

# STALKING & INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE: FACT SHEET



There is a real and frighteningly significant connection between stalking and intimate partner violence. Stalking often co-occurs with intimate partner violence and can be an indicator of other forms of violence. Stalking can be a way to exert power and control during and/or after an abusive relationship.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- 40% of stalking victims are stalked by current or former intimate partners.<sup>A</sup>
- 57% of intimate partner stalking victims are stalked during the relationship.<sup>B</sup>
- 74% of those stalked by a former intimate partner report violence and/or coercive control during the relationship.<sup>C</sup>
- 81% of women stalked by a current or former husband or cohabitating partner were also physically assaulted by that partner.<sup>D</sup>
- 31% of women stalked by an intimate partner were also sexually assaulted.<sup>E</sup>
- 41% of victims stalked by a current intimate partner and 35% stalked by a former intimate partner experience threats of harm, compared to 24% stalked by a non-intimate partner.<sup>F</sup>
- The average length of partner stalking is 2.2 years (longer than the average of just over 1 year for non-intimate partner cases).<sup>G</sup>

## STALKING & PARTNER HOMICIDE

- Stalking increases the risk of intimate partner homicide by three times.<sup>H</sup>
- The most common use of the criminal justice system prior to attempted or completed intimate partner homicide was reporting intimate partner stalking.<sup>I</sup>
- Among female victims of attempted and completed intimate partner homicide by male partners, in the 12 months prior to the attack:<sup>J</sup>
  - 85% of attempted and 76% of completed homicide victims were stalked.
  - 91% of attempted and 89% of completed homicide victims who had been physically abused during the relationship had also been stalked.
  - 46% of attempted and 54% of completed homicide victims reported stalking before the attack, most commonly to police.

## INTIMATE PARTNER STALKING OFFENDERS

- Abusive partners who stalk are more likely (than abusive partners who do not stalk) to verbally degrade, threaten, use a weapon to attack, sexually assault, and/or physically injure their victims.<sup>K</sup>
- Intimate partner stalkers are more likely (than stalkers who are not intimate partners) to:
  - Use the widest range of stalking tactics.<sup>L</sup>
  - Contact and approach victims more frequently.<sup>M</sup>
  - Assault their victims.<sup>N</sup>
  - Be insulting and interfere in the victim's life.<sup>O</sup>
  - Escalate the frequency and intensity of pursuit more often.<sup>P</sup>
  - Threaten victims with weapons or actually use weapons on their victims.<sup>Q</sup>
  - Be threatening to their victims and reoffend.<sup>R</sup>
  - Follow through on threats of violence.<sup>S</sup> One study found that among stalking victims threatened, 71% of intimate partner victims were actually assaulted compared to 33% of non-intimate partner victims.<sup>T</sup>
  - Assault third parties.<sup>U</sup>
  - Reoffend after a court intervention and reoffend more quickly.<sup>V</sup>
- The risk of physical violence is heightened when the intimate partner stalker:<sup>W</sup>
  - Issues direct threats of violence;
  - Expresses jealousy of the victim's relationships with others during the relationship; and
  - Uses illegal drugs.

## STALKING & SEPARATION

- Victims stalked by violent partners report more separation attempts than partner violence victims who were not stalked.<sup>X</sup>
- Intimate partner stalking made victims more likely to want to leave the relationship than other factors, including psychological aggression and injury.<sup>Y</sup>
- Stalking after a separation may increase the risk of violence.<sup>ZAA BB</sup>

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