



**Know More, Do More:
Recognizing and Responding
to Stalking**

1

OVW Funding

This project was supported by Grant No. 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.

2

Fair Use

The Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17 United States Code) governs the making of reproductions of copyrighted material. This presentation includes the creative work of others. This property is being used under claim of "fair use" (17 USC 107); further use or distribution is prohibited.

3



www.StalkingAwareness.org

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





@FollowUsLegally

Sign Up for our Newsletter!

4

What is Stalking?

SPARC

5



You may think of stranger danger.

6

You may think of romance.



7

IN Man Arrested for Stalking Taylor Swift, Intimidating Her Eras Tour Dancers



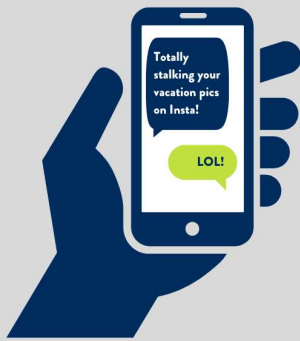
Clarkson Gets Restraining Order

Stalker of Emma Watson and Drew Barrymore Arrested at NYFW



You may think it only happens to celebrities.

8



Or maybe it's not that big of a deal.

9

This is the reality of stalking.



10

"Stalking is homicide in slow motion."

- Patrick Brady, Criminology Dept. University of West Georgia

11

STALKING IS:



CRIMINAL



TRAUMATIC



DANGEROUS


12



CRIMINAL

- FEDERAL LEVEL
- ALL 50 STATES, D.C., & U.S. TERRITORIES
- TRIBAL CODES
- UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE

13



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.
Blauw, E., Arensman, E., Winkel, F.W., Freeve, A., & Sheridan, L. (2002). The Toll of Stalking. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 17(1): 50-63.

14



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., Wit, 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.

15

“

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.”

SPARC

16

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.

17

American Indian/Alaska Native women experience the highest rates of stalking victimization of any race/ethnicity.



18



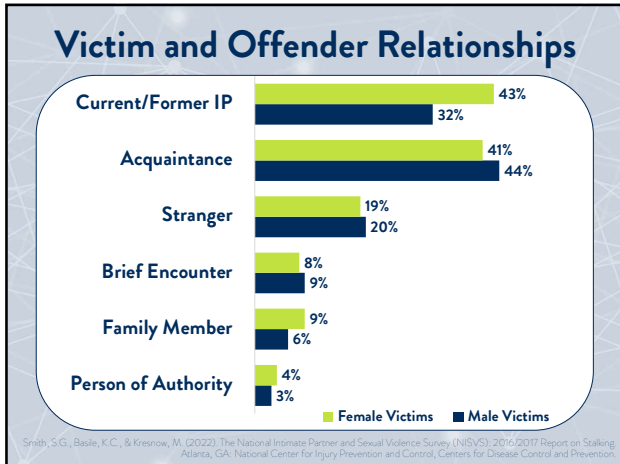
19

Pattern of Behavior

- 2/3 of stalkers pursue their victim at least once per week
- 3/4 of stalkers use more than one means of approach

Kris Mohandie, et al., The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based Upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers, 51(1) J Forensic Sci 147-55 (2006)

20



21

Defining Stalking

- LEGAL/STATUTORY
- BEHAVIORAL

22

25 U.S.C.A § 1304 (WEST 2023). TRIBAL JURISDICTION OVER COVERED CRIMES *(emphasis added)*

(16) Stalking
 The term “stalking” means engaging in a **course of conduct directed at a specific person** proscribed by the criminal law of the Indian tribe that has jurisdiction over the Indian country where the violation occurs that **would cause a reasonable person—**

- (A) to fear for the person’s safety or the safety of others; or
- (B) to suffer substantial emotional distress.

23

STALKING DEFINITION: BEHAVIORAL

Stalking is 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.**

24

A pattern of behavior...

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

25

...directed at a specific person...

26

...that would cause a reasonable person to feel **FEAR**

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

SPARC

27

Why Do Misconceptions Matter?

SPARC

28

Misconceptions Make It Difficult to Recognize

29

"Research suggests that victims rely on notions of what a 'real' or 'legitimate' crime looks like, and these perceptions may impact reporting decisions."

Reynes, B.W., & Engbrecht, C.M. (2012). The Fear Factor: Exploring Predictors of Fear Among Stalking Victims Throughout the Stalking Encounter. *Crime & Delinquency* 59(5), 789-808. DOI: 10.1177/001120712461123

30

THE MAJORITY OF STALKING VICTIMS DO NOT REPORT OR SEEK SERVICES



31


“I know it sounds crazy, but...”

SPARC SPARKING AWARENESS, RESOURCING VICTIMS, AND REDUCING RISK

32

How do Victims Cope?

- Move **INWARD** (Icon: person hugging themselves)
- Move **AWAY** (Icon: person with suitcase)
- Move **TOWARDS** (Icon: two people hugging)
- Move **AGAINST** (Icon: person shouting)
- Move **OUTWARD** (Icon: person under umbrella)



Spirsberg, B.M. & Cusack, W. (2007) The State of the Art of Stalking: Taking Stock of the Emerging Literature. Aggression and Violent Behavior 12(1), 64-86.

33

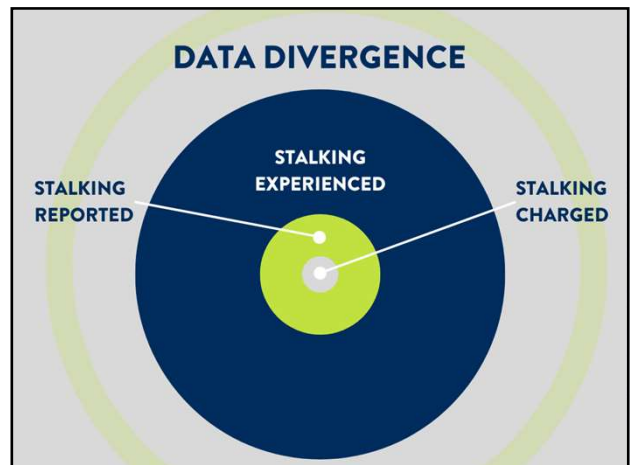
VICTIMS OF STALKING, INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, &/OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE EXPERIENCE SIMILAR TYPES OF VICTIM BLAMING



34



35



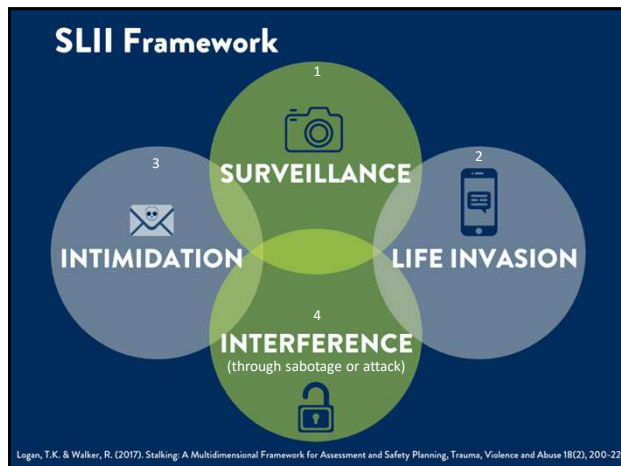
36



37



38



39



40



41



42

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

43

CONTEXT IS CRITICAL
in stalking cases.

44

Context



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

SPARC

45

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?

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

46

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 reasons 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?

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

47

When Stalking Co-Occurs with Other Victimitizations

SPARC

48

Co-Victimizations:
Stalking and Sexual Violence

49

Sexual Assault Survivors Who Also Experienced Stalking (Ages 18-24)

Response	Percentage
Yes	48%
No	52%

Brady, P. Q., & Woodward Griffin, V. (2019). The Intersection of Stalking and Sexual Assault Among Emerging Adults: Unpublished Preliminary Results. mTurk Findings, 2018.

50

Intersections of Stalking & Sexual Violence

- Stalker threatens/plans sexual violence
- Stalker attempts to get someone else to commit sexual violence against the victim
- Stalker is sexually violent towards the victim
- Stalker contacts victim after sexual violence

51

Some offenders use **stalking** strategies to groom for sexual violence.

52

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

Traverso, P. & Rosebreck, N. (2019). Stalking and Sexual Assault: Findings from the national violence against women survey (NVAWS). Washington, DC: NIJ/DOJ.

53

Co-Victimizations:
Stalking and Human Trafficking

54

Stalking and Human Trafficking

- * Human trafficking often involves co-occurring stalking behaviors
 - * To coerce or isolate the victim
 - * To intimidate the victim or witnesses
- * History and course of conduct
- * Opportunity and motive to engage in repetitive acts in the course of targeting or maintaining control

SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER
LMAI, D. & Miller, F. (2002). Repeat Rape and Multiple Offending Among Undetected Rapists. Violence and Victims 17(1), 73-84. Retrieved from https://www.davidsiak.com/wp-content/uploads/pdf/RepeatRapeandUndetectedRapists.pdf

55

Stalking & Trafficking

Surveillance

- * Monitoring the victim to identify when and how to recruit
- * Gathering information as leverage to sexually exploit/blackmail victim or persuade
- * Monitoring victim to assess vulnerability, accessibility and lack of credibility
- * Asking other individuals working for trafficker to monitor behavior

Life Invasion

- * Humiliating person by threatening to expose/exposing what they are doing
- * Requiring "Check-Ins"
- * Gifts / small indulgences

SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

56

Stalking & Trafficking

Interference

- * Committing acts of sexual violence against victim
- * Sharing sexual photos or videos with others
- * Committing physical assaults

Intimidation

- * Violence against others in operation
- * Threatening the victim, others in operation, pets with sexual or physical violence
- * Using symbols of violence to control

SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

57

Co-Victimizations: Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence

SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

58

Point When Stalking Occurs

Point When Stalking Occurs	Percentage
After relationship ends	43%
During & After Relationship	36%
During Relationship	21%

Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (1998). Stalking in America: Findings from the national violence against women survey (NCJ1169592). Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1169592.pdf.

59


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

SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

60

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

WHY?



61

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.


62

Leaving an IP Stalking Relationship

Women were more than **3X** more likely to attempt to terminate relationship when IP stalking was present -- a more powerful indicator than firearms and prior abuse history.




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



Rai, A., Villarreal-Osolor, T., Blackburn, J., & Choi, Y.J. (2020). Correlates of Intimate Partner Stalking Precipitated Homicides in the United States. Journal of Family Violence 35(3): 705-716.
Sheridan, L. & Davies, G.M. (2006). Violence and the Prior Victim-Stalker Relationship. Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health 11(2): 102-116.

63

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.

64

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. & Smith, 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.

SPARC

65

Why Name Stalking?

- Charging & Prosecution
- Safety Planning
- Victim Empowerment

SPARC

66

How Should We Support Survivors of Stalking

SPARC

67

Start by believing.

SPARC

68

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



69

Working with Stalking Victims



70

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



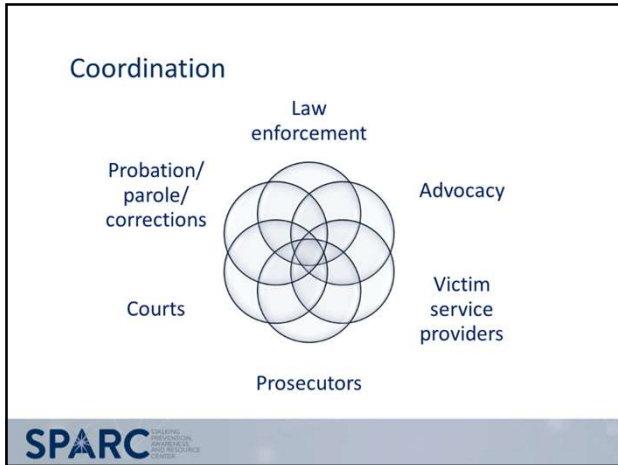
71



“...the victim’s attempts to distance themselves from their stalker actually frustrate or anger the stalker, leading to an increase in the physical threat to their lives.”

Quinn-Evans, L., Keetley, D.A., Arrnfield, M., & Sheridan, L. (2019). A Behavior Sequence Analysis of Victims' Accounts of Stalking Behaviors. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 00(0): 1-19.

72



79

STALKING RESPONSE CONSIDERATIONS: NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Red Wind Consulting Inc.

1. Recognize that an Indigenous victim's level of fear and need for resources and assistance may vary.

2. Ask about specific stalking behaviors when working with Native victims.

3. Recognize that stalking behaviors can be identified into four categories: Surveillance, Life Invasion, Intimidation, and Interference.

Stalking Response Considerations When Working with Native Communities

Stalking is a traumatic victimization and often intersects with domestic violence, sexual violence, trafficking, kidnapping, and homicide - all of which impact Native communities at disproportionate rates. Identifying and responding to stalking is a critical tool in supporting Native victims and holding offenders accountable.

1. Recognize the scope of stalking in Native communities.

- Stalking affects nearly 42% of American Indian/Alaska Native women and 33% of American Indian/Alaska Native men over their lifetimes.
- Native relatives, including LGBTQ+ and Two Spirit relatives, encounter multiple types of oppression and abuse that may intersect with stalking behaviors.
- 51% of AIIAN women and 29% of AIIAN men experience unwanted facial contact.
- 78% of Two Spirit...

American Indian/Alaska Native women experience the highest rates of stalking victimization of any...

80

STALKING RESPONSE CHECKLISTS
ASSESS YOUR EFFORTS & CONSIDER NEW IDEAS

SPARC

Addressing Stalking: A Checklist for Campus Professionals

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CHECKLIST: ADDRESSING STALKING

Addressing Stalking: A Checklist for Domestic and Sexual Violence Organizations

81

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.

Victims of stalking rarely identify their victimization as stalking and are unlikely to do 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.

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.

SPARC

82

JOIN THE SPARC VICTIM ADVOCATE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

We invite community-based and systems-based victim advocates to register! These virtual meetings are held every-other-month to share experiences and resources, ask questions, and discuss promising practices on responding to stalking.

StalkingAwareness.org/advocate-community-of-practice/

83

Order Stalking Awareness Brochures & Posters for your Community Today!

ENTER THE EL ACECHO

UNDERSTANDING STALKING

unrequited love, just-being-awkward, a little weird, not-a-big-deal, harmless, romantic.

STALKING
KNOW IT NAME IT STOP IT

PHONE CALLS TEXT MESSAGES FOLLOWING SHOWING UP UNWANTED THREATS FOLLOWING WITHOUT CONSENT

IT'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND IT'S STALKING. KNOW IT NAME IT STOP IT

84



85



86