



**Know More, Do More:
Recognize and Respond to
Stalking**

OVW Funding

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www.StalkingAwareness.org

*Practitioner guides

*Training modules

*Victim resources

*Webinars



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Introduction

STALKING IS:



CRIMINAL



TRAUMATIC



DANGEROUS



CRIMINAL

FEDERAL LEVEL

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

TRIBAL CODES

UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE



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.

“

*“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.”

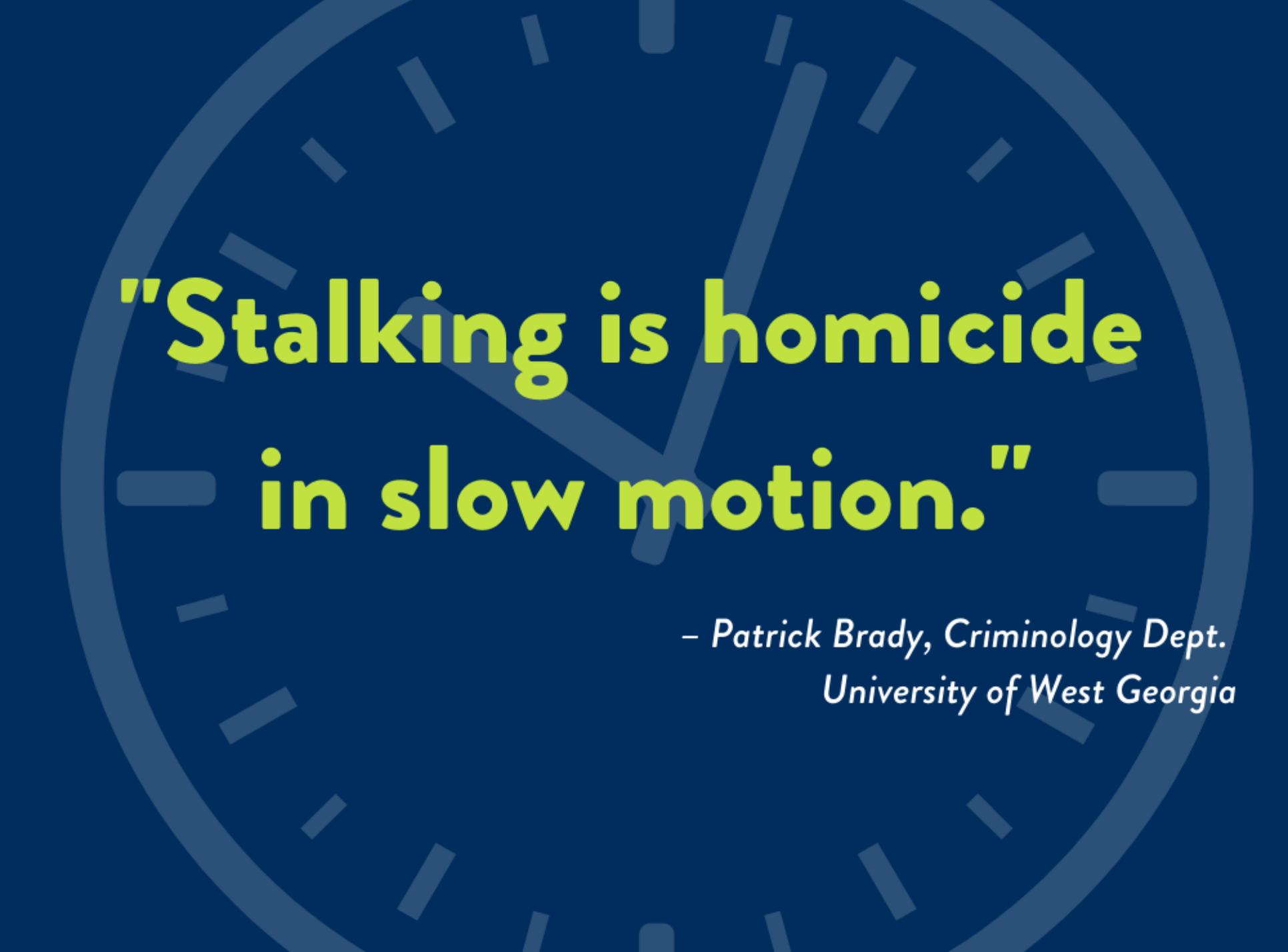


DANGEROUS

- * 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., 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.



**"Stalking is homicide
in slow motion."**

*– Patrick Brady, Criminology Dept.
University of West Georgia*



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

Reporting Stalking



- 29% of stalking victims report to law enforcement
- 21% 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., Rennison, 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.

Cantor, D., Fisher, B., Chibnall, S., Madden, K. (2020). Report on the AAU campus climate survey on sexual assault and misconduct. Westat.

Demers, J.M., Ward, S.K., Walsh, W.A., Banyard, V.L., Cohn, E.S., Edwards, K.M., & Moynihan, M.M. (2017). Disclosure on Campus: Students' Decisions to Tell Others About Unwanted Sexual Experiences, Intimate Partner Violence, and Stalking. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 27(1), 54-75.

Domestic Violence Crimes Study

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

How many cases were charged as stalking?

Understanding Stalking

Defining Stalking



BEHAVIORAL



LEGAL/STATUTORY

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

Poll: Is this stalking?

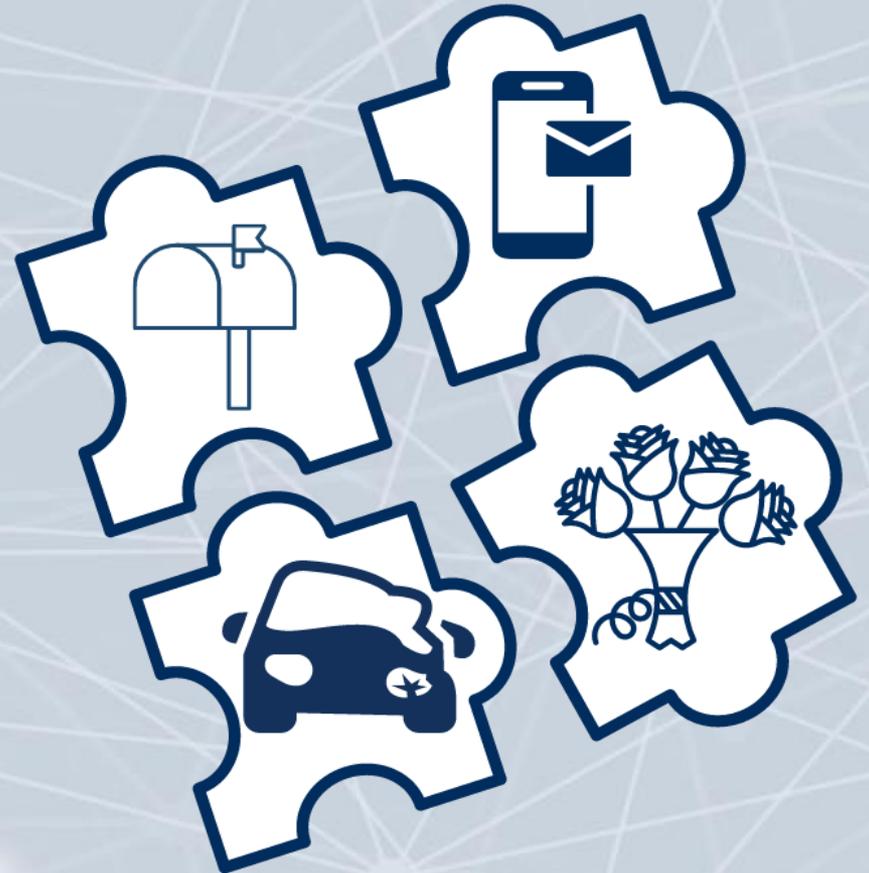
1. A student peeks into the women's locker room.
2. An ex-partner repeatedly spreads vicious rumors about their former partner on social media.
3. A supervisor regularly asks her employee personal questions, mocks him in meetings, sends e-mails at odd hours and is verbally abusive when he doesn't respond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



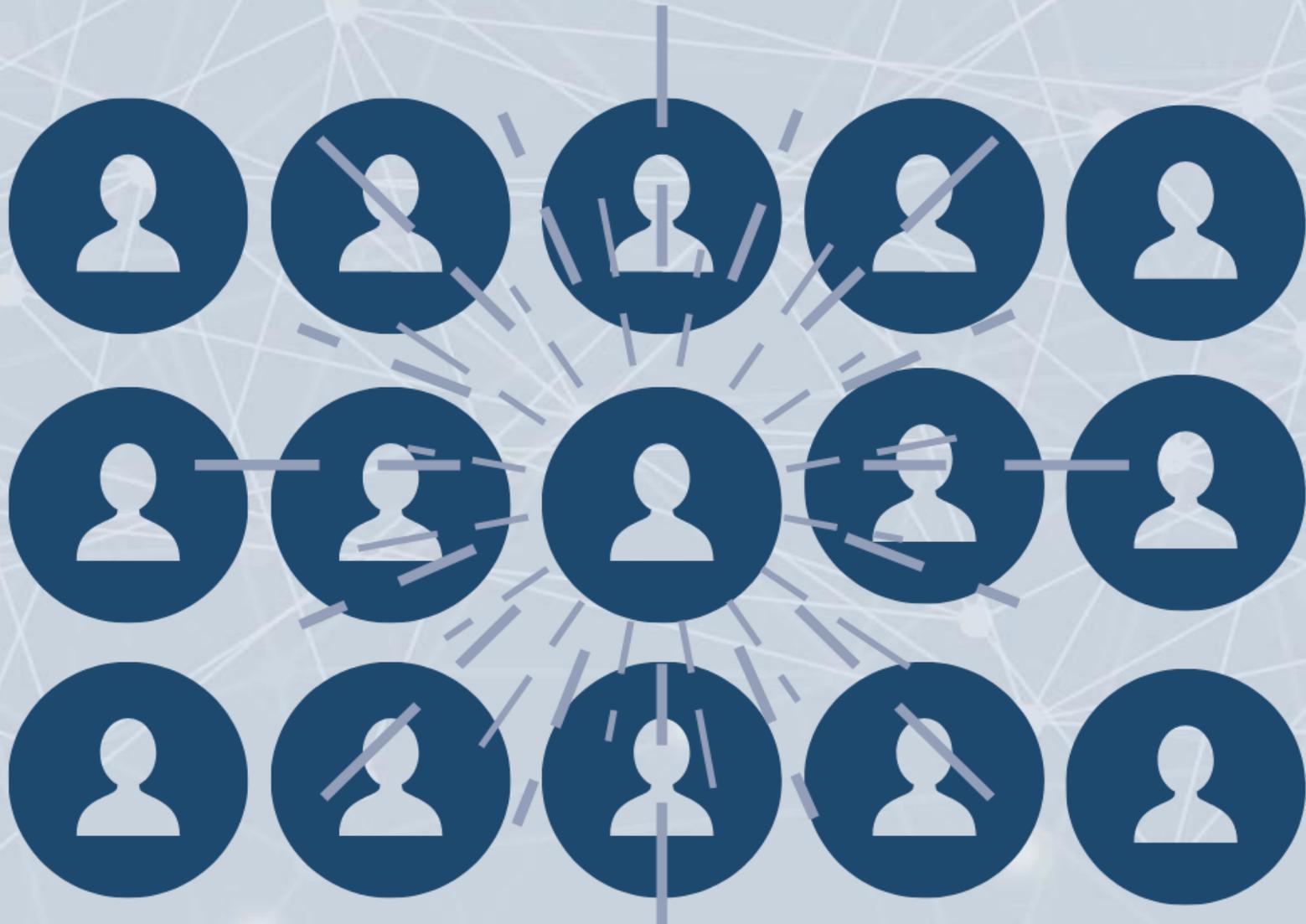
A pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel **FEAR** for the person's or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.

A pattern of behavior...

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



...directed at a specific person...



...that would cause a
reasonable person to
feel

FEAR

for their safety or the safety of others,
or suffer substantial emotional
distress.







CONTEXT IS CRITICAL
in stalking cases.



Context



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



Victim Reaction: Is it Fear?



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**

Virginia Stalking Statute

VA. CODE ANN. § 18.2-60.3. STALKING

- A. Any person, except a law-enforcement officer....or registered private investigator...who on more than one occasion engages in conduct directed at another person with the intent to place, or when he knows or reasonably should know that the conduct places that other person in reasonable fear of death, criminal sexual assault, or bodily injury to that other person or to that other person's family or household member is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

If the person contacts or follows or attempts to contact or follow the person at whom the conduct is directed after being given actual notice that the person does not want to be contacted or followed, such actions shall be prima facie evidence that the person intended to place that other person, or reasonably should have known that the other person was placed, in reasonable fear of death, criminal sexual assault, or bodily injury to himself or a family or household member.

Expressing Desire for No Contact

- * “I am not interested in having a relationship with you. Do not contact me ever again. Do not call, stop by, text, or contact me in any way whatsoever.”
- * “I do not want you to contact me in any way. If you continue to do so – or if you are on my property, or follow me – I will call the police.”
- * “I am ending this relationship. I am not going to change my mind. Do not contact me again. I do not want to have any communication with you, in any form. If you try to contact me, I will call the police/take legal action.”

Warning / Notice to Respondent



- * Use language “you are making the victim afraid”
- * Get response from respondent
- * Record the warning when possible
- * Document the warning / no-contact letters

VA. CODE ANN. § 18.2-60.3. STALKING

- B. Any person who is convicted of a second offense of subsection A occurring within five years of a prior conviction of such an offense under this section or for a substantially similar offense under the law of any other jurisdiction is guilty of a Class 6 felony.
- C. A person may be convicted under this section irrespective of the jurisdiction or jurisdictions within the Commonwealth wherein the conduct described in subsection A occurred, if the person engaged in that conduct on at least one occasion in the jurisdiction where the person is tried. Evidence of any such conduct that occurred outside the Commonwealth may be admissible, if relevant, in any prosecution under this section provided that the prosecution is based upon conduct occurring within the Commonwealth.

Stalking Prevalence and Behavior

Stalking Prevalence

NEARLY
1 in 3 women



&

NEARLY
1 in 6 men



experience **stalking** in their lifetimes.

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.



Cantor, 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.

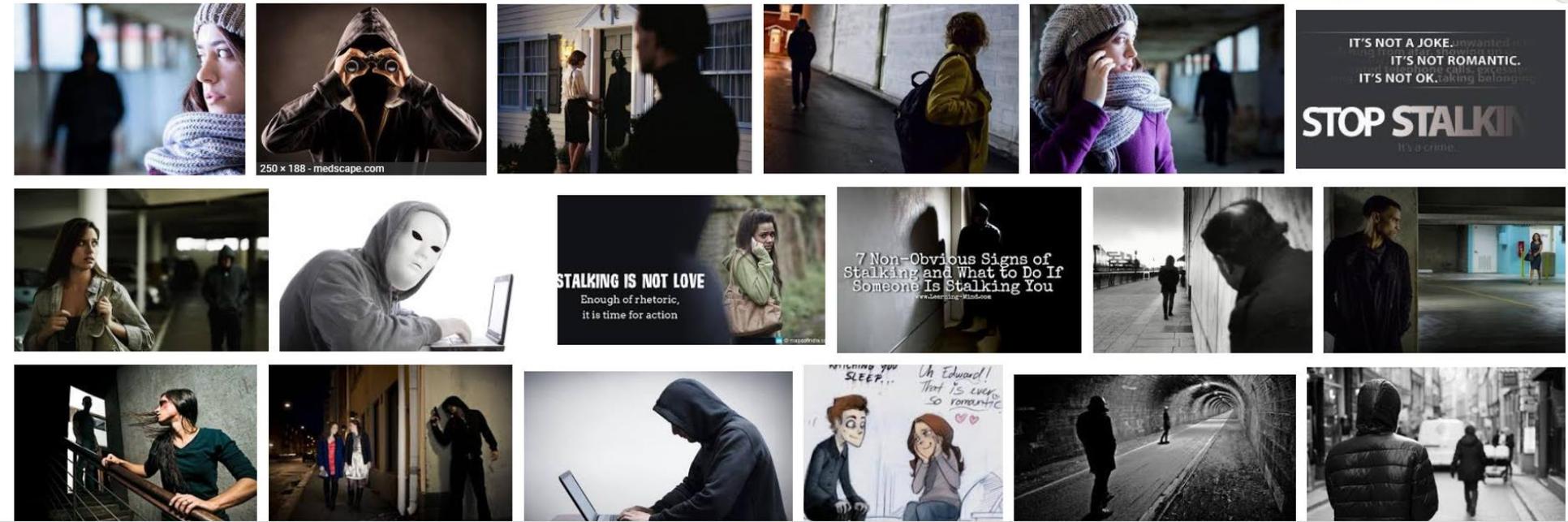
Image Results for "Stalking"

Google   

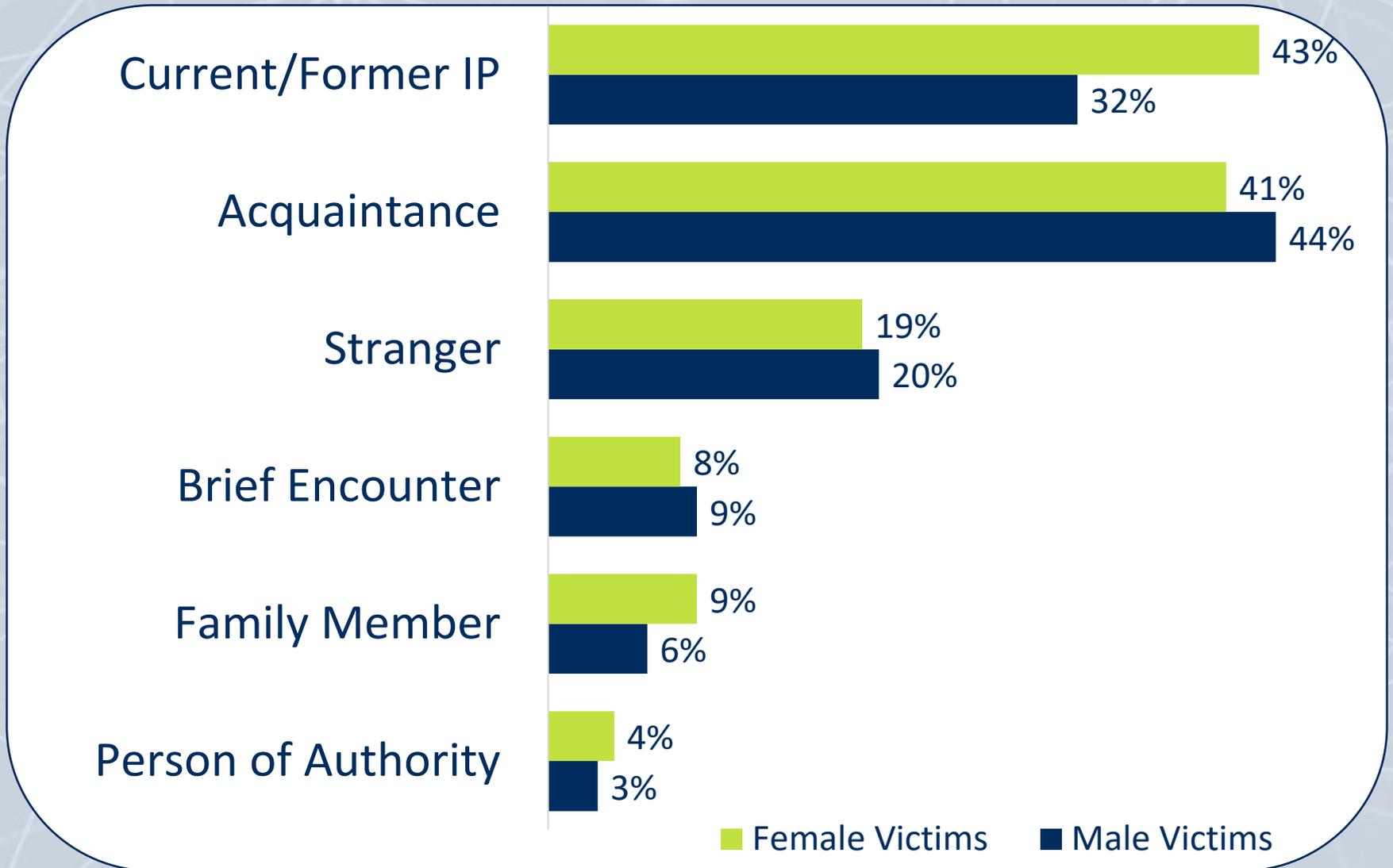
All News **Images** Videos Books More Settings Tools

View saved SafeSearch

- obsessive
- ex girlfriend
- ex boyfriend
- woman
- kid
- white
- black
- harassment
- felony
- domestic violence
- cyber crime
- bullying
- jealousy
- love
- facebook
- social media
- meaning



Victim and Offender Relationships



How does your organization address stalking?



**Complete the
STALKING RESPONSE CHECK LIST
to assess your efforts and for new ideas!**

www.StalkingAwareness.org

SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

Addressing Stalking: A Checklist for Domestic and Sexual Violence Organizations

Because there are very few stalking-specific service providers, stalking victims rely on domestic and/or sexual violence programs to assist them with safety planning and resources. In reviewing your agency's response to stalking, consider the following questions:

- Does your organization provide services to victims of stalking?
- If so, how easy is it for a stalking victim to know they can seek services from your organization? For instance, is stalking specifically mentioned in your outreach materials?
- Do your organization's services address the needs of all victims of stalking – including those stalked by someone who is not an intimate partner?

Please use the checklist below assess your agency's efforts to respond to stalking. Of course, different agencies vary in mission, scope, and capacity, so not all categories or suggestions will be relevant to or feasible for every service provider.

Organization Mission and Values

- Serving victims of stalking is included as part of your organization's statement of mission and values.

Website

- "Stalking" is mentioned on your website as a form of violence your agency addresses.
- Your website links to [Victim Connect](#) (the referral hotline for victims of crime, including stalking).
- Your website provides definitional information/fact sheets on stalking (see [these resources](#)).
- Your website provides a link to a [stalking log](#) that victims can use to document evidence of stalking.
- Your website provides a link to a [stalking log](#) that victims can use to document evidence of stalking.

... focus on or include stalking. ... Stalking Awareness Month ([resources here](#)). ... by sharing

Understanding Stalking: Stalking Behaviors

“

*“I know it
sounds crazy,
but...”*”

SLII Framework





SURVEILLANCE

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

LIFE INVASION



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

INTIMIDATION



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



INTERFERENCE

THROUGH SABOTAGE OR ATTACK

- **Financial and work sabotage**
- **Ruining reputation**
- **Custody interference**
- **Keep from leaving**
- **Road rage**
- **Attack family/friends/pets**
- **Physical/sexual attack**

Screening for Stalking

Has the Offender...

been tracking, following, or monitoring Victim in any way?



repeatedly invaded Victim's life/privacy by initiating unwanted contact with Victim?

significantly and directly interfered with Victim's life?

>physically/sexually assaulted Victim during course of conduct?

>forcibly kept Victim from leaving, held against will, caused serious accident, assaulted others, or seriously attacked Victim?



more than one time, intimidated or scared Victim through threats, property damage, threatening or actual harming of pets, or other means?

Screening for Stalking

If YES to any of the previous, during the actions mentioned above...

Did these actions make Victim afraid or concerned for safety or safety of children, family, and/or coworkers?

Did Victim make significant life changes for safety reason because of these actions? (change day-to-day routines, spend money on home safety, took time off work?)

Did these actions make Victim afraid or concerned about significant financial or social impact?
(Loss of job, loss of housing, financial harm?)

NOT AT ALL? SOMEWHAT? EXTREMELY?



**Stalking and Harassment
Assessment and Risk Profile
(SHARP)**

CoerciveControl.org



Narrative Report &
Risk Profile



Safety Planning
Suggestions

Potential Relevant Charges: VA

- * § 18.2-50.3. Enticing, etc., another into a dwelling house with intent to commit certain felonies.
- * § 18.2-59. Extortion of money, property or pecuniary benefit.
- * § 18.2-60. Threats of death or bodily injury.
- * § 18.2-60.4. Violation of protective orders.
- * § 18.2-60.5. Unauthorized use of electronic tracking device.
- * § 18.2-77. Burning or destroying dwelling house, etc.
- * § 18.2-81. Burning or destroying personal property.
- * § 18.2-91 & -92. Breaking and entering dwelling house with intent to commit felonies and misdemeanors.
- * § 18.2-119. Trespass after having been forbidden to do so.
- * § 18.2-130. Peeping or spying into dwelling or enclosure

Potential Relevant Technology-related Charges: VA

- * § 18.2-130.1. Peeping or spying into dwelling or occupied building by electronic device.
- * § 18.2-152.5. Computer invasion of privacy.
- * § 18.2-152.4. Computer trespass.
- * § 18.2-152.5:1. Using a computer to gather identifying information.
- * § 18.2-152.7:1. Harassment by computer; penalty.
- * § 18.2-374.3. Use of communications systems to facilitate certain offenses involving children.
- * § 18.2-386.1. Unlawful creation of image of another; penalty.
- * § 18.2-427. Use of profane, threatening, or indecent language over public airways or by other methods
- * § 18.2-429. Causing telephone or pager to ring with intent to annoy.
- * § 18.2-429.1. False caller identification information.

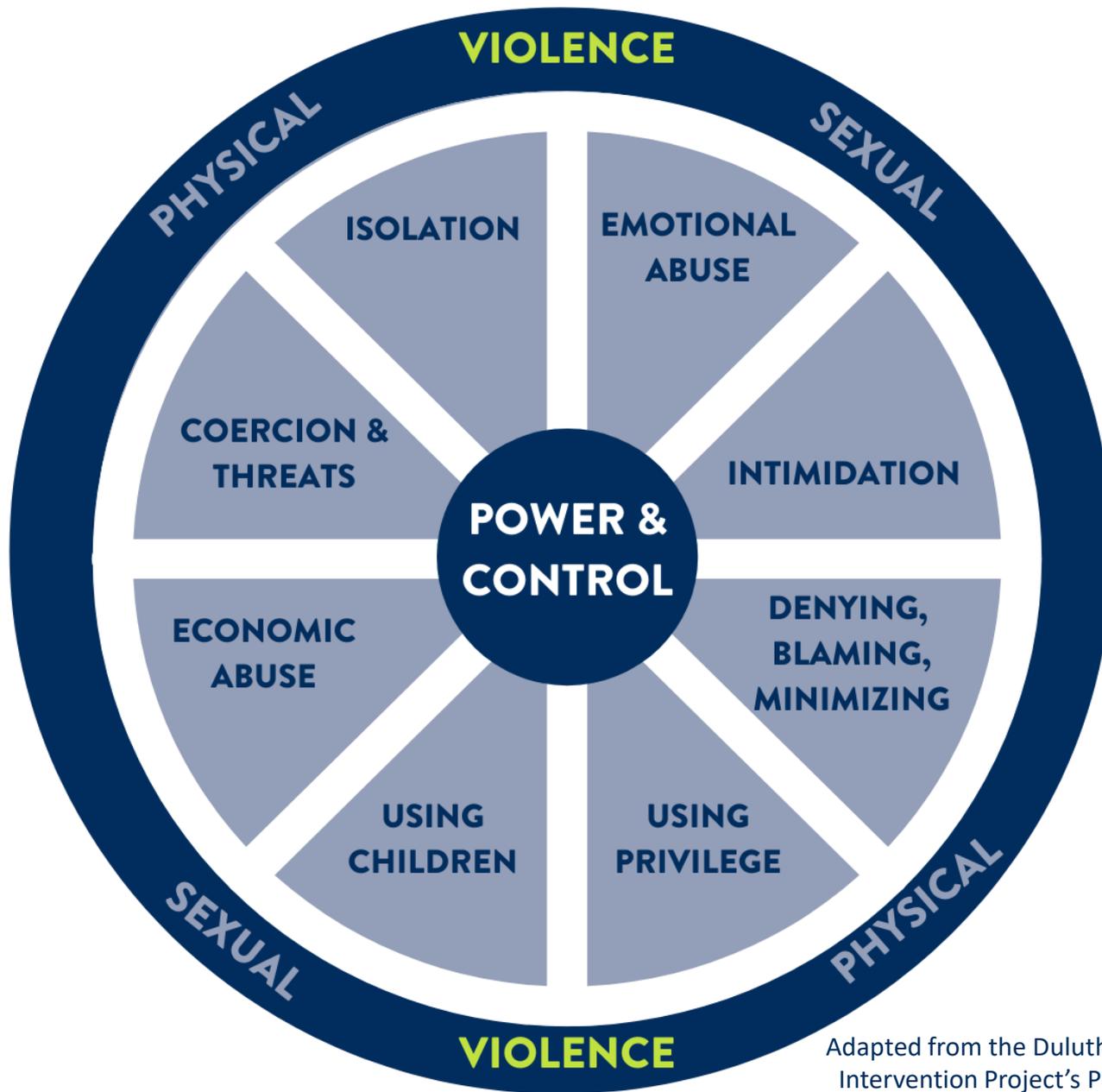
Changing Behaviors

* **78%** of stalkers use **more than one** means of approach

* **66%** of stalkers pursue their victim at least **once per week**

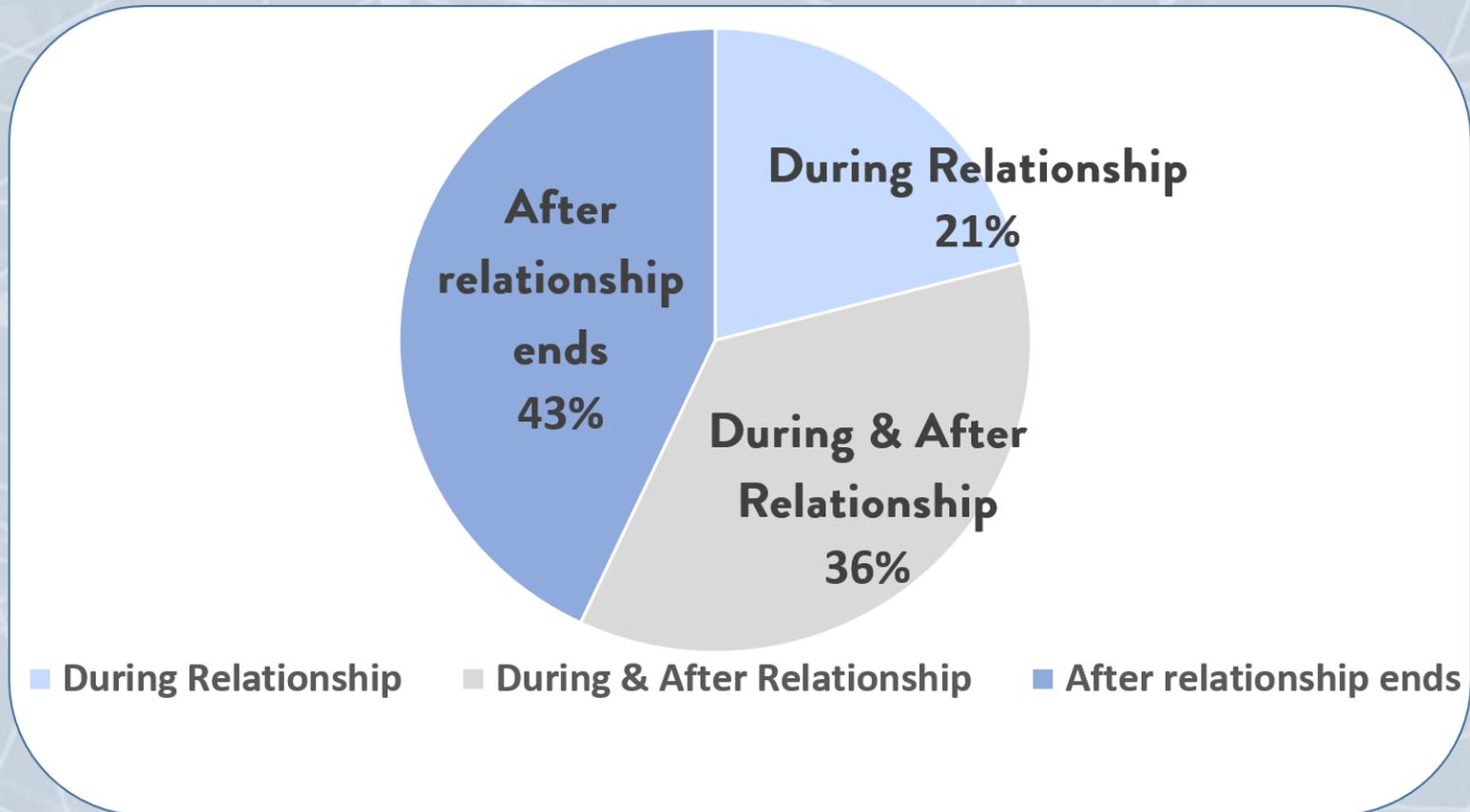


Co-Victimizations: Stalking, Intimate Partner Violence, and Sexual Violence



Adapted from the Duluth Model Domestic Abuse Intervention Project's Power and Control Wheel

Point When Stalking Occurs



On average, intimate partner stalkers pose the greatest threats to their victims.

WHY?



Relationships, Violence, & Threats

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

Intimate partner stalkers are more likely to:

physically approach the victim

be interfering, insulting, and threatening

use weapons

escalate behaviors quickly

re-offend

Leaving an IP Stalking Relationship

Experiencing intimate partner stalking made victims more likely to want to leave the relationship than other factors -- including psychological aggression and past injury.



Victims of intimate partner stalking have more separation attempts than victims of IPV alone.



Stroshine, M. S., & Robinson, A. L. (2003). The decision to end abusive relationships: The role of offender characteristics. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 30(1), 97-117.

Sheridan, L. & Davies, G.M. (2006). Violence and the Prior Victim-Stalker Relationship. *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health* 11(2): 102-116.

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



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

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. & Stith, 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.

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.

31% OF WOMEN
STALKED
BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER WERE ALSO
SEXUALLY
ASSAULTED
BY THAT PARTNER.

Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (1998). Stalking in America: Findings from the national violence against women survey (NCJ#169592). Washington, DC: NIJ CDC.

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%

Women with Protective Orders

Behavior	Abuse Only No Stalking or Rape	Stalking	Stalking & Rape
Sexual Degradation	45%	61%	100%
Sexual Coercion	49.3%	78%	100%
Verbal Pressure	33.8%	68%	98%
Substance Use	4.2%	19%	63%
Implicit Threats/Force	21%	47.5%	98%
Penetration While Victim Sleeping	11%	15%	72%



SEXUAL
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
STOLENCE

**ASK SURVIVORS ABOUT CO-
OCCURRING VICTIMIZATIONS.**

Why Name Stalking?

Charging & Prosecution

Safety Planning

Victim Empowerment



Totally stalking
your vacation
pics on Insta! 🙈

LOL! Enjoy 😂

Stalking is Shown As...

ROMANTIC



FUNNY



HEROIC



EDGY



Responding to Victims

How do Victims Cope?

Move
INWARD



Move
AWAY



Move
TOWARDS



Move
AGAINST



Move
OUTWARD



Advise Disengagement

Recommend no contact with the stalker

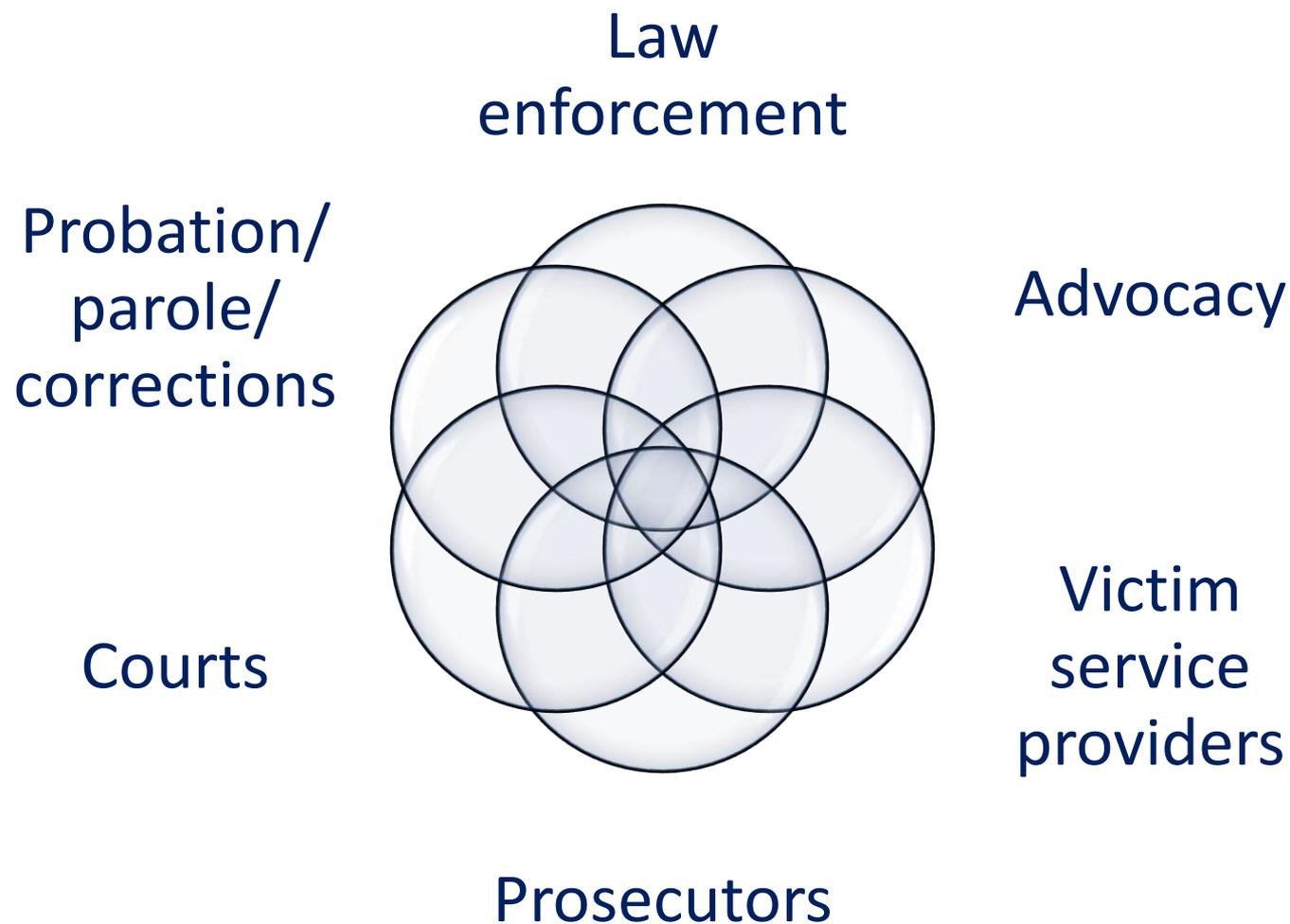
- Explain intermittent reinforcement

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

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



Coordination



Resources for Professionals

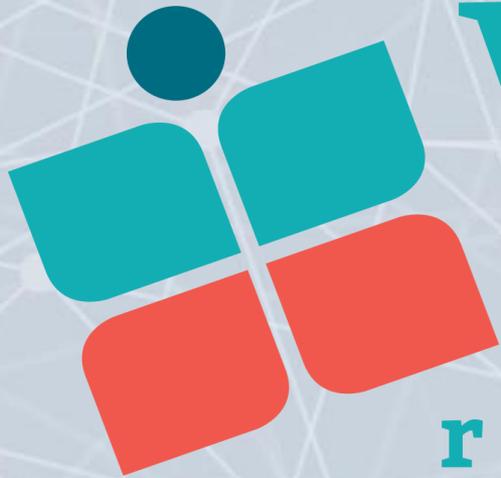
Champions for Justice

AEquitas is a nonprofit organization focused on developing, evaluating, and refining prosecution practices related to gender-based violence and human trafficking. We're a team of former prosecutors with decades of experience, working globally to hold offenders accountable and promote victim safety.

About Us



For Victims



Victim Connect

resource center

Confidential referrals for crime victims



855-4-VICTIM

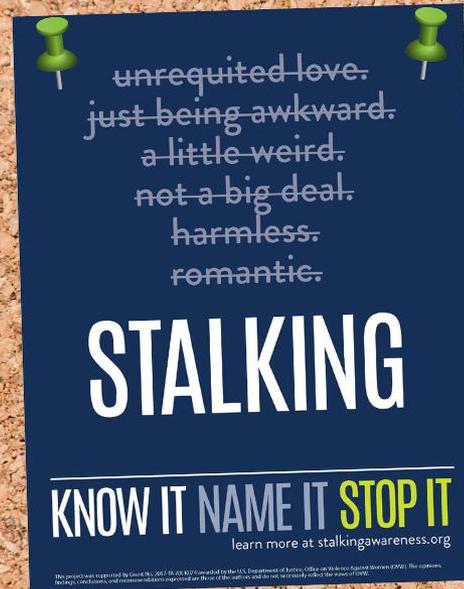
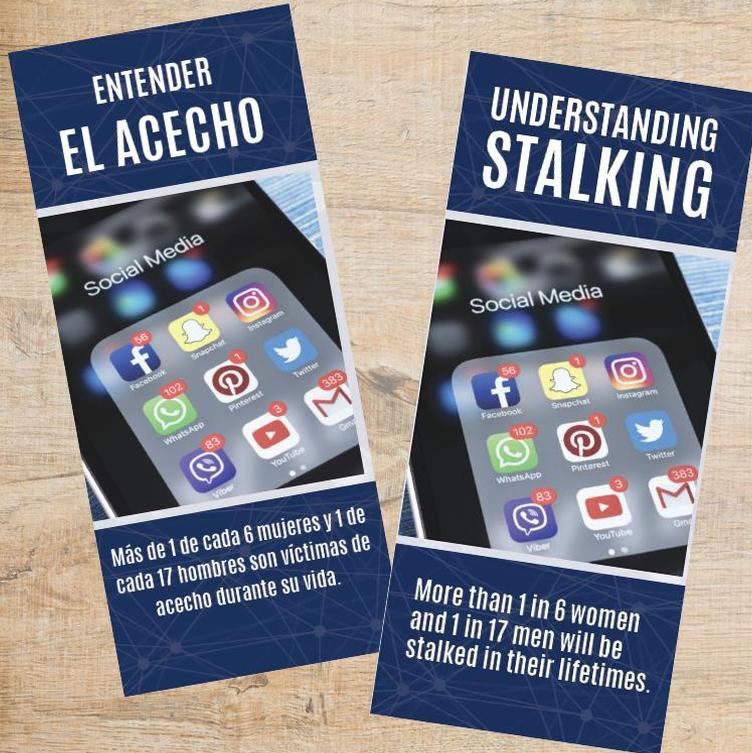
JANUARY IS
— NATIONAL —
STALKING
AWARENESS MONTH
KNOW IT. NAME IT. STOP IT.

How are you planning to spread the word?

LEARN * TEACH * SHARE * REFLECT

StalkingAwareness.org

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*Victim resources

*Webinars



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Training & Awareness Specialist

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PREVENTION,
AWARENESS,
AND RESOURCE
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