

# SPARC

STALKING  
PREVENTION,  
AWARENESS,  
AND RESOURCE  
CENTER

## CONTEXT IS KEY: Recognizing and Responding to Stalking

1

## OVW Funding

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2

[www.StalkingAwareness.org](http://www.StalkingAwareness.org)

- \*Practitioner guides
- \*Training modules
- \*Victim resources
- \*Webinars



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3

## Introduction

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4

## STALKING IS:



**CRIMINAL**



**TRAUMATIC**



**DANGEROUS**

5



**CRIMINAL**


FEDERAL LEVEL

ALL 50 STATES, D.C.,  
& U.S. TERRITORIES

TRIBAL CODES

UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE

6



## TRAUMATIC

**Many stalking victims:**

- \* **Experience mental health issues.**
- \* **Lose time from work.**  
1 in 8 employed stalking victims lose time from work.
- \* **Relocate.** 1 in 7 stalking victims move.

Baum, K., Catalano, S., Rand, M. (2009). *Stalking Victimization in the United States*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.  
Blaauw, E., Arensman, E., Winkel, F.W., Freeve, A., & Sheridan, L. (2002). The Toll of Stalking. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 17(1): 50-63.

7

“

*“It’s not easy to describe the fear you have when you see the stalker, or signs of the stalker, everywhere you go. I have given up all hopes of ever having a safe life.”*

*For the rest of my life, I will be looking over my shoulder, expecting to see him there.”*

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8

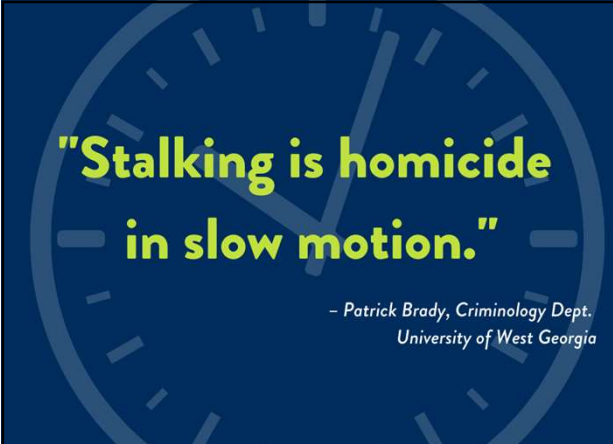


## DANGEROUS

- \* **Stalking often co-occurs with physical assault and sexual violence, including rape.**
- \* **20% of stalkers use weapons to threaten or harm victims.**
- \* **76% of intimate partner femicides included stalking in the year prior.**

McFarlane, J., Campbell, J.C., Wilt, S., Ulrich, Y., & Xu, X. (1999.) Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide. *Homicide Studies* 3 (4), 300-316.  
Mohandie, K., Moley, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 51 (1), 147-155.

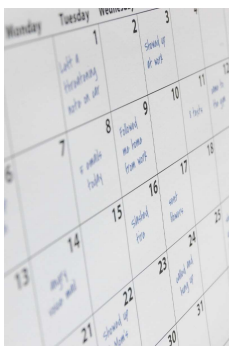
9



## "Stalking is homicide in slow motion."

– Patrick Brady, Criminology Dept.  
University of West Georgia

10



**Stalking is one of the few crimes where early intervention can prevent violence and death.**

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11

## Reporting Stalking

- 28% of stalking victims report to law enforcement
- 16% of stalking victims seek victim services
- Fewer than 29% of student stalking victims seek services on campus
  - One study showed less than 8% disclosed to a formal support



Truman, J.L., & Morgan, R.E. (2022). *Stalking Victimization, 2019*. Washington, DC: US DOJ, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report.  
Augustyn, M.B., Renssen, C.M., Pinchevsky, G.M., & Magnuson, A.B. (2019). Intimate Partner Stalking among College Students: Examining Situational Contexts Related to Police Notification. *Journal of Family Violence* 35(1), 679-691.  
Centor, D., Fisher, B., Chinnell, S., Madden, K. (2020). Report on the AAU campus climate survey on sexual assault and misconduct. Westat.  
Davies, J.M., Ward, S.K., Webb, W.A., Bengard, V.L., Cohen, E.S., Edwards, K.A., & Meyerhan, M.M. (2017). Disclosure on Campus: Student Decisions to Tell Others About Unwanted Sexual Experiences, Intimate Partner Violence, and Stalking. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 23(1), 54-75.

12

## Domestic Violence Crimes Study

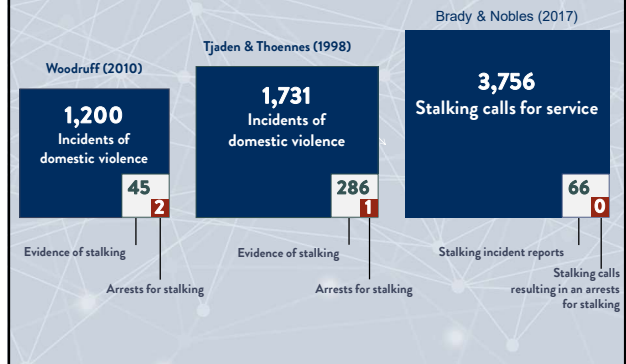
- \* 1785 cases of domestic violence
- \* 298 involve stalking (1 in 6)

How many cases were charged as stalking?

Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (2001). Stalking: Its Role in Serious Domestic Violence Cases, Executive Summary. Center for Policy Research: Denver, CO. Retrieved from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/187346.pdf>.

13

## Stalking within Domestic Violence



14

## Accessing Victim Services



About 16% of all stalking victims sought victim services.

Nearly 1 in 4 victims who sought victim services did not receive any.

Truman, J.L., & Morgan, R.E. (2022). Stalking Victimization, 2019. Washington, DC: US DOJ, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report.

15

## Understanding Stalking

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## Defining Stalking



**BEHAVIORAL**



**LEGAL/STATUTORY**

- State & Federal Statutes
- Clery Act, Title IX
- School Policy

17

## DO YOU KNOW YOUR STALKING STATUTE?

NEW INTERACTIVE MAP FOR ALL U.S. JURISDICTIONS!



www.stalkingawareness.org/map

18



## Discuss: Is this stalking?

1. A student peeks into the women's locker room.
2. An ex-partner repeatedly spreads vicious rumors about their former partner on social media.
3. A supervisor regularly asks her employee personal questions, mocks him in meetings, sends e-mails at odd hours and is verbally abusive when he doesn't respond right away.

19

A pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel **FEAR** for the person's safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.

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20

## A pattern of behavior...

- \* Not a single incident or "one off" event
- \* Called a "course of conduct" in most statutes



21

## ...directed at a specific person...



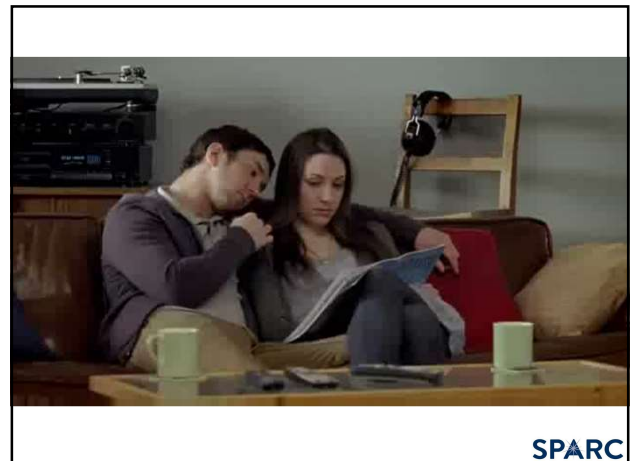
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...that would cause a reasonable person to feel **FEAR** for their safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.



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23



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24

## CONTEXT IS CRITICAL in stalking cases.

25



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26

### Context



- \* Something may be frightening to the victim but not to you
- \* Stalking behaviors often have specific meanings
- \* Stalking criminalizes otherwise non-criminal behavior

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27



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28

### Victim Reaction: Is it Fear?



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29

### Document Evidence of Accommodations



Changes to accounts,  
numbers, and settings



Finances spent on safety  
devices or accommodations



Increased Security/Privacy  
Measures



Financial impacts, including  
employment consequences, identity  
theft, and cost of damaged property

30

## Stalking Prevalence and Behavior

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## Stalking Prevalence

NEARLY  
**1 in 3 women**



NEARLY  
**1 in 6 men**



experience **stalking** in their lifetimes.

Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., & Kresnow, M. (2022). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2016/2017 Report on Stalking. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

32

## Stalking Dynamics

**Women are more likely than men to experience stalking.**

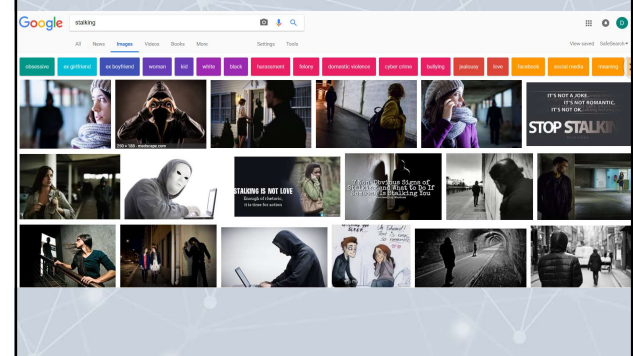
**The majority of victims report that the offender is male - regardless of the victim's sexual orientation.**



Canter, D., et al. (2020). Report on the AAU Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct. Westat.  
Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M.R. (2011). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

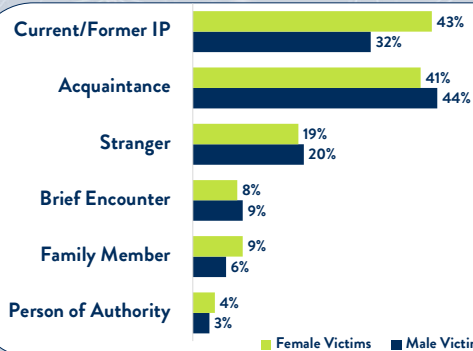
33

## Image Results for "Stalking"



34

## Victim and Offender Relationships

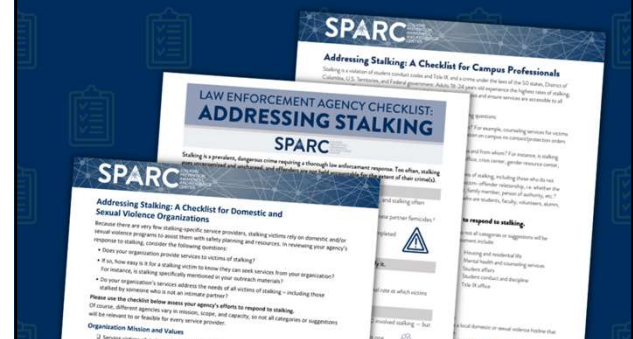


Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., & Kresnow, M. (2022). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2016/2017 Report on Stalking. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

35

## STALKING RESPONSE CHECKLISTS

ASSESS YOUR EFFORTS & CONSIDER NEW IDEAS



36

## Understanding Stalking: Stalking Behaviors

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37

“*I know it sounds crazy, but...*”

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38

### SLII Framework



Logan, T.K. & Walker, R. (2017). Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning, Trauma, Violence and Abuse 18(2), 200-222

39



## SURVEILLANCE

- Follow
- Watch
- Wait
- Show up
- Tracking software
- Obtain information about victim
- Proxy stalking

40

## LIFE INVASION



- Unwanted contact at home, work, etc.
- Showing up
- Phone calls
- Property invasion
- Public humiliation
- Harass friends/family

41

## INTIMIDATION



- Threats
- Property damage
- Symbolic violence
- Forced confrontations
- Threaten or actually harm self
- Threats to victim about harming others

42









## Relationships, Violence, & Threats

%	Intimate	Acquaintance	Private Stranger	Public Figure
Presence of Threats	83	66	50	18
Presence of Violence	74	50	36	2

Mohandie, K., Meloy, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 51 (1), 147-155.

55

## Intimate partner stalkers are more likely to:

physically approach the victim

be interfering, insulting, and threatening

use weapons

escalate behaviors quickly

re-offend

Mohandie, K., Meloy, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 51 (1), 147-155.

56

## Study of Women with Protective Orders

Women who were **abused and stalked** experienced **significantly higher rates** of the following than women who were abused but not stalked:

- \* Verbal abuse, degradation, jealousy and control
- \* Serious threats
- \* Moderate and severe physical violence
- \* Sexual violence and sexual assault
- \* Threats to kill and threats with a weapon
- \* Being beat up, attacks with a weapon and injury

Logan, T.K., Shannon, L., & Cole, J. (2007). Stalking Victimization in the Context of Intimate Partner Violence. *Violence Vict.* 22 (6), 669-683.

57

In **85%** of attempted & **76%** of completed **intimate partner femicides**, stalking occurred in the year prior to the attack.

McFarlane, J., Campbell, J.C., Wilt, S., Ulrich, Y., & Xu, X. (1999.) Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide. *Homicide Studies* 3 (4), 300-316.

58

## Stalking is a Lethality Risk

Top 10 risk factors for intimate partner homicide	Risk for male perpetrated & female IPH victimization
1) Direct access to guns	11-fold increase in risk of IPH
2) Threatened victim with a weapon	7-fold increase in risk
3) Non-fatal strangulation	7-fold increase in risk
4) Perpetrated rape/forced sex	5-fold increase in risk
5) Controlling behaviors	6-fold increase in risk
6) Threatened to harm the victim	4-fold increase in risk
7) Abused victim while pregnant	4-fold increase in risk
8) Perpetrated stalking	3-fold increase in risk of IPH
9) Jealousy	2-fold increase in risk
10) Substance abuse	2-fold increase in risk

Spencer, C.M. & Soth, S.M. (2018). Risk Factors for Male Perpetration and Female Victimization of Intimate Partner Homicide: A Meta-Analysis. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* 21(3): 527-540.

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59

## Intersections of Stalking & Sexual Assault

Stalker threatens/plans to sexually assault the victim.

Stalker attempts to get someone else to assault the victim.

Stalker sexually assaults the victim.

Stalker contacts victim after sexual assault.

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60



61



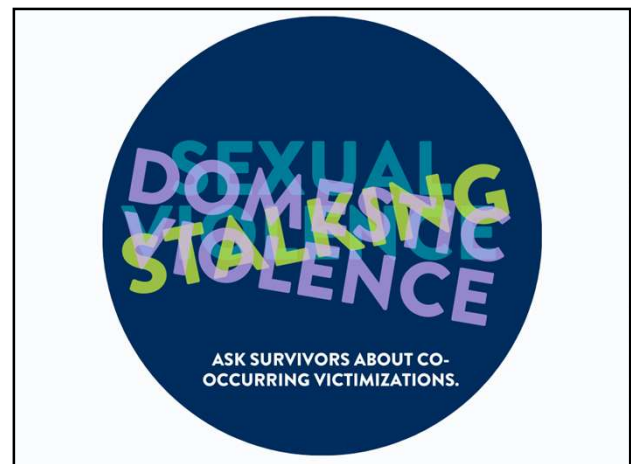
62

### Women with Protective Orders

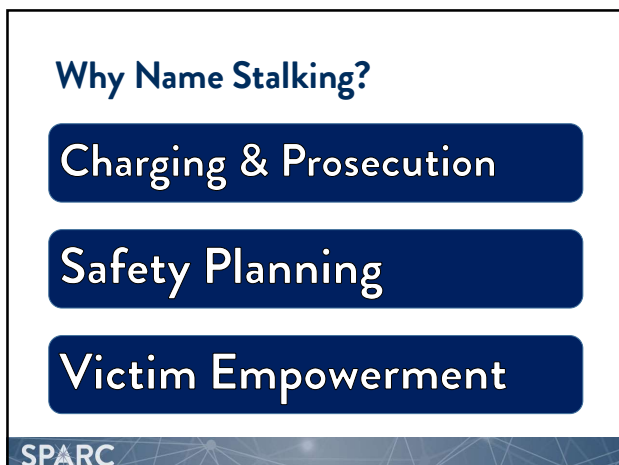
Behavior	Abuse Only No Stalking or Rape	Stalking
Sexual Degradation	45%	61%
Sexual Coercion	49.3%	78%
Verbal Pressure	33.8%	68%
Substance Use	4.2%	19%
Implicit Threats/Force	21%	47.5%
Penetration While Victim Sleeping	11%	15%

Logan, T.K. & Cole, J. (2011). Exploring the Intersection of Partner Stalking and Sexual Abuse. *Violence Against Women* 17 (7), 904-924.

63



64



65



66





67

STALKING	
FANTASY	REALITY
The stalker is an attractive stranger, charming chance encounter, or desirable "secret admirer."	The stalker is usually known to the victim, most often an acquaintance or intimate partner (current or former).
The stalker has only good and pure intentions, usually romantic.	Stalkers have different motivations, but often intend to scare their victims and/or do not stop when the victim is scared.
The stalker's actions range from sexy to flattering to harmless. At worst, they're awkward or misguided.	Stalking behaviors are interfering, invasive, disturbing, and violent. Stalking can escalate quickly and often co-occurs with or predicts serious violence, including homicide.
The stalker's target should feel grateful, amused, flattered and/or affectionate towards the stalker. It's nice to get this attention and feel special.	Most stalking victims feel extreme fear and emotional distress. Many significantly change their daily lives and even relocate to try to get away from the stalker.

68



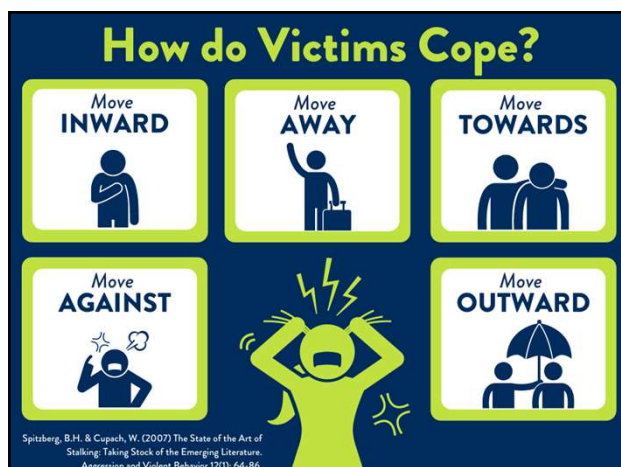
69

### First Response

Any time a victim reports any kind of harassing behavior:

- Consider the possibility of a stalking case
- Determine whether this is an isolated incident or repeated conduct

70



71

### Advise Disengagement

**Recommend no contact with the stalker**

- Explain intermittent reinforcement

**BUT** realize victims engage in behaviors to keep themselves safe.

- Maintain contact, negotiation, minimizing threat
- Contact may be a safety strategy

72

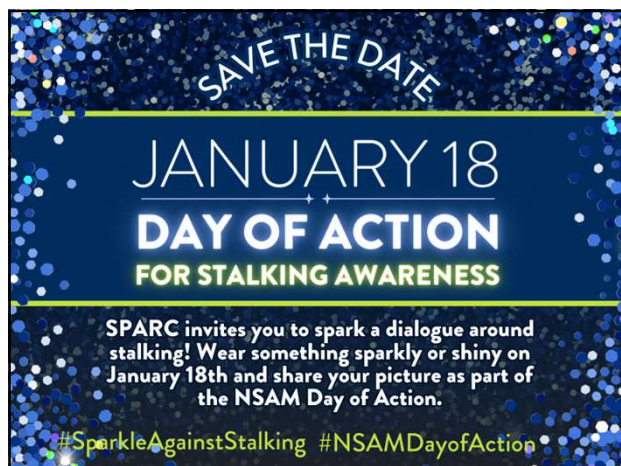




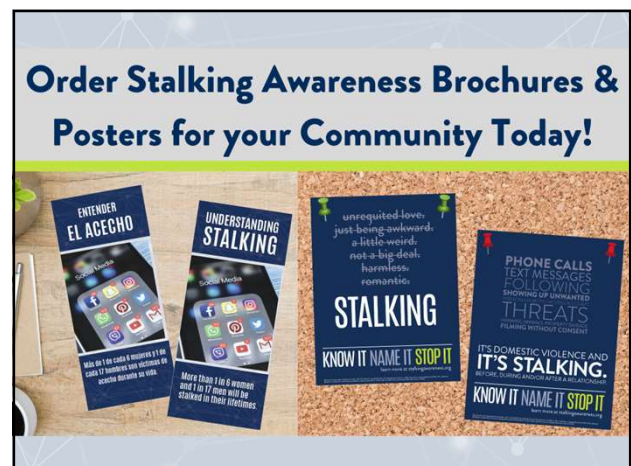
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80



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82



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84