



# Annual Report of Volunteer Safety

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# Introduction

## ***Purpose***

The *Safety of the Volunteer 2008* provides summary statistics for calendar year 2008. In addition it also provides a global trend analysis over the last ten years and an analysis of incident and risk characteristics from 2006 to 2008.

The twofold objective of this publication is to:

- Identify and analyze trends in safety and security conditions among Volunteers; and
- Provide useful observations regarding trends in an effort to maximize the security of Volunteers and staff.

The Safety of the Volunteer report analyzes incidents reported through the calendar year preceding publication. The *Safety of the Volunteer 2009* is targeted for completion in mid-2010.

## ***Profile of Volunteers on Board vs. Volunteer Crime Victims in 2008***

Before examining crime incidents in 2008, it is important to consider the demographic profile of the average Peace Corps Volunteer/trainee and to compare this profile to that of the Volunteers who were victims of crimes to see if there were any differences in the two populations. Volunteers are considered trainees from the period of their staging event (preliminary training completed in the U.S) through swearing in. A comparison of the Volunteer victims to the general Volunteer population of 2008 is provided in Table 1. Data shows that Volunteer victims of reported crimes are not substantially different from the overall Volunteer population, except in the proportion of crime victims that are female.

Table 1. Comparison of Volunteer Victims to General Volunteer Population in 2008

Characteristic	% Volunteers on Board	% Volunteer Crime Victims	Characteristic	% Volunteers on Board	% Volunteer Crime Victims
Female	60	67	Male	40	33
Age			Ethnicity		
<29	86	85	Caucasian	74	84
30-39	8	8	Not specified	11	2
40-49	1	1	Asian	5	5
50-59	2	2	Hispanic	5	4
60-69	3	2	African-American	3	2
70-79	<1	1	Mixed Ethnicity	3	2
80-89	<1	0	Native American	<1	<1

## ***Measuring the Volunteer Population***

The Volunteer population constantly fluctuates throughout the year as trainees arrive and seasoned Volunteers complete their service (normally 27 months). New Peace Corps posts are opening, while other posts may be suspending or closing operations. To more accurately compare crime data across countries, Volunteer/trainee years (VT years) are used in calculating crime incidence rates because this measurement provides a more accurate count of the actual length of time Volunteers are at risk of experiencing an incident. While there were 7,876 Volunteers and trainees serving as of September 30, 2008, there were only 7,407 VT years in calendar year 2008. Appendix B provides more detail regarding the use of VT years as well as the methodology of analyses conducted in this report.

# Introduction

## ***Overseas Post Changes***

In calendar year 2008, Volunteers served in 68 Peace Corps posts in 74 countries. Programs that close or open within a calendar year only provide data for those months in which Volunteers actually served (see Appendix C).

## ***Data Source***

The data used to prepare this report was collected through the Crime Incident Reporting Form (CIRF) and the Consolidated Incident Reporting System (CIRS). The CIRS, an in-house developed application built upon web services, was released in April 2008. CIRS expanded on the data fields collected by the CIRF; therefore, some risk characteristics analyzed in the report only evaluate data from April—December, 2008.

## ***Incident Classification***

Crime incidents are ranked on a severity hierarchy ranging from Vandalism (least severe) to Death (most severe) Appendix A contains an overview of this hierarchy, including definitions used to classify incidents. Information collected in the CIRS falls into one of five categories:

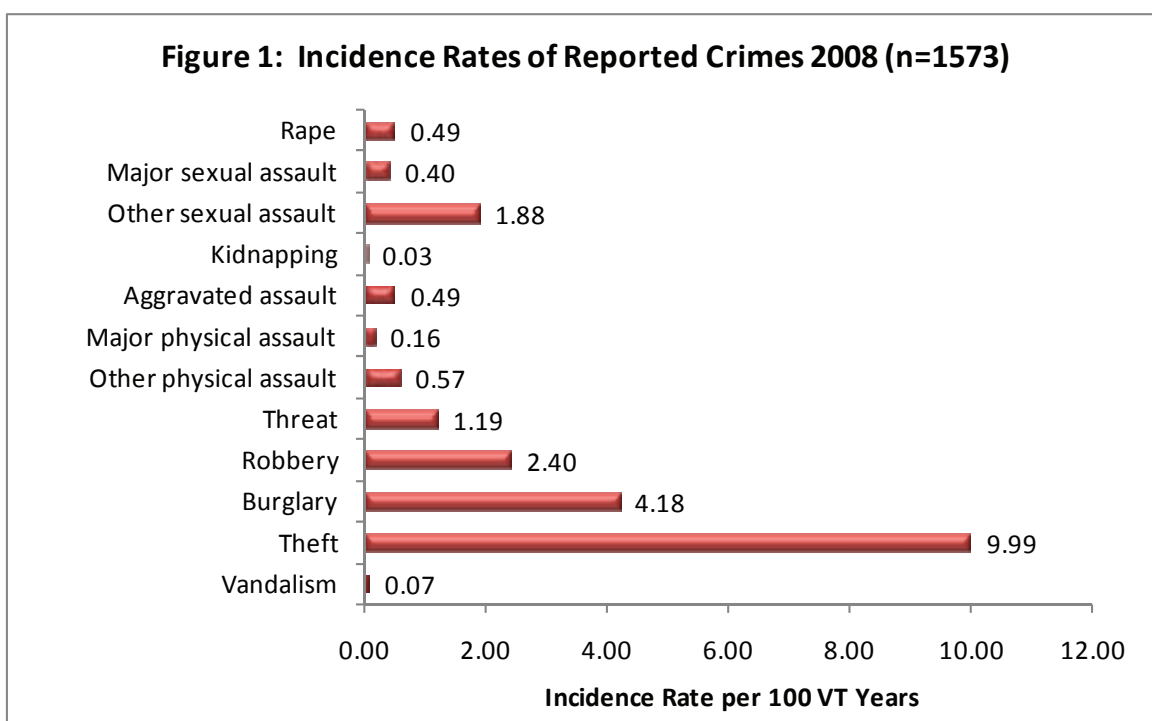
- Sexual Assaults (rape, major sexual assault, and other sexual assault);
- Physical Assaults (kidnapping, aggravated assault, major physical assault, and other physical assault);
- Property Crimes (robbery, burglary, theft, and vandalism);
- Threats (including intimidation and death threat); and
- Death (homicide, suicide, accidental, natural cause, and indeterminate cause).

An overview of the methodology utilized in preparing this report as well as a discussion of incidence rates, and data limitations can be found in Appendix B.

# Executive Summary

The Peace Corps is committed to minimizing risks that Volunteers face in the field so that they are able to complete a successful and productive two-year service. Peace Corps' approach to Volunteer safety is multifaceted and draws heavily upon the assumption that staff, Volunteers and community members will fulfill their roles and obligations as they pertain to Volunteer safety. This approach is a shared responsibility that draws its strength from building community relationships, sharing pertinent information, providing in-depth training, conducting thorough site development, ensuring accurate and timely incident reporting, developing effective incident response procedures, and implementing a comprehensive and tested emergency communications/response system. This report, when combined with all of the aforementioned responsibilities and activities, is an effective tool in assisting Staff and Volunteers in improving their safety and security systems and protocols and can provide effective insights into reducing risks in the field.

Worldwide, Peace Corps Volunteers reported 1,573 crimes during 2008, or an overall crime incidence rate of 20.75 incidents per 100 VT years. Property crimes continue to be the most prevalent incidents reported, with thefts accounting for 48 percent of the overall total, burglaries of Volunteer residences 20 percent and robberies 12 percent. Of the more serious crimes reported, there were 37 aggravated assaults, 22 rapes/attempted rapes, and 2 kidnappings.



## ***Sexual Assaults***

Sexual assaults are categorized into one of three areas; rape/attempted rape, major sexual assault, and other sexual assault. From 2007 to 2008, the number and rates of rapes/attempted rapes and other sexual assaults changed very little; however, there was a dramatic rate increase in the incidence rate of major sexual assaults (58 percent). When viewed on a ten year scale (data collected since 1999), the rate of rapes/attempted rapes remains essentially unchanged, while the rate for other sexual assaults continues a steady but gradual increase, and the rate of major sexual assaults fluctuates considerably. In rapes/attempted rapes, the offender is typically a friend or acquaintance of the Volunteer and the incident occurs in the Volunteer's residence. In many cases, both the Volunteer and the offender have consumed alcohol. Major sexual assaults and other sexual assaults are commonly committed by strangers and

# Executive Summary

tend to occur in public areas. In most major sexual assaults and other sexual assaults, the Volunteer has not consumed alcohol. Most rapes and many major sexual assaults occur between midnight and 6 a.m. on Saturday night/Sunday morning, while other sexual assaults are more common during daylight hours and have no discernible pattern by day of week.

## ***Physical Assaults***

Physical assaults are categorized into one of four areas: kidnapping, aggravated assault, major physical assault, and other physical assault. Data on kidnapping has only been collected since 2006, and no kidnappings were reported in either 2006 or 2007. In 2008, two Volunteers reported assaults categorized as kidnappings. In both cases, Volunteers were detained in homes as a result of personal disputes with host family members or in-laws, and the incidents resolved within 24 hours. Between 2007 and 2008, the incidence rate of aggravated assaults remained essentially the same, but the rate has decreased substantially since 1999. Major physical assaults decreased by 22 percent from 2007 to 2008, and nearly 50 percent since 1999. Other physical assaults rose by 68 percent from 2007 to 2008; however, there has been an overall decrease of 67 percent since 1999. Definition changes in 2006 make it difficult to fully explore the trends in all physical assaults since 1999, because incidents previously classified as physical assaults were reclassified as robberies in 2006.

Male and Caucasian Volunteers tend to be the most frequent victims of aggravated assaults. A larger percentage of victims of major physical assault require medical attention for injuries than do victims of aggravated assault. Volunteer consumption of alcohol does not appear to be a major factor in the occurrence of most physical assaults; however, it tends to be more common in major physical assaults than in the other categories. Other physical assaults are distinctive since the frequency of these events does not decrease noticeably with months in service and it is the only physical assault category in which Volunteers are typically alone when assaulted.

## ***Threats***

The incidence rate for threats increased noticeably in 2008 and between 1999 - 2008. However, it is important to note that an additional threat category (intimidation) was added in 2006; therefore, previously unreported incidents are now collected and analyzed in this category. Female Volunteers experience a higher rate of threat incidents than male Volunteers and, although disproportionate by sex, threat incidents are distributed relatively evenly across racial and ethnic groups by representation in the overall Volunteer population. Threat incidents are also one of the only types of crime that do not occur more frequently at the start of service but instead tend to be reported during the second half of the Volunteer's first year.

## ***Property Crimes***

Between 2007 and 2008, all categories of property crimes except vandalism experienced either slight or noticeable increases in the overall incidence rate. In fact, the incidence rates for most property crimes have steadily increased over the past ten years. Robberies and thefts typically occur outside of the Volunteer's site, while burglary, since it involves trespass into a residence, is limited to the Volunteer's site barring rare exceptions (hotel rooms). Robberies more often involve multiple offenders and Volunteer victims, while burglaries and thefts tend to impact a single Volunteer and typically have no identifiable offender. Property crimes are not strongly linked to alcohol use by either the Volunteer or offender. Robberies are the only property crime that tend to occur most often during evening or nighttime hours (time periods typically associated with darkness); however, it is believed that this is true for burglaries as well. Data analysis by time of day cannot be conducted for burglaries, since Volunteers are often away from home and unable to report an estimated time of incident. Property crimes can result in substantial losses to Volunteers, and from April—December, 2008, Volunteer victims of property crimes lost an estimated \$225,000.

# Sexual Assaults

## Definitions

**Rape:** Penetration of the vagina or anus either orally and/or with the penis, without the consent and/or against the will of the victim. Rape also includes what was formerly referred to as forced oral sex, defined as non-consensual contact between the victim's mouth and the assailant's genitals or anus. Rape includes when a victim is unable to consent because of ingestion of drugs and/or alcohol.

**Attempted rape:** Attempted but unsuccessful penetration of the vagina or anus either orally and/or with the penis, without the consent and/or against the will of the victim, as determined by the victim. Attempted rape also includes attempted forced oral sex, defined as non-consensual contact between the victim's mouth and the assailant's genitals or anus. This also includes when a victim is unable to consent because of ingestion of drugs and/or alcohol.

**Major sexual assault:** Skin-to-skin contact with the breasts, genitals, mouth, buttocks, or anus AND any of the following:

1. the use/display of a weapon by the assailant, OR
2. physical injury to the victim, OR
3. when the victim had to use force to disengage the assailant.

**Other sexual assault:** Other sexual assault is defined as contact of the breasts, genitals, mouth, buttocks, or anus that is not classified as rape, attempted rape, or major sexual assault. Other sexual assault includes unwanted kissing, fondling, and groping.

## At-A-Glance: Sexual Assaults

### • Rape/Attempted Rape

- 2008 incidents: 22
- 2008 rate: 0.49 per 100 VT years
- % change from 2007: +1
- Frequently committed by friend/acquaintance of the Volunteer
- Most occur from midnight-6 a.m. Sat night/Sun morning
- Often both offender and Volunteer have consumed alcohol

### • Major Sexual Assault

- 2008 incidents: 18
- 2008 rate: 0.40
- % change from 2007: +58
- Frequently occur in public areas at the Volunteer's site
- Nearly half occur in public areas
- Largest percentage of Volunteers intending to prosecute

### • Other Sexual Assault

- 2008 incidents: 88
- 2008 rate: 1.88
- % change from 2007: + <1
- Largest percentage committed by strangers to the Volunteer
- Frequently occur during afternoon/evening (noon to midnight)
- Almost one-quarter occur on transportation

# Sexual Assaults

The following section provides a global analyses of sexual assault incidents. Incidence of sexual assault is expressed per 100 *female* VT years because women are at a much greater risk for sexual assaults than men. In 2008, 96 percent of the sexual assaults reported worldwide were against female Volunteers. Use of female-specific incidence rates better characterizes the risk of sexual assault. In comparing year-to-year data for rapes/attempted rapes and major sexual assaults, incidence rates should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of incidents perpetrated annually against Peace Corps Volunteers.

## I. Rape/Attempted Rape

### Rape/Attempted Rape Profile

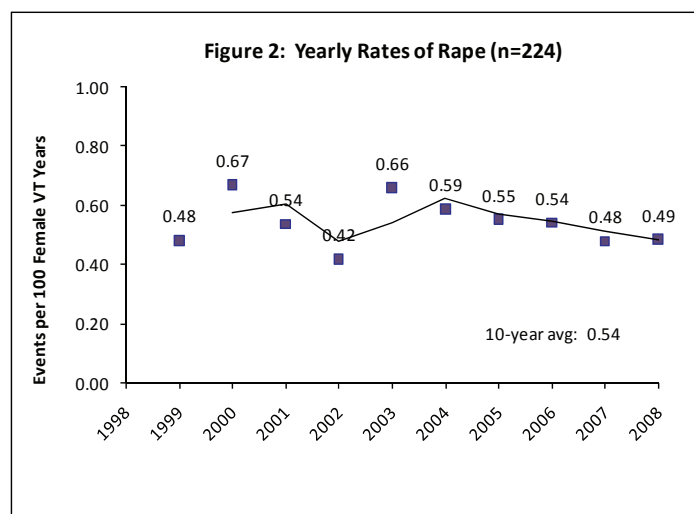
The Volunteer victim in a reported rape/attempted rape tends to be a Caucasian female in her twenties. Rapes tend to occur early in service, often within the first six months. They are usually committed by a single male offender who is a friend or acquaintance of the Volunteer. Rapes occur most frequently between midnight and 6 a.m. on early Sunday morning, usually in a Volunteer's residence. Although most rapes do not involve use of a weapon, if a weapon is involved, it tends to be a knife or other sharp instrument. Often both the Volunteer and the offender have consumed alcohol prior to the assault, and the Volunteer is usually not accompanied by other friends or Volunteers. Although she is typically not physically injured, she often requires medical follow-up and counseling following the assault. In most rapes, the offender is not arrested and the Volunteer does not intend to prosecute if the offender is apprehended.

### Rape/Attempted Rape : Global Analysis

Table 2 provides the volume and rates of rapes/attempted rapes.

2008 Number of Incidents	22
2008 Incidence Rate (per 100 Female VT years)	0.49
2007 Number of Incidents	21
2007 Incidence Rate (per 100 Female VT years)	0.48
Yearly Rate Comparison (2007 to 2008)	1%
10-Year Rate Comparison (1999 to 2008)	<1%

There were 22 rapes/attempted rapes reported by Peace Corps Volunteers worldwide during 2008, resulting in an incidence rate of 0.49 incidents per 100 female VT years. Beginning in 2004, the rate of rapes has seen a general decline, mirroring rates seen in the late 1990s.



## II. Major Sexual Assault

### Major Sexual Assault Profile

The Volunteer victim in a reported major sexual assault tends to be a female in her twenties or thirties. She is typically Caucasian, and the assaults occur early in service, usually in the first six months. They are usually committed by a single male in his twenties who is a stranger to the Volunteer. Major sexual assaults occur most frequently between 6 p.m. and midnight on Sundays, usually in a public area at the Volunteer's site. Although most major sexual assaults do not involve the use of a weapon, if a weapon is involved, it tends to be a knife or other sharp instrument. The Volunteer has usually not consumed alcohol prior to the assault, and the



# Sexual Assaults

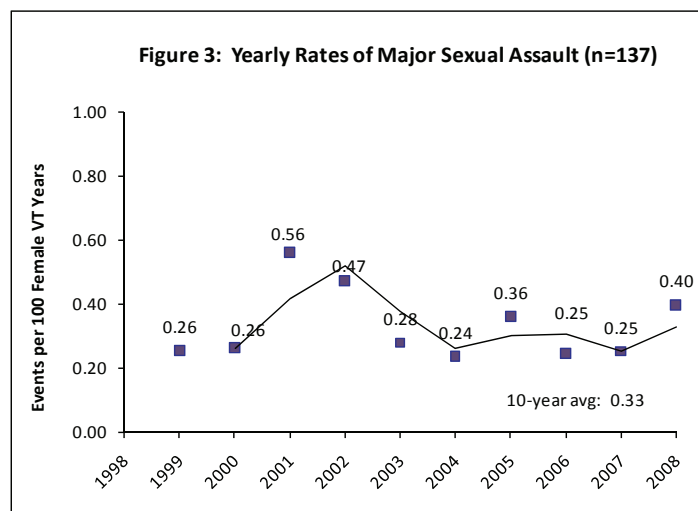
offender's alcohol use is not known. Major sexual assaults involving alcohol use by both the Volunteer and the offender are rare. The Volunteer is often accompanied by others. Although she is typically not physically injured, she often requires medical follow-up and counseling following the assault. In most major sexual assaults, the offender is not arrested, though the Volunteer intends to prosecute if the offender is apprehended.

### Major Sexual Assault: Global Analysis

Table 3 provides the volume and rates of major sexual assaults.

2008 Number of Incidents	18
2008 Incidence Rate (per 100 Female VT years)	0.4
2007 Number of Incidents	11
2007 Incidence Rate (per 100 Female VT years)	0.25
Yearly Rate Comparison (2007 to 2008)	58%
10-Year Rate Comparison (1999 to 2008)	56%

There were 18 major sexual assaults reported by Peace Corps Volunteers worldwide during 2008, resulting in an incidence rate of 0.4 incidents per 100 female VT years. Over the last ten year period, the rate of major sexual assaults has varied widely from a high of 0.56 incidents in 2001 to a low of 0.24 incidents per 100 female VT years in 2004.



### III. Other Sexual Assault

#### Other Sexual Assault Profile

The Volunteer victim in a reported other sexual assault tends to be a female in her twenties. She is typically Caucasian, and the assault occurs early in service, usually in the first 6 months. They are usually committed by a single male offender in his twenties who is a stranger to the Volunteer. Other sexual assaults occur most frequently between 6 p.m. and midnight on either Fridays or Saturdays, usually in a public area at the Volunteer's site. The Volunteer has usually not consumed alcohol prior to the assault, and the offender's alcohol use is not known. The Volunteer is usually alone at the time of the assault. In most other sexual assaults, the offender is not arrested, and the Volunteer does not intend to prosecute if the offender is apprehended.

#### Other Sexual Assault: Global Analysis

Table 4 provides the volume and rates for other sexual assaults.

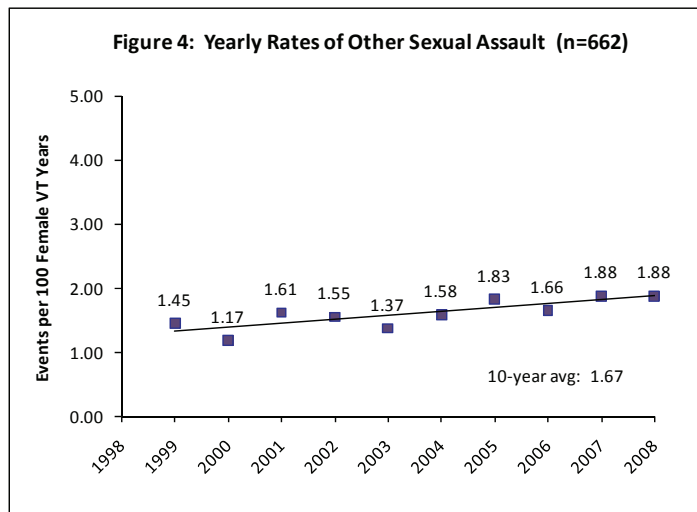
2008 Number of Incidents	88
2008 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	1.88
2007 Number of Incidents	87
2007 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	1.88
Yearly Rate Comparison (2007 to 2008)	<1%
10-Year Rate Comparison (1999 to 2008)	29%

There were 88 other sexual assaults reported by Peace Corps Volunteers worldwide during 2008, resulting in an incidence rate of 1.88 incidents per 100 female VT years. This number and rate are relatively unchanged from 2007.



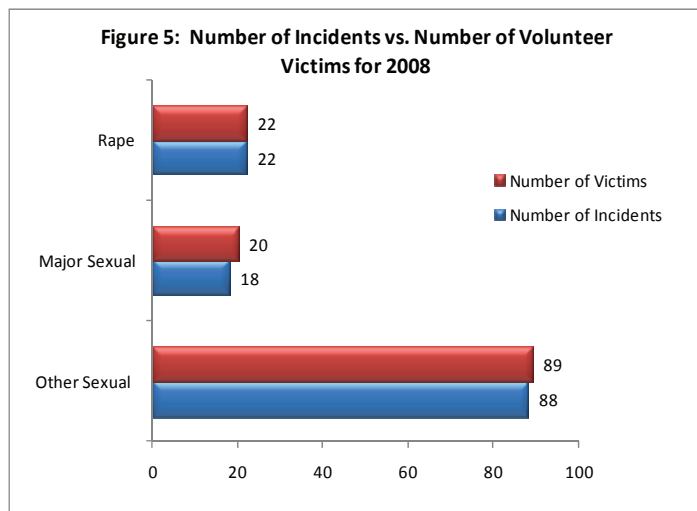
# Sexual Assaults

Over the last ten year period, the incidence rate of other sexual assaults has steadily increased.



## IV. Number of Incidents vs. Number of Victims

The number of reported sexual assaults and the number of victims generally do not differ, meaning there is usually only one Volunteer victim in a sexual assault. In two major sexual assault incidents and one other sexual assault incident, more than one Volunteer was victimized.



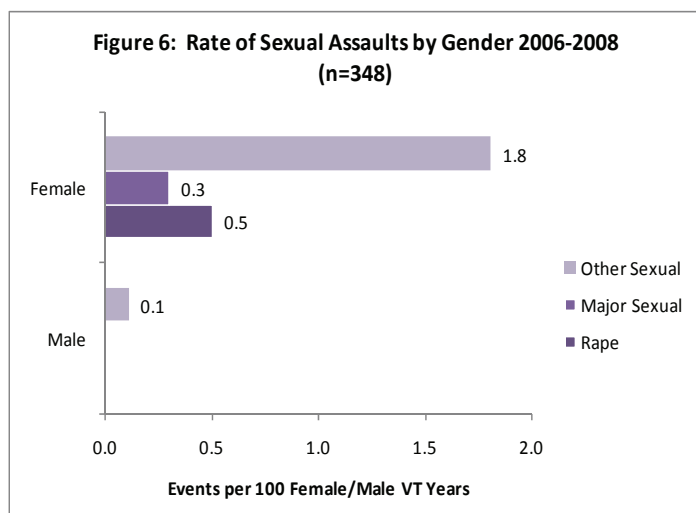
# Sexual Assaults

The following section discusses the prevalent characteristics and risk factors associated with reported sexual assaults. Data on Volunteer victims, offenders, and incident details from sexual assaults reported to Peace Corps between 2006 and 2008 are provided. This information is intended to help staff and Volunteers better understand the factors that affect personal safety.

## Volunteer Characteristics

### Sex, Age and Ethnicity

From 2006 to 2008, victims of sexual assault are almost exclusively female (Figure 6). Male Volunteers constitute a small portion of other sexual assaults (0.1 per 100 male VT years). Females constitute 60 percent of the Volunteer population during this three year period.



The rates of sexual assaults among age groups for rape and major sexual assault are variable due to the small number of reported incidents in many of the age groups (Figure 7). The highest rates occur in the youngest age groups, including Volunteers in their twenties and thirties. Other sexual assaults are reported from all age groups, with the highest rate reported by Volunteers in their forties (2.1 per 100 female VT years). However, the number of incidents associated with Volunteers in their forties is very small, consisting of only 1.2 percent of all reported sexual assaults, consistent with the small size of the Volunteer population in this age bracket.



Data for race/ethnicity are presented for 2008 only, in order to compare the proportion of reported incidents for each racial/ethnic group with the representation of that group in the Volunteer population. Caucasian Volunteers (74 percent) are disproportionately represented among reports of rape/attempted rape (86.4 percent) major sexual assaults (88.9 percent) and other sexual assaults (89.7 percent) (Table 5). Volunteers of other racial/ethnic groups also appear to be disproportionately represented among reports of some types of sexual assaults; however, the small numbers of reported incidents makes drawing conclusions about these proportions difficult.

Table 5: Comparison of Sexual Assaults by Race/Ethnicity to Volunteer Population, 2008 (n=127)

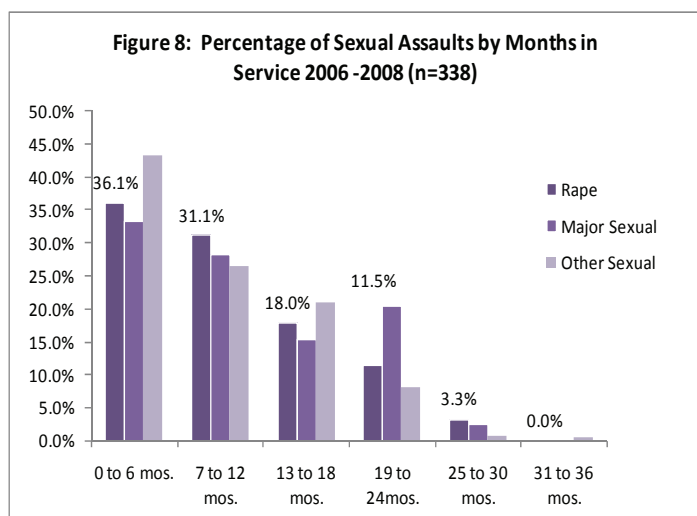
Race/Ethnicity	Rape	Major Sexual Assault	Other Sexual Assault	Volunteer Population
Caucasian (n=113)	86.4%	88.9%	89.7%	74.0%
Not specified (n=2)	4.5%	0.0%	1.1%	11.0%
Hispanic (n=2)	0.0%	5.6%	1.1%	5.0%
Asian (n=6)	4.5%	0.0%	5.7%	5.0%
African American (n=2)	0.0%	5.6%	1.1%	3.0%
Two or more races (n=2)	4.5%	0.0%	1.1%	3.0%
Native American (n=1)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	<1.0%

### Months in Service

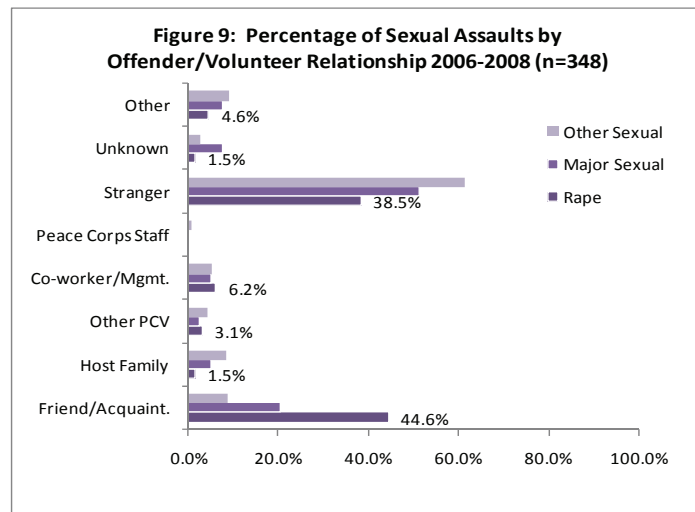
The largest percentage of sexual assaults occur in the Volunteer's first six months of service (Figure 8). Two-

# Sexual Assaults

thirds of all rapes (67.2 percent) are reported in the first year of Volunteer service, with steadily declining percentages thereafter. Like rape, other sexual assaults also decline with months in service, with the highest percentage of reports in the first six months (43.3 percent). Unlike rape and other sexual assaults, major sexual assaults actually increase during the second year before declining once again in the final six months of service.



or acquaintance of the victim (44.6 percent). However, other sexual assaults and major sexual assaults present a different picture, with the majority of assaults committed by strangers. For major sexual assaults, 51.3 percent are committed by strangers, while only 8.6 percent of other sexual assaults are committed by a friend or acquaintance.



## Offender Characteristics

The largest percentage of sexual assaults are committed by a single offender (86.2—94.9 percent) and typically against a single victim. Approximately 97 percent of sexual assaults are committed by male offenders. The small percentage of major sexual assaults (2.6 percent) and rapes (1.6 percent) for which the offender's sex is not known typically represents unwillingness on the part of a Volunteer to provide any information about the offender. The age of the offender is usually estimated by the Volunteer victim and may not be an accurate representation of the offender's true age; however, the largest percentage of offenders in reported sexual assaults are estimated to be between 20 and 29 years old (30.7—47.4 percent).

## Victim/Offender Relationship

Since 2006 (Figure 9), a sizeable portion of all reported rapes/attempted rapes have been committed by a friend

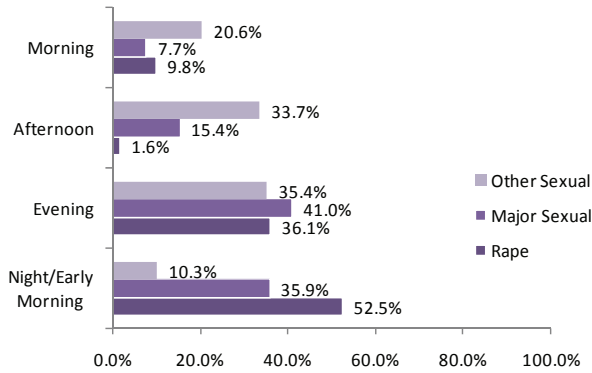
## Incident Characteristics

### Time of Day

Other sexual assaults occur most often during daylight hours (including the morning and afternoon time periods) (Figure 10). More severe assaults tend to occur during periods of darkness, including the evening and night/early morning time periods. More than half of all rapes (52.5 percent) occur between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m.

# Sexual Assaults

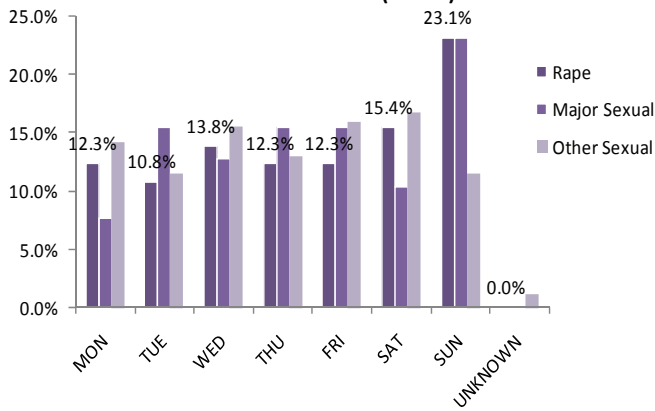
**Figure 10: Percentage of Sexual Assaults by Time of Day 2006-2008 (n=343)**



## Day of Week

There is little discernible pattern in the distribution of sexual assaults by day of week (Figure 11). The large percentage of rapes and major sexual assaults reported on Sunday consists primarily of incidents occurring between midnight and 6 a.m.

**Figure 11: Percentage of Sexual Assaults by Day of Week 2006-2008 (n=348)**

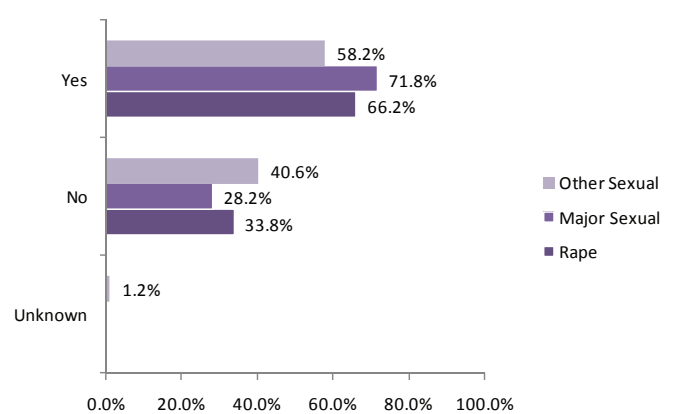


## At Volunteer's Site

The understanding of Volunteer site can vary widely between posts and settings. For Volunteers assigned to rural areas, the entire community may be considered the site, while Volunteers in urban areas may only be

counted "at site" while in the specific building where he/she lives or works. Although understandings may vary, the majority of a Volunteer's time tends to be spent at site, and analysis shows that the majority of sexual assaults are reported as occurring in the Volunteer's site (Figure 12).

**Figure 12: Percentage of Sexual Assaults by Volunteer Site 2006-2008 (n=348)**



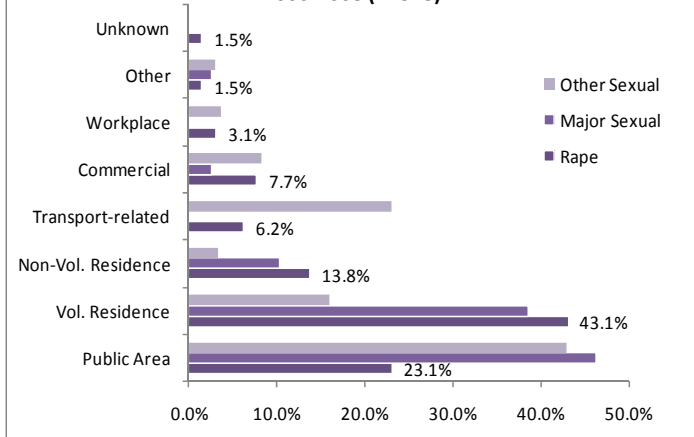
## Location

The majority of rapes occur in the Volunteer's home (43.1 percent), followed by public areas (23.1 percent) (Figure 13). Public areas should not be interpreted to mean populated, since the category includes areas such as deserted beaches and fields. Major sexual assaults and other sexual assaults occur primarily in public areas (46.2 and 43.0 percent, respectively), followed by the Volunteer's residence for major sexual assaults (38.5 percent) and transportation-related locations for other sexual assaults (23.0 percent).

Information on the type of transportation a Volunteer is using at the time of an assault is available only for April–December, 2008. The majority of other sexual assaults occurring in transportation-related settings were evenly distributed between assaults occurring in cars and those on buses (38.0 percent). Slightly less than a quarter (23.1 percent) occurred in "other" settings, which includes subways or trains.

# Sexual Assaults

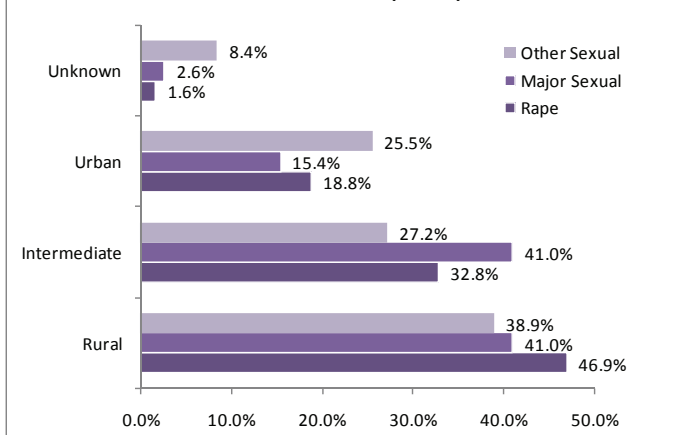
**Figure 13: Percentage of Sexual Assaults by Location 2006-2008 (n=348)**



## Community Size

As has been shown in the previous graphs, a higher percentage of sexual assaults reported by Volunteers occur in the Volunteer's site, often in the Volunteer's home (Figures 12 and 13). Since many sites are in rural areas, a large percentage of sexual assaults are reported from rural areas (Figure 14). For rapes and other sexual assaults, the largest percentage of reported incidents are from rural areas (46.9 and 38.9 percent, respectively). Major sexual assaults are reported equally from rural areas and areas of intermediate population (41.0 percent).

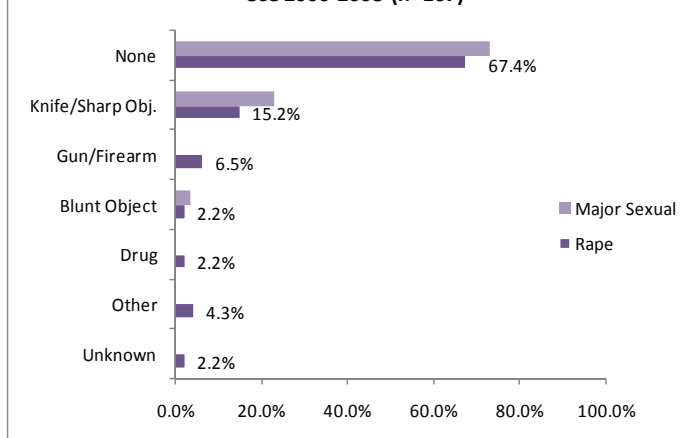
**Figure 14: Percentage of Sexual Assaults by Community Size 2006-2008 (n=342)**



## Weapon Use

The majority of reported sexual assaults do not involve the use of a weapon (Figure 15). Of those major sexual assaults where weapon use is reported, 23 percent reported use of a knife or other sharp object, and 4 percent a blunt object. Two-thirds of rapes/attempted rapes did not involve weapon use (67.4 percent) but in those instances where a weapon is used, knives or sharp objects are the most prevalent type (15.2 percent), followed by guns (6.5 percent).

**Figure 15: Percentage of Sexual Assaults by Weapon Use 2006-2008 (n=167)**

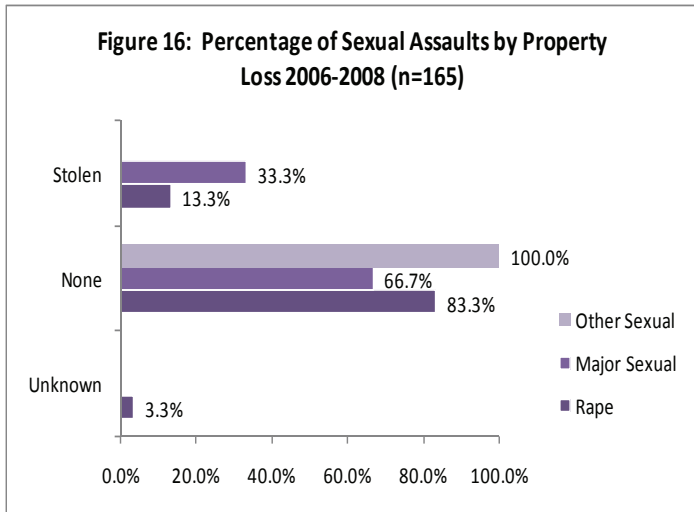


## Property Loss

Although taking property may not be the goal of the offenders in a sexual assault against a Volunteer, there are instances where property is taken during the assault (Figure 16). In one-third of reported major sexual assaults and 13 percent of rapes, property is stolen. Property loss in conjunction with a sexual assault can represent a challenge in the classification process, particularly since under the structure of the severity hierarchy, each incident can only be classified as a single type.

# Sexual Assaults

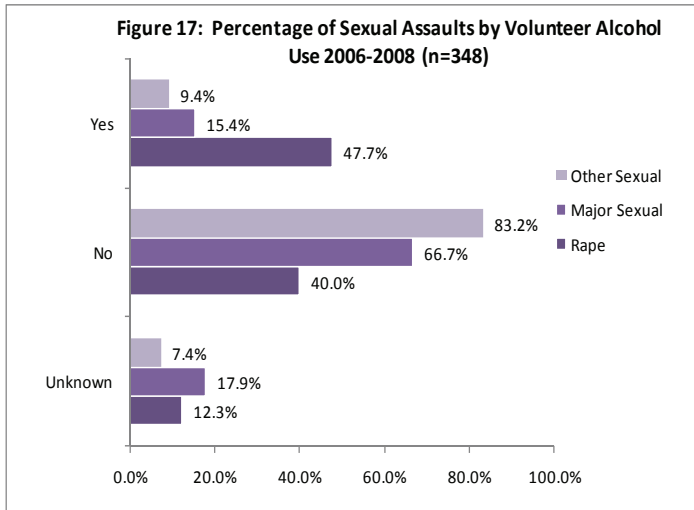
**Figure 16: Percentage of Sexual Assaults by Property Loss 2006-2008 (n=165)**



## Alcohol Use - Volunteer and Offender

Alcohol use by Volunteers victimized in sexual assaults varies widely by the severity of the assault (Figure 17). Alcohol use is rare in other sexual assaults, accounting for only 9.4 percent of reported incidents. It is slightly more prevalent in major sexual assaults, with 15.4 percent of Volunteers reporting prior alcohol use. Alcohol use plays a potentially large role in rapes, with almost half (47.7 percent) of Volunteers reporting alcohol use prior to the incident.

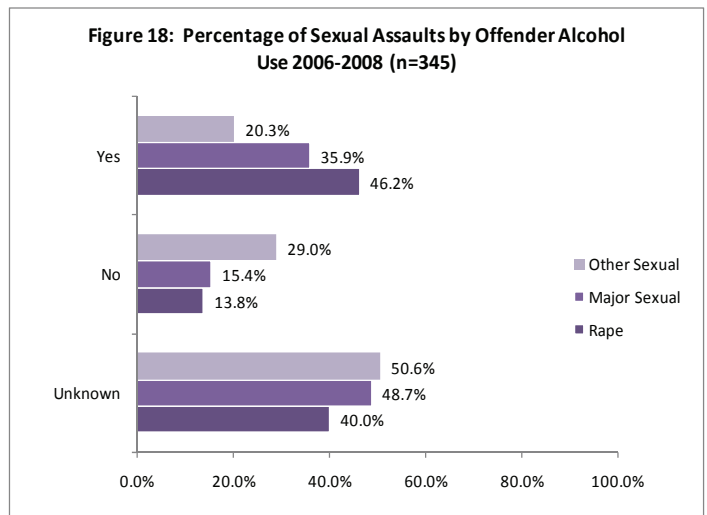
**Figure 17: Percentage of Sexual Assaults by Volunteer Alcohol Use 2006-2008 (n=348)**



Offender alcohol use is reported by the Volunteer and therefore may not be an accurate assessment. In many sexual assaults, the Volunteer does not have any knowl-

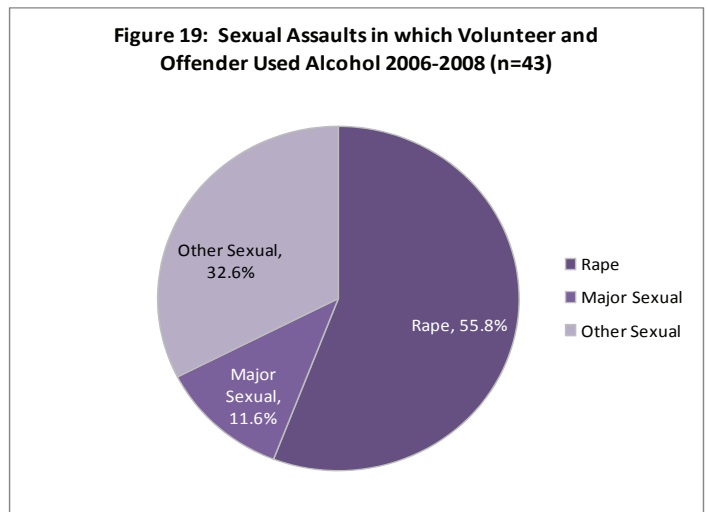
edge of the offender's use of alcohol prior to the assault (Figure 18). In particular, for approximately half of reported other sexual assaults, it is not known whether the offender consumed alcohol prior to committing the assault (50.6 percent). The most complete data on offender alcohol use is available for rapes, where Volunteers report that 46.2 percent of offenders had used alcohol, and 13.8 percent had not, prior to the assault.

**Figure 18: Percentage of Sexual Assaults by Offender Alcohol Use 2006-2008 (n=345)**



When viewed in the aggregate, data indicates that both the Volunteer and offenders used alcohol in 43 sexual assaults reported from 2006 to 2008 (Figure 19). Of these, the largest percentage are rapes (55.8 percent), followed by other sexual assaults (32.6 percent), and major sexual assaults (11.6 percent).

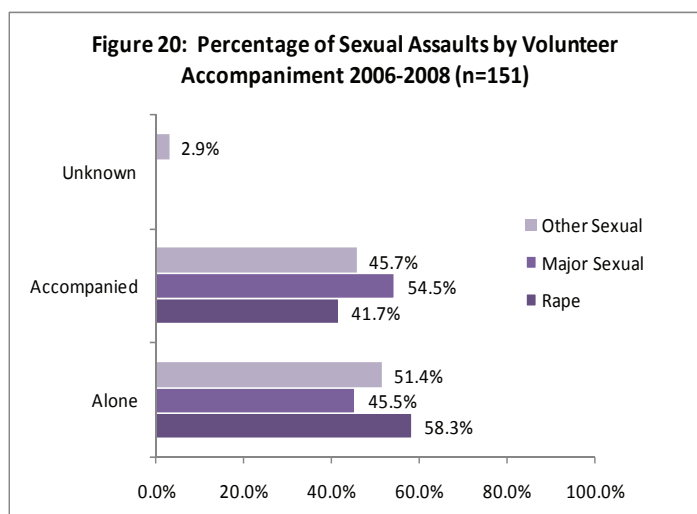
**Figure 19: Sexual Assaults in which Volunteer and Offender Used Alcohol 2006-2008 (n=43)**



# Sexual Assaults

## Persons Accompanying Volunteer

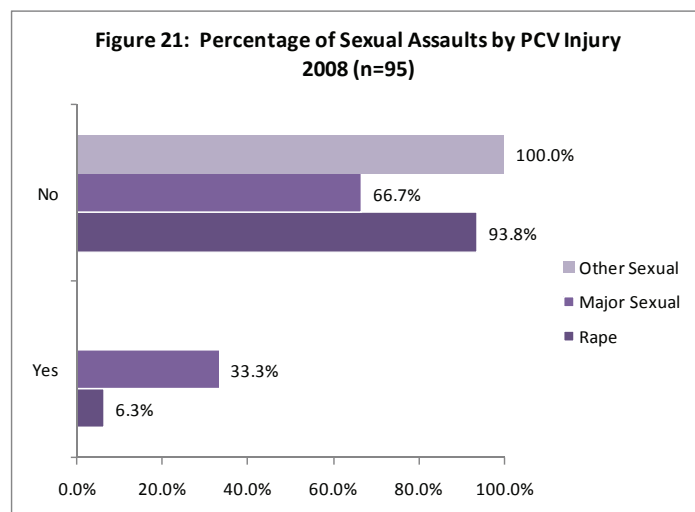
The presence of others with a Volunteer does not appear, at first glance, to affect the likelihood of the Volunteer becoming the victim of a sexual assault (Figure 20). In 41.7 percent of rape incidents, the Volunteer was accompanied by others at the time of the assault. In several incidents, this includes others sleeping nearby. Major sexual assaults are the only incident type where others are present at the time of the assault more often than they are absent. This analysis only includes incidents where the number accompanying is reported. In nearly one-third of rapes and half of major sexual assaults, no information on the number accompanying was provided.



## Resulting Actions

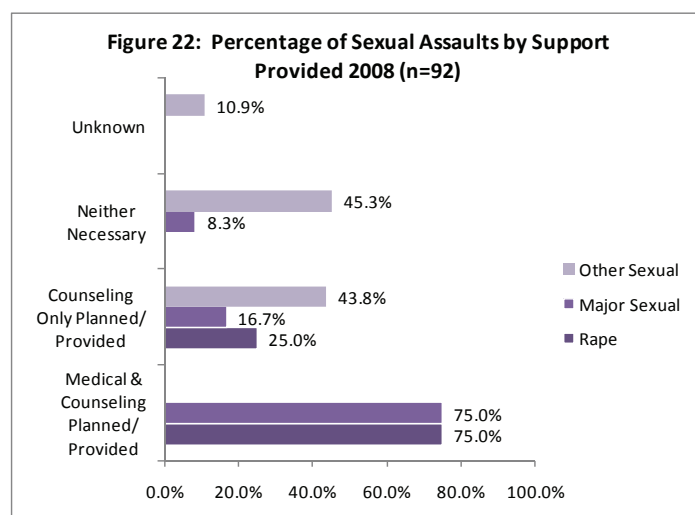
### Injury to Volunteer

Data on Volunteer injury is available only for April–December of 2008. This category includes only injuries requiring medical attention; therefore, injuries treated by the Volunteer are not included. This category also does not include medical follow-up for pregnancy prevention, sexually transmitted disease screening, HIV prophylaxis, or counseling. In the majority of sexual assaults, the Volunteer did not sustain injury requiring medical attention (Figure 21). One-third of major sexual assaults result in Volunteer injury, and 6.3 percent of rapes.



## Support Provided

In addition to treatment for physical injuries, Volunteers may require other forms of support following a sexual assault (Figure 22). Data on support provided is only available for April–December 2008. Other sexual assaults, which rarely result in injury, generally do not require medical or counseling support (45.3 percent) or require only counseling (43.8 percent). In three-quarters of all major sexual assault and rape incidents, both medical and counseling support are planned for or provided to the Volunteer.

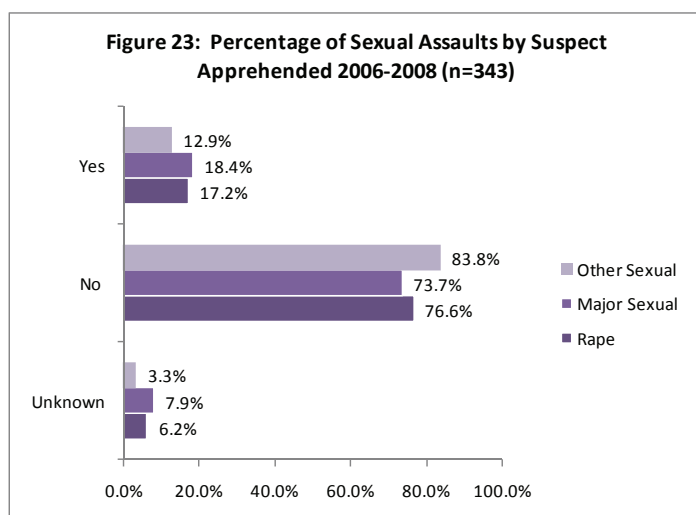




# Sexual Assaults

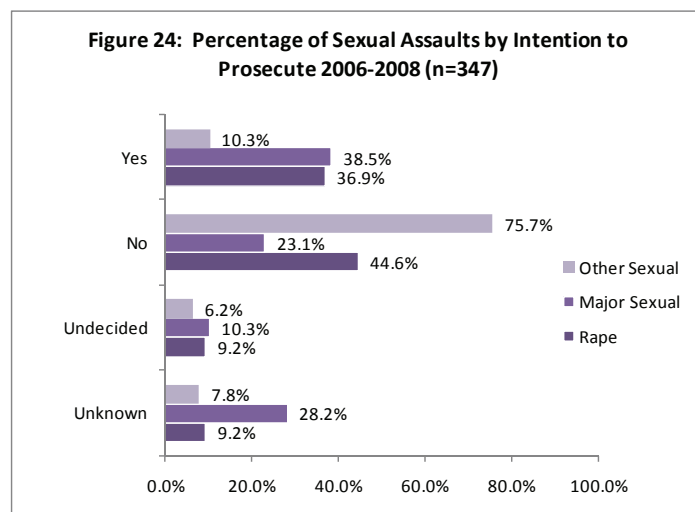
## Suspects Apprehended

Data on crime incidents are collected at a single point in time. Therefore, a low percentage of apprehended suspects may not represent the full picture as investigations evolve over time. Figure 23 shows that the majority of suspects in sexual assaults are not apprehended, ranging from a low of 73.7 percent of suspects in major sexual assaults to a high of 83.8 percent of suspects in other sexual assaults. The reasons for lack of apprehension are varied. In some cases, the Volunteer may not be able to provide any identifying characteristics of a suspect, while in other cases the Volunteer may be unwilling to identify an acquaintance as the offender.



## Intention of Volunteer to Prosecute

As in the case of data on apprehension of suspects, data on the Volunteer's intention to prosecute generally represents the Volunteer's feelings at a single point in time (Figure 24). In most other sexual assault incidents, the Volunteer does not intend to prosecute the offender (75.7 percent). Volunteers involved in major sexual assaults are often less certain, with 38.5 percent either undecided or not revealing whether they intend to prosecute. Almost half of all rape victims do not intend to prosecute (44.6 percent), with slightly more than a third intending to do so (36.9 percent).



## Discussion

### Crime Category Comparison

Victims of major sexual assaults and rapes were the most likely to intend to prosecute of any crime category. Sexual assault victims are also the most likely to report being unaccompanied at the time of the incident. Although most sexual assaults, like physical assaults, do not involve alcohol use, comparing the two categories leads to an interesting observation. In sexual assaults, the most severe category, rape, has the highest percentage of both Volunteer and offender reporting alcohol use. In physical assaults, it is the least severe other physical assault category with the highest percentage of incidents in which both used alcohol.

### National Comparisons

Female Volunteers bear a disproportionate burden of reported sexual assaults. In no other crime category are female Volunteers so exclusively targeted. Females are also more frequently victimized among the general US population. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), in 2008, the female victimization rate for rape/sexual assault is 1.3 assaults per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, while the male rate is 0.3 assaults per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

Also unique among sexual assaults is the degree to which the offender is known by the Volunteer. Almost

# Sexual Assaults

half of all rapes are committed by a friend or acquaintance of the Volunteer. BJS crime characteristics for 2005 indicate that approximately 70 percent of rape victims in the US stated that the offender was an intimate, other relative, friend, or acquaintance.

Another similarity to U.S. sexual assault trends is the time of occurrence. In 2008, BJS reports that 56 percent of rape/sexual assaults occur from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Weapon use is also similar among reported sexual assaults of Volunteers (6.0 percent) from 2006-2008 to the US population (7 percent) in 2005.

The BJS reports that alcohol plays a significant role in intimate partner violence, factoring into two-thirds of reported incidents. Although the BJS data is not specific to sexual assaults, Peace Corps data shows a correlation between offender alcohol use and rape, the crime against Volunteers most often committed by an intimate.

## Areas for Future Research

- Why does the incidence rate of major sexual assaults increase at the end of the second year of service?
- What is the full relationship between alcohol use and sexual assaults, particularly rape?

# Physical Assaults

## Definitions

**Kidnapping:** The unlawful seizure, transportation, and/or detention of a victim against her/his will for ransom or reward. Also referred to as abduction. This category includes hostage-taking.

**Aggravated assault:** An attack or threat of attack:

- 1.with a weapon, for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury, whether or not an injury occurred OR
- 2.without a weapon when serious injury results. Serious injury includes broken bones, lost teeth, internal injuries, severe laceration, loss of consciousness, or any injury requiring two or more days of hospitalization.

This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. When physical assault and robbery occur together, the offense falls under the category of robbery. Attempted murder is classified as an aggravated assault.

**Major physical assault:** An attack without a weapon resulting in:

- 1.injury requiring less than two days of hospitalization, OR
- 2.diagnostic x-rays to rule out broken bones (and no fracture is found), OR
- 3.surgical intervention (including suturing), OR
- 4.the Volunteer used force to disengage the assailant.

**Other physical assault:** An attack or threat of attack that is not classified as aggravated assault or major physical assault. This includes an attack without a weapon resulting in no, or only minor, injury (e.g. bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches, or swelling).

## At-A-Glance: Physical Assaults

### • Kidnapping

- 2008 incidents: 2
- 2008 rate: 0.03 per 100 VT years
- Result from personal disputes with no ransom demanded
- Resolve within 24 hours

### • Aggravated Assault

- 2008 incidents: 37
- 2008 rate: 0.49 per 100 VT years
- % change from 2007: + <1
- Male Volunteers have higher rate than female Volunteers
- Caucasian Volunteers disproportionately victimized
- Do not tend to result in injuries requiring medical attention

### • Major Physical Assault

- 2008 incidents: 12
- 2008 rate: 0.16 per 100 VT years
- % change from 2007: -22
- Most occur from midnight-6 a.m. Sat night/Sun morning
- Largest percentage of Volunteers using alcohol prior to assault
- Do tend to result in injuries requiring medical attention

### • Other Physical Assault

- 2008 incidents: 43
- 2008 rate: 0.57 per 100 VT years
- % change from 2007: +68
- Percentage does not decrease noticeably until 24 mos. of service
- Volunteer alcohol use typically not a factor
- More than one-third of Volunteer victims alone when assaulted

# Physical Assaults

The following section provides global analyses of all physical assault incidents. Incidence of physical assaults is expressed per 100 VT years.

## I. Kidnapping

### Kidnapping Profile

Volunteer victims of reported kidnappings are rare; however, the victims of those reported in 2008 were Caucasian females in their twenties. Kidnappings occur late in service, into the final six months. They can be committed by a single or multiple offenders, male or female, usually known to the Volunteer. The kidnapping typically does not involve a weapon, and neither the Volunteer nor the offender have consumed alcohol. Although she is typically not physically injured, the Volunteer often requires counseling following the assault. In half of all kidnappings, the offender is not arrested and the Volunteer does not intend to prosecute if the offender is apprehended. Kidnappings often stem from a personal dispute and resolve within 24 hours.

### Kidnapping : Global Analysis

Table 6 provides the volume and rates of kidnappings.

Table 6: Summary—Kidnapping	
2008 Number of Incidents	2
2008 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	0.03
2007 Number of Incidents	0
2007 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	0
Yearly Rate Comparison (2007 to 2008)	N/A
10-Year Rate Comparison (1999 to 2008)	N/A

Kidnapping was added to the list of reportable incidents in 2006, but there were no kidnapping incidents reported in 2006 or 2007. Due to this lack of comparable data, no trend analysis is conducted for kidnapping.

## II. Aggravated Assault

### Aggravated Assault Profile

The Volunteer victim in a reported aggravated assault tends to be a Caucasian male in his twenties. Aggra-

vated assaults occur early in service, often within the first six months. They are usually committed by a single male offender in his twenties who is a stranger to the Volunteer. Aggravated assaults occur most frequently between 6 p.m. and midnight on Saturdays, usually in a public area at the Volunteer's site. The most commonly used weapon in an aggravated assault is a blunt object. The Volunteer has usually not consumed alcohol prior to the assault, and the offender's alcohol use is not known. The Volunteer is usually accompanied by others. Although he is typically not physically injured, the Volunteer often receives medical attention following the assault. In most aggravated assaults, the offender is not arrested and the Volunteer does not intend to prosecute if the offender is apprehended.

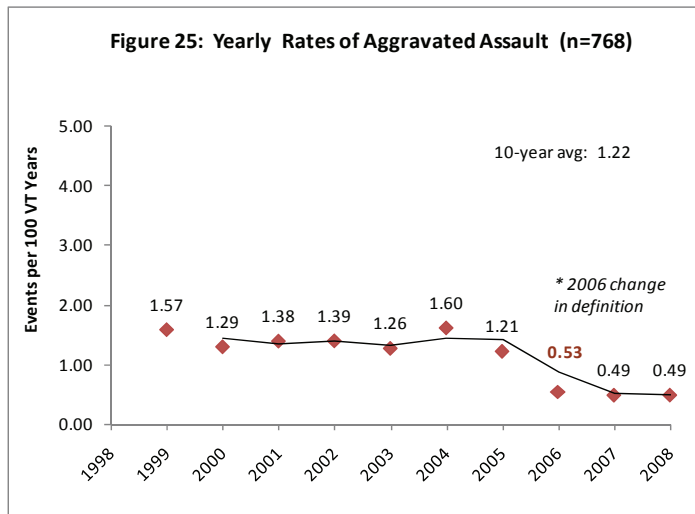
### Aggravated Assault: Global Analysis

Table 7 provides the volume and rates of aggravated assaults.

2008 Number of Incidents	37
2008 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	0.49
2007 Number of Incidents	36
2007 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	0.49
Yearly Rate Comparison (2007 to 2008)	< 1%
3-Year Rate Comparison (2006 to 2008)	-8%

There were 37 aggravated assaults reported by Peace Corps Volunteers worldwide during 2008, resulting in an incidence rate of 0.49 incidents per 100 VT years. The aggravated assault number and rate remained essentially unchanged from 2007 and has decreased by eight percent since 2006.

# Physical Assaults



Prior to 2006, robbery was defined as an incident devoid of violence or threat of violence in which property or cash is taken directly from a Volunteer. If the robbery was accompanied by an attack, the robbery would have been reported as a physical assault. Some incidents that would have been classified as aggravated assaults prior to 2006 are now classified as robberies. The decline in aggravated assaults reflects the definition change. Since 2006, the incidence rate for aggravated assaults has decreased slightly.

### III. Major Physical Assault

#### Major Physical Assault Profile

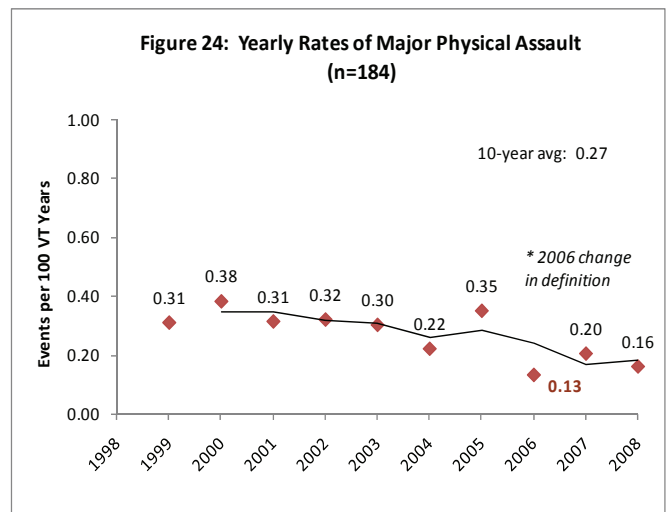
The Volunteer victim in a reported major physical assault tends to be in his/her twenties. He/she is typically Caucasian or Asian. Major physical assaults occur early in service, often within the first six months. They are usually committed by a single male offender in his twenties who is a stranger to the Volunteer. Major physical assaults occur most frequently between midnight and 6 a.m. on early Sunday morning, usually in a public area at the Volunteer's site. The Volunteer has usually not consumed alcohol prior to the assault, and the offender's alcohol use is not known. The Volunteer is usually accompanied by others. He/she is frequently physically injured and seeks medical attention following the assault. In most major physical assaults, the offender is not arrested and the Volunteer does not intend to prosecute if the offender is apprehended.

#### Major Physical Assault: Global Analysis

Table 8 provides the volume and rates of major physical assaults.

2008 Number of Incidents	12
2008 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	0.16
2007 Number of Incidents	15
2007 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	0.2
Yearly Rate Comparison (2007 to 2008)	-22%
3-Year Rate Comparison (2006 to 2008)	22%

There were 12 major physical assaults reported by Peace Corps Volunteers worldwide during 2008, resulting in an incidence rate of 0.16 incidents per 100 VT years. The major physical assault rate decreased 22 percent compared to 2007, though it increased by 22 percent between 2006 and 2008.



Prior to 2006, robbery was defined as an incident devoid of violence or threat of violence in which property or cash is taken directly from a Volunteer. If the robbery was accompanied by an attack, the robbery would have been reported as a physical assault. Some incidents that would have been classified as major physical assaults prior to 2006 are now classified as robberies. The decline in major physical assaults reflects the definition change. Since 2006, the incidence rate for major physical assaults shows no clear directional trend.

# Physical Assaults

## IV. Other Physical Assault

### Other Physical Assault Profile

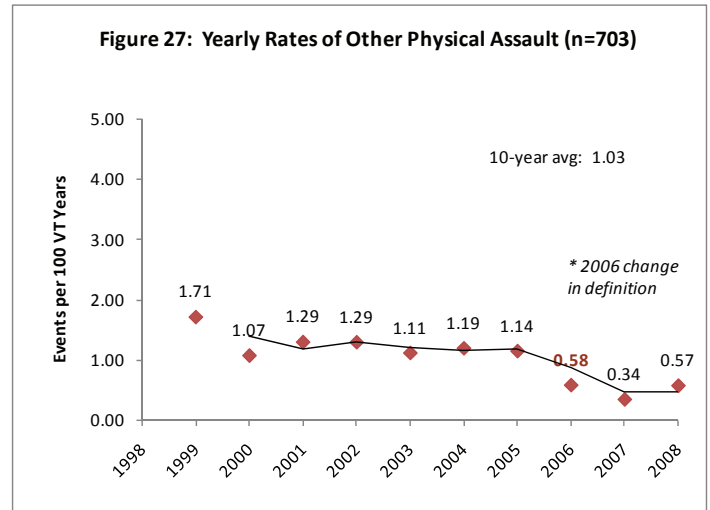
The Volunteer victim in an other physical assault tends to be a Caucasian Volunteer in his/her twenties or thirties. Other physical assaults occur early in service, often within the first year. They are usually committed by a single male offender in his twenties who is a stranger to the Volunteer. Other physical assaults occur most frequently during the daylight hours between noon and 6 p.m. on Saturdays, usually in a public area at the Volunteer's site. The Volunteer has typically not consumed alcohol prior to the assault, though the offender often has. More than half of all physical assaults involving use of alcohol by both the Volunteer and the offender are other physical assaults. The Volunteer is typically accompanied by others at the time of the assault. The Volunteer is generally not physically injured, though he/she often seeks out counseling. In most other physical assaults, the offender is not arrested and the Volunteer does not intend to prosecute if the offender is apprehended.

### Other Physical Assault: Global Analysis

Table 9 provides the volume and rates of other physical assault.

Table 9: Summary—Other Physical Assault	
2008 Number of Incidents	43
2008 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	0.57
2007 Number of Incidents	25
2007 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	0.34
Yearly Rate Comparison (2007 to 2008)	68%
3-Year Rate Comparison (2006 to 2008)	-1%

There were 43 other physical assault incidents reported by Peace Corps Volunteers worldwide during 2008, resulting in a rate of 0.57 incidents per 100 VT years. The other physical assault rate experienced a large increase between 2007 and 2008 (68 percent). Since 2006, the other physical assault rate has experienced a decrease of approximately one percent.

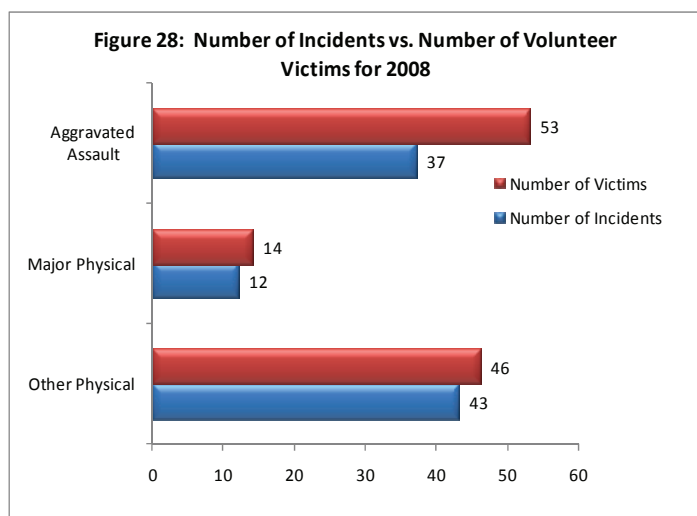


Prior to 2006, robbery was defined as an incident devoid of violence or threat of violence in which property or cash is taken directly from a Volunteer. If the robbery was accompanied by an attack, the robbery would have been reported as a physical assault. Some incidents that would have been classified as other physical assaults prior to 2006 are now classified as robberies. The decline in other physical assaults in 2006 reflects the definition change. Since 2006, the incidence rate for other physical assaults shows no clear directional trend.

# Physical Assaults

## V. Number of Incidents versus Number of Victims

The number of reported physical assaults and the number of victims do not differ substantially. The largest difference is seen in aggravated assaults, where incidents involved between one and five victims.





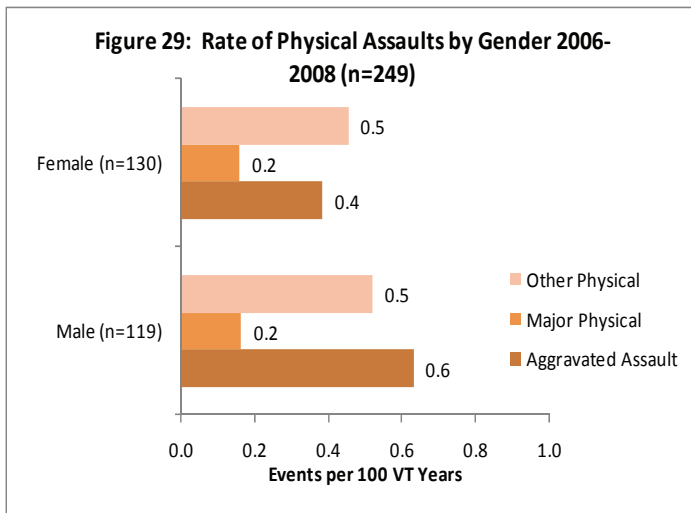
# Physical Assaults

The following section discusses Volunteer and offender characteristics and risk factors associated with reported physical assaults. Data on Volunteer victims, offenders, and incident details are from physical assaults reported to Peace Corps between 2006 and 2008. This information should be used in helping Peace Corps Staff and Volunteers better understand the factors that affect the Volunteer's personal safety.

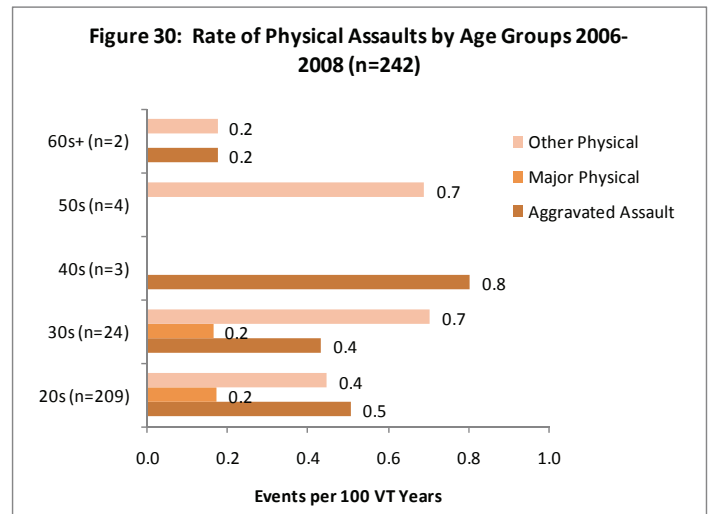
## Volunteer Characteristics

### Sex, Age and Ethnicity

The incidence rates of physical assaults are similar for males and females. Males and females have identical rates of other physical assaults (0.5 assaults per 100 VT years) and major physical assaults (0.2 assaults per 100 VT years), though males have a slightly higher aggravated assault rate (0.6 assaults per 100 VT years) than females (0.4 assaults per 100 VT years) (Figure 29).



The rates of physical assaults among age groups are variable due to the small number of reported incidents in many of the age groups (Figure 30). The highest rates of other physical assault occur among Volunteers in their thirties and fifties (0.7 incidents per 100 VT years), though this is based on a very small number of reported incidents. The highest rates of aggravated assaults occur among Volunteers in their forties (0.8 incidents per 100 VT years), followed by Volunteers in their twenties (0.5 incidents per 100 VT years).



Data for race/ethnicity are presented for 2008 only, in order to compare the proportion of reported incidents for each racial/ethnic group with the representation of that group in the Volunteer population. Caucasian Volunteers (74 percent) are disproportionately victimized in reported physical assaults of all types, but particularly aggravated assaults (94.6 percent) (Table 10). Asian Volunteers (5.0 percent) are also disproportionately affected by major physical assaults (16.7 percent).

Table 10: Comparison of Physical Assaults by Race/Ethnicity to Volunteer Population 2008 (n=89)

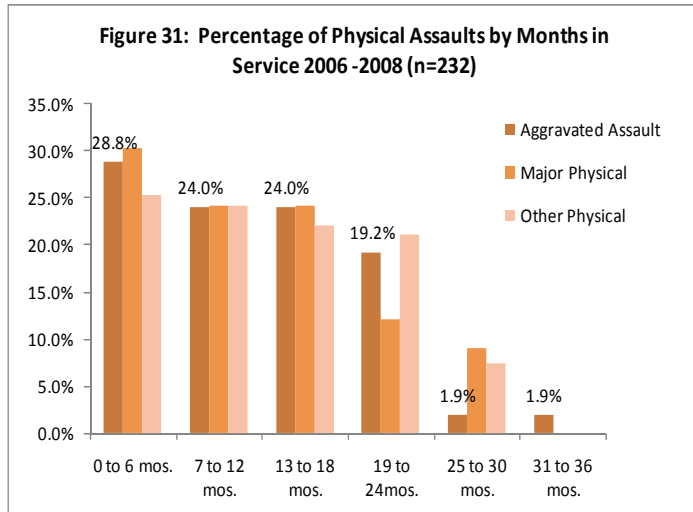
Race/Ethnicity	Aggravated Assault	Major Physical	Other Physical	Volunteer Population
Caucasian (n=75)	94.6%	83.3%	75.0%	74%
Not specified (n=1)	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	11%
Hispanic (n=3)	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	5%
Asian (n=5)	0.0%	16.7%	7.5%	5%
African-American (n=3)	2.7%	0.0%	5.0%	3%
Two or more races (n=1)	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	3%
Native American (n=1)	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	<1%

### Months In Service

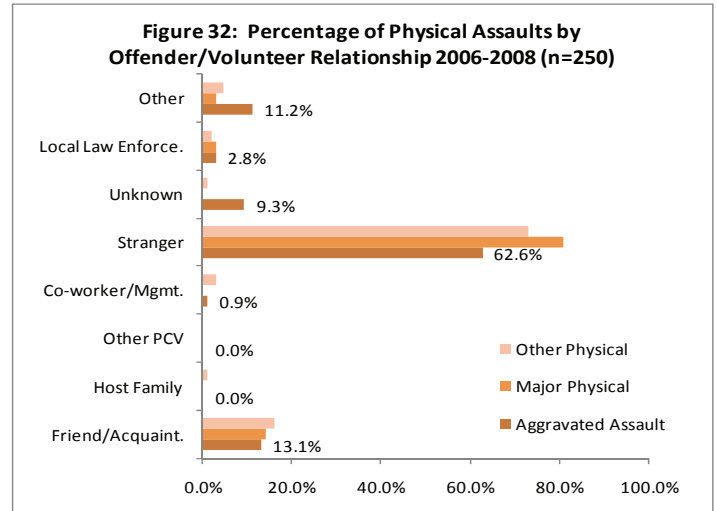
The largest percentage of all types of physical assaults occurs during the first six months of Volunteer service (Figure 31). From that point, the percentage of assaults declines through the end of service, though not always steadily. The majority of the decrease in the percentage

# Physical Assaults

of aggravated assaults and other physical assaults occurs following close of service for most Volunteers in the 25-to-30-month period.



community that the Volunteer does not know well enough to consider friends.



## Offender Characteristics

The majority of all physical assaults are committed by a single offender (72.0–79.4 percent) against a single victim; however, a substantial proportion of aggravated assaults (28.0 percent) and major physical assaults (27.8 percent) are committed by multiple offenders. In the majority of all physical assaults (92.5 to 97.2 percent), the offender is male.

The age of the offender is usually estimated by the Volunteer victim and may not be an accurate representation of the offender’s true age. The largest percentage of offenders in reported physical assaults are estimated to be between 20 and 29 years old (31.1–55.9 percent). A substantial fraction of offenders in aggravated assaults are reported to be less than 20 years old (22.6 percent) or of unknown age (23.6 percent).

## Victim/Offender Relationship

The majority of all physical assaults are committed by strangers (Figure 32). In 37.3 percent of aggravated assaults, the offender is identified as a friend/acquaintance, local law enforcement personnel, non-Peace Corps co-worker/management, or other, which includes taxi drivers, students, and individuals in the

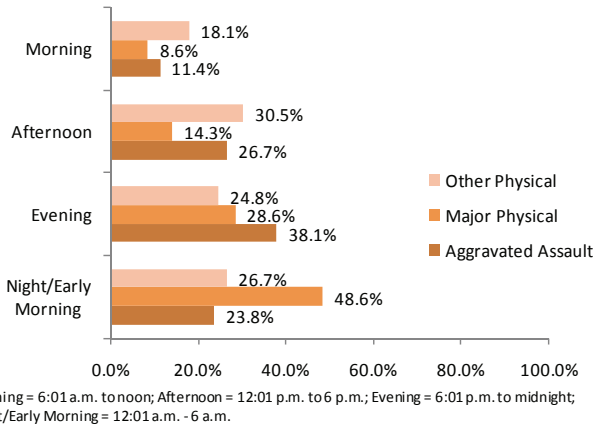
## Incident Characteristics

### Time of Day

Considerable variance exists in the time of day that Volunteers are at higher risk for a physical assault, though the morning has consistently low percentages (Figure 33). Other physical assaults are distributed fairly evenly throughout the day, with the lowest percentage occurring in the morning (18.1 percent) and the highest in the afternoon period (30.5 percent). Major physical assaults are infrequent in the morning and afternoon (22.9 percent combined) and most common in the night/early morning period (48.6 percent). Finally, aggravated assaults are more common in the evening (38.1 percent) and less frequent in the morning (11.4 percent).

# Physical Assaults

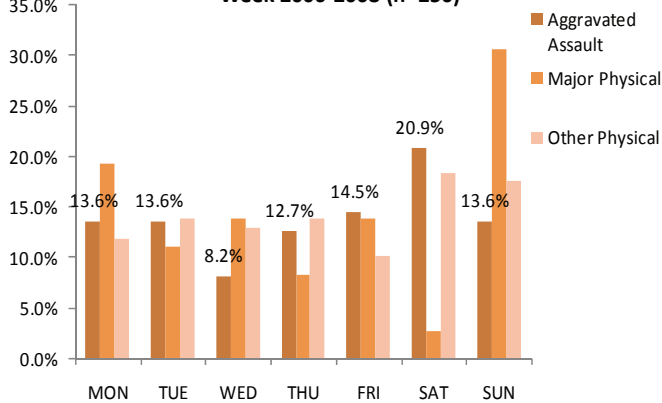
**Figure 33: Percentage of Physical Assaults by Time of Day 2006-2008 (n=245)**



## Day of Week

As in the case of time of day, it is difficult to pinpoint a day of week when Volunteers are more frequent victims of physical assaults (Figure 34). There is a slight upward trend on the weekend (Saturday and Sunday). A large percentage of major physical assaults are reported on Sunday (30.6 percent) and Monday (19.4 percent). Aggravated assaults are most common on Saturday (20.9 percent) and other physical assaults occur most often on Saturday (18.5 percent).

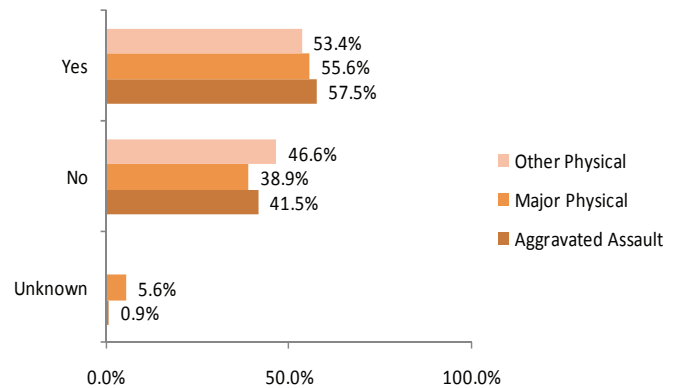
**Figure 34: Percentage of Physical Assaults by Day of Week 2006-2008 (n=250)**



## Occurred at Volunteer Site

The understanding of Volunteer site can vary widely between posts and settings. For Volunteers assigned to rural areas, the entire community may be considered the site, while Volunteers in urban areas may only be counted “at site” while in the specific building where he/she lives or works. Although understandings may vary, the majority of a Volunteer’s time tends to be spent at site, and analysis shows that the majority of physical assaults are reported as occurring in the Volunteer’s site (Figure 35).

**Figure 35: Percentage of Physical Assaults by Volunteer Site 2006-2008 (n=245)**



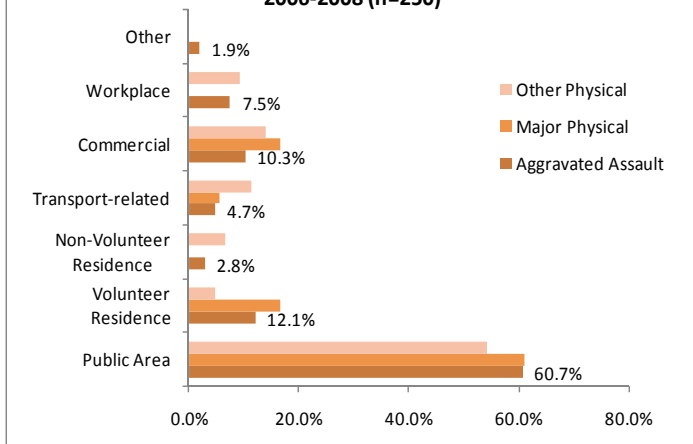
## Location

Generally speaking, the majority of physical assaults occur in public areas (Figure 36). For aggravated assaults, public areas constitute (60.7 percent) of all incidents reported, followed by a Volunteer residence (12.1 percent), then commercial establishments (10.3 percent). Major physical assaults are evenly divided between commercial establishments and a Volunteer residence (16.7 percent). Other physical assaults are not frequent in Volunteer residences (4.7 percent), but are more common in commercial establishments (14.0 percent) and associated with transportation services (11.2 percent).

Information on the type of transportation a Volunteer is using at the time of an assault is available only for April–December, 2008. Only three other physical assaults occurred on transportation; two of these assaults occurred on buses and one on a train.

# Physical Assaults

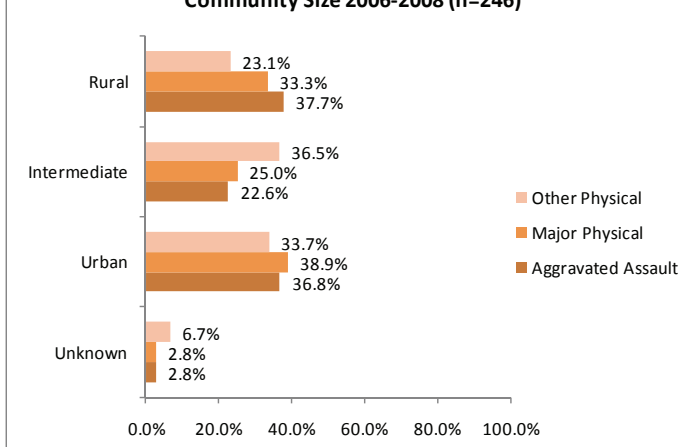
**Figure 36: Percentage of Physical Assaults by Location 2006-2008 (n=250)**



## Community Size

Physical assaults are relatively evenly distributed by community size (Figure 37). Other physical assaults (36.5 percent) occur more frequently in intermediate communities than either major physical assaults (25.0 percent) or aggravated assaults (22.6 percent). Aggravated assaults are slightly more frequent in rural areas (37.7 percent) than in urban areas (36.8 percent), and major physical assaults are most common in urban areas (38.9 percent).

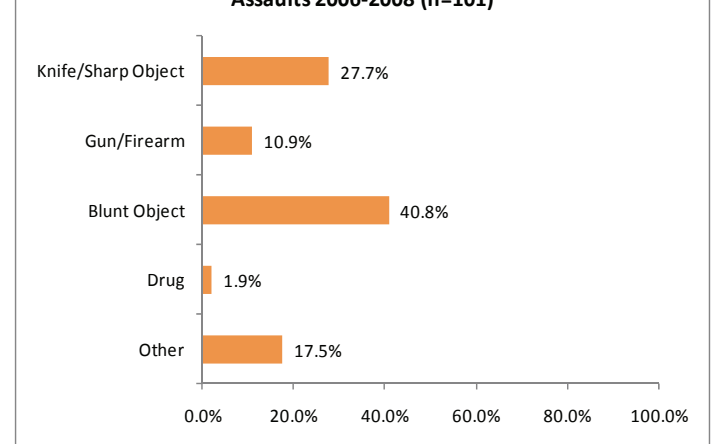
**Figure 37: Percentage of Physical Assaults by Community Size 2006-2008 (n=246)**



## Weapon Use

Physical assaults are categorized as aggravated assaults if a weapon is used; therefore, only aggravated assaults are analyzed for weapon use data (Figure 38). The largest percentage of weapons used in aggravated assaults are blunt objects (41.6 percent), which could include items such as sticks and rocks, or more traditional weapons such as baseball bats and clubs. These are followed by knives/sharp objects (27.7 percent) and other (17.8 percent), which includes vehicles, chemicals such as pepper spray, and whips or hoses.

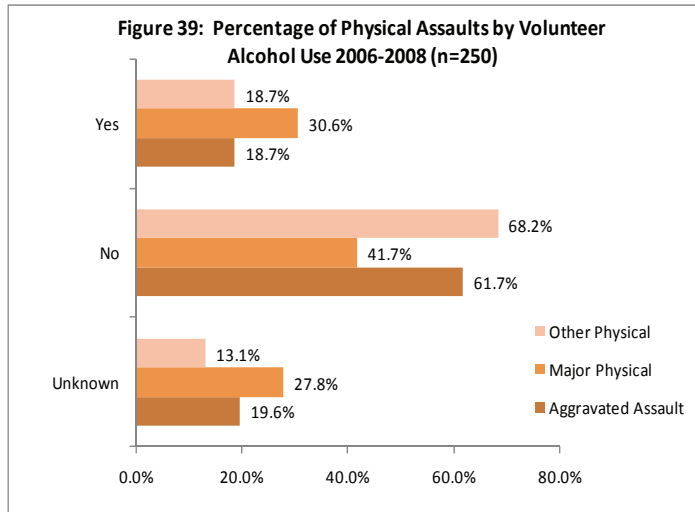
**Figure 38: Percentage of Weapon Types for Aggravated Assaults 2006-2008 (n=101)**



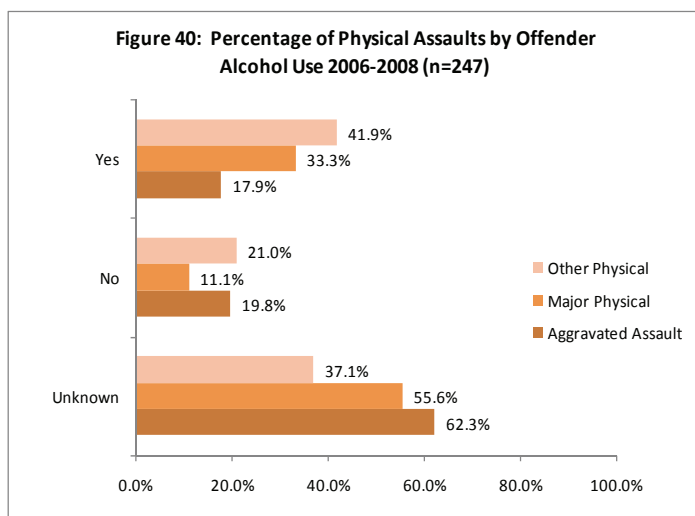
## Alcohol Use - Volunteer and Offender

Alcohol use by Volunteers is not often reported in physical assaults (Figure 39). Data for major physical assaults shows the most even distribution, with 30.6 percent reporting yes, while 41.7 percent report no alcohol use. In aggravated assaults and other physical assaults, the data is more skewed, with 61.7 percent and 68.2 percent reporting no use of alcohol, respectively.

# Physical Assaults

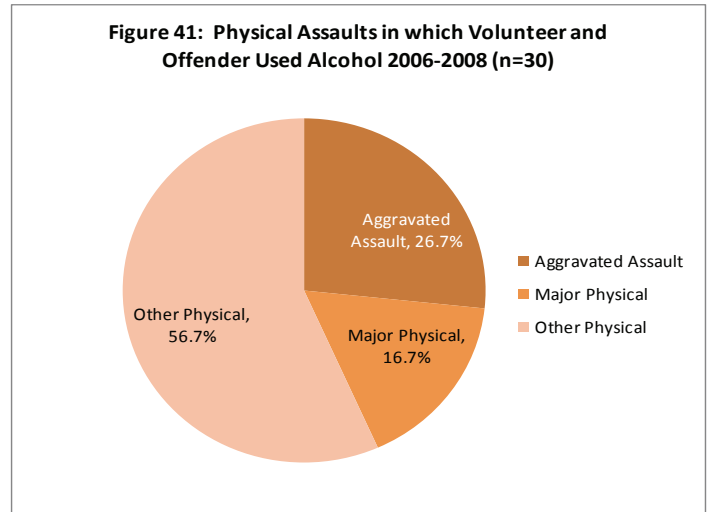


Offender alcohol use is reported by the Volunteer and therefore may not be an accurate assessment. In many physical assaults, the Volunteer does not have any knowledge of the offender's use of alcohol prior to the assault event (Figure 40). In particular, for almost two-thirds of reported aggravated assaults, it is not known whether the offender consumed alcohol prior to committing the assault (62.3 percent). The most complete data on offender alcohol use is available for other physical assaults, where Volunteers report that 41.9 percent of offenders have used alcohol and 21.0 percent have not prior to the assault.



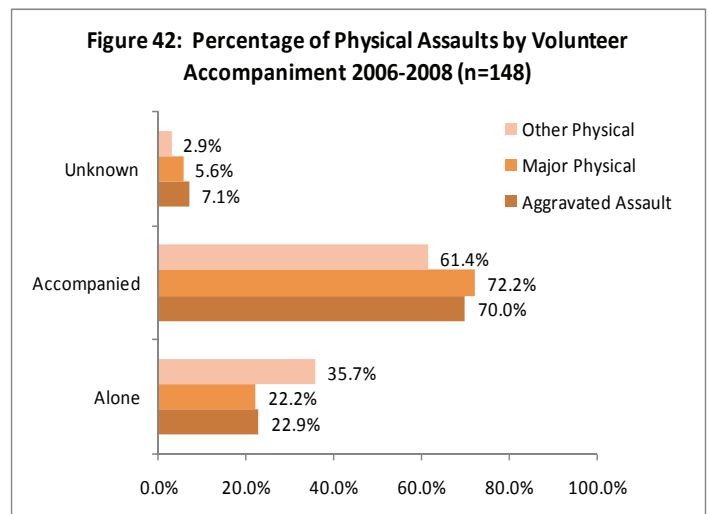
When viewed in the aggregate, data indicates that both the Volunteer and offender used alcohol in 30 physical assaults reported from 2006 to 2008 (Figure 41). Of

these, the largest percentage are other physical assaults (56.7 percent), followed by aggravated assaults (26.7 percent), and major physical assaults (16.7 percent).



## Persons Accompanying Volunteer

The majority of physical assault events occur to Volunteers who are accompanied by others (Figure 42). Other physical assaults have the largest percentage of incidents that occur when Volunteers are alone (35.7 percent).

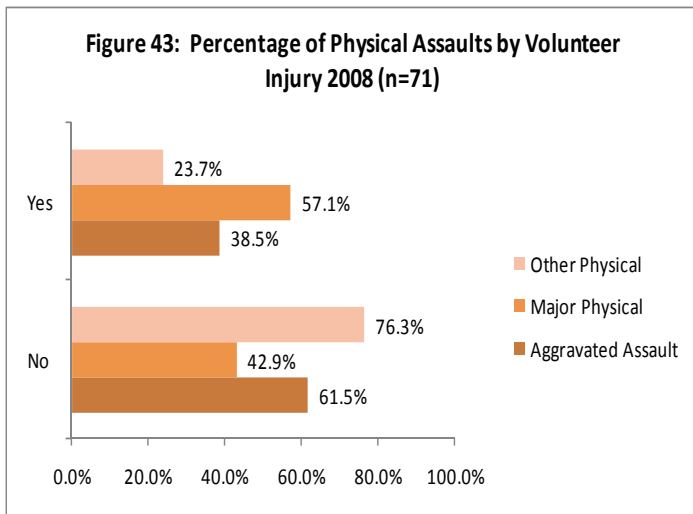


# Physical Assaults

## Resulting Actions

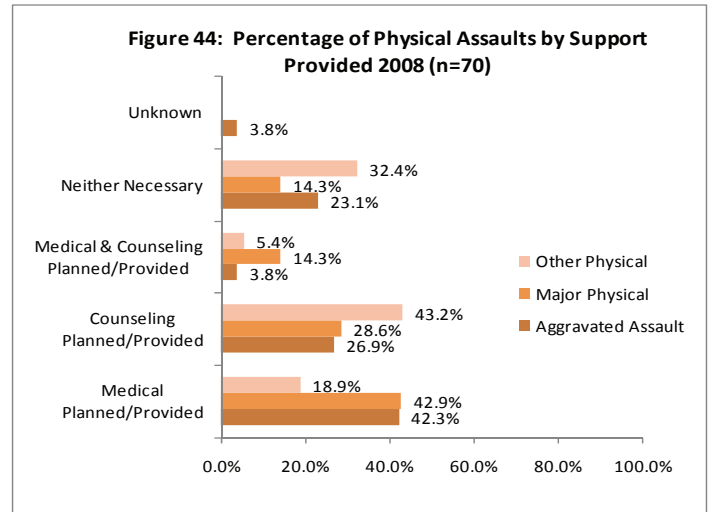
### Injury to Volunteer

Data on Volunteer injury is available only for April–December of 2008. This category includes only injuries requiring medical attention; therefore, injuries treated by the Volunteer are not included. Most aggravated assaults (61.5 percent) and other physical assaults (76.3 percent) do not result in injury to the Volunteer (Figure 43). The exception is major physical assaults, in which 57.1 percent resulted in injury to the Volunteer requiring medical attention.



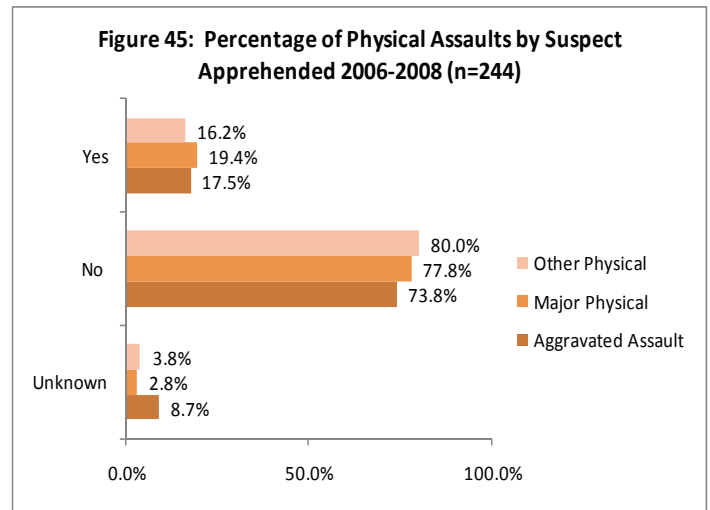
### Support Provided

In addition to treatment for physical injuries, Volunteers often require other forms of support following a physical assault (Figure 44). Data on support provided is only available for April–December, 2008. Other physical assaults, which rarely result in injury to the Volunteer, required counseling in 43.2 percent and no support in 32.4 percent of incidents. Major physical assaults frequently required medical care alone (42.9 percent), counseling alone (28.6 percent), or a combination of counseling and medical care (14.3 percent). Aggravated assaults generally required medical care alone (42.3 percent), counseling alone (26.9 percent), or no support (23.1 percent).



### Suspects Apprehended

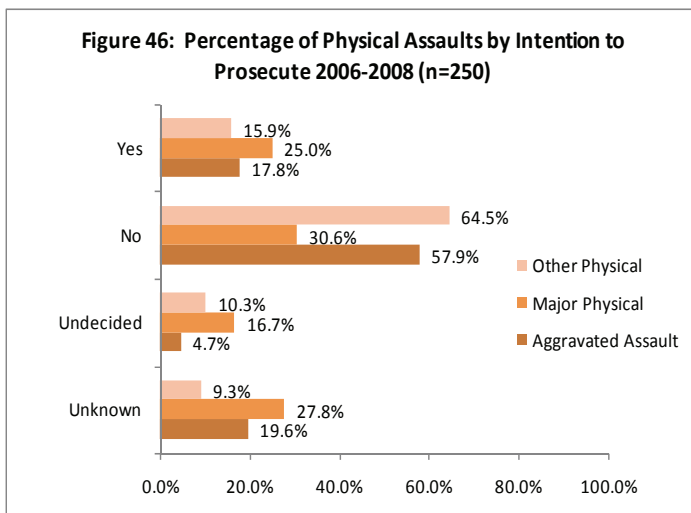
Data on crime incidents are collected at a single point in time; therefore, a low percentage of apprehended suspects may not represent a complete picture as investigations evolve over time. Figure 45 shows that the majority of suspects are not apprehended in cases of physical assaults. Major physical assaults have the largest percentage of apprehended offenders (19.4 percent), followed by aggravated assaults (17.5 percent) and other physical assaults (16.2 percent).



# Physical Assaults

## Intention of Volunteer to Prosecute

As in the case of data on apprehension of suspects, data on the Volunteer's intention to prosecute generally represents the Volunteer's feelings at a single point in time (Figure 46). In most other physical assault incidents, the Volunteer does not intend to prosecute the offender (64.5 percent). Volunteers involved in major physical assaults are the most likely to prosecute, but even in those incidents, only one-quarter of Volunteers intend to do so.



## Discussion

### Crime Category Comparison

Male Volunteers are victimized at a higher rate than female Volunteers in aggravated assaults, similar to what is seen with robbery in the property crimes section. Although most physical assaults, like sexual assaults, do not involve alcohol use, comparing the two categories leads to an interesting observation. In sexual assaults, the most severe category, rape, has the highest percentage of both Volunteer and offender reporting alcohol use. In physical assaults, it is the other physical assault category with the highest percentage of incidents in which both used alcohol.

## National Comparison

The rate of aggravated assaults reported by BJS in 2008 is 3.3 assaults per 1,000 persons age 12 or older. The rate of aggravated assault is higher for males (3.9 assaults per 1,000 persons age 12 or older) than females (2.8 assaults per 1,000 persons age 12 or older). In 22 percent of BJS analyzed aggravated assaults in 2005, a weapon was reported, in comparison with 91.8 percent of Volunteer reported aggravated assaults from 2006-2008.

## Areas for Future Research

- Why are males more frequent victims of serious assaults?
- Why are other physical assaults the category most likely to include alcohol consumption?
- Do Peace Corps policies encourage Volunteers to downplay alcohol usage?



# Threats

## Definitions

The following crimes were combined to create the single crime category, Threat.

**Death threat:** A threat to kill made without physical contact, injury to the victim, or sexual assault. Such threats may be made in person, over the telephone or in writing.

**Intimidation:** Occurs when the victim is placed in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words and/or other conduct but without displaying a weapon or subjecting the victim to actual physical attack. Intimidation includes stalking as determined by the perception of the victim. Formerly referred to as other threat.

## At-A-Glance: Threats

- **Threat**
  - 2008 incidents: 90
  - 2008 rate: 1.19 per 100 VT years
  - % change from 2007: +57
  - Female Volunteers have highest rate
  - Proportionally distributed by race/ethnicity of Volunteer
  - Percentage of incidents highest at end of first year of service

# Threats

The following section provides global analyses of all threat incidents. Incidence of threats is expressed per 100 VT years.

## I. Threat

### Threat Profile

The Volunteer victim in a reported threat incident tends to be a Caucasian female in her twenties or thirties. Threats occur slightly later in service than many other crimes, peaking in the second half of the first year of service. They are usually committed by a single male offender in his twenties who is a stranger to the Volunteer. Threats occur most frequently between 6 p.m. and midnight during the week, usually in a Volunteer’s residence or a public area at the Volunteer’s site. The Volunteer has usually not consumed alcohol prior to the assault, and the offender’s alcohol use is not known. The Volunteer is equally likely to be alone or with others at the time of the threat. Usually no support is needed, though counseling is provided in some cases. In most threats, the offender is not arrested and the Volunteer does not intend to prosecute if the offender is apprehended.

### Threat : Global Analysis

Table 11 provides the volume and rates of threats.

2008 Number of Incidents	90
2008 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	1.19
2007 Number of Incidents	56
2007 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	0.76
Yearly Rate Comparison (2007 to 2008)	57%
10-Year Rate Comparison (1999 to 2008)	40%

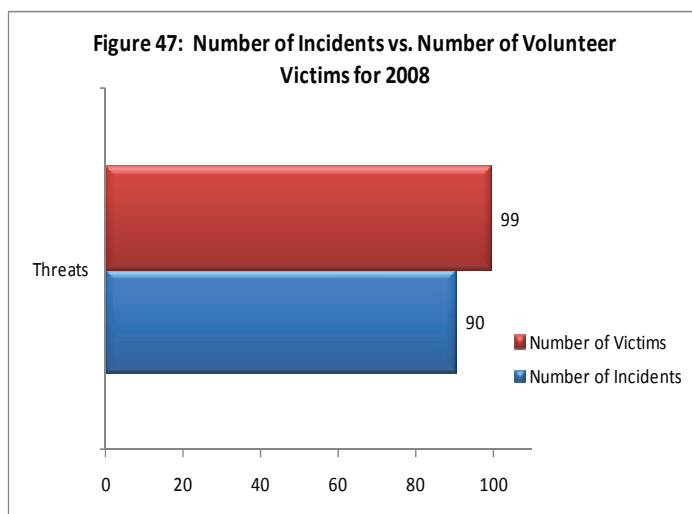
There were 90 threat incidents reported by Peace Corps Volunteers worldwide during 2008, resulting in a rate of 1.19 incidents per 100 VT years. The threat rate increased by 57 percent over 2007, and has increased by 40 percent since 1999.

It is important to note that prior to 2006, only death threats were a reportable category; therefore, some of

the increase since 2006 may be the result of including a new class of incidents—intimidation. Other reasons for this increase in threat incidents are unknown at this time. Due to this change in reporting practice, a trend graph showing threats over the last 10-year period is not presented.

## II. Number of Incidents vs. Number of Victims

The number of victims of a threat incident is generally one; however there were seven incidents in which more than one Volunteer was threatened during the incident (Figure 47).



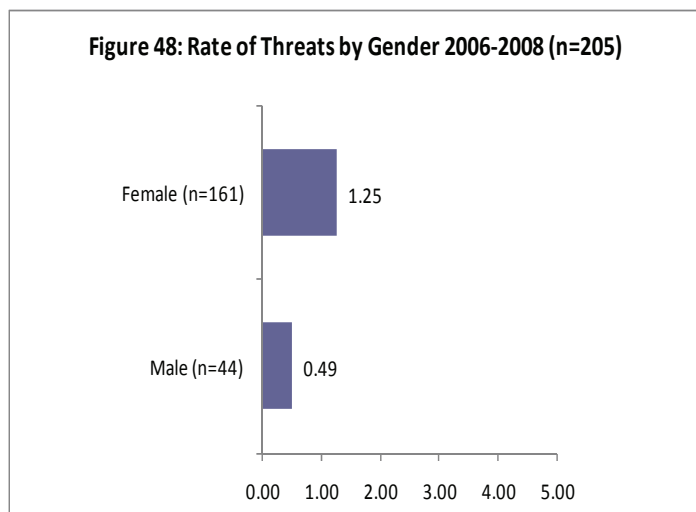
# Threats

The following section discusses Volunteer and offender characteristics and risk factors associated with reported threats. Data on Volunteer victims, offenders, and incident details are from threats reported to Peace Corps between 2006 and 2008. This information should be used in helping Peace Corps Staff and Volunteers better understand the factors that affect Volunteer safety.

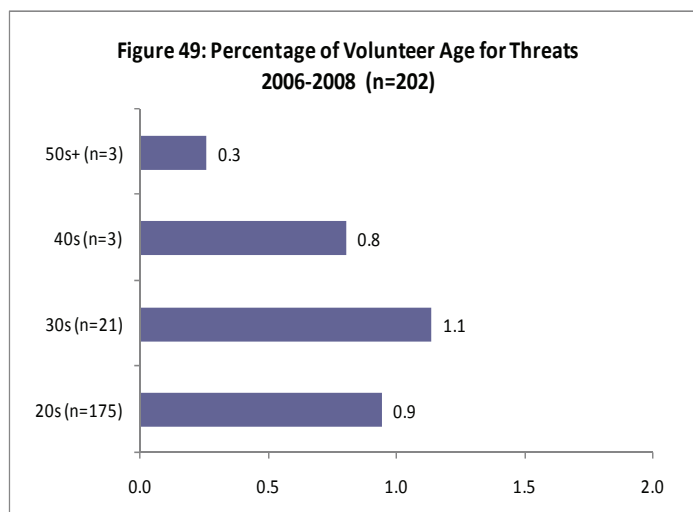
## Volunteer Characteristics

### Sex, Age, and Ethnicity

Female Volunteers were victims of threats more than twice as often (1.25 incidents per 100 VT years) as male Volunteers (0.49 incidents per 100 VT years) (Figure 48).



The largest number of threat victims are Volunteers in their twenties; however, the highest rate of threat is for Volunteers in their thirties (1.1 incidents per 100 VT years) (Figure 49).



Data for race/ethnicity are presented for 2008 only, in order to compare the proportion of reported incidents for each racial/ethnic group with the representation of that group in the Volunteer population (Table 12). Caucasian Volunteers are disproportionately victimized by threat incidents (79.8 percent) as compared to their portion of the Volunteer population (74 percent). Native American Volunteers and Volunteers of two or more races are also disproportionately victimized by threat incidents.

Table 12: Comparison of Threats by Race/Ethnicity to Volunteer Population 2008 (n=84)

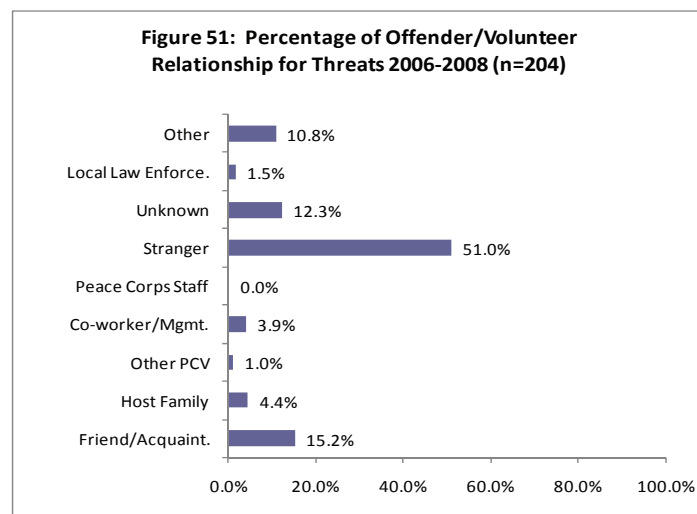
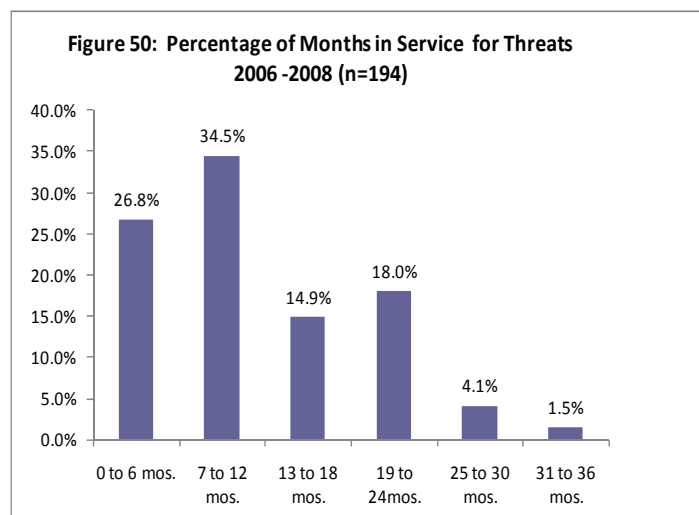
Race/Ethnicity	Threat	Volunteer Population
Caucasian (n=67)	79.8%	74%
Not specified (n=2)	2.4%	11%
Hispanic (n=3)	3.6%	5%
Asian (n=4)	4.8%	5%
African-American (n=2)	2.4%	3%
Two or more races (n=4)	4.8%	3%
Native American (n=2)	2.4%	<1.0%

### Months In Service

Threat incidents peak at the end of the first year of service (34.5 percent), and also increase slightly between the first six months and the second six months in the second year of service (14.9 percent to 18.0 percent)

# Threats

(Figure 50).



## Offender Characteristics

The majority of threats incidents are committed by a single offender (85.4 percent), and a large majority of are believed to be committed by male offenders (89.8 percent). Since threats do not require the physical presence of the offender, 3.9 percent are committed by offenders whose sex is unknown. The age of the offender is usually estimated by the Volunteer victim and may not be an accurate representation of the offender's true age. The largest percentage of offenders in reported threats are estimated to be between 20 and 29 years old (32.7 percent). The next largest group is those of unknown age (23.1 percent).

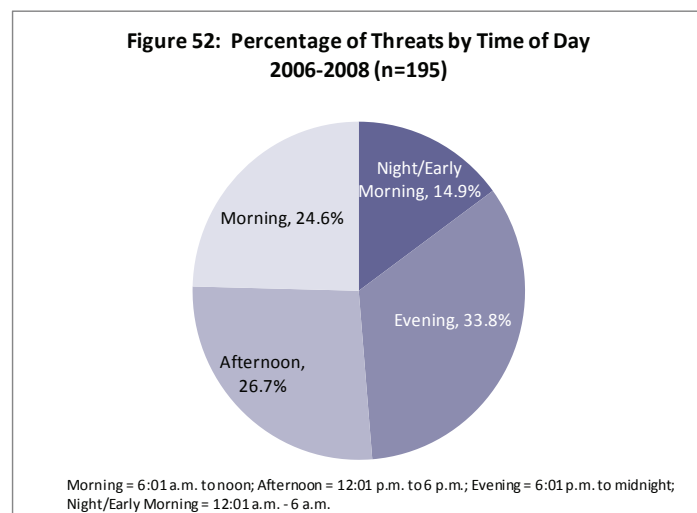
## Victim/Offender Relationship

In slightly more than half of threat incidents, the offender is a stranger to the Volunteer. This is followed by friends or acquaintances, who comprise 15.2 percent of threat offenders (Figure 51).

## Incident Characteristics

### Time of Day

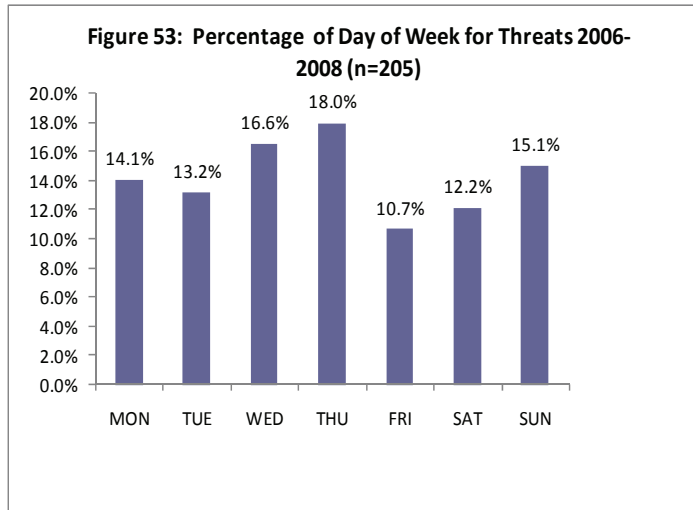
Threat occurrence is divided relatively evenly throughout the day (Figure 52). The largest percentage of threat incidents occur during the evening time period (33.8 percent), and the smallest percentage occur during the night/early morning time period (14.9 percent), with approximately one-quarter occurring in each of the morning and afternoon time periods.



# Threats

## Day of Week

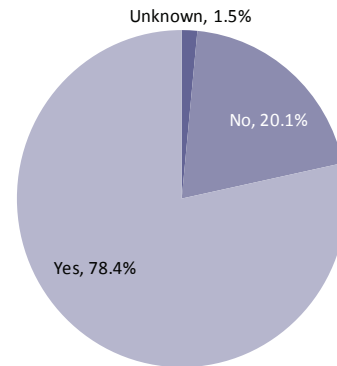
Threat incidents occur most frequently on Wednesdays (16.6 percent), Thursdays (18.0 percent), and Sundays (15.1 percent) (Figure 53).



## Occurred at Volunteer Site

The understanding of Volunteer site can vary widely between posts and settings. For Volunteers assigned to rural areas, the entire community may be considered the site, while Volunteers in urban areas may only be counted “at site” while in the specific building where he/she lives or works. Although understandings may vary, the majority of a Volunteer’s time tends to be spent at site, and analysis shows that the majority of threats are reported as occurring in the Volunteer’s site (Figure 54). This does not mean that the Volunteer site is where the threat originates, however. Threats are often received by email, telephone, and through third parties; therefore, the offender location may be unknown.

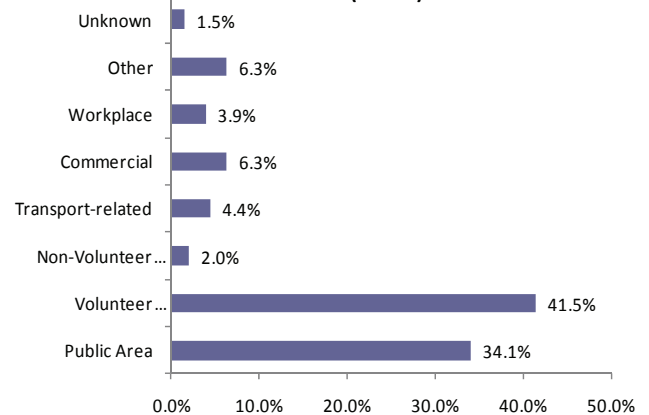
**Figure 54: Percentage of Threats Occurring at Volunteer Site 2006-2008 (n=204)**



## Location

Most threats are received while the Volunteer is in his or her residence (41.5 percent) or in a public area (34.1 percent) (Figure 55).

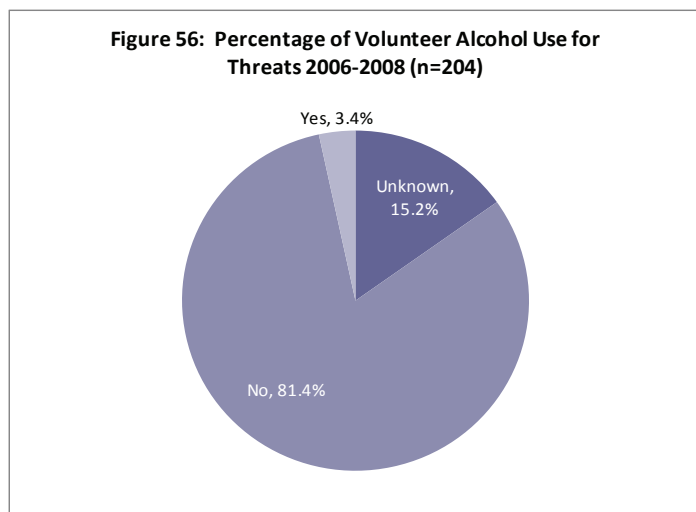
**Figure 55: Percentage of Location for Threats 2006-2008 (n=205)**



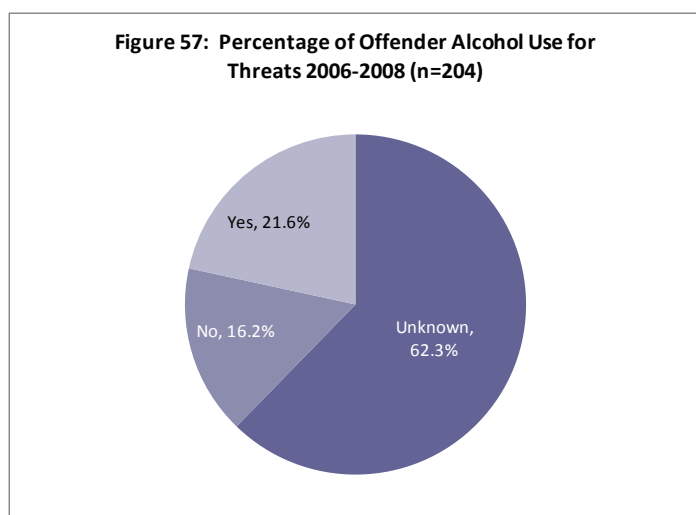
# Threats

## Alcohol Use - Volunteer and Offender

Volunteers report not using alcohol in 81.4 percent of threat incidents (Figure 56).

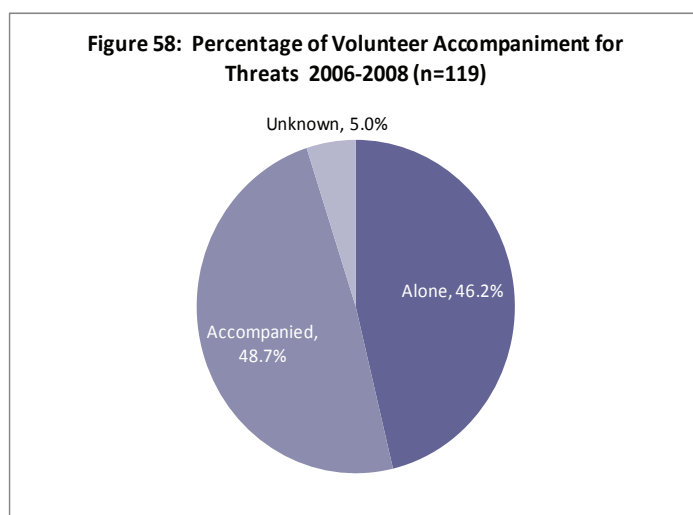


Offender use of alcohol prior to the threat is not known in most cases (62.3 percent) (Figure 57). Only 21.6 percent of threat incidents involved an offender with suspected alcohol use prior to the incident, while in 16.2 percent of threats, there was no indication of alcohol use prior to the incident.



## Persons Accompanying Volunteer

Threat incidents are evenly divided in regards to whether Volunteers are alone at the time of the incident (Figure 58). In 48.7 percent of incidents, the Volunteer is accompanied, while in 46.2 percent, the Volunteer is alone. Unlike assaults which occur at a specific point in time, threat incidents can be part of a pattern of behavior occurring over time; therefore, in 5.0 percent of incidents, no determination could be made as to whether the Volunteer was alone.



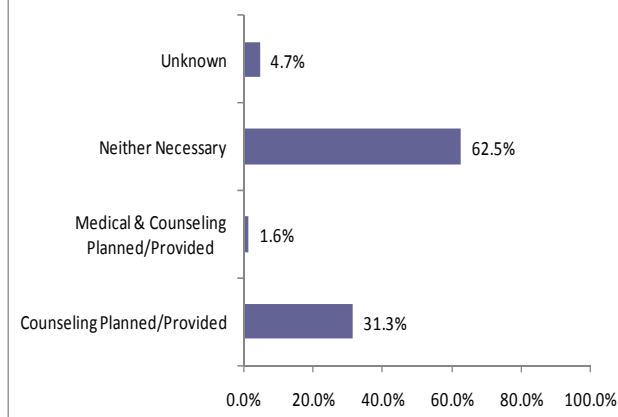
## Resulting Actions

### Support Provided

Although threat incidents rarely result in physical injury, some Volunteers may require other forms of support (Figure 59). Data on support provided is only available for April–December, 2008. The majority of threat incidents do not require medical or counseling support (62.5 percent); however, Volunteers in slightly fewer than one-third of threat incidents received or planned to receive counseling (31.3 percent).

# Threats

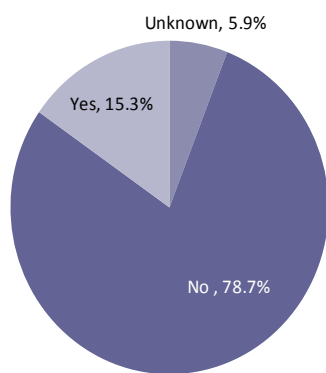
**Figure 59: Percentage of Support Provided for Threats 2008 (n=64)**



## Suspects Apprehended

Data on crime incidents are collected at a single point in time; therefore, a low percentage of apprehended suspects may not represent an accurate picture as investigations evolve over time. Figure 60 shows that the majority of suspects are not apprehended for all threat incidents (78.7 percent).

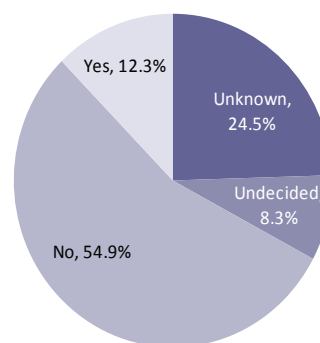
**Figure 60: Percentage of Suspects Apprehended for Threats 2006-2008 (n=202)**



## Intention of Volunteer to Prosecute

As in the case of data on apprehension of suspects, data on the Volunteer's intention to prosecute generally represents the Volunteer's feelings at a single point in time (Figure 61). In most threat incidents, the Volunteer does not intend to prosecute the offender (54.9 percent). In nearly one-quarter of threat incidents, the Volunteer's intention to prosecute is not known (24.5 percent).

**Figure 61: Percentage of Volunteers Intending to Prosecute for Threats 2006-2008 (n=204)**



## Discussion

### Crime Category Comparison

Although less evident than in sexual assaults, female Volunteers are twice as likely to be a threat victim as male Volunteers. There is less disproportionate impact on Caucasian Volunteers in threats than in other crime categories. Threats are also distinguished by peaking later in service than other crime categories.

### National Comparison

There is no direct comparison that can be made between Peace Corps data and BJS data in the threat category. However, the Peace Corps category captures incidents of stalking, a category that is analyzed by BJS. Nationally, BJS found that 14 in every 1,000 persons age 18 or older were victims of stalking in 2006. Females have a much higher rate of stalking (20.0 incidents per 1,000

# Threats

population age 18 or older) than males (7.4 incidents per 1,000 population age 18 or older). Seventy-five percent of stalking victims in the US knew the offender in some capacity, a much larger proportion than among Volunteers reporting threats.

## Areas for Future Research

- Why has the threat incidence rate increased substantially since 2006?



# Property Crimes

## Definitions

**Robbery:** Taking or attempting to take anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody or care of another person by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm. Robbery also includes when a robber displays/uses a weapon.

**Burglary:** The unlawful or forcible entry of a Volunteer's residence. This crime usually, but not always, involves theft. The illegal entry may be forcible, such as breaking a window or slashing a screen, or may be without force by entering through an unlocked door or an open window. As long as the person entering has no legal right to be present in the residence, a burglary has occurred. Burglary also includes illegal entry of a hotel room. When physical assault and burglary occur together, the offense falls under the category of robbery.

**Theft:** The taking away of, or attempting to take away, property or cash without involving forced or illegal entry. There is no known direct contact with the victim. Theft includes pickpocketing, stolen purses, and theft from a residence that does not involve illegal entries.

**Vandalism:** The mischievous or malicious defacement, destruction, or damage of property. If unlawful or forcible entry or attempted entry of a residence is involved, the incident is classified as burglary.

## At-A-Glance: Property Crimes

### • Robbery

- 2008 incidents: 182
- 2008 rate: 2.40 per 100 VT years
- % change from 2007: + <1
- Frequently involves more than one Volunteer and offender
- Rarely occurs at Volunteer's site, frequent in urban areas
- Estimated losses of more than \$30,000 in 2008

### • Burglary

- 2008 incidents: 317
- 2008 rate: 4.18 per 100 VT years
- % change from 2007: +12
- Female Volunteers have higher rate than male Volunteers
- Offender usually unknown to Volunteer
- Estimated losses of more than \$80,000 in 2008

### • Theft

- 2008 incidents: 757
- 2008 rate: 9.99 per 100 VT years
- % change from 2007: +17
- Frequently occur in the afternoon (noon to 6 p.m.)
- Large percentage of thefts occur on buses
- Estimated losses of more than \$110,000 in 2008

### • Vandalism

- 2008 incidents: 5
- 2008 rate: 0.07 per 100 VT years
- % change from 2007: -2
- Number and rate relatively unchanged from 2007
- Rate decreased by more than half since 1999
- Estimated losses of approximately \$100 in 2008

# Property Crimes

The following section provides global analyses of all property crime incidents. Incidence of property crimes is expressed per 100 VT years.

## I. Robbery

### Robbery Profile

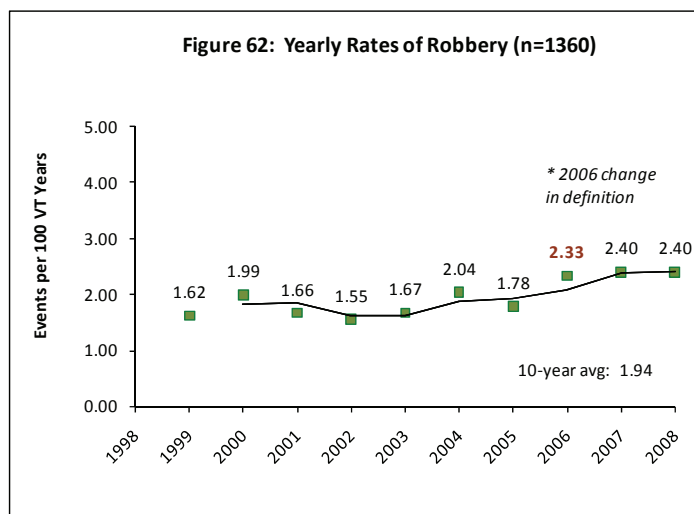
The Volunteer victim in a reported robbery tends to be a Caucasian male in his twenties. Robberies occur early in service, often within the first six months. The number of offenders varies greatly, though the offenders are typically male strangers in their twenties. Robberies occur most frequently between 6 p.m. and midnight on Sunday, usually in an urban, public area that is not at the Volunteer's site. Most robberies are successful and end in the loss of property for the Volunteer. A weapon is frequently used in robberies, most often a knife or a gun. The Volunteer has usually not consumed alcohol prior to the incident, and the offender's alcohol use is not known. The Volunteer is usually with others when the crime occurs. He is typically not physically injured and does not seek medical care or counseling following the incident. In most robberies, the offender is not arrested and the Volunteer does not intend to prosecute if the offender is apprehended.

### Robbery : Global Analysis

Table 13 provides the volume and rates of robberies.

Table 13: Summary—Robbery	
2008 Number of Incidents	182
2008 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	2.4
2007 Number of Incidents	178
2007 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	2.4
Yearly Rate Comparison (2007 to 2008)	<1%
3-Year Rate Comparison (2006 to 2008)	3%

There were 182 robberies reported by Peace Corps Volunteers worldwide during 2008, resulting in a rate of 2.40 incidents per 100 VT years. The robbery rate remained essentially unchanged from 2007 to 2008. Since 2006, the robbery rate has increased by three percent.



As noted in the physical assaults section, prior to 2006, incidents that would have been categorized as physical assaults in previous years are now classified as robberies, resulting in an increase in the incidence rate. Since 2006, the incidence rate for robberies has remained essentially unchanged.

## II. Burglary

### Burglary Profile

The Volunteer victim in a reported burglary tends to be a Caucasian female in her twenties. Burglaries occur early in service, often within the first six months. The Volunteer often does not know who committed the burglary; therefore, information on age and sex of burglary offenders is unavailable. Most burglaries are successful and end in the loss of property for the Volunteer. Volunteers do not seek medical or counseling support. In most burglaries, the offender is not arrested and the Volunteer does not intend to prosecute if the offender is apprehended.

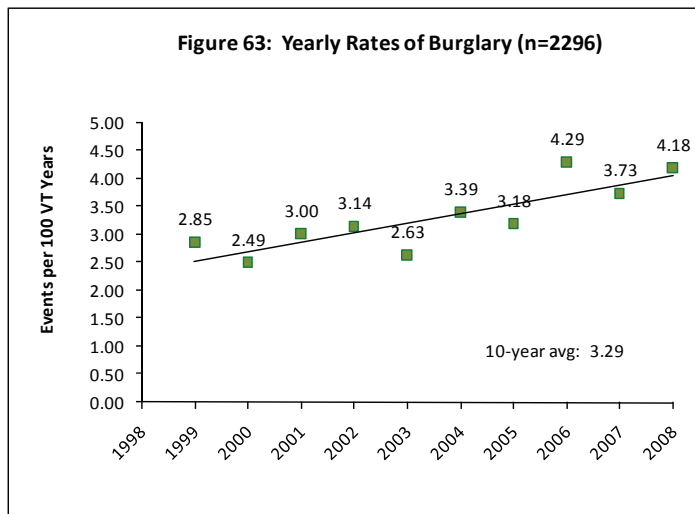
# Property Crimes

## Burglary: Global Analysis

Table 14 provides the volume and rates of burglaries.

2008 Number of Incidents	317
2008 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	4.18
2007 Number of Incidents	276
2007 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	3.73
Yearly Rate Comparison (2007 to 2008)	12%
10-Year Rate Comparison (1999 to 2008)	47%

There were 317 burglaries reported by Peace Corps Volunteers worldwide during 2008, resulting in a rate of 4.18 incidents per 100 VT years. The burglary rate increased by 12 percent from 2007 to 2008 and has increased 47 percent since 1998.



## III. Theft

### Theft Profile

The Volunteer victim in a reported theft tends to be a Caucasian female in her twenties. Thefts occur early in service, usually within the first six months. The Volunteer often does not know who committed the theft; therefore, information on age and sex of theft offenders is unavailable. Thefts occur most frequently between noon and 6 p.m. on Saturdays, usually in a transportation setting, typically a bus, that is not at the Volunteer's site. Most thefts are successful and end in the loss of

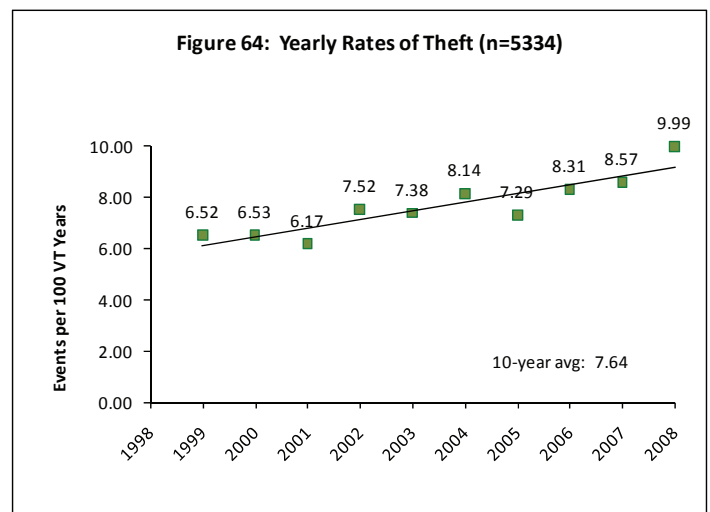
property for the Volunteer. The Volunteer is typically with others at the time of the incident, and she does not seek medical care or counseling support. In most thefts, the offender is not arrested and the Volunteer does not intend to prosecute if the offender is apprehended.

## Theft: Global Analysis

Table 15 provides the volume and rates of thefts.

2008 Number of Incidents	757
2008 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	9.99
2007 Number of Incidents	635
2007 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	8.57
Yearly Rate Comparison (2007 to 2008)	17%
10-Year Rate Comparison (1999 to 2008)	53%

There were 757 thefts reported by Peace Corps Volunteers worldwide during 2008, resulting in a rate of 9.99 incidents per 100 VT years. The theft rate increased 17 percent compared to 2007. Reported thefts have steadily increased over the past ten years, and between 1999 and 2008, the rate of thefts increased by 53 percent.



## IV. Vandalism

### Vandalism Profile

The Volunteer victim in a reported vandalism incident

# Property Crimes

tends to be a Caucasian female in her twenties. Vandalism incidents occur later in service, often within the last year of service. The Volunteer usually does not know who committed the vandalism incident; therefore, information on age and sex of offenders is unavailable. Vandalism incidents occur most frequently between midnight and 6 a.m. throughout the week, always at a Volunteer’s residence. In most vandalism incidents, the offender is not arrested and the Volunteer does not intend to prosecute if the offender is apprehended.

## Vandalism: Global Analysis

Table 16 provides the volume and rates of vandalism.

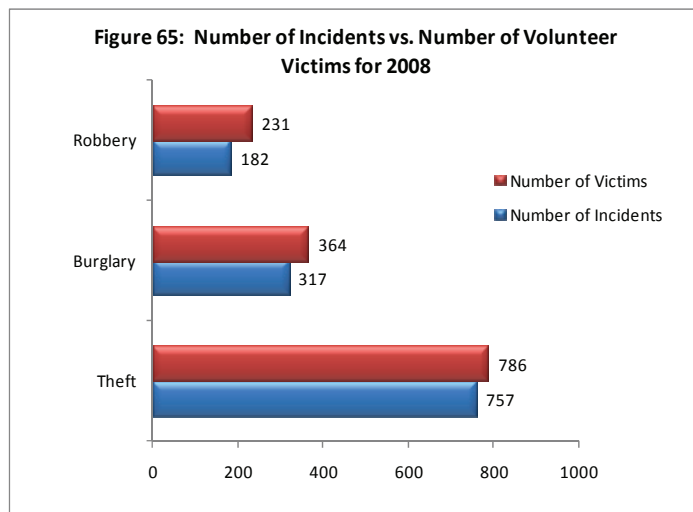
2008 Number of Incidents	5
2008 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	0.07
2007 Number of Incidents	5
2007 Incidence Rate (per 100 VT years)	0.07
Yearly Rate Comparison (2007 to 2008)	-2%
10-Year Rate Comparison (1999 to 2008)	-52%

There were 5 vandalism incidents reported by Peace Corps Volunteers worldwide during 2008, resulting in a rate of 0.07 incidents per 100 VT years. The vandalism rate decreased slightly (2 percent) between 2007 and 2008.

The rate of vandalism is so small (0.07 per 100 VT years) that we typically do not create graphs or include vandalism on the graphs created for property crimes overall.

## V. Number of Incidents versus Number of Victims

The number of reported incidents and the number of victims generally differ across property crimes. Because property crimes focus more on the items of value rather than the person, they can involve more victims in an incident than a typical assault.



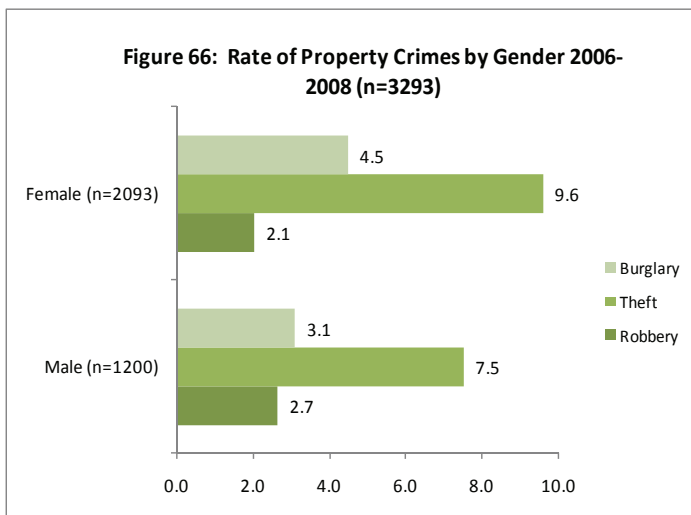
# Property Crimes

The following section discusses Volunteer and offender characteristics and risk factors associated with reported property crimes. Data on Volunteer victims, offenders, and incident details are from property crimes reported to Peace Corps between 2006 and 2008. This information should be used in helping Peace Corps Staff and Volunteers better understand the factors that affect the Volunteer's personal safety.

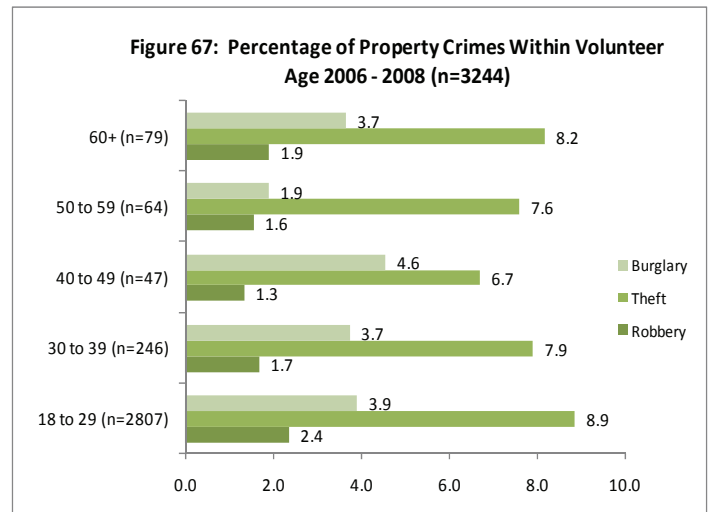
## Volunteer Characteristics

### Sex, Age, and Ethnicity

Female Volunteers experience higher rates of burglary (4.5 incidents per 100 VT years) and theft (9.6 incidents per 100 VT years) than male Volunteers (3.1 incidents per 100 VT years and 7.5 incidents per 100 VT years respectively) (Figure 66). Male Volunteers experience higher rates of robbery (2.7 incidents per 100 VT years) than female Volunteers (2.1 incidents per 100 VT years).



Volunteers aged 18-29 experience the highest rates of robbery (2.4 per 100 VT years) and theft (8.9 per 100 VT years) (Figure 67). Burglary incidence rates are highest for Volunteers aged 40-49, though the number of incidents that occur to individuals in this age group is substantially smaller than in other age groups.



Data for race/ethnicity are presented for 2008 only, in order to compare the proportion of reported incidents for each racial/ethnic group with the representation of that group in the Volunteer population. Caucasian Volunteers (74 percent) are disproportionately victimized in reported property crimes of all types, but particularly thefts (83.6 percent) and robberies (83.5 percent) (Table 17). Black/African American Volunteers are victims of robbery (1.1 percent) and theft (1.6 percent) less frequently than the percentage of the Volunteer population that they represent (3 percent).

Table 17: Comparison of Property Crimes by Race/Ethnicity to Volunteer Population 2008 (n=1217)

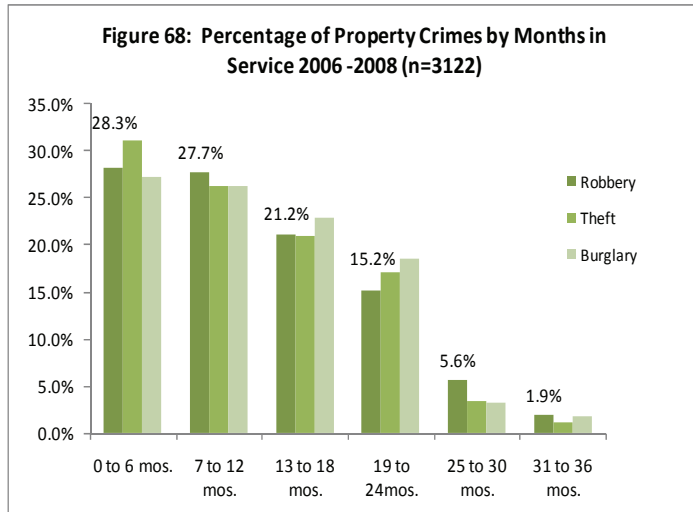
Race/Ethnicity	Robbery	Theft	Burglary	Volunteer Population
Caucasian (n=1011)	83.5%	83.6%	81.5%	74%
Not specified (n=29)	1.7%	2.4%	2.6%	11%
Hispanic (n=59)	6.3%	4.5%	5.0%	5%
Asian (n=69)	5.1%	5.7%	5.9%	5%
African-American (n=23)	1.1%	1.6%	3.0%	3%
Two or more races (n=24)	2.3%	1.9%	2.0%	3%
Native American (n=2)	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	<1%

### Months In Service

The largest percentage of all types of property crimes occurs during the first six months of service (Figure 68). From that point, the percentage of property crimes de-

# Property Crimes

clines steadily. At the end of 24 months of service, a time when the number of Volunteers also declines, the percentages drop steeply.



## Offender Characteristics

*Note:* In most cases of burglary and theft, the offender is never seen by the Volunteer victim. In these incidents, a default offender for whom each characteristic is “unknown” is added to the incident reporting database. Although it can be true for any of the crime types detailed in this report, the “unknown” offender is most common in property crimes, particularly burglaries and thefts.

Most burglary (92.4 percent) and theft (92.1 percent) incidents are believed to be committed by a single offender. Robberies are more varied, with approximately one-third committed by a single offender, one-third by two offenders together, and one-third by three or more offenders.

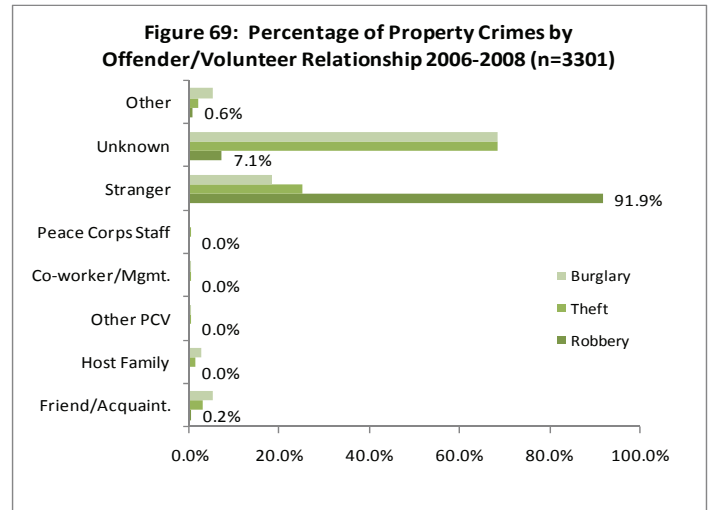
The sex of approximately two-thirds of the offenders is unknown for burglary (65.3 percent) and theft (69.9 percent). Robberies are most frequently committed by male offenders (95.0 percent).

The age of the offender is usually estimated by the Volunteer victim and may not be an accurate representation of the offender’s true age. The majority of offenders for burglary (72.7 percent) and theft (75.9 percent) incidents are of unknown age. In robberies, only 23.2

percent are of unknown age, while half (50.3 percent) are between 20 and 29 years old. A sizeable fraction (15.5 percent) of robbery offenders are under 20 years old.

## Victim/Offender Relationship

The majority of robberies are committed by offenders who are strangers to the Volunteer (91.9 percent) (Figure 69). A much smaller percentage are committed by persons unknown to the Volunteer (7.1 percent). The majority of burglaries and thefts are committed by unknown offenders (68.5 percent), followed by a small percentage committed by strangers (18.2 percent and 25.0 percent respectively). Very few property crimes are committed by offenders known to the Volunteer, such as friends (0.2 percent of robberies, 5.1 percent of burglaries, 2.8 percent of thefts) or host country family members (2.6 percent of burglaries, 1.2 percent of thefts).



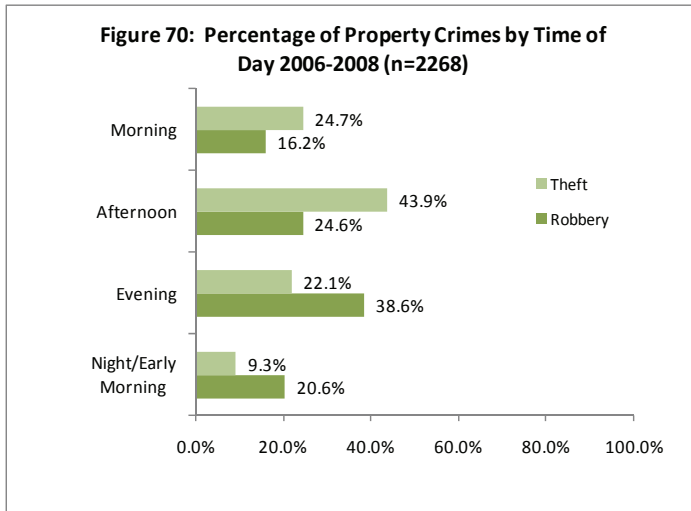
## Incident Characteristics

*Note:* Burglaries often occur while Volunteers are away from site for an extended period of time; therefore, data on time of day or day of week for burglaries are broad estimates and not analyzed.

# Property Crimes

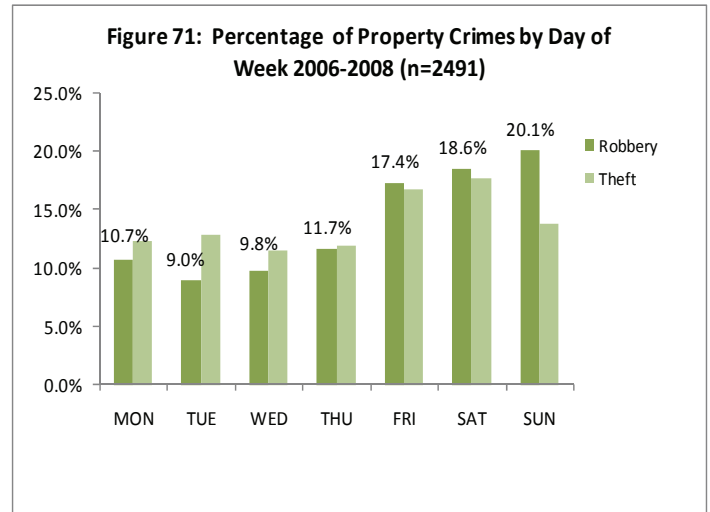
## Time of Day

Thefts are quite often crimes of opportunity—an unattended bag, an open purse, or a distracted Volunteer in a market are all tempting targets. Robberies, typically more forceful and violent, require direct confrontation between the offender and the Volunteer, which is much more difficult to disguise in daylight. Therefore, Figure 70 shows that robberies and thefts occur at different times of day. Almost half of all thefts occur during the afternoon period, in broad daylight (43.9 percent). Only 9.3 percent of thefts occur under cover of darkness, in the night/early morning time period. The largest percentage of robberies occur during the evening time period (38.6 percent).



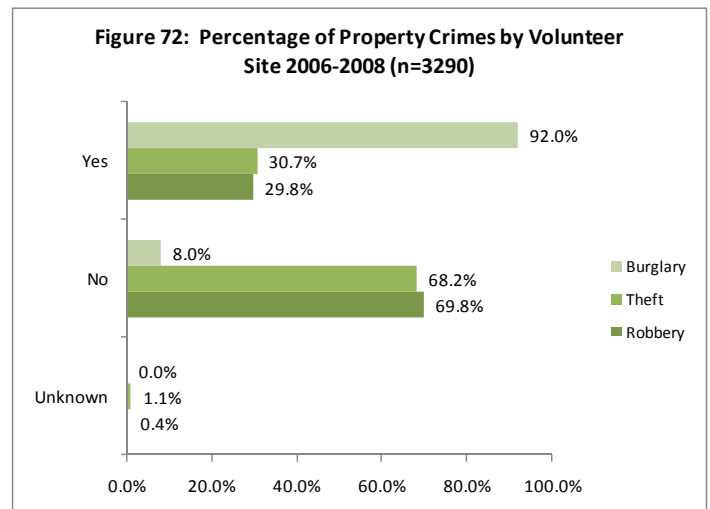
## Day of Week

Both thefts and robberies are more frequent in the later part of the week, including days typically considered the weekend (Figure 71). More than half of all robberies occur between Friday and Sunday (56.0 percent). Slightly less than half of thefts also occur between Friday and Sunday (48.5 percent).



## Occurred at Volunteer Site

The understanding of Volunteer site can vary widely between posts and settings. For Volunteers assigned to rural areas, the entire community may be considered the site, while Volunteers in urban areas may only be counted “at site” while in the specific building where he/she lives or works. Since burglary is by definition trespassing into the Volunteer’s residence or temporary residence, the majority of burglaries occur at the Volunteer’s site (92.0 percent) (Figure 72). The 8 percent that occur away from site take place in hotel rooms or while staying with friends. Most robberies (69.8 percent) and thefts (68.2 percent) take place away from the Volunteer’s site.

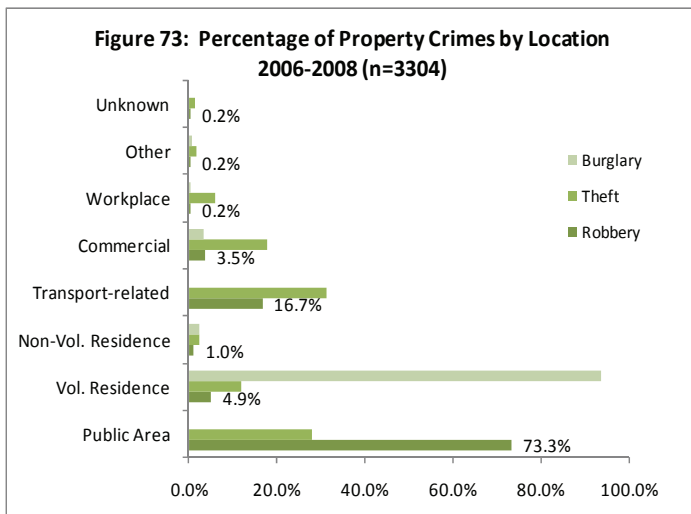




# Property Crimes

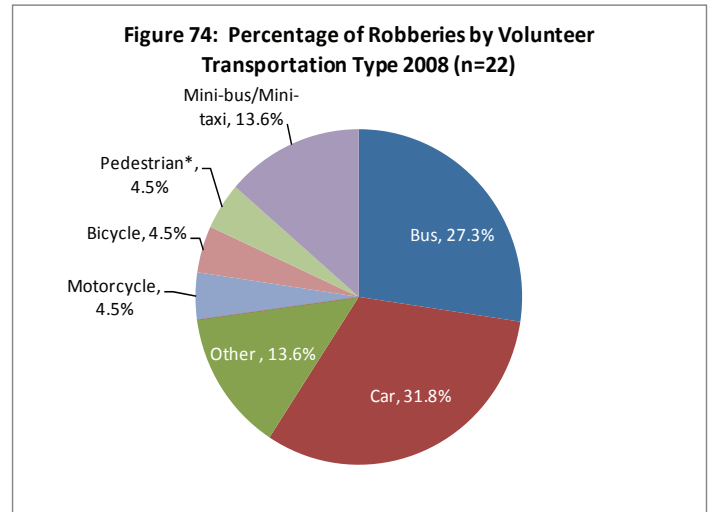
## Location

As seen when analyzing property crimes by site, the majority of burglaries occur in a Volunteer residence (93.7 percent) (Figure 73). Robberies occur most often in public areas (73.3 percent), which includes non-populated areas such as deserted streets. This is followed by robberies occurring in transportation related locations (16.7 percent), which includes while on transportation, but also robberies that occur at stations or stops. Thefts occur in a variety of locations, though nearly a third are associated with transportation (31.2 percent). The next most common locations are public areas (27.9 percent) and commercial establishments (17.6 percent).

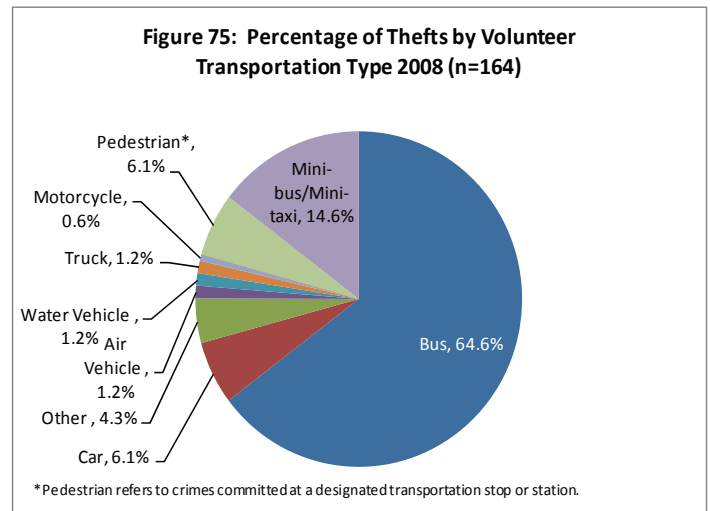


## Transportation Type

From April—December 2008, crimes associated with transportation were more specifically linked to the type of transportation. For robberies, the largest percentage of transportation related incidents occurred in cars (31.8 percent), including so-called “express kidnappings,” where Volunteers are held by taxi drivers or other trusted individuals and forced to withdraw money from multiple ATMs (Figure 74). Also relatively common are bus robberies (27.3 percent). These do not typically target the Volunteer alone, and often involve several offenders taking property from multiple passengers.



Transportation-related thefts often occur on buses (64.6 percent) (Figure 75). A typical scenario involves a Volunteer placing a bag into the luggage compartment, either underneath the bus or overhead in the interior, and then losing sight of the property until disembarking, at which time the Volunteer discovers property missing.



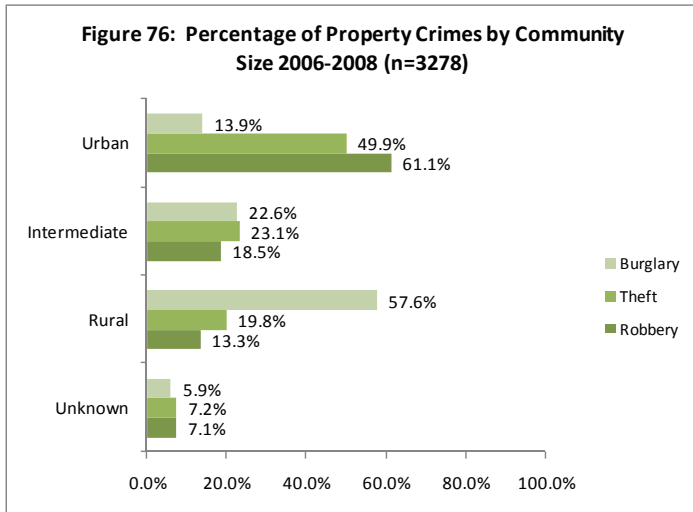
## Community Size

Thefts (49.9 percent) and robberies (61.1 percent) occur frequently in urban areas, and less often in the rural areas that typically house a Volunteer’s site (19.8 percent and 13.3 percent respectively) (Figure 76). Burglaries are frequently associated with rural areas (57.6 percent).



# Property Crimes

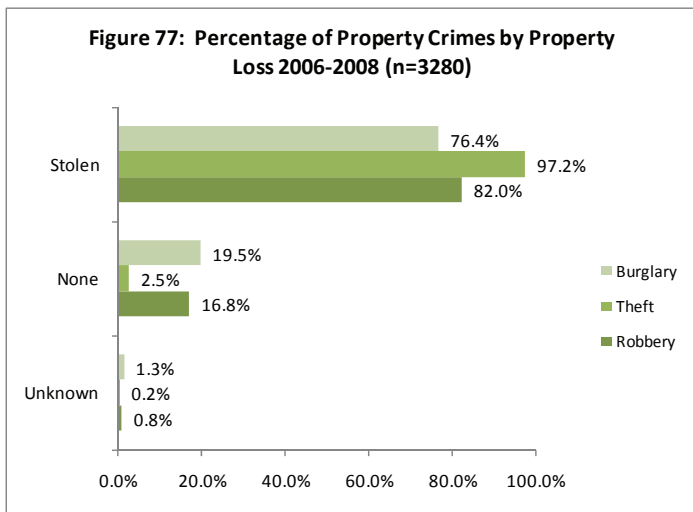
**Figure 76: Percentage of Property Crimes by Community Size 2006-2008 (n=3278)**



## Property Loss

The primary purpose of most property crimes is the taking of property (or destruction, in the case of vandalism). Therefore, the majority of property crimes result in property loss (Figure 77). Burglaries have the lowest percentage of incidents with stolen property (76.4 percent). Since burglary primarily defines the action of trespassing into a residence, not all burglaries are committed for the purpose of taking property. Some burglaries are for the purposes of stalking or assaulting a Volunteer and do not result in property loss.

**Figure 77: Percentage of Property Crimes by Property Loss 2006-2008 (n=3280)**



## Value of Property Loss

From April—December 2008, data on the estimated value of property lost during property crimes was collected (Table 18). Burglaries tend to result in the largest value property taken (median value—\$200.00), but thefts result in the largest overall value of lost property (\$111,998.00).

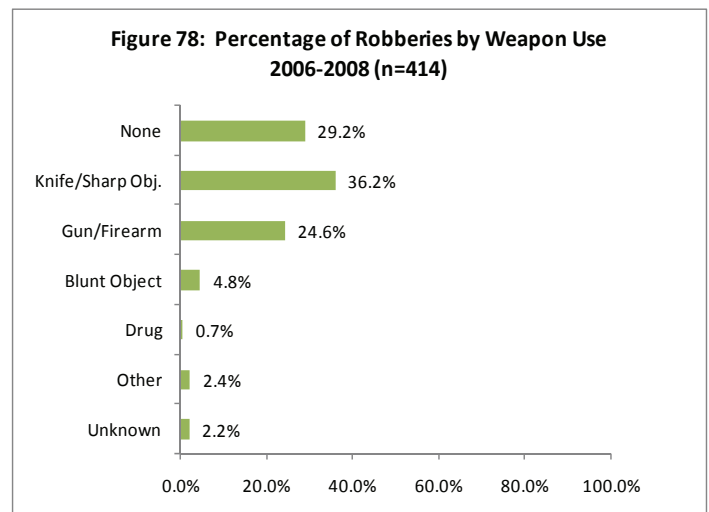
**Table 18: Value of Property Loss (USD), April—December 2008**

Incident Type	Mean (\$)	Median (\$)	Sum (\$)
Robbery	277	123	30473
Burglary	423	200	82862
Theft	203	75	111998
Vandalism	27	20	80

## Weapon Type

Display of a weapon during a property crime automatically causes the crime to be categorized as a robbery; therefore, weapon information is only analyzed for robberies (Figure 78). Nearly one-third of robberies involved no weapon (29.2 percent). The most frequent weapon used in robbery is a knife or sharp object (36.2 percent), followed by a gun or firearm (24.5 percent).

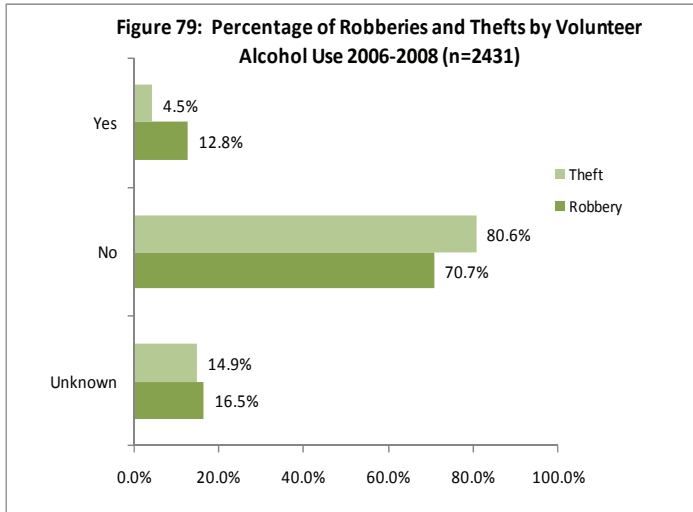
**Figure 78: Percentage of Robberies by Weapon Use 2006-2008 (n=414)**



# Property Crimes

## Alcohol Use - Volunteer and Offender

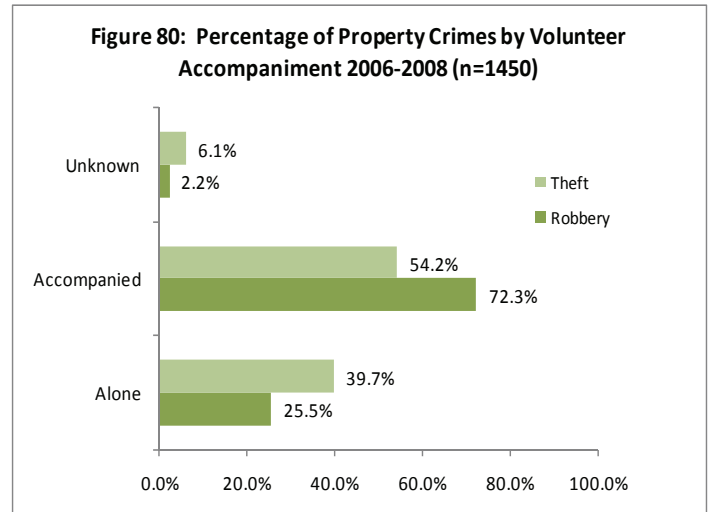
Alcohol use data are analyzed only for robberies and thefts. In the majority of robberies and thefts, the Volunteer reports no alcohol use prior to the incident (70.7 percent and 80.6 percent respectively) (Figure 79).



No graph is included for offender alcohol use in robberies and thefts, since alcohol use is unknown for 76.7 percent of offenders in robberies and 89.5 percent of offenders in thefts.

## Persons Accompanying Volunteer

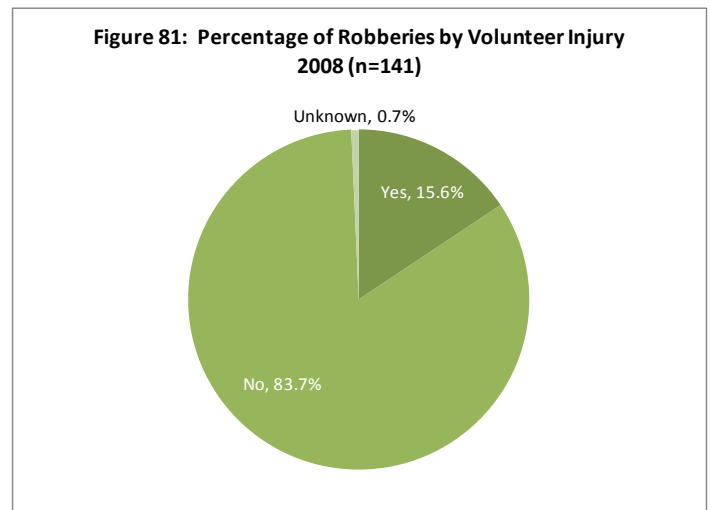
As in many of the previous analyses, burglary is not included in the analysis by Volunteer accompaniment, since many burglaries occur while Volunteers are out of site. Most robberies (72.3 percent) and thefts (54.2 percent) occurred while the Volunteer was with others (Figure 80).



## Resulting Actions

### Injury to Volunteer

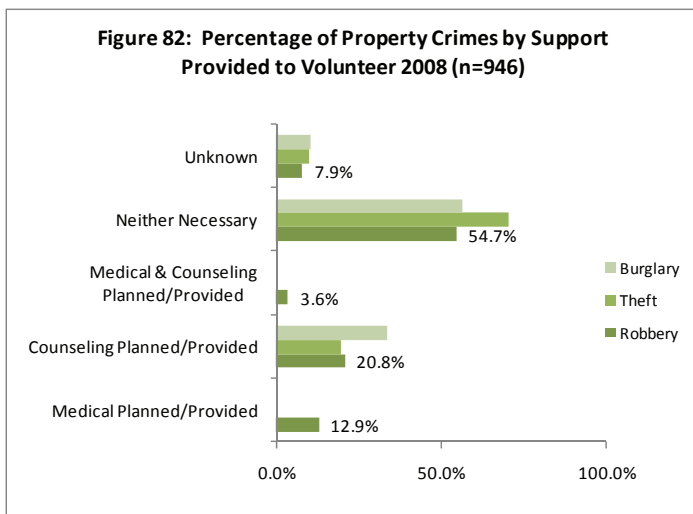
Data on Volunteer injury is available only for April—December of 2008. This category includes only injuries requiring medical attention; therefore, injuries treated by the Volunteer are not included. In property crimes, only robberies allow for injury to the Volunteer. If a Volunteer is assaulted during a burglary or theft, the crime would be classified as an assault or a robbery. In most robberies, the Volunteer did not sustain any injuries requiring medical attention (83.7 percent) (Figure 81).



# Property Crimes

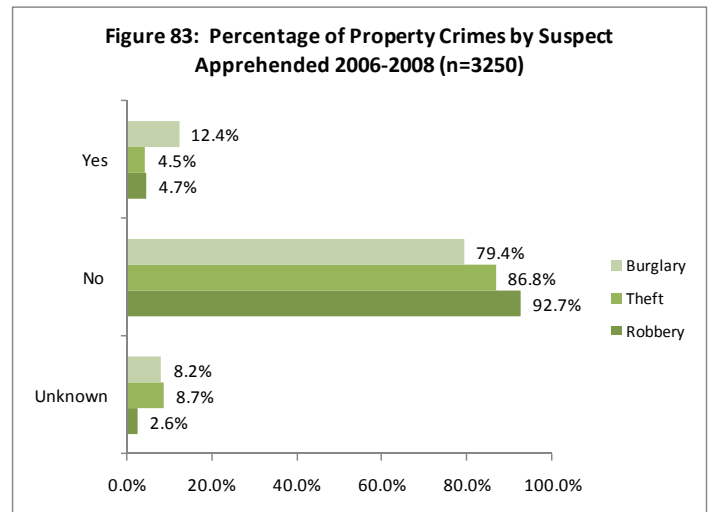
## Support Provided

In addition to treatment for physical injuries, Volunteers may require other forms of support following a property crime (Figure 82). Data on support provided is only available for April—December, 2008. Most property crimes require neither medical nor counseling support. Robberies require the most support following an incident: 3.6 percent of Volunteers require both medical and counseling; 12.9 percent require only medical support; and 20.9 percent require counseling following a robbery.



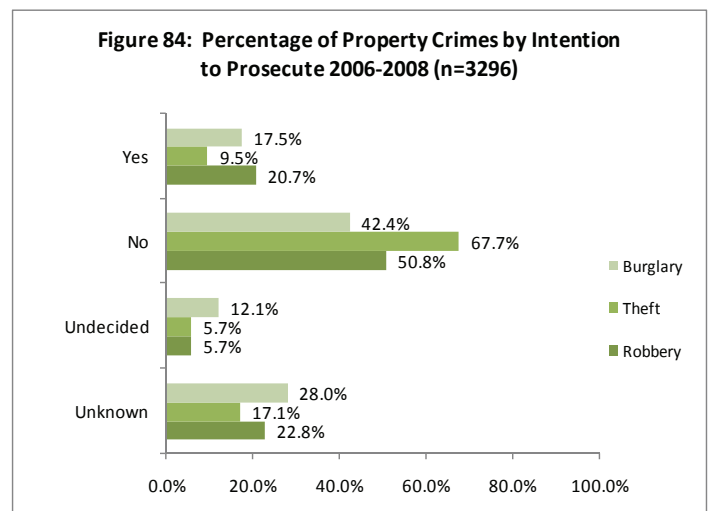
## Suspects Apprehended

Data on crime incidents are collected at a single point in time. Therefore, a low percentage of apprehended suspects may not represent an accurate picture as investigations evolve over time. Figure 83 shows that the majority of suspects are not apprehended for all types of property crimes. Burglaries have the largest percentage of apprehended offenders (12.4 percent), followed by robberies (4.7 percent) and thefts (4.5 percent).



## Intention of Volunteer to Prosecute

As in the case of data on apprehension of suspects, data on the Volunteer's intention to prosecute generally represents the Volunteer's feelings at a single point in time (Figure 84). In most theft incidents, the Volunteer does not intend to prosecute the offender (67.7 percent). Volunteers involved in robberies are more inclined to prosecute, but even in those incidents, only one-fifth of Volunteers intend to do so (20.7 percent).



# Property Crimes

## ***Discussion***

### **Crime Category Comparison**

The rate of property crimes by sex varies considerably. Robbery mirrors aggravated assaults, with a higher incidence rate among male Volunteers, while burglary and theft correspond to threats, with a higher rate among female Volunteers. Robbery also stands alone as the only crime type in which multiple offenders are reported more often than a single offender. Finally, thefts and robberies are distinguished by being the only crimes that occur more often while the Volunteer is away from site.

### **National Comparison**

According to BJS, slightly more than three-quarters of all crime in the US is property crime. This is similar to the distribution of crimes reported by Volunteers, in which 80 percent are property crimes.

### **Areas for Future Research**

- What are additional strategies that can be employed by Volunteers to avoid becoming the victims of property crimes?
- What role do Peace Corps policies, such as reimbursements for stolen items, play in the trends seen in property crimes?

# In-Service Deaths

## Definitions

### Volunteer Deaths by:

**Homicide:** The willful (non-negligent) killing of human being by another. Deaths caused by negligence, attempts to kill, assaults to kill, suicides, and accidental deaths are excluded. Also referred to as murder.

**Suicide:** The act of killing oneself intentionally.

**Accidental:** Death due to unintentional injury.

**Illness:** Death due to illness or natural causes.

**Indeterminate cause:** Death pending further investigation to establish cause of death. Deaths categorized as this type will be updated after 6 months and re-categorized as death due to homicide, suicide, accident or illness.

Volunteer death encompasses the categories of: homicide, suicide, accidental death, death due to illness, and/or death due to indeterminate cause.

There were no deaths by homicide in 2008. From 1961 through the end of 2008, there have been 21 homicides in the Peace Corps. There were 2 in-service deaths in 2008: 1 accidental death and 1 death due to illness. From 2006 to 2008, there were 9 Volunteer deaths: 6 accidental deaths, 2 deaths due to illness, and 1 homicide. A summary table and figures for in-service deaths are not provided because the small number of deaths does not allow for meaningful analysis.

## Current Strategies to Reduce Risk

In the field, Peace Corps Safety and Security Officers collaborate with the staff at each post to assess the local safety and security environment, provide appropriate safety and security training, and identify ways to reduce Volunteers' vulnerability to crime. Educating staff and Volunteers about the crime environment allows Volunteers to proactively manage security concerns and demonstrates one of the important ways the Peace Corps uses safety and security data received through Volunteer reporting. The staff at each post ensures that sponsoring agencies, partners, and host families—all of whom help support Volunteers—are prepared to supplement the agency's efforts to keep Volunteers out of harm's way. The Office of Safety and Security also provides in-service training to Peace Corps Safety and Security Coordinators, and periodically to Regional Security Officers, to make them better prepared to help Volunteers after an incident occurs.

The Peace Corps also provides information to invitees relative to the safety and security conditions in the country to which they have been invited to serve. Safety and security statistics for each country are provided in the country *Welcome Book* that each invitee receives. Prior to departing the United States to begin their service, new trainees at pre-service staging events receive safety awareness training. Reinforced at the pre-departure orientation is the concept that all of the trainees, in partnership with the Peace Corps, must be willing to take an active role in keeping themselves safe. This is accomplished by developing relationships with their communities, abiding by Peace Corps policies and procedures, and behaving in a manner that garners respect and acceptance.

Upon arrival at post, trainees receive eight to 12 weeks of training, which includes a focus on pertinent safety and security risks, ways to mitigate those risks, and the importance of reporting crimes. The Peace Corps ensures that Volunteers continue to receive safety and security training throughout their Peace Corps service.

Volunteers were asked about the effectiveness of the safety and security training they receive at both pre-service training (PST) and in-service training (IST) in the *Volunteer Survey*. A majority reported the training was "effective" or "very effective" in preparing the Volunteer to maintain personal safety and security (78 percent at PST and 62 percent at IST). Volunteers also reported they felt "usually" or "very" safe where they lived (85 percent), where they worked (90 percent), when they traveled in-country (57 percent), and in the city where the main Peace Corps office is located (53 percent). Although these responses are encouraging signs that the Peace Corps safety and security program is effective for the majority of Volunteers, the agency continues to develop strategies to help Volunteers mitigate risks, particularly while traveling within country and to the main Peace Corps office.

Continued training has focused on strengthening the capacity of post staff to reinforce the importance of incident reporting and to address underreporting. Results from the *Volunteer Survey* reveal that of the Volunteers who experienced a crime but did not report it, the most frequent reasons were because the crime was too minor or common to report or because they did not think the Peace Corps could help. Other reasons, such as potential punitive responses by the Peace Corps, perceived breaches of confidentiality, a possible site change, and the mindset that the Volunteer can handle the incident on his or her own, may also have a suppressive effect on Volunteers reporting incidents. Subregional staff (Peace Corps Safety and Security Officers), as well as headquarters staff, work with posts to better understand the reasons Volunteers are not reporting and to develop cogent responses to Volunteer concerns. The Office of Safety and Security continues to emphasize crime prevention and stresses reporting in its training programs. Ongoing safety and security training is provided to Peace Corps staff both at headquarters and overseas posts.

Communication with Volunteers outside of formal training can assist with raising general awareness as well as situation-specific awareness during times of crisis. In the *Volunteer Survey*, Volunteers report the most effective methods of communication with Peace Corps staff includes:

- Using a cell phone for voice calls;
- Text messaging;

## Current Strategies to Reduce Risk

- Email or internet;
- In-person visits from staff (Safety and Security Coordinator, associate Peace Corps director, Country Director).

Although these findings provide general guidance to posts and safety and security staff regarding Volunteer's preferred communication methods, it is important that posts be aware of the availability and limitation of each of these methods for the specific country, and strategize alternative methods in the event that the preferred channel is unavailable.

In its effort to keep the Volunteers safe, it is imperative that the agency be aware of the security issues that affect Volunteers. A critical component of the agency's perspective on Volunteer safety and security in any given country is largely based on what Volunteers and trainees are reporting to the staff. The importance of prompt and accurate incident reporting cannot be stressed enough.

Additional strategies recommended by Peace Corps Safety and Security Officers to enhance Volunteer safety and security include:

- Revising budget planning so that security upgrades to Volunteer residences are not dependent on Volunteer discretionary money;
- Conducting safety and security overview sessions at close-of-service conferences to collect Volunteer feedback and receive information about any incidents that may not have been reported earlier in service;
- Ensuring Volunteers do not handle or collect money for business groups or community organizations with whom they work, reducing their risk of being targeted by criminals;
- Collecting information on non-reportable safety and security incidents for use in training, analysis, and development of mitigation strategies;
- Highlighting risk factors and preventive measures for sexual assaults, to include articles in the Volunteer newsletter or specific sessions during in-service training;
- Conducting testing following safety and security training sessions to ensure that Volunteers/trainees understand key safety and security concepts;
- Establishing a contact list of approved taxi drivers for use by Volunteers visiting the capital;
- Developing formal housing standards for each post, and conducting and documenting housing inspections for each Volunteer residence;
- Reviewing site visits policy to ensure standards for the number of visits and Volunteer contacts are reasonable.

By adopting these and other recommendations, Peace Corps can ensure that the agency is evolving to meet the constantly changing safety and security situations throughout the world.

## Concluding Remarks

Crimes against Volunteers, with minor fluctuations, have remained steady over the last 10 years. The Peace Corps will continue to track safety incidents against Volunteers and use this information to develop new agency-wide policies, procedures, and trainings, and to assess the security environment of particular countries. While the most recent Peace Corps *Volunteer Survey* shows that Volunteers rate personal safety and security training as the most effective training components provided during their pre-service and in-service training, the Peace Corps continually strives to increase Volunteers' safety during their service. This requires a systematic agency approach involving commitment from headquarters staff, overseas staff, and the Volunteers.

In 2008, overseas Peace Corps Safety and Security Officers provided support and recommendations to staff for strengthening their approaches to safety and security during visits to posts throughout the year. Many posts received follow-up visits at critical junctures to reinforce particular aspects of Volunteer safety and security or as a response to a crisis situation. This type of support allows the Office of Safety and Security to provide staff training and assist in integrating safety and security into programming.

The Regional Security Officers with the U.S. Embassies overseas are also key personnel involved in maintaining the safety and security of the Volunteers. Staff at post and at headquarters collaborate with officials from the State Department as often as necessary. Finally, the Consolidated Incident Reporting System continues to be improved to enable more comprehensive incident reporting, a streamlined notification process, and better integration of crime incident data into the overall Volunteer safety and security program. The findings from this report emphasize the need for continued safety training during pre-service training and in-service training to provide Volunteers with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to decrease their risk of being victimized by crime, with a particular focus on robberies and thefts that occur while the Volunteer is out of site. Posts are urged to share their "best practices" prevention strategies with other countries and with regional and headquarters staff.



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# Appendices

Appendix A: Severity Hierarchy and Incident Definitions

Appendix B: Methodology

Appendix C: Peace Corps countries, 2008

Appendix D: Demographics of All Volunteers, 2008

Appendix E: Global, Regional, and Post Crime Volume and Rates, 2008

Appendix F: Demographics for Rape/Attempted Rape, Aggravated Assault, and Robbery Events, 2008

# Appendix A: Severity Hierarchy and Incident Definitions

**VIOLENT CRIMES:** Death by Homicide > Kidnapping > Rape > Attempted Rape > Major Sexual Assault > Robbery > Aggravated Assault > Major Physical Assault > Burglary with PCV Present > Death Threat > Intimidation

**NON-VIOLENT CRIMES:** Other Sexual Assault > Other Physical Assault > Burglary without PCV Present > Theft > Vandalism

Note: The definitions of violent crimes supersede the definitions outlined in the Office of the Inspector

General memo of 7/14/04 by Charles Smith

Violent Crimes	
<b>Death by Homicide</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another</li> <li>• Deaths caused by negligence, attempts to kill, assaults to kill, suicides, and accidental deaths are excluded</li> <li>• Also referred to as murder</li> </ul>
<b>Kidnapping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unlawful seizure, transportation, and/or detention of a Volunteer against his/her will for ransom or reward</li> <li>• Also referred to as abduction</li> <li>• This category includes hostage-taking</li> </ul>
<b>Rape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual intercourse—defined as penetration of the vagina or anus either orally and/or with the penis—without the consent and/or against the will of the victim</li> <li>• Rape also includes what was formerly referred to as forced oral sex—defined as non-consensual contact between the victim’s mouth and the assailant’s genitals or anus</li> <li>• Also includes when a victim is unable to consent because of ingestion of drugs and/or alcohol</li> </ul>
<b>Attempted Rape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attempted, but unsuccessful penetration of the vagina or anus—either orally and/or with the penis—as determined by the victim</li> <li>• Attempted rape also includes attempted forced oral sex—defined as attempted, but unsuccessful non-consensual contact between the victim’s mouth and the assailant’s genitals or anus</li> <li>• Also includes when a victim is unable to consent because of ingestion of drugs and/or alcohol</li> </ul>
<b>Major Sexual Assault</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skin-to-skin contact with the breasts, genitals, mouth, buttocks, or anus <u>AND</u> any of the following:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) the use of a weapon by the assailant, OR</li> <li>2.) physical injury to the victim OR</li> <li>3.) when the victim had to use force to disengage the assailant</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Also includes insertion of a finger, instrument or device other than a penis into the vagina or anus</li> </ul>
<b>Robbery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The taking or attempting to take anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody or care of another person by force, threat of force, violence, and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm</li> <li>• Also includes when a robber displays/uses a weapon</li> </ul>
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attack or threat of attack <i>with</i> a weapon, for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury, whether or not an injury occurred</li> <li>• Attack without a weapon when <i>serious injury</i> results. Serious injury includes: broken bones, lost teeth, internal injuries, severe laceration, loss of consciousness, or any injury requiring two or more days of hospitalization</li> <li>• This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm</li> <li>• When physical assault and robbery occur together, the offense falls under the category of robbery</li> <li>• Attempted murder should be reported as aggravated assault</li> </ul>

# Appendix A: Severity Hierarchy and Incident Definitions

<b>Major Physical Assault</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attack without a weapon resulting in:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) injury requiring less than two days of hospitalization, OR</li> <li>2.) diagnostic x-rays to rule out broken bones (and no fracture is found), OR</li> <li>3.) surgical intervention (including suturing), OR</li> <li>4.) the Volunteer used force to disengage the assailant</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<b>Burglary with PCV Present:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burglary or attempted burglary committed while a Volunteer is physically present</li> <li>• Unlawful or forcible entry of a Volunteer’s residence</li> <li>• This crime usually, but not always, involves theft</li> <li>• The illegal entry may be forcible, such as breaking a window or slashing a screen, or may be without force by entering through an unlocked door or an open window. As long as the person entering has no legal right to be present in the residence, a burglary has occurred.</li> <li>• Also includes illegal entry of a hotel room</li> <li>• When physical assault and burglary occur together, the offense falls under the category of robbery</li> </ul>
<b>Death Threat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A threat of death is made without physical contact, injury to the Volunteer, or sexual assault</li> <li>• Such threats may be made in person, over the telephone, or in writing</li> </ul>
<b>Intimidation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formerly referred to as ‘other threat’</li> <li>• Occurs when the Volunteer is placed in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words and/or other conduct but without displaying a weapon or subjecting the victim to actual physical attack</li> <li>• This offense includes stalking, and is determined by the perception of the Volunteer</li> </ul>
<b>Non-Violent Crimes</b>	
<b>Other Sexual Assault</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formerly referred to as minor sexual assault</li> <li>• Contact of the breasts, genitals, mouth, buttocks, or an anus that is not classified as rape, attempted rape, or major sexual assault</li> <li>• Unwanted kissing, fondling, and groping are also included in the category</li> </ul>
<b>Other Physical Assault</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formerly referred to as minor physical assault</li> <li>• Attack or threat of attack that is not classified as aggravated assault or major physical assault</li> <li>• Attack without a weapon resulting in no or only minor injury, e.g. bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches, or swelling</li> </ul>
<b>Burglary without PCV Present</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unlawful or forcible entry of a Volunteer’s residence</li> <li>• This crime usually, but not always, involves theft</li> <li>• The illegal entry may be forcible, such as breaking a window or slashing a screen, or may be without force by entering through an unlocked door or an open window. As long as the person entering has no legal right to be present in the residence, a burglary has occurred.</li> <li>• Also includes illegal entry of a hotel room</li> </ul>
<b>Theft</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The taking away of or attempt to take away property or cash without involving force or illegal entry</li> <li>• There is no known direct contact with the victim</li> <li>• Includes pick-pocketing, stolen purses, and thefts from a residence that do not involve an illegal entry</li> </ul>

## Appendix A: Severity Hierarchy and Incident Definitions

<b>Vandalism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mischievous or malicious defacement, destruction, or damage of property</li><li>• If unlawful or forcible entry or attempted entry of a residence is involved, the incident should be classified as burglary</li></ul>
<b>Unknown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The incident does not meet the definitions of any of the listed incident types</li></ul>

## Appendix B: Methodology

### **Data Analysis**

The Crime Statistics and Analysis Unit conducts a multi-step quality-assurance process to mitigate errors inherent to the data collection process (i.e., respondent errors, non-response errors, misclassifications, etc.). Each report received at headquarters is reviewed for: 1) appropriate crime classification; and 2) any discrepancies between the summary and the closed-ended questions (i.e., questions with multiple choice responses). Data are reviewed daily for misclassification, inconsistencies, errors or missing data and are corrected, whenever possible. Prior to analysis for the annual report, a review was conducted by the Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning (OSIRP) on a random sample of 166 cases from 2008 (10 percent) to ensure reasonable confidence in the accuracy of the data editing process. The percentage of errors found in both the classification of incidents and discrepancies in the data fell below the acceptable error rate of five percent.

The *Safety of the Volunteer 2008* reports on three periods of data collection and analysis: the 2008 calendar year, the 3-year period from 2006-2008, and the 10-year period from 1999-2008. Analyzing multiple time periods provides a good understanding of areas of fluctuation and long-standing crime trends. Data for this report are current as of August 30, 2009. Longitudinal data are represented in scatter plots that provide crime incidence rates for each year. Within each scatter plot, a linear trend line approximates the best-fit line through the data points.

This report displays the data in four categories: sexual assaults, physical assaults, threats, and property crimes. Incidence rates, global trend analyses, and crime profiles are provided in each of the four categories. Each figure included in the crime profile analysis sections includes the number of incidents and the specific years contributing to that particular analysis and is denoted as  $n = ##$  within the figure. In some analyses, the  $n$  is less than the total number of reported incidents for that particular crime because respondents may have left data fields unanswered within the incident reports.

### **Incidence Rates**

$$\text{Incidence Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of reported incidents}}{\text{VT Years}} \times 100$$

Incidence rates are more accurate indicators of reported crimes for comparative purposes than are the raw number of incidents, or the crime volume. By reporting incidence rates (i.e., the number of incidents as a function of the number of Volunteers serving in a given country over time), more meaningful comparisons can be made across Peace Corps countries or regions that have differing numbers of Volunteers. For example, 25 reported incidents of aggravated assault affect a higher percentage of Volunteers at a post with 100 Volunteers than a post with 200 Volunteers.

Furthermore, incidence rates are calculated using VT years which are more accurate than using the number of Volunteers in the denominator. The VT year calculation considers the length of time Volunteers were at risk; or, the length of time served by Volunteers. A VT year encompasses the amount of time a Volunteer/trainee served during a given year between the start of domestic training (“staging”) through the end of service. For example, if a Volunteer leaves after six months, he or she is only at risk during that six-month period, and only half (0.5) of a VT year is contributed to the incidence rate calculation. If a Volunteer stays the full year, one full (1.0) VT year is contributed. Unless otherwise noted in the report, incidence rates are reported as incidents per 100 Volunteer/trainee (VT) years. Crimes with relatively low frequency, such as rapes and major sexual assaults, will also be expressed per 1,000 VT years.

## Appendix B: Methodology

### ***Data Limitations***

There are three limitations to interpreting the data in this report that the reader should bear in mind.

The first limitation relates to the selective reporting of security incidents by Volunteers. In reviewing the frequency of incidents, the reader should keep in mind that these are the numbers for *reported* incidents. The biennial *Peace Corps Volunteer Survey* report contains the results of an anonymous survey administered to all serving Volunteers. Survey findings consistently show that underreporting of security incidents does occur. For example, the data from the most recent *Volunteer Survey* reveals that of the 19 Volunteers who stated they were raped, six (32 percent) responded that they did not report the rape to the Peace Corps. The actual number of Volunteers who did not report the rape may be even higher because an additional seven (37 percent) did not respond as to whether or not they reported the rape. The Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Crime Victimization Survey for 2006 indicates high underreporting rates for rapes in their research of crime victimization in the United States. Only 41 percent of the victims of rape/sexual assault reported the crime to the police in 2006. Related to the self-reported nature of the incident reporting process is the potential for misclassification of incidents. Incidents are classified solely on the information provided by the Volunteer, which could lead to inaccurate classification if a Volunteer does not provide all necessary and relevant information. The incident definitions are included in Appendix A.

The second limitation is more of a cautionary note and relates to comparing incidence rates across Peace Corps posts. While the use of incidence rates does allow for comparisons across posts, caution should be used when comparing crime rates for countries with limited VT years, such as Kenya (30 VT years), because they appear dramatically higher when compared to rates for countries with greater VT, years such as Ukraine (297 VT years), even when the number of incidents is small. To illustrate, an increase from one theft to two thefts at a post with 25 VT years results in theft incidence rates increasing from 4.0 to 8.0 incidents per 100 VT years. Whereas, with a large post with 175 VT years, the theft incidence rates would increase from 0.6 to 1.1 per 100 VT years. In 2008, there were seven posts (10 percent) with fewer than 50 VT years. In addition, rates based on a small number of incidents (fewer than 30), such as rapes, should be interpreted with caution as they may not be an accurate indication of risk. Appendix E provides the number of reported incidents and the number of VT years contributed by each country in 2008.

A third limitation involves the analysis of the data by the Volunteer's country of service. The vast majority of incidents occur in the Volunteer's country of service. However, incidents against Volunteers do happen outside their country of service; for example, when a Volunteer is vacationing in another country. The percentage of incidents occurring outside the Volunteer's country of service is typically 3 percent or less.

## Appendix C: Peace Corps Countries and Regions (2008)

<b>Africa</b>	<b>Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia</b>	<b>Inter-America and the Pacific</b>
Benin	Albania	Belize
Botswana	Armenia	Bolivia*
Burkina Faso	Azerbaijan	Costa Rica
Cameroon	Bulgaria	Dominican Republic
Cape Verde	Cambodia	Eastern Caribbean
Ethiopia	China	Ecuador
Ghana	Georgia*	El Salvador
Guinea	Jordan	Fiji
Kenya*&**	Kazakhstan	Guatemala
Lesotho	Kyrgyz Republic	Guyana
Liberia**	Macedonia	Honduras
Madagascar	Moldova	Jamaica
Malawi	Mongolia	Kiribati*
Mali	Morocco	Mexico
Mauritania	Philippines	Micronesia
Mozambique	Romania	Nicaragua
Namibia	Thailand	Panama
Niger	Turkmenistan	Paraguay
Senegal	Ukraine	Peru
South Africa		Samoa
Swaziland		Suriname
Tanzania		Tonga
The Gambia		Vanuatu
Togo		
Uganda		
Zambia		

*	Peace Corps countries suspended:	Bolivia, Georgia, Kenya, Kiribati
**	Peace Corps countries opened or reopened in calendar year 2008:	Kenya, Liberia
***	Peace Corps countries closed in calendar year 2008:	N/A

*Note:* A reopened program does not provide data for a full calendar year, so incidence of safety events for this country should be interpreted cautiously.



## Appendix D: Demographics of All Volunteers (2008)

Demographic Characteristic	N	%	Demographic Characteristic	N	%		
Men	3163	40	<b>Educational level:</b>	High School Diploma	14	<1	
Women	4713	60		1-2 years college	45	1	
Racial Minority Volunteers/Trainees	1200	15		Technical School Graduate	23	<1	
Seniors (50+)	428	N/A		AA Degree	64	1	
Oldest Volunteer	84	N/A		3 years college	353	4	
Age: Average/Median/Most Common	27/25/23	N/A		Bachelor's Degree	5889	83	
<b>Age:</b>				Graduate Study	151	2	
20-29	6740	86		Graduate Degree	716	9	
30-39	596	8		Not Specified	621	<1	
40-49	112	1		<b>Skill Sector:</b>	Education	2779	35
50-59	196	2	Health & HIV/AIDS		1690	21	
60-69	203	3	Business Development		1155	15	
70-79	27	<1	Environment		1180	15	
80-89	2	<1	Youth Development		370	5	
<b>Ethnicity:</b>			Agriculture		393	5	
Caucasian	5846	74	Other		309	4	
Not Specified	830	11	<i>Notes:</i>		1. As reported on September 30, 2008.		
Asian American	380	5			2. N = Volunteers in the field. Reported by the Peace Corps' Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning.		
Hispanic	373	5			3. Some percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding error.		
African-American	215	3					
Mixed Ethnicity	212	3					
Native American	20	<1					
<b>Marital status:</b>							
Single	6805	86					
Married	500	6					
Divorced	302	4					
Engaged	180	2					
Married/serving alone	54	1					
Widowed	33	<1					
Married/while serving	2	<1					

# Appendix E: Global, Regional, and Post Crime Volume and Rates (2008)

## Sexual Assault Events and Incidence Rate (2008)

### Global

All Countries	Female VT Years	Rape		Major Sexual Assault		Other Sexual Assault		All Sexual Assault	
		Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate
	4521	22	0.49	18	0.40	88	1.95	128	2.83

### Africa Region

Countries	Female VT Years	Rape		Major Sexual Assault		Other Sexual Assault		All Sexual Assault	
		Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate
BENIN	71	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.41	1	1.41
BOTSWANA	73	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
BURKINA FASO	69	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	2.89	2	2.89
CAMEROON	92	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
CAPE VERDE	30	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	3.28	1	3.28
ETHIOPIA	29	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
GHANA	73	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
GUINEA	34	1	2.92	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	2.92
KENYA <sup>*&amp;**</sup>	19	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
LESOTHO	63	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
LIBERIA <sup>*</sup>	2	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
MADAGASCAR	83	0	0.00	1	1.21	0	0.00	1	1.21
MALAWI	74	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.35	1	1.35
MALI	93	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
MAURITANIA	82	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.21	1	1.21
MOZAMBIQUE	82	1	1.22	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.22
NAMIBIA	85	0	0.00	2	2.35	0	0.00	2	2.35
NIGER	94	0	0.00	1	1.06	1	1.06	2	2.12
SENEGAL	98	0	0.00	1	1.02	1	1.02	2	2.05
SOUTH AFRICA	106	2	1.88	1	0.94	1	0.94	4	3.76
SWAZILAND	33	0	0.00	1	3.00	1	3.00	2	5.99
TANZANIA	74	1	1.34	0	0.00	1	1.34	2	2.69
THE GAMBIA	62	1	1.62	1	1.62	2	3.23	4	6.47
TOGO	79	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.27	1	1.27
UGANDA	83	1	1.20	1	1.20	0	0.00	2	2.40
ZAMBIA	116	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.86	1	0.86
<b>TOTAL AFRICA</b>	<b>1801</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1.72</b>

#### Notes

- \* Peace Corps countries opened or reopened in calendar year 2008: Kenya and Liberia.
- \*\* Peace Corps countries suspended in calendar year 2008: Bolivia, Georgia, Kenya, and Kiribati.
- For Sexual Assaults, incidence rates are per 100 Female VT years.  
For Physical Assaults, Threats, and Property Crimes, incidence rates are per 100 VT years.

## Appendix E: Global, Regional, and Post Crime Volume and Rates (2008)

### Sexual Assault Events and Incidence Rate (2008) (cont'd)

#### Global

All Countries	Female VT Years	Rape		Major Sexual Assault		Other Sexual Assault		All Sexual Assault	
		Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate
	4521	22	0.49	18	0.40	88	1.95	128	2.83

#### EMA Region

Countries	Female VT Years	Rape		Major Sexual Assault		Other Sexual Assault		All Sexual Assault	
		Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate
ALBANIA	41	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	2.44	1	2.44
ARMENIA	49	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	6.16	3	6.16
AZERBAIJAN	53	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	9.45	5	9.45
BULGARIA	82	0	0.00	1	1.22	1	1.22	2	2.44
CAMBODIA	22	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	4.61	1	4.61
CHINA	57	1	1.76	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.76
GEORGIA**	30	2	6.74	0	0.00	4	13.48	6	20.21
JORDAN	35	0	0.00	0	0.00	6	17.03	6	17.03
KAZAKHSTAN	65	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	4.59	3	4.59
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	50	0	0.00	1	1.99	2	3.97	3	5.96
MACEDONIA	61	1	1.64	1	1.64	4	6.56	6	9.84
MOLDOVA	78	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	3.84	3	3.84
MONGOLIA	50	1	1.99	0	0.00	4	7.95	5	9.93
MOROCCO	142	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	3.51	5	3.51
PHILIPPINES	65	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.55	1	1.55
ROMANIA	79	0	0.00	1	1.26	0	0.00	1	1.26
THAILAND	59	1	1.71	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.71
TURKMENISTAN	46	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	6.49	3	6.49
UKRAINE	181	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	2.77	5	2.77
<b>TOTAL EMA</b>	<b>1245</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>4.10</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>4.90</b>

#### Notes

- \* Peace Corps countries opened or reopened in calendar year 2008: Kenya and Liberia.
- \*\* Peace Corps countries suspended in calendar year 2008: Bolivia, Georgia, Kenya, and Kiribati.
- For Sexual Assaults, incidence rates are per 100 Female VT years.  
For Physical Assaults, Threats, and Property Crimes, incidence rates are per 100 VT years.

# Appendix E: Global, Regional, and Post Crime Volume and Rates (2008)

## Sexual Assault Events and Incidence Rate (2008) (cont'd)

### Global

All Countries	Female VT Years	Rape		Major Sexual Assault		Other Sexual Assault		All Sexual Assault	
		Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate
	4521	22	0.49	18	0.40	88	1.95	128	2.83

### IAP Region

Countries	Female VT Years	Rape		Major Sexual Assault		Other Sexual Assault		All Sexual Assault	
		Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate
BELIZE	35	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	2.89	1	2.89
BOLIVIA**	58	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.71	1	1.71
COSTA RICA	70	1	1.42	0	0.00	4	5.69	5	7.12
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	116	1	0.86	1	0.86	2	1.72	4	3.45
EASTERN CARIBBEAN	71	0	0.00	1	1.42	0	0.00	1	1.42
ECUADOR	97	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.03	1	1.03
EL SALVADOR	88	1	1.14	0	0.00	1	1.14	2	2.28
FIJI	32	1	3.10	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	3.10
GUATEMALA	116	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	1.73	2	1.73
GUYANA	31	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
HONDURAS	112	3	2.68	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	2.68
JAMAICA	55	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
KIRIBATI**	4	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
MEXICO	30	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
MICRONESIA	32	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	6.29	2	6.29
NICARAGUA	118	0	0.00	1	0.85	1	0.85	2	1.69
PANAMA	92	2	2.17	0	0.00	1	1.09	3	3.26
PARAGUAY	109	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.92	1	0.92
PERU	83	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.21	1	1.21
SAMOA	20	0	0.00	1	5.08	0	0.00	1	5.08
SURINAME	20	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
TONGA	32	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	9.39	3	9.39
VANUATU	56	0	0.00	1	1.79	1	1.79	2	3.58
<b>TOTAL IAP</b>	<b>1476</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0.61</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1.49</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2.44</b>

#### Notes

- \* Peace Corps countries opened or reopened in calendar year 2008: Kenya and Liberia.
- \*\* Peace Corps countries suspended in calendar year 2008: Bolivia, Georgia, Kenya, and Kiribati.
- For Sexual Assaults, incidence rates are per 100 Female VT years.  
For Physical Assaults, Threats, and Property Crimes, incidence rates are per 100 VT years.

# Appendix E: Global, Regional, and Post Crime Volume and Rates (2008)

## Physical Assault Events and Incidence Rate (2008)

### Global

All Countries	VT Years	Kidnapping		Aggravated Assault		Major Physical Assault		Other Physical Assault		All Physical Assault	
		Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate
	7580	2	0.03	37	0.49	12	0.16	43	0.57	94	1.24

### Africa Region

Countries	VT Years	Kidnapping		Aggravated Assault		Major Physical Assault		Other Physical Assault		All Physical Assault	
		Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate
BENIN	100	0	0.00	1	1.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.00
BOTSWANA	98	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.02	1	1.02
BURKINA FASO	111	0	0.00	3	2.69	0	0.00	1	0.90	4	3.59
CAMEROON	144	0	0.00	1	0.69	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.69
CAPE VERDE	53	0	0.00	1	1.89	0	0.00	3	5.66	4	7.54
ETHIOPIA	38	0	0.00	1	2.61	0	0.00	1	2.61	2	5.22
GHANA	141	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
GUINEA	57	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
KENYA <sup>*&amp;**</sup>	30	0	0.00	1	3.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	3.33
LESOTHO	88	0	0.00	2	2.27	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	2.27
LIBERIA <sup>*</sup>	2	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
MADAGASCAR	134	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
MALAWI	130	0	0.00	1	0.77	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.77
MALI	144	0	0.00	2	1.39	1	0.69	3	2.08	6	4.17
MAURITANIA	128	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
MOZAMBIQUE	126	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	1.59	0	0.00	2	1.59
NAMIBIA	126	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
NIGER	142	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.71	1	0.71
SENEGAL	160	0	0.00	1	0.63	2	1.25	0	0.00	3	1.88
SOUTH AFRICA	158	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
SWAZILAND	47	0	0.00	1	2.13	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	2.13
TANZANIA	143	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
THE GAMBIA	107	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	1.86	2	1.86
TOGO	116	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.86	0	0.00	1	0.86
UGANDA	141	0	0.00	1	0.71	0	0.00	1	0.71	2	1.42
ZAMBIA	183	0	0.00	2	1.10	0	0.00	1	0.55	3	1.64
<b>TOTAL AFRICA</b>	<b>2847</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1.33</b>

#### Notes

- \* Peace Corps countries opened or reopened in calendar year 2008: Kenya and Liberia.
- \*\* Peace Corps countries suspended in calendar year 2008: Bolivia, Georgia, Kenya, and Kiribati.
- For Sexual Assaults, incidence rates are per 100 Female VT years.  
For Physical Assaults, Threats, and Property Crimes, incidence rates are per 100 VT years.

# Appendix E: Global, Regional, and Post Crime Volume and Rates (2008)

## Physical Assault Events and Incidence Rate (2008) (cont'd)

### Global

All Countries	VT Years	Kidnapping		Aggravated Assault		Major Physical Assault		Other Physical Assault		All Physical Assault	
		Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate
	7580	2	0.03	37	0.49	12	0.16	43	0.57	94	1.24

### EMA Region

Countries	VT Years	Kidnapping		Aggravated Assault		Major Physical Assault		Other Physical Assault		All Physical Assault	
		Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate
ALBANIA	79	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.26	1	1.26
ARMENIA	88	1	1.13	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.13	2	2.27
AZERBAIJAN	87	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
BULGARIA	154	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.65	1	0.65
CAMBODIA	41	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
CHINA	107	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
GEORGIA**	58	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
JORDAN	62	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.62	1	1.62
KAZAKHSTAN	137	1	0.73	4	2.92	1	0.73	2	1.46	8	5.84
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	94	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
MACEDONIA	89	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.13	1	1.13
MOLDOVA	142	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	2.12	3	2.12
MONGOLIA	106	0	0.00	1	0.94	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.94
MOROCCO	228	0	0.00	2	0.88	0	0.00	4	1.76	6	2.64
PHILIPPINES	115	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
ROMANIA	164	0	0.00	1	0.61	2	1.22	1	0.61	4	2.44
THAILAND	111	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
TURKMENISTAN	71	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	2.81	2	2.81
UKRAINE	297	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.34	4	1.35	5	1.68
<b>TOTAL EMA</b>	<b>2229</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1.57</b>

#### Notes

- \* Peace Corps countries opened or reopened in calendar year 2008: Kenya and Liberia.
- \*\* Peace Corps countries suspended in calendar year 2008: Bolivia, Georgia, Kenya, and Kiribati.
- For Sexual Assaults, incidence rates are per 100 Female VT years.  
For Physical Assaults, Threats, and Property Crimes, incidence rates are per 100 VT years.

# Appendix E: Global, Regional, and Post Crime Volume and Rates (2008)

## Physical Assault Events and Incidence Rate (2008) (cont'd)

### Global

All Countries	VT Years	Kidnapping		Aggravated Assault		Major Physical Assault		Other Physical Assault		All Physical Assault	
		Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate
	7580	2	0.03	37	0.49	12	0.16	43	0.57	94	1.24

### IAP Region

Countries	VT Years	Kidnapping		Aggravated Assault		Major Physical Assault		Other Physical Assault		All Physical Assault	
		Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate
BELIZE	63	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.60	1	1.60
BOLIVIA **	107	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
COSTA RICA	112	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.90	0	0.00	1	0.90
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	175	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
EASTERN CARIBBEAN	116	0	0.00	2	1.73	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	1.73
ECUADOR	156	0	0.00	1	0.64	0	0.00	1	0.64	2	1.28
EL SALVADOR	151	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
FIJI	57	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.76	1	1.76
GUATEMALA	192	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
GUYANA	46	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
HONDURAS	183	0	0.00	4	2.19	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	2.19
JAMAICA	96	0	0.00	1	1.04	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.04
KIRIBATI **	6	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
MEXICO	56	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
MICRONESIA	58	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.72	1	1.72
NICARAGUA	185	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.54	0	0.00	1	0.54
PANAMA	168	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
PARAGUAY	189	0	0.00	1	0.53	0	0.00	1	0.53	2	1.06
PERU	153	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
SAMOA	47	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	2.12	1	2.12
SURINAME	44	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	2.28	1	2.28
TONGA	52	0	0.00	2	3.88	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	3.88
VANUATU	98	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.02	1	1.02
<b>TOTAL IAP</b>	2506	0	0.00	11	0.44	2	0.08	8	0.32	21	0.84

#### Notes

- \* Peace Corps countries opened or reopened in calendar year 2008: Kenya and Liberia.
- \*\* Peace Corps countries suspended in calendar year 2008: Bolivia, Georgia, Kenya, and Kiribati.
- For Sexual Assaults, incidence rates are per 100 Female VT years.  
For Physical Assaults, Threats, and Property Crimes, incidence rates are per 100 VT years.

# Appendix E: Global, Regional, and Post Crime Volume and Rates (2008)

## Threat Events and Incidence Rate (2008)

### Global

All Countries	VT Years	Threat	
		Event	Rate
	7580	90	1.19

### Africa Region

Countries	VT Years	Threat	
		Event	Rate
BENIN	100	0	0.00
BOTSWANA	98	1	1.02
BURKINA FASO	111	1	0.90
CAMEROON	144	0	0.00
CAPE VERDE	53	1	1.89
ETHIOPIA	38	1	2.61
GHANA	141	2	1.42
GUINEA	57	0	0.00
KENYA <sup>*&amp;**</sup>	30	1	3.33
LESOTHO	88	0	0.00
LIBERIA <sup>*</sup>	2	0	0.00
MADAGASCAR	134	2	1.49
MALAWI	130	0	0.00
MALI	144	0	0.00
MAURITANIA	128	0	0.00
MOZAMBIQUE	126	4	3.18
NAMIBIA	126	4	3.18
NIGER	142	2	1.41
SENEGAL	160	1	0.63
SOUTH AFRICA	158	1	0.63
SWAZILAND	47	0	0.00
TANZANIA	143	1	0.70
THE GAMBIA	107	1	0.93
TOGO	116	0	0.00
UGANDA	141	0	0.00
ZAMBIA	183	1	0.55
<b>TOTAL AFRICA</b>	<b>2847</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0.84</b>

#### Notes

- \* Peace Corps countries opened or reopened in calendar year 2008: Kenya and Liberia.
- \*\* Peace Corps countries suspended in calendar year 2008: Bolivia, Georgia, Kenya, and Kiribati.
3. For Sexual Assaults, incidence rates are per 100 Female VT years.  
For Physical Assaults, Threats, and Property Crimes, incidence rates are per 100 VT years.



## Appendix E: Global, Regional, and Post Crime Volume and Rates (2008)

### Threat Events and Incidence Rate (2008) (cont'd)

#### Global

All Countries	VT Years	Threat	
		Event	Rate
	7580	90	1.19

#### EMA Region

Countries	VT Years	Threat	
		Event	Rate
ALBANIA	79	2	2.53
ARMENIA	88	0	0.00
AZERBAIJAN	87	1	1.15
BULGARIA	154	2	1.30
CAMBODIA	41	0	0.00
CHINA	107	2	1.87
GEORGIA **	58	1	1.74
JORDAN	62	2	3.24
KAZAKHSTAN	137	7	5.11
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	94	0	0.00
MACEDONIA	89	1	1.13
MOLDOVA	142	0	0.00
MONGOLIA	106	0	0.00
MOROCCO	228	4	1.76
PHILIPPINES	115	0	0.00
ROMANIA	164	0	0.00
THAILAND	111	0	0.00
TURKMENISTAN	71	0	0.00
UKRAINE	297	3	1.01
<b>TOTAL EMA</b>	<b>2229</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1.12</b>

#### Notes

- \* Peace Corps countries opened or reopened in calendar year 2008: Kenya and Liberia.
- \*\* Peace Corps countries suspended in calendar year 2008: Bolivia, Georgia, Kenya, and Kiribati.
- For Sexual Assaults, incidence rates are per 100 Female VT years.  
For Physical Assaults, Threats, and Property Crimes, incidence rates are per 100 VT years.

## Appendix E: Global, Regional, and Post Crime Volume and Rates (2008)

### Threat Events and Incidence Rate (2008) (cont'd)

#### Global

All Countries	VT Years	Threat	
		Event	Rate
	7580	90	1.19

#### IAP Region

Countries	VT Years	Threat	
		Event	Rate
BELIZE	63	1	1.60
BOLIVIA **	107	1	0.93
COSTA RICA	112	4	3.59
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	175	1	0.57
EASTERN CARIBBEAN	116	1	0.86
ECUADOR	156	0	0.00
EL SALVADOR	151	1	0.66
FIJI	57	0	0.00
GUATEMALA	192	2	1.04
GUYANA	46	1	2.18
HONDURAS	183	8	4.37
JAMAICA	96	3	3.13
KIRIBATI **	6	0	0.00
MEXICO	56	0	0.00
MICRONESIA	58	2	3.44
NICARAGUA	185	0	0.00
PANAMA	168	0	0.00
PARAGUAY	189	3	1.59
PERU	153	0	0.00
SAMOA	47	2	4.25
SURINAME	44	2	4.56
TONGA	52	0	0.00
VANUATU	98	9	9.21
<b>TOTAL IAP</b>	<b>2506</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1.64</b>

#### Notes

- \* Peace Corps countries opened or reopened in calendar year 2008: Kenya and Liberia.
- \*\* Peace Corps countries suspended in calendar year 2008: Bolivia, Georgia, Kenya, and Kiribati.
3. For Sexual Assaults, incidence rates are per 100 Female VT years.  
For Physical Assaults, Threats, and Property Crimes, incidence rates are per 100 VT years.

# Appendix E: Global, Regional, and Post Crime Volume and Rates (2008)

## Property Crime Events and Incidence Rate (2008)

### Global

All Countries	VT Years	Robbery		Burglary		Theft		Vandalism		All Property Crime	
		Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate
	7580	182	2.40	317	4.18	757	9.99	5	0.07	1261	16.64

### Africa Region

Countries	VT Years	Robbery		Burglary		Theft		Vandalism		All Property Crime	
		Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate
BENIN	100	4	3.98	4	3.98	6	5.97	0	0.00	14	13.93
BOTSWANA	98	1	1.02	9	9.19	13	13.27	0	0.00	23	23.48
BURKINA FASO	111	3	2.69	4	3.59	11	9.87	0	0.00	18	16.16
CAMEROON	144	3	2.08	9	6.24	9	6.24	0	0.00	21	14.55
CAPE VERDE	53	3	5.66	2	3.77	2	3.77	0	0.00	7	13.20
ETHIOPIA	38	1	2.61	2	5.22	1	2.61	0	0.00	4	10.44
GHANA	141	2	1.42	8	5.69	11	7.82	0	0.00	21	14.94
GUINEA	57	1	1.74	1	1.74	1	1.74	0	0.00	3	5.22
KENYA <sup>*&amp;**</sup>	30	2	6.66	0	0.00	3	9.98	0	0.00	5	16.64
LESOTHO	88	1	1.14	4	4.54	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	5.68
LIBERIA <sup>*</sup>	2	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
MADAGASCAR	134	4	2.98	9	6.71	11	8.20	0	0.00	24	17.88
MALAWI	130	2	1.54	10	7.69	19	14.60	0	0.00	31	23.83
MALI	144	1	0.69	6	4.17	32	22.22	0	0.00	39	27.08
MAURITANIA	128	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
MOZAMBIQUE	126	7	5.57	25	19.88	14	11.13	0	0.00	46	36.58
NAMIBIA	126	5	3.98	8	6.37	7	5.57	0	0.00	20	15.91
NIGER	142	5	3.53	7	4.94	5	3.53	0	0.00	17	12.01
SENEGAL	160	5	3.13	7	4.39	30	18.80	0	0.00	42	26.31
SOUTH AFRICA	158	8	5.07	6	3.80	23	14.58	0	0.00	37	23.46
SWAZILAND	47	0	0.00	2	4.27	11	23.46	0	0.00	13	27.73
TANZANIA	143	3	2.09	5	3.49	5	3.49	0	0.00	13	9.06
THE GAMBIA	107	1	0.93	9	8.39	15	13.98	0	0.00	25	23.29
TOGO	116	7	6.03	5	4.31	12	10.33	0	0.00	24	20.67
UGANDA	141	2	1.42	12	8.53	14	9.95	0	0.00	28	19.90
ZAMBIA	183	2	1.10	20	10.95	21	11.50	0	0.00	43	23.54
<b>TOTAL AFRICA</b>	<b>2847</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>2.56</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>6.11</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>9.69</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>18.37</b>

#### Notes

- \* Peace Corps countries opened or reopened in calendar year 2008: Kenya and Liberia.
- \*\* Peace Corps countries suspended in calendar year 2008: Bolivia, Georgia, Kenya, and Kiribati.
- For Sexual Assaults, incidence rates are per 100 Female VT years.  
For Physical Assaults, Threats, and Property Crimes, incidence rates are per 100 VT years.

# Appendix E: Global, Regional, and Post Crime Volume and Rates (2008)

## Property Crime Events and Incidence Rate (2008) (cont'd)

### Global

All Countries	VT Years	Robbery		Burglary		Theft		Vandalism		All Property Crime	
		Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate
	7580	182	2.40	317	4.18	757	9.99	5	0.07	1261	16.64

### EMA Region

Countries	VT Years	Robbery		Burglary		Theft		Vandalism		All Property Crime	
		Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate
ALBANIA	79	0	0.00	1	1.26	10	12.64	0	0.00	11	13.91
ARMENIA	88	0	0.00	2	2.27	6	6.80	0	0.00	8	9.07
AZERBAIJAN	87	2	2.30	0	0.00	5	5.75	0	0.00	7	8.05
BULGARIA	154	0	0.00	4	2.59	4	2.59	0	0.00	8	5.19
CAMBODIA	41	1	2.43	2	4.87	10	24.33	0	0.00	13	31.62
CHINA	107	1	0.93	0	0.00	6	5.60	0	0.00	7	6.53
GEORGIA**	58	0	0.00	0	0.00	9	15.64	0	0.00	9	15.64
JORDAN	62	0	0.00	0	0.00	8	12.96	0	0.00	8	12.96
KAZAKHSTAN	137	4	2.92	4	2.92	4	2.92	0	0.00	12	8.76
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	94	1	1.06	2	2.12	7	7.44	0	0.00	10	10.62
MACEDONIA	89	0	0.00	1	1.13	5	5.64	0	0.00	6	6.77
MOLDOVA	142	1	0.71	1	0.71	12	8.46	0	0.00	14	9.87
MONGOLIA	106	3	2.83	1	0.94	13	12.27	0	0.00	17	16.04
MOROCCO	228	4	1.76	2	0.88	18	7.91	0	0.00	24	10.55
PHILIPPINES	115	1	0.87	3	2.61	7	6.09	0	0.00	11	9.57
ROMANIA	164	2	1.22	1	0.61	3	1.83	0	0.00	6	3.66
THAILAND	111	0	0.00	2	1.81	1	0.90	0	0.00	3	2.71
TURKMENISTAN	71	2	2.81	0	0.00	7	9.83	0	0.00	9	12.63
UKRAINE	297	1	0.34	3	1.01	24	8.08	2	0.67	30	10.10
<b>TOTAL EMA</b>	<b>2229</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1.03</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>7.13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>9.56</b>

#### Notes

- \* Peace Corps countries opened or reopened in calendar year 2008: Kenya and Liberia.
- \*\* Peace Corps countries suspended in calendar year 2008: Bolivia, Georgia, Kenya, and Kiribati.
- For Sexual Assaults, incidence rates are per 100 Female VT years.  
For Physical Assaults, Threats, and Property Crimes, incidence rates are per 100 VT years.

# Appendix E: Global, Regional, and Post Crime Volume and Rates (2008)

## Property Crime Events and Incidence Rate (2008) (cont'd)

### Global

All Countries	VT Years	Robbery		Burglary		Theft		Vandalism		All Property Crime	
		Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate
	7580	182	2.40	317	4.18	757	9.99	5	0.07	1261	16.64

### IAP Region

Countries	VT Years	Robbery		Burglary		Theft		Vandalism		All Property Crime	
		Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate	Event	Rate
BELIZE	63	1	1.60	3	4.79	9	14.37	1	1.60	14	22.36
BOLIVIA**	107	10	9.35	0	0.00	13	12.15	0	0.00	23	21.50
COSTA RICA	112	11	9.87	1	0.90	18	16.14	0	0.00	30	26.90
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	175	4	2.29	24	13.71	25	14.29	0	0.00	53	30.29
EASTERN CARIBBEAN	116	0	0.00	8	6.92	3	2.59	0	0.00	11	9.51
ECUADOR	156	5	3.20	0	0.00	9	5.76	0	0.00	14	8.96
EL SALVADOR	151	8	5.29	5	3.31	13	8.60	0	0.00	26	17.19
FIJI	57	2	3.52	4	7.05	13	22.90	0	0.00	19	33.47
GUATEMALA	192	6	3.12	8	4.17	63	32.81	0	0.00	77	40.10
GUYANA	46	2	4.36	3	6.54	6	13.09	0	0.00	11	23.99
HONDURAS	183	8	4.37	6	3.28	26	14.21	0	0.00	40	21.86
JAMAICA	96	4	4.17	3	3.13	12	12.51	0	0.00	19	19.80
KIRIBATI**	6	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
MEXICO	56	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	5.39	0	0.00	3	5.39
MICRONESIA	58	0	0.00	1	1.72	8	13.74	0	0.00	9	15.46
NICARAGUA	185	11	5.95	9	4.87	18	9.74	0	0.00	38	20.55
PANAMA	168	3	1.79	6	3.58	14	8.36	0	0.00	23	13.73
PARAGUAY	189	2	1.06	4	2.12	25	13.24	0	0.00	31	16.42
PERU	153	6	3.93	2	1.31	25	16.39	0	0.00	33	21.63
SAMOA	47	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	2.12	1	2.12	2	4.25
SURINAME	44	3	6.84	6	13.68	10	22.80	0	0.00	19	43.33
TONGA	52	0	0.00	8	15.51	5	9.70	0	0.00	13	25.21
VANUATU	98	0	0.00	13	13.30	3	3.07	1	1.02	17	17.39
<b>TOTAL IAP</b>	<b>2506</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>3.43</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>4.55</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>12.85</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>20.95</b>

#### Notes

- 1.\* Peace Corps countries opened or reopened in calendar year 2008: Kenya and Liberia.
- 2.\*\* Peace Corps countries suspended in calendar year 2008: Bolivia, Georgia, Kenya, and Kiribati.
3. For Sexual Assaults, incidence rates are per 100 Female VT years.  
For Physical Assaults, Threats, and Property Crimes, incidence rates are per 100 VT years.

# Appendix F: Demographics for Rape, Aggravated Assault, and Robbery Events (2008)

Characteristic	Type of Crime					
	Rape (N = 22)*		Aggravated Assault (N = 37)		Robbery (N = 182)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Gender:</b>						
Male	0	0	23	62	74	41
Female	22	100	14	38	108	59
Missing Data	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Age (years):</b>						
<20s	0	0	0	0	0	0
20s	18	82	32	86	165	91
30s	2	9	4	11	7	4
40s	0	0	1	3	1	1
50s	0	0	0	0	1	1
60s	0	0	0	0	4	2
70s	0	0	0	0	0	0
80s	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing Data	2	9	0	0	4	2
<b>Ethnicity:</b>						
African American	0	0	1	3	2	1
American Indian	0	0	1	3	0	0
Asian American/Pacific Islander	1	5	0	0	9	5
Hispanic American	0	0	0	0	11	6
White	19	86	35	95	147	81
More Than One of the Above	1	5	0	0	4	2
Other Ethnicity	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prefer Not to Respond	1	5	0	0	3	2
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing Data	0	0	0	0	6	3
<b>Relationship of Assailant:</b>						
Friend/Acquaintance	12	55	3	8	1	1
Stranger	7	32	22	59	156	86
Co-Worker/Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Volunteer	1	5	0	0	0	0
Other	1	5	3	8	1	1
Peace Corps Staff	0	0	0	0	0	0
Host Country Family Member	1	5	0	0	0	0
Local Law Enforcement	0	0	2	5	0	0
Unknown	0	0	7	19	24	13
Missing Data	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Appendix F: Demographics for Rape, Aggravated Assault, and Robbery Events (2008)

Characteristic	Rape (N = 22)*		Type of Crime Aggravated Assault (N = 37)		Robbery (N = 182)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Motive:</b>						
Personal Disagreement	0	0	5	14	0	0
Steal Property	1	5	2	5	170	93
Sexual Activity	20	91	2	5	0	0
Other	0	0	7	19	2	1
Hate Crime	0	0	1	3	0	0
Violence	0	0	6	16	3	2
Unknown	1	5	14	38	6	3
Missing Data	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Location of incident:</b>						
Public Area	3	14	28	76	141	77
Volunteer Residence	10	45	2	5	7	4
Non-Volunteer Residence	5	23	0	0	1	1
Transport	1	5	1	3	27	15
Commercial Establishment	2	9	3	8	3	2
Workplace	0	0	1	3	1	1
Other	1	5	2	5	1	1
Unknown	0	0	0	0	1	1
Missing Data	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Weapon Use:</b>						
Yes	2	9	34	92	94	52
No	20	91	2	5	88	48
Unknown	0	0	1	3	0	0
Missing Data	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Type of Weapon</b>						
No Weapon	3	14	0	0	4	2
Knife/Sharp Object	1	5	11	30	51	28
Gun	1	5	4	11	34	19
Blunt Object	0	0	12	32	3	2
Other	0	0	5	14	5	3
Drug	0	0	2	5	1	1
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing Data	17	77	3	8	84	46

# Appendix F: Demographics for Rape, Aggravated Assault, and Robbery Events (2008)

Characteristic	Rape (N = 22)*		Type of Crime Aggravated Assault (N = 37)		Robbery (N = 182)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Volunteer Accompanied:</b>						
Yes	4	18	17	46	80	44
No	14	64	16	43	80	44
Unknown	0	0	1	3	0	0
Missing Data	4	18	3	8	22	12
<b>No. of Assailants:</b>						
1	19	86	25	68	68	37
2	3	14	4	11	57	31
3+	0	0	8	22	57	31
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing Data	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Time of Occurrence:</b>						
Morning (6 a.m. to 11:59 a.m.)	1	5	6	16	33	18
Afternoon (Noon to 5:59 p.m.)	0	0	8	22	39	21
Evening (6 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.)	8	36	14	38	74	41
Night/Early Morning (Midnight to 5:59 a.m.)	12	55	8	22	36	20
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing Data	1	5	1	3	0	0
<b>Day of Week:</b>						
Weekend (Fri. - Sun.)	14	64	18	49	107	59
Weekday (Mon. - Thurs.)	8	36	19	51	75	41
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing Data	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Months in Service:</b>						
0 to 6 months	8	36	6	16	46	25
7 to 12 months	6	27	9	24	51	28
12 to 18 months	6	27	10	27	29	16
19 to 24 months	0	0	9	24	31	17
25 to 30 months	1	5	1	3	10	5
31 to 36 months	0	0	1	3	4	2
Missing Data	1	5	1	3	11	6



## Appendix F: Demographics for Rape, Aggravated Assault, and Robbery Events (2008)

Characteristic	Rape (N = 22)*		Type of Crime Aggravated Assault (N = 37)		Robbery (N = 182)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Alcohol Use by Volunteer:</b>						
Yes	12	55	11	30	22	12
No	5	23	23	62	133	73
Unknown	5	23	3	8	27	15
Missing Data	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Intention to Prosecute:</b>						
Yes	5	23	5	14	36	20
No	15	68	23	62	99	54
Undecided	0	0	1	3	5	3
Unknown	2	9	8	22	41	23
Missing Data	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Occurred at Volunteer Site</b>						
Yes	12	55	16	43	47	26
No	10	45	20	54	135	74
Unknown	0	0	1	3	0	0
Missing Data	0	0	0	0	0	0

**\*Notes**

1. N = Number of incidents reported.
2. Some percentages do not equal 100 percent due to rounding.