Murder Accountability Project

www.murderdata.org

MAP's Serial Algorithm
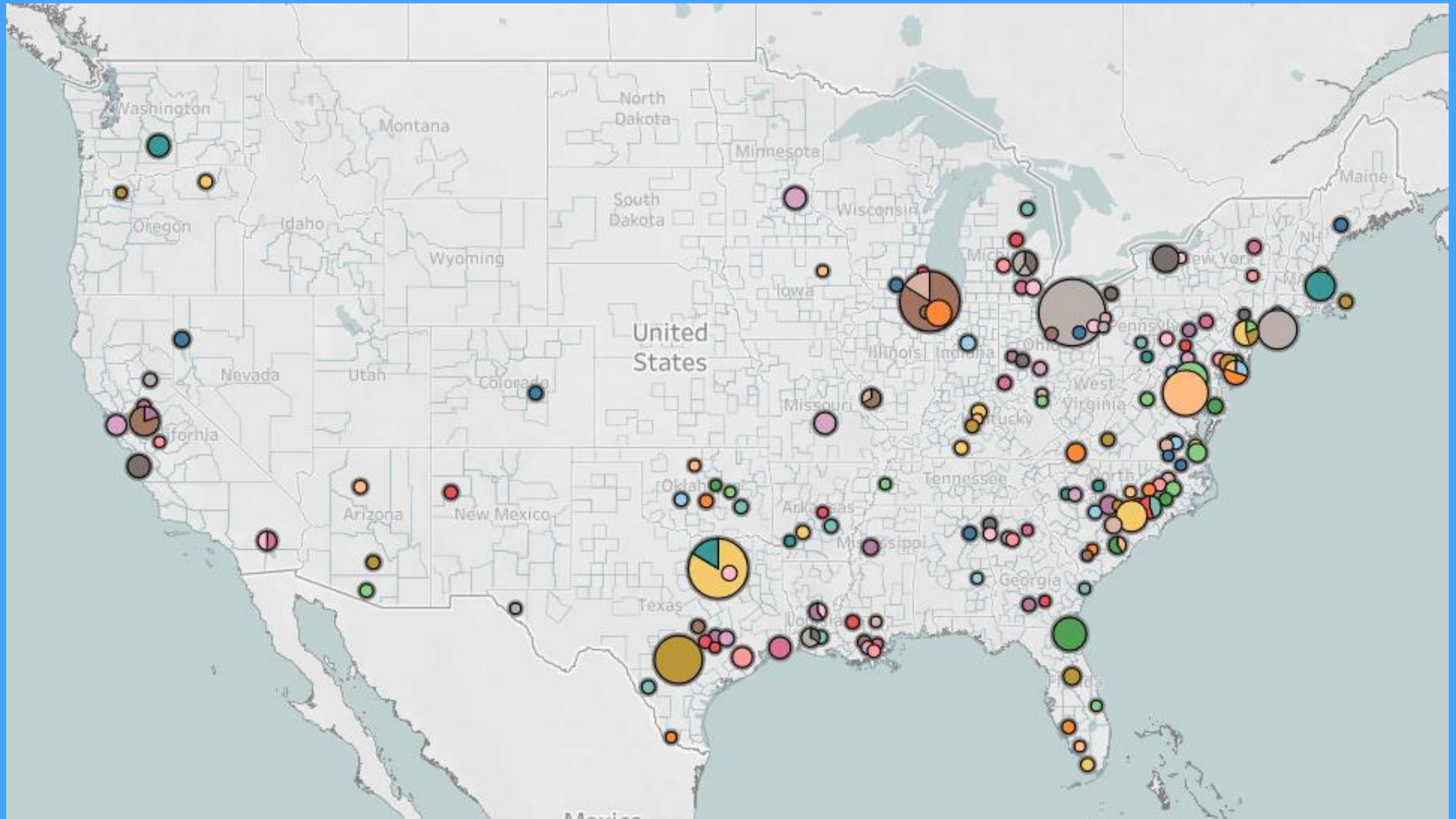
What was discovered in the Data

CLEARANCE RATE by METHOD OF KILLING

| WEAPON	Total	Cleared	Percent
Strangulations or Asphyxiations	**61**	**17**	**27.9%**
Knife or cutting instrument	185	150	81.1%
Blunt object - hammer, club, etc	51	32	62.7%
Firearms, all types	478	248	51.9%
Personal weapons, includes beating	106	85	80.2%
Fire	10	6	60.0%
Drowning	1	1	100.0%
Other or type unknown weapons	120	76	63.3%
Total	**1,012**	**615**	**60.8%**

Serial Aspects

→ Overwhelmingly (94%), victims recovered out-of-doors or in abandoned buildings
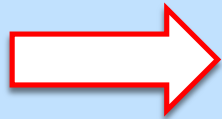
→ At least three-quarters of homicides had clear sexual components: clothing removed or ripped to show female form; signs of recent sexual activity
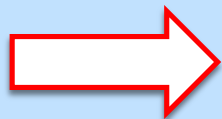
→ Victims disproportionately had histories of sex work, illicit drug use, or both. Serial killers have an historically recognized preference for these victims.

Other Serial Aspects

Some cases seem serial "on their face." 2007, in 24 hour period, Theresa Bunn and Hazel Marion Lewis, were found in opposite corners of Washington Park, in burning trash receptacles.
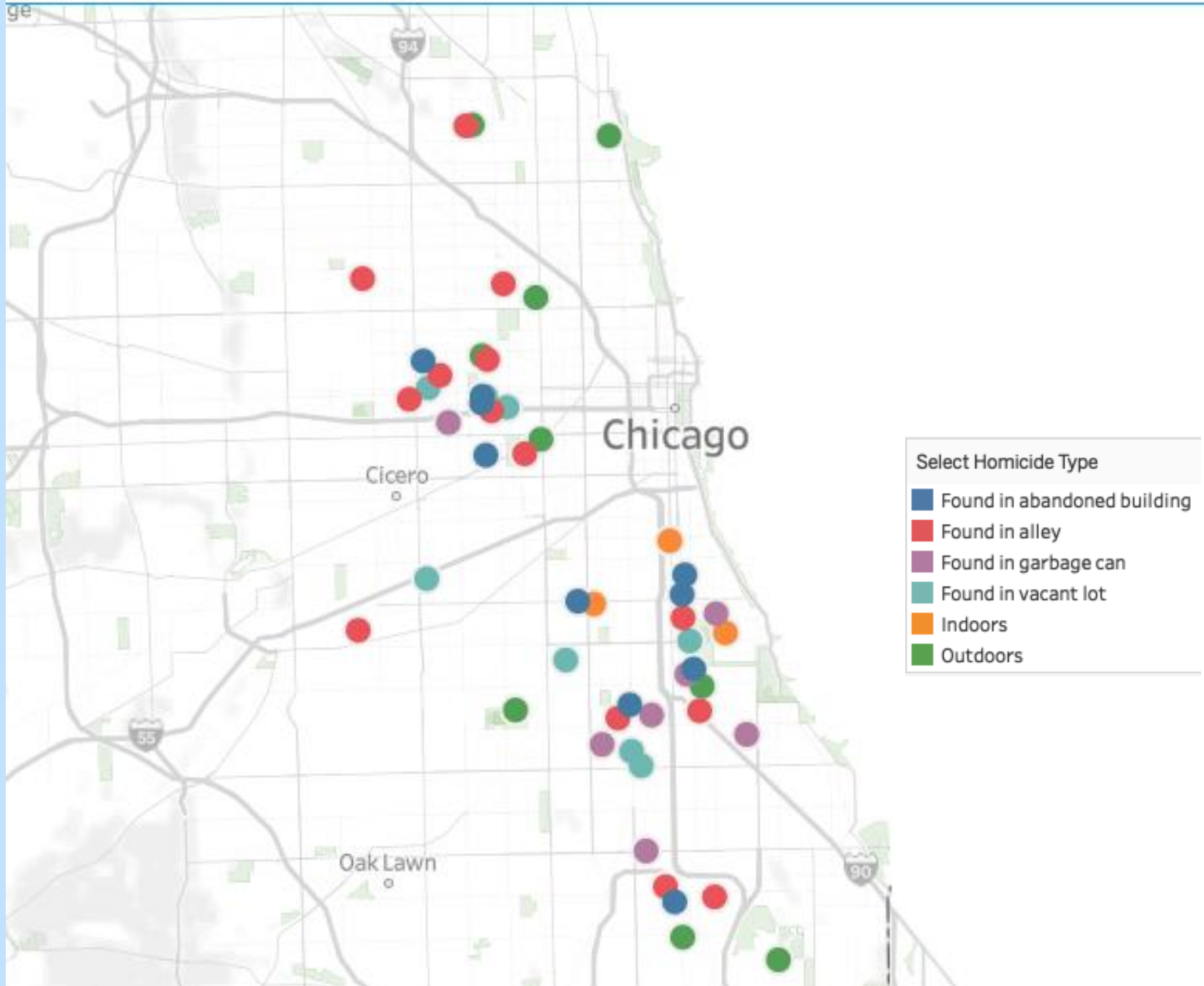
Body recovery sites are similar: 14 in alleys, 9 in abandoned buildings, 8 in vacant lots, 7 in trash receptacles.

Recovery sites in three broad areas: South Side (largest), West Side, and extreme South Side. Linear aspect to South Side killings.

Chicago's Unsolved Female Strangulations

Select Homicide Type

- Found in abandoned building
- Found in alley
- Found in garbage can
- Found in vacant lot
- Indoors
- Outdoors

MAP Recommendations

⟹ Wholeheartedly endorse recent actions by Superintendent Eddie Johnson, who ordered case review to attempt "additional testing" of evidence.

⟹ Murder books from 50+ cases should be assembled in one location. Review should assume cases are linked and look for commonalities.

⟹ Methodical review of DNA samples. All samples, not just swabs from vaginal vault, should be sent to lab(s) for expedited testing – skin from under victims' fingernails should be tested quickly.

Other Recommendations

⇒ Strongly encourage attempting familial DNA matches using open source databases. This window is closing! Trained volunteers are available.

⇒ In consultation with FBI, consider new techniques to pull DNA from difficult materials and surfaces. Consider M-Vac and other technologies.

⇒ Aggressive review of CODIS hits, especially homicides that link to other crimes like sexual assaults. Other police departments have made errors in following up on CODIS data.

Other Recommendations

→ Experience teaches killers probably already known to police. Look for survivors (almost every large series had them) who can provide descriptions.

→ Since most victims were sex workers, identify pimps and associated prostitutes. Surviving sex workers may have suggestions for likely suspects.

→ Don't assume killers had sex with victims. Many serial killers are sexually dysfunctional.

Finally: A Warning

Killer or killers are targeting sex workers and women with history of illegal drug addition (or both). These women should take precautions.

Victims have been 76% African American and 24% Anglo or Hispanic White.

Victim age range is large and skews toward high middle age. Youngest 18, oldest 58. Median age has increased over time: 35 among oldest killings, 38.5 among most recent.

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