

A grayscale photograph of a multi-story brick building with a person in a wheelchair on a ramp in the foreground. The building has several windows and a decorative circular element. The person in the wheelchair is positioned on a ramp that leads up to the building. The overall scene suggests a campus environment.

# Campus Security

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# Security

Both Columbia University and Barnard College employ their own uniformed security officers to patrol the campuses and surrounding areas 24 hours a day. Security officers are responsible for a wide range of safety services, which include responding to accidents, medical or fire emergencies, and requests for assistance; investigating and preparing incident reports (including reports of criminal activity); and coordinating police response functions. While neither Columbia nor contract security personnel are sworn law enforcement officers, they do receive regular in-service training covering the arrest powers of nonpolice personnel and the New York State Penal and Criminal Procedural Law. There is also a heavy emphasis on human relations and sensitivity training.

## *Emergencies*

Morningside Campus: (212) 854-5555  
Campus RolmPhones: x99 or x4-5555  
Health Sciences campus: (212) 305-7979;  
(212) 305-8100  
Campus phones: x7-7979 or x7-8100  
New York Police Department: 911

Any student of the University can report potential criminal actions and other emergencies on campus by simply dialing the special emergency numbers listed above at any time of the day or night.\*

## *Security Offices at Columbia*

Morningside Campus  
111 Low Library, Mail Code 4301  
535 West 116th Street  
(212) 854-2796

Health Sciences Campus  
650 West 168th Street  
(212) 305-8100

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory  
Route 9W, Palisades, NY 10964-1707  
(914) 359-8860

Nevis Physics Laboratories  
136 South Broadway  
Irvington, NY 10533-2500  
(914) 591-2861

Barnard College  
104 Barnard Hall  
(212) 854-3362 or (212) 854-6930

## *Campus Access*

At the Morningside campus, gate security officers are posted at West 116th Street and Broadway, West 116th Street and Amsterdam, and West 119th Street and Amsterdam. The Security Department provides 24-hour access control to the undergraduate residence halls through a combination of proprietary and contract security officers and specially trained student attendants. Access control is supplemented by

an online computerized card access system linked to student identification cards.

The Office of Institutional Real Estate manages over 6,000 University-owned residential units, most of which are located in the area from West 109th to West 125th Street between Morningside and Riverside Parks in the area known as Morningside Heights. Some units are located on Haven Avenue between 169th and 173rd Streets and are used primarily to house students enrolled at the Health Sciences campus. These buildings are managed and operated by University employees. Superintendents reside either in, or in close proximity to, the buildings.

At selected academic buildings, a card access and alarm monitoring system, with video support monitored 24 hours a day, has been installed at the security operations desk. Emergency call boxes located throughout the Morningside and Health Sciences campuses communicate directly with their respective security operations desks (see below). Motorized and foot patrols, coordinated with neighborhood security organizations as well as the security departments of Barnard College, Teachers College, Presbyterian Hospital, and other affiliated institutions, patrol all campuses and their environs.

All Columbia University buildings on the Health Sciences campus are also patrolled by security officers. Valid Columbia University or Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center identification badges are required for entry into the Physicians and Surgeons Building, Black Building, Georgian Residence, Hammer Health Sciences Center, Bard Hall, Bard-Haven Towers, 80 Haven Avenue, and 154 Haven Avenue. The area from 168th Street to 174th Street along Fort Washington and Haven Avenues is patrolled by Columbia Security as well.

## *Morningside Area Alliance Inc.*

(212) 749-1570  
Fax: (212) 749-0842

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\* The information on security is published in compliance with the Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act of 1990, as amended. See also the section on Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Assault in Appendix E.



Columbia Security officer and Security Director George Smartt (far left) with New York Police Department officers.

Morningside Area Alliance, a community-building partnership of the major institutions of Morningside Heights, provides a number of functions to the local community, including daily patrols in the neighborhood, advocacy for Morningside Park, and operation of the Claremont Youth Center. The Community Public Safety Office at 1252 Amsterdam provides information to the public between 5:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. The Youth Center, which serves young people between the ages of seven and twenty-one, is located at 81 Claremont Avenue.

### *New York Police Department Precincts*

Morningside Campus  
NYPD 26th Precinct  
520 West 126th Street (between Amsterdam  
Avenue and Old Broadway)  
New York, NY 10027  
(212) 678-1311

Health Sciences Campus  
NYPD 33rd Precinct  
West 165th Street (between St. Nicholas and  
Amsterdam Avenues)  
New York, NY 10032  
(212) 927-3200

Columbia's Security Department maintains an excellent liaison with the local police precincts, including cooperating in crime

prevention strategies and exchanging information whenever crimes are committed. The police also help to maintain a safer campus by providing extra coverage for special events that attract large crowds.

Off-campus student organizations recognized by the University are monitored by both the Security Department and local police precincts who provide patrol coverage. The Security Department checks daily with the precincts regarding any police activity at these locations.

### *Columbia Area Volunteer Ambulance (CAVA)*

Emergency: x99 from any RolmPhone  
Information: (212) 854-3815

CAVA operates 24 hours a day to handle student medical emergencies. Certified student emergency medical technicians will provide all necessary assistance while transporting you to the hospital.

### *St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital*

West 114th Street at Amsterdam Avenue  
Emergency Room: (212) 523-3334; (212) 523-3335

St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital is directly across the street from the Morningside campus. Triage nurses make sure urgent

cases are seen immediately. The Emergency Room can get very crowded, so if you do not need immediate attention, it is best to go to Health Services at John Jay Hall.

### *Emergency Telephones*

For immediate communication with Columbia Security, use one of the bright yellow emergency call boxes visible all over campus and its surrounding areas. For better visibility, a blue light is affixed to the telephone pole. The boxes work like radios—just pull the handle to open the box and press the red button inside to speak. To hear a reply, release the button. Give the security officer your location, and personnel will be dispatched right away. If you can, tell the dispatcher the nature of the emergency.

### *Lost and Found*

Morningside campus: 111 Low Library,  
(212) 854-2796  
Health Sciences campus: 109 Black Building,  
(212) 305-8100

Security does its best to return everything that is found around campus to its rightful owner. If you lose something that is not marked with your name and school address, make sure you check to see if it has been returned to Lost and Found. If your Columbia Card is missing, report the loss to the ID Center and Security as soon as possible.

### *Security Advisory Committee*

Security Advisory Committees, consisting of faculty, staff, students, and senior administrators, meet on a regular basis to discuss safety and security issues. In addition, walks are arranged through the entire campus to review lighting and other environmental factors affecting safety. Security input is also provided by the Institutional Real Estate staff, the University Residence Halls staff, the Office of the Assistant Dean for Residence Life, and the Undergraduate Dormitory Council. An Assistant Director of Security serves as an ongoing liaison with these organizations.

## *Buildings and Grounds*

Morningside Campus  
Facilities Management  
B-230 East Campus  
(212) 854-2275 (24 hours)

Health Sciences Campus  
650 West 168th Street  
(212) 305-7367 (business hours)  
(212) 305-8100 (after business hours,  
weekends, and holidays)

The Facilities Management Department maintains University buildings and grounds with a concern for safety and security. The Security Department, through patrols of buildings, informs Facilities Management of potential safety and security hazards, such as broken windows and locks.

## *Security Escort Service*

### **MORNINGSIDE CAMPUS**

(212) 854-SAFE (7233)

During the school year, Columbia University Escort Service will send two specially trained students to accompany students to their door any time from 8:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m., seven nights a week. Escorts carry two-way Columbia Security radios. This service is available from West 108th Street to West 110th Street between Amsterdam Avenue and Riverside Drive, and from West 111th Street to West 122nd Street between Morningside Drive and Riverside Drive.

When using this service, please allow escorts 5 to 15 minutes to arrive and ask them to show a Columbia Card. If you need an escort before 8:00 p.m. or after 3:00 a.m., call Security at (212) 854-2798.

### **HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS**

(212) 305-8100

Columbia Security officers will escort students door to door to or from any of the University buildings on the Health Sciences campus or private residences on Haven Avenue, Fort Washington Avenue, or Broadway from 165th to 178th Streets.

A shuttle service is also available during stated hours within the Morningside Heights area and between the Morningside and Health Sciences campuses (see page 68).

## *Crime Prevention*

Morningside campus: 101 Low Library,  
(212) 854-8513  
Health Sciences campus: 109 Black Building,  
(212) 305-8100

Crime prevention is a high priority in the Security Department. Living in a large city requires students and employees to practice sound crime prevention techniques when walking at night, riding the subway, safeguarding property, or the like. A Security Department Assistant Director of Investigations follows up on all reports of criminal activity; the reports are prepared by Security personnel by contacting the complainant to ensure that a thorough investigation is conducted. Where appropriate, police referrals are made by this manager.

Crime prevention lectures concerning personal property and safety are presented to various groups and campus organizations. During orientation week, members of the Security Department begin this educational process by presenting crime prevention information to incoming students. Throughout the year, the Security Operations Desk offers a variety of literature on specific ways to safeguard one's property and person. Safety and security information and training are continuously provided to students, staff, and faculty through bulletins, crime alerts, and a free newsletter published by the Security Department.

Useful tips on crime prevention are available from Columbia's Crime Prevention Unit via informal lectures that can be scheduled for any size group and through information packets on personal and residential safety. The Crime Prevention Unit also offers support in the event that it must present a criminal case to the police department or the courts. There are also various crime prevention pamphlets available at the Operations Desk in the Security Offices.

### **PREVENTING THEFT: OPERATION ID**

Columbia is part of a nationwide program to deter theft by permanently identifying valuables. Register for participation in the program through Security and borrow an engraver to mark all of your valuable property with your Social Security number. Keep a good photograph of anything you

cannot engrave. You should also keep an up-to-date property inventory that includes detailed descriptions of the property and model and serial numbers.

### **PRECAUTIONS IN RESIDENCE HALLS AND OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING**

Security  
Morningside campus: x99 or (212) 854-5555  
Health Sciences campus: (212) 305-8100

Security officers control access to residence halls; even so, there are certain precautions you should take to prevent burglary whether you live on or off campus. Keep your apartment, room, or suite door locked at all times. Secure any valuables left inside and never leave cash in your room. When you go out, lock your windows. Always keep your keys with you—do not leave them under a mat or in your mailbox. Make sure your name, address, and phone number are not on your key ring. If your keys are lost or stolen, inform Security at once. If you live off campus and your keys are lost, change your locks immediately.

When you move into an off-campus apartment, change all the locks. You do not know who has a copy of the keys. Install a chain lock and use it.

Never let would-be burglars know you are not home. Do not leave a note on your door saying you are not in. On your answering machine, just ask callers to leave a message.

Do not let anyone you do not know into your lobby. If you are suspicious of any person in a public area of your building, notify the front desk workers in the residence halls, University Security, or the NYPD at once. Do not confront the suspicious person.

If you receive an obscene or harassing phone call, hang up immediately. If the caller persists, contact Security.

Bear in mind that your own safety is worth much more than your property, so never take any personal risk you can avoid. At the same time, however, it is a good idea to take out personal property insurance. This covers breakage and other damage to your property, as well as theft.



The view from Low Library, 1921.

## PRECAUTIONS IN LIBRARIES AND COMMON AREAS

Security  
 Morningside campus: x99; (212) 854-5555  
 Health Sciences campus: (212) 305-8100

Never leave your belongings unattended. Make sure you keep your bag or purse where you can see it, not on the floor by your feet or on the back of your chair. Do not keep valuable items in your coat pocket. Report any suspicious persons to Security immediately.

## PROTECTING YOUR VEHICLE

Crime Prevention Unit  
 Morningside campus: (212) 854-8513  
 Health Sciences campus: (212) 305-8100

The best way to prevent vehicle theft is to make it difficult to steal your car or bicycle. Park your car in well-lit and busy areas. If you park in a commercial lot or garage, leave only the ignition key with the attendant. Always lock your car, even when you leave it for only a minute. Close windows all the way and make sure the trunk is locked. Do not leave luggage, packages, or other valuables inside that might tempt a thief. Do not leave vehicle registration inside the car. Antitheft devices delay the car thief and buy time.

Always lock your bicycle. A key-operated, steel U-shaped lock is recommended. Be sure to use your lock to secure at least your back wheel and frame to a bicycle rack or similar immobile object. On the Morningside campus, use only authorized bicycle racks. Bicycles found locked to handrails or other campus structures will be removed and taken to the Security Office, 111 Low Library. Never lock your bicycle by the front or back wheel alone. Also, lock your bicycle in a well-lit area where pedestrian traffic will discourage theft. Kryptonite bike locks and “The Club” antitheft devices are available at both the Morningside campus and Health Sciences campus security offices for discounted prices. Also, bike registration and Combat Auto Theft NYPD Crime Prevention Programs are also available. Register your bicycle and motor vehicle with the NYPD. For information about the registration program, call the Crime Prevention Unit.

## CONFIDENCE TRICKS

Crime Prevention Unit  
 Morningside campus: (212) 854-8513  
 Health Sciences campus: (212) 305-8100

Although confidence tricks come in many guises, they all boil down to one thing—money. If you are approached by a person or a group of people who ask you to put up

money for a bizarre reason, usually promising you a large financial reward, do not give them any money. Some of the more common stories involve a winning lottery ticket or cash that has been found. You may even be called by someone purporting to be a bank examiner or other official asking for your help in catching a dishonest employee. There are also hard luck stories to be wary of; for example, people may ask you for train fare to visit a relative in a far-away hospital.

If you are in doubt about a situation of this nature, call the Crime Prevention Unit. Should an incident occur, inform Security or the NYPD.

## Personal Safety

### IN RESIDENCE HALLS AND OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

There are several simple precautions you can take in your apartment, room, or suite to help ensure your safety. Remember, Security and the NYPD are here to protect you, so if you feel threatened in any situation, contact them right away.

Have your keys ready as you approach your building. If you come home and it looks as if someone has entered your room or apartment in your absence, do not go inside. On campus, call Security. Off campus, call the NYPD or dial 911. If someone is loitering outside or inside your building or if you think you have been followed home, call Security or the NYPD from the nearest telephone outside the building. It is better to give a false alarm than to take an unnecessary risk.

If a stranger knocks at your door to solicit, do not let that person into your room. In residence halls, call the front desk for assistance. In your apartment, keep the chain lock on the door. Always ask to see identification before admitting anyone whom you do not know.

Use only your last name and first initial on your door and mailbox. List your telephone number the same way.

Draw all curtains and blinds after dark and never dress or undress in front of the window.

The public areas of your building should be well lit. Notify Security or your landlord if they are not.

Check to see who is inside the elevator before getting in. Wait for an empty or a

crowded elevator rather than riding alone with a stranger. Stand near the control panel. If you are threatened, press the emergency button or as many floor buttons as possible.

## ON THE STREET

Try not to walk alone after dark—take the shuttle bus or use the Columbia Escort Service. If you are by yourself, walk quickly and always be aware of others around you. Stick to well-lit areas and avoid quiet side streets or alleys.

New York City maintains beautiful parks. Generally, they are safe during daylight hours, although you should always remain aware of your surroundings. Riverside Park is often visited by Columbia students. When entering remote or densely forested areas in parks, be alert and avoid potentially dangerous situations.

Do not carry more cash than you need. If you must carry a purse, keep it close to your body and do not resist if it is snatched. If your wallet is stolen, cancel your credit cards and your checking account at once and report the incident to the police.

If someone is following you on foot, remain alert: look behind you, cross the street, ask for help. If you are being followed by car, turn around and walk in the opposite direction. Try to get the license plate number and call the police if the problem persists. If a driver stops to ask directions, do not approach his or her car. Do not worry about appearing rude.

When using automatic bank teller machines, always be aware of the people around you. Be especially careful if the cash machines are located directly on the street. Try to use machines during the daylight hours. If you are suspicious of any person near the machine, do not use it. Try to have a friend accompany you to ATM machines.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

If you are traveling by subway, have your token, Metrocard, or money ready before you go into the station. Try to stay near people at all times—pick a car that is occupied by other passengers.

If you are suspicious of anyone, get off the train at the next stop and notify the

conductor or a nearby police officer. During non-rush hours, ride in the center of the train near the conductor.

Plan your route before you leave. Only the #1 and the #9 local trains stop at the 116th Street station. You can catch the express train at 96th Street. If you do wind up overshooting your stop, get the train back or take a taxi. Do not walk through Morningside Park.

It is safer to travel by bus than by subway late at night. Yellow taxis are the safest—though most expensive—way to travel at night. The Security Department recommends against the use of “gypsy” taxis, but if you choose to use one, make sure you agree on a price with the driver before you

begin the trip. When you are dropped off at your destination, have the driver wait for you to enter your building.

## Fire Safety

### WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF FIRE

Emergency  
Morningside campus: x99; (212) 854-5555  
Health Sciences campus: (212) 305-8100

If you discover a fire, immediately pull the nearest fire alarm. There is a fire alarm box on every floor of most buildings on campus. Call the emergency number for your campus and report the fire to Security, who



will contact the Fire Department. If you are off campus, dial 911. Leave the building at once and stand by to direct emergency teams to the location of the fire.

Be aware that transmitting a false alarm is a criminal offense that endangers the lives of both building occupants and emergency personnel. It is also an offense to prop open fire doors or to tamper in any way with alarm equipment, electromagnetic locks, or other safety and security devices or to block or obstruct paths of exits.

If the fire is small and not spreading quickly and you have been appropriately trained, you may try to extinguish the fire yourself with the extinguishers located throughout all campus buildings, but only after you have sounded the fire alarm. The University Fire Safety staff offers fire extinguisher training to various groups throughout the year. If you would like to receive such training, call the staff at (212) 854-6676 (Morningside) or (212) 305-6780 (Health Sciences). If you are not completely certain about how to operate the extinguisher, do not attempt to put out a fire yourself. Leave the area, closing all doors behind you.

University Residence Halls (URH) and many other buildings have automatic fire detection equipment that sounds an alarm and transmits it to Security and to the Fire Department.

If you hear an alarm sounding in your building, do not assume that it is a drill or test. All building alarm systems are tested as required by law, but these tests are announced in advance. Treat every alarm as an emergency unless you have received advanced notification otherwise.

If an alarm sounds, exit the building immediately. The alarm may be a pattern of gongs, a continuously ringing bell, or horns. Feel doors before opening them to be sure that there is no fire danger on the other side. If you must enter a smoke-filled room or hallway, cover your nose and mouth with a wet towel and crawl to the nearest exit, keeping your head near the floor.

If you cannot get out of the building because of heat or smoke, stay in your room, shut the door and await assistance from the Fire Department. Stuff the crack under the door with sheets, clothes, or blankets and open the window. Call Security to give your location and wave a brightly colored garment or towel from your window—the Fire Department will be looking for this sign.

If it is safe to leave your room, do so, and close the door behind you. Take your keys so that you can reenter your room if exit is not possible. Do not waste time collecting personal valuables. Never use an elevator during a fire emergency. Always use fire stairs. If you are injured or disabled, stay in your room and make your presence known to other occupants and to Security by telephone. Emergency staff members will assist you in leaving the building.

## *Fire Safety Precautions*

Keep doorways, corridors, and stairwells clear and unobstructed and keep fire doors closed. Make sure that all electrical appliances and cords are in good condition and UL approved. Do not overload electrical outlets. Use fuse-protected multioutlet powerstrips and extension cords when necessary. Turn off all lights and electrical appliances when you leave your room, office, or apartment.

Do not smoke in bed. Extinguish all smoking materials properly and thoroughly. Empty wastebaskets regularly, and do not store flammable substances in your room or apartment.

Candles and live holiday decorations, such as trees or wreaths, are not permitted in the residence halls without prior approval by the Fire Safety Office or URH. Artificial greens must have certificates of flame proofing. The URH publication *Guide to Living in University Residence Halls* contains additional information on fire protection, precautions, and regulations pertaining to URH buildings. Students living in the residence halls must comply with the provisions of that publication, which is distributed to all residents every year.

## *Call Box Locations*

### **MORNINGSIDE CAMPUS**

- 415 West 118th Street between Amsterdam Avenue and Morningside Drive
- 514 West 114th Street between Mathematics and Earl Hall
- Pupin Plaza
- Revson Plaza
- Uris (east side)
- John Jay (Lion's Court)

## **Did you know . . . ?**

In February of 1998, a CAVA volunteer performed the unit's first baby delivery and received the famous Stork Emblem from the New York Fire Department.

- Dodge (front door)
- 614 West 114th Street (River Hall)
- Furnald lawn
- Kent (front door)
- 460 Riverside Drive
- 411 West 115th Street
- 140 Morningside Drive at West 122nd Street (parking lot)
- Front of 448 Riverside Drive
- 611 West 113th Street (parking lot)
- Sundial, College Walk
- Southwest corner of West 120th Street and Amsterdam Avenue

### **HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS**

- 50 Haven Avenue (on the fence in front of Bard Hall)
- 169th Street and Fort Washington Avenue (near the side entrance to the Hammer Center)
- On the fence outside Towers 1 and 2 (171st Street and Haven Avenue)
- Baker Field
- Soccer Field
- Baseball Field

## *Crime Statistics*

The Security Department maintains statistics for reported campus crimes. The following charts reflect these statistics. Please note that beginning January 1, 1993, the Security Department has maintained statistics for forcible and nonforcible sex offenses. Please also note that during the period of time referred to on the next page, there were no weapons arrests and no arrests for liquor law or drug abuse violations at any campus. For this reason, no entries appear on the charts for these particular crimes. None of the crimes or violations reported manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.

### Morningside Campus

	1994	1995	1996	1997
MURDER	0	0	0	0
ROBBERY	8	4	2	1
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	8	3	9	6
BURGLARY	59	20	35	26
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	0	0	0	0
SEX OFFENSES: FORCIBLE	2	2	2	0
SEX OFFENSES: NONFORCIBLE	0	0	0	0

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### Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

	1994	1995	1996	1997
MURDER	0	0	0	0
ROBBERY	0	0	0	0
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	0	0	0	0
BURGLARY	0	0	0	0
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	0	0	0	0
SEX OFFENSES: FORCIBLE	0	0	0	0
SEX OFFENSES: NONFORCIBLE	0	0	0	0

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### University Apartment Housing (UAH)

*Formerly Real Estate Management (REM)*

	1994	1995	1996	1997
MURDER	0	0	0	1
ROBBERY	23	11	13	9
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	5	5	2	1
BURGLARY	26	27	14	15
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	0	0	0	0
SEX OFFENSES: FORCIBLE	0	0	3	0
SEX OFFENSES: NONFORCIBLE	0	0	0	0

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### Nevis Laboratories

	1994	1995	1996	1997
MURDER	0	0	0	0
ROBBERY	0	0	0	0
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	0	0	0	0
BURGLARY	0	0	0	0
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	0	0	0	0
SEX OFFENSES: FORCIBLE	0	0	0	0
SEX OFFENSES: NONFORCIBLE	0	0	0	0

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### Health Sciences Campus

	1994	1995	1996	1997
MURDER	0	0	0	0
ROBBERY	4	4	0	0
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	3	5	3	2
BURGLARY	17	10	5	3
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	1	0	1	0
SEX OFFENSES: FORCIBLE	0	0	0	0
SEX OFFENSES: NONFORCIBLE	0	0	0	0

### Baker Field

	1994	1995	1996	1997
MURDER	0	0	0	0
ROBBERY	0	0	0	0
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	0	0	0	0
BURGLARY	1	0	0	0
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	0	0	0	0
SEX OFFENSES: FORCIBLE	0	0	0	0
SEX OFFENSES: NONFORCIBLE	0	0	0	0