

1-1-2008

# What Law Enforcement in West Virginia Know About Stalking Crimes

Sandra Kiser-Griffith

Follow this and additional works at: <http://mds.marshall.edu/etd>



Part of the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#), and the [Psychology Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Kiser-Griffith, Sandra, "What Law Enforcement in West Virginia Know About Stalking Crimes" (2008). *Theses, Dissertations and Capstones*. Paper 691.

Running Head: Stalking Crimes

What Law Enforcement in West Virginia Know About Stalking Crimes

Doctoral Dissertation of  
Sandra Kiser-Griffith

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for  
The Degree of

Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D)

William Joseph Wyatt, PhD (Chair)  
Marianna Linz, PhD  
Christopher Legrow, PhD

Department of Psychology  
Marshall University  
Huntington, West Virginia  
2008

## Abstract

Emerging research is beginning to reveal how prevalent, and dangerous, stalking can be, especially in situations that involve domestic or former domestic partners. As front line responders to stalking-related crimes, it would seem imperative that law enforcement personnel have extensive training and be knowledgeable about a broad range of stalking-related issues. A victim's well-being can be directly impacted by the actions and interventions of the officers handling his or her case. Unfortunately, however, many states, including West Virginia, still do not require that officers receive stalking training. In an attempt to establish how well informed law enforcement officers in West Virginia are relative to stalking, the present study explored the effects of both prior and current training on their beliefs and practices when dealing with stalking crimes. Forty-four law enforcement respondents, between the ages of 25-70 completed a Training Needs Survey, which assessed whether they had been trained regarding stalking. An 8-hour workshop was subsequently developed and law enforcement personnel from throughout West Virginia (N=32) attended. Of the 32 attendees, 23 completed both the pre and post test measure of their knowledge, training and experience. The Pretest measure revealed that law enforcement personnel in West Virginia are not well informed about stalking. Conversely, those who completed the workshop, and who returned the posttest measure (N=23) appeared to have developed opinions, practices and knowledge which are more in line with the research.

## Acknowledgements

First, I would like to express my gratitude to my dissertation chair, Dr. William Joseph Wyatt, for his guidance, support, patience and commitment to this study and to my professional development. Having had him as a mentor over the years has been beneficial beyond my ability to express. I would also like to thank Dr. Marianna Linz, Dr. Christopher LeGrow, Dr. David Trumpower (who originally served on my dissertation committee before moving to Canada), and Dr. Elaine Baker for their time, effort and input. Additionally, I would like to thank Dr. Thomas Linz, Internship Director at Marshall University Psychiatric Associates, for his support during my internship.

Several law enforcement members contributed to this study in various ways, including Captain Chuck Sadler, LET Coordinator for the West Virginia Division of Criminal Justice Services, Chief of Police Steven Salyers, Chief of Police Jack Butcher, and a number of law enforcement officers, bailiffs, judges, sheriffs and court clerks throughout West Virginia.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge my family, friends and classmates for their support. I would especially like to express my gratitude to my husband, Ric, for his endless encouragement and help.

## Table of Contents

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Title Page</b>                                     | <b>i</b>   |
| <b>Abstract</b>                                       | <b>ii</b>  |
| <b>Acknowledgements</b>                               | <b>iii</b> |
| <b>Table of Contents</b>                              | <b>iv</b>  |
| <b>Introduction</b>                                   | <b>1</b>   |
| <b>Defining Stalking</b>                              | <b>3</b>   |
| <b>Estimated Prevalence</b>                           | <b>5</b>   |
| <b>Stalker and Victim Profiles</b>                    | <b>7</b>   |
| <b>Theories of Causation</b>                          | <b>11</b>  |
| <b>Stalker Characteristics</b>                        | <b>13</b>  |
| <b>Psychological Disorders</b>                        | <b>14</b>  |
| <b>Verbal Threats</b>                                 | <b>16</b>  |
| <b>Risk Assessment</b>                                | <b>16</b>  |
| <b>Victim Behaviors and Responses</b>                 | <b>20</b>  |
| <b>Psychological Impact</b>                           | <b>21</b>  |
| <b>Rural areas and stalking</b>                       | <b>23</b>  |
| <b>Occupational issues</b>                            | <b>24</b>  |
| <b>Implications for Practice, Police and Research</b> | <b>25</b>  |
| <b>Legal Implications relative to stalking</b>        | <b>27</b>  |
| <b>Stalking Training</b>                              | <b>30</b>  |
| <b>General training considerations</b>                | <b>30</b>  |
| <b>Training issues specific to law enforcement</b>    | <b>31</b>  |
| <b>Overview/Background of Study</b>                   | <b>33</b>  |
| <b>Method</b>   | <b>36</b>  |
| <b>Ethical Considerations</b>                         | <b>36</b>  |
| <b>Subjects, Settings &amp; Measures</b>              | <b>37</b>  |
| <b>Data Analysis/Results</b>                          | <b>38</b>  |
| <b>Conclusions/Discussion</b>                         | <b>49</b>  |
| <b>References</b>                                     | <b>56</b>  |
| <b>Appendices</b>                                     | <b>65</b>  |

### What Law Enforcement in West Virginia Know About Stalking Crimes

Stalking, as currently defined, involves pursuing, or harassing another person in an intentional, ongoing, unwanted, and fear-inducing manner (Spitzberg, 2002). Interest in stalking behavior has increased over the past few years as evidenced by extensive media accounts of stalking victims and perpetrators, passage of antistalking laws in all 50 States, and the development of a model antistalking code (Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998). Despite this explosion of interest, research on stalking has been limited to studies of small, unrepresentative samples of known stalkers and law journal reviews of the constitutionality and effectiveness of specific antistalking statutes (Miller, 1999).

Stalking, in the legal sense, was not considered a crime until California passed the first stalking law in 1990. Since that time, all other states have followed and now have at least some statute in place which addresses this little understood phenomenon. While the effectiveness of these anti-stalking laws have not yet been established, the culture has at least reached a starting point in dealing with stalking.

Despite the recent passage of anti-stalking laws, empirical research on stalking has been scant, likely as a result of researchers having to rely on varying definitions, ad hoc measurement instruments and different conceptualizations of the problem (O'Conner & Rosenfield, 2004). The emerging research, however, has begun to focus on some of the fundamental issues which need to be addressed, including: (1) establishing the prevalence of stalking, (2) defining stalker types and the risk factors associated with each of them and (3) uncovering what intervention strategies are most effective. In addition, research has begun to look at various victims' issues, including the impact of stalking on psychological well-being, occupational functioning, and overall physical health (Spitzberg, 2002).

A 1998 survey study conducted by the *Institute of Law and Justice* suggests that most law enforcement agencies are not well equipped to deal with the problem of stalking (Miller, 1999). Beyond not always understanding what constitutes stalking, agencies and individual officers often lack training on issues such as appropriate intervention measures, identification of escalating violence patterns, and the serious mental health consequences for those who have been victimized (Abrams, Robinson & Erlick, 2002). Additionally, law enforcement agents need training on stalking-investigative strategies (Wattendorf, 2000).

Existing studies also suggest that clinicians are not well equipped to deal with the problems associated with stalking (Sheridan, Blaauw & Davies, 2003). For instance, it was only recently acknowledged that stalking victims, even those never physically assaulted, are as prone to develop Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder as are victims who have suffered more direct types of assault, including rape and domestic battery (Kamphuis, Emmelkamp, & Bartak, 2003).

Stalking is a dangerous crime that often has a devastating impact on the victims' lives, but it is frequently misunderstood and minimized (Spitz, 2003). The National Violence Against Women Survey, which was conducted in 1998, showed that nearly one-third of stalked women seek psychological counseling, but that many are unable to find clinicians who have the training/expertise to deal with their specific symptoms. Additional studies have shown that women who are stalked suffer from elevated levels of depression, anxiety, guilt, shame, helplessness, and humiliation, but because of society's failure to understand the causes and consequences of stalking, they are often judged as being responsible for encouraging the stalking. As a result, victims may face problems dealing with the legal system and with obtaining psychological treatment (Abrams, Robinson, & Erlick, 2002).

The present research was designed to assess the training received by law enforcement officers regarding stalking and, using data from that assessment, to develop and conduct officer training relative to the most salient stalking issues for officers.

### Defining Stalking

From both a legal and psychological viewpoint, defining "stalking" has proved to be difficult. It is typically defined as a crime of terror whereby one person inflicts unwanted intrusions and communications upon another (Miller, 2001). Stalker threat *and* the victim's fear in response to that threat are the two necessary components for meeting this definition in most states. Some states require a tri-part definition, which includes that *willful behavior* by the perpetrator be a component as well (Miller, 2001).

The criminalization of stalking has its roots in law relative to assault and terroristic threats. While both of these involve immediate threats, stalking involves a threat that does not necessarily imply immediate danger. Stalking can be characterized by three essential components: the conduct is repeated, it is unwanted, and it causes an adverse reaction in the victim (Finch, 2002). More specifically, the key elements of stalking currently include (Miller, 1999):

- \* Following or trailing the person being stalked
- \* Continuing behavior (more than one incident)
- \* Threat to personal safety of the person being stalked, either expressed or implied.
- \* Intent to either threaten the person being stalked or to commit acts that a reasonable person would find threatening
- \* Knowledge that the stalking behavior would result in a fear of death or bodily injury.

Following the lead of individual states, Congress passed the *Interstate Stalking Act of 1996*. This law makes it a federal offense to cross state lines with the intent to place another person in fear of death or serious bodily injury. Further, it makes it a federal offense to use mail or any other form of communication across state lines for those purposes. Some minor revisions were made to the Act in 2000, and the law now also includes electronic communications (Miller, 2001).



Legal definitions of stalking still vary widely from state to state. Most states define stalking as the willing, malicious and repeated following and harassing of another person. Some states have developed more detailed definitions and include such activities as lying-in-wait, using surveillance, telephone harassment, vandalism, and unwanted communication (Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998).

From a psychological perspective, the term "stalking" is often used in a variety of ways which have little to do with how it is defined from the legal standpoint. A recent study by Spitzberg & Cupach (2007) attempted to better define stalking behavior and includes several characteristics and acts including:

- \* Aggressive or inappropriate romantic gestures
- \*Pursuit and Proximity (increased contact/collection of information)
- \*Invasion (escalated surveillance)
- \*Intimidation (coercion in response to rejection)
- \* Violence (often seen in escalating forms as a result of rejection)

Stalking research has emerged from a wide variety of disciplines, and, as a result there is no consensus regarding the tactical profile of stalking (Spitzberg, 2002). For example, while *obsession* is the basic tenant of stalking, it is unclear, even among clinicians, where the line should be drawn between normal courtship behavior and stalking (Spitz, 2003). This inability to recognize, or define stalking seems to be particularly true for those who are stalked by a former intimate partner, compared to those who are stalked by an acquaintance or by a stranger (Sheridan, et al. 2003). Existing research suggests that while ex-partners are *more* likely to be violent towards their stalking victim than are acquaintance or stranger stalkers, they are significantly *less* likely to be arrested (Sheridan, Gillet, Graham, Blaauw, & Patel, 2003). In short, it appears that ex-partners are not as likely to be perceived as stalkers, in spite of the fact their behavior meets the definition of stalking (Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998).

Forty to 51% of North American women experience some type of abuse in their lifetime including child abuse, physical violence, rape, stalking and sexual harassment (Robinson, 2003). A recent study by the National Violence Against Women Project which looked specifically at stalking, estimated that over one million women are stalked annually. The U.S Department of Justice, also provides annual stalking statistics and their most recent findings indicate that a woman's chances of being stalked are about 1 in 10 during her lifetime, and that she is 3 times more likely to be stalked than raped. They also point out that, while it does not meet the legal definition, stalking *behavior* is present in nearly all violent crimes, including child abduction, rape, domestic violence and murder. Studies also now provide evidence of a link between stalking victimization and other forms of abuse, suggesting stalking is but one variant of intimate violence (Jordan, Walker, & Nigoff, 2003).

By conservative estimates, 1 out of 12 women will be the victim of stalking within their lifetimes, as will 1 out of every 45 men (Proctor, 2003). A less conservative meta-analysis of 108 samples across 103 studies of stalking-related phenomena, representing almost 70,000 men and women, reveals an even higher average prevalence across studies, 23.5% for women and 10.5% for men, with an average duration of two years (Spitzberg, 2002).

Domestic violence literature has long addressed the prevalence of stalking behavior in abusive relationships, and some researchers (e.g Burgess, et. al 2001) point out that escalating stalking patterns are often highly predictive of increased physical violence and murder, especially when the stalker and victims had previously co-habitated. By some estimates, nearly 80% of all women stalked by a former partner also experienced domestic violence while in the relationship (Robinson, 2003). Additionally, intimate partner homicides, which account for 40-50% of all murders in the United States, often occurred after an escalating pattern of threats, violence, and had stalking emerged (Campbell, et. al 2003)

By some estimates, 90% of the 1,500 women who are killed by their current or former mates each year in this country were stalked before they were murdered (Gross, 2000). Similar research (e.g Burgess, Harner, Baker, Hartman, & Lole, 2001) has shown that stalking behavior among domestic batterers is a clear indication of escalating violence. There is a strong link between stalking and other forms of violence in intimate relationships, including *homicide-suicide*. Perpetrators are mostly men, and 85% of the victims are women. A recent literature review points out that of the 15 psychological studies reviewed, 13 showed a substantial positive correlation between risk of harm to self and risk of harm to others. That review also found that stalking behavior by jealous males, often precedes *spousal homicide-suicide* (Hillbrand, 2001). A later study yielded several interesting findings, including that 79% of intimate partner murder-suicides occur within the home, and that there is a greater risk of homicide victimization as the age difference between the intimate partners increases (Violence Policy Center, 2005). A recent meta-analysis (Spitzberg & Cupach, 2007) showed that 32% of all stalking cases involve some form physical violence and that 12% of such cases involve sexual violence.

Perhaps surprisingly, recent research suggests that law enforcement agencies and clinicians do not always recognize the link between domestic violence and stalking. Specifically, authorities and professionals often miss the extent to which stalking may precede episodes of physical abuse and/or murder (Wood & Wood, 2002). Some researchers have attempted to study stalking within the context of domestic violence, and they suggest two patterns of stalkers/batterers. The *Ambivalent Contact Pattern*, is marked by behaviors such as contacting their ex-partner and sending gifts while harboring conflicting feelings of love, hate and anger. This pattern appears to be less dangerous than is the behavior of the person who fits the *Predatory Contact Pattern*. The individual who fits this pattern often shows an escalating pattern of stalking behaviors and domestic violence (Burgess, et al. 2001).

Behavioral patterns in this cluster include breaking into the ex-partner's residence, following the partners while driving or walking, and making verbal threats. It appears that the most violent forms of stalking tend to occur in the breakup of dating and marital relationships (Wood & Wood, 2002). Anger, jealousy, abandonment rage, and a quest for control are common behaviors identified in clinical studies of stalkers (Meloy, 1999).

#### Stalker and Victim Profiles

Although stalking is considered a gender-neutral crime, most stalking victims are female (78%) and most stalkers are male (87%). Young adults are the primary targets of stalkers, with roughly 52% of all victims falling between the ages of 18-29 years and approximately 22% within the age range of 30-39 years. Most stalking victims are stalked by someone they know, and current estimates are that 38% of female victims were stalked by current or former husbands, 10% were stalked by current or former cohabitating partners and 14% by current or former dates or boyfriends. Overall, 59% of female victims were stalked by some type of intimate partner (Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998).

#### Stalker Types:

One of the difficulties faced by both the legal and psychological communities is the elusive nature of what constitutes stalking behavior. One attempt at addressing this issue has been the categorization of stalkers. Different types of stalkers operate in diverse ways. There is no single profile of a stalker, and a broad range of behaviors, motivations, and psychological traits exist (Wood & Wood, 2002). In one of the more well known stalking studies, stalkers were classified in three ways (Zona, Sharma & Lane, 1993).

*The simple obsessional group.* This group of stalkers are those in which the victim and the stalker had a prior relationship.

*The love obsessional group.* These stalkers had no prior relationship with their victim(s).

*Erotomania types.* These are stalkers who have a delusion that their victim loves them.

One estimate is that 10% are of the erotomania type, 30% fit into the love obsessional group, and the remaining 60% are of the simple obsession type (Zona, Sharma & Lane, 1993)

Another study (Spitzberg & Cupach 2007) offers a different perspective on stalker types. It posits four types of stalkers based on a "topology of love versus hate" and behavior that falls on a continuum from "controlling to expressive." The four types include: (1) The Annoying Pursuer, who loves, uses expressive behaviors (such as sending the victim love letters or poems), and is low risk. (2) The Organized Stalker, who hates, is controlling (as evidenced by acts such as screening the victim's calls and stealing her mail), and is high risk. (3) The Disorganized Stalker, who hates, uses expressive modes of behavior, and is high risk. (4) The Intrusive Pursuer, who loves, tries to control, and who, poses a moderate risk of violence. These authors hypothesize that assessing the type of stalker is crucial when trying to develop an effective intervention strategy.

Early studies on stalking seemed to suggest that most stalkers were certainly annoying to their victims, but were not typically physically violent and therefore did not pose a serious risk. Recent studies (e.g Mullen, Pathe, Purcell & Stuart, 1999), however, which take advantage of the different distinctions among the types of stalkers, agree that former intimate partner stalkers are much more dangerous than previously thought. The U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a recent study which points out that the combined health-related economic costs of rape, physical assault and stalking of women by intimate partners is approximately \$5.8 billion dollars annually. Direct medical and mental health costs represent \$4.1 billion of that total, and productivity losses make up the remaining \$1.7 billion (Vavra, 2003).

A meta-analysis (Spitzberg, 2002), of 43 studies, produced a seven-category typology of stalking strategies and include:

- \* Hyperintimacy (expressions of affections such as gifts)
- \* Pursuit, proximity & surveillance (efforts to get closer)
- \* Invasion (violations of privacy including stealing mail)
- \* Stalking by proxy (gaining information about person from others)
- \* Use of threats (explicit or implied)
- \* Coercion and constraint (physical restraint and kidnapping)
- \* Aggression (property harm, harming pets, sexual and physical assault)

This typology suggests a framework within which valid measurement schemes may be developed. Specifically, risk assessment techniques might be improved by more defined stalker type categories (Harmon, Rosner & Owens, 1998).

Another recent study (Mohandie, Meloy, Green-McGown & Williams, 2006) which attempted to address the issue of stalker types, noted that a stalking typology should be behaviorally based, stable and useful in a variety of settings, including within law enforcement and within the broader legal system. The authors proposed a typology defined by the stalker's relationship with the victim and on the private individual versus public figure target of pursuit. The proposed typology divides the pursuit patterns of stalking into two broad categories: Type I, where the stalker and victim had a previous relationship, and Type II, where the stalker has had no contact, or very limited contact, with the victim. Type I is further subdivided into those whose prior relationship has been intimate, and those termed acquaintance. Type II is similarly further subdivided. The four categories within this model are labeled Intimate, Acquaintance, Public Figure and Private Stranger (Mohandie, Meloy, Green-McGown & Williams, 2006).

Although a stalker classification system offers a great deal of usefulness in terms of conceptualizing and explaining behavior, it has some limitations. For instance, it still largely ignores the stalker's motivation (Royakkers, 2000). Additionally, regardless of which model is contemplated, it is not clear where one category begins and the other one ends.

Thus far, the existing categories of stalkers do not appear to be mutually exclusive. Stalking behavior can perhaps best be understood in a multi-dimensional manner which looks at the stalker/victim relationship, the motivation of the stalker, and the severity of the stalking behavior (Nadkarni & Grubin, 2000). This multi-dimensional model would be especially useful when trying to perform a risk assessment regarding a specific individual. It should also be noted that while some argue that typologies have limited clinical value, few value, few disagree on their importance within the criminal justice system. Specifically, typologies are essential for classifying risk, investigating felonious behavior, making prognostic assessments and guiding research (Wilson, Ermshar & Welsh, 2006).

One current law enforcement scheme which uses a classification system, but which also takes into account other factors, was developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and is known as *Wright's Typology* (Miller, 2001). This particular typology uses a number of factors, including whether the stalker-victim relationship grew out of a prior relationship (including co-workers) or some other relationship; whether the communications are delusional or non-delusional; whether the stalker is motivated by infatuation, anger, possessiveness, retaliation, or some other motive; and how aggressive the stalker's overt behavior is. This particular framework seems to fit well when classifying "atypical" stalkers including disgruntled employees, animal rights activists and delusional individuals who target company figureheads and business representatives (Hoffman & Sheridan, 2005).

Harmon and colleagues offer an additional scheme which utilizes a two factor typology system. The two factors within this are: (1) Type of prior relationship: professional, employment, media, acquaintance or none, (2) The nature of the stalking motivation: affectionate/ amorous or persecutory/angry. Additionally, these researchers note that the affectionate/amorous stalkers are more likely to victimize or harm third parties if they view them as barriers to the relationship (Miller, 2001).

Gavin De Becker, who writes extensively about stalking and who operates a security consulting firm, has identified four motivational categories of stalkers and these types include: *Attachment seekers* (stalkers in this group want a relationship with their victim, but realize none exists); *Identity seekers* (those who pursue their targets as a means to achieve some end); *Rejection-based stalkers* (those who pursue victims who spurned them, either to reverse or avenge the rejection); and *Delusion-based* (stalkers who have major mental illnesses, including erotomania, in which psychotic delusions about their victim drive the pursuit). De Becker has, in his security practice, found that understanding the stalker's motivation is crucial when trying to assess risk and when trying to implement effective intervention strategies (Orion, 1997).

#### Theories of Causation

Consideration of a model which views stalkers within the framework of "types" would seem to lead to examination of the causes of stalking. Very little research has focused on the causes, but like all psychological phenomenon, there is no shortage of theories about why it is so prevalent. Some researchers (i.e, Brune 2002) offer an evolutionary view, which interprets erotomania as a pathological variant of specific sexual strategies that evolved under selection pressures. The overt behavior of stalking, according to this theory, is simply related to the pursuit of mating.

Some research suggests that stalkers often have within their developmental histories the loss of a primary caregiver in childhood and a significant loss, usually of a job or relationship, within a year of the onset of stalking. The crime can in some ways be seen as a "pathology of attachment" (Meloy, 1999). Along this line, some researchers (i.e., Tonin, 2004) have proposed that a significant number of stalkers have an insecure attachment style. A recent meta-analysis (Spitzberg & Cupach, 2007), found that the evidence to support this link has thus far been lack



Relational goal pursuit theory proposes that individuals who obsessively and excessively pursue a relationship tend to inflate the importance of their relational goal, which leads to thoughts and feelings that fuel persistent pursuit (Spitzberg & Cupach, 2007).

When looking at causation theories, the more generalized literature on aggressive behavior should not be overlooked. One review (Hillbrand, 2001) looked at 12 aggression studies, specific to the phenomenon of homicide-suicide. The studies proposed various explanations, including the serotonin-aggression hypothesis. This particular model assumes that the serotonin system is involved in behavioral inhibition and an imbalance can lead to aggression against self and others.

The author also cites other theoretical frameworks, including a developmental model which assumes that early childhood experiences can lead to aggressive behavior later on. He also describes literature which proposes an ethological-evolutionary perspective of aggression which proposes a two-stage model of countervailing forces. According to this model, losses, threats, changes, and status changes increase aggressive impulses.

A behavioral perspective focuses upon the reinforcement of stalking. Often the stalking results in some form of contact or compliance by the victim who erroneously hopes that by giving the stalker some attention, he will be satisfied and then stop his behaviors. Another factor may well be early role models, such as a father, who directly or indirectly taught the stalker that endless pursuit to the point of harassment is somehow suitable, or even commendable behavior (Wyatt, 2008).

While there is very limited research specific to stalking within the cognitive model literature, the underlying basis of this model would offer that the relationship between *Cognitions, Behaviors* and *Mood*, account for nearly every problem a patient reports (Persons, 1989). Cognitive theories of obsessional behavior, as is seen with stalking, posits that appraisals about the significance of thoughts, are critical in the development and persistence of most obsessive actions (Corcoran & Woody, 2008).

The phenomenon of stalking, from a cognitive perspective, might best be explained as one result of a faulty, synchronous relationship between: (1) Cognitions, particularly automatic, irrational thoughts; (2) Behavior, including overt motor actions, physiological responses and verbal behaviors, and (3) Mood/subjective report of emotional experiences (Persons, 1989).

While some researchers continue to look for causal factors, others (ie Mohandie, et al, 2006) point out that causal theories, the mixing of mental health labels, typological categories, and searches for stalker motivation, can complicate stalking research rather than help clarify the phenomenon.

#### Stalker Characteristics

A study conducted by the National Institute of Justice in 1998 looked at various racial, socioeconomic, and demographic characteristics of stalkers. The study involved direct interviews of 187 women who had been identified as victims of intimate partner stalking in Pennsylvania. They were asked to provide information about their stalkers. Approximately 57% of the stalkers were non-Hispanic whites, 37% were African-American, and 6.5% were other racial minorities. The stalkers ranged in age from 17 to 57 years. Of the 100 stalkers whose education the victims knew, 77% had at least attended high school, and 45% had attended college. Educational background ranged from some elementary school through graduation from a doctoral program. Stalkers with higher levels of education were less likely to become violent and less likely to make explicit threats to their victim (Wood & Wood, 2002). The study additionally showed that 69% of the perpetrators were employed, with 62% holding blue-collar jobs. Nearly 37% were in white-collar positions. Moreover, 61.7% of the perpetrators had a previous criminal record and of those 31% had a prior conviction for a violent offense such as assault, rape and murder (Wood & Wood, 2002). Other researchers (ie Jordan, Walker & Nigoff, 2003) have estimated that 1 in 5 stalkers have been incarcerated prior to their felony stalking convictions and have significantly higher rates of drug, alcohol and resisting arrest convictions than non-felony stalkers.

The typical stalker is an unemployed or underemployed man who is single or divorced and who has a history of one or more of the following: (1) prior criminal record (2) prior psychiatric treatment and/or hospitalization, (3) drug abuse history. Additionally, he has a high school or college education and is significantly more intelligent than other groups of criminals (Meloy, 1999). He is typically older than other offenders with an average age of 35-40 years (Jordan, Walker & Nigoff, 2003).

#### Psychological Disorders

On its own, stalking behavior does not meet the DSM-IV's criteria for a psychological disorder. Instead, it is thought to be an indicator of other specified disorders, including those which fall under the umbrella of Psychotic Disorders, Mood disorders, Personality Disorder and Impulse Control Disorders. The Delusional Disorders, especially the *erotomanic type*, may be considered an appropriate diagnosis if the person has the delusion that his love interest loves him back, *and* he engages in stalking behavior based upon that erroneous belief. Erotomania is the delusional belief that one is loved by another, and involves the most bizarre delusions associated with stalking. This stalker most often fixates on a person who is of a higher social status or who is wealthy and/or famous (Proctor, 2003). By and large, the majority of erotomanic stalkers are female, while the majority of all other types of stalkers are male (Orion, 1997).

Some researchers (e.g. Meloy, 1999) believe that most stalkers should have both Axis I and Axis II diagnoses. Meloy cites other studies which have shown that the most common Axis I diagnoses tend to be alcohol/substance abuse or dependence, mood disorders, and Schizophrenia. He cites additional studies which show that the most likely Axis II diagnosis for a stalker is from the Cluster B Personality Disorders.

Some recent research (i.e., Zona, Palarea & Lane, 1998) has focused on other psychological disorders which are often expressed, in part, by stalking behavior. These researchers conclude that many stalkers suffer from either Schizophrenia or a Personality Disorder. When a stalker meets the DSM-IV criteria for a Personality Disorder the most common diagnoses appear to be, Narcissistic, Antisocial, Histrionic, or Borderline Personality Disorder. Emerging research on the relationship between personality disorders and aggressive behavior suggests that when narcissists perceive rejection or other negative feedback, they then exhibit higher levels of hostility and aggressive behavior. Specifically, individuals high in narcissism appear to be overly sensitive to criticism and they often react with interpersonal hostility, including discounting the source, feelings of rage and potentially aggressive behavior (Ruiz, Smith & Rhodewalt, 2001). Other studies on the relationship between narcissism and hostility (i.e., Bogart, Benotsch & Pavlovic, 2004) suggest that this is an area of further research with potential productive predictive results.

A 1998 study (Harmon, Rosner & Owens 1998), yielded some interesting findings relative to psychological disorders and stalking behavior. These researchers were able to review 175 sets of records from the Forensic Clinic of Psychiatry in New York, for a ten year period (1987-1996). The individuals reviewed had been arrested for a wide range of offenses including burglary, kidnapping, murder, arson, and sexual assault. Regardless of the crime for which they had been arrested, all 175 also met the researchers established criteria for stalking, which included unsolicited and unwelcome behavior such as harassing phone calls, letters, following the victim, and waiting near their home.

Each defendant was further categorized into a typology based upon the type of relationship between stalker and victim. The two distinct types included the *amorous stalker*, defined as one whose initial motivation was love and affection, but who, once rejected, became angry and hostile. The second type was the *persecutory stalker*, who was never motivated by love, but rather by the belief that others were conspiring against him (Harmon, et. al 1998). These researchers also found that of the 175 individuals reviewed, 56 met the DSM-IV criteria for a specific Personality Disorder, 42 met the criteria for Schizophrenia, 36 met the criteria for alcohol and substance abuse, 27 for Delusional Disorders, and 36 for Adjustment or Mood Disorders. Additionally, 8 met the criteria for other conditions including Dementia, Mild mental retardation, and Paraphilia. The remaining 9 subjects had no diagnosis or the diagnosis had been deferred.

#### Verbal Threats

To highlight the fact that threats of violence must be taken seriously, the Harmon, Rosner & Owens (1998) study revealed that threats of violence were positively correlated with incidents of actual physical violence toward their targets. Approximately 59% of the defendants who had threatened to harm their targets, carried out such threats. More importantly, 81% of those harassers who *had not* made any threats were also reported to have committed violent acts. Additionally, the researchers found that *persecutory* stalkers and *amorous* stalkers were equally likely to act violently toward their targets.

Other research conflicts somewhat with that described above. For example, one study showed that threatening communications occurred in approximately 75% of all stalking cases, but that most individuals did not act on their threatening communications, generating false-positive rates of approximately 75%. The threats may increase, decrease, or have no relationship to the risk for subsequent violence. Additionally, some individuals who are violent, but who do not make threats, generate false-negative rates of 10-15%.

Emerging research (i.e. Thomas, Purcell, Pathe & Mullen, 2008), would suggest that verbal threats by stalkers, in combination with others factors, are predictive of physical attacks. Regardless, it should be assumed that risk assessment, relative to stalking, must be based on factors other than threats or the absence of threats (Palarea, Zona, Lane & Rohlings, 1999).

Similarly, it should be emphasized that the few studies which have looked at women's accuracy at predicting violence from an ex-domestic partner, consistently reveal that women are often not good at predicting their risk for serious, often life-threatening attacks (Campbell, Sharps, Laughon, Webster, Manganello & Schollenberg, 2003). Conversely, women who were previously abused by an ex-partner, and who are currently being stalked by that ex-partner, are more likely to be right than in their assessment of risk (Bell, Cattaneo, Goodman & Dutton, 2008). These findings would suggest that like verbal threats, a victim's feeling about her safety and subsequent risk for future attacks should be just one of many components of the risk assessment.

### **Risk Assessment**

Those in both the legal and psychological communities use the term "risk assessment" to describe a set of investigative and operational techniques that can be used to identify, assess, treat, and manage the risks of violent behavior (Borum, Fein, Vossekuil & Berglund, 1999). The risk assessment field has developed immensely during the past two decades and has moved from a narrow focus on violence prediction to broader risk paradigm (Haggard-Grann, 2007). Because stalking is typically followed by more violent forms of crime, early recognition may provide opportunities for early intervention and prevention (Wood & Wood, 2002).

Over the past decade, prediction of violence specific to stalking cases has improved a great deal and is based on several variables including history of substance abuse, a prior intimate relationship with the victim, threats, personality disorders, a history of prior violent behavior, and the absence of an active psychotic disorder (Meloy, 2007). A few studies have attempted to identify behaviors and characteristics predictive of severe physical violence in stalking cases.

One recent study (Morrison, 2008) postulated that the violent stalkers are more likely than nonviolent stalkers to: (a) have stronger previous attachment towards their victim; (b) be more highly fixated/obsessed with their victim; (c) have a higher degree of perceived negative affect towards their victim; (d) engage in more verbal threats and (e) have a history of battering. Stalkers who have had a prior sexual relationship with the victim, are more likely to engage in controlling style actions, including aggressive acts, than stalkers who have no prior sexual relationship (Groves, Salfati, & Elliot, 2004).

Before considering a stalking intervention, many experts recommended a comprehensive risk assessment be completed, including the identification of stalker type (Orion, 1997). There are various pathways to assessing risk and they primarily include: (1) unguided/unstructured clinical judgment; (2) structured/guided clinical judgment; (3) clinical judgment based on anamnestic data; (4) research guided clinical judgment; (5) research guided adjusted actuarial assessment; (5) purely actuarial examination (Fabian, 2006). Descriptive research into how risk assessment is actually being done, however, is limited (Carroll, 2007).

Hillbrand suggests that risk assessment for suicide and homicide should go hand in hand when dealing with a stalker. Along these lines he offers several "red flags" which should be addressed. They include access to weapons, prior history of violence, history of depression or other mental disorders, drug usage, and long term or escalating stalking behavior. While homicide occurs in less than 2% of all stalking cases, it is important to recognize that this rate is still 200 times the rate of homicide risk for nonstalked persons (Meloy, 1999).

The *Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revised* (Multi-Health Systems Publishing, 1991) is one risk assessment tool which has often been used in evaluating an individual's risk for future violent behavior. Factors which are examined include the person's age, criminal history, marital status, and psychiatric diagnosis. These factors are combined with actuarial data to form a validated Violence Risk Rating. This instrument's appropriateness, as a measure relative to stalking, has thus far proved to be fairly effective (Harmon, Rosner & Owens, 1998).

Some researchers (e.g Becker & Murphy, 1998) have shown that instruments which have previously been used with specific forensic populations, such as convicted sex offenders, might prove effective for risk assessment with stalkers. These instruments include the MMPI-II and the Violence Risk Assessment Guide (VRAG).

Both the Static-99 actuarial scale, which was developed to predict sexual and nonsexual reoffending risks, and the Sexual Violence Risk-20, have highly predictive accuracy when predicting future sexual violence, and both scales appear appropriate when dealing with stalking cases which have risk factors for sexual violence (Haggard-Grann, 2007).

Aside from such instruments, it is important that periodic violence risk assessments be done in all stalking cases as risks can change over time. Possession of weapons, past instances of violence, and current access to the victim are a few of the well known high risk factors when doing a risk assessment with stalkers (Wood & Wood, 2002).

Current research in violence prediction indicates that both static and dynamic factors influence violent behavior. Static factors, such as age and history of violence, are not amenable to interventions, whereas dynamic factors, such as most Axis I diagnoses, are responsive to clinical interventions (Meloy, 1999). Analysis of static risk factors provides an estimate of long-term likelihood of violent behavior (Carroll, 2007).

Those who work directly with stalkers should also be aware of dramatic moments which often signal impending violence. These are typically events that result in humiliation of the stalker which fuel his fury. They may include his first rejection by the victim, unacknowledged letters and gifts, contact by a third party admonishing him to cease his behavior, restraining orders, police contact, or an impending court hearing (Meloy, 1999). Additionally, risk assessment and prevention strategies should not focus on victims, stalkers, or criminal justice responses alone, but also on the interactions among the three (Sheridan, Blaauw, & Davies, 2003).



A computerized threat assessment (MOSAIC, 1993) is available and is often used in larger law enforcement agencies, and in some domestic violence shelters. In addition to the identification of stalker types, the MOSAIC program asks a series of questions which are "pre-incident indicators". A positive response on these questions, which include references to obsessive love, access to weapons, suicide, religious themes, a shared destiny, and death, are highly predictive of future violence by the stalker (De Becker, 1997).

In general, it is important that stalking risk assessment be comprehensive. Preferably this would include extensive data from formal instruments and from informal reports/interviews.

#### Victim Considerations

It is fairly well established that the typical stalking victim is a woman who is younger than her pursuer, and that she is someone who had a prior intimate relationship with him (Meloy, 1999). It is not, however, known what behavioral/psychological characteristics, if any, make a person more likely to be the victim of a stalker. Additionally, it is not clear what type of victim responses may lead to an increase of stalking, or a diminution or cessation of it (Proctor, 2003). The psychological, physical and occupational effects of being a stalker's victim are other areas which have not been well researched.

#### Victim Behaviors and Responses

Several studies have looked at the specific responses made by the victims of stalkers. A meta-analysis (Spitzberg, 2002) points out that victims can usually cope with their situations in several ways including:

- \* Moving Away- trying to avoid contact with their stalker
- \* Moving Against- Attempting to harm, constrain, or punish the stalker
- \* Moving With-negotiating a more acceptable form of the relationship.

One *moving against* coping strategy that has received attention in the domestic violence and stalking literature is that of seeking a restraining order/domestic violence petition. To date, this has been one of the few options available to victims, yet its effectiveness is less than solid.

Across 32 studies, 40% of the restraining orders were violated (Spitzberg, 2002). Nearly 25% of abused and/or stalked women report expecting some type of retaliation and an increase in the level of violence once they sought a restraining order (Gist, McFarlane, Malecha, Fredland, Shultz & Wilson, 2001).

It is fairly well accepted that one of the most common mistakes stalking victims make is to initiate, or allow personal contact with their stalker. This *moving with* strategy is often driven by guilt, anger, kindness or fear. It is seen as a misguided, ineffective attempt to reason with an unreasonable person. In nearly all cases, it serves as an intermittent reinforcer for the stalker's behavior, making continued stalking more probable.

A recent study of 128 stalking cases by the Sacramento California District Attorney's Office found that victims' responses to stalking by former intimate partners consisted of four types of behavior: (1) *Active Resistance* (Fighting, struggling, documenting or recording stalker) (2) *Help seeking* (Calling police, getting an escort) (3) *Coping to reduce the danger* (screening calls, staying with friends) and (4) *Complying with stalkers' demands* (trying to appease stalker). This study showed that nearly one in five victims who had been stalked by former intimates exhibited some form of compliance behavior as a survival strategy and this included visiting the stalker in jail, going places with the stalker, having sex with the stalker, and recanting (Miller, 1999).

In the broader domestic violence literature, *Attributional Theory* is another emerging area of research which has implications for understanding victim responses when stalked. Specifically, findings indicate that the attributions women make for the former partner's behavior, influence their decisions about how to deal with their situation (Gordon, Burton, Porter, 2004).

#### Psychological Impact on Victims

The psychological and physical effects of violence against women may be devastating. Emotional responses include depression, anxiety, phobias and, for 45-85% of abused women, post traumatic stress disorder (Murdaugh, Hunt, Sowell, & Santana, 2004). The psychological impact of being a stalker's victim is a growing area of research. The National Violence Against Women Survey concluded that the levels of distress reported by stalking victims are substantial.

Nearly 30% of women, and 20% of men who were victims reported seeking counseling. Additionally, 83% of victims reported feeling their personality had changed, 85% reported feeling more cautious, nearly 40% reported feeling paranoid, and 30% felt that they had become more aggressive (Davis & Frieze, 1999).

One study (Pimlott-Kubiak & Cortina 2003), examined the psychological and physical health outcomes of being traumatized in various ways. The trauma categories included physical assault as an adult, physical abuse as a child, emotional abuse by an intimate partner, a history of one or more sexual assaults, and a history of being stalked one or more times. The researchers were interested in looking at the outcomes of trauma including depression, alcohol/drug use, and overall physical health. Victims, reported higher levels of depressive symptoms and drug use than those with no such trauma history.

An Australian study (Pathe & Mullen, 1997) looked at the psychological impact of being a stalking victim. Of 100 victims surveyed; 80% reported increased anxiety and arousal, 75% reported sleeping problems, 55% reported recurring thoughts/flashbacks and 50% reported an appetite disturbance. The study also looked at lifestyle changes of stalking victims and reported that nearly 94% indicated some major lifestyle changes, 70% reported a loss of social activities, 40% reported relocating their residence, 50% reported a loss of work or school days and 34% reported changing schools or workplaces.

A study of 36 college-aged women showed that stalked female students experienced significantly more post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms and had significantly greater severity of symptoms than did control subjects (Westrup, Fremouw, Thompson & Lewis, 1999). Similarly, a recent meta-analysis showed the risk for depression and/or post-traumatic stress disorder associated with intimate partner violence and stalking was even higher than that resulting from childhood sexual abuse (Campbell, 2002).

Another meta-analysis also reviewed literature relevant to the symptoms and effects of stalking. Analysis revealed a seven-cluster typology of difficulties including: *general distress* (*PSTD* and other quality of life symptoms); *affective symptoms* (including anxiety, paranoia, stress and anger); *cognitive health issues*, (mental and self-concept problems such as suicidal ideation, low self-esteem, confusion) *physical health problems*(somatic complaints such as sleep and eating disorders); *social health* (all social problems a person experiences including isolation, fear of going out and loss of friends); *resource health difficulties* (career factors, spending money for protection, home security); and *lessening of resilience*, including the loss of ability to deal with adversity. Across all seven categories of symptomology, an average of 42% of victims experienced one or more of these symptoms (Spitzberg, 2002).

#### Rural Areas and Stalking

According to the U.S Census Bureau (2000), nearly 25% of U.S residents live in rural areas. West Virginia is the second most rural state in the nation, with 64% of its population living in communities of fewer than 2,500. Forty-five of West Virginia's 55 counties are designated as rural by the Bureau of Census (Rural Assistance Center, 2008). Despite an increasing body of research relating to domestic violence, few studies focus on domestic violence in rural settings (Few, 2005). These few studies indicate however, that rural victims of any type of domestic violence, including stalking, face special hurdles with their situation which their urban counterparts do not typically face. Some of these special factors include geographic isolation; a lack of anonymity; transportation difficulties; a lack of phones; lack of shelters and domestic violence service providers; the response of the legal system; the influence of religious teachings, and the woman's own ties to the land (Grama, 2000). At a more basic level, women living in rural areas appear to be more vulnerable due to the inherent difficulty in avoiding and hiding from stalkers (Hynan, 2006).

In addition to the physical isolation many rural women face, the sociodemographic characteristics of rural communities present unique problems and issues with regards to all types of violence. One of the specific issues within this realm is that poverty rates among people living in rural areas are higher than in urban populations across all ethnic and racial groups. As poverty is associated with higher unemployment, greater family stressors, significant mental health issues, and a more limited ability to access services, rural women are often left with few options and choices when victimized (Krishnan, Hilbert, & VanLeeuwen, 2001). Similarly, domestic violence research in rural Appalachia indicates that residents of rural communities generally hold patriarchal views of the family, traditional sex-role ideologies, strong religious values, and more conventional beliefs about privacy. These beliefs, rules and values in turn, promote gender inequality, failure to report incidents to law enforcement, and undermine intervention when it does occur (Few, 2005). These issues are compounded when considering most rural law enforcement agencies face significant logistical problems including police officers who, because of distance are unable to respond quickly, and who, because of limited resources, may lack specialized training in this area (Grama, 2000).

#### Occupational Issues:

The impact of stalking on occupational functioning is another emerging area of research. Being stalked may affect a victim's ability to work in three ways. First, the stalking behavior may interfere directly with the ability to get to work and includes acts such as damaging the victim's car. Second, the workplace may become an unsafe location if the offender decides to show up there. A woman can change her address, phone number and e-mail more easily than she can her workplace, making it a prime location for stalking. Third, the mental health effects may include forgetfulness, fatigue, excessive absences and poor concentration while at work (Abrams, Robinson & Erlick, 2002). It is not uncommon for stalking victims to leave their place of employment, either on their own or as a result of being terminated, due to impaired performance or due to fear, even if they are still able to do the job (De Becker, 1997).

The broader issue of workplace violence is also an ever-increasing problem, and it affects all businesses, small and large. It is believed that as many as one million people are victimized annually while working. Further, 500,000 victims lose 1.8 million work days and over \$55 million in wages each year (Proctor, 2003). Four to six percent of all homicides in the workplace are committed by coworkers or former coworkers. This same study, which was done by the National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSHA), found that homicide is the leading cause of occupational injury causing death among females in the workplace (Abrams, Robinson, & Erlick, 2002). Stalking and workplace violence should not be viewed as separate issues, as the relationship between the two has become more apparent (De Becker, 1997).

A recent study which looked at the impact of domestic violence showed that 72% of all stalking incidents occur at the workplace (Klein, 2005). Special efforts to educate employers about stalking are emerging and a number of states have enacted legislation which permits employers to file orders on behalf of their employees (Miller, 2001).

#### Implications for Practice, Policy and Research

Continued research into stalker and victim typologies appears to be an important avenue for future study and should serve to promote more consistent and comprehensive measurement efforts in developing risk assessments and in identifying appropriate intervention tactics (Spitzberg, 2002). Additionally, clinicians and researchers need to continue their efforts at understanding the relationship between stalking and other forms of violence, including intimate-partner domestic violence (Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998). They must also be cognizant that victims of interpersonal violence are sometimes misdiagnosed as having psychological conditions, including depression, psychosis, anxiety and personality disorders without regard to the context of abuse (McCloskey & Grigsby, 2005). Clinicians should become familiar with the existing body of stalking research relative to both stalkers and victims, while remaining mindful that emerging research on stalking is insufficiently advanced to provide a great deal of empirically derived evidence upon which to base their clinical practices (Mullen, 1997).

One emerging area of research falls within the areas of "*Coping responses and resiliency*". Specifically, if resilient victims are found to engage in distinct coping strategies, or if they have certain cognitive and affective characteristics, future intervention strategies can be improved (Spitzberg, 2002). Some preliminary studies (i.e., Sullivan & Bybee, 1999) suggest that women who have a strong support system, such as an appointed advocate, are more resilient after experiencing a traumatic event. Similar to the grouping of stalkers by type, a grouping of *victims* by type might prove effective in improving the assessment of victim behaviors which have the potential to escalate or de-escalate the stalker's behavior. To date, no such victim typology is apparent (Spitzberg, 2002).

One recent study (McFarlane, Campbell, Sharps & Watson, 2002) highlights the need for more stalking-related research relevant to victim topology by pointing out that during the 12 months before the attempted or actual murder of an intimate female partner, 68% of these women were stalked and 69% were assaulted. Further, when considering stalking as a distinct form of intimate partner violence, 85% of victims of intimate partner femicide, or attempted femicide, were victims of stalking before they were killed. Beyond some basic demographics, however, little is known about what factors distinguish successful victims from unsuccessful ones.

Despite the growing body of literature pertaining to various aspects of stalking, very little is known about how stalking may be curtailed or prevented. The few studies which have addressed this issue, found that victims predominantly reported that their stalking ended because the victim moved, because the stalker entered a new relationship, or because the police warned or arrested the stalker (Sheridan, Blaauw, & Davies, 2003). Certainly, more research into these measures is warranted. More research is also needed in the systematic assessment of trauma, especially with the long term, life-span victimization often seen with stalking and domestic violence (Widom, Dutton, Czaja & DuMont, 2005).

Additionally, as very few studies have been aimed at addressing the special issues faced by rural stalking victims, many scientists and healthcare advocates are calling for ethnically and regionally specific research in order that these under served populations, might be better served in the future (Murdaugh, Hunt, Sowell, Santana, 2004). The prevalence of sexual violence within the context of stalking also merits further study (Morrison, 2007).

#### Legal Implications Relative to Stalking:

The relative newness of stalking as a crime has implications for law enforcement and prosecution responses to stalking. To date, there has been a general failure of the legal system to recognize when the crime of stalking has been committed, and a failure to understand the serious effects of stalking on the victim's well being (Miller, 1999). For instance, law enforcement may fail to arrest or to seek an arrest warrant. Prosecution may fail to prosecute stalking cases or may file lesser charges instead. Some studies (e.g De Becker, 1997) show that a woman's greatest risk for bodily harm and/or being murdered occurs within days of when she files a restraining order. An overview of nine known studies suggests restraining orders are followed by an escalation of violence or stalking approximately 21% of the time (Spitzberg, 2002). Yet, there appears to be very little training given to law enforcement personnel regarding these findings.

A National Survey was conducted by the Institute of Law and Justice in November, 1998 to assess how well-equipped law enforcement agencies are to deal with the problem of stalking. The survey was mailed to 204 law enforcement agencies in the most populated cities, mostly jurisdictions with populations of 250,000 or more. Of the 204 agencies surveyed, 169 responded.

Results indicated that the majority (93%) of responding law enforcement agencies assign stalking cases to a detective division, or to a specialized unit, such as the domestic violence unit. Only six departments reported having specialized staff assigned to stalking cases and only one had a separate stalking unit.



Regardless of unit assignment, stalking is a unique crime which requires specialized training (Miller, 1999). Nearly 73% of the law enforcement agencies reported some training on stalking is included in the domestic violence training they provide, but only 13% of the law enforcement agencies reported providing *specialized* training. Additionally, 14% of the responding agencies reported providing no training relative to stalking.

It is reasonable to assume that it is important to law enforcement training that policies and procedures exist to serve as a guide to officers. Approximately 58% of the agencies surveyed reported having written policies and procedures for handling stalking cases. Of these agencies, 50% have incorporated stalking policies into their existing policies on domestic violence (Miller, 1999).

The 1998 *National Violence Against Women* survey provided unprecedented information about the nature and prevalence of stalking. Law enforcement agencies may use that information to improve their training programs (Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998). As important, the findings highlight the need for more research on the effectiveness of both formal and informal law enforcement interventions.

Law enforcement officers routinely recommend that victims get domestic violence petitions, yet the issue of using restraining orders as an intervention is an area which needs further exploration. While it is known that restraining orders are often violated and that they sometimes make the situation worse, there is insufficient basis for identifying the conditions under which their effects can be predicted (Spitzberg, 2002). De Becker has termed the dynamic interaction between stalker and victim as the "engage and enrage" phase, and he points out that the restraining order is often the pivotal point for violence.

Other researchers (e.g. Meloy, 1999) suggests that a risk-management decision on whether to seek a restraining order should be based on four specific questions: (1) What has been the effect of a protection order in the past on this individual? (2) Is there a history of physical violence toward the protectee? (3) How preoccupied or obsessed with the protectee is the individual? (4) How aggressive are the local police in enforcing protection orders, and how coordinated is the judicial response to violations? Similarly, while stalking victims are routinely advised to disconnect, or change their phone number, emerging research is showing that this may actually escalate the level of harassment and/or violence towards the victim (Stalking Resource Center, 2005). Some researchers (i.e., Logan, Shannon, Cole & Walker, 2006) have suggested that protective orders for physically abused women may be more effective than they are for stalking victims. Clearly, more research on these risk-management decisions is needed.

When considering the legal implications of stalking, a recent study showed that the single most frequent disposition of stalking cases was dismissal. The second most common disposition for stalking cases first entering the criminal justice system is an amendment to a lesser offense, most often the misdemeanor level of stalking or another threat-related crime (Jordan, Walker & Nigoff, 2003). Further research should examine factors that may contribute to dismissals and should attend to the impact of reduced or dropped charges on victims who have reached out to the criminal justice system for protection.

The recent explosion of inexpensive, readily available technology presents some unique challenges for officers who are dealing with stalking cases. Stalking is not only easier, it can be virtual and victims often do not know they are in fact, victims (Rosenwald, 2004). Reports of high-tech stalking, including cases involving global positioning systems (GPS) placed on victims' cars, spyware on computers, and hidden video cameras in victims homes continue to stack up, and more research on how law enforcement personnel should deal with this new type of threat is needed (Rosenwald, 2004).

### Stalking Training: Existing and Emerging issues

Because police officers undertake a variety of roles including public relations specialist, crisis interventionist, mediator, and counselor, they need a variety of skills to perform these complex functions (Morgan, Morgan, Foster & Kolbert, 2000). Training and interventions specific to the problem of stalking are just beginning to emerge, and to date most law enforcement agencies have not adopted distinct protocols and procedures for intervention in stalking cases (Miller, 2001). Similarly, many states still do not require their law enforcement, and other legal representatives to obtain training specific to stalking (Stalking Resource Center, 2005).

Unfortunately, there is no national database that tracks which jurisdictions require and provide stalking training. There also does not appear to be any research designed to look at the effectiveness of stalking training for law enforcement personnel (Stalking Resource Center, 2005). For example, do officers who have had such training actually deal with stalking more effectively? Similarly, the 1999 national survey showed that more than 68% of prosecutor's offices provide *some* training on stalking to their attorneys, but to date, the amount, type and effectiveness of this training has not been established either (Miller, 1999).

To summarize, it is clear that many areas of research in psychology and law could be used to improve forensic decision-making in law enforcement settings. The need for behavioral research in these settings has become even more important in the face of increasing demands on federal, state, and local agencies to prevent targeted violence (Coogins, Reddy-Pynchon, & Dvoskin, 1998). Behavioral research relative to the effectiveness of stalking training for front line providers who are already familiar with stalking crimes, including victim advocates, is also needed (Harmon, O'Connor, Forcier & Collins, 2004).

### General training considerations:

The field of adult education has been emerging steadily as a discrete field since the founding of the American Association for Adult Education in 1926. Since that time, research has produced new concepts about the learning processes of adults and the motives that direct and influence an adult's ability to acquire new knowledge and skills (Kennedy, 2003). Parallel to the evidence-based practice movements in medicine and mental health care, education experts are beginning to apply research-based knowledge about how people learn to the design of education and training programs (Bussema & Nemec, 2006).

Regardless of the topic, or the intended audience, consideration should be given to how adults learn best. As a first consideration, it should be noted that recent research on best-practices has shown that the principles of adult learning involves several differences compared to those of younger learners. Specifically, adult learners possess a different self-image; more life experience; greater fear of failure; greater expectation to immediately use learning; diminished speed and retention of learning; and some basic physical differences that can influence their abilities to learn, including the need for more frequent breaks (Kennedy, 2003). Adults learn best by doing, not listening. Hands-on learning is assimilated and recalled better. If the training reflects real conditions accurately, and if it rewards appropriate actions and discourages mistakes, trainees will come away better equipped to be more effective in their jobs (Reintzell, 1997).

While there are varying opinions about what methods are best employed in training, current research shows effective training begins before, and continues after the formal course concludes. This makes a thorough needs assessment and a post measure a must (Laff, 2006). Follow-up instruction, reminders and feedback improve skill performance (Bussema & Nemec, 2006).

### Training considerations specific to Law Enforcement:

Enforcement agencies across the nation continue to confront new issues, including computer crimes, terrorism and domestic problems that were, in essence, unheard of a generation ago. Unfortunately, available resources are not growing at the same pace as the demand for police services. In spite of these new challenges, police education has not changed all that much in recent years (Nelson, 2006). Many departments are, however, starting to recognize the need for more effective approaches to officer training (Dwyer & Lauferswiler-Dwyer, 2004).

Several writers over the past two decades have touched on the need to switch from strictly lecture-based, memorization and elementary school-style teaching to methods which are more appropriate for officers who are faced with making immediate discretionary decisions, and with interacting with all strata of society in resolving social conflict (Dwyer & Lauferswiler-Dwyer, 2004). Scenario-based education, which by definition is an amalgamation of knowledge and skills based training, is one model of training which shows promise as an effective and more cost-efficient approach to training of law enforcement personnel. Scenario-based training is becoming more common. It includes elaborate role playing and offers realistic situations that officers can use to hone their skills and learn new techniques (Lynch, 2005).

The andragogical model to law enforcement training, which is defined as the "art and science of helping adults learn best", views the student and teacher as partners, and is believed to foster problem-solving to a greater degree than more traditional teaching methods. This model, which merits further research, is based on six basic principals: (1) Adults take interest and invest effort in topics that they know have applicability for them; (2) adults are responsible for their actions and deciding their own direction; (3) adults have had experiences instructors should tap; (4) adults are ready to learn material that will help them in the real world; (5) adults center their learning on life issues rather than on isolated subject matter; (6) adults are motivated more effectively by internal factors, such as job satisfaction, self-esteem and quality of life than by threats, promises or external factors (Dwyer & Laufersweiler-Dyer, 2004).

### Overview of Study

The initial purpose of this study was to obtain data about the type and the amount of training law enforcement personnel in West Virginia have received relative to stalking cases. To accomplish this, officers in all fifty-five counties were surveyed and were asked to provide demographic information, as well as information relative to any prior training they might have received on stalking crimes. The second goal of this study was to assess officers knowledge levels and practices, and whether these might be changed by participation in an 8 hour workshop on stalking crimes.

### Background of Study

West Virginia has approximately 272 law enforcement agencies that serve 1.8 million residents. The majority of these law enforcement departments are small, consisting of between two and five members. Both county and state law enforcement officers are often responsible for large, rural jurisdictions with difficult, mountainous terrain. With this in mind, the West Virginia Division of Criminal Justice, in conjunction with the West Virginians Against Violence Committee, released a five year plan in 2005 aimed at reducing violence against women in the state, especially those women who live in the most rural regions, and who tend to be both under served and at the greatest risk. Based on the committee's findings and recommendations the improvement plan focused on three main areas: rape, domestic violence, and stalking. More knowledge about stalking and more effective services for victims emerged as a consistent theme. The committee's Five-year Strategic Plan for 2006 listed several goals and objectives relative to these needs, including:

- \* Establishing the prevalence and impact of stalking
- \* Establishing and/or improving law enforcement training on stalking
- \* Improving law enforcement's response to reported incidents of stalking
- \* Improving the legal system's responses to stalking complaints
- Improving victim services

The proposed study appeared to fit well with the identified goals and objectives of this plan, especially when considering that since 1989, domestic violence complaints to law enforcement agencies in West Virginia increased by about 400%, the number of domestic violence petitions processed by magistrates tripled and, on average, two domestic homicides occur each month in West Virginia (WVCADV Annual Report FY 2003-2004).

Based upon a review of current educational requirements of West Virginia law enforcement, there is not currently a requirement that officers receive any training relative to stalking. Thus, their opinions about, and responses to, stalking may be inconsistent with established and emerging research. Thus, the following hypotheses were tested:

**Hypothesis #1:** The majority of law enforcement personnel in West Virginia have received no training relative to stalking crimes.

**Hypothesis #2:** Officers who attend our training session will show a significant increase in their knowledge about stalking crimes.

**Hypothesis #3:** Law enforcement personnel will report significant increases in the amount of information they seek/obtain about both the stalker and the victim after attending the training session on stalking crimes.

## **Method**

Using the West Virginia Directory of State Agencies, a Training Needs Survey was mailed to all of West Virginia's Municipal Police Department Chiefs, College Campus Police units, State Police units and County Sheriffs offices. A continuing education workshop was subsequently developed, based on: (1) the survey results; (2) existing stalking research, and; (3) best current adult education practices.

West Virginia law enforcement individuals were subsequently invited to attend the workshop and attendees were approved to receive eight (8) continuing education credits by West Virginia Criminal Justice Services. Prior to workshop participation, each attendee was asked to complete a pre-training questionnaire. One month post-workshop participation, attendees were mailed a follow-up post test. The pre and post workshop results were compared.

### **Ethical Considerations:**

Informed consent was obtained by asking respondents to sign a consent form, which was approved by the Marshall University Office of Research Integrity. Respondents were also informed that they would be able to receive a copy of their completed survey and a copy of the study's findings if they so chose. The informed consent explained who was conducting the research, why/how they had been chosen to participate, and how long participation would take. In addition, the form covered issues regarding confidentiality and clearly expressed that participation was voluntary.



## **Subjects, Settings & Procedures**

### **Training Needs Survey:**

The *training needs survey* was conducted prior to, and separately from, the workshop's pre and prior assessment. It collected demographic information and assessed a variety of factors relative to the type and amount of training respondents had received regarding stalking crimes (See Appendix A) Respondents who had received prior training in stalking were asked to provide details about whether specific topics were covered including: (1) National statistics on prevalence; (2) stalker typologies; (3) psychological impact of being a stalking victim; (4) stalker characteristics; (5) threat assessment; (6) safety planning; (7) special issues for rural areas; (8) link between domestic violence and stalking; (9) emerging issues with cyberstalking and electronic/video surveillance.

Forty-four *Training Needs Surveys*, from 30 of West Virginia's 55 counties were returned by February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007. These included forms from 14 Deputies, 8 City Police Chiefs, 7 State Troopers, 11 City Officers, 2 City Detectives, 1 Court Bailiff and 1 College Campus Officer. Chi-square statistics were then performed to compare the demographic characteristics. Four the surveys were completed by State Police officers, causing department size to vary greatly from 1-700 individuals. Mean department size was 120.5 officers, but the median size of 10 officers likely provides a more accurate representation of the sample, because the West Virginia State Police has over 600 officers and, thus it skewed the mean.

Respondents ages ranged from 25-70 years, with a mean age of 44.6 years. All but one were male. Data from the National Center for Women and Policing shows that women represent 12.7% of all sworn officers (Seklecki & Paynich, 2007), thus making this particular sample somewhat below the national average. Years of professional law enforcement experience for the respondents ranged from 1-46 years, with a mean of 17.4 years experience.

**Continuing Education Workshop and Pre/Post Measures:**

A Continuing Education Workshop was developed based on stalking research, information obtained through the Training Needs Survey and on research relative to best practices for adult education. The workshop was presented three times between June 2007 and June 2008. Thirty two West Virginia Law Enforcement Officers attended. The West Virginia Department of Justice approved the workshop for 8 hours of continuing education for attendees. In order to assess their knowledge base at the beginning of the day, participants completed a brief questionnaire in which they provided information about their experiences dealing with stalking related crimes. They also took a brief, multiple choice pre-test which was designed to assess their knowledge about stalking crimes in general. (See Appendix B)

The training involved (1) directed discussions in which attendees were asked to present their experiences, views, and opinions regarding stalking crimes; (2) a group activity which involved participants watching a video of a stalking/domestic violence related homicide case and then providing their observations about this case; (3) a presentation which included information on the definitions of stalking, estimated prevalence, the link between domestic violence and stalking, stalker and victim profiles, impact on victims, psychological disorders relative to stalking, legal issues, and components of threat/risk assessment (See Appendix C).

The post-test measure was mailed to workshop attendees one month after attending the presentation. Of the 32 attendees, 23 returned the questionnaire (See Appendix D).

## Results

### Hypothesis 1

Table 1 presents demographic data of the 23 subjects who completed both the pre and post test measures

Table 1

#### Descriptive Statistics

|   |                      |           |
|---|----------------------|-----------|
| Sex:  | Male 96%             | Female 4% |
| Years Experience:   | Mean 11.35           | SD 9.64   |
| Education in five levels (High School to Graduate degree) |                      |           |
|   | High School n=7      | (21.9%)   |
|   | Some college n=15    | (46.9%)   |
|   | Associate degree n=4 | (12.5%)   |
|   | Bachelors degree n=5 | (15.6%)   |
|   | Graduate degree n=1  | (3.1%)    |
| Prior Training:   | Yes (26%)            | No (74%)  |
| Department Size:  | Mean 15.3            | SD 18.07  |
| N=23  |                      |           |

The first hypothesis, that most law enforcement personnel in West Virginia have received no training relative to stalking crimes, is confirmed by our study's findings that only 26 percent of the participants had prior stalking-related training. This helps make the case that information on stalking is needed. The standard deviation for department size is comparatively large, 18.07. If we computed the coefficient of variation for all variables, we would see that department size exhibits more variability than any other variable. For those who attended the training, department size ranged from 2 to 87.

### **Pretest and Posttest Assessment Forms**

Assessment forms were constructed by the author who designed and implemented the training program. This reflects the relative paucity of research-based literature on stalking, especially as it relates to law enforcement training. Circumstances such as this commonly require use of measures which are not as reliable or demonstrably valid as we would like. In the present instance, Cronbach's alpha for the pretest is 0.59 and the same measure for the posttest is 0.67. Though the usual rule-of-thumb cutoff is 0.70, it is not uncommon in social and behavioral research to see measures used with reliabilities of less than 0.70. While these relatively low alphas will tend to limit interpretive value of the results, they at least approach .70, particularly the post-test.

### **Hypothesis #2**

In an attempt to answer Hypothesis #2, we assessed several factors, including whether participants were better informed with regard to stalking after completing the training program. Table 2 provides the information needed to answer this question for the 23 observations with complete information.

**Table 2**

**t Test for Paired Samples: Pre and Post test**

|                                   | Pretest | Posttest |
|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Means                             | 10.52   | 14.96    |
| Standard Deviations               | 2.11    | 4.80     |
| Mean Difference                   |         | 4.44     |
| Standard Deviation of Differences |         | 4.41     |
| Degrees of Freedom                |         | 22       |
| t                                 |         | 4.82     |
| p                                 |         | <0.001   |

Table 2 makes clear that, using any conventionally employed significance level, the difference between pretest and posttest mean scores is statistically significant, with the posttest mean greater than the pretest mean. Since neither random assignment nor statistical control was used to address confounding, this statistically significant difference should not be construed as conclusive evidence that the training program is effective. However, the findings are consistent with that claim.

### **Hypothesis #3**

The third hypothesis of our study postulated that law enforcement personnel would significantly increase the amount of information they would seek/obtain when dealing with a stalking crime after attending a training session on stalking. One way to gauge this was to count the number of substantive questions that law enforcement personnel would ask about stalkers and about victims when trying to understand and investigate specific instances of stalking.

Tables 3 and 4 contain shows the mean number of questions that law enforcement say they would ask in specific instances of stalking before and after participation in the training program, thus confirming Hypothesis #3. Finding this substantial increase in the number of questions asked of victims/others is encouraging because it suggests that law enforcement personnel may come to rely less on unsubstantiated hunches and misguided intuition when dealing with stalking cases. Since stalking, especially when misunderstood by law enforcement personnel, often has horrific outcomes, informed recognition of the complexity of stalking is critical.

**Table 3****t Test for Paired Samples: Questions Asked About Stalkers**

|                                   | Pretest | Posttest |
|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Means                             | 22.83   | 26.17    |
| Standard Deviations               | 7.76    | 5.71     |
| Mean Difference                   |         | 3.35     |
| Standard Deviation of Differences |         | 5.23     |
| Degrees of Freedom                |         | 22       |
| t                                 |         | 3.07     |
| p                                 |         | <0.006   |

**Table 4****t Test for Paired Samples: Questions Asked About Stalking Victims**

|                                   | Pretest | Posttest |
|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Means                             | 10.52   | 14.96    |
| Standard Deviations               | 2.11    | 4.84     |
| Mean Difference                   |         | 4.44     |
| Standard Deviation of Differences |         | 4.41     |
| Degrees of Freedom                |         | 22       |
| t                                 |         | 4.83     |
| p                                 |         | <0.001   |

With regard to questions about the stalker and questions about the stalking victim, participants asked more questions after the training program than before. As with gains in general information about stalking, neither finding makes the case that the training will result in changes in actual practice. As with gains in general information about stalking, however, these findings are consistent with the hypothesis that training increases the amount of information officers seek.

### **Additional Analysis/Pre and Post Test**

Our data set's relatively small working sample size of 23 cases presents a prudent argument for exercising caution when using more powerful analytical procedures that permit employment of more than one independent variable. For example, multiple regression analysis is a commonly used tool in applied research and program evaluation. In this study, a multiple regression equation aimed at assessing program effectiveness in providing information concerning stalking would be as follows, where  $Y_{POST}$  is posttest score,  $X_{PRE}$  is pretest score,  $X_{YEARS}$  is years of experience,  $X_{ED}$  is level of educational attainment,  $X_{PRIOR}$  is prior training, and  $X_{SIZE}$  is departmental size.

**Table 5**

$$Y_{POST} = - 2.025 + 1.293^{**} X_{PRE} + 0.174^{*} X_{YEARS} + 1.356X_{ED} - 0.582X_{PRIOR}$$

$$- 0.119^{*} X_{SIZE}$$

$$R^2 = 43.5^{**}\%$$

$$\text{Adjusted } R^2 = 26.9^{**}\%$$

$$*p<0.10 \quad **p<0.05$$

If we acknowledge the small sample size and consequently limited statistical power by relaxing our significance level to 0.10, we interpret the statistically significant regression coefficients as follows:

For each one point increase in pretest score, posttest score increases, on average, by 1.293 points.

For each additional year of experience, posttest score increases, on average, by 0.174 points.

For each one employee increase in department size, posttest score decreases, on average, by 0.119 points.

With only 4.6 observations for each independent variable, however, the results of our multiple regression analysis are not as compelling as we might like. As a grossly imperfect substitute for a powerful but case-intensive tool such as multiple regression analysis, we might simply report bivariate correlations in the form of a correlation matrix

**Table 6**

|                    | Y <sub>POST</sub> | X <sub>PRE</sub> | X <sub>YEARS</sub> | X <sub>ED</sub> | X <sub>PRIOR</sub> | X size |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------|
| Y <sub>POST</sub>  |                   |                  |                    |                 |                    |        |
| X <sub>PRE</sub>   | 0.398             |                  |                    |                 |                    |        |
| X <sub>YEARS</sub> | 0.179             | - 0.188          |                    |                 |                    |        |
| X <sub>ED</sub>    | 0.241             | 0.275            | - 0.316            |                 |                    |        |
| X <sub>PRIOR</sub> | - 0.100           | 0.186            | - 0.022            | - 0.069         |                    |        |
| X <sub>SIZE</sub>  | - 0.121           | **0.431          | - 0.110            | 0.376*          | 0.264              |        |

\*p<0.10  
\*\*p<0.05



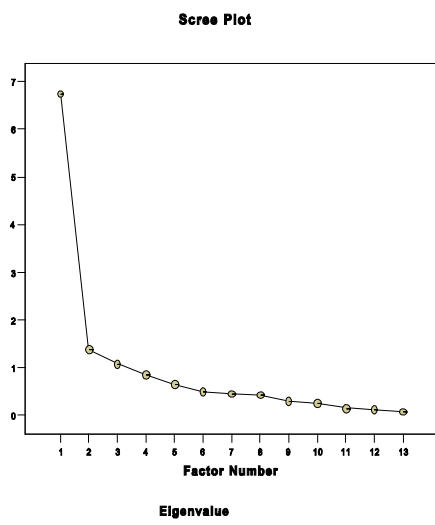
As is typically the case, the bivariate correlations may be suggestive, but the absence of a means to address the issue of confounding presents us with problems in interpretation. Notice, however, that the only correlation coefficients which are statistically significant are  $X_{\text{SIZE-by-}X_{\text{PRE}}}$  and  $X_{\text{SIZE-by-}X_{\text{ED}}}$ . If we very tentatively interpret these results in conjunction with the results of the multiple regression analysis, the following conclusion seems plausible: as departments become larger, law enforcement personnel are better informed and better educated. As a result, they gain less in terms of knowledge of stalking from pretest to post test than personnel from smaller departments.

### **Training Needs Survey Analysis**

An independent data set, consisting of measures taken on 44 cases, was collected to assess prior exposure to stalking training and knowledge of stalking among West Virginia law enforcement personnel. To assess this, the Training Needs Survey included a 13 item stalking topics scale. A high score on the scale indicates that a respondent's prior training approximates a broad range of stalking related topics, whereas a low scores reflects the opposite. In Table 7, we present the items that constitute that scale along with their factor loadings as produced using alpha factor analysis.

The scree plot presented in Figure 1 shows us that, of the three extracted factors with eigenvalues greater than 1, only the first merits interpretation. The items that make up that factor, along with their loadings on the first factor, are reported in Table 7.

Figure 1



Eigenvalues

**Table 7**

## Topics covered in prior stalking training

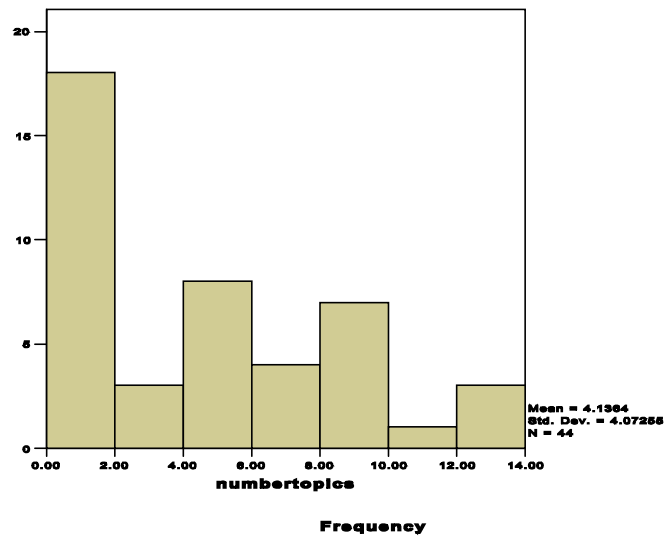
|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| National Statistics on Prevalence   | 0.614 |
| Review of Law Enforcement Responses | 0.668 |
| Psychological Impact for Victim     | 0.582 |
| Domestic Violence and Stalking      | 0.657 |
| Stalker Characteristics             | 0.804 |
| Victim Behaviors                    | 0.741 |
| Personality and Behavior Types      | 0.746 |
| Stalker Types                       | 0.750 |
| Threat Assessment                   | 0.767 |
| Safety Planning                     | 0.533 |
| Cyberstalking                       | 0.768 |
| Legal Definition                    | 0.702 |
| Rural Issues                        | 0.620 |

Cronbach's Alpha = 0.921

As shown in Table 7, when the commonly used reliability coefficient Cronbach's alpha is applied to these items, alpha equals 0.921. This means that measurement error accounts for only 7.9 percent of the measured variability in our construct.

The histogram in Figure 2 makes clear that the distribution of kinds of information is skewed sharply to the right. On our stalking topics scale, law enforcement personnel in our sample have a mean score of 4.00 with a standard deviation of 4.073. If we use the stalking topics scale score as our point of reference, law enforcement personnel in West Virginia have only had limited access stalking-related information.

Figure 2



Frequency 13

The Training Needs Survey instrument included three Likert items that were designed to measure respondent's beliefs about the importance of receiving stalking training and about their ability to effectively deal with stalking crimes. Table 8 outlines these three items:

**Table 8**

Beliefs/Opinions:

"1. How important do you feel it is to receive training relative to stalking cases?" (Five response categories ranging from "Not at all" to "Critical.")

"2. How knowledgeable do you feel when it comes to dealing with stalking cases? (Five response categories from "Not at all knowledgeable" to "Expert.")

"3. If you personally do not feel you've had the training /experiences to deal with the stalking cases, how confident are you that someone in your department/agency does have the required training/expertise." (Five response categories from "Not at all confident" to "certain.")

In view of the nature of the stalking information scale shown in Figure 2, we expect to find strong correlations between the scale and the three items in Table 9, reflecting respondents' beliefs about their knowledge/abilities relative to stalking.

**Table 9****Beliefs about knowledge and abilities**

|             | Scale Score | Item 1  | Item 2  | Item 3 |
|-------------|-------------|---------|---------|--------|
| Scale score |             |         |         |        |
| Item 1      | - 0.137     |         |         |        |
| Item 2      | 0.149       | 0.150   |         |        |
| Item 3      | - 0.067     | 0.531** | - 0.275 |        |

\*\*p<0.05

Given that the sample is small, statistical significance is relatively unlikely to be obtained. Nevertheless, the bivariate correlations of the stalking information scale score with the three items designed to gauge respondents' beliefs with regard to stalking knowledge are quite weak. This suggests that the adequacy of respondents' belief about their knowledge of stalking is unrelated to their perceived need for more information.

The pre/posttest correlation matrix was expanded to include additional pertinent items, and those with correlations involving the stalking information scale are reported in Table 10. Bivariate correlations between the stalking scale score and all but two items are statistically non-significant and numerically small. Thus, having had stalking-related training is positively related to the stalking scale score, perhaps reflecting training-related appreciation of the complexity of stalking as a social phenomenon in which law enforcement personnel have reason to take interest. Beyond that, belonging to a department that has written protocols for interviewing stalkers and their victims has a surprisingly strong and negative relationship to the stalking scale score. One interpretation is that once contact between law enforcement personnel, stalkers, and victims of stalking has been routinized in the form of standardized procedures, additional knowledge of stalking seems unnecessary and is not sought. This does not show up, however, in the relationship between a codified departmental policy for stalking and the stalking scale score.

**Table 10**

|   | Scale Score |
|---|-------------|
| Item 1  | - 0.137     |
| Item 2  | 0.149       |
| Item 3  | - 0.069     |
| Required Continuing<br>Education Credits                    | - 0.123     |
| Department Has<br>Codified Stalking<br>Policy               | - 0.080     |
| Training in WV Code<br>61-2-9(a)                            | - 0.180     |
| Training in Domestic<br>Violence                            | 0.171       |
| Stalking-Related<br>Training                                | 0.318**     |
| Department Has Written<br>Protocol for Stalkers/<br>Victims | - 0.541**   |
| Department Size   | - 0.022     |
| Years of Experience   | - 0.060     |
| Sex<br>(Coded 1 for Males/<br>0 for females)                | - 0.256     |

Table 11 provides estimates of a small-sample multiple regression equation with stalking scale score ( $Y_{SCALE}$ ) as the dependent variable, and having a departmental protocol for interviewing stalkers and victims ( $X_{PROTOCOL}$ ) and having stalking-related training ( $X_{TRAINING}$ ) as the independent variables.  $X_{PROTOCOL}$  and  $X_{TRAINING}$ , as we have seen, are the only variables with statistically significant correlation coefficients in the correlation matrix in Table 10. It was found that  $X_{PROTOCOL}$  and  $X_{TRAINING}$  are confounded such that when both are in the same regression equation only  $X_{PROTOCOL}$  has a statistically significant regression coefficient. This means that belonging to a department that has a departmental protocol for routinizing the interviewing of stalkers and their victims reduces the stalking scale score, on average, by 5.027 points.

**Table 11**

$$Y_{SCALE} = 12.558 - 5.027^{**} X_{PROTOCOL} + 0.020X_{TRAINING}$$

$$R^2 = 36.0^{**}\%$$

$$\text{Adjusted } R^2 = 32.8^{**}\%$$

$$N = 44$$

\*\* $p < .01$

### **Conclusions**

The findings of this study regarding West Virginia law enforcement personnel and their knowledge of stalking presents a disappointing picture. Officers are not well informed about stalking-related crimes and their inclination is to not see a need for additional training. They also tend to over-estimate their knowledge of stalking-related behavior and their ability to deal with it effectively. As a result, many officers may be likely to respond ineffectively. Conversely, officers who do participate in training relative to stalking crimes, appear to have beliefs and practices which are more consistent with existing and emerging research.



## **Discussion**

In July 2005 the West Virginia Legislature, in conjunction with the *Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency and Correction*, revised law enforcement training standards. As a result, officers in West Virginia receive more extensive training than in previous years, including an added requirement for Domestic Violence training. These changes represent a good starting point, but unfortunately, there is not yet a requirement for officers to receive any training relative to stalking crimes. That is of particular concern given that domestic violence victims are often stalked by previous partners or spouses, following an acrimonious separation. Consistent with the 2005 *West Virginia Division of Criminal Justice* and *West Virginians Against Violence* Committee's findings and recommendations, results from this study help make the case that law enforcement personnel need more information about stalking. Otherwise, they are merely guided by conventional wisdom and previous practices, both of which can be misleading. With 3 out of 4 officers in West Virginia reporting that they have had no stalking training, the frequency and detrimental effects of such crimes will likely continue.

Although stalking training is not yet required for officers in West Virginia, domestic violence training is now required for law enforcement officers, and it follows that adding even basic information about stalking to existing training curriculum might prove helpful by informing officers about how to best handle these cases. Additionally, officers who are introduced to basic information, might be better able to recognize the need for further training. Because the existing requirements for domestic violence training are fairly broad in West Virginia, incorporating stalking related information into current modules might be one of the more feasible options, especially when considering the budgetary constraints many of the smaller departments/agencies face.

As with many topics, there are online courses relative to stalking. For this review, however, only one course specific to law enforcement was found. Officers who complete this three week course, sponsored by *An Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence Aid and Resource Collection* (Aardvarc.org), are granted continuing education credit. While the effectiveness of this specific training has not been established, officers wanting to gain more knowledge about stalking may find this a viable option, especially considering the relatively small fee.

The *Stalking Resource Center* in Washington D.C, overseen by the National Center for Victims of Crime and the Department of Justice, provides a vast array of services, including research informed, practice based training for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and other criminal justice professionals throughout the country. Of the few West Virginia officers who had received training prior to participation in the present study, most attended classes in which only the most basic and superficial issues regarding stalking were covered. Specific findings from our study show that four or fewer topics were presented in training sessions previously attended by those we surveyed. The Stalking Resource Center core curriculum covers thirteen distinct topics and, thus, appears to offer greater depth of training than that received by many officers. Topics include threat assessment, safety planning, working with victims, the link between stalking and sexual assault, and development of a coordinated response to stalking. As with online courses, this training may be a viable option for departments throughout West Virginia.

There are other resources with potential to improve officers' ability to deal with stalking. Various state and local agencies provide training and support to officers. For example, the *West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services*, which now has a Stalking Crimes Director, comes to mind. In hindsight, it would have been useful to include information in our study about these resources, including how familiar officers are with these agencies and the services offered. Future studies, hopefully with a larger number of participants, might address these issues and the efficacy of training available to officers.

In addition to utilizing existing resources, agencies should be mindful that new, innovative approaches are called for. Law enforcement agencies across the country are increasingly collaborating with community partners, including mental health practitioners in an effort to develop what has been termed Specialized Law Enforcement Based Response Programs. In simplest terms, this model was designed to help officers safely manage complex encounters, de-escalate tensions at the scene and reduce the need for use of force when dealing with individuals who have mental health issues (Reuland & Schwarzfeld, 2008). While this model does not yet appear to address stalking crimes specifically, it does include training and interventions relative to domestic violence situations. Because the link between domestic violence and stalking is well established, and because of the frequency with which stalkers are diagnosed with various physiological issues, this, or a similar model, might prove useful in improving officers' responses to stalking crimes. Future research aimed at establishing the effectiveness of this, or similar collaborative programs may prove useful.

Additional research of a follow-up nature may well prove interesting. For example, it would be important to learn whether as a result of this training there are changes or additions to the stalking crime policies and procedures in place within the various law enforcement agencies represented by the officers who were participants in this research. It is recognized that such changes might well take considerable time to put in place. Similarly, it would seem helpful if, during the Police Academy training of West Virginia's newly hired officers, there were one day of training regarding stalking. Presently, municipal and county officers undergo sixteen weeks of full-time training at the academy, while state troopers undergo twenty-six weeks of training.

Another area of potential research involves the effect, if any, of the present training upon courts and court processes. For example, one might envision direct and cross examination of an officer in a stalking related crime. Regardless of the officer's actions in the matter, an element of additional credibility should accrue to the officer who, during the qualifying segment of the proceeding, is able to report that he has been formally trained (albeit, for only one day) in dealing with stalking crimes. At a minimum, such an officer would also possess knowledge not only useful to the trier of fact in a given case, but more importantly will possess knowledge useful to a victim or potential victim of stalking.

## **References:**

56

- Abrams, K., Robinson, G., & Erlick, D. (2002). Occupational effects of stalking. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 47, 468-473.
- Becker, J. & Murphy, W. (1998). Assessing and treating sex offenders. *Psychology, Public Law and Policy*, 4, 116-137.
- Bell, M., Cattaneo, L., Goodman, L. & Dutton, M. (2008). Assessing the risk of future Psychological abuse: Predicting the accuracy of battered women's predictions. *Journal of Family Violence*, 2, 69-80.
- Bogart, L., Benotsch, E., & Pavlovic, J. (2004). Feeling superior but threatened: The relation of narcissism to social comparison. *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*, 26, 35-44.
- Borum, R., Fein, R., Bossekuil, B. & Berglund, J. (1999). Threat assessment: Defining an approach for evaluating risk of targeted violence. *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*, 17, 323-337.
- Brune, M. (2002). Ertomanic stalking in evolutionary perspective. *Journal of Behavioral Sciences and Law*, 21, 83-88.
- Burgess, A., Harner, H., Baker, T., Hartman, C., & Lole, C. (2001). Batterers stalking Patterns. *Journal of Family Violence*, 16, 309-321.
- Bussema, E. & Nemeč, P. (2006). Education and Training. Effective Teaching. *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal*, 29, 315-317.
- Campbell, J, Sharps, P, Laughon, K, Webster, D, Manganello, J. & Schollenberg, J. (2003). Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships. Results from a multisite case control study. *American Journal of Public Health*, 93, 7-29.
- Campbell, J. (2002). Health consequences of intimate partner violence. *Lancet*, 359, 1331-1337.

- Carroll, A. (2007). Are violence risk assessment tools clinically useful? *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, 41, 301-307
- Coogins, H., Reddy-Pynchon, M., & Dvoskin, J. (1998). Integrating Research and Practice in Federal law enforcement: Secret Service applications to behavioral science expertise to protect the President. *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*, 16, 51-70.
- Corcoran, K. & Woody, S. (2008). Appraisals of obsessional thoughts in normal samples. *Behavioral Research and Therapy*, 46, 71-83.
- Davis, K. & Frieze (1999). *Research of Stalking: What do we know and where do we go?* University of South Carolina.
- DeBecker, G. (1997). *The Gift of Fear: Survival Signs that protect us from Violence*. Boston, Little Brown Publishing.
- Dwyer, G. & Laufersweiler-Dwyer, D. (2004). The need for change: A call for action in community oriented police training. *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, 11, 18-24.
- Fabian, J. (2006). A literature review of the utility of selected violence and sexual violence risk assessment instruments. *The Journal of Psychiatry and Law*, 34, 307-350.
- Few, A. (2005). The voices of black and white rural battered women in domestic violence shelters. *Family Relations*. 54, 488-500.
- Finch, E. (2002). Stalking: A violent crime or a crime of violence? *The Howard Journal*, 41, 422-433.
- Gist, J., McFarlane, J., Malecha, A., Fredland, N., Schultz, P., & Wilson, P. (2001). Women in danger: Intimate partner violence experienced by women who qualify and do not qualify for a protective order. *Behavioral Sciences & Law*, 19, 637-647 .

- Gordon, K., Burton, S., & Porter, L. (2004). Predicting the intentions of women in domestic violence shelters to return to partners: Does forgiveness play a role? *Journal of Family Psychology*, 18, 331-338.
- Grama, J. (2000). Women forgotten: Difficulties faced by rural victims of domestic violence. *American Journal of Family Law*, 14, 173-189.
- Gross, L. (2000). *Surviving a Stalker*. New York. Marlowe and Company Press.
- Groves, R., Salfati, G., & Elliot, D. (2004). The influence of prior offender/victim relationship on offender stalker behavior. *Journal of Investigative Psychology and Offender Profiling*, 1, 153-167.
- Haggard-Grann, U. (2007). Assessing violence risk: A review and clinical recommendations. *Journal of Counseling & Development*, 85, 294-301.
- Harmon, R., Rosner, R. & Owens, H. (1998). Sex and violence in a forensic population of obsessional harassers. *Psychology, Public Policy and Law*, 4, 236-249.
- Harmon, R., O'Connor, M., Forcier, A., & Collins, M. (2004). The Impact of Anti-Stalking training on front line service providers: Using the anti-stalking training evaluation protocol (ASTEP). *Journal of Forensic Science*, 49, 1-6.
- Hillbrand, M. (2001). Homicide-Suicide and other forms of co-Occurring aggression against self and against others. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 6, 626-535.
- Hoffman, J. & Sheridan, L. (2005). The stalking of public figures: Management and Intervention. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 50, 169-178.
- Hynan, D. (2006). Tracking Stalkers. *The Forensic Examiner*, 6, 49-53.

- Jordan, C., Walker, T., & Nigoff, A. (2003). Stalking: An examination of the criminal justice response. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 18, 148-165.
- Kamphuis, J., Emmelkmap, P., & Bartak, A. (2003). Individual differences in post traumatic stress following post-intimate stalking: Stalking severity and psychosocial variables. *British Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 42, 145-157.
- Kennedy, R. (2003). Applying Principals of Adult Learning. The key to more effective training programs. *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, 1-5.
- Klein, K. (2005). The Impact of Domestic Violence. *Business Week*, 14.
- Krishnan, S., Hilbert, J., & VanLeeuwen, D. (2001). Domestic Violence and help seeking among rural women: Results from a shelter-based study. *Family Community Health*, 24, 28-38.
- Laff, M. (2006). What is effective training? *American Society for Training and Development*, 1-2.
- Logan, T., Shannon, L., Cole, J., & Walker, R. (2006). The impact of differential patterns of physical violence and stalking on mental health and help-seeking among women with protective orders. *Violence Against Women*, 9, 866-886.
- Lynch, M. (2005). Developing a Scenario-based training program: Giving Officers a tactical advantage. *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*. 10, 1-5.
- McCloskey, K., & Grigsby, N. (2005). The Ubiquitous clinical problem of adult intimate partner violence. The need for routine assessment. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 36, 264-275.
- McEwan, T., Mullen, P. & Purcell, R. (2007). Identifying risk factors in stalking: A review of current research. *International Journal of Law & Psychiatry*, 1, 1-9.



- McFarlane, J., Campbell, J., Sharps, P., & Watson, K. (2002) Abuse during pregnancy and femicide: Urgent implications for women's health. *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 100, 27-36.
- Meloy, J. (2007). Stalking: the state of the science. *Criminal Behavior and Mental Health*, 17, 1-7.
- Meloy, J.(1999). Stalking. An old behavior, a new crime. *The Psychiatric Clinics of North America*, 22, 85-99.
- Miller, N. (1999). Report on a 1998 National Survey of Law Enforcement and Prosecution Initiatives against Stalking. *Institute for Law and Justice*.
- Miller, N. (2001). Stalking Laws and Implementation Practices: A National Review for Policymakers and Practitioners. *Institute for Law and Justice*.
- Mohandie, K., Meloy, R., Green-McGowan, M., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON typology of Stalking: Reliability and validity based upon a large sample of North American stalkers, *Journal of Forensic Science*, 51, 147-155.
- Morgan, B., Morgan, F., Foster, V., & Kolbert, J. (2000). Promoting the moral and conceptual development of law enforcement trainees: A delivery psychological educational approach. *Journal of Moral Education*, 29, 203-218.
- Morrison, K. (2007). A case of stalking in the workplace and subsequent sexual homicide. *Journal of Forensic Science*, 52, 726-730.
- Morrison, K. (2008). Differentiating between physically violent and nonviolent stalkers: An Examination of Canadian Cases, 53, 742-751.
- Mullen, P., Pathe, M., Purcell, & Stuart, G. (1999). A study of stalkers. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 156, 1244-1249.

- Murdaugh, C., Hunt, S., Sowell, R., & Santana, I. (2004). Domestic violence in Hispanics in the Southeastern United States: A survey and needs analysis. *Journal of Family Violence*, 19, 107-115.
- Nadkarni, R. & Grubin, D. (2000). Stalking: Why do people do it? *British Medical Journal*, 320, 1486-1489.
- National Center for Victims of Crime provides resource and advocacy publications for crime victims (<http://www.ncvc.org/>).
- Nelson, K. (2006). Police Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, 7, 14-16.
- O'Conner, M. & Rosenfeld, B. (2004). Introduction to the special issue of stalking. Finding and filling in the empirical gaps. *Criminal Justice & Behavior*, 31, 3-8.
- Orion, D. (1997). *I know you really love me: A Psychiatrist's Journal of Erotomania, stalking and obsessive love*. New York. Dell Books.
- Pathe, M. & Mullen, P. (1997). The Impact of Stalkers on their Victims. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 170, 12-17).
- Palarea, R., Zona, M., Lane, J., & Rohlings, J., (1999). The dangerous nature of intimate relationship stalking: Threats, violence and associated risk factors. *Behavioral Sciences and Law*. 17, 269-283.
- Persons, J. (1989) *Cognitive theory in practice: A case formulation approach*. New York. W.W Norton & Company.

- Pimlott-Kubiak, S. & Cortina, L. (2003). Gender, victimization, and outcomes: Reconceptualizing risk. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 3, 528-539.
- Proctor, M. (2003). *How to Stop a Stalker*. New York. Prometheus Books.
- Reintzell, J. (1997) When training saves lives. *Training and Development*, 1, 41-42.
- Reuland, M. & Schwarzfeld, M. (2008). Improving responses to people with mental illness: Strategies for effective law enforcement training. *Report prepared for Council of State Governments Justice Center for the Bureau of Justice*.
- Robinson, E. (2003). Violence against women in North America. *Archives of Women's Mental Health*, 6, 185-191.
- Rosenwald, M. (2004). Technology may be ushering in a golden age of stalking. *Popular Science*, 5, 1-6.
- Royakkers, L. (2000). The Dutch approach to stalking laws. *California Criminal Law Review*, 3, 15-29.
- Ruiz, J., Smith, T., & Rhodewalt, F. (2001). Distinguishing narcissism and hostility: Similarities and differences in interpersonal circumplex and five-factor correlates. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 76, 537-555.
- Rural Assistance Center is a national site which provides summaries of research relative to a broad range of topics specific to rural communities (<http://www.raonline.org/>).
- Seklecki, R. & Paynich, R. (2007) A National survey of female police officers: An overview of findings. *Police Practice and Research*, 1, 17-30.
- Sheridan, L., Blaauw, E., & Davies, G. (2003). Stalking: Knowns and unknowns. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 4, 148-162.

Sheridan, L., Gillet, P., Graham, M., Blaauw, E., Patel, D. (2003). There is no smoke without fire: Are male ex-partners perceived as more “entitled” to stalk than acquaintance or stranger stalkers? *British Journal of Psychology*, 94, 87-99.

Spitz, M. (2003). Stalking: Terrorism at our doors-How Social Workers can help victims fight back. *Social Work*, 48, 102-113.

Spitzberg, B. (2002). The tactical topography of stalking: Victimization and management. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, 3, 261-288.

Spitzberg, B. & Cupach, W. (2007). The state of art of stalking: Taking stock of the emerging Literature. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 12, 64-86.

Stalking Resource Center is a national site that serves as an information clearinghouse for research and educational material on stalking (<http://www.ncvc.org/src/>).

Sullivan, C. & Bybee, D. (1999). Reducing violence using community based advocacy for women with abusive partners. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 1, 43-53.

Thomas, S., Purcell, R., Pathe, M., & Mullen, P. (2008). Harm Associated with stalking victimization. *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, 9, 800-806 .

Tonin, E. (2004). The attachment style of stalkers. *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology*, 15, 584-590.

Tjaden, P., & Thoennes, N. (1998). Stalking in America: Findings from the National violence against women survey. *National Institute of Justice Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*.

- United States Census Bureau provides access to public information on population, economic, industry and geographic studies (<http://www.census.gov/>).
- Vavra, B.(2003). Domestic violence health costs. *Journal of Family Health and Safety*, 62, 3-4.
- Violence Policy Center is a national site that presents research and public education material relative to violence in America (<http://www.vpc.org>).
- Wattendorf, G. E (2000). Stalking-Investigation Strategies. *FBI Bulletin*, 69, 10-15
- Wyatt, W. (2008) Personnel Communications.
- West Virginia STOP Violence Against Women-Five Year Plan. West Virginians Against Violence Committee. 2005.
- Westrup, D., Fremouw, W., Thompson, R., Lewis, S. (1999) Psychological impact of stalking on undergraduates. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 44, 554-557.
- Widom, C., Dutton, M., Czaja, S., & DeMont, K. (2005) Development and Validation of a new Instrument to assess lifetime trauma and victimization history. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, 5, 519-531.
- Wilson, J., Ermshar, A. & Welsh, R. (2006) Stalking as paranoid attachment: A typological and dynamic model. *Attachment & Human Development*, 8, 139-157.
- Wood, R. & Wood, N. (2002). Stalking the Stalker: A profile of offenders. *FBI Bulletin*, 71, 1-7.
- Zona, M., Sharma, K., & Lane, J. (1993) A comparative study of erotomaniac and obsessional subjects in a forensic study. *Journal of Forensic Science*, 38, 894-903.
- Zona, M., Palarea, R., & Lane, J. (1998) Psychiatric Diagnosis and the offender-victim typology in stalking. In J.R Meloy (Ed.) *The Psychology of Stalking: Clinical and Forensic Perspectives*, (pp. 69084) San Diego Academic.

**Section One- About You**

---

*This first section asks for some basic information about you.*

1.1 Your gender Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

2.1 Your age \_\_\_\_\_

3.1 Specific job title \_\_\_\_\_

4.1 Amount of time in current role \_\_\_\_\_

5.1 Total amount of experience in current profession \_\_\_\_\_

6.1 Highest level of education:

\_\_\_\_\_ Some college \_\_\_\_\_ Associate degree \_\_\_\_\_ Bachelors Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Masters Degree  
\_\_\_\_\_ Doctor of Philosophy \_\_\_\_\_ Professional doctorate (Jurisprudence, etc)

7.1 If you have received any formal training relative to domestic violence since beginning your current job, please describe it here: \_\_\_\_\_ Police Academy \_\_\_\_\_ Other training (CE workshop....) Estimate total hours \_\_\_\_\_.

8.1 If you have received any formal training relative to domestic violence at any previous job, please describe it here: \_\_\_\_\_ Police Academy \_\_\_\_\_ Other (CE workshop....) Estimate total hours \_\_\_\_\_.

9.1 If you have received any formal training which deals specifically with stalking, please describe it here: \_\_\_\_\_ Police Academy \_\_\_\_\_ Other (CE workshop) Estimate total hours \_\_\_\_\_

10.1 West Virginia Code 61-2-9(a) defines stalking as a crime. Have you, at any time in your employment, received training on the specifics of this code? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please provide details, including who provided the training and number of hours

\_\_\_\_\_

11.1 How important do you feel it is for you to receive training relative to stalking cases? \_\_\_\_\_  
(1=not at all important, 2=somewhat important, 3=important 4=very important 5= critical)

12.1 How knowledgeable do you feel when it comes to dealing with stalking cases?  
(1=not at all knowledgeable, 2- somewhat knowledgeable, 3=knowledgeable, 4- very knowledgeable 5-expert)

13.1 If you personally do not feel you've had the training/experience to deal with stalking cases, how confident are you that someone in your department/agency, does have the required training/expertise?  
(1= Not at all confident, 2=somewhat confident, 3=confident, 4=very confident, 5=certain)

---

**Survey continued on other side**

---

**Section Two-Specifics of your job**

66

1.2 Name of city or county you work in \_\_\_\_\_

2.2 Amount of annual training (CE's) required in your specific department/county each year.

\_\_\_\_\_. (Not sure \_\_\_\_\_)

3.2 Does your department/office have a written policy on how stalking cases are handled?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

4.2 Does your department/agency have a specific person and/or unit which handles stalking cases? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

5.2 If your department/agency has written policies on stalking, are all personnel who have direct involvement with handling complaints, trained on that policy \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6.2 Do you require your subordinates to receive training relative to stalking?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Not applicable

7.2 Does your department/agency use a written protocol when interviewing stalkers, and/or their victims? (IE.. Do you use an interview booklet) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, what type \_\_\_\_\_

8.2 Approximately how many people work in your department/agency \_\_\_\_\_

**Section Three-Specific Training relative to Stalking**

1.3 If you have received training on stalking, please check which of the following topics were presented in the training:

\_\_\_\_\_ National Statistics on prevalence \_\_\_\_\_ Stalker "types" \_\_\_\_\_ Threat Assessment

\_\_\_\_\_ Review of law enforcement responses to stalking \_\_\_\_\_ Safety planning

\_\_\_\_\_ Psychological impact of being a stalking victim \_\_\_\_\_ Cyberstalking and electronic surveillance

\_\_\_\_\_ Link between domestic violence and stalking \_\_\_\_\_ Legal definitions of stalking

\_\_\_\_\_ Stalker characteristics \_\_\_\_\_ Special issues for rural areas

\_\_\_\_\_ Victim behaviors that either increase or decrease the likelihood of being stalked

\_\_\_\_\_ Personality types or specific behaviors of stalkers

---

# Stalking Survey

(Appendix B)

67

---

## Section One- About You

---

*This first section asks for some basic information about you.*

1.1 Your gender     Male\_\_\_\_ Female\_\_\_\_

2.1 Your age\_\_\_\_\_

3.1 Specific job title \_\_\_\_\_.

4.1 Amount of time in current role\_\_\_\_\_.

5.1 Total amount of experience in current profession\_\_\_\_\_.

6.1 Highest level of education:

\_\_\_ High School \_\_\_ Some college \_\_\_ Associate degree \_\_\_ Bachelors Degree \_\_\_ Masters Degree

\_\_\_ Doctorate (Type of doctorate if applicable)\_\_\_\_\_.

7.1 If you have received any formal training relative to domestic violence since beginning your current job, briefly describe it here\_\_\_\_\_ Police Academy \_\_\_\_\_ Other training (CE workshop, etc)

\_\_\_\_\_

8.1 If you received any formal training about domestic violence in any previous job, briefly describe it here: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Academy \_\_\_\_\_ Other training (CE workshop, etc.)\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9.1 If you received any formal training which deals specifically with stalking, describe it here

\_\_\_\_\_ Police Academy \_\_\_\_\_ Other Training (CE workshop, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

10.1 West Virginia Code 61-2-9(a) defines stalking as a crime. Have you, at any time in your employment, received training on the specifics of this code? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please provide details, including who provided the training, and the amount of hours\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



|   |
|---|
| <b>Section Two-Specifics of your job:</b> |
|---|

1.2 Name of city or county you work in\_\_\_\_\_.

2.2 Amount of annual training (CE's) required in your specific department/county each year.

\_\_\_\_\_. (Not sure\_\_\_\_\_)

3.2 Does your department/office have a written policy on how stalking cases are handled?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If Yes, please provide further information (IE...Is there a specialized unit which handles all stalking cases.)

\_\_\_\_\_.

4.2 Approximately how many people work in your department?\_\_\_\_\_.

5.2 If your department/agency has written policies on stalking, are all personnel who have direct involvement with handling complaints, trained on them? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6.2 Do you require your subordinates to receive training relative to stalking?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Not applicable

7.2 Does your department/agency use a written protocol when interviewing stalkers, and/or victims? (IE.. Do you use an interview booklet)\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, what type\_\_\_\_\_

|   |
|---|
| <b>Section Three-Estimating number of stalking complaints</b> |
|---|

1.3 Number of stalking complaints filed/received in 2006\_\_\_\_\_. Not sure\_\_\_\_\_.

2.3 Number of stalking complaints filed/received in 2007\_\_\_\_\_. Not sure\_\_\_\_\_.

3.3 If you are able to provide the number of stalking complaints, how were you able to access that information? (Record review, victims database.....)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4.3 Of the stalking cases filed/received in 2006, how many resulted in death, or serious bodily injury to the victim?\_\_\_\_\_. Not sure\_\_\_\_\_.

5.3 Of the stalking cases filed/received in 2007, how many resulted in death, or serious bodily injury to the victim?\_\_\_\_\_. Not sure\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |
|--|
| <b>Section Four-Estimating Number of Domestic Violence complaints filed/received</b> |
|--|

- 1.4 Number of domestic violence complaints you received, responded to, investigated, or prosecuted in 2006 involving intimate partners, or former intimate partners\_\_\_\_\_. Not sure\_\_\_\_\_
- 2.4 Number of domestic violence complaints you received, responded to, investigated or prosecuted in 2007 involving intimate partners, or former intimate partners.\_\_\_\_\_. Not sure\_\_\_\_\_
- 3.4 Of the reported 2006 complaints, how many resulted in death or serious bodily injury to either partner \_\_\_\_\_. Not sure\_\_\_\_\_
- 4.4 Of the reported 2007 complaints, how many resulted in death or serious bodily injury to either partner\_\_\_\_\_. Not sure\_\_\_\_\_

|   |
|---|
| <b>Section Five-Opinion on Stalking</b> |
|---|

*This fifth section asks you to provide your opinion on a variety of stalking related issues.*

- 1.5 According to the US Department of Justice statistics, 1 in \_\_\_\_women will be stalked in their lifetime.  
(A) 3 (B) 5 (C) 10 (D) 20
- 2.5 The average duration of stalking is:  
(A) Less than 9 months (B) 1 year (C) 2 years (D) 5 years
- 3.5 Nearly \_\_\_\_\_% of all women who are stalked by a former partner, also experienced violence while in the relationship.  
(A) 25 (B) 50 (C) 80 (D) 95
- 4.5 Intimate partner homicides, account for \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_% of all murders in the U.S.  
(A) 10 to 20 (B) 20 to 30 (C) 40 to 50 (D) 60-70
- 5.5 Nearly \_\_\_\_\_% of the 1,500 women who are killed by their current or former intimate partner, were stalked before they were murdered.  
(A) 25% (B) 50% (C) 80% (D) 90%
- 6.5 Overall, \_\_\_\_\_% of female stalking victims were stalked by an intimate, or former intimate partner.  
(A) 29% (B) 39% (C) 49% (D) 59%
- 7.5 Stalkers who make verbal threats to harm or kill their victim are:  
(A) Slightly more dangerous than stalkers who do not make such threats  
(B) Significantly more dangerous than stalkers who do not make such threats  
(C) Less dangerous than stalkers who do not make such threats  
(D) No more or no less dangerous than stalkers who do not make such threats
- 8.5 Stalkers who have a history of stalking more than one person are:  
(A) Slightly more dangerous  
(B) Significantly more dangerous  
(C) Less dangerous  
(D) No more or less dangerous

**Section Five Continued**

9.5 Restraining orders are violated \_\_\_\_\_% of the time.

- (A) 10 (B) 20 (C) 40 (D) 60

10.5 Studies show that between \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_% of women who are stalked, develop post-traumatic stress disorder.

- (A) 10-25% (B) 30-40% (C) 45-85% (D) 80-95%

11.5 A stalker who uses a greater number of stalking methods poses a:

- (A) Slightly higher risk for violence (B) Significant higher risk for violence  
(C) Lower risk for violence (D) No more or no less risk for violence

12.5 It is best to advise/warn a stalker to stop bother their victim:

- (A) Soon after the stalking begins (B) Several weeks after the stalking begins  
(C) At least 3-6 months after the stalking begins (D) It is best to never directly advise/warn a stalker

13.5 The type of stalker *most likely* to physically harm their victim is \_\_\_\_\_

- (A) Stranger stalkers (do not know their victim) (B) Former intimate partner (ex-spouse)  
(C) Celebrity stalkers (D) Stalker type has no impact on likeliness to do harm.

14.5 A stalker who meets the criteria for having a Personality Disorder (Antisocial, Narcissitic.....) is \_\_\_\_\_ than stalkers who do not meet the criteria:

- (A) Slightly more dangerous (B) Significantly more dangerous  
(C) Less dangerous (D) No more or no less dangerous

15.5 When warning a stalker to stop bothering his victim, the most effective person is:

- (A) The victim (B) A friend or relative of the victim (C) A minister (D) Law enforcement personnel

16.5 How important is it to assess the stalkers motive when dealing with stalking case.

- (A) Not important (B) Somewhat important (C) Very important (D) Crucial

17.5 Nearly \_\_\_\_\_% of women who file a restraining order, expect the stalking or violence to worsen because of it. (A) 25% (B) 40% (C) 65% (D) 90%

18.5 A Stalker who shows escalating levels of stalking is \_\_\_\_\_ dangerous than a person who does not show such a pattern.

- (A) Slightly more dangerous (B) Significantly more dangerous  
(C) Less dangerous (D) No more or no less dangerous

19.5 Stalkers who have drug and/or alcohol problems are \_\_\_\_\_likely to physically harm their victim.

- (A) Slightly more (B) Significantly more (C) Less (D) No more or no less

20.5 Stalkers who talk about having a "shared destiny" with the victim are \_\_\_\_\_ than stalkers who do not mention this specifically.

- (A) Slightly more dangerous (B) Significantly more dangerous  
(C) Less dangerous (D) No more or no less dangerous

|   |
|---|
| <b>Section Six- Routine Questions Asked/Assessed about the Stalker:</b> |
|---|

6.1 *Stalkers harass their victims in a variety of ways. Sometimes the victim omits certain details about their specific experience. When you have investigated or dealt with a stalking complaint, indicate which of the following you routinely ask about. (If you have not yet had a stalking case, indicate which of the following you think is important to routinely ask about.) Circle the appropriate responses.*

- A. Does the stalker follow you from home to work?
- B. To your knowledge, has your stalker done this before with someone else?
- C. Does your stalker follow you to your friends or families homes?
- D. If he/she does, how often?
- E. Does your stalker leave voice mails, e-mails, and/or written notes?
- F. Does the person stalking you have access to guns and other weapons?
- G. Does the person stalking you have a history or a current problem with drug and/or alcohol.
- H. Does the person stalking you have a history of becoming physically violent, and if so, under what circumstances?
- I. Has your stalker ever been arrested?
- J. Has your stalker previously (or currently) been prescribed medications for psychological issues?
- K. Has your stalker broken into your home without you being present?
- L. Has your stalker broken into your home while you were present?
- M. Has your stalker ever physically assaulted you?  
(If yes, how many times/under what circumstances.....)
- N. Has your stalker ever physically prevented you from leaving, or moving about freely (blocked you in some way)
- O. Does your stalker use other people to “deliver messages” to you?
- P. Has your stalker ever made verbal threats to hurt you?
- Q. Has your stalker ever made verbal threats to hurt your children?
- R. Has your stalker ever made verbal threats to hurt other family members or friends?
- S. Has your stalker made threats to hurt your pets?
- T. Has your stalker ever actually followed through with any verbal threats to the above?
- U. Has your stalker vandalized or destroyed any of your belongings (car, house....)
- V. Has your stalker snooped through your mail?
- W. Do you know what the stalker’s “purpose is?”  
(IE... what does he/she hope to gain?)
- X. Does your stalker talk about a “shared destiny” with you?
- Y. Has your stalker made threats of self-harm?
- Z. Has your stalker, to your knowledge, ever tried to harm himself?
- AA. Does your stalker harass you when others are around?
- BB. Has your stalker threatened to sexually assault you?
- CC. Has your stalker sexually assaulted you, or attempted to do so?

|   |
|---|
| <b>Section Seven Routine Questions Asked/Assessed about the victim:</b> |
|---|

7.1 *Victims of stalking attempt to cope with their stalkers in a variety of ways. Please indicate which of the following questions you routinely (or would routinely) ask a stalking victim. (Circle the appropriate responses)*

- A. Have you attempted, or thought about moving to get away from your stalker?
- B. Have you changed your phone number and/or e-mail
- C. Have you changed your routine in any way (going a different route to work, avoiding certain places.....)
- D. Have you installed an alarm system in your home as a result of being stalked?
- E. Have you begun dating someone else as a means of protecting yourself from your stalker?
- F. Have you purchased or obtained a weapon as a means of protecting yourself?
- G. Have you enlisted the help of others as a result of being stalked? (Ie.. Ask friends to stay with you...)
- H. Have you gotten a dog as a means of protection?
- I. Do you ever attempt to “reason” with your stalker?
- J. Do you ever accept gifts from your stalker?
- K. Have you attempted to “reason” with your stalker? (Ie explaining that you are not interested in him/her?)
- L. Have you given into your stalkers demands by going places with him/her (ie. On a date)
- M. Have you filed or considered a restraining order?
- N. After filing a police report on your stalker, have you ever recanted?
- O. Have you ever discussed your stalker with his family, friends, employers as a means of letting others know what he is doing?
- P. Have you stopped going out with friends/family as a direct result of being stalked?
- Q. Have you told your stalker directly to stop bothering you?
- R. Have you had your door locks changed?
- S. Have you taken extra security measures as a result of being stalked? (ie taken a self-defense class, etc)
- T. Have you tried to find out more information about your stalker? (Previous relationships, work history.....)
- U. Have you sought counseling/psychological services as a result of your stalking experience?
- V. Have you ever threatened your stalker with legal action?
- W. Have you ever threatened your stalker with bodily harm?
- X. Have you talked to an attorney in response to your experience?
- Y. Have any of your responses, seemed to lessen the amount or intensity of your stalkers behavior?
- Z. Have any of your responses seemed to increase the amount or intensity of your stalkers behavior?

**Section Eight: Advising Victims**

8.1 Estimate the percentage of stalking cases in which you have (or would ) advised the victim to obtain a restraining order\_\_\_\_\_.

8.2 Under what, if any, circumstances have, or would you advise the victim *not to* obtain a restraining order?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8.3 Under what, if any circumstances have, or would you advise the victim not to change or disconnect their phone?\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Section Nine: Comments/Suggestions:**

*9.1 Please use the following space to provide any comments and/or suggestions you have relative to dealing with cases involving stalking.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*9.2 Please use the following space to provide any comments and/or suggestions you have relative to dealing with stalking cases in rural areas (Special problems, things that are helpful.....)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Slide 1

**Stalking**  
Legal and Clinical Implications

Appendix C

74

**Power Point Presentation for  
Workshop/Training**

---

---

---

---

Slide 2

**Overview**

- Stalking Defined
- Major studies on stalking
- Estimated Prevalence
- Domestic Violence and stalking
- Homicide-Suicide studies & stalking
- Stalker and victim profiles
- Impact of stalking
- Stalker typologies
- Stalker characteristics
- Psychological Disorders & Stalking
- Threat assessment
- Victim considerations
- Legal Issues
- WV specific issues
- Recommendations

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 3

**Defining Stalking**

- Stalking involves pursuing or harassing another person in an intentional, ongoing, unwanted and fear-inducing manner. (Spitzburg, 2002).
- From a legal and psychological standpoint, defining stalking has proved to be difficult.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 4

**Defining stalking**

- Stalker threat and victim fear are the two necessary components in most states.
- Some states require a tri-definition with "willful" behavior by the perpetrator as a component.

75

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 5

**Note:**

- Because stalking research has emerged from a wide variety of disciplines, there is no consensus on what constitutes stalking. **Obsession** is the basic tenant of stalking, but it is not clear where the line should be drawn between normal courtship behavior and stalking (Spitzberg, 2002)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 6

**3 essential components**

- The conduct is repeated
- The conduct is unwanted
- The conduct causes an adverse reaction in the victim.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Slide 7

**Stalking Behavior consists of**  
Aggressive, unwanted, and/or inappropriate romantic gestures.  
Pursuit and Proximity  
Invasion  
Intimidation  
Violence and/or threats of violence

76

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 8

**Stalking Research**  

- No significant research until California passed first stalking law in 1990.
- Historically stalking research has focused on establishing prevalence and defining stalker types.
- Emerging research is looking more at what type of intervention strategies are effective and what impact stalking has on victims.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 9

**Major Stalking Studies**  

- Institute of Law and Justice (1998)
- National Violence Against Women Survey (1998)
- Stalking Laws and Implementation Practices (Miller, 2001)
- Meta-Analysis of Stalking (Spitzberg, 2002).

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 10

**Domestic Violence Literature  
has....**

- Long addressed the prevalence of stalking in abusive relationships.
- Established that escalating stalking patterns are highly predictive of increased physical violence and murder, especially when the two parties previously cohabitated.
- Provided estimates that nearly 80% of all women stalked by a former partner were physically abused by that partner.

77

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 11

**Has shown us....**

- That 40-50% of all murders are intimate partner homicides and that they often occur after an escalating pattern of threats, violence and stalking emerges.
- Provided estimates that nearly 90% of the 1,500 women who are killed each year by their partner or former partner were stalked before they were murdered.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 12

**Homicide-Suicide Studies have..**

- Established that the perpetrators of this form of violence are mostly men and that the victims are, by a large majority (85%) women.
- Shown a positive correlation between risk of harm to self and risk of harm to others.
- Shown that 79% of intimate partner homicide-suicides occur in the home.
- Shown the risk increases as the age difference between the two parties increases.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 13

**Law Enforcement Studies  
have....**

- Shown that law enforcement does not always recognize the link between domestic violence and stalking.
- Shown that specialized training is typically not provided.

78

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 14

**Stalking Studies: Estimated  
Prevalence**

40-51% of North American women experience some type of violence in their lifetime including child abuse, physical abuse, rape, sexual harassment and stalking.

Over 1 million women are stalked annually.

A woman's chances of being stalked are about 1 in 10. Women are 3 times more likely to be stalked than raped.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 15

**Prevalence**

- Other studies show 1 out of 12 women and 1 out of 45 men are stalked.
- While it does not meet the legal definition, stalking is present in nearly all violent crimes including child abduction, rape, domestic violence and murder.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 16

**Duration**

- Average duration of stalking is 1.8 years
- If stalking involves intimate partners, the average duration increases to 2.2 years.

79

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 17

**General Stalker and victim profiles**

- Although stalking is considered a gender-neutral crime, most stalking victims are female (78%).
- Most stalkers are male (87%).
- Young adults are the primary targets with 52% of victims falling between the ages of 18-29 years.
- Most stalking victims are stalked by someone they know. Former husbands make up 38% of stalkers, 10% are former co-habiting partners and 14% are former/current boyfriends.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 18

**Stalker types:**

- Zona (1993)
- The simple obsessional group (Stalker and victim had a previous relationship-60%)
- Love obsessional group (Stalker and victim never had a relationship-30%)
- Erotomania types (Stalker has a delusion that victim loves/wants them-10%)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 19

**Stalker types:**

- Gavin DeBecker types:
- Attachment seekers (he wants a relationship but realizes one doesn't exist)
- Identity seekers-(pursue someone as a means to an end)
- Rejection based stalkers (those who pursue victims who spurned them, either to avenge or reverse the rejection).
- Delusion-based stalkers (those who have major mental illnesses, including erotomania)

80

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 20

**Stalker Types:**

- Spitzberg & Cupach (2001)
- Typology of love versus hate and behavior that falls on a continuum from "controlling to expressive."

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 21

**Spitzberg & Cupach (2001)**

- Annoying Pursuer, who loves and uses expressive behavior such as sending cards, poems... (Low risk)
- Organized Stalker who hates and is controlling (steals mail...) High risk
- Disorganized Stalker who hates, uses expressive modes of behavior and is Very high risk.
- Intrusive Pursuer, who loves, tries to control and who poses a Moderate risk.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 22

**Wrights Typology**

- Developed by the FBI
- Used by Secret Service & police departments.
- Looks at a number of factors including was this a domestic relationship?
- Are the communications delusional or nondelusional?
- Is the stalker motivated by rage, infatuation, possessiveness.....?
- TYPES: More important to law enforcement than clinical providers.

81

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 23

**Key Points regarding Types:**

- Understanding the stalkers motivation is crucial when trying to assess risk and implement effective intervention strategies.
- Stalker classification if useful but it has limitations. It largely ignores the stalkers motivations and it is not clear where one category begins and the other ends.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 24

**Key points**

- There is no single profile of a stalker. A broad range of behaviors, motivations and psychological traits must be taken into account.
- Stalking behavior can best be understood in a multi-dimensional manner which looks at: 1. The stalker-victim relationship 2. The Stalkers motivation 3. The severity of the stalking behavior.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 25

**General Stalker Characteristics**

- National Institute of Justice Study (1998)
- Looked at 187 women who had been stalked.

Backgrounds of their stalkers were obtained and showed:

82

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 26

**Justice Study**

- Age ranges of stalkers were 17-57.
- Nearly 57% were non-Hispanic whites.
- 37% were African American.
- 6.5% were other racial minorities.
- 77% had at least attended high school.
- 45% had attended college.
- 69% were employed.
- 61.7% had a previous criminal record.
- 31% had a prior conviction for a violent offense including rape, assault and murder.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 27

**Meloy (1999)**

- The typical stalker is underemployed.
- He is single or divorced.
- He has a history of prior criminal record, prior psychiatric treatment, a drug and/or alcohol problem .
- He has a high school or college degree and is more intelligent than other groups of criminals.
- He is typically older than other offenders with an average age of 35-40 years.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 28

**Wood & Wood Study (2002)**

- 1 in 5 stalkers had been incarcerated in prison prior to their felony stalking convictions and had significantly higher rates of drug, alcohol and resisting arrest convictions than did non-felony stalkers.

83

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 29

**Harmon, Rosner & Owens Study (1998)**

- Psychological Disorders and Stalking.
- On it's own, stalking behavior does not meet the DSM-IV criteria for a psychological disorder. Instead, it is thought to be an indicator of other specified disorders including those which fall under the umbrella of:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 30

**Psychological Disorders**

- Psychotic Disorders
- Mood Disorders
- Delusional Disorders
- Impulse Control Disorders
- Personality Disorders

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Slide 31

**Harmon, et al study (1998)**

- Review of 175 records from the Forensic Clinic of Psychiatry in New York. Ten year period (1987-1996).
- Regardless of offense, all 175 met the criteria for stalking.
- 56 met criteria for a specific Personality Disorder.
- 42 Schizophrenia
- 36 Alcohol/drug addiction.
- 27 Delusional Disorder.
- 36 Adjustment Disorder
- 8 other (Dementia, MR)
- Only 9 did not meet criteria

84

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 32

**Most common Personality Disorders associated with Stalking**

- Narcissistic
- Antisocial
- Histrionic
- Borderline
- Personality Disorder NOS

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 33

**Delusional Disorders**

- People with delusional disorder experience non-bizarre delusions, which involve situations that could occur in real life, such as being followed, poisoned, deceived, conspired against, OR loved from a distance.
- Can often function and socialize normally.
- Do not have overt odd behavior.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 34

**Delusional Disorder**

- Their delusions are unshakable.
- Of different types:
- Erotomanic-believes another person, often someone famous, is in love with him.
- Grandiose-Over inflated sense of worth, power or knowledge.
- Jealous-Belief that your spouse or partner is unfaithful.
- Persecutory-Belief you or someone close to you is being mistreated or is spying on you.
- Somatic-Physical defect or medical problem.
- Mixed type

85

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 35

**Threat Assessment:**

- A set of investigative techniques that can be used to identify, assess, treat and manage the risk of violent behavior.
- Sometimes called a "Lethality Assessment."
- Should also be done by clinicians who are working with victims and/or stalkers.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 36

**Components of Risk Assessment:**

- Know prior history of stalker, victim and the relationship between them.
- Assess stalker motives
- Assess current dynamics between victim and stalker.
- Look at alcohol and drug use and history of both parties.
- Assess the methods of stalking. (How intense, how many different types of methods)
- Escalating versus Stable pattern.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 37

**Risk Assessment:**

- Assess how many previous victims there are. Stalkers who have stalked more than one victim are higher risk.
- Ex-partner stalkers are the highest risk.
- Stalkers with weapons training are high risk.
- Stalkers with Personality Disorders, especially Antisocial are Very High Risk.
- Stalkers who use escalating patterns are High risk.

86

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 38

**Risk assessment:**

- Look at number of stalking methods. In general, the more types of stalking behavior, the higher the risk.
- Those with a history of depression and/or other serious psychological disorders are high risk.
- Those who suffer persecutory delusions are high risk.
- Those with erotomaniac delusions tend to stalk longer.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 39

**Risk Assessment:**

- Those who do not stop when initially warned by police are high risk.
- Stalker who had a previous complaint regarding physical assault or a previous arrest are high risk.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 40

### Risk and Verbal Threats

- Approximately 59% of those who had threatened their targets, carried out such threats. More importantly, 81% of those harassers who had not made any threats were also reported to have committed violent acts.

87

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 41

### What we know about verbal threats.....

- Risk Assessment relative to stalking MUST be based on factors other than threats or the absence of threats.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 42

### Victim's Feeling about safety...

- Victim's feelings about her safety are not a good indicator of actual threat.
- 50/50

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 43

**Risk Assessment:**

- Periodic risk assessment should be done in all stalking cases.
- Risk assessment and prevention should not focus on stalkers, victims or criminal justice responses, but rather on the interactions between the three (Sheridan, Blaauw, & Davies, 2003).

88

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 44

**Risk Assessment:**

- Instruments which have previously been used with specific forensic populations, including convicted sex offenders are now being used relative to stalking (MMPI, Violence Risk Assessment Guide.....)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 45

**Risk Assessment**

- Computerized programs (MOSAIC)
- Identifies Stalker type
- Rates on a point system.
- Gives high points for access to weapons, references to obsessive love, suicide, shared destiny....

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 46

**Risk Assessment:**

- Possession of weapons
- Past incidents of violence
- Current access to victim.
- Alcohol use
- Escalation
- Greater number of methods (more is worse)
- Criminal record (Especially violent crime)
- Triggering Event (divorce, fired, custody settled)
- Violence During Pregnancy
- Violence to Pets or threats of violence to pets
- Choking incidents as part of past domestic violence

89

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 47

**Victim Responses (Should be part of risk assessment)**

- Moving Away Strategies-Trying to avoid contact.
- Moving Against-Attempting to harm, constrain, or punish stalker.
- Moving With-Negotiating a more acceptable form of the relationship.
- (Spitzberg 2002)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 48

**Moving Against Strategy:**

- Restraining order.
- To date, this has been one of the few options available to victims, yet it's effectiveness has not been established.
- 32 studies have looked at restraining orders and suggest they are violated 40% of the time.
- Nearly 25% of abused and/or stalked women expect retaliation and more violence as a result of filing a restraining order.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 49

**Moving With Strategy:**

- It is fairly well accepted that the most common mistake stalking victims make is to initiate or allow personal contact with the stalker. It is often driven by kindness, guilt, anger or fear. It is a misguided attempt to reason with an unreasonable person.

90

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 50

**Sacramento District Attorney Study  
(128 case review)**

- Active Resistance- fighting, struggling, documenting stalker.
- Coping to reduce the danger-screening calls, cancel plans...
- Help seeking-calling police....
- Complying with stalker demands. (Trying to appease stalker. 1 in 5 did this)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 51

**Victim Impact(Psychological and legal implications)**

- General Distress
- Affective Symptoms
- Cognitive Health
- Physical Health
- Resource Health
- Resilience
- Occupational Issues

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 52

**Occupational Issues:**

- 1 million people a year are victimized in some form at their workplace.
- 4-6% of workplace homicides are done by co-workers.
- 500,000 workers lose 1.8 workdays each year and over \$55 million in wages due to workplace violence issues.
- Stalking victims suffer direct and indirect occupational effects.

91

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 53

**National Survey by the Institute of Law and Justice (1998)**

- 2-page survey mailed to 204 law enforcement agencies.
- 169 responded.
- Only 6 departments in the country had specialized units for stalking.
- Nearly 73% offered at least some training relative to stalking.
- Only 13% offered specialized training.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 54

**Study (1998)**

- Approximately 58% of agencies reported having written policies and procedures relative to stalking cases.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Slide 55

**Legal Responses**

- Single most frequent disposition of stalking cases is dismissal.
- Second most common disposition is an amendment to a lesser, non-felony charge.

92

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 56

**Rural Areas and Stalking:**

- Geographic isolation
- Lack of anonymity
- Transportation issues
- Lack of shelters and domestic violence services.
- Response of legal system.
- Influence of religious/cultural teachings.
- Officers, who because of distance, can't respond quickly.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 57

**Recommendations & rethinking recommendations:**

- Risk Assessment (Formal or Informal)
- Suggesting a restraining order- Always a good idea?
- Violated 40% of the time.
- 1 in 4 women fear retaliation.
- Restraining orders are followed by an escalation in violence 21% of the time.
- A woman's greatest chance for bodily harm or being murdered occur within days of filing a restraining order.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 58

**Recommendations:**

- Change phone number & e-mail.
- Always a good idea?
- Escalation vs. Stable.

93

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 59

**Recommendations:**

- Verbal threats and feelings about safety are NOT good predictors. Inform victim of this.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 60

**Recommendations:**

- Tracking system for complaints/incidents.
- Make victim aware of available services, impact of stalking.....
- Be aware of no-tech, low-tech and high-tech methods stalkers use.
- Know importance of "triggering events." Includes job loss, death in family, holidays, legal actions. Convey importance to victim.
- Safety plan & Educating victim on risk
- Lethality Assessment

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 61

94

### WV Statistics

- Since 1989 domestic violence complaints to law enforcement agencies in WV have increased by 400%.
- The number of domestic violence petitions processed by magistrates have tripled.
- On average, 2 domestic homicides occur each month in WV.
- Less than 50% of murder victims who were stalked, reported the stalking to the police.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 62

### West Virginians Against Violence Strategic Plan (2005)

- Establish the prevalence and impact of stalking in WV.
- Establish and/or improve law enforcement training on stalking.
- Improve law enforcement's response to reported incidents of stalking.
- Improve the legal system's response to stalking complaints.
- Improve victim services.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 63

### Training Needs Survey Results

1. Sheriff/Deputy
2. Chief of Police/Municipal
3. State Trooper
4. Municipal Police Officer
5. Campus Police
6. Detective/City police
7. Training Director
8. County Bailiff

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 64

**Basic Demographics**

- Number of surveys returned ( )
- \_\_\_\_ of West Virginia's 55 counties.
- Age range
- Average age
- Years of experience range
- Average amount of experience
- Department size

95

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 65

**Survey respondents**

- Pie chart

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 66

**Most & Least trained topics:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 67

**Personality Disorders & Stalking**

- A personality disorder is defined as an enduring pattern of inner experiences and behavior that deviates markedly from the expectations of the individual's culture. The pattern is manifested in two or more of the following:

96

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 68

**Personality Disorders**

- Cognition (ways of perceiving self and others).
- Affect (range of emotions, appropriateness, intensity)
- Interpersonal functioning
- Impulse Control

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 69

**Personality Disorders**

- The enduring pattern is inflexible and pervasive across different domains.
- The enduring pattern leads to distress in different domains (home, work, social...)
- The enduring pattern is long lasting and can usually be traced back to adolescence.
- The enduring pattern is not due to the effects of drugs and/or alcohol.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 70

**Personality Disorder Types**

- Cluster A (Paranoid, Schizoid, Schizotypal).
- Cluster B (Antisocial, Borderline, Histrionic, Narcissistic)
- Cluster C (Avoidant, Dependent, Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder, PD NOS)

97

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 71

**Paranoid Personality Disorder**

- Suspects without sufficient basis others are exploiting him.
- Is preoccupied with doubts about the loyalty and trustworthiness of others
- Reluctant to confide in others
- Reads hidden demeaning and threatening messages into benign remarks.
- Persistently bears grudges.
- Has recurrent suspicions, without justification, regarding fidelity of spouse.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 72

**Antisocial Personality Disorder**

- Pervasive pattern of disregard for and violation of the rights of others, apparent by the age of 15 years. (Can't diagnosis until 18 years though)
- Failure to conform to social norms in regard to lawful behavior.
- Deceitful (frequent lies, conning others)
- Impulsivity or failure to plan ahead.
- Irritability and aggressive
- Reckless disregard of safety for self and others.
- Consistent irresponsibility (financial obligations)
- Lack of remorse.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 73

**Borderline Personality Disorder**

- A pervasive pattern of unstable and intense relationships marked by extremes (best to worst)
- Identify disturbance
- Frantic efforts to avoid real or imagined abandonment.
- Impulsivity in at least two areas (alcohol, reckless behavior, sex....)
- Recurrent suicidal behavior, gestures or threats. Self mutilation behavior common.
- Affective instability. Overly intense moods.
- Chronic feelings of emptiness.
- Inappropriate overly intense anger.
- Transient, stress-related paranoia.

98

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 74

**Histrionic Personality Disorder**

- A pervasive pattern of emotionality and attention seeking behavior.
- Uncomfortable when not the center of attention.
- Interaction with others is marked by inappropriate sexually seductive behavior.
- Is suggestible
- Thinks relationships are more intimate than they are.
- Rapidly shifting and shallow display of emotions.
- Uses physical appearance to draw attention to self.
- Style of speech is impressionistic and lacking in detail.
- Show self-dramatization and exaggerated responses.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 75

**Narcissistic Personality Disorder**

- Grandiose sense of self-importance
- Preoccupied with fantasies of love, wealth, fame....
- Believes he is special and can only be understood by other special people.
- Requires excessive admiration.
- Sense of entitlement
- Is exploitative
- Lacks empathy
- Often envious of others but believes they are envious of him.
- Show arrogant, haughty behavior.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 76

**Personality  
Disorder Not Otherwise Specified**

- Doesn't meet exact criteria for a specific personality disorder.
- Has the history of having pervasive issues.
- Pattern causes significant impairment in several areas/domains.

99

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slide 77

**Questions**

- Why is knowing about personality disorders important for law enforcement?
- How do you go about getting this information?
- What do you do with the information once you have it?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

# Post Training Stalking Survey

(Appendix D) 100

---

## Section One- About You

*This first section asks for some basic information about you.*

1.1 Your gender Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

2.1 Your age \_\_\_\_\_

3.1 Specific job title \_\_\_\_\_.

4.1 Amount of time in current role \_\_\_\_\_.

5.1 Total amount of experience in current profession \_\_\_\_\_.

6.1 Highest level of education:

\_\_\_ High School \_\_\_ Some college \_\_\_ Associate degree \_\_\_ Bachelors Degree \_\_\_ Masters Degree

\_\_\_ Doctorate (Type of doctorate if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_.

7.1 If you have received any formal training relative to domestic violence since beginning your current job, briefly describe it here \_\_\_\_\_ Police Academy \_\_\_\_\_ Other training (CE workshop, etc)

\_\_\_\_\_

8.1 If you received any formal training about domestic violence in any previous job, briefly describe it here: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Academy \_\_\_\_\_ Other training (CE workshop, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9.1 If you received any formal training which deals specifically with stalking, describe it here

\_\_\_\_\_ Police Academy \_\_\_\_\_ Other Training (CE workshop, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

10.1 West Virginia Code 61-2-9(a) defines stalking as a crime. Have you, at any time in your employment, received training on the specifics of this code? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please provide details, including who provided the training, and the amount of hours \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

|   |
|---|
| <b>Section Two-Specifics of your job:</b> |
|---|

1.2 Name of city or county you work in\_\_\_\_\_.

2.2 Amount of annual training (CE's) required in your specific department/county each year.

\_\_\_\_\_. (Not sure\_\_\_\_\_)

3.2 Does your department/office have a written policy on how stalking cases are handled?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If Yes, please provide further information (IE...Is there a specialized unit which handles all stalking cases.)

\_\_\_\_\_.

4.2 Approximately how many people work in your department?\_\_\_\_\_.

5.2 If your department/agency has written policies on stalking, are all personnel who have direct involvement with handling complaints, trained on them? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6.2 Do you require your subordinates to receive training relative to stalking?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Not applicable

7.2 Does your department/agency use a written protocol when interviewing stalkers, and/or victims? (IE.. Do you use an interview booklet)\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, what type\_\_\_\_\_

|   |
|---|
| <b>Section Three-Estimating number of stalking complaints</b> |
|---|

1.3 Number of stalking complaints filed/received in 2006\_\_\_\_\_. Not sure\_\_\_\_\_.

2.3 Number of stalking complaints filed/received in 2007\_\_\_\_\_. Not sure\_\_\_\_\_.

3.3 If you are able to provide the number of stalking complaints, how were you able to access that information? (Record review, victims database.....)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4.3 Of the stalking cases filed/received in 2006, how many resulted in death, or serious bodily injury to the victim?\_\_\_\_\_. Not sure\_\_\_\_\_.

5.3 Of the stalking cases filed/received in 2007, how many resulted in death, or serious bodily injury to the victim?\_\_\_\_\_. Not sure\_\_\_\_\_.

**Section Four-Estimating Number of Domestic Violence complaints filed/received**

- 1.4 Number of domestic violence complaints you received, responded to, investigated, or prosecuted in 2006 involving intimate partners, or former intimate partners \_\_\_\_\_. Not sure \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.4 Number of domestic violence complaints you received, responded to, investigated or prosecuted in 2007 involving intimate partners, or former intimate partners. \_\_\_\_\_. Not sure \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.4 Of the reported 2006 complaints, how many resulted in death or serious bodily injury to either partner \_\_\_\_\_. Not sure \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.4 Of the reported 2007 complaints, how many resulted in death or serious bodily injury to either partner \_\_\_\_\_. Not sure \_\_\_\_\_

**Section Five-Opinion on Stalking**

*This fifth section asks you to provide your opinion on a variety of stalking related issues.*

- 1.5 According to the US Department of Justice statistics, 1 in \_\_\_\_ women will be stalked in their lifetime.  
(A) 3 (B) 5 (C) 10 (D) 20
- 2.5 The average duration of stalking is:  
(A) Less than 9 months (B) 1 year (C) 2 years (D) 5 years
- 3.5 Nearly \_\_\_\_\_% of all women who are stalked by a former partner, also experienced violence while in the relationship.  
(A) 25 (B) 50 (C) 80 (D) 95
- 4.5 Intimate partner homicides, account for \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_% of all murders in the U.S.  
(A) 10 to 20 (B) 20 to 30 (C) 40 to 50 (D) 60-70
- 5.5 Nearly \_\_\_\_\_% of the 1,500 women who are killed by their current or former intimate partner, were stalked before they were murdered.  
(A) 25% (B) 50% (C) 80% (D) 90%
- 6.5 Overall, \_\_\_\_\_% of female stalking victims were stalked by an intimate, or former intimate partner.  
(A) 29% (B) 39% (C) 49% (D) 59%
- 7.5 Stalkers who make verbal threats to harm or kill their victim are:  
(A) Slightly more dangerous than stalkers who do not make such threats  
(B) Significantly more dangerous than stalkers who do not make such threats  
(C) Less dangerous than stalkers who do not make such threats  
(D) No more or no less dangerous than stalkers who do not make such threats
- 8.5 Stalkers who have a history of stalking more than one person are:  
(A) Slightly more dangerous  
(B) Significantly more dangerous  
(C) Less dangerous  
(D) No more or less dangerous

**Section Five Continued**

9.5 Restraining orders are violated \_\_\_\_\_% of the time.

- (A) 10 (B) 20 (C) 40 (D) 60

10.5 Studies show that between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_% of women who are stalked, develop post-traumatic stress disorder.

- (A) 10-25% (B) 30-40% (C) 45-85% (D) 80-95%

11.5 A stalker who uses a greater number of stalking methods poses a:

- (A) Slightly higher risk for violence (B) Significant higher risk for violence  
(C) Lower risk for violence (D) No more or no less risk for violence

12.5 It is best to advise/warn a stalker to stop bother their victim:

- (A) Soon after the stalking begins (B) Several weeks after the stalking begins  
(C) At least 3-6 months after the stalking begins (D) It is best to never directly advise/warn a stalker

13.5 The type of stalker *most likely* to physically harm their victim is \_\_\_\_\_

- (A) Stranger stalkers (do not know their victim) (B) Former intimate partner (ex-spouse)  
(C) Celebrity stalkers (D) Stalker type has no impact on likeliness to do harm.

14.5 A stalker who meets the criteria for having a Personality Disorder (Antisocial, Narcissitic.....) is \_\_\_\_\_ than stalkers who do not meet the criteria:

- (A) Slightly more dangerous (B) Significantly more dangerous  
(C) Less dangerous (D) No more or no less dangerous

15.5 When warning a stalker to stop bothering his victim, the most effective person is:

- (A) The victim (B) A friend or relative of the victim (C) A minister (D) Law enforcement personnel

16.5 How important is it to assess the stalkers motive when dealing with stalking case.

- (A) Not important (B) Somewhat important (C) Very important (D) Crucial

17.5 Nearly \_\_\_\_\_% of women who file a restraining order, expect the stalking or violence to worsen because of it. (A) 25% (B) 40% (C) 65% (D) 90%

18.5 A Stalker who shows escalating levels of stalking is \_\_\_\_\_ dangerous than a person who does not show such a pattern.

- (A) Slightly more dangerous (B) Significantly more dangerous  
(C) Less dangerous (D) No more or no less dangerous

19.5 Stalkers who have drug and/or alcohol problems are \_\_\_\_\_likely to physically harm their victim.

- (A) Slightly more (B) Significantly more (C) Less (D) No more or no less

20.5 Stalkers who talk about having a “shared destiny” with the victim are \_\_\_\_\_ than stalkers who do not mention this specifically.

- (A) Slightly more dangerous (B) Significantly more dangerous  
(C) Less dangerous (D) No more or no less dangerous

|   |
|---|
| <b>Section Six- Routine Questions Asked/Assessed about the Stalker:</b> |
|---|

6.1 *Stalkers harass their victims in a variety of ways. Sometimes the victim omits certain details about their specific experience. When you have investigated or dealt with a stalking complaint, indicate which of the following you routinely ask about. (If you have not yet had a stalking case, indicate which of the following you think is important to routinely ask about.) Circle the appropriate responses.*

- A. Does the stalker follow you from home to work?
- B. To your knowledge, has your stalker done this before with someone else?
- C. Does your stalker follow you to your friends or families homes?
- D. If he/she does, how often?
- E. Does your stalker leave voice mails, e-mails, and/or written notes?
- F. Does the person stalking you have access to guns and other weapons?
- G. Does the person stalking you have a history or a current problem with drug and/or alcohol.
- H. Does the person stalking you have a history of becoming physically violent, and if so, under what circumstances?
- I. Has your stalker ever been arrested?
- J. Has your stalker previously (or currently) been prescribed medications for psychological issues?
- K. Has your stalker broken into your home without you being present?
- L. Has your stalker broken into your home while you were present?
- M. Has your stalker ever physically assaulted you?  
(If yes, how many times/under what circumstances.....)
- N. Has your stalker ever physically prevented you from leaving, or moving about freely (blocked you in some way)
- O. Does your stalker use other people to “deliver messages” to you?
- P. Has your stalker ever made verbal threats to hurt you?
- Q. Has your stalker ever made verbal threats to hurt your children?
- R. Has your stalker ever made verbal threats to hurt other family members or friends?
- S. Has your stalker made threats to hurt your pets?
- T. Has your stalker ever actually followed through with any verbal threats to the above?
- U. Has your stalker vandalized or destroyed any of your belongings (car, house....)
- V. Has your stalker snooped through your mail?
- W. Do you know what the stalker’s “purpose is?”  
(IE... what does he/she hope to gain?)
- X. Does your stalker talk about a “shared destiny” with you?
- Y. Has your stalker made threats of self-harm?
- Z. Has your stalker, to your knowledge, ever tried to harm himself?
- AA. Does your stalker harass you when others are around?
- BB. Has your stalker threatened to sexually assault you?
- CC. Has your stalker sexually assaulted you, or attempted to do so?

|   |
|---|
| <b>Section Seven Routine Questions Asked/Assessed about the victim:</b> |
|---|

7.1 *Victims of stalking attempt to cope with their stalkers in a variety of ways. Please indicate which of the following questions you routinely (or would routinely) ask a stalking victim. (Circle the appropriate responses)*

- A. Have you attempted, or thought about moving to get away from your stalker?
- B. Have you changed your phone number and/or e-mail
- C. Have you changed your routine in any way (going a different route to work, avoiding certain places.....)
- D. Have you installed an alarm system in your home as a result of being stalked?
- E. Have you begun dating someone else as a means of protecting yourself from your stalker?
- F. Have you purchased or obtained a weapon as a means of protecting yourself?
- G. Have you enlisted the help of others as a result of being stalked? (Ie.. Ask friends to stay with you...)
- H. Have you gotten a dog as a means of protection?
- I. Do you ever attempt to “reason” with your stalker?
- J. Do you ever accept gifts from your stalker?
- K. Have you attempted to “reason” with your stalker? (Ie explaining that you are not interested in him/her?)
- L. Have you given into your stalkers demands by going places with him/her (ie. On a date)
- M. Have you filed or considered a restraining order?
- N. After filing a police report on your stalker, have you ever recanted?
- O. Have you ever discussed your stalker with his family, friends, employers as a means of letting others know what he is doing?
- P. Have you stopped going out with friends/family as a direct result of being stalked?
- Q. Have you told your stalker directly to stop bothering you?
- R. Have you had your door locks changed?
- S. Have you taken extra security measures as a result of being stalked? (ie taken a self-defense class, etc)
- T. Have you tried to find out more information about your stalker? (Previous relationships, work history.....)
- U. Have you sought counseling/psychological services as a result of your stalking experience?
- V. Have you ever threatened your stalker with legal action?
- W. Have you ever threatened your stalker with bodily harm?
- X. Have you talked to an attorney in response to your experience?
- Y. Have any of your responses, seemed to lessen the amount or intensity of your stalkers behavior?
- Z. Have any of your responses seemed to increase the amount or intensity of your stalkers behavior?

**Section Eight: Advising Victims**

8.1 Estimate the percentage of stalking cases in which you have (or would ) advised the victim to obtain a restraining order \_\_\_\_\_.

8.2 Under what, if any, circumstances have, or would you advise the victim *not to* obtain a restraining order?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8.3 Under what, if any circumstances have, or would you advise the victim not to change or disconnect their phone? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Section Nine: Comments/Suggestions:**

*9.1 Please use the following space to provide any comments and/or suggestions you have relative to dealing with cases involving stalking.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*9.2 Please use the following space to provide any comments and/or suggestions you have relative to dealing with stalking cases in rural areas (Special problems, things that are helpful.....)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

