Stalking on Campus

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Stalking Resource Center
National Center for Victims of Crime

www.victimsofcrime.org/src

The Stalking Resource Center is a program of the National Center for Victims of Crime. The mission of the Stalking Resource Center is to enhance the ability of professionals, organizations, and systems to effectively respond to stalking. The Stalking Resource Center provides training, technical assistance, and resource materials for professionals working with and responding to stalking victims and offenders.
Overview
- Define stalking
- Prevalence of stalking
  - General population
  - Campus population
- Stalking dynamics
  - Use of technology to stalk
  - Campus response to stalking

Defining Stalking
- Behavioral
- Virginia Statute

Stalking
A pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.
Stalking: Fear

What is difficult about this aspect of the crime of stalking?

- Something may be frightening for the victim but not to you
- Stalking behaviors often have specific meaning that is only understood between offender & victim
- Stalking criminalizes otherwise non-criminal behavior

Understanding Stalking – Fear

Context is critical in stalking cases

- Posted threats on FB
- Texted 50 times in 1 hour
- Vandalism to car
- Showed up at new residence that victim had tried to keep secret from stalker
Virginia Statute

Va. Code Ann. § 18.2-60.3

Any person, except a law-enforcement officer, as defined in § 9.1-101, and acting in the performance of his official duties, and a registered private investigator, as defined in § 9.1-138, who is regulated in accordance with § 9.1-139 and acting in the course of his legitimate business, who on more than one occasion engages in conduct directed at another person with the intent to place, or when he knows or reasonably should know that the conduct places that other person in reasonable fear of death, criminal sexual assault, or bodily injury to that other person or to that other person’s family or household member is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.
Prevalence of Stalking

How many people are stalked in one year:

- In the United States?
- In Virginia?
- In your community?

Campus Prevalence

Rates of stalking among college students exceed the prevalence rates found in the general population:

- 27% of women and 15% of men
  - Fremouw et al. (1997)
- 25% of women and 11% of men
  - Bjerregaard (2000)
- During one 9-month period, 13.1% of college women surveyed reported being stalked

Do the Math

1. Take the population of your community
2. Divide by 1000
3. Multiply by 26.5
4. Equals statistical number of stalking cases in your community each year
Stalking Dynamics

- 18 – 24 year olds experience the highest rates of stalking
- Women are more likely to experience stalking
- Most stalkers are male
- The majority of victims know the stalker

Victim Offender Relationship

- Current/former intimate partner: 54.0% Female, 41.4% Male
- Acquaintance: 13.3% Female, 34.0% Male
- Stranger: 3.3% Female, 12.3% Male
- Family member: 3.3% Female, 8.0% Male
- Person of authority: 2.5% Female, 6.8% Male

Increased Risk of Victimization

- Propensity to be in places with alcohol
- Living alone
- In a dating relationship vs. marriage
- Being an undergrad.
- Sexual victimization before beginning of current academic year

Common Stalking Behaviors

- What stalking behaviors can you think of?
- What have victims disclosed to you?
- What stalking behaviors have you seen?

Stalking Behaviors

- Leaving unwanted presents: 12%
- Waiting for victim: 29%
- Showing up at places: 31%
- Unwanted letters and email: 31%
- Following or spying: 34%
- Spreading rumors: 36%
- Unwanted phone calls and messages: 66%

*Stalking Victimization in the United States, BJS (2009)*

Pattern of Behavior

- 2/3 of stalkers pursue their victim at least once per week
- 78% of stalkers use more than one means of approach
- Weapons used to harm or threaten victims in about 20% of cases

*The RECON Typology of Stalking (2006)*
Stalking Behaviors

- Using kids
- Proxy stalking
- Stalking harassment
- Other crimes
- OP violations

Use of Technology to Stalk

- Phones – calls, SMS, MMS
- Fax machines
- Cameras
- Global Positioning Systems (GPS)
- Location based services
- Computers
- Spyware
- Email & IM
- Social networking sites
- Assistive technologies

Stalking and Sexual Assault
Over the course of an average college career (now 5 years), 20 – 25% of women experience either a completed or attempted sexual assault.

Most victims knew the person who sexually victimized them. For both completed and attempted rapes, about 9 in 10 offenders were known to the victims.

In 10.3% of campus stalking incidents, the victim reported that the stalker forced or attempted sexual contact.

3/4 of women who experienced stalking-related behaviors experienced other forms of victimization (sexual, physical, or both)

1,882 men interviewed as part of the study...all were volunteer participants.

Sample question:
Have you ever had sexual intercourse with an adult when they didn’t want to because you used physical force (twisting their arm; holding them down, etc.) if they didn’t cooperate?
Of the 1,882 men:

- 120 (6.4%) met criteria for rape or attempted rape
  - 76 reported committing multiple rapes
    - 120 committed a total of 483 rapes, but the 76 repeat rapists committed 439 of them (average of 5.8 each).
  - 70 of the 120 admitted to other acts of interpersonal violence, including battery, physical/sexual abuse of kids, and sexual assault short of rape/attempted rape.

Film: The Undetected Rapist

- Do you think Frank’s behavior was premeditated?
  - If yes, what demonstrated premeditation?
- Would you consider what Frank described as rape/sexual assault?
- Do you think any of Frank’s behaviors could be considered stalking?
- Do you think individuals like Frank may contact their victims after the assault?
**Post-Assault Contact**

- Threaten the victim/survivor
- Discover what the victim/survivor is thinking
- Try and frame the incident for the victim/survivor
- Maintain social contact

**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

**Course of Conduct**

- Approach/Engagement
- Calling/texting/emailing
- Showing up at class/residence/work
- Information gathering
  - friends
  - social networking sites
What do you think?

Is there a connection between stalking and sexual assault?

What benefit is there to making a connection between stalking and sexual assault?

Making the Connection

- Validating Victims’ Experiences
- Increased Opportunities for Intervention
- Increased Offender Accountability

Stalking and Other Crimes

- Among stalking cases...
  - 24% involve property damage
  - 21% involve a direct attack on the victim
  - 15% involve an attack on another person or pet

- Identity theft
  - Changed items to credit card
  - Took money from accounts
  - Opened/closed accounts

Stalking Victimization in the United States, BJS (2009)
Why Do They Stalk?

- Seeking affection
- Rejection
- Obsession
- Power and control
- Planning to commit a crime
- Because they can

Social Normalization

Campus Specific Challenges
Campus Challenges

What unique challenges do colleges and universities face in addressing stalking?

Campus Challenges

Access
Possible limits on safety accommodations
Jurisdictional issues
Lack of training among hearing boards / discipline committees
Social normalization of stalking

Victims of Stalking
Impact of Stalking

- Minimization; Self-blame
- Guilt, shame or embarrassment
- Frustration, Irritability, Anger
- Shock and confusion
- Fear and anxiety
- Depression
- Emotional numbness
- Flashbacks
- Isolation/disconnection from other people
- Difficulties with concentration or attention
- Feeling suicidal
- Decreased ability to perform at work or school, or accomplish daily tasks
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Sleep disturbances, nightmares
- Sexual dysfunction
- Fatigue
- Fluctuations in weight
- Self-medication with alcohol/drugs
- Feeling on guard most of the time - hypervigilance

Victim's Reactions

- 43% avoided or tried to avoid stalker
- 16% confronted stalker
- 9% did not acknowledge messages/e-mail
- 6% became less trustful/more cynical
- 5% got caller ID
- 4% improved security system of residence
- 4% traveled with a companion
- 4% sought restraining order
- 3% filed a grievance with university
- 3% sought psychological counseling

Reporting of Stalking Incidents

- Overall, 83.1% of stalking incidents were NOT reported to police or campus law enforcement.

BUT....

- 93.4% of victims confided in someone, most often a friend, that they were being stalked.
Table: Reasons for Not Reporting Stalking

- Didn't think incident was serious enough: 72.6%
- Didn't know that incident was a crime: 33.6%
- Thought police wouldn't think it was serious: 25.6%
- Thought they lacked proof: 20.0%
- Feared reprisals: 15.3%
- Didn't know how to report the incident: 10.8%
- Didn't want other people to know: 8.5%

Diagram: Reasons for Not Reporting Stalking

Campus Response

- Educational Programming
  - Awareness
  - Prevention
    - Bystander Intervention
- Services and resources for victims
- Training for officials
- Implement and enforce stalking policies/protocols
Educational Programming

Increase Awareness

- Add information to orientation materials/activities
- Awareness Months:
  - January – Stalking
  - February – Dating Violence
  - April – Sexual Assault
  - October – Domestic Violence
- Post information:
  - Residence halls
  - Health center
  - Counseling center
  - Classrooms
  - Libraries
  - Any where / every where

IT'S not a JOKE. IT'S not ROMANTIC. IT'S not OK.
stop STALKING
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It’s not OK
Prevention

- Teaching healthy relationships
- Un-normalizing stalking behavior
- Promoting bystander intervention

Bystander Intervention

The bystander model gives all community members a specific role, with which they can identify and adopt in preventing the community problem of stalking. This role includes interrupting stalking behavior, speaking out against social norms that support stalking, and having skills to be an effective and supportive ally to victims.

Victim Services
Victim Services

- Where would a victim go for services and resources?
  - On campus?
  - In the community?
- How do they know where to go?
  - How many “clicks?”

Training

Training for Campus Officials

- Law enforcement/campus security
- Housing
- Administrators
- Counseling center
- Health center
- Advocates
- Educators
- Faculty
- Advisors
- IT
- Others?
### Training for Campus Officials

- Recognizing stalking
- Threat assessment in stalking cases
- Safety planning
- Community resources
- Collaboration

### Develop/Implement/Enforce a Campus Policy

The Stalking Resource Center recommends the development of a collaborative and comprehensive response to stalking on campus that includes creating a campus stalking policy. A university or college stalking policy is one of the best ways to address the significant problem of stalking on campus. A policy demonstrates institutional commitment to the issue and serves as an authoritative mechanism to inform the campus community about this serious crime. A policy on stalking can create guidelines for students, informs the campus body that stalking behaviors will not be tolerated, and can be a proactive measure in guiding student behavior on campus.
Other Considerations

- **Campus SaVE Act (VAWA 2013)**
  - SaVE expands the scope of existing victims’ rights the Clery Act requires in sexual assault cases, and also requires that these rights apply to domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking cases. It also provides for mandatory education about these issues.

- **Title IX**
  - Sexually motivated stalking is covered under Title IX
    - Fact specific/individual determination
    - Is there some evidence of a gender or sexual basis to the conduct?

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Raising Awareness

[www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org](http://www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org)
**Resources for Victims**

- Are You Being Stalked? (Brochure for Victims)
- Stalking Questions and Answers
- Stalking Incident Behavior Log
- Safety Plan Guidelines
- Cyberstalking: Dangers on the Information Superhighway
- Ten Things You Should Know About Stalking

[www.victimsofcrime.org/src](http://www.victimsofcrime.org/src)

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**YOUR FREE GUIDE TO CAMPUS SAFETY & SECURITY**

- Research and compare crime data for over 4,400 schools
- Access relevant safety resources
- Plan for a safe spring break and travel abroad experience
- Get breaking campus safety and security-related news

[www.CampusSentinel.com](http://www.CampusSentinel.com)

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**CLERY CENTER**

http://clerycenter.org/
Training

Technical Assistance

Resources

- In person training
- Webinars
- Individual & organizational assistance
- Fact sheets, brochures, manuals, guides
- Policy/protocol development & consultation
- Videos
- Online resources
- Stalking Awareness Month materials

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