



**Stalking Victimization
in the Municipality of Anchorage:
Key Results from the
2015 Alaska Victimization Survey**



Among all adult women in the Municipality of Anchorage:

1 in 4

**(more than 30,400)
were stalked in their lifetime**

1 in 18

**(more than 6,100)
were stalked in the past year**

***Among women who experienced intimate partner violence or sexual violence
in their lifetime:***

46%

**(more than 24,400)
were also stalked in their lifetime**

28%

**(more than 2,200)
were also stalked in the past year**

These estimates come from a 2015 survey of adult women in the Municipality of Anchorage.
Source: UAA Justice Center, Alaska Victimization Survey, <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/justice/avs>.

Stalking in Alaska Statutes (AS 11.41.260 and AS 11.41.270)

A person commits the crime of stalking if they knowingly engage in a course of conduct that recklessly places another person in fear of death or physical injury, or in fear of the death or physical injury of a family member. A "course of conduct" means repeated acts of nonconsensual contact involving the victim or a family member. "Nonconsensual contact" means any contact with another person that is initiated or continued without that person's consent, that is beyond the scope of the consent provided by that person, or that is in disregard of that person's expressed desire that the contact be avoided or discontinued. "Nonconsensual contact" includes following or appearing within the sight of that person; approaching or confronting that person in a public place or on private property, appearing at the workplace or residence of that person, entering onto or remaining on property owned, leased, or occupied by that person; contacting that person by telephone, sending mail or electronic communications to that person; and placing an object on, or delivering an object to, property owned, leased, or occupied by that person.

Stalking in Alaska Victimization Survey

Respondents were asked behaviorally specific questions about their lifetime and past-year experiences of stalking. The survey included eight forms of nonconsensual contact. These included times when a perpetrator watched or followed a person from a distance, or spied on a person with a listening device, camera, or global positioning system; approached a person or showed up in places, such as the person's home, workplace, or school when they were not wanted there; left strange and potentially threatening items for a person to find; sneaked into a person's home or car and did things to scare that person by letting them know they had been there; left unwanted messages, including text and voice messages; made unwanted phone calls, including hang-up calls; sent unwanted emails, instant messages, or messages through websites like MySpace or Facebook; left cards, letters, flowers, or presents to a person when they knew that person didn't want them. Respondents experienced stalking if they experienced these nonconsensual contacts multiple times and expressed fear. Respondents were instructed not to include bill collectors, telephone solicitors, or other sales people.

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Lifetime Stalking Victimization of Adult Women in the Municipality of Anchorage

- 27.9% (more than 30,400) have experienced stalking in their lifetime.
- Among lifetime victims of intimate partner violence and sexual violence, 46.4% (more than 24,400) were also stalked in their lifetime.

Past-Year Stalking Victimization of Adult Women in the Municipality of Anchorage

- 5.6% (more than 6,100) have experienced stalking in the past year.
- Among past-year victims of intimate partner violence and sexual violence, 27.7% (more than 2,200) were also stalked in the past year.

Nonconsensual Contacts Experienced by Lifetime Victims

The following table shows the types of nonconsensual contacts experienced by lifetime victims.

Nonconsensual Contacts Experienced by Lifetime Victims	%
Was watched or followed from a distance	64.9%
Was approached at home, work, school	76.5%
Found strange or threatening items	24.8%
Had home or car intruded	39.7%
Received unwanted voice or text messages	77.8%
Received unwanted phone calls	82.8%
Received unwanted emails or messages	56.3%
Received unwanted cards, flowers, or gifts	54.7%

The most common nonconsensual contacts experienced by lifetime victims included receiving unwanted phone calls; receiving unwanted voice or text messages; and being approached at home, work, or school. More than three in four lifetime victims experienced these types of nonconsensual contacts. Among lifetime victims:

- 64.9% were watched or followed from a distance
- 76.5% were approached at home, work, or school
- 24.8% found strange or threatening items
- 39.7% had their home or car intruded
- 77.8% received unwanted voice or text messages
- 82.8% received unwanted phone calls
- 56.3% received unwanted emails or messages
- 54.7% received unwanted cards, flowers, or gifts

Acknowledgments

Respondents were randomly selected by phone (using both land lines and cell phones) from May to August 2015. We sincerely thank the 1,137 adult women in the Municipality of Anchorage who invested time and effort to participate in this victimization survey. They re-lived horrendous experiences, experiences that no one should be subjected to, to help the rest of us understand the extent of stalking in the Municipality of Anchorage. Funding for this project was provided by the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The survey was administered by RTI International. Data were analyzed by the UAA Justice Center.

Important Limitations

The survey excluded non-English speaking women, women without phone access, and women not living in a residence. Estimates may be higher among women excluded from the survey. Estimates may also be conservative because of the continuing stigma of reporting victimization. This survey measured the number of *victims*, not the number of *victimizations*. In addition, not all forms of stalking were measured.