A COMPARISON OF ADULT BLACK AND WHITE MALE KILLERS'

BEHAVIORS, THEIR MOTIVES FOR MURDER,

AND WHAT THEY DO WITH THEIR VICTIMS' BODIES

by

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ABSTRACT

Studies involving murder are often focused on one offender group or a specific victim type. Due to focused research on this topic, there is a need to explore homicidal research between two offender groups in order to compare deviant behaviors of persons who commit murder. The comparison of adult black male offenders and adult white male offenders, their motivations for murder, and what offenders do with their victims' bodies is explored in the study. A total of 300 solved homicide cases, which consists primarily of adult male and female victims, and several child murders was collected. Such murder motivations of the offenders included domestic, robbery, sexually assault and other types of motivations. These events occur within the United States between 1972 and 2022, and were analyzed based upon 11 different variables, including victim gender and race preference, offender death methods, victim concealment, disposal locations, and whether victims' bodies remained at the crime scene, or were moved to a secondary location for disposal purposes. The results reveal remarkable differences between the two offender groups. A discussion of motivations, and how white males are "expressive" killers and black males are "instrumental" killers is discussed. Victim race and victim disposal locations are the most predictive variables, which showed compelling outcomes. White males selected white victims almost exclusively, and often moved their victims' body away from the crime scene. In comparison, black males murdered mostly black victims, but also some white victims, leaving both race victims primarily at the crime scene.

Dedication

I dedicate my dissertation work to the victims of homicide, and their family and friends.

They are the real heroes of their own story.

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Binary Logistic Regression Results of All Variables for Classification of Killers' Race

Variable	B	SE	Wald	df	p-value	Odd's Ratio	95% CI for Odd's Ratio	
							Lower	Upper
Victim Race	4.767	.515	85.783	1	<.001	117.584	42.877	322.452
Victim Gender	.337	.440	.586	1	.444	.444	.591	3.322
Motive to Kill	-.072	.161	.201	1	.654	.654	.679	1.275
Cause of Death	-.031	.184	.028	1	.866	.886	.676	1.391
Body Alteration	-.068	.176	.151	1	.698	.698	.662	1.319
Restraints	-.072	.179	.161	1	.688	.688	.655	1.322
Concealment	-.142	.168	.719	1	.396	.396	.624	1.205
Body Clothing	-.184	.229	.642	1	.423	.423	.531	1.304
Body Location	.196	.196	.992	1	.319	.319	.828	1.787
Body Movement	.889	.730	1.482	1	.223	2.433	.582	10.177
Constant	-7.997	2.225	12.918	1	<.001	.000		

Overall Significance of Model	Total Variance Explained (NagelKerke r^2)	Correct Black	Correct White	Overall Correct
$X^2 = 238.083$, p<.001	.730	94.7%	82.7%	88.7%

Table 2

Binary Logistic Regression of Killers' Race Based Upon Victim Race and Movement of Body

Variable	B	SE	Wald	*df*	p-value	Odd's Ratio	95% CI for Odd's Ratio	
							Lower	Upper
Victim Race	4.709	.491	91.925	1	<.001	110.923	42.361	290.450
Body Movement	1.469	.482	9.271	1	.002	4.345	1.688	11.185
Constant	-9.615	1.197	65.541	1	<.001	.000		

Overall Significance of Model	Total Variance Explained (NagelKerke r^2)	Correct Black	Correct White	Overall Correct
$X^2 = 190.356$, p<.001	.705	81.3%	96.0%	88.7%

Table 3

Classification Accuracy to Determine Predictability

Predicted Offender Race			Percentage Correct
Black Male	124	26	82.7%
White Male	8	142	94.7%
Overall Percentage			88.7%

* Cutoff value is .500.

Table 4

Odd's Ratio Test Results of Killer's Victim Preference, Based Upon Race

	Victim Race *			
Offender Race	Black	White	Total	Odd's Ratio
Black	122 (81.3%)	28 (18.6%)	150	4.36
White	6 (4.0%)	144 (96.0%)	150	24.0
Total	128	172	300	

* The Odd's Ratio value for black victims leads to a 4.36 times greater likelihood of the killer being black. The Odd's Ratio value for white victims leads to a 24.0 times greater likelihood of the killer being white.

Table 5

Fisher's Exact Test – Linear Association

Measure of Association	*df*	Value	Significance
χ^2 Test of Independence	1	183.4	$p < .001$
Fisher's Linear by Linear Association	1	182.7	$p < .001$

Table 6

Odd's Ratio Test Results of Movement of Body by Offenders

Offender Race	Body Left at Scene	Body Moved	Total	Odd's Ratio
Black	127 (84.7%)	23 (18.6%)	150	5.52
White	90 (60.0%)	60 (40.0%)	150	1.50
Total	217	83	300	

* The Odd's Ratio value for black victims leads to a 5.52 times greater likelihood of the killer being black. The Odd's Ratio value for white victims leads to a 1.50 times greater likelihood of the killer being white.

Table 7

Fisher's Exact Test – Linear Association

Measure of Association	*df*	Value	Significance
χ^2 Test of Independence	1	22.8	$p < .001$
Fisher's Linear by Linear Association	1	22.7	$p < .001$

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Table 8

Victim Gender of Choice by Offender

Offender		Victim Gender	
		Male	Female
Black Males	Count	91	59
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	60.7%	39.3%
	% Within Victim Gender	58.7%	40.7%
Offender		Victim Gender	
		Male	Female
White Males	Count	64	86
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	42.7%	57.3%
	% Within Victim Gender	41.3%	59.3%
Total	Count	155	145
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	51.7%	48.3%
	% Within Victim Gender	100%	100%

Table 9

Number of Offenders During a Single Homicide Event

Offender		Number of Offenders			
		1 Offender	2 Offenders	3 Offenders	4 Offenders or More
Black Males	Count	123	13	9	5
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	82.0%	8.7%	6.0%	3.3%
	% Within # of Offenders	47.1%	59.1%	75.0%	100%
White Males	Count	138	9	3	0
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	92.0%	6.0%	2.0%	0.0%
	% Within # of Offenders	52.9%	40.9%	25.0%	0.0%
Total	Count	261	22	12	5
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	87.0%	7.3%	4.0%	1.7%

Table 10

Motivations for Murder by Offenders

Offender		Motivations to Murder by Offenders				
		Domestic	Robbery	Sexual (Acquaintance)	Sexual (Stranger)	Other
Black Males	Count	54	60	4	2	30
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	36.0%	40.0%	2.7%	1.3%	20.0%
	% Within Motive to Murder	41.2%	64.5%	17.4%	22.2%	68.2%
White Males	Count	77	33	19	7	14
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	51.3%	22.0%	12.7%	4.7%	9.3%
	% Within Motive to Murder	58.8%	35.5%	82.6%	77.8%	31.8%
Total	Count	131	93	23	9	44
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	43.7%	31.0%	7.7%	3.0%	14.7%
	% Within Motive to Murder	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 11

Causes of Death

Offender		Causes of Death				
		Gun	Knife	Blunt Force Trauma	Strangulation	Undetermined
Black Males	Count	101	15	20	12	2
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	67.3%	10.0%	13.3%	8.0%	1.3%
	% Within Causes of Death	58.7%	46.9%	40.0%	33.3%	20.0%
White Males	Count	71	17	30	24	8
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	47.3%	11.3%	20.0%	16.0%	5.3%
	% Within Causes of Death	41.3%	53.1%	60.0%	66.7%	80.0%
Total	Count	172	32	50	36	10
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	57.3%	10.7%	16.7%	12.0%	3.3%
	% Within Causes of Death	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 12

Alteration of a Victim's Body

Offender		Alteration of a Victim's Body				
		Burned	Dismembered	Chemical	Disfigured	None
Black Males	Count	11	2	1	4	132
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	7.3%	1.3%	0.7%	2.7%	88.0%
	% Within Body Alteration	55.0%	18.2%	25.0%	36.4%	52.0%
White Males	Count	9	9	3	7	122
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	6.0%	6.0%	2.0%	4.7%	81.3%
	% Within Body Alteration	45.0%	81.8%	75.%	63.6%	48.0%
Total	Count	20	11	4	11	254
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	6.7%	3.7%	1.3%	3.7%	84.7%

Table 13

Restraints Used Against a Victim

Offender		Restraints Used Against a Victim				
		Duct Tape	Rope	Handcuffs	Other	None
Black Males	Count	1	8	0	4	137
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	0.7%	5.3%	0.0%	2.7%	91.3%
	% Within Restraints	14.3%	33.3%	0.0%	44.4%	53.3%
White Males	Count	6	16	3	5	120
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	4.0%	10.7%	2.0%	3.3%	80.0%
	% Within Restraints	85.7%	66.7%	100%	55.6%	46.7%
Total	Count	7	24	3	9	257
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	2.3%	8.0%	1.0%	3.0%	85.7%
	% Within Restraints	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 14

Concealment of Victim's Remains

Offender		Concealment of Victim's Remains					
		Tarp/Blanket	Trash	Debris	Buried	Container	None
Black Males	Count	6	1	2	0	0	141
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	4.0%	0.7%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	94.0%
	% Within Concealment	42.9%	25.0%	10.5%	0.0%	0.0%	57.8%
White Males	Count	8	3	17	16	3	103
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	5.3%	2.0%	11.3%	10.7%	2.0%	68.7%
	% Within Concealment	57.1%	75.0%	89.5%	100%	100%	42.2%
Total	Count	14	4	19	16	3	244
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	4.7%	1.3%	6.3%	5.3%	1.0%	81.3%
	% Within Concealment	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 15

Status of Victim's Clothing

Offender		Status of Victim's Clothing			
		Fully Clothed	Waist Up Clothed	Waist Down Clothing	Nude
Black Males	Count	137	0	2	11
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	91.3%	0.0%	1.3%	7.3%
	% Within Clothing	53.5%	0.0%	50.0%	28.9%
White Males	Count	119	2	2	27
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	79.3%	1.3%	1.3%	18.0%
	% Within Clothing	46.5%	100%	50.0%	71.1%
Total	Count	256	2	4	38
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	85.3%	0.7%	1.3%	12.7%

Table 16

Disposal Locations of Victim's Remains

Offender		Disposal Locations of Victim's Remains						
		Building	Vehicle	Outside (Urban)	Outside (Woods)	Water	Dumpster	Well
Black Males	Count	65	13	63	1	4	2	2
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	43.3%	8.7%	42.0%	0.7%	2.7%	1.3%	1.3%
	% Within Disposal	52.4%	68.4%	70.0%	2.0%	40.0%	100%	50.0%
White Males	Count	59	6	27	50	6	0	2
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	39.3%	4.0%	18.0%	33.3%	4.0%	0.0%	1.3%
	% Within Disposal	47.6%	31.6%	30.0%	98.0%	40.0%	0.0%	50.0%
Total	Count	124	19	90	51	10	2	4
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	41.3%	6.3%	30.0%	17.0%	3.3%	0.7%	1.3%
	% Within Disposal	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 17

Movement of Victim's Remains

Offender		Movement of Victim's Remains	
		Body Left at Crime Scene	Body Moved Away from Crime Scene
Black Males	Count	127	23
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	84.7%	15.3%
	% Within Movement	58.5%	27.7%
White Males	Count	90	60
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	60.0%	40.0%
	% Within Movement	41.5%	72.3%
Total	Count	67	83
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	72.3%	27.7%
	% Within Movement	100%	100%

Table 18(a)

Distance Victim's Body Moved from Crime Scene Based Upon Motive

Offender	Distance Moved from Crime Scene to Disposal Site				
	Less than 1 mile	1 to 3 miles	4 to 6 miles	7 to 10 miles	11 to 15 miles
Domestic	4 (44.4%)	7 (36.8%)	2 (28.6%)	5 (26.3%)	2 (40.0%)
Robbery	1 (11.1%)	4 (21.1%)	2 (28.6%)	6 (26.3%)	1 (20.0%
Sexual (Acquaintance)	1 (11.1%)	6 (31.6%)	2 (28.6%)	3 (15.8%)	2 (40.0%)
Sexual (Stranger)	3 (39.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (5.3%)	0 (0.0%)
*Other	0 (0.0%)	2 (10.5%	2 (10.5%)	4 (21.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Total	9 (100%)	19 (100%)	7 (100%)	19 (100%)	5 (100%)

*Other – Motive to kill that includes revenge and/or retaliation.

Table 18(b)

Distance Victim's Body Moved from Crime Scene Based Upon Motive

Offender	Distance Moved from Crime Scene to Disposal Site					
	16 to 20 miles	21 to 25 miles	26 to 30 miles	31 to 40 miles	Over 41 miles	**Total
Domestic	2 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (66.7%)	1 (50.0%)	6 (80.0%)	33
Robbery	0 (0.0%)	3 (75.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (10.0%	18
Sexual (Acquaintance)	1 (25.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (16.7%)	1 (50.0%)	1 (10.0%)	18
Sexual (Stranger)	1 (25.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (16.7%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (10.0%)	7
*Other	0 (0.0%)	1 (10.5%	0 (10.5%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (10.0%)	9
Total	4 (100%)	4 (100%)	6 (100%)	2 (100%)	5 (100%)	85

*Other – Motive to kill that includes revenge and/or retaliation.

**Total –Total number of victims moved based upon Tables 12(a) and 12(b).

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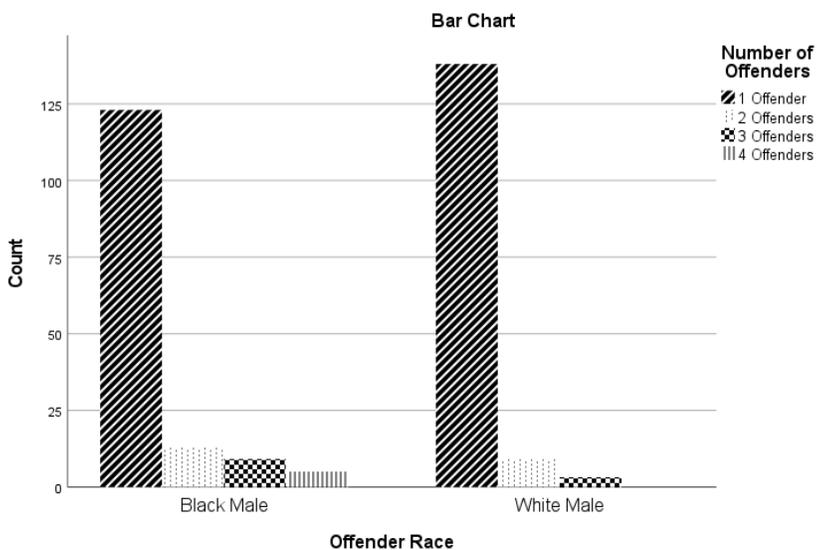*ROC Results of Killers' Race Based Upon Victim Race and Movement of Body*
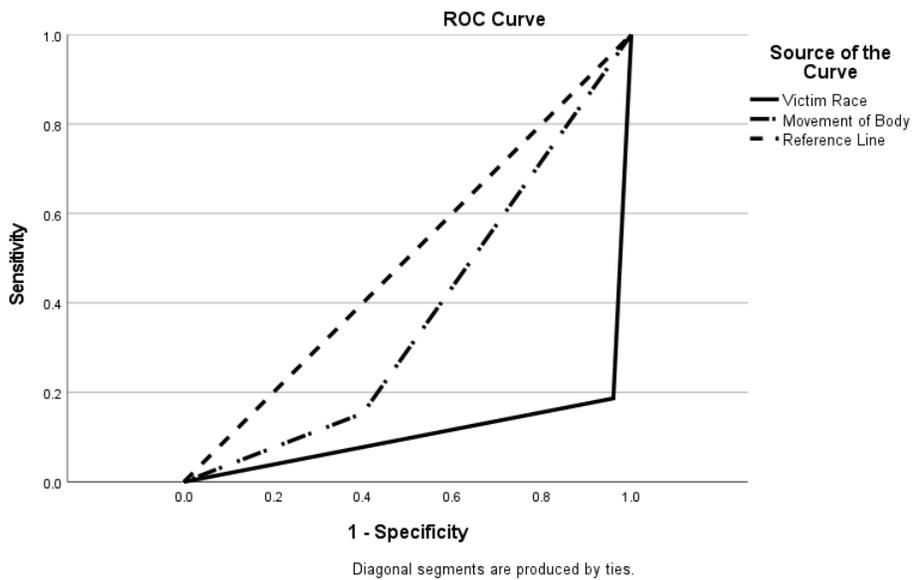
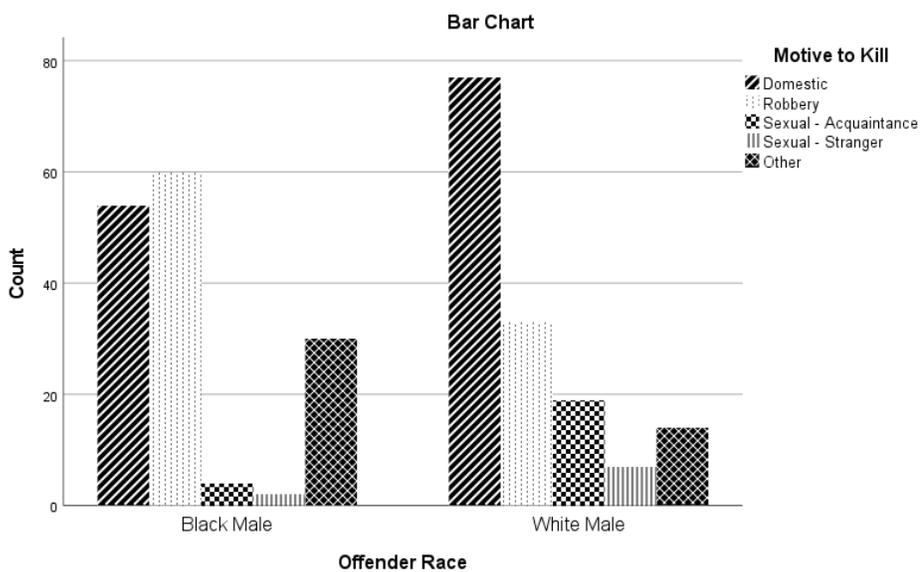**Figure 2**

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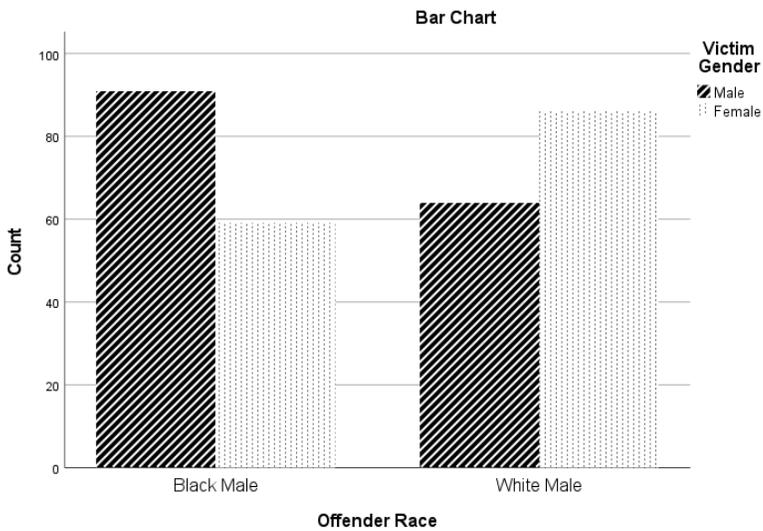
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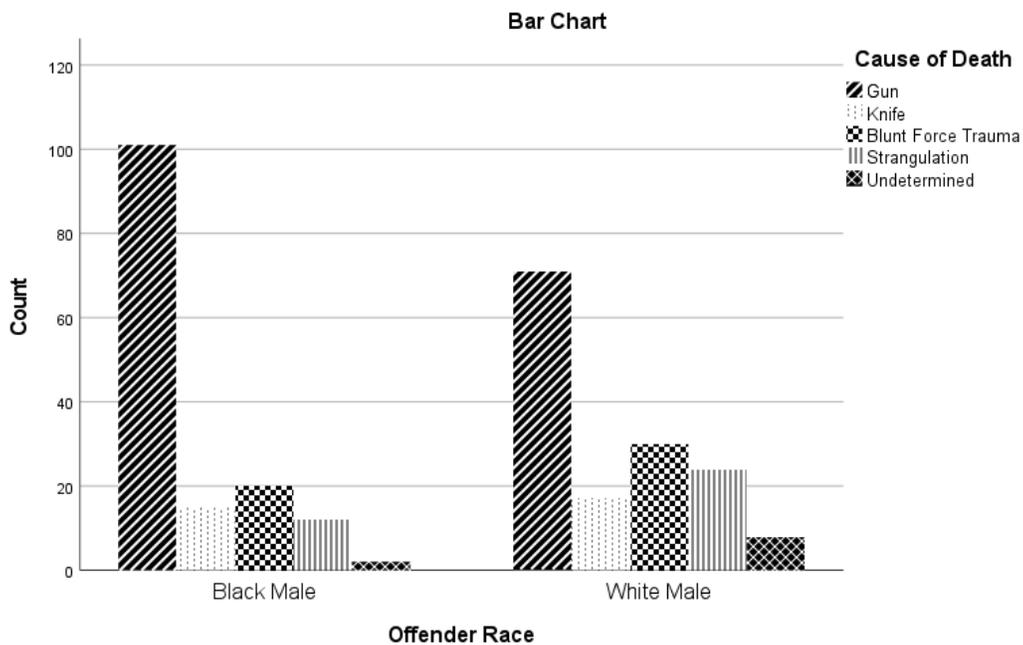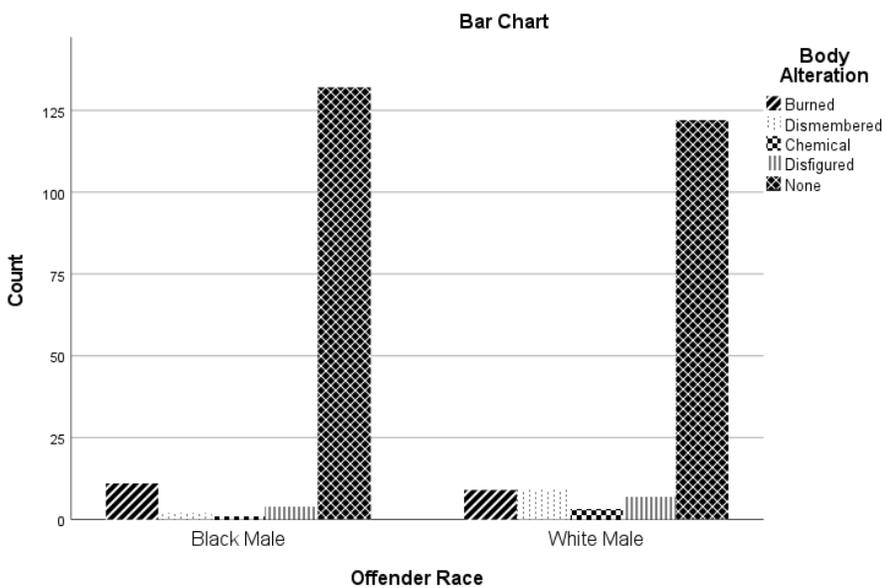
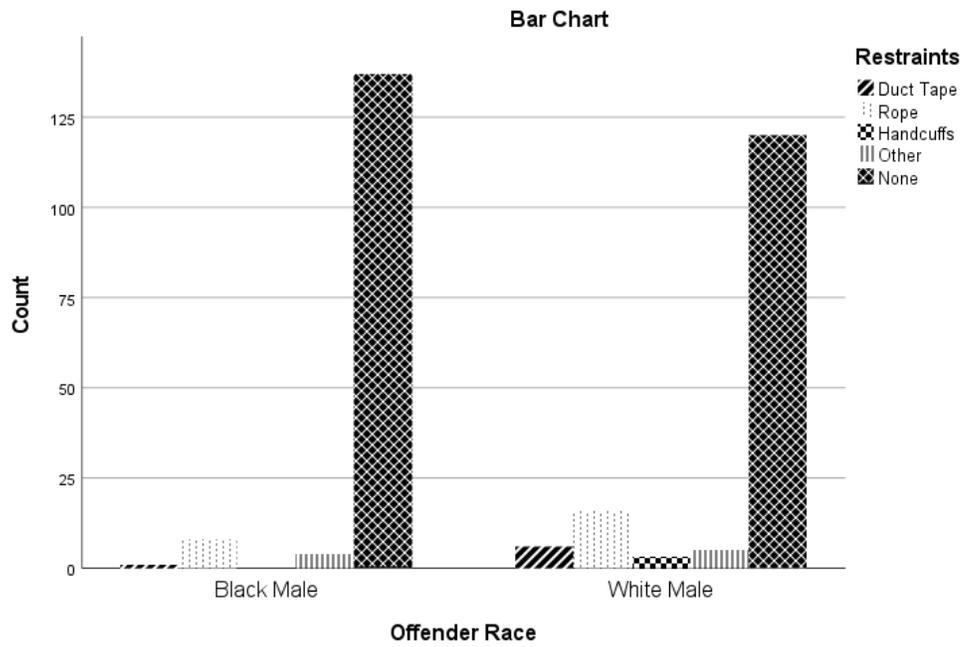*Number of Offenders During a Single Homicide Event*

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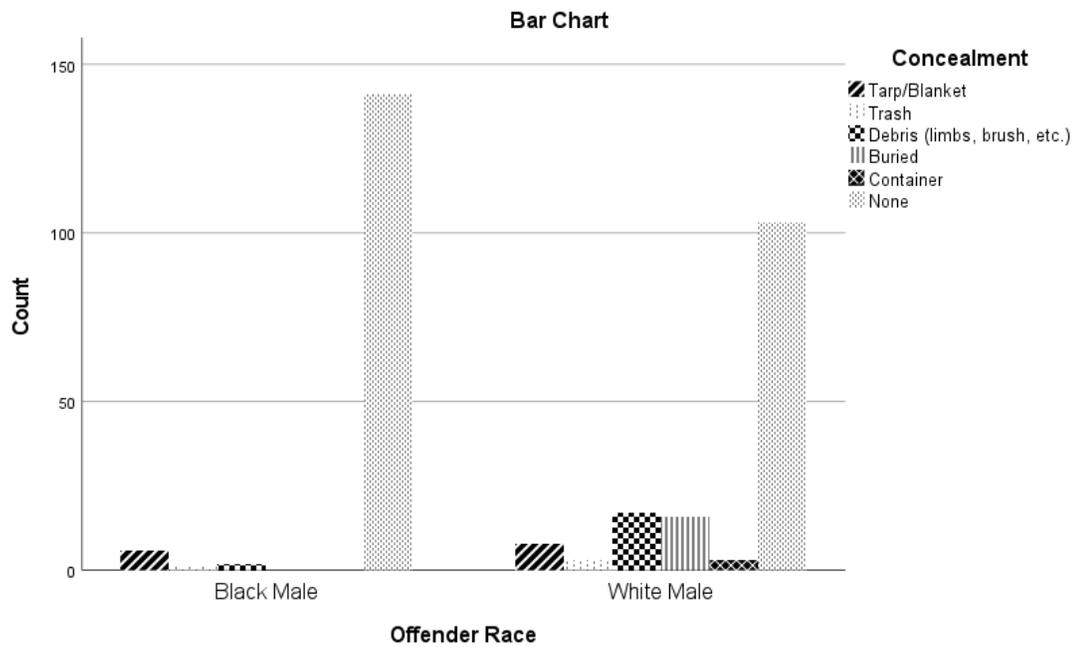*Alteration of a Victim's Body*

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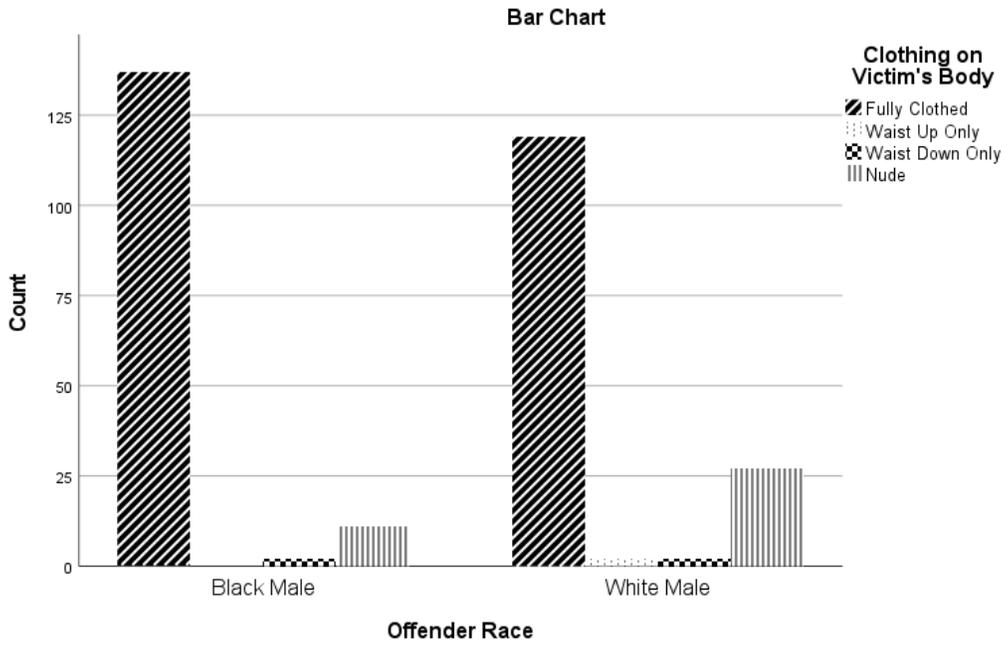*Restraints Used Against a Victim*

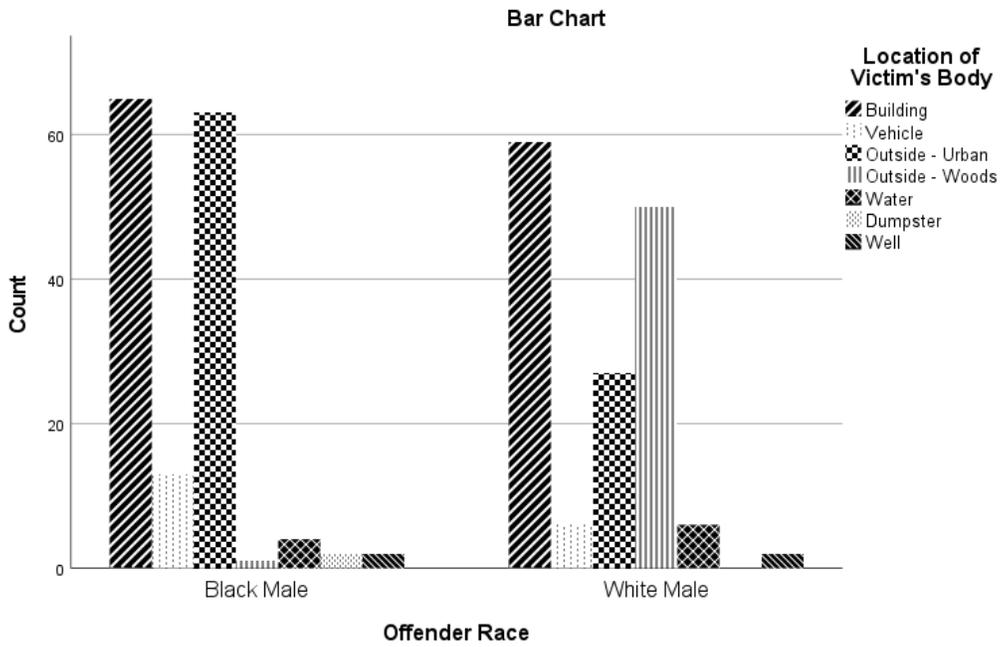**Figure 8**

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Figure 9

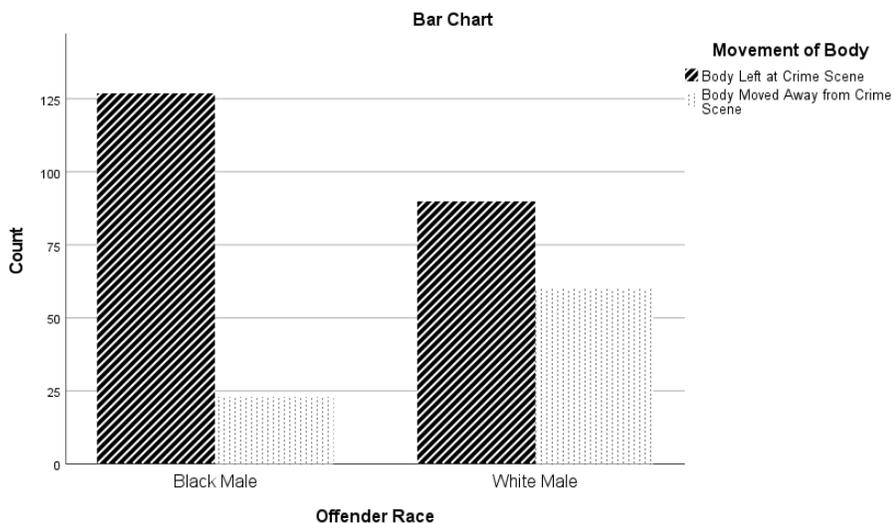*Status of Victim's Clothing*

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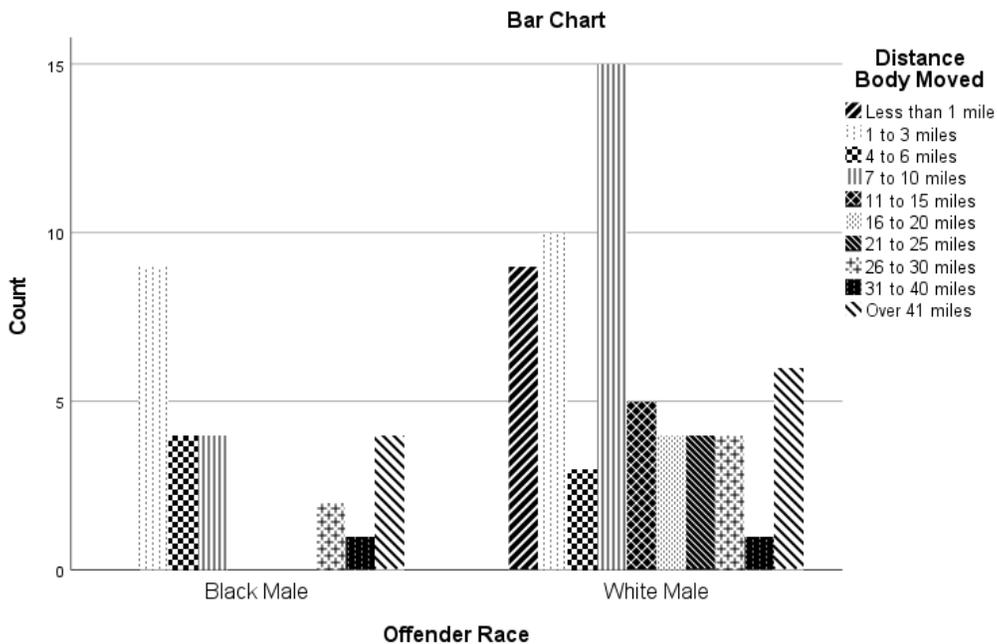
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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

Introduction

Research related to homicide varies based on victim type (i.e., female, elderly) (Almond et al., 2021; Deshpande et al., 2017; Riedel, 2013) as well as the relational aspects between killer and victim (i.e., intimate partners, father-son) (Adinkrah, 2014; Bows, 2019; Caman et al., 2022; Dobash & Dobash, 2011; Kivisto et al., 2022; Morrison et al., 2022). Other studies emphasized how a body was disposed of or concealed (i.e., buried, water, burned) (Bitton & Dayan, 2019; DeMatteis et al., 2021; Kamaluddin et al., 2021). While additional articles outlined the weapon of choice killers utilized to cause harm or death to their victims (i.e., gun, knife) (Chan et al., 2019; Fox & Allen, 2014; Harms & Bush, 2022; Park & Son, 2018; Reynolds & Bürkner, 2021).

The proposed study will be a comparative analysis of homicidal behaviors and events, as noted above, between two offender race groups. When examining comparative research related to race and murder, a prominent study conducted by Nielsen et al. (2005) analyzed the differences and similarities of criminal behavior among African-American offenders and Latino offenders. The study emphasized the importance of performing future research by "disaggregating homicide data by race/ethnicity and motive" (Nielsen et al., 2005, p. 1), which provides the incentive to conduct additional homicide research, and is specifically the inspiration for the proposed study.

The study by Nielsen et al. (2005) revealed some discoveries in their research, but they also identified a gap that warrants further attention. They revealed that previous research, as well as their own study, had identified some research limitations of race and motivation, and recognized an accounting for variations. Because there are differing race

groups, as well as differing parameters of homicidal data, it was recognized that more research was needed to identify and compare offenders in the context of violent activities based upon race and motives for murder.

There were additional comparative studies observed that involved various race groups and homicide events, but differed slightly from the proposed study (Heide et al., 2020; Phillips, 2002; Steffensmeier et al., 2010; Sun & Feldmeyer, 2022). There were also relative studies that analyzed (homicide) data among the similar participants of interest as the proposed study – black males and white males (Brinkley et al., 2001; Cubbin et al., 2000; Dunton et al., 2021; 2020; Krivo & Peterson, 2000; Kumar et al., 2020; LaFree et al., 2010; Semenza et al., 2022; Sheats et al., 2018; Velez et al., 2003). Many of these race group studies focused on youth offenders (non-adults), while other research offered results related to "racial invariance" (Steffensmeier et al., 2010, p. 2) and/or the death rates among the members of their race group (Dunton et al., 2021; Phillips, 2002; Velez et al., 2003). Although there were previous studies related to race and violence, these studies too identified the need for additional research based upon race and homicide, since such type of (homicide) research has a wide range of research parameters.

As noted above, there is a vast array of homicide research, ranging from specific descriptors to comparative analytical interests. However, it was highlighted by researchers that there is a need for supplementary homicide research that should be conducted by race/ethnicity and motive (Neilsen et al., 2005). Therefore, the projected study is expected to add to homicide research by analyzing and comparing the differences and similarities among adult black male offenders and adult white male offenders. The

proposed study will compare the behaviors, motivations, death methods, and (victim) body disposal methods between these two killer groups.

Background

Homicide research has leaned heavily towards a particular type of victim (Bows, 2019; Wallace et al., 2021), and has been related to individuals who were classified as serial killer perpetrators (Chapman et al., 2022; Comerford, 2022; Deepak & Ramdoss, 2021; Keatley et al., 2021; Lundrigan & Canter, 2001; Osowski, 2018; Snook et al., 2005; Synnott et al., 2019; Yaksic et al., 2021; Zappalà et al., 2022). Although serial killers often garner a lot of attention, they are, in fact, rare among killers (Chapman et al., 2022; Lundrigan & Canter, 2001).

The majority of homicides are conducted by non-serial killers (Almond et al., 2021; Rye & Angel, 2019). Non-serial killers' victims are usually someone close to the offender (i.e., intimate partner such as a husband, boyfriend, wife, girlfriend, business partner), as noted by Velopulos et al. (2019). Also, the majority of homicides involve male offenders against female victims (Almond et al., 2021; Crabbé et al., 2008).

The mere act of homicide is positioned into two types of categories – "expressive" and "instrumental" (Almond et al., 2021; Beauregard & Field, 2008; Greenall & Wright, 2020; Guggenheimer et al., 2021; Rainbow et al., 2022; Sea & Beauregard, 2018). Expressive homicide involves the offender expressing his emotions, usually with feelings of anger, failure, and hatred (Ferguson & Pooley, 2019; Schug, 2021) to cause hurt and suffering against the victim. Whereas, instrumental homicide (Almond et al., 2021) entails the desire for items/objects/status owned by another person,

which, in turn, becomes a target of the offender for such a person to possess the object of desire.

In addition to expressive and instrumental killer types, what motivates a person to kill (Ferguson & Pooley, 2019; Hachtel et al., 2021) can be provoked through sexual desire, jealousy, monetary gain, conflicts/arguments, separation (one person separating from the relationship), and mental disorders (Almond et al., 2021; Rye & Angel, 2019; Sea et al., 2018).

When analyzing behaviors/actions toward victims' bodies, the FBI's organized-disorganized killer types have relevancy (Beauregard & Field, 2008; Yaksic et al., 2021; Zappalà et al., 2022). According to the FBI's determinations, organized killers demonstrate a higher likelihood of transporting their victim (usually further away from the offender's residence), and often show some effort of concealing their victim's body. By comparison, disorganized offenders typically do not move their victim, and after the killing, they do not move the victim's body away from the initial crime scene.

Another resource used in the investigation of murdered persons in order to determine where a homicide occurred and/or where the victim's body may be found involves a technique known as "geographic profiling" (Beauregard & Field, 2008; Berezowski et al., 2021; Bunch et al., 2017; Chopin et al., 2020; Comerford, 2022; Lino et al., 2018; Sea & Beauregard, 2018; Synnott et al., 2019). In summary, this approach consists of identifying prominent places associated with the offender (i.e., residence, workplace, frequently visited locations such as friends, family members, hunting club).

Victims of homicide offender(s), include both children and adults, and research reveals the movement and concealment of these different victims do vary (O'Brien et al.,

2021; Skott, 2019). Briefly, researchers noted that children were more likely to be moved than adults, and adults (when moved) were likely to find further distances if pre-planning actions were conducted.

Not only do killer(s) select varied victims, but they also utilize different concealment methods (Crabbé et al., 2008; Deepak & Ramdoss, 2021; Kamaluddin et al., 2021; Keatley et al., 2021; Mohammad et al., 2021; Reale & Beauregard, 2019). The primary motivation for concealment is to delay the detection of the victim's remains (Stefanska & Carter, 2019). Divergent concealment methods include burning, burial, debris, tarps, blankets and dismemberment. Rare and unusual concealment acts involve hiding the victim's remains in a freezer (Olsen, & Leth, 2018), or covering the body in concrete or bricks (Preub et al., 2006).

When comparing race groups (related to homicide), research has revealed that individuals identifiable within the black race group, had experienced higher levels of homicide rates than other race groups (Dunton et al., 2021; Kumar et al., 2020; Phillips, 2002; Sheats et al., 2018; Velez, 2003). Many of these studies highlighted the convergence of "racial invariance" (Steffensmeier et al., 2010, p. 2) among the various race groups, and how such disadvantages affected the probability of criminal activity and/or deaths of its group members.

Emphasizing the need for the proposed study, which involves race and homicide, it is relevant to refer to a study conducted by Nielsen et al. (2005). Their research analyzed the differences and similarities of murder motives among African-American offenders and Latino offenders. The study emphasized the importance of performing future research by "disaggregating homicide data by race/ethnicity and motive" (Nielsen

et al., 2005, p. 1), which suggests a need to conduct additional homicide research, and it is specifically the inspiration for the proposed study.

The study by Nielsen et al. (2005) revealed some discoveries in their research, but they also identified a gap that warrants further attention. They revealed that previous research, as well as their own study, had identified some research limitations of race and motivation, and recognized an accounting for variations. Because there are differing race groups, as well as differing parameters of homicidal data, it was recognized that more research was needed to identify and compare offenders in the context of violent activities based upon race and motives for murder.

Problem Statement

When examining comparative research related to race and murder, a prominent study conducted by Nielsen et al. (2005) analyzed the differences and similarities of criminal behavior among African-American offenders and Latino offenders. The study emphasized the importance of performing future research by "disaggregating homicide data by race/ethnicity and motive" (Nielsen et al., 2005, p. 1), which provides the incentive to conduct additional homicide research, and is specifically the inspiration for the proposed study.

The study by Nielsen et al. (2005) revealed some discoveries in their research, but they also identified a gap that warrants further attention. They revealed that previous research, as well as their study, had identified some limitations of race and motivation, and recognized an accounting for variations. Because there are differing race groups, as well as differing parameters of homicidal data, more research is needed to identify and

compare offenders in the context of violent activities based upon race and motives for murder.

The proposed study will examine race and homicide. It is anticipated the proposed research will contribute to further homicide research efforts by comparing two differing demographical race groups. Specifically, the projected study is expected to demonstrate the differences and similarities between adult black male offenders and adult white male offenders, as non-serial killers, throughout a homicidal event.

The research regarding the murder of persons is typically focused on a specific type of offender (i.e., serial killer, intimate partner) (Bows, 2019; Deepak & Ramdoss, 2021; Morrison et al., 2022; Zappalà et al., 2022), a certain type of victim (i.e., children, females) (Almond et al., 2021; Skott, 2019; Velopulos et al., 2019), a particular race group (i.e., Korean, German, Fiji) (Adinkrah, 2014; Adinkrah, 2021; Sea & Beauregard, 2018) or a defined type of geography (i.e., urban, rural) (Häkkänen, 2007). In regard to homicide research for a specific type of killer, Lundrigan and Canter (2001) researched 155 cases that involved the body disposal choices of serial killers both in the United States and United Kingdom. Their research focused on serial killers only, who were all identified as male, with primarily female victims, from 1960 to 2018. Research regarding explicit victims of homicide, a study involving only child victims, and the offenders' modius operandi to these types of special victims, was explored by Chopin and Beauregard (2019). Their study involved 72 cases of victims who were 16 years old or younger, that were murdered from 1970s to 2018. They dissected the type of offenders, all male gender, who selected children as their victim of choice, as well as their unique thought process in where they disposed of their young victims' remains. A few studies

researched a specific race of people. For example, the body disposal sites of 54 male and female victims, who were identified as Korean, were researched by Sea and Beauregard (2018), and Adinkrah (2021) conducted two studies of domestic-related homicide victims. His research included 35 cases from 1990 to 2009, and 30 cases from 2010 to 2020, respectfully, within the countries of Ghana and Fiji only. Lastly, there was a study by Häkkänen et al. (2007) that looked into body disposal patterns within rural/remote areas of Finland. Offenders, both male and female, were involved in 46 cases of homicide. The researchers examined the disposal patterns of these offenders, and the rural location choices for their victims' remains from 1994 to 2005.

There is limited research on non-serial killers (Almond et al., 2021; Rye & Angel, 2019), and such studies provided only a glimpse of what these killers do with their victim's bodies. A study by Chan et al. (2010), revealed that 13% of the 112 homicide offenders disposed of or hid the body of their victim. Research by Rye and Angel (2019) and Velopulos et al. (2019), also focused on intimate partner homicide (as non-serial killers), which discovered various motivations of such offenders, but the information was limited on post-crime behaviors (i.e., concealment/disposal) for these particular offenders. Historically, many homicide studies revealed that a majority of homicide victims were female (Almond et al., 2021; Deshpande et al., 2017; Morrison et al., 2022), and most offenders were male (Dobash & Dobash, 2011; Morrison et al., 2022), yet these studies identified offenders only as male, with no distinctive demographic identifiers.

The research into the motivations of murder and the selection of victims, as well as the concealment of homicide victims and body disposal sites vary (Almond et al., 2021; Dobash & Dobash, 2011; Chan et al., 2010; Morrison et al., 2022). The

aforementioned studies share some rationality into the offender's decision-making processes of homicide, and what offenders do with their victim's remains.

Although there is research that compares black and white race groups (Brinkley et al., 2001; Cubbin et al., 2000; Dunton et al., 2021; Kumar et al., 2020; Krivo & Peterson, 2000; Kumar et al., 2020; LaFree et al., 2010; Semenza et al., 2022; Sheats et al., 2018; Velez et al., 2003), many of these studies focused on youth offenders (non-adults), while other studies offered results related to "racial invariance" (Steffensmeier et al., 2010, p. 2) and/or the death rates among the members of their race group.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the proposed quantitative study is to examine archival/historical homicide cases (Almond et al., 2021; Kamaluddin et al., 2018; O'Brien et al., 2021; Yaksic et al., 2021) among two specific race groups that have been solved within the United States. The proposed study's objectives are to reveal an offender's motivations for murder (i.e., domestic, robbery, sexual, other) and death methods (i.e., gun, knife, blunt force trauma, strangulation), and an offender's behaviors toward a victim's body (i.e., alterations, restraints, clothing, concealment, movement).

By furthering the examination of homicidal research, such efforts will be helpful to maximize resources employed during a homicide incident. Additionally, the proposed study may assist in narrowing the pool of suspects, as well as be helpful in identifying high priority search areas where evidence and/or human remains (victims' bodies) may be found, and how and why certain offenders commit the act of murder.

Research Questions and Hypotheses

Research Questions

RQ 1: What are the differences of motivation to murder between black male killers and white male killers?

RQ 2: What are the similarities and differences within a homicide event among black males and white males?

Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: There is no difference in the motivation to murder between black male killers and white male killers.

Hypothesis 2: Black male offenders and white male offenders are more similar than different throughout a homicidal event.

Assumptions and Limitations of the Study

It will be assumed that the review of solved archival homicide case files will be utilized to collect data, which will result in a sufficient amount of data to reveal relevant and pertinent findings. It will be assumed that the offenders will be narrowed to adult male offenders, 18-years-old and older, that are biologically identifiable as male, and live on a daily basis as a male-gendered person (Almond et al., 2021). During the examination of case files, it will also be assumed the offenders and victims will be categorized as "black" (also known as African American) or "white" (also known as Caucasian), as defined by the United States Census Bureau (Brinkley et al., 2001; Cubbin et al., 2000).

The assumption will be that variables utilized in the proposed study will be labeled with commonly-known descriptors (Zappalà et al., 2022), which will allow for a reasonable understanding of the data. Additionally, it will be assumed that the distance traveled by an offender to dispose of their victim's remains will be in conventional

(United States) miles (Lundrigan & Canter, 2001). Such distance will not be based upon the offender's residence, place of work, or some other relevant location associated with the offender (although these locations may be in close proximity of the initial crime and/or body disposal area) (Berezowski et al., 2021). Further, the assumption will be the distance noted in the proposed study will be based on where the initial crime occurred (i.e., kidnapping, rape, murder, etc.), and the final resting place of the victim's body, as decided by the offender. Lastly, the supposition will be that the data collected will be based upon facts, will be been verified (through the course of the criminal investigation), and will be deemed to be truthful based upon the evidence and investigation of each homicide case, with the understanding that offenders commonly lie, mislead and deceive individuals (Arndt et al., 2022).

The most significant limitation may be obtaining relevant homicide cases that contain the needed details to fully complete the study. A study like this will involve highly-sensitive, and in some cases, very high-profile homicidal events (Skott, 2019). Therefore, the cooperation and sharing of information by the proper officials may limit the access and availability of certain cases, and their relevant information, which may prelude such data from being included in the proposed study. However, the researcher expects this limitation to be little or none since the researcher has had a long-standing relationship with many law enforcement agencies that have already garnered the researcher access to files in the past.

Although access may be limited to some agencies, primarily due to the sensitivity of some special cases, according to federal governmental statistics (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2023), the United States experienced homicide events through the years

2011 to 2021, ranging from a low of approximately 13,000 murders to a high of approximately 18,000 murders. In essence, due to thousands of homicide cases that occur on a yearly basis within the United States, there is no shortage of material/data that can be obtained for the proposed study. Additionally, with the increase in documentary true crime/murder shows and podcasts, as well as a wealth of data that can be obtained through online internet searches, it further represents access to more than enough data needed for the proposed research.

Regarding the distance of where a murder occurred, compared to where the offender may dispose of the victim's remains (Bunch et al., 2017; Chai et al., 2021), if the offender does transport the victim's body away from the crime scene, the most direct and shortest route from these two sites will be implemented. Since the proposed research will examine the movement and concealment of victims' remains, confirming that the victim's body was moved away from the crime scene may not be absolute, unless there is a confession, witnesses, or clear forensic evidence (Ryan et al., 2020).

Overall, the very nature of homicidal crimes is inherently fraught with lies, half-truths and misleading information (Caman et al., 2022). Obtaining all the necessary details, complete truths, and all the pertinent facts of each case may be challenging, and limit the collection of particular cases and information in certain ways not yet fully discovered (Zappalà et al., 2022).

Theoretical Foundations of the Study

Bandura's social learning theory (Concha-Salgado et al., 2022) is utilized to assist in the evaluation and determination of human behaviors. Based on his theory, it is

believed that individuals model the behavior of others through four conditions –
retention, attention, motivation, and reproduction. In relation to normal and deviant
behaviors, Bandura's social cognitive theory promotes a self-system that empowers an
individual to have some measurement of control over their thoughts, feelings and actions
(Tolmatcheff et al., 2022).

The groundwork of the proposed study will also explore human behaviors, while
leaning into the theories of Bandura (Concha-Salgado et al., 2022; Tomatcheff et al.,
2022). With this approach, it is important to research homicidal offenders, regardless of
their race, and their decision-making processes. Although certain homicides are more
emotionally charged than others (i.e., murder versus robbery), based upon Bandura's
theory of cognitive theory, an offender still retains some element of control over his
actions. Obviously, through the review of homicide cases, it will be discovered that an
offender has performed some type of act that caused the death of another person – which
begs the question - What motivates someone to commit murder? Therefore, the proposed
study desires to determine what the motivations of black male killers and white male
killers are, while assuming they made a conscious (and controlled) decision to take the
life of another, based upon Bandura's cognitive theory.

The entrenchment of the Bandura's cognitive theory also highlights additional
commonalities among offenders. Bandura's theory "analyzes moral disengagement as a
process involving a series of interrelated cognitive mechanisms that legitimize the
deactivation of the self-regulation processes from moral behavior" (Concha-Salgado et
al., 2022, p. 2). And such moral disengagement is broken down among eight descriptors,
which are commonly exhibited behaviors among homicidal offender. These attributes

may reveal their motives, as well as their underlying demographics, which could lead to their capture. These include the following:

1. Moral Justification – Harmful behavior is acceptable.

2. Euphemistic Labeling – Minimizing destructive behaviors/actions through words.

3. Advantageous Comparison – Presenting harmful behaviors as less harmful when compared to other person's destructive actions.

4. Displacement of Responsibility – Individuals believe they are not responsible for their actions.

5. Diffusion of Responsibility – Individual diffuses their involvement, particularly when a group is involved in the criminal behavior.

6. Distortion of Consequences – A person's decision to distort, ignore and diminish to the full extent of their harmful behaviors.

7. Dehumanization – An act of stripping away a person's human qualities.

8. Attribution of Blame – Offenders blame the victim for the harmful actions bestowed upon them (i.e., they deserved it).

An additional theoretical foundation of the proposed study is a purposeful absence of stereotypes. The intention of the proposed research is to collect data without prejudice and with a high level of objectivity. Based upon a study conducted by Karlsson et al., (2021), when comparing homicides committed by males and females, a mock jury evaluated the offenders which resulted in different perspectives by the mock jury of the killers. Although the mock jury "recommended equally severe punishments and the same amount of responsibility on male and female offenders" (Karlsson et al., 2021, p. 1) there were still some elements of stereotype that were discovered. Therefore, the proposed

study will be conducted based upon the evidence within each individual homicide case, and such final results will be based upon facts, to subrogate any stereotypes.

Definition of Terms

Dismemberment – Also known as mutilation-murder. Mutilation-murder is defined as "those homicides where the offender tried to dismember the victim" (Kamaluddin et al., 2021, p. 4).

Disorganized Offenders – Individuals that commit homicide who typically do not move their victim, and after the killing, they typically do not move the victim's body away from the crime scene (Beauregard & Field, 2008; Yaksic et al., 2021; Zappalà et al., 2022).

Domestic – Violent acts, including homicide, between an offender and victim living in the same household, and/or who have had a past relationship or are in a current intimate relationship (i.e., siblings, parents, children, roommates) (Koppa & Messing, 2021).

Expressive Homicide – Involves the offender expressing his emotions, usually with feelings of anger, failure, and hatred toward the victim (Ferguson & Pooley, 2019; Schug, 2021).

Instrumental Homicide - Entails the desire for items/objects/status owned by another person, which, in turn, becomes a target of an offender in order for such person to possess the object of desire (Almond et al., 2021).

Intimate Partner - Two people in a connubial or romantic relationship. These include current and former spouses and dating partners (Adinkrah, 2014).

Motive - Relates to the process of variable goals and values; "desirable outcomes and affective states; aversive outcomes and affective states; goals, values, and life projects" (Crabbé et al., 2008, p. 13).

Murder - For the proposed study, murder will also be known as homicide, death of another or killing of another. Murder, as defined by the FBI, "as the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another" (Chan et al., 2010, p. 6).

Non-serial Killer – Non-serial killers are persons that commit murder, but do not meet the qualifications to be deemed a serial killer since such individuals typically do not kill more than three individuals and there is no cooling-off period between each act of murder. Non-serial killers' victims are usually someone close to the offender (i.e., intimate partner such as a husband, boyfriend, wife, girlfriend, business partner) (Velopulos et al., 2019).

Offender – For the purposes of the proposed study, the terms offender, killer, murderer shall be used interchangeable (Adinkrah, 2014).

Organized Offenders – Individuals who commit murder, and who demonstrate a higher likelihood of transporting their victim (usually further away from the offender's residence), and often show some effort of concealing their victim's body (Beauregard & Field, 2008; Yaksic et al., 2021; Zappalà et al., 2022).

Restraints – The physical means to control an individual in some manner (Chan et al., 2019; Martineau & Beauregard, 2016). Such restraint types include duct tape, ropes, handcuffs, chains, strings, plastic ties (Chai et al., 2021).

Sexual Homicide – Acquaintance –An act of sexual assault by an offender against a victim; whereby such parties have some previous knowledge or contact of one another

prior to the sexual assault (Chan et al., 2015). Criteria of such offense includes physical evidence confirming signs of sexual activity against a victim; a legally admissible confession by the offender of a sexual motive; or evidence of some type of sexual element indicated on the offender's personal belongings (Martineau & Beauregard, 2016).

Sexual Homicide – Stranger – A sexual assault by an offender against a victim that occurs in the "context of there being little or no pre-existing relationship between the offender and victim, such that the victim would not have recognized the assailant the day before the homicide as the offender's actions may be the only clues available" (Greenall & Wright, 2020, p. 2).

Serial Murder – Also known as serial killer (Deepak & Ramdoss, 2021). A premediated fantasy-driven killing of two or more victims by one or more offender(s), with an emotional cooling-off period, that can last for days, weeks, months, or even years (Comerford, 2022). For the purposes of legal prosecution, serial murder is defined as three or more killings, also with an offender(s) cooling-off period of legal prosecution, serial murder is defined as three or more killings, also with an offender(s) cooling-off period (Osowski, 2018).

Victim – For the purposes of proposed study, the terms victim, victim's remains, body, and homicide victim, shall be used interchangeable (Allen et al., 2020; Avdija et al., 2021; Fox & Allen, 2014; Skott, 2019).

Significance of the Study

A number of studies concentrate on serial killers (Chapman et al., 2022; Comerford, 2022; Deepak & Ramdoss, 2021; Keatley et al., 2021; Lundrigan & Cantre, 2001; Osowski, 2018; Schug, 2021; Snook et al., 2005; Synnott et al., 2019; Yaksic et al., 2021; Zappalà et al., 2022), and a limited amount of research focuses on other types of homicide, such as comparing male and female killers (Almond et al., 2021; Carabellese et al., 2020; Chan et al., 2019; Velopulos et al., 2019). Other studies emphasize how a body is disposed of, while some research is related to an offender's victim of choice (i.e., children) (Chopin & Beauregard, 2019; Riedel, 2013; Skott, 2019).

Although there is research that compares black and white race groups (Brinkley et al., 2001; Cubbin et al., 2000; Dunton et al., 2021; Kumar et al., 2020; Krivo & Peterson, 2000; Kumar et al., 2020; LaFree et al., 2010; Semenza et al., 2022; Sheats et al., 2018; Velez et al., 2003), many of these studies focused on youth offenders (non-adults), while other studies offered results related to "racial invariance" (Steffensmeier et al., 2010, p. 2) and/or the death rates among the members of their race group.

When examining comparative research related to race and murder, a prominent study conducted by Nielsen et al. (2005) analyzed the differences and similarities of criminal behavior among African-American offenders and Latino offenders. The study emphasized the importance of performing future research by "disaggregating homicide data by race/ethnicity and motive" (Nielsen et al., 2005, p. 1), which provides the incentive to conduct additional homicide research, and is specifically the inspiration for the proposed study.

The study by Nielsen et al. (2005) revealed some discoveries in their research, but they also identified a gap that warrants further attention. They revealed that previous

research, as well as their own study, had identified some research limitations of race and motivation, and recognized an accounting for variations. Because there are differing race groups, as well as differing parameters of homicidal data, it was recognized that more research was needed to identify and compare offenders in the context of violent activities based upon race and motives for murder.

The projected research is expected to the subsidize the need for further homicide research (Nielson et al., 2005) by providing additional proportional homicidal studies between adult black male offenders and adult white male offenders. The proposed study will compare the behaviors, motivations, death methods, and body disposal means between these two groups. Such research is warranted to help further the advancement of the psychological understandings of male murderers, and the choices they make throughout a homicidal incident (Nielsen et al., 2005; Snook, 2005). And by identifying the actions/behaviors of such offenders, such research will aid in the investigative resources utilized in order to achieve the ultimate goal – the capture of murderers.

Summary

The events and actions directed by one person against another that results in death, has been studied in countless ways (Zappalà et al., 2022). Such vast research on the topic of murder illustrates a high level of interest. Nevertheless, due to the psychological complexities and dynamics of human behavior, there still remains much to be studied and revealed. Human beings kill one another for a variety of reasons (Hachtel et al., 2021; Lankford & Silver, 2020), and comparing persons within a specific race group with a separate race group, will help further the cause to understand the act of homicide (Nielsen et al. 2005). Such research is applicable to both theorical constructs

and practical implications that will enhance offender profiling, victimology examinations, and investigative developments (Braga et al., 2019).

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

Overview

The foundational literature review for the projected study is based on homicidal events. Many of the following articles outline commonly referenced and well-known murder conditions (Morrison et al., 2022; Skott, 2019; Sleeuwen et al., 2018; Wallace et al., 2021; Zappalà et al., 2022). The authors share a wealth of the how and why of killers and victims within these studies. While other articles are more narrowly focused on specific murder topics. These include weapons used to kill, the alteration of victims' remains, and body disposal patterns (Beauregard & Field, 2008; Chai et al., 2021; Chapman et al., 2022; Chan et al., 2019; Fox & Allen, 2014; Hakkanen et al., 2007; Park & Son, 2018; Reynolds & Bürkner, 2021; Stefanska & Carter, 2019). Regardless of how broad or narrow the research, all journals involve two explicit types of individuals – offenders murder of at least one person, and an individual whose death is not the result of suicide, but rather is caused by the actions of another person(s). In some cases, murder-suicide events may occur, but such events involve the offender who kills a victim and then kills himself (Adinkrah, 2014; Oliffe et al., 2015; Riddell et al., 2018; Santos-Hermoso et al., 2022). These particular suicide cases will be included in the data collection.

There were comparative studies observed that involved various race groups and homicide events in preparation for the projected study of interest (Heide et al., 2020; Nielsen et al., 2005; Phillips, 2002; Steffensmeier et al., 2010; Sun & Feldmeyer, 2022). Other relative studies analyzed (homicide) data among the same participants of interest as the proposed study – black males and white males (Brinkley et al., 2001; Cubbin et al.,

2000; Dunton et al., 2021; 2020; Krivo & Peterson, 2000; Kumar et al., 2020; LaFree et al., 2010; Semenza et al., 2022; Sheats et al., 2018; Velez et al., 2003). Many of these race group studies focused on youth offenders (non-adults), while other research offered results related to "racial invariance" (Steffensmeier et al., 2010, p. 2) and/or the death rates among the members of their race group.

Description of Search Strategy

The article search strategy will focus on utilizing Liberty University's online database resources. Specifically, the database commonly known as the Jerry Falwell Library, will be the primary resource employed, and has a direct link identified as https://www.liberty.edu/library/. The generic search terms that will be utilized within the aforementioned database resource will include the following words: homicide, murder, killer, offender, and victim. A subsidiary of search terms that delineate specific homicidal characteristics will also be conducted. Such terms will include a mix of the following words: missing person, concealment, weapon, body disposal, black, white, male, motive, burn, dismemberment, buried, transport body, human remains and death.

The biblical research relevant to the proposed study will involve a word search within the King James Bible online site, with a direct link branded as https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/, with its original work published in 1769. The words evil, killings, murder will be implanted in the search box of this site. After the review of many of the search result instances, it is expected that several Bible verses will expose the most pertinent biblical inspirations for the proposed study. It is expected that the primary Bible verses will be found within the Book of Psalms, as well as particular notations from the Book of Romans.

Review of Literature

It is anticipated that with the vast array of homicide research already established, and the numerous journals outlined in the proposed research (Almond et al., 2021; Chapman et al., 2022; Chopin & Beauregard, 2019; Di Marco, 2023; Mohammand et al., 2021; Reale & Beauregard, 2019; Zaitsu, 2022), as well as comparative research articles related to race groups and homicide (Dunton et al., 2021; Heide et al., 2020; Krivo & Peterson, 2000; Kumar et al., 2020; Sun & Feldmeyer, 2022; Velez et al., 2003) a review of literature will likely result in over 95 journal articles, and will range in a timeline from 1972 to 2023, with the majority of research conducted within the last five years. While it is expected that some articles will paint a broad stroke of homicidal events, it is projected that others will showcase specific items of homicide that will relate to victim type, weapon usage, and concealment means (DeMatteis et al., 2021; Deshpande et al., 2017; Harms & Bush, 2022; Kamaluddin et al., 2021; Shawon et al., 2021).

To provide full transparency of the proposed study, the following descriptors will be included. It is expected that the proposed study of interest will align with these descriptions throughout the proposed research process.

Serial Killers versus Non-serial Killers

To ensure there is clarity on which type of killer the proposed study will be researching (non-serial killers only), it is important to identify the differences between serial killers and non-serial killers. Serial murder is defined as a premediated fantasy-driven killing of two or more victims by one or more offender(s), with an emotional cooling-off period, that can last for days, weeks, months, or even years (Osowski, 2018). For the purposes of legal prosecution, serial murder is defined as three or more killings,

also with an offender(s) cooling-off period (Chapman et al., 2022). Although serial killers often garner a lot of attention, they are, in fact, rare among killers (Lundrigan & Canter, 2001). These rare killers were further emphasized in a study by Comerford (2022). He reviewed 43 serial homicide events that occurred over 33 years (1985 to 2018) within the United States, which represents less than one and half serial homicide events per year.

The majority of homicides are conducted by non-serial killers (Almond et al., 2021; Rye & Angel, 2019). The proposed research is expected to focus on these common killer episodes, and will include only non-serial killer homicide cases. The research conducted by Almond et al. (2021) showcased the prevalence of these type of cases. The researchers examined over 200 adult male-on-female (non-serial) homicidal events, in which data was obtained through the National Crime Agency's Serious Crime Analysis Section (United Kingdom). These murders happened from 1985 to 2017. The researchers employed to chi-square tests and regression models analyze 29 offender behavior variables, which is similar to the proposed study.

Non-serial killers' victims are usually someone close to the offender (i.e., intimate partner such as a husband, boyfriend, wife, girlfriend, business partner), as noted by Velopulos et al. (2019). Their extensive (intimate partner violence) study, from 2003 to 2015, included 6,131 persons in an opposite-sex relationship and 181 persons in same-sex relationship. Archival data was collected through the National Violent Death Reporting System (United States), using bivariate analysis of characteristics of participants (offender/victim) for each homicide event. This study, using archival data, is consistent with the proposed study of also using archival data. Additionally, it is expected that the proposed research will also reveal intimate partner violent homicide events.

The premise of most research on this topic of interest is focused on one individual killer (de Padua Serfim et al., 2014; Di Marco, 2023). For example, research conducted by Chan et al. (2019) included over 3,000 individual homicide cases, which occurred from 1976 to 2012, and collected through the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Supplementary Homicide Reports database. Eight independent variables and two dependent variables were investigated through the use of cross-tabular analyses and independent sample t tests. The number of variables used in this research is also representative of the proposed study, and the proposed study is also expected to reveal some individual offenders with the homicide cases.

In rare instances, multiple offenders with multiple concurrent homicide victims do occur. A study by Higgs et al. (2019) emphasized the scarcity of these events by examining 21 multi-offender homicide events that occurred over 37 years, and collected through Gendarmerie (France) National Behavioral Sciences Unit. The proposed study will also investigate singular and multiple offenders for individual homicide events. Also, the majority of homicides involve male offenders against female victims (Almond et al., 2021; Crabbé et al., 2008), and such similar results (males against females) are expected in the proposed study.

Categories of Killers

When analyzing homicide, the FBI's organized-disorganized killer types have relevancy (Beauregard & Field, 2008; Yaksic et al., 2021; Zappalà et al., 2022). Based upon the FBI's findings, organized killers demonstrate a higher likelihood of transporting their victim (usually further away from the offender's residence), and often show some effort of concealing their victim's body. By comparison, disorganized offenders typically

do not move their victim, and after the killing, they typically do not move the victim's body away from the crime scene. Since the proposed study will be analyzing the movement (or lack of movement) of a victim's body, it is expected that the proposed research will reveal the volume of organized and disorganized killers within the 300-case analysis.

Types of Victims

Victims of homicide offender(s), include both children and adults (Bows, 2019; Chopin & Beauregard, 2019; Skott, 2019). These studies focused on a specific aged victim (children or adults). The proposed study is expected to include both aged-groups, with the probability that most data will be related to adult-aged victims since the proposed study will have restrictive child victim parameters, and most homicide cases involve adult victims compared to child victims. As demonstrated in a study by Shawon et al. (2021), which stated nearly 1,800 homicides within the United States, included adult victims (aged 60 years and older) in 2018. The victims' age for the proposed study will be non-restrictive, and is expected to include victims younger and older than 60-years-old.

Motivations of Murder

The motivations and behaviors of homicide, regardless of the type of killer (serial or non-serial), involve a myriad of individualistic drives. One of the research questions for the proposed study will focus on killers' motivations to murder, and such question is expected to be answered at the conclusion of the study. Additionally, the mere act of homicide is positioned into two types of categories – "expressive" and "instrumental" (Almond et al., 2021; Beauregard & Field, 2008; Greenall & Wright, 2020). Expressive

homicide involves the offender expressing his emotions, usually with feelings of anger, failure, and hatred (Ferguson & Pooley, 2019; Schug, 2021) in order to cause hurt and suffering against the victim. Whereas, instrumental homicide entails the desire for items/objects/status (Almond et al., 2021) owned by another person, which, in turn, becomes a target of the offender in order for such person to possess the object of desire. Such articles stated above and related to these killer categories included historical/archival data 1975 to 2016, with a cumulative of 224 case reviews, that employed independent and dependent variables relatable to the proposed study. Additionally, the data, timeline and number of case reviews is representative of the proposed study, and it is expected that the proposed research will also reveal both expressive and instrumental homicide categories within its 300-case review.

Causes of Death

There were various studies that focused on how a victim(s) was killed, and the particular manner and weapon an offender utilized to end a person's life. For example, a study by Chan et al. (2019), described an offender's weapon in three types of descriptors. These included personal, edge, and contact weapons, as well as firearms, and finally murder weapons "that are physically more demanding in murdering their victim." Two studies fixated on which type of weapon was employed to murder based on the offender-victim relationship (Fox & Allen, 2014; Reynolds & Bürkner, 2021). Park and Son (2018) concentrated on precise weapon use within the country of Korea. Whereas, studies on the exact cause of death were narrowed by two research projects. Keys and Ross (2022) studied blunt force trauma as a murder method, and Wahlsten and Eriksson (2020) analyzed an up close and personal cause of death by asphyxia. Many of the homicide

journals highlighted the prevalence of firearms as a weapon of choice, and the research conducted by Riddell et al., 2018 and Semenza et al., 2022, emphasized this trend.

The proposed study is expected to include various methods of death, including the murder procedures noted above. In addition, the analysis of the variables for death method research (i.e., regression, chi-square) is consistent with the statistical tests of choice for the proposed study.

Alterations of a Victim's Body

The research into the alteration of a victim's body was highlighted by two specific means of body mutilation – dismemberment and burning. Several groups of researchers highlighted the incidents of body part removal during a homicide (Adams et al., 2019; Guggenheimer et al., 2021; Zaitsu, 2022). These researchers examined 55, 43, and 108 dismemberment of body events over years of occurrences. Although it is anticipated that the proposed study will reveal some incidents of dismemberment, it is not expected that such deviant actions will be prevalent in the proposed study since such behavior transpires within limited occasions of murder (Almond et al., 2021). Nevertheless, such unusual actions were deemed important enough to include the proposed study, and such events, however limited, are expected to be revealed upon the conclusion of the research.

Two studies focused on the burning of a victim's remains (Belghith et al., 2021; Kumar et al., 2015). Such victim-burning research included 60 cases and 536 cases, respectfully, and were directly related to homicide. It should be noted that the projected study and the action of burning will be focused specifically on whether or not some type of accelerant is used directly on the victim's body/remains. However, in some instances, the use of fire by an offender may be utilized in order to destroy or conceal some type of

evidence related to the crime, but not against the victim's remains. In cases like this, such actions will not be statistically tested, as the primary focus of the study will be to concentrate on what an offender does directly against a victim's body.

Restraints

Although offenders may use a variety of restraints, the primary purpose for such devices is the same - to control their victims in some manner (Chai et al., 2021). Research has revealed that homicides that involve an element of sexual assault were more likely to use restraints than other types of killings (Chan et al., 2019; Martineau & Beauregard, 2016). Additionally, the use of restraints varied among organized and disorganized killers. Organized killers were more likely to use restraints than disorganized murderers (Zappalà et al., 2022; Crabbé et al., 2008).

The proposed study will not only seek to include restraints (aligning with the previous research above), but also the type of restraint, in order to depict the specific type of restraint that was utilized during the homicide event. Additionally, such restraint research for the proposed study is also expected to uncover the depth of organized and disorganized killers within the examined case files.

Concealment of Victim's Remains

Not only do offender(s) select varied victims, they also utilize different concealment methods (Deepak & Ramdoss, 2021; Kamaluddin et al., 2021; Keatley et al., 2021; Mohammad et al., 2021; Reale & Beauregard, 2019). The primary motivation for concealment was to delay the detection of the victim's remains (Stefanska & Carter, 2019), and the divergent concealment methods included burning, burial, debris, tarps, blankets and dismemberment. Rare and unusual concealment acts involved hiding the

victim's remains in a freezer (Olsen, & Leth, 2018), or covering the body in concrete or bricks (Preub et al., 2006).

For the purposes of the proposed study, it is important to recognize that the manner of body disposal and concealment of victims' remains is helpful in the identification of the type of killer involved in a homicide event (expressive or instrumental) (Fox & Allen, 2014). Such revelation has been confirmed in a study conducted by Beauregard & Field (2008). Their investigation into 85 homicide cases revealed that when a victim's body was transported away from the crime scene and/or hidden in some way, the offender exhibited expressive killing drives. Their study further discovered that individuals who left the victim's body at the crime scene, or covered it, such persons illustrated instrumental behaviors, often with pre-planning actions. The proposed study will identify how, if any, concealment was conducted by the killer toward the victim. And such identification performed during the proposed study is expected to determine which race group is likely to be expressive or instrumental killer types.

Status of Victim's Clothing

The motive to murder varies, and the status of a victim's clothing (i.e., partially clothed, naked) also varies, based upon the homicide event. Overwhelmingly, homicide cases that involved some element of sexual assault/rape, consisted of the victim's clothing being partially removed, or the discovery of the victim's body being found completely nude (Almond & McManus, 2021; Sea & Beauregard, 2018). These researchers examined 213 and 54 cases, respectfully. The proposed study will also examine the status of the victim's clothing for all 300 case files.

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Biblical Foundations of the Study

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Among the ten commandments, "You shall not murder" (*King James Bible*, 1769/2018, Exodus 20:13, Deuteronomy 5:17), is one of the most well-known commandments. While at the same time, the Bible also tells stories of killings. The Book of Judges outlines how Samson killed thousands of Philistines and Ehud killed Eglon, a Moabite king. Such events were considered a "commendable action" (Tracy, 2018, p. 5) as described in the Book of Judges in a study by Tracy (2018). These justified killings were based upon the concept of Israelites killing enemies in war. The research by Tracy (2018) also laid out the parameters within the Book of Judges that violated this commandment, which included the following criteria:

1. Suicide

2. Self-defense

3. Malice death

4. Not an enemy of Israel

The Book of Judges presented the constraints and acceptance of the killing of a person by another; today's society too has its own constraints and acceptance of homicide. For example, the Federal penal code 18 U.S. Code § 1111 (Office of the Law Revision Counsel, n.d.). provides the legal grounds for murder. In summary, it states that "murder is the unlawful killing of a human being with malice aforethought" (Tracy, 2018, p. 1). Individual states, within the United States, also have their individual State statutes outlining murder, which are in alignment to the Federal code. The proposed research will involve only those offenders who have been charged and found guilty in the court law, based upon a legally defined murder statute, within the boundaries of the United States territories.

An important biblical story of murder was the killing of Abel by his brother Cain (*King James Bible*, 1769/2018, Genesis 4:8). The main point of this story was not just murder in and of itself, but rather a lesson of sincerity. The lesson is that actions have consequences, but attitudes have consequences too. Cain's insolence toward Abel was based upon jealousy and anger, not just an act to please the Lord. Although generations apart, the offenders of the projected study are parallel to Cain's actions and attitudes. The equivalency of biblical human behaviors and modern-day human behaviors is essentially the same. Yet, there is still much to learn to fully comprehend why individuals behave in certain ways, particularly when it involves such extreme actions that lead to homicide. The proposed study is needed to expand upon the knowledge and understanding of human behaviors and actions.

As an overarching incentive to conduct the proposed research, is that as Christians, it is our duty to study these types of (homicidal) events, because if we do nothing against the constructs of evil, then evil will prevail (*King James Bible*, 1769/2018, Psalm 24:11-12).

As noted earlier by Bandura's social cognitive theory, where a self-system empowers an individual to have some measurement of control over their thoughts, feelings, and actions (Tolmatcheff et al., 2022), such concept is further confirmed from a biblical perspective through research conducted by Strupp-Levitsky et al. (2020). Their research explored the "motivational underpinnings of ideological differences in moral intuitions" (Strupp-Levitsky et al., 2020, p. 1). They discovered that there were differences in social cognitive behaviors based on group settings and individualized circumstances. In essence, their results cemented that moral "foundations" were the

product of social cognitions, similar to Bandura's theories. Such discovery relayed the importance of biblical ideologies, and fall in line with the foundation of the proposed study, while maintaining the reality that individuals may bestow horrific acts upon one another.

A study by Perry (2020) conceptualized the Bible is "a product of cultural power" (Perry, 2020, p. 1). The author emphasized that American sociologists highlighted the importance of how the Bible influences persons, and provides some understanding of human values, beliefs and behaviors. The author further advocated that the Bible is a product of ideology. However, he suggested that there should be a more critical tactic toward the Bible, so that it can be employed to provide a "richer, more sophisticated analyses of power and cultural reproduction within Christian traditions" (Perry, 2020, p. 1). Such biblical foundations and concepts will be useful for the proposed study. As the proposed research is conducted, it is expected that the results will showcase that the offenders will behave in specific ways, often outside Christian traditions. Therefore, such unusual individuals (convicted criminals charged with murder) may need specialized resources to present the ideologies of the Bible in appropriate ways, so that such individuals will be inspired and influenced to behave within Christian traditions.

The previous paragraph suggests that individuals could be inspired to change their wicked ways and behave in more positive Christian values. It is also presumed that since their actions do cause harm to others, perhaps these individuals may feel shame or guilt. Although the goal of the proposed study is not to determine if the offenders feel shame or guilt, the biblical foundation related to such emotions deserves attention. As noted in a study conducted by Vandenberg (2021), from a theological perspective, the author stated

that guilt is followed by sin, and that when sin is committed, an individual also rebels against God, by violating God's law. This biblical perspective, of violating God's law, also falls within the same perspectives of society, when someone violates mankind's law (of murder).

Additionally, the actions of homicide offenders may not make sense to the victim's family and friends, and they may share feelings of being deserted by God, during their time of need. However, within the Reform theory, as presented by famous theologians, such as R. C. Sproul, God has autonomous control over everything (Johnson, 2010). Such belief will perhaps provide some solace to those individuals.

How the Reform theory relates to the proposed study is mixed. On one hand, while collecting data on such tragedies, the researcher will maintain the guide that God is in control, even when things do not make sense of why persons do such horrible things to one another. The study will be also conducted with a high level of objectivity, by not holding judgment against the offenders who will be included in the study. Additionally, the researcher does not intend to lean into one particular theological theory. The expectation is that information will be presented to the readers so they may employ their own viewpoints related to homicide, psychology, and Christian views. It is anticipated that the reader may apply one of the five viewpoints that include the levels-of-explanation, integration, Christian psychology, transformational psychology, and biblical counseling (Johnson, 2010).

From a biblical foundation perspective, there is a great need to pursue research of this type. In summary, the killing of one person against another often involves some element of evil. As Christians, we should turn away from evil, pursue good deeds, and

seek out peace and harmony (*King James Bible*, 1769/2018, Psalm 34:14). However, if we do nothing against the constructs of evil, then evil will prevail (*King James Bible*, 1769/2018, Psalm 24:11-12). For those Christians who confront evil bestowed upon others, they may walk in the valley of death, but fear no evil, as the Lord protects and comforts these crusaders against the darkness of humanity. Although it is understandable that those who have been wronged and tormented by evil seek revenge, may such persons deviate away from these feelings of vengeance, and know that those who do evil against them shall be punished by the wrath of God (*King James Bible*, 1769/2018, Romans 12:19).

Summary

Although the exertions into homicidal research are immense, the full understanding of who murders, and why and how a person kills still warrants further investigative efforts (Neilson et al., 2005). And despite the wealth of historical journals, and the extensive number of resources to study the killing of one person against another, there is limited research comparing two killer groups (Carabellese et al., 2020; Velopulos et al., 2019). The proposed research is expected to provide additional comparative homicidal studies between two demographic groups - black male offenders and white male offenders. Understanding the motivations to murder between these two groups is needed to reveal why these offenders kill. Additionally, the similarities and differences between these two killer groups are unclear. By examining these offenders' behaviors and actions, such research will further expand the knowledge and understanding of complicated human emotions throughout the crime of murder – with the ultimate goal of aiding in investigative resources to lead to the capture of individuals who commit murder.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHOD

Overview

The research methods that will be employed for the proposed study will include

an overview of the participants, as well as who will be excluded to ensure the most

accurate results of the projected study. Research questions and hypotheses will be

outlined to provide the foundation of a quantitative study. Variables will be identified,

and a justification of why such research is needed will be shared. Finally, exact statistical

testing measurements will be acknowledged for a final analysis of the data collected.

Research Questions and Hypotheses

Research Questions

RQ 1: What are the differences of motivation to murder between black male

killers and white male killers?

RQ 2: What are the similarities and differences within a homicide event among

black males and white males?

Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: There is no difference in the motivation to murder between black

male killers and white male killers.

Hypothesis 2: Black male offenders and white male offenders are more similar

than different throughout a homicidal event.

Research Design

The specific research design that will be utilized for the proposed study is an

archival review of 40 years of solved homicide cases that occurred in the United States. A

similar historical study was conducted by Allen and Buckner (2020). Their research

entailed 34 years of archival homicide events that also occurred in the United States. The researchers also presented similar patterns to the proposed study, including victim/offender relationships. Another research with similar archival timelines to the proposed study, was research by Avdija et al. (2021), which involved 42 years of historical data, that also outlined a couple of variables similar to the proposed study as well – race and gender.

The proposed study is expected to include 300 solved homicide cases involving black male homicide offenders and white male homicide offenders. Research conducted by Brinkley et al. (2020) was similar to the projected study of interest since their study also included black and white male participants, as well as in similar numbers – 270 and 279 participants – respectfully. Another study that involved the specific race groups of black and white males was completed by Cubbin et al. (2000). Their focus was based on the geographic patterns of these participants. A similar analysis is expected for the proposed study for the same race groups.

Previous research related to homicide consisted of a diverse number of variables, ranging from the single digits to upwards of the upper twenties (Ferguson & Pooley, 2019; Fox &Allen, 2014; Hatchtel et al., 2021; Kamaluddin et al., 2018; Lundrigan & Canter, 2001; Pecino-Latorre et al., 2019; Rye & Angel, 2019; Velopulos et al., 2019; Zappalà et al., 2022). The proposed study is expected to be in the middle ground of previous research variable numbers, ranging from 10 to 15 variables.

Participants

It is anticipated that the proposed study will involve the archival examination of 300 solved homicidal cases that occurred within the territories of the United States. The

archival data is expected to come from the following agencies, as well from press releases issued by a governing law enforcement agency, court documents and death investigation media sources (and others may be identified during the data collection process):

- Birmingham Police Department (Alabama) – Law enforcement press releases. Open-source information. No permission required.

- Carroll County Sheriff's Office (Georgia) – Homicide case files. Permission will be granted by Sheriff Terry Langley and/or Captain Brad Robinson.

- Carrollton Police Department (Georgia) – Homicide case files. Permission will be granted by Chief Joel Richardson and/or Captain Shannon Cantrell.

- Case Law Online Database (Nationwide) – Court documents. Open-source information. No permission required.

- Cobb Judicial Circuit – Office of the District Attorney (Georgia) – Homicide case files. Permission will be granted by Investigator Ronald Alter.

- Coweta County Sherriff's Office (Georgia) – Homicide case files. Permission will be granted by Sheriff Lenn Wood and/or Captain Jae Robertson.

- Floyd County Police Department (Georgia) – Homicide case files. Permission will be granted by Chief Mark Wallace and/or Major Jeff Jones.

- Georgia Bureau of Investigation (Georgia) – Law enforcement press releases. Open-source information. No permission required.

- Hapeville Police Department (Georgia) – Homicide case files. Permission will be granted by Chief Shawn Buchanan and/or Investigator Sheryl McCollum.

- Investigative Discovery (Nationwide) – Media Investigative Platform. Open-source information. No permission required.

- Little Rock Police Department (Arkansas) – Law enforcement press releases. Open-source information. No permission required.

- Meriwether County Sheriff's Office (Georgia) – Homicide case files. Permission will be granted by Lt. Carl Smith.

- Norfolk Police Department (Virginia) – Law enforcement press releases. Open-source information. No permission required.

- Ontario Police Department (California) - Law enforcement press releases. Open-source information. No permission required.

- Rome Police Department (Georgia) – Homicide case files. Permission will be granted by Chief Denise Downer-McKinney and/or Lt. John Walters.

- Worked Cases (Various Locations) – Homicide cases that the researcher has already worked in the past. Permission has already been granted since the researcher had been given permission to work directly on the case.

It is projected that the offenders will be restricted to adult male subjects, who are18-years-old or older, that are within black and white race groups. It is also projected that male offenders who have been charged and convicted of murder under the Federal penal code 18 U.S. Code § 1111 (Allen et al., 2020; Avdija et al., 2021; Office of the Law Revision Counsel, n.d.) will be the only participants of the proposed study. Additionally, such participants will adhere to the parameters of a non-serial killer category (Deepak & Ramdoss, 2021). At the time the proposed study is conducted, the participants may be dead or alive, and released or incarcerated. The full spectrum of

offender socio-economics will be included, with killers of varying types of previous occupations and employment statuses (Crabbé et al., 2008).

Victims will be adults (18 years old and older) and children (17 years old or younger), and of both genders. If a child is a victim of child abuse, they will only be included if the child's body has been moved from the crime scene, and/or concealed in some way.

It is anticipated that some of the data will be collected through the historical examination of physical case files secured within a law enforcement governing agency with relevant permissions granted by authorized personnel (i.e., Sheriff, Police Chief, Captain) (Almond et al., 2021; O'Brien et al., 2021). Additional resources to collect data that are expected to be exploited will be various documents, such as court papers, law enforcement press releases and investigative documentaries, in order to garner the needed data for the proposed study (Kamaluddin et al., 2018; Yaksic et al., 2021).

Study Procedures

For the proposed study of interest, no recruitment of participants will be instituted. Following the lead from previous homicide studies (Almond et al., 2021; Deepak & Ramdoss, 2021; Kamaluddin et al., 2018; O'Brien et al., 2021; Schug, 2021; Yaksic et al., 2021) that employed the review of archival/historical homicide case files, the proposed research will also conduct the review and examination of archival homicide case files that have been solved by governing law enforcement agencies within the United States. Additionally, the review of court documents, law enforcement agency media releases, and investigative documentaries are expected to be included for data collection purposes as well. Such study procedures have proven to be an effective

approach based upon past studies, which garnered statistically relevant results for the researchers (Kamaluddin et al., 2018).

It is anticipated that the proposed study will involve the archival examination of 300 solved homicidal cases that occurred within the territories of the United States. The archival data is expected to come from agencies, as well from press releases issued by a governing law enforcement agency, court documents and death investigation media sources previously mentioned.

Due to the highly sensitive nature of the information collected for this type of study, the confidentiality of the data will be a top priority. Only those cases that meet the criteria of the proposed study will be included. These parameters will include the following:

- Homicide cases based upon an individual charged and convicted under the Federal penal code 18 U.S. Code § 1111 (Office of the Law Revision Counsel, n.d.). This code is the federal law that constitutes the act of murder, which is "the unlawful killing of a human being with malice aforethought." For the proposed study, murder will also be known as homicide, death of another or killing of another. Murder, as defined by the FBI as, "the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another" (Chan et al., 2019, p. 6; Heide et al., 2020, p. 2).

- Homicide cases that have been prosecuted under the court of law, within the United States judiciary system, where at least one offender and at least one victim were involved in a homicide event. In order for someone to be charged and convicted of murder, a matter of due process within the court system is

utilized (Heidi et al., 2020). And since the proposed study is to examine murder cases, the prosecution of an offender within the justice system is required (Landford & Silver, 2020; Urbanik & Roks, 2021).

- Offenders will be adult black males or adult white males, 18-years old or older, at the time of the offense. The proposed study follows the pattern of other studies that identified specific persons of interest within a particular research study (Adinkrah, 2021; Almond et al., 2021; Bows, 2019; Caman et al., 2022; Carabellese et al., 2020; Chan et al., 2019; de Padua Serafim et al., 2014; Deshpande et al., 2017; Di Marco, 2023; Dobash & Dobash, 2021; LaFree et al., 2010; Phillips, 2002; Sheats et al., 2018).

- There will be no time limit on the age of the homicide cases, nor when a case has been solved. For example, there may be some cases that may have not been solved until years later. So long as these cases meet the criteria noted above, they may be included. Some previous studies enacted narrow (2 weeks) windows of time (Karlsson et al., 2021), and other studies posted long-range (37 years) time frames (Heide et al., 2020). Such time limits were posted because these studies were already conducted. Since data has not been collected, and the time frame of case files is unknown for the proposed study, the time frame will remain open. Once all the data is collected for the proposed study, a definitive timeline will be provided.

- Data from a variety of homicide case files will be collected to provide a diverse range of information for the proposed study. Such an approach is inspired by previous research that also examined a variety of cases for their

research (Allen et al., 2020; Arndt et al., 2022; Avdija et al., 2021; Carabellese et al., 2020; Crabbé et al., 2008; Cubbin et al., 2000; Ferguson & Pooley, 2019; Fox & Allen, 2014; Fridel, 2022; Hachtel et al., 2021; Heide et al., 2020; Higgs et al., 2019; Kamaluddin et al., 2018; Skott, 2019; Yaksic et al., 2021; Zappalà et al., 2022).

Information will be examined in a secure room, with the researcher alone, in order to review and gather the data. When studying case files at governmental agencies, prior approval from the appropriate officials will be obtained prior to visiting the facility (Appendix A). Such approval steps may include sending an email or letter, and/or phone call to authorized personnel to establish a day and time to visit the facility. The information will be placed in the researcher's laptop computer via thumb drive, CD/DVD, and/or typed into a Word document, with password protections. The information will be maintained in one computer throughout the study process. The computer will remain with the researcher at all times, and/or placed in a secured location, where no other persons will have access to the information. As an additional measure to ensure the information is not inadvertently lost or damaged, the computer files will be backed-up to a separate hard drive device. This hard drive will be stored in a locked cabinet at all times, and will only be removed from this secure location to download the information from the researcher's laptop computer. If any documentation is taken, such papers will be in the possession of the researcher and/or placed in a locked cabinet at all times.

Various documents/folders will be created on the researcher's laptop to collect the data. For example, Excel spreadsheets and Microsoft file folders (Bows, 2019;

Carabellese et al., 2020; DeMatteis et al., 2021; Kamaluddin et al., 2021) will be utilized to organize the data. The initial process, Excel spreadsheet #1 (Appendix B) will be to collect the data with identifiers, solely for the purpose of organizing real-world homicide cases as well as the researcher's ability to refer back to case details for additional information. In unison with the initial process, Microsoft file folders are expected to be created without identifiers (file number – motive). The secondary step, Excel spreadsheet #2 (Appendix C) will be created into a document with no identifiers. This document will have numeric values only that will be moved into an IBM SPSS statistical software file (Arndt et al., 2022; Chapman et al., 2022; Tolmatcheff et al., 2021) to analyze the data.

Based upon Federal regulations (45 CFR 46), under the current National Institutes of Health (NIH, 2015) and the National Science Foundation (NSF, 2005), research records must be maintained for at least three years upon the completion of the research project (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2021). The proposed study will adhere to the federal requirements of retaining research records for at least three years. After the deadline date of three years is completed, all documentation related to the study will be destroyed. Any computer files will be permanently deleted from the researcher's laptop, as well on the backup hard drive device, via Microsoft Office delete procedures. Any papers will be shredded via a paper shredder tool. The only remaining evidence of the proposed study that will not be destroyed is the final dissertation paper.

Instrumentation and Measurement

Since the projected study will not involve direct contact with participants, non-direct contact instruments will be utilized to collect and organize data (Almond et al.,

2021; Deepak & Ramdoss, 2021; Kamaluddin et al., 2018; O'Brien et al., 2021; Schug, 2021; Yaksic et al., 2021). These instruments include the following:

- Two separate Excel spreadsheets will be created using Microsoft Office Home and Business 2016, Version 2212 software program. The expected names of the spreadsheets will be Data – Case Details and Data – Stats Analysis (Bows, 2019; Carabellese et al., 2020).

- Individual file folders for each homicide case will also be created via Microsoft Word. The file folders will not have identifiers and are expected to be identified by the following: File Number – Motive (DeMatteis et al., 2021; Kamaluddin et al., 2021).

- For statistical testing, IBM SPSS Version 28 statistics software (Arndt et al., 2022; Chapman et al., 2022; Tolmatcheff et al., 2021) will be employed to conduct an analysis on all variables (race-killer; race-victim; gender-victim; number of killers; motive; cause of death; bod alteration; restraints; concealment; location of body; movement of body; movement distance).

Excel Spreadsheet #1

The first spreadsheet will be created that frameworks the details of each homicide, and the attributes of the offender(s) and victim(s). Within this Excel spreadsheet, the law enforcement agency in charge of the case, as well as the killer and victim names and descriptions will be visible only to the researcher. These identifiers will be provided in this Excel spreadsheet for the sole purpose of being able to refer back to a specific case if additional information is needed (Bows, 2019; Carabellese et al., 2020).

Excel Spreadsheet #2

The second spreadsheet will be designed to organize the data that will be applied for statistical analysis. All information in this Excel spreadsheet will be numerically valued, with no identifiers of any agencies, persons, or addresses. 11 columns of distinct categories will be created, and as case files are reviewed, the appropriate numeric value of each category will be noted (Bows, 2019; Carabellese et al., 2020).

Microsoft Office

Microsoft Office Word 2016 software will be utilized to create individual file folders for each of the 300 case files. Such file folders are expected to be organized by file number and motive. It is expected the data will be retrieved via thumb drive, CD/DVD, and notes typed by the researcher onto a Microsoft document upon reviewing the data (DeMatteis et al., 2021; Kamaluddin et al., 2021).

The information will be maintained in one computer throughout the study process. The computer will remain with the researcher at all times, and/or placed in a secured location, where no other persons will have access to the information. As an additional measure to ensure the information is not inadvertently lost or damaged, the computer files will be backed-up to a separate hard drive device. This hard drive will be stored in a locked cabinet at all times, and will only be removed from this secure location to download the information from the researcher's laptop computer. If any documentation is taken, such papers will be in the possession of the researcher and/or placed in a locked cabinet at all times.

IBM SPSS Version 28 Statistics Software

The most current software version of IBM SPSS statistical 28(Arndt et al., 2022; Chapman et al., 2022; Tolmatcheff et al., 2021) for Windows operations will be implemented to examine the variables, both dependent and independent, to demonstrate the comparative analysis of the two offender groups.

Operationalization of Variables

It is projected there will be between 10 to 15 variables created for the proposed study. Most of the variables will be identified as nominal, with two variables that will be set apart as dichotomized dependent variables. The analysis of the variables will be conducted through IBM SPSS Version 28 statical software (Arndt et al., 2022; Chapman et al., 2022; Tolmatcheff et al., 2021) for Windows operations. As a comprehensive study, various statistical tests are expected to be employed. Projected tests to be considered will be Regression tests, Odd's Ratio tests, Fisher's Exact tests, and Chi-square tests.

The initial analysis for this investigation is expected to be a Binary Logistic Regression test that will include all variables (Park & Son, 2018; Phillips, 2002), as well as a second Binary Logistic Regression test with the most predictive variables included (Semenza et al., 2022; Sun & Feldmever, 2022). Additional tests to be employed will be Odd's Ratio statistical analyses and Fisher's Exact tests (Almond et al., 2021; Velopulos et al., 2019) to evaluate offender preference to a particular victim, based upon race, as well as linear associations. It is also anticipated that the Chi-square testing method to determine the outcome of independent variables and offender behaviors will be

employed. This statistical approach is an appropriate test for such determinations, as noted by Chapman et al. (2022) and Chai et al. (2021).

Variable One – Race: This variable will be a categorical variable, and it will be measured based on how an offender is identified by his race destination. A number of studies have also included race in their research (Adinkrah, 2014; Brinkley et al., 2001; Kivisto et al., 2022; Semenza et al., 2022).

Variable Two – Gender: This variable will be a nominal variable that will be measured by the researcher's analysis of the victim's biological gender. Previous homicide research included at least one specific killer gender, or both genders of male and female offenders (Almond et al., 2021; Carabellese et al, 2020; Chan et al, 2019).

Variable Three – Number of Killers: This variable will be an interval variable that will be measured by the researcher's analysis of the number of killers, as noted in case files. A study by Higgs et al. (2019) also examined multiple perpetrators involved in homicide events.

Variable Four – Motive: This variable will be a nominal variable that will be measured by the researcher's analysis of the killer's motive, as noted in the research documents. Hatchtel et al., (2021) analyzed offender motives for their study as well, and it is consistent with the proposed study of interest.

Variable Five – Cause of Death: This variable will be a nominal variable that will be measured by the researcher's analysis of how the victim was killed by the offender, as noted by a medical examiner's report and/or case file notes. The cause of death will be identified as weapon type, including the offender using his hands as a weapon. Such

weapon usage was included in previous research conducted by Chan et al. (2019), Park and Son (2018), and Reynold and Bürkner (2021).

Variable Six – Body Alteration: This variable will be a nominal variable that will be measured by the researcher's analysis of the offender altering the victim's body in a specific manner, as noted by a medical examiner's report and/or case files. A number of studies showed particular interest in the research of body alteration (also known as mutilation-murder). These studies include research conducted by Adams et al. (2019), Almond et al. (2021), Belghith et al. (2021), Guggenheimer et al. (2021), Kumar et al. (2015), and Zaitsu (2022).

Variable Seven – Concealment: This variable will be a nominal variable that will be measured by the researcher's analysis of how the victim's remains were concealed by an offender, as noted in research documentation. Bitton and Dayan (2019) along with Mohammand et al. (2021), and Stefanska and Carter also explored the concealment behaviors of offenders.

The remaining variables (8 through 11) listed below are relational to the disposal methods of the offender toward the victim. There are extensive studies that explore this behavior. To name just a few, research conducted by Beauregard and Field (2008), Chai et al. (2021), Chapman et al. (2022), Ryan et al. (2020), Sea and Beauregard (2018), and Snook et al. (2005) include victim disposal methods during the course of a homicide event.

Variable Eight – Location of Body: This variable is a nominal variable that will be measured by the researcher's analysis of where the victim's body was discovered, as noted in various correspondences.

Variable Nine – Body Left at Crime Scene: This variable is a dichotomized dependent variable that will be measured by the researcher's analysis of the offender's choice to leave the victim's body at the crime scene.

Variable Ten – Body Moved Away from Crime Scene: This variable is a dichotomized dependent variable that will be measured by the researcher's analysis of the offender's choice to move the victim's body away from the crime scene.

Variable Eleven – Movement Distance: This variable is a ratio variable that will be measured by the researcher's analysis in whether a body was moved, and if so, how far a victim's body was transported (via U.S. miles) away from the crime scene. Such distance is not based upon the offender's residence, place of work, or some other relevant location associated with the offender (although these locations may be in close proximity). The distance noted in the proposed study will be based upon where the initial crime occurred (i.e., kidnapping, rape, murder), and the final resting place of the victim's body, as decided by the offender.

<div align="center">

Data Analysis

</div>

The analysis of the variables will be conducted through IBM SPSS Version 28 statical software (Arndt et al., 2022; Chapman et al., 2022; Tolmatcheff et al., 2021) for Windows operations.

Three journal articles were reviewed to assist in the development of the G*Power calculations of the proposed research. The specific parameters for the proposed study's testing include a significant level of .05, with a priori power minimum effect of .80. Based upon the input parameters noted above, the output parameters included the

following: noncentrality parameters of 2.83; critical t of 1.98; DF of 125.96; and a total sample size of 134 (with 67 participants in each group).

The proposed study is expected to have 300 case files (150 participants in each group). If for some reason this goal is not obtained, the projected study will, at a minimum, meet the G*Power calculations of at least 67 participants in each group.

The proposed study will be a quantitative study. A regression test for each of the variables will be employed to compare/predict the similarities and differences between the two offender groups throughout their criminal behaviors. Park and Son (2018), which focused on weapon type for homicide cases in Korea, enacted a regression analysis for injury location and body transportation. A study by Phillips (2002) also utilized a regression test to identify the differences in homicide events. Other studies dissected various race groups and violent behavior through the use of multilevel negative binomial regression analyses (Semenza et al., 2022; Sun & Feldmever, 2022).

The proposed study of interest will also be using the chi-square testing method to determine where offenders dispose of their victims' remains. This statistical approach is an appropriate test for such determinations, as noted by Chapman et al. (2022) and Chai et al. (2021), who examined death and disposal locations of killers, and ran a chi-square analysis to reveal the results of their studies.

Delimitations, Assumptions, and Limitations

The goal of the projected research is purposefully distinct. And to ensure such data collected accomplishes the goals set forth, specific delimitations, assumptions, and limitations will be subjected to the proposed study.

Delimitations

Since homicide can occur within a variety of situations, and because two specific groups will be the focus of the proposed study, other groups and/or homicidal incidents will be omitted. These are outlined below.

- Gang-on-gang violence. Although some offenders may be members of a gang, their homicide evidence will not be related to gang-on-gang violence. This type of violence is expected to be excluded due to the amplification of homicide events, due to the nature of gang members' hyper-violent culture (Urbanik & Roks, 2021). Such inclusion will likely skew the validity and reliability of what the proposed study is trying to accomplish.

- Prostitutes. Prostitutes are a unique type of victim, and are often the target of specific offenders (i.e., serial killers), which often demonstrate signature behaviors (Crabbé et al., 2008). The proposed study is expected to include more typical offender/victim relationships (i.e., domestic, robbery and a non-prostitute sexual encounter). Therefore, these victims will be excluded.

- Serial killers. The goal of the proposed study is to examine male offenders who have committed murder within the parameters of a non-serial killer (Rye & Angel, 2019; Velopulos et al., 2019), and have not been identified as serial killers (Lundrigan & Canter, 2001). Therefore, serial killer offenders will be excluded.

- Mass shootings (i.e., school shootings, mall shootings). Based upon research by Lankford and Silver (2020), these types of killings typically involve large numbers of victims, and the desire for the offender to acquire some element of

fame. These circumstances will not be the intended objectives for the proposed study; therefore, these types of events will be excluded.

- Officer-involved shootings. Only those killings that meet the standards of murder under the Federal penal code 18 U.S. Code § 1111 (Office of the Law Revision Counsel, n.d.) will be included in the projected study. Therefore, officer-involved shootings will be excluded.

- Killings that were deemed as self-defense. Similar to officer-involved shootings, only those killings that meet the standards of murder under the Federal penal code 18 U.S. Code § 1111 (Office of the Law Revision Counsel, n.d.). Self-defense cases will not be included in the proposed study.

- Workplace violence shootings. The motivations of these types of events lie outside what the proposed study will be examining. Such motivations include resentment and hostility toward co-workers and/or authority figures, and often involve multiple casualties (Little, 2021). Since these events will be outside the preview of the proposed study, they will be excluded.

- Place of business shootings (i.e., bank robberies). The primary motive for these types of events is monetary; therefore, these events would offer no diversity in the data collected. In addition, the relationship between offender and victim in these events is atypical, and does not fit into the parameters of the proposed study. Therefore, these events will be excluded.

- Child abuse death cases. Unless the child's body was transported away from the crime scene, and/or concealed to prevent discovery, child abuse death cases will be excluded.

Assumptions

It will be assumed the participants will entail adult male offenders, 18 years-old and older, that are biological identifiable as male, and live on a daily basis as a male-gendered person (Almond et al., 2021).

It will be assumed the offenders and victims will be categorized as "black" (also known as African American) or "white" (also known as Caucasian), as defined by the United States Census Bureau (Brinkley et al., 2001; Cubbin et al., 2000).

It will be assumed the variables utilized in the proposed study will be labeled with commonly-known descriptors (Zappalà et al., 2022). Additionally, it will be assumed that the distance traveled by an offender to dispose of their victim's remains will be in conventional (United States) miles (Lundrigan & Canter, 2001). Such distance will not be based upon the offender's residence, place of work, or some other relevant location associated with the offender (although these locations may be in close proximity of the initial crime and/or body disposal area) (Berezowski et al., 2021). Further, it will be assumed that the distance noted in the proposed study will be based upon where the initial crime occurred (i.e., kidnapping, rape, murder, etc.), and the final resting place of the victim's body, as decided by the offender.

Lastly, the assumption will be that the data collected will be based upon facts, will be been verified (through the course of the criminal investigation), and will be deemed to be truthful based upon the evidence and investigation of each homicide case, with the understanding that offenders commonly lie, mislead and deceive individuals (Arndt et al., 2022).

Limitations

The most significant limitation expected will be access to case files. A study like this will involve highly-sensitive, and in some cases, very high-profile homicidal events (Skott, 2019). Therefore, the cooperation and sharing of information by the proper officials may limit the access and availability of certain cases, and their relevant information, which may prelude such data from being included in the study. Law enforcement agencies utilize document templates that are similar in nature; however, the data included in these documents may vary in detail and accuracy.

In regard to the distance of where a murder occurred, compared to where the offender may dispose of the victim's remains (Bunch et al., 2017; Chai et al., 2021), if the offender does transport the victim's body away from the crime scene, the most direct and shortest route from these two sites will be implemented. Since the proposed research will focus on the movement and concealment of victims' remains, confirming that the victim's body was, in fact, moved away from the crime scene may not be absolute, unless there is a confession, witnesses, or clear forensic evidence (Ryan et al., 2020).

Overall, the very nature of homicidal crimes is inherently fraught with lies, half-truths and misleading information (Caman et al., 2022). Obtaining all the necessary details, complete truths, and all the pertinent facts of each case may be challenging, and limit the collection of particular cases and information in certain ways not yet fully discovered (Zappalà et al., 2022).

Validity, Reliability, and Generalizability

An online search related to homicide studies has shown to be a topic of high interest, as noted by an advanced search through the Jerry Falwell, Liberty University

site. Within the last five years and ten years of homicide research, respectfully, over 26,000 and over 52,000 homicides studies have been conducted. The proposed study is expected to collect and utilize already well-established data criteria that has been identified as common and consistent information typically observed within homicidal events. A small sample of previous studies (Carabellese et al., 2020; Hachtel et al., 2021; Skott, 2019) showcases similar data that will be utilized by the proposed study.

Since the proposed study will be utilizing archival data, such approach will provide for a process of data collection that will be well-documented and constant, and could be repeated by other researchers. Data will be garnered by law enforcement agency case files and/or court documents, law enforcement press releases and investigative documentaries that could be repeatable, since such data is expected to be reliable and consistent throughout time.

The appropriate statistical tests will be employed to evaluate the data. As noted earlier, the proposed research will be a quantitative study. For this type of study, a regression test is the correct statistical test to compare/predict the similarities and differences between the two offender groups throughout their criminal behaviors. Since a regression test will compare all variables simultaneously with one test, such test will provide validity and reliability to analyze the variables. This approach has been applied to previous research of similar structure, as denoted earlier. Additionally, is also anticipated that a chi-square analytical testing will be employed to test the distance a victim's body is moved from the crime scene, based upon motive. Again, such test is a well-received statistical testing method employed by previous studies related to homicide, and has

shown to have a high degree of validity and reliability as well, for the kind of research the proposed study desires to pursue.

A study by Borgstede and Scholz (2021) provided an in-depth study of generalizability of quantitative and qualitative research. The study described how quantitative research "usually employs a top-down strategy of generalization from an abstract population to individual cases" (Borgstede & Scholz, 2021, p. 7). Additionally, the researchers highlighted the concept that a top-down strategy is predominantly employed for modern day psychology. The proposed research will utilize a quantitative approach, from an abstract population (criminals) to individual cases (murderers). And such research will be conducted to enhance the psychological understanding of persons who commit deviant acts upon other persons. Additionally, among the thousands of previously conducted homicide studies, such research has varied from child killers, serial killers, intimate partner killers, and female murderers. The proposed study is expected to be diverse enough (adult black and white male offenders with all types of victims) that will distinguish it from previously conducted research. Based upon these factors, the proposed study is expected to provide a solid foundation of generalizability and diversity to stand apart from previous research.

Summary

Research methods and destinations will be developed to distinguish the proposed study from previous homicide-related research (Allen et al., 2020; Almond et al., 2021; Arndt et al., 2022; Avdija et al., 2021; Bunch et al., 2017; Chan et al., 2019; Crabbé et al., 2008; Cubbin et al., 2000; de Padua Serafim et al., 2014; Di Marco, 2023; Ferguson & Pooley, 2019; Fox & Allen, 2014; Greenall & Wright, 2020; Hakkanen et al., 2007;

Kamaluddin et al., 2021; Khoshnoon et al., 2017; Lino et al., 2018; Martineau & Beauregard, 2016; O'Brien et al., 2021; Pecino-Lattorre et al., 2019; Reynolds & Birkner, 2021; Ryan et al., 2020; Sea & Beauregard, 2018; Semenza et al., 2022; Skott, 2019; Snook et al., 2005; Velopulos et al., 2019; Yaksic et al., 2021; Zappalà et al., 2022). Such efforts will include tailored research questions and hypothesis, as well as a detailed research design. Relevant participants will be clearly delineated from other persons/groups, and the study procedures will be fully described. Spreadsheets and file folders will be developed, and will be instrumental in the collection and organization of data during the collection process. Variables will be identified (Ferguson & Pooley, 2019; Fox & Allen, 2014; Hatchtel et al., 2021; Kamaluddin et al., 2018; Lundrigan & Canter, 2001; Pecino-Latorre et al., 2019; Rye & Angel, 2019; Velopulos et al., 2019; Zappalà et al., 2022), and will offer the most opportunity to discover the similarities and differences among the two focus groups. Although the research is specific, the need to share the delineations, assumptions and limitations will still be warranted, and will be provided (Arndt et al., 2022; Berezowski et al., 2021; Bunch et al., 2017; Caman et al., 2022; Chai et al., 2021; Crabbé et al., 2008; Lankford & Silver; 2020; Lundrigan & Canter, 2001; Ryan et al., 2020; Rye & Angel, 2019; Urbanik & Roks, 2021; Zappalà et al., 2022). The most suitable statistical tests (Belghith et al., 2021; Chai et al., 2021; Chapman et al., 2022; Kivisto et al., 2022; Little; 2021; Reynold & Bürkner, 2021; Skott, 2019) will be employed to reveal the study's results in the following chapter, in order to achieve the researcher's goals and objectives.

CHAPTER 4: RESULTS

Descriptive Results

The demographics of the sample included 150 solved homicide events committed

by adult black males, and 150 solved homicide cases that involved adult white male

killers. Offenders were at least 18-years-old, with no maximum age, with the oldest

offender being an 82-year-old male. The killings occurred between 1972 and 2022 within

the United States and involved children (youngest victim being a 7-year-old female) and

adults (oldest victim being an 87-year-old female). Child abuse cases were not included

with the exception of two cases. These cases involved parental killers who murdered and

concealed their children's remains to avoid detection. For domestic murders, 131 of these

events occurred. Of these 131 occurrences, two of these involved homosexual partners,

while the remaining involved 129 heterosexual partnerships. Transport distances were

direct routes from the crime scene to the disposal location based upon U.S. miles. No

direct contact of any persons (i.e., offender, witnesses, victims' friends and families) was

performed, other than minor clarifications subjected toward law enforcement

investigative personnel. All data was organized through Excel spreadsheets and

Microsoft Office software (Bows, 2019; Carabellese et al., 2020; DeMatteis et al., 2021;

Kamaluddin et al., 2021), and all variables were numerically described for statistical

testing and analyses.

Study Findings

Various statistical tests were utilized in diverse ways to determine predictabilities

as well as offenders' behaviors and actions within a homicide event. The initial analysis

for this investigation was a Binary Logistic Regression test that included all variables

(Park & Son, 2018; Phillips, 2002), as well as a second Binary Logistic Regression test with the most predictive variables included (Semenza et al., 2022; Sun & Feldmever, 2022). Additional tests employed were Odd's Ratio statistical analyses and Fisher's Exact tests (Almond et al., 2021; Velopulos et al., 2019) to evaluate offender preference to a particular victim, based upon race, as well as linear associations. The study of interest also used the Chi-square testing method to determine the outcome of independent variables and offender behaviors. This statistical approach is an appropriate test for such determinations, as noted by Chapman et al. (2022) and Chai et al. (2021).

Which Variables Are Most Predictive?

Table 1 displays variables that have the most predictive power in the regression equation (Park & Son, 2018), based upon the parameters and delineations presented in this study. As shown in the outcome, victim race is a very strong predictor (B = 132.243) and the movement of body holds some weight as well (B = 4.221). The information is taken from the omnibus tests of model coefficients and the model summary. Based upon the results, χ^2 = 238.083, p < .001, there is a very significant prediction model for the data collected when all variables were included. There is also a very significant prediction value, which is the Nagelkerke R^2 of .730 (R^2 = .730). This indicates that the initial all-variables model accounts for 73% of the variability in predicting killer race.

When examining killer race with two specific variables (Semenza et al., 2022), victim race and the movement of body, the omnibus tests of model and the model summary results are X^2 = 190.356, p<.001. The prediction value for these two variables also demonstrates a substantial prediction value of Nagelkerke R^2 of .705 (R^2 = .705), as noted in **Table 2**. This shows a variability in predicting killer race of 70% when analyzed

against victim race and movement of body. Based on this, the victim's race appears to be showing what is most predictive of the race of the killer when compared to all other variables within this study and based upon the parameters and delineations outlined in the data collected. This predictability is illustrated in **Figure 1**.

Table 1

Binary Logistic Regression Results of All Variables for Classification of Killers' Race

Variable	*B*	SE	Wald	*df*	p-value	Odd's Ratio	95% CI for Odd's Ratio Lower	Upper
Victim Race	4.767	.515	85.783	1	<.001	117.584	42.877	322.452
Victim Gender	.337	.440	.586	1	.444	.444	.591	3.322
Motive to Kill	-.072	.161	.201	1	.654	.654	.679	1.275
Cause of Death	-.031	.184	.028	1	.866	.886	.676	1.391
Body Alteration	-.068	.176	.151	1	.698	.698	.662	1.319
Restraints	-.072	.179	.161	1	.688	.688	.655	1.322
Concealment	-.142	.168	.719	1	.396	.396	.624	1.205
Body Clothing	-.184	.229	.642	1	.423	.423	.531	1.304
Body Location	.196	.196	.992	1	.319	.319	.828	1.787
Body Movement	.889	.730	1.482	1	.223	2.433	.582	10.177
Constant	-7.997	2.225	12.918	1	<.001	.000		

Overall Significance of Model	Total Variance Explained (NagelKerke r^2)	Correct Black	Correct White	Overall Correct
$X^2 = 238.083$, p<.001	.730	94.7%	82.7%	88.7%

Table 2

Binary Logistic Regression of Killers' Race Based Upon Victim Race and Movement of Body

Variable	*B*	SE	Wald	*df*	p-value	Odd's Ratio	95% CI for Odd's Ratio	
							Lower	Upper
Victim Race	4.709	.491	91.925	1	<.001	110.923	42.361	290.450
Body Movement	1.469	.482	9.271	1	.002	4.345	1.688	11.185
Constant	-9.615	1.197	65.541	1	<.001	.000		

Overall Significance of Model	Total Variance Explained (NagelKerke r^2)	Correct Black	Correct White	Overall Correct
X^2 = 190.356, p<.001	.705	81.3%	96.0%	88.7%

Figure 1

ROC Results of Killers' Race Based Upon Victim Race and Movement of Body
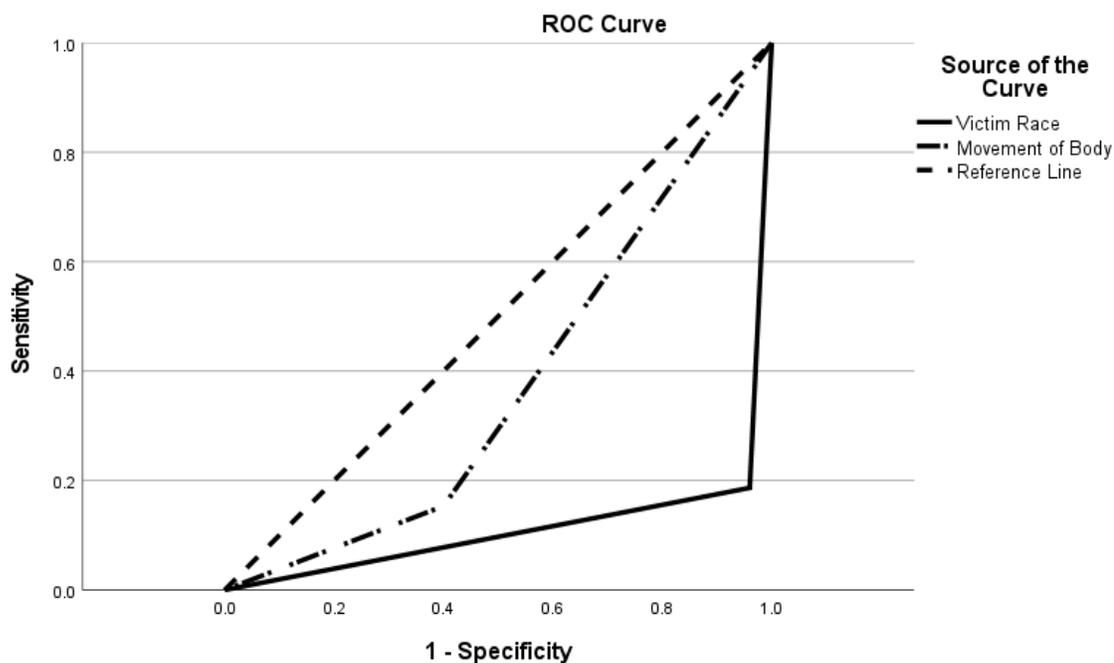
Diagonal segments are produced by ties.

Classification Accuracy

An examination of the accuracy of the all-variables model's ability to correctly classify killers by race, using the independent variables stated in the model was reviewed (Phillips, 2022). For this, a classification table, as illustrated in **Table 3**, was prepared. The results indicate there is a very good predictive ability. In essence, the model correctly predicts black male offenders with 82.7% accuracy and white male offenders with 94.7% accuracy. Overall, the model with all variables has a correct prediction of 88.7%, which is excellent.

Table 3

Classification Accuracy to Determine Predictability

Predicted Offender Race			Percentage Correct
Black Male	124	26	82.7%
White Male	8	142	94.7%
Overall Percentage			88.7%

* Cutoff value is .500.

Predictive Value of Victim Race Variable

The Odd's Ratio for the variable of victim race was calculated (Almond et al., 2021), and are presented in **Table 4**. Examining the Odd's Ratio tests, for black male offenders, the victim is black 122 times to 28 times being white. This yields an Odd's Ratio value of 4.36, meaning that if the victim is black, there is a 4.36 times greater chance of the killer being black. For white male offenders the victim is white 144 times to 6 times of being black, which yields an Odd's Ratio value of 24. This means that if the victim is white, there is 24 times greater chance the killer is white. As illustrated in **Table**

5, there is a statistically significant association between offender race and victim race as assessed by a Fisher's Exact test, $p < .001$.

Table 4

Odd's Ratio Test Results of Killer's Victim Preference, Based Upon Race

	Victim Race *			
Offender Race	Black	White	Total	Odd's Ratio
Black	122 (81.3%)	28 (18.6%)	150	4.36
White	6 (4.0%)	144 (96.0%)	150	24.0
Total	128	172	300	

* The Odd's Ratio value for black victims leads to a 4.36 times greater likelihood of the killer being black. The Odd's Ratio value for white victims leads to a 24.0 times greater likelihood of the killer being white.

Table 5

Fisher's Exact Test – Linear Association

Measure of Association	*df*	Value	Significance
χ^2 Test of Independence	1	183.4	$p < .001$
Fisher's Linear by Linear Association	1	182.7	$p < .001$

Predictive Value of Movement of Body Variable

Like killers' victim preferences, to determine offender predictability and the movement of a victim's body, Odd's Ratio tests and Fisher's Exact tests were also utilized (Almond et al., 2021; Velopulos et al., 2019). Upon exploring the Odd's Ratio

test results, black killers left the body at the murder scene 127 times to 23 moving it. This means that the body left at the murder scene leads to a 5.52 times greater likelihood that the killer is black. By comparison, the predictability of white killers moving a victim's body is not as distinctive as it is for black killers. The results indicate white killers kept 90 bodies at the murder scene to 60 moved. Therefore, it is only 1.5 times more likely that the killer is white if the body is left at the murder scene. These Odd's Ratio predictive values are shown in **Table 6**. As illustrated in **Table 7**, there is a statistically significant association between offender race and movement of body as assessed by Fisher's Exact test, *p* < .001.

Table 6

Odd's Ratio Test Results of Movement of Body by Offenders

	Movement of Body *			
Offender Race	Body Left at Scene	Body Moved	Total	Odd's Ratio
Black	127 (84.7%)	23 (18.6%)	150	5.52
White	90 (60.0%)	60 (40.0%)	150	1.50
Total	217	83	300	

* The Odd's Ratio value for black victims leads to a 5.52 times greater likelihood of the killer being black. The Odd's Ratio value for white victims leads to a 1.50 times greater likelihood of the killer being white.

Table 7

Fisher's Exact Test – Linear Association

Measure of Association	*df*	Value	Significance
χ^2 Test of Independence	1	22.8	*p* < .001
Fisher's Linear by Linear Association	1	22.7	*p* < .001

Victims of Choice

The study focused on male only killers, and the first inquiry posed for these killers was their victim preference, based upon the victim's gender (Allen et al., 2020). Although the total number of victims selected (155 male; 145 female) was unremarkable (51.7% male; 48.3% female) between the offenders, there was a significant difference in which victim gender the offenders preferred during a homicide event. Black male offenders killed more males than their counterparts (60.7% versus 42.7%). Whereas white male killers selected 86 female victims compared to 59 females for black male killers. As presented in **Table 8**, for victim gender of choice, there was a significant difference between the two offender groups, χ^2(1, N=300) = 9.73, *p* = .002. Black males killed more males, and white male killed more females. Such results are illustrated in **Figure 2**.

As a secondary victim selection of choice, victims' race was also observed (Sun & Feldmever, 2022). There was a notable difference between the offenders, with a statistical significance of χ^2(1, N=300) = 183.358, *p* = .001. Black males murdered 112 black victims (81.3%), and 28 white victims (18.7%). White males murdered 144 white

victims (96.0%), and six black victims (4.0%). Additionally, black males sexually assaulted a mixture of black and white female victims, while white males chose to sexually assault only white female victims.

Table 8

Victim Gender of Choice by Offender

Offender		Victim Gender	
		Male	Female
Black Males	Count	91	59
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	60.7%	39.3%
	% Within Victim Gender	58.7%	40.7%
Offender		Victim Gender	
		Male	Female
White Males	Count	64	86
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	42.7%	57.3%
	% Within Victim Gender	41.3%	59.3%
Total	Count	155	145
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	51.7%	48.3%
	% Within Victim Gender	100%	100%

Figure 2

Victim Gender of Choice by Offender
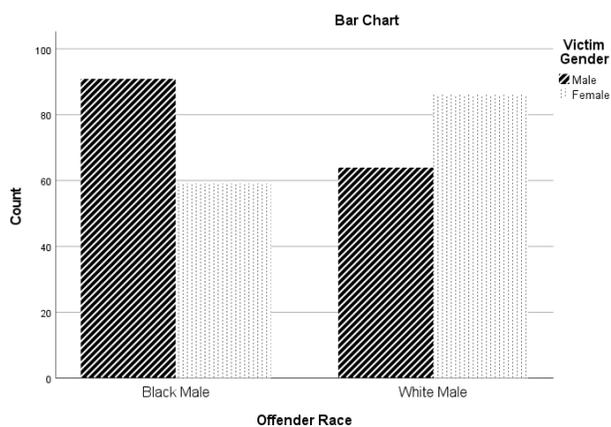
Number of Offenders

During a homicide event, at least one offender is involved in the murder of at least one other person. The research looked into not only the behaviors and motivations of homicide, but also how many offenders were involved in a single homicidal event (Higgs et al., 2019). Specifically, the question of whether black male killers were more likely to kill their victims as a lone murderer than white killers was examined.

The study revealed most homicides were committed by lone killers (87%). However, black multi-offender males were involved in more than double the number of homicides committed compared to white multi-killers (27 versus 12). A breakdown of these offender numbers (1 offender to 4 or more offenders) is outlined in **Table 9** below. Most notable, there were no homicides that involved more than four or more white male offenders, but five homicides were committed by four or more black male offenders during a single act of murder. It should be noted that such multi-offender homicides were not gang related, but were motivated by other causes (i.e., revenge, retaliation, robbery). Although the majority of homicides were committed by lone killers, the research showed there was a significant difference based upon the fact that black males were more likely to have multiple offenders than white males during a homicide event. A Chi-square test confirmed this difference with χ^2(3, N=300) = 9.59, p = .022. Additionally, **Figure 3**, illustrates this validation.

Table 9

Number of Offenders During a Single Homicide Event

Offender		Number of Offenders			
		1 Offender	2 Offenders	3 Offenders	4 Offenders or More
Black Males	Count	123	13	9	5
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	82.0%	8.7%	6.0%	3.3%
	% Within # of Offenders	47.1%	59.1%	75.0%	100%
White Males	Count	138	9	3	0
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	92.0%	6.0%	2.0%	0.0%
	% Within # of Offenders	52.9%	40.9%	25.0%	0.0%
Total	Count	261	22	12	5
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	87.0%	7.3%	4.0%	1.7%

Figure 3

Number of Offenders During a Single Homicide Event
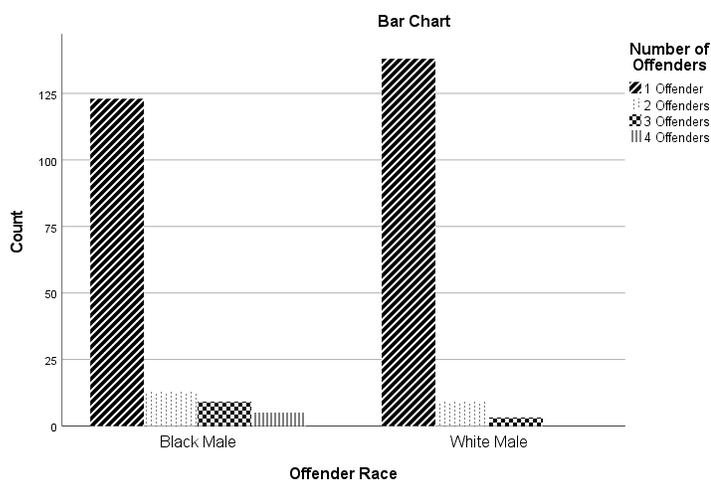
Motivations for Murder

The motivation for humans to behave in particular ways involves a myriad of reasons (Hachtel et al., 2021). The research focused on several overarching motivations – domestic, robbery, sexual and other. The goal was to determine if there was a difference in what motivates black males and white males to murder another person.

The study revealed that black males and white males do, in fact, commit murder for a variety of reasons. A detailed breakdown of their motivations to murder is outlined in **Table 10**. Domestic homicide was the top motivation within the entire 300 case sampling (131 occurrences; 43.7% cases). Robbery followed with 93 incidents that occurred within 31% of the murders, and with the oldest victim noted in proposed study, as an 87-year-old-female. Next, the motivation of "Other" (i.e., retaliation) occurred a total of 43 times out of 300 events. Although the category of Other was not sub-divided, based upon the review of case files, black males' Other motivation (30 cases and 20% of their murder activities), involved revenge and/or retaliation. Whereas, while males' Other motivation was approximately half of the black males (14 cases for 9.3% of their time). And their Other motivation acts were also different compared to black males. White males Other motivation involved almost exclusively a trespassing offense, whereby the white males were compelled to defend their property, even if such act resorted to murder.

Although black and white males' motive to murder spanned across the five categories identified in the proposed study, as illustrated in **Figure 4**, their motivational levels were narrowed to specific events. For example, most black male events that motivated them to murder involved robbery (40.0%), which is almost double the number of robberies committed by white males (22.0%). Whereas, over half of the white males'

motivation to murder was concentrated toward domestic events (51.3%). A total of 131 domestic cases were discovered out of the 300-case sampling. Apart from two cases, which involved homosexual partners, the remainder of the 129 domestic cases involved male killers who murdered female partners, with the rare inclusion of the female's family members murdered during several events as well.

Sexual cases, both acquaintance (23) and stranger (9), involved male offenders sexually assaulting and murdering females, with the youngest victim of the study being a 7-year-old girl. These sexually motivated events also illustrated again that white males' motivations to murder were heavily focused against females (domestic cases and sexual cases). White males were three-times more likely to sexually assault an acquaintance than black males (12.7% compared to 2.7%). And their high motivation to murder involving females continued within sexual stranger attacks. White males' motivation was again three times higher than black males to sexually assault and murder strangers (7 events compared to 2 events).

There is statically a significant difference in the motivation to murder between black male killers and white male killers, as stated $\chi^2(4, \text{N}=300) = 30.25$, $p = .001$. When evaluating homicide cases as a whole, the highest number of incidents involve domestic and robbery among the two offender groups. However, when comparing the two groups, black males have a higher rate of robbery events (i.e., money, objects), while white males have higher levels of domestic and sexual events (i.e., females).

Table 10

Motivations for Murder by Offenders

Offender		Motivations to Murder by Offenders				
		Domestic	Robbery	Sexual (Acquaintance)	Sexual (Stranger)	Other
Black Males	Count	54	60	4	2	30
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	36.0%	40.0%	2.7%	1.3%	20.0%
	% Within Motive to Murder	41.2%	64.5%	17.4%	22.2%	68.2%
White Males	Count	77	33	19	7	14
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	51.3%	22.0%	12.7%	4.7%	9.3%
	% Within Motive to Murder	58.8%	35.5%	82.6%	77.8%	31.8%
Total	Count	131	93	23	9	44
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	43.7%	31.0%	7.7%	3.0%	14.7%
	% Within Motive to Murder	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Figure 4

Motivations for Murder by Offenders
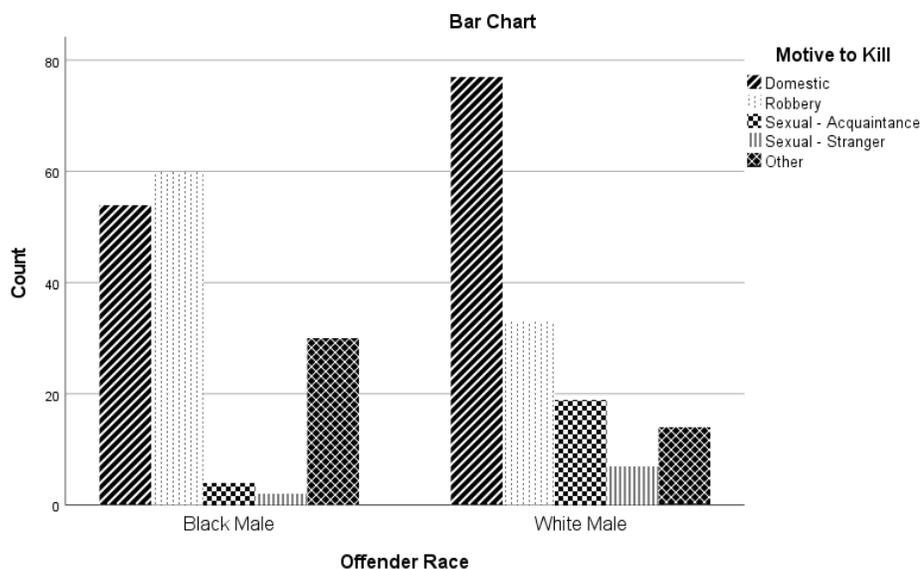
Causes of Death

The current study identified four specific death methods, as well as undetermined, which were circumstances where the victim's death could not be conclusively determined by a medical examiner, as outlined in **Table 11**. Because of the prevalence of gun violence, the question of whether black and male killers' method of death against their victim was firearms, or some other murder means, was explored (Pecino-Latorre et al., 2019).

Based upon statistical testing, guns were utilized in over-half of the 300 murders (57.3%). Guns were the weapon of choice for both offender groups to commit homicide. However, black males (67.3%) were more likely to employ firearms than white males (47.3%). Interestingly, both offender groups also selected blunt force trauma as the second method of homicide (13.3% and 20.0%). For the strangulation death method, white males (24 events) were twice as likely to choose this murder method than black

males (12 events). Knife weapons were almost equally used by both offender groups (15

events and 17 events). The number of undetermined deaths were in contrast of two for

black male offenders and eight for white male offenders. Based upon cases reviews, the

higher undetermined death methods for white males were often the result of these

offenders' actions to conceal their victim's remains. Such behaviors caused a delay in the

discovery of the remains. Hence, decomposition and other factors affected the ability to

determine a cause of death of white male offenders' victims.

Although both offender groups selected guns as their weapon of choice to commit

murder, white males utilized more differing methods of murder than black males. Such

methods included blunt force trauma, strangulation and knives, as well as undetermined

deaths, as illustrated in **Figure 5**.

Table 11

Causes of Death

Offender		Causes of Death				
		Gun	Knife	Blunt Force Trauma	Strangulation	Undetermined
Black Males	Count	101	15	20	12	2
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	67.3%	10.0%	13.3%	8.0%	1.3%
	% Within Causes of Death	58.7%	46.9%	40.0%	33.3%	20.0%
White Males	Count	71	17	30	24	8
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	47.3%	11.3%	20.0%	16.0%	5.3%

Offender		Causes of Death				
		Gun	Knife	Blunt Force Trauma	Strangulation	Undetermined
	% Within Causes of Death	41.3%	53.1%	60.0%	66.7%	80.0%
Total	Count	172	32	50	36	10
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	57.3%	10.7%	16.7%	12.0%	3.3%
	% Within Causes of Death	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Figure 5

Causes of Death
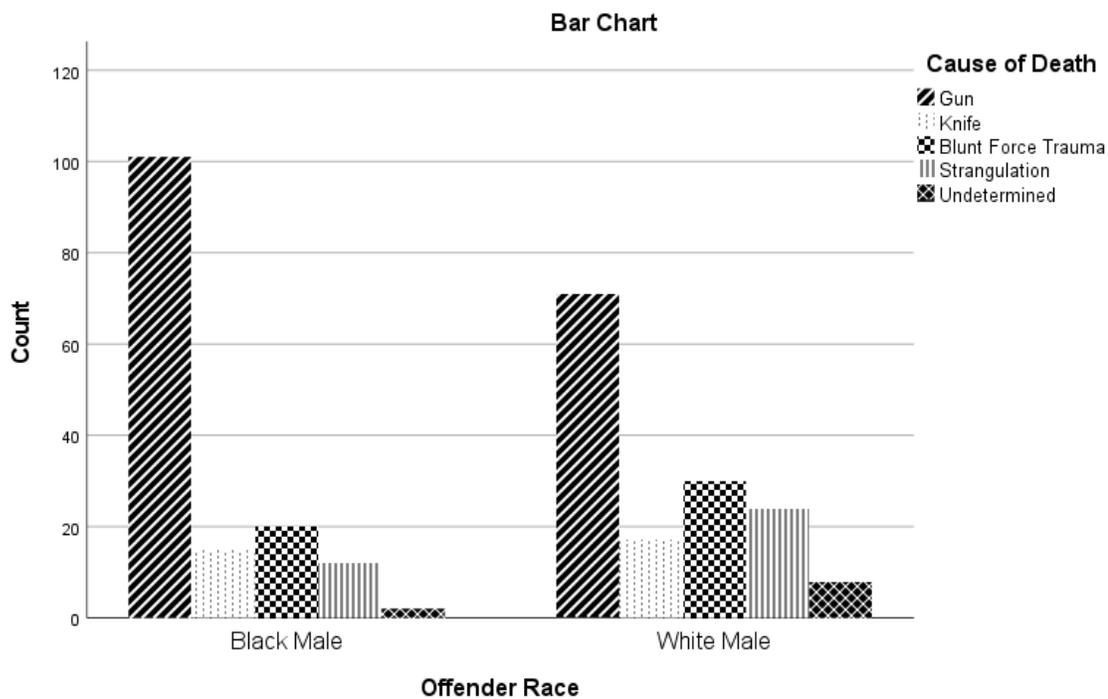
Alteration of a Victim's Body

The study examined not only would an offender murder someone, but did he alter the victim's body in any way (Belghith, et al, 2021; Guggenheimer et al., 2021). Such alteration (also known as murder mutilation), provided in **Table 12**, are actions forced upon a victim's body by an offender. This includes burning (i.e., accelerant, flame), dismemberment (i.e., removal of body parts), chemical (i.e., acid, bleach), and disfigured (i.e., violence against a victim's body to purposefully alter their identity and/or the cutting/mutilation without removing a body part).

In general, in the majority of the 300 homicide cases, 254 of these events had no evidence of any type of body alteration by either offender group. This leans to the evidence that the alteration of a victim's body is actually a rare event, regardless of offender race. However, the research did illustrate, within **Figure 6**, that while males were more likely to alter their victim's body in some way. The white male offenders altered their victim's body in 28 occurrences, while the black males altered 18 victims. Also, white males had a higher occurrence in three (dismembered, chemical, disfigured) of the four methods of alteration. Black males had a higher incident rate of burning their victim's bodies, but only by a slight margin than white males (11 occurrences versus 9 occurrences). As noted above, victims' bodies are less likely to be altered in some way, χ^2(4, N=300) = 6.87, p = .143.

Table 12

Alteration of a Victim's Body

Offender		Alteration of a Victim's Body				
		Burned	Dismembered	Chemical	Disfigured	None
Black Males	Count	11	2	1	4	132
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	7.3%	1.3%	0.7%	2.7%	88.0%
	% Within Body Alteration	55.0%	18.2%	25.0%	36.4%	52.0%
White Males	Count	9	9	3	7	122
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	6.0%	6.0%	2.0%	4.7%	81.3%
	% Within Body Alteration	45.0%	81.8%	75.%	63.6%	48.0%
Total	Count	20	11	4	11	254
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	6.7%	3.7%	1.3%	3.7%	84.7%

Figure 6

Alteration of a Victim's Body
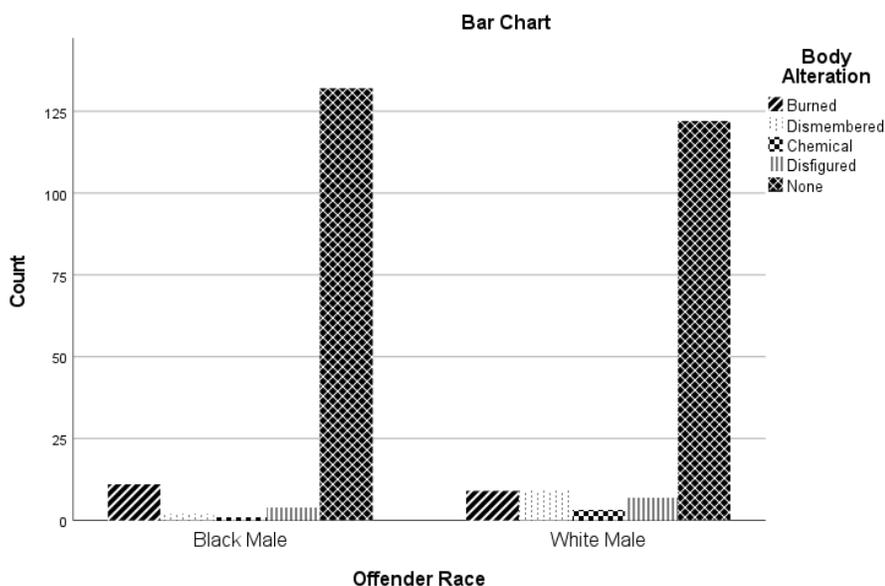
Restraints Used Against a Victim

The primary purpose of restraints is to control an individual (Pecino-Latorre et al., 2022). And within homicide events, an analysis of which restraints was utilized among the two killer groups.

In 85.7% of the cases (254 out of 300), no restraints were used against a homicide victim, as shown in **Table 13**. Rope was the most likely restraint device used (24 events), and was more than double the tool used than the other three restraint devices. Additionally, white males used restraints more often than black males (30 homicides compared to 13 homicides), as demonstrated in **Figure 7**. Based upon the review of the case files, restraints were almost exclusively used during some type of sexually-motivated homicidal event. The results reveal that in most homicide cases, restraints were not used as part of the event. The statistical test confirms the outcome as $\chi^2(4, N=300) = 10.47$, $p = .033$. Black males are less likely to use restraints against their victims, while

white males do, in fact, use restraints more often. Because white males are more likely to

kill for sexual reasons, and because they have a higher use of restraints, the two are likely

related.

Table 13

Restraints Used Against a Victim

Offender		Restraints Used Against a Victim				
		Duct Tape	Rope	Handcuffs	Other	None
Black Males	Count	1	8	0	4	137
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	0.7%	5.3%	0.0%	2.7%	91.3%
	% Within Restraints	14.3%	33.3%	0.0%	44.4%	53.3%
White Males	Count	6	16	3	5	120
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	4.0%	10.7%	2.0%	3.3%	80.0%
	% Within Restraints	85.7%	66.7%	100%	55.6%	46.7%
Total	Count	7	24	3	9	257
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	2.3%	8.0%	1.0%	3.0%	85.7%
	% Within Restraints	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 13

Restraints Used Against a Victim

Offender		Restraints Used Against a Victim				
		Duct Tape	Rope	Handcuffs	Other	None
Black Males	Count	1	8	0	4	137
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	0.7%	5.3%	0.0%	2.7%	91.3%
	% Within Restraints	14.3%	33.3%	0.0%	44.4%	53.3%
White Males	Count	6	16	3	5	120
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	4.0%	10.7%	2.0%	3.3%	80.0%
	% Within Restraints	85.7%	66.7%	100%	55.6%	46.7%
Total	Count	7	24	3	9	257
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	2.3%	8.0%	1.0%	3.0%	85.7%
	% Within Restraints	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Figure 7

Restraints Used Against a Victim
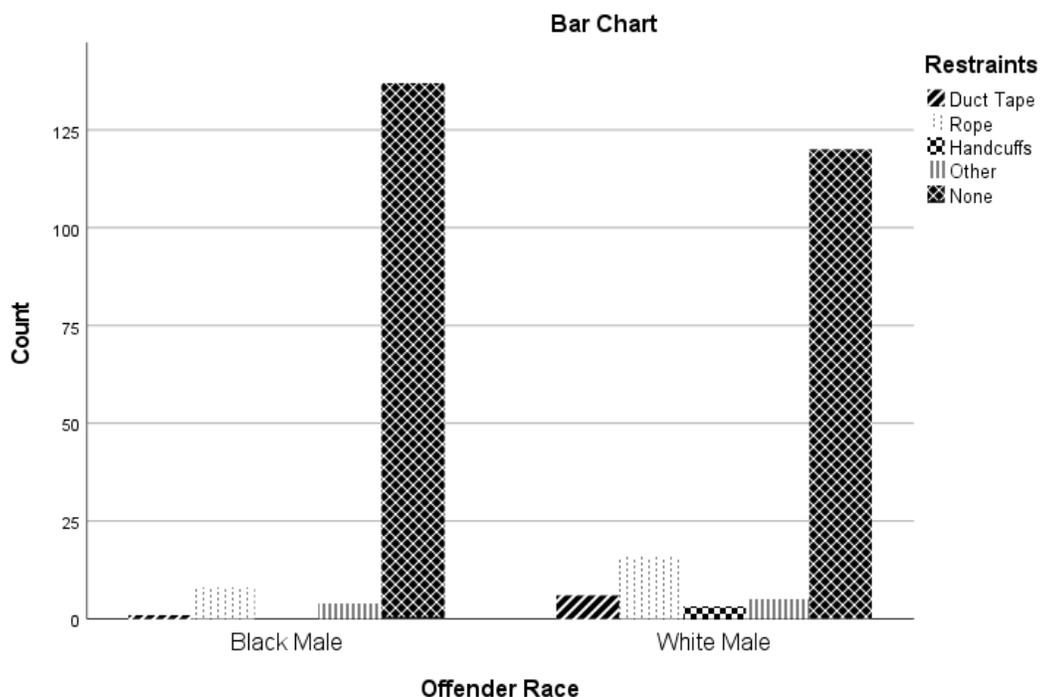
Concealment of Victim's Remains

Concealment actions by offenders are employed in an effort to delay the discovery of victim's remains and/or the destruction of relevant evidence (DeMatteis et al., 2021). When an offender murders another person, the current research investigated whether concealment acts were deployed, and, if so, were black males or white males more likely to institute such actions.

Concealment acts for many homicide events (85.3%) were not implemented by an offender, regardless of race. However, white males utilized concealment methods overwhelming more than black males. This is observed in **Table 14**, whereby white males concealed 47 of their 101 victims' remains in some manner, compared to black males who only concealed 9 of their 141 victims' remains. And such concealment

actions, illustrated in **Figure 8**, showcase that white males deploy all five means of

concealment identified in the current study. Notably, the results reveal that black males

implemented concealment acts that required less physically demanding and time-

consuming behaviors, by simply "covering" the victim with a tarp/blanket, trash, or

debris. Whereas white males utilized a variety of concealment methods as well as more

aggressive concealment acts such as burying their victims in clandestine graves. As

stated, there is a remarkable difference in concealment occasions and methods among

black and white offenders, which is statically confirmed as χ^2(5, N=300) = 38.04, $p =$

.001

Table 14

Concealment of Victim's Remains

Offender		Concealment of Victim's Remains					
		Tarp/Blanket	Trash	Debris	Buried	Container	None
Black Males	Count	6	1	2	0	0	141
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	4.0%	0.7%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	94.0%
	% Within Concealment	42.9%	25.0%	10.5%	0.0%	0.0%	57.8%
White Males	Count	8	3	17	16	3	103
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	5.3%	2.0%	11.3%	10.7%	2.0%	68.7%
	% Within Concealment	57.1%	75.0%	89.5%	100%	100%	42.2%
Total	Count	14	4	19	16	3	244

Offender		Concealment of Victim's Remains					
		Tarp/Blanket	Trash	Debris	Buried	Container	None
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	4.7%	1.3%	6.3%	5.3%	1.0%	81.3%
	% Within Concealment	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Figure 8

Concealment of Victim's Remains
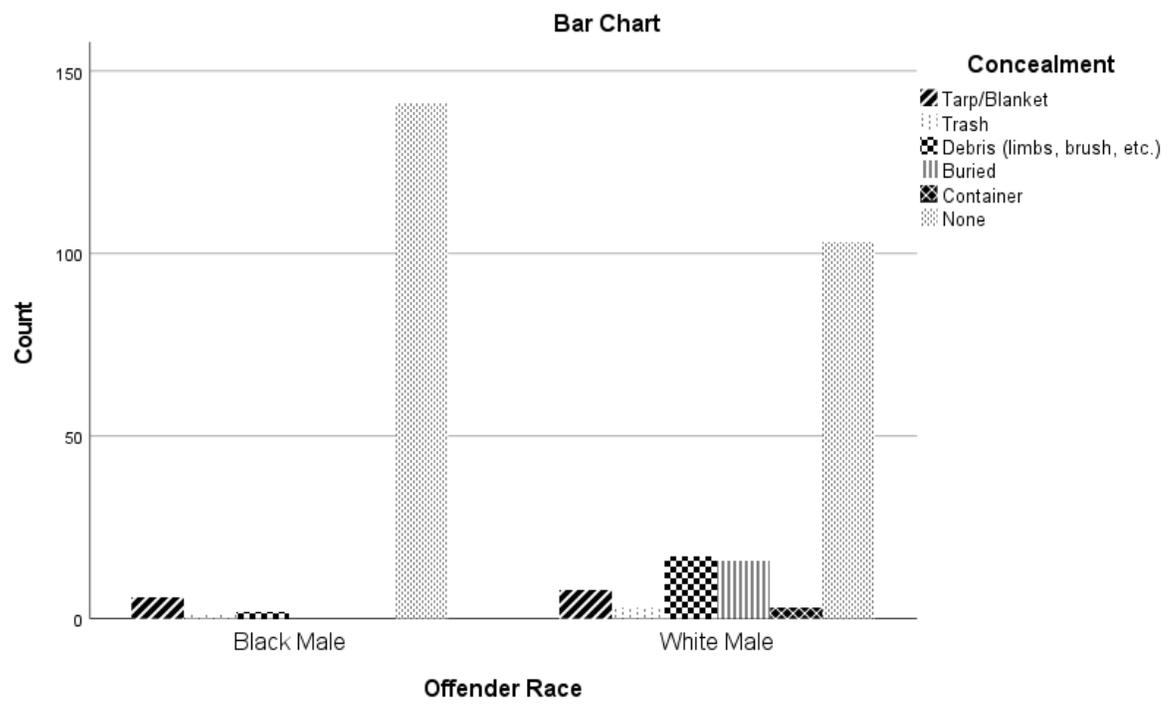
Status of Victim's Clothing

During a homicidal event, the status of the victim's clothing (Avdija et al., 2022), when the body is recovered, was researched for the current study. Specifically, if clothing was removed, was such clothing removed above or below the victim's waist, or was the victim fully clothed or completely nude upon discovery?

The notable results of victims' clothing status were that 256 cases out of 300

cases (85.3%), the victims were found fully clothed, as shown in **Table 15**. Additionally,

100% of the 38 nude victims found were victims of a sexually-motivated homicide, based

upon the review of the case files. **Figure 9** demonstrates that white males were also more

than double the amount of time to remove the victim's clothing compared to black males

(31events versus 13 events). Additionally, white males were more likely to remove all the

victim's clothing and leave their victim fully nude than black males. Again, there is likely

an interrelation with the sexual nature of the crime among white males. This is

statistically validated as $\chi^2(3, N=300) = 10.00$, $p = .019$.

Table 15

Status of Victim's Clothing

Offender		Status of Victim's Clothing			
		Fully Clothed	Waist Up Clothed	Waist Down Clothing	Nude
Black Males	Count	137	0	2	11
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	91.3%	0.0%	1.3%	7.3%
	% Within Clothing	53.5%	0.0%	50.0%	28.9%
White Males	Count	119	2	2	27
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	79.3%	1.3%	1.3%	18.0%
	% Within Clothing	46.5%	100%	50.0%	71.1%
Total	Count	256	2	4	38
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	85.3%	0.7%	1.3%	12.7%

Figure 9

Status of Victim's Clothing
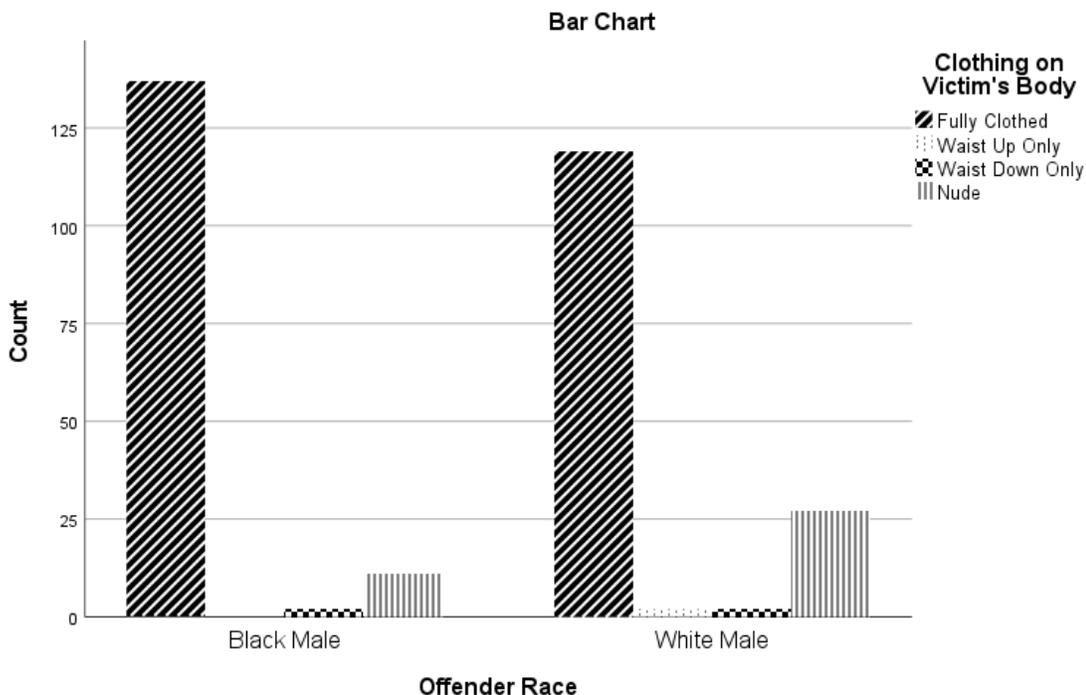
Disposal Location of Victim's Remains

All homicide events require an offender to choose a disposal location of their

victim's remains (Chai et al., 2021; Häkkänen et al., 2007), whether it is planned or by

forced means based upon the circumstances of the event, or physical abilities of the

offender.

Overall, there were some similarities and differences among the black and white

male offenders, and their victim disposal location of choice. When evaluating building

disposal sites, victims found inside buildings, without exception, were also murdered at

this disposal location. This is noted as black males killed and disposed 65 of their victims

inside buildings, while white males did the same with 59 of their victims. Another similar

disposal location was (water) wells. Both offender groups disposed two of their victims

inside wells. Additionally, black males placed four of their victims in a body of water (i.e., creek, river, pond, lake), and white males also used water locations for six of their victims. Such similarities are outlined in **Table 16**. The differences between the two offender groups were distinct. For example, blacks overwhelming selected "urban type" locations more often than white males. This is noted by 83 victims found outdoors within an urban environment (i.e., front yard, driveway, alley way, roadway), two victims were placed into dumpsters that were located at urban settings (i.e., commercial business), and 13 victims were found inside vehicles, which were parked at an urban location (i.e., city parking lot, roadway). The most difference among these killer groups was observed at "outside-woods" settings. White males placed 50 of their victims' remains in a wooded environment, while black males only placed one victim in a wooded environment. However, it should be noted, in this particular case, the victim's remains were driven down a road surrounded by woods, and the body was simply "dumped" at the edge of the roadway. This case was identified as an outside-woods category since it was more descriptive of the disposal site than an outside-urban environment. Nearly exclusively, white males took some measure to "hide" their victims inside a wooded environment by walking or carrying the victim deep into the woods, and often concealing their victim's remains in some manner. These details were discovered during the review of the case files. Although not a part of the current research – offender residence location versus body disposal site location – the differences in body disposal locations among the offender groups may be demonstrative of the type of "area" these offenders live in (i.e., urban versus rural).

In summary, black and white males did select a variety of disposal locations, and there is a remarkable difference in the offenders' disposal location of choice, which is shown in **Figure 10**, and confirmed statistically as $\chi^2(6, N=300) = 66.75, p = .001$

Table 16

Disposal Locations of Victim's Remains

Offender		Disposal Locations of Victim's Remains						
		Building	Vehicle	Outside (Urban)	Outside (Woods)	Water	Dumpster	Well
Black Males	Count	65	13	63	1	4	2	2
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	43.3%	8.7%	42.0%	0.7%	2.7%	1.3%	1.3%
	% Within Disposal	52.4%	68.4%	70.0%	2.0%	40.0%	100%	50.0%
White Males	Count	59	6	27	50	6	0	2
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	39.3%	4.0%	18.0%	33.3%	4.0%	0.0%	1.3%
	% Within Disposal	47.6%	31.6%	30.0%	98.0%	40.0%	0.0%	50.0%
Total	Count	124	19	90	51	10	2	4
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	41.3%	6.3%	30.0%	17.0%	3.3%	0.7%	1.3%
	% Within Disposal	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Figure 10

Disposal Locations of Victim's Remains

Movement of Victim's Remains

As stated earlier, offenders must select a disposal location for their victim's remains. And in the current study, research was conducted to determine if the disposal location required the offender to transport the victim's remains to a disposal site (Ryan et al., 2020). And if so, which offender group was more likely to transport their victims' remains.

The statistical test results of $\chi^2(1, N=300) = 22.80$, $p = .001$, confirm that white males were more likely to transport their victim's remains away from the crime scene than black males. As outlined in **Table 17**, victims were transported almost the double number of times by white males than black males (60 events compared to 23 events). This is further confirmed that black males leaving a victim's body at the crime scene on

127 occasions, compared to white males for 90 occasions. Such outcomes are

demonstrated in **Figure 11**.

Table 17

Movement of Victim's Remains

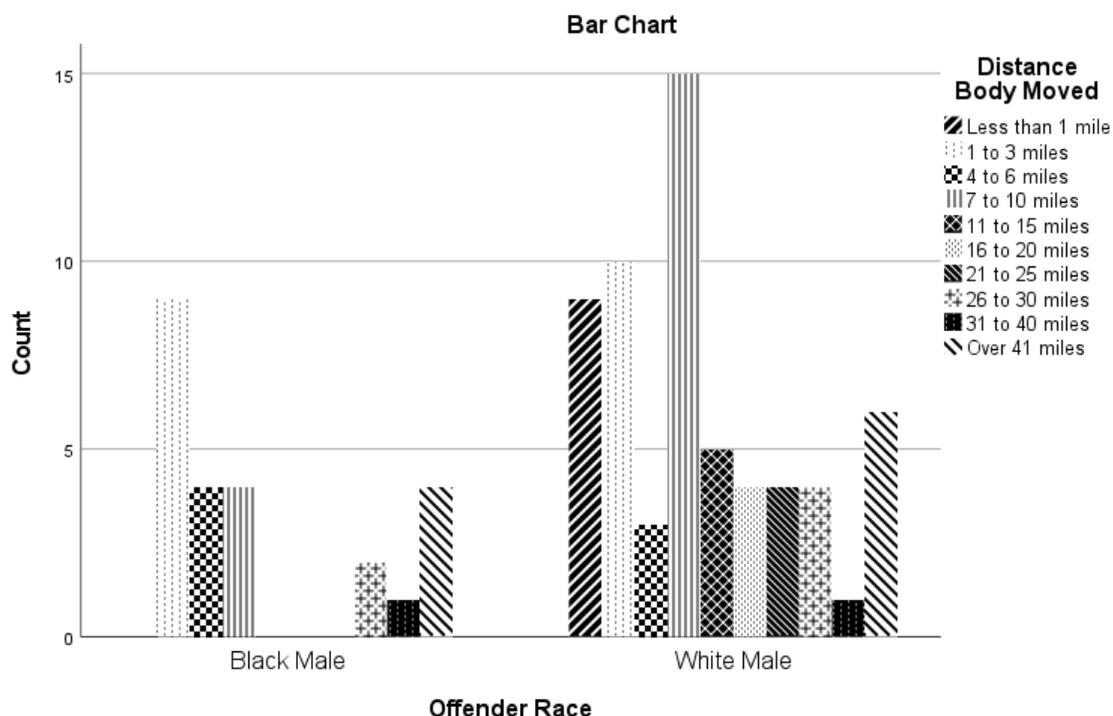| Offender		Movement of Victim's Remains	
		Body Left at Crime Scene	Body Moved Away from Crime Scene
Black Males	Count	127	23
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	84.7%	15.3%
	% Within Movement	58.5%	27.7%
White Males	Count	90	60
(n=150)	% Within Offender Race	60.0%	40.0%
	% Within Movement	41.5%	72.3%
Total	Count	67	83
(n=300)	% Within Offender Race	72.3%	27.7%
	% Within Movement	100%	100%

Figure 11

Movement of Victim's Remains
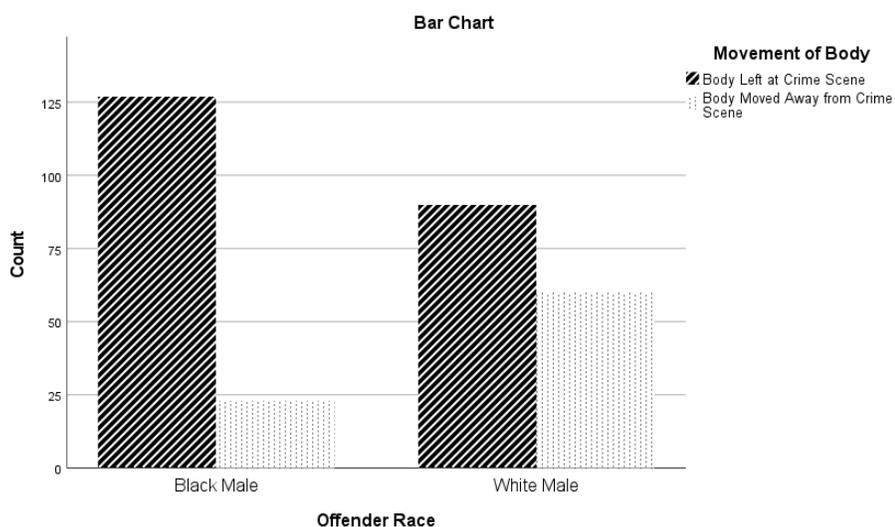
Distance Victim's Body Moved Away from Crime Scene

The research investigated whether there was a difference in which offender group transports their victim, if so, how many miles did such offenders travel to dispose of their victim's remains (Berezowski et al., 2021).

As detailed in **Table 18**, white males transported their victims over half the time (55.04%), while black males only transported a small percentage of their victims (6.25%). Although the transport behavior among the two offender groups was noteworthy, the test results confirmed the actual transport distances were statistically insignificant, χ^2(9, N=300) = 16.69, p = .054. This is further confirmed in **Figure 12**, that demonstrates that both offender groups transported their victims some distances – ranging from less than one mile to over 41 miles. Black males transported their victims most often away from the crime scene within one to three miles, whereas white males most often placed their victims' remains seven to ten miles away from the crime scene.

The distance variable was further analyzed, based upon an offender's motive, to demonstrate the distance an offender transported their victim's remains away from the crime. These distances are shown in **Tables 18(a)** and **18(b)**. Victims murdered due to a domestic motive (33 events), were transported more often than other victims. Additionally, victims were transported a distance of one to three miles and seven to ten miles more often than other distances (19 events). As a reminder, the distances are based upon the most direct route from where the crime (i.e., murder, rape, kidnapping) occurred to where the offender disposed of the victim's remains.

Figure 12

Distance Victim's Body Moved from Crime Scene Based Upon Motive

Table 18(a)

Distance Victim's Body Moved from Crime Scene Based Upon Motive

Offender	Distance Moved from Crime Scene to Disposal Site				
	Less than 1 mile	1 to 3 miles	4 to 6 miles	7 to 10 miles	11 to 15 miles
Domestic	4 (44.4%)	7 (36.8%)	2 (28.6%)	5 (26.3%)	2 (40.0%)
Robbery	1 (11.1%)	4 (21.1%)	2 (28.6%)	6 (26.3%)	1 (20.0%
Sexual (Acquaintance)	1 (11.1%)	6 (31.6%)	2 (28.6%)	3 (15.8%)	2 (40.0%)
Sexual (Stranger)	3 (39.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (5.3%)	0 (0.0%)
*Other	0 (0.0%)	2 (10.5%	2 (10.5%)	4 (21.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Total	9 (100%)	19 (100%)	7 (100%)	19 (100%)	5 (100%)

*Other – Motive to kill that includes revenge and/or retaliation.

Table 18(b)

Distance Victim's Body Moved from Crime Scene Based Upon Motive

Offender	Distance Moved from Crime Scene to Disposal Site					
	16 to 20 miles	21 to 25 miles	26 to 30 miles	31 to 40 miles	Over 41 miles	**Total
Domestic	2 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (66.7%)	1 (50.0%)	6 (80.0%)	33
Robbery	0 (0.0%)	3 (75.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (10.0%	18
Sexual (Acquaintance)	1 (25.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (16.7%)	1 (50.0%)	1 (10.0%)	18
Sexual (Stranger)	1 (25.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (16.7%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (10.0%)	7
*Other	0 (0.0%)	1 (10.5%	0 (10.5%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (10.0%)	9
Total	4 (100%)	4 (100%)	6 (100%)	2 (100%)	5 (100%)	85

*Other – Motive to kill that includes revenge and/or retaliation.

**Total –Total number of victims moved based upon Tables 12(a) and 12(b).

Summary

The results clearly demonstrate that victims' race and movement of body are the two most predictive variables in determining offender race. The outcomes also demonstrate that there are more differences than similarities when comparing black male offenders against white male offenders. Out of the 11 variables, nine were found to be significant with two results that were insignificant. However, these two results still revealed some differences between the two offender groups.

In summary, the purpose of this search was to compare murderers and to determine the similarities and differences between two offender groups. And the results are conclusive – the differences far outweigh the similarities.

CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION

Overview

This study was implemented to examine the mindset and actions of murderers from two different race groups in order to highlight the differences and similarities of these killers. The findings of such research were informative, which provides additional resources to assist law enforcement agencies, and other personnel associated with psychology and criminal justice, in order to more clearly understand homicidal events among black and white male offenders.

Summary of Findings

The results clearly reveal there are more differences than similarities when comparing black male offenders against white male offenders. However, there were two variables that were consistent between the two groups. Upon analyzing the 300 homicide cases as a whole, two variables were identified as strong predictors of identifying a particular offender group. The first variable, Victim Race, was the highest predictor, followed by the variable, Movement of Body. Overwhelmingly, offenders selected most of their victims within their same race group. For example, white males almost exclusively selected Caucasian victims than any other race. This was also consistent with black males who selected most, but not all, of their victims within an African-American group. In relation to the Movement of Body variable, most often when an African-American victim was left at the crime scene, a black male offender committed the crime. The results were not as clear among white male offenders, but the analysis still leaned heavily to predicting that Caucasian victims who were moved from the crime scene were most often the result of a white male murderer.

Other Notable Variables

Though not significant contributors to the regression equation, findings suggest that other variables examined in this study may be informative to law enforcement when investigating homicides. The following findings from this investigation were notable.

Black offenders' victims of choice (by gender) were black males, with a mixture of race among female victims. Whereas, white males selected more female victims than male victims, with all female victims within the white race group. Although the majority of homicides were committed by lone killers, within both offender groups, homicides committed by multiple black offenders during one homicide event occurred more often than multiple white killers.

An extraordinary difference exposed was the motivations of these killer groups. The motivation of black males was primarily driven by robbery (i.e., money, objects). The white males were overwhelmingly motived to kill due to female-related situations (i.e., domestic, sexual).

Both groups of killers' method of death was the use of firearms against their victims, although white males also employed blunt force trauma and strangulation more often than black males. Both offender groups used knives in equal measures, which resulted in the killing of their victims. White males were also more likely to alter a victim's remains in some manner more than black males, as well as more likely to use restraints. White males overwhelming implemented some type of concealment to conceal their victim's remains more than black males. In a similar fashion, both offender groups kept their victim's fully clothed, except in sexually-motivated homicides where the victim's clothing was removed, which occurred more often with white males.

Another remarkable difference was the disposal locations among the two offender groups. Black males exclusively selected urban settings, while white males preferred wooded settings. Both offenders did transport their victims some distances away from the crime scene, but white males were five times more likely to move their victim away from the crime scene than black males.

A significant difference between the two offender groups were their "Other" motivation to kill. Black males' "Other" motive was related specifically to revenge and/or retaliation against their victims. Whereas, white males' "Other" motive exclusively involved the white male killer's perception the victim trespassed upon his property.

Based upon the results of the variables tested between the two killer groups, there is conclusive evidence that these offenders had opposing killer descriptors. Black male offenders' actions prominently lean this group to being "instrumental" and "disorganized" killers. By comparison, white male offenders are obviously more inclined to be "expressive" and "organized" killers.

Discussion of Findings

The most significant takeaway from proposed study is how the results revealed what type of killer each offender group identifies within two types of categories – "expressive" and "instrumental." (Almond et al., 2021; Beauregard & Field, 2008; Greenall & Wright, 2020; Guggenheimer et al., 2021; Rainbow et al., 2022; Sea & Beauregard, 2018). As suggested by Ferguson and Pooley (2019), offenders who demonstrate high emotions of anger, hatred, and failure during a homicide event, fall within the category of being an expressive type killer. Based upon the results of proposed

study, white male offenders' homicidal events are predominately highly charged with emotions toward their victims, and as such, identify as expressive killers. Additionally, the results also reveal that white male offenders are more likely to transport their victim's remains away from the crime scene, as well as illustrate elements of effort to conceal the victim's body, or body parts. Based upon these attributes, white male killers would be identified as organized killer types based upon the FBI's organized-disorganized categories (Beauregard & Field, 2008; Yaksic et al., 2021; Zappalà et al., 2022). To further confirm white male offenders are organized killers, organized offender types were more likely to use restraints (Crabbé et al., 2008), which was illustrated in the current study since white male killers were more than double the number of events to use restraints than black male killers.

By comparison, black male offenders' behaviors show a remarkable difference from white male offenders. For example, black male homicidal motives lean heavily toward the desire for objects (i.e., money, drugs). With robbery as the primary motive for murder, such offenders fall within the instrumental killer type, which is described in detail by research conducted by Almond et al. (2021). Also, black male offenders are less likely to move their victim away from the crime scene, and show little or no effort in concealing the victim's remains. Such actions are demonstrative of disorganized killers (Schug, 2021).

During the data collection process for the proposed study, several revelations were consistent with previous research. The current study confirmed that the majority of homicides are conducted by non-serial killers as previously presented by Rye and Angel (2019). Within the current research, it was discovered that both offender groups

demonstrated qualities of being non-serial killers, as described by Velopulos et al. (2019). The killers of interest for the current study selected victims who were almost exclusively someone close to them (i.e., intimate partner such as a husband, boyfriend, wife, girlfriend, business partner). Additionally, the majority of the homicide events for the current study (87%) involved one killer, which is also shown to be prevalent with previous research (Hachtel et al., 2021; Rye & Angel, 2019; Sea et al., 2018). However, as noted with higher occurrences of black male offenders, multiple offenders with multiple concurrent homicide victims do occur (Higgs et al., 2019). As confirmed by Almond et al., 2021 the majority of homicides involve male offenders against female victims, which were the offenders' victims of choice in many of the homicide events for the current study.

Previous research highlighted various methods of death, which was also presented for the offenders of interest in this research. Firearms (i.e., guns) was the weapon of choice for the current study (57.3%), which is consistent with similar research by Riddell et al., 2018 and Semenza et al., 2022. Their studies highlighted the prevalence of firearms employed, which caused the death of other persons. Keys and Ross (2022) focused on blunt force trauma death method, which was the second method killing for black males and white males. Both offenders also selected asphyxia (Wahlsten and Eriksson, 2020) to murder the victim; although, white males were twice as likely to strangle their victim than black males.

The current study revealed special conditions when a victim's body is altered, which was also highlighted by previous research. Dismemberment, as investigated by Guggenheimer et al., 2021 and Zaitus, 2022, revealed that such dismemberment was

subjected toward a victim close the offender. This was consistent with the current study, in that all of the dismemberments were based upon a domestic type homicidal event. Secondly, Belghith et al. (2021) looked into the action of burning a victim's remains, which again highlighted that behaviors were predominately forced upon a victim close to the offender. This too was consistent with the current research; whereby the two victims burned (by black male offenders), were in a domestic relationship with the offender.

Homicidal events, by their very nature, are often fraught with some level of evil. Such observation is highlighted by a wealth of previous research, as well as dominated in the current study. During the data collection process, the interactions with various personnel (i.e., patrol officers, investigators, prosecutors), it was noted that their career choices as well as their perseverance to investigate homicidal cases to conclusion, is a testament to their fight against the evil of this world. It is important to conduct research related to the current study, as well as for individuals to pursue evilness because if we do nothing against the constructs of evil, then evil will prevail (*King James Bible*, 1769/2018, Psalm 24:11-12). Also, as Christians, we should turn away from evil, pursue good deeds, and seek out peace and harmony (*King James Bible*, 1769/2018, Psalm 34:14). And even when such peace and harmony may elude individuals, may the knowledge given to these individuals that those who do evil against them shall be punished by the wrath of God (*King James Bible*, 1769/2018, Romans 12:19).

In summary, the findings of this research clearly demonstrate that individuals commit homicide, regardless of their race. Additionally, offenders from two different race groups do, in fact, behave more differently, than in similar ways. Such actions as their victims of choice, motivations, and what they do with their victim's remains show

remarkable opposing behaviors. And that having a better understanding of these offenders' actions, such knowledge will assist throughout the investigative stages (Braga et al., 2019).

Implications

The findings of the current study clearly show some common ground among the two killers, as well as a measurement of differences. Such conclusions impact several communities. Firstly, the research provides an insight to the psychological dynamics of homicide, which will be useful within two areas of psychology – consulting and forensics. Secondly, supplementing this research with previous offender/victim research will aid in the profiling of offenders as well as the analysis of victimology sciences. Lastly, homicide is a criminal act, which evokes a need for the truth, unbiased answers, firm accountability and fair justice. Therefore, the results of this research will offer assistance for investigative techniques (Braga et al., 2019).

This study is expected to have practical implications that is expected to be beneficial to criminal investigators. For example, the location of where a victim's body is found, along with the review of these findings can narrow the potential pool of offenders, and possibly narrow such suspects to a particular race group. Specifically, if a black female is found deceased inside her residence or found inside a dumpster, based upon the results of this study, there is a high probability the offender is a black male. By comparison, if the offender is a white male, and the victim's body is not found in or around her residence, with this study's results, it will help direct the investigation into areas where there is an increased likelihood of locating the victim's remains. Specifically, if the white male offender owns property or has been known to visit hunting property,

approximately 7 to 10 miles from the victim's residence, these areas could be considered high probable areas of interest for investigators to explore.

Limitations

Although it was anticipated that the most significant limitation would be access to case file, this limitation was deemed immaterial. The researcher has had long-standing relationships with law enforcement agencies; therefore, access to files were overwhelmingly positive. There were still come cases that were not included due to their confidentiality status; thus, some limitations were still present, but not at the level as initially anticipated.

Distance measurements were calculated in (U.S.) miles, and based upon the most direct (without stopping at other locations), and shortest route (as per online mapping software) from the murder site to the body disposal site. However, the current study did not take into account that the offender may had diverted his route for various reasons (i.e., dispose of evidence, develop an alibi, pick up other items to render his homicide event). Therefore, there is a limitation in knowing the exact distance, with or without stops, the offender may have taken.

Although in some cases, it is obvious the murder site and the body disposal site are the same, or different locations, in some situations it is unclear. For example, in cold cases, it can be very difficult, if not impossible, to know whether or not the murder and the body location are one in the same. There is a limitation to the absolutes in such cases unless there is an eye-witness account or a confession by the killer.

A limitation that was discovered during the review of case files was the exact means of victim restraint. In various cases, there was some evidence of restraints

observed upon the discovery of the body and/or during the autopsy; however, tangible restraints were no longer present or located. Therefore, such restraint details were listed as the most probable item/device used, and/or based upon a medical examiner's theory or suggestion.

Recommendations for Future Research

Recommendations for future research include more definitive research related to evidence, the various crime scenes that may be established, and how many different crime scenes that were created by the offender for each homicide. Specifically, it is suggested that more studies on what offenders do with the evidence (i.e., burn, throw away), and how/why they select the supplemental crime locations is warranted.

This study focused on two specific demographic groups - adult black and white killers, and their victims. With the diversity of demographics within the United States (i.e., Latino, Asian, etc.), future research that compares other race groups and their actions/behaviors with homicidal events should be considered.

Although some cases offered details about the actions of an offender after they committed a murder, research is needed to reveal what lifestyle changes the offender made after the homicide (i.e., moved away, changed name, changed jobs, more drugs, divorce). In addition, since the current research focused on non-serial killers, and with the vast amount of research regarding serial killers, comparing serial killers and non-serial killers, and their similarities and differences during, before and after the full spectrum of a homicidal crime event is deserving.

The parameters of this research were narrowed to solved homicide cases, where the victim's remains were found, and an individual(s) was charged with their murder.

However, such research did not explore how the victim remains were found, and what evidence lead to the conviction of the victim's killer. Compelling future research would be to analyze how a victim's body was found (i.e., family, neighbor, investigator, search dogs, hunter, etc.), and how and which evidence was utilized to charge the offender (i.e., cell phone, DNA, blood, confession, witnesses, cameras, etc.).

Summary

Homicide is a complicated event, concerning many facets of a human society. Such deviant behavior impacts the friends and family of the homicide victim, the law enforcement officers and investigative personnel, the officials charged with prosecuting such offenders, the psychologists assessing dangerous and/or vulnerable patients, and even, at times, whole communities and mass media outlets.

The key results of the current study highlight that humans will commit murder for a variety of reasons, and through a multitude of death methods. The research also opens the window into the understanding that homicide is a universal behavior, regardless of race. And although murder is universal, offenders within certain race groups, do, in fact, show a certain predictability throughout a homicidal event.

Revealing the similarities and differences of two different races of killers has great implications. Initially, offenders often deceive, minimize, and even lie when confronted about their actions to avoid detection and/or to hide their crimes. Knowing where to look and what to look for, based upon like-minded offenders, will greatly enhance the investigation through its lengthy process – from identifying the perpetrator to prosecuting him in the court of law. Additionally, homicide is part of human behavior, and gaining knowledge about this type of criminal conduct, can be a springboard for

developing and/or enhancing additional psychological elements to gain a better of understanding of why homicide happens, in order to possibly develop ways to prevent it.

      In summary, homicide is an unfortunate part of life. And although human beings are essentially the same, research does showcase those individuals from separate race groups, can and do, behave in particular ways, sometimes the same, but often times differently, when such individuals commit the murder of another. Understanding the mindset and motives of these murderers and their victims of choice is important to various aspects of our society – families, communities, investigations, and prosecutors.

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APPENDIX A: LETTER TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Tracy "Trace" Sargent
Address
Address
*Phone * Email*

Date

Chief or Sheriff
Agency Name
Address
Address

RE: Homicide Cases

Dear Chief or Sheriff,

My name is Tracy "Trace" Sargent. I am a law enforcement officer (retired). I am reaching out to you in regard to your homicide cases. For the last 28 years, I have specialized in searching for, and recovering missing persons, in which many of them were victims of homicide. I have assisted numerous local agencies, the GBI, and the FBI over the years.

I am completing my PhD in Psychology, with a specialty in Forensic Psychology. My dissertation will be related to homicide cases. In order to complete my dissertation, I will need to review actual homicide cases. I have reached out to various local agencies, who have given me approval to review their case files for this purpose. And to ensure this dissertation includes comprehensive data related to homicide, I am respectfully requesting your approval for me to review your solved homicide case files. Full confidentiality will be provided and no identification of any persons, agencies or locations will be shared. When I complete my dissertation, I will be happy to provide my research results with you and any of your personnel to help solve future homicide cases.

I have attached my credentials for your information and review. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tracy "Trace" Sargent

\tss
Attachment

APPENDIX B: EXCEL SPREADSHEET #1 - CASE DETAILS

Administration Information

ID	Case #	Summary	Circumstances	Date Last Seen/Heard	Date Reported Missing	Date Found

Suspect Information

Name	Race	Gender	Age	Relationship to One Another	Involvement in Case / Charges	Other

Victim Information

Name	Race	Gender	Age	Other

Race	Gender	Age

Summary of Crime

Motive	Kill Method	Alteration	Concealment	Body Location	Location Descriptors	Body Transported Y/N	Distance Away	Misc.

APPENDIX C: EXCEL SPREADSHEET#2 - DATA ANALYSIS

	Motive	Cause of Death	Body Alteration	Restraints	Concealment	Clothing	Location of Body
2	1-Domestic	1-Gun	1-Burned	1-Duct Tape	1-Tarp/Blanket	1-Fully clothed	1-Building
3	2-Robbery	2-Knife	2-Dismembered	2-Rope	2-Trash	2-Waist up clothed	2-Vehicle
4	3-Sexual - Stranger	3-Blunt Force Trauma	3-Chemical	3-Handcuffs	3-Debris	3-Waist down clothed	3-Outside-Urban
5	4-Sexual - Acquaintances	4-Stragulation	4-Disfigured	4-Shoestring	4-Buried	4-Nude	4-Outside-Woods
6	5 - Other	5-Undetermined	5-None	5-Other	5-Container		5-Water
7				6-None	6-None		6-Dumpster
8							7-Well
9							
10							
11							
12							
13	1	4	3	2	3	4	4
14	2	1	5	6	6	1	2
15	1	1	5	6	6	4	1
16	3	5	5	6	6	4	4
17	2	1	5	5	6	1	1
18	1	4	1	2	1	1	6
19	2	3	5	2	6	1	1