

# Stalking on Campus

George Mason University

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**Presented by:**

**Hema Khan**

Program Attorney

Stalking Resource Center

National Center for Victims of Crime

hkhan@ncvc.org

202-467-8732

# Stalking

resource center

## Training

## Technical Assistance

## Resources

- Statutes
- Legislative Updates
- Manuals/Guides
- Videos
- Clearinghouse

The Stalking Resource Center is a program of the National Center for Victims of Crime. The mission of the Stalking Resource Center is to enhance the ability of professionals, organizations, and systems to effectively respond to stalking. The Stalking Resource Center envisions a future in which the criminal justice system and its many allied community partners will effectively collaborate and respond to stalking, improve victim safety and well-being, and hold offenders accountable.

The Stalking Resource Center provides training, technical assistance, and resource materials for professionals working with and responding to stalking victims and offenders.

# Defining Stalking

# Stalking

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

# Stalking

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

- Repeated behavior – Course of conduct
- Usually two or more incidents
- Individual behaviors may not be illegal
- Can be difficult to recognize the pattern

# Stalking

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

- The target is a specific person
- Others?

# Stalking

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

- Would a reasonable person in the victim's shoes feel fear?
- Can you threaten someone without using words?





**CONTEXT IS CRITICAL!**

# Prevalence of Stalking

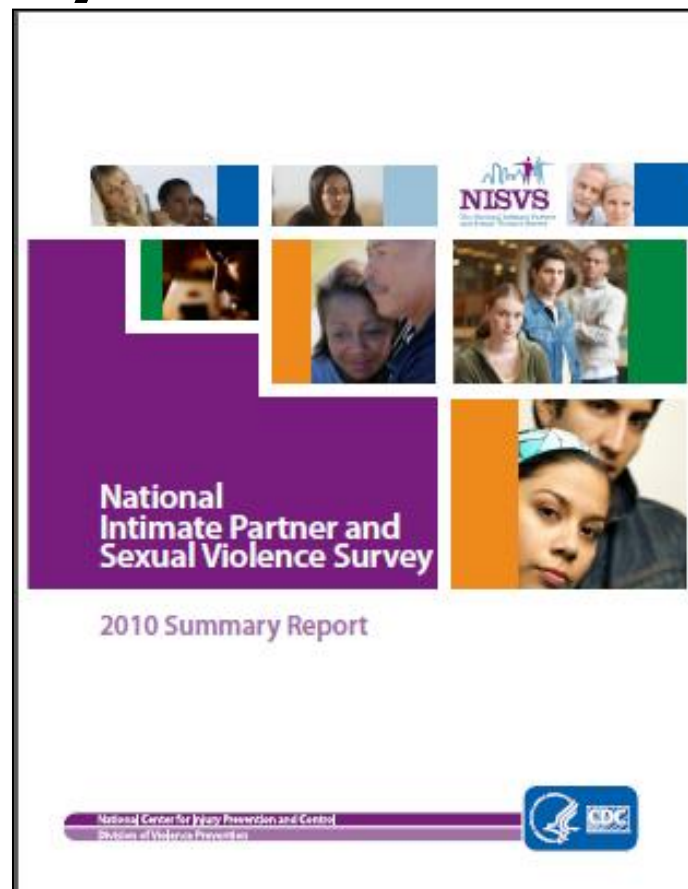
- How many people are stalked annually:
  - United States?
- Who is at the greatest risk of being a stalking victim?

# Prevalence of Stalking

**6.6 million stalked in 1 year in U.S.**

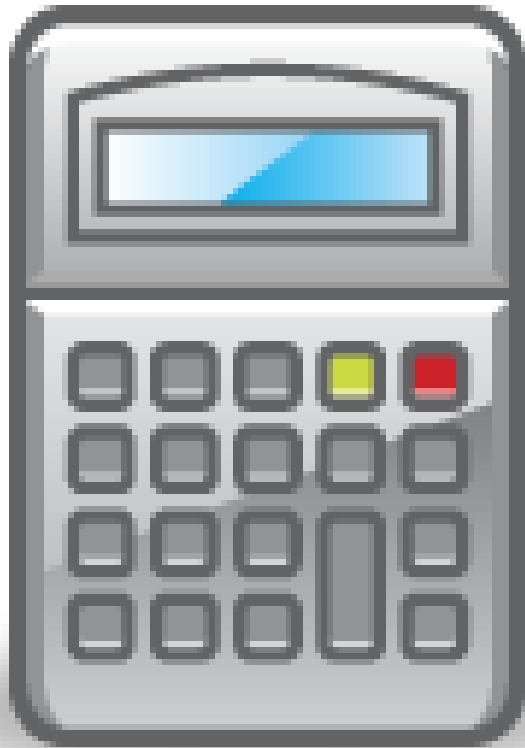
□ Rate

▣ 26.5 per 1,000



- The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report (2011)

# Do the Math



1. Take the population of your community
2. Divide by 1000
3. Multiply by 26.5
4. Equals statistical number of stalking cases in your community each year

# Stalking Prevalence – GMU

- Student Population ~ **33,000**
- Roughly **874** cases in 1 year



# Prevalence of Stalking

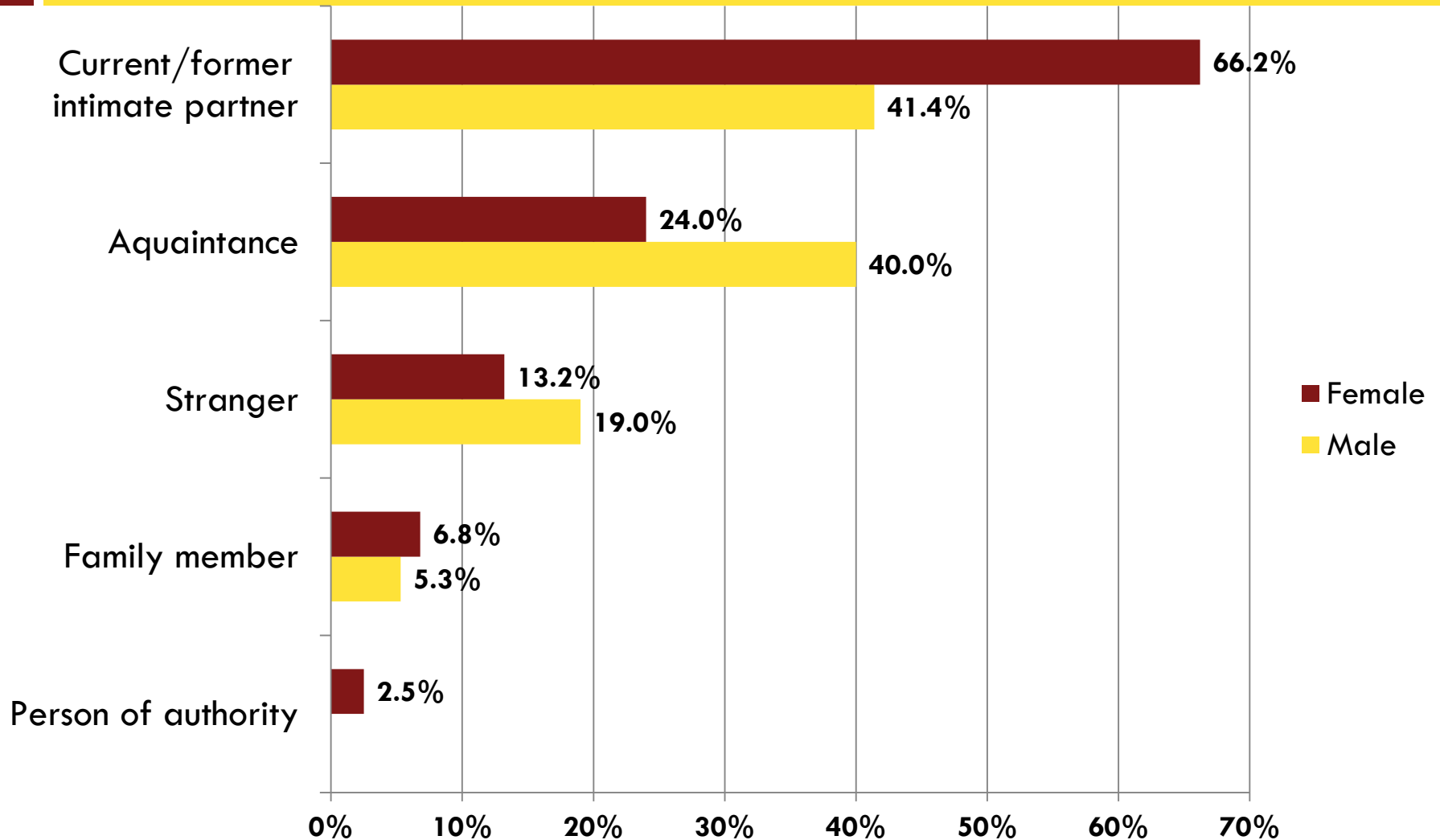
- 6.6 million stalked in 1 year
- Stalking victimization at some point in their lifetime:
  - ▣ 1 in 6 women
  - ▣ 1 in 19 men

- The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report (2011)

# Stalking Dynamics

- ❑ Women more likely to experience stalking victimization
- ❑ Individuals under age 25 experience the highest rates of stalking
- ❑ Most stalkers are male
  - ▣ Males equally likely to be stalked by a male or female
- ❑ The majority of victims know their stalkers

# Victim Offender Relationship





# 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)

- ▣ During one 9-month period, 13.1% of college women surveyed reported being stalked

  - The Sexual Victimization of College Women (2000)

# 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 & Domestic Violence**

# Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence

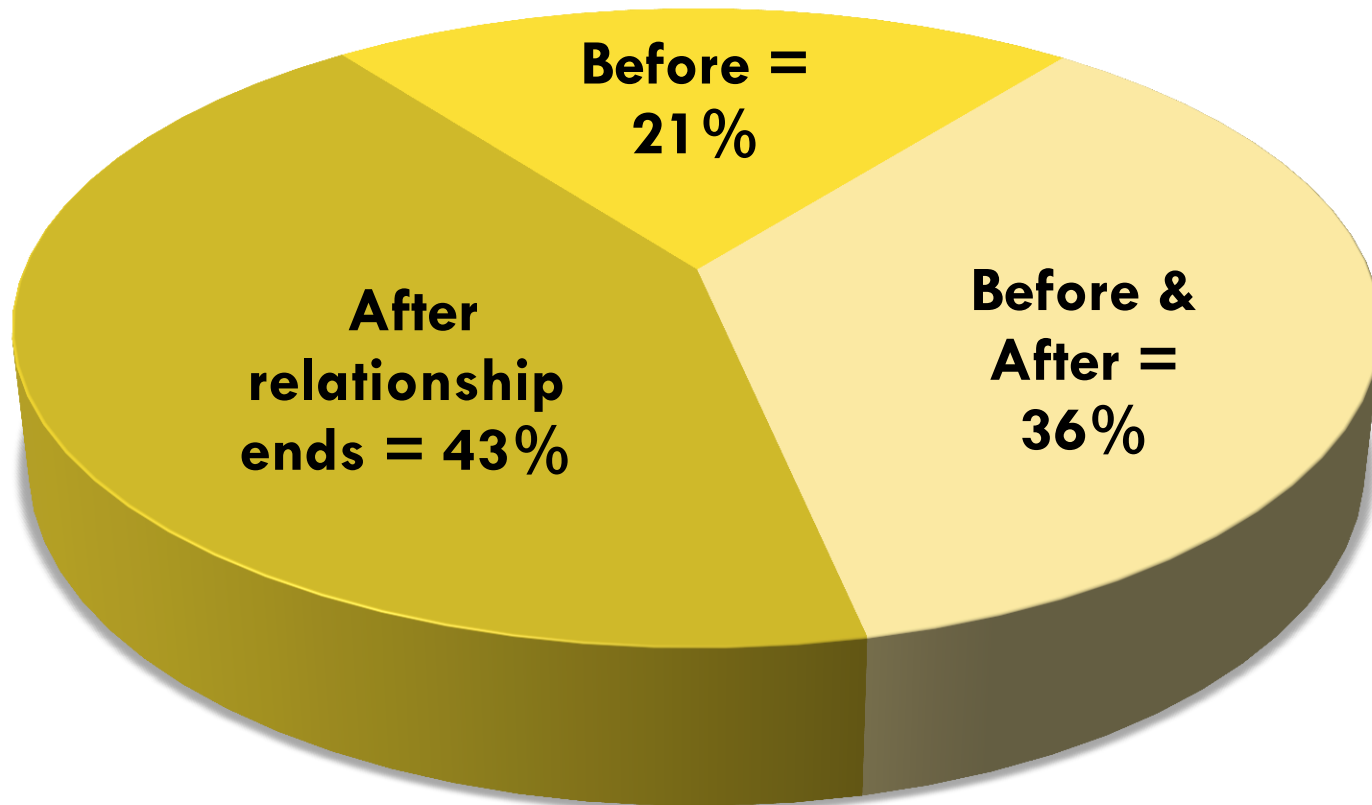
- 81% of stalking victims who were stalked by an intimate partner reported that they had also been physically assaulted by that partner.

- *National Violence Against Women Survey (1998)*

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

- *Stalking acknowledgement and reporting among college women experiencing intrusive behaviors (2007)*

# Point in Intimate Relationship when Stalking of Women Occurs



# Intimate Partner Stalkers: Increased Risk for Victims

- More likely to physically approach victim
- More insulting, interfering and threatening
- More likely to use weapons
- Behaviors more likely to escalate quickly
- More likely to re-offend
- More likely to assault third parties than non-intimate stalkers

# Lethality (Femicide)

- 76% of cases:
  - ▣ victim experienced stalking within 12 months prior to the murder
- 85% of attempted cases:
  - ▣ victim experienced stalking within 12 months prior to the attempted murder

# Lethality (Femicide)

- 67% of the femicide victims:
  - ▣ had been physically abused by their intimate partner in the 12 months before the murder.
- 89% of the femicide victims who had been physically abused:
  - ▣ had also been stalked in the 12 months before the murder.





**Physical Abuse**

**+** **Stalking**

**=** **Greater indicator of potential lethality than either behavior alone**

# Stalking Behavior

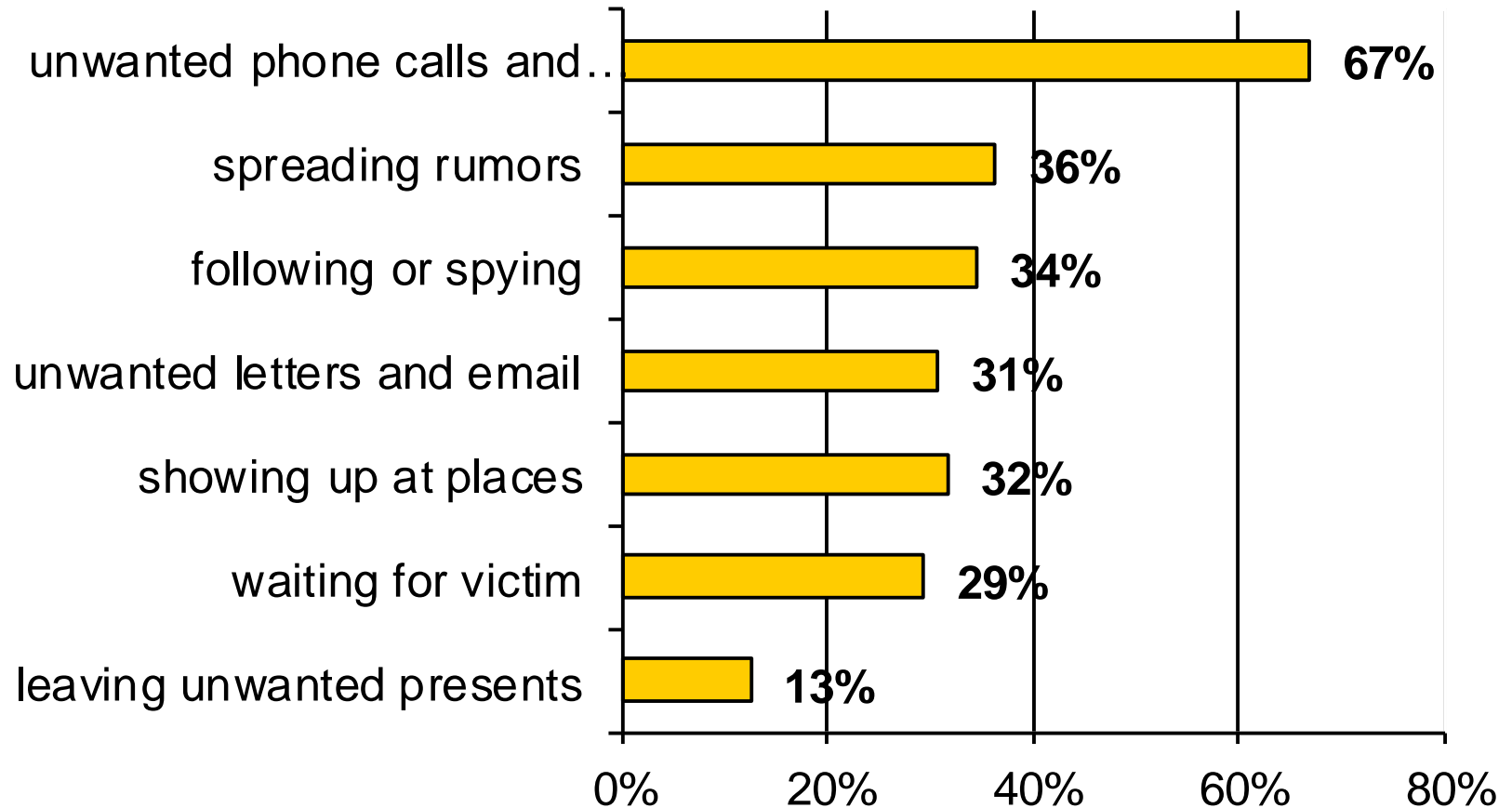
# Pattern of Behavior

- 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

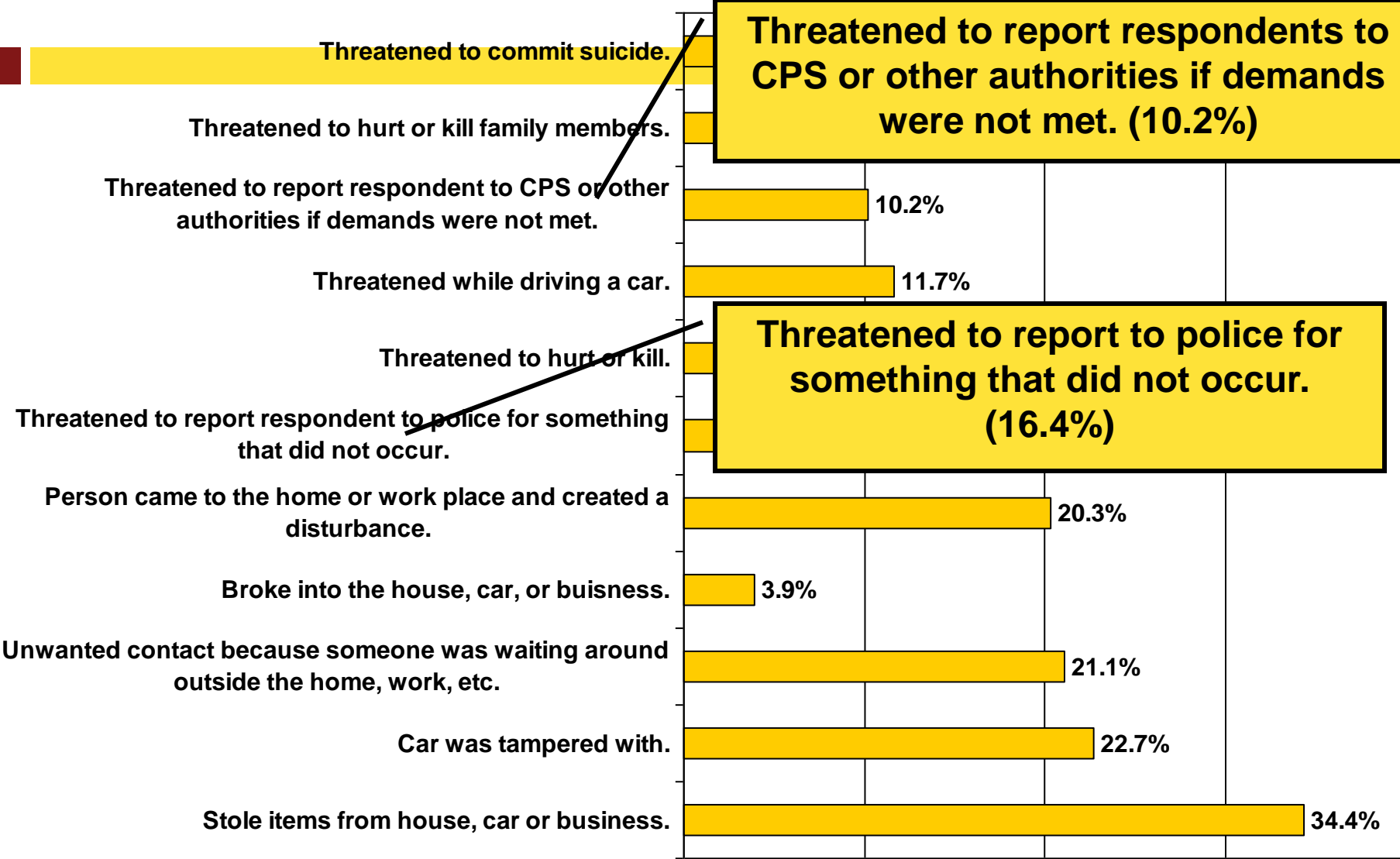
# Stalking Behaviors

- Following/Surveillance
- Sending gifts, letters
- Vandalism
- Stealing items
- OP Violations
- Threats (implicit and explicit)
- Identity theft
- Targets third parties
- Proxy stalking
- Physical/Sexual assault
- Workplace stalking
- Harasses via legal system
- Use of children to harass/monitor

# Stalking Behaviors



# Stalking Behaviors



# Use of Technology to Stalk

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



# Stalking by Proxy

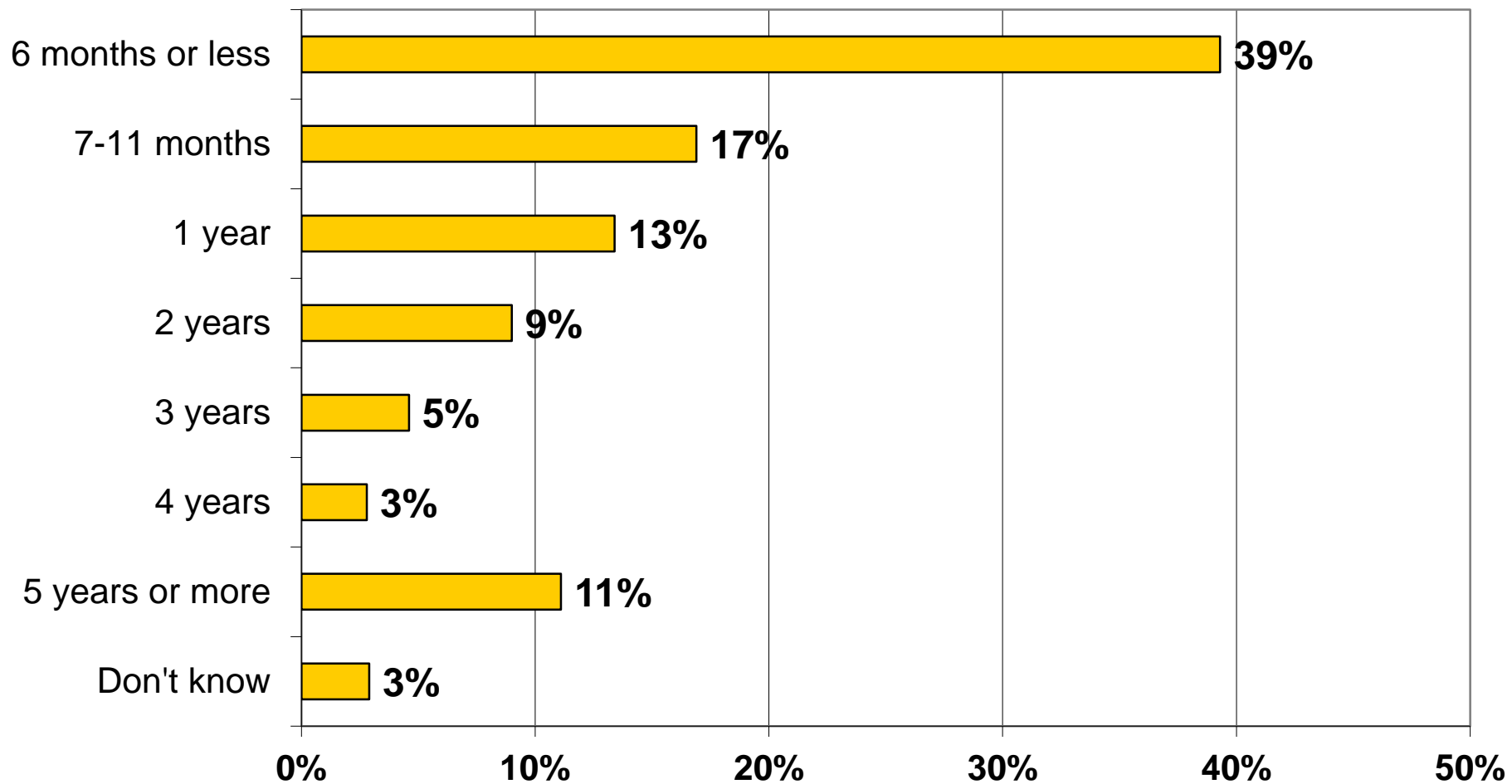
- Third party stalking
  - Friends, relatives, children
  - Unintentional
  - Intentional
- 50% - 60% of partner stalking victims say others were involved in stalking - Logan et al. (2006)



# Recidivism

- 60% of cases
- Time between intervention and recidivism was about 2 months
  - ▣ Stalkers reoffend from between 1 day to 6 years

# Duration



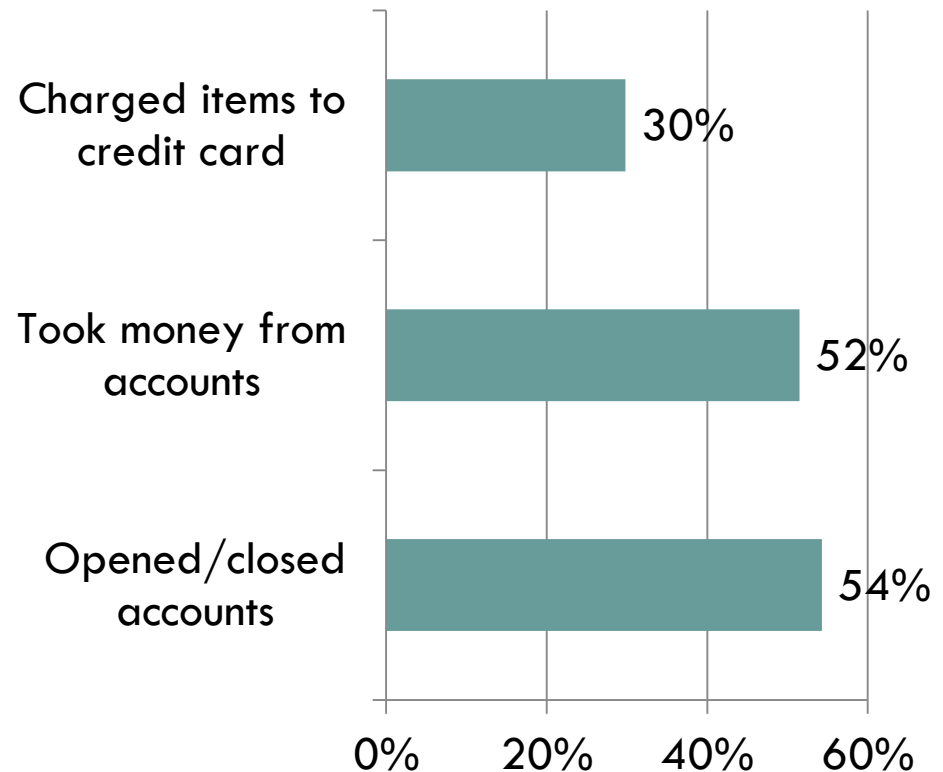
# Stalking and Other Crimes

## □ Among stalking

cases...

- 24% involve property damage
- 21% involve a direct attack on the victim
- 15% involve an attack on another person or pet

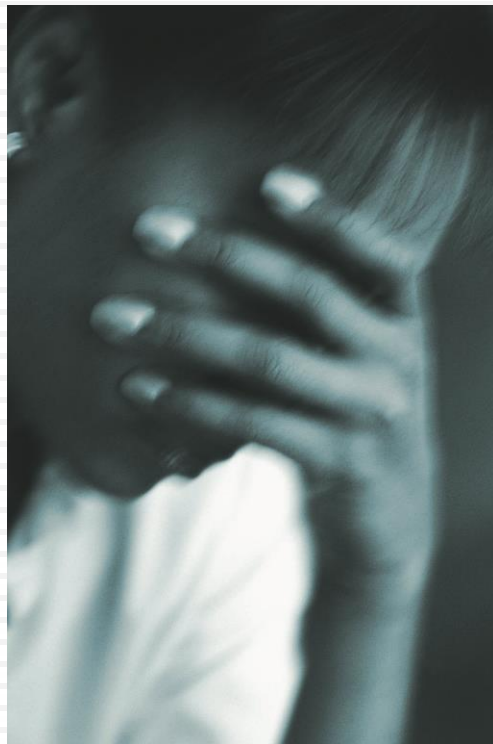
## □ Identity theft



# Why do they stalk?

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

# Victims of Stalking



# 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

# Impact on Victims

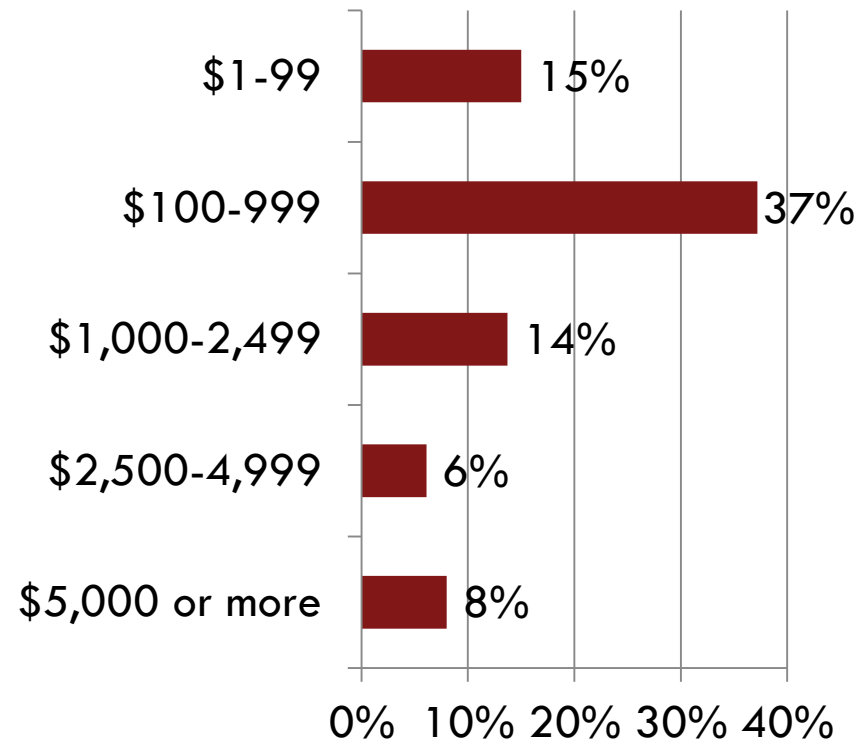
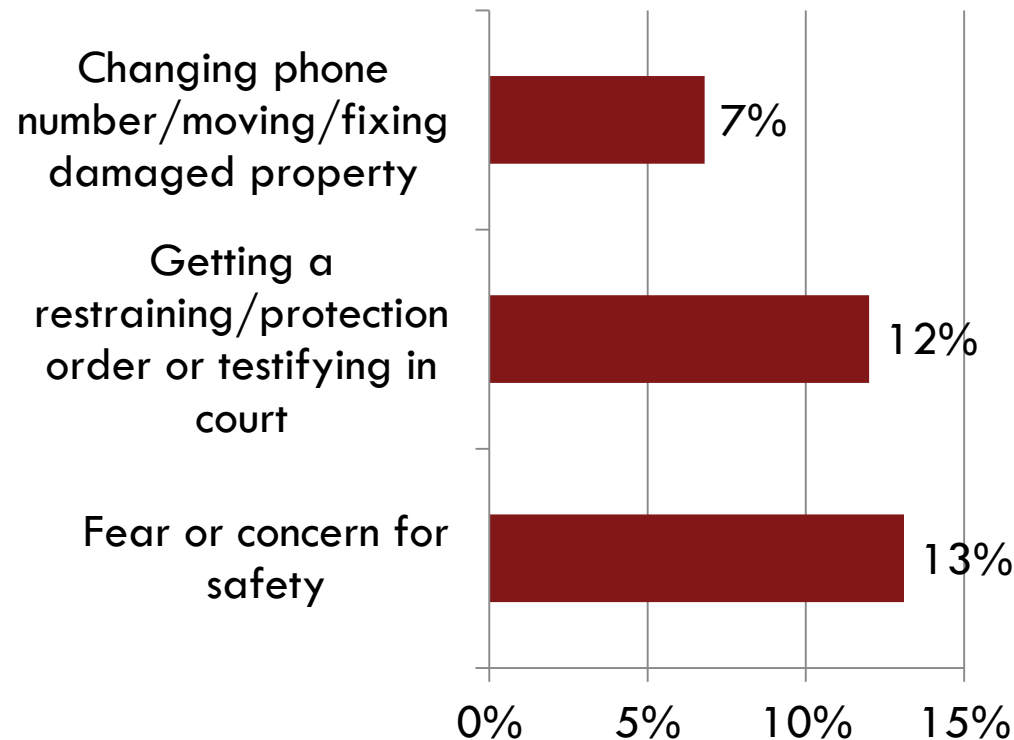
## Afraid of:

- 46% not knowing what would happen next
- 30% bodily harm
- 29% behavior would never stop
- 13% harm or kidnap a child
- 10% loss of freedom
- 9% death
- 4% losing one's mind


# Impact on Victims

1 in 8 of employed victims lost time from work

□ More than half lost 5 days or more







“It’s not easy to describe the fear you have when you see the stalker, or signs of the stalker, everywhere you go. I have given up all hopes of ever having a safe life. For the rest of my life, I will be looking over my shoulder, expecting to see him there.”



“It’s going to take getting a bullet put in my head before people understand how serious this is.”

*- Statement of stalking victim Peggy Klinke one month prior to her murder by her stalker in January 2003*

**Do most  
stalking victims  
report to law  
enforcement?**



# Reporting to Law Enforcement

- 37% of male stalking victims
- 41% of female stalking victims

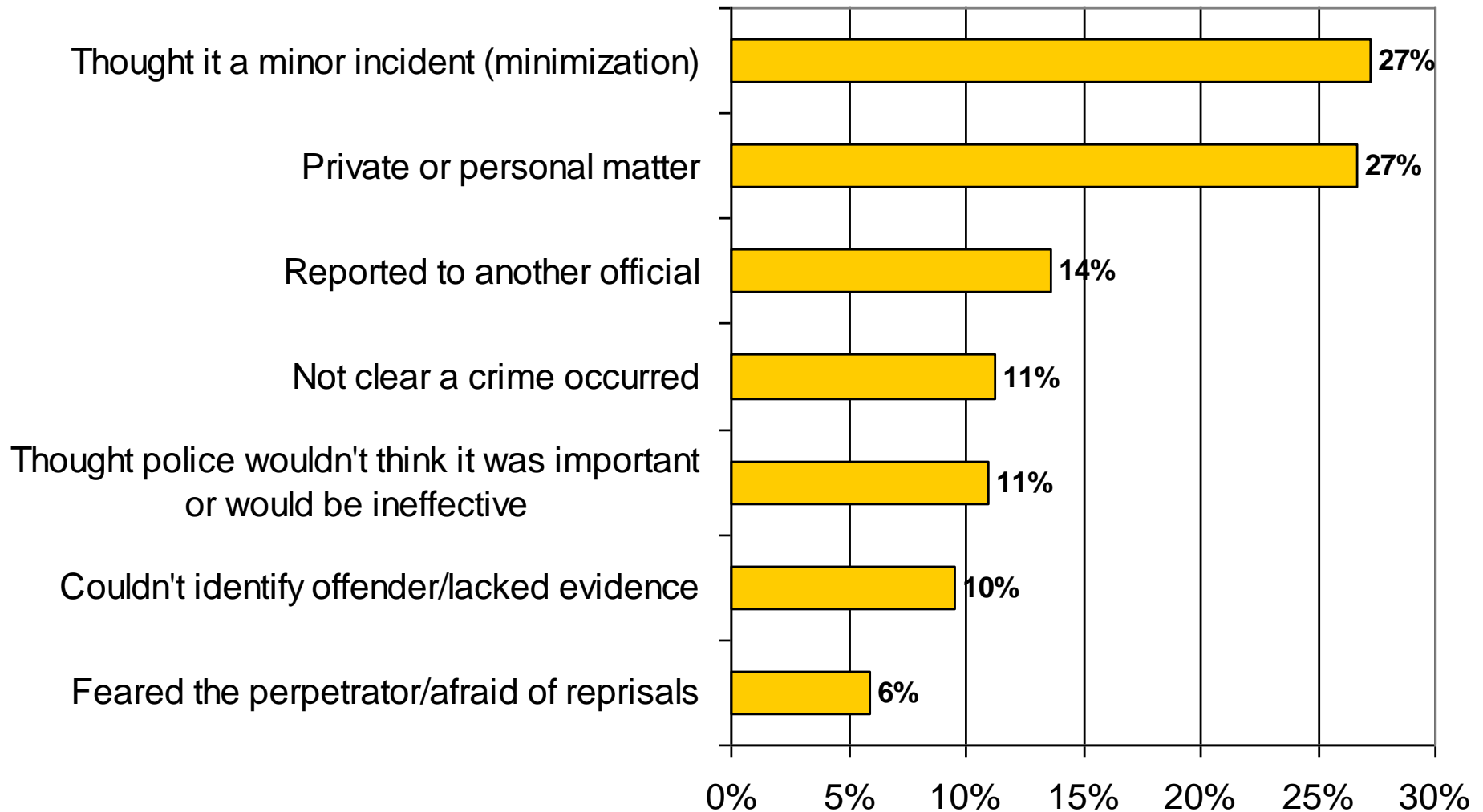
# Reporting of Stalking Incidents

- ❑ Overall, 83.1% of stalking incidents were NOT reported to police or campus law enforcement.

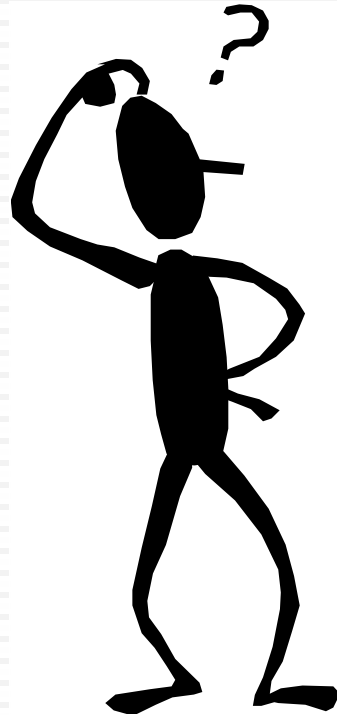
BUT....

- ❑ 93.4% of victims confided in someone, most often a friend, that they were being stalked.

# Reasons For Not Reporting



# What Can We Do?



# 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/activities
- Awareness Months:
  - January – Stalking
  - February – Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention
  - April – Sexual Assault
  - October – Domestic Violence
- Post information:
  - Residence halls/dining halls
  - Health center
  - Counseling center
  - Everywhere

**STALKING: KNOW IT. NAME IT. STOP IT.**

**NATIONAL STALKING  
AWARENESS MONTH**

**JANUARY**

<http://stalkingawarenessmonth.org>

**Stalking**  
resource center  
[www.ncvc.org/src](http://www.ncvc.org/src)

**THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
Victims of Crime**  
1-800-FYI-CALL

**January is**

**NATIONAL STALKING  
AWARENESS MONTH**

**StalkingAwarenessMonth.org**

IT'S **not** A JOKE.  
IT'S **not** ROMANTIC.  
IT'S **not** OK.

**stop**  
**STALKING**

[www.ncvc.org/src](http://www.ncvc.org/src)



# Resources for Victims

- ❑ Are You Being Stalked? (Brochure for Victims)
- ❑ Stalking Questions and Answers
- ❑ Stalking Incident Behavior Log
- ❑ Safety Plan Guidelines
- ❑ Cyberstalking: Dangers on the Information Superhighway
- ❑ Ten Things You Should Know About Stalking

**[www.victimsofcrime.org/src](http://www.victimsofcrime.org/src)**

# Documentation

## STALKING INCIDENT LOG

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Description of Incident</b>	<b>Location of Incident</b>	<b>Witness Name(s)</b> (Attach Address and Phone #)	<b>Police Called</b> (Report #)	<b>Officer Name</b> (Badge #)

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THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
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