



CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INSPECTION COMMITTEE

A Joint Committee of the 134th Ohio General Assembly

SUMMARY OF THE INSPECTION AND EVALUATION OF PICKAWAY CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

JULY 20-21, 2021

Facility Overview

Pickaway Correctional Institution (PCI) is a medium security male prison, housing Level 1 (minimum) and Level 2 (medium) security offenders. A small proportion (2.5%) are Level 3 (close) security offenders. Additionally, PCI hosts a large medical area used primarily to treat chronic conditions. As of July 7, 2021, the institution housed 1,710 offenders and employed 495 total staff of which 242 were officers. There were 87 total vacancies (14.9%) including 30 officer vacancies (11.0%).

Highlighted Facts

- PCI is managed by Warden Emma Collins.
- In attendance at the inspection were Representative Mark Johnson and CIIC staff.
- Staff morale was reported as "Low," which staff primarily attributed to being under staffed, low pay, and lack of staff discipline and officer input in operational decision.
- Offenders at PCI are offered an exceptional variety of activities for recreation including group fitness, team sports, movies, and music and arts programming .

Key Inspection Findings

Safety and Security

- Inmate on inmate assaults increased slightly, while inmate on staff assaults decreased considerably.
- Violence measures at PCI are lower than comparable institutions, though violent RIB convictions increased considerably between 2019 and 2020.
- Use of force incidents increased considerably between 2019-2020.
- Survey respondents reported higher rates of harassment than in previous surveys.
- A PREA-related Ohio Standard was found in non-compliance on the recent Internal Management Audit.

Health and Wellbeing

- Dormitories appeared aged and visible issues with conditions were noted.
- Medical Services had high rates of vacancies in their nurse staffing.
- Food Services prepares specialty meals for medical and religious diets.
- Recreation staffing was low which staff reported can limit the amount of activities available to offenders.

Fair Treatment

- Survey respondents reported more dissatisfaction with staff interactions than in previous surveys.
- The RIB Panel Hearings followed standard procedures and a review of closed cases showed exceptional compliance to policy.

Rehabilitation and Reentry

- Waitlists for reentry programming were high, likely impacted by COVID-19 restrictions from the preceding year.
- Survey respondents expressed high concern with mail service, likely due to drug interdiction efforts.
- OPI workshops were found to be exceptionally clean and orderly. The two shops offer job training and work experience to nearly 100 offenders.

Fiscal Accountability

- Overtime costs continue to rise over the reviewed years.
- A major water leak was identified as causing an increase in water usage and total costs.
- Vacancy rates continue to be high and impact staff morale.



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RATINGS SUMMARY

Methodology

Ratings are a four-point scale based on the balance of the indicator ratings for that area. A rating of “Exceptional” for an indicator means that there is no room for improvement and, generally, that the facility performs above other prisons. A rating of “Good” means that the prison more than meets the standard, but is not significantly better than other prisons or there is still room for improvement. A rating of “Acceptable” means that the prison just meets the standard or meets the standard with minor exceptions. A rating of “In Need of Improvement” means that the prison does not meet standards, is significantly different from other prisons in a negative manner, or that CIIC staff had serious concerns.

A full inspection was completed during the 2019-2020 biennium, though no report nor ratings were issued due to low CIIC staffing levels. For comparative purposes, 2017 ratings are presented.

	2020	2021
SAFETY & SECURITY	GOOD	ACCEPTABLE
Violence Outcome Measures	Good	Acceptable
Use of Force	Good	Acceptable
Control of Illegal Substances	In Need of Improvement	Deferred
Offender Perception of Safety	Good	Acceptable
Unit Security Management	Good	Good
Institutional Security Management	Acceptable	Good
Prison Rape Elimination Act	Exceptional	Good
HEALTH & WELLBEING	GOOD	GOOD
Unit Conditions	Acceptable	Acceptable
Medical Services	Acceptable	Acceptable
Mental Health Services	Good	Good
Recovery Services	Good	Good
Food Services	Acceptable	Good
Recreation	Exceptional	Good
FAIR TREATMENT	GOOD	GOOD
Staff/Offender Interactions	Good	Acceptable
Inmate Grievance Procedure	Good	Good
Offender Discipline	Good	Good
REHABILITATION & REENTRY	GOOD	GOOD
Reentry Planning and Programming	Good	Good
Rehabilitative Programming	Acceptable	N/A*
Family Engagement & Community Connections	Good	Acceptable
Academic Programming	Exceptional	Good
Library Services	Good	Good
Vocational & Work Skill Development	Good	Good
Ohio Penal Industries	Good	Good
FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY	ACCEPTABLE	ACCEPTABLE
Fiscal Wellness	Good	Acceptable
Environmental Sustainability	Exceptional	Good
Staff Management	In Need of Improvement	In Need of Improvement

*Rated areas have been revised since the prior inspection report.