



JUVENILE HOMICIDE:
ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY*

87245

J. Kreisman and R. Seiden
University of California (Berkeley)

*This study was funded by a grant from the State of California Office of Criminal
Justice Planning

Adams, K. A. The child who murders: a review of theory and research. Criminal Justice and Behavior, 1974, 1(1):51-61.

In this paper, the author reviews some of the existing literature on "child murderers." The author also examines legal reactions to and treatment of child murderers, and ends with a discussion of treatment and prevention.

Bender, L. Children and adolescents who have killed. American Journal of Psychiatry, December 1959, 116(6):510-513.

The author presents the results of a brief study of 33 boys and girls who, before they were 16 years of age, had been associated with the death of another person either by causing or being blamed for a death by themselves or others. 14 of these youths were involved in "accidental homicide"--they neither intended nor expected the death that was the consequence of their activities. A majority of these youths became mentally disturbed after the accident, and prior to the accident there was evidence of a very disturbed family background, as well as personal and social disorders. Of the 19 youths who committed intentional homicide, the majority demonstrated evidence of psychotic disturbances before the murders. The author cites the following significant psychiatric factors as "danger symptoms"--organic brain damage, childhood schizophrenia, compulsive fire-setting, reading disability, extremely unfavorable home conditions and life experiences, and past history of exposure to violent death.

Bender, L. and Schilder, P. Aggressiveness in children. Genetic Psychology Monographs, October-December 1936, 18(5-6):361-409.

The authors present the results of a study of 84 children, aged 3 years to 15 years of age, who were admitted to the Children's Ward of Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital for problems with aggressiveness. They conclude that children in general learn to use aggressive behavior to manipulate their environment at a very early age. Normally the child learns to control this aggressiveness when confronted with adult sanctions. However, "When children are deprived of parents' love, of their support and food, they experience this deprivation as a direct attack with destructive tendencies." This, in turn, prompts the child to respond in kind: "in general, it seems that the withdrawal of love increases aggressive tendencies in children . . . he [the aggressive child] not only receives satisfaction by embarrassing the adult, but receives more attention." A number of case histories are presented.

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or positions of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this ~~unpublished~~ material has been granted by

California Office of
Criminal Justice Planning

to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS)

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permission of the ~~copyright~~ owner.

Bender, L, Keiser, S., and Schilder, P. Studies in aggressiveness. Genetic Psychology Monographs, October-December 1936, 18(5-6):546-564.

This is a general study of aggressiveness in children, men, and women. The authors assert that aggressiveness is a natural part of the development of the human personality. In normal development, however, childhood aggressiveness diminishes and gradually takes more symbolic forms (play, fantasy, etc.). It is under conditions of parental deprivation that this fails to happen. According to the authors, the child considers any deprivation on the part of the parents as an act of aggression by the adult and reacts accordingly--that is, in kind.

Bolman, W. M. Aggression and violence in children. Current Problems in Pediatrics, July 1974, 4(9):entire issue.

The author discusses various aspects and types of childhood violence. The author sees aggressive behavior in children as normal during certain stages of the child's development. External factors, however (usually the actions of parents), can exacerbate such behavior until it becomes dysfunctional. Included in Bolman's discussion are developmental violence, reactive violence, delinquent and antisocial children, sadism, firesetting, depression and suicide, and children who kill. Concerning children who kill, the author briefly discusses three types of homicidal children: the normal child who unintentionally kills another child in the course of play, those who kill because there has been a failure in the modification of infantile aggression (due to family disorganization), and those children who are psychotic.

Braucht, G. N., Jamieson, K. J., and Loya, F. Victims of violent death: a critical review. Psychological Bulletin, 1980, 87:309-333.

From the abstract: "This review assesses the present state of knowledge regarding the victims of suicide, accidental death and homicide, and analyzes the formal characteristics of the empirical research models that have yielded this body of knowledge." The authors are critical of most studies, which operate on either the individual or environmental level, but not on both. The authors present and discuss their own research model, which they feel is "better suited to interactionist analyses."

Bromberg, W. A psychological study of murder. The International Journal of Psychoanalysis, 1951, 32(1):117-127.

The author presents a detailed psychoanalytic interpretation of a single murder case. The conclusion of the author is that the murder was actually the expression of unconscious hatred of the self; the murder was a suicide directed outward. In terms of etiology, the murderer experienced the death of several siblings; as a child he fared poorly in school, and was described as a "reckless and impulsive" child. The author concludes by saying that it is valid to state that, "in general terms . . . aggressive behavior will ensue when ego strength is insufficient to combat the destructive forces derived from early oral aggression."

Browning, C. H. Suicide, firearms, and public health. American Journal of Public Health, April 1974, 64(4):313-317.

The author begins by noting that out of the more than 21,000 suicides which occur in the United States in a year, approximately 47% are accomplished with firearms. Browning argues that because firearms are so much more lethal than other suicidal agents, gun control might significantly lower the present suicide rate. The author proposes that doctors should report all suicide attempts to HEW, and that all retailers of firearms of any kind be required to check with HEW to determine whether a prospective purchaser of a firearm is on the HEW list of people who have attempted suicide. The author also asserts that gun control must occur at the federal level, because of the "general inability or ineffectiveness of other governmental levels in dealing with this problem."

Carek, D. J., and Watson, A. S. Treatment of a family involved in fratricide. Archives of General Psychiatry, November 1964, 11(5):533-542.

In this paper, the authors present the case history of a 10-year-old boy who "accidentally" shot a younger brother to death. They then go on to describe the course of conjoint family therapy for the family involved in this murder. The therapy revealed extensive psychopathology of both parents, and a very poor marital relationship. The authors believe that the killing was in some sense the expression of a pervasive but unexpressed violence involving all members of the family. The murder was the end result of a high level of feelings of helplessness and frustration, which led to anger and ultimately acting-out.

Clark, R. A few modest proposals to reduce individual violence in America. In: Hays, J.R., Roberts, T.K. and Solway, K.S. (Eds.), Violence and the Violent Individual. New York: Spectrum, 1981. Chapter 1, pp. 1-5.

In this paper, the former Attorney General, Ramsey Clark, discusses various aspects of violence in the United States. Clark asserts that the causes of violence in America are to be found in the social conditions under which people grow up and live. Improved health care, social services to provide support for families, and especially the elimination of poverty are the keys to reducing violence. Clark maintains that "a punitive society causes violence by its sanctions." He therefore argues for the virtual elimination of prisons, and the use of police as a social service agency, instead of their present "paramilitary" status.

Corder, B. F., et al. Adolescent parricide: A comparison with other adolescent murder. American Journal of Psychiatry, August 1976, 133(8):957-961.

The authors examined the available data for 10 adolescents who had been charged with parricide and compared these data for matched groups of 10 adolescents charged with murdering another relative or a close acquaintance and 10 charged with murdering a stranger. Adolescents charged with parricide showed the following significant differences from one or both of the other two groups: fewer indications of poor impulse control or aggressive behavior; fewer typical adolescent sexual outlets and social relationships; more indications of chronic physical abuse by parents; more indications of overattachment to their mothers; more evidence of atypical sexual stimulation by parents; greater frequency of chronic abuse of a passive mother by the father; family patterns of absent fathers; and more instances of amnesia for the murder act. Adolescents who murdered strangers were distinguished by: a history of poor impulse control, aggressive behavior, and previous arrests and sentences to training schools. As a group, the 30 homicidal adolescents studied were born into homes that typically showed a high degree of family disorganization characterized by intense marital conflict, economic insecurity, parental brutality, and lack of social or community ties. One or both parents of 19 of the 30 adolescents showed evidence of extreme maladjustment, e.g., chronic alcoholism, repeated hospitalizations for psychosis, many incarcerations for criminal acts.

Diener, E. and Crandall, R. Impact of Jamaican gun control laws. Psychology Department, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. Unpublished paper, n.d.

The authors begin this paper by citing the fact that almost two-thirds of all homicides in the United States are committed with firearms. This leads to the question of whether or not stricter gun-control laws could significantly reduce the homicide rate. In an attempt to answer this question, the authors studied the effects of a sweeping anti-crime and gun control law enacted in Jamaica in 1974. The Gun Court Act and the Suppression of Crime Act not only outlawed public ownership of firearms, but imposed curfews in high crime areas and gave the police increased power to search for and confiscate illegally-owned firearms. The law also banned "gun segments" from television and motion pictures. Utilizing a quasi-experimental design, the authors did find a reduction in homicides and rapes. However, further analysis indicated that this reduction was due to increased police surveillance and curfews, not the banning of firearm ownership.

Duncan, G. M., et al. Etiological factors in first-degree murder. Journal of the American Medical Association, November 1958, 168(13):1755-1758.

From the summary: "Six prisoners convicted of first-degree murder and their parents consented to undergo investigation by the collaborative technique in a pilot study. White male prisoners were selected who were of at least average intelligence, from middle-class families, not members of a gang, not alcoholic or epileptic, and with neither organic disease of the brain nor a history of psychosis. Remorseless physical brutality inflicted through the childhood and adolescence of the prisoner at the hands of parents was a common factor in four cases (the other two were psychotic). Unconscious fostering by parents . . . was not observed in these cases. Rather, the prisoners learned to behave like their brutal aggressors and learned by conscious example that violence was a solution to frustration."

Duncan, J. W. and Duncan, G. M. Murder in the family: A study of some homicidal adolescents. American Journal of Psychiatry, May 1971, 127(11):1498-1502.

The authors discuss five cases in which an adolescent murdered a fellow family member. Their findings support previous research, in that all families demonstrated parental cruelty towards the homicidal child. This mutual provocation of child and parent led to the gradual buildup of murderous aggression in both. The homicides seem to have been precipitated by a change in the adolescents' interpersonal relationship with the victim. This change led to an abrupt loss of control on the part of the adolescents who killed. The cases illustrated a sequence of circumstances progressively more unbearable and less amenable to the adolescent's control. Implications for developing criteria for the assessment of adolescent homicidal risk are also discussed.

Easson, W. M., and Steinhilber, R. M. Murderous aggression by children and adolescents. Archives of General Psychiatry, January 1961, 4:27-35.

The authors begin by asserting that "normal" people do not commit murder, and that no murder is "without motive." They believe that in every case of adolescent murder or attempted murder, detailed investigation would reveal "underlying pathology." To support their case, the authors present the results of a study of 7 boys who had made murderous assaults and one boy who had committed murder. In general, each of the boys had a hostile-dependent relationship with a cold and possessive (and often frankly seductive) mother. Fathers were generally not available--either through death, divorce, or brutal rejection of their sons. In all cases, the parents either overtly or covertly encouraged and expected their sons to commit violence. Many of the boys had collections of weapons, which their parents allowed them to keep, despite repeated threats of violence on the part of the boys. In many cases, these boys appeared to be the "family scapegoat." In addition, a majority of the boys suffered from epilepsy and/or enuresis, although the authors do not comment further on this fact.

Evseeff, G. S. A potential young murderer. Journal of Forensic Science, 1976, 21:441-450.

The author undertook a longitudinal study of six convicted murderers. Common factors in their histories were: (1) they suffered actual physical abuse perpetrated by their parents, (2) they saw as children violent and destructive behavior by their parents, (3) this exposure to violence prevented proper resolution of the Oedipal complex, causing them to regress to pre-Oedipal levels of functioning during stress. All also suffered sexual trauma due to incest or its "equivalent."

Final Report of the Assembly Select Committee on Juvenile Violence. California State Assembly, November 1974.

In this report, the findings and causes of juvenile violence are discussed, with recommendations for changes in the educational system and in juvenile laws. Also discussed is community involvement, employment, counseling, and funding.

Foodman, A. and Estrada, C. Adolescents who commit accidental homicide. The emotional consequences to the individual, family, and community. Journal of the American Academy of Child Psychiatry, Spring 1977, 16(2):314-326.

The authors speculate that "accidental homicide"--where there was no conscious thought of committing homicide, and the victim and perpetrator were not engaged in mutual physical violence--may be the most common type of homicide committed by adolescents. The authors present four case histories of adolescents who committed "accidental homicide," to examine the psychological state of these youths before and after the homicide, the quality of their family life, and the community reaction to the homicide. In two of the cases, there was evidence of prior mental disturbance, family life was violent and chaotic, and the accidental homicide apparently resulted in psychosis for the youth responsible for the killing. In two other cases, there was no evidence of prior mental disturbance, family life was generally good, and the psychological adjustment of the adolescent after the homicide was good, after an initial period of mourning and depression. Community reaction was rather rejecting and negative in all four cases, although this subsided in the latter two. The authors conclude that the adolescent's response to homicide is commensurate with his or her previous psychiatric diagnosis, and with the level of integration of the family and community.

Godwin, J. Murder U.S.A. The Ways We Kill Each Other. New York: Ballantine Books, 1978.

Especially relevant to this topic is Chapter 4--"They Come Younger Every Year."

Goode, W. Violence Among Intimates. Appendix 19 in Mulvihill, D. J., Tumin, M. M., and Curtis, L. A. (eds.), Crimes of Violence: A Staff Report to the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, Vol. 13. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1969.

In a comprehensive and thoughtful discussion, the author asks why the overwhelming majority of murders occur between people with at least some previous association. The rearing of children, the structure of society and the position of minorities and women within it are discussed as causes. Finally, policy recommendations are discussed.

Haizlip, T. M., Corder, B. F., and Ball, B. C. Personality and Environmental Patterns in Adolescent Murders. Paper presented at the 23rd Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Child Psychiatry, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, October 1976.

The authors present the results of a study of all adolescents ages 13-18 admitted during a five-year period to a regional forensic psychiatric hospital for competency evaluations after they had been charged with murder. The authors evaluate these youths with four categories: (1) impulse ridden personality, (2) unsocialized behavior in the mentally retarded, (3) youths who committed parricide, and (4) the actively psychotic. At least one parent in all cases showed evidence of extreme maladjustment, and family disorganization and brutality were prominent features. Implications for clinical treatment are also discussed.

Hays, J. R., Solway, K. S., and Schreiner, D. Intellectual characteristics of juvenile murderers versus status offenders. Psychological Reports, August 1978, 43(1):80-82.

Intelligence test data (the WISC IQ test) of a group of 25 juvenile murderers and 39 status offenders is analyzed in this report. The results indicated that the intellectual pattern of delinquent juveniles is similar to that of their adult counterparts in that a lower general intellectual level is found among violent offenders relative to that for non-violent juveniles. There was a significantly higher performance score for juvenile offenders than verbal score.

Hellsten, P. and Katila, O. Murder and other homicides, by children under 15 in Finland. The Psychiatric Quarterly Supplement, 1965, 39(1):54-74.

The authors examine the case histories of five murders committed by juveniles under 15 in Finland--four intrafamilial murders and one extra-familial murder. In all cases, the growth environments of all the murderers (all males) were unfavorable, with husbands and wives having displayed open hostility and lack of respect toward each other in their children's presence. Emotional bonds with the parents were superficial. The mothers were characteristically superficial in their emotional life, emotionally cold, egoistic,

incapable of deep affection or compassion toward other people. The fathers also were not able to furnish objects of affection and identification for their sons. They were characteristically weak and withdrawn, overshadowed by their wives. The youthful murderers themselves were characteristically egocentric and emotionally cold, typically showing no remorse or excitement in regard to the killings. However, none of the murderers showed any signs of psychosis, and all went on to achieve satisfactory social adjustments after treatment.

Holinger, P. C. Violent deaths among the young: Recent trends in suicide, homicide, and accidents. American Journal of Psychiatry, September 1979, 136(9):1144-1147.

From the abstract: "Violent deaths (suicide, homicide, and accidents) are the leading cause of death in people aged 1-39 in the United States. All three types of violent death may represent suicidal tendencies. Among early (10-14 years), middle (15-19), and late (20-24) adolescents, suicide and homicide rates increased with age and have doubled from 1961 to 1975. Accident rates increased with age but have changed little over the 15-year period. Suicide, homicide, and accidents increased dramatically between the 10-14-year-old age group and the 15-19-year-old age group; suicide and homicide rates were remarkably parallel over time; and suicide rates among young white people were higher and increased more than those among young nonwhite people."

Humphrey, J. A. Role interference: An analysis of suicide victims, homicide offenders, and non-violent individuals. The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry, August 1978, 39(8):652-655.

The author sets out to test the following hypotheses: (1) as individuals' lives tend to be characterized by situations involving high degrees of interference in role performances, the likelihood of outward-directed violence, homicide, increases; (2) conversely, as individuals' lives tend to be characterized by situations involving low degrees of interference in role performance, the likelihood of inwardly directed violence, suicide, increases. Role interference exists to the extent that "playing certain roles (either voluntarily or involuntarily) tends to impede the playing of other, more appropriate roles." Too much role interference results in frustration which can lead to homicidal behavior; too little can result in a stifling existence in which blame and frustration is directed at the self. The author tests this hypothesis utilizing psychological autopsies of 98 suicide victims, 62 incarcerated murderers, and 76 non-violent controls. The hypotheses were supported by the data.

John, H. W. Alcoholism and criminal homicide: An overview. Alcohol Health and Research World, Winter 1977/78, 2(2):8-13.

The author reviews a number of studies which examined the relationship between homicide and the excessive use of alcohol. These studies indicated that anywhere from 25% to 83% of all homicides involved the uses of alcohol by either perpetrator, victim, or both. However, because of the complexity of the homicidal act and the number of factors involved, a direct causal relationship between alcohol use and homicide is impossible to establish at the present

time. The author does note that there is some evidence that the congener content of the alcohol involved may be related to the stimulation of aggressive impulses. Another possibility is that excessive alcohol use can induce hypoglycemia and REM-sleep deprivation, conditions which might increase the likelihood of violent behavior. Further research in this area is indicated before the nature of the causal relationship can be understood.

Johnson, A. M. and Szurek, S. A. The genesis of antisocial acting out in children and adults. The Psychoanalytic Quarterly, July 1952, 21(3):323-343.

After reviewing the literature on juvenile anti-social behavior ("acting-out"), the authors proceed to advance several hypotheses concerning such behavior. First, such juveniles suffer from "a superego defect in circumscribed areas of (their) behavior, which may be termed 'superego lacunae.'" Second, such anti-social behavior has its genesis in the parents, who (usually unconsciously and covertly) encourage the child to act out their "own poorly integrated and forbidden impulses." Furthermore, not just any child is chosen to act out these "forbidden impulses;" the parents select a "scapegoat," who has some "unique significance" to the parent(s). This selection serves a dual purpose: "not only is the parent's forbidden impulse acted out vicariously by the unfortunate child, but this very acting out . . . provides a channel for the hostile, destructive impulses of the parent toward the child." The authors discuss truancy, stealing, homicide and sexual "abberations" in this light, and therapeutic implications are also delineated.

Joy, L. A., Kimball, M. M., and Zabrack, M. L. Television exposure and children's aggressive behavior. Paper presented at the meeting of the Canadian Psychological Association, Vancouver, B. C., Canada, June 1977.

This paper is part of a larger study which analyzed the effect of television viewing on residents of a Canadian town which had previously had no television reception. This longitudinal study compared the town where television was introduced ("Notel") with two other towns where television reception had been available for some time ("Unitel" and "Multitel"). Their study found that two years after their town received television, the same Notel children were significantly higher in both verbal and physical aggression than their peers in the other two towns. Males were more physically aggressive than females, a replication of the finding of other researchers. There were no sex differences for verbal aggression.

Kaufman, I. et al. Delineation of two diagnostic groups among juvenile delinquents: The schizophrenic and the impulse-ridden character disorder. Journal of the American Academy of Child Psychiatry, 1963, 2(2):292-318.

Out of the authors' clinical experience with over 800 cases of anti-social children, the authors develop two clinical types of juvenile delinquents--the "schizophrenic delinquent" and the delinquent with an "impulse-ridden character disorder." The

schizophrenic delinquent typically comes from a family in which the parents manifest extensive psychopathology; some are overtly antisocial or psychotic. The disturbed children from such families may turn to acts of delinquency as a defense against massive anxiety and fears of annihilation. The antisocial acts typical of the schizophrenic delinquent are torture of animals or people, fire setting, and murder. Delinquency stemming from an impulse-ridden character disorder is more common. Families of delinquents of this type are typically chaotic and unstable. The child suffers trauma as a result of the actual loss of parents by desertion or abandonment, or emotional withdrawal because of alcoholism or depression. Delinquency in children of this type is utilized as a defense against this "objective loss." Their delinquency takes the form of "acquisitive acts to get supplies to fill them up (theft), or forbidden sexual acts . . . or an angry attack on the environment to express their anger and resentment because of their sense of deprivation." The authors end their paper by discussing the appropriate kinds of therapeutic intervention for the two respective types of juvenile delinquency.

Keiser, S. and Schilder, P. A study in criminal aggressiveness. Genetic Psychology Monographs, October-December 1936a, 18(5-6):361-409.

From the summary: "We have presented the case histories of criminals and an analysis of the replies of 50 criminals and 25 non-criminals to a questionnaire. From these studies we conclude that in many instances aggressive action is a reactive state resulting from a sense of passivity. This passivity is frequently felt as identical with homosexual trends and fears of anal abuse, and is often felt by the individual to be synonymous with femininity . . . this original sense of passivity is at times reactive to overwhelming severity of the educative forces in childhood, so that none of the native aggressiveness can be expressed, but only held in storage.

Keiser, S. and Schilder, P. Aggressiveness in women. Genetic Psychology Monographs, October-December, 1936b, 18(5-6):526-545.

In this early study of female aggressive behavior, the authors present the results of a study of 28 women incarcerated for crimes of violence. They discovered no differences between criminally aggressive women and criminally aggressive men. "In both sexes it [aggressive tendencies] is increased in a reactive way and is a protection against being pushed into the passive role." The main reason for the greater frequency of male as opposed to female aggressiveness is to be found in the conventions of society.

King, C. H. The ego and the integration of violence in homicidal youth. American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, January 1975, 45(1):134-145.

After studying a sample of nine youths convicted of homicide, the author presents three factors which he found to be crucial in the etiology of youthful homicide. They were: (1) chaotic family backgrounds, with intra-spousal violence and violence directed toward the child, (2) a serious lack of cognitive skills--such as

reading, language skills, social symbols, and comprehension generally--which leads to an inability to cope, frustration, and violence, and (3) a reliance on feelings to fathom the world.

Lehrman, P. R. Some unconscious determinants in homicide. The Psychiatric Quarterly, October 1939, 13(4):605-621.

After presenting the psychiatric case studies of two convicted adult murderers, the author concludes that "the emotion which precipitated the murderous acts in both cases may be summarized briefly as fright, apparently evoked by external threats . . . the external dangers, however, were inconsequential in comparison with the psychological dangers. Passivity and masochism manifested themselves in both prisoners as veiled and overt attempts at self-destruction . . ." The murders are interpreted by the author as outward expressions of these self-destructive impulses. Both cases involved disturbed family relationships when the murderers were growing up.

Loya, F. Victim-precipitated homicide: An alternative method of suicide among blacks and chicanos? Violence Research Unit, Department of Psychiatry, Denver General Hospital and University of Denver. Unpublished paper, 1973.

The author tests the hypothesis originally advanced by Wolfgang that in certain instances, murder victims have actually committed suicide by provoking another to perpetrate the killing. The author collected data on three ethnic groups (black, chicano, and white), dividing homicide victims into victim and non-victim precipitated groups. A suicide-risk scale was then utilized, to determine whether or not the victim-precipitated homicide group was similar or dissimilar to suicide victims. The author found no evidence to support the hypothesis that victim-precipitated homicides are disguised suicides.

Lunde, D. T. Our murder boom. Psychology today, July 1975:35-42.

"During 1975, one out of every 10,000 of us will die violently." What is responsible for the dramatic increase in the homicide rate? The author asserts that rising expectations, combined with a stagnant economy, produce frustration and chronic dissatisfaction, which in turn leads to the "murder boom" now in progress. The author discusses four types of homicide: intra-familial, felony murders, mass murders, and murders related to the "subculture of violence." Lunde also examines such factors as time and place of homicides, sex, age, race, and "victim-precipitated" homicide. Psychological factors are also discussed, with a detailed examination of two mass-murderers: John Linley Frazier and Edmund Emil Kemper III.

McCarthy, J. B. Narcissism and the self in homicidal adolescents. The American Journal of Psychoanalysis, Spring 1978, 38(1):19-29.

After a review of the existing literature on adolescent homicide, the author advances the hypothesis that a "narcissistic" personality structure is central to the psychological makeup of homicidal adolescents. Parents who "used their adolescent children as objects for the regulation of their own tenuous self-esteem" create a "narcissistic" personality in their children. The "narcissistic" adolescent has great difficulty in forming an autonomous identity; they swing from "infantile omnipotence" to self-hatred, low self-esteem, and incredible rage (meant for the parents but directed at the self). The combination of these personality factors can result in the "acting-out" of this rage; the homicidal adolescent is, in committing the homicide, at once "projecting" the hated self onto the victim (thus, killing the hated parent symbolically), and restoring the self to the state of "infantile omnipotence." After studying ten adolescent murderers, the author finds support for this hypothesis. "Narcissistic disturbances, particularly an impaired capacity for self-esteem regulation and underlying narcissistic rage, were related to homicidal behavior . . . the homicidal assaults were also related to the presence of dehumanization, loss of control and sadistic fantasies."

McCleary, R. D. Violent youth. International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology, 1975, 19:81-86.

The author discusses the reasons for ". . . a new and apparently purposeless violence to persons and property committed by adolescents and young adults." The aggressive adolescent is seen as a product of an aggressive home and a subculture of violence, which leads to a failure on the part of the youth to resolve the "seven crises of adolescent maturing." The clinical skills needed to work with aggressive youth are discussed, as is the responsibility of the schools in intervention.

Malmquist, C. P. Premonitory signs of homicidal aggression in juveniles. American Journal of Psychiatry, October 1971, 128(4):93-97.

The author conducted a psychiatric study of 20 juveniles, aged 13-18 years old (17 males and 3 females), to determine if there were specific aspects of ego functioning which led to the commission of homicide. The author delineates eight prodromal events which seemed to predispose these juveniles to commit homicide: (1) behavioral changes (sudden mood shifts) within 48 hours prior to the attack, (2) a "call for help," (3) the use of drugs, (4) perceived or actual loss of some significant other, (5) threats to manhood (often a girlfriend or parent urging the homicide so that the young man could "prove his manhood"), (6) somatization, hypochondriasis, or a recurrent medical problem, (7) an "emotional crescendo," leading to a breakdown of ego control, and (8) threats to the self involving homosexual feelings and/or actions. The author ends this essay by hypothesizing that adolescent homicide is similar to suicide in that the homicidal act is perceived by the adolescent as the only solution to an intolerable situation.

Marten, G. W. Adolescent murderers. Southern Medical Journal, October 1965, 58:1217-1220.

The author evaluates the cases of two adolescent murders to discover salient psychodynamics involved. Both cases had several characteristics in common: (1) parent had provided the child with the deadly weapon used, (2) a "miserable childhood," (3) real or imaginary parental rejection, and (4) an outburst of violence in an individual functioning on a borderline psychotic level provoked by stress which had certain symbolic or real meaning for the patient's life.

Mercir, J. Homicidal behaviour among persons under age of nineteen. Acta Universitatis Carolinae Medica (Monographia), 1975, 70:1-100.

In this study conducted in Czechoslovakia, 55 adolescents who either committed or attempted murder are examined. The author divides these homicides into four groups: (1) premeditated murder planned without strong emotional motives on the part of the offender (mostly murder with robbery); (2) murder committed in anger, jealous rage, under other types of emotional stress or in a state of strong sexual excitement; (3) murder motivated by fear of the consequences of some other offence (cover-up crimes); and (4) murder committed in a severely abnormal mental state, when the offender is completely incapable of controlling his actions and of comprehending the danger he represents to the community at large. All of the four groups came from families with "parents with personality deviating from normal." Alcoholism of parents was common. The first group was distinguished from the rest by "affective coldness" (lack of remorse for the crime). Previous thefts and encounters with "antisocial elements" distinguished groups (1) and (3) from the others. Serious problems with the educational system were common in all cases. A review of the literature is also included.

Michaels, J. J. Enuresis in murderous aggressive children and adolescents. Archives of General Psychiatry, November 1961, 5:94-97.

The author begins by noting that in Easson and Steinhilber's 1961 study ("Murderous aggression by children and adolescents"), enuresis and epilepsy were prominent features in most of their cases. This confirms the author's own studies, which found enuresis to be the most prominent type of "psychiatric disorder" in juvenile delinquency. The author asserts that both enuresis and epilepsy are indicative of an "impulsive psychopathic character," characterized by "a high degree of irritability, explosiveness, impulsiveness and lack of inhibition which permeates the whole personality." The author feels that more attention needs to be given to the role of these psychosomatic dispositions in the causation of "anti-social" behavior.

Miller, D. and Looney, J. The prediction of adolescent homicide: Episodic dyscontrol and dehumanization. The American Journal of Psychoanalysis, Fall 1974, 34(3):187-198.

In this article, the authors describe "three basic types of murder syndromes," and discuss the extent to which they can be useful in the prediction of adolescent homicide. After reviewing the existing psychoanalytic literature on juvenile homicide, the authors delineate three types of murder syndromes: (1) High Risk: Permanent (total) dehumanization, (2) High Risk: Transient (partial) Dehumanization associated with episodic dyscontrol, and (3) Low Risk: Transient Dehumanization associated with episodic dyscontrol requiring consensual validation. "Episodic dyscontrol" refers to a psychological state where a "weak ego" is overwhelmed by affects and breaks down, allowing for the acting out of violent impulses. "Dehumanization" refers to the ability of the murderer to see the victim as a "nonperson"--the victim is seen as an "object" and thus can be eliminated without remorse or guilt. In all cases, family backgrounds involve a parent or parents who treated the adolescent "murderer-to-be" in a "violent, exploitative manner." This often involved parents who were "inexplicably violent" toward their child. The murderer often directs his or her violence at someone who symbolically represents the hated parent. In other cases, the murderer "projects" his or her "bad self" onto the victim, which he or she then kills. Implications of the ability to predict adolescent homicide are discussed.

Mulvihill, D. J., and Tumin, M. M. Youth and violence. Chapter 14 in Crimes of Violence. A Staff Report submitted to the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence. Vol. 12, December 1969.

This report presents both statistics on youthful violence in the United States, and interpretation of these statistics. Most youthful offenders are male, and there is a disproportionate representation of blacks. Most crimes of violence are not committed by gang members, but are the acts of lone individuals. In terms of the cause of this violence, the authors state that "The criminal violence of youth, most associated with the poor, Negro, urban male, has many of its roots in the demographic realities and deteriorating physical features of the urban environment, accompanying social and psychological forces, subcultural traditions of lawlessness in the ghettos, and models of violence diffused throughout everyday American life." All of the above contributing factors are discussed in more detail.

Otsuka, F., et al. Case studies of homicide in children. Osaka Ika Daigaku. Bulletin of the Osaka Medical School (Supplement), 1967, 12:385-393.

"A clinico-genetic study was carried out on 4 homicidal children under 14 years of age. One child had epilepsy, and the other three could be diagnosed as having character disorders. However, 3 cases had a family history of psychosis, and so are to be placed clinico-genetically in the category of pathologic variation. It seems likely that criminal-biologic factors play an important role in cases of homicide by children."

Patterson, R. M. Psychiatric study of juveniles involved in homicide. The American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, January 1943, 13(1):125-129.

The author examines the case histories of six homicides by juveniles, committed in the State of Michigan, who received extensive psychiatric study and treatment. The social backgrounds were similar, with marginal or sub-marginal economic status the rule. The homes were disintegrated or disorganized by friction, quarreling, alcoholism, and delinquency. In all cases one or both parents were poorly adjusted, inadequate, or unstable. All of the home environments failed to provide satisfactory emotional security. Typical in all of the cases was the incidence of "mother-attachment and related father-hatred." In all cases, the murder was viewed as either an actual or symbolic attempt to eliminate the hated father to gain the mother's affection.

Petti, T. A., and Davidman, L. Homicidal school-age children: Cognitive style and demographic features. Revised version of a paper presented at the 24th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Child Psychiatry, Houston, October 1977.

This paper reviews the literature regarding homicide in children and discusses a variety of hypotheses regarding the etiology of murderous aggression. The relationship of perceived Locus of Control as a cognitive style and homicidal behavior in children is discussed. A comparison of children matched for severity of illness, sex, age, and intelligence is described which found the 9 homicidal children, ages 6 to 11, to perceive themselves as less in control of their destiny, and more subject to chance than the comparison group of children hospitalized for similar psychiatric disorders.

Recent trends in homicide. Statistical Bulletin of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, June 1977.

Homicide rates for the period 1963-64 versus 1973-74 are compared for white males and females, broken down by age. For all ages, homicide rates for white males increased 109% (rates of 4.3 vs. 9.0 for the respective periods); for white females the increase was 81% (rates of 1.6 vs. 2.9). The largest percentage increase was for young people aged 15-24 years--an increase of 150% for white males (rates of 4.4 vs. 11.0) and 153% for white females (rates of 1.5 vs. 3.8). Firearms were used in two-thirds of the homicides in 1974 and 1975; handguns were used in more than 50% of the cases. A quarter of all homicides in 1974 and 1975 occurred within the family; 40% were between friends and acquaintances; about a third were felony murders.

Roberts, T. K., Mock, L. T., and Johnstone, E. E. The psychological aspects of the etiology of violence. Houston, Texas; TRIMS, n.d., 35 pages.

The authors begin by discussing semantical and definitional difficulties involved in the study of aggressive behavior. They then proceed to delineate four major theoretical positions concerning the etiology of violent behavior: (1) etiological theory, (2) psychoanalytic theory, (3) frustration-aggression theory, and (4) social-learning theory. The major criticisms of each position are also included. Finally, the authors summarize a number of studies which attempted to produce a "psychological profile" of people who commit acts of violence.

Rubinstein, E. A. Effects of television on violent behavior. In: Hays, J. R., Roberts, T. K. and Solway, K. S. (Eds.), Violence and the Violent Individual. New York: Spectrum, 1981. Chapter 8, pp. 117-126.

After reviewing previous literature on the relationship between the viewing of television and aggressive behavior among children, the author concludes that "the consensus of opinion among researchers is that TV violence does have a weak positive effect on subsequent aggressive behavior." The author also notes evidence that emotionally disturbed children seem to be more influenced by television viewing than "normal" children. The author also discusses the positive therapeutic effects of television viewing among disturbed populations.

Rushforth, N. B. et al. Violent death in a metropolitan county. Changing patterns in homicide (1958-74). New England Journal of Medicine, September 1977, 297(10):531-538.

The authors present the results of an analysis of homicide patterns in Cuyahoga County, Ohio (metropolitan Cleveland) for the period of 1958-1974. Overall homicide rates in the city rose dramatically--a 320% increase (rates of 5.3 vs. 19.1 for the years 1958 and 1974, respectively). City teenagers and men in their early twenties experienced the greatest increases in homicide rates. Among white males aged 15-19 years, the increase was an astounding 1,745% (rates of 1.1 vs. 20.3). For nonwhite males aged 15-19 years, there was a 283% increase (rates of 34.5 vs. 132.3). Increases from base-line values for corresponding groups 20 to 24 years of age were also astonishing: nonwhite males, an increase of 537% (rates of 54.2 vs. 345.1); and for white males, an increase of 1,307% (rates of 4.1 vs. 57.7). Other statistics on race, sex, age, and method and type of homicide are discussed. The authors cite the ready availability of firearms as a key factor in these increases.

Russell, D. H. A study of juvenile murderers. Journal of Offender Therapy, 1965, 9(3):55-86.

The author examines clinical case histories of 15 juvenile murderers--eight of which were intrafamilial and seven of which were extrafamilial. Individual and family dynamics which the author believes led to the killings are examined in detail, with the interpretations derived from psychoanalytic theory. In general, the author interprets the murders to have been directed at the mother, who was usually described as being dominant and controlling: "All of the murders had their roots in the frustrations attendant to maternal deprivation with faulty human conditioning in the earliest periods of life . . . the additional integral feature of these murderers is that they all had suffered continuous threats and assaults upon their weak ego structures, which, aggravated by the pressures of adolescence, intensified their primitive narcissistic defenses, resulting in regression to the murderous state." Family background was typically chaotic, often with alcoholic fathers who were either passive or extremely abusive. Psychotherapy is urged as the solution to the problem of juvenile homicide.

Russell, D. H. Ingredients of juvenile murder. International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology, 1979, 23:65-72.

The author reports further on 24 juvenile murderers, and delineates the etiology or "ingredients" of such killings. In all cases, a "close, ambivalent and controlling relationship" of the mother to the son prevented proper ego development and resulted in the buildup of murderous rage, coupled with paranoid ideation. Several cases are presented in detail.

Sadoff, R. L. Clinical observations on parricide. Psychiatric Quarterly, 1971, 45:65-69.

The author discusses the psychodynamics involved in the cases of two young men (aged 17 and 22) who committed parricide. Most striking was the cruel and unusual relationship between victim and assassin. In both cases, the parent-victim mistreated the child excessively and pushed him to the point of explosive violence. The child was unable to leave voluntarily without resorting to murder due to a strong attachment to one of his parents. In both cases, a borderline or schizoid personality preexisted the acute psychotic deterioration at the time of the shooting, and the psychosis cleared following the act. The author sees the parent who was murdered as actively participating in their own demise.

Sargent, D. Children who kill--a family conspiracy? Social Work, January 1962, 7:35-42.

The author advances the hypothesis that in some cases of youthful homicide, the child who kills is acting as the unwitting lethal agent of an adult (usually the parent) who unconsciously prompts the child to kill so that he or she can vicariously enjoy the benefits of the act. The author also suggests two corollaries to this hypothesis: first, that the adult plays upon the latent currents of hostility the child feels toward the victim--hostility which, without the adult's provocation and the child's special susceptibility to it, probably would remain inoperative and under control of the child's ego; and second, that the child's susceptibility to, and readiness to act upon, the unconscious prompting of the adult rests upon the immaturity of the child's ego and the presence of a special emotional bond between the child and the adult. Five case histories involving actual and attempted homicide by children aged 3 1/2 years to 16 years of age are discussed in light of this hypothesis, and the author finds that in each case examined, there is ample evidence to support his hypothesis. It should also be noted that, as in many other studies of youthful homicide, the family background was filled with conflict. Alcoholism (usually of the father) was also a prominent feature in these cases. The author ends this article by discussing implications of this hypothesis for treatment and prevention.

Satten, J., et al. Murder without apparent motive: A study in personality disorganization. The American Journal of Psychiatry, July 1960, 117(1):48-53.

This study examined the cases of four adult murderers convicted of "bizarre, apparently senseless murders." In terms of juvenile homicide, the main relevance of this article is the authors' conclusions concerning etiology. They found that these murderers had a history characterized by extreme parental violence and early severe emotional deprivation. This produced "... an ego weakness which allowed the periodic breakthrough of intense aggressive impulses, sometimes of homicidal proportion."

Scherl, D. J., and Mack, J. E. A study of adolescent matricide. Journal of the American Academy of Child Psychiatry, October 1966, 5(4):569-593.

The authors present the results of a study of three cases of adolescent matricide. In every case, they found a history of severe early maternal restrictiveness, with alternating deprivation, provocation, and harshness, extending into adolescence. In each, the mother-child relationship became unusually intense and conflict-laden. The fathers were uniformly passive and remained relatively uninvolved in the mother-child interaction, except as punishing agents. Physical abuse and violence in the home were common. The matricide is viewed by the authors as a desperate attempt by the child to escape maternal domination. A detailed case history of one of these murders is also presented.

Schmideberg, M. Juvenile murderers. International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology, 1973, 17(3):240-245.

The author, in discussing juvenile homicide, discounts the more traditional explanations for juvenile homicide, such as the "subculture of violence" and chaotic family backgrounds with abusive parents. Instead, Schmideberg maintains that the rise in youthful murder is due to (1) overly-lenient treatment of convicted juvenile murderers by the judicial system, (2) a society which "tends to minimize murder," (3) our "child-dominated society," in which children are "permissively brought up" and "spoilt," and (4) the glorification of violence in the electronic media. The author ends this essay by suggesting that longer terms of incarceration for convicted murderers might lower the juvenile murder rate.

Seiden, R. H., and Freitas, R. P. Shifting patterns of deadly violence. Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior, 1980, 10(4):195-209.

From the abstract: "To the casual observer, it would seem that the United States' suicide rate has been remarkably steady in recent years. However, this conclusion would be incorrect since the stability has been more apparent than real. While it is true that the total suicide rate has varied little, reference to this general composite figure masks a dramatic shift in the risk of suicide by age. In recent years there has been a reduction of suicide at older ages reciprocated by an unprecedented increase of suicide (and homicide) at younger ages. The extent of this change during the ten-year period 1966-75 is explored along with possible explanations for the epidemic increase of aggressive violent death among younger people."

Sendi, I. B., and Blomgren, P. G. A comparative study of predictive criteria in the predisposition of homicidal adolescents. American Journal of Psychiatry, April 1975, 132(4):423-427.

The authors evaluated the criteria that are cited in the literature as predictive of homicidal predisposition. They applied three categories of criteria--clinical, developmental, and environmental factors--to a study group of 10 adolescents who had committed homicide, 10 who had threatened or attempted homicide, and 10 hospitalized controls. Their findings did not support the presence of a well-crystallized predisposition for homicidal behavior in this population, but they did show that the adolescents who committed homicide were "psychotic-regressive" and those who threatened or attempted homicide were "organic-impulsive." The study strongly suggests the importance of environmental factors in reinforcing homicidal behavior.

Silberman, C. E. Criminal Violence, Criminal Justice. New York: Random House, 1978.

Especially relevant to this topic is Chapter 9, "Juvenile Justice: 'How Could It Have Happened When We Were So Sincere.'"

Silver, L. B., Dublin, C. C., and Lourie, R. S. Does violence breed violence? Contributions from a study of the child abuse syndrome. American Journal of Psychiatry, September 1969, 126(3):404-407.

From the abstract: "A study covering three generations of families of abused children supports the themes that violence breeds violence and that a child who experiences violence as a child has the potential of becoming a violent member of society in the future. The authors believe that the physician has a critical role and responsibility in interrupting this cycle of violence."

Smith, S. The adolescent murderer. A psychodynamic interpretation. Archives of General Psychiatry, October 1965, 13:310-319.

After a brief review of the existing literature on juvenile homicide, the author presents the results of a study of eight murderers ranging in age from 14 to 21 years, with three cases presented in detail. The author found that "In each instance, the early childhood development of these patients has been marked by a disintegrated family relationship . . . positive and stable ego models were missing in their life histories" Families were typically filled with conflict, with mothers being superficially caring but fundamentally uninterested in the children, and fathers tending to be distant and unpredictably aggressive towards the children. This leads to a "weak ego structure" in the child, which--coupled with intense feelings of hostility towards one or both parents--leads to periods of loss of control and subsequent violent outbursts. The question of why only some children from violent and inconsistent family backgrounds become homicidal remains unanswered. The author also asserts that "invariably," the murder is directed towards the parent, with strangers often serving as symbolic parent-figures. The article ends with implications and recommendations for treatment.

Solway, K. S. et al. Adolescent murderers: Literature review and preview of a research project. In: Hays, J. R., Roberts, T. K. and Solway, K. S. (Eds.), Violence and the Violent Individual. New York: Spectrum, 1981. Chapter 12, pp. 193-209.

The authors present a review of the literature on juvenile homicide, and in general are critical of the poor quality of the research. The authors proceed to outline their own research project on juvenile homicide. They found that the typologies of homicidal adolescents suggested by the existing literature was not supported in their own study. They did discover that the murderers tended to fall into three groups: the impulsive or spontaneous murderer, the planned murderer and the psychopathic type murderer. Implications for future research are also discussed.

Somers, A. R. Violence, television and the health of American youth. The New England Journal of Medicine, April 1976, 294(15):811-817.

From the abstract: "In 1973, 18,032 young Americans, 15 to 24 years of age, died in motor-vehicle accidents, 5182 were murdered, and 4098 committed suicide. The death rate, for this group, was 19 percent higher in 1973-74 than it had been in 1960-61, owing entirely to deaths by violence. The largest rise in deaths from homicide during the past two decades was at the ages of one to four. For a considerable proportion of American children and youth, the 'culture of violence' is now both a major health threat and a way of life." After reviewing the results of numerous studies of television influence on real-life violence, including two major government commissions, the author concludes that television violence does indeed have "teaching and instigating effects" on the young people who watch it. The need for government intervention, as well as action by health professionals, is discussed.

Sorrells, J. M. Kids who kill. Crime and Delinquency, July 1977, 23(3):312-320.

Case records on 31 juveniles charged with homicide or attempted homicide in Alameda County, California, were reviewed to identify characteristics of offenders of this type. Almost all of the assailants were males, and 50% were 16 years old or younger. Over two-thirds were carrying the weapons used, suggesting that predisposition to kill may be present even without premeditation; about 33% of the assailants were engaged in robbery when the homicides occurred, and about 25% were intoxicated. Two-thirds had previous records; but, in general, this sample did not seem more disturbed than any other delinquent sample. The families of the assailants were characterized as violent and chaotic. The author suggests that the popular media, which teaches the value of excitement (of which violence is a cheap form) has a substantial impact in cases of this type. This is especially true in the absence of family values opposed to violence.

Sorrells, J. M. What can be done about juvenile homicide? Paper presented to the 6th National Conference of Juvenile Justice, San Diego, 1979.

In this paper, the author delineates three general characteristics of "kids who kill." They are: (1) kids who kill come disproportionately from communities in which there are abundant indications that life is not valued highly. This includes such factors as poverty and high infant mortality. (2) Kids who kill come from violent, chaotic families. Such families are "models for violence." (3) Kids who kill fall largely into three groups: the non-empathic, the pre-psychotic, and the neurotically fearful. The non-empathic are essentially psychopathic, unable to experience compassion for others. The pre-psychotic resort to homicide as a desperate "cry for help." The neurotically fearful see everything in their environment as life-threatening, and can overreact to threatening stimuli. The author concludes by outlining those efforts which should be undertaken in solving the problem of juvenile homicide.

Stearns, A. W. Murder by adolescents with obscure motivation. American Journal of Psychiatry, October 1965, 114:303-305.

The author begins this short article by discussing the need for a classificatory scheme for adolescent murderers. The author goes on to discuss four cases of adolescent homicide with no apparent motivation and no evidence of psychosis. In all of the cases, the perpetrators were males, their reputations were all uniformly good, and the victims were all females. The murderers confessed readily when confronted, and reported that they acted on "impulse." The author suggests that sexual motives may have been involved in the killings.

Steinmetz, S. K., and Straus, M. A. The family as cradle of violence. Society, September-October 1973, 10(6):50-56.

Studied are homicide at home, class differences, compensatory violence, sexual repression, catharsis myth, and cultural beliefs. The fact is that almost all beating, slapping, kicking, and throwing things is carried out by normal Americans in the course of their home life. Exposure to vicariously experienced violence has been shown to increase rather than to decrease both aggressive fantasy and aggressive activity.

Szymusik, A., et al. Juvenile homicides and sexual offenders. Psychiatria Polska, March 1972, 6:143-149.

The authors present the findings of psychological and psychiatric studies of 14 juvenile offenders ranging in age from 15 to 18 years of age. Affective coldness, cruelty or sadism appeared in most of the cases. There was no sign of mental illness. The authors believe that family conflicts led to a gradual severance from the family and environment. The homicides were characterized by a desire to dominate, to be distinguished, and to gain recognition.

Tanay, E. Adolescents who kill parents--reactive parricide. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry, 1973, 7:263-277.

Except for the clinical cases used, this paper is essentially the same as a later article already reviewed. See Tanay, 1976.

Tanay, E. Reactive parricide. Journal of Forensic Sciences, January 1976, 21(1):76-82.

This paper deals with a type of parricide which is not the result of psychopathology, but is an adaptive response to the family situation. Drawing from his observations of eight cases of "reactive parricide," the author draws the following conclusions: (1) the killed parent was a sadistic person, (2) the whole family lived in dread of the killed parent, (3) the surviving parent was a passive, dependent individual, masochistic and dependent on the sadistic partner, (4) the relationship between parents was sado-masochistic, preventing dissolution of the marriage or control of the sadistic behavior, (5) the family life was disturbed and gave rise to catastrophic conflict, (6) the slaying of the sadistic parent led to a general improvement in the family life and quite

often open relief and even rejoicing, (7) official responses to years of the sadistic behavior were ineffective, slow, and highly frustrating, and (8) the life of the perpetrator after the murder is characterized by definite improvement. The author also discusses social factors which lead to such conflictual situations.

Tinklenberg, J. R. and Ochberg, F. M. Patterns of adolescent violence: A California sample. In: Hamburg, D. A. and Trudeau, B. M. (Eds.), Bio-chemical Perspectives on Human Aggression. New York: Alan R. Liss, 1981. Pp. 121-140.

The number of California juveniles (people under 18 years of age) arrested for homicide, robbery, assault, and forcible rape rose between 46.8% between 1968 and 1973--a rate two and one-half times greater than the increase in adult violent crime in California during the same period. In an attempt to understand the "juvenile pattern of violence," the authors studied 95 male adolescents who were incarcerated at the California Youth Authority near Stockton, California. The typical offender was non-white (73%), from urban background, of low socio-economic status, and had a previous arrest record (86%). 40% of these crimes occurred in a residence, and 29% on the street. Over a third of the crimes occurred on weekends, and over half between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. Disturbingly, almost half of the victims were strangers and 39% were "at best" casual acquaintances of their assailants. Most of the victims were in the same age range as their assailants, and the vast majority (83%) were male. The rate of intra-ethnic homicide was considerably lower than that of adults (59%). A majority of the adolescents studied had used alcohol and/or other drugs prior to the crime, and over half used a gun during the commission of the crime. In a discussion of these crimes, the authors classify them into five categories--instrumental, emotional, felonious, bizarre, and dyssocial. The paper ends with a discussion of what action should be taken in light of the changing patterns of violent crime.

Tooley, K. The small assassins. Clinical notes on a subgroup of murderous children. Journal of the American Academy of Child Psychiatry, Spring 1975, 14(2):306-318.

The author examines the cases of two young children (both 6 years of age) who attempted to murder a sibling. The author concludes that these were the "favored" children in the family, "the ones closely in tune with their mothers' unconscious needs and wishes." In addition, "each small assassin was intuitively aware that the mother found her large family a burden, and they enjoyed a special relationship with her because of their willingness in several ways to share her burden, to 'mother' her, and to act out for her." The author suggests that the attempted murders were a means by which the mother's tenuous affection for the "favored" child could be preserved. It was also possible that these children were "acting out" the mother's own unconscious hostility toward the intended victim. Methods of therapeutic intervention are also discussed.

Walsh-Brennan, K. S. Psychopathology of homicidal children. Royal Society of Health Journal (London), December 1974, 94:274-277.

This is apparently an earlier version of the same study reported by Walsh-Brennan in a later article (see Walsh-Brennan, 1975b).

Walsh-Brennan, K. S. Children convicted of homicide. Ulster Medical Journal, 1975a, 44:39-43.

The author examined the case histories of 11 child and adolescent murderers, to study the influence of (1) family and social history, (2) adverse factors in family background, and (3) previous criminal records, psychological, psychiatric aspects and treatment. No evidence of psychopathy, mental deficiency, or biological abnormality was found among the juveniles, and none had prior serious criminal records. Although they all appeared to come from "normal" homes, the author expresses some doubts about the reliability of that data.

Walsh-Brennan, K. S. Community factors in young murderers. Community Health (Bristol), March-April 1975b, 6(5):252-256.

The author examines 11 adolescent and child murderers to determine what factors, if any, distinguish young murderers from other young people. The only finding of note was an "over-dominant maternal relationship" for the male murderers.

Walsh-Brennan, K. S. Children who have murdered. Medico-Legal Journal, 1975c, 43(1):20-24.

This is apparently a re-write of the same study reported in three other journals by the same author. See Walsh-Brennan, 1975b.

Weiss, J. M. A., Lamberti, J. W., and Blackman, N. The sudden murderer. A comparative analysis. Archives of General Psychiatry, June 1960, 2(6):669-677.

In this study, the "sudden murderer" is defined as a person who, without having been involved in any previous serious aggressive antisocial acts, suddenly, unlawfully, and intentionally kills another human being. The authors conducted a comparative psychiatric investigation of the life histories and offenses of 13 "sudden murderers," 13 habitual criminal offenders, and 13 sexual deviates. The prototype patient in all groups was a young adult male who had never been very successful, and who felt inadequate and isolated, inferior to and apart from other people. Characteristically, the "sudden murderer" came from a cohesive home where mother was a domineering, overprotective figure who emphasized conformity to the rules of the social system. These murderers were plagued by feelings of inadequacy and hostility, and tended to blame other people for their difficulties. This hostility built up until a minor provocation was enough to set it off. Comparisons with other relevant studies and implications for further research are also discussed.

Weiss, N. S. Recent trends in violent deaths among young adults in the United States. American Journal of Epidemiology, April 1976, 103(4):416-422.

Utilizing data from the National Center for Health Statistics, the author examines recent trends in violent deaths (motor vehicle accidents, suicide, and homicide) among young adults. The data indicates that since 1960, death rates in the United States among young adults from the three causes listed above have risen dramatically, and show no indication of levelling off. Violent deaths accounted for over 40% of all deaths in the 15-44 age group in 1973. Data is presented on the death rates from the three types of violent death, broken down by age, sex, and race for the three years 1960-1973. Limitations of the data are discussed. The author concludes with a discussion of four factors he believes are influencing the homicide rate: the increased availability and use of guns, the excessive use of alcohol, drug abuse and drug addiction, and political instability.

Wittman, P., and Astrachan, M. Psychological investigation of a homicidal youth. Journal of Clinical Psychology, January 1949, 5(1):88-93.

The authors present the case of an 18-year-old male who murdered two women and a small child. The murderer's home life included an alcoholic father who was strict and harsh in his disciplinary approach. Both parents were extremely devout and fundamentally orthodox in their religious interests. Analysis of the youth's personality in terms of Sheldon's classificatory scheme was performed, indicating somatic extroversion. Intelligence level was normal, with no evidence of organic pathology. Psychiatric diagnosis was one of psychoneurosis of the hysterical type. The murders were interpreted as the result of an internal "split" between the murderer's "good side" and his "unacceptable (dissociated)" side. As with many other such cases, the youth expressed no guilt over the murders.

Wolfgang, M. E. Youth and Violence. Report submitted to the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Social and Rehabilitation Service, Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention Administration, 1970.

In addressing the problem of violent youth, the author discusses the meaning of youth, the socialization into violence, and the subculture of violence in cities. Results from the author's delinquent cohort study are presented. Finally, society's response to the problem of violent youth is discussed.

Wolfgang, M. E. Sociocultural overview of criminal violence. In: Hays, J. R., Roberts, T. K. and Solway, K. S. (Eds.), Violence and the Violent Individual. New York: Spetrum, 1981. Chapter 7, pp. 97-115.

Wolfgang argues that a sociocultural approach is necessary if we are to understand "the overwhelming involvement in crime of men over women, slums over suburbs, youth over age, urban over rural

life." The author discusses problems of definition, which are intertwined with the extent to which any given culture has norms which legitimate violence (as in childrearing). Wolfgang examines the extent of intra-familial and youth violence. The author then proceeds to examine in detail a study on delinquency which utilized birth cohort analysis. A small number of chronic offenders were responsible for most of the serious offenses (14%), and slightly more than half of the nonwhite members of the entire cohort were delinquent. In addition, the nonwhite delinquents were responsible for the most serious offenses. Wolfgang then discusses the "subculture" of violence, meaning "a set of values, attitudes and beliefs congealed in pockets of populations characterized by residential propinquity and shared commitment to the use of physical aggression as a major mode of personal interaction and a device for solving problems." According to the author, family violence and delinquency are "most commonly related" to such subcultural values. The author makes a rather controversial recommendation that the solution to such violence lies in "breaking up" such subcultures by moving people within them to various parts of the city.

Woods, S. M. Adolescent violence and homicide. Ego disruption and the 6 and 14 dysrhythmia. Archives of General Psychiatry, 1961, 5:528-534.

Based on previous literature and his own study of two cases of adolescent homicide, the author advances the hypothesis that the electroencephalographic phenomena known as the 6 and 14-per-second dysrhythmia is related to the commission of homicide by adolescents. The dysrhythmia does not in itself cause violence, but "... serves as a biologically determined stress on an already impoverished ego." The two cases of adolescent homicide are also presented in detail.

END