

Crime Victims' Institute



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Our Mission

The mission of the Crime Victims' Institute is to:

- Conduct research to examine the impact of crime on victims of all ages in order to promote a better understanding of victimization
- Improve services to victims
- Assist victims of crime by giving them a voice
- Inform victim-related policy-making at the state and local levels

CVI's Community Outreach

- Texas Victim Services Association Board Member
- Victim Services Coalition Member

Sam Houston
STATE UNIVERSITY

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

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January is National Stalking Awareness Month

Alondra D. Garza, M.A.

Stalking is a serious and unpredictable crime that is often difficult to identify. Stalking involves a pattern of intentional behaviors directed at a victim that are designed to produce fear, decrease mobility, and reiterate the power of the perpetrator. These behaviors can include being repeatedly followed and/or watched, receiving unwanted attention in the form of gifts, phone calls, text messages, letters, or emails, and being monitored through technology such as GPS tracking and social media. Stalking perpetrators also engage in other actions that are fear inducing such as damaging a victim's property or threatening to harm themselves, the victim, the victim's family, friends, or pets.

Recent estimates have indicated that 7.5 million people are stalked every year across the United States. Approximately, 1 in 6 women and 1 in 19 men have experienced stalking during their lifetime (The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2017). Overwhelmingly, victims are stalked by someone they know, most often a current or former intimate partner. The co-occurrence of stalking and domestic violence, therefore, accounts for the vast majority of stalking cases.

Stalking was first criminalized in 1990 after California enacted the earliest anti-stalking legislation. Currently, stalking is considered a crime in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories, however, lack of uniformity across definitions of stalking has contributed to shortcomings in research, practice, and criminal justice responses to stalking victimization. Indeed, less than one-third of states classify stalking as a felony offense when first-time perpetrators are charged (National Center for Victims of Crime, n.d.).

January was officially designated as National Stalking Awareness Month (NSAM) in 2003 following the untimely death of Peggy Klinke, who was stalked and murdered by an ex-boyfriend. Her sister, Debbie Riddle, in conjunction with Congress and the National Center for Victims of Crime, advocated for improved system responses and awareness for stalking victimization. The first official observance of NSAM occurred the following year. Presently, NSAM is endorsing the campaign, "Know it, Name it, Stop it," with the goal of recognizing and responding to stalking.

Stalking Resources

National Center for Victims of Crime: www.victimsofcrime.org 1-855-VICTIM (2846)
Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center: www.stalkingawareness.org
Texas Council on Family Violence: www.tcfv.org 1-800-525-1978

JANUARY IS NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

STALKING
KNOW IT NAME IT STOP IT

SPARC

<http://www.stalkingawareness.org>



STALKING



Can include behaviors such as repeatedly calling or texting, showing up uninvited, and/or tracking someone's location physically or online.

A repeated pattern of behavior that would cause someone to be afraid.

Stalking may start during a relationship or friendship, and can get worse after a breakup or separation.



<http://victimrights.org>



In the Works...

Look for upcoming publications from the Crime Victims' Institute:

- Types of Hate Crimes
- Risky Online Dating Behaviors and Their Potential for Victimization
- Responses to Sexual Assault Disclosure
- Addressing Onset and Desistance of Bullying Behavior

Crime Victims' Institute Advisory Board

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Focus On:

Katherine Meeker

*Department of Criminal Justice and
Criminology Graduate Student*

Katherine Meeker graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2016 and a Master of Arts degree in criminal justice and criminology from Sam Houston State University in 2018.

Her thesis, titled "Cooperation, Arrest, and Filing Charges: An Examination of Victim, Police, and Prosecutor Decision Making in Adolescent Sexual Assault Cases," assessed case processing actors' legal and extra-legal decision-making factors regarding adolescent sexual assault cases.

Katherine is currently a first-year doctoral student in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Sam Houston State University. Her research focuses on institutional responses to sexual victimization. During 2017, she assisted in the campus-wide climate survey, led by Drs. Brittany Hayes and Eryn O'Neal.

She is the 2018 recipient of the Division on Women and Crime *Graduate Student Paper Award* from the American Society of Criminology. In October 2018, she attended the Texas Victim Association's Bi-Annual Research Symposium to present her thesis work as one of highlighted three poster presentations on behalf of the Crime Victims' Institute.





Upcoming Events



National Stalking Awareness Month	January
National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month	January
International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment San Diego, California	January 26-31
Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month	February
International Symposium on Child Abuse Huntsville, Alabama	March 18-21
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Baltimore, Maryland	March 26-30
Conference on Crimes Against Women Dallas, TX	April 8 -11
Texas Association Against Sexual Assault	May 19-22 San Antonio, TX

Share your ideas:

We welcome your input. Please send issues or topics you would like to see CVI conduct research on to:

crimevictims@shsu.edu

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