

# LOOK WHO'S

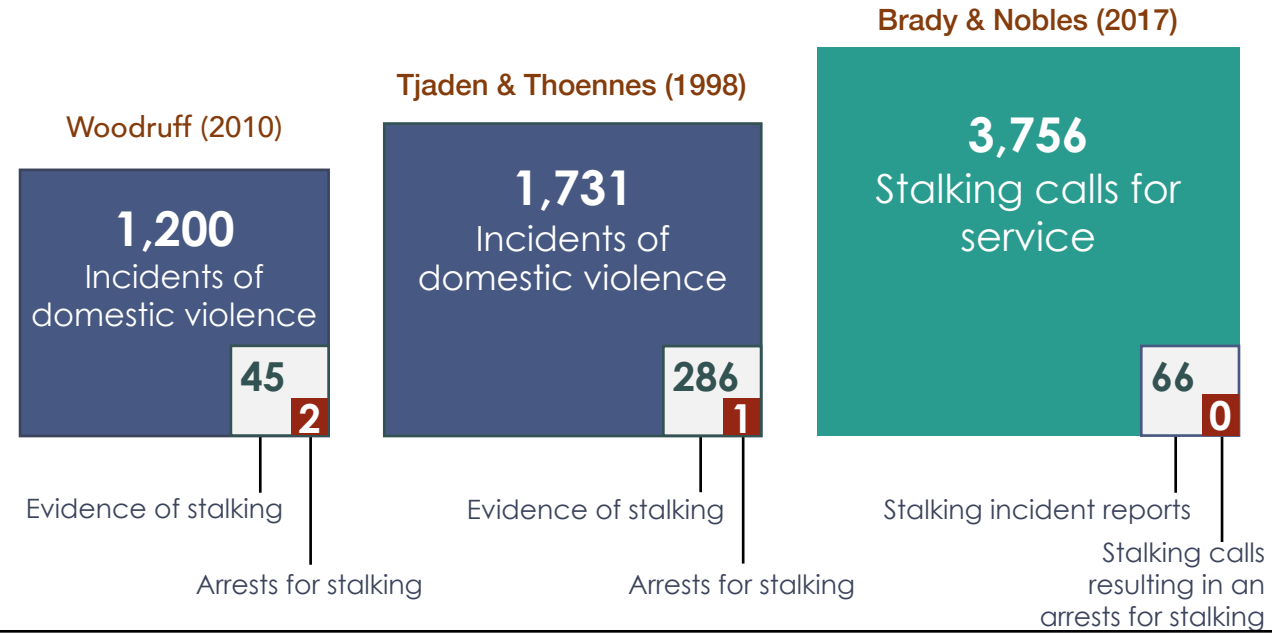
## WHY STALKING VICTIMS INVOLVE THE POLICE & HOW FIRST RESPONDERS CAN ENHANCE COOPERATION

# STALKING

**Patrick Q. Brady, Ph.D.**

Department of Criminology  
University of West Georgia

## LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TO STALKING



# STALKING IS A RISK FACTOR FOR INTIMATE PARTNER **HOMICIDE**

Top 10 risk factors for Intimate partner homicide	Risk for male perpetrated & female <b>IPH</b> victimization
1) Direct access to guns	11-fold increase in risk of <b>IPH</b>
2) Threatened victim with a weapon	7-fold increase in risk
3) Non-fatal strangulation	7-fold increase in risk
4) Perpetrated rape/forced sex	5-fold increase in risk
5) Controlling behaviors	6-fold increase in risk
6) Threatened to harm the victim	4-fold increase in risk
7) Abused victim while pregnant	4-fold increase in risk
<b>8) Perpetrated stalking</b>	<b>3-fold increase in risk of IPH</b>
9) Jealousy	2-fold increase in risk
10) Substance abuse	2-fold increase in risk

Spencer & Stith, 2018 – meta analysis of 17 IPH studies

# WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO HOLD STALKERS ACCOUNTABLE?

## A Sign of the Crimes: Examining Officers' Identification of, and Arrest for, Stalking in Domestic Violence Complaints

Patrick Q. Brady<sup>1</sup>, Bradford W. Reynolds<sup>2</sup>, and Rebecca Dreke<sup>3</sup>

### VICTIM COOPERATION

#### Abstract

Despite stalking as a risk factor for intimate partner homicide, few studies have explored officer decision making in domestic violence (DV) complaints that involve stalking. This study employs the focal concerns perspective to identify the legal and extra-legal factors associated with officers' identification of, and arrest for, stalking in DV complaints. Using a statewide sample of 230 DV complaints from Rhode Island, findings indicated that nearly one in four suspects were arrested for stalking in DV complaints (25.2%). Stalking acknowledgment was associated with the location of the offense, prior police involvement, and the total number of offenses committed. **Officers were more likely to arrest suspects for stalking in DV complaints if the victim was willing to cooperate.** Support for the focal concerns perspective varied according to the type of decision. Avenues for future research, as well as theoretical and practical implications, are discussed.

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## A FOCAL CONCERNS PERSPECTIVE ON PROSECUTORIAL DECISION MAKING IN CASES OF INTIMATE PARTNER STALKING

PATRICK Q. BRADY<sup>1</sup>  
University of West Georgia

BRADFORD W. REYNOLDS<sup>2</sup>  
Weber State University

### VICTIMS WERE FEARFUL

### PUBLIC PURSUITS

Despite millions of stalking victims contacting the police each year, suspects are rarely arrested or prosecuted. While prosecutors are ultimately the gatekeepers to holding defendants accountable, few studies have examined the factors influencing charging decisions in stalking cases. Using the focal concerns perspective, this study analyzed 5 years of domestic violence and stalking case outcomes in Rhode Island. **Findings indicated that prosecutors were more likely to prosecute stalking cases when defendants evoked fear in the victim and pursued victims in public.** The decision to prosecute stalking versus other domestic violence-related charges was motivated by the location of the offense and the defendant's history of physical abuse toward the victim. Neither extralegal factors nor characteristics of blameworthiness or suspect culpability influenced prosecutorial decision making. Findings underscore the legal complexities of stalking and suggest the need for additional insight on prosecutorial perspectives and strategies to articulate the fear standard in stalking cases.

# CURRENT DILEMMA

Stalking is a risk factor for **intimate partner homicide**

Stalking **behaviors are often overlooked** in domestic violence complaints

Accountability is often contingent on **cooperation from terrified victims**





WHY STALKING VICTIMS DO & DO NOT INVOLVE THE POLICE

**STALKING**

**Pattern of behavior**

**Causes reasonable**

**FEAR**







**50%-70%**  
of stalking  
victims  
**DO NOT** involve  
the police<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Baum et al. (2009); <sup>1</sup>Tjaden & Thoennes (1998)

Why do most **stalking**  
**victims** *not* involve  
the police?

# DATA

**141** stalking complaints reported between Jan 2014 – Dec 2017



POPULATION

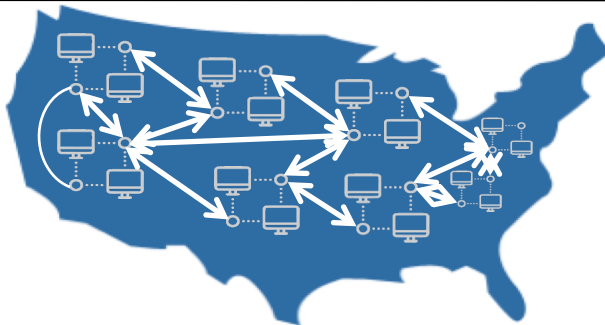
**89,576**

SWORN OFFICERS



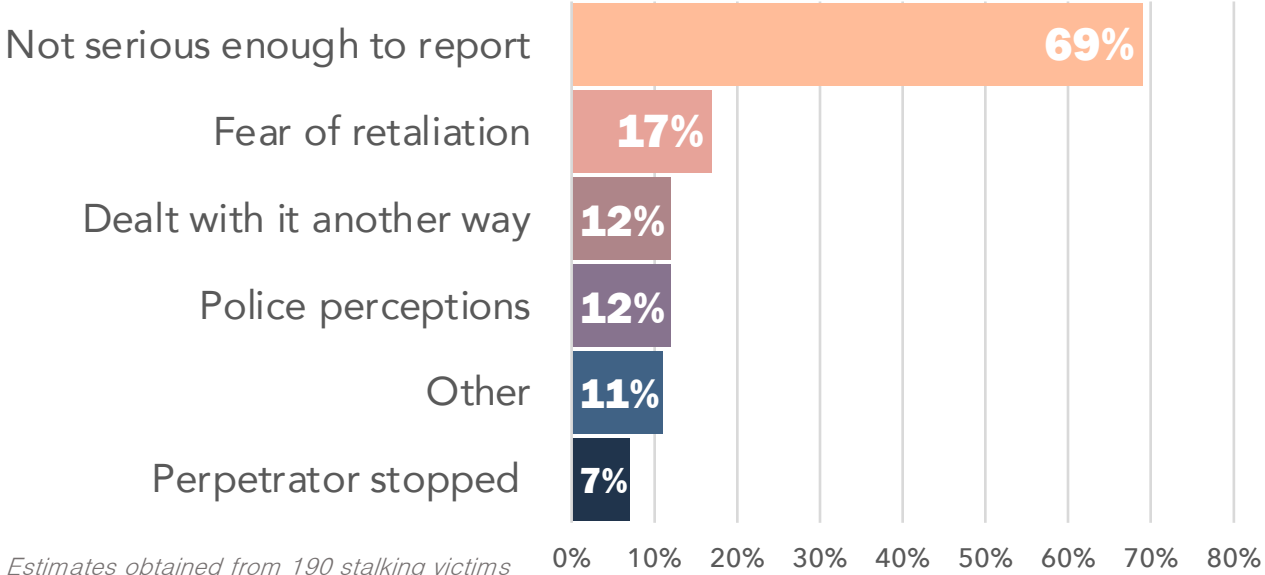
**113**

National survey of stalking experiences since high school among **700 18-24-year-olds**

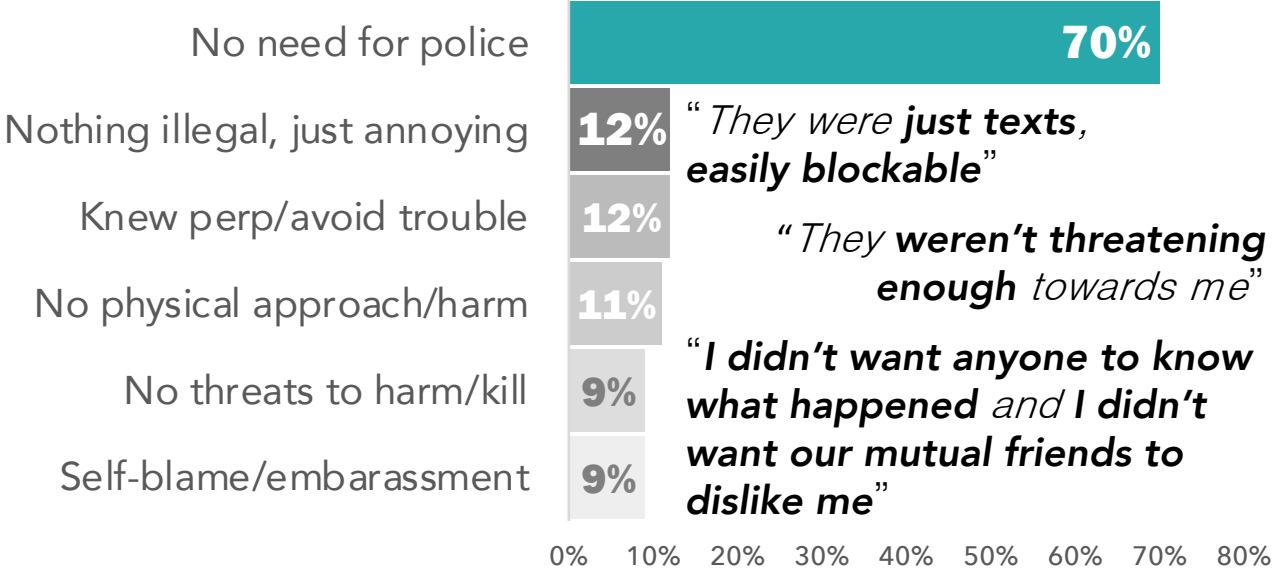


**1 in 3** experienced stalking after high school (31%)

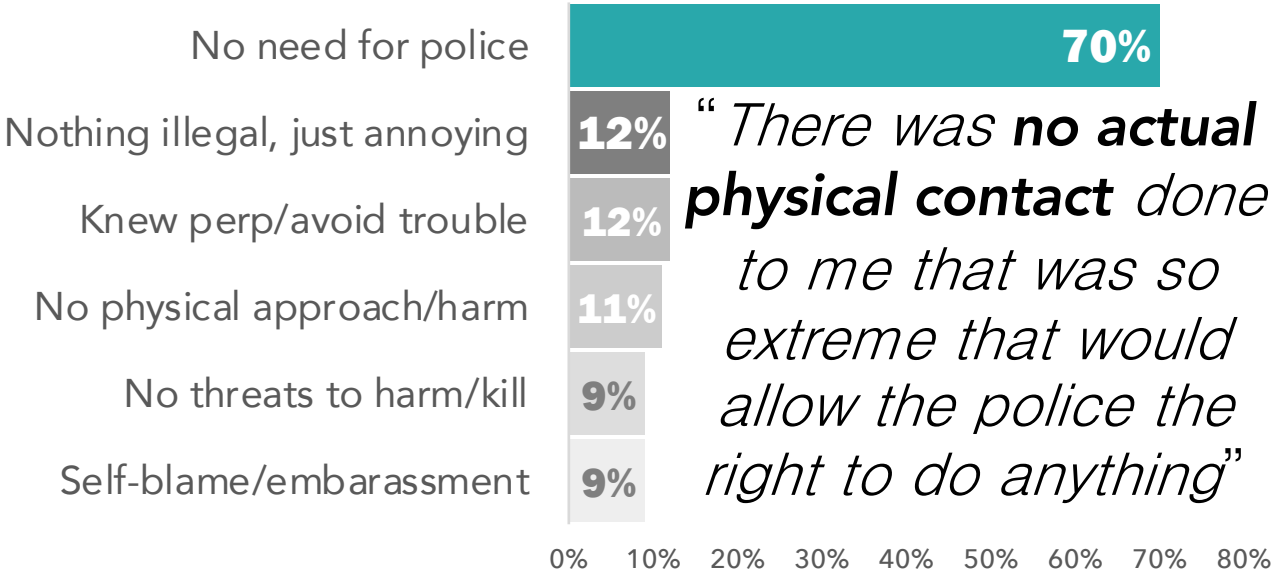
## ***Most common reasons why college-age stalking victims did not report their experiences to the police***



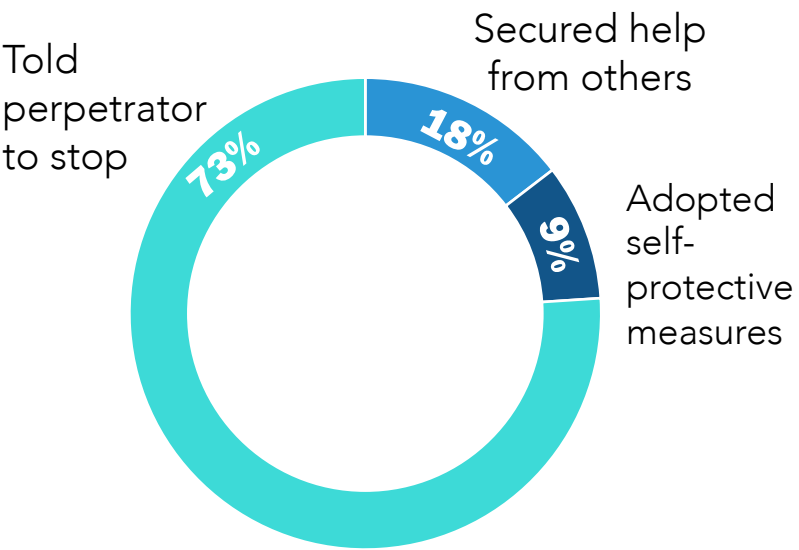
**Why 69% of college-age victims did not consider stalking experiences to be *serious* enough to involve the police**



**Why 69% of college-age victims did not consider stalking experiences to be *serious* enough to involve the police**

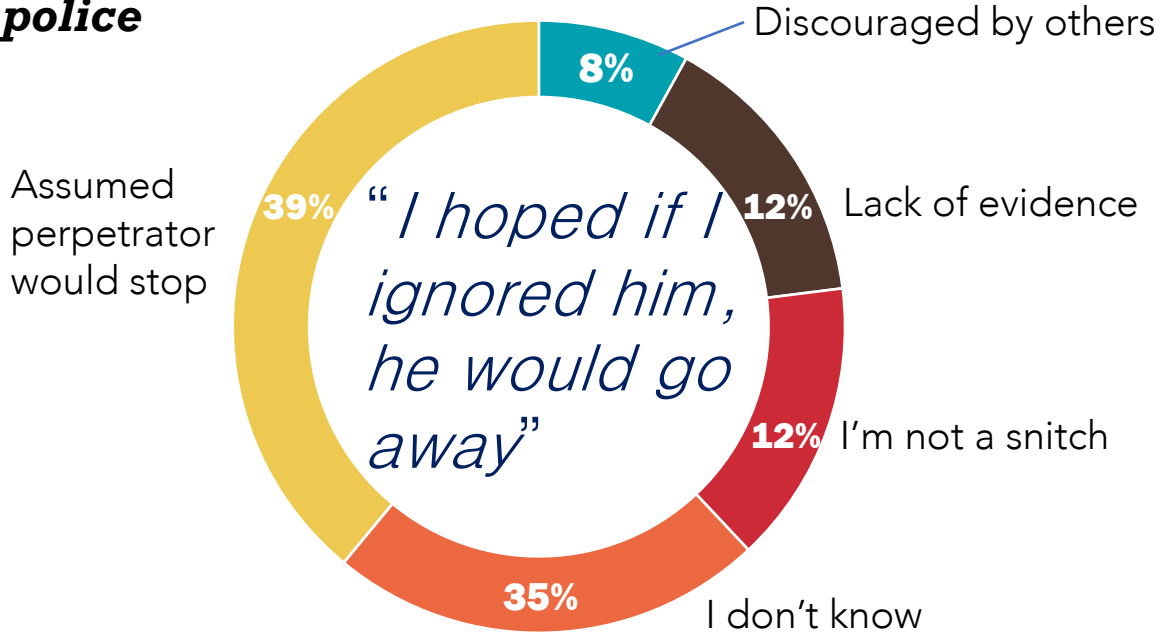


**How 12% of college-age victims “dealt with their stalker another way”**



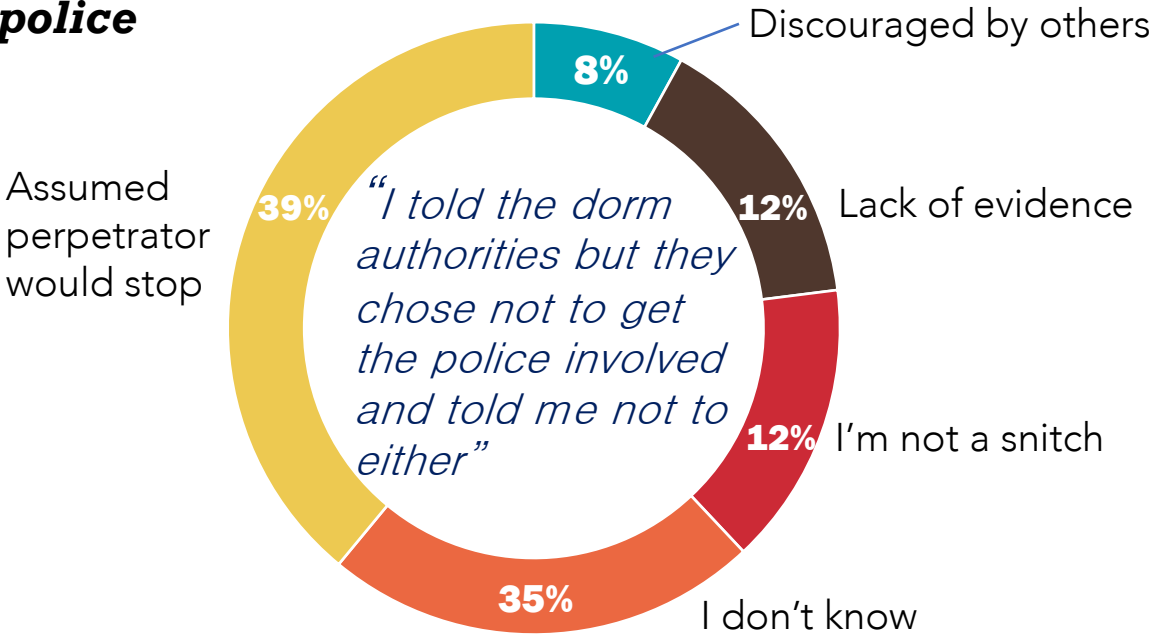
*“It wasn't serious enough to require police action, and the unwanted contact ceased after I made it very clear that this person was not to speak to me in any capacity”*

**‘Other’ reasons why stalking victims did not involve the police**

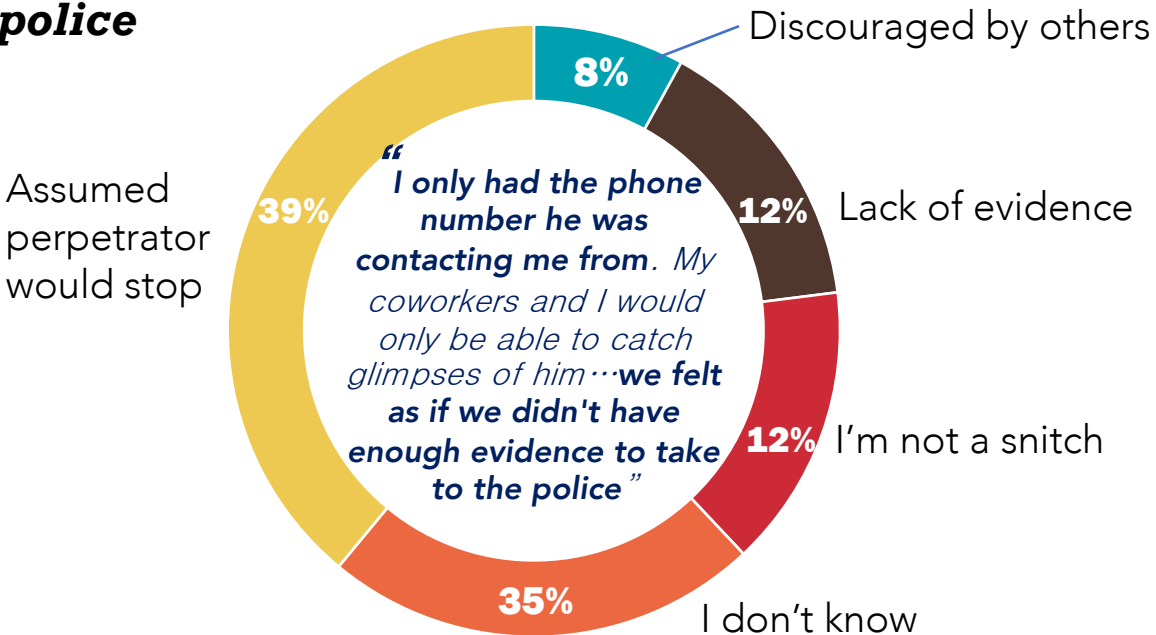


*“I hoped if I ignored him, he would go away”*

**'Other' reasons why stalking victims did not involve the police**



**'Other' reasons why stalking victims did not involve the police**



## KEY CONSIDERATION

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Stalking victims have legitimate reasons for not involving the police. **Most do what they can before they have to**

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No **threats, following, physical harm/approach** &/or **fear** - no problem

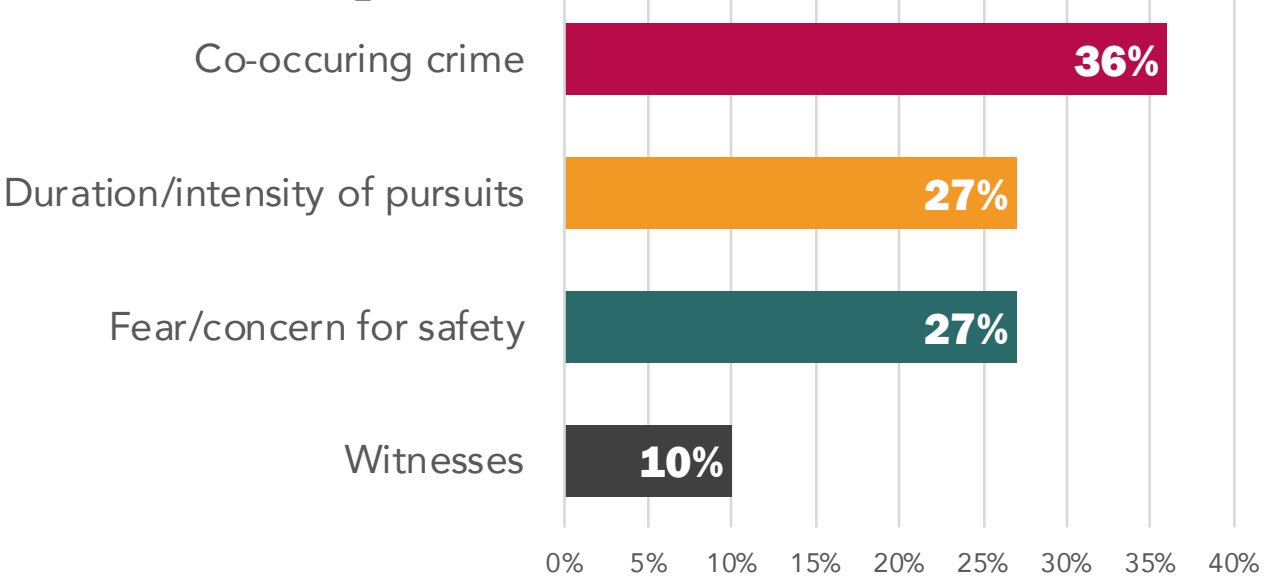
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First responders are **not** the first person the victim has told about the suspect  
**#PotentialWitnesses #Corroboration!**

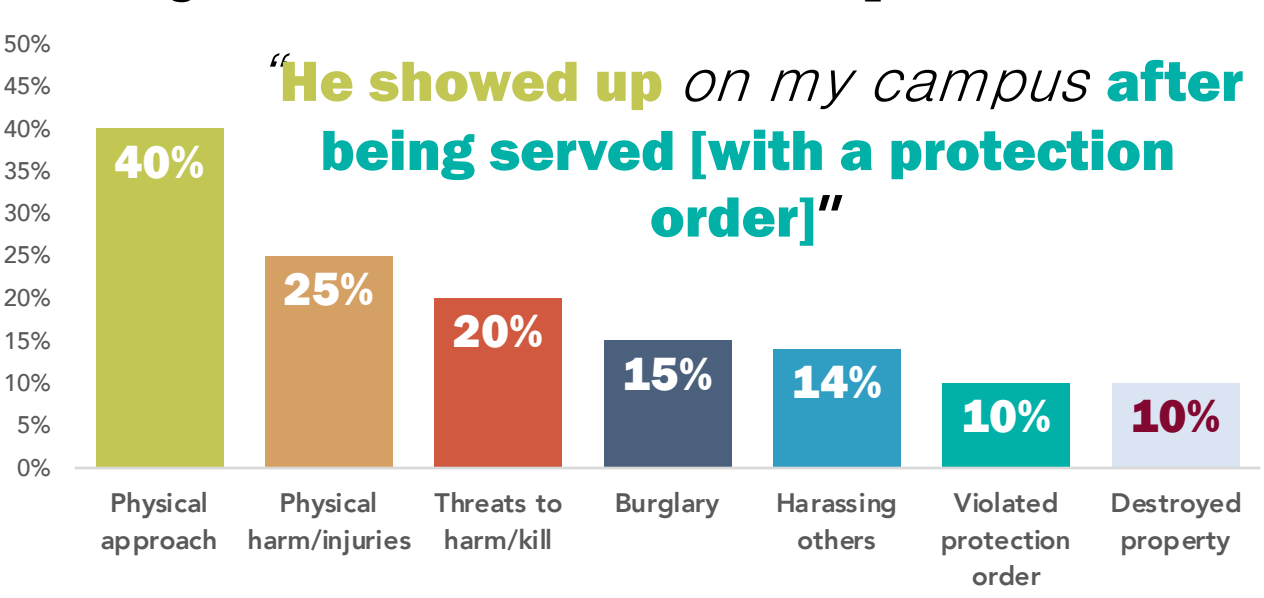
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What **does** influence **stalking victims** to contact the police?

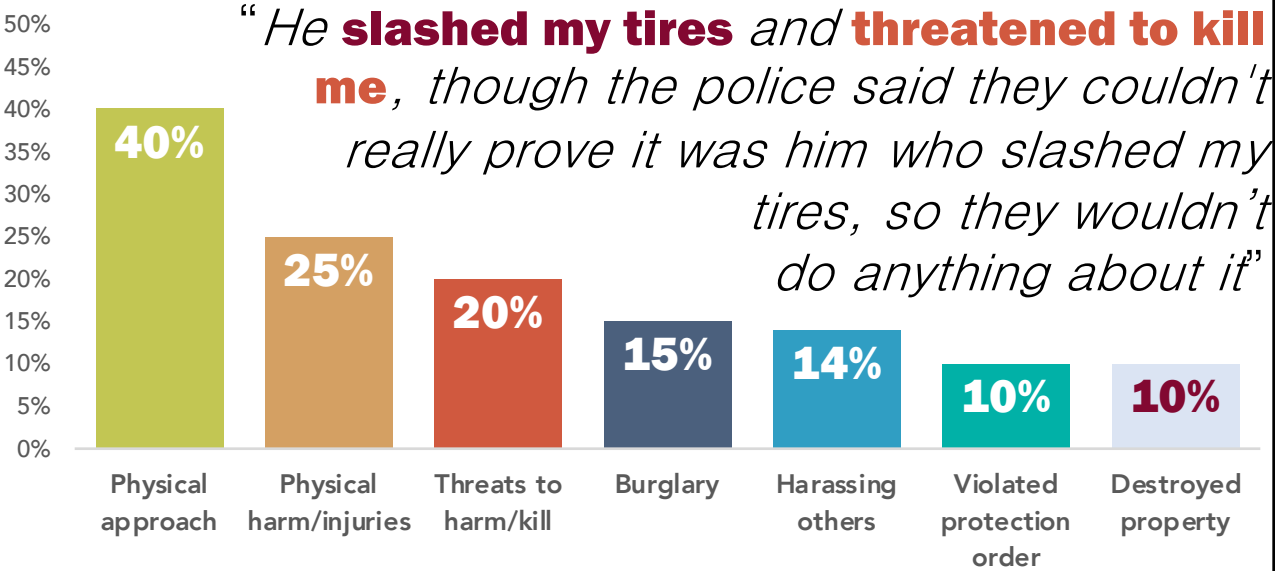
### **Top reasons why college-age stalking victims contacted the police**



### **Co-occurring crimes influencing college-age stalking victims' decision to involve police**



### Co-occurring crimes influencing college-age stalking victims' decision to involve police



### Why college-age victims contacted the police due to the **duration, intensity, and/or escalation of stalking**

*“The letters became **unbearable**”*

*“He **kept messaging me** and **going to places I was at** when **I asked him to stop**”*

*“He **kept showing up at my work** when **he wasn't supposed to be in the same building as me**”*



## KEY CONSIDERATION

Stalking victims involve the police **when the unwanted contact has become unbearable, frightening, & nothing else has worked to stop the perpetrator**

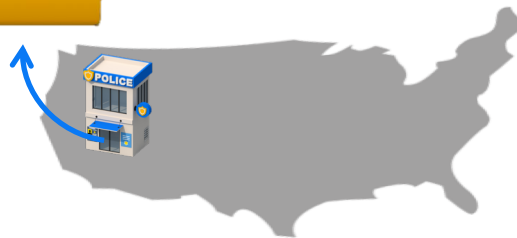
**Legal elements** of stalking have likely been **met before initial encounter with police**

Stalking is **not** always limited to complaints of harassment and/or following

## DATA

**141**

stalking complaints reported  
between Jan 2014 – Dec 2017



POPULATION

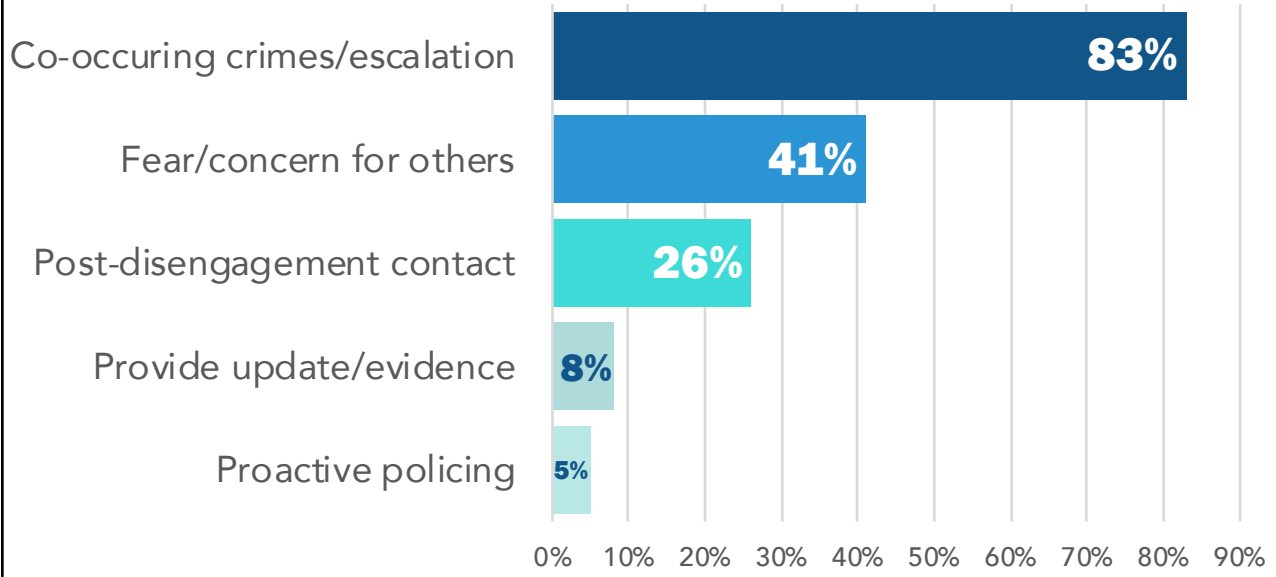
**89,576**

SWORN OFFICERS

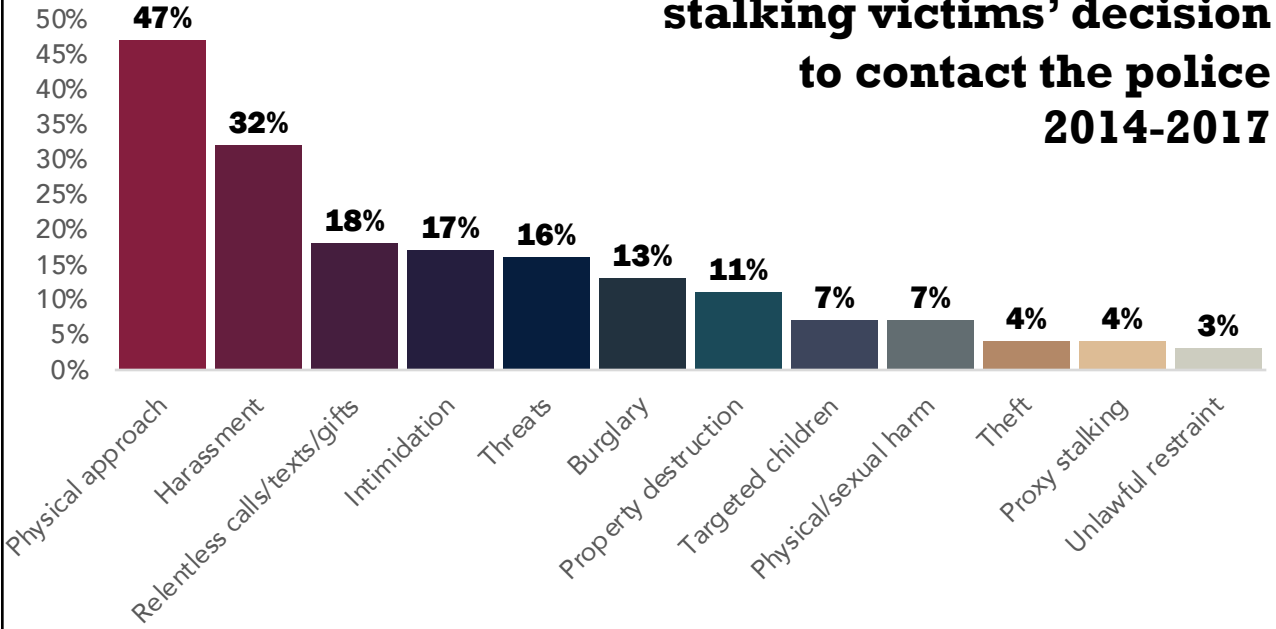


**13**

### How officers articulated stalking victims' reasons for reporting in 141 stalking cases



### Co-occurring crimes influencing stalking victims' decision to contact the police 2014-2017



**VICTIM** ADVISED THAT TWO DAYS AGO, SHE WAS DRIVING HER VEHICLE AND HAD A FUNNY FEELING. SHE STOPPED THE CAR AND ATTEMPTED TO OPEN THE TRUNK. SHE SAID SHE WAS UNABLE TO OPEN THE TRUNK, AND SHE COULD NOT DETERMINE WHY IT WOULD NOT OPEN. SHE ADVISED THE PREVIOUS EVENING **SUSP** ENTERED HER RESIDENCE UNINVITED WEARING THE SAME TUXEDO FROM THEIR WEDDING HE WEARS WHEN FOLLOWING HER AROUND TOWN **SUSPECT** SNUCK INTO HER BEDROOM CRYING AND APOLOGIZING TO HER. HE TOLD HER THAT THE REASON SHE WAS UNABLE TO GET INTO THE TRUNK WAS BECAUSE HE WAS IN IT AND HE WAS HOLDING THE TRUNK DOOR SHUT TO PREVENT HER FROM ACCESSING IT. **VICTIM** SAID EARLIER TODAY SHE LOOKED INSIDE THE TRUNK AND FOUND A PILLOW AND A STRING TIED TO THE TRUNK DOOR. THE STRING APPEARED TO ALLOW **SUSP** TO SECURE IT OR OPEN IT WHEN NEEDED.

also tracking location on her phone. She said "he always knows where I am and texts me telling me exactly where I am at!" She has blocked his profile but **SUSP** creates other profiles in an effort to contact her.

again turned location off. **SUSP** stated that when she turned the phone back on again it had returned to the factory reset settings. **SUSP** believes that **SUSP** currently has some sort of spyware on her phone and she has had to change phones and providers three separate times, and similar behavior persists even when she changes her phone or provider.

**SUSP** stated that **SUSP** was the only person who knew the login and password to her lookout account, and she found out that on this date somebody had paid a \$2.99 fee to upgrade the lookout account to access additional features, which would allow someone to download photos, videos, all of the contacts on the phone, also to track the phone and to be able to reset the phone and wipe its memory. **SUSP** stated that she was concerned about the phone being wiped because

**INVOLVING  
THE POLICE ≠  
DESIRE TO  
HAVE  
PERPETRATOR  
ARRESTED/  
PROSECUTED**

Additional support to get  
perpetrator to stop

Concerned about suspicious  
behavior

Request to file report  
“just in case”



## KEY CONSIDERATION

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**Not all stalking victims want the perpetrator arrested** nor fully understand what it will entail to cooperate with prosecution

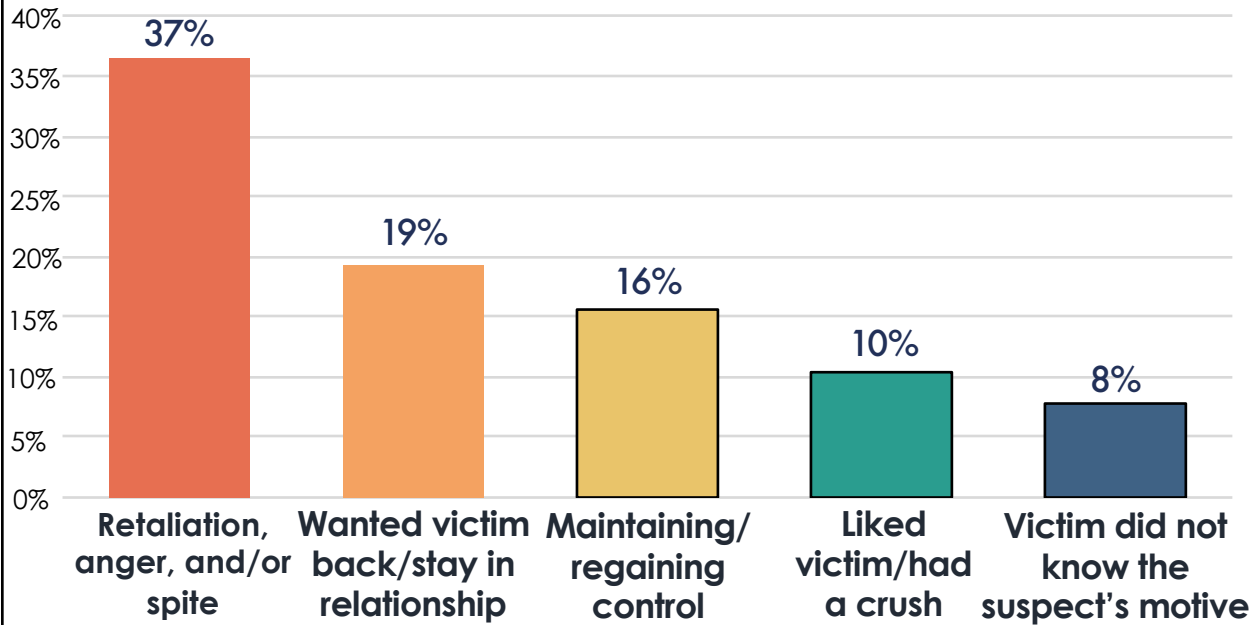
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Inquire about **victim expectations** and **preferences for moving forward** (e.g., warnings, investigation, arrest?)

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Not always victims' “**decision**” to cooperate

### TOP FIVE VICTIM PERCEPTIONS OF STALKERS' MOTIVES



### CASE CHARACTERISTICS FROM 141 STALKING COMPLAINTS THAT INCREASING THE ODDS OF STALKING VICTIMS' DECISION TO...

#### COOPERATE WITH INVESTIGATION

CASE CHARACTERISTIC	INCREASE IN LIKELIHOOD OF COOPERATION
Active <b>court order</b>	12-fold increase
<b>Suspect is known</b>	11-fold increase
<b>Fear</b> /concern for safety	5-fold increase
<b>Officer contacted</b> /interviewed <b>suspect(s)</b>	3-fold increase
Suspect has been <b>trespassed</b>	2-fold increase
Victim <b>changed routine</b>	2-fold increase

#### PRESS CHARGES AGAINST SUSPECT

CASE CHARACTERISTIC	INCREASE IN LIKELIHOOD OF VICTIMS' DECISION TO PRESS CHARGES
Suspect <b>threatened</b> victim(s)	9-fold increase
Victim was <b>female</b>	10-fold increase
<b>Tech-evidence</b> available	9-fold increase
<b>Fear</b> /concerned for safety	5-fold increase

## FINAL THOUGHTS

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**Stalking cases** are difficult & **require a course of conduct investigation**

Stalking overlaps with domestic and sexual violence – **80%** of victims were **fearful** & fully **willing to cooperate**

Most **stalking victims do what they can before involving the police**. Not all victims want perpetrators to be arrested nor prosecuted.

Victims **cooperate** when **fearful**, stalking impacts **personal/professional routines**, & officers demonstrated **empathy and effort**

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LOOK  
WHO'S

**WHY STALKING VICTIMS  
INVOLVE THE POLICE &  
HOW FIRST RESPONDERS  
CAN ENHANCE  
COOPERATION**

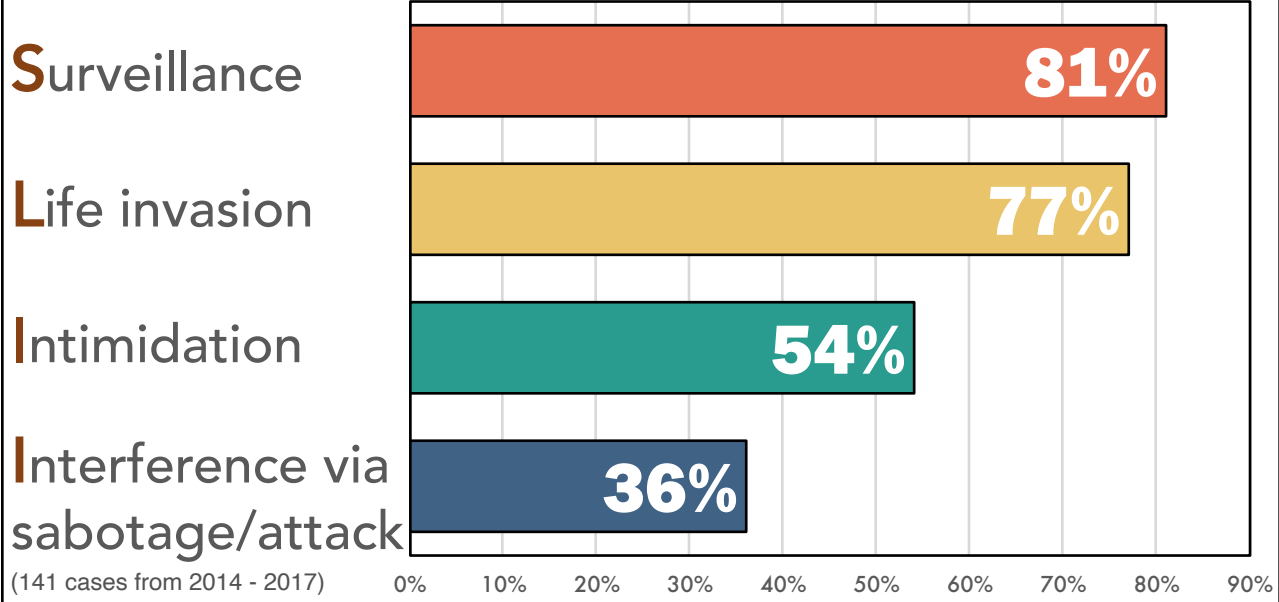
**STALKING**

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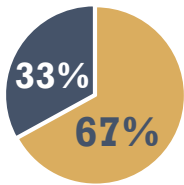


### SLII BEHAVIORS ARTICULATED IN 141 STALKING COMPLAINTS



### National survey of stalking experiences since high school among 700 18-24-year-olds

**1 in 3** experienced stalking after high school (31%)

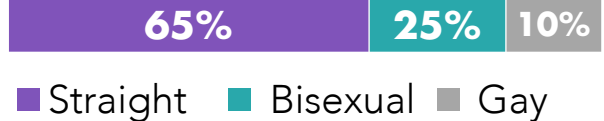


Male  
Female

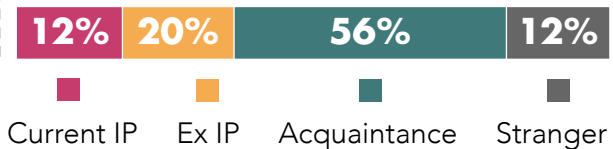
Average Age  
**22**



### % of stalking victims identifying as

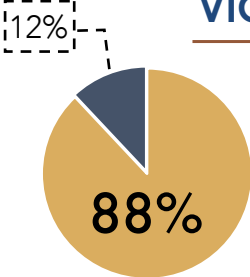


### Victims were stalked by a(n)...



## WHO OFFICERS ENCOUNTERED IN STALKING COMPLAINTS

### VICTIMS



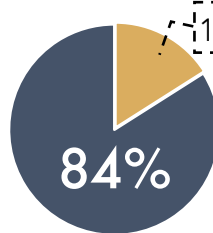
Male  
Female



Average Age



### SUSPECTS



Male  
Female



Average Age





## VICTIMS' RELATIONSHIP TO SUSPECT

■ Former Intimate Partner   ■ Current Intimate Partner   ■ Stranger   ■ Acquaintance



**60%**

of stalking cases involved current/former intimate partners

## VICTIMS' RELATIONSHIP TO SUSPECT

■ Former Intimate Partner   ■ Current Intimate Partner   ■ Stranger   ■ Acquaintance



- Customer (24%)
- New partner's ex (16%)
- Neighbor (16%)
- Coworker (14%)
- Friends/ex-friends (11%)
- Family members (11%)
- Other known (5%)
- Roommate (3%)

## KEY CONSIDERATION

Officers were most likely to encounter stalking complaints involving current/**former** intimate partners

Stalking is an extension of domestic violence

**Domestic violence risk assessments** should be completed for **ALL** cases involving intimate partner stalkers

## % of 141 stalking cases where...

...victim & suspect were  
**the same sex**

11

...there was a **history of family violence**

54

...victim & suspect were  
**cohabiting**

5

...suspect had **criminal history**

35

...victim & suspect had  
**child(ren) in common**

28

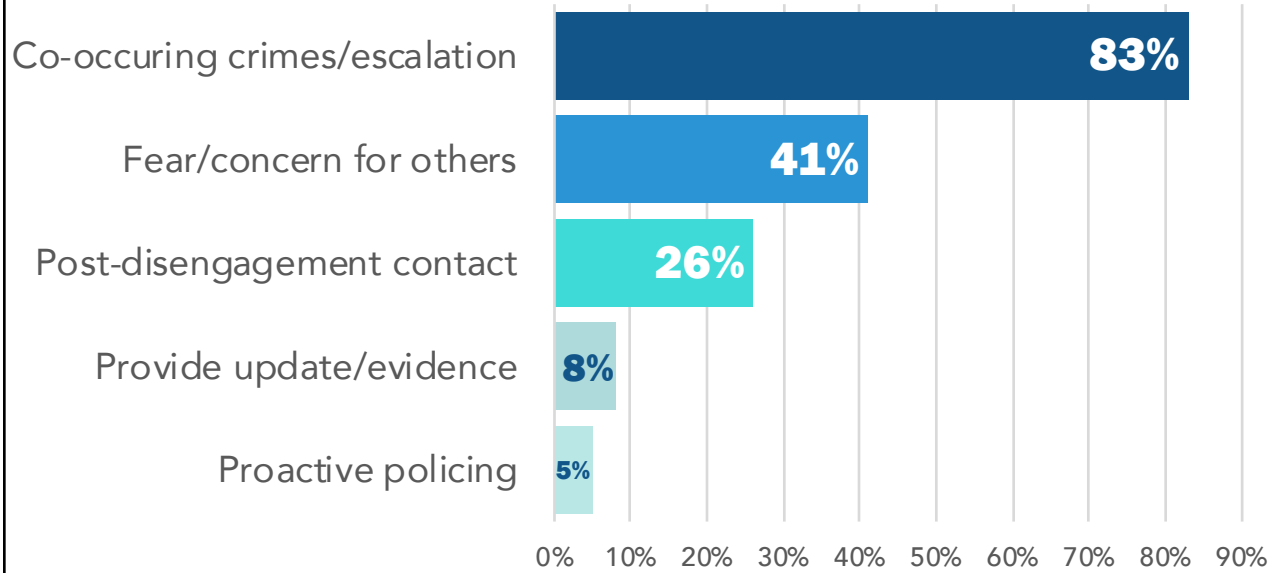
...there was a **history of court orders**

29

...there was an **active** protective order

36

### How officers articulated stalking victims' reasons for reporting in 141 stalking complaints



What **does** influence **stalking victims** to cooperate with the police?

## ARTICULATING FEAR

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### Open-ended questions can include:

*“How has this experience made you feel?”*

*“Can you tell me what this experience has been like for you?”*

*“What have you done to protect yourself?”*

*“What has changed in your life as a result of their behavior?”*

*“What did you think was going to happen if you didn’t make these changes?”*

Changes in victims’ routine/appearance could indicate fear

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## FINAL THOUGHTS

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Most officers handled stalking complaints to the best of their ability

Victims **cooperate** when **fearful**, stalking impacts **personal/professional routines**, & officers demonstrated **empathy and effort**

Stalking **arrest** outcomes improve when officers:

- **document legal criteria** for stalking (pattern, fear, control)
  - **involve advocates** in follow-up interviews
  - **Interview all witnesses & suspects**, when possible
-

I ASKED **VICTIM** WHAT WAS GOING ON TONIGHT. **VICTIM** TOLD ME THAT **SUSPECT** CALLS HER EVERY NIGHT AND MAKES HER STAY ON THE PHONE WITH HIM UNTIL HE FALLS ASLEEP. **VICTIM** TOLD ME THAT **SUSPECT** STARTED CALLING HER AROUND 0047 HOURS AND HAS SINCE CALLED HER 89 TIMES. OFFICER ANDERSON TOLD ME HE NOTED 98 PHONE CALLS FROM **SUSPECT** 'S PHONE TO **VICTIM** 'S PHONE. **VICTIM** STATED THAT **SUSPECT** TOLD HER HE WAS GOING TO KEEP HER UP ALL NIGHT LONG IF HE NEEDED TO, SINCE SHE WOULD NOT ANSWER THE PHONE.

██████████ said ██████████ was continuously calling her phone to bother her and she was calling to. She advised that on one occasion, when he had her phone he accessed her email and Facebook accounts. When the phone was returned to her she was no longer able to access either account. She believes he turned on some type of auto-tracking feature on her phone. She said "he always knows where I am at."

On the above date, I responded to a complaint about a protection order violation. ██████████ explained that ██████████ has texted and called him from different phone numbers and he believes she has an application that allows her to do that. He handed me his cell phone and I read through some of the text messages ██████████

email and facebook accounts. when the phone was returned to her she was no longer able to access either account. She believes he turned on some type of auto-tracking feature on her phone. She said "he always knows where I am at."

What types of **stalking behaviors** are officers likely to encounter?

**IDENTIFYING STALKER TACTICS: ARE THEY ACTING SLY?**

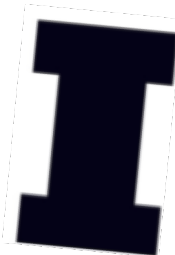
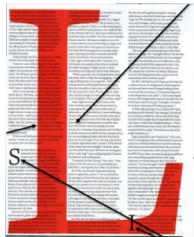
SLII framework (pronounced 'Sly')<sup>1</sup>

**S**urveillance

**L**ife  
Invasion

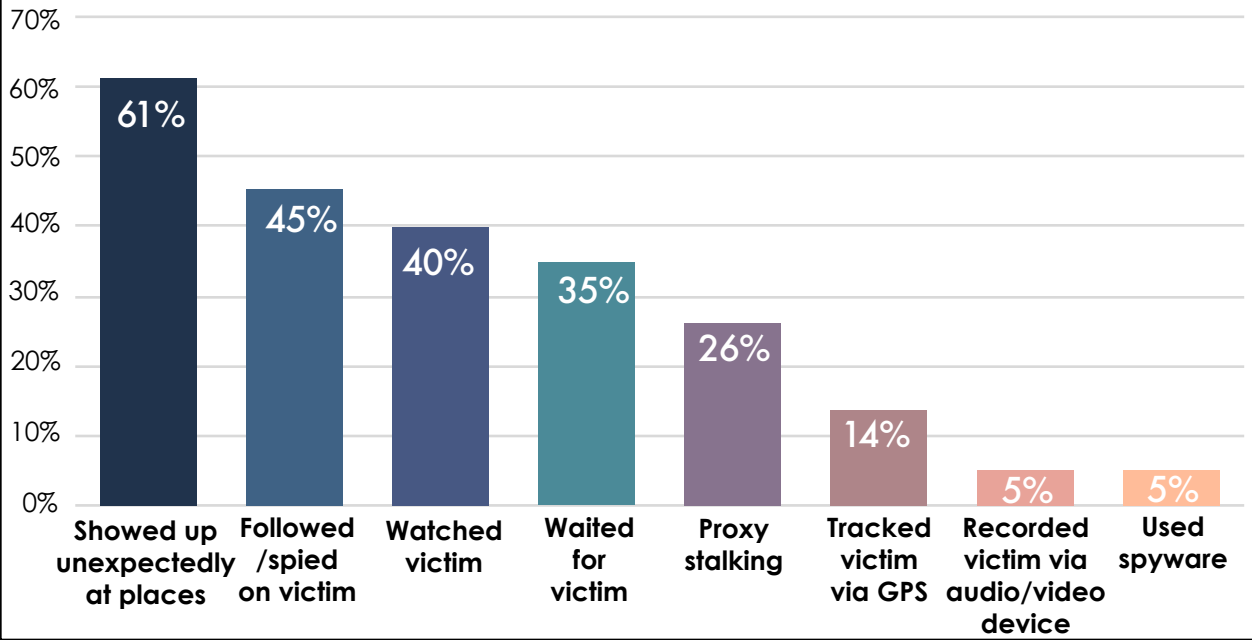
**I**ntimidation

**I**nterference  
via sabotage  
or attack



<sup>1</sup>Logan & Walker (2017)

# SURVEILLANCE BEHAVIORS



# KEY CONSIDERATION

Nearly **80%** of stalking cases involved some form of stalking through the use of **technology**

**COVERT GPS PLACEMENT**

- velcro mount INSIDE BRAKE LIGHT
- velcro mount UNDER THE SEAT
- velcro mount INSIDE THE GLOVEBOX
- velcro mount BEHIND / INSIDE HEADREST
- velcro mount ON FRONT OR REAR DASH
- magnet mount THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT
- velcro mount INSIDE / UNDER PLASTIC BUMPER
- magnet mount INSIDE WHEEL WELL
- UNDER THE CAR
- INSIDE HEADLIGHT / FOGLIGHT COMPARTMENT
- INSIDE / UNDER PLASTIC GRILL
- INSIDE COWL / SPOILER
- magnet mount
- velcro
- magnet mount

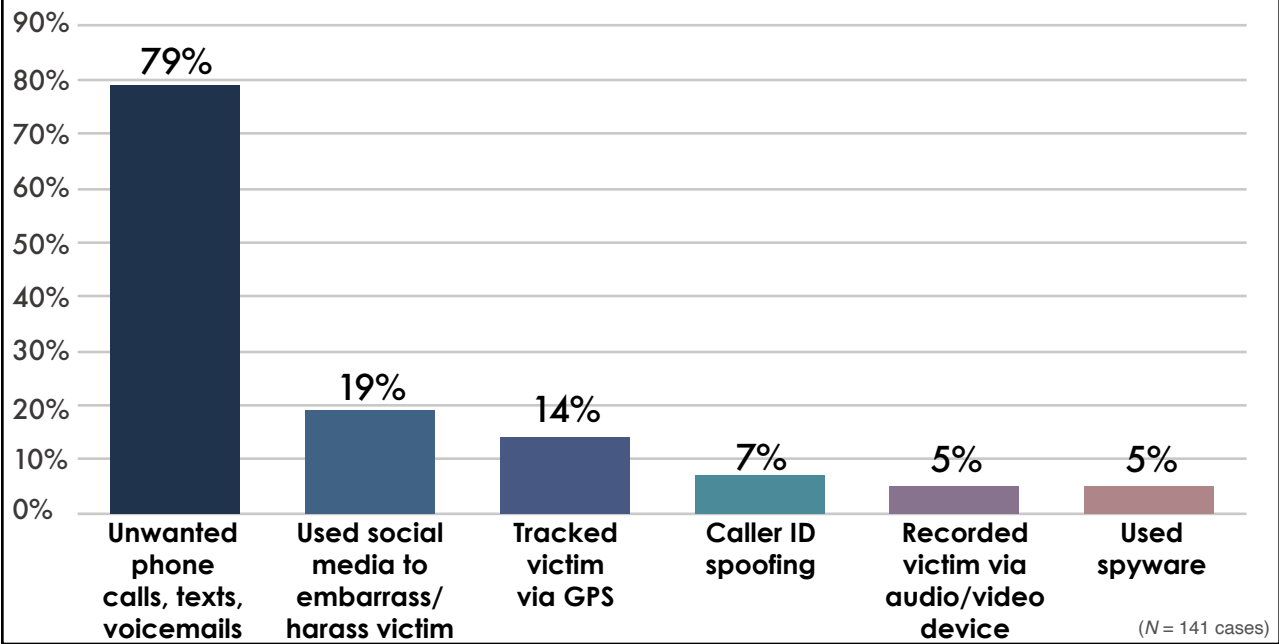
Find My iPhone

TOP 10 BEST HIDDEN SPY CAMERAS OF 2018

New Stalker

Photo

# THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN STALKING CASES



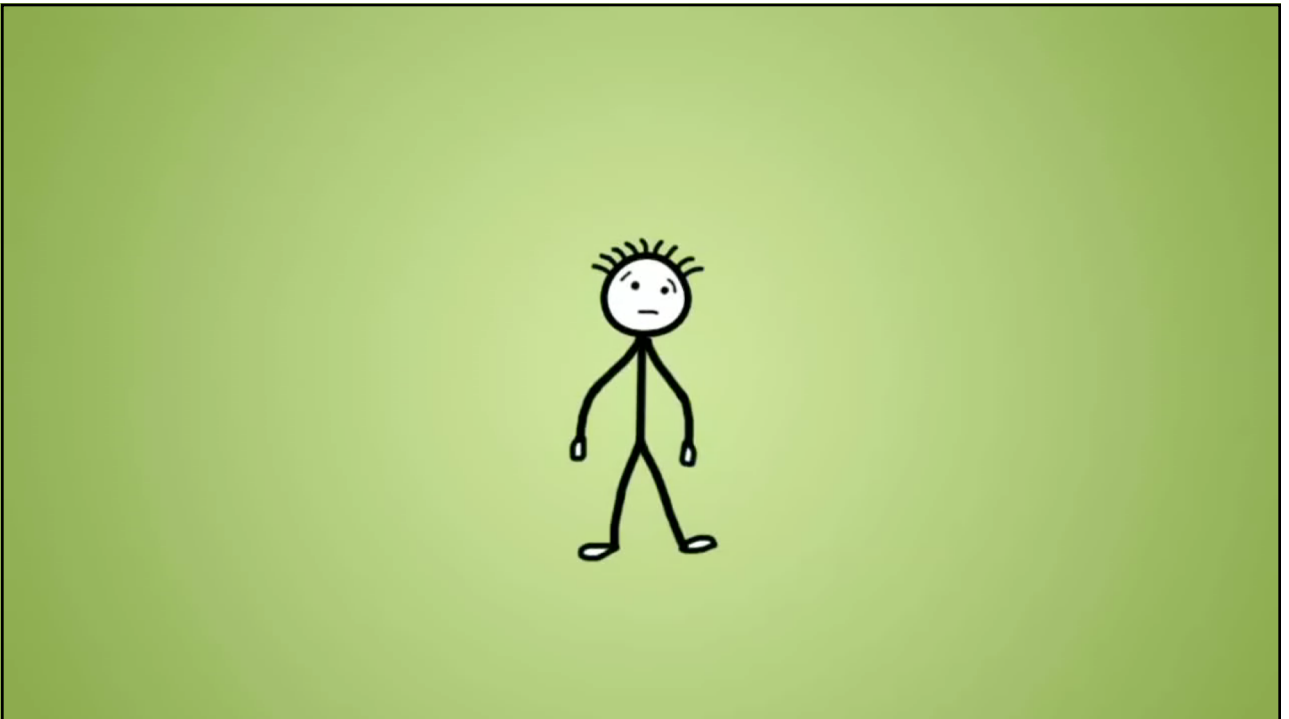
█████ advised recently strange things have been happening and the person whom she is currently dating has been having weird things happen to him as well. She advised that several weeks ago she was talking to her now boyfriend via text auto-tracking feature on her phone. She said "he always knows where I am at. He texts me telling me exactly where I am at!" She has blocked his profile but

█████ said █████ was constantly taking her phone to review who she was talking to. She advised that on one occasion, when he had her phone he accessed her

█████ and also went on the phone that were increasingly towards him about being abusive to her and her children. I counted over 70 phone calls from █████ between 2130 hours on 07/13/2016 and approximately 0100 hours on 7/14/2016, and over 90 text messages during the same time frame.



# THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN STALKING CASES



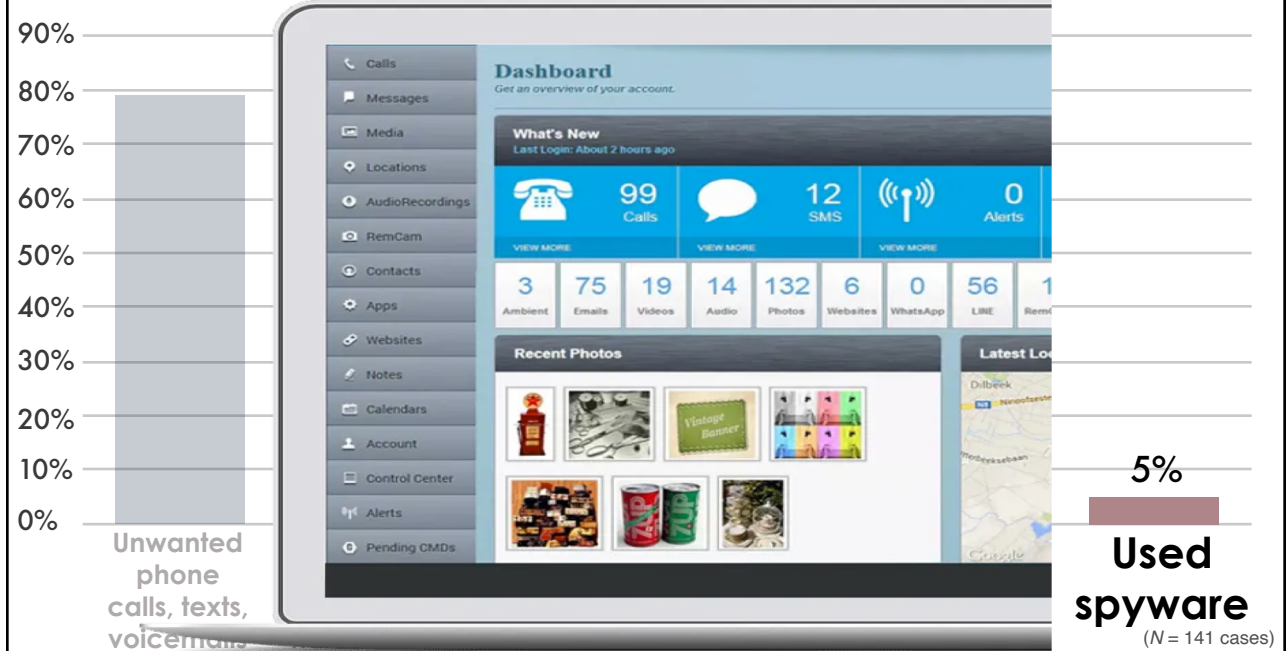
# THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN STALKING CASES

The image shows a mobile phone screen on the left displaying a messages app with several incoming texts from various numbers. On the right is a screenshot of the SpoofCard website. The website header includes the SpoofCard logo and navigation links: Features, Buy Credits, Get Our App, Support, Login, and a GET STARTED button. The main content area is titled 'Your Package' and shows a dropdown menu for 'Based on calls to United States'. Below this are two options: 'Monthly Membership' and 'Pay as you go'. A 'Subscribe & Save' button is also present. The 'Pay as you go' section displays five package options:

Price	Credits	Call Time	Action
\$9.95	45 Credits	45 minutes of call time	Select
\$19.95	100 Credits	100 minutes of call time	Select
\$29.95	160 Credits	160 minutes of call time	Select (highlighted)
\$49.95	280 Credits	280 minutes of call time	Select
\$99.95	600 Credits	600 minutes of call time	Select

Below the packages, a note states: 'All packages include access to both spoof texting and spoof calling.' There are radio buttons for 'Spoof Calls' (selected) and 'Spoof Texts'.

# THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN STALKING CASES



## KEY CONSIDERATION

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Nearly **80% of stalking cases involved** some form of stalking through the use of **technology**

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**Allocate resources** to process digital evidence efficiently

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Victims may not realize technology is being used.  
**Encourage officers/detectives to ask behavioral questions** about issues w/ devices

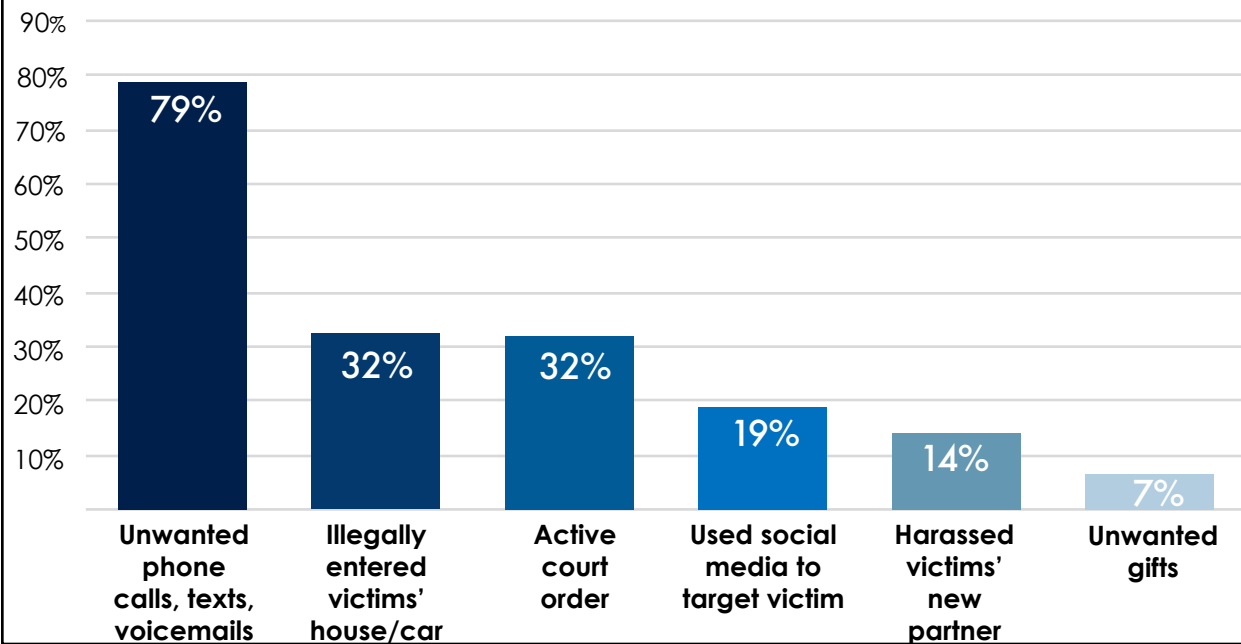
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**Establish procedures** on how to safely communicate with victims via technology

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She was texting a friend when her phone shut off in the middle of the text. [REDACTED] stated that she turned her phone back on and a green android symbol popped

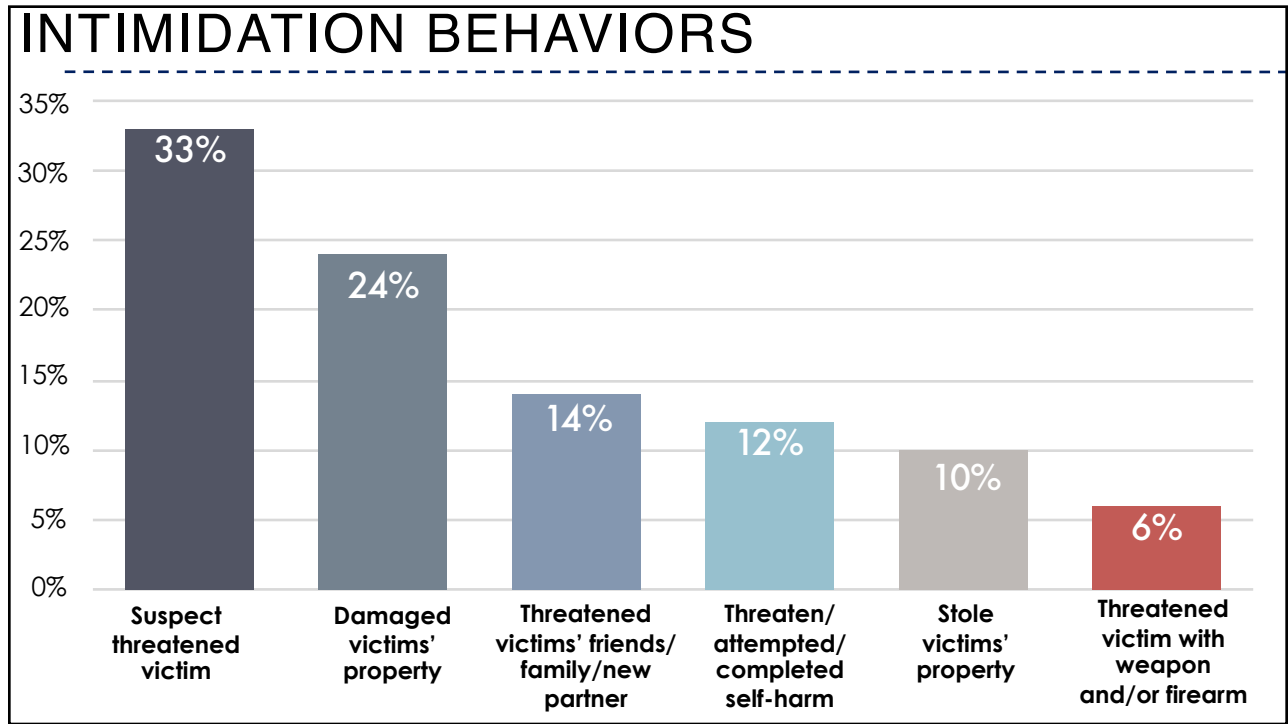
## LIFE INVASION BEHAVIORS



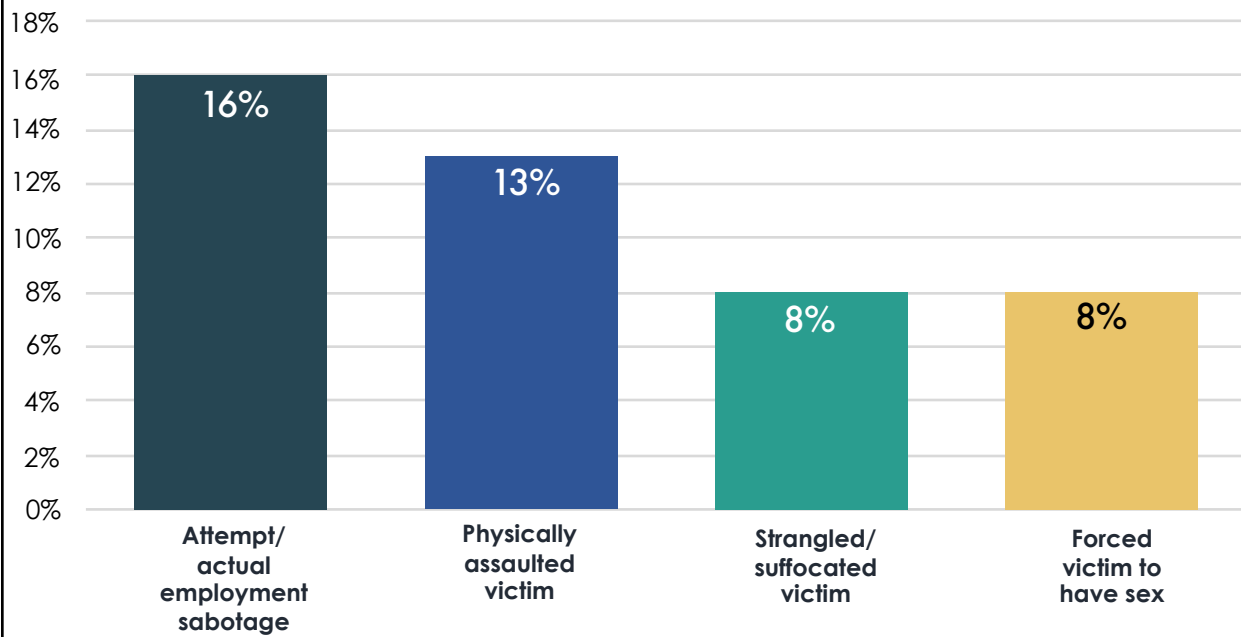
**VICTIM** ADVISED THAT SHE HAD COME HOME AND FOUND HER WEDDING DRESS HANGING IN THE GARAGE WITH WHAT APPEARED TO BE RED PAINT ON IT...I OBSERVED **VICTIM**'S WEDDING DRESS HANGING FROM ONE OF THE GARAGE DOOR SUPPORTS BY A ROPE. THERE APPEARED TO BE SOME RED STAINS ON IT, POSSIBLY PAINT. AS I EXAMINED THE DRESS FURTHER, I DISCOVERED A NOTE THAT WAS WEDGED IN ONE OF THE FOLDS OF THE DRESS. IT STATED "TILL DEATH DO US PART. DROP THE PROTECTION ORDER ON **SHARED CHILD**. I WANT MY DAUGHTER NOW OR I WILL NOT NEED A DIVORCE."

**VICTIM** INFORMED ME THAT SHE HAS A CPOR AGAINST **SUSPECT** AND THE CPOR WAS CONFIRMED BY DISPATCH. **VICTIM** INFORMED ME THAT SHE HAS A CURRENT ATTEMPTED STRANGULATION CASE AGAINST **SUSPECT** THROUGH THE **NORTHWESTERN** POLICE DEPARTMENT REFERENCE CASE #S16-  
**VICTIM** ALSO STATED SHE HAS A CHILD ABUSE CASE OPEN CURRENTLY WITH **NEIGHBORING COUNTY**

**VICTIM** STATED THAT SHE RETURNED HOME THIS EVENING AT APPROXIMATELY 2030 HOURS AND THERE WAS A BEHEADED BIRD ON HER FRONT PORCH THAT WAS LEFT ON TOP OF A NOTE THAT STATED, "YOU CAN'T RUN, YOU THINK YOU HAVE WON, CUT YOUR SHIT OR END UP LIKE THIS".



## SABOTAGE AND ATTACK BEHAVIORS



## KEY CONSIDERATION

**Officers most commonly encountered** stalking complaints involving **unwanted phone contact and/or in-person pursuit behaviors** (e.g., showing up, following, waiting, watching)

**Train** officers to use 'SLII' (aka 'SLY') framework

**Allocate resources** to help corroborate surveillance allegations

Blocking/not responding to suspect may **not** always be feasible and/or safe for victims

**STALKING**  
**CASE**  
**OUTCOMES**

JAN 2014 – DECEMBER 2017

**141 STALKING**  
**CASES**

**141 STALKING CASES**

**1 in 3**  
resulted in  
an arrest  
(31%)

**141 STALKING CASES**

**1 in 3** ARRESTS

**26%**  
of suspects  
arrested for  
stalking

**% of stalking  
arrests  
occurring on  
same day of  
initial report:**

**49%**



# 141 STALKING CASES

1 in 3 ARRESTS

**26%**  
of suspects  
arrested for  
stalking

% 1<sup>st</sup> DEGREE  
STALKING CHARGES

37%

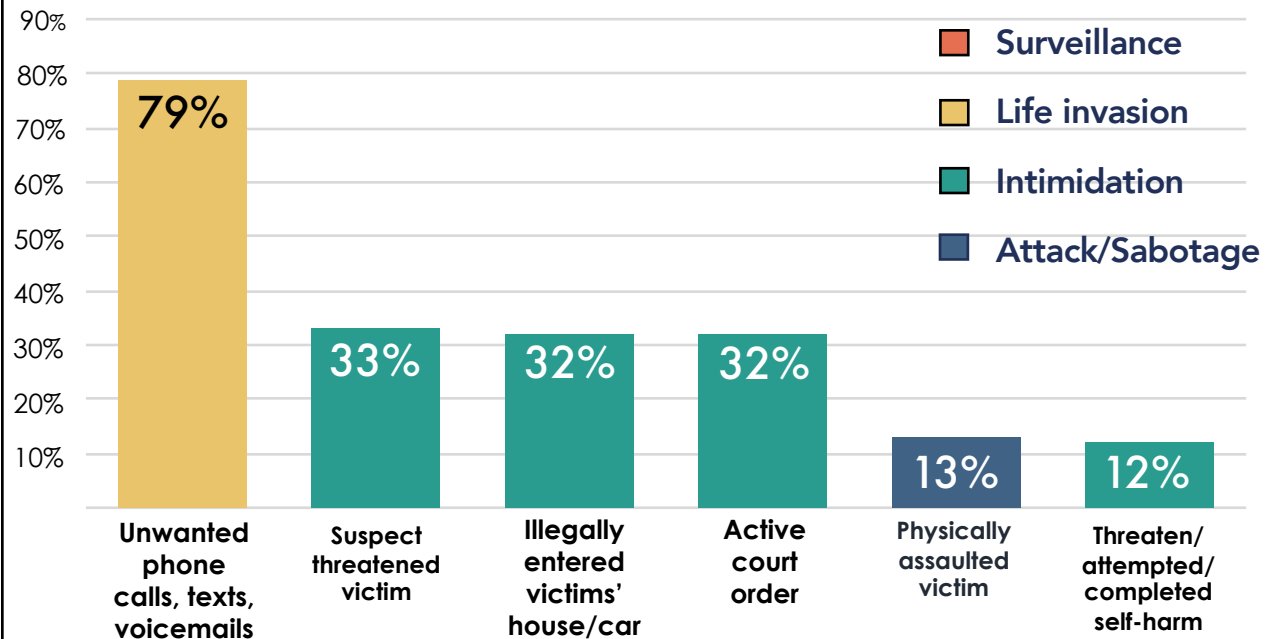
% 2<sup>nd</sup> DEGREE  
STALKING CHARGES

51%

% REFERRED  
TO PROSECUTORS

43%

## STALKING BEHAVIORS ASSOCIATED WITH ARREST



**1** WHY STALKING VICTIMS DO & DO NOT INVOLVE THE POLICE

**2** WHAT STALKING VICTIMS REPORT TO FIRST RESPONDERS

**3** PERPETRATOR ACCOUNTABILITY W/ RELUCTANT VICTIMS

Why victims of  
**domestic violence**  
victims participate  
in the legal process

## Why DV victims press charges

### DO

- Accountability
- Ensure perpetrator can't harm others
- Dangerousness = incarceration
- Seriousness of crime, injuries, DV history

### DO NOT

- Did not warrant prosecution
- Emotional/financial dependency
- Rehabilitation v. incarceration
- Fear of retaliation
- Desire to be left alone w/o punishment

Hare (2006)

## Why DV victims

testify

- Accountability
- Ensure perpetrator can't harm others
- Dangerousness = incarceration
- Seriousness of crime, injuries, DV history

I wanted to testify because it was something I was sure would happen again. I felt [the defendant] was out of control, and if he had been prosecuted it wouldn't have happened again. And the kids also would not have seen or been through what they have been through since then. It would have been a preventative thing, I hoped"

w/o punishment

Hare (2006)

Hare (2010)

Perpetrators can  
still be held  
accountable when  
victims are  
reluctant to testify

Defendant's have a  
right to confront & vet  
victims/witnesses in  
court

This right is **forfeited**  
when they are **responsible**  
for the victims' reluctance  
to testify

*Davis v. California, 2006, Giles v. California, 2008*

## FORFEITURE OF WRONGDOING DOCTRINE

Victim  
Unavailable

+

Due to  
defendant's  
wrongdoing

+

Intended  
that result

**Admission of  
victim's  
statements!**

*Davis v. California, 2006, Giles v. California, 2008*

## HOW TO PROVE FORFEITURE

Investigate All stalking complaints as an escalating pattern of **coercive control**

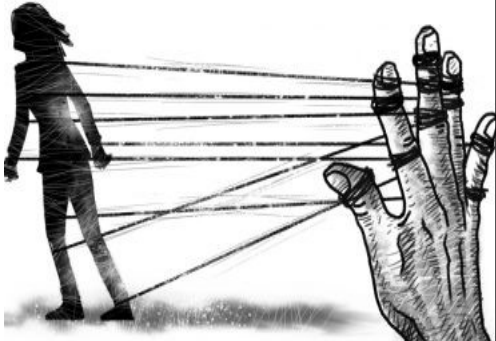
**Stalking is a mechanism of coercive control**

**CONTROL**

- Deprivation
- Exploitation
- Regulation
- Conditioning compliance


**COERCION**

- Physical/Sexual violence
- Intimidation
- Humiliation
- Degradation
- Isolation



Bonomi et al. (2012)

Initial calls after arrest	Minimize, blame, invoke sympathy	Recall good times, promise future, 'Us v. Them'	Ask/instruct victim to recant	Execute recantation plan
Minimize abuse Mutual blame Victim is angry/willing to stand ground Victim is going to "tell the truth"	Increased depression/anxiety "intolerable" jail conditions Threats of suicide Suffering w/o victim/children *Key strategy that appealed to victims	Invoke images of life alone, bonds, memories, & future together Attempts to connect over common ground Position themselves against others who "don't understand them"	Minimize/invoke sympathy Ask/instruct recantation Provide instructions	Redefine narrative of abuse event in favor of perpetrator Blame State as common enemy Victim & suspect are relieved, excited, & hopeful

**ARREST**  **RECANTATION**

“Perpetrators are not threatening the victim, but are using more sophisticated emotional appeals designed to minimize their actions and gain the sympathy of the victim.”

Bonomi et al. (2012). Meet me at the hill where we used to park. (73) *Social Science & Medicine*, 1054-61

## THE FIRST RESPONSE IS CRITICAL

**Any time a victim reports any type of harassing behavior:**

Consider the possibility of a stalking case

Determine whether this is an isolated incident or repeated conduct

## IDENTIFYING POWER AND CONTROL DYNAMICS DURING THE FIRST INTERACTION IS KEY!

**123**

hearsay statements

**82**

domestic violence cases

**44%**

on scene statements to the police

&

**90%**

Victim statements from follow-up interviews

Ruled  
**inadmissible**  
if victim/witness  
does not testify

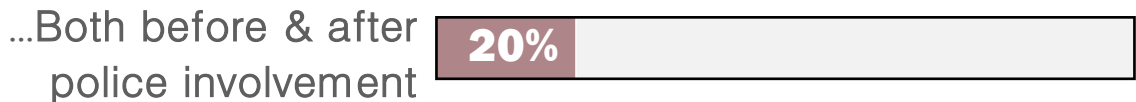


“WE CAN’T MOVE  
FORWARD  
BECAUSE THE  
VICTIM DOESN’T  
WANT TO  
COOPERATE”

“WE **CAN’T** MOVE  
FORWARD BECAUSE  
THE *\*suspect is coercing the\**  
VICTIM ~~DOESN’T~~  
~~WANT TO~~ *\*NOT\**  
COOPERATE”

### % of 141 stalking complaints where...

...Suspect was told to **stop all contact**



### % of the 141 stalking cases where...



# RESOURCES FOR PROFESSIONALS

The image shows a screenshot of the AEQUITAS website. At the top, the navigation menu includes: About Us, Resources, Consultations, Trainings, Initiatives, and Connect. The main heading is "Champions for Justice". Below it, a paragraph describes the organization's mission: "AEquitas is a nonprofit organization focused on developing, evaluating, and refining prosecution practices related to gender-based violence and human trafficking. We're a team of former prosecutors with decades of experience, working globally to hold offenders accountable and promote victim safety." A blue button labeled "About Us" is visible. On the right, there is a large image of the "THE PROSECUTOR'S GUIDE TO STALKING" book cover, which features a statue of Lady Justice. Below the book cover, there are four service cards: "Resources" (with a book icon), "Consultations" (with a person icon), "Training Events" (with a person and screen icon), and "Partnerships & Initiatives" (with a group of people icon). Each card includes a brief description and a link. A blue box with white text and yellow arrows points to a QR code, with the text "TAKE A PHOTO TO ACCESS WEBSITE!".

**AEQUITAS**    About Us    Resources    Consultations    Trainings    Initiatives    Connect

## Champions for Justice

AEquitas is a nonprofit organization focused on developing, evaluating, and refining prosecution practices related to gender-based violence and human trafficking. We're a team of former prosecutors with decades of experience, working globally to hold offenders accountable and promote victim safety.

[About Us](#)


**Resources**  
Create, research, and curate publications, statutory and case law compilations, and other resources that strengthen prosecution practices  
[Browse our Library](#)

**Consultations**  
Offer on-demand 24/7 consultations with our seasoned prosecutors to answer case-specific inquiries, discuss prosecution strategies, conduct research, and recommend data-driven solutions  
[Consult with AEquitas](#)

**Training Events**  
Develop curricula and facilitate a wide range of specialized in-person and web-based trainings designed to empower prosecutors and allied professionals  
[Attend a Training](#)

**Partnerships & Initiatives**  
Provide long-term support in building frameworks for coordinated responses to gender-based violence, including data collection and analysis, task force development, and training  
[Discover our Initiatives](#)

TAKE A PHOTO TO ACCESS WEBSITE!



**Stalking and Harassment  
Assessment and Risk Profile  
(SHARP)**


CoerciveControl.org

**15-minute online  
assessment**

**Articulates “big  
picture” of  
stalking**

Narrative Report &  
Risk Profile

Safety Planning  
Suggestions



TAKE A PHOTO OF THIS FOR MORE INFORMATION!



# SPARC

STALKING  
PREVENTION,  
AWARENESS,  
AND RESOURCE  
CENTER

www.StalkingAwareness.org

- \*Practitioner guides
- \*Training modules
- \*Victim resources
- \*Webinars





@FollowUsLegally

Sign Up for our Newsletter!

Responding to Stalking:  
A Guide for  
Corrections & Probation



Responding to Stalking:  
A Guide for Advocates





STALKING RESPONSE  
CHECKLIST



Safety Planning  
Strategies



The image is a promotional graphic for the 'Tech Safety' app. It features a dark blue background with faint icons of a smartphone, a laptop, a location pin, and a Wi-Fi symbol. On the left, the NNEDV Tech Safety logo is at the top, followed by the title 'Tech Safety' in a large white font. Below the title is a paragraph of text: 'Welcome to the Tech Safety App. This app contains information that can help someone identify technology-facilitated harassment, stalking, or abuse and includes tips on what can be done.' At the bottom left are two buttons: 'Download on the App Store' and 'Get it on Google play'. In the center, two smartphones are shown displaying the app's interface. On the right, a large, detailed view of the app's home screen is shown. This screen has an orange header with 'Tech Safety' and a search icon, and a search bar containing 'Find My Way'. Below the header is a grid of six colorful tiles: 'Cell Phone Safety' (purple), 'Device Safety' (yellow), 'Harassment' (dark blue), 'Impersonation' (green), 'Location Safety' (red), and 'Online Safety' (teal). At the bottom of the app view is a white navigation bar with four icons: a house for 'Home', a list for 'Resources', a book for 'Bookmarks', and a telephone for 'Help'.

NNEDV  
Tech Safety

# Tech Safety

Welcome to the Tech Safety App. This app contains information that can help someone identify technology-facilitated harassment, stalking, or abuse and includes tips on what can be done.

Download on the **App Store**

Get it on **Google play**

Tech Safety

Find My Way

Cell Phone Safety

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Harassment

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Home Resources Bookmarks Help