

Unusual Incident Reports - Data dictionary

Data Summary

This dataset contains records of unusual incidents reported at DOCCS facilities, central office, and community supervision between 2014 and August 2023.

An unusual incident report can include multiple incidents; this dataset is structured to have one row per incident. DOCCS defines an unusual incident in Directive 4004 as "a serious occurrence that (1) may impact upon or disrupt facility operations, or (2) has the potential for affecting the Department's public image, or (3) might arouse widespread public interest. In general, any incident shall be reportable under the provisions of this directive which (1) satisfies the definition (above) of 'unusual incident,' or (2) involves use of chemical agents, or (3) involves staff use of a weapon, or (4) results in moderate or serious injury to any incarcerated individual/releasee or staff." More detail about these reports can be found in DOCCS' Directive 4004.

We are publishing both the final, processed table and the source data used to create the table, which we received from DOCCS through a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request. This data was redacted by DOCCS as a part of the FOIL process and does not align exactly with the numbers reported in DOCCS' published Unusual Incident Report summaries. For example, in DOCCS' 2022 "Unusual Incident Report", they report 13,642 incidents in 2022, 3,069 of which were contraband incidents. Our data shows 13,546 incidents in 2022, 3,036 of which were contraband incidents, a difference of 1% or less for both numbers.

The source data shared by DOCCS contains some errors, from either the data entry or the redaction process, which we could not resolve. As a result, the processed data will reflect any data errors from the source file and can contain minor processing errors due to inconsistencies in the formatting of the source data.

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".

Data Dictionary

Field Name	Type	Description
FACILITY_CODE	String	Code representing the facility in which the incarcerated individual is housed. We believe that the first two digits refer to the facility the third indicates the building or unit.
FACILITY_NAME	String	Facility in which the incarcerated individual is housed, defined using the first two digits of the DOCCS facility code. This name represents the commonplace naming for facilities and it excludes references to specific units.
IS_DOCCS_CORRECTIONAL_FACILITY	Int	Indicator which equals "1" if the incident occurred while in custody at a DOCCS correctional facility and "0" if not. For example, incidents recorded from community supervision or in central office show "0".
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 is used (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), as defined in NY Codes Rules and Regulations, Title 7 (only available for open facilities). If not available in Title 7, the facility gender as noted in DOCCS public reporting is used.
CCC_NUMBER	String	Code indicating the Communications Control Center's unique report ID. Reports can have multiple incidents, so there can be duplicates of CCC_NUMBER. This code can be more than 6 digits when supplemental information was added by the department after the original filing of the report (ex. CCC_NUMBER "233530.01").
FACILITY_LOG_NUMBER	String	Code indicating the unique report number for a given facility. Reports can have multiple incidents, so there can be duplicates of FACILITY_LOG_NUMBER.
INCIDENT_DATETIME	DateTime	Date and time the incident took place.
TELEPHONE_DATETIME	DateTime	Date and time of the telephone call made to report the incident.
REPORT_DATE	Date	Date that the unusual incident report was filed. This field is only available for certain years, and INCIDENT_DATETIME can be used instead.
REPORT_LOCATION_CAT	String	Location category of the incidents in the report. This field was generated from REPORT_LOCATION_DETAIL to identify types of locations by removing specific details. For example, "Cell 110" and "Cell 58" would both be changed to "Cell". This categorization has limitations, for example, a location like "SHU Yard" could be categorized either as "SHU" or "Yard". The location categories are the following, with later categories taking priority over earlier (Ex. "SHU Yard" becomes to "Yard" and not "SHU"): 'UNKNOWN', 'CELL', 'DOUBLE CELL', 'DORMITORY', 'GALLERY', 'GATE', 'MHU-OBS', 'SHU', 'SHOP', 'VISIT', 'RECEP', 'COMM EMP LOC', 'OTH COMM LOC', 'COMJTY RESID', 'PAROLE OFFIC', 'PAROLEE AUTO', 'PAROLEE HOME', 'ROADWAY', 'BLOCK', 'YARD'.
REPORT_LOCATION_DETAIL	String	Location of the incidents in the report, exactly as described in the report.
NUMBER_INCIDENTS_IN_REPORT	Int	Reports can have one or more associate incidents. This number show the number of incidents in the report and is equivalent to the number of incident codes per CCC number.
IS_REPORT_WORKPLACE_VIOLENCE	Int	Indicator signifying if a report has been labelled "workplace violence" (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No").
IS_REPORT_USE_OF_WEAPON_INC_IND	Int	Indicator signifying if a report has been labelled "weapon used" (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No"). This indicates if an incarcerated individual used a weapon/force in any of the incidents in the report.
IS_REPORT_USE_OF_WEAPON_STAFF	Int	Indicator signifying if a report has been labelled "use of force" (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No"). This indicates if a member of staff used a weapon/force in any of the incidents in the report.
INCIDENT_CODE	String	Category and subcategory code of the incident.
CATEGORY_CODE	String	Category code of the incident.
CATEGORY_DESCR	String	Description of the category code.
SUBCATEGORY_CODE	String	Subcategory code of the incident
SUBCATEGORY_DESCR	String	Description of the subcategory code.
NUMBER_INC_IND_INVOLVED	Int	Number of incarcerated individuals involved in the incident.
INC_IND_INVOLVED	String	List of unique roles of the incarcerated individuals involved in the incident.
IS_INC_IND_VICTIM	Int	Indicator signifying if any incarcerated individual is reported as a "victim" in the incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No").
IS_INC_IND_PERP	Int	Indicator signifying if any incarcerated individual is reported as a "perpetrator" in the incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No").
IS_INC_IND_BYSTANDER	Int	Indicator signifying if any incarcerated individual is reported as a "bystander" in the incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No").
IS_INC_IND_PARTICIPANT	Int	Indicator signifying if any incarcerated individual is reported as a "participant" in the incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No").
IS_INC_IND_SUSPECT	Int	Indicator signifying if any incarcerated individual is reported as a "suspect" in the incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No").
IS_INC_IND_WITNESS	Int	Indicator signifying if any incarcerated individual is reported as a "witness" in the incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No").
IS_INC_IND_OTHER_UNKNOWN	Int	Indicator signifying if any incarcerated individual is reported as playing a role not captured in the other role indicators (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No").
IS_WEAPON_USED_INC_IND	Int	Indicator signifying if an incarcerated individual used a weapon in the incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No").
WEAPONS_USED_INC_IND	String	List of unique weapons used by incarcerated individuals in the incident, if any.
IS_WEAPON_INC_IND_HUMAN_WASTE	Int	Indicator signifying if any incarcerated individual used human waste as a weapon during this incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No"). Specifically, the following weapons are included in this category: "HUMANWST", "BDYFLUIDS".
IS_WEAPON_INC_IND_BODY	Int	Indicator signifying if any incarcerated individual used their body as a weapon during this incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No"). Specifically, the following weapons are included in this category: "BODYUSE", "MART/ART".
IS_WEAPON_INC_IND_CHEMICAL	Int	Indicator signifying if any incarcerated individual used a chemical as a weapon during this incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No"). Specifically, the following weapons are included in this category: "CHEMAGENT", "CHEM/CAUST", "COMBUST".
IS_WEAPON_INC_IND_SHARP	Int	Indicator signifying if any incarcerated individual used a sharp implement as a weapon during this incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No"). Specifically, the following weapons are included in this category: "SCALPEL", "CPNGINSTR", "CUTINSTR", "RAZOR", "SHANK", "KNIFE", "UNR/STABNG", "UNR/CUTTING", "ICEPICK", "EATUTENS", "TOOTHBRUSH", "BRKGLASS", "PEN/PENCIL", "CANLID", "GARROTE".
IS_WEAPON_INC_IND_HEAVY	Int	Indicator signifying if any incarcerated individual used a hard or heavy item as a weapon during this incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No"). Specifically, the following weapons are included in this category: "METALPIPE", "CHAIR", "CLUB-WOOD", "CLUB-OTHER", "WGTDCLOTH", "MESSTRAY".
IS_WEAPON_INC_IND_GUN	Int	Indicator signifying if any incarcerated individual used a gun during this incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No"). Specifically, the following weapons are included in this category: "GUN-MANUF".
IS_WEAPON_INC_IND_OTHER	Int	Indicator signifying if any incarcerated individual used an unknown or uncategorized weapon during this incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No"). Specifically, the following weapons are included in this category: "OTHFLUIDS", "OTHER", "UNKNOWNLOD", "UNKNWN/UNR".
NUMBER_OF_NON_INC_IND_INVOLVED	Int	Number of non-incarcerated individuals involved in the incident. This can include DOCCS staff, visitors, medical professionals, etc.
IS_WEAPON_USED_STAFF	Int	Indicator signifying if a staff member used a weapon in the incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No").
WEAPONS_USED_STAFF	String	List of unique weapons used by staff in the incident, if any.
IS_WEAPON_STAFF_BODY_HOLD	Int	Indicator signifying if any staff member used a body hold as a weapon during this incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No"). Specifically, the following weapons are included in this category: "BODYHOLD".
IS_WEAPON_STAFF_CHEMICAL_AGENT	Int	Indicator signifying if any staff member used chemical agents as a weapon during this incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No"). Specifically, the following weapons are included in this category: "CHEMAGTS".
IS_WEAPON_STAFF_MECH_RESTRAINT	Int	Indicator signifying if any staff member used mechanical restraint as a weapon during this incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No"). Specifically, the following weapons are included in this category: "MECHRESTR".
IS_WEAPON_STAFF_BATON	Int	Indicator signifying if any staff member used a baton as a weapon during this incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No"). Specifically, the following weapons are included in this category: "BATON".
IS_WEAPON_STAFF_STRIKE	Int	Indicator signifying if any staff member is reported as striking an individual during the incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No"). Specifically, the following weapons are included in this category: "STRIKE".
IS_WEAPON_STAFF_SHIELD	Int	Indicator signifying if any staff member used a shield as a weapon during this incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No"). Specifically, the following weapons are included in this category: "SHIELD".
IS_WEAPON_STAFF_TASER	Int	Indicator signifying if any staff member used a conducted energy device (CED) or taser as a weapon during this incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No"). Specifically, the following weapons are included in this category: "CED/TASER".
IS_WEAPON_STAFF_OTHER_UNKNOWN	Int	Indicator signifying if any staff member used an unknown or uncategorized weapon during this incident (1 = "Yes", 0 = "No"). Specifically, the following weapons are included in this category: "OTHER".