Testimony of Ross A. Klein, PhD
Before the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Hearings on "Crimes Against Americans on Cruise Ships"

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I am pleased to have the opportunity to assist the Subcommittee in its deliberations about "Crime Against Americans on Cruise Ships." I am an academic whose research focuses on the cruise industry. I have written widely about the cruise industry, have given invited lectures to academic and non-academic audiences across North America, the Caribbean, Australia, and New Zealand, and often consult with community groups and local governments.

My comments today will focus largely on the issue of crime on cruise ships, particularly sexual assaults. These comments are framed in part by cruise industry claims that a person is safer on a cruise ship than on land and that the crime rate on ships is lower than that in the US generally. While the cruise industry works to minimize the appearance of passenger risk to onboard crime, I wish to provide objective data that undermines their claims. My basic point is that it is an incontrovertible fact that sexual assault and sex-related incidents are a problem for the cruise industry and that the first step in dealing with the problem is to admit that it exists and to understand its landscape and complexity.

Rate of Sexual Assault on Cruise Ships

Last March the Committee heard testimony from the cruise industry asserting that:

> Compared against their home communities, passengers have an appreciably lower risk of sexual assault and robbery while enjoying a vacation cruise. Based on passenger and crew counts adjusted for exposure time, the rate of sexual assault on cruise line is – at worst – half the U.S. rate for forcible rape. (Testimony of James Alan Fox, March 7, 2006)

Based on the numbers given to Dr. Fox by the cruise industry, and the method he used to extrapolate from industry-wide passenger load figures, his claim that cruise ships are safer is a fair conclusion. However, as with any mathematical computation, if the numbers going into the equation are unreliable, then the result is also unreliable.

In contrast to Dr. Fox's method, I have the advantage of focussing on a single cruise line, Royal Caribbean International.[1] This provides much more reliable numbers for input. Rather than beginning with an industry-wide number of cruise passengers and then arriving at a daily population on cruise ships, I am able to draw directly from Royal Caribbean Cruise Limited's Annual Report the number of passenger days which, when divided by 365 and multiplied by 75% (Royal Caribbean International's share of

[1] It needs to be emphasized that Royal Caribbean International (RCI) was chosen because reliable figures were available for them. There is no basis to believe that RCI is an anomaly within the industry. It is fair to assume that there are not statistically significant differences between RCI and comparable mass market cruise lines.

company-wide passenger days), gives the average number of passengers on Royal Caribbean International ships per day (see Section C of Table 1). I also have figures for sexual assault and sex-related incidents that were provided by Royal Caribbean International as part of a civil suit and which were subsequently published by the Los Angeles Times in a January 20, 2007 article. The numbers cover a period of 32 months and include the following reported incidents: 81 sexual assaults, 52 cases of inappropriate touching, 28 cases of sexual battery, 99 cases of sexual harassment, and 13 cases that were specified as "other".

Using the numbers at my disposal, I conclude that one has a 50% greater chance of sexual assault on a Royal Caribbean International ship as compared to the US generally and that the pattern on Royal Caribbean International is consistent with that of other mass market cruise lines operating ships of similar size and style. In contrast to Dr. Fox's assertion that the rate of sexual assault on cruise ships is 17.6 per 100,000, I find a rate that is almost three times greater: 48.065 per 100,000.

Let me briefly walk through the method used to arrive at the numbers.

Royal Caribbean International is part of Royal Caribbean Cruises Limited (which also operates Celebrity Cruises). Since the corporation reports company-wide passenger-day figures, the first step is to determine the proportion of passenger days attributable to each company. As seen in Section A of Table 1, Royal Caribbean accounts for approximately 75% of the corporation's berths. Thus, passenger-day figures for Royal Caribbean International are easily derived by multiplying corporation-wide numbers by 75 percent.

Next, we need to annualize (convert to a yearly basis) the number of sex-related incidents. Since the numbers we have are for a period of 32 months, they are divided by 32 (to arrive at a monthly number of incidents) and then multiplied by 12 (to arrive at an annual number). As seen in Section B of Table 1, there are 102.375 sex-related incidents per year; 30.375 sexual assaults per year.

Since our ultimate goal is to arrive at a rate per 100,000, we must next compute the average daily population on Royal Caribbean International ships. As already noted, this is done by taking corporate-wide passenger days and converting these to a number reflecting the daily shipboard passenger population for the corporation, and then segmenting the daily population for the two companies: Royal Caribbean International (75%) and Celebrity Cruises (25%). We then must also add crew numbers as part of shipboard population. Based on company data, we assume that crew numbers are at a ratio of 1 : 2.5 passengers (Dr. Fox functionally used a ratio of 1 : 2.27). Adding crew numbers to passenger numbers yield an average daily shipboard population of 63,196. This figure is 6% lower than would have been produced by using Dr. Fox's method that starts with number of passengers carried.

As can be seen, Section D of Table 1 indicates a rate of 48.065 sexual assaults per 100,000; 161.996 sex-related incidents per 100,000. The US rate for sexual assaults, as presented by Dr. Fox, is 32.2 per 100,000.

TABLE 1: Rate of Sexual Assault on Royal Caribbean International

A. Royal Caribbean International (as part of Royal Caribbean Cruises Limited)

2005 RCCL Annual Report:	28 ships, 59,450 berths
2003 Form 20F (SEC) breakdown by company:	
Royal Caribbean International	19 ships, 44,106 berths
Celebrity Cruises	9 ships, 16,354 berths

Royal Caribbean International as a percentage of Royal Caribbean Cruises Limited: 75% of berths

B. Sex-related Shipboard Incidents on Royal Caribbean International (reported in LA Times, 20 Jan 07)

Sex-related shipboard incidents, 2003 – 2005	273
Annualized (based on data for 32 rather than 36 months)	102.375
Sexual Assaults, 2003 – 2005:	81
Annualized (based on data for 32 rather than 36 months)	30.375

C. Population on Royal Caribbean International Ships per Day

Passenger days, Royal Caribbean Cruises Limited (2005 Annual Report)

• 2003	20,064,607
• 2004	22,661,965
• 2005	23,178,560
Total:	65,905,227
Yearly average (÷ 3):	21,978,409
Daily average population for RCCL (÷ 365):	60,187
Daily passenger population for Royal Caribbean International (×.75)	45,140
Estimated daily crew size (based on ratio of 2.5 pax : 1 crew)	18,056
Total daily RCI shipboard population (person exposure)	63,196

D. Rate of Sex Related Shipboard Incidents

• Annual rate of sex-related shipboard incidents (per 100,000):	161.996
• Annual rate of sexual assaults (per 100,000):	48.065
• US rate for sexual assaults (per 100,000):	32.200

Factors Influencing Rates

It is useful in this context to consider factors that likely influence the reporting of incidents of sexual assault. After all, the numbers we are dealing with only include reports of assault and these, like on land, reflect only a portion of actual cases. While some disincentives to reporting assault are common to cruise ships and land, the cruise ship is a unique environment and produces its own issues.

Secondary Victimization and Underreporting

One factor in underreporting is the fear of secondary victimization. This takes on a different flavour aboard a cruise ship where a victim who is a crew member is left having to continue to work in the environment (and often with the person) that victimized them. I have been contacted by several female crew members who have complained of being supervised by a recognized sexual predator; their complaints to shipboard and corporate management were ignored or the staff member was told to deal with it or to get a job elsewhere. They, in effect, are victimized first by the harassment or assault and then victimized again by the employers refusal to deal seriously with their complaint, and perhaps again at the hand of their victimizer who knows by now that he can get away with his behaviour patterns.

In the case of passengers, the secondary victimization may be a bit different. Often the cruise line's first response to an assault or sex-related incident is damage control. This may include sending lawyers and a response team to a ship where an assault has occurred. Their role is to contain the damage to the cruise line rather than to deal with the victim's complaint.[2] I have heard from victims that dealing with the cruise line personnel is at times worse than the actual assault. I have also been told by victims that having to stay on the ship where the assault occurred is a painful experience onto itself.

If the complaint goes forward after the cruise is over then the victim is likely to be further victimized by the tendency for cruise lines to "blame the victim" for their own victimization. A good example is the defense used by Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's in

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[2] Douglas Frantz, in "On Cruise Ships, Silence Shrouds Crimes," New York Times, November 16, 1998, describes the pattern of response that was common at that time. Based on examination of court records and on interviews with cruise line employees, law enforcement officials, and passengers and their lawyers, the article suggests "...a pattern of cover-ups that often began as soon as the crime was reported at sea, in international waters where the only police are the ship's security officers. Accused crewmembers are sometimes put ashore at the next port, with airfare to their home country. Industry lawyers are flown to the ship to question the accusers; and aboard ships flowing with liquor, counterclaims of consensual sex are common. The cruise lines aggressively contest lawsuits and insist on secrecy as a condition of settling." Quoting a former chief of security for Carnival Cruise Lines, the article goes on: "You don't notify the FBI. You don't notify anybody. You start giving the victims bribes, upgrading their cabins, giving them champagne and trying to ease them off the ship until the legal department can take over. Even when I knew there was a crime, I was supposed to go in there and do everything in the world to get Carnival to look innocent.

a lawsuit following the rape of a sixteen-year-old girl in 1995; they suggested the girl's parents were to blame for the rape because they had failed to exercise reasonable care in protecting their daughter. Yet the same cruise line advertised several years later a "New Adventure Ocean Dining Program" under which children sailing on any of the line's could eat dinner with their favorite youth staff. It isn't clear whether the company would accept responsibility if something happened in these cases or whether they would again blame lack of parental supervision.

Preserving Evidence

Once a crime is reported, there are problems with preserving evidence – cabins are routinely cleaned twice a day[3], so much evidence is destroyed very quickly, and there is often a delay between an attack and landing at a U.S. port. Rape experts suggest that cases reported within seventy-two hours provide the best forensic evidence, but this time frame is difficult for attacks on a cruise ship. Victims are likely to delay making a report as long as they are onboard because of fear of reprisal and because there is no independent investigator or rape-treatment centre. If these assaults are reported, it is often too late for criminal investigation.

In those cases where a sexual assault is reported in a timely manner, victims and prosecutors have historically been faced with a common practice of cruise lines to immediately send the accused back home, purportedly because they have violated company policies that prohibit fraternizing between passengers and crew. Reporters for the Miami New Times[4] found that in each of five lawsuits against Carnival Cruise Lines they reviewed, the employee was swept out of the country immediately after the ship arrived in port. In one case, the employee was later rehired by the company, and was subsequently served with a summons while at the dock in Los Angeles. Carnival's lawyers successfully argued the Indian citizen couldn't be sued in U.S. courts because American laws did not apply to him: not only is he a foreigner, but the alleged crime took place in Barbados on a ship registered in Panama. The passenger's suit against Carnival Cruise Line was settled out of court. I cannot confirm one way or another the degree to which this practice of sending perpetrator home has changed in recent years, if at all.

Shipboard Culture

There are features of shipboard culture that are also relevant to consider. First, is that passengers come onboard a ship believing the cruise industry's mantra that a cruise ship is as safe an environment as one is going to find, and certainly safer than any city in the US. Parents allow their children to explore and enjoy shipboard life, not giving a second

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[3] In the homicide case of Diane Brimble, a woman who was drugged, sexually assaulted, and who died during the assault, the cruise line (P&O Australia, a subsidiary of Carnival Corporation) reportedly cleaned thoroughly the room where her body had been found, destroying virtually all evidence, but they evicted Ms. Brimble's traveling companion (her daughter) from her room, sealed the room, and disallowed her from removing any of her belongings even though the crime occurred elsewhere.

[4] See Korten, Tristram. "Carnival? Try Criminal: What happens when a female passenger is assaulted on a cruise ship? Not much." Miami New Times, February 3-9, 2000.

thought to risk because the cruise line projects an image that says there is no risk. Adults, as well, let down their guard, relax, and assume that onboard they are safe from unwanted approaches by crew members. Unfortunately, this may not be the case. There are many anecdotes that could be offered, however one may suffice. I was on a cruise ship a number of years ago where the Maitre d' would carefully assign women travelling alone to tables around the dining room and each night would make the rounds hustling these women. Based on the ship's manifest he assumed that economic class was related to the cost of the cabin they occupied and he would focus his attention most on those who he believed had the most money. Whether he assaulted any of these women is unknown, but the behaviour is one that in itself was a form of victimization. It is the type of situation which has led to some women traveling alone (and there are anecdotes to support this) choosing to avoid the dining room and taking their meals through room service. It is worth noting that the Maitre d's behaviour was well known among shipboard staff and officers and was a source of entertainment – others wondered who and how many is he going to sleep with on this cruise.

Shipboard culture also includes consumption of alcohol. There are many cases of assault where the victim was plied with alcohol before an attack (including under-aged passengers), or where the victim became inebriated on their own and with reduced defenses were assaulted. This isn't an indictment of alcohol and bars, but simply reflects a risk that is inherent in the ship's culture. Passengers on vacation, out to have a good time, have furthest from their mind the need to protect themselves from unwanted overtures from crew or officers. And the cruise line, again, encourages them that there is nothing to be concerned about.

One other relevant issue around shipboard culture and life is the fact that crew members live onboard, work long hours (in many cases 77 hours per week or more), and have limited opportunity for time ashore. The ship is their home and as in any small community a hierarchy exists. Assault involving crew-on-crew or officer-on-crew in many cases (like any sexual assault) are crimes involving domination and exercise of power – supervisors exploiting those they supervise; officers assaulting those who they know are unable or unlikely to lodge a complaint. The dynamic of these relationships is hard to get a handle on, but one female crew member who worked at a Purser's Desk provided me some insight. She explained her consensual relationship with the ship's Chief Engineer as her strategy for remaining free of assault – as long as she was in the relationship, she said, others lower in rank than the Chief Engineer would not harass or assault her. Those for whom she needed to be concerned was narrowed to a very few.

Community size

Community size is often considered a variable in the occurrence of sexual assaults. Small, rural communities often have rates considerably lower than large cities and the US as a whole. The figures we discussed earlier place a cruise ship with an onboard population of 4000 or 5000 people on the same plane as large US cities. I posit if we compared assaults on cruise ships with occurrences in towns and communities of

comparable size, that the rate on cruise ships would be even greater relative to "off cruise ships" than the data suggests.

Conclusion

Some may be tempted to argue with my conclusions regarding how much more at risk of sexual assault a person is on a cruise ship as compared to on land, however, whether one is 10% more likely to be sexually assaulted on a cruise ship or twice as likely isn't the issue. The numbers indicate that the cruise industry has a problem and they appear either unwilling or unable to deal with it. Placed in context, the issue of sex-related crimes onboard cruise ships was pushed into the national media in 1999 after Carnival Cruise Lines admitted in discovery hearings to receiving 108 complaints of sexual assault (including 22 rapes – 16 rapes of passengers by crew and 6 rapes in which one crewmember assaulted another) in a five year period; Royal Caribbean International indicated it had received 58 complaints in the same time period.

Apparently to improve the industry's image, four companies (Carnival Corporation, Royal Caribbean Cruises Limited, Crystal Cruises, and Princess Cruises) signed a letter in July 1999, under the auspices of the International Council of Cruise Lines, pledging zero tolerance of crime and a commitment to report all crimes involving U.S. citizens to the FBI. While the pledge is laudable, it appears that the commitment was focussed on how cases of rape are handled once reported; it obviously does not reduce the risk of assault, or to make reporting an attack easier. And it ignores that citizens of other countries also have rights – if a Canadian is assaulted it would technically not need to be reported to anyone and the cruise line could still claim its actions are consistent with its zero-tolerance pledge.

It is now eight years later and the problem of sex-related crimes on cruise ships continues to be a problem. It also appears from the stories of victims that the commitment to report all crimes on cruise ships has been forgotten or lost. The industry's inability to control itself suggests that legislative action is sorely needed in order to protect Americans against crime on cruise ships.

Another emerging issue is the disappearance of passengers (and crew members) from cruise ships. Unfortunately, the best data set of these events (see Table 2) is one I have developed based on passenger and media reports. I would hope in a short time that we will have a more comprehensive and accurate accounting of these events as well as of sexual assaults. Without accurate information we cannot adequately address the full breadth and scope of the problem.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my expertise and insights. I hope I have assisted the Committee in its deliberations and welcome questions and/or consultations as may be viewed as helpful.

TABLE 2: Cruise and Ferry Passengers and Crew Overboard, 1995 - 2007

Summary -- 2003 - 2007						
	2003	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**Total**
Carnival Corp						
Carnival	3	4	5	5	1	18
Costa				1		1
Cunard		1	1	1		3
Holland America	2		1	1		4
P&O Australia	1		1			2
Princess	1		1			2
Seabourn				1		1
Crystal		1	1			2
RCCL						
Celebrity		1		1		2
RCI		3	3	4		10
NCL (Star)	1		1	2		4
Silversea		1				1
Other	1	1		6	1	9
Total	**9**	**12**	**14**	**22**	**2**	**59**
Source: Cruise Junkie dot Com						

Below is a comprehensive list of known cases of persons falling or jumping overboard since 1995. All accounts (unless indicated) were reported in a media source or in several cases were reported by private correspondence.

Date	**Ship** **Cruise Line**	**Incident**	**Disposition**
		2007 (2 incidents)	
March 16	Carnival Glory Carnival Cruise Lines	A 35 year old man was rescued approximately eight hours after jumping or falling overboard from the ship when it was 30 miles east of Fort Lauderdale. A witness said that the man, who was intoxicated, ran through a window and then fell 60 feet into the ocean -- it is not clear whether the window was open at the time. The ship was en route to Nassau and will arrive slightly behind schedule.	Person Overboard -- Rescued Alive
January 12	Harshavardhana Shipping Corp of India	According to Free Press Releases, a 30 year old man jumped overboard into the Bay of Bengal from a cruise-ferry between the Andaman Islands and Chennai (India). The man reportedly went alone to the upper deck and in frontof his co-passengers jumped off the ship into the sea.	Person overboard
		2006 (22 incidents)	
December 31	QE II Cunard Line	A 62-year-old female passenger from Germany, travelling with her husband on a 16 day Christmas / New Year's cruise from Southampton (London), was reported missing this morning while the vessel was traveling between Madeira and Southampton. A	Missing

		search of the ship and surrounding waters proved unsuccessful. The ship is due back to Southampton January 2.	
December 17	Enchantment of the Seas Royal Caribbean Internationa	A half dozen passengers have independently reported that an older male passenger was pulled out of the water after going overboard while the ship sailed from Cozumel toward its return to Fort Lauderdale. Reports indicate the man did not survive. There are no news reports or press releases regarding this indicent.	Person overboard
November 19	Seabourn Legend Seabourn Cruises	A male crew member (reportedly a worker in the galley) went missing and is presumed overboard. Search of the ship and surrounding waters proved unsuccessful and were called off after more than a full day. Readers at Cruise Critic report the following cruise will be delayed one day because the ship will now arrive in Fort Lauderdale 22 November. The ship's last port was Tenerife on 11 November.	Missing
November 18	Melody MSC Cruises	A 24 year old Samoan crew member who wasjilted by his girlfriend and a fellow crew member threw himself overboard while the ship was cruising off the Mozambique coast at about 2 AM. The girlfriend reported the "man overboard" and a recovery operation was undertaken. The bridge officers calculated where the man overoard would likely be based on currents, winds, and sea conditions -- at sunrise they found the man, alive, 500m from the anticipated recovery position (17 km from where the many had gone overboard). The rescue will delay the ships arrival in Durban by about 5 hours.	Person Overboard -- Rescued Alive
November 18	Isle of Inishmore Irish Ferries	A 57 year old man went overboard from the ferry near the end of its journey from Rossiare to Pembroke Dock. His body was found ina search, but he waspronounced dead on arrival to hospital. Police say there does not appear to be aby suspicious circumstances surrounding the death bu ttheir inquiries continue.	Person overboard
November 4	Carnival Conquest Carnival Cruise Lines	A 42 year old man fell/jumped from his balcony at approximately 11:00 PM. The ship did search and rescue and then search and recovery for 4 hours and then halted operations at 3:30 AM. Coast Guard helicoptors and several vessels (including oil rig barges) aided in the search and were later joined by a Coast Guard cutter -- they continued the search witout success. The ship resumed its course to Galveston, likely to arrive 3 or 4 hours late.	Person overboard
November 2	Century Celebrity Cruises	A 73 old British man travelling alone has gone missing from this 14 night transAtlantic cruise. The cruise began in Barcelona 30 October and ends 13 November in Miami. The passenger was reported missing 1 November after it appeared his room hadn't been used.	Missing
October 11	Norwegian Star Norwegian Cruise Line	A 35 year old women went overboard shortly after the ship left Cabo San Lucas. According to passengers, the ship turned around at about 7 30pm (after leaving Cabo at about 5.30) and conducted a search for about 2 hours but to no avail. There are reports that her body washed up onshore the following day, and some passengers report that she and her partner had an argument in public before she went missing. The ship was late in its arrival to Los Angeles, where the FBI boarded for an investigation.	Person overboard
September 28	Joseph and Clara Smallwood Marine Atlantic	A search has been undertaken for a man believed to have gone overboard from a ferry running a 160-kilometre route from Port aux Basque (Newfoundland) and North Sydney (Nova Scotia). A 54 year old man was determined missing after his car was unclaimed. A jacket containing car keys and a bag with personal belongings were found near the railing on the stern of the ship.	Missing
September 11	Imagination	A 35 year old woman was reported missing when the ship docked	Missing

	Carnival Cruise Line	in Miami after a four-day cruise to Key West and Mexico. The woman was reportedly least seen by relatives in the early morning hours of Saturday (10 Sept), several hours after leaving Calica.	
August 7		According to Greek News media, Coast guard officers rescued a 19-year-old man near the Ionian island of Corfu on Saturday morning after he fell overboard from an Italian cruise ship. A search-and-rescue mission was launched after Italian authorities informed the Greek coast guard that the man fell from the ship while it was sailing in international waters west of Corfu. He was taken to a hospital in Igoumenitsa, northwestern Greece.	Rescued
July 26	Voyager of the Seas Royal Caribbean International	RCI issued a statement that a 22 year old woman was missing from the Voyager of the Seas, sailing in the Mediterranean. The woman was last seen at approximately 12:30 a.m. Tuesday, when she joined her parents to sleep in their stateroom. At that time, the ship was sailing from Civitavecchia (Rome), Italy, to Naples, Italy. She was reported missing by her sister at approximately 7:30 a.m. Tuesday. A variety of onboard announcements and searches were immediately carried out, without success.	Suicide
July 15	Enchantment of the Seas Royal Caribbean International	From a passenger: On Saturday 7/15 there was a midnight buffet on the pool deck ... somewhere between 1 am and 4 am, my son heard that someone had fallen overboard or committed suicide. He said the ship stopped for approx. 1 half hour, and a lifeboat was put into the water. He asked several of the deck crew about it, and got the same response every time, "we aren't allowed to talk about it."	??Person overboard??
June 21	Imagination Carnival Cruise Line	CBS4 in Miami reports that a crew member was reported missing after not reporting for duty Tuesday afternoon. The ship was enroute from Miami to Grand Cayman on a five-day cruise. A search was conducted but without results.	Missing
May 26	Island Escape Island Cruises	A 52-year old woman traveling with her former husband went missing while the ship was between Sicily and Naples. She went to get a cup of tea at about 1AM and never returned to the cabin -- a search proved unsuccessful, however her body washed ashore in Calabia in southwest Italy on May 27. More info here and here	Overboard
May 27	Carnival Legend Carnival Cruise Line	A 35 year old male passenger jumped overboard in front of his wife and two young sons (5 and 3), apparently during an argument over onboard spending (gambling and alcohol). The ship was 650 miles offshore after leaving Tortola on its return to New York. A 12 hour search was undertaken without results. The May 28 cruise departed late because of the ship's late arrival.	Overboard
May 20	Inspiration Carnival Cruise Line	An 82-year old man who was traveling by himself went missing and, based on a note found, is presumed to have committed suicide.	Suicide
May 16	Mariner of the Seas Royal Caribbean International	A 21 year old man went overboard in an area between Cape Canaveral and the Bahamas. He was was reported missing by friends at 11AM when they found he hadn't slept in his bed. The US Coast Guard received the "man overboard" report around 7 PM and launched an aerial search along the liner's 120 mile long track. The man had reportedly been drinking heavily and video equipment shows him going over the railing at 2:16 AM.	Fall Overboard
February 19	Norwegian Jewel Norwegian Cruise Line	**From a crew member:** *One of the female crew jumped overboard and committed suicide ... she was 24 years old and pregnant, had found out her boyfriend who also worked on the ship had cheated on her. The whole thing is a huge "hush hush" thing on the ship, what crew were told, etc. and passengers have no clue"* The crew member was upset by how NCL was covering the story up and felt it should be "exposed" to further educate passengers ... S/he says	Crew member suicide

		what's more troubling is that this is the second staff suicide on the Jewel within 6 months; the other crew person hung himself in the closet.	
February 19	Amsterdam Holland America Line	A 30 year old crew member (galley worker) apparently fell overboard early Friday about 1100 miles northeast of Hilo. The ship was assisted by the Coast Guard in a search, which was called off mid-day on Saturday. The ship is now en route to San Diego and will arrive one day later than scheduled.	Crew member missing
February 8	Pride of Rotterdam P&O Ferries	A 21-year-old Polish man went missing while in the North Sea ferry. He was reported missing by friends when he failed to meet them. The man and his two friends had boarded the P&O superferry Pride of Rotterdam at Rotterdam about 9pm on Tuesday; he was last seen in the bar on board at about 1AM Wednesday.	Missing
January 5	Costa Magica Costa Crociere	A 15 year old female passenger from Ireland was reported to have jumped overboard at 2:10AM as the ship was making its way toward Cozumel. Reports from those onboard suggest the girl had been served many drinks at an onboard bar and was intoxicated. Shortly after she jumped, passengers threw lighted life vests into the water, the ship reversed direction, and a search was undertaken. The Mexican Coast Guard assisted in the search but the young woman wasn't found. **From a passenger:** *The young girl was extremely drunk. We (and others around us) called security many times because of the noise... they even came up at least 3 times to her room. She was partying with other kids in her family in that room.* *She jumped overboard (or fell when she bent over the rail to vomit). We know this because ser sister came screaming down the hall: "My sister jumped overboard! Help!" I thought it was more drunken antics until security got there and she started talking with them. My two-door-down neighbor heard her tell security that she got in a fight with her boyfriend earlier and also that the bar cut her off.* A passenger sent several photos of the search -- there's not much to see, but for those interested they can be viewed by clicking here. Another passenger sent a first hand account that paints a good picture -- it is here	Suicide or Accidental Fall
2005 (13 incidents; 14 persons)			
December 10	Jewel of the Seas Royal Caribbean International	A 59-year old woman's husband reported her missing as the ship pulled into Nassau at 1PM. She had last been seen at 9AM. A search of the ship and ocean was done, but she was not found. It is presumed she either jumped or fell overboard.	Unknown
August 7	Imagination Carnival Cruise Line	A 20-year old woman jumped overboard at 5AM -- she was subsequently found by another ship around noon and flown (alive) to Miami.	Rescued alive
July 5	Brilliance of the Seas Royal Caribbean International	A passenger onboard the ship for his honeymoon was presumed to have gone overboard in the Mediterranean. Cruise officials learned the man in his 20s was missing when the ship docked at Kusadasi on July 5. Investigations and media reports suggested foul play. For more information see here and here	?Foul play?
June 24	Elation Carnival Cruise Line	A 40-year old woman traveling with her husband and three teenaged children went missing off the Caribbean coast of Mexico at 11 AM. The ship conducted a full search where she was presumed to have gone overboard but was not successful in finding her. Though not explicitly stated, news reports imply she committed suicide. The FBI in time ruled there had not been foul	?Suicide?

		play.	
May 28	Norwegian Star Norwegian Cruise Line	**From a passenger:** *Security rushed by us while we were walking the deck. An obviously intoxicated man was straddling the railing and threatening to "end it all." Security latched on and removed him. Apparently, he had been drinking and losing in the casino for some time that night.*	Attempted suicide
May 12	Carnival Destiny Carnival Cruise Line	Two elderly passengers (aged 67 and 71) disappeared Thursday May 12th between 8:30 PM and 4 AM while the ship was going from Barbados to Aruba. Their couple's belongings were found in a pile on one of the decks, but this was consistent with what they did every night. The FBI investigated but the case was closed. The couple is presumed to have died at sea, but of unknown cause. It remains a mystery for the couple's family. See here for more info.	Missing
April 19	Queen Mary 2 Cunard Line	An 82 year old German passenger jumped overboard into the icy waters of the North Atlantic off Newfoundland's Grand Bank sometime in the evening. This is the second suicide this year on the Queen Mary -- the first was in January when a US passenger killed himself while on a Caribbean cruise (further details on the latter case are not available).	Suicide
April 14	Carnival Valor Carnival Cruise Line	There were multiple reports that a passenger jumped from the bow of the ship at about 3AM, reportedly after losing $10,000 at the casino. Crew observed the man going overboard and he was rescued about 45 minutes after the initial "man overboard" alert. There was an ambulance on the pier when the ship arrived at St. Maarten; his party was apparently not allowed to remain on the ship.	Rescued alive
March 29	Sapphire Princess Princess Cruises	A crew member is reported to have gone overboard while the ship headed to Singapore. A lengthy search proved unsuccessful.	?Suicide?
March 17	Majesty of the Seas Royal Caribbean International	A 29 year old cabin steward disappeared somewhere between Bahamas and Key West and is presumed dead. The case was brought to light when his family, on December 14, 2005, filed suit against RCI for $10 million accusing the company of not doing enough to find their son.	Missing
February 23	Crystal Harmony Crystal Cruises	A 49 year old man apparently fell overboard accidentally when the ship was 100 miles south of Ensenada (Mexico). About 6 AM kitchen crew saw the man fall from an upper deck and a life ring was thrown to him. He was pulled from the water 30 minutes later.	Rescued alive
January 8	Pacific Sky P&O Australia	A 24 year old man is jumped overboard while returning from a 10-day cruise to the South Pacific Islands. The ship was bound for Brisbane. The man "had been drinking all night and he ran outside and then jumped off the side of the boat."	Suicide
January 5	Statendam Holland America Line	A 73 year old man reportedly went overboard when the ship was near the Coronado Islands. (Source: cruiseserver.net)	Unknown
2004 (12 incidents)			
December 9	Silver Wind Silversea Cruises	A crew member was lost at sea between Montevideo, Uruguay and Punta Arenas, Chile. The exact date was either December 9 or 10, 2004. Suicide note indicated marital complications. The event occurred at approximately 4AM and according to the captain, the ship was turned around and a two hour search was conducted to no avail.	Suicide
December 5	Carnival Pride Carnival Cruise	A 37-year old woman disappeared from the ship late Saturday evening while 30 miles off the Mexican coast. A search proved	Unknown

	Line	unsuccessful. There is question regarding whether foul play was involved. See here for more info.	
November 25	Celebration Carnival Cruise Line	A 54-year-old man was reported missing, possibly at sea, after the ship arrived home from a five day cruise to the Bahamas.	Unknown
November18	Carnival Conquest Carnival Cruise Line	Posters at Cruise Critic have reported a 60-year-old German man committed suicide by throwing himself overboard and into the water when the ship was in port at Georgetown, Cayman Islands.	Suicide
October 17	Brilliance of the Seas Royal Caribbean International	As related by a passenger at Cruise Critic: *We had left Livorno, (our third day on a cruise out of Bacelona) Italy and at about 11:30 PM the captain asked all passengers to gather at their assigned muster stations without lifejackets. A passenger had reported a large splash in the water and they weren't sure whether it was a person or an object -- they needed to account for all crew and passengers via a roll call. In the meantime, the ship was turned around and returned to the area where it happened. It took 2 hours at our muster stations before all passengers were accounted for. One employee was missing. Passengers were allowed back to their business, but the ship continued its search and was joined by other ships in the area, without success. We skipped Mykonos and proceeded to Santorini with an extra sea day since we lost too much time on the search. Later in the cruise, the captain told us that they had found a note indicating the crewmembers intent to kill himself. Thru crewmembers, the story was that he had just joined the crew (his first cruise) and was working with his wife on board. It appears that there was a love triangle situation of some sort (stories varied depending on who you talked to). It was sad and provided a little weirdness to the otherwise great trip.*	Suicide
September 4	Voyager of the Seas Royal Caribbean International	The Jersey Journal reports that a 67 year old woman committed suicide by jumping overboard after losing money in the casino. See the article by clicking here. On September 16, the paper reported: *There were indications she'd lost money in the casino on board and she came back to her cabin, went onto the balcony of the cabin, where she appeared to have put a chair against the railing, removed her clothing and went off into the sea below.*	Suicide
Aug 27 - Sept 3	Mercury Celebrity Cruises	A 40 year old passenger went missing the second day of the cruise. The cruise line calls the disappearance a suicide but the family thinks otherwise, especially given that the cruise line had withheld information from them. (See Arizona Republic, November 10, 2005, "Daughter vanishes while on Alaskan cruise: The strange disappearance of Miriam Carver) For more information see here.	Unknown
July 23	Fascination Carnival Cruise Line	A 37 year old passenger is suspected to have fallen overboard -- he was last seen at 3:30 AM, was reported missing at 7:00 AM, and did not disembark at the end of the cruise in Miami. The story is on-line at: NBC 6 - Miami and at the Sun Sentinel	Unknown
June 18	Queen Mary Cunard Line	A passenger disappeared during a Caribbean voyage from New York. According to Cunard, an investigation resulted in a determination of apparent suicide.	Suicide
March 22	Casino Cruise Ship	A 39 year old man boarded the Casino cruise ship at Palm Beach, Florida but didn't disembark. He is presumed to have been lost overboard. See Cruise Bruise.	Missing
February 9	Crystal Harmony Crystal Cruises	A crew member disappeared while the ship was en route to Fanning Island from Kailua-Kona. Security cameras show him leaving his hatch at 12:45 AM and he wasn't seen afterwards.	?Suicide?

January 16 (approx)	Serenade of the Seas Royal Caribbean International	**From a passenger:** *We were wakened sometime after midnight by searchlights outside our stateroom and then the Captain's voice asking people to stop throwing life rings overboard. We assumed some boisterous partygoers had got carried away, but as we were listening we realized there was a lot more to this than that. Someone had gone overboard and we could hear him from our balcony yelling, "help me, help me" -- that's a voice I will never forget. They were able to fish him out on a skiff and he walked from the skiff onto the ship under his own steam. The next morning, we saw him loaded into an ambulance at the dock in St. Thomas.*	Rescued alive
2003 (9 incidents)			
Late November	Coral Princess Princess Cruises	A kitchen assistant (new employee) jumped overboard and committed suicide shortly after the ship left Cozumel. According to an officer onboard: *he was a new guy, had only been on the ship a short time and he said he missed home a lot. People remembered him being very miserable and lonely. Our Captain was very sympathetic and held two memorial services for him so that many of the crew could attend.*	Suicide
August 20	Pacific Sky P&O Australia	A man jumped overboard after a drunken argument with his wife. The 52 year old man was rescued in a three hour effort in treacherous seas west of Noumea.	Rescued alive
May 18	Veendam Holland America Line	A 51-year old man was missing from the ship when it disembarked passengers in Vancouver. Given that he could not be found onboard, and the computer system indicates that he didn't leave the ship, the assumption is that the man fell overboard.	Unknown
May 11	Conquest Carnival Cruise Line	A 35 year old man fell from a 10th floor balcony between midnight and 1 AM. Initial searches for him were unsuccessful, but the body was found the morning of May 14th.	Accidental death
April 12/13	Celebration Carnival Cruise Line	A 31 year old man accidentally fell overboard in the Gulf of Mexico (8 hours after leaving Galveston) and was resuced 17 hours later by a passing cargo vessel.	Rescued alive
March 13	Norwegian Star Norwegian Cruise Line	A 24-year-old Filipino crewman fell overboard when the ship was 1000 miles south of Honolulu. His legs were cut by a cruise ship's propellers and he was listed in critical condition after transport to Honolulu by a Coast Guard C-130 Hercules airplane.	Rescued - seriously injured
March 11	Grigory Mikheev Oceanwide Expeditions	A male passenger disappeared from the tour ship near Cape Horn. Details are given at Cruise Bruise.	Missing
January 26	Elation Carnival Cruise Line	A 35 year old woman went missing following a fight with her husband. She was noticed missing the next morning by her husband when he woke in the morning.	?Suicide?
January 5	Statendam Holland America Line	An elderly man was suspected to have jumped overboard the night before disembarkation at San Diego following a roundtrip cruise from San Diego to Hawaii. According to a spokeswoman for Holland America Line, "'We're a 130 year old company and it happens very rarely, but it is not unheard of on a cruise ship' to lose a passenger."	Unknown
2002 (4 incidents)			
December 9	Norwegian Wind Norwegian Cruise Line	A woman was reported missing from a cruise ship that had spent the day in Hilo. Ship records indicate the passenger left the ship but hadn't returned. A search was underway.	Unknown
December 7 or 8	Brilliance of the Seas Royal Caribbean	Passengers were awoken in the middle of the night by the Captain who made an announcement a man had fallen over board. The ship turned around and started a search pattern. Mid morning he	Unknown

	International	announced that Coast Guard Helicopters from Puerto Rico were joining the search. The ship and the helicopters continued their search until the night time. The Captain then made an announcement that they did everything they could and were now proceeding on to Miami.	
August 29	Expolorer of the Seas Royal Caribbean International	A man jumped from the balcony on deck 8 into the sea after having an argument with his wife. The ship was about 1.5 miles from St. Thomas. The Coast Guard responded to a call at 9PM and the man was rescued alive.	Rescued alive
March 5	Norway Norwegian Cruise Line	Stewardess accidentally fell overboard and rescued after ten hours in the water. Port call at St. Maarten canceled.	Rescued alive
2001 (5 incidents)			
September 2	MS Harald Jarl	A 69 year old woman from New Mexico was thrown overboard by a former mental patient . The woman and her husband were on the third day of an 11 day cruise of Norway's fjords.	Murder
July 22	QE II Cunard Line	A 28 year old crew member (reportedly a chef) went overboard while the ship was 95 miles off the south west coast of Ireland	Unknown
March 4 - 11	Sovereign of the Seas Royal Caribbean International	After losing $9K in the casino as 23 year old man jumped overboard. The ship's Captain reported to passengers that the man had been picked up by a small gambling ship off Nassau, but this was never reported in the media.	Unknown
February 10	MS Patriot United States Lines	A 57 year old female passenger went missing between Kona and Honolulu (February 9/10). When the ship arrived in Honolulu her bed was made and her luggage, purse, and identification was in her cabin. See Cruise Bruise for more details	Missing
January 14	Sensation Carnival Cruise Line	A 19 year old man climbed over a railing and threatened to kill himself after an argument with his girlfriend. After his girlfriend pleaded with him to climb to safety, he complied, but slipped and fell into Hillsborough Bay (Tampa). He did not survive.	Accidental death
2000 (7 incidents)			
October 29	Enchantment of the Seas Royal Caribbean International	A 40 year old woman from Fort Lauderdale vanished while the ship cruised 140 miles off Fort Lauderdale. She was last seen in a ship hallway.	Unknown
August 18	Holiday Carnival Cruise Line	A 33 year old female passenger went overboard and missing when ship was near Los Angeles.	Unknown
July 31	Elation Carnival Cruise Line	A 42 year old male passenger went overboard and missing when the ship was off the coast of Mexico.	Unknown
April 28	Sovereign of the Seas Royal Caribbean International	A 43 year old man jumped or fell from the ship when it was about 10 miles east of Miami shortly after daybreak. His body was found in a search of the seas.	Unknown
April 11	Paul Gauguin Radisson Seven Seas	A 39 year old American tourist disappeared while the ship was between Tahiti and Raiatea.	Unknown
February 15	Sun Cruz II	A highly intoxicated man jumped overboard when the ship was approximately 14 miles west of Clearwater. His body was recovered by the Coast Guard 90 minutes after his disappearance was reported.	Unknown

February 5	Nordic Empress Royal Caribbean International	A 20 year old male passenger was rescued after spending 2 hours in the water. He was found about 12 miles northwest of St. Thomas where he fell from the ship.	Rescued alive
1999 (2 incidents)			
July 12	Grand Princess Princess Cruises	Princess reported a passenger missing in the Mediterranean. He apparently fell overboard from the private balcony in his cabin.	Unknown
July 5	Carnival Destiny Carnival Cruise Line	The cruise ship and Coast Guard ended its search for a 22 year old man who disappeared at sea after leaving the ship's nightclub. The ship was between San Juan and Miami. For more information see here.	Unknown
1998 (4 incidents)			
August 17	Westerdam Holland America Line	A 28 year old woman believed to be from Turkey jumped overboard after learning she was about to be fired. The ship was in Howe Sound en route to Vancouver when she leapt from the ship at 4:30 AM.	Suicide
April 24	Victoria P&O Cruises	A 77 year old British man was reported missing by his wife. The man has been seen at 11 PM when the couple went to bed byrt was not there when she awoke at 6AM.	Unknown
March 26	Rhapsody of the Seas Royal Caribbean International	A 23 year old woman was reported missing as the ship arrived at Curacao. She had last been seen at 4:30 AM sleeping in a chair on the balcony of the cabin she was sharing with her family. The family rejects the theory that she may have fallen or jumped overboard.	Unknown
January 9	Fantasy Carnival Cruise Line	A 35 year old man fell over the aft railing from the outdoor restaurant and lost at sea. Witness accounts conflict as to whether he was standing or sitting on a table when he lost his balance and fell over the railing.	Unknown
1997 (1 incident)			
June 15	Meridien Celebrity Cruises	A casino employee jumped overboard after a fight with his lover. The attempted rescue by the ship's personnel was delayed when the lifeboat got stuck and couldn't be lowered. A young passenger jumped into the water and held the man above water until the lifeboat arrived. Passengers on the ship were upset by the incident because the well-meaning passenger was reprimanded by the ship's Captain for interfering in the rescue attempt.	Rescued alive
1996 (1 incident)			
March	Celebration Carnival Cruise Line	A 23 year old male fell overboard, as the ship was steaming away from San Juan, as he was urinating over the side of the ship. He survived by swimming to shore.	Accidental fall
1995 (1 incident)			
February 19	Regal Princess Princess Cruises	A 14 year old Canadian boy jumped overboard after an argument with his parents. He left a suicide note before disappearing while the ship was off the Florida coast.	Suicide

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