

Understanding Stalking Slides – Facilitator Note

Stalking is a prevalent victimization that is criminal, traumatic, and dangerous. Too often, stalking is unnamed and unrecognized. These few slides are intended to assist awareness educators in their efforts to incorporate stalking into programming on topics such as intimate partner violence, healthy relationships, sexual violence, harassment, and/or other related issues.

These slides are minimal and don't constitute an entire program. For a complete scripted awareness program -- including slides, explainer videos, and discussion activities -- visit the SPARC website for our [general awareness workshop](#) and our [campus version](#).

Consider supplementing this discussion with further education about stalking. Share SPARC's [fact sheets and infographics](#), and/or incorporate [short videos](#) that highlight stalking's definition, impacts, and prevalence.

Additional resources:

- [Short explainer videos about stalking](#)
- [Public awareness workshop slides and materials](#) – for [campus](#) and [general](#) audiences
- [Recorded webinars](#)

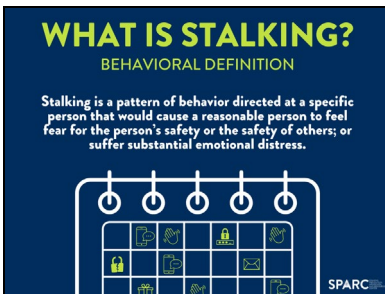
Thank you for bringing stalking education to your community!

Slide 1



- Welcome.
- My name is [name] and I'm [role].
- This training was created/contributed to by the Stalking Prevention, Awareness and Resource Center (SPARC)– the only technical assistance provider on stalking.

Slide 2



- **Stalking is a crime** in all 50 states, US territories, tribal lands and the District of Columbia.
 - Different states have different definitions of stalking.
- A good behavioral definition is a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.
 - Some of the important concepts here have been highlighted.
- Stalking is a **pattern of behavior** that requires 2 or more behaviors.
 - Many different behaviors can be part of a stalking pattern.
 - Some stalking behaviors are criminal (for example, property damage).
 - Others are not crimes on their own (for example, sending gifts), but can become criminal when part of a stalking course of conduct.
 - Common stalking behaviors include (but are not limited to): calling or texting excessively,

following, spreading rumors, surveillance and tracking.

- Stalking is **directed at a specific individual**, not a group.
 - However, stalkers may target other people close to the primary victim – like family members or a new boyfriend or girlfriend.
- **Fear** is key to the definition of stalking.
 - Fear is how we differentiate stalking from other crimes, like harassment.
 - Harassment generally describes behavior that is irritating, while stalking describes behaviors that cause fear.

Slide 3



- **Context is critical in stalking cases.**
- Consider this story:
 - A woman calls the police, hysterical.
 - All she'll say is "there's a cup of coffee in my car."
 - Understandably, the police don't understand what the big deal is and don't see the situation as urgent.
 - Eventually, she says "he's here."
- It turns out this was a stalking victim who had moved to escape her abusive ex-boyfriend, who was stalking her.
- She did not believe he knew where she was.

- When she left for work that morning, there was a coffee cup in her car with his old nickname for her on it.
- She was terrified.

Slide 4



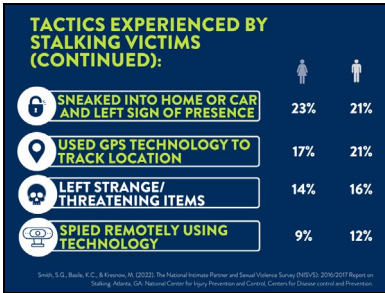
- **Context is critical to understanding stalking.**
 - Something may be frightening to the victim but not to you as the responder.
- **Stalking behaviors often have specific meaning that may only be understood between offender and victim.**
 - If the cause for fear is not intuitive, it's essential to ask victims "Why did that scare you?"
- Stalking criminalizes otherwise non-criminal behavior.
 - It's not illegal to text someone or send a gift or to ring their doorbell – unless it's part of a stalking course of conduct.

Slide 5



- **Stalkers engage in a variety of behaviors, both in-person and through technology.**
 - Some of the most common behaviors are making unwanted calls and messages, spreading rumors, following and spying.
 - Most stalkers use multiple strategies to scare their victims.

Slide 6



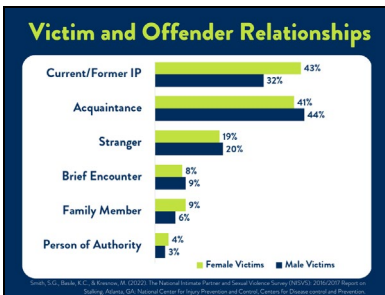
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Slide 7



- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men in the U.S. will experience stalking in their lifetime.

Slide 8



- The vast majority of the time, victims know their perpetrators.
- The majority of stalkers are intimate partners (current or former) or acquaintances.
 - Stalking can be a method of exerting power and control in an abusive relationship.
- It is also essential to realize that many stalkers are NOT intimate partners.
 - Particularly for male victims, the stalker is often an acquaintance.

