

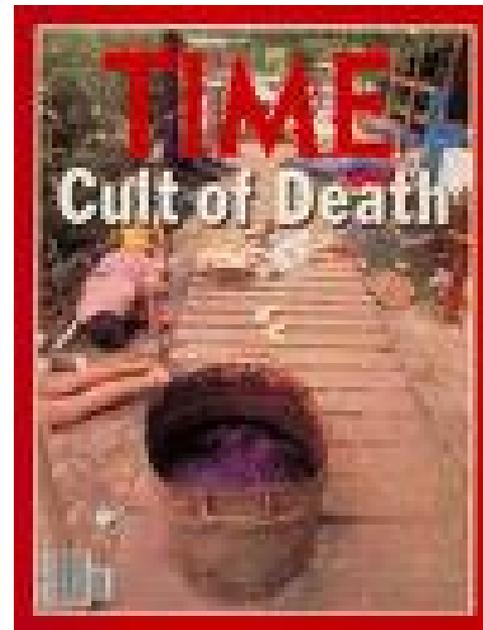
SERIAL KILLER

Defined as a person who kills three (two) or more people in the same manner in a period of more than 30 days, with a “cooling off” period between each murder



Serial Killer vs Mass Murderer

- Serial killers kill in the same style usually one at a time (Ted Bundy)
- Mass murderer kill many people at one time (Jim Jones)



SERIAL KILLER

- MO is usually a psychological gratification
 - Modus Operandi is the “how” of the killings*
- A sexual element is involved
- Are NOT generally suffering from PSYCHOSIS
 - People that suffer from a thought disorder
 - People with mental issue dealing with reality
 - People suffering from hallucinations or delusions
- Murders most often occur in the same nature
- Victims have something in common
 - All may have same hair color, same age, same occupation, same weight, same sex, same race...

Serial Killer Characteristics

1. The majority are single, white males.
2. They are often intelligent, with IQs in the "above normal" range.
3. Despite their high IQs, they have trouble holding down jobs, and often work menial jobs.
4. They tend to come from unstable, abusive or strict families.

Serial Killer Characteristics

5. Their families often have criminal, psychiatric and alcoholic histories.
6. They were often abused — emotionally, physically and/or sexually— by a family member.
7. They have high rates of suicide attempts.
8. As children, they are typically abandoned by their fathers and raised by domineering mothers.

Serial Killer Characteristics

9. From an early age, many are intensely interested in voyeurism (peeping Tom), fetishism, and pornographic material.
10. More than 60 percent wet their beds beyond the age of 12.
11. Many are fascinated with fire starting.
12. They are involved in sadistic activity or torturing small animals.

FBI Classification of Serial Killers

The FBI's Behavioral Science Unit (BSU) investigates all serial killer cases.

Criminal Minds is the show that portrays the FBI's BAU. The show calls the unit Behavioral Analysis Unit.

- Organized/Nonsocial (high IQ>125)
- Disorganized/Impulsive (low IQ<90)
- Mixed



MOTIVE

Motive is the “why” of the killings

- Visionary- Demon Mandated or God Mandated
- Mission-oriented-Usually try to justify their acts
- Hedonistic-pleasure in killing
 - Lust (sex) or Thrill (pain) or Comfort (material gain)
- Power or control – gain control over victim

Visionary

- **David Berkowitz** ("Son of Sam") is an example of a demon-mandated visionary killer. He claimed a demon transmitted orders through his neighbor's dog, instructing him to murder
- 13 victims + 6 hurt



Mission-oriented

Justify their acts as "ridding the world" of a certain type of "undesirable" person, such as homosexuals, prostitutes, blacks, Jewish people or Catholics; however, they are generally not psychotic.

Some see themselves as attempting to change the nature of human society, often to cure a societal ill.

The GREEN RIVER KILLER (Gary Ridgway)
Killed prostitutes and threw them into the river
90+

Hedonistic



- **LUST**

- **Jeffrey Dahmer** searched for his perfect fantasy lover — beautiful, submissive and eternal. As his desire increased, he experimented with drugs, alcohol and exotic sex. His increasing need for stimulation was demonstrated by the dismemberment of victims, whose heads and genitals he preserved. He experimented with cannibalism to "ensure his victims would always be a part of him" (**17 victims**)

- **THRILL**

- **Coral Watts** was described by a surviving victim as "excited and hyper and clappin' and just making noises like he was excited, that this was gonna be fun" during the 1982 attack. Slashing, stabbing, hanging, drowning, asphyxiating, and strangling were among the ways Watts killed

- **COMFORT**

- After a murder, a comfort killer will usually wait for a period of time before killing again to allow any suspicions by family or authorities to subside. They often use poison, most notably arsenic, to kill their victims. **Female serial** killers are often comfort killers, although not all comfort killers are female.

Power/Control

- Many power or control-motivated killers sexually abuse their victims, but they differ from hedonistic killers in that rape is not motivated by lust but as simply another form of dominating the victim
- **Ted Bundy** traveled around the United States seeking women to control
(**30 victims**)

