



The Peace Corps' Two Crime Data Collection Systems

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The Peace Corps collects data on crimes against Volunteers through two sources: the Consolidated Incident Reporting System and the Security Incident Questionnaire. Each source provides valuable information about aspects of Volunteer crime victimization. The Peace Corps uses this information to develop and evaluate risk reduction strategies and victim support systems. Data from the Consolidated Incident Reporting System are published annually in the Statistical Report of Crimes Against Volunteers and data from the Security Incident Questionnaire are published in End of Service Crime Survey Report.¹

One of the major differences between the two data sources is that the Consolidated Incident Reporting System is an administrative database that the Peace Corps uses to document crimes Volunteers report to Peace Corps staff. The Security Incident Questionnaire, on the other hand, is a self-administered survey Volunteers fill out at the end of their service. It captures information about crimes Volunteers experienced throughout their entire time in the Peace Corps, including those they reported to staff (that were documented in the Consolidated Incident Reporting System in the year in which they occurred) as well as crimes that were not reported to staff.

The Peace Corps' two sources of crime data not only differ in the scope of crimes they capture (i.e., reported only versus the combination of reported and unreported crimes) but they yield different statistical measures pertaining to different Volunteer populations covering different periods of time. There are also minor differences in the crimes included in each source (table 1). Because of these differences, crime statistics derived from one source cannot be compared directly to crime statistics derived from the other. Readers should consult the respective report for each data system to learn the key findings from each data source.

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

Table 1. Crime measure comparison

Data Source	Consolidated Incident Reporting System (CIRS)	Security Incident Questionnaire (SIQ)
Name of report	Statistical Report of Crimes Against Volunteers	End of Service Crime Survey Report
Description	Administrative database staff use to document information on crimes reported by Volunteers	Online questionnaire filled out by Volunteers at the end of their Peace Corps service
Scope	Crimes Volunteers reported to staff during one calendar year	Crimes Volunteers experienced at any time during the course of their service, including those they reported to staff and those they did not
Time frame	Reported crimes that happened within a 12-month calendar year	Crimes Volunteers experienced at any time while serving in the Peace Corps (typically 27 months)
Population	All Volunteers who served for any amount of time within a single calendar year	Subset of Volunteers who ended service within a calendar year
Key crime measure	Incidence rates (average number of crime incidents per member of Volunteer population, adjusted for the length of service)	Prevalence rates (percent of crime victims among members of Volunteer population ending service)
Data collected on		
<i>Kidnapping</i>	✓	✓
<i>Rape</i>	✓	✓
<i>Robbery</i>	✓	✓
<i>Aggravated sexual assault</i>	✓	✓
<i>Aggravated physical assault</i>	✓	✓
<i>Non-aggravated sexual assault</i>	✓	✓
<i>Non-aggravated physical assault</i>	✓	✓
<i>Burglary</i>	✓	✓
<i>Theft</i>	✓	✓
<i>Vandalism</i>	✓	✓
<i>Threat</i>	✓	✓
<i>Stalking</i>	✓	
<i>Homicide</i>	✓	