

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 31, 2020

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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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## Presenter Information

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- Training modules
- Victim resources
- Practitioner guides
  - Webinars





@followuslegally

[www.StalkingAwareness.org](http://www.StalkingAwareness.org)

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

Adorno, R., Hernandez, M. A., Ametstatter, A. B., Resnick, H. S., Steve, K., Muzzy, W., & Kilpatrick, D. J. (2010). The National Elder Mistreatment Study. *American Journal of Public Health*.

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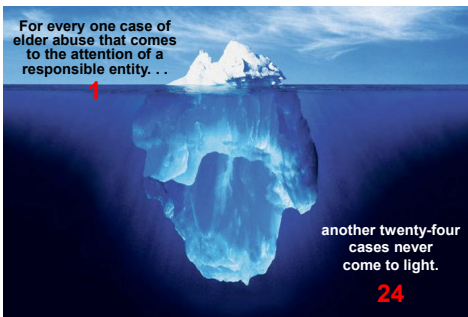
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### Elder Abuse: Under the Radar



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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Source: Lachs et al., Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc. (2011) Under the Radar: New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study. Slide courtesy of Life Long Justice.

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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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## Stalking is CRIMINAL

- Federal
- All 50 States; District of Columbia; U.S. Territories
- Tribal Codes
- UCMJ

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## Stalking is TRAUMATIC



**Many stalking victims:**

- **Experience mental health issues** including depression, anxiety, insomnia and social dysfunction.
- **Lose time from work.** 1 in 8 employed stalking victims lose time from work and more than half lose 5 days of work or more.
- **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. Retrieved from <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/ovw/legacy/2012/08/15baum-stalking-0815.pdf>

Bosauw, E., Avenström, E., Winkel, F.W., Frieve, A., & Sheridan, L. (2002). The Toll of Stalking. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 17(1): 50-63.

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## From a Survivor



**"It's not easy to describe the fear you have when you see the stalker, everywhere you go. I have given up all hopes of ever having a safe life.**

**For the rest of my life, I will be looking over my shoulder, expecting to see him there."**

© Can Stock Photo by iara

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### Stalking is 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.

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.

McFarlane, J., Campbell, J.C., Witt, S., Ulrich, Y., & Xu, X. (1999.) Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide: Homicide Studies 3 (4), 300-316. Retrieved from [http://hctxiv.org/images/HomicideStudies\\_StalkingAndIntimatePartnerFemicide\\_11-1999.pdf](http://hctxiv.org/images/HomicideStudies_StalkingAndIntimatePartnerFemicide_11-1999.pdf).

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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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# Less than 40% of stalking victims report to law enforcement.

Baum, K., Catalano, S., Rand, M. (2009). *Stalking Victimization in the United States*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved from <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/ovn/legacy/2012/0815ba-stalking-rpt.pdf>

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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.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/187346.pdf>

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# Defining Stalking

Legal

Behavioral

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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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### Behavioral Definition

#### Stalking:

A pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.

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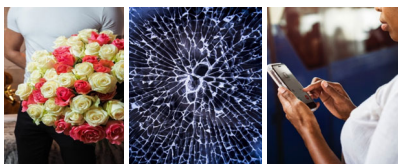
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### A Pattern of Behavior...

- Not a single incident or "one off" event.
- Called a "course of conduct" in most stalking statutes.



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...Directed at a Specific Person



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...That Would Cause a Reasonable Person to Feel Fear.



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What's So Scary?



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### Context



- Something may be frightening to the victim but not to you.
- Stalking behaviors often have specific meanings.
- Stalking criminalizes otherwise non-criminal behavior.

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### Victim Reaction: Is it Fear?



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### Prevalence in a Lifetime

More than  
**1 in 6**  
WOMEN



More than  
**1 in 17**  
MEN



Smith, S.G. et al (2019). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) 2015 Data Brief. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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### Perpetrators



The majority of victims report that the offender is male – including 87% of stalkers over age 60.

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report, Center for Disease Control (2011)  
Lorraine Sheridan, Adrian Scott & Adrian North. (2016). Stalking and Age. American Psychological Association.

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### Victims



Women report stalking at higher rates than men do.

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report, Center for Disease Control (2011)

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### Image Results for “Stalking”



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Relationships



The majority of the time, the victim knows the perpetrator.

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report, Center for Disease Control (2011)

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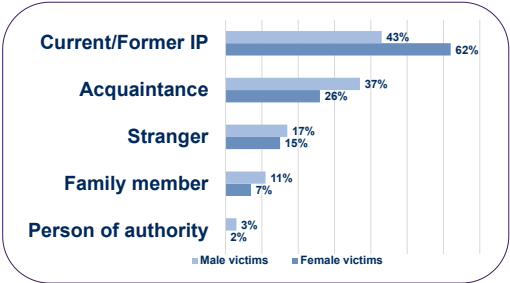
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Victim & Offender Relationship



Relationship	Male victims	Female victims
Current/Formal IP	43%	62%
Acquaintance	26%	37%
Stranger	17%	15%
Family member	11%	7%
Person of authority	3%	2%

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 – 2012 State Report, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2017)

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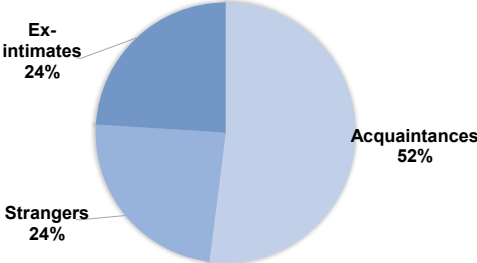
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Stalker Relationships:  
Older Stalkers (60+)



Relationship	Percentage
Acquaintances	52%
Ex-intimates	24%
Strangers	24%

Lorraine Sheridan, Adrian Scott & Adrian North. (2015). Stalking and Age. American Psychological Association.

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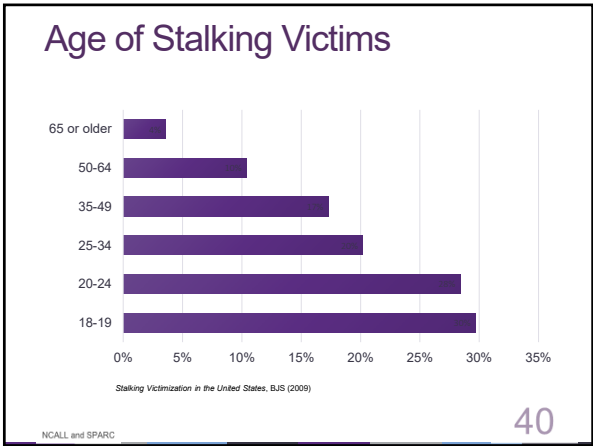
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NEWS • CRIME & POLICE

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

By SARAH HORNBER | [shornber@postpress.com](mailto:shornber@postpress.com) | Pioneer Press  
PUBLISHED: December 6, 2017 at 1:17 pm | UPDATED: December 7, 2017 at 11:19 am

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

TONY REID | [tonyreid@lee.net](mailto:tonyreid@lee.net) | Oct 1, 2018

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

BY ANDREW DAVIS | [adavis@theledger.com](mailto:adavis@theledger.com)  
April 02, 2018 05:52 PM  
Updated April 03, 2018 12:40 PM

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Image by Jau11a344 from Pixabay

### Stalking Behaviors

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**Surveillance**



**Life Invasion**



**Interference**



**Intimidation**

TK Logan & Robert Walker. Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning. 19(2) Trauma, Violence & Abuse 200-22 (2017)  
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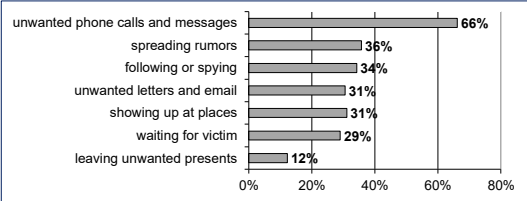
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### Stalking Behaviors



Behavior	Percentage
unwanted phone calls and messages	66%
spreading rumors	36%
following or spying	34%
unwanted letters and email	31%
showing up at places	31%
waiting for victim	29%
leaving unwanted presents	12%

Stalking Victimization in the United States, BJS (2009)  
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### Multiple Behaviors

- **78% of stalkers use more than one means of approach.**
- **66% of stalkers pursue their victim at least once per week.**
- **20% of stalkers use weapons to threaten or harm victims.**

Kris Michaudie, et al., The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based Upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers, 51(1) J Forensic Sci 147-55 (2006)  
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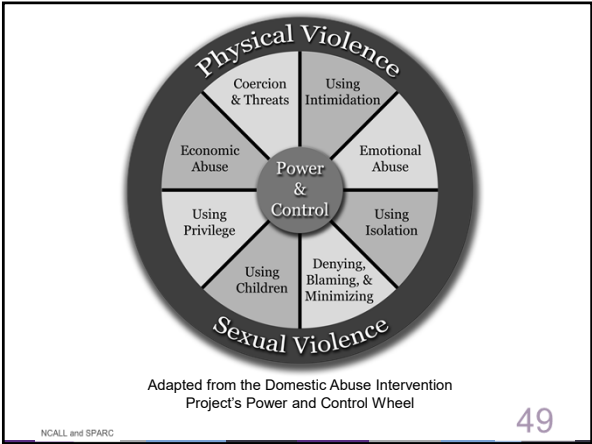
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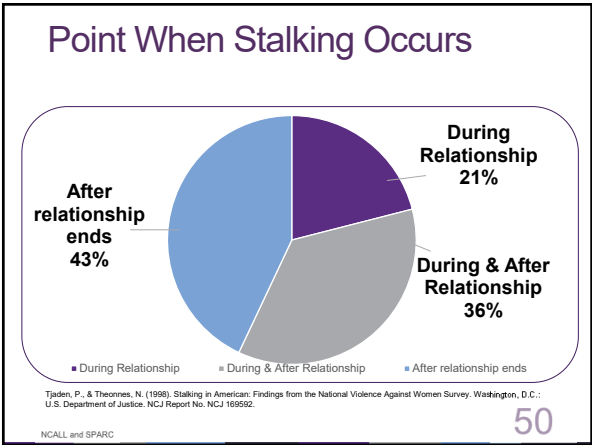
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## Study of Women with Protective Orders

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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## Stalking and Sexual Violence

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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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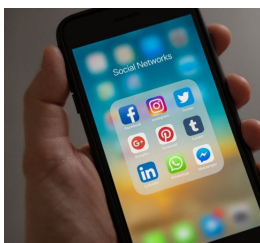
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## Technology Use Among Seniors



- 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

Pew Research Center on Internet and Technology. (2017). <http://www.pewinternet.org/2017/05/17/technology-use-among-seniors/>

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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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### 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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The image shows two smartphones displaying the Tech Safety app. The left phone shows a list of topics: Device Safety, Social Media Privacy, Personal Data Online, and Stalking Management. The right phone shows a dashboard with icons for Device Safety, Location Safety, and Stalking Management, along with a 'Show me the way' button.

### 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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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 4:30 PM  
Updated Aug 30, 2018 at 5:30 PM

**62-year-old man arrested after allegedly stalking 22-year-old who rejected him**  
By: KATIE KILGORE  
PHOTO: KIM HILL, FOR KATIE KILGORE  
UPDATED: 10/16/2017, 10:16 AM

**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.

**Crime**  
**PD: Man arrested for stalking teen in Watertown**  
By: Alex Cervone  
Posted Aug 15, 2018 at 12:14 PM  
Updated Aug 15, 2018 at 12:14 PM

**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 Wainwright 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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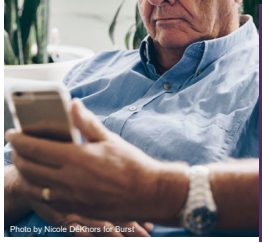
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Older Stalkers (Aged 60+)



- 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

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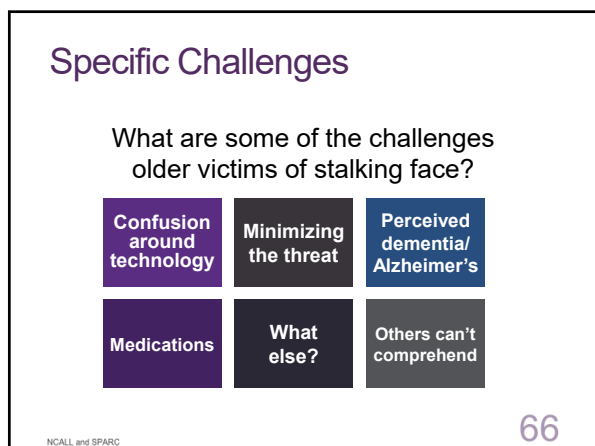
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## Reaction to Older Stalking Victims

**77% of older victims were told they were overreacting**

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

Stalking and Age, Sheridan et al. (2015)

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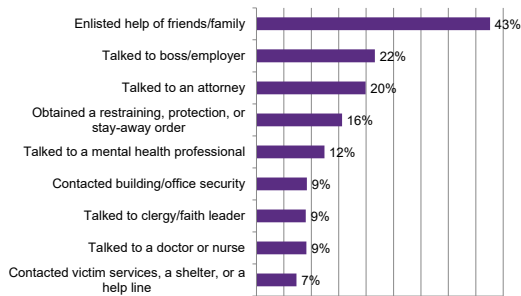
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## Victim Help Seeking



Stalking Victimization in the United States; BJS (2009)

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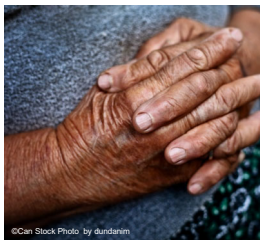
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## Stalking is Rarely Charged



Between **5 and 16%** of stalking cases are actually charged as stalking when police already have all the information they need to charge.

©Can Stock Photo by dardarin

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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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### Older Stalking Victims

Least likely to be aided by family and friends

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Less likely to access sources of support

Stalking and Age, Sheridan et al. (2015)

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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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### Strategies & Resources

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## NCALL and SPARC

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## NCALL and SPARC

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### StalkingAwareness.org

- Documentation Log
- Information/Fact Sheets
- Safety Planning Tips
- Resources for victims, service providers & law enforcement



STALKING  
PREVENTION,  
AWARENESS,  
AND RESOURCE  
CENTER

@FollowUsLegally

NCALL and SPARC

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### For Stalking Victims



Confidential referrals for crime victims  855-4-VICTIM

NCALL and SPARC

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### www.AEquitasResource.org



NCALL and SPARC

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### Staying Connected to NCALL



The National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)

Website: [www.ncall.us](http://www.ncall.us)

 @ncall.us
  @ncall\_us

NCALL and SPARC

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### National Resource Center on Reaching Victims

- Website: [www.reachingvictims.org](http://www.reachingvictims.org)
- Funded by Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)
- Focused on underserved populations of crime victims, including older adults
- Provides technical assistance, training, consultation, mini-grants

NCALL and SPARC

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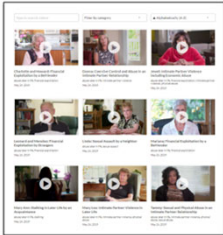
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### Lifting Up the Voices of Older Survivors (LUV)

- Website: [www.liftingupvoices.net](http://www.liftingupvoices.net)
- Nine videos produced by NCALL and Terra Nova Films with funding by the Office for Victims of Crime



NCALL and SPARC

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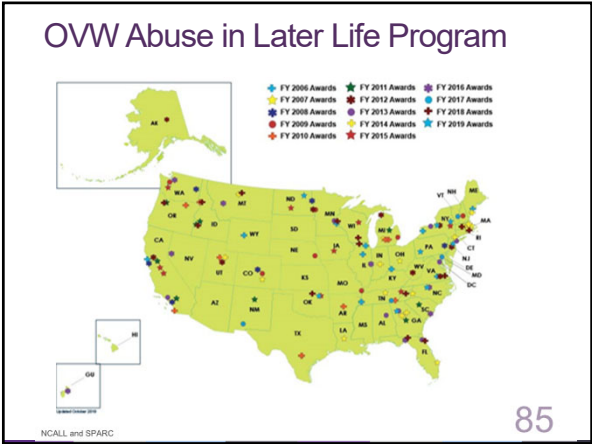
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### Thank You!

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