

# FBI Profiling System

Serial Killers

Dr. Valarie J. Bell

“We serial killers are your sons, we are your husbands, we are everywhere. And there will be more of your children dead tomorrow.”

“You feel the last bit of breath leaving their body. You’re looking into their eyes. A person in that situation is God.”

~ Ted Bundy

# Serial Killers

- Hillside Stranglers
- Son of Sam
- Jeff Dahmer
- John Wayne Gacy
- Nightstalker
- Ed Kemper
- Ted Bundy
- Trailside Killer
- Zodiac
- Ed Gein
- BTK
- Jerry Brudos
- Andrei Chikatilo
- Peter Sutcliffe
- Joel Rifkin
- Jack the Ripper
- Henry Lee Lucas
- Wayne Williams
- Green River Killer
- Gainesville Ripper
- Peter Kurten

# What is a Serial Killer?

What do YOU think the definition is?

# Definitions of a Serial Killer

- Someone who murders 2 or more victims with an emotional cooling off period between the homicides

# Profiling Beginnings

- UNSUB
- “If you want to understand the artist you have to look at the painting”
- *What* took place?
- *Why* did it happen the way it did?
- *Who* could have committed this crime for these reasons?

# Inside the Mind of a Killer

- They sense weakness and vulnerability
- Thrill of the hunt gets them going
- Behavior reflects personality
- “Homicidal triad”-cruelty to small animals, fire-setting and bedwetting beyond an appropriate age
- Three most common motives of serial killers and rapists are DOMINATION, MANIPULATION and CONTROL
- Serial killers are sexual predators

# Inside the Mind...

- One of their main fantasy jobs is police officer
- Many are “police buffs”-they hang out at police bars and talk shop. They also like to find out about the investigation
- Triggering event-“stressor”-most common are losing job and losing wife/girlfriend



# Inside the Mind...

- Most single important factor in the development of a serial killer is the role of fantasy
- Many fantasize about a relationship between sex and death (Ed Kemper, Jeff Dahmer)
- Behavior escalates from fantasy to reality, helped along by pornography and cruelty to animals and peers. Fantasy is in place long before murders start

# The Role of Fantasy

- 82% of serial killers report daydreaming in their childhood accompanied by compulsive masturbation. If fantasies are violent, violence and sex become associated with one another
- 71% report feeling isolated as children. Isolation encourages substitution of fantasy for human contact

# The Role of Fantasy: Test Runs

- Serial killers start out by giving the fantasy a test run
- This involves cruelty to animals and small children
- Stealing women's underwear, exhibitionism, voyeurism, burglary and other minor offenses

# Organized or Disorganized?

## Organized

- Continual refinement of fantasy
- Improvement of details from one crime to the next
- Obsession with detail
- Planning of crime and disposal of body
- Socially competent
- Follows crime in the news

## Disorganized

- Bodily mutilation
- Lack of preparation
- Body left in view
- Violence is sudden
- Often they are severely disturbed
- Some UNSUBS are mixed

# M.O. vs Signature

## Modus Operandi

- Learned behavior
- What the UNSUB does to commit the crime (shooting, stabbing)
- It can change

## Signature

- What the UNSUB does to fulfill himself
- Does not change
- Expresses the UNSUB's personality
- He NEEDS to do it

# Deciphering Crime Scenes

- **Blitz style attack or attack on small or physically challenged people** means attacker has little confidence and self-esteem, not charming, asocial type
- **Sexual attacks on the elderly** mean the person has little or no sexual experience

# Deciphering Crime Scenes

- **Severe facial trauma/covering the face** means the person may have known the victim or is trying to depersonalize her
- **Covering the entire body** means the person feels bad about what he did
- **Multiple stab wounds** mean a lot of anger and emotion (think about 30 stab wounds)

# History of Serial Killing

- Serial killing may be a much older phenomenon than we realize
- Stories about witches, werewolves, vampires may have been created to explain atrocities committed by humans (Chikatilo)
- Beowulf-Grendel



# History of Serial Killing

## Gilles de Rais

- Lived during the 1400's
- Bodyguard of Joan of Arc
- One of the wealthiest people in Europe
- Sexually molested and killed at least 140 and no more than 800 peasant boys
- Practiced necrophilia with dead boys
- Hanged and burned

# History...

## **Countess Elizabeth Bathory**

- Born in Transylvania in the 1500's
- Belonged to noble family
- Sadist, liked to torture servants
- Drained victims' blood and bathed in it
- Murdered 650 women in 10 years
- Bricked up her bedroom and could not leave

# Jack the Ripper

- ✦ First modern day serial killer
- ✦ 1888 Whitechapel, London
- ✦ 5 victims in 3 months
- ✦ Killings stopped suddenly
- ✦ Identity unknown

# Jack the Ripper **Victims**



Polly Nichols



Annie Chapman



Elizabeth Stride

# Victims (continued)



Catherine Eddowes

# Mary Kelly



# Ed Kemper

Q: “What do you think when you see a pretty girl walking down the street?”

A: “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?”



# David Berkowitz



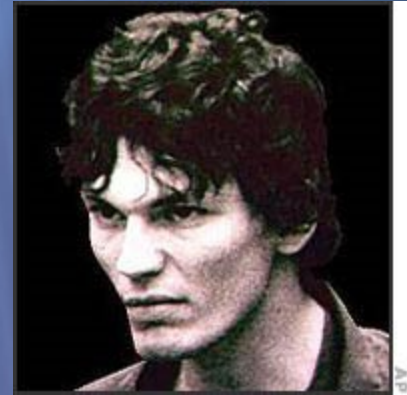
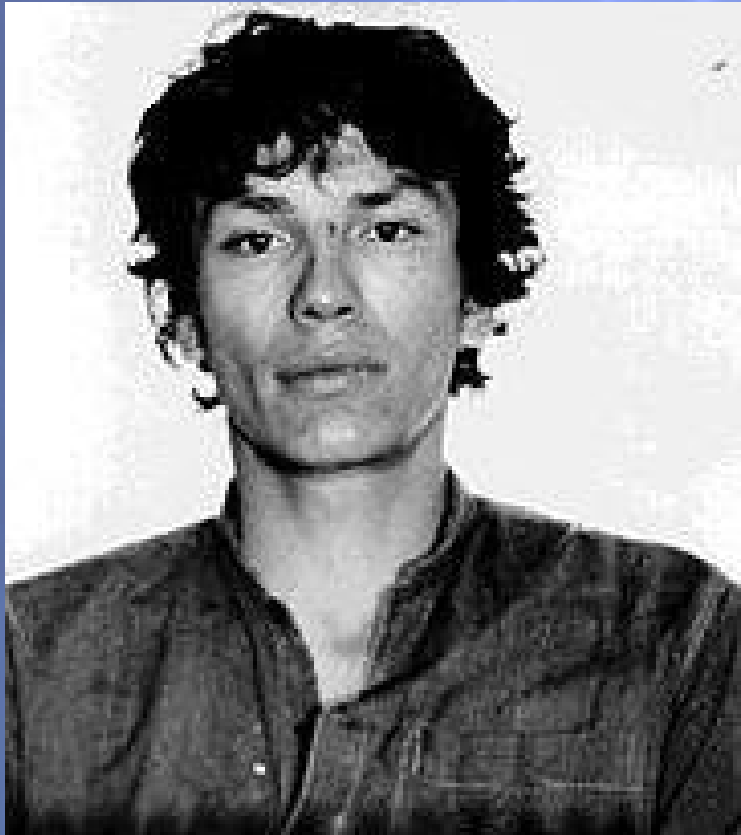
“I didn’t want to hurt them. I only wanted to kill them.”



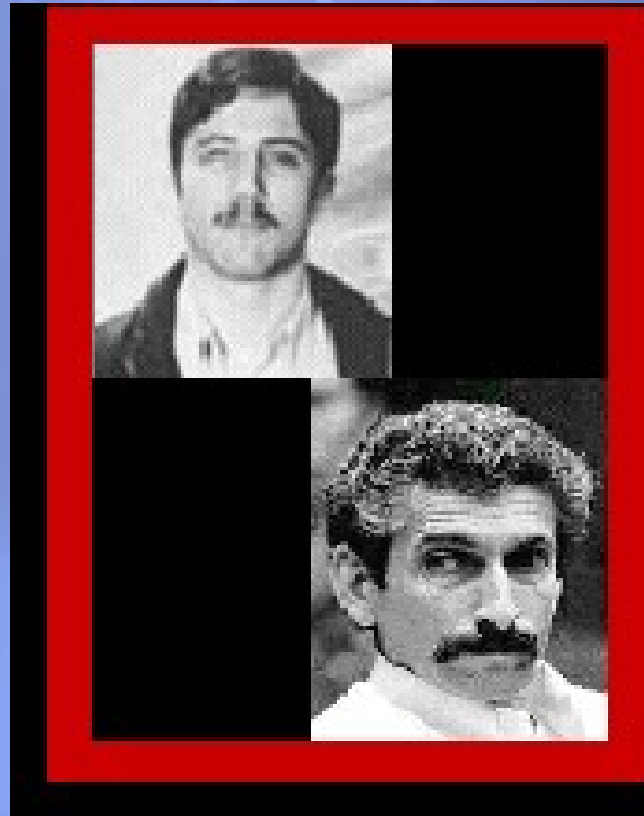
# John Wayne Gacy



# Richard Ramirez



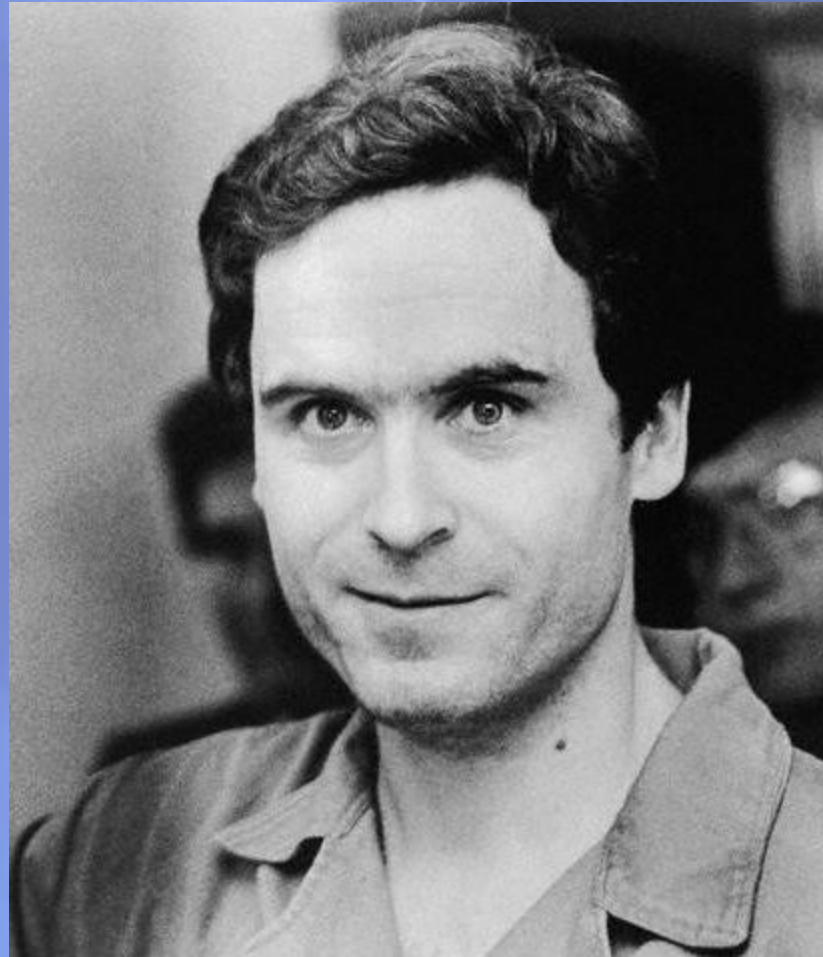
# Kenneth Bianchi and Angelo Buono



# BTK (Dennis Rader)



# Ted Bundy



# Gary Ridgeway-The Green River Killer



# Ed Gein



# Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka (Ken and Barbie Killers)





# Aileen Wuornos



# Female Killers

- One out of every 5 serial murderers are women.
- Often more deadly and prolific than men
- “quiet killers”
- Killing career is longer
- Killings usually committed in homes/hospitals, somewhere not that noticeable
- Motives are often personal financial gain

# Types of Female Killers

## Black Widows

- Most common type of female killer
- Focus on husbands, children, lovers
- 85% use poison
- Motive is material gain, rarely revenge

# The Moors Murders: 1963-1965



Myra Hindley w/Ian Brady tortured, sexually assaulted & killed at least 5 children aged 10-17.

# Blanche Taylor Moore



# Angels of Death

- Kill victims in their care
- Nurses kill babies, old people
- Childcare workers who kill children
- Motives are attention and praise, sense of power, misguided sense of mercy

# Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy

- Usually mothers, make children hurt or sick to gain medical attention. Illnesses can be real or fabricated.
- Welcome painful medical tests
- Very involved in medical care
- Praise the medical staff
- SIDS

# Surviving a Serial Killer

“Take it from one who knows: it pays to be paranoid.” Danny Rolling,  
The Gainesville Ripper

You might already be a survivor...  
you just don't know it.



# Surviving...

- ✦ 92% victims are white
- ✦ 82% are female
- ✦ 80% are unmarried
- ✦ 73% were ages 15-28
- ✦ Some are just by chance and unlucky
- ✦ Certain situations increase risk
- ✦ TRUST YOUR INTUITION!!!

# Surviving...

## ***BETTER RUDE THAN DEAD***

- ✦ If it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't!!
  - ✦ Do not be embarrassed by "irrationality"
- ✦ Once you're in the car you're done (78% SK use cars)
- ✦ Don't be fooled by what's inside the car

# Warning Signs of Duplicity

1. Feigned physical weakness (Bundy)
2. TMI- Too Much info (trying to make you at ease; disarm you)
3. Friendly authority-"I'm just here to help you"; "I know best": Impersonating police
4. Appeal for help; "I've lost my dog." "Can you help me with my sailboat?"
5. Never taking no for an answer