

STALKING & INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE: FACT SHEET

There is a real and frighteningly significant connection between stalking and intimate partner violence. In fact, intimate partner stalking is the largest category of all stalking cases^{ABC}. Stalking often co-occurs with intimate partner violence and can be an indicator of other forms of violence. Many abusers use stalking to intimidate and control their victims.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The majority of stalking victims are stalked by someone they know. Many victims are stalked by a current or former intimate partner, or by an acquaintance^D.
- 74% of those stalked by a former intimate partner reported violence and/or coercive control during the relationship^E.
- The average length of partner stalking is approximately 2.2 years (which is longer than the average of just over one year for non-intimate partner cases)^F.
- 81% of women who were stalked by a current or former husband or cohabitating partner were also physically assaulted by that partner^G.
- 31% of women stalked by an intimate partner were also sexually assaulted^H.
- 46% of victims experienced one or more violent incidents by their stalker^I.
- 57% of stalking victims were stalked during the relationship^J.

STALKING & SEPARATION

Stalking does not just occur when a person leaves the relationship. Victims are stalked while still in the relationship with a controlling partner, making separation very difficult. Due to many safety concerns, stalking victims find that they will sometimes need to stay with the controlling, stalking partner to prevent further harm. Stalking after a separation may increase the risk of violence^{KLM}. Victims stalked by violent partners report more separation attempts than partner violence victims who were not stalked^N.

STALKING & FEMICIDE

There is also a significant connection between stalking and intimate partner homicide. Several studies, including the one^O from which

the statistics below are reported, have found that stalking is an indicator or precursor behavior to intimate partner homicide.

- 76% of intimate partner femicide victims have been stalked by their intimate partner.
- 67% had been physically abused by their intimate partner.
- 89% of femicide victims who had been physically assaulted had also been stalked in the 12 months before their murder.
- 79% of abused femicide victims reported being stalked during the same period that they were abused.
- 54% of femicide victims reported stalking to police before they were killed by their stalkers.

TIME OF GREATEST RISK FOR VIOLENCE

Any stalking case can escalate into violence. The risk of violence is heightened when the stalker^P:

- Issues direct threats of violence;
- Expresses jealousy of the victim's relationships with others during the relationship; and
- Uses illegal drugs

INTIMATE PARTNER STALKING OFFENDERS

As compared to non-intimate partner stalkers, intimate partner stalkers are **more likely to**:

- Have criminal records and abuse drugs and/or alcohol^Q.
- Be threatening to their victims and more likely to reoffend^R.
- Follow through on their threats of violence^S. For instance, one study found that 71% of the partner stalking victims who were threatened were actually assaulted compared to 33% of the non-intimate partner stalking victims who were threatened^T.
- Assault their victims^U.
- Threaten with, or actually use weapons on their victims^V.
- Assault third parties^W.
- Reoffend after a court intervention and to reoffend more quickly^X.
- Contact and approach their victims more frequently^Y.
- Be insulting and interfering/intrusive in the victim's life^Z.
- Use the widest range of stalking tactics^{AA}.
- Escalate in frequency and intensity of pursuit more often^{BB}.

- ^A Mohandie, K., Meloy, J., McGowan, M., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON typology of stalking: Reliability and validity based upon a large sample of north American stalkers. *Journal of Forensic Science*, 51, 1, 147-155.
- ^B Roberts, A., & Dziegielewski, S. (2006). Changing stalking patterns and prosecutorial decisions: Bridging the present to future. *Victims and Offenders*, 1, 47-60.
- ^C Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (1998). *Stalking in America: Findings from the national violence against women survey* (NCJ# 169592). Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- ^D Source: Catalano, S., Smith, E., Snyder, H. & Rand, M. (2009). *Bureau of Justice Statistics selected findings: Female victims of violence*. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/fvv.pdf>.
- ^E Brewster, M. (2003). Power and control dynamics in pre-stalking and stalking situations. *Journal of Family Violence*, 18, 4, 207-217.
- ^F Ibid.
- ^G Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (1998). *Stalking in America: Findings from the national violence against women survey* (NCJ# 169592). Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- ^H Ibid
- ^I Ibid
- ^J Ibid
- ^K Logan, T., Walker, R., Jordan, C., & Campbell, J. (2004). An integrative review of separation and victimization among women: Consequences & Implications. *Violence, Trauma, & Abuse*, 5, 2, 143-193.
- ^L Logan, T., Walker, R., Shannon, L., & Cole, J. (2008). Factors associated with separation and ongoing violence among women with civil protective orders. *Journal of Family Violence*, 23, 377-385.
- ^M Mechanic, M., Uhlmansiek, M., Weaver, T. & Resick, P. (2000). The impact of severe stalking experienced by acutely battered women: An examination of violence, psychological symptoms and strategic responding. *Violence and Victims*, 15, 4, 443-458.
- ^N Logan, T., Shannon, L., & Cole, J. (2007). Stalking victimization in the context of intimate partner violence. *Violence and Victims*, 22, 6, 669-683.
- ^O Judith McFarlane et al., "Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide," *Homicide Studies* 3, no. 4 (1999).
- ^P Women's Experience of Violence During Stalking by Former Romantic Partner, 2005
- ^Q Mohandie, K., Meloy, J., McGowan, M., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON typology of stalking: Reliability and validity based upon a large sample of north American stalkers. *Journal of Forensic Science*, 51, 1, 147-155.
- ^R Palarea, R., Zona, M., Lane, J. & Langhinrichsen-Rohling, J. (1999). The dangerous nature of intimate relationship stalking: Threats, violence and associated risk factors. *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*, 17, 269-283.
- ^S Ibid
- ^T Thomas, S., Purcell, R., Pathé, M., & Mullen, P. (2008). Harm associated with stalking victimization. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, 42, 800-806.
- ^U James, D. & Farnham, F. (2003). Stalking and serious violence. *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, 31, 432-439.
- ^V Mohandie, K., Meloy, J., McGowan, M., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON typology of stalking: Reliability and validity based upon a large sample of north American stalkers. *Journal of Forensic Science*, 51, 1, 147-155.
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