Stalking:
Implications of the NISVS for the Field
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Why are We Talking About Data?
- How do you use data?
- What challenges have you had in using or presenting data?
- Why is the stalking data important?

Stalking History
- as old as the history of human relationships
- never labeled as a separate and distinct class of deviant behavior
- prior to its common usage and its subsequent designation as a crime, stalking was referred to as harassment, annoyance or, in some cases, simply as domestic violence

History of Stalking Research
How do we know what we know about stalking?
- Evaluating which research to trust
- Identifying important quantitative data to present to the field

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.
History of Stalking Research
- Fairly recent
- Body of work suffers from several limitations
  - Difficulty and disagreement on defining stalking
  - Difficulty in studying stalking as it relates to other criminal conduct such as sexual assault and domestic violence
  - Little ability to compare findings across studies
- 3 major national studies
  - NVAWS
  - SVS
  - NISVS

Key Research
National Violence Against Women Survey

Stalking Victimization in the United States

Methodology
1998 NVAW Survey
- 16,000 surveyed
- nationally representative random telephone survey of 8,000 women and 8,000 men in the U.S.
- 18 and over

2009 Stalking Report
- 65,270 surveyed
- supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
- In-person and phone
- Data collected in 2006
- 18 and over

Methodology - NISVS
2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey
- 16,500 completed interviews
- nationally representative random telephone survey of adult men and women (women slightly over-represented)
- All findings separated by sex, no aggregation
- Stem: How many people have ever...
  - 8 specific stalking behavior categories

Stalking Tactics Measured
- Unwanted phone calls, voice or text messages, hang-ups
- Unwanted emails, instant messages, messages through social media
- Unwanted cards, letters, flowers, or presents
- Watching or following from a distance, spying with a listening device, camera, or global positioning system (GPS)
- Approaching or showing up in places such as the victim’s home, workplace, or school when it was unwanted
- Leaving strange or potentially threatening items for the victim to find
- Sneaking into victims’ home or car and doing things to scare the victim or let the victim know the perpetrator had been there

Methodology - NISVS
- Interviewers asked health-related questions at the outset of the survey to establish a health context for the survey
- Improved informed consent and a safety plan to stop the interview if needed as well as distress protocols
- Detailed behavior-specific questions on components of sexual violence and intimate partner violence that previous population-based national surveys have not measured
  - Examples include information on types of sexual violence other than rape, coercive control, and control of reproductive or sexual health
- The survey is designed to assess violence in a way that is consistent across states
Prevalence of Stalking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2009 BJS Stalking Report</th>
<th>NISVS 2010 Report</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.4 million individuals stalked in a 12-month period</td>
<td>6.6 million individuals stalked in a 12-month period</td>
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Definitions of Stalking in NISVS

**Conservative**
- Very fearful or believes someone could be harmed or killed
  - 1 in 6 women (16.2%) and 1 in 19 men (5.2%) in NISVS reported being a victim of stalking in their lifetime
  - 4% of women and 1.3% of men reporting stalking in the year prior to taking the survey

**Less conservative**
- considers any amount of fear (i.e., a little fearful, somewhat fearful, or very fearful)
  - 1 in 4 women (25.0%) and 1 in 13 men (7.9%) in NISVS reported being a victim of stalking in their lifetime
  - 6.5% of women and 2.0% of men reporting stalking in the year prior to taking the survey

Is it a Big Difference?

**Conservative:**
- 1 in 6 women (16.2%) and 1 in 19 men (5.2%) reported being a victim of stalking in their lifetime
**Less conservative:**
- 1 in 4 women (25.0%) and 1 in 13 men (7.9%) reported being a victim of stalking in their lifetime

Common Findings

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

Stalking Behaviors - SVS

- Unwanted phone calls and messages: 66%
- Spreading rumors: 31%
- Following or spying: 31%
- Unwanted letters and email: 34%
- Showing up at places: 31%
- Waiting for victim: 29%
- Leaving unwanted presents: 12%
**Stalking Behaviors - NISVS**

![Stalking Behaviors Chart](chart.png)

**NISVS Findings**

- **NISVS Lifetime Stalking Tactics**
  - ![Tactic Chart](tactic_chart.png)

**NISVS – Perpetrator Relationship**

- **NISVS Victim Offender Relationship**
  - ![Relationship Chart](relationship_chart.png)

NISVS - Youth Victimization

- 1 in 5 female victims
- 1 in 14 male victims
  experienced stalking between the ages of 11 and 17

Number of Perpetrators

Use of Technology to Stalk

More than 1 in 4 victims reported some form of technology used
- 83% email
- 35% instant messaging (IM)
- 7% electronic monitoring of some kind

Use of Technology to Stalk

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