

Correctional Institution Inspection Committee: Belmont Correctional Institution Inspection Brief

June 2, 2011

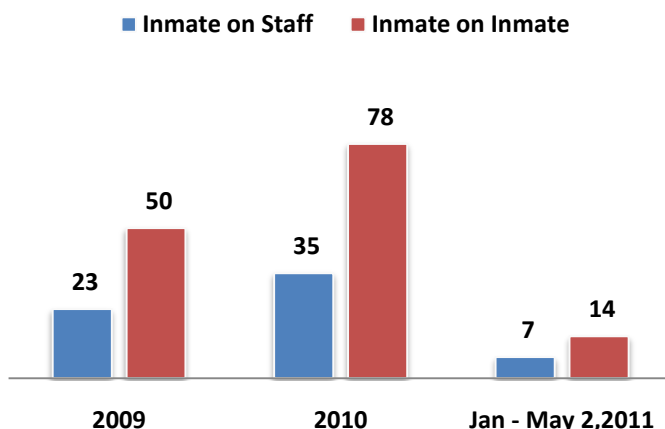
Institution Profile

- St. Clairsville, Ohio
- Male
- Levels 1 and 2 (minimum/medium) security
- Population: 2,639 (As of 5/2/11)
 - Capacity: 1,855
 - 49.5% White, 48.9% Black, and 1.7% Other
- Number of Employees: 483 (21 Vacancies)

Key Statistics

- **Use of Force:** From Sept 2010 – Feb 2011, there were 134 Use of Force incidents, which is the third-highest for all Level 1 and 2 facilities.
- **Assaults:** From Jan 2009 – May 2011, there were 142 reported inmate-on-inmate assaults and 65 inmate-on-staff assaults.
- **Suicide Attempts:** From Apr 2010 – Mar 2011, the DRC reported 81 suicide attempts. The facility experienced no successful suicides and seven suicide attempts during this period.
- **Investigator:** From Apr 2010 – Mar 2011, the most commonly confiscated contraband included weapons, such as shanks and locks in a sock, and hooch (inmate-made alcohol).

Total Number of Assaults at BECI



Key Findings

- According to interviews of multiple levels of staff, there is a failure of staff accountability at every level, including officers not enforcing rules for inmates, and supervisors not then holding those officers responsible, and upward the chain of command.
- Inmates in various housing units relayed that staff treat them with disrespect and address them using inappropriate language.
- Staff are wearing multiple hats and are stretched thin. The high level of fatigue and frustration currently felt by staff was palpable.
- Sixty inmates were asked to rate their perceived level of safety. The average level of safety reported by inmates was 5.8, which is low compared to other institutions.
- There were significant maintenance and sanitation issues throughout most of the restrooms in the housing units. There were showers with soap scum issues and unknown reddish-orange stains in the grout. Restrooms also contained broken toilets, urinals, and showers.
- Multiple staff relayed that, with the exception of Religious Services, Recovery Services, and Mental Health almost no programs are actually run at BECI.

CIIC Contacts

From Nov 2010 through Apr 2011, CIIC received 50 contacts regarding BECI, which relayed 161 concerns. The top three reported concerns were Health Care (23 concerns), Supervision (21 concerns), and Staff Accountability (19 concerns).