



## Psychiatry & Behavioral Science — 2018

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### **I11 A Review of More Than 20 Parricides and Crime Scene Behaviors: Does It Differentiate Mental Illness, Psychopathy, or Abuse as the Reason for Killing Parents?**

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The goal of this presentation is to further attendees' understanding of parricide and crime scene analysis to better understand the motive of the crime.

Parricide, while a rare event, has devastating impact on families and others. The crime scene could show details as to the motive of the crime. This presentation will impact the forensic science community by demonstrating how, with further analysis of the crime scene, the motivation could be better extrapolated to improve treatment of cases with mental illness or abuse as compared to psychopathic intentions.

Children killing their parents is a rare event that falls into three areas or profiles: (1) children that have mental illness; (2) children that are abused; and, (3) children that are psychopaths. Parricides, while rare, are one of the most sensational crimes that attract the attention of the media, clinicians, and researchers worldwide. Much research has been conducted on the topic of parricide despite only being approximately 1.5% to 2.4% of all homicides yearly. Often research focuses on the offender and the victim's characteristics to be able to evaluate the crime and motive; however, there is very limited research into the crime scene behaviors. When looking at more than 20 cases of parricide and reviewing the crime scene information from case information in addition to researching data from public records, data has shown that one-third of the children who kill their parents are abused, one-third are mentally ill, and one-third are psychopathic killers. When looking at crime scenes, there is information that can be helpful to both police and mental health providers about the motive of the crime.

This study, after observing the patterns of the crime scene, anticipates demonstrating that children who are abused or mentally ill are more likely to cover the body or even stay in the home with their deceased parents' bodies. Psychopathic offenders will demonstrate less care at the crime scene and not have the empathy to cover or disguise the bodies due to their lack of connection to the parents. Most research has focused on the demographics, motives, social, legal and psychological factors, such as mental health and abuse history. Minimal research of crime scene behaviors in parricide cases have been explored. Crime scene profiles or analyses have been examined when investigating other cases, but not specifically for parricides. When the research has been examined at parricide cases, the focus has been on age and weapons were used, not the basic crime scene information. Often, the basic crime scene details are dismissed, but they can be an invaluable tool for investigators and police in helping to understand the offender of violent crimes. By scrutinizing data from crime reports, publications, and cases, the data on the crime scene can be used to better evaluate the connection of the crime scene data to the reason for the parricide. This concept has not been examined in parricide cases, which could help better understand the events and circumstances that lead an individual to taking their parents' lives.

To examine the components of crime scene behaviors and their implications within parricide, data from adolescent parricides will be presented. This study will present preliminary data concerning parricide offenders and crime scene behaviors, such as the condition of the body when found (covered, face covered, moved, or hidden); the type of attack (blitz, surprise, conned/deceived); the presence of defensive wounds; signs of overkill; and the weapon used.

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#### **Parricide, Psychopathy, Crime Scene**