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Understanding the Prevalence of stalking on campus: policy and action

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Understanding the Prevalence of Stalking on Campus: Policy and Action



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Stalking statistics

- The CDC did a nation wide survey called National intimate partner and sexual violence survey and concluded that 16% of women and 6% of men have been stalked at least once in their lifetime
- The most common stalking behaviors: 45% occurs over phone calls and text messages, 44% occurs over email or social media, and 37% occurs when the stalker shows up unexpected and uninvited to the victims location
- 24% of college student stalkers make a fake account pretending to be their victim
- Research shows that 13.1% of nationwide college women are stalked during the first quarter of school
- 43% of college students do not recognize or identify their case as a stalking situation
- 92% of stalk victims tell their family and friends about their situation but only 29% seek help. Out of those that seek help, 40% say it is helpful whereas 35% claim it to be useless.
- Out of students stalked by previous partners 32% were sexually assaulted, 40% received threats, 27% percent of their offenders threatened to hurt themselves or the victims family, and 11% experienced abuse or personal harm
- 3/4 victims who are stalked know their stalker
- 30 percent of victims dated their stalking offender and 45% of victims were former acquaintances with their stalkers

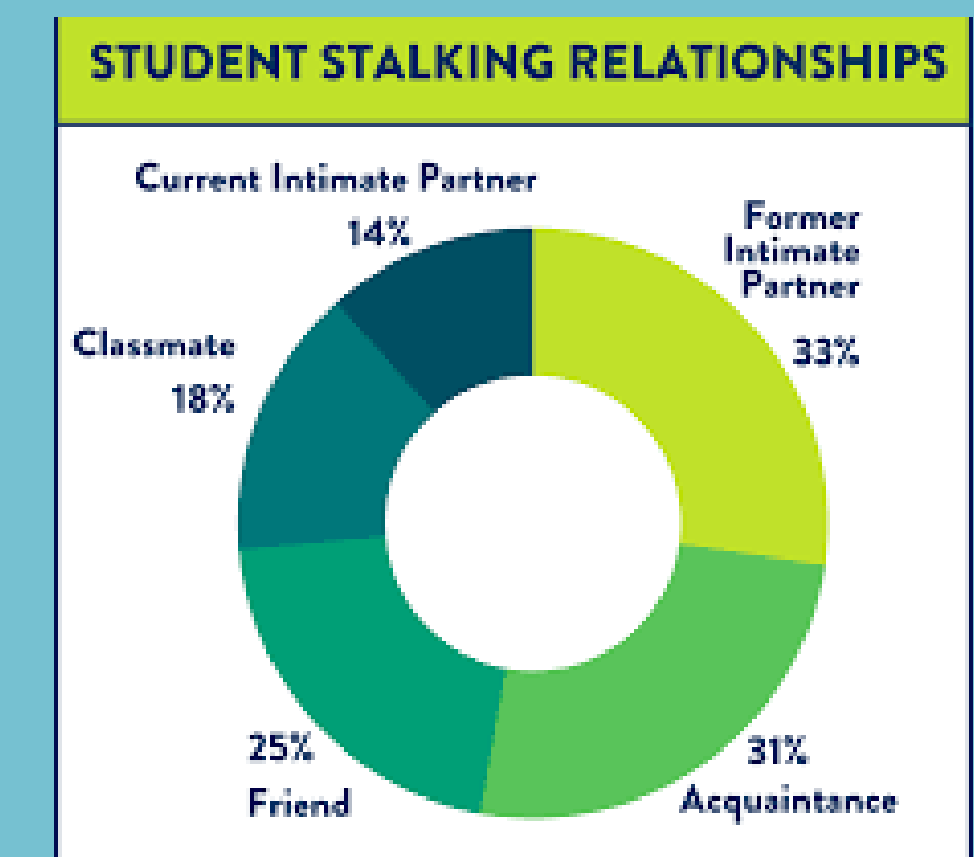
Stalking On Campus

- College students are at the highest rate to be stalking victims
- The factors that determine stalking rates on campus include the amount of vulnerable victims, willing offenders, and the absence of capable guardianship
- 1 in 10 undergraduate women students are stalked
- 1 in 33 undergraduate men students are stalked
- Out of the student population those at highest risk are native Americans, disabled students, those in the LGBTQ+, and freshman
- On college campuses, those with Autism Spectrum Disorders are more likely to stalk and pursue a victim romantically
- A good majority of college stalkers use more specialized and advanced forms of technology instead of normal day tools to avoid getting caught
- Due to Title IX, if stalking is reported on campus the college must make an effort to help the victim
- Stalking usually takes a huge toll on a college students academically. This includes lower grades, difficulty concentrating in class, and dropping and missing classes.
- Most students being stalked on campus are being stalked by another student
- A prevalent college stalking tactic is leaving unwanted gifts

Policy Recommendations

- If you believe you are a victim of stalking seek help immediately on campus. Stalking is a giant campus offense as well as a criminal offense. This way, the campus can also provide you with counseling and trained professionals who can get you the help you need
- Campuses everywhere should make a very clear and strict rule against stalking and make it very well known to students the consequence if they are caught in this act
- Safety recommendations include: Not walking alone, carrying around pepper spray or a safety mechanism, lock your doors and cars, and report your incident to police authority
- Many do not view their case as stalking so using the CCSU's definition may make it easier for victims to assess their situation. This is defined as unwanted contact or situations makes the victim suspect some type of harm
- A recommended policy is banning stalking offenders on-campus due to the fact that the number of reoffenders is high as well as the fact that they are very manipulative humans whose word cannot commonly be trusted

Student Stalking Relationships



Facts About Stalking

- In the last decade cyber stalking behaviors have sky rocketed due to a high use of social media by victims
- In all stalking situations some form of interpersonal violence occurs. That is when the offender gains power and or control over the victim in some way shape or form
- In America ages 18-24 experience the highest rates of stalking
- The majority of stalking victims experience high levels of psychological distress. This includes depression, safety concerns, high levels of anxiety, and PTSD
- A majority of victims being stalked in the U.S. are being stalked by a former or current relationship partner
- Simple obsessional stalking is the most prevalent form of stalking in the United States. Simple obsessional stalking is usually a male who stalks his former ex, boss, or acquaintance
- There are 3 phases of stalking: The first is unwanted contact, the second is escalation of the situation, and the third is violence
- Stalking breaks the Protection from Harassment Act of 1997 making it illegal
- Many stalkers who get caught try to defend their actions by claiming they struggle with a mental illness but rarely is that the case
- Women are more likely to be stalked by someone they know whereas men are most likely to be stalked by strangers

Summary

- Stalking is a very common offense, especially one that many college students sadly have to experience during their undergraduate and graduate years.
- Stalking does not usually start off very serious but can escalate quicker than you think. Due to this, seeking help and resources is very important and should not be taken lightly.
- Stalking offenders are more likely than not someone a victim already knows. Just because you know the person harassing you does not mean it should be viewed any differently, especially if it was someone you were in a past relationship with.
- In this day and age, social media is the leading source of stalking and harassment. This just means be careful what you post and do not share your passwords. Take time to learn your campus policy on stalking and spread the information with those that you know in order to create a safer environment for all.

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