

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE PEACE CORPS: FACT SHEET

- In the last 20 years, according to the Peace Corps' own data, Peace Corps Volunteers reported more than 1600 incidents of sexual assault, over 1000 of which occurred in the last decade.
- Of those reported sexual assaults, at least 350 involved rape or attempted rape.
- Peace Corps Volunteers have been sexually assaulted in more than 100 countries and in every region of service.¹
- This data from the Peace Corps likely significantly understates the problem of sexual assault experienced by Peace Corps Volunteers.
 - The Peace Corps' own annual volunteer surveys reveal that rape and sexual assaults often go unreported. In 2009, for example, the annual survey revealed that 33 volunteers were victims of a rape they did not report, and 196 volunteers were victims of a sexual assault they did not report. In that same year, the Peace Corps statistics in the Annual Report of Volunteer Safety recorded only 15 reported rapes or attempted rapes and 100 incidents of sexual assault.
 - The 2010 annual volunteer survey revealed that nearly 40% of rape victims, 44% of victims of attempted rape, and nearly 50% of sexual assault victims did not report their attacks.
 - The Peace Corps' crime data collection methods were deemed unreliable by the Peace Corps Inspector General in the 2008 report entitled "Final Program Evaluation Report: Volunteer Safety and Security."
- The Peace Corps is not making meaningful progress in reducing the overall number of sexual assaults experienced by volunteers. During the last decade, the number of reported sexual assaults has ranged from 93 to 128 per year. The three most recent years for which statistics are available reflect the greatest number of assaults (120 in 2007, 128 in 2008, and 115 in 2009).
 - Sexual assault rates are particularly high in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region and the North Africa and Middle East Region, where in some countries as many as 5-8% of Peace Corps Volunteers have reported being either sexually assaulted or raped.²
- Below is a table that reflects the available statistics by year:

¹ The Peace Corps currently serves in 77 host countries, but it has served in a total of 139 countries. The data used in this fact sheet is based on countries served in between 1990 and 2009.

² These figures were calculated using the total number of reported rapes or sexual assaults in each country from 1990 through 2009 and the total number of volunteers who have served in the country through September 2010.

	<u>Rape</u>	<u>Attempted Rape</u>	<u>Major Sexual Assault</u>	<u>Minor Sexual Assault</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
1990	11				35*	46
1991	13				30*	43
1992	9				43*	52
1993	10				52*	62
1994	6				39*	45
1995	9		2	1	25*	37
1996	13	2	8	8	26*	57
1997	20	3	23	27		73
1998	19	8	11	32		70
1999	11	7	10	60	1**	89
2000	19	6	11	51	2**	89
2001	14	5	23	68	1**	111
2002	12	2	17	61	1**	93
2003	22	4	11	57		94
2004	21	2	10	70	1**	104
2005	16	6	14	75		111
2006	18	4	10		66****	98
2007	17	4	11		88	120
2008	22*****		18		88	128
2009	15		20		80	115
Total						1637



* Note that these numbers may include attempted rape, forced oral sex, “major” and “minor” sexual assaults (as designated according to the Peace Corps’ classification of the attacks), and rape. Due to limitations in the formatting of information provided by the Peace Corps, these entries are not always categorized properly.

** These entries reflect instances of forced oral sex, which is a category that the Peace Corps used in reporting sexual assaults through 2005.

*** Beginning in 2006, the Peace Corps discontinued use of the “minor” sexual assault category and replaced it with “other” sexual assault.

**** Beginning in 2008, the Peace Corps began classifying attempted rape as rape.