

Serial Killers



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Types of Multiple Killers

	<u>Mass</u>	<u>Spree</u>	<u>Serial</u>
# of victims	4+	2+	2+
# of events	1	1	2+
# of locations	1	2+	2+
Cooling-off period	no	no	yes

Note: # of victims for serial killers was revised from 3 to 2 at the 2005 FBI-sponsored symposium on serial murder.

Radford Serial Killer Database

- Currently has 2,756 serial killers
 - 1,788 from the U.S.
 - 968 from other countries
- Began with student serial killer timelines
- 18 years of data collection
- Goals
 - Accurate information for my forensic psychology class lectures
 - Provide accurate information to the public
 - Potentially assist law enforcement using statistical profiling models

Creating the Database

- **Compiling names of serial killers**
 - What is a serial killer?
 - 2 or more victims (this is a change in definition)
 - 2 separate events
 - Cooling off period in between
 - Determine whether person is actually a serial killer or a
 - Spree killer
 - Mass killer
 - None of the above
 - We eliminated 473 people found on common serial killers lists that are not actually serial killers
 - Issues
 - What to do with people who have killed once and clearly would have killed again had they not been caught?
 - What about a person with one kill and nine attempts?
 - Suspected v. confessed v. convicted

Creating the Database

- **Gathering Information**
 - Sources
 - True-crime books
 - Newspaper articles
 - On-line prison records
 - Court documents
 - Ancestry.com
 - Internet sites
 - Issues
 - Accuracy of information
 - Availability of information

Creating the Database

- **Gathering Information**
 - Information Obtained (141 variables)
 - Demographics (age, sex, race, country, state, city)
 - Childhood info
 - Birth order, raised by, teased, abused
 - Education and IQ
 - Vocational and military history
 - Criminal and forensic record
 - Information about the crime
 - Method, victim, location, partner
 - Information about the trial
 - NRGI, sentence, confession,
 - New Section on Victims
 - Names & dates
 - Excellent check for data accuracy and will be useful in studying victims rather than killers
 - Information on 7,400 U.S. victims to date

Classifying the Killers

- Motive
 - Financial, thrill, power, revenge, anger, convenience
- Victim
 - Age, sex, race
 - High risk vs. low risk
 - Acquaintance vs. stranger
- Location (e.g., home invasion, street, hospital)
- Method
 - Strangle, bludgeon, shoot, stab, suffocate, poison

Classifying the Killers

- Kills family
 - Black widow (financial gain)
 - Bluebeard (power)
 - Attention (Munchhausen by proxy)
- Kills patients or other dependents
 - Angel of death (power)
 - Lethal caretakers (financial gain)
 - Baby farmers (financial gain)

Classifying the Killers

- Home invasion
 - Rape or no sex
 - Robbery or just killing
 - Age of victim (elderly, family, adult female)
 - Type of weapon used
 - Torture?
 - Overkill or mutilation?
 - Staging, posing, totems?

Problems with Dates
Date of Victim Death

- Date victim actually died
- Date of attempted kill (might be different if the person was in the hospital for several days before death)
- Date last seen
- Date reported missing
- Date body was found
- Date reported by killer
- Source differences
 - State death index
 - Social security index
 - Prison Inmate Locator information
 - Court transcripts

Problems with Locations
City, County, State

- Location of abduction
- Location of killing
- Location where body was dumped
- Location where body was found
- Burial location

Serial Killer Frequency

- Hickey (2010)
 - 352 males and 64 females in U.S. from 1826-2004
 - 158 males and 30 females in U.S. from 1970-2004
- Gorby (2000)
 - 300 international serial killers from 1800-1995
- Radford University Data Base (9/08/2012)
 - 2,756 serial killers
 - US: 1,788
 - International: 968
 - Number of serial killers varies with each update because many names listed as serial killers are not actually serial killers and new serial killers are added

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Serial Killers by Country

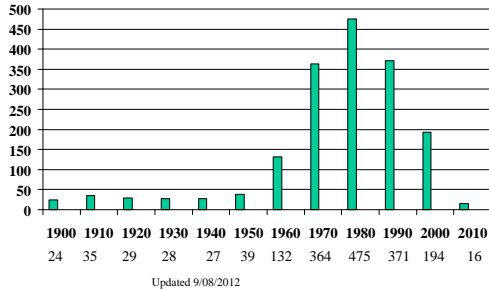
- 1,788 United States
- 101 Italy
- 98 South Africa
- 95 England
- 82 Japan
- 72 Germany
- 59 Canada
- 48 Australia
- 47 France
- 37 Russia
- 31 India
- 28 China
- 20 Mexico
- 14 Brazil
- 13 Scotland
- 10 Poland

Country	Percentage of World Population	Percentage of Serial Killers	Ratio
United States	4.47	64.9	14.51
Australia	0.33	1.7	5.15
South Africa	0.72	3.6	5.00
United Kingdom	0.94	4.1	4.36
Italy	0.87	3.7	4.25
Canada	0.50	2.1	4.20
Germany	1.17	2.6	2.22
France	0.94	1.7	1.81
Japan	1.82	3.0	1.65
Poland	0.55	0.4	0.73
Russia	2.04	1.3	0.64
Mexico	1.60	0.7	0.44
Brazil	2.75	0.5	0.18
India	17.28	1.1	0.06
China	19.24	1.0	0.05

Problems with International Comparisons

- Language issues in finding serial killers in other countries
- Easier to find the “two kill” people in the U.S. than in other countries
- Centralization of records
- Media policy about publicizing murders

U.S. Serial Killers by Decade (Decade of First Kill)



Age

- Age at the start of the series
- Potential problems
 - Should we use age at first kill rather than first kill in series?
 - 6% killed prior to the start of the series
 - Should we use age at first attempted murder
 - Many of the older serial killers spent time in prison prior to their series
- Simple descriptive statistics
 - Mean = 28.4 (SD = 9.3)
 - Median = 27
 - Youngest = 9 (Robert Dale Segee, final kill was at age 21)
 - Oldest = 72 (Ray Copeland)
- Only 27.5% actually fall into their mid-to-late 20's (24 – 29)

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General Serial Killer Profile Age at First Kill

Race	N	Mean
Our data (2011)	1,890	28.4
Kraemer et al. (2004)	157	31
Hickey (2002)		28.5

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General Serial Killer Profile

Demographics – Average age is 28.1

- **Males**

- 29.0 is average age at first kill
 - 9 is the youngest (Robert Dale Segee)
 - 72 is the oldest (Ray Copeland)
- Jesse Pomeroy (Boston in the 1870s)
 - Killed 2 people and tortured 8 by the age of 14
 - Spent 58 years in solitary confinement until he died

- **Females**

- 30.9 is average age at first kill
 - 11 is youngest (Mary Flora Bell)
 - 66 is oldest (Faye Copeland)

Updated 09/10/2011

A Problem with Profiling

- Typical Serial Killer Profile in the Media
 - A white, male, in his mid to late twenties
- Statistics (U.S. Serial Killers)
 - Male (91.4%)
 - White (52.4%)
 - Mid to late twenties (28.6%)
 - White, male (45.3%)
 - White male in his mid to late twenties (12.7%)

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Gender Changes Across Time

U.S. & International Serial Killers

Decade	Men	Women
2000	93.7%	6.3%
1990	92.6%	7.4%
1980	91.0%	9.0%
1970	93.9%	6.1%
1960	91.5%	8.5%
1950	81.7%	18.3%
1940	87.5%	12.5%
1930	80.9%	19.1%
1920	78.2%	21.8%
1910	70.0%	30.0%
1900	57.1%	42.9%
TOTAL	89.8%	10.2%

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Race

- Most media sources suggest that non-White serial killers are rare
- Justin Cottrell (2012)
 - *Rise of the Black Serial Killer*
 - Found hundreds of Black serial killers that were not on other lists
 - Extensive search was useful but might now overestimate the percentage of Black serial killers because a similar extensive search was not used for other races (including Whites)

General Serial Killer Profile

Race

Race	U.S. N=1,730	U.S. & International N=2,700
White	52.0%	56.1%
Black	42.8%	31.1%
Hispanic	3.8%	4.7%
Asian	0.7%	7.5%
Native American	0.8%	0.6%

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Racial Changes Across Time

U.S. Serial Killers

Decade	White	Black	Hisp	Asian	N
2000	28.4%	68.6%	1.5%	1.0%	194
1990	41.8%	52.3%	4.6%	1.3%	371
1980	54.3%	37.0%	6.6%	0.6%	473
1970	62.0%	33.6%	3.3%	0.6%	363
1960	68.7%	29.8%	0.0%	0.0%	131
1950	79.5%	20.5%	0.0%	0.0%	39
1940	63.0%	29.6%	3.7%	0.0%	27
1930	53.6%	46.4%	0.0%	0.0%	28

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Serial Killing is a White Thing 1980-2009

	Serial Killers	1980, 1990, 2000 Census
White	45.0%	74.40%
Black	48.4%	11.95%
Hispanic	4.9%	9.55%
Asian	1.0%	2.81%
Native Am.	0.8%	2.81%

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Race

Prolific African American Serial Killers

- 44 Jake Bird
- 27 Coral Eugene Watts
- 23 Wayne Williams
- 19 Edward Suratt
- 17 Clementine Barnabet
Milton Johnson
- 16 John Muhammad/Lee Boyd Malvo
Vincent Darrell Groves
- 15 Richard Jameswhite
Fred Glover
O'Delle, Pearl, & Peyton Jackson
John Reed
- 14 Jesse Lee Cooks
Larry Green
Vincent Groves
Hulon Mitchell
Manuel Moore
J.C.X. Simon
Chester Dwayne Turner
Clarence Walker

Race

Prolific Hispanic Serial Killers

- 27 Angel Colon Maldonado
- 25 Juan Corona
- 23 Adolfo Constanzo
- 16 Richard Ramirez
- Angel Maturino Resendiz
- 12 Robert Rubane Diaz
Timothy Joseph McGhee
- 11 Juan Chavez
- 10 Eddie Seda
- 9 Jorge Beniquez
- 9 Rolando Garcia
- 9 Alfredo R. Prieto
- 9 Dorothea Puente
- 7 Fernando Cota
- 7 Tony Herrera
- 7 Diana Lumbrera
- 7 David Villarreal
- 6 Juan Cordoba
- 6 Timothy Joseph McGhee
- 6 Paul Ruiz
- 6 Efen Saldivar
- 5 Ricardo Caputo
- 5 Ramon T. Hernandez
- 5 Leslie Torres

Race

Prolific U.S. White Serial Killers

- 49 Gary Ridgeway
- 48 Amy Archer-Gilligan
- 41 Billy Gohl
- 40 Charles Cullen
- 37 Donald Harvey
- 36 Ted Bundy
- 35 Dr. Michael Swango
- 34 Gerard Schaefer
- 33 John Wayne Gacy
- Bruce Alan Davis
- 32 Patrick Kearney
- 31 Jane Toppan
- 30 Stanley Bernson
- Morris Bolber
- 29 Charles Cullen
- 28 David Douglas Hill
- 27 [Dean Corrl](#), [David Brooks](#)
Elmer Henley
Herman Mudgett

Serial Killer IQ

- Media/Internet
 - High IQ
- Our Database (N = 202)
 - Mean = 95.1
 - Median = 89.0
 - Range (54 – 165)
- Rape
 - Yes (94.2)
 - No (96.3)
- Type
 - Organized (99.6)
 - Disorganized (93.2)
- Method of Killing
 - Bomb (140.3)
 - Gun (93.0)
 - Hands (95.0)

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Are IQ Scores Reliable?

- You can fake dumb, but you can't fake smart
- People scoring lower than 70 cannot be executed (*Atkins v. Virginia*, 2002)
- David Leonard Wood
 - 1977 – Age 19 – 111
 - 1980 – Age 23 – 64
 - 1980 – Age 23 – 101
 - 2011 – Age 54 – 75 (death sentence appeal)
 - Psychologist thought Wood was faking low
 - Wood correctly used “big words” in his letters

Intelligence The Smart

- 165 Ted Kaczynski (155)
- 160 Charlene Gallego
- 152 Carroll Cole
- 145 Rudy Bladel
 - Ed Kemper (136)
 - Ronald Williams
 - Herbert Coddington (142)
- 140 Charles Albright
 - Robert Browne
 - Harvey Glatman (130)
- 138 James Clifford Carson
- 136 Ted Bundy (125)
- 134 Thomas Dillon
 - William Christenson
- 130
 - Lawrence Bittaker
 - Juan Corona
 - Gary Heidnik (148)
 - Walter Leroy Moody (125)
 - Marcel Petiot (135)
 - Angel Resendez
 - Gerard Schaefer
- 129 Bill Heirens
 - Paul Knowles
 - Randy Kraft
- 128 Joel Rifkin

Intelligence The Not So Smart

- 54 Donnie Gene Craig
- 57 Simon Pirela
- 58 John Staffen
- 60 Eugene Britt
- 62 Willie James Hodges (66)
- 63 Arthur Goode
- 64 John Thomas Straffen (58)
 - Arthur Culombe
- 65 Albert Dyer
 - Derrick Todd Lee (91)
 - Sean Paul Hanify
 - Karl Lee Myers (75)
 - Charles Ng
- 66 Elroy Chester (69)
 - Charles Troy Coleman
- 67 Sean Paul Hanify
 - Donald William Dufour (62)

Family Comparison

	Serial Killers	U.S. Population*
Birth parent/s	82.71%	87.4%
Adopted	5.36%	2.2%
Relative	6.03%	8.3%
Foster home	3.22%	0.4%
Orphanage	2.01%	?
Abandoned	0.67%	?
Other		1.7%
	N =746	2000 Census

*O'Hare (2008; Table 2) Updated 09/08/2012

Birth Order Comparison

	Serial Killers	U.S. Presidents	U.S. Population
First Born	31.2%	33.3%	28.36
Middle Born	31.4%	50.0%	15.90
Youngest	25.7%	14.3%	28.36
Only Child	11.4%	2.4%	27.39
	N = 440		2000 Census

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General Serial Killer Profile Childhood

- Unstable home
- Absence of loving and nurturing relationship
- Physical ailments and disabilities
- Head injuries
- Triad
 - bed wetting
 - fire starting
 - animal torture

Effects of the Family Child Abuse

Comparison of Serial Killers to the General Population (Mitchell & Aamodt, 2005)		
Type of Abuse	General Population	Serial Killers
Physical	6%	36%
Sexual	3%	26%
Psychological	2%	50%
Neglect	18%	18%
Other	6%	Not applicable
No Abuse Reported	70%	32%

A Strange Way to Raise a Child

Gary Heidnik

- 3 years old
- Didn't clean room properly
- Father hung him by his feet out of a 3rd story window



A Strange Way to Raise a Child

Henry Lee Lucas

- 3 years old
 - Mother forced him to watch her have sex with strangers
- 7 years old
 - Mother made him go to school dressed like a girl
 - Mother beat him when his teacher gave him a pair of shoes
- 10 Years old
 - Mother's lover showed him how to kill animals and then have sex with them



A Strange Way to Raise a Child

Danny Rolling

- 6 months
 - Father kicked him into a wall
- 1 year old
 - Father beat him when he crawled funny
- 6-8 years old
 - Father beat him twice a week
- 13 years old
 - Father handcuffs him to brother, beats them, leaves them outside



A Strange Way to Raise a Child

Robert Garrow

- 1 year old
 - Father made him kneel for hours in the corner
- 2 years old
 - Mother splits his head open with a crowbar during a beating
- 5 years old
 - Knocked unconscious when mother hits him in the head with a piece of wood
- 6 Years old
 - Beaten unconscious by his father
 - Made to wear his sister's bloomers out to play



General Serial Killer Profile

Forensic History

- Triad
- Most have a criminal history
 - 83.4% were previously arrested
 - 74.5% had spent time in jail or prison
- Many received prior psychiatric treatment
- 11.3% spent time in a forensic unit prior to their series
- 6.0% killed prior to their serial killing
 - This is a difficult statistic to accurately compute

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Categorizing the Serial Killer

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| • Killer | • Motive |
| – sex, race, age | – sex |
| – IQ | – power |
| – psychopathology | – financial gain |
| • Crime Scene | • Victim |
| – type of weapon | – sex, race, age |
| – use of torture | – occupation |
| – attempt to hide body | – personality |
| – location | |

Motive	Type of Victim					
	Spouse, Family	Random Strangers	Specific Type	Specific Strangers	Employees	Patients
Money	Black Widow		Contract Killer		Cost Cutter	Lethal Caretaker
Sex		Disorganized Lust	Organized Lust			
Thrill		Disorganized Thrill	Organized Thrill			
Power	Bluebeard					Angels of Death
Revenge	Revenge					
Psychosis		Visionary				
Hate			Missionary			
Attention	Munchausen					Munchausen
No motive		Anti-social				

Broad Motive

Broad Motive (1,979 killers)	%
Enjoyment (thrill, lust, power)	50.3
Financial gain	31.1
Anger	9.7
Multiple Motives	3.7
Gang Activity	2.5
Avoid arrest	1.1
Attention	0.8
Convenience	0.5
Hallucinations	0.4
Cult	0.3

- ### Types of Serial Killers
- #### Visionaries
- **Psychotic - told to kill**
 - paranoia, schizophrenia
 - 1% of killers are psychotic (Henn et al., 1976)
 - **Examples**
 - Herbert Mullin
 - Miguel Rivera
 - Joseph Kallinger

Herbert Mullin

- **Crimes**

- Operated during 1972-1973
- Killed 13 in Santa Cruz, CA
- Shot most of his victims

- **Vision**

- Voices told him to shave his head and burn his penis with a cigarette (he obeyed)
- Voices told him to kill in order to prevent a catastrophic earthquake



Joseph Kallinger

- **Crimes**

- Operated during 1974-1975
- Murdered 3 in NJ and PA (including one of his sons)
- Robbed and assaulted many others
- His 13 year old son was his accomplice

- **Vision**

- Told by God (through a large floating head with tentacles) to murder young boys and sever their genitals



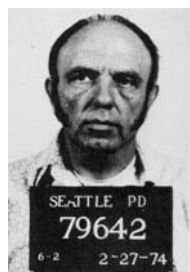
Harvey Carignan

- **Crimes**

- Known as the "Want-ad Killer"
- Operated in Seattle 1973-1974
- Killed 3 (probably many more) by smashing their skull with a hammer

- **Vision**

- Told by God to kill women
- God didn't tell him why



Types of Serial Killers

Missionaries

- Kill to “Clean-up” world
- Examples
 - Joseph Franklin
 - Killed interracial couples and African Americans
 - Wounded Vernon Jordan and Larry Flynt (*Hustler Magazine*)
 - Wolfgang Abel
 - Killed drug addicts
 - Axe Man of New Orleans
 - Killed 11 (most were Italian grocers)
 - Carroll Cole

Carroll Edward Cole

- Crimes
 - Operated during 1975-1980
 - Killed at least 13 women in several western states
- Mission
 - Rid the world of loose women
 - All his victims cheated on their significant-other with Cole



Types of Serial Killers

Hedonists

- Kill for fun or profit
- Subtypes
 - Lust Killers (kill for sexual gratification)
 - Organized
 - Disorganized
 - Mixed
 - Thrill Killers (kill for the thrill of killing)
 - Gain Killers
 - Contract Killers
 - Black Widows
 - Lethal Caretakers
 - Cost Cutters

Examples of Lust Killers

- **Organized Killers**
 - Ted Bundy
 - John Gacy
 - Chris Wilder
 - Kenneth Bianchi
 - Ed Kemper
- **Disorganized Killers**
 - Arthur Shawcross
 - Richard Chase
 - Jeffrey Dahmer
 - Danny Rolling

Hedonists-Gain Killers

Black Widows

- **The Crime**
 - Kill husbands, lovers, or relatives for financial gain
 - Almost always women
 - Almost 90% use poison to kill their victims
- **Examples**
 - Diana Lumbrera (killed her 6 children for insurance)
 - Nanny Hazel Doss (killed 4 husbands, 2 sisters, 1 mother)
 - Lydia Trueblood (killed 4 husbands, 1 child, brother in-law)
 - Amy Gilligan (killed 5 husbands, several patients)

Hedonists - Gain Killers

Cost Cutters

- **Crime**
 - Kill to save money
- **Examples**
 - Joseph Briggen
 - Killed 12 ranch hands when their pay was due
 - Fed the people to his prize-winning pigs
 - Georg Grossman
 - Killed over 50 people, put the meat into his hotdogs
 - Joe Ball

Joe Ball

- Operated during the late 1930s
- Killed at least 5, probably 14, waitresses at his tavern (The Sociable Inn) in Texas
- Threw them into a pit with 5 alligators in the back of the tavern



Hedonists-Gain Killers Lethal Caretakers - Profit

- The Crime
 - Kill patients for profit
 - Usually women
- Examples
 - Dorthea Puente killed 7 elderly to cash social security checks
 - Antoinette Scieri killed 12 elderly patients so that she could take their assets
 - Anna Hahn poisoned 5 elderly men she cared for to get their insurance

Types of Serial Killers Power Seekers

- Kill to exert power over strangers
- Examples
 - Ted Bundy
 - David Berkowitz
 - Angelo Buono
 - Edward Kemper



Power Seekers Angels of Death

- The Crime
 - Usually women
 - Kill patients for feelings of power and control
- Examples
 - Genee Jones - As a nurse, she killed between 11 and 46 babies by injecting them with a muscle relaxant
 - Terri Rachals killed 9 patients through injections of potassium chloride
 - David Harvey is an example of a male angel of death
 - Gwendolyn Graham and Catherine Wood

Gwendolyn Graham and Catherine Wood

- Killed 5 patients in Alpine Manor (a nursing home)
- Initial plan was to spell MURDER with the first letter in the last name of each victim
- Graham did all the killing and Wood kept watch



Power Seekers Blue Beard Killers

- Males who kill their spouses
- Examples
 - Johann Hoch
 - Henri Landru
 - Harry Powers
 - James Watson

Henry Landu

- Romanced more than 300 women out of their money during the early 1900s in France
- Ran personal ads to meet his women
- Married and killed 10 of them
- Put their bodies in an oven to dispose of them



Lethal Caretakers

Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy

- The Crime
 - Kill or hurt others in order to be admired for curing them or to get sympathy for the death of a loved one
 - Mostly females
- Examples
 - Beverly Allitt injected insulin and potassium into 26 children (4 died, 9 had irreparable brain damage) over a 58-day period
 - Martha Woods - 27 respiratory attacks in 9 children resulted in 7 being killed (3 were her own children)

Types of Serial Killers

Revenge Killers

- Kill for revenge
- Examples
 - Martha Wise: Killed 3 family members opposing her marriage
 - Ellen Etheridge: Killed 4 of her 8 step-children because she was jealous of their relationship with her husband
 - Martha Johnson
 - Had 4 fights with her husband
 - After each fight, suffocated a child as revenge
 - Suffocated by laying on top of them (she weighed 250 pounds)

Types of Serial Killers Antisocial Personalities

- **Definition**
 - Pattern of irresponsible or harmful behavior
 - Lack of conscience
 - Ignore social rules and laws
 - Impulsive
 - Fail to learn from punishment
- **Examples**
 - Gang Members
 - Criminals who kill for no reason

The Crime Scene

<u>Crime Characteristic</u>	<u>Serial Killer Type</u>	
	<u>Disorganized</u>	<u>Organized</u>
Body	disfigured	hidden
Sex	after death	before death
	unsuccessful	successful
Weapons	finds at scene	brings
Viciousness	torture	quick
Sophistication	low	high, learns each time

The Crime Scene

<u>Crime Characteristic</u>	<u>Serial Killer Type</u>	
	<u>Disorganized</u>	<u>Organized</u>
Totem	not taken	taken
Follows crime in news	no	yes
Victim	high risk	low risk
Gets to crime by	walking, bus	drives

Killer Profile

Serial Killer Type

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Disorganized</u>	<u>Organized</u>
Residence	close to crime	further
IQ	less intelligent	intelligent
Employment	menial or unemployed	normal
Appearance	unattractive	attractive
Self-image	feels inferior	feels superior
Social	loner	outgoing

Killer Profile

Serial Killer Type

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Disorganized</u>	<u>Organized</u>
Romance	lives alone	affairs, short relationships
Anger	keeps inside	acts out, bully, class clown
Birth order	low	high
Habits	nighttime	daytime
Childhood discipline	harsh	lax or inconsistent

Killer Profile

Serial Killer Type

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Disorganized</u>	<u>Organized</u>
Family	alcoholism, mental illness	
Father's work	unstable	stable
