

Belmont Correctional Institution Inspection Brief

Correctional Institution Inspection Committee

October 30, 2015

Institution Profile

- St. Clairsville, Ohio (Belmont County)
- Level 1/2 (minimum/medium)
- Population: 2,696 (as of September 2015)
 - 58.9% White, 37.8% Black, 3.3% Other
 - Average age: 38.6
- BECI is an open-dorm, medium security institution in the southeast portion of the state. The facility experienced a large change drop in its violence over the past four years and now has a number of programs for inmates' rehabilitation, including a large community garden in the middle of the facility, and it is one of four prisons to house the comprehensive sex offender program.

Inspection Overview

Safety and Security: Good

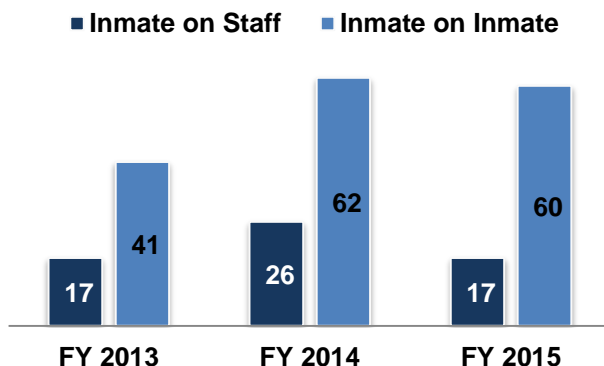
Health and Wellbeing: Good

Fair Treatment: Exceptional

Reentry and Rehabilitation: Good

Fiscal Accountability: Good

Assaults



Key Findings

- **Violence:** The rate of inmate disciplinary convictions for assaults increased by 26.0 percent during CY 2014 in comparison to CY 2013. Fights remained approximately the same.
- **Use of Force:** Video was available for more than half of 20 reviewed incidents and officer responses appeared to be appropriate; however, force possibly could have been avoided in several incidents.
- **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. Positively, BECI staff proactively prepared for the transition to electronic health records.
- **Mental Health:** Similarly, staffing appeared to be adequate and there were no reported backlogs.
- **Staff/Inmate Interactions:** Inmates reported good interactions, but the survey results were negative.
- **Segregation:** BECI has proactively and creatively worked to reduce its segregation population and increase out-of-cell time.
- **Reentry Planning:** BECI staff work to ensure every inmate is involved in a release planning conference; however, release plan accountability is poor.
- **Literacy:** The library raised some concerns that will hopefully be addressed through the additional staff coming on board, and academic enrollment is high.
- **Fiscal:** Total utility costs have decreased and overtime is below the DRC average. BECI also graduates a large number of inmates from an environmental literacy program. Staff survey results were negative, though.