

Stalking
Tulsa, OK
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Stalking 2007 - A BEARER OF - 2010
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGISTS

Overview

- Definitions and prevalence
- Stalking and other crimes
- Stalking behavior
- Stalking in society
- Impact on victims
- Threat Assessment and Safety Planning

WHAT IS STALKING?

Stalking Definition:

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

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

- Pattern of behavior = course of conduct
- Group of activities
- Could be as few as two
- Examples?

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

- Course of conduct may be largely or entirely composed of otherwise legal acts
- Can be difficult to see the pattern
- How do you know it when you see it?

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

- Acts may include children, family, friends, coworkers, neighbors
- But the *target* is a specific person
- Examples?

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

- A person who was *similarly situated* to the victim
- In other words, if you were in their shoes...

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

FEAR is the essential difference between
harassment and stalking

Context

- Can you threaten someone without using any threatening words?
- Can non-criminal acts be stalking?

Context is critical!

How Prevalent is Stalking?

Where does your city fall?

14 cases per 1,000
annually

14 cases per 1,000 according to Baum, K., Catalano, S., & Rand, M. (2009). *Stalking Victimization in the United States*. Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Where Does Your City Fall?

14 cases per 1,000 annually

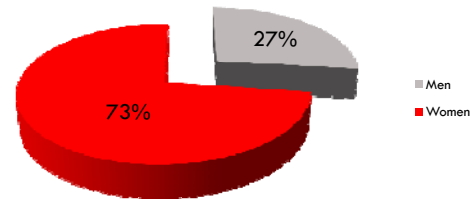
Tulsa population: 591,982

= 8,287 stalking cases annually in Tulsa



Who Are Stalking Victims?

Stalking Victims' Gender



* Baum, K., Catalano, S., & Rand, M. (2009). *Stalking Victimization in the United States*. Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Who Are Stalking Victims?

- **Any age**
 - 18-24 particularly at risk
- **Any marital status**
 - divorced or separated particularly at risk
- **Any ethnicity**
 - minorities particularly at risk
- **Any income level**
 - lower income particularly at risk

* Baum, K., Catalano, S., & Rand, M. (2009). *Stalking Victimization in the United States*. Bureau of Justice Statistics.



INTERSECTION OF STALKING & OTHER CRIMES

Stalking is Connected to...

- Intimate Partner Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Homicide
- Assaults on others
- Property crimes

Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence

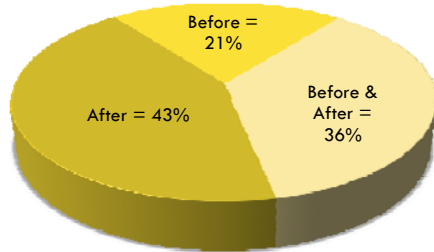
- 81% of stalking victims who were stalked by an intimate partner reported that they had also been physically assaulted by that partner.

- National Violence Against Women Survey (1998)

- 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, physical and rape/sexual assault 11%

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

Point in Intimate Relationship When Stalking of Women Occurs



National Violence Against Women Survey (1998)

Stalking Violence

35.9% of women stalked by former romantic partners experienced stalking violence

- any physical attack on the victim by the stalker that resulted in physical injury to the victim or that was interpreted by the victim as being intended to result in physical injury

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

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 cases involved at least one episode of stalking within 12 months prior to the murder
- 85% of attempted femicide cases involved at least one episode of stalking within 12 months prior to the attempted murder

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

Lethality

- 67% of 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)

Physical Abuse
+ Stalking
= Higher indicator of potential lethality than either behavior alone

Stalking and Sexual Assault

- 31% of women stalked by her intimate partner were also sexually assaulted by that partner
- Stalking can occur both prior to and after a sexual assault
 - Includes voyeurism, following, surveillance

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

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

* Baum, K., Catalano, S., & Rand, M. (2009). Stalking Victimization in the United States. Bureau of Justice Statistics.



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

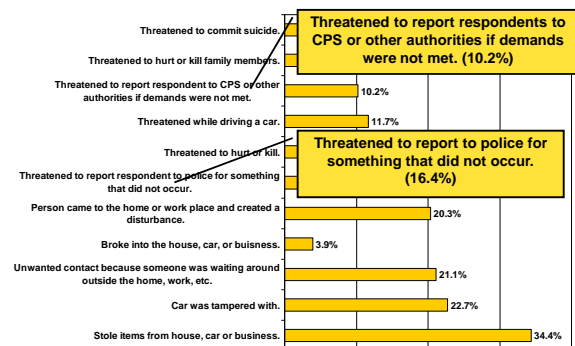
- The RECON Typology of Stalking (2006)

Stalking is Creatively Criminal

- Cases may include:
 - Unwanted communications
 - Threats
 - Electronic monitoring
 - Following and surveillance
 - Spreading rumors or worse
 - Unwanted gifts

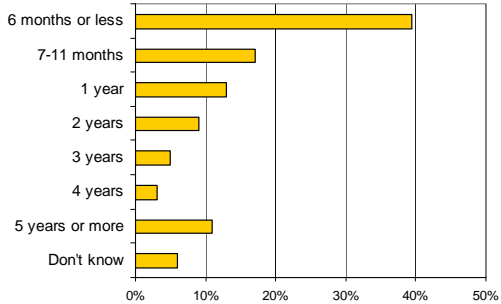
* Baum, K., Catalano, S., & Rand, M. (2009). Stalking Victimization in the United States. Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Stalking Behaviors



- Stalking in Texas (2007)

Duration of Stalking



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

Use of Technology to Stalk

More than 1 in 4 victims reported some form of technology used

- 83% email
- 35% instant messaging (IM)
- 7% electronic monitoring of some kind



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

Use of Technology to Stalk

- Phones
- Cameras
- Global Positioning Systems (GPS)
- Computers
- Spyware
- Email & IM
- Assistive technologies
- Social networking sites



Combined Technologies

Why do they stalk?

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

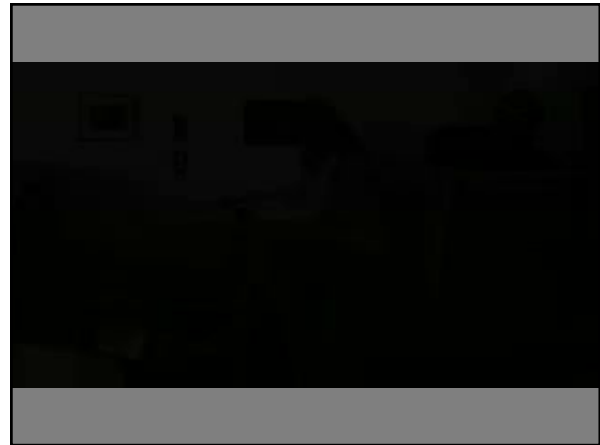
STALKING IN SOCIETY



 A movie poster for 'The Police: Every Breath You Take' featuring three men.

- Everybody's Stalking
 - Badly Drawn Boy
- Stalking You on MySpace
 - Jon B
- I Will Possess Your Heart
 - Death Cab for Cutie
- One Way or Another
 - Blondie
- Escape
 - Enrique Iglesias
- In My Mind
 - Heather Headley

Stalking Song



 A person covering their face with their hand.

IMPACT ON VICTIMS

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
 - 29% behavior would never stop
 - 9% death
- 1 in 8 of employed victims lost time from work
 - More than half lost 5 days or more

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

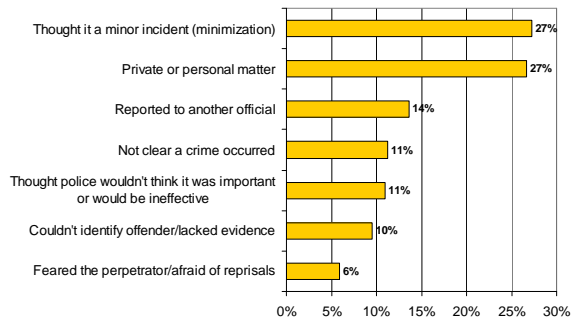
Do most stalking victims report to law enforcement?

Reporting to Law Enforcement

- 37% of male stalking victims
- 41% of female stalking victims

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

Reasons For Not Reporting



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

Barriers to Reporting

- Jurisdictional issues
- Lack of resources for law enforcement and courts
- Phone and transportation issues
- Relationships
- Others?

Stalking Behavior is Red Flag Behavior



Stalking Behavior is Red Flag Behavior

- Stalkers Ignore:
 - personal boundaries set by victims
 - informal boundaries set by police
 - formal court orders
- Sometimes they even tell you exactly what they're going to do

Stalking Cases are Violence Prevention Cases

- Protective Orders
- Lethality
- Other types of violence

Stalking Cases are Violence Prevention Cases

- Protective Orders
 - Stalking is the strongest predictor that an offender will violate a PO
- Lethality
 - Lethality rates in stalking cases are unknown, but...
 - 76% of female homicide victims were stalked prior to death
- Other types of violence
 - Sex assault
 - Domestic violence
 - Assaults on victim and others

Stalking is Rarely Charged

- Between 5 and 16% of stalking cases are actually charged as stalking when police already have all the information they need to charge^{1, 2}
 - Stalking is a difficult crime to work with
 - Other charges seem more expedient
 - Resource scarcity
 - Systemic barriers in the rest of the CJS

¹Klein, A., Salomon, A., Huntington, N., Dubois, J., & Lang, D. (2009). *A Statewide Study of Stalking and Its Criminal Justice Response*. U.S. Department of Justice.
²Tjaden, P., & Thoennes, N. (2001). *Stalking: Its role in serious domestic violence cases*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice.

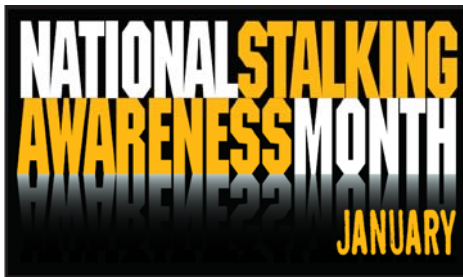
Victims' Voices

“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:
Real Fear, Real Crime**

Raising Awareness



www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org

THREAT ASSESSMENT AND
SAFETY PLANNING

Threat Assessment

- THREAT ASSESSMENT
 - Adopt or develop a threat assessment tool
 - www.dangerassessment.org
- If no threat assessment tool is available:
 - Count the number of boundaries violated
 - EVERY act counts
 - Highlight the most serious violations

Safety Planning

**EVERY PLAN
MUST BE
INDIVIDUALIZED**

Safety Planning

- Victims should break off all contact with the offender
- Victims should call law enforcement if they are in immediate danger

Safety Planning

- For each case also plan:
 - Victim safety plan and incident log
 - Sample log online at nvc.org/src
 - Traditional advice may not apply and may be dangerous!
 - What evidence to gather and maintain
 - What charges to file
 - How or if to interact with the suspect

Stalking Log

STALKING INCIDENT LOG

Date	Time	Description of Incident	Location of Incident	Witness Name(s) (Address, Address and Phone #)	Police Called (Report #)	Officer Name (Badge #)

Working with Victims

- Encourage victims to:
 - Put their safety plan into action
 - Engage and communicate regularly with other team members
 - Deliver all the evidence they can to law enforcement

Stalking
resource center

www.ncvc.org/src

202-467-8700

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
Victims of Crime

1-800-FYI-CALL
gethelp@ncvc.org