

# A Growing Epidemic: **stalking**

For every 1,000 incidents of stalking, an estimated 287 incidents are reported to law enforcement, 159 police reports are filed, 12 arrests are made, and 1 is convicted. **The other 999 are free to stalk among us.**<sup>1</sup>

## The Staggering Numbers

More than 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men in the U.S. will experience stalking in their lifetime.<sup>2</sup>

**Annual Impact:** Approximately 13.5 million people are stalked every year in the United States.<sup>2</sup>

**The Familiar Face:** 82% of stalking survivors are targeted by someone they know—with 40% being stalked by a current or former intimate partner.<sup>3</sup>

Nearly 20% of female survivors report being monitored through “stalkerware” technology.<sup>2</sup>

**The Digital Shift:** Stalkers now use technology twice as often as traditional “physical” methods to monitor and harass victims.<sup>3</sup>

## The Tech-Enabled Reality

**Social Media Weaponization:** Almost half (46.8%) of female stalking victims receive unwanted contact through social media platforms.<sup>2</sup>

## The Lethality & Impact

85% of attempted and 76% of completed intimate partner femicides were preceded by stalking.<sup>4</sup>

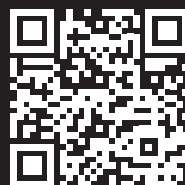
**Substantial Distress:** 69% of stalking victims experience severe emotional distress, including anxiety, insomnia, and social isolation.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Unfollow Me Project, “Home Page,” The Unfollow Me Project, 2022, <https://www.unfollowme.com/>.

<sup>2</sup>Smith, Sharon G. and Basile, Kathleen C. and Kresnow, Marcie-jo “The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey : 2016/2017 Report on Stalking — updated release” (2022)

<sup>3</sup>Morgan, R. E., & Truman, J. L. (2022). Stalking Victimization, 2019. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>4</sup>McFarlane, Judith M., Jacquelyn C. Campbell, Susan Wilt, Carolyn J. Sachs, Yvonne Ulrich, and Xiao Xu. “Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide.” *Homicide Studies* 3, no. 4 (November 1999): 300–316.



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