

Ross Correctional Institution Inspection Brief

Correctional Institution Inspection Committee

February 26, 2016

Institution Profile

- Chillicothe, Ohio (Ross County)
- Level 3 (close security)
- Population: 2,045 (as of November 2015)
 - 55.0% Black, 43.6% White, 1.4% Other
 - Average age: 32.6
- RCI is a high security, celled, open compound prison. The facility has been troubled with violence, including two recent assaults on staff that resulted in serious injury. The facility experienced turnover in several of its key administrative positions within the past year. Positively, it houses a unique inmate theater program and also a “restorative” housing unit for pre-release inmates.

Inspection Overview

Safety and Security: Acceptable

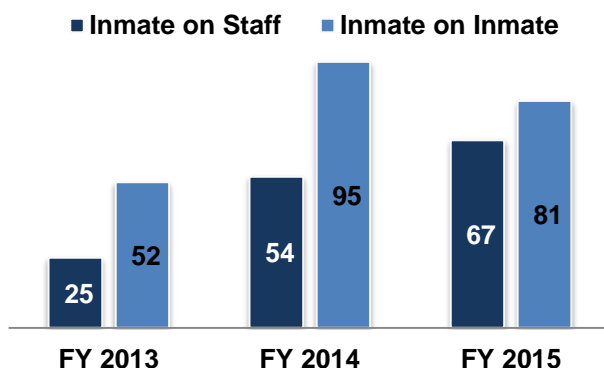
Health and Wellbeing: In Need of Improvement

Fair Treatment: Acceptable

Reentry and Rehabilitation: Acceptable

Fiscal Accountability: Acceptable

Assaults



Key Findings

- **Violence:** The rate of inmate disciplinary convictions for assaults increased by 30.0 percent during CY 2014 in comparison to CY 2013 (most recent data available).
- **Use of Force:** Video was available for all 20 reviewed incidents and officer responses appeared to be appropriate; however, force was deemed unjustified in two instances.
- **Unit Conditions:** Each of the units appeared clean, with few maintenance issues.
- **Medical Services:** Staffing appears sufficient to meet the needs, and there were no backlogs for inmate appointments. RCI Medical Services continues to be exceptional.
- **Mental Health:** An ongoing concern at RCI due to low staffing and high turnover, resulting in limited programming.
- **Grievance Procedure:** Inmates reported low access to the grievance procedure. A review of responses to informal complaints raised concern regarding inmates knowing how to use the grievance procedure.
- **Segregation:** RCI’s 5A segregation unit continues to raise concerns due to conditions, treatment, and lack of programming.
- **Reentry Planning:** Reentry planning and preparation has improved and RCI has a restorative unit for pre-release inmates. However, more could be done for the entire population.
- **Literacy:** GED attainment has decreased (in line with the entire system), and waitlists have increased.
- **Fiscal:** RCI’s most recent fiscal audit raised some concerns. Overall utility costs decreased, but so did recycling revenue. Staff survey results were mixed, but turnover has decreased, and vacancies are low.