

# Noble Correctional Institution Inspection Brief

## Correctional Institution Inspection Committee

June 24, 2014

### Institution Profile

- Caldwell, Ohio (Noble County)
- Level 1 and 2 (minimum/medium security)
- Population: 2,524 (as of 5/2014)
  - 60.9% White, 37.2% Black, 1.9% Other
  - Average age: 32.5
- NCI is a medium security institution that, due to its open-dorm structure and remote location, presents a challenging environment for security. In years past, NCI experienced large-scale inmate disturbances. It continues to experience a higher rate of violence and gang activity due to these same challenges, but it is much improved.

### Inspection Overview

**Safety and Security: Acceptable**

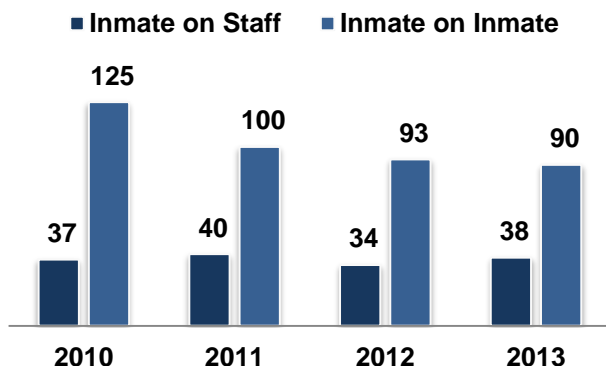
**Health and Wellbeing: Good**

**Fair Treatment: Acceptable**

**Reentry and Rehabilitation: Good**

**Fiscal Accountability: Good**

### Assaults



### Key Findings

- **Violence:** The rate of disciplinary convictions for assaults and fights was significantly more than comparator prisons.
- **Use of Force:** Uses of force have decreased and the Warden has increased accountability, although there were documentation concerns.
- **Unit Conditions:** Unit and shower conditions were very good.
- **Medical Services:** Inmate feedback on medical services was very positive, although there were small backlogs for Doctor and chronic care appointments.
- **Mental Health:** Staff reported zero backlogs, as well as zero suicides or suicide attempts at the facility.
- **Staff/Inmate Interactions:** Inmates relayed positive communication with the regular officers.
- **Segregation:** Many cells were triple-celled, but there were few other concerns.
- **Access to Purposeful Activities:** NCI has worked to vastly increase access to programming and creative, reentry-based activities.
- **Educational Programming:** Academic enrollment increased significantly from FY 2012 to 2013, and both the total number of GEDs and academic certificates increased.
- **Reentry Planning:** RPLAN accountability was somewhat unclear; however, NCI has implemented a new reentry/reintegration dorm. Staff have also implemented a Mock Interview program that is exceptional.
- **Fiscal:** Overtime is average and vacancies are low. Staff completion of evaluations is the best in the DRC. However, staff morale is low, fiscal audit ratings were low, cost savings were low, and utilities increased.