

## Stalking: Round Two

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I wanted to continue my column on stalking and direct the conversation to who is most likely at risk. The following has no direct correlation to Fraud, but after reading up on the topic, I thought with these troubling times it might be important to share this with you.

The U.S. Department of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control conducted the first national study on stalking in the late 90's. Prior to this study, there was a collection of small regional studies or cases on individual stalkers. The national study, "Stalking in America: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey" finally gave law makers, law enforcement and advocacy groups the data on the nature and scope of the problem in America and served as a model for anti-stalking codes throughout the nation.

The report addressed the basic questions of stalking and even tried to exam the psychological and social consequences. From the data that was gathered one insight became very clear from the report; stalking was more prevalent than anyone realized.

Researchers estimated that about one million women and 400,000 men are stalked each year in the United States. American Indians and Alaska native women are likely to report stalking more than any other groups when broken down by race or ethnicity. Remember when Alaska was sooo under the microscope during the last election?

One of the facts that surfaced about the land of the midnight sun was about domestic violence and that almost 75% of Alaskans have experienced or know someone who has experienced domestic violence or sexual assault.

Although stalking is viewed as a gender neutral crime, 78% of victims are women while 87% of stalkers are male. 52% of the victims are adult females between the ages of 18 to 29. Most know their stalker because the stalker is usually a current or former intimate partner. Many are stalked while in a current relationship with the stalker. From this conclusion it is not surprising to learn that there is a strong correlation between stalking and violence in intimate relationships, especially when many report they have been physically assaulted by their stalker/partner.

Only ½ of the victims report their stalkers to the police. Of the 25% of women and 10% of men who get a restraining order, 69% of the women and 81% of the men will violate the court order. The average stalking case will last 1.8 years but there have been reports of stalking lasting as much as 5 years.

An estimated 12% of stalkers are brought to criminal trial. It is easy to understand that with such a low prosecution rate, the victim will relocate to another area to escape the stalker.

### Why is Someone Stalked

There is a myth that stalkers are psychotic. In reality, only a very small portion of stalkers are mentally ill. The report indicated that stalking is about controlling the victim. In order to maintain control over someone, a stalker must instill fear, uncertainty, and the threat of violence. As a result of this emotional and at times physical abuse the victim pays a psychological and social cost.

### Toll on a Victim

30% of women and 20% of men were more likely to seek counseling as a result of being stalked. They report a heightened sense of personal safety and will carry something with them to defend themselves.

Some have reported losing time from work for treatment, attending court cases or consulting with an attorney.

### **Results**

The study revealed the inadequacies of our system and anti-stalking laws. They concluded, more research needs to be done beyond “celebrity stalking” to focus on stalking by intimates and partners. Law enforcement and mental health professionals need to revise their training in this area to be more effective when working with victims. Lastly, there should be programs in place to help victims to secure their identities when a victim must relocate to escape a stalker. In short, the report suggests we refine the existing process.

Next month we'll end the series with stalking in the work place.

### **Resouces:**

**“Stalking in America: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey”**  
**Domestic Violence Facts: Alaska**

If you have any questions about Sub Rosa, AOE/COE, Fraud or Investigation, email me. at [\*\*david@2mypi.com\*\*](mailto:david@2mypi.com)