This project was supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-22-GK-03986-MUMU awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.
Many stalking victims:

* Experience mental health issues. Including PTSD, depression, anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction.
* Lose time from work. 1 in 8 employed stalking victims lose time from work.
* Relocate. 1 in 7 stalking victims move.


“It’s not easy to describe the fear you have when you see the stalker, or signs of the stalker, everywhere you go. I have given up all hopes of ever having a safe life.

For the rest of my life, I will be looking over my shoulder, expecting to see him there.”


“Stalking is homicide in slow motion.”

– Patrick Brady, Criminology Dept.
University of West Georgia

Understanding Stalking
Defining Stalking

**BEHAVIORAL**

**LEGAL/STATUTORY**

**POLICY**

**STALKING DEFINITION: BEHAVIORAL**

Stalking is a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear for the person’s safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.

**CONTEXT IS CRITICAL in stalking cases.**

**Context**

- Something may be frightening to the victim but not to you
- Stalking behaviors often have specific meanings
- Stalking criminalizes otherwise non-criminal behavior
- Victims may know something you don’t
Victim Reaction: Is it Fear?

Stalking Prevalence and Dynamics

Document Evidence of Accommodations

- Changes to accounts, numbers, and settings
- Finances spent on safety devices or accommodations
- Increased Security/Privacy Measures
- Financial impacts, including employment consequences, identity thefts, and cost of damaged property

Stalking Prevalence

NEARLY 1 in 3 women & NEARLY 1 in 6 men experience stalking in their lifetimes.

College Student Victims: Marginalized Populations

- Students who identify as transgender, nonbinary, or genderqueer experience the highest rates of stalking.
- Students with disabilities were twice as likely to experience stalking as students without.
- Black students and Native American students were over 30% more likely to experience stalking than their counterparts.

58% of FEMALE & 49% of MALE STALKING VICTIMS WERE FIRST STALKED BEFORE AGE 25

UNDER 18
- 24% of FEMALE & 19% of MALE

18-24
- 34% of FEMALE & 30% of MALE
**Stalking Dynamics**

Women are more likely than men to experience stalking.

The majority of victims report that the offender is male—regardless of the victim’s sexual orientation.

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**Victim and Offender Relationships**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Offender</th>
<th>% Female Victims</th>
<th>% Male Victims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current/Former IP</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquaintance</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brief Encounter</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stranger</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Member</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person of Authority</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**College Student Stalking Victim & Type of Offender**

- Current IP: 14%
- Classmate: 18%
- Friend: 25%
- Recognize, Not Friend: 31%
- Former IP: 33%

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**Campus Stalking Relationships**

**Professor Arrested for Stalking Student**

By: College Police, December 7, 2018

**Former ESU Student Charged With Stalking Professor**

An ESU student accused of stalking a woman who didn’t know.

**Woman Files Workplace Sexual Harassment Lawsuit Against UC Irvine**

A UConn student accused of stalking women he didn’t know.

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**Relationships, Reporting, & Fear**

Victims who knew their offenders were **MORE** likely to report feeling **FEARFUL**
and yet **LESS** likely to **REPORT** to police than those stalked by a stranger.

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**Additional Challenges: Campuses**

- High prevalence rate
- Shared social circles
- Events and locations open to all students
- Limited geographic space
- Jurisdictional challenges (on vs off campus)
- Conflation with bullying and/or romantic pursuit
Stalking Behaviors

**SURVEILLANCE**
- Follow
- Watch
- Wait
- Show up
- Tracking software
- Obtain information about victim
- Proxy stalking

**LIFE INVASION**
- Unwanted contact at home, work, etc.
- Showing up
- Phone calls
- Property invasion
- Public humiliation
- Harass friends/family

**INTIMIDATION**
- Threats
- Property damage
- Symbolic violence
- Forced confrontations
- Threaten or actually harm self
- Threats to victim about harming others

**INTERFERENCE**
**THROUGH SABOTAGE OR ATTACK**
- Financial and work sabotage
- Ruining reputation
- Custody interference
- Keep from leaving
- Road rage
- Attack family/friends/pets
- Physical/sexual attack
Pattern of Behavior

- 2/3 of stalkers pursue their victim at least once per week
- 1/4 of stalkers use more than one means of approach


Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

* "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

* Stalking is "[e]ngaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to — (A) fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or (B) suffer substantial emotional distress."

34 C.F.R. §106.30
34 U.S.C. § 12291(30)

Potential Relevant Student Conduct Code Violations

- Harassment
- Bullying and/or Cyberbullying
- Disrupting conduct process
- Sexual misconduct
- Retaliation
- Weapons
- Creating a public nuisance on campus or in neighboring communities
- Misuse/abuse of any computer or computer system, internet, or communications service
- Theft
- Vandalism/Property damage
- Unauthorized recording
- Unauthorized use/misuse of keys, ID cards
- Unauthorized entry into dormitory or building

CRIMES INCLUDING

IDENTITY THEFT, COMPUTER CRIMES
VOYEURISM, PRIVACY VIOLATION, IMAGE CREATION & DISTRIBUTION
VANDALISM, PROPERTY CRIMES
FALSE REPORTS, WITNESS INTIMIDATION
EAVESDROPPING, TRESPASSING, NONCONSENSUAL RECORDING
AND MORE

MAY BE PART OF A STALKER'S COURSE OF CONDUCT

Co-Victimizations:
Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence
**Point When Stalking Occurs**

- **After relationship ends** 41%
- **During relationship ends** 22%
- **During relationship** 36%

**Adapted from the Duluth Model: Domestic Abuse Intervention Program’s Power and Control Wheel**

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**Intimate partner stalkers are more likely to:**
- physically approach the victim
- be interfering, insulting, and threatening
- use weapons
- escalate behaviors quickly
- re-offend

**Top 10 risk factors for intimate partner homicide:**

1. Direct access to guns
2. Threatened victim with a weapon
3. Non-fatal strangulation
4. Perpetrated rape/forced sex
5. Controlling behaviors
6. Threatened to harm the victim
7. Abused victim while pregnant
8. Perpetrated stalking
9. Jealousy
10. Substance abuse

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**Stalking is a Lethality Risk**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk factor</th>
<th>Male perpetrator &amp; female victimization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Direct access to guns</td>
<td>11-fold increase in risk of IFPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Threatened victim with a weapon</td>
<td>7-fold increase in risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Non-fatal strangulation</td>
<td>7-fold increase in risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Perpetrated rape/forced sex</td>
<td>5-fold increase in risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Controlling behaviors</td>
<td>6-fold increase in risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Threatened to harm the victim</td>
<td>4-fold increase in risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Abused victim while pregnant</td>
<td>4-fold increase in risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Perpetrated stalking</td>
<td>3-fold increase in risk of IFPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Jealousy</td>
<td>2-fold increase in risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Substance abuse</td>
<td>2-fold increase in risk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Resources:**


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**(85%) of attempted & (76%) of completed intimate partner homicides, stalking occurred in the year prior to the attack.**
Co-Victimizations: Stalking and Sexual Violence

Sexual Assault Survivors Who Also Experienced Stalking (Ages 18-24)

Stalkers and Sexual Assault

Fear of sexual assault is covered under most stalking statutes.

Stalker threatens/plans to sexually assault the victim.

Stalker attempts to get someone else to sexually assault the victim.

Stalker sexually assaults the victim.

Stalker contacts victim after sexual assault.

Fears Might Include:

* Sexual assault
* Voyeurism/privacy invasion
* Friends and/or loved ones being sexually victimized
* Intimate photos being created and/or shared
* Offender sharing personal sexual information and/or rumors
Stalking and Grooming for Sexual Violence

1. Research and identify vulnerable victims
2. Establish relationships: contact, build trust
3. Meet in-person and isolate the victim
4. Coerce into sexual act(s)
5. Contact after


Think Broadly About “Contact”

* In-person contact
* Third person contact
* Phone
* Texting
* Email
* IM/Chat
* Social networking sites
  * Contact with victim
  * Postings to own or other people’s sites

Potential Relevant Charges/Violations: Sexual Violence & Stalking

* Voyeurism
* Unlawful creation of image of another
* Nonconsensual distribution of intimate images
* Sexual assault or misconduct
* Indecent exposure
* Harassment
* Bullying
* Misuse of computer, work devices, communications service
StalkingAwareness.org

Screening for Stalking

SHARP:
Stalking & Harassment Assessment & Risk Profile
www.CoerciveControl.org
www.StalkingRisk.com
Victim perceptions of risk are a strong predictor of reassault, equal to or even better than risk management tools.


Responding to Victims

Self-Protective Actions Taken

- 63% Blocked unwanted calls/messages/other
- 27% Changed personal information
- 24% Changed day-to-day activities
- 23% Self-defensive action/security measure
- 9% Applied for a restraining/protective/no-contact order

78% of stalking victims take some kind of protective action.

Working with Stalking Victims

HELP SEEKING

Who do student victims tell?

- 92% Friends or Family
- 29% Campus Resource

**First Response**

Any time a student reports any kind of harassing behavior:
- Consider the possibility of a stalking case
- Determine whether this is an isolated incident or repeated conduct

**Advise Disengagement**

Recommend no contact with the stalker
- Explain intermittent reinforcement

**BUT** realize victims engage in behaviors to keep themselves safe.
- Maintain contact, negotiation, minimizing threat
- Contact may be a safety strategy

"If you’ve never been in a predator-type situation, it's better to know where they're at than not know. The reason I didn’t block him was to help not being caught off-guard.”
- Stalking Victim

**Documentation Log**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STALKING INCIDENT AND BEHAVIOR LOG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student Accommodations**

- Housing
- Transportation
- Lunch Period/Dining Hall
- Class Schedule
- Extra-curriculars

**Identifying Stalking: SLII Strategies**

- **Surveillance**
  - **Spotlight**
  - **Liability**
  - **Intervene**

**Stalking Behaviors & Sexual Violence**

- Responding to Stalking: A Guide for Advocates
- Safety Planning Strategies

**SPARC**
Awareness

Consider:
* Does your university do any education or awareness programs specifically on stalking?
  * January is National Stalking Awareness Month
  * How is stalking education and/or awareness integrated into existing efforts?
  * October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month
  * New student orientation
  * RA training
  * Health center

Resources

Consider:
* Does your university provide stalking-specific services to victims?
  * For example, counseling services, access to an advocate, information on campus no contact/protection orders and civil protection orders?
  * How easy is it for a stalking victim to know they can seek services and from whom?
  * Is stalking mentioned specifically in outreach materials?
  * Do University policies and services address the needs of all victims of stalking?
  * Including non-IP related, not sexual assault related?
  * Do University policies and services address stalkers and victims who are students, faculty, volunteers, alumni, and/or staff?
Campus Webinar Series

* Risk Assessment, Safety Planning, and Systems Response: Case Study of Lauren McCluskey  
  * Nov 8, 2023 at 2pm Eastern
* Accountability: Stalking Investigations and Hearings  
  * Feb 7, 2024 at 2pm Eastern
* Stalking Awareness on Campus  
  * Apr 9, 2024 at 2pm Eastern