



Perceived Safety

The Peace Corps assesses crime risks as part of a comprehensive process for evaluating and selecting the communities where Volunteers live and work. Each year, we survey Volunteers to find out whether they feel safe in their communities. This graph shows the percentage of Volunteers who served in this country who said they felt safe or very safe when last surveyed.



Crimes Reported to Peace Corps Staff

The Peace Corps asks all Volunteers to report crimes or any other security concerns to Peace Corps staff as soon as possible. Our first priority is always to ensure that the Volunteer is safe and receives any needed medical or security services immediately.

The timely reporting of crimes, when they occur, is important in determining whether there is a lingering or ongoing concern for either the Volunteer who reported the incident or their peers. The table to the right shows incidents Volunteers in this country reported to Peace Corps staff that occurred during the most recent year.

Number and Rate of Crimes Occurring in 2019 that were Reported to Peace Corps Staff

	Number	Incidence Rate ¹
Theft	12	10.8
Non-Aggravated Sexual Assault	7	6.3
Stalking	2	1.8
Threat	2	1.8
Non-Aggravated Physical Assault	2	1.8
Robbery	1	0.9
Aggravated Sexual Assault	1	0.9
Burglary	1	0.9
Aggravated Physical Assault	0	0.0
Vandalism	0	0.0
Kidnapping	0	0.0
Rape	0	0.0

Harassment

In addition to the crimes above, Volunteers may also experience sexual harassment. Sexual harassment may include but is not limited to the following actions in combination with sexual connotation: derogatory comments, slurs, propositions, visual insults, unwanted calls, or messages. The table to the right shows the proportion of Volunteers who reported experiencing harassment based on their sex or sexual orientation according to the most recent annual survey of Volunteers. The Peace Corps will be collecting additional data on the nature and frequency of sexual harassment once Volunteers return to service in this country.

% of Volunteers who Experienced Insensitive Comments, Harassment, or Discrimination due to their:

Sex	31%
Sexual orientation	<5 responses

Early Termination of Service

Some Volunteers end service early for a variety of reasons. The graph to the right shows the proportion of Volunteers who ended service in 2019 before their original close of service date according to Peace Corps administrative records.

% of Volunteers who Ended Service Early

Total	10%
Resignation	6%
Medical reasons	4%
Administrative separation	0%
Reasons beyond Volunteer's control	0%

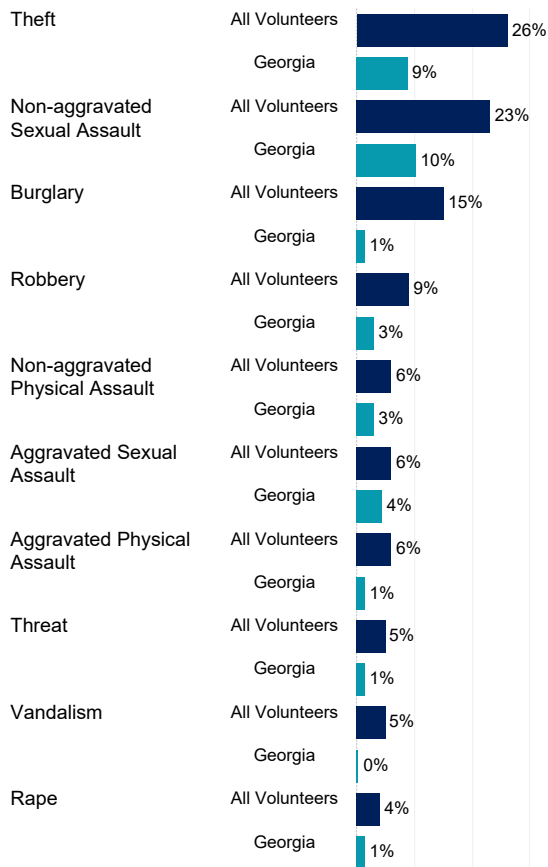
¹ Incidence rates are the number of reports of crimes that occurred during the year per Volunteer after adjusting for how long each Volunteer was in that country during that year. The combined amount of time Volunteers and trainees were in country is measured in Volunteer-trainee years. For example, if a Volunteer served for the entire 12 months of the year, this Volunteer is counted as one Volunteer-trainee year. If 12 Volunteers served one month each, these Volunteers are collectively counted as one Volunteer-trainee year. Incidence rates are per 100 Volunteer-trainee hours. Rates are subject to change because Volunteers may report additional incidents at any time, even after their service ends...

Security Incident End-of-Service Survey

Volunteers are asked to complete an anonymous survey when their service ends. The survey asks about crimes Volunteers may have experienced throughout their time in service. This includes incidents they reported to Peace Corps staff as well as unreported incidents. The most common reason Volunteers give for not reporting crimes to Peace Corps staff is that they did not think the unreported incidents were serious or threatening.

The survey casts a wide net because we want to know to the fullest extent what Volunteers experienced, in order to take steps to mitigate risks. Peace Corps' definitions of crimes are derived from definitions used by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. However, several Peace Corps crime definitions are broader than FBI definitions (e.g., some of the definitions include failed attempts to victimize a Volunteer as a crime, or some include acts that would likely not be prosecuted in most U.S. jurisdictions). Similarly, acts that the Peace Corps classifies as crimes may not match the definitions of offenses in the countries where Peace Corps Volunteers serve.

% of Volunteers who Reported Victimization via End-of-Service Survey



Crime Definitions

Kidnapping: Unlawful seizure and/or detention of a Volunteer against his/her will for more than a short period of time.

Rape: Penetration, no matter how slight, of a person's vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by another person's sex organ, without the consent of the person, including when the person is incapacitated or otherwise incapable of consenting.

Aggravated sexual assault: Intentional contact, either directly or through clothing, with a person's genitalia, anus, groin, breasts, thigh, or buttocks; or kissing or disrobing a person; or forcing a person to contact someone's genitalia, anus, groin, breast, thigh, or buttocks; or the attempt to carry out any of these acts and there is use or threatened use of a weapon, or use or threatened use of force or other intimidating action, or the victim is incapacitated or otherwise incapable of consenting.

Robbery: Taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person under confrontational circumstances including the threat of force, violence, or putting the person in fear of immediate harm.

Aggravated physical assault: Attack or threat of attack with a weapon in a manner capable of causing death or severe bodily injury or the attack without a weapon when severe injury occurs.

Non-aggravated sexual assault: Intentional contact, either directly or through clothing, with a person's genitalia, anus, groin, breast, thigh, or buttocks; or kissing a person on the mouth, ear, or neck; or touching a person with the offender's genitalia, either directly or through clothing, or offender's semen or vaginal fluids (no matter which body part is touched); or attempts to carry out any of those acts.

Non-aggravated physical assault: Deliberate aggressive contact or attempted contact that does not require the person to use substantial force to disengage and results in no injury or minor injury.

Burglary: Unlawful or forcible entry of a Volunteer's residence (including hotel or hostel room). Burglary often, but not always, involves taking property.

Threat: The use of threatening words or other conduct that places a person in reasonable fear of bodily harm.

Theft: Taking or attempting to take away someone's 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.

Stalking: A course of conduct directed at a Volunteer that would cause the Volunteer or another reasonable person to either fear for his or her safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress.