

## **The Causality of serial killers' crime in early childhood**

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### **Abstract**

Although the term "serial killer" was first introduced in the 1970s, was originated from Federal Bureau Special Agent Robert Ressler in describing New York cases, Serial killers have been investigated since the 1400s, when the French nobleman Gilles de Rais tortured, sexually abused and killed hundreds of children.

There are many factors that are important to be analyzed in order to catch the serial killer. The most important methods are psychological profiling-Victimology, Signature, Modus Operandi. Here it is important to have a psychological portrait of the killer.

When we hear the term “Serial killer”, we think that it is spoken about a supernatural one who has a strange distinguishing look. Nevertheless, the reality is that serial killer is a usual man who can be your new acquaintance, neighbor, friend even a family member. They can be very friendly people who will ask to do a favor for them and instead of thanking they kill with cruelty. However, the researches show that the majority of serial Killers themselves were the victims of violence in their childhood, which means that violence gives birth to violence. Not all serial killers, however, have had child trauma or been subjected to violence at an early age, but the fact that serial killers have been subjected to violence at an early age is not a coincidence.

**Keywords:** Serial killer, Abusive childhood, Psychological profile.

### **Introduction**

At different stages of life, we face different situations that can have a profound effect on our behavior, disrupt the emotional field, and interpersonal relationships. The response to these events - adaptive stress or psychological trauma - depends on the personality of the person. Sometimes deep traumatic childhood shapes an individual. The term "psychological trauma" first appeared in the 19th century. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Problems defines trauma «direct personal experience of an event that involves actual or threatened death or serious injury, threat

to one's physical integrity, witnessing an event that involves the above experience, learning about unexpected or injury experienced by a family member or close associate. Memories associated with trauma are typically explicit, coherent and difficult to forget»<sup>1</sup> Trauma is particularly profound in early childhood (0-6) and may be arisen from child abuse. Children are subjected to emotional, psychological, sexual, and physical abuse as well neglect: Neglect occurs when the parent does not provide the child with the necessary care: dirty clothes, dirty hair, lack of necessary education, clothing, food and medical intervention. There are times when it is difficult to distinguish whether neglect has occurred or social conditions are not sufficient to provide the child with the necessary care. In families where neglect is used, parents themselves encourage children to find themselves in an environment where they may be subjected to other forms of violence. Physical abuse is the force used to intentionally harm a child. Examples of physical abuse include shaking, throwing, slapping, burning skin, poisoning, making run or do other physical exercises, forbidding sleeping, eating, medication, drowning or hanging. Emotional and psychological abuse may not be visible, but it has a profound effect. It occurs when someone intentionally damages the child's self-esteem and causes him to feel unloved, worthless, or inappropriate. Emotional and psychological abuse can be both verbal and non-verbal, accompanied by physical activity. A vivid example is convincing a child that he is bad, a result of misunderstanding, screaming, silencing, threatening, ridiculing, restricted physical contact, and loving words. Sexual abuse is the involvement of a child in sexual activity, and it is not mandatory for them to be touched during that time. Not only actions but also 18+ jokes or stories, watching 18+ movies in the presence of children, encouraging sexual relations are examples of sexual abuse. Children who are victims of violence at an early age tend to be subjected to violence themselves, which means that violence gives birth to violence. Not all serial killers, however, have had child trauma or been subjected to violence at an early age, but the fact that serial killers have been subjected to violence at an early age is not a coincidence.

### **Methods of detecting serial killers**

Although the term "serial killer" was first introduced in the 1970s, was originated from Federal Bureau Special Agent Robert Ressler in describing New York cases,<sup>2</sup> Serial killers have been investigated since the 1400s, when the French nobleman Gilles de Rice tortured, sexually abused and killed hundreds of children. As

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<sup>1</sup> McNally, Richard, 2003, Remembering trauma, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University press, ISBN 978-0674018020

<sup>2</sup> Miller L., Serial Killers: Subtypes, patterns and motives. Aggression and violent Behavior 19, 1-11

it is difficult to distinguish serial killers from mass murderers, Morton and Hilts define "Serial Killer" as a person who kills two or more people at different times:<sup>3</sup>

Unlike serial killers, mass murderers commit murder through revenge, hatred, or greed. Serial killers have other motives for murder, and their revelations often help reveal their identities. There are various methods used to detect serial killers, one of which is to classify serial killers according to motives for murder, but it should also be taken into account that finding motives for murder in this case is quite difficult as there may be several motives as well as there are some serial killers who kill just because they want to do it. For example, Samuel Little, the most prolific serial killer in the United States. "I killed because I wanted to," "If God opposed killing, he would have stopped me." Samuel worked closely with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, acknowledging murders whose bodies had not yet been discovered. Still images of unidentified victims taken by Samuel are now on the Federal Bureau's website:<sup>4</sup> There are many different typological classifications, but the most prominent are those of Holmes and De Burger given are the five types <sup>5</sup>.

1. Visionary types. This type includes the killers who hear the voices that order them to kill. For example, Stanley Eric Mossburg (Woo Woo, number of murders -3) considered himself a prophet of God. "I love to kill. I kill because God needs them in the "struggle of the angels and the devils" God chooses my victims himself. «Mossburg was able to be detected because he had left one of the victims alive, saying: "I will not kill you, because God has commanded me not to touch you." Mossburg was planning to kill 11 more. Considering the fact that Jesus' apostles are 12, it is likely that he would commit suicide in the end. Nevertheless, it is also noteworthy that among the victims, there was a woman, and there was no woman among the apostles.

2. Mission-oriented types. Killers of this type believe that they are killing the evil that is happening in society. Their target groups are mostly prostitutes, women from the lower classes. This group also includes racial killers. For example, Gary Leon Ridgway (number of murders 71, proven 49). He gained the trust of the prostitutes by showing them a photo of his son. When he was arrested, he passes a polygraph examination. His murders diminished when he married his third wife, who thought that marrying him had saved many people's lives. Ridgway's hatred of women has begun following sexually transmitted infections. He often complained

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<sup>3</sup> Morton R. & Hilts M., (2005) Serial murder: Multidisciplinary perspectives for investigators. F.B.I. Behavioral Analysis Unit

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/samuel-little-most-prolific-serial-killer-in-us-history-100619>

<sup>5</sup> De Burger and Holmes /1985/

about their presence, but he regularly used their service. According to Terry McCarthy, "he could not distinguish between his religious whims and religious beliefs."<sup>6</sup> He was often crying while reading the Bible or listening to passages.

3. Hedonistic types. Killers of this type are just killing for fun. For example, Jeffrey Dahmer (17 male victims). He promised his victims money, invited him home, drank with them, and then killed. After the murder, he had sexual relations with his victims, took their body parts as a souvenir, photographed them, then looking back at the photos, and was reliving the pleasure of the murder.

4. Control types. People of this type want to control the victims through murder. For example, Robert Bundy (best known as Ted Bundy -30 proved and 100 not proved victims) Ted targeted women and girls. He met them, pretending to be an organist or a disabled person, taking them to a secluded place, having sex with them, and then killing them. He was also a necrophilia, and was often taking out of the bodies from the graves and had sexual relations with them until they were discovered. Bundy was washing the victims' hair with shampoo, and he was angry every time when a beloved girl cut her hair.

Bundy received a lawyer's and psychologist's education, which helped him deal with the killings. He was extremely persuasive and cautious, and even when his beloved girl phoned the police to report that the serial killer was Bundy, she was not believed. Bundy was detected after mistake made during the recent murder, suddenly without planning broke into the dormitory by brutally attacking the girls.

5. Predator types. It is typical for people of this type to have fun hunting for people. For example, Vera Renczi / Number of victims-35 /. Vera targeted men who could be either her husband or lovers. Vera had long been in love with her victims. Initially he was killing her husbands who didn't spend enough time with her or betrayed. She even gave birth to a child in the hope of being able to make her husband spend more time with her. However, nothing succeeds and she decides to poison him. She chose her husband's favorite drink, planned a beautiful evening with him, and poured arsenic into the cup. For about a year, she assured everyone that her husband had left her, and then declared that he had been the victim of a car accident. Doing the same with her second husband, she decided not to marry anymore, became a lover who "ends up leaving". Vera was detected only when one wife of her lovers had followed her husband and saw that he was not leaving. Police found 30 zinc coffins in Vera's basement. She hadn't not let them go away by murder. Vera used to sit on the

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<sup>6</sup> McCarthy: Thornburgh, Nathan/June 3. 2002/ "River of Death", New York city.

armchair in the cellar and look at the coffins for a long time, each of which had one victim.

**Profiling is the reverse engineering of a crime or a series of crimes. We look at the behavior exhibited and we work backwards to the type of person and the type of personality who committed that crime**, because every offender picks a particular victim at a particular time, at a particular place, in a particular manner, for a particular purpose. Those choices that he makes reveal things, unwittingly, about himself: what his desires are, what his capabilities are, what his skill levels are, what his education is, what his physical ability is, etc. All those things reveal the kind of person that he is, and we use that information to direct the investigation.<sup>7</sup> The profiler produces a report for local investigators that predicts the possible personality, physical, and social characteristics of the unknown offender. The psychological profile includes the internal psychological and behavioral characteristics. It can be a tool in the search for a murderer when the location of the murder and the condition of the victim indicate some deviation. The profile can vary in length from a few paragraphs to a number of pages depending on how much information the investigation had to analyze at the input step.

The next of the methods to detect serial killers that we are studying in this article is Victimology.

Victimology is the peculiarity of victim selection. Often, similarities can be found between victims when investigating a murder, which can help identify the killer. It may include the victim's age, sex, race, occupation, appearance, marital status, and vulnerability. Frequently the choice of victims also speaks to the intellectual abilities of the serial killer. The lower the risk of victims, the higher the intellectual capacity of the killer. Serial sadists select unknown victims because it is easier to torture them. There are murderers who choose prostitutes, the homeless, the poor because no one will try to find them. For example, in the late 19th century, the undiscovered but well-known Jack the Ripper (attributed to 11 murders but according to MO-five) who brutally murdered prostitutes. The name became known from letters sent to Scotland Yard. Since there were so many emails in those days, only three attributed Jack the Ripper. Along with the letter from "From the Hell", he also sent a part kidney of a murdered woman kept in ethanol, and promised to send a bloody knife later. In the Dear Boss letter, he insisted that he would kill prostitutes for as long as he is not caught. He loved his job and taunts police officers who claim to have caught him or were on the right track. He had promised to send the victims' ears. In a

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.bakadesuyo.com/2013/10/fbi-profiler/>

Saucy Jack-Postcard, he promised to be heard about again the next day and apologized for not having the time to send the ears to the police.

There are murderers who treat the victims as captives, whose torture and killing make them heroes. For example, the Novokuznetsov monster, Alexander Spesivtsev. He targeted women and children. His mother often helped to lure the victims. He brought the victims to his home by some pretext, where the tortures began. Alexander was very attached to his mother. The father was an alcoholic and betrayed his mother. He was sleeping in his mother's bed until he was 12 years old. The mother was an assistant to the prosecutor and often showed photographs of the victims to the child. Instead of books, Alexander read the results of the investigation, the forensic examination. When he left the psychiatric ward at the age of 21, Alexander continued to kill. When the killings started, Alexander was not caught for a long time because law enforcement officials thought he was still in the hospital because of a misdemeanor. Alexander treated his victims cruelly, each time developing new techniques, sometimes ambushed by groups, forcing the girls to kill their friend, dismember, and prepare food by them. One day, one of the neighbors complained that he smelled of this door all the time, and the police break the door and reveal everything. The only survivor who survived told the whole horror.

Murderers sometimes killing someone always "kill" the person who caused the trauma. He can be both his mother, father, family member, and loved one. For example, Daniel Camargo Barbosa / victims -150/. Camargo had deep childhood traumas. His mother had died, and his father, being a cold, emotionless man, had married a woman who worshiped girl children and hated boy children. She had the habit of exposing Camargo and beating him with a whip. On one occasion when Camargo was arguing at school, his stepmother took off his pants, forced him to wear a dress, and invited his classmates to laugh at him. The effect on the final psyche was that he fell in love with Esperanza, worshiped her, but it turned out that she was not a virgin. He persuaded Esperanza to find virgin girls for whom he raped. The last victim complains, and they were arrested, and then commenced murder. Camargo targeted the virgin girls, raped her and killed them so that they would not complain anymore. "I hate prostitutes. They are disgusting and infectious. I want a virgin girl»:

The next major method are the murder signature and Modus Operandi.

The signature of the murder can describe the psychological profile of the person who committed the murder. For example, if a fire is chosen as a means of killing, then the murder may be committed on the grounds of religion, politics, and revenge. The person who organizes the fire is always present to enjoy the work he has

done. If the bomb is chosen as a means of killing, then the structure of the bomb itself speaks to the intelligence and abilities of the serial killer. Mostly people who choose the bomb are scary. If the murder is committed by two people, then one becomes a ruler, a dominant, the other a servant, and subordinate. The subordinate has always felt humiliated, and only feels powerful because of the ruler. Murder also stands out when it is committed by women. There are two types of serial women: 1. cold, calculating, money-driven, 2. fearful, paranoid, and methodical, following the rules.

The signature of the murder is one of the "winning cards" to find the killers. The signature, in contrast to the Modus Operandi, is more effective, as the special murder procedure identifies the killer. If everyone can have the MO, the signatures do not leave all the killers. Unlike MO, the signature never changes. The signature can be not only the position of the victims after the murder, but can also be an action, such as sending letters to magazines, sending a video of the murder to the body of the victims, engraving something, inserting something or taking a souvenir, and leaving for an example on the next victim, etc. In this way, they satisfy the full enjoyment of not killing. An example of a serial killer captured by the signature is Charles Albright. When a number of crimes began, the victims were blindfolded. The forensic doctor stated after the autopsy that an equal and perfect work had been done that could only be done by a person with a medical education. The ring of suspects was tightened and they were able to arrest Charles Albright.

There are other methods of analyzing and detecting the serial killers such as Geographical Profiling or Hargrove methods. Though all methods are very important, there are cases that these methods are excluded the detection of the murder. Such is in the case of Zodiac Killer. The main suspect was Arthur Leigh Allen. All evidence against Allen is circumstantial, though the large quantity of circumstantial evidence is the primary reason that Allen became the primary suspect in the Zodiac case.

#### Direct Evidence:

- In 1992, surviving victim Mike Mageau picked Allen out of a police lineup.
- Surviving victim Bryan Hartnell identified his voice and physical appearance as being similar to the Zodiac.
- 2020 DNA evidence

#### Circumstantial Evidence:

- Allen communicated to his friend Don Cheney (through the premise of writing a novel) the following ideas:
  - He would like to kill couples randomly.
  - He would taunt the police with letters detailing his crimes.

- He would sign the letters with the cross-circle symbol from his watch.
- He wanted to one day call himself "Zodiac." He said this to his friend
- He would wear make-up to change his appearance.
- He would attach a flashlight to the barrel of his gun in order to shoot at night.
- He would fool women into stopping their cars in rural areas by claiming they had problems with their tires, then loosen their lug nuts and eventually take them captive.[1]
- Allen was born on December 18, around the same time the Zodiac told attorney Melvin Belli's housekeeper over the phone that it was his birthday and he needed to kill someone.
- Allen lived in Vallejo near the Blue Rock Springs and Lake Herman Road murders.
- Allen was allegedly in Riverside on the weekend when Cheri Jo Bates was murdered. He later claimed to be in Pomona when he heard of Bates' murder.
- Allen took his only sick day of the year on Nov.1, 1966 (Bates was murdered on Oct. 30, 1966).
- The Vallejo Police Department seized a Royal typewriter with Elite type from Allen's home, which is the brand of typewriter used to write the Bates' letters.
  - Note: To date, the typewriter has not been compared to the Bates letters.
- Received a Zodiac watch from his mother for Christmas in 1967, according to his brother. Allen estimated receiving the watch in 1969.
- Allen communicated to his friend Philip that he was fascinated with the idea of killing people. He believed that people were more challenging to kill than animals since they were more intelligent. Similar sentiments were communicated during the three-part cipher mailed to newspapers. Allen also mentioned to the police that his favourite book was *The Most Dangerous Game*, a book about killing humans and possibly alluded to in a Zodiac correspondence.
- Mageau described a brown Corvaire at the Blue Rock Springs scene. Allen's friend, Philip, owned a brown Corvaire that Allen was allowed to use.
- Allen told friend Don Cheney that he was fond of a waitress at the International House of Pancakes in Vallejo, the place where Darlene Ferrin worked as a waitress.
- An unidentified man named "Lee" was known to associate with Ferrin, and Allen frequently went by his middle name.
- Told police he was going up to Berryessa on the day of the Hartnell/Shepard attack, but decided to go up the coast instead.
- Allen admitted to possessing bloody knives on the day of the Berryessa attack, claiming that he used them to kill chickens.
- Cheney mentioned to Ron Allen that Arthur had two .22 caliber weapons.



- Zodiac is frequently theorized as having military ties, and Allen was at one time a sail maker in the navy.
- Allen wore size 10.5 shoes, similar to those left at the crime scene.
- In 1991, a nemesis of Allen's named Ralph Spinelli told police that Allen admitted to being the Zodiac and that he would prove it by going to San Francisco and "killing a cabbie."
- In 1991, the search warrant for Allen's house found bomb diagrams and the same ingredients for bombs that were mentioned in a previous Zodiac letter.
- Karen Allen, his sister-in-law, stated that Allen would use the shortened "trigger mech" in place of "trigger mechanism," as well as spelling Christmas with two S's. Both idiosyncrasies appear in the Zodiac letter to Melvin Belli.
- Karen also stated that he was taught to write right-handed as a child, even though he was left-handed.
- Allen claimed to have consulted with Melvin Belli, an attorney mentioned by name in the Zodiac letters.

Although this evidences there are also Exculpatory evidences

Direct Evidence:

- The eyewitnesses of the Stine murder scene claimed Allen was not the man they saw.

Circumstantial Evidence:

- Fingerprints/palm prints did not match.
- DNA didn't match.
- Handwriting was not a match.
- Did not wear glasses.
- Was old with grey-black hair.

## **The Causality of the Crime in the Childhood**

The Serial Killers are not born as a killer and do not come from nowhere. They have their own history. The majority of them had childhood traumas, As Jim Clemente says.” Your genetics load the gun, your personality aims it, and the events in your life pull the trigger”<sup>8</sup>

According to “Genetics and environment work together to encourage violent behavior.” For example, those with a specific variant of the enzyme monoamine-oxidase-A gene are more prone to displaying violent behavior if they have had an abusive upbringing. A child susceptible to genetically driven violent conduct does not

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.bakadesuyo.com/2013/10/fbi-profiler/>

necessarily become a criminal. However, genetics, in tandem with environmental factors such as violent childhood experiences, work together to shape a person”<sup>9</sup>

Early childhood is a key information about the serial killer. There are some key factors in childhood that can give a rise a further killer. Such factors are bedwetting /only if it is done after age 5 and continues for months/, hurting small animals, Head injury, uncontrollable aggression, witnessing of violence, Psychiatric disorders etc.

In our work we have studied some notorious serial killer who had great number of killings.

Luis Alfredo Garavito Cubillos /La bestia/. /139 proved and 147 confessed victims/. He was choosing boys, torturing them, raping and then killing/8-16 years old/. His mother was a prostitute, his father was drinking. He and his family was sexually abused by the father. He made him watch how his mother was having sex with other men and then let them abuse Garavito himself. Soon he ran out of the house but unfortunately became the victim of the pedophile at the age of eight. When he grew up, he used those pedophiles tricks with candy and food to lure boys.

Pedro Alonso Lopez-The father died before he was born and his mother was a prostitute. He was psychologically affected from being the witness of the sexual relationship. When he was eight. He touched his sister’s breast and his mother asked him to live the house. He met a man who took him to his house, tortured, and raped him for many years. When he was 12. He was found by a family and was taken to school where was bothered by the teacher. He was taking his victims out of the grave trying to speak to them, play, but as they did not respond, he began to look for other victims. Describing his victims he said that they never cry, never expect anything, they are innocent.

Moses Sithole-he was called ABC Murderer as he was killing in alphabetic order. /38 victims/. Mother had left him and other children when his father died. As a teenager, he escaped from the house. Then he was arrested for the rape of a girl which affected on his entire life very much. He confessed that he had not raped the girl and every time when he killed someone, he was killing that girl. During one of his murders, he damaged a child’s head and let him die. This can be connected with his mother who left him too helpless in such conditions when he was a child.

Anatoly Onoprienko /the beast of Ukraine, the terminator, the citizen O/ number of victims: 52. First, he was killing the husband, then the wife and then the children.

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<sup>9</sup> Raine A. *The Anatomy of Violence: The Biological Roots of Crime*. New York: Pantheon Books; 2013.

When he was 1 year old, father left home. When he was, three mother died and he was taken to orphanage. His father was drinking and often was treating the children in a bad way. He was a driver. Most of his victims were drivers. He was killing his father by killing them. Other orphans mocked him very much as he was there but he had a father and a brother. He had fought in orphanage very much and escaped from there. Onoprienko said that he was killing children in order to save them from orphanage. He returned to his father's house but had many conflicts and went away. In 1983, he returned with a car to present it to his father but his father was afraid of the revenge and did not accept him telling he was very ill. Anatoly went away and never came back.

About two years after marriage and two months before birth, Eileen her mother filed for divorce. Eileen never saw her father; by the time of her birth he was sent to prison and convicted on charges of molestation and attempted murder of an 8-year-old boy. He was later diagnosed with schizophrenia and hanged himself in a cell. When Aileen was almost 4 years old, her mother left her with her brother to raise her parents. With eleven years, Wuornos began to have sex at school in exchange for cigarettes, drugs and food. She also entered into a sexual relationship with her sibling. Wuornos claimed that her alcoholic grandfather raped and beat her, forced her to undress. Subsequently, psychiatrists questioned this fact. At the age of 14, she became pregnant after being raped by her grandfather's accomplice. Wuornos gave birth to a child in an orphanage and later the boy was handed over for adoption. A few months after the birth of her baby, she dropped out of school. By this time, her grandmother had died due to liver failure. When Aileen was 15 years old, her grandfather drove her out of the house, she had to engage in prostitution in order to earn a living. She lived in a forest near her old home.

## **Conclusion**

Every parent should have a responsibility to ensure his child with a healthy atmosphere, give him the whole care he needs, often tell him how important he is and protect him from every kind of abuse.

Children who are victims of violence at an early age tend to be subjected to violence themselves, which means that violence gives birth to violence. Not all serial killers, however, have had child trauma or been subjected to violence at an early age, but the fact that serial killers have been subjected to violence at an early age is not a

coincidence. Many serial killers treat their victims as they were treated at a young age.

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