

9TH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE ON LOCAL SAFETY AND SECURITY



University of Maribor

Faculty of
Criminal Justice and Security



Erasmus+



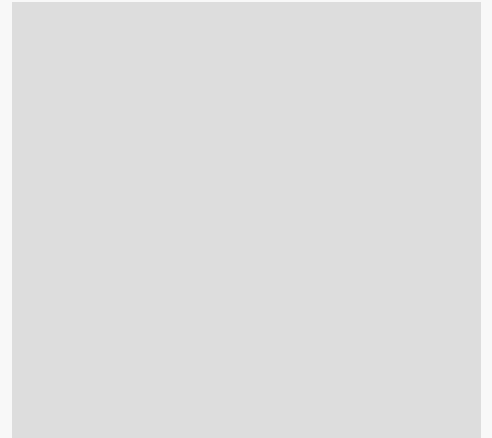
Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

STALKING AS A THREAT TO LOCAL SAFETY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

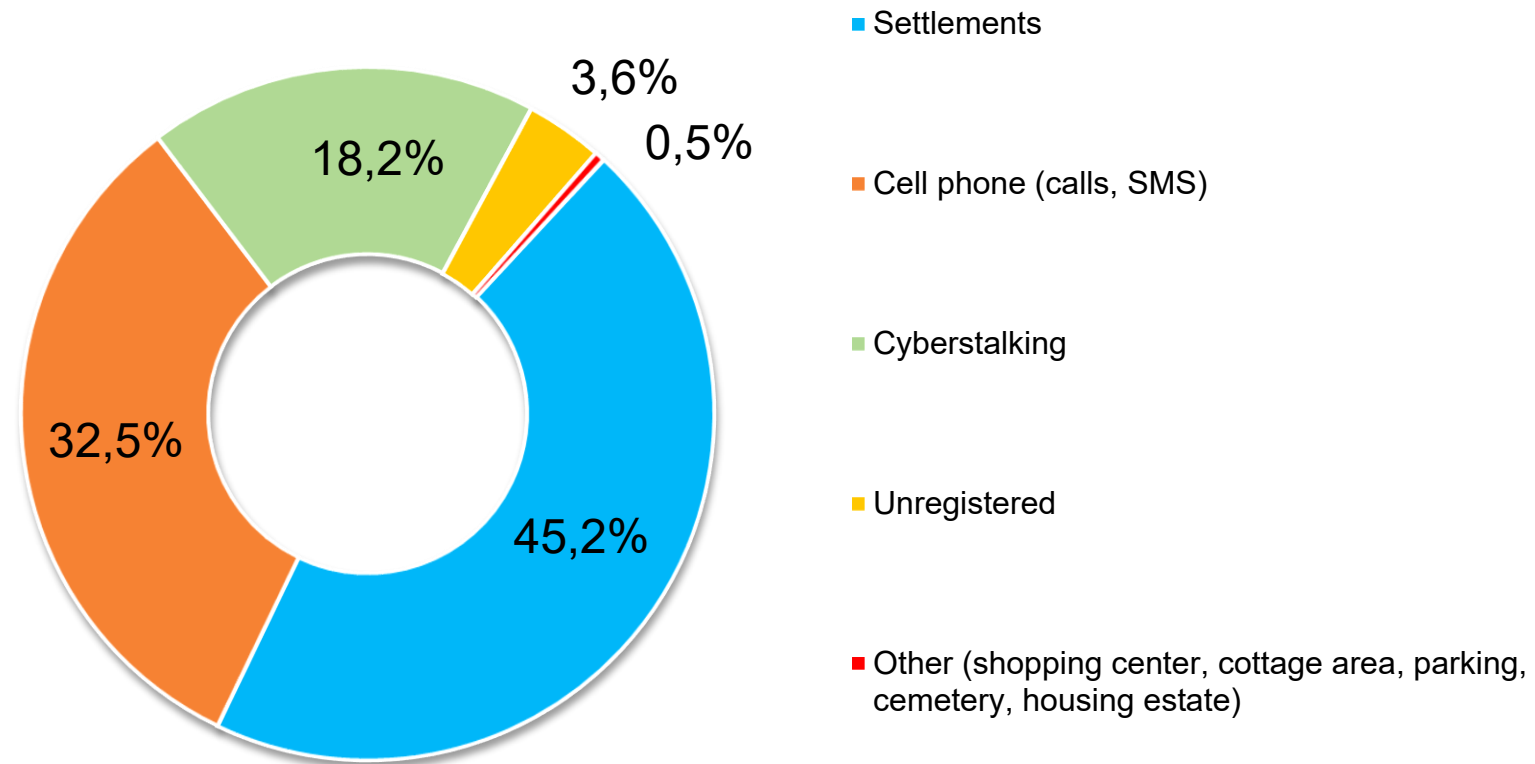
Eva Plačková & Valentýna Páclová

Why is stalking a local safety issue?

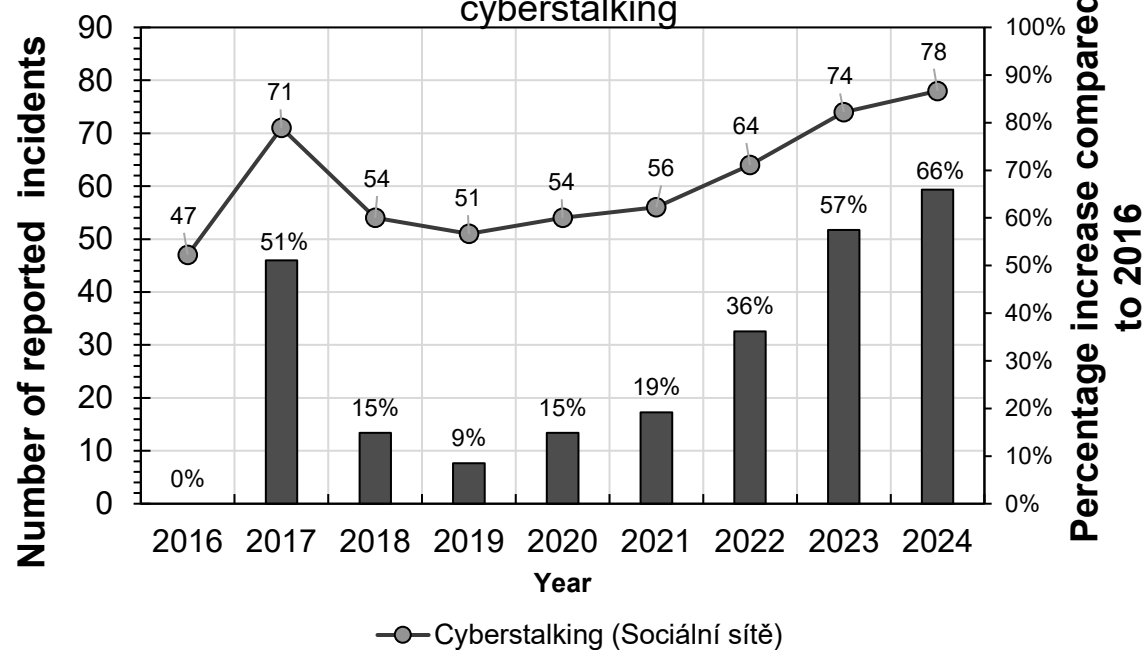
- Affects everyday life in communities
- Occurs in neighbourhoods and workplaces
- Creates fear and insecurity
- Limits victims freedom of movement
- Often connected to domestic violence



Average number of reported crimes by location of the crime from 2018 to 2024



Trends in the Number of Reported Cases of cyberstalking



Definition of Stalking

- Long-term and repeated behaviour
- Unwanted contact and communication
- Monitoring, threats, harassment
- Causes fear for life or health
- Known in Czech law as “dangerous Stalking”



Legal Framework (Czech Republic)

- Criminal Code – Section §354
- Stalking = criminal offence
- Repeated conduct causing fear
- Penalties: fines, restraining orders, imprisonment (up to 3 years)
- Focus on victim protection

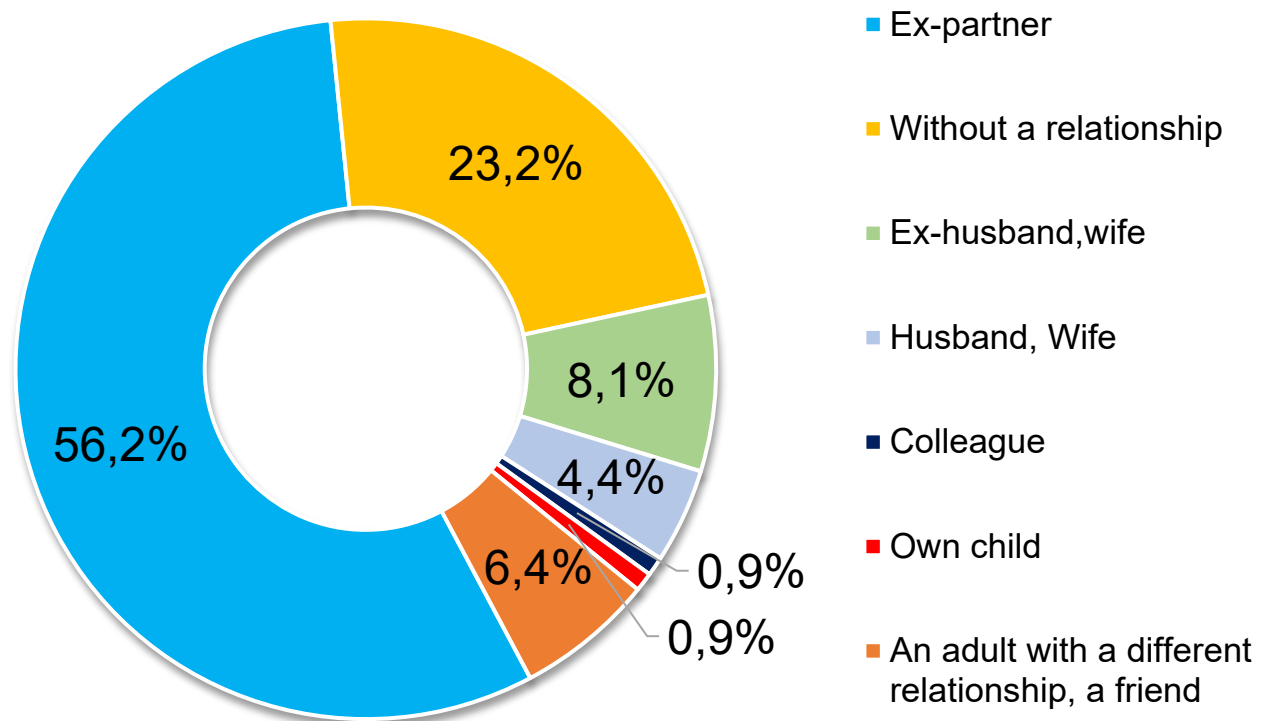




Forms of Stalking

- Offline Stalking (following, surveillance)
- Cyberstalking (social media, messages)
- Unwanted communication
- Threats and intimidation
- Misuse of personal data

Average number of solved cases by the victim's relationship to the perpetrator from 2016 to 2024

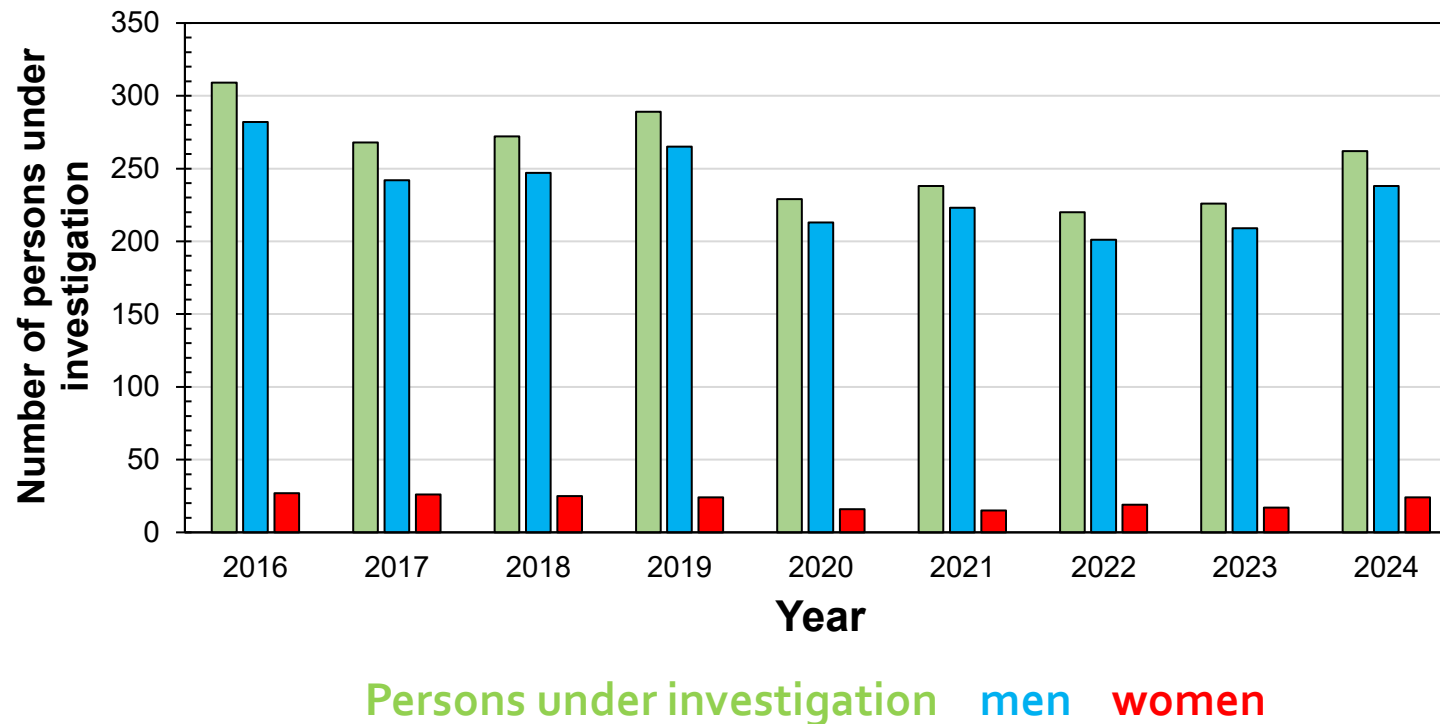


Types of Stalkers

- Rejected partner
- Intimacy seeker
- Resentful stalker
- Predatory stalker
- Different motivations - different risks

Victims of Stalking

Overview of the number of persons prosecuted for criminal offenses (stalking) by gender



- Victims are often women
- Offender is usually known to the victim
- Strong psychological impact
- Fear, anxiety, loss of control
- Impact on daily life

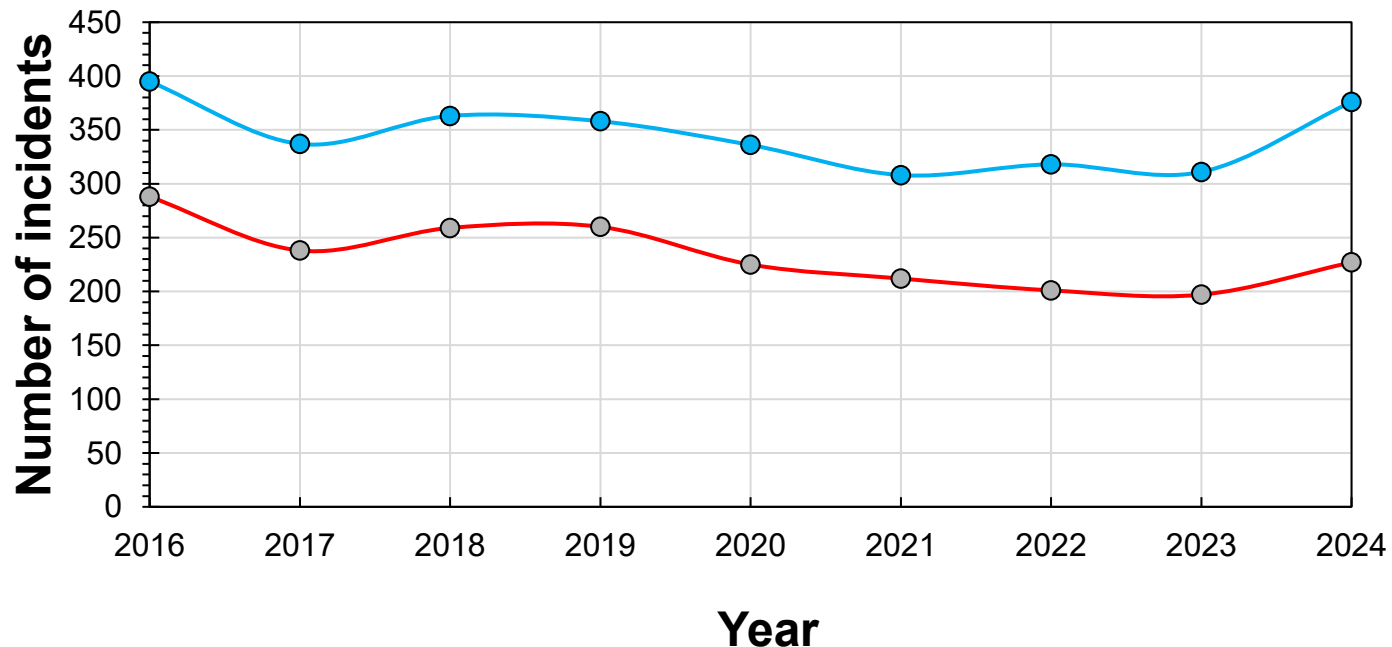


Impact on Local Safety

- Creates fear in the community
- Limits freedom of movement
- Affects everyday public spaces
- Increases demand on police and services
- Often remains underreported

Stalking in the Czech Republic

Overview of the number of offenses by stage of criminal proceedings, Stalking (§ 354)



Reported incidents Resolved incidents

- Officially recorded criminal offence
- Stable or slightly increasing trend
- Growing role of cyberstalking
- Data based on police statistics
- Real numbers may be higher (underreporting)

Connection to Domestic Violence

The background of the slide features a dark, moody photograph of a man and a woman sitting at a table, facing each other. They are silhouetted against a light-colored, possibly windowed, background. The overall tone is somber and serious.

- Often follows the end of a relationship
 - Form of control over the victim
- Linked to intimate partner violence
 - Risk of escalation
- Can lead to serious harm



Crime Control: Prevention



- Awareness and education
- Early identification of risk behaviour
- Victim support services
- Cooperation between institutions
- Digital safety and prevention

Crime Control: Repression

- Criminal law intervention
- Police response
- Restraining orders
- Punishment of offenders
- Protection of victims





Challenges

- Underreporting of cases
- Difficulties in proving stalking
- Complexity of cyberstalking
- Victim reluctance to report
- Delayed intervention



Conclusion

- Stalking = serious local safety issue
- Affects individuals and communities
- Often hidden and underreported
- Requires prevention and repression
- Importance of awareness

**“Thank you for your
attention.”**