

Recognizing and Responding to Stalking on Campus

Wesleyan University
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Stalking
resource center

www.victimsofcrime.org/src

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Stalking resource center

Training

Technical Assistance

Resources

- Statutes
- Legislative Updates
- Manuals/Guides
- Videos
- Clearinghouse

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
Victims of Crime

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 envisions a future in which the criminal justice system and its many allied community partners will effectively collaborate and respond to stalking, improve victim safety and well-being, and hold offenders accountable.

The Stalking Resource Center provides training, technical assistance, and resource materials for professionals working with and responding to stalking victims and offenders.

Overview

- Prevalence and dynamics of stalking
 - Intersection of stalking and dating violence and sexual assault
 - Use of technology to stalk
 - Impact on victims
- Campus response
 - Title IX
 - Changes to Clery Act

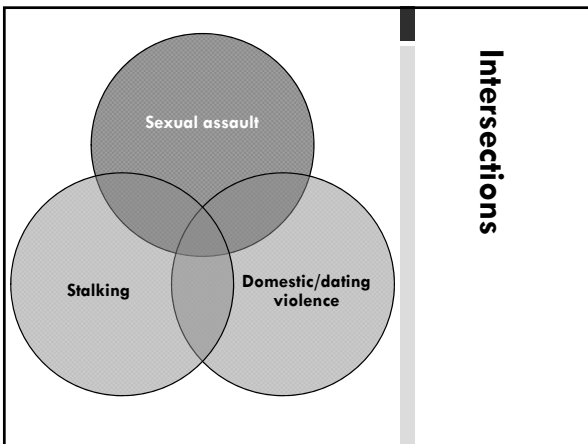
Why Address Stalking?

The Clery Act
(and Title IX)
require us to

It is disruptive
to the campus
environment

Stalking often
leads to other
crimes

The high rate
of stalking on
campus



Defining Stalking

Behavioral

Statute

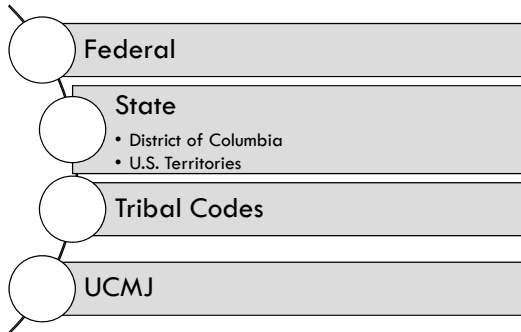
Policy

Stalking

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

Context is critical!

Statutes



Your Campus Policy



Prevalence of Stalking

How many people are stalked in one year:



United States?

On your campus?

Rates of Victimization - Campus

Sexual Violence

- 20 – 25% of college women experience either a completed or attempted sexual assault

- The Sexual Victimization of College Women (2000)

Stalking

- 27% of college women and 15% of college men
- Fremouw et al. (1997)
- 25% of college women and 11% of college men
- Bjerregaard (2000)

Domestic/Dating Violence

- 43% of dating college women experienced some violent and abusive dating behaviors

- College Dating Violence and Abuse Poll (2011)

Age of Victimization

Females ages 18 to 24 generally experienced the highest rates of intimate partner violence

• NISVS: 2010 Summary Report (2011)

18 – 24 year olds experience the highest rates of stalking

• NISVS: 2010 Summary Report (2011)

Women age 20 to 24 experience the highest rates of rape and sexual assault, followed by those 16 to 19

• National Crime Victimization Survey: Criminal Victimization, 2007 (2008)

Stalking Dynamics

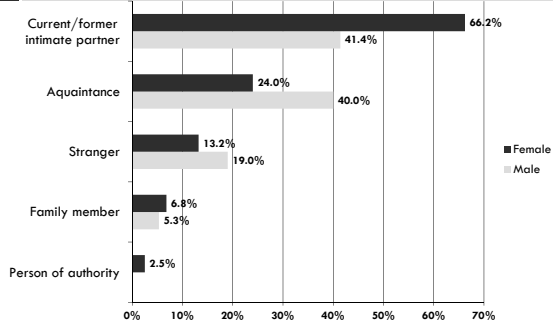
Women are more likely to experience stalking

Most offenders are male

The majority of victims know the offender

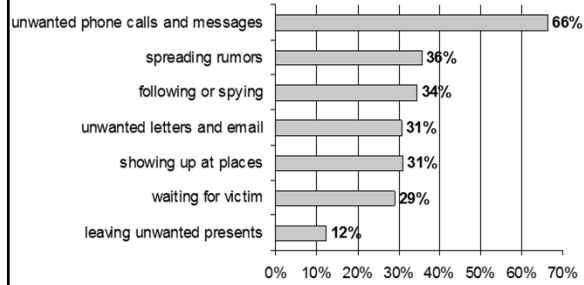
- The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report (2011)

Victim Offender Relationship



- The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report (2011)

Stalking Behaviors



- 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
- The RECON Typology of Stalking (2006)

Recidivism Rates

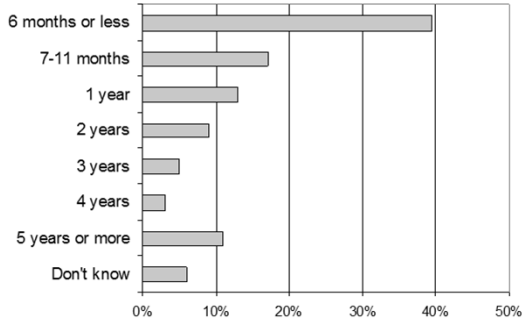
- Occurred in 60% of cases
- Time between intervention and recidivism was about 2 months
 - Ranged from 1 day to 6 years

- The RECON Typology of Stalking (2006)

Stalking by Proxy

- Third party stalking
 - Unintentional
 - Intentional
- 50% - 60% of partner stalking victims say others were involved in stalking - Logan et al. (2006)

Duration of Stalking



Use of Technology to Stalk

- Phones – calls, messages, texts, pics, video
- Cameras
- Global Positioning Systems (GPS)
- Computers
- Social networking sites
- Email & IM
- Spyware
- Assistive technologies



Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.

- Arthur C. Clarke

Use of Technology to Stalk



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THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO STALK
AN ONLINE COURSE

Call phones, GPS, Computers. Did you know that these technologies can be dangerous weapons in a stalker's arsenal? This self-paced, interactive course will give you a further understanding of how stalkers use these and other technologies to locate, harass, and surveil their victims. You will also identify steps to access in investigating stalking crimes and supporting victims of stalking.

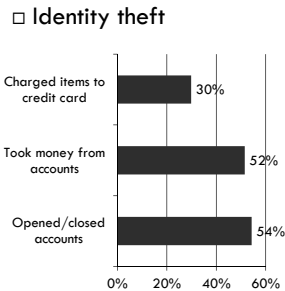
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The National Center for Stalking & Victim of Crime

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



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

Intersection with Physical & Sexual Violence

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

- ▣ Stalking and physical assault only 8%
- ▣ Stalking and rape/sexual assault only 26%
- ▣ Stalking, physical and rape/sexual assault 11%

- Stalking acknowledgement and reporting among college women experiencing intrusive behaviors (2007)

Intimate Partner Stalkers: Increased Risk for Victims

More likely to physically approach victim

More insulting, interfering and threatening

More likely to use weapons

Behaviors more likely to escalate quickly

More likely to re-offend

The RECON Typology of Stalking, Mohandie et al (2006)

IP Stalking Violence

- ▣ Greatest risk of violence is when the stalker:
 - ▣ issued direct threats of violence
 - ▣ was jealous of the victim's relationships with others during the relationship
 - ▣ user of illegal drugs
- ▣ Where there is evidence of the presence of all of these factors, the risk of stalking violence is heightened.

- Women's Experience of Violence During Stalking by Former Romantic Partners (2005)

Lethality

- 76% of femicide (female homicide) cases involved at least one episode of stalking within the year prior to the murder
- 85% of attempted femicide cases involved at least one episode of stalking within a year prior to the attempted murder

- Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide, McFarlane et al. (1999)

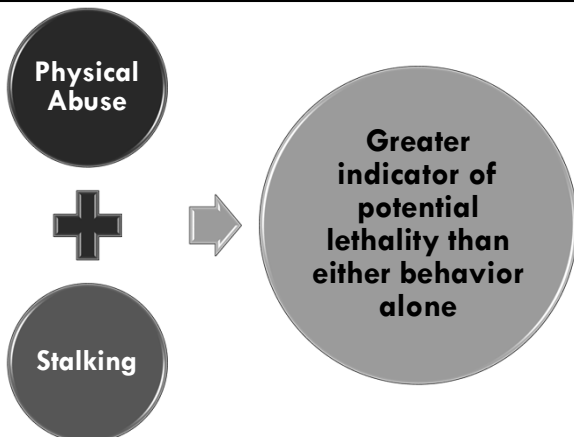
Lethality

67% of the femicide victims had been physically abused by their intimate partner in the 12 months before the murder



89% of the femicide victims who had been physically abused had also been stalked in the 12 months before the murder

- Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide, McFarlane et al. (1999)



Increased Danger

More Dangerous Times

- Separation
- Protective order served/criminal arrest
- Offender's loss of job, other life events
- Multiple incidents in a short period of time – quantity & escalation

More Dangerous Offenders

- History of substance abuse, mental illness, violence, esp. towards victim
- Actual pursuit
- Possession and/or fascination with weapons
- Vandalism, arson
- Tendency towards emotional outbursts and rage
- History of violating POs
- Threats of murder/murder-suicide

Stalking and Sexual Assault

2% of stalking victims were raped/sexually assaulted by their stalker

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

31% of women stalked by her intimate partner were also sexually assaulted by that partner

- National Violence Against Women Survey, Tjaden & Thoennes (1998)

Stalking & Sexual Assault on Campus

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

- The Sexual Victimization of College Women (2000)

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

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Stranger vs. Non-Stranger Rape

Stranger Rapist

- Watch/follow potential victims
 - Learn routines
 - Identify vulnerabilities
- Gather information
 - Use to disarm victim

Non-Stranger Rapists

- Do they engage in the same types of behaviors?

Might we think of this as stalking behavior?

The Undetected Rapist

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

Sample questions:

- 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?
- Have you ever had sexual intercourse with someone, even though they did not want to, because they were too intoxicated (on alcohol or drugs) to resist your sexual advances?

Lisak, David. Repeat Rape and Multiple Offending Among Undetected Rapists, Violence and Victims, Vol. 17, No. 1, 2002.

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.

Post-Assault Contact

Threaten the victim/survivor

Discover what the victim/survivor is thinking

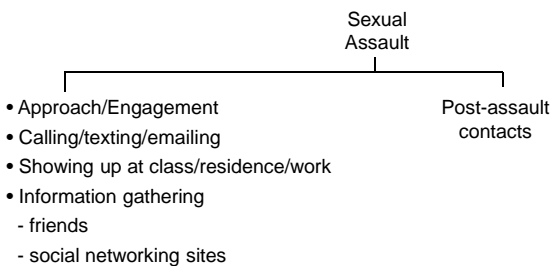
Try and frame the incident for the victim/survivor

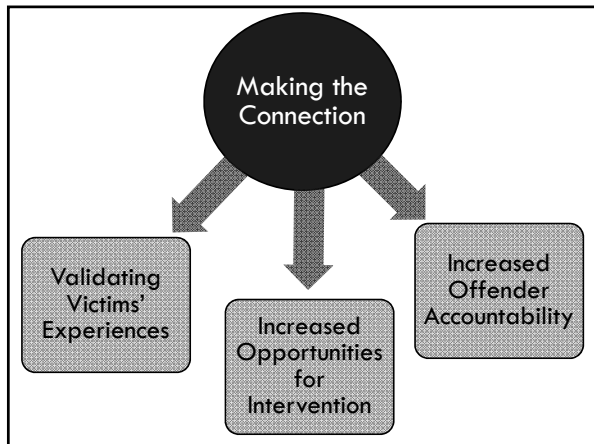
Maintain social contact

Think Broadly About "Contact"

- Phone
- Texting
- Email
- IM/Chat
- Social Networking Sites
 - Contact with victim
 - Postings to own sites

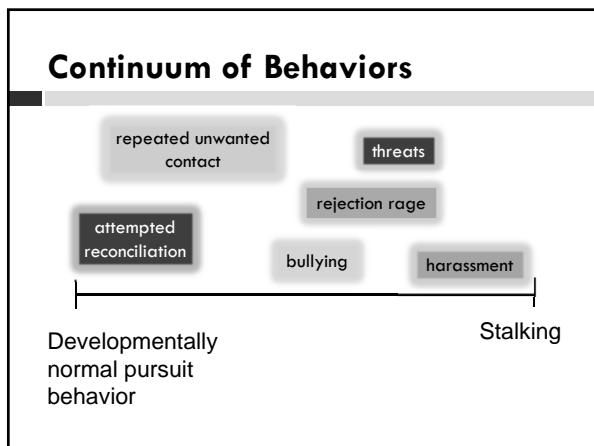
Course of Conduct





Why Do They Stalk?

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



Social Normalization 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

Impact on Victims

Afraid of:

- 46% not knowing what would happen next
- 30% bodily harm
- 29% behavior would never stop
- 13% harm or kidnap a child
- 10% loss of freedom
- 9% death
- 4% losing one's mind

“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.”

Reporting to Law Enforcement

37% of male stalking victims

41% of female stalking victims

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

Reporting of Stalking Incidents - Campus

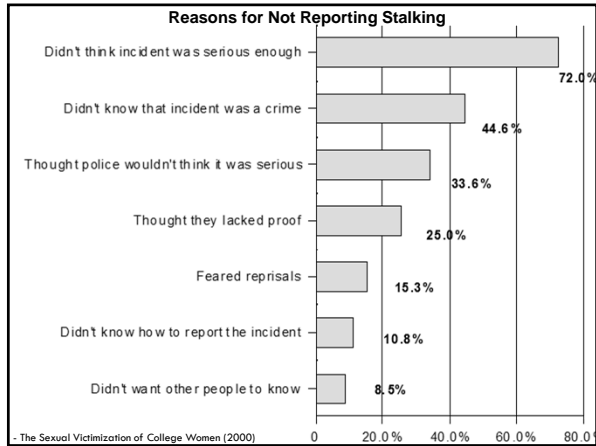
Overall, 83.1% of stalking incidents were NOT reported to police or campus law enforcement.

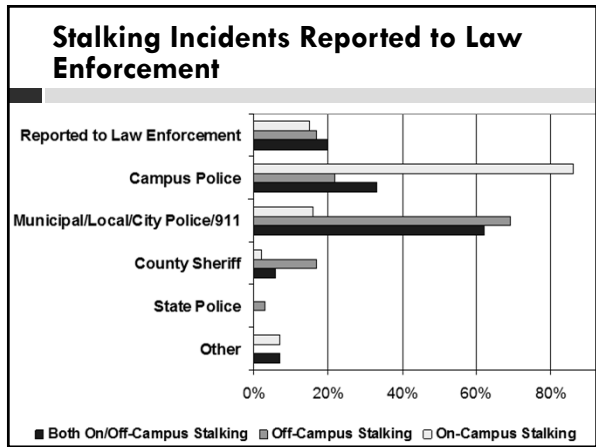
BUT....

93.4% of victims confided in someone, most often a friend, that they were being stalked.

- National Sexual Victimization of College Women Survey

- The Sexual Victimization of College Women (2000)





Reporting

By the time victims report to police, the stalking behavior has been well established and... victim-initiated countermeasures have failed.

Source: Klein et al., (2009). A Statewide Study of Stalking and Its Criminal Justice Response.

Stalking is one of the few crimes where early intervention can prevent violence and death.

What Can We Do?



Responding to Victims

Advise disengagement

- Challenges
- Contact as a safety strategy

Documentation

Advocacy & Support Services

First Response

Any time a victim reports any type of harassing behavior:

- Consider the possibility of a stalking case
- Determine whether this is an isolated incident or repeated conduct

Campus Response

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



Collaborative Response



- Administration
- Law enforcement/public safety
- Victim services (campus & community)
- Housing
- IT
- Health center
- Counseling center
- Title IX Coordinator
- Faculty/staff
- Students
- Others?

Stalking Policy

- A policy demonstrates institutional commitment to the issue and serves as an authoritative mechanism to inform the campus community about this serious crime
 - ▣ Create response guidelines
 - ▣ Inform campus body of what is (un)acceptable behavior
- Considerations
 - ▣ Clery Act
 - ▣ Title IX

Clery Changes – VAWA 2013

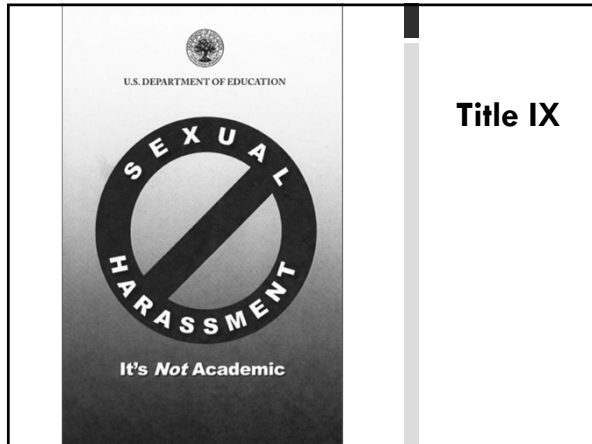
- Expands the scope of existing victims' rights the Clery Act requires in sexual assault cases, and also requires that these rights apply domestic violence, dating violence, and **stalking** cases. It also provides for mandatory education about these issues.
- Defines stalking as in VAWA: "The term 'stalking' means engaging 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.

DOE Rules – Stalking

Counting

Relationship

Geography



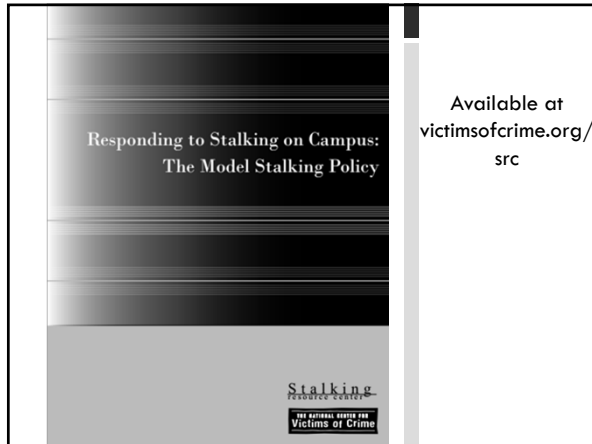
Title IX

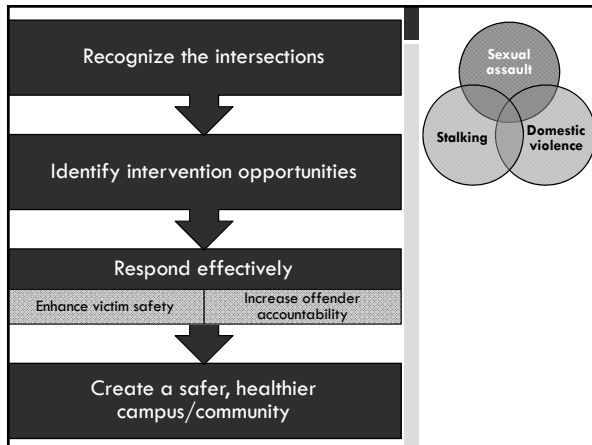
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, in education programs and activities
- Sexual harassment includes conduct that is criminal in nature, such as rape, sexual assault, dating violence, and **sexually motivated stalking**
 - ▣ Even if a school reports possible criminal conduct to the police, that doesn't relieve the school of its responsibilities under Title IX

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Sexual Harassment : It's Not Academic, Washington D.C., 2008.

Sexually Motivated Stalking

- Determination fact specific to individual cases
- Analysis would be similar to other conduct to determine if there is evidence of a gender or sexual basis to the conduct
 - ▣ Behavior is related to the victim and the offender having had a sexual relationship
 - ▣ Behavior is related to the offender seeking a sexual relationship
 - ▣ Female victim is targeted specifically because of her gender





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

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Stalking

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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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