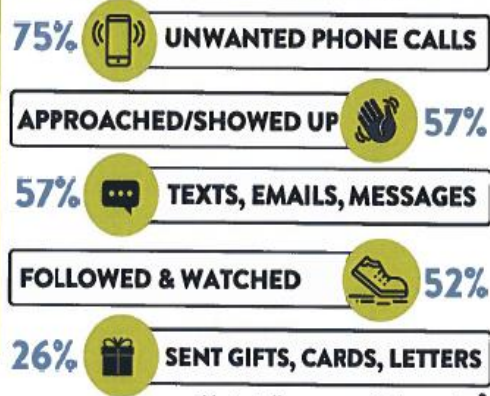


STALKING IN THE UNITED STATES



1 MOST COMMON STALKING TACTICS EXPERIENCED BY VICTIMS:

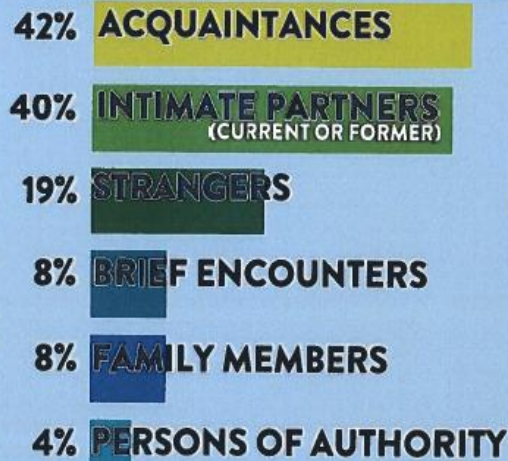


Most stalkers use multiple tactics.³



APPROX. 13.5 MILLION PEOPLE ¹ ARE STALKED IN A 1-YEAR PERIOD

WHO ARE STALKERS? ¹



1 IN 3 STALKERS ³ HAVE STALKED BEFORE

Citations

¹ Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., & Kresnov, M. (2022). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2016/2017 Report on Stalking. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. ² Baum, K., Catalano, S., & Rand, M. (2009). Stalking Victimization in the United States. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics. ³ Mahandir, K., Meloy, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers. Journal of Forensic Sciences, 51(1): 147-155.

STALKING FACT SHEET



WHAT IS STALKING?

While legal definitions of stalking vary between jurisdictions, a good working definition of stalking is: *a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress.*

STALKING VICTIMIZATION

- An estimated 13.5 million people are stalked in a one-year period in the United States.^A
- Nearly 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men have experienced stalking victimization at some point in their lifetime.^B
- More than half of all victims of stalking indicated that they were stalked before the age of 25, and nearly 1 in 4 were stalked before the age of 18.^C
- The vast majority of stalking victims are stalked by someone they know:^D
 - 40% by a current/former intimate partner,
 - 42% by an acquaintance.
- 69% of female and 80% of male stalking victims were threatened with physical harm.^E
- People aged 18-24 experience the highest rate of stalking victimization (among adults).^F
- Stalkers use many tactics, including:^G
 - Making unwanted phone calls.
 - Approaching the victim or showing up in places when the victim does not want them to.
 - Following and watching the victim.
 - Sending unwanted texts, photos, emails, and messages through social media.
 - Sending unwanted gifts.
 - Using technology to monitor, track, and/or spy on the victim.
- Almost half of stalking victims experience at least one unwanted contact per week.^H
- 11% of stalking victims have been stalked for 5 years or more.^I
- More than twice as many victims are stalked with technology than without.^J

IMPACT OF STALKING ON VICTIMS

- 46% of stalking victims fear not knowing what will happen next.^K
- 29% of stalking victims fear it will never stop.^L
- 1 in 8 employed stalking victims lose time from work as a result of their victimization and more than half lose 5 days of work or more.^M
- 1 in 7 stalking victims move as a result of their victimization.^N
- Stalking victims suffer much higher rates of depression, anxiety, insomnia, and social dysfunction than people in the general population.^O

STALKING OFFENDERS^P

- 2 in 3 of stalkers pursue their victims at least once per week, many daily, using more than one method.
- 78% of stalkers use more than one tactic.
- Weapons are used to harm or threaten victims in 1 out of 5 cases.
- Almost 1 in 3 of stalkers have stalked before.
- Intimate partner stalkers are the most likely stalkers to approach, threaten, and harm their victims.

STALKING LAWS

- Stalking is a crime under the laws of the 50 states, District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and Federal government.
- Fewer than 1/3 of states classify stalking as a felony in all circumstances, including on the first offense.
- More than 1/2 of states classify stalking as a felony upon the second or subsequent offense, or when the crime involves aggravating factors.
- Aggravating factors may include: possession of a deadly weapon, violation of a court order or condition of probation/parole, victim under 16 years, or same victim as prior occasions.



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

1000 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 1010 | Washington, DC 20005 | (202) 558-0040 | stalkingawareness.org

@FollowUsLegally   

STALKING FACT SHEET

Citations

- ^A Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., & Kresnow, M. (2022). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2016/2017 Report on Stalking. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease control and Prevention.
- ^B Ibid.
- ^C Ibid.
- ^D Ibid.
- ^E Ibid.
- ^F Catalano, S., Smith, E., Snyder, H. & Rand, M. (2009). Bureau of Justice Statistics selected findings: Female victims of violence. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/fvv.pdf>.
- ^G Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., & Kresnow, M. (2022). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2016/2017 Report on Stalking. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease control and Prevention.
- ^H Baum, K., Catalano, S., & Rand, M. (2009). Stalking Victimization in the United States. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.
- ^I Ibid.
- ^J Truman, J.L., & Morgan, R.E. (2021). Stalking Victimization, 2016. Washington, DC: US DOJ, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report.
- ^K Baum, K., Catalano, S., & Rand, M. (2009). Stalking Victimization in the United States. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.
- ^L Ibid.
- ^M Ibid.
- ^N Ibid.
- ^O Blaauw, E., Arensman, E., Winkel, F.W., Freeve, A., & Sheridan, L. (2002). The Toll of Stalking. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 17(1): 50-63.
- ^P Mohandie, K., Meloy, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 51(1): 147-155.



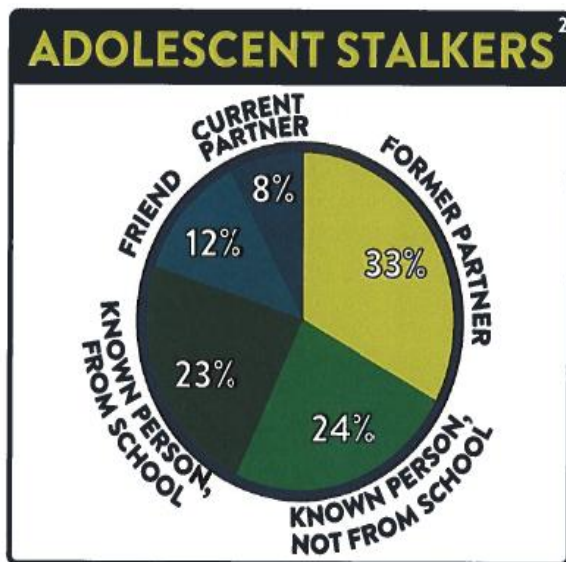
This project was supported by Grant No. 2017-TA-AX-K074 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the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

1000 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 1010 | Washington, DC 20005 | (202) 558-0040 | stalkingawareness.org

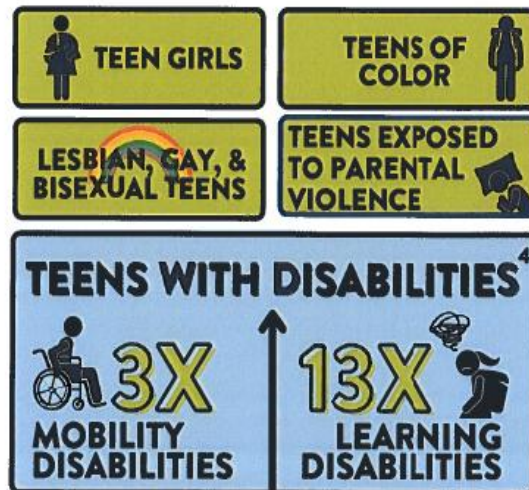
@FollowUsLegally   

STALKING & ADOLESCENTS

While research on stalking among adolescents is limited, estimates generally show that adolescents are stalked at higher rates than adults.



INCREASED RISK OF STALKING VICTIMIZATION:²



SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

Citations

¹Rothman, E. F., Behrman, E., Oleske, N., & Mumford, E. (2020). Prevalence of and Risk Markers for Dating Abuse-Related Stalking and Harassment Victimization and Perpetration in a Nationally Representative Sample of US Adolescents. *Youth & Society*, 53(6), 955-978. ²Fisher, B. S., Coker, A. L., Garcia, L. S., Williams, C. M., Cleer, E. R., & Cook-Craig, P. G. (2014). Statewide estimates of stalking among high school students in Kentucky: Demographic profile and sex differences. *Violence against women*, 20(10), 1258-1279. ³Smith-Darden, J. P., Reidy, D. E., & Kernsmith, P. D. (2016). Adolescent stalking and risk of violence. *Journal of adolescence*, 52, 191-200. ⁴National Crime Victimization Survey. (2016). Bureau of Justice Statistics. U.S. Department of Justice.

STALKING AMONG ADOLESCENTS: FACT SHEET

Stalking impacts people of all ages. While research on stalking among adolescents is limited, estimates generally show that adolescents are stalked at higher rates than adults. Consistent with facts about adult stalking victims, adolescent girls are more likely to be stalked than boys, while adolescent boys perpetrate stalking at higher rates than girls, and adolescents tend to stalk and be stalked by someone they know.



What is stalking? Stalking is crime under the laws of the 50 states, District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, Federal government, and Uniform Code of Military Justice, as well as many tribal codes. While legal definitions of stalking vary between jurisdictions, a good working definition of stalking is: *a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress.*

STALKING VICTIMIZATION

- Among high school students in the past 12 months, stalking victims accounted for:ⁱ
 - 19% of female and 14% of male students.
 - 20% of students of color and 16% of white students.
 - 27% of lesbian, gay, and bisexual, and 15% of heterosexual students.
 - 26% of students exposed to parental violence during their childhood versus 13% of those who had not.
- Among youths aged 16-18 in the past 12 months:ⁱⁱ
 - Those with disabilities were nine times more likely to experience stalking compared to youths without.
 - Those with learning disabilities were 13 times as likely and youths with mobility issues were three times as likely to experience stalking than those who did not have these disabilities.
- Among youths aged 12-18 with dating experience, 48% experienced stalking at some point in their life.ⁱⁱⁱ

IMPACT OF STALKING

- Adolescent stalking victims were more likely than youths who had not been stalked to experience post-traumatic stress, depression, and hopelessness.^{iv}
- Among youths aged 16-18 who experienced stalking in the past 12 months:
 - 52% reported they were fearful for the safety of themselves or others.
 - 52% experienced incidents that would cause a reasonable person to experience fear.
 - 43% experienced substantial emotional distress.^v

STALKING OFFENDERS

- Boys and girls who engaged in stalking were more violent than their peers who did not.^{vi}
- Among high school students in the past 12 months:^{vii}
 - 4% of females and 7% of males perpetrated stalking.
 - The most common perpetrators were a former boy/girlfriend (33%), someone known but not from school (24%), someone known from school (23%), friends (12%), or a current partner (8%).
 - 4% of males versus 2% of females were both victims and perpetrators of stalking.
- Among youths aged 12-18 with dating experience, 49% perpetrated stalking at some point in their life and 1 in 3 had been both a perpetrator and a victim of stalking.^{viii}

STALKING TACTICS

- Among high school students who were stalked in the past 12 months:^{ix}
 - 89% received unwanted communication.
 - 50% had someone show up when unwanted.
 - 37% were followed, spied on, or monitored using a device.
- Among youths aged 16-18 who were stalked in the past 12 months:^x
 - 41% were stalked using both in-person and technology-facilitated tactics.
 - 34% were stalked using only technology-facilitated tactics.
 - 25% were stalked using only in-person tactics.
 - 32% were stalked for less than one month, 47% for 1-12 months, and 17% for 1-2 years.



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

1000 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 1010 | Washington, DC 20005 | (202) 558-0040 | stalkingawareness.org

STALKING AMONG ADOLESCENTS: FACT SHEET

Citations

- ⁱ Fisher, B. S., Coker, A. L., Garcia, L. S., Williams, C. M., Clear, E. R., & Cook-Craig, P. G. (2014). Statewide estimates of stalking among high school students in Kentucky: Demographic profile and sex differences. *Violence against women, 20*(10), 1258-1279.
- ⁱⁱ National Crime Victimization Survey. (2016). Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/ncvs>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Rothman, E. F., Bahrami, E., Okeke, N., & Mumford, E. (2020). Prevalence of and Risk Markers for Dating Abuse-Related Stalking and Harassment Victimization and Perpetration in a Nationally Representative Sample of US Adolescents. *Youth & society, 53*(6), 955-978.
- ^{iv} Reidy, D. E., Smith-Darden, J. P., & Kernsmith, P. D. (2016). Behavioral and mental health correlates of youth stalking victimization: A latent class approach. *American journal of preventive medicine, 51*(6), 1007-1014.
- ^v National Crime Victimization Survey. (2016). Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/ncvs>
- ^{vi} Smith-Darden, J. P., Reidy, D. E., & Kernsmith, P. D. (2016). Adolescent stalking and risk of violence. *Journal of adolescence, 52*, 191-200.
- ^{vii} Fisher, B. S., Coker, A. L., Garcia, L. S., Williams, C. M., Clear, E. R., & Cook-Craig, P. G. (2014). Statewide estimates of stalking among high school students in Kentucky: Demographic profile and sex differences. *Violence against women, 20*(10), 1258-1279.
- ^{viii} Rothman, E. F., Bahrami, E., Okeke, N., & Mumford, E. (2020). Prevalence of and Risk Markers for Dating Abuse-Related Stalking and Harassment Victimization and Perpetration in a Nationally Representative Sample of US Adolescents. *Youth & society, 53*(6), 955-978.
- ^{ix} Fisher, B. S., Coker, A. L., Garcia, L. S., Williams, C. M., Clear, E. R., & Cook-Craig, P. G. (2014). Statewide estimates of stalking among high school students in Kentucky: Demographic profile and sex differences. *Violence against women, 20*(10), 1258-1279.
- ^x National Crime Victimization Survey. (2016). Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/ncvs>



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

1000 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 1010 | Washington, DC 20005 | (202) 558-0040 | stalkingawareness.org

@FollowUsLegally   