



SPARC

STALKING
PREVENTION,
AWARENESS,
AND RESOURCE
CENTER

Stalking & Sexual Violence: Understanding the Intersections

OVW Funding

This project was supported by Grant No. 2017-TA-AX-K074 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program 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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Understanding Stalking

Defining Stalking



BEHAVIORAL



LEGAL/STATUTORY

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.





CONTEXT IS CRITICAL
in stalking cases.

Context



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

91%

OF FEMALE
STALKING
VICTIMS

70%


OF MALE
STALKING
VICTIMS



FELT

**FEARFUL,
THREATENED, OR
CONCERNED FOR SAFETY**

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.



**MOST
STALKING
STATUTES
INCLUDE FEAR OF
SEXUAL
ASSAULT**

Fears Might Include:

- * Sexual assault
- * Voyeurism/privacy invasion
- * Friends and/or loved ones being sexually victimized
- * Intimate photos being created and/or shared
- * Offender sharing personal sexual information and/or rumors

Sexual Harassment

- * “...unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature.”
- * “...harassment is illegal when it is so frequent or severe that it creates a hostile or offensive work environment.”



Stalking and Sexual Assault: Commonalities

STALKING IS:



CRIMINAL



TRAUMATIC



DANGEROUS

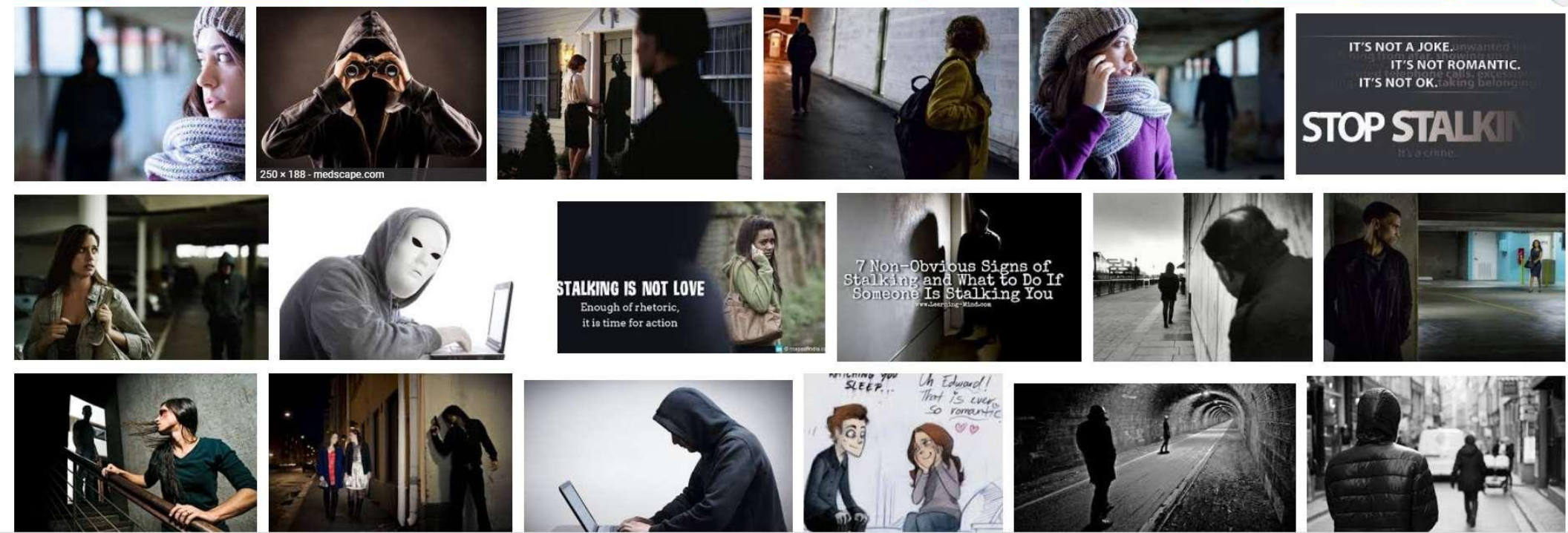
Myth of the Stranger Offender

Google

All News **Images** Videos Books More Settings Tools

View saved SafeSearch

- obsessive
- ex girlfriend
- ex boyfriend
- woman
- kid
- white
- black
- harassment
- felony
- domestic violence
- cyber crime
- bullying
- jealousy
- love
- facebook
- social media
- meaning



“Research suggests that victims rely on notions of what a 'real' or 'legitimate' crime looks like, and these perceptions may impact reporting decisions.”

Reynes, B.W., & Englebrecht, C.M. (2012). The Fear Factor: Exploring Predictors of Fear Among Stalking Victims Throughout the Stalking Encounter. *Crime & Delinquency* 59(5): 788-808. DOI: 10.1177/001128712461123



Relationships, Reporting, & Fear

Victims who knew their offenders were

MORE likely to report feeling **FEARFUL**

and yet **LESS** likely to **REPORT** to police

than those stalked by a stranger.



Prevalent (in the United States)

Similar proportions of women and men experience stalking and contact sexual violence in their lifetimes:



&

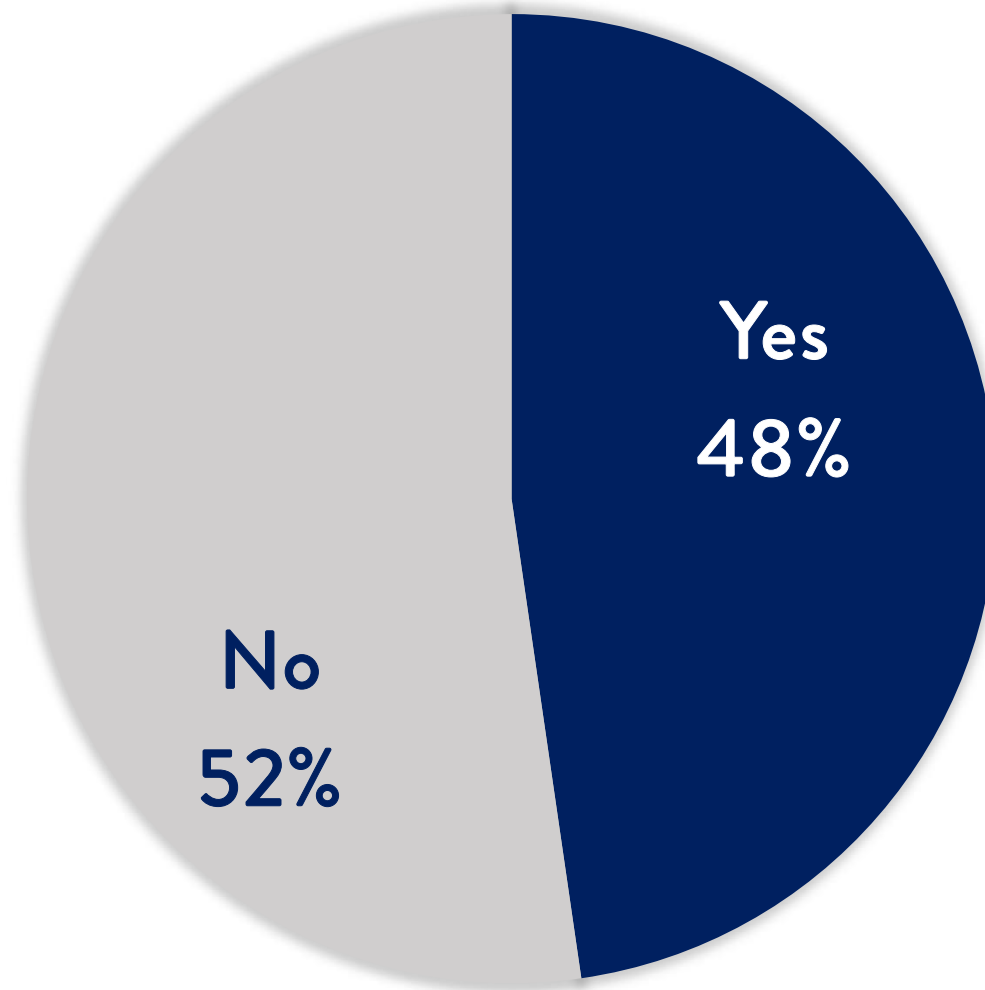


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Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2017). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Stalking and Sexually Violent Behaviors

Sexual Assault Survivors Who Also Experienced Stalking (Ages 18-24)



Brady, P. Q., & Woodward Griffin, V. (2019). The Intersection of Stalking and Sexual Assault Among Emerging Adults: Unpublished Preliminary Results. mTurk Findings, 2018.

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 victim after sexual assault

SLII Framework





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**



SURVEILLANCE

- Monitor victim in order to identify when and how to commit sexual violence
- Gather information as leverage to sexually exploit/blackmail victim
- Nonconsensually watch the victim when nude or engaged in sexual activity
- Leering at victim
- Monitor victim after sexual violence (i.e., who are they telling?)



LIFE INVASION

- Leave sexual items/gifts
- Repeated contact using sexual language, images, threats, or referencing past sexual trauma
- Spread sexual rumors and/or publicly humiliate the victim with personal information about sexual activity or assault
- Impersonate the victim online to discuss or share information about sexual activity.



INTERFERENCE

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

INTIMIDATION



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



INTERFERENCE

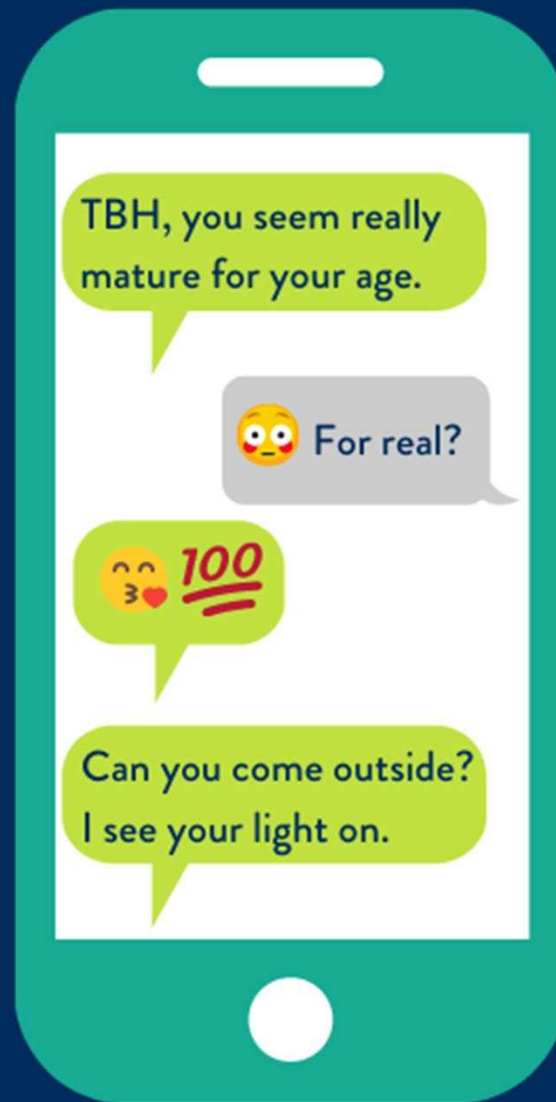
- Sexual violence against victim or those close to victim
- Share sexual photos, videos, or information with others
- Pose as the victim and solicit sexual activity
- Sabotage victim by spreading sexual rumors
- Damaging or taking sexual items like condoms or birth control



INTIMIDATION

- Threaten the victim or others with sexual violence
- Sextortion
- Engage in symbolic sexual violence (like cutting up underwear)
- Threaten to share sexual images, rumors, or information with others

Stalking to Commit Sexual Violence



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

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

Intimate Image Solicitation and Exploitation

Stalking for “Leverage”

- * Attaining nonconsensual photos and/or recordings
- * Gathering information for later sextortion

Justin Scott Corum



- * Corum used persona of a minor league baseball player to lure teenage girls and young women into giving him their phone numbers.
- * Began threatening his victims with violence if they did not send him sexually degrading selfies.
- * Threatened to publicly humiliate them by posting the photographs if his victims did not meet him in person for sex.

Satterfield, J. (24 April 2018). Cyber rapist used Tinder, social media apps, threats and shame to silence victims.

Knox News, Knoxville.



Brady, P. Q., & Woodward Griffin, V. (2019). The Intersection of Stalking and Sexual Assault Among Emerging Adults: Unpublished Preliminary Results. mTurk Findings, 2018.

For Non-Consensual Image Distribution

- * Cyberrightsproject.com
- * Cybercivilrights.org
For victims: 1-844-878-CCRI
- * Cagoldberglaw.com
- * Dmca defender.com
- * Copybyte.com

Soliciting Third Party Sexual Violence

DENVER 04/07/2010 05:12 am ET | Updated Dec 06, 2017

Jebidiah Stipe, Wyoming Marine, Solicited Ex-Girlfriend's Rape And Assault On Craigslist

Stalking After Sexual Violence

Stalking After Violence

Thanks for a
great time 🥰

Our secret, yeah?

Saturday 12:37 AM

Wouldn't want to
have to show anyone
these pics. 🔥

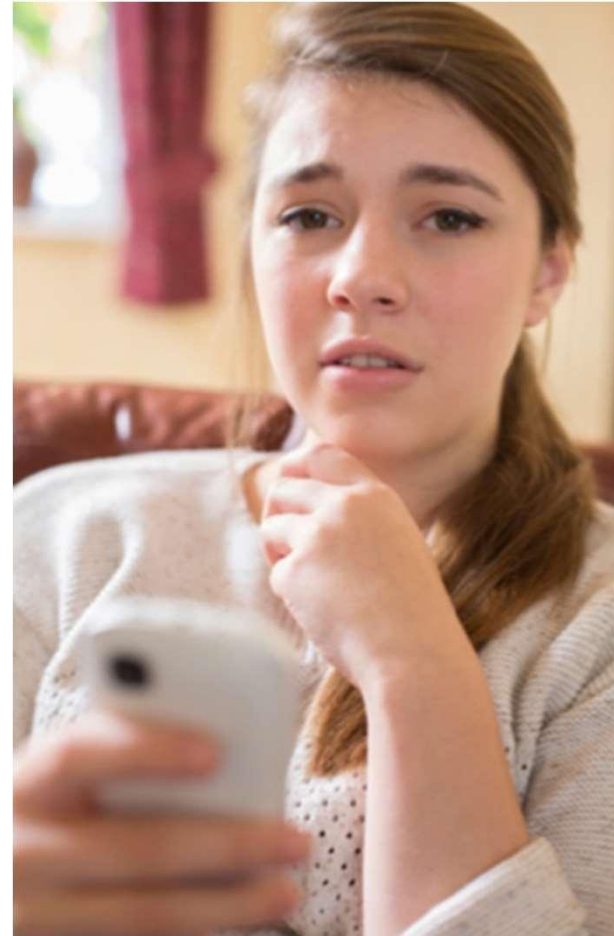
Monday 11:02 AM

WTF, did you tell Dan?

ANSWER ME.

Think Broadly About “Contact”

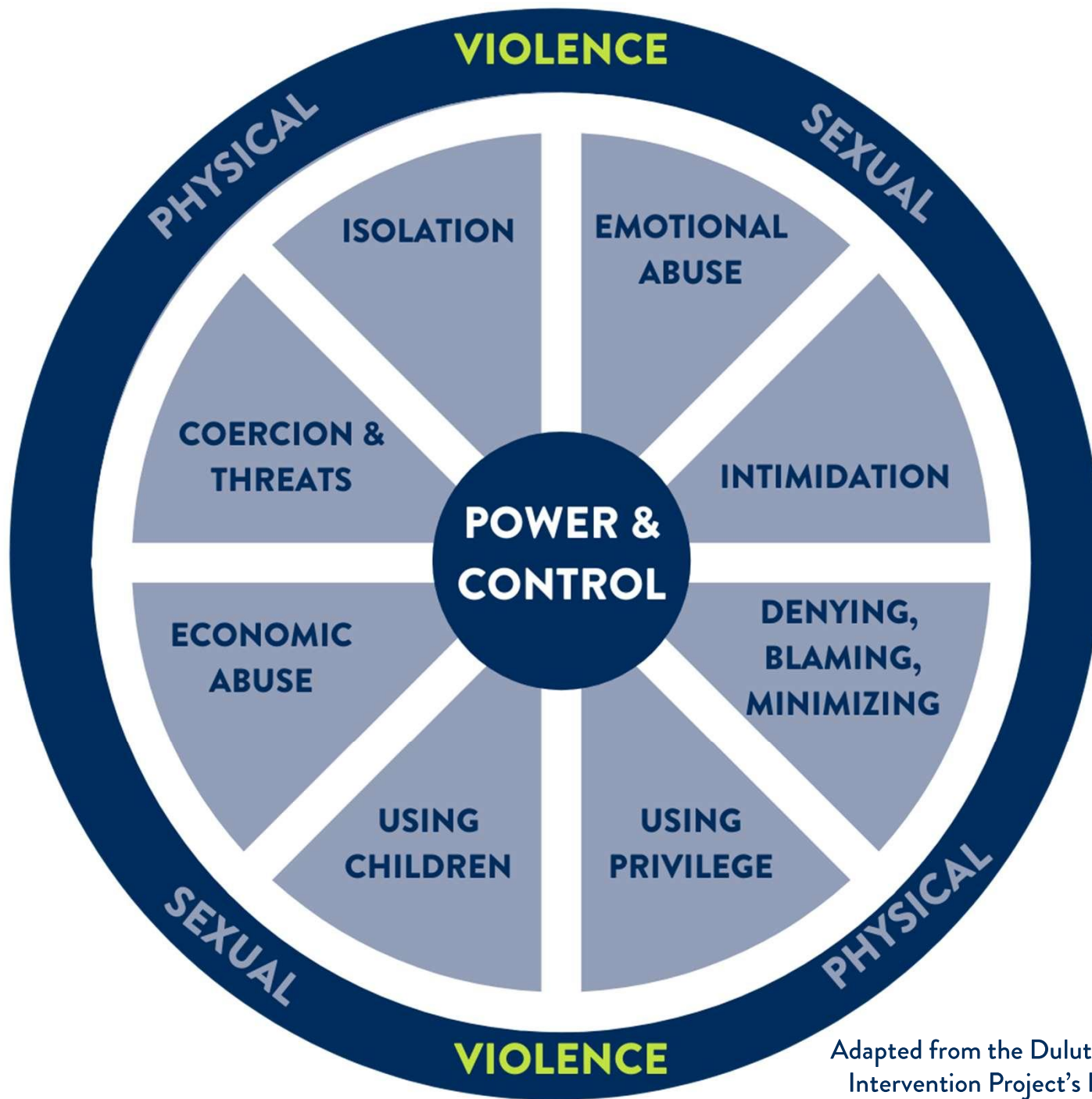
- * In-person contact
- * Third person contact
- * Phone
- * Texting
- * Email
- * IM/Chat
- * Social networking sites
 - * Contact with victim
 - * Postings to own or other people's sites



Potential Relevant Charges: Sexual Violence & Stalking

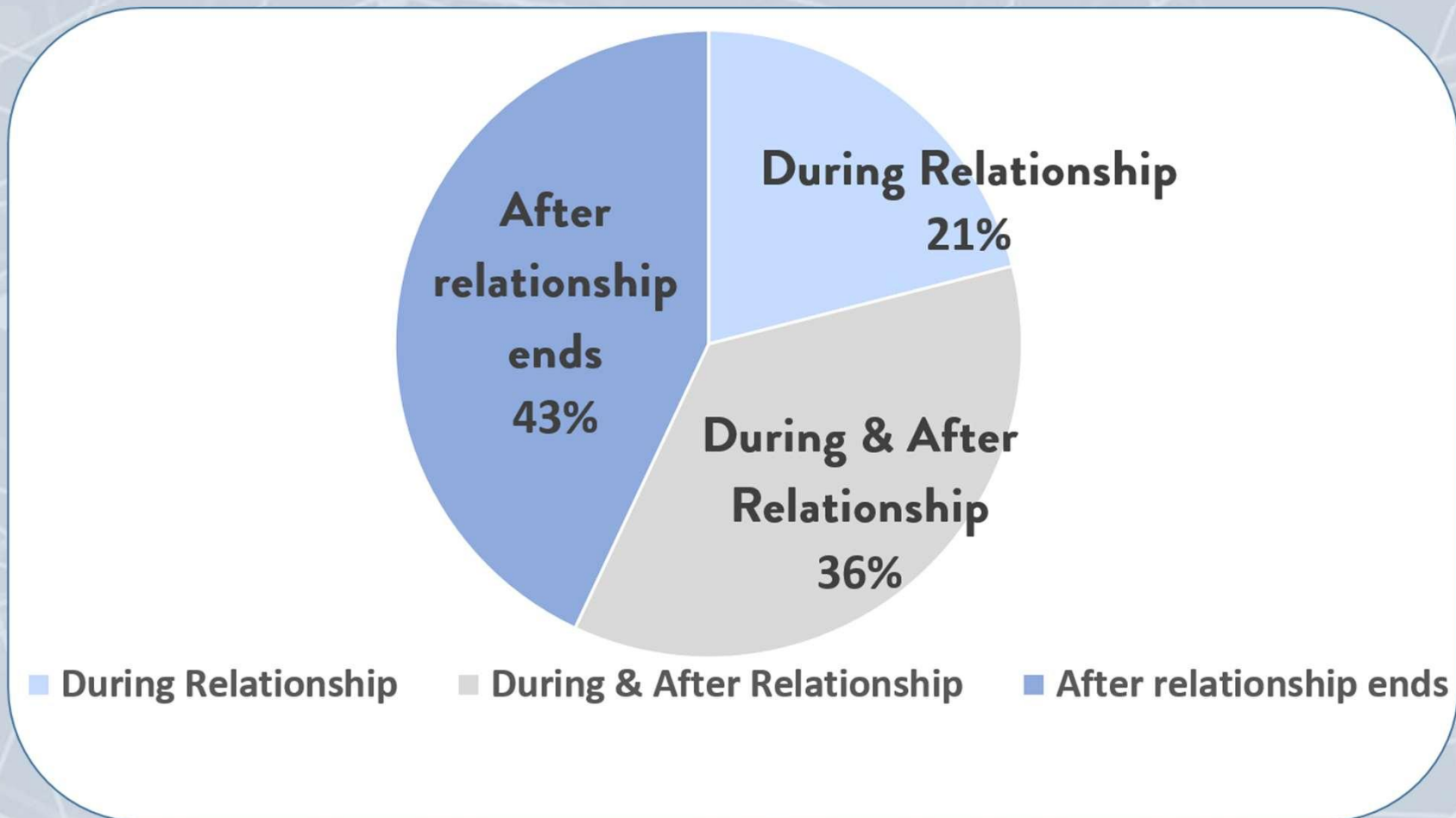
- * Voyeurism
- * Unlawful creation of image of another
- * Nonconsensual distribution of intimate images
- * Sexual assault
- * Indecent exposure

IPV, Stalking and Sexual Assault: Co-occurring Victimizations



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

Point When Stalking Occurs



Intimate Partner Co-victimization

Women stalked by partners experienced psychological abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and injury at significantly higher rates compared with women who were not stalked by their partners.

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

Stalking & IPV Co-victimization

Women who were **STALKED**
by a violent partner after obtaining a protective order
were **9.3 times** more likely to experience
SEXUAL ASSAULT
than women with protective orders who were not stalked.



**SEXUAL
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
STOLENCE**

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

Stalking and Trafficking

Stalking & Trafficking

Surveillance

- * Monitoring victim to identify when and how to recruit
- * Gathering info to leverage to sexually exploit/blackmail victim or persuade
- * Monitor to assess vulnerability, accessibility and perceived lack of credibility
- * Asking other individuals working for trafficker to monitor behavior

Life Invasion

- * Humiliating person by threatening to expose what they are doing
- * Requiring “check-ins”
- * Gifts/small indulgences

Stalking & Trafficking

Interference

- * Committing acts of sexual violence against victim
- * Sharing sexual photos or videos with others
- * Committing physical assaults

Intimidation

- * Violence against others in operation
- * Threatening the victim, others, pets with sexual or physical violence
- * Using symbols of violence to control

Naming Stalking

Why Name Stalking?

Charging & Prosecution

Safety Planning

Victim Empowerment

Responding to Victims

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



Working with Stalking Victims



ADVOCACY



SUPPORT

SAFETY



DOCUMENTATION





STALKING INCIDENT AND BEHAVIOR LOG

| Date | Time | Description of Incident | Location of Incident (physical location, technology used, online platform) | Witness Name(s) (attach address and phone number) | Evidence Attached? (photos, video, screenshots, items, etc.) | Report Made To (name, office/org, badge or identification #) |
|------|------|-------------------------|--|---|--|--|
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Resources for Professionals

StalkingAwareness.org

STALKING AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE: FACT SHEET



People experience **STALKING^A** and contact **SEXUAL VIOLENCE^B** at similar rates over their lifetimes: about 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men.

INTERSECTIONS

- Fear of sexual assault is covered under most stalking statutes.
- Among stalking victims 18-24 years old, 16% said their stalker shared nude, semi-nude, and/or sex explicit photos/videos of them.^C
- In the vast majority of both stalking^D and sexual violence^E cases, the victim and perpetrator know each other.



STALKING and **SEXUAL VIOLENCE** are prevalent, traumatic, misunderstood, and under-reported crimes covered by the Violence Against Women Act.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

- Women stalked by abusive partners experienced abuse at significantly higher rates compared with women not stalked by abusive partners, including
 - Sexual degradation (61% stalked vs. 45% not)
 - Sexual coercion (78% stalked vs. 49% not)
 - Implicit threats & force (48% stalked vs. 21% not)
 - Sexual penetration while the victim was sleeping (15% stalked vs. 11% not)
 - Verbal pressure for sex (68% stalked vs. 34% not)
- 31% of women stalked by an intimate partner were sexually assaulted by that partner.^G
- Women stalked by a violent partner after obtaining protective order were 9.3 times more likely to experience sexual assault than women with protective orders who were not stalked.^H



Stalking SLII Behaviors and Sexual Violence

Stalking is a complex crime that often co-occurs with other forms of victimization, including sexual violence. Offenders may use sexual violence as part of a stalking course of conduct, and service providers and legal professionals can respond to more effectively serve survivors who are both stalked and sexually assaulted.

Below are examples of how sexual violence intersects with four stalking SLII tactics (Surveillance through sabotage or attack), which are a key element of stalking and fear.



Surveillance is the most common stalking tactic. Surveillance can intersect with sexual violence, such as sexual assault, voyeurism, or and more:

- Follow, watch, monitor & gather information about the victim prior to the sexual assault.
- Monitor what the victim is doing, where they are, and who they are with.
- Create fake accounts or identities, while planning to use them to contact the victim.

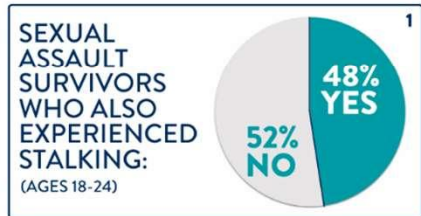


Life invasion describes ways that stalkers use technology to intersect with sexual violence as well as indecent exposure, sex trafficking, and more:

- Repeatedly initiate unwanted communications
- Repeatedly and publicly

STALKING AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Stalking and sexual violence are both prevalent, traumatic, misunderstood, and under-reported crimes covered by the Violence Against Women Act. Stalking intersects with sexual violence in a variety of ways.



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