

August 11, 2008

**CSSN Crime Report Analysis 2005 – 2008 (June),
Virgin Islands to Central America
By Mary Stone, M/Y Ms.ASTOR
Puerto la Cruz, Venezuela
MsAstor@Gmail.com**

This is an overview of the reported crime incidents against yachts from 2005 through June 2008 as reported to the Caribbean Safety and Security Net (CSSN). All reports can be found at www.safetyandsecuritynet.com. This analysis simply counts the *reported* incidents for all Caribbean Islands from the Virgin Islands to Central America. Only incidents that were reported are included here.

Observations:

1. After declining from 2005 to 2007, the 1st 6 months crime reports of 2008 are increasing beyond the level of reports in 2007.
2. Nonviolent crimes, theft and attempted theft, burglary and attempted burglary, are still the majority of reported crimes (more than 80%). However, reports of violence associated with crime are increasing in 2008.
3. The Southern Windward's, Northern Windward's and Venezuela have the highest incidence of all crime reports.
4. Most crime in Venezuela is reported in the Eastern Mainland (Puerto la Cruz – east) and Margarita and the adjacent islands of Cubagua and Coche. Everywhere in Venezuela, reports of violent crime are on the rise while non violent crime continues an about the same rate.
5. In the Southern Windward's, St Vincent and the Grenadines account for almost half of crime reports and are more violent than crimes reported in Granada. Crimes reported in Trinidad tend to be more violent.
6. In the Northern Windward's, St Lucia accounts for most of the crime reports and the type if crime is typically nonviolent and declining.
7. The lowest crime reports are in Colombia and Central America, Virgin Islands and the ABC's and is mostly nonviolent.

Classifications:

The types of crimes, as defined by the Caribbean Safety and Security Net, are used here to differentiate among the various kinds of crime reported. They are from least violent to most violent as follows:

Nonviolent Crime Reports:

Theft - no weapons, no violence, possibly boarding the yacht

Attempted theft - unsuccessful theft, see above

Burglary - breaking and entering a locked yacht while crew is away

Attempted burglary - unsuccessful burglary, see above

Violent Crime Reports:

Robbery - boarding a yacht by one or more persons with weapons

Attempted robbery - unsuccessful robbery, see above

Assault - injuries to and/or physical restraining of crew in the course of a robbery

Most crimes reported are nonviolent in nature (theft and burglary). See Figure 1. All Reported Crimes by Type 2005-2008 (June).

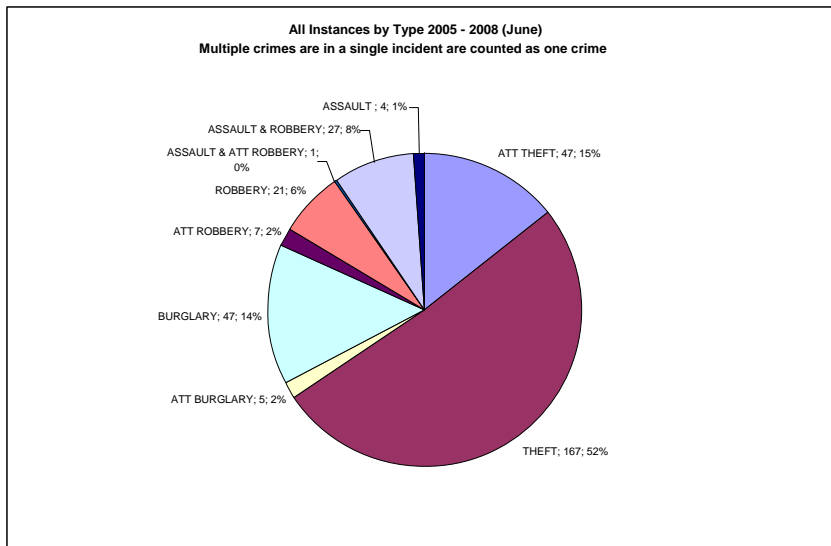


Figure 1 All Reported Crimes by Type 2005-2008 (June)

However, in Figure 2, All Reported Instances by Type and year 2005 - 2008 (June), we can see that so far in 2008 violent crimes are being reported more often, while theft and burglary are reported at about the same rate.

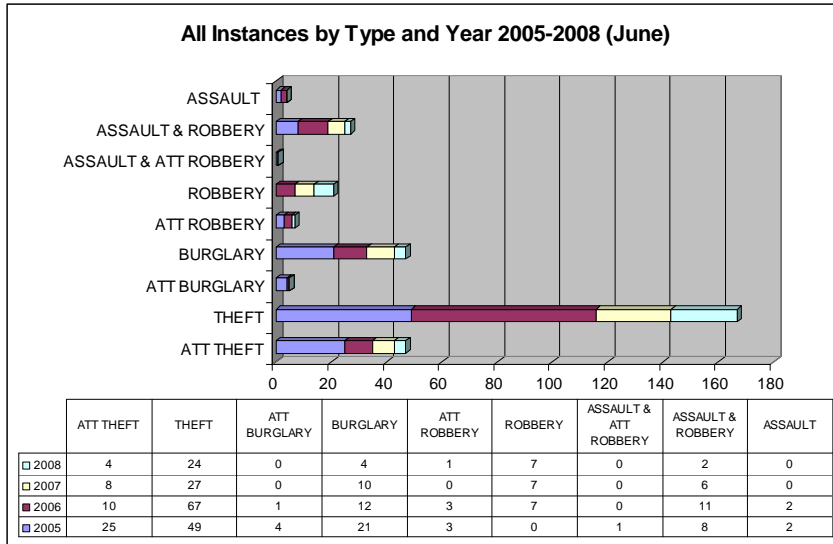


Figure 2 All Reported Instances by Type and year 2005 - 2008 (June)

In figure 3, Incidents by Region 2005 - 2008 (June), the regions that account for most crime reports are Venezuela and the Northern and Southern Windward's. The lowest crime reports are received from Colombia and Central America, the Virgins and the ABC's. The Leeward's have reported crime but at an average rate.

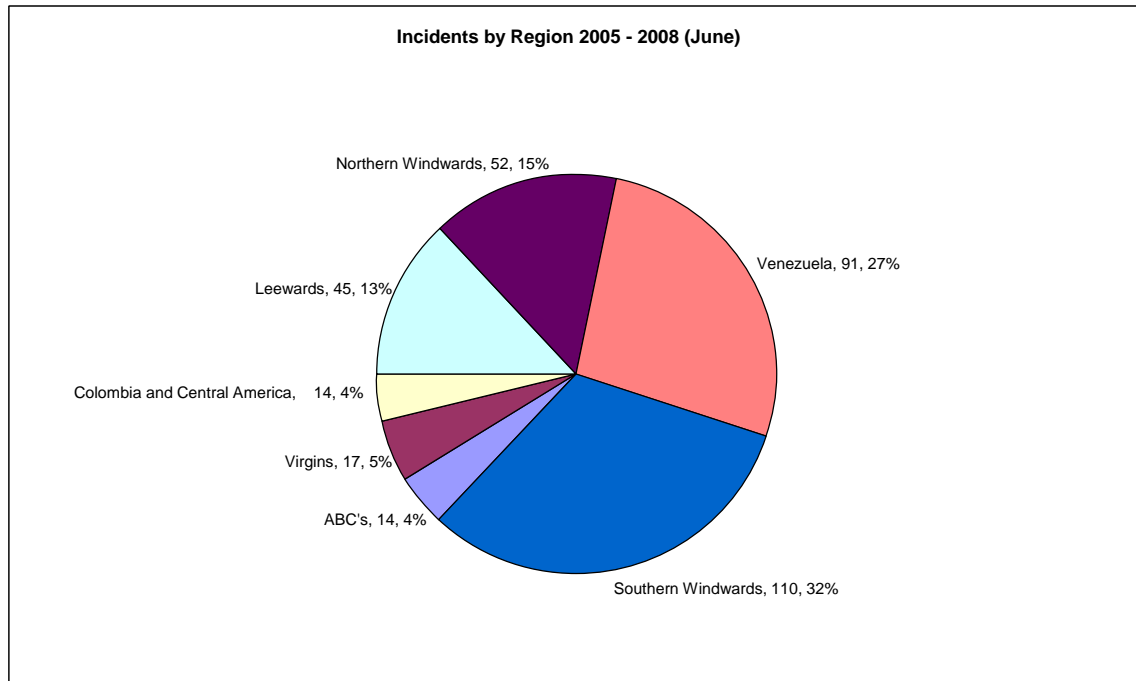


Figure 3 Incidents by Region 2005 - 2008 (June)

In Figure 4, Types of Incidents by Region 2005-2008 (June), the regions with the highest crime reports are also the regions with the highest violent crime reports. This seems to indicate that as the crime rates escalate, violent crime becomes more and more of a feature. Also, from the Leeward's down through Venezuela violence is more associated with crime than in other areas of the Caribbean.

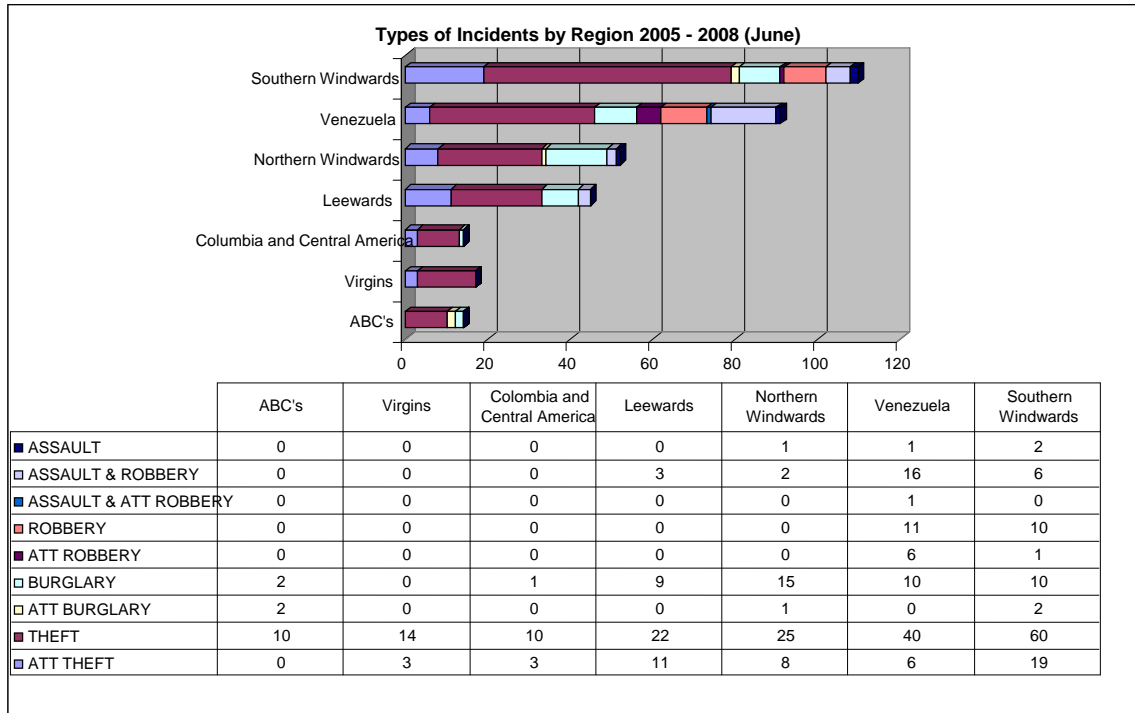


Figure 4 Types of Incidents by Region 2005-2008 (June)

By breaking down the regions into their respective countries and sub regions we can see in Figure 5, Number of Reported Incidents by Country and Region 2005-2008 (June), that in Venezuela, crime is reported most frequently in Margarita, the Eastern Venezuela Islands and the Eastern Venezuela Mainland. The Eastern Venezuela Mainland includes Puerto la Cruz, Mochima, the Gulfo de Cariaco, the Araya Peninsula and the Paria Peninsula. The Eastern Venezuela Islands include Cubagua, Coche, Blanquilla, Los Testigos, and the waters between the Southern Windwards and Los Tistigos. Please note that very few reports are received for Los Testigos and Blanquilla. The vast majority of Eastern Island Reports are from Coche and Cubagua. All reports are included for Margarita, which has the highest crime report rate in Venezuela, and is as violent as crime reported in the Paria Penensula which is notorious for violence. However, in the Southern Windward's, most crime is associated with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and in the Northern Windward's with St Lucia.

The lowest rate of reported crime is in Colombia and Central America, the Virgins and the ABC's. However, crime is reported more than twice as often in the BVI as the USVI. Also, note that crime is reported ten times more often in Colombia than in Panama or Honduras, but the whole region including Colombia receives fewer reports, on par with

the Virgins and ABC's. And crime is reported almost two times more often in Dominica than in any of the other Leeward Islands.

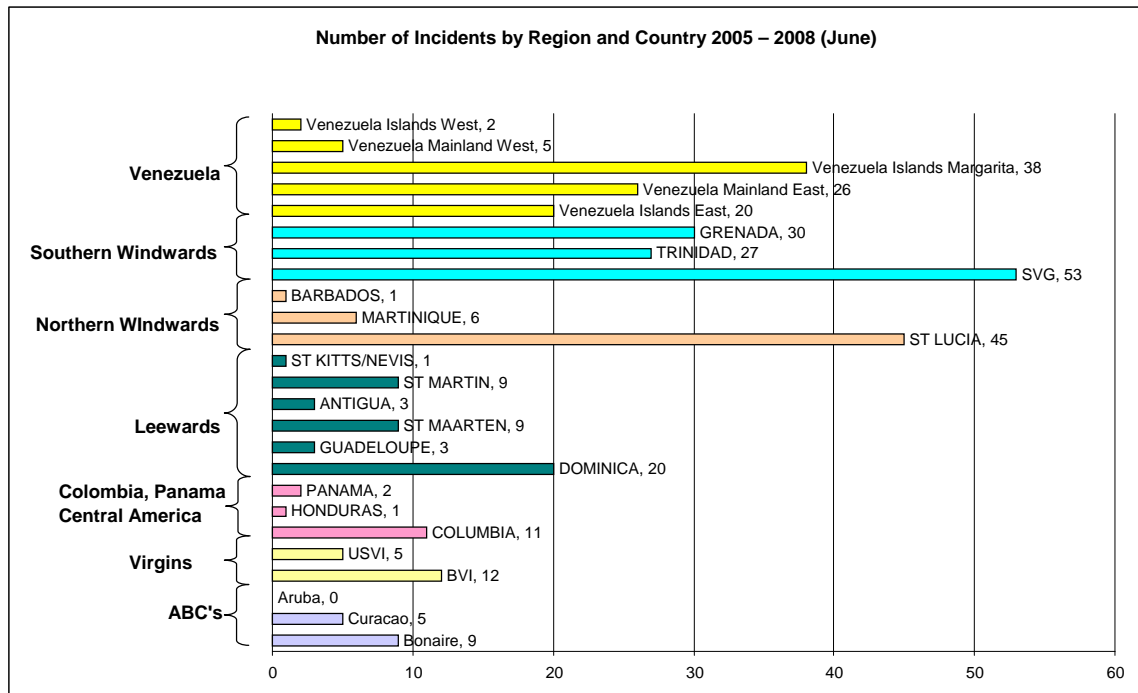


Figure 5 Number of Reported Incidents by Country and Region 2005-2008 (June)

Let us take a closer look at the high crime report areas of the Northern and Southern Windward's and Venezuela.

In the Southern Windward's, violence is reported more often in St Vincent and The Grenadines and Trinidad than in Granada. Seen figure 6 Southern Windward's by Country, by Type 2005-2008 (June). And the rate of crime reporting in St Vincent and the Grenadines means crime is almost two times more likely there than in Trinidad. Crime reported is also more likely to be violent in St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad than in Granada.

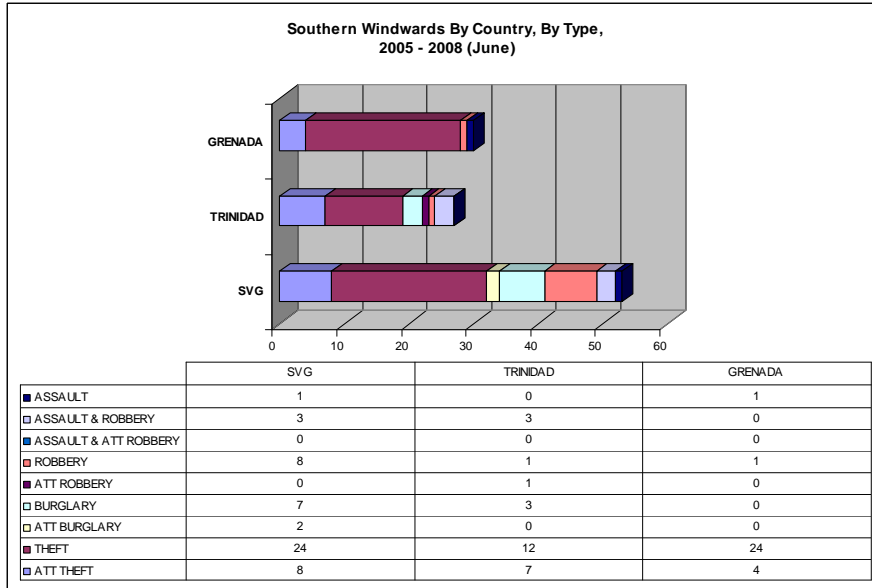


Figure 6 Southern Windward's by Country, by Type 2005-2008 (June)

In Venezuela, crime and violence is reported more often in the Eastern Islands, Eastern Mainland and Margarita. See Figure 7. Venezuela by Sub Region by Type 2005 - 2008 (June). In Western Venezuela Mainland and Western Islands (from west of Puerto la Cruz on to Colombia) there are very few incidents reported. And even fewer in the out islands of Tortuga, Los Roques and Las Aves. The two recent reports in Las Aves were associated with wayward Venezuela Coast Guard members. Even though they were armed they were not threatening and the Venezuelan Coast Guard took quick action to deal with the corrupt officers.

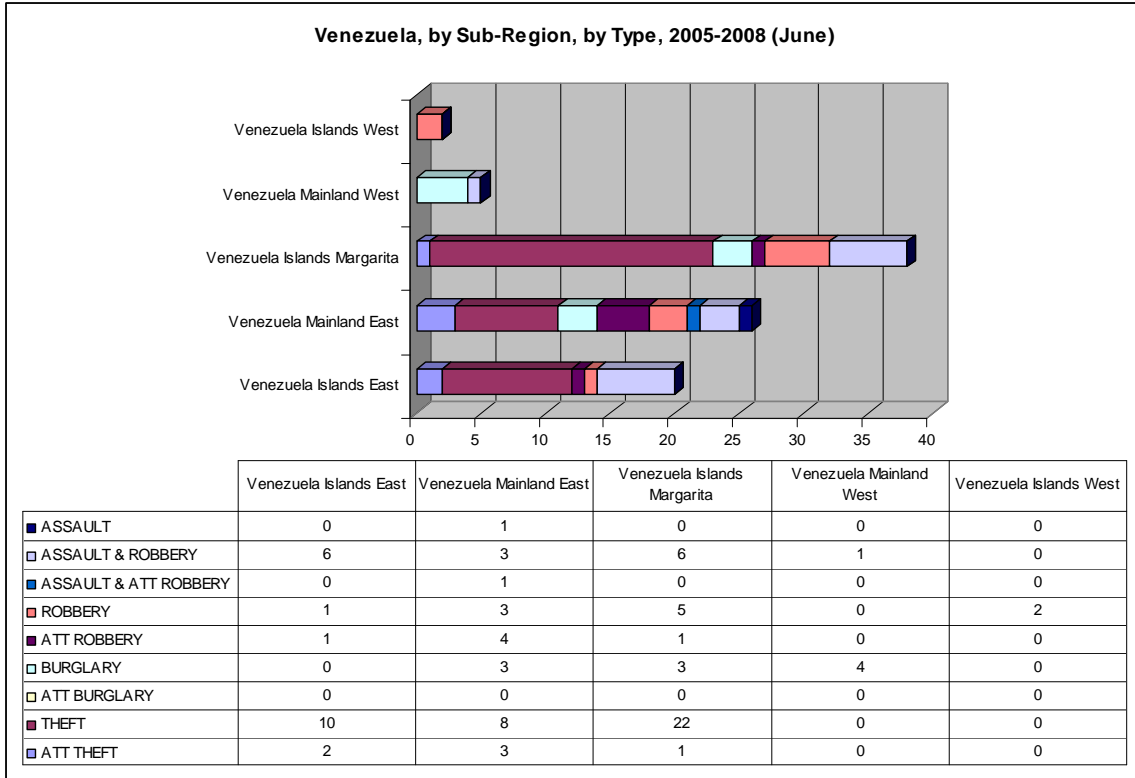


Figure 8 Venezuela by Sub Region by Type 2005 - 2008 (June)

While, St Lucia accounts for most crime reported in the Northern Windward's, the rate of crime reports has been declining every year since 2005. See Figure 9 St Lucia Crime Reports by Year 2005 -2008 (June). It appears that either St Lucia is taking counter measures against crime or there have been fewer boats in St Lucia to draw crime or both.

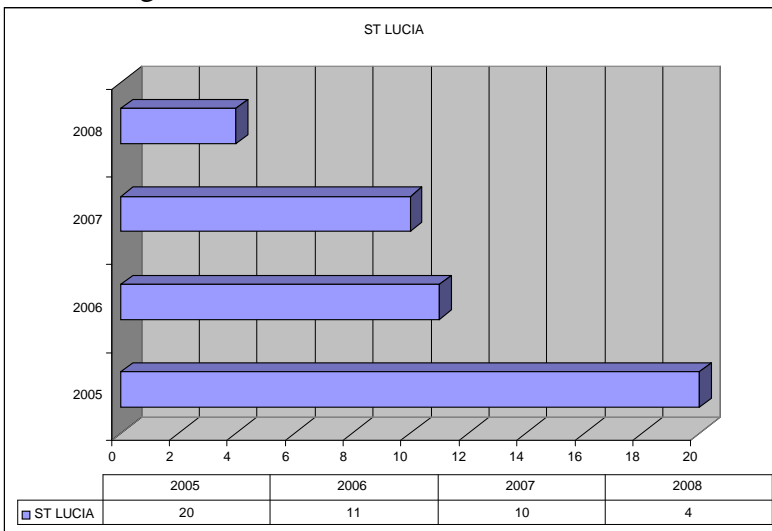


Figure 10 St Lucia Crime Reports by Year 2005 -2008 (June)

There is more good news in St Lucia. Not only has St Lucia experienced a decline in the number of crime reports, the nature of crime in St Lucia is mostly nonviolent as can be seen in Figure 11. St Lucia by Type of Crime reported 2005 - 2008 (June)

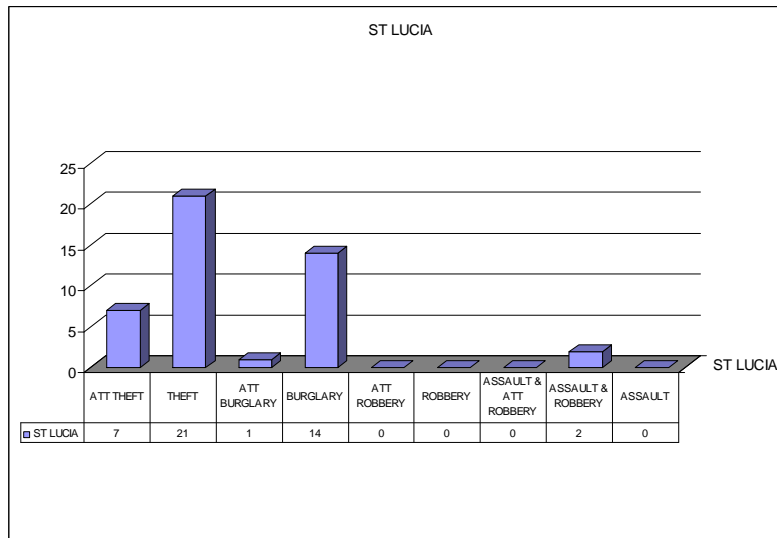


Figure 11 St Lucia by Type of Crime reported 2005 - 2008 (June)

Conclusion:

1. Reports of crime in the Caribbean have been declining since 2005, except are now being reported more frequently in 2008 through June.
2. High crime report areas are the Northern and Southern Windward's and Venezuela, and violence associated with crime is being reported more often.
3. The lowest reports of crime are in The Virgin Islands, the ABC's., and Colombia and Central America
4. Personal counter measures against violent crime may need to escalate in view of the trends towards more violent crime.
5. We don't know the ratio of reported incidents to the population of yachts in a given area. Therefore, high incidents could be because there are many yachts in an area, and low incidents can be because no one is there. So for now, the comparisons are between islands, regions, types of crime and over time, without regard to crimes relative to the population of yachts in an area.
6. Crimes against yachts are generally under reported. Therefore, this data does not represent the totality of crime against yachts in the Caribbean.
7. Your experience with crime may vary.

More information on crime reported in the Caribbean can be obtained from the following internet sites:

www.safetyandsecuritynet.com

<http://onsa.org.ve/direcciones/asuntos/sm/pirateria/ventanas/mapavezspe.html>

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Cruisers_Network_Online/

<http://www.noonsite.com/Members/doina/R2006-02-03-7>

Spreadsheet Analysis and graphic analysis can be requested from MsAstor@gmail.com

Here's wishing you safe cruising!