



# ALASKA JUSTICE FORUM

## REPRINTS

February 2009

JUSTICE CENTER ♦ UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

No. 3

## Stalking in Alaska

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Although the available data are limited, a recent Justice Center examination of Alaska State Trooper case files has revealed that the crime of stalking is probably greatly underreported by victims as well as under-recognized by law enforcement and hence not charged often enough in Alaska. A charge of stalking can be applied in a wide range of situations, and its parameters as a crime can be somewhat ambiguous for both victims and law enforcement. The available data show that a stalking charge is often made in conjunction with other charges, particularly when there has been a prior relationship—which is often the case, with stranger stalking fairly rare.

Stalking, by its nature and its legal definition, induces fear. Statistics from the National Violence Against Women Survey showed that even after the stalking ended, 68 percent of victims thought their personal safety had gotten worse, 42 percent were very concerned about their personal safety, 30 percent were very concerned about being stalked, and 45 percent carried something to defend themselves. Psychological counseling was sought by 30 percent of female victims and 20 percent of male victims.

Moreover, other studies have shown links between stalking and intimate partner homicide among female victims. For example, according to an analysis published in *Homicide Studies* in 1999, 76 percent of female intimate partner homicide victims had been stalked by their intimate partner in the past. Furthermore, 89 percent of female intimate partner homicide victims that were physically abused had also been stalked by their intimate partner in the past. Of all female intimate partner homicide victims, 54 percent had previously contacted police to report they were being stalked.

With funding from the National Institute of Justice, the Justice Center is working with

Originally published in the *Alaska Justice Forum* 24(1): 1, 7–12 (Spring 2007).  
[http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/forum/24/1spring2007/a\\_stalking.html](http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/forum/24/1spring2007/a_stalking.html)

For other articles and publications related to stalking and violence against women, see:  
<http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/vaw/>

**Abstract:** This study examined 267 cases with a stalking charge reported to Alaska State Troopers from 1994 to 2005, and excluded any cases reported to local or municipal departments. We also examined the legal resolutions for cases that were reported from 1999–2004.

- Over 50% of reports occurred in B detachment (Southcentral Alaska) and D detachment (Interior Alaska). Three units (Fairbanks AST Enforcement, Palmer AST Enforcement, and Soldotna AST Enforcement) handled 49% of reports. Thirty-five percent of the charges were for stalking in the first degree and 65% were for stalking in the second degree.
- Most suspects (91%) were male and most victims (89%) were female. Most suspects (78%) were White and most victims (86%) were also White. On average, suspects were 36 years old while victims were 33 years old. Twenty percent of suspects had used alcohol, but only 2% of victims had used alcohol. Fifty-four percent of suspects were, or had been, in a romantic relationship with the victim. An additional 35% of suspects were friends or acquaintances of the victim.
- The most common forms of stalking included standing outside or visiting the victim's home (in 54% of charges), making unsolicited phone calls to victims (in 51% of charges), following the victim (in 39% of charges), threatening to physically assault the victim (in 36% of charges), harassing the victim's family and friends (in 28% of charges), trying to communicate with the victim in other ways (in 27% of charges), standing outside or visiting the victim's work (in 20% of charges), physically assaulting the victim (in 19% of charges), sending the victim unsolicited mail (in 15% of charges), and vandalizing the victim's home (in 13% of charges). Forty-five percent of behaviors occurred primarily at the victim's home, while 27% occurred primarily in cyberspace.
- Seventy-five percent of the cases reported between 1999–2004 were referred for prosecution, 55% were accepted for prosecution, and 40% resulted in a conviction on at least one charge. Cases with suspects who violated protective orders were 20% more likely to be referred for prosecution, were 19% more likely to be accepted, and were 41% more likely to result in a conviction.

the Alaska State Troopers and the Alaska Department of Law to learn more about the characteristics of stalking in Alaska.

In the first quantitative examination of the crime, data from all stalking incidents reported to Alaska State Troopers from 1994 to 2005 were collected to gather descriptive information. The research provides a first overview of a specific crime whose characteristics are not widely known beyond the justice community. The Alaska statutes defining the crime of stalking are presented on page 5.

### Methodology

To conduct this study, Justice Center researchers examined the total 267 cases with a stalking charge reported to Alaska State Troopers from 1994 to 2005. (Alaska

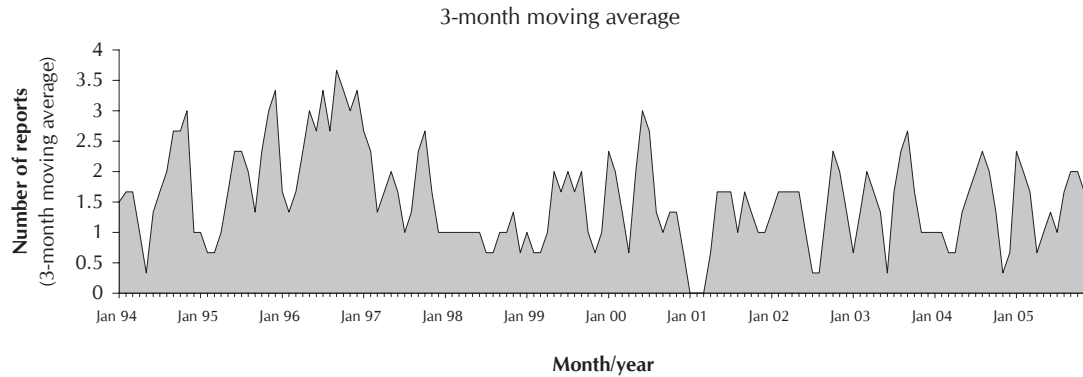
stalking statutes went into effect in 1993.) The final sample for analysis comprised 210 cases (Table 1) covering a total of 222 stalking charges, 211 suspects, and 216 victims. Case outcome data were gathered directly

**Table 1. Case Closure Codes in Alaska Stalking Cases, 1994–2005**

Closure code	Column percentages	
	N	Reports
Closed by arrest	140	66.7 %
Closed, declined	6	2.9
Closed by investigation	34	16.2
Closed, referred	22	10.5
Closed, unfounded	8	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	

Source of data: Alaska State Troopers data (1994–2005)

**Figure 1. Number of Stalking Reports in Alaska by Month and Year, 1994–2005**



Source of data: Anchorage State Troopers data (1994–2005)

from the Alaska Department of Law for a sub-sample of the stalking cases—only those reported from 1999 to 2004 ( $N = 92$ ).

## Results

For the first four years included in this investigation (1994 to 1997), the number of reports averaged 22 per year. After that, the average number of reports dropped significantly, to 15 per year. Figure 1 displays the trend of reporting over time, from January 1994 to December 2005, using a three-month moving average. Seasonal variations from January to December in the trend of reporting were not quite statistically

significant, but 23 percent of the reports were made in the months of June and October.

Over 50 percent of reports occurred in B and D detachments. B detachment includes five Alaska State Trooper posts (Wasilla, Palmer, Glennallen, Big Lake, and Talkleetna) while C detachment includes nine Alaska State Trooper posts (Coldfoot, Galena, Fairbanks, Nenana, Healy, Cantwell, Delta Junction, Tok, and Northway; see Figure 2). The units with the highest number of stalking reports included Fairbanks AST Enforcement (with 19% of reports), Palmer AST Enforcement (with 18% of reports), and Soldotna AST Enforcement (in E Detachment, with 12% of reports). Together,

these three units had 49 percent of all stalking reports. Additional details are shown in Table 2.

Most cases (67%) were closed by arrest, meaning that at least one person was criminally charged, by a physical arrest, summons, warrant, or criminal complaint (see Table 1). Other cases (10%) were closed with a referral to the district attorney for a charging decision. Sixteen percent of cases were closed after the investigation because there were no suspects or because evidence was lacking. Only four percent of cases were closed unfounded (because there appeared to be no basis for the complaint). Finally, only three percent of cases were closed because the prosecution declined to pursue the case, even though a suspect was known.

The 210 stalking incidents reported to troopers from 1994 to 2005 included a total of 222 stalking charges. Seventy-seven (35%) of the 222 stalking charges were for stalking in the first degree (AS §11.41.260) and 145 (65%) were for stalking in the second degree (AS §11.41.270). For each stalking charge, thirty different forms of behavior were examined, shown in Table 3. On average, four forms of stalking behaviors were found per charge. The most common forms of stalking behaviors included standing outside or visiting the victim's home (found in 54% of charges), making unsolicited phone calls to victims (found in 51% of charges), following the victim (found in 39% of charges), threatening to physically assault the victim (found in 36% of charges), harassing the victim's family and friends (found in 28% of charges), trying to communicate with the victim in other ways (found in 27% of charges), standing outside or visiting the victim's work (found in 20% of charges), physically assaulting the victim (found in 19% of charges), sending the victim unsolicited mail (found in 15% of charges), and vandalizing the victim's home (found in 13% of charges).

**Figure 2. Alaska State Trooper Locations**



Source: Alaska State Troopers

May 2006

**Table 2. Total Number of Stalking Reports in Alaska by Unit, 1994–2005**

Column percentages								
Unit	N	%	Unit	N	%	Unit	N	%
Anchorage AST Enforcement	7	3.3 %	Girdwood AST Enforcement	3	1.4 %	Northway AST Enforcement	1	0.5 %
Aniak AST Enforcement	1	0.5	Glennallen AST Enforcement	6	2.9	Mat-Su Regional Office	1	0.5
Bethel AST Enforcement	7	3.3	Healy AST Enforcement	1	0.5	Palmer AST Enforcement	37	17.6
Big Lake AST Enforcement	1	0.5	Homer AST Enforcement	7	3.3	Palmer AST Investigations	5	2.4
Cooper Landing AST Enforcement	1	0.5	Juneau AST Enforcement	1	0.5	Seward AST Enforcement	4	1.9
ABI Child Abuse Investigation Unit	1	0.5	Ketchikan AST Enforcement	7	3.3	Soldotna AST Enforcement	25	11.9
Cantwell AST Enforcement	3	1.4	Ketchikan AST Investigations	1	0.5	St. Marys AST Enforcement	2	1.0
ABI Cold Case Investigations	1	0.5	Klawock AST Enforcement	9	4.3	Talkeetna AST Enforcement	3	1.4
Cordova ABWE	1	0.5	Kodiak AST Enforcement	9	4.3	Tok AST Enforcement	1	0.5
Delta Junction AST Enforcement	7	3.3	Kotzebue AST Enforcement	6	2.9	Unalakleet AST Enforcement	1	0.5
Fairbanks AST Enforcement	40	19.0	Ninilchik AST Enforcement	1	0.5			
Fairbanks AST Investigations	4	1.9	Nome AST Enforcement	2	1.0			
Galena AST Enforcement	2	1.0	Nome V.P.S.O.	1	0.5			
						<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	

Source of data: Alaska State Troopers data (1994-2005)

The primary location for stalking behaviors was most often the victim's residence. As shown in Table 4, 45 percent of stalking behaviors occurred primarily at the victim's home. Cyberspace was also a common location for stalking behavior, with 27 percent of charges occurring primarily in cyberspace. An additional 10 percent of charges occurred primarily on public roads and parking lots.

The 210 stalking incidents reported to troopers from 1994 to 2005 included a total

of 211 suspects and 216 victims. Most suspects (91%) were male and most victims (89%) were female. As shown in Table 5, most suspects (78%) were white and most victims (86%) were also white. On average, suspects were 36 years old while victims were 33 years old; with 13 percent of suspects and 20 percent of victims under 21, 18 percent of suspects and 22 percent of victims between 21 and 30, 37 percent of suspects and 33 percent of victims between

**Table 4. Primary Location for Stalking Behavior in Alaska Stalking Cases, 1994–2005**

Column percentages		
Location	Charges	
	N	%
Cyberspace	60	27.0 %
Victim's house	99	44.6
Other residence	8	3.6
Work / school	17	7.7
Public places	16	7.2
Roads / parking lots	22	9.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>	

Source of data: Alaska State Troopers data (1994-2005)

**Table 3. Stalking Behaviors in Alaska Stalking Cases, 1994–2005**

Row percentages			
Behaviors	Yes		Total
	N	%	
Followed victim	86	39.4 %	218
Sent victim unsolicited mail	33	14.9	222
Made unsolicited phone calls to victim	112	50.5	222
Sent victim unsolicited electronic mail	7	3.2	222
Sent victim unsolicited text messages	0	0.0	222
Tried to communicate in other ways	60	27.0	222
Photographed victim without permission	3	1.4	219
Abused victim's pets	3	1.4	221
Threatened to harm victim's pets	0	0.0	222
Physically assaulted victim	42	18.9	222
Threatened to physically assault victim	78	35.8	218
Sexually assaulted victim	13	5.9	222
Threatened to sexually assault victim	8	3.6	222
Harassed victim's children	13	5.9	221
Threatened victim's children	13	5.9	220
Harassed victim's family and friends	62	27.9	222
Vandalized victim's home	28	12.7	221
Vandalized victim's car	14	6.4	220
Vandalized other property	11	5.0	222
Stood outside/visited victim's home	120	54.1	222
Stood outside/visited victim's work	44	20.0	220
Left unwanted items for victim	3	1.4	222
Sent victim presents	20	9.0	222
Opened victim's mail	1	0.5	222
Filed false police reports against victim	1	0.5	222
Contacted victim's employer	4	1.8	222
Contacted or filed report with children services	1	0.5	222
Installed spyware on victim's computer	2	0.9	222
Installed/utilized GPS on victim's car	0	0.0	221
Relocated residence to follow victim	10	4.5	222

Source of data: Alaska State Troopers data (1994-2005)

**Table 5. Race of Suspects and Victims in Alaska Stalking Cases, 1994–2005**

Column percentages				
Race	Suspects		Victims	
	N	%	N	%
White	160	78.0 %	183	85.9 %
Native	42	20.5	27	12.7
Black	3	1.5	2	0.9
Other	0	0.0	1	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>205</b>		<b>213</b>	

Source of data: Alaska State Troopers data (1994-2005)

**Table 6. Age of Suspects and Victims in Alaska Stalking Cases, 1994–2005**

Column percentages				
Age	Suspects		Victims	
	N	%	N	%
11 to 20	27	13.2 %	43	20.1 %
21 to 30	38	18.5	47	22.0
31 to 40	75	36.6	70	32.7
41 to 50	47	22.9	41	19.2
51 to 60	13	6.3	6	2.8
61 or over	5	2.4	7	3.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>205</b>		<b>214</b>	

Source of data: Alaska State Troopers data (1994-2005)

31 and 40, and 31 percent of suspects and 25 percent of victims over 40. One in five suspects (20%) had used alcohol, but very few victims (2%) had. Drug use was very infrequent (1% or less) for both suspects and victims.

**Table 7. Relationship Between Suspects and Victims in Alaska Stalking Cases, 1994–2005**

Column percentages

Relationship to victim	Suspects		
	N	%	% of non-stranger
Stranger	15	7.5 %	—
Current spouse	31	15.5	16.8 %
Ex-spouse	13	6.5	7.0
Current boy/girlfriend	5	2.5	2.7
Ex-boy/girlfriend	59	29.5	31.9
Other family	7	3.5	3.8
Friends	13	6.5	7.0
Acquaintances	57	28.5	30.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>		

Source of data: Alaska State Troopers data (1994-2005)

**Table 8. Number of Total, Stalking, and Non-Stalking Charges per Suspect in Alaska Stalking Cases, 1994–2005**

Column percentages

	N	%	cumulative
			%
<b>Total charges</b>			
Zero	0	0.0 %	0.0 %
One	89	42.2	42.2
Two	65	30.8	73.0
Three	32	15.2	88.2
Four	9	4.3	92.4
Five	6	2.8	95.3
Six or more	10	4.7	100.0
<b>Total suspects</b>	<b>211</b>		
<b>Stalking charges</b>			
Zero	0	0.0 %	0.0 %
One	202	95.7	95.7
Two	7	3.3	99.1
Three	2	0.9	100.0
<b>Total suspects</b>	<b>211</b>		
<b>Non-stalking charges</b>			
Zero	94	44.5 %	44.5 %
One	63	29.9	74.4
Two	29	13.7	88.2
Three	9	4.3	92.4
Four	6	2.8	95.3
Five	4	1.9	97.2
Six or more	6	2.8	100.0
<b>Total suspects</b>	<b>211</b>		

Source of data: Alaska State Troopers data (1994-2005)

Relationships between suspects and victims are shown in Table 7. Half (54%) of the suspects were, or had been, in a romantic relationship with the victim, as an ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend (29%) or current spouse (15%). In addition, 35 percent of suspects were friends or acquaintances of the victim, with acquaintances as the more prominent category. Very few suspects (4%) were currently living with the victim. Slightly over half of the relationships (55%) had ended prior to the stalking, and 58 percent had ended by the time the stalking was reported to law enforcement (these statistics were not calculated for strangers or family members).

Most suspects (55%) were not charged solely with a stalking offense. Stalking charges were often accompanied by other charges (Tables 8 and 9). On average, suspects had a total of 2.32 charges, including an average of 1.05 stalking charges and an average of 1.27 other charges. Overall, the 211 suspects were charged with 489 offenses (i.e., 222 stalking offenses and 267 non-stalking offenses). The most common additional non-stalking charges included assault, violating a protective order, and harassment. In addition to these additional charges, 38 percent of suspects had at least one aggravating factor (Table 10). The most common aggravating factors included violating protective orders and prior arrests for stalking the victim—present for 20 percent and 12 percent of suspects respectively. In addition, 22 percent of suspects had a prior arrest for stalking, assaulting, or harassing the victim. More specifically, 12 percent of suspects had a prior arrest for stalking the victim, 8 percent had a prior arrest for assaulting the victim, and 5 percent had a prior arrest for harassing the victim. Almost three quarters (74%) of

the victims had previously contacted law enforcement to report harassing behavior by the suspect (e.g., to seek a protective order).

Overall, 75 percent of the 92 cases reported between 1999 and 2004 were referred; 55 percent were accepted; and 40 percent resulted in a conviction (Table 11). The likelihood of referring, accepting, and convicting varied substantially by legal factors (Table 12)—whether suspects violated protective orders, violated conditions of release, violated conditions of probation, had prior arrests for assaulting the victim, had prior arrests for harassing the victim, had multiple stalking charges, or had additional non-stalking charges. In general, these legal factors enhanced the likelihood of referral, acceptance, and conviction.

In particular, violating protective orders and having additional non-stalking charges were important legal factors. Cases with

**Table 9. Additional Non-Stalking Charges in Alaska Stalking Cases, 1994–2005**

Column percentages

Charge	Non-stalking charges	
	N	%
Assault	60	22.5 %
Violating protective order	56	21.0
Harassment	31	11.6
Criminal trespass	23	8.6
Burglary	15	5.6
Criminal mischief	15	5.6
Violating conditions of release	10	3.7
Sexual assault / abuse	10	3.7
Other public administration offense	10	3.7
Other	7	2.6
Misconduct involving controlled substance	6	2.2
Misconduct involving weapon	5	1.9
Driving offense	5	1.9
Theft	4	1.5
Reckless endangerment	4	1.5
Coercion	4	1.5
Kidnapping	2	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	

Source of data: Alaska State Troopers data (1994-2005)

**Table 10. Aggravating Factors in Alaska Stalking Cases, 1994–2005**

Row percentages

Factors	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Violated protective order	165	80.5 %	40	19.5 %	<b>205</b>
Violated conditions of release	188	90.8	19	9.2	<b>207</b>
Violated conditions of probation	185	90.7	19	9.3	<b>204</b>
Had prior arrest for stalking victim	175	87.9	24	12.1	<b>199</b>
Had prior arrest for assaulting victim	181	91.9	16	8.1	<b>197</b>
Had prior arrest for harassing victim	190	95.0	10	5.0	<b>200</b>

Source of data: Alaska State Troopers data (1994-2005)

**Table 11. Case Outcomes by Stage in Alaska Stalking Cases, 1999–2004**

Column percentages

Stage	N	% of reported	% of referred	% of accepted
Reported	92	100.0 %	—	—
Referred	69	75.0	100.0 %	—
Accepted	51	55.4	73.9	100.0 %
Convicted	37	40.2	53.6	72.5

Source of data: Alaska Department of Law (1999-2004)

suspects who violated protective orders were 20 percent more likely to be referred for prosecution, were 19 percent more likely to be accepted, and were 41 percent more likely to result in a conviction. Cases that included additional non-stalking charges were 27 percent more likely to be referred, were 84 percent more likely to be accepted,

**Table 12. Percent Referred, Accepted, and Convicted in Alaska Stalking Cases by Legal Factors, 1994–2005**

Cell percentages

Legal factors	N	% referred	% accepted	% convicted	
Violated protective order	No	72	73.6 %	54.2 %	37.5 %
	Yes	17	88.2	64.7	52.9
Violated conditions of release	No	82	74.4	52.4	36.6
	Yes	8	100.0	100.0	87.5
Violated conditions of probation	No	83	74.7	54.2	39.8
	Yes	5	100.0	80.0	60.0
Had prior arrest for stalking victim	No	78	73.1	50.0	34.6
	Yes	6	100.0	100.0	100.0
Had prior arrest for assaulting victim	No	76	72.4	50.0	38.2
	Yes	8	100.0	87.5	37.5
Had prior arrest for harassing victim	No	84	75.0	53.6	38.1
	Yes	2	100.0	100.0	100.0
Had multiple stalking charges	No	88	76.1	56.8	40.9
	Yes	4	50.0	25.0	25.0
Had additional non-stalking charges	No	40	65.0	37.5	22.5
	Yes	52	82.7	69.2	53.8

Source of data: Alaska State Troopers data & Alaska Department of Law (1999-2004)

## Stalking Cases

The following individual case summaries, drawn from the sample studied in the accompanying article “Stalking in Alaska” illustrate a range of situations and circumstances in which the Alaska State Troopers issued a stalking charge. The details were taken from the AST case file. The initials of those involved have been changed.

B.W. reported receiving phone calls from S.M.; she reported being frightened for herself and for her family. S.M. had previously pled “no contest” to harassment charges and had been ordered to have no contact with her. At the time of the reported phone calls, he was on probation for the previous harassment offense. During the phone calls, S.M. stated that he was in trouble and needed B.W., that he loved her and found her perfect. In response to this report, the troopers charged him with first degree stalking.

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T.K. reported that she was being stalked and harassed by her boyfriend’s ex-wife, M.D. An order forbidding contact between M.D. and her former husband, P.D., was in place, but there was no provision forbidding contact with the girlfriend T.K. The two former spouses were involved in a child custody case.

T.K. reported that M.D. was making threatening phone calls; that she had destroyed T.K.’s personal property—including cutting up clothes—and had followed T.K. and P.D. to a mall and attempted to force her way into their vehicle. On another occasion she had followed the couple on a berry-picking trip.

M.D. was charged with second-degree stalking, criminal mischief involving personal property and misdemeanor assault.

\*\*\*

N.C. called the troopers to report that P.M., her ex-boyfriend, was in her home yelling and causing a disruption. Another man, who was spending the night, and two of N.C.’s children were present in the house at the time P.M. arrived. She also reported that P.M. had been following her to her workplace and other locations. She had reported to the troopers at least once before. She said she had previously obtained protective orders against P.M. but had let them drop.

N.C.’s employer and a co-worker confirmed that P.M. would regularly appear at the workplace.

N.C. stated that she had made it clear that she no longer wanted a relationship with P.M. He maintained that they still had an active sexual relationship and that he often came to her house late at night. The two have a child together.

P.M. was charged with third degree assault, fourth degree criminal trespass, and second degree stalking.

L.K. reported that her ex-husband S.K. had telephoned her several times that day, leaving threatening messages on her voice mail. He had been served with a protective order two days previously. L.K. stated that S.K. could be violent and that he had been trying to obtain a gun.

When contacted by AST, S.K. said he had only been trying to contact his daughter. He was charged with violating a protective order and stalking in the second degree.

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E.R. called to report that her ex-boyfriend V.L. was pounding on her door and refused to leave. He ran off just before the troopers arrived and was caught shortly afterward.

He had been previously arrested for a crime involving domestic violence against E.R., stalking and criminal trespass. She had had several protective orders against him. She stated that he was violent when drinking and had assaulted her in the past.

The couple had lived together off and on for nine years but not for three years prior to this incident, although they had recently been sexually intimate and he had done work on her property. She stated she had told him she did not want a relationship with him.

For this incident, V.L. was charged with fourth degree assault and second degree stalking.

\*\*\*

I.W. reported to the VPSO that she was being harassed and threatened by her ex-boyfriend J.T. He had been sending her obsessive letters for some time and was threatening to kill her. (Copies of some of the letters are in the AST file.) The two have two children together. They had last lived together three years previously, and she had indicated she no longer wanted a relationship with him.

It appeared that he had followed her from one community to another over a period of time. There had been previous incidents in other towns, including at least one in which the local police were called when J.T. attempted to take one of the children from I.W.

A witness confirmed that J.T. had made threats to kill others if I.W. would not be intimate with him again.

J.T. was charged with second degree stalking.

and were 139 percent more likely to result in a conviction. In other words, cases that included additional non-stalking charges were 2.4 times more likely to result in a conviction than cases that did not include additional non-stalking charges.

It is important not to over-interpret these results because some categories are represented by extremely low sample sizes (e.g., only two suspects had a prior arrest for harassing the victim). Nonetheless, it is interesting to see the variation in the likelihood of cases being referred, accepted, and convicted. For example, although only six cases had suspects who had a prior arrest for stalking the victim, all six were referred for prosecution, all six were accepted, and all six resulted in a conviction. By comparison, only 34.6 percent of other cases resulted in a conviction. When suspects had a prior arrest for stalking the victim, they were 2.9 times more likely to be convicted.

### Comparisons with National Data

Few national statistics on stalking are available. The current primary source of information on the offense is the National Violence Against Women Survey (NVAWS). While the numbers are not directly comparable, in looking at the NVAWS statistics and the Alaska figures presented here, we can note several points. First, stalking seems even more underreported and, possibly, underrecognized by law enforcement in Alaska than in the country as a whole. Second, it is likely that this is particularly true among Alaska Natives. Third, it is likely that the prosecution of stalking is more effective in Alaska than nationally.

Based on NVAWS results, an estimated 2.2 percent of men and 8.1 percent of women in the United States have been stalked at some point in the past (for a total of over two million men and over eight million women). Annual stalking estimates (rather than lifetime estimates) are obviously much lower, with 1.0 percent of women and 0.4 percent of men stalked per year. Nationally, this equates to over one million women and over 370,000 men stalked in a given year. Although we must do so with great caution, we can use these statistics to estimate the prevalence of stalking in Alaska.

Using the annual NVAWS statistics that 1.0 percent of women and 0.4 percent of men are stalked (derived from a sample of 8,000 women and 8,000 men), and assuming that annual rates in Alaska would be similar to annual rates in the U.S., we can estimate that around 2,100 adult women and 900 adult men are stalked in Alaska in a given year (see Table 13). Further NVAWS estimates suggest that nationally 55 percent of female

stalking victims and 48 percent of male stalking victims report to law enforcement. If similar reporting patterns emerged in Alaska, around 1,100 women and over 530 men in Alaska would report a stalking incident in a given year (see Table 14). Alaska's numbers are much lower than those for the rest of the country, something that may be a factor of underreporting by victims or underrecognition by law enforcement.

More accurate estimates of stalking prevalence and reporting patterns will be available only through additional research; nonetheless, even in the absence of this additional research, it is clear that stalking is greatly underreported in Alaska. In 2005, only 17 stalking incidents were reported to the Alaska State Troopers, and statewide from all jurisdictions only 30 stalking cases were referred to the Alaska Department of Law.

The underreporting may be particularly true among Alaska Natives. NVAWS statistics show that "American Indian/Alaska Native women reveal significantly more

stalking victimization than women of other racial and ethnic backgrounds." While 8.2 percent of white women reveal being stalked at some point in their lifetime, 17.0 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native women revealed being stalked at some point in their lifetime. American Indian/Alaska Native women (and men) were the most likely persons to indicate having been stalked at some point in their lifetime—over two times more likely than for whites. This was true for both women and men. (It is important to note that the NVAWS figures do not represent actual reports to law enforcement, but rather self-disclosure of incidents that may or may not have been reported to the police.) By comparison, according to the study, the rates of stalking reported to Alaska State Troopers were 6.6 times higher for white women than for Native women and were 9.1 times higher for White men than for Native men (see Table 15)—rates contradicting national figures. Although these statistical extrapolations are fraught with untested assumptions, it is nonetheless clear that stalking is under-

**Table 13. Annual Estimates of Stalking Incidents in Alaska by Gender (With and Without Anchorage)**

Gender	Alaska (with Anchorage)			Alaska (without Anchorage)		
	Number of adults	Estimated prevalence	95% confidence interval	Number of adults	Estimated prevalence	95% confidence interval
Women	210,104	2,101	1,681 to 2,521	118,645	1,186	949 to 1,424
Men	226,111	904	678 to 1,130	133,158	533	399 to 666
<b>Total</b>	<b>436,215</b>	<b>3,005</b>	<b>2,359 to 3,651</b>	<b>251,803</b>	<b>1,719</b>	<b>1,348 to 2,090</b>

*Source of data:* NVAWS (1998); U.S. Census (2000, SF1)

**Table 14. Annual Estimates of Stalking Reports to Law Enforcement in Alaska by Gender (With and Without Anchorage)**

Gender	Alaska (with Anchorage)			Alaska (without Anchorage)		
	Number of victims	Estimated # of reports	95% confidence interval	Number of victims	Estimated # of reports	95% confidence interval
Women	2,101	1,156	1,071 to 1,240	1,186	652	605 to 700
Men	904	434	371 to 497	533	256	218 to 293
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,005</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>1,442 to 1,737</b>	<b>1,719</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>823 to 993</b>

*Source of data:* NVAWS (1998); U.S. Census (2000, SF1)

**Table 15. Number of Adults and Number of Stalking Reports in Alaska by Gender and Race (Without Anchorage)**

Gender	White			Native		
	Number of adults	Number of reports	Rate of reports per 100,000	Number of adults	Number of reports	Rate of reports per 100,000
Women	150,925	165	109.3	150,925	25	16.6
Men	30,554	18	58.9	30,554	2	6.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>167,513</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>109.2</b>	<b>167,513</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16.1</b>

*Source of data:* U.S. Census (2000, SF1); Alaska State Troopers data (1994-2005)

reported in Alaska, particularly for Alaska Natives.

But, while stalking may be underreported in Alaska, prosecution seems to be somewhat more effective. The Alaska Department of Law secured convictions in the cases accepted more often than occurred nationally: while NVAWS results showed that 54 percent of accepted cases resulted in a conviction, 72 percent of the 51 cases accepted by the Alaska Department of Law between 1999 and 2004 resulted in a conviction.

### **Reporting and Early Intervention**

While we do not have any data on why stalking is so underreported, law enforce-

ment hypothesizes that stalking may be underrecognized by victims. NVAWS statistics show other factors may also come into play. Of the victims that did not report to police, 20 percent believed it was not a police matter, 17 percent believed that police could not help, and 16 percent were afraid of reprisal from the stalker. Of the victims that did report to police, 50 percent were not satisfied with police actions and 46 percent thought that police actions did not improve the situation.

Law enforcement might be trained to capitalize on opportunities for early recognition of stalking patterns. Efforts might also be undertaken to raise public awareness of stalking as a crime and report it as such and to further train law enforcement to recognize

the signs of stalking. This will increase the likelihood that suspects who violate stalking statutes are reported to law enforcement and are appropriately charged.

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