

# Stalking Awareness Fact Sheet 2009



## What is Stalking?

Any unwanted contact that communicates a threat or places the victim in fear. This communication could involve repeated visual or physical contact, verbal, written or implied threats, nonconsensual communication, or a combination of these measures.

## Prevalence in the US

1 out of every 12 women will be stalked during her lifetime and 1 out of 45 men will be stalked during his lifetime.

On average victims report the stalking lasted 1.8 years; in cases involving intimate partners, the average duration for the stalking increased to 2.2 years.

## Effects of Stalking on Victims

Stalking victims often live in constant fear that at any moment their safety and lives may be threatened. Never knowing when the threat may become a violent reality, stalking victims experience higher levels of anxiety, severe depression, social dysfunction and insomnia causing significant disruption and alteration of daily life.

30% of female victims and 20% of male victims sought psychological counseling; 26% of victims lost time from work and 7% never returned to work because of stalking.

Of the 8,000 women and 8,000 men surveyed by the National Institute of Justice and Centers for Disease Control, the top 3 reasons victims felt they were being stalked were: 1) stalker wanted to control victim, 2) stalker wanted to keep victim in relationship, and 3) stalker wanted to scare victim.

US DOJ National Violence Against Women Survey, 1998

## Three Broad Categories of Stalking

### Intimate or former intimate partner stalking

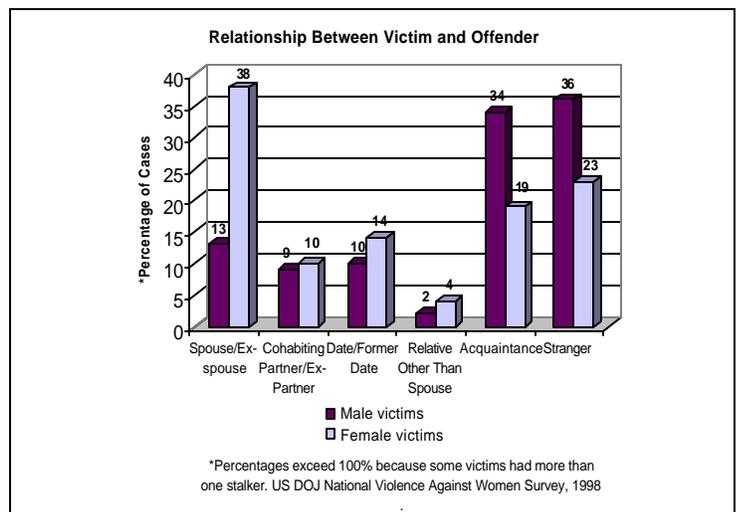
The stalker and victim may be married or divorced, may live together or have lived together in the past, may be serious or casual sexual partners, or former sexual partners. There may be a history of sexual or domestic violence in the relationship as well.

### Acquaintance stalking

The stalker and victim might know each other casually, as in a co-worker or neighbor relationship.

### Stranger stalking

The stalker and victim do not know each other. This also includes cases where the victim may be a celebrity.



## Stalking STATS...

Regardless of the gender of the victim, 87% of stalkers overall are men. Men were identified as the stalker by women 94% of the time and by men 60% of the time.

55% of female victims and 48% of male victims reported stalking to police.

13.1% of female victims and 9% of male victims, whose stalkers were charged criminally, had their cases prosecuted.

52.8% of female victims and 60% of male victims had their cases result in a conviction.

28% of female victims and 10% of male victims obtained a protection order.

Stalkers violated protection orders in 69% of the cases with female victims and in 81% of the cases with male victims.

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## Stalking Myths and Realities Compliments of National Stalking Resource Center

- Only celebrities are stalked. —————> 1.4 million people are stalked every year in the United States. We may hear more about celebrity stalking cases in the media, but the vast majority of stalking victims are ordinary citizens.
- If you ignore stalking, it will go away. —————> Stalkers seldom “just stop.” In fact, behaviors can turn more and more violent as time goes on. Victims should seek help from advocates, law enforcement, and the courts to intervene to stop the stalking.
- Stalking is creepy but not dangerous. —————> Stalking is creepy and dangerous. Three out of four women who were murdered by an intimate partner had been previously stalked by the killer.
- Stalking is annoying but not illegal. —————> Stalking is a crime under the laws of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the federal government.
- You can't be stalked by someone you —————> If your current girlfriend or boyfriend tracks your are still dating. every move or follows you around in a way that causes you fear, that is stalking.
- Modern surveillance technology is too —————> Stalkers can buy surveillance software and expensive and confusing for most hardware for as little as \$30 and can easily track stalkers to use. victims' every move on a computer.
- If you confront the stalker, —————> Stalkers can be unreasonable and unpredictable. he'll go away. Confronting or trying to reason with a stalker can be dangerous.



For more facts and information or to find help for you or someone you know, visit: [www.JaneDoe.org](http://www.JaneDoe.org).  
Stalking is never your fault. It's also preventable.  
Call The National Stalking Resource Center at (800) FYI-CALL or (202) 467-8700,  
for victim assistance, M-F 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM EST,  
or e-mail [gethelp@ncvc.org](mailto:gethelp@ncvc.org). Find out what's right for you or someone you care about.  
Talk. It could save someone's life.