

The Identification of the Victims of John Wayne Gacy

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John Wayne Gacy was an infamous serial killer who, from the years 1972 to 1978, murdered 33 young men. He lured these men to his home to sexually abuse them and ultimately either stab or strangle them to death. When police began investigating a missing person report on a young boy, Gacy became a targeted suspect. Through a search warrant, investigators found 29 of the 33 victims had been buried in a crawl space underneath Gacy's house. The other four victims were discarded into a nearby river.

Twenty-five victims were identified using dental records, x-rays, missing person reports, and information provided by Gacy. The remaining eight victims were buried without knowing their identity. In 2011, Cook County Sheriff's Office in Chicago reopened the case in an attempt to identify these victims. They sent eight sets of skeletal remains to University of North Texas Health Science Center, Center for Human Identification for DNA analysis.

After DNA profiles were developed from the remains, the Cook County Sheriff's Office made a plea to the public to come forward if they suspected a missing family member could be a victim of Gacy. As a result, one identification has been made thus far. The search continues for family members related to the other seven victims.

In March of 1980 John Wayne Gacy was convicted of all 33 murders. He was put to death by lethal injection in May of 1994.