

OMH Suicides - Data dictionary

Introduction

This dataset contains records of suicides in DOCCS custody from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2023 as reported by OMH. Note that the number of suicides in this dataset may differ from other data sources such as DOCCS' unusual incident data and records of deaths from the New York State Attorney General due to different reporting methods. Some facilities are split by unit and reported separately on different rows, reflecting the structure of the source data. To sum by facility, you can aggregate based on "FACILITY_NAME". See the context statement above the dashboard for more detailed information.

The source data was obtained from OMH through the Freedom of Information Act Law (FOIL).

The data table is shared as a CSV file, with a bar ("|") delimiter in place of a comma (",").

Dictionary

Field Name	Type	Description
RAW_FACILITY_OR_UNIT_NAME	String	Name of facility and unit (if applicable) in which the suicide took place, as it appears on the report.
FACILITY_NAME	String	Facility in which the incarcerated individual was housed at the time of the suicide, defined using the first two digits of the DOCCS facility code. This name represents the commonplace naming for facilities and excludes references to specific buildings or units seen in RAW_FACILITY_OR_UNIT_NAME.
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, as designated in DOCCS public reporting or, if unavailable, in the NY Codes Rules and Regulations, Title 7. If there are multiple security levels for a given facility, the highest is reported here (Minimum, Medium, Maximum, Drug Treatment Center).
FACILITY_STATUS	String	Indicates if a facility is open or closed as of the publication of this data (Open, Closed).
FACILITY_GENDER	String	Gender-designation for the facility (Male, Female, Mixed).
SUICIDE_YEAR	Int	Year in which the suicide took place.
HOUSING_AT_TIME_OF_DEATH	String	Unit type in which the individual was housed at the time of the suicide.
METHOD	String	Method used by the deceased individual to commit suicide.
SUICIDE_NOTE	String	Whether the deceased individual left a suicide note.
LAST_MH_CONTACT_DATE	Date	Date of most recent contact with mental health providers.
IS_METHOD_LACERATION	Int	Boolean indicator for whether the method of suicide was laceration (1 = Yes, 0 = No, -99 = Missing).
IS_METHOD_BURNING_FIRE_SETTING	Int	Boolean indicator for whether the method of suicide was burning or fire setting (1 = Yes, 0 = No, -99 = Missing).
IS_METHOD_HANGING	Int	Boolean indicator for whether the method of suicide was hanging (1 = Yes, 0 = No, -99 = Missing).
IS_METHOD_STRANGULATION	Int	Boolean indicator for whether the method of suicide was strangulation (1 = Yes, 0 = No, -99 = Missing).
IS_METHOD_SUFFOCATION	Int	Boolean indicator for whether the method of suicide was suffocation or asphyxiation (1 = Yes, 0 = No, -99 = Missing).
IS_METHOD_OTHER	Int	Boolean indicator for whether the method of suicide was not one of the aforementioned categories (1 = Yes, 0 = No, -99 = Missing).