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.

Poll

Most stalking victims report to law enforcement.

- True
- False

Overview

- Victim reporting
- Safety
  - Risk assessment
  - Safety planning
- Documentation
- Advocacy & Support

Reporting to Law Enforcement

37% of male stalking victims
41% of female stalking victims
Reasons For Not Reporting

- Thought it a minor incident (minimization): 27%
- Private or personal matter: 27%
- Reported to another official: 11%
- Not clear a crime occurred: 11%
- Thought police would think it was important or would be ineffective: 14%
- Couldn't identify offender/lacked evidence: 27%
- Feared the perpetrator/afraid of reprisals: 0%

Reporting

By the time victims report to police, the stalking behavior has been well established and... victim-initiated countermeasures have failed.


Accessing Services

- Did not seek help: 30.3%
- Enlisted help of friends/family: 42.6%
- Talked to an attorney: 30.9%
- Obtained a restraining/protection order: 19.6%
- Talked to a mental health professional: 15.6%
- Contacted building/office security: 13.6%
- Talked to a doctor or nurse: 9.4%
- Talked to clergy/faith leader: 9.4%
- Contacted victim services/shelter/help line: 9.1%
- Talked to boss/employer: 7.3%
- Did not seek help: 30.3%

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

- Stalking Victimization in the U.S. (2009)

Safety

• Is there a threat of imminent harm or danger?
  • For victim or others?

Recommend: disengagement & no contact

• Intermittent reinforcement
• Challenges

Working with Stalking Victims

• Safety
• Documentation
• Advocacy & Support

Enhancing victim safety if maintained contact
Safety Tools

**Offender picture or flyer**
- Alert employer, neighbors, etc.

**Safety accommodations**
- Work
- School
- Housing

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**Safety Tools – Orders of Protection**
- Can enhance victim safety
- Only as good as enforcement
- Typically won't stop the stalking behavior

- Violations
  - 81% of male victims
  - 69% of female victims
- Discuss pros and cons with victim
- Safety planning

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**Safety – Other Considerations**

**Defining our roles**
- Privacy and confidentiality

**Organizational policies and procedures**

**Assessing risk and safety planning**

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**Assessing Risk**

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**More Dangerous Times**

- Separation
- Protective order served/criminal arrest
- Offender’s loss of job, other life events
- Multiple incidents in a short period of time – increase in quantity of contacts as well as escalation in behaviors

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**More Dangerous Offenders**

- History of substance abuse
- History of mental illness (narcissistic personality disorders—you hurt me bad, you will fix it)
- History of violence, esp. towards victim
- Threats of murder/murder-suicide
**More Dangerous Offenders**

- Actual pursuit
- Possession and/or fascination with weapons
- Vandalism, arson
- Tendency towards emotional outbursts and rage
- History of violating POs

**Previous Abuse as Indicator**

- Previous abuse indicates higher lethality risk
- Previous abuse arrest indicates higher lethality risk
- Lack of previous arrest does not indicate reduced risk!


**Escalation of Threats**

- Text messages
- Threatening call
- Showed up at work
- Dead roses
- Parked across street all night
- Tires slashed

**What Does Threat Assessment Tell Us?**

- Which individuals show signs that demonstrate they pose a risk at a particular point in time
  - All other individuals are of “unknown risk”.
    - We can never use risk assessment to determine that a person is not a risk!
  - Threat level NEVER fixed—can change over time
    - Constant assessment of threat is a MUST

**Threat Assessment Tools**

- Among others...
  - Spousal Risk Assessment Guide (SARA)
  - Violence Risk Assessment Guide (VRAG)
  - Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R)
  - The Classification of Violence Risk (COVR)
  - Danger Assessment - dangerassessment.org
  - Mosaic - mosaicmethod.com
Lethality Assessment Project

- Louisville Metro Police Dept. DV Lethality Screen for First Responders

Danger Assessment App

- One Love Lite Danger Assessment
- Created by One Love Foundation
- Free download
- Includes:
  - risk assessment questionnaire
  - resource listing
  - safety plan for college students

www.dangerassessment.org
Subjective Threat Assessment

Victim-Centered Approach (Subjective)
- Victim’s perception of risk is most important
- Scale of fear
  - Explanation
  - Consider minimization
- History of violence
  - Triggers
  - Time patterns in prior abuse?

Documentation is Key

Victim Logs
- Police Reports
- Evidence Preservation

Stopastalker App

STALKING INCIDENT LOG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description of Incident</th>
<th>Location of Incident</th>
<th>Witness Name(s)</th>
<th>Police Called</th>
<th>Officer Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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Advocacy

Allow victims to tell their story
- Telling the story allows survivor to remember more details and put all the pieces in place
- Telling the story facilitates the transition from traumatic memory to day-to-day memory

Provide validation
- Validation is the process by which service providers teach victims that most reactions to traumatic events are normal
- Validation should reinforce that most reactions of anger, fear, frustration, guilt, and grief are natural and common

Advocacy & Support

- Prediction & Preparation
  - Victims need information
    - Reporting
    - Justice process
      - Criminal
      - Civil
  - Can help the victim regain control
- Support services and counseling
- Assistance with Safety Planning

Safety Planning

What Is Safety Planning?

An individualized plan that identifies specific strategies and interventions that may increase a survivor’s safety.

- Strategies should:
  - Respond to the stalking
  - Meet victim’s basic human needs
  - Adapt to the victim’s broader life plan

Safety Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identify the Problem</th>
<th>Are there things that increase the risk?</th>
<th>Who else is affected?</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Safety Strategies (What will help?)</th>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Who can help?</th>
<th>How?</th>
<th>What do they need to help?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</table>

Risk Reduction
- Practical tips for safety

Resources
- Services
- Individuals

Empowerment
- Coping Skills
- Autonomy
Identify the Problem | Are there things that increase the risk? | Who else is affected?
--- | --- | ---
Offender shows up at work | Works at night | other employees, employer
Offender knows where I live | roommate, neighbors | 
Home is not secure | bad locks, poor lighting | roommate
Offender knows my family | family |

What will help?
- Ask employer to increase safety measures
- Change locks
- Ask neighbors to keep an eye out
- Get police to scene quickly

What can help? | How? | What do they need to help me?
--- | --- | ---
employer | Keep offender off premises; enhance security | copy of protective order, photo
police | Arrest offender | copy of protective order, photo
neighbors | Inform me/call police when offender shows up | photo
roommate | Inform me/call police when offender shows up | copy of protective order, photo

Issues to Discuss with Victim
- How to balance freedom and safety
- Next steps in case something does happen
- How often to reassess the safety plan
- Risk reduction versus absolute safety

Resources for Victims
- Are You Being Stalked? (Brochure for Victims)
- Stalking Questions and Answers
- Stalking Incident Behavior Log
- Safety Plan Guidelines
- Cyberstalking: Dangers on the Information Superhighway
- Ten Things You Should Know About Stalking

www.victims-of-crime.org/src

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