



Get the Facts! Stalking

Stalking is defined as a course of conduct (or a pattern of behavior) directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. This “course of conduct” includes, but is not limited to, harassing or threatening behavior, such as following a person (whether the following be done in person or through the use of electronic monitoring), appearing at a person’s home or work, repeated phone calls, repeated written or electronic messages, or vandalism. Stalking can occur in domestic violence situations, but many victims have not had a previous relationship with their stalkers. This is a separate crime and needs to be treated as such.

1 in 6 women and 1 in 19 men have experienced stalking victimization at some point during their lifetime in which they felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed.

The majority of stalking victims are stalked by someone they know. 66% of female victims and 41% of male victims of stalking are stalked by a current or former intimate partner.

1 in 4 victims report being stalked through the use of some form of technology (such as e-mail or instant messaging).

1 in 8 employed stalking victims lose time from work as a result of their victimization and more than half lose 5 days of work or more.

89% of female homicide victims who had been physically assaulted had also been stalked in the 12 months before their murder.

Weapons are used to harm or threaten victims in 1 out of 5 cases.

Almost 1/3 of stalkers have stalked before.

Intimate partner stalkers frequently approach their targets, and their behaviors escalate quickly.

Less than 1/3 of states classify stalking as a felony upon first offense.

More than 1/2 of states classify stalking as a felony upon second offense or subsequent offense or when the crime involves aggravating factors. Aggravating factors may include: possession of a deadly weapon, violation of a court order or condition of probation/parole, victim under 16 years, or same victim as prior occasions.

Works Cited

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- Stalking Resource Center. *Stalking Information*. 2012. 21 September 2012.