Stalking on Campus

Stalking

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

Prevalence of Stalking

3.4 million people stalked annually

- Persons aged 18-24 experienced the highest rates of stalking victimization
- Nearly half experienced at least 1 unwanted contact per week
- 11% had been stalked for five or more years

-Stalking Victimization in the United States, BJS (2009)-
Females are nearly 3 times more likely to experience stalking than males

- 7 per 1000 males age 18 and over
- 20 per 1000 females age 18 and over

Gender of Offenders

- Female Victims
  - Male Offender: 67%
  - Female Offender: 24%
- Male Victims
  - Male Offender: 41%
  - Female Offender: 43%

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)
Prevalence

During one 9-month period, 13.1% of college women surveyed reported being stalked
- 3 in 10 women reported being injured emotionally or psychologically from being stalked
- In 15.3% of incidents, the victim reported that the stalker either threatened or attempted to harm them
- In 10.3% of 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)
- Stalking and physical assault only 8%
- Stalking and rape/sexual assault only 26%
- Stalking, physical and rape/sexual assault 11%

Increased Risk of Being a Victim

- the propensity to be in places with alcohol
- living alone
- being in a dating relationship, especially early in the relationship, as opposed to being married or living with an intimate partner
- being an undergraduate
- having experienced sexual victimization before the beginning of the current academic year
Victim and Offender Relationship

80.3% of female campus stalking victims knew their stalkers:
- 42.5% Current/former boyfriend
- 24.5% Classmate
- 10.3% Acquaintance
- 5.6% Friend
- 5.6% Co-worker


Stalking Behaviors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavior</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Telephoned</td>
<td>77.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waited outside/inside</td>
<td>47.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watched from afar</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Followed</td>
<td>42.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sent letters</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mailed</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Showed up uninvited</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sent gifts</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use of Technology to Stalk

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

Campus Stalking & Technology

- Texting
- Email
- Social Networking Sites

Stalking via Text Messaging

- SMS (short message service)
- Evidence: Take a photo of the cell phone screen to document harassing messages
- Phone Carrier Records:
  - Check what text/SMS records your phone carrier keeps
Email

How do stalkers use email?
- Send email
- Intercept and monitor email
- Impersonate victim and send offensive messages to others

What can victims do?
- Passwords: use variations of numbers and letters
- Save all harassing or suspicious emails
- Never open suspicious emails or attachments

Away Messages/Status Updates

Where am I?
At Library – 3rd Floor Stacks
Social Networking Sites

- Creating an online community for friends & family members or meeting new friends (examples: Facebook, My Space)
- SNS can bring people together in various ways
  - Maintain friendships (across distances)
  - Pursuits of specific interests – music, art, sports, etc.
  - Community activism

Context

Some behaviors that are intrusive when initiated by a stranger may not be intrusive when initiated by a former dating partner, because the behaviors might be viewed as a reasonable attempt to reconcile.

Twitter

Think Before You Post

- Photos
- School information
- Work information
- Favorite hangouts
- What is on your friends’ pages about you?
**Stalking 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

**Pattern of Behavior**

**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)
The Intersection of Stalking and Sexual Assault

Over the course of an average college career (now 5 years), 20 – 25% of women experience either a completed of 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.
## 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 (2003)*

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

## Dr. Lisak’s Research

- 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
  - 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
76 Serial Rapists Identified

- 439 rapes of adults
- 49 sexual assaults of adults
- 277 acts of sexual abuse of children
- 66 acts of physical abuse of children
- 214 acts of battery

1,045 TOTAL Self Disclosed Offenses

The Undetected Rapist
### Implications of Research on Undetected Rapists

**The Typical Rapist:**
- Does not use a weapon
- Uses instrumental, not gratuitous violence
- Has access to consensual sex
- Comes from all racial and ethnic groups
- Is not mentally ill

### Implications of Research on Undetected Rapists

- Premeditates & plans his attack
- Uses multiple strategies to make victim vulnerable
- Uses alcohol deliberately
- Increases violence as needed

### Common Characteristics Between Incarcerated and Undetected Rapists

- Angry at women
- Need to dominate women
- Believe in rape myths
- Hold hypermasculine attitudes
- See “intimate” violence as normal
- See women as objects to be conquered
- Have deficits in empathy
Interviews with the men revealed:

- Rapist feels anger not empathy when a victim resists
- Rapist minimizes and sanitizes his violence
- Women are “targets” & “prey”
- Women are “staked out”

Rapes were preceded by:

- Following
- Surveillance
- Information gathering

Is this stalking?

Post-Assault Contact

- Threatens victim
  - Implicit or explicit
- Attempts to frame the incident
- Maintain social contact
Think Broadly About “Contact”

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

Course of Conduct

Sexual Assault

- 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?
So What?

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

Making the Connection

- Validation of Victims’ Experiences
  - Provides context
  - Places blame solidly on the perpetrator
  - Provides additional proof
- Enhanced opportunities for intervention
- Increased opportunities for offender accountability

Why do they stalk?

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

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

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
Victim's Reactions

- 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.

Reasons for Not Reporting Stalking

- Didn’t think incident was serious enough: 72.6%
- Didn’t know that incident was a crime: 44.6%
- Thought police wouldn’t think it was serious: 33.6%
- Thought they lacked proof: 25.6%
- Feared reprisals: 15.3%
- Didn’t know how to report the incident: 10.8%
- Didn’t want other people to know: 8.5%
What Can We Do?

What does an ideal campus response to stalking look like?

Campus Response
- Educational Programming
  - Awareness
  - Risk Reduction
  - Prevention
    - Bystander Intervention
- Advocacy
- Training for officials
- Implement and Enforce Stalking Policies/Protocol
Increase Awareness

- Add information to orientation materials and activities
- Awareness Months:
  - October – Domestic Violence
  - January – Stalking
  - April – Sexual Assault
- Post information:
  - Residence halls/Dining halls
  - Health center
  - Counseling center
  - Everywhere
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.
Advocacy

- Provide support and validation for the victim
- Provide information and options
- Assist victims in navigating judicial/discipline, criminal and civil justice systems
- Assist victims with safety planning

---

Training for Campus Officials

- Law enforcement/campus security
- Housing
- Administrators
- Counseling center
- Health center
- Advocates
- Educators
- Faculty
- Others?

---

Campus Stalking Policy

Develop

Implement

Enforce
Project to Develop a Model Campus Policy

- Project Partners
  - Stalking Resource Center at the National Center for Victims of Crime
  - California Coalition Against Sexual Assault
  - U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women

- Project launched Fall 2007
  - Model Policy – to be published Summer 2010
  - National conference on stalking on campus – Fall 2010

Policy Considerations

- Stand Alone vs. Combined Policy

- Statement of Purpose
  - Can precede the definition
  - States prevalence data (local, state, national)
  - Cites impact of stalking on student’s ability to learn
  - There is a value in having a purpose statement but depending on the needs of university – they can address the purpose in policy or in procedure/protocol

Recommended Policy Elements

- Definition of Stalking
- Statement of Purpose
- List of Stalking Behaviors
- Reporting Procedures
- Safety Accommodations
- Victim Resources
- Resources for Charged Student
- Non-Campus Criminal & Civil Remedies
Optional Elements

- Investigative responses & judicial process
- Notification/privacy/confidentiality
- Documentation information
- Warning signs of offenders
- Safety tips and safety planning

Recommended Elements

Definition of Stalking

- Campus defined — can be more inclusive
- Criminal definitions and statutes should be included but in different section of policy
- Standard of proof may be different from state and federal statute
- Violations of student code of conduct may allow school to hold offender to a higher standard than criminal statute
List of Stalking Behaviors

- Uses language like “including but not limited to”
- Use of technology included specifically
- List that demonstrates to students there is a range of behaviors and the behaviors can escalate
- Can be a good learning tool that school can use in educational programming
- Link to a more detailed discussion of stalking

Reporting Procedures

- Encouragement to contact campus police
- What law enforcement will do with report
- Anonymous reporting
- Reporting to Office of Judicial Affairs

Safety Accommodations

- On-campus living accommodations (e.g. relocation, enhanced security)
- On-campus work place accommodations
- Academic accommodations (e.g. class section change)
- Enforcement of Orders for Protection
Safety Accommodations

Sample language (minimal):
The University will take every reasonable action to ensure the safety of its students. For students experiencing stalking who would like more information regarding safety accommodations – such as residential or academic relocation – contact the Victim Advocate at 333-1111.

Victim Resources

□ Campus Resources
□ Advocacy Services
□ Community Resources
  □ Rape crisis center
  □ Domestic violence program
  □ Victim services agency
  □ Mental health provider
    ▪ Listing
    ▪ Links

Resources for Charged Student

□ Right to know nature and source of evidence
□ Right to aid, attorney, etc.
□ Services available
□ Disciplinary process for accused students

Sample language (minimal):
Resources are available to students charged with stalking. For more information contact the Office of Judicial Affairs at 333-5555.
Non-Campus Criminal & Civil Remedies

- University policies are not substitutes for criminal laws - reporting to community police
  - Links to state and federal criminal statutes
- Availability of orders of protection
- Other appropriate community services

Optional Elements

- Investigative responses & judicial process
- Notification/privacy/confidentiality
- Documentation information
- Warning signs of offenders
- Safety tips and safety planning
### University of South Carolina – Columbia Campus

**Policy No.:** 440.76

**Title:** Relationship Violence and Stalking Policy

**Date:** May 24, 2010

**Policy for:** Columbia Campus

**Issued by:** Office of the Vice President

#### UNIVERSITY DEFINITION

**Relationship Violence:** For the purposes of this policy and related procedures, the term **RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE** is defined as: (1) Physical behavior (e.g., slapping, pulling hair, punching); (2) Threats of abuse (e.g., threatening to hit, harm or use a weapon on another, or other forms of verbal abuse); and (3) Emotional abuse (e.g., harassment) directed toward a current or former partner or spouse.

**Stalking:** Also addressed by this policy is **STALKING**, which is defined as a pattern of conduct that is intended to cause or does cause a person to fear: (1) Death or death of others important to that person; (2) Assault or assault of others important to that person; (3) Bodily injury or bodily injury of others important to that person; (4) Sexual assault or sexual assault of others important to that person; (5) Involuntary restraint or involuntary restraint of others important to that person; (6) Damage to property or damage to property of others important to that person; (7) Confinement or confinement of others important to that person; (8) Threats of harassment via electronic devices (e.g., e-mail, phone, fax). The relationship between the perpetrator and the victim may be a current or former partner or spouse, dating relationship, acquaintance, or stranger.