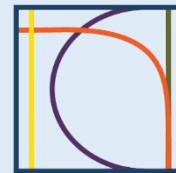


SPARC STALKING
PREVENTION,
AWARENESS,
AND RESOURCE
CENTER

Stalking and Older Adults: An Overview

Developed in collaboration with National
Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life
(NCALL)



ncall

OVW Funding

This project was supported by Grants No. 2017-TA-AX-K074 and 15JOVW-22-GK-03986-MUMU awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

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.”

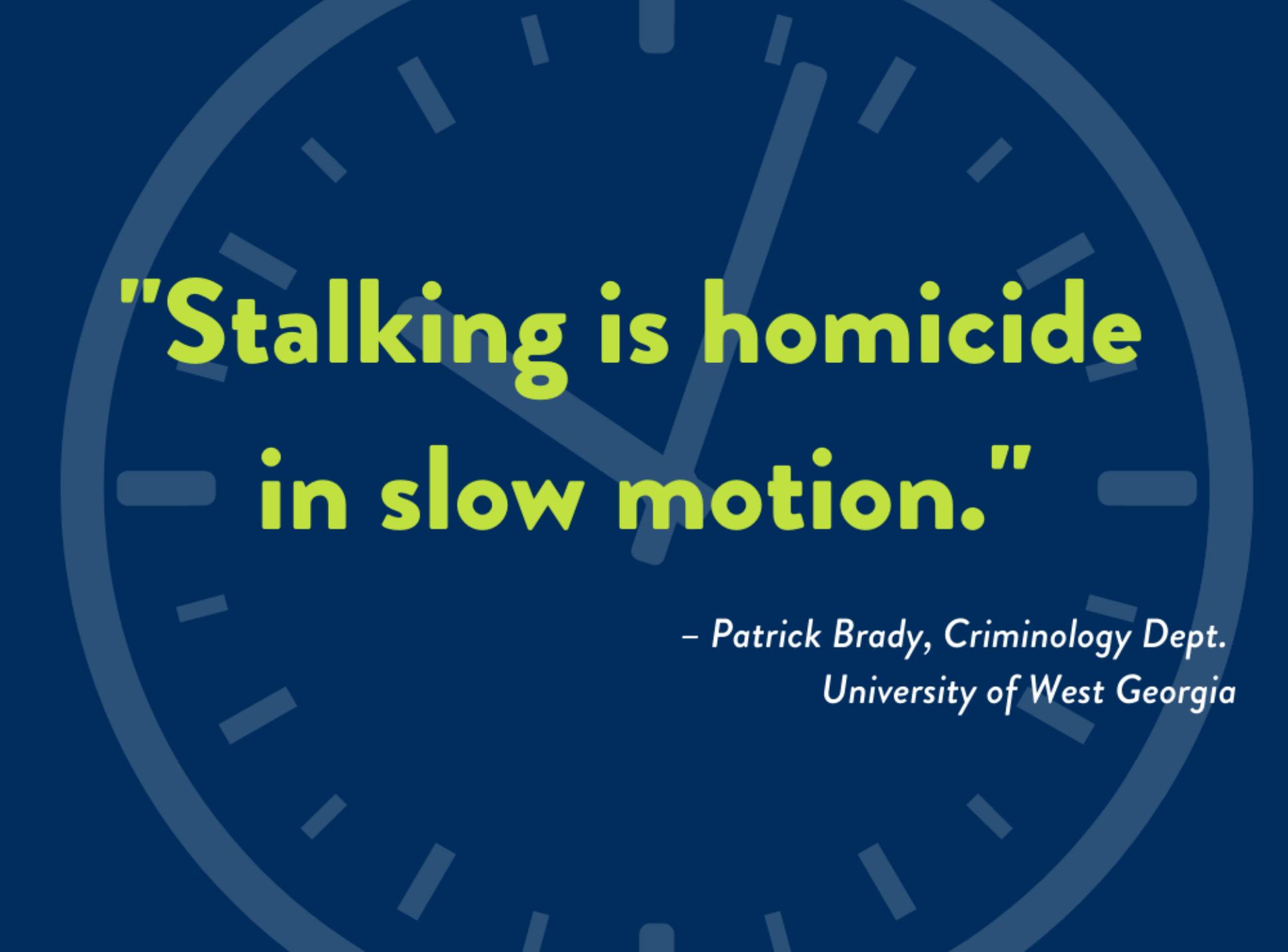


DANGEROUS

- * 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.

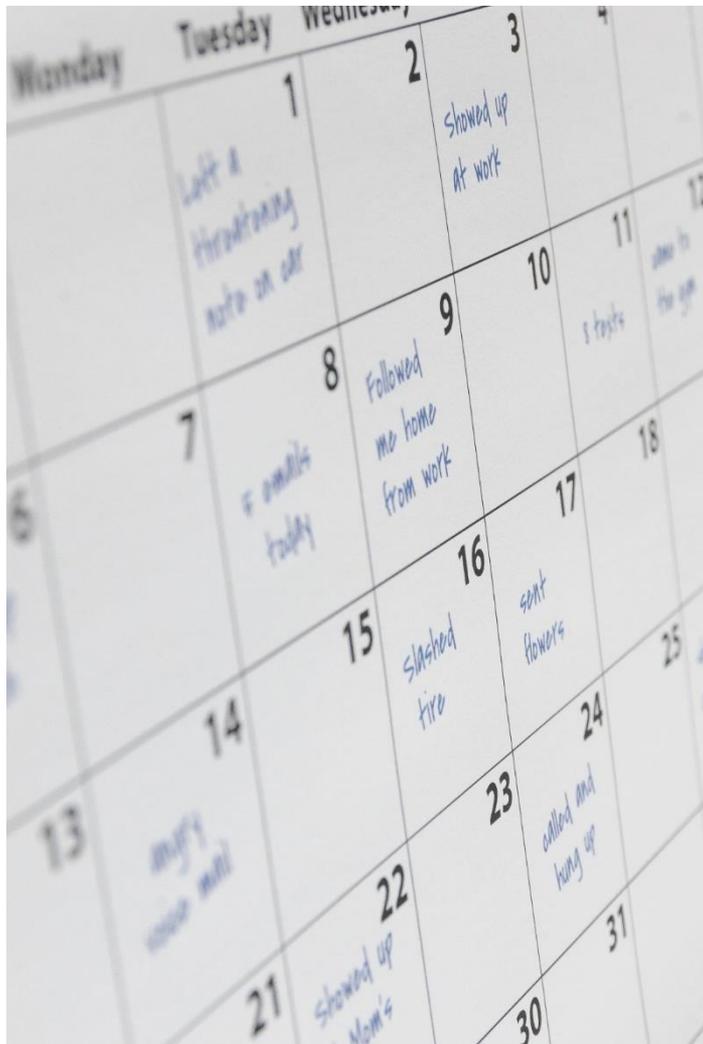
McFarlane, J., Campbell, J.C., Wilt, S., Ulrich, Y., & Xu, X. (1999.) Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide. *Homicide Studies* 3(4), 300-316.

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



- 28% of stalking victims report to law enforcement
- 16% of stalking victims seek victim services

Why would stalking victims – particularly older victims – not report?

Reaction to Older Stalking Victims

77% of older victims were told they were overreacting

66.7% of older victims were not taken seriously by the police

Older adults were the *least likely* (of the age groups) to be aided by family and friends

Domestic Violence Crimes Study

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

How many cases were charged as stalking?

Stalking within Domestic Violence

Brady & Nobles (2017)

Tjaden & Thoennes (1998)

Woodruff (2010)



Evidence of stalking

Arrests for stalking

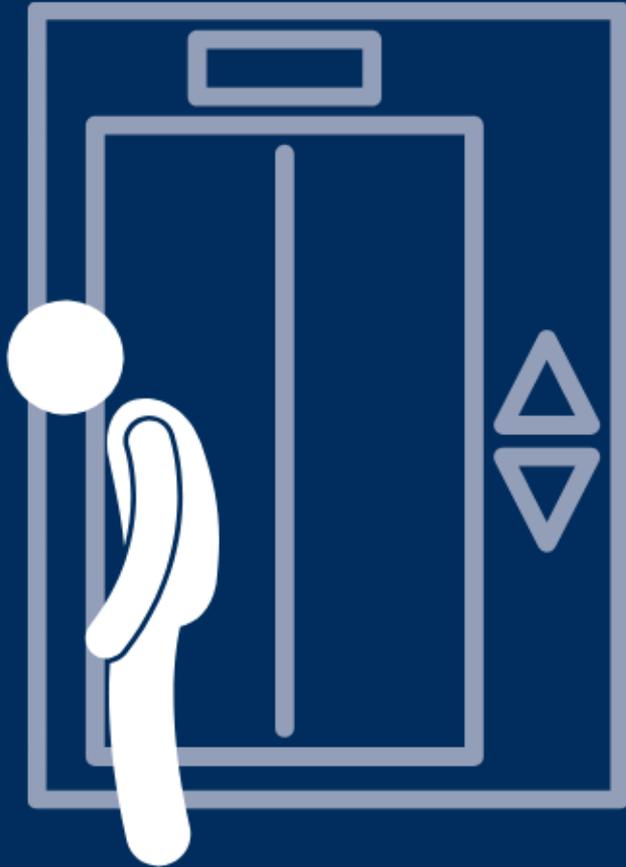
Evidence of stalking

Arrests for stalking

Stalking incident reports

Stalking calls resulting in an arrest for stalking

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.

Intersections – Stalking & Abuse in Later Life



Defining Stalking



BEHAVIORAL



LEGAL/STATUTORY



POLICY

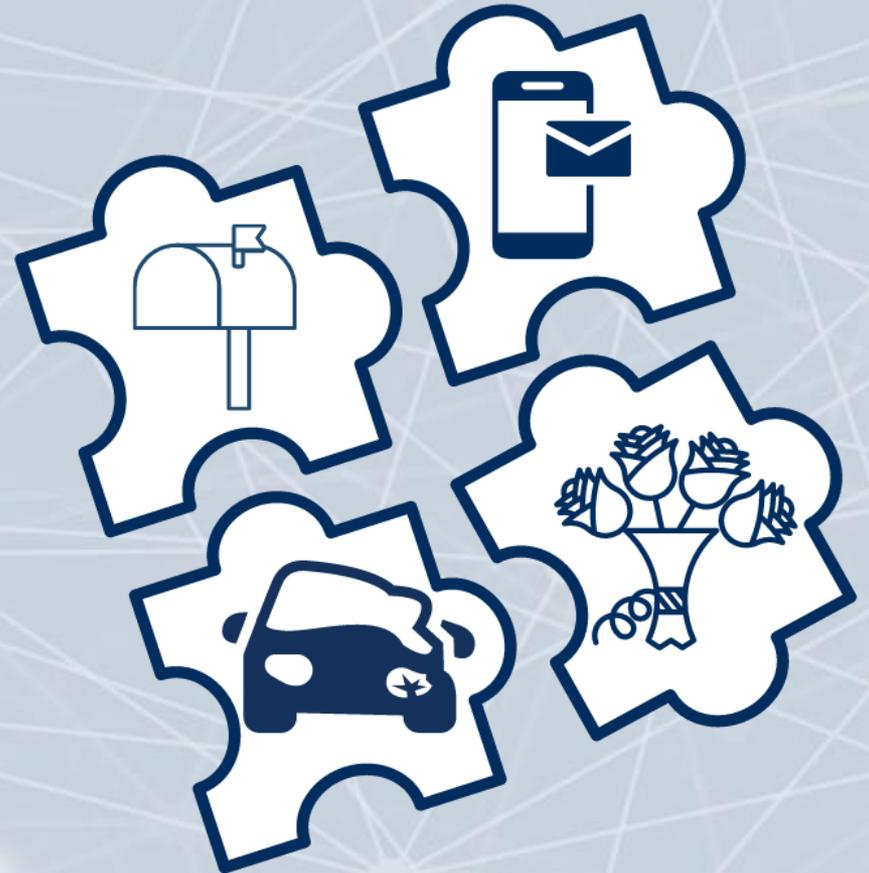


A pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to ~~for the~~ person's or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.

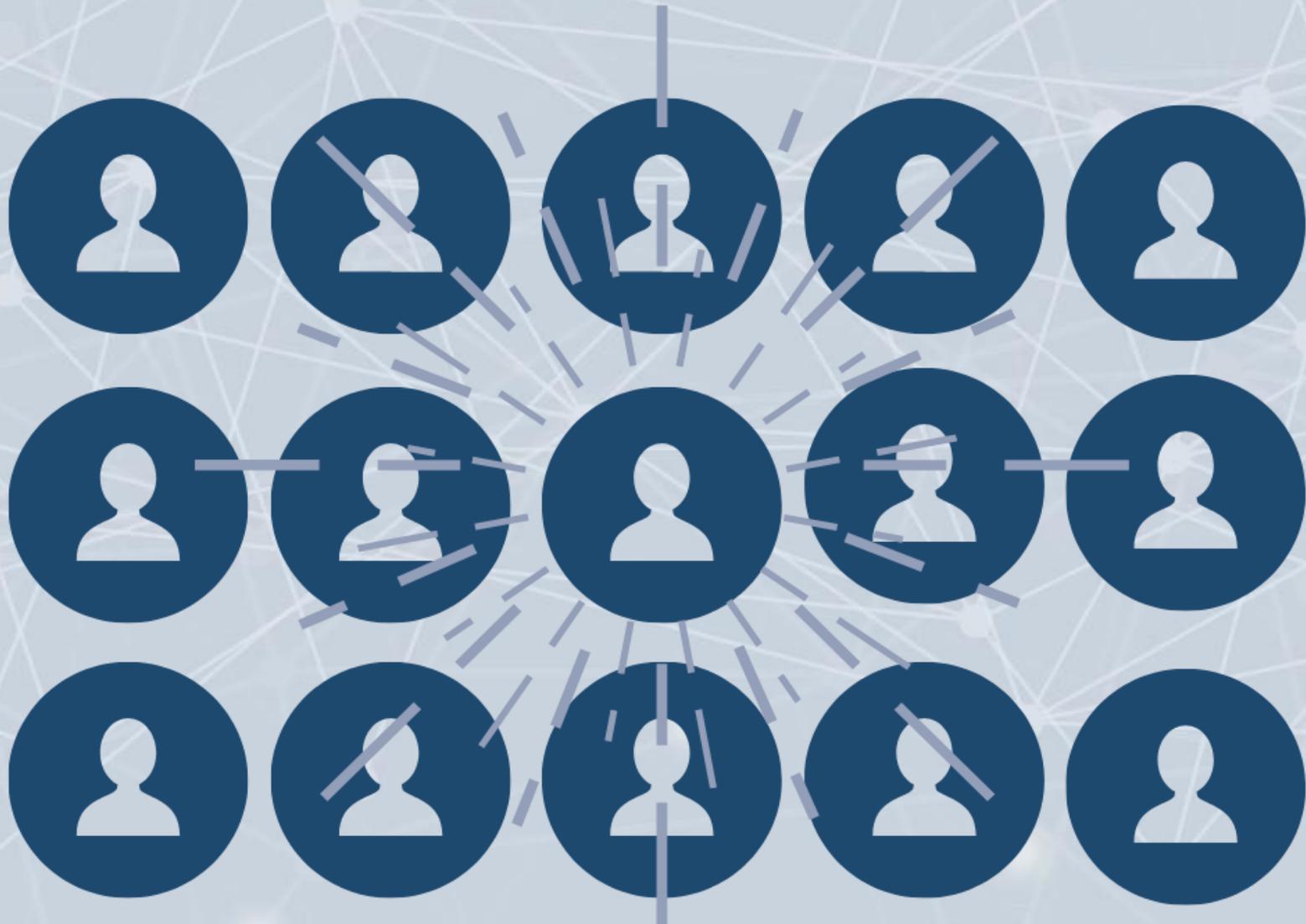
FEAR

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 fe

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**

The Elder Justice Roadmap

Definition of Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is:

- * physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, as well as neglect, abandonment, and financial exploitation of an older person by another person or entity
- * that occurs in any setting (e.g., home, community, or facility)
- * either in a relationship where there is an expectation of trust and/or when an older person is targeted based on age or disability.



ABUSE IN LATER LIFE

Abuse in later life is the willful abuse, neglect, abandonment, or financial exploitation of an adult (age 50+) by someone in an ongoing, trust-based relationship (i.e., spouse, partner, family member, or caregiver) with the victim, as well as sexual abuse of an older adult by anyone. This can be physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, as well as neglect, abandonment, and financial exploitation of an older person by another person or entity, that occurs in any setting (i.e., home, community, or facility).



STALKING

Stalking is a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear and/or to suffer substantial emotional distress. Common stalking tactics include surveillance, excessive contact, invading privacy, sabotage, property damage, and other behaviors that cause fear. What is frightening to one person may not be frightening to another. Acts that may be harmless in a different context may become menacing due to their repetitiveness or intrusiveness, or because of the history of violence in the relationship between stalker and victim.

STALKING & ABUSE IN LATER LIFE: COMMONALITIES

- Abuse is willful/intentional
- Relationships based on trust OR victim is targeted based on perceived vulnerabilities
 - Not only intimate partner
- Can include physical, psychological, sexual, and/or financial tactics
- Personal vulnerabilities and fears are often exploited

Stalking Prevalence and Behavior

Stalking Prevalence

NEARLY
1 in 3 women



&

NEARLY
1 in 6 men



experience **stalking** in their lifetimes.

TABLE 4**Prevalence of stalking, by demographic characteristics of victims, 2019**

Victim demographic characteristic	Number of victims ^a	Percent of all persons ^b
Age		
16–19	239,650 †	1.5% ‡
20–24*	426,840	2.0
25–34	796,270 †	1.7
35–49	942,610 †	1.5 †
50–64	690,500 †	1.1 †
65 or older	323,830 ‡	0.6 †

The background features a dark blue gradient with several stylized human figures in a lighter blue color. One large figure is on the left, and a line of smaller figures recedes into the distance on the right. The text is centered and uses a mix of white and light green colors.

**1 MILLION
PEOPLE
AGED 50+
ARE STALKED IN A ONE-YEAR
PERIOD IN THE UNITED STATES.**

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.

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

stalking



All News **Images** Videos Books More

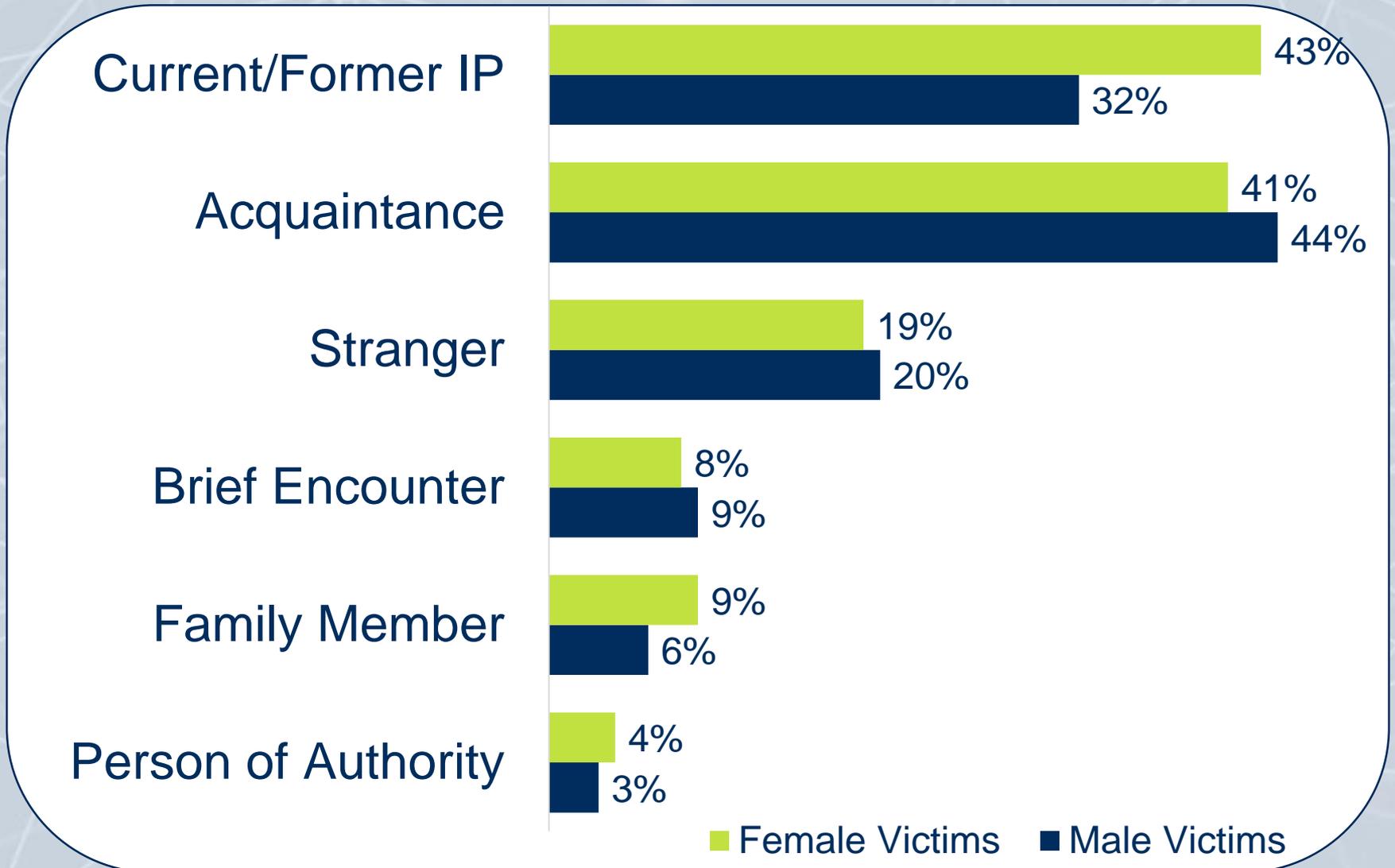
Settings Tools

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



Understanding Stalking: Stalking Behaviors

“

*“I know it sounds
crazy, but...”*”

SLII Framework



TACTICS EXPERIENCED BY STALKING VICTIMS:

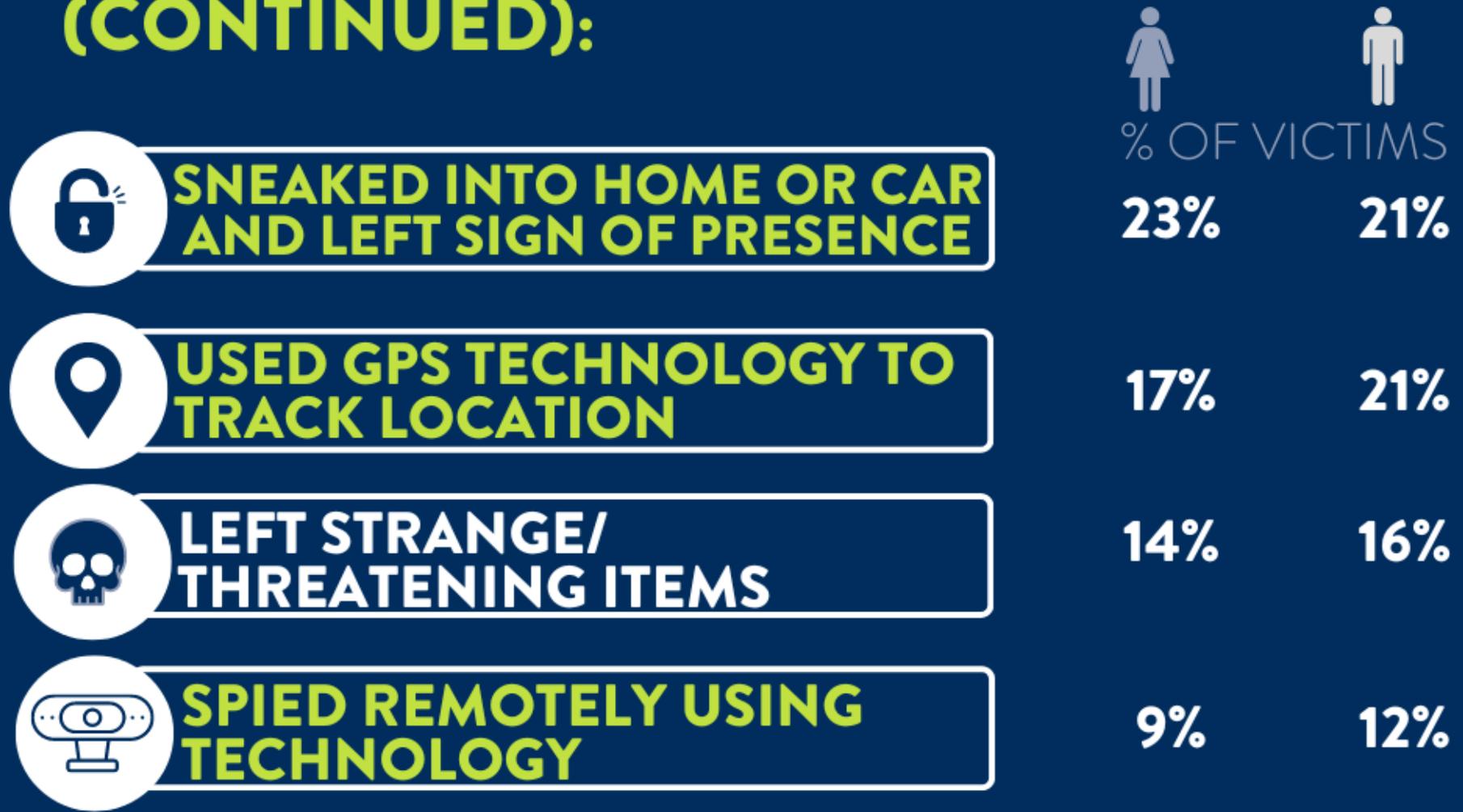


% OF VICTIMS

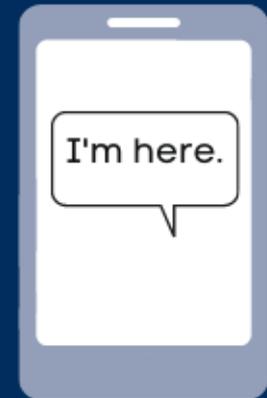
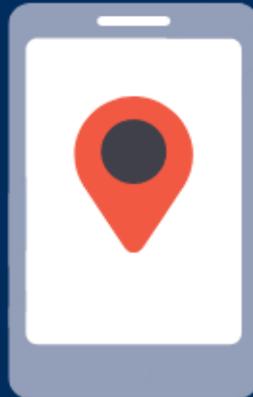
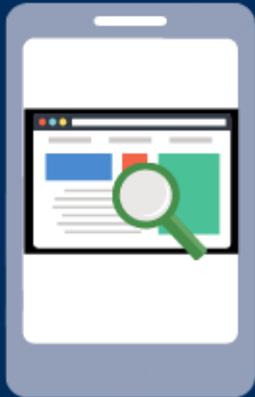


Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., & Kresnow, M. (2022). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2016/2017 Report on Stalking. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease control and Prevention.

TACTICS EXPERIENCED BY STALKING VICTIMS (CONTINUED):



Technology & In-Person Stalking



The majority of stalking victims experienced both in-person stalking and technology-facilitated stalking.

COMMON TECHNOLOGY TACTICS EXPERIENCED BY STALKING VICTIMS

66%



**UNWANTED PHONE CALLS,
VOICEMAILS, TEXT MESSAGES**

**UNWANTED E-MAILS OR
SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES**



55%

32%



**MONITORED ACTIVITIES
USING SOCIAL MEDIA**

**POSTED/THREATENED TO POST
INAPPROPRIATE/PERSONAL INFO**



29%

22%



**SPIED ON/MONITORED
ACTIVITIES USING TECH**

**TRACKED LOCATION WITH
ELECTRONIC DEVICE OR APP**



14%

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?

SLII Checklist for LE: StalkingAwareness.org

LAW ENFORCEMENT TIPS: SLII BEHAVIORS

Stalking includes a wide range of threatening and disturbing behaviors that can be classified into four categories: Surveillance, Life invasion, Intimidation, and Interference through sabotage or attack (SLII). These categories overlap and build on each other.

Victims of stalking rarely identify their victimization as stalking and are unlikely to use the word 'stalking' to describe what they're experiencing. Research and practice show that officers should ask specific questions about stalking behaviors instead of simply asking if someone has been stalked/harassed.



SURVEILLANCE

SURVEILLANCE is the most commonly identified stalking tactic and includes watching and gathering information about the victim, in-person or through technology.

ASK: Did the suspect ever track, follow, or monitor the victim in any way? In-person or using technology?

- | | |
|---|--|
| Surveillance behaviors include: | This can be done: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watching them from a distance | <input type="checkbox"/> In person <input type="checkbox"/> Online |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiting for them outside their office, gym, classroom, or another location | <input type="checkbox"/> With smart home devices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Showing up unexpectedly | <input type="checkbox"/> With tracking software or GPS devices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Using tracking software on the victim's devices | <input type="checkbox"/> With cameras or video/audio recording devices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obtaining information about the victim online or from others | <input type="checkbox"/> By monitoring online activity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Going through the victim's mail or trash | <input type="checkbox"/> By accessing the victim's accounts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planting a tracking device in the victim's vehicle or home | <input type="checkbox"/> By researching the victim online |
| <input type="checkbox"/> And more | <input type="checkbox"/> By asking others for information about the victim |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> In other ways |

LIFE INVASION

LIFE INVASION describes ways that the offender is showing up in the victim's life without the victim's consent, in public or private settings, and in person or through technology.

ASK: Has the suspect repeatedly invaded the victim's life and/or privacy by initiating unwanted contact?

- | | |
|--|---|
| Life Invasion behaviors include: | This can be done: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repeated unwanted contact (phone calls, texts, messages, emails) | <input type="checkbox"/> In person <input type="checkbox"/> Online |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sending or leaving unwanted gifts, objects, items | <input type="checkbox"/> By impersonating the victim |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Initiating contact through third parties | <input type="checkbox"/> By hacking victim accounts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hacking into their online accounts | <input type="checkbox"/> By spoofing (unrecognized numbers calling or texting and harassing them, hang-up calls from random numbers, caller ID shows it is a friend or the court but it is actually the suspect) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harassing friends or family | <input type="checkbox"/> In other ways |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sending photos of themselves or of the victim in places they frequent | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breaking into the victim's car or home when they are not around | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Showing up uninvited | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> And more | |



By hacking into/taking over accounts

(CONTINUED)

CE

TACK

TACK can affect
 yment and/or physical
 ns losing financial and

ferred with the

th child custody
 th medical care
 th finances
 th their housing
 th immigration issues
 sexual attack
 hers close to the victim
 ttime
 without their consent
 os were taken and
 s the victim's, the body isn't)
 or example, as an
 community)



This project was supported by Grant No. 2017-TA-AX-K074 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



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

CoerciveControl.org



Narrative Report &
Risk Profile



Safety Planning
Suggestions

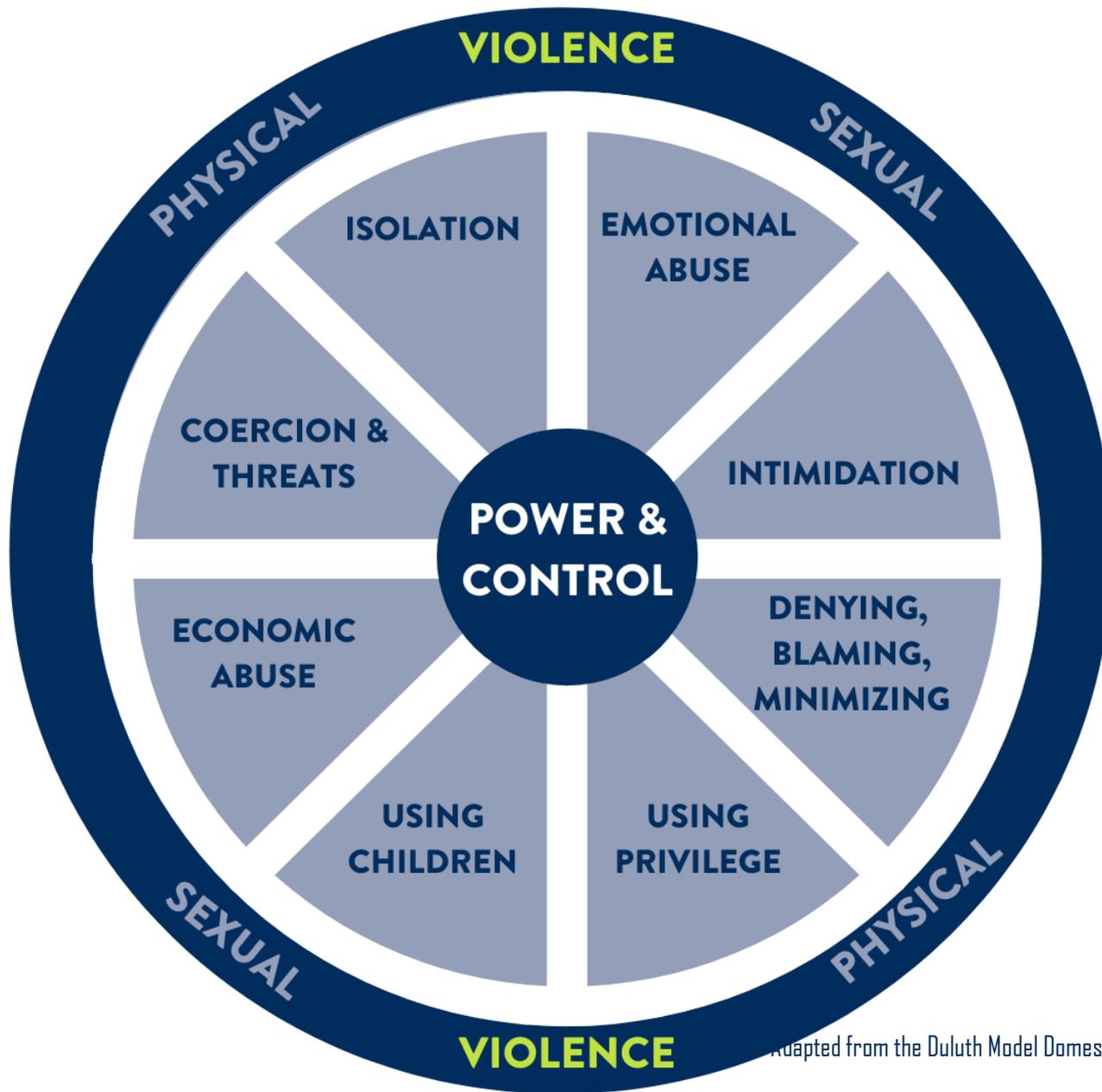
Changing Behaviors

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

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

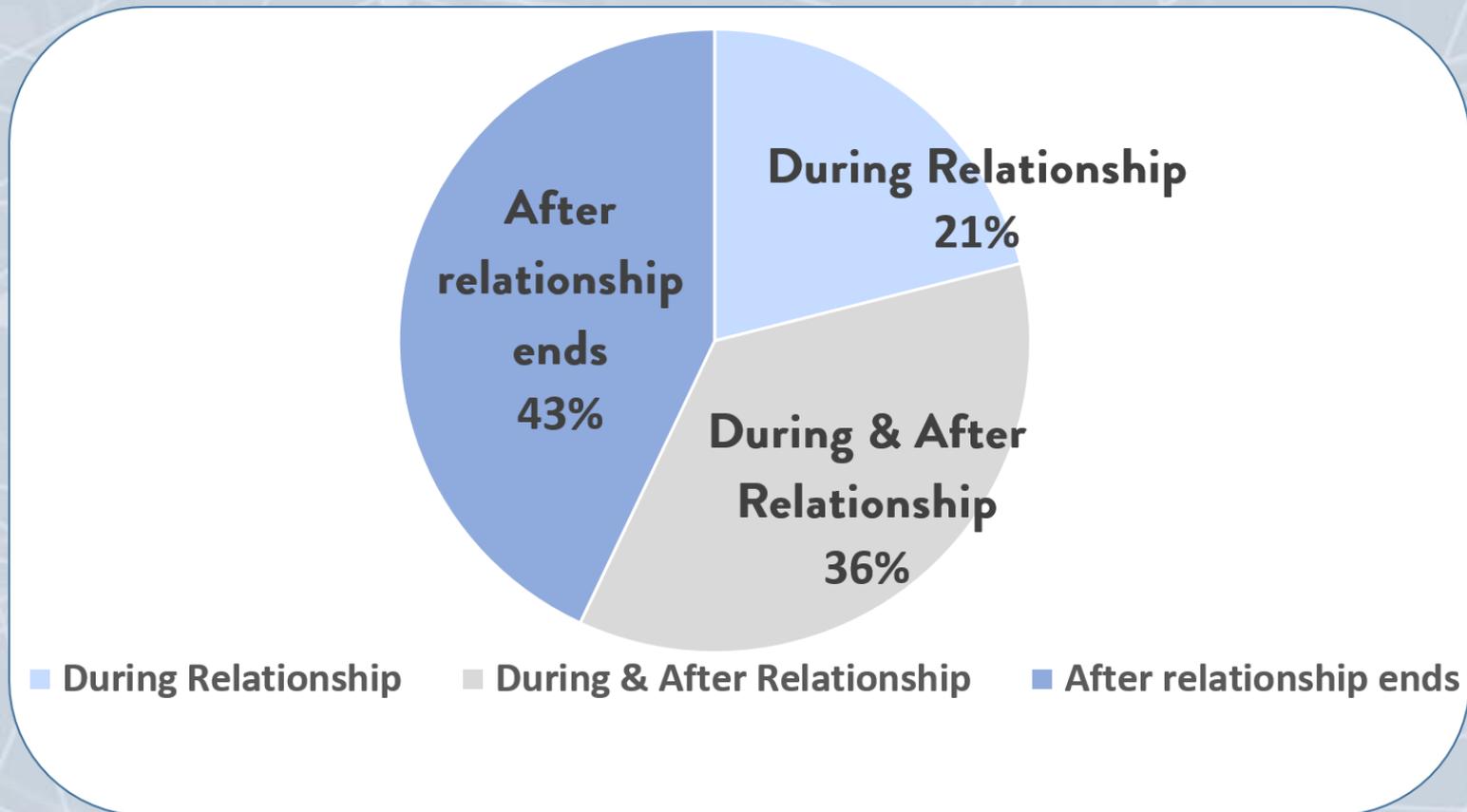


Co-Victimizations:
Stalking, Intimate Partner Violence,
& Sexual Violence



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

Study of Women with Protective Order

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

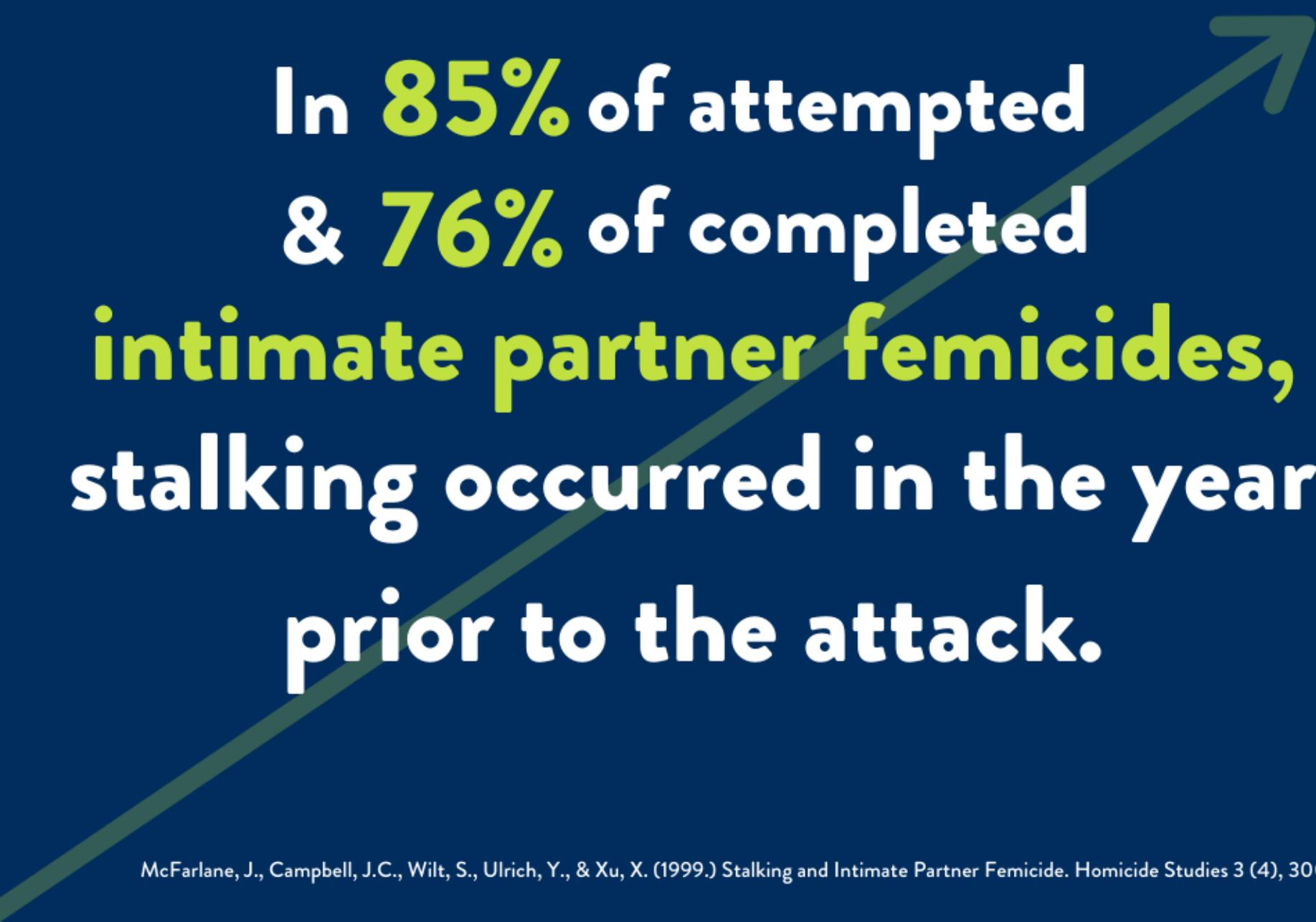
- * Verbal abuse, degradation, jealousy and control
- * Serious threats
- * Moderate and severe physical violence
- * Sexual violence and sexual assault
- * Threats to kill and threats with a weapon
- * Being beat up, attacks with a weapon and injury

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%

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.



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* 2(3): 527-540.



SEXUAL
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
STOLENCE

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

Why Name Stalking?

Charging & Prosecution

Safety Planning

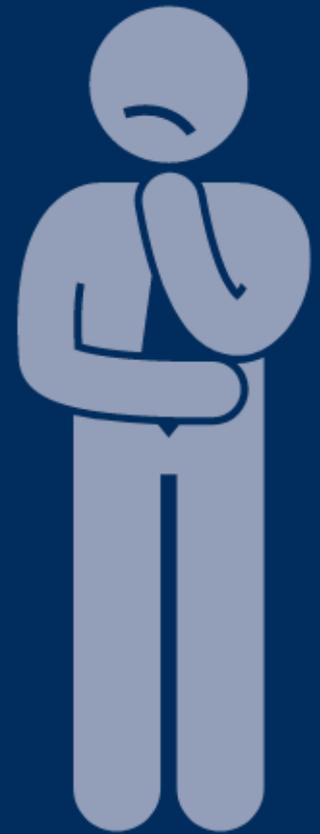
Victim Empowerment

Responding to Victims

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



How do Victims Cope?

Move
INWARD



Move
AWAY



Move
TOWARDS



Move
AGAINST



Move
OUTWARD



Self-Protective Actions Taken

- 63% Blocked unwanted calls/
messages/other
- 27% Changed personal information
- 24% Changed day-to-day activities
- 23% Self-defensive action/security
measure
- 9% Applied for a restraining/
protective/no-contact order



78% of stalking victims take some kind of protective action

Advise Disengagement

Recommend no contact with the stalker

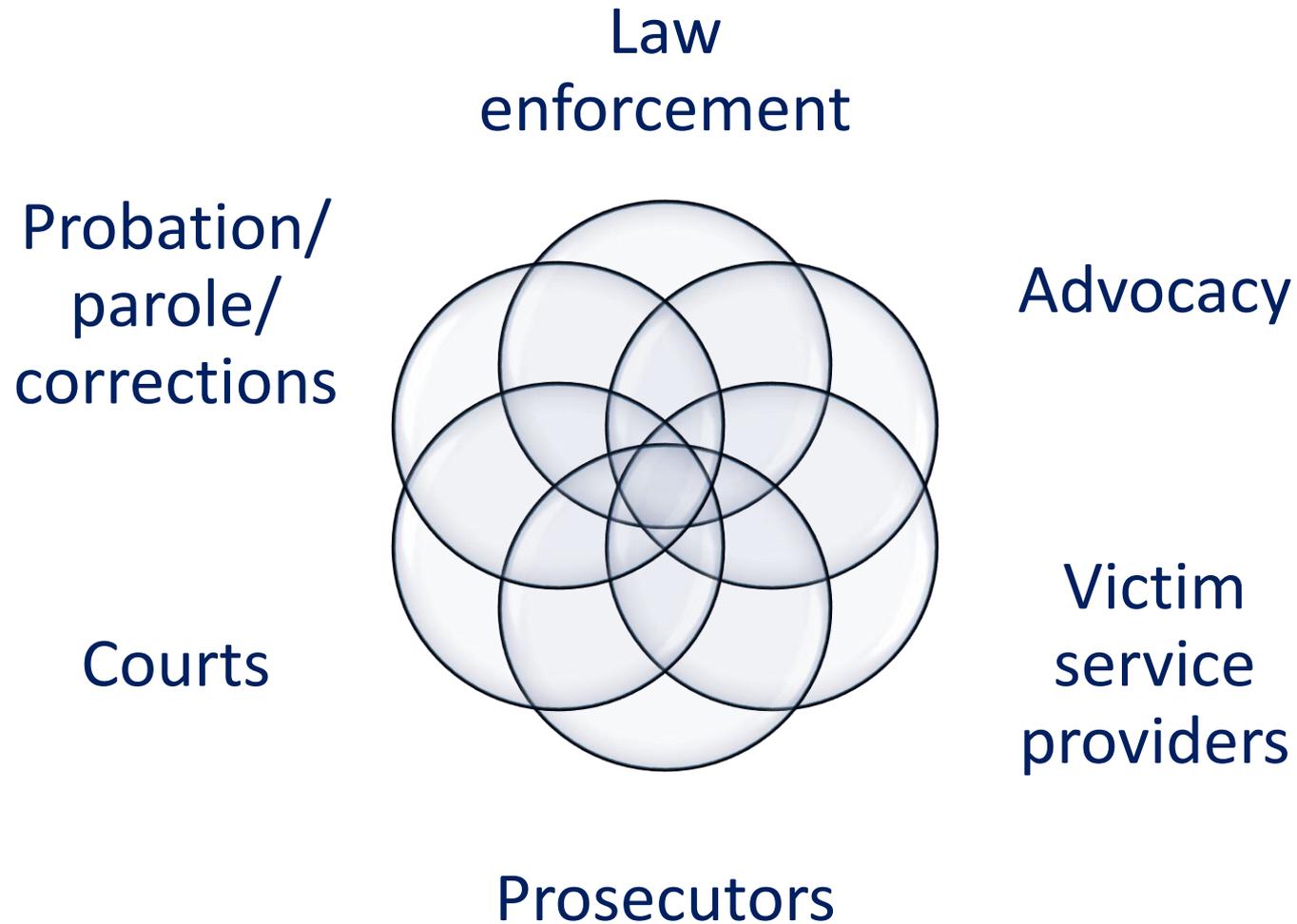
- Explain intermittent reinforcement

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

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



Coordination



Resources

STALKING & ABUSE IN LATER LIFE

NEW RESOURCE IN
COLLABORATION WITH



ncall

Consider [screening for stalking/victimization](#) when responding to victims of elder abuse who experience harassment, intimate partner and family violence, protection order violations, sexual assault, sexual harassment, theft/burglary,

PSYCHOLOGICALLY VIOLENT STALKING BEHAVIORS MAY INCLUDE:

- Excessive contact — phone calls, voicemails
- Following victims

MOST COMMON STALKING TACTICS Individuals who rely on caregivers — whether family members, home care workers, or nursing home staff — are vulnerable to abuse. If they do not report any abuse from their caregiver, they think nobody will help them, and/or the caregiver has a history of more acts of abuse — especially if the victim is an older individual. **Abuse in later life** includes behaviors such as: and disturbing thoughts, including stalking behaviors within the home and technology.

ADULT VICTIMS ARE: Acquaintances 33%, Current or Former Intimate Partners 19%, Strangers 48%

55% of victims receive calls or messages

REPORTS OF INTIMIDATION

DUCT

TACTICS OF VICTIMS

CALLS, MESSAGES

55%

SPARC AGING AND ABUSE PREVENTION CENTER **ncall** **STALKING & ABUSE IN LATER LIFE**

Stalking impacts people of all ages, including older adults. While research specific to stalking among older adults is limited, it's clear that this crime is not limited to younger victims — more than a million people over the age of 50 are stalked each year. **Older victims of stalking often face ageist biases and are less likely to be believed than younger victims.** Because multiple forms of abuse in later life often co-occur and intersect, it is important to identify and address the full scope of a survivor's experience — including stalking behaviors that often accompany other abuse.

1 MILLION PEOPLE AGED 50+ ARE STALKED EACH YEAR

WHAT IS ABUSE IN LATER LIFE?

Abuse in later life is the willful abuse, neglect, abandonment, or financial exploitation of an adult (age 50+) by someone in an ongoing, trust-based relationship (i.e., spouse, partner, family member, or caregiver) with the victim, as well as sexual abuse of an older adult by anyone. This can be physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, as well as neglect, abandonment, and financial exploitation of an older person by another person or entity, that occurs in any setting (i.e., home, community, or care facility).

WHAT IS STALKING?

Stalking is a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear and/or to suffer substantial emotional distress. **Common stalking tactics include:** sex violence, excessive contact, invading privacy, sabotage, property damage, and other behaviors that cause fear. What is frightening to one person may not be frightening to another. Acts that may be harmless in a different context may become menacing or threatening in another.

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)

NCALL is committed to creating a world that respects the dignity of older adults and enhances the safety and quality of life of older victims and survivors of abuse. We engage communities to foster a collaborative, inclusive, survivor-centered response to abuse in later life.



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





NNEDV
Tech Safety

Tech Safety

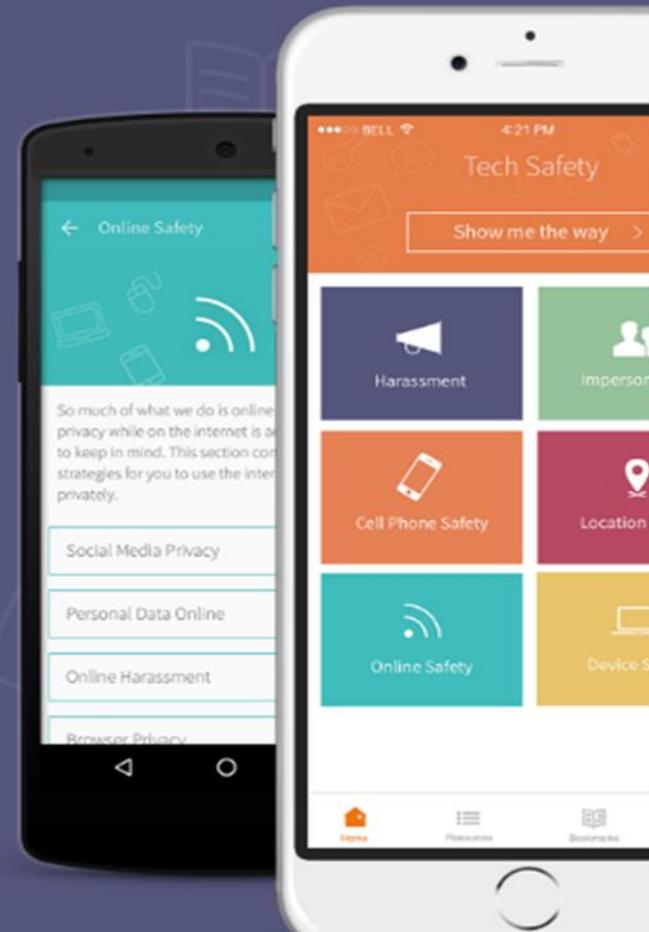
Welcome to the Tech Safety App. This app contains information that can help someone identify technology-facilitated harassment, stalking, or abuse and includes tips on what can be done.



Download on the
App Store



Get it on
Google play



SPARC



SEARCH



RESOURCES

Law Enforcement Portals



Partners in state and local law enforcement can access portals for training and resources.

[Learn More](#)

Investigative Resources



A compilation of investigative resources including tools, best practices, and documents.

[Learn More](#)

Cyber Threat Bulletins



Resources that provide updated information on cyber threats.

[Learn More](#)

Incident Reporting



Learn how to report cyber incidents.

[Learn More](#)

Search.org



The **premier resource** for collecting, sharing, and analyzing innovative and timely knowledge, information, best practices, services and solutions for **justice information sharing**.

Assistance & Training Center

Need assistance with technical, operational or policy issues? Want to see in-class and online training options? Help is a few clicks away...



High-Tech Crime Investigations

Networks • Child Exploitation
Social Media • Mobile Devices • IRC
Volatile Data • Legal Issues



Criminal History Records

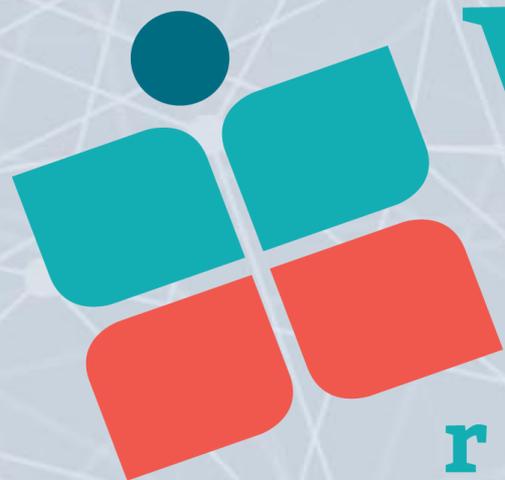
Auditing Practices • Compact Council
Firearms Background Checks
Disposition Reporting
Repository Quality Assurance
Surveys of State Systems



Justice Information Sharing

Data Modeling • GRA • NIEM • GFIPM
OJBC • Enterprise Strategic Planning
Data Architecture • Privacy Policy

For Victims



Victim
Connect
resource center

Confidential referrals for crime victims



855-4-VICTIM

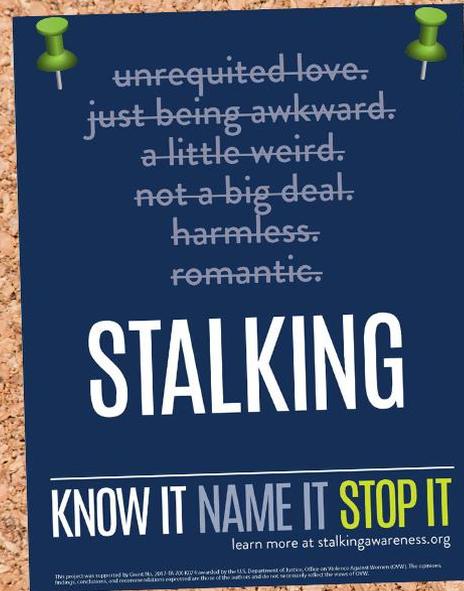
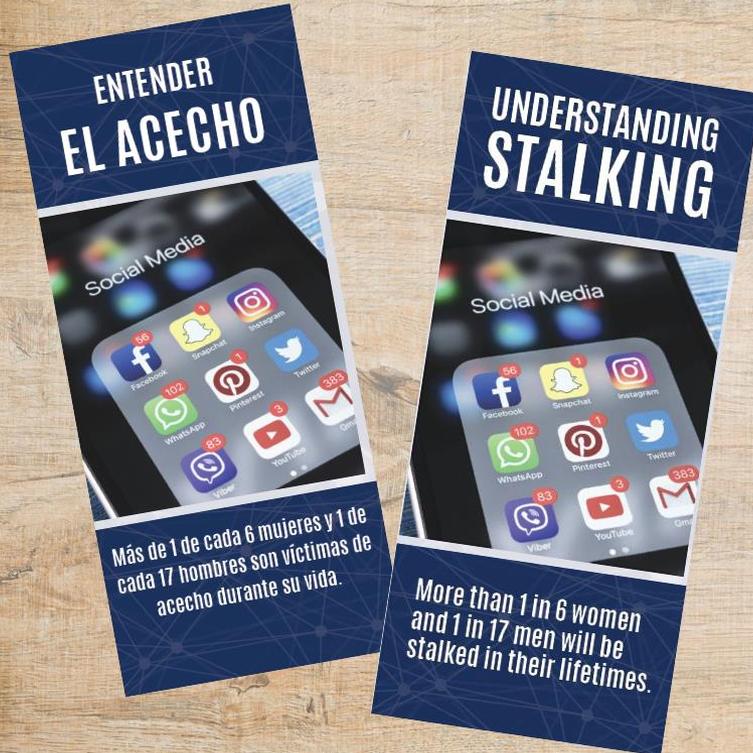
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