

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 November 23, 2015, the database contains information on 4,068 serial killers and 11,680 victims of serial killers.

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

Aamodt, M. G. (2015, November 23). *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	22	14	36
1910	34	16	50
1920	36	31	67
1930	40	25	65
1940	39	40	79
1950	51	38	89
1960	174	69	243
1970	534	146	680
1980	692	196	888
1990	614	292	906
2000	337	260	597
2010	93	92	185

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database

Updated 11/23/2015

Year	Definition of Serial Killer	
	2 or More	3 or More
1920	13	13
1921	17	14
1922	8	8
1923	17	14
1924	6	6
1925	9	9
1926	11	7
1927	9	8
1928	9	9
1929	5	5
1930	6	5
1931	10	8
1932	11	10
1933	12	10
1934	8	7
1935	11	12
1936	8	8
1937	8	9
1938	9	10
1939	6	6
1940	6	6
1941	3	3
1942	4	0
1943	8	8
1944	8	9
1945	11	9
1946	12	10
1947	5	6
1948	9	7
1949	5	6
1950	10	8
1951	12	10
1952	7	7
1953	9	8
1954	13	10
1955	9	8
1956	13	11
1957	14	9
1958	15	14

Year	Definition of Serial Killer	
	2 or More	3 or More
1959	7	6
1960	18	11
1961	15	11
1962	13	9
1963	21	16
1964	29	16
1965	21	12
1966	36	27
1967	24	20
1968	31	22
1969	43	39
1970	42	34
1971	55	41
1972	68	52
1973	76	58
1974	99	71
1975	92	61
1976	84	51
1977	105	71
1978	131	83
1979	117	88
1980	124	90
1981	134	99
1982	113	83
1983	114	81
1984	142	94
1985	148	104
1986	159	106
1987	172	119
1988	138	78
1989	152	100
1990	129	85
1991	146	85
1992	151	101
1993	153	91
1994	142	92
1995	126	71
1996	124	72
1997	111	74

Year	Definition of Serial Killer	
	2 or More	3 or More
1998	116	76
1999	102	60
2000	83	54
2001	85	50
2002	88	54
2003	82	57
2004	74	48
2005	74	56
2006	75	53
2007	84	56
2008	60	34
2009	76	42
2010	61	29
2011	56	25
2012	55	17
2013	29	15
2014	25	13

Yearly Average by Decade

Decade	Definition of Serial Killer	
	2 or More	3 or More
1950-1959	11	9
1960-1969	25	18
1970-1979	87	61
1980-1989	140	95
1990-1999	130	81
2000-2009	78	50
2010-2014	45	20

Note: This table only contains U.S. serial killers that have been caught and identified. Numbers represent the number of separate serial killers who killed at least one person that year. The number of kills in the definition represents the total number of kills; not the number in a given year.

U.S. Serial Killers

Percentage by Race and Decade

Individual, Team, & Organizational

Decade	Race				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Native American
1900	68.2	31.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
1910	51.5	48.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
1920	75.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1930	70.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1940	69.2	23.1	2.6	2.6	2.6
1950	76.5	23.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
1960	71.9	25.7	0.6	0.0	1.8
1970	62.3	33.4	3.0	0.4	0.9
1980	54.4	36.6	7.0	0.6	1.5
1990	41.8	48.0	8.4	1.6	0.2
2000	31.2	56.7	10.7	1.2	0.3
2010	32.3	59.1	8.6	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	51.7	40.6	6.1	0.8	0.8

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database

Updated 11/23/2015

Frequency of Serial Killers Gender by Decade

U.S. and International

Decade	N		Percent	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
1900	21	15	58.3	41.7
1910	37	13	74.0	26.0
1920	52	15	77.6	22.4
1930	55	10	84.6	15.4
1940	69	10	87.3	12.7
1950	76	13	85.4	14.6
1960	225	18	92.6	7.4
1970	644	36	94.7	5.3
1980	828	60	93.2	6.8
1990	845	61	93.3	6.7
2000	546	51	91.5	8.5
2010	175	10	94.6	5.4
TOTAL	3705	363	91.1	8.9

Note: Total includes decades not listed on this chart

United States Only

Decade	N		Percent	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
1900	15	7	68.2	31.8
1910	25	9	73.5	26.5
1920	29	7	80.6	19.4
1930	35	5	87.5	12.5
1940	34	5	87.2	12.8
1950	46	5	90.2	9.8
1960	161	13	92.5	7.5
1970	507	27	94.9	5.1
1980	650	42	93.9	6.1
1990	581	33	94.6	5.4
2000	311	26	92.3	7.7
2010	88	5	94.6	5.4
TOTAL	2537	206	92.5	7.5

Note: Total includes decades not listed on this chart

Frequency of Serial Killers Gender by Decade

International Only

Decade	N		Percent	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
1900	6	8	42.9	57.1
1910	12	4	75.0	25.0
1920	23	8	74.2	25.8
1930	20	5	80.0	20.0
1940	35	5	87.5	12.5
1950	30	8	78.9	21.1
1960	64	5	92.8	7.2
1970	137	9	93.8	6.2
1980	178	18	90.8	9.2
1990	264	28	90.4	9.6
2000	235	25	90.4	9.6
2010	87	5	94.6	5.4
TOTAL	1168	157	88.2	11.8

Note: Total includes decades not listed on this chart

Characteristic	All Decades	1990-2015
Male	92.5%	93.8%
White	52.2%	37.6%
Mid-to-late twenties	27.0%	24.0%
White, male	46.0%	32.4%
White, male, mid-to-late twenties	12.6%	7.4%

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

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database

November 23, 2015

Motive	N	Percentage	Race (U.S. Only)			
			White	Black	Hisp	Asian
Enjoyment (thrill, lust, power)	1479	40.10%	40.9%	28.0%	31.2%	42.9%
Financial Gain	1043	28.28%	28.9%	31.7%	22.1%	4.8%
Anger	557	15.10%	14.7%	17.5%	18.8%	33.3%
Multiple Motives	271	7.35%	8.5%	9.7%	9.7%	9.5%
Gang Activity/Criminal Enterprise	181	4.91%	1.9%	11.0%	16.9%	9.5%
Avoid Arrest	46	1.25%	2.0%	1.2%	0.6%	0.0%
Cult	38	1.03%	1.3%	0.3%	0.6%	0.0%
Convenience	32	0.87%	0.9%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Hallucinations	21	0.57%	0.9%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Attention	20	0.54%	1.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%
TOTAL	3688		1364	1010	154	21

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database
November 23, 2015

Basic Statistics

N	260
Average IQ	94.8
Median IQ	86.0
Lowest	54
Highest	186

Killing Method	N	Average
Bomb	3	140.3
Strangle/Gun	6	105.8
Strangle/Bludgeon	8	108.8
Poison	1	100.0
Stab/Gun	24	96.0
Strangle	40	96.9
Stab	23	92.7
Gun	59	90.8
Strangle/Stab	13	89.5
Stab/Bludgeon	11	85.5
Bludgeon/Gun	10	82.2
Bludgeon	10	78.5

Raped Victims

No	135	94.7
Yes	124	94.0

Type

Organized	126	99.5
Disorganized	70	91.7
Mixed	11	102.3

Number of Kills

Two	68	89.0
Three	60	93.9
Four	23	94.8
Five	20	100.0
More than five	89	98.6

Necrophillia

No	234	94.4
Yes	26	98.2

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database
Updated November 23, 2015

	U.S.			U.S. & International		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Overall N	1,203	169	1,372	1,523	623	2,146
No Military	77.6%	100.0%	80.4%	77.3%	99.6%	80.7%
Military	22.4%	0.0%	19.6%	22.7%	0.4%	19.3%
Army	47.6%			55.1%		
Navy	21.4%			18.9%		
Air Force	10.7%			10.2%		
Marines	19.8%			15.5%		
Coast Guard	0.4%			0.3%		

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database
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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

Country	Number of Serial Killers	% of Serial Killers	Country's Share of World Population	Ratio
United States	2,743	67.41	4.45%	15.15
England	145	3.56	0.73%	4.87
S. Africa	112	2.75	0.73%	3.77
Canada	101	2.48	0.49%	5.07
Italy	94	2.31	0.84%	2.75
Japan	91	2.24	1.75%	1.28
Germany	75	1.84	1.14%	1.62
Australia	75	1.84	0.33%	5.59
Russia	70	1.72	1.97%	0.87
India	65	1.60	17.50%	0.09
France	51	1.25	0.89%	1.41
China	41	1.01	19.24%	0.05
Mexico	24	0.59	1.71%	0.34
Austria	19	0.47	1.20%	0.39
Brazil	17	0.42	2.79%	0.15
Poland	15	0.37	0.53%	0.70
Scotland	13	0.32	0.07%	4.37
Spain	12	0.29	0.65%	0.45
Netherlands	11	0.27	0.23%	1.16
Sweden	10	0.25	0.13%	1.89

Caution should be taken in reviewing this table as the number of serial killers by country is a function of the number of actual killers, the number caught, and the number reported by police or the media

Note: Serial killers operating in multiple countries are not included

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database

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Characteristics of U.S. Serial Killer Victims

	N	%	
Sex			
Female	5,356	53.49%	
Male	4,658	46.51%	
Race			
White	5,941	67.33%	
Black	2,117	25.29%	
Hispanic	588	7.10%	
Asian	136	1.65%	
Native American	42	0.51%	
Sex & Race			
White Female	3,398	38.87%	
White Male	2,519	28.81%	
Black Female	1,070	12.24%	
Black Male	1,031	11.79%	
Hispanic Male	371	4.24%	
Hispanic Female	217	2.48%	
Asian Male	76	0.87%	
Asian Female	60	0.69%	
Age			
Average	33.44		
Median	28.00		
Mode	19.00		
Actual Age	N	%	Cumulative %
<1	144	1.52%	1.52%
1	45	0.48%	2.00%
2	49	0.52%	2.52%
3	50	0.53%	3.05%
4	48	0.51%	3.55%
5	42	0.44%	4.00%
6	51	0.54%	4.54%
7	52	0.55%	5.09%
8	55	0.58%	5.67%
9	80	0.85%	6.52%
10	62	0.66%	7.17%
11	68	0.72%	7.89%
12	94	0.99%	8.89%
13	112	1.18%	10.07%
14	147	1.55%	11.62%
15	204	2.16%	13.78%
16	228	2.41%	16.19%
17	256	2.71%	18.90%
18	310	3.28%	22.18%
19	329	3.48%	25.66%
20	286	3.03%	28.69%
21	309	3.27%	31.95%
22	312	3.30%	35.25%
23	254	2.69%	37.94%
24	266	2.81%	40.76%
25	243	2.57%	43.33%

Characteristics of U.S. Serial Killer Victims

Actual Age	N	%	Cumulative %
26	252	2.67%	45.99%
27	238	2.52%	48.51%
28	188	1.99%	50.50%
29	226	2.39%	52.89%
30	212	2.24%	55.13%
31	166	1.76%	56.89%
32	172	1.82%	58.71%
33	152	1.61%	60.31%
34	159	1.68%	61.99%
35	176	1.86%	63.86%
36	145	1.53%	65.39%
37	142	1.50%	66.89%
38	142	1.50%	68.39%
39	124	1.31%	69.71%
40	129	1.36%	71.07%
41	110	1.16%	72.23%
42	119	1.26%	73.49%
43	102	1.08%	74.57%
44	99	1.05%	75.62%
45	111	1.17%	76.79%
46	95	1.00%	77.80%
47	85	0.90%	78.70%
48	86	0.91%	79.61%
49	71	0.75%	80.36%
50	94	0.99%	81.35%
51	72	0.76%	82.11%
52	83	0.88%	82.99%
53	70	0.74%	83.73%
54	57	0.60%	84.33%
55	65	0.69%	85.02%
56	61	0.65%	85.67%
57	60	0.63%	86.30%
58	56	0.59%	86.89%
59	59	0.62%	87.52%
60	69	0.73%	88.25%
61	47	0.50%	88.75%
62	57	0.60%	89.35%
63	47	0.50%	89.85%
64	51	0.54%	90.39%
65	64	0.68%	91.06%
66	40	0.42%	91.49%
67	48	0.51%	91.99%
68	50	0.53%	92.52%
69	52	0.55%	93.07%
70	30	0.32%	93.39%
71	30	0.32%	93.71%
72	48	0.51%	94.21%
73	39	0.41%	94.63%
74	33	0.35%	94.98%
75	40	0.42%	95.40%

Characteristics of U.S. Serial Killer Victims

Actual Age	N	%	Cumulative %
76	33	0.35%	95.75%
77	26	0.28%	96.02%
78	31	0.33%	96.35%
79	38	0.40%	96.75%
80	35	0.37%	97.12%
81	42	0.44%	97.57%
82	35	0.37%	97.94%
83	31	0.33%	98.27%
84	20	0.21%	98.48%
85	29	0.31%	98.78%
86	23	0.24%	99.03%
87	23	0.24%	99.27%
88	11	0.12%	99.39%
89	14	0.15%	99.53%
90	14	0.15%	99.68%
91	11	0.12%	99.80%
92	4	0.04%	99.84%
93	3	0.03%	99.87%
94	3	0.03%	99.90%
95	3	0.03%	99.94%
96	0	0.00%	99.94%
97	2	0.02%	99.96%
98	2	0.02%	99.98%
99	1	0.01%	99.99%
100	1	0.01%	100.00%
TOTAL	9,454		

November 23, 2015

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database

Victims By State	N	Victim	2010	Difference
		Rank	Population Rank	
California	1,513	1	1	0
Texas	808	2	2	0
Florida	780	3	4	1
Illinois	568	4	5	1
New York	559	5	3	-2
Ohio	358	6	7	1
Pennsylvania	356	7	6	-1
Georgia	321	8	9	1
Michigan	317	9	8	-1
Indiana	304	10	15	5
Louisiana	280	11	25	14
Washington	277	12	13	1
Missouri	264	13	18	5
North Carolina	232	14	10	-4
Virginia	225	15	12	-3
New Jersey	194	16	11	-5
Massachusetts	177	17	14	-3
Oklahoma	174	18	28	10
District of Columbia	169	19	50	31
Oregon	162	20	27	7
Maryland	156	21	19	-2
Alabama	153	22	23	1
Colorado	150	22	22	0
Tennessee	147	24	17	-7
South Carolina	142	25	24	-1
Arizona	132	26	16	-10
Kansas	130	27	33	6
Kentucky	126	28	26	-2
Wisconsin	103	29	20	-9
Connecticut	101	30	29	-1
Nevada	98	31	35	4
Arkansas	88	32	32	0
Utah	78	33	34	1
Nebraska	67	34	38	4
Mississippi	62	35	31	-4
Minnesota	57	36	21	-15
New Mexico	52	37	36	-1
Alaska	51	38	47	9
Iowa	49	39	30	-9
Montana	45	40	44	4

Victims By State	N	Victim	2010	Difference
		Rank	Population Rank	
Idaho	39	41	39	-2
West Virginia	25	42	37	-5
Maine	23	43	41	-2
Wyoming	19	44	51	7
Rhode Island	18	44	43	-1
Delaware	14	46	45	-1
North Dakota	11	47	48	1
Vermont	12	47	49	2
New Hampshire	10	49	42	-7
Hawaii	10	49	40	-9
South Dakota	8	51	46	-5
TOTAL	10,214			

Method by Which Victim Was Killed

Method of Death	N	Percent
Shot	3,686	41.73%
Strangled	2,050	23.21%
Stabbed	1,344	15.22%
Bludgeoned	812	9.19%
Poisoned	555	6.28%
Axed	147	1.66%
Drowned	86	0.97%
Burned	56	0.63%
Smothered	56	0.63%
Run over	15	0.17%
Drug overdose	15	0.17%
Neglect & Abuse	10	0.11%
TOTAL	8,832	

Source: Radford University/FGCU Serial Killer Database
 November 23, 2015

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	8	0	1980	279	3
1901	6	1	1941	7	0	1981	244	17
1902	12	0	1942	7	0	1982	216	5
1903	8	0	1943	9	0	1983	235	5
1904	10	0	1944	12	1	1984	281	7
1905	11	0	1945	20	2	1985	250	5
1906	19	0	1946	22	5	1986	297	3
1907	17	0	1947	8	0	1987	361	7
1908	9	0	1948	15	0	1988	219	5
1909	16	0	1949	8	0	1989	257	13
1910	10	0	1950	12	0	1990	221	6
1911	59	0	1951	20	0	1991	249	10
1912	56	0	1952	7	0	1992	254	12
1913	11	0	1953	21	0	1993	254	4
1914	21	0	1954	22	0	1994	229	5
1915	10	0	1955	13	0	1995	232	16
1916	10	0	1956	23	2	1996	200	7
1917	12	0	1957	20	1	1997	197	14
1918	15	0	1958	27	0	1998	169	11
1919	15	0	1959	13	0	1999	180	13
1920	26	0	1960	33	0	2000	145	9
1921	41	0	1961	27	0	2001	131	9
1922	12	0	1962	27	0	2002	174	4
1923	30	0	1963	29	4	2003	141	7
1924	6	0	1964	48	0	2004	145	6
1925	16	0	1965	36	1	2005	130	5
1926	39	0	1966	78	0	2006	137	7
1927	14	2	1967	38	1	2007	142	9
1928	16	0	1968	55	0	2008	99	6
1929	7	0	1969	84	4	2009	128	8
1930	8	0	1970	74	5	2010	110	12
1931	16	0	1971	127	2	2011	86	5
1932	14	0	1972	127	2	2012	92	12
1933	16	0	1973	187	7	2013	48	6
1934	15	0	1974	229	9	2014	50	3
1935	16	0	1975	154	10	2015	26	8
1936	9	0	1976	156	1	2016	0	0
1937	15	0	1977	201	5	2017	0	0
1938	15	0	1978	239	6	2018	0	0
1939	12	0	1979	221	5	2019	0	0

Source: Radford/FGCU Serial Killer Database

Updated: 11/23/2015

Note: The numbers for 2014 and 2015 should be interpreted with caution as there is normally a lag between a murder and the identification of the serial killer.