



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 21, 2026

Disclaimer

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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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www.StalkingAwareness.org

***Practitioner guides**

***Training modules**

***Victim resources**

***Webinars**



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National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)

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.



Learning Objectives

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

Overview

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



Why Learn about Stalking?

STALKING IS:



CRIMINAL



TRAUMATIC



DANGEROUS



CRIMINAL

FEDERAL LEVEL

50 STATES, D.C., U.S. TERRITORIES

TRIBAL CODES

UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE



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.



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 upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 51(1), 147-155.



**"Stalking is homicide
in slow motion."**

*– Patrick Brady, Criminology Dept.
University of West Georgia*



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

Reporting Stalking



- 28% of stalking victims report to law enforcement
- 16% of stalking victims seek victim services

Reporting Rates



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

Challenges: Older Adult Stalking Victims



**Less familiar
with technology**



**Minimizing the
threat**



**Perceived
dementia**



Medications



What else?

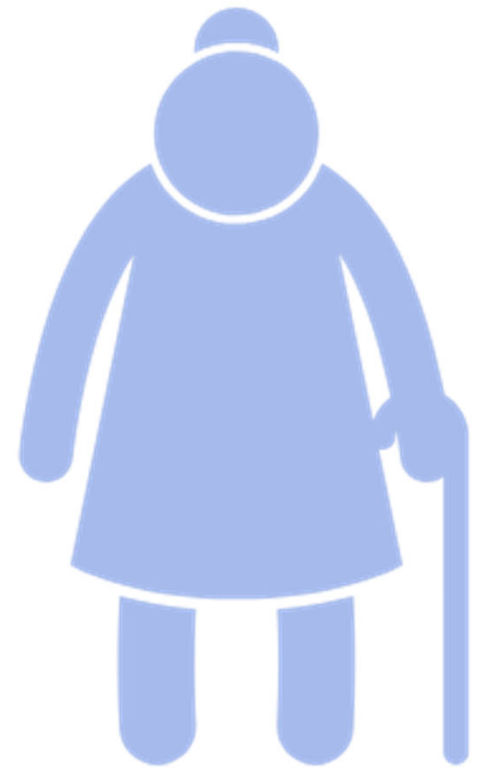


**Dependence
on others**

Reactions to Older Stalking Victims

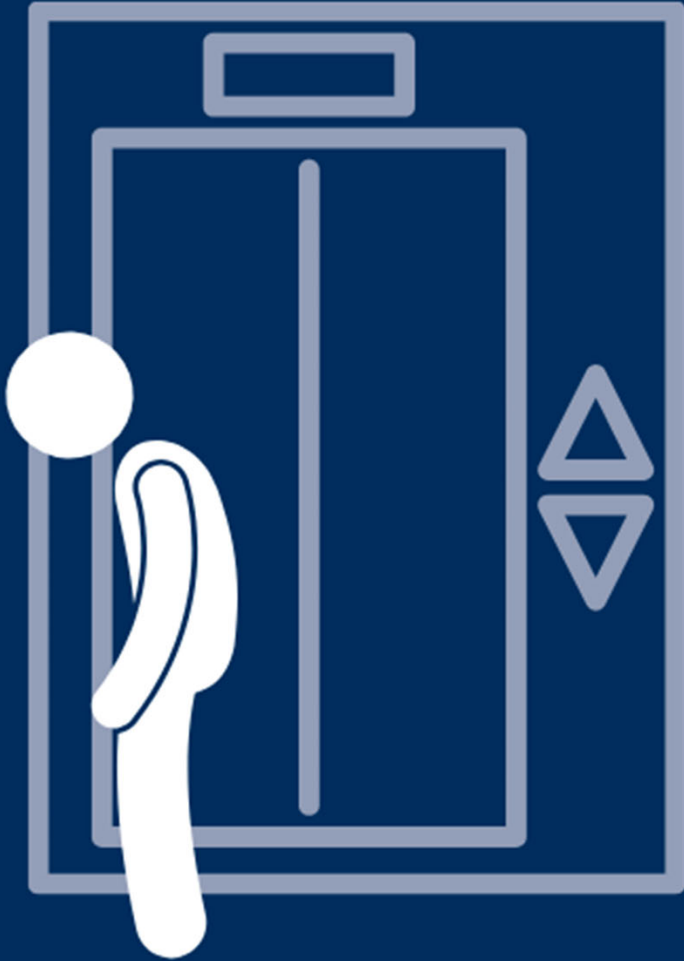
77% of older victims were told they were overreacting

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.

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.



Stalking: Definition & Dynamics

Defining Stalking



BEHAVIORAL



LEGAL/STATUTORY

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.

STALKING DEFINITION: **BEHAVIORAL**

Stalking is 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.



A pattern of behavior...

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



...directed at a specific person...





**...that would cause a
reasonable person to feel**

FEAR

**for their safety or the safety
of others; or suffer substantial
emotional distress.**



CONTEXT IS CRITICAL
in stalking cases.

Victim Reaction: Is it Fear?



Document Evidence of Accommodations

30



**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**



Understanding Elder Abuse

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.

Prevalence of Elder Abuse



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

Acierno, 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*.

Elder Abuse: Under the Radar



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.



Poll: As far as you are aware, have you ever worked with an older adult who was experiencing stalking?

35

Elder Abuse & Stalking: Commonalities

- Willful/intentional harm
- Relationships based on trust OR victim is targeted based on perceived vulnerabilities
- Can include physical, psychological, sexual, and/or financial tactics



Stalking Prevalence, Dynamics, & Behaviors

Stalking Prevalence

NEARLY
1 in 3 women



&

NEARLY
1 in 6 men



experience **stalking** in their lifetimes.

Stalking Prevalence: Older Adults

AGE	# OF VICTIMS	% OF STALKING VICTIMS
16-19	16,149,660	7.0%
20-24	21,412,920	12.5%
25-34	45,537,710	23.3%
35-49	61,677,140	27.6%
50-64	62,651,280	20.2%
65+	533,02,790	9.5%

Nearly 30% of stalking victims are over age 50



**1 MILLION
PEOPLE
AGED 50+
ARE **STALKED** IN A ONE-YEAR
PERIOD IN THE UNITED STATES.**

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.

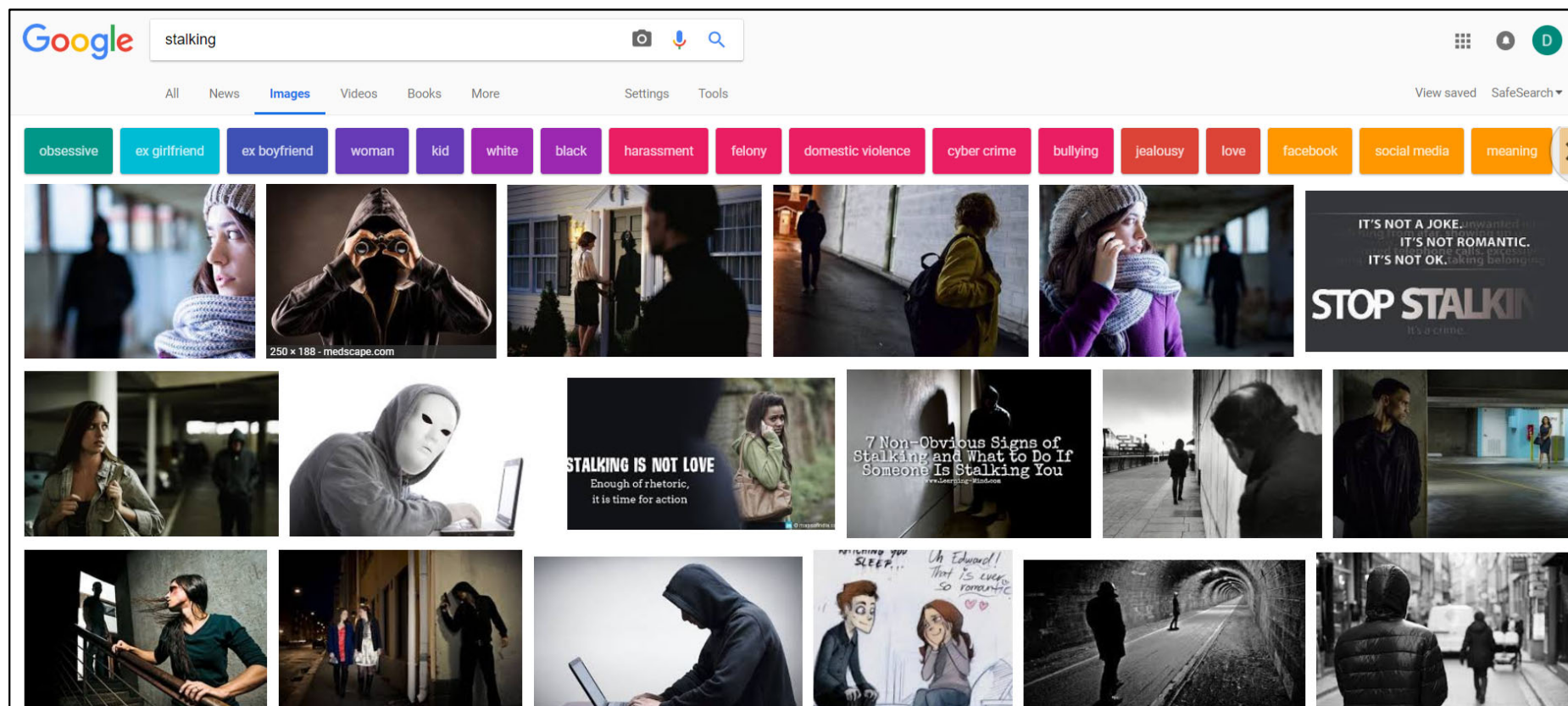
Stalking Dynamics

Women are more likely than men to experience stalking.

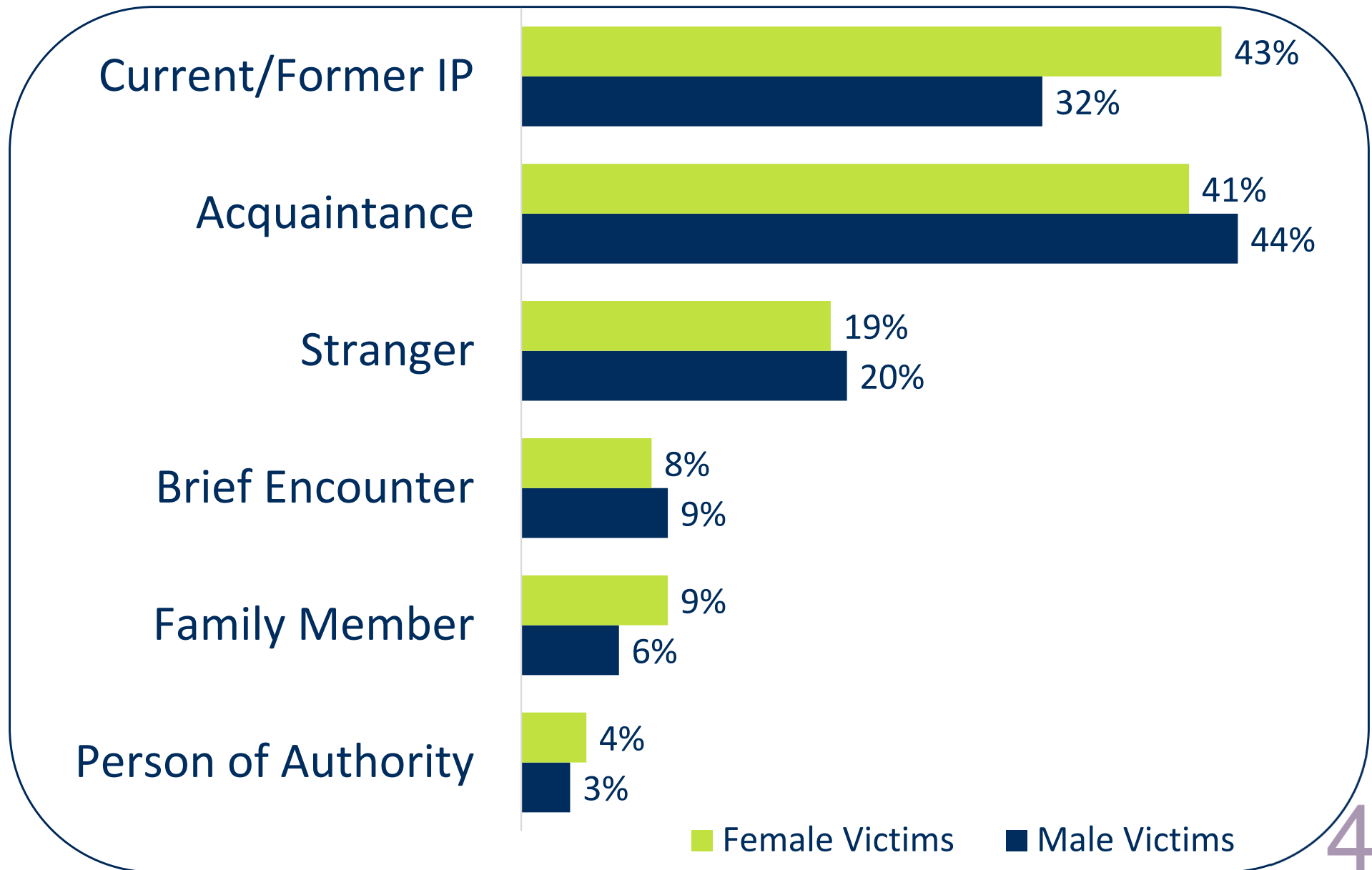
The majority of victims report that the offender is male.



Image Results for “Stalking”

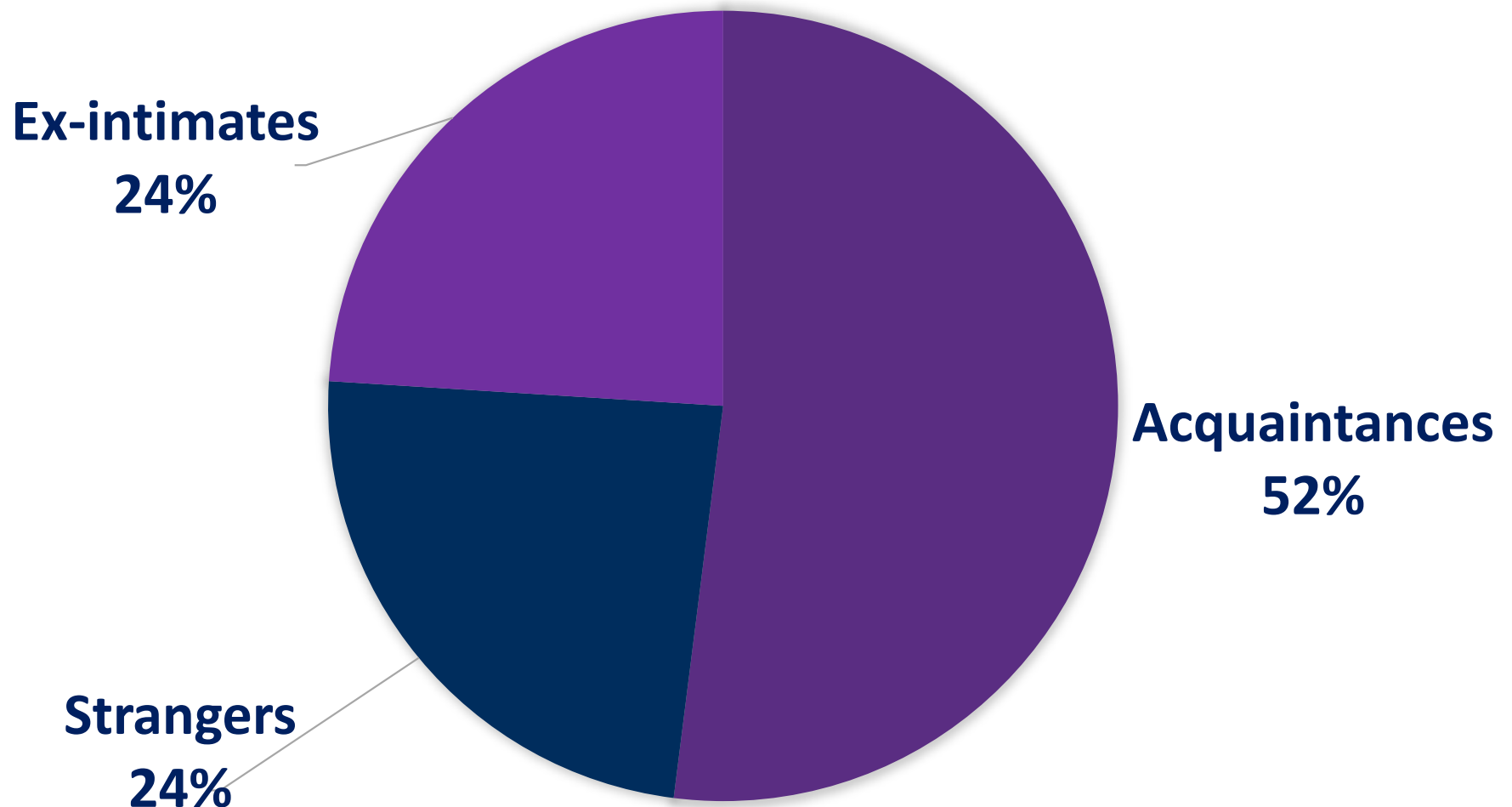


Victim and Offender Relationships



43

Stalker Relationships: Older Stalkers (60+)



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

Elderly Queens Man Arrested for Luring and Stalking 12-Year-Old Girl

LOCAL NEWS

Elderly woman facing 10 stalking charges after police say she threatened former fiance

Posted: Mar 26, 2019 / 02:40 PM MDT
Updated: Mar 26, 2019 / 02:40 PM MDT



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

TONY REID tony.reid@lee.net Oct 1, 2018 0

CRIME

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



BY ANDREW DYS
adys@heraldonline.com

April 02, 2018 01:32 PM
Updated April 02, 2018 12:40 PM

Scooter-Riding Octogenarian Accused of Stalking at Senior Complex Pleads Guilty

An 85-year-old man pleaded guilty on Wednesday morning to stalking residents at a senior apartment facility in Punxsutawney.



Gavin Eich Published December 18, 2024

Man pleads guilty to stalking, killing estranged wife

March 31, 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.

Farvis Wayne Madison, 62, 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.

Man Accused of Knife Assault, Continuous Harassment of Elderly Woman Following Recent Split

After allegedly holding a knife to his elderly former partner's throat and injuring her during the attack, a St. Thomas man faces charges amid claims of ongoing harassment, including property damage and repeated intimidation tactics

Crime / Published On October 29, 2024 06:24 AM

“

I know it
sounds crazy,
but...

”

SLII Framework

47





SURVEILLANCE

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

LIFE INVASION



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

INTIMIDATION



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



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**

COMMON TECHNOLOGY TACTICS EXPERIENCED BY STALKING VICTIMS

66%



**UNWANTED PHONE CALLS,
VOICEMAILS, TEXT MESSAGES**

**UNWANTED E-MAILS OR
SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES**



55%

32%



**MONITORED ACTIVITIES
USING SOCIAL MEDIA**

**POSTED/THREATENED TO POST
INAPPROPRIATE/PERSONAL INFO**



29%

22%



**SPIED ON/MONITORED
ACTIVITIES USING TECH**

**TRACKED LOCATION WITH
ELECTRONIC DEVICE OR APP**



14%

52

Technology Use & Older Adults (Age 50+)

91%  SMART PHONE

85%  SOCIAL MEDIA

63%  AT LEAST 1 SMART HOME DEVICE

63%  WEARABLE DEVICE

Screening for Stalking

54

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?

Screening for Stalking

55

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?



Narrative Report &
Risk Profile

Safety Planning
Suggestions

Date: 2025-04-18
Situation: An ex-partner
Interviewee: Professional
Agency: Domestic violence

Stalking and Harassment
profile tool to educate and
report summarizes the re
note, any documentation
introduced as evidence o
not include any informatio

The information below is
female, and an ex-partne

Course of conduct. Chri
Christopher Prichard has
typical month. Christo
Christopher Prichard has
suggests Christopher Pri
Prichard has physically a

Duration, Intensity, and
Prichard started in Octob
escalating recently. Chri
more than one way. Chri
other than through the ph
unwanted contact with An
directly on 30 days, and s

Threats. Christopher Pri
described in graphic deta
threats by leaving objects
Prichard has threatened t
her in some other way. C
Prichard such as her chil
Prichard with a gun. Ang
escalate Christopher Pri
Christopher Prichard has
threats made to Angela P

Fear/Concern for Safety

Risk Profile: Based on the information reported, there are several factors that suggest a serious risk profile for this stalking course of conduct. There is some contextual information about Christopher Prichard that is unknown. If the information becomes known, it may be important to consider redoing SHARP with the new information. Please note that the risk profile could change in the future and it may be helpful to reassess the situation using SHARP. Below is the summary of the 12 risk factors that are present in this case out of the 14 risk factors assessed:

- Christopher Prichard has been stalking Angela Prichard for about 6 months, 0 days. Christopher Prichard approaches Angela Prichard and confronts her frequently, regularly contacts or harasses her in multiple ways, bothers her at multiple locations, and significantly and regularly interferes with her life. During this time Christopher Prichard has assaulted Angela Prichard physically and/or sexually.
- Christopher Prichard's behavior is increasing in frequency and severity and there are some upcoming events that could escalate Christopher Prichard's stalking, harassing, and threatening behavior even more.
- Christopher Prichard has threatened to harm Angela Prichard and those threats contain graphic details about how he plans to harm her. Christopher Prichard has made threatening gestures or left threatening objects. Christopher Prichard has threatened to destroy property, harm pets or sabotage Angela Prichard in some other way. Christopher Prichard has threatened Angela Prichard with a gun. Christopher Prichard has threatened to harm others close to Angela Prichard.
- In the past Christopher Prichard has followed through with threats or taken steps toward carrying out threats made to Angela Prichard. Angela Prichard believes Christopher Prichard is capable of harming her and others close to her.
- Angela Prichard is afraid and concerned about her safety and the safety of others. Christopher Prichard's actions have caused Angela Prichard to make significant changes to her life for safety reasons. Angela Prichard is also extremely concerned about the significant financial and social impacts on her life because of Christopher Prichard's actions.
- Christopher Prichard has violated a court order banning him from contacting,

SLII Checklist for LE: StalkingAwareness.org

LAW ENFORCEMENT TIPS: SLII BEHAVIORS

Stalking includes a wide range of threatening and disturbing behaviors that can be classified into four categories: Surveillance, Life invasion, Intimidation, and Interference through sabotage or attack (SLII). These categories overlap and build on each other.

Victims of stalking rarely identify their victimization as stalking and are unlikely to use the word 'stalking' to describe what they're experiencing. Research and practice show that officers should ask specific questions about stalking behaviors instead of simply asking if someone has been stalked/harassed.



SURVEILLANCE

SURVEILLANCE is the most commonly identified stalking tactic and includes watching and gathering information about the victim, in-person or through technology.

ASK: Did the suspect ever track, follow, or monitor the victim in any way? In-person or using technology?

Surveillance behaviors include:

- ☐ Watching them from a distance
- ☐ Waiting for them outside their office, gym, classroom, or another location
- ☐ Showing up unexpectedly
- ☐ Using tracking software on the victim's devices
- ☐ Obtaining information about the victim online or from others
- ☐ Going through the victim's mail or trash
- ☐ Planting a tracking device in the victim's vehicle or home
- ☐ And more

This can be done:

- ☐ In person ☐ Online
- ☐ With smart home devices
- ☐ With tracking software or GPS devices
- ☐ With cameras or video/audio recording devices
- ☐ By monitoring online activity
- ☐ By accessing the victim's accounts
- ☐ By researching the victim online
- ☐ By asking others for information about the victim
- ☐ In other ways

LIFE INVASION

LIFE INVASION describes ways that the offender is showing up in the victim's life without the victim's consent, in public or private settings, and in person or through technology.

ASK: Has the suspect repeatedly invaded the victim's life and/or privacy by initiating unwanted contact?

Life Invasion behaviors include:

- ☐ Repeated unwanted contact (phone calls, texts, messages, emails)
- ☐ Sending or leaving unwanted gifts, objects, items
- ☐ Initiating contact through third parties
- ☐ Hacking into their online accounts
- ☐ Harassing friends or family
- ☐ Sending photos of themselves or of the victim in places they frequent
- ☐ Breaking into the victim's car or home when they are not around
- ☐ Showing up uninvited
- ☐ And more

This can be done:

- ☐ In person ☐ Online
- ☐ By impersonating the victim
- ☐ By hacking victim accounts
- ☐ By spoofing (unrecognized numbers calling or texting and harassing them, hang-up calls from random numbers, caller ID shows it is a friend or the court but it is actually the suspect)
- ☐ In other ways

SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

This project was supported by Grant No. 2017-TA-AW-K074 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice.

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

☐ By hacking into/taking over accounts

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

(CONTINUED)

CE
TACK

ACK can affect
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Fered with the

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th medical care
th finances
th their housing
th immigration issues
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or example, as an
community)

SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

Resources to help identify stalking at **STALKINGAWARENESS.ORG**

SUPERVISING OFFENDERS: SLII BEHAVIORS



When supervising offenders on probation or parole, it is important to identify stalking behaviors in previous and/or current conduct, whether or not the conviction is for stalking or harassment. Many stalkers are persistent criminals who re-offend.

Stalking behaviors cover a wide range of threatening and harassing behaviors. Stalking behaviors include Surveillance, Life invasion, Intimidation, and Interference. These behaviors can occur individually and build on each other, and many stalkers use creative and varied tactics.

SURVEILLANCE

SURVEILLANCE is the most commonly identified stalking tactic and includes watching and gathering information about the victim, in-person or through technology.

ASK: Did the offender ever track, follow, or monitor the victim in any way?

SPARC

STALKING
PREVENTION,
AWARENESS,
AND RESOURCE
CENTER

Identifying Stalking: SLII Strategies

Adapted from T.K. Logan's "Connecting the Dots: Advocates," 2017

Stalking is its own crime with its own risks, safety planning needs, and legal responses. Many stalking victims do not use the words "stalking" or "fear" to describe their experience(s). They are more likely to say something like "my ex is bothering me," "an old coworker is being weird," or "my neighbor is harassing me." Victims respond to trauma differently, and may present as annoyed, frustrated, angry, or show no emotion at all rather than appearing scared.

 **SURVEILLANCE**

COULD THIS BE A STALKING CASE?: IDENTIFYING STALKING ON CALLS FOR SERVICE

IDENTIFYING STALKING BEHAVIORS

Stalking includes a wide range of threatening and disturbing behaviors that can be classified into four categories: Surveillance, Life invasion, Intimidation, and Interference through sabotage or attack (SLII). These categories can build on each other.

When victims report to law enforcement, officers are responsible to identify and name the behaviors victims of stalking often do not name. Victims of stalking are often do not name what they're experiencing. When victims report to law enforcement, officers are responsible to identify and name the behaviors victims of stalking often do not name.

to help identify stalking in calls for service and

Stalking reports might sound like:

"My ex has gotten weird."

"Someone's harassing me."

"My neighbor is being creepy."

CRIME

overlooked as a standalone crime as well as when it co-occurs with other crimes. In a recent report, researchers reviewed

Pattern of Behavior

$\frac{2}{3}$ of stalkers pursue their victim
at least once per week

$\frac{3}{4}$ of stalkers use more than one
means of approach

CRIMES INCLUDING

IDENTITY THEFT,
COMPUTER CRIMES



VANDALISM,
PROPERTY CRIMES



VOYEURISM, PRIVACY
VIOLATION, IMAGE
CREATION &
DISTRIBUTION



EAVESDROPPING,
TRESPASSING,
NONCONSENSUAL
RECORDING



FALSE REPORTS,
WITNESS
INTIMIDATION



AND MORE



MAY BE PART OF A STALKER'S COURSE OF CONDUCT

STALKING DURATION

*ALL STALKING VICTIMS



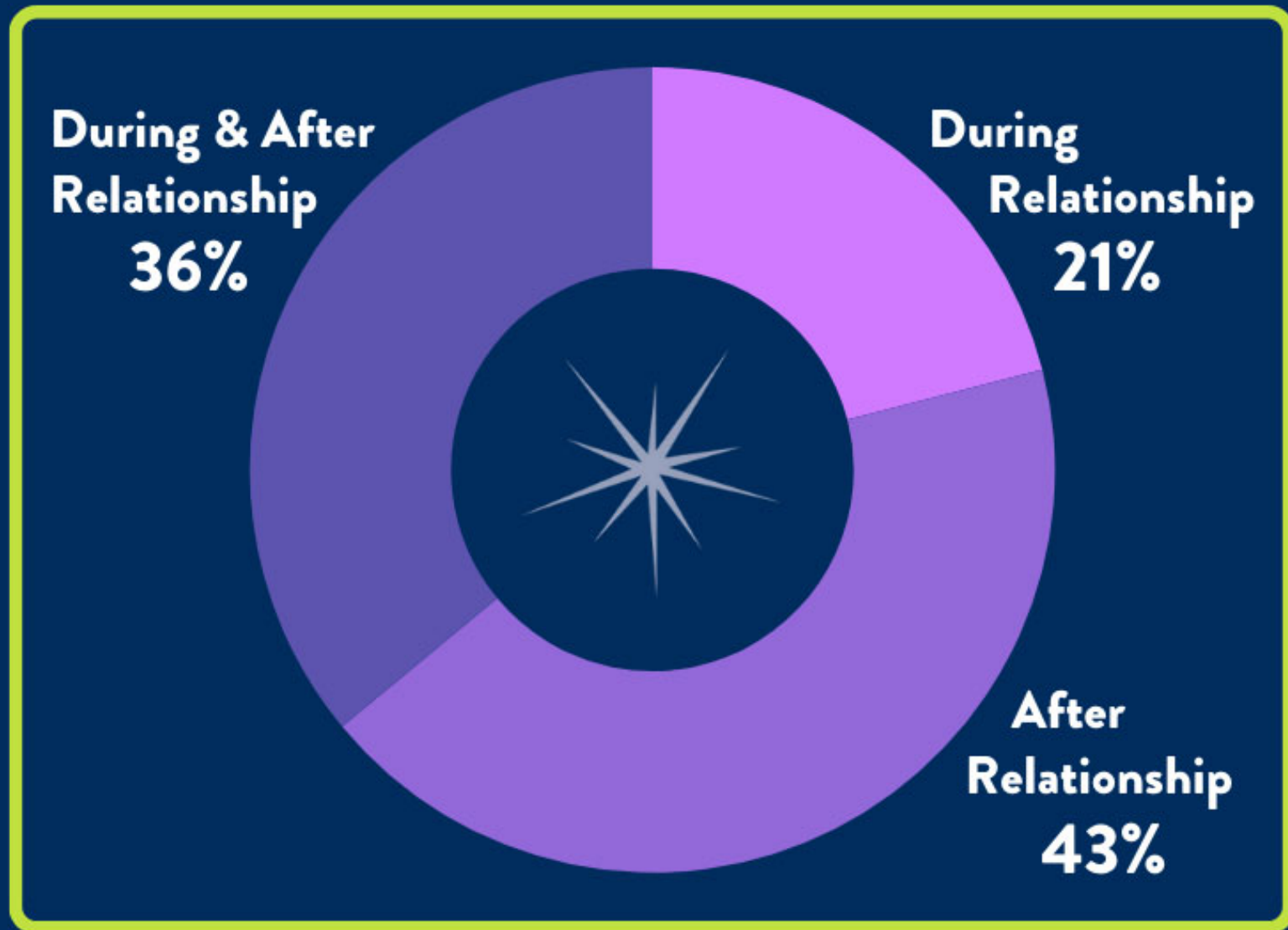
18%	< 1 Month
44%	1 Month to < 1 Year
13%	1 Year to < 2 Years
24%	2 Years or More
2%	Unknown

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



Stalking and Dating/Domestic Violence

When does **STALKING** take place in an abusive intimate partner relationship?



Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (1998). Stalking in America: Findings from the national violence against women survey (NCJ#169592). Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice CDC.

On average, intimate partner stalkers pose the greatest threats to their victims.

WHY?



Relationships, Violence, & Threats



	Intimate Partner	Acquaintance	Private Stranger	Public Figure
Presence of Threats	83%	66%	50%	18%
Presence of Violence	74%	50%	36%	2%

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.



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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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

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.



Stroshine, 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.

Stalking is a Lethality Risk

Top 10 risk factors for intimate partner homicide	Risk for male-perpetrated and 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 of IPH
3. Non-fatal strangulation	7-fold increase in risk of IPH
4. Perpetrated rape/forced sex	5-fold increase in risk of IPH
5. Controlling behaviors	6-fold increase in risk of IPH
6. Threatened to harm victim	4-fold increase in risk of IPH
7. Abused victim while pregnant	4-fold increase in risk of IPH
8. Perpetrated stalking	3-fold increase in risk of IPH
9. Jealousy	2-fold increase in risk of IPH
10. Substance abuse	2-fold increase in risk of IPH



Stalking and Sexual Violence

Intersections of Stalking & Sexual Assault

Stalker threatens/plans to sexually assault the victim.

Stalker attempts to get someone else to assault the victim.

Stalker sexually assaults the victim.

Stalker contacts the victim after sexual assault.

You look so young, I can't believe you're a grandma...

Aw, that's very kind.

I think you're secretly 30 😊.

Ha!

I see your car in the driveway, can I come say hi?

Some offenders use **stalking** strategies to groom for sexual violence.

How Offenders Groom for Sexual Violence:

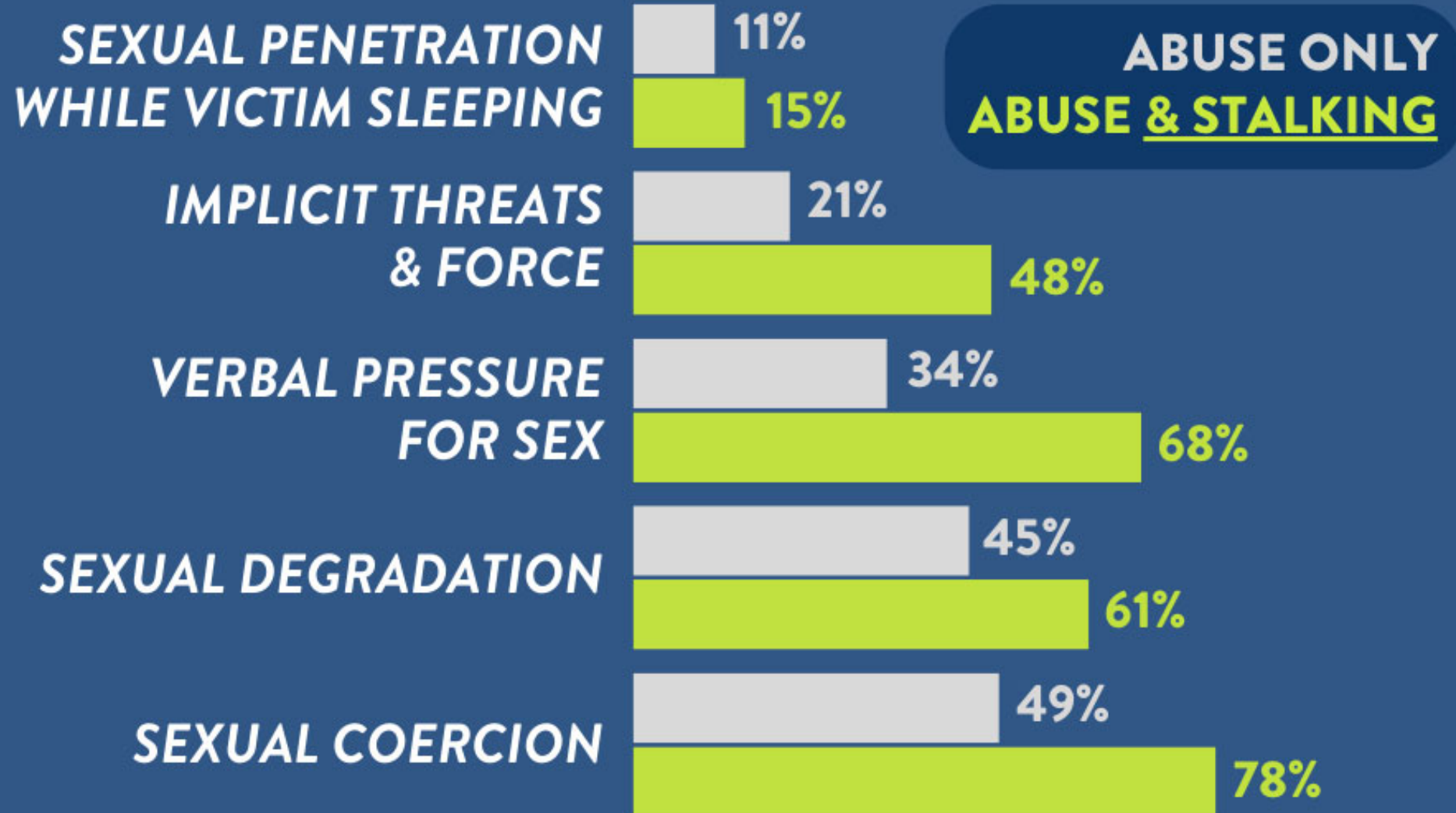
- Research & identify vulnerable victims
- Establish relationships: contact, build trust
- Meet in-person & isolate the victim
- Coerce into sexual act(s)
- Contact after

Lisak, D & Miller, P. (2002). Repeat Rape and Multiple Offending Among Undetected Rapists. *Violence and Victims* 17 (1), 73-84. Retrieved from <https://www.davidlisak.com/wp-content/uploads/pdf/RepeatRapeinUndetectedRapists.pdf>.



31% OF WOMEN
STALKED
BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER WERE ALSO
SEXUALLY
ASSAULTED
BY THAT PARTNER.

Study of Women with Protective Orders



SEXUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STOLENCE

**ASK SURVIVORS ABOUT CO-
OCCURRING VICTIMIZATIONS.**

Why Name Stalking?

Charging & Prosecution

Safety Planning

Victim Empowerment

I'm totally stalking you
on Insta and saw your
new photos! So cute! 😍

LOL, OMG thanks! 😊

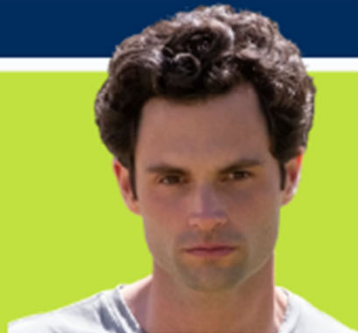
Stalking is Shown As...

ROMANTIC



FUNNY

HEROIC



EDGY

STALKING

FANTASY

The stalker is an attractive stranger, charming chance encounter, or desirable “secret admirer.”



The stalker has only good and pure intentions, usually romantic.

The stalker's actions range from sexy to flattering to harmless. At worst, they're awkward or misguided.



The stalker's target should feel grateful, amused, flattered and/ or affectionate towards the stalker. It's nice to get this attention and feel special.

REALITY



The stalker is usually known to the victim, most often an acquaintance or intimate partner (current or former).

Stalkers have different motivations, but often intend to scare their victims and/or do not stop when the victim is scared.



Stalking behaviors are interfering, invasive, disturbing, and violent. Stalking can escalate quickly and often co-occurs with or predicts serious violence, including homicide.



Most stalking victims feel extreme fear and emotional distress. Many significantly change their daily lives and even relocate to try to get away from the stalker.



Implications

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

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'



Response to Stalking

Support for Older Victims



Least likely age group to be aided by family and friends

Least likely age group to access sources of support

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

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



How do Victims Cope?

Move
INWARD



Move
AWAY



Move
TOWARDS



Move
AGAINST



Move
OUTWARD



Advise Disengagement

Recommend no contact with the stalker

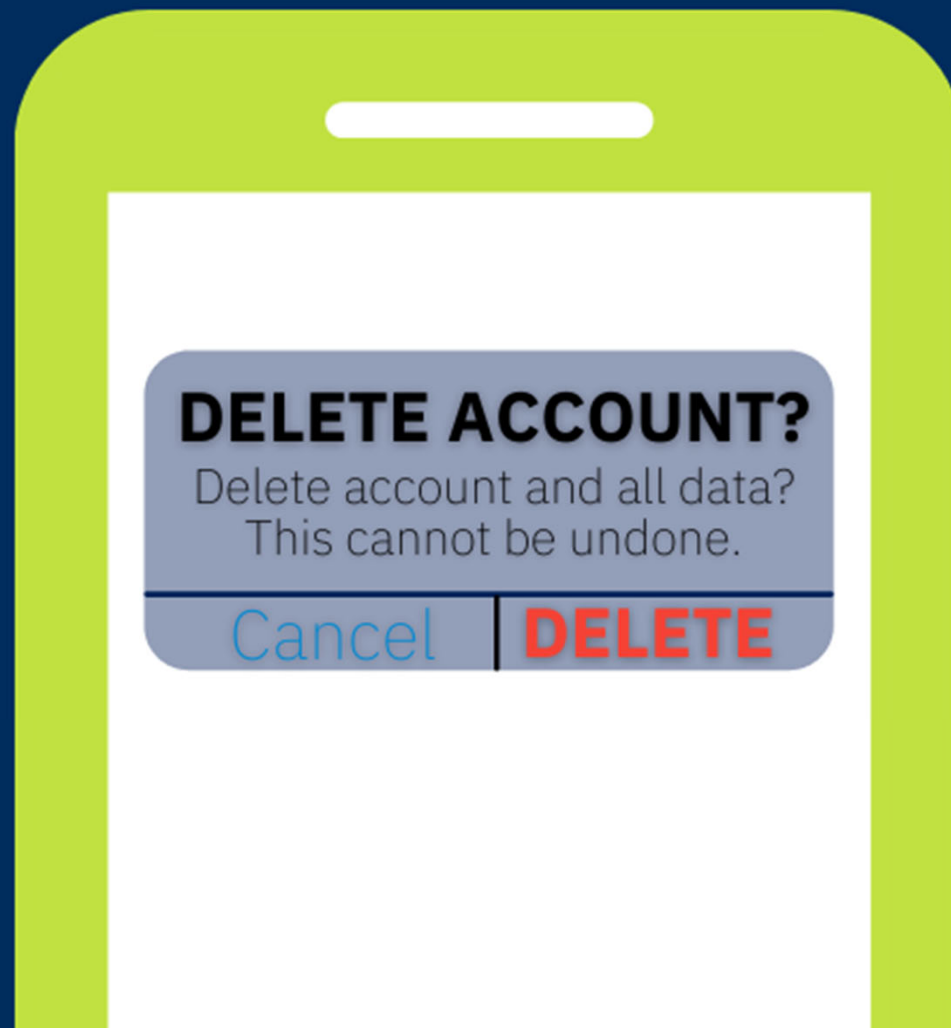
- Explain intermittent reinforcement

***BUT* realize victims engage in behaviors to keep themselves safe.**

- Maintain contact, negotiation, minimizing threat
- Contact may be a safety strategy



Should victims just log off?



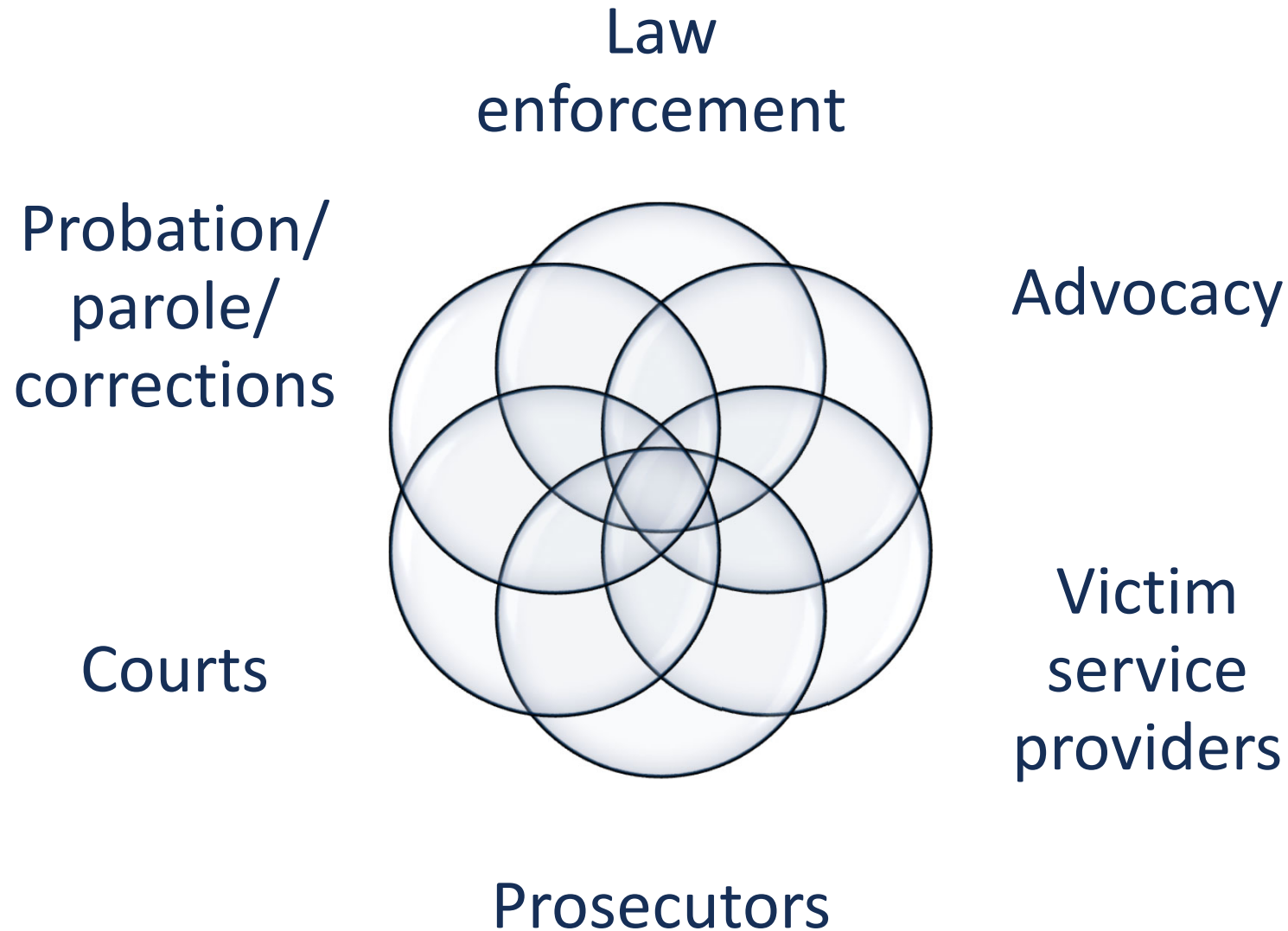


“...the victim’s attempts to distance themselves from their stalker actually frustrate or anger the stalker, leading to an increase in the physical threat to their lives.”



Strategies & Resources

Coordination ^{1/2}



Coordination ^{2/2}

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

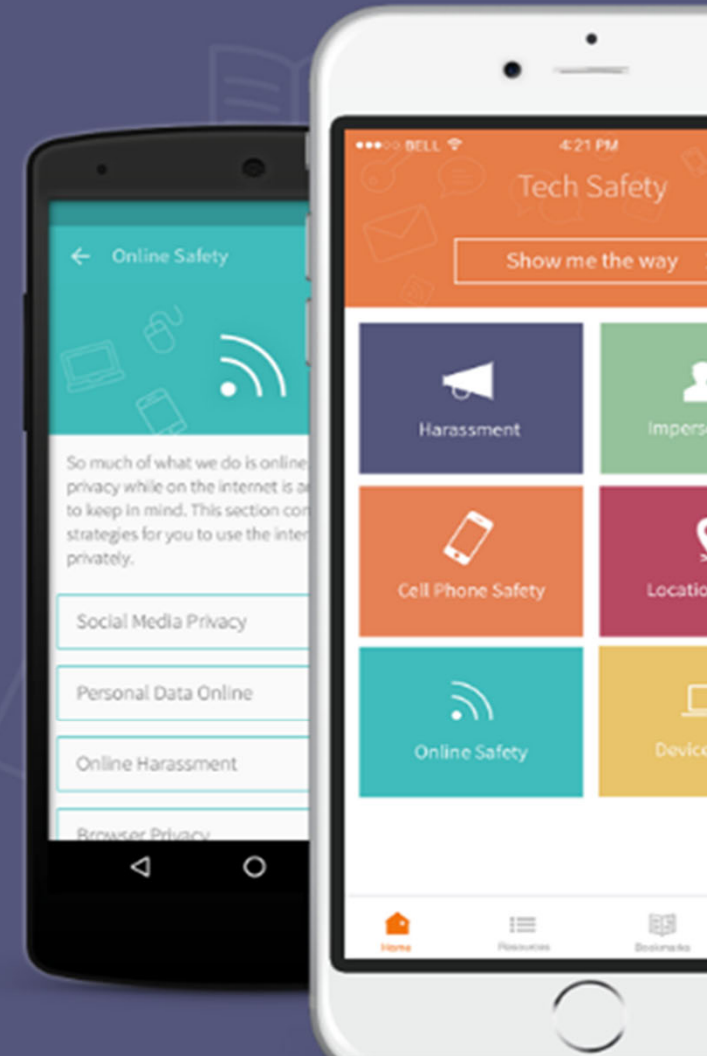
Safety Planning

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?

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.



www.StalkingAwareness.org

***Practitioner guides**

***Training modules**

***Victim resources**

***Webinars**



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STALKING & ABUSE IN LATER LIFE

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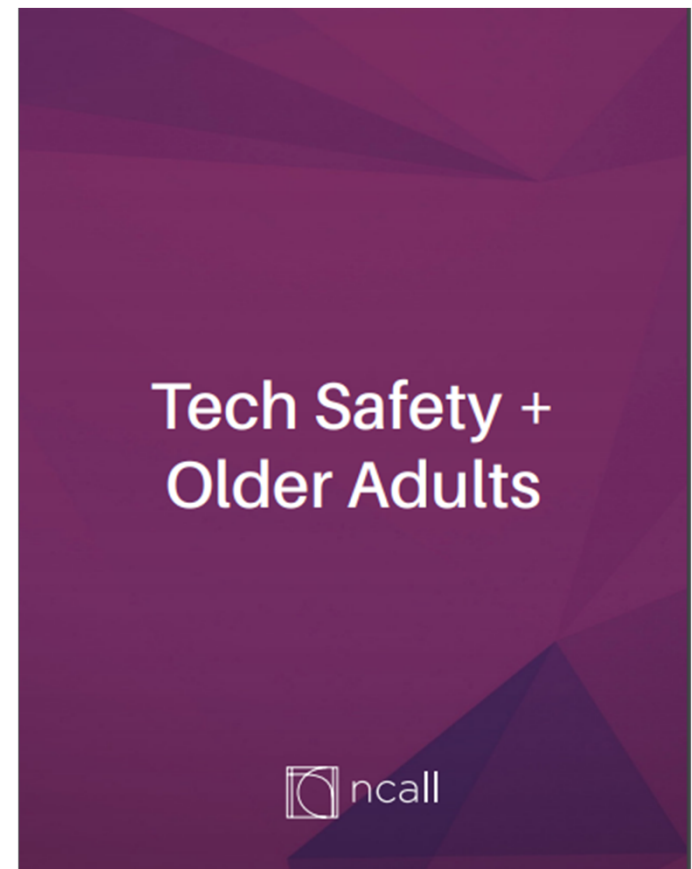
ncall



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/>



For Stalking Victims



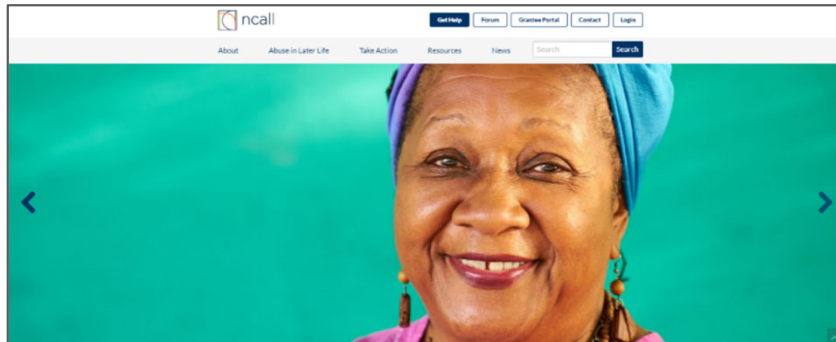
Confidential referrals for crime victims



855-4-VICTIM

Stay Connected to NCALL

Sign up for our e-newsletter:
www.ncall.us/take-action



Website: www.ncall.us



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Thank You!

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