Webinar: Stalking and the Intersection with Domestic Violence

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
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Stalking Resource Center

The Stalking Resource Center is a program of the National Center for Victims of Crime. The mission of the Stalking Resource Center is to enhance the ability of professionals, organizations, and systems to effectively respond to stalking.

The Stalking Resource Center provides training, technical assistance, and resource materials for professionals working with and responding to stalking victims and offenders.

Overview

- Define stalking
- Prevalence of stalking
- Stalking dynamics
- Intersection of stalking and domestic violence
- Effect on victims
- Q & A

Defining Stalking

Behavioral

Statutory

Stalking

A pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.
Stalking: Fear

What is difficult about this aspect of the crime of stalking?

- Subjective
- People don’t admit to being fearful
- People react differently to fear
- Sometimes have to prove offender’s intent
- All about the context of the behaviors

Understanding Stalking – Fear

- Something may be frightening for the victim but not to you
- Stalking behaviors often have specific meaning that is only understood between offender & victim
- Stalking criminalizes otherwise non-criminal behavior

Context & Fear

Context is critical in stalking cases

- Texted 50 times in 1 hour
- Posted disturbing message on social media
- Showed up at the victim’s workplace
- Vandalism to car

Statutes

- Federal
- State
- District of Columbia
- U.S. Territories
- UCMJ

Prevalence of Stalking

6.6 million stalked in 1 year in U.S.

- By gender
  - 4% of women
  - 1.3% of men
- Lifetime
  - 1 in 6 women
  - 1 in 19 men

If you would like to have your tribe’s code added, please contact us at 202-467-8700 or src@ncvc.org
**Do the Math**

1. Take the population of your community/campus
2. Divide by 1000
3. Multiply by 26.5
4. Equals statistical number of stalking cases in your community each year

**Stalking Dynamics**

- Women are more likely to experience stalking
- Most stalkers are male
- The majority of victims know the stalker

18–24 year olds experience the highest rates of stalking


**Race of Stalking Victims**

- Stalking Victimization in the United States, BJS (2009)

**Victim Offender Relationship**


**Stalking Behaviors**

- Unwanted phone calls and messages: 66%
- Spreading rumors: 36%
- Following or spying: 34%
- Unwanted letters and email: 31%
- Showing up at places: 31%
- Waiting for victim: 29%
- Leaving unwanted presents: 12%

- Stalking Victimization in the United States, BJS (2009)

**Use of Technology to Stalk**

- Phones – calls, SMS, MMS
- Fax machines
- Cameras
- Global Positioning Systems (GPS)
- Location based services
- Computers
- Spyware
- Email & IM
- Social networking sites
- Assistive technologies
Pattern of Behavior

- 2/3 of stalkers pursue their victim at least once per week
- 78% of stalkers use more than one means of approach
- Weapons used to harm or threaten victims in about 20% of cases

Stalking by Proxy

- Third party stalking
  - Unintentional
  - Intentional
- 50% - 60% of partner stalking victims say others were involved in stalking

Recidivism

- Domestic violence reabuse occurs in 24% to 60% of cases
  - The majority of offenders do so within 6 months of beginning probation and/or a batterer program
- Occurs in 60% of stalking cases
  - Time between intervention and recidivism was about 2 months
  - Ranged from 1 day to 6 years

Duration of Stalking

- Don't know
- 5 years or more
- 4 years
- 3 years
- 2 years
- 1 year
- 7-11 months
- 6 months or less

Stalking and Other Crimes

- Legal system harassment
- OP violations
- Stalking Behaviors
- Other crimes
- Using kids

- The RECON Typology of Stalking (2006)
Stalking and Other Crimes

- Among stalking cases...
  - 24% involve property damage
  - 21% involve a direct attack on the victim
  - 15% involve an attack on another person or pet

Identity theft

- Stalking Victimization in the United States, BJS (2009)

Stalking & Domestic Violence

- 52% of stalking victims who were stalked by an intimate partner reported that they had also been physically assaulted by that partner.
- 3/4 of women who experienced stalking-related behaviors experienced other forms of victimization (sexual, physical, or both)

Point in Intimate Relationship when Stalking of Women Occurs

- More separation attempts than victims of intimate partner violence alone
- Intimate partner stalkers are more likely to assault third parties than non-intimate stalkers

Intimate Partner Stalkers: Increased Risk for Victims

- More likely to physically approach victim
- More insulting, interfering and threatening
- More likely to use weapons
- Behaviors more likely to escalate quickly
- More likely to re-offend

- The RECON Typology of Stalking, Mohandie et al (2006)
- Intimate Partner Stalking Risk

- Stalking acknowledgement and reporting among college women experiencing intrusive behaviors (2007)

- Logan et al, Stalking victimization on the context of intimate partner violence (2007)
- Sheridan and Davies Criminal Behavior and Mental Health, (2001)
Intimate Partner Stalking Violence

- Greatest risk of violence is when the stalker:
  - issued direct threats of violence
  - was jealous of the victim's relationships with others during the relationship
  - user of illegal drugs
  - Where there is evidence of the presence of all of these factors, the risk of stalking violence is heightened.

Lethality

- 76% of femicide cases involved at least one episode of stalking within 12 months prior to the murder
- 85% of attempted femicide cases involved at least one episode of stalking within 12 months prior to the attempted murder

Lethality

- 67% of the femicide victims had been physically abused by their intimate partner in the 12 months before the murder
- 89% of the femicide victims who had been physically abused had also been stalked in the 12 months before the murder

Impact on Victims

- Afraid of:
  - 46% not knowing what would happen next
  - 30% bodily harm
  - 29% behavior would never stop
  - 13% harm or kidnap a child
  - 10% loss of freedom
  - 9% death
  - 4% losing one’s mind

Victims of Stalking

- Women's Experience of Violence During Stalking by Former Romantic Partners (2005)
- Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide, McFarlane et al. (1999)
- Stalking Victimization in the United States, BJS (2009)
Impact of Stalking

- Minimization; Self-blame
- Guilt, shame or embarrassment
- Frustration, Irritability, Anger
- Shock and confusion
- Fear and anxiety
- Depression
- Emotional numbness
- Flashbacks
- Isolation/disconnection from other people
- Difficulties with concentration or attention
- Feeling suicidal

- Decreased ability to perform at work or school, or accomplish daily tasks
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Sleep disturbances, nightmares
- Sexual dysfunction
- Fatigue
- Fluctuations in weight
- Self-medication with alcohol/drugs
- Feeling on guard most of the time - hypervigilance

Impact on Victims

1 in 8 of employed victims lost time from work

- More than half lost 5 days or more

- Changing phone number/moving/living damaged property 7%
- Getting a restraining/protection order or testifying in court 12%
- Fear or concern for safety 13%

- 1 in 8 of employed victims lost time from work
- More than half lost 5 days or more

- In person training
- Webinars
- Individual & organizational assistance
- Fact sheets, brochures, manuals, guides
- Policy/protocol development & consultation
- Videos
- Online resources
- Stalking Awareness Month materials

“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.”