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Stalking Victims Urged to Get Help from District Attorney Stalking Unit

New Report Says More than Three Million Stalked Every Year

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#) recognized January as National Stalking Awareness Month, a time to focus on a crime that affects more than three million victims a year. This year's theme, "Stalking: Know it. Name it. Stop it," challenges San Diego County residents to combat this dangerous crime by learning more about it.

"Stalking is a crime in all 50 states and one that our office takes very seriously," DA Dumanis said. "Many of these cases escalate with victim's being seriously injured or even murdered by their stalker."

One in 12 women and one in 45 men will be stalked in their lifetime for about two years on average. Most victims are ordinary Americans, not celebrities.

The San Diego District Attorney's Office is committed to combating stalking with a specially-trained team that aggressively prosecutes offenders and provides [support to stalking victims](#), including counseling referrals, relocation efforts, safety planning and risk assessment. The San Diego District Attorney's Office has been recognized nationally and internationally as a model for investigating and prosecuting stalking cases.

"If more people can recognize stalking, then we have a better chance of holding offenders accountable and keeping victims from being harmed— both physically and psychologically," said Deputy District Attorney Rachel Solov of the DA's Stalking Unit.

Many victims underestimate the serious threat stalking poses to their personal safety and think it will never happen to them. Even when victims see the danger and report the crime, stalking may be hard for authorities to recognize, investigate, and prosecute. Stalking may take many forms such as assaults; threats; vandalism; burglary; animal abuse; and unwanted cards, calls, gifts, or visits. Stalkers may use a range of devices including computers, Global Positioning System devices, or hidden cameras to track their victims' daily activities.

More information about stalking can be found on the San Diego County District Attorney's [website](#) and in a new national [report](#) from the Bureau of Justice Statistics.