

Serial Killers



Dr. Mike Aamodt
Radford University
maamodt@radford.edu

Updated 09/10/2011

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

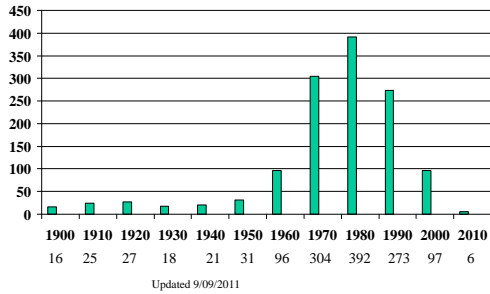
Note: # of victims for serial killers was revised from 3 to 2 at the 2005 FBI-sponsored symposium on serial murder.

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 (9/10/2011)
 - 2,257 serial killers
 - US: 1,353
 - International: 904
 - 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

Updated 09/10/2011

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



General Serial Killer Profile Demographics - Worldwide

- Male
 - Our data base: 88.3%
 - Kraemer, Lord & Heilbrun (2004) study of 157 serial killers: 96%
- White
 - 65.1% of all serial killers (68% in Kraemer et al, 2004)
 - 61.8% of male serial killers
 - 83.4% of female serial killers
- Average intelligence
 - Mean of 98.7 in our data base (median = 93.5)
 - n = 174

Updated 09/10/2011

General Serial Killer Profile Age at First Kill

Race	N	Mean
Our data (2011)	1,890	29.2
Kraemer et al. (2004)	157	31
Hickey (2002)		28.5

Updated 09/10/2011

General Serial Killer Profile

Demographics – Average age is 29.2

- **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**

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

Updated 09/10/2011

General Serial Killer Profile

Race

Race	U.S. N=1,345	U.S. & International N=2,232
White	65.8%	65.1%
Black	27.9%	20.1%
Hispanic	4.9%	5.4%
Asian	0.7%	8.8%
Native American	0.7%	0.5%

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 (89.7%)
 - White (65.8%)
 - Mid to late twenties (29.7%)
 - White, male (57.0%)
 - White male in his mid to late twenties (16.0%)

Updated 09/10/2011

Racial Changes Across Time U.S. Serial Killers

Decade	White	Black	Hisp	Asian	N
2000	36.8%	61.1%	1.1%	1.1%	95
1990	56.7%	34.3%	7.1%	1.5%	268
1980	62.4%	28.1%	7.5%	0.7%	388
1970	72.6%	22.1%	4.0%	0.6%	303
1960	80.0%	18.9%	1.1%		95
1950	96.8%	3.2%			31
1940	81.0%	9.5%	4.8%		21
1930	76.5%	23.5%			17

Updated 06/11/2011

Serial Killing is a White Thing 1980-2009

	Serial Killers	1980, 1990, 2000 Census
White	57.12%	74.40%
Black	34.49%	11.95%
Hispanic	6.52%	9.55%
Asian	1.07%	2.81%

Updated 06/11/2011

Race

Prolific African American Serial Killers

- 44 Jake Bird
- 30 Loving Mitchell
John Floyd Thomas
- 23 Wayne Williams
- 17 Maury Troy Travis
- 16 John Muhammad & Lee Boyd Malvo
- 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
- 13 Lorenzo Gilyard
Cleamon Demone Johnson
Sydney Jones
- 12 Elton Manning Jackson
Eddie Lee Mosley
Kody Scott
Brandon Tholmer
Coral Eugene Watts
Robert Wilson

Race

Prolific Hispanic Serial Killers

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

Race

Prolific White Serial Killers

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

Serial Killer IQ

- Media/Internet
 - High IQ
- Our Database (N = 174)
 - Mean = 98.7
 - Median = 93.5
 - Range (54 - 165)
- Rape
 - Yes (95.5)
 - No (101.8)
- Type
 - Organized (113.6)
 - Disorganized (92.5)
- Method of Killing
 - Bomb (138)
 - Gun (99.3)
 - Hands (96.8)

Updated 06/11/2011

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	80.89%	87.4%
Adopted	6.37%	2.2%
Relative	6.71%	8.3%
Foster home	3.10%	0.4%
Orphanage	2.07%	?
Abandoned	0.86%	?
Other		1.7%
	N =581	2000 Census

*O'Hare (2008; Table 2)

Updated 06/11/2011

Birth Order Comparison

	Serial Killers	U.S. Presidents	U.S. Population
First Born	32.2%	33.3%	28.36
Middle Born	28.4%	50.0%	15.90
Youngest	26.0%	14.3%	28.36
Only Child	13.4%	2.4%	27.39
	N = 388		2000 Census

Updated 09/10/2011

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
 - 83.9% were previously arrested
 - 72.3% had spent time in jail or prison
- Many received prior psychiatric treatment
- 19.4% spent time in a forensic unit prior to their series
- 7.2% killed prior to their serial killing
 - This is a difficult statistic to accurately compute

Updated 06/11/2011

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				

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



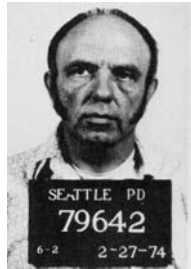
- **Vision**

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

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
 - Genevieve 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



Gwendolyn Graham



Catherine Wood

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

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Serial Killer Type</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
