

IPV Stalking and Misuse of Technology

Presentation by:
Angel Campbell

Today's Agenda Overview

- Describe how IPV and stalking intersect
- Compare and contrast different technology sources and how they can be used to stalk.
- Discuss safety plan considerations for stalking survivors
- Comprehend the media's representation of stalking and the consequences it has on stalking survivors



Meet the Presenter!



Angel Campbell - **(She/They)** is the Training and Technical Assistant Specialist for the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence. Ms. Campbell is responsible for coordinating MNADV's five-day comprehensive training and was instrumental in transitioning the training to a virtual format during the pandemic. They are a subject matter expert and have presented in the areas of Teen Dating Violence, Power and Control Dynamics, Allyship, Stalking, and Technology at the local, regional, state, and national levels. Prior to joining MNADV, Angel worked as a Felony Sexual Assault Legal Advocate and a Crisis Intervention Counselor in Michigan. They obtained their Bachelor's in Psychology at Eastern Michigan University and are passionate about supporting survivors, especially youth. After surviving both teen dating violence and later sexual assault, Angel has shared her story at educational institutions and with advocates and other allied professionals to raise awareness of intimate partner violence between youth and the barriers many face to seeking support.

Trigger Warning!!!



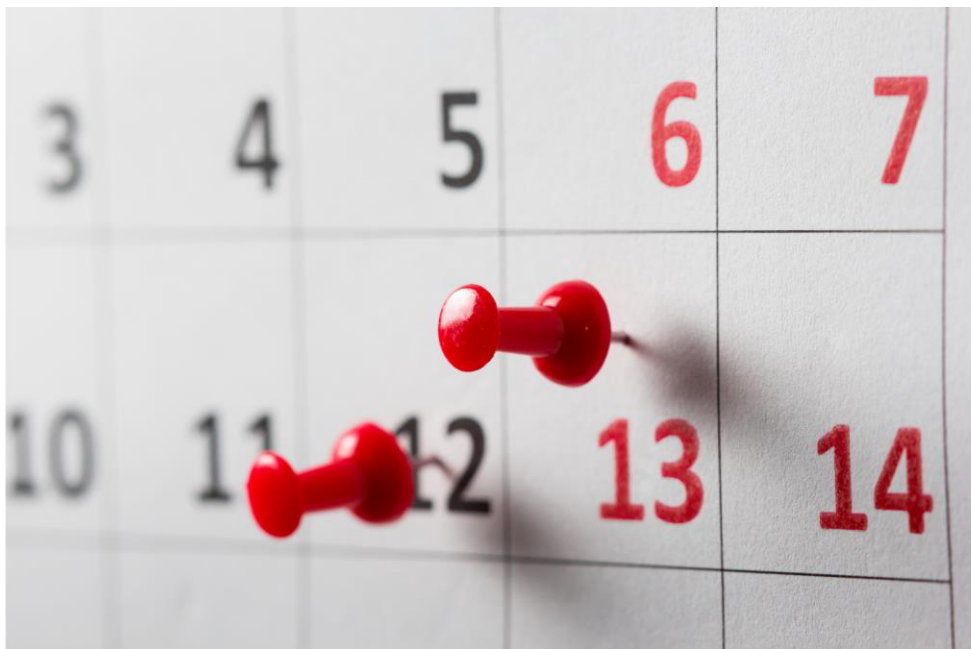
Today we will be discussing stalking and misuse of technology. This presentation will include survivor stories and videos. If you feel triggered at any point of this presentation please take care of yourself! The chat monitor is available if anyone needs to talk.

Menti – Three question quiz race

Stalking

As Defined by Stalking Resource Center:

“A pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.”



Does it Really Happen that Often?



Stalking Prevalence

1 in 6 heterosexual women

- **1 in 5** lesbian women
- **1 in 3** bisexual women

1 in 7 trans/enby/genderqueer college students

1 in 20 heterosexual men

- **1 in 14** bisexual men
- **1 in 9** gay men

Youth, BIPOC, LGBTQIA*, active-duty military, and individuals with a disability are all at **an increased risk** of being stalked.

Duration of Stalking Incidents

TABLE 6
Percent of stalking victims, by type of stalking and duration and frequency of stalking, 2019

Stalking duration and frequency	Total stalking	Traditional stalking only ^a	Stalking with technology only ^b	Both traditional stalking and stalking with technology ^{c*}
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Duration				
Less than 1 month	17.6%	27.8% †	20.0% †	11.6%
1 month to less than 1 year	43.7	39.1	42.6	46.4
1 year to less than 2 years	12.5	10.2	13.2	12.9
2 years or more	24.0	21.5	21.5	26.8
Unknown	2.1	1.4!	2.7	1.9
Frequency				
2 to 10 times ^d	58.1%	81.1% †	57.1% †	49.1%
11 to 50 times	19.2	6.8 †	18.7 ‡	24.8
More than 50 times	7.2	3.0!	8.3	8.1
Too many times to count	10.8	2.8!	11.4	13.8
Don't know/don't remember	4.3	5.4	4.5	3.7
Number of victims	3,419,710	681,240	1,118,890	1,619,580

BJS Stalking Victims in the US (2019).

Stalking laws in Maryland

Criminal Law §3-802

It is legally defined as “a malicious course of conduct that includes approaching or pursuing another **where the person intends to place or knows or reasonably should have known the conduct would place another in reasonable fear** of suffering serious bodily injury, assault, rape or sexual offense, false imprisonment, or death, or that a third person likely will suffer any of the acts listed.”

Context Matters



Something may be frightening for the victim but not to you



Stalking behaviors often have specific meaning that is only understood between abuser and victim



Stalking criminalizes otherwise, non-criminal behavior

Menti – What does stalking look like?

Video – Animals by Maroon Five



Menti – Can you think of any other examples when stalking was romanticized?

Identifying Stalking

Surveillance

- Followed you
- Logged into your social media
- Tracking software
- Monitoring social media
- Checking in on you through friends or family

Life Invasion

- Repeated unwanted contact
- Sending unwanted gifts
- Posted private photos online
- Hacked social media
- Sending pictures of you while out in public

Intimidation

- Threats to harm survivor or loved ones
- Forced interactions
- Threats to share private photos
- Threats to harm themselves

Interference

- Showing up at your place of employment
- Prevented you from leaving when you wanted to leave
- Damaged your property

Menti – Why is stalking being romanticized in the media a problem?

Video – Unfollow Me



Misuse of Technology

Old Tactics, New Tricks

Why is Technology Important?



Survivors use technology

Abusers **misuse** technology

We use technology within our agencies and partnerships in ways that can impact confidentiality

Public, as well as private data, can be accessed by abusers and perpetrators.

Technology is not evil!



Technology does not create abuse

Technology can be used strategically to enhance safety

Technology can enhance services

If we didn't know this before, COVID has shown us the importance of technology in service provision.

Video – Misuse of Technology



Menti – Misuse of Technology Refection

Device Misuse

Keep in mind:

- Call logs, texts, voicemails, etc, can be monitored.
- A device can be hacked even if the abuser does not have physical access to the device.
- Devices can be tracked and disabled remotely.
- Some apps and websites share data with social media by default.
- Spoofing

Safety Tips:

- Become familiar with phone features
- Don't click links from unknown senders
- Use a passcode
- Be wary of "gifts"
- Check your downloads periodically
- Turn location services off
- Get a new number that is unlisted
- Purchase a new phone (factory reset if not possible)
- Use spyware

Documentation

- Print call logs
- Screenshot text messages
- Screen record voicemails
- Documentation should be stored on a device the abusive partner does not have access to
 - Store on a memory card
 - Make new email at library, upload to google drive

Internet Misuse

Keep in mind:

- Emails & Private messages could be monitored
- Abusers can make several accounts to monitor or impersonate survivor.
- Abuser may friend family or friends to gain information on survivor
- Wireless networks are not always secure.
- Once someone has access to email they can get access to much more information
- Gather personal information through search engines, profiles, and “check-ins”

Safety Tips:

- Create a new email address from a secure device
- Don't open emails from those you don't know or trust
- Do not click on unfamiliar links
- Use a spam filter
- Change your password often
- Use a different password for each of your accounts
- Use anti-virus software
- Set up two factor authentication

Documentation

- Print emails
- Take screenshots of emails (store on another device or email to someone)
- Document IP address from emails sent

Activity Time



Go to google and search for your name. You have 60 seconds to see what comes up!

Menti – Was there anything that surprised you when you searched your name?

Using Trackers

Trackers can be used to:

- Monitor the survivor's page
- Impersonate the survivor
- "Friend" survivor's friends & family
- Gather personal information through search engines, profiles, and "check-ins"

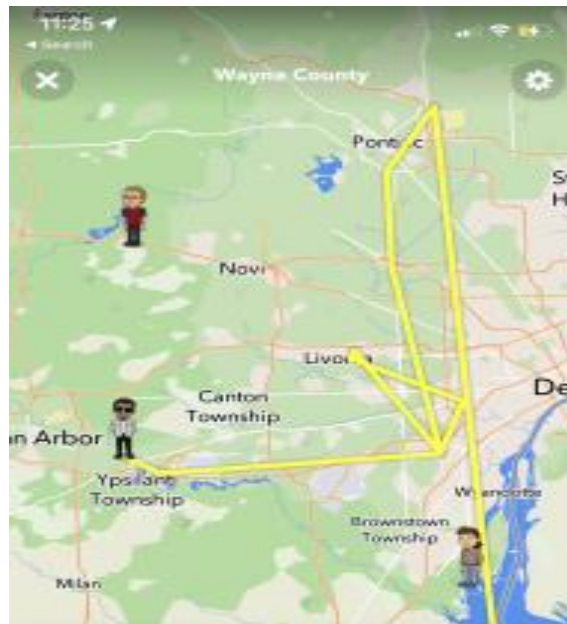
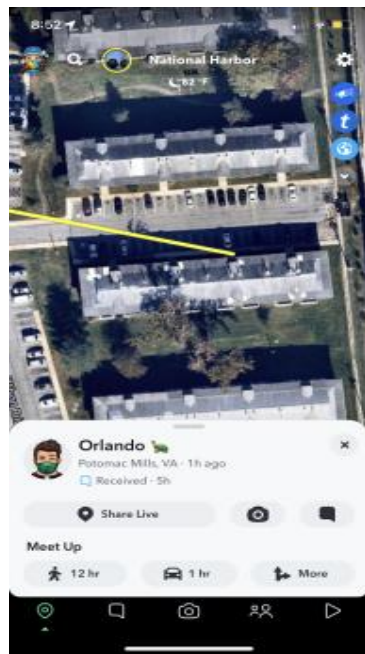
Safety Tips:

- Make sure location services are off for all of your devices
- Look into the safety and privacy features of the apps and websites you use
- Be careful of gifts
- Apple airtag notification
- Periodically check downloads

Documentation

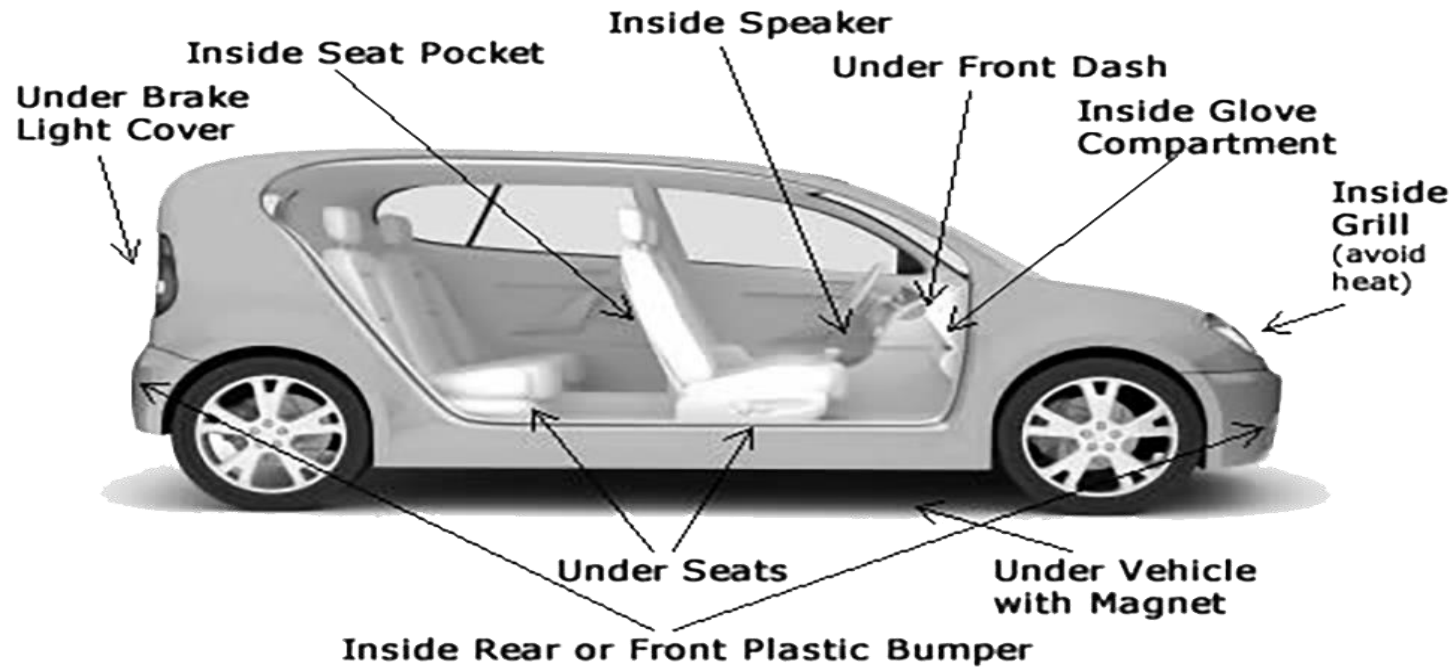
- Screenshot any airtag alerts
- Keep any devices found
- Subpoenas can be issued to check assailant's device

App Tracking



GPS Tracking

Covert GPS Placement



Advise Disengagement



Recommend complete disengagement (no contact with abusive partner)

BUT...

Realize survivors engage in behaviors to keep themselves safe:

- Maintain contact, negotiation, minimizing the threat
- Contact may be a safety strategy

Safety Issues to Consider

Will abuser know if posts or devices are removed?

Removing posts/devices may not stop the abuse and may escalate control and harassment.

Removing posts from one site will not guarantee its removal from the internet.

Removing posts/devices may also remove the evidence.

Will the removal put the survivor in more danger?

Trust the survivor's instincts.

Strategize & safety plan around issues.



Menti – What is something you learned that you never considered before with regards to stalking?

Evaluation!

Questions to think about:

- What did you learn that you're going to take with you back to your work?
- Is there something you wanted to learn about that wasn't addressed, or wanted more time spent on it?
- Is there something that can be improved for next time?



Questions?



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