

Ross Correctional Institution Inspection Brief

Correctional Institution Inspection Committee

June 2, 2014

Institution Profile

- Chillicothe, Ohio (Ross County)
- Level 3 (close security)
- Population: 2,134 (as of 4/2014)
 - Capacity: 82.8%
 - 53.5% Black, 45.5% White, 1.1% Other
 - Average age: 32.1
- RCI transitioned in 2012 from housing half Level 2s and half Level 3s, to almost the entire population being composed of Level 3 inmates, which has had a negative impact on its violence. In addition, the institution has gone through several changes in administration in a short time period.

Inspection Overview

Safety and Security: In Need of Improvement

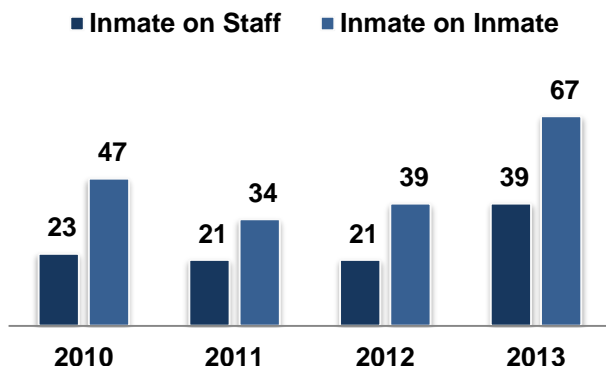
Health and Wellbeing: Acceptable

Fair Treatment: Acceptable

Reentry and Rehabilitation: Good

Fiscal Accountability: Acceptable

Assaults



Key Findings

- **Violence:** Assaults have increased since 2012, fights have increased and are at a higher rate than comparator prisons, and there was a homicide in early 2013.
- **Use of Force:** Uses of force increased and there were documentation concerns.
- **Unit Conditions:** Unit and shower conditions were generally good, with the exception of J Dorm.
- **Medical Services:** Almost no backlog was reported for inmate services, staffing was adequate, and both inmate and staff communication was very good.
- **Mental Health:** Staff relayed that they were drastically under-staffed, that initial psychiatry appointments for inmates not on the caseload took two to four months, a high level of inmates manipulate watch, and there have been three suicides since January 2012.
- **Staff/Inmate Interactions:** Inmate focus group and survey responses were generally in line with other institutions.
- **Segregation:** Security issues were apparent on 5A, and the outdoor recreation area needed to be cleaned.
- **Access to Purposeful Activities:** RCI enrolls a good number of inmates in unit programs and offers a number of inmate groups.
- **Educational Programming:** The FY 2013 rate of GEDs earned was an increase, and the rate of academic certificates earned was higher than comparator prisons.
- **Reentry Planning:** RCI has an accountability system for RPLAN completion.
- **Fiscal:** Overtime and property loss costs decreased, and recycling revenues significantly improved. However, evaluation completion was poor and utilities increased.