

# Perpetrator Risk Factors

1. **Angry**
2. **Obsessed**
3. **Irrational**
4. **Unrepentant**
5. **Antisocial lifestyle**
6. **Intimate relationship problems**
7. **Non-intimate relationship problems**
8. **Distressed**
9. **Substance abuse problems**
10. **Employment and financial problems**

# Victim Vulnerability Risk Factors

1. Inconsistent behavior toward perpetrator
2. Inconsistent attitude toward perpetrator
3. Inadequate access to resources
4. Unsafe living situation
5. Problems caring for dependents
6. Intimate relationship problems
7. Non-intimate relationship problems
8. Distressed
9. Substance use problems
10. Employment and financial problems

# Stalking of Mental Health Practitioners

- Frequency of mental health practitioners being stalked during their career:
  - 3% (Sandberg, et al., 2002)
  - 20% (McIvor, et al., 2008; Purcell, et al., 2005)
  - 14% - psychologists (Kivisto, et al., 2016)
    - Psychologists who engaged in a forensic practice were twice as likely to be stalked than psychologists who did not
  - 23% - Storey, 2016
- Frequency of mental health practitioners being stalked during their lifetime:
  - 10% (Galeazzi, et al., 2005; MacLean et al., 2013)

# Stalking of Mental Health Practitioners (Kivisto, et al., 2015)

- Threats moderately associated with physical attacks ( $r=.29$ )
- Among the 21% of psychologists who were threatened ( $n=33$ ), only 12.1% ( $n=4$ ) were attacked
- Among all of those who were attacked, all were threatened



# Stalking of Mental Health Practitioners

## ■ Duration

### ■ 61.5 weeks (SD = 89.37), Kivisto, et al., 2016

#### ■ Most common

- Outpatient psychotherapy patient
- Outpatient forensic evaluatee

### ■ 23 weeks (SD = 34.29), Storey, 2016

# Stalking of Mental Health Practitioners

- **Characteristics (Kivisto, et al., 2016)**
  - Average age when stalking commenced: 25.36 (SD=9.04)
  - More than half of patients were female (59.1%)
  - Mental illness at time of stalking (77.3%)
  - Presence of a personality disorder (60.7%)
    - Specific diagnoses:
      - Borderline Personality Disorder
      - Paranoid Personality Disorder

# Stalking of Mental Health Practitioners

## ■ Location

- Seeing persons at home not associated with greater risk for stalking victimization (Storey, 2016)

## ■ Relationship

- Most common relationship was professional at 50% (client, co-worker, acquaintance of client), Storey, 2016

# Stalking of Mental Health Practitioners

- Factors potentially placing MHP at risk:
  - Treatment of forensic, substance abuse and sexuality issues was significantly associated with being stalked (Storey, 2016).
  - Psychologists endorsing psychodynamic/psychoanalytic, family systems had higher rates of stalking victimization than those endorsing a cognitive-behavioral stance

# Thank you!

- [www.drforensic.com](http://www.drforensic.com)
- [info@drforensic.com](mailto:info@drforensic.com)