

**Health and Relationships Campus Survey:  
Stalking and Cyberstalking among College Students**  
Data Summary

Between April 7, 2021, and April 30, 2021, emails were sent to 5,000 students through Webtools.

Eligibility: in their freshman or sophomore year at UIUC (2,500 in freshmen year; 2,500 in sophomore year). Within each class year, sample will be divided by gender/sex. Sample is generated by DMI.

- April 7: Initial Email
  - 2,521 unique full opens (50.41%) and 313 people clicked the link (9.36%)
- April 14: Reminder #1
  - 2,723 unique full opens (54.45%) and 165 people clicked the link (6.06%)
- April 21: Reminder #2
  - 2,752 unique full opens (55.02%) and 173 people clicked the link (3.46%)
- April 28: Final 24 hours
  - 2,520 unique full opens (50.40%) and 144 people clicked the link (5.71%)

720 surveys were completed via REDCap (556 Amazon e-codes were sent to provided email addresses) – duplicates were not sent gift-cards and their second surveys were removed. There were three quality check questions. If respondents completed 0 or only 1 quality check question correctly, they were removed from the sample. Five students completed the survey but did not provide an email address for the Amazon e-code. A total of 561 students were included in the final sample for data analyses.

## **I. Demographic Information (N = 561)**

**Respondents ranged in age from 18 to 24 (M = 19.02, SD = 0.956).**

### ***Sex & Gender:***

#### **Sex Assigned at Birth:**

- 212 Male (37.8%)
- 348 Female (62%)
- 1 Not Sure (.2%)

#### **Current Gender Identity:**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cisgender Male	202	36.0%
Cisgender Female	332	59.2%
Transgender Male	3	0.5%
Transgender Female	1	0.2%
I do not identify as the above	2	0.4%
Gender queer or GNC	11	2.0%

**Gender Minority respondents: 4.8% (n = 17)**

### ***Sexual Identity:***

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Heterosexual or Straight	421	75.2%
Lesbian	9	1.6%
Gay	9	1.6%
Bisexual	70	12.5%
Pansexual	15	2.7%
Not sure or Questioning	33	5.9%
Another	3	0.5%

**Sexual Minority respondents: 24.8% (n = 139)**

### ***Racial/Ethnic Identity or Identities:***

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Asian or Asian American	170	30.3%
Black or African American	71	12.7%
Cuban	3	0.5%
Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano/a/x	70	12.5%
Middle Eastern or Northern African	8	1.4%
Native American, American Indian, or Alaskan Native	4	0.7%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	0.2%
Puerto Rican	13	2.3%
White	287	51.2%

Another	14	2.5%
Self-Describe	5	0.9%
Multi-racial or Multi-ethnic	77	13.7%

***Dating/Relationships:***

395 (71%) have ever dated or been in a relationship with another person

192 (49%) are currently dating someone/in a relationship with another person

## I. Stalking & Cyberstalking

### Stalking Victimization

There were 11 items to assess stalking victimization.

**55.1% (n = 308) endorsed experiencing at least one act of stalking in their lifetime.**

Items	N	Valid %
Followed, watched, or spied on you?	146	26.1%
Made unwanted phone calls to you?	163	29.3%
Showed up at places uninvited?	100	17.9%
Damaged your property or destroyed something you loved?	47	8.5%
Left unwanted messages for you?	170	30.5%
Stood outside your home, school, or workplace?	66	11.8%
Sent you unwelcome letters, written communication, or unwanted emails?	84	15.1%
Tried to communicate with you in other ways against your will?	87	15.6%
Sent unwanted messages electronically?	191	34.4%
Left unwanted items for you to find or left unwanted gifts? (e.g., photography, flowers, jewelry)	47	8.5%
Posted unwanted messages/pictures to Internet websites or social media pages?	66	11.8%
<b>Endorsed at least one act of stalking victimization</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>55.1%</b>

Among those who experienced at least one act of stalking:

- 49.4% felt a degree of “being afraid.”
  - 17% of individuals felt “very afraid” or “terrified.”
- About 37.9% (or about 1 in 3 individuals) felt “only concerned.”
- Only 12.7% were “not afraid at all”

Participants were asked to reflect on the extent to which these experiences amounted to “stalking.” About 31% felt that the experiences were “definitely not stalking.” Approximately 18.6% were unsure.

### Cyberstalking Victimization

There were 12 items to assess cyberstalking victimization.

**48.9% (n = 273) endorsed experiencing at least one act of cyberstalking victimization in their lifetime.**

Items	N	Valid %
Checked your call history	91	16.3%
Used my password or passcode to check up on me	104	18.7%
Has sent threatening messages or text messages to me	85	15.3%
Has made threatening phone calls to me	60	10.8%
Has made excessive phone calls to me	129	23.2%
Has sent excessive text messages to me	171	30.9%
Has checked my social media profiles or pages to monitor me	178	32.2%
Has made embarrassing, insulting, or threatening posts on my social media	39	7.0%
Has threatened to post inappropriate photos	49	8.8%
Has used GPS or other apps to monitor my location and where I've been	114	20.4%
Has used a web cam to monitor my activities	8	1.4%
Has used a hidden camera to monitor my activities	7	1.3%
<b>Endorsed at least one act of cyberstalking victimization</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>48.9%</b>

Among those who experienced at least one act of cyberstalking:

- 42.5% felt a degree of “being afraid.”
  - 11.1% of individuals felt “very afraid” or “terrified.”
- About 29.2% (or about 1 in 3 individuals) felt “only concerned.”
- Only 28.4% were “not afraid at all”

Participants were asked to reflect on the extent to which these experiences amounted to “cyberstalking.” About 28.4% felt that the experiences were “definitely not cyberstalking.” Approximately 19.9% were unsure.

### Stalking & Cyberstalking Victimization: Perpetrator

Participants were asked who they experienced stalking or cyberstalking experiences from. The two top perpetrators of stalking or cyberstalking are from an ex-partner (23.4%) or a romantic or dating partner (21%).

	N	Valid %
Stranger	71	12.7%
Acquaintance	94	16.8%
Someone who I wanted to date	22	3.9%
Someone who wanted to date me	100	17.8%
A romantic or dating partner	118	21.0%
An ex-partner	131	23.4%
Other <sup>1</sup>	16	2.9%

<sup>1</sup>Note: Other included: ex-friends, parents

### Obsessive Relational Intrusion (ORI)

Participants were asked if they had ever been “persistently followed and/or harassed in a manner in which they clearly made it known that such attention or intrusions were unwanted.”

Approximately 15.2% (n = 85) of participants had experienced ORI. Of these participants, 49.5% felt fearful for their safety, or the safety of their family, friends, pets, or property.

### Stalking and Cyberstalking Perpetration

There were 11 items to assess stalking perpetration and 12 items to assess cyberstalking perpetration.

**21.5% (n = 120) endorsed perpetrating at least one act of stalking; 45.2% (n = 252) endorsed perpetrating at least one act of cyberstalking.**

Items	N	Valid %
<b>Stalking Perpetration</b>		
Followed, watched, or spied on them?	45	8.1%
Made unwanted phone calls to them?	40	7.2%
Showed up uninvited at places where they were?	21	3.8%
Damaged property or destroyed something they loved?	17	3.1%
Left unwanted messages for them?	38	6.8%
Stood outside their home, school, or workplace?	15	2.7%
Sent them unwelcome letters, written communication, or unwanted emails?	11	2.0%
Tried to communicate with them in other ways against their will?	20	3.6%
Sent unwanted messages electronically to them?	49	8.8%
Left unwanted items for them to find?	7	1.3%
Posted unwanted messages/pictures to Internet websites or social media pages about them?	8	1.4%
<b>Endorsed at least one act of stalking perpetration</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>21.5%</b>
<b>Items</b>		
<b>N</b>		
<b>Valid %</b>		
<b>Cyberstalking Perpetration</b>		
Checked their call history	57	10.3%
Used their password or passcode to check up on them	59	10.6%
Have sent threatening messages or text messages to them	11	2.0%
Have made threatening phone calls to them	6	1.1%
Have made excessive phone calls to them	53	9.5%
Have sent excessive text messages to them	85	15.3%
Have checked their social media profiles or pages to monitor them	166	30.0%
Have made embarrassing, insulting, or threatening posts on their social media	11	2.0%
Have threatened to post inappropriate photos	4	0.7%
Have used GPS or other apps to monitor their location and where they have been	110	19.8%
Have used a web cam to monitor their activities	2	0.4%
Have used a hidden camera to monitor their activities	1	0.2%
<b>Endorsed at least one act of cyberstalking perpetration</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>45.2%</b>

## II. Intimate Partner Violence

There were 10 items to assess for intimate partner violence victimization and 10 items to assess for perpetration.

**48.1% (n = 187) experienced at least one act of IPV victimization; 26.5% (n = 102) endorsed perpetrating at least one act of IPV.**

Items	N	Valid %
<b>IPV Victimization</b>		
My partner kicked, hit, or punched me.	33	8.5%
My partner slapped me or pulled my hair.	38	9.8%
My partner threatened to hurt me.	33	8.5%
My partner threatened to hit or throw something at me.	18	4.6%
My partner touched me sexually when I didn't want them to.	99	25.6%
My partner forced me to have sex when I didn't want to.	51	13.1%
My partner said things to my friends about me to try and turn them against me.	65	16.8%
My partner spread rumors about me.	79	20.4%
My partner spoke to me in a hostile or mean tone of voice.	124	32.0%
My partner insulted me with put-downs.	97	25.0%
<b>Endorsed experiencing at least one act of IPV victimization</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>48.1%</b>
<b>Items</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Valid %</b>
<b>IPV Perpetration</b>		
I kicked, hit, or punched my partner	21	5.5%
I slapped my partner or pulled my partner's hair.	15	3.9%
I threatened to hurt my partner.	13	3.4%
I threatened to hit or throw something at my partner.	12	3.1%
I touched my partner sexually when they didn't want me to.	14	3.6%
I forced my partner to have sex when they didn't want to.	6	1.6%
I said things to my partner's friends about my partner to try and turn them against my partner.	10	2.6%
I spread rumors about my partner.	11	2.9%
I spoke to my partner in a hostile or mean tone of voice.	76	19.8%
I insulted my partner with put-downs.	39	10.2%
<b>Endorsed at least one act of IPV perpetration</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>26.5%</b>

### III. Sexual Violence

Across items, participants were asked if the following happened to them by (a) Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me, making promises I knew were untrue; (b) Showing displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force, after I said I didn't want to; (c) Taking advantage of me when I was too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening; (d) Threatening to physically harm me or someone close to me; (e) Using force, for example holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon.

Across experiences, 28.2% of respondents experienced at least one act of sexual violence (n = 154). Most individuals experienced violence from a cisgender male (85.5%).

Items	N	Valid %
Someone fondled, kissed, or rubbed up against the private areas of my body (lips, breast/chest, crotch or butt) or removed some of my clothes without my consent (but did not attempt sexual penetration)	127	23.2%
Someone had oral sex with me or made me have oral sex with them without my consent	71	13.0%
Someone put their penis into my vagina or butt, or someone inserted fingers or objects without my consent	66	12.1%
Even though it didn't happen, someone TRIED to have oral sex with me, or make me have oral sex with them without my consent	65	11.9%
Even though it didn't happen, someone TRIED to put their penis into my vagina or butt, or someone tried to stick in fingers or objects without my consent	62	11.4%
Endorsed at least one act of sexual violence victimization	154	28.2%
Did any of the experiences described in this survey happen to you 1 or more times?	113	20.8%
What was the gender of the person or persons who did them to you?		
Cisgender Male	112	85.5%
Cisgender Female	15	11.5%
Transgender Male	2	1.5%
Gender Nonconforming/Nonbinary	2	1.5%
Please select your relationship to the person who performed the unwanted sexual act which bothers you the most?		
Someone I was/am in a relationship with	53	41.7%
Friend	28	22.0%
An Acquaintance	19	15.0%
Stranger	9	7.1%
Family Member	9	7.1%
Another Person	6	4.7%
Have you ever been raped?		
Yes	28	5.1%
Not Sure	35	6.4%

#### IV. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Ten ACEs were asked that include experiences with childhood abuse and neglect, as well as exposure to household adversities. Across the original ten ACEs, 60.8% of participants experienced at least one form of adversity. The most common form of adversity experienced was emotional abuse (34.9%). Approximately 17% of participants endorsed four or more of the original ACEs.

Across the expanded ACE questions, about a fourth of participants were exposed to community violence (24.9%).

Items	N	Valid %
<b>Original ACEs</b>		
Did a parent or other adult in your household often: Swear at you, insult you, put you down, or humiliate you? OR act in a way that made you afraid that you might be physically hurt?	193	34.9%
Did a parent or other adult in your household often: Push, grab, slap or throw something at you? OR ever hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?	126	22.8%
Did a parent or person at least 5 years old than you ever: Touch or fondle you or have you touch their body in a sexual way? OR try to or actually have oral, anal, or vaginal sex with you?	30	5.4%
Did you often feel that: No one in your family loved you or thought you were important or special? OR your family didn't look out for each other, feel close to each other, or support each other?	120	21.7%
Did you often feel that: You didn't have enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, and had no one to protect you? OR your parents were too drunk or high to take care of you or take you to the doctor if you needed it?	25	4.5%
Were your parents ever separated or divorced?	144	25.9%
Was your parent or the person who took care of you: Often pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at them? OR sometimes or often kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard? OR Ever repeatedly hit over at least a few minutes or t	52	9.4%
Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic or who used street drugs?	74	13.3%
Was a household member depressed or mentally ill or did a household member attempt suicide?	133	24.0%
Did a household member ever go to prison?	30	5.4%
<b>Expanded ACEs</b>		
Were you ever separated from a primary caregiver due to deportation or immigration?	10	1.8%
Did you ever see or hear violence in your neighborhood?	138	24.9%
Were you ever detained, arrested, or incarcerated?	10	1.8%
Were you often treated badly because of race, sexual orientation, gender identification, place of birth, disability, or religion?	95	17.2%
<b>Experienced at least one ACE (of the original ACEs; first 10 items)</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>60.8%</b>
<b>Experienced four or more ACEs (of the original ACEs)</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>17.0%</b>