

Serial Killer Statistics

The tables in this report are based on information from the Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database. The purpose of the database is to gather data so that researchers and teachers will have accurate information about serial killers. In 2012, Radford University partnered with Florida Gulf Coast University to ensure that the database is continually updated and that summary reports will be made available on an annual basis.

When citing information from this report, the following reference should be used:

Aamodt, M. G. (2013, October 19). *Serial killer statistics*. Retrieved (insert date of retrieval) from [http://maamodt.asp.radford.edu/serial killer information center/project description.htm](http://maamodt.asp.radford.edu/serial%20killer%20information%20center/project%20description.htm)

Questions about the database or the statistics in this report can be addressed to Dr. Mike Aamodt at Radford University, maamodt@radford.edu

Serial Killer Frequency by Decade (Decade of First Kill)

Decade	US	International	Total
1900	18	11	29
1910	29	13	42
1920	30	25	55
1930	29	22	51
1940	29	33	62
1950	47	31	78
1960	156	60	216
1970	450	120	570
1980	603	162	765
1990	498	228	726
2000	275	166	441
2010	67	31	98

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database
Updated 10/19/2013

U.S. Serial Killers

Percentage by Race and Decade

Decade	Race				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Native American
1900	66.7	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
1910	44.8	55.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
1920	70.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1930	58.6	41.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
1940	65.5	27.6	3.4	0.0	3.4
1950	78.7	21.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
1960	70.3	27.1	0.6	0.0	1.9
1970	62.4	32.9	3.4	0.4	0.9
1980	55.5	35.5	6.8	0.5	1.7
1990	43.1	48.0	7.1	1.8	0.0
2000	32.4	59.6	6.9	0.7	0.4
2010	32.8	59.7	7.5	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	52.4	40.7	5.3	0.7	0.9

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database

Updated 10/19/2013

Frequency of Serial Killers Gender by Decade

	N		Percent	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
1900	18	11	62.1	37.9
1910	30	12	71.4	28.6
1920	43	12	78.2	21.8
1930	43	8	84.3	15.7
1940	54	8	87.1	12.9
1950	66	12	84.6	15.4
1960	198	18	91.7	8.3
1970	536	33	94.2	5.8
1980	706	59	92.3	7.7
1990	673	53	92.7	7.3
2000	410	29	93.4	6.6
2010	93	5	94.9	5.1
TOTAL	3029	309	90.7	9.3

Note: Numbers reflect U.S. and International serial killers

Note: Total includes decades not listed on this chart

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database

Updated 10/19/2013

Characteristic	Percent
Male	92.16%
White	52.62%
Mid-to-late twenties	26.89%
White, male	46.12%
White, male, mid-to-late twenties	12.72%

Note: Only U.S. serial killers included in this chart

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database

Updated 10/19/2013

Broad Motives

Motive	N	Percentage
Enjoyment (thrill, lust, power)	1224	48.44%
Financial Gain	772	30.55%
Anger	213	8.43%
Multiple Motives	176	6.96%
Gang Activity	74	2.93%
Avoid Arrest	28	1.11%
Attention	16	0.63%
Convenience	13	0.51%
Hallucinations	11	0.44%
Cult	5	0.20%
TOTAL	2527	

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database

Updated 10/19/2013

Basic Statistics

N	218
Average IQ	94.1
Median IQ	86.5
Lowest	54
Highest	165

Killing Method	N	Average
Bomb	3	140.3
Strangle/Gun	3	108.0
Strangle/Bludgeon	7	100.3
Bludgeon/Gun	3	99.3
Strangle	50	98.1
Stab	26	94.0
Gun	53	92.4
Stab/Bludgeon	8	89.4
Stab/Strangle	7	88.9
Stab/Gun	14	85.3
Bludgeon	10	84.5
Poison	2	78.5

Raped Victims

No	112	94.5
Yes	105	94.0

Type

Organized	112	98.5
Disorganized	66	92.6
Mixed	8	108.4

Number of Kills

Two	50	90.1
Three	47	88.8
Four	20	95.1
Five	15	95.9
More than five	86	98.8

Serial Killer IQ

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database
Updated 10/19/2013

	U.S.			U.S. & International		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Overall N	850	142	992	1,041	469	1,510
No Military	76.6%	100.0%	79.9%	76.0%	100.0%	80.2%
Military	23.4%	0.0%	20.1%	24.0%	0.0%	19.8%
Army	44.9%			51.9%		
Navy	23.2%			21.3%		
Air Force	10.3%			9.8%		
Marines	21.1%			16.6%		
Coast Guard	0.5%			0.4%		

Source: Radford/FGCU Serial Killer Database
Updated 2/20/2013

Serial Killers Active While in Military	Country
Armstrong, John Eric	US
Bunday, Thomas Richard	US
Christopher, Joseph G.	US
Copeland, Michael	England
Cummins, Gordon Frederick	England
Elton, Dwayne W.	US
Grant, Gary Gene	US
Gray, Ronald Adrian	US
Grimson, Allan	England
Hance, William Henry	US
Joubert, John	US
Korn, Donald	US
Latham, James Douglas	US
Leonski, Edward Joseph	Australia
McKnight, Anthony	US
McManus, Fred Eugene	US
Percy, Derek Ernst	Australia
Shrader, Marcus III	US
Torrez, Jorge Avila	US
Valenti, Richard Raymond	US
Williams, David Russell	Canada
Yershov, Vadim	Russia
York, George R.	US

Serial Killers by Country

Country	Number of Serial Killers
United States	2320
England	116
Italy	97
S. Africa	96
Japan	78
Germany	72
Canada	60
Australia	55
France	46
India	46
Russia	39
China	30
Mexico	22
Brazil	14
Scotland	11
Poland	10

Note: Serial killers operating in multiple countries are not

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database

Updated 10/19/2013

	N	%	
Sex			
Male	3,854	44.54%	
Female	4,799	55.46%	
Race			
White	5,200	68.26%	
Black	1,841	25.36%	
Hispanic	468	6.55%	
Asian	109	1.52%	
Sex & Race			
White Male	2,131	28.18%	
White Female	3,050	40.33%	
Black Male	871	11.52%	
Black Female	933	12.34%	
Hispanic Male	286	3.78%	
Hispanic Female	182	2.41%	
Asian Male	57	0.75%	
Asian Female	52	0.69%	
Age			
Average	33.38		
Median	28.00		
Mode	19.00		
Actual Age	N	%	Cumulative %
<1	131	1.70%	1.70%
1	33	0.43%	2.13%
2	40	0.52%	2.65%
3	40	0.52%	3.17%
4	40	0.52%	3.69%
5	33	0.43%	4.12%
6	38	0.49%	4.61%
7	42	0.55%	5.16%
8	46	0.60%	5.75%
9	64	0.83%	6.58%
10	54	0.70%	7.28%
11	55	0.71%	8.00%
12	77	1.00%	9.00%
13	97	1.26%	10.26%
14	127	1.65%	11.91%
15	160	2.08%	13.99%
16	189	2.45%	16.44%
17	218	2.83%	19.27%
18	250	3.25%	22.52%
19	274	3.56%	26.07%
20	225	2.92%	29.00%
21	254	3.30%	32.29%
22	256	3.32%	35.62%
23	217	2.82%	38.44%
24	213	2.77%	41.20%
25	205	2.66%	43.86%

Characteristics of U.S. Serial Killer Victims

Actual Age	N	%	Cumulative %
26	196	2.55%	46.41%
27	192	2.49%	48.90%
28	148	1.92%	50.82%
29	179	2.32%	53.15%
30	169	2.19%	55.34%
31	139	1.80%	57.15%
32	131	1.70%	58.85%
33	117	1.52%	60.37%
34	139	1.80%	62.17%
35	135	1.75%	63.93%
36	121	1.57%	65.50%
37	109	1.42%	66.91%
38	115	1.49%	68.41%
39	103	1.34%	69.74%
40	100	1.30%	71.04%
41	88	1.14%	72.19%
42	102	1.32%	73.51%
43	84	1.09%	74.60%
44	76	0.99%	75.59%
45	82	1.06%	76.65%
46	66	0.86%	77.51%
47	70	0.91%	78.42%
48	68	0.88%	79.30%
49	58	0.75%	80.05%
50	75	0.97%	81.03%
51	60	0.78%	81.81%
52	65	0.84%	82.65%
53	55	0.71%	83.37%
54	48	0.62%	83.99%
55	46	0.60%	84.59%
56	55	0.71%	85.30%
57	46	0.60%	85.90%
58	47	0.61%	86.51%
59	47	0.61%	87.12%
60	60	0.78%	87.90%
61	40	0.52%	88.42%
62	58	0.75%	89.17%
63	38	0.49%	89.66%
64	41	0.53%	90.20%
65	46	0.60%	90.79%
66	31	0.40%	91.20%
67	39	0.51%	91.70%
68	46	0.60%	92.30%
69	43	0.56%	92.86%
70	26	0.34%	93.20%
71	23	0.30%	93.49%
72	37	0.48%	93.97%
73	35	0.45%	94.43%
74	29	0.38%	94.81%
75	33	0.43%	95.23%

Actual Age	N	%	Cumulative %
76	26	0.34%	95.57%
77	22	0.29%	95.86%
78	28	0.36%	96.22%
79	32	0.42%	96.64%
80	30	0.39%	97.03%
81	34	0.44%	97.47%
82	28	0.36%	97.83%
83	27	0.35%	98.18%
84	16	0.21%	98.39%
85	27	0.35%	98.74%
86	20	0.26%	99.00%
87	18	0.23%	99.23%
88	9	0.12%	99.35%
89	12	0.16%	99.51%
90	11	0.14%	99.65%
91	10	0.13%	99.78%
92	4	0.05%	99.83%
93	3	0.04%	99.87%
94	2	0.03%	99.90%
95	2	0.03%	99.92%
96	0	0.00%	99.92%
97	2	0.03%	99.95%
98	2	0.03%	99.97%
99	1	0.01%	99.99%
100	1	0.01%	100.00%
TOTAL	7,701		

Updated 10/19/2013

Victims By State	N	Victim	2010	Difference
		Rank	Population Rank	
California	1,250	1	1	0
Florida	721	2	4	2
Texas	687	3	2	-1
New York	524	4	3	-1
Illinois	503	5	5	0
Pennsylvania	308	6	6	0
Ohio	306	7	7	0
Michigan	283	8	8	0
Washington	275	9	13	4
Indiana	272	10	15	5
Georgia	258	11	9	-2
Louisiana	252	12	25	13
Missouri	227	13	18	5
Virginia	200	14	12	-2

Characteristics of U.S. Serial Killer Victims

Victims By State	N	Victim	2010	Difference
		Rank	Population Rank	
North Carolina	199	15	10	-5
New Jersey	167	16	11	-5
District of Columbia	153	17	50	33
Oklahoma	143	18	28	10
Maryland	141	19	19	0
Alabama	136	20	23	3
Oregon	134	21	27	6
Colorado	129	22	22	0
Massachusetts	127	23	14	-9
Arizona	125	24	16	-8
South Carolina	120	25	24	-1
Tennessee	103	26	17	-9
Kentucky	101	27	26	-1
Kansas	94	28	33	5
Wisconsin	93	29	20	-9
Connecticut	92	30	29	-1
Nevada	89	31	35	4
Arkansas	75	32	32	0
Utah	70	33	34	1
Mississippi	56	34	31	-3
Nebraska	54	35	38	3
Minnesota	46	36	21	-15
Iowa	45	37	30	-7
Alaska	45	37	47	10
New Mexico	35	39	36	-3
Idaho	34	40	39	-1
Montana	29	41	44	3
West Virginia	26	42	37	-5
Maine	17	43	41	-2
Wyoming	14	44	51	7
Rhode Island	12	45	43	-2
North Dakota	11	46	48	2
Delaware	9	47	45	-2
Vermont	7	48	49	1
Hawaii	7	49	40	-9
New Hampshire	7	50	42	-8
South Dakota	6	51	46	-5
TOTAL	8,817			

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