The Criminal Mind
Killers of multiple people are classified 3 different ways:

1. Mass Murderer
2. Spree Murderer
3. Serial Killer

Arizona Shooting
Mass Murderers

• Single event killing 4+ people

• Ex:
  – Columbine
  – Aurora, CO theatre massacre
Spree Murders

- killing of people at different locations in a short span of time

- Ex: DC snipers (2002)
  - In 3 weeks, 10 people killed

L. Malvo & J. A. Muhammad
Serial Killers

- Kill 3+ people in separate events.
- Emotional cooling off period between murders.
- Ex:
  - Ed Gein
  - Ted Bundy
  - Jeffrey Dahmer, etc.

John Gacy
Characteristics of Serial Killers
The 1st of Many

• “1st” serial killer in U.S. = H.H. Holmes
  – confessed to 27 murders (1890’s), convicted of 9.

• The FBI estimates ~ 400 serial killers have operated during history.
  – ~ 3,600 victims during the last century in US.

H.H. Holmes
General Profile of Serial Killers
(Dr. Mike Aamodt, Radford University)

• **Male**
  – 88.3%

• **White** (depends on how you look at statistics!!)
  – 71.7% of all serial killers in US

• **Average intelligence**
General Profile of Serial Killers (Age)

Average age is 28.7

Males =
• 11 = youngest (Kody Scott – Gang member)
• 72 = oldest (Ray Copeland)

Females =
• 11 = youngest (Mary Flora Bell)
• 66 is oldest (Faye Copeland)

(Dr. Mike Aamodt, Radford University)
Differences Between Male and Female Killers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEN</th>
<th>WOMEN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Victims are strangers</td>
<td>- Tend to kill relatives, friends, or dependants</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Violent murders: shoot, stab, strangle, batter, or rape victims</td>
<td>- More passive: poison is common (80% of female serial killers use it)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Kill for sake of killing (power, etc.)</td>
<td>- Kill for goal: ex: profit (75%)</td>
</tr>
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Female Examples

'Angel of Death' Who May Be One of the World's Worst Serial Killers

BY NICHOLAS FARRELL / DECEMBER 19, 2014 6:56 AM EST

[Image of Sylvia Ipock-White, described as a black widow serial killer with a date of last murder on January 20, 1992.]

KINSTON, NORTH CAROLINA
Killer Fascination
Serial Killer Fascination

- Serial murder = rare (less than 1% of all murders in any year)

- Public interest far exceeds its scope
Anthony Hopkins: The Silence of the Lambs
(Fictional) Hannibal Lector
“From the worlds of darkness I did let loose devils and demons with the power of scorpions to torment.”
Ted Bundy: Campus Killer

"You feel the last bit of breath leaving their body. You're looking into their eyes. A person in that situation is God..."
"I should never have been convicted of anything more serious than running a cemetery without a license."
David Berkowitz: Son of Sam

"I am deeply hurt by you calling me a woman hater. I am not. But I am a monster. I am the 'Son of Sam.'"
Jeffrey Dahmer: The Milwaukee Cannibal

"After the fear and terror of what I had done had left... I started it all over again. From then on it was a craving, a hunger..."
Edmund Kemper: Co-Ed Killer

“One side of me says 'I'd like to talk to her, date her'. The other side of me says, 'I wonder how her head would look on a stick'.
Aileen Wuornos: *Highway Killer*

"I robbed them, and I killed them cold as ice, and I know I would kill another person because I’ve hated humans for a long time."
"The only thing I did wrong was not having her cremated. If I had had her cremated I wouldn't be having all this trouble."
Albert Fish: *Brooklyn Vampire*

"I like children, they are tasty"
“I actually think I may be possessed with demons, I was dropped on my head as a kid.”
The Making of a Killer
General Backgrounds of Serial Killers

• Many from abused or neglected homes

**MacDonald TRIAD**

3 characteristics found in childhoods of many serial killers:

  • wet their beds beyond the age of 12.
  • Fire starting and arson
  • Torture small animals

• Young adults = intense interest in:
  • Voyeurism, fetishism
  • **sadomasochistic** pornography (violent)
Insights from interviewing killers:
(behavior reflects personality)

• **Triggers/ stressors** - before first kill (break-ups, job loss)

• **Victim choice** - from comfort zone... random, high risk victim

• Great at fooling psychiatrists/ psychologists

• **Fantasy Progression** - (fantasy → stalking → flashing → peeping “Tom” → raping → murder)
  - **Totems** - taking items to relive fantasies
Psychopaths
Serial Killers: Why?

• Many are **psychopaths** (aka sociopath)

• Some characteristics include:
  • Lack of fear, guilt, or empathy
  • Deceive, manipulate, & blend in really well

[Diagram showing the relationship between Psychopaths (~1%-4% of pop) and Serial killers]
Possible causes of Psychopathy: Biology & Environment

**Biology**
- 12 genes linked with violence & impulsivity (ex: “Warrior Gene”)
- Brains scans of psychopaths look different from “normal people”

**Environment**
- Childhood abuse/ neglect

The Perfect Storm:
- A person biologically predisposed to violence & negative environmental factors = Danger
The mind of a psychopath, but no symptoms

Dr. James Fallon, UC Irvine neuroscientists, has studied brains of psychopaths

Fallon’s brain (on the right) has dark patches in the orbital cortex, the area just behind the eyes. This is the area that Fallon and other scientists say is involved with ethical behavior, moral decision-making and impulse control. The normal scan on the left is his son’s.

Fallon was prompted to study his brain after his mother, Jenny, told him his ancestry was full of alleged murderers.

See PBS Video
Psychopath vs. Psychotic
FYI ONLY:
• killed her 5 children (drowning)
• Suffered for years with postpartum depression & psychosis
• 2002 guilty in 1st trial of murder & possibility of parole after 40 yrs.
• 2006 overturned and found not guilty by reason of insanity
(in low security mental institution)
**Distinction Between Psychopath & Psychotic**

**PSYCHOPATH**
- “personality disorder”
- Knows difference between right & wrong

**PSYCHOTIC**
- Clinical mental illness (ex: Schizophrenia)
- Cannot tell the difference between right & wrong,
- Rare in serial killers
Insanity = Legal Term Only
determined by judge/ jury

• Rarely used (1 % of court cases) & almost never successful.
• Mental disease $\neq$ “insanity”
• Must prove “didn’t know right from wrong at time of killing”.
• Very controversial
  – Ex: John Hinckley Jr.
    • Acquitted on insanity plea (1982)

Read Mind Hunter segment about juries & insanity
Is there ever a legal resolution that satisfies all people?

From Hinckley to Loughner: The Insanity Defense

Thursday, January 13, 2011

In June 1982, John Hinckley, Jr. – President Reagan’s would-be assassin – was found not guilty by reason of insanity. The announcement sparked widespread public criticism, as many believed that the verdict, for all practical purposes, exonerated the man who tried to kill the president. Nearly thirty years later, it seems likely that Jared Loughner, the man charged with attempted assassination and murder after last weekend’s deadly shooting spree in Tucson, will also plead insanity in his case.

David Bruck, Clinical Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University School of Law, and career capital defense attorney helps contextualize the use of the insanity defense. He looks at the evolution of both the idea of insanity and the legal action based on state of mind.
Criminal Psychology
Criminal (Forensic) Psychology
(aka investigative Psychology)

• Application of psychology to criminal investigation. (usually need a Ph.D)

• Includes research & practice involving:
  – Profiling
  – Risk Assessment
  – Police Line-ups
  – Interrogation
  – Polygraph
  – Hypnosis

John Douglas, FBI Profiler
Criminal Profiling (used in extreme cases)

Goals:
- Narrow down suspects.
- “predict” who, where, & how the next crime may occur.

Shortcomings:
- Rely too heavily on intuition vs. scientific practices
- Working on making it more scientific.

Read “Hurting the One’s We Love” or Abducted girl from Mind Hunter
Serial Killer Classifications
Serial Killer Classifications:

**Motive Based:**

**Act-Focused (kill quickly)**
- Visionary killers
  - hear voices
- Missionary killers
  - get rid of group of people

**Process Focused (kill slowly)**
- Lust killers
  - get sexual pleasure
- Thrill killers
  - get a "kick" from it
- Gain killers
  - will profit in some way
- Power Killers
  - wish to "play God"

**Crime Scene:**
- Organized crime scene
- Disorganized crime scene

http://people.howstuffworks.com/serial-killer1.html
Organized Criminal

Crime Scene
- carefully planned to minimize risk
- Little evidence found

Possible criminal mindset:
- PSYCHOPATHIC

Describes most serial killers…
Disorganized Criminal

Crime Scene

• No pre-planning
• Leaves evidence (fingerprints/ blood/ semen)

Possible criminal mindset:

• a youthful offender?
• influence of alcohol/ drugs?
• mental illness?

Read “Calabro case”
SIGNATURE VS. MO
Ex: Signature Vs. MO

2 different bank robbers:
- In Michigan & Texas... both make tellers undress during the robbery
- Texas also makes them pose in sexually provocative positions & photographs.

MO’s Vs. Signature
- Michigan robber, very clever MO
- Texas robber, left signature
“M.O.”
• ("How") What the perpetrator does to commit the crime
• can change with experience
Ex:
• Uses a gun vs. a knife to lure victim

Signature
• ("why") a ritual, done for fulfill fantasy
• does not change between crimes
• Most useful in linking crimes
Ex:
• Torture
• Posing victims
Ex: Signature vs. MO

• Steven Pennell
  – Prostitutes strangled, skulls fractured, abused & tortured
  – Defense trying to say the MO varied so much that Pennell not responsible for all victims

• FBI profilers called in to link cases:
  • Yes, MO different, but that can change
  • Signature same- pleasure received from inflicting pain
  • Killed by lethal injection

Pg 254 in book