

2021

Exploring the Parenting Styles in Juvenile-Facilitated Parricide

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Walden University

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Justess Jacobson

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Walden University

2021

Abstract

Exploring the Parenting Styles in Juvenile-Facilitated Parricide

by

Justess Jacobson

MA, Southern New Hampshire University, 2017

BS, Mount Washington College, 2015

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

Forensic Psychology

Walden University

February 2021

Abstract

Juvenile-facilitated parricide is a rare crime when a juvenile child murders their parent. Parricide cases are unique in that the offender defies the normal parent-child relationship when they kill their own parent. The purpose of this study was to explore the parenting styles that occur in juvenile-facilitated parricide. By using a qualitative case study analysis methodology, this study examined the effect of parenting styles on the bonds between a parent and child, which creates the necessary tension for a child to be able to kill their parents. Attachment theory was used to understand how a child bonds through parenting styles and how a parenting style can affect attachment style as well as explain what parenting styles are common in parricide cases facilitated by the juvenile parricide offender. The goal of the study was to recognize common parenting styles in hopes to aid professionals in having accurate information to help recognize a potential situation and intervene before a crime is committed. After conducting a case study analysis on 11 juvenile-facilitated parricide cases, the following themes emerged: (a) abused children had authoritarian parents, (b) juveniles with antisocial tendencies or killings had parents that were authoritative with permissive tendencies and were likely trying to punish the child in an appropriate manner though the child did not want to be tamed, and (c) a juvenile who had diagnosed mental illness also demonstrated antisocial behavioral traits. The findings of this study can lead to positive social change through helping developmental and forensic psychologists understand the importance of the role parenting styles play in preventing parricide cases.

Exploring the Parenting Styles Found in Juvenile-Facilitated Parricide

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Dedication

I dedicate this work to my mother, Robyn, my brother, Jarrod, and my husband, Dustin. My mother and husband have been my biggest cheerleaders and supporters during this whole journey. Without their encouragement, continued efforts in motivating me, and their ability to make me want to better myself, I would not have made it this far. I also know, my biggest supporter and fan is watching me write and research this from heaven. He never got to see me come this far, but I know he is rooting for me and smiling down on me. Jarrod was my absolute best friend before he passed away, and always encouraged me to follow my dreams of going into the forensic psychology field. Our late night chats about my passions and desires are what encouraged me to start this degree. To my big brother in heaven, I love and miss you more than you will ever know. To my mom and husband, you are the rocks in my life, and I will forever be indebted to you for your support and unconditional love. I dedicate this work to all of you.

I also dedicate this work to Dr. Jessica Hart and Dr. Eric Hickey. Dr. Hart is the absolute best chair anyone could have asked for. We got to share our passions and was a wonderful support system. Dr. Hickey made me the person I am today, and has encouraged me since the first day he met me. I never believed in myself until I met Dr. Hickey, and got to learn about the dark side of psychology and my true passion. Thank you to both Dr. Hickey and Dr. Hart. I dedicate this to you both as a token of appreciation for the role you play in my life that will never be forgotten.

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge numerous people. The first person I would like to acknowledge is Dr. Jessica Hart. She is a one-of-a-kind instructor who has put up with me the past couple years, and was able to handle my sense of humor during these stressful times. Without her dedication to helping me through this process, I can't even imagine where I would be. I would also like to acknowledge Dr. Eric Hickey. Dr. Hickey has changed my life more than he will ever know, and for that, I will never be able to express enough gratitude. He was there during every breakdown (and there were quite a few) and was able to pick me back up and help me get right back on track. He and Dr. Hart were an absolute dream team to work with. Next, I would like to thank Dr. Sharon Xuereb, She had wonderful feedback for my work and provided a fresh pair of eyes and knowledge to make my research the absolute best it could be.

I would like to acknowledge my mom, who is the best cheerleader. When Dr. Hickey couldn't be there at 1 in the morning for me, she was. She pushed me because she knew how passionate I was. She also helped by giving me ideas and letting me bounce ideas off of her. I also would like to acknowledge my husband who was patient, kind, and my biggest cheerleader while I went through this process. I would also like to acknowledge my friend, Megan who would come over listen to me read and reread portions of my dissertation, and would help me prepare my presentations. Lastly, I would like to kindly acknowledge the victims listed in this research, and may their families find peace and comfort in these tragedies.

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Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

Parricide is one of the rarest forms of homicide in the United States; however, the data depicts that the trend is continuing to increase, and parricides are becoming more frequent (Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI], 2019). Experts believe that there are three reasons parricides occur, particularly when the offender is a juvenile. According to Heide (1993), a juvenile parricide offender is likely to be either severely abused, severely mentally ill, or dangerously antisocial. While most juvenile homicide offenders are likely to kill an acquaintance or peer, the parricide offender betrays the bond of parent and child by killing their parent. Due to the rare nature of the crime, limited research is available that can assist in understanding and preventing this tragic crime (Fegadel & Heide, 2018; Heide, 2015).

With the results of the current study on parenting styles that occur in juvenile-facilitated parricide cases, experts will be able to understand the family dynamics in parricide cases and be armed with the research to identify families that are at risk and intervene before the crime is committed to protect them, which can aid in decreasing the number of parricide cases. By providing experts with research on the family dynamics of parricide, the social problem of juveniles killing their parent(s) can be better understood, leading to the creation of solutions.

In this chapter, I present the background and purpose of the study as well as the research questions that guided this study. The chapter also includes a discussion of the assumptions, limitations, and definitions of terms that are used throughout this research study.

Background

Parricide is a rare topic of research in forensic psychology. There have been few studies conducted regarding parricide and even fewer experts on the topic in the field. The rate of juvenile-facilitated parricide is increasing with little to no research to help prevent this from happening (FBI, 2019; Fegadel & Heide, 2017). The lack of research in the field leaves many factors regarding the topic unexplored.

In general, juvenile homicide does not occur often; however, a juvenile homicide offender is likely to kill someone without attachment or bonds (Baaglivio & Wolf, 2017). Therefore, a parricide offender defies the norms of society and biological attachments when they murder their parents (Baaglivio & Wolff, 2017; Fegadel & Heide, 2017). A juvenile homicide offender is also likely to have antisocial tendencies and kill someone who is not emotionally close to them (Heide, 2017). Baaglivio and Wolff (2017) described that juveniles kill peers and acquaintances because they are able to separate their emotions from this person. In a parricide killing, the child may be able to separate emotions, but they are still forever affected by losing their parent(s).

Juvenile homicide offenders often lack attachment to their victims because they have not built a strong bond or attachment throughout their life (Baaglivio & Wolff, 2017). Part of the bond between a parent and child appears through infancy and grows through their life. One of the ways in which an attachment or bond may be strengthened is by the parenting style exhibited by the parent (Fegadel & Heide, 2017). A parenting style incorporates the punishment and needs that a parent establishes in the household. According to Baumrind (1973), parenting styles influence attachment because the child is

able to gain trust and respect for their parent as opposed to children who have been parented with negative parenting styles, which lead to negative relationships and bonds (Bowlby, 1959).

By exploring the parenting styles in parricide in the current study, Mental Health professionals will be able to understand the importance of proper development techniques. Professionals will also be able to assess whether families are at risk and provide preventative interventions to help them reduce the risk of parricide.

Problem Statement

According to the FBI (2019), the juvenile population of the United States is considered a special population. When a juvenile is a part of a criminal case in any capacity, Mental Health professionals must exercise extreme caution and remain within specific boundaries. In the criminal justice system, juvenile offenders are considered to be the hardest population to study due to the limited access to juvenile records (Fegadel & Heide, 2018). This leads to limited information being available with which to research juvenile-facilitated crime, including homicide. Juvenile homicide accounts for 7% of homicides each year (FBI, 2019). According to Roe-Sepwitz (2009), the lack of attachment between a juvenile offender and their victim(s) eases their ability to commit the crime. While these homicides may seem random or unattached, there is a group of juveniles who defy the norms of attachment and kill their biological parents (Baglivio & Wolff, 2017). Each year preceding 2017, there was an average of 254 parricide victims per year (FBI, 2019). In 2017, there was an increase in parricide victims to 367. The

increase in parricide is alarming to professionals because there is a lack of research in parricide cases that focuses on prevention and other interventional strategies.

Researchers have found that parricide offenses can be categorized into stemming from three different motives, the child being: severely mentally ill, severely abused, and/or the dangerously antisocial (Fegadel & Heide, 2017; Hart & Helms, 2003).

Researchers have also found that parenting styles may be the derivative of these motives.

Baumrind (1966) described parenting styles as the style in which a parent responds to their child's needs, disciplines them, and create boundaries. According to Baumrind (1966), there are three types of parenting styles (i.e., authoritarian, authoritative, and permissive), each with different outcomes. Maccoby and Martin (1983) extended the work of Baumrind by separating permissive parenting into two categories (i.e., indulgent and neglectful) and creating a spectrum to further explain the dynamics of parenting styles.

The findings of this study show that parenting styles have dramatic outcomes that involve abusive tendencies, mental illnesses, and antisocial tendencies. In this qualitative study, I described the parenting styles that occur in parricide cases to promote prevention methods and interventions to decrease the number of juvenile-facilitated parricide cases.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this research was to examine the parenting styles of parents who were murdered by their minor-aged children. With the assessment of parental roles and styles, parricide cases can further be explained to professionals to create proper prevention, intervention, and threat assessments to prevent parricide from occurring. This

is a unique research topic because parent-child relationships are underexplored in parricide research. Heide and Fegadel (2018) explained that emotional relationships, such as the bond between parent and child, as well as the day-to-day lifestyle and interaction between the parent and child are not well researched. In the current study, I examined the parenting styles of biological parents who were killed by their parents and assessed the relationship to determine common parenting patterns.

Research Question

Research Question: What are the parenting styles demonstrated by parents who are killed by their minor-aged children?

Theoretical Framework

Bowlby (1958) described a form of bond between parents and children, calling it attachment. In attachment theory, Bowlby stated that a child is likely to develop a strong bond with one parent, then gradually with the other and other caretakers. It is during this time that critical needs are met, such as food, shelter, emotional support, trust, and love. When a parent provides essential needs, positive attachment forms, and this leads to positive personality traits, coping mechanisms, and strong emotional stability (Bowlby, 1958). Ainsworth (1970) expanded on the theory of attachment and reported that there are different types of attachment styles that are developed throughout different types of family structures. According to Ainsworth, there are four types of attachment: secure attachment, anxious-resistant insecure attachment, anxious-avoidant insecure attachment, and disorganized/disoriented attachment.

In this study, I used attachment theory as the embedded framework for researching parenting styles. Because I explored juvenile homicide offenders who violate the norms of attachment, attachment theory created a foundation for me to explore how parenting styles can influence parricide offenders.

Nature of the Study

In this study, I used a case study analysis to explore the parenting styles in juvenile parricide cases. According to Lloyd-Jones (2003), a case study analysis dissects the qualities in an event and/or relationship. Hanurawan (2013) stated that case study analysis research is the most ethical approach in studies that focus on special populations. The cases in this study were strictly focused on juvenile offenders who committed parricide and had killed a biological parent. To be included in this study, the cases had to include information about the relationship between the offender and the victim. According to Patton (2015), the number of case studies that are needed to complete research can vary. When doing a small research study, 10–15 cases may be a starting base that a researcher can use to establish patterns from. Based on the data that are being studied, the researcher can alter the number of cases to fit their needs. Patton suggested that the number of case studies should always be analyzed for both limitations and future research.

Definitions of Key Terms

Antisocial: A psychological term that is defined by American Psychological Association (2010) in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* as: “A pervasive pattern of disregard for and violation of the rights of others. Those with Anti-

Social tendencies exhibited a low sense of moral and consciousness, as well as a history of crime, legal problems, or impulsive and aggressive behavior” (p. 648).

Attachment: A deep and enduring emotional bond that connects one person to another across time and space (Ainsworth, 1973; Bowlby, 1969)

Battered child syndrome (BCS): A group of physical and mental symptoms arising from long-term physical violence against a child. (Kemp, 1962; Leventhal & Krugman, 2012)

Juvenile: A young person under the age of 18 years old (Heilbrun et al., 2005).

Juvenile-facilitated parricide: The act of a juvenile murdering one or both of their parents (Heide, 1983).

Parenting style: A psychological construct representing standard strategies that parents use in their child rearing. The quality of parenting can be more essential than the quantity of time spent with the child. Parenting styles are the representation of how parents respond to and make demands on their children (Ainsworth, 1973; Perez-Gramaje et al., 2020).

Parricide: The crime of an offspring killing one or both of their parents (Heide, 1983).

Assumptions

In this study, I assumed that all the information that was gathered is accurate and true to the crime. Lucas et al. (2018) stated the case study methodology focuses on using secondary sources as a source of information. Therefore, I assumed that the third-party reports accurately and truthfully reported the knowledge of the case in an unbiased

manner with no agenda. This assumption was important to the integrity of this research to ensure that all aspects of this study are factual and representative of the case (see Lucas et al., 2018; Patton, 2015; Setia, 2016).

It was also assumed that all parties are guilty as evidenced by their trial in the court of law. Any case that was researched was assumed to be committed by the juvenile offspring of the victim. All of the cases have gone through their trial process, and the defendants were found guilty of their crimes. Should there be a case in which the juvenile offspring was found to be innocent after a conviction, I made the case ineligible for inclusion in this research.

Lastly, I assumed that the juveniles in these cases are biologically related to their offenders. The secondary data were able to provide accurate information regarding the genetic relationship between the victim and the offender.

Scope and Delimitations

The scope of this study was centered on the parenting styles that are present in juvenile-facilitated parricide. I employed a case study analysis methodology in this study because it allowed for the most ethical access to information regarding juvenile homicide cases. The case study methodology afforded a review of information without interfering with this special population or the interference of the ethical collection of data. However, by using a case study methodology, I was unable to guarantee the complete accuracy of reporting as well as the quantity of information (see Patton, 2015). Some cases were in headlines around the country, which gave the opportunity for more information being available and increased the chances of direct information from the offender existing;

however, there were cases that had minimal information on them published, which was a factor in the results of the study. Another delimitation was that the parenting styles were found instead of stated in the published information. This means I gathered all forms of data to determine the type of parenting style exhibited in the home as opposed to their being a concrete statement of the parenting styles that occurred in the house.

This research involved juvenile offenders who acted alone in their crime, so cases where the juvenile had a sibling assist in the crime were excluded. The cases must have involved a biological child as the offender; therefore, cases in which another relative was a victim were excluded. Lastly, the offender must have gone through a proper court trial and have been proven guilty to be included in this research.

All the cases that included in this study were publicized cases, which decreased the number of potential cases that could be used for this research. Because there are numerous cases that occur each year with no media attention, I had concerns over the appropriate representation of cases to achieve the desired saturation levels in the study. However, future research may continue this study by using nonpublicized cases to ensure all cases are represented.

Limitations

Case studies that include secondary data provide ethical but limited research findings. By using published articles and interviews, the person conducting the study must rely on others for their research and accuracy. This also means the exact agenda of the research is compromised. Therefore, the exact answers that are needed may not be found, which can lead to gaps in the research, as well as inaccurate information that was

released. This limitation was important to understand for this study because I had to rely on this extant information to conduct the study. The reader must understand that as a researcher, I was limited to the information available, which limited the data to interpret.

One of the greatest challenges in this study was finding ample information on each case. Some cases do have notoriety, which allowed for multiple sources to publish information on them, and capture the public's interest, which leads to documentaries that could be utilized. However, because the offenders were juveniles, some information on their cases was sealed or released numerous years after the crimes occurred. This lack or irretrievability of information resulted in serious limitations and increased the chances of inaccurate information being released to the media.

Significance

According to Heide (2014), parricide is an underresearched topic. Experts fear that the increasing rate of parricide will continue without any form of intervention or knowledge behind the crime (Fegadel & Heide, 2018). By researching the parenting styles demonstrated by parents in this study, I hope to establish a clear pattern; this pattern, or lack thereof, can be used to assist Mental Health professionals in identifying at-risk patients or clients.

The purpose and goal of this study was to examine the parenting styles of parents who were murdered by their minor-aged children. The results of the study may aid in future research in juvenile homicide cases, particularly those that involve parents as victims. The increase in parricide cases is a cause for concern with society; however, this research should be able to help professionals recognize early warning signs. In addition to

the early warning signs, the findings of this research may cross boundaries and increase knowledge about the importance of influence from parents, their styles of parenting, and the dangerous outcomes in developmental psychology. Anytime a parricide occurs, an entire community is affected. Friends and family of the victim and the offender are dealing with the loss as well as the shock as are community organizations and even the school that the offender is attending. By completing this study and providing information that may decrease the number of parricides, people's lives can be saved and the trauma of the secondary victims of the crime can be avoided. Positive social change may arise by preventing these tragedies from occurring through proper intervention when noticing at risk families or situations.

Summary

Parricide is a rare crime that is starting to show patterns of increasing. To provide experts with research on this topic, I conducted this study to better understand the family dynamic behind it, which is an imperative step to start preventative measures that can help to decrease the rate of the crime. Using a case study methodology, I explored the parenting styles that occur in juvenile facilitated parricide to understand the root of the issue. I used attachment theory for the theoretical foundation of this study to examine the relationship between parenting styles and parricide and help understand the ways in which a juvenile is able to break a natural bond with their parent and commit this crime.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Parricide is when offspring kills one or both of their parents (Fegadel & Heide, 2018). In the United States, there are an average of 250 cases of parricide each year, and less than half of those number are committed by a juvenile (FBI, 2019; Heide & Fegadel, 2018). The FBI (2019) indicated that juvenile-facilitated parricide cases have increased over the last decade in the United States. Researchers have hypothesized that the trend may continue to increase (CITE). According to Heide and Fegadel (2018), even though juvenile-facilitated parricide is increasing, there is still a lack of information related to the offender, such as family dynamics, parenting styles, and biological relationships between the victim and the offender. Considering that parricide breaks the traditional bond of parent and child, it is imperative to understand the role that parenting styles play in juvenile-facilitated parricide.

In this chapter, I review the literature to discuss the key concepts and theories that are relevant to parricide offenders and parenting styles. In addition to these research topics, a brief overview of established theories that laid the groundwork for the current study is provided.

Literature Research Strategies

Conducting a literature review is a vital part of completing any research. In this literature review, I focused on studies that were published between the years of 1959–2019. More emphasis is given to research published between the years of 2014–2019, but older research studies were included to incorporate theories and original research that laid the foundation for literature on juvenile-facilitated parricide and parenting styles. The

following databases and search engines were used: Google Scholar, SAGE Journals, PUBMed, New England Journal of Medicine, Psycinfo, and Ebscohost. I used the following keyword search terms, including combinations: *juvenile parricide*, *parenting styles*, *juvenile homicide*, *battered children's syndrome*, and *attachment theories*.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this study was attachment theory. Attachment theory was created by Bowlby (1958) and later expanded by Ainsworth (1973). In the original theory, Bowlby (1958) stated that newborn humans are predisposed and biologically programmed to create attachments to those around them. As the child begins to develop, they will form attachments to different caregivers (Ainsworth, 1973; Bowlby, 1958). Ainsworth focused on the attachment between a child and their caregiver. In order to develop negative or positive relationships and attachments between a parent and child, there must be a consistent form of interaction. This includes fulfilling physical and emotional needs, such as nourishment and emotional support. When the child begins to get older, parents begin to administer punishment and discipline as needed in order to guide the child to adulthood (Ainsworth, 1973).

Ainsworth (1973) furthered the research on attachment theory by developing an understanding the role of the parents as well as attachment to strangers. Ainsworth created an experiment to determine the attachment to caregivers versus strangers and discovered that infants were likely to have separation anxiety from parents while experiencing a sense of danger around those in which the child was not familiar with.

Ainsworth also found that this was a temporary fear, and as the infants aged, they would learn to bond with strangers (Rosmalen et al., 2015).

Bowlby (1950) stated that the attachment between a parent and child would be an indicator and prefix as to how the child develops platonic and romantic relationships in their adolescent and adult lives. The theory of attachment depicts that children and adolescents should be able to have emotional connections with their parents, in particular, stating that those who do not have strong bonds with their parents were likely to have ill childhoods (Lenny & René, 2016).

Attachment theory sets the groundwork as to how a bond is created between a parent and a child, and the ways in which a bond can become toxic and concerning. A toxic bond between a parent and child involves unhealthy boundaries, both emotionally and physically (Dunham et al., 2011). Another term that is often used to describe toxic parenting is dysfunctional parenting (Lewin et al., 2015). Dysfunctional parenting is defined as conflict, misbehavior, and often child neglect or abuse on the part of individual parents occurring continuously and regularly, often giving more negative bonding experiences between the parent and child (Lewin et al., 2015). When a parent is toxic or dysfunctional, the relationship between the child and parent is strained, causing conflict in the home, which increases that change of anger, aggression, or violence (Dunham et al., 2015). According to Heide (2014), when there is violence in the home, a juvenile is significantly more likely to act violently towards themselves, parents, or peers.

The theories of attachment from Bowlby (1958) and Ainsworth (1973) both focus on the infant child and their developing stages. As infants grow, their attachments will

begin to have an effect on their lives. According to Ainsworth, there are different types of attachments, including secure, avoidant, anxious, and disorganized. Those with negative types of attachment (i.e., avoidant, anxious, or disorganized) are more likely to have relationship issues with parents and peers.

When a child displays distress and fear when a caregiver leaves but is able to calm themselves down and understand their caregiver will return, the child exhibits a secure attachment (Ainsworth, 1973). According to Shell and Becker-Wiedman (2010), a secure attachment forms when a caregiver responds to the child's immediate needs as well as gives comfort and support for a child to thrive. The child will then understand their needs are being met and will become stressed when this person is not around because they fear for their needs. However, a child will understand that the change is not permanent and that the caregiver will return. In children who have been recognized to have secure attachments, the child is likely to have positive relationships, both romantic and platonic (Ainsworth, 1973; Shell & Becker-Wiedman, 2010).

Sibel (2019) studied 350 adolescents during their secondary school years to assess their attachment to parents and rate of self-efficacy. According to the findings, those adolescents who scored high on a secure attachment scale also ranked high on self-efficacy, which indicates those with secure attachments are likely to have positive relationships with themselves and work ethics. More notably, Sibel (2019) found those who ranked low with secure attachments had issues with interpersonal relationships and self-efficacy, citing issues in their academic skills and trust in their own work.

Researchers concluded that a secure attachment represents that a child experiences positive relations with the world around them (CITE).

Avoidant dismissive attachment is when a child is emotionally distant from their caregivers and is not sure of their relationship with the caregivers (Favez & Tissot, 2019). As the child progresses developmentally, they may be considered independent but find it more difficult to have emotionally satisfying relationships with peers or romantic partners. According to Sprecher (2013), avoidant dismissive attachments are created when parents are inconsistent with their parenting styles, which can confuse the child and make the child wonder if they are going to have their needs met or if they will be neglected.

The third attachment style that is recognized is anxious-avoidant. According to Ainsworth (1973), anxious-avoidant attachment occurs when a child experiences a lack of care from the parents and is fearful that their needs will not be met. According to Ringer et al., (2014), those with anxious-avoidant attachments are afraid to have intimate and romantic and platonic relationships but often become emotionally distant or aggressive when a friendship or relationship seems to become stronger. Schimmenti et al. (2014) hypothesized that this occurs because the child was emotionally neglected as a child and is unable to process affection and appropriate attention. Children who have anxious-avoidant attachments are also the most likely to develop antisocial behaviors and mental health symptoms (Ainsworth, 1973; Ringer et al., 2014).

Lastly, a child who does not develop any form of attachment to their caregiver exhibits disorganized attachment (Ainsworth, 1973). Disorganized attachment is the most

common result of abusive households, where the child is not only fearful of their parents but is also not receiving adequate care. A disorganized attachment also is thought to be a cycle, where the child then grows to become a parent that is incapable of providing adequate nurture and care, which continues the cycle (Ringer et al., 2014). Grady et al. (2019) studied a correlation between attachment styles and criminal psychopathy and discovered that criminal psychopaths scored high on the scale of disorganized attachment, particularly with violent crimes.

Hoeve et al. (2014) completed a meta-analysis that focused on attachment and juvenile delinquency and found that juveniles who had poor attachments to caregivers were more likely to commit criminal acts before the age of 18. The researchers also discovered that younger participants who experienced displaced attachments had committed crimes at an earlier age than their peers who demonstrated appropriate attachments.

Delhay et al. (2013) examined participants in a mental health institution, testing 155 patients with various mental health disorders. They found that controlled participants scored high on the emotional scale and the attachment scale, while patients that were admitted for depression or severe mental illness scored extremely low in both emotional intelligence and on the attachment scale. The researchers concluded there was a reason to believe that emotional intelligence and attachment both contributed to mental health.

Parenting Styles

A parenting style is defined as “a psychological construct representing standard strategies that parents use in their child-rearing. The quality of parenting can be more

essential than the quantity of time spent with the child” (Baumrind, 1966, p. 7). Parenting style incorporates different aspects of punishment, reinforcement, and the care of essential needs. A household with two parents may experience more than one parenting style. In fact, a parent can exhibit different parenting styles depending on the situation. According to Lenny and Rene (2016), most parents exhibit numerous types of styles but have a dominant style that is their preferred method.

Because the current study focused on parenting styles, it was imperative to understand that parenting styles help form the attachments. A parenting style is a psychological construct in which a parent chooses to raise their child in the form of punishment, affection, and meeting the needs of the child (Baumrind, 1963). As the children reach an adolescent stage, the attachments and bonds have already been created, which helps understand the importance of parenting styles in juvenile-facilitated parricide. These attachment styles can help explain how a juvenile is able to separate an attachment or bond during their crime.

Developmental stages, attachments, bonds, and relationships are created through multiple variables. Parenting styles incorporate punishment, discipline, and empathy/compassion that is exhibited by the parents (Karnik & Sahasrabudhem 2017). Each parent can have a different type of parenting style, which can be a cause of conflict in households in which both parents are present.

According to Baumrind (1965), there are four types of parenting styles: authoritarian, authoritative, permissive, and uninvolved. Authoritarian parenting is defined as a parenting style in which a parent has strict discipline and is likely to have

strong punishments (Baumrind, 1965; Karnik & Sahasrabudhe, 2017). The parent is defined as having a cold effect and being unaccepting of the child. Authoritarian parents thrive for obedience within their children and will have high demands for the offspring. According to Rauf and Ahmed (2017), punishments can be considered to be cruel, and children may feel fear from their parents, without feeling supported or emotionally attached to their parents. Williams and Wahler (2010) examined what behaviors are exhibited in children who are raised in authoritarian households and found that these children were more likely to have poor performance in school and be less accepted in social groups. They also studied the outcomes of authoritarian parenting, finding that the child would likely have stable friendships and relationships as well as success in academic careers. Lastly, the researchers reported that parents who were more mindful of their child's needs were more likely to be authoritative and would tend to the needs of the child as opposed to authoritarian parents who were not cognizant of the needs of their child (Williams & Wahler, 2010).

Authoritative parenting represents a parent who is warm and welcoming while still placing an emphasis on discipline and appropriate punishment (Baumrind, 1965). An authoritarian parent is likely to express love and nurture while still disciplining a child for their disobedience or inappropriate behavior. The authoritative style is considered to be the most nurturing style in parenting styles (Bassett et al., 2013). According to Bassett et al. (2013), children who are in an authoritative household are more likely to perform better academically as well as have healthy and appropriate romantic relationships. Piko and Balazs (2012) examined how children who had authoritative parents were the least

likely to have mental health issues caused by environmental stressors and found that authoritarian parenting styles were most common in juveniles who were diagnosed with mental illness.

According to Baumrind (1965), a third parenting style is a permissive parent. This type of style involves parents that are considered loving and warm, but lenient to their children. The permissive parent is often trying to make “friends” with their children, which can be confusing to a developing child and adolescent.

Macooby and Martin (1983) expanded on parenting styles by explaining that permissive parenting is on a spectrum. On the spectrum, permissive parenting is considered to be “indulgent”. Indulgent parenting focuses on parents who “spoil” their children by giving the child materialistic gifts, with little to no reprimand. Wischerth et al., (2016) stated that permissive parenting can have negative effects on emotional challenges an adolescent may encounter, stunting emotional maturity and bonding. According to Wischerth., et al (2016) children who are in permissive parenting households have a difficult time determining right from wrong, as well as emotional growth. Children who are the outcome of permissive parenting are known to make poor decisions and may be involved in criminal activity as the parents are not able to guide the child to make proper decisions.

Baumrind (1965) acknowledged the fourth kind of parenting style called neglectful, which is defined by having cold and unwelcoming characteristics, as well as a low discipline style. On the spectrum of permissive parenting, Macooby and Martin (1983) focused on neglectful parenting as uninvolved. A permissive parent will still be

active in the child's life, whereas a neglectful or uninvolved parent will have little communication or attention to the child. Neglectful and uninvolved parenting is likely to be a part of an abusive household (King, 2009). According to Hines et al. (2006), the abuse may be from an alternate caregiver, but a neglectful parent can encourage the abuse by omission. Due to neglectful behavior, numerous types of abuse or abuse by omission can harm the development of the child or adolescent. A child who was abused or neglected may have trouble forming bonds and attachments to others, which increases the chance of criminal behaviors. These children are also likely to endure future abusive relationships, as well as live in poverty and receive minimal education (Aloia & Warren, 2019).

Researchers indicate that parenting styles have a dominating influence on the behavior of offspring throughout their entire lives. According to Sarwar (2016), children who experienced authoritarian parenting were most likely to engage in criminal behavior, whereas children who experienced authoritative parenting had more positive relationships with peers and caregivers. Lloca et al. (2017) researched a total of 440 adolescents (220 school children with no juvenile convictions, 220 juveniles placed in detention centers) and the support of aggressive behavior and parenting styles. The researchers found that students who had parents that encouraged, or rather did not discourage, violent or aggressive behavior was a common factor in juveniles who had been in trouble with the law already. Lloca et al. (2017) also discovered that parents who were neglectful of basic

needs such as attention or nourishment were likely to end up in juvenile detention for non-violent acts such as drug use or theft.

With the increase in juvenile-facilitated parricide, understanding the parental role in the development of a child is crucial. Considering the importance of parenting styles in developing attachments, juvenile behavior may be associated with poor parenting styles (Lloca et al., 2017). A child who witnessed violence in the home, whether it is to them, another parent, or sibling, the violent actions are often mimicked as the offending parent does not correct the actions of the child (Lloca et al., 2017). With the lack of research for parricide, particularly with juvenile offenders, there is room for improvement in preventing and understanding the crime.

Parenting styles have been found to influence aggressive behaviors (De Le Torre-Cruz et al., 2014; Hovee et al., 2014). De Le Torre-Cruz et al. (2014) examined the influence that parenting styles have over aggressive behaviors. They assessed 371 students between the ages of 12-16, De Le Torre-Cruz et al. (2014) gave assessments that determined levels of aggression, as well as self-reported parenting styles. The results concluded that students who ranked higher on the aggression scale had also ranked high on an authoritarian household. Males were more likely to have aggressive behaviors. In addition to those results, De Le Torre-Cruz et al. (2014) found that students who had authoritative parents in the house had ranked low on an aggressive scale.

By understanding the link between parenting styles and attachment, the research in this paper validated the importance of parenting styles as it develops from attachment.

As Baglivio and Wolff (2017) found juveniles are more likely to commit violence against a peer as opposed to someone with whom they have a strong attachment.

According to Dutton (2011), early disruptions of attachment activate the attachment behavioral system. As the child ages, the attachment behavioral system is not repaired and causes emotional turmoil and stress. This turmoil and stress are projected through aggressive outbursts that are most commonly seen in juveniles who commit violent crime. Dutton, (2011) stated that the juvenile who is unable to process emotions because of their upbringing are more likely to not understand their anger and present them in a physical manifestation. Thus, juveniles who are lacking inappropriate attachments to their caregivers are likely to result in violence to display their emotions.

Another study found that negative attachment, most commonly, insecure attachments, were more likely to have psychopathic traits (Van Der Zouwen et al., 2018). In this study, 1,876 participants were assessed to determine common traits among those with different attachment styles. Out of the 1,876 participants, Van Der Zouwen et al. (2018) concluded that insecure attachment styles were found with participants who displayed psychopathic behaviors such as lack of empathy and remorse, manipulative behaviors, and pathological lying.

With limited research on this topic, there has not been a published study that focuses on parenting styles that occur between a juvenile parricide offender and their caregiver victim. The groundwork lays down the understanding that attachments and bonds are crucial in development, and parenting styles are a part of creating the bond or attachment (whether negative or positive). Attachment theory dissected how a strong or

weak bond is formed, and the influence the parenting style has over that bond or attachment.

Juvenile Homicide

Juvenile homicide is when a person under the age of 18 intentionally kills another person of any age group (Baglivio & Wolf, 2017). Juvenile homicide accounts for less than 3% of all homicide acts and is considered to be a “rare” crime by the FBI (2019). In addition to juvenile homicide being a rare crime, juvenile homicide offenders are also considered a special population by the American Psychological Associates (2010). Unfortunately, this adds complexity to those who would like to research this population (Hammon & Ioannou, 2015).

In exploring what is known about juvenile homicide, Hammon and Ioannou (2015) compared two age groups, 14 and under, and 14-17 years old juvenile homicide offenders to understand the differences in ages and their behaviors. The researchers found that there were no differences between the two age groups, and most juvenile homicide offenders had similar profiles and aggressive behaviors.

Juvenile homicide is likely to occur with a handgun, as opposed to an assault that was severe enough to cause death (Cornell, 1993). Because of the availability of handguns, cases in which a juvenile kills their victim by another type of method (assault, arson, poison, etc.), is considered to be an outlier crime (Baglivio & Wolf, 2017; Cornell, 1993, Fegadel & Heide, 2017). The discussion of guns is often controversial and turns political. However, researchers have stated that the majority of juvenile homicide offenders had easy access to firearms (Heide, 1997). This is not to say parents were not

cautious, but rather the children were able to sneak access to the gun (easy passwords to safes, known gun locations, etc.).

According to Darby et al. (1998), one of the most common factors in the 112 juvenile homicide offenders they researched was that they came from a disorganized home. Ninety-eight of the juveniles had suicidal ideation before they committed homicide. In addition to this research, Heide (1998) stated that generalized juvenile homicide has other common factors such as situational factors, societal influences, resource availability, personality characteristics, and cumulative effects. This research indicates that juvenile violence may be stemmed from dysfunctional family and attachments, as well as limited resources to positively influence the juvenile. In Heide's (1998) research, she validated that juveniles who were around negative behavior without the support of parents or caregivers were at the most risk for committing violent crimes before the age of 18. Heide (1998) also stated that outside support systems such as schools' administrators and staff and mental health professionals can be instrumental in being positive influences to juveniles.

Baglivio and Wolf (2017) continued research on juvenile homicide. The researchers determined that a juvenile who commits a murder is likely to be male, lower-socioeconomic status, involved in gang-related crime, and have at least one prior charge against them. Baglivio and Wolf (2017) surveyed 397 juveniles who were charged with a violent crime including assault, sexual assault, or homicide. They found that juveniles who were sexually aggressive and had committed homicide were likely to have a heterogeneous origin to their aggression. The researchers also found that the juvenile

homicide offender is likely to display emotional distance from caretakers and siblings (Baglivio & Wolf, 2017).

Baglivio and Wolf (2017) stated that juvenile homicides are rarely with a family member. According to this research, most juvenile homicides are with acquaintances or strangers. Nearly 80% of juvenile homicide offenders did not have an attachment with their victims. According to Baglivio and Wolff, (2017), juvenile homicide has a low occurrence rate, but when the crime does occur, the victims and their offenders are not statistically likely to have a strong bond. Even though the juvenile may be considered a friend or close to their victim, juvenile homicide offenders can commit the crime because of the lack of attachment or bond between their victims. Therefore, a juvenile killing their parents defies the normal attachment boundaries. The importance of understanding attachments and parenting styles can give researchers a clearer understanding of the psychology and reason behind juvenile facilitated parricide.

Parricide

Dr. Heide, the leading expert in parricide wrote, “Parricide is one of the rarest forms of murder yet occur between 200-300 times a year” (Heide, 2013, p5). According to Heide (2013), juveniles that are abused, have access to guns/weapons, witness/endure violence, have a lack of supporting adults, and lack of mental health care are at risk for committing parricide. Heide (2013) stated that in nearly all cases of parricide, the juveniles understood violence, did not have coping skills and had access to weapons.

Fegadel and Heide (2014) stated that there are three reasons behind parricide: a child is severely abused, severely mentally ill, or dangerously anti-social. Severely

abused children are likely to kill out of fear of their life, while the mentally ill child is likely experiencing psychosis and is unable to control their actions. The anti-social child is defined as someone who commits a crime out of a desire to commit the crime, with no underlying cause (Fegadel & Heide, 2014; Heide, 2013).

Though there is little research about the events and developmental milestones that occur in parricide offenders, there is research that can help start to understand the motives behind parricide. The average juvenile offender for parricide is a male between the ages of 16-17, white, and middle to upper class (Heide & Fegadel, 2015; Heide et al., 2012; Walsh et al., 2008). Heide and Fegadel (2018) further developed the common profile to describe the motivations of the crime, as well as the analysis of the crime in order to determine why the juvenile killed their parents. According to this research, the average juvenile parricide offender was likely to be between the ages of 16-18, White, middle class, and have average education (Heide & Fegadel, 2018). In this research, Heide and Fegadel (2018) concluded that females who killed their parents were likely to be between the ages of 14 and 17, with outside influence from romantic partners.

Due to literature discussing the prominence of the male offender in juvenile facilitated parricide. Shon et al. (2007) explored the female parricide offender. The researchers found that females were more likely to be juvenile offenders than adult offenders and were likely to be involved with a partner in the crime. While previous research suggests a romantic influence, Shon et al. (2007) discovered that the female offender is likely to have an accomplice, whether female or male, platonic, or romantic. Shone et al. (2007) stated that this may be due to the social influence a female may have

to. In addition to this information, the researchers also found that females were more likely to act in a protective manner when committing the crime.

Shone et al. (2007) cited numerous cases in which a female killed their parents because a younger sibling was enduring abuse or neglect. Shone et al. (2007) discussed a case in which the offender was being sexually abused by her father, and was tolerating the abuse. When she discovered her younger sister was being groomed as a victim as well, the offender killed her father. This offender stated in police reports the need to protect the younger sibling. Lastly, females that kill their parents are likely either influenced by outside forces or anger at appropriate parental behaviors (not allowing friends over, not liking a partner, etc.), or were protecting other victims. In the report of most female offender cases, when just a mother was murdered, the family was likely a single-parent household. When a father is murdered, abuse is a statistical reason for the killing. When both parents are killed by a female offender, then the profile states the offender was likely angry at the parents for parental behavior (Shone et al, 2007).

According to Heide (1993) parricide is a rare crime, but as gun sales increase, the number of parricides increases as well. Heide (1993) stated that juveniles who had access to firearms posed a stronger threat to committing parricide. She also noted that shotguns and rifles were the most commonly used guns in juvenile facilitated parricide, and found that homes that had several guns were also a common factor in this specific crime. Heide (1993) made it a point to recognize that not all homes that have guns were possible parricide situations, but out of the cases that had used firearms, nearly all of them had guns that came from the home. This research is important to understand that ability to get

firearm access is a crucial part in juvenile homicide, particularly parricide as the murder happens in the home. As the research in this paper discusses parenting styles in parricide, there is a strong discussion on the dynamics in the home including abuse/violence. While not all gun owners are violent, Heide, (1993) reinforced that juveniles learn by example and homes that have violent parents and firearm access are at a higher rate for parricide to occur (Heide, 1993; Heide & Peete, 2017).

Heide and Boots (2007) discussed the media reporting of parricide and compared it to information presented in the literature. This comparison of data found that the media had reported more accurate information when the offender was juvenile and had contracted a known expert in the field to comment on the case. This research also found that Heide (1987) was substantiated in the claims that the media-based parricide cases off of three motives: severely abused, severely mentally ill, and dangerously antisocial. While viewing the media data on parricide, Heide and Boots, (2007) found that juveniles were more likely to have nationwide coverage on the murder, whereas adult offenders were not as speculated or reported on. Heide and Boots, (2007) found that juvenile facilitated parricide cases covered the news media more and piqued the interest of viewers more so than adult offenders.

Parricide literature is scarce due to the limitations of juvenile records (Heide, 2014). The current research describes the offenders, as well as their motives for the crime. However, the research lacks an understanding of the relationship between the victim and offender to escalate to murder. Part of that relationship stems from the parental bond that is created during developmental phases, and the styles of punishment

and care needed to enhance a bond and form appropriate attachment styles (Bowlby, 1963).

Battered Child Syndrome (BCS)

One of the recurring themes in parricide cases is that the offender was abused as a child (Fegadel & Hiede, 2015). In a case this was discussed later in this research, a juvenile with the initials of A.T, was locked in his bedroom closet and starved for most of his life, killing his parents. The juvenile offender had been so severely abused, that they killed their abuser (Fegadel & Heide, 2015). Much like it's parent condition "Battered Women Syndrome," BCS is a form of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder that engages a fight or flight response in the victim of the abuse (Jliala, et al.,2016; Leventhal & Krugman, 2012). According to Hiede and Fegadel (2018), an abuse victim may not act during a time of violence or turmoil, but rather when the abuser is in a calm, unsuspecting state, such as sleeping or doing normal leisure activity. Researchers state that this occurs due to the significant trauma of the abuse, and a fight-or-flight response the brain activates when tensions may begin. Hart and Helms (2007) explained that because of this, an abuse victim may murder their abuser to protect themselves from future harm. Parenting styles influence the type of relationship and bond in the home, therefore, parenting that is related to abuse, may indicate a form of BCS, and should be addressed accordingly to the parricide offender's trial (Hart and Helms, 2003).

Currently, there are no articles that research juvenile facilitated parricide, or parricide in general, that uses a case study methodology. However, there is research using mixed qualitative methods that used both case studies and interviews. Leone (1994) used

case studies analysis to determine the proficiency of deterrent programs in juvenile facilities. Leone (1994) compared similar offenders and separated the offenders by those who attended deterrent programs, and those who did not. Leone (1994) also conducted interviews to determine how offenders felt the program contributed to their criminal tendencies or ask if a program may have helped. Though this research was conducted in 1994, there is no current research that uses case study methodology. The research in this paper utilizes this specific methodology because of the special population, as well as the sensitive topic. By using published data, numerous ethical violations are circumvented (Patron, 2015).

Summary

Juvenile homicide is a rare crime however, it is even rarer for a juvenile to kill their parent(s). Because of the rare occurrence of the crime, there is limited research on the topic that can prepare researchers in preventative measures. By focusing on the parenting styles in parricide cases, this research can increase the knowledge of this crime, and help understand the importance of relationship style between a child and their parent. Using the four parenting styles and understanding attachment, this research went through 8-10 cases to search for common parenting styles in juvenile-facilitated parricide cases. Using an ethical and appropriate approach, this research searched for common themes in parenting and attachments to determine if there are more preventative methods that can be utilized to prevent this crime from happening. The following chapter will discuss methodology used in this research, as well as explaining the credibility of the research.

This chapter will also discuss how cases were chosen and what criteria is needed for a case to be utilized. Lastly, chapter 3 discusses the ethical procedures used.

Chapter 3: Methodology

The purpose of this research was to examine the parenting styles of parents who were murdered by their minor-aged children. Due to the increase in parricides, experts are concerned that the trend will continue (FBI, 2019; Heide, 2014). Researchers found that juveniles are likely to have one of three motives, being severely abused, severely mentally ill, and/or dangerously antisocial (Heide, 2012). Researchers have highlighted a gap in understanding the dynamics between a parent and child that occur in parricide cases (Fegadel & Heide, 2018). In this study, I analyzed ten cases of juvenile-facilitated parricide to explore the parenting methods that were documented through interviews and published documentation of the family dynamic. The goal of the research was to educate professionals on early warning signs of potential parricide offenders that may assist in future prevention strategies.

This chapter includes a discussion of the methodology of this study and the criteria for the cases used. I provide the research design and rationale, the role of the researcher, methodology, and issues of trustworthiness. In addition to these topics, threats to validity and ethical considerations are discussed in this chapter.

Research Design and Rationale

The following qualitative research question guided this study: What are the parenting styles demonstrated by parents who are killed by their minor-aged children? The goal of addressing this question was to gather information with which to help experts understand the background of parricide and recognize troubled families so they can develop preventative methods and assist in prevention and intervention strategies.

The Phenomenon of Study

The overall phenomenon being explored was parenting styles within parricide cases. Parricide, the act of an offspring killing their parent, occurs less than 600 times a year (FBI, 2019). Many parricide cases involve adult offspring (FBI, 2019; Fegadel & Heide, 2018; Hiede, 1993). Juvenile parricide offenders defy the biological attachment and norms that are accepted in society. Social customs and norms suggest that children admire and attach to their parents and display love and affection because the parents meet the child's needs (Straus et al., 2006). Therefore, when a child is supposed to be attached and emotionally bonded to their parent and can kill their parent, exploring and understanding the relationship between the parent and child is necessary to prevent future occurrences of this crime from happening.

Attachment theory is focused on how a child attaches to caregivers from the day they are born (Bowlby, 1958). Using attachment theory in this study, I was able to understand the role that parenting styles have in juvenile-facilitated parricide and how specific parenting styles and attachments can play a role in parricide.

Research Tradition

The goal of this research was to explore in-depth the parenting styles within previous parricide cases, which made a qualitative approach the most suitable choice for this study. According to Patton (2015), the qualitative method allows a researcher to understand a social problem and explain the problem, whereas a quantitative approach would support and solidify theories. Considering that the purpose of this study was to examine the parenting styles of parents who were murdered by their minor-aged children,

a quantitative approach would have lacked the necessary depth needed to fully understand the parenting dynamic in these cases. A qualitative study was appropriate for this study because I was researching qualities within a relationship. Hanuwaran (2013) stated that qualitative research focuses on the phenomena of a topic by describing the elements and using comparative data as opposed to mathematical data.

I used a case study design to analyze the parenting styles employed by a parent whose child committed a parricide offense. Case studies allow for an ethical research strategy as well as the ability to analyze different sources on the same topic (Patton, 2015). For an appropriate case study analysis, Guetterman and Fetters, (n.d.) suggested that an appropriate baseline of cases would be between eight to 10 case studies to begin noticing patterns within cases.

Based on the special population for this study, juvenile parricide offenders, I ensured proper ethical considerations were made and avoided direct contact with the offenders. Ledford et al. (2018) suggested that when a special population is involved in research, a case study approach offers special insight to a case, with minimal chance of ethical conflict. However, Ledford et al. and Patton (2015) advised that case study analysis poses a risk of not getting appropriate information and relying on third-party data, which can limit the information received. Patton stated that a common remedy to this problem in a case study analysis is to gather information from all sources, including published interviews, to ensure the information is as accurate as possible.

There are multiple avenues in which a case study methodology can be completed because case studies can be undertaken in different ways. Cronin (2014) stated that case

studies can be used in qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research methods. However, for qualitative research, case studies should focus on specific qualities of phenomena (in the case of the current study, the phenomenon was parenting styles in parricide cases).

Case Study Analysis

Case study analysis can be utilized in a quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods format for research. According to Gregory (2020), case studies that are used in qualitative research focus on the “how” and “why,” as well as a natural occurrence in a phenomenon. For this research, a case study analysis design was the most appropriate because parenting styles are a natural occurrence in the phenomena of juvenile-facilitated parricide. Gregory also listed the challenges that occur when using case study methods, suggesting that there is likely to be a small sample size, which can in turn create issues in proper saturation and may lead the researcher to come to general conclusions. However, Patton (2015) stated that researchers who explore multiple cases and are transparent when reporting their methodology allow other researchers to replicate the same study.

Case study methodology includes gathering all data related to a specific case (Patton, 2015). In this study, I gathered information related to juvenile-facilitated parricide and was able to understand the parenting dynamic as well as accurately describe the parenting style displayed by the parent. These data were then analyzed and patterns (or lack thereof) were established.

Role of the Researcher

As the researcher, I interpreted the data that were gathered from public cases of juvenile-facilitated parricide. In my current role, I had no known biases. In order to make sure I did not jeopardize this research with an unknown bias, I contacted my committee to ensure proper research methods. Considering this research was conducted through a case study analysis, I gathered and observed the data to determine the parenting styles in cases of juvenile-facilitated parricide. Patton (2015) explained that the case study design in research has the lowest risk for breaching ethical boundaries. Because the information gathered was found in the public and I had no personal connection to the topic, there was minimal risk for any bias or ethical concerns in this study.

I completed the case study analysis using published data and interviews. Due to this methodology, there were no concerns regarding workplace environment, conflicts of interest, or power differentials. However, one of the largest ethical concerns in this study is the juvenile offender. According to American Psychological Association (2012), juveniles are considered a special population and should be handled appropriately. To accommodate the ethical concern of juvenile offenders in this study, all offenders listed in this research were given pseudonyms to protect their identity.

After the completion of this section with approval from the Walden University Institutional Review Board (IRB), I began case selection and gathered and organized all relevant data into folders. After the collection and organization of the data, the data were entered into an analysis software, NVIVO, that helped determine any coded patterns

between words and phrases. After the analysis of data, I reported and explained the data in Chapters 4 and 5.

Participant Selection Logic

Case study research involves scouring all information related to a specific case; there are varying degrees of the type of information gathered (Guetterman & Fetters, n.d.). The data for this case study analysis were drawn from public records. To maintain proper ethical standards and limit the number of cases that had blocked records, I used public cases that has multiple sources. According to Patton (2015), looking at public information has specific limitations, such as validity or continuity. However, using cases that have made national attention help gather an abundance of information (Lloyd, 2013). Secondary sources, such as public interviews with the offender or those who knew the victim/offender, can also help understand the parenting styles that were present during the childhood of the offender (Cakmak & Akgun, 2018; Hanurawan, 2013).

To choose the proper cases for a study, specific criteria must be met. Patton (2015) suggested outlining important information that each case should have, then ensuring that there are at least one or two of each specification. Using this suggestion of Patton's, I focused on cases that involved only biological parents as victims and only one juvenile (18 years old or under) offender. Cases that happened after the year of 1989 were utilized to keep the research to the past 30 years of cases. Lastly, the cases had to take place in the United States to keep the research contained in a specific region of the world. This also helped alleviate any cultural boundaries that may have caused limitations in the

research. In total, there were between 11 cases that were analyzed for this study to achieve appropriate participant saturation (see Patton, 2015; Ledford et al., 2018).

With an average of 250 cases of juvenile-facilitated parricide every year, it was difficult to determine which cases would be the best fit for this study (see FBI, 2019). One of the largest factors in determining the inclusion of a case was the accessibility to information. This meant using cases that made news headlines that allowed for additional opportunities for reporting. Some cases may have begun to be researched but had the obstacle of minimal information released. In these situations, the committee and I determined the risks and rewards of continuing with the specific case. To include a case in the study, there was certain information released to the public, such as age of offender at the time of crime and background information from before the crime, including, but not limited to, the involvement of any prior social work or emergency response, suspected behaviors found through investigation, and any public accusations made by the offender or a third party (such as a teacher or family friend). An explanation of why the murder occurred had to be mentioned in the data as well as the method in which the victim was killed. Cases that had no background information were excluded from this study.

Using secondary data for this study posed specific limitations, such as limiting the information gained and using another author's agenda in correlation to the agenda of the study I conducted. However, I accessed news articles, scholarly literature on cases, as well as textbooks and biographical books to obtain data. I did not include court documents unless they were released to the public. By using available information, I

chose cases that fit the criteria previously listed to determine if there was enough information on the juvenile to appropriately analyze the case (see Patton, 2015).

Data Collection and Analysis

Numerous types of data were utilized for this research. The first source of information was online sources and published articles relating to the case. Not only were data from nonacademic sources included, but should a case be covered in scholarly articles, I also used these sources to determine behaviors and methods involved with the crime.

Biographical and autobiographical books were also a source of data. While this data may be biased and does not provide a third-party account of the life of the offender, it can be pertinent to understanding the role of parenting styles in the crime. Using cases that made national news offered more information and interviews through documentaries or third-party broadcasting. I began with generic searches for juvenile parricide offenders and started to learn about cases before making choices related to the cases used in this research. Patton (2015) suggested that case study methodology is a process of choosing proper cases. As cases of parricide have become more common, I was able to search more in-depth in regard to the case, such as searching published police logs (if there were any). Once a case was deemed appropriate, I searched the internet and published data to determine if there were enough data to use and if the data were reliable.

Internet searches ensured that there is published information, as this research only focused on published information and no closed documents from police records or medical records. The data was gathered and saved in a secure cyber folder on a personal computer. The articles and information were organized by the case to keep all records

orderly. After all of the data were collected, the information were ran through an NVivo analysis in order to determine a qualitative relationship. Using a coding sequence, I was able to input the collection of data and use the software to analyze the information to determine commonalities found among the cases, then report the findings in this research. Should there be any discrepant cases, the information that was included in the research to provide the reader with all of the knowledge gained during this research.

The research question asks what parenting styles are present in cases in which a minor-aged child kills their parent. Patton (2015) suggests using the software of NVivo because the software helped with coding and determining patterns in parenting styles. First, by coding behavioral traits that parents exhibit, then categorizing each trait into a parenting style category, the software being used began to detect patterns. These patterns found any consistent parenting styles that occur in juvenile-facilitated parricide cases. The results of these codes were able to answer what parenting styles are present in juvenile-facilitated parricide.

Nvivo allowed for multiple types of personalized coding, which enhances the research experience (Hoover & Koerber, 2011). The goal of using Nvivo began with generalized codes, also known as a node, and further developed into a more detailed code that detailed the differences in each case. The first node that was created was “parricide” and all data that was scoured for the word “parricide” in which the node was enhanced to discuss “juvenile-facilitated parricide.” As this information began to become categorized in Nvivo, sentences that are found through the data were sorted into categories of behavioral traits associated with specific parenting styles. Numerous behaviors were

coded, motives and weaponry were also divided into specific codes to start dissecting similarities in cases to provide evidentiary support that specific parenting styles may influence the details of the crime.

Each case had similarities such as the crime committed and differences such as how the murders occurred, or the motives attached. In the manner of discrepant cases, the differences helped structure the results and to provide the needed information to explore the parenting styles that occur in juvenile-facilitated parricide (Hoover & Koerber, 2011). The software, Nvivo, has enough detail and capability to be the only software needed for this methodology.

Issues of Trustworthiness

Qualitative research methods must include the issues of trustworthiness. These aspects include credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability, and reliability (Patton, 2015; Plummer-D'Amato, 2008). Plummer- D'Amato (2008) described the importance of issues of trustworthiness as vital to peer reviewed research as one of the most vital pieces of information so peers and readers can understand the accuracy of the research, and what errors (with or without malicious intent) could possibly be made.

In qualitative methods, credibility refers to the data that is accurate and believable (Patton, 2015). To make the study more credible, there was an abundance of data in the case study, including using multiple sources to gain the same, consistent information. This was achieved by using multiple sources within the same subject, such as using different media print companies such as newspapers and magazines, as well

as any information released to the public by officials working on the case. The more accurate the information and trustworthy the source is, the more credible this research became (Patton, 2015).

Triangulation is defined as using more than one method to collect data to enhance credibility (Carter et al., 2014). Carter et al. (2014) explained that qualitative methods often need triangulation to ensure accurate data collection. For this research, I utilized multiple forms of media to gather data to create an accurate report of each case. Per the suggestion of Carter et al., (2014) and Patton (2015), I utilized credible forms of media, as well as accurately documenting the places in which I gathered the data. By being transparent in data collection, the reader can review the sources to determine the level of accuracy.

Transferability focuses on the ability to keep the information true across all contexts (Patton, 2015). To ensure that readers can understand the research and apply it across all contexts, Pearson et al.,(2015) suggested drawing an original conclusion from the research to be applicable across different contexts. Pearson et al., (2015) also stated transferability can be maintained by giving extreme detail in the research methods for reproduction by peers. The following chapter highlighted those details in a more in-depth manner. By taking suggestions from Pearson et al., (2015), I was able to incorporate detailed methodology, as well as searching tactics. Highlighting the in-depth research tactics helped the readers understand as well as replicate the research that was found. This detailed portion ensured transferability in this research.

Dependability was defined by Lincoln and Guba (1985) as the quality of the researcher's methodology in relation to data collection and methods. To achieve a dependable study, I provided an in-depth explanation of the process of researching, including which participants were used, and what media would be used to gain the data. To ensure that the study is dependable, I consulted with my dissertation committee members and follow their professional instruction.

Confirmability focuses on the researcher's interpretation of the data (Lincoln & Guba, 1985; Patton, 2015). Confirmability is important in assuring the reader that the study was accurately performed, and the results were not influenced by an outside source or bias. Compton (2005) suggested avoiding being biased or being influenced by bias, to use only credible sources, and to be aware of any personal factors or traits that may be associated with the topic. To ensure that I am not influenced, I documented all research as well as consulting with the dissertation committee on any concerns of bias that may arise. Lastly, Ledford et al. (2015) stated that the clear path of research, from participant selection through the final results should be accurately documented to establish a clear pattern of research and provide an organized method of fact-checking.

Ethical Procedures

Pearson et al. (2015) stated that one of the most ethical types of research is a case study analysis. However, Pearson et al., (2015) and Patton (2015) suggested that there are still ethical obstacles to overcome. Per the instruction of the IRB (IRB Approval No. 08-26-20-0972149) to maintain ethical boundaries, the juvenile offenders listed in this research was addressed by a pseudonym in which the crime happened, with no other

detailing information. In a prior discussion with an IRB specialist, maintaining confidentiality in the juvenile's name was a requirement for this research. The research that is gained was only be found through public media and research articles and citing appropriate interviews. According to Patton, (2015), when using public information for a case study analysis methodology, there are no ethical concerns regarding the recruitment of participants, materials or data, or archival of data. This data were gathered through public forums and research journals only, ensuring that the documents received do not violate any ethical boundaries on the collection of data. Lastly, there are no concerns about the work environment for this research, nor any conflicts of interest.

Summary

The methodology for this research was set up to be transparent and trustworthy. As the topic of parricide requires a sensitive approach, the case study method was chosen to ensure the confidentiality of the offenders, as well as access to information with minimal risk of ethical violation (Patton, 2015; Ledford et al, 2015). The case study method allows for the gathering of data in an appropriate and ethical manner without compromising the offenders or victims. Once the data is received, the data was transcribed and entered the coding database of NVivo. This chapter also discussed the issues of trustworthiness and possible factors that can jeopardize the credibility of the research.

Chapter 4: Results

Introduction

The purpose of this qualitative study was to determine the parenting styles found in juvenile-facilitated parricide. A case study analysis is an ethical form of research that allowed me to explore these cases in-depth and determine common themes among the crimes. Due to the extremely sensitive nature and the rarity of the crime, I employed a case study analysis that allowed for the study to be ethically conducted. Juvenile parricide is one of the rarest forms of murder, which also makes researching the topic a challenge (FBI, 2019; Heide, 2013).

In this chapter, I describe the cases chosen as well as the data collection and analysis process. After the analysis, I discuss the common themes found among the cases and the results. This chapter also includes visual presentations of the demographics and data collection. The qualitative research question that guided this study was: What are the parenting styles demonstrated by parents who are killed by their minor-aged children?

Setting

The case study methodology used in this study provided numerous benefits, including the steady place of research as well as limited outside factors affecting the credibility of this research. Data collection took place in my home. There were no traumas or budget cuts that affected this study. This also meant that there were no concerns about a change in staff within the research facility. I was able to have a steady, quiet environment in order to conduct this study.

Demographics

The IRB approved this study to be conducted on the terms that all of the information gathered is open for public access and that anonymity be provided for the offenders and victims (IRB approval 08-26-20-0972149). All names used in this research were a pseudonym to protect the identity of the individuals and juveniles in the case. All other demographic information, such as age or location of crime, were true to the case. Demographics for these cases do vary but have one common theme. All case studies involved offenders that were under the age of 18 at the time of the crime and killed one or both of their biological parents. There was one 10-year-old, five 16-year-olds, and five 17-year-olds that were a part of this study. There were two females, eight males, and one case that involves a transgender offender that was born male but identified as a female. Four out of the 11 offenders lived in a low socioeconomic household, and the other seven had a middle to upper socioeconomic status. Ten out of the 12 cases involved European American offenders, one case had an African American offender, and one Asian American offender. Two of the cases had separated biological parents. One case involved a mother who was absent but lived with father and stepmother, and in the second case, the mother had died of cancer when the offender was 10 years old. Lastly, all the offenders were reported to still be in school at the time of the crime.

Data Collection

This study focused on 11 parricide cases in which the offender was under the age of 18. I retrieved information for each case from internet searches and archived data that are available to the public by using the following search terms: *juvenile killed parents*,

child kills parents, 16 year old kills parent, Young boy kills parent, Young girl kills parent, Young child charged with killing parent, parricide, juvenile parricide, modern parricide, kids kill parents, daughter kills mother, daughter kills father, son kills mother, son kills father, son shot father, son shot mother, son stabbed mother, son stabbed father, daughter stabbed mother, daughter stabbed father, and family child kills parents. I also looked through textbooks to learn of cases but had little success. Lastly, I looked through “Understanding Parricide: When Kids Kill Their Parents” by Heide (2003) to get case ideas. I was able to find one case from the book and used cases I found from the internet for the other 10.

Using the search, I was able to retrieve specific names. Keeping a database of all the names collected, I began to search a specific name to determine their eligibility for the study. I began a Google search but would then discover websites that would discuss homicide offenders and lists of media in which cases were mentioned. Some of the cases used had national news coverage, which allowed for the collection of more information, while others only had local news articles and published court documents to help with establishing the validity of information.

Cases

Emily Jang

At the time of the crime, Emily Jang was a 16-year-old female who was charged with killing her mother. Emily, a Chinese American honor student, was a talented pianist and loved through the community (Green, 2006). Jang kept an online blog that highlighted her personal life before she killed her mother in August of 2005. Before the

death of her mother, Jang was held to “impossible standards” where she was punished for any grade under 96% (Green, 2006). The punishments included standing naked in a corner, threats of school changes, and starvation (Pflaum, 2006). The punishments were not the only strain in the Jang house; Emily was often blamed for the family problems and was repeatedly told by her mother that Emily was the reason she could not retire. Emily’s mother also left notes around the house saying Emily was a “disappointment to the family name” and “an embarrassment as a daughter” (Green, 2006). Any time someone complimented Emily on her numerous academic accolades, her parents corrected the person and made statements such as “She is nothing to be proud of” and “She really is not that intelligent” (Green, 2006). In 2005, Jang stabbed her mother multiple times. Investigators found blood throughout the entire house, and Emily admitted to continuously stabbing her mother even though her mother tried running away. When Emily was questioned, she admitted to her crime and was initially charged as an adult for first-degree murder; however, she was able to have a lesser sentence and was sentenced to 12 years in prison but only served 6 (Pflaum, 2006).

Donald Porter

At the time of the crime, Donald was a 16-year-old White male who was charged with killing his mother and the attempted murder of his father (Fong, 2008). Donald Porter was told to stay away from a specific video game because the parents thought it was a violent outlet and was influencing his behavior. Martinez (2009) stated that in order to restrict the video game (which was bought against the parent’s consent), the parents of Donald hid the video game in a lockbox that also contained a gun. The night of

the murder, Donald broke into the lockbox to find the game and grabbed the gun. He went to his parents and told them to “close their eyes, I have a surprise for you” before he shot both of his parents (Martinez, 2009). His mother succumbed to her wounds, but his dad survived. Donald tried to make the crime scene look like a murder-suicide committed by his father, but this cover story was soon debunked when the father survived the shooting.

Donald was immediately arrested and charged with murder and attempted murder. During the trial, experts stated that Donald had suffered mental illness due to a state of isolation he was in. The teenager had been recovering from a skiing accident and was confined to his home for more than a year. A jury found Donald guilty of his charges, sentencing him to life in prison with a chance of parole after 23 years.

Alice Brown

At the time of the crime, Alice Brown was a 17-year-old female who killed her parents in Winthrop, Maine in 2016 (Harrison, 2018). Alice is transgender; born Alexander, Alice began identifying as a female during her prepubescent years and asked for her parents’ support. According to Bukaty (2018), Alice stated that her parents were not supportive and began to emotionally abuse and taunt her. On the night of October 31, 2016, Alice grabbed a kitchen knife and fatally stabbed her mother in the back while they were hugging. Awoken by the screams, her father came running to see what was wrong. At this point, engulfed in rage and hatred, Alice stabbed her father multiple times, killing him as well. Although Alice killed the family dog because he “would not stop barking,”

she spared her brother's life before calling 911 and admitting to the crime she just committed (Harrison, 2018).

When initially interrogated by local law enforcement, Alice claimed that she was not accepted by her parents, and they were emotionally abusive towards her, which led to “pent up anger and hatred.” Alice’s claims were refuted by her brother, Craig. Not only did Craig refute the claims and state that Alice was well accepted and loved, but so did peers and friends of the victims. One coworker of Alice’s mother stated, “[Mom] was always so supportive of Alice. Her entire life revolved around Alice and Craig. She was well loved, respected, and had a heart of gold” (Harrison, 2018, p. ??).

The support of being transgendered was not the only discrepancy in Alice’s story. In a video interview with Alice, she stated that she was severely emotionally abused by her parents and that they degraded her and would often call her names (Kennebunc Journal, 2018). Alice continued to say that nobody knew the real dynamics in the family, including her own brother. She was afraid that the abuse would grow physically, particularly as her gender identity came to be a stronger influence in her life and was not “just a phase.” In the interview, Alice stated that her mother went into her bedroom at night and would “play games under the covers” and touch her inappropriately. The interviewer asked for clarity and a definitive statement on the actions that took place. Alice stated, “My mother molested me for years, and nobody knew” (Kennebunc Journal, 2018, p. ??).

This interview was the first time the sexual abuse was mentioned and stunned friends and family members. Craig again refuted the claim stating that there was

“something seriously wrong” with his sister and she was an “Insult to the family, family name and the LGBT+ community” (Harrison, 2018, p. ??).

Samantha Jackson

According to reports written by Boone (2017), at the time of the crime, Samantha Jackson was a 16-year-old Idaho native who became notorious in her small town. Jackson killed both of her parents by shooting them to death. Jackson was in a relationship with a 19-year-old boy who her parents did not approve of. Samantha’s parents told her to stay away from him and often punished her for sneaking out to see him. On the day of the murder, Samantha grabbed a gun that was owned by the family and shot her father in the chest twice and her mother once in the head (Guy, 2018).

After the murder, friends and family of the Jackson’s claimed that Samantha showed little remorse and had appeared sad only when it was expected of her (Boone, 2017). Samantha’s brother, Joseph, admitted he was disturbed by the actions of Samantha after the murders. According to Joseph, Samantha was only concerned about a volleyball game that was taking place the evening of the funeral. On the night of the murder, when Joseph was alerted of the murder and arrived to be with Samantha, she was “calm” and told Joseph her biggest concern was the police suspicion of her (Guy, 2018). Joseph stated at the time that he thought Samantha’s boyfriend was the culprit. Samantha quickly denied the allegation and told her brother that “[the boyfriend] loved dad like his own father” (Guy, 2018, p. ??). According to Joseph, he was automatically skeptical because he knew there was a strained relationship between the parents, Samantha, and her boyfriend. Samantha was charged on two counts of first in the first degree. Samantha was

charged as an adult and received two full-life sentences without the possibility of parole as well as a fine in which half of the funds were allocated to Joseph (Guy, 2018).

Roger Rockson

At the time of the crime, Roger Rockson was a 16-year-old male from Baltimore, Maryland who was charged with killing his father. On a January evening in 2012, Roger took a family gun and shot his father in the back twice. He then called a friend and wrapped his father's body in a rug and carried the body to a nearby area (Broadway, 2012; Janny, 2014). The friend had helped Roger move the body of his father to protect Roger. On the night of the crime, Roger was chased by police and confessed his guilt to them, even telling them where to find the body. According to Carter (2012) when asked why Roger did it, his words were "I couldn't take it anymore" (p. ??).

When questioned about the crime, Roger stated he was tired of being abused physically and "snapped," killing his father. According to those close to the family, they had firsthand witnessed abuse and neglect in the Rockson household and even said they had voiced concerns about the well-being of the child to local law enforcement (Carter, 2012). Rockson also expressed that financial struggles had weighed on the household and the type of stress it added to his father. According to Roger, his father had a hard time putting food on the table and paying bills, oftentimes going without necessities because they could not be afforded (Carter, 2012). Roger's father was a single father and had a hard time making ends meet, oftentimes, taking it out on Roger via abuse.

According to Broadwater (2012), Roger's mother died when he was 10 due to cancer, which had long lasting devastating effects on the family. Since the death of his

mother, family members and neighbors had noticed the disturbances in the household, and often whispered among each other on what they were witnessing. One unnamed neighbor stated she had heard the father and son arguing nearly daily and numerous death threats came from the father (Broadwater, 2012). The neighbors also noted the dirty and torn clothes that were worn by Roger and tried to intervene by buying him new clothes (Broadwater, 2012; Carter, 2012). One neighbor stated that they tried to get Roger new clothes, but his father took offense to the gesture and had verbally assaulted the neighbor.

Nearly all of the friends and family that were acquainted with the family were aware of what went on behind closed doors but did little to help. According to Broadwater (2012), another unnamed member of the community stated they wanted to reach out to local law enforcement but did not feel they had enough evidence nor any proof of the abuse. The same person also stated they had tried to intervene with little luck and felt helpless in the situation. This witness told a news reporter that one day she had witnessed a fight between the two in which the father screamed “I will [obscenity] kill you, you [obscenity]” (Broadway, 2012, p. ??). She stated that after that exchange she got nervous about the potential chance of violent exchanges but was still too unsure of her role in their life to reach out. During the interview, this anonymous person stated she wishes she was involved and would have loved to help the family and get them both the help they needed (Broadway, 2012).

Andrew Thompson

17-year-old Andrew Thompson was charged with manslaughter after he called the police and reported a murder that he committed (Collman, 2019). According to Collman

(2019), on June 13, 2019, Andrew got into a heated argument with his father and ran to his father's room to lock himself away for safety. Andrew grabbed two guns, opened the door, and shot his father multiple times, killing him nearly instantly. When the police arrived at the scene and arrested Thompson, there was another shocking discovery; Thompson was kidnapped by his father more than a decade earlier and was considered a missing person (Toohey, 2019).

According to Thompson's mother and sister, in 2008, Andrew was kidnapped after his mother filed a protective order against his father, and Andrew was never found (Collman, 2019; Fedschun, 2019; Toohey, 2019). Andrew's sister testified that on the day Anthony went missing, her mother and father got into a violent fight, in which she feared for all of their lives. After the altercation, her mother went to court for a protective order, and when she arrived home, both the father and the son were missing. The mother filed a missing person report, but he was not found. The case eventually became inactive, but his mother still feared for his life and where he could be (Fedschun, 2019).

Andrew stated that he grew up being abused nearly every day, including harsh punishment, starving, physical assault, verbal and emotional abuse (Fedschun, 2019). Andrew also stated he was homeschooled, and did not receive a formal education, and was often in charge of household duties. According to his sister, Andrew's father was extremely violent before the kidnapping and would harm Andrew and her as punishment, and once beat their mother to the point of medical intervention (Fedschun, 2019). Andrew did not speak to many people about his time in "captivity" but told professional psychologists that he feared for his life every day that he woke up. The day of the

murder, Andrew stated he tried to fight his urge by hiding, but felt his life was in danger and killed his father out of self-defense.

Gary Rodriguez

Gary Rodriguez is a 15-year-old male from Florida who was charged with first degree murder (Fernandez, 2019). Gary strangled his mother for over half an hour, with his own hands. When asked about the crime, Gary stated he was upset over his mother's reaction to a bad grade he received, and they began to get into a fight with each other, which ended in him attacking her and killing her. After the crime, Gary brought her body to a fire pit to a nearby church, and contacted two close friends (Fernandez, 2019). Those friends showed up to the house and staged the house to appear as if the house was the scene of a robbery gone awry.

It did not take long for investigators to find all of the issues with the “robbery” and was able to determine that Gary was the center of the crime (Lotan, 2018). Investigators also found that Gary told classmates he would “be surprised if he made it to his 18th birthday”. The investigators also found that Gary was suicidal and had previously self-harmed but was seeking professional help (Fernandez, 2019). Upon further investigation, it is believed that Gary had numerous mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, and antisocial tendencies (Lotan, 2018).

Brandon Callahan

Brandon Callahan is a 16-year-old Texas student who was charged with killing both of his parents in their sleep in mid-2014 (Docket of Brandon Callahan). Brandon grabbed a shotgun owned by the family, walked into his parents’ room, and shot his

mother, then killed his father. Before the shooting, Brandon prepared by grabbing a flashlight and headphones in order to lessen the sound of the gun shots. When asked about the shootings, Brandon stated he was “upset at his parent’s strict rules”, and also did not like that his parents threatened to send him to public school if he continued with his poor grades (Docket of Brandon Callahan, case No. 05-16-01180-CR). According to Brandon during his testimony, he had to get away from his strict parents and felt this was the only alternative.

Friends and family of the victims testified on behalf of prosecution stating that the victims were good parents and wanted what is best for their children. These witnesses stated that Brandon had numerous issues and would constantly lie about family issues and would not show any remorse for his actions. According to one family member during the trial, many of his siblings feared Brandon, and were not surprised by the murder. All of the offenders' siblings and family members testified saying they feared for their life if Brandon was not placed in jail (Docket of Brandon Callahan, case No. 05-16-01180-CR).

During trial, counselors close to the family admitted that Brandon was having homicidal thoughts but felt he was able to keep the thoughts contained. Counselors also stated that both the victims and offender were “heavily opinionated” and often had contrasting opinions which put strain on their relationship. When charged for the murders, Brandon did not speak, but many witnesses in the court noticed his callous reaction to the sentencing and believed that he showed no remorse for his crime against his parents.

Matthew Salt

In 2008, Matthew Salt, at the age of 16, grabbed a gun that was owned by his father, and shot him numerous times. According to Bilbreck (2008), Salt stated he blacked out after he shot his father out of rage over “years of abuse”, and shot his mother, killing her immediately. Salt also threatened his younger sibling by saying “I will kill you too if you tell the police or anybody what you just saw” (Bilbreck, 2008, p. ??).

Salt also claimed that he was severely abused by his father, often being beaten, and receiving harsh punishments (Bilbreck, 2008; Raghuvver, 2010). The night of the murders, there was no reported abuse, however, siblings of Matthew stated that the night of the murder did not actually entail abuse, but rather, an argument which led to the punishment of Matthews’ phone being taken away. Friends of the victims testified against Matthew, saying that his father, an engineer, was a loving father, and a devout Christian and motorcycle enthusiast (Bilbreck, 2008; Raghuvver, 2010). They stated that the victim would never hit or hurt his children and would often try his best at raising his children. When asked about the abuse, the siblings of the offender did not comment on abuse in the household, which led to questioning the validity to Matthew’s story of abuse.

According to Raghuvver (2010), friends of Matthew told police he had been planning the murder for weeks and waiting for the opportune time. Friends didn’t believe that the teen would go through with the act, and believed the teen was just over exaggerating his wishes. Before the killing, Matthew had sent out messages to his friends and followed on the gaming platform “Xbox” saying “I don’t know what to do with myself after what just happened” (Brilbeck, 2008, p. ??). His friends were confused, but

assumed it involved another fight with his parents, not realizing his sinister meaning. According to his friends, Matthew and his parents would get into extreme arguments about his behavior and habits, such as gaming and consistent use of technology (Raghuveer, 2010). Again, none of his friends took the fights or threats of “I am going to kill them one day” seriously (Brilbeck, 2008, p. ??). The friends stated it was normal for most teenagers to have disagreements with their parents, not realizing the truth behind the statements.

Matthew claimed it was pent up anger from abuse, and killed his mother in a blind rage, and felt that at the time of the crime, he did not have any control of himself. Matthew stated his father was the only target but blacked out and shot at his mother. After the trial, Matthew stated he had no remorse, and that his father deserved it (Brilbeck, 2008). He only apologized to his siblings for their loss, without condemning his actions.

Jason Hampton

In May of 2011, Jason Hampton, age 11, took one of the many guns present in the Hampton household and shot his father while he slept. According to Lovett (2013), after the shooting, Jason called the police to report the shooting and was immediately arrested. During interrogation, Jason admitted that he was tired of being hit by his father, and watching his stepmother be beaten. Jason also told law enforcement that he was tired of his dad being “hateful” (Phillip, 2011). When asked to clarify, law enforcement learned a new side of the victim: he was the head of the National Socialist Movement, also known as the “neo-nazi movement”. Jason told stories to law enforcement about the types of

people his father would condemn and threaten to kill due to their religion or skin color (Lovett, 2013; Phillip, 2010). Jason said that his ranks in the Neo-Nazi movement were reflected in the home, and the higher he went in the ranks of the social club, the angrier he would become, including more violence (Lovett, 2013).

According to Phillip (2010), Hampton's father used to brag about Jason's ability to shoot, and would offer his son's skills to help hunt non-whites and Jews. When Jason would refuse to shoot a person, his father would beat him.

Peter Jones

This case was featured in the book "Understanding Parricide: When Sons and Daughters Kill Their Parents", written by Dr. Heide. This case does not have some identifying information based on the confidentiality agreed upon by the author. Dr. Heide wrote that this offender was 17 years-old and is male. Year and location of the crime were not released.

Peter shot and killed his father in the middle of the night while his father was sleeping. According to Peter, he and his father had numerous fights that would end in violence. Peter also said that his mother was often a victim of the abuse as well, and would fear for her life (Heide, 2003). Oftentimes, Peter would try to protect his mother and try to take the beatings from his father in order to save his mother. After the arrest, Peter's mother corroborated the story of abuse, and how violent the household was. In Heide's (2003) observation, Peter was the victim of numerous types of abuse, including emotional, physical, and emotional incest. Peter's mother had heavily relied on Peter for support and friendship, revealing all of the familial issues to him, as well as allowing him

to take the physical abuse in her replacement. Peter also dropped out of school at the 10th grade, trying to help take care of his mother.

Heide (2003) evaluated Peter's mental health and found that he suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder from the abuse he suffered from his mother and father. Peter also was diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder and Generalized Anxiety Disorder. When arrested, Peter was charged as an adult, and is sentenced to 25 years in jail.

Peter Jones was another example of a child being abused to the point of murdering their abuser. Much like previous case studies, Peter witnessed his mother being abused as well, which was detrimental in his childhood. Peter's father demanded Peter to take care of household duties, and would beat him if they were not done to his liking. Peter was also not supported by his father, nor did he describe them as close. In fact, according to Heide (2003), Peter said that he and his dad had a cold relationship, and he felt isolated from his father. However, Peter said that he and his mother leaned on each other for support, and his mother often confided in him regarding her marriage to his father. Heide (2003) diagnosed Peter with PTSD from his father's extremely abusive behavior and indicated that his mother was not much of a mother, and would not protect Peter, and acted like his friend, and treated him like an adult.

Table 1*Comprehensive List of Cases With Their Parenting Style*

Offender	Age	Method of killing	Motive	Parenting style
Emily Jang	16	Stabbing	Abused	Authoritarian
Donald Porter	16	Gun	Video games taken away	Authoritative
Alice Brown	17	Stabbing	Unsupportive/mentally ill	Authoritative
Samantha Johnson	16	Gun	Parents didn't approve of boyfriend	Authoritative
Roger Rockson	16	Gun	PTSD from severe Abuse	Authoritarian
Andrew Thompson	17	Gun	Feared for life/abuse	Authoritarian
Gary Rodriguez	17	Strangled	Fight with mom over bad grade	Authoritative
Brandon Callahan	16	Gun	Punishment over bad grade	Authoritative/missive
Matthew Salt	17	Gun	Angry over cellphone	Authoritative/missive
Jason Hampton	10	Gun	Abusive dad	Authoritarian
Peter Jones	17	Gun	Abusive household	Authoritative

Data Analysis

Using Nvivo, I started to input all the cases, highlighting common phrases “defendant/offender claims abuse” “offender upset” “strict parenting” “loving parents” “punishment” “absent parents” “Mental illness” “material taken away”. I then started to match each parenting style to descriptive codes. “Mental illness” was coded with each parenting style to determine any common patterns. I then categorized each of these phrases to a parenting style, “punishments” were categorized with authoritarian parents, “loving parents” was categorized with authoritative parents. “material taken away” was categorized with permissive parenting. Thus, the new categories became: Permissive parenting, which included any cases that involved mental illness, materials taken away”. Authoritative parenting styles had a category that concluded of “punishment” “possessive” “strict”. Authoritarian parents were categorized with “Loving parents” “mental illness”. Absent parenting was a category, but had no codes as no cases were classified with this parenting style.

Looking at the codes and categories, I then created a list of cases, and input all of the case subjects associated with the codes that were highlighted. This led to Emily Jang, Roger Rockson, Andrew Thompson, Jason Hampton, Peter Jones falling strictly into the “authoritative” parenting style category, Donald Porter, Samantha Johnson, Alice Brown, and Matthew Salt fit into the “authoritarian parenting” category. No cases were strictly permissive parenting, however there were three cases that fell into the permissive and authoritative parenting styles. Those cases consisted of Gary Rodriguez and Brandon Callahan. No cases were labelled as absent parents. After determining which cases fit into

the category, I determined continued to go through each of the articles to determine specific information, including detailed demographics. Creating a separate sheet, I was able to determine the age, race, location, gender, socioeconomic status, and a general idea of academic achievement. I then compared the information to all of the offenders, finding one of the biggest limitations of this study: nine out of 11 of the cases the offenders were Caucasian. One offender was Chinese-American, and the other was African-American. This was added to the limitations section of this research.

Comparing all of the codes between “punishments” “Strict parenting” “cold parenting”, I found cases in which abuse was the motive of the parricide were all labelled under authoritarian parenting. None of the cases that did not involve abusive parents had parents that were coded in the “authoritarian” parenting. Meaning that authoritarian parents were considered abusive.

Next, I noticed a few cases were being clumped together by the Nvivo analysis, and that was Donald Porter, Matthew Salt, and Brandon Callahan. All three offenders were categorized under authoritative parenting, and acted out on an impulse over a material object. However, Donald did not classify under permissive parenting style as his parents obstructed his ability to gain access to the material, and were unaware of the purchase, and had made their intentions clear. However, Nvivo does find Donald’s case to be similar to both Matthew Salt and Brandon Callahan. The latter two of the cases were both labelled as permissive parenting as well as authoritative because the parents were warm and loving, however, were permissive in their behavior, lightly scolding them

for wrong doings. However, when the parents tried to enforce rules, the offenders act on impulse and killed them. Thus, leading to the second theme found in this research.

Lastly, Nvivo had noticed that there were three cases labelled with mental illness, which was Roger Rockson, Alice Brown, Matthew Salt, and Brandon Callahan. Alice was not considered by Nvivo to have a permissive parenting, as witnesses to the family said the parents believed in structure, but were still warm and caring to their children. Alice, Matthew, and Brandon were all labelled with authoritative parenting, with the latter two having permissive tendencies. Rockson was the only offender diagnosed with mental illness that did not kill due to antisocial behavior, but still acted on their mental illness. This represents the third theme that mental illness can happen with any type of parenting style

This research had a small sample size. The small sample size did help create a cohesive set of cases to analyze. Looking at all 11 cases, there were no cases that were an outlier or could be described as discrepant. All cases were able to be analyzed the same way, and were able to help form the themes found in this research.

Evidence of Trustworthiness

The first step in determining that this research was consistent with trustworthiness, I first looked at the credibility of this research. In chapter three, I stated that I would use multiple sources for the data. Considering I used only public data, I needed to ensure that I checked multiple sources regarding the cases. Some cases were easier in this aspect as the case made national headlines. However, some cases only had three or four local newspapers that gave the information. I was able to fact check all of

the articles with each other, and checking their main sources as well. One case in particular dealt with multiple articles that referenced the same newscast. I then watched the newscast to ensure the information stayed correct through all of the mediums. I also stated in chapter three the importance of credibility as public data can be manipulated or biased, altering the view of parenting styles. There is difficulty in ensuring that the reports on the cases were not bias as these cases are sensitive in nature and deal with juveniles, and parents may have different habits out of the public eye. In cases in which there were discrepancies with the parenting styles, I clearly stated the discrepancies, and the different news source for each discrepancy.

Transferability refers to keeping the research true across all contexts. To keep the information true across all mediums, I was able to give extreme detail in the research method by discussing the process of research, including which search engines (Google Scholar, SAGE Journals, PUBMed, New England Journal of Medicine, Psycinfo, and Ebscohost) what type of phrases I used in the search engine (see page 14.) I also ensured transferability by giving detail in Chapter 3 about the research methodology of the research. By describing the case study analysis in Chapter Three as well as this section, the readers of this research will be able to understand and replicate the research I conducted.

Dependability is the focus of the quality of methodology. In Chapter Three, I described the importance of dependability, and suggested using cases that are publicly known to ensure multiple resources, as well as documenting the mediums used for the research. Though some cases were not nationally recognized, all cases at least had some

form state-wide reporting in order to saturate the news and allow for multiple perspectives to be written, and to help dissect any biases that may have occurred. Using these public mediums does increase the chances of bias from the reporters, however, with the numerous amounts of coverage, biases were easily detected and compared to other articles to determine proper reporting. Another factor I used to ensure proper dependability was relying on the committee of this dissertation to help recognize any bias in the research or in myself, and was able to alleviate any potential biases that could affect the research.

Lastly, confirmability discusses the interpretation of the data. I was able to create confirmability by creating a clear path of the research with fact checking. I cross referenced all articles, as well as scholarly research, that described parenting styles to keep information consistent across this research. I described the codes and categories used to determine the themes found in the results to give the reader a step-by-step understanding of the research, and how the themes were found. Giving the process of the methodology, data collection, and data analysis, readers are able to understand the confirmability of this research.

Results

Parenting Styles

In the case of Emily Jang, her parents were extremely strict and had numerous expectations both academically and leisurely. As stated in the case synopsis, quotes such as “She is nothing to be proud of” and “She is not all that intelligent” indicate that her parents were not warm and caring to her. Emily’s parents shamed her and gave her

excessive punishment. Emily's friends also stated that she did try and have a positive relationship with them but was met with strife that often ended in her mother telling her that "she was a mistake." According to Mendez et al. (2020), this type of strict parenting met with little warmth of nurturing, and impatience with misbehavior indicates Emily's parents were strict Authoritarian.

In the case of Donald Porter, the qualities of the parents were not directly stated in any published data. However, based on the information given, his parents believed in structured parenting, and did not want Donald exposed to violent video games or develop addictive habits (Fong, 2008). Donald was isolated from his social groups as he was recovering from a long-term injury at home. However, Donald admitted that his parents were caring, but disagreed with his hobbies and lifestyles (Green, 2009). When concerned, the parents tried to alter his behavior through appropriate media by restricting access to the games. Based on testimony about the warm nature of parenting, genuine concern for child well-being, and involvement in Donald's life, his parents exhibited authoritative parenting qualities (Perez-Gramaje et al., 2019).

In the case of Alice Brown, there were some inconsistencies with the parenting style. One of the biggest inconsistencies with this case was the type of relationship Alice had with her parents. While Alice claims she was neglected and unsupported, then claimed she was sexually abused, others refuted the claims, including those that lived in the house (Harrison, 2018). Based on Alice's account, the parents exhibited authoritarian parenting styles due to the non-supportive behavior, little warmth and nurture to Alice, and the shaming behavior (Mendez et al., 2020). However, based on the accounts of

Alice's brother, family, and friends of the victims, the parents of Alice displayed authoritative parenting, which was represented by the support, involvement shown by the parents (Sorkhabi & Mandara, 2013). Alice's suspected mental illness is suspected of skewing her version of her relationship with her parents (Harrison, 2018).

In the case of Samantha Johnson, Samantha admitted that her parents were caring parents, and were always supportive of her. She stated that she was constantly fighting because she did not like their rules, however, their rules were not cruel or unusual. She would be grounded for sneaking out, she would be forced to do extra chores for poor grades (though that was rare as Samantha did well in school). Friends and family of the victim stated that the parents gave Samantha freedom, but would take it away when she abused the freedom. Based on these qualities that were described by both Samantha and other witnesses, Samantha's parents exhibited authoritative parenting styles (; Mendez et al., 2020; Sorkhabi & Mandara, 2013).

In the case of Roger Rockson, there are numerous witnesses attested to the abuse that was endured. According to Roger, his father would beat him, as well as degrade him, and did not meet the necessities he needed. The consistency of parenting styles through testimony indicated that Roger's father was an authoritarian parent (Mendez et al., 2020).

In the case of Andrew Thompson, according to Sorkhabi and Mandara (2013), authoritarian parents are likely to be abusive, both physically and emotionally. Because Andrew's father was not only holding him captive but neglecting his needs while exceeding harsh and excessive punishments, Andrew's father exhibited authoritarian parenting styles.

In the case of Gary Rodriguez, there are limited statements of the relationship between Gary and his mother. However, based on their argument over grades, and the lack of mention of abuse, excessive punishment, neglect, or lack of attachment, Gary's mother is suspected of being an authoritative parent (Mendez, 2020).

The case of Brandon Callahan is another case where the offender claims abuse, but there is no evidence of corroborating stories to verify the abuse. In fact, all witnesses except the offender state that the parents were fair and just, loved Brandon and would help him exceed in any capacity they could (Docket of Brandon Callahan, case No. 05-16-01180-CR). The parents of Brandon paid for a private school to appease Brandon. Based on the articles and interviews that were conducted, Brandon's parents seemed to have a mixture of authoritative parenting and permissive parenting. According to Menendez (2020), authoritative parenting and permissive parenting can often be found to be present at the same time. In this case, Brandon's parents demonstrated the qualities of both permissive and authoritative parents. Mendez, (2020) explained that permissive parenting occurs when parents are loving towards their children but give the child too much range with little to no punishment techniques. Sorkhabi and Mandara (2013) explained that children of permissive parenting often have a sense of "entitlement" and demand luxuries from parents. Authoritative parents are warm and nurturing just like permissive parenting, however, permissive parents are more likely to be a friend to the child instead of a parent. Brandon's parents gave Brandon luxuries and were known to treat him like a friend instead of a parent, being very lenient on his punishment and poor

behaviors. Based on the criteria suggested by Mendez, (2020), Brandon's parents displayed both authoritative and permissive parenting styles.

In the case of Matthew Salt, based on the testimony from friends and family of the victims, the victims demonstrated authoritative parenting styles (Mendez, 2020). While there were claims of abuse, none of the claims were corroborated nor were they proven with evidence. However, the parents displayed authoritative qualities by trying to restrict poor habits and behaviors and displaying warm and nurturing care (Bilbreck, 2008).

In the case of Jason Hampton, his father was extremely abusive towards his family and towards non-white community members. Jason's father would demean Jason, and exhibit little to no nurture and warmth to Jason. His father would also punish him excessively and violently for no reason (Lovett, 2013). According to Lovett (2013), Jason was not his father's only victim, Jason's mother was physically abused for their entire relationship, multiple times medical intervention was necessary. Jason's father exhibited authoritarian parenting.

In the case of Peter Jones, his father was physically and verbally abusive towards both him and his mother. If Peter was not a model child such as completing chores on time or "talking back" Peter's father would physically assault him (Heide, 2003). Peter also watched his mother endure physical abuse if her "wife duties" were not completed. The cold nature of Peter's father, as well as his dominant behavior, indicates that his father was authoritarian, while his mother tried being authoritative (Mendez, 2020).

After analyzing all these cases, three themes emerged. (a) Abused children had authoritarian parents. (b) Juveniles with anti-social tendencies or killings had parents that were authoritative with permissive tendencies and were likely trying to punish the child in an appropriate manner, though they did not want to be tamed. (c) A juvenile who had diagnosed mental illness also demonstrated antisocial behavioral traits.

Theme 1: Abused kids are likely to have authoritarian parents

Five out of the 11 (Rockson, Thompson, Hampton, Jones, Jang; 45%) offenders had been confirmed cases of abuse with evidence of abuse. In two cases (Brown, Salt) where offenders mentioned abused, the claims were unsubstantiated, and were not found to be true by a jury of peers. In the cases of abuse, each parent demonstrated a cold and nonnurturing form of bonding with their child

Theme 2: Juveniles who had antisocial tendencies were more likely to have authoritative parenting styles, with permissive tendencies.

This theme consists of four cases that were strictly antisocial, and three cases that involved anti-social tendencies with diagnosed mental illness. In the combined seven cases, four (57%) of the parents demonstrate authoritarian parenting styles while three (43%) demonstrated authoritarian parenting with permissive tendencies. In two of the cases, the juvenile was being punished by having a luxury item taken away from them. In these cases (Salt, Porter), the parents displayed concern for the juvenile and their behavior with the luxury item and tried to alter the behavior of the teenager. In both cases, the juveniles stated that they “had enough” and “knew what they wanted.” These

types of statements indicate that the juvenile displayed antisocial traits, as opposed to mental illness or abuse.

Theme 3: Juveniles who were diagnosed with mental illness demonstrated anti-social tendencies and parents who were authoritative and permissive.

In the sample, there were three cases in which the offenders were diagnosed with mental illness. However, in all three (100%) of the cases with mental illness (Brown, Callahan, Rodriguez), the offender killed due to antisocial behavior as opposed to being driven by their mental illness, for example, someone who killed their parents because of a Schizophrenic hallucination, as opposed to these cases where they had mental illness, but a specific event triggered the killing. Those with the combination did not have any authoritative parents, but rather either authoritarian or a combination of authoritarian and permissive. Mental illness may have played a role in their behavior, particularly in the case of Brandon Callahan, who was diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder, and was seen in counseling for homicidal and suicidal ideation. Brandon may have had issues with depression (only diagnosis on file), however, he had strong antisocial traits that influenced him. His parents tried to help him, and would try to curb inappropriate habits, but were met with strife, and ultimately, led to their death. Table 1 shows each case and gives a visualization of the parenting styles found in the research.

Summary

This study was an exploration of parenting styles that are found in juvenile-facilitated parricide. I analyzed the public data that discussed the roles of parents in the household and dissected the information to determine which of the parenting styles were

present, including types of punishments that were used, support systems, and used testimony from family and witnesses to corroborate the stories told by the offender. After the collection of data, I analyzed the data through Nvivo to ensure the proper analysis of the data, and to ensure that all that were present were found, as well to ensure that the study had proper validity, reliability, and transferability. The findings in the research were able to answer the research question associated with this study. The three themes found in this research are: (a) Abused kids are likely to have authoritarian parents; (b): Juveniles who had antisocial tendencies were more likely to have authoritative parenting styles, with permissive tendencies; (c): Juveniles who were diagnosed with mental illness demonstrated antisocial tendencies and parents who were authoritative and permissive.

In the following chapter, I will discuss the results of the study, as well as limitations and future research suggestions.

Chapter 5: Discussion, Conclusions, and Recommendations

This purpose of this research study was to determine the parenting styles found in juvenile-facilitated parricide. Juvenile-facilitated parricide is a rare crime that is seeing an increase in numbers, with no explanation (FBI, 2019; Heide, 2003). To get to the root of the issue, this research examined cases of parricide committed by a juvenile offender. Exploring the parenting style helps understand the dynamics of the juvenile-parent relationship. In the previous chapter, I discussed the data that were collected and analyzed as well as the themes that were found in the data. The themes included (a) abused kids are likely to have authoritarian parents; (b) juveniles who had antisocial tendencies were more likely to have parents with authoritative parenting styles and permissive tendencies; and (c) juveniles who were diagnosed with mental illness demonstrated antisocial tendencies and parents who were authoritative and permissive. This chapter includes a discussion of my interpretation of findings, limitations, and future research ideas.

Interpretation of Findings

All 11 of the cases that were analyzed for this study fell into one or more of the three pillars of parricide: (a) severely abused (i.e., Jang, Thompson, Rockson, Jones, and Hampton), (b) extremely mentally ill (i.e., Rodriguez and Callahan), or (c) dangerously antisocial (i.e., Porter, Brown, Johnson, and Salt). Fegadel and Heide (2018) stated that kids that kill often have a sense of anger in them and feel they are getting personal justice. I found this to be true in all 11 cases.

There are four types of parenting styles: authoritarian, authoritative, permissive, and absent (CITE). According to Mendez et al. (2020), authoritarian parenting is often seen as a dictatorship-type household, where there are strict boundaries, harsh and/or excessive punishment, difficult rules/laws that were demanded to be abided by, a lack of emotional attachment from the parent, and a cold nurture to the child. Mendez et al. also stated that authoritative parenting is often seen as the “good” parenting style where there is structure met with consistency as well as appropriate punishments and a warm nurturing attachment. Authoritative parents often try to have consistent rules and develop a healthy bond with their child. In the current study, I found that Porter, Brown, Johnson, and Salt had parents that exhibited these parenting styles. All four of these parents tried to alter their child’s negative behavioral traits and offered a warm and nurturing bond with their children.

An authoritarian parent is the “dictator” of parents, described as being cold and harsh with excessive punishments being dominant in the household (CITE). Authoritarian parents are likely to have a strong personality and a particular way the household is maintained. In the current study, there were five cases of authoritarian parents, all of which were found to have abused their children. Jang, Rockson, Thompson, Hampton, and Jones all experienced an authoritarian parent and experienced abuse in the home.

A permissive parent is like the namesake; the parent is permissive and allows for the child to run the household (CITE). In this type of household, most of the time there is a lack of discipline, and the parent presents themselves as a friend instead of a parental role and encourages the child to “do what they want” (Mendez et al., 2020). However, on

the opposite end of the spectrum, is the absent parenting style, which indicates a parent that is absent, meaning the child is learning their own morals and values as well as preparing for adulthood without the guidance of their parent. Mendez et al. stated that absent parenting styles were common in households in which the child went through a process of “parentification,” which indicates a child who must take care of themselves or siblings in a parental role for the survival of the child(ren). This parenting style is often indicated in households in which the parents have mental illness or are career oriented, which leaves the child(ren) alone for hours. In this study, none of the cases involved absent parents or singular, permissive parenting styles. There were two cases in which a parent exhibited a comorbidity of authoritative and permissive styles though. Rodriguez and Callahan had parents that were warm and nurturing but were permissive with punishment and allowed for the juvenile to have a less structured environment.

The first emergent theme in this study indicated that abused kids were more likely to have authoritarian parents. Mendez et al. (2020) called the authoritative parent the dictator-type parent. All five cases that were labelled as abusive households with evidentiary support had parents that exhibited authoritarian parenting style. Emily Jang, Jason Hampton, Roger Rockson, Andrew Thompson, and Peter Jones were all cases of abuse with authoritarian parents. Crouch et al. (2017) discussed how authoritarian parents create hostile home environments that often lead to aggressive and violent behaviors in the home. Crouch et al. also reported that authoritarian parenting can lead to abusive relationships, which aligns with the first theme of the current study.

The second theme that emerged in the study was that juveniles who had antisocial tendencies were more likely to have authoritative parents with permissive tendencies. In this research, there were six antisocial killings, with four of those being strictly authoritative parents and four of those cases had parents that had authoritative parenting with permissive tendencies. In each of these cases, the juvenile had been set off by something that was “untraditional” in homicide (e.g., Donald killing his parents over a video game or Matthew killing his parents over a disagreement over a bad grade). Often times, these triggers are from underlying issues in the household or underlying mental illness. The authoritative parent is trying to train the child to have proper behavior and respectful traits when they are reprimanding the child, which, to an antisocial person, is a threat to their ego and can set them into a rage, killing the person responsible (Braga et al., 2017). Authoritative parenting with permissive traits means that the parent has a positive bond but lacks the doling out of punishment in fear of being too harsh on the child or to teach the child their own independence. The authoritative parenting with permissive tendencies tries to enact punishment, but the permissive trait allows the child to talk back or to negotiate the punishment without any repercussions (Timpano et al., 2015). Timpano et al (2015) discussed that authoritative parents can often have permissive tendencies when trying to find the proper line of discipline and self-development of the juvenile. Trying to find that appropriate line of disciplining the juvenile but also giving them the room to grow through mistakes often leads to a confusing stage in the juvenile’s life where they are unsure if they are in control or the

parents are. Timpano et al. discussed the confusion a juvenile feels when the parents trail this line of punishment versus growth.

The third theme that emerged from this study was juveniles who were diagnosed with a mental illness demonstrated antisocial behavior and parents had authoritative and permissive styles. I found that in the two cases in which there were authoritative and permissive parenting, the offender was diagnosed with a form of mental illness, and the trigger (in both cases) involved the parents finding out about bad grades and trying to reprimand the juvenile. This upset the offender, then anger and aggression took over and the juvenile killed their parents out of this anger (Calhoun et al., 2019). Calhoun et al. (2019) found that anger and aggression were found in violent juvenile offenders that exhibited mental illness.

I used attachment theory as the groundwork for this study. According to Bowlby (1958), children and parents can bond before the child is even born, and this bond can weaken or strengthen as the child begins to develop. I found that negative bonds are created from negative attachments, such as authoritarian parenting. In attachment theory, there are different types of attachment based on how a parent reacts during the development of a child through adolescent years (CITE). When a child is unable to bond with their parents, they are already creating a weak bond that makes it easier for a child to kill their parents during their adolescent years (Baglivio & Wolff, 2017). The findings of this study support that negative and weak attachments to parents increases the chances of parricide committed by a juvenile offender. This research also provides evidence that a positive attachment between a child and parent does not decrease the chance of an

antisocial-motivated parricide as well as positive attachments are not excluded from the antisocial killer.

The goal of the current study was to understand the roles of parenting styles in parricide cases. In the abovementioned cases, I found that there were numerous cases in which offenders said they were abused though there was no evidence of abuse. However, that does not mean abuse was not occurring at the house behind closed doors. Another interesting fact to point out was that the three antisocial offenders had been appropriately punished but acted in violence.

In Case 1 of Emily Jang, her parents were extremely strict with her academic and extracurricular activities, placing a burden of pressure on her. Her parents were open about their disapproval of her and her imperfections. According to psychologists, this type of pressure and excessive punishment is damaging to a juvenile brain (Cope, 2010). It is also worth noting that Emily came from a Chinese American family, and the Chinese culture may present differently than the U.S. culture. Due to the cultural differences, it is hard to pinpoint exactly the differences in culture that may have influenced the murder.

Emily's case was not the only story of excessive abuse, in the cases of Roger, Jason, and Andrew (all were abused by father), their parents had the same excessive punishment styles that were often physical as well as a lack of nurture and took out life stressors on the child. Jason's case, he was 10 years old, was the youngest in the study. Jason had killed his father fearing for his life and his step-mother's life and wanting to "save the people he kept hurting" (Philip, 2012, p. 6)

In the case of Peter, the mother and father abused Peter, but in different manners. Peter's father was physically abusive to both him and his mother. Peter's mother would also give extensive punishments and would physically assault Peter for numerous reasons, including not having dinner ready, arguing, or poor grades. Peter's mother demonstrated authoritative parenting with permissive undertones. According to Heide (2003), Peter suffered from emotional incest, which is where an adult treats their child as an adult counterpart, relying on them for emotional support that stunts the emotional growth of the child. Between the abuse of his father and the instinct to protect his mother, Peter had numerous parenting style influences in his household.

Porter and Salt were both juveniles who acted out of anger for punishment. In Porter's case, he was upset that his parents took away his video game, which made him act out in rage (Martinez, 2009). Like Porter's rage, Salt violently attacked his parents when there was threat of moving schools due to poor grades (Bilbreck, 2008). Salt stated that he was entitled to the private school he attended and should not be forced to switch schools. These cases are examples of antisocial behavior because the juveniles had no disregard for their authority and acted extremely irrationally (Fegadel & Heide, 2008). According to Heide (2003), juveniles who are dangerously antisocial can get irritated easily and can react in an explosive manner. That is why it was important to note that the antisocial cases in this study depict that the parents were authoritative but also have permissive traits.

In addition to Porter and Salt, Rodriguez was the third antisocial case in which a parent was authoritative (Mendez, 2020). According to Fenedez (2019), Rodriguez had

strangled his own mother over poor grades, then tried to hide the body and stage the crime scene. However, Rodriguez was also diagnosed with depression, anxiety, and antisocial behavior. Rodriguez had been seen by Mental Health professionals for suicidal and homicidal tendencies in the past. These diagnoses were in the medical chart, which makes it hard to tell what the cause of the crime was mental illness or the antisocial personality traits. The mother of Rodriguez had taken him to every appointment and displayed support in him getting treatment as well as encouraging him in his personal life. Rodriguez was upset at his mother for the mention of poor grades, which is likely to have set off his antisocial reaction.

Out of all 11 cases, only one was receiving professional therapy and had a mental health diagnosis. Matthew Salt had been in therapy for suicidal and homicidal ideation before the event, with both friends and family citing that they were surprised he had not killed someone sooner and expecting this behavior from him.

There was a case in which there was an offender who was transgender and labeled as mentally ill. The mental illness was not to assume that any transgender person is mentally ill. This was a fact stated by the forensic psychologist that worked the case. This case also had the issue of numerous abuse claims, including a late mention of sexual abuse that baffled those involved with the case. These mentioning's are not intended to offend anyone in the transgender community but is to recognize the wrong doings of the offender that happens to be transgender. Alice likely had antisocial traits, as well as having mental illness, which cause her to become angry very easily.

Limitations

There are numerous limitations to this case study. One of the most prominent limitation is that this is a case study analysis, which means I have limited access to information and use the agenda of other authors to get my information. While I tried to ensure accuracy and minimized reported bias, there is a limit to the information received for this data. Some cases had limited articles, which weakens the suggested parenting style. There were also few cases of parricide in general, which causes less saturation in the research. Finally, there were numerous cases that had limited or restricted access due to the age of the offender, and state laws. This made finding cases difficult and could under-represent the true findings of the results. The limited restricted access also created an obstacle in ensuring that the parenting styles are completely accurate, instead of the minimal traits released in the articles.

Recommendations

This study focused solely on juvenile-facilitated parricide that occurred with a single offender, killing their biological parent. Future researchers might benefit from conducting research on juveniles who kill their entire family, conduct secondary shootings (such as a school shooting after killing their parents), or killing nonbiological parents. Research should be done in these areas to gain an understanding in the different types of parricides, as well as to enhance the intervention methods of at-risk juveniles.

Another recommendation would be to focus on female offenders. Males dominated this research and lacks the understanding of the difference between female and male offenders. According to the FBI (2019), 5% of parricide offenders were female,

which is often seen as an obstacle in researching the topic. As seen in this research, the two female offenders had vastly different motives and could indicate a different psychological factor in the female juvenile parricide offender.

In addition to these recommendations, I would recommend researching the threats juveniles make on social media or verbalize their ideations of suicide or homicide. Studying the trail that a parricide offender leaves can be another step in recognizing potential families that could be susceptible to this crime.

A common occurrence in parricide cases, is the juvenile becomes angry and grab a gun. If the juvenile didn't have easy access to the guns. In numerous cases, even if the guns were locked up, the juvenile had the access code or security access and found minimal obstacle when obtaining the guns. Had the guns been more restricted in the household, could there have been less impulsive actions that resulted in the death of the parent? Future research should focus on the increased chances of parricide if there are guns in the house, in order to determine if gun safety is a factor in juvenile facilitated parricide.

This study included 11 cases, 10 of which the offender was Caucasian. There was an absence of different cultures that was noticeable within the case searching phase of this research. I recommend that researchers focus on the cultural implications of juvenile-facilitated parricide.

For future research, I recommend looking into the outside influences of parenting styles such as peer pressure from social media to parent a specific way. For example, an outside factor that could influence a parenting style would be a military parent that could

relay the strictness of the military, which would lead to authoritarian parenting. Another outside factor could be a parent who is mentally ill which could lead to a permissive or absent parenting style. Future research would benefit from understanding the outside influences that affect parenting styles to determine other types of parricide

As for parenting styles, three out of the four were represented in the study, but none of the cases had absent style parenting. There is speculation that the role of parentification and the advanced maturity and responsibility creates an obstacle that impedes on the ability for a juvenile killing their parent. It is my recommendation that researchers investigate the absence of absent parenting styles, and the possible role of parentification.

Lastly, another recommendation for future research includes learning the difference between an anti-social juvenile and a juvenile who is killing their parent because the parent is not compliant with the demands of the child. For example, studying the difference between a juvenile who is anti-social, and a juvenile who is upset that the parents took away a luxurious item such as a cellphone.

Implications

This study encourages positive social change by recognizing and further understanding the family dynamics in the troubled household in which a juvenile kills their parents. In understanding the parenting types, professionals can monitor and see the signs of a potential household with these behaviors and intervene before the violent outbursts. It also helps juveniles get any help they need for support by professionals. With a better understanding of parenting styles in juvenile-facilitated parricide,

professionals can better intervene before the murder occurs. There can also be the role of understanding developmental psychology and the importance of parenting roles mixed with personality types.

The theoretical framework for this paper uses the attachment theory, which is considered to be a part of the developmental psychological theories. However, as this paper discussed the issues within the family dynamic, the attachment theory helps understand how a child attaches to a parent via their parenting style, and why attachment is important. The attachment theory implications find that there is a significant correlation to abused children and authoritarian parents. Understanding the correlation to abused children and authoritarian parents is important to understand because mental health professionals can identify a household with authoritarian parenting and intervene to help create a safe and stable environment.

Conclusion

This research was the first known case study research on juvenile-facilitated parricide. The themes identified in this research are (a) Abused kids are likely to have authoritarian parents; (b) Juveniles who had antisocial tendencies were more likely to have authoritative parenting styles, with permissive tendencies; (c) Juveniles who were diagnosed with mental illness demonstrated antisocial tendencies and parents who were authoritative and permissive. These themes are important for researchers to understand in order to help prevent future parricide cases and begin to intervene with troubled families in order to decrease parricide cases. By completing this research, I can identify the parenting styles in households that are at risk and provide evidence that these homes may

be in more danger than originally thought. As juvenile-facilitated parricide cases in America start to rise, this research could be the key in understanding the attachment, the parenting style, and the concoction of what make a parricide case

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