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

## STALKING AND OLDER ADULTS: AN OVERVIEW

January 22, 2019 Stalking Prevention, Awareness & Resource Center (SPARC)  
National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)

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## Presenter Information

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## Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center (SPARC)

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- In-Person Training
- Webinars
- Online Resources
- Individual & Organizational Assistance
- Policy/Protocol Development & Consultation
- National Stalking Awareness Month Materials

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## National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)

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NCALL is committed to creating a world that respects the dignity of older adults and enhances the safety and quality of life of older victims and survivors of abuse. We engage communities to foster a collaborative, inclusive, survivor-centered response to abuse in later life.



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## Learning Objectives

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As a result of attending this session, participants will be better able to:

- Recognize stalking behavior
- Understand how stalking impacts older adults
- Identify resources to improve their response to stalking

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## Overview

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

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7 Understanding Elder Abuse



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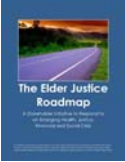
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8 The Elder Justice Roadmap  
Definition of Elder Abuse

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

Acerno, 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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### Elder Abuse: Under the Radar

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

another twenty-four cases never come to light.

24

Source: Lache 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

11

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12 Poll

That you are aware of, have you ever worked with an elder adult who was experiencing stalking?

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13 Stalking: Definition & Dynamics



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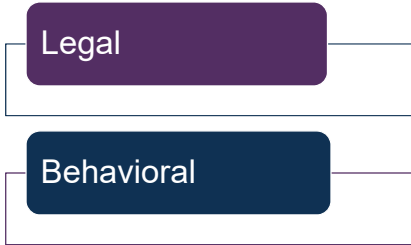
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14 Defining Stalking



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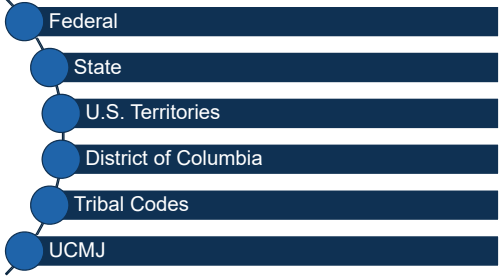
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15 Criminal Charging



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## Behavioral Definition

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### Stalking:

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

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## Behavioral Definition

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### Stalking:

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

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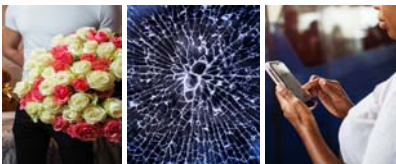
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## A Pattern of Behavior...

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



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## ...Directed at a Specific Person

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## ...That Would Cause a Reasonable Person to Feel Fear.

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## What's So Scary?

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## Context

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- Something may be frightening to the victim but not to you.
- Stalking behaviors often have specific meanings.
- Stalking criminalizes otherwise non-criminal behavior.

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## Victim Reaction: Is it Fear?

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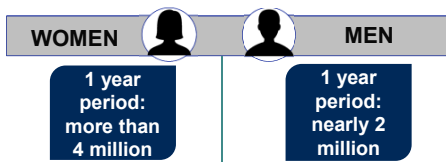
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## Prevalence of Stalking



6-7.5 million people are stalked in a one year period in the United States.

Smith, S.G. et al (2018). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) 2015 Data Brief. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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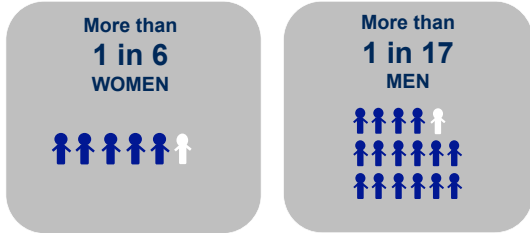
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## Prevalence in a Lifetime

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Smith, S.G. et al (2018). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) 2015 Data Brief. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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## Perpetrators

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Most stalkers are male – including 87% of stalkers over age 60.

*The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report, Center for Disease Control (2011)*

Lorraine Sheridan, Adrian Scott & Adrian North. (2015). *Stalking and Age*. American Psychological Association.

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## Victims

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Women are more likely than men to experience stalking.

*The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report, Center for Disease Control (2011)*

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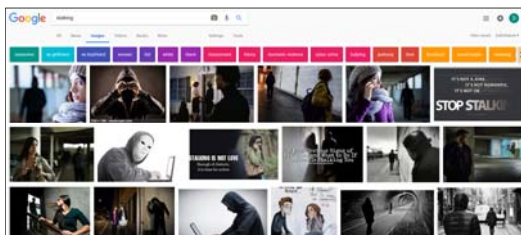
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## Image Results for "Stalking"

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## Relationships

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The majority of the time, the victim knows the perpetrator.

*The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report, Center for Disease Control (2011)*

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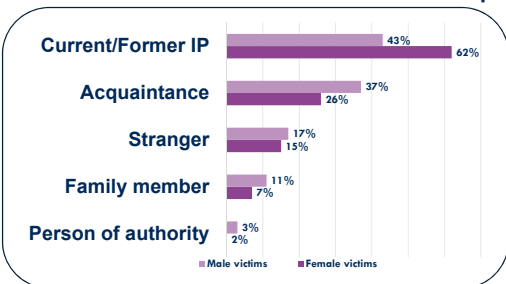
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## Victim & Offender Relationship



*The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 – 2012 State Report, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2017)*

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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 SABAH HORNER | shorner@startribune.com | Pioneer Press  
PUBLISHED December 6, 2017 at 1:27 pm | UPDATED December 7, 2017 at 11:19 am

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**Man steals more than \$4,000 from elderly victim with 'almost daily' loan requests, police say**

TONY REID | tony.reid@me.net | Oct 1, 2018

**Rock Hill woman withheld meds, stalked and abused vulnerable adult, SC agents say**

BY ANDREW DYS  
andrew.dys@scdhs.gov  
April 02, 2016 05:10 PM  
Updated April 02, 2016 11:40 PM

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33 **Stalking Behaviors**





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## Identifying Course of Conduct

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TK Logan & Robert Walker, *Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning*, 16(2) *Trauma, Violence & Abuse* 200-22 (2017)

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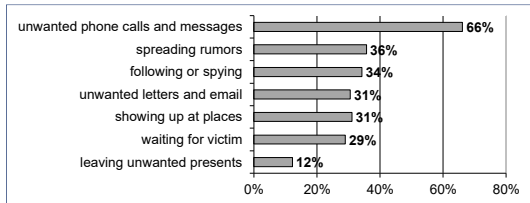
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## Stalking Behaviors

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

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## Multiple Behaviors

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- 78% of stalkers use more than one means of approach.**
- 66% of stalkers pursue their victim at least once per week.**
- 20% of stalkers use weapons to threaten or harm victims.**

Kris Mohandie, et al., *The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based Upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers*, 51(1) *J Forensic Sci* 147-55 (2006)

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## Stalking changes over time.

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## Impacts on Stalking Victims

**Experience mental health issues** including depression, anxiety, insomnia and social dysfunction.

- **Lose time from work.** 1 in 8 employed stalking victims lose time from work and more than half lose 5 days of work or more.
- **Relocate.** 1 in 7 stalking victims move.

Katrina Baum et al., "Stalking Victimization in the United States," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2009).  
Eric Blaauw et al., *The Toll of Stalking*, 17(1) Journal of Interpersonal Violence 50-63 (2002).

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*"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."***

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## Why Do They Stalk?

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Seeking affection

Power & control

Rejection

Obsession

Planning to commit a crime

Because they can

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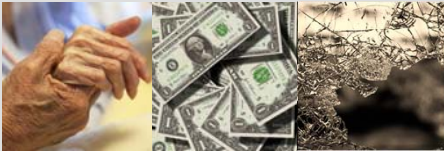
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## Co-occurrence with Other Crimes



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## Intersection with Other Crimes

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- Domestic violence
- Sexual assault
- Sexual abuse
- Stalking
- OP violations
- Assault
- Harassment
- Home invasion
- Attempted murder
- Kidnapping
- Vandalism
- Wiretapping or utility theft
- Burglary
- Theft
- Identity theft
- Child Abuse
- Hate Crimes

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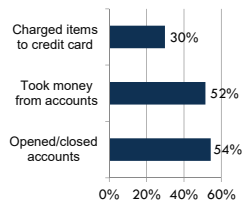
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## Stalking and Other Crimes

43

- 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)

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## Stalking and IPV



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Adapted from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project's Power and Control Wheel

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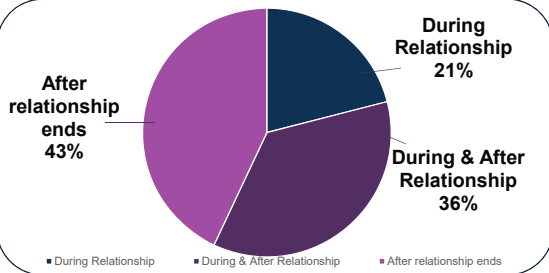
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## Point When Stalking Occurs

46



Tjaden, P., & Thoennes, N. (1998). Stalking in American: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice. NCJ 169592. NCALL and SPARC January 22, 2019

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## IP Stalkers are More Likely To...

47



- Physically approach the victim
- Be insulting, threatening and interfering
- Use weapons
- Quickly escalate behaviors
- Assault third parties
- Re-offend

Kris Mohandie, et al., *The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based Upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers*, 51(1) J Forensic Sci 147-55 (2006)

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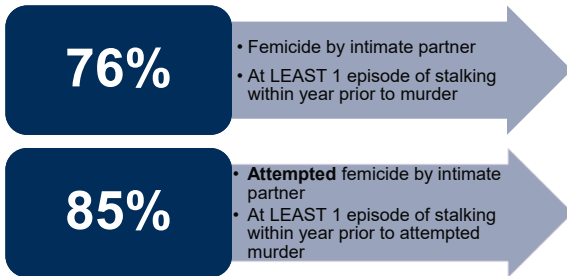
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## Lethality Risks

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McFarlane et al., *Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide*, 3(4) Homicide Studies 300-16 (1999)

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49 **Stalking and Sexual Violence**



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50 **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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51 **Craigslist Case**

Kenneth Kuban posted at least 165 ads in Craigslist "casual encounters" section posing as his ex-girlfriend.



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## Grooming for SA as Stalking

52



- 6% of the 1882 college men surveyed met the criteria for attempted or completed rape.
- These were repeat perpetrators who averaged about 6 rapes per person.

David Lisak, *Repeat Rape and Multiple Offending Among Undetected Rapists*, 17(1) Violence and Victims 73-84 (2002)



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## Grooming for SA as Stalking (Continued)

53

Repeat sexual assault perpetrators on campus often premeditated the rape:

- **Chose targets intentionally:** Identified vulnerable young women, often focusing on Freshmen
- **Plied with alcohol:** served drinks, controlled alcohol, made strong drinks
- **Contacted multiple times:** invited them to parties, messaged through social media, texting and call.
- **Isolated victims:** many had rooms set up at their parties for the purpose of committing rape
- **Contacted after:** texted, messaged and/or called to either threaten and/or invite to another party

David Lisak, *Repeat Rape and Multiple Offending Among Undetected Rapists*, 17(1) Violence and Victims 73-84 (2002)

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## The Use of Technology to Stalk



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## Technology Use Among Seniors

55



- 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

Pew Research Center on Internet and Technology. (2017).  
<http://www.pewinternet.org/2017/05/17/technology-use-among-seniors/>

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## Forms of Technology Used to Stalk

56

- Phones – calls, messages, texts, pics, video
- Cameras
- Global Positioning Systems (GPS)
- Computers
- Social networking sites
- Email & IM
- Spyware
- Assistive technologies



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## Warning Signs: Stalkers' Use of Technology

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- 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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58 **Older Adult Stalkers**



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59 **Older Stalkers**

**Report: Elderly stalker tried to pay to give ex stitches**  
By Frank Stanfield / frankstanfield@dailyjournal.com  
 Posted Aug 30, 2018 at 4:38 PM  
 Updated Aug 30, 2018 at 5:01 PM

**62-year-old man arrested after allegedly stalking 22-year-old who rejected him**  
By KYLE HARRIS  
 PHOTOS: COURTESY OF PORT ST. LUCIE POLICE  
 UPDATED: 10/16/2017

**PD: Man arrested for stalking teen in Watertown**  
By Alex Caramazza  
 Posted on 10/16/2017  
 Updated on 10/16/2017

**Elderly man arrested on stalking charges for harassing his neighbor, which was caught on video.**  
Post Date: 10/16/2017  
 On October 14, 2017, Port St. Lucie Police arrested Jonathan Flannery Wright (DOB: 10/22/1946, 10400 SW Stephanie Way, Port St. Lucie) on the charges of stalking and two counts of vandalism after he was captured on video damaging his neighbor's property.

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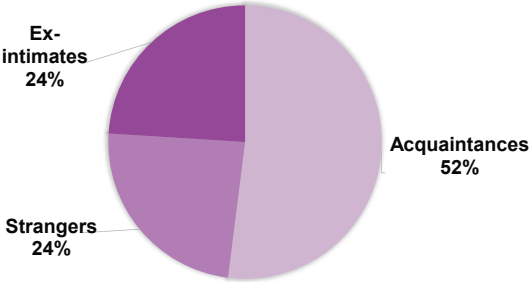
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60 **Stalker Relationships: Older Stalkers (60+)**



Relationship Type	Percentage
Ex-intimates	24%
Strangers	24%
Acquaintances	52%

Lorraine Sheridan, Adrian Scott & Adrian North. (2015). *Stalking and Age*. American Psychological Association.  
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## Older Stalkers (Aged 60+)

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- Least likely to target same-sex victims (10%)
- Most likely to actually injure victims
- More likely to target victims outside of their own age group, like younger acquaintances

Lorraine Sheridan, Adrian Scott & Adrian North. (2015). *Stalking and Age*. American Psychological Association.

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## Reporting & Response



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## Reporting Rates

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- Less than half of stalking victims report to the police.
- Why might elderly victims be hesitant to report? What barriers might they face?

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## Specific Challenges

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



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## Reaction to Older Stalking Victims

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77% of older victims were told they are overreacting

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

*Stalking and Age, Sheridan et al. (2015)*

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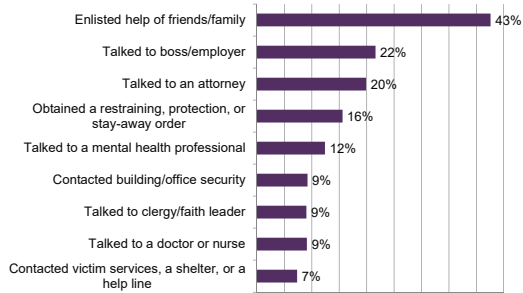
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## Victim Help Seeking

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*Stalking Victimization in the United States, BJS (2009)*  
0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35% 40% 45%  
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## Stalking is Rarely Charged

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Between **5 and 16%** of stalking cases are actually charged as stalking when police already have all the information they need to charge.

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## Reasons For Non-Disclosure

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Victim is minimizing or is uncertain of the behaviors

Victim did report to someone but had a negative response

Victim is isolated

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## Reasons For Non-Disclosure

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Fear of loss of independence

The offender is a family member, intimate partner, or care-taker

Lack of understanding technology

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## Older Stalking Victims

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Least likely to be aided  
by family and friends



Less likely to access  
sources of support

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*Stalking and Age*, Sheridan et al. (2015)

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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

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- 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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**73 Strategies & Resources**

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**74 Responding to Victims**

- Advise disengagement
- Documentation
- Safety needs and support services

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**75 Documentation Log**

**STALKING INCIDENT LOG**

Date	Time	Description of Incident	Location of Incident	Witness Name(s) (Attach Address and Phone #)	Police Called (Report #)	Officer Name (Badge #)

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## SHARP Assessment

www.CoerciveControl.org

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## SHARP

### Narrative Report

Articulate the story with a short summary

Third party perspective

### Safety Management Tool

Safety suggestions tailored to responses

77 NCALL and SPARC <http://www.cdor.uky.edu/CoerciveControl/sharp.html> January 22, 2019

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## StalkingAwareness.org

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- Documentation Log
- Information/Fact Sheets
- Safety Planning Tips
- Resources for victims, service providers & law enforcement

@FollowUsLegally

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## For Stalking Victims



Confidential referrals for crime victims  855-4-VICTIM

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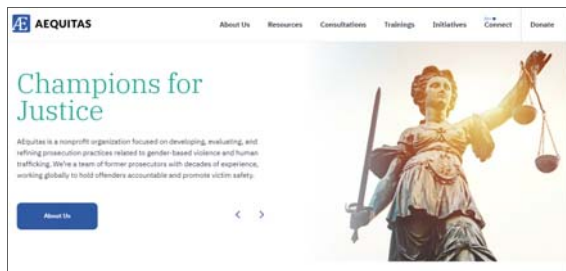
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## www.AEquitasResource.org



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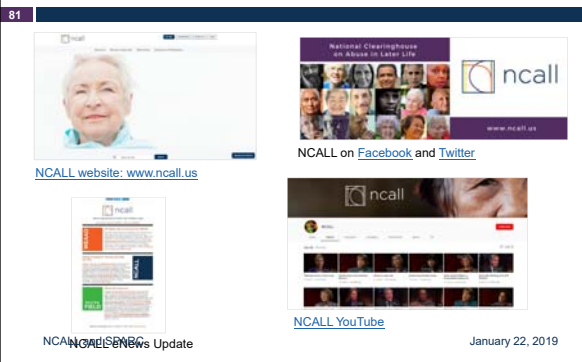
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## NCALL Online



NCALL News Update

January 22, 2019

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# Thank You!

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