•What does "demographics of victimization" mean? How can location relate to the demographics of victimization?

Demographics of victimization focuses on lifestyle choices of a victim, their place regarding where they live, race, sex, and other variables that may make them more prone to victimization. Location relates to demographics of victimization by the amount of crime committed in an area. Although offenses such as drug dealing or substance abuse occur in every neighborhood including affluent sections of a city, because police appropriate more resources and manpower toward urban neighborhoods, the notion of demographics of victimization is much higher in these neighborhoods. Therefore, it is shown on crime statistics that is statistically speaking. A person would have a higher probability of being a victim of crime in these neighborhoods as police have responded to or arrested more people for criminal behavior in these neighborhoods, but this is because they appropriate more resources and manpower toward arresting people from these areas.

•Do serial killers with different typologies use the same methods for victim selection?

Serial killers with different typologies can employ the same methods for victim selection as most serial killers use charisma, isolation, and opportunity to capture their unsuspecting victims. Therefore, a serial killer such as Ted Bundy, who was considered handsome by women and affable, could presumably use the same victim selection as someone such as John Wayne Gacy, who was also considered polite and a pillar of his community. They both methodically used their charm and seemingly regular demeanor to choose their victims by selecting those whom they felt would fall for their facade.

•How are the methods used for victim selection by serial killers similar to or different from the methods used by a mass murderer?

The methods are entirely different as serial killers choose their victims based upon detailed and well-thought-out planning, and they also have specific types of victims that they want to kill, rape, and engage in other sadistic acts with. In contrast, mass murderers choose whoever is in the vicinity during their killing sprees, even if they originally had targets whom they had grievances against. The mass murderer will kill anyone in their vicinity during their spree, but they also target specific people or groups. The serial killer will attempt only to kill the specific victim typology that defines their identity as a murderer, and they even use specific modus operandi to separate their crimes further from others. The type of victim is another calling card for the serial killer.

•Consider any of these killers: Aileen Wuornos, Ted Bundy, or Wayne Williams. Discuss how their choice of victims related to their typology. If you were an investigator working on this case, how would you use the victims' characteristics to assist in the investigation?

About Aileen Wuornos, her victim choice was by her typology as a woman serial killer. She chose “johns” who would seek her out for sex after soliciting her for prostitution. She would then catch them at a vulnerable time and execute them. Her victims fit into her typology as a woman who had been abused in life, sold sex, and alleged she had been previously raped by Johns in the past. As an investigator, it would have been prudent to identify any prostitutes in the area if the link had been made that the killer was killing suspected Johns. Investigators could have set up a dragnet and posed as potential Johns to lure the killer into their trap and catch the suspect.

Reference

National Musem of Crime and Punishment (2015) *TYPES OF SERIAL KILLERS*

Retrieved from <http://www.crimemuseum.org/crime-library/types-of-serial-killers>