50 different ways to provide special education and disability services**

Special Education in USA:

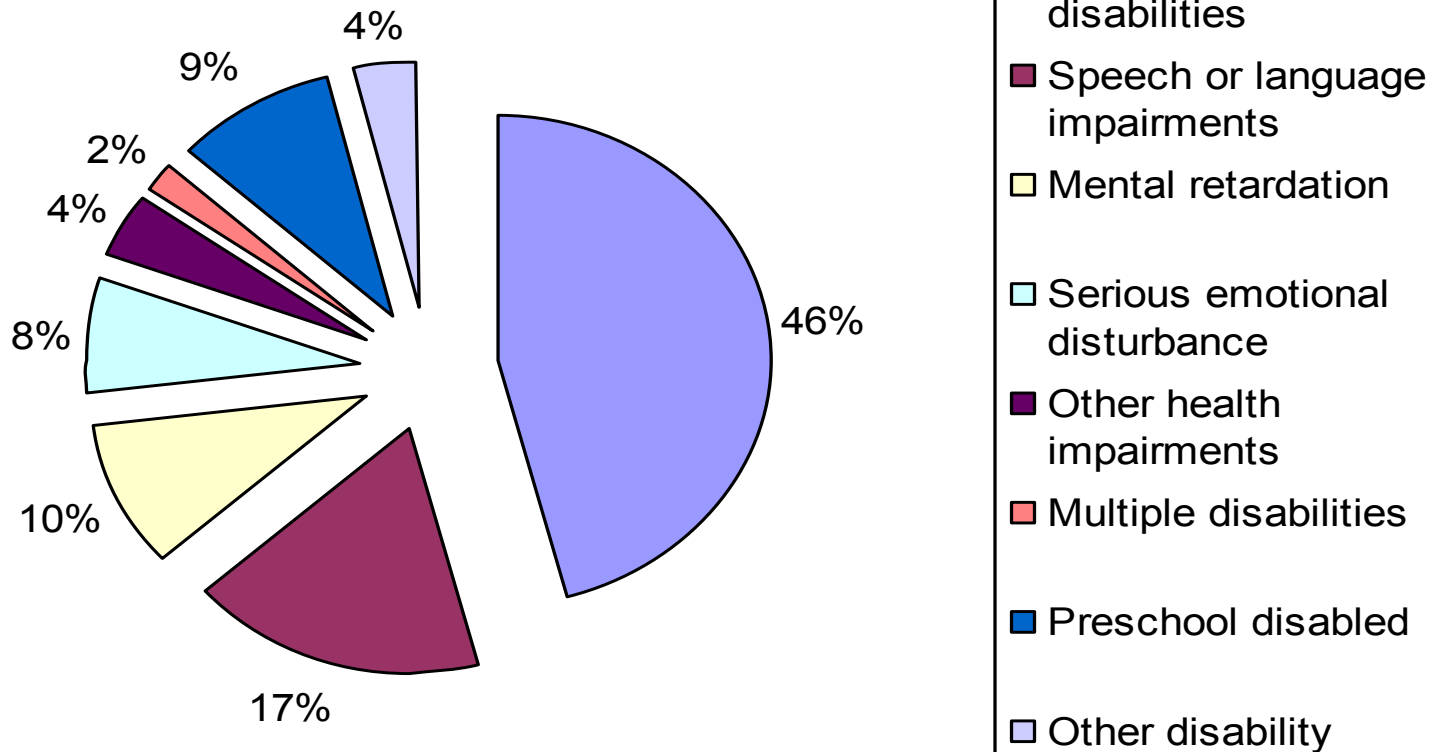
not public school system responsibility  
until 1975

influential Americans such as Roy Rogers  
(cowboy) & Kennedy family had children with  
Down Syndrome and this raised awareness

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act  
"IDEA" - 1975

Public school responsibility now for Individual  
Education Plan (IEP) and "mainstreaming" and  
"inclusion"

# Percentages of American Students in Special Education Programs by Type of Disability



Source: National Center for Education Statistics' *Digest of Education Statistics 2001*.

## **“Historical” categories in special education**

**specific learning disability**

**speech or language**

**mental retardation - intellectual disability**

**emotional disturbance**

**multiple disability**

**hearing impairment**

**orthopedic impairment**

**other health impairment**

**visual impairment**

**deaf-blind**

**traumatic brain injury**

**developmental delay**

**autism**



# Emerging awareness in children and youth

- 1. Asthma**
- 2. Behavioral disorders**
- 3. Autism – Aspergers Disease**
- 4. Fetal alcohol syndrome**

# Employment is a Big Focus Now in Special Education

Employment rates for persons with disabilities comparable to Czech Republic

Highest dropout from school are special education and vocational or trade school students

Transition programs are renewed focus (transition = high school to work or higher education)

## **State-based Vocational Rehabilitation in USA**

- 1. state-federal programs serve 500,000/year**
- 2. \$3 billion USD - cost**
- 3. primary goal is to assist with employment**
- 4. can provide job readiness, supported employment, skills training, adaptive equipment, pay for education**
- 5. increasingly focused on youth and transition**
- 6. VR counselors contract rehab work to NGO's**
- 7. VR programs vulnerable to budget cuts**