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Fast Facts About Intimate Partner Stalking

Stalking, broadly defined, is a pattern of unwanted contact or a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.¹ While stalking against all persons is a serious concern, stalking is most often perpetrated against current or former intimate partners.²

Intimate partner stalking is a serious and pervasive problem in the United States and is closely associated with domestic violence.

- ✓ The majority of female stalking victims (62%) are stalked by former or current intimate partners.³
- ✓ As many as 30% of women will be stalked by an intimate partner in their lifetimes.⁴
- ✓ Intimate partner stalkers tend to engage in stalking behavior for much longer periods than stranger stalkers.⁵
- ✓ More than 80% of all women who report being stalked by an intimate partner also report being physically abused by that partner.⁶
- ✓ 76% of women killed by intimate partners were victims of stalking.⁷

Intimate partner stalking is costly to victims, their families, and the larger community.

- ✓ Stalking victims often experience significant financial losses in addition to the emotional and psychological trauma, including difficulties at work, job loss, and property damage.⁸
- ✓ Intimate partner stalkers are more likely to violate protection orders, which can both cause victims to feel fearful and distrustful of the system's ability to respond to the violence and consume valuable judicial and law enforcement resources.⁹
- ✓ Friends and family are significantly more likely to be threatened, harassed, or actually assaulted in cases of intimate partner violence involving stalking than in cases of intimate partner violence not involving stalking.¹⁰
- ✓ Intimate partner stalking costs states millions of dollars per year primarily for health services and justice system costs.¹¹

Technology is one of many tools stalkers can use to intimidate and harass their victims.

- ✓ Cyberstalking, which uses computer and telecommunication-based harassment and monitoring, is only one of many ways stalkers use technology to intimidate and harass victims; the wide variety of information-sharing technologies available and continually being developed allows for a broader pattern of monitoring and stalking.¹²
- ✓ 83% of stalking victims report being stalked through e-mail, 46% report the perpetrator used a hidden camera to monitor their actions, 35% report being stalked through instant messaging, and 10% reported the perpetrator used a Global Positioning System (GPS) device.¹³

¹ KATRINA BAUM ET AL., STALKING VICTIMIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES, BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS SPECIAL REPORT (2009).

² U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE, STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: A REPORT TO CONGRESS (2001).

³ Judith McFarland et al., *Intimate Partner Stalking and Femicide: Urgent Implications for Women's Safety*, 20 BEHAV. SCIENCE & L. 51 (2002).

⁴ STALKING VIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTER, STALKING FACT SHEET (2009).

⁵ Cynthia Fraser et al., *The New Age of Stalking: Technological Implications for Stalking*, 61 JUV. & FAM. COURT J. 39 (2010).

⁶ McFarland et al., *supra* note 3.

⁷ STALKING VIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTER, *supra* note 4.

⁸ BAUM ET AL., *supra* note 1.

⁹ LOGAN ET AL., THE KENTUCKY CIVIL PROTECTIVE ORDER STUDY: A RURAL AND URBAN MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVE STUDY OF PROTECTIVE ORDER VIOLATION CONSEQUENCES, RESPONSES, AND COSTS (2009).

¹⁰ TK Logan & Robert Walker, *Toward a Deeper Understanding of the Harms Caused by Partner Stalking*, 25 VIOLENCE & VICTIMS 440 (2010).

¹¹ LOGAN ET AL., *supra* note 11.

¹² Cindy Southworth et al., *Intimate Partner Violence, Technology, and Stalking*, 13 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 842 (2007).

¹³ Fraser et al., *supra* note 5.