

INTRODUCTION

Nationally, 54% of female homicide victims reported stalking to the police before they were killed by their intimate partner. The **Coordinated Approach to Preventing Stalking (CAPS)** program is an initiative of the NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence, in collaboration with the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and local District Attorney's offices, to increase the identification and reporting of intimate partner stalking cases, enhance both stalking arrests and prosecutions and link victims to critical services. The CAPS model is a homicide prevention program aimed at identifying intimate partner stalking cases and providing appropriate criminal justice and social services interventions before stalking behavior escalates to physical injury, serious physical injury or fatality. As part of the CAPS program, specialized training is conducted for NYPD police officers, members of the District Attorney's office, and community partners to identify stalking behavior, better understand the New York State stalking statutes, recognize the use of technology in a stalking context, engage in risk assessment and safety planning, and work with victims to document and preserve evidence of stalking incidents.

STALKING FACTS

- **While many people think of "stalking" in the context of a stranger or a celebrity, most stalking victims are stalked by someone they know.** Nationally, 61% of female victims and 44% of male victims are stalked by a current or former intimate partner.¹
- **Stalking behavior is often ongoing and frequent.** Nationally, 46% of stalking victims experience at least one unwanted contact per week.² Also, 2/3 of stalkers pursue their victims at least once per week using more than one method.³
- **Stalking is a high risk factor for lethality.** Nationally, 54% of female homicide victims **reported** stalking to the police before they were killed by their stalker and 76% of female homicide victims **experienced** stalking by an intimate partner before they were killed.⁴ Additionally, weapons are used to harm or threaten in 1 out of 5 cases, and intimate partner stalkers frequently approach their victims and their behaviors can escalate quickly.⁵
- **Stalking and physical abuse often co-occur in an intimate partner relationship.** Nationally, 89% of femicide victims who had been physically assaulted also had been stalked in the 12 months before their murder and 79% of abused femicide victims reported being stalked during the same period that they were abused.⁶

¹Matthew J. Breiding et al., "Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization - National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011", *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, Vol. 63, No. 8 (2014)

²Katrina Baum et al., "Stalking Victimization in the United States," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2009).

³Kris Mohandie et al., "The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers," *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 51, no. 1 (2006).]

⁴Judith McFarlane et al., "Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide," *Homicide Studies* 3, no. 4 (1999).

⁵Kris Mohandie et al., "The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers," *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 51, no. 1 (2006).

⁶Judith McFarlane et al., "Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide," *Homicide Studies* 3, no. 4 (1999).