



CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INSPECTION COMMITTEE

A Joint Committee of the 134th Ohio General Assembly

SUMMARY OF THE INSPECTION AND EVALUATION OF MARION CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

NOVEMBER 30, 2021

Facility Overview

Marion Correctional Institution (MCI) is a medium security male prison, housing Level 1 (minimum) and Level 2 (medium) security offenders. The camp facility previously a part of the Marion complex, is no longer operated by ODRC. As of November 16, 2021, the institution housed 2,085 offenders (633 of which were housed at the camp facility) and employed 388 total staff, of which 231 were officers. There were 74 total vacancies (16.0%), including 52 officer vacancies (18.4%).

Highlighted Facts

- MCI is managed by Warden Leon Hill.
- In attendance at the inspection were CIIC staff.
- Offender perception of safety at MCI was exceptional. 91.9% of offenders reported feeling safe or neutral from the other offenders.
- Use of force at MCI was in need of improvement. There has been a general increase in the past two years which is believed to be attributed to lack of programming and movement during COVID-19, decreased contact with family, and an increase of drug use.

Key Inspection Findings

Safety and Security

- Violent Rule Infraction Convictions have increased significantly from 2018-2021.
- Staff and offender assaults increased and then decreased from 2017-2021.
- Violence has increased over recent years, though it is still relatively low in comparison to other similar facilities.
- Uses of force against offenders increased significantly in 2020.
- Officers were very consistent in making rounds of the housing units.

Health and Wellbeing

- Medical facilities did not appear to have sufficient space for clinical duties.
- Medical, mental health, and recovery service staffing levels were low, and impact the services available to offenders.
- The housing unit dedicated to recovery services is no longer in operation, due to staffing and COVID-19.
- Food service facilities appeared orderly, though there were concerns with policy compliance and facility maintenance.

Fair Treatment

- Timeliness of grievance responses has improved, but is not within policy requirements, on average. Of all institutions, MCI had the most grievances filed in 2020, increasing the demands on staff.
- Conduct reports for violating rules of conduct increased by 23% in 2020. The most frequent was possession or consumption of an intoxicating substance.

Rehabilitation and Reentry

- Programs had high waitlists, which the Unit Management Chief is working to address.
- Case managers expressed frustration with the processes of offender video conferencing.
- MCI had expansive vocational and OPI program offerings.

Fiscal Accountability

- Overtime costs have increased significantly over the evaluated time period.
- Staff separation rates at MCI have been higher than departmental averages from FY 2018—FY 2020.



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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.

	2017	2021
SAFETY & SECURITY	GOOD	GOOD
Violence Outcome Measures	Exceptional	Acceptable
Use of Force	Good	In Need of Improvement
Control of Illegal Substances	Acceptable	Deferred
Offender Perception of Safety	Exceptional	Exceptional
Unit Security Management	Good	Good
Institutional Security Management	Good	Good
Prison Rape Elimination Act	Good	Good
HEALTH & WELLBEING	GOOD	ACCEPTABLE
Unit Conditions	Good	Good
Medical Services	Good	Acceptable
Mental Health Services	Good	Acceptable
Recovery Services	Good	Acceptable
Food Services	Good	Acceptable
Recreation	Exceptional	Exceptional
FAIR TREATMENT	GOOD	GOOD
Staff/Offender Interactions	Good	Good
Inmate Grievance Procedure	Good	Acceptable
Offender Discipline	N/A*	Good
Transitional Programming Unit	Acceptable	N/A*
REHABILITATION & REENTRY	GOOD	GOOD
Reentry Planning and Programming	Good	Acceptable
Rehabilitative Programming	Good	N/A*
Family & Community Connections	Good	Acceptable
Academic Programming	Good	Good
Library Services	Acceptable	Good
Vocational & Work Skill Development	Good	Good
Ohio Penal Industries	Good	Good
FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY	GOOD	GOOD
Fiscal Wellness	Exceptional	Acceptable
Environmental Sustainability	Good	Exceptional
Staff Management	Good	Acceptable

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