

*Research Conducted and Published 2014*

# HEALTHCARE CRIME SURVEY

**IHSS** FOUNDATION  
INTERNATIONAL HEALTHCARE SECURITY & SAFETY FOUNDATION

[www.ihssf.org](http://www.ihssf.org)

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**Note: This is the 2014 Healthcare Crime Survey produced by the International Healthcare Security and Safety Foundation (IHSSF) and reflects healthcare crime trends for 2012 and 2013.**

## INTRODUCTION

The International Healthcare Security and Safety Foundation (IHSSF) is the philanthropic arm of the International Association for Healthcare Security & Safety (IAHSS). The 2014 IHSSF Crime Survey was commissioned under the Research and Grants Program of the International Healthcare Security and Safety Foundation (IHSSF). The purpose of the 2014 IHSSF Crime Survey is to provide healthcare security professionals with an understanding of crimes that impact hospitals as well as the frequency of these crimes.

IAHSS members who serve in security leadership roles in hospitals in both the United States and Canada were invited to participate. Specifically, we asked that the highest ranking hospital security professional (or their designee) at each hospital respond to the survey. Those responding would ideally be responsible for maintaining the security incident management records. We also asked that if the respondent was responsible for more than one hospital that one survey be completed for each hospital.

The 2014 IHSSF Crime Survey collected information on ten (10) different types of crimes that were deemed relevant to hospitals and included:

Murder	Disorderly Conduct
Rape	Burglary
Robbery	Theft (Larceny-Theft)
Aggravated Assault	Motor Vehicle Theft
Assault (Simple)	Vandalism

To ensure that all hospitals were answering the questions consistently, regardless of state or province, the survey included the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report definition (US) and the Criminal Code Definition (Canada). The definitions for each crime are located in the Appendices to this report.

For analytical purposes, murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault were aggregated into a group called "violent crimes."

We received 386 responses from both US (n=338) and Canadian (n=47) hospitals. Of those 386 responses, 242 provided usable responses. These 242 hospitals account for:

- 209,818,780 square feet (including on-campus clinics, research space, medical office buildings, etc.)
- Over 56,000 hospital beds
- An average daily census of around 85,000 people

## **DATA ANALYSIS**

### **Crime Rates**

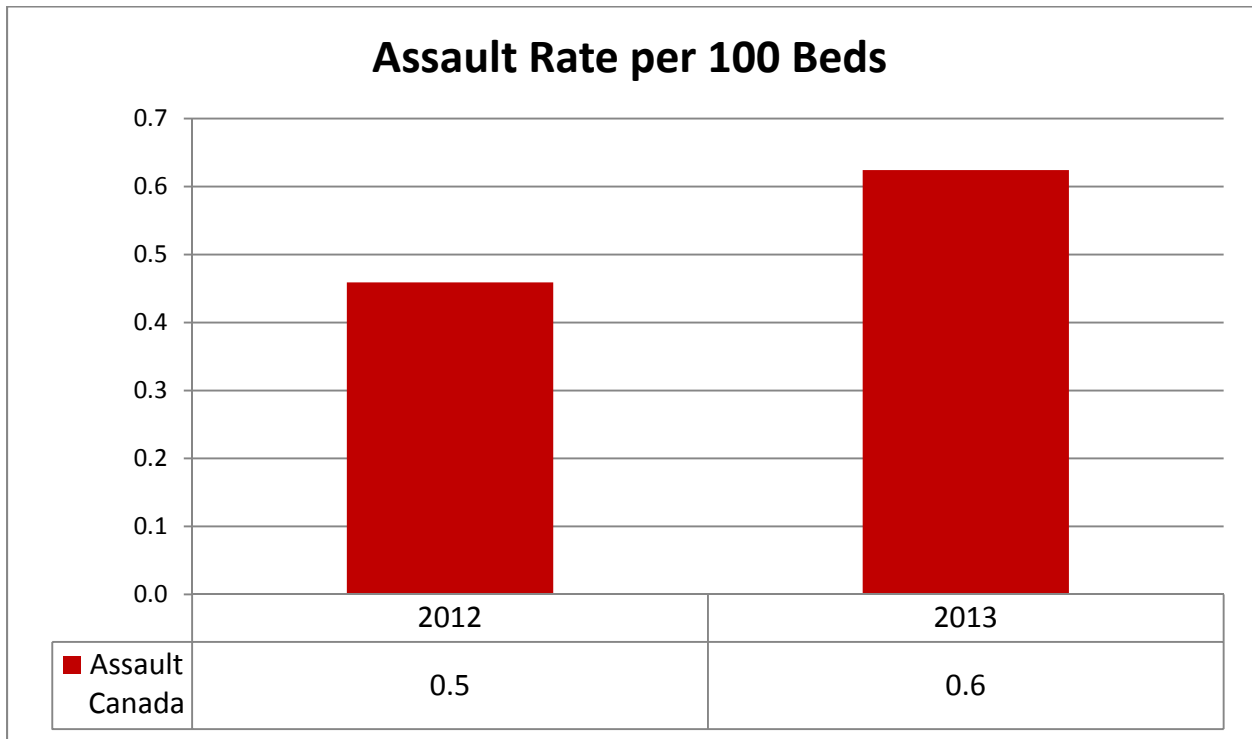
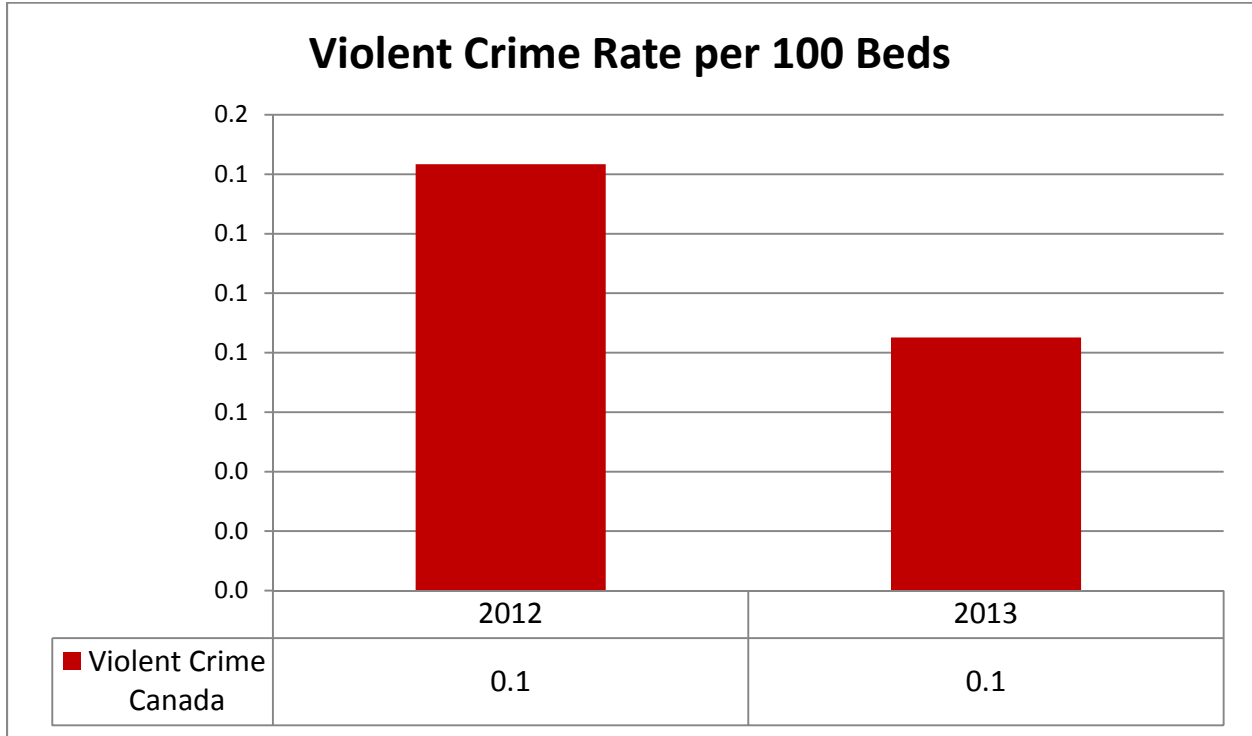
Raw crime levels do not provide much context, particularly given the varying sizes of the hospitals across the United States and Canada. To provide context, the survey collected surrogate indicators of hospital size including:

1. Square Feet - all interior space on the campus including on-campus clinics, research space, medical office buildings, etc. It did not include parking lots, parking garages, and other exterior spaces.
2. Average Daily Census - calculated as Total Inpatient Days / 365.
3. Hospital Beds

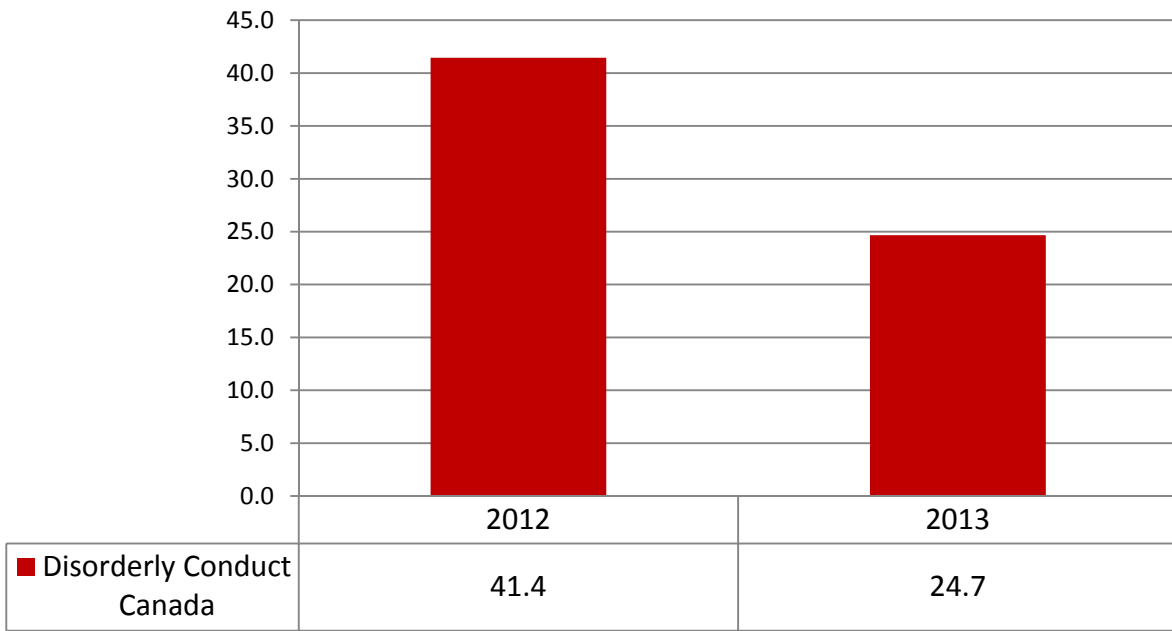
These surrogate indicators allow for calculation of crimes rates and provide context not only to the current Crime Survey, but will also provide context to future Crime Surveys when different (hopefully more) hospitals respond to the Crime Survey.

Based on a review of the data, it appears that Average Daily Census was not a commonly understood security metric or was not readily available to the security professionals responding to the survey. As such, Average Daily Census was not used as an indicator of size in our analysis. We were able to analyze hospital crimes and provide context based on bed count and square feet; however, the data tracks consistently for both surrogate indicators of size. Of the 242 responses, 85% (n=206) provided bed counts. The graphs below illustrate the crime rate trends for 2012 to 2013 per 100 beds for Canada and the US.

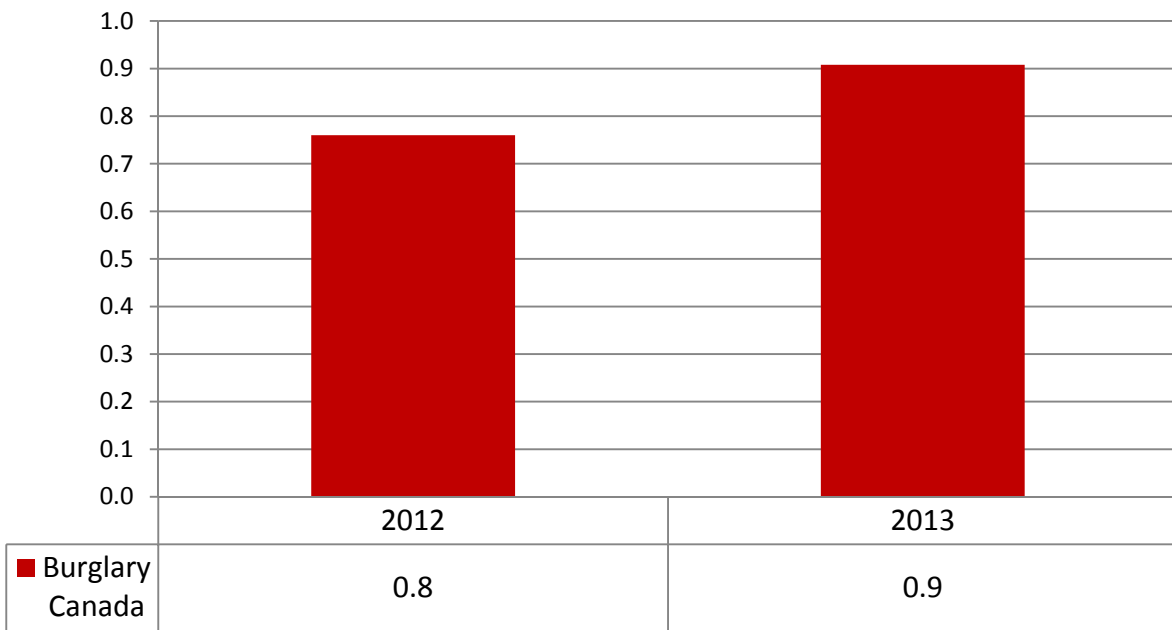
## Canadian Hospitals



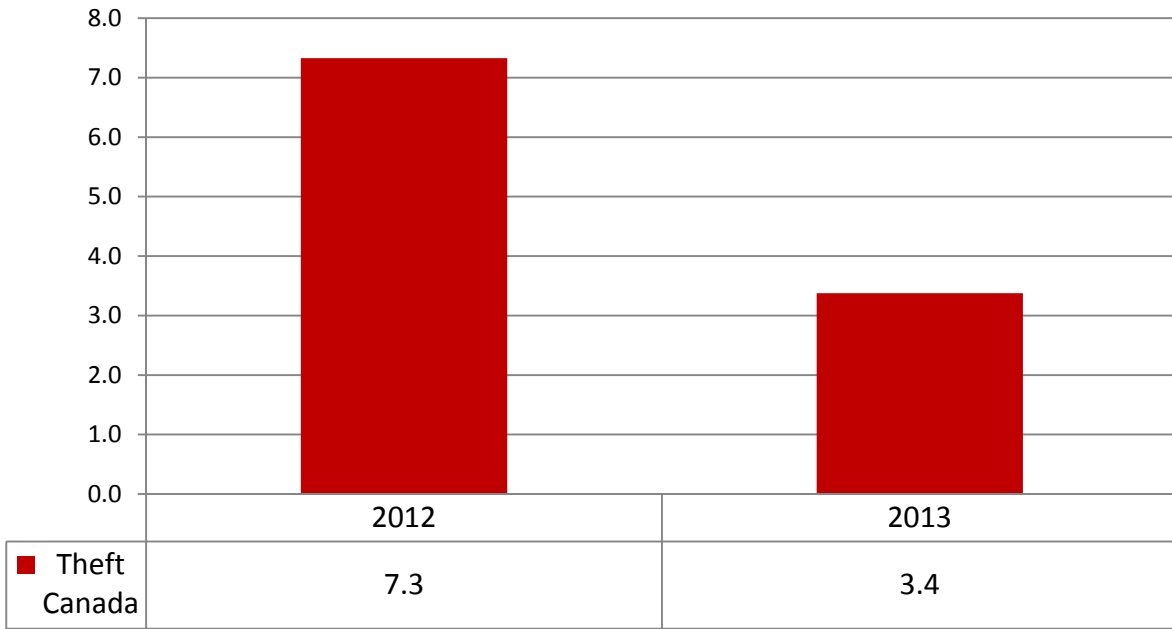
### Disorderly Conduct Rate per 100 Beds



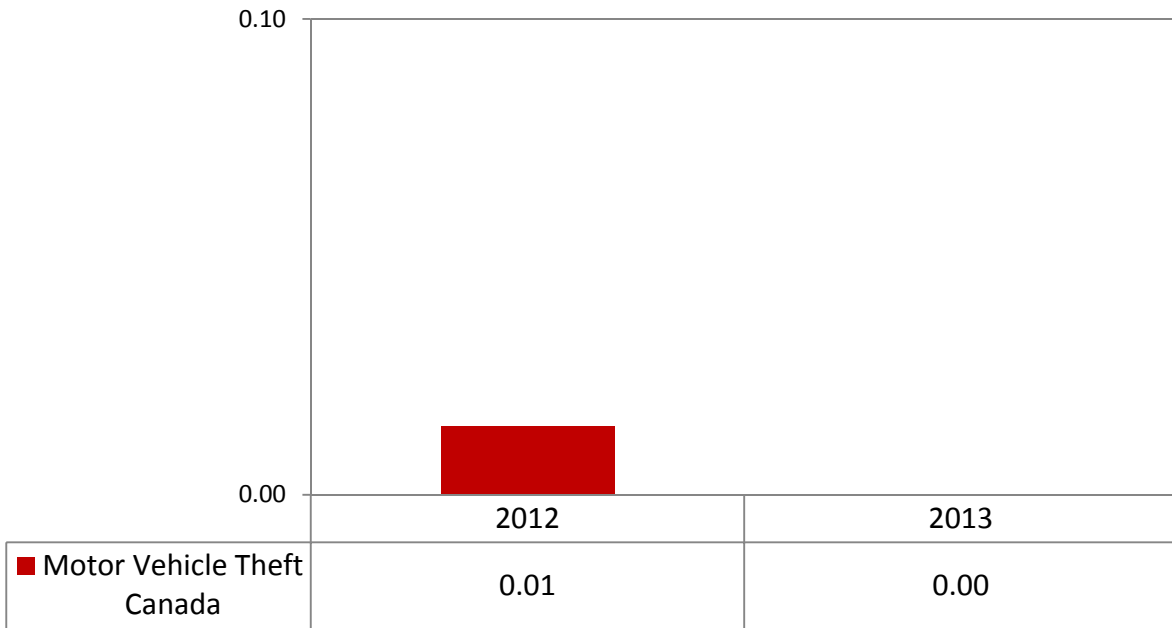
### Burglary Rate per 100 Beds



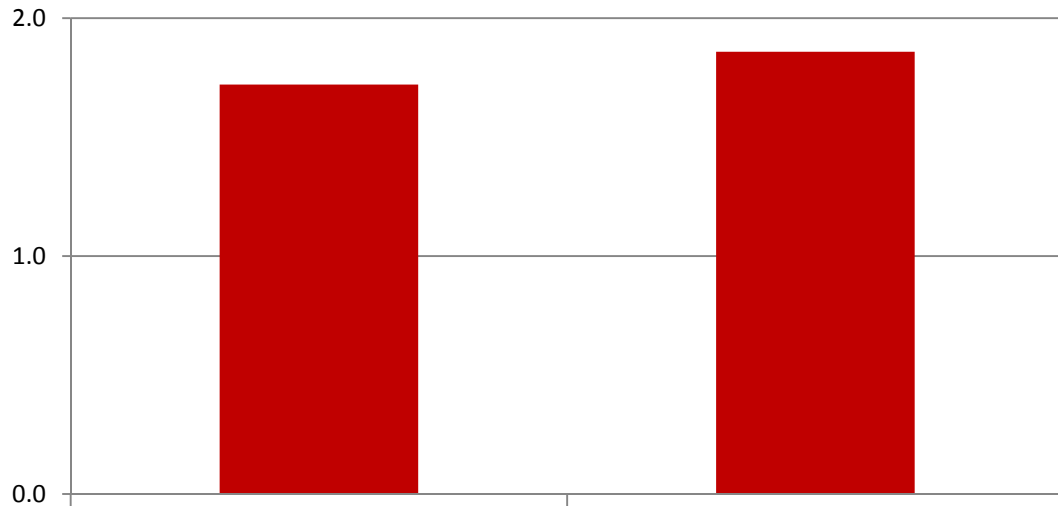
### Theft Rate per 100 Beds



### Motor Vehicle Theft Rate per 100 Beds



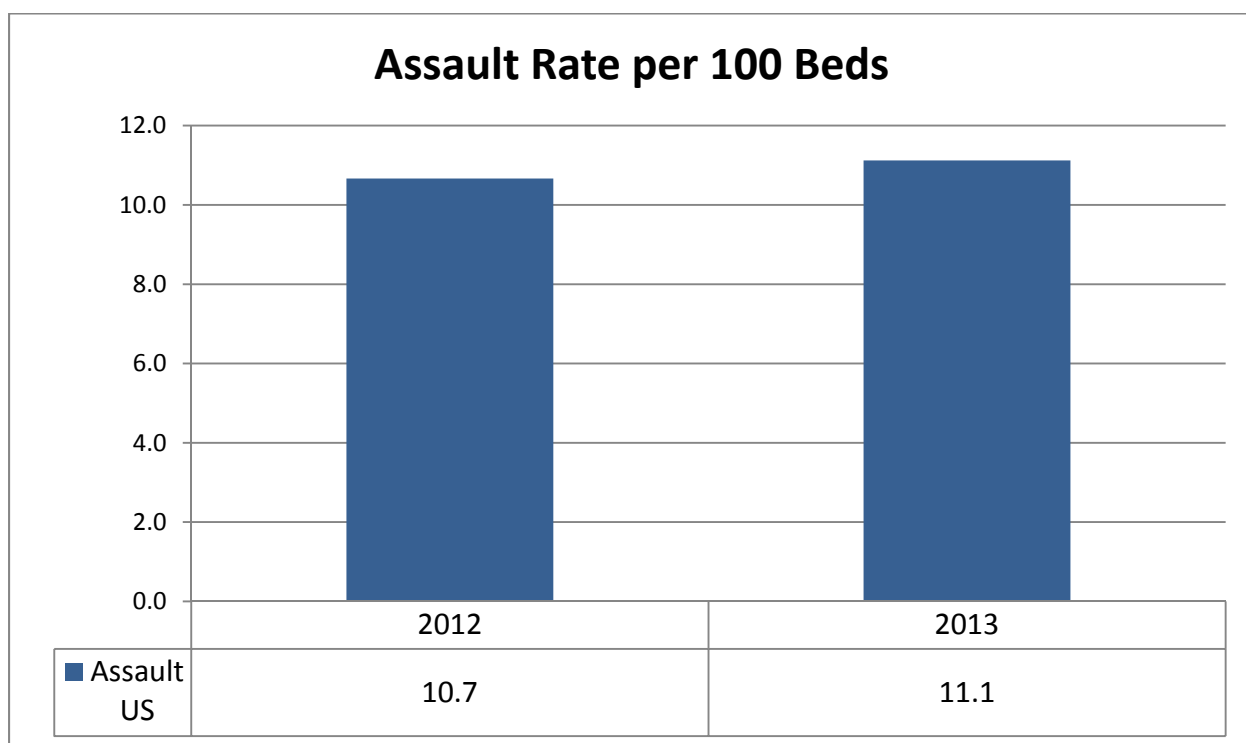
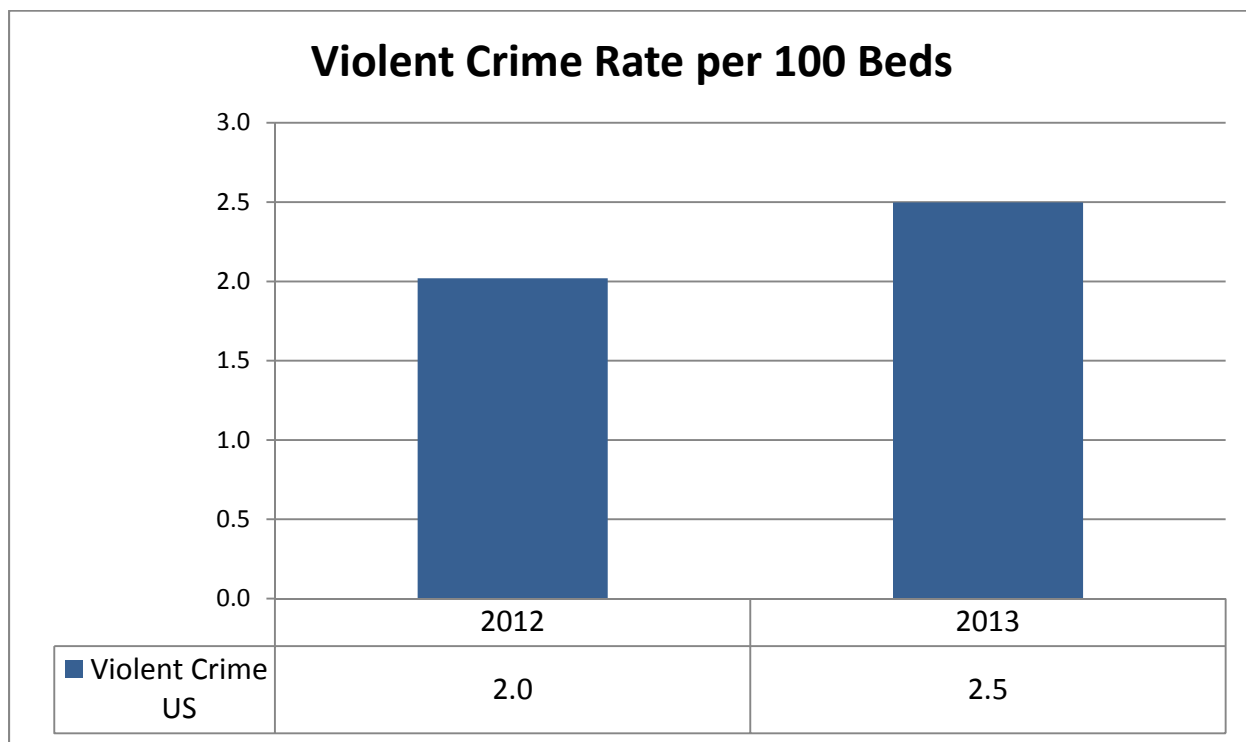
### Vandalism Rate per 100 Beds



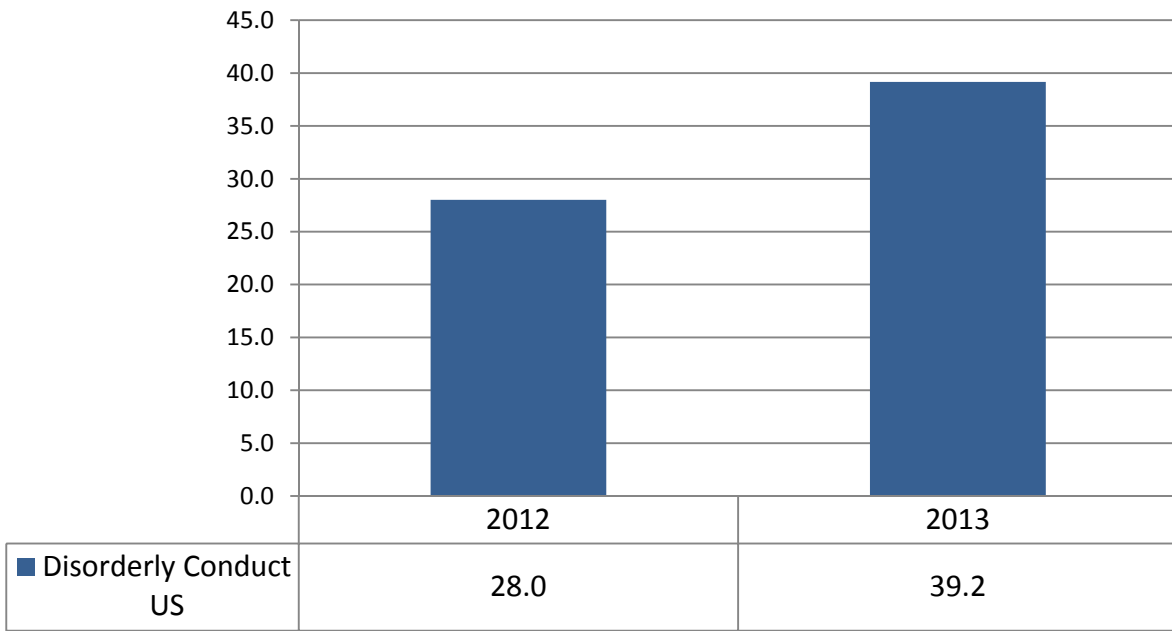
	2012	2013
■ Vandalism Canada	1.7	1.9



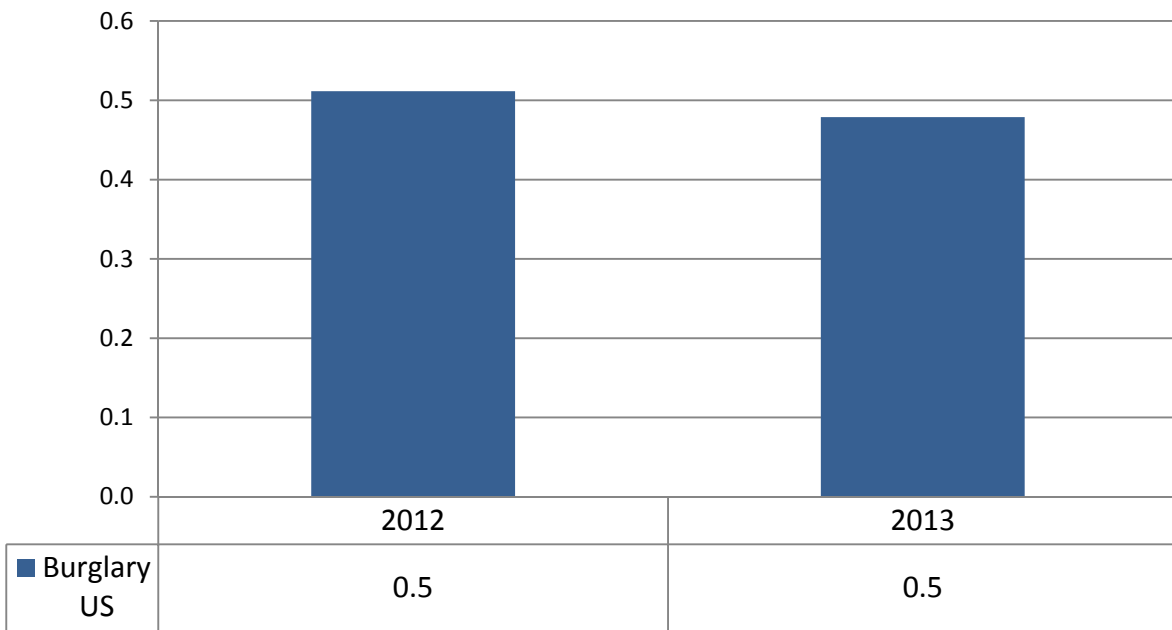
## US Hospitals



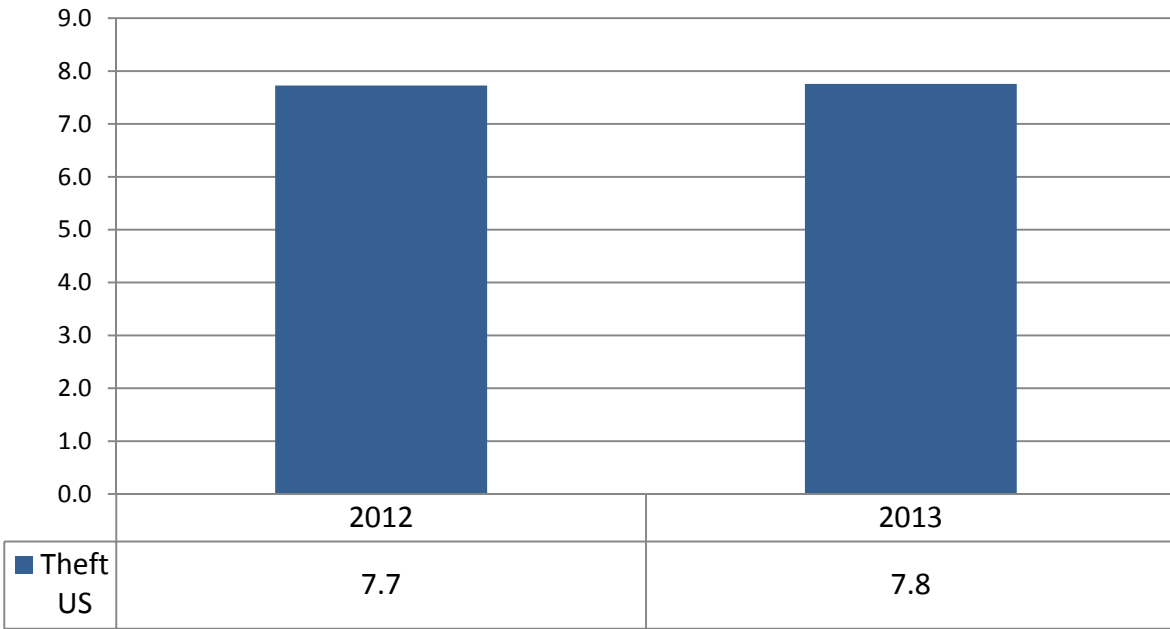
### Disorderly Conduct Rate per 100 Beds



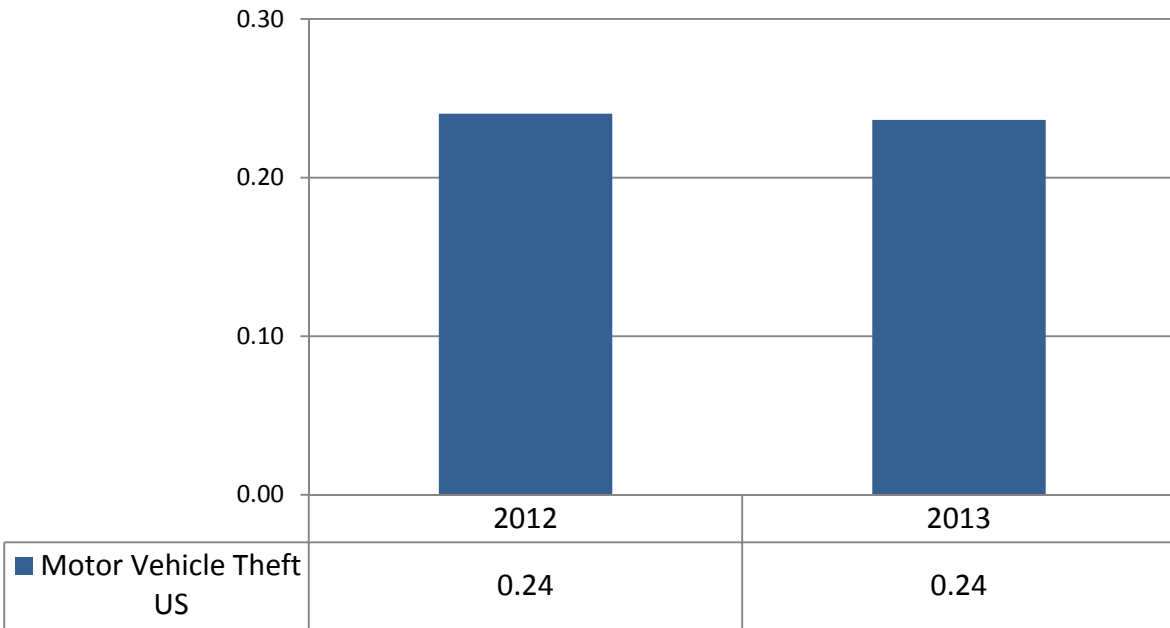
### Burglary Rate per 100 Beds

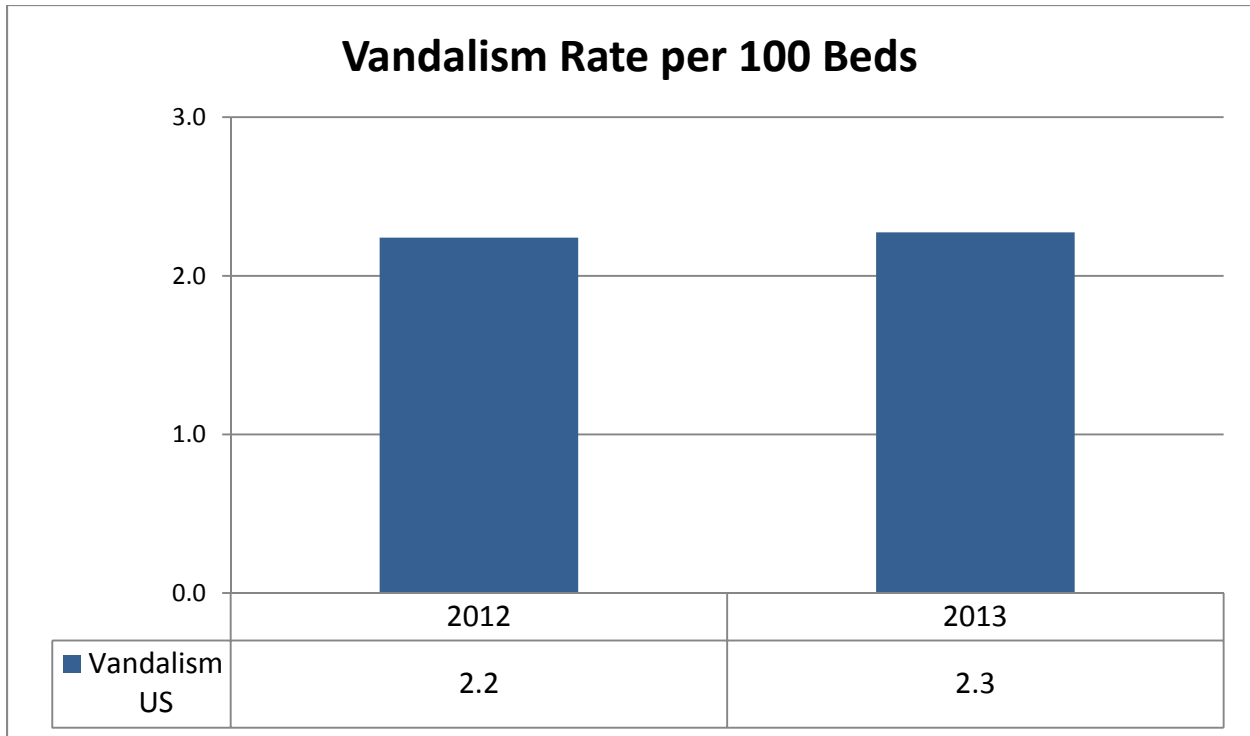


### Theft Rate per 100 Beds



### Motor Vehicle Theft Rate per 100 Beds





For comparison purposes, it might be beneficial to compare your hospital's crime rates to those presented above. The formula to calculate the crime rate per 100 beds is:

$$\text{Crime Rate} = (x / \text{Beds}) * 100$$

*where x is the total crime for each crime type and  
Beds is the number of beds at your hospital*

Example:  $(17 \text{ assaults} / 360 \text{ beds}) = 0.047 * 100 = 4.7 \text{ assaults per bed}$

It is important to remember that the use of crime rates is simply to provide context and allow for comparisons to other hospitals. Bed count, as discussed above, is not the only indicator of a hospital's size.

#### **Workplace Violence Typology (Canada and US combined)**

For Aggravated Assaults and Assaults, participants were asked to drill down further, if possible, into the FBI's workplace violence typology:

- a. Workplace Violence Type 1: *Violent acts by criminals, who have no other connection with the workplace, but enter to commit robbery or another crime.*
- b. Workplace Violence Type 2: *Violence directed at employees by customers, clients, patients, students, inmates, or any others for whom an organization provides services.*

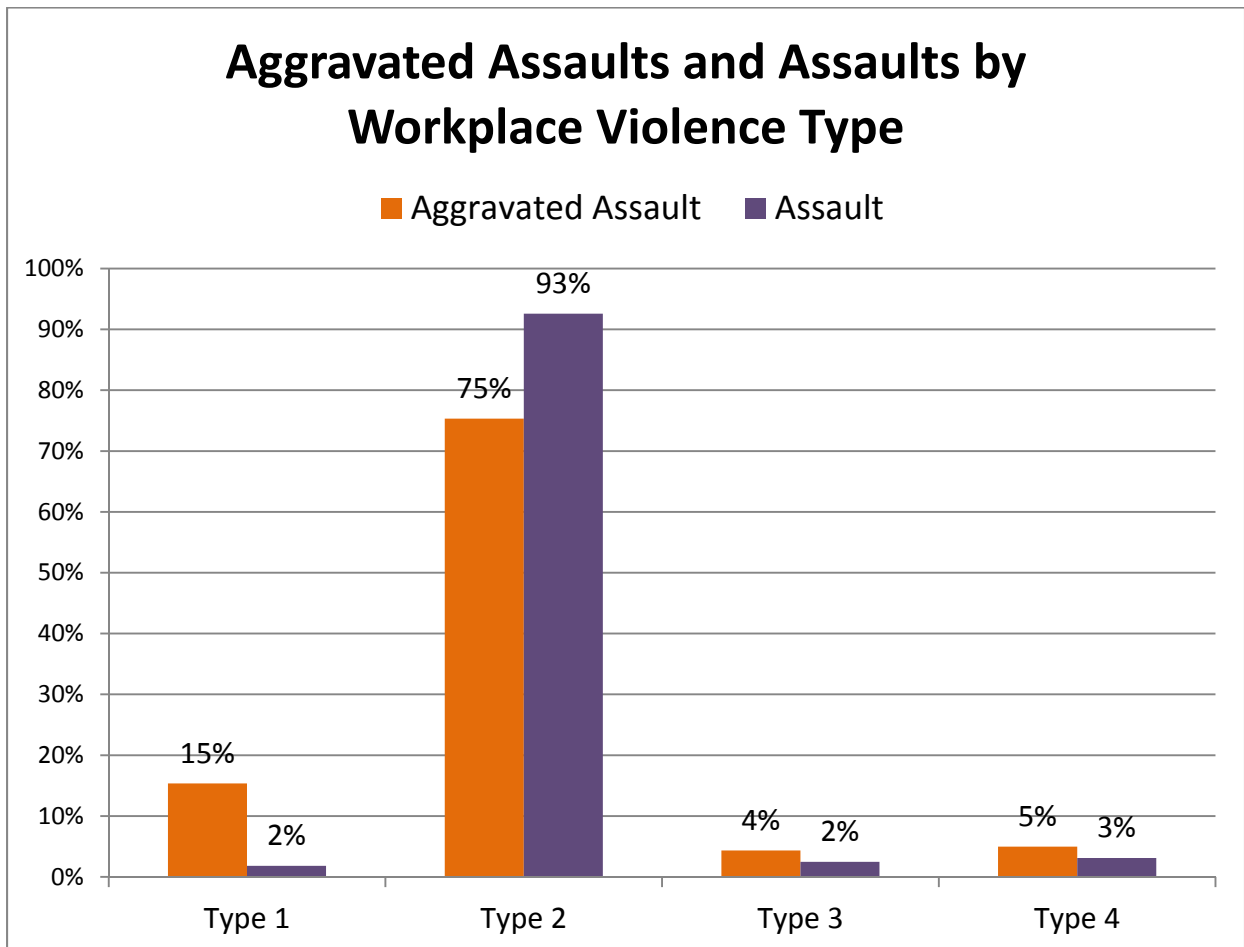
Examples: patient-on-staff; visitor-on-staff

- c. Workplace Violence Type 3: *Violence against coworkers, supervisors, or managers by a present or former employee.*

Examples: physician-on-nurse; employee-on-employee

- d. Workplace Violence Type 4: *Violence committed in the workplace by someone who doesn't work there, but has a personal relationship with an employee—an abusive spouse or domestic partner.*

Of the 242 responses, 68% (n=164) were able to provide the drill down for aggravated assaults and assaults for both 2012 and 2013. This indicates that a significant number of hospitals are collecting detailed crime information allowing for such analysis internally. We applaud these hospital security professionals. As seen in the graph below, Type 2 Aggravated Assaults accounted for 75% of all aggravated assaults and 93% of all assaults.



## **LIMITATIONS**

There were several limitations associated with the 2014 Crime Survey that are worth noting. First, the survey sample is representative of hospitals affiliated with the International Association for Healthcare Security & Safety (IAHSS). However, this is a good sample as IAHSS is the only organization solely dedicated to professionals involved in managing and directing security and safety programs in healthcare institutions and IAHSS members represent a significant number of the 5,000+ hospitals in the US and Canada.

The response rate to this survey, while higher than years past, is still low. A major marketing was undertaken to increase participation and as clearly reflected in the response rate, it was effective. Third, we had concerns about the differences between crime definitions across states and provinces and ultimately between countries. To alleviate this concern, we provided survey respondents with crime definitions from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (US) and the Canadian Criminal Code along with healthcare related examples. Based on the quality of responses received, it appears that this mitigated the anticipated issue. Finally, the results of the 2014 Crime Survey cannot be compared to prior IHSSF Crime Surveys because different hospitals responded year over year. We have created the basis to mitigate this issue not only in the 2014 Crime Survey, but also in future surveys, by calculating a crime rate based on bed count and hospital size (square feet).

## **ABOUT IHSSF**

The International Healthcare Security and Safety Foundation (IHSSF) was established to foster and promote the welfare of the public through educational and scientific research and development of healthcare security and safety body of knowledge. IHSSF promotes and develops educational research into the maintenance and improvement of healthcare security and safety management as well as develops and conducts educational programs for the public. For more information, please visit: [www.ihssf.org](http://www.ihssf.org).

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## **Appendix A: Criminal Code Definitions (Canada)**

### **Murder**

Murder - 229. Culpable homicide is murder (a) where the person who causes the death of a human being (i) means to cause his death, or (ii) means to cause him bodily harm that he knows is likely to cause his death, and is reckless whether death ensues or not; (b) where a person, meaning to cause death to a human being or meaning to cause him bodily harm that he knows is likely to cause his death, and being reckless whether death ensues or not, by accident or mistake causes death to another human being, notwithstanding that he does not mean to cause death or bodily harm to that human being; or (c) where a person, for an unlawful object, does anything that he knows or ought to know is likely to cause death, and thereby causes death to a human being, notwithstanding that he desires to effect his object without causing death or bodily harm to any human being.

### **Rape**

Sexual Assault is defined as an assault of a sexual nature that violates the sexual integrity of the victim. Sexual assault with a weapon, threats to a third party or causing bodily harm - 272. (1) Every person commits an offence who, in committing a sexual assault, (a) carries, uses or threatens to use a weapon or an imitation of a weapon; (b) threatens to cause bodily harm to a person other than the complainant; (c) causes bodily harm to the complainant; or (d) is a party to the offence with any other person.

### **Robbery**

Robbery - 343. Every one commits robbery who (a) steals, and for the purpose of extorting whatever is stolen or to prevent or overcome resistance to the stealing, uses violence or threats of violence to a person or property; (b) steals from any person and, at the time he steals or immediately before or immediately thereafter, wounds, beats, strikes or uses any personal violence to that person; (c) assaults any person with intent to steal from him; or (d) steals from any person while armed with an offensive weapon or imitation thereof.

### **Aggravated Assault**

Aggravated Assault - 268. (1) Every one commits an aggravated assault who wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the complainant. Assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm - 267. Every one who, in committing an assault, (a) carries, uses or threatens to use a weapon or an imitation thereof, or (b) causes bodily harm to the complainant.

### **Assault**

Assault - 265. (1) A person commits an assault when (a) without the consent of another person, he applies force intentionally to that other person, directly or indirectly; (b) he attempts or threatens, by an act or a gesture, to apply force to another person, if he has, or causes that other person to believe on reasonable grounds that he has, present ability to effect his purpose; or (c) while openly wearing or carrying a weapon or an imitation thereof, he accosts or impedes another person or begs.

## **Burglary**

Breaking and Entering - Breaking and entering with intent, committing offence or breaking out - 348. (1) Every one who (a) breaks and enters a place with intent to commit an indictable offence therein, (b) breaks and enters a place and commits an indictable offence therein, or (c) breaks out of a place after (i) committing an indictable offence therein, or (ii) entering the place with intent to commit an indictable offence therein, is guilty (d) if the offence is committed in relation to a dwelling-house, of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for life, and (e) if the offence is committed in relation to a place other than a dwelling-house, of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years or of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

## **Theft**

Theft - 322. (1) Every one commits theft who fraudulently and without colour of right takes, or fraudulently and without colour of right converts to his use or to the use of another person, anything, whether animate or inanimate, with intent (a) to deprive, temporarily or absolutely, the owner of it, or a person who has a special property or interest in it, of the thing or of his property or interest in it; (b) to pledge it or deposit it as security; (c) to part with it under a condition with respect to its return that the person who parts with it may be unable to perform; or (d) to deal with it in such a manner that it cannot be restored in the condition in which it was at the time it was taken or converted.

## **Motor Vehicle Theft**

Motor vehicle theft - 333.1 (1) Everyone who commits theft is, if the property stolen is a motor vehicle, guilty of an offence and liable

## **Vandalism**

Mischief - 430. (1) Every one commits mischief who wilfully (a) destroys or damages property; (b) renders property dangerous, useless, inoperative or ineffective; (c) obstructs, interrupts or interferes with the lawful use, enjoyment or operation of property; or (d) obstructs, interrupts or interferes with any person in the lawful use, enjoyment or operation of property.

## **Disorderly Conduct**

Causing disturbance, indecent exhibition, loitering, etc. - 175. (1) Every one who (a) not being in a dwelling-house, causes a disturbance in or near a public place, (i) by fighting, screaming, shouting, swearing, singing or using insulting or obscene language, (ii) by being drunk, or (iii) by impeding or molesting other persons, (b) openly exposes or exhibits an indecent exhibition in a public place, (c) loiters in a public place and in any way obstructs persons who are in that place, or (d) disturbs the peace and quiet of the occupants of a dwelling-house by discharging firearms or by other disorderly conduct in a public place or who, not being an occupant of a dwelling-house comprised in a particular building or structure, disturbs the peace and quiet of the occupants of a dwelling-house comprised in the building or structure by discharging firearms or by other disorderly conduct in any part of a building or structure to which, at the time of



such conduct, the occupants of two or more dwelling-houses comprised in the building or structure have access as of right or by invitation, express or implied

## **Appendix B: FBI Uniform Crime Report Definitions (US)**

### **Murder**

Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter (Criminal Homicide) - The willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another.

### **Rape**

Rape - The carnal knowledge of a male or female forcibly and against his/her will.

### **Robbery**

Robbery - The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

### **Aggravated Assault**

Aggravated Assault - An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.

### **Assault**

Other Assaults - An unlawful physical attack by one person upon another where neither the offender displays a weapon, nor the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness. To unlawfully place another person 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 (e.g., intimidation).

### **Burglary**

Burglary - The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft.

### **Theft**

Larceny – Theft (except motor vehicle theft) - The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another.

### **Motor Vehicle Theft**

Motor Vehicle Theft - The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

### **Vandalism**

Vandalism - To willfully or maliciously destroy, injure, disfigure, or deface any public or private property, real or personal, without the consent of the owner or person having custody or control by cutting, tearing, breaking, marking, painting, drawing, covering with filth, or any other such means as may be specified by local law.

### **Disorderly Conduct**

Disorderly Conduct - Any behavior that tends to disturb the public peace or decorum, scandalize the community, or shock the public sense of morality. The FBI includes Disturbing the peace, Blasphemy, profanity, and obscene language with Disorderly Conduct