

Sexual offenders class 1

*Conditions which contribute to sexual
offending
(common behaviors & characteristics)*



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KATEDRA PRAWA KARNEGO WYKONAWCZEGO

Introduction

I. Characteristics of the classes :

- ▶ class 24 hours - 12 meetings (2 classes per each Thursday) **Student consultation hours** on Thursdays between 13:00 am and 14:00 pm
- ▶ If you have any questions - please feel free to reach out to me and we can discuss that during classes, via e-mail or on MS Teams!
- ▶ **Grading system:** attendance + presentation during classes.

Introduction

II. Attendance/Participation and Absences :

- ▶ Student participation is required for a grade - possible 1 absence without explanation (according to Dean's recommendation we have hybrid form- so online attendance counts like normal)
- ▶ Students may be excused because of health problems
- ▶ Students should communicate planned absences to the course coordinator
- excused absences are exceptions to compulsory attendance.

Main questions

- ▶ What are the common characteristics of sexual offenders and sexual offences?
- ▶ What are the sexual offenses and punishments for sexual crimes and what treatment is available for sexual offenders?
- ▶ What can be done to help prevent someone from becoming a sexual offender?
- ▶ How can we describe sexual offenders (profile characteristics)?

Introduction

Sex offenders and sex crimes provoke a great deal of anxiety in our society, and over the past decade, lawmakers have passed a variety of social policies designed to protect the public from sexual victimization.

- ▶ An effective treatment system for sexual offenders has been one of the greatest challenges for almost every nation for many years.
- ▶ Ever since the 1980s it was widely known that the use of standard procedures toward sexual offenders doesn't give expected results.
- ▶ A search for methods is extremely difficult, especially for individuals with sexual preference disorders.

Introduction

- ▶ **A sex offender** (*sexual offender, sex abuser, or sexual abuser*) is a person who has committed a sex crime.

Sex offenders force another person to engage in sexual contact against their will. Such force may be physical, psychological, or both

- ▶ Some of the serious crimes which usually result in a mandatory sex-offender classification are sexual assault, child sexual abuse, incest, rape and sexual imposition.

Introduction

Sex offenses can include:

- ▶ Rape - **threatening force** to prompt sexual contact;
 - ▶ Having sex with someone who is impaired/ disabled enough not to be able to consent
 - ▶ Underage sexual activity with minors - child molesters, paedophilia
 - ▶ Can also include crimes related to the production and consumption of certain types of pornography - child pornography
 - ▶ Crime of non contact (exhibitionism)
 - ▶ **Leveraging positions of authority** for sexual contact, especially for teachers against their students, boss against workers.
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- ▶ Sometimes, [false accusations](#) of sex offenses is made by ex-lovers or spouses in child custody disputes. It's selfish motivation, and the accuser often doesn't consider how far such allegations might go. [False accusations - are also a crime.](#)

Polish Penal Code

Chapter XXV „Crimes against sexual freedom and decency/ morality”

- ▶ Sexual murder / homicide - is one of murder types - it's not strict sexual offense but it's connected to sexual activity. Murder is one of crimes against human life.

Introduction

- ▶ **Antisocial orientation** refers to **antisocial personality, antisocial traits** (such as impulsivity, substance abuse, unemployment), and a history of rule violation.
- ▶ There is a strong association between rule violation and impulsive, reckless behavior, such as excessive drinking, frequent moves, fights, and unsafe work practices

Antisocial orientation facilitates sexual offending because individuals will not commit sexual crimes unless they are:

- a) willing to hurt others,
- b) can convince themselves that they are not harming their victims, or
- c) feel unable to stop themselves.

A variety of factors are associated with the development of sexual offending

Childhood- backgrounds

- ▶ Family environments provide the breeding grounds for sexual offending:

The potential sexual offender in childhood develops problems in social functioning (e.g., mistrust, hostility, and insecure attachment) that, in turn, are associated with social rejection, loneliness, negative peer associations and delinquent behavior.

MacDonald Triad:

The MacDonald triad posits that **animal cruelty, fire setting, and bed wetting** in childhood is indicative of later aggressive and violent behavior in adults.

The Macdonald triad refers to the idea that this three signs can indicate whether someone will grow up to be a serial killer or other kind of violent criminal:

1. being cruel or abusive to animals, especially pets (animal = „practice” for killing people)
2. setting fire to objects or otherwise committing minor acts of arson (pyromania often sexually stimulating activity for future killers)
3. regulary wetting the bed, persistent after the age of five

Childhood- backgrounds

When the murders with sexual abuse history are compared with murders without sexual abusing histories, the following family backgrounds variables may have influence:

- (1) the emotional-social quality of the offender' s relationship with his mother; (not normal relationship - poor relationship, parent who humiliate child/who doesn't support, laughs at child)
- (2) the emotional-social quality of the offender' s relationship with his father;
- (3) the dominant parent; (the way the parent discipline the child, peer pressure)
- (4) the socioeconomic status/ level of home (marginal / submarginal, sometimes on welfare). Sexually abused murderers were more likely to report that their home was marginal or submarginal, sometimes on welfare)
- (5) family structure (two parents present/ reconstructed family - one parent plus step parent)

Childhood- killers

Three theories of compulsion (need to kill) based on childhood

- (1) **Theory one:** The compulsion (need to kill) may be the result of trauma to the brain
- (2) **Theory two:** The compulsion to kill is genetic. A mutation in DNA happens that puts people on homicidal path.
- (3) **Theory three:** The compulsion is result of something dreadful that happened to the child in the childhood.

Commonality: all theories believe that killers (especially serial killers) begin to show signs in childhood.

Children who in an adult life turn out to be sexual offender/ sexual killer may have also demonstrated abnormal sexual behavior or hyper sexuality.

Common Behaviors and Characteristics of Sexual Offenders

- ▶ Most sexual offenders think about their crimes ahead of time (*they are planning, they are manipulating*)
- ▶ Sexual assault is rarely an impulsive act although sometimes sex offenders take advantage of opportunity to offend. They usually employ careful planning and preliminary steps that, if interrupted, can prevent an actual crime
- ▶ Offenders most often know their victims and use these relationships to set up situations in which a chosen victim can be sexually assaulted.
- ▶ Sexual assaults can involve physical violence, threats, or overpowering.
- ▶ In other cases victims go along with the assaults because they are afraid to resist or to try to get away.

Common Behaviors and Characteristics of Sexual Offenders

- ▶ There is no such thing as a “typical” sexual offender.
- ▶ However, many tend to be: [manipulative](#), [deceptive](#), and [secretive](#).
- ▶ Sex offenders come from all backgrounds, ages, income levels, and professions.



Common Behaviors and Characteristics of Sexual Offenders

Planning and manipulating relationships over time to commit sexual offenses is called **grooming**.

- ▶ In these situations victims may come to believe that they are responsible for what happened even though this is never true.
- ▶ After the assaults, offenders often threaten, pressure or use guilt to keep victims from telling anyone.

How Sexual Offenders Justify Their Behavior?

Sexual Offenders may justify their behavior in several ways:

1. **Denial** is used by offenders to avoid facing the consequences of their actions. Denial means that offenders refuse to admit to others or sometimes even to themselves that they have committed sexual assaults.
They may say: *“It’s a lie. I never did it,”* or *“That wasn’t really rape, she agreed to it.”*
2. **Rationalizing** involves blaming the victim, other people or circumstances.
Typical thoughts are: *“It wasn’t my fault, she led me on”, “he didn’t fight back”* or *“I didn’t know what I was doing, I had too much alcohol...”*
These are ways of placing responsibility on someone or something else.
3. **Minimizing** is used by offenders to deny the seriousness of the acts or the harm done to the victims. *“It wasn’t that bad – he liked it,”* or *“I didn’t really hurt her.”*
By minimizing their actions, offenders try to make it seem as though what they did was not such a big deal.

Common Conditions Which Contribute to Sexual Offending

Several conditions can contribute to the likelihood of sexual offending:

- ▶ Typically a case involves a combination of factors and circumstances. It is important to understand that sex offenders always make a choice when they commit sexual offenses no matter what the reasons are that go into why they did it.

They decide to act even though they know it is wrong. Nothing a victim does can make a person commit a sexual offense.

So we can't put blame on victim's actions/ clothing and so on.

Common Conditions Which Contribute to Sexual Offending

Several conditions can contribute to the likelihood of sexual offending:

- ▶ **Motivation:** Offenders often have abnormal or unusual sexual interests. They may be sexually attracted to children or young teenagers. It does not bother them to have sex with someone who doesn't want to.
- ▶ **Antisocial Attitudes:** Some offenders believe it is acceptable to take advantage of other people or break the law. They may not understand or care about the feelings of others and put what they want first.
- ▶ **Background/ past of Offender:** Some people who have been abused, mistreated or neglected develop negative feelings and beliefs about themselves and others. They may try to gain control over their lives or relieve emotional pain through abusive sexual behavior towards others

Common Conditions Which Contribute to Sexual Offending

Several conditions can contribute to the likelihood of sexual offending:

- ▶ **Manipulating situations:** Offenders create situations that give them the opportunity to offend and where there is little chance of being caught. In the case of child molesters, they may put themselves in situations where they are alone with and have control over children. Rapists will often get victims away from friends or in isolated situations.
- ▶ **Vulnerable Victims:** Although the responsibility for sexual offending is always with offenders, rapists and child molesters may look for vulnerable people to victimize.

Victims can be vulnerable because: they are young, have a disability or are impaired in some way.

People can be victimized because: they are alone in an isolated area, asleep, under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or suffering from emotional problems. Offenders want victims who cannot protect themselves.

How we can stop sexual offenders from offending ?

- ▶ When sex offenders are caught and investigated or prosecuted they learn that there are consequences for offending.
- ▶ If they are convicted of a crime, then the courts can impose punishment, require them to get treatment or put restrictions on what they do.
- ▶ Some sex offenders may stop offending on their own.

Incarceration

- ▶ Courts can sentence convicted sex offenders to prison.
- ▶ This serves two purposes.
 - ▶ *First*, it is punishment for breaking the law and *second*, the community is protected while offenders serve their sentence in jail or prison.
- ▶ Convicted sex offenders who commit violent offenses, have been convicted before or have many victims will be sentenced for long-term sentences.
- ▶ Sometimes offenders can have treatment while they are in prison.
- ▶ They will be supervised once they get out and have certain restrictions or requirements that they must follow. They may be also putted in a special treatment facility after leaving the prison - if prison service officers and the court doesn't see any progress.

Sex Offenders Treatment

- ▶ Research has shown that specialized sex offender treatment can lower the chances of repeat offending for some sex offenders.
- ▶ This type of treatment specifically focuses on changing abnormal sexual interests, correcting attitudes and beliefs that justify sexual offending, increasing understanding and empathy for victims and teaching skills to prevent reoffending and to help offenders lead normal lives.
- ▶ Only specialists can give this kind of treatment. Sometimes treatment is given in the community and other times it starts in prison.

Treatment programs can contribute to community safety because those who attend and cooperate with program conditions are less likely to re-offend than those who reject intervention.

Sex Offenders Treatment

- ▶ Different types of offenders typically respond to different treatment methods with varying rates of success.

Treatment effectiveness is often related to multiple factors, including:

- ▶ the type of sexual offender (e.g., incest offender or rapist);
 - ▶ the treatment model being used (e.g., cognitive-behavioral, relapse prevention, psychoeducational, psycho-dynamic, or pharmacological);
 - ▶ the treatment modalities being used;
 - ▶ and related interventions involved in probation and parole community supervision.
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- ▶ Several studies present optimistic conclusions about the effectiveness of treatment programs t

Prevention

There are ways in which families and society can work to make it less likely that children will grow up to be offenders:

- ▶ Children who have been physically or sexually abused should have counseling so that they have an opportunity to express their feeling and recover from their experiences.
- ▶ Families/ schools should teach values about sexual behavior that emphasize the importance of consent, respect, and responsibility.
- ▶ Children should not be exposed to sexually violent magazines, pictures, or movies.
- ▶ Children need opportunities to express all kinds of feelings in ways that do not hurt others.

Prevention

Two methods of prevention: supervisory and therapeutic.

- ▶ **Supervisory method** assumes protection of the local community through intensive supervision over sex offenders who have been released from prison, either after serving a sentence or after staying in a treatment facility.

- ▶ **Therapeutic method** assumes treatment of sexual offenders which has evolved substantially over the years; various theoretical and practice models of treatment been developed, modified, refined, and proposed over time.
 - Many early interventions, such as psychotherapy and neurosurgery, have been found to be ineffective, while others, including pharmacological interventions, are potentially promising in some specific cases.
 - Assessment and treatment of sex offenders serves an important social function, in that the process is intended to rehabilitate individuals and prevent recidivism of sexual crimes.

Facts and statistics about sex offending

- ▶ The majority of sexual offenses are not caught or detected:
 - Many women who are sexually assaulted by intimates, friends, or acquaintances do not report these crimes to police.
 - Instead, victims are most likely to report being sexually assaulted when the assailant is a stranger.
- ▶ Young victims who know or are related to the perpetrator are least likely to report the crime to authorities
- ▶ Research shows that most convicted sex offenders have committed many sexual offenses before they are caught - **sex offenders rarely commit just one type of offense**
- ▶ Child pornography offenders may be likely to also commit hands on sexual offenses against children (even if they have not been caught)
- ▶ Approximately 12 to 24% of sex offenders reoffend

- ▶ The majority of victims had met the offender willingly:
 - The majority of sex offenses are committed by someone the victim knows
 - Statistics indicate that the majority of women who have been raped know their assailant.
 - Approximately 60% of boys and 80% of girls who are sexually victimized are abused by someone known to the child or the child's family
 - Relatives, friends, baby-sitters, persons in positions of authority over the child, or persons who supervise children are more likely than strangers to commit a sexual assault.

Facts and statistics about sex offending

- ▶ The vast majority of sex offenders are male. However, females also commit sexual crimes.
 - less than 1% of all incarcerated rape and sexual assault offenders are female
 - but females commit some sex offenses, particularly against children.
- ▶ Most sex offenders were not sexually assaulted as children and most children who are sexually assaulted do not sexually assault others.

Victims of sexual assault

The Trauma

1. There are many different responses to the trauma that victims of sexual assault can exhibit.

Numerous factors can influence an individual's response to and recovery from sexual assault.

2. **Some factors include:** age and developmental maturity of victim; victim relationship to offender; social and familial support of victim; police, medical, and victim advocate response to victim; frequency, duration, and severity of the sexual assault(s); the environment in which the assault occurred; community attitudes and values regarding sexual assault; and the meaning attributed to the traumatic event by the sexual assault survivor

Victims of sexual assault

The Trauma

- ▶ Sexual trauma can create post-traumatic stress disorder or other clinical reactions.

Long term damage to the victim may take the form of some or all of the following symptoms:

- depression, chronic anxiety,
- feelings of dissociation (not feeling connected to oneself),
- flashbacks to the traumatic event,
- avoidance of anything that reminds them of the traumatic event,
- intrusive thoughts,
- relationship disruptions such as increased conflict or divorce,
- loss or diminishment of sexual interest or responsiveness,
- loss of concentration,
- heightened fears, chronic sleeping or eating problems,
- exaggerated startle response, irritability, suicidal thoughts,
- a diminished interest in living and an inability to enjoy previously enjoyed life activities

Victims of sexual assault

Moreover,

- ▶ Sexual trauma caused by a known perpetrator tends to create a more difficult recovery than sexual trauma inflicted by a stranger. The victim must also deal with betrayal by someone they have trusted
- ▶ Teen victims of sexual assault are 3 times more likely to develop psychiatric disorders or to abuse alcohol
- ▶ Young male and female victims of sexual assault are at increased risk of eating disorder behaviors
- ▶ Most victims of sexual assault do not become sex offenders.

Sexual homicide

- ▶ Sexual homicide occurs where there is sexual behaviour or assault by a perpetrator just before, during or after killing a victim.
- ▶ Sexual homicide is a crime of increasing concern in society,

It is the killing of a person in the context of power, sexuality, and brutality.

- ▶ Such crimes often receive widespread publicity, and they create a great deal of fear because of their apparent random and motiveless nature.
- ▶ Particularly in cases of serial sexual homicide, law enforcement officials feel public pressure to apprehend the perpetrator as quickly as possible. Apprehension of the sexual murderer is one of law enforcement's most difficult challenges.
- ▶ Because sexual killings often appear motiveless and random, they offer few clues about why the murder occurred or, consequently, about the identity of the murderer.
- ▶ Even the sexual nature of these murders is not always immediately obvious, for conventional evidence of a sexual crime may be absent from a crime scene.

Sexual murderers - typology

ORGANIZED	DISORGANIZED
Planned offense	Spontaneous offense
Stranger victim/ target	Victim or location known
Crime scene reflects control	Crime scene random
Restraints used/ body hidden	No restraints/ body left in the view
Agressive acts prior to the death	Sexual acts after the death
Weapon/ evidence absent	Weapon/ evidence at scene
Intelligent, socially competent	Average intelligent, socially immature
Normal work history, financial stable	Poor work history, living alone
Follows crime in media	Minimal interest in news media

Psychopath, sociopath

- ▶ **Psychopath**- a person suffering from chronic mental disorder (but not mentally ill) with abnormal or violent social behavior. They are:
 - Unable to form emotional attachments or feel empathy with others
 - Often charming personalities
 - Very manipulative
 - Carefully plan out every detail of crimes in advance
 - Criminals are cool and calm
 - Crimes are organized

- ▶ **Sociopath**- a person with personality disorder manifesting itself in extreme antisocial attitudes and behavior and lack of conscience. They are:
 - Nervous
 - Easily agitated
 - Volatile and prone to emotional outbursts
 - Unable to hold down a job or stay in one place for long
 - Appears to be disturbed in the eyes of others
 - Crimes will be disorganized

Typology of multiple homicides

Categories of murders:

- ▶ A **single homicide**- is one victim, one homicidal event
- ▶ A **double homicide**- is two victims, one event, and in one location
- ▶ A **triple homicide**- has three victims in one location during one event.
- ▶ Anything beyond three victims is classified **as a mass murder**
— that is, a homicide involving four or more victims.

Mass murders

There are two types of mass murder: [classic and family](#).

1. [A classic mass murder](#) involves one person operating in one location at one period of time. That period of time could be minutes or hours, or even days.
 - The classic mass murderer is usually described as a mentally disordered individual whose problems have increased to the point that he acts out against groups of people unrelated to these problems ; unleashing his hostility through shootings and stabbings.
 - One classic mass murderer was Charles Whitman, who in 1966 armed himself with boxes of ammunition, weapons, ropes, a radio, and food ; barricaded himself on a tower in Austin, Texas ; and opened fire for ninety minutes, killing sixteen people and wounding more than thirty others.
 - He was stopped only when he was killed during an assault on the tower.

Mass murders

There are two types of mass murder: [classic and family](#).

2. [The second type of mass murder is family-member murder.](#)

- If more than three family members are killed and the perpetrator takes his own life, it is classified as a mass murder / suicide.
- Without the suicide and with four or more victims, the murder is called a family killing.
- Examples include John List, an insurance salesman who killed his entire family on November 9, 1972, in Westfield, New Jersey. The bodies of his wife and three children (ages sixteen, fifteen, and thirteen) were discovered in their front room, lying side by side on top of sleeping bags as if in a mortuary. Their faces were covered and their arms were folded across their bodies. Each had been shot once behind the left ear, except one son who had been shot several times. A further search of the residence discovered the body of his mother in a third-floor closet. She had also been shot once behind the left ear. John List disappeared after the crime, and his car was found at an airport parking lot.

Mass murders

Two additional types of multiple murder are [spree](#) and [serial](#).

1. [A spree murder](#) involves killing at two or more locations with no emotional cooling-off period between murders.
 - The killings are all the result of a single event, which can be of short or long duration.
2. [Serial murders](#) are involved in three or more separate events with an emotional cooling-off period between homicides.
 - This type of killer usually premeditates his crimes, often fantasizing and planning the murder in every aspect, with the possible exception of the specific victim.
 - Then, when the time is right for him and he has cooled off from his last homicide, he selects his next victim and proceeds with his plan. The cool-off period can be days, weeks, or months and is the main element that separates the serial killer from other multiple killers.

Serial killer

SUMMARY

1. A minimum 3-4 victims
2. „Cooling off” period
3. Murders reflect a need to dominate the victim
4. Murders are psychologically motivated (rarely motivated for profit)
5. Victim has a „symbolic” value for a killer
6. Victims are generally vulnerable

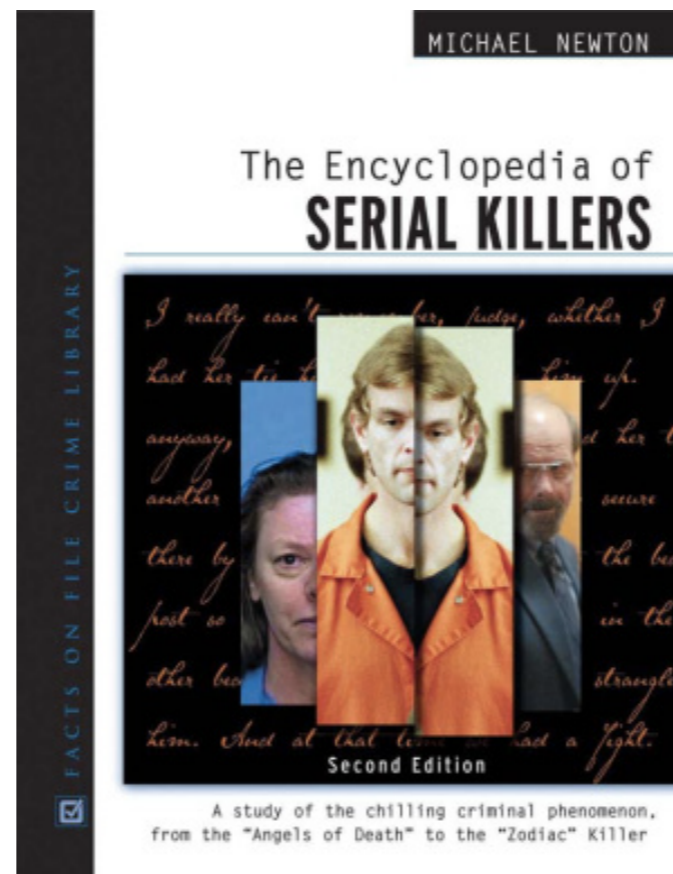
The term “serial killer” was introduced by Robert K. Ressler (FBI Agent, Behavioral unit, 1970')

Serial killer vs. other mass murderers?

1. Victims carefully selected / Victims in the wrong place
2. Different crime scenes/ Usually one crime scene
3. Several episodes/ Single episode
4. Very specific methodology / no specific methodology

Who is a typical serial killer

1. White man between 20 and 30/35 years old
2. Female serialists do also exist
3. Males tend to use force and attack strangers, women tend to focus more on members of family and use poison
4. Females tend to kill for many or as revenge while males kill for control or sexual gratification



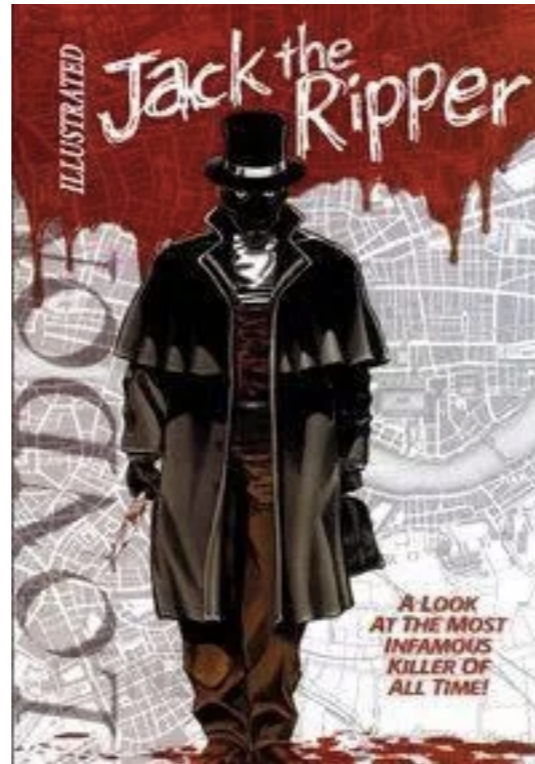
Mass murderer or serial killer?



Patrick Henry Sherrill

- Edmont, Oklahoma, 1986
- Shot 20 coworkers (killing 14), before committing suicide
- He was a loner and former marksman,
- One day he killed 14 coworkers at his office

Jack the Ripper



- ▶ Jack the Ripper was an English serial killer. Between August and November 1888, he murdered at least five women—all prostitutes—in or near the Whitechapel district of London's East End.
- ▶ Has Jack the Ripper been found?