The dataset contains records of unusual incidents reported at DOCCS facilities, central office, and community supervision between 2014 and December 2023. An unusual incident report can include multiple incidents; this dataset is structured to have one record per incident. DOCCS defines an unusual incident in Directive 494A as "a serious occurrence that (1) may impact upon or disrupt facility operations, result in Departmental public image, or (2) might arouse widespread public interest. In general, any incident shall be reportable under the provisions of the directive which (1) satisfies the definition (above) of 'unusual incidents,' (2) involves use of chemical agents, or (3) involves staff use of a weapon, or (4) results in moderate to serious injury to any incarcerated individual/employee or staff." More detail on these reports can be found in DOCCS Directive 494A.

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 13,643 incidents in 2022, 2,168 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 reduction 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 ("|") delimeter in place of a comma (","). Missing data is set to Null or "Missing/None."