



Stalking: Dynamics, Risks, Safety Strategies

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Presented by:

Brooke Ophardt

Training and Prevention Specialist

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

bophardt@dcadv.org

Sue Ryan

Executive Director

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

sryan@dcadv.org

Overview

Understanding stalking: definition, dynamics, risks

Intersection of stalking and intimate partner violence

How technology is used

Safety strategies for responding to stalking

Resources

Defining Stalking

Behavioral

Delaware criminal statute

Stalking



STALKER

A course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:

- A. fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or
- B. suffer substantial emotional distress



**Context is
critical!**

I know your
Schedule. You
do have time
for me.

Context

Something may be frightening for the victim but not to you

Stalking behaviors often have specific meaning that is only understood between offender & victim

What Does This Mean to You?



Context

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!



**11 Del. C. §
1312.**

Stalking.

(a) A person is guilty of stalking when the person knowingly engages in a course of conduct directed at a specific person and that conduct would cause a reasonable person to:

(1) Fear physical injury to himself or herself or that of another person; or

(2) Suffer other significant mental anguish or distress that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.

Stalking Dynamics

18 to 24-year olds experience the highest rates of stalking

Women are more likely to experience stalking

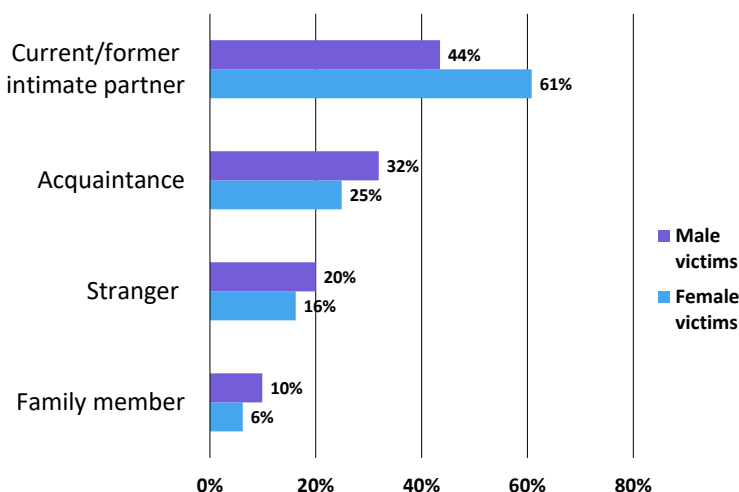
Most offenders are male

LGBTQ+ community higher rates vs. hetero-relationships

The majority of victims know the offender

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report (2011)

Victim & Offender Relationship



The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2011



What are some of the tactics that stalkers use?



Stalker Tactics



Approached victim/showed up places where victim was.

Made unwanted telephone calls & hang-ups

Left unwanted text or voice messages

Watched, followed, or spied on victim

Sneaked into victim's car/ home; did things to scare

Left victim unwanted cards, letters, flowers, or presents

Left strange or threatening items

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2011

My ex keeps showing up at places I go. I have no idea how he/she knows where I am at all the time...

The non-custodial parent was served the protection order last week and two days later repeatedly drove past the victim's house...

The kids have a new friend on Facebook who always asks about what is happening at home or where I am going...

My dad/mom gave me this really awesome new cell phone/computer game/watch...

Use of Technology to Stalk

Phones – calls, messages, texts, pics, video

Cameras

Global Positioning Systems (GPS)

Computers

Social networking sites

Email & IM

Spyware

Computer

Cell phone

Assistive technologies

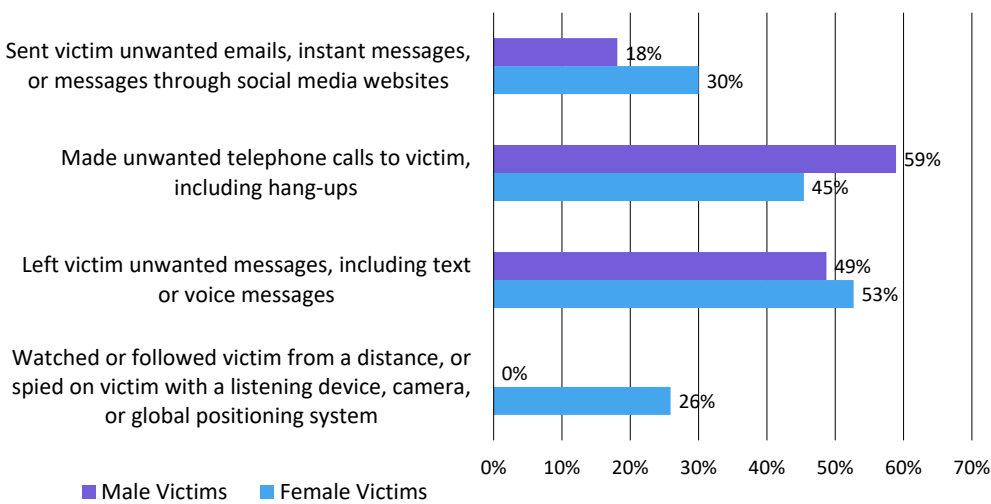




What are some of the ways that technology can be used to stalk someone?



Use of Technology to Stalk



The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) 2011

Calls, texts, photos, video
Cell phone settings can be manipulated to provide access to the victim
Listening device
GPS tracking



Cell Phones

Listen to calls

View contact lists

Read text messages

Activate speaker

Locate

Cell Phone Monitoring

Learn the truth about what they do!



Cell Phone Spyware

Computer Spyware

Computer can be infected with spyware via an email attachment

Spyware gives stalker complete control over computer

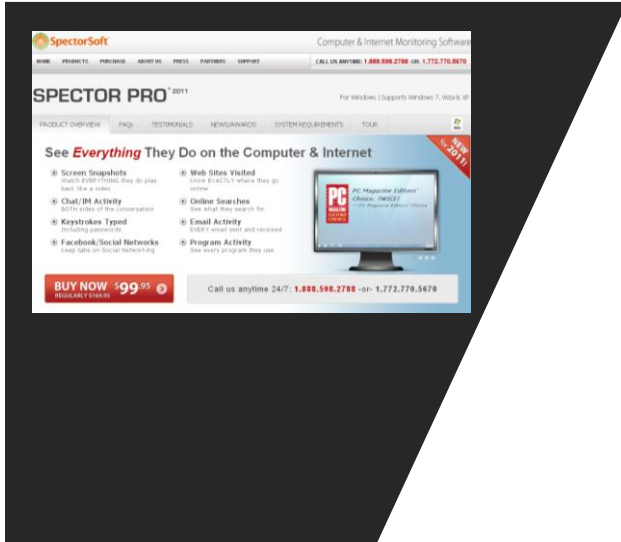
Read / intercept emails

See website visited

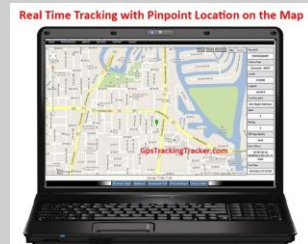
Erase data

Turn computer on/off

Difficult to detect



GPS Devices & Location Tracking



GPS & Locating Devices

Devices are small and can be easily hidden

Device may be hidden in gift to child

Active & Passive

Active - real-time tracking

Passive - stalker must retrieve device to download info

Provide mapping and satellite views

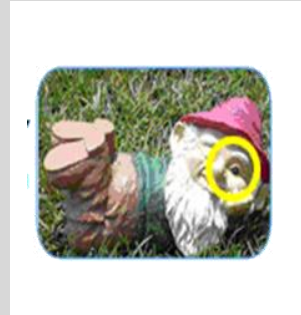
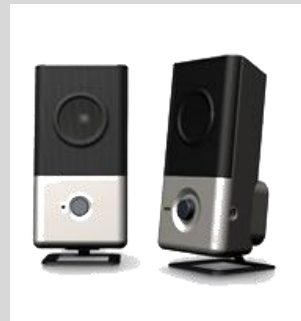


Cameras are everywhere!

Laptop webcams can be hacked via spyware

Cameras can be disguised in everyday objects

Victim of stalking can work with law enforcement to get video evidence of stalker driving by house, leaving gifts, etc.



Proxy Stalking & Video Monitoring



Social Networking Sites

How stalkers can exploit SNS:

Gather information on the victim

Location

Plans

Communicate

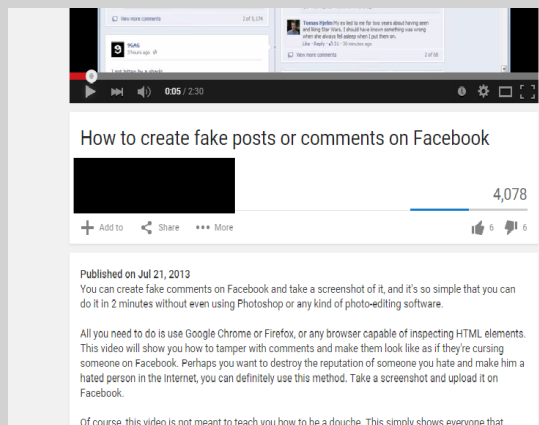
Post on victim's page

Post about the victim on their own or other's pages

Create fake sites

Fake Social Media Posts

This video shows you how to tamper with comments on Facebook....Perhaps you want to destroy the reputation of someone you hate or make them look like a hated person...



Intimate Partner Stalkers

Increased Risk for Victims

More likely to physically approach victim

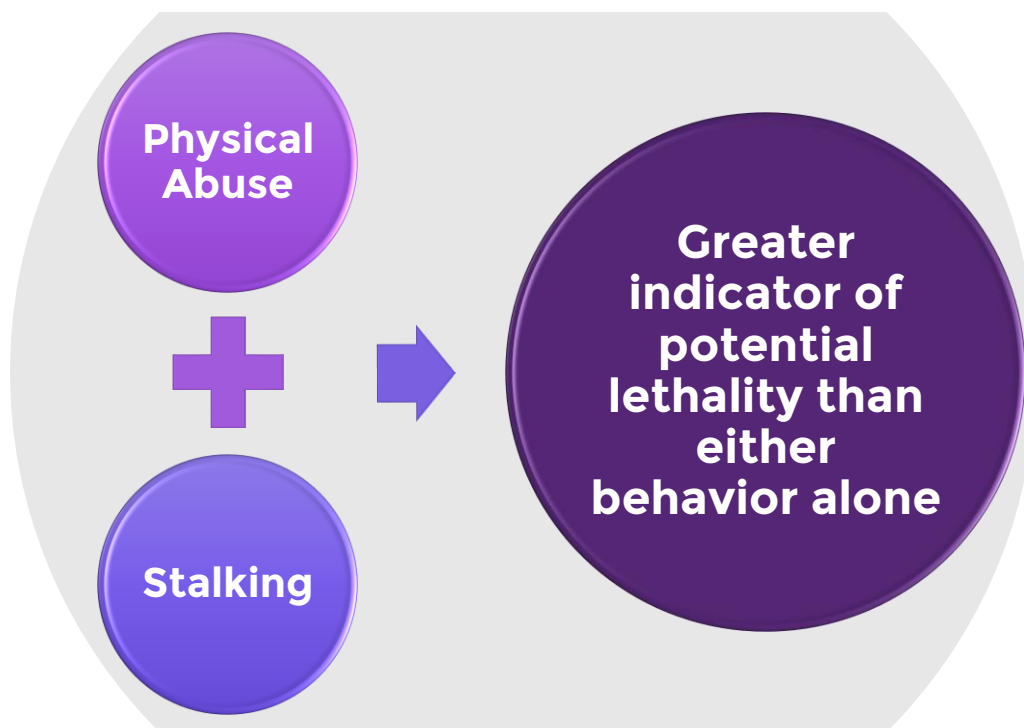
More insulting, interfering and threatening

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)



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



More Dangerous Times



More Dangerous Offenders

- History of substance abuse
- Possession and/or fascination with weapons
- History of violence, esp. towards victim
- Threats of murder/murder-suicide



More Dangerous Offenders

History of mental illness

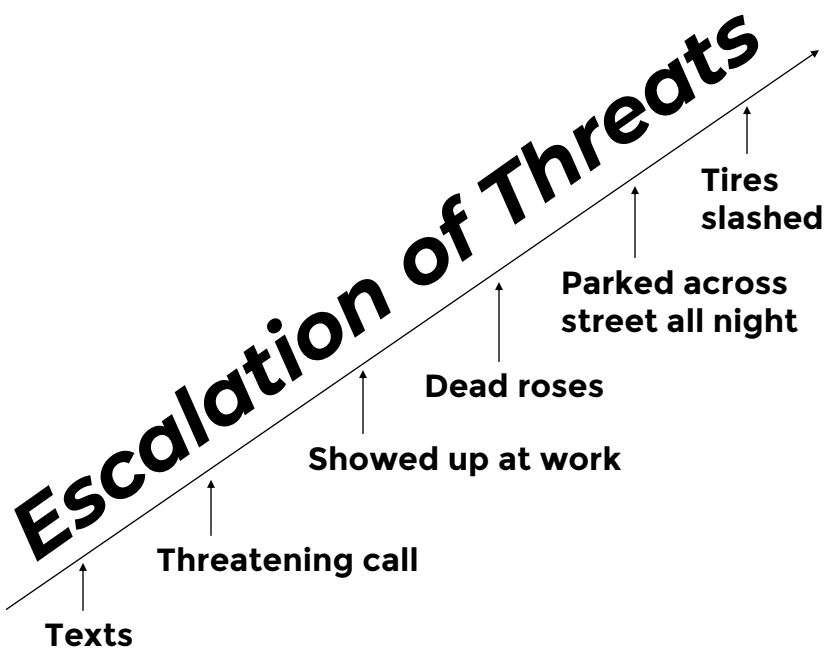
Narcissistic personality disorders (you hurt me bad, you will fix it)

Actual pursuit

Vandalism, arson

Tendency towards emotional outbursts and rage

History of violating POs



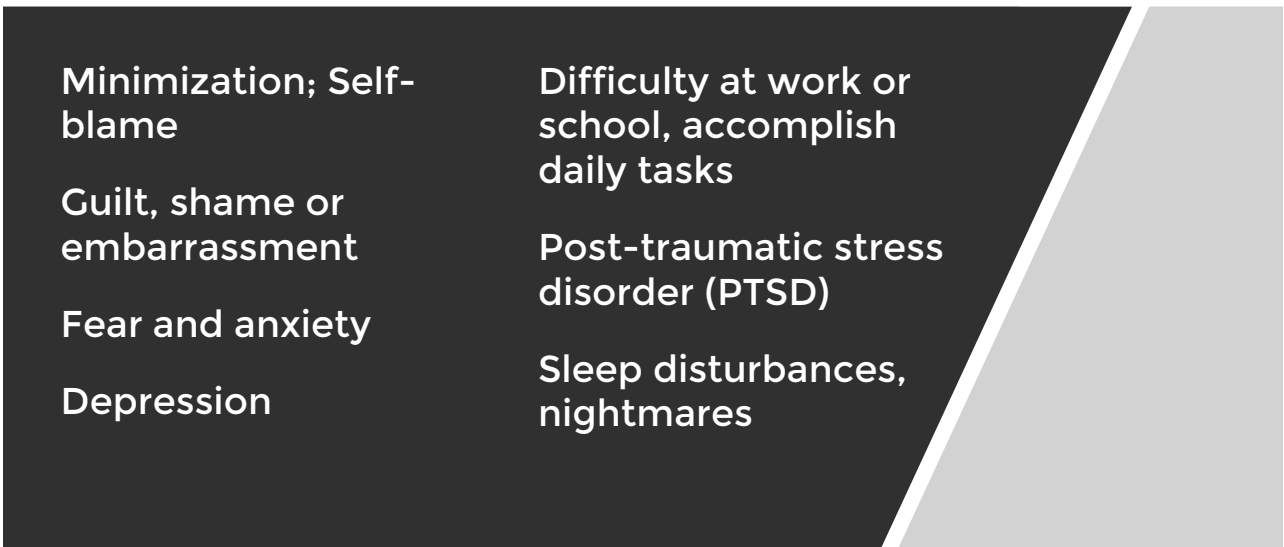


What do you think the effects of stalking are on a victim?

What do you think stalking victims are most afraid of?



Impact on Victims



Minimization; Self-blame	Difficulty at work or school, accomplish daily tasks
Guilt, shame or embarrassment	Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
Fear and anxiety	Sleep disturbances, nightmares
Depression	

Impact on Victims

Emotional numbness

Feeling suicidal

Flashbacks

Fatigue

Isolation/disconnection
from other people

Fluctuations in weight

Difficulties with
concentration
or attention

Self-medication with
alcohol/drugs

Feeling on guard most of
the time - hypervigilance

Victim Narrative

Be prepared for a confusing recounting of incidents
out of order
mixed details

The victim has most likely been experiencing a lot of anxiety and stress and will tell you events in the order that she/he thinks of them based on the emotion or stress each event triggers

Demonstrating Distress or Fear

Verbalize/communicate

- "I am afraid"
- "They are creeping me out"
- "I can't seep/eat/concentrate"

Change in behavior

- Changed routes to/from work
- Changing work schedule, phone number, address
- Skipping work
- Staying at a friend's

If they are reporting it...

Reporting to Law Enforcement

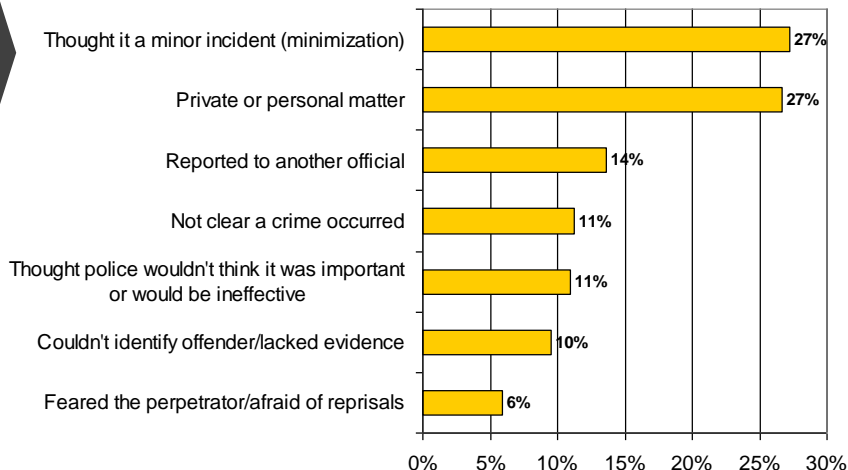
37% of male stalking victims / survivors

41% of female stalking victims / survivors



Stalking Victimization in the United States, BJS (2009)

Reasons For Not Reporting



Stalking Victimization in the United States, BJS (2009)



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



Klein et al., (2009). A Statewide Study of Stalking and Its Criminal Justice Response.

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

Responding to Stalking

Advise disengagement

- Challenges
- Contact as a safety strategy

Documentation

Advocacy & Support Services

First Response

Any time a victim reports any type of harassing behavior:

- Consider the possibility of a stalking case
- Determine whether this is an isolated incident or repeated conduct

Safety Tools

Offender picture or flyer

- Alert employer, neighbors, etc.

Safety accommodations

- Work
- School
- Housing



Workplace Stalking

The stalker wants to control the victim

The victim's job may represent independence

The victim is not under the offender's immediate control while at work

Work hours, parking and location are predictable

The offender knows where and when the victim can be found

Safety Options at Work

Offender picture or flyer

Alert employer, coworkers, security, etc.

Secure Entrances

Have calls screened, transfer harassing calls to security and remove employee's name and number from automated phone directories

Safety Options at Work

Relocate employee's workspace to a secure area

Rotate work schedule, workplace and assignments

Review safety of parking arrangements and have building security escort employee to car

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



Technology Safety

Educate	Educate victims about the use of technology to stalk
Discuss	Discuss online presence, account security, privacy settings
Discuss	Discuss how to engage with technology more safely
Advise	Is telling victims to stop using technology realistic or advisable?

Technology Documentation

Document communications

Texts, photos, videos, audio

Emails

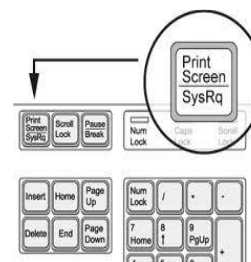
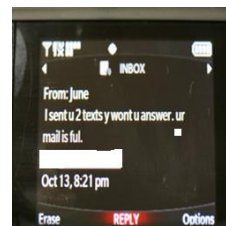
Social networking posts

Snipping tool Programs>accessories>snipping tool

Capture and save screen shots

“print screen” button (prt sc)

Detailed copies of cellphone bills



Advocacy

Listen to their story

- Allows the survivor to remember more details and put all the pieces in place
- Facilitates the transition from traumatic memory to day-to-day memory

Provide validation

- Process by which we teach victims that many reactions to traumatic events are normal
- 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

Campus

Military

Can help the victim regain control

Assistance with Safety Planning

24-hour DV Hotlines



New Castle County

CHILD, Inc.

302-762-6110



Kent/Sussex Counties

Northern Kent

302-678-3886

Southern Kent & Sussex

302-422-8058

Abriendo Puertas (Español)

302-745-9874

Information/Referrals (regular business hours)

DE Coalition Against DV

302-658-2958

DV Coordinating Council

302-255-0405



NNEDV SafetyNet Project

www.nnedv.org

Technology Safety Planning

Technology Tip Sheets

Online safety and privacy planning; Facebook Privacy & Safety Guide

Location Safety

Cell Phone Safety

Understanding Spyware

Relocation & Confidentiality Project



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Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center (SPARC)

Stalking engenders fear and emotional distress in those who are targeted. Whether perpetrated by a stranger, an acquaintance, or a current or former intimate partner, stalking all too frequently ends in tragedy. Although the individual acts of the offender are often minimized by the victim and first responders, stalking behavior is a recognized lethality factor, increasing the risk of homicide for both current and former intimate partners who are victimized.

It is estimated that 7.5 million individuals experience stalking per year. Many of these crimes go undetected, unreported, or uncharged because victims and first responders fail to recognize the conduct for what it is or because criminal justice professionals lack the specialized knowledge and tools required to secure the necessary evidence-particularly in cases where offenders use technology to stalk. Increased awareness, more effective interventions, and improved coordination between law enforcement, victim advocates, prosecutors, and other allied professionals will raise community consciousness, increase reporting, hold more offenders accountable, and keep victims and communities

Contact:
Jennifer Landhuis, SPARC Director,
jlandhuis@aequitasresource.org



Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

302-658-2958

www.dcadv.org

For additional training or resource needs, contact:

Training, Outreach, and Prevention Team

training@dcadv.org