



Information

Facts About Intimate Partner Stalking in Minnesota and the United States

◇2009◇

What is stalking?

- Stalking is defined as a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.
- Stalking behaviors can include: following or spying, unwanted phone calls, text messages, letters or gifts, showing up at places without a legitimate reason, waiting at places for the victim, posting information or spreading rumors about the victim on the internet, in a public place, or by word of mouth. *Bureau of Justice Statistics, Stalking Victimization in the United States, 2009*
- There are no definitive profiles or typologies of stalkers. However, intimate partner stalkers and those with a close relationship to the victim pose a greater threat of violence. *Stalking Resource Center/The National Center for Victims of Crime*
- Stalking is a crime under the laws of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Government. In 15 states, including Minnesota, the first offense of stalking is classified as a felony. *Stalking Resource Center/The National Center for Victims of Crime*

Who is stalked?

- 80% percent of stalking victims are women, and 87% of stalkers are male. When men are stalked it is typically by strangers or acquaintances. When women are stalked it is typically by a partner or ex-partner. *U.S. Dept. of Justice, NIJ Special Report; Practical implication of Current Domestic Violence Research*
- One in 20 stalking victims feared being killed by the stalker. About 4 in 10 stalkers threatened the victim or the victim's family, friends, co-workers, or family pet. *Bureau of Justice Statistics, Stalking Victimization in the United States, 2009*

What is the connection between stalking and homicide?

- Nationally, 76% of intimate partner femicide victims had been stalked by their intimate partner. *Stalking Resource Center/The National Center for Victims of Crime*
- Nationally, 54% of femicide victims reported stalking to police before they were killed by their stalkers. *Stalking Resource Center/The National Center for Victims of Crime*
- In one study, which included 11 U.S. cities, stalking and harassment occurred in 70-90% of the 200 actual and attempted femicides. They found the strongest indication of potential lethality was when there was history of prior abuse, the people were separated and there was stalking. *McFarlane, Campbell, et al, NIJ Risk Assessment Final Report, 2005*

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