

Title: Serial Killers: Naughty by Nature or Nurture?

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In modern society, the media has created hype around serial killers that both fascinates and horrifies the public. A serial killer is a person who has committed multiple murders over a span of time as opposed to mass murderers who kill multiple victims in a single event and spree killers who kill three or more victims within the same event but at different locations (Yasik, 2018). Understanding the reasons why a serial killer might commit such heinous actions is often the aspect that fascinates the public. Therefore, the purpose of this literature review is to examine both hereditary and environmental factors contributing to the development of a serial killer. Additionally, research was examined on the influence of interactions in early childhood. Specifically, this review will examine whether the early childhood experience may have altered the brain chemistry of a potential killer, rather than the killer being predestined at birth. Conclusive studies (e.g. Mitchell & Aabodt, 2005; Yasik, 2018) have found that head injuries may influence the future behavior of serial killers, and that the effects of abuse may have altered the killer's brain chemistry. The effects of isolation and other physical and mental disorders induced by a lack of parent-child attachments may predispose a person to serial killer tendencies. In conclusion, most cases have shown that a person's biological makeup and the way he or she has been raised heavily affects one's predisposition to become a killer, with an emphasis being placed on the childhood and adolescent years.

References

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