

Correctional Institution Inspection Committee: Lake Erie Correctional Institution Inspection Brief

September 27, 2011

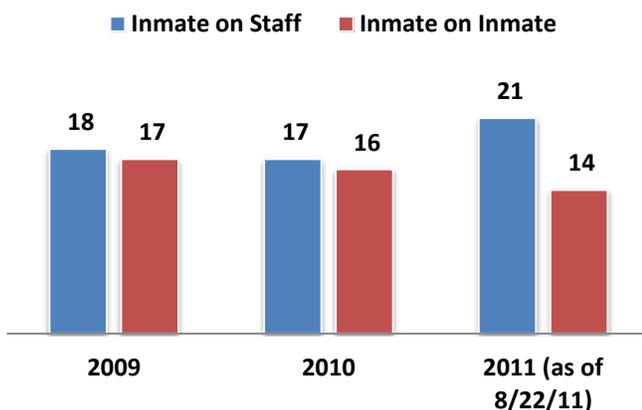
Institution Profile

- Conneaut, Ohio
- Levels 1 and 2 (minimum/medium) security
- Male
- Population: 1,500 (as of 8/11)
 - Capacity: 1,498 (current pop at 100%)
 - 56% Black, 42% White, and 2% Other
- Number of Employees: 278 (9 vacancies)

Key Statistics

- **Use of Force:** From Jan – Jun 2011, there were 60 use of force incidents, which is average compared to other institutions of similar security levels, and a 67% increase from the same six month period in 2009.
- **Assaults:** From Jan 2009 – Aug 2011, there were 47 reported inmate-on-inmate assaults and 56 inmate-on-staff assaults (see below chart). The number of assaults is low compared to other institutions of similar security levels.
- **Suicide Attempts:** From Aug 2010 – Jul 2011, the DRC reported 71 suicide attempts. The facility experienced one completed suicide and zero suicide attempts during this period.

Total Assaults 2009 - 2011 YTD



Key Findings

- Overall, the inspection was very positive.
- The one concern was that inmates said the correctional officers are disrespectful and rude to them on a continual basis, a common concern across the DRC.
- Staff relayed a number of creative strategies for inmate behavior management, including a modified recreation schedule, a preferred program time block, additional merit pods, and a crackdown on gang activity.
- The facility was clean and well-maintained without any major concerns. The majority of the bathrooms were clean, which is an improvement over most other DRC institutions.
- The food served in the inmate dining hall was impressive to both CIIC staff and inmates.
- Institutional staff members relayed that they are constantly working on ways to save money without jeopardizing the operations or conditions of the institution.
- Only 4.2% of informal complaints received an untimely staff response, which is highly commendable compared to other DRC institutions.
- It should be noted that since the date of the inspection, the DRC announced that the facility will be sold to the Corrections Corporation of America as of January 1, 2012.

CIIC Contacts

In CY 2010, CIIC received 44 contacts regarding LAECI. The top three reported concerns were in regard to Health Care, Staff Accountability, and the Inmate Grievance Procedure.