

Southern Ohio Correctional Facility Inspection Brief

Correctional Institution Inspection Committee

March 8, 2016

Institution Profile

- Lucasville, Ohio (Scioto County)
- Level 4 (maximum security)
- Population: 1,228 (as of January 2016)
 - 62.5% Black, 35.5% White, 2.0% Other
 - Average age: 32.2
- SOCF is the state's primary maximum security facility with a long history and reputation in the state. The Warden's position changed in 2015, presenting new opportunities. The facility is at the center of the DRC's restrictive housing reform and it will be a challenge to transition from a heavily security-based paradigm to one of rehabilitation, reentry, and purposeful activities.

Inspection Overview

Safety and Security: Acceptable

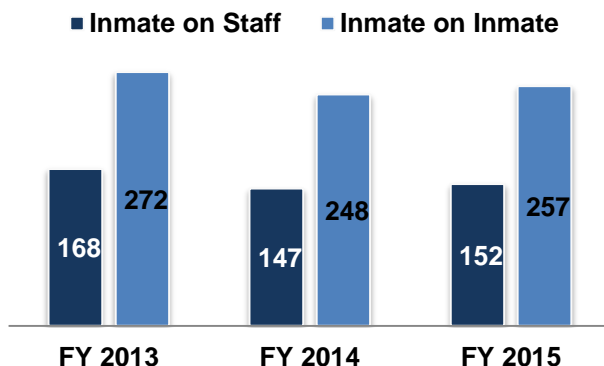
Health and Wellbeing: Good

Fair Treatment: In Need of Improvement

Reentry and Rehabilitation: In Need of Improvement

Fiscal Accountability: Exceptional

Assaults



Key Findings

- **Violence:** Preliminary data indicates that assaults have decreased in CY 2015 in comparison to CY 2014, although violence remains the highest in the DRC.
- **Use of Force:** Accountability has improved; however, CIIC has ongoing concerns regarding unjustified uses of OC spray on inmates. Inmates continue to report excessive force.
- **Unit Conditions:** Each of the units appeared clean, with few maintenance concerns.
- **Medical Services:** Staffing appears sufficient to meet the needs, and there were no backlogs for inmate appointments. Inmates relayed concerns regarding the doctor.
- **Mental Health:** Similarly, staffing appeared to be adequate and there were no reported backlogs. Programming appears acceptable for RTU inmates; less so for GP inmates.
- **Staff/Inmate Interactions:** Inmates have consistently reported abusive language with racial overtones, excessive force, and staff retaliation for reporting complaints.
- **Segregation:** SOCF has not made much progress toward restrictive housing reform, but the official segregation population is reduced.
- **Reentry Planning:** SOCF needs to create individualized reentry plans for inmates, as they are at high risk for recidivism.
- **Literacy:** Academic programming is significantly below the comparator prison and DRC rate, and the library recently restricted access due to security concerns.
- **Fiscal:** Staff camaraderie is extremely strong at SOCF and staff are generally satisfied with the workplace. Utility costs have decreased and the facility has a good recycling program. Fiscal audit scores are exceptional.