



Lesotho Country Crime Profile

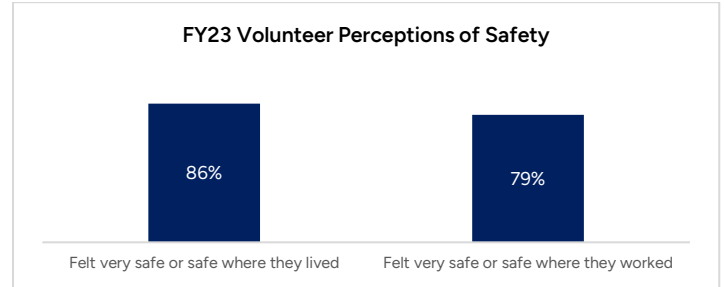


The Country Crime Profile data is extracted from both the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Volunteer Survey (FY23 AVS) and the Security Incident Management System (SIMS) for Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) and for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23).¹ With the Peace Corps Volunteer and Trainee (PCV/T) population still rising to pre-pandemic levels, some 2019 reported crime data has been included in this year's Country Crime Profiles to provide additional context.

Every Post has a comprehensive safety and security program with protocols designed to reduce the risk of crime and to respond effectively and appropriately to known and reported crimes. In-country safety and security staff report and respond to crime risks, trends, and known incidents. In addition to locally engaged host-country staff, field-based Peace Corps Safety and Security Officers work to provide technical oversight and guidance to overseas staff.

Perceived Safety (AVS)

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, the AVS surveys 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 very safe or safe where they lived and worked. In FY23, 14 of the 14 eligible Volunteers at this Post responded to the 'Perceived Safety' portion of the AVS.



Source: FY23 Annual Volunteer Survey (FY23 AVS)

Percentage of Volunteers & Trainees Reporting a Crime (SIMS)

The table to the right shows a comparison of the percentage of PCV/Ts who reported a crime to Peace Corps Staff that occurred in FY19 and FY23, respectively. For context, the PCV/T population in Lesotho was reduced from 116 in FY19 to 17 in FY23 (85% decrease). N = PCV/T Population.

Crime Classifications	FY19 Percent of PCV/T Reporting a Crime (N=116)	FY23 Percent of PCV/T Reporting a Crime (N=17)
Theft	6%	29%
Robbery	4%	-
Burglary	3%	-
Non-Aggravated Physical Assault	2%	-
Non-Aggravated Sexual Assault	1%	-
Rape	1%	-
Aggravated Physical Assault	1%	6%
Vandalism	-	-
Threat	-	-
Aggravated Sexual Assault	-	-
Kidnapping	-	-
Stalking ²	-	-

Source: Security Incident Management System (SIMS)

This table calculates the population of PCV/Ts who reported a crime divided by the total amount of PCV/Ts in Lesotho for FY19 and FY23. For example, there were 116 PCV/Ts in FY19, 7 PCV/Ts reported 8 incidents of Theft. Therefore, 6% of the PCV/T population in FY19 reported being a victim of a Theft.

Number of Crimes Reported by Volunteers & Trainees (SIMS)

The table to the right shows a comparison of the total number of reported crimes by PCV/Ts to Peace Corps Staff that occurred in FY19 and FY23, respectively. N = Total amount of reported crimes.

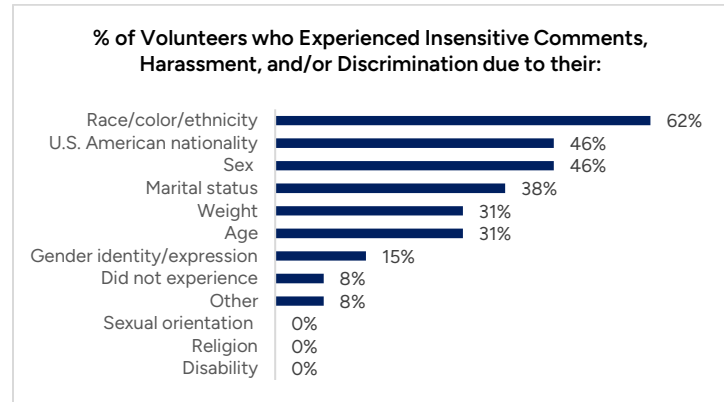
Crime Classifications	FY19 Reported Crimes (N=23)	FY23 Reported Crimes (N=6)
Theft	8	5
Robbery	5	-
Burglary	4	-
Non-Aggravated Physical Assault	2	-
Non-Aggravated Sexual Assault	2	-
Rape	1	-
Aggravated Physical Assault	1	1
Vandalism	-	-
Threat	-	-
Aggravated Sexual Assault	-	-
Kidnapping	-	-
Stalking	-	-

Source: Security Incident Management System (SIMS)

This table provides a count of the total amount of crimes reported by PCV/Ts. For example, 8 Theft incidents were reported by 7 PCV/Ts in FY19. The table above calculates the population of PCV/Ts who reported a crime divided by the total amount of PCV/Ts.

Insensitive Comments | Harassment | Discrimination (AVS)

Volunteers may also experience insensitive comments, harassment, or discrimination that are not always reported to Peace Corps Staff. The graph to the right shows the proportion of Volunteers that responded to the AVS who experienced insensitive comments, harassment, and/or discrimination based on the documented categories listed in the graph to the right. In FY23, 13 of the 14 eligible Volunteers at this Post responded to the 'Insensitive Comments, Harassment, and/or Discrimination' portion of the AVS.



Source: FY23 Annual Volunteer Survey (FY23 AVS)

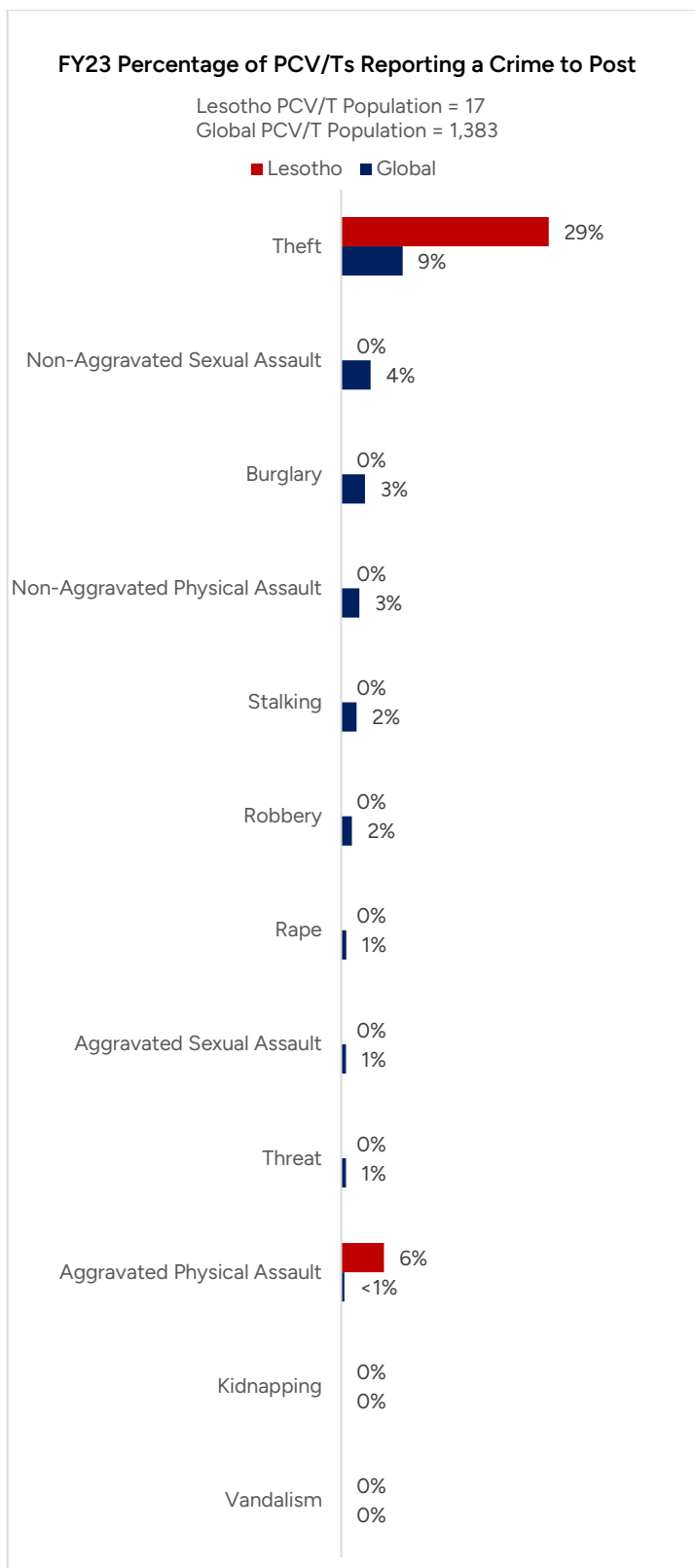
¹ This Country Crime Profiles uses Fiscal Year data. FY19: 10/1/18 – 9/30/19 & FY23: 10/1/22 – 9/30/23. Previous Country Crime Profiles before 2020 used Calendar Year data. The document cannot be used as a 1:1 comparison with previous Country Crime Profiles. No incidents at Home of Record (HOR) included in the data set.

² Stalking is a collection of incidents and/or events rather than a single incident or event. The date of incident may not correlate to the FY identified in the graph. Instead, for this calculation, the date reported field was used to determine the correct FY the Stalking occurred.

FY23 Reported Crimes Global Comparison (SIMS)

The global comparison graph below shows the percentages of PCV/Ts who reported a crime to Peace Corps Staff for this Post. In previous Country Crime Profiles, the Security Incident End-of-Service Survey data was used for the global reporting percentage comparison. Currently, there are not enough responses to the End-of-Service Survey to report due to the reduced PCV/T population.

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.



Source: Security Incident Management System (SIMS)

Crime Definitions

Kidnapping: The unlawful seizure or detention of a PCV/T against their will. There is no requirement that a demand for ransom be made. Kidnapping includes taking a PCV/T hostage, including a seizure or detention of a PCV/T by an individual or group and when the PCV/T's release is contingent upon one or more demands being met.

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 issue 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.