

WHEN ENOUGH IS TOO MUCH...

IDENTIFYING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN STALKING AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the workshop the participant will be able to:

- Define Stalking
 - Identify Connections between Stalking and Sexual Violence
 - Distinguish between the differences and similarities of known and stranger rapists
 - Understand stalking within the context of sexual assault
 - Identify ways to assess for stalking within the context of sexual assault
 - Use tools to assist stalking survivors
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STALKING AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- **Stalking is a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.**
- Stalking is a way to terrorize and intimidate another person, as is sexual assault, and the two forms of victimization may occur together. According to Michelle M. Garcia of the Stalking Resource Center, these are some of the ways in which stalking and sexual assault overlap:

"Many pre-sexual assault behaviors can be considered predatory behaviors and stalking. Understanding connections between stalking and sexual assault can help:

- *Validate victim experiences*
- *Decrease victim blaming*
- *Assist in developing educational programming as well as other advocacy responses for victims*
- *Identifying stalking behavior can increase options for intervention and holding offenders accountable."* (Washington State Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs)

SEXUAL ASSAULT AND STALKING BY KNOWN PERPETRATORS

National Violence Against Women Survey, 2004

- 31% of stalking victims who were stalked by an intimate partner reported that they had been sexually assaulted by that partner as well

Sexual Victimization of College Women, 2000

- 13% of college women reported being stalked since the beginning of the school year
- 80% of victims said they knew or had seen the stalker before
- In 10% of incidents, the victim reported that the stalker forced or attempted sexual contact

RESEARCH ON KNOWN RAPISTS

David Lisak is known for his research on the “undetected rapist”

(Research Published in Violence and Victims, Volume 17, Number 1, February 2002)

- His research studied 1,882 men:
- Duke University & University of Massachusetts 1986-2000
- The men interviewed as part of the study were volunteers

RESEARCH ON KNOWN RAPISTS

Findings:

Of the 1,882 men:

- 120 (6.4%) met criteria for rape or attempted rape
- 76 reported committing multiple rapes
- 120 committed a total of 483 rapes, but the 76 repeat rapists committed 439 of them (average of 5.8 each).
- 70 of the 120 admitted to other acts of interpersonal violence, including battery, physical/sexual abuse of kids, and sexual assault short of rape/attempted rape.

RESEARCH ON KNOWN RAPISTS


The 76 Serial Rapists committed:

- 439 attempted and completed rapes
- 49 sexual assaults
- 277 sexual assaults of children
- 66 physical assaults of children
- 214 batteries

For a total of 1045 violent incidents

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED THROUGH THIS RESEARCH

“Typically” a rapist:

- Does not use a weapon
 - Uses *instrumental*, not *gratuitous* violence
 - Has access to consensual sex
 - Comes from all racial and ethnic groups
 - Is not mentally ill
 - **Premeditates and plans the attack**
 - **Uses multiple strategies to make victims vulnerable**
 - Uses alcohol deliberately
 - Increases violence as needed to succeed
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RESEARCH ON KNOWN RAPISTS

Interviews with these men show:

- They view victims as **“targets” & “prey”**
- They **“staked out”** their victims

These are common beliefs of stalkers, as well.



RESEARCH ON STRANGER RAPISTS


Interviews with Incarcerated Rapists reveal a general pattern for rape:

- They **targeted** women
- They **watched them over time**
- They **waited for opportunity** when victim was vulnerable
- They **picked victims based on observation**
- They **watched several women at a time...waiting** for an opportunity


These are tactics that stalkers use as well



STALKING AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY STRANGERS

- 22% of victims report being raped by a stranger. (Rape in America, 1992)
 - 20% of stalking victims did not know or had not seen the stalker before (Sexual Victimization of College Women, 2000)
 - In 10% of incidents, the victim reported that the stalker forced or attempted sexual contact (Sexual Victimization of College Women, 2000)
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CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SEXUAL ASSAULT AND STALKING

- Many rapists are serial rapists
 - Rape is usually planned in advance
 - Victim's accessibility was a primary factor in rapist's decision
 - Rapists look for vulnerabilities
 - Rapists isolate the victim
 - Rapist wear down the victim's resistance
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SEXUAL STALKING AND THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

According to the EAW Project, 85-90% of stalkers use some form of technology to stalk their victims. Rapid technological advances with devices like cameras, listening tools, computers, spyware, assistive technologies, and global positioning systems (GPS) make it easier for perpetrators to stalk victims.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND SEXUAL ASSAULT RELATED STALKING

Steubenville Rape Case:


- Posting of the assault on YouTube
- Threatening tweets, FaceBook, messages and texts

Rapists use Social Media as a tool to intimidate and exploit victims by posting personal photos, sexualized messages, threats, etc.

POST ASSAULT STALKING

- **After an assault rapists often engage in behavior to “keep the victim quiet”**
- **They may use social media, friends and others to continue the harm**
- **The sexual abuse can continue in other forms:**
 - Sexual harassment
 - Telling others about the victims sexual behavior
 - Appearing at school/work to “walk” victim to home
 - May engage friends in the stalking behavior (i.e. sending texts, posting online, finding out the whereabouts of victim)

ASSESSING FOR STALKING AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- Listen for survivors language that suggests a pattern of intimidation, whether or not there is a relationship between survivor and perpetrator
 - Clarify by using language that determines the pattern, feelings of intimidation, fear
 - Pay attention to the use of social media (texts, facebook, tumbler, twitter, websites, etc.)
 - Validate the feelings of the survivor (often they identify feeling “crazy” or like they’re “seeing things”)
 - Address safety needs including protection orders if necessary and available
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STALKING AND THE U VISA

- Newly included crime
- Look to local laws to determine criminal activity (know and understand what they are)
- Work locally with “certifiers” to educate them about stalking behaviors

GROUP ACTIVITY

In groups of 3-5, identify 2-3 ways to alter your intake process to assess for stalking behaviors and provide support for stalking survivors.

Share with the large group



RESOURCES

Washington State Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs

<http://www.wcsap.org/sexual-assault-and-stalking>

Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault

<http://ccasa.org/wp-content/themes/skeleton/documents/STALKING-AND-SEXUAL-ASSAULT.pdf>

National Center for Victims of Crime/Stalking Resource Center

www.ncvc.org/src

CALCASA and Stalking Resource Center Model Stalking Policy

<http://www.victimsofcrime.org/docs/src/model-campus-stalking-policy.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

REFERENCES

National Center for Victims of Crime, Model Stalking Policy

Washington State Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Stalking and Sexual Assault

National Violence Against Women Survey

Sexual Victimization on College Campuses, 2000

David Lisak, Undetected Rapist

Stalking Resource Center



QUESTIONS AND CONTACT

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