“Them as can do has to do for them as can't. And someone has to speak up for them as has no voices.”
Josef Mengele (1911-1979)

1943: chief physician of the Zigeunerfamilienlager, located in Birkenau
1944: First Physician of the Birkenau subcamp within Auschwitz

"He was capable of being so kind to the children, to have them become fond of him, to bring them sugar, to think of small details in their daily lives, and to do things we would genuinely admire ... And then, next to that, ... the crematoria smoke, and these children, tomorrow or in a half-hour, he is going to send them there."
Original plan: Recruit poor African American men with syphilis
Observe for 6-8 months
Administer treatments - mercury or bismuth (toxic)

Modified plan: Rosenwald fund (pro-black charity) loses $ in depression
No $ for treatment so change design to long-term observation of syphilis progression.

Tuskegee experiment: 1932+
1932:

399 syphilis infected men start study
200 non-syphilis controls
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1947:
penicillin discovered and may cure syphilis

What to do?
Question: Does penicillin work as a prevention as well as a cure for syphilis and gonorrhea?

Approach: Get a grant from the NIH in 1946

Methods: Infect female sex workers and then pay them to have sex with study subjects

Problem: Surgeon General decides that this is immoral in the US

What to do ... ?
Solution: Go to Guatemala

Infect female sex workers and then pay them to have sex with soldiers and prisoners.

Low infection rate ... :( 

Switch to direct inoculation

1500 subjects (victims)

Study abandoned because of rumors, results never published.

“I am a bit, in fact more than a bit, leery of the experiment with the insane people. They can not give consent, do not know what is going on, and if some goody organization got wind of the work, they would raise a lot of smoke.”

Remained secret until exposed in 2005 by Susan Reverby

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/10/02/wellesley_professor_unearths_a_horror_syphilis_experiments_in_guatemala/
Meanwhile back in the USA

1946 onwards

Study subjects were not given penicillin.

Study subjects were actively prevented from receiving penicillin:

- Local clinics denied treatment

- 250 draftees were prevented from cure.
This continues from 1946 until a 1972 newspaper article by Jean Heller exposes the study.

by 1972:  
28/399 died from syphilis

100/399 died from complications related to syphilis

40 wives infected

19 children born with syphilis related birth defects
Institutions involved in Tuskegee study:

► Tuskegee Institute: an HBC (Historically Black College) in Alabama

► US PHS (Public Health Service)

► CDC (Centers for Disease Control)

► NMA (national Medical Association)

"To advance the art and science of medicine for people of African descent through education, advocacy, and health policy to promote health and wellness, eliminate health disparities, and sustain physician viability."

► AMA (American medical association)

► NIH (National Institutes of Health) for the Guatemala grant
Aftermath:

1974: National Research Act passed with true informed consent started

1997: Presidential apology

1990: survey of 1056 African-Americans in South - 34% AIDS is artificial - 35% AIDS is a form of genocide - 44% Government not telling truth about AIDS
Experimenter: supervises other two, runs study  
Learner: must memorize word pairs  
Teacher: asks for partner word  

Correct response - next question  
Incorrect response - Experimenter asks teacher to administer electric shock  

Shocks increase by 15 volts per wrong answer  

If Teacher wants to stop, the experimenter can provide 4 verbal prompts for Teacher to continue (after 4 study stops).  

Shocks are painful and dangerous:  

Learner screams in pain  
Learner bangs on wall  
Learner complains about heart conditions  
Learner becomes silent  

Milgram experiment: 1963
Results (n=40):

- Some teachers paused at 135V and expressed concern.
- Only 1 person stopped before 300V
- 26/40 study subjects went all the way to 450V
- Nobody who stopped early insisted experiment should end
- No teachers left room to check on Learner (even after they went silent) without asking permission.

Multiple similar studies agree at ~65% Teachers inflict lethal shocks

About 2/3 of college students are potential murderers
Experimenter: study supervisor
Learner: study accomplice
Teacher: study subject

Results (n=40):

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- 26/40 study subjects went all the way to 450V
- Nobody who stopped early insisted experiment should end
- No teachers left room to check on Learner (even after they went silent) without asking permission.
Variants:

Women instead of men
   - no difference in compliance.

Non-Yale locations: less of the "Yale" authority factor
   - lower compliance (47.5%, NSig)

Experimenter not in room (uses telephone)
   - lower compliance (20%)

Added more accomplice teachers (who refuse)
   - lower compliance (10%)

Added more accomplice teachers (who continue)
   - higher compliance (92.5%)
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Puppy learners and real electric shocks
- 54% of 13 males comply to the end
- 100% of 13 females comply to the end
Impact:

Some participants claim mental harm so these experiments are rarely done these days, informed consent is now very concerned about mental harm to study subjects so the process prevents them.

Purpose of experiment was to understand the degree to which people abandon their free-will under authority - pretty easily it turns out.
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Purpose of experiment was to understand the degree to which people abandon their free-will under authority - pretty easily it turns out.
"In a democratic nation, power must be linked with responsibility, and obliged to defend and justify itself within the framework of the general good."
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt

"With great power comes great responsibility"
- Spiderman

"To whom much has been given, much will be expected"
- Luke 12:48