

**Mission Statement: The Mission of Crisis Connection Inc. is to work in partnership with communities to empower victims, survivors & persons affected by domestic & sexual violence through confidential crisis intervention, education and advocacy in Crawford, Dubois, Orange, Perry and Spencer Counties.**

[www.crisisconnectioninc.org](http://www.crisisconnectioninc.org): 198,489 visitors during November 2006! YTD 2006 1,299,946 visitors

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## National Stalking Awareness Month

### 10 things YOU should know about stalking

1. Stalking is a crime. Stalking is a course of conduct directed at a specific person that places a reasonable person in fear for her or his safety. It is against the law in every state. Stalking across state lines or in federal territories is illegal under federal law.
2. Many people are stalked. 1 in 12 twelve women and 1 in 45 men will be stalked in their lifetimes. 1.4 million people are stalked every year in the United States.
3. Stalking can be very dangerous. 76 percent of women killed by their intimate partners were stalked by these partners before they were killed. All stalkers should be considered unpredictable and very dangerous.
4. Stalking is harmful and intrusive. Stalking victims often lose time from work or never return to work, and some even relocate to regain a sense of safety. Many suffer from anxiety, insomnia, and severe depression as a result of being stalked.
5. Anyone can be stalked— not just celebrities. The vast majority of stalking victims are ordinary people. Furthermore, most stalkers are not strangers, but are known by their victim.
6. Stalking can occur during a relationship, after a relationship, or in the absence of a relationship. Stalking often begins during a relationship. Stalkers may keep the victim under surveillance or threaten her or him. Others begin stalking after the victim has ended the relationship, and the stalker feels desperate to maintain or regain control. Still others become fixated on a victim without ever having had any relationship with the person. All forms of stalking are unpredictable, and all should be considered dangerous.
7. Technology can be used to stalk. Although newly-developed technology enhances our lives, it can also empower criminals. Cell phones, computers, and surveillance equipment are just some of the technologies stalkers now use.
8. An effective response to stalking includes the entire community. Police, prosecutors, advocates, educators, reporters, neighbors ... everyone can and should play a part in stopping stalking. Working together, we can make victims safer.
9. You can make a difference. Visit [www.ncvc.org/src](http://www.ncvc.org/src) to learn more about stalking and how to fight it.
10. Help is available. If you or someone you know is being stalked, call **1-800-245-4580** today, or visit our website at [www.crisisconnectioninc.org](http://www.crisisconnectioninc.org) for more information on stalking.



## Stalking Awareness Quiz

1. The majority of stalking victims are celebrities.
2. How many people are stalked in America every year?
3. What percentage of women who are stalked by an intimate partner are also sexually assaulted by that partner?
4. The majority of women stalked by their current or former intimate partner are also physically assaulted by that partner.
5. What percentage of stalking victims are men?
6. What percentage of stalkers are women?
7. Most stalking victims who had obtained a protective order against their stalker had the protective order violated by the stalker.
8. How many states have stalking laws?
9. What percentage of male stalking victims are stalked by other men?
10. More than 80 percent of women who were stalked on campus knew their stalker?

**Answers on p. 4**

Please visit our website at [www.crisisconnectioninc.org](http://www.crisisconnectioninc.org) for much more information on stalking.

### **The first three hours after a child's abduction are the most critical to recovery efforts.**

This statistic was the driving force behind the creation of the AMBER alerts program, an early response system that began in 1997 using radio as its primary delivery method. The program has helped reunite more than 260 children with their families.

**Wireless AMBER Alerts** are text messages that are sent out to subscribers as soon as local law enforcement releases an AMBER Alert. Important information about the child or any known information about the abductors or the vehicle are included.

Anyone capable of receiving text messages and whose wireless carrier is a participant in the program can sign up to receive Wireless AMBER Alerts. About 70% of Americans would be eligible.

**The campaign asks audiences to sign up for the alerts at [www.wirelessamberalerts.com](http://www.wirelessamberalerts.com).** The campaign is designed to educate the public about the program, inspire them to sign up for the alerts, and most importantly, increase the number of people who may be able to help in locating an abducted child.

This campaign began in May 2006 with the goal of registering one million new subscribers to Wireless AMBER Alerts in 2006.



## *Mixed Messages About Control & Violence*

By Jim Morin, Emerge Group Leader From: <http://www.emergedv.com/sept06.html>

It may just be that my co-worker and I are working with a very challenging group of abusive men right now. Some nights we just shake our heads in frustration. The problem is they just don't seem convinced that giving up control over their partners is the right thing to do. While they might give lip service to the idea that abusive and controlling behavior is not right, an off-hand comment or some conspiratorial snickering exposes an alternative conviction that sometimes a man is justified in taking control. They have heard our message of respect and tolerance, but they don't buy it.

When considering why some of these men seem so reluctant to give up their ultimate right to control their partner, I recall the anecdote of the down stream life guard who, day after day, keeps pulling drowning people out of the river, and then one day realizes that a more effective rescue effort may be to find out how so many people are getting into the river upstream in the first place. The point of the anecdote is, of course, to raise the question of the source of the problem. When it comes to addressing the abusive and controlling behavior of men in intimate relationships, where is the best place to intervene? Is abusive behavior toward a partner a problem of the individual abuser? Or is it a social problem, better understood as suggested, sanctioned, and maintained by social and cultural institutions?

It probably comes as no surprise to any of us that work with abusive men that there are, in American society, powerful forces promoting violence and domination in the service of a supposedly virtuous identity. There are many ways this message is delivered. Watch almost any video game and you can see that it's now cool to be a killer. Weapons are shiny, high-tech products that bestow power. They are plentiful on the streets from Boston to Baghdad, and are mostly in the hands of men. I have been struck lately by some of the messages coming from the White House seeking to justify the use of American force against our enemies. Judging by his words and deeds, we not only have the right to defend ourselves with military force when attacked by our enemies, "the terrorists," we also have the right to destroy them if we believe they may someday intend to do us harm.

Of course this isn't just the current administration who is promoting this right to use force in self-defense. There are many institutions dedicated to promoting this point of view as patriotic. The message is promoted in the media, supported by our governmental agencies, considered in our schools, and lauded on our car bumpers with yellow ribbons. Consider this: Today it is patriotic to support the killing of thousands of people throughout Iraq and Afghanistan and other Middle East countries. Our government trains thousands of our young men and women to take up arms to execute this mission. You are a brave American if you are serving in uniform, willing to risk your life for this cause. You are a patriotic American if you endorse this mission and honor the troops who implement this violent imposition of our will. Make an informed decision to end the use of violence, "cut and run," and your loyalty and judgment are suspect.

What are we to make of the mixed messages about international violence and domestic violence? The idea that force is justified to control situations receives a great deal of exposure and promotion. In comparison, the idea that force is not justified in domestic situations, receives much less exposure and much less promotion. If we can believe the men in our groups, they claim this is new information.

They say they didn't know that threats and intimidation were controlling, or that put downs and sarcasm were forms of abuse. Of course such remarks are self-serving on their part, but there is an element of truth in their claim that they did not know that control of one's partner was unacceptable. So many messages tell us that control over others is justified; so few tell us that control of others is unjustified.

I am not suggesting that domestic violence is caused by this country's foreign policy. As is the case with other social values, many men are exposed to these messages yet do not attempt to control their partners. Many factors influence the choices we make, and the choices we have. My point is about mixed messages. Particularly, messages about how men should respond to conflict. Our national policy is to respond with force and to valorize those who serve that policy. Our commitment to respectful relationships with partners and to peaceful problem-solving is promoted much more equivocally.

Is domestic violence an individual problem, or is it better understood as a societal problem? Do we best address the problem of domestic violence by treating each abusive man as an individual who, for whatever reasons and circumstances, has decided to employ violence in an attempt to control his female partner? Do we pull them out of the water, one guy at a time? Or do we better address the problem of domestic violence by identifying, confronting, and reshaping the societal institutions, structures and attitudes that legitimize domestic violence and the privilege of men to control women? Do we stop them from falling in upstream?

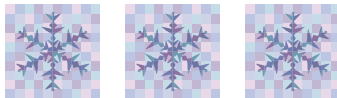
## **DATING AND VIOLENCE SHOULD NEVER BE A COUPLE**

Crisis Connection has obtained a DVD for our library entitled, "Dating and Violence Should Never Be A Couple."

It was designed by lawyers to help youth recognize warning signs of teen dating violence. It was written primarily by teens as part of a multi-year project sponsored by the American Bar Association Steering Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children.

An important early part of the project was a national summit, attended by state teams composed of a high school teen, a high school faculty member and a state government representative. Participants helped to design elements of a toolkit, which include prevention recommendation tips, a wallet card with the National Domestic Violence Hotline number, a kit for teachers that features classroom activities for raising awareness of the issue, and a DVD highlighting teens' accounts of dating violence.

Lawyers and prosecutors for teen dating violence victims should, according to the prevention recommendation book, give teens immediate personal attention when they arrive for help; explain legal procedures in simple language; support the victim's right to have personal information discussed in closed court; and include a topic of "bullying" in training programs for lawyers. The prevention recommendation tips for judges and court personnel include such tips as ensuring that teen dating violence cases are heard in an official juvenile or family court; not assuming that only females are victims and only males are perpetrators; offering the teen the opportunity to speak; and supporting appropriate, quality training of social workers for kids who may need specific help.



### **Special Someone, January 2007 The Herald**

We start the new year with a thank you to a local newspaper, *The Herald*. They so often print our press releases and do feature stories about our agency. Their help in publicizing our work certainly helps us reach our vision of an enlightened, safe community that fosters personal growth and change.

**Thanks so much to the  
Staff of *The Herald*!**

***For Internet Safety Tips, visit:***

**[www.2SMRT4U.com](http://www.2SMRT4U.com)**



**HOLD  
THE  
DATE!**

**Jackson  
Katz**  
will be  
the  
featured  
speaker at  
our  
seminar on  
**Monday,  
March 19!**

**THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!**

We can't **thank all of you** enough who helped make the holidays a little more special by providing some 'wish list' items for our clients.

***Because of you,  
90 children and 25 mothers  
received gifts!***

#### **Answers from Page 2 Stalking Quiz!**

1. **FALSE**
2. **1.4 million**
3. **31%**
4. **TRUE**
5. **22%**
6. **13%**
7. **TRUE**
8. **50**
9. **60%**
10. **TRUE**