

January is National Stalking Awareness Month

January is National Stalking Awareness Month and WISE is here for you! Stalking is a pattern of behavior that would make someone fear for their safety. The behaviors exist within a context. For example, leaving a flower on someone's windshield could seem innocent to an outsider, who may assume it is left by a romantic partner on their lunch break. Instead, the flower could be left by a former partner to indicate that they are still watching. Last year alone, over six million people were stalked, which included unwanted calls and messages, surveillance (including via social media), unexpected gifts, property damage, contact through someone else, and other nonconsensual communication.



In their lifetime, one in six women and one in nineteen men in the United States have been stalked, and an overwhelming majority of stalking victims knew their stalker (most were either current or former intimate partners). Of women murdered by their partners, three out of four had been stalked beforehand. This is in direct contrast with the typical media portrayal around stalking: romantic gestures from strangers or secret admirers. Although the media often makes light of stalking, we have the power to change our culture and see the real danger that stalking poses to survivors. We can make survivors feel safer by taking their claims seriously, planning safety strategies with them, and connecting them with resources like WISE.

If you have questions about stalking or an experience that you want to talk through with an advocate, WISE advocacy is confidential, free, and available every hour, every day at 866-348-WISE (9473). The WISE advocate is on campus Mondays from 8:00 am-4:00 pm in 213 Wilson Hall. You can make an appointment or just stop by. You can email a WISE Advocate at campus@wiseuv.org or webchat at wiseuv.org. You do not have to figure it out alone. Follow us [@WISEuv](https://www.instagram.com/WISEuv) on Instagram and follow our campaign all year long [@dartmouthpeakperformance](https://www.instagram.com/dartmouthpeakperformance).

**When we understand the dynamics
of stalking, we can prevent it.**



end violence
wise
share hope ♦ change lives

#NSAM2021