



SPARC

STALKING
PREVENTION,
AWARENESS,
AND RESOURCE
CENTER

Identifying and Responding to Stalking OVW Grantee Orientation

Thank You OVW

This project was supported by Grant No. 2017-TA-AX-K074 awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of OVW.

www.StalkingAwareness.org

*Practitioner guides

*Training modules

*Victim resources

*Webinars



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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

VICTIM

ADVISED ON TODAY'S DATE AT APPROXIMATELY 0800 HOURS
WHEN SHE GOT INTO HER CAR TO HEAD TO WORK, HER CAR DOORS WERE
LOCKED AND ON THE DRIVER'S SEAT WAS A CORONA BEER BOTTLE CAP.

She called the police because of a beer cap?

VICTIM ADVISED ON TODAY'S DATE AT APPROXIMATELY 0800 HOURS WHEN SHE GOT INTO HER CAR TO HEAD TO WORK, HER CAR DOORS WERE LOCKED AND ON THE DRIVER'S SEAT WAS A CORONA BEER BOTTLE CAP.

VICTIM STATED YESTERDAY SHE CELEBRATED HER TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF BEING SOBER AND SHE HAD RECEIVED MESSAGES FROM PEOPLE IN HER AA GROUP CONGRATULATING HER ON HER TWO-YEAR SOBRIETY. SHE BELIEVES THAT **SUSPECT** PLACED THE BEER CAP IN HER CAR TO MESS WITH HER EMOTIONALLY AS SEEING ANYTHING RELATED TO ALCOHOL IS A TRIGGER TO HER. SHE BELIEVES THAT **SUSPECT** IS MONITORING HER MESSAGES AS THAT IS THE ONLY WAY **SUSPECT** WOULD KNOW ABOUT THE ANNIVERSARY.



CRIMINAL

FEDERAL LEVEL

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

TRIBAL CODES

UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE

Stalking Prevalence and Behavior

Stalking Prevalence

NEARLY
1 in 3 women



&

NEARLY
1 in 6 men

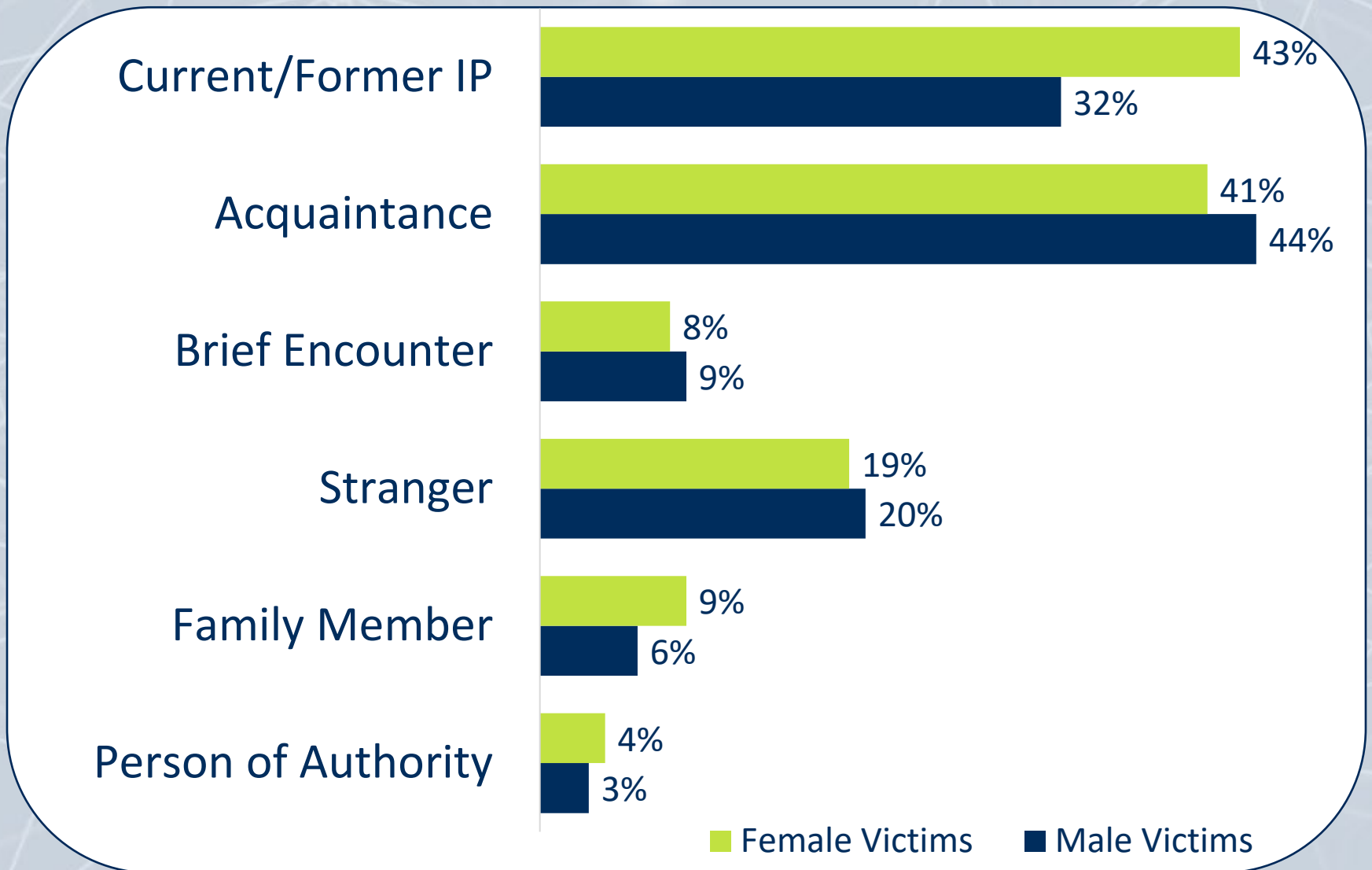


experience **stalking** in their lifetimes.

“

Given these prevalence rates, why are we failing to see corresponding numbers of victims in the criminal justice system or in our victim services work?

Victim and Offender Relationships



Stalking Dynamics

Women are more likely than men to experience stalking.

The majority of victims know the offender.



The majority of victims report that the offender is male.

18-24 year olds experience the highest rates of stalking (among adults).

Challenges: Stalking Cases

- Contextual crime
- Individual acts may not be criminal
- Victim may not identify what they experience as stalking
- Evidence
- Long, resource-intensive responses required



Institutional Barriers



Lack of report-taking or incident documentation



Lack of cross-training across agencies and jurisdictions



Lack of uniformity in stalking procedures across agencies



Lack of understanding of stalking as a lethality factor

Stalking Behavior

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**



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**

Why Do They Stalk?

Seeking affection

Power & control

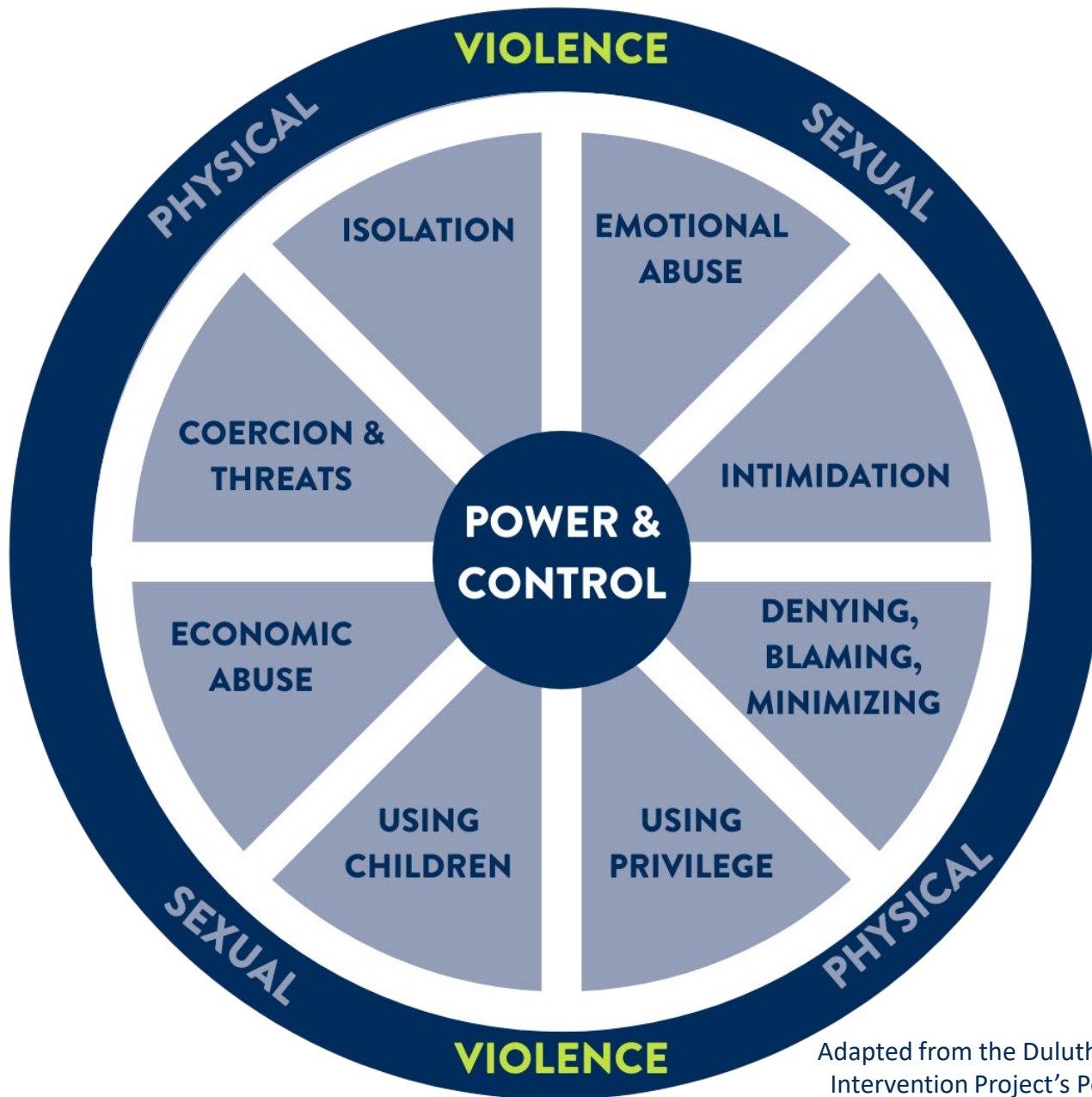
Rejection

Obsession

Planning to commit a crime

Because they can

Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence



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

Intimate partner stalkers are more likely to:

physically approach the victim

be interfering, insulting, and threatening

use weapons

escalate behaviors quickly

re-offend



In **85%** of attempted
& **76%** of completed
intimate partner femicides,
stalking occurred in the year
prior to the attack.

Stalking is a Lethality Risk

Top 10 risk factors for intimate partner homicide

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

Spencer, C.M. & Stith, S.M. (2018). Risk Factors for Male Perpetration and Female Victimization of Intimate Partner Homicide: A Meta-Analysis. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* 21(3): 527-540.

Screening for Stalking

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?

Threat Assessment

“

Victim perceptions of risk are a strong predictor of reassault, equal to or even better than risk management tools

TK Logan & Robert Walker, *Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning*, 18(2) *Trauma, Violence & Abuse* 200-22 (2017)



Stalking and Harassment Assessment and Risk Profile (SHARP)

CoerciveControl.org



Narrative Report &
Risk Profile



Safety Planning
Suggestions

14 Risk Factors in Stalking Cases



BIG PICTURE

- Course of Conduct
- Escalation, Triggers
- Nature and context of threats
- Threat follow-through, capability



STALKER HISTORY

- History of abuse to victim
- History of abuse to others
- Guns, weapons & training
- Criminal history, mental health, substance abuse

STALKER MINDSET



- Resistance & Persistence
- Stalker Motive
- Proxy Stalking

VICTIM VULNERABILITY



- Fear, life impact
- Use of Technology
- Victim Vulnerability

Working with Stalking Victims

What are Victims Afraid of?

46% not knowing what will happen next

30% bodily harm

29% behavior will never stop

13% harm or kidnap a child

10% loss of freedom

9% death

4% losing one's mind



Corroborating Fear



**Personality
Changes**



**Cost & Level of
Effort for Safety**



Witnesses



**Increased
Security/Privacy
Measures**



Physical Signs



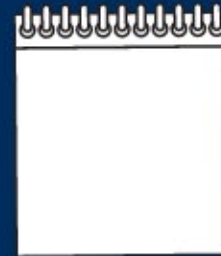
**Isolation/Withdrawing
from Typical Activities**

Working with Stalking Victims



SAFETY

ADVOCACY



DOCUMENTATION

SUPPORT



“

It is easy for practitioners to view stalking as a relatively mild trauma because there is often a lack of obvious physical harm or threat. Consequently, stalking victims often do not receive the same sense of urgency from law enforcement and counselors as victims of domestic violence or assault.

Spitzberg, B. The tactical topography of stalking victimization and management. Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 3, 4, p.278

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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



The CCR

CCR Strategies



Focus on risk

> Stalking & Harassment Assessment & Risk Profile (SHARP)

Frequent multi-disciplinary case review



Comprehensive and integrated approaches

Supervision strategies (restrictions, monitoring)



> Guide for Community Corrections & Probation Officers



Victim safety planning

> Safety planning guidance

CCR Response

TRAINING



- > SPARC training request form
- > SPARC archives

POLICIES/ PROCEDURES

- > SPARC Guides:
Victim Services,
Prosecution,
Corrections, Law
Enforcement
(Coming soon!)
- > Individualized
technical assistance



PRACTICES



- > Victim Services
check list

Safety Planning

What is Safety Planning?

An individualized plan that identifies specific strategies and interventions that may increase safety.

- Provides practical ways to decrease risk
- Puts victims in contact with a variety of services, agencies, and individuals who can help
- Focuses on physical AND emotional well-being



Basic Considerations

Trust victim instincts

Safety planning should evolve

Consider stalker's next tactic

Anticipate stalker reaction

Balance safety and freedom



Tour of SPARC Website

JANUARY IS
— NATIONAL —
STALKING
AWARENESS MONTH
KNOW IT. NAME IT. STOP IT.

How are you planning to spread the word?

LEARN * TEACH * SHARE * REFLECT

StalkingAwareness.org

SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 18

DAY OF ACTION

FOR STALKING AWARENESS

SPARC invites you to spark a dialogue around stalking! Wear something sparkly or shiny on January 18th and share your picture as part of the NSAM Day of Action.

[#SparkleAgainstStalking](#)

[#NSAMDayofAction](#)

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