

Belmont Correctional Institution Inspection Brief

Correctional Institution Inspection Committee

June 18, 2013

Institution Profile

- St. Clairsville, Ohio (Belmont County)
- Level 1 and 2 (minimum/medium)
- Population: 2,754 (as of 5/13)
 - Capacity: 1,855
 - 55.8% White, 40.6% Black
 - Average age: 36.8
- In the past two years, BECI has made tremendous positive change. In 2011, CIIC had significant concerns regarding the quality of life, violence, and staff fatigue. In 2013, the facility had an entirely different atmosphere, with an increase in programming, cleanliness, and inmate safety.

Inspection Overview

Safety and Security: Good

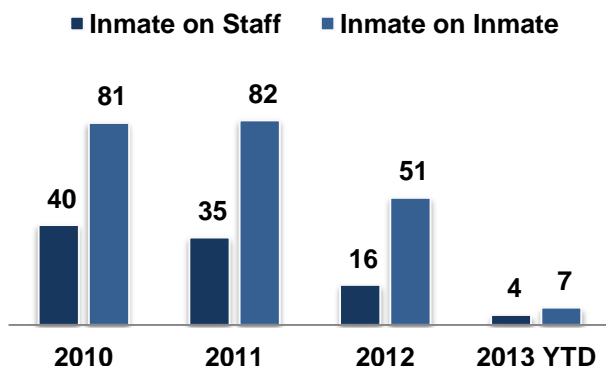
Health and Wellbeing: Good

Fair Treatment: Good

Reentry and Rehabilitation: Good

Fiscal Accountability: Good

Assaults



Key Findings

- **Assaults:** From 2010 to 2012, inmate-on-inmate assaults decreased by 37%; inmate-on-staff assaults decreased by 60%.
- **Fights:** The rate of rule 19 (fight) convictions decreased by 10.6% between 2011 and 2012.
- **Use of Force:** Total uses of force decreased by 40.7% between 2010 and 2012. Use of chemical agents (mace) increased by 38.3%.
- **Unit Conditions:** The average level of cleanliness was rated as excellent, with clear improvement in the restrooms. Maintenance concerns continue to be an issue, but appeared fewer.
- **Healthcare:** There were no backlogs for either medical and mental health services.
- **Staff/Inmate Interactions:** Concerns from inmates were less than at other institutions and staff had an accountability system in place.
- **Segregation:** The segregation unit was overall good, but 19 cells were triple-bunked due to a recent incident.
- **Access to Purposeful Activities:** There was a low rate of idleness, likely due to the open yard schedule and the numerous program opportunities.
- **Quality of Programming:** The total number of GEDs passed increased and the quality of instructional delivery was good.
- **Reentry Planning:** The BECI Reentry Coordinator developed a best practice of a reentry workshop for all inmates 30 days prior to release.
- **Fiscal Accountability:** Overtime payouts decreased from CY 2011 to CY 2012 and the vacancy rate decreased. Recycling revenue and overall cost savings were high, but total utility costs increased.