Making the Connection:  
*Stalking in the Context of Adolescent Relationship Abuse & Sexual Violence*

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Stalking

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

Thanks to the Stalking Resource Center of the National Center for Victims of Crime for its contribution in developing this presentation.

For more information on stalking visit the Stalking Resource Center at [www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center](http://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center)
Prevalence of Stalking

6.6 million per year

1 in 5 females

1 in 14 males experienced stalking between the ages of 11 and 17


Victimization Amongst College Students

• Studies estimate between 6 and 27% of students have experienced stalking at some point in their college years

Ustaine & Teckbsey, 1999
Logan, Leukefeld & Walker, 2000
Jordan, Wilcox, & Pritchard, 2007

Adolescent Stalking: What do We Know?
Adolescents

- Differences in levels of social maturity and cognitive development
- Limited relationship experience
- Strongly

Non-adult behaviors

Developmentally normal pursuit behavior

Stalking

Developmentally Appropriate Behaviors

Intense romantic feelings toward peers
- Following around school
- Repetitive calling
Writing multiple texts/emails/notes
- Waiting in locations where the person is likely to come

These behaviors are rarely experienced as threatening

- Juvenile Aspects of Stalking (2007)
Teen Stalking Behaviors

• Unwanted notes, pictures, videos, gifts
• Waiting around
• Following the victim
• Using technology
  o Repeated texts, calls, emails
  o Posts to social networking sites
  o Computer monitoring
• Intimidation
• Verbal threats
• Physical assaults

When is it Intrusive & Unreasonable

Developmentally normal pursuit behavior

Conversations with Students being Stalked

• Confusing recounting of incidents
• Recount in order based on stress
• “Why are you afraid?”- context!
• Keep informed: if no action can be taken, explain why!
Assessment: Impact on Victim

- How is stalker’s conduct impacting student’s life and daily activities?
- How has student reacted to suspect’s activities?
- Has student taken any steps to modify his/her lifestyle as a result of suspect’s conduct?

The Student’s Perspective

- Normalization
  - All my friends are experiencing this too
  - It’s flattering
  - Isn’t he supposed to call 40 times per day?
  - Little experience distinguishing appropriate from inappropriate behavior when relationships end
- Minimization of risk

STALKING & DATING ABUSE
What Behaviors in Dating Violence = Stalking?

Point in Relationship Where Stalking Occurs

- Stalking Before Relationship Ends
- Stalking After Relationship Ends
- Stalking Before & After
Abusive Relationship Stalkers: Increased Risk

- More likely to physically approach victim
- More insulting, interfering and threatening
- More likely to use weapon
- Behaviors more likely to escalate quickly
- More likely to re-offend

Intimate Partner Stalker

- Relationship ended due to a misunderstanding
- Will seek to meet with victim to “discuss”, “talk it out” or “get closure”
- Often Targets Victim’s New Partner

STALKING & SEXUAL ASSAULT
The Course of Conduct

- Approach/Engagement
- Information gathering
- Sexual assault/rape
- Then post-assault contacts

Policy & Prevention Education

- Training for faculty, staff, administration, police and students
- Focus on behaviors, not just the intolerance of stalking

Partners in Intervention and Prevention
Contact Information

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