



CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INSPECTION COMMITTEE

A Joint Committee of the 134th Ohio General Assembly

SUMMARY OF THE INSPECTION AND EVALUATION OF ROSS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

NOVEMBER 16, 2021

Facility Overview

Ross Correctional Institution (RCI) is a close security male prison, housing Level 3 (close) security offenders with a small population of Level 2 (medium) security offenders. As of November 16, 2021, the institution housed 1,731 offenders and employed 443 total staff, of which 293 were officers. There were 73 total vacancies (14.1%), including 54 officer vacancies (15.6%).

Highlighted Facts

- RCI is managed by Warden Bill Cool.
- In attendance at the inspection were CIIC staff.
- Offender perception of safety at RCI was exceptional. 85.9% of offenders reported feeling safe or neutral from the other offenders.
- Food services at RCI was in need of improvement due to sanitation noncompliance. 11.1% of offenders reported feeling satisfied with the food served in the chow hall.

Key Inspection Findings

Safety and Security

- Violent rule convictions have increased by 38% from 2018 to 2020.
- Inmate on staff assaults have decreased from 2017 to 2019.
- Fighting convictions have increased during the reviewed period of 2017 to 2020.
- The number of offenders refusing their cell assignment for safety concerns and the number requesting placement in protective custody have decreased considerably.
- The rate of rule 17 (unauthorized group activity) convictions decreased 17% from 2018 to 2020.

Health and Wellbeing

- Medical staffing showed a low vacancy rate, though staff reported their staffing levels were reduced by headquarters during COVID-19.
- Mental health programs had high offender waitlists (24% of the institution), and the department did not have a Psychologist.
- Recovery services programs had high offender waitlists (37% of the institution), and two of the six coordinator/counselor positions were vacant.
- Food Services Facilities had maintenance and pest issues, and tool and chemical controls were found in non-compliance.

Fair Treatment

- Offenders reported increased harassment and threats from staff, and that their unit officers were less professional and helpful than during the 2017 visit.
- On average, responses to grievances exceeded the typical length of time set by Administrative Rule.

Rehabilitation and Reentry

- RCI featured a "Going Home for Good" housing unit for offenders nearing release to receive intensive programming.
- Offenders participated in multiple community service projects for local organizations.
- Educational staff reported that offenders are regularly being caught masturbating during class.
- RCI offers college-level courses through Sinclair College.
- Waitlists for vocational programs are high (26% of the institution).

Fiscal Accountability

- Correctional officers had a 15% vacancy rate. High rates have been seen across the state, especially during COVID-19.
- Staff overtime has consistently risen from 2019 to 2021. Total overtime in 2021 was \$3,489,862.



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

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