Presented by:

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www.victimsofcrime.org/src
The Stalking Resource Center is a program of the National Center for Victims of Crime. The mission of the Stalking Resource Center is to enhance the ability of professionals, organizations, and systems to effectively respond to stalking. The Stalking Resource Center envisions a future in which the criminal justice system and its many allied community partners will effectively collaborate and respond to stalking, improve victim safety and well-being, and hold offenders accountable.

The Stalking Resource Center provides training, technical assistance, and resource materials for professionals working with and responding to stalking victims and offenders.
Defining Stalking
Stalking

A pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.
Stalking

A **pattern of behavior** directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear

- Repeated behavior – Course of conduct
- Usually two or more incidents
- Individual behaviors may not be illegal
- Can be difficult to recognize the pattern
Stalking

A pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear

- The target is a specific person
- Others?
Stalking

A pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear

- Would a reasonable person in the victim’s shoes feel fear?
- Can you threaten someone without using words?
CONTEXT IS CRITICAL!
Prevalence of Stalking

- How many people are stalked annually:
  - United States?

- Who is at the greatest risk of being a stalking victim?
Prevalence of Stalking

6.6 million stalked in 1 year in U.S.

- Rate
  - 26.5 per 1,000

Do the Math

1. Take the population of your community
2. Divide by 1000
3. Multiply by 26.5
4. Equals statistical number of stalking cases in your community each year
Stalking Prevalence – GMU

- Student Population ~ 33,000
- Roughly 874 cases in 1 year
Prevalence of Stalking

- 6.6 million stalked in 1 year

- Stalking victimization at some point in their lifetime:
  - 1 in 6 women
  - 1 in 19 men

Stalking Dynamics

- Women more likely to experience stalking victimization
- Individuals under age 25 experience the highest rates of stalking
- Most stalkers are male
  - Males equally likely to be stalked by a male or female
- The majority of victims know their stalkers
Victim Offender Relationship

- Current/former intimate partner: 66.2%
  - Female: 41.4%
  - Male: 24.0%
- Aquaintance: 39.1%
  - Female: 24.0%
  - Male: 40.0%
- Stranger: 19.0%
  - Female: 13.2%
  - Male: 19.0%
- Family member: 6.8%
  - Female: 6.8%
  - Male: 5.3%
- Person of authority: 2.5%

Prevalence

Rates of stalking among college students exceed the prevalence rates found in the general population:

- 27% of women and 15% of men
  - Fremouw et al. (1997)

- 25% of women and 11% of men
  - Bjerregaard (2000)

- During one 9-month period, 13.1% of college women surveyed reported being stalked
Victim and Offender Relationship

80.3% of female campus stalking victims knew their stalkers:

- 42.5% Current/former boyfriend
- 24.5% Classmate
- 10.3% Acquaintance
- 5.6% Friend
- 5.6% Co-worker

Stalking & Domestic Violence
Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence

- 81% of stalking victims who were stalked by an intimate partner reported that they had also been physically assaulted by that partner.
  - National Violence Against Women Survey (1998)

- 3/4 of women who experienced stalking-related behaviors experienced other forms of victimization (sexual, physical, or both)
  - Stalking acknowledgement and reporting among college women experiencing intrusive behaviors (2007)
Point in Intimate Relationship when Stalking of Women Occurs

- National Violence Against Women Survey (1998)
Intimate Partner Stalkers: Increased Risk for Victims

- More likely to physically approach victim
- More insulting, interfering and threatening
- More likely to use weapons
- Behaviors more likely to escalate quickly
- More likely to re-offend
- More likely to assault third parties than non-intimate stalkers

*The RECON Typology of Stalking, Mohandie et al (2006); Criminal Behavior and Mental Health, Sheridan and Davies (2001)*
Lethality (Femicide)

- 76% of cases:
  - victim experienced stalking within 12 months prior to the murder

- 85% of attempted cases:
  - victim experienced stalking within 12 months prior to the attempted murder
Lethality (Femicide)

- 67% of the femicide victims:
  - had been physically abused by their intimate partner in the 12 months before the murder.

- 89% of the femicide victims who had been physically abused:
  - had also been stalked in the 12 months before the murder.

*Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide, McFarlane et al. (1999)*
Physical Abuse + Stalking = Greater indicator of potential lethality than either behavior alone
Stalking Behavior
Pattern of Behavior

- 2/3 of stalkers pursue their victim at least once per week
- 78% of stalkers use more than one means of approach
- Weapons used to harm or threaten victims in about 20% of cases

- The RECON Typology of Stalking (2006)
Stalking Behaviors

- Following/Surveillance
- Sending gifts, letters
- Vandalism
- Stealing items
- OP Violations
- Threats (implicit and explicit)
- Identity theft
- Targets third parties
- Proxy stalking
- Physical/Sexual assault
- Workplace stalking
- Harasses via legal system
- Use of children to harass/monitor
Stalking Behaviors

- Leaving unwanted presents: 67%
- Spreading rumors: 36%
- Following or spying: 34%
- Unwanted letters and email: 31%
- Showing up at places: 32%
- Waiting for victim: 29%
- Unwanted phone calls and…: 13%
Stalking Behaviors

- Stole items from house, car or business. (34.4%)
- Car was tampered with. (22.7%)
- Unwanted contact because someone was waiting around outside the home, work, etc. (21.1%)
- Broke into the house, car, or business. (16.4%)
- Person came to the home or work place and created a disturbance. (12.5%)
- Threatened to come to the home or work place. (11.7%)
- Threatened to hurt or kill family members. (10.2%)
- Threatened to report respondents to CPS or other authorities if demands were not met. (10.2%)
- Threatened to report to police for something that did not occur. (16.4%)
- Threatened while driving a car. (11.7%)
- Threatened to hurt or kill. (3.9%)

- Stalking in Texas (2007)
Use of Technology to Stalk

- Phones
- Cameras
- Global Positioning Systems (GPS)
- Computers
- Spyware
- Email & IM
- Assistive technologies
- Social networking sites
Stalking by Proxy

- Third party stalking
  - Friends, relatives, children
  - Unintentional
  - Intentional

- 50% - 60% of partner stalking victims say others were involved in stalking - Logan et al. (2006)
Recidivism

- 60% of cases
- Time between intervention and recidivism was about 2 months
  - Stalkers reoffend from between 1 day to 6 years

- The RECON Typology of Stalking (2006)
### Duration

- **6 months or less**: 39%
- **7-11 months**: 17%
- **1 year**: 13%
- **2 years**: 9%
- **3 years**: 5%
- **4 years**: 3%
- **5 years or more**: 11%
- **Don't know**: 3%
Among stalking cases...

- 24% involve property damage
- 21% involve a direct attack on the victim
- 15% involve an attack on another person or pet

Identity theft:

- Charged items to credit card: 30%
- Took money from accounts: 52%
- Opened/closed accounts: 54%

--- *Stalking Victimization in the United States, BJS (2009)*
Why do they stalk?

- Seeking affection
- Rejection
- Obsession
- Power & Control
- Planning to commit a crime
- Because they can
Victims of Stalking
Impact of Stalking

- Minimization; Self-blame
- Guilt, shame or embarrassment
- Frustration, Irritability, Anger
- Shock and confusion
- Fear and anxiety
- Depression
- Emotional numbness
- Flashbacks
- Isolation/disconnection from other people
- Difficulties with concentration or attention
- Feeling suicidal
- Decreased ability to perform at work or school, or accomplish daily tasks
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Sleep disturbances, nightmares
- Sexual dysfunction
- Fatigue
- Fluctuations in weight
- Self-medication with alcohol/drugs
- Feeling on guard most of the time - hypervigilance
Impact on Victims

Afraid of:

- 46% not knowing what would happen next
- 30% bodily harm
- 29% behavior would never stop
- 13% harm or kidnap a child
- 10% loss of freedom
- 9% death
- 4% losing one’s mind

- Stalking Victimization in the United States, BJS (2009)
Impact on Victims

1 in 8 of employed victims lost time from work

- More than half lost 5 days or more

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change or action</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Changing phone number/moving/fixing</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>damaged property</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting a restraining/protection order</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>order or testifying in court</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear or concern for safety</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Stalking Victimization in the United States, BJS (2009)
“It’s not easy to describe the fear you have when you see the stalker, or signs of the stalker, everywhere you go. I have given up all hopes of ever having a safe life. For the rest of my life, I will be looking over my shoulder, expecting to see him there.”
“It’s going to take getting a bullet put in my head before people understand how serious this is.”

- Statement of stalking victim Peggy Klinke one month prior to her murder by her stalker in January 2003
Do most stalking victims report to law enforcement?
Reporting to Law Enforcement

- 37% of male stalking victims
- 41% of female stalking victims

--- Stalking Victimization in the United States, BJS (2009)
Reporting of Stalking Incidents

- Overall, 83.1% of stalking incidents were NOT reported to police or campus law enforcement.

BUT....

- 93.4% of victims confided in someone, most often a friend, that they were being stalked.
Reasons For Not Reporting

- Feared the perpetrator/afraid of reprisals: 14%
- Couldn't identify offender/lacked evidence: 11%
- Thought police wouldn't think it was important or would be ineffective: 11%
- Not clear a crime occurred: 11%
- Reported to another official: 14%
- Private or personal matter: 27%
- Thought it a minor incident (minimization): 27%

- Stalking Victimization in the United States, BJS (2009)
What Can We Do?
Campus Response

- Educational Programming
  - Awareness
  - Risk Reduction
  - Prevention
    - Bystander Intervention
- Advocacy
- Training for officials
- Implement and Enforce Stalking Policies/Protocol
Increase Awareness

- Add information to orientation materials/activities

- Awareness Months:
  - January – Stalking
  - February – Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention
  - April – Sexual Assault
  - October – Domestic Violence

- Post information:
  - Residence halls/dining halls
  - Health center
  - Counseling center
  - Everywhere
IT'S NOT A JOKE.
IT'S NOT ROMANTIC.
IT'S NOT OK.

stop STALKING

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IT'S NOT A JOKE
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IT'S NOT ROMANTIC
www.ncvc.org/src

IT'S NOT OK
www.ncvc.org/src

IT'S A CRIME
www.ncvc.org/src

stop STALKING
www.ncvc.org/src
Resources for Victims

- Are You Being Stalked? (Brochure for Victims)
- Stalking Questions and Answers
- Stalking Incident Behavior Log
- Safety Plan Guidelines
- Cyberstalking: Dangers on the Information Superhighway
- Ten Things You Should Know About Stalking

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## STALKING INCIDENT LOG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description of Incident</th>
<th>Location of Incident</th>
<th>Witness Name(s) (Attach Address and Phone #)</th>
<th>Police Called (Report #)</th>
<th>Officer Name (Badge #)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
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