

## Deaths in Custody - Data dictionary

### Introduction

This dataset contains records of the deaths in DOCCS custody as reported to the State Commission of Correction (SCOC). The data includes deaths from January 2020 to November 2023 and contains information on the facility, demographics, and location at the time of death for every individual.

The source data was obtained from the SCOC through the Freedom of Information Act Law (FOIL) and was redacted for public release. To respect the privacy of the individuals referenced, we will not publish the source data and the data published here has been deidentified (1) by removing the individuals' names and (2) by generalizing "Date of Birth" to "Birth Year" and "Death Date/Time" to "Death Date".

The data table is shared as a CSV file, with a bar ("|") delimiter in place of a comma (","),. Missing data is set to Null or "Missing/None".

### Dictionary

Field Name	Type	Description
FACILITY_NAME	String	Facility in which the incarcerated individual is housed, defined by the SCOC.
FACILITY_REGION_NAME	String	Facility region, with regions defined by DOCCS as groups of adjacent counties.
FACILITY_HUB_NAME	String	Facility hub, with hubs defined by DOCCS as groups of facilities which are in close proximity. Hubs have an administrative function in DOCCS operations.
FACILITY_SECURITY_LEVEL	String	Security level of the facility the incarcerated individual is housed in, as designated in NY Codes Rules and Regulations, Title 7 (only available for open facilities). If not available in Title 7, the highest reported security level in DOCCS public reporting (Minimum, Medium, Maximum, Drug Treatment Center).
FACILITY_STATUS	String	Indicates if a facility is open or closed as of the publication of this data, Sept 2023 (Open, Closed)
FACILITY_GENDER	String	Gender-designation for a facility (Male, Female, Mixed)
DEATH_DATE	Date	Date of the incarcerated individual's death
BIRTH_YEAR	Int	Year of birth of the incarcerated individual
AGE_AT_DEATH	Int	Age of the incarcerated individual at time of death.
SEX	String	Sex of the incarcerated individual, as defined by SCOC sex categories (Male, Female)
RACE	String	Race of the incarcerated individual, as defined by SCOC race categories (White, Black, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, Other, Unknown)
ETHNIC_GROUP	String	Ethnicity of the incarcerated individual, as defined by SCOC ethnicity categories (Hispanic, Not Hispanic, Unknown)
TERMINAL_INCIDENT_LOCATION	String	Location of incarcerated individual's death.