



Descriptive Analysis of Stalking Incidents Reported to Alaska State Troopers: 1994-2005

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Descriptive Analysis of Stalking Incidents Reported to Alaska State Troopers: 1994-2005

Executive Summary

This project examined the characteristics of stalking incidents reported to the Alaska State Troopers. The sample utilized for this analysis included all stalking incidents reported from 1994 to 2005. It included information from 210 reports, 222 charges, 211 suspects, 216 victims, and 246 witnesses. We also examined the legal resolutions for a sub-sample of stalking incidents (those reported from 1999 to 2004). This descriptive analysis documents the characteristics of these reports, charges, suspects, victims, witnesses, and legal resolutions. Key results are summarized below.

Report Characteristics

Within the first four years of anti-stalking legislation in Alaska (1994 to 1997), the number of reports averaged 22 per year ($s = 4$). In subsequent years, the average number of reports dropped significantly to 15 per year ($s = 3$; $p < 0.01$). Three units (Fairbanks AST Enforcement, Plamer AST Enforcement, and Soldotna AST Enforcement) accounted for almost half (49%) of all stalking reports within AST jurisdiction. Over 50% of stalking reports occurred in B and D detachments. Most stalking cases reported to troopers (67%) were closed by arrest. Only 4% of cases were closed as unfounded. On average, it took 43 days to close a case ($s = 62$). Half of the cases were closed within 20 days and 75% were closed within 46 days. Evidence (other than testimony) was available in 65% of cases and was collected in 67% of these cases. The most common forms of evidence available included physical evidence (available in 36% of cases) and electronic evidence (available in 30% of cases). Physical and electronic evidence were also the most likely to be collected, when available. Search warrants were obtained in 13% of cases. Reports rarely included multiple stalking charges, suspects, or victims, but often included multiple witnesses. Of all stalking reports to Alaska State Troopers, 55% included at least one witness and 29% included two or more.

Charge Characteristics

Of the 222 charges, 35% were for stalking in the first degree and 65% were for stalking in the second degree, 55% were between current or former intimate partners (i.e., boyfriends, girlfriends, or spouses) and 45% were between strangers, friends, and acquaintances, 21% involved alcohol use and 79% did not, and 2% involved drug use while 98% did not. 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). The primary locations for stalking behaviors included the victim's house (for 45% of charges), cyberspace (for 27% of charges), and public roads and parking lots (for 10% of charges). All but two charges (99%) were reported to troopers within one month (and over half were reported on the same day as the last stalking incident).

Suspect Characteristics

Few suspects (7%) were strangers. Most suspects (93%) were known by the victim and the identity of the suspect was almost always known (98%). Most suspects (98%) were male and most (78%) were White. On average, suspects were 36 years old ($s = 12$), with 55% between 21 and 40 years of age. One in five suspects (20%) had used alcohol, but only 1% had used drugs. Over half of suspects (58%) were present upon trooper arrival. Overall, 60% of suspects were interviewed, with 94% interviewed within one month of the report. Most suspect interviews (87%) were internally consistent and most (73%) included an admission of guilt, but few (21%) included a confession. Half of suspects (54%) currently were or had been in a romantic relationship with the victim, most often as an ex-boyfriend or current spouse. Over half (55%) of the victim-suspect relationships had ended prior to the stalking and 58% had ended prior to the report. Most suspects were charged with only one stalking charge, but most suspects (55%) also had at least one non-stalking charge (for a total of 267 non-stalking charges). The most common non-stalking charges included assault, violating a protective order, and harassment. While stalking the victim, 20% of suspects violated a protective order, 9% violated their conditions of release, and 9% violated conditions of probation. Overall, 30% of suspects violated at least one of these orders or conditions. In addition, 22% of suspects had a prior arrest for stalking, assaulting, or harassing the victim. More specifically, 12% of suspects had a prior arrest for stalking the victim, 8% had a prior arrest for assaulting the victim, and 5% had a prior arrest for harassing the victim.

Victim Characteristics

Most victims (89%) were female and most (86%) were White. On average, victims were 33 years old ($s = 12$), with 55% between 21 and 40 years of age. Very few victims (2%) had used alcohol and only victim had used drugs. Most victims (79%) reported the stalking to law enforcement themselves and most victims (70%) did not consult anyone before making the report. Most reports (93%) were made directly to an Alaska State Trooper. The majority of victims (95%) were present upon trooper arrival and 95% of victims were interviewed. On average, victims were interviewed 1.5 days after making the report ($s = 8$), with 81% of victims interviewed on the same day the report was made. Most victims (90%) continued to cooperate with the investigation after

the report was made. Most victims (99%) provided internally consistent interviews and (not surprisingly) most (60%) provided interviews that contradicted the suspect's interview. The most common way victims expressed to suspects that their contact was nonconsensual was to contact law enforcement prior to the stalking report (by 74% of victims). Prior contacts with law enforcement included, for example, reports of harassment made prior to the stalking report. Other methods included ending their relationships with the suspects (by 46% of victims) and verbally informing suspects that their contact was nonconsensual (by 35% of victims). Victims often utilized two or more methods.

Witness Characteristics

Of the 246 witnesses included in the 210 stalking reports, 93% were interviewed. Most witnesses (97%) were cooperative with the investigation. Most (79%) offered eyewitness testimony, while 18% offered corroborative evidence. Of all witnesses, 50% were male and 50% were female, 86% were White, and 43% were between 20 and 39 years of age (while 16% were less than 20 years of age and 3% were less than 10). Very few witnesses (1%) had used alcohol and none had used drugs. Most witnesses knew both the suspect and the victim. The most common relationships between witnesses and suspects included friends (reported by 55% of witnesses) and other family (reported by 33%). The most common relationships between witnesses and victims also included friends (reported by 51% of witnesses) and other family (reported by 29%). The vast majority of witnesses (99%) provided internally consistent interviews. Most witness interviews (91%) were consistent with victim interviews and most (94%) were consistent with interviews of other witnesses. However, only 44% of witness interviews were consistent with suspect interviews.

Legal Resolutions

Legal resolutions were obtained from the Alaska Department of Law for a subsample of the stalking cases (only those reported from 1999 to 2004, $N = 92$). Of these 92 stalking reports, 75% were referred for prosecution, 55% were accepted for prosecution, and 40% resulted in a conviction. 74% of referred cases were accepted and 73% of accepted cases resulted in a conviction. At first glance, convictions seem more likely in Alaska than they are elsewhere.

Stalking Prevalence and Reporting

Although exact estimates are not available, all evidence currently suggests that stalking incidents are greatly under-reported and that the extent of under-reporting is greater in Alaska than it is elsewhere. It is therefore safe to conclude that awareness of stalking legislation should be increased. To do so, we should enhance public awareness of stalking as a crime and should train law enforcement to recognize the signs of stalking. Because many victims had prior contacts with law enforcement, this presents a unique opportunity for intervention and law enforcement should be trained to capitalize on these opportunities.

Descriptive Analysis of Stalking Incidents Reported to Alaska State Troopers: 1994-2005

This report provides an overview of the characteristics of stalking incidents reported to Alaska State Troopers from 1994 to 2005. Little is currently known about stalking, particularly in the State of Alaska. This report provides the first overview of stalking in the State of Alaska. This report also briefly describes the likelihood that stalking cases will be referred for prosecution, will be accepted by prosecutors, and will result in a conviction. We begin this report by providing a brief description of what is currently known about stalking as well as a brief overview of stalking laws in the State of Alaska. We then discuss the purpose of this study and its methodology. Results are then presented in five sections. These sections present report characteristics, charge characteristics, suspect information, victim information, and witness information. After presenting report, charge, suspect, victim, and witness characteristics, we conclude this report by examining three legal resolutions: whether cases were referred for prosecution, whether cases were accepted for prosecution, and whether cases resulted in a conviction.

Brief Overview of Stalking

Generally speaking, stalking can be defined as “a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear” (Stalking Resource Center, National Center for Victims of Crime). As defined in the National Violence Against Women Survey (NVAWS¹), stalking “refers to harassing or threatening behavior that an individual engages in repeatedly, such as following a person, appearing at a person’s home or place of business, making harassing phone calls, leaving written messages or objects, or vandalizing a person’s property.” Few statistics on stalking are kept at local, state, or national levels. It is therefore difficult to know how Alaska might compare to the rest of the United States. Current knowledge of stalking is based on the NVAWS and several smaller (and less representative) studies of stalkers and of stalking on college campuses. Although the NVAWS is a nationally representative victimization survey, results are fairly limited in depth, cannot be disaggregated by state, are often based on extremely small samples, and do not represent Alaska very well. With those caveats aside, it does provide a description of stalking in the United States.

Based on survey results, it is estimated that 2.2% of men and 8.1% of women in the United States have been stalked at some point in the past. Using these estimates, over two million men and over eight million women in the United States have been stalked at some point in the past. Annual stalking estimates (rather than lifetime estimates) are obviously much lower. Nonetheless, it is estimated that over one million women and over 370,000 men in the United States are stalked per year. Relative to other annual victimization risks, “women are three times more likely to be stalked than raped, but they are two times more likely to be physically assaulted than stalked.” Again, some caution is warranted when interpreting these statistics. Approximately 80 women in the sample reported being stalked within the last year and less than 25 reported being raped.

Stalking victims tended to be young females. More precisely, 78% of stalking victims were female and 52% were 18 to 29 years of age (74% were 18 to 39 years of age). In addition, American Indian and Alaska Native women were more likely to be stalked than other women.

Most stalkers (87%) were men and most were not strangers. Female victims were more likely stalked by intimate partners than male victims (intimate partners included “current or former spouses, current or former cohabitants (of the same or opposite sex), or current or former boyfriends or girlfriends”). On the other hand, male victims were more likely stalked by acquaintances and strangers than female victims (but women were still at a greater risk of being stalked by a stranger than men). Of female victims stalked by intimate partners, 81% were also physically assaulted and 31% were also sexually assaulted. Perpetrators stalked their victims primarily to control them, to maintain a relationship, and to scare them. Almost half of victims were overtly threatened by stalkers (43% of male victims and 45% of female victims).

Slightly more than half of stalking incidents (53%) were reported to police, with females being significantly more likely to report than males. Of the victims that did not report to police, 20% believed it was not a police matter, 17% did not believe that police could help, 16% were afraid of reprisal from the stalker, and 12% handled it themselves.

¹ Tjaden, P., and Thoennes, N. (1998). Stalking in America: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.

Of the victims that did report police, 50% were satisfied with police actions, 54% thought police actions improved the situation, and 51% thought police did everything they could. Only 12% of all stalking incidents (both reported and not reported to police) were prosecuted. Of those prosecuted, 54% led to a conviction. Stalking victims were not likely to obtain protective orders (only 24% did) but perpetrators were likely to violate these orders (70% did).

The consequences of stalking extend far beyond the arrest and prosecution of perpetrators. While victims were stalked, 22% of victims took extra precautions, 18% enlisted help from family and friends, 17% got a gun, 11% changed their address, and 11% moved their residence. After the stalking ended, 68% of victims thought their personal safety had gotten worse, 42% were very concerned about their personal safety, 30% were very concerned about being stalked, and 45% carried something to defend themselves. Psychological counseling was sought by 30% of female victims and 20% of male victims.

Other studies have shown clear links between stalking and intimate partner homicide among female victims². For example, 76% of female intimate partner homicide victims had been stalked by their intimate partner in the past. Furthermore, 89% of female intimate partner homicide victims that were physically abused in the past had also been stalked by their intimate partner in the past. Of all female intimate partner homicide victims, 54% had previously contacted police to report they were being stalked. This is undoubtedly an important intervention point and we hope that the information presented herein can be useful to develop these interventions.

² McFarlane, J. M., Campbell, J. C., Wilt, S., Sachs, C. J., Ulrich, Y., and Xu, X. (1999). Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide. *Homicide Studies*, 3(4):300-316.

Stalking Legislation in Alaska

Stalking did not become a crime in Alaska until May 28, 1993. As defined by Alaska Statutes (§11.41.260 and §11.41.270), “a person commits the crime of stalking [...] if the person engages 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 critical element of these statutes is that stalking is not a single incident but is instead a “course of conduct.” A course of conduct requires “repeated acts of nonconsensual contact.” These repeated acts must be nonconsensual. Nonconsensual contact is any contact “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.” More specifically, nonconsensual contact with another person 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.” Finally, these repeated nonconsensual acts must instill fear of death or physical injury. In the absence of a course of nonconsensual conduct, fear of imminent physical injury may also be punishable as an assault in the fourth degree. As defined by Alaska Statute §11.41.230, “a person commits the crime of assault in the fourth degree if [...] by words or other conduct that person recklessly places another person in fear of imminent physical injury.”

Stalking in the second degree, as described above, is a class A misdemeanor. Class A misdemeanors are the most serious misdemeanors and are punishable by a fine of \$10,000 and one year of imprisonment.

Stalking in the first degree is a form of stalking that must include at least one aggravator. These aggravators include violating a protective order, violating conditions of release (probation, bail, or parole), victimizing a person less than 16 years of age, possessing a deadly weapon, having a previous similar conviction, or having a previous conviction involving the same victim. Stalking in the first degree is punishable as a class C felony. Class C felonies are the least serious felonies and are punishable by a fine of \$50,000 and five years of imprisonment.

Purpose of this Study

Data from all stalking incidents reported to Alaska State Troopers from 1994 to 2005 were collected for two primary reasons. The first was to gather descriptive information about the characteristics of stalking incidents in Alaska and to create a report that summarizes this new information. This is the first examination of stalking in Alaska. As such, this report provides an important overview of a specific crime whose characteristics are not known outside of the justice community. This report provides an overview of report, charge, suspect, victim, and witness characteristics. By obtaining a greater understanding of stalking, we will be better prepared to simultaneously hold offenders accountable while reducing overall rates of stalking in the State of Alaska.

A second goal was to examine how investigative strategies facilitate the prosecution of stalking offenders. As part of this second goal, we will examine which current investigative strategies enhance the likelihood that cases will be referred to the Alaska Department of Law for prosecution, the likelihood that cases will be accepted by the Alaska Department of Law, and the likelihood that the Alaska Department of Law will secure a conviction. As part of this second goal, we will also examine the extent to which investigative strategies not currently used may facilitate these outcomes. This second goal will be achieved in a subsequent report.

In this first report, we focus on our first goal to describe stalking incidents. We now describe the data collection procedures and then present results.

Methodology

Our population of cases included all cases with a stalking charge reported to Alaska State Troopers from 1994 to 2005. This population included 267 cases. From these 267 cases, we sampled all cases that were closed by referral, closed by arrest, closed declined, closed by investigation, or closed as unfounded (thereby excluding 51 cases that were closed logged and one case that was still open). Closed logged cases were reported as stalking cases, but no report was ever generated because the investigating trooper determined that no criminal violation had occurred. Our sample therefore included 215 (80%) of the 267 stalking cases. From our sample of 215 cases, we successfully collected data from 210 cases (98%). Two cases could not be located and three did not actually have a stalking charge. Our final sample therefore included 210 cases with a stalking charge, reported to Troopers from 1994 to 2005, that were closed by referral, closed by arrest, closed declined, closed by investigation, or closed as unfounded. The original population included 267 cases. We sampled 215 (80%) of these 267 cases. We collected 210 cases (98% of sampled cases, or 79% of cases in the original population). All data collection occurred on-site at the Alaska State Troopers Headquarters in Anchorage.

These 210 reports included information on 222 charges, 211 suspects, 216 victims, and 246 witnesses. An extensive array of information was collected to describe reports, charges, suspects, victims, and witnesses (see Appendix A for data collection instrument).

Report information includes geographic information (detachment and unit identification), month and year of report, case closure codes, time from report to case closure, and characteristics of the investigation. Characteristics of the investigation include whether physical evidence was available and collected, whether trace or latent evidence was available and collected, whether electronic data were available and recovered, whether photographs of the scene could have been taken and were taken, and whether different types of search warrants were obtained. Types of search warrants include warrants for victims' phone records, for suspects' phone records, for victims' electronic records, for suspects' electronic records, for scene entry, and glass warrants. Finally, report information includes the total number of charges, suspects, victims, and witnesses in each case and whether witnesses were interviewed.

Charge information includes charge severity (statute), time elapsed from stalking incident to report, and whether each charge involved current or former intimate partners, involved alcohol use, and involved drug use. Charge information also includes a detailed inventory of 30 different stalking behaviors. These include whether the suspect followed the victim, sent unsolicited mail, made unsolicited phone calls, sent unsolicited electronic mail, sent unsolicited text messages, tried to communicate in other ways, photographed the victim without permission, abused or threatened to harm the victim's pets, physically assaulted the victim (or threatened to do so), sexually assaulted the victim (or threatened to do so), harassed the victim's children (or threatened them), harassed the victim's family and friends, vandalized the victim's home, car, or other property, stood outside the victim's home, school, or work, left unwanted items for the victim, sent the victim presents, opened the victim's mail, filed false police reports or reports with children services, contacted the victim's employer, installed spyware on the victim's computer,

installed or used global positioning systems on the victim's car, and relocated to follow the victim. Finally, charge information includes the primary stalking location (cyberspace, victim's house, other residence, work / school, public places, and roads / parking lots).

Suspect information includes demographic information (gender, race, and age), whether the suspect identity was known, information about the suspect's use of drugs and alcohol, whether suspects were interviewed, the amount of time from report to suspect interview, whether their interviews were recorded, whether suspect interviews were internally consistent, whether suspects admitted guilt, whether suspects confessed, the nature of the relationship between the suspect and the victim, whether that relationship had ended prior to the stalking or prior to the report, and detailed information about the suspect's charges. This information includes the total number of charges per suspects, the total number of stalking charges per suspect, the total number of non-stalking charges per suspect, and the presence of several key aggravating factors for the stalking charges. These include whether the suspect violated a protective order, violated conditions of release, violated conditions of probation, and whether the suspect had a prior arrest for stalking the victim, assaulting the victim, or harassing the victim.

Victim information includes demographic information (gender, race, and age), the total number of stalking charges associated with each victim, information about reporting (who the victim consulted prior to reporting, who reported the stalking to law enforcement, and which law enforcement agency was first notified), victim use of drugs and alcohol, victim intoxication, whether the victim was present upon trooper arrival, whether victims were interviewed, when victims were interviewed, whether victims continued to cooperate with the investigation, and whether victim interviews were recorded, internally consistent, and consistent with suspect interviews. Additionally, victim information includes an 11-item inventory of how victims expressed to suspects that their contact was nonconsensual. These 11 forms of expression include verbally, in writing, verbally by another person, ignoring the suspect, changing contact information, moving residence, ending the relationship, previously contacting law enforcement, refusing to answer the door, changing routine activities, and contacting an attorney.

Witness information includes the number of witnesses per case, whether witnesses were interviewed, the number of interviews conducted with each witness, whether their interviews were recorded, demographic characteristics of witnesses (gender, race, and age), drug and alcohol use by witnesses, what witnesses had to offer, whether witnesses cooperated, relationships between witnesses and suspects, relationships between witnesses and victims, whether witness statements were internally consistent, whether witness statements were consistent with the suspect's, whether witness statements were consistent with the victim's, and whether witness statements were consistent with those of other witnesses.

All outcome data were gathered directly from the Alaska Department of Law, and only for a sub-sample of the stalking cases (only those reported from 1999 to 2004, $N = 92$). Each case was tracked by case number to determine if it had been referred to the Alaska Department of Law for prosecution, if the Alaska Department of Law had accepted the case for prosecution, and if the case resulted in a conviction. Searches through the Alaska Department of Law records were limited to stalking reports from 1999 to 2004 (final $N = 92$) because earlier records ($N = 101$) were not electronically

available and cases from 2005 ($N = 17$) were not yet closed by prosecutors at the time of data collection. Outcome data were therefore collected only for a sub-sample (92 or 44%) of the 210 cases.

This project was approved by the University of Alaska Anchorage Institutional Review Board and utilized a Privacy Certificate issued by the National Institute of Justice. All stalking reports from 1994 to 2005 were photocopied by the Alaska State Troopers and were mailed to the Anchorage office. Research assistants then read each report and entered information directly onto a Microsoft Access database (again, see Appendix A for data collection instrument). We now describe the results of this collaborative investigation. We begin by describing report characteristics and then describe charge, suspect, victim, and witness characteristics.

Report Characteristics

A total of 210 reports were examined. These 210 reports generated 222 stalking charges. Two hundred reports included one stalking charge, eight included two, and two included three. The month and year of each report is summarized in the following tables and graph.

Table 1. Year of Report

Column Percentages

Year	Reports	
	N	%
1994	19	9.0 %
1995	21	10.0
1996	28	13.3
1997	21	10.0
1998	12	5.7
1999	15	7.1
2000	19	9.0
2001	11	5.2
2002	17	8.1
2003	16	7.6
2004	14	6.7
2005	17	8.1
Total	210	

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Within the first four years (1994 to 1997), the number of reports averaged 22.3 per year ($s = 3.9$; result not shown). In subsequent years, the average number of reports dropped significantly to 15.1 per year ($s = 2.7$; $p < 0.01$, result not shown).

Table 2. Month of Report

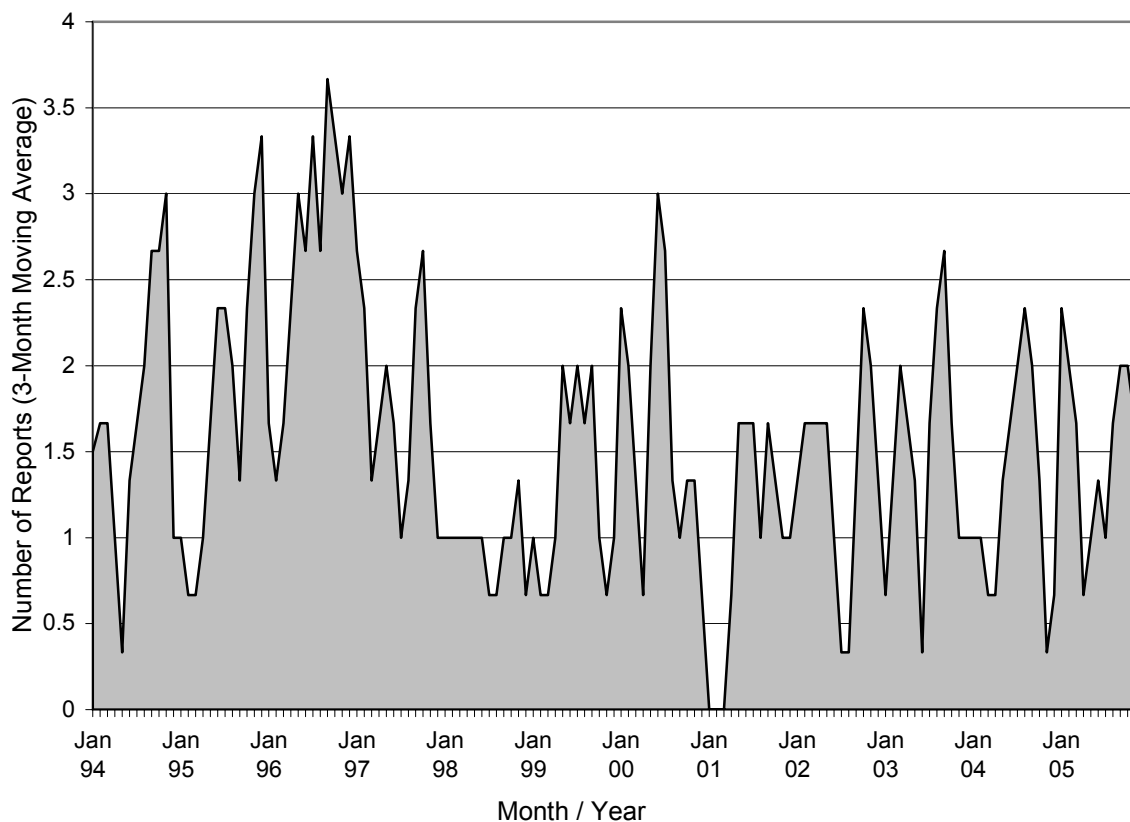
Column Percentages

Year	Reports	
	N	%
January	17	8.1 %
February	19	9.0
March	11	5.2
April	12	5.7
May	18	8.6
June	24	11.4
July	15	7.1
August	18	8.6
September	20	9.5
October	25	11.9
November	18	8.6
December	13	6.2
Total	210	

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

June and October were the most common months for reporting (23% of reports were made in those two months). The trend of reporting over time, from January 1994 to December 2005, is shown in the following graph, using a three-month moving average.

Figure 1. Number of Reports by Month and Year (3-Month Moving Average)



Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Detachment information was available for 208 of the 210 reports. These results, and more detailed results (by unit), are shown in the following tables. Over 50% of stalking reports occurred in B and D detachments.

Table 3. Total Number of Reports by Detachment

Column Percentages

Detachment	Reports	
	N	%
A	18	8.7 %
B	56	26.9
C	33	15.9
D	59	28.4
E	38	18.3
I	4	1.9
Total	208	

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Table 4. Total Number of Reports by Unit*Column Percentages*

Unit		Reports	
		N	%
ANCE	Anchorage AST Enforcement	7	3.3 %
ANIE	Aniak AST Enforcement	1	0.5
BETE	Bethel AST Enforcement	7	3.3
BLKE	Big Lake AST Enforcement	1	0.5
COOE	Cooper Landing AST Enforcement	1	0.5
CAIU	ABI Child Abuse Investigation Unit	1	0.5
CANE	Cantwell AST Enforcement	3	1.4
CIBM	ABI Cold Case Investigations	1	0.5
COLE	Cordova ABWE	1	0.5
DELE	Delta Junction AST Enforcement	7	3.3
FAIE	Fairbanks AST Enforcement	40	19.0
FAI	Fairbanks AST Investigations	4	1.9
GALE	Galena AST Enforcement	2	1.0
GIRE	Girdwood AST Enforcement	3	1.4
GLEE	Glennallen AST Enforcement	6	2.9
HEAE	Healy AST Enforcement	1	0.5
HOME	Homer AST Enforcement	7	3.3
JUNE	Juneau AST Enforcement	1	0.5
KETE	Ketchikan AST Enforcement	7	3.3
KETI	Ketchikan AST Investigations	1	0.5
KLAE	Klawock AST Enforcement	9	4.3
KODE	Kodiak AST Enforcement	9	4.3
KOTE	Kotzebue AST Enforcement	6	2.9
NINE	Ninilchik AST Enforcement	1	0.5
NOME	Nome AST Enforcement	2	1.0
NOMV	Nome V.P.S.O.	1	0.5
NOTE	Northway AST Enforcement	1	0.5
PALD	Mat-Su Regional Office	1	0.5
PALE	Palmer AST Enforcement	37	17.6
PALI	Palmer AST Investigations	5	2.4
SEWE	Seward AST Enforcement	4	1.9
SOLE	Soldotna AST Enforcement	25	11.9
STME	St. Marys AST Enforcement	2	1.0
TALE	Talkeetna AST Enforcement	3	1.4
TOKE	Tok AST Enforcement	1	0.5
UNLE	Unalakleet AST Enforcement	1	0.5
Total		210	

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

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 (with 12% of reports). Together, these three units had 49% of all stalking reports. The location of Alaska State Trooper posts is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Alaska State Trooper Posts



Source: Alaska Justice Forum 21(4:5), Winter 2005

Most cases were closed by arrest. As the following table shows, 67% of cases were closed by arrest. Only 3% of cases were closed declined and only 4% of cases were closed unfounded. Others were either closed with a referral to another agency (10%) or closed after investigation (16%).

Table 5. Case Closure Codes

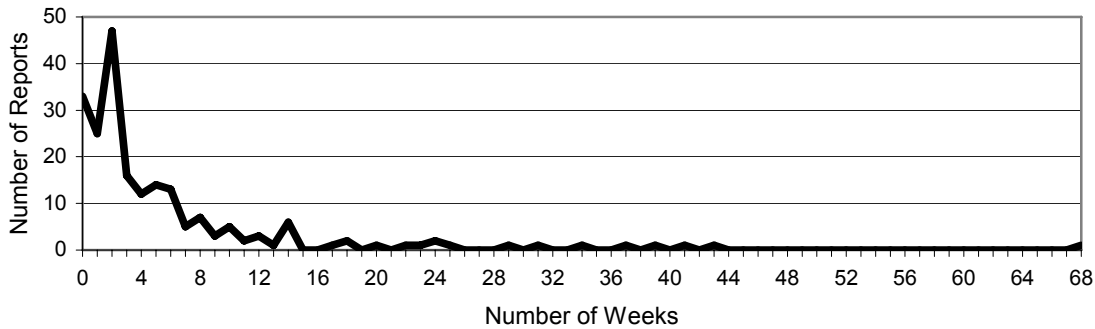
Column Percentages

Closure Code		Reports	
		N	%
CA	Closed by arrest	140	66.7 %
CD	Closed, declined	6	2.9
CI	Closed by investigation	34	16.2
CR	Closed, referred	22	10.5
CU	Closed, unfounded	8	3.8
Total		210	

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

On average, it took 43.0 days to close a case ($s = 61.8$, result not shown). More specifically, 25% of cases were closed within 11 days, 50% were closed within 20 days, and 75% were closed within 46 days (results not shown). The number of weeks from report to case closure is shown in the following graph.

Figure 3. Number of Weeks from Report to Case Closure



Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Each report was read to examine the availability and collection of evidence. More specifically, we examined each report to document the availability of physical evidence, trace or latent evidence, and electronic data. We also examined whether photographs of the scene could have been taken. If evidence was available (and if photographs could have been taken), we then determined whether physical evidence had been removed from the scene, whether trace or latent evidence had been collected, whether electronic data had been recovered, and whether photographs of the scene had been taken. These results are summarized in the following table.

Table 6. Availability and Collection of Evidence

Row Percentages

Evidence	Available?				Total	Collected, if available?				Total
	No		Yes			No		Yes		
	N	%	N	%		N	%	N	%	
Physical	133	63.6 %	76	36.4 %	209	29	38.2 %	47	61.8 %	76
Trace / latent	181	86.6	28	13.4	209	23	82.1	5	17.9	28
Electronic Data	146	70.2	62	29.8	208	20	32.3	42	67.7	62
Photographs	157	75.1	52	24.9	209	25	48.1	27	51.9	52

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Overall, some evidence (physical, trace/latent, electronic, or photographic) was available in 65% of cases and evidence was collected in 67% of these cases (results not shown). Physical evidence was available in 36% of cases and was successfully recovered in 62% of these cases. Similarly, electronic data were available in 30% of cases and were successfully recovered in 68% of these cases. The opportunity to take photographs was generally not available (only in 25% of cases). When the opportunity was available, photographs were taken in 52% of cases. Finally, trace or latent evidence was rarely

available and was rarely collected when available. Only 13% of cases had such evidence to collect. When it was available, it was only collected in 18% of cases.

Search warrants were obtained in 13% of cases (result not shown). The following table describes the different types of warrants obtained. The most common warrants were glass warrants (obtained in 9% of cases), followed by warrants for the victim's phone records (obtained in 3% of cases) and warrants for scene entry (obtained in 2% of cases). It may be important to emphasize that warrants are not always necessary to collect evidence (see Table 6). For example, warrants would not be required if suspects voluntarily consented to the search or if victims provided the evidence.

Table 7. Search Warrants

Row Percentages

Warrants	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Victim's phone records	204	97.1 %	6	2.9 %	210
Suspect's phone records	209	99.5	1	0.5	210
Victim's electronic records	210	100.0	0	0.0	210
Suspect's electronic records	210	100.0	0	0.0	210
Scene Entry	206	98.1	4	1.9	210
Glass	192	91.4	18	8.6	210
Other	209	99.5	1	0.5	210

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Stalking reports sometimes included multiple stalking charges, multiple suspects, multiple victims, and often included multiple witnesses. In the following sections, we describe the number of stalking charges, suspects, victims, and witnesses per report. From the 210 stalking reports, we gathered information from 222 stalking charges. On average, each report included 1.1 stalking charges ($s = 0.3$, result not shown). More specifically, 200 reports included one stalking charge, eight reports included two, and two reports included three (for a total of 222). From the 210 stalking reports included in our sample, we gathered information from 211 suspects. One report included two suspects. All other reports ($N = 209$) included a sole suspect. From the 210 stalking reports included in our sample, we gathered information from 216 victims. Most reports ($N = 204$) included a sole victim and six reports included two. The total number of stalking charges, suspects, and victims per report is summarized in the following table.

Table 8. Total Number of Stalking Charges, Suspects, and Victims per Report

Column Percentages

Number	Stalking Charges		Suspects		Victims	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
One	200	95.2	209	99.5	204	97.1
Two	8	3.8	1	0.5	6	2.9
Three	2	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	210		210		210	

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

The total number of witnesses per report is shown in the following table. On average, each report included 1.2 witnesses ($s = 1.6$; result not shown). Of all stalking reports to Alaska State Troopers, 45% had no witnesses, 26% had one witness, 15% had two witnesses, and 14% had three or more witnesses. Overall, 55% of reports included at least one witness.

Table 9. Total Number of Witnesses per Report

Column Percentages

Number	Reports	
	N	%
Zero	95	45.2 %
One	54	25.7
Two	31	14.8
Three	9	4.3
Four	13	6.2
Five	4	1.9
Six	1	0.5
Seven	0	0.0
Eight	2	1.0
Nine	1	0.5
Total	210	

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Most reports with witnesses included at least one witness interview. Only four reports with witnesses did not include at least one witness interview. The total number of witness interviews per report is shown in the following table.

Table 10. Total Number of Witness Interviews per Report

Column Percentages

Number	Reports	
	N	%
Zero	99	47.1 %
One	55	26.2
Two	29	13.8
Three	10	4.8
Four	10	4.8
Five	3	1.4
Six	1	0.5
Seven	1	0.5
Eight	1	0.5
Nine	1	0.5
Total	210	

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Charge Characteristics

As stated earlier, we gathered information on 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). Of the 222 stalking charges, 122 (55%) were between current or former intimate partners (i.e., boyfriends, girlfriends, or spouses). The other 100 (45%) were between strangers, friends, and acquaintances. Additional details on victim-suspect relationships are provided in following section on suspect characteristics. Overall, 21% of charges involved alcohol use and 2% involved drug use (additional details are provided in the following sections on suspect and victim characteristics).

Thirty different forms of stalking behavior were examined, for each stalking charge. These forms of stalking behavior are shown in the following table.

Table 11. Stalking Behaviors

Row Percentages

Behaviors	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Followed victim	132	60.6 %	86	39.4 %	218
Sent victim unsolicited mail	189	85.1	33	14.9	222
Made unsolicited phone calls to victim	110	49.5	112	50.5	222
Sent victim unsolicited electronic mail	215	96.8	7	3.2	222
Sent victim unsolicited text messages	222	100.0	0	0.0	222
Tried to communicate in other ways	162	73.0	60	27.0	222
Photographed victim without permission	216	98.6	3	1.4	219
Abused victim's pets	218	98.6	3	1.4	221
Threatened to harm victim's pets	222	100.0	0	0.0	222
Physically assaulted victim	180	81.1	42	18.9	222
Threatened to physically assault victim	140	64.2	78	35.8	218
Sexually assaulted victim	209	94.1	13	5.9	222
Threatened to sexually assault victim	214	96.4	8	3.6	222
Harassed victim's children	208	94.1	13	5.9	221
Threatened victim's children	207	94.1	13	5.9	220
Harassed victim's family and friends	160	72.1	62	27.9	222
Vandalized victim's home	193	87.3	28	12.7	221
Vandalized victim's car	206	93.6	14	6.4	220
Vandalized other property	211	95.0	11	5.0	222
Stood outside / visited victim's home	102	45.9	120	54.1	222
Stood outside / visited victim's work	176	80.0	44	20.0	220
Left unwanted items for victim	219	98.6	3	1.4	222
Sent victim presents	202	91.0	20	9.0	222
Opened victim's mail	221	99.5	1	0.5	222
Filed false police reports against victim	221	99.5	1	0.5	222
Contacted victim's employer	218	98.2	4	1.8	222
Contacted or filed report with children services	221	99.5	1	0.5	222
Installed spyware on victim's computer	220	99.1	2	0.9	222
Installed / utilized GPS on victim's car	221	100.0	0	0.0	221
Relocated residence to follow victim	212	95.5	10	4.5	222

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Overall, at least one of these forms of stalking behavior was found in 99% of all charges (in all but two; result not shown). The average number of stalking behaviors

found per charge was 3.6 ($s = 2.1$; result not shown). 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).

Table 12. Primary Location for Stalking Behavior

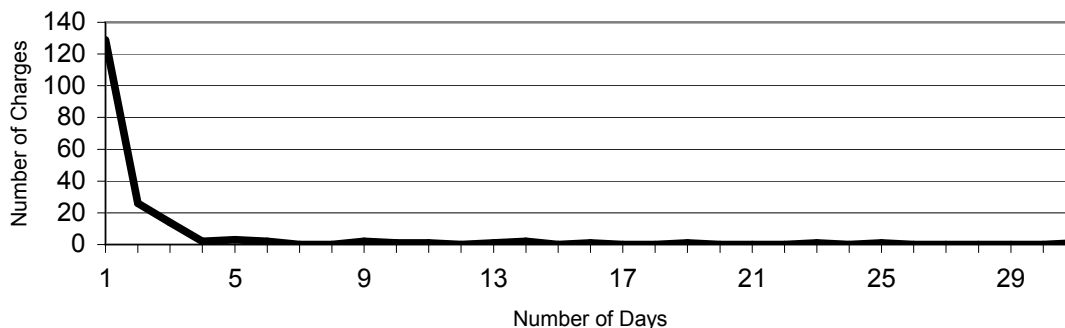
Column Percentages

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
Total	222	

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Not surprisingly given the most prevalent forms of stalking behaviors just reported, the primary location for stalking behavior was most often the victim's house. More precisely, 45% of the primary locations for stalking behaviors were the victim's house. Cyberspace was also a common location for stalking behavior, with 27% of charges occurring primarily in cyberspace. An additional 10% of charges occurred primarily on public roads and parking lots.

Figure 4. Number of Days from Last Incident to Report, for Reports Made Within One Month



Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Most stalking charges were reported to troopers very quickly. Only four (2%) of charges were not reported to troopers within one month. The number of days from the

last stalking incident to the report (for reports made within one month) is shown in the previous graph. Among these reports made within one month, the average number of days from the last stalking incident to the report was 1.4 days ($s = 4.1$, result not shown). Over half of reports made within one month (67%) were made on the same day as the last stalking incident (and again, 98% of reports were made within one month).

Suspect Characteristics

From the 210 stalking reports included in our sample, we gathered information from 211 suspects. One report included two suspects. A description of these 211 suspects is now provided. The majority (98%) of suspect identities were known. Only five (2%) of suspects were not known by the victim. Demographic information about known suspects includes their gender, race, and age. Gender was known for 206 (98%) of the 211 suspects. Most ($N = 187$; 91%) were male. Only 19 (9%) were female. The majority of suspects (78%) were White, and 20% were Native.

Table 13. Race of Suspects

Column Percentages

Race	Suspects	
	N	%
White	160	78.0 %
Native	42	20.5
Black	3	1.5
Other	0	0.0
Total	205	

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

On average, suspects were 35.7 years old ($s = 11.55$; result not shown). More precisely, 13% of suspects were less than 21 years old, 18% were 21 to 30 years old, 37% were 31 to 40 years old, 23% were 41 to 50 years old, 6% were 51 to 60 years old, and 2% were 61 years of age or older.

Table 14. Age of Suspects

Column Percentages

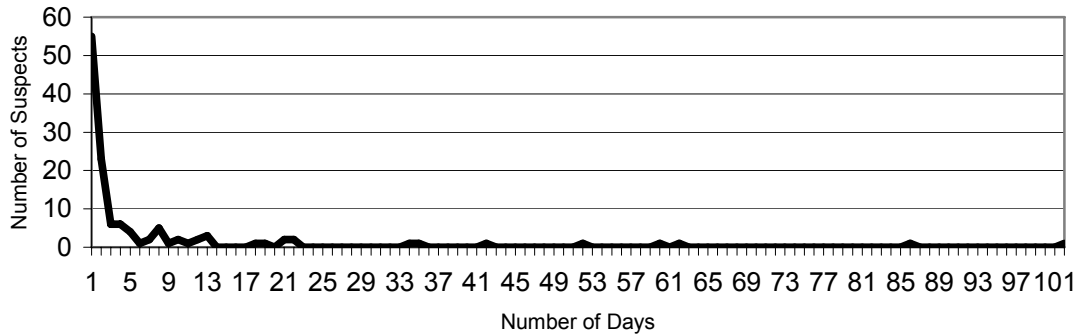
Age	Suspects	
	N	%
11 to 20	27	13.2 %
21 to 30	38	18.5
31 to 40	75	36.6
41 to 50	47	22.9
51 to 60	13	6.3
61 or over	5	2.4
Total	205	

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

One in five suspects (20%) had used alcohol, but only 1% had used drugs. One in five suspects (20%) were also described by troopers as being alcohol or drug intoxicated. Over half of suspects (58%) were present upon trooper arrival. Overall, 60% of suspects were interviewed. Of those interviewed, 63% were recorded. The number of days from report to suspect interview are shown in the following graph; 44% of suspects were interviewed on the same day the report was made, 82% were interviewed within one

week, and 94% were interviewed within one month. On average, suspects were interviewed 6.4 days after the report was made ($s = 15.5$).

Figure 5. Number of Days from Report to Suspect Interview, for Suspects that Were Interviewed



Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Suspect interviews were coded to examine the proportion of interviews that were internally consistent, the proportion of interviews that led to an admission of guilt, and the proportion of interviews that led to a confession. These results are shown in the following table.

Table 15. Characteristics of Suspect Interviews

Row Percentages

Characteristic	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Internally consistent	16	12.7 %	110	87.3 %	126
Admission of guilt	34	27.0	92	73.0	126
Confession	99	78.6	27	21.4	126

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

As results show, most suspect interviews (67%) were internally consistent and most (73%) included an admission of guilt. However, fewer (21%) included a confession by the suspect.

This section discusses the relationship between the suspect and the victim. More specifically, we examine the nature of the suspect-victim relationship, whether the victim and suspect lived together, whether the relationship between the suspect and victim had ended prior to the stalking, and whether it ended prior to the report.

Relatively few suspects (7%) were strangers. Most (93%) were known by the victim. Half (54%) currently were or had been in a romantic relationship with the victim, most often as an ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend (29%) or current spouse (15%). In addition, 35% 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% ended by the time the stalking was reported to law enforcement (these statistics were not calculated for strangers or family members).

Table 16. Relationship Between Suspects and Victims*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
Total	200		

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Most suspects were charged with only one stalking charge. However, seven suspects (3%) were charged with two and two suspects (1%) were charged with three, for a total of 222 stalking charges.

Table 17. Number of Stalking Charges per Suspect*Column Percentages*

Number of Stalking Charges	Suspects		
	N	%	cum. %
One	202	95.7 %	95.7 %
Two	7	3.3	99.1
Three	2	0.9	100.0
Total	211		

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Most suspects were not solely charged with a stalking charge. Stalking charges were often accompanied by other charges.

Table 18. Number of Total, Stalking, and Non-Stalking Charges per Suspect*Column Percentages*

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

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

The previous table provides complete detail on the total number of charges per suspect, the total number of stalking charges per suspect (as shown previously), and the total of non-stalking charges per suspect. On average, suspects had a total of 2.32 charges ($s = 2.43$), including an average of 1.05 stalking charges ($s = 0.26$) and an average of 1.27 other charges ($s = 2.40$).

Most suspects ($N = 117$; 55%) had a non-stalking charge in addition to their stalking charge(s). The total number of additional non-stalking charges (across suspects) was 267. The 210 reports included in this examination therefore produced a grand total of 489 charges (222 stalking charges and 267 non-stalking charges). The 267 additional non-stalking charges are shown in the following table. The most common additional non-stalking charges included assault, violating a protective order, and harassment. Among others, less common additional non-stalking charges included criminal trespass, burglary, criminal mischief, violating conditions of release, sexual assault and sexual abuse, misconduct involving controlled substances, misconduct involving weapons, driving offenses, theft, reckless endangerment, coercion, and kidnapping.

Table 19. Additional Non-Stalking Charges

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
Total	267	

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Additional information was captured to more specifically examine the presence of aggravating factors and the extent of criminal activity by the suspect against the stalking victim. The following table describes whether the suspect had a protective order with the victim, violated conditions of release, violated conditions of probation, had a prior arrest for stalking the victim, had a prior arrest for assaulting the victim, and had a prior arrest for harassing the victim.

Table 20. Aggravating Factors*Row Percentages*

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

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

The most common aggravating factors included violating protective orders and prior arrests for stalking the victim, present for 20% and 12% of suspects respectively. Overall, 38% of suspects had at least one aggravating factor (result not shown). More precisely, 17% of suspects had one aggravating factor, 14% had two, and 6% had three or more (results not shown). More specifically, 20% of suspects violated a protective order while stalking their victim, 9% violated their conditions of release, and 9% violated their conditions of probation. Overall, 30% of suspects violated at least one of these orders or conditions (result not shown).

In addition, 22.2% of suspects had a prior arrest for stalking, assaulting, or harassing the victim (result not shown). More specifically, 12% of suspects had a prior arrest for stalking the victim, 8% had a prior arrest for assaulting the victim, and 5% had a prior arrest for harassing the victim. To be considered aggravating factors (by statute), these prior arrests must have led to convictions.

Table 21. Stalking Charge Severity by Additional Non-Stalking Charges*Row Percentages*

Additional Non-Stalking Charges	Stalking I		Stalking II		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Assault	27	45.0 %	33	55.0 %	60
Violating protective order	52	92.9	4	7.1	56
Harassment	10	32.3	21	67.7	31
Criminal trespass	7	30.4	16	69.6	23
Burglary	7	46.7	8	53.3	15
Criminal mischief	4	26.7	11	73.3	15
Violating conditions of release	9	90.0	1	10.0	10
Sexual assault / abuse	4	40.0	6	60.0	10
Other public administration offense	8	80.0	2	20.0	10
Other	1	14.3	6	85.7	7
Misconduct involving controlled substance	1	16.7	5	83.3	6
Misconduct involving weapon	5	100.0	0	0.0	5
Driving offense	4	80.0	1	20.0	5
Theft	0	0.0	4	100.0	4
Reckless endangerment	0	0.0	4	100.0	4
Coercion	4	100.0	0	0.0	4
Kidnapping	2	100.0	0	0.0	2

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Some of these additional non-stalking charges and aggravating factors should have led troopers to charge suspects with stalking in the first degree as opposed to stalking in the second degree. As previously described, stalking should be charged in the first degree if suspects violated a protective order, violated conditions of release, or possessed a deadly weapon (among others). Table 21 examines stalking charge severity by additional non-stalking charges while Table 22 examines stalking charge severity by aggravating factors.

Results in the previous table show that of the 56 suspects charged with violating a protective order, 52 (93%) were charged with stalking in the first degree. Of the 10 suspects charged with violating conditions of release, nine (90%) were charged with stalking in the first degree. Of the five suspects charged with misconduct involving a deadly weapon, all were charged with stalking in the first degree. Additional detail (by aggravating factors rather than by additional charges) is shown in the following table (the difference is that not all aggravating factors led to an official charge).

Table 22. Stalking Charge Severity by Aggravating Factors

Row Percentages

Aggravating Factor	Stalking I		Stalking II		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Violated protective order	32	80.0 %	8	20.0 %	40
Violated conditions of release	19	100.0	0	0.0	19
Violated conditions of probation	14	73.7	5	26.3	19
Had prior arrest for stalking victim	20	83.3	4	16.7	24
Had prior arrest for assaulting victim	11	68.8	5	31.3	16
Had prior arrest for harassing victim	7	70.0	3	30.0	10

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Of the 40 suspects that violated a protective order, 32 (80%) were charged with stalking in the first degree while eight (20%) were charged with stalking in the second degree. Of the 19 suspects that violated their conditions of release, all (100%) were charged with stalking in the first degree. Of the 19 suspects that violated conditions of probation, 14 (74%) were charged with stalking in the first degree. Although most suspects with prior arrests for stalking, assaulting, or harassing the victim were charged with stalking in the first degree (63%, 69%, and 70% respectively), it is unknown whether these prior arrests led to convictions. Charging a suspect with stalking in the first degree would require a prior conviction for these offenses rather than just a prior arrest.

Victim Characteristics

From the 222 stalking charges included in our sample, we gathered information from 216 victims; 211 were victims of one stalking incident, four were victims of two, and one was a victim of three. Demographic characteristics of victims included gender, race, and age. In terms of gender, 89% of victims were female and 11% were male. The racial breakdown of victims is shown in the following table. As with suspects, the majority of victims (86%) were White. Fewer victims (13%) were Native.

Table 23. Race of Victims

Column Percentages

Race	Victims	
	N	%
White	183	85.9 %
Native	27	12.7
Black	2	0.9
Other	1	0.5
Total	213	

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

On average, victims were 32.7 years old ($s = 11.8$; result not shown), three years younger than suspects. More precisely, 20% of victims were less than 21 years old, 22% were 21 to 30 years old, 33% were 31 to 40 years old, 19% were 41 to 50 years old, 3% were 51 to 60 years old, and 3% were 61 years of age or older.

Table 24. Age of Victims

Column Percentages

Age	Victims	
	N	%
11 to 20	43	20.1 %
21 to 30	47	22.0
31 to 40	70	32.7
41 to 50	41	19.2
51 to 60	6	2.8
61 or over	7	3.3
Total	214	

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Very few victims (2%) had used alcohol and only one victim (0.5%) had used drugs. Only three victims (1%) were described as intoxicated by alcohol or drugs. As shown in the following tables, most victims did not consult anyone before reporting and most reports to law enforcement were made by victims themselves. More specifically, 70% of victims did not consult anyone before reporting. Of those who did consult someone, 31% consulted a parent, 23% consulted a romantic partner, 17% consulted a

friend, 14% consulted another family member, 9% consulted a co-worker, and 6% consulted a professional (e.g., probation officer, victim advocate).

Table 25. Who Victim Consulted Prior to Reporting

Column Percentages

Consulted with	N	Victims	
		%	% of another
Nobody	150	69.8 %	
Romantic partner	15	7.0	23.1 %
Parent	20	9.3	30.8
Other family	9	4.2	13.8
Friend	11	5.1	16.9
Co-worker	6	2.8	9.2
Professional	4	1.9	6.2
Total	215		

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

As stated earlier, most victims (79%) reported the stalking incident to law enforcement themselves. When someone else made the report, it was again most likely to be a parent. When victimizations were reported by another, 36% were reported by parents, 18% by friends, 11% by co-workers, 11% by professionals, 9% by romantic partners, 7% by other family members, 4% by suspects, and 2% by neighbors.

Table 26. Who Reported Stalking Incident to Law Enforcement

Column Percentages

Who reported	N	Victims	
		%	% of another
Victim	171	79.5 %	
Romantic partner	4	1.9	9.1 %
Parent	16	7.4	36.4
Other family	3	1.4	6.8
Friend	8	3.7	18.2
Co-worker	5	2.3	11.4
Professional	5	2.3	11.4
Neighbor	1	0.5	2.3
Suspect	2	0.9	4.5
Total	215		

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Most victims (93%) reported directly to the Alaska State Troopers, but some reported first to a local police department, a village police officer, or a village public safety officer.

The majority of victims (95%) were present upon trooper arrival and 95% of victims were interviewed. Most victims (67%) were interviewed only once, but many (29%) were interviewed two or more times. Of those interviewed, 54% were recorded.

Table 27. Agency First Notified*Column Percentages*

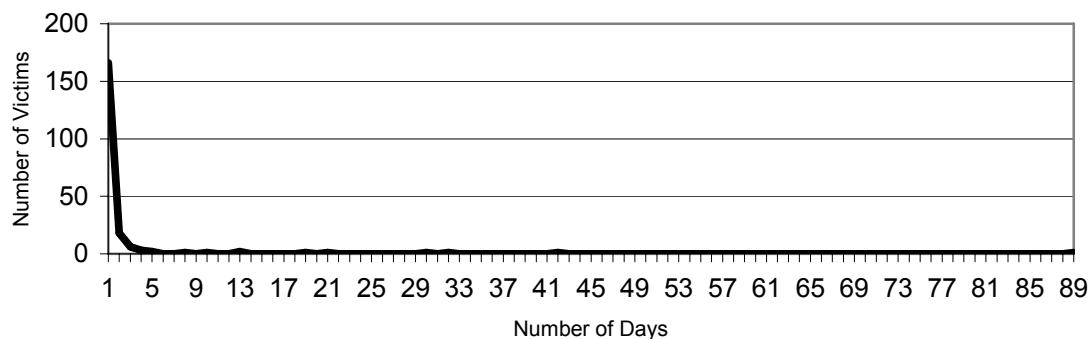
Agency	Victims	
	N	%
AST	200	92.6 %
Local PD	5	2.3
VPO	5	2.3
VPSO	6	2.8
Total	216	

*Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)***Table 28. Number of Interviews with Victim***Column Percentages*

Number of interviews	Victims	
	N	%
Zero	10	4.6 %
One	144	66.7
Two or more	62	28.7
Total	216	

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

The number of days from report to victim interview is shown in the following graph. Not surprisingly given the large number of victims present upon trooper arrival, most victims were interviewed on the same day the report was made (reports and interviews may have occurred telephonically). More specifically, 81% of victims were interviewed on the same day the report was made. On average, victim interviews occurred 1.5 days after the report was made ($s = 7.7$). Most victims (90%) continued to cooperate with the investigation after the report was made.

Figure 6. Number of Days from Report to Victim Interview, for Victims that Were Interviewed*Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)*

Victim interviews were coded to examine the proportion of interviews that were internally consistent and the proportion of interviews that were consistent with the

suspect's interview. These results are shown in the following table. Most victims (99%) provided internally consistent interviews and most victim interviews (60%) contradicted the suspect's interview.

Table 29. Characteristics of Victim Interviews

Row Percentages

Characteristic	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Internally consistent	202	98.5 %	3	1.5 %	205
Consistent with suspect's	74	60.2	49	39.8	123

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

The following table examines how victims expressed to the suspects that their contact was nonconsensual (67% of victims lived in the same city, town, or village as the suspect). It is important to emphasize that victims are not required to express directly to suspects that their contact is nonconsensual (e.g., in stranger cases). Nonetheless, the state will have to prove that contact was nonconsensual and the following methods will be useful to do so. Overall, 93% of victims utilized at least one of the following methods (result not shown). On average, victims utilized 2.5 of the following methods ($s = 1.5$; result not shown).

Table 30. How Victims Expressed Contact was Nonconsensual

Row Percentages

Factors	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Verbally	138	64.8 %	75	35.2 %	213
In writing	208	97.7	5	2.3	213
Verbally, by another person	171	79.5	44	20.5	215
Ignoring suspect	159	75.0	53	25.0	212
Changing contact information	205	95.8	9	4.2	214
Moving residence	192	89.7	22	10.3	214
Ending relationship	114	54.0	97	46.0	211
Prior contacts with law enforcement	56	25.9	160	74.1	216
Refusing to answer door	189	87.9	26	12.1	215
Changing routine activities	178	84.0	34	16.0	212
Contacting an attorney	208	96.7	7	3.3	215

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

The most common way victims expressed to suspects that their contact was nonconsensual was to contact law enforcement prior to the stalking report (by 74% of victims). Prior contacts with law enforcement include, for example, reports of harassment made prior to the stalking report. Other common ways victims expressed to suspects that their contact was nonconsensual included ending their relationships with the suspects (by 46% of victims) and verbally informing suspects that their contact was nonconsensual (by 35% of victims). Other forms included ignoring suspects, having

another person verbally inform suspects that their contact was nonconsensual, changing routine activities, refusing to answer the door, and changing residence.

Witness Characteristics

From the 222 stalking charges included in our sample, we gathered information from 246 witnesses. Of the 246 witnesses, 228 (93%) were interviewed. The number of interviews conducted with each witness is shown in the following table. Eighteen witnesses (7%) were not interviewed, 213 (87%) were interviewed once, and 15 (6%) were interviewed two or more times. Slightly less than half of witness interviews (46%) were recorded.

Table 31. Total Number of Interviews per Witness

Column Percentages

Number	Witnesses	
	N	%
Zero	18	7.3 %
One	213	86.6
Two or more	15	6.1
Total	246	

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Most witnesses (97%) were cooperative with the investigation. As shown in the following table, most witnesses (79%) offered eyewitness testimony, while 18% offered corroborative evidence.

Table 32. Type of Witness

Column Percentages

Type	Witnesses	
	N	%
Eyewitness	194	78.9 %
Corroborative	45	18.3
Other	7	2.8
Total	246	

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Demographic characteristics of witnesses include gender, race, and age. Of the 246 witnesses, 50% were male and 50% were female.

Most witnesses (86%) were White, while 9% were Native and 2% were Black. In terms of age, results show that 3% of witnesses were less than 10 years old, 13% were 10 to 19 years old, 15% were 20 to 29 years old, 29% were 30 to 39 years old, 26% were 40 to 49 years old, 11% were 50 to 59 years old, and 2% were 60 years of age or older.

Table 33. Race of Witnesses*Column Percentages*

Race	Witnesses	
	N	%
White	211	88.7 %
Native	22	9.2
Black	5	2.1
Other	0	0.0
Total	238	

*Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)***Table 34. Age of Witnesses***Column Percentages*

Age	Witnesses	
	N	%
Less than 10	8	3.3 %
10 to 19	31	12.9
20 to 29	35	14.6
30 to 39	70	29.2
40 to 49	63	26.3
50 to 59	27	11.3
60 or over	6	2.5
Total	240	

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

Very few witnesses (1%) had used alcohol and none (0%) had used drugs. Most witnesses knew both the suspect and the victim. Witness relationships with suspects and victims are shown in the following table.

Table 35. Witness Relationships with Suspects and Victims*Column Percentages*

Witness Relationship	Suspect			Victim		
	N	%	% of non-stranger	N	%	% of non-stranger
Stranger	0	0.0 %		20	8.3 %	
Current spouse	1	0.4	0.4 %	5	2.1	2.3 %
Ex-spouse	2	0.9	0.9	1	0.4	0.5
Current boy/girlfriend	2	0.9	0.9	13	5.4	5.9
Ex-boy/girlfriend	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Other family	76	32.6	32.6	63	26.3	28.6
Friends	129	55.4	55.4	113	47.1	51.4
Other	23	9.9	9.9	25	10.4	11.4
Total	233			240		

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

All of the witnesses knew the suspect but 8% of witnesses did not know the victim. The most common relationships between witnesses and suspects included friends (reported by 55% of witnesses) and other family (reported by 33% of witnesses). The most common “other family” relationship was cousin (reported by 75% of witnesses; result not shown). Similarly, the most common relationships between witnesses and victims included friends (reported by 51% of witnesses) and other family (reported by 29% of witnesses). Other family relationships primarily included parents, siblings, and children (results not shown).

All witness interviews were coded to determine whether they were internally consistent, consistent with victim interviews, consistent with suspect interviews, and consistent with interviews of other witnesses (when applicable). These results are shown in the following table.

Table 36. Characteristics of Witness Interviews

Row Percentages

Characteristic	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Internally consistent	3	1.3 %	224	98.7 %	227
Consistent with suspect	80	55.9	63	44.1	143
Consistent with victim	19	8.6	202	91.4	221
Consistent with other witnesses	10	5.8	163	94.2	173

Source of data: AST data (1994-2005)

The vast majority of witnesses (99%) provided internally consistent interviews. In addition, most witness interviews (91%) were consistent with victim interviews and most (94%) were consistent with interviews of other witnesses. However, only 44% of witness interviews were consistent with suspect interviews. Undoubtedly, suspects were not as truthful as victims and witnesses.

Legal Resolutions

Legal resolutions were collected only for a sub-sample of the stalking incidents (only those reported from 1999 to 2004). Searches through the Alaska Department of Law records were limited to stalking reports from 1999 to 2004 (final $N = 92$) because earlier records ($N = 101$) were not electronically available and cases from 2005 ($N = 17$) were not yet closed by prosecutors at the time of data collection. Case outcomes were therefore collected for only 92 (44%) of the 210 cases. These outcomes, for the 92 reports from 1999 to 2004, are summarized in the following table.

Table 37. Case Outcomes by Stage

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)

Of the 92 stalking reports from 1999 to 2004, 75% were referred to the Alaska Department of Law for prosecution. Once referred for prosecution, cases had a high likelihood of getting accepted (74%) and once accepted, cases had a high likelihood of resulting in a conviction (73%). Overall, 75% of reported cases were referred, 55% were accepted, and 40% resulted in a conviction. At first glance, the odds of legal resolutions in Alaska seem greater than national statistics indicate. For instance, national statistics from the NVAWS indicate that 54% of accepted cases led to a conviction (versus 72% of those in Alaska).

Future analyses will examine the factors that increase the likelihood of troopers referring a case to the Alaska Department of Law for prosecution, the likelihood of the Alaska Department of Law to accept a case for prosecution, and the likelihood of gaining a conviction.

Stalking Prevalence and Reporting

It is very clear that the number of stalking reports in Alaska is very low. Using the annual NVAWS estimates that 1.0% of women and 0.4% of men are stalked (in 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 2,101 adult women and 904 adult men are stalked in Alaska every year. Details are shown in the following table.

Table 38. Annual Estimates of Stalking Incidents 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
Total	436,215	3,005	2,359 to 3,651	251,803	1,719	1,348 to 2,090

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

Of course, these estimates should be interpreted with great caution. In particular, it may be quite unreasonable to assume that annual rates in the U.S. would be comparable to annual rates in Alaska. In addition, the jurisdiction of the Alaska State Troopers does not encompass all of Alaska, with or without Anchorage. Nonetheless, these estimates clearly suggest that stalking is likely to be far more common than reflected in this report.

Further NVAWS estimates reveal that 55% of female stalking victims and 48% of male stalking victims report to law enforcement. Assuming that these estimates are valid in Alaska, the following table shows the number of reports that would be expected on an annual basis. Again, these estimates should be interpreted with great caution. Nonetheless, these estimates clearly suggest that stalking incidents are under-reported to law enforcement to a greater extent here in Alaska than they are elsewhere.

Table 39. Annual Estimates of Stalking Reports to Law Enforcement by Gender (With and Without Anchorage)

Gender	Alaska (with Anchorage)			Alaska (without Anchorage)		
	Estimated # of victims	Estimated # of reports	95% Confidence Interval	Estimated # 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
Total	3,005	1,590	1,442 to 1,737	1,719	908	823 to 993

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

Ultimately, accurate estimates of stalking prevalence and reporting to law enforcement will only be available with additional research. In the meantime, all available evidence suggests that stalking incidents are greatly under-reported to law enforcement and that the extent of under-reporting is greater in Alaska than it is elsewhere.

It is therefore safe to conclude that awareness of stalking legislation should be increased. To do so, additional efforts should be made to enhance public awareness of stalking. This will increase the likelihood that victims will recognize stalking as a crime and report it to law enforcement. In addition, efforts should be made to train law enforcement to recognize the signs of stalking. This will increase the likelihood that suspects who violate our stalking statutes are appropriately charged.

This is particularly important (and justified) by a key fact uncovered in this descriptive research. Many stalking victims had previously contacted law enforcement to report other crimes (such as harassment) or to seek protective orders. This provides law enforcement a unique opportunity to intervene, to make sure that potential victims recognize stalking as a crime. As results showed, 74% of victims had contacted law enforcement prior to the stalking report as a way to inform suspects that their contact was nonconsensual. In addition, 38% of suspects violated a protective order, violated conditions of release, violated conditions of probation, had a prior arrest for stalking the victim, had a prior arrest for assaulting the victim, or had a prior arrest for harassing the victim. Again, these prior contacts with law enforcement present unique opportunities for intervention and law enforcement should be trained to capitalize on these opportunities.

Appendix A – Data Collection Instrument

Microsoft Access - [frm_caseinfo : Form]

File Edit View Insert Format Records Tools Window Help Adobe PDF

Type a question for help

Tahoma 8 B I U

Case Info

Case Number: Entered by: Date entered: Time entered:

Detachment: Unit ID: PermID: Date reported: Time Reported:

Activity Code: Statute/Regulation: Type of Activity:

Date of Assault: Time of Assault: Location of Activity:

Patrol Zone: UCR Number: Alcohol or Drugs Involved:

Case closure: Date Closed: Domestic Violence:

Note who is involved with current charge- Suspect #: Victim #: Witness #:

Brief synopsis of report:

Total number of suspects for case: Total number of charges for case:

Total number of victims for case:

Total number of witnesses for case: Number of witnesses interviewed:

Notes:

[Go To Suspect Info](#)

* Please enter exact times whenever available. If unknown, pick from following estimates:
6am to noon, noon to 3pm, 3pm to 6pm, 6pm to 9pm, 9pm to midnight, or midnight to 6am.

Data Entry Personnel CAPS NUM

Microsoft Access - [frm_susdemo : Form]

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Type a question for help

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Suspect Info

Case Number:

Is suspect identity reported?

Suspect role code: Suspect ethnicity:

Suspect gender: Other ethnicity:

Suspect birthday: Suspect occupation:

Suspect residence [village, town, city]:

Did suspect have a DVPO for current victim at time of assault?

Did suspect violate any conditions of release with current charges?

Did suspect violate any conditions of probation with current charges?

Did suspect have a restraining order for current victim?

Did suspect have prior stalking arrest against current victim?

Did suspect have prior arrest for assaulting current victim?

Did suspect have prior arrest for harassing current victim?

How many charges does this suspect have?

Other suspect notes:

Did suspect drink any alcohol? Did suspect use any drugs?

If yes, what kind (homebrew, vodka, etc.)? If yes, what drug(s) (marijuana, RX, etc.)?

What was the suspect's condition at time of assault?

Other (describe):

Go to Case Info

Go To Victim Info (1/2)

Case Number NUM

Microsoft Access - [frm_vic : Form]

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Type a question for help

Tahoma 8 B I U

Victim Info

Case Number:

Victim role code:

Victim gender:

Victim birthday:

Victim residence [village, town, city]:

Victim ethnicity:

Other ethnicity:

Victim occupation:

Did victim drink any alcohol?

If yes, with suspect?

If yes, what kind (homebrew, vodka, etc.)?

What was the victim's condition at time of assault?

Other condition:

Did victim use any drugs?

If yes, with suspect?

If yes, what drug(s) (marijuana, RX, etc.)?

Other victim notes:

Case Number NUM

Microsoft Access - [frm_svrelation : Form]

File Edit View Insert Format Records Tools Window Help Adobe PDF

Type a question for help

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Suspect-Victim Relationship

Case Number:

Nature of victim-suspect relationship when stalking first started?

Other (describe):

Status of victim-suspect relationship when stalking first started:

Other (describe):

Suspect and victim living arrangement when stalking first started:

What was the length of the their relationship when assault occurred?

*If they are blood relatives use the age of whoever is the youngest for length.

Status of victim-suspect relationship at time of report:

Other (describe):

Please note anything else you feel is important about the victim-suspect relationship:

Go to Victim Info (1/2) Go To Witness

Case Number NUM

Microsoft Access - [frm_witness : Form]

File Edit View Insert Format Records Tools Window Help Adobe PDF

Type a question for help

Tahoma 9 B I U

Witness Info

Case Number:

What info does this witness offer the investigation?

Other (describe):

Witness role code: Witness ethnicity:

Witness gender: Other ethnicity:

Witness birthday: Witness occupation:

Witness residence [village, town, city]:

Did witness drink any alcohol? Did witness use any drugs?

If yes, with who? If yes, with who?

If yes, what kind (homebrew, vodka, etc.)? If yes, what drug(s) (marijuana, RX, etc.)?

Other witness notes:

Case Number NUM

Microsoft Access - [frm_wsvrelationship : Form]

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Type a question for help

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Witness Relationships

Case Number:

Nature of witness-victim relationship when stalking began?

Other (describe):

Did the status of the witness-victim relationship change from the time stalking began to when the report was made?

If yes, how did the status of the relationship change?

Other (describe):

Please note anything else you feel is important about the witness and victim relationship:

Nature of witness-suspect relationship when stalking began?

Other (describe):

Did the status of the witness-victim relationship change from the time stalking began to when the report was made?

If yes, how did the status of the relationship change?

Other (describe):

Please note anything else you feel is important about the witness and suspect relationship:

Case Number NUM

Microsoft Access - [frm_vic2 : Form]

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Type a question for help

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Victim Info (2/2)

Case Number:

Did the victim communicate in any of the following ways to the suspect that contact was not desired?

Verbally (either in person or over the phone):

Written (includes e-mail):

Had friend/family/significant other tell suspect:

Ignored all contact by suspect (ex. never returning phone calls or e-mails):

Changed phone number or e-mail address:

Moved residence (town, city, village, state):

Ended relationship (includes friendships) with suspect:

Contact law enforcement (ex. filed harrasment charges):

Refused to answer door if suspect came to victim's home (told them to leave):

Changed routine (ex. driving/shopping/workouts) to avoid contact with suspect:

Contacted an attorney:

Other (describe):

Case Number NUM

Microsoft Access - [frm_stalk : Form]

File Edit View Insert Format Records Tools Window Help Adobe PDF

Type a question for help

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Stalking Info

Case Number:

Primary location of stalking: Second stalking location:

Third stalking location: Other (describe):

Did the suspect engage in any of the following behaviors:

Followed victim?	<input type="text"/>	Abused victim's pet(s)?	<input type="text"/>
Sent victim unsolicited letters/other written material?	<input type="text"/>	Threatened to harm victim's pet(s)?	<input type="text"/>
Made unsolicited phone calls to victim?	<input type="text"/>	Physically assaulted victim?	<input type="text"/>
Sent victim unsolicited e-mails or instant messages?	<input type="text"/>	Threatened to physically assault victim?	<input type="text"/>
Sent victim unsolicited text messages?	<input type="text"/>	Sexually assaulted victim?	<input type="text"/>
Tried to communicate in other ways against the victim's will?	<input type="text"/>	Threaten to sexually assault victim?	<input type="text"/>
Photographed victim without their permission?	<input type="text"/>	Harassed victim's children?	<input type="text"/>
Left unwanted item(s) for victim to find?	<input type="text"/>	Threaten victim's children?	<input type="text"/>
Sent victim presents (cards, flowers, etc.)?	<input type="text"/>	Harrassed family/friends/co-workers?	<input type="text"/>
Opened victim's mail without permission?	<input type="text"/>	Vandalized victim's home?	<input type="text"/>
Relocate residence to follow victim?	<input type="text"/>	Vandalized victim's car?	<input type="text"/>
Contact or file a report with Office of Child Services (OCS)?	<input type="text"/>	Vandalized other property?	<input type="text"/>
Install spyware on victim's computer to record keystrokes?	<input type="text"/>	Stood outside/visited victim's home?	<input type="text"/>
Install/utilize GPS on victim's vehicle?	<input type="text"/>	Stood outside/visited work or school?	<input type="text"/>
Contacted victim's employer?	<input type="text"/>	Filed false police report against victim?	<input type="text"/>

Other stalking behaviors:

Go to Victim Info (2/2)

Go to Report

Case Number NUM

Microsoft Access - [frm_report : Form]

File Edit View Insert Format Records Tools Window Help Adobe PDF

Type a question for help

Tahoma 9 B I U

Report Info

Case Number:

Who did the victim consult before reporting?

Other (describe):

Who reported the incident?

Other (describe):

What agency was notified or responded first?

Other (describe):

Case Number NUM

Microsoft Access - [frm_investigation : Form]

File Edit View Insert Format Records Tools Window Help Adobe PDF

Type a question for help

Tahoma 9 B I U

Investigation

Case Number

Was physical evidence removed from the scene(s)? What physical evidence was collected (if none, explain why)?

Was trace/latent evidence collected at the scene? What trace/latent evidence was collected (if none, explain why)?

If applicable, was electronic data (computer, cell phone, voice mail, etc.) reco

What electronic evidence was collected (if none, explain why)?

Were any other types of evidence collected?

What other evidence was collected (if yes, explain what was taken)?

Were photographs taken of the scene?

If no, explain why:

Search warrant/records obtained by police:

Search warrant/records (2):

Search warrant/records (3):

Search warrant/records (4):

Search warrant/records (5):

Other (describe):

Case Number NUM

Microsoft Access - [frm_susint : Form]

File Edit View Insert Format Records Tools Window Help Adobe PDF

Type a question for help

Tahoma 9 B I U

Suspect Interview

Case Number:

Was suspect present upon trooper arrival?

Was suspect interviewed?

If not, explain:

Date of suspect interview: Time of suspect interview:

Was suspect interview tape recorded?

If not, explain:

Was suspect's interview internally consistent?

Did suspect make admissions of guilt during investigation?

Did suspect give a full confession during investigation?

Notes on suspect interview(s):

Case Number NUM

Microsoft Access - [frm_wint : Form]

File Edit View Insert Format Records Tools Window Help Adobe PDF

Type a question for help

Tahoma 9 B I U

Witness Interview

Case Number:

Was witness located and interviewed?

If not, explain:

Date of witness interview: Time of witness interview:

Was witness interviewed multiple times or only once?

Was witness witness tape recorded?

If not, explain:

Was witness story internally consistent (if multiple interview, was it consistent across interviews)?

Was witness story consistent with suspect?

Was witness story consistent with victim?

Was witness story consistent with other witnesses?

Notes on consistency of witness account(s):

Did witness refuse to cooperate in any way?

Notes on consistency of witness account(s):

Case Number NUM