

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.

As of September 6, 2014, the database contains information on 3,873 serial killers and 11,187 victims of serial killers.

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

Aamodt, M. G. (2014, September 6). *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	19	13	32
1910	34	16	50
1920	34	29	63
1930	39	24	63
1940	37	40	77
1950	50	35	85
1960	168	67	235
1970	512	145	657
1980	680	192	872
1990	572	269	841
2000	318	229	547
2010	73	53	126

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database

Updated 9/6/2014

U.S. Serial Killers

Percentage by Race and Decade

Individual, Team, & Organizational

Decade	Race				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Native American
1900	68.4	31.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
1910	51.5	48.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
1920	73.5	26.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
1930	69.2	30.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
1940	73.0	21.6	2.7	0.0	2.7
1950	76.0	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1960	71.9	25.7	0.6	0.0	1.8
1970	62.0	33.7	3.0	0.4	1.0
1980	54.6	36.5	6.8	0.6	1.5
1990	41.9	47.7	8.6	1.8	0.0
2000	31.8	56.6	10.7	0.6	0.3
2010	34.2	56.2	9.6	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	52.1	40.3	6.1	0.7	0.8

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database

Updated 9/6/2014

Frequency of Serial Killers Gender by Decade

Decade	N		Percent	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
1900	19	13	59.4	40.6
1910	37	13	74.0	26.0
1920	50	13	79.4	20.6
1930	53	10	84.1	15.9
1940	68	9	88.3	11.7
1950	73	12	85.9	14.1
1960	217	18	92.3	7.7
1970	620	36	94.5	5.5
1980	811	61	93.0	7.0
1990	782	59	93.0	7.0
2000	498	47	91.4	8.6
2010	119	7	94.4	5.6
TOTAL	3514	356	90.8	9.2

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

9/6/2014

Characteristic	Percent
Male	92.30%
White	52.45%
Mid-to-late twenties	27.00%
White, male	46.09%
White, male, mid-to-late twenties	12.57%

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

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database

September 6, 2014

Motive	N	Percentage	Race (U.S. Only)			
			White	Black	Hisp	Asian
Enjoyment (thrill, lust, power)	1335	46.11%	46.6%	34.1%	41.6%	75.0%
Financial Gain	917	31.68%	30.3%	37.4%	27.4%	8.3%
Multiple Motives	235	8.12%	9.1%	11.0%	10.6%	16.7%
Anger	227	7.84%	8.4%	8.0%	6.2%	0.0%
Gang Activity/Criminal Enterprise	95	3.28%	1.3%	7.8%	12.4%	0.0%
Avoid Arrest	35	1.21%	1.9%	1.1%	0.9%	0.0%
Attention	18	0.62%	1.1%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%
Convenience	21	0.73%	0.7%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Hallucinations	12	0.41%	0.5%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Cult	6	0.21%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
TOTAL	2895		1143	803	113	12

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database

September 6, 2014

Basic Statistics

N	252
Average IQ	94.7
Median IQ	86.0
Lowest	54
Highest	186

Killing Method	N	Average
Bomb	3	140.3
Strangle/Gun	4	112.8
Strangle/Bludgeon	8	101.1
Strangle	52	98.2
Strangle/Stab	12	97.7
Stab/Gun	20	95.2
Stab/Bludgeon	10	94.1
Stab	28	92.6
Gun	63	92.0
Bludgeon/Gun	7	82.7
Bludgeon	12	82.3
Poison	2	78.5

Raped Victims

No	131	94.8
Yes	120	93.8

Type

Organized	123	99.2
Disorganized	69	92.8
Mixed	11	105.4

Number of Kills

Two	66	88.8
Three	56	93.0
Four	23	94.8
Five	20	100.0
More than five	87	99.0

Necrophillia

No	228	94.2
Yes	24	99.7

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database

Updated September 6, 2014

	U.S.			U.S. & International		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Overall N	1,088	162	1,250	1,365	600	1,965
No Military	76.1%	100.0%	79.2%	75.7%	99.6%	79.6%
Military	23.9%	0.0%	20.8%	24.3%	0.4%	20.4%
Army	46.9%			54.2%		
Navy	22.2%			19.4%		
Air Force	10.7%			10.6%		
Marines	19.8%			15.5%		
Coast Guard	0.4%			0.3%		

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database
September 6, 2014

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
Fowler, George William	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	2,625
England	142
S. Africa	101
Italy	100
Japan	88
Germany	75
Canada	74
Australia	72
Russia	64
India	57
France	52
China	41
Mexico	23
Austria	17
Brazil	15
Poland	15
Scotland	13
Spain	13
Netherlands	11
Sweden	10

Note: Serial killers operating in multiple countries are not included

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database

September 6, 2014

	N	%	
Sex			
Female	5,209	53.81%	
Male	4,472	46.19%	
Race			
White	5,704	68.21%	
Black	1,991	23.81%	
Hispanic	546	6.53%	
Asian	122	1.46%	
Sex & Race			
White Female	3,272	39.40%	
White Male	2,409	29.01%	
Black Female	992	11.94%	
Black Male	964	11.61%	
Hispanic Male	345	4.15%	
Hispanic Female	201	2.42%	
Asian Male	66	0.79%	
Asian Female	56	0.67%	
Age			
Average	33.50		
Median	28.00		
Mode	19.00		
Actual Age	N	%	Cumulative %
<1	137	1.54%	1.54%
1	42	0.47%	2.02%
2	47	0.53%	2.54%
3	46	0.52%	3.06%
4	48	0.54%	3.60%
5	40	0.45%	4.05%
6	47	0.53%	4.58%
7	49	0.55%	5.13%
8	55	0.62%	5.75%
9	75	0.84%	6.60%
10	63	0.71%	7.31%
11	62	0.70%	8.00%
12	92	1.04%	9.04%
13	106	1.19%	10.23%
14	142	1.60%	11.83%
15	192	2.16%	13.99%
16	212	2.39%	16.38%
17	242	2.72%	19.11%
18	290	3.27%	22.37%
19	312	3.51%	25.88%
20	266	2.99%	28.88%
21	287	3.23%	32.11%
22	293	3.30%	35.41%
23	232	2.61%	38.02%
24	248	2.79%	40.81%
25	226	2.54%	43.36%

Characteristics of U.S. Serial Killer Victims

Actual Age	N	%	Cumulative %
26	228	2.57%	45.92%
27	221	2.49%	48.41%
28	180	2.03%	50.44%
29	212	2.39%	52.83%
30	192	2.16%	54.99%
31	156	1.76%	56.74%
32	154	1.73%	58.48%
33	136	1.53%	60.01%
34	158	1.78%	61.79%
35	158	1.78%	63.57%
36	137	1.54%	65.11%
37	129	1.45%	66.56%
38	135	1.52%	68.08%
39	121	1.36%	69.44%
40	123	1.38%	70.83%
41	105	1.18%	72.01%
42	118	1.33%	73.34%
43	95	1.07%	74.41%
44	95	1.07%	75.48%
45	102	1.15%	76.63%
46	79	0.89%	77.52%
47	77	0.87%	78.38%
48	81	0.91%	79.30%
49	69	0.78%	80.07%
50	92	1.04%	81.11%
51	67	0.75%	81.86%
52	74	0.83%	82.70%
53	63	0.71%	83.40%
54	53	0.60%	84.00%
55	57	0.64%	84.64%
56	60	0.68%	85.32%
57	56	0.63%	85.95%
58	55	0.62%	86.57%
59	53	0.60%	87.17%
60	66	0.74%	87.91%
61	43	0.48%	88.39%
62	64	0.72%	89.11%
63	42	0.47%	89.59%
64	48	0.54%	90.13%
65	56	0.63%	90.76%
66	39	0.44%	91.20%
67	42	0.47%	91.67%
68	48	0.54%	92.21%
69	52	0.59%	92.79%
70	30	0.34%	93.13%
71	29	0.33%	93.46%
72	46	0.52%	93.98%
73	38	0.43%	94.40%
74	32	0.36%	94.76%
75	38	0.43%	95.19%

Characteristics of U.S. Serial Killer Victims

Actual Age	N	%	Cumulative %
76	32	0.36%	95.55%
77	26	0.29%	95.85%
78	31	0.35%	96.19%
79	37	0.42%	96.61%
80	36	0.41%	97.02%
81	40	0.45%	97.47%
82	32	0.36%	97.83%
83	31	0.35%	98.18%
84	19	0.21%	98.39%
85	28	0.32%	98.71%
86	23	0.26%	98.96%
87	23	0.26%	99.22%
88	12	0.14%	99.36%
89	13	0.15%	99.50%
90	14	0.16%	99.66%
91	11	0.12%	99.79%
92	4	0.05%	99.83%
93	3	0.03%	99.86%
94	3	0.03%	99.90%
95	3	0.03%	99.93%
96	0	0.00%	99.93%
97	2	0.02%	99.95%
98	2	0.02%	99.98%
99	1	0.01%	99.99%
100	1	0.01%	100.00%
TOTAL	8,882		

September 6, 2014

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database

Victims By State	N	Victim	2010	Difference
		Rank	Population Rank	
California	1,491	1	1	0
Texas	794	2	2	0
Florida	778	3	4	1
Illinois	551	4	5	1
New York	531	5	3	-2
Pennsylvania	345	6	6	0
Ohio	325	7	7	0
Georgia	309	8	9	1
Michigan	303	9	8	-1
Indiana	291	10	15	5
Washington	278	11	13	2
Louisiana	276	12	25	13
Missouri	259	13	18	5
North Carolina	232	14	10	-4
Virginia	221	15	12	-3
New Jersey	185	16	11	-5
Oklahoma	176	17	28	11
District of Columbia	168	18	50	32
Maryland	154	19	19	0
Oregon	154	19	27	8
Alabama	149	21	23	2
South Carolina	143	22	24	2
Colorado	140	23	22	-1
Massachusetts	139	24	14	-10
Arizona	137	25	16	-9
Tennessee	132	26	17	-9
Kansas	126	27	33	6
Kentucky	107	28	26	-2
Connecticut	94	29	29	0
Nevada	92	30	35	5
Wisconsin	90	31	20	-11
Arkansas	87	32	32	0
Utah	77	33	34	1
Mississippi	64	34	31	-3
Nebraska	62	35	38	3
Minnesota	52	36	21	-15
Iowa	49	37	30	-7
New Mexico	48	38	36	-2
Alaska	45	39	47	8
Montana	44	41	44	3

Victims By State	N	Victim	2010	Difference
		Rank	Population Rank	
Idaho	39	40	39	-1
West Virginia	28	42	37	-5
Maine	23	43	41	-2
Wyoming	19	44	51	7
Rhode Island	16	45	43	-2
Delaware	14	46	45	-1
North Dakota	11	47	48	1
Vermont	11	47	49	2
New Hampshire	9	49	42	-7
Hawaii	8	50	40	-10
South Dakota	6	51	46	-5
TOTAL	9,882			

Method by Which Victim Was Killed

Method of Death	N	Percent
Shot	3,543	41.74%
Strangled	1,981	23.34%
Stabbed	1,289	15.19%
Bludgeoned	765	9.01%
Poisoned	549	6.47%
Axed	126	1.48%
Drowned	83	0.98%
Burned	57	0.67%
Smothered	56	0.66%
Run over	16	0.19%
Drug overdose	13	0.15%
Neglect & Abuse	10	0.12%
TOTAL	8,488	

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database
 September 6, 2014

Number of Serial Killer Victims by Year

1900-1939			1940-1979			1980 - present		
Year	U.S.	Canada	Year	U.S.	Canada	Year	U.S.	Canada
1900	16	0	1940	7	0	1980	288	3
1901	6	1	1941	5	0	1981	242	14
1902	10	0	1942	7	0	1982	213	4
1903	7	0	1943	10	0	1983	231	3
1904	10	0	1944	12	1	1984	284	7
1905	11	0	1945	20	2	1985	255	5
1906	19	0	1946	21	5	1986	294	3
1907	18	0	1947	9	0	1987	355	6
1908	8	0	1948	15	0	1988	214	2
1909	15	0	1949	8	0	1989	255	10
1910	10	0	1950	14	0	1990	217	5
1911	47	0	1951	20	0	1991	246	10
1912	56	0	1952	7	0	1992	249	11
1913	12	0	1953	21	0	1993	244	4
1914	21	0	1954	22	0	1994	227	2
1915	10	0	1955	13	0	1995	226	8
1916	10	0	1956	21	2	1996	200	4
1917	12	0	1957	21	1	1997	196	14
1918	14	0	1958	27	0	1998	171	11
1919	15	0	1959	13	0	1999	177	12
1920	26	0	1960	32	0	2000	136	7
1921	40	0	1961	27	0	2001	128	9
1922	13	0	1962	27	0	2002	168	3
1923	29	0	1963	31	4	2003	129	7
1924	6	0	1964	40	0	2004	144	5
1925	16	0	1965	35	1	2005	127	4
1926	39	0	1966	74	0	2006	134	3
1927	14	2	1967	33	1	2007	135	5
1928	14	0	1968	51	0	2008	96	0
1929	7	0	1969	85	3	2009	116	3
1930	8	0	1970	78	4	2010	112	10
1931	16	0	1971	128	2	2011	86	5
1932	14	0	1972	128	2	2012	78	7
1933	16	0	1973	175	7	2013	40	3
1934	14	0	1974	223	8	2014	9	0
1935	14	0	1975	149	9	2015	0	0
1936	8	0	1976	141	1	2016	0	0
1937	17	0	1977	189	4	2017	0	0
1938	16	0	1978	237	5	2018	0	0
1939	12	0	1979	217	5	2019	0	0

Source: Radford/FGCU Serial Killer Database

Updated: 9/6/2014

Note: The numbers for 2013 and 2014 should be interpreted with caution as there is normally a lag between a murder and the identification of the serial killer.