

STALKING & FIREARMS FACT SHEET

Domestic Violence
Resource for Increasing
Safety and Connection

DVRISC

SPARC
STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, &
RESOURCE CENTER

Intimate partner (IP) stalkers with access to firearms require an urgent response. They may be particularly threatening, dangerous, and even deadly to their victims and others.



Offenders who killed intimate partners using guns were twice as likely to have stalked their victim before the homicide (than offenders who killed intimate partners by other means).^A



Intimate partner stalking victims with firearm-owning abusers experienced more coercive control, threats, and physical abuse during the relationship than stalking victims with abusers who did not own firearms.^B

Homicide

Stalking is one of the top ten risk factors for IP homicide, increasing the risk by three times.^C

- 85% of attempted and 76% of completed IP femicides are preceded by stalking in the year before the attack.^D
- More than half of U.S. female homicide victims are murdered by current or former intimate partners, and more than half of those murdered by partners are killed with a firearm.^E
- Having easy access to a firearm increases the risk of IP homicide more than 11 times.^F

Harm to Others

Abuser access to guns increases the risk of multiple homicide victims including children, other relatives, and bystanders.^G

- 48% of IP stalking victims say their abusive partner threatened others with guns, compared to 30% of intimate partner violence victims not stalked.^H
- Comparing IP stalking victims with gun-owning abusers to IP stalking victims with abusers who did not own a gun:^I
 - 67% vs. 51% believed the abuser extremely capable of harming the victim or others.
 - 48% vs. 35% experienced threats to people close to the victim.
 - They were 6 times as likely to experience threats to shoot others close to the victim.
- IP stalkers are more likely to assault third parties than non-intimate partner stalkers.^J

Threats to Victim

Explicit^K and detailed^L threats increase the risk of violence and harm. Stalking victims are often threatened both during and after the relationship.

- 76% of women who experienced threats with a firearm from an abusive partner were also stalked by that partner.^M
- 82% of IP stalking victims with gun-owning abusers were afraid the stalker would hurt or threaten them with a gun, compared to 24% of victims with an abuser who did not own a gun.^N
- IP stalking victims with gun-owning abusers experienced more threats in the course of stalking than those with stalkers who did not own guns:^O
 - 71% vs. 49% explicit threats of harm
 - 34% vs. 19% detailed threats about how the stalker planned to harm them
- IP stalking victims with gun-owning abusers were more likely to experience firearm threats than those with abusers who did not own guns:^P
 - 3 times as likely to experience threats to have others shoot the victim
 - 4 times as likely to experience threats to pets or other animals
 - 6 times as likely to experience threats to harm or shoot the victim

The Stalking & Harassment Assessment & Risk Profile (SHARP) is a free online tool designed specifically to examine and assess risk factors in stalking cases, available at www.CoerciveControl.org.

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- ^N Logan, *supra* note I.
- ^O Logan, *supra* note I.
- ^P Logan, *supra* note I.