

**Facts About Intimate Partner Stalking in
Minnesota and the United States**

What is stalking?

- Stalking is defined as a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.
- Stalking behaviors can include: following or spying, unwanted phone calls, text messages, letters or gifts, showing up at places without a legitimate reason, waiting at places for the victim, posting information or spreading rumors about the victim on the internet, in a public place, or by word of mouth. *Bureau of Justice Statistics, Stalking Victimization in the United States, 2009*
- There are no definitive profiles or typologies of stalkers. However, intimate partner stalkers and those with a close relationship to the victim pose a greater threat of violence. *Stalking Resource Center/The National Center for Victims of Crime*
- Stalking is a crime under the laws of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Government. In 15 states, including Minnesota, the first offense of stalking is classified as a felony. *Stalking Resource Center/The National Center for Victims of Crime*

Who is stalked?

- 80% percent of stalking victims are women, and 87% of stalkers are male. When men are stalked it is typically by strangers or acquaintances. When women are stalked it is typically by a partner or ex-partner. *U.S. Dept. of Justice, NIJ Special Report; Practical implication of Current Domestic Violence Research*
- One in 20 stalking victims feared being killed by the stalker. About 4 in 10 stalkers threatened the victim or the victim's family, friends, co-workers, or family pet. *Bureau of Justice Statistics, Stalking Victimization in the United States, 2009*

What is the connection between stalking and homicide?

- Nationally, 76% of intimate partner femicide victims had been stalked by their intimate partner. *Stalking Resource Center/The National Center for Victims of Crime*
- Nationally, 54% of femicide victims reported stalking to police before they were killed by their stalkers. *Stalking Resource Center/The National Center for Victims of Crime*
- In one study, which included 11 U.S. cities, stalking and harassment

occurred in 70-90% of the 200 actual and attempted femicides. They found the strongest indication of potential lethality was when there was history of prior abuse, the people were separated and there was stalking.
McFarlane, Campbell, et al, NIJ Risk Assessment Final Report, 2005