

SPARC

STALKING
PREVENTION,
AWARENESS,
AND RESOURCE
CENTER

Stalking on Campus: Know It, Name It, Stop It

Public Awareness Training

This project was supported by Grant No. 2017-TA-AX-K074 awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of OVW.

Introduction

Trauma Warning

- Today's program will discuss stalking and interpersonal violence in detail.

Why Learn About Stalking?

So, why take the time to learn about stalking?

Part 1: Know It

Scenarios: What's going On?

- Coffee
- Tuxedo
- TV

Context

- Context is often what makes stalking scary

Context is Critical



What is Stalking? Campus Definition

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

What is Stalking?

If what's happening is scary/distressing, not the first incident, and targets the same person, it could be stalking.

Quotes from Stalking Victims

“He knows everything about me – I am so frightened.”

“My entire life has been stolen from me. My privacy has been taken from me. I’m humiliated daily. It’s a living hell.”

“I don’t understand. I just want to be left alone and move on with my life.”

“It is beyond a nightmare... I do not feel safe at all.”

Stalking Targets One Person

Other people may be targeted by the stalker in order to get to the primary victim

Stalking is a Pattern

- Not a single incident or “one off” event
- Called a “course of conduct” in most stalking laws

Part 2: Name It

Brainstorm: Stalking Behaviors

- Surveillance
 - Watching, following, gathering information
- Life invasion
 - Showing up in the victim's life
- Interference
 - Sabotaging, attacking, or otherwise changing the victim's life
- Intimidation
 - Threatening and/or scaring the victim

Reference:

Logan, T.K. & Walker, R. (2017). Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse* 18(2): 200-222.

Surveillance Examples

- Following or checking in on (on foot, in a car, online)
- Watching/waiting places victim might go
- Planting and/or accessing a camera, GPS, and/or recording device
- Keeping track of the person's online/social media activity, researching them
- Hacking into accounts and/or monitoring someone's choices
- Asking friends/roommates/classmates about the person

Life Invasion Examples

- Messaging, texting, e-mailing, and otherwise contacting across platforms
- Calling the person's phone, including hang-ups
- Contacting other people close to the victim
- Showing up – in public and private spaces (victim's dorm, outside of class, library)
- Joining student activities or enrolling in classes the victim is a part of
- Leaving gifts/packages/notes for the victim
- Spreading rumors and/or misinformation

Interference (Through Sabotage or Attack) Examples

- Hacking/tampering with accounts (financial, academic, e-mail, social media)
- Impersonating the victim online
- Forced confrontations, like standing in the dorm hallway
- Damaging property
- Sabotaging through spreading rumors, public humiliation, or otherwise ruining reputation
- Causing trauma and/or physical injury that the victim needs to spend time and resources to address

Intimidation Examples

- Verbal, written, and/or online threats to hurt, embarrass, or otherwise cause harm
- Direct/explicit threats (“I will hurt you”)
- Indirect/implicit threats (“remember when you told me that secret?”)
- Sending third parties to watch/intimidate
- Symbolic violence (like scary gestures) and property damage (like slashed tires)
- Blackmail/threats to release intimate or private photos, messages, or information
- Threats to hurt oneself and/or the victim’s loved ones (roommates, friends, family, pets, etc.)
- Forced confrontations, like standing in the hallway

Stalking Prevalence

- More than 1 in 6 women and
- More than 1 in 17 men
- Experience stalking in their lifetimes.

Reference:

Smith, S.G., Zhang, X., Basile, K.C., Merrick, M.T., Wang, J., Kresnow, M., & Chen, J. (2018). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2015 Data Brief. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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.

Reference:

Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J. & Stevens, M.R. (2011). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

College Student Victims: Marginalized Populations

- Students who identify as transgender, nonbinary, or genderqueer experience the highest rates of stalking.
- Students with disabilities twice as likely to experience stalking.
- Black students were 30% and Native American students 35% more likely than their counterparts to experience stalking.

Reference:

Davis, G.E., Hines, D.A., & Palm Reed, K.M. (2021). Routing Activities and Stalking Victimization in Sexual Minority College Students. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*: 1-29.

Reyns, B. W., & Scherer, H. (2018). Stalking victimization among college students: The role of disability within a lifestyle-routine activity framework. *Crime & Delinquency*, 64(5), 650-673.

Fedina, L., Backes, B. L., Sulley, C., Wood, L., & Busch-Armendariz, N. (2020). Prevalence and sociodemographic factors associated with stalking victimization among college students. *Journal of American college health*, 68(6), 624-630.

Image Results for “Stalking”

The image shows a Google search interface with the word "stalking" entered in the search bar. Below the search bar are navigation tabs for "All", "News", "Images", "Books", "Videos", and "More". The "Images" tab is selected. The search results are displayed in a grid of 15 image thumbnails. Each thumbnail includes a small image and a caption with a source URL. The thumbnails depict various scenes related to stalking, such as a woman looking over her shoulder, a man taking a selfie with a woman, a woman talking on a phone, a person in a hoodie walking down a street, and a person using binoculars. One thumbnail is a graphic with the text "STALKING is not a joke, is not a crime, is not okay" and "is a crime!".

Google

stalking

Q All News Images Books Videos More Tools Collections SafeSearch

Stalking | Office on Women's Health
womenshealth.gov

Stalking: Know it. Name it. Stop it. | CDC
cdc.gov

how to effectively combat stalki...
theconversation.com

Stalking Behavior Patterns and Cycles ...
safeconnections.org

Stalking – Family Services Inco...
familyservicesinc.net

the only way to fight stalking ...
sehelka.com

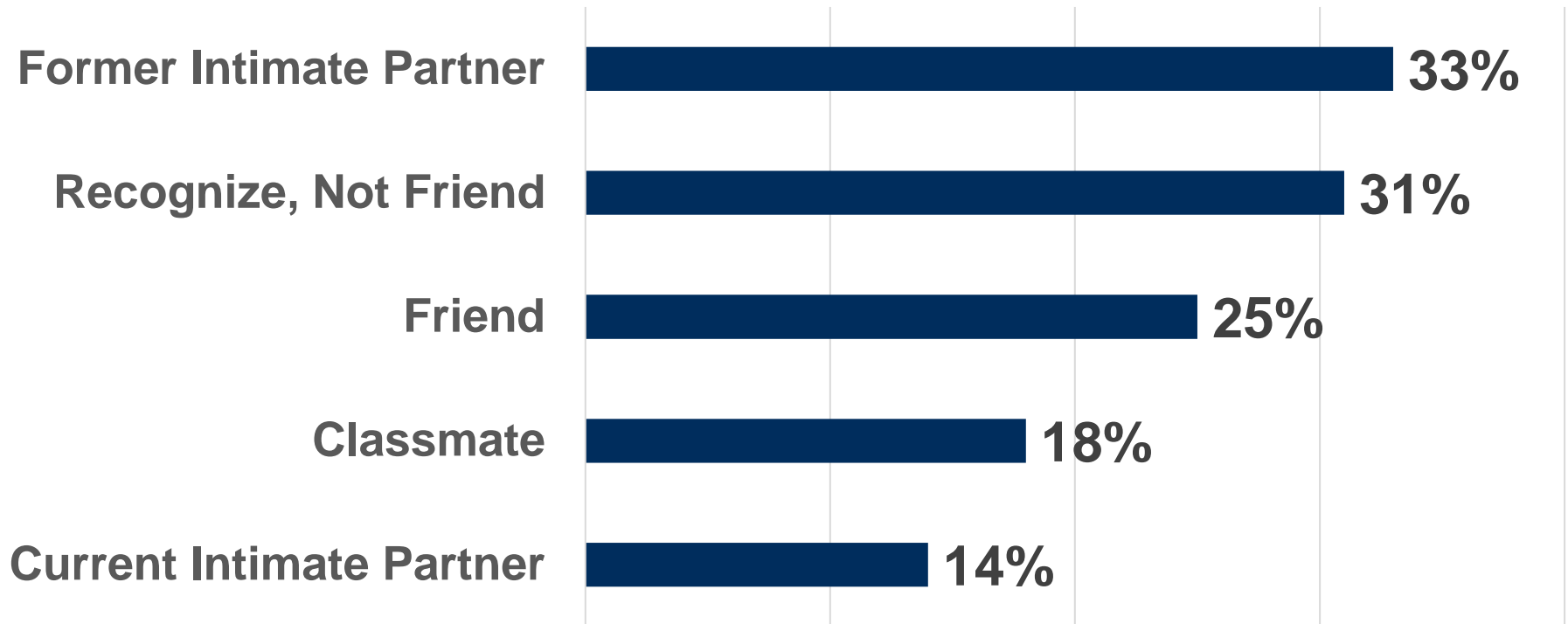
When Stalking Becomes Apart of Your ...
safehavenofashland.org

Number of Reported Stalking Cases ...
nippon.com

Google pulls stalking apps from the ...
engadget.com

Stalking - Crime Prevention ...
uwgb.edu

Who are Stalkers on Campus?



Reference:

Cantor, D., et al. (2020). Report on the AAU Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct. Westat.

Perceptions of Crime

“Research suggests that victims rely on notions of what a ‘real’ or ‘legitimate’ crime looks like, and these perceptions may impact reporting decisions.”

- Reference:
- Reynes, B.W., & Englebrecht, C.M. (2012). The Fear Factor: Exploring Predictors of Fear Among Stalking Victims Throughout the Stalking Encounter. *Crime & Delinquency* 59(5): 788-808. DOI: 10.1177/0011128712461123

Intimate Partner Stalkers

- On average, intimate partner stalkers pose the greatest threats to their victims.
- Why?

Group Activity



Caitlin Mathis and Charles Bryant
cbsnews.com

Caitlin Mathis Video



Discussion Questions

(5-10 minutes)

1. What stalking behaviors did Charles use to scare Caitlin?
2. What are some examples of contextually frightening behaviors (i.e., experiences that were scary to Caitlin, but may have been difficult to explain to outsiders)?
3. How might you respond if Caitlin was your friend and told you about Charles coming onto campus after the break-up?
4. At what point do you think Charles became scary? Was there one clear moment, or would it be different for different people?
5. How did Charles' stalking behaviors impact Caitlin? Others?

Part 3: Stop It

Don't Normalize Stalking

“I'm totally Facebook stalking you and saw your new photos! So cute!”

“OMG, thanks!”

- The casual use of the word ‘stalking’ can dilute the term.

Know It. Name It. Stop It.

- ~~Unrequited love~~
- ~~Just being awkward~~
- ~~A little weird~~
- ~~Not a big deal~~
- ~~Harmless~~
- ~~Romantic~~
- **STALKING**

Supporting Others



**Most victims of stalking talk to a friend,
family member, or someone**

Spread the Word: Order Stalking Awareness Brochures and Posters



URL: www.StalkingAwareness.org

January is National Stalking Awareness Month

- Know it. Name it. Stop it.
- How are you planning to spread the word?
- Learn
- Teach
- Share
- Reflect

For Help on Campus

[Optional: insert campus resources here]

What will **you** do to
address stalking?

SPARC Online

- URL: www.StalkingAwareness.org
- Learn more
- Available resources include:
 - Fact Sheets and Infographics
 - Awareness Resources and Videos
 - Tips for Helping Friends
 - Discussion Guides
- Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
 - @FollowUsLegally



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