

DISCLAIMER: Persons depicted are models and are used for illustrative purposes only.

Stalking and Older Adults: An Overview

Stalking Prevention, Awareness & Resource Center (SPARC) and National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL) and National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)

January 25, 2022

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Disclaimer

This project was supported by Grant No. 2016-TA-AX-K071 and Grant No. 2017-TA-AX-K074 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

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www.StalkingAwareness.org

- *Practitioner guides
- *Training modules
- *Victim resources
- *Webinars

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National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)

NCALL is committed to creating a world that respects the dignity of older adults and enhances the safety and quality of life of older victims and survivors of abuse. We engage communities to foster a collaborative, inclusive, survivor-centered response to abuse in later life.



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Learning Objectives

As a result of attending this session, participants will be better able to:

- Recognize stalking behavior
- Understand how stalking impacts older adults
- Identify resources to improve their response to stalking

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Overview

- Elder Abuse: An Overview
- Define stalking
 - Prevalence
 - Dynamics
- Implications
- Resources

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Understanding Elder Abuse

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The Elder Justice Roadmap

Definition of Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is:

- physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, as well as neglect, abandonment, and financial exploitation of an older person by another person or entity,
- that occurs in any setting (e.g., home, community, or facility),
- either in a relationship where there is an expectation of trust and/or when an older person is targeted based on age or disability.

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Prevalence of Elder Abuse



1 in 10 community-residing older adults reported experiencing elder abuse in the past year.


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Elder Abuse: Under the Radar



For every one case of elder abuse that comes to the attention of a responsible entity...

another twenty-four cases never come to light.

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A Survivor's Story: Velva



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Poll


That you are aware of, have you ever worked with an elder adult who was experiencing stalking?

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Stalking: Definition & Dynamics

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STALKING IS:

CRIMINAL

TRAUMATIC

DANGEROUS

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CRIMINAL

FEDERAL LEVEL

ALL 50 STATES, D.C., & U.S. TERRITORIES

TRIBAL CODES


UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE

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TRAUMATIC

Many stalking victims:

*Experience mental health issues.

*Lose time from work.
1 in 8 employed stalking victims lose time from work.

*Relocate. 1 in 7 stalking victims move.

Baum, K., Catalano, S., Rand, M. (2009). Stalking Victimization in the United States. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.


Blauw, E., Arensman, E., Winkel, F.W., Freeve, A., & Sheridan, L. (2002). The Toll of Stalking. Journal of Interpersonal Violence 17(1): 50-63.

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DANGEROUS

• Stalking often co-occurs with physical assault and sexual violence, including rape.

• 20% of stalkers use weapons to threaten or harm victims.

• 76% of intimate partner femicides included stalking in the year prior.

McFarlane, J., Campbell, J.C., Wilt, S., Ulrich, Y., & Xu, X. (1999.) Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide. Homicide Studies 3 (4), 300-316.

Mohandie, K., Meloy, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers. Journal of Forensic Sciences, 51 (1), 147-155.

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"Stalking is homicide
in slow motion."

– Patrick Brady, Criminology Dept.
University of West Georgia

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Stalking is one of
the few crimes
where **early
intervention** can
**prevent violence
and death.**

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Reporting Rates



- Less than half of stalking victims report to the police.
- Why might elderly victims be hesitant to report?
- What barriers might they face?

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Reasons For Non-Disclosure

Victim is minimizing or is uncertain of the behaviors

Victim did report to someone but had a negative response

Victim is isolated

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Reasons For Non-Disclosure

Fear of loss of independence

The offender is a family member, intimate partner, or care-taker

Lack of understanding technology

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Domestic Violence Crimes Study

- 1785 cases of domestic violence
- 298 involve stalking (1 in 6)

How many cases were charged as stalking?

Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (2001). Stalking: Its Role in Serious Domestic Violence Cases. Executive Summary. Center for Policy Research. Denver, CO. Retrieved from <https://www.ngis.gov/pdffiles/1n/jgrants/187346.pdf>.

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Defining Stalking



 **BEHAVIORAL**

 **LEGAL/STATUTORY**

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Poll: Is this Stalking?

1. A staff member hides a camera in the women's locker room to watch the women undress. It goes undiscovered for months.

2. An ex-partner repeatedly spreads vicious rumors about their former partner on social media.


3. A supervisor regularly asks her employee personal questions, mocks him in meetings, sends e-mails at odd hours, and is verbally abusive when he doesn't respond right away.

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A pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel **FEAR** for the person's safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.

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A pattern of behavior...

• Not a single incident or "one off" event

• Called a "course of conduct" in most statutes




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...directed at a specific person...




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...that would cause a reasonable person to feel **FEAR**

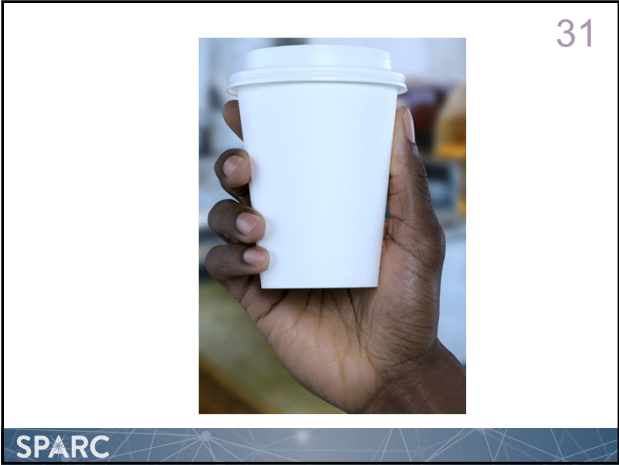
for their safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.

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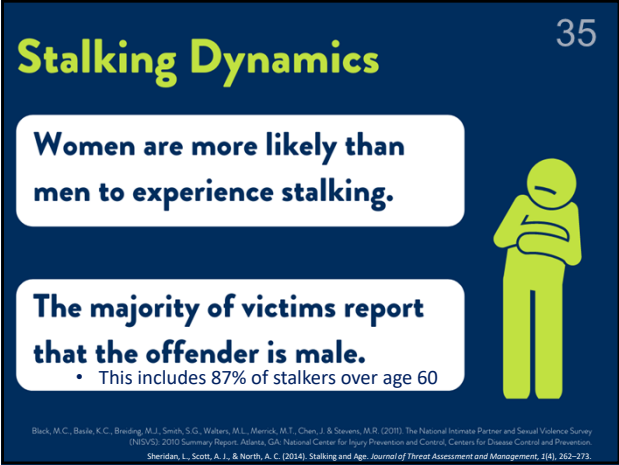
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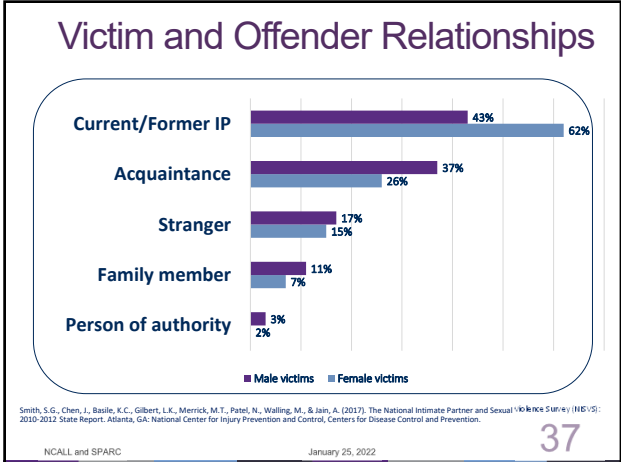
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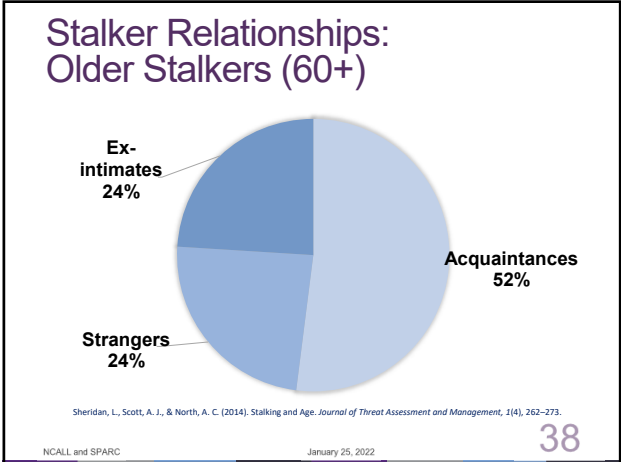
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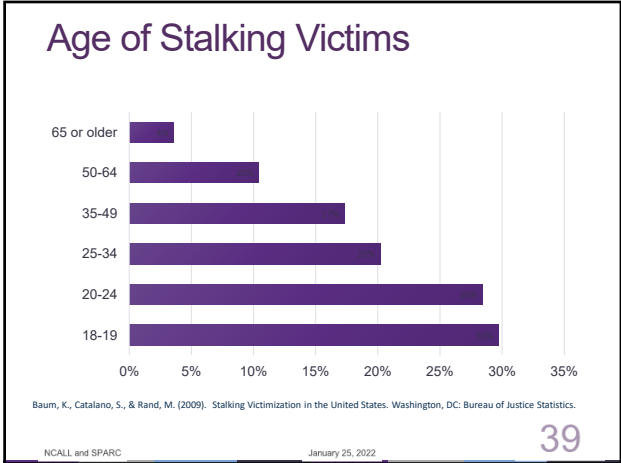
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NEWS CRIME & POLICE

She got a ride from an elderly St. Paul man, then stalked him for more, charges say

By SARAH HORNOR | shornor@pioneerpress.com | Pioneer Press
PUBLISHED December 6, 2017 at 1:21 pm | UPDATED: December 7, 2017 at 11:19 am

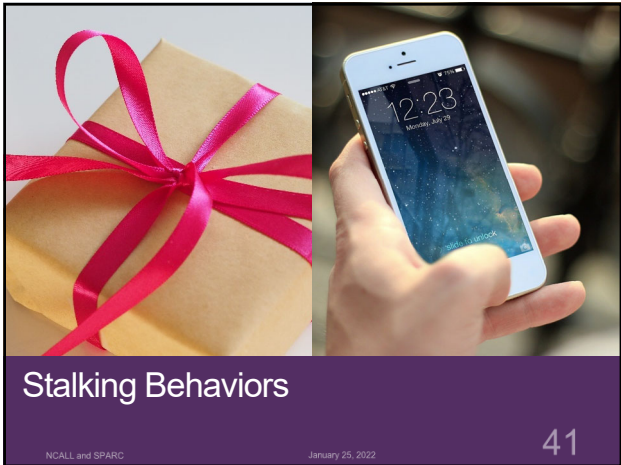
Man steals more than \$4,000 from elderly victim with 'almost daily' loan requests, police say

TONY REID tonyreid@lee.net Oct 1, 2018 0

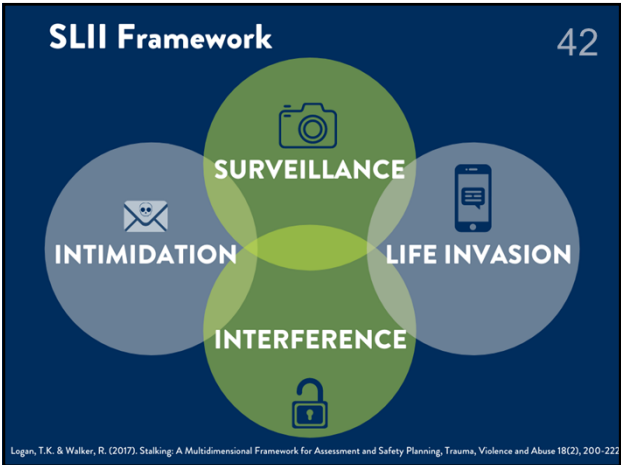
Rock Hill woman withheld meds, stalked and abused vulnerable adult, SC agents say

BY ANDREW DAVIS
adavis@theanderson.com
April 10, 2018 10:31 PM
Updated April 10, 2018 12:40 PM

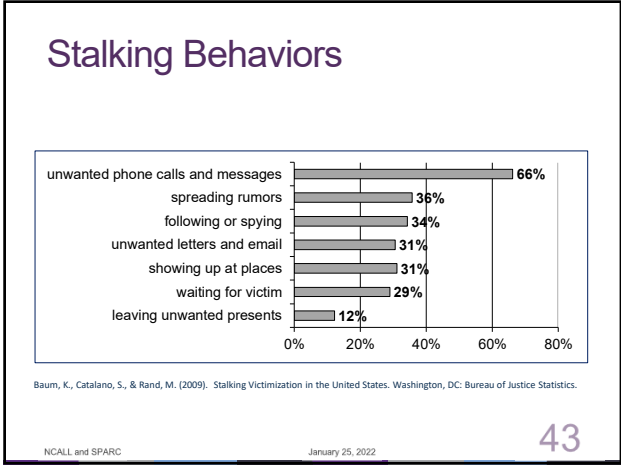
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Screening for Stalking 44

Has the Offender...

- been tracking, following, or monitoring Victim in any way?
- repeatedly invaded Victim's life/privacy by initiating unwanted contact with Victim?
(e.g., repeated contact, gifts, breaking into Victim's car or home, other unwanted intrusions)?
- significantly and directly interfered with Victim's life?
(e.g., spreading rumors, public humiliation, jeopardizing Victim's job, interfered with finances or housing)
- more than one time, intimidated or scared Victim through threats, property damage, threatening or actual harming of pets, or other means?

Logan, T.K. & Walker, R. (2017). Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning. Trauma, Violence and Abuse 18(2), 200-222.

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Changing Behaviors

- 78% of stalkers use more than one means of approach
- 66% of stalkers pursue their victim at least once per week

Mohandie, K., Meloy, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers. Journal of Forensic Sciences, 51 (1), 147-155.

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Co-occurrence with Other Crimes 46

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Intersection with Other Crimes

- Domestic violence
- Sexual assault
- Sexual abuse
- Stalking
- OP violations
- Assault
- Harassment
- Home invasion
- Attempted murder
- Kidnapping
- Vandalism
- Wiretapping or utility theft
- Burglary
- Theft
- Identity theft
- Child Abuse
- Hate Crimes

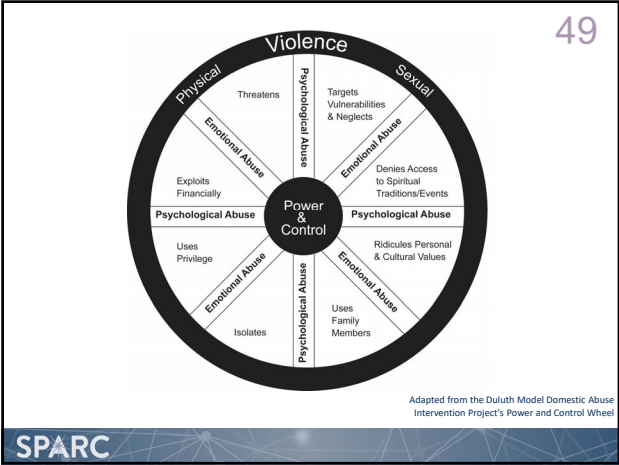
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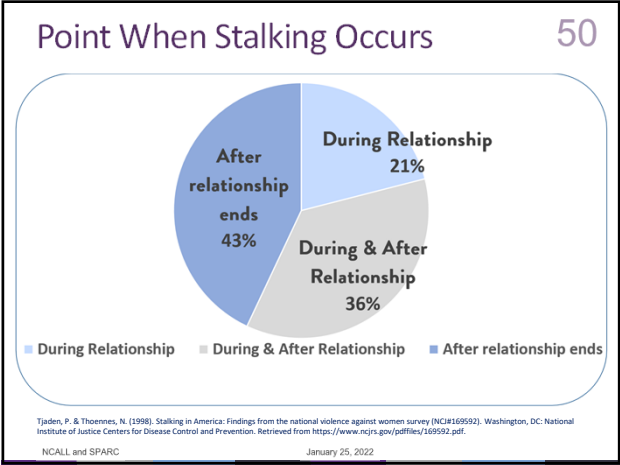
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Intimate partner stalkers are more likely to:

- physically approach the victim
- be interfering, insulting, & threatening
- use weapons
- escalate behaviors quickly
- re-offend

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Mohandie, K., Meloy, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 51 (3), 147-155.

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Study of Women with Protective Orders

Women who were **abused and stalked** experienced **significantly higher rates** of the following than women who were abused but not stalked:

- Verbal abuse, degradation, jealousy and control
- Serious threats
- Moderate and severe physical violence
- Sexual violence and sexual assault
- Threats to kill and threats with a weapon
- Being beat up, attacks with a weapon and injury

Logan, T.K., Shannon, L., & Cole, J. (2007). Stalking Victimization in the Context of Intimate Partner Violence. *Violence Vict.* 22 (6), 669-683.

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Intersections of Sexual Violence and Stalking

A stalker may:

- Threaten to sexually assault the victim
- Sexually assault the victim
- Attempt to get someone else to sexually assault the victim

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How Offenders Groom for Sexual Violence

1. Research and identify vulnerable victims
2. Establish relationships: contact, build trust
3. Meet in-person and isolate the victim
4. Coerce into sexual act(s)
5. Contact after

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The Use of Technology to Stalk

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Technology Use Among Seniors



- 80% own cell phones, 40% own smartphones
- 67% of adults ages 65 use the internet
- 34% use social media
- Younger seniors (65-69) have significantly higher rates of technology use than older seniors

Anderson, M. & Perrin, A. (2017). Technology Use Among Seniors. Pew Research Center on Internet and Technology.

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Forms of Technology Used to Stalk

- Phones – calls, messages, texts, pics, video
- Cameras
- Global Positioning Systems (GPS)
- Computers
- Social networking sites
- Email & IM
- Spyware
- Assistive technologies

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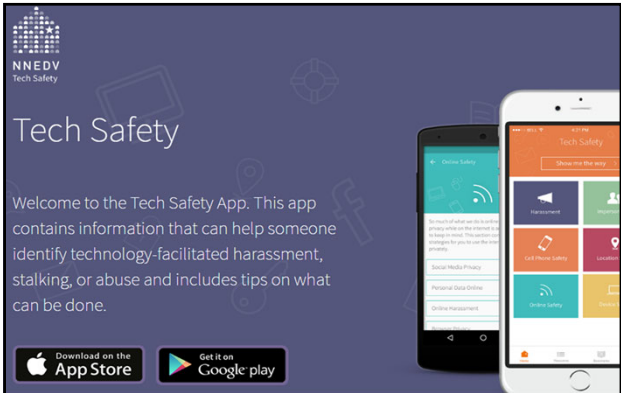
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Warning Signs: Stalkers' Use of Technology

- Knows where victim is
- Has access to information that victim never shared with him/her
- Victim is locked out of accounts, passwords changed, etc.

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Tech Safety

Welcome to the Tech Safety App. This app contains information that can help someone identify technology-facilitated harassment, stalking, or abuse and includes tips on what can be done.

Download on the App Store | Get it on Google play

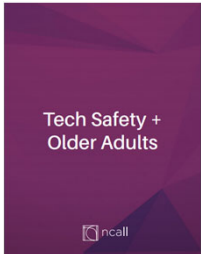
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Technology Safety Toolkit

Tech Safety + Older Adults

- NCALL's new toolkit released in November 2020
- Created in collaboration with the Safety Net team at the National Network to End Domestic Violence
- <https://www.ncall.us/resources/publications-library/>



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Older Adult Stalkers

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Older Stalkers

Report: Elderly stalker tried to pay to give ex stitches

By Frank Stanfield / frankstanfield@dailycommercial.com

Posted Aug 30, 2018 at 9:39 PM

Updated Aug 30, 2018 at 9:39 PM

THE VILLAGES — Authorities say an elderly man who defaced his ex-girlfriend's house then attacked her when she caught him in the act in early August has been arrested again, this time for trying to hire someone to hurt her and vandalize her home.

62-year-old man arrested after allegedly stalking 22-year-old who rejected him

By: Tracy Williams

Posted: 11:45 AM, Apr 10, 2018

Updated: 11:45 AM, Apr 10, 2018

Crime

PD: Man arrested for stalking teen in Watertown

By: Alex Candiano

Posted: 10:10 AM, 2018 10/17 PM EDT

Updated: 10:10 AM, 2018 10/17 PM EDT

Elderly man arrested on stalking charges for harassing his neighbor, which was caught on video.

Post Date: 10/16/2017

On October 14, 2017, Port St. Lucie Police arrested Jonathan Walwright Mayfield (DOB 10/22/46, 10400 SW Stephanie Way, Port St. Lucie) on the charges of stalking and two counts of vandalism after he was captured on video damaging his neighbor's property.

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Older Stalkers (Aged 60+)



- Least likely to target same-sex victims (10%)
- Most likely to actually injure victims
- More likely to target victims outside of their own age group, like younger acquaintances

Photo by Nicole DeChors for Burea

Sheridan, L., Scott, A. J., & North, A. C. (2014). Stalking and Age. *Journal of Threat Assessment and Management*, 1(4), 262–273.

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Reporting & Response

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Specific Challenges

What are some of the challenges older victims of stalking face?

Confusion around technology

Minimizing the threat

Perceived dementia/Alzheimer's

Medications

What else?

Others can't comprehend

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Reaction to Older Stalking Victims

77% of older victims were told they were overreacting

66.7% of older victims were not taken seriously by the police

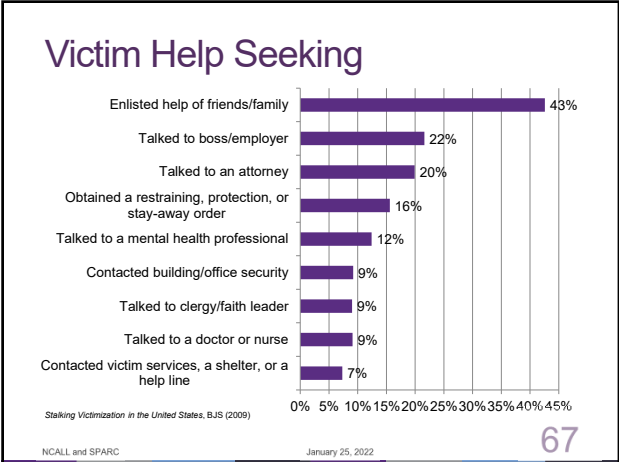
Sheridan, L., Scott, A. J., & North, A. C. (2014). Stalking and Age. *Journal of Threat Assessment and Management*, 1(4), 262–273.

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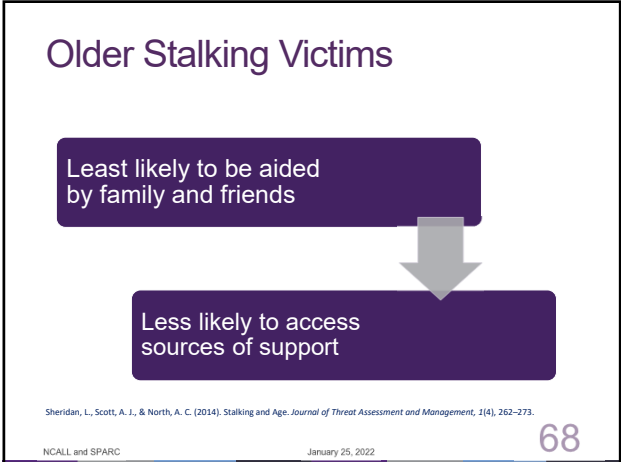
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Lethality of Elder Abuse

Elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation victims are three times more likely to die prematurely than non-abused older adults.

Lachs, et al. (1998). The Mortality of Elder Mistreatment. *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

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- ### Implications
- Are we recognizing stalking in older adults?
 - Or, are we calling it elder abuse?
 - Are there disadvantages of labeling it as elder abuse?
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