



# Safety Planning: Intersection of Social Media and Domestic Violence

Positive Results Corporation

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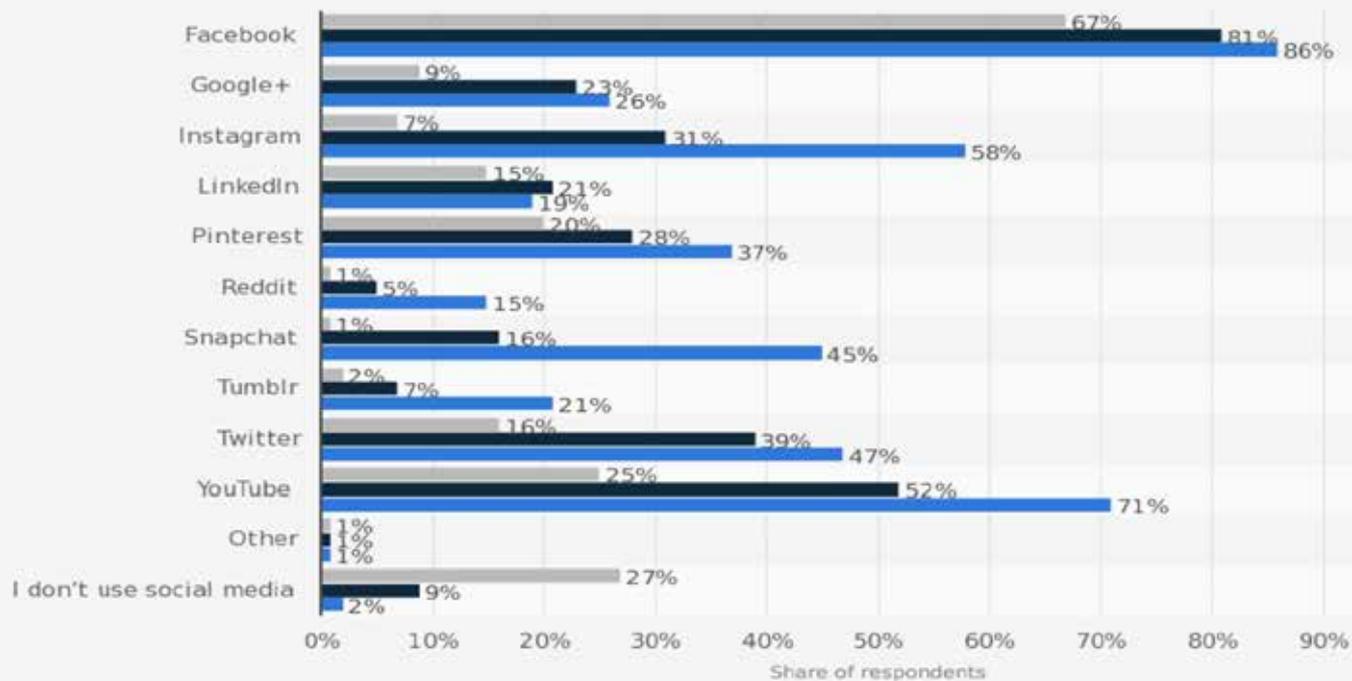
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Understanding  
how social media  
leads to  
unhealthy or  
abusive  
relationships.



## Reach of selected social networks in the United States as of February 2017, by age group



Source  
Statista Survey  
© Statista 2017

Additional Information:  
United States; Statista Survey; February 2 to 8, 2017; 1.446  
Respondents; 18 years and older



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# Cell Phones



- social media is changing the face of **Domestic Violence** by creating more opportunities and private channels for abuse to take place.
- It is also increasingly being used as evidence in **Bullying, Stalking, and Domestic Abuse** cases.



# Cyberstalking, Intimate Partner Violence, and Intimate Partner Abuse

**Cyberstalking** is the use of the Internet or other electronic means to stalk or harass an individual, group, or organization. It may include false accusations, defamation, slander and libel. It may also include monitoring, identity theft, threats, vandalism, solicitation for sex, or gathering information that may be used to threaten, embarrass or harass.



## Domestic Violence and Facebook: Harassment takes new forms in the social media age

Cyberstalking, non-consensual internet pornography, exposing private information, reputation damage, impersonation or false representation, and other online attacks carried and amplified by networking technologies constitute the new face of violence against women.

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## Cyber Bullying



- When it comes to cyberbullying, the bullies are often motivated by **anger, revenge or frustration** .
- It is another way to monitor behavior.
- Sometimes they do it for entertainment or because they are bored and have too much time on their hands and too many tech toys available to them.
- Many do it for laughs or to get a reaction.

## Cyber Abuse vs Intimate Partner Abuse

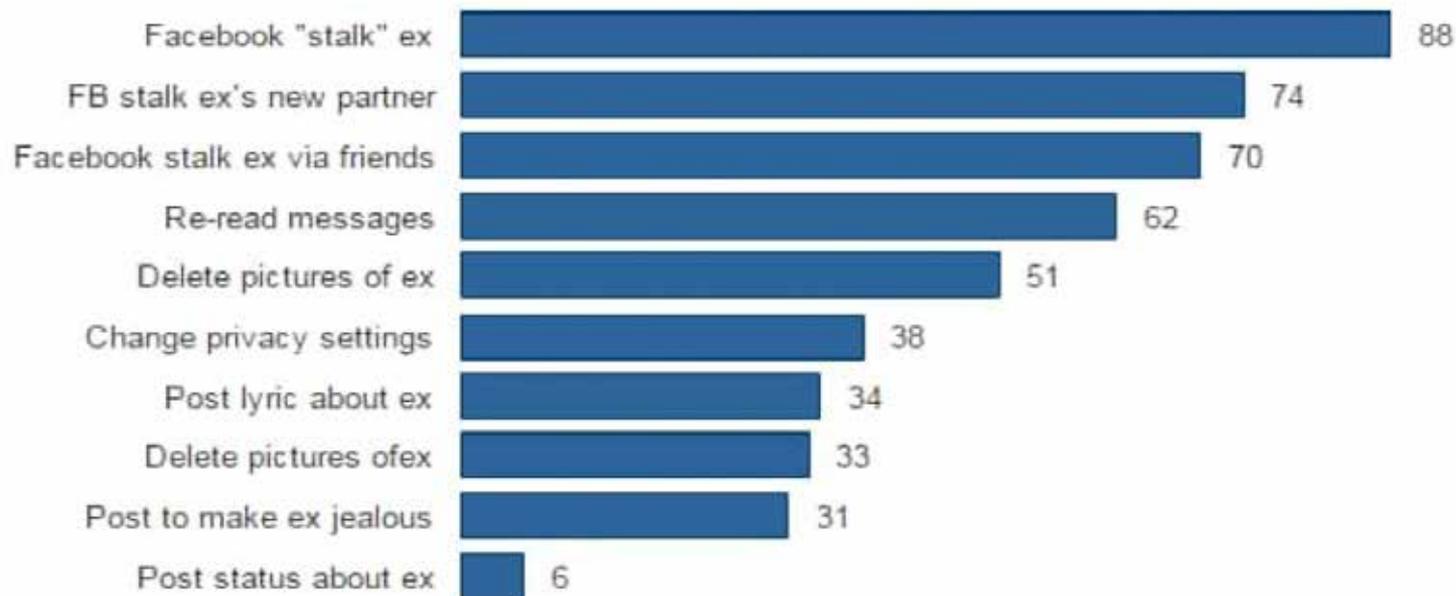
- The abuse is random. Unknowingly why the victim is targeted.
  - The abuse is predatory and can be malicious to the detachment of the victim.
  - The abuse also isolates the victim from social activities.
  - Challenging to protect yourself personally and legally from further victimization.
- The abuse is more intentional and emotionally motivated.
  - The abuse is personal due to the IP having or once being privy to personal information (passwords, mutual friends and contacts, etc.)
  - The abuse is used not for intention to harm but control and isolate the victim.
  - The lethality level is higher, esp. if the abuser is cut off or blocked.



**How social media is enhancing abuse.**

# What people do on Facebook after a breakup

... according to a 2012 survey of 100 adults aged 18-35.



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## Ways we excuse cyber abuse

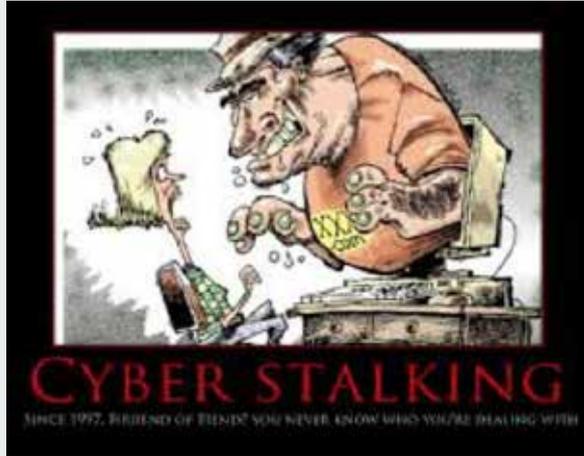
- Suspicion of cheating can be seen as an excuse for certain abusive behaviors to occur.
- This can include monitoring profiles, demanding partner's passwords, and asking to see their chat histories.
- Need connection between cyber abuse and DV.

Following are signs that your significant other is trolling or stalking you!





- Creating Fake Profiles
- Checking Statuses & Following Your Activity



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## Signs of Digital Abuse (Cyber Abuse)



- Sending you insulting or threatening messages over text, email or social media.
- Using social media sites like Facebook to track what you are doing and where you are.
- Demanding you send sexually explicit photos or videos of yourself, or sending you their own.
- Looking through your phone and checks your call history, texts, pictures, etc.
- Ordering you to not turn off your phone or punishing you when you don't answer.

# Did You Know?

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- Someone can monitor Your computer use without You knowing?
- Spyware can be installed on a computer either physically in-person or remotely through an email, instant message or other download; this can give the person who installed the Spyware information about passwords for social networks and any other accounts accessed online.
- E-mail is like a postcard and can be intercepted
- Some court are placing court records online & with your personal information
- Your history can not be completely erased from a computer!
- ***As you surf the internet on your computer, the places you visit are stored on the computer you use. Bills you pay and purchases you make are tracked. Instant messages and emails can be retrieved.***

# Did You Know?

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- Social networks do not show record of who looks at your page, which parts of your page, are for how long, etc., therefore it is possible for someone to monitor your page without your knowledge.
- An abuser may impersonate a victim with a new page or by hijacking the victim's page.
- Abusers may "friend" their victim's friends and family and gain at least some level of access to personal information.
- An abuser may be able to find a partner or former partner's profile and/or other information through search engines.

# Did You Know?

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- Global Positioning System (GPS) can be placed on a car, purse or in a cell phone?
- Cell phone usage can be monitored.
- Cell phone's can be a beacon, tracking your exact location in real time. Call and text history can also be retrieved by an abusive partner.

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## Geotagging Photos



- Pictures taken on smartphones (iPhone, Droid, Blackberry, etc.) may have location information automatically embedded in the data of the photo based on the phone's GPS.
- Whether this information is displayed varies depending on which site it is posted. This can be **turned off** on all phones!

# Examples of Cyber Revenge

- “He was a very, very abusive man and I've been trying to get away from him for a while,” a young mother said.
- She shudders with fear every time the buzzer in her apartment sounds, terrified the next stranger at the door looking for sex won't take no for an answer.
- The young mother believes her ex-boyfriend has set up a series of fake dating profiles under her name, encouraging men to arrive at the apartment for late-night sexual encounters.
- "I haven't slept in a week," she said.
- In the span of four evenings, more than 30 strangers showed up unannounced.
- The incidents have been reported to police and are being investigated.



**Social media** posts are now widely cited as evidence in domestic abuse cases and hold as much legal weight as any other form of written communication. When we put in place a nonmolestation order to protect a victim of domestic abuse from the perpetrator, this can now include online harassment.



In other words, making disparaging remarks or sharing material without consent now constitutes harassment and can result in the breach of **a non-molestation order.**

# Veronica's Case Study

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- At 15, Veronica was an average student with a 3.2 GPA, in student council, cheerleading, very active in school & well liked by her peers. She liked to go to church and cook for her close knit family.
- She meets Juan, an Average 17 yr old kid. Within two weeks, they are going together, spending all waking hours together.

## Veronica's Case Study cont.

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- Within three weeks, he demands she give her cell phone back to Mom.
- He gives her another cell phone but he's the only one who has access to password or answering service.
- He forbids her from having Facebook(FB), Instagram(IG), or SnapChat.
- He starts belittling her, calling her out her name, following everywhere she goes. Week four, she's no longer active at school. By Week six she dropped cheerleading and stopped going to church.
- He threatens her & her parents. She no longer goes out with friends or participated in group or family activity. Then the beating begins...

## Veronica's Case Study cont.

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- A year later, she asks her parents to help her to leave Juan, she moves to a different school, get counseling and a new phone, reconnects with old friends, and goes back to FB, IG & SnapChat.
- Three months later she's receiving threatening voice messages from unknown person.

# Veronica's Case Study cont.

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- **Then real terror begins:** She gets into fights on SnapChat and Instagram because she “hitting on her friends boyfriends, liking their photo’s & making vulgar comments about her friends looks, sexual activity & posting provocative pictures.
- **Veronica claims it’s not her, but friends show her their account with her postings**
- Nude photo’s of Veronica start showing up all over the internet. A teacher gets it and Veronica is arrested for Distribution of Pornography.
- Then the truth surfaces. Juan has hijacked her social media account and set up a fake profile using her information.
- **What happened to Juan? What happened to Veronica?**

## Promoting Violence on Social Media



- Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube have become a platform for youth violence.
- Gangs use “Social Media” sites to make threats, “call out” rival gangs, promote violence and recruit members. This activity led to real “Stomp-Outs”, real shootings, and real deaths. (can we take this out?)
- Sex Trafficking: Facebook is a major one but not the only one. We are also seeing it take place through chat environments and other forums.
- Sexual Exploitation: Perpetrators might use social media to locate and target vulnerable children or they might use a mobile phone as a direct line to a child to facilitate the grooming process.



# Sexual Exploitation

- Most of the exploitation is self inflicted, due to wanting to take sexy selfies.
- Validation from body images
- Mimicking celebrities and insta-famous personalities
- Older adults or other teens encouraging vulnerable victims to share body pic. Or “d” or “p” pics.
- It is not OK to share any photos without consent.
- Suggestion: this slideshould focus on safety planning and consent, avoid victim blaming.



## 3 OUT OF 4 VICTIMS ARE TRAFFICKED ONLINE

Over three-quarters of underage sex trafficking victims we spoke with said they had been advertised or sold online. The internet simplifies illegal transactions for Johns, and helps create new opportunities for pimps who profit from the sexual victimization of children.

Source: Thorn Survivor Survey





## Sex Trafficking: “Y2K Pimpin’”

In November 2010, Marvin Epps was sentenced to 12 years and seven months in federal prison for sex trafficking of a minor. According to court documents, Epps contacted the 16-year-old female via Myspace, encouraging her to travel to Sacramento, California, to work for him and then advertising her sexual services on the Internet from a hotel.

Police recovered a transcript in which Epps described his practices as “Y2K pimpin’,” explaining that he would “get some professional, beautiful, elegant, glamor [sic] shots [and] put them on these escort websites.”



## Cyber-Suicide Victimization

- Denial-a tendency to deny or minimize the violence
- Defense of the abuser-to protect him/her from blame
- Use of alcohol or drugs-to escape anxiety or pain
- Feelings of loneliness or isolation-because the abuser has isolated the victim from friends and family and stopped her/him having a normal social life
- Thoughts or attempts of Suicide



## Cyber-Suicide Victimization cont.

- Researchers analyzed English language media reports of suicides in which cyberbullying was mentioned. They identified 41 cases, stemming as far back as 2003.
- By 2012 - 18 Teens suicide deaths linked to cyberbullying.
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for 10 to 34 year old, according to the Center for Disease Control. It was the cause of about 6,078 deaths in a year in the 15 to 24 age group.



## How to Protect Yourself on Social Media



### Helpful Tips



### Know Your Boundaries

- Ensure you have strict privacy settings on all of your social media accounts and review those settings frequently, as the networks change and update their settings to ensure your post can only be seen by those you trust.
- Consider closing your social media accounts altogether, or temporarily, especially if you are, or have been, a victim of domestic abuse. (suggestion: what are tips for people that want to keep a social media presence?)
- Remember that if you have fled from an abusive relationship, being on social media can make it much easier for you to be found.



## How to Protect Yourself on Social Media: Think Before You Act



### Helpful Tips



### Know Your Boundaries

- Try not to use social media to obtain emotional support. Talk to a trusted friend or seek professional counselling, rather than sharing your feelings on public platforms
- Be particularly careful about sharing any images of your children, especially if they have been affected by domestic abuse
- Think before you post anything. Even if you remove a post that you subsequently regret, it could already have been seen and even saved as a screen grab
- Do not, under any circumstances, post anything relating to a court case you are involved in.

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