



**Peace
Corps**

**2015
End of Service
Crime Survey Report**

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Introduction

The Peace Corps is committed to providing trainees and Volunteers with the best training, guidance, support, and information they need to remain safe and productive throughout their service. The agency utilizes data on reported crimes against Volunteers, which are documented in the Consolidated Incident Reporting System and reported in the Statistical Report of Crimes Against Volunteers¹, to develop and evaluate risk reduction strategies and victim support systems. To ensure that the data used in these pursuits are as full and accurate as possible, the agency launched a new survey that captures data on the combination of reported and unreported crimes, called the Security Incident Questionnaire. The 2015 End of Service Crime Survey Report provides summary statistics of the data collected from Volunteers who filled out the Security Incident Questionnaire in 2014 and 2015.

Unreported crime is such a common phenomenon across groups and populations that criminologists have given it a name — they call it hidden crime. Hidden crime poses a challenge to preventing crime and supporting victims. Recognizing the Peace Corps is not immune to this problem, which is also faced by college campuses, local and state crime commissions, the Department of Justice, the United Nations, and other organizations concerned with crime, the agency began in 2014 asking Volunteers to fill out the Security Incident Questionnaire, an online self-administered crime victimization questionnaire, at the end of their service. The goal of collecting this additional data is to provide the agency with the information necessary for continuous improvement of safety policies and procedures, as well as the regular updating of strategies to mitigate the risk of crimes against Volunteers as much as possible.

The Security Incident Questionnaire provides a broad picture of crimes Volunteers experienced throughout their Peace Corps service, which averaged 23 months for the Volunteers represented in this report. As of December 2015, more than 5,000 Volunteers filled out the Security Incident Questionnaire, a group equal to approximately 70 percent of all Volunteers who left the Peace Corps since the launch of the questionnaire. As explained in Appendix A, crime rates based on data from respondents closely approximate the expected rates had all eligible Volunteers completed the questionnaire.

This first report of Security Incident Questionnaire data contains information on two aspects of crime victimization. The first, victim prevalence, is the proportion of Volunteers who were ever victims of each of eleven different individual types of crimes while in the Peace Corps. The other, repeat victimization, considers whether Volunteers were victims of crime only once or multiple times.

¹ <https://www.peacecorps.gov/about/open-government/reports/>

Lastly, the Security Incident Questionnaire affords new insight into Volunteers' crime reporting behaviors. This report includes information on the proportion of crime victims who did not report crimes to Peace Corps staff and their reasons for not reporting them.

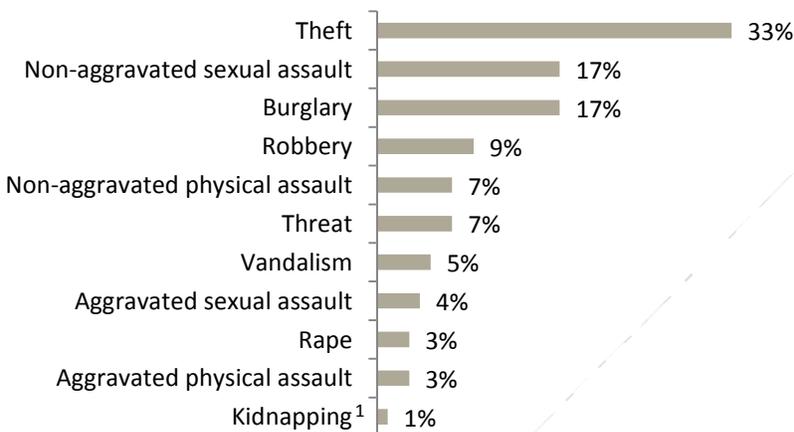
Key Findings

- Theft (i.e., taking or attempting to take property or cash without the use of force) was by far the crime Volunteers most commonly experienced while in the Peace Corps (33 percent of Volunteers).
- The top three crimes female Volunteers experienced were theft, non-aggravated sexual assault (i.e., being touched on the buttocks, breasts, groin, or kissed on the mouth without consent), and burglary (i.e., unlawful or forcible entry, often involving theft). For males, the top three crimes were theft, burglary, and robbery (i.e., taking or attempting to take property or cash by force or the threat of force).
- Some Volunteers were victims of the same type of crime more than once, particularly thefts (42 percent of theft victims) and non-aggravated sexual assaults (63 percent of non-aggravated sexual assault victims).
- Thirty percent of female Volunteers and 18 percent of males were victims of multiple different types of crimes.
- The proportion of victims who did not report one or more crime incidents to Peace Corps staff was highest for non-aggravated sexual assaults (86 percent of victims of this crime did not report at least one incident to staff) and lowest for robbery (37 percent of robbery victims did not report one or more robberies to staff).
- The most common reasons Volunteers gave for not reporting crimes to Peace Corps staff was that they did not think the incidents threatened their safety (45 percent). Concerns about how staff may have responded (e.g., victim-blaming, not taking Volunteer concerns seriously) and possible adverse consequences of reporting incidents (e.g., unwanted changes in residence) were less common (10 percent or less).

Crime Victim Prevalence

Volunteers who filled out the Security Incident Questionnaire in 2014 and 2015 (n = 5,380) served in more than 60 countries (Appendix B). On average, they were in the Peace Corps for 23 months (± 9), including their time as trainees. By far, theft (i.e., taking or attempting to take property or cash without the use of force) was the most common crime Volunteers experienced while in the Peace Corps (33 percent). Non-aggravated sexual assault (i.e., being touched on the buttocks, breasts, groin, or kissed on the mouth without consent) and burglary (i.e., unlawful or forcible entry, often involving theft) were distant seconds (17 percent each).

Figure 1. Global victim prevalence rates (n = 5,380)



Based on Volunteers who ended service between March 2014 and December 2015. Crimes may have occurred at any time during service. Prevalence rates may total more than 100 percent because some individuals are counted in more than one category.

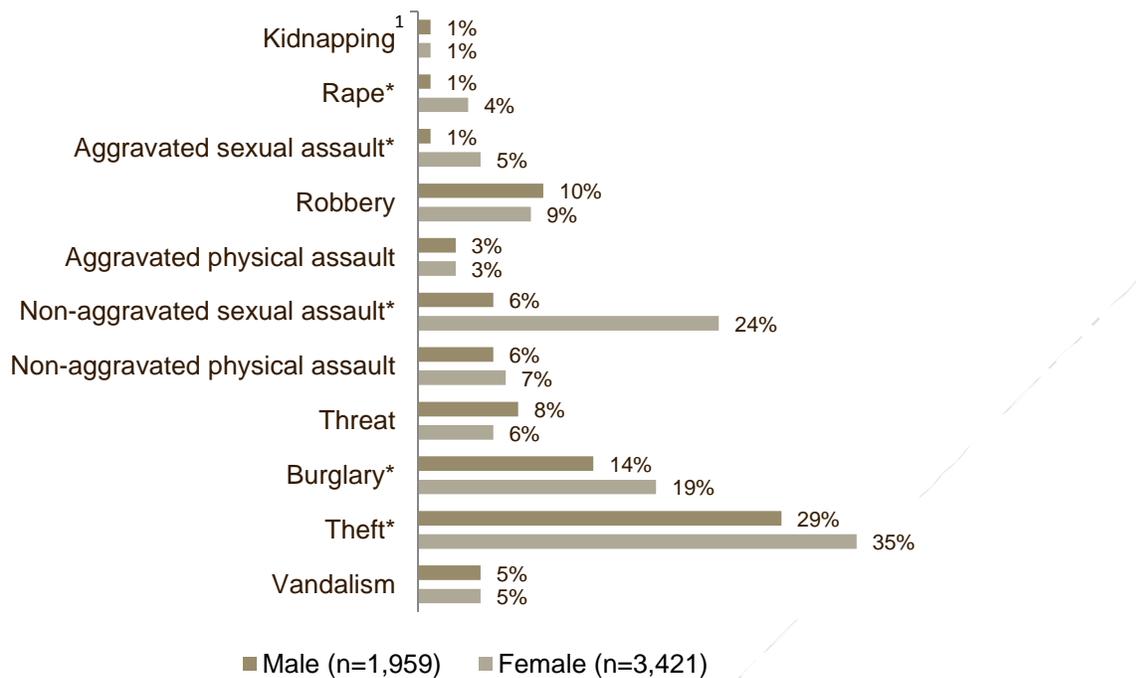
¹Kidnapping is the detention of a Volunteer against his or her will for an extended period, which many times involves taxi drivers refusing to take Volunteers directly to their intended destination.

A complete list of crime definitions is in Appendix C.

Gender Differences

Male and female Volunteers experienced different levels of crime victimization during their service (figure 2). The most pronounced difference was in rates for non-aggravated sexual assault, which female Volunteers experienced at a rate four times greater than male Volunteers (26 percent versus 6 percent). Female Volunteers were also more likely than were male Volunteers to experience theft, burglary, rape (i.e., penetration without consent or when the victim is incapable of consenting), and aggravated sexual assault (i.e., unwanted sexual contact by force, threat of force, or when the victim is incapable of consenting).

Figure 2. Global victim prevalence rates, by gender



Based on Volunteers who ended service between March 2014 and December 2015. Crimes may have occurred at any time during service. Prevalence rates may total to more than 100 percent because some individuals are counted in more than one category.
¹Kidnapping is the detention of a Volunteer against his or her will for an extended period, which many times involves taxi drivers refusing to take Volunteers directly to their intended destination.
 * Difference is statistically significant (χ^2 , $p < .001$)
 A complete list of crime definitions is in Appendix C.

Taking these differences into account, the top three crimes male Volunteers experienced were all property crimes: theft, burglary, and robbery (i.e., taking or attempting to take property by force). For females, non-aggravated sexual assaults ranked as one of the three most prevalent crimes (table 1).

Table 1. Top three most prevalent crimes, by gender (n=5,380)

Male Volunteers (n=1,959)		Female Volunteers (n=3,421)		
1	Theft	29%	1 Theft	35%
2	Burglary	14%	2 Non-aggravated sexual assault	24%
3	Robbery	10%	3 Burglary	19%

Based on Volunteers who ended service between March 2014 and December 2015. Crimes may have occurred at any time during service. Prevalence rates may total more than 100 percent because some individuals are counted in more than one category.

Repeat Victimization

In addition to knowing the proportions of Volunteers who were ever victims of crimes, it is also instructive to know the proportions of Volunteers who were victimized more than once when it comes to developing and evaluating risk mitigation strategies and safety and security policies. This section provides information on crime victims who were victims of the same type of crime on more than one occasion (e.g., multiple pickpocketing attempts) and the proportion of Volunteers who experienced multiple different types of crimes (e.g., a pickpocketing attempt on one occasion and burglary on another).

Recurring Incidents of the Same Type of Crime

Rape (i.e. penetration without consent or when the victim is incapable of consenting), aggravated sexual assault (i.e., unwanted sexual contact by force, threat of force, or when the victim is incapable of consenting), and aggravated physical assault (i.e., assault that results in or could have resulted in severe injury) were experienced by smaller proportions of Volunteers (figure 1). In addition, the proportion of victims of these crimes who experienced multiple incidents of each crime was lower than for many other crimes (approximately 25 percent) (figure 3). In comparison, theft (i.e., taking or attempting to take property or cash without force), burglary (i.e., unlawful or forcible entry), and non-aggravated sexual assault (i.e., unwanted sexual contact or kissing on the mouth without force) happened to a larger proportion of Volunteers, in addition to which substantial proportions of victims of each of these crimes experienced more than one instance of these crimes. Such was the case for 64 percent of victims of non-aggravated sexual assaults and 42 percent of victims of theft.

Multiple Different Types of Crimes

In addition to experiencing individual types of crimes on more than one occasion, 18 percent of male Volunteers and 30 percent of female Volunteers experienced multiple different types of crimes. For female Volunteers, this was often a combination of incidents of non-aggravated sexual assault and some other crime (22 percent), typically theft. For males, it typically entailed theft(s) and separate incidents of burglary or robbery (14 percent) (figure 4).

Figure 3. Repeat victimization (percent of victims)

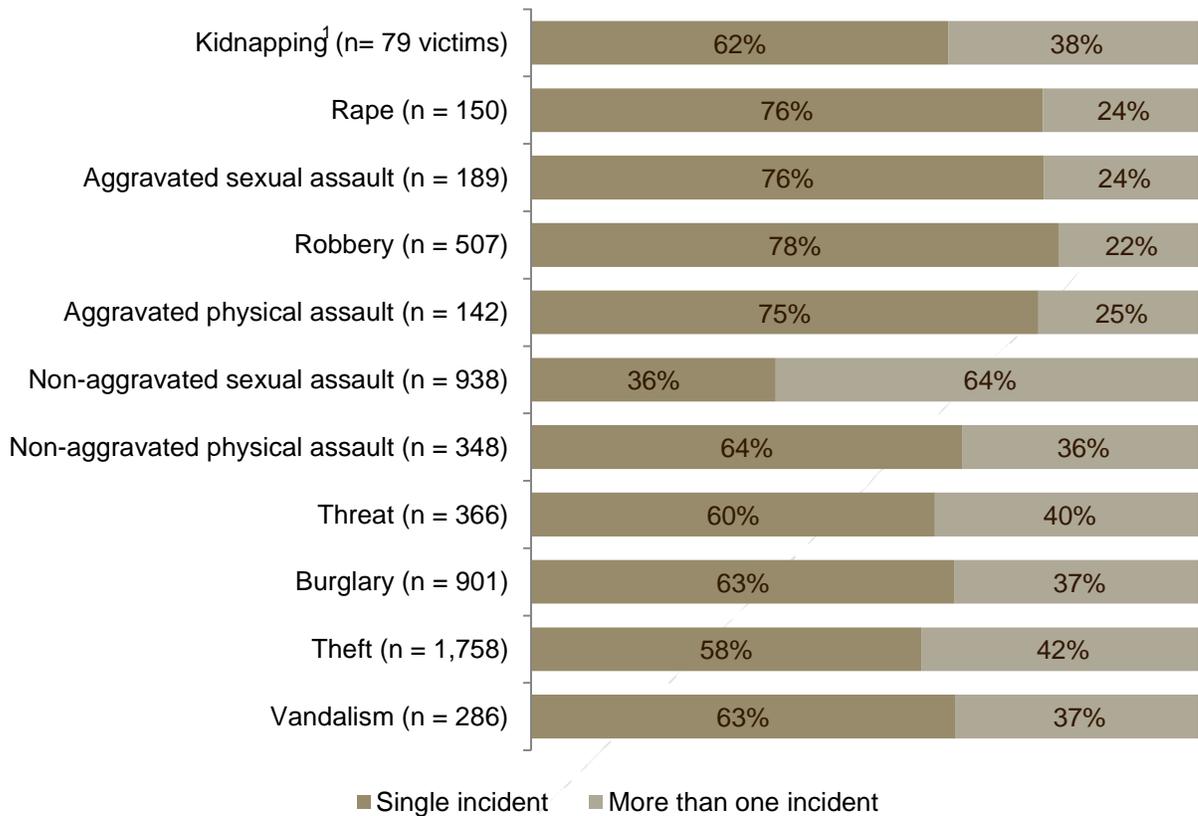
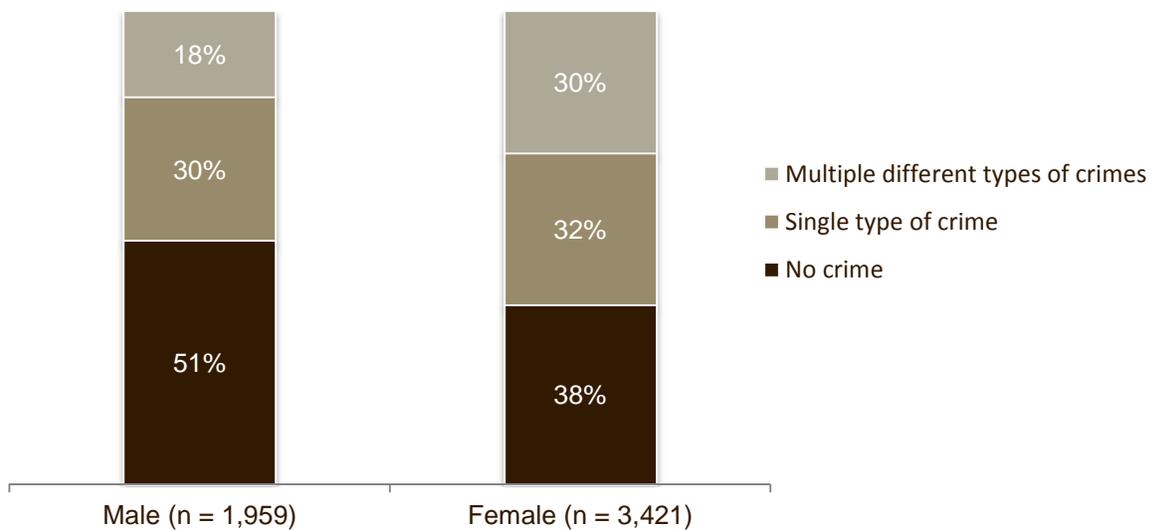


Figure 4. Multiple different crimes, by gender (percent of Volunteers)



Based on Volunteers who ended Peace Corps service between March 2014 and December 2015. Crimes may have occurred at any time during service.
¹Kidnapping is the detention of a Volunteer against his or her will for an extended period, which many times involves taxi drivers refusing to take Volunteers directly to their intended destination.
 A complete list of crime definitions is in Appendix C.

Non-Reporting Prevalence

Many crimes in the United States are never reported to law enforcement¹ so it is not surprising that many Peace Corps Volunteers do not report crimes to Peace Corps staff. Like the general U.S. public, Volunteers are more likely to report more serious crimes (table 2). For example, the non-reporting rate for robbery (i.e., taking property by force or threat of force) was lower than the rate for the less serious crime of theft (no force involved). Similarly, the non-reporting rate for aggravated physical assault (i.e., assaults that caused or could have caused serious injury) is lower than the rate for the less serious crime of non-aggravated physical assault. Consistent with this pattern, the non-reporting rate was lower for rape and aggravated sexual assault (54 percent and 50 percent, respectively) than for non-aggravated sexual assault (85 percent).

Table 2. Non-reporting prevalence, by crime (n=5,380 Volunteers)

Crime	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims who did not report all or some crimes to staff
Non-aggravated sexual assault	938	86
Vandalism	286	68
Non-aggravated physical assault	348	65
Threat	366	60
Theft	1,757	56
Rape	148	54
Aggravated sexual assault	195	50
Kidnapping ¹	63	48
Aggravated physical assault	142	46
Burglary	899	42
Robbery	505	37

Based on information from Volunteers who ended Peace Corps service between March 2014 and December 2015.

¹Kidnapping is the detention of a Volunteer against his or her will for an extended period, which many times involves taxi drivers refusing to take Volunteers directly to their intended destination.

A complete list of crime definitions is in Appendix C.

Volunteers who filled out the Security Incident Questionnaire who did not report crimes to Peace Corps staff were asked to give their most important reason for not reporting incidents in their own words. Their open-ended responses were systematically reviewed and grouped into categories on the basis of similarities among the reasons. The resulting inductively-derived categories (table 3) turned out to be very similar in nature to the categories of reasons people in the United States give for not reporting crimes to the police.¹

Table 3. Reasons Volunteers gave for not reporting crimes to Peace Corps Staff (percent of reasons)

Categories of Reasons ¹	Rape, Aggravated Sexual Assault, Non-aggravated Sexual Assault (n = 947 reasons)	Other Crimes* (n = 1,740 reasons)
Volunteer did not think the incident threatened their safety	45%	45%
Volunteer did not believe it was that serious/threatening		
Volunteer did not think it was uncommon or unusual		
Did not pose an ongoing risk to Volunteer's safety		
Volunteer did not see benefit in reporting	16%	19%
Nothing Peace Corps could do		
No way to recover property/catch offender		
Volunteers could not identify offender/provide details		
Volunteer did not want/need services, support, etc.		
Volunteer dealt with it another way	11%	10%
Handled it		
Confronted or talked with offender		
Told someone other than Peace Corps (e.g., local police)		
Sought/received support from others (e.g., friends)		
Took action to avert future incidents		
Volunteer was concerned about how staff might respond	10%	8%
Volunteer would be blamed/judged		
Would not be believed/taken seriously		
Peace Corps staff would overreact		
Volunteer was concerned about possible adverse consequences	8%	6%
Embarrassment/emotional upset		
Unwanted change in residence, site, end of service		
Get in trouble for violating policies		
Reporting process	5%	5%
Too much effort/paperwork		
Other	5%	7%

Based on responses from Volunteers who ended service between March 2014 and August 2015.

¹Data are reported as the percent of the total number of reasons provided by Volunteers rather than as a percent of Volunteers because some Volunteers included more than one reason in their responses (e.g., (1) I didn't feel threatened by the theft and (2) my neighbor helped me get the item back.

*All other crimes includes kidnapping, robbery, aggravated physical assault, non-aggravated physical assault, burglary, theft, and vandalism

One of the reasons for asking Volunteers their reasons for not reporting crimes is that the Peace Corps' comprehensive Sexual Assault Risk-Reduction and Response program (SARRR), which was first fully implemented midyear 2013, includes extensive training and education designed to alleviate barriers to Volunteers reporting rape, and aggravated and non-aggravated sexual assaults. Those barriers include, among other things, victims' expectations about how they may possibly be treated by reporting authorities such as Peace Corps staff (e.g., victim-blaming) and concerns about adverse consequences of reporting incidents such as being moved to a new site or getting in trouble if a victim happened to be violating a Peace Corps policy at the time an incident occurred.

Data from Volunteers who completed the Security Incident Questionnaire are not suitable for drawing conclusions about changes that may have occurred in the reporting of these crimes as a result of the SARRR program because none of the respondents served in the Peace Corps entirely prior to the implementation of the SARRR program. The majority began service in 2012 or 2013 and left the Peace Corps in 2014 or 2015 (see Appendix A). Still, the reasons Volunteers gave for not reporting crimes provide important information about possible barriers to Volunteer crime reporting.

The most common reason victims of rape, aggravated sexual assault, and non-aggravated sexual assault gave for not reporting these types of incidents were their perceptions that these were common occurrences (particularly non-aggravated sexual assault – i.e., sexual contact or kissing without consent) and that their safety was not in jeopardy (table 3). In fact, 45 percent of all the reasons Volunteers gave for not reporting these types of incidents were of this nature, which was also the case for other crimes.

Concerns about how Peace Corps staff might react to their report accounted for 10 percent of the reasons victims of rape, non-aggravated sexual assault, and sexual assault gave for not reporting incidents and 8 percent were concerns about possible adverse consequences. This is only marginally different from victims of other crimes.

Use of Security Incident Questionnaire Crime Data

The crime data now available from the Security Incident Questionnaire are being used by post staff in a process launched in late 2015 called risk mitigation planning. The risk mitigation planning process has two objectives. The first is to make posts aware of the overall amount and types of crimes Volunteers experience. The second is to aid posts in formulating strategies to mitigate the risks at their posts of crimes happening to Volunteers.

About the Office of Safety and Security

The Office of Safety and Security was established in March 2003 to foster improved communication, coordination, oversight, and accountability for all Peace Corps safety and security efforts. The Office is led by the Associate Director for Safety and Security who reports to the Peace Corps Director, and includes the following divisions: Overseas Operations; Information and Personnel Security; Crime Response and Analysis; Projects, Training and Evaluations; and Emergency Management and Physical Security. The Crime Response and Analysis Division tracks crime statistics, identifies crime trends, and highlights potential safety risks to Volunteers using two data collection systems: an administrative database of reported crimes and a survey of Volunteers about their crime experience during Peace Corps service. While together these systems provide a better understanding of crime against Peace Corps Volunteers, the crime measures derived from the two data sources are not directly comparable.

¹Langton, L., Berzofsky, M., Krebs, C., & Smiley-McDonald, H. (2012). *Victimizations Not Reported to the Police, 2006-2010* (NCJ238536). Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Appendix A: Methodological Notes

Security Incident Questionnaire Structure and Content

The Security Incident Questionnaire is an online self-administered questionnaire the Peace Corps asks Volunteers to fill out at the end of service, whether they complete their service or end service early.¹ Volunteers are required to log on to the Security Incident Questionnaire and read the purpose of the questionnaire, but may then decline to fill it out. Additionally, Volunteers are alerted at multiple points in the questionnaire of their option to skip questions if they find any upsetting or to discontinue the survey. Information is also provided about how to contact trained professionals if they feel the need to speak with someone.

Volunteers' responses to the Security Incident Questionnaire are used to assess the number of Volunteers who experienced a crime at any point during their service, as well as the prevalence of repeat and multiple victimization. In addition, the Security Incident Questionnaire currently includes supplementary questions asking Volunteers if they reported crimes to post staff and, if not, their most important reason for non-reporting.

The instrument begins with a brief set of general questions to promote recall of events (e.g., "Since arriving in your current host country, was anything STOLEN from you including, but not limited to..." followed by a list of different types of items). In this respect, the Security Incident Questionnaire is similar in structure to the National Crime Victimization Survey which begins with a set of screening items. In fact, that survey was the source for several of the memory prompts used in the Security Incident Questionnaire. According to research, the time people spend thinking about these questions enhances their recall of events.²

Following the memory prompt questions, Volunteers answer sets of behaviorally and conceptually oriented questions to determine if they were victims of a crime. Security Incident Questionnaire questions related to rape and aggravated and non-aggravated sexual assault were modeled after the Sexual Experiences Survey which is considered a gold standard for measuring these phenomena.³

When Volunteers' answers indicate they experienced a crime, they are asked to briefly describe a single incident of their choosing. This process is repeated for each crime category. Crime categories are presented in decreasing order of severity (see Appendix B). Once a Volunteer records experiences in one crime category, the individual is instructed not to include that experience when answering subsequent questions to preclude counting the same incident in multiple categories. Crime classification experts

assess whether the events are captured in the correct crime categories, and if not, reclassify the incident(s). Approximately 12 percent of all incident descriptions are reclassified.⁴

Security Incident Questionnaire crime questions cast a wide net. For example, several crime definitions (e.g., theft, non-aggravated sexual assault, robbery) encompass not only successful victimization, but failed attempts as well. Also, respondents are not asked to infer motive, meaning that, for example, if a neighbor enters a Volunteer's home uninvited because doing so is normative within the culture, the incident is counted as a burglary even though the neighbor's intent was benign.

When Volunteer responses indicate they were the victim of a particular type of crime, Volunteers are asked on how many occasions they were victimized and how many incidents were reported to post staff. The specific counts are never used because of concerns about the reliability of the reported values due to the extended recall period and/or the tendency for victims of repeated crimes to estimate the number of times incidents occurred rather than counting directly from memory.⁵ However, the information is used to classify respondents into groups who experienced a single incident versus more than one incident (repeat victimization) and into groups who reported all incidents of a particular type to post staff versus those who did not report one or more incidents.

Respondent Characteristics

The Security Incident Questionnaire was launched in March 2014. Seventy two percent of Volunteers who ended service between then and December 2015 filled out the Security Incident Questionnaire (N = 5,380). The majority of respondents (79 percent) entered Peace Corps service in 2012 or 2013 (figure 6). On average, they served 23 months (± 9), a period comparable to all Volunteers who were eligible to fill out the Security Incident Questionnaire (21 months, ± 9). The gender makeup of respondents was also comparable, although trainees and Volunteers who terminated service early are under-represented (table 1). Several analyses, described in the following section, were conducted to evaluate the possible effect that non-respondents may have had on validity of the prevalence rates presented in this report.

Figure 5. Enter on duty dates of Security Incident Questionnaire respondents

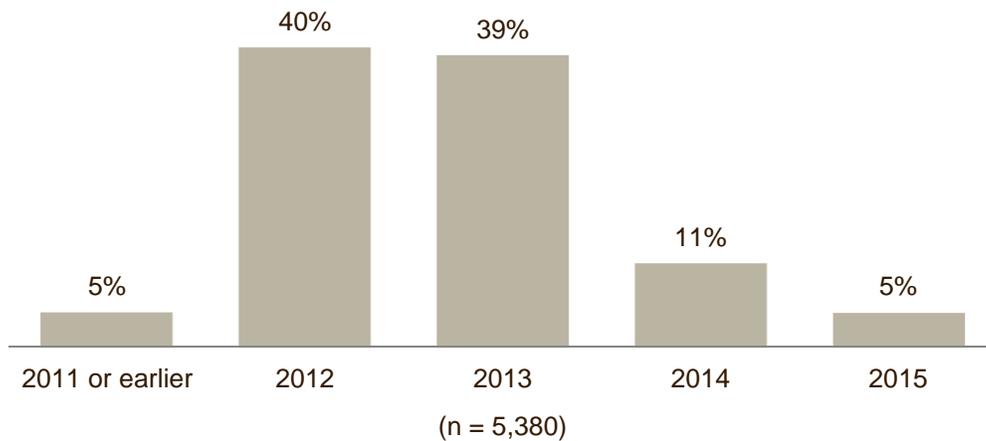


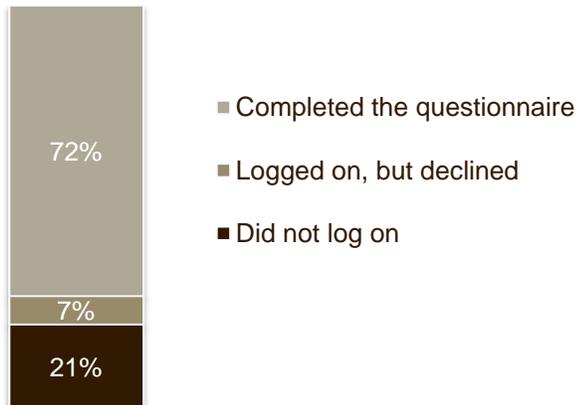
Table 3. Comparison of respondent characteristics and characteristics of all eligible Volunteers

Characteristic		Respondents n = 5,380	All eligible N = 7,523
Gender	Female	64%	63%
	Male	36%	38%
Status	Volunteer	91%	88%
	Peace Corps Response Volunteer or Global Health Service Partnership	7%	7%
	Trainee	2%	6%
	Close of Service		
	Completion of service	78%	74%
	Early termination	22%	26%

Non-response Bias

The Security Incident Questionnaire has two sources of non-response: Volunteers who never logged onto the questionnaire (21 percent of all eligible Volunteers), and those who declined to fill out the questionnaire after logging on (7 percent of eligible Volunteers) (figure 7). An important question is whether the prevalence rates based on only individuals who filled out the Security Incident Questionnaire would have been different had non-respondents also completed the questionnaire. To answer this question, a series of analyses were conducted to estimate the likely number of victims among each group of non-respondents.

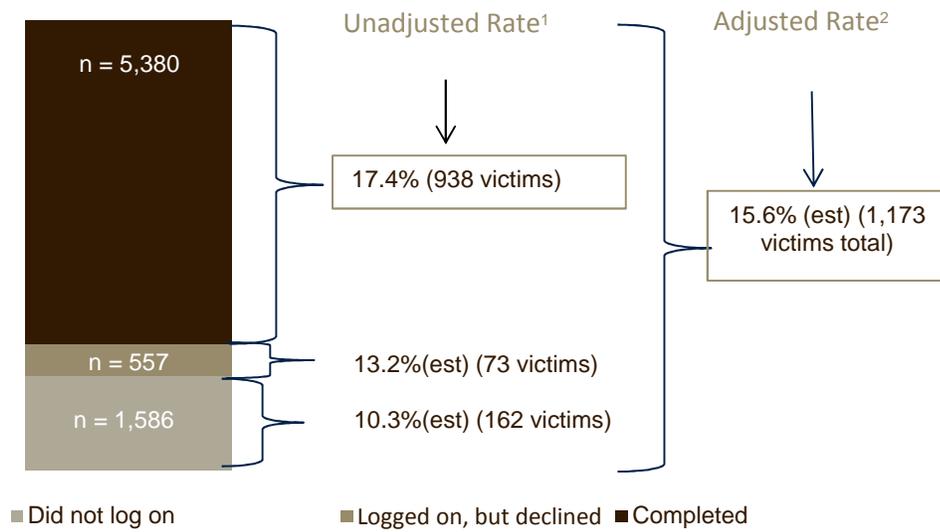
Figure 6. Sources and rates of non-response (percent of eligible Volunteers, N = 7,523)



The estimated number of victims among the 7 percent of eligible Volunteers who declined to fill out the questionnaire was estimated using responses to a set of six brief yes/no screening questions that were completed by both respondents and individuals who declined to fill out the questionnaire. The number of victims among the 21 percent who did not log on the Security Incident Questionnaire were estimated using data on differences in victim prevalence rates associated with length of service.

Figure 7 illustrates how the estimated victim rates for the two groups of non-respondents were combined with known rates for respondents (i.e., unadjusted rates) to arrive an estimated overall victim prevalence rate (i.e., adjusted rates) using non-aggravated sexual assault as an example. The adjusted rate (the estimated rate if all Volunteers had completed the questionnaire) of 15.5 percent, compared to the unadjusted rate (rate based only on respondents) of 17.3 percent, suggests that the prevalence of non-aggravated sexual assault is less than 2 percent higher than it might have been had all Volunteers logged on and filled out the Security Incident Questionnaire. Of the eleven crimes assessed by the Security Incident Questionnaire, the unadjusted and adjusted rates differed by the largest amount in the case of non-aggravated sexual assault (table 5). For other crimes, the difference was typically less than 1 percent.

Figure 7. Example of adjusted and unadjusted rate comparison, non-aggravated sexual assault



¹The unadjusted rate, 17.4 percent (938 victims/5,380 eligible Volunteers) is the observed prevalence rate based on only respondents.

²The adjusted rate is based on the number of respondents who were victims (n = 938) plus the number of Volunteers among those who declined to fill out the questionnaire who were estimated to be victims (n = 73) plus the number of Volunteers among those who did not log on who were estimated to be victims (n = 162) for an estimated total of 1,173 victims out of 7,523 eligible Volunteers (15.6%)

Table 5. Unadjusted and adjusted victim prevalence rates

	Unadjusted Rates	Adjusted Rates	Difference (Unadjusted – Adjusted)
Rape	3.0%	3.0%	0.0%
Aggravated sexual assault	3.7%	3.5%	-0.2%
Non-aggravated sexual assault	17.3%	15.5%	-1.8%
Kidnapping	1.3%	1.4%	-0.1%
Aggravated physical assault	2.5%	2.5%	0.0%
Non-aggravated physical assault	6.7%	6.6%	-0.1%
Robbery	9.4%	9.1%	-0.3%
Burglary	16.8%	16.1%	-0.7%
Theft	32.8%	31.2%	-1.6%
Vandalism	4.7%	4.7%	0.0%

¹ A copy of the Security Incident Questionnaire can be obtained by contacting SIQHelp@peacecorps.gov.

² Peytchev, A., Caspar, R., Neely, B. & Moore, A. (2012). NCVS Screening Questions Evaluation: Final Report. NC: RTI International.

³ Koss, M.P., Abbey, A., Campbell, R., Cook, S., Norris, J., Testa, M., Ullman, S., West, C., & White, J. (2007). Revising the SES: A collaborative process to improve assessment of sexual aggression and victimization. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 31: 357-370.

⁴ An example of a commonly misclassified crime is thefts that happen in hotel rooms. These are sometimes captured as burglary, but very often do not meet the Peace Corps definition of burglary (see Appendix C).

⁵ Laruitsen, J.S., Owens, J.G., Planty, M. et al. (2012). Technical Series Report: Methods for Counting High-Frequency Repeat Victimization in the National Crime Victimization Survey. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.
bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/mchfrv.pdf

Appendix B: Countries Represented in Data

Albania	Guatemala	Nepal
Armenia	Guinea (2014 only)	Nicaragua
Azerbaijan (2014 only)	Guyana	Panama
Belize	Indonesia	Paraguay
Benin	Jamaica	Peru
Botswana	Jordan (2014 only)	Philippines
Burkina Faso	Kenya (2014 only)	Rwanda
Cambodia	Kosovo (2015 only)	Samoa
Cameroon	Kyrgyz Republic	Senegal
China	Lesotho	Sierra Leone (2014 only)
Colombia	Liberia (2015 only)	South Africa
Comoros (2015 only)	Macedonia	Swaziland
Costa Rica	Madagascar	Tanzania
Dominican Republic	Malawi	Thailand
Eastern Caribbean	Mali (2014 only)	Togo
Ecuador	Mexico	Tonga
El Salvador	Federated States of Micronesia and Palau	Uganda
Ethiopia	Moldova	Ukraine
Fiji	Mongolia	Vanuatu
The Gambia	Morocco	Zambia
Georgia	Mozambique	
Ghana	Namibia	

Appendix C: Crime Classification and Definitions

The Peace Corps classifies crime incidents using a severity hierarchy similar to that used by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. If elements of a particular incident overlap two or more crime categories, the incident is assigned to only one—the higher category. For example, if someone breaks into a house (burglary) damaging a door in the process (vandalism), the incident is classified as a burglary.

Crime Classification Severity Hierarchy	
Crime Category	Definition
Kidnapping	Unlawful seizure and/or detention of a victim against the person's will. Includes hostage taking
Rape	The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the Volunteer, including when the victim is incapacitated or otherwise incapable of consenting
Aggravated sexual assault	Intentional contact with the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of the victim OR kissing OR disrobing the victim OR forcing the victim to contact genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks OR attempt to carry out any of these acts; AND any of the following: Use or threatened use of a weapon, OR Use or threatened use of force or other intimidating actions, OR The victim is incapacitated or otherwise incapable of giving consent
Robbery	Taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of the victim under confrontational circumstances including the threat of force, violence, and/or putting the victim in fear of immediate harm. Also includes when a perpetrator transports the victim to obtain his/her money or possessions
Aggravated physical assault	Attack or threat of attack with a weapon in a manner capable of causing death or severe/major bodily injury OR attack <small>without</small> a weapon when severe or major bodily injury results
Non-aggravated sexual assault	Forced contact with the victim's genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks OR kissing on the victim's mouth without the consent of the victim OR attempts to carry out these acts
Non-aggravated physical assault	Aggressive contact that does not require the Volunteer to use substantial force to disengage the offender and results in no injury or minor injury
Threat	A situation when the Volunteer is placed in a reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words and/or other conduct
Burglary	Unlawful or forcible entry of the victim's residence. This crime usually, but not always, involves theft.
Theft	Taking or attempting to take away property or cash without the use of force, illegal entry, or direct contact with the victim
Vandalism	Mischievous or malicious defacement, destruction, or damage of property



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