2017

End of Service
Crime Data Report

Peace
Corps

Contents

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report, the *End of Service Crime Data Report (ESCDR) 2017,* is to provide an overview of crimes Peace Corps Volunteers and trainees (hereafter referred to as "Volunteers") experience throughout their Peace Corps service. The primary source of data for this report is the Peace Corps' Security Incident Questionnaire[1], which is administered through an online survey. Volunteers fill out the questionnaire when they leave the Peace Corps, and have the opportunity to provide information about crimes they experienced at some time during their service (a period averaging two years), whether or not they reported those crimes to post staff at the time of the incident.

The *End of Service Crime Data Report (ESCDR) 2017* accompanies the agency's annual *[Statistical Report of Crimes Against Volunteers (SRCAV)](#)*, which focuses exclusively on the subset of crimes that Volunteers report to staff during each calendar years.

Summary

Crimes against Volunteers, nearly all of whom report they feel safe while serving, remain relatively unchanged from 2015 – 2017. The Peace Corps recognizes that information on the crimes Volunteers *report* to Peace Corps staff at the time the incidents occurred is only a partial snapshot of Volunteers' experiences. This is the case with U.S. national crime victimization statistics, which show that Americans do not report all crimes they experience.[2] Taking this and other factors into consideration, Peace Corps sought additional avenues for collecting and sharing crime data.

In March 2014, the agency introduced an online survey, the Security Incident Questionnaire, giving Volunteers at the end of their service the opportunity to self-report information about crimes they experienced during their service, whether or not they chose to report those crimes to post staff at the time the incidents occurred. One result is this report.

Self-report crime data collected at the end of service show that crime is more common than suggested by data on crimes reported to Peace Corps staff at the time of their occurrence. On average, 57 percent of Volunteers who ended service each year between 2015 and 2017 self-reported experiencing at least one crime at some time during their service (a period averaging approximately two years). On average, only 29 percent of Volunteers in these groups reported crimes to staff during their service.

Consistently, the most common reason Volunteers give for not reporting crimes is that they did not think the unreported incidents were that serious or threatening.

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[1] Methodological information pertaining to the SIQ is available in the *[End of Service Crime Survey Report, 2015](#)*.

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

Volunteers Live and Work in Diverse Communities Around the World

The data in this report need to be considered in the context of the international environment in which the Peace Corps operates. Peace Corps Volunteers are living and working in approximately 8,000 different communities in approximately 60 countries.

While serving in Peace Corps, Volunteers are most likely to experience property crimes, particularly theft (e.g., taking money or property under non-confrontational circumstances), robbery (e.g., taking money or property by force or threat of force), and burglary (e.g., illegal entry, often for the purpose of theft). This is unsurprising given that Peace Corps Volunteers have chosen to serve some of the world's most resource-limited countries. Research shows a well-established relationship between the high poverty levels found in such countries and the risk for property crimes.

The communities in which Volunteers live and work differ from U.S. communities in other relevant ways as well. For example, in some Volunteer communities, outdoor markets may be the only place for miles around where people can buy food and sundries. Market days can draw large and sometimes chaotic crowds. The same is true of transportation hubs. In places where public transportation – or even private transportation – is scarce, transportation hubs attract large numbers of people hustling to find space on crowded minibuses, vans, or an assortment of other vehicles that serve as "taxis". Heavily congested spaces such as these provide cover for a variety of different crimes such as pickpocketing (i.e., theft), robbery scams (e.g., one person distracting the Volunteer as an accomplice steals something), and groping (i.e., non-aggravated sexual assault).

Peace Corps Casts a Broad Net when Monitoring Crime

When surveying Volunteers about crimes they may have experienced, the agency asks Volunteers to provide information about crimes, included unsuccessful attempted crimes. Accordingly, if Volunteers adhere to the crime prevention strategies they learn during their initial training and succeed in thwarting a would-be thief's attempt to steal from them, Peace Corps still counts the incidents as thefts. Similarly, if someone tries to break into a Volunteer's residence, but fails because the home was well-secured, the attempt is nonetheless reflected as a burglary.

Peace Corps counts all incidents meeting agency crime definitions in crime rates without consideration of local cultural norms. In some communities, for example, it is acceptable for people to enter each other's homes unannounced. If Volunteers self-report these incidents when asked whether any one entered their home without permission, the incidents are reflected in Peace Corps' burglary rate (i.e., unauthorized entry). Similarly, some cultures view all property as community property rather than as belonging to specific individuals. In these circumstances, if someone takes something belonging to a Volunteer, community members would not consider it stealing. Peace Corps would count it as theft (e.g., taking property without the Volunteers consent).

The Vast Majority of Volunteers Feel Safe and Find Service Rewarding

Each year, when the agency conducts its Annual Volunteer Survey of current Volunteers, the vast majority report feeling safe or very safe where they live (93 percent) and work (96 percent). A large majority (81 percent) report that the safety and security training they receive was effective or very effective in helping them stay safe, and nearly all find their service personally rewarding (90 percent) and would recommend it to others (88 percent).

Highlights

- The overall proportion of Volunteers in the 2017 exit cohort who experienced crime (57 percent) was approximately the same as in the 2015 and 2016 exit cohorts despite a statistically significant decrease (-1.8 percent) in Volunteers experiencing robbery (i.e., taking money or property by force or threat of force).

- The proportion of Volunteers in the 2017 exit cohort who reported crimes was slightly lower (-1.1 percent) than in the 2015 cohort due primarily to decreases in reports of robbery and theft.

- Property crimes remained the most common crimes Volunteers experienced. These include: theft (taking money or property under non-confrontational circumstances)(30 percent of the 2017 exit cohort), robbery (taking money or property by force or threat of force) (8 percent), and burglary (unlawful entry, often for the purpose of stealing property)(17 percent).

- Non-aggravated sexual assault (i.e., non-consensual sexual contact without the use of force) was also a prevalent crime, particularly among female Volunteers. About one-quarter (26 percent) of females in the 2017 exit cohort experienced non-aggravated sexual assault.

- Only about half of the Volunteers in the 2017 exit cohort who experienced crime reported incidents to Peace Corps staff. Reporting was most likely among Volunteers who experienced non-aggravated physical assaults (e.g., being pushed, hit, shoved), theft (e.g., taking money or property under non-confrontational circumstances), and burglary (e.g., unlawful entry).

- The most common reason Volunteers gave for not reporting each of the 11 types of crimes the Peace Corps tracks was that they did not think the unreported incidents were serious or threatening.

Data Sources

Security Incident Questionnaire (SIQ)

The primary source of data for this report is the Peace Corps' Security Incident Questionnaire[3], which is administered through an online survey. Volunteers fill out the questionnaire when they leave the Peace Corps, and have the opportunity to provide information about crimes they experienced at any time during their service (a period averaging two years), whether or not they reported those crimes to post staff at the time of the incident. These data are organized by exit cohorts (i.e., groups of Volunteers who ended service in the same calendar year).

Consolidated Incident Reporting System (CIRS)

This report also includes data from the Peace Corps' Consolidated Incident Report System[4]. The Consolidated Incident Report System is the administrative database the agency uses to record details on the subset of crimes Volunteers report to post staff at the time of their occurrence. These data are also organized by exit cohorts in this report and include incidents Volunteers reported to staff throughout their entire service.

Annual Volunteer Survey (AVS)

The Annual Volunteer Survey[5] is a self-administered questionnaire currently serving Volunteers complete between June and August each year. Among other things, this annual survey captures Volunteers' assessments of the effectiveness of Peace Corps training, their personal safety, their overall service experience, and in-country staff support in the past 12 months.

Key characteristics of these three data sources are summarized in table 1.

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[3] Methodological information pertaining to the SIQ is available in the *End of Service Crime Survey Report, 2015*.
[4] The methods used in generating data from CIRS are explained in the *Statistical Report of Crimes Against Volunteers.*
[5] Methodological details of the AVS are explained in the 2017 Annual Volunteer Survey Results, Global Tabular Report.

Table 1. Sources of data presented in this report

| Source	Method	Population	Time Frame	Information Included in this Report
Security Incident Questionnaire (SIQ)	Ongoing self-administered online survey completed when Volunteers leave the Peace Corps	Exit cohorts (Volunteers ending service during each calendar year) including trainess, two-year Volunteers, and Peace Corps Response Volunteers	Entire period of service (on average, approximately two years).	• Percent Volunteers who experienced crime, whether or not they reported the incidents to Peace Corps staff. • Volunteers' reasons, in their own words, for not reporting crimes to Peace Corps staff. • Volunteers' descriptions of crime incidents.
Consolidated Incident Reporting System (CIRS)	Administrative database used by Peace Corps staff to record details on crime incidents Volunteers report to staff.	Exit cohorts (Volunteers ending service during each calendar year) including trainess, two-year Volunteers, and Peace Corps Response Volunteers	Entire period of service (on average, approximately two years).	• Percent Volunteers who reported crimes to Peace Corps staff at the time the incidents occurred.
Annual Volunteer Survey (AVS)	Self-administered online survey conducted in June through August of each year.	Currently serving two-year Volunteers	Prior 12 months.	• Percent Volunteers who find Peace Corps service rewarding/very rewarding. • Percent Volunteers who would recommend Peace Corps service to others. • Percent Volunteers who found safety and security training effective/very effective. • Percent Volunteers who feel safe/very safe where they live. • Percent Volunteers who feel safe/very safe where they work.

OVERVIEW

The Peace Corps Mission

The Peace Corps' mission is to promote world peace and friendship through community-based development and cross-cultural understanding. To achieve this mission, the agency sends Americans abroad to tackle the needs of people around the world. Since 1961 when the Peace Corps was created, more than 230,000 American men and women have served abroad advancing the Peace Corps mission.

Volunteers live and work in local communities, often under hardship conditions, and while so doing build life-long friendships and promote mutual understanding between the United States and their host communities. When they return home, Volunteers bring their intercultural skills and global perspectives to enrich every state in our union. In spite of hardships, nearly all Volunteers find Peace Corps service personally rewarding (90 percent) and would recommend it to others (88 percent)(figure 1).
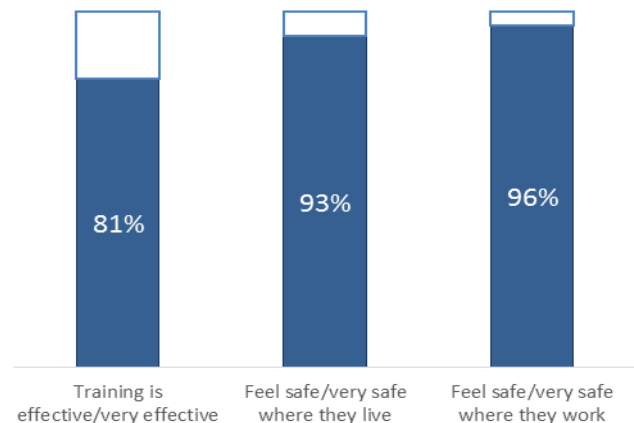
Figure 1. Perception of service (percent of Volunteers serving in 2017)

- Find the Peace Corps personally rewarding: 90%
- Would recommend Peace Corps service to others: 88%
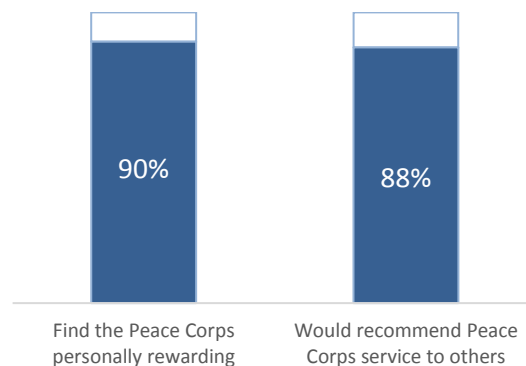
Source: 2017 Annual Volunteer Survey

Volunteers typically live abroad for 27 months.[6] During the first three months, they receive intensive pre-service training as a group. Among other things, Volunteers learn about the crime risks in their host countries and ways to reduce their chances of being victimized. Crime awareness and prevention are also addressed in subsequent training sessions and crime prevention messaging throughout service. The vast majority of Volunteers believe the training they receive is effective in helping them maintain their personal safety and security (81 percent) (figure 2).

Figure 2. Training effectiveness and perceived safety (percent Volunteers serving in 2017)

- Training is effective/very effective: 81%
- Feel safe/very safe where they live: 93%
- Feel safe/very safe where they work: 96%

Source: 2017 Annual Volunteer Survey

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[6] A relatively small proportion of Volunteers serve 3 to 12 months in highly specialized positions as Global Health Services or Peace Corps Response Volunteers. These Volunteers are also included in the data in this report.

After training, Volunteers move to the communities they will serve for the next two years, generally as the lone Volunteer in their community. Prior to placing Volunteers, Peace Corps staff assess the safety of communities and Volunteer housing. Volunteers are nearly unanimous in reporting they feel safe where they work (96 percent) and live (93 percent).

By the time they end service, slightly more than half (57 percent) of all Volunteers experience at least one crime, and just over one-quarter of all Volunteers (29 percent) report a crime incident to Peace Corps staff (figure 3). These gobal rates have changed very little in the past three years.

Figure 3. Volunteers who experienced crime and Volunteers who reported crime (percent of 2017 exit cohort)

57.2%

28.9%

Experienced (SIQ) (N = 3,216)   Reported (CIRS) (N = 3,915)
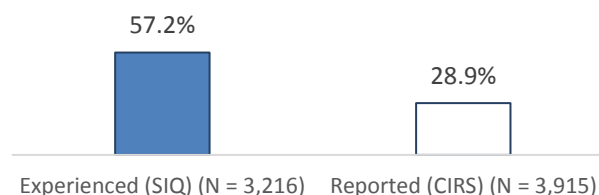
Crime During Service

There are several reasons Volunteers find Peace Corps service rewarding and report feeling safe during service despite experiencing crime. Those reasons are related in part to the experiences the Peace Corps counts as crimes and the nature of the crimes Volunteers most commonly experience.

What Counts as a Crime?

In order to develop effective crime prevention strategies, the Peace Corps needs the fullest picture possible of Volunteer experiences. To that end, the agency casts a broad net when it comes to monitoring crime by (1) including unsuccessful attempts to victimize Volunteers in crime rates, (2) treating all incidents within a given crime category as equally serious despite differences in the risk of harm or loss to Volunteers, and (3) counting incidents that meet the Peace Corps' crime definitions in crime rates regardless of the intent of the perpetrator.

Unsuccessful attempts

The Peace Corps classifies crime incidents using a hierarchy-based system similar to that used by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Unsuccessful attempts to victimize Volunteers are included in the definitions of seven of the eleven crimes the agency monitors (figure 4). Consequently, attempts to victimize Volunteers that fail because of effective prevention measures are sometimes included in crime rate calculations. For example, if someone tries to break into a Volunteer's residence by forcing a locked door, the incident counts as a burglary even if the burglar could not gain entry because staff were diligent in making sure the house met safety standards.

Figure 4. Crime definitions and classification hierarchy

The Peace Corps classifies crimes using a hierarchy-based system similar to that used by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. If a particular incident includes elements that 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) and steals items (theft), the incident is classified as burglary.

	Crime	Definition
Highest Category	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 incapactiated 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 focible 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.
Lowest Category	Vandalism	Mischievous or malicious defacement, destruction, or damage of property.

The Security Incident Questionnaire and Consolidated Incident Reporting System use the same crime definitions. However, in addition to the crimes listed above, the Consolidated Incident Reporting System is also used to document information on homicides and stalking which are not included in this report.
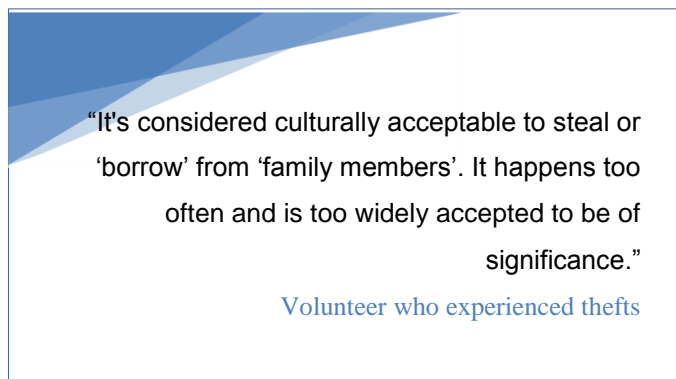
Only half (51 percent) of all Volunteers who experienced crimes reported incidents to Peace Corps staff. Figure 5 provides information on their reasons for not reporting crimes. The most common reason by far was that Volunteers did not think the unreported incidents were serious.

Recognizing that incidents falling in the same crime category may pose a very different risk of harm or loss to victims, many states (and federal criminal code) use special designations to categorize these differences. For example, if someone runs past a victim, attempts to snatch their purse, and keeps running, the incident would likely be classified as a Class 3 robbery (lower level). On the other hand, if someone with a weapon demands that a victim hand over their purse, the incident might be a Class 1 robbery (highest level). The Peace Corps' crime classification system does not account for these differences within crime categories.

Intent

The Peace Corps' crime definitions evolved from definitions used in the United States. In applying these definitions to incidents that happen to Volunteers living in diverse communities around the world, sometimes relatively benign behaviors which are acceptable[7] in a host culture are counted as crimes in Peace Corps statistics. Many incidents of kidnapping fall in this category.

> "It's considered culturally acceptable to steal or 'borrow' from 'family members'. It happens too often and is too widely accepted to be of significance."
>
> Volunteer who experienced thefts

An incident is classified as kidnapping if a Volunteer is detained against his or her will for more than a short period (operationalized as an hour or more). In some places, it is acceptable for taxi drivers to take sidetrips (e.g., visit a friend or relative) or make stops (e.g., for a meal) rather than driving passengers promptly to their destinations. Although the driver's intent is not malicious, if the trip lasts more than an hour and the driver does not honor the Volunteer's request to proceed to their destination, the incident would count as kidnapping.

Similarly, if young children enter a Volunteer's home because they're curious about the foreigner who has come to live in their village, the incident counts as burglary (e.g., unlawful entry). Or, Volunteers may live in communities where it is acceptable for people to enter one another's homes without knocking and without permission. Again, this would count as burglary.

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[7] The fact that a behavior is commonplace does not make it culturally acceptable. For instance, it may be commonplace in some locations for men to grab women's bottoms in densely crowded markets. That does not mean it is acceptable.

Figure 5. Most important reason for not reporting crimes to Peace Corps staff (SIQ)(N = 2,113 reasons)
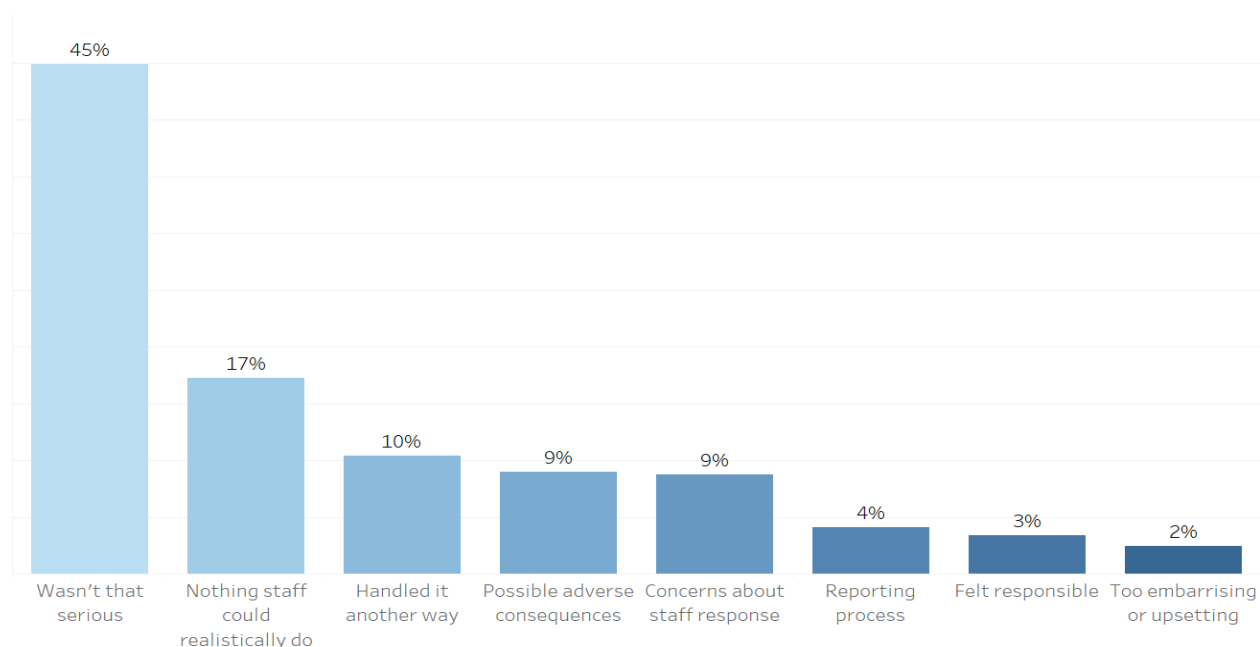
See explanation of methods in Appendix A.
The examples below paraphrase prototypical responses. Examples are written in first person to mimic the "voice" of Volunteers, but are not direct quotes.
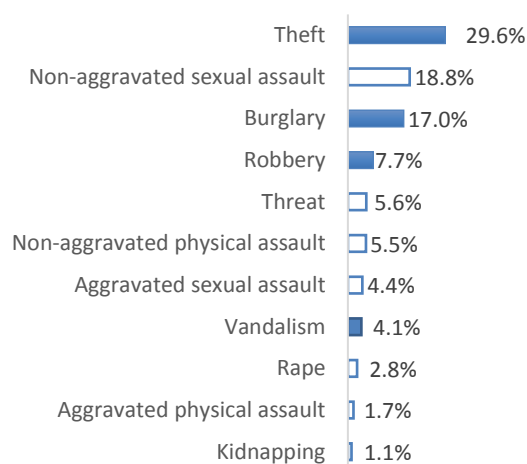
Reasons	Examples
Wasn't that serious or threatening	
Little or no loss or harm	• The incidents were just annoying. I wasn't harmed.
No ongoing threat	• These are such small things. I wouldn't report them at home, either.
Nothing staff could realistically do	
No way to recover property/catch offender	• What could they do? I couldn't identify the person.
Incidents can't be prevented	• Staff can't prevent it, so why report it?
Handled it another way	
Confronted or talked with offender	• I talke with the person.
Reported to someone else	• I told community leaders and they handled it.
Took action to avert future incidents	• I just avoided the location in the future.
Concerns about staff response	
Staff may overreact	• Staff get overly involved when they don't need to.
Volunteer may be blamed or judged	• If something happens, they imply it's your fault.
Others may find out what happened	• It was so minor, I didn't think staff would take it seriously.
May not be believed/taken seriously	
Possible adverse consequences	
Unwanted change in residence, site, separation	• I like my site. I didn't want to risk being moved.
Get in trouble for violating policies	• I was violating policy by being in the capital.
Consequences for others	• The family would have been shunned by the community.
Reporting process	
Too much effort/paper work	• I didn't want to go through the long reporting process.
Uncertain about what or how to report	• I didn't know it was something I should report.
Felt responsible	
Volunteer believed he/she was at least partly at fault	• It was my fault for being careless.
	• I felt it was my fault for drinking too much.
Too embarrassing or upsetting	
	• I was angry and upset. I didn't want to deal with the situation any more.
	• Talking about intimate acts is too embarrassing.

Most Common Crimes

Crimes can be divided into two general categories: those targeting Volunteers' property or money (i.e., property crimes) and those targeting Volunteers. Three of the most common crimes Volunteers experience are property crimes – theft (taking money or property under non-confrontational circumstance), robbery (taking money or property by force or the threat of force), and burglary (unlawful entry, often for the purpose of taking property) (figure 6).

Given the Peace Corps' mission, the prominence of property crimes is unsurprising. Volunteers serve in countries with some of the highest levels of relative poverty in the world (figure 7), a condition widely associated with higher property crime rates.[8] The risk for property crime comes with serving highly impoverished countries. Volunteers acknowledge this as part of their *second* most common reason for not reporting crimes (figure 5) – they do not think staff can realistically do anying to keep certain types of crime incidents from happening. For example, some Volunteers do not report thefts because they do not see anything the Peace Corps can realistically do to stop pickpocketing on crowded transportation or in crowded markets.

Figure 6. Percent of 2017 exit cohort that experienced crime(SIQ)(N = 3,216)

- Theft — 29.6%
- Non-aggravated sexual assault — 18.8%
- Burglary — 17.0%
- Robbery — 7.7%
- Threat — 5.6%
- Non-aggravated physical assault — 5.5%
- Aggravated sexual assault — 4.4%
- Vandalism — 4.1%
- Rape — 2.8%
- Aggravated physical assault — 1.7%
- Kidnapping — 1.1%

■ Property crimes
Crime definitions are in figure 4.
Data reflects incidents that Volunteers experienced throughout their entire time in service, a period of approximately two years.
Percentages sum to more than 100 percent because some Volunteers are counted in more than one category. Accordingly, adding individual crime rates together (e.g., rape plus aggravated sexual assault plus non-aggravated result) will yield an erroneous, inflated prevalence rate.

Figure 7. Average 2017 uneven economic development index score

- United States — 4.3
- Non-Peace Corps countries — 5.9
- Peace Corps countries — 6.4
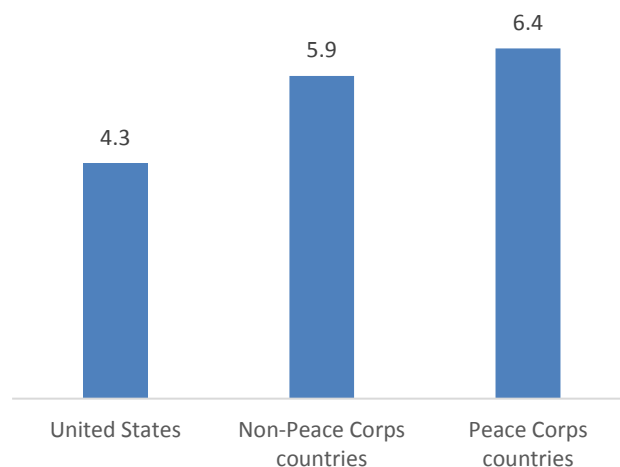
Source: Fragile States Index

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[8] Wilkinson, R.G. & Pickett, K.E. (2007). The problems of relative deprivation: Why some societies do better than others. *Social Science & Medicine*: 67(9), 1965-1978.
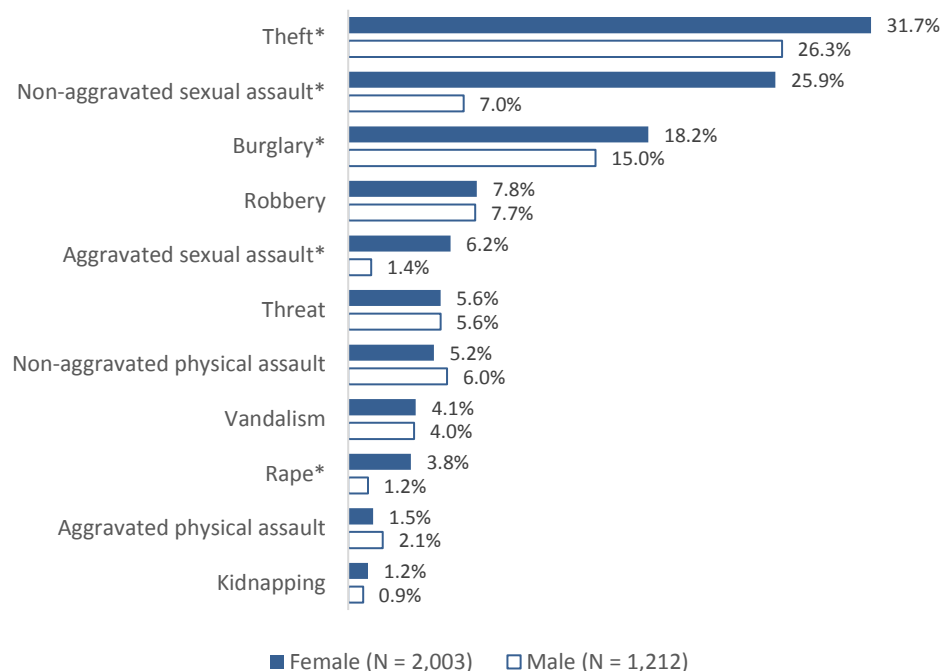
2017 EXIT COHORT

This section contains information on the prevalence and reporting of specific types of crimes among Volunteers in the 2017 exit cohort, including gender differences. Summary tables for each individual crime type are in figure 11 at the end of this section.

Gender Differences

As in prior years, female Volunteers in the 2017 exit cohort were proportionately more likely to experience crime than were male Volunteers. Female Volunteers experienced non-aggravated sexual assault (i.e., non-consensual sexual contact without force), aggravated sexual assault (i.e., non-consensual sexual contact by force, threat of force, or when incapable of consenting), and rape (i.e., penetration without consent) at significantly higher rates than male Volunteers. They also experienced significantly higher rates of burglary (i.e., unlawful entry) and theft (i.e., taking property or money under non-confrontational circumstances). The most pronounced difference was in rates of non-aggravated sexual assault. Among Volunteers ending service in 2017, 26 percent of female Volunteers experienced non-aggravated sexual assault compared to 7 percent of male Volunteers (figure 8).

Figure 8. Percent of 2017 exit cohort who experienced crime, by gender (SIQ)

Crime	Female (N = 2,003)	Male (N = 1,212)
Theft*	31.7%	26.3%
Non-aggravated sexual assault*	25.9%	7.0%
Burglary*	18.2%	15.0%
Robbery	7.8%	7.7%
Aggravated sexual assault*	6.2%	1.4%
Threat	5.6%	5.6%
Non-aggravated physical assault	5.2%	6.0%
Vandalism	4.1%	4.0%
Rape*	3.8%	1.2%
Aggravated physical assault	1.5%	2.1%
Kidnapping	1.2%	0.9%

*Difference is statistically significant (χ^2 , df = 1, p < .01)
Crime definitions are in figure 4.
Data reflects incidents that Volunteers experienced throughout their entire time in service, a period of approximately two years.
Percentages sum to more than 100 percent because some Volunteers are counted in more than one category. Accordingly, adding individual crime rates together (e.g., rape plus aggravated sexual assault plus non-aggravated result) will yield an erroneous, inflated prevalence rate.
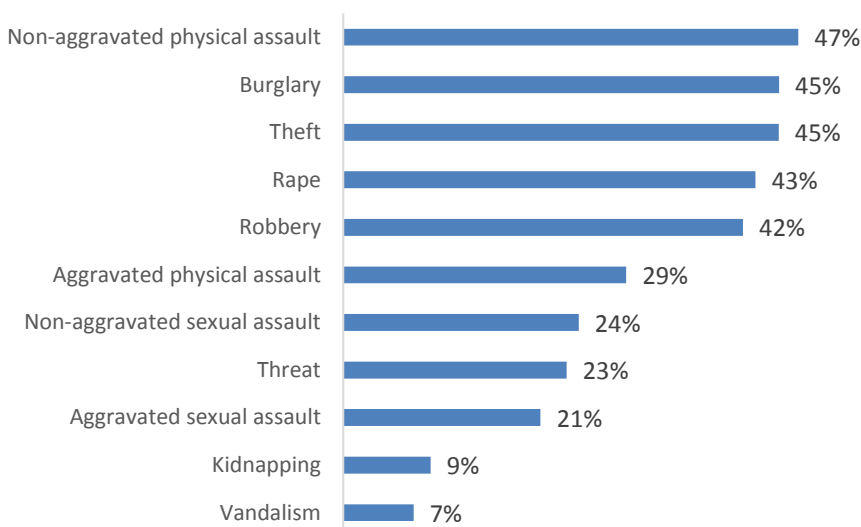
Crime Reporting

At most, in the 2017 exit cohort, just under half of the victims of any type of crime ever officially reported incidents to Peace Corps staff (figure 9). This includes individuals who experienced multiple incidents of a crime who reported some, but not all, incidents.

Non-reporting is also common among the U.S. population. According to the *National Crime Vitimization Survey,* a national study of persons age 12 and up in the United States,

Non-aggravated physical assault	47%
Burglary	45%
Theft	45%
Rape	43%
Robbery	42%
Aggravated physical assault	29%
Non-aggravated sexual assault	24%
Threat	23%
Aggravated sexual assault	21%
Kidnapping	9%
Vandalism	7%

Victim reporting rates were calculated by dividing the percentage of Volunteers who reported at least one incident of a crime (CIRS) by the percentage who experienced that crime (SIQ).
Crime definitions are in figure 4.
Data reflect incidents that Volunteers experienced and/or reported throughout their entire time in service, a period of approximately two years.

only 42 percent of violent crimes (i.e., rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault) and 36 percent of property crimes (i.e., burglary, motor vehicle theft and property theft) were reported to police in 2016.[9]

Volunteers' Reasons for Not Reporting Incidents

Nature of Incidents

The belief that unreported incidents were not that serious or threatening topped the list of reasons Volunteers gave for not reporting each of the 11 crimes included in this report (figure 10). In the case of rape, a close second was that talking about sexual acts is innately embarassing and difficult.

Nothing Staff Could Realistically Do

Another prevalent reason Volunteers gave for not reporting crimes was that they did not think it was feasible for Peace Corps staff to do anything about the incidents. This was *most* prominent among Volunteers who did not report aggravated physical assaults (i.e., assaults that resulted or could have

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[9] This is an approximate comparison. Volunteer non-reporting rates and NCVS rates cannot be compared head-to-head because of definitional differences, the fact that figure 9 covers an approximate two-year period while NCVS covers only one, and NCVS measures unreported crime *incidents* whereas figure 9 is based on the proportion of *victims* who did not report crimes.

Figure 10. Most important reason for not reporting crimes to Peace Corps staff (SIQ)(percent of non-reporting respondents)

	Wasn't that serious	Nothing staff could realistically do	Concerns about staff response	Possible adverse consequences	Handled it another way	Too embarrassing or upsetting	Felt responsible
Threat (N = 114)	63%	20%	15%	7%	7%	2%	0%
Theft (N = 518)	60%	21%	5%	7%	11%	2%	7%
Vandalism (N = 87)	59%	14%	6%	8%	16%	0%	0%
Non-aggravated physical assault (N = 108)	55%	21%	14%	17%	5%	1%	4%
Non-aggravated sexual assault (N = 472)	54%	26%	12%	8%	12%	2%	1%
Kidnapping (N = 24)	50%	25%	13%	4%	0%	0%	8%
Burglary (N = 237)	47%	15%	11%	16%	23%	1%	3%
Robbery (N = 79)	43%	14%	15%	22%	8%	3%	3%
Aggravated sexual assault (N = 472)	33%	19%	17%	17%	17%	12%	7%
Rape (N = 49)	33%	4%	18%	16%	6%	31%	14%
Aggravated physical assault (N = 22)	27%	27%	9%	27%	9%	5%	5%

Percentages may add to more than 100 percent because some respondents gave more than one response.
See methods in Appendix A.
Crime definitions are in figure 4.
Explanations and examples of reasons for not reporting crimes are in figure 5.

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resulted in serious injury) and non-aggravated sexual assaults (i.e., nonconsensual sexual contact without force or threat of force) and *least* common among Volunteers who did not report rapes.

In the case of aggravated physical assaults, this was sometimes because the incident ended without injury and the Volunteer did see anything beneficial staff could do after the fact. In the case of non-aggravated sexual assaults, many incidents happened so quickly Volunteers could not identify the offender so there was no way the perpetrator could be apprehended. In other cases, Volunteers did not see what the Peace Corps might feasibly do to keep certain types of assaults from occurring (e.g., keeping drunken men at bars or clubs from groping women).

Concerns about Possible Adverse Consequences or Staff Response

Of all the various reasons Volunteers gave for not reporting crimes, two have been of particular interest: (1) Volunteers' concerns about possible adverse consequences (e.g., unwanted site change, getting in trouble for violating policies, separation from the Peace Corps, repurcussions for the Volunteer's community, and so forth), and (2) Volunteers' concerns about how staff might respond (e.g., not taking the report seriously, victim-blaming, violating confidentiality). The interest in these two categories is because the Peace Corps may have some potential to influence these areas of concern.

Across all crimes, the Volunteers who were most likely to mention concerns about possible adverse consequences were victims who did not report aggravated phyiscal assaults (i.e., assaults that resulted in or could have resulted in serious injury)(27 percent of 22 non-reporters) and robberies (i.e., taking property or money by force or threat of force)(22 percent of 79 non-reporters). For example, Volunteers sometimes expressed concerns about getting in trouble if staff had found out they were in off-limit locations or traveling without permission when incidents occurred.

Volunteers who did not report rape (18 percent of 49 non-reporters) and aggravated sexual assaults (17 percent of 69 non-reporters) were the most likely to express concerns about how staff may have responded. These included concerns about such things as possible victim-blaming, not being taken seriously, confidentiality, or judgmental attitudes).

Figure 11. 2017 exit cohort crime details (listed from most to least common crime)

Theft		Non-aggravated Sexual Assault	
Percent of cohort that experienced versus percent that reported incidents	*Most important reason for not reporting (SIQ) (N = 518 Volunteers who experienced, but did not report incidents) [a]*	*Percent of cohort that experienced versus percent that reported incidents*	*Most important reason for not reporting (SIQ) (N = 472 Volunteers who experienced, but did not report incidents) [a]*
29.6% (Experienced (SIQ) (N = 3,216)) **13.4%** (Reported (CIRS) (N = 3,915))	Wasn't that serious 60% Nothing staff could realistically do 21% Handled it another way 11% Concerns about staff response 5% Possible adverse consequences 7% Reporting process 4% Felt responsible 7% Too embarrassing or upsetting 2%	**18.8%** (Experienced (SIQ) (N = 3,216)) **4.6%** (Reported (CIRS) (N = 3,915))	Wasn't that serious 54% Nothing staff could realistically do 26% Handled it another way 12% Concerns about staff response 12% Possible adverse consequences 8% Reporting process 7% Felt responsible 1% Too embarrassing or upsetting 2%
Percent of cohort that experienced incidents, by gender	*Examples*	*Percent of cohort that experienced incidents, by gender*	*Examples*
31.7% of 2,003 females **26.3%** of 1,213 males	*I left my purse unattended and someone stole my wallet.* *Community members kept stealing sticks from my fence to use as firewood.* *I noticed small items missing from my room. I talked to my host brother about it. He denied taking anything, but the thefts stopped after that.* *I was in a crowded market. I caught a man who was about to steal my phone from my pocket.*	**25.9%** of 2,003 females **7.0%** of 1,213 males	*Men in bars and clubs often tried to grab my bottom or kiss me without asking.* *My butt was grabbed on many occasions in the market or on crowded public transportation.* *A sex worker groped and propositioned me.* *A man passing in the street suddenly reached out and grabbed my breast without warning.* *I was in a crowded taxi, and the person next to me kept touching my inner thigh the entire ride.*

[a] Percentages may add to more than 100 because some Volunteers gave more than one reason.
See methods in Appendix A, crime definitions in figure 4, and explanations of reasons for not reporting crimes in figure 5.
Examples throughout this section paraphrase a range of prototypical crimes Volunteers describe. Examples are written in first-person to mimic the "voice" of Volunteers, but are not direct quotes.

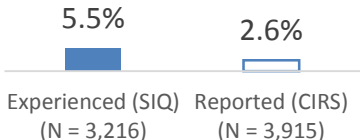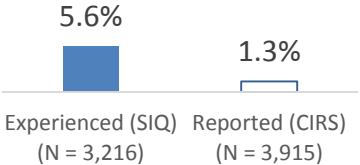*Figure 11. 2017 exit cohort crime details (continued)*

Burglary		Robbery	
Percent of cohort that experienced versus percent that reported incidents	*Most important reason for not reporting (SIQ) (N = 237 Volunteers who experienced, but did not report incidents)[a]*	*Percent of cohort that experienced versus percent that reported incidents*	*Most important reason for not reporting (SIQ) (N = 79 Volunteers who experienced, but did not report incidents)[a]*

Burglary — Most important reason for not reporting

Reason	Percent
Wasn't that serious	47%
Handled it another way	23%
Possible adverse consequences	16%
Nothing staff could realistically do	15%
Concerns about staff response	11%
Felt responsible	3%
Reporting process	2%
Too embarrassing or upsetting	1%

Burglary:
17.0% Experienced (SIQ) (N = 3,216)
7.7% Reported (CIRS) (N = 3,915)

Robbery — Most important reason for not reporting

Reason	Percent
Wasn't that serious	43%
Possible adverse consequences	22%
Concerns about staff response	15%
Nothing staff could realistically do	14%
Handled it another way	8%
Reporting process	8%
Felt responsible	3%
Too embarrassing or upsetting	3%

Robbery:
7.7% Experienced (SIQ) (N = 3,216)
3.2% Reported (CIRS) (N = 3,915)

Percent of cohort that experienced incidents, by gender	*Examples*	*Percent of cohort that experienced incidents, by gender*	*Examples*
18.2% of 2,003 females 15.0% of 1,213 males	*I left the door open when I stepped outside for a minute. Someone snuck in and took some money.* *Neighborhood children broke my windows and slipped through the security bars.* *Someone attempted to break into my outside kitchen.* *Someone broke in while I was away and stole everything I owned.* *My house was broken into. I was sleeping but did not wake up.*	7.8% of 2,003 females 7.6% of 1,213 males	*A taxi driver tried to get me to pay more than the agreed upon fare. I refused. He forcefully tried to take my bag.* *A man on a moto tried to grab my purse as he drove by. I got knocked down.* *A group of teens surrounded me. One grabbed me while others searched my pockets.* *A man with a knife robbed me while walking in the capitol late one night.*

[a] Percentages may add to more than 100 because some Volunteers gave more than one reason.
See methods in Appendix A, crime definitions in figure 4, and explanations of reasons for not reporting crimes in figure 5.
Examples throughout this section paraphrase a range of prototypical crimes Volunteers describe. Examples are written in first-person to mimic the "voice" of Volunteers, but are not direct quotes.

Figure 11. 2017 exit cohort crime details (continued)

Non-aggravated Physical Assault		**Threat**	
Percent of cohort that experienced versus percent that reported incidents	*Most important reason for not reporting (SIQ) (N = 108 Volunteers who experienced, but did not report incidents)[a]*	*Percent of cohort that experienced versus percent that reported incidents*	*Most important reason for not reporting threats (SIQ) (N = 114 Volunteers who experienced, but did not report incidents)[a]*
5.5% 2.6% Experienced (SIQ) Reported (CIRS) (N = 3,216) (N = 3,915)	Wasn't that serious — 55% Nothing staff could realistically do — 21% Possible adverse consequences — 17% Concerns about staff response — 14% Handled it another way — 5% Reporting process — 5% Felt responsible — 4% Too embarrassing or upsetting — 1%	5.6% 1.3% Experienced (SIQ) Reported (CIRS) (N = 3,216) (N = 3,915)	Wasn't that serious — 63% Nothing staff could realistically do — 20% Concerns about staff response — 15% Possible adverse consequences — 7% Reporting process — 7% Handled it another way — 7% Too embarrassing or upsetting — 2% Felt responsible — 0%
Percent of cohort that experienced incidents, by gender	*Examples*	*Percent of cohort that experienced incidents, by gender*	*Examples*
5.2% of 2,003 females 6.0% of 1,213 males	*It is commonplace to be grabbed or pushed in the market.* *Children regularly harassed me to get my attention. Sometimes they threw rocks at me.* *A drunk guy at a bar punched me.* *A beggar asked me for money. I didn't give him any. As I was walking away, he hit me.* *A fight broke out at a community event. I got punched.*	5.6% of 2,003 females 5.6% of 1,213 males	*A drunk man thought I had insulted him. He raised his fist as if to hit me, but that was all he did.* *I was trying to help someone who was being harassed. The offender began harassing me instead and threatened to beat me up. Nothing came of it.* *A woman accused me of flirting with her boyfriend. She threatened me, but nothing ever happened.*

[a] Percentages may add to more than 100 because some Volunteers gave more than one reason.
See methods in Appendix A, crime definitions in figure 4, and explanations of reasons for not reporting crimes in figure 5.
Examples throughout this section paraphrase a range of prototypical crimes Volunteers describe. Examples are written in first-person to mimic the "voice" of Volunteers, but are not direct quotes.

Figure 11. 2017 exit cohort crime details (continued)

Aggravated Sexual Assault		Vandalism	
Percent of cohort that experienced versus percent that reported incidents	Most important reason for not reporting (SIQ) (N = 69 Volunteers who experienced, but did not report incidents) [a]	Percent of cohort that experienced versus percent that reported incidents	Most important reason for not reporting vandalism (SIQ) (N = 87 Volunteers who experienced, but did not report incidents) [a]
4.4% 0.9% Experienced (SIQ) Reported (CIRS) (N = 3,216) (N = 3,915)	Wasn't that serious — 33% Nothing staff could realistically do — 19% Concerns about staff response — 17% Possible adverse consequences — 17% Handled it another way — 17% Too embarrassing or upsetting — 12% Felt responsible — 7% Reporting process — 1%	4.1% 0.3% Experienced (SIQ) Reported (CIRS) (N = 3,216) (N = 3,915)	Wasn't that serious — 59% Handled it another way — 16% Nothing staff could realistically do — 14% Possible adverse consequences — 8% Concerns about staff response — 6% Reporting process — 5% Felt responsible — 0% Too embarrassing or upsetting — 0%
Percent of cohort that experienced incidents, by gender	Examples	Percent of cohort that experienced incidents, by gender	Examples
6.2% 1.4% of 2,003 females of 1,213 males	*Fell asleep on the long bus ride back to my site. I woke up to the person next to me rubbing my thigh.* *A drunk man grabbed me and kissed me before letting me go.* *Was pushed against a vehicle and groped. I was eventually able to break away.* *I caught a ride with a stranger. He kept touching my leg and crotch, and trying to get me to touch him. I was trapped, until I could persuade him to pull over and let me out.*	4.1% 4.0% of 2,003 females of 1,213 males	*My neighbor deliberately let his goats into my garden to destroy it.* *Someone cut my bike tires.* *Someone smeared feces in my outdoor shower.* *Kids drew on the house.* *Someone poisoned my dog.*

[a] Percentages may add to more than 100 because some Volunteers gave more than one reason.
See methods in Appendix A, crime definitions in figure 4, and explanations of reasons for not reporting crimes in figure 5.
Examples throughout this section paraphrase a range of prototypical crimes Volunteers describe. Examples are written in first-person to mimic the "voice" of Volunteers, but are not direct quotes.

Figure 11. 2017 exit cohort crime details (continued)

Rape		Aggravated Physical Assault	
Percent of cohort that experienced versus percent that reported incidents	*Most important reason for not reporting (SIQ) (N = 49 Volunteers who experienced, but did not report incidents) [a]*	*Percent of cohort that experienced versus percent that reported incidents*	*Most important reason for not reporting (SIQ) (N = 22 Volunteers who experienced, but did not report incidents) [a]*
2.8% **1.2%** Experienced (SIQ) Reported (CIRS) (N = 3,216) (N = 3,915)	Wasn't that serious — 33% Too embarrassing or upsetting — 31% Concerns about staff response — 18% Possible adverse consequences — 16% Felt responsible — 14% Handled it another way — 6% Reporting process — 6% Nothing staff realistically do — 4%	**1.7%** **0.5%** Experienced (SIQ) Reported (CIRS) (N = 3,216) (N = 3,915)	Wasn't that serious — 27% Nothing staff could realistically do — 27% Possible adverse consequences — 27% Concerns about staff response — 9% Handled it another way — 9% Too embarrassing or upsetting — 5% Felt responsible — 5% Reporting process — 5%
Percent of cohort that experienced incidents, by gender	*Examples*	*Percent of cohort that experienced incidents, by gender*	*Examples*
3.8% **1.2%** of 2,003 females of 1,213 males	*We were sharing beds during a Volunteer get together. In the middle of the night, the Volunteer I was sharing a bed with tried to initiate sex without my consent.* *Someone followed me outside at a party. No one was around. That's when the incident happened.* *Went out with friends and drank too much. I woke up the next morning in a stranger's hotel room.*	**1.5%** **2.1%** of 2,003 females of 1,213 males	*A drunk guy at a bar tried to pick a fight. He threw a bottle at me.* *A host country national swerved his car toward me as if to run me over. He veered away at the last minute.* *I was walking with a friend when a mentally ill man started yelling at us. We ignored him and kept walking. He picked up a large rock and threw it at me. I had to get an x-ray.*

[a] Percentages may add to more than 100 because some Volunteers gave more than one reason.
See methods in Appendix A, crime definitions in figure 4, and explanations of reasons for not reporting crimes in figure 5.
Examples throughout this section paraphrase a range of prototypical crimes Volunteers describe. Examples are written in first-person to mimic the "voice" of Volunteers, but are not direct quotes.

Figure 11. 2017 exit cohort crime details (continued)

Kidnapping	
Percent of cohort that experienced versus percent that reported incidents	*Most important reason for not reporting (SIQ) (N = 24 Volunteers who experienced, but did not report incidents)* [a]

Wasn't that serious		50%	
Nothing staff could realistically do	25%		
Concerns about staff response	13%		
Felt responsible	8%		
Possible adverse consequences	4%		
Too embarrassing or upsetting	0%		
Handled it another way	0%		

1.1%	0.1%
Experienced (SIQ) (N = 3,216)	Reported (CIRS) (N = 3,915)

Percent of cohort that experienced incidents, by gender	*Examples*
2.3% of 2,003 females **0.9%** of 1,213 males	*When you go somewhere with host country nationals in their car, a short ride can end up lasting hours or even days, even when you ask repeatedly to be taken home.* *I hired a taxi to go back to my site. He stopped to get his car fixed, and then for food and drinks, and then he drove his normal taxi route. What should've been a 2 hour trip turned into 6 hours even though I kept asking him to just take me home.*

[a] Percentages may add to more than 100 because some Volunteers gave more than one reason.
See methods in Appendix A, crime definitions in figure 4, and explanations of reasons for not reporting crimes in figure 5.
Examples throughout this section paraphrase a range of prototypical crimes Volunteers describe. Examples are written in first-person to mimic the "voice" of Volunteers, but are not direct quotes.

TRENDS

This final section of the *End of Service Crime Data Report* examines changes in the proportions of Volunteers in the 2015, 2016, and 2017 exit cohorts who experienced crimes and the proptions who reported incidents to Peace Corps staff. Data are limited to this three-year period because the agency only began collecting data from Volunteers via the Security Incident Questionnaire (SIQ) in March, 2014.

Annual crime rates are much like daily temperatures – they naturally fluctuate within a normal range. In the short-term (i.e., a three-year period), it is difficult to judge what that normal range is for crime rates. This makes it difficult to know if changes simply reflect natural year-to-year rate fluctuations or whether they are part of an evolving trend. With that in mind, data from the Consolidated Incident Reporting System show that the overall proportion of Volunteers who reported crimes throughout their service decreased minimally (-1.1 percent) across the 2015 through 2017 exit cohorts while Security Incident Questionnaire data show that the total proportion of Volunteers who experienced crimes was largely unchanged (figure 12).

Figure 12. Proportion of Volunteers who experienced/reported any crime during service
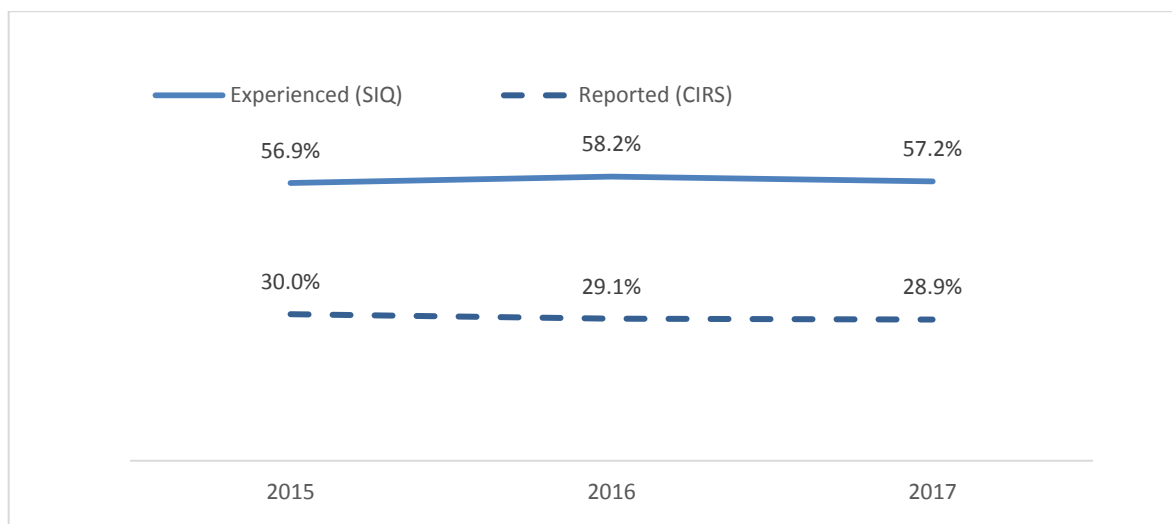
The decrease in reported crimes is due in part to a small but steady decline in reports of robberies (-1.4 percent) and thefts (-1.5 percent) (figure 13). These were offset by slight increases in reports of non-aggravated sexual assaults (+0.9 percent) during the same period and in burglaries (+ 1.8 percent between 2016 and 2017).

Changes in the reporting of robberies, thefts, and non-aggravated sexual assaults mirror changes in the proportions of Volunteers who experienced these crimes. The proportions of Volunteers who experienced robberies and thefts were each -1.8 percent lower in the 2017 exit cohort compared to the 2015 cohort and non-aggravated sexual assault was 0.9 percent higher. Of these, only the decrease in robbery was statistically significant.

Figure 13. Volunteers who experienced crimes compared to Volunteers who reported crimes, by exit cohort (percent of exit cohort)

Listed from most to least common crime.

Theft
31.4% 30.9% 29.6%
14.9% 14.6% 13.4%
2015 2016 2017

Non-Aggravated Sexual Assault
17.9% 19.6% 18.8%
3.7% 4.8% 4.6%
2015 2016 2017

Burglary
16.4% 15.5% 17.0%
6.8% 5.9% 7.7%
2015 2016 2017

Robbery
9.5% 9.6% 7.7%
4.6% 3.9% 3.2%
2015 2016 2017

Non-Aggravated Physical Assault
5.7% 6.3% 5.5%
2.7% 2.3% 2.6%
2015 2016 2017

Threat
6.1% 7.3% 5.6%
1.2% 0.9% 1.3%
2015 2016 2017

Aggravated Sexual Assault
3.5% 5.0% 4.4%
0.8% 0.8% 0.9%
2015 2016 2017

Vandalism
4.7% 5.2% 4.1%
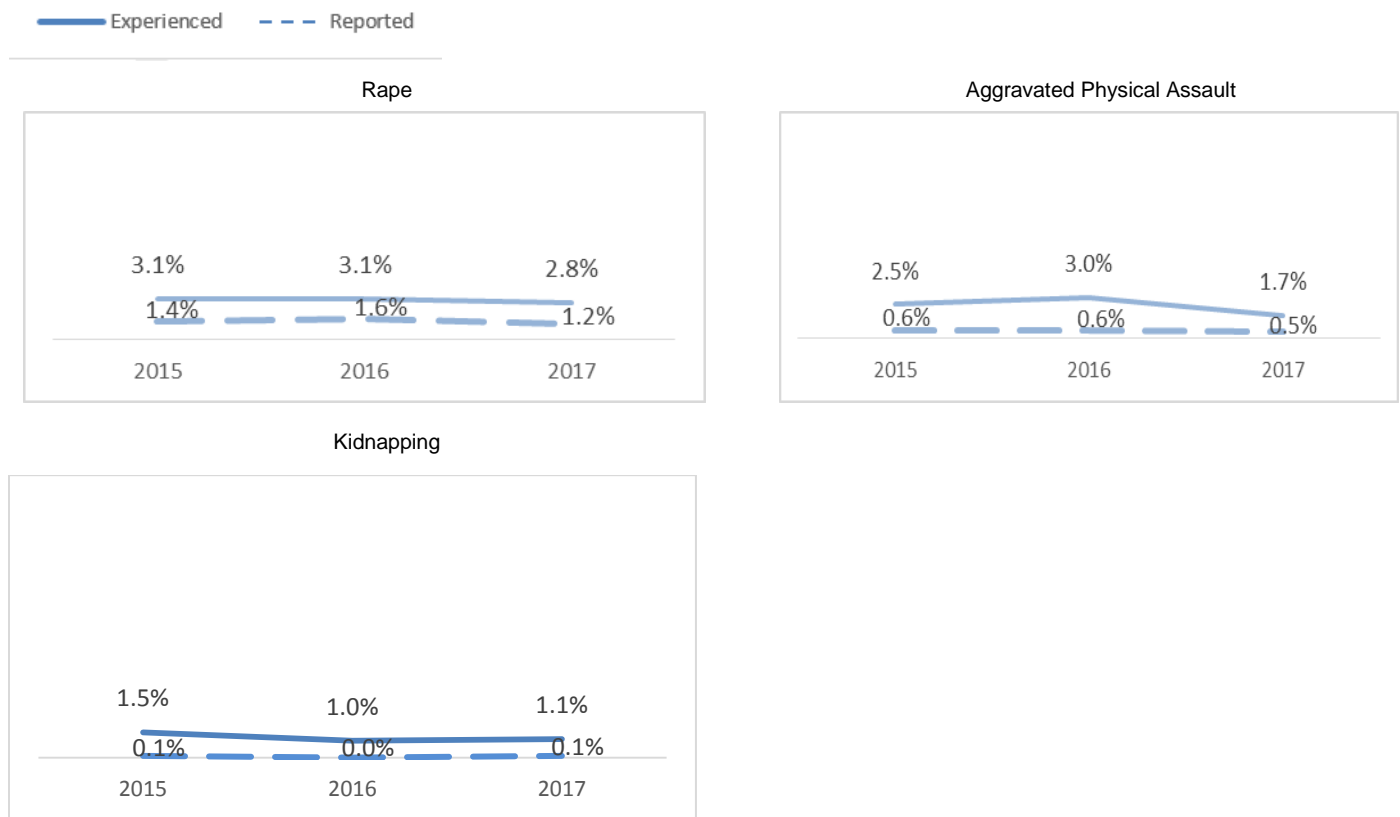0.1% 0.2% 0.3%
2015 2016 2017

Figure 13. Volunteers who experienced crimes compared to Volunteers who reported crimes, by exit cohort (percent of exit cohort)(continued)

Listed from most to least common crime.

Rape

	2015	2016	2017
Experienced	3.1%	3.1%	2.8%
Reported	1.4%	1.6%	1.2%

Aggravated Physical Assault

	2015	2016	2017
Experienced	2.5%	3.0%	1.7%
Reported	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%

Kidnapping

	2015	2016	2017
Experienced	1.5%	1.0%	1.1%
Reported	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%

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