

Introduction

This Annex lists the data-fields available from the Airwave Study Tissue Bank absences export.

Document Configuration

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Subject	Absences Export
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Absences

The absences dataset is a single file that contains a set of records, each of which reports a participant's absence from their normal police duties. Most absences are for health-reasons, but other reasons exist.

These data were obtained from the 27 police forces that were willing and able to provide us with data, and where the participant provided the necessary consent. Submissions from forces vary in the length of history made available, and there will inevitably be differences in accuracy and completeness in a dataset collected by so many different organisations over such a long period of time (the time series begins in 1970).

More information can be made available by the study team if more detail is required on the collection, cleaning and loading process. Please also read our paper at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2019.05.012>.

Reason for Absence

Absences within policing are often reported using a standard set of categories called Dorset-12. This is based on twelve standard headings, listed below, each of which has its own sub-headings.

- Cardiac/Circulatory
- Digestive Disorder
- Ear/Eye
- Genito-urinary
- Headache/Migraine
- Infectious Diseases
- Miscellaneous
- Musculo/skeletal
- Nervous System Disorders
- Psychological Disorders
- Respiratory Conditions
- Skin

Not all forces report using Dorset-12 format, and those that do have not always used the standard categories diligently. Reported categories are often just badly formatted versions of the standard ones, though we haven't cleaned these at this release. If, as a researcher, you do this cleaning yourself, please get in touch so that we can share the fruits of your labour (and credit you).

Proprietary categories and sub-categories have been shown separately from Dorset-12. Some reports have both Dorset-12 and proprietary categories, and we leave it to the researcher to decide how to use these data.

Record Merging

We have merged records where simple logic shows that two or more absence reports are consecutive or overlapping in time. Some overlapping reports remain (1365 reports out of 447834: 0.3%), often because of input coding errors. Simply summing absence duration over time, therefore, will result in a slightly overstated value because of double-counting.

Data Labels

The output file described below is tab-separated and includes a header record.

Label	Data Type	Description
sab_id	INTEGER	Pseudonymous record identifier.
part_id	NUMBER (7)	Participant identifier.
region	STRING	Geographical region in which their force is located.
started	DATE	When the absence began
ended	DATE	The final date of absence. When ended is missing, this may be because the participant was in on ongoing absence when the data was extracted, and no later return was made available to us; or it may be because the date of return to work was lost.
duration	INTEGER	Length of absence (days) = 1 + ended – started.
dorset_12	STRING	Reason for absence based on Dorset-12 categories.
dorset_12_sub	STRING	Subcategory of dorset_12, where available.
other_category	STRING	Reason for absence based on local standard categories.
other_category_detail	STRING	Subcategory for other_category, where available.

Version History

VERSION	Filename	Date Exported	Total Rows	CRC-32
1	absences-v1.tsv	20 th January 2023	447,835	C32ECBF30DB883F8