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I17 The Psychiatric Evaluation of the Perpetrators in Cases of Filicide With Respect to the State Institute of Forensic Medicine of Istanbul Between 1992-2001: A Retrospective Analysis

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The audience will learn how the forensic experts in Turkey profile filicide cases and special criminal arrangements related to filicide in Turkey. Intrafamilial child homicides will also be discussed.

Filicide is the killing of a child by his or her parent. Since this act has approached differently among homicide cases, it has special penalty arrangements in Turkey just like all over the world. There are various factors that lead the parents to kill their children in filicide cases. The leading cause is mental disorders followed by economic conditions, incompatibility among family members, and uncontrolled child punishments.

In this study, the reports of psychiatric examinations of the perpetrators in filicide cases at The State Institute of Forensic Medicine of Istanbul, Fourth Specialization Board between 1992-2001 were evaluated. The Institute is the only state organization belonging to the Ministry of Justice composed of Forensic Sciences Committees assigned by experts in different fields of this scientific area. Fourth Specialization Board (The Board of Forensic Psychiatry) is the department assigned to psychiatric examinations where psychiatrists, forensic medicine specialists, neurologists, and psychologists work together.

During the study, a total of 115 filicide cases were evaluated. Of these 59 were mothers (51.3%) and 56 were fathers (48.7%). The average age of the first group of both parents was 25-29 years of age with mothers averaging 22 years or 37.2% and fathers averaging 19 years or 33.9%. Of the perpetrators 103 or 89.5% were biological parents. The cases were evaluated with respect to education level, occupation, the place of residence (village, town, city), the method used for filicide, reason for filicide, existence of mental disorder and its type, if the act had been committed previously, if perpetrator had ever committed any crime before. The findings of this study and the literature will be discussed.

Filicide, Forensic Psychiatry, Turkey