

# Stalking

**STALKING** is largely defined as a pattern of behavior that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. Though a crime throughout the United States (including Territories and many Tribal Codes) and an offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, stalking varies widely in statute definition, scope, crime classification, and penalty.<sup>B</sup> Recent advances in technology (GPS, cellphones, cameras, computers, social networking sites) have made it easier for perpetrators to harass, monitor, and track victims. Stalking is linked to both intimate partner violence and sexual assault, and has a significant traumatic effect on its victims. Because stalking is often composed of individual acts that could, in isolation, seem benign or be noncriminal, it is underreported by victims and underidentified by the criminal justice system.

**NOTE:** BJS data from 2006; CDC figures from 2011. Hover for data hyperlinks to source material.

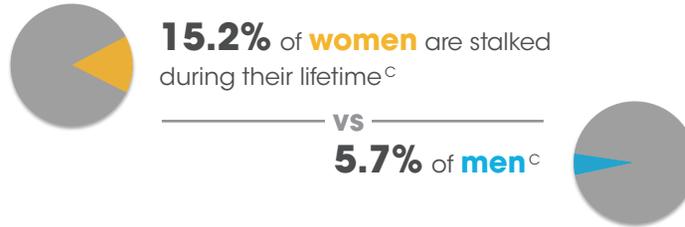
THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
**Victims of Crime**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

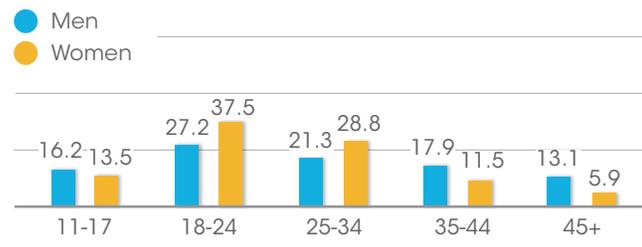
Office for Victims of Crime  
**OVC**  
JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS  
JUSTICE FOR ALL

**7.5 million victims**

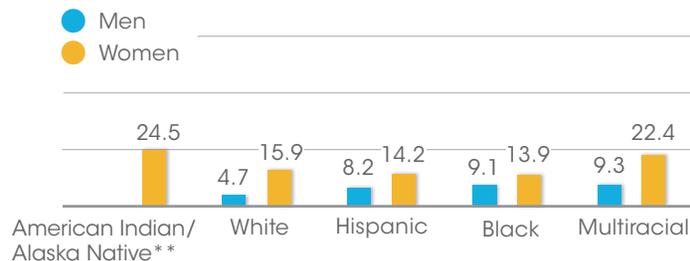
are stalked in a year<sup>C</sup>



Percentage of **stalking victims by sex and age** at first onset<sup>C</sup>



Percentage of **racial or ethnic group that is stalked, by victim sex**<sup>\*C</sup>

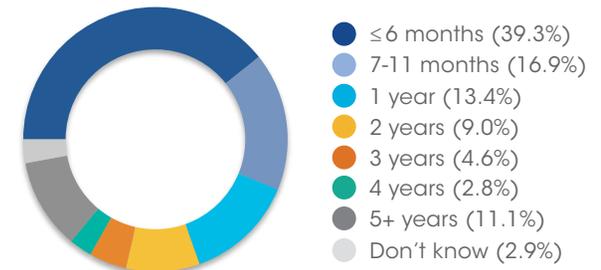


**60.3%** of victims took the following **protective actions**:<sup>A</sup>

- > **21.6%** changed their **daily activities**
- > **17.3%** changed their **telephone number**
- > **16.7%** took **time off** work/school
- > **13.4%** changed their **route** to work/school
- > **13.2%** changed their **locks**/got a **security system**
- > **9.5%** changed or quit **job/school**
- > **6.9%** changed their **email address**

## Stalking Duration:<sup>B</sup>

For victims who have been stalked in the prior 12 months

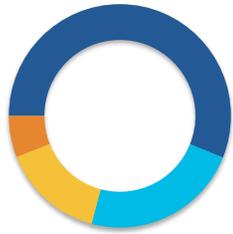


## Time Lost from Work:<sup>A</sup>

- 25+ days (14.5%)
- 10-24 days (11.2%)
- 5-9 days (14.3%)
- 1-4 days (32.7%)
- <1 day (14.1%)
- Unknown (13.1%)



# Stalking continued



## Women's Relationship to Stalker:<sup>\*c</sup>

- Current or former intimate partner (60.8%)
- Acquaintance (24.9%)
- Stranger (16.2%)
- Family member (6.2%)

## Men's Relationship to Stalker:<sup>\*c</sup>

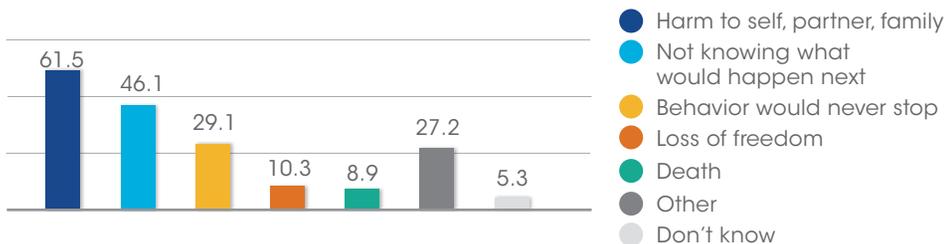
- Current or former intimate partner (43.5%)
- Acquaintance (31.9%)
- Stranger (20.0%)
- Family member (9.9%)



Percentage of **stalking victims** whose stalkers use the following **tactics**<sup>\*c</sup>

	Men	Women
Make unwanted phone calls to victim, including hangups	58.2%	54.5%
Leave victim unwanted messages	56.7%	55.3%
Approach victim or show up places when not wanted	47.7%	61.7%
Watch, follow, or spy on victim with a device, camera, or GPS	32.2%	49.7%
Leave strange or threatening items for victim	14.7%	15.0%
Sneak into victim's car or home in such a way that victim realizes stalker was there	**	26.8%
Leave victim items (flowers, cards) knowing the victim didn't want them	**	24.7%

Percentage of **stalking victims** with the following **worst fears**<sup>A</sup>

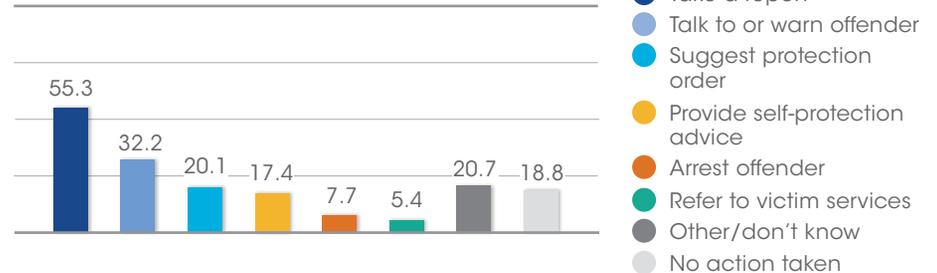


Percentage of **victims whose stalkers commit other crimes** against them<sup>A</sup>



As few as **1 in 22** domestic violence cases that also qualify as stalking are **identified as stalking** by police<sup>D</sup>

Percentage of **stalking victims by police action**<sup>A</sup>



### NOTES

<sup>A</sup>Lifetime prevalence. Totals may exceed 100%.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Case counts for men too low to estimate.

### SOURCES

<sup>A</sup> Katrina Baum et al., *Stalking Victimization in the United States*, (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2009), <http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/ovw/legacy/2012/08/15/bjs-stalking-rpt.pdf>

The estimates in this report have since been revised (see Catalano, 2012). While the overall findings should remain the same, some figures may have changed. Updated estimates have been used where possible.

<sup>B</sup> Shannan Catalano, *Stalking Victims in the United States - Revised*, (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2012), [http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/svus\\_rev.pdf](http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/svus_rev.pdf)

<sup>C</sup> Mathew J. Breiding et al., *Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization—National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014), <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6308.pdf>

<sup>D</sup> A.K. Klein et al., "A Statewide Study of Stalking and Its Criminal Justice Response," *final report to the National Institute of Justice* (Washington, DC: NCJ 228354, 2009), <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/228354.pdf>