

**CYBERSTALKING AT A MID-ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY:  
A PROPOSAL**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The problem that leads to this research project is that the increased use of the Internet has created an increased number of online harassing/cyberstalking cases among college students. The purpose of this research study is to explore online harassing/cyberstalking experiences at a Mid-Atlantic university. This study will use quantitative methods to determine the number of students that have been stalked, harassed or threatened through the use of the Internet, email or other forms of electronic communication devices. A survey will be administered to the participants, which will be used to gather data addressing the goals of this research project. The survey will be administered to undergraduate and graduate students.

## **Background**

### *1.1 Introduction*

The Internet has become a medium for people to communicate either locally or globally in course of business, education and in their social lives. Cyberstalking become easy for people to compete, meet a companion, or talk to people on the other side of the world with the click of a mouse. In 2008, according to the Internet World Stats Report, there were 237,168,545 Internet users in the United States, so as a result there is a concern for Internet safety (Internet World Stats, 2008). This increased use of the Internet has created an impact on the number of online harassing/cyberstalking cases.

Jack the Ripper is the popular name of the unknown killer who terrorized London between August and November 1888. He was also known as the Whitechapel Murderer after the city district where he operated. The exact details of the case are uncertain, but five women are considered to be definite victims of the Ripper, though there may have been more. All were stalked, strangled and then had their throats cut. The nickname Jack the Ripper came from the signature of a letter sent to a news agency during the rampage. The killings stopped as abruptly as they began and the London police were unable to solve the case or find a firm suspect. The case was closed officially in 1892, but the mysterious anonymity of the killer has kept the case in the public eye (Jack the Ripper, 2005). During the summer of 1985 the infamous "Night Stalker," Richard Ramirez terrorized Southern California. He was eventually captured and convicted of thirteen murders and thirty other crimes including robbery, sodomy and attempted murder. There are more, names like John Wayne Gacy Jr., Ted Bundy and Jeffrey Dahmer are among the individuals who gruesomely stalked, murdered and tortured their victims (Myers, 2002).

The United States Department of Justice defines cyberstalking as the "use of the Internet, e-mail, or other electronic communication devices to stalk another person" (U.S. Attorney General Report, 1999, p. 2). Offline stalking is a crime with which many people are familiar. Stalking is a "repetitive pattern of unwanted, harassing or threatening behavior committed by one person against another" (Mechanic, 2000, p. 1). Stalking that involves the use of multiple individuals to stalk, harass or threaten a victim is known as gang stalking (Gang Stalking, 2006). Although offline stalking acts have been reported since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, cyberstalking is a crime that is just being examined and reported since the late 1990's. The U.S. Attorney General states, "cyberstalking is an existing problem aggravated by a new technology" (U.S. Attorney General Report, 1999, p. 2). Many similarities have been noted between offline stalking and cyberstalking cases including that "the majority of cases involve stalking by former intimates, most victims are women, most stalkers are men and stalkers are generally motivated by the desire to control the victim" (U.S. Attorney General Report, 1999, p. 3). One of the biggest differences with cyberstalking and offline stalking is that cyberstalkers face no geographic boundaries. A person can live in Hawaii and be stalked by a person in Italy. The Internet makes it possible for a person to be stalked virtually anywhere in the world.

## *1.2 Problem*

The problem that leads to this research project is that the increased use of the Internet has created an increased number of online harassing/cyberstalking cases among college students. The University of Cincinnati conducted a national telephone survey during the 1996-97 academic years of 4,446 randomly selected women attending two and four year institutions. "The study found that 581 women, 13.1 percent had been stalked and there had been 696 stalking incidents. Of the 696 stalking incidents, 166, 23.9 percent involved e-mail. Thus, 25 percent of stalking incidences among college women could be classified as involving cyberstalking" (Ashcroft, 2001, p. 4).

Since there is limited research indicating the extent of cyberstalking in the United States researchers must rely on studies of offline stalking for statistics. The Centre for Disease Control conducted a phone survey of 8000 men and 8000 women inquiring about their experiences with stalking. Their results indicate that by 1997 an estimated 1 million females and 0.4 million males have been stalked in the United States (Tjaden & Theonnes, 1997).

In 2004, an exploratory study of "339 students at the University of New Hampshire found that approximately 15 percent of students reported receiving repeated e-mail or instant messages that threatened or harassed and more than half of the students received unwanted pornography. Approximately 7 percent of students reported online harassment to an authority" (Finn, 2004, p. 468). According to the Department of Justice 1999 Report to Congress, one out of every 12 women (8.2 million) and one out of every 45 men (2 million) have been stalked at some time in their lives. One percent of all women and 0.4 percent of all men were stalked during 1998. Statistics and prior research suggest that women are far more likely to be victims of stalking than men and men are far more likely to be stalkers.

Working to Halt Online Abuse (WHOA), 2006 Cyberstalking Statistics were correlated for statistical purposes from 372 cases. According to WHOA, of the 372 cases, 148, 40 percent of the victims of cyberstalking were between the ages of 18-30, 107 cases, 29 percent were ages 31-40, 106 cases 28.5 percent over 40 and 11 cases 2.5 percent the ages were unknown. The majority of the victims 260, 70 percent were female with 47 percent had a prior relationship with the harasser.

## *1.3 Purpose*

The purpose of this research study is to explore online harassing/cyberstalking experiences at a Mid-Atlantic university.

## *1.4 Research Questions*

The research questions that will be explored in the field project include:

Research Question 1: Are women more likely than men to become a victim of cyberstalking?

Research Question 2: Are students over the age of 30 less likely to become cyberstalked than students under the age of 30?

Research Question 3: Are victims of cyberstalking likely to know their stalker?

Research Question 4: Are victims of cyberstalking likely to have had a prior relationship with their stalker?

Research Question 5: Do the majority of cyberstalking victims report the incident to law enforcement or other social agencies?

## 1.5 Limitations

The deficiency of this study is that there are limited comprehensive, nationwide data on the extent of cyberstalking in the United States. Another limiting factor is that many victims are reluctant to come forward and admit they have been stalked. Consequently comprehensive cyberstalking statistics do not exist, which makes many of the research findings in the literature anecdotal and informal.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Stalking Defined

Offline stalking acts have been reported since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Cyberstalking is a new crime that is just being examined and reported since the late 1990's. Many similarities exist between stalking and cyberstalking. In order to understand cyberstalking it is necessary to define stalking. The U.S. Department of Justice defines stalking "as harassing and threatening behavior that an individual engages in repeatedly" (U.S. Department of Justice, 2001, p. 1). These behaviors include, but are not limited to, following a person, repeated phone calls and phone messages, appearing outside a persons home or work, vandalism, taking an individuals mail or entering a persons home. "Most stalking laws require the perpetrator (the person committing the stalking) to make a credible threat of violence against the victim" (U.S. Department of Justice, 2001, p. 1). Stalking can be used to instill fear and/or intimidate the victim.

A person commits stalking if they cause another person to fear for their safety. "Stalking is a crime of power and control" (National Institute of Justice, 2002, p. 1). As defined by Tjaden and Thoennes, stalking is a course of conduct directed at a specific person that involves repeated (two or more occasions) visual or physical proximity, nonconsensual communication, or verbal, written or implied threats, or a combination thereof, that would cause a reasonable person fear" (Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998, p. 7). Again, stalking instills fear in the victims.

Very few stalkers believe that they are hurting the victim. "Stalking is not a crime of love or desire, but an attempt at domination" (What Is Stalking, 2006, p. 2). Ogilvie states that, as a concept, stalking possesses sinister and threatening connotations. It implies being hunted and harassed, whilst powerless and unable to stop a relentless and threatening pursuit (Ogilvie, 2000a, p. 2).

There have been reported cases of celebrity stalking. In November of 2007 a movie was released titled *The Killing of John Lennon*. Beatles singer, John Lennon was stalked for months and killed by Mark David Chapman in 1980 (Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, 2007). Unfortunately, the killing of John Lennon is what grabbed the public's attention and brought the meaning of stalking into the homes of millions.

A man named Robert John Bardo stalked actress Rebecca Schaeffer who played in a sitcom titled *"My Sister Sam"*. "Bardo became fixated on the young television star and built a shrine to her in his room using media photos and videotapes of her shows" (Ramsland, 2007). Bardo stalked Schaeffer for almost two years before killing her. He was able to determine where she lived, what kind of car she drove and where she ate and shopped. In Bardos diary he wrote, "I don't lose. Period." He drew a diagram of her body and marked spots where he planned to shoot her (Ramsland, 2007). On July 18, 1989, Bardos took the life of actress Rebecca Schaeffer as she opened the door from her apartment. The killing of Schaeffer enacted North America's first stalking law in 1990. Unfortunately, it took a high profile case to attract the public's attention. All 50 states now have anti-stalking laws.

Stalking has been addressed in books, movies and publications. Stalking can even be recognized in music lyrics. The band "The Police" wrote a song called *Every Breath You Take*. The lyrics of the song can be considered by some to be written about stalking.

Every breath you take / Every move you make  
Every bond you break / Every step you take  
I'll be watching you.  
Oh can't you see / You belong to me

(Sumner, 1983)

Even if "The Police" were not talking about stalking, by reading the lyrics the true meaning of stalking can be heard. In explaining cyberstalking, references to stalking will be referred. Traditional stalking will be referred to as offline stalking.

## *2.2 Cyberstalking Defined*

The Internet and use of telecommunications technologies have become easily accessible and are used for almost every facet of daily living throughout the world. Cyberstalking is "the use of the Internet, e-mail and other electronic communication devices to stalk another person" (U.S. Department of Justice, 2001, p. 1). For this study, cyberstalking will be referred to as online stalking and is similar to offline stalking, which is being aggravated by new technologies. Cyberstalking "entails the same general characteristics as traditional stalking, but in being transposed into the virtual environment as it is fundamentally transformed" (Ogilvie, 2000a, p. 1). Stalking itself is not a new crime, but cyberstalking is a new way to commit the crime of stalking while using the Internet or other forms of electronic communication devices.

Stalkers, online or offline "are motivated by the desire to exert control over their victims and engage in similar types of behavior to accomplish this end" (U.S. Attorney General Report, 1999, p. 3). The term cyberstalking can be used interchangeably with online harassment. "A cyberstalker does not present a direct threat to a victim, but follows the victim's online activity to gather information and make threats or other forms of verbal intimidation" (Jaishankar & Sankary, 2006, p. 1). A potential stalker may not want to confront and threaten a person offline, but may have no problem threatening or harassing a victim through the Internet or other forms of electronic communications. One can become a target for a cyberstalker through the use of the Internet in many forms. The victim can be contacted by email, instant messaging (IM) programs, via chat rooms, social network sites or the stalker attempting to take over the victims computer by monitoring what they are doing while online. Fullerton states that Internet Service Providers (ISP's) e-mail, web pages, websites, search engines, images, listservs, instant chat relay (ICR's) are all cyberstalking tools (Fullerton, 2003, p. 2). Other forms of communication used to contact a victim are cell phones, text messages, short message services (SMS), or fax machines. Cyberstalkers can choose someone they know or a complete stranger with the use of a personal computer and the Internet. The information that is available about people on the Internet makes it easy for a cyberstalker to target a victim. With only a few keystrokes, a person can locate information on an individual via the Internet. The types of information that can be found include e-mail addresses, home telephone numbers, bank account and credit card information and home addresses. Some services charge to obtain confidential information for any person that is willing to pay. Thanks to search engines such as "Google," a cyberstalker can type a person's home or work address in and see where they live and work. Once the cyberstalker can physically see what the home or place of employment looks like the stalker can use the descriptions of the locations as a way to let the victim know they are being watched. "The fact that cyberstalking does not involve physical contact may create the misperception that it is more benign than physical stalking" (U.S. Attorney General Report, 1999, p. 3). It is not uncommon for cyberstalkers to progress into offline stalkers. "If not stopped early on, some cyberstalkers can become so obsessed with a victim that they escalate their activities to the level of physical stalking" (Hitchcock, 2006, p. 168).

The anonymous nature of the Internet has left the doors wide open for cyber crimes to be committed. Online stalkers often try to hide their identity by using pseudonyms. Pseudonyms

are a way for a person to create a fake name as their identity. The Internet and ISP providers allow people to use pseudonyms. “One can fake gender, age, race and physical appearance” (Fullerton, 2003, p. 2). Offline stalkers are usually within close proximity to their victims, whereas online stalkers can be located virtually anywhere in the world. An online stalker can live next-door, ten blocks away, in another state or even in another country. Just because the stalker may live in another state does not mean that the threats should not be taken seriously. As noted, a cyberstalkers identity can be concealed. The stalkers identity can be blocked from the “recipient by using different ISP’s or adopting different screen names. More experienced stalkers can use anonymous remailers that make it all but impossible to determine the true identity of the source of an e-mail or electronic communication (U.S. Department of Justice, 2001). A remailer takes a message being sent and reroutes it so that the original message looks as if it came from somewhere else before reaching the intended recipient. Remailers can make it hard for an individual or law enforcement to track that sent the original message. Dr. Emma Ogilvie believes there are three ways that data exchanges are categorized.

- Category One – The Internet as a medium for convenience.
- Category Two – The Internet as a medium of control
- Category Three – The Internet as a medium of “range” enhancement (Ogilvie, 2000, p.2).

The Internet as a medium of convenience is when “data may be transferred directly from sender to a nominated and willing recipient” (Ogilvie, 2000a, p. 2). Receiving unwanted e-mail is the most common type of harassment that includes hate or threatening e-mail. An example of this is personal e-mail communications. Stalking using e-mail resembles traditional stalking patterns of telephoning or sending a letter (Ogilvie, 2000a, p. 2).

As one reader of Caslow Analytics online newsletter said, “sticks and stones may break your bones but emails never hurt you, so just hit the delete button” (Arnold, 2006, p. 1). Hitting the delete button does not take care of the problem. Messages can continue to appear in a person’s inbox as one hit the delete button. By hitting the delete button a victim could miss details and possible actions of the stalker.

The Internet as a medium of control is when “data may be exchanged in an interaction involving unwilling and/or unknowing party being manipulated by a usually unknown and effectively invisible third party” (Ogilvie, 2000a, p. 2). In order to access a person’s computer, stalkers can enter a computer through a backdoor. “Some applications are actually designed with a feature that allows for remote access. Hackers and criminals use backdoors to gain access and control applications and programs” (Ledford, 2006, p. 141). The stalker uses a backdoor to gain control over the victim’s computer. A stalker that enters a victim’s computer to gain control usually has advanced technical skills. Not all stalkers would be able to complete this technique. With the help of search engines, finding instructions on how to control or hack a person’s computer is becoming easy to find. Using a backdoor a “cyberstalker can communicate directly with their target as soon as the targets computer connects in anyway to the Internet” (Ogilvie, 2000a, pp.2-4). An example of this would be that every time a person picks up the phone, the stalker is on the other line. Backdoor programs can make the victim feel helpless. As the victim works online or sends e-mail messages the stalker is their watching and reading their every move. Another example is if an offline stalker entered your home through a backdoor and installed cameras so they could watch all of the victim’s daily activities.

The Internet as a medium of range enhancement is when “data may be electronically positioned in such a way that any number of data “seekers” may locate and obtain it” (Ogilvie, 2000a, p.2). In this instance, the stalker can use the Internet to degrade the victim. This form of cyberstalking is the most likely to turn into offline stalking. Using the Internet as a medium of range allows the stalker to pose as the victim in chat rooms and to open up free e-mail services and addresses, such as Yahoo, in the victim’s name. These allow the stocker to post inflammatory or threatening

messages about the victim. “The Internet needs to be recognized as a new medium of communication rather than the ‘latest version’ of old mediums” (Ogilvie, 2000a, p. 6) such as the telephone or postal mail.

Any one of the categories mentioned can turn into stalking in the offline world. One may believe that communications transmitted online do not post emotional distress. “While emotional distress is acknowledged in most criminal sanctions, it is not considered as serious as an actual physical threat. Cyberstalking remains at the level of inducing emotional distress, fear and apprehension” (Jaishankar, & Sankary, 2006, p. 2). The fear and distress caused to a victim can cause the person to lost sleep, stop eating, miss work or refrain from social engagements. The stress caused to victims of online stalking are similar to victims of offline stalking.

### *2.3 Comparison of Offline vs. Online Stalking*

In order to identify the potential victims of cyberstalking it is necessary to analyze the research on offline stalking. The National Violence Against Women Survey by Tjaden and Thoennes defines stalking as involving instances where the victim felt a high level of fear. One out of every 12 women, (8.2 million) in the United States and one out of every 45 men (2 million) have been stalked. Women are more likely than men to be victims of stalking; nearly 80% of victims are women while men are more likely to be stalkers. Women are twice as likely as men to become victims of stalking by men and eight times as likely to become victims of stalking by someone they knew or had a prior relationship. A review of table 2.1 depicts a comparison of offline and online stalking. The table presents a list of similarities and differences between the two.

*Table 2.1 Comparison of Online and Offline Stalking*

<b>Offline Versus Online Stalking: A Comparison</b>
<b>Major Similarities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The majority of cases involve stalking by former intimates, although stranger stalking occurs in the real world and in cyberspace.</li><li>• Most victims are women, most stalkers are men.</li><li>• Stalkers are generally motivated by the desire to control the victim.</li></ul>
<b>Major Differences</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offline stalking generally requires the perpetrator and the victim to be in the same geographic area: cyberstalkers may be across the street or across the country</li><li>• Electronic communication technologies make it much easier for a cyberstalker to encourage third parties to harass or threaten a victim (e.g. a stalker will impersonate the victim and post inflammatory messages on bulletin boards and in chat rooms, causing viewers of these messages to send threatening messages back to the victim)</li><li>• Electronic communication technologies also lower the barriers to harassment and threats; a cyberstalker does not need to physically confront the victim.</li></ul>

**Chart taken from the U.S. Department of Justice, 2001, p**

A cyberstalker can choose their victims without even seeing them. Offline stalkers have had some type of contact with the victim even if it is just passing the person on the street. “The public press and even governments seem to make a distinction between stalking and cyberstalking” (Bocij, 2004, p. 21).

In general, stalkers always have had, or have, some form of physical or emotional relationship to their victims. We are not aware of any reported cases where a stalker has not at least seen their victim, whether in a photograph, on television or in person. In contrast, there are many reported cyberstalking cases where the stalker has never seen the victim and where he may not have known even the most basic information – such as the age, gender or ethnicity of the victim.

(Bocij and McFarlane, 2003, p. 22)

Victims of cyberstalking suffer psychological and emotional harm. Cyberstalking cases can take an offline turn and physical harm can be placed on the victim. It is imperative to know that cyberstalking can always move to the offline world.

#### *2.4 Existing Laws*

Stalking laws within the 50 states are relatively recent, meaning that the first traditional stalking law was enacted in 1990 in California. California’s legal definition of stalking is “any person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows or harasses another person and who makes a credible threat with the intent to place that person in reasonable fear of their safety” CAL. PENAL CODE § 646.9 (West 2008). Since California’s enactment of the first stalking law in 1990, all 50 states and the federal government have anti-stalking laws. Most stalking cases are prosecuted at the state and local levels. Each states stalking laws will vary in their legal definitions and the degree of penalty for the offense.

As of March 2008, 45 states have cyberstalking or related laws in place. In 1998, only 16 states had cyberstalking and harassment laws. Within many of the 45 states stalking laws, cyberstalking is covered under the states current stalking law. Stalking laws that are written to include forms of stalking using electronic communication devices such as email, Internet or similar transmissions cover the crime of cyberstalking. If a states current stalking law covers forms of electronic communications that are punishable by law, a separate cyberstalking law is not required. If the stalking laws within the 50 states do not cover any forms of electronic communications such as the Internet then a separate law should be written. For example, the Pennsylvania stalking law states:

- (1) a person commits the crime of stalking when the person either engages in a course of conduct or repeatedly commits acts toward another person without proper authority, under circumstances which demonstrate either an intent to place such other person in reasonable fear of bodily injury or to cause substantial emotional distress to such other person, or
- (2) engages in a course of conduct ore repeatedly communicates to another person under circumstances which demonstrate or communicate either an intent to place such other person in reasonable fear of bodily injury or to cause substantial emotional distress to such other person. 18 PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 2709.1 (a)(1) and (2) (West 2008).



As used in the definition of stalking under Pennsylvania law, “communicates” is defined as:

To convey a message without intent of legitimate communication or address by oral, nonverbal, written or electronic means, including telephone, electronic mail, Internet, facsimile, telex, wireless communication or similar transmission. 18 PA CONS. STAT. ANN. § 2709.1 (f) (West 2008).

Under Title 18 of the United States Code, Federal Law, covers threatening messages transmitted electronically in interstate and foreign commerce 18 U.S.C §875 (2008). This means that a person who is being threatened in Ohio via the Internet, from a person living in Florida is protected by Federal law. In these instances, law enforcement agencies will determine at where the online stalking began in order to find the physical location of the stalker. If the state of origination is determined, most likely that state will have jurisdiction over prosecuting the case.

## **Methodology**

### *3.1 Introduction*

This section includes a description of the methodology used to determine whether students at a private mid-Atlantic university have been a victim of cyberstalking. Cyberstalking is “the use of the Internet, e-mail and other electronic communication devices to stalk another person” (U.S. Attorney General Report, 1999, p. 2). This exploratory study will examine cyberstalking of both undergraduate and graduate students. This research will expand upon the research conducted by Jerry Finn. Finn conducted an exploratory study of 339 students at the University of New Hampshire. Finn’s study found that approximately 10% to 15% of students surveyed received repeated threatening or harassing emails or instant messages and approximately 7% reported the threats to an authority (2004, p. 468). This chapter will enhance the quantitative methods used by Finn and provide the development and contents of the survey that will be used to measure victims of cyberstalking among university students.

### *3.2 Research Method*

This study will use quantitative methods to determine the number of students that have been stalked, harassed or threatened through the use of the Internet, email or other forms of electronic communication devices. Earl Babbie defines quantitative analysis as the techniques by which researchers convert data to a numerical form and subject it to statistical analysis (2007, p. 405). A survey will be administered to the participants, which will be used to gather data addressing the goals of this research project.

### *3.3 Survey Design*

The survey that will be administered to undergraduate and graduate students at a mid-Atlantic university will be developed from two existing cyberstalking surveys. By combining the Working to Halt Online Abuse (WHOA) survey and a survey that was administered to victims of cyberstalking by Paul Bocij over the Internet this study may be able to provide detailed information in relation to cyberstalking.

### *3.4 Conclusion*

Jurisdictions across the globe are now beginning to take legal action against stalking behavior, recognizing it is a public problem which merits attention. The effects of stalking upon an individual may include behavioral, psychological and social aspects. Specific risks to the victim include a loss of personal safety, the loss of a job, sleeplessness, and a change in work habits. These effects have the potential to produce a large drain on both criminal justice resources and the health care system and it is therefore in the best interests of the authorities to take swift action when cases are presented (Petherick, n.d.).

The relatively high prevalence of stalking is cause for concern. What strategies can individuals, mostly women, use to prevent or end both online and offline stalking? What programs might colleges implement to control, or counsel men or women who stalk? More generally how can the lives of all people and especially college students whether on or off campus be made safer and thus free from the psychological and financial cost imposed by this type of violence.

**APPENDIX – A**

**DRAFT  
CYBERSTALKING SURVEY**

Cyberstalking can be defined as threatening behavior or unwanted advances directed at another using the Internet and other forms of online and computer communications. The U.S. Department of Justice defines cyberstalking as the use of e-mail, or other electronic communication devices to stalk another person. Cyberstalkers can target their victims through threatening or harassing email, flaming (online verbal abuse), computer viruses, chat rooms, message boards, social network sites (such as MySpace), or tracing a persons Internet activities plus many more.

Many online stalking (cyberstalking) cases can manifest into offline stalking cases where the victim can actually face physical harm. This survey is designed to find out the number of people that have been victims to the crime of cyberstalking. Please read the questions and instructions carefully. Select the best answer from the available choices.

1. What is your gender?

Male  Female

2. What is your age?

- a) 18-25
- b) 26-35
- c) 36-45
- d) 46-55
- e) 56-65
- f) Over 66

3. This semester, what is your level of education?

- a) freshman
- b) sophomore
- c) junior
- d) senior
- e) masters
- f) doctorate

4. Do you utilize the Internet?

Yes  No

5. If yes, what is the frequency of Internet use?

a) one time a day

b) more than once a day

c) once per week

d) 3-5 times per week

e) every 2 weeks

f) every month

6. What are the online activities that you access?

a) Email

b) bulletin boards

c) newsgroups

d) instant messaging

e) chat rooms

f) social network sites (such as MySpace, Facebook)

g) dating sites

7. According to the definition provided at the beginning of the survey, are you a victim of cyberstalking.

Yes  No

If yes, please answer the following questions. If no, there is no need for you to continue with the survey.

8. What form of communication has the cyberstalker used to contact you? You may choose more than one answer.

a) email

b) bulletin board

c) instant messaging

d) text messaging

e) chat rooms

- f) social network sites (such as MySpace)
- g) news groups
- h) dating site
- i) eBay

9. Did you or do you personally know the cyberstalker (the person harassing you)?

- a) did not know identity
- b) former boyfriend or girlfriend
- c) work
- d) school
- e) friend
- f) online acquaintance

10. If yes, what is the gender of the harasser?

Male  Female

11. What was the style of communication used by the cyberstalker? You may choose more than one answer.

- a) friendly
- b) sexual
- c) threatening
- d) hateful
- e) humorous
- f) intimidating
- g) other, Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

12. How long did the communication last?

- a) less than one month
- b) 1 – 3 months
- c) 3-6 months
- d) 6-12 months
- e) more than 1 year

13. At any time during the harassment did you fear for your safety?

Yes  No

14. If yes, what was your level of fear?

- a) low level of fear
- b) moderate level of fear
- c) high level of fear

15. Are you still being contacted by the cybersalker?

Yes  No

16. Did you report the cyberstalking to anyone?

Yes  No

17. If yes, who did your report the incident to?

- a) law enforcement
- b) Internet Service Provider (ISP)
- c) Campus Advisor
- d) Cell Provider
- e) Web Administrator
- f) Online Help Organization
- g) Other, Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

18. If yes, did you receive help?

Yes  No

The following is a list of places to report cyberstalking incidents and online abuse:

- Working to Halt Online Abuse (WHOA) – [whoa@haltabuse.org](mailto:whoa@haltabuse.org)
- National Center for Victims of Crime Stalking Resource Center
- Online Privacy Alliance
- Your Local Law Enforcement Agencies
- Your School Administration
- Safety Ed International

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