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Research articles contain several standard parts and it is necessary to understand the distinctive elements in order to accurately evaluate the research being presented. The various parts may be presented in a slightly different arrangement or be titled differently but the essential parts of the paper will be the same.

Title and Author information-
the title provides the main idea of the article and authors are listed, along with their affiliation

Serial Murderers' Spatial Decisions: Factors that Influence Crime Location Choice

BRENT SNOOK^{1*}, RICHARD M. CULLEN¹, ANDREAS MOKROS² and STEPHAN HARBORT³

¹Memorial University of Newfoundland, St John's, NL, Canada

²The University of Regensburg, Regensburg, Germany

³Police Headquarters of the City of Duesseldorf, Germany

Abstract-a paragraph that summarizes the article

Abstract

The outcome of German serial murderer spatial decision making was measured as the straight-line distance (km) between murderer home locations and each crime location (i.e. body recovery location). Geographic and series development data, as well as information on age, intelligence, motive, marital status, employment status, and mode of transportation of 53 German serial murderers was collected from police and prosecution service files

Introduction (may not always be labeled)- provides background, states the purpose of the research, may discuss previous research leading up to the study, and may state a hypothesis or question

INTRODUCTION

A limited amount of information is available regarding serial murderers' spatial decisions. Existing research on this topic has been based primarily on American serial murderers, and only a few studies have quantified the distance between where serial murderers live and where they offend (Canter, Missen, & Hodge, 2000; Godwin & Canter, 1997; Hickey, 1991; Lundrigan & Canter, 2001; Rossmo, 2000). Moreover, most of these studies did not

Method or Methodology- describes how the research was conducted, with details about the study sample, assessment measures and procedure

METHOD

Sample and data collection

The fourth author collected a sample of 59 male serial murderer cases from the Federal Republic of Germany. All information pertaining to the sample was obtained directly from the police and prosecution service files of the original inquiries and from the court verdicts. Initially included in the sample were all offenders who 'committed alone or with

Results or Findings-a

summary of the findings presented in text or table format, may have individual sections with specific information

RESULTS

Figure 4 shows the distribution of home-to-crime distances. The distribution was negatively skewed, whereby victims' were usually recovered a short distance from the mur-

Mode of transportation	<i>n</i>	Percentage (%)
Car	84	34.0
Walk	59	23.9
Public transportation	44	17.8
Bicycle	17	6.9
Railway/walk	11	4.5

Discussion, Comments or

Conclusion-explains how the results answered the research question and may suggest future areas for research

DISCUSSION

In a majority of German serial murderer cases in the past three-quarters of a century, victims' bodies were recovered near their murderer's home location. Godwin and Canter (1997) reasoned that the spatial pattern of body recovery locations may reflect an attempt to dissociate evidence from the offender's residence. Based on this reasoning, body recov-

References-a listing of works cited by the author(s)

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