A (very brief) History of Eugenics
Galton & Eugenics

• 1883: “the science which deals with all influences that improve and develop the inborn qualities of a race”
  – *eu*: Greek, meaning good or well
  – *genos*: Greek, meaning race, kind or stock

• Government incentives for marriage & children among eminent people
The inventor of eugenics had a surprisingly good idea about how to cut cakes

*Updated by Dylan Matthews on June 18, 2014, 1:50 p.m. ET*  
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Nazi Eugenic Policies

• Encouraged awareness of family history of illness
• Whites only allowed to marry whites
• Abortion illegal for ‘fit’ females
• Illnesses registered → forced sterilization (>400,000)
  – Inspired by US sterilization laws
US Sterilization Programs

• FIRST!!
• 1897, proposed in Michigan
• 1905, passed but vetoed in Pennsylvania
• 1907, enacted in Indiana
• 1927, Buck v Bell: Supreme Court upheld eugenic sterilization for low IQ in Virginia
US Sterilization Programs

• Eugenic (v Therapeutic v Punitive)
  – Aimed to reduce mental illness & low IQ
  – Mostly women
  – Minorities & low income individuals targeted
  – Over 60,000 sterilized

• Public opinion declined after WWII

• 1981, Oregon: Last forcible sterilization

• 2013, North Carolina commits $10 million in compensation for state-forced sterilizations
  – 7,600 people sterilized 1929 – 1974 = $1315 pp