



DISCLAIMER: Persons depicted are models and are used for illustrative purposes only.

# Stalking and Older Adults: An Overview

Stalking Prevention, Awareness & Resource Center (SPARC)  
and National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)



January 12, 2023

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## Disclaimer

This project was supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-21-GK-02196-MUMU awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice.

The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

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## Presenter Information

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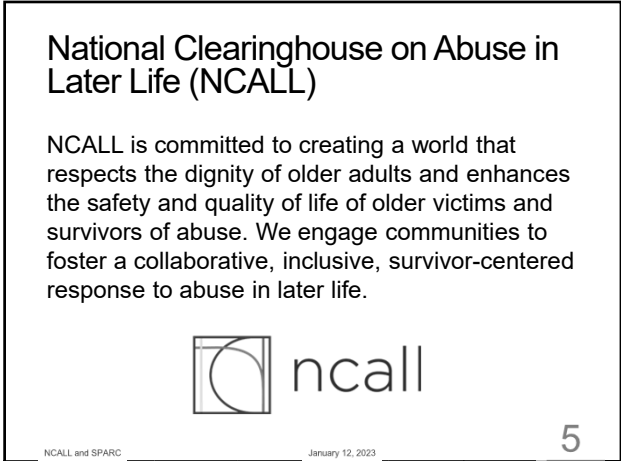
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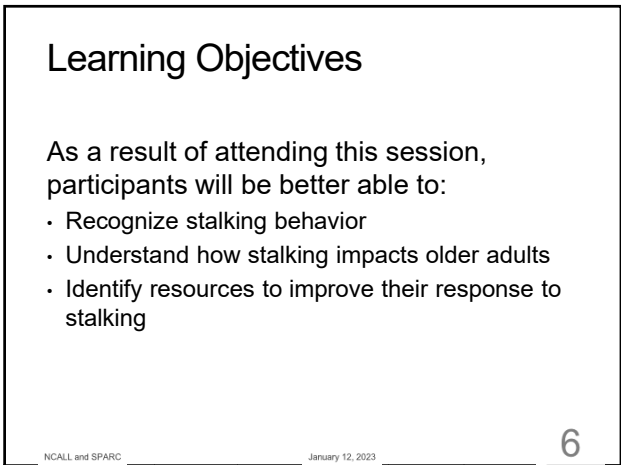
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**Overview**

- Elder Abuse: An Overview
- Define stalking
  - Prevalence
  - Dynamics
- Implications
- Resources

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**Understanding Elder Abuse**

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**The Elder Justice Roadmap  
Definition of Elder Abuse**

Elder abuse is:

- physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, as well as neglect, abandonment, and financial exploitation of an older person by another person or entity,
- that occurs in any setting (e.g., home, community, or facility),
- either in a relationship where there is an expectation of trust and/or when an older person is targeted based on age or disability.

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### Prevalence of Elder Abuse



**1 in 10** community-residing older adults reported experiencing elder abuse in the past year.

Aderno, R., Hernandez, M. A., Amstadter, A. B., Resnick, H. S., Steve, K., Muzzy, W., & Kilpatrick, D. J. (2010). The National Elder Mistreatment Study. *American Journal of Public Health*.

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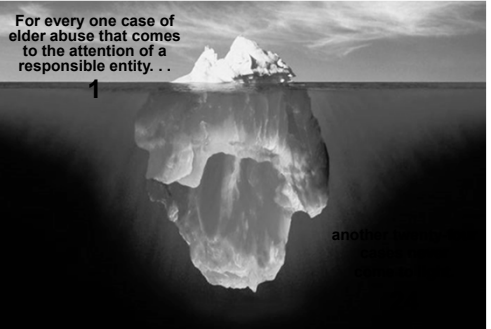
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### Elder Abuse: Under the Radar



For every one case of elder abuse that comes to the attention of a responsible entity. . .

Source: Lachs et al., Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc. (2011) *Under the Radar: New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study*. Slide courtesy of Life Long Justice.

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### A Survivor's Story: Velva



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**Poll:** That you are aware of, have you ever worked with an older adult who was experiencing stalking?

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**Stalking: Definition & Dynamics**

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**STALKING IS:**

 **CRIMINAL**

 **TRAUMATIC**

 **DANGEROUS**

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## CRIMINAL

- FEDERAL LEVEL
- ALL 50 STATES, D.C., & U.S. TERRITORIES
- TRIBAL CODES
- UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE

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## TRAUMATIC

**Many stalking victims:**

- \* **Experience mental health issues.**
- \* **Lose time from work.**  
1 in 8 employed stalking victims lose time from work.
- \* **Relocate.** 1 in 7 stalking victims move.

Baum, K., Catalano, S., Rand, M. (2009). *Stalking Victimization in the United States*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.  
Blauw, E., Arensman, E., Winkel, F.W., Freeve, A., & Sheridan, L. (2002). The Toll of Stalking. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 17(1): 50-63.

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## DANGEROUS

- Stalking often co-occurs with physical assault and sexual violence, including rape.
- **20%** of stalkers use **weapons** to threaten or harm victims.
- **76% of intimate partner femicides** included stalking in the year prior.

McFarlane, J., Campbell, J.C., Wilt, S., Ulrich, Y., & Xu, X. (1999.) Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide. *Homicide Studies* 3 (4), 300-316.  
Mohandie, K., Meloy, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based up on a Large Sample of North American Stalkers. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 51 (1), 147-155.

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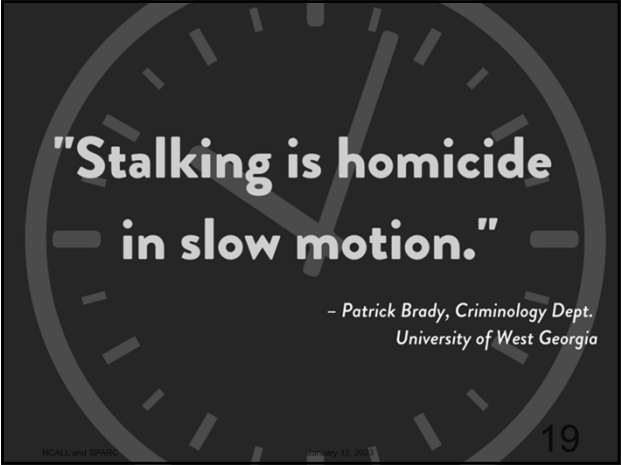
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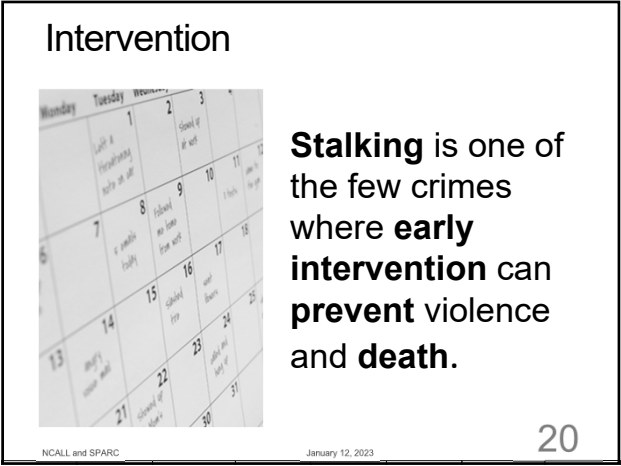
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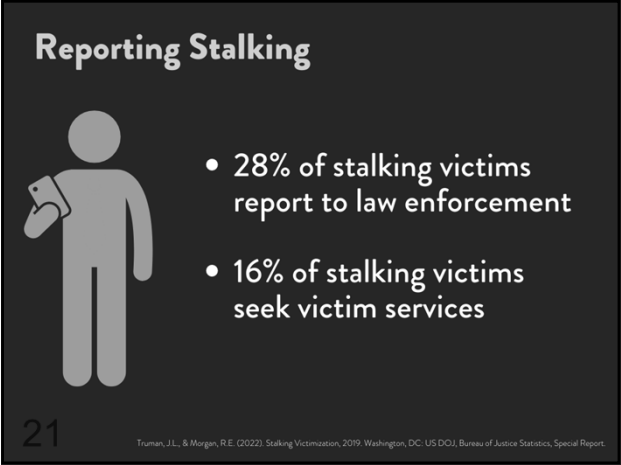
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### Reporting Rates



- Why might older victims be hesitant to report?
- What barriers might they face?

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### Why Don't Stalking Victims Report to Police?

- 42% Not important enough to report
- 40% Dealt with it another way
- 33% Police couldn't do anything
- 19% Police wouldn't help
- 16% Other/Unknown Reason
- 8% Feared offender



23 Truman, J.L., & Morgan, R.E. (2022). Stalking Victimization, 2019. Washington, DC: US DOJ, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report.

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### Accessing Victim Services



- About 16% of all stalking victims sought victim services.
- Nearly 1 in 4 victims who sought victim services did not receive any.

24 Truman, J.L., & Morgan, R.E. (2022). Stalking Victimization, 2019. Washington, DC: US DOJ, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report.

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**Defining Stalking** 

 **BEHAVIORAL**

 **LEGAL/STATUTORY**

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**Poll: Is this Stalking?**

1. A staff member hides a camera in the women's locker room to watch the women undress. It goes undiscovered for months.
2. An ex-partner repeatedly spreads vicious rumors about their former partner on social media.
3. A supervisor regularly asks her employee personal questions, mocks him in meetings, sends e-mails at odd hours, and is verbally abusive when he doesn't respond right away.

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**27**

 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.

**SPARC**

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A pattern of behavior...

- Not a single incident or "one off" event
- Called a "course of conduct" in most statutes



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...directed at a specific person...



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...that would cause a reasonable person to feel **FEAR** for their safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.



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Context is c 31



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**CONTEXT IS CRITICAL**  
**in stalking cases.**

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Victim Reaction: Is it Fear?



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### Document Evidence of Accommodations

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Changes to accounts, numbers, and settings

Finances spent on safety devices or accommodations

Increased Security/Privacy Measures

Financial impacts, including employment consequences, identity theft, and cost of damaged property

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### Self-Protective Actions Taken

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63% Blocked unwanted calls/messages/other

27% Changed personal information

24% Changed day-to-day activities

23% Self-defensive action/security measure

9% Applied for a restraining/protective/no-contact order

**78% of stalking victims take some kind of protective action**

Truman, J.L., & Morgan, R.E. (2022). Stalking Victimization, 2019. Washington, DC: US DOJ, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report. NCALL and SPARC January 12, 2023

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### Stalking Prevalence

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NEARLY 1 in 3 women & NEARLY 1 in 6 men

experience stalking in their lifetimes.

Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., & Kresnow, M. (2022). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2016/2017 Report on Stalking. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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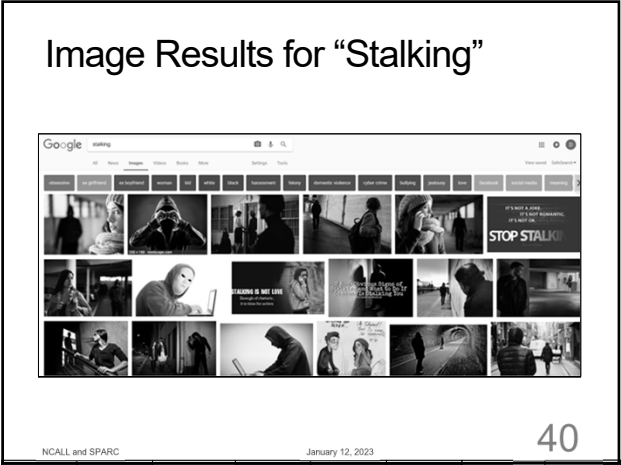
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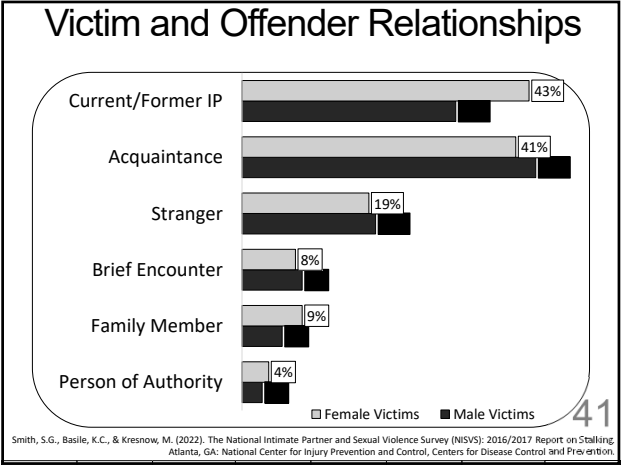
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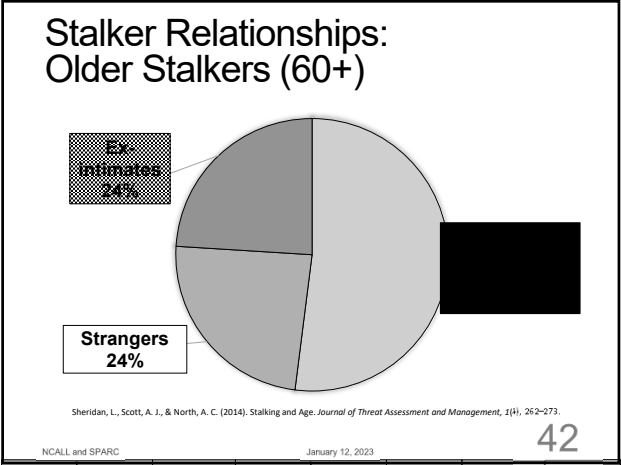
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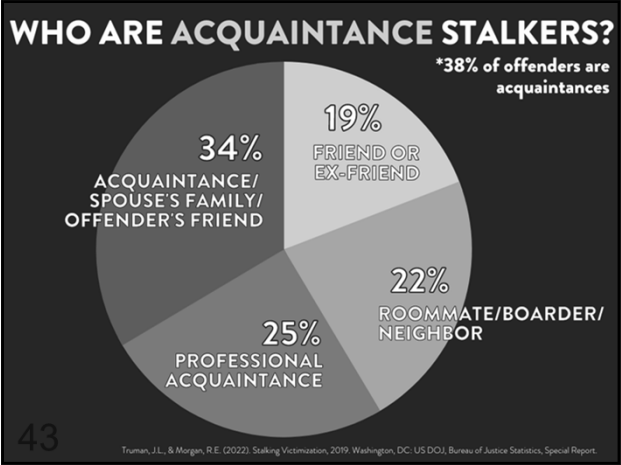
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NEWS • CRIME & POLICE

**She got a ride from an elderly St. Paul man, then stalked him for more, charges say**

By SARAH HORNBER | s.hornber@pioneerpress.com | Pioneer Press  
\*UPDATED: December 6, 2017 at 1:21 pm (UPDATED: December 7, 2017 at 11:19 am)

**Man steals more than \$4,000 from elderly victim with 'almost daily' loan requests, police say**  
TOMMY REED | tommyr@bleu.net | Oct 1, 2018

**Man pleads guilty to stalking, killing estranged wife**  
March 30, 2021

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — An Indiana man was convicted Tuesday of stalking his estranged wife to Florida, shooting her and burying her body in Tennessee.

Jarvis Wayne Madison, 64, of New Albany, Indiana, pleaded guilty in Orlando federal court to one count of interstate stalking resulting in death, according to court records. He faces life in prison at his June 14 sentencing.

**Rock Hill woman withheld meds, stalked and abused vulnerable adult, SC agents say**  
BY JACQUELYNNE HAYES | jhayes@charlotteobserver.com  
April 02, 2019 03:52 PM  
Updated: April 02, 2019 12:40 PM

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**Stalking Behaviors**

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I Know it Sounds Crazy But... 46

**“I know it sounds crazy, but...”**

**SPARC**

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**SLII Framework** 47

Logan, T.K. & Walker, R. (2017). Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning, Trauma, Violence and Abuse 18(2), 200-222

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**SURVEILLANCE**

- Follow
- Watch
- Wait
- Show up
- Tracking software
- Obtain information about victim
- Proxy stalking

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**LIFE INVASION** 

- Unwanted contact at home, work, etc.
- Showing up
- Phone calls
- Property invasion
- Public humiliation
- Harass friends/family

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**INTIMIDATION** 

- Threats
- Property damage
- Symbolic violence
- Forced confrontations
- Threaten or actually harm self
- Threats to victim about harming others

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 **INTERFERENCE**  
THROUGH SABOTAGE OR ATTACK

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

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### Screening for Stalking 52

Has the Offender...

- been tracking, following, or monitoring Victim in any way? 
- repeatedly invaded Victim's life/privacy by initiating unwanted contact with Victim? 
- significantly and directly interfered with Victim's life?
  - >physically/sexually assaulted Victim during course of conduct?
  - >forcibly kept Victim from leaving, held against will, caused serious accident, assaulted others, or seriously attacked Victim? 
- more than one time, intimidated or scared Victim through threats, property damage, threatening or actual harming of pets, or other means? 

Logan, T.K. & Walker, R. (2017). Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning. Trauma, Violence and Abuse 18(2), 200-222.

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### Screening for Stalking 53

If YES to any of the previous, during the actions mentioned above...

- Did these actions make Victim afraid or concerned for safety or safety of children, family, and/or coworkers?
- Did Victim make significant life changes for safety reason because of these actions? (change day-to-day routines, spend money on home safety, took time off work?)
- Did these actions make Victim afraid or concerned about significant financial or social impact? (Loss of job, loss of housing, financial harm?)

**NOT AT ALL? SOMEWHAT? EXTREMELY?**

Logan, T.K. & Walker, R. (2017). Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning. Trauma, Violence and Abuse 18(2), 200-222.

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**Stalking and Harassment Assessment and Risk Profile (SHARP)**

CoerciveControl.org

↓  
Narrative Report & Risk Profile

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Safety Planning Suggestions

**SPARC**

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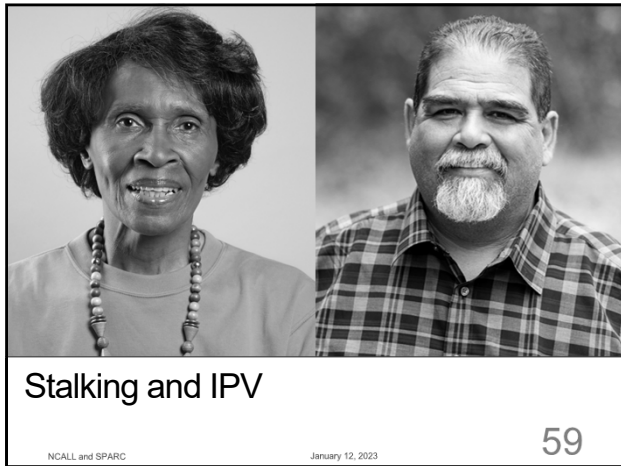
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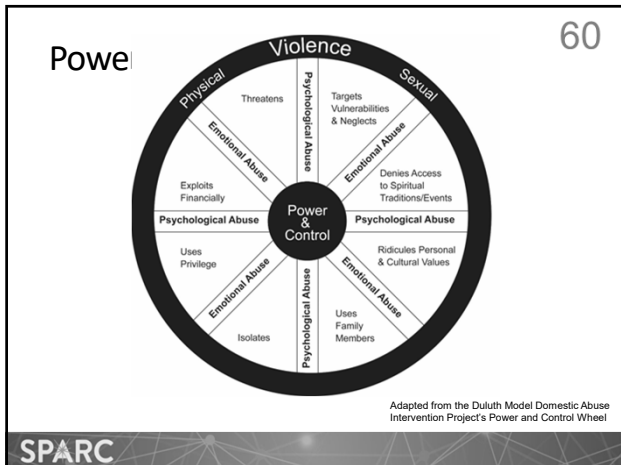
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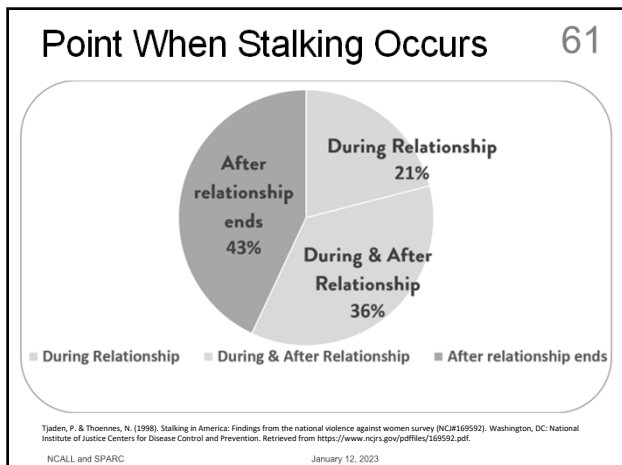
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### Intimate partner stalkers are more likely to:

- physically approach the victim
- be interfering, insulting, & threatening
- use weapons
- escalate behaviors quickly
- re-offend

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Mohandie, K., Meloy, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers. Journal of Forensic Sciences, 51 (1), 147-155.

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### Study of Women with Protective Orders

Women who were **abused and stalked** experienced **significantly higher rates** of the following than women who were abused but not stalked:

- Verbal abuse, degradation, jealousy and control
- Serious threats
- Moderate and severe physical violence
- Sexual violence and sexual assault
- Threats to kill and threats with a weapon
- Being beat up, attacks with a weapon and injury

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Logan, T.K., Shannon, L., & Cole, J. (2007). Stalking Victimization in the Context of Intimate Partner Violence. Violence Vict. 22 (4), 669-683

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### Leaving an IP Stalking Relationship

Experiencing intimate partner stalking made victims more likely to want to leave the relationship than other factors -- including psychological aggression and past injury.

Victims of intimate partner stalking have more separation attempts than victims of IPV alone.

Strohine, M.S., & Robinson, A. L. (2003). The decision to end abusive relationships: The role of offender characteristics. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 30(1), 97-117.

Sheridan, L. & Davies, G.M. (2006). Violence and the Prior Victim-Stalker Relationship. *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health* 11(2): 102-116.

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### Stalking is a Lethality Risk 65

Top 10 risk factors for intimate partner homicide	Risk for male perpetrated & female IPH victimization
1) Direct access to guns	11-fold increase in risk of IPH
2) Threatened victim with a weapon	7-fold increase in risk
3) Non-fatal strangulation	7-fold increase in risk
4) Perpetrated rape/forced sex	5-fold increase in risk
5) Controlling behaviors	6-fold increase in risk
6) Threatened to harm the victim	4-fold increase in risk
7) Abused victim while pregnant	4-fold increase in risk
8) Perpetrated stalking	3-fold increase in risk of IPH
9) Jealousy	2-fold increase in risk
10) Substance abuse	2-fold increase in risk

Spencer, C.M. & Smith, S.M. (2018). Risk Factors for Male Perpetration and Female Victimization of Intimate Partner Homicide: A Meta-Analysis. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* 21(3): 527-540.

**SPARC**

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### Domestic Violence Crimes Study

- 1785 cases of domestic violence
- 298 involve stalking (1 in 6)

**How many cases were charged as stalking?**

Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (2001). Stalking: Its Role in Serious Domestic Violence Cases. Executive Summary. Center for Policy Research. Denver, CO. Retrieved from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/187546.pdf>.

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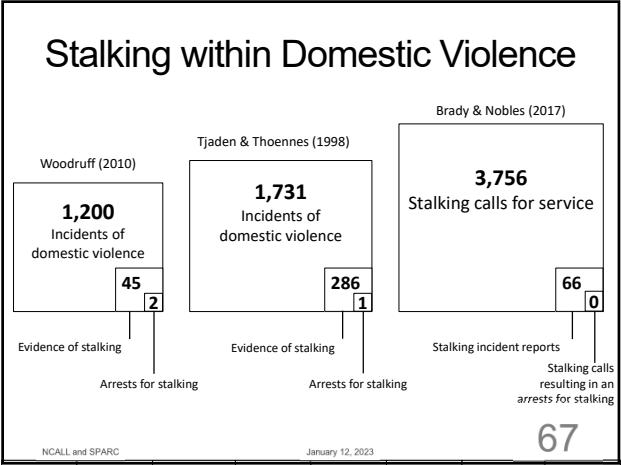
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### Intersections of Sexual Violence and Stalking

A stalker may:

- Threaten to sexually assault the victim
- Sexually assault the victim
- Attempt to get someone else to sexually assault the victim

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### 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

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### Women with Protective Orders

Behavior	Abuse Only No Stalking or Rape	Stalking
Sexual Degradation	45%	61%
Sexual Coercion	49.3%	78%
Verbal Pressure	33.8%	68%
Substance Use	4.2%	19%
Implicit Threats/Force	21%	47.5%
Penetration While Victim Sleeping	11%	15%

Logan, T.K. & Cole, J. (2011). Exploring the Intersection of Partner Stalking and Sexual Abuse. *Violence Against Women* 17(1), 904-924.

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The Use of Technology to Stalk

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### Technology Use Among Older Adults

- 80% own cell phones, 40% own smartphones
- 67% of adults ages 65 use the internet
- 34% use social media
- Younger seniors (65-69) have significantly higher rates of technology use than older seniors

Anderson, M. & Perrin, A. (2017). Technology Use Among Seniors. *Pew Research Center on Internet and Technology*.

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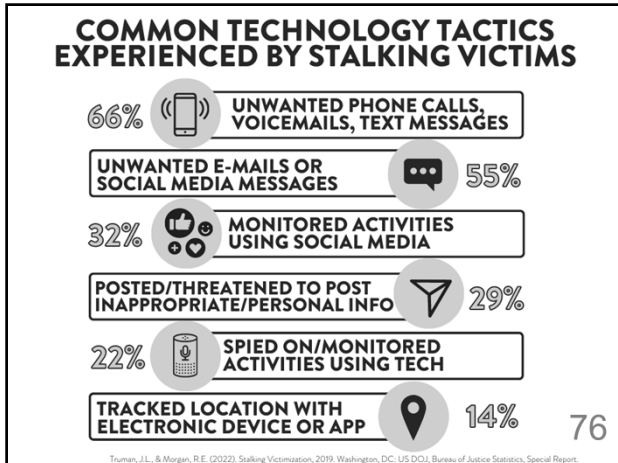
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### Warning Signs: Stalkers' Use of Technology

- Knows where victim is
- Has access to information that victim never shared with him/her
- Victim is locked out of accounts, passwords changed, etc.

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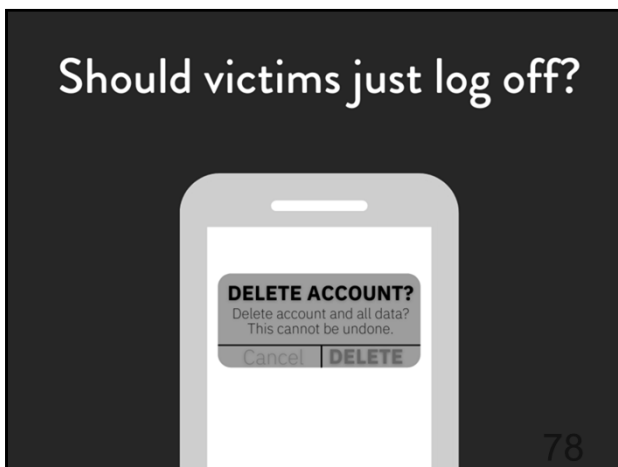
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“...the victim’s attempts to distance themselves from their stalker actually frustrate or anger the stalker, leading to an increase in the physical threat to their lives.”

Quinn-Evans, L., Keatley, D.A., Amftfield, M., & Sheridan, L. (2019). A Behavior Sequence Analysis of Victims' Accounts of Stalking. NCALL and SPARC. January 12, 2023. Behaviors: Journal of Interpersonal Violence 00(0): 1-19.

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**Tech Safety**

Welcome to the Tech Safety App. This app contains information that can help someone identify technology-facilitated harassment, stalking, or abuse and includes tips on what can be done.

Download on the **App Store** | Get it on **Google play**

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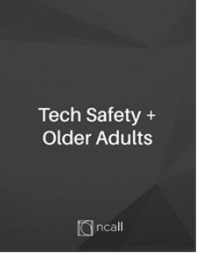
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**Technology Safety Toolkit**

**Tech Safety + Older Adults**

- NCALL’s new toolkit released in November 2020
- Created in collaboration with the Safety Net team at the National Network to End Domestic Violence
- <https://www.ncall.us/resources/publications-library/>



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**Response to Stalking**

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**Specific Challenges**

What are some of the challenges older victims of stalking face?

<b>Confusion around technology</b>	<b>Minimizing the threat</b>	<b>Perceived dementia/ Alzheimer's</b>
<b>Medications</b>	<b>What else?</b>	<b>Others can't comprehend</b>

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**Reaction to Older Stalking Victims**

**77%** of older victims were told they were overreacting

**66.7%** of older victims were not taken seriously by the police

Sheridan, L., Scott, A. J., & North, A. C. (2014). Stalking and Age. *Journal of Threat Assessment and Management*, 1(4), 262-273.

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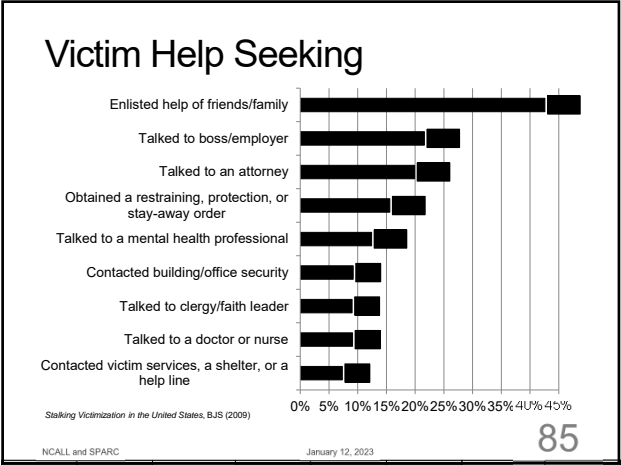
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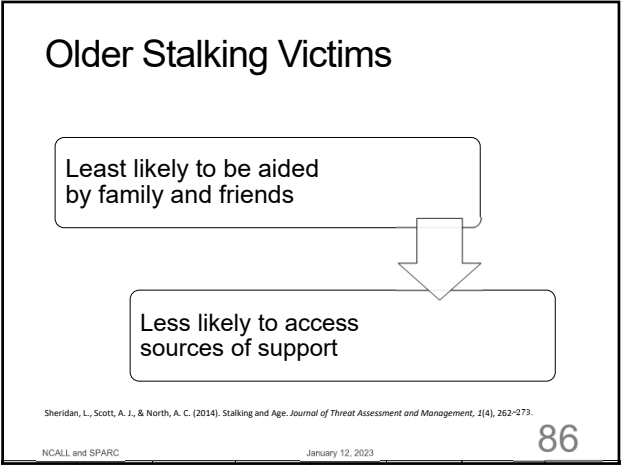
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### Lethality of Elder Abuse

Elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation victims are three times more likely to die prematurely than non-abused older adults.

Lachs, et al. (1998). The Mortality of Elder Mistreatment. *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

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**Implications**

- Are we recognizing stalking in older adults?
- Or, are we calling it elder abuse?
- Are there disadvantages of labeling it as elder abuse?

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**Possible disadvantages to labeling stalking as “elder abuse.”**

- May allow ageist assumptions to impact potential response/investigation
- People tend not to think of stalking as a crime experienced by older victims
- Typical elder abuse services may not address the specific dynamics of stalking
- May diminish others' perceptions of the victim's experience if we apply a term with a broader meaning than 'stalking'

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**Strategies & Resources**

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### First Response

Any time a victim reports any kind of harassing behavior:

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



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### How do Victims Cope?


Move **INWARD**




Move **AWAY**




Move **TOWARDS**




Move **AGAINST**





Move **OUTWARD**



Spitzberg, B.H. & Cupach, W. (2007) The State of the Art of Stalking: Taking Stock of the Emerging Literature. Aggression and Violent Behavior 12(1): 64-86. 92

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### 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

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**Coordination** *1/2* 94

Law enforcement  
 Probation/parole/corrections  
 Courts  
 Prosecutors  
 Advocacy  
 Victim service providers

**SPARC**

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**Coordination** *2/2*

- Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)
- Aging network services
- Adult Protective Services

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**Safety Planning**

Jointly create a plan to enhance safety. Consider:

- Where will the victim live, if not at home?
- Does the victim have access to resources?
- Are there health issues that affect the options available to the victim?
- Who else is affected by the stalking?
- What legal issues need to be addressed in the safety plan?

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**SPARC** is pleased to provide:

<p><b>IN-PERSON TRAININGS</b></p> 	<p><b>ONLINE RESOURCES</b></p> 	<p><b>INDIVIDUAL &amp; ORGANIZATIONAL ASSISTANCE</b></p> 
<p><b>WEBINARS</b> OFFERED QUARTERLY AND BY REQUEST</p> 	<p><b>NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH MATERIALS</b></p>	<p><b>POLICY &amp; PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT</b></p> 

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**www.StalkingAwareness.org**

- \*Practitioner guides
- \*Training modules
- \*Victim resources
- \*Webinars





@FollowUsLegally

Sign Up for our Newsletter!

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For Stalking Victims



**Victim Connect**  
resource center

*Confidential referrals for crime victims*  **855-4-VICTIM**

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www.AEquitasResource.org

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### OVW Abuse in Later Life (ALL) Program

- Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life
- The maximum funding request for new projects is \$750,000 to be used over four years.

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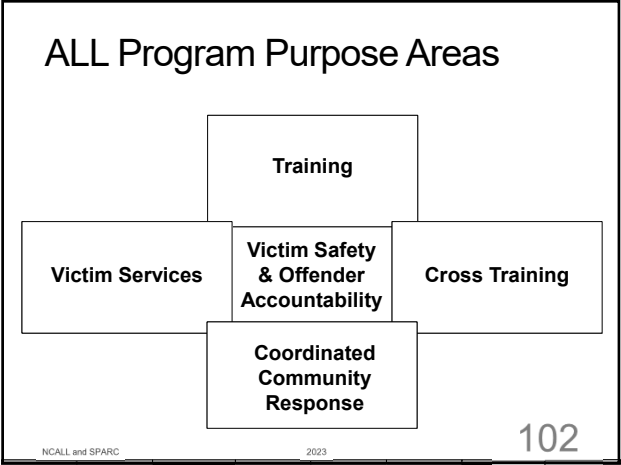
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## Stay Connected to NCALL

Sign up for our e-newsletter:  
[www.ncall.us/take-action](http://www.ncall.us/take-action)



Website: [www.ncall.us](http://www.ncall.us)

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## Awareness/Outreach Materials





<https://www.ncall.us/resources/graphics-library/>

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## Thank You!

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