

Release - Data dictionary

Data Summary

This dataset is a derivative of DOCCS' Releases dataset and contains data from January 2016 to the present. It represents data associated with incarcerated individuals only; incarcerated parolee releases, youthful offenders, and court-ordered discharges are excluded. The dataset represents release transactions, not individuals released. If an individual is released or discharged multiple times on the same incarceration sentence, multiple records will be included in the dataset. The dataset includes information on the demographics of each individual released in addition to the assigned facility at release, commitment county, release type, and agency released to (if applicable).

To ensure compliance with Correction Law § 9 and to align with the New York State Committee on Open Government's advisory opinion on case FOI-AO-18823, the data presented here has been deidentified by (1) removing the names and departmental identification numbers, (2) sharing only a selection of the fields available in the source data, (3) altering select fields to be less granular (e.g., "age range" in place of date of birth) and (4) aggregating the data such that one row of data can represent more than one individual. It is for this reason that we haven't published the source data along with the processed data.

Note that this data, obtained from DOCCS, does not align exactly with the data published by DOCCS in the Open NY data portal ("Prison Releases: Beginning 2008"). For example, the data published in the data portal reports 9,042 individuals released in 2022, whereas our dataset reports 9,322 individuals released in 2022; a difference of 3%.

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

Dictionary		
Field Name	Type	Description
REPORT_DATE	Date	Date at which the dataset population was defined. By default, this date is set to the first day of the month, because the day of the extract is not available to us.
RELEASE_DISCHARGE_MONTH	Date	The month the incarcerated individual was released/discharged from DOCCS custody.
RELEASING_FACILITY_NAME	String	Facility from which the incarcerated individual was released, 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 the RELEASING_FACILITY_NAME_RAW.
RELEASING_FACILITY_CODE	Int	Code representing the facility from which the incarcerated individual was released. We believe that the first two digits refer to the facility and the third indicates the building or unit.
RELEASING_FACILITY_NAME_RAW	String	Facility from which the incarcerated individual was released, using facility names exactly as reported in DOCCS' releases report. This field sometimes indicates an individual's unit or building in addition to the facility.
RELEASING_FACILITY_REGION_NAME	String	Releasing facility region, with regions defined by DOCCS as groups of adjacent counties.
RELEASING_FACILITY_HUB_NAME	String	Releasing facility hub, with hubs defined by DOCCS as groups of facilities which are in close proximity. Hubs have administrative and operational functions in DOCCS facilities.
RELEASING_FACILITY_SECURITY_LEVEL	String	The security level of the facility from which the incarcerated individual was released from.
RELEASING_FACILITY_STATUS	String	The status of the facility from which the incarcerated individual was released, indicating whether open or closed.
RELEASING_FACILITY_GENDER	String	The gender designation of the facility from which the incarcerated individual was released from.
SEX	String	Sex of the incarcerated individual, as defined by DOCCS' sex categories (Male, Female).
AGE_RANGE	String	Age range of the incarcerated individual as of the report date.
ETHNIC_GROUP	String	Ethnicity of the incarcerated individual, as defined by DOCCS' ethnicity categories (Hispanic, Not Hispanic, Unknown).
RACE	String	Race of the incarcerated individual, as defined by DOCCS' race categories (White, Black, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, Other, Unknown).
CRIME_1_TYPE	String	The type of crime the incarcerated individual was convicted of that resulted in his or her commitment to state prison. Crime 1 is the most serious offense. If an individual was charged with more than three crimes, just the most serious three are shown.
CRIME_1_CLASS	String	The crime class for crime 1. The crime class is a set of codes including A1, A2, A3, B, C, D, and E with A1 felonies being the most serious and E felonies being the least serious.
CRIME_1_COMMITMENT_COUNTY	String	The commitment county for crime 1. Commitment county is the county in which the incarcerated individual committed a crime and was convicted.
CRIME_1_COUNTY_IS_NYC	Int	Indicator which denotes whether the commitment county in which the incarcerated individual committed a crime and was convicted was NYC.
AGGREGATE_MINIMUM_SENTENCE_RANGE	String	The aggregate minimum sentence range for the incarcerated individual. These fields contain an aggregate of the amount of time the inmate must serve for the crimes for which he or she was committed. The calculation of these sentence lengths is complex and takes into account whether the sentences are to be served concurrently or consecutively. The range consists of ((A) Less than 1 year, (B) 1-2 years, (C) 2-5 years, (D) 5-10 years, (E) 10-20 years, (F) More than 20 years).
AGGREGATE_MAXIMUM_SENTENCE_RANGE	String	The aggregate maximum sentence range for the incarcerated individual. These fields contain an aggregate of the amount of time the inmate must serve for the crimes for which he or she was committed. The calculation of these sentence lengths is complex and takes into account whether the sentences are to be served concurrently or consecutively. The range consists of ((A) Less than 1 year, (B) 1-2 years, (C) 2-5 years, (D) 5-10 years, (E) 10-20 years, (F) More than 20 years).
MOST_SERIOUS_PRIOR	String	Indicator for an incarcerated individual's most serious prior conviction, if any consists of (Felony, Misdemeanor conviction, Arrest).
TOTAL_CRIMES_RANGE	String	The range of total number of crimes an incarcerated individual was charged with in their current sentence. The range consists of ((A) 1, (B) 2-3, (C) 4-5, (D) 6-9, (E) 10 or more, (F) Other).
RELEASE_DISCHARGE_DESCR	String	The circumstance under which an incarcerated individual was released from a Correctional Facility. This field included information on the type of release (ex. Parole, temporary release) and where/to whom the individual was released (ex. Division of parole, U.S. immigration).
RELEASE_DISCHARGE_TO	String	Where or to whom the incarcerated individual was released from a Correctional Facility (ex. division of parole, U.S. immigration). This field was generated internally to CANY and is an approximation.
RELEASE_DISCHARGE_TYPE	String	The type of release from a Correctional Facility (ex. parole, temporary release). This field was generated using DOCCS' internal definitions of release/discharge type.
RELEASED_DISCHARGED_COUNT	Int	Counts the number of releases represented in each aggregated row. Because the dataset groups multiple release events based on shared attributes (such as release month, facility, and crime characteristics), a single row may represent more than one person.