Serial Killers: Murders, Motives, And Maps

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Introduction

This poster investigates the different variables that serial killers and their victims possess. The data being used includes statistics on killers and victims based in the United States and internationally, see [1, 2].

Worldwide Serial Killer Count

Number of Serial Killers
1000
100
10
1

Countries in gray have no available data.

The data displays some of the factors that can play into someone being or becoming a serial killer. There are also statistics that show the elements that could possibly make someone a victim.

Materials and Methods

★ **Data Collection**
  ○ We collected our sources from Kaggle and Radford University Serial Killer Statistics
  ○ Chose data that gave detailed info on victims, location, race, and education, etc.
  ○ Focused on both U.S. and International data for consistency and depth

★ **Data Preparation**
  ○ Installed various packages including tidyverse, us_map, and map
  ○ Copied raw statistics into excel spreadsheets, then exported as .csv files
  ○ Removed special characters (e.g. commas, questions marks) that caused processing errors
 ○ Standardized columns and cleaned incomplete or mislabeled entries

★ **Visual & Analysis**
  ○ Created various geographical maps to observe trends
 ○ Graphed killing methods, race, and gender across decades

★ **Challenges & Adjustments**
  ○ Data collected from the worldwide serial count had inconsistent labels and some missing entries from database
  ○ Cleaned and restructured data multiple times for proper plotting
  ○ Adjusted our visuals (theme, color, border) to keep it clear and consistent

Results

Top 5 Motives of Serial Killers
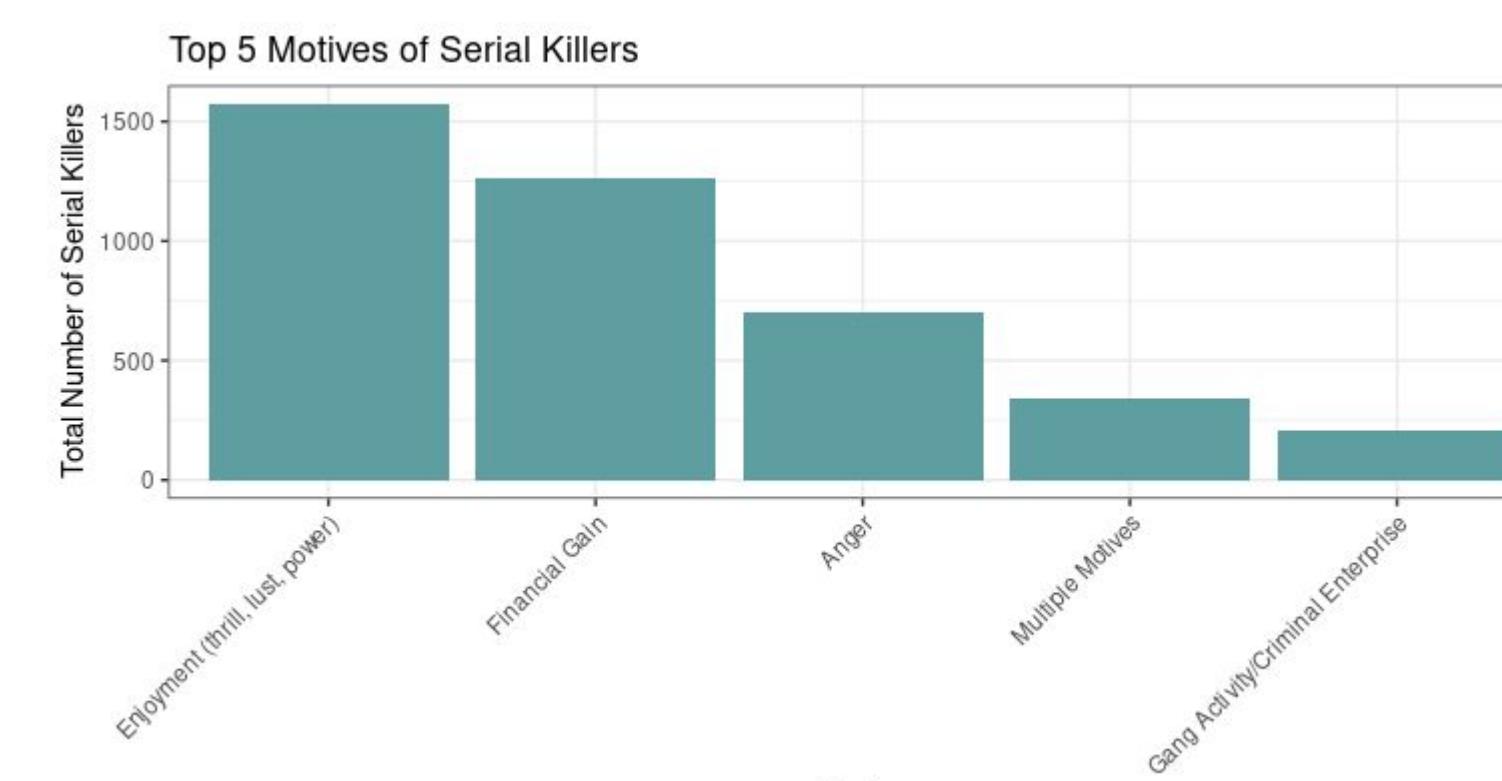
Motive

Motive	Total.Count	US	Int
Enjoyment (thrill, lust, power)	1573	958	615
Financial Gain	1263	909	354
Anger	699	545	154
Multiple Motives	344	296	48
Gang Activity/Criminal Enterprise	206	190	16
Avoid Arrest	49	42	7
Cult	40	22	18
Convenience	48	19	29
Hallucinations	25	20	5
Attention	21	15	6

Total.Count = US + Int

Top 5 Methods of Killing in the US

Method

| Method	Total.Count
Shot	4,259
Strangled	2,153
Stabbed	1,471
Bludgeoned	910
Poisoned	714
Axed	145
Drowned	94
Burned	63
Smothered	61
Run over	19
Drug overdose	16
Neglect & Abuse	10
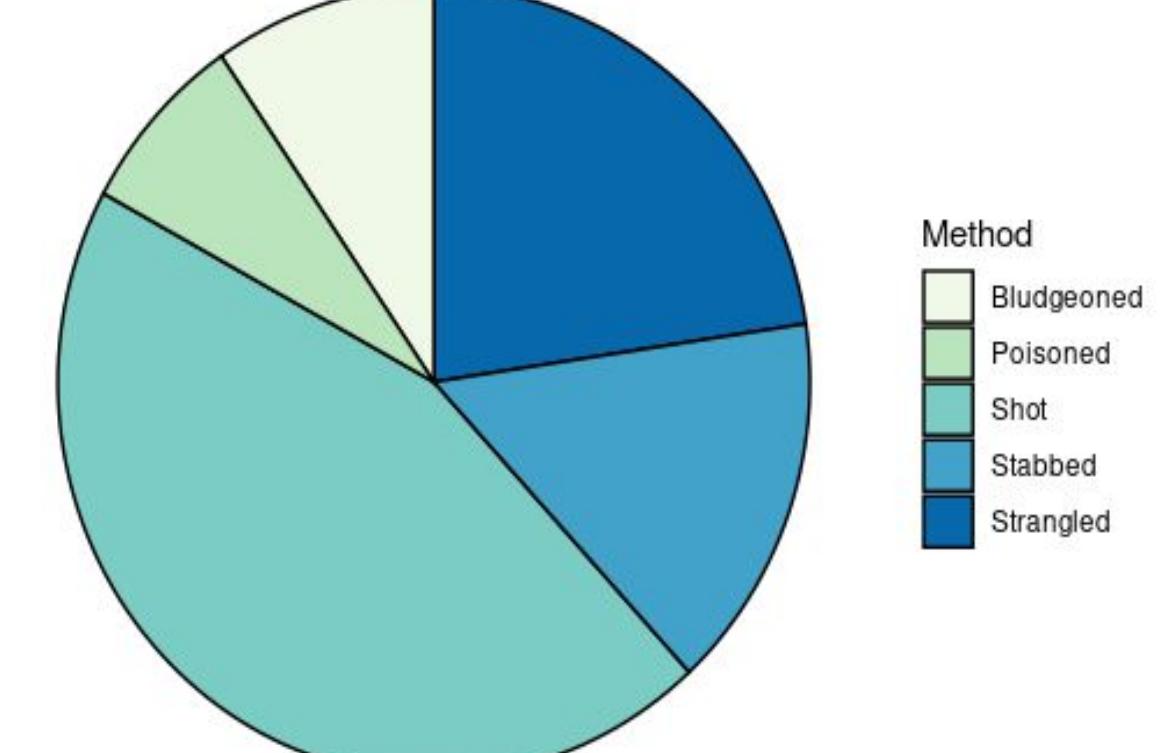
Education Obtained by Serial Killers
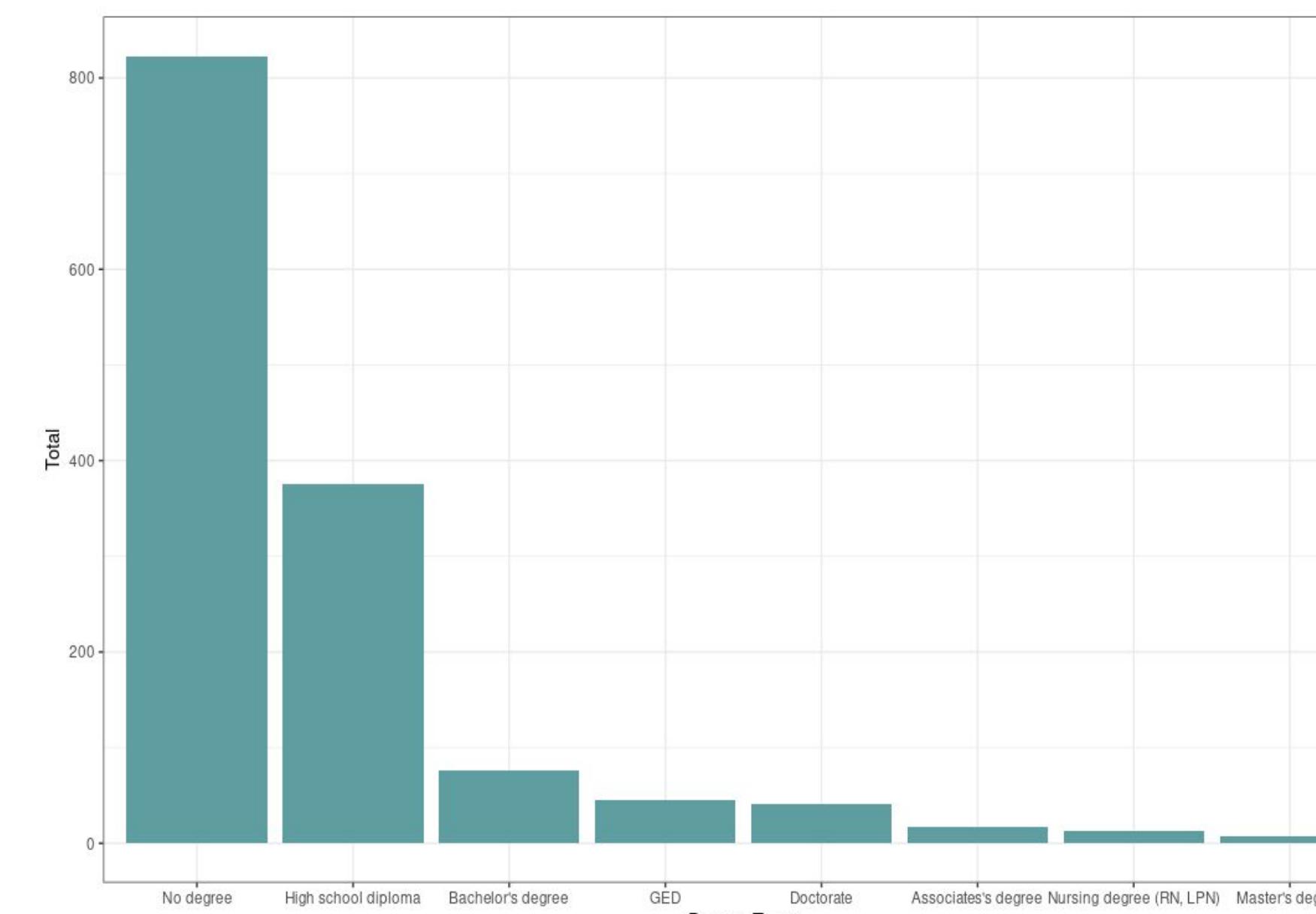
More Visuals

State-by-State Breakdown of Victims

Victims
1,600
1,200
800
400
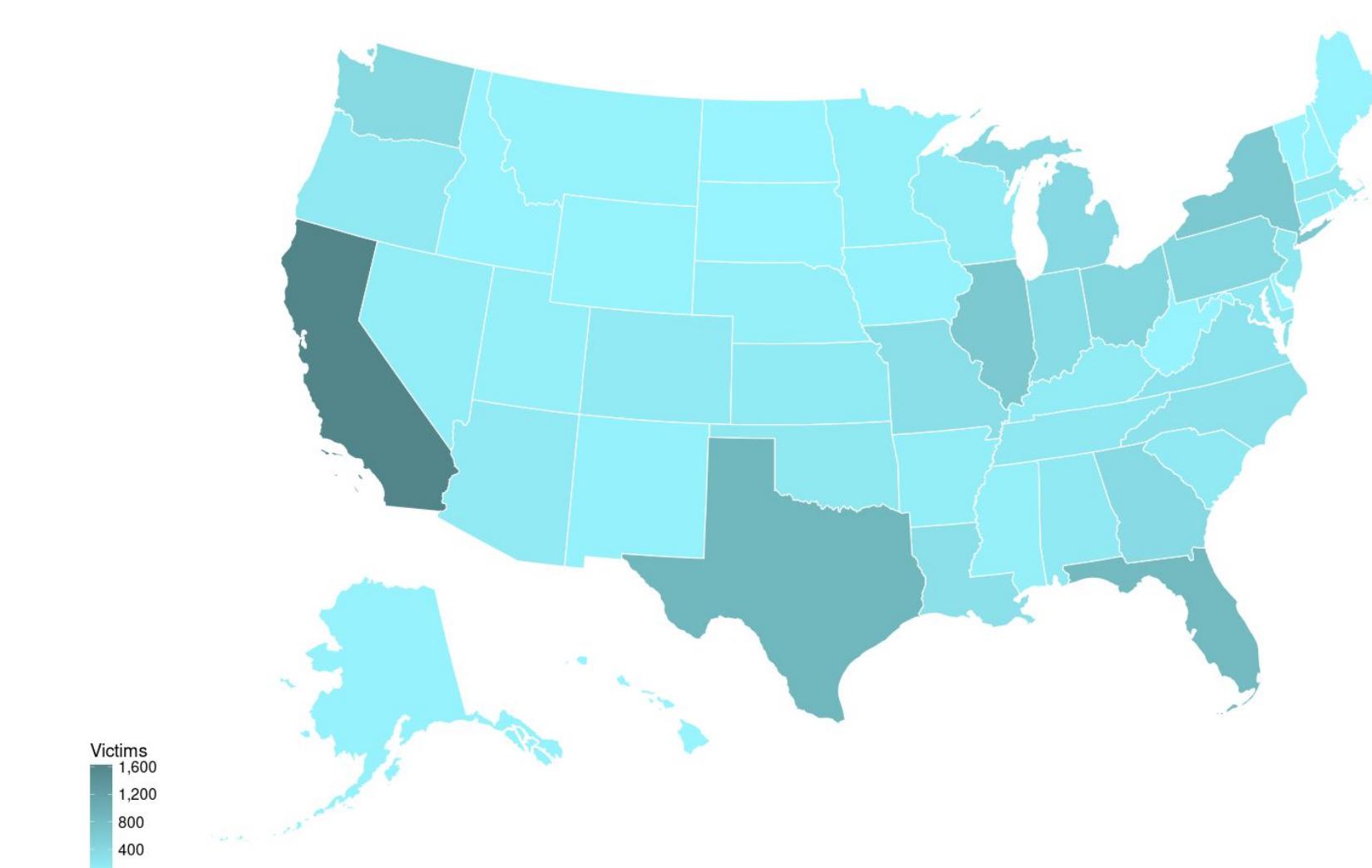
Serial Killers by Race Over the Decades

Race
Asian
Black
Hispanic
NativeAmerican
White
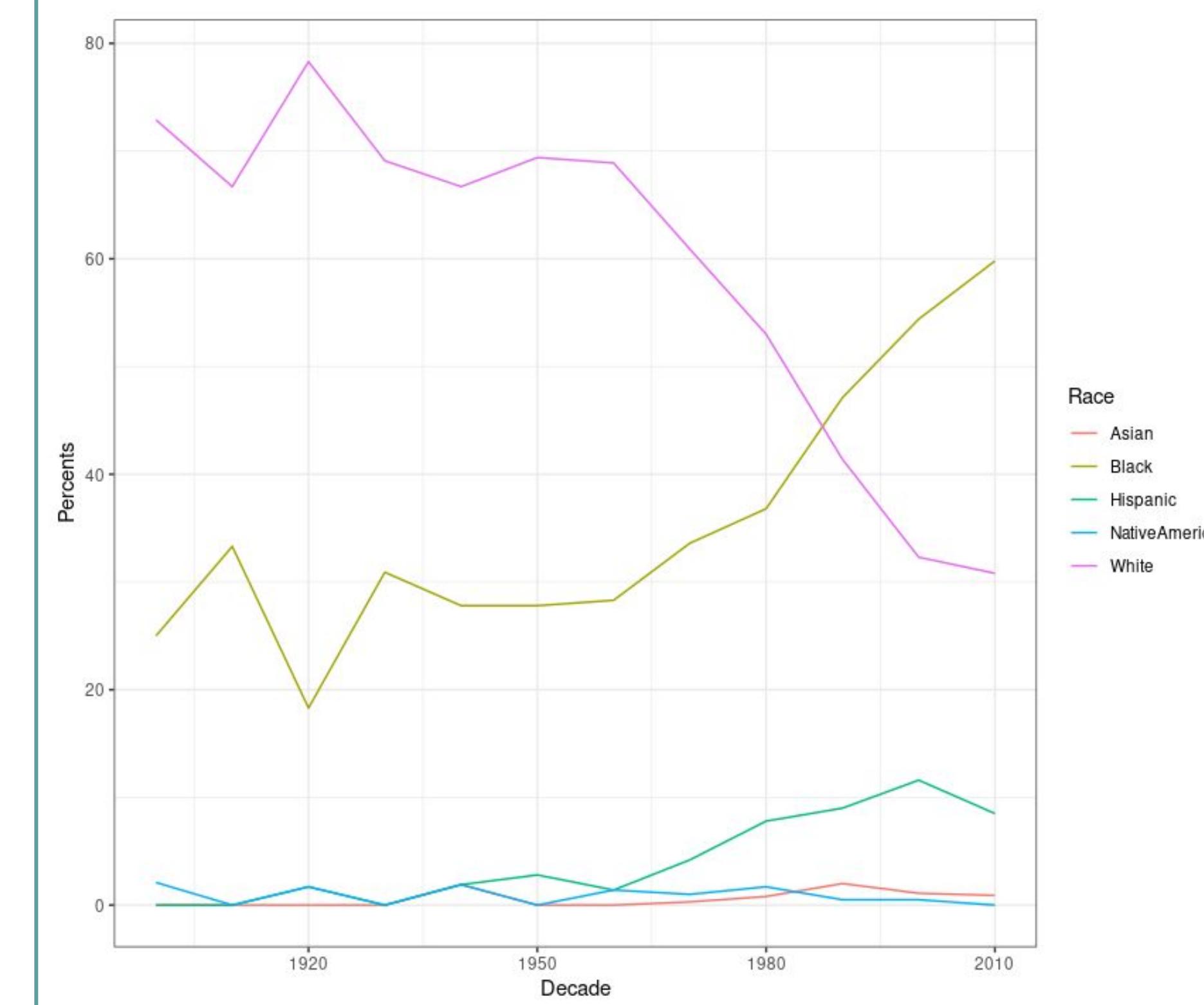
Serial Killers by Sex Over the Decades

Sex
Men
Women
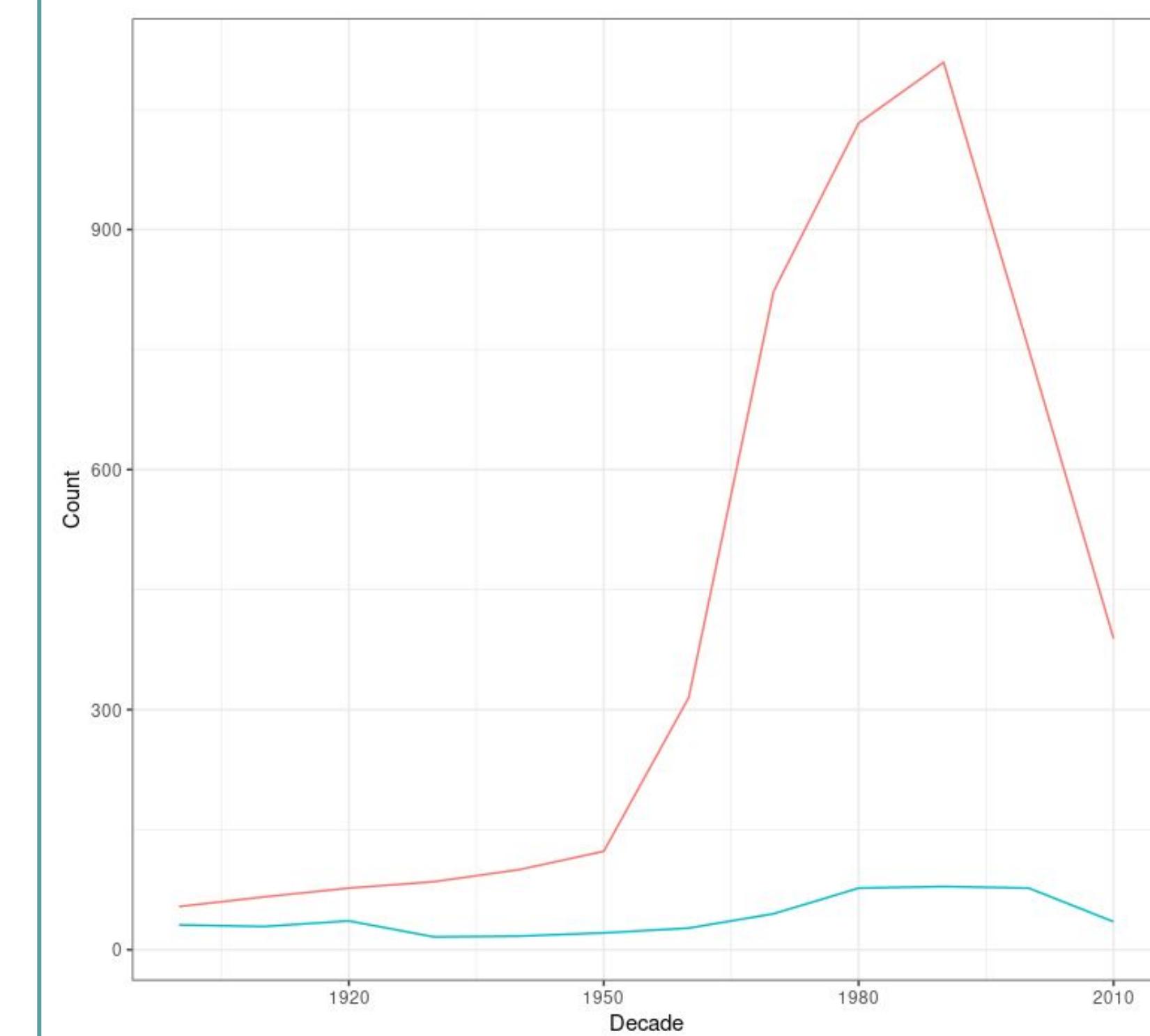
Total Victims by Age
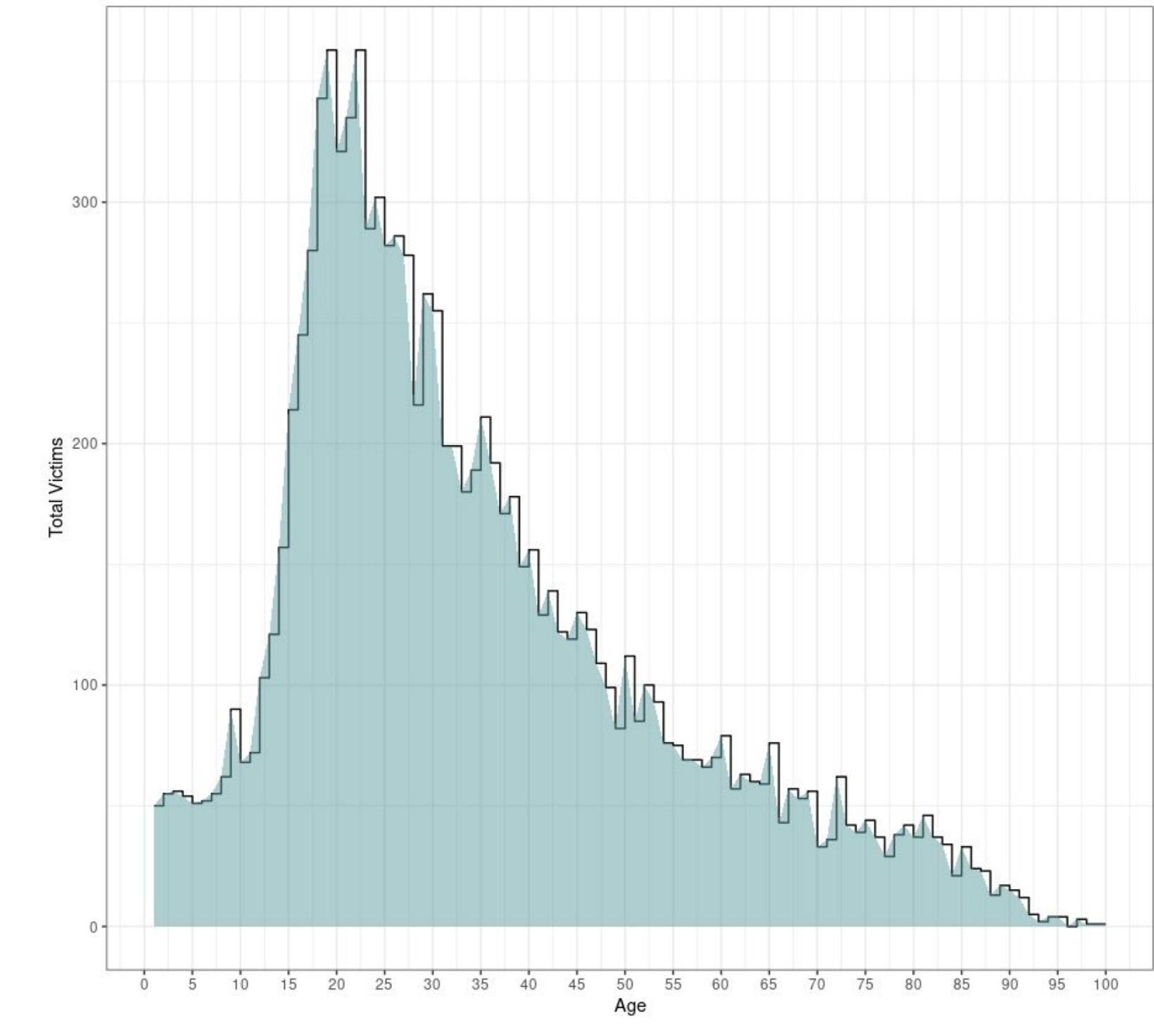
Conclusion

What did we learn?
● Geographical and personal serial killer characteristics
● Characteristics of victims

What does this reveal?
● We should be more aware of dangerous individuals with extreme mental health cases, as well as dangerous locations/ environments.
● There should be a increase in awareness about extreme mental health cases in order to reduce them.

What do we wish to research in the future?
● Correlation between serial killers and victims across U.S states and internationally.
● Correlation between government policies and legal systems that may influence the distribution of serial killers across the U.S and internationally.

References

1. Aamodt, M. G., Leary, T., & Senthil Girimurugan. (2023, August 21). *Radford/FGCU Annual Report on Serial Killer Statistics: 2023*. ResearchGate; unknown. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/373258117_RadfordFGCU_Annual_Report_on_Serial_Killer_Statistics_2023
2. World Population Review. (2023). *Countries with the Most Serial Killers 2022*. Worldpopulationreview.com. https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-with-the-most-serial-killers

Acknowledgments