OVW Funding

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www.StalkingAwareness.org

* Practitioner guides
* Training modules
* Victim resources
* Webinars

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Understanding Stalking
Defining Stalking

BEHAVIORAL

LEGAL/STATUTORY
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.
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
91% of female stalking victims felt fearful, threatened, or concerned for safety.

70% of male stalking victims felt fearful, threatened, or concerned for safety.

Fear of what?

Fear of sexual assault is included in every stalking statute.
Fears Might Include:

* Sexual assault
* Voyeurism/privacy invasion
* Friends and/or loved ones being sexually victimized
* Intimate photos being created and/or shared
* Offender sharing personal sexual information and/or rumors
Sexual Harassment

* “...unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature.”

* “...harassment is illegal when it is so frequent or severe that it creates a hostile or offensive work environment.”

https://www.eeoc.gov/sexual-harassment
Stalking and Sexual Assault: Commonalities
STALKING IS:

CRIMINAL

TRAUMATIC

DANGEROUS
Myth of the Stranger Offender
“Research suggests that victims rely on notions of what a 'real' or 'legitimate' crime looks like, and these perceptions may impact reporting decisions.”

Relationships, Reporting, & Fear

Victims who knew their offenders were MORE likely to report feeling FEARFUL and yet LESS likely to REPORT to police than those stalked by a stranger.

Prevalent (in the United States)

Similar proportions of women and men experience stalking and contact sexual violence in their lifetimes:

- NEARLY 1 in 3 women
- &
- NEARLY 1 in 6 men
Stalking and Sexually Violent Behaviors
Sexual Assault Survivors Who Also Experienced Stalking (Ages 18-24)

Yes: 48%
No: 52%

# 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
SLII Framework

Surveillance
Intimidation
Life Invasion
Interference

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
**SURVEILLANCE**

- Monitor victim in order to identify when and how to commit sexual violence
- Gather information as leverage to sexually exploit/blackmail victim
- Nonconsensually watch the victim when nude or engaged in sexual activity
- Leering at victim
- Monitor victim after sexual violence (i.e., who are they telling?)

**LIFE INVASION**

- Leave sexual items/gifts
- Repeated contact using sexual language, images, threats, or referencing past sexual trauma
- Spread sexual rumors and/or publicly humiliate the victim with personal information about sexual activity or assault
- Impersonate the victim online to discuss or share information about sexual activity.
INTERFERENCE

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

- Threats
- Property damage
- Symbolic violence
- Forced confrontations
- Threaten or actually harm self
- Threats to victim about harming others
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERFERENCE</th>
<th>INTIMIDATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Sexual violence against victim or those close to victim</td>
<td>• Threaten the victim or others with sexual violence</td>
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<td>• Share sexual photos, videos, or information with others</td>
<td>• Sextortion</td>
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<td>• Pose as the victim and solicit sexual activity</td>
<td>• Engage in symbolic sexual violence (like cutting up underwear)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sabotage victim by spreading sexual rumors</td>
<td>• Threaten to share sexual images, rumors, or information with others</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Damaging or taking sexual items like condoms or birth control</td>
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Stalking to Commit Sexual Violence
Some offenders use stalking strategies to groom for sexual violence.
How Offenders Groom for Sexual Violence

1. Research and identify vulnerable victims
2. Establish relationships: contact, build trust
3. Meet in-person and isolate the victim
4. Coerce into sexual act(s)
5. Contact after

Intimate Image Solicitation and Exploitation
Stalking for “Leverage”

* Attaining nonconsensual photos and/or recordings
* Gathering information for later sextortion
Justin Scott Corum

* Corum used persona of a minor league baseball player to lure teenage girls and young women into giving him their phone numbers.

* Began threatening his victims with violence if they did not send him sexually degrading selfies.

* Threatened to publicly humiliate them by posting the photographs if his victims did not meet him in person for sex.

For Non-Consensual Image Distribution

* Cyberrightsproject.com
* Cybercivilrights.org
  For victims: 1-844-878-CCRI
* Cagoldberglaw.com
* Dmcadefender.com
* Copybyte.com
Soliciting Third Party Sexual Violence
Jebidiah Stipe, Wyoming Marine, Solicited Ex-Girlfriend’s Rape And Assault On Craigslist
Stalking After Sexual Violence
Stalking After Violence

Thanks for a great time 😘

Our secret, yeah?

Saturday 12:37 AM

Wouldn't want to have to show anyone these pics. 🌀

Monday 11:02 AM

WTF, did you tell Dan?

ANSWER ME.
Think Broadly About “Contact”

* In-person contact
* Third person contact
* Phone
* Texting
* Email
* IM/Chat
* Social networking sites
  * Contact with victim
  * Postings to own or other people’s sites
Potential Relevant Charges: Sexual Violence & Stalking

* Voyeurism
* Unlawful creation of image of another
* Nonconsensual distribution of intimate images
* Sexual assault
* Indecent exposure
IPV, Stalking and Sexual Assault: Co-occurring Victimizations
Adapted from the Duluth Model Domestic Abuse Intervention Project’s Power and Control Wheel.
Point When Stalking Occurs

- During Relationship: 21%
- During & After Relationship: 36%
- After relationship ends: 43%

Intimate Partner Co-victimization

Women stalked by partners experienced psychological abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and injury at significantly higher rates compared with women who were not stalked by their partners.

31% of women stalked by an intimate partner were also sexually assaulted by that partner.

Stalking & IPV Co-victimization

Women who were **stalked** by a violent partner after obtaining a protective order were **9.3 times** more likely to experience **sexual assault** than women with protective orders who were not stalked.

ASK SURVIVORS ABOUT CO-OCCURRING VICTIMIZATIONS.
Stalking and Trafficking
Stalking & Trafficking

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

**Life Invasion**
* Humiliating person by threatening to expose what they are doing
* Requiring “check-ins”
* Gifts/small indulgences
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, pets with sexual or physical violence
* Using symbols of violence to control
Naming Stalking
Why Name Stalking?

- Charging & Prosecution
- Safety Planning
- Victim Empowerment
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
Working with Stalking Victims

Safety
Advocacy
Documentation
Support
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description of Incident (physical location, technology used, online platform)</th>
<th>Location of Incident (physical location, technology used, online platform)</th>
<th>Witness Name(s) (attach address and phone number)</th>
<th>Evidence Attached? (photos, video, screenshots, items, etc.)</th>
<th>Report Made To (name, office/org, badge or identification #)</th>
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Resources for Professionals
Stalking and sexual violence are prevalent, traumatic, misunderstood, and under-reported crimes covered by the Violence Against Women Act. Stalking intersects with sexual violence in a variety of ways.

Surveillance is the most common tactic. Surveillance can intersect with sexual assault, voyeurism, or and more. Four stalking behaviors can be used:
- Follow, watch, monitor information about the victim.
- Contact the victim.
- Monitor what the victim says.
- Create fake accounts or accounts, while planning.

Intimate partner stalking victims experience higher rates of sexual violence than those not stalked. 16% of victims report that the stalker shared naked, semi-nude, and/or sexual penetration while victim sleeping.