

Stalking Victimization in the U.S.: *Findings from the NCVS*

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Background of project

- Funded by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) in DOJ
- Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
- Preceded by expert group meeting, focus groups & cognitive interviews
- Data collected January – June 2006
- Over 65,000 persons 18 years or older interviewed

Legal definitions for stalking

■ Lay definition

- A course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear

■ Federal definition key components:

- Kill, injure, harass or intimidate another person and
- Places that person in reasonable fear of death or injury of self or immediate family or intimate partner

■ State statutes vary in standard of fear/emotional distress terminology

- Some require element of fear
- Some require a “reasonable person” standard for instilling fear
- Some incorporate instilling emotional distress

** The SVS classified individuals as stalking victims if they feared for their safety or that of a family member as a result of the course of conduct, or have experienced additional threatening behaviors that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.*

Stalking screener question

Not including bill collectors, telephone solicitors, or other sales people, has anyone, male or female, EVER frightened, concerned, angered, or annoyed you by...

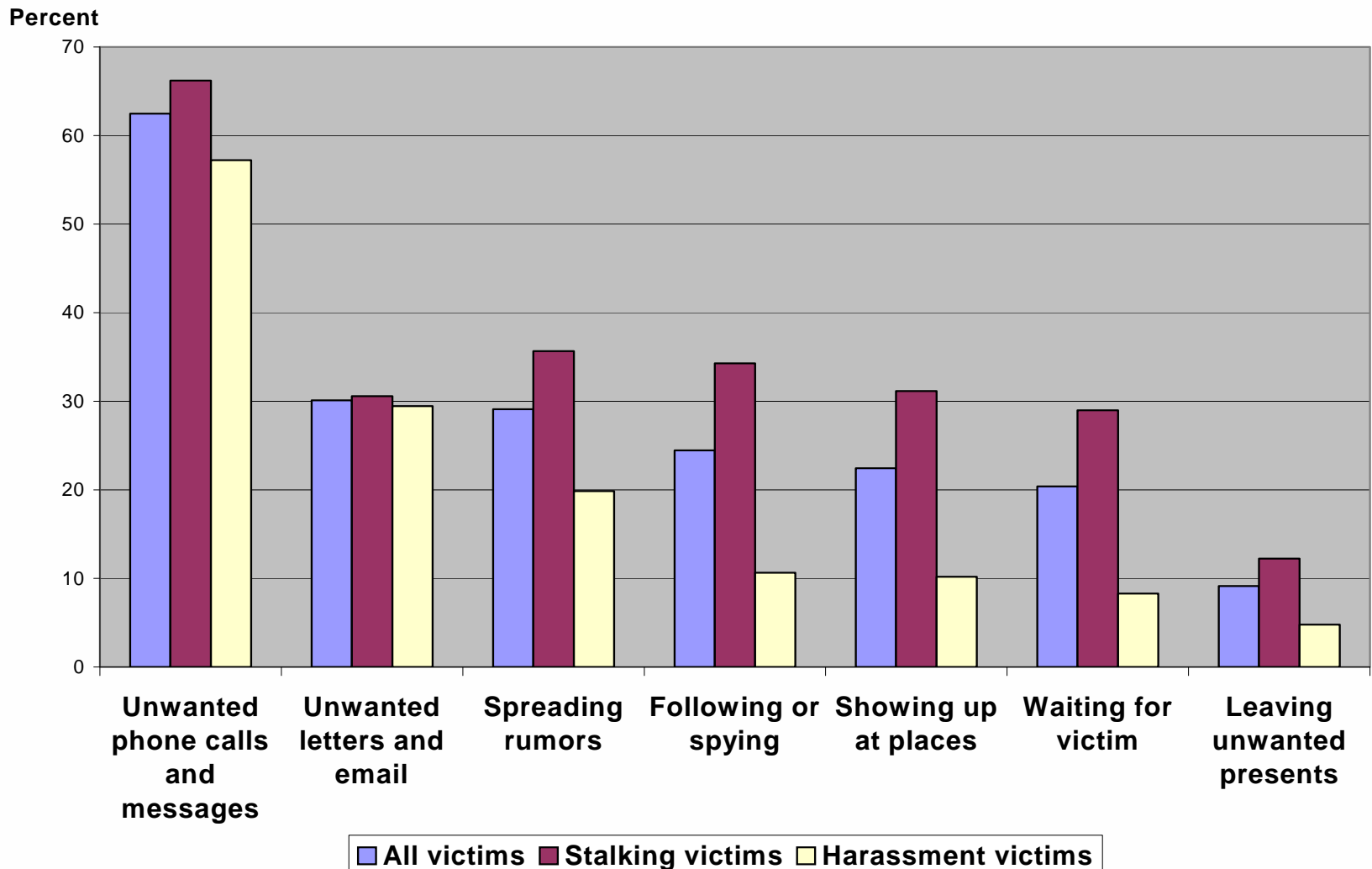
1. Making unwanted phone calls to you or leaving messages
2. Sending unsolicited or unwanted letters, e-mails, or other forms of written correspondence
3. Showing up at places without a legitimate reason
4. Following or spying on you
5. Waiting at places for the victim
6. Leaving unwanted items, presents, or flowers
7. Posting information or spreading rumors about you on the Internet, in a public place, or by word of mouth

3.4 million victims per year:

Who's most likely to be stalked?

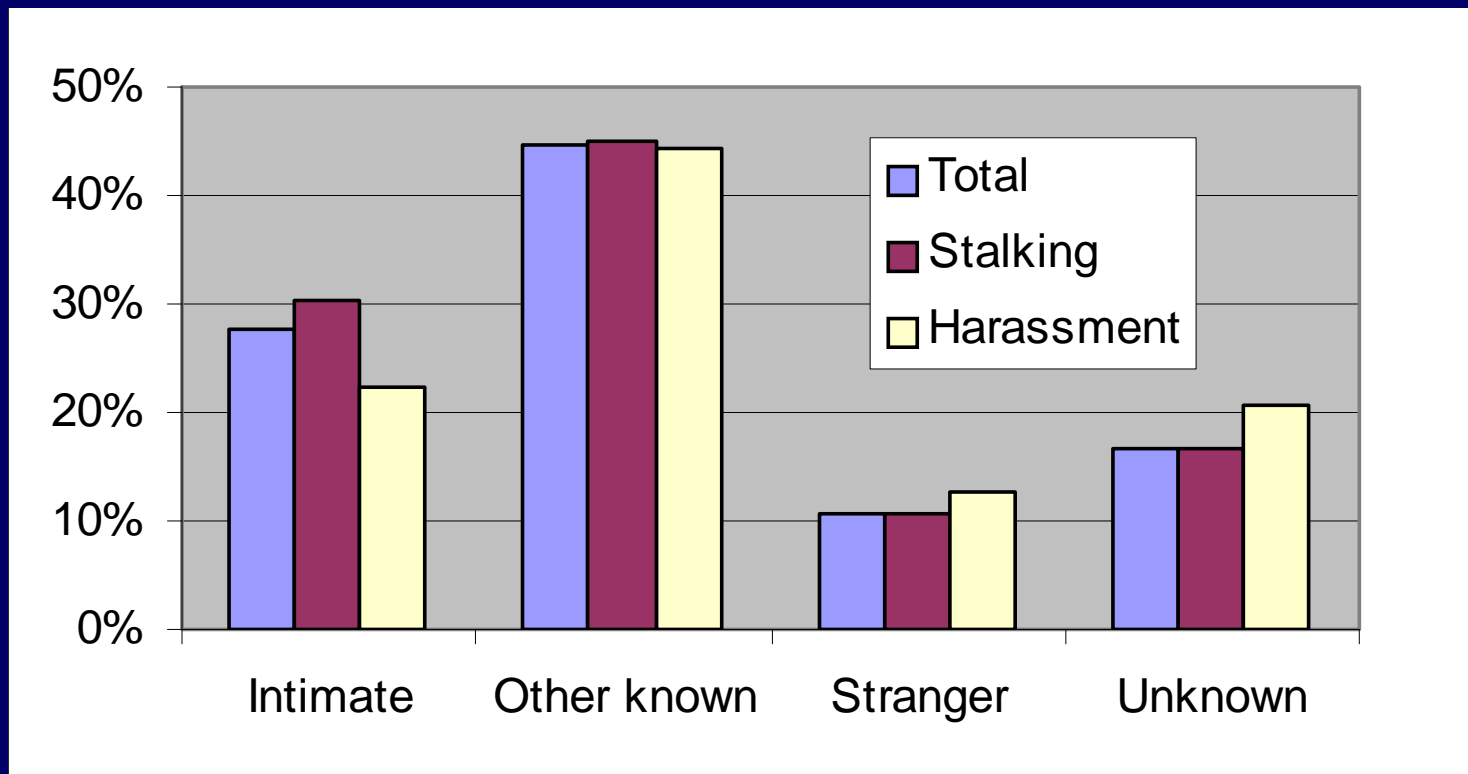
- Females
- Individuals age 18-19 and 20-24
- Non-Hispanics
- Individuals who are divorced/separated
- Individuals with lower household incomes

Nature of behaviors



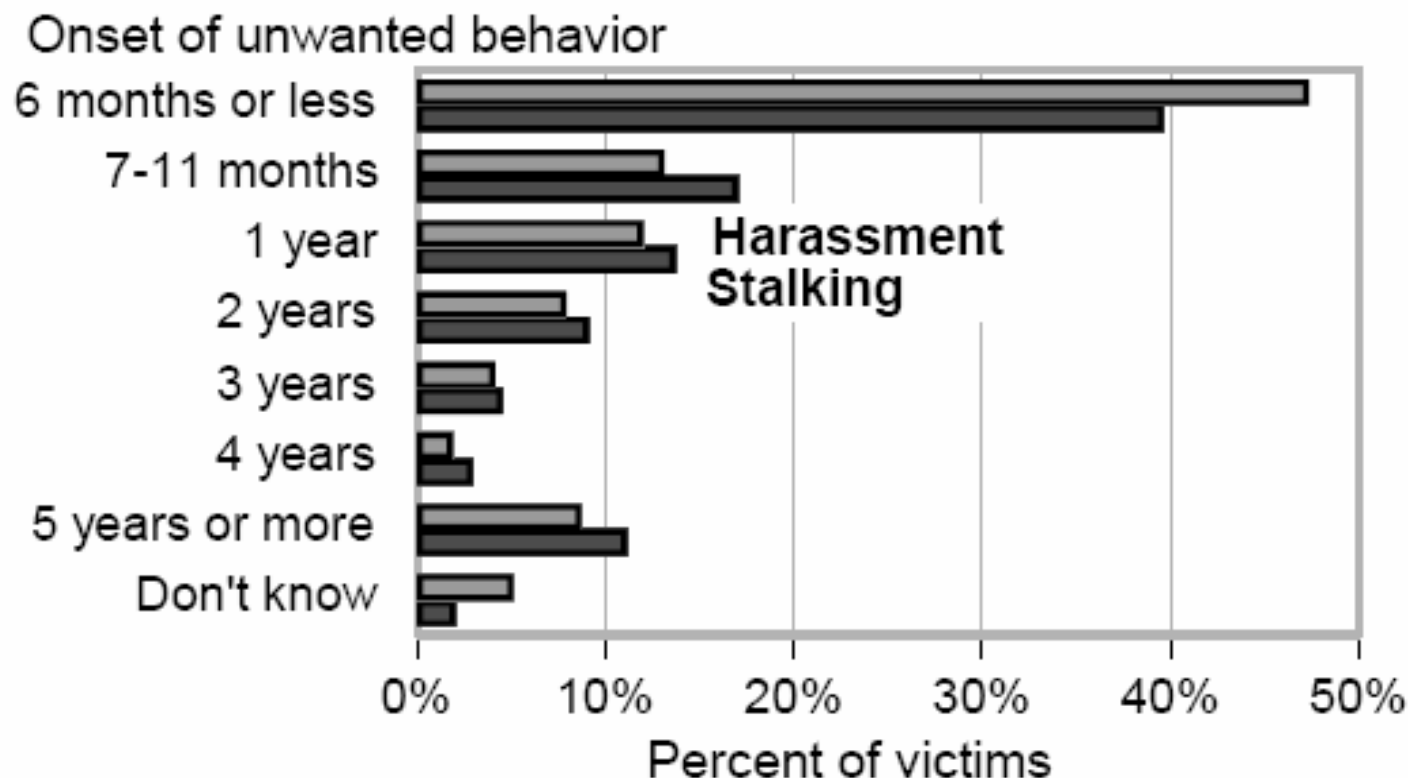
Offender characteristics

- Victims more likely to be stalked by offenders of similar age
- Males equally likely to be stalked by males or females; women more likely by men



Onset/duration of stalking

About 10% of victims were stalked for 5 years or more



Note: Estimates exclude 1.2% of stalking and 10.2% of harassment victims due to missing data. All victims experience at least one unwanted behavior in the year before the interview.

Cyberstalking

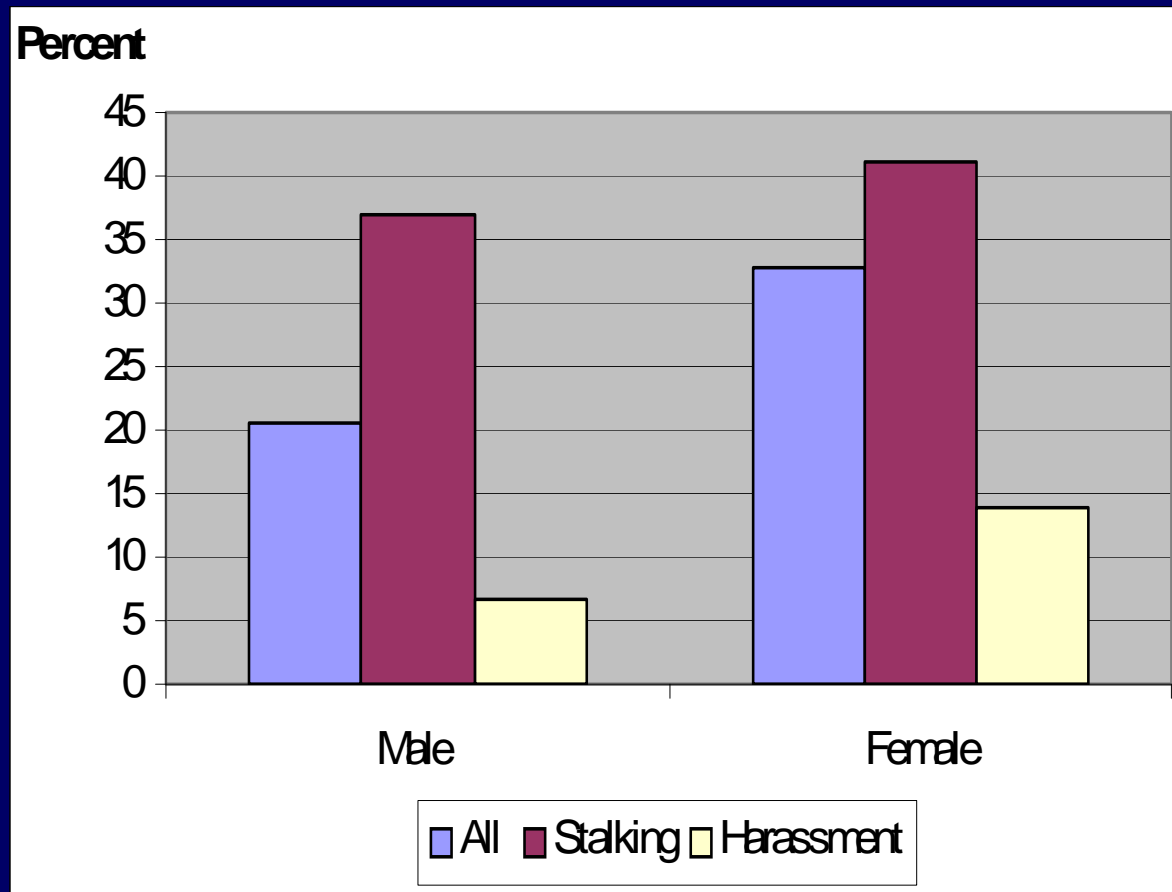
- Technology used to stalk 1 in 4 victims
- Most common types for stalking victims were email (83%) or IM (35%)

Table 7. Involvement of cyberstalking or electronic monitoring in stalking and harassment

	Percent of victims		
	All	Stalking	Harassment
Total	100%	100%	100%
No cyberstalking or electronic monitoring involved	72.7%	73.2%	72.1%
Any type of cyberstalking or electronic monitoring	26.6%	26.1%	27.4%
Cyberstalking	23.4	21.5	26.4
Electronic monitoring	6.0	7.8	3.4
Don't know	0.6	0.7	0.6
Percent of cyberstalking involving — ^a			
E-mail	82.6%	82.5%	82.7%
Instant messenger	28.7	35.1	20.7
Blogs or bulletin boards	12.5	12.3	12.8
Internet sites about victim	8.8	9.4	8.1
Chat rooms	4.0	4.4 [*]	3.4 [*]
Percent of electronic monitoring involving — ^b			
Computer spyware	44.1%	33.6%	61.0% [*]
Video/digital cameras	40.3	46.3	19.3 [*]
Listening devices/bugs	35.8	41.8	14.8
GPS	9.7 [*]	10.9 [*]	5.2 [*]
Number	5,200,410	3,158,340	2,042,070

Reporting to the police, by gender

- Males and females are equally likely to report to police
- Females are more likely than males to report a harassment victimization to the police





Additional findings

- Employment status/problems with law
- Reasons why stalking began
- Actions taken to protect self or stop stalking
- Victim impact
 - Emotional
 - Workplace
 - Financial
- Weapon involvement & injuries
- Other crimes perpetrated by offender



Full Report Availability

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/svus.pdf