

Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY
 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004

February 2, 2021

Donald Isaac, Sr.
 Executive Director
 Corrections Information Council
 1400 I Street, NW Suite 400
 Washington, DC 20005

Dear Director Isaac:

The Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety will hold performance oversight hearings on the agencies under its purview this spring. In preparation for your agency’s hearing, the Committee is sending the following questions for your response. Please [upload your responses here](#) with the name or code of the agency in the file name, no later than the close of business on **February 19, 2021**. Please prepare your responses in Word or Excel format, as applicable, and *minimize the use of attachments*. If you need to discuss any of the questions, please contact Sonia Weil, Senior Legislative Counsel, at sweil@dccouncil.us or (202) 724-8197.

General Questions

1. Please provide a current organizational chart for the agency, including the number of vacant, frozen, and filled positions in each division or subdivision. Include the names and titles of all senior personnel, and note the date the information was collected on the chart.

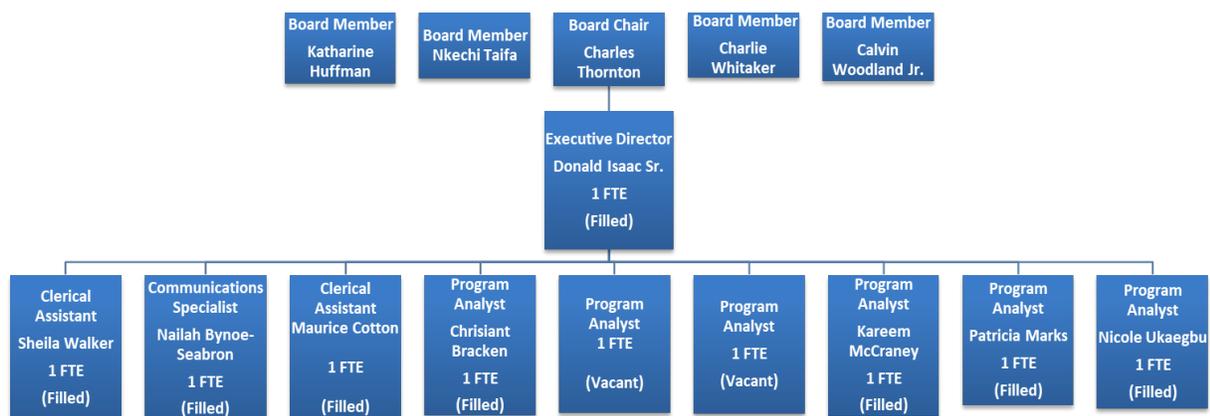


Chart updated February 18, 2021.

- a. Please provide an explanation of the roles and responsibilities of each division and subdivision.

The Corrections Information Council (CIC) monitors and reports on the conditions of confinement at prisons, jails, and contract facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and the DC Department of Corrections (DOC). The structure of the organization consists of a five-member board of directors, an executive director, and support staff comprised of four program analysts, two clerical assistants, and a communications specialist.

- b. Please provide a narrative explanation of any changes to the organizational chart made during the previous year.

The CIC did not renew its contract with a former program analyst, so the agency is currently advertising for two program analyst positions, one of whom will focus on data analysis. Also, during FY21, the CIC filled its full time clerical assistant position by onboarding a temporary employee who was originally contracted through Project Empowerment.

2. Please provide a current Schedule A for the agency which identifies each filled, vacant, unfunded, and funded position by program and activity, with the employee's name (if filled), title/position, salary, fringe benefits, and length of time with the agency (if filled). Please note the date the information was collected. The Schedule A should also indicate if the position is continuing/term/temporary/contract or if it is vacant or frozen. Please separate salary and fringe and indicate whether the position must be filled to comply with federal or local law.

(See attachment A)

3. Please list all employees detailed to or from your agency during FY20 and FY21, to date. For each employee identified, please provide the name of the agency the employee is detailed to or from, the reason for the detail, the date of the detail, and the employee's projected date of return.

Not applicable.

4. Please provide the Committee with:

- a. A list of all vehicles owned, leased, or otherwise used by the agency and to whom the vehicle is assigned, as well as a description of all vehicle collisions involving the agency's vehicles in FY20 and FY21, to date; and

Not applicable

- b. A list of travel expenses, arranged by employee for FY20 and FY21, to date, including the justification for travel.

Name	Travel Expenses	Justification
Donald Isaac	2488.89	Conference
Kareem McCraney	384.58	Inspection
Nailah Bynoe-Seabron	331.68	Inspection
Jalela Jallaq	317.68	Inspection
Leila Gillings	317.68	Inspection
John Kowalko	378.31	Inspection

5. Please list all memoranda of understanding (“MOU”) entered into by the agency in FY20 and FY21, to date, as well as any MOU currently in force. For each, indicate the date into which the MOU was entered and the termination date.

The CIC signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the DC Department of Corrections on March 3, 2020. The term in effect is indefinite, unless terminated by the parties.

The CIC is actively negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal Bureau of Prisons.

6. Please list the ways, other than MOU, in which the agency collaborated with analogous agencies in other jurisdictions, with federal agencies, or with non-governmental organizations in FY20 and FY21, to date.

The CIC regularly attends community meetings and events, and we also maintain communication with several organizations to collect information relating to the conditions of confinement. We have meet the IAHR, Free Minds, RAN, and other organizations to strengthen our communications for possible future collaborations. The CIC has a program analyst who regularly communicates and attends meetings with JPI regarding their construction of the mayor’s plan required under the YRA. The CIC also collaborated with the Washington Lawyers Committee and the DC Public Defender Service in order to distribute information regarding Compassionate Release criteria updated by the Coronavirus Pandemic Response Emergency Legislation.

7. For FY20 and FY21, to date, please list all intra-District transfers to or from the agency, and include a narrative description of the purpose of each transfer.

Not applicable.

8. For FY20 and FY21, to date, please identify any special purpose revenue funds maintained by, used by, or available for use by the agency. For each fund identified, provide:

- a. The revenue source name and code;
- b. The source of funding;
- c. A description of the program that generates the funds;
- d. The amount of funds generated by each source or program;
- e. Expenditures of funds, including the purpose of each expenditure;
- f. Whether expenditures from the fund are regulated by statute or policy, and if so, how; and
- g. The current fund balance.

Not applicable.

9. For FY20 and FY21, to date, please list all purchase card spending by the agency, the employee making each expenditure, and the general purpose of each expenditure.

(See attachment B)

10. Please list all capital projects in the financial plan for the agency or under the agency's purview in FY20 and FY21, to date, and provide an update on each project, including the amount budgeted, actual dollars spent, and any remaining balances (please also include projects for the benefit of the agency that are in the budget of the Department of General Services or another agency). In addition, please provide:
- A narrative description of all capital projects begun, in progress, or concluded in FY19, FY20, and FY21, to date, including the amount budgeted, actual dollars spent, any remaining balances, and the work undertaken;
 - An update on all capital projects planned for the four-year financial plan;
 - A description of whether the capital projects begun, in progress, or concluded in FY19, FY20, and FY21, to date, had an impact on the operating budget of the agency. If so, please provide an accounting of such impact; and
 - A description and the fund balance for any existing allotments.

Not applicable.

11. Please provide a list of all budget enhancement requests (including capital improvement needs) for FY20 and FY21, to date. For each, include a description of the need and the amount of funding requested.

In FY 21, the CIC added a Program Analyst in the amount of \$74,444 to increase the agency's ability to analyze data related to its mission. The agency also added a Clerical Assistant in the amount of \$54,440 to convert a Project Empowerment employee to full time government service and enhance the administrative support component of the office.

12. Please list, in chronological order, each reprogramming in FY20 and FY21, to date, that impacted the agency, including those that moved funds into the agency, out of the agency, or within the agency. Include known, anticipated reprogrammings, as well as the revised, final budget for your agency after the reprogrammings. For each reprogramming, list the date, amount, rationale, and reprogramming number.

Not applicable.

13. Please list each grant or sub-grant **received by** your agency in FY20 and FY21, to date. List the date, amount, source, purpose of the grant or sub-grant received, and amount expended.
- How many FTEs are dependent on grant funding?
 - What are the terms of this funding?
 - If it is set to expire, what plans, if any, are in place to continue funding the FTEs?

Not applicable.

14. Please list each grant or sub-grant **granted by** your agency in FY20 and FY21, to date. List the date, amount, source, and purpose of the grant or sub-grant granted.

Not applicable.

15. Please list each contract, procurement, and lease entered into or extended and option years exercised by your agency during FY20 and FY21, to date. For each contract, procurement, or lease, please provide the following information, where applicable:
- a. The name of the party;
 - b. The nature of the contract, procurement, or lease, including the end product or service;
 - c. The dollar amount of the contract, procurement, or lease, including amount budgeted and amount actually spent;
 - d. The term of the contract, procurement, or lease;
 - e. Whether it was competitively bid;
 - f. The name of the agency's contract monitor(s) and the results of any monitoring activity; and
 - g. The funding source.
- Brother HL-L2370DW XL Bundle Wireless Black & White Laser Printer (HLL2370DWXL/ Item # 901-24286231) purchased in the amount of \$243.79 from Quill.com
 - Facilis LLC contract for individual consultations and three group sessions with a Strategic Planning Consultant (Perry Pockros) during April 2020 in the amount of \$7,775.
 - MVS Laptops for \$3,292.70.
 - Toshiba Copier for 60-month lease in the amount of \$23,360.

16. Please list and describe all pending and closed lawsuits that name or named the agency as a party in FY20 and FY21, to date, and include an explanation about the issues involved in each case. Identify which cases on the list are lawsuits that potentially expose the District to significant financial liability or could result in a change to agency practices, and describe the current status of the litigation.

Not applicable.

17. Please list all judgments against and settlements executed by the agency or by the District on behalf of the agency, of any amount, in FY20 or FY21, to date, and provide the parties' names, the date on which the judgment was issued or settlement was executed, the amount of the judgment or settlement, and if related to litigation, the case name, docket number, and a brief description of the case. Include non-monetary costs such as backpay and leave restoration. If unrelated to litigation, please describe the underlying issue or reason for the judgment or settlement (e.g. excessive use of force, wrongful termination, sexual harassment). Please also describe any matters which are currently in settlement negotiations or for which a judgment is imminent.

Not applicable.

18. Did the agency use outside counsel in FY21 and FY22, to date? If so, for what matter(s) and in what amount(s)?

Not applicable.

19. Please list the administrative complaints or grievances that the agency received in FY20 and FY21, to date, broken down by source. Please describe the process utilized to respond to any complaints and grievances received and any changes to agency policies or procedures that have resulted from complaints or grievances received. For any complaints or grievances that were resolved in FY20 or FY21, to date, describe the resolution.

Not applicable.

20. Please describe the agency's procedures for investigating allegations of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, or discrimination committed by or against agency employees. List and describe any allegations relating to the agency or its employees in FY20 and FY21, to date, and whether and how those allegations were resolved (e.g. a specific disciplinary action, such as re-training, employee transfer, suspension, or termination).
- a. Please also identify whether the agency became aware of any similar matters in FY20 or FY21, to date, through means other than an allegation, and if so, how the matter was resolved (e.g. sexual harassment was reported to the agency, but not by the victim).

The agency's sexual harassment procedures are modeled after those established by the DC Department of Human Resources (DCHR), which requires an investigation of the claims by a supervisor or sexual harassment officer.

There have been no claims in FY20 or FY21.

21. Please provide the Committee with a list of the total workers' compensation payments paid by the agency or on the agency's behalf in FY20 and FY21, to date, including the number of employees who received workers' compensation payments, in what amounts, and for what reasons.

Not applicable.

22. Please list and describe any ongoing investigations, audits, or reports on the agency or any employee of the agency, or any investigations, studies, audits, or reports on the agency or any employee of the agency that were completed during FY20 and FY21, to date.

Not applicable.

23. Please describe any spending pressures the agency experienced in FY20 and any anticipated spending pressures for the remainder of FY21. Include a description of the pressure and the estimated amount. If the spending pressure was in FY20, describe how it was resolved, and if the spending pressure is in FY21, describe any proposed solutions.

There were no spending pressures in FY 20 and none currently in FY 21. As a result of mid-year spending adjustments, it has been proposed that we not fill the Communications position in the office and it is the request of the CIC that we be allowed to fill this position, which is critical for our maintaining connection with and communication to the community at large.

24. Please provide a copy of the agency's FY20 performance plan. Please explain which performance plan objectives were completed in FY20 and whether they were completed on time and within budget. If they were not, please provide an explanation.

(See attachment C)

In FY20, a key unmet measure was the “number of facilities housing DC residents that have been inspected during the fiscal year”. The agency set a target of eight facilities, but was able to complete four because of the pandemic, which halted visitation for medical and safety reasons. All other required objectives were satisfied within budget, but the CIC continues to strive for improvement with workload measures, such as hosting more educational opportunities, and soliciting expert involvement with inspections.

25. Please provide a copy of your agency’s FY21 performance plan as submitted to the Office of the City Administrator.

(See attachment D)

26. Please describe any regulations promulgated by the agency in FY20 or FY21, to date, and the status of each.

Not applicable.

27. Please provide the number of FOIA requests for FY20 and FY21, to date, that were submitted to your agency. Include the number granted, partially granted, denied, and pending. In addition, please provide the average response time, the estimated number of FTEs required to process requests, the estimated number of hours spent responding to these requests, and the cost of compliance.

There were no FOIA requests in FY20 or FY21.

28. Please provide a list of all studies, research papers, reports, and analyses that the agency prepared or for which the agency contracted during FY20 and FY21, to date. Please state the status and purpose of each. Please submit a hard copy to the Committee if the study, research paper, report, or analysis is complete.

(See folder entitled “CIC Publications” for electronic copies of publications below)

FY20 – All publications below are complete

CIC Annual Report FY19	Statutory requirement
FCI McDowell	Inspection report
USP Big Sandy	Inspection report
Hope Village Brief Report	Walkthrough re. Adequacy of Supplies
SFF Hazelton	Inspection report re. Incarcerated Women
DOC Brief Report	Walkthrough with CM White re. COVID
Compassionate Release Report	Report on the status of the process
Youth Rehabilitation Act Report	Report assessing the development of the mayor’s plan.
Rivers CI	Inspection Report
DOC Annual Report (Part 1)	Completion of outstanding FY19 report
DOC Annual Report (Part 2)	FY20 report re. Promising Practices
Letter on April 9, 2020	The CIC sent a letter addressed to the BOP Director, Michael Carvajal about growing

	concerns for DC inmates during the pandemic. The letter also addresses the recent consideration for certain inmates to be released into home confinement due to the impact of the coronavirus within BOP facilities. The BOP responded to this letter on April 27, 2020.
Letter on April 30, 2020	The CIC sent a letter addressing Mr. Michael Carvajal, Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, asking for clarification on how the COVID-19 Response Supplemental Emergency Amendment Act of 2020 (Bill 23-0733 or Act 23-0286) is being implemented in respect of DC Code Offenders. BOP response also published.
Letter on August 11, 2020	The CIC sent a letter to the US Parole Commission inquiring about the status of new hearing dates as a result of the COVID-19 Response Supplemental Emergency Amendment Act (D.C. Act 23-286). No response received from the USPC, but alternative communications informed CIC that hearings were occurring.

FY21 - All publications below are complete

CIC Annual Report FY20	Statutory requirement
BOP Survey Report on COVID	Quantitative Analysis
Fairview Brief Report	Walkthrough
Ft. Dix Brief Report	The CIC wrote a brief report on February 11, 2021, after inquiring about Twitter files uploaded from inmates at Ft. Dix regarding their conditions of confinement and seeking legal attention. The BOP response is included with the brief report.

29. Please list in descending order the top 25 overtime earners in your agency in FY20 and FY21, to date, if applicable. For each, state the employee's name, position number, position title, program, activity, salary, fringe, and the aggregate amount of overtime pay earned. Please describe the process the agency uses to determine which employees are granted overtime.

Not applicable.

30. For FY20 and FY21, to date, please provide a list of employee bonuses or special pay granted that identifies the employee receiving the bonus or special pay, the amount received, and the reason for the bonus or special pay.

Sheila Walker \$5k based on covering multiple office functions as the employee in the office with the longest tenure and the lowest pay.

31. For FY20 and FY21, to date, please list each employee separated from the agency with separation pay. State the amount and number of weeks of pay. Also, for each, state the reason for the separation.

Not applicable.

32. Please provide the name of each employee who was or is on administrative leave in FY20 and FY21, to date. In addition, for each employee identified, please provide: (1) their position; (2) a brief description of the reason they were placed on leave; (3) the dates they were/are on administrative leave; (4) whether the leave was/is paid or unpaid; and (5) their current status.

Not applicable.

33. Please provide each collective bargaining agreement that is currently in effect for agency employees. Include the bargaining unit and the duration of each agreement. Note if the agency is currently in bargaining and its anticipated completion.

Not applicable.

34. If there are any boards, commissions, or task forces associated with your agency, please provide a chart listing the names, number of years served, agency affiliation, and attendance of each member. Include any vacancies. Please also attach agendas and minutes of each board, commission, or task force meeting in FY20 or FY21, to date, if minutes were prepared. Please inform the Committee if the board, commission, or task force did not convene during any month.

- American Correctional Association (ACA)
- DC Public Safety & Justice Cluster (PSJC)
- Community Advisory Group Co-Chair for Building Blocks DC

35. Please list all reports or reporting currently required of the agency in the District of Columbia Code or Municipal Regulations. Provide a description of whether the agency is in compliance with these requirements, and if not, why not (e.g. the purpose behind the requirement is moot, etc.).

DC Code § 24-101.01	
Inspect Reports (3 BOP per FY)	Yes, the agency is in compliance.
BOP Youth Act Report	Yes, the agency is in compliance.
CIC Annual Report	Yes, the agency is in compliance.
DOC Annual Report	Yes, the agency is in compliance.

36. Please provide a list of any additional training or continuing education opportunities made available to agency employees. For each additional training or continuing education program, please provide the subject of the training, the names of the trainers, and the number of agency employees that were trained.

The agency allows employees to attend trainings per their request, which includes selecting from the options available in the PeopleSoft portal to increase their skill sets. Additionally, staff members are required to receive certain trainings to assure agency compliance, such as BEGA and Language Access Act trainings, while others attend ongoing specialized trainings, such as Sexual Harassment, OCTO Drupal, and P-Card trainings. Staff also frequently attend various online seminars to enhance their knowledge of the criminal justice system and current initiatives. Below is a non-exhaustive list of some trainings personally selected and attended by staff:

Topic	Date	Format	Length
Incarceration of Female Youth: Women Centric Criminal Justice Discussion. Community Family Life Services	3/18/2020	Zoom	1.5 hours
COVI-19 Corrections Update American Correctional Association	3/34/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Strategies for Prisons, Jails, and Oversight Bodies during the COVID-19 Crisis National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement	3/25/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Coronavirus; What you need to Know Center for American Progress	3/26/2020	Webinar	45 minutes
Practical Correctional Considerations in Response to COVID 19 Bureau of Prisons	4/1/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Second Chances Prison Fellowship	4/1/2020	Webinar	1.5 hours
Corrections and COVID-19: Maintaining mental Wellness of Staff and Inmates During Custodial Pandemonium	4/3/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Impact of COVID-19 on Oversight Bodies and Strategies to Move Forward National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement	4/3/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Corrections and COVID 19 Enhancing Resiliency of Staff and Inmate Populations	4/9/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Increasing your Bounceability: Ways to Build Resilience Everyday Justice Clearinghouse	4/9/2020	Webinar	1.5 hours
Pregnant While Incarcerated: What prison looks like for expectant mothers Community Family Life Services	4/15/2020	Zoom	1.5 hours
Influencing the Congressional Response to COVID 19 in Prisons The Sentencing Project	4/16/2020	Webinar	1.5 hours
Virtual Regional Roundtable National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement	4/17/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Incorporating Emotional Intelligence Concepts in the Virtual Mindset DC Department of Human Resources	4/22/2020	Zoom	2.5 hours

Intersectionality and Reducing Girls Justice System Involvement Georgetown Juvenile Justice Initiative	4/22/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Five Lessons from Restorative Justice in the Time of COVID 19 Catholic Mobilizing Network	4/22/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Aging People in Prison Human Rights Campaign	4/25/2020	Zoom	1 hour
Standards of Care: Mental Health in our Jails and Prisons ...Now What?	4/28/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Advocating for Jail and Prison Reform During the COVID 19 Crisis and Beyond	4/29/2020	Webinar	1.5 hours

Leadership on the Front Lines: Navigating the COVID 19 Pandemic	4/30/2020	Webinar	1.5 hours
Working with Childhood Trauma: Tools for Justice Professionals	5/5/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Mitigating COVID 19 in Jails and Prisons Using Artificial Intelligence	5/7/2020	Webinar	1 hour
The COVID 19 Pandemic and Secure Institutions	5/12/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Strategies to Reduce Incarceration during COVID 19—The Sentencing Project	5/14/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Communication skills—DC DHR	5/20/2020	Webinar	2.5 hours
The Public Health and Public Safety Foundations for Broad Prison Depopulation in a Pandemic	5/20/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Judiciary Committee Virtual Roundtable on COVID 19 in Prisons and Jails	5/22/2020	Webinar	1.5 hours
Incarcerated in a Crisis	5/26/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Restorative Justice in a Pandemic Era	5/27/2020	Webinar	1.5 hours
COVID 19 Behind Bars	5/28/2020	Webinar	1 hour
The Big Story: Protest and Policing in America—the Atlantic	6/4/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Crisis of the Common Good and Public Health: America's Prison-Industrial Complex and COVID 19	6/5/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Emotional Intelligence and Communication DC Department of Human Resources	6/9/2020	Webinar	2.5 hours
Howard University Symposium on Children of Incarcerated Parents: Resilience, Respect, Responsibility	6/17— 19/2020	Webinar	14 hours
Mothers, Mass Incarceration, and Movement Work	6/26/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Contract Tracing—DC DHR	7/2/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Public Health Lessons in Correctional Settings	7/9/2020	Webinar	1.5 hours
Owning racism	7/9/2020	Webinar	1.5 hours
COVID 19 and Rural Hospitals	7/13/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Emotional Intelligence and Communication DC Department of Human Resources	8/11/2020	Webinar	1.5 hours
Life Imprisonment and other extreme sentences	8/19/2020	Zoom	1 hour
Future of Prison and Jail Oversight	8/19/2020	Webinar	1.5 hours
Compassionate Release NADL	9/3/2020	Zoom	1 hour

Statehood and Criminal Justice Reform	9/14/202	Web	1.5 hours
Lifers with the Sentencing Project	9/15/2020	Zoom	1.5 hours
Health Impacts on Incarcerated Women and Their Care Providers	9/16/2020	Zoom	1.5 hours
Life sentences —DC CURE	9/21/2020	Zoom	1.5 hours
Attica 49 years later	9/21/2020	Zoom	1.5 hours
Using Data and Performance Measurement to Improve Criminal Justice Outcomes	9/29/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Second Look at Life Sentences in America	10/15/2020	Webinar	1.5 hours
COVID 19 Behind Bars	10/27/2020	Webinar	1.5 hours
Healing Communities	10/28/2020	Zoom	1 hour
New Path to Justice	10/29/2020	Webinar	1 hour
Catholic Mobilizing—Restorative Justice	10/27-10/31	Zoom	4 hours
Extreme Sentences—Sentencing Project	10/28/2020	Zoom	1.5 hours
Justice Research and Statistics	11/5/2020	Webinar	1.5 hours
IHAR book club—insanity	11/10/2020	Zoom	1.5 hours
COVID and Legislation—Sentencing Project	11/10/2020	Zoom	1 hour
Youth Justice—Sentencing Project	11/17/2020	Zoom	1.5 hours
Frederick Douglass Project	12/6/2020	Zoom	1.5 hours

37. Please describe any initiatives that the agency implemented in FY20 or FY21, to date, to improve the internal operations of the agency or the interaction of the agency with outside parties. Please describe the results, or expected results, of each initiative.

In FY20, the CIC hired a professional consultant to facilitate staff development. The goal of the trainings was to assess organizational effectiveness, including internal strengths and weaknesses, and to host a safe space for the staff to articulate their visions and workload contributions. It helped the agency review performance plan operations and decide which areas needed revisions or improvements. The implementation of training outcomes is an ongoing progress, and the training helped improve teambuilding efforts.

In regard to improving the interaction of the agency with outside parties, the CIC has met with several organizations in order to build relationships for possible future

collaborations or opportunities to acquire and exchange information. The agency has interacted with organizations such as IAHR, RAN, JPI, MORCA, Neighbors for Justice, ReThink Justice DC, Community Family Life Services, Free Minds, Washington Lawyers Committee, DC Public Defender Service, Board of Elections, and CJCC.

38. What are the agency's top five priorities? Please explain how the agency expects to address these priorities in the remainder of FY21. How did the agency address its top priorities listed for this question last year?

The top five priorities are signing the BOP MOU; fulfilling our quarterly visits to the DOC; establishing agency growth through new hires and promotions; increasing thematic and survey based reports; and engaging the CIC Board of Directors regarding the vision of the agency.

To address last year's top priorities, the CIC successfully signed the MOA with the DOC, and filled the agency vacancies existing at that time. The CIC continues to negotiate the MOU with the BOP, which has been a lengthy but ongoing effort (see attachment E entitled "BOP MOU communications record"). The corrective action period is still a work in progress due to its limited used since the impact of the pandemic; however, it is still an agency priority. The CIC also successfully underwent a retreat to assess strategic planning and agency goals and operations, which helped streamline performance measures.

39. Please list each new program implemented by the agency during FY20 and FY21, to date. For each initiative, please provide:
- a. A description of the initiative;
 - b. The funding required to implement the initiative; and
 - c. Any documented results of the initiative.

Not applicable.

40. How does the agency measure programmatic success? Please discuss any changes to outcomes measurement in FY20 and FY21, to date.

The CIC observes the impact of its work through discussions with executive leadership at the DOC and the BOP, and by regularly communicating with organizations involved in the criminal justice system. We receive community feedback at meetings and through correspondence with incarcerated individuals and their families. The foundation of our work is effectively communicating the conditions of confinement. We seek to expand the impact of our work by encouraging policymakers to develop responsive policies and procedures that affect those incarcerated and their families.

Outcome measurements were adjusted to reflect more raw numbers or averages, as opposed to previous percentages. Also, since previous fiscal year initiatives were

satisfied, the CIC minimized incorporating additional initiatives in order to prioritize steady and efficient basic operations during the pandemic. Initiatives will be documented as developed in response to agency efforts to increase communication and follow-up efforts.

41. What are the top metrics and KPIs regularly used by the agency to evaluate its operations? Please be specific about which data points are monitored by the agency.

- Developing a list of facilities to visit at the start of the fiscal year, and observing how that schedule helped to inform or alter operations and external communications.
- Number of facilities housing DC residents that have been inspected during the fiscal year.
- Number of inspection reports published
- Number of thematic reports published
- Estimated number of days to produce a first draft following an inspection.
- Number of community meetings and events attended by CIC in order to stay informed on critical issues and efforts relative to the incarcerated population.
- Number of bulletins produced
- Community Outreach and Educations: Attend events, host events, and communicate via the web, email, and social media in order to educate the community about issues related to confinement. (This includes meeting with non-profit agencies that focus on reentry services or criminal justice issues in order to develop a relationship where CIC can confidently suggest referrals when needed, as well as stay informed on critical grassroots issues and efforts relative to the incarcerated population.)

42. Please identify whether, and if so, in what way, the agency engaged The Lab @ DC in FY20 or FY21, to date.

Not applicable.

43. Please list the task forces and organizations of which the agency is a member.

- American Correctional Association (ACA)
- DC Public Safety & Justice Cluster (PSJC)
- Community Advisory Group Co-Chair for Building Blocks DC
- CIC is considering participation on the Reentry Steering Committee of the CJCC.

44. Please explain the impact on your agency of any federal legislation passed during FY20 and FY21, to date, which significantly affected agency operations.

Not applicable

45. Please describe any steps the agency took in FY20 and FY21, to date, to improve the transparency of agency operations, including any website upgrades or major revisions.

The CIC made changes to the website by creating separate blocks for thematic reports and inspection reports. Since the CIC regularly produces reports, website viewers may directly and easily access important documents with just one click. There is also a new tab under “Reports and Information” called “Archives”, where users may access older content. The agency is also including more agency-specific content on social media channels, such the CIC FY21 annual report, relevant news, and open meeting flyers.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the agency also updated its website carousel in order to detail our operational status and publicize statements from the BOP and DOC concerning COVID-19. The agency seeks continual improvement of website and social media functions.

46. Please identify all electronic databases maintained by your agency, including the following:
- a. A detailed description of the information tracked within each system;
 - b. The age of the system and any discussion of substantial upgrades that have been made or are planned to the system; and
 - c. Whether the public can be granted access to all or part of each system.

In addition to storing information on a shared network drive, the CIC uses three databases to track and analyze data:

- Ragic: Online database system to track and manage correspondence and other interactions with incarcerated individuals and members of the public. Has been used since 2016. Not accessible by the public due to personal nature of communications.

- SurveyMonkey: Online survey development system to design surveys and analyze survey response data. Has been used since 2016. Not accessible by the public due to personal nature of communications.

- Dedoose: Online database used to store and code information, which can subsequently run formulas to analyze and quantify data. It was acquired in 2020 to help streamline our survey analyses. It is not access accessible by the public due to the confidential and personally identifiable nature of communications.

47. Please provide a detailed description of any new technology acquired in FY20 and FY21, to date, including the cost, where it is used, and what it does. Please explain if there have there been any issues with implementation.

The CIC acquired Dedoose, which is mixed qualitative/quantitative data analysis software to help more effectively analyze the information from resident surveys included in reports. It costs \$10.95/user/month and we have six users on it.

The CIC also acquired a laser printer to help with efficiency during mailings since the pandemic has resulted in more mailings, and the old machine could not maintain the capacity needed. The machine costed \$243.79.

Agency-Specific Questions

48. How does CIC track inquiries and complaints that it receives from family members of incarcerated inmates? How does CIC respond to such inquiries and complaints?

The CIC tracks all communications in our RAGIC database. The agency responds to inquiries and complaints by phone, Corrlinks, email, and letters.

- a. Has CIC been tracking complaints relating to the COVID-19 virus? How has CIC been responding to such complaints?

Yes. Any communications received by the CIC are categorized under a topic. For COVID-19 communications, the information is categorized under that specific category. The agency responds to inquiries and complaints by phone, Corrlinks, email, and letters.

49. How does CIC disseminate information regarding the Department of Corrections (“DOC”) to family members of DOC inmates (e.g., when a new program is implemented at DOC or there is a facility maintenance issue at DOC)?

The CIC disseminates information about the conditions at the DOC through social media postings, monthly bulletins, inspection reports, and other publications. The agency has expanded its social media presence, which allows for more immediate dissemination of information. The agency also sends out a monthly bulletin to its mailing list and occasionally send other updates through email as well. The agency also publishes reports and informational briefs on the conditions at DOC facilities throughout the year.

- a. How has CIC been disseminating information regarding DOC during the public health crisis?

The CIC has been employing those same methods throughout the pandemic.

50. Please describe CIC’s relationship with DOC and any update on the proposed MOU between the two agencies.

The CIC and the DOC have a professional and respectful relationship. The DOC is generally communicative to email requests, although there have been some delays in responsiveness during the pandemic. The DOC is always accommodating during on-site visits. The two entities signed an MOA on March 3, 2020.

51. How often does CIC visit DOC? Does CIC plan to visit DOC in the remainder of FY21? During the public health crisis, has CIC monitored conditions of confinement within DOC, and if so, how?

Under its new MOA, the CIC plans to visit the DOC on a quarterly basis. The FY21 quarter one visit was completed, and the CIC is presently attempting to schedule a quarter two visit. During the public health crisis, the CIC has monitored conditions through phone calls or emails from inmates or their families; direct emails to the CIC's designated DOC contact; a walkthrough with CM White in April of 2020; an on-site visit in December of 2020; and regular monitoring of the population data provided on the DOC website, as well as the CJCC detained population censuses.

52. How does CIC select which facilities it will visit? How, if at all, has the public health crisis affected CIC's selection of facilities to visit?

The CIC selects facilities based on several factors, including number and severity of complaints and other concerns regarding a particular facility, the size of the DC population at a particular facility, the length of time since the last visit by the CIC, and the thematic and systemic issues under consideration by the CIC relevant to particular facilities.

The crisis has not affected the selection process, but it may affect the ability to conduct an onsite inspection if facilities continue to prohibit visitations. Alternatively, the CIC will find ways to contact the selected populations, such as through surveys or perhaps virtual communications.

53. Please list and describe each facility visit made in FY20 and FY21, to date. Does CIC have plans to make any facility visits in the remainder of FY21? How has the public health crisis affected CIC's ability to visit facilities?

FY20

- Nov. 20-21, 2019: follow-up to FCI Hazelton (interviews only).
- Hope Village on February 5-6, 2020.
- DOC inspection on February 25, 2020.
- March 26, 2020: CIC conducted a site visit at Hope Village in response to community concerns raised about inadequate supplies during COVID-19
- On April 6, 2020, CIC Program Analyst Kareem McCraney and DC Councilman Trayon White (Ward 8) conducted a site visit of the Central Detention Facility (CDF). The goals of the visit were to learn about the processes and preventive measures recently implemented for COVID-19, and to observe the overall conditions.
- Chairman Thornton's walk-through of Fairview RRC on April 3, 2020 in response to community concerns regarding the coronavirus and its impact on halfway house populations.

FY21

- Virtual visit with residents only at VOA Chesapeake on November 19, 2020.
- Fairview walkthrough on November 20, 2020 by Chairman Thornton regarding plumbing and infrastructure concerns.
- DOC Q1 site visit on December 22, 2020 by Kareem McCraney and Patricia Marks.

The CIC has determined which facilities it would visit if visitation bans are lifted; however, the agency is currently focusing on alternative means for acquiring information on those populations, such as through information requests, surveys, and general research.

The public health crisis has resulted in no visitation policies, which have prevented the CIC from conducting on-site BOP inspections. However, the BOP has allowed our survey-based questionnaires into institutions. The DOC recently (December 22, 2020) allowed the CIC to visit specific areas during its “medical stay in-place”, and an earlier walkthrough was permitted when a CIC representative accompanied Councilman White.

54. How does CIC follow-up with a facility on a published report? How did it do so in FY20 and FY21, to date?

At the onset of FY2020, the CIC anticipated conducting more follow-up regarding recommendations in prior publications; however, logistics were shifted due to the adjustments resulting from the pandemic. It was impractical to follow-up on prior recommendations due to the widespread facility lockdowns and heightened focus on COVID measures. In order to continue striving to achieve more follow-through, the CIC is currently following up on more current projects by producing a second final report based on the impact of COVID in the BOP, conducting a second round of targeted surveys regarding that impact, as well as producing a mid-year report on the Youth Rehabilitation Act, and a follow-up report on compassionate release.

- a. How does CIC ensure issues identified in its report on a facility are addressed by the facility?

The CIC does not have the enforcement power necessary to insist on specific institutional actions, but the agency values its ability to highlight issues faced by those who are incarcerated both locally and nationally. Drafts of inspection reports are sent to an institution in advance of the final publication, which provides them an opportunity to review recommendation and/or address salient issues within the report. All institutional responses are posted with the final report. The agency is also expecting to improve its corrective action process, which consists of post-visitation communications, once on-site visitations resume.

- b. Does CIC revisit facilities to ensure remedial action has been taken?

The CIC does not currently revisit facilities on a regular basis to ensure remedial action. The agency has conducted follow-up inspections in recent years - and was looking forward to improving this process, but efforts were paused due to COVID.

55. How does CIC engage its stakeholders, including the Council, on a report's findings following its publication? What does CIC view as the value of its reports?

The CIC publishes reports and highlights recent publications in its newsletter, and the agency remains open to suggestions for additional engagement preferences as pertinent to stakeholders. As an information council, the CIC views the value of its reports as a mechanism to educate stakeholders and those who are empowered to effectuate any needed changes to the criminal justice system as relative to the incarcerated. The CIC does not have the enforcement power necessary to insist on specific institutional actions, but the agency values the impact of its ability to highlight issues faced by those who are incarcerated both locally and nationally.

56. Please list any reports that CIC plans to release in the remainder of FY21.

- COVID-19 Survey Final Report (Quantitative analysis)
- Round 2 of COVID-19 Survey Reports (Follow-up surveys & analysis)
- Hazelton FCC/FCI.
- VOA Chesapeake Survey Report.
- DOC brief report from the quarter one site visit, plus subsequent briefs from quarterly visits
- Youth Rehabilitation Act mid-year follow-up report
- Compassionate release follow-up report
- DOC Annual report
- BOP Youth Act report
- CIC FY21 Annual report
- Contingent upon COVID-19 visitation restrictions, inspection reports from 3 additional BOP site visits
- Survey report on the status of the Rivers population resulting from the non-renewal of the institution's contract with the BOP.

57. Please discuss any community outreach planned for the remainder of FY21. How has community outreach changed during the public health emergency?

For the remainder of FY21, the CIC is pondering virtual community outreach efforts, such as continuing to increase its social media presence (grown from zero to almost 300 current Instagram followers); potentially embarking on a collaborative spring postcard project with Neighbors For Justice; and developing a virtual "town hall" meeting to follow up on questions from the "Ask the Director" section on our website to help family

members of DC adults, especially since there have been a lot of questions regarding IRAA 3.0.

New community outreach initiatives were not practical during the public health emergency; however, the CIC was able to complete the holiday postcard project with other agencies, community members, families of adults in custody, and nonprofit organizations.

- a. How has CIC been able to provide family members of incarcerated residents information about their loved ones during the public health crisis?

The CIC continues to provide family members of incarcerated residents with information via phone and email. Additionally, the CIC monthly newsletter provides information concerning DC adults in custody. The CIC newsletter is sent to over 1,400 recipients, which includes many family members.

58. Please provide an update on any applications for grant funding CIC has made in FY21, to date.

Not applicable.

59. Please provide a description of CIC's relationship with the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

- a. What notice does the BOP require for a site visit?
- b. How has the public health crisis affected this relationship?

The CIC has a functional and professional relationship with the BOP. They have been generally communicative, although there have been some challenges with respect to receiving answers to some information requests throughout the pandemic. Nearly all CIC inquiries about the handling of the pandemic in BOP institutions have been redirected to the BOP public information office or to FOIA requests, and resulted in no response despite follow-up inquiries.

Both entities have endeavored to meet quarterly, and the CIC is optimistic about the opportunity to work through any breakdowns in communication. The CIC does not have the enforcement power necessary to insist on specific BOP actions, which requires the agency to use diplomacy and negotiation to maintain working relations. All access to facilities, residents, and information is contingent upon our agreement with the BOP, and their implementation of recommendations is optional.

Pursuant to the MOU, site visits are requested with 30-days notice, unless otherwise agreed to by both parties. The BOP has been willing to accommodate the CIC on shorter notice.

The public health crisis has resulted in no visitation policies, which have prevented the CIC from conducting on-site inspections. However, the BOP has allowed our survey-based questionnaires into institutions.

60. Please provide an update on the agency's compliance with section 101 of the Youth Rehabilitation Amendment Act of 2018, effective December 13, 2018 (D.C. Law 22-197; D.C. Official Code § 24-101.01(f)(1)), to report on the conditions of confinement of and programming provided to District of Columbia youth offenders in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons.

The CIC is compliant, and a report on DC Youth Rehabilitation Act was published on September 30, 2020. A follow-up report is underway.

61. What recommendations does the agency have to grow or enhance its mission or capacity?
- The CIC believes it would be beneficial to receive membership into the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee.
 - The CIC seeks to continue agency growth and increase its capacity by continuing to hire additional staff and establishing internal career ladders.
 - In order to produce more comprehensive BOP-wide research, the CIC endeavors to acquire more thematic data – in addition to our facility-based data. Therefore, the agency would benefit from any external support necessary to negotiate the parameters of that objective with the BOP.
62. This performance oversight season, the Committee, in collaboration with the Comprehensive Homicide Elimination Strategy Task Force, is requesting that most agencies under its jurisdiction respond to several standard questions to inform the Task Force's work. Some may not be directly applicable to your agency's mission, but please think critically and broadly about your mission and operations when responding:
- a. Please describe three initiatives, programs, or projects currently underway within your agency directed at preventing homicide in the District. (Note: If you currently do not have any initiatives, programs, or projects currently underway directed at homicide prevention, please describe three ways in which your agency could play a role in reducing homicides in the District.)
 - b. Please describe the resources currently allocated to these initiatives, program, or projects, and describe what additional resources you would need to improve the efficacy or scale of these efforts. (Note: If you currently do not have any initiatives, programs, or projects currently underway directed at homicide prevention, please describe the resources you would need to implement the ideas detailed in response to subsection (a).)
 - c. Please describe how your agency is working collaboratively with other District agencies toward the goal of reducing homicides. Please also describe how your agency is engaging non-governmental organizations and the community at large

on the issue of homicide prevention. (Note: If you currently do not have any initiatives, programs, or projects currently underway directed at homicide prevention, please describe with whom you would collaborate and how you would engage the community in order to implement the ideas detailed in response to subsection (a).)

- d. Please describe how you currently measure (or would measure) the efficacy of the aforementioned initiatives, programs, or projects. Additionally, if three metrics related to homicide prevention were added to your Key Performance Indicators (“KPIs”), what should those metrics be?

None currently.

Posn Stat	Posn Nbr	Title	Name	HireDate	Vac Stat	Grade	Step	Salary	FLEX Dist%	Budgeted Position	Index	PCA	Fund Code	Prgm Code	Activity	PosnEffdt Time	Reg/Temp	Work Sched	WAE	FTE
A	00029006	Program Analyst			V	11	1	61521		1 Y	APPRO	1010L	0100	1010	1000	10/1/16 F	Reg	F	N	1
A	00085456	Clerical Assistant	Walker,Shelia A	11/7/11 F		5	6	40419		1 Y	APPRO	1010L	0100	1010	1000	10/1/16 F	Reg	F	N	1
A	00087330	PROGRAM/ANALYST	Bracken,Christant	9/4/18 F		11	5	69429		1 Y	APPRO	1010L	0100	1010	1000	10/1/16 F	Term	F	N	1
A	00087548	Program Analyst	Ukaegbu,Nicole J	5/16/18 F		11	4	67452		1 Y	APPRO	1010L	0100	1010	1000	10/1/16 F	Reg	F	N	1
A	00087609	Executive Director	Isaac Sr.,Donald L	11/26/18 F		9	0	134800.4		1 Y	APPRO	1010L	0100	1010	1000	10/1/16 F	Reg	F	N	1
A	00094162	Program Analyst	Marks, Patricia	6/24/19 F		11	5	69429		1 Y	APPRO	1010L	0100	1010	1000	10/1/17 F	Reg	F	N	1
A	00094750	Communications Specialist	Bynoe-Seabron,Nallah	6/24/19 F		9	5	57587		1 Y	APPRO	1010L	0100	1010	1000	1/5/18 F	Reg	F	N	1
A	00096865	Program Analyst	McCraney,Kareem	2/4/19 F		11	3	65475		1 Y	APPRO	1010L	0100	1010	1000	10/1/18 F	Reg	F	N	1
A	00102701	Program Analyst			V	11	0	61521		1 Y	APPRO	1010L	0100	1010	1000	12/22/20 F	Reg	F	N	1
A	00102702	Clerical Assistant	Cotton,Maurice A	1/19/21 F		5	5	39223		1 Y	APPRO	1010L	0100	1010	1000	12/21/20 F	Term	F	N	1
TOTAL POSITIONS PRINTED = 10																				

ATTACHMENT B
PURCHASE CARD ACTIVITY
FY20 AND FY21 TO DATE

JP MORGAN PURCHASE CARD ACTIVITY FY 2020
ALL PURCHASES MADE BY SHEILA WALKER

For the month of October 2019

DATE	TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CODE	DESCRIPTION
1-Oct	Canva Fee	119.4	40	Subscription
2-Oct	Amazon Business Fee	179.41	20	Subscription
3-Oct	Staples Direct	59.52	20	Office Supplies
3-Oct	Staples Direct	65.85	20	Office Supplies
4-Oct	Amazon Business	100.38	20	Office Supplies
7-Oct	Comcast Business	276.3	40	Monthly Fee
10-Oct	Amazon Business	98.89	Credit 20	Credit
10-Oct	Readyrefresh	121.05	20	Monthly Fee
10-Oct	McAfee Fee	115.59	40	Subscription
10-Oct	American Business	153.87	20	Office Supplies
22-Oct	Fraud Credit	119.40	Credit 40	Credit
24-Oct	Amazon Business	147.96	20	Office Supplies
29-Oct	USPS	110	20	Postage Stamps
	Total Purchasing Activity	1,232.04		

For the month of November 2019

7-Nov	Comcast Business	276.3	40	Monthly Fee
8-Nov	Leesee Direct	2,335.99	40	Monthly Fee
8-Nov	Ready Refresh	3.17	20	Suspended
8-Nov	Paypal Postcards	100	40	Printing
12-Nov	Select Printing Postcards	584	40	Printing
21-Nov	Enterprise Rental	571.2	40	Travel Expense
22-Nov	Microtel Inn	179.18	40	Hotel Expense

22-Nov	Microtel Inn	179.18	40	Hotel Expense
22-Nov	Microtel Inn	179.18	40	Hotel Expense
22-Nov	Microtel Inn	179.18	40	Hotel Expense
22-Nov	Microtel Inn	179.18	40	Hotel Expense
25-Nov	Enterprise Rental	-34.69	40	Travel Expense

Total Purchasing Activity 4,766.56
Credit 34.69

21-Nov	Enterprise Rent A Car	571.2	40	Travel Expense
21-Nov	Microtel Inn - Hazelton WV	179.16	40	Travel Expense
21-Nov	Microtel Inn - Hazelton WV	179.16	40	Travel Expense
21-Nov	Microtel Inn - Hazelton WV	179.16	40	Travel Expense
21-Nov	Microtel Inn - Hazelton WV	179.16	40	Travel Expense
21-Nov	Microtel Inn - Hazelton WV	179.16	40	Travel Expense
25-Nov	Enterprise Rent A Car	34.69CR	40	Travel Expense

Total Travel Activity 1,432.41

For the month of December

5-Dec	Vistaprint	170.65	20	Office Supplies
5-Dec	Leesee Direct	825.38	40	Monthly Fee
12-Dec	Paypal	18.26	40	Travel Expense
19-Dec	Comcast Business	276.3	40	Monthly Fee

Total Purchasing Activity 1,290.59

12-Dec	Southwest airlines	Airlines	469	40	Travel Expense
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Total Travel Activity 469

For the month of January 2020

3-Jan	Leesee Direct	355.1	40	Printer
3-Jan	Hilton Hotels	225.63	40	Travel Expense
3-Jan	Comcast Business	287.97	20	Office Support
7-Jan	American Correctional fee	150	40	Membership
8-Jan	American Business Supplies	246.57	20	Office Supplies
8-Jan	American Business Supplies	36.02	20	Office Supplies
9-Jan	CY San Diego Gaslamp	194.96	40	Travel Expense
21-Jan	Paypal	56.9	40	Office Support
27-Jan	Orbitz	113	40	Travel Expense
27-Jan	Orbitz	14.25	40	Travel Expense

27-Jan JAL	1022.7	40	Travel Expense
29-Jan Delta	704.6	40	Travel Expense
29-Jan Vistaprint	349.79	40	Office Supplies

Total 4,282.57

For the month of February 2020

3-Feb Apple Computer	104.94	20	Office Support
3-Feb ULine	467.9	20	Office Support
5-Feb Apple Computer	105.93	20	Office Support
5-Feb American Correctional fee	99	40	Membership
6-Feb J2 EXFAX Services fee	169.5	40	Membership
6-Feb American Business Supplies	117.34	20	Office Supplies
7-Feb Amazon Business	131.98	20	Office Supplies
7-Feb Lease Direct	355.1	40	Printer
7-Feb Rosetta Stone Services	500	40	Translation
10-Feb National Pen	312.7	20	Office Supplies
10-Feb Paypal	-33.93	40	Office Support
10-Feb Paypal	35.21	40	Office Support
10-Feb Paypal	33.93	40	Office Support
13-Feb Staples Direct	289.97	20	Office Support
13-Feb USPS	220	40	Office Support
14-Feb Staples Direct	48.44	20	Office Supplies
21-Feb Document Managers	195	20	Office Supplies
21-Feb Datawatch Systems	80	40	Office Support
24-Feb Amazon Business	178.65	20	Office Supplies

Total 4,401.09

For the month of March 2020

2-Mar Datawatch Systems		40	Office Support
4-Mar Staples Direct	19.46	20	Office Supplies
4-Mar Staples Direct	119.77	20	Office Supplies
4-Mar Lease Direct	355.1	40	Printer
10-Mar Support	Comcast Business	287.97	20 Office
12-Mar Supplies	Amazon Business	56.08	20 Office
13-Mar Supplies	Amazon Business	135.67	20 Office

13-Mar	Ragic		1,868.45	40.00	Office
Support					
17-Mar	Amazon Business		125.17	20	Office
Supplies					
25-Mar	Zoom US		476.68	40	Office
Support					
27-Mar	Fairfield Inn & Suites		336.52	40	Travel
Expense					
27-Mar	Fairfield Inn & Suites		336.52	40	Travel
Expense					
27-Mar	Fairfield Inn & Suites		336.52	40	Travel
Expense					
27-Mar	Fairfield Inn & Suites		336.52	40	Travel
Expense					
30-Mar	fairfield Inn & Suites		173.4	40	Travel
Expense					
30-Mar	Fairfield Inn & Suites		-163.12	40	
Travel Expense					
30-Mar	Fairfield Inn & Suites		-163.12	40	
Travel Expense					
30-Mar	Fairfield Inn & Suites		-336.52	40	
Travel Expense					
30-Mar	Fairfield Inn & Suites		-163.12	40	
Travel Expense					
31-Mar	Fairfield Inn & Suites		-336.52	40	
Travel Expense					
		Credit 1,998.56			
	Purchase Total	5,003.83			
		Statement 3,005.27			

For the month of April 2020

3-Apr	Senoda	709.3	20	Brochures
8-Apr	Language Line Services	101.93	40	Translation
13-Apr	Comcast Business	287.97	40	Office Support
15-Apr	Dispute Credit	-173.4	40	
17-Apr	Lease Direct	355.1	40	Printer
30-Apr	Datawatch Systems	80	40	Office Support
	Purchase Total	1,534.30		
		Credit 173.4		

For the month of May 2020

1-May	Dispute Bill	336.52	40	Travel Expense
1-May	Dispute Bill	336.52	40	Travel Expense
1-May	Dispute Bill	336.52	40	Travel Expense
1-May	Dispute Bill	336.52	40	Travel Expense
6-May	National Comm of Corr Health Conference		325	40
6-May	Paypal	1,875.00	40	Office Support
14-May	Vistaprint Envelopes		613.93	20
15-May	UMW CWM Training		-350	40
18-May	Staples Direct Supplies		59.34	20 Office
20-May	Vistaprint Envelopes		979.02	40
21-May	Dispute Bill Expense		173.4	40 Travel
22-May	Paypal Support		5,400.00	40 Office

Purchases Total 10,770.89
Credit 350

For the month of June 2020

1-Jun	Nauticon	126.43	40	Monitoring
1-Jun	Comcast Business	581.59	20	Office Support
1-Jun	Staples Direct	237.4	20	Office Supplies
8-Jun	Lease Direct	729.03	40	Printer
10-Jun	Staples Direct	-59.35	20	Office Supplies
18-Jun	Paypal	199	40	Training
22-Jun	Document Managers	195	40	Business Cards
23-Jun	Paypal	41.7	40	

Purchases Total 2,110.15
Credit 59.35

For the month of July 2020

1-Jul	Datawatch Systems	80	40	Monitoring
2-Jul	American Correctional fee	300	40	Membership
3-Jul	Lease Direct	355.1	40	Printer
6-Jul	Amazon Business	166.34	20	Office Supplies
15-Jul	USPS	165	40	Postage
29-Jul	Lease Direct	355.1	40	Printer

30-Jul	Amazon Business	166.34	20	Office Supplies
30-Jul	Amazon Business	-2.76	20	Office Supplies
30-Jul	Amazon Business	-2.76	20	Office Supplies
30-Jul	Amazon Business	-2.75	20	Office Supplies
30-Jul	Amazon Business	-2.76	20	Office Supplies
31-Jul	Amazon Business	66.64	20	Office Supplies

Purchases Total 1,615.37
Credit 13.79

For the month of August 2020

3-Aug	Survey Monkey Management	157.34	40	Data
5-Aug	Survey Monkey Management	-157.32	40	Data
5-Aug	Comcast Business	214.23	20	Office Support
6-Aug	Survey Monkey Management	99.32	40	Data
12-Aug	Masterclass	180	40	Training
14-Aug	Nauticon	23.49	40	Printer
14-Aug	Amazon Business	86.8	20	Office Supplies
20-Aug	Acrobat Pro Subs	1,728.90	20	Office Support
20-Aug	Quill Corporation	243.79	20	Office Support
20-Aug	Amazon Business	123.09	20	Office Supplies
20-Aug	NACOLE.ORG	572.44	50	Conference
21-Aug	ALLFILTERS.COM	51.87	20	Office Supplies

Purchases Total 3,461.26
Credit 157.32

For the month of September 2020

1-Sep	Dedoose Management	51.8	40	Data
4-Sep	Nauticon	15.63	40	Printer
7-Sep	Coursea	49	40	Training
7-Sep	Lease Direct	856.55	40	Printer
9-Sep	Language Line Services	100	40	Translation
10-Sep	Catholic Mobilizing	75	40	Conference
14-Sep	Survey Monkey Management	2,289.60	40	Data
21-Sep	Amazon Business	988.96	20	Office Supplies
21-Sep	MVS INC	3,292.70	20	Office supplies
21-Sep	Best Buy	105.99	20	Office Support
22-Sep	Comcast Business	300.16	20	Office Support

Purchases Total 8,191.09

For the month of October 2020

5-Oct Coursea	49	40	Training
12-Oct McAfee Management	127.19	40	Data
14-Oct Amazon Business	35.97	20	Office Supplies
14-Oct Amazon Business	26.49	20	Office Supplies
14-Oct Nauticon	418.7	40	Printer
19-Oct Thi Lai.Com	281.96	40	Postcarrds
19-Oct Language Line Services	100	40	TRanslation
22-Oct Comcast Business	51.96	20	Office Support
26-Oct Amazon Business	31.78	20	Office Supplies
27-Oct Dedoose Management	66.7	66.7	Data
29-Oct PayPal sUPPORT	-1,000	20	OFFICE
29-Oct Paypal	1,000.00	20	Office Support
29-Oct Paypal	1,000.00	20	Office Support
29-Oct Paypal	-1,000	20	Office Support
30-Oct PayPal	-1,000	20	Office Support
30-Oct Paypal	1,000.00	20	Office Support
30-Oct Paypal	1,000.00	20	Office Support
30-Oct PayPal	-1,000	20	Office Support
30-Oct Paypal	-1,000	20	Office Support
30-Oct Paypal	1,000.00	20	Office Support

Purchases Total 7,188.75

Credit 5000

For the month of November 2020

2-Nov Paypal	25.9	20	Office Support
3-Nov Dispute Credit	-1,000	20	Office Support
3-Nov Dispute Credit	-1,000	20	Office Support
5-Nov Coursea	49	40	Training
6-Nov Amazon Business	177.93	20	Office Supplies
9-Nov Dispute Rebill	1,000.00	20	Office Support
9-Nov Dispute Rebill	1,000.00	20	Office Support
9-Nov Lease Direct	727.96	40	Printer
9-Nov Amazon Business	29.66	20	Office Supplies
10-Nov Select Printing	515.6	20	Postcards
11-Nov Select Printing	584	20	Postcards
17-Nov PayPal	1,050	20	Office Support

18-NovDispute Credit	584	20	Postcards
23-NovComcast Business	65.77	20	Office Support
25-NovDatawatch Systems	40	40	Monitoring
27-NovPaypal	1,000	20	Office Support
27-NovDedoose Management	65.76	40	Data

Purchases Total 6331.6
Credit 2,584.00

For the month of December 2020

12--10 Coursea 49

Corrections Information Council FY2020

Agency Corrections Information Council Agency Acronym CIC Agency Code F10

To edit agency and POC information press your agency name (underlined and in blue above).

Agency Performance POCs Donald Isaac; Nicole (CIC) Ukaegbu Agency Budget POCs Donald Isaac Fiscal Year 2020

Agency's Operating Budget

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FY2020 Agency Top 3 Accomplishments

Add Accomplishment
Add Accomplishment

Accomplishments	Impact on Agency	Impact on Residents
Signed first Memorandum of Agreement with the DC Department of Corrections.	It allows the CIC to continue its mission to report of conditions of confinement, and strengthen communication channels with the DOC administration.	It underscores the CIC's mission to report of conditions of confinement with the CDF and CTF.
The CIC continued to communicate with the incarcerated population and executive agencies to acquire information relative to conditions of confinement during the pandemic, despite prohibitions regarding on-site facility visitation.	The CIC was able to continue monitoring conditions of confinement for DC code offenders in the BOP through innovate means, such as issuing surveys and building additional relationships with organizations as a source of data.	The CIC was able to continue an adapted version of monitoring conditions of confinement for DC code offenders in the BOP.
During the pandemic, the CIC assured that all BOP residents received Washington Lawyers' Committee and DC Public Defender Service information regarding the Compassionate Release guidelines and the application procedures for the Clearinghouse.	It has strengthened CIC's communication with individuals impacted by the Compassionate Release legislation.	It has allowed the CIC to report on data and provide insight relative to the Compassionate Release process.

2020 Objectives

Objective Number	Strategic Objective	# of Measures	# of Operations
1	Improve transparency of the corrections systems through inspections and monitoring.	1	2
2	Provide information and education on conditions of confinement, programs, and prison reentry to inform and empower inmates, the community, and policy decision-makers.	0	3
3	Provide recommendations to improve conditions of confinement, policies, and procedures affecting incarcerated residents to improve public safety.	1	1
4	Improve the transparency of CIC operations, including how the CIC selects facilities to inspect, and how the CIC stores and uses information from stakeholders.	0	1
TOT		2	7

2020 Key Performance Indicators

Measure	New Measure/ Benchmark Year	Directionality	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Target	FY2019 Actual	FY 2020 Target	FY 2020 Quarter 1	FY 2020 Quarter 2	FY 2020 Quarter 3	FY 2020 Quarter 4	FY 2020 Report	Was 2020 KPI Met?	Are Explanations of Barriers to Meeting KPIs Complete
1 - Improve transparency of the corrections systems through inspections and monitoring. (1 Measure)														
Number of facilities housing DC residents that have been inspected during the fiscal year	<input type="checkbox"/>	Up is Better	New in 2018	6	8	9	8	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	4	Unmet	
3 - Provide recommendations to improve conditions of confinement, policies, and procedures affecting incarcerated residents to improve public safety. (1 Measure)														
Average number of calendar days to produce a draft report from the date of completion of an inspection	<input type="checkbox"/>	Down is Better	New in 2018	150	120	165	120	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	85	Met	

2020 Operations

Operations Header	Operations Title	Operations Description	Type of Operations
1 - Improve transparency of the corrections systems through inspections and monitoring. (2 Activities)			
Liaison Program Analyst	Liaison Program Analyst	Receive individual complaints and concerns, and share them with corrections agencies for notice and corrective action.	Daily Service
Inspections	Inspections and Reports	Inspect Bureau of Prisons and Department of Corrections facilities, monitor changes, and write and publish inspection reports.	Daily Service
2 - Provide information and education on conditions of confinement, programs, and prison reentry to inform and empower inmates, the community, and policy decision-makers. (3 Activities)			
Community Outreach and Education	Community Outreach and Education	Attend events, host events, and communicate via the web, email, and social media in order to educate the community about issues related to confinement.	Daily Service

Operations Header	Operations Title	Operations Description	Type of Operations
Thematic Reports	Thematic Reports	Provide briefs and reports on systemic issues affecting inmates in Bureau of Prisons or Department of Corrections facilities.	Key Project
Data Reporting	Data Reporting	Develop independent content on the information received directly about the Bureau of Prisons and Department of Corrections, and regularly disseminate that information via agency newsletters, the dashboard, and other media platforms.	Key Project
3 - Provide recommendations to improve conditions of confinement, policies, and procedures affecting incarcerated residents to improve public safety. (1 Activity)			
Relationship Building	Relationship Building	Communication with Bureau of Prisons and Department of Corrections officials on conditions of confinement and community concerns.	Daily Service
4 - Improve the transparency of CIC operations, including how the CIC selects facilities to inspect, and how the CIC stores and uses information from stakeholders. (1 Activity)			
Scheduling	Scheduling	Create inspection schedules based on the incoming information, and draft a list of facilities to inspect at the beginning of the fiscal year.	Daily Service

2020 Workload Measures

Measure	New Measure/ Benchmark Year	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Actual	FY2019 Actual	FY 2020 Quarter 1	FY 2020 Quarter 2	FY 2020 Quarter 3	FY 2020 Quarter 4	FY 2020 Report
1 - Inspections and Reports (3 Measures)										
Number of facilities nationwide housing DC residents	<input type="checkbox"/>	New in 2018	New in 2018	476	122	122	122	121	121	121
Number of facilities inspected	<input type="checkbox"/>	New in 2018	New in 2018	6	9	1	1	2	0	4
Number of inspections with expert participation	<input type="checkbox"/>	New in 2018	New in 2018	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
2 - Community Outreach and Education (3 Measures)										
Number of bulletins produced	<input type="checkbox"/>	New in 2018	New in 2018	12	10	2	3	3	3	11
Number of community meetings and events attended by CIC	<input type="checkbox"/>	51	36	40	14	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	30
Number of CIC education presentations/events held	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	4	3	0	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	0
3 - Relationship Building (3 Measures)										
Number of inspection reports published	<input type="checkbox"/>	New in 2018	New in 2018	6	9	2	1	3	3	9
Number of thematic reports published	<input type="checkbox"/>	New in 2018	New in 2018	5	2	0	0	0	2	2
One Annual Report of CIC activities of prior fiscal year, per statute	<input type="checkbox"/>	New in 2018	New in 2018	2	1	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	1

2020 Initiatives

Strategic Initiatives	Strategic Initiative Title	Strategic Initiative Description	Proposed Completion Date	Is this Initiative focused on Wards 7 and/or 8?	Does this initiative support the Resilient DC Strategy?	Cluster	Add Initiative Update for PAR
Community Outreach and Education (1 Strategic Initiative)							
Event Visibility		In FY20, CIC will visit at least 3 events in the community, and distribute flyers, cards, or other information in order to promote visibility of the CIC.	09-30-2020	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice	
Data Reporting (1 Strategic Initiative)							
Press or Interviews		In FY20, CIC will speak at two (2) or more community events or press interviews in order to bring awareness to the data related to a select issue.	09-30-2020	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice	
Inspections and Reports (2 Strategic initiatives)							
corrective action period		In FY20, CIC will assure that a corrective action period is established prior to writing the formal reports in order to strengthen communication with institutional administrators.	09-30-2020	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice	
Board Review		In FY20, CIC will assure that the CIC Board of Directors receives sufficient review time prior to sending final drafts of reports to DOC or BOP officials if their names are on the report.	09-30-2020	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice	
Liaison Program Analyst (1 Strategic Initiative)							
Liaison Replacement		In FY20, CIC will replace (remove) the liaison program analyst position, and collect data from in-person and telephonic communications, which will be regularly documented in Ragic.	09-30-2020	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice	
Relationship Building (2 Strategic initiatives)							

Strategic Initiative Title	Strategic Initiative Description	Proposed Completion Date	Is this Initiative focused on Wards 7 and/or 8?	Does this initiative support the Resilient DC Strategy?	Cluster	Add Initiative Update for PAR
corrective action period	In FY20, CIC will assure that a corrective action period is established prior to writing the formal reports in order to strengthen communication with institutional administrators.	09-30-2020	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice	
Non-profit collaborations	In FY20, CIC will meet with at least three (3) non-profit agencies that focus on reentry services or criminal justice issues in order to develop a relationship where CIC can confidently suggest referrals when needed	09-30-2020	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice	
Scheduling (1 Strategic Initiative)						
Advance Scheduling	In FY20, CIC will meet to comprise a list of facilities to visit at the start of the fiscal year, and observe how that schedule helped to inform or alter operations and external communications.	09-30-2020	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice	
Thematic Reports (1 Strategic Initiative)						
Two Thematics	In FY20, CIC will construct at least 2 thematic reports for issues related to mental health, reentry, and/or incarcerated women's issues.	09-30-2020	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice	

FY2020 Initiative Updates

Initiative Updates

Strategic Initiative Title	Initiative Status Update	% Complete to date	Confidence in completion by end of fiscal year (9/30)?	Status of Impact	Supporting Data	FY20 Reporting Quarter
Advance Scheduling (2 Initiative Updates)						
Advance Scheduling	A schedule was developed.	Complete	High	Transformative		Q1
Advance Scheduling	An advance schedule was developed, and was a useful tool that will continue for all fiscal years. It was impacted severely by COVID, due to the restrictions on visitation; however, the CIC looks forward to continuing this practice.	Complete		Incremental		Q4
Board Review (4 Initiative Updates)						
Board Review	This step has been implemented.	0-24%	High	Transformative		Q1
Board Review	This initiative has been implemented, and the CIC will continue to employ this step prior to any institutional distributions.	75-99%	High	Incremental		Q2
Board Review	This is now a standardized procedure.	Complete	High	Transformative		Q3
Board Review	This period has been implemented in order to assure that Board members have an awareness of recent developments, as well as an opportunity to provide insight or adjustments.	Complete		Incremental		Q4
corrective action period (5 Initiative Updates)						
corrective action period	The corrective action period has been implemented.	75-99%	High	Transformative		Q1
corrective action period	The corrective action period is a useful strategy that the CIC will continue to employ. Visitation restrictions due to COVID-19 have impacted our ability to conduct on-site inspections, which would normally precede a corrective action period; however, we have continued to contact the BOP and DOC with larger scale inquires in order to communicate concerns of the incarcerated population and their families.	75-99%	Medium	Incremental		Q2
corrective action period	This is now a standardized procedure, which will develop as more institutions are visited. Facilities are currently restricted, but the corrective action period will help with development and follow-up of recommendations.	Complete	High	Demonstrable		Q3
corrective action period	The CIC has implemented this period, and will note forthcoming developments upon the resumption of our normal inspections, which were halted due to COVID. Currently, we look forward to examining the true impact of the process during future inspections.	Complete		Incremental		Q4
corrective action period	The CIC has implemented this period, and will note forthcoming developments upon the resumption of our normal inspections, which were halted due to COVID. Currently, we look forward to examining the true impact of the process during future inspections.	Complete		Incremental		Q4
Event Visibility (2 Initiative Updates)						
Event Visibility	The CIC has already exceeded this goal, and will continue to promote agency visibility. In Q1 alone, the CIC has visited 7 events in order to carry out this initiative.	Complete	High	Incremental		Q1
Event Visibility	CIC attended events hosted by Cardoza High School, SOME, and a community block party addressing awareness relative to gun violence. The goal is to interact with the community in order to see how we can serve.	Complete		Incremental		Q4
Liaison Replacement (2 Initiative Updates)						
Liaison Replacement	The duties of the position have been reassigned to analysts.	Complete	High	Demonstrable		Q1
Liaison Replacement	The duties of the position have been reassigned to analysts.	Complete		Incremental		Q4
Non-profit collaborations (2 Initiative Updates)						

Strategic Initiative Title	Initiative Status Update	% Complete to date	Confidence in completion by end of fiscal year (9/30)?	Status of Impact	Supporting Data	FY20 Reporting Quarter
Non-profit collaborations	We have meet with at least 6 organizations.	Complete	High	Incremental		Q1
Non-profit collaborations	The CIC has met with non-profit agencies, such as RAN, WLC, IAHR, Free Minds Book Club, ReThinkJustice, and House of Ruth for a variety of issues. As we enter FY21, we will continue to build our network, and establish relationships that are beneficial to answering inquiries that we may receive from incarcerated individuals and their families.	Complete		Incremental		Q4
Press or Interviews (3 Initiative Updates)						
Press or Interviews	CIC spoke at a Street Law Class at a local high school to inform them on CIC's mission and daily activities.	25-49%	High	Incremental		Q1
Press or Interviews	The CIC has spoken about the conditions of confinement on the nationally syndicated radio show "Crossroads" with Roach Brown. The CIC has also spoken to the WUSA regarding the closing of Hope Village. We are also building a relationship with other outlets in order to facilitate the dissemination of information surrounding incarcerated DC residents.	Complete	High	Transformative		Q1
Press or Interviews	The CIC has spoken at community events, such and has interacted more with the press, including addressing conditions of confinement on shows such as Roach Brown's radio show, and inquiries from local news reporters.	Complete		Incremental		Q4
Two Thematics (4 Initiative Updates)						
Two Thematics	We are still developing the themes.	0-24%	High	None		Q1
Two Thematics	Due to the impact of COVID-19, the structure of our thematic report was adjusted to reflect more timely and useful information in a condensed format with a more targeted, narrower scope. The CIC explored women and reentry by examining the protocols at Fairview during COVID-19; men and reentry by examining the adequacy of supplies at Hope Village during COVID-19; and the conditions of confinement and medical protocols at the DOC during COVID-19. Once normal institutional visitation resumes, the CIC will continue its attempt to explore these themes on an expanded scale.	75-99%	High	Demonstrable		Q2
Two Thematics	CIC will revisit these initiatives in FY21. Work production priorities shifted after the onset of the pandemic.	25-49%	Low	None		Q3
Two Thematics	The structure of reports were adjusted to reflect more timely and useful information with a more targeted, narrower scope. Once normal institutional visitation resumes, the CIC will continue its attempt to explore these themes We produced a thematic report on Compassionate release, and aim to produce a follow-up in FY21. We also have 2 thematic reports pending for publication in FY21, which employ a qualitative and quantitative analysis of survey results inquiring about COVID experiences within the BOP.	Complete		Incremental		Q4

Internal: Unfinished 2019 Initiatives

Strategic Initiatives	Title	Description	Complete to Date	Status Update	Explanation	Anticipated Completion Date	Add Initiative Update
No strategic initiatives found							

Updates for Unfinished FY19 Initiatives

Strategic Initiative Title	Anticipated completion date	New Initiative Created for FY20	No Longer an Initiative	Initiative Status Update	% Complete to date	Confidence in completion by anticipated completion date?	Status of Impact	Explanation of Impact	Supporting Data	FY20 Reporting Quarter
No initiative updates found										

Administrative Information

Record ID# 673

Performance Plan ID 673 [Blank Initiative Updates](#) [Blank Initiative Updates](#)

Created on Oct. 30, 2018 at 11:14 AM (EDT). Last updated by [Katz, Lia \(EOM\)](#) on Jan. 28, 2019 at 11:48 AM (EST). Owned by [Katz, Lia \(EOM\)](#).

Corrections Information Council FY2021

Agency Corrections Information Council Agency Acronym CIC Agency Code FIO

To edit agency and POC information press your agency name (underlined and in blue above).

Agency Performance POCs Donald Isaac; Nicole (CIC) Ukaegbu Agency Budget POCs Donald Isaac Fiscal Year 2021

Agency's Operating Budget

[Lookup Your Agency's Operating Budget](#)

2021 Objectives

Strategic Objectives	Objective Number	Strategic Objective	# of Measures	# of Operations
	1	Improve transparency of the corrections systems through inspections and monitoring.	1	1
	2	Provide information and education on conditions of confinement, programs, and prison reentry to inform and empower inmates, the community, and policy decision-makers.	1	3
	3	Provide recommendations to improve conditions of confinement, policies, and procedures affecting incarcerated residents to improve public safety.	0	1
	4	Improve the transparency of CIC operations, including how the CIC selects facilities to inspect, and how the CIC stores and uses information from stakeholders.	1	1
	TOT		3	6

2021 Key Performance Indicators

Measure	New Measure/ Benchmark Year	Directionality	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Target	FY2019 Actual	FY 2020 Target	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Target	FY 2021 Quarter 1
1 - Improve transparency of the corrections systems through inspections and monitoring. (1 Measure)										
Number of facilities housing DC residents that have been inspected during the fiscal year	<input type="checkbox"/>	Up is Better	New in 2018	6	8	9	8	4	6	Annual Measure
2 - Provide information and education on conditions of confinement, programs, and prison reentry to inform and empower inmates, the community, and policy decision-makers. (1 Measure)										
Total number of CIC communications ready for publishing, including letters, bulletins, information sheets, and inspection, thematic, and annual reports.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Up is Better	New in 2021	New in 2021	New in 2021	New in 2021	New in 2021	New in 2021	New in 2021	Annual Measure
4 - Improve the transparency of CIC operations, including how the CIC selects facilities to inspect, and how the CIC stores and uses information from stakeholders. (1 Measure)										
Estimated number of days to produce a first draft following an inspection.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Down is Better	New in 2021	New in 2021	New in 2021	New in 2021	New in 2021	New in 2021	New in 2021	Annual Measure

2021 Operations

Operations Header	Operations Title	Operations Description	Type of Operations
1 - Improve transparency of the corrections systems through inspections and monitoring. (1 Activity)			
Inspections	Inspections and Reports	Inspect Bureau of Prisons and Department of Corrections facilities, monitor changes, and write and publish inspection reports.	Daily Service
2 - Provide information and education on conditions of confinement, programs, and prison reentry to inform and empower inmates, the community, and policy decision-makers. (3 Activities)			
Thematic Reports	Thematic Reports	Provide briefs and reports on systemic issues affecting inmates in Bureau of Prisons or Department of Corrections facilities.	Key Project
Data Reporting	Data Reporting	Develop independent content on the information received directly about the Bureau of Prisons and Department of Corrections, and regularly disseminate that information via agency newsletters, the dashboard, and other media platforms.	Key Project
Community Outreach and Education	Community Outreach and Education	Attend events, host events, and communicate via the web, email, and social media in order to educate the community about issues related to confinement.	Daily Service
3 - Provide recommendations to improve conditions of confinement, policies, and procedures affecting incarcerated residents to improve public safety. (1 Activity)			

Operations Header	Operations Title	Operations Description	Type of Operations
Relationship Building	Relationship Building	Communication with Bureau of Prisons and Department of Corrections officials on conditions of confinement and community concerns.	Daily Service
4 - Improve the transparency of CIC operations, including how the CIC selects facilities to inspect, and how the CIC stores and uses information from stakeholders. (1 Activity)			
Scheduling	Scheduling	Create inspection schedules based on the incoming information, and draft a list of facilities to inspect at the beginning of the fiscal year.	Daily Service

2021 Workload Measures

Workload Measures - Operations

Measure	New Measure/ Benchmark Year	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Actual	FY2019 Actual	FY2020 Actual	FY 2021 Quarter 1
1 - Inspections and Reports (3 Measures)							
Number of facilities nationwide housing DC residents	<input type="checkbox"/>	New in 2018	New in 2018	476	122	121	121
Number of facilities inspected	<input type="checkbox"/>	New in 2018	New in 2018	6	9	4	3
Number of inspections with expert participation	<input type="checkbox"/>	New in 2018	New in 2018	0	0	1	0
2 - Community Outreach and Education (3 Measures)							
Number of community meetings and events attended by CIC	<input type="checkbox"/>	51	36	40	14	30	Annual Measure
Number of CIC education presentations/events held	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	4	3	0	0	Annual Measure
Number of bulletins produced	<input type="checkbox"/>	New in 2018	New in 2018	12	10	11	3
3 - Relationship Building (3 Measures)							
Number of inspection reports published	<input type="checkbox"/>	New in 2018	New in 2018	6	9	9	1
Number of thematic reports published	<input type="checkbox"/>	New in 2018	New in 2018	5	2	2	1
One Annual Report of CIC activities of prior fiscal year, per statute	<input type="checkbox"/>	New in 2018	New in 2018	2	1	1	Annual Measure

2021 Initiatives

Strategic Initiatives

Strategic Initiative Title	Strategic Initiative Description	Proposed Completion Date	Is this Initiative focused on Wards 7 and/or 8?	Does this initiative support the Resilient DC Strategy?	Cluster	Add Initiative Update
Thematic Reports (1 Strategic Initiative)						
Thematic Reporting	CIC will construct at least 2 thematic reports for issues related to compassionate release, home confinement, and COVID's impact on conditions of confinement.	09-30-2021	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice	

2021 Initiative Updates

Strategic Initiative Title	Initiative Status Update	% Complete to date	Confidence in completion by end of fiscal year (9/30)?	Status of Impact	Supporting Data	Reporting Quarter
Thematic Reporting (1 Initiative Update)						
Thematic Reporting	Our preliminary thematic report detailing COVID survey results from BOP residents is complete.	50-74%	High	Incremental		Q1

Internal: Unfinished 2020 Initiatives

Title	Description	Complete to Date	Status Update	Explanation	Anticipated Completion Date	Add Initiative Update
No strategic initiatives found						

Updates for Unfinished 2020 Initiatives

Strategic Initiative Title	Anticipated completion date	New Initiative Created for FY20	No Longer an Initiative	Initiative Status Update	% Complete to date	Confidence in completion by anticipated completion date?	Status of Impact	Explanation of Impact	Supporting Data	Reporting Quarter
No initiative updates found										

Administrative Information

Record ID# 757

Performance Plan ID 757 **Blank Initiative Updates** [Blank Initiative Updates](#)

Created on Nov. 6, 2019 at 11:49 AM (EST). Last updated by [Stock, Arie](#) on July 21, 2020 at 8:40 PM (EDT). Owned by [Stock, Arie](#).

Date	Type of Contact	Content	Link	Changes
4/18/19	Open Board meeting discussion	Discussed upcoming renewal of MOU and whether to resign with no changes or push for accurate reflection of current practices.	https://dcgovict-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/chrisiant_bracken_dc_gov/EVcflwOvA5hMnQnmrqlPB0BisBwWCMrXdyF4G3Q3EYLA?e=q8T1gZ	2016 MOU for reference
5/10/19	Email from Dave Brewer	First draft of MOU from BOP	https://dcgovict-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/chrisiant_bracken_dc_gov/EX1MlC8T17NFst8KnjF9E-4BiOPi9cfodTUsnWPwXZQNrA?e=hlNZgH	Nearly identical in content to 2016 version, CB highlighted additional language in linked version (addition of language that DC Code doesn't apply to BOP and that CIC is responsible for unauthorized disclosures of info.
7/10/19	Email from Tovia Knight	Revisions and request for August mtg to discuss		
7/25/19	Email from Tovia Knight	Request for August mtg		
7/31/19	Email from Tovia Knight	Request for mtg, noting Sept is busy		
7/31/19	Email CB to Tovia Knight	Response to mtg request noting delay due to scheduling Hazelton visit		
7/31/19	Email Tovia Knight to CB	Proposing 8/28/19 meeting		
8/7/19	Email CB to Tovia Knight	Agreeing to 8/28/19 meeting		
8/19/19	Email to CIC Board re: MOU	Asking if any Board members plan to attend MOU negotiation meeting, raising concerns of limited access based on Hazelton SHU denial		
8/19/19	Email CThornton to Board	Suggesting we negotiate higher up BOP chain than Ms. Knight, with Assistant Director of BOP		
8/20/19	Email CB to Board	Re-upping concern that MOU will be interpreted narrowly by Ms. Knight, limiting access to data and facilities		
8/28/19	In-person meeting CIC and DBrewer & TKnight	suggesting language to TKnight & DBrewer that we neglected to raise the issue of clarifying "DC Code Offenders" in MOU from "DC residents."		
8/28/19	Email NU to CB	Agenda for mtg with BOP leadership.		
10/23/19	Email CThornton to Board	Agenda for mtg with BOP leadership.		
10/23/19	Email KHuffman to Board	Requesting to remove data sharing from agenda and prioritize completion of MOU.		Huffman, Thornton, Isaac, Bracken in attendance from CIC, K Hawk Sawyer, D Brewer and other BOP leadership present.
10/25/19	In-person meeting CIC and BOP Leadership		https://dcgovict-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/chrisiant_bracken_dc_gov/EUhxRkGhTihNuagUNxyv-FUB_2se2WUu_TvlHfWgQmk7xg?e=nBL2lq	No specific denial of SHU visits, no timing on follow-up info requests, no limitations on CIC timing to provide reports to BOP, suggested but not required BOP closeout meetings, nothing about BOP approval for publication.
10/31/19	Email TKnight to CB	MOU for signature, already signed by Asst Director Carvajal		
11/20/19	Email TKnight to CB	Asking for update - did Disaac sign MOU?		
11/21/19	Email TKnight to CB	Disregard previous MOU, admin error left out Section D		
12/12/19	Email CB to TKnight	Asking for latest version of MOU for signature		
12/12/19	Email TKnight to CB	Asst Director is re-reviewing MOU and will send along.		
1/15/20	Email CB to Disaac	Asking did we ever sign the MOU and noting last email exchange with TKnight		
1/16/20	Email CB to TKnight	Asking for update on status of MOU		
1/16/20	Email TKnight to CB	Scheduled to meet with DBrewer re: MOU, will update after that		Changes include specifically refusing access to SHU/SMU and other areas, requirement that CIC submit draft copy of report within 30 days of site visit, and changes closeout meeting to requirement instead of option. Removes specification of audio privacy in interviews. Also removes sections specifying ability to review individuals' Admin Remedy Forms with their permission, and to provide average length of SHU stay at facilities.
5/26/20	Email TKnight to CB	Revised MOU sent	https://dcgovict-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/chrisiant_bracken_dc_gov/EWMr6QLe_0dHvnRdDQ5_BZYBAkObljgUGRAOYxhuhnn2og?e=ecOxt2	
6/5/20	Staff meeting notes	Concerns about latest version of MOU	https://dcgovict-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/chrisiant_bracken_dc_gov/Ec1XhAo4pZ1NvnC7ktLw2EEBInzTHibFFH9kXtzhkivkQ?e=JUXdmN	Main concerns are audio confidentiality of interviews, more roster info, ability to go to SHU/SMU, death notifications.
6/5/20	Email TKnight to CB	Asking if any questions on MOU		
6/5/20	Email CB to TKnight	Discussed MOU at mtg today, anticipate response next week		
6/30/20	Email TKnight to CB	Asking status and noting she will be on vacation in July		
7/29/20	Email TKnight to CB	Checking on status, noting that CThornton told DBrewer on 7.2 that CIC was ready to sign.		
8/3/20	Email Disaac to TKnight & DBrewer	Two requests: 1) make sure there is audio privacy for on-site interviews; 2) request 72-hour notification of DC deaths in BOP custody.		
8/25/20	Email TKnight to CIC	Attaching new version of MOU with resolution of Item 1 above, denial of item 2, and additional change that CIC must ask BOP permission to publish reports.	https://dcgovict-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/chrisiant_bracken_dc_gov/Ec1XhAo4pZ1NvnC7ktLw2EEBInzTHibFFH9kXtzhkivkQ?e=JUXdmN	Doesn't explicitly resolve the issue with audio confidentiality, adds limitation that CIC cannot publish without BOP approval/consent.
8/25/20	Email CB to staff	Sharing newest version and two concerns: 1) CIC must ask BOP permission to publish reports, 2) additional changes to turnaround time (decreasing on CIC's end, increasing on BOP end)	https://dcgovict-my.sharepoint.com/:t:/g/personal/chrisiant_bracken_dc_gov/ERTJgRzHR9RHuc5eYuwRunMBFT9ClSp7IX6QzGkc9gA?e=mSRfI9	
8/28/20	Email Disaac to TKnight & DBrewer	Accepting denial of reporting on DC deaths and denial of SHU access, but refusing to agree to changes to turnaround time and BOP permission to publish		
9/1/20	Email TKnight to CIC	Asking to schedule call second week of Sept		
9/8/20	Conference call BOP & CIC	Discussion of new items in MOU, DBrewer raises interpretations that CIC should only publish reports after end of fiscal year, and that CIC is only allowed to publish to named entities, rather than publicly. He references 2010 Amendment, which NUJ points out specifies that CIC is obligated to publish reports to public.		NUJ, CB, Disaac on call with DBrewer, TKnight
9/8/20	Email NUJ to DBrewer	Advising that 2010 Amendment requires CIC to publish reports publicly.	https://code.dccouncil.us/dc/cou-ncil/code/sections/24-101.01.html	
9/14/20	Email TKnight to CIC	Advising that before any further site visits, BOP would like to resolve concerns with MOU and have both agencies sign.		
9/30/20	Email TKnight to CIC	Waiting to speak with AD for Info and Policy on MOU, but she has been out sick all week		
10/2/20	Email TKnight to CIC	Wanting to set up meeting with BOP leadership and CIC		

10/8/20	Email NJU to CB & CThornton	Detailing latest concerns with MOU, 1) BOP says reports all due w/in 60 days of fiscal year end, that's a floor, not a ceiling; 2) public distribution is req'd by statute	https://dcgovict-my.sharepoint.com/:t/p/personal/chrisiant_bracken_dc_gov/EaP2yOshUcx8idHFjt4OhJg8vurriAqhSOYf-BQj4Sv7hg?e=WNV4ag
10/9/20	Conference call BOP & CIC	Brief discussion of MOU, agreed that DBrewer and Disaac will work out next steps	https://dcgovict-my.sharepoint.com/:w/p/personal/chrisiant_bracken_dc_gov/EfabqjxfFsNBgKOlc_fPdAQBzrYrouT2Iiaigy_6pO9wdQ?e=W7Fe8F
11/3/20	Email DBrewer to Disaac	New version of MOU, removes October concerns about reports due at end of fiscal year and permission to distribute reports; adds that 1) CIC can't tour another facility until draft report on previous facility is received; 2) requirement that CIC include BOP requests for retraction/denials inline in reports instead of as addendum.	https://dcgovict-my.sharepoint.com/:w/p/personal/chrisiant_bracken_dc_gov/EXNbxZvqUpLqR523rg6D4Q8OFpNKpUB3HReI8E1tRt6OQ?e=tdivsbY



CIC | District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

April 9, 2020

Mr. Michael Carvajal
Director
Federal Bureau of Prisons
320 First Street NW
Washington, DC 20534

Dear Director Carvajal:

There are approximately 4000 DC residents in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons (BOP), residing across 118 institutions nationwide.¹ Since the onset of the novel coronavirus pandemic, the CIC has been following the BOP's response intently, with growing concern about the conditions facing our residents in BOP facilities.

The CIC appreciates the BOP's responses to our questions about policy changes and their impact on our residents. We are encouraged by the news of the releases to home confinement last week, and Attorney General Barr's updated guidance widening the scope of individuals to be considered for release to home confinement.

We continue to have concerns about how that policy will be implemented, particularly as several of the factors in AG Barr's March 26 memo seem likely to significantly limit the number of individuals considered for release to home confinement. These limitations are not on the basis of the degree of health risk an individual is facing due to the pandemic, but on the basis of their underlying criminal convictions, the security level of their institution, or their score on the untested and problematic PATTERN risk assessment tool. DC offenders should be fairly considered for release to home confinement, and sufficient numbers of individuals throughout the BOP system should be released to allow for safe conditions for those who remain.

DC offenders in the BOP are uniquely situated, effectively state prisoners residing in the federal system. They tend to be serving longer sentences than other federal inmates, and they are more likely to be serving sentences for crimes of violence, because in every other state individuals convicted of crimes like robbery or assault serve their sentences in state prison. Some DC inmates are also impacted by indeterminate sentencing, which can mean that their custody

¹ data as of April 1, 2020 provided by BOP.

level remains high in part due to a lengthy “back number”. If these factors outweigh individual health concerns in the BOP’s assessment, then DC residents are less likely to be released to home confinement, even if they have a high risk of susceptibility to the novel coronavirus.

Numerous experts have expressed concerns with the PATTERN tool.² As noted by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, “[w]hen tools conflate the likelihood of arrest for any reason with risk to public safety, a large number of people will be labeled a threat without sufficient justification. Risk assessments that include minor offenses or technical violations in their definition of ‘risk’ will inflate risk scores and incarceration rates and exacerbate racial inequalities. In the context of COVID-19...this means a much higher risk of illness and of fatality.”

Ninety-six percent of the DC residents in BOP custody are African-American. As NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci stated during a White House press briefing on April 8, 2020, “Unfortunately, when you look at the predisposing conditions that lead to a bad outcome with coronavirus — the things that get people into ICUs that require intubation and often lead to death, they are just those very comorbidities that are, unfortunately, disproportionately prevalent in the African American population.”³ The CIC has received a number of emails from DC residents in BOP custody expressing fear for their safety due to underlying medical concerns such as diabetes, hypertension, and asthma – the exact underlying conditions Dr. Fauci indicated will make them particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus.

The CIC is in agreement with the Sentencing Project,⁴ that the BOP should be considering first and foremost each person’s age, health, and susceptibility to the virus, and that these factors should not be overruled by a high PATTERN score. While the CIC recognizes that the BOP and the Justice Department have an obligation to protect public safety, this is balanced against the responsibility to care for individuals in your custody. During a public health emergency where the individuals in your custody are at risk of serious illness and death, this balancing cannot look like business as usual. The risk to individual safety is only increasing as the virus spreads more widely within facilities and to an increasing number of facilities.

The CIC urges the Bureau to consider the aforementioned nullifying impacts of the PATTERN score and the other factors in AG Barr’s memo to ensure that individuals with a

² “Comment Letter to Department of Justice on PATTERN First Step Act” The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, 3 September 2019 <https://civilrights.org/resource/comment-letter-to-department-of-justice-on-pattern-first-step-act/>

³ “Remarks by President Trump, Vice President Pence, and Members of the Coronavirus Task Force in Press Briefing | April 7, 2020” <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-vice-president-pence-members-coronavirus-task-force-press-briefing-april-7-2020/>

⁴ Quoted in “How Bill Barr’s COVID-19 Prisoner Release Plan Could Favor White People” The Marshall Project, 28 March 2020, <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/03/28/how-bill-barr-s-covid-19-prisoner-release-plan-could-favor-white-people>

higher risk for contracting the virus or underlying medical conditions that increase the likelihood of a severe case are not overlooked in assessments regarding release to home confinement.

Thank you.

Donald Isaac

Donald L. Isaac, Sr.
Executive Director
DC Corrections Information Council (CIC)
donald.isaac@dc.gov
<https://cic.dc.gov>



U.S. Department of Justice
Memorandum
Federal Bureau of Prisons

Central Office
320 First Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20534

April 27, 2020

Donald Isaac
Executive Director
DC Corrections Information Council
1400 I Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Director Isaac:

I am in receipt of your letter dated, April 9, 2020, wherein you express concerns about the conditions facing DC inmates in BOP facilities amidst the novel COVID-19 pandemic.

I acknowledge your concerns regarding inmates housed in BOP facilities, during this pandemic, and I do not take them lightly. The BOP continues to be deeply concerned for the health and welfare of inmates entrusted to our care and for the staff who live in the surrounding communities. Our staff are vested in ensuring public safety and continue to diligently and safely carry out their responsibilities. Our highest priority continues to be mitigating the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

In response to COVID-19, the BOP has instituted a comprehensive management approach that includes screening, testing, appropriate treatment, prevention, education, and infection control measures. The BOP has been coordinating our COVID-19 efforts since January 2020, using subject-matter experts both internal and external to the agency, including guidance and directives from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Office of the Vice President.

As it relates to home confinement, inmates do not need to apply to be considered for home confinement. Case management staff are urgently reviewing all inmates to determine which ones meet

the criteria established by the Attorney General. The Department of Justice has also increased resources to review and make appropriate determinations as soon as possible. While all inmates are being reviewed for suitability, any inmate who believes he/she is eligible may request to be referred to home confinement and provide a release plan to their Case Manager. The BOP may contact family members to gather needed information, when making decisions concerning home confinement placement.

Guidance related to the BOP's use of home confinement in response to Attorney General Barr's original memo to the BOP on March 26, 2020, instructing the BOP to prioritize home confinement as an appropriate response to the COVID-19 pandemic may be found here https://www.bop.gov/resources/news/20200405_covid19_home_confinement.jsp. We are urgently reviewing all inmates to determine which ones meet the criteria to be suitable for home confinement, as established by the Attorney General.

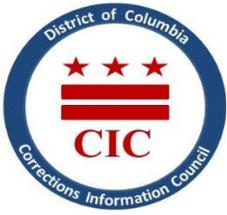
On April 3, 2020, the Attorney General exercised emergency authority under the CARES Act to further increase home confinement. Based on the guidance outlined in Attorney General Barr's memorandums regarding home confinement during COVID-19, the BOP is implementing those directives, as instructed.

The Bureau of Prisons will continue to provide daily updates and information on actions related to COVID-19 at www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp.

Sincerely,



M.D. Carvajal
Director



CIC | District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

April 30, 2020

Mr. Michael Carvajal
Director
Federal Bureau of Prisons
320 First Street NW
Washington, DC 20534

Dear Director Carvajal,

On April 7, 2020, the Council of the District of Columbia passed the COVID-19 Response Supplemental Emergency Amendment Act of 2020 (Bill 23-0733 or Act 23-0286). The bill was signed by Mayor Bowser on April 10, 2020. Section 305 of the Act amended good time credits for those sentenced under the DC Code, removing distinctions between a number of previously existing categories for the purposes of good time calculation. The Act provides that anyone sentenced before August 4, 2000 is now eligible to be retroactively awarded good time credit for up to 54 days per year.

The Corrections Information Council is eager to understand how the Bureau of Prisons is working to implement this new legislation with respect to DC Code Offenders in its custody. In particular we would like to know whether good time adjustments are being processed by the Designation and Sentence Computation Center, by facility case managers, or by some other entity, as well as what guidance has been provided to implement the adjustments.

The CIC would also like to know how the BOP is determining eligibility for good time credit for past years. Under the Act, good time credit shall be awarded subject to a BOP determination that the individual has displayed compliance with institutional disciplinary regulations as well as satisfactory progress in education. In light of the fact that most of the individuals impacted under this section have been incarcerated for over twenty years, how is the BOP determining compliance for years so long in the past?

We appreciate your attention to this matter, and any information you can provide.

Donald Isaac

Donald L. Isaac, Sr.
Executive Director
DC Corrections Information Council (CIC)
donald.isaac@dc.gov



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Office of the Director

Washington, DC 20534

May 22, 2020

Donald Isaac
Executive Director
DC Corrections Information Council
1400 I Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Director Isaac:

I am in receipt of your letter dated, April 30, 2020, wherein you inquire about the Bureau's implementation to the COVID-19 Response Supplemental Emergency Act of 2020.

The Designation and Sentence Computation Center (DSCC) began reviewing the sentence computations of inmates impacted by the April 21, 2020, temporary emergency legislation. As a result, some inmates immediately received the Good Conduct Time (GCT) afforded by the legislation and had their sentences adjusted accordingly, which in some cases resulted in immediate release. However, for inmates with parole effective dates, their release dates were not impacted.

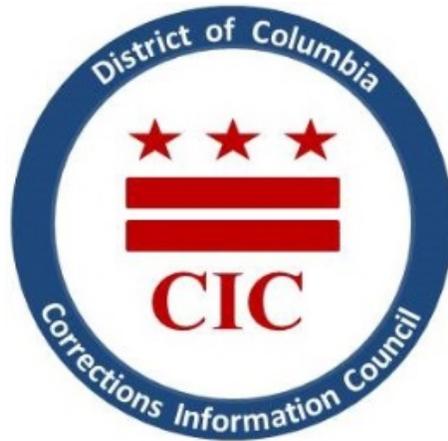
For parole eligible inmates, now earning GCT, the DSCC is manually re-calculating their sentences and providing updated computations to the United States Parole Commission. DSCC will apply the GCT to inmates with DC mandatory minimum sentences. As earning GCT was not available to these inmates, the disallowance of GCT sanction was not applicable.

I trust this addresses your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M.D. Carvajal".

M.D. Carvajal
Director



**District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council**

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

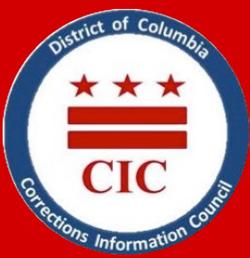
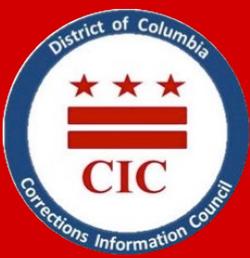


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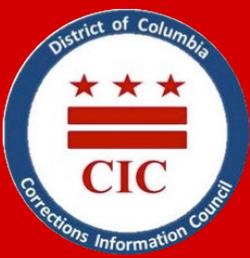


Introduction

The **District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC)** is an independent oversight agency that inspects, monitors, and reports on the conditions of confinement of DC residents at facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the DC Department of Corrections (DOC), or their private contractors. During fiscal year 2019, the CIC mandate included almost 4,050 inmates in over 120 BOP prisons and halfway houses across 35 states, as well as an average of over 1,800 inmates in DOC custody at local facilities.

Established by the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, the CIC had board members first appointed in 2002 and again in 2006. The agency was reestablished in 2012 with a new board and its first operating budget. The CIC's mandate was expanded by legislation in 2003 and 2011, and in 2017, the board was expanded from three members to five. In 2019, the CIC was given the responsibility to report annually on the conditions of individuals who had been sentenced under the Youth Rehabilitation Act (YRA).

With the support of the Council and the Mayor, the CIC has grown to eight full time staff members, including an executive director, four program analysts, a communications specialist, and a clerical assistant. The restoration and growth of the CIC demonstrates the importance that the DC community places on the well-being of incarcerated DC residents and the need for objective reporting on the conditions of their confinement, whether locally or far from the District.



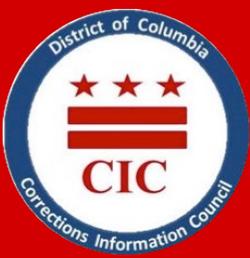
Introduction

(continued)

In fiscal year 2019, Executive Director Donald L. Isaac, Sr., took over leadership of the CIC after being appointed by Mayor Bowser on November 26, 2019, to replace outgoing Executive Director Michelle Bonner. Board member Nkechi Taifa was reappointed by the Council on November 13, 2018, to serve another two-year term, and the CIC also hired three program analysts and a communications specialist to bring the CIC up to a full staff complement. In June, the CIC moved to its new offices at 1400 I Street NW, Suite 400, which finally secures a location with adequate space for the growing size of the agency.

The CIC made onsite visits to six BOP prisons in fiscal year 2019, as well as visits to local facilities operated by the DOC to interview inmates and observe operations and other conditions. The CIC published nine facility inspection reports, including its annual report on the DOC, in addition to three thematic reports on outdoor recreation at DOC facilities, conditions for inmates who are eligible for the Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act (IRAA), and conditions for inmates who were sentenced under the YRA.

The CIC responded to hundreds of letters, emails, and phone calls from incarcerated individuals and their families, and the agency continued to expand its community outreach and social media presence. The CIC also continued its tradition of partnering with local agencies and organizations to send holiday postcards to every DC resident in the BOP.



Board and Staff

Charles Thornton – Board Chair since 2016

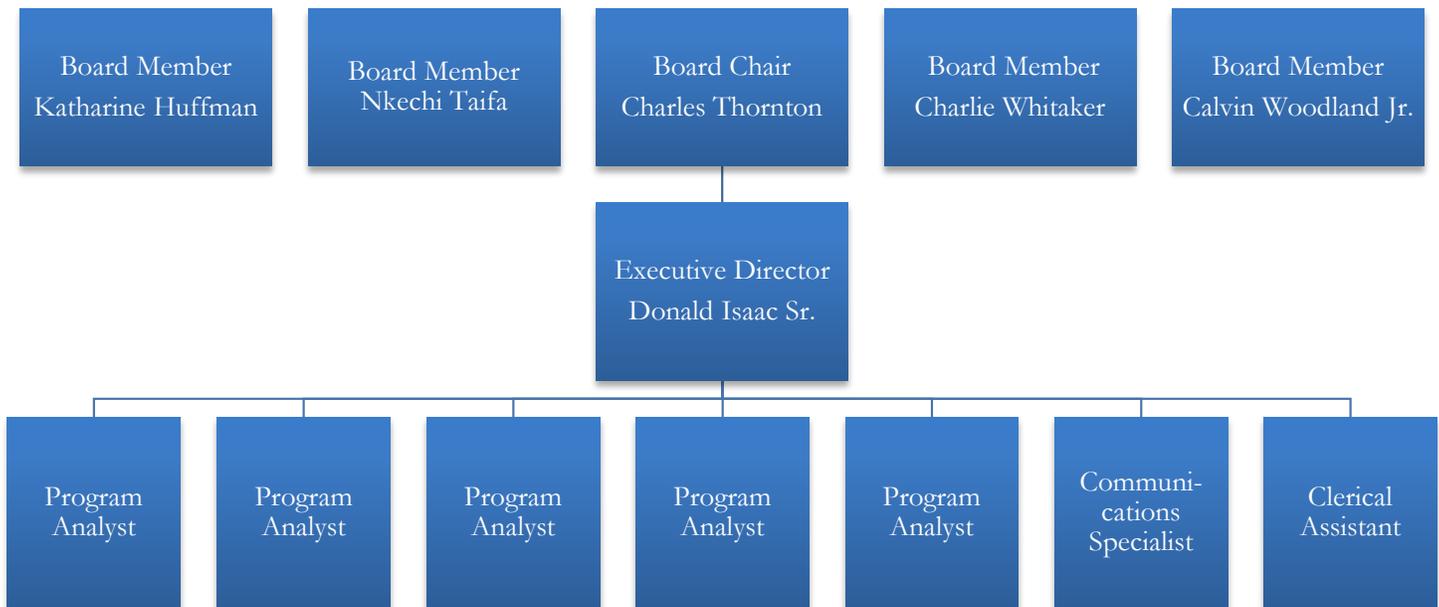
Katharine Huffman – Board Member since 2012

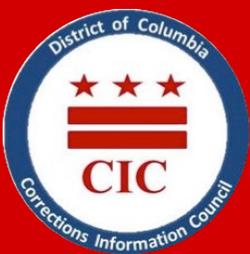
Nkechi Taifa – Board Member since 2018

Charlie Whitaker – Board Member since 2018

Calvin Woodland Jr. – Board Member since 2017

Organizational Chart

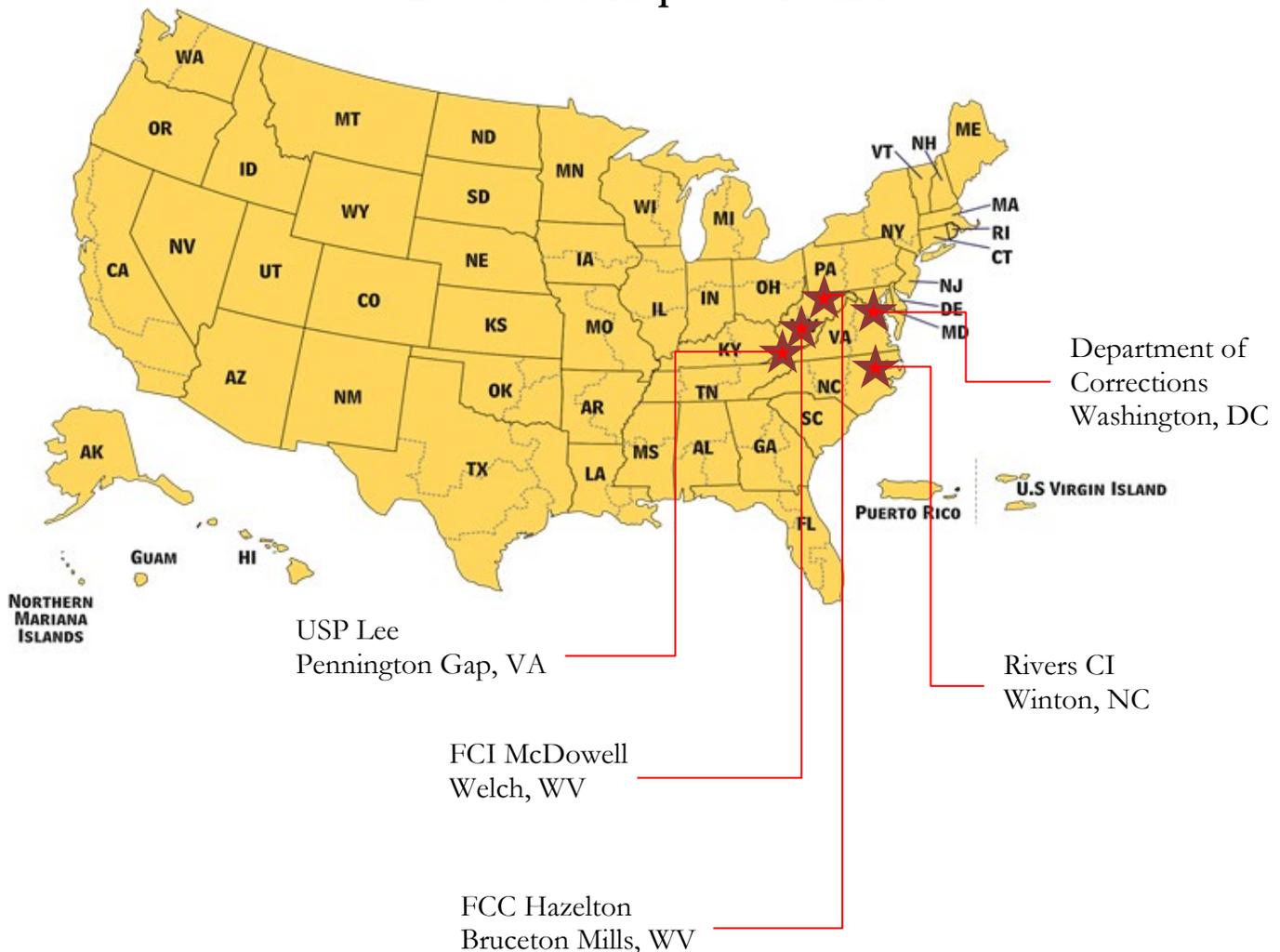




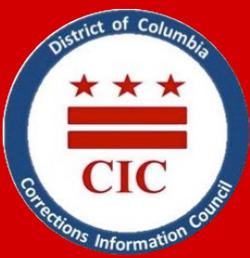
Facility Inspections

In fiscal year 2019, the CIC conducted nine inspections, including six BOP prisons and the two local jails operated by the DOC — the Central Detention Facility (CDF, also known as the DC Jail) and the adjacent Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF). The CIC also regularly visits the CDF and CTF to interview inmates held in DOC custody.

Location of Inspected Facilities



Federal Correctional Facility (FCC) Hazelton includes three prisons — a United States Penitentiary (USP), a Federal Correctional Institution (FCI), and a Secure Female Facility (SFF). USP Hazelton was inspected twice in fiscal year 2019.



Inspected Facilities

USP Lee

High security prison for men operated by the BOP. Located in Pennington Gap, Virginia, approximately 535 miles from DC. Inspected on October 16-17, 2018. DC population was 113 men.

FCI McDowell

Medium security prison for men operated by the BOP. Located in Welch, West Virginia, approximately 356 miles from DC. Inspected on December 13-14, 2018. DC population was 117 men.

DC Central Detention Facility

Mixed security jail facility for men operated by the DOC. Located in Southeast Washington, DC. Inspected on February 25-26, 2019. Population was 1,260 men.

DC Correctional Treatment Facility

Mixed security jail facility for men and women operated by the DOC. Located in Southeast Washington, DC. Inspected on February 25-26, 2019. Population was 366 men and 90 women.

Rivers Correctional Institute

Private prison for men operated by the GEO Group, Inc. under a contract with the BOP. Located in Winton, North Carolina, approximately 246 miles from DC. Inspected on July 9-10, 2019. DC population was 286 men.

USP Hazelton

High security prison for men operated by the BOP. Located in Bruceton Mills, West Virginia, approximately 204 miles from DC. Inspected on October 3, 2018. DC population was 191 men. Inspected on August 14-15, 2019. DC population was 172 men.

SFF Hazelton

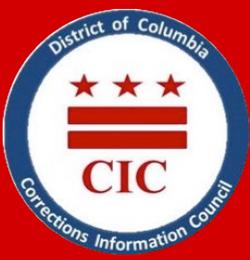
Low security prison for women operated by the BOP. Located in Bruceton Mills, West Virginia, approximately 204 miles from DC. Inspected on August 14-15, 2019. DC population was 29 women.

FCI Hazelton

Medium security prison for men operated by the BOP. Located in Bruceton Mills, West Virginia, approximately 204 miles from DC. Inspected on August 14-15, 2019. DC population was 192 men.

Department of Corrections

Observations & Publications



DOC Facilities

The DC Department of Corrections (DOC) operates two primary jail facilities — the Central Detention Facility (CDF, also known as the DC Jail) and the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) — in addition to the Central Cell Block holding cells. The DOC also contracts for beds at two local halfway houses — Hope Village and the Fairview.

Central Detention Facility

The CDF, also known as the DC Jail, is located in Southeast DC. The facility was opened in 1976 and has a capacity of 2,164 inmates. The facility houses only male inmates, and most are awaiting trial or were convicted of a misdemeanor offense. At the end of fiscal year 2019, the population was 1,275 men.

Correctional Treatment Facility

The CTF is located adjacent to the CDF in Southeast DC. The facility was opened in 1992 and has a capacity of 1,400 inmates. The facility houses male and female inmates, and similar to the CDF, most are awaiting trial or were convicted of a misdemeanor offense. Unlike the CDF, the CTF can only house individuals designated as low to medium security. At the end of fiscal year 2019, the population was 436 men and 108 women.

Central Cell Block holding cells

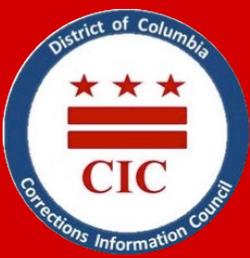
The Central Cell Block is located in Judiciary Square at the Henry J. Daly Building on Indiana Avenue in Northwest DC. The building is primarily occupied by the Metropolitan Police Department, and the Central Cell Block holding cells are in the basement. The Central Cell Block provides access to the nearby DC Superior Court, and holds individuals temporarily who are awaiting a court hearing, including individuals who are arrested and held overnight.

Hope Village

Hope Village is a privately-operated halfway house located in Southeast DC for male residents. It is the only halfway house in the District for men, and it has contracts with both the DOC and the BOP to provide beds for returning citizens as they prepare for their release transition. At the end of fiscal year 2019, the population was 26 men under DOC custody.

The Fairview

The Fairview is a privately-operated halfway house located in Northeast DC for female residents. It is the only halfway house in the District for women, and it has contracts with both the DOC and the BOP to provide beds for returning citizens for their release transition. At the end of fiscal year 2019, the population was three women under DOC custody.



DOC Publications

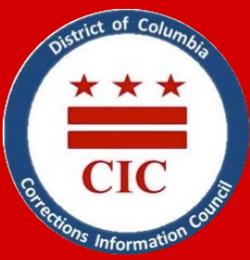
The CIC published its 2018 annual report on the DOC on May 21, 2019. The CIC also published a report on inmates in DOC custody who were eligible for the Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act (IRAA) on February 7, 2019, and a letter to the DOC about outdoor recreation on April 18, 2019.

DOC 2018 Annual Inspection Report – Published May 21, 2019

The CDF (also known as the DC Jail) and the CTF are adjacent jail facilities operated by the DOC and located in Southeast DC. These facilities primarily house individual who are awaiting trial or who have been convicted of misdemeanor offenses by the DC Superior Court.

The CIC inspected the DOC facilities on September 20, 2018, and September 26, 2018. The CDF population was 1,348 inmates out of a 2,164 facility capacity, and the CTF population was 685 inmates out of a 1,400 capacity. The average daily population between the facilities was 1,849 men and 155 women, and all female inmates are held at the CTF. The average sentence for female inmates was 44 days, while the average sentence for male inmates was 79 days. Juveniles charged as adults in DOC custody were moved prior to the CIC visit to the New Beginnings Youth Development Center operated by the Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS).

During the inspection, the CIC heard concerns about various aspects of the conditions at DOC facilities, including housing, safety, education, medical services, religious services, food, visitation, mail and other forms of communication, disciplinary procedures, the grievance process, and access to legal assistance. The DOC had worked to address several issues, including maintenance to addressing sewage flooding on housing units and increased education and programming opportunities at the CTF. The CIC recommended that these opportunities be expanded to the CDF population, which still lacked adequate programming. The CIC also made recommendations that the DOC address the heating and air conditioning temperature problems and provide adequate cleaning supplies on units, ensure case managers are available on a daily basis, clearly communicate disciplinary procedures and decisions, and respond to grievances promptly, among others.



DOC Publications

(continued)

DOC Outdoor Recreation Letter – Published April 18, 2019

The CIC received numerous complaints about a lack of adequate recreation at DOC facilities in early 2019, and visited the CDF and CTF on February 25-26, 2019. Inmates at the CTF usually receive one hour of recreational time out of their unit each day, such as in the indoor gym or the outdoor recreational yard. According to staff, outdoor recreation at the CTF was suspended from November 2018 through February 2019 because the yard did not have proper drainage and therefore would remain flooded. Staff also noted that staff shortages limit the availability of outdoor recreation. At the CDF, outdoor recreation occurs on a concrete yard for most inmates or in chain-link cages for inmates who are separated from the general population. The CDF does not have an indoor gym. Most individuals at the CDF were able to access recreation several times a week, although this was also limited by weather and staff shortages.

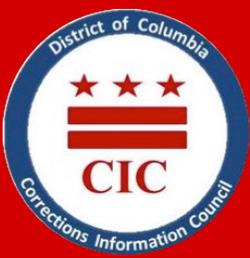
IRAA Inmates in DOC Custody Report – Published February 7, 2019

In 2016, the Council passed the Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act (IRAA), which allowed individuals to request a sentence reduction if they were convicted in DC Superior Court for crimes committed before they turned 18 years old and they had served at least 20 years of their original sentence. Between June and August 2018, the CIC interviewed inmates who were awaiting hearings for sentence reductions under IRAA. In December 2018, 23 individuals were at local DOC facilities for an IRAA hearing, including 16 people at the CDF and seven at the CTF, and they had served an average of 23.3 years. The CIC heard concerns about safety and the lack of programming at the CDF, and the CIC recommended that the DOC transfer inmates eligible for IRAA to the CTF. In response to the CIC report, the DOC noted that individuals designated with higher security levels would not be able to be housed at the CTF because it is a low to medium security facility.

In May 2019, the IRAA statute was amended to reduce the minimum time served to 15 years before eligible to request a sentence reduction. Additional individuals have applied for a reduction under the “IRAA 2.0” and been released after having their sentence reduced. The Council also introduced legislation in February 2019 to further amend the IRAA statute to increase the eligibility to anyone who served 15 years and was under 25 years old at the time the crime was committed. This “IRAA 3.0” bill had a public hearing on March 26, 2019, and was still awaiting Council consideration.

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Observations &
Publications



BOP Security Levels

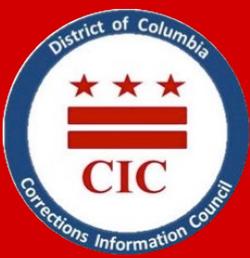
The BOP classifies facilities according to five designated security levels – minimum, low, medium, high, and administrative. Security levels are based on the physical features and staffing levels of the institutions. At lower security levels, inmates have less restricted movements and greater access to programming and reentry services.

The name of a BOP facility generally reflects its designated security level.

- Federal Prison Camps (FPCs) are minimum security facilities.
- Federal Correctional Institutions (FCIs) are generally low or medium security.
- United States Penitentiaries (USPs) are generally high security. They often have adjacent minimum security satellite camps that provide inmate labor to the main institution.
- Secure Female Facility (SFF) in Hazelton, West Virginia, is a low security facility for women, which is included as part of the FCI Hazelton institution.
- Federal Correctional Complexes (FCCs) refer to locations where several facilities are located in close proximity to each other, which often share resources and staffing.

Administrative facilities are institutions with special missions, such as pretrial detention or medical treatment. They are generally able to house inmates of any security level.

- Federal Medical Centers (FMCs) and the Medical Center for Federal Prisons (MCFP) are medical facilities that provide treatment for serious or chronic medical problems.
- Federal Detention Centers (FDCs), Metropolitan Detention Centers (MDCs), and Metropolitan Correctional Centers (MCCs) are administrative detention facilities that primarily house individuals who are awaiting trial.
- The Federal Transit Center (FTC) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is a transit center located near an airport to provide a central hub for the transportation of inmates across the country.
- Administrative Maximum Security Penitentiary (ADX) in Florence, Colorado, and the Administrative United States Penitentiary (AUSP) in Thomson, Illinois, are the highest security level facilities in the BOP, where inmates are generally confined to their cells for 23 to 24 hours per day.



BOP Population

At the end of fiscal year 2019, 4,049 DC residents were incarcerated in over 120 BOP prisons and halfway houses across 35 states, including 3,927 men and 122 women. Out of these individuals, 265 men and 43 women were classified as in-transit status.

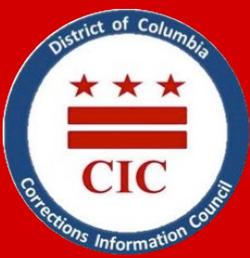
Excluding halfway houses, women from DC were housed at ten different BOP prisons, and men were housed at 100 prisons, with four prisons housing both men and women.

The average distance for a DC resident in a federal prison was 596 driving miles from DC. For women, the average distance was 736 miles, and 593 miles on average for men. In total, 2,247 individuals (63%) were within a 500-mile driving range of DC, including 39 women (57%). The remaining 1,294 men and 30 women were up to 2,921 miles away.

The number of DC residents housed at each type of facility is provided in the table below, excluding the 200 individuals who were at halfway houses. The designated security level of individual inmates may differ from the facility where they are housed.

DC Population by Facility Type

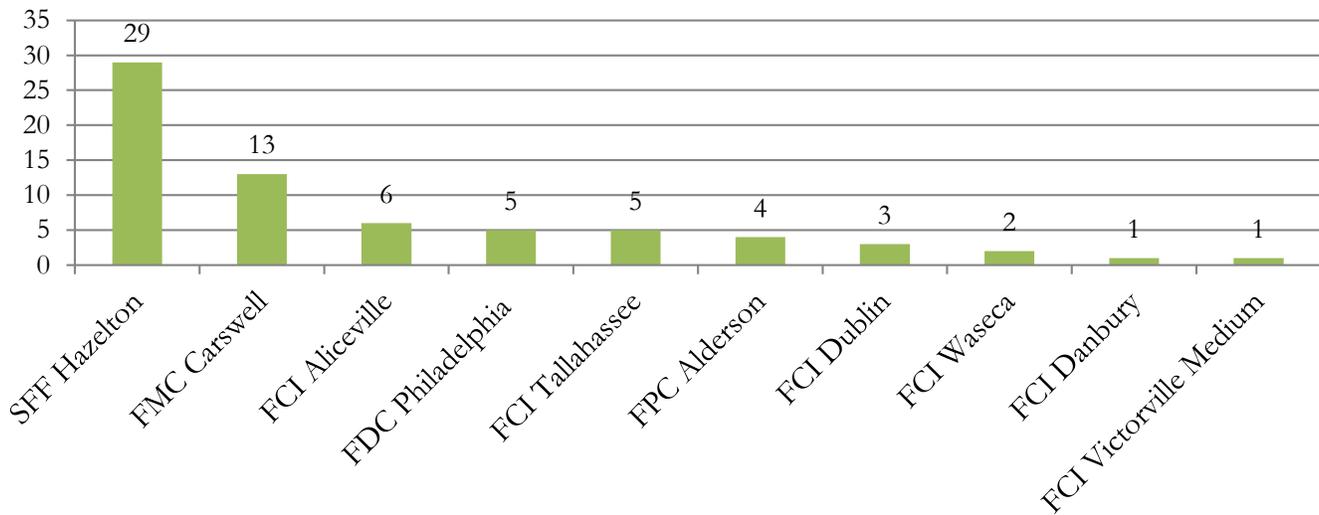
	Minimum	Low	Medium	High	Max	Private	Medical	Other
Men	0	341	1,428	1,185	104	227	96	91
Women	4	46	1	0	0	0	13	5
Total	4	358	1,458	1,185	104	227	109	96



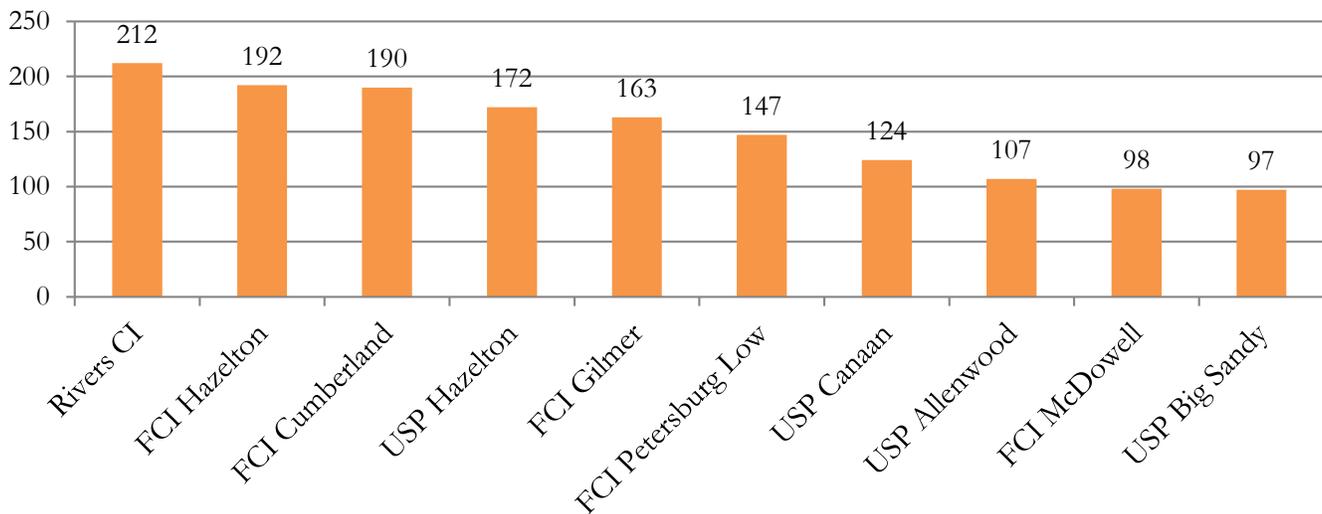
BOP Population (continued)

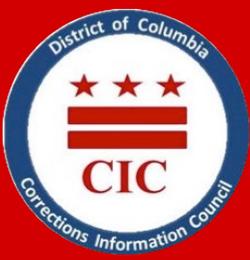
All ten female prisons and the ten male prisons with the largest DC populations are provided in the charts below. The charts do not include individuals who were designated as in-transit status.

Female Facility Populations



Largest Male Facility Populations





BOP Publications

In fiscal year 2019, the CIC published eight inspection reports on BOP facilities, including six prisons and two halfway houses. The CIC also decided not to publish six reports from inspections conducted between February and October 2015 due to the outdated nature of the information. Halfway house reports are covered in the next section.

USP Hazelton Letter to BOP – Published October 22, 2018

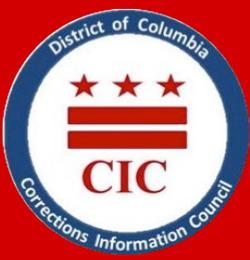
United States Penitentiary (USP) Hazelton is a high security prison located in Bruceton Mills, West Virginia, approximately 200 miles from DC. The CIC conducted an onsite inspection of the facility on October 3, 2018, after the deaths of two DC inmates in separate stabbing incidents. One inmate was killed in April 2018 and the other in September 2018. The CIC interviewed 58 inmates from DC, including 12 who were in the Special Housing Unit. Many interviewees expressed concerns about the violence at the facility, with a quarter saying that physical attacks were a daily occurrence. The facility was also frequently put on lockdowns status, where inmates are confined to their cells all day long and are unable to participate in programming or recreation.

ADX Florence Inspection Report – Published October 31, 2018

USP Florence ADMAX (also known as ADX Florence) is an administrative maximum security prison located in Florence, Colorado, approximately 1,700 miles from DC. The CIC conducted an onsite inspection of the facility on April 26-27, 2017. At the time of the inspection, 427 inmates were housed at the facility, including 35 individuals from DC. DC inmates are disproportionately housed at ADX Florence, representing 8.2% of the facility population compared to 2.5% of the total population in the BOP. As the most secure prison in the BOP, inmates are held in solitary confinement and generally stay in their cells all day, except for one hour each weekday for recreation. Several DC inmates housed at the facility had mental health issues that were not being treated, and many who were interviewed expressed concerns about the psychological and physical harm caused by the restrictive environment.

USP Atwater Inspection Report – Published February 19, 2019

USP Atwater is a high security prison located in Atwater, California, approximately 2,860 miles from DC. The CIC conducted an onsite inspection of the facility on April 11-12, 2018. At the time, the facility had a total population of 1,280 inmates, including 30 individuals from DC. In the year prior to the inspection, the facility was frequently put on lockdown status, which prevented inmates from participating in programming. Inmates also expressed that the lockdowns, combined with the distance from DC and other restrictions on communications, significantly limited their ability to maintain contact with the families and loved ones.



BOP Publications

(continued)

FCI McKean Inspection Report – Published July 11, 2019

Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) McKean is a medium security prison located in Lewis Run, Pennsylvania, approximately 220 miles from DC. The CIC conducted an onsite inspection of the facility on July 20, 2017. At the time, the facility had a total population of 932 inmates, including 33 individuals from DC. Over two-thirds of DC inmates who were interviewed said that they were treated worse than other inmates by staff because of their DC status, and many inmates were also dissatisfied with the quality of dental services in the medical department. FCI McKean was developing a promising practice of hosting “Family Day” events every four weeks, where children may visit their parent for a full day.

USP Pollock Inspection Report – Published July 11, 2019

USP Pollock is a high security prison located in Pollock, Louisiana, approximately 1,160 miles from DC. The CIC conducted an onsite inspection on December 14-15, 2017. At the time, the facility housed 907 inmates, including 48 individuals from DC. During the inspection, the facility was on lockdown status, which meant that inmates were not allowed out of their cells, and documents indicated that the facility had been put on lockdown 16 times in the prior 12 months period. Many inmates expressed concerns with the frequent lockdowns and the lack of available programming at the facility beyond GED classes.

USP Lee Inspection Report – Published September 6, 2019

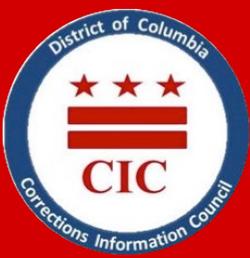
USP Lee is a high security prison located in Pennington Gap, Virginia, approximately 430 miles from DC. The CIC conducted an onsite inspection of the facility on October 16-17, 2018, after previously visiting the facility in October 2015. In 2018, the facility had an average daily population of 1,371 inmates, including 113 individuals from DC in August. DC inmates who were interviewed expressed concerns about the frequent lockdowns at the facility that had a negative effect on programming, communication, and hygiene. Many interviewees also expressed concerns about a culture of violence and staff encouragement of violence between inmates. Several housing units also had plumbing issues that caused sewage to flood the cells, and inmates stated that they were not given proper cleaning materials and protection.

Unpublished Reports

The CIC developed a backlog of reports during its first years of operation due to chronic understaffing. In fiscal year 2019, the CIC decided not to publish six reports that were based on inspections conducted between February and October 2015. These reports were: FCC Beaumont, FCC Coleman, FDC Philadelphia, FCI Fort Dix, FCI Gilmer, and USP McCreary.

Halfway Houses

Observations &
Publications

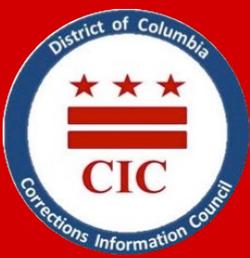


RRC Overview

Halfway houses, also known as residential reentry centers (RRCs), are transitional housing programs that prepare individuals for release. They are intended to provide community-based services and work release components in a supportive and structured environment for several months to allow for successful transitions back into the community. Most halfway houses are operated by private organizations through contracts with correctional agencies.

The DOC contracts with two halfway houses — Hope Village and the Fairview. The BOP contracts with numerous halfway houses throughout the country, and most individuals returning to DC in BOP custody are designated to Hope Village, the Fairview, VoA Chesapeake, or the Montgomery County Pre-Release Center (PRC).

Hope Village and the Montgomery County PRC house only male residents, while the Fairview is only for female residents. VoA Chesapeake houses both men and women.



RRC Publications

In fiscal year 2019, the CIC published two reports on halfway houses that serve DC residents.

VoA Chesapeake RRC Inspection Report – Published October 25, 2018

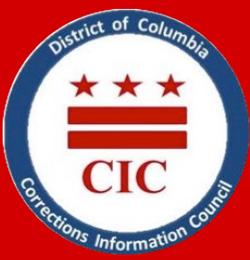
Volunteers of America (VoA) Chesapeake is a halfway house located in Baltimore, Maryland, approximately 50 miles from DC, which houses both male and female residents who are approaching their release date. The CIC conducted an onsite inspection of the facility on September 19, 2017. At that time, the facility had 148 residents, including 26 individuals from DC. Many of the residents said they did not have adequate access to DC services and expressed that they had difficulty getting to the District due to transportation issues caused by the distance and staff. Placement at a halfway house is an important step for returning citizens to connect with local services and begin their transition back into the community.

The Fairview RRC Inspection Report – Published July 22, 2019

The Fairview is a halfway house located in Northeast DC, which houses female residents who are approaching their release date. The CIC conducted an onsite inspection on May 3, 2018. At the time, the facility had a capacity of 60 residents and was housing 20 residents, including 15 from the BOP, one from the DOC, and four who were on home confinement. Most residents were employed, and they expressed that they were generally satisfied with their experiences with staff at the Fairview. The most prominent issue for many interviewees was finding housing for themselves after their release.

Youth Rehabilitation Act

Observations &
Publications



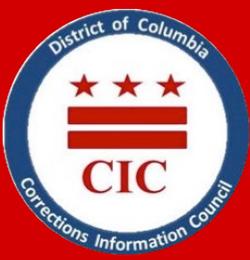
Youth Rehabilitation Act

In 2019, the Council mandated the CIC to report annually on conditions of confinement for individuals sentenced under the Youth Rehabilitation Act (YRA). In preparing the first annual report, the CIC reviewed the several statutory sources, including the Federal Youth Corrections Act, the Youth Rehabilitation Act of 1985, and the Youth Rehabilitation Act of 2018. In addition, the CIC interviewed DC residents housed within the BOP as well as facility staff program coordinators. The CIC also consulted with the BOP Correctional Programs Division and reviewed the 2017 report prepared by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), *The District's Youth Rehabilitation Act: An Analysis*.

As of March 2019, there were 246 YRA individuals in BOP custody, with the majority housed in medium security prisons and over one quarter in high security prisons. Although the YRA authorizes the BOP to provide developmentally appropriate services for youth offenders, these services are not mandated by statute. The CIC found that the BOP does not offer any specialized programming for the YRA population. The BOP program designed for younger individuals — the Bureau Rehabilitation and Values Enhancement (BRAVE) program — is not designed for rehabilitation but instead is meant to help adjust to life inside prison. The DOC also does not provide programming specifically designed for YRA individuals, and instead individuals have access to the standard available programming.

The CIC recommends that the YRA population in the BOP be designated to two facilities where they could get programs and services that are tailored specifically for YRA individuals. The CIC also recommends that the BOP assess the impact of the programming on the YRA population. Finally, the CIC recommends that the Mayor publicly identify the programs and services that should be available to YRA individuals who are in the custody of the BOP or DOC.

Events & Community Outreach



Community Engagement

Monthly newsletters

The CIC produces a monthly newsletter to keep the community informed of the agency's operations as well as relevant news and updates on the incarcerated DC population. Since August 2019, the newsletter has expanded with a "Women's Corner" section highlighting conditions for incarcerated women from DC, a "Book of the Month" section featuring a book that a staff member is reading or recently completed, and a section for upcoming community events.

Social media initiatives

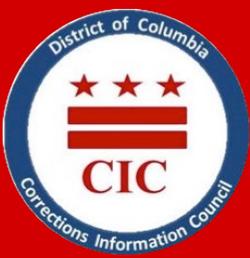
In fiscal year 2019, the CIC increased its social media presence by creating an Instagram page. This gives the agency an additional platform to promote events, meetings, and relevant news. The CIC continues to use Twitter and Facebook to increase engagement. In addition, the CIC website now has a tab for news updates, which highlights local and national news that affects the DC incarcerated population and their families.

Holiday postcards

Each year during the winter holiday season, the CIC sends out postcards to DC residents in BOP facilities. The CIC continued its annual tradition of hosting events with community partners to fill out and sign the postcards. This year, the design for the postcard was changed and included a message that read, "Keep Going." We broadened the scope of the project by collaborating with new community partners, such as the Spice Suite, Martha's Table, and Represent Justice. We also worked with the DOC on a new initiative to hand deliver postcards to a portion of the DC inmates at the CTF. We hope to expand these efforts to the CDF next year.

Open board meetings in fiscal year 2019

The CIC held five board meetings that were open to the public in fiscal year 2019. The meetings provide an opportunity for members of the public to learn about the agency's operations and findings regarding the conditions of confinement. Topics discussed at meetings included recent and upcoming inspections, community engagement, and reporting practices. The meetings were held on December 6, 2018, and January 3, February 21, April 18, and July 25, 2019. The July 25th meeting did not have a quorum of three board members, and so no official business was conducted.



Community Engagement (continued)

CSOSA Community Resource Day videoconferencing

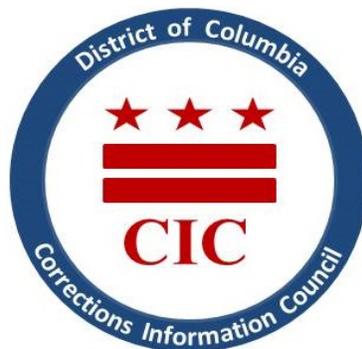
The Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency of Washington, DC (CSOSA) provides a quarterly Community Resource Day for DC residents in BOP custody who are within 90 days of release. Through videoconferencing, CSOSA staff and representatives from other organizations provide information on housing, healthcare, employment, education, and other resources in the DC area. The CIC regularly attends the videoconferencing event to inform DC returning citizens about the opportunity to speak with the CIC about their experiences.

District Task Force on Jails and Justice

The District Task Force on Jails and Justice was established by the District in 2019 as an independent advisory body to provide recommendations on how the District should allocate governmental resources for the justice system, what services and investments are most effective, and how to build a new jail facility that addresses community needs. After receiving input from hundreds of residents and community members, the Task Force issued its Phase I report in October 2019. The Task Force is led by Council for Court Excellence (CCE), which is joined by its partners, the Vera Institute of Justice and the National Reentry Network of Returning Citizens. Executive Director Donald Isaac is an advisor to the Task Force.

American Correctional Association conference

Executive Director Donald Isaac attended the American Correctional Association's 149th Congress of Correction conference in August 2019. The ACA is a nonprofit trade association that was formed in 1870 and serves as the accrediting body for most correctional departments in the country, including the BOP and the DC DOC. The conference addressed a broad range of topics, including the issue of mental health in our correctional systems. Throughout the country, suicide is the leading cause of death in prisons and jails, often exacerbated by underlying psychiatric disorders, and most inmates who have mental illnesses are not provided treatment while incarcerated. The CIC will be looking into these issues further in the upcoming fiscal year.



Corrections Information Council

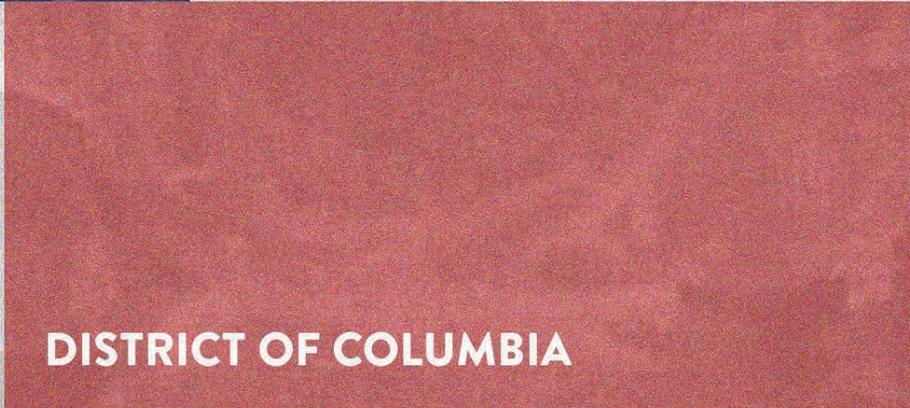
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Suite 400

Washington, DC 20005

202-478-9211

www.cic.dc.gov



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



**CORRECTIONS
INFORMATION
COUNCIL**



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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ABOUT THE CIC

The District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC) is an independent oversight agency that inspects, monitors, and reports on the conditions of confinement of DC residents at facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the DC Department of Corrections (DOC), or their private contractors. During fiscal year 2020, the CIC mandate encompassed a population of approximately 4,050 inmates in over 120 BOP prisons and halfway houses across 35 states, as well as an average of over 1,800 inmates in DOC custody at local facilities.

Established by the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, the CIC had board members first appointed in 2002 and again in 2006. The agency was reestablished in 2012 with a new board and its first operating budget. The CIC's mandate was expanded by legislation in 2003 and 2011, and in 2017, the board was expanded from three members to five. In 2019, the CIC was given the responsibility to report annually on the conditions of individuals who had been sentenced under the Youth Rehabilitation Act (YRA).

The CIC experienced staffing changes and work environment changes during the Coronavirus pandemic. Due to BOP wide lockdowns, in person visits were suspended and CIC chose to disseminate surveys into facilities to maintain communication with DC adults in custody.

In addition to ongoing work, the CIC executed a myriad of projects throughout fiscal year 2020, including:

- COVID-19 survey sent to DC residents in BOP custody
- Two thematic reports and two inspection reports published
- Holiday postcard writing initiative in November and December of 2019, with over 4,000 postcards sent to incarcerated DC residents from dozens of volunteers and constituents, including a new design for the postcards
- CIC open meetings held quarterly throughout the fiscal year
- Quarterly DOC inspections, reports, and information; and focus on the Youth Act of 2018
- Corresponding and documenting communication with over 100 DC residents in custody

The CIC is thankful for the support and communication from incarcerated individuals who are willing to correspond, as well as community members, service providers, government agencies, correctional institutions, and policy-makers.

BOARD AND STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CHARLES THORNTON
Board Chair
since 2016



KATHARINE HUFFMAN
Board Member
since 2012



NKECHI TAIFA
Board Member
since 2018

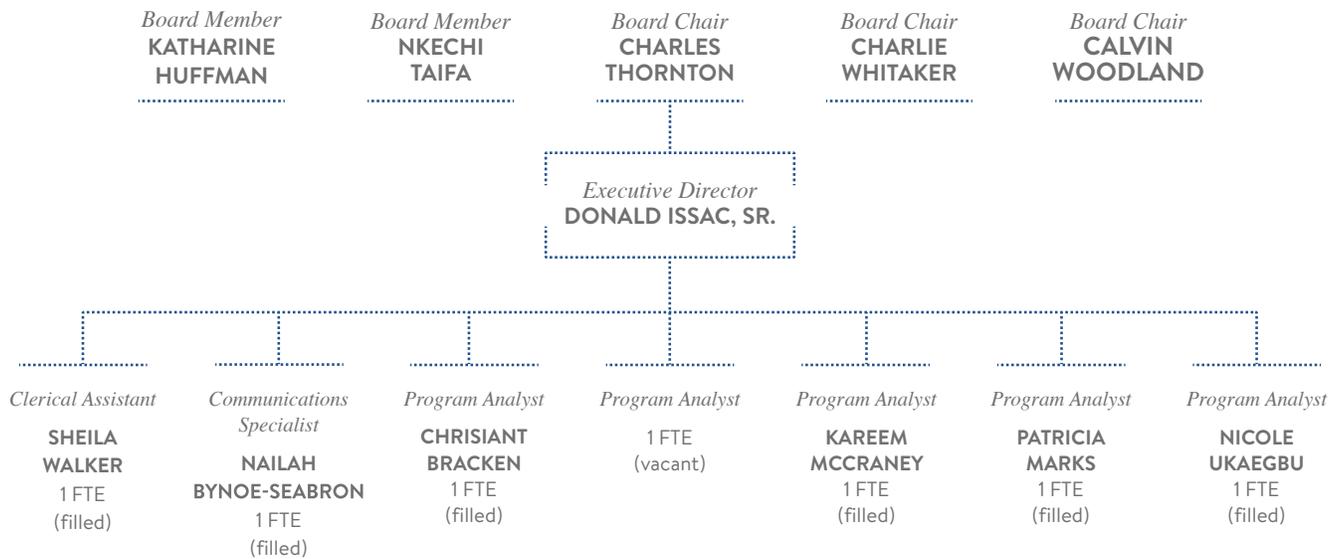


CHARLIE WHITAKER
Board Member
since 2018



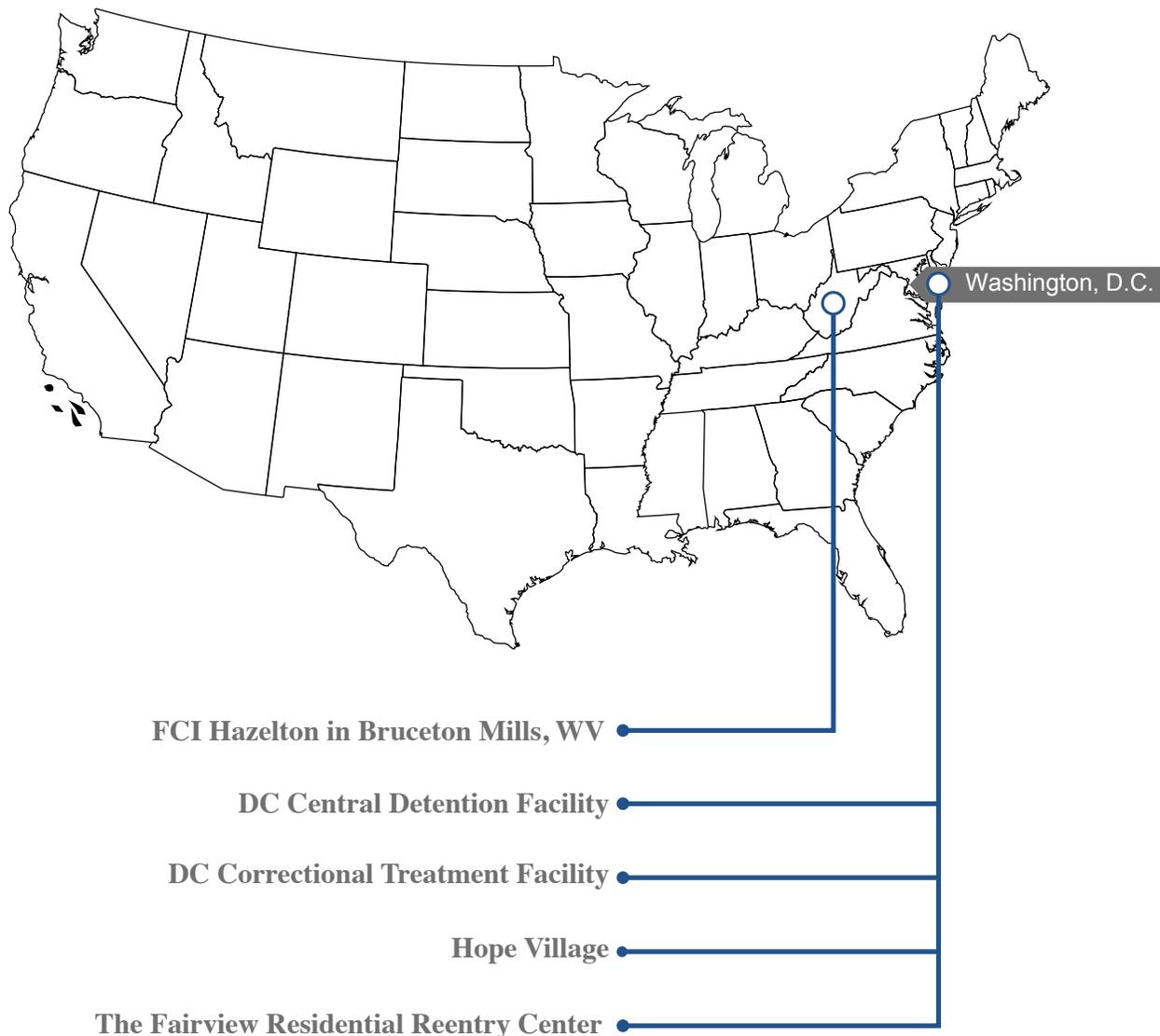
CALVIN WOODLAND
Board Member
since 2018

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



FACILITY INSPECTIONS

In fiscal year 2020, the CIC conducted four inspections. The two BOP facilities inspected were Hope Village and FCI Hazelton (previously inspected in fiscal year 2019 with a follow-up inspection completed in fiscal year 2020). The two DOC facilities inspected were the Central Detention Facility (CDF, also known as the DC Jail) and the adjacent Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF). Subsequent facility inspections were intended, but due to the Coronavirus pandemic, all visits to BOP facilities have been suspended.



INSPECTED FACILITIES

FCI Hazelton

FCI Hazelton is a medium security prison for men operated by the BOP, located in Bruceton Mills, West Virginia, approximately 204 miles from DC. The CIC inspected FCI Hazelton on November 20-21, 2019. The DC population (at the time) was 192 men.

DC Central Detention Facility

The DC Central Detention Facility (CDF) is a mixed security jail facility for men operated by the DOC located in Southeast Washington, DC. The CDF was inspected on February 22-23, 2020. The population (at the time) was 1,260 men.

DC Correctional Treatment Facility

The DC Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) is a mixed security jail facility for men and women operated by the DOC located in Southeast Washington, DC. The CIC inspected the CTF on February 22-23, 2020. The population (at the time) was 366 men and 90 women.

Hope Village (Closed on April 30, 2020)

The Hope Village Halfway house was a facility located in Southeast DC for male residents. It was the only halfway house in the District for men, and it had contracts with both the DOC and the BOP to provide beds for returning citizens as they prepared for their release transition.

The Fairview Residential Reentry Center (RRC)

The Fairview is a privately-operated halfway house located in Northeast DC for female residents. It is the only halfway house in the District for women, and it has contracts with both the DOC and the BOP to provide beds to returning citizens for their release transition. The current population is 15 women.

DC DEPARTMENT *of* CORRECTIONS

Fiscal year 2020 DC Department of Corrections (“DOC”) facilities



Central Detention Facility
(“CDF” or “DC Jail”)
adult men only

Correctional Treatment Facility (“CTF”)
women
adult men
DOC-operated unit for juveniles charged as adults

Central Cellblock
The holding cells for DC Superior Court

Contracted beds in residential reentry centers
“RRCs” or “halfway houses”

DOC PUBLICATIONS

The CIC published a report on April 6, 2020, which focused on conditions of confinement within the DOC during the Covid-19 pandemic. The CIC also published its 2020 annual report on the DOC on October 8, 2020, which focused on promising practices.

CIC Visit to the DOC (April 6, 2020)

Published April 16, 2020

On Monday, April 6, 2020, CIC Program Analyst Kareem McCraney and DC Council member Trayon White (Ward 8) conducted a site visit of the Central Detention Facility (CDF) at the DC Department of Corrections (DOC). The goals of the visit were to learn about the processes and preventive measures recently implemented in order to minimize the opportunity for residents and staff to contract and/or spread COVID-19, and to observe the overall conditions of the population.

DOC 2020 Annual Inspection Report

Published October 8, 2020

The DC Department of Corrections (DOC) operates two jail facilities: the Correctional Treatment Center (CTF), and the Central Detention Facility also known as the DC Jail (CDF). The facilities are adjacent to one another and are located in Southeast Washington, DC.

The CTF complex typically houses residents who are minimum or medium security, including females, as well as male residents who have specialized confinement needs. The CDF houses male residents, a majority of whom are held pending adjudication of a criminal case or are sentenced to a period of incarceration following conviction for a misdemeanor offense. Other CDF residents include those held on United States Parole Commission (USPC) warrants, those awaiting transfer to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), and those held due to a writ or hold - typically awaiting transfer to another jurisdiction.

On February 24, 2020, CIC staff met with DOC staff at the CTF and CDF about promising practices related to programs within the DOC. CIC staff interviewed residents confined at the CDF and CTF to hear about their access to programs and program availability. As part of the DOC inspection, the CIC toured areas of both the CTF and CDF, including all program units, educational classroom spaces, chapel areas, and general population units. In addition, the CIC was able to observe some of the classes and programs during live classes.

FEDERAL BUREAU *of* PRISONS

As of October 1, 2020, there were 3,364 DC residents in BOP custody. DC inmates are incarcerated in over 118 federal facilities and contract facilities across 35 states, including the District of Columbia.

The BOP classifies facilities according to five designated security levels: minimum, low, medium, high, and administrative. Security levels are based on the physical features and staffing levels of the institutions. At lower security levels, inmates have less restricted movements and greater access to programming and reentry services. The name of a BOP facility generally reflects its designated security level.

- Federal Prison Camps (FPCs) are minimum security facilities.
- Federal Correctional Institutions (FCIs) are generally low or medium security.
- United States Penitentiaries (USPs) are generally high security. They often have adjacent minimum security satellite camps that provide inmate labor to the main institution.
- Secure Female Facility (SFF) in Hazelton, West Virginia, is a low security facility for women, which is included as part of the FCI Hazelton institution.
- Federal Correctional Complexes (FCCs) refer to locations where several facilities are located in close proximity to each other, which often share resources and staffing. Administrative facilities are institutions with special missions, such as pretrial detention or medical treatment. They are generally able to house inmates of any security level.
- Federal Medical Centers (FMCs) and the Medical Center for Federal Prisons (MCFP) are medical facilities that provide treatment for serious or chronic medical problems.
- Federal Detention Centers (FDCs), Metropolitan Detention Centers (MDCs), and Metropolitan Correctional Centers (MCCs) are administrative detention facilities that primarily house individuals who are awaiting trial.
- The Federal Transit Center (FTC) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is a transit center located near an airport to provide a central hub for the transportation of inmates across the country.
- Administrative Maximum Security Penitentiary (ADX) in Florence, Colorado, and the Administrative United States Penitentiary (AUSP) in Thomson, Illinois, are the highest security level facilities in the BOP, where inmates are generally confined to their cells for 23 to 24 hours per day.

BOP PUBLICATIONS

In fiscal year 2020, the CIC published seven reports pertaining to the BOP, including letters transmitted to the BOP during the Coronavirus pandemic.

SFF Hazelton

Published April 6, 2020

The CIC conducted an inspection of Secure Female Facility (SFF Hazelton) on August 14th - 15th, 2019. SFF Hazelton, one of four institutions that comprise the Hazelton Federal Correctional Complex in Bruceton Mill, West Virginia, housed 25 DC women at the time of this report publication. SFF Hazelton, is a medium security female facility approximately 193 miles outside of DC. All interviewees expressed concerns about “mass punishment” – the practice of holding all residents responsible for the behaviors of a few. The women were most concerned about having to eat bagged meals on the housing units, and the spending limit placed on commissary.

Rivers CF

Published July 21, 2020

The CIC conducted an inspection of Rivers CF on July 9 - 10th, 2019. Rivers Correctional Facility Rivers CF is a low security private contract facility for adult males located in northeastern North Carolina, 212 miles away from Washington, DC. At the time of the CIC site visit, there were 1,347 inmates incarcerated at the facility, including 212 DC Code offenders. The most common concerns the CIC heard from DC individuals at Rivers CF were due to the imbalance between the two main populations housed at the facility. The non-DC population at the facility is primarily immigrant detainees, and interviewees mentioned tension between Black inmates and Spanish-speaking detainees, along with concerns for their safety if violence occurred. DC residents also felt that Spanish-speaking inmates received preferential treatment for job access, disciplinary decisions, commissary selections, recreation opportunities, and food menu options.

BOP PUBLICATIONS

Hope Village Statement and Condensed Report on Supplies During Covid-19

Published March 27, 2020

On Thursday March 26, 2020, the CIC conducted a site visit at Hope Village in response to community concerns raised this week about inadequate supplies. CIC staff had a conversation with Hope Village executive staff and program staff, as well as the BOP Residential Reentry Manager, who participated via speaker phone. The CIC asked a number of questions about updated policies for daily activities at Hope Village, as well as questions about programming, movement, transit between facilities, visitation, and release. CIC staff then walked through the dining areas currently in use and several areas where supplies and food are being stored. The inspection's observations included Covid-19 testing and treatment, food/meals, cleaning supplies, supply drop-offs, releases/transfers, and other daily functions.

Fairview Residential Reentry Center (RRC) Visit on April 3, 2020

Published April 27, 2020

CIC Board Chairman, Charles Thornton, conducted a walk-through of Fairview RRC on April 3, 2020, in response to community concerns regarding the coronavirus and its impact on halfway house populations. On March 31, 2020, he sent a request for himself and two additional CIC staff members to view the facility and speak with residents. Fairview Director, Sheri McCoy, received the request. She replied that the facility owner, Ms. Reynolds of Reynolds and Associates, would permit one person to visit and speak with staff and residents. The current roster of the facility at that time was comprised of 20 residents. Of those 20, nine were on home confinement, and 11 were housed at the facility. Of the 11 housed at the facility, nine were from the BOP and two were from the DC DOC.

BOP PUBLICATIONS

Hope Village Closure and Transfer to Volunteers of America (VOA)

Published April 27, 2020

Since the announcement of Hope Village not seeking a contract extension from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the CIC gathered information on the BOP's plan for current residents after the current contract expired on April 30, 2020. The BOP shared that staff visited Hope Village on Tuesday April 14, 2020 to meet with individual residents about their proposed release plans. The BOP shared that of the 140 individuals currently at Hope Village, they expect to release 102 individuals to home confinement. Thirty-two individuals were transferred to the Volunteers of America Chesapeake facility at 5000 E Monument St. Baltimore, MD during the week of April 27, 2020. The BOP indicated that they do not anticipate returning any individuals currently at Hope Village to BOP secure facilities.

CIC Letter to the BOP and the BOP Response Regarding Home Confinement for DC Inmates

Published April 29, 2020

On April 9, 2020, the CIC sent a letter addressed to the BOP Director, Michael Carvajal about the growing concerns for DC inmates within BOP facilities during the time of the Coronavirus pandemic. The letter also addresses the recent consideration for certain inmates to be released into home confinement due to the impact of the Coronavirus within BOP facilities. The BOP responded to this letter on April 27, 2020.

CIC and BOP Meeting on Current COVID Data, Compassionate Release, Home Confinement, and DC Emergency Legislation

Published June 4, 2020

The Corrections Information Council (CIC) had a meeting with Deputy Director Thomas R. Kane and other representatives of the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) via teleconference on Wednesday, May 27, 2020. The goal of the meeting was to address effective communication of information between the two entities, with special emphasis on data related to the Coronavirus pandemic. Representatives from MORCA, OVSJG, and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice also participated. The CIC inquired about home confinement and compassionate release efforts, as well as the total amount of DC code offenders who have tested positive for COVID-19, recovered from COVID-19, and all deaths of DC code offenders (regardless of whether or not related to COVID-19).

THEMATIC REPORTS

In fiscal year 2020, the CIC produced two thematic reports. In addition to reports based on facility inspections or CIC events, thematic reports focus on research about issues affecting incarcerated DC residents.

The Implementation of DC Code 24-403.04 Motions for Compassionate Releases as of September 14, 2020

Published September 30, 2020

On April 7, 2020, the DC Council passed emergency legislation, which expanded the eligibility of DC Code offenders to apply to the Superior Court for compassionate release. This report explains the compassionate release process and implementation.

Update on the District of Columbia Youth Rehabilitation Act

Published September 30, 2020

In fiscal year 2020 the CIC published an annual report concerning the facilities, treatment, and services for Youth Rehabilitation Act (YRA) offenders in the care and custody of the Department of Corrections (DOC) and Bureau of Prisons (BOP). As part of the 2018 amendment to the YRA, the Mayor was required to develop and submit a strategic plan for providing the facilities, treatment, and services for youth offenders [in the care and custody of the DOC]” by September 30, 2019. The legislation also specified that the BOP is authorized to provide these services for youth offenders. At the conclusion of fiscal year 2020, the strategic plan for YRA offenders had not been implemented.

CIC OPERATIONS

Fiscal Year 2020 CIC Staff



DONALD ISAAC, SR

*Executive Director
Nov 2018 – present*

KAREEM MCCRANEY

*Program Analyst
Feb 2019 – present*

CHRISANT BRACKEN

*Program Analyst
Sep 2018 – present*

SHEILA WALKER

*Clerical Assistant
Nov 2015 – present*

JOHN KOWALKO

*Program Analyst
Mar 2017 – Sep 2020*

PATRICIA MARKS

*Program Analyst
Jun 2019 – present*

NICOLE UKAEGBU

*Program Analyst
May 2018 – present*

NAILAH

BYNOE-SEABRON
*Communications
Specialist
Jun 2019 – present*

MAURICE COTTON

*Clerical Assistant
May 2019 – present*

The CIC also employed the services of undergraduate interns from The Washington Center throughout the year. The interns participated in research and writing, as well as inspections. The fiscal year 2020 interns for the fall semester were Leila Gillings and Jalela Jallaq. Jessica Longacre and Christian Wasik interned with the CIC during the beginning of the spring semester. The CIC did not employ the interns for the remainder of the 2020 spring semester due to the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

and EVENTS

Monthly Newsletters

The CIC produces a monthly newsletter to keep the community informed of agency operations, news, and updates relative to the incarcerated DC population. Since fiscal year 2019, the monthly newsletter features a section called “What We’re Reading”, which features publications about social justice or highlighting a particular author. The newsletter continues to highlight virtual community events and provide access to relevant resources during the coronavirus pandemic.

Social Media Initiatives

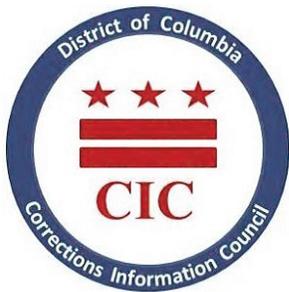
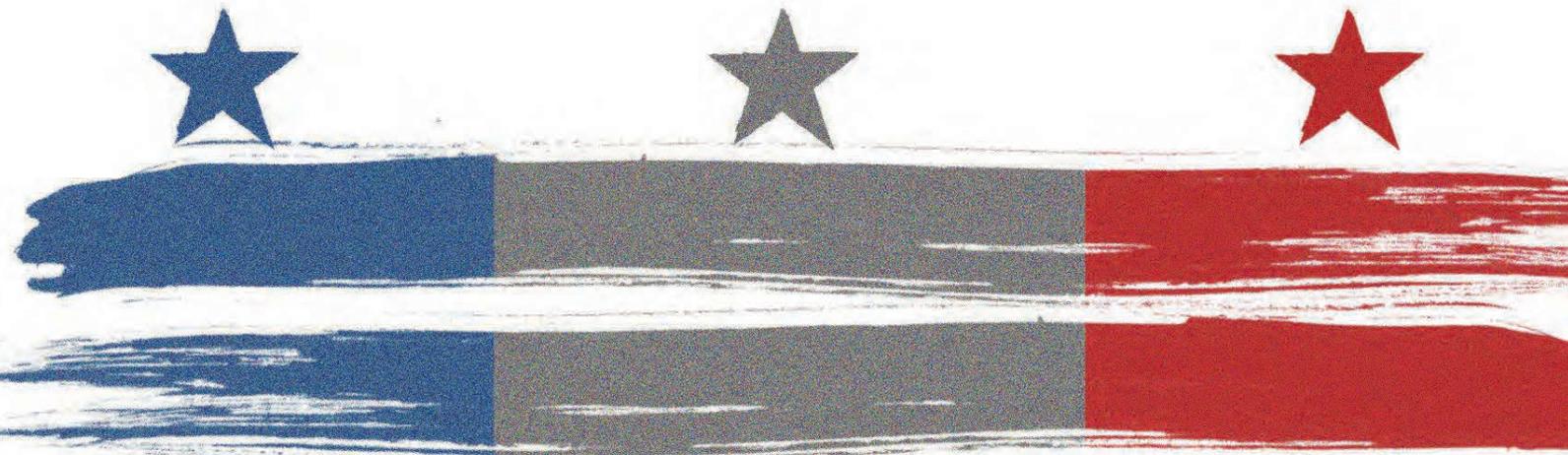
In fiscal year 2019, the CIC increased its social media presence by creating an Instagram page that frequently posts current events, updates, news, and job opportunities within the community. The CIC continues to use Twitter and Facebook to increase engagement.

Holiday Postcards

Each year during the winter holiday season, the CIC sends out postcards to DC residents in BOP facilities. The CIC continued its annual tradition of hosting events with community partners to fill out and sign the postcards. This year, the design for the postcard included a message that read, “PUSH” accompanied by a quote by the late civil rights activist and congressman John Lewis, “You only pass this way once, you have to give it all you have.” Due to social distancing, holiday card events were not possible, however many constituents and community members filled out postcards at home this year.

Open Board Meetings in Fiscal Year 2020

The CIC held three board meetings that were open to the public in fiscal year 2020. Due to the coronavirus and requirements of social distancing, one of the three meetings was held virtually. The meetings provide an opportunity for members of the public to learn about the agency’s operations and findings regarding the conditions of confinement. Topics discussed at meetings included recent and upcoming inspections, community engagement, and reporting practices. The meetings were held on October 22, 2019, January 28, 2020 and July 21, 2020.



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CIC | District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Re: CIC Visit to DC DOC on April 6, 2020

On Monday, April 6, 2020, CIC Program Analyst Kareem McCraney and DC Councilman Trayon White (Ward 8) conducted a site visit of the Central Detention Facility (CDF) at the DC Department of Corrections (DOC). The goals of the visit were to learn about the processes and preventive measures recently implemented in order to minimize the opportunity for residents and staff to contract and/or spread COVID-19, and to observe the overall conditions of the population.

The visit started with a meeting attended by DOC Director Booth, Warden Lennard, and Medical Director Jordan. After the opening meeting, we visited three housing units: SE-3, NW-2, and NO-2.

During the course of this visit, the following issues were explored:

- The screening process for COVID-19 as residents enter and exit the facility.
- The Quarantine, Isolation, and Intake units.
- The number of residents and staff who tested positive for COVID-19.
- The impact of DC's emergency legislation on the DOC population.
- The current conditions of the residents.

Screening Process

According to the DOC, screening processes began on March 13, 2020. When an individual is initially arrested, he is screened at the Central Cell Block (CCB), which is located at DC Metropolitan Police Department headquarters. There is always a nurse or doctor on hand at the CCB. Some people are issued a citation and released from the CCB without transferring to DOC custody. For those who are transferred, they are re-screened upon arrival to DOC facilities.

People who arrive to Receiving & Discharge (R&D), which is the intake area for the DOC, have their temperatures checked again, and they are asked if they are experiencing any symptoms. If the answer is yes, then the individual is separated and taken to the medical unit, where their temperature and vital signs are examined, and a flu test is administered. If there are positive signs of the virus, the individual is placed in either quarantine or isolation (see below).

Most trials for criminal cases have been postponed, but some cases and hearings have proceeded via video conferencing. For cases that require in-person appearances, those residents are screened before they leave for court, and again upon their return.

Quarantine, Isolation, and Intake Units

In the Intake unit, residents entering the facility are required to stay in Intake for 14 days before they are allowed to enter the general population. During this time, their temperatures are taken twice a day, and they are questioned about any symptoms. If a resident is exhibiting any symptoms while in Intake, he/she will be sent to a quarantined unit until a determination is made regarding whether the resident is positive or negative for COVID-19.

According to the DOC, all residents who exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19 are placed in a quarantined unit or space until it is determined whether or not the resident has tested positive or negative. If only an individual has potential symptoms or a strong likelihood of exposure to the virus (as opposed to an entire cell block), that individual is sent to a quarantined space. If necessary, an entire cell block may be quarantined. In the quarantine units, medical staff check temperatures twice a day, and check for other symptoms. If the individual tests positive while quarantined, the resident is sent to the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF).

The Isolation unit, which is located at the CTF, houses all of the confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the DOC. This unit is run by medical personnel from Unity Health Care. There are correctional officers within this unit, and - according to executive staff, the officers have protective equipment, but it is mostly the medical staff who is dealing with the residents in this area.

Number of residents and staff who have tested positive

According to the DOC executive staff and its medical director, Dr. Jordan, at the time of this visit - the DOC had:

- 44 residents tested for COVID-19
- 20 positive tests
- 13 tests pending results
- 10 tests were negative

There were 3-4 staff members who allegedly tested positive, but only one of those staff members was verified by DOC. The other staff members relayed their positive status to the DOC, but they were not tested directly by the DOC.

Emergency Legislation Impact on the Population

According to the executive staff of the DOC, the emergency legislation has not done much to reduce the current population. At the time of this visit, there were only approximately fifty sentenced misdemeanants who would qualify for the emergency legislation and potential release, because candidates must already be sentenced in order for the legislation to be applicable.

For individuals who are being held for technical violations with parole or probation, the DOC does not have authority to release them. The authorization must come from the US Parole Commission or CSOSA, and as of yet - no one has been released who is presently detained for a technical violation.

The DOC usually affords residents up to ten days per month of good time credits. The institution has increased the potential allotment to twenty as a result of the emergency legislation; however, only DC Superior Court and the US Attorney's Office have the authority to release individuals, not the DOC.

Conditions of Residents

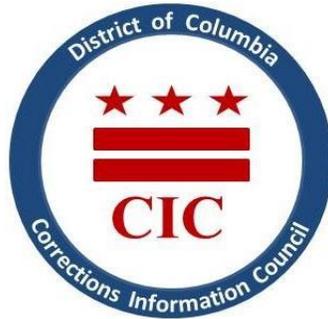
DOC residents are currently confined to their cells for 23.5 hours a day. The residents are allowed thirty minutes a day to shower, use the phone, and clean their cells. Throughout the course of the day, residents who have detail jobs are working within the unit by wiping down metal surfaces, phones, and tables. Generally, all residents were initially allowed more time out of the cell, and recreation was facilitated by one whole tier at a time. This is no longer the case, which has caused a great deal of frustration for the population.

On Saturday, April 4, 2020, there was a riot in housing unit NW-2, because residents wanted testing for COVID-19. Residents who were alleged to have participated in the riot were moved to a separate unit. The resident population is frustrated, and a large number believe they have a greater risk of exposure and may possibly die in DOC custody.

We also spoke to individuals from the first group quarantined as a consequence of exposure to the US Marshall who tested positive for COVID-19. According to two individuals, after their exposure to the US Marshall, they were never quarantined or tested, and were not sent to CTF until 8 days later. Both stated that they were still not tested at CTF; their temperatures were checked, and they were monitored.

****As of April 14, 2020, there are 27 positive cases of COVID-19 within the DOC.***

**District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council**



Thematic Report:

**The Implementation of DC Code 24-403.04
Motions for Compassionate Release
As of September 14, 2020**

September 30, 2020



District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

Charles Thornton, Board Chair
Katharine A. Huffman, Board Member
Calvin Woodland Jr., Board Member
Nkechi Taifa, Board Member
Charlie Whitaker, Board Member

About the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

The District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC) is an independent oversight body mandated by the United States Congress and the Council of the District of Columbia to inspect, monitor, and report on the conditions of confinement in correctional facilities where residents from the District of Columbia are incarcerated. This includes facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DOC), and private contractors.

The CIC reports its observations and recommendations to the District of Columbia Representative in the United States Congress, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Council of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, the Director of the BOP, the Director of the DOC, and the community.

Although the CIC does not handle individual complaints or provide legal representation or advice, individuals are still encouraged to contact the CIC. Reports, concerns, and general information from incarcerated DC residents and the public are very important to the CIC, and they greatly inform our inspection schedule, recommendations, and reports. However, unless expressly permitted by the individuals or required by law, names and identifying information of residents, corrections staff not in leadership, and members of the general public will be kept anonymous and confidential.

DC Corrections Information Council

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Introduction

On April 7, 2020, the DC Council passed emergency legislation which expanded the eligibility of DC Code Offenders to apply to the Superior Court for compassionate release. In assessing applications, judges must consider a myriad of factors. While age and medical care levels are not exhaustive of these factors, 272 of DC Code offenders currently in the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) are age 60 and above, and eighty-two (82) are coded as medical care level 3 and level 4.

As of August 18, 2020, two hundred and forty-eight (248) cases had been filed in Superior Court. Of those, one hundred and four (104) cases have been decided. Of those, twenty-nine (29) persons had been granted compassionate release as a result of the new legislation. As of September 14th, the filings increased to three hundred and fourteen (314), and the number of decided cases grew to one hundred and thirty-three (133). In total to date, thirty-eight (38) persons have been granted compassionate release.

Data is being collected by Superior Court about the age, length of sentence, and medical conditions noted in each motion. However, the data must also address answer key questions about the extent and relevance of rehabilitative programming, which is needed to counterweight the perceived dangerousness of the individual based on the seriousness and nature of the original offense. Motions for compassionate release are guided by the following parameters:

§ 24-403.04. Motions for compassionate release for individuals convicted of felony offenses.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the court may modify a term of imprisonment imposed upon a defendant if it determines the defendant is not a danger to the safety of any other person or the community, pursuant to the factors to be considered in 18 U.S.C. §§ 3142(g) and 3553(a) and evidence of the defendant's rehabilitation while incarcerated, and:

(1) The defendant has a terminal illness, which means a disease or condition with an end-of-life trajectory;

(2) The defendant is 60 years of age or older and has served at least 25 years in prison; or

(3) Other extraordinary and compelling reasons warrant such a modification, including:

(A) A debilitating medical condition involving an incurable, progressive illness, or a debilitating injury from which the defendant will not recover;

(B) Elderly age, defined as a defendant who:

(i) Is 60 years of age or older;

(ii) Has served at least 20 years in prison or has served the greater of 10 years or 75% of his or her sentence; and

(iii) Suffers from a chronic or serious medical condition related to the aging process or that causes an acute vulnerability to severe medical complications or death as a result of COVID-19;

(C) Death or incapacitation of the family member caregiver of the defendant's children; or

(D) Incapacitation of a spouse or a domestic partner when the defendant would be the only available caregiver for the spouse or domestic partner.

(b) Motions brought pursuant to this section may be brought by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, the Bureau of Prisons, the United States Parole Commission, or the defendant.

(c) Although a hearing is not required, to provide for timely review of a motion made pursuant to this section and at the request of counsel for the defendant, the court may waive the appearance of a defendant currently held in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons.

(d) For the purposes of this section, the term "COVID-19" means the disease caused by the novel 2019 coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.

In accordance with § 24–403.04, the following factors are also considered under U.S.C. § 3142(g):¹

- (1)** the nature and circumstances of the offense charged, including whether the offense is a crime of violence, a violation of section 1591, a Federal crime of terrorism, or involves a minor victim or a controlled substance, firearm, explosive, or destructive device;
- (2)** the weight of the evidence against the person;
- (3)** the history and characteristics of the person, including—
 - (A)** the person’s character, physical and mental condition, family ties, employment, financial resources, length of residence in the community, community ties, past conduct, history relating to drug or alcohol abuse, criminal history, and record concerning appearance at court proceedings; and
 - (B)** whether, at the time of the current offense or arrest, the person was on probation, on parole, or on other release pending trial, sentencing, appeal, or completion of sentence for an offense under Federal, State, or local law; and
- (4)** the nature and seriousness of the danger to any person or the community that would be posed by the person’s release. In considering the conditions of release described in subsection (c)(1)(B)(xi) or (c)(1)(B)(xii) of this section, the judicial officer may upon his own motion, or shall upon the motion of the Government, conduct an inquiry into the source of the property to be designated for potential forfeiture or offered as collateral to secure a bond, and shall decline to accept the designation, or the use as collateral, of property that, because of its source, will not reasonably assure the appearance of the person as required.

¹ Available at <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/3142>.

Additional factors to be considered under U.S.C. § 3553(a), as directed by § 24–403.04, are as follows:²

- (1)** the nature and circumstances of the offense and the history and characteristics of the defendant;
- (2)** the need for the sentence imposed—
 - (A)** to reflect the seriousness of the offense, to promote respect for the law, and to provide just punishment for the offense;
 - (B)** to afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct;
 - (C)** to protect the public from further crimes of the defendant; and
 - (D)** to provide the defendant with needed educational or vocational training, medical care, or other correctional treatment in the most effective manner;
- (3)** the kinds of sentences available;
- (4)** the kinds of sentence and the sentencing range established for—
 - (A)** the applicable category of offense committed by the applicable category of defendant as set forth in the guidelines—
 - (i)** issued by the Sentencing Commission pursuant to section 994(a)(1) of title 28, United States Code, subject to any amendments made to such guidelines by act of Congress (regardless of whether such amendments have yet to be incorporated by the Sentencing Commission into amendments issued under section 994(p) of title 28); and
 - (ii)** that, except as provided in section 3742(g), are in effect on the date the defendant is sentenced; or
 - (B)** in the case of a violation of probation or supervised release, the applicable guidelines or policy statements issued by the Sentencing Commission pursuant to section 994(a)(3) of title 28, United States Code, taking into account any amendments made to such guidelines or policy statements by act of Congress (regardless of whether such amendments have yet to be incorporated by the Sentencing Commission into amendments issued under section 994(p) of title 28);
- (5)** any pertinent policy statement—
 - (A)** issued by the Sentencing Commission pursuant to section 994(a)(2) of title 28, United States Code, subject to any amendments made to such policy statement by act of Congress (regardless of whether such amendments have yet to be incorporated by the Sentencing Commission into amendments issued under section 994(p) of title 28); and
 - (B)** that, except as provided in section 3742(g), is in effect on the date the defendant is sentenced.[1]
- (6)** the need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparities among defendants with similar records who have been found guilty of similar conduct; and
- (7)** the need to provide restitution to any victims of the offense.

² Available at <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/3553>.

I. Key Participants for Implementation

Soon after the passage of the legislation, the Washington Lawyers' Committee, the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and several organizations coordinated to provide information about the new legislation, and create the DC Compassionate Release Clearinghouse to assign volunteer attorneys to persons deemed eligible to apply for compassionate release. The DC Corrections Information Council (CIC) mailed copies of the informational materials to every DC Code offender in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), which explained the revised legislation and the process for contacting the Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse facilitated the initial process of screening applicants for eligibility consistent with compassionate release criteria. The Clearinghouse also hosts a web based system of tracking applications:

<https://circularclearinghouse.org/applicants/applicantrecord>.

Superior Court, which had been hearing pro se and other applications for sentence reconsiderations, created procedures for responding to and tracking cases created by the new legislation. Pro bono attorneys, the US Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia (USAO), and approximately 60 sitting judges have also expended time and effort on the execution of the legislation. There was an initial sense of urgency that has now been replaced with structures for sustainability. Protocols have been developed by the courts, and training materials, including model pleadings, are available for pro bono attorneys.

The BOP relays applicants' personal records to the USAO³ and - subsequently, to counsel handling the cases for applicants.⁴ While the files are not exhaustive (*infra*), records are retrieved more efficiently since each attorney representing a compassionate release candidate does not have to seek all documents directly from the BOP. Processes for informing BOP residents of the legislation, screening questionnaires, assigning lawyers, and filing cases are progressing. Procedures are continuing to evolve as the volume of applications increases.

Another area of collaboration is the role of local organizations and agencies in seeking re-entry resources (*infra*). While some of the collaborations are undergirded by a formal Memorandum of Understanding, much of the cooperation and collaboration relies on existing informal relationships.

II. Recruiting & Training Professionals and Tracking Requests

Approximately 600-700 prisoners have contacted the DC Compassionate Release Clearinghouse seeking legal assistance. Of these, approximately 300 have been filed. Of the more than 600 cases, the DC Public Defender Service is handling close to 100 cases, which leaves a great need for Pro Bono and Criminal Justice Act (CJA) lawyers. The Compassionate Release

³ The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia serves as a local and federal prosecutor. See <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc>.

⁴ The BOP is not a decision maker as compared to its role under the federal First Step Act.

Clearinghouse has also actively recruited attorneys, social workers, and medical professionals on its website.

The Compassionate Release Clearinghouse seeks attorneys to draft and file compassionate release motions for prisoners, social workers to assist attorneys with prisoners' reentry needs, and medical professionals to help attorneys understand clients' medical conditions and explain to courts the urgency in light of impending medical emergency in overcrowded and unsanitary prisons.⁵

Through the Clearinghouse, various legal entities assembled training manuals and webinars, and developed resources and sample petitions to help recruit, train, and assign lawyers to cases. While these materials have been helpful for the recruitment and training of attorneys, additional attorneys are needed to address the number of applications.

Recommendation #1:

Consider funding incentives for the successful recruitment of additional attorneys willing to represent compassionate release candidates.

III. Communication with Clients

Due to restrictions of movement created by COVID-19 protocols, individuals must be escorted by case workers or counselors for legal calls. There is concern that some protocols impact standards for attorney-client communications, because frequency and ease of communication varies depending upon personnel. One attorney noted that it took almost two weeks before being able to speak by telephone with an assigned client. It is not clear if the BOP has provided guidance to case workers and counselors about the new legislation in order to encourage timely responses to both attorneys and incarcerated individuals who request legal calls. Attorneys require such access in order to effectively represent their clients, and incarcerated individuals require an ability to regularly communicate with counsel and acquire updates on the status of their applications.

Recommendation #2

Facilitate consistent access to telephone calls between attorneys and their clients.

IV. Documentation for Judicial Analysis

The legislation calls for flexibility in addressing individual and family circumstances. Subsequently, judges are seeking as much information about each case as possible, including proof of an inmate's productive use of time. Certifications, participation in educational programming, disciplinary reports, family circumstances, and re-entry plans are all useful for

⁵ Notice available at <https://crcclearinghouse.org/>.

judicial analysis. Some of the data is included in the presentence report. For confidentiality, the presentence report is not part of an inmate's accessible file, so it is not included in the packet sent to the USAO, which is ultimately sent to attorneys representing candidates.

Several attorneys have noted that it was a slow, sometimes difficult process to obtain the presentence report since this document was not made electronic until recently, and many of the cases are decades old. Also, some DC Code offenders have noted that it is difficult to obtain proof or documentation of rehabilitation, such as attendance in relevant programming, and indicators of good behavior.

Recommendation #3

Ensure access to needed documents, especially the presentence report.

V. Release and Reentry

With the implementation of the new legislation, returning citizens need reentry services. The most difficult service to quickly obtain is housing for those without family members or those whose families have relocated out of DC, even if only to nearby suburbs. If post-incarceration supervision is required by the judge, returning citizens seeking a return to families who have relocated must first find short term housing until the interstate compact for supervision is complete. This process can take up to 45 days. In the interim, some families have made sacrificial provisions, including paying for hotel rooms in DC.

Organizations and agencies have collaborated to assist with reentry needs. For example, MORCA, RAN, and CSOSA have worked together to – respectively - find, provide, and pay for some temporary housing.

Recommendation #4

Create needed services, especially easy-access housing, and increase accessibility to persons upon release.

Methodology

To determine the progress regarding the implementation of the legislation, CIC staff contacted participants in the process, including a variety of representatives from local organizations, agencies, and Superior Court. All persons who provided information and insights noted that the progress and processes are on-going and that they each could only provide a snap shot of the process from their perspectives. Each of the persons interviewed noted cooperation and collaboration as key to the current progress. In a subsequent report, the CIC seeks to include the perspectives of persons who were granted or denied compassionate release.

District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council



District of Columbia
Department of Corrections

2019 Inspection Report



Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF)



Central Detention Facility (CDF)

October 8, 2020



District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

Charles Thornton, Board Chair
Katharine A. Huffman, Board Member
Calvin Woodland Jr., Board Member
Nkechi Taifa, Board Member
Charlie Whitaker, Board Member

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DC Corrections Information Council

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Website: <https://cic.dc.gov/>

Executive Summary

This report documenting fiscal year 2019 information is a supplement to the fiscal year 2020 report.

Correctional Treatment Facility Profile

Location: 1901 E St SE, Washington, DC
20003

Security Level: Minimum, Medium

Rated Capacity: 1,400

FY 19 Population: 544 (436 men and 108 women)

Resident-to-Staff Ratio: 2.37:1

Central Detention Facility Profile

Location: 1901 D St SE, Washington, DC
20003

Security Level: Minimum, Medium, &
Maximum

Rated Capacity: 2,164

FY19 Population: 1,275

Resident-to-Staff Ratio: 2.37:1

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Introduction

The DC Department of Corrections (hereinafter, DOC) operates two jail facilities: the Correctional Treatment Center (hereinafter, CTF), and the Central Detention Facility also known as the DC Jail (hereinafter, CDF). The facilities are adjacent to one another and are located in Southeast Washington, D.C. The DOC also operates the Central Cell Block holding cells, and contracts with two local halfway houses: Hope Village and the Fairview.

The CTF complex typically houses residents who are minimum or medium security, including female and juvenile¹ D.C. residents, as well as male residents who have specialized confinement needs. The CDF houses male residents, a majority of whom are held pending adjudication of a criminal case or are sentenced to a period of incarceration following conviction for a misdemeanor offense. Other CDF residents include those held on United States Parole Commission (USPC) warrants, those awaiting transfer to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), and those held due to a writ or hold typically awaiting transfer to another jurisdiction.

Facility Descriptions

Central Detention Facility

The CDF, also known as the DC Jail, is located in Southeast DC. The facility was opened in 1976 and has a capacity of 2,164 inmates. The facility houses only male inmates, and most are awaiting trial or were convicted of a misdemeanor offense. At the end of fiscal year 2019, the population was 1,275 men.

Correctional Treatment Facility

The CTF is located adjacent to the CDF in Southeast DC. The facility was opened in 1992 and has a capacity of 1,400 inmates. The facility houses male and female inmates, and similar to the CDF, most are awaiting trial or were convicted of a misdemeanor offense. Unlike the CDF, the CTF can only house individuals designated as low to medium security. At the end of fiscal year 2019, the population was 436 men and 108 women.

Central Cell Block holding cells

The Central Cell Block is located in Judiciary Square at the Henry J. Daly Building on Indiana Avenue in Northwest DC. The building is primarily occupied by the Metropolitan Police Department, and the Central Cell Block holding cells are in the basement. The Central Cell Block provides access to the nearby DC Superior Court, and holds individuals temporarily who are awaiting a court hearing, including individuals who are arrested and held overnight.

¹ Pursuant to the Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act of 2016, DC juveniles charged as adults were to move from the CTF adult facility to New Beginnings, which is operated by the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS), by October 1, 2018. All juvenile offenders charged as adults who were in DOC custody were transferred to New Beginnings prior to October 1, 2018.

Hope Village

Hope Village is a privately-operated halfway house located in Southeast DC for male residents. It is the only halfway house in the District for men, and it has contracts with both the DOC and the BOP to provide beds for returning citizens as they prepare for their release transition. At the end of fiscal year 2019, the population was 26 men under DOC custody.

The Fairview

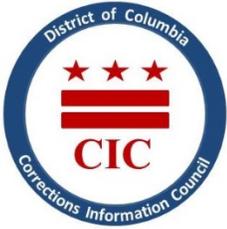
The Fairview is a privately-operated halfway house located in Northeast DC for female residents. It is the only halfway house in the District for women, and it has contracts with both the DOC and the BOP to provide beds for returning citizens for their release transition. At the end of fiscal year 2019, the population was three women under DOC custody.

Fiscal Year 2019 Publications

DOC Outdoor Recreation Letter – Published April 18, 2019

The CIC received numerous complaints about a lack of adequate recreation at DOC facilities in early 2019, and visited the CDF and CTF on February 25-26, 2019. Inmates at the CTF usually receive one hour of recreational time out of their unit each day, such as in the indoor gym or the outdoor recreational yard. CIC sent a letter addressing the recreational limitations after visiting the facilities, which is below.

According to staff, outdoor recreation at the CTF was suspended from November 2018 through February 2019 because the yard did not have proper drainage and therefore would remain flooded. Staff also noted that staff shortages limit the availability of outdoor recreation. At the CDF, outdoor recreation occurs on a concrete yard for most inmates, or in chain-link cages for inmates who are separated from the general population. The CDF does not have an indoor gym. Most individuals at the CDF were able to access recreation several times a week, although this was also limited by weather and staff shortages.



CIC | DC Corrections Information Council

March 2019

To: Director Quincy Booth, DC Department of Corrections

From: Rev. Donald Isaac, Director, Corrections Information Council (CIC)

RE: CIC Visits to DOC Facilities February 25th and 26, 2019

We appreciate the opportunity to visit CTF and CDF on February 25th and 26th, 2019. In particular we would like to thank Warden Johnson and his executive team, especially Deputy Warden Landerkin and Deputy Warden Jones, for facilitating our visit and answering our team's questions. We are also grateful to all the escort officers and unit staff who assisted us during this visit. As you are aware, this trip was motivated by concerns regarding inmates' access to outdoor recreation in light of recent complaints from individuals and community organizations. Below are some observations and recommendations based on the February visits.

I. Outdoor Recreation at CTF

Executive staff at CTF explained that most units get off-unit recreation for one hour each day, Monday – Friday, but that off-unit recreation may be outdoors in the yard, or inside in the facility gym. Executive staff at CTF indicated to the CIC that historically outdoor recreation had been suspended from November until February as a matter of course, but that currently the Deputy Warden makes a daily determination as to whether off-unit recreation will be outdoor or indoor. The decision is based primarily on the weather and staffing.

The CIC surveyed CTF residents, primarily those on E-block and C-block,² regarding their experiences with outdoor recreation at this facility. Sixty-five percent of those surveyed (48/75) indicated that they had requested outdoor recreation from staff and been denied. Sixteen individuals reported receiving no reason for the denial of outdoor recreation. After that, the most common reasons individuals reported hearing for the denial of outdoor recreation were the grass needed to be cut (10), there was not enough staff (9), and the weather was bad (5). Two individuals reported being told “when you come out of your cell, that is recreation,” and another resident



² Due to time constraints, the CIC visited all units on E-block and C-block, and units D2A and D2B, but did not go to the other units on D-block during this visit.

reported being told, “You get outside rec inside the unit; you will never go out as long as you are here.”

A. Physical Plant Limitations

The outdoor yard at CTF is split into three sections, allowing for multiple units to have outdoor recreation while being physically separated. The sections are separated by chain-link fence and bordered by the brick perimeter wall of the facility. Each section consists of a paved portion roughly the size of a single basketball court, as well as a grassy section. On the day of the CIC’s visit, there were large ruts in parts of the grassy area, which staff explained were from a tractor that had gotten stuck in the mud sometime the previous fall.

Executive staff indicated that the grassy area frequently limits the availability of outdoor recreation at CTF because it is not well-drained, and so the ground remains muddy for several days after it rains. Many residents only have one pair of shoes, typically the canvas slip-on shoes provided by the facility, which are not well-suited to walking in wet grass and/or mud. The facility does provide coats in cold weather, but not hats or gloves.

Executive staff also indicated that it has been difficult to cut the grass when the weather has been particularly wet, and that last summer weather delays resulted in the grass growing particularly tall, which then presented further difficulties cutting it. This led to a significant period during which residents of CTF did not have access to outdoor recreation.

Recommendation: The DOC should pave the grassy portions of the CTF yard. While this will unfortunately reduce the residents’ access to nature, absent an improved drainage system it appears to be the best way to ensure this space is meaningfully available for recreation.

B. Difference in Amenities

Executive staff noted that the indoor gym has weight equipment and other activities that are not available in the outside yard. As a result, residents often express a preference for the indoor gym rather than the outside space. The CIC did not visit the CTF gym, but the outside yard appeared to have no amenities other than a basketball court in each section. In contrast, the CDF yard had several tables as well as sports and exercise equipment.

Recommendation: The DOC should provide additional amenities in the CTF yard, such as picnic tables and exercise equipment.

C. Staffing

Executive staff explained to the CIC that staffing challenges also limit the availability of outdoor recreation. Running outdoor recreation at CTF requires eight staff members, including some along the outside perimeter wall, while running indoor recreation requires only three staff members. Executive staff explained that staff shortages are frequently caused by call-outs which require the movement of staff from posts at either CTF or CDF to accompany residents to the hospital or pick up individuals from halfway houses or other facilities. The average number of staff on call-outs during a shift is in the mid-teens, but ranges from five to thirty officers per day. CTF staff members are also sometimes moved to fill shortages on the CDF side.

The CIC also learned from the Director’s testimony at the DOC Oversight Hearing that the DOC has not yet filled approximately 40 new full-time positions added to reduce the number of overtime hours needed.

Recommendation: The DOC should ensure that both facilities are sufficiently staffed to provide outdoor recreation every weekday according to the schedule, regardless of other needs. Staffing shortages should limit outdoor recreation only in truly exigent circumstances, not as a matter of practice.

D. Disability Access

The CIC received conflicting reports from staff regarding whether residents with physical disabilities are able to access outdoor recreation. One staff member indicated that if residents cannot physically walk up and down several flights of stairs to the outdoor yard at CTF, they are not able to have outdoor recreation at all. Another staff member recalled that individuals with walkers and wheelchairs could access a separate outside patio area via elevator and paved ramps.

Recommendation: The CIC, being mindful of physical plant limitations, recommends that DOC make outdoor recreation accessible to as many residents as possible, including those with mobility challenges. As the DOC is doubtless aware, the Americans with Disabilities Act requires that facilities provide accommodations to facilitate disabled prisoners' equal use of facilities and participation programs unless doing so would cause an undue burden.

E. Grievances

The majority (78%) of residents of CTF who completed the CIC’s survey reported that they normally had access to grievance forms. However, 42 percent said that the grievance system does not work and 14 percent said that they fear staff retaliation for filing grievances. Respondents mentioned that they rarely receive responses to grievances, or that they “go nowhere.” Six individuals reported that they had filed grievances regarding lack of access to outdoor recreation in the last year. However, during testimony before the DC Council the DOC reported receiving only one grievance regarding lack of outdoor recreation.³

Recommendation: The DOC should ensure that all inmate grievances are accurately tracked and responded to in a timely manner.

II. Outdoor Recreation at CDF

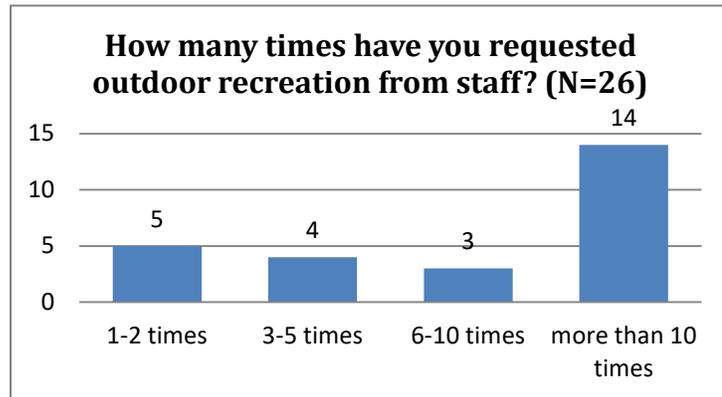
Executive staff explained that outdoor recreation at CDF takes place in a paved yard in the center of the facility. There is no indoor gym at CDF. Residents are offered movies on days when they are not provided outdoor recreation. Recreation is not always offered on days when special programs are held.

³ Director Booth testified before Councilmember Allen during the DC Council’s Performance Oversight Hearing for the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety on March 1, 2019. Video available online at <http://dccouncil.us/event/performance-oversight-hearing-committee-on-the-judiciary-public-safety-7/> (3:05:30 in the recording).

The CIC visited the outdoor space at CDF, and noted a basketball court and two soccer goals, two picnic tables and a ping-pong table, as well as pull-up bars and other exercise equipment. Music was being played through speakers. Staff informed the CIC that 300 people can fit in the outdoor space, though it appeared they would not be able to move much if that many people were out at once. Staff explained that only one unit goes out for recreation at a time, so there are rarely more than 50 people in the space at once, but it can accommodate more in emergency situations.

The CIC also visited the smaller recreation yard at CDF, which consists primarily of four large chain-link cages, which serve as recreation spaces for individuals who are in administrative segregation or have separation orders that require individual recreation. The cages are roughly 6' x 15' and approximately 8' tall. Staff informed the CIC that the small recreation yard has not been in operation since last summer due to an issue with a sewage line backup. Staff anticipated that the cages would be available for use in spring 2019.

Fifty-five percent of the individuals who completed the CIC's survey said that they had requested outdoor recreation from staff and been denied. More than half the respondents to this question reported that they had asked numerous times.



The most common reason individuals reported hearing for the denial of outdoor recreation was that there were not enough staff (9), followed by no reason given (7), bad weather (5), it wasn't the staff member's decision (5) and outdoor recreation wasn't being offered (4). One individual reported being told that "leaving your cell is outdoor rec" and two others reported being told to stay out of jail if they wanted outdoor recreation.

Several individuals on NW2 and NE2 who spoke with the CIC but did not fill out surveys, said that they do not go outside as often as they would like, but that they do go outside occasionally, and they believe outdoor recreation is fair. Individuals on NE3 (the detail block) and SE2 (the GED block) stated that they have no problem getting outdoor recreation. Several individuals on SW2 mentioned that they preferred watching movies indoors and were not upset by the lack of outdoor recreation. Some individuals on SW3 indicated that they did not want to go outside because it was too cold, and reminded them too much of home.

CDF staff provided the daily recreation schedule for CDF, as well as recreation logs for the month of February 2019. Analysis of these logs indicates that units frequently go out for recreation at different times than those indicated on the schedule, but that most units had outdoor recreation on most days in February when the weather was not rainy and/or cold.

Recommendation: Continue to offer outdoor recreation to inmates on all units for one hour Monday through Friday, consistent with the established and posted schedule.

A. Inclement Weather

The logs provided by CDF staff indicated that many individuals took advantage of outdoor recreation on days it was offered, even when the weather was cold.

When the weather was recorded on the recreation log, it suggested inconsistencies in how inclement weather is determined for purposes of outdoor recreation. For example, residents were offered outside recreation when it was 34°F outside, but kept inside when the temperature was as high as 45°F, with no indication of rain or high winds.

Recommendation: Develop guidelines for what constitutes inclement weather so that inmates are better able to predict when off-unit recreation will be outdoors and adjust their expectations accordingly.

B. Staffing shortages

As noted in the prior section on staffing shortages at CTF, CDF is also impacted by the need for staff to go out to hospital call outs. The CIC did not learn how many additional staff members are needed to run outdoor recreation versus indoor movies, though it seems logical that perimeter wall staff is not needed at CDF since the recreation yard does not border a perimeter wall. The reason most commonly reported by residents for denial of outdoor recreation at CDF was a shortage of staff.

Recommendation: As noted above, the DOC should ensure that both facilities are sufficiently staffed to provide outdoor recreation every weekday according to the schedule, regardless of other needs. Staffing shortages should limit outdoor recreation only in truly exigent circumstances, not as a matter of practice.

C. Grievances

Only 53 percent of the CDF residents who completed CIC's survey said that they typically have access to grievance forms. Forty percent of respondents said they do not use the grievance process because it does not work, while another ten percent noted that they fear staff retaliation if they were to use the grievance system. Thirteen individuals at CDF reported that they had filed a grievance regarding lack of access to outdoor recreation in the past year. Individuals commented that grievances get lost, are never resolved, "don't do anything" or "are useless."

Recommendation: As noted above with respect to CTF, the DOC should ensure that all inmate grievances are accurately tracked and responded to in a timely manner.

Again, thank you for making the CIC's February visits with incarcerated individuals at CTF and CDF possible. We hope that the information we gathered will be helpful to the facility and the Department of Corrections in its endeavor to ensure the health and well-being of the residents at CTF and CDF. If you have any questions of the CIC regarding the information and recommendations above, please contact us at the number below, or via email (donald.isaac@dc.gov and chrisiant.bracken@dc.gov).

Sincerely,
Rev. Donald Isaac, Sr.
Director, CIC

Methodology

The CIC visited CTF on February 25, 2019, and CDF on February 26, 2019. At both facilities the CIC met with executive staff to discuss the process and challenges surrounding access to outdoor recreation. The CIC then visited housing units and offered individuals the opportunity to complete a brief survey regarding their recent experiences with outdoor recreation. At CTF, the CIC visited all units on C and E blocks, and units D2A and D2B. At CDF, the CIC visited housing units NE3, NO3, NW2, NW1, SO3, SW3, and SE2. The CIC attempted to visit SE3, but was unable to due to inmate behavior. The CIC did not visit NO2 and SO1 (restrictive housing units), or SO2 (intake unit). Additional information was collected through informal conversations with individuals on each unit during the on-site visit.

On many units, particularly at CDF, individuals indicated that they did not want to complete a survey because they did not have any concerns about outdoor recreation. Other individuals at both facilities declined to complete a survey without specifying whether they had concerns about recreation. Individuals at both facilities shared concerns other than outdoor recreation with the CIC during the on-site visit.

The CIC visited the outdoor recreation spaces at both CTF and CDF. The CIC did not visit the indoor gym at CTF.

After the on-site visit, the surveys were compiled using SurveyMonkey, a business intelligence tool, with unique identifiers used instead of individual names to protect confidentiality. Charts and other analysis do not include non-responses, and the total number of respondents for a particular question is noted on each chart. Extended responses from the surveys were compiled with comments from informal conversations with inmates at the facilities, and were used to inform analysis and provide context.

IRAA Inmates in DOC Custody Report – Published February 7, 2019

In 2016, DC Council passed the Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act (IRAA), which allowed individuals to request a sentence reduction if they were convicted in DC Superior Court for crimes committed before they turned 18 years old, and they had served at least 20 years of their original sentence. In December of 2018, 23 individuals were at local DOC facilities for an IRAA hearing, which was comprised of 16 people at the CDF and seven at the CTF. They had served an average of 23.3 years. The CIC received concerns about safety and the lack of programming at the CDF, and the CIC recommended that the DOC transfer inmates eligible for IRAA to the CTF.

The CIC report published the report on February 7, 2020. The DOC responded and noted that individuals designated with higher security levels would not be able to be housed at the CTF because it is a low to medium security facility. Both the report and the response can be found below.

In May of 2019, the IRAA statute was amended (known as IRAA 2.0) to reduce the minimum time served to 15 years in order to become eligible to request a sentence reduction. Additional individuals applied for a reduction under IRAA 2.0, and were released after having their sentences reduced. Subsequent, the Council introduced legislation in February 2019 to further amend the IRAA statute (known as IRAA 3.0) to increase the eligibility to anyone who served 15 years and was under 25 years old at the time the crime was committed. The IRAA 3.0 bill had a public hearing on March 26, 2019, and was still awaiting Council consideration.

**District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council**



Thematic Report:
IRAA Inmates in DOC Custody
January 31, 2019



District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

Charles Thornton, Board Chair
Katharine A. Huffman, Board Member
Nkechi Taifa, Board Member
Calvin Woodland Jr., Board Member
Charlie Whitaker, Board Member

About the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

The District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC) is an independent oversight body mandated by the United States Congress and the Council of the District of Columbia to inspect, monitor, and report on the conditions of confinement in correctional facilities where inmates from the District of Columbia are incarcerated. This includes facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DOC), and private contractors.

The CIC reports its observations and recommendations to the District of Columbia Representative in the United States Congress, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Council of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, the Director of the BOP, the Director of the DOC, and the community.

Although the CIC does not handle individual complaints or provide legal representation or advice, individuals are still encouraged to contact the CIC. Reports, concerns, and general information from incarcerated DC residents and the public are very important to the CIC, and they greatly inform our inspection schedule, recommendations, and reports. However, unless expressly permitted by the individuals or required by law, names and identifying information of inmates, corrections staff not in leadership, and members of the general public will be kept anonymous and confidential.

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Executive Summary

Key Statistics

DOC Population: Approx. 23 (CTF: 7; CDF: 16)

Total Population (BOP & DOC): Approx. 98

Average Age: 40.9 Years

Length of Incarceration Served: 23.3 Years

Key Observations

- **Safety at CDF & Vulnerability:** The primary concern reported to the CIC throughout the year was safety for the individuals in CDF, particularly in light of the unique IRAA factors, which ask the Court to consider disciplinary history and places these individuals in a vulnerable position while incarcerated. One individual described it as being placed in an environment with their “hands behind [their] backs” and “. . . a bad situation to be in when other inmates know your hands are tied and they can use the system against you.”
- **Mindset Differences: Jail versus Prison Population:** Overwhelmingly, a majority of individuals with whom the CIC spoke described having a different “mindset” from pre-trial inmates that results in increasingly stressful environments. It creates potentially dangerous or violent incidents amongst inmates, particularly those housed in CDF. When asked to further explain, several individuals made the point that they have been incarcerated for two decades, and being placed in an environment where inmates cycle in-and-out creates a volatile environment with which they are not familiar. Particularly for individuals at CDF, the impression received by the CIC from the interviews depicts a volatile environment that creates an unnecessarily stressful process for individuals to “stay out of trouble” given the unique IRAA factors, which ask the Court to consider various factors, including disciplinary history.
- **Access to Programming & Reentry Services in CDF:** A significant majority of programming opportunities and reentry services are offered in CTF or in the GED Unit at CDF. One individual was concerned that this effectively places IRAA individuals, who are not in CTF or on the GED Unit, at an unfair disadvantage to obtain programming and critical reentry resources necessary for a successful reentry process. The CIC is encouraged to see that more individuals have since been transferred to CTF and the GED Unit to allow for more programming. However, the majority of IRAA individuals are still being housed in CDF, and they are not provided with as many programming opportunities as those in CTF.

CIC Recommendation

Based on the survey responses and interviews with DOC inmates awaiting IRAA hearings, the CIC makes the following recommendation:

All individuals in DOC custody who have a pending IRAA hearing should be placed in CTF. Furthermore, the CIC wishes to coordinate a quarterly education session for all IRAA individuals in order to provide updates, answer any questions, and connect individuals with resources specific to their needs. The CIC looks forward to working closely with DOC to improve the conditions for IRAA individuals to ensure a smooth transition back to society.

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⁴ Page numbers correspond with the numerical denotations of the original publication.

Introduction

In 2016, DC Council passed the Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act (IRAA) within the Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act (CYJA), which went into effect April 2017. Under IRAA, juveniles (younger than 18 years old) sentenced in DC who have served at least 20 years and are not yet parole-eligible, may file an application for a sentence modification to reduce their sentence. In order to grant a sentence reduction, the Court must find that “the defendant is not a danger to the safety of any person or to the community and that the interests of justice warrant a sentence modification.” (§ 24-403.03 (a)(2)) IRAA then lists 11 factors for the Court to consider, including:

- Whether the defendant has substantially complied with the rules of the institution to which he or she has been confined and whether the defendant has completed any educational, vocational, or other program, where available (§ 24-403.03 (c)(3)); and
- Whether the defendant has demonstrated maturity, rehabilitation, and a fitness to reenter society sufficient to justify a sentence reduction (§ 24-403.03 (c)(5)).

As of December 31, 2018, seven applications have been granted and one has been denied; and 23 individuals on writ⁵ at the DOC (seven at CTF and 16 at CDF/DC Jail) are awaiting IRAA hearings. Overall, there are approximately 98 eligible individuals who can apply for a modification hearing under IRAA.

The CIC is encouraged to see the reform efforts being made to address issues related to DC youth and their conditions of confinement. As a result of these efforts, the CIC is closely tracking the developments under IRAA and monitoring the well-being of those in BOP and DOC custody. This report aims to highlight the concerns regarding the conditions of confinement received from IRAA individuals currently in DOC custody awaiting their hearings. This report also provides a recommendation to address those reported concerns in order to ensure the safety and well-being of these individuals.

⁵ Individuals are sent to DOC on writ when the court issues a formal order sending the prisoner back to DC to be present at his or her trial.

Key Observations

The following sections highlight areas of particular concern for DOC inmates currently awaiting IRAA hearings. These concerns are primarily based on inmate interviews and survey responses.

I. Safety at CDF and Vulnerability

The primary concern reported to the CIC throughout the year was safety for the individuals in CDF, particularly in light of the unique IRAA factors. Those factors ask the Court to consider disciplinary history; however, these individuals are vulnerable while incarcerated inside of CDF.

“Unlike other sentenced inmates in DOC on writ, IRAA individuals have a unique set of factors the judge considers that puts our hands behind our backs and places us in dangerous situations. [We] are walking on eggshells... It is a bad situation to be in when other inmates know your hands are tied and they can use the system against you.”
(CDF Interview & Survey, August 2018)

One individual at CDF reported an instance where he was attacked by another inmate and forced to engage in self-defense. This individual was initially found guilty and sent to segregation, but the charge was ultimately dismissed after he appealed the decision. Throughout this process, the individual was under extreme duress and feared for his safety.

“[W]e should [be] given one... unit to ourselves where we can be around others who have as much to lose by receiving a disciplinary report as we do, same as it is for those in the GED Unit.”

(CDF Survey, August 2018)

He stated that, while he was being attacked, he felt as if he could not respond or protect himself. The CIC is very concerned that such incidents may occur again.

“In the Young Men Emerging Unit (YME)[at CTF], I haven’t faced any of the safety challenges.”

(CTF Survey, July 2018)

“I haven’t faced any safety challenges.”

(CTF Survey, July 2018)

When asked about the top safety challenges, the majority of inmates at CDF described being around inmates who “don’t know how to do the time” and have a different mindset (explained below). In contrast, individuals at CTF largely reported not having any safety challenges.

“The jail mindset and prison mindset are not one in the same. An IRAA-eligible individual feels he has overcome and finally [has] hope and realistic promise and designs on returning to society as opposed to others still trying to figure it all out.”

(CDF Survey, June 2018)

II. Mindset Differences – Jail versus Prison Population

Overwhelmingly, a majority of individuals with whom the CIC spoke described having a different “mindset” from pre-trial inmates, which results in increasingly

stressful environments. Such environments create potentially dangerous or violent incidents amongst inmates, particularly those housed in CDF. When asked to further explain, several individuals stated that they have been incarcerated for two decades, and being placed in an environment where inmates cycle in-and-out creates a volatile environment with which they are not familiar. Furthermore, individuals specified that inmates often arrive to the jail experiencing withdrawals from drugs and other substances. As reported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), common withdrawal symptoms can include anxiety, depression, problems with impulse control, and sleep difficulties.⁶ Notably, one individual spoke about his growth and maturity in prison over the past 24 years, and explained that there is a different level of respect and understanding.

Throughout the past year, the CIC has continued to meet with IRAA individuals, both at CDF and CTF, in order to monitor their well-being. Particularly for individuals at CDF, the impression received by the CIC from the interviews portrays a volatile environment that creates an unnecessarily stressful process for individuals to “stay out of trouble” given the unique IRAA factors, which ask the Court to consider various factors, including disciplinary history.

Overwhelmingly, most individuals have expressed a desire for housing at CTF inside of a specific unit designated for individuals on writ for IRAA. Individuals stated that an IRAA specific unit would be beneficial because fellow residents would “know how to conduct themselves.”

**“Being housed in CTF gives someone who is coming back on a writ the opportunity to continue programming versus the unstable environment of DC jail.”
(CTF Survey, July 2018)**

III. Access to Programming and Reentry Services in CDF

“CDF doesn't have adequate programs to offer its inmate population. Too much idle time. There's simply not enough programs to offer the inmate population here at CDF. Majority of them are located at CTF... While being housed in the BOP, I participated in various types of programs, even prior to my arrival here. I want and wish to do more with my time.”

(CDF Survey, June 2018)

Almost all individuals with whom the CIC spoke shared concerns over access to programming while at CDF. When asked about the ease of getting into various types of programming in DOC, individuals at CTF consistently reported the process as “very easy” or “easy,” whereas individuals at CDF increasingly found it “very difficult” or “difficult.”⁷ Most individuals explained that the only way to get into programming opportunities is through housing inside of CTF or the GED Unit at CDF. One individual was concerned that this effectively places IRAA individuals who are not in CTF or on the GED Unit at an unfair disadvantage to obtain programming and critical reentry resources necessary for a successful reentry process.

⁶ SAMHSA Publications, “Protracted Withdrawal” (July 2010), available online at <https://store.samhsa.gov/system/files/sma10-4554.pdf>.

⁷ Refer to Appendix B.

As explained to the CIC, the only means of participating in college-level courses at CDF is through housing inside of the GED Unit. When asked about the difficulty of getting into the GED Unit, 50%

**“Coming from the BOP to sit in [CDF] is so counterproductive to those who thirst for higher learning; meaning don't bring us back from the BOP just to sit in a cell 19 hours a day!”
(CTF Survey, July 2018)**

of respondents from CDF reported the process being “difficult” or “very difficult.”⁸ The CIC is encouraged to see more individuals have since been transferred to CTF and the GED Unit to allow for more programming. However, most IRAA individuals are continuously housed at CDF, and are not provided with many of the programming opportunities available at CTF.

The CIC encourages the partnership between the DOC College & Career Readiness Program and

Georgetown University with the Prison Scholars Program. Two IRAA individuals were able to complete the program during summer. In the fall, three of the IRAA individuals successfully received college credit from Georgetown University for completing courses in Democracy and Philosophy. The CIC believes this is a promising practice and has seen the impact this has made on the students. Studies have shown access to education as instrumental in reducing recidivism rates.⁹ The CIC hopes the population of IRAA individuals continues to increase at the DOC.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the concerns reported by individuals and our findings, the CIC recommends that the DOC house all IRAA candidates at CTF. Additionally, the CIC wishes to coordinate a quarterly education session for all IRAA individuals in order to provide updates, answer any questions, and connect individuals with resources specific to their needs. The CIC looks forward to working closely with the DOC to improve the conditions for IRAA candidates, in an effort to ensure their smooth transition back to society.

APPENDIX A: Methodology

The CIC conducted confidential interviews between June and August 2018 with 15 DOC inmates who are currently awaiting a hearing under IRAA. In addition to the interviews, DOC IRAA inmates completed a brief survey generally asking about the conditions of confinement as relative to his or her health, safety, and reentry concerns while awaiting his or her hearing. Following the interviews, the survey responses and interview notes were compiled, and the survey responses used in our report can be found in Appendix B. Additional information was provided during confidential one-on-one interviews with CIC staff between February and December 2018.

⁸ Refer to Appendix B.

⁹ “Researchers found that inmates who participate in correctional education programs have 43 percent lower odds of returning to prison than those who do not.” RAND Corporation, 2013. Article can be found online at <https://www.rand.org/news/press/2013/08/22.html>.

APPENDIX B: Inmate Survey Responses

The following section provides survey responses used in the report for 15 DOC IRAA inmates completed between July and August 2018. Open-ended survey responses were edited to erase identifying information, and were also edited for clarity.

Are you in CDF (DC Jail) or CTF (Correctional Treatment Facility)?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
11		4	
Current Housing Unit:			
CDF (<i>Answered: 10; Skipped: 1</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
NW-1	1	D1A	1
NW-2	1	D2A (YME Unit)	2
S-2	3	M96 (Med. Unit)	1
SE-2	2		
SE-3	2		
SW-3	1		
Do you have any separatee issues amongst other IRAA-eligible individuals in DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Yes	2	Yes	0
No	9	No	3
Don't Know	0	Don't Know	1
How long have you been incarcerated overall (in years)?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
21	4	21	1

23	1	24	2
24	4	28	1
25	2		
What BOP facility were you transferred from prior to DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
FCI Cumberland	1	FCI Hazelton	1
FCI Hazelton	1	FCI McDowell	1
FCI McDowell	2	FCI Petersburg Med.	1
USP Atwater	3	FCI Talladega	1
USP Canaan	2		
USP Lee	2		
USP Pollock	1		
What is your current custody classification level in DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Minimum	0	Minimum	1
Medium	8	Medium	2
Maximum	3	Maximum	0
Do Not Know	0	Do Not Know	1
Is there anything else you would like to share about your custody classification? <i>[Open-ended response]</i>			
CDF (<i>Answered: 7; Skipped: 4</i>)			
1.	Because of my life sentence		
2.	Although I am classified as a medium I am still being housed in a USP (penitentiary/high) due to the amount of time I have		
3.	No		
4.	No		

5.	I was told that I am Max custody here at CDF because of a new policy that makes any inmate with a sentence of over fifteen years automatically maximum security. Is this true, the new policy?		
6.	Because of the life on the back of my sentence, [my custody classification] is raised back up disqualifying me from participating in programs or getting a job. Thereby sitting me here stagnant, with idle time, and restricting preparation for return to society.		
7.	The BOP will always put us DC inmate's custody classification level at high, medium, or maximum because of the way the old sentences are [computed] with life on the back. And that alone keeps us from getting jobs or stops us from getting in classes or programs.		
CTF (<i>Answered: 1; Skipped: 3</i>)			
1.	Within the BOP, they classified me as a Medium High In. My classification points were at 12; meaning I had low points, but my sentence with LIFE on my back number wouldn't allow me to progress through the system.		
Do you have a high school diploma or GED?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Yes	7	Yes	4
No	4	No	0
Do you have a college degree?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Yes	0	Yes	0
No	11	No	4
Do you currently have a work assignment in DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Yes	9	Yes	2
No	2	No	2
Are you currently participating in any recreational programming in DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Yes	5	Yes	1
No	6	No	3

Are you currently participating in any religious programming in DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Yes	7	Yes	2
No	4	No	2
How easy or difficult is it to get into college courses in DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 9; Skipped: 2</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Very Easy	0	Very Easy	2
Easy	1	Easy	2
Neutral	4	Neutral	0
Difficult	2	Difficult	0
Very Difficult	2	Very Difficult	0
How easy or difficult is it to get into the GED Unit in DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 10; Skipped: 1</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 3; Skipped: 1</i>)	
Very Easy	0	Very Easy	0
Easy	2	Easy	1
Neutral	3	Neutral	1
Difficult	4	Difficult	1
Very Difficult	1	Very Difficult	0
How easy or difficult is it to get into recreational programming in DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 10; Skipped: 1</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Very Easy	0	Very Easy	0
Easy	3	Easy	1
Neutral	3	Neutral	1
Difficult	2	Difficult	0
Very Difficult	2	Very Difficult	2

How easy or difficult is it to get into religious programming in DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 10; Skipped: 1</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Very Easy	1	Very Easy	1
Easy	4	Easy	2
Neutral	3	Neutral	0
Difficult	1	Difficult	0
Very Difficult	1	Very Difficult	1
Is there anything else you would like to share regarding education, programming, or employment? (Please feel free to list any specific programming you are currently participating in.) [<i>Open-ended response</i>]			
CDF (<i>Answered: 8; Skipped: 3</i>)			
1.	Work as unit orderly. Other than working as orderly in the unit, I am unable to participate in any of the above - due to Separatees! Furthermore, CDF doesn't have adequate programs to offer its inmate population. Too much idle time. There's simply not enough programs to offer the inmate population here at CDF. Majority of them are located at CTF... e.g. Re-Entry; Drug Treatment; College Courses; Culinary Arts; Challenge Program; various other work details, etc... Even job fairs! While being housed in the BOP, I participated in various types of programs. Even prior to my arrival here. I want and wish to do more with my time. Things that will benefit myself and greatly add to the future success of my reintegration. Due to my many separatee(s), unfortunately, I am unable to participate in the small number of programs available here at the CDF. To my knowledge, I have no separatees at the CTF.		
2.	mentor, self help, faith base		
3.	Most of the programs are not geared towards inmates on writs		
4.	the inside-out program/Howard University Black fathers matter anger management etc		
5.	It has been tedious to get into programs at the jail.		
6.	I am a GED tutor in the GED unit. I enrolled in the college program today at CDF with the online Ashland University course.		
7.	Only been here three days		
8.	I am in Black Fathers matter. And I referee the Football & basketball games. And I am a mentor for the Hope Foundation re-entry Fresh start Mentoring program.		
CTF (<i>Answered: 3; Skipped: 1</i>)			

1.	I am participating in a college program with Ashland University.		
2.	I am currently enrolled in three Georgetown courses; (Political Philosophy, Lecture Series, Creative Writing.)		
3.	I am currently enrolled in the Georgetown Prison Scholars Program Non-Credit Base and anyone coming back from the BOP should be allowed to participate in the Educational Programs here at CTF. Coming from the BOP to sit in DC Jail is so counterproductive to those who thirst for higher learning ; meaning don't bring us back from the BOP just to sat in a cell 19 hrs. a day!		
Do you have any medical or mental health needs?			
CDF <i>(Answered: 11; Skipped: 0)</i>		CTF <i>(Answered: 4; Skipped: 0)</i>	
Yes	2	Yes	2
No	9	No	2
Do you normally have access to Inmate Grievance Procedure (IGP) forms?			
CDF <i>(Answered: 11; Skipped: 0)</i>		CTF <i>(Answered: 4; Skipped: 0)</i>	
Yes	10	Yes	4
No	1	No	0
Have you ever used the grievance process at DOC?			
CDF <i>(Answered: 11; Skipped: 0)</i>		CTF <i>(Answered: 4; Skipped: 0)</i>	
Yes	4	Yes	1
No	7	No	3
If you have used the grievance process at DOC, what was the reason?			
CDF <i>(Answered: 5; Skipped: 6)</i>		CTF <i>(Answered: 1; Skipped: 3)</i>	
Medical Care	1	Medical Care	1
Staff	1	Staff	1
Mail	2		
If you have chosen not to use the grievance process at DOC, why not?			
CDF <i>(Answered: 10; Skipped: 1)</i>		CTF <i>(Answered: 3; Skipped: 1)</i>	
No problems/No reason to	2	No problems/No reason to	3

use		use	
Grievance process does not work	3		
Not satisfied with outcome of previously filed grievance	5		
Staff retaliation	2		
Do not want to be a snitch	1		
Have you received any disciplinary reports since arriving to DOC (regardless of whether you were found guilty or not guilty)?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 9; Skipped: 2</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Yes	2	Yes	0
No	7	No	4
What are the top three safety challenges you currently face while being placed in a jail population (instead of a prison)? [<i>Open-ended response</i>]			
CDF (<i>Answered: 6; Skipped: 5</i>)			
1.	(1) Being housed around guys who don't know how to do time; (2) The level of respect is extremely low, by both inmates and staff; (3) Being around others who don't have as much [as] you have to lose		
2.	None I'm good		
3.	None		
4.	I have an eye condition, 'alterior uvetiua.'" In FBOP, the doctors were concerned and attentive. Here at DOC, the doctor's don't care. I complain about my condition but it goes unanswered.		
5.	1) Dealing with mentally ill inmates; 2) Inmates addicted to powerful drugs from the streets; 3) Hostile staff members		
6.	(1) Different status of those who are entering prison now from those who have been incarcerated for a lengthy amount of time; (2) Not being into the same or similar circumstances as others (feeling foreign to); (3) As prison or this jail is a hyper-sensitive place at times it's difficult to navigate thru the current functions and going ons of today		
CTF (<i>Answered: 3; Skipped: 1</i>)			
1.	Theft from fellow inmates. Aggression from fellow inmates. Intimidation from fellow		

	inmates.		
2.	I haven't faced any safety challenges.		
3.	In the Young Men Emerging Unit (YME) I haven't faced any of the safety challenges.		
Has DOC staff discussed with you what programs you should be taking while incarcerated, specifically ones helpful to meet the factors under IRAA?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Yes	3	Yes	1
No	9	No	3
Have DOC staff discussed a reentry plan for you?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 10; Skipped: 1</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Yes	3	Yes	2
No	7	No	2
Do you know where you can find reentry resources?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 10; Skipped: 1</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Yes	6	Yes	3
No	4	No	1
What concern(s) are particular to IRAA-eligible individuals being housed in a jail setting, as opposed to other sentenced inmates in DOC on writ, if any? [Open-ended response]			
CDF (<i>Answered: 10; Skipped: 1</i>)			
1.	My concerns are that I will not have an opportunity to continue programming. Most IRAA eligible people have already served most of their sentence, and in doing so have earned achievement that should dictate classification and housing.		
2.	Remaining clear conduct. That's a real issue. For any little thing, the Government can/will use against you, and your struggle for freedom/resentencing. Therefore, guys in my position have to deal with so much more – develop a greater 'patience', in order to meet our goal.		
3.	I would prefer that us who's back on a writ for resentencing house in a different unit altogether because we know how to conduct ourselves.		
4.	Being able to continue to program and show the court that we are ready to be given a second chance at life outside of jail.		

5.	The individuals back on IRAA have a great possibility to enter society from here. And, I believe it is imperative to give us the opportunity of superior education in regard to reentry and career building to limit recidivism.
6.	In contrast to other inmates in the DOC on writ, IRAA-eligible returning citizens are a special category of offenders (juvenile lifers) that were specifically given relief by the US Supreme Court and local DC legislators under the Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act of 2016 because they have served “decades” in prison for offenses that occurred while they were children under the age of 18. Due to their special status as juveniles, a new law (DC Code Title 24 Section 403.03) was codified to afford them a retroactive application resentencing and release back into society.
7.	While potentially waiting to be resentenced, possibly released, the jail setting is not conducive to a re-entry mindset or objective. Especially since one is in the stage of preparing for society after decades of incarceration and one’s ability to communicate with the people one has on the outside who are also making preparation on one’s behalf is severely restricted. The jail mindset and prison mindset are not one in the same. An IRAA-eligible individual feels he has overcome and finally have hope and realistic promise and designs on returning to society as opposed to others still trying to figure it all out.
8.	The big difference is the time all the IRAA will have in when they do come up the jail, 20 years or more... After an inmate has done that much time his mind is on doing all he can to come home. IRAA inmates are used to being locked up a long time. Whereas the inmates that are coming back on writs have not done the time IRAA inmates have.
9.	The recent disciplinary report I received for defending myself is the perfect example. All of us IRAA individuals are walking on eggshells. For other inmates awaiting trial, appeals etc. a disciplinary report has little to no impact on their freedom. For us IRAA inmates, any disciplinary report (especially involving violence) can cost us our freedom. It is a bad situation to be in when other inmates know your hands are tied and they can use the system against you. If we are not even allowed to defend ourselves, then we should give one (or half) of a unit to ourselves where we can be around others who have as much to lose by receiving a disciplinary report as we do, same as it is for those in the GED Unit.
10.	The one obvious difference is the time that one who is able to file IRAA from others. As those who are IRAA eligible trying to reenter we are not involved in the jail culture as others are. Only to the extent of maintaining ones safety.
CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
1.	I would like to be housed in a unit for IRAA inmates. It is difficult for me to be housed in units in a unit where inmates who are not IRAA are housed because they are not disciplined and geared to do positive education things. Also they are loud, abrasive, and are obstacles to where what I am trying to accomplish.
2.	Those who fall under IRAA who come back to DC on writ need to be housed in CTF versus CDF. Being housed in CTF gives someone who is coming back on a writ the opportunity to

	continue programming versus the unstable environment of DC jail.
3	IRAA-Eligible individuals NEED to be place[d] in an environment where they can benefit from the programs being offered at the DOC while waiting on a re-sentencing hearing. They need to be allowed to work and continue to take care of themselves. When we arrive at the DOC they look at us as if we are just coming to jail when in reality we have been in prisons across the US for over 20 yrs. working, learnings and supporting ourselves.
4	Those who come back on the IRAA should be housed at CTF because its programs available for them.

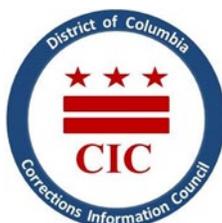
Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience at DOC? *[Open-ended response]*

CDF *(Answered: 9; Skipped: 2)*

1.	<p>There should be a writ, or fed block for individuals like myself... especially, those returning on the IRRA. In a way to protect us from, "crash dummies!!!"... those who know why we've returned, even those who aren't; that takes advantage of IRAA individuals' humble character. Ignoring the disrespect, practicing patience, even using the tools of effective communication, 'sometimes' isn't [sufficient]... to ward off a situation, where you HAVE to protect yourself from physical harm or instinctively fighting back. Television: The Nations Capital, DC Jail, doesn't have cable. Since leaving Lorton in 1997 - almost everywhere that I've been housed as a prisoner - other prisons have had cable. DC Jail doesn't even have basic cable... 40% of the tv channels are infomercials. With all the idle time - not to forget, lack of programs, you would think that this jail would provide adequate tv channels to entertain the restless. Instead of leaving them ways to "negatively" entertain each other. Haircuts - Haircuts, which are part of personal hygiene, grooming, are provided only once a month. Oppose to how the BOP (feds) provide them, once a week. Even 25 years ago... DC Jail kept barber kits in each unit. Guys received haircuts daily upon request. Now things are totally incomprehensibly different. Insomuch that neither are we allowed razors. For some like myself (Muslim Sunni) removing the hair from the pubic area as well as underarms is part of our faith/beliefs. Nails. The trimming of nails are also. However due to two suicides - from what I've been informed - razors are now prohibited. Therefore, we are now subjected to waiting an entire month, sometimes longer, to receive haircuts and nail clippers. Visitation: CTF provides "contact visits" once a week - similar to how the feds (BOP) conducts their visits. Where inmates can actually hug, touch, hold hands with children/family/love ones. CDF does not provide such. Instead, inmates and their love ones are coerced to 45 min video visitation. Have been stripped of the "behind of the glass" face to face visits and IRRA. Federal prisoners returning back on writ who are used to receiving "contact visits" should not be forced to the same treatment. There should be a unit in the CTF for those federal prisoners in order that they can receive such privileges, similar to those that they received from which they were prior to their arrival to DC Jail. Once upon the premises of the BOP, they take measures ensure the safety of visitors, upon arriving and departing. Not here at DC's Jail. Occasionally, my wife and children have been subjected to insults and harassment from the nearby residents of the DC Shelter. Milling around and near their vehicles. One time my wife witnessed two guys standing near her</p>
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	<p>vehicle from a distance they moved a way as they saw her approaching. Once she got to the car she noticed the lock had been tampered with. Upon further inspection, ironically as this may sound, she also noticed that a CO was in a vehicle nearby. Not even 20 ft away. She filed a report with MPD. There's also an underpass that visitors go through which at times my family have witnessed dried up feces, used condoms, and occasionally a strong smell of urine. Again... LACK OF RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY. Legal Visits: My attorney(s) here come to visit "plenty" of times and has had to wait 20 - sometimes half an hour before I am pulled out to see them. Which either robs me of my time with my attorney or causing them to leave. Not just IRAA individuals, but any sentenced prisoner from the BOP returning on a writ should not be treated the same way as one who either is newly detained, has no time, or is pre-trial. Held under detention center conditions.</p>
2.	It's been a rough ride.
3.	It's been nice having been over the jail for the first time since 2005.
4.	Every day is very challenging/complicated.
5.	I pray that the medical staff will begin to take sick call slips more seriously. The eye doctor is very mean and belligerent. There are doctors here that are not concerned with our well being at all. It's a very sad thing to encounter such lazy people who appear not to care.
6.	As a 16 year young child initially imprisoned in the year of 1997, to a 37 year old adult today, so much has changed in the world, even in our city with the current climate of hyper-gentrification, that I am certain that similarly situated IRAA-eligible returning citizens will need specific reentry services tailored to our unique situation. We have to learn how to not only write a resume, but also how to submit job applications online and how to use smartphones and how to create email address. We were imprisoned before the mass proliferation of the internet, so we have to learn basic web applications and how to operate mobile devices effectively as well. Most of us, such as myself, cannot even remember our social security numbers because we were never adults in society to make use of them. Job interview skills, modern day social culture that is heavily [tech-based], even traveling in familiar neighborhoods that have been made over through gentrification, are real concrete challenges that await IRAA-eligible citizens that have been imprisoned as teenagers since the 20th century. It appears that most of the DOC reentry services are disproportionately centered at CTF, or in the GED unit at CDF. The IRAA individuals outside of CTF and the GED unit at CDF are unfairly disadvantaged from accessing the reentry resources that they need to reenter society.
7.	I would like to add that the jail have a lot of pre-trial inmates. And a lot of young inmates. All the violence that happens up here be the young inmates on young inmates. Whoever come up here for the IRAA will be in his late 30's or 40's or even 50's. Here can you put us around this mindset and don't think one day something will go wrong... Everybody that come up here on the IRAA is trying to make it home after 20 something years and you put us in the cell with people off the streets telling us they go home in 24 hours, they got 3 months. All of us got life sentence!!

8.	There is a lot of corruption here. A lot of violence. A lot of staff members who really don't want to work hard. We are forced to eat poor diets and only receive a haircut once a month (which is unhealthy). The commissary prices are excessively high and the products are mostly junk food.
9.	As I came back to the DC Jail after not being here for well over 15 years I was out of place. I truly learned or confirmed that I was out of touch with today. I keep my goals and purpose in front of me so I know where I'm going. This is difficult for some [due] to the fact of getting oneself known in a light to be who he is and who he needs to be seen as. I've been here about 4 months the experience has been mind-blowing. I been able to find a program to get involved in and found a situation where my interaction is lessen with guys. So it would be a great plus if this could be done for others like myself.
CTF (<i>Answered: 0; Skipped: 4</i>)	



District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council

The electronic version of this report is available on the CIC website:
<http://www.cic.dc.gov/>

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**



**DC Department of Corrections’ Response to the Corrections Information Council’s
Thematic Report Regarding IRAA Inmates in DOC Custody**

The D.C. Department of Corrections (DCDOC) responds to the Corrections Information Council (CIC) Thematic Report regarding inmates currently housed at the D.C. Department of Corrections on writ from the Federal Bureau of Prisons pursuant to petitions they have filed under the District of Columbia Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act (IRAA).^{1/}

The CIC Report draws on anecdotal information relayed by unidentified IRAA inmates in interviews regarding their feelings of “safety and vulnerability” at the Central Detention Facility (DC Jail) to conclude that “the impression received by the CIC” from these feelings is that the DC Jail creates an “unnecessarily stressful process” for IRAA inmates to “stay out of trouble” while their IRAA petitions are pending in court. The CIC recommends that the DCDOC house all IRAA candidates at DCDOC Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) on the rationale that the court considers the disciplinary history of this population, pressuring inmates not to engage in disciplinary infractions during their stay on writ at the DCDOC, making them vulnerable to the behavior and mindset of pretrial detainees.

The report does not take into account that, like the DC Jail, the CTF population is also comprised of pretrial detainees and short term sentenced misdemeanants and felons and that inmates persistently, consistently and pervasively seek transfer to the CTF due to their visitation and other pleasing lower security amenities. However, there are many safety and security considerations that go into the determination of appropriate housing of two thousand inmates in the limited space of two vertical buildings in the center of an urban area that must be respected and followed.

¹ D.C. Official Code § 24-403.03, Modification of an imposed term of imprisonment for violations of law committed before 18 years of age.

All inmates are not eligible for the CTF as it is a low to medium custody facility and maximum custody inmates are precluded from housing there by accreditation standards and the standard of care in maintaining safety, security and order. Moreover, inmates may not be eligible for CTF due to the presence of separations at the facility, and because separations are not divulged to inmates or their attorneys, their report that they do not have separations is not reliable. Out of twenty-four (24) IRAA inmates currently in DCDOC custody, nine (9) are at CTF. Out of the fifteen (15) IRAA inmates currently housed the DC Jail, nine (9) are maximum custody inmates and not eligible to go to CTF by virtue of that classification.

While the report speculates a potentially violent atmosphere for the IRAA inmates, the facts reflect a safe environment. None of the twenty four (24) IRAA inmates currently in custody have been assaulted or received disciplinary infractions during their stay, reflecting that the IRAA inmates are not subjected to disproportionate or heightened danger, violence or victimization.

While the CIC supports their thesis by noting that court's look at program participation and disciplinary history while incarcerated, the court's review is not myopic or restricted to the immediate time period at the DC Jail but rather looks at the inmate's history of incarceration which must be, as statutorily prescribed, at least twenty years, not the few weeks or months an IRAA inmate spends at the DCDOC. Moreover, an IRAA inmate's extended presence in the DCDOC is not necessary to the legal process and their stay, if uncomfortable, can be shortened.

The similarities between the DC Jail and the CTF far outweigh the differences. Both facilities house minimum and medium custody inmates and pretrial detainees, sentenced misdemeanants and sentenced felons. Both facilities are accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA) and the National Conference on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) and certified compliant under the Prison Rape Elimination Act, or PREA.

Inmates at the DC Jail access work details, services and programs including Mentoring, Life Skills, Anger Management, GED, Mentoring/Spiritual Counseling, Creative Writing, Tutoring, Group/Individual Therapy, Culinary Arts/Vocational, Financial Literacy, Therapeutic Art, Parenting/Empowerment, Substance Use Prevention, Reentry/Housing Program for Ex-Offenders and Yoga/ Meditation. Inmates at the DC Jail receive religious accommodations and services, recreation, out of cell activity, television, library cart reading materials, commissary, social visitation, 24/7 legal visitation, telephone services (social and legal calls), mail services (regular and legal), case management services, law library services, grooming services, and inmates may grieve any concerns or complaints through the Inmate Grievance Procedures (medical and regular). Moreover, inmates who feel at risk are informed in the Inmate Handbook that they may request protective custody if they have safety or security concerns and may request

a housing hearing to be considered for another housing assignment.

Based on the foregoing, although the DCDOC cannot accommodate the recommendation that the Department house all IRAA inmates at the CTF or establish an IRAA unit there, the Department has and will continue to consider the housing of IRAA inmates in the best location suited for their individualized security and programmatic needs and requirements on a case by case basis. The Department is certainly amenable to housing IRAA inmates eligible and appropriate to be housed at CTF there and will evaluate individuals accordingly. The CIC request to coordinate a quarterly education session for all IRAA individuals in order to provide updates, answer any questions, and connect individuals with resources specific to their needs can be accommodated as long as they the sessions are held in the inmates' assigned facilities and housing units in a manner that maintains the safety, security and order of the facility. The DCDOC also looks forward to working closely with the CIC in continuing to provide IRAA candidates conditions of confinement, programs and services to aid in their smooth transition back to society.

February 8, 2019

APPENDIX A: Methodology

The CIC compiled this report documenting fiscal year 2019 activities in order to supplement the fiscal year 2020 inspection and report. Structural changes within the organization during the middle of the 2018 fiscal year required the agency to prioritize the outstanding production of the fiscal year 2018 report, which was published during fiscal year 2019. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in fiscal year 2020, the CIC continues to monitor and communicate with both executive leadership and inmates housed at the DOC, and we are eagerly progressing towards improved and ongoing future communications and publications for fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council



District of Columbia
Department of Corrections

2020 Inspection Report



Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF)



Central Detention Facility (CDF)

October 8, 2020



District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

Charles Thornton, Board Chair
Katharine A. Huffman, Board Member
Calvin Woodland Jr., Board Member
Nkechi Taifa, Board Member
Charlie Whitaker, Board Member

About the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

The District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC) is an independent oversight body mandated by the United States Congress and the Council of the District of Columbia to inspect, monitor, and report on the conditions of confinement in correctional facilities where residents from the District of Columbia are incarcerated. This includes facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DOC), and private contractors.

The CIC reports its observations and recommendations to the District of Columbia Representative in the United States Congress, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Council of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, the Director of the BOP, the Director of the DOC, and the community.

Although the CIC does not handle individual complaints or provide legal representation or advice, individuals are still encouraged to contact the CIC. Reports, concerns, and general information from incarcerated DC residents and the public are very important to the CIC, and they greatly inform our inspection schedule, recommendations, and reports. However, unless expressly permitted by the individuals or required by law, names and identifying information of residents, corrections staff not in leadership, and members of the general public will be kept anonymous and confidential.

DC Corrections Information Council

1400 Eye Street NW – Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 478-9211
Email: dccic@dc.gov
Website: <https://cic.dc.gov/>

Executive Summary

Correctional Treatment Facility Profile

Dates of Inspection: February 25, 2020

Rated Capacity: 1,200

Location: 1901 E St SE, Washington, DC
20003

Population (2/25/20): 532

Security Level: Minimum, Medium

Central Detention Facility Profile

Dates of Inspection: February 26, 2020

Rated Capacity: 2,160

Location: 1901 D St SE, Washington, DC
20003

Population (02/26/20): 1,260

Security Level: Minimum, Medium,
Maximum

The Central Treatment Facility (CTF) is comprised of 27 housing units. Out of those 27 units, three are closed. The average population of each unit at the CTF averages around 50 residents, but presently - there are two units housing 36 residents each.

The Central Detention Facility (CDF) is comprised of 18 housing units. Out of those 18 housing units, three are closed. One of the closed units is now being used as a program space. The other two units will open within the next few weeks. The executive staff at the CDF plans to depopulate some of the open units in order to populate the closed units.

It is the intent of the CDF to lower each housing unit population from approximately 90 residents to 60-70 residents. Depopulating the housing units is an attempt to create more space within the units for programming.

Key Findings

The CIC highlights the following programs and issues that impact programming:

- a) More programming lowers the rate of incidence and improves operations.
- b) Jails and detention facilities are not spatially designed like prisons, which house people with longer sentences. Most DOC residents are pre-trial detainees, which creates a transitional population inside of a facility not designed for programming.
- c) The DOC has created innovative programming for some of its transitional population.
- d) Security levels and separations are the main reason why more individuals at the CDF are not allowed to participate in CTF programs.
- e) The DOC does not receive government funding for a majority of its programs, which are conducted and facilitated by volunteers who sometimes receive grants to do the work.
- f) Case managers at the CDF are available in some units twice a week.
- g) The DOC has over 300 people and 85 organizations volunteering within its facilities.
- h) There are seven postsecondary partnerships at the DOC.
- i) Some post-secondary education classes are co-ed.
- j) All residents, even those in restrictive housing units, have access to the Inside Scoop, which is a DOC news publication.
- k) All residents within program units have access to tablets to conduct and complete their course work.
- l) The C-Tech program in the Phoenix Housing unit has a 100% success rate, and over 60 students have earned a certification.
- m) In fiscal year 2020 to date, 372 students have enrolled in post-secondary education courses.
- n) There are over 47 religious service volunteers that visit the CDF, and 17 Religious Services volunteers that visit the CTF.

Recommendations

Based on the inspection of the CTF and CDF, the CIC makes the following recommendations:

- a) Establish coordination between the Executive staff and education administrators to acquire more funding for educational programs within the annual budget.
- b) Implement an online screening process for volunteers.
- c) Acquire more reentry resources to connect the residents with the outside world. Residents will need tangible resources upon their release, such as food and shelter.
- d) Make case managers available five days a week within the housing units.
- e) Implement more family reunification programs.
- f) Establish more family connections through chaplain services, especially for those with kids.
- g) Continue to bring in more guest speakers.
- h) Communicate with community partners, and develop a plan to both extend YME into the community and acquire resources needed for implementation, because as the young men are released, the continuity of structure and support is still needed.
- i) Create programs for those in the CDF YME that are tailored to those who will remain confined, so they continue to be productive while confined.
- j) Assure that line staff knows program and class schedules, so residents may arrive to their

programs on time. For residents at the CDF who must go to the CTF for their classes, assure that line staff escorts residents on time.

- k) Provide orientation classes for tablets because some residents have never used tablets.
- l) Make sure that tablets are issued on time and accessible at the appropriate times.
- m) Post the process for accessing available programs inside of the housing units.
- n) Get educational tablets for the entire inmate population.

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Introduction

The DC Department of Corrections (hereinafter, DOC) operates two jail facilities: the Correctional Treatment Center (hereinafter, CTF), and the Central Detention Facility also known as the DC Jail (hereinafter, CDF). The facilities are adjacent to one another and are located in Southeast Washington, D.C.

The CTF complex typically houses residents who are minimum or medium security, including females, as well as male residents who have specialized confinement needs. The CDF houses male residents, a majority of whom are held pending adjudication of a criminal case or are sentenced to a period of incarceration following conviction for a misdemeanor offense. Other CDF residents include those held on United States Parole Commission (USPC) warrants, those awaiting transfer to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), and those held due to a writ or hold - typically awaiting transfer to another jurisdiction.

On February 24, 2020, CIC staff met with DOC staff at the CTF and CDF about promising practices related to programs within the DOC. As part of this inspection, CIC staff interviewed residents confined at the CDF and CTF to hear about their access to programs, program availability, and the impact that DOC programs have on residents within DOC custody. In addition, the CIC was also able to observe some of the classes and programs while they occurred. The CIC conducted its onsite inspection of the CTF on February 24, 2020, and CDF on February 25, 2020. For a complete explanation of the report methodology, see Appendix A: Methodology.

Facility Overview

As part of the DOC inspection, the CIC toured areas of both the CTF and CDF, including all program units, educational classroom spaces, chapel areas, and general population units. For a complete list of the units and program spaces that the CIC requested to visit, and the units and program spaces that the DOC included as part of the tour, see Appendix A: Methodology. The names of the units and spaces toured, information about the population and staff on each unit, and a brief description of daily life on each unit can be found in the subsequent chart.

CTF Inspection Summary

Young Men Emerging (YME) Unit - CTF	
<p>Unit Capacity: 25</p> <p>Population February 24: 16</p> <p>Unit Population: Residents are between the ages of 18-25 (mentees). All mentors are IRAA eligible residents.</p> <p>Unit Staff: Corrections officers; One lieutenant; one sergeant; one program manager; one case manager. In total there are 16 trained staff members and ten volunteers for the YME unit.¹</p>	<p>The YME unit is designed for residents who are confined between the ages of 18 and 25. This demographic was chosen based upon the unique attributes of youth and their amenability to rehabilitate. All the mentors have been confined at least 15 years, qualify for IRAA², and are housed at the DOC on writ. Every mentor also began their incarceration between the ages of 18 and 25. YME is a therapeutic community designed to help heal trauma, stimulate self-reflection, and encourage young people to develop life goals in order to become a productive member of a community. The staff and volunteers are fully invested in the program. Mentors often return to the unit after their own release in order to further serve and inspire the mentees by sharing their knowledge and experiences in a productive way. The environment is structured. The day starts with a room inspection and community conversations, which include healthy masculinity group discussions that address the misconceptions perpetuated within urban communities concerning manhood. Volunteers may also visit the unit to participate in the community conversations. After lunch, there is a short break period before programming commences. Afterwards, there is school preparation, GED or Georgetown University classes, and meditation and reflection. After 4 PM, the rest of the day is for leisure.</p>
Chaplain Volunteer Services	
<p>Chapel Capacity: 75</p> <p>Number of Chaplains: 3</p>	<p>The Chaplain Volunteer Services is run by a supervisory chaplain, Ms. Nicole Colbert, who oversees religious volunteer services at the CTF and CDF. There are several functioning faiths at the CTF, and there are 17 Religious Service volunteers at the CTF. There are religious volunteer visits, pastoral visits, and restrictive housing visits. There are also three schools in the area that offer seminary credit hours, so their students can earn field training for volunteering with the Chaplain department. All volunteers wishing to offer their services to DOC Chaplain Services must complete a volunteer application, background check, TB test, drug test, and 8 hours of training about DOC regulations. The length of processing time for approval or denial varies amongst individuals.</p>
Post-Secondary Education	
<p>Post- Secondary Enrollment FY 2020 to date: 372</p>	<p>Post-secondary education is part of the DC DOC Division of College & Career Readiness, which is led by Amy K. Lopez, Deputy Director of Professional Development and College and Career Readiness. Postsecondary educational opportunities are provided solely through volunteer services. Some of these volunteers are provided grants from entities outside of the DOC in order to provide educational opportunities for residents who are confined. The DOC does not receive funding from the DC government for its post-secondary educational</p>

¹ The same staff at the YME unit at the CDF also works at the YME unit at the CTF.

² The Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act (IRAA) is a subsection of the Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act of 2016 (D.C. Law 21-238). It is a part of legislation passed by the DC Council in 2017 to revitalize the Juvenile Justice system within DC. Available at <https://code.dccouncil.us/dc/council/laws/21-238.html>.

	<p>programs. Some of the offered courses are credited, while others are noncredit - for which students can earn a certificate. Current partners in these programs are UDC Workforce Development, Howard University, Georgetown University, and American University. There is also an online course through Ashland University that residents can take to earn a degree. Each class is filled to capacity, and there are no more than 30 people per class, with the exception of Ashland University because it is an online course that residents can take via their tablets, and the Georgetown Lecture series, which can have up to 75 people max because the class takes place in the chapel. The lecture series is also mandatory for those who are enrolled in the Georgetown Prison Scholars program. There are classes during the AM and PM hours - depending on the school's schedule. All courses are free to inmates. Interest in post-secondary education is extremely high. Students are heavily involved academics, which minimizes the probability of incidents within the CTF. These opportunities for education help to expose residents to their full potential, and it shows how confined residents are choosing to change.</p>
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Inside Scoop (DOC News Publication)

Published Issuers: 14
Contributors: 12 students and 3 staff members

The Inside Scoop started in September 2018. The vision came from the Deputy Director of Education, Ms. Amy Lopez, who is also the lead teacher and managing editor. There are 12 residents who all contribute to the Inside Scoop Publication, and there is one issue published per month for the last 14 months. Every Friday from 1-4 PM, the 12 residents participate in an Inside Scoop meeting/Journalism course that further educates them about the principles of journalism, preparing articles for print, and skills for Photoshop and InDesign, so that students can do the physical lay-out of the paper each month. There are additional visiting artists, photo-journalists, journalists, writers, and novelists who are scheduled regularly to speak with the class. Students have also attended workshops to learn the basic principles of photography and photo-journalism, so they are able to use the media equipment purchased through a Career and Technical Education (CTE) grant. All residents have access to the Inside Scoop, and can submit articles for publication. Residents feel that the publication gives them a voice, and also serves as a medium to vocalize any facility issues. All content is checked by the Warden, Dr. Blackmon, and Director Lopez prior to publication.

Volunteer Services Non-Religious

Volunteers: 300
Organizations: 80
DOC Volunteer Services Staff:
 Deputy Director Williams
Volunteer Service Assistant:
Thalley

All volunteer services are run by Deputy Director Williams, who is the Deputy Director of Programs and Case Management, with the exception of educational volunteers, which must go through Deputy Director Amy Lopez. The Volunteer Services Coordinator is usually the person who directly facilitates coordination of the volunteers, but that position is currently vacant. In the interim, the Volunteer Services Assistant, Ms. Thalley, has largely fulfilled that role. The goal for volunteer services is to offer quality and beneficial programming for residents. In order to become a volunteer, candidates must complete an application, background check, urinalysis test, and an 8 hour training course. Upon successful completion, volunteers are notified to pick up IDs at Human Resources, and contact DOC management in order to schedule and

	publish dates for their services. If there is a delay during the on-boarding process, the Deputy Director may use discretion to permit a 90-day grace period in order for volunteers to commence services while issues are resolved. To expedite future onboarding, the DOC is currently exploring an online process.
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CDF Inspection Summary

Young Men Emerging (YME) Unit - CDF	
<p>Unit Capacity: 25</p> <p>Current Population February 25: 16</p> <p>Unit Population: 13 mentees and 3 IRAA eligible mentors.</p> <p>Staff: Corrections officers; one lieutenant; one sergeant; one program manager; and one case manager. 16 trained staff members³, and 10 volunteers.</p>	<p>This unit is modeled after the YME unit at the CTF, and designed for residents between the ages of 18 and 25. Similarly, this demographic was chosen based upon the unique attributes of youth, and their amenability to rehabilitate. In order to be selected for admittance within the unit, the resident has to be between the ages of 18 and 25. Residents must submit a request to their case manager, who then communicates with YME case management. Based upon space and availability, the candidate participates in an orientation and interview. All mentors have been confined at least 15 years, qualify for IRAA⁴, and are housed at the DOC on writ. Every mentor also began their incarceration between the ages of 18 and 25. Based upon its impact and productivity at the CTF, this unit was expanded to the CDF in August of 2019. However, since the population at the CDF has more serious charges, the average time period within the unit is 6-12 months, whereas at the CTF- it is 3-6 months. Additional programming will be implemented to foster productivity within a prison environment for those who will not quickly transition back into society. Mentors are allowed to go CTF for contact visits weekly, and mentees can participate in family day at the CTF if they are in good standing. Family day consists of contact visits with loved ones every three months for 2-3 hours, in addition to their regular visitation times at the CDF, which occur via video.</p>
Phoenix Unit	
<p>Unit Capacity: 52</p> <p>Population February 25: 43</p> <p>Unit Population: Residents participating in vocational/career course work or the GED program.</p> <p>Unit Staff: 6 resident tutors, 7 Petey Greene tutors, 8 staff members serve as teachers, 6 FTE teachers, plus the CCR Special Assistant and College</p>	<p>The Phoenix unit was designed for residents who wanted to participate in vocational or career course work, and residents who wanted to obtain their GED. All residents at the present moment are housed in single cells. In order to be eligible for the Phoenix Unit, candidates must have 30 days of clear conduct (disciplinary reports), and to remain in the unit, residents cannot incur any disciplinary infractions. Residents who are tutors can earn \$32 a month. Every resident is enrolled in a class between the hours of 9 AM and 12 PM, and after the 4 PM count, residents have leisure time. Classes are available for GED prep, C-Tech, Ashland University, Georgetown University, American University, and ESL. If residents are not participating in a physical class room, then online</p>

³ *Supra.* See footnote 1.

⁴ *Supra.* See footnote 2.

<p>Administrator who teach. CCR has a total of 10 staff members who teach various courses and rotate to offer them both at the CTF and CDF.</p>	<p>courses are mandatory. Residents are removed from the unit if they have two unexcused absences from class. Each resident is issued a tablet for online courses, which are all loaded with educational content.</p>
<p>General Population (Unit SE 3)</p>	
<p>Unit Capacity: 160 Population February 25: 94 Unit Security Designation: Medium and Minimum security Unit Staff: Corrections officers and a case manager.</p>	<p>SE 3 is a general population unit within the CDF, which houses minimum and medium security residents. Recreation is split between two sides. One side of the unit engages in recreation during the morning, and the other side of the unit engages in recreation after 4 PM count; the schedule rotates daily in order to allow each side to participate in both morning and evening hours throughout the week. There are no programs on this unit due to structural limitations regarding space. Residents may participate in limited programming and religious services held in the chapel.</p>
<p>General Population (Unit NW 1)</p>	
<p>Unit Capacity: 160 Population February 25: 70 Unit Security Designation: Maximum security designations Unit Staff: Corrections officers and a case manager.</p>	<p>NW 1 is a general population unit within the CDF, which houses maximum security residents. During the time of the CIC's visit, the entire unit had been engaging in recreational activities at the same time. There are no programs on this unit due to structural limitations regarding space. Separation orders also impede residents' ability to participate in programs outside of the unit. Educational tablets are not distributed due to lack of use during previous years; however, the DOC is planning to reissue them in order to encourage programming.</p>

DOC Programmatic Findings

The following sections highlight DOC programs, some of which are specific to the CTF or CDF. These findings relate to daily opportunities for residents to participate in programs, and how these programs affect the facility, with particular focus on resident perception and impact. The information in this section was primarily gathered during interviews with residents and staff during the CIC 2020 annual inspection of the DOC, discussions with DOC executive staff, and information sent to the CIC from the DOC as part of an information request.

I. Young Men Emerging (YME) Unit at CTF

The DOC has established a specific unit that focuses on the unique attributes of youth between the ages of 18 and 25.

In 2018, the DOC revamped its programs to create the YME unit, which is specifically designed to rehabilitate youthful offenders. It offers a variety of sub-programs that focus on specific areas of rehabilitation. These programs address trauma, self-reflection, personal development, and reintegration. The goal is to help residents become productive members of society. The structure of their daily activities can be seen below:

YME Daily Activities/Program Schedule

- 7:30 AM – wake up
- 8:15 AM – room inspection
- 8:30 AM – community conversation
- 9:00 AM – health masculinity group
- 10:15 AM - lunch
- 12:45 PM – prepare for school
- 1:00 PM – GED and Georgetown University
- 2:00 PM – meditate/reflect

Community Meetings and Discussions with Residents

Residents participate in two community meetings daily. The meetings start with a check-in, where they articulate how they are feeling on a scale of 1-10, and began to discuss whatever topics or issues comprise the agenda. Community meetings are designed to help the residents with self-awareness and personal reflection as they develop future goals. The mentors have been through either the same or similar experiences, and have overcome and learned from those experiences, which allows them to effectively administer guidance.

Mentors

All mentors are selected from residents in DOC custody on writ in preparation of a possible sentence reduction pursuant to the provisions of the Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act (IRAA)⁵. Mentors are specifically selected from this pool because evidence-based records

⁵ Id.

demonstrate their rehabilitative progress. Mentors have the experience necessary to pragmatically communicate with mentees. They seek to redirect the mentees' life trajectories, and ultimately save lives.

According to the DOC and the mentors, all staff is trained prior to working in this unit. The mentor training was developed by YME founding members, who are also residents within the DOC, and is provided by Deputy Director Amy Lopez. The training addresses how to understand specific needs of the YME population, exhibit sensitivity to issues, and effectively administer assistance.

Mentorship is a key component of the unit, and mentors are available to mentees 24 hours a day. In the YME unit, cell doors do not lock, which helps facilitate access to communication.

Mentees

In order to be a mentee in the YME unit, residents must be ages 18 through 25. The process consists of submitting a request to a case manager, who then communicates with YME case management. Based upon space and availability, applicants are selected for an interview and orientation. At the orientation, mentees are interviewed and reviewed by the Lieutenant, Sergeant, Case Manager, and mentors.

The average length of stay for a mentee in the YME unit is 3-6 months. DOC residents are generally housed for short periods of time, because it is a pre-trial detention facility with a transient population.

Every mentee interviewed spoke about the positive impact of the YME unit. It has changed their perception of life and diminished the probability of making bad decisions that would lead to a life of confinement.

The YME provides access to acquiring resources and meeting individuals not ordinarily accessible in a correctional setting. Mentees value its unique attributes, including the shared sense of encouragement, brotherhood, and community. The young men within this unit have created a currency and banking system used to purchase items from a store that was created on the unit. Residents are allowed to purchase items from the store with the currency, which they can earn as a reward for doing certain extra activities within the housing unit. It is the intent of the residents to make this currency redeemable so that it can be placed in a residents account upon release. Residents also learn how to withdraw and deposit finances at a bank. The whole process is designed to teach financial responsibility, a skill needed upon release. Resultantly, there has been no violence within this unit. If a mentee incurs a serious disciplinary report (having contraband, assaults, etc. . .) he can be removed from the unit and housed with the general population.

Education

Every mentor and mentee is required to participate in education. They are either enrolled in the Georgetown University Prison Scholars program, or the GED preparation courses. If an individual is not currently enrolled in school or post-secondary educational courses, it is because they are on the waiting list. The following course offerings are available:

Academic Courses

- Literacy Courses – Levels I, II, III
- GED™ Preparatory
- Individualized GED™ Preparatory Courses (supported by the Petey Greene Program)
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Literacy and GED™ Preparatory
- Ashland University offers credited courses towards an Associate's or Bachelor's degree.
- Georgetown University Martin Tankleff Prison Scholars Program offers credited post-secondary courses towards a Liberal Arts Associate's degree.
- Georgetown University offers noncredit, post-secondary courses.
- Music Production through Georgetown University.
- Georgetown University Street Law (noncredit course).
- Howard University offers noncredit, post-secondary courses through the Inside Out Prison Exchange Program.

Cognitive Intervention

- Thinking for a Change

Thinking for a Change is a cognitive intervention program taught by a returning citizen. Participants explore taking control of their lives by taking control of their thinking. The main objective of this program is to effect change in thinking so that behavior is positively impacted.

The program is an integrated cognitive behavioral change program that incorporates research from cognitive restructuring theory, social skills development, and the learning and use of problem solving skills. The curriculum is sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections.

The courses offered are available to all residents within the YME unit. Resident feedback is positive regarding the quality and value of the educational opportunities. Staff and residents have expressed their appreciation during institutional graduation ceremonies, YME community circles, and one-on-one interviews.

CIC Recommendations

- Communicate with community partners, and develop a plan to both extend YME into the community and acquire resources needed for implementation, because as the young men are released, the continuity of structure and support is still needed.

II. Chaplain Volunteer Services

Space and staff are limited for the different religious services held at the DOC, but community volunteers help assure that all of the different faith groups are accommodated for their services.

The DOC Chaplain Volunteer Services are ran by a Supervisory Chaplain, Ms. Colbert, who oversees religious volunteer services and programming volunteers at the CDF and CTF. There are at

least a total of 270 volunteers at both facilities. Most of these individuals or organizations have been volunteers at the DOC for over 15 years. There are multiple faith groups within the DOC:

- Christianity
- Protestant
- Catholic
- Islam (Sunni)
- Nation of Islam
- Moorish Science Temple of America, Inc.
- Judaism
- Jehovah's Witness

Residents attend weekly religious services, and those services consist of multid denominational faith groups. The DOC utilizes three chaplains to develop, plan, and execute religious services programs. They also consult, and collaborate with volunteers.

There are over 47 religious service volunteers that visit CDF, and 17 religious service volunteers that visit the CTF. In addition to conducting weekly religious services, volunteers also provide religious volunteer visits, pastoral visits (one-on-one), clergy visits, and restrictive housing unit visits. Clergy visits are available for inmates requesting one-on-one meetings. Clergy leaders must undergo background checks, and present some form of an ordination certificate. The Chaplain permits weekly visits, as well as alternative schedules for visits as requested by an inmate.

The DOC Chaplain Department also provides an opportunity for students at local schools to acquire the experience needed to serve both incarcerated and marginalized populations. Three schools offer seminary credit hours so that students can earn field training for volunteering. A total of three university students (one from each school) are placed within the DOC religious services department from the following schools:

- Catholic University
- Dominican Brothers House
- Maple Springs (a mental health based ministry)

Screening Process

In order to become a religious service volunteer, candidates are selected using a screening process, which consists of the following:

- Submit a volunteer application
- Background check
- TB test and drug test
- 8 hour training about DOC regulations

Upon successful completion, volunteers are notified to pick up IDs at Human Resources, and contact DOC management in order to schedule and publish dates for their services on the calendar. The process is sometimes expedited for individuals who perform work with returning citizens, or who are affiliated with a faith community already volunteering at the DOC.

The length of processing time for approval or denial varies amongst individuals. In some cases, volunteers are denied solely because their services are already provided.

Exclusion from Facility

Violating DOC policies or attempting to circumvent normal processes can get a volunteer fired. Even if well intentioned, volunteers must remain mindful of their role, and stay within the confines of that role.

Impact

Staff and residents communicate that the impact on the population has been positive. Residents who are involved with these programs are more focused on rehabilitation and less susceptible to incurring disciplinary infractions. Most residents are either trying to develop a spiritual base or strengthen a pre-existing one that was not as strong prior to their incarceration. A lot of the residents continue their religious practices at their respective religious institutions upon release.

Exercising their spiritual preferences while confined has increased morale for many residents; however, sometimes the morale is deflated when spiritual awakenings conflict with the reality of incarceration. To help bridge the gap, Chaplain Colbert hosts guest speakers to help apply religious principles to practical life. She has invited esteemed speakers, such as Georgetown University's George Chochos, and Howard University's Dean Trulear.

CIC Recommendations

- Acquire more reentry resources to connect the residents with the outside world. Residents will need tangible resources upon their release, such as food and shelter.
- Establish more family connections through chaplain services, especially for those with kids.
- Continue to bring in more guest speakers.

III. Post-Secondary Education

Post-secondary programs were made available to residents when the DOC created its division of College and Career Readiness (CCR) in quarter 4 of FY 2017. The programs are designed to create educational opportunities for incarcerated people.

The division of College and Career Readiness (CCR) staff is comprised of a Deputy Director, Special Assistant, Program Administrator, College Administrator, Program Analyst, seven instructors, and two library professionals. CCR staff members also include a 35 year educator experienced in public and correctional education at the local, state, and federal level; an educator and administrator with 18 years of experience working with college students on campus; a correctional professional with over 30 years of DOC experience; a certified academic counselor; an attorney and university professor; a returning citizen; certified teachers; a certified Special Education teacher; and a library professionals with over 30 years of corrections experience. The College Administrator also recruits on housing units twice a week.

Universities Who Have Partnered With The DOC:

- UDC Workforce Development
- Howard University
- Georgetown University
- American University
- Ashland University (Online Courses)

The DOC is also attempting to secure future partnerships with Catholic University, University of Potomac, and UDC Community College.

Post-Secondary Courses are offered every day. There are AM and PM courses, depending on the school’s schedule:

- For Ashland University, residents select their own classes.
- For Georgetown University, there are three 3 credit classes.

Post-secondary educational opportunities are provided solely through volunteer services. Some of these volunteers are provided grants from private entities in order to fund these opportunities. There is no funding from the District of Columbia government.

Enrollment and Capacity:

- Must have a GED or High School Diploma
- Residents make a request to their case manager via request slip.
- Inmates fill out an application, which varies by institution.

Georgetown Prison Scholars requires a writing assessment, reading a novel, and an interview. Each class is filled to capacity. Class sizes vary by institution. There are no more than 30 people per class, with the exception of Ashland, because Ashland courses occur online via tablets. The Georgetown Lecture series, which is mandatory for those enrolled in Georgetown Prison Scholars, have a maximum of 75 people, because it occurs in the chapel.

Post-Secondary Enrollment for FY 2019:

- 438 residents

Outcomes:

Ashland University

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| • Passing Rate | 96% |
| • Number of college credits attempted | 285 |
| • Number of college credits earned | 273 |

Georgetown University

- | | |
|----------------|------|
| • Passing rate | 100% |
|----------------|------|

- Number of college credits attempted 234
- Number of college credits earned 234

Positive Impact:

Residents are focused and study together on their respective housing units. Residents benefit from selecting their preference for their learning style. They can do either face to face learning, or select Ashland for online courses. Courses are not diluted, so students must exhibit the same level of performance that their teachers expect from non-incarcerated students. Tutoring is available outside of class through Petey Green tutors. The rigorous educational obligations have reportedly resulted in fewer disciplinary incident reports, and executive staff reported no serious disciplinary infractions. The college administrator explained that the number one benefit of these programs has been exposing residents to their own potential.

Credit/Noncredit Courses

Some courses offer the opportunity to earn credits toward a degree, while others do not. It depends on the arrangement with the individual school, due to financial considerations. Credit hours cost money, and the credit programs need those cost covered, whether by private donors, Pell grants, etc...For noncredit courses, students receive a certificate of completion.

- For-credit courses: Georgetown Prison Scholars, Ashland University, and Howard University’s credited certificate for “Hospitality and Tourism”.
- Noncredit courses: Howard University Inside Out, UDC program, and Georgetown Pivot Program.
- Other notable course programs: Howard Law program and Georgetown Street Law program.

Waiting List, Time Lines, and Estimated Fees

The calendar years correspond to normal college semester timelines. There are no official waiting lists; however, the college administrator offers different program opportunities to residents if they are waiting for a slot to open in a program of their choice. The college administrator prioritizes residents, and continues communication to help residents get into desired courses.

There is no official time line, but below are estimates for the length of time required to complete enrollments. All of these courses are free to the resident population; however, Ashland University requires completing a FAFSA and Pell grant to cover cost.

- Georgetown University: 1 month.
- Ashland University: 6 to 8 weeks. Requires a FAFSA and Pell grant.
- Howard University: 1 week.
- University of the District of Columbia: 1 week.

Good Time Credits

Good time credits are available to students who participate in any program; however, there are exceptions. Residents with felonies, misdemeanants with any drug charge, and residents with civil cases do not qualify. All other misdemeanants are eligible for the maximum of 10 good time credits per month (30 days). As long as the 10 credit limit is not exceeded, they may also earn 3 days for good behavior, and 3 days for participation in a *credited* program. *Good behavior* good time credits may be revoked, but not program credits. In order to confirm that good time credits have been earned, a case management assistant reviews the individual's educational accomplishments to determine how many educational good time credits the person has earned, then sends that information to the Records office.

Georgetown Lecture Series

The themes of lectures focus on diverse topics that are relative to criminal or social justice reform. The following are some of the esteemed speakers who have spoken at the lecture series: Jasom Flom (record producer), Dr. Ositolu (corrections education and impact on post release outcomes), Michael Eric Dyson (educator and author), Sam Patton (political figure affiliated with Mueller), Kim Kardashian-West (criminal justice advocate), and representatives from FAMM (non-profit).

Process for Volunteer Speakers

- College Administrator trains all speakers
- Access memos are checked by Ms. Aniceko Points and her office.

Innovative and Exciting Programs on the Horizon

There are other post-secondary educational opportunities in development at the DOC. The programs are innovative, especially considering the challenges encountered by limited structural space and funding, as well as a transient population.

- Memorandum of Agreement in progress with Howard University School of Law for "Legislative Theater".
- Training Center.
- California nonprofit company will teach coding and Adobe suite using computers.
- LEGO's will support a robotics program to animate robots using coding.
- Film: there will be a grant for inmates interested using media to learn how to document their lives via podcast.
- University of Potomac: 20 different certifications in development.

CIC Recommendations

- Establish coordination between the Executive staff and education administrators to acquire more funding for educational programs within the annual budget.
- Assure that line staff knows program and class schedules, so residents may arrive to their programs on time.

IV. Inside Scoop (DOC News Publication)

The Inside Scoop Publication started in September of 2018. It was created by Deputy Director of Education, Ms. Amy Lopez, who is also the lead teacher and managing editor. There are twelve residents who all contribute to the Inside Scoop in some capacity, and there has been one issue published per month for the last 14 months.

There are twelve residents and three staff members that contribute to the editing, production, and publication of the Inside Scoop. The residents who contribute to this paper have an opportunity to further educate themselves by learning the principles of journalism and preparing articles for print. They attend journalism classes every Friday between the hours of 1 PM and 4 PM. They also learn Photoshop and InDesign skills, so they can do the physical lay-out of the paper each month. Occasionally, there are guest speakers, such as artists, photo-journalists, journalists, writers, and novelists. Students have also participated in workshops to learn the basics of photography and photo-journalism, in order to utilize media equipment, which is purchased through grants.

The Inside Scoop is accessible to all residents housed within the DOC, including those in specialized housing units. The content is inclusive of the entire resident population, and it is checked by the Warden, Dr. Blackmon, and Ms. Lopez prior to publication. A designated staff member distributes each publication throughout the CDF and CTF.

The process for contributing to publications is outlined below:

- Submissions are placed in a box in the library, or given to a case manager on the housing unit.
- Those who contribute must sign a media waiver.
- Staff does all curating. Residents edit and/or produce written pieces based on submissions from the population.
- Pieces are then placed in a folder for approval, which is examined for fitness (content that may incite the population is prohibited).
- The approved content is prepared for publication and distribution.

Funding

No DC appropriations funds are used for this program. Most of the funding for this program has come via grants. As of the time of this inspection, 10 computers were purchased through YOM Workforce Grants. BJA Grants and Inmate Welfare Funds (similar to BOP Inmate Trust accounts) have also been used to purchase tablets. Additionally, universities and other community partners donate funds. Perkins grant money is used for vocational training.

Impact

The Inside Scoop has given the resident population a voice. It allows people on the outside to understand what is happening on the inside, which also humanizes the experience of incarceration. Through the diversity of voices presented, the Inside Scoop is changing perceptions. It was

published on the front page of the Washington Post Metro section in an article by Keith Alexander, which underscores the significance of its impact. The Inside Scoop is also a uniquely progressive opportunity because it permits women to participate with the men in co-ed classes, which is typically prohibited in correctional institutions.

The Inside Scoop is also used to highlight critical issues affecting the population. Smaller resident populations, such as women, may use it as a communication tool in order to publicize potentially overlooked issues. Executive staff may respond to publicized grievances by implementing solutions, such as adding more programming opportunities for women.

CIC Recommendations

- Establish coordination between the Executive staff and education administrators to acquire more funding for educational programs within the annual budget.

V. Volunteer Services Non-Religious

There are over 300 volunteers, and 85 organizations that render services within the DOC. All service providers undergo the same screening process as those who volunteer for religious services.

All non-religious volunteers must go through the same screening process as religious volunteers, and all volunteer services are approved by the Deputy Director of Programs and Case Management, with the exception of educational volunteers, who are approved by the Deputy Director of Education.

The Volunteer Services Coordinator is usually the person who coordinates the volunteer services at the DOC. However, the position is currently vacant, so the Volunteer Services Assistant performs that role in the interim.

Screening Process

- Submit a volunteer application
- Background check
- TB test and drug test
- 8 hour training about DOC regulations

Failing a urinalysis test or background check will disqualify an individual from entering the DOC. Upon successful completion, volunteers are notified to pick up IDs at Human Resources, and contact DOC management in order to schedule and publish dates for their services on the calendar.

The length of processing time for approval or denial varies amongst individuals. To expedite future onboarding, the DOC is currently exploring an online process. If there is a delay during the onboarding process, the Deputy Director of Programs and Case Management may use discretion to permit a 90-day grace period or a single use access memo in order for volunteers to commence services while issues are resolved. In some cases, volunteers are denied solely because their services

are already provided. If an individual or organization is denied access, then they may appeal to the Office of Investigative Services (OIS).

CIC Recommendations

- Implement more family reunification programs.
- Implement an online screening process for volunteers.

VI. *Young Men Emerging (YME) Unit at CDF*

YME Unit was expanded to the CDF in 2019. It serves the same purpose in the CDF as it does in the CTF. The only difference is the mentees at the CDF have more serious cases pending than their counterparts at the CTF.

YME was originally established in the CTF, and based upon its success, it was extended to the CDF. The YME has a unit store where residents can purchase selected items on the unit with currency established within the unit, which is earned through various duties performed on the unit. There is also a banking system, which helps to teach financial responsibility, as well as incentives and support systems to encourage good behavior. YME serves the same purpose in both places, and the same staff members rotate between the two units.

Case severity is the most significant difference between the two YME units. At the CDF, the mentee population is facing the possibility of longer sentences in the event of a conviction due to the nature of their pending cases and the seriousness of their pending charges. It also takes longer for their cases to be resolved, which results in an average time of 6-12 months inside of the YME unit, as opposed to the average time of 3-6 months spent inside of the CTF.

Some of these young men will not quickly transition back into society like their counterparts at the CTF, and may alternatively enter the Federal Bureau of Prisons' custody; therefore, the YME unit at the CDF is in the process of implementing more programs designed to teach productivity within a prison setting.

Mentors/Mentees

The mentors at YME in CDF are selected and go through the same screening process as those at the CTF, and all mentors are IRAA candidates. Mentees are selected through the same process as well.

Mentors are allowed to go to the CTF for contact visitation, and mentees can participate in the Family Day program that takes place every three months for 2-3 hours. During the Family Day events, residents get to interact with their visitors longer than the regular visitation time period of one hour. This time does not impact or reduce regular visitation, which takes place on the visitation screen. However, mentees must be in good standing in order to participate in Family Day. Additionally, if the entire unit has good standing during the course of the week, the whole unit is allowed late night privileges, which permits them to enjoy leisure time outside of their cells at night.

Therapeutic Space

Within the YME Unit, there are spaces in empty cells used for meditation. There is also a barbershop. Such spaces are used to mediate disputes amongst residents, and to discuss issues affecting the residents.

Impact

The YME unit is different from all the other units in the jail, it is community orientated and so it is more relaxed and conducive to rehabilitation. The residents have explained that it has help change the criminal mentality in many ways of the residents there, specifically due the support and educational opportunities.

Residents are allowed to set up speaking engagements with inspirational outside entities. Additionally, three mentors, who were released under the provisions of IRAA, have returned to the DOC in order to speak about their experiences upon liberation, which is a source of inspiration for those who remain confined.

CIC Recommendations

- Work with community partners to extend the YME program into the community.
- Create programs that are tailored to those who will remain confined, so they continue to be productive while confined.

VII. Phoenix Unit

The Phoenix unit was designed specifically for residents who wanted to participate in vocational course work, obtain a GED, or participate in college courses.

In order for a resident to be eligible for the Phoenix Unit, they must have 30 days of clear conduct (meaning no disciplinary infractions), and to remain on the unit - they must avoid disciplinary infractions. Every resident housed in the Phoenix unit must be enrolled in at least one class. Between the hours of 9 AM and 2:30 PM, residents must be enrolled in educational classes. After the 4 PM count, residents are allowed leisure time. All classes are not conducted in the classroom; some classes are conducted online through Ashland University. In addition to the educational programs, there are jobs as tutors available for residents who wish to tutor other residents. A DOC resident who tutors can earn \$32 a month for services.

Partnerships with higher education institutions afforded DOC students the opportunity to participate in a variety of events, including participating with main campus students; earning college credit; earning a degree; collaborating with celebrities, activist, and national experts in discussions on criminal justice reform; and exploring national legislation through theatre - all of which was hosted by Howard University, Georgetown University, American University, University of California Los Angeles, Harvard University, and select staff from the Kennedy Center.

Classes/educational institutions available to the residents in the Phoenix Unit:

- GED
- ESL Classes
- Ashland University
- Georgetown University
- American University
- Howard University
- C-Tech

Ashland University (Online Courses)

- Credited course
- GED is required
- Second year pilot program paid for by Second Chance Pell Grant.
- Must have a two year tax return and could not have made over \$12,000 (persons incarcerated during this tax period are exempt).
- If residents have completed 6 successful credit hours, they can continue upon release and will be provided financial aid.

Georgetown University

- Mark Tankleff Prison Scholars Program offers for credit courses leading to a Bachelor's degree. Courses are offered face to face by GU professors in the DOC facility.
- Not for credit courses in a variety of subjects are also offered on site by Georgetown University.

American University Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program

- Offers college level courses that do not result in credit, but allows DOC students to participate in classes with university students weekly.

Howard University Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program

- Offers college level courses that do not result in credit, but allows DOC students to participate in classes with university students weekly.

C-Tech

- Through the C-Tech program in the Phoenix Unit, residents are able to earn industry certifications before being released. Specifically, the main two industry certifications under C-Tech are Building Industry Consulting Service International (BICSI) and Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association (CEDIA). There has been a 100% passing rate for C-Tech industry certification exams, and more than 60 students have been certified. All testing for certifications are administered by C-Tech, not DOC staff.

C-Tech classes:

- Telecommunications
- Copper Based Network Cabling
- Ground and Bonding Copper Based Systems

- Fiber Optic Network Cabling
 - Audio/Visual Installation Technician
- The maximum capacity for each class is 10 residents at a time. Individuals need at least 32 hours of course credits if they wish to continue course learning once released into society. The skills learned through these certifications can be transferred to society, where individuals can obtain employment with a starting income of \$26 an hour.

CIC Recommendations

- Provide orientation classes for tablets because some residents have never used tablets.
- Make sure that tablets are issued on time and accessible at the appropriate times.
- For residents at the CDF who must go to the CTF for their classes, assure that line staff escorts residents on time.

VIII. General Population (Unit SE 3)

SE 3 Unit is a minimum and medium general population unit with minimal programming opportunities.

There are some program opportunities outside of the housing unit in which residents may participate; however, these are very limited due spacing and separations. The general population units within the CDF were not designed for programming, so there is minimal space. The CDF also has a transient population, so it was not designed for long term housing. The only available program space in the CDF is the chapel, which houses a maximum of 75 people. Also, separation orders amongst residents create restrictions. Certain residents are not allowed near each other for safety, which limits their movement, and prevents the DOC from allowing their attendance at programs in CTF.

However, residents have explained that they also have a difficult time in having access to the case manager assigned to the housing unit. Access to case management is necessary so that residents can obtain information about programs, program availability, and enrollment requirements.

At the present moment residents within this unit are usually confined to the unit without much to do, because of limited programming opportunities. During recreational times the unit is divided into two sides. While one side is out engaged in recreational activities the other side must be confined to their cells, and vice versa. Every day, the hours rotate from one side to the other. Aside from recreation, there are no other outlets for residents. The DOC stated their dedication to innovation in order to provide more programs for the general population, in addition to obtaining more funding to acquire tablets for the general population.

CIC Recommendations

- Make case managers available five days a week within the housing unit.
- Post the process for accessing available programs inside of the housing units.
- Get educational tablets for the entire inmate population.

IX. General Population (Unit NW 1)

NW 1 is a maximum security unit designed for residents who have a higher security custody level.

During the time of the CIC inspection, this unit was unable to participate in recreational activities together, unlike some other units who experience recreational activities at the same time. This leaves the population without much to do throughout the day. Residents expressed a desire to have programming; however, the same impediments resulting from a lack of programming space and separation orders exist in this unit. Access to case managers is also a concern for residents, and residents feel deprived of information necessary to enter the programs that are available.

The DOC explained that, in the past, tablets for educational programming were issued throughout the whole unit, but the tablets were removed due to lack of interest and usage. There is a new population of residents who are now requesting tablets for programming, and DOC executive staff has stated that tablets will be redistributed.

CIC Recommendations

- Make case managers available five days a week within the housing unit.
- Post the process for accessing available programs inside of the housing units.

Appendix A: Methodology

In accordance with D.C. Code § 24-101.01(d)(1)(2019), the Corrections Information Council (CIC) sent a request to tour the Department of Corrections (DOC) facilities, the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF), and the Central Detention Facility (CDF). The CIC conducted an onsite inspection of the CTF on February 24, 2020, and an onsite inspection of the CDF on February 25, 2020. The CIC representatives on the inspection included Board Chair Charles Thornton; Program Analysts Kareem McCraney, Nicole Ukaegbu, and John Kowalko; Communications Specialist Nailah Bynoe-Seabron; and interns, Christian Wasik and Jessica Longacre. The focus of the inspection was programming.

Prior to the onsite inspection, the CIC communicated with residents at the CTF and CDF about programming. During those interviews, the CIC met with residents to discuss their concerns. The concerns and remarks made by residents throughout FY 2020 informed the areas that the CIC toured during the 2020 inspection, and were in the body of the report.

During the month of February, the CIC sent the DOC a request for documents, including:

- Population of YME unit at the CDF and CTF
- Total population of the Phoenix Unit
- List of classes that are offered at the Phoenix Unit
- List of Colleges/Universities that offer credit/noncredit courses in the DOC
- List of total population enrolled in college/university classes
- Total list of individuals, organizations, agencies, etc., who volunteer their services with DOC
- Total list of religious services at the DOC
- List of residents who participate in the production of the Inside Scoop
- Screening process for volunteer services

The inspection request itinerary included a tour of select units and program areas, which were the basis of comments, both positive and negative, made by DC residents throughout the fiscal year.

The units and program areas toured are listed below:

CTF

- YME Unit
- Chaplain Volunteer Services
- Post-Secondary Educational Classes
- Inside Scoop News Publication
- Volunteer Services

CDF

- YME Unit
- Phoenix Unit
- SE 3 General Population Unit
- NW 2 General Population Unit

The CIC provided the DOC with a draft version of this report for review of factual information, as well as an opportunity to respond. The DOC response is presented in Appendix B.

Appendix B: DOC Response

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**



Office of the Director

October 8, 2020

Reverend Donald L. Isaac
Executive Director
Corrections Information Council
1400 I Street, NW
Washington DC 20005

Dear Director Isaac:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response to the draft Corrections Information Council (CIC) FY20 Annual Inspection Report on the Department of Corrections (DOC). We appreciate our ongoing partnership with the CIC whereby we both seek improved circumstances and outcomes for District of Columbia residents returning to the community. It is important to note that this current inspection report is a seminal report in that, unlike previous years, the CIC has highlighted the significant increase in programming and educational opportunities under the current executive leadership. As we continue our current programming and pursue expansion, we will continue to be grateful for the CIC's follow-up and recommendations that seek to ensure improvements towards our shared goal. With that said, below you will find the DOC's response to specific findings and recommendations.

Findings:

I. Young Men Emerging (YME) Unit at CTF

There is a heavy focus on the innovative and essential educational opportunities provided by Georgetown University. DOC would like to see increased highlights of the educational opportunities provided by other universities, and vocational programs such as C-Tech that was not included in this section of the inspection report. DOC would like to see parity in the report as all entities who are providing services to the resident are essential and doing great work.

II. Chaplain Volunteer Services

The report has undercounted the number of religious volunteers that are serving the community. DOC coordinates with over 150 religious services volunteers to deploy services for approximately 70 religions and sects across both facilities.

Recommendations:

Communicate with community partners, and develop a plan to both extend YME into the community and acquire resources needed for implementation, because as the young men are released, the continuity of structure and support is still needed.

DOC works with community partners on behalf of all residents through facilities' programming, discharge planning, or the READY Center. DOC continues to seek opportunities for expansion. However, DOC's purview is limited to making the connections for release. Upon release, DOC will conduct follow-up and provide encouragement including identification of additional resources when possible. Beyond that extent, DOC joins the CIC in calling for additional community partners and resources to help facilitate seamless reintegration into the community.

Acquire more reentry resources to connect the residents with the outside world. Residents will need tangible resources upon their release, such as food and shelter. [SEP]

Through Link U, an online referral platform, the READY Center has the ability to link all READY Center participants to community resources, services and programs such as: food, clothing, vital records, workforce development, behavioral health services, etc.

Establish more family connections through chaplain services, especially for those with kids.

While not under the auspice of Chaplain Volunteer services, DOC is working strategically to expand family reunification programming. DOC is interested in seeing programming that is useful towards reunification and considers various familial dynamics.

Continue to bring in more guest speakers.

Prior to the global pandemic, DOC engaged numerous guest speakers for its Empowerment series. As DOC works to expand its virtual services, we continue to seek opportunities to provide virtual guest speakers in a socially distanced manner. Further, our tablet program allows residents the opportunity to select and view TED talks.

Establish coordination between the Executive staff and education administrators to acquire more funding for educational programs within the annual budget. [SEP]

DOC regularly communicates with the Executive Office of the Mayor on ensuring that funds are properly allocated to meet the base needs, expanded needs, and programmatic needs of the agency.

Assure that line staff knows program and class schedules, so residents may arrive to their programs on time.

Staff are able to access both a daily and monthly program/education schedule for purposes of participant recommendation, situational awareness, and movement/escort purposes. There will be occasions when residents may arrive untimely due to a variety of factors such as an incident in the facilities that may temporarily divert staffing, or the need to clear movement of other programming before moving on to the next program, or when a resident is a participant in multiple programs that may overlap or start/end consecutively without taking travel time into account. Overall programming scheduling cannot be predicated on the individual daily activity schedule of the hundreds of participants. Absent the foregoing, DOC will hold staff accountable for timely movement to programming.

Implement an online screening process for volunteers.

DC DOC is in the process of finalizing its online volunteer services application process and all forms will be available via our website by the end of October 2020.

[SEP] Create programs that are tailored to those who will remain confined, so they [SEP] continue to be productive while confined. [SEP]

Under the current executive administration, DOC has been more thoughtful and strategic in its provision of programming to ensure that opportunities are both productive while incarcerated, and easily transferable towards reintegration into the community.

Provide orientation classes for tablets because some residents have never used tablets. Make sure that tablets are issued on time and accessible at the appropriate times.

CCR and Operations staff continuously conducts tablet orientations. Dissemination of tablets occurs in conjunction with other housing unit activities such as recreation, court/legal activities, medical appointments, etc. They are accessible or distributed as timely possible. If there is an

intentional or willful disregard for dissemination then staff will be addressed appropriately.

For residents at the CDF who must go to the CTF for their classes, assure that line staff escorts residents on time.

See previous response on movement for programs.

Make case managers available five days a week within the housing unit. Post the process for accessing available programs inside of the housing units. [L] [SEP] (SE3 and NW1)

Currently, the ratio of residents to a case manager is 60 to 1. Due to the ratio coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic and an extremely high emphasis on legal calls and legal document processing, it will be challenging for case managers to provide full coverage in each unit five (5) days a week and remain in compliance with all of their case management activities.

Get educational tablets for the entire inmate population. [L] [SEP]

As of September 2020, either ADPS or GTL tablets, or sometimes both, are tablets available for usage by all residents.

Sincerely,



Quincy L. Booth



CIC | District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

For Immediate Release

Re: Fairview Residential Reentry Center (RRC) Visit on November 20, 2020

CIC Board Chairman Charles Thornton completed a walkthrough of Fairview Residential Reentry Center on November 20, 2020. The goal was to address recent complaints related to images that had been circulating, which displayed improperly working bathrooms and damaged infrastructure. Chairman Thornton spoke to Director McCoy, and was escorted throughout the facility to view the concerns.

He was escorted to the women's bathroom, which displayed a "Shower Out of Order" sign. The third bathroom stall inside of that bathroom was not functioning, due to an overflow. The overflow leaked through the floor and into the drywall below, which caused the ceiling of the dining room area below to collapse. The water in this bathroom had been shut off to prevent further leakage, and the ceiling below had been reinforced with plastic. Director McCoy had already received an estimate to repair the ceiling, but was waiting for another estimate, and assured that the work would be completed by next week.

BOP guidelines require one operable toilet for every eight residents, and there were two operable toilets. At the time of the walkthrough, there were six ladies on the roster staying inside of the facility. The ratio of rest rooms to individuals complies with BOP contract guidelines for residential reentry centers.

District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council



FCI MCDOWELL

Inspection Report



FCI McDowell

(photo by Federal Bureau of Prisons)

October 17, 2019



District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

Charles Thornton, Board Chair
Katharine A. Huffman, Board Member
Nkechi Taifa, Board Member
Charlie Whitaker, Board Member
Calvin Woodland Jr., Board Member

About the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

The District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC) is an independent oversight body mandated by the United States Congress and the Council of the District of Columbia to inspect, monitor, and report on the conditions of confinement in correctional facilities where inmates from the District of Columbia are incarcerated. This includes facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DOC), and private contractors.

The CIC reports its observations and recommendations to the District of Columbia Representative in the United States Congress, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Council of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, the Director of the BOP, the Director of the DOC, and the community.

Although the CIC does not handle individual complaints or provide legal representation or advice, individuals are still encouraged to contact the CIC. Reports, concerns, and general information from incarcerated DC residents and the public are very important to the CIC, and they greatly inform our inspection schedule, recommendations, and reports. However, unless expressly permitted by the individuals or required by law, names and identifying information of inmates, corrections staff not in leadership, and members of the general public will be kept anonymous and confidential.

DC Corrections Information Council

1400 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 478-9211
Email: dc.cic@dc.gov
Website: <https://cic.dc.gov/>

Executive Summary

Facility Profile

Dates of Inspection: December 12-13, 2018	Security Level: Medium, with minimum camp
Location: Welch, West Virginia	Rated Capacity: 1,295
Distance from DC: 352 miles	Average Daily Population 2018: 1,244
Year of Activation: 2010	

Total Population (December 2018)

Population: 1,240
Average Age: 37.5 years
Average Sentence: 157 months

DC Population (December 2018)

Population: 117 (9% of facility population)
Average Age: 35.7 years
Average Sentence: 176 months

Key Findings

The CIC made the following key findings about the conditions of confinement at FCI McDowell:

- At the time of the CIC’s inspection, FCI McDowell was on lockdown in response to an incident in which a large quantity of contraband (primarily cell phones) was thrown over the exterior fence into the recreation yard. Executive staff was very forthcoming about the incident and their ongoing efforts to regain control of the contraband and prevent similar incidents in the future.
- Inmates reported frequent lockdowns and associated issues with hygiene, food, education, and communication with family members. The documentation regarding the number of lockdowns in the past fiscal year did not appear to include recent lockdowns.
- An individual informed the CIC that he had recently pushed the emergency button in his cell in response to his cellmate experiencing acute medical distress. The individual reported that no staff responded for over two hours, and then both inmates were sent to the SHU as a result of requesting help.
- The facility has a robust vocational technology program including Masonry, Carpentry, and Electrical Wiring. 82 inmates currently participate in the four month-long program, including 12 DC individuals. Facility staff is preparing to start a program in concrete grinding and polishing, and is also pursuing a program in solar panel assembly.
- Per the warden, the facility has implemented a priority pass-through process to allow inmates with parolable life sentences placement in vocational programming with the support of their unit team.
- The facility has a unique recycling plant program which employs 55 inmates including six DC individuals, and has won three EPA green challenge awards.
- DC inmates reported discriminatory treatment by staff, including being called “DC Blacks” or “007”¹ by staff, and told that they cause too much trouble and do not know how to obey orders. One inmate expressed that DC individuals are stereotyped as being aggressive and gang members solely because they are from DC, while another indicated that it is harder for individuals from DC to get into programming or get facility jobs.
- Eight individuals mentioned problems with being charged a co-pay for visits in which they were not seen by a medical provider, or were seen but received no treatment beyond being told to buy painkillers from commissary.
- Psychology programming at this facility includes anger management groups, a non-residential drug addiction program, and individual therapy as needed. The facility does not offer residential drug addiction programming, or the Life Connections Program.

¹ “007” refers to the last three digits of the federal inmate register number assigned by the BOP and US Marshals Service. DC Code offenders usually have register numbers ending in 007 or 016.

- Most of the DC inmates the CIC met with mentioned concerns regarding the water quality, in particular contamination with the bacterium *H. pylori*. Staff noted that the facility is on the same public water supply as the City of Welch, West Virginia and that this water is safe to drink. The CIC was unable to verify reports of *H. pylori* contamination. Research suggests that there is not currently a reliable method for testing a water supply for the presence of this contaminant.
- Staff noted the challenges of processing mail while working to reduce introduction of contraband drugs through the mail. Inmates reported long delays in receiving mail, and frequent rejections of mail despite compliance with mail procedures.
- At the time of the inspection three housing units were closed; per staff, the spaces were not needed. One of the empty units (Unit C4) had been set up as a programming space where admission and orientation and re-entry preparation programming were held.

CIC Recommendations

Based on the inspection of FCI McDowell, the CIC makes the following recommendations:

- Executive staff should consider possibilities for locking down only the necessary portion of the facility in response to significant incidents, and should continue programs, work, and recreation during lockdowns.
- Executive staff should implement mandatory antiracism training for all personnel. This training should occur at least annually and ideally should occur quarterly.
- Facility staff should ensure that all grievance forms are readily available to inmates, and should not interfere with inmates' use of the administrative remedy process.
- Executive staff should create opportunities to engage directly with inmates and respond to their concerns.
- Executive staff should encourage medical staff to provide appropriate medication to inmates who are seen at sick call.
- Facility medical staff should clearly communicate diagnoses and treatment plans to inmates, and should ensure that all planned diagnostic and follow-up care is completed as promptly as possible.
- The Bureau should ensure that the facility has sufficient medical staff to respond promptly to the needs of the population, including acute and chronic medical concerns.
- Facility staff should continue to encourage and support inmate-led programming.
- The BOP should ensure that the facility has sufficient staff to allow all inmates meaningful access to education and re-entry programming.
- The BOP should re-consider the decision to eliminate the position of Re-entry Affairs Coordinator at FCI McDowell.
- The facility should identify and contract with a certified laboratory serving the area to perform comprehensive water testing on the facility water source to ensure adequate water quality. The type and frequency of the water testing should only be determined by the outside testing entity.
- Facility staff should consider directly addressing the inmate population regarding their concerns, including provision of water quality test results.
- Facility staff should ensure that all inmates have access to the most current mail policies.
- The BOP should ensure that the facility is sufficiently staffed to process mail in a timely manner, particularly legal and special mail. This includes promptly notifying inmates of rejected mail.
- Facility staff should always respond promptly to emergency medical alerts to ensure the safety of inmates.
- Facility staff should ensure the barbershop is open during sufficient and predictable hours in order to allow inmates a reasonable opportunity to get their hair cut.

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Introduction

Federal Correctional Institution McDowell (FCI McDowell) is a medium-security federal prison for male offenders located in southeastern West Virginia. The facility also has a nearby minimum-security federal prison camp.

The rated capacity of the facility is 1,295 inmates. At the time of the CIC inspection, there were a total of 1,240 inmates incarcerated at the facility, including 117 DC Code offenders. The camp has a total capacity of 65 inmates, and one DC inmate was at the camp at the time of inspection.

The CIC inspected FCI McDowell on December 12 and 13, 2018. The inspection of the facility included an opening session with the warden and executive staff, a facility tour, informal conversations with staff working in different facility departments, confidential interviews with inmates, and document review. During the tour, CIC staff members were escorted by staff including the warden, an associate warden, the executive assistant, and a sergeant. Report findings are based on facility documents collected prior to the inspection, staff comments and reflections made during the inspection, and inmate feedback gathered through survey responses and interviews. For a full explanation of the report methodology, see Appendix A.

Facility Overview

As part of the FCI McDowell inspection, the CIC toured a majority of the facility and talked to staff in each area. The units and departments toured, brief descriptions of units and departments, relevant characteristics, and DC specific information can be found in the chart below.

Figure 1: FCI McDowell Inspection Summary

Unit / Department	Overview	Additional details	DC specific
General Population Housing Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total of 12 general population housing units, divided into three two-story buildings with four units each • 64 double-bunked cells per unit • Each unit has six telephones, four computers, and a reentry room with information and resources 	At the time of the inspection, three units were closed. Staff explained the spaces were not needed. One empty unit (Unit C4) had been set up as a programming space where admission and orientation presentations were held.	One inmate noted that Unit C4 was rarely used for programming. Several inmates noted that due to the recent lockdown, showers were not being cleaned regularly.
Special Housing Unit (SHU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population at time of inspection: 160 • DC population at time of inspection: 15 • In administrative segregation: 118 (including eight DC inmates) • In disciplinary segregation: four (including one DC inmate) 	Medical staff comes through daily to conduct rounds and pass medication. Mental health staff does weekly rounds.	Several individuals mentioned that when taken to the SHU, their property was thrown away, including clothing items purchased from commissary.
Medical / Dental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Level 1 • 42 DC inmates designated as chronic care • Lab tests are sent to FMC Butner if routine, or LabCorp if urgent. • No onsite pharmacy (requests are filled at FMC Lexington and sent via FedEx) • 15 minutes to nearest hospital 	Individuals designated as medical care level 1 are generally healthy and have limited medical needs. ² A small number of inmates at the facility have a higher care level, including seven inmates currently being treated for Hepatitis C. A contract dentist comes to the facility once per week.	<i>See CIC Findings for information about DC inmates' experiences with medical and dental care at FCI McDowell.</i>
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Level 1 • Inmate companion team assists with suicide watch when appropriate • No RDAP;³ inmates needing this program are transferred out • Staff conducts weekly rounds in 	Individuals designated as mental health care level (MHCL)1 are generally healthy but may have stable mental health conditions that can be managed by clinician evaluation every six months. ⁴ Psychology programming at this facility includes anger	<i>See Appendix B for relevant survey responses and inmate comments.</i>

² Example conditions include medication-controlled diabetes, epilepsy, and emphysema. For additional information on Medical Care Levels, see DC Corrections Information Council, CIC Information Sheet: BOP – Medical Care Levels (May 17, 2017), <https://cic.dc.gov/page/cic-info-sheets>.

³ The Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP) is a voluntary treatment program available to inmates with a documented alcohol or substance abuse problem. For additional information, see Federal Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Department of Justice, Program Statement No. 5330.11, CN-1, Psychology Treatment Programs (Apr. 25, 2016), https://www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/5330_011.pdf.

⁴ For additional information, see DC Corrections Information Council, CIC Information Sheet: BOP – Mental Health Care Levels (May 17, 2017), <https://cic.dc.gov/page/cic-info-sheets>.

	SHU	management groups, a non-residential drug addiction program, and individual therapy as needed. Staff reported five MHCL 2 inmates.	
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY 2018 GED enrollment: 127 • FY 2018 GED completion: seven • Four GED teachers, one education specialist, and one education technician. • Special education levels 1-3 • One ESL class, and one GED class in Spanish • 14 computers for GED testing • Computer literacy program was suspended while the facility updated versions 	Staff reported the law library is open 12 hours a day, six days a week.	<i>See CIC Findings for information about DC inmates' experiences with education at FCI McDowell.</i>
Vocational Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program capacity: 90 inmates • Current enrollment: 82 • DC enrollment: 12 • Inmates must have GED prior to starting classes • Programs last four months 	Inmates complete a prerequisite class and then proceed to masonry, carpentry, or electrical programs. Facility staff is preparing to start a program in concrete grinding and polishing, and is also pursuing a program in solar panel assembly.	<i>See CIC Findings for information about DC inmates' experiences with vocational technology at FCI McDowell.</i>
Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity: 55 inmates (+10 from camp) • DC enrollment: six inmates • Turnover of about five participants per month • Inmates submit a cop-out to the program supervisor to indicate interest 	The recycling plant occupies a space approximately 150 ft ² , and recycles institutional waste with an efficiency rate of 70%. The facility has won three EPA Federal Green Challenge awards.	The CIC spoke with an inmate participating in the program who had a positive experience. Another inmate noted that it “gives guys jobs to do,” but that he was not interested in the program.
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor and outdoor recreation • Health resource area • Hobby craft program 	<p>CIC observed a large outdoor recreation space with five basketball courts, two handball courts, and two tracks. The indoor recreation space included a gym with basketball hoops, a room with foosball and air hockey tables, a cardio room for spin classes, and rooms for art classes and music.</p> <p>Staff stated that rec was open every day, with outside recreation available if staffing and weather permitted.</p>	Several inmates reported that outdoor recreation was frequently closed, and that the indoor recreation space was too small for the number of inmates. More than half of the 54 inmates surveyed reported being unsatisfied or very unsatisfied with recreation.

<p>Reentry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release Preparation Program held in converted housing unit • No reentry affairs coordinator 	<p>The warden informed CIC that the reentry affairs coordinator left, and the position was eliminated by the BOP.</p> <p>The warden stated that each unit has a reentry room with resources for inmates to access and encouraged the CIC to send materials for DC inmates.</p> <p>The facility has a “JOBview 2nd Chance” kiosk, updated every 30 days with jobs open to returning citizens, who can search by release area and print out application information.</p>	<p>DC individuals reported that there was not enough staff to run reentry programs, and so inmates run them. An individual also reported that reentry resources were not available on the housing units.</p>
<p>Religious Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two chapels – one large, one smaller • 12 active faith traditions • Full-time staff includes one chaplain (Protestant) and one open position. • Religious volunteers include a Catholic priest every other month, a deacon every other week, two student rabbis in the summer, and two Jehovah’s Witness practitioners 	<p>Each faith tradition has one worship time per week. The chaplain intends to add an additional study period for each faith tradition once there is a second chaplain.</p> <p>The chaplain stated that inmates can submit curriculums for reentry programs in the chapel space.</p>	<p>The chaplain was interested in developing a tele-sermon program where religious leaders could appear by video chat. The CIC plans to connect local religious leaders with the chaplain.</p> <p>One inmate reported difficulty accessing the chapel and was told that a reentry curriculum would take three months to get approved.</p>
<p>Visitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits allowed on weekends and federal holidays • SHU inmates can have non-contact visits in two-hour blocks • Two attorney-client rooms are available • Small hotel two miles away; the next closest accommodation is one hour away in Beckley, West Virginia, with no connecting bus service 	<p>The facility uses an Ion Spectrometry Device to check visitors for drugs. Staff reported nine visitors flagged out of approximately 300 scans in the prior three months. Staff also reported that an individual would only be turned away based on two consecutive scans with the same reading, and that staff considered exceptions based on the distance of travel and might allow a non-contact visit if possible.</p>	<p>DC inmates were mostly concerned with the distance for visitors, and their inability to contact family to inform them of facility lockdowns before they made the trip.</p>

In addition to the physical inspection, the FCI McDowell staff provided the CIC with a number of facility documents, a full list of which can be found in Appendix A. The documents included logs for the Administrative Remedy Program, also known as the grievance process, during 2017.⁵ See the chart below for the number of grievance requests or appeals submitted, rejected, filed, answered, and granted.

Figure 2: Summary of FCI McDowell Administrative Remedy Program, 2017

Level of Remedy Request or Appeal	Number Submitted	Number Rejected	Number Filed	Number Answered	Number Granted	Issues of Granted Grievances
<i>Request at facility level (BP-9)</i>	164	68	96	87	2	UDC/RRC Actions
<i>Appeal to Regional Office (BP-10)</i>	174	109	65	61	4	UDC/RRC Actions; Classification Matters; DHO/CDC Appeals
<i>Appeal to Central Office (BP-11)</i>	47	24	23	21	2	Jail time credit; sentence computation

⁵ For more information about the Administrative Remedy Program, see DC Corrections Information Council, CIC Information Sheet: FBOP – Administrative Remedy Program (Nov. 15, 2017), <https://cic.dc.gov/page/cic-info-sheets>.

CIC Findings

I. Lockdowns

Documents provided by the BOP in advance of the CIC's visit indicate that FCI McDowell had been locked down three times in the prior 12 months—in December 2017, June 2018, and September 2018. However, the documented lockdown periods did not match the time periods reported by staff and inmates at the facility during the CIC inspection. Facility staff and inmates informed the CIC that the facility had been locked down continuously since November 13, 2018, but the previous documents provided to the CIC showed no lockdowns during the month of November 2018. One inmate also reported that the facility was released from lockdown in October 2018, which was also not recorded in the provided documents.

At the time of the CIC's inspection, FCI McDowell had been on lockdown for over 30 days. Approximately one month prior to the CIC's visit, outside individuals threw several bags over the exterior fence into the recreation yard. The bags contained a large number of cell phones, as well as some tobacco and marijuana. During the inspection, the executive staff shared that they had recovered the tobacco and marijuana and many of the cell phones, but believed a number of cell phones were still hidden in the facility. They expected to keep the facility locked down until all contraband was recovered. The executive staff showed CIC staff the surveillance video of the incident, and explained their process for locating the remainder of the contraband. The warden explained that a similar incident occurred earlier in the year, and as a result, she requested and the facility received approval for installation of a thermal fence to alert staff to incidents like this more quickly. The executive staff discussed other plans to reduce the amount of contraband in the facility, including replacing the footlockers and pegboards in individual cells with models that eliminated identified hiding places for contraband. The lockdown was lifted on December 18, 2018.

Many inmates informed the CIC that the recent lockdown was a major source of frustration. Inmates reported that they had been locked in their cells all day, and were only allowed out for showers during the past month. According to their reports, they were also allowed out of their cells for 30 minute periods the day before the inspection. Inmates reported eating primarily cold bag lunches for that month, with a hot meal once every three days. They expressed concerns that the lockdown interrupted their education and programming progress, and prevented them from having outdoor recreation.

Recommendations:

The executive staff should consider possibilities for locking down only the necessary portion of the facility in response to incidents, such as fights between inmates on the same unit, or assaults on officers.

The executive staff should work to limit the duration of facility lockdowns.

The executive staff should consider options for continuing programming, work assignments, and recreation during lockdowns.

II. Staff Treatment

Many inmates who spoke with the CIC stated that they had been discriminated against and verbally harassed by staff at FCI McDowell. One inmate expressed that DC individuals are stereotyped as being aggressive and gang members solely because they are from DC, while another indicated that it is harder for individuals from DC to get into programming or get facility jobs. A staff member in the vocational program told the CIC that he was willing to have two or three guys from DC in his program at once, but at six or seven they "get rowdy." DC inmates also mentioned being called "DC Blacks" or "007"⁶ by staff, and were told that they cause too much trouble and do not know how to obey orders. One individual noted that white inmates were not typically patted down when exiting the dining hall, while black and Hispanic individuals were routinely patted down.

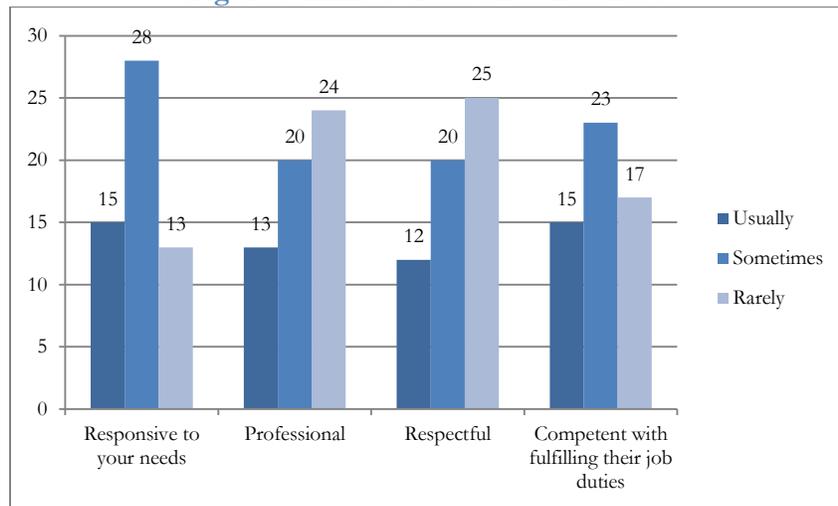
Several individuals who spoke with the CIC mentioned having staff interfere with their access to grievance forms. One inmate stated that he requested a BP-8 (informal grievance) form from his case manager and she said no and began

⁶ *Supra*, footnote 1.

laughing at him. Several inmates stated that they had to inform staff why they wanted a grievance form before they would be given one, and that staff sometimes refused to provide the forms. Other inmates stated that grievances are frequently lost, not taken seriously, or not addressed in a timely manner or sometimes at all. Several inmates also mentioned their fear of retaliation for filing grievances, noting that by filing a grievance they would “make enemies” or be subject to a cell search.

Twenty-five percent of survey respondents indicated that their unit team was “usually” responsive to their needs, and another fifty percent of survey respondent said their unit team was “sometimes” responsive to their needs.

Figure 3: Inmate views on staff conduct



Five inmates indicated that they had trouble getting their unit team to help with concerns about their security and custody classification points, which affects the type of facility to which inmates are designated.

The inmates who spoke with the CIC expressed concern that the facility is understaffed and disorganized. One inmate stated that FCI McDowell is “the most disorganized place I’ve ever been,” while other inmates said that “nothing is consistent, moves don’t happen at consistent times,” and that staff “change[s] rules as you go along.” Two individuals noted that they rarely see the executive staff.

Two individuals indicated in their survey responses that they had experienced physical violence from facility staff, but did not elaborate. No inmates reported in interviews or survey responses that they had been physically assaulted or harassed by other inmates at FCI McDowell.

Recommendations:

Executive staff should ensure that the Administrative Remedy Program at the facility is implemented in compliance with Program Statement 1330.18, in particular that counselors are providing appropriate forms when requested, and that unit managers are ensuring that inmates receive all relevant notices.

The executive staff should create opportunities to engage directly with inmates and respond to their concerns, such as regular rounds and regular presence at meals.

III. Medical Care

FCI McDowell has 12 full-time medical staff members, and five contract staff members, including three physician assistants who are on-call afterhours. The facility contains a trauma room where individuals can be treated for acute conditions prior to or in place of being transferred to a hospital. The medical area also contains a suicide watch room, a dry cell, and an isolation room where individuals can be placed prior to transfer to a hospital or a facility with a higher care level. Medical staff informed the CIC that the facility has a program to provide over-the-counter medication to indigent inmates who cannot afford to purchase medication from commissary.

Eleven inmates indicated that they were satisfied with the quality of medical care. Eight individuals mentioned problems with being charged co-pays for visits in which they were not seen by a medical provider, or were seen but received no treatment beyond being told to buy pain medication from commissary. Thirteen inmates described requesting medical attention for issues ranging from cysts to stomach ailments to eye infections but receiving no response to multiple cop-outs. Five inmates told the CIC that medical staff told them that they needed diagnostic tests (e.g., CAT scans, sonograms, or X-rays) or visits with specialists (e.g., orthopedists, gastroenterologists), but they did not receive further call-outs for the specified care. Two inmates mentioned that they had not been seen for chronic care issues since arriving at FCI McDowell.

One individual mentioned an incident in which he pushed the emergency button in his cell in response to his cellmate experiencing acute medical distress. The individual reported that no staff responded for over two hours, and when officers did respond, they said the cellmate was “faking” his medical issue and sent both inmates to the SHU.

Recommendations:

The executive staff should encourage medical staff to provide any recommended over-the-counter medication to inmates who are seen at sick call, so that inmates are not charged fees at both sick call and commissary.

The facility medical staff should clearly communicate diagnoses and treatment plans to inmates, and should ensure that all planned diagnostic and follow-up care is completed as promptly as possible.

Facility staff should always respond promptly to emergency medical alerts in order to ensure the safety of inmates.

IV. Education and Programming

Facility staff informed the CIC during the inspection that 16 individuals from DC were enrolled in Adult Basic Education (ABE) or General Education Development (GED) courses, five had completed an education program, and ten were on the waitlist for a program. Four inmates from DC were enrolled in correspondence classes. In addition, 12 DC inmates were participating in vocational programming, while 52 were on the waitlist.

Several individuals from DC reported that there was insufficient education and programming. They shared that the classes offered were not ones they wanted, and that classes they value and in which they had been participating were cancelled. One individual stated, “If you’re not in vocational tech, there’s nothing.” Another individual noted that computers are limited because inmates break them, and two inmates expressed that the education staff talked down to inmates.

DC inmates had a variety of opinions on the vocational technology program. One individual said that FCI McDowell was the best institution in which he had been for vocational programming, and another said that he had completed the carpentry, masonry, and electrical programs, but would have no use for them in society. A third individual said that vocational programming at FCI McDowell was “the bare minimum.” Two individuals who participated in apprenticeships noted that the teaching was good but the program was primarily self-study and lacked sufficient hands-on practice.

The warden informed the CIC that the facility had implemented a priority pass-through process to allow inmates with parolable life sentences placement into vocational technical programming with the support of their unit team. Several DC inmates with life sentences told the CIC that they were not able to access the programming because staff was prioritizing people with less time left on their sentence. The warden also noted the difficulty of getting volunteers to come to the facility in order to provide educational and other programming because of the remote location of the facility, and because potential volunteers often choose to spend time working in the surrounding community rather than coming to FCI McDowell. The warden commented that she would like the facility to have the Life Connections Program, which is a faith-based, voluntary reentry program for individuals within two to three years of their release date.⁷

Recommendations:

⁷ For additional information, see Federal Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Department of Justice, Program Statement No. 003-2013 (5325), Life Connections Program (Mar. 23, 2013), https://www.bop.gov/policy/om/003_2013.pdf.

The BOP should ensure that the facility offers a sufficient variety and number of programs to allow all inmates meaningful access to job and life skills programming, as well as education. The programs offered should be responsive to the inmates' stated needs.

Facility staff should continue to encourage and support inmate-led programming.

V. Water

At the beginning of the tour, the warden mentioned that the CIC would likely hear complaints from inmates about the water at FCI McDowell. She stated that the facility uses the public water supply of the City of Welch, which is safe for inmates to drink. Interviews with inmates confirmed that many of them have concerns about the water quality. Specifically, many inmates said that the water was contaminated with the bacteria *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*). One inmate was able to specify that local news reports had mentioned *H. pylori*, but most other individuals with whom the CIC spoke could not specify how they had learned that *H. pylori* was a problem in the water at FCI McDowell. Several inmates said that the water was brown or tasted bad, while other inmates stated that the water made them queasy, made them use the bathroom a lot, or gave them headaches. A few inmates noted that staff always drinks bottled water, but if inmates want bottled water then they have to purchase it from commissary. Many inmates cannot afford to purchase water, and commissary was not available during the month prior to the CIC's visit due to the lockdown. Several inmates stated that they were trying to avoid drinking any water while on lockdown.

Approximately one-third of the adult population of North America is infected with *H. pylori*; however, only a minority of infected individuals develops symptoms. Symptoms can include stomach pain, stomach ulcers, and several types of stomach cancer.⁸ Individuals are typically tested for *H. pylori* infection upon displaying symptoms, but there is not a reliable method for testing whether water contains the bacteria.⁹ *H. pylori* is not a recognized contaminant under the EPA National Primary Drinking Water Regulations or the Secondary Drinking Water Standards.¹⁰ The CIC was unable to verify inmates' reports of *H. pylori* contamination in the McDowell County water supply or the water supply of the City of Welch, West Virginia.¹¹

Recommendations:

The facility staff should consider directly addressing the inmate population regarding their concerns, including providing accurate information on *H. pylori* and the steps taken by the facility to address inmate concerns.

VI. Other Issues

A. Mail

FCI McDowell had recently changed its mail policies, and staff commented on the challenges with processing mail. The warden mentioned that the facility was working to reduce the amount of illegal drugs entering the facility, and that one way

⁸ R. Araujo Boira & ML Hanninen. *Helicobacter pylori*. In: J.B. Rose and B. Jiménez-Cisneros (eds.) *Global Water Pathogen Project* (July 17, 2017), <https://www.waterpathogens.org/book/helicobacter-pylori>.

⁹ "Most attempts to isolate *H. pylori* from the aquatic environment have failed. Nonetheless, other methods based on molecular techniques have demonstrated that it does exist as potentially active cells in the aquatic environment. It is difficult to relate the presence of *H. pylori* with specific water characteristics. However, its presence has generally been related with fecal pollution, accordingly the most probable sources of the bacteria in the environment. Thus, adequate sanitary conditions are likely to pose benefits for reducing transmission of *H. pylori*." R. Araujo Boira & ML Hanninen. *Helicobacter pylori*. In: J.B. Rose and B. Jiménez-Cisneros (eds.) *Global Water Pathogen Project* (July 17, 2017), <https://www.waterpathogens.org/book/helicobacter-pylori> (citations omitted).

¹⁰ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/national-primary-drinking-water-regulations>. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Secondary Drinking Water Standards: Guidance for Nuisance Chemicals, <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/secondary-drinking-water-standards-guidance-nuisance-chemicals>.

¹¹ The CIC searched news reports for the area and checked the EPA Safe Water Drinking Information System, as well as reaching out to the Water Department of the City of Welch. Search results for "Welch, City of" are available at https://ofmpub.epa.gov/enviro/sdw_report_v3.first_table?pws_id=WV3302421&state=WV&source=Ground%20water&population=2907&sys_num=0.

these drugs are entering the facility is through drug-soaked colored paper. As a result, the facility banned colored paper.¹² Staff stated that they were exploring other methods for allowing inmates to receive pictures or drawings from family members. They had explored scanning postal mail and sending it to inmates through the TRULINCS email system, but the system is not capable of loading PDF documents. Currently, inmates may receive a maximum of 25 photographs per mailing.

Inmates reported long delays before receiving mail and frequent rejections of mail, despite compliance with mail procedures. Several inmates noted that on units of over 100 inmates, only 10 to 25 pieces of mail were received per day. One inmate said that mail was sent back without any documentation of the reason for the rejection, while another individual reported receiving rejection slips six weeks after the mail was returned. One inmate mentioned that they were not allowed to send any mail around Thanksgiving while the facility was on lockdown. Another inmate noted that the complex mail policies and frequently returned mail strains family relationships. Three individuals who spoke with the CIC mentioned that legal mail is treated like regular mail and it is not opened in front of the inmate as required by policy.

Recommendations:

The BOP should ensure that the facility is processing mail in a timely manner and in accordance with the mail policy, particularly legal and special mail. This includes promptly notifying inmates of rejected mail.

Executive staff should ensure that the mail policy is clearly communicated to inmates, including timely notification of any updates.

B. Hygiene

More than half of survey respondents indicated that they regularly receive haircuts, and that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the cleanliness of their units.

Figure 4

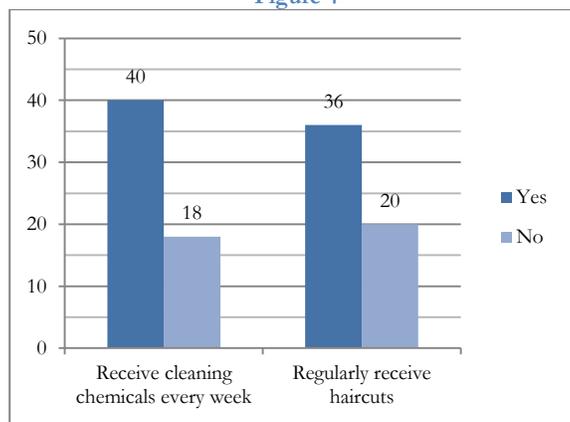
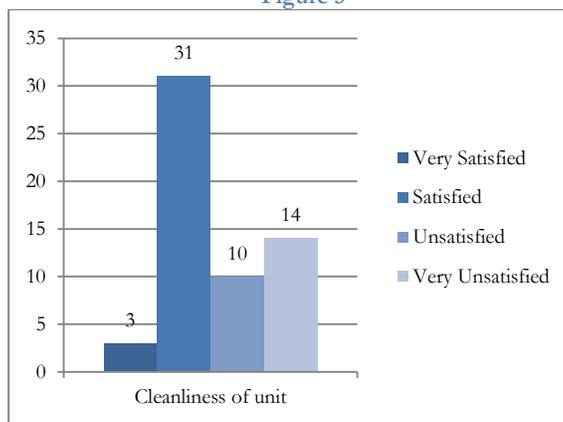


Figure 5



Two inmates mentioned that the barbershop is not regularly open, and another noted that access after dinner is very limited, which makes it hard for inmates who work or program during the day to get haircuts. Other concerns included insufficient soap, lack of toiletries available through commissary, insufficient cleaning supplies while on lockdown, and insufficient toilet paper.

Recommendation:

Facility staff should ensure the barbershop is open sufficient and predictable hours to allow inmates a reasonable opportunity to get their hair cut.

¹² Similar mail restrictions have been introduced at other BOP facilities. For additional information, see DC Corrections Information Council, CIC Information Sheet: Federal Bureau of Prisons – Facility Mail Policy Changes as of November 13, 2017, <https://cic.dc.gov/page/cic-info-sheets>.

Appendix A: Methodology

FCI McDowell Inspection Methodology

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Corrections Information Council (CIC) and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the CIC requested to inspect FCI McDowell on November 8, 2018. The inspection request itinerary included a tour of all areas of the facility to which inmates have access, discussions with staff, confidential interviews with DC inmates, and document review and collection. Prior to the onsite inspection, the CIC communicated with DC inmates at FCI McDowell to notify them of the upcoming inspection and offer the opportunity to participate in a confidential interview with a member of the CIC.

Prior to the onsite portion of the inspection, per the inspection request, the BOP sent the following documents to the CIC, which are on file with the CIC:

- Roster of DC Inmates
- Significant Incidents (12/2017 – 11/2018)
- Prohibited Act Rates (12/2017 – 11/2018)
- FY 2018 Administrative Remedies Tracking Data for BP-9, BP-10, and BP-11
- Inmate Sentencing and Designation Fact Sheet (as of November 2018)
- DC Specific Inmate Sentencing and Designation Fact Sheet (as of November 2018)
- Inmate Demographics Fact Sheet (as of November 2018)
- DC Specific Inmate Demographics Fact Sheet (as of November 2018)
- 2018 Monthly Average Daily Populations
- FY 2018 Inmate Enrollment in Programs
- Summary of Urinalysis Results (12/01/2017 – 11/27/2018)
- Completed CIC pre-inspection information worksheet documenting DC inmates' involvement in facility programs

The CIC conducted an onsite inspection of FCI McDowell on December 12 and 13, 2018. The inspection process included an opening session with FCI McDowell executive staff, a tour of the facility grounds; interviews with DC inmates in general population and the Special Housing Unit (SHU); and onsite document review. Various executive staff escorted CIC staff during the tour portion of the inspection. The areas toured included recreation, visitation, education, vocational technology, the recycling center, the kitchen and dining hall, the medical and dental areas, the psychology offices, religious services, a general housing (Unit C2), and the repurposed housing (Unit C4).

Following the inspection, the survey responses and interview notes were compiled. The complete responses can be found in Appendix B. Open-ended responses were edited for clarity and to remove any identifying information.

The CIC provided the BOP with a draft version of the report for review of factual information and an opportunity to respond to follow-up questions and any other information in the report. The BOP response to the CIC draft report can be found attached to the end of this report.

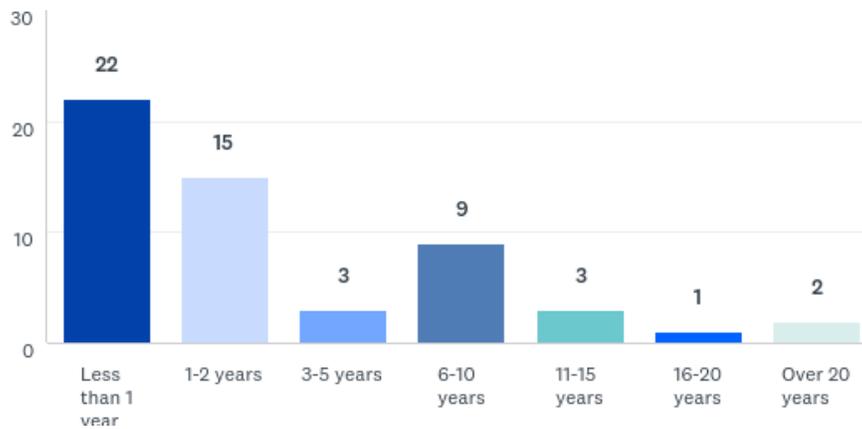
Appendix B: Inmate Survey Responses

FCI McDowell Inmate Survey Responses

61 Total Respondents¹³

How long have you been incarcerated at FCI McDowell?

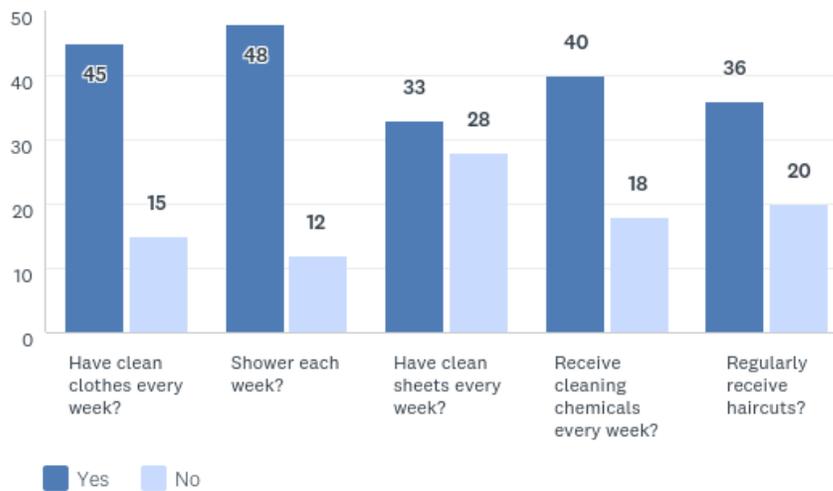
Answered: 55 Skipped: 6



Hygiene

Answered: 61 Skipped: 0

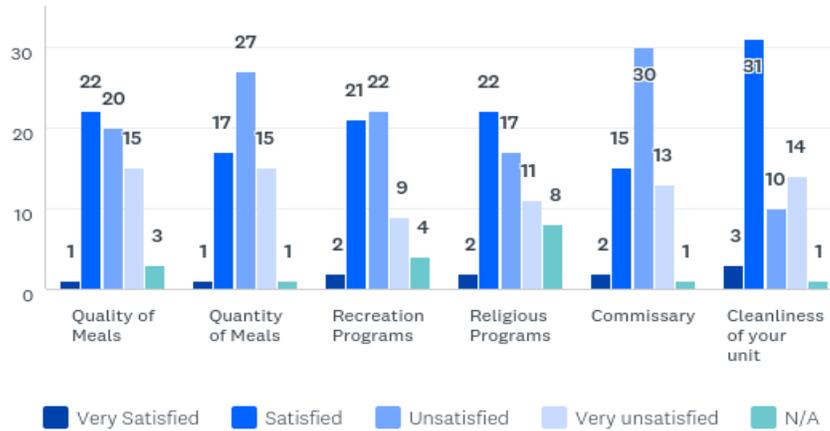
Are you normally able to:



¹³ Open-ended responses include information that was gathered from inmate surveys as well as interviews. Open-ended responses were edited to remove identifying information and were also edited for clarity.

How satisfied are you with:

Answered: 61 Skipped: 0



Please provide examples of why you are satisfied or unsatisfied with the previously discussed items:

Inmate Responses
The reason for recreation programs is because the yard is split in half.
Commissary always has many items out of stock. With religious services they'll lie to us about allowing us certain items for events and then at the last moment say no, meaning we end up with nothing or very little due to time constraints.
Meals are cooked well but portions are very small. There are really no good programs in education.
The staff eats wonderful, steaks etc. Constantly being fed the same meals; on lockdown periods we're being fed bologna sandwiches or box meals.
The quality of the food is poor, all breaded and processed food and mostly canned food.
Blankets get cleaned once a month, but perspiration makes these blankets strong before a weeks time in a month waiting period.
I'm unsatisfied with the way this facility feeds us, the food sometimes gets given to us on foam trays and just doesn't be enough for a daily meal. We inform the staff here of these things and they does nothing to fix or act like they care.
This space is inadequate to respond to unsatisfied remarks for religion commissary and rec department.
Better meals should be provided to non meat eaters. I have been given small clothes and have not seen my right size. They close the rec and staff are very disrespectful. The water is unsafe.
Showers: yes, but not on lockdown; haircuts: but we have to pay for them.
The dining hall is very unsanitary. I've seen mice all over the kitchen. The food is outdated. Fruit we receive are spoiled almost all the time.
I am unsatisfied with the cleanliness of the housing unit because I caught a staph infection twice by the showers.
Because of the water problem and how we living on lockdown.
The food is poorly cooked and sometimes cold due to the numerous lockdowns and the lack of care and concern from the officers.
The quality of the food for the most part is the best I've had in my 17 years in, but you'll leave he chow hall still hungry more times than not.
The food is bad on lockdown. It's cold and we don't get enough calories and stuff like that they give us bologna sandwiches everyday.
Commissary doesn't have more healthy items.
I believe that the conditions of the last couple institutions with the claim of the feds not having the funds makes the conditions worse.
Everything I said I was unsatisfied with is because the staff does not do their jobs and they are very unprofessional. They are racist. Staff just clearly disregard everything.
We are always on lockdown.
I wash my own clothes by hand.
The people here don't want us here. They say we are living too good here, so that's why they treat us bad.
We stay locked down for too long. Everything is going good I guess.
The food is okay it's just very small portions, you can only exchange sheets and blankets once a month, which in summertime it's hot because A/C doesn't work properly. Rec is basically always closed and can't get out to the big yard to catch fresh air. Commissary doesn't have a variety of healthy cereal, nuts, etc also all cup soup are spicy chili, no substitute for people that don't like spicy.
Fruit - apples are very low quality, are sometime rotten. They never provide butter for hot cereal.

I've only been here a little over 2 months but these are my observations based upon experience from other institutions.
Lack of professionalism, people skills, understanding what needs to be done completed in a sensible manner. Staff basically shows a provocative attitude and biased approach to many concerns.
The food once had a cooked rat in it. Also rats run around in the dining hall the water is contaminated the units are always dirty where is tho you get sick the shower stay dirty.
We don't get showers daily, the water here is not good it make you sick. We've been on lockdown 30+ day. We are not allowed to talk to our family.
As for the meals a lot of times the portions aren't typically enough. As for recreations, there are things that we need for sports (like score boards) and they won't allow it to be bought. There should be more for this level prison.
The food tastes good but the size of the servings won't fill a five year-old.
Because it is unclean here.
I know that we are being served the lowest quality of food and I know that according to policy the correct amount of calories are not being met.
I am unsatisfied with the quality and the quantity of the meals because there isn't enough food and the food is horrible. Nine times out of ten I am satisfied with rec programs because I can stretch my legs and exercise. I am unsatisfied with commissary because the officers are disrespectful and they really don't have too much on the list because they took a lot of things off.
Too much to write.
It could be better.
Satisfied because whatever I marked is acceptable. Unsatisfied because its unacceptable and there is no consistence or professionalism.
When on lockdown there is no variety of meals, portion are for kindergarten kids not grown men. Commissary can be more diverse and healthy.
We don't always eat the same things that were served to the other units. The showers are dirty as well as the pods. I haven't heard of a recreation program since I been here.
Most times the food is not hot or well cooked, can hardly go to recreation due to the functioning of the institution. And can hardly go to my religious program (Jehovah's Witness) because of the chaplain's schedule.
No answer.
The food is always cold and half done. The commissary staff are disrespectful and the waiting area is a safety hazard.
Because of too many lockdowns can't accomplish nothing really.
I think they can put more food on our trays and feed us as men. The chapel needs TVs so we can go study and expand our mind.

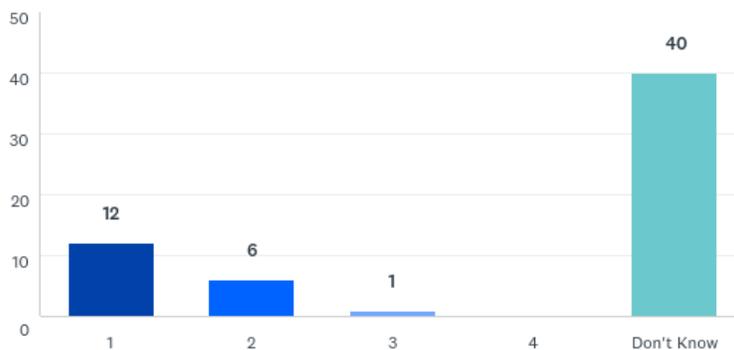
Is there anything else you would like to share about daily life at FCI McDowell?

Inmate Responses
The environment is very racist toward people of color. The white staff evidently haven't been raised among people of color.
The medical care is the worst.
There are mice running around in the chow hall while we're eating and running around in the light fixtures. Also they leave big roll around trash can by the table that DC inmates sit and eat. We bring this to the administration attention and they tell us that's a food service problem.
Staff are very disrespectful to DC guys. We would like the staff to better address the needs of DC guys that are still under the old law and have to be seen by the parole board. The water is unsafe to drink.
The respect level for inmates especially DC is very low and biased.
It's designed to break us and not help us.
My main concern is the blatant racism and the lack of ability to change prisons.
I've learned if you lay low and play slow you'll have an easier time of it. Even if you do have to sacrifice some of your self-respect.
The water's bad.
We're locked down for someone outside throwing something over the gate which wasn't our fault. We've been locked down for a month and will not come back out until Jan 2. We can't order hygiene, commissary has been closed ever since and they only sell us batteries.
The institution doesn't have reductions of points based on programming. They state the only way to leave here is to check in the hole.
Daily life here at FCI McDowell is very dreadful. COs try their best to make everyday life very hard for you by coming in your cells and taking things that you buy from commissary and throwing them in the trash.
Always on lockdown.
It's bad here. The water is bad. The staff is racist and they think that we are not real human men and they are very nasty when you write them up!
No heat, have not seen case manager to prepare for halfway, other programs. No juices (orange, apple).
I feel as though DC inmates are treated unfair compared with other inmates from different areas. The water is terrible and not

healthy to drink.
Education is seriously flawed.
The water here isn't good.
Very bad water. Non-drinkable. It is potable after a 3-5 minute boiling. Mail is scarce. Been here 6 months only received 3 pieces of mail. Took 3 months to access the e-mailing system. Was ill-advised and given misdirection several times and from several staff members.
DC inmates are treated different than other inmates.
I want to leave here ASAP, they treat us so bad the staff is racist, disrespectful, and we need help.
The staff does what they want to when they want to, not always as planned.
We are not in the best of care.
There isn't enough activity here. Everything here is inadequate.
There are some employees here who try to make a difference but then you have those who are disgruntled and disrespectful to the point of being confrontational trying to provoke you just to name a few Ms. Huffman, MS. Rife, and Jansen and last but not least Hacker.
It's just to petty, always on lockdown for the smallest things, ex. arguments between two people lock us down.
No consistence with the daily operation of this prison, except 4pm count. we jump from one foot to the next because of lack of consistence.
There can or should be more consideration of inmates sleeping at breakfast times. Some officers have no respect the way they do their jobs, obvious disrespectful noise of banging rolling cards down steps, throwing crates!
The way the COs talk to you here is really uncalled for. They get smart and talk to the inmates like we are beneath them. The cells are cold and when you address the COs they turn their backs and walk away.
Nothing here benefits me because under the Old Law, I am unable to receive programs because of my life sentence for which I am eligible for parole.

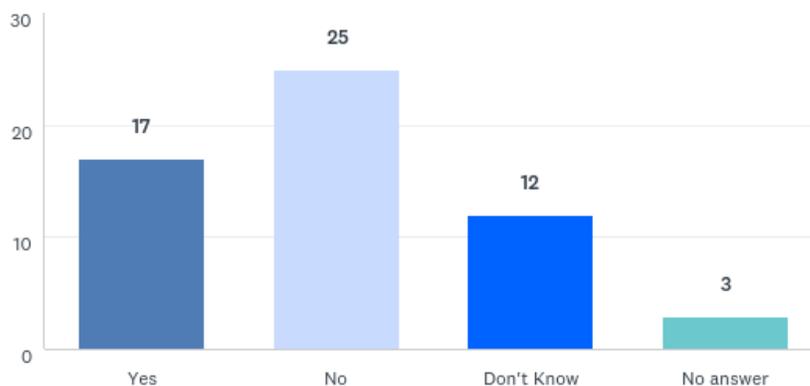
What is your Medical Care Level?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 2



Are you on the chronic caseload?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 4

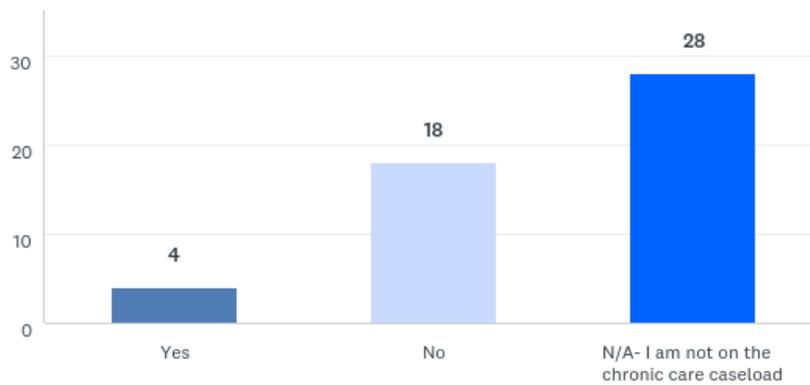


If you are on the chronic care caseload, please give the reason(s) why:

Inmate Responses
I was on the chronic care caseload because I lost my hearing in my left ear, I was told that they would do nothing to help me get it back, so I'm not on the chronic care caseload here.
Hep C.
I was not put on the chronic care because my PA Carruthers said I was getting too much money.
Because of high blood pressure.
Asthma
Blood pressure, asthma.
Bad outbreak on my head.
High blood pressure.
I have a very bad case of asthma.
High blood pressure.
I have Hep C.
Asthma, high blood pressure.
I have several back problems including a slip disc of my L-4 and L-5.
Depression
blood pressure
I have problem staying happy and can't stay still but when I'm in my classes I can but I can't go to them if we stay on lockdown.

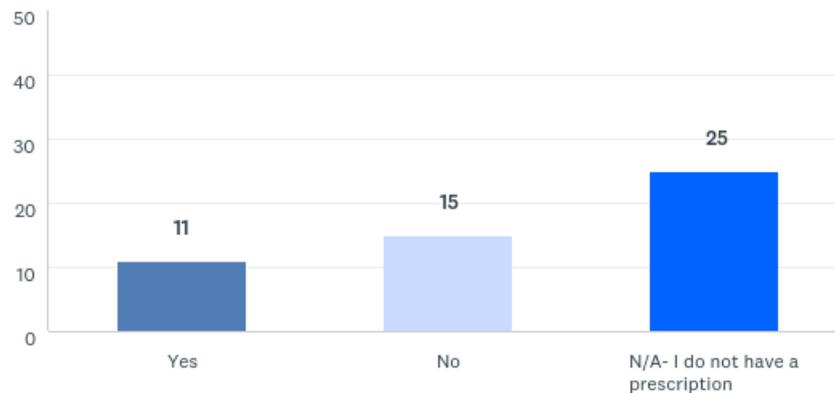
If you are on the chronic care caseload, are you generally receiving timely follow-ups?

Answered: 50 Skipped: 11



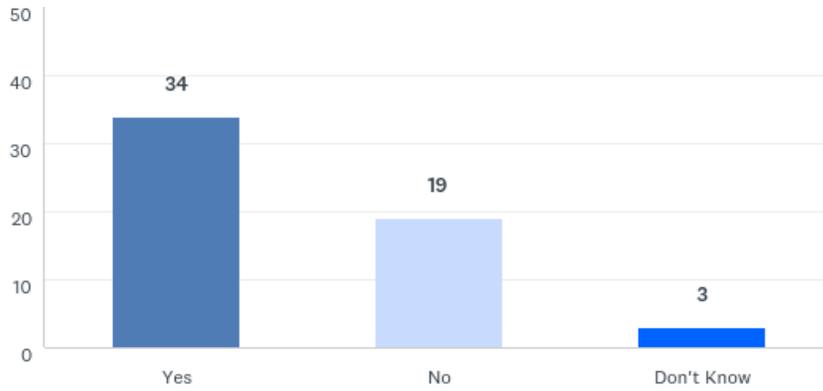
If you have a medication prescription, do you feel you receive medications in a timely manner?

Answered: 51 Skipped: 10



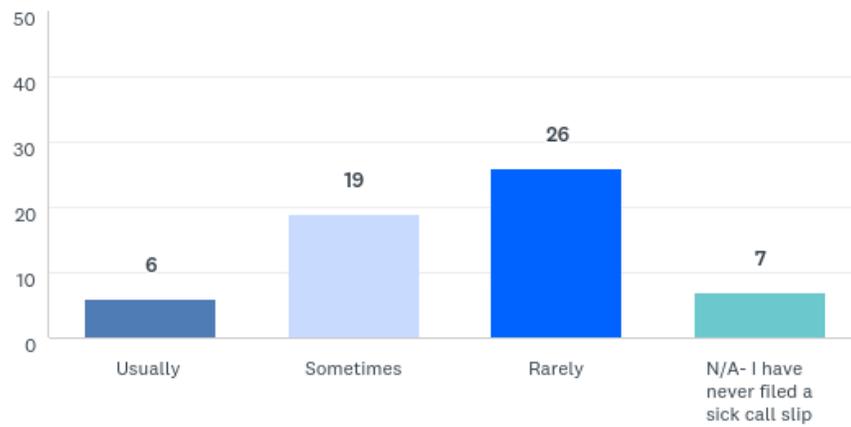
Do you normally have access to sick call slips?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 5



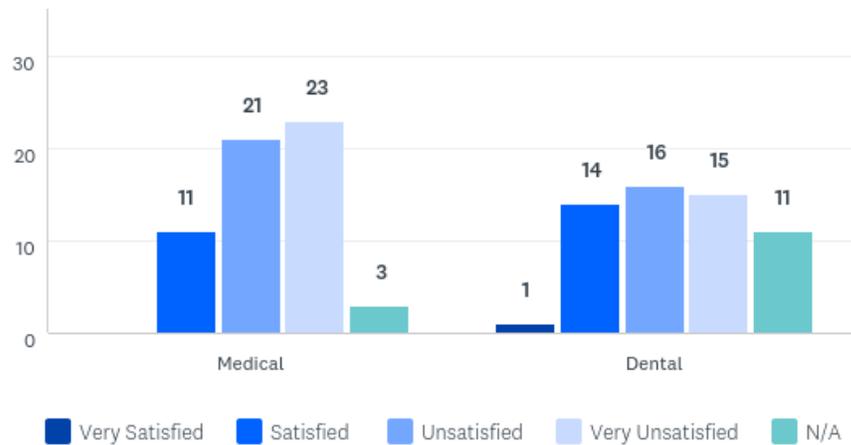
Does Health Services respond to sick call slips within 48 hours?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 3



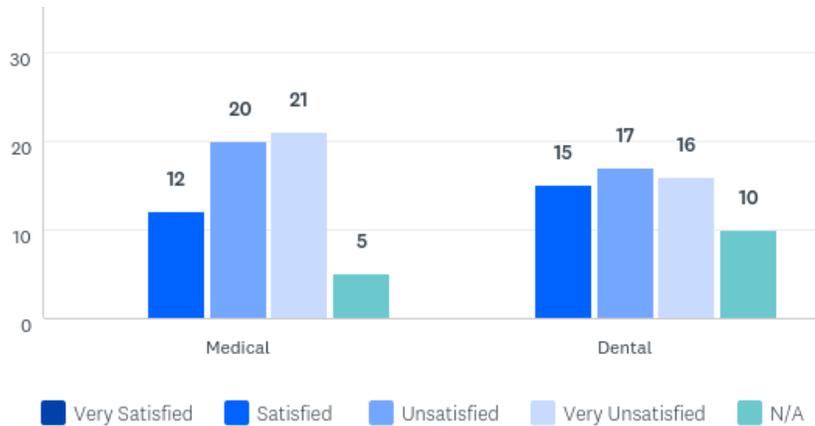
Overall, how satisfied are you with the QUALITY of care provided by the following:

Answered: 58 Skipped: 3



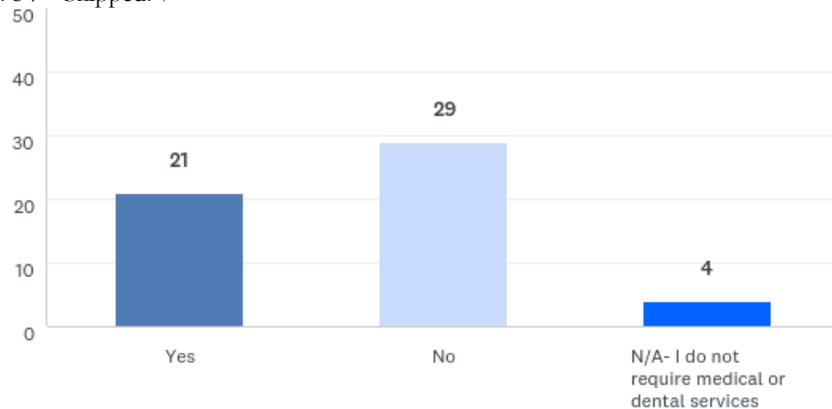
Overall, how satisfied are you with the WAIT TIMES to see the following:

Answered: 59 Skipped: 2



Do you feel you have adequate access to medical and dental services?

Answered: 54 Skipped: 7



Is there anything else you would like to share about medical or dental care at FCI McDowell?

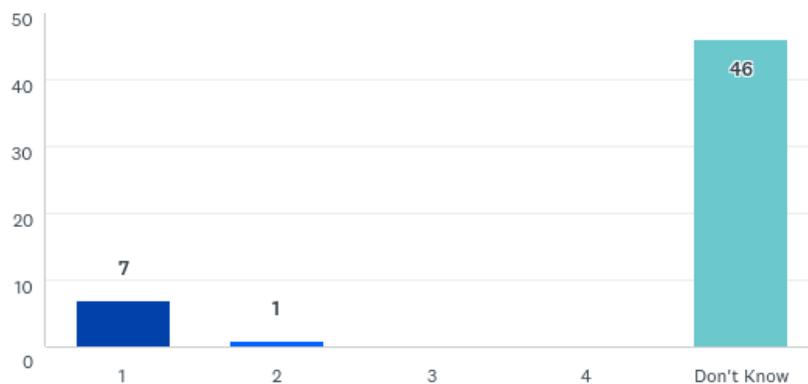
Inmate Responses

I currently have a lump in my chest and I have been complaining for about two months they still haven't done anything outside of sick call.
My eyeglasses prescription, after getting an eye exam, I didn't receive my glasses until approximately 10 months later; also they charge me a copay for sick call of two dollars.
The medical staff here do not act as healers, they could do a lot better. I understand that they deal with a lot of bad people also, so that might be the reason.
They don't care.
These people who operates the medical department is extremely uncaring and lazy.
The medical don't do anything but tell you to go to commissary and self medicate.
I'm currently on a handicap situation in which I'm mobile-agile but not fast enough to function adequately with the environment on an all the time basis.
These people here doesn't take medical care seriously at all.
They should not be taking out co-payments from DC guys. Under the DC revitalization act all medical and so-forth is paid for under contract from DOC. They should stop wanting to pull our teeth.
Why do DC inmates have to pay for medical if we have a contract with FBOP. DC inmates supposed to be able to get free medical.
I rarely see the health admin, when I need to speak to her about issues with medical. When I does she does care about the problems I bring to her.
If you have a medical issue they take a very long time to see you.
I dislocated my shoulder about three months ago, and I'm supposed to have therapy but haven't been yet.
When I first got here I needed mental health a doctor told me he was going to come.
It takes a serious act for medical to even consider your issue you're complaining about. You may have to fall out for them to take

you serious.
You have to constantly contact medical for them to see you when it is very serious issues you need to see them on and it takes at least three weeks to see somebody. You will die before you see medical about your issue. Dental is the same. I been diagnosed with B-12 deficiency and I'm supposed to get B-12 injections. I told medical about this more than once and I still have not been seen for this and it's been over a year since I told them.
They charge us for medical!
You can go to sick call and when you sign up they might tell you to go back to your unit you will be put on the sick call list.
The medical staff here don't do no work. Some of the PA have very nasty attitudes and not trying to treat you! It takes 18 months to get your teeth clean and that's bad. All they want is your \$2 that's why they tell you to come back!
I've had problems with my shoulders for the past 2 years 5 months was put into see the orthopedic still haven't heard or seen anyone. I got blood in my stool and was placed on the list to go out and see a gastro doc and a colon doc and it's been 5 months or more and still have not heard anything. As for the dentist I had my teeth cleaned in May and asked to be placed on the list to have my teeth cleaned again in a year. I was told I have to wait until my dental work was done before I could be placed on the list. It has been 7 months still work has not been done, nor have I been placed on the list to have my teeth cleaned again.
I want to ask you that being a DC inmate, do we have to pay for medical services?
\$2 fee, no actual assistance to issue. Teeth cleaned submission been 6 months since initial request.
I've pulled or tore my MCL and put in a slip and went to medical and they've yet to do anything about it.
When you sick here they tell you to buy items from commissary, they barely help you.
They need a better system on how they operate and some better staff members, you can really feel that they don't give a fuck about you.
I've only seen dental once since I've been on this compound.
I put in sick call about my bowel movement never been seen.
No consistence, med department may be open, it may not.
I believe dental should be willing to provide other options than just pulling your teeth as the answer to every concern.
They don't never respond to cop-outs or sick calls.

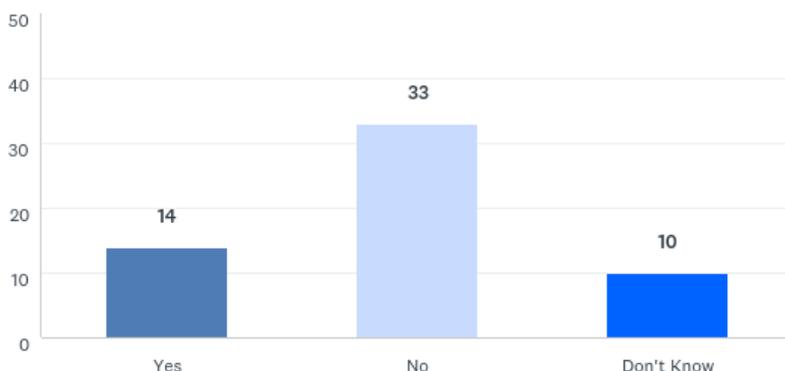
What is your designated Mental Health Care Level?

Answered: 54 Skipped: 7



Have you ever been diagnosed with a mental health issue, at this facility or elsewhere?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 4

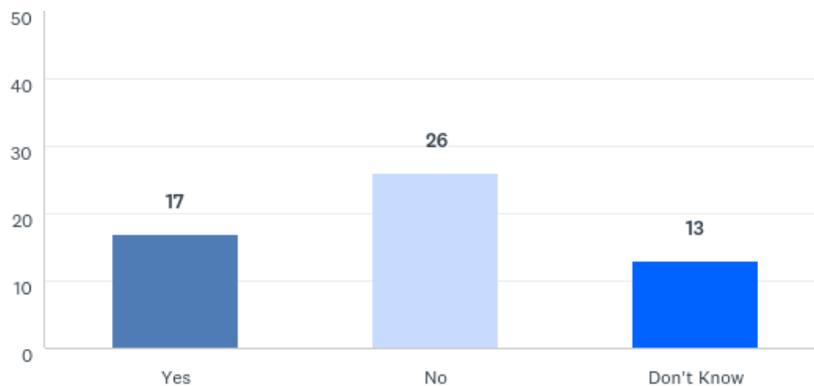


If you have been diagnosed with a mental health issues, please give the reason(s) why:

Inmate Responses
Walter Reed Hospital.
Because I got bad acid reflux and my chest.
Yes in 2004.
Depression.
Anxiety attacks, panic attacks.
Anger issues.
Depression.
I am a mental person.
I been mental health my whole life. I have an IEP in every school I went to. I always been bipolar and ADHD and being on lockdown ain't helping it at all.
Mental issues

Did you have a mental health evaluation when arriving at FCI McDowell?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 5

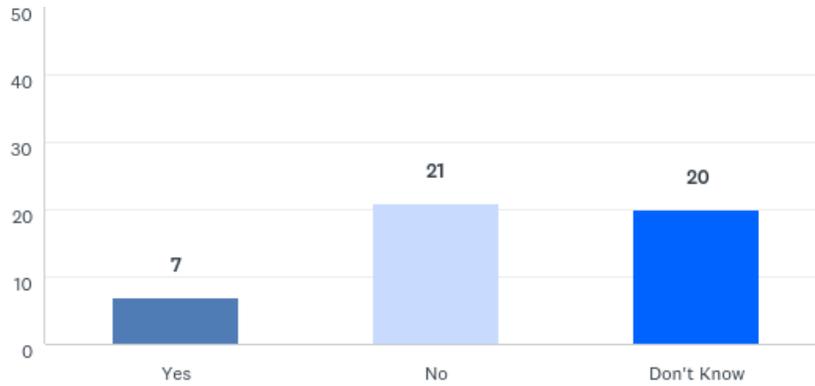


If you did have a mental health evaluation, please describe:

Inmate Responses
Yes, I have overcome my depression, I mean I grew up and realize I have the tools within myself to help cope with my depression.
He asked me about my history and if I ever felt like killing myself.
I'm a YRA offender. They told me that I had those conditions then.
I think they asked was I suicidal.
Blood, to see how healthy I was.
Well when I returned to the institution from a write in which I was denied my appeal, a psychologist called me over and asked me a lot of questions about how I was feeling.
We talked.
I have one with every prison I went to and they check and see if I still need my meds but that when I first got here.
Can't really remember.

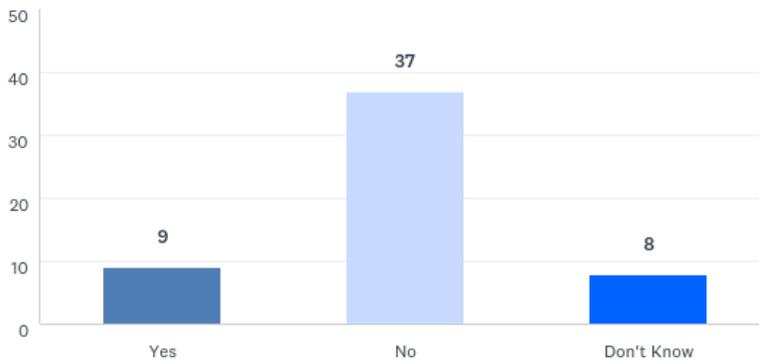
Did your mental health diagnosis change when you arrived at FCI McDowell?

Answered: 48 Skipped: 13



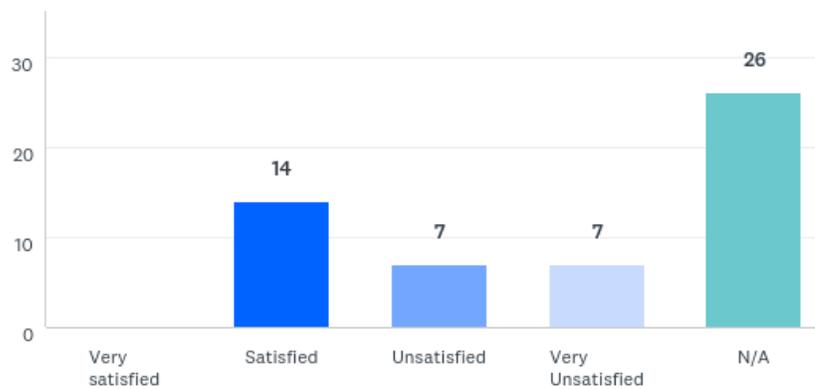
Are you currently receiving psychotropic medication?

Answered: 54 Skipped: 7



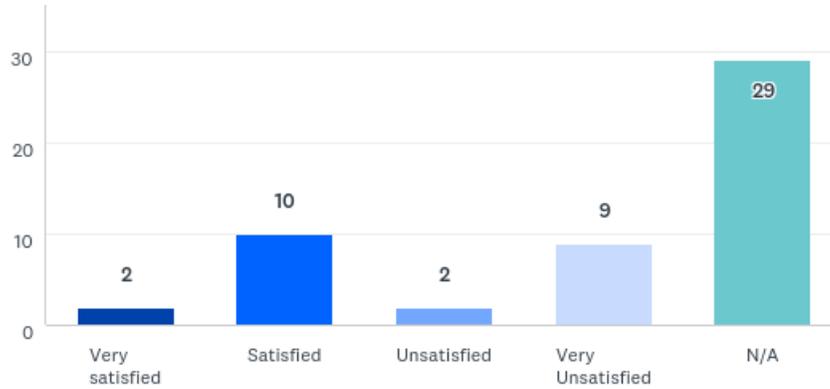
Overall, how satisfied are you with the QUALITY of mental health care?

Answered: 54 Skipped: 7



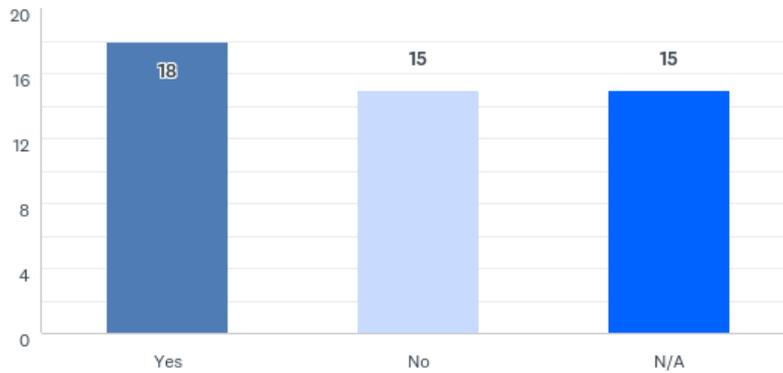
Overall, how satisfied with the WAIT TIMES to see mental health services?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 9



Do you feel you have adequate access to mental health services?

Answered: 48 Skipped: 13



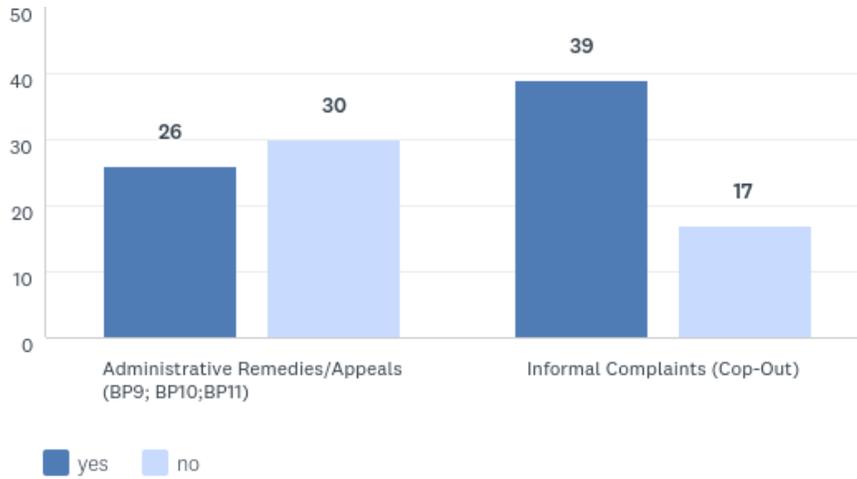
Is there anything else you would like to share about mental health care at FCI McDowell?

Inmate Responses

They don't offer almost any programs, maybe two a year, not including drug programs. I was penalized at the parole board for not being enrolled in programs for mental health services that don't even exist.
Mental health is good here, they have open house 5 days a week.
Because I really need that medication that they give me.
I never seen them since I been down here.
The staff there are pleasant. Honestly they may be a little scared.
They'll have us waiting until forever before being seen.
They don't check up on you at all.
They don't really care.
Yes, the inmate suicide cadre program is a joke and a scam.
They were very prompt at evaluating me for the RDAP drug program.
They don't care here they just label me as crazy and forget about me.

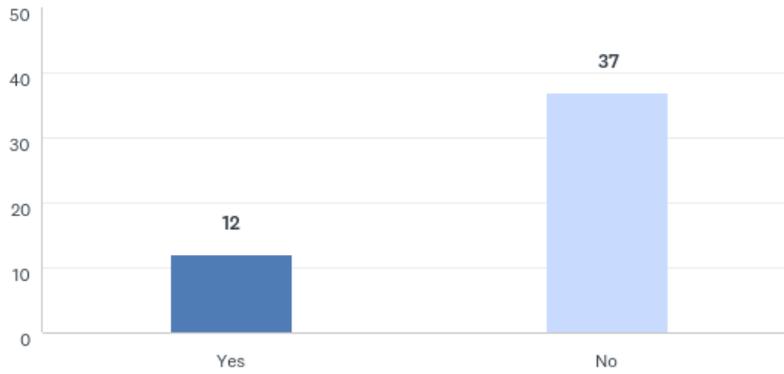
Do you normally have access to the following:

Answered: 56 Skipped: 5



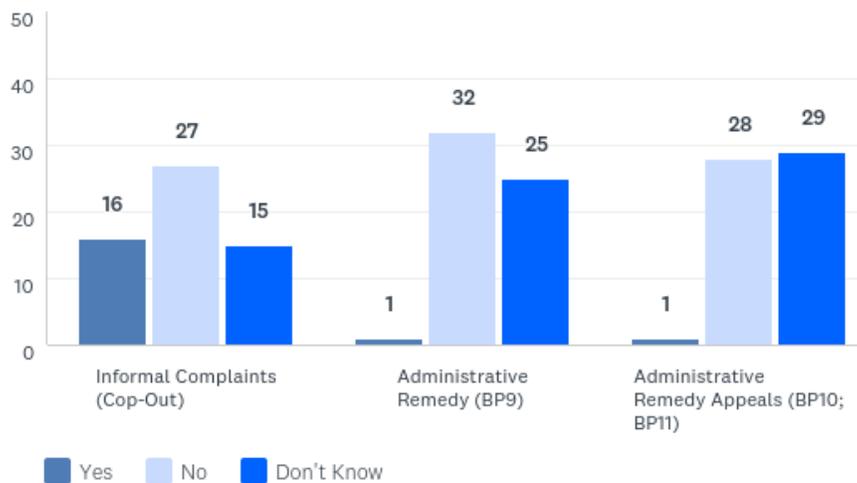
Have you ever used the administrative remedy process at FCI McDowell?

Answered: 49 Skipped: 12



Do you feel that the following are generally dealt with fairly at FCI McDowell?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 3

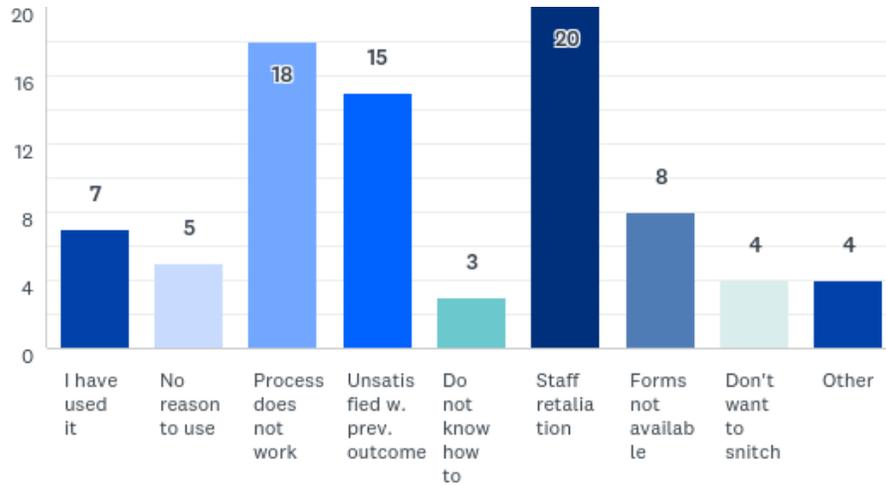


Why do you feel the above items are fair or unfair?

Inmate Responses
I have low points with a management variable and I don't think I should be down here.
Responses and times are normally fairly quick and comprehensive.
They have the good old boys system here, if you write a staff member up, depending on who it is be prepared for backlash (your situation must be worth it.)
Not the level of the cop out if it's in house you no luck.
You have to inform staff why you want such forms before you're given one. The members of this racist administration sticks together, period.
Request forms, cop-outs should always be in abundance for inmates request when needed.
They are very unprofessional and one-sided here.
Because they never respond to it in a timely manner, and it's never taken seriously, so there is really no point in doing an administrative remedy. The administration here lets these officers say and do whatever they want to do.
If dealt with in a professional manner. The process is fair.
I have heard guys have been having issues. It's unfair that we have to buy water to drink being that the water is unsafe to drink in our cell.
Its staff word over inmate here no matter what?
Because this facility is based on a family as of COs so the professional style of prison is out the window.
I feel as though they are unfair because staff become really concerned when BP 8-11 are requested and sometimes refuse to give them out.
The Warden will NEVER respond to any BP-9 in a timely manner she has 20 days to respond, the average to she will respond is around 60 days and always with a rejection.
For any type of write-up from staff they are the ones that give out the sentences so it's really unfair.
I said I don't know because I haven't used the process here at McDowell yet. But from the way of how they run the institution and from the other inmates it's poor, really poor.
When trying to file BP-8s or any grievances the staff never turns them in or they lose it and your grievances will never go through and that's unfair.
No chance of getting it right or being treated fairly!
Because you got to go through hell and hot water to get them forms.
Because when you write up staff they tell the person you wrote up then they shake your cell down and take your things you pay for and throw them away. It's not fair.
They never fairly and honestly address certain issues dealing with inmate custody issues.
I feel that in that regard, this institution is unprofessional, because no one shows up to main line nor does anyone seem prepared to address grievances.
Staff failed to print out request. Lack of people skills, more training required, unprofessional.
The cop-outs sometimes go unanswered.
Everything they do here is on the (timer?) They barely help you here, we need help.
Most informal complaints are handled swiftly and unbiased especially when dealing with my counselor or recreation staff.
Because they're there if you need them.
Unfair.
The officers never really investigate to see if there was any wrongdoing by staff. I'm speaking on how I've seen others complaints dealt with.
Most of the times the counselor will shoot you down before you even file. Nothing is going to happen. You're only going to make enemies and I believe my officers no matter what that good old boy stuff is happening here.
Unfair because of the "good ol' boys" mentality here. If I file or attempt to file a grievance then I'm a target. How else can I solve or begin to solve a problem?
I filled out a complaint about how they are feeding us during locked down and no one came to talk to me about it.
They are unfair because the case manager is never around and I have been here for four years and they (unit team) have never had an open house to deal with inmates issues.
They don't answer cop-outs.
They need to step their process up faster.

If you have chosen not to use the administrative remedy process, why not? (check all that apply)

Answered: 23 Skipped: 4



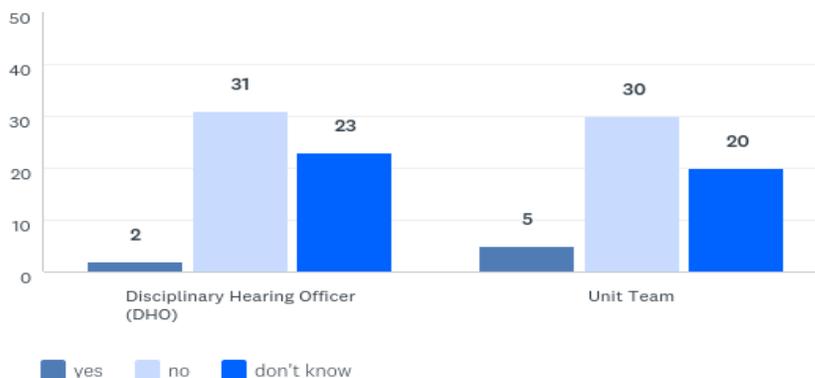
Is there anything else you would like to share about the administrative remedy process at FCI McDowell?

Inmate Responses

It's just no point in using it here. These people don't care and it's not going to follow-up on your remedy, the warden gives a careless response.
Been here two months, haven't seen my unit.
Staff retaliation here is at an all time high! There's no one to complain to because the warden is afraid of inmate. If you surveyed the entire yard you'd find that at least half don't know what she looks like.
Because by the time you file you've already done the time for the shot. Then the staff target your cell.
Usually all federal institutions are biased to DC inmates and never treat them fair.
Staff throw forms away when you give them to them. The process goes unanswered. Then when you go check on it they say they can't find your form.
The staff here retaliate against you and they take your stuff and don't do their job, don't give you what you got coming and they will mess up your paperwork or tell other inmates your case and put your life in danger!
Because when I came here to McDowell it seems that my care provider was trying to help me, which I came from another institution where I did go through the process of filing. However I was trying to have patience still my issues haven't been addressed.
Please train! Please train! Better advise staff on how to inculcate people skills. Less provocation! (Failed to receive forms due to staff.)
We need help please, I hate it here, help me.
I don't believe just my single filing will make a difference.
Resentment. They actually get angry that you reported their misconduct and disrespectful behavior, if we speak to them the way they speak to us we're going to the SHU.
No one is being held accountable so the process is a joke if one was to utilize it. (Did not use because I was browbeaten not to.)

Overall, do you feel that the disciplinary decisions are fair from the following:

Answered: 56 Skipped: 5

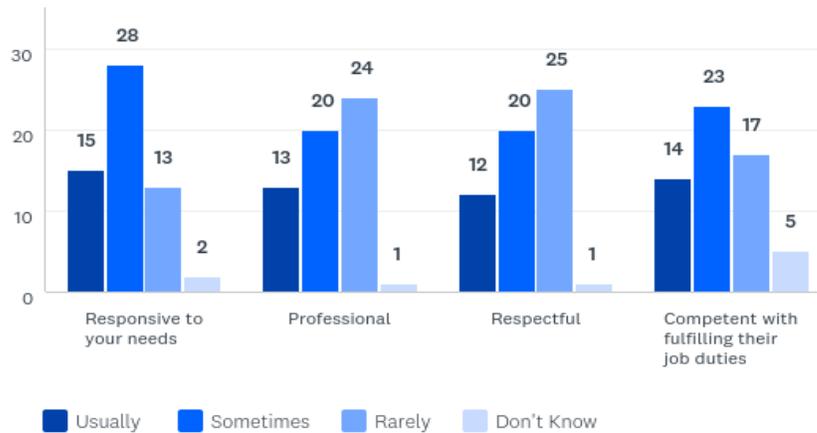


Is there anything else you would like to share about disciplinary decisions at FCI McDowell?

Inmate Responses
They use that here to intimidate people, especially if you are trying to leave to a better jail.
Yes it not fair.
Staff don't care whether or not you're innocent, they're simply going to convict you.
First time disciplinary decisions sometimes too harsh for penalties.
The DHO here is unfair at all times! She sees things on shots that's wrote that are not right and still finds you guilty on the shot. She says things in DHO hearing like somebody's got to take the fall, or I don't care, you're guilty!
Again staff word over inmate we never have a fair chance.
Staff finds you guilty and they don't investigate the incident.
They do what they want here.
When you catch a shot they do you wrong and you don't get your appeal until your time is up. The DHO officer talk very nasty to you and she is very unfair.
Better train the officers and staff at McDowell.
It feels that the police here leans more towards the white inmates.
They lockdown for unnecessary reasons.
We are on lockdown now for reasons unknown.
They are excessive and you are punished more than at more violent facilities.
Because of where we are from we are guilty anyway and the appeals are never in your favor.
Yes, I just got here at the institutions and the counselor here gave me an incident report based off of trying to get an incident report to stick on my cellie, because we both share the living quarters. I haven't even got my property yet.

Are your housing unit officers generally:

Answered: 59 Skipped: 2



Do you feel that the following are helpful?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 2

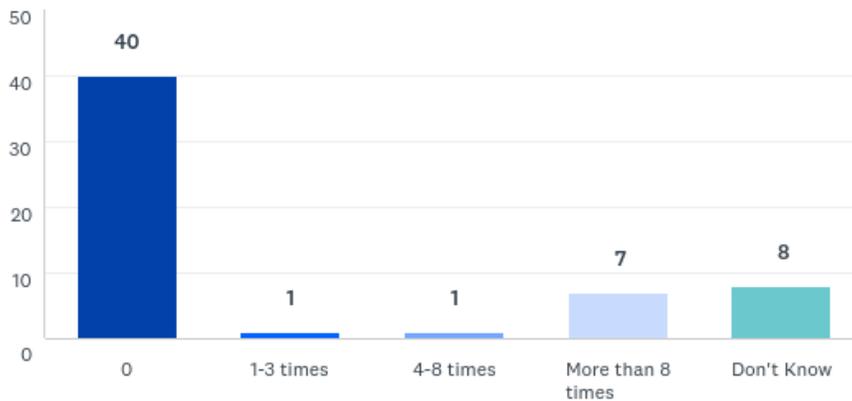


Is there anything else you would like to share about staff at FCI McDowell?

Inmate Responses
They are very unprofessional and unqualified here.
Our unit manager isn't ever here!
Unit managers and so forth do not know how to address the needs of old law DC guys and do not like putting DC guys in for transfers to low institutions.
They are disrespectful.
Some okay, most don't know how to talk to the inmates.
The respect level especially for DC inmates is low.
Some of the COs are disrespectful.
They're very racist.
They are racist staff here, and they not only hate black people, but Mexicans too.
Staff do not help you at all with any issues.
Have not seen case manager, counselor to talk about programs, transitional housing, halfway house options.
They don't do open house and they barely come to work.
Better training immediately.
The case manager is usually not here. And when you program to get your points low they don't take the points off for you.
Most are helpful and approachable.
They do what they want to, when they want to.
They are no good.
A lot of these people are rarely seen so there's very limited contact.
No consistency.
There are some respectful officers, but there are more disrespectful officers that treat you and talk to you less than.
I've been trying to get my visitation list complete so my family can come visit but it's still sitting on the counselor's desk as we speak.
They are very hateful and disrespectful.

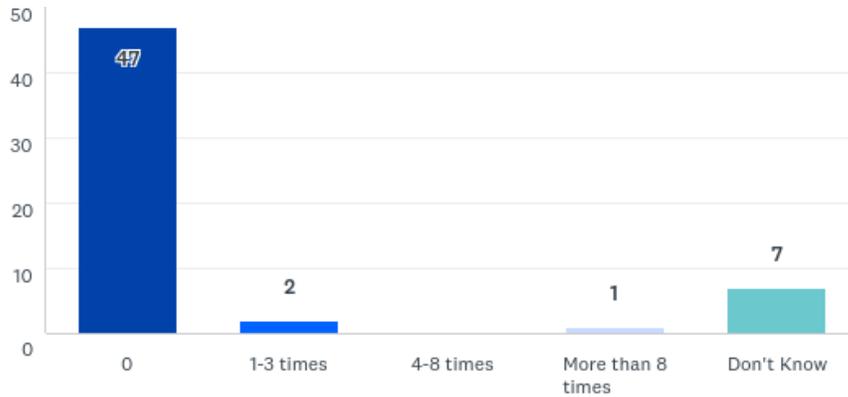
How many times have you been placed in ambulatory restraints at FCI McDowell?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 4



How many times have you been placed in four-point restraints at FCI McDowell?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 4



If you have been placed in restraints at FCI McDowell, what is the maximum time you have spent in restraints at one time? (Ambulatory or four-point)

Inmate Responses	
45 minutes.	
One hour	

If you have been placed in restraints at FCI McDowell, do you have any injuries from use and application of restraints? If so, please describe:

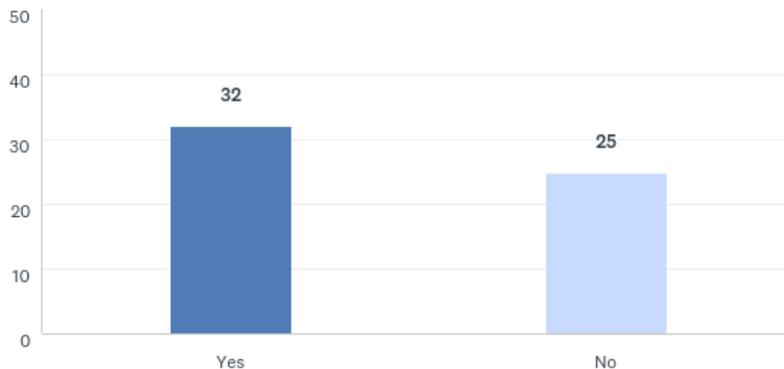
Inmate Responses	
No.	
None.	
I have no injuries from the use of restraints, they use them on lockdown during showers.	
At the time just discoloration, but it went away after a few days.	
No injuries.	
They leave you in restraints for long periods of time here, I hate it here.	

If you have been placed in restraints at FCI McDowell, did staff provide the opportunity to use the toilet? Please describe:

Inmate Responses	
No.	
No, not for the hour.	
No they never gave me the opportunity to use the toilet.	
Four-point - no I wasn't asked to go to the bathroom on my hospital visit.	

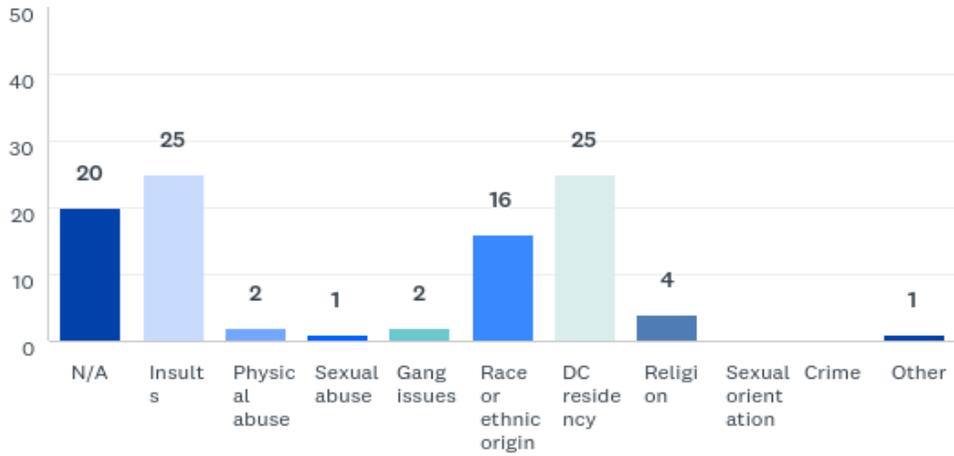
Have you ever been harassed, threatened, or abused by staff at FCI McDowell?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 4



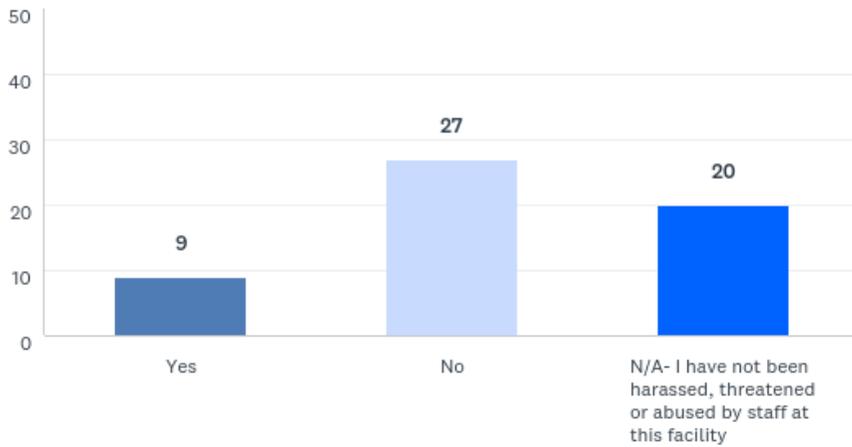
If yes, what did it involve? (check all that apply)

Answered: 52 Skipped: 9



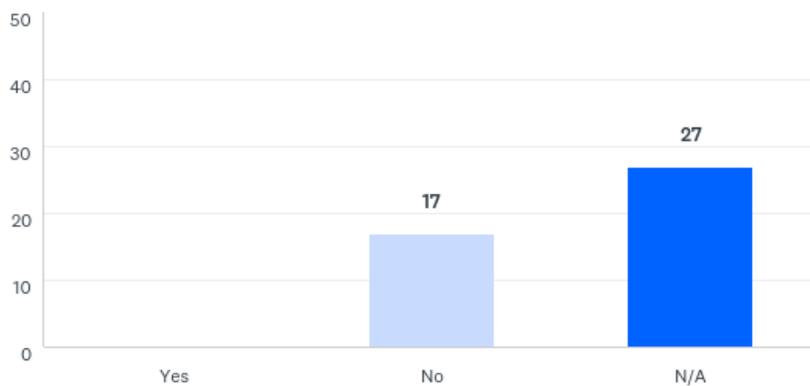
If you have been harassed, threatened, or abused by staff at FCI McDowell, did you report it?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 5



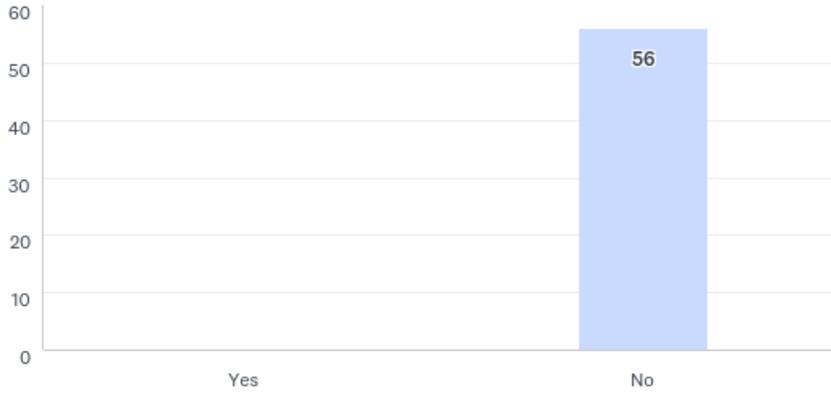
If yes, are you satisfied with how it was handled?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 17



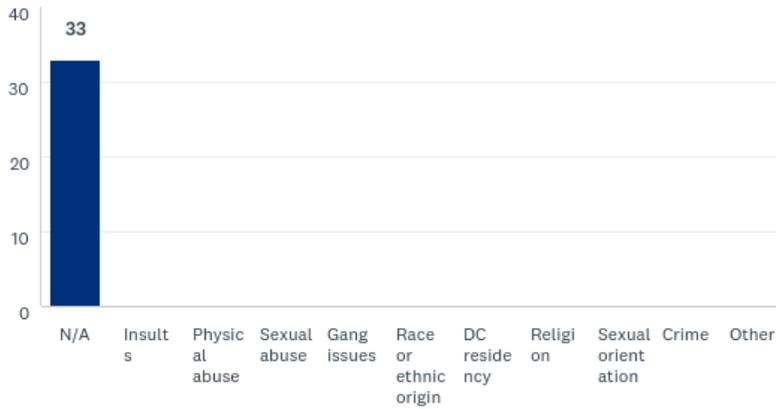
Have you ever been harassed, threatened or abused by other inmates at FCI McDowell?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 5



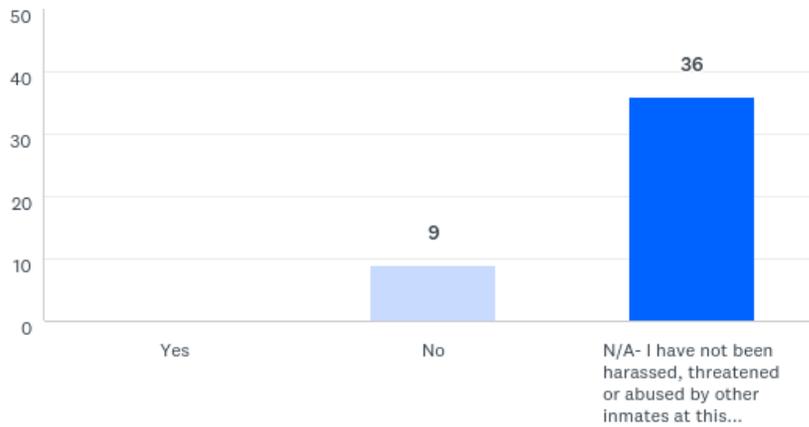
If yes, what did it involve? (check all that apply)

Answered: 33 Skipped: 28



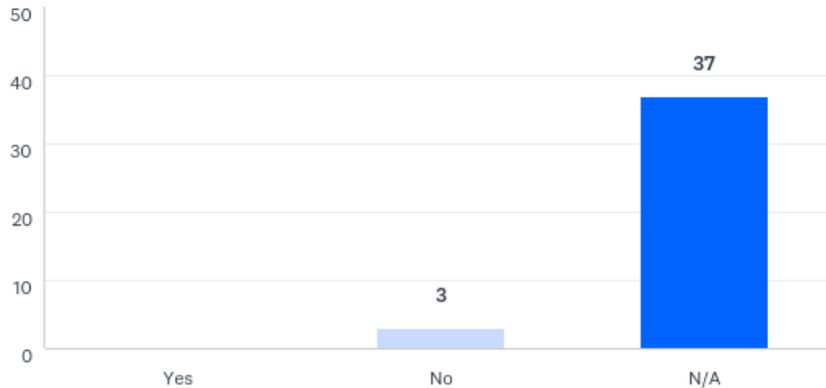
If you have been harassed, threatened or abused by other inmates at FCI McDowell, did you report it?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 16



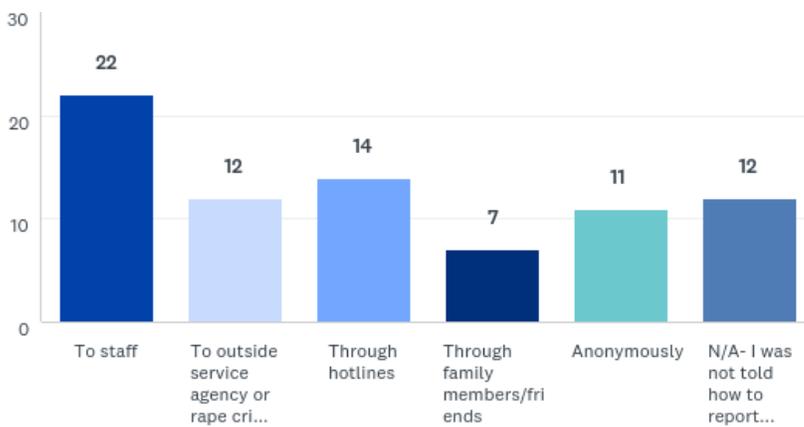
If yes, are you satisfied with how it was handled?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 21



Were you told that you could report sexual abuse in the following ways:

Answered: 36 Skipped: 25

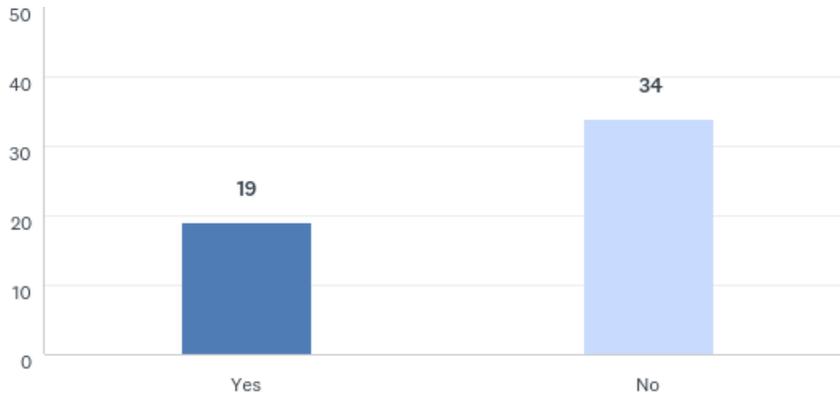


Is there anything else you would like to share about institutional safety at FCI McDowell?

Inmate Responses
Not very violent.
The staff here are extremely racist and they don't hide it. But this is rural WV. But they are extremely disrespectful too and if you complain they tell you to let it go because staff have bad days. If you respond they put you in the SHU and throw away the majority of your property and tell you to file a tort claim! This happens to every minority that goes to the SHU. Just ask!!
FCI McDowell is full of staff that don't want to work they never answer the emergency button from your cell when you push it. They do a lot of hateful things especially to DC inmates.
Water is not drinkable. Provocation. Better training of staff.
This usually a peaceful institution.
The water here is "contaminated". Just check the history. We have been on lockdown for a month and only been given bottled water two times. The staff comes in with bottled water because they have said the water is unsafe.

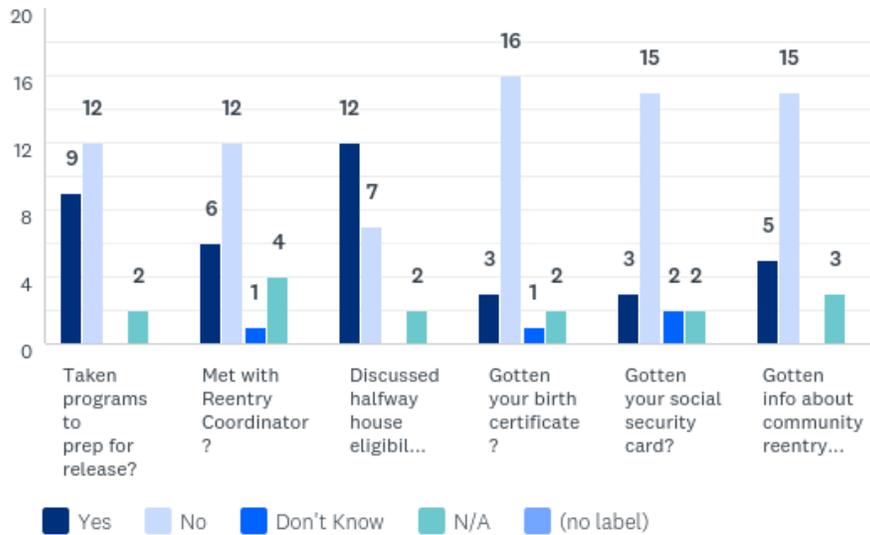
Are you within 18 months of release?

Answered: 53 Skipped: 8



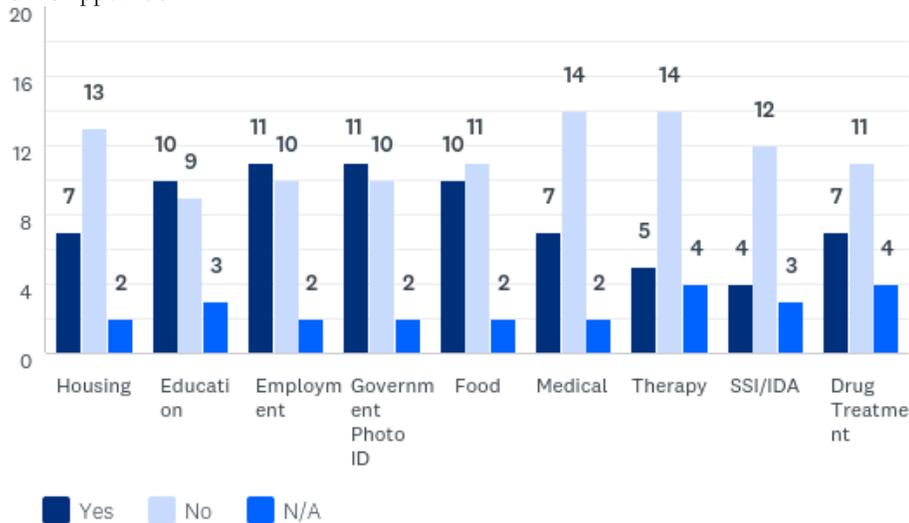
If you are within 18 months of release, have you:

Answered: 23 Skipped: 38



If you are within 18 months of release, do you know how to obtain the following after release?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 38

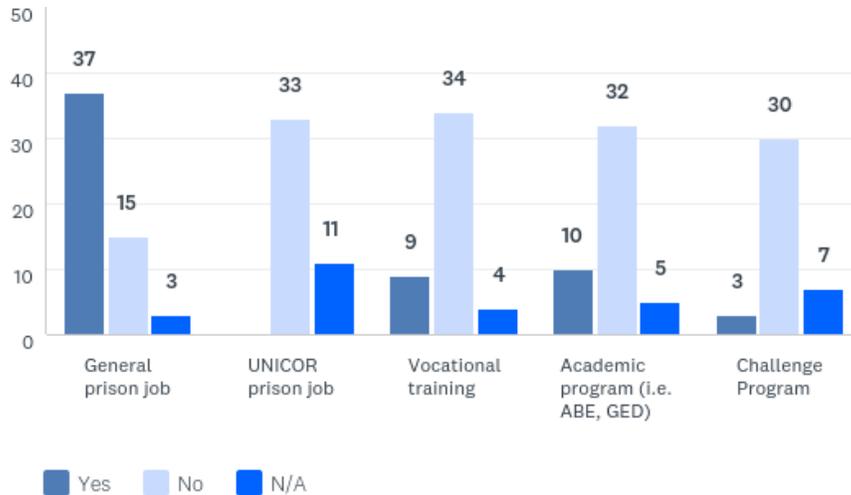


Is there anything else you would like to share about reentry?

Inmate Responses
Re-entry programs fail to account for the technological aspect of release. From what I've been hearing, almost all services and all job applications are filled out on a computer. We have no typing or computer skills programs whatsoever.
I have about 24 months before seeing the parole board and have 12 points. I should be at a low security institution.
It's a beautiful thing.
They take a long time to put halfway house packet in people only getting 30 days.
Have not been offered anything, been trying to get my options.
They don't come see me.

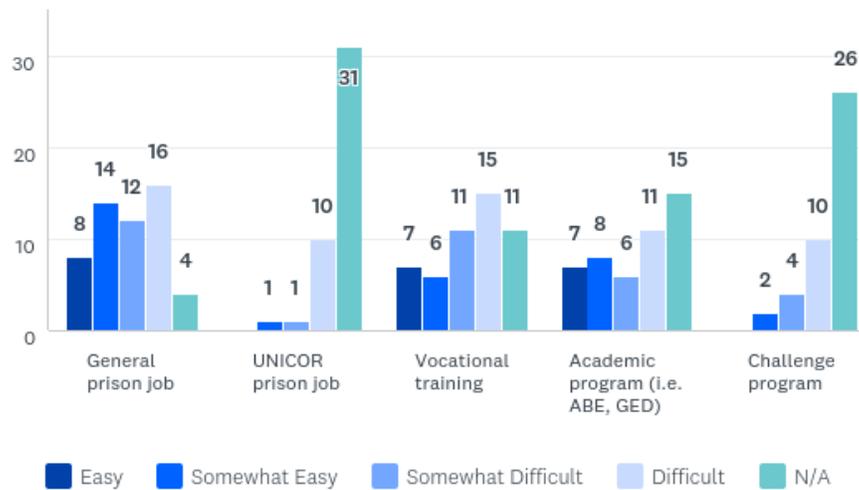
Are you currently participating in:

Answered: 56 Skipped: 5



How easy or difficult is it to get into the following activities in this facility?

Answered: 55 Skipped: 6



How satisfied are you with the following activities in this facility?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 3

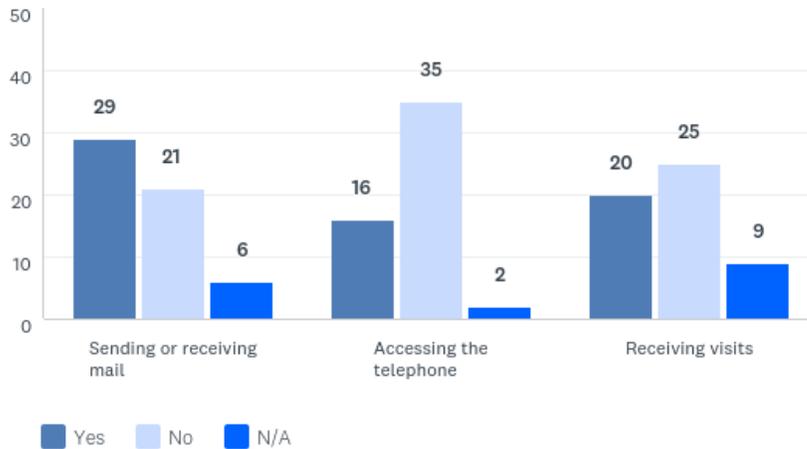


Is there anything else you would like to share about education and programming at FCI McDowell?

Inmate Responses
They don't offer any real education programs past GED. They base admission to vocational training programs on release dates, I don't have a release date yet because I see the parole board, so I am almost completely excluded from participating in vocational training programs.
I also teach classes here, but the education program here is very bad. There are no classes for prisoners, I mean to change a person views on what is right and wrong, they do not care if you grow as a person, which I think is a big step in making sure people don't come back to prison.
I have been in this facility for 16 months and I've taken the GED test a few times I passed two subjects and failed two, and they focus more on math than what I need. I tell the teacher and they just do what they want, so I just signed out. Also the teacher over there is disrespectful to the inmates, they curse at us and tell us they don't really care.
For DC inmates such as myself with a lengthy sentence it's hard for me to get in vocational classes in BOP. But when I was in Lorton and CCA private prison those classes were afforded to me at will.
If DC guys are under the Old law and should be able to be placed in the Challenge program without any problems.
Due to lockdown.
I've been here four years and haven't seen more than a handful of people actually get a GED.
There are not enough programs especially career-building programs.
It's hard to get a job! But they have no problem assigning a job to you that you don't work at nor get paid for just to show the outside world that we all have jobs.
I feel they don't have enough opportunities here to ready anybody for society.
McDowell does not have anything to offer.
Put cop-outs in for a job, trying to get things started.
Inmate pay - no incentives for the apprenticeship self-study program
Better training for staff. And poor drinking water.
The people that work in education are very disrespectful they don't how to talk to us.
There are only minimal programs and they hold no value to DC inmates. We receive no incentive for programming.
You can be fired for the smallest thing if you're not a rat or a homosexual.
Very inadequate. There are never any classes to participate in! Inadequate library too! Not a lot to choose from!
Well for the challenge program there is no consistency. I finished it months ago and still have not been credited for it.
There need to be more educational tools here for inmates. No TV in education, no educational videos, not enough diversity.
Once again, the staff are disrespectful and unprofessional.
it seems nonexistent.
Yes I think that it's very important to be able to participate in getting your education. GED needs to take those who want to receive GED should take more seriously.

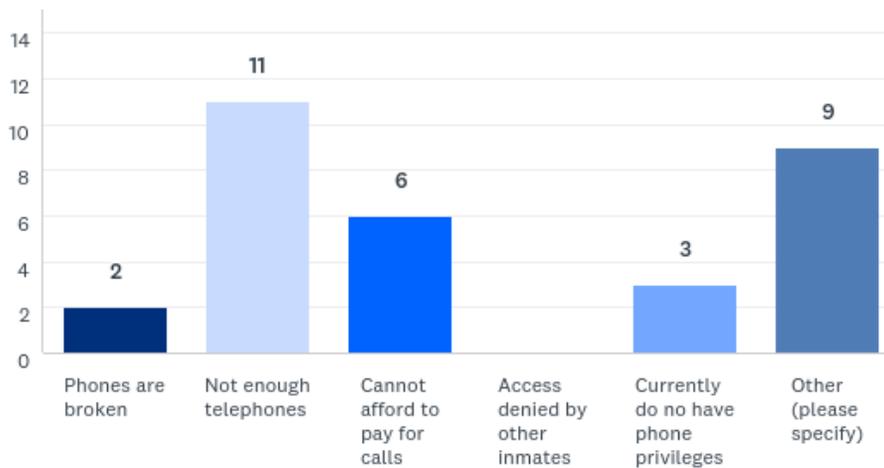
Have you had any problems within the past six months:

Answered: 57 Skipped: 4



If you have problems accessing the telephone, why?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 40

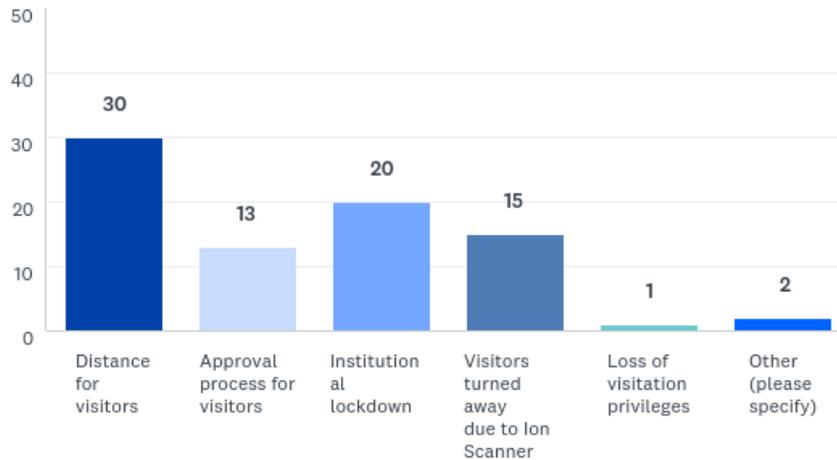


If you currently do not have phone privileges, how long have you been without phone privileges?

Inmate Responses	
They locked me down now for over a month and don't give me the required recreation time to access the phone. I have no disciplinary infractions and as far as I know I'm not under any investigations and my phone privileges have not been suspended due to any sanction from DHO or unit team or disciplinary proceeding.	
Mail is not being received by outside sources. Family, no cards or color paper.	
I have been without my phone for three months now.	
lockdown	
Due to lockdown.	
We've been on lockdown.	
One month due to the massive lockdown.	
1 month, due to lockdown.	
Been on a frivolous lockdown since Nov 12th.	
N/A (Lockdowns)	
Currently the whole compound has no phone privileges. We've been on lockdown for over a month.	

If you have problems receiving visits, why?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 19



If you currently do not have visitation privileges, how long have you been without visitation privileges?

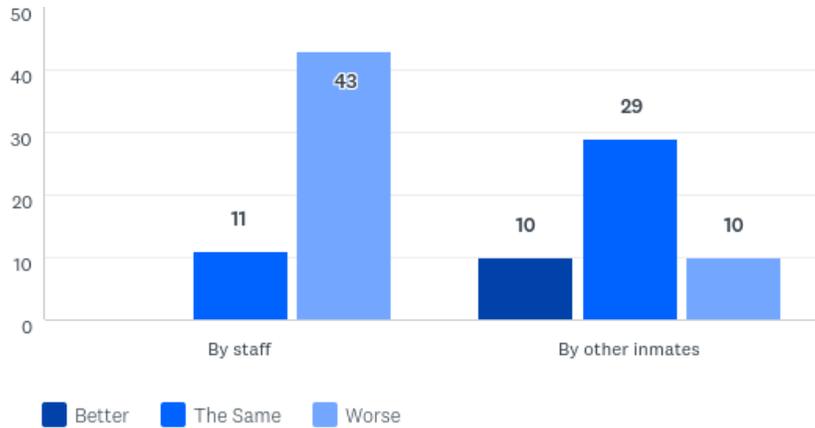
Inmate Responses
They took my privileges and continue to do so without any due process or disciplinary proceedings. About a month, they suspended all visitation.
Due to lockdown.
I haven't had my visitation privileges over six months but the other prison took it for a year but I can have my closely family can visit in six months.

Is there anything else you would like to share about communication and visitation at FCI McDowell?

Inmate Responses
They have locked us down since November 14, 2018. Since then I've been given recreation time outside of the cell, which includes phone use and email for a total of one hour and half an hour at a time and today makes approximately thirty days of continuous lockdown.
They hold our mail for long periods of time and they reject a lot of mail.
Space is inadequate to elaborate.
Too far away from family. Staff is disrespectful to family. I'm nearing my parole date, I should or we should be near home.
Due to lockdown.
The staff that deals with incoming visitors are disrespectful to families of inmate, which make them not want to come back.
They are very disrespectful to visitors. Your visitors come all this way and may not be able to see you. It's heartbreaking for your family to save and plan to come and see you, then can't because of lockdowns or the Ion scanner. They mailroom here turns almost any and everything around. You get your mail almost a week after it's been here in the institution. It's really bad here.
I can not receive visits because I'm too far from DC. My family can not travel this far to come see me.
Yes I get the USA Today newspaper and they are always one to two weeks late. I've never been at another institution where it has taken that long for me to get the paper, maybe a day or two late at the most.
Better staff training please! Bias, provocative, lack of consistency.
They turned your family around for nothing here and they talk bad to your family. Please help us.
The visiting area is usually ran okay but this institution is far for DC residents.
These people could care less if we had communication with loved ones.
At times when families travel long distances to visit loved ones they are denied too often for menial reason, mostly Ion scanner.
The way they hold your family up front and then call the unit for the inmate to get to the visitation room on the weekend is long, and the 9:30 to 11:00am count get our people stuck up front!
The Officer (Brown) is very disrespectful to the family members who come. And even when you report it, he is still in the visitation room.
I think if the prison was to go on lockdown and our family drove very far to see their family should be able to see us!

Compared to other inmates, how do you feel DC inmates are treated?

Answered: 54 Skipped: 7



Please give an example of better or worse treatment:

Inmate Responses
Staff hates us and usually other inmates treat us well because they don't want any problems. Honestly.
I am an old law DC omnibus prisoner with an aggregate sentence of 20 years to life. Although I see the parole board and could possibly be released as soon as 2020 I am regarded as having no release date for transfers and certain programs.
Having an 007 or 016 is a curse here, to some of us. Some of us know how to overcome this. People from DC will not get good jobs, they are looked at as animals.
They hate us period.
Because we're from DC.
They think that we think we are better than others and they think we start problems.
The staff dislike DC inmates.
The inmates is nothing, but these officers target and harass us daily because of where we're from. They do not like DC inmates.
The stigma that DC prisoners have in the BOP. Staff and other inmates have an inherent bias and prejudice towards DC prisoners.
Staff after learning you are from DC or have a 007 they say "So you're from DC" what is that supposed to mean? I have been locked up 20 years.
It's good.
They always target us and are biased towards us.
Harassment, racist slurs
They disrespect us, talk to us any kind of way.
Just the small things they think we believe we're exempt.
Remarks about being from there, lack of care for inmates who are DC inmates
Some DC inmates are a handful but staff have a preconceived prejudice towards us. Sometime they're willing to help until they hear 007.
Always labeled as a bad person.
The staff and inmates alike have this made up notion that we are all disrespectful, homosexuals, and violent. WE are treated in the worst of conditions.
Staff don't like us and they target us and they say they hate us DC guys. Inmates just don't like us.
The staff say that we are animals and smart out the mouths and just make things hard.
Staff talks to us like we ain't human at times.
Staff always referring to us as those DC inmates. Also if we are trying to move to a different cell it's like we can't but other inmates can always move.
They think we are all thugs.
Bias attitudes from staff; provocative attitudes all the time.
During lockdown the police that was in my cell threw away personal family photos and did it because they know I was from DC.
They hate us because they say we always start problems and we always get judged by our residents.
Worse because we are typically prejudged as being troublemakers so we are blamed for things out of our control.
We're hated for no reason.
Worse is worse.

DC inmates are stereotyped accused of carrying weapons, being aggressive or just doing something prohibited. As soon as they see 007 they got some slick stuff to say or do.

Staff always say that we think we are better than other inmates due to stereotypical behavior of the past, present, future of DC inmates so they go to extremes when it comes to DC inmates.

Just the reputation of being from the nation's capital!

DC inmates are treated differently by staff and other inmates according to the specific inmate.

We always get harassed and when another DC inmate make them mad they search every DC cells and take stuff they aren't supposed to take.

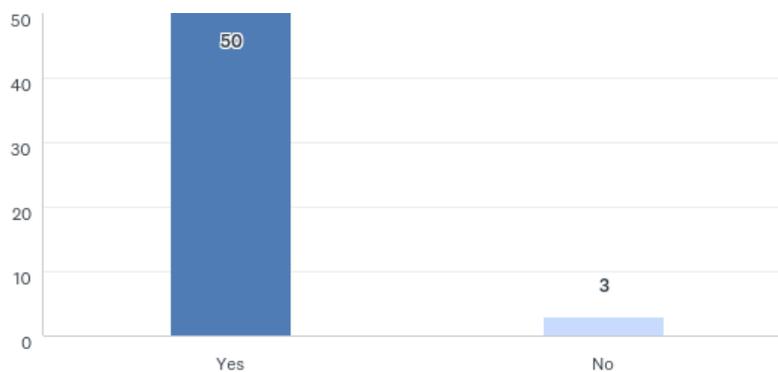
Coming out of the kitchen staff stop DC inmates about their shirt collar being up. And after the confrontation comment are made, "You DC inmates think you are tough." What does this have to do with the collar being up?

They try to be so disrespectful to us but seem they're just half as disrespectful to others.

No one likes us but who cares, right?

If you had the opportunity to be closer to DC during the last 24 months of your incarceration to prepare for your reentry, would you be interested in doing so?

Answered: 53 Skipped: 8



Please explain why or why not:

Inmate Responses
I have no plans on getting released to DC.
I believe I would get visits more often. I haven't seen my family in about nine years.
But I am getting deported.
To help get closer to family.
Closer to family, the environment at home don't see race as a factor.
Because I can see my family more and we can prepare for my release.
Because I'll be closer to my sons and I would be better able to get things in order before I get out.
The reason why is based on having the access to certain resources and being able to have regular visits to network with family and friends to seriously discuss housing, job, transportation, etc.
I would have a better chance to interact with family. My kids and wife grandkids after being away for 20 plus years learn about how things are out there as for jobs.
I will like transition housing, and re-entry programming.
I would be more comfortable to be around those who understand where I come from and how it is in my city.
Because my time is almost up I go home 2020.
Because it's better to know your family and loved ones.
To be closer to home and to be out of these racist states.
Family!
Closer to family and lawyers.
I have kids that are infants and an unborn child.
I need to get used to being around my family members, the ones that I know who love me and I love them. I've been gone for sixteen years and all I'm used to is being in prison. I need to get used to my family and 24 months being closer to home is needed.
I will be interested because my family can come see me and help me get prepared for the community. And that will help me fit back in society.
Get to know what is going on in the city.

Anything to better myself and be closer to my children!
Because it cuts back my travel time and I can get people to come see me and get things in order for my release.
I could get visits.
I can be closer to being home and I can see my family more and the re-entry would be a lot better for DC prisoners.
So I can get my situation straight with jobs, housing, things I need to be a good person and not come back.
Because I've been in about 18 years and all the institutions I've been to have been 8.5 hours, 5.5 hours away from home.
Because most institutions don't offer a whole lot of vocational training or opportunity.
I believe, that if I was closer I would get a better sense of how things are going and be able to better prepare.
Better ability for visitation, more chance of receiving mail and better staff conditions.
So I could see and be with the people I love and know a keep me on track.
I would love to come back to DC they treat us bad here. I need to go to another place ASAP.
It would be helpful in me being able to have those who are going to help me with my transition to be able to see me.
So I wouldn't be so far from my children.
I need help on the outside.
This is a very racist state and for family members to travel here is dangerous. Plus there are limited resources here.
One because I'll be closer to my family, and two I wouldn't have to deal with the disrespect of these officers and their stereotyping me and going to extremes.
Too much to explain.
Yes, because DC will help me in reentry more than here.
So I could receive visits and feel closer to home.
Yes. I can bond with family more and help my younger son avoid pitfalls by consistent contact, also parents getting older.
It would give me a better chance to get back involved with my family and community.
So that I could have better ties with my family and better resources.
Because you have DC inmate that know a lot about the world and didn't always be labelled as bad people.
Because the opportunities here are none.
closer to family.
Because my family can come see me more and it gives us time to build our relationship with one another and also can build my foundation better.

Is there anything else you would like to share about the treatment of DC inmates?

Inmate Responses
About a month, they suspended all visitation.
I feel that to help DC inmates to stay out of prison something must be done to change how we see life, to understand that the way we have been living is not what life is about, the culture must be changed, some are still stuck in the teenage state of mind. I think that once a person from where we are from is helped to see that there is a world outside of DC that is very accepting of people from DC that we are creative, intelligent, that we can do better than now, a lot more brothers will stay out of prison.
They hate us.
I don't know where to start.
The staff here is always going after Washington DC inmates. It's irritating and stressful to always have to go through this. We talk to the administration about it and they wave it off like it's not a problem, but it is and has been since I've been here. This needs to be addressed.
Overall DC prisons have second-class treatment and double standards in BOP from dealing with the unit team to education to rec department. If given the chance I'll explain in detail.
The FBOP should look into treating old guys better. Staff should be better prepared to deal with DC guys needs. We have to buy water that's good enough to drink. The water is unsafe. And my hair has started falling out in the month that I have been here.
They hate us.
Treat other inmates with respect, not DC inmates.
We are not well-regarded in the federal prison system.
We're branded here as wanna-be tough guys so the COs are extra aggressive towards us. They think that we think we run things so go out of their way to prove to us and other inmates that we're not so tough.
We as DC inmates are treated inferior to all. We don't get the good jobs, our family gets disrespected when they come and visit or call.
We are just always targeted by staff and they say hateful things to us call us DC blacks or niggers. And search us a lot patting us down and grabbing on our private parts. It's just really bad out here. And it makes us want to go back in the streets and be violent.
We are treated with disrespect because they think all DC inmates are violent and basically just don't care.
We get the worst treatment.

Yes, a lot of us DC inmates don't have federal cases and yet they sentence us under the federal guidelines, which in fact I've come across a lot of other inmates from different states that have the same charge and don't have but half the time that I was given.

They charge us for medical services and they make us go to school even if you want to sign out. And they make us take money out of our account for court fees when we're supposed to pay when we get out.

Provocation, biased attitudes, poor people skills, better with inmates than staff, lack of consistency.

They hate us for unknown reason.

They always single us out. They call us DC Blacks. They hate when it's more than three of us together. They walk up on us and make us move from each other. We need help.

I don't believe there is enough opportunity being offered to us as a whole. It's like we're doing dead time with nothing to look forward to or anything to work for.

DC inmates are treated as though we're always doing something wrong. We are singled out and manipulated.

It is what it is, right? No prison is worth a praise, but before I left Lorton in 1995 I didn't go through half the things I went through here in 18 months.

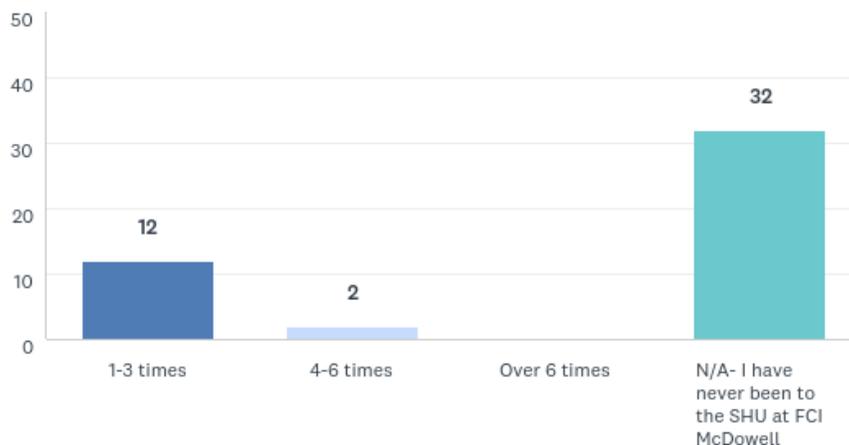
Not really than we should be judged individually on our actions, not lumped together as troublemakers throughout the BOP.

We should not be here.

It's unfair to be treated like I'm an alien because we have no state prison.

How many times have you been in the SHU at FCI McDowell?

Answered: 46 Skipped: 15



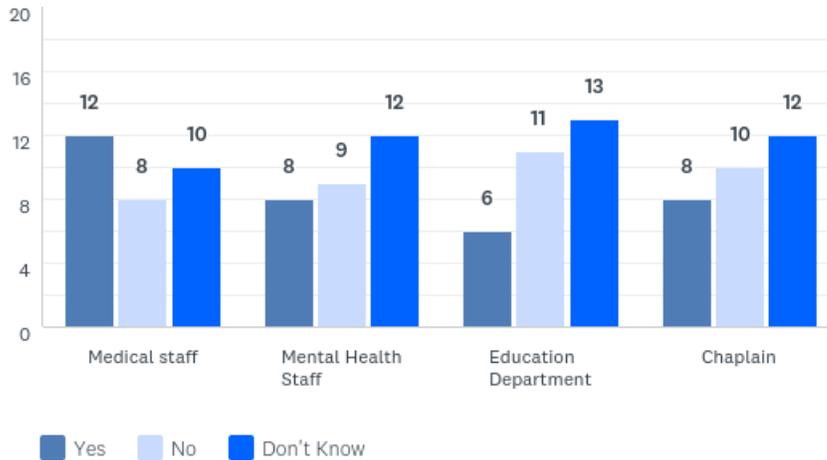
What is the maximum time you have spent in the SHU at one time in FCI McDowell?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 16



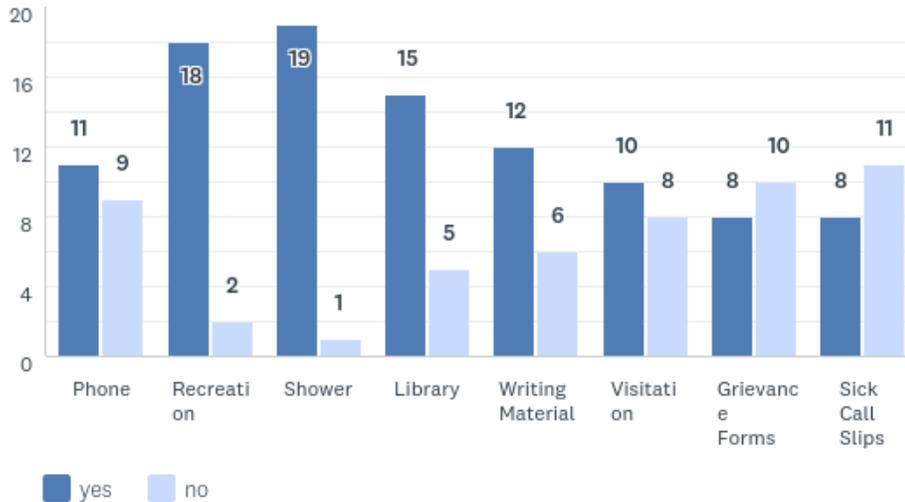
Did the following conduct weekly rounds

Answered: 30 Skipped: 31



Did you have access to the following:

Answered: 13 Skipped: 14



Is there anything else you would like to share about the SHU at FCI McDowell?

Inmate Responses

They don't allow you to receive more than one book a week from library/reading materials. They used to allow you to get soft cover books from your property or through the mail, including magazines and newspapers. Now it's just the one book. With nothing else to do, that's not enough for most people.

Two books every other week, phone once a month.

When placed in the SHU here your personal property comes up missing a lot here. These officers throw your stuff away!

If you want what you're supposed to get, you have to buck for it. And when you do, you pay a heavy price.

They don't never answer your emergency button in your cell if you push it so you can die back there.

Poor drinking water, poor staff training.

The thing I did have access to was hard to get, the staff carry inmates while in the SHU.

What is the most positive aspect of FCI McDowell?

Inmate Responses

Vocational programs.

Vocational.

Food.

They make sure your clothes get clean and you get showers.

It's good at times. Some staff are respectful.

Not one.
Nothing.
The food, education, and rec.
That it's not a bad institution actually.
Even though the police lacks regard and care for inmates they pretty much stay out of your way unless provoked.
I don't know.
No violence.
There isn't any.
It's laid back.
Beautiful scenery the air is great.
I see none.
Nothing. They lock you down here for nothing and they always treat you bad.
That there are some staff members that DO try to help better my situation like my unit team (case manager, counselor, unit manager).
None.
Nothing.
That a lot of guys here are short, on their way home so there isn't much tension amongst inmates.
It's not Florence Supermax or USP anything in name rather.
The relationships you build with inmates to ease the burden of incarceration.
Nothing.
Waking up every day.
As of now, nothing!
Leaving one day.
I respect everyone and mind my own.

What is the most negative aspect of FCI McDowell?

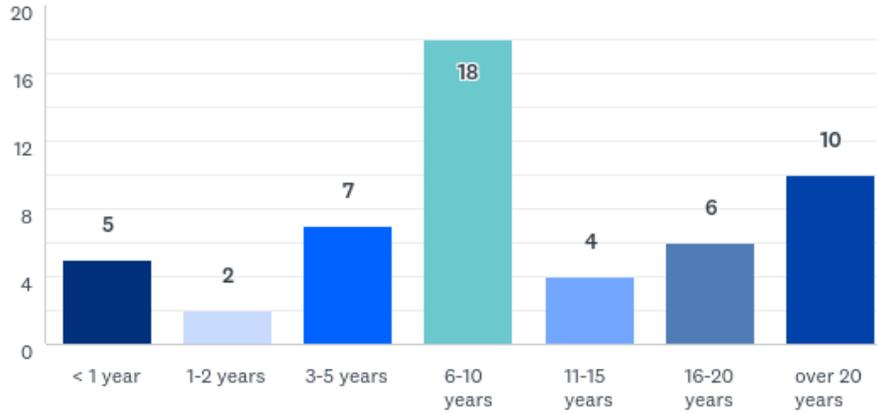
Inmate Responses
Lockdowns, location, and medical.
Few programs through education that offer any real-world value.
Medical
Staff.
They lock down too much.
Most of this facility is negative, this place needs to be shut down.
The water here is not safe to drink. Disrespect towards DC guys by some staff. The mail and legal mail.
Everything
The respect.
They don't respect us.
The respect level and how they deal with institutional problems.
The excessive lockdowns, and the water.
The racism and the lockdowns.
The laziness of the staff, top to bottom, and the disrespectfulness. Looney in the kitchen and all laundry and commissary staff are the most disrespectful of them all!
The water and the mail.
Staff don't like DC guys or black guys.
Lockdown, re-entry packets.
Everything.
Staff.
This place have negative people working here and they just don't have no respect for black people.
Lockdown, not being able to see case manager, counselors.

Please provide one recommendation you would give to improve the conditions of confinement at FCI McDowell.

Inmate Responses
Bring DC inmates home.
Basic computer programs.
Medical, mail.
To get a jail of ours.
Better water and better food.
You're supposed to see your property within seven days, but that doesn't happen. It's taken anywhere from a week to a month to see it. I think that needs to be improved back there!
The water is unsafe to drink.
Move all DC inmates
Listen more to the inmates.
More programs.
Respect.
Professional their to personal then they handle institutional problems wrong, just more job-based staff.
Organization.
Better treatment by staff and better (cable?)
This is a medium security jail and not a level 7 pen! This is top 3 worst FCIs in the FBOP. Everything is blown out of proportion. No jobs! Disrespectful police and they make it hard to leave! Let this place run like a medium instead of of a pen before you get penitentiary results and behavior from the inmates.
Get filters for water for all inmates.
Get me out of here transfer me to Petersburg or Cumberland. I don't know if you can make this place better? Maybe microwaves and washers and dryers.
Lesser and shorter lockdowns put in re-entry packet sooner than last minute! Move me closer to home.
Close it down!
Staff treatment.
It's the worst ever they need to close this place.
Help people more.
I would say to medical/dentist treat inmates as you would want to be treated by your medical provider.
Change the warden or ask the inmates what they want.
To properly and honestly address and assess inmate custody points.
Better training for staff, consistency, people skills.
You can't improve something or people whom have their own set of rules.
This place needs a new warden. She don't care about us, our family, our health. All she knows is lockdowns. I need help this place is crazy.
incentive-based programs.
Better staff members.
Get me out of here.
Create some type of programs where a lot of inmates can find something to do with their time.
More jobs, better training for staff, anger management classes for staff and stress management. Actual town hall meetings to voice our concerns. Better communication with commissary staff.
Better water.
Run it as an FCI and stick to it.
Just realize we made mistakes in past and are here to pay for those mistakes, while treated fairly and like a human being!
Everyone needs to show a great level of respect dealing with men and not be treated as animals or having to talk to a person back.
provide UNICOR.
Better opportunity for inmates getting released and more time to finish classes that help prepare for release and better communication for the inmates got to be here. What I mean by more time meaning too many lockdowns for nothing.
Get us out of here.
Treat others staff/inmates how you would like to be treated.
Workers should treat us men as if they was in our position!

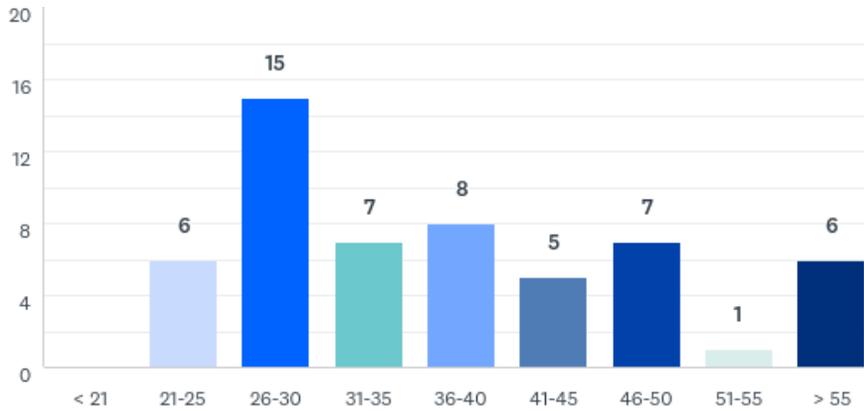
How long have you been incarcerated overall?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 9



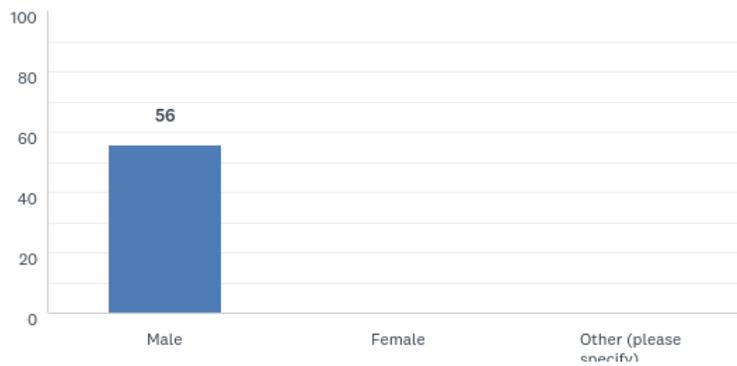
How old are you?

Answered: 55 Skipped: 6



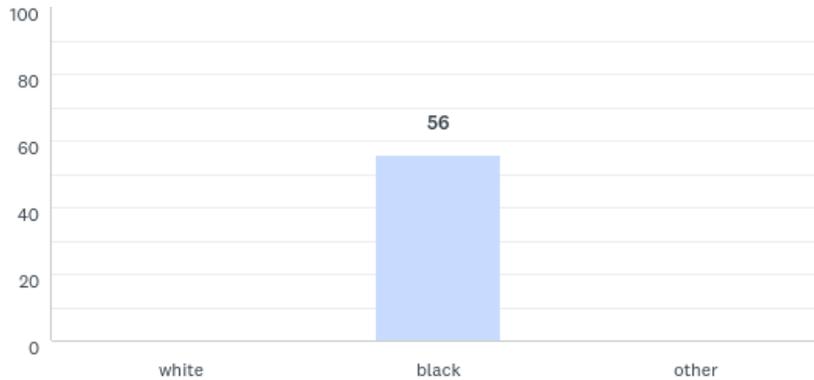
What is your gender?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 5



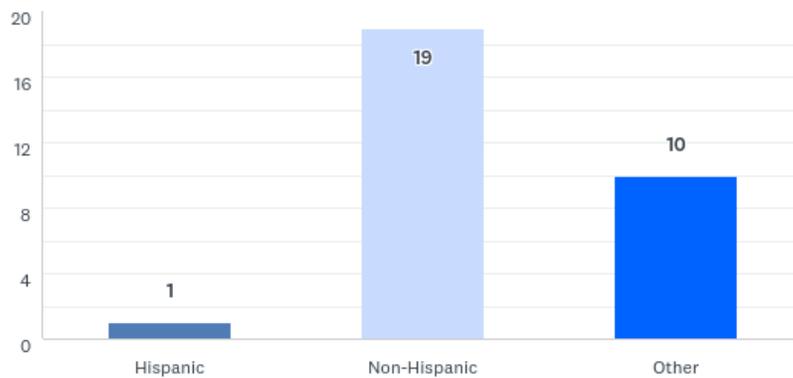
What race do you most closely identify with?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 5



What ethnicity do you most closely identify with?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 31



Is there anything else you would like to share with the CIC about your experience at FCI McDowell?

Inmate Responses
Get us out!
I would just like for guys to have the needs they need to prepare them for release and the opportunity to see their family as far as being closer to DC and Maryland. Old law DC guys should have better opportunity also to prepare for release. They should stop charging DC guys for medical or dental care.
Move me close to home my dad is real sick.
Don't understand why they're punishing everybody for one person's mistake. And why we're not getting any hot meals. Cruel and unusual punishment. We're tired of eating sandwiches every day. It's hurting my stomach. I can't sleep at nights, because I can't use the bathroom.
Transfer me please.
They got us on lockdown because nobody snitches and they said we're not coming out until somebody snitches. The water has chemicals in it that make your stomach real upset and they won't give us medical attention for it.
I've done all my time at USPs and now that I've made it lower in custody it's miserable. This is not what they told us the FCIs are like.
Staff are extremely disrespectful to inmates and treat us as if we aren't human.
We also don't have any microwaves so we can't properly cook our food that we buy from commissary. So we're eating half done meats and that's not healthy.
Get me out of here!
The water is very bad, very bad.
Please get us DC prisoners out of West Virginia! They don't want us here at all.
There are only 2, maybe 3 hot meals served per week in a cold cell, while on lockdown in the winter. That's crazy! No heat!
Please look into medical/dentist. Please look into the water at McDowell.
This place that we're locked up in isn't or don't obey by FBOP rules.
This place is a mess. The water makes you sick. The people are racist. They got us on lockdown over 30 days because nobody will snitch. I need help I'm asking to leave here ASAP.

If there were more programs for rec (movie rooms, music rooms - video games) and more incentive based educational programs this would be an even smoother and easier to run institution.

I hate it here, the worst prison I've ever been incarcerated in.

Miserable, harsh, cruel.

Yeah, no consistency.

Just glad to be among men that are changing their life to become better men.

It's trash and we are very mistreated here.

Appendix C: BOP Response



U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons

Washington, DC 20534

October 2, 2019

Donald Isaac, Executive Director
DC Corrections Information Council
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 270N
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Issac:

This letter is in response to the draft inspection report received on August 1, 2019, regarding the December 12-13, 2018, visit to the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) McDowell. The Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) recognizes the value of the Corrections Information Council (CIC) inspections of its facilities and the voice it provides the D.C. Superior Court inmates. We hope to continue working closely to improve the Bureau facilities and raise awareness with regard to those inmates' needs.

Throughout the report, unsubstantiated allegations are made without direct observation by the CIC or supported by facts that can be corroborated. The Bureau notes the draft report findings are based on a small percentage of DC inmates assigned to FCI McDowell. The Bureau is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our staff, the public and all inmates in our population. Allegations of misconduct are thoroughly investigated and based on the findings, appropriate action is taken, if necessary.

I offer the following responses to the statements and recommendations in the report:

The draft report recommends: Executive staff should consider possibilities for locking down only the necessary portion of the facility in response to significant incidents, and continuing programs, work, and recreation during lockdowns.

Response: The decision to lock down an institution is one that is never taken lightly. It is only done when absolutely necessary to maintain the safe and secure operation of the institution. The primary objective is to investigate what necessitated a lockdown, and to determine how best to prevent it from happening in the future. The need for a type of lockdown will always be dictated by the nature, duration and magnitude of each situation. The goal remains to return to normal

operating procedures as expeditiously as possible following the conclusion of any necessitating event.

The draft report recommends: Executive staff should implement mandatory antiracism training for all personnel. This training should occur at least annually and ideally should occur quarterly.

Response: The Human Resources Department provides yearly Diversity Training to all staff during Annual Refresher Training and to all new staff during the Introduction to Correctional Techniques Phase I.

The draft report states: Facility staff should ensure that all grievance forms are readily available to inmates, and should not interfere with inmates' use of the administrative remedy process.

Response: All inmates have access to Administrative Remedy forms through their Unit Team staff. At FCI McDowell, the Administrative Remedy Program, also known as the grievance process, allows inmates to seek formal review of issues related to their confinement. An inmate must first attempt to informally resolve the issue before filing a grievance. The process provides three levels of formal review: the Facility (BP-9), the Regional Office (BP-10), and the Central Office (BP-11). If an inmate is not satisfied with the response, he or she may appeal it at the next level. The Administrative Remedy process is discussed during Admission and Orientation.

The draft report recommends: Executive staff should create opportunities to engage directly with inmates and respond to their concerns.

Response: Executive staff are available during inmate meals to address inmates concerns. Additionally, inmates have access to TRULINCS, the inmate email system, to forward concerns to Executive staff electronically.

The draft report recommends: Executive staff should encourage medical staff to provide appropriate medication to inmates who are seen at sick call.

Response: FCI McDowell is a care level one institution, which provides essential medical, services to all inmates in a manner consistent with accepted community standards for a correctional environment. During sick call, inmates are triaged, medically assessed, and prescribed the appropriated medication, when medically necessary, based on their assessment.

The draft report recommends: Facility medical staff should clearly communicate diagnoses and treatment plans to inmates, and should ensure that all planned diagnostic and follow-up care is completed as promptly as possible.

Response: Medical staff communicate and explain diagnoses and treatment plans to all inmates in a manner consistent with accepted community standards for a correctional environment.

The draft report recommends: The Bureau should ensure that the facility has sufficient medical staff to respond promptly to the needs of the population, including acute and chronic medical concerns.

Response: The Bureau's medical staff provides essential medical, dental, and mental health (psychiatric) services in a manner consistent with accepted community standards for a correctional environment. The Bureau uses licensed and credentialed health care providers in its ambulatory care units, which are supported by community consultants and specialists. For inmates with chronic or acute medical conditions, the Bureau operates several medical referral centers providing advanced care.

The draft report recommends: Facility staff should continue to encourage and support inmate-led programming.

Response: Inmates who possess specialized educational and vocational skills are afforded the opportunity to tutor other inmates.

The draft report recommends: The BOP should ensure that the facility has sufficient staff to allow all inmates meaningful access to education and re-entry programming.

Response: The institution made a selection for a Re-Entry Affairs Coordinator. Also, a new Special Learning Needs teacher has been hired. These new hires, along with the current educational and vocational staff, provide numerous educational and re-entry opportunities for all inmates at FCI McDowell.

The draft report recommends: The BOP should re-consider the decision to eliminate the position of Re-entry Affairs Coordinator at FCI McDowell.

Response: The Re-Entry Affairs position has been filled.

The draft report s recommends: The facility should identify and contract with a certified laboratory serving the area to perform comprehensive water testing on the facility water source to ensure adequate water quality. The type and frequency of the water testing should only be determined by the outside testing entity.

Response: FCI McDowell receives domestic potable water from the city of Welch, West Virginia. FCI McDowell utilizes the services of a certified laboratory and pays to have water tested from the City of Welch at random intervals to ensure adequate water quality.

FCI McDowell adheres to Program Statement 4200.12, Facilities Operation Manual, Section 18, which outlines the procedures for inspecting and testing the water supply system. Unless otherwise appointed, the institution Safety and Environmental Health Administrator conducts the testing, in accordance with policy,

The draft report recommends: Facility staff should consider directly addressing the inmate population regarding their concerns, including provision of water quality test results.

Response: Every concern that is brought to staff's attention from an inmate is addressed, to include any issues concerning the water.

The draft report recommends: Facility staff should ensure that all inmates have access to the most current mail policies.

Response: All of the current mail management policies, institution supplements, and operational memorandums are accessible via the inmate computer network, TRULINCS.

The draft report recommends: The BOP should ensure that the facility is sufficiently staffed to process mail in a timely manner, particularly legal and special mail. This includes promptly notifying inmates of rejected mail.

Response: The safety of staff and inmates is extremely important. The Correctional Systems staff process mail in an efficient manner given the inherent security risks involved with the introduction of illegal and harmful substances through the mail. An additional Correctional Systems staff will be hired which will continue to improve the efficiency of the Mail Room operations.

The draft report recommends: Facility staff should always respond promptly to emergency medical alerts to ensure the safety of inmates.

Response: Staff at FCI McDowell respond to all emergencies in a professional and efficient manner, while maintaining the overall safety and security of the institution and remaining attentive to unforeseen circumstances.

The draft report recommends: Facility staff should ensure the barbershop is open during sufficient and predictable hours in order to allow inmates a reasonable opportunity to get their hair cut.

Response: FCI McDowell's barbershop is open during the week, weekends, and evenings to ensure access is available to all inmates. An inmate barber also provides barbering services to inmates housed in the Special Housing Unit.

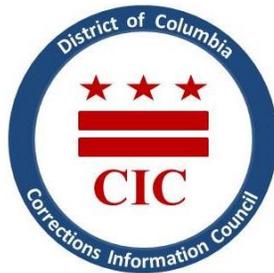
I appreciate the opportunity to review and provide comments to your inspection report of FCI McDowell.

Please contact me at (202) 353-3638, if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Brewer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "B".

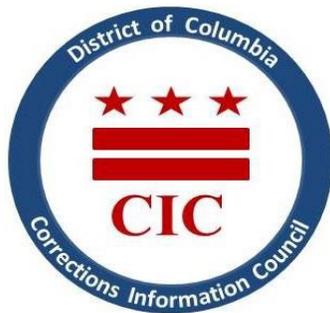
David Brewer, Administrator
Correctional Programs Branch



**District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council**

The electronic version of this report is
available on the CIC website:
<https://www.cic.dc.gov/>

**District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council**



Update on the District of Columbia Youth Rehabilitation Act

September 30, 2020

About the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

The District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC) is an independent oversight body mandated by the United States Congress and the Council of the District of Columbia to inspect, monitor, and report on the conditions of confinement in correctional facilities where residents from the District of Columbia are incarcerated. This includes facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DOC), and private contractors.

The CIC reports its observations and recommendations to the District of Columbia Representative in the United States Congress, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Council of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, the Director of the BOP, the Director of the DOC, and the community.

Additionally, in accordance with § 24-101.01 (f)(1)(C), the CIC is responsible for publishing an annual report on the conditions of confinement and programming provided to District of Columbia youth offenders, as that term is defined in § 24-901(6), in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons.

DC Corrections Information Council

1400 Eye Street NW – Suite 400

Washington, DC 20005

Phone: (202) 478-9211

Email: dccic@dc.gov

Website: <https://cic.dc.gov/>

Summary

In fiscal year 2020, the CIC published its annual report concerning the facilities, treatment, and services for Youth Rehabilitation Act (YRA) offenders in the care and custody of the Department of Corrections (DOC) and Bureau of Prisons (BOP)¹.

As part of the 2018 amendment to the YRA, the Mayor was required to develop and submit a strategic plan for providing the facilities, treatment, and services for youth offenders [in the care and custody of the DOC]" by September 30, 2019. The legislation also specified that the BOP is authorized to provide these services for youth offenders.

At the conclusion of fiscal year 2020, the development of a strategic plan for YRA offenders has not yet been implemented.

Overview

In accordance with DC Code § 24-902, the following sections are applicable to DC Youth Rehabilitation Act offenders:

Facilities, treatment, and services for youth offenders.

(a) The Mayor shall provide facilities, treatment and services for the developmentally appropriate care, custody, subsistence, education, workforce training, and protection of the following offenders...

(a-1)(1) By September 30, 2019, the Mayor shall develop and submit to the Council a strategic plan for providing the facilities, treatment, and services for youth offenders required by subsection (a) of this section...

"(A) The educational, workforce development, behavioral and physical health care, housing, family, and reentry needs of youth offenders before commitment, while in District or federal care or custody, and upon reentry...

(a-1)(2)(B) The availability of a continuum of developmentally appropriate, community- based services for youth offenders before commitment, while in District care or custody, and upon reentry...

(a-1)(2)(E) Outreach by the District to committed youth offenders in District or federal care or custody to identify needs for services and plan for reentry...

(c) The federal Bureau of Prisons is authorized to provide facilities, treatment, and services for the developmentally appropriate care, custody, subsistence, education, workforce training, segregation, and protection of youth offenders convicted of felony offenses under District law and in federal care or custody.

¹ CIC, "Youth Rehabilitation Act Report", September 26, 2019, available at https://cic.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cic/page_content/attachments/YRA%20report_PUBLISHED.pdf.

In 2019, the Mayor awarded a contract to the Justice Policy Institute (JPI) to develop the District of Columbia's strategic plan as dictated by the statute.

The CIC consulted with JPI in reference to the status of the strategic plan for YRA offenders. An initial plan had been drafted, but is still a work in progress. In the interim, JPI has published articles related to youthful offenders (ages 18-24)².

There is progress in the District of Columbia concerning youth offenders, specifically those in the custody of the DOC and its Young Men Emerging (YME) housing units at the CTF and CDF; however, the YRA legislation seeks to assure that progressions also address the entire population of DC youthful offenders.

The CIC will continue to monitor the progress and implementation of plans dictated by the legislation.

² Justice Policy Institute (JPI), Policy Brief: "Emerging Adults in Washington DC's Justice System," September 2020, available at http://www.justicepolicy.org/uploads/justicepolicy/documents/DC_Emerging_Adult_Brief_2020.pdf; Justice Policy Institute (JPI), Policy Brief: DC's Young Men Emerging Unit: A Story of Reform and Lessons Learned from the Front Lines", September 2020, available at <http://www.justicepolicy.org/research/12983>.

District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council



Rivers Correctional Facility

Inspection Report



Rivers CF

(photo by Federal Bureau of Prisons)

July 21, 2020



District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

Charles Thornton, Board Chair
Katharine A. Huffman, Board Member
Nkechi Taifa, Board Member
Charlie Whitaker, Board Member
Calvin Woodland Jr., Board Member

About the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

The District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC) is an independent oversight body mandated by the United States Congress and the Council of the District of Columbia to inspect, monitor, and report on the conditions of confinement in correctional facilities where inmates from the District of Columbia are incarcerated. This includes facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DOC), and private contractors.

The CIC reports its observations and recommendations to the District of Columbia Representative in the United States Congress, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Council of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, the Director of the BOP, the Director of the DOC, and the community.

Although the CIC does not handle individual complaints or provide legal representation or advice, individuals are still encouraged to contact the CIC. Reports, concerns, and general information from incarcerated DC residents and the public are very important to the CIC, and they greatly inform our inspection schedule, recommendations, and reports. However, unless expressly permitted by the individuals or required by law, names and identifying information of inmates, corrections staff not in leadership, and members of the general public will be kept anonymous and confidential.

DC Corrections Information Council

1400 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 478-9211
Email: dccic@dc.gov
Website: <https://cic.dc.gov/>

Executive Summary

Facility Profile

Dates of inspection: July 9-10, 2019
Location: Winton, North Carolina
Distance from DC: 212 miles
Year of activation: 2001
Security level: Low

Rated capacity: 1,450
Average daily population (2018): 1,244
Total population (July 2019): 1,347
DC population (July 2019): 286 (21.2% of facility population)

Key Findings

The CIC made the following key findings about the conditions of confinement at Rivers CF:

- DC individuals are concerned about ongoing tensions with the much larger population of ICE detainees, most of them Spanish-speaking.
- DC individuals feel that the immigrant detainee population is given preferential treatment in a number of areas including jobs, discipline, food, and recreation opportunities. The CIC was not able to confirm preferential treatment except in the prevalence of rice and beans on the facility menu, and a disproportionate number of DC individuals in the Restrictive Housing Unit (RHU).
- DC individuals had some positive comments on programming, particularly vocational programming.
- Many DC individuals stated that they needed more and/or different programming, particularly programming for long-term offenders and those seeking higher education.
- Many DC individuals expressed frustration that Rivers CF operates more like a high-security BOP facility in terms of design and movement, despite being designated as a low-security facility.

Recommendations

Based on the inspection of Rivers CF, the CIC makes the following recommendations:

- Provide classes where inmates can learn to speak Spanish to increase communication between the population groups.
- Increase the number of Spanish-speaking staff by hiring individuals who can speak Spanish and incentivize existing staff to take Spanish-language classes.
- Provide more programming and jobs for all populations so that inmates are kept occupied and engaged.
- Survey the inmate population annually to determine educational and vocational programming needs, and consider adding, removing, or adjusting the capacity of programs offered based on this information.
- Create and publicize a process for inmates to propose classes that they are able to teach to other inmates, similar to the Adult Continuing Education (ACE) classes in BOP facilities.
- Consider providing a ServSafe¹ Food Handler certification program in conjunction with food service jobs in the facility.
- Pursue partnerships with college programs, either local to the facility (such as Roanoke-Chowan Community College, which previously had a relationship with Rivers CF) or local to DC, so inmates can begin college education at Rivers CF.

¹ ServSafe is a program offered by the National Restaurant Association that educates food services workers on food safety. The program provides a nationally accredited certificate in food safety that is required by law for food service workers in many states. The ServSafe Food Handler program was offered at ten BOP facilities as of March 2017.

- Update re-entry programming content with current information, particularly DC-specific resources.
- Increase the number of sessions for the Release Preparation Program to allow for discussion of its content over a longer period of time.
- The BOP should transfer all individuals with a security level of “low” to facilities with physical plant characteristics, work and program components, dormitory design, and movement restrictions that more accurately reflect a low security environment.
- Review internal data on job placement and disciplinary sanctions and critically assess it for possible racial bias.
- Assess the reasons behind the disproportionate number of individuals from DC in the RHU.
- Ensure grievance forms are provided upon request or else available without requesting from staff.
- Ensure that staff and inmates have information on when and how to use each of the two grievance systems.
- Increase the amount of fruits and vegetables provided at meals.
- Provide email access to inmates at Rivers CF.
- End the use of dayroom bunks.

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Introduction

Rivers Correctional Facility (Rivers CF) is a low security private contract facility for adult males located in northeastern North Carolina. The facility is operated by the GEO Group, Inc., and has a rated capacity of 1,450. The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) contracted with GEO Group in 2000 to provide and operate a facility to house DC individuals. Rivers CF was opened in 2001 for this purpose, and operated under the original contract through March 2011. The contract was renewed on April 1, 2011 for ten years.² The number of DC individuals at Rivers CF has dropped significantly from 532 in October 2013 to 212 in August 2019. The percentage of the facility population that is from DC has dropped accordingly from 40 percent in October 2013 to less than 20 percent in August 2019. At the time of the CIC site visit, there were 1,347 inmates incarcerated at the facility, including 212 DC Code offenders.

The CIC previously performed on-site inspections of Rivers CF in 2013 and 2014, and sent a survey to inmates at the facility in 2016. The results of these inspections can be found in the CIC report on Rivers CF published August 17, 2017.³

The CIC conducted a site visit to Rivers CF on July 9 and 10, 2019. The site visit included an opening session with the warden and executive staff, a facility tour, informal conversations with staff working in different facility departments, and confidential interviews with 64 inmates in general population and the Restrictive Housing Unit. During the tour, CIC staff members were escorted primarily by Glen Smith, Associate Warden for Compliance. Report findings are based on facility documents collected prior to the inspection, staff comments made during the site visit and a follow-up teleconference, and inmate feedback gathered through survey responses and interviews during the site visit and communications after the visit. For a full explanation of the report methodology, see Appendix A.

Summary of Key Findings

The most common concerns the CIC heard from DC individuals at Rivers CF was the imbalance between the two main populations housed at the facility. The non-DC population at the facility is primarily immigrant detainees, and interviewees mentioned tension between Black inmates and Spanish-speaking detainees, along with concerns for their safety if violence occurred. DC residents also felt that Spanish-speaking inmates received preferential treatment in job access, disciplinary decisions, commissary selections, recreation opportunities, and food menu options.

Another major concern expressed by many individuals from DC is that Rivers CF is designated as a low security facility but runs as a high security facility, with armed guard towers and controlled movements, including multiple locked doors between destinations. These individuals expressed frustration that after they had worked hard at other facilities to reduce their classification points, they were sent to a facility with more restrictions and less programming.

Participants in vocational programs and the Thinking for a Change therapeutic program had mostly positive feedback. Many individuals who spoke with the CIC commented that programming at Rivers CF was insufficient or did not meet their individual needs, particularly for higher-level educational programming and programming focused on DC-specific re-entry resources.

Other inmate concerns included the practice of strip-searching kitchen employees after each shift, the quality and portions of food, the high prices of commissary items, the ongoing lack of email access, and the placement of individuals in beds in the unit dayrooms rather than in cells. Several inmates also contacted the CIC after the site visit to discuss a lockdown that prevented their access to law materials for several weeks and limited their access to religious services.

² Per PREA Audit Findings, 6/8/2018

³ Also available on CIC website at <https://cic.dc.gov/page/inspection>.

CIC Findings

I. Safety

The inmate population at Rivers CF is roughly 20% DC Code offenders, and 80% individuals detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Most of the ICE detainees are Spanish-speaking immigrants, while most of the DC population are Black citizens. Many of the ICE detainees are awaiting deportation, while most of the DC Code offenders will return to DC, many in less than five years. The most common concern the CIC heard from DC individuals at Rivers CF was about tension between these two groups, and fear that the tension could escalate to violence at any time. Several individuals expressed a concern that facility staff would not be able to ensure safety in such a situation.

The recreation yard at Rivers CF is in the center of the compound and surrounded by a fence with gates to the connecting hallways and buildings. Several individuals noted that in the past when a fight or other incident occurred, staff has forced individuals off the walkways and into the yard and locked them inside with no staff. The individuals noted that this may mean they are locked in the yard with agitated individuals and no staff, making them vulnerable to violence.

Several individuals in the Restrictive Housing Unit⁴ (RHU) stated that they had voluntarily “checked in” to the RHU to avoid repeated conflicts with Hispanic inmates on general population units.

During the on-site visit and in later conversations, the facility leadership expressed awareness of the challenges presented by having two populations that largely speak different languages and have different programming needs and sentence structures. The leadership team also mentioned the challenge of having a large imbalance between the two primary populations. Many inmates who were interviewed made consistent statements about their concerns with safety.

Inmate Comments:

- “It’s always tension between DC guys and Mexicans. This is my greatest fear, getting caught in a race riot.”
- “RCI is also a very dangerous trap for DC black inmates as 85% are Spanish and tensions are high.”
- “At times I do feel my safety is at risk. We are surrounded by a thousand Mexicans, so at any given time anything may happen. If you are not here you wouldn’t fully understand.”
- “Every time there’s an incident on the yard they lock us out there to get killed, ‘cause they too scared to control the Mexicans.”

During the CIC’s follow-up meeting with the warden, he indicated that the facility is always working to hire bilingual staff, but that hiring and retaining them is a challenge. He noted that some staff members are already taking Spanish immersion classes and indicated that providing Spanish-language classes to inmates was a possibility. The warden also mentioned that two of the current medical providers at Rivers CF are bilingual, as well as officers in the investigation department.

Recommendations:

- 1) Provide classes where inmates can learn to speak Spanish to increase communication between the population groups.
- 2) Increase the number of Spanish-speaking staff through hiring individuals who can speak Spanish and incentivize existing staff to take Spanish-language classes.
- 3) Provide more programming and jobs for all populations so that inmates are kept occupied and engaged.

⁴ The Restrictive Housing Unit at Rivers CF is equivalent to the Special Housing Units at Bureau-operated facilities. Inmates are confined to their cells for 23 to 24 hours a day, with generally only one hour out of their cell per weekday for recreation. Individuals are placed in this unit for various reasons, including as punishment for violation of a facility rule, investigation of a violation of a facility rule or new criminal charge, or for protective custody.

II. Programming

A. Educational and vocational programming

Educational programming offered at Rivers CF includes General Educational Development (GED), Pre-GED, Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. As of October 2019, 23 percent of all inmates and 22 percent of DC inmates were participating in educational programming.⁵ During the CIC's visit to Rivers CF, sixty DC individuals were enrolled in an educational program (including six taking correspondence courses) and seven were on a waitlist for an educational program.

Vocational programming offered at Rivers CF includes classes in Commercial Drivers' License (CDL), Construction Technology, Custodial Maintenance, Computer Applications (primarily Word and Excel software), and Basic Keyboarding. As of October 2019, 11 percent of all inmates and 18 percent of DC inmates were participating in vocational programming at Rivers CF.⁶ At the time of the CIC's visit to Rivers CF, 42 DC individuals were participating in vocational programming, while 44 DC individuals were on a waitlist for a vocational program.

The CIC received a variety of feedback on DC individuals' experience with educational and vocational programming. Several individuals reported positive experiences, particularly with vocational programming and the Thinking for a Change program. The most common complaints were that there is not enough educational programming and that the existing programming is mostly focused on young, able-bodied individuals with little formal education. An older inmate expressed that the physically-active vocational programs are not beneficial to him, and several individuals with longer sentences noted that they had completed most of the courses offered at Rivers CF while at other BOP institutions. Rivers CF staff noted that they provide educational testing, but otherwise did not answer questions posed about how they determine what programs to offer the inmate population.

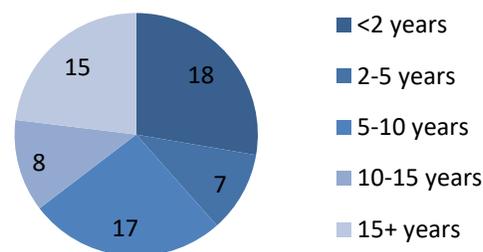
Forty percent of the individuals who spoke with the CIC were serving a sentence of less than five years, while thirty-five percent were serving a sentence longer than ten years. Programming should be available to provide for the needs of individuals who will be returning to the community soon as well as those who have longer sentences.

Six individuals mentioned that they already have a GED or high school diploma and that no other education programs are offered. Another individual noted that the single computer course available is introductory level, but he would like a more advanced course. The education staff at Rivers CF said that they have noticed the current DC inmate population has higher levels of education than in previous years, and they are aware that more higher-level educational offerings are needed. During the on-site visit, the CIC discussed the possibility of Rivers CF working with universities in DC, particularly those that have demonstrated interest in working with individuals at DC jail.

Four individuals mentioned that some of the GED teachers do not actively teach the class but leave teaching to the inmate tutors, and two people said that they were penalized when they attempted to leave the class because they were not getting the help they needed. Two individuals mentioned that there are few inmate-led programs and that it is hard to get such programs approved by facility staff. During the closeout meeting with the facility executive team, the CIC discussed one program recently proposed by DC inmates, and an associate warden indicated he had only heard about it that day but would consider it.

Some individuals had positive feedback for the vocational programs, including those for commercial drivers' license (CDL), custodial maintenance, and construction training. Two individuals mentioned that the CDL simulators had not been working for several months, but had recently been replaced with more advanced models.

Figure 1: Sentence length of DC inmates at Rivers CF



⁵ Numbers provided by Rivers CF; may include some individuals participating in multiple classes.

⁶ Same as above.

Inmate Comments:

- “Here at Rivers I truly would have to rate the education and programming very poor and furthermore does not address the need of this population.”
- “We need more programs for inmates that are finished with school or have a GED.”
- “Overall I think and feel Rivers education programs are a great help and benefit. I had the opportunity to take a class Thinking 4 Change and this has actually helped me deal with being here and handling complex situations.”
- “GED programs we need better teaching staff and more help.”
- “Only thing about this place that’s good is the programs – Life Skills, custodial maintenance, CDL, a lot of good ones you can get certification.”
- “There is a severe lack of productive programming offered at Rivers. I know we do not get the same opportunities other federal inmates receive in terms of meaningful training. No UNICOR, no college programs, no meaningful vo-tech program, and very few inmate-taught courses.”

Recommendations:

- 1) Survey the inmate population annually to determine educational and vocational programming needs, and consider adding, removing, or adjusting the capacity of programs offered based on this information.
- 2) Create and publicize a process for inmates to propose classes that they are able to teach to other inmates, similar to the Adult Continuing Education (ACE) classes in BOP facilities.
- 3) Consider providing a ServSafe⁷ Food Handler certification program in conjunction with food service jobs in the facility.
- 4) Pursue partnerships with college programs, either local to the facility (such as Roanoke-Chowan Community College, which previously had a relationship with Rivers CF) or local to DC, so that inmates can begin college education at Rivers CF.

During the CIC’s follow-up meeting with the warden, he did not recall the proposed inmate-led program discussed during the on-site visit, but stated that if one was proposed then the facility leadership would evaluate it. During a follow-up communication in March 2020, the Warden indicated that the facility does not have any inmate-led programs.

The warden also indicated that he was open to partnerships with college programs. The CIC agreed to reach out to DC-area educational institutions and connect them to Rivers CF leadership to discuss partnership possibilities.

B. Re-entry programming

Rivers CF has two re-entry programs, the Release Preparation Program (RPP) and the Continuum of Care (COC) program. The RPP is a BOP-mandated program intended to address the general needs of returning citizens, including health and nutrition, employment, personal finance and consumer skills, community resources, release requirements and procedures, and personal growth and development. A variety of classes may be offered to fulfill each of the RPP components. Rivers CF also participates in quarterly Community Resource Day videoconferences hosted by the Community Supervision and Offender Services Agency (CSOSA), during which multiple DC agencies and organizations speak to individuals at Rivers CF who are within 90 days of release and explain the resources and support services they offer to returning citizens.

The COC is a GEO Group program that provides cognitive behavioral therapy to participants while they are incarcerated, and financial support and case management to participants after their release to the community. The financial support can be used for clothing, housing, or tools to support an employment trade. Post-release case management consists of three

⁷ ServSafe is a program offered by the National Restaurant Association that educates food services workers on food safety. The program provides a nationally accredited certificate in food safety that is required by law for food service workers in many states. The ServSafe Food Handler program was offered at ten BOP facilities as of March 2017.

phone consultations from case managers located in Florida. The program was developed by the GEO Group and is not part of the contract with the BOP.

In conversations with the CIC, two individuals said that the re-entry coordinator was difficult to interact with, and another commented that it was hard to absorb all the useful re-entry information because so much was packed into a short period of time. Another individual said the re-entry program information was outdated. Two individuals in the early stages of the COC program had positive feedback about their experience, in particular their case manager.

Recommendations:

- 1) Update re-entry programming content with current information, particularly DC-specific resources.
- 2) Increase the number of sessions for RPP to allow for discussion of its content over a longer period of time.

C. Behavioral and therapeutic programming

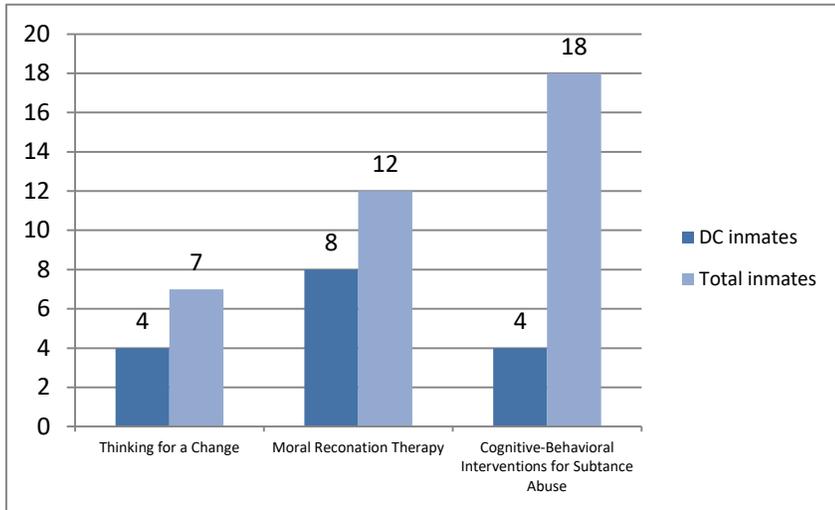


Figure 1. Inmate Participation in Cognitive-Behavioral Therapeutic Programming at Rivers CF

Rivers CF offers three therapeutic programs based on cognitive behavioral approach: Thinking for a Change (T4C), Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), and Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse (CBISA). Thinking for a Change focuses on development of social and problem-solving skills, MRT focuses on increasing moral reasoning and positive behavior, and CBISA applies cognitive change principles to support sobriety for individuals with substance abuse history. All three programs are voluntary; MRT and CBISA are run by Rivers CF staff, while T4C is run by outside volunteers (God Behind Bars) with staff oversight.

Rivers CF staff runs several other voluntary therapeutic programs, including Life Skills, Anger and Stress Management, Victim Impact, and a therapeutic film group. Life Skills covers topics including basic money management, conflict resolution, and healthy communication. The therapeutic film group meets weekly to view and discuss films and the issues they present.

Volunteers from a local church run Malachi Dads, which is a Christian parenting program for incarcerated fathers.

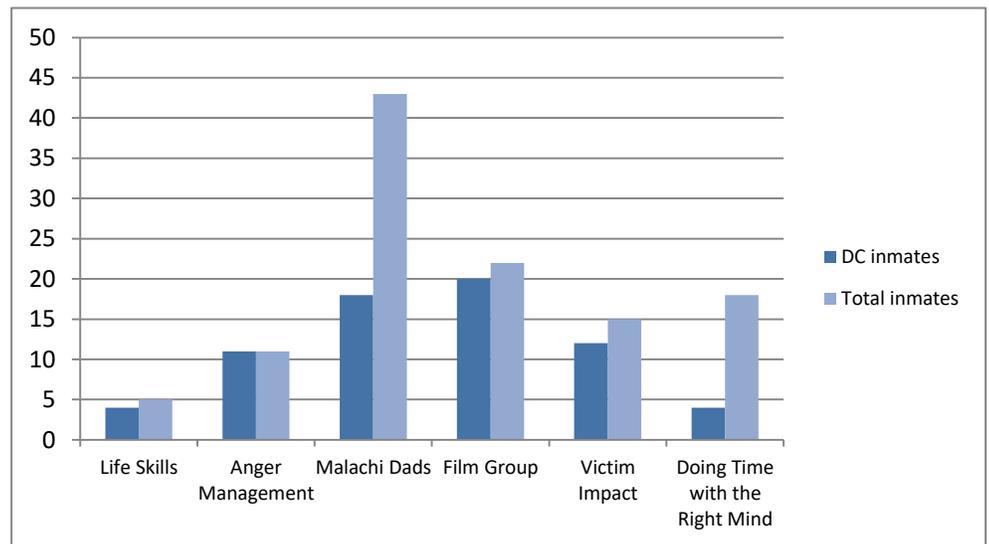


Figure 2. Inmate Participation in Other Therapeutic Programming at Rivers CF

One inmate indicated that anger management was “not too useful.”

Another mentioned that he found the Life Skills group helpful. Several individuals mentioned difficulty getting into the Victim Impact group. None of the individuals who spoke with the CIC mentioned Malachi Dads or the therapeutic film group.

Rivers CF also offers a non-residential drug treatment program in English and Spanish, and a residential drug treatment program (RDAP) discussed in section II.D below.

D. Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP)

RDAP is a BOP drug treatment program where inmates voluntarily live in a specialized unit and participate in individual and group therapy. The program consists of three phases, each lasting three months. RDAP participants must meet a number of criteria, including being eligible for release to a halfway house, which precludes participation by non-US citizens who may be deported. As a result, the program at Rivers CF consists entirely of individuals from DC. The unit has capacity for 60 individuals, and participation ranged from 29 to 39 individuals between June 2018 and June 2019.

About half the individuals participating in the program were eligible for early release, which is one of the incentives of program completion. Between June 2018 to June 2019, 18 individuals joined RDAP program and 17 individuals graduated from the program. Since the unit operates under-capacity, the warden noted that many program graduates choose to stay in the unit and assist current participants. The program at Rivers CF was audited by the BOP in April 2018 and October 2018 and found compliant on all criteria during both audits.

The CIC received no comments on RDAP from current participants.

III. Security Level

Twelve individuals who spoke with the CIC expressed frustration that Rivers CF is structured and operated like a higher security facility, despite being classified as low security. While low security institutions in the BOP mostly have dormitory or cubicle housing, Rivers CF has entirely cell-based housing. Movement is restricted to 10-minute periods once an hour during much of the day, and several individuals mentioned that they get stuck waiting for several locked doors to open so that they can proceed to programming or jobs, where they are then penalized for arriving late. In the BOP, typically only high security facilities have guard towers; Rivers CF has four guard towers. Low security facilities in the BOP have “strong work and program components,”⁸ while high security facilities are focused primarily on close control of inmate movement. Individuals often work to lower their classification points through a combination of good behavior and program participation, so that they can move to a less restrictive facility with more programming opportunities. Several individuals mentioned that they had worked to get to a low-security facility, only to be transferred to Rivers CF where there are more restrictions than at most medium security facilities, and less programming. Programming is particularly important at lower security facilities, since many of the individuals at these facilities are moving towards release and re-entry into the community.

Inmate Comments:

- “Not a low facility. All locked doors, gun towers, atmosphere like a USP even though no violence here, so why are staff treating us this way? A lot of confusion here.”
- “Us being locked down in a low is a problem for me. All these locked doors. If I wanted high security I would go to a med[ium] or pen[itentiary].”
- “Locked doors cause problems in the unit because folks in the bubble aren’t responsive so it’s more of a security hazard than open movement would be.”
- “Have to go through three locked doors to get anywhere, so takes long to get out of unit and only have 10 minutes transit.”
- “Work your way down to low and they treat you like max. Sussex and Red Onion [State prisons in Virginia] were max/supermax and they were better than here.”

Recommendations:

- 1) The BOP should transfer all individuals with a security level of “low” to facilities with physical plant characteristics, work and program components, dormitory design, and movement restrictions that more accurately reflect a low security environment.

⁸ https://www.bop.gov/about/facilities/federal_prisons.jsp

- 2) Rivers CF should increase the amount and variety of programming available to inmates as discussed in Section II above.
- 3) Executive staff at Rivers CF should consider reducing restrictions on movement at the facility so that it operates more like BOP facilities classified as “low”. This could include adding longer periods of unrestricted movement during the day, and leaving some doors to unit and programming spaces unlocked during the day where feasible.

IV. Disparate Treatment

Many of the DC individuals at Rivers CF, who are primarily Black U.S. citizens, believe that they are treated worse than the ICE detainee population, who are primarily Spanish-speaking immigrants. Twenty-three of the individuals with whom the CIC spoke at Rivers CF mentioned at least one form of disparate treatment. They mentioned that the Spanish-speaking inmates received better jobs, less frequent or less severe punishment for rule infractions, more cultural activities and holiday celebrations, and recreation activities that are not as appealing to individuals from DC, such as soccer and volleyball. Meals also include rice and beans as part of the hot bar, where inmates may serve themselves. One individual mentioned that in his unit three of four televisions were on Spanish-language channels at all times.

The CIC was unable to verify many of the complaints of disparate treatment by DC individuals due to their amorphous nature. The recreation schedule provided by Rivers CF listed a wide variety of activities, including open basketball five days each week and all day on Saturday. The tournaments listed over the course of the year included basketball, handball, racquetball, soccer, and various card and table games. Football was routinely shown on a big screen per the schedule. The February schedule included a number of Black history events, including movies and trivia. Cinco de Mayo recreation events were extensive, while Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day events included basketball, volleyball, soccer, and track as well as table games. The menu included five weeklong meal cycles. Of the 70 lunches and dinners listed, all included some type of beans and 64 included some type of rice in addition to other proteins and vegetables. The warden told the CIC that all housing units have four televisions in the dayroom, and that two are set to Spanish language channels and two to English language channels.

During 2018, DC inmates made up 30-40% of population in the Restrictive Housing Unit (RHU) at Rivers CF, while DC inmates were only 20% of the total population of the facility. The CIC did not request information on the reason for each RHU admission.

Inmate Comments:

- “For example, I may request to move to an open cell-room first, the staff denies me and then a Spanish inmate requests the same staff to move to the same room, the cell-room will be given to him.”
- “They don’t let us celebrate no DC traditions. They have no activities for us; there are no black dishes in the chow hall.”
- “Staff are very disrespectful to DC inmates and show a lot of respect to the Mexican inmates, all the Mexican inmates get hired for the best jobs first.”
- “Staff may ignore you or give an aggressive response to whatever you ask. If the Hispanic guys ask then they’re more acceptable to listen.”
- [Discussing floods in SHU] “If I do it, they're going to write me up and take all my stuff. If Mexicans do it, they just clean it up.”

Recommendations:

- 1) Review internal data on job placement and disciplinary sanctions and critically assess it for possible racial bias.
- 2) Assess the reasons behind the disproportionate number of individuals from DC in the RHU.

V. Grievance Process

The grievance process at Rivers CF includes two distinct paths depending on the issue. Inmates grieving BOP-related matters, such as designation, classification, sentence computation, Good Conduct Time, property issues, or matters occurring when the inmate was in a BOP facility, should use the typical BOP process laid out in BOP Program Statement

1330.18. For all other matters, particularly those concerning Rivers CF policies, procedures, staff behavior, or Unit Disciplinary Committee decisions, inmates are required to file their grievance first through the GEO group procedure. The exception to this is if an individual believes their safety or well-being would be in danger if the grievance became known at the facility, they may file directly to the Privatization Management Branch (PMB) at BOP Central Office.

The GEO group procedure involves a request for informal resolution and an informal resolution meeting with staff - after which the individual can file an initial administrative remedy form. GEO policy states that individuals are not provided the initial administrative remedy form until the informal resolution process has been completed. The initial administrative remedy is handled by the Rivers CF Administrative Remedy Coordinator (ARC) after which an individual can appeal to the GEO Eastern Region Office, then the PMB at the BOP, and finally to the Office of General Counsel at the BOP.

On average, inmates filed 18 initial administrative remedies per month during the 18-month period prior to the CIC visit. Based on an average daily population of 1,247 individuals - that equates to one grievance filed per 70 individuals at Rivers CF. The most common grievances filed were complaints against staff (102), followed by medical issues (24), disciplinary decisions (22), and food service issues (21).

Thirty-one out of 49 survey respondents (63%) said that they had access to BOP grievance forms, while 18 (37%) said they did not have access. Seven individuals explained that forms were only available from counselors and that the counselors were rarely in their offices or refused to provide the forms when asked. Two individuals mentioned that they were able to get grievance forms from their counselor, and the process worked.

Out of 44 respondents, seven said the grievance process was fair, 20 said it was not fair, and 16 responded that they did not know. The most common complaints about the grievance process were that staff blocked the process somehow (15 responses), that the process does not work (9 responses), that responses to grievances are delayed or never happen (6 responses), and that the process takes too long (6 responses). Several individuals mentioned confusion about when and how to use the two separate systems.

Inmate Comments:

- “Staff are unfamiliar with the forms. RCI has their own set of complaint forms. When you submit them, no return or result. Disappears in someone’s trash can.”
- “Need to go to counselor for them and they try to settle the matter or block it, whatever you want to call it.”
- “Long delays in responses.”
- “I feel like you never get a fair result is because most of the staff are some kin or friends.”
- “The only BP-9 and 10s that you can get are through your counselors. When I followed one process all the way through, I was able to obtain them.”
- “I think that the process could be so much easier if [the administrative remedy clerk] would just make herself more available to the inmate population. It is so difficult to get in to see her and to try to obtain any information about the status of your grievance procedure that it is unreal. It is so bad that it makes you want to give up on trying to exhaust the administrative remedy process.”

Recommendations:

- 1) Ensure grievance forms are provided upon request or else available without requesting from staff.
- 2) Ensure that staff and inmates have information on when and how to use each of the two grievance systems.

VI. Other Issues

E. Kitchen strip searches

Three individuals who spoke with the CIC mentioned that they were routinely strip-searched before leaving the kitchen at the end of their shifts. One person stated that the strip searches were “humiliating” and that waiting for everyone on his shift to be searched caused him to get in trouble for being late to his program.

The warden stated that the facility had been dealing with a lot of homemade alcohol, and instituted strip searches of kitchen workers on random days to curb the amount of fruit and sugar removed from the kitchen to be used to make alcohol. The warden stated these strip searches were targeted to address this problem based on information received, and that the strip searches are not being conducted at this time.

F. Commissary

More than half of the individuals with whom the CIC spoke at Rivers CF complained that the markup on commissary items was too high, including a few comments that items at Rivers CF cost twice what they had in BOP facilities. Five individuals mentioned that commissary availability in RHU was very limited.

A number of factors may explain differences in pricing. While contract facilities are obligated to use the same 30 percent item markup as BOP facilities, BOP facilities are tax exempt and contract facilities are not. Differences in facility location and proximity to distribution sites may also impact pricing, as well as whether the items offered are brand name or generic. Bulk orders, discounts, and the frequently with which a facility rotates commissary stock also impacts availability and pricing of commissary items.

The CIC compared the commissary price list provided by Rivers CF with the commissary list recently provided to the CIC by USP Pollock. Many of the items were not identical or could not be verified as the same size or brand of item; however, a sampling of similar items is provided below.

Item	Cost at Rivers CF	Cost at USP Pollock
4-pack AA or AAA batteries	\$2.00	\$1.00
anti-fungal powder	\$2.80	\$2.20
chicken ramen	\$0.40	\$0.30
dryer sheets (Spring Fresh/Bounce)	\$2.25	\$2.90
eye drops	\$2.20	\$2.20
pocket dictionary	\$4.15	\$3.85
replacement watchband	\$18.90	\$11.45
Spanish-to-English dictionary	\$2.40	\$2.25
Snickers bar	\$1.30	\$0.80
Suave Skin Therapy Lotion 10 oz / Suave Cocoa Butter Lotion	\$3.55	\$3.00
thermal bottoms	\$6.55	\$9.10
t-shirt	\$7.00	\$5.70
Tums 3pk / Tums 4pk	\$2.90	\$2.30

G. Food

Seventy-five percent of the individuals who completed the CIC survey shared at least one complaint about the food. The most common specific complaints included that the meals are always rice and beans (19 responses out of 50), that portions are too small (14 responses out of 50), and that meals are unhealthy or lack fresh fruits and vegetables (12 responses out of 50). As noted in Section IV above, the menu provided by the facility includes rice and beans as part of nearly every lunch and dinner offering in a five-week cycle. The menu lists vegetables, such as broccoli, peas and carrots, green beans, and collards as part of lunch and dinner offerings, but does not indicate whether the vegetables are fresh. Fruit is listed on most meals, but type and preparation of fruit is not specified.

H. Email

When the CIC visited Rivers CF in 2016, we recommended that the facility provide an email platform for individuals to maintain contact with their loved ones and community, similar to the secure CorrLinks email platform available in all BOP-operated facilities. The response to the CIC report noted that Rivers CF is not contractually obligated to provide an email platform to residents, but stated that the institution was “currently negotiating an agreement with Access Secure Mail to provide an electronic messaging service to the inmate population. Target date for implementation is September 2017.”

When the CIC visited Rivers in July 2019, the facility still did not have an email communication setup for its residents. Several individuals expressed frustration that they no longer had access to email after having it in BOP facilities. The warden mentioned that the facility is looking into an educational tablet program that could include email access and that the facility is also looking into the possibility of setting up video visitation. The warden did not know when any of these services might be available for use.

I. Dayroom beds

The CIC visited one general population unit at Rivers CF, Unit D. The unit had three bunk beds in the common area dayroom, where six individuals slept each night. Inmates are assigned to these bunks, and staff said that those assigned to the bunks have more freedom to move around, but less privacy. The warden explained that these beds are used for individuals who will not keep their cells tidy, or have particular difficulty living in close quarters.

J. Recent lockdown

In August 2019, the CIC heard from several individuals at Rivers CF about the facility’s lockdown status. These individuals were particularly concerned about lack of access to law library materials for ongoing *pro se* litigation, as well as lack of access to religious services during the lockdown period. During the CIC’s follow-up conversation with Warden Tripp, he confirmed that the facility was on full lockdown, and then on modified lockdown for a period of several weeks from August 25, 2019, until September 23, 2019, due to an incident in which a number of inmates refused to lock-in to their cells. The warden said that the facility was back at fully operational status as of the conversation on October 8, 2019.

The Warden clarified that the Rivers CF policy is that inmates needing law library information during a lockdown can use an inmate request form to request specific case law or information from the facility librarian. Inmates are allowed to practice their religion in their cells, but no religious gatherings or other programs are held during a complete lockdown until normal facility operations resume.

Recommendations:

- 1) Increase the amount of fruits and vegetables provided at meals.
- 2) Provide email access to inmates at Rivers CF.
- 3) End the use of dayroom bunks.

Appendix A: Methodology

Rivers CF Inspection Methodology

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Corrections Information Council (CIC) and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), on May 23, 2019, the CIC submitted a request to inspect Rivers CF. The inspection request itinerary included a tour of all areas of the facility to which inmates have access, discussions with staff, confidential interviews with DC inmates, and document review and collection. Prior to the on-site inspection, the CIC communicated with DC inmates at Rivers CF to notify them of the upcoming inspection and offer the opportunity to participate in a confidential interview with a member of the CIC.

The BOP and Rivers CF executive staff provided the following documents to the CIC, which are on file with the CIC:

- Current roster of DC inmates
- Completed CIC pre-inspection information worksheets
- Restrictive Housing Unit monthly population (1/2018 – 12/2018)
- Significant incident summary (1/2018 – 12/2018)
- ACA report (2017)
- Contract facility monitoring report (April 2019)
- PREA auditor's summary report (June 2019)
- GEO Group ion scan policy
- 5-cycle weekly menu (as of March 2019)
- Facility cost-per-meal breakdown (June 2019)
- Commissary list (general population and Restrictive Housing Unit)
- Weekly staffing report (5/31/19)
- Facility staff vacancies list (6/30/19)
- List of current programs (6/12/19)
- Program participation rosters (10/1/2018 – 3/31/2019)
- Current program enrollments and attendance (10/8/19)
- Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP) participation numbers (6/2018 – 6/2019)
- RDAP programmatic audit (1/2018 – 12/2018)
- Recreation schedule (9/2018 – 9/2019)
- Inmate pay scale (as of 9/1990)
- Inmate job descriptions and standards (as of 7/1995)
- Continuing Education participation numbers (10/2018 – 3/2019)
- Restrictive Housing Unit visitor logs (4/2019 – 7/2019)
- Medical logs, including sick call, vaccine days, physician assistant, doctor, nurse, dentist, dental hygienist, and oral surgeon (6/1/2019 – 7/8/2019)
- Grievance log (1/2018 – 7/2019)

The CIC conducted an on-site inspection of Rivers CF on July 9 and 10, 2019. The inspection process included an opening session with Rivers CF executive staff, a tour of the facility, and interviews with DC inmates in general population and the Restricted Housing Unit (RHU). Various executive staff escorted CIC staff during the tour portion of the inspection. The areas toured included recreation, visitation, education, vocational technology, the kitchen and dining hall, the medical and dental areas, the psychology offices, religious services, a general population unit, the RDAP unit, and the RHU. Following the inspection, the survey responses and interview notes were compiled and edited for clarity.

In response to the warden's request for more timely feedback, the CIC spoke with him and the facility's BOP liaison on October 8, 2019. The CIC and the warden discussed observations from the site visit, surveys, and interviews, as well as several of the CIC's recommendations. The warden also answered additional questions that arose during the CIC's review of the data collected during the site visit.

Prior to publication, the CIC provided the BOP and the warden with a draft version of this report for review of factual information, and an opportunity to respond to follow-up questions and any other information in the report. The BOP and GEO Group responses to the CIC draft report can be found attached to the end of this report.

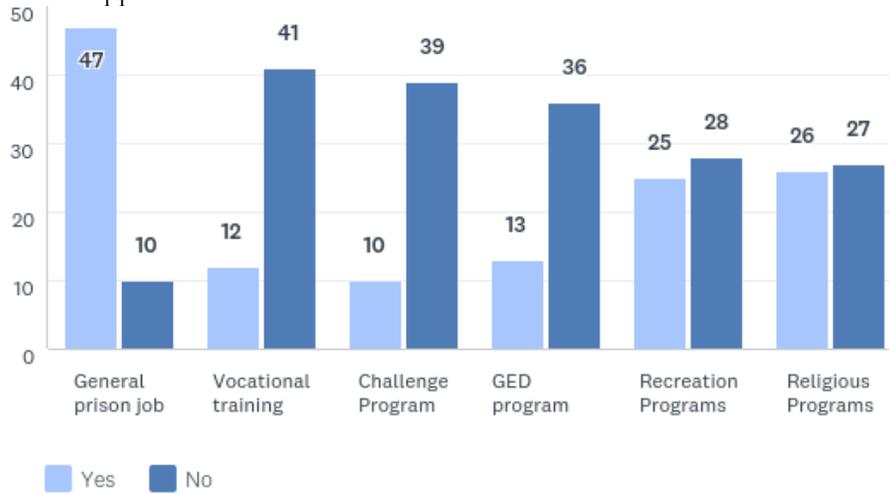
Appendix B: Inmate Survey Responses

DC Inmate Survey Responses

The following responses were collected by the CIC during the on-site visit to Rivers CF in July 2019. The open-ended responses have been edited for clarity and to erase any identifying information.

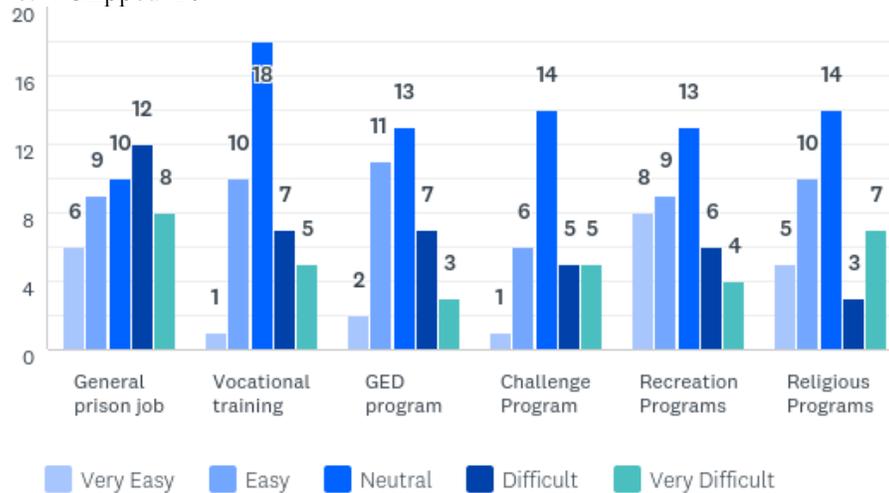
Are you currently participating in:

Answered: 58 Skipped: 5



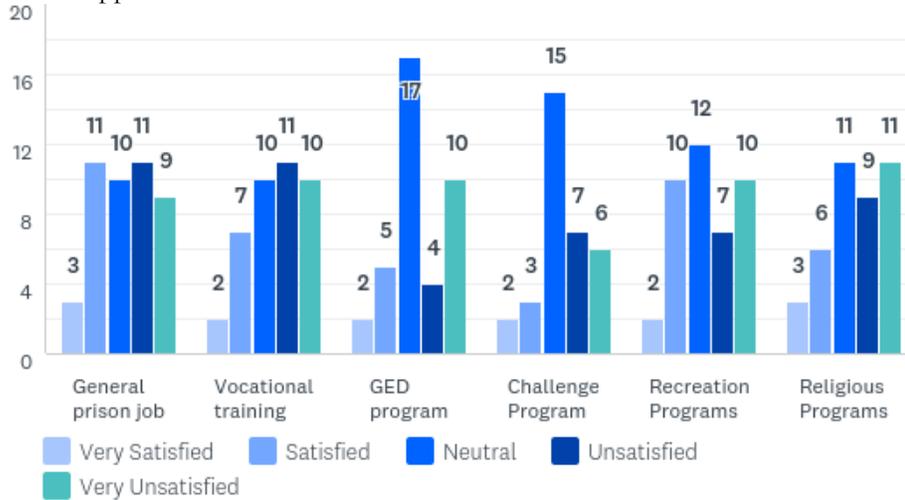
How easy or difficult is it to get into the following activities at Rivers CF?

Answered: 47 Skipped: 16



How satisfied are you with the following activities at Rivers CF?

Answered: 48 Skipped: 15



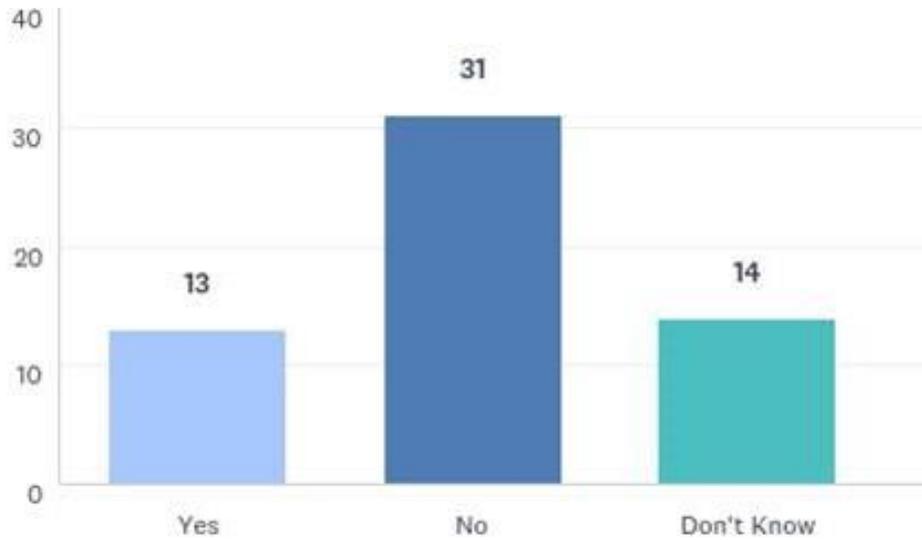
Is there anything else you would like to share about education, programming, or employment?

Responses
In the middle of Mexico, fear for my life- ICE. Do not want to be here, how can I get transferred? Only chips, coffee, candy, cookies for commissary in RHU. Don't want to go to rec because of Hispanics, rice & beans
Just that we are forced to work in the kitchen
Here at Rivers I truly would have to rate the education and programming very poor and furthermore does not address the need of this population. Now as far as the employment, I feel that we are being compensated at a far too low pay rate.
Just got here last week. Yes we need a rehabilitation program get us ready for re-entry just because you did time don't mean you ready if you don't have the requirements or the programs.
Need serve safe certification, food service. Industrial Jobs College program needed.
I'm a federal inmate with a federal case. Due to the first step act, far as non-violent offenders can program to work up to 65% time projected of doing, Here, being that this is not a FBOP facility the benefit of programming to get time off, I'm not able too. I've only been here 2 weeks. The jobs here is horrible and when it comes to pay. This institution forces you to work in the kitchen. If you refuse, then you are going to the SHU. This institution says it's mandatory to work in the kitchen 90 days. Visitation is horrible. You are force to wear boots no matter what, institution boots even if you have a soft shoe pass. We are housed in an immigration institution. Food is terrible, commissary is extremely high.
We need more programs for inmates that's finished with school or have an GED
construction program 9 months program good
None as per now
Needs something more challenging, not in GED program because he already has a diploma. Not enough programs to get sentence reduction, need college course while here. Want to have a fighting chance
As far as the educational programs they are limited. Employment you are forced to work in the kitchen upon arriving at the facility. Also it's kind of difficult getting a job that is financially stable for prison.
I haven't actually started programming yet, seeing as though I've only been here for a week
I do not express any concern about the education, programming, or employment. Just staff needs to be more accountable to getting the material we need for legal work.
teacher was cool
Took drivers to get reintroduced to driving exam, in CDL class, custodial maintenance (12 certs) Good programming Life skills, computer classes
Programs pretty good, ask if you need to talk to someone one on one staff are pretty good here , way it runs is good
I dropped out of GED class because it is designed for the Mexicans. There are no American teachers. It was very difficult to learn. I lost good days cause of it SMH.

There are no programs here at rivers correctional institution for me to sign up for. I took so many programs while in BOP that RCI does not have.
Well my job is Disability Aide, I wanted laundry job or rec job but can't because the Spanish inmates have first pick. They don't have no program that can help me in society to get a job. Already took the custodial maintenance nothing else will help me.
Kitchen better than doing nothing.
Have not been here that long
GED programs we need better teaching staff and more help
Jobs are very limited and they are given to Spanish population for all the high better paying jobs, the US citizen is either left with very low or no job and classes.
There is a severe lack of productive programming offered at Rivers. I know we do not get the same opportunities other Federal inmates receive in terms of meaningful training. No UNICOR, No college program, no meaningful vo-tech program and very few inmate taught courses. Also, the library is too small for this size institution.
No job related issues for me. What religious program? As far as education or programming classes, there are none for me at all. I've taken advanced computer courses at other facilities. There are none here at all. The computer Ed. here is more an introduction to computers and learning keyboarding (if you don't know how to type)
Overall I think and feel Rivers education programs are great help and benefit I had the opportunity to take a class thinking 4 change and this has actually helped me deal with being here and handling complex situations
I don't like that we are not able to prepare ourselves for society. They don't provide any programming.
Need more moderate up to educational programs, college courses, parenting classes, work, re-entry. (I take outside college courses, I pay for.)
-No GED Tutors -Forced to take them -Lower Payments -No Program Variety -No Records for programs I did
I don't expect too much - we're in jail. More programming. Would like to do construction and CDL as many programs as possible especially to get good time
I think there should be more vocational programs available
programming cool
Was in SHU for 18 months 2010-2011, straight in to RHU right from the bus. Want to go to another facility 1st time in SHU
There need to be better programs/vocational training that meet the demands in the job market today.
Wish college courses, I've done everything especially for long timers.
When you sign for classes and the classes start, if the teacher isn't helping you accelerate in class and you want to drop out they will write you a shot and take good time from you
There's no college courses. The re-entry coordinator Ms. Green is quite difficult to deal with.
They need to get us a raise. I been working the same job since I been here 7 years and I have been getting \$11.00 ever since.
With me already having these programs there's nothing else for me to do after I complete these programs. There are no program in education to take but your G.E.D.
Not enough programs to help get trades instead of basic certificates.

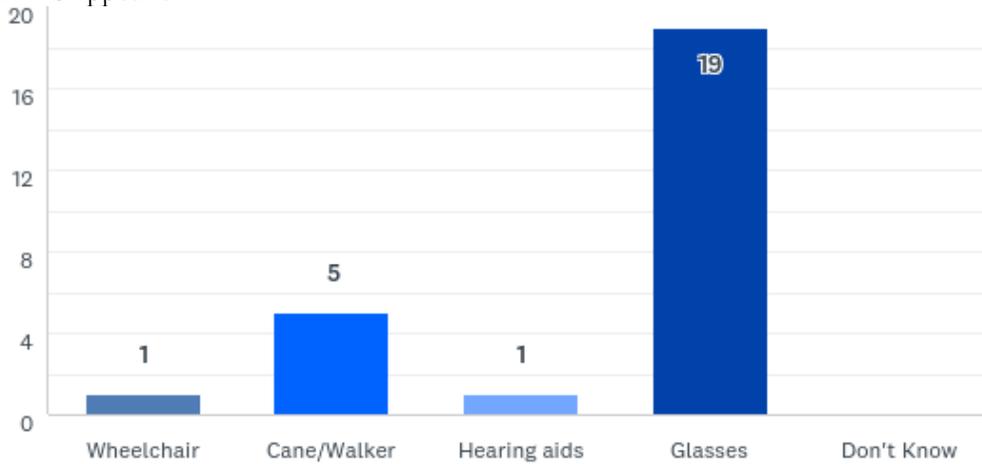
Are you on the chronic caseload?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 6



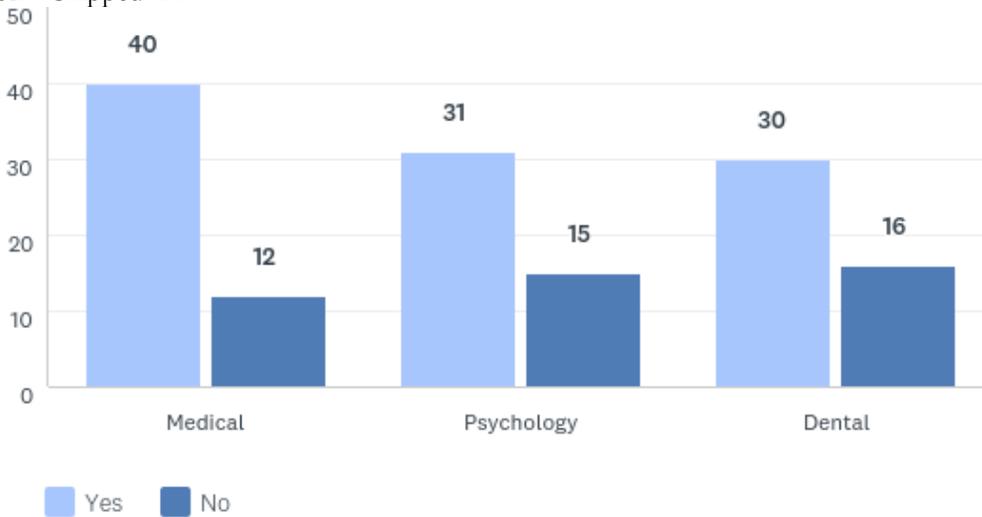
Do you need or use any of the following?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 42



Do you have the access you need to the following:

Answered: 52 Skipped: 11



Is there anything else you would like to share about medical care at Rivers CF?

Responses
more medical issues
No problem put in sick call 2 weeks ago + waiting
It's hard to be seen with medical issues
When you say Chronic Care I would say "What Chronic Care?" therefore I'm saying it is absolutely inadequate and absolutely does not address or provide all of my medical needs. To sum it up they have some staff that desire to assist you but their hands are being tied by the administration Also they are not able to address and/or provide proper care and treatment for me
Haven't really gone
Too slow to see people, standing in long line for pill pickup especially during the winter outside
okay good
I'm not able to give an accurate opinion, I only been here 2 weeks
Charged the 2.00 co pay, BOP refunded the copay after I challenged them in SC.
Yes, sick call/emergency is very difficult process. To have to been seen by a nurse or physician, you have to wait days. You are required to fill out a request form and submit it to be seen which takes long time for the whole process
ok Why take so long knee- they gave me meds but no x-ray etc.
It's not very good as of right now my finger is either broken in a place or fractured. I was given an x-ray 2 weeks ago and medical has yet to give me the results
Have an ankle sprain from DC Jail and have yet to have a follow-up
Should be on chronic care for high blood pressure and glasses were given by someone else.
If I go to doc before three nurses see you, better than the dentist
Always make you do cop outs, takes a while because people in line ahead of you
No complaints
They charge for sick call and never been seen
Okay
Meds not on time. When sick, we can't go straight to medical or when in any body pains we are sent back not even ask to be look at without filling out a cop-out sheet which we will be seen 2 days later
It's not private concerning ones business and they charge even when not good. the open house is often not held so one can discuss medical issues, I've been waiting over 8 months for medical care surgery on my right arm
No issues for me personally
Haven't put in for glasses yet It appears to be adequate as far as I can ascertain but luckily I haven't had any serious issues. I can say they haven't given me the correct cream to help with the purple blotch I had transferred to my right cheek by Dr. Holderness
I think overall rivers does a pretty good job when it comes to medical far as my experience when dealing with medical
I don't have anything to say I haven't seen them
Needs a professional facelift
I've been waiting for three months to get my broken glasses. I've been waiting for two months to get an MRI. My ACL is popped and I can't walk and still waiting.
Ok
Difficult to be seen with only a remedies as final results. I experienced an ankle surgery that left me with worst conditions than previous to it. Was transferred from B.O.P , Ft.Dix, NJ into R.C.I without medical records apparently this is common practice
Unsat! I do not get the care I need. medical, food, etc.
target-ger C pap machine put in a complaint - no response
this institution is not prepared to deal with the needs of chronic care inmates
It's fine, bring meds daily in SHU
when you ask to speak to them its \$2.00 and when you're in pain and need medicine you have to wait 1

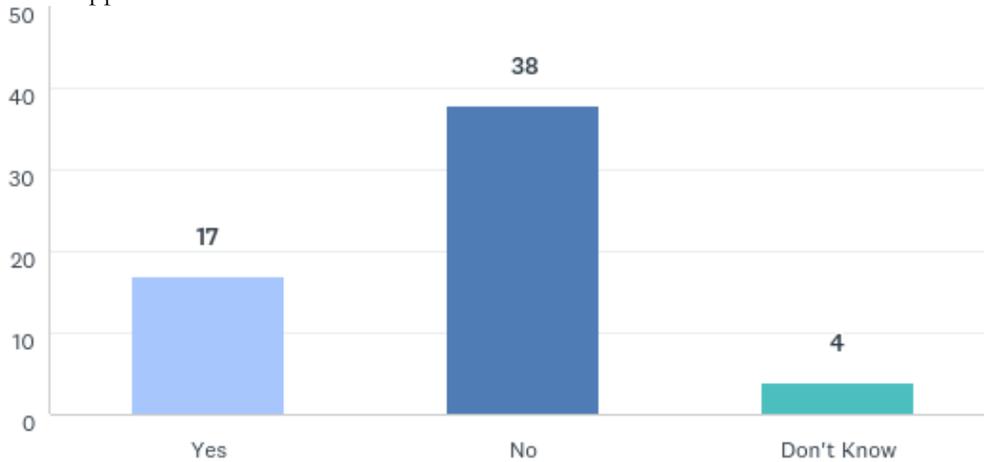
week and pay \$2.00 again just to be seen once
I don't have any problem with medical
I do not have access to psychological help I feel I need
Still waiting on MRI
Yes- good enough

Is there anything else you would like to share about dental care at Rivers CF?

Inmate Responses
Haven't seen since been here
Been here a year haven't gotten my teeth cleaned yet
It takes too long to be seen
Completely inadequate and does not provide proper care
Good
Yes they have not call me to get my teeth clean since I have been here and I have been here over a year
Fair
Slow
Have yet to be seen
I have submitted several requests to be seen with no success. I have decayed teeth and pain but no one cares.
I would say dental is ok, it takes a while to be called but not bad
on the waiting list for cleaning
trying to see dentist for a couple months now
Pretty good
put in a cop out takes a month or two for them to call you
No complaints
Dental take forever to see you
haven't got to see dentist, he will in July
it takes weeks to be seen
it takes a year or two to clean teeth
Yes, I had a filling fall out a couple of months back. Dr. Holderness refilled it twice in one session as it didn't hold the first time. Took a solid hour. His hand rested against my cheek the entire time. He had on a purple "Nitrile" glove. Similar to a henna tattoo, this has had the effect of leaving a purple blotch on my right cheek. Apparently when he then researched this online there are a handful of other cases of this same thing.
I don't have anything to say I haven't seen them
needs more improvement
very unprofessional
Don't need dental
This place has their own set of rules or guidelines that do not comply with the BOP
Teeth cleaning, but heard can only get teeth pulled if in SHU, no cleanings
That they don't have the right do crown/caps and a lot of people need caps
They sometimes have you waiting too long to see them especially when you are in pain
yes- pulled tooth, it was fast, no need for other work

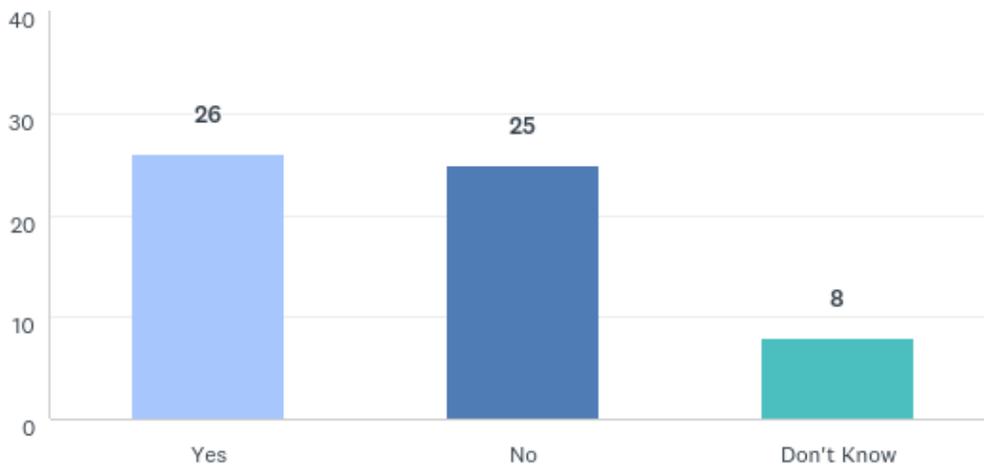
Have you ever been diagnosed with a mental health issue, at this facility or elsewhere?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 4



Did you have a mental health evaluation when arriving at Rivers CF?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 4



If you had a mental health evaluation at Rivers CF, please describe the process?

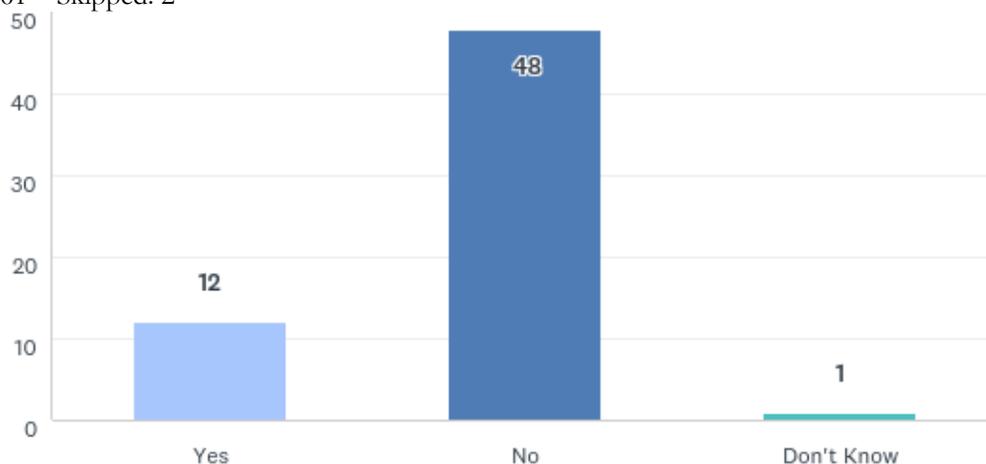
Responses
Asked questions

- They have not addressed any of my mental health needs
- Asked basically was I crazy, so it wasn't that long
- Intake process was brief and short not detailed/ can't have carry on medication
- Answer a set of questions / assessment
- I was told that I need a grievance counselor
- Talk to the psych and answered all her questions
- Same as any other
- I don't know
- Asked questions
- I was asked about any thoughts of suicide, family issues, how I'm coping in prison, that's about all I can remember, because it was about 5 years ago
- I was told there will be a follow up.
- Meet w/ Dr. Weston every 2 weeks about meds
- Had one in DC before coming here
- Ok medicine keeps me stable , they did the evaluation by just asking questions
- They just ask me questions they didn't have because here they keep no file on no inmates here our medical file doesn't follow us here.

I can't
 1860's time period, It was like a Wendy's drive thru
 PTSD
 Meeting with doctor, Very satisfactory
 Part of intake process
 My eye glasses
 Not yet
 I was told that I could not see or get a copy of the evaluation - something about it being non-compliant
 Rushed through it, had one before trial + used that
 I don't know
 I spoke with psychology (Mr. Teeter) in length. It went well. I current see psychology once a month and receive Medication daily.
 Asked a few questions.
 yes- Doctor Teeter- talked

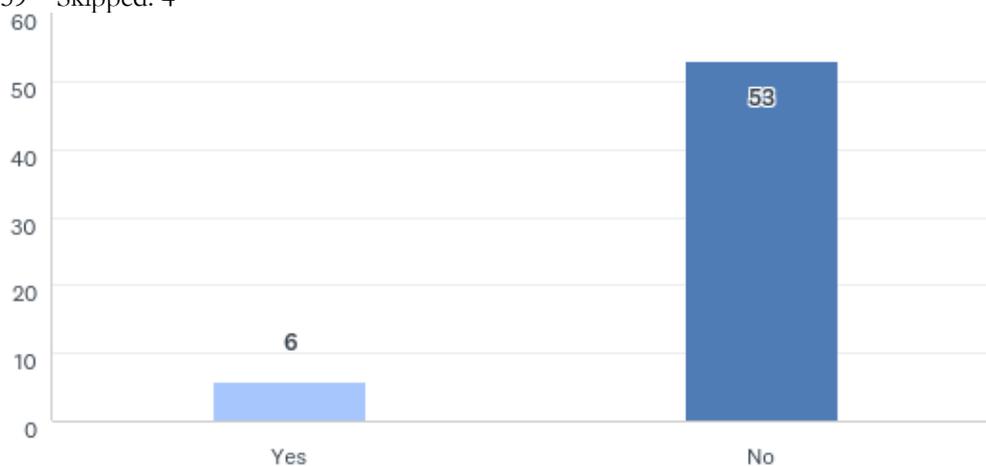
Are you currently receiving mental health medication?

Answered: 61 Skipped: 2



Have you ever experienced suicidal thoughts while at Rivers CF?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 4

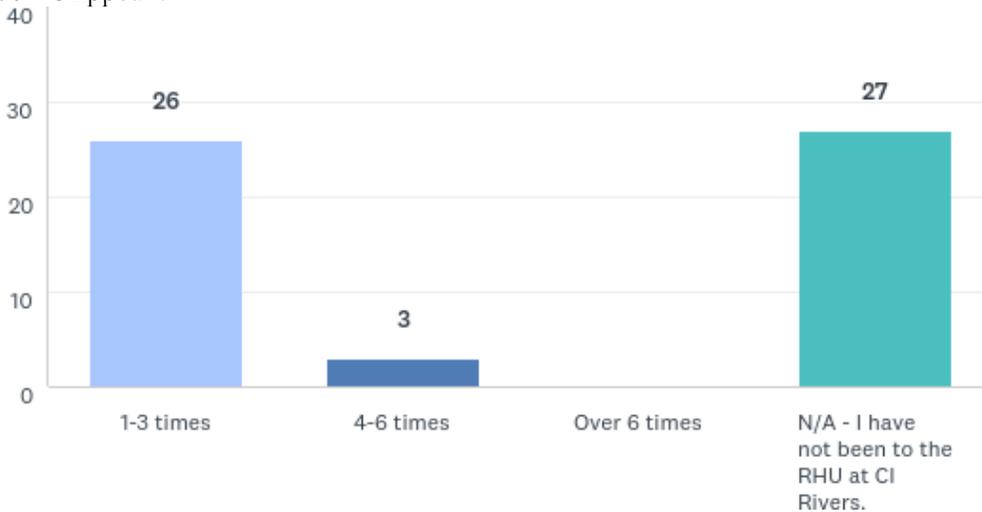


Is there anything else you would like to share about mental health care at Rivers CF?

Responses
As far as I'm concerned there is absolutely none
Change medical staff too often no follow up mental health counseling or therapy
psychologist come around gives you things to do
Brother- hasn't seen him since aborted visit here 7 years ago.
Took mental health medication when on the street.
They'll hold chow for you if you're still in pill line
Okay.
One inmate told my friend he was suicidal and he alerted officers (Lts. and Sgts.) And they ignored him and even stated that he was making it up. Next day the man attempted suicide. While I have had no personal issues with mental health services, issues are here.
I can talk to Mr. Teeter at virtually any time, he has almost always made himself available to us and he is currently alone here still and needs help this month also is my understanding
Does need a face lift
Rivers Mental Health is unprofessional
This institution/mental health dept is understaffed to properly address my concerns dealing with my mental health issues
This place is real stressful
Inadequate

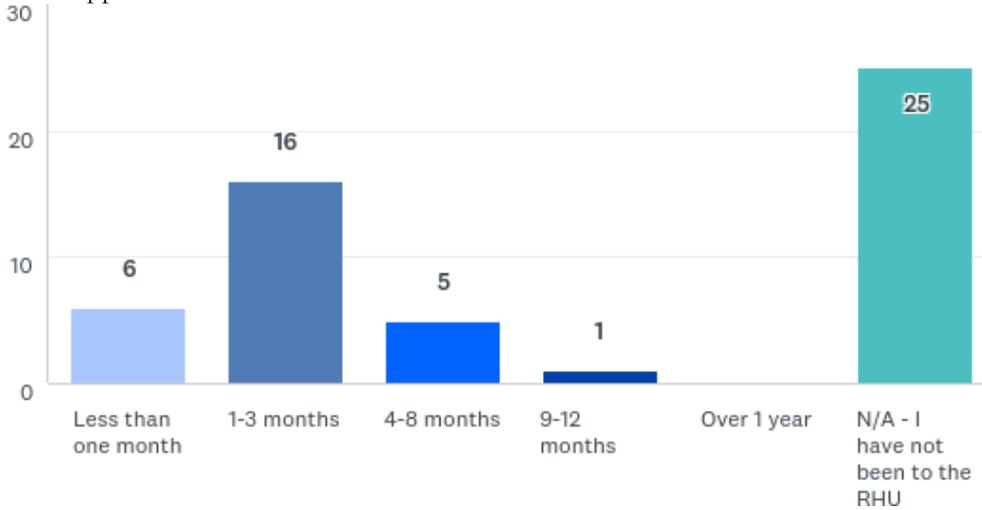
How many times have you been in the RHU at Rivers CF?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 7



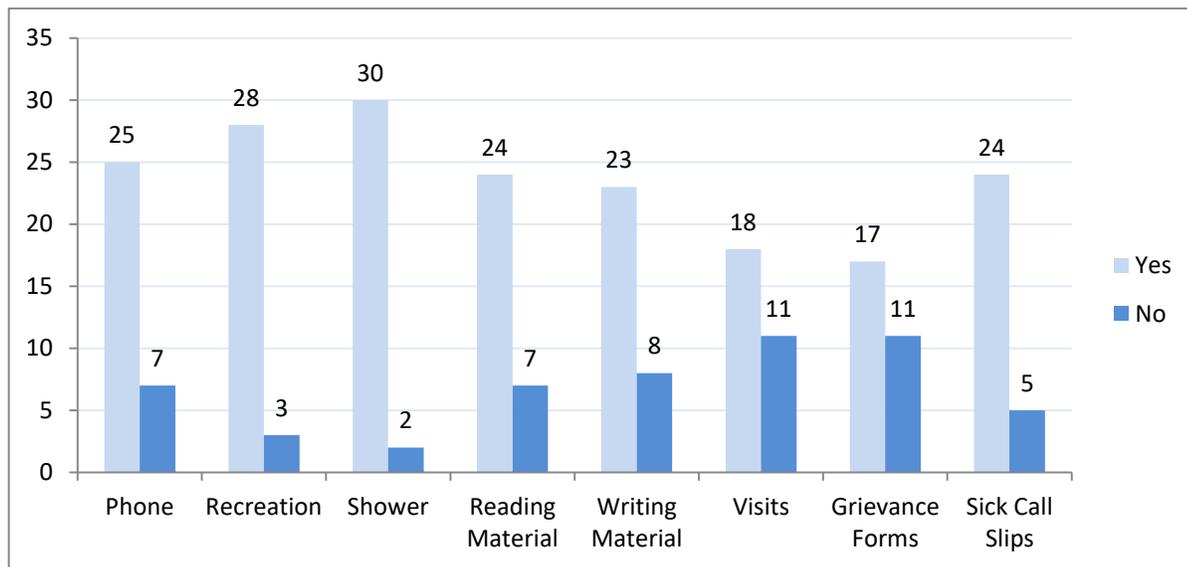
What is the maximum period you have spent in the RHU at one time in Rivers CF?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 11



Did you have access to the following:

Answered: 31 Skipped: 32



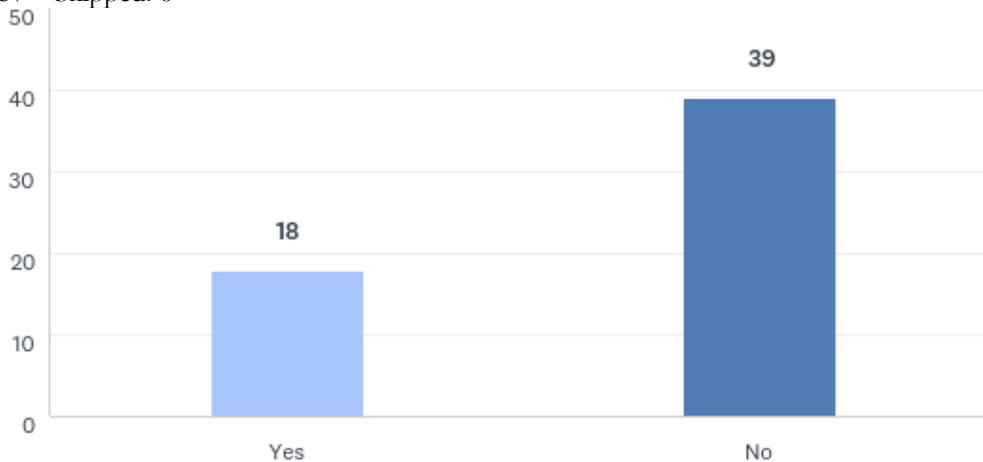
Is there anything else you would like to share about the RHU at Rivers CF?

Responses
In RHU 30 days awaiting hearing accused of possessing a cell phone on hearsay by staff member. No phone has been found, only been at rivers for 4 months before placed in RHU
Don't change blankets/sheets to laundry, have to put cop outs and have to wash your own underwear out, no laundry exchange. No visitation personally but seen others go 3x/week. Library is same books, put a cop-out into education for papers and books
food sucks, cater to Spanish pop
Only grievance needs black ball point pen was given a regular RHU pencil
Yes, RCI feeds inmates in the SHU very poorly. Inmates are given very small portion of food and are not allowed to buy food items from commissary. Also correctional Officers bang on the cell doors 14 a day including at night startling inmates while sleeping.
Food too sparse- portions too small, lack of commissary, staff need better training
Your communication is very limited to your family or friends, because you can only use the phone 2 times a month
Staff-wise everything is run good here, never had a problem with that
Family says it's too far heading home in November

No legal material or access to any nor/ or allowed to receive material (cases) from library
Unit teams are supposed to make themselves and any forms you need widely available. I and the other guy in my cell sometimes watched unit team members literally run across the RHU floor so as to be able to avoid on purpose and not speak to us. Nurses also.
Worst months of my life
Library cart needs to be changed, has books people don't read, comes through when they ask CO to bring it depending on if they want to bring it through. SHU counselor brings stuff if acct balance is low
Unorganized and unprofessional - used to BOP, BOP staff is more aggressive
They always cut off the water when inmates don't want to take a cellie.
There's a saying about the SHU here. You go in weighing 190 you come out weighing 150
They are not feeding us proper portion of our meal, also we not receiving exchange of clothes while in the SHU
Grievance- they don't follow policy. I want a copy of the employee conduct policy at Rivers. Been in SHU for 8 months.

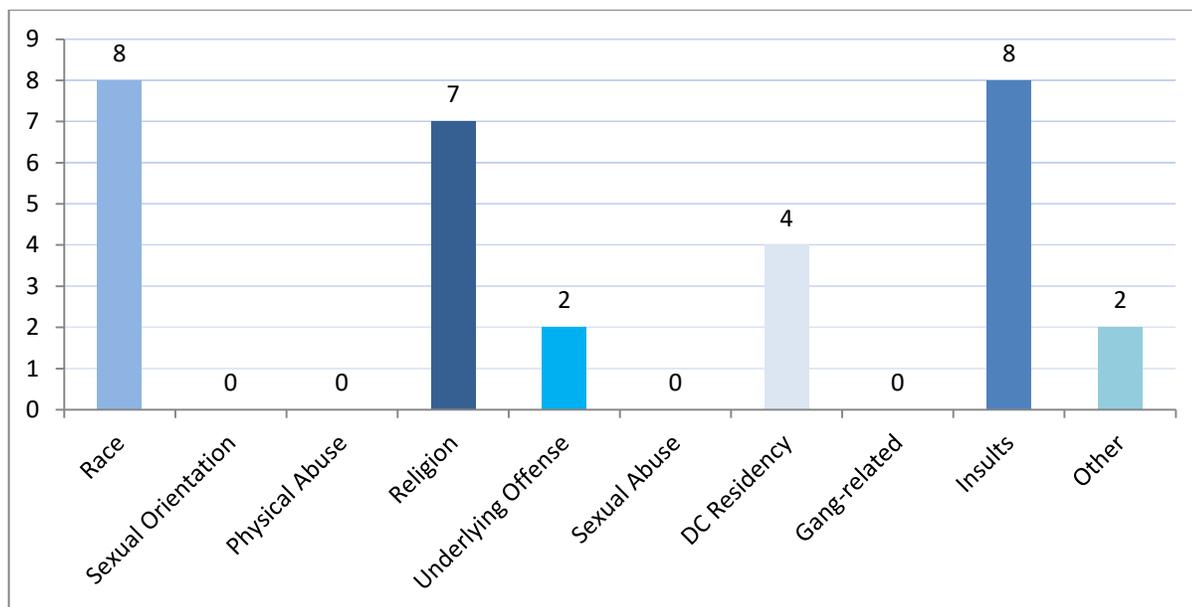
Have you ever been harassed, threatened, or abused by staff at Rivers CF?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 6



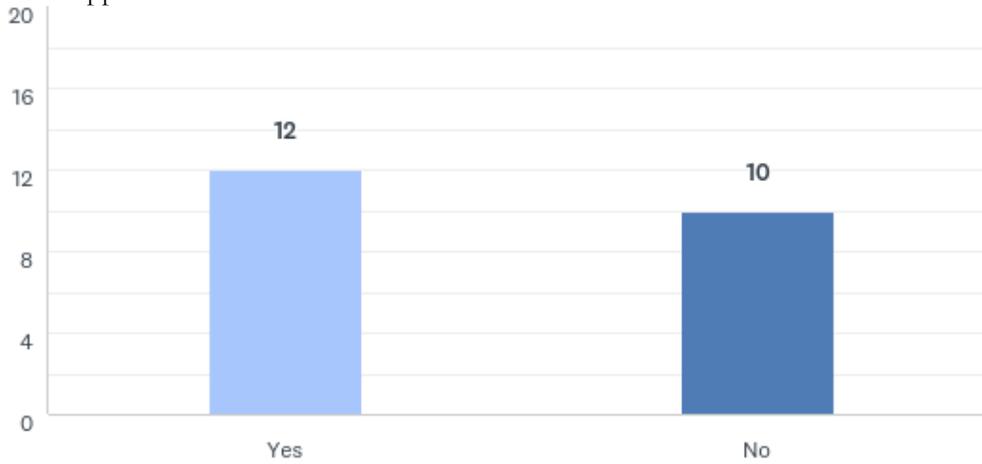
If yes, what did it involve? (check all that apply)

Answered: 18 Skipped: 45



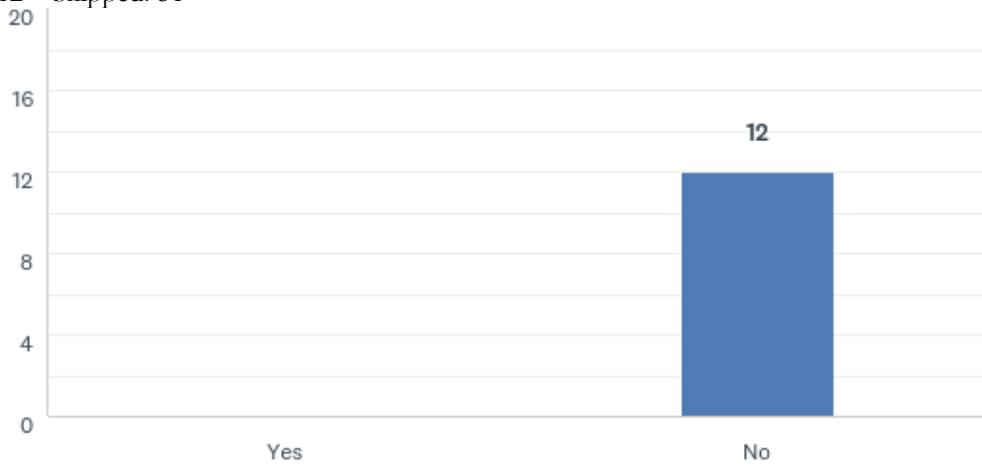
If yes did you report it?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 41



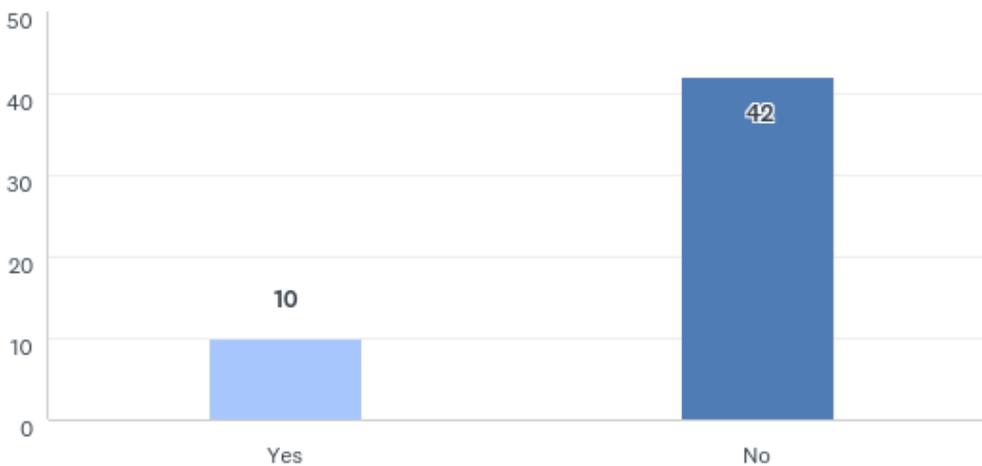
If yes, are you satisfied with how it was handled?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 51



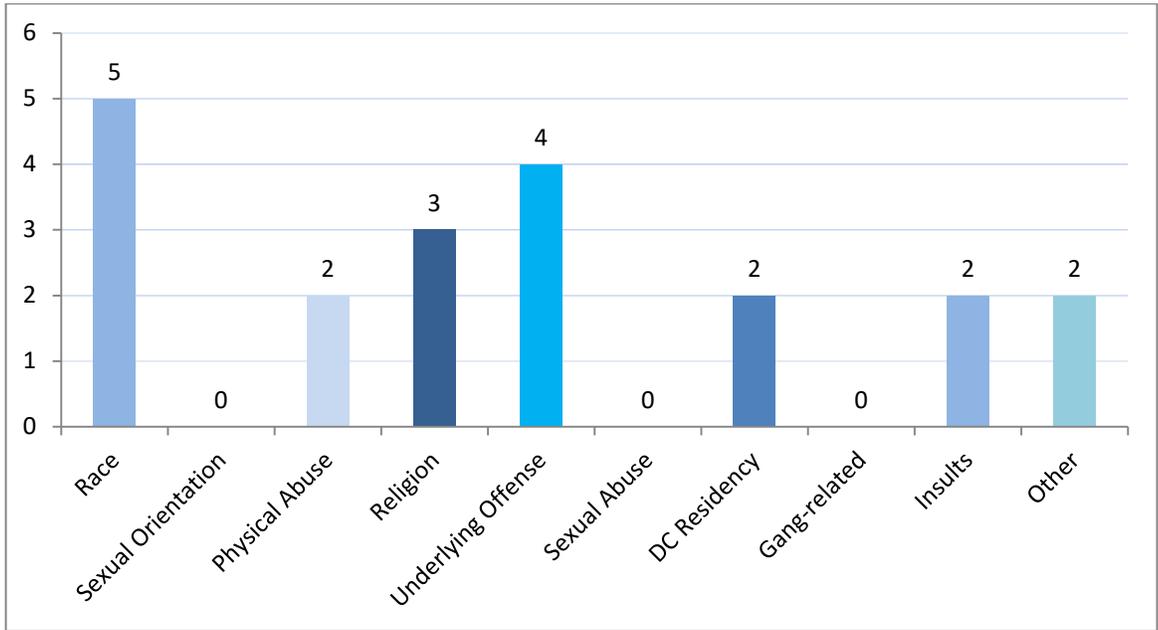
Have you ever been harassed, threatened or abused by other inmates at Rivers CF?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 11



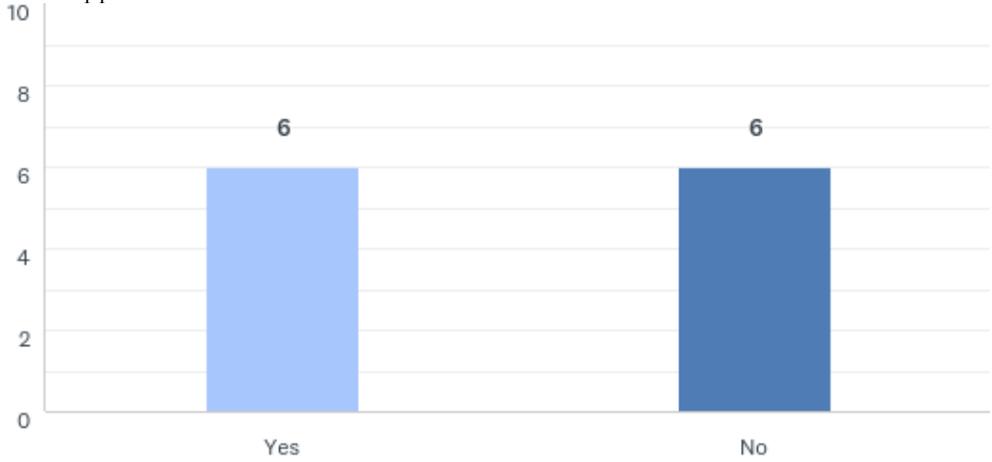
If yes, what did it involve? (check all that apply)

Answered: 10 Skipped: 53



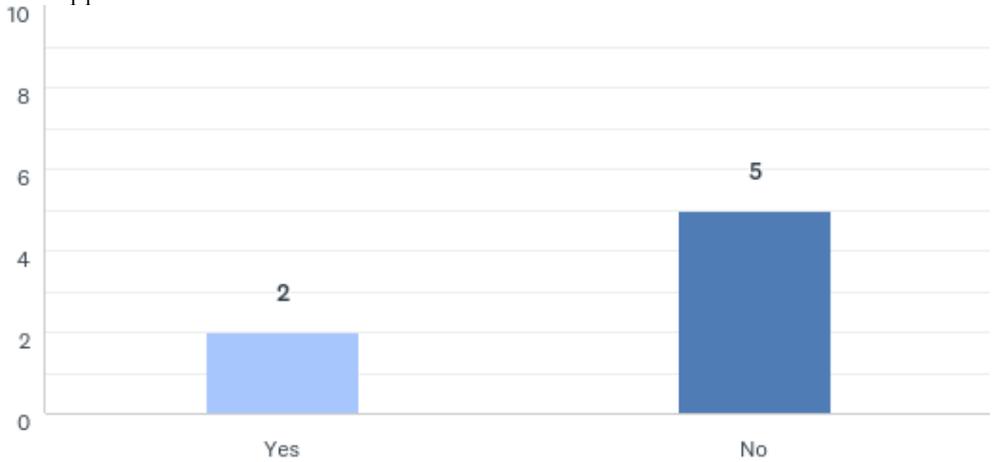
If yes, did you report it?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 51



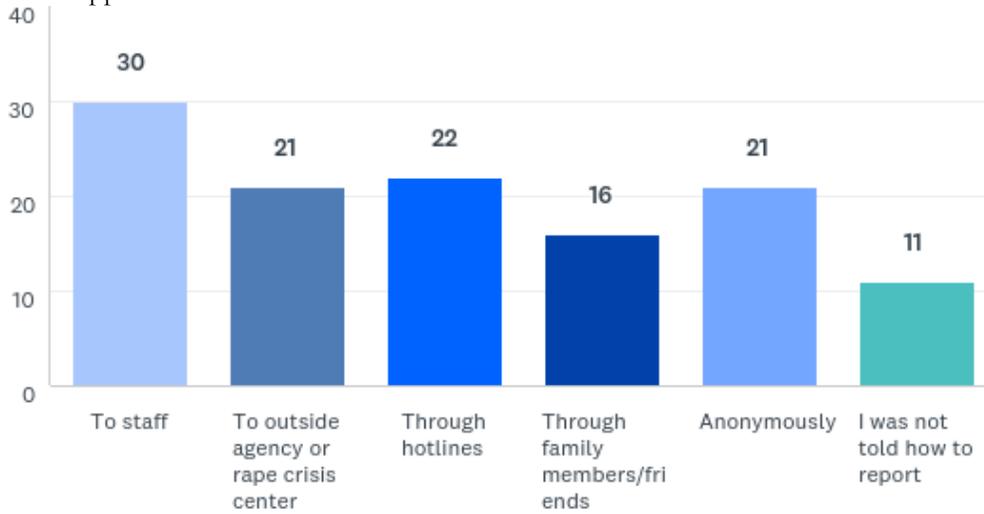
If yes, are you satisfied with how it was handled?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 56



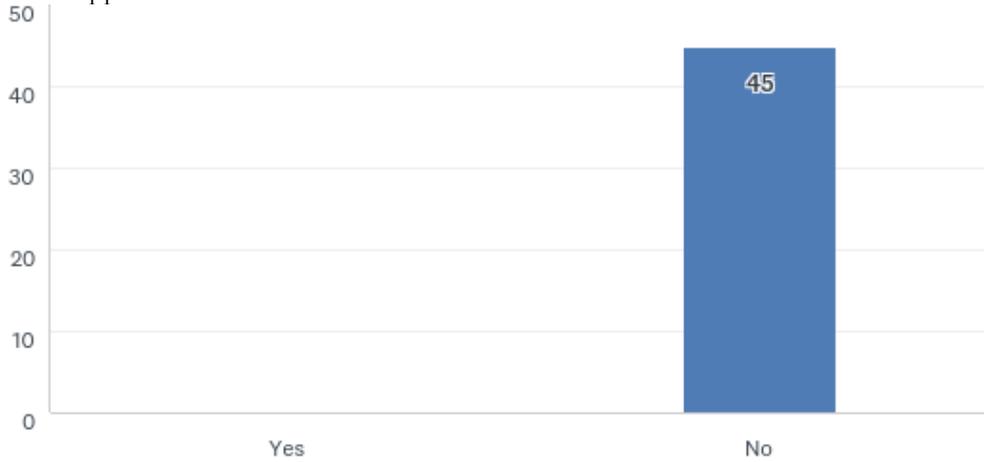
Were you told that you could report sexual abuse or sexual harassment in any of the following ways:

Answered: 38 Skipped: 25



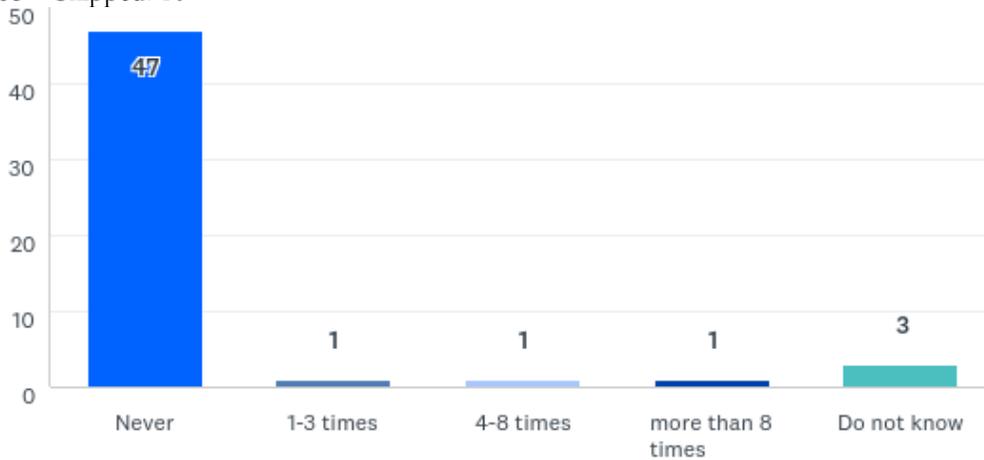
Have you ever reported sexual abuse or sexual harassment while at Rivers CF?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 18



How many times have you been placed in four-point restraints at Rivers CF?

Answered: 53 Skipped: 10

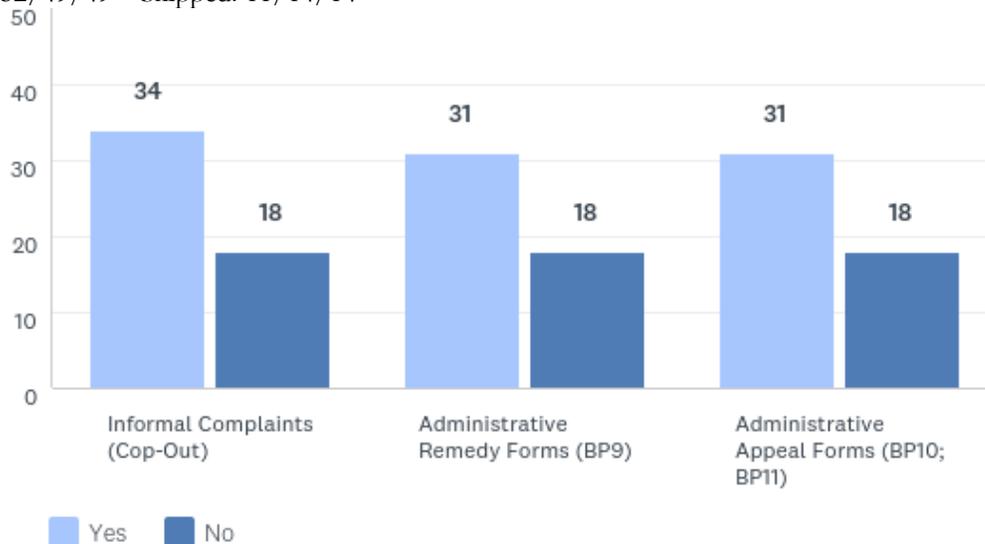


Is there anything else you would like to share about safety or use of restraints at Rivers CF?

Responses
About safety- It's 10 to 1 Spanish to Black and at any given time we can be harmed
Officers dragged and slammed me last time fighting
Not here
At times I do feel my safety is at risk. I'm or we are surrounded by a thousand Mexicans. So at any given time anything may happen. If you not here you wouldn't fully understand.
I did not know about that, we are not animals.
The safety here at Rivers is none. Not enough numbers in officers most all older women very few men and very few are young men. The Spanish population tells the staff what they are and not doing , upon they're grouping up (ganging up)
On occasions I and friends have been threatened but I did fear strongly over my safety enough to report. Once in a while my crime can cause issues.
I did get a "nick" on the back of my hand from cuffs that were too sharp in the RHU but it wasn't worth a stitch at medical so I didn't report it.
Needs improvement
Officer at Hazelton revealed info to another inmate, putting me at risk. I'm trying to get together a complaint.
Rivers is stressful
Told by staff that could have kept issue in house, didn't have to tell family attorney but they didn't do anything until told attorney.
Every time there's an incident on the yard they lock us out there to get killed, cause they too scared to control the Mexicans.

Do you normally have access to the following:

Answered: 52/49/49 Skipped: 11/14/14



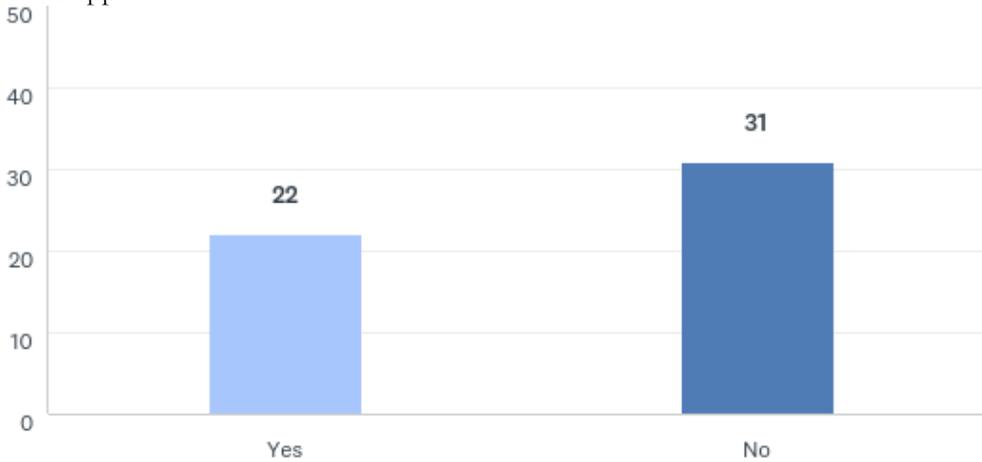
If you checked no to any of the above, please explain:

Responses
It is totally difficult to receive almost anything that will benefit us in any form
We have to wait for the counselor to come back to work
Don't have the slightest idea of how and where to file a complaint
If so, I haven't seen it
Need to go to counselor for them and they try to settle the matter or block it, whatever you want to call it
They never give you one when you asked
Because you got to ask for them they either don't have none or don't answer the button

We have to wait for it.
Must get from counselor, not easy sometimes
The only BP-9 and 10's that you can get are through your counselors. When I followed one process all the way through I was able to obtain them.
Not in standard with BOP policy
Staff is unfamiliar with the forms. R.C.I has their own set of complaint forms when you submit them no return or result. Disappears in someone's trash can.
Ask officer, counselor or case manager have them sitting by desk.
They lock it in an office and not come to work.
Dropped the issue after waiting too long. Religious program, I was refused.

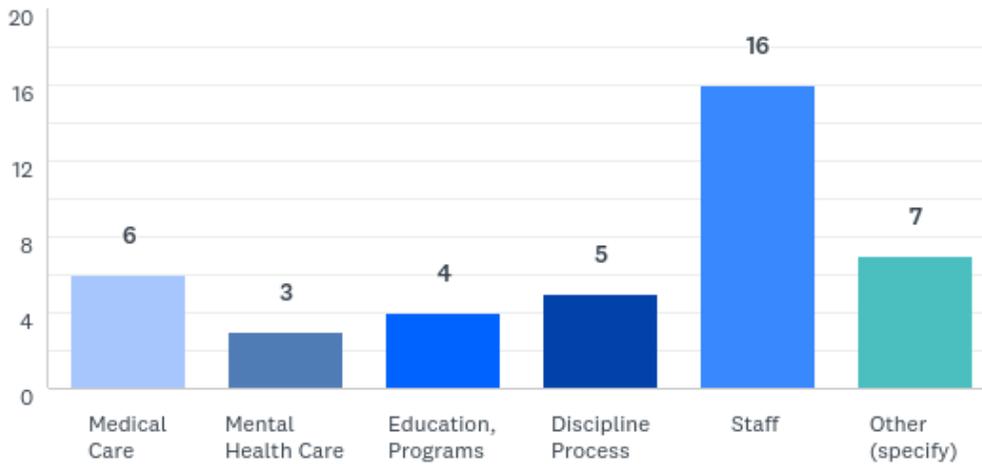
Have you ever used the grievance process at Rivers CF?

Answered: 53 Skipped: 10



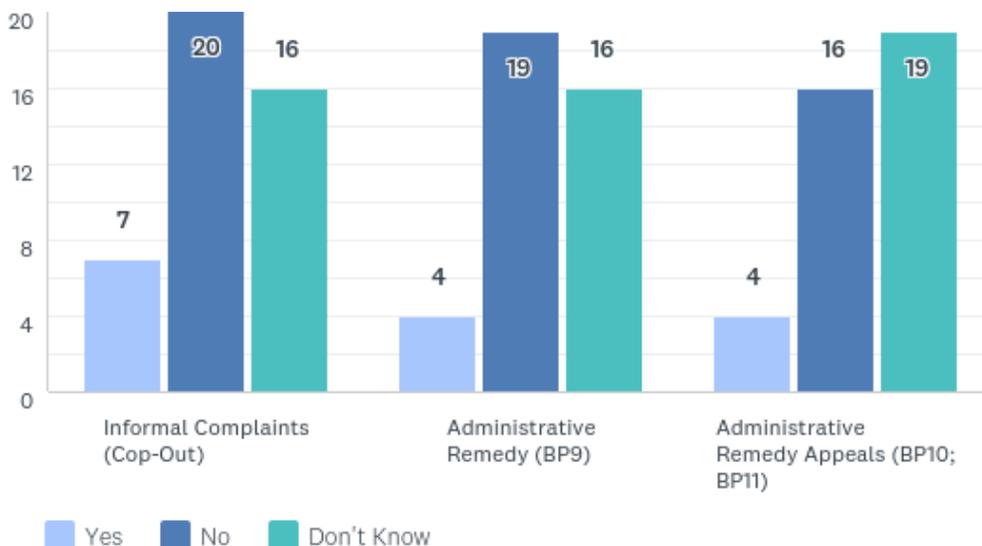
If you used the grievance process at Rivers CF, what was the reason?

Answered: 28 Skipped: 35



Do you feel that the following are generally dealt with fairly at Rivers CF?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 19



Please provide examples of why the grievance process is fair or unfair at Rivers CF:

Responses
Never got my past counselor, she shut it down and it didn't go any further
Too long to respond to issues, no detailed investigation, staff covers for staff, no change with staff attitude towards inmates.
All you got to do is follow the process
Jail days 560 days.
A staff member violated my rights and individual privileges by clear and convincing evidence, however RCI ignored the facts as only to protect the staff member, and as consequence I have been denied access to educational program unit and other important needs including working extra hours.
Problem was solved, came to an understanding.
I feel like you never get a fair result is because most of the staff are some kin or friends.
Long delays in responses.
The grievance process here at Rivers CF is unfair because the administrative always agree with their staff
After filing for disciplinary process the warden, officer, and the B.O.P all did not follow through with any investigation.
My response to the BP-8 and BP-9 was copy and pasted. No effort to resolve this issue. Was told all BP-10/11 only address good conduct time issues. If it isn't a good conduct time issue, it is not bothered with.
I think that the process could be so much easier if a unit officer would just make herself more available to the inmate population. It is so difficult to get in to see her and to try to obtain any information about the status of your grievance procedure that it is unreal. It is so bad that it makes you want to give up on trying to exhaust the administrative remedy process.
Nothing is done about anything.
It takes too long, and is not backed or governed by BOP policy.
Complaints don't go anywhere, fall on deaf ears.
Most of staff here are related or known each other for years.
They never look at my defense, they already had their mind set. Was very unfair, never told me that I could present witnesses, and when I did it was too late.
I've a deferred purchase n commissary
Because they still do it.
When I went sent the admin remedy, the paperwork went to the SHU person/staff rather than the person who handles these matters.

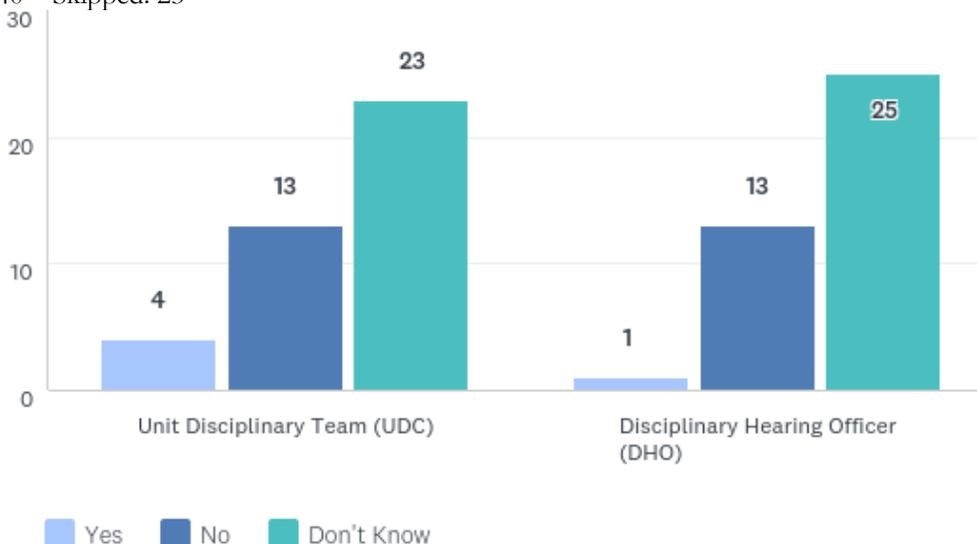
Don't do nothing for you
A white officer called me a n-word and they just let her go to another GEO Facility (2016 June). A female CO grab my penis on camera and they told me they didn't believe me and to shut up and out their office; I felt lonely and hurt.
They don't ever let you win.

Is there anything else you would like to share about the grievance process?

Responses
I have been told in both a step 1 (warden) and step 2 (GEO) that as inmates we are not allowed to see ANY GEO policy statements that relate to our own inmate accounts. In the Library they (GEO) removed chapters 1-4 in the policy statement book and have told us that we are not allowed to see any policy statements from those sections.
RCI needs to be fair when resolving issues raised by inmates.
Not helpful at all, dies in a file.
As of right now I have a grievance in process about an incident report that was written up wrong I have yet to get a response.
I filed a grievance about my personal property when i got here on Feb. 21, 2019; R and D staff confiscated and the Administrative never respond.
It's all unfair in its handling from the (in-house) Rivers and their officer with BOP representative not investigating the complaint filed.
Once I filed a complaint and I was threatened with the SHU due to other people's complaints.
See above answer on the overwhelming difficulty of attempting to see Mrs. Journigan, the administrative remedy clerk. Sometimes she is in her office even as you can see her reflection moving in the glass but she tells the person that answers the door speaker that she is unavailable anyway, "come back tomorrow" or "come back Monday" she will say on a Friday. She is basically useless.
Takes too long and does not work.
It's a waste of time, they don't try to listen to you, then send you to BP-10 when you only have 20 days and there is no time.
RCI does not use any complaint forms as in B.O.P facilities
food service , security
I don't think they go anywhere.
The warden Clerk Ms. Jernigan always tell black people she don't want to accept our grievance if it's something about her officer. They ask me to drop the shot and they would let me leave but they lied.
Need outside people overseeing.
Hard to understand- 2 different processes -- Rivers and BOP don't get response re employee conduct

Do you feel that the disciplinary decisions are fair from the following:

Answered: 40 Skipped: 23

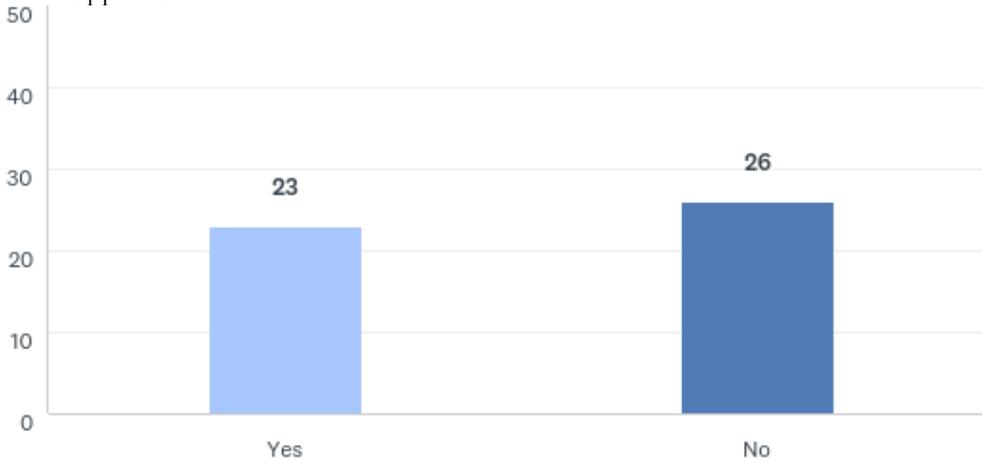


Is there anything else you would like to share about disciplinary decisions at Rivers CF?

Responses
Because the DHO been working here since Rivers opened she was an officer, counselor, and case manager. She may already have personal issues with inmates
I don't know
Better staff training
The disciplinary decisions are not fair because the DHO is on site which she/he is supposed to come from a neutral site, also these staff members are either some kin or good friends.
The officer of UDC and DHO upon my experience has lied and known it, and continue in their lies take GT even when they know it was wrong
I don't have any experience being in any serious trouble here so I don't know. To what standard or lack thereof is staff held to here at Rivers? AND do we have a right as inmates to be able to have a copy of staff's disciplinary process? Some staff act very unprofessional here. Not all, but some, Do they have any disciplinary guidebook or rules?
In violation of constitutional law
See DHO, considered guilty before chance to defend your case. long waiting period, 10-11 months to get transferred
I feel that the process is one-sided where a you are in a no-win situation
Based on other folks, some folks get lenient, but depends one guy to the next
Because they don't want to listen to the problem and always think what their officers say is right
Never had a problem with unit disciplinary team. Take too much, visits, phone, commissary, take three privileges for one incident, it's unfair.
No attention to deadlines - especially 24 hours.

Are meetings with your unit team at Rivers CF generally helpful?

Answered: 49 Skipped: 14



Please explain:

Responses
They are very disrespectful, absolutely unprofessional, untrained, not qualified and don't assist you with any issues or needs you may have etc.
Everything I ask for they be on top of
They do not want to help you when you need to do things they talk to you very disrespectful, they do not care ever
Since my time here my unit team is fine
To begin with, it's hectic and so difficult to have a meeting with the Unit Team. Most issues are always passed on, and in some cases, the unit team appears as if they don't know what to do.
If they demand they are helpful, but if they can't answer questions they stonewall.
my unit team shows a big interest in my well-being also I can talk to anyone of them if I'm having problem at home or in prison
They seem like they're okay. I don't approve of how they handled my current situation. Other than that they're approachable.
Everybody has been helpful

A unit team staff assists me in whatever information I need, except for what programs do I have to take to get away from here.
Because the only thing is they want you to do is programs every review is about program
She a nice lady helpful ABE program
Don't help you. Lie to you to keep you here
They do not know in how , when or where the acts, process needs done, how do they attend to what little they do know, they do not care nor know their job.
Very Basic. 45 seconds and can't answer simple questions.
I'm still trying to understand my last unit team where I was informed I was going to "camp level" status when I have two years left to go. So I stated why not send me to camp now with 4 years left so I can better enjoy and do my time. Now my case manager has reversed herself and her statement since I put in for to be moved to camp now instead of with two years left as she stated to me in my team meeting. Why tell me I'm going to camp to finish my time when now I'm obviously not??? Does that make any sense at all? Is her statement merely an attempt to better control me for another two years?
This where I express my discomforts and problems at and for the better part hear me out
They don't have information for you. No programming and no plan
No one knows how to get anything done.
At times they are and at times they are not.
In SHU no one gives you definite answers, don't stop to answer questions, very rude/disrespectful, walk past your door.
Haven't been able to speak with a case manager concerning my release conditions.
They don't explain anything to you. They make you sign the document and there are things that don't explain like the treaty transfer.
"sort of" in C building
They are poorly trained and inexperienced with job responsibilities.
You are rushed through the unit team process and not given a clear explanation for the questions or reasons for the meeting.
They don't have time for us.
Once get back to RHU, unit team in a rush & blow you off, since transfer in process they're in my face, has improved in my situation in terms of communication, but otherwise "I'll get you later" & don't come back for three days.
Because they don't like DC Inmate, they say we are ignorant, hard head, uneducated, and selfish.
I don't have a problem with these folks. They know me and know I'll write them up. My unit team isn't that bad.
They don't provide answers, "that's just how we do it."

Is there anything else you would like to share about staff at Rivers CF?

Responses
They have to give my points
They are completely unprofessional and most of them are not qualified to work in a prison setting
Everyone unit team isn't as helpful as they could be
Okay, not the best, not the worst. Isolated incidents with different officers
Few are abusive, other than that many of them are doing their jobs right and professional
Better training
The staff as a whole can show more professionalism
Some are rude and disrespectful but majority are nice.
They are very unprofessional and need more training to be honest I really don't feel safe here.
Most but not all staff here at Rivers is disrespectful and unprofessional.
Very disrespectful, overworked, judgmental.
Can't get ABE program while in RHU.
To work in corrections it has to be a passion most staff at Rivers CF are not passionate about their job so it will bring conflict and issues.
Some are very disrespectful to us inmates here talk to us in any type of way.
They will not do anything to help assist in correcting dates, release, transfers all this because of what the administration has and is instructing them (staff) to do or not do
Very disrespectful and ill-informed. Very unorganized and policies change day to day. Staffing is one of the true

horrors of Rivers.
A lot of the officers don't know how to deal with inmates, their communication skills are bad
Some are good, but you do have those that are unprofessional and disrespectful
BOP rep Mr. Brooks good help
Lack of info from case management
disrespectful - rude - unprofessional - racist
Everyone is humane
Some of them try their best based on the situation.
They're very unprofessional in all their dealing from day to day. This in how they speak, with and to one. They don't know how to do the job they're hired to do
Yes, they don't respect DC inmate, they strip search us coming out the kitchen every day, please send me back to the feds.
They are real disrespectful.
A lot of the white CO's are racists and the black CO's don't say anything because they fear of losing their jobs.
You go up against one, you have to deal with everybody.
Sick of the chaplain, programs get suspended for the convenience of the chaplain.

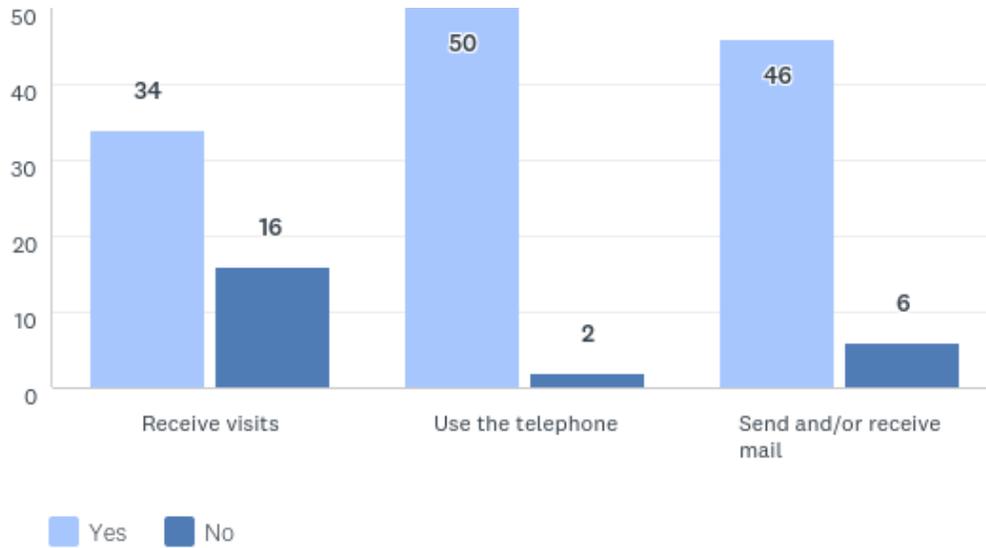
Is there anything you would like to share about hygiene, meals, or commissary?

Responses
Hygiene - buy it yourself. No commissary. Meals are terrible " I wouldn't feed it to my dog" commissary - very limited in RHU.
Food is terrible we have beans and rice every day.
Meals are the same, not much very small portions.
There were no hygiene items provided to me at all. I've had to purchase all hygiene from day one of arriving here. The meals are trash they completely unhealthy, poorly prepared, and totally insufficient and do not meet the BOP National Menu. Commissary is absolutely too expensive and it doesn't provide a wide variety of a selection
It's okay, it's just the food, I can't eat it. They only let us order chips, all that gone in a week, probably less than that. I don't eat the trays here
More good food, everyday its beans and rice with everything
Commissary overly priced. Only receive 2 pair of whites, two pair of uniforms for one week. Yes, I'm a diabetic they give us bread and rice everyday they feed us like we are from Mexico.
Food here is absolutely terrible... no taste, no seasoning. Beans and rice every single meal. Small serving portions. Commissary overpriced must spend money to make up for lack of meals
Hygiene good, meals suck, commissary very limited in RHU
The food here is trash. We are fed beans and rice every single day. The food is truly horrible. Commissary is extremely high. They feed us like we all are Mexicans. If a person doesn't have any financial support, it's really going to be hard for him. The commissary isn't affordable and the food isn't good at all at times it taste old.
meals - the worst - Spanish guys meals - beans and rice
RCI provides no hygiene items like toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, bar soap, combs, and other items including razors to inmates. The meals provided is poor and commissary items are twice the price the BOP prices
Hygiene- good meals- portion (could be protein) too small, low grade, cheap commissary- too limited, too expensive commissary too expensive and job pay too little
The meds RCI are not good at all they serve a very bad grade of food, also they serve beans, and rice every day of the week.
The meals are continuously and served to cater the Hispanic culture. We get no juice, no real foods, all frozen foods, no sugar, no real fruits are served, or slices of bread.
Meals are written on the board in the unit, but when we go to the cafeteria it wasn't what was on the menu. Slice turkey is shredded turkey, breakfast, lunch, dinner, we get one slice of bread. Commissary is too high in pricing, compared to DC Jail.
For the most part it's all right except commissary there certain things you can't have back here
Bring chemicals in every morning, have to buy hygiene from commissary, haircuts @ barbershop
Hygiene is so/so but could be ALOT better. Meals are the worst I had since I been in for 3yrs. The meals are designed for the Mexican. We eat beans and rice every damn day. It's a shame the way they feed us. They give us baby portions and sometimes they won't feed us if we don't make it in time cause our building was last.

Commissary is way too high (more than the BOP) and never changes. They never change our linen or clothes.
The portions of food are too small and the commissary is too expensive
Commissary is charging more for items than any other institution. The food, meals, is mainly beans and rice everyday
Commissary too expensive, meals lack of food, lack of clothes which is under clothes
Good
Hygiene isn't given daily, meals are very small portions and is often cold.
Commissary is overly priced we only receive two pair of whites and uniforms to wear for seven days a week meal- > I'm a diabetic and they give us white rice, bread, potatoes, beans with every meal with salt on tray
We are being charged for everything from the moment a U.S citizen step foot on/in Rivers. Their prices are very high. The times are very limited and they are in partnership with meals of food service dept. here
The other big horror of Rivers. Food is usually of poor quality and not to par of the Federal Prisons. Commissary has good selection but VERY EXPENSIVE. Up to 50% higher.
Meals here are almost unbelievable. Try to understand. You have a grown man who maybe has been working all morning long somewhere here at Rivers. When he gets to lunch there is the equivalent of two Wendy's chicken nuggets on his tray and he's told by staff he cannot have another tray just the one he has. That is the reality of our situation.
I think they need to put walls in the shower between the shower head they have 4 showers heads and only one inmates at a time take a shower which case long lines and tension. They need a new food administration someone whose going to be flexible and not just cater to the Mexicans, lower the price and get better quality of shoes if we're going to be charged top dollar they're selling us boots for \$90.00 and BOP you can get timberland for 100.00
Meals are below average, consists of rice and beans every day.
No help with hygiene. Too much beans/rice , very small portions of meat. Prices are much higher.
Overpriced commissary hygiene- Warmer water repetitive- meals
Commissary is too expensive and they really don't have anything on there and also they only let you get a few items or certain things the meals here are rice and beans everyday no matter what they feed us we get rice and beans with it and also I'll portion of food be small.
Commissary is terrible, especially the SHU, nothing but snacks, stuff you see in BOP is far different/everything is catered to the Hispanics (with regards to food) always beans and rice, not like national menu, small portions, lose dramatic weight back here due to food they serve.
Hardly any cleaning supplies, commissary is twice as high as BOP and they still pay us BOP wages. Meals are not well prepared and unbalanced.
Two boxers, two t-shirts, two socks per year. No personal hygiene unless you have money in commissary. Rice, Beans, no fresh fruit, no fresh vegetables, little protein.
BETTER FOOD commissary ok- more variety.
BOP pass hygiene kits once a month, not RCI.
Commissary is a bit high and food service is very poor.
The meals at rivers is not good for a person, the commissary it is too high, not good.
Commissary markup is too high.
Hygiene is okay, meals are better than BOP. Commissary no experience yet, better then BOP.
The worst I have ever had in my life.
Nice if more options in SHU -can only get one of the things particularly food items.
They always serve process food for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. And it's always Mexican food. Commissary the items are too high and a lot of the products be old and expired.
Meals are a joke. Rice, beans, tortilla, every f...ing day.
They don't give you enough, if you don't have anybody helping you on the outside.
The meals are no good here the food have no taste to it and the commissary is too high.
Hygiene- laundry not changed, staff did not say anything to cell mate meals-- too much Spanish food, salsa, beans, rice, illegible writing illegible writing

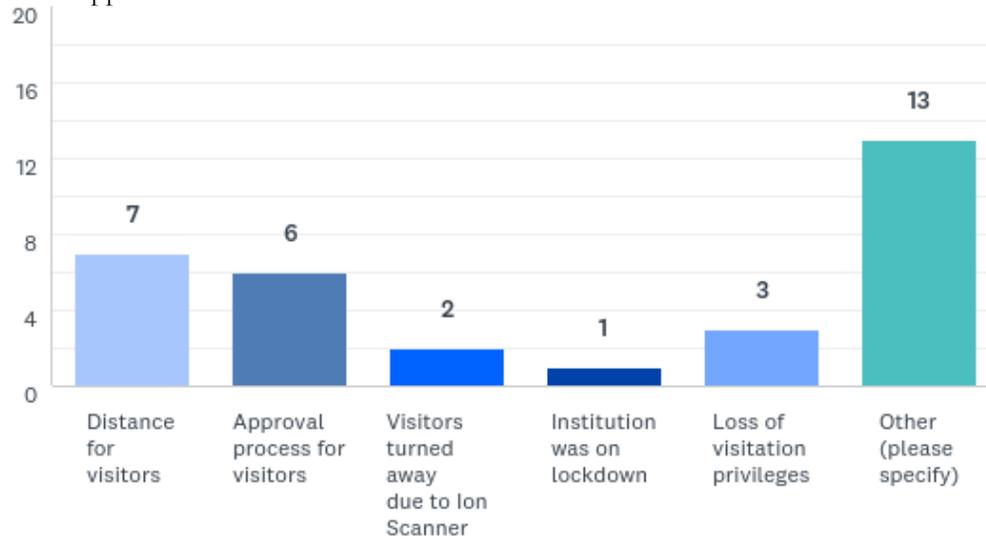
In the past 12 months have you been able to:

Answered: 54 Skipped: 9



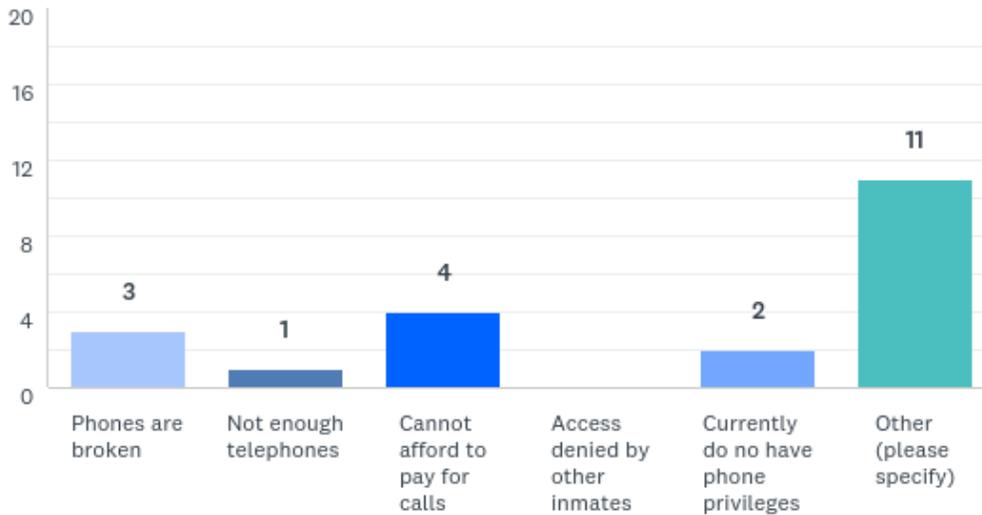
If you have not been able to receive visits at Rivers CF, why?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 40



If you have not been able to use the telephone at Rivers CF, why?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 47



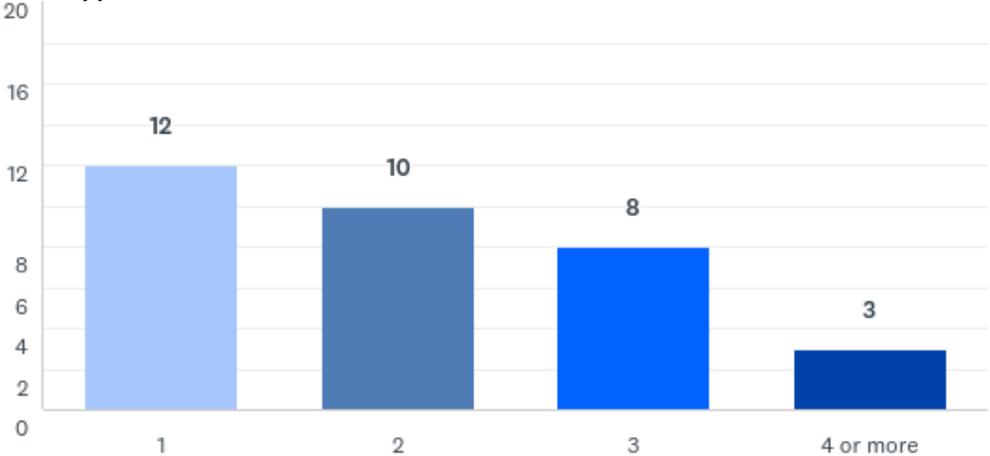
Please leave any comments you would like to share about visitation and communication at Rivers CF:

Responses
Issues before on letters
Here at RCI the mail system is piss poor sometimes you may receive you mail and then other times you may not. They have literally lost mail that belonged to me! Also I have individuals that have returned their visitation forms and we have not been given any reason why they were turned down.
Run out of minutes in less than a week, it's costly. That why I don't really have time to program I'm always on a visit working out, using the phone.
The visitation here is also bad. I say that because this supposed to be a low security institution but we must wear boots, institution boots even if you have a soft shoe pass. I worked hard to get my points to a low, and requested Allenwood, PA and was sent here. Why? A low institution is a privilege. This is an immigration place.
Visitation scanners often give false reads on babies and older people.
Making collect calls one a problem to loved ones, since I've been here I have yet to have a private phone call with family.
Calls do cost a lot.
No email.
The machines prices are very high and too many times no product (items) in machine upon visitations
Use of drug machine on visitors creates false positives and staff do not follow the machines instruction statement.
I was at Allenwood low in Pennsylvania for 10 years and able to get SOME visits. Down here none. It is simply too far for my family to come. I put in for to be moved to camp closer to home when I was informed by my case manager, Harren, I was going to be moved to eventually and now that won't be happening I'm told.
Overpriced.
Communication issues is that phone calls to DC cost too much a minute.
Having issues with staff getting PSI info to place my kids on visitation list.
Good I heard.
Pass out mail quicker here than DC jail. 2-3 days vs 2-3 weeks.
I would like to have more phone time and the calls are less.
I've never had no problems with visitation, but they shouldn't keep sending people back who came all this way because of what pants they're wearing.

Note: The next four questions are only applicable to respondents with children under 18 years old.

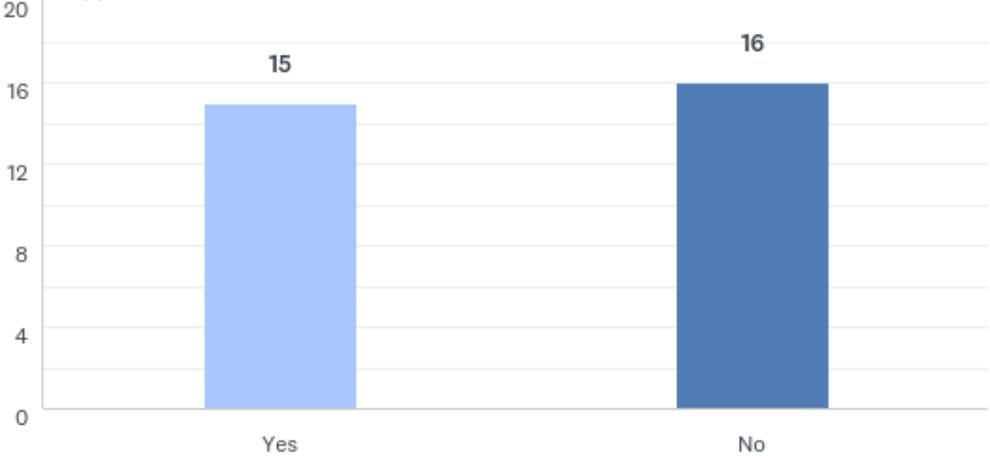
How many children do you have under 18 years old?

Answered: 33 Skipped: 30



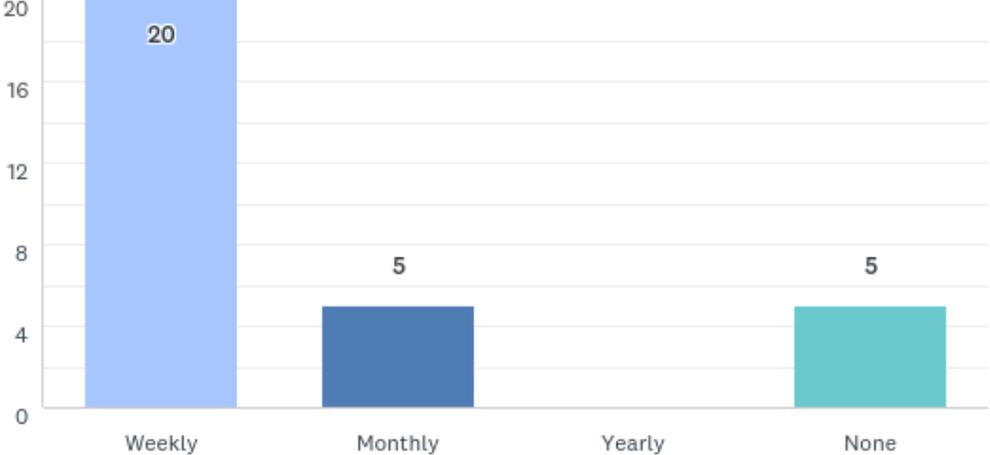
Have your child(ren) been able to visit you at Rivers CF?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 32



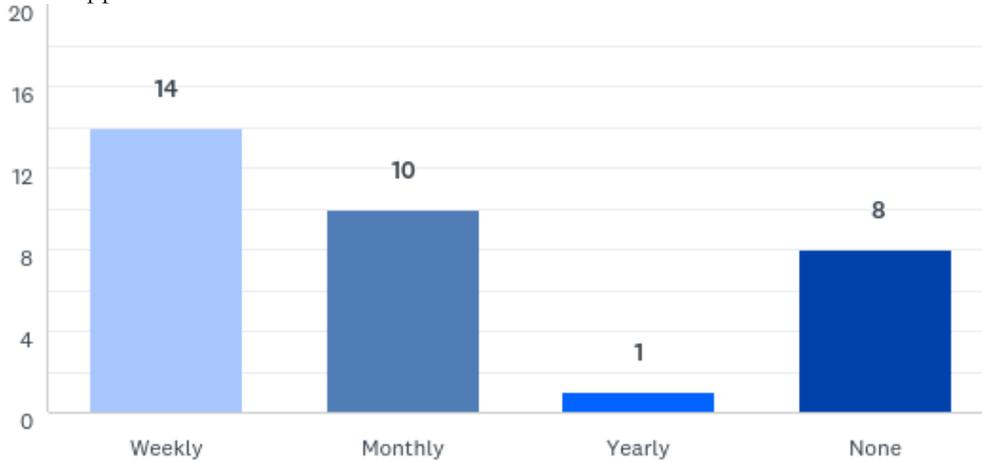
How often do you speak on the phone with your child(ren)?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 33



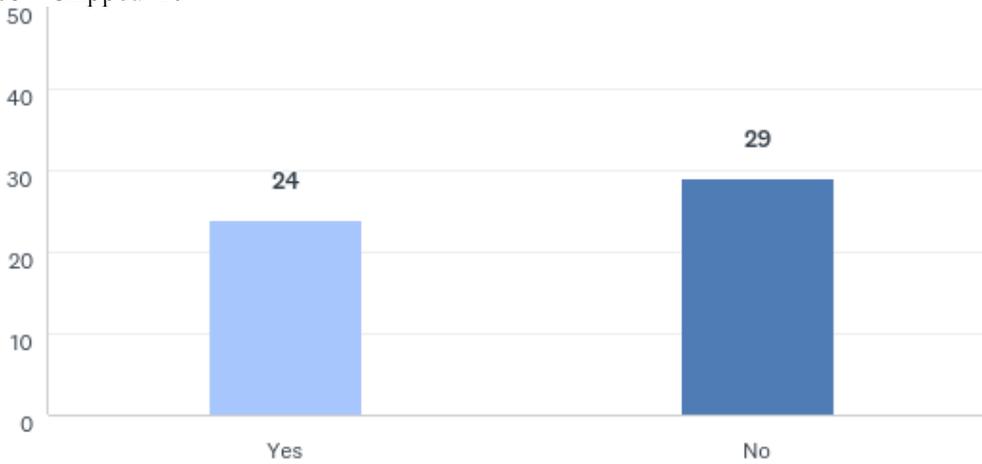
How often do you write to or receive letters from your child(ren)?

Answered: 33 Skipped: 30



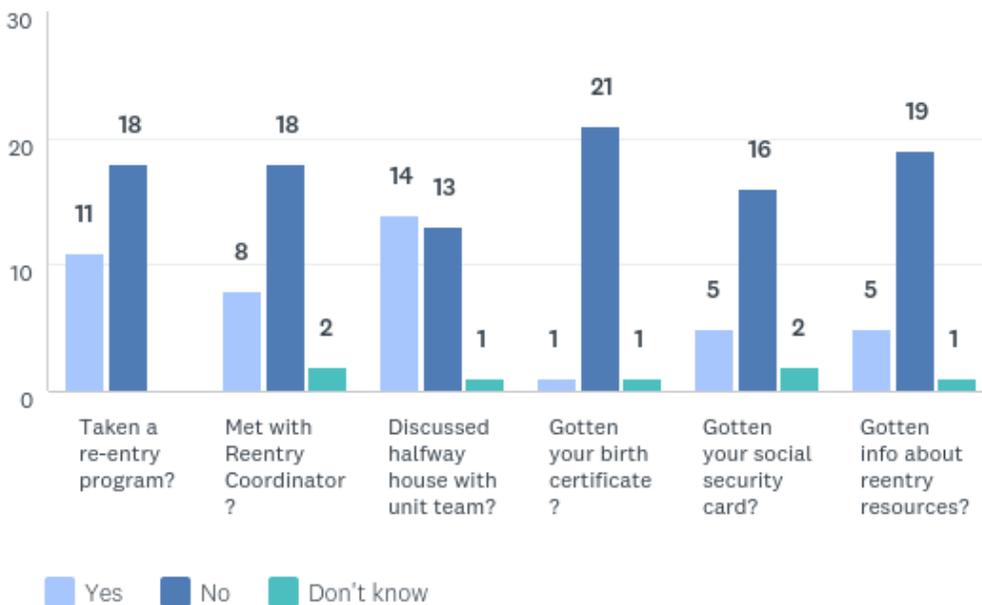
Are you within 18 months of release?

Answered: 53 Skipped: 10



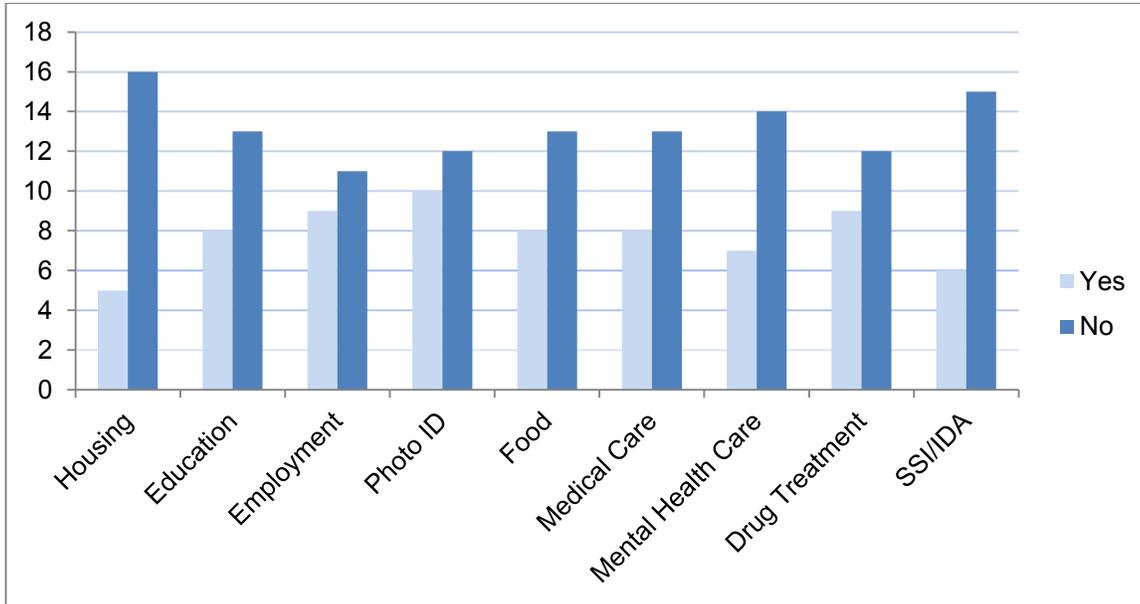
If you are within 18 months of release, have you:

Answered: 29 Skipped: 34



If you are within 18 months of release, do you know how to obtain the following after release?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 41

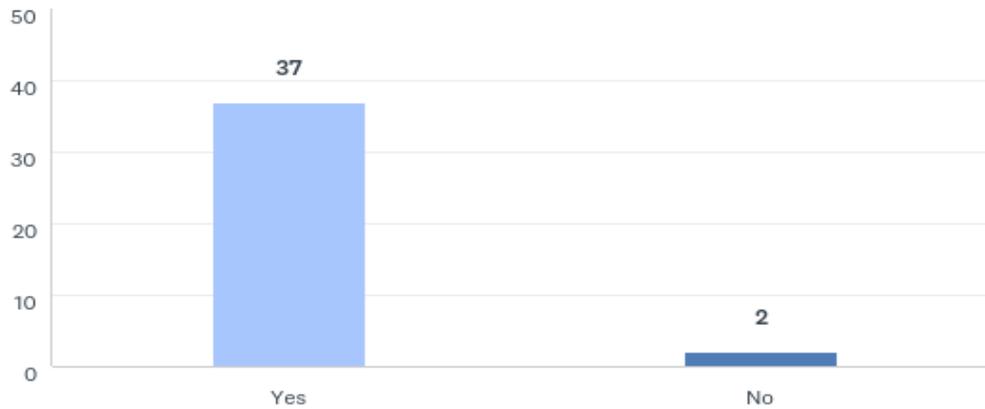


Is there anything else you would like to share about pre-release services at Rivers CF?

Responses
COC program very good. But the pre-release program is outdated. Under served. Teacher Mrs. Green is very disrespectful towards inmates
I am within 90 days and they have not put half way house package in yet.
Wants longer than 6 months at halfway house wants like a year or longer at halfway house Second Chance Act work way back to society Doesn't want to be pushed out-- too soon for Halfway House Worried about transition Does not want to return to prison
I don't think they even have one, especially talking with 3 or more people that have a year and under.
I have yet to receive anything relating to pre-release.
Rivers CF hasn't put me in touch with pre-release services.
I've asked the team about why they did not put in for my half way house time yet.
Hasn't applied to me yet as I'm just inside 4 years left to go
They don't provide this information and it's a concerning problem.
Needs a facelift.
Haven't seen anyone concerning this issue.
Have 100% family support, self-employed and qualified for social security benefits
Because transferring, have talked about it but ill unit team @ new facility.
Ms. Green always tell people they are stupid and she will see them when they come back.

If you had the opportunity to be closer to DC during your incarceration to prepare for re-entry, would you be interested in doing so?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 24

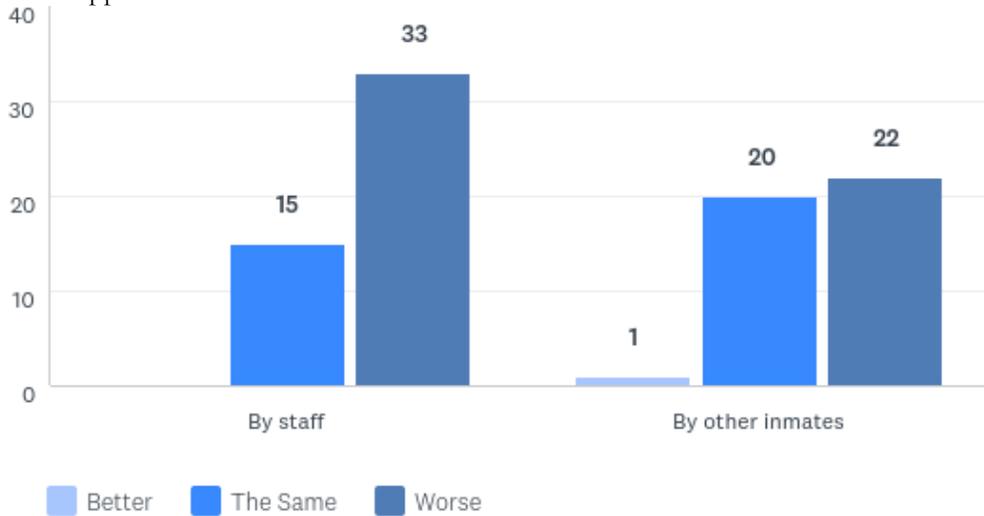


Please explain why or why not:

Responses
To be closer to family
Easy for my people to come visit it doesn't matter where I go as long as I'm comfortable, I don't have that much time.
Close to family and resources.
Do not want to go to Hope Village. Been to VOA in Baltimore- nice out there. I want a new halfway house in DC.
To give me and my family a better chance to see each other more.
I love home.
Would like for pre-release programming to start sooner. 18 months not enough time to finish. Would like 1 year in halfway house
I would just like to be close to home, because of my parents can't really travel far from their health issues so I would like to be closer to my parent
Because it would better prepare me for my community and society. Establishing jobs and building family networking.
Benefits, better programming.
I am assuming that if I'm closer to home I would have access to more resources since people like you wouldn't have to drive so far.
I would love to be closer to DC before I am released because that would allow me to reconnect with my family and kids.
Petersburg or Cumberland. Better programs that can help me in the real world.
Proper re-entry assistance.
My family.
Want to participate in SOTP and be closer to my release residence of Ohio (parents' house).
Lack of visits here at this facility, lack of programming and education here, lack of religious programs.
May be able to get visits and get an opportunity to take some release preparation courses or get a chance to do some work release programs.
It would be easier to see my family and hopefully more re-entry programming.
I'd like to be given a chance to leave a little better off financially then when I came.
More access to family and resources for re-entry.
So that it won't be a hassle for my family to see me
Feeling of being closer to home, would be a bit smoother, more likely you'll be around more people that's from your neighborhood, visitation (bus charges \$50 for transit for people to come down if not immediate family members).
Feeling safer here than place with African Americans.
Anything getting me closer to my family is a positive step.
I would like to be returned back to Petersburg, VA (Low FCI).
Just don't like it here.
Because if I'm closer to DC I can have a better relation with my family and friends.
The closer we're to the actual sources, the quicker we'll be able to receive need info and act on it.
I would like to build a relationship with my family.

Compared to other inmates, how do you feel DC inmates are treated at Rivers CF?

Answered: 48 Skipped: 15



Please give an example of better or worse treatment:

Responses
We don't get respect from staff or rec
Their overall treatment of everyone is completely lacking and absolutely unprofessional
Everybody says we get treated better but I don't see that
There are not many activity out here for us there are more activity here for the other race like Mexicans
Less job opportunities, treat us like we are not citizens
Tension level is high, five race riots in my experience. About three good arguments and there will be a race riot here. We're not in favor, badly outnumbered.
Disproportionate numbers, DC guys have bad reputation throughout the system. Lots of gangs. Gang environment structured. They have the upper hand.
For example, I may request to move to an open cell-room first, the staff denies me and then a Spanish inmate requests the same staff to move to the same room, the cell-room will be given to him
Very few DC people. Example is the soccer field.
I just think the fact that we are from the city, and the staff are of the country it's imbalance of respect
Staff may ignore you or give an aggressive response to whatever you ask. If the Hispanic guys ask then they're most acceptable to listen.
Staff needs to understand that there are DC men can work, can be a good asset to their program. Compared to what I've seen.
Meals, flood in SHU- if I do it they're going to write me up take all my stuff if Mexicans do it they just clean it up.
This is dominantly compound and they pretty much set their way with everything.
Staff here at Rivers treats DC inmates as if we are TRASH, the staff is very disrespectful.
No jobs Race Black and being from DC and population decrease.
population is less DC Inmates so we are often overlooked or under looked
All the activities are for Mexicans, only serving Mexican food in the chow hall and commissary.
the staff , UDO, HDO team, and warden basically treat DC inmates more aggressive with punishment, lock down (RHU, taken off good time, taking privileges, loss of jobs all these DC inmates get done to them.
Other inmates hate me here. They do not like me at all. I'm the wrong color, religion, and politics for this compound which is now almost all Hispanic catholic liberal leftist democrats. An example? How about telling me to kill myself? 50 times a day.
Outcast, black sheep- all 007 and 016 inmates are treated different. If we ask a question about halfway house we are treated as if we are asking the wrong question
The Latino community receives various considerations not given to the blacks (DC).
Favoritism to one group over another
We are not given the same things as the Mexican inmates
Immigrants have the numbers so staff caters to them more
Ratio of DC inmates population is very low

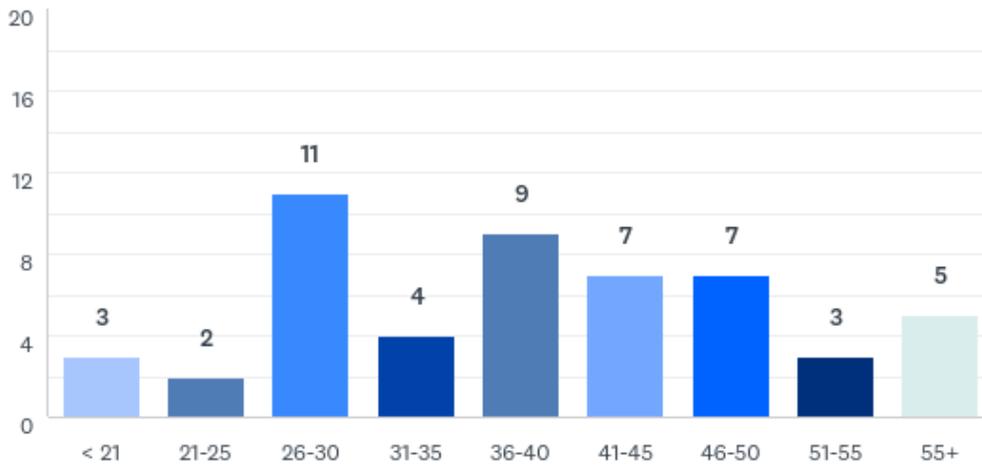
This is an immigration mentality hold up place we the D.C. residents receive same treatment used for them
They are very disrespectful
We seem to be a minority at this institution
The Spanish get everything
feel like it's 50/50 treatment, some staff better b/c DC, other "he's from DC, probably did it" - don't say it, but that vibe
They don't let us celebrate no DC traditions. They have no activities for us, There are no black dishes in the chow hall
They lie and say we start trouble
Staff non-responsive on programs, tension between cellmates, job placement, staff attention, meals

Is there anything else you would like to share about the treatment of DC inmates at Rivers CF?

Responses
Haven't been here long enough. Would not recommend coming here.
Ever present concerns because of lopsided numbers. But no fear because I've been in and out of prison since age 18, now 44. Incident where black kicked a soccer ball onto the roof, Spanish guys ganged up, staff locked all the inmates in the yard. Worried I'm not able to protect myself. I stay active and alert on the yard.
The food served also is provided as to the needs of Spanish inmates food
For right now that is it
Us being locked down in a low is a problem for me. All these locked doors. If I wanted High security I would go to a Med. or Pen. This location is for DC inmates. I'd rather be back in the BOP. The only good thing here for us is the transportation provided for our family to come see us.
No tension
Staff are very disrespectful to dc inmates and show a lot of respect to the Mexican inmates, all the Mexican inmates get hired for the best jobs first
My time sentence of 9 years is up, I'm to serve 7 yrs 6 months of the 9 years but I also got court ordeal 4 months jail credit now this 1 yr and 2 months plus the 7 1/2 of the 9 yrs leave 6 yrs months to serve of now. I've done so with can I not be released. either take 1 yrs 2 months from the 9 leave 7 year 8 months/ now subtract the 85% on *70% I've done my sentence (serving time)
It is my personal opinion that we are all treated as second class citizens of the United States. We are "nothing" here to Geo Group except inmates who are to be warehoused as cheaply as possible so they, Geo Group, can make a profit. Geo is in business to make money, not spend it on us at all. That is reality.
It could be better
Needs improvement
we are minority number amount the general population
The DC Residents treatment worse
Stressful
They show favoritism to the Mexicans and treat the blacks like trash, they say it's that way cause they get more money for Mexican then blacks. They don't be wanting DC inmates to go back to the BOP.

How old are you?

Answered: 50 Skipped: 13



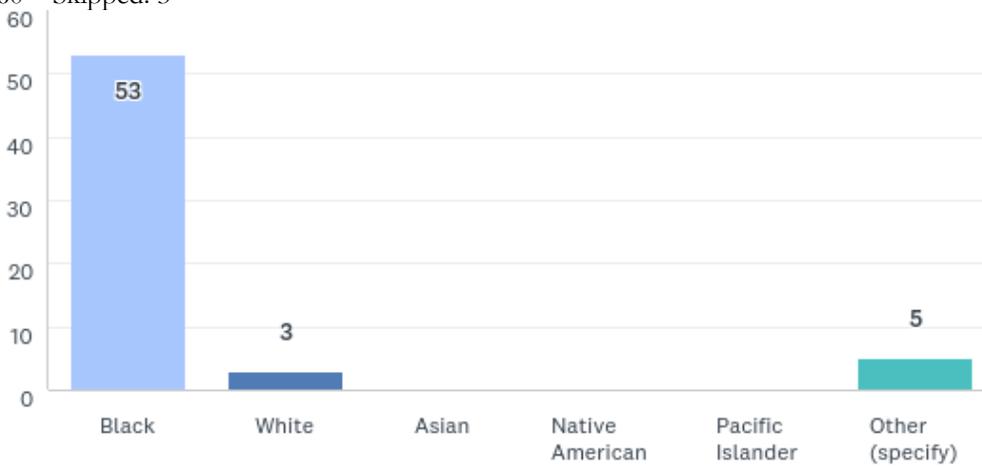
What is your gender?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 3



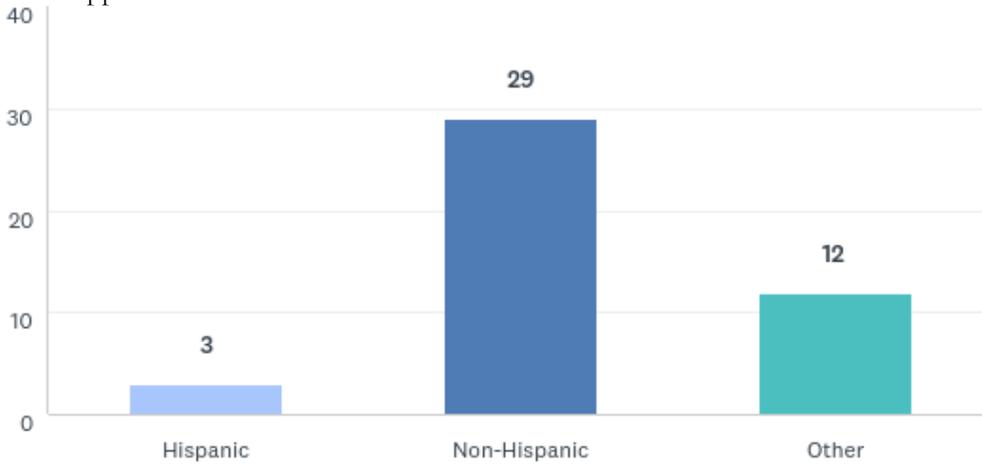
What is your race?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 3



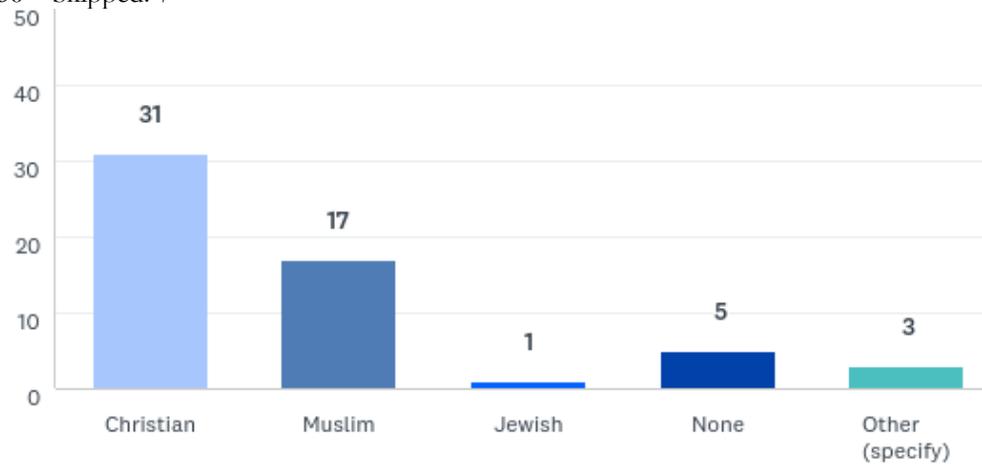
What is your ethnicity?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 7



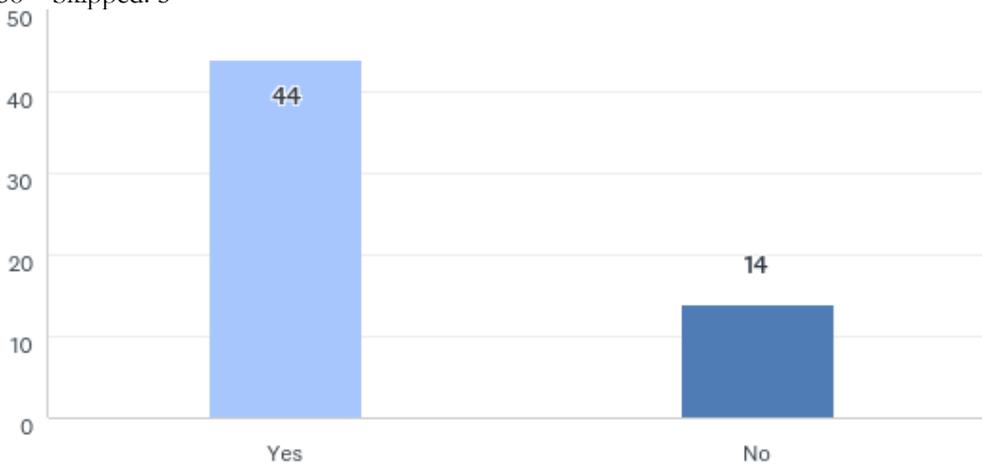
What is your religion?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 7



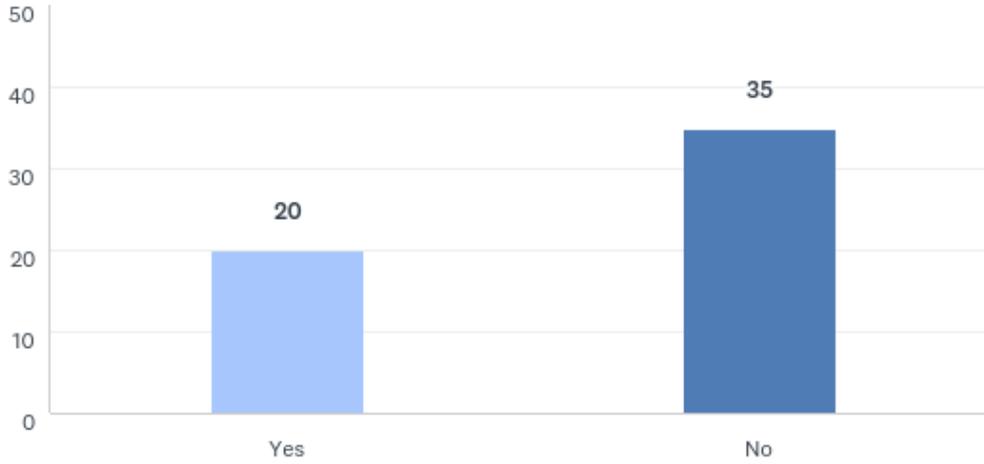
Do you have a high school diploma or GED?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 5



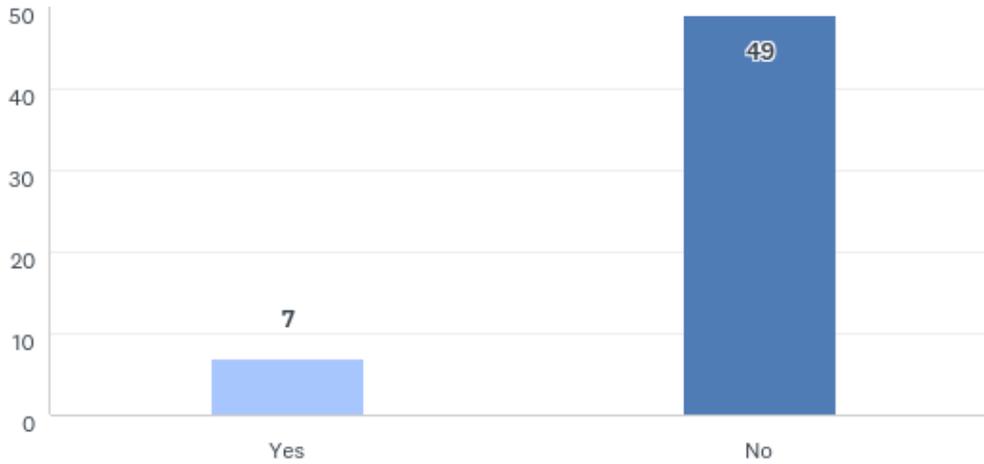
Did you receive a GED while incarcerated?

Answered: 55 Skipped: 8



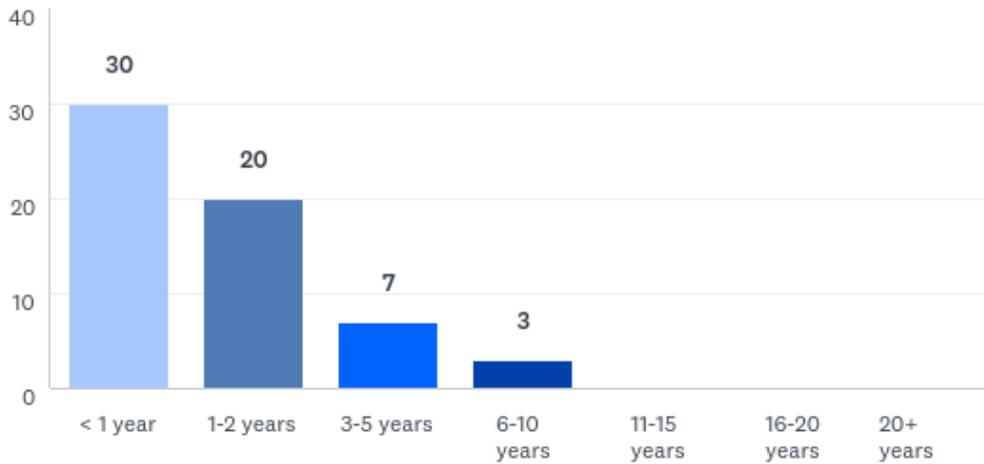
Do you have a college degree?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 7



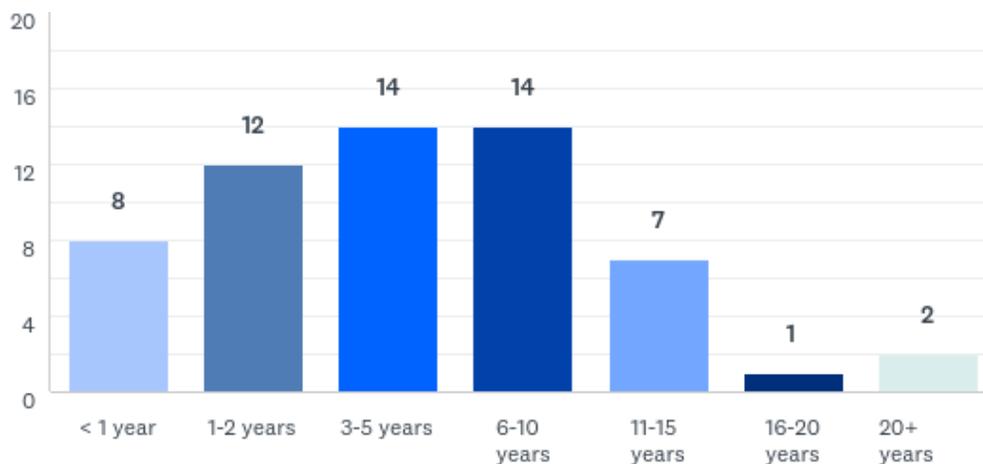
How long have you been incarcerated at Rivers CF?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 4



How long have you been incarcerated overall?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 6



How would you improve the conditions of confinement at Rivers CF?

Answered: 51 Skipped: 12

Responses
Food, commissary, equal the population. All female staff- I don't feel safe 300 people on rec 280 Spanish / 20 black/ 1 female staff member
Laundry situation in SHU Call phone situation in Shu (out you with anyone) food some of responses, staff blow you off, don't get full, thorough response
Better staff with respect better food better programs
I would completely shut it down or ship all the DC inmates to a BOP operated facility
Just the food and weights
More programs, trades, vocational, hands-on
I would shut it down or ship/ transfer all the D.C inmates to a BOP operated facility
Jobs Food Better Education - College
Equal population
Food Programs Activities Commissary Chapel And More
Can't say
Programs, food, commissary
At least provide same services as BOP and follow BOP policy in resolving and running the facility and it's issues
More programs
Better and more programs, better way to do re-entry, educational transfer or work points down so I can get to better place. Don't hinder me trying to get better programming
More vocational programs, better communication between staff and inmates
I would establish more programs, make sure the compound is more evenly diverse, make the food menu more diverse and appealing, make sure every person has a cell, free follow-ups for sick call, wood instead of steel seats in the rec hall, and cheaper commissary with better options, stand-up count towards the evening instead of morning
Please! Rice and beans (too much)
Everything, commissary, visits are all right but can be better end them 2:30/2:45 when should be 3 meals
More DC inmates to match Hispanics , they think they're more powerful it doesn't work like that
Food, commissary, lower security, better hygiene, linen change and clothes.
Get DC inmates out of here
First: Having staff respect us as they respect their selves. Second: by having healthier food for us all and different food for both races Third: more comfortable bedding and chairs for our backs Fourth: more whites and uniforms Five: hooks in shower to place our towels and dirty or clean clothes
Move all D.C inmates they have no the knowledge to deal with the situation, the desire to leave. The administration is telling staff to do whatever to hold keep people here keep the head count.
more gainful education/votech/job training same access to email like other feds stricter hiring practices for staff improve quality of food

After looking at it on a "whole" I'm not sure anything can improve this horrendous compound. We have beans and rice on every single lunch and dinner tray to the point of being shameful on Rivers' part. The food and meals here on this compound are some of the worst I have ever encountered in my lifetime I'd start with the kitchen is how I would improve it.
Make the facility for all immigrant , train the staff to be more professional when dealing with prisoners. have a cic staff here 24/7 to monitor and track complaints on a daily basis if dc inmates going to be here
Don't know
Food, staff professionalism, safety.
Close it
At this present time the only answer for me is removal.
Making this institution spend their money on us instead of them, we are here for many years we need good mattresses and good food. That's all!
Better food.
Turn it into a real "low facility."
Provide for training for staff and inmate population , food service , recreation.
I would completely shut it down or ship the DC inmates to BOP operated Facility
Transfer/ move us out of Rivers ASAP
Stop 10-minute movement and give ability to move whenever
To get transferred.
More variety of food, split who controls stuff you can get commissary (backpacks, etc) increase an compound or in SHU.
I wouldn't, I would just get DC inmates away from here. PLEASE
If it's a "low" run it as such.
Get out of it, nothing's going to improve.
More in-depth access to mental evaluation and treatment. Improve food/gear it more for DC inmates.
Better food and lower price on commissary.
Programs leading to certifications, equalize population.

Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience at Rivers CF?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 31

Responses
All blacks got blamed for one black's behavior, on time in RHU counted
Worst jail experience ever
Food is bad - targeted towards Mexicans. No email available. GED is good, Day room beds are cold, loud, no privacy, soccer field not for DC use.
The truth is my experience has been very painstaking and quite stressful, it furthermore has sincerely affected my overall general physical and mental health!
It is not good for DC inmates. They treat us exactly like we're immigrants too.
Taught me big lesson to stay the hell out of jail
More programs, First Step Act. Vocational programs that result in certification. Interested in CDL, looking to get marketable skills.
RCI facility is structured for medium custody inmates, however, on the paper it alleges to be low custody facility. I came from a low custody facility and there is a lot of big difference between low and medium. RCI is also very dangerous trap for DC black inmates as 85% are Spanish and tensions are high.
Scale of 1-10 would give it a 3. Lack of programming especially education
We as African Americans are way outnumbered by Latino community which can be a dangerous situation if we ever had a disagreement.
The jail is designed more for younger adults instead of grown men.
Rice and beans (too much)
No- it's all right.
It's the worst since I been in. It's also stressful because there's nothing to do. So boring. Compound is too small.
Everything is okay
The staff really practice lying and not helping they make compound unsafe with inmates to inmate staff to inmate. It's a very unprofessional run place
Inmates absolutely hate me here, as I've already stated they tell me to kill myself no less than 50 times per day, week

in week out.
My experience here at Rivers has been very difficult due to me coming from a structured environment. The inmates basically do what they want and are very disrespectful to the staff. An example is the women walk past and they're whistled at and talked to in a shameful manner on a daily basis. At 4:30 am they call workers for food the majority of the inmates do not even get up which cause the staff to be hollering on the intercoms, waking the whole unit up, this is daily. The food is terrible, the commissary is much higher than BOP. It's always tension between DC guys and Mexicans this is my fear getting caught in a race riot.
I hate it.
Has been hell.
Not good.
The privileges of my classification had been violated at RCI since day one of my arrival. This administration is in non-compliance with regulation governing their contract with DOJ, BOP.
Too short to know.
All Bad
Words would never explain my experience at Rivers, because it's horrible.

Appendix C: BOP Response

MEMORANDUM



DATE: May 28, 2020
TO: Jerome Brooks, S
FROM: Brick Tripp, Facility Administrator
RE: **Response to DC CIC Draft Report-July 9-10, 2019**

GEO Secure Services™
Rivers Correctional Facility
145 Parker's Fishery Road, P.O. Box 840
Winton, NC 27986
Tel: 252-358-5200
Fax: 252-358-5202
www.geogroup.com

Listed below are our responses to the draft recommendations in the DC CIC draft report for their July 9-10, 2019 facility visit. DC CIC recommendations are in bold text and our responses in italics. Please let me know of any questions you may have.

- 1. Provide classes where inmates can learn to speak Spanish to increase communication between the population groups.**
RCF will research the opportunity to provide Spanish Immersion classes to the inmate population.
- 2. Increase the number of Spanish-speaking staff by hiring individuals who can speak Spanish and incentivize existing staff to take Spanish-language classes.**
RCF continuously strives to recruit Spanish-speaking staff RCF provides annual Spanish Immersion classes to staff RCF has an existing incentive program for staff to develop their bilingual skills.
- 3. Provide more programming and jobs for all populations so that inmates are kept occupied and engaged.**
RCF continues to research and implement a variety of inmate programming to engage the inmate population.
- 4. Survey the inmate population annually to determine education and vocational programming needs, and consider adding, removing, or adjusting capacity of programs offered based on this information.**
RCF will conduct annual surveys to determine the need for academic programming changes.
- 5. Create and publicize a promise for inmates to propose classes that they are able to teach to other inmates, similar to the Adult Continuation Education (ACE) classes in BOP facilities.**
RCF will look at opportunities to implement inmate led classes.

6. **Consider providing a ServeSafe1 Food Handler certification program in conjunction with food service jobs in the facility.**

RCF will explore providing a ServeSafe1 certification program for inmates working in the Food Service Department.

7. **Pursue partnerships with college programs, either local to the facility (such as Roanoke-Chowan Community College, which previously had a relationship with Rivers CF) or local to DC, so inmates can begin college education at Rivers CF:**

RCF is already in the process of establishing college courses for inmates at RCCC, RCF will also explore establishing college courses with UDC Community College.

8. **Update re-entry programming content with current information, particularly DC specific resources.**

RCF currently involves CSOSA, DC Department of Motor Vehicles, DC Department of Behavioral Health, DC Board of Elections, and a number DC volunteer groups and prospective employers.

9. **Increase the number of sessions for Release Preparation Program to allow for discussion of its content over a longer period of time.**

RCF will explore extending the Release Preparation Program over a longer period of time.

10. **BOP should transfer all individuals with a security level of "low" to facilities with physical plant characteristics, work and program components, *dormitory design, and movement restrictions that more accurately reflect a low security environment***

This recommendation is directed to the BOP.

11. **Review internal data on job placement and disciplinary sanctions and critically assess it for possible racial bias.**

RCF finds no evidence of racial bias in either job placements or disciplinary sanctions.

12. **Assess the reasons behind the disproportionate number of individuals from DC in RHU.**

RCF finds no evidence of disproportion. A review of the last 12 months indicates the number of individuals from DC are below the DC percentage of the general population.

13. **Ensure the grievance forms are provided upon request or else available without requesting from staff.**

Grievance forms are provided upon request. Grievance forms must be issued by staff for tracking purposes and to ensure informal resolution is attempted as required by policy.

•

14. Ensure staff and inmates have information on when and how to use each of the two grievance systems.

RCF will continue to provide information to inmates and staff on how to access the Administrative Remedy Program.

15. Increase the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables provided at meals.

The RCF menu is provided by a licensed dietitian and provides the appropriate balance of fruits and vegetables and the appropriate caloric content for each meal.

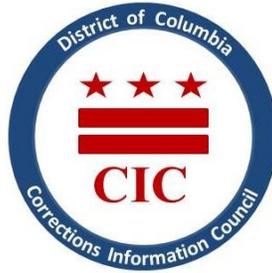
16. Provide email access to inmates at RCF.

The GEO Group is currently looking at providing email access to the inmates at RCF through the Inmate Tablet Program.

17. End the use of dayroom bunks.

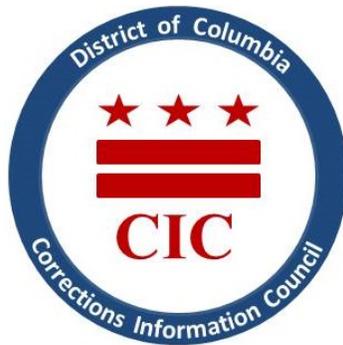
The dayroom bunks were added in response to contract modification requirement.

,



**District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council**

The electronic version of this report is
available on the CIC website:
<https://www.cic.dc.gov/>



COVID-19 Survey Preliminary Findings

**District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council**

January 7, 2021

District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

Charles Thornton, Board Chair
Katharine A. Huffman, Board Member
Nkechi Taifa, Board Member
Charlie Whitaker, Board Member
Calvin Woodland Jr., Board Member

About the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

The District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC) is an independent oversight body mandated by the United States Congress and the Council of the District of Columbia to inspect, monitor, and report on the conditions of confinement in correctional facilities where inmates from the District of Columbia are incarcerated. This includes facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DOC), and private contractors.

The CIC reports its observations and recommendations to the District of Columbia Representative in the United States Congress, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Council of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, the Director of the BOP, the Director of the DOC, and the community.

Although the CIC does not handle individual complaints or provide legal representation or advice, individuals are encouraged to contact the CIC. Reports, concerns, and general information from incarcerated DC residents and the public are very important to the CIC, and they greatly inform our inspection schedule, recommendations, and reports. However, unless expressly permitted by the individuals or required by law, names and identifying information of inmates, corrections staff not in leadership, and members of the general public will be kept anonymous and confidential.

DC Corrections Information Council

1400 Eye St. NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 478-9211
Email: dc.cic@dc.gov
Website: <https://cic.dc.gov/>

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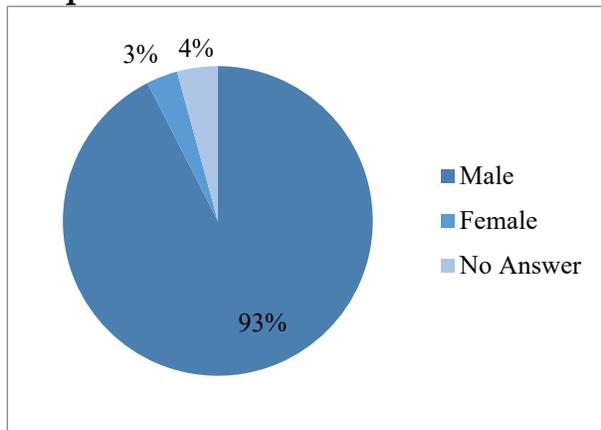
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Survey Respondent Demographics

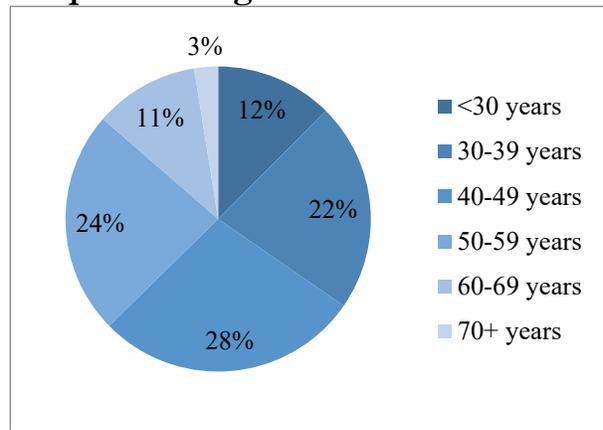
Surveys Sent: 1,750 to 111 facilities
Respondents: 519 from 90 facilities

Respondent Average Age: 44.9

Respondent Gender:



Respondent Age:



I. Introduction

In March 2020, the SARS Cov-2 pandemic (Covid-19) began impacting Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facilities where DC individuals are held. On March 13, 2020, the BOP suspended visitation to all BOP facilities, including the CIC's on-site inspections. The CIC continued to receive email and letters from individuals inside facilities, though individuals reported that access to phones and/or email and their ability to send postal mail was limited to varying degrees due to partial or complete lockdowns at facilities. The BOP provided general information about high-level policies responding to Covid-19, but indicated that many implementation decisions were made at the facility level due to variations in facility layout, population, and local conditions. The communications CIC received from incarcerated individuals during March and April indicated that there were significant differences in the Covid-19 response across different facilities.

In order to get a clearer picture of conditions in all the facilities where DC individuals are held, the CIC created a 20-question survey focusing on four areas: institutional cleaning, access to medical care, movement, and communication. The survey was sent to 1,750 DC individuals across 111 facilities in June 2020.¹ Five hundred nineteen survey responses were received from 90 different facilities through August 15, 2020. The CIC applied statistical weighting to the quantitative responses in order to make the data more representative of the full DC population in the BOP. These results are reported below. The CIC is continuing to analyze the qualitative data received, and will provide that information in a forthcoming report. Information from BOP resources is included below each chart to provide context.

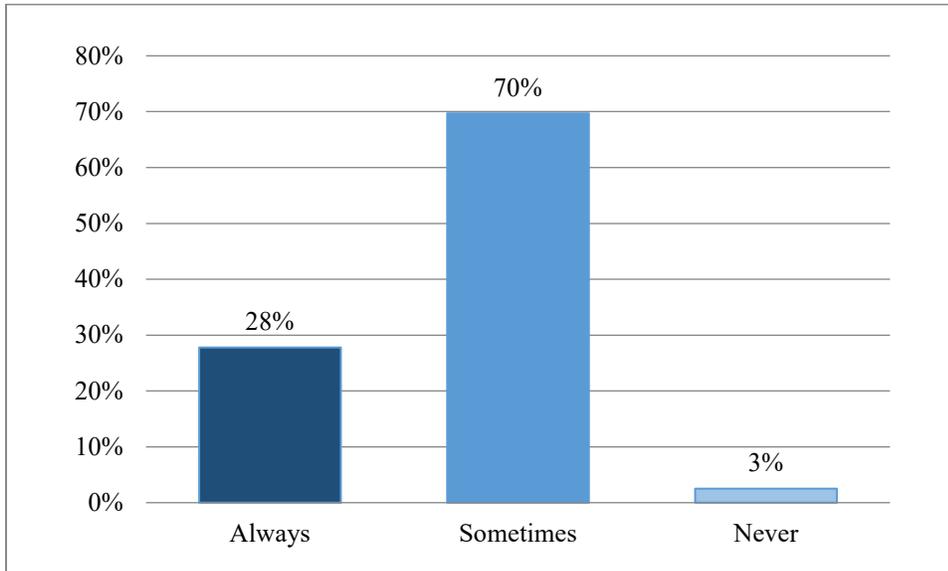
Per the CIC's Memorandum of Understanding with the BOP, this report was provided to the BOP in advance of publication for comment. Information provided by the BOP in response to the report draft is included in the text of the report, and the full text of the agency's response is included as Appendix C.

¹ For more information on survey methodology, see Appendix A.

II. Institutional Cleaning

Q: Do staff wear masks and gloves at your institution?

N=517



The BOP stated that all BOP staff and inmates were issued cloth masks to wear, and that any staff working in a quarantine unit with asymptomatic inmates are required to wear masks and gloves. Staff are not required, but can opt to wear masks while walking on the compound.²

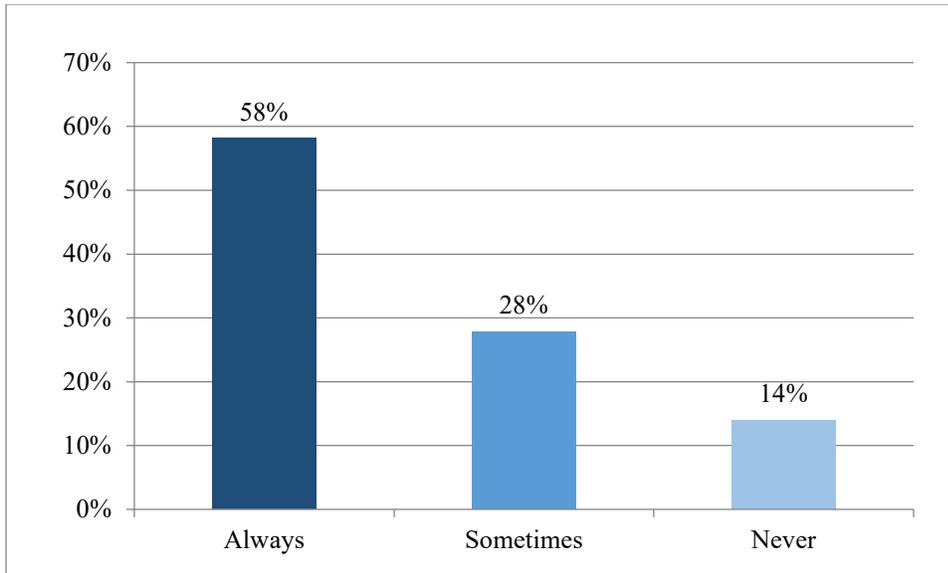
In response to a draft version of this report, the BOP stated that surgical masks were issued to staff and inmates at all facilities on April 3rd, and cloth face coverings were distributed as well. The BOP response added that guidance as to where and when to wear PPE, and which type to wear was provided to all sites and is consistent with CDC guidance.³

² "Correcting Myths and Misinformation About BOP and Covid-19", p. 1. May 6, 2020.

Available at https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/docs/correcting_myths_and_misinformation_bop_covid19.pdf

³ Appendix C, BOP Response to CIC Preliminary Report.

Q: Do you have soap to wash your hands when leaving and returning to your cell?
N=513



BOP guidance states that hand and health hygiene practices are strongly encouraged including washing hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds,⁴ but the CIC could not locate any information about the BOP ensuring that individuals have access to sufficient soap for frequent handwashing. BOP information also stated that BOP sites have posted hygiene signage (handwashing and etc.) throughout facilities.⁵

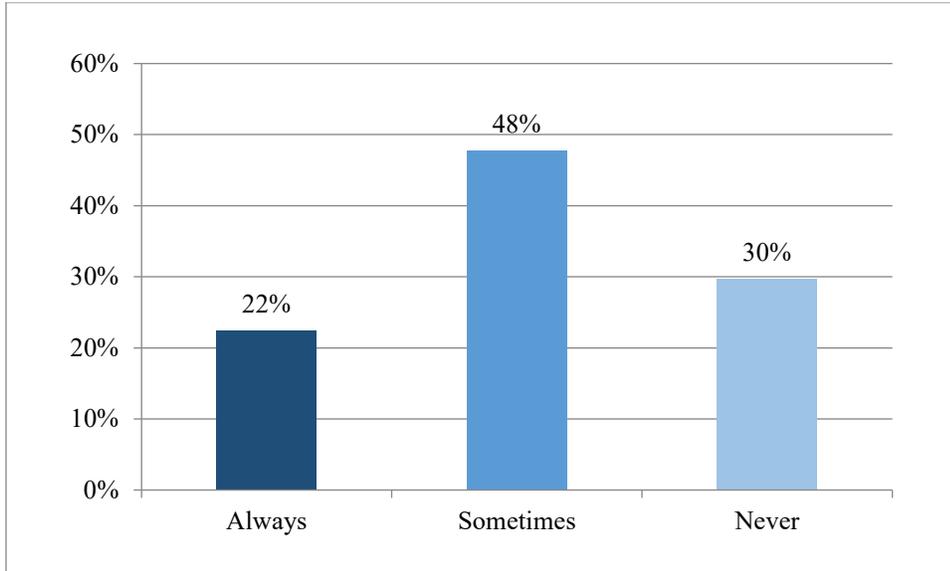
In response to a draft version of this report, the BOP stated that “soap is available throughout our institutions in cells and common areas at each facility (e.g. restrooms, work sites). In addition to providing hand soap in common areas and to indigent inmates who do not have the means to purchase soap, individual bars of soap are available as needed for the inmate population, or can be purchased for personal use in the inmate commissary, if an inmate prefers.”⁶

⁴ “BOP Coronavirus (Covid-19) Phase Six Action Plan” p. 5. April 13, 2020. Available at https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/media/publications/BOP_Memo_Phase_6_COVID-19_Action_Plan_2020.pdf

⁵ “Correcting Myths” p. 3

⁶ Appendix C, BOP Response to CIC Preliminary Report.

Q: Are computers, phones, and other common area items cleaned in between uses?
N=508



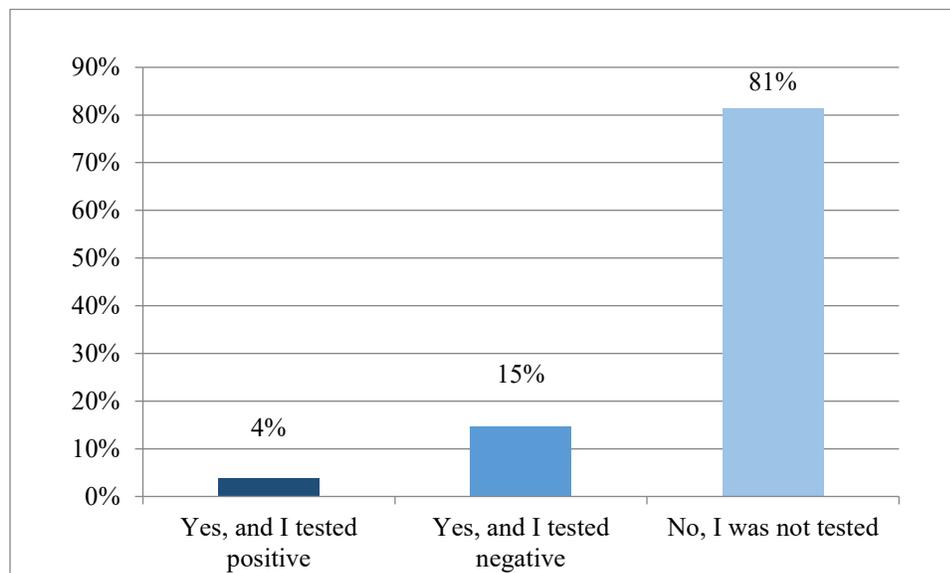
BOP guidance states that regular cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces should be emphasized to the inmate population, and that wardens must ensure cleaning supplies are readily available for all inmates.⁷

⁷ “BOP Phase Six Action Plan”, p. 5.

III. Medical Care

Q: Have you been tested for Covid-19?

N= 514



Throughout the pandemic, the BOP has indicated that it would test individuals on arrival into BOP custody and before moving individuals to their designated BOP facility.⁸ The BOP stated that effective March 26, 2020, all newly admitted inmates are screened and temperature checked by employees wearing PPE.⁹ In a press release dated April 23, 2020, the BOP reported that they were expanding Rapid RNA testing of symptomatic individuals at selected facilities with widespread Covid-19 transmission.¹⁰ The release also stated that the BOP expected to receive additional testing instruments which would be deployed based on facility need, including to facilities with high numbers of at-risk inmates, and could be used to expand testing of asymptomatic individuals.

In early June 2020, the BOP provided the CIC data on the number of DC individuals who had tested positive or recovered from Covid-19 as of May 27, 2020. At that time, the BOP indicated that fifteen DC individuals at eight facilities had a positive Covid-19 test, and that a further twenty-nine DC individuals at twelve facilities had recovered from Covid-19. The BOP has not provided updated information as of the publication of this report.¹¹

The BOP stated that effective June 19, 2020, all inmates entering any BOP facility are screened and tested by medical staff for Covid-19 upon arrival, and placed in quarantine or medical isolation as appropriate. Inmates releasing or transferring from BOP facilities are placed in a pre-release quarantine for a minimum of 14 days prior to their scheduled release.¹²

⁸ “BOP Implementing Modified Operations” Accessed September 16, 2020. Available at https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/covid19_status.jsp

⁹ Appendix C, BOP Response to CIC Preliminary Covid-19 Report

¹⁰ “Bureau of Prisons Expands COVID-19 Testing”, April 23, 2020. Available at https://www.bop.gov/resources/news/pdfs/20200423_press_release_covid19_testing.pdf

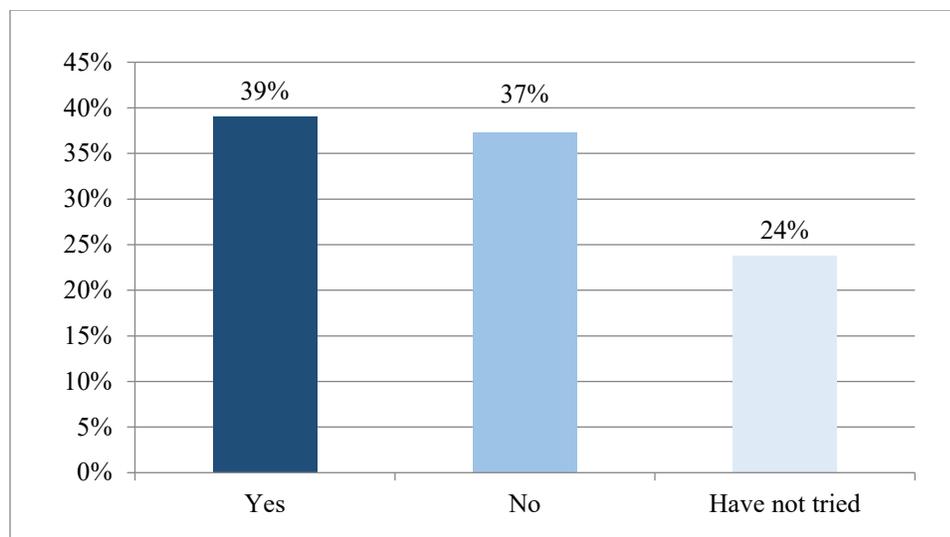
¹¹ The CIC requested updated data on August 24, 2020. After repeated unanswered requests, on September 16, 2020 the CIC was instructed to file a FOIA request for the information. The FOIA request is currently pending.

¹² Appendix C BOP Response to CIC Preliminary Covid-19 Report

The latest BOP guidance, which was updated November 25, 2020, reinforces the October 8, 2020 guidance stating that “all new intakes to an institution, including voluntary surrenders, BOP-to-BOP transfers, or transfers from outside the BOP system are screened by medical staff for COVID-19 - including a symptom screen, a temperature check, and an approved viral PCR test (either an Abbott ID NOW point-of-care [POC] test or a commercial PCR test) performed on a sample obtained from a nasopharyngeal, mid-turbinate, or anterior nares swab.¹³” Those who test positive or display symptoms are held in a Medical Isolation unit, while those who are asymptomatic must quarantine for at least 14 days and require negative results on their day 14 or later follow-up test before they are admitted into the general population.¹⁴

The BOP also indicated that its testing capabilities have expanded as testing resources have become more widely available, and that the inmate population is now tested more broadly as compared to during the survey period in June 2020.¹⁵

Q: Have you been able to obtain medical care in the past 60 days?
N=508



BOP publications from early in the pandemic stated that Health Services staff throughout the BOP conducted rounds and checked inmate temperatures at least once a day, with twice-daily rounds in locations where inmates were in quarantine or isolation.¹⁶ Outside health care has been limited to urgent and emergent conditions, with routine outside healthcare postponed when clinically appropriate.¹⁷ As of November, “inmate movement is still expected to allow, when necessary, for the provision of required mental health or medical care, including continued Sick Call.”¹⁸

¹³ BOP, BOP Modified Operations, November 25, 2020: https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/covid19_status.jsp

¹⁴ BOP Modified Operations, November 25, 2020.

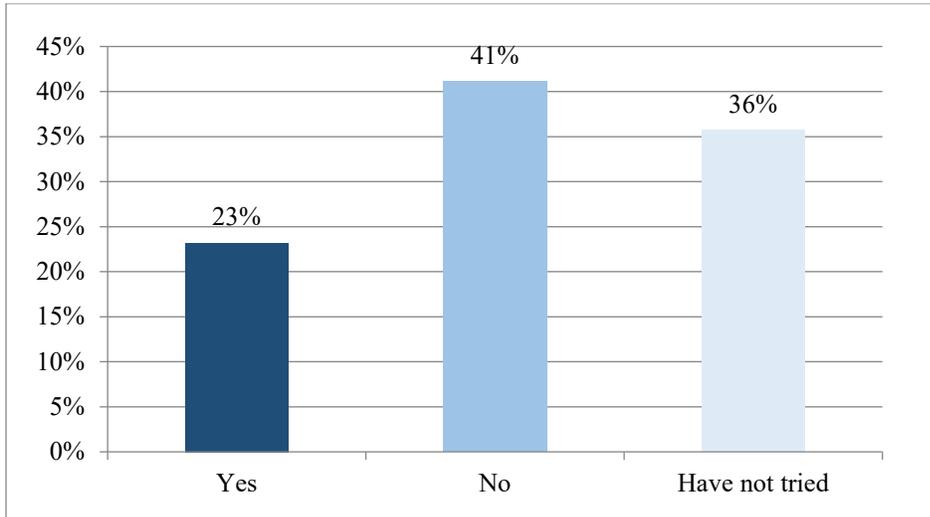
¹⁵ Appendix C BOP Response to CIC Preliminary Covid-19 Report

¹⁶ "Correcting Myths", p.1

¹⁷ "BOP Phase Six Action Plan", p. 4

¹⁸ BOP Modified Operations: https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/covid19_status.jsp

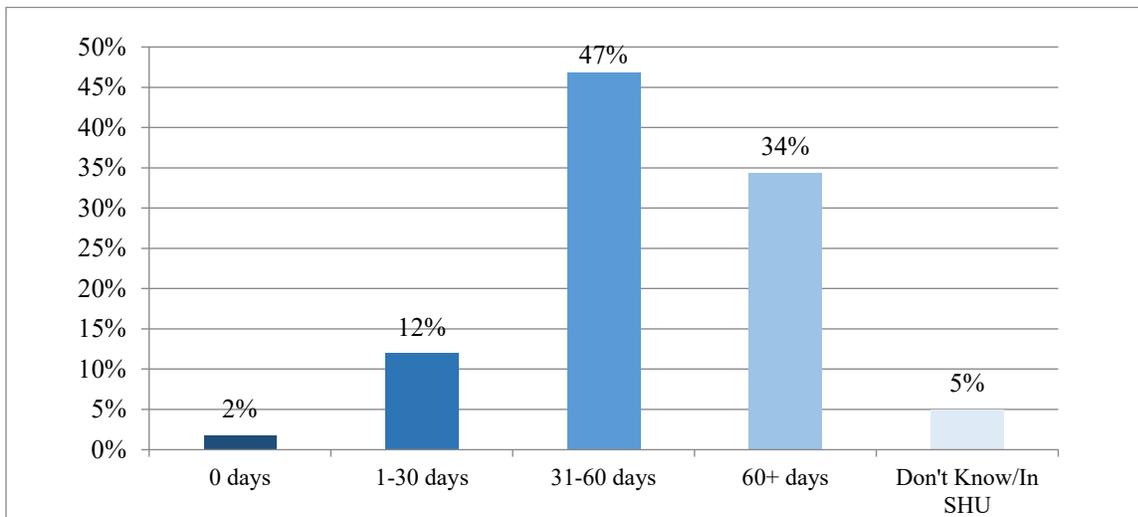
Q: Have you been able to obtain mental health care in the past 60 days?
N=514



BOP guidance states that mental health treatment should continue to be offered to the extent practicable during Covid-19-related lockdowns.¹⁹ In response to the preliminary version of this report, the BOP stated that, “critical services such as mental health care...have continued unabated throughout the pandemic.”²⁰

IV. Communication and Movement

Q: How many days has your facility been on lockdown in the past 60 days?
N=403²¹



¹⁹ “COVID-19 Action Plan: Phase Five”, March 31, 2020. Available at: https://www.bop.gov/resources/news/20200331_covid19_action_plan_5.jsp

²⁰ Appendix C BOP Response to CIC Preliminary Covid-19 Report

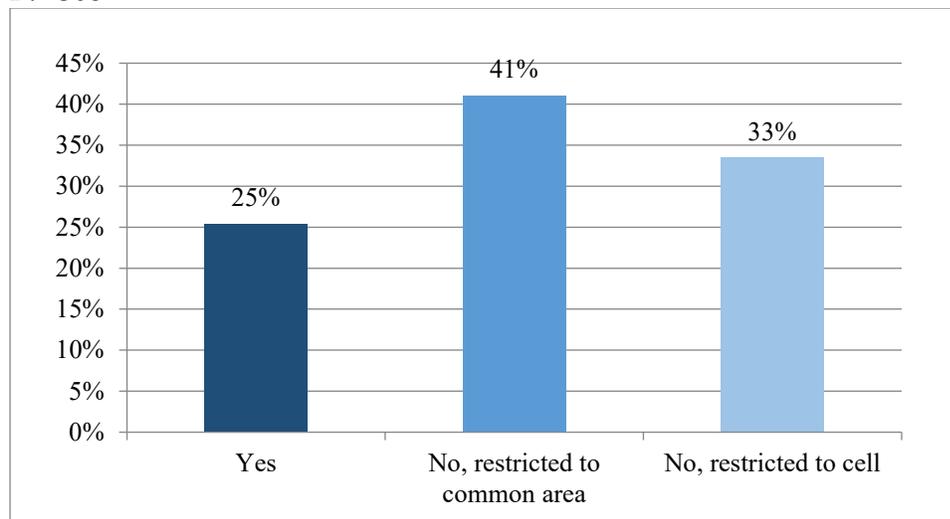
²¹ Due to question design, this question had a large number of invalid answers.

Many respondents shared that their facility had been on lockdown for longer than the last 60 days. Forty-one respondents said their facility had been on lockdown 90 days or more, a further 38 respondents said 120 days or more, and an additional 32 respondents said 150 days or more. Sixteen respondents indicated either that they did not know how long their facility had been on lockdown because they were currently in solitary confinement, or that their facility is a “lockdown facility”, meaning that residents are typically confined to their cells for 23 hours a day.

Thirty individuals answered that their facility was on modified lockdown, and described what modifications were in place, but did not provide the duration of the modified lockdown.

Q: Are you currently able to leave your housing unit?

N=508



BOP information regarding the level and duration of the lockdown has fluctuated during the pandemic. In the BOP’s Phase Five guidance dated March 31, 2020, the agency instituted a 14-day full “lockdown”, requiring inmates to stay in their cells with “limited group gatherings...afforded to the extent practical to facilitate commissary, laundry, showers, telephone, and Trust Fund Limited Inmate Computer System (TRULINCS) access.”²² Subsequent BOP Phase memos extended this guidance through July 2020. The BOP’s Phase Nine memo, dated August 5, 2020, described policies for resuming legal visits, recreation access, modified residential programming (e.g. RDAP, BRAVE), and limited non-residential programming (e.g. GED, Anger Management.)²³

In response to the preliminary version of this report, the BOP noted possible confusion between the terms “lockdown” and “enhanced modified operations.” The BOP stated that all facilities have been on enhanced modified operations since April 1, 2020, which limited inmate movement in order to mitigate the spread of the virus. The BOP specified that movement limitations were imposed to “mitigate exposure and spread of Covid-19,” not as punishment.²⁴

²² “Action Plan: Phase Five”.

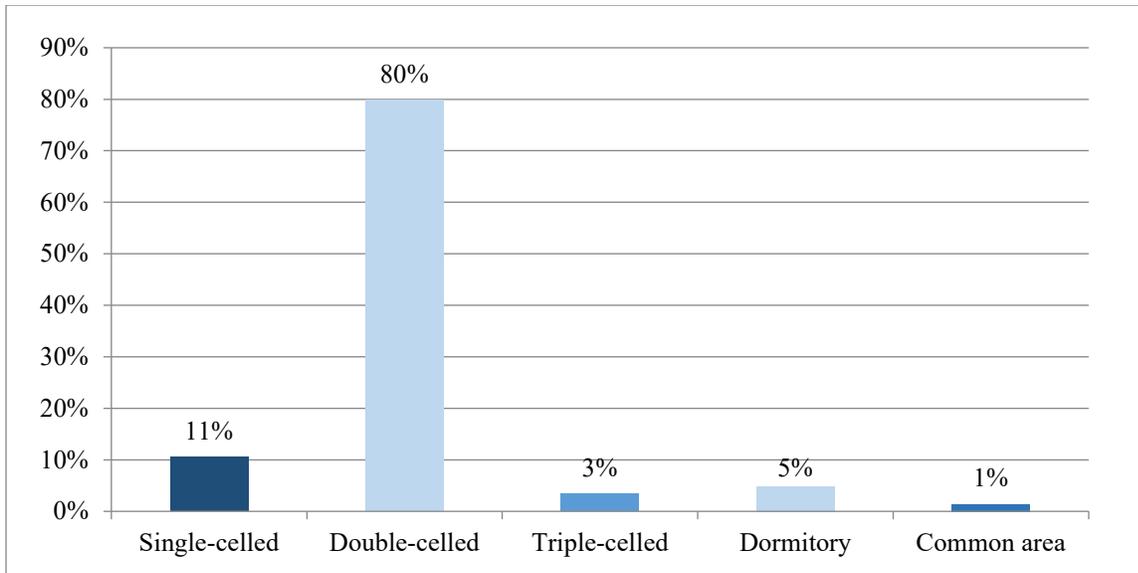
²³ “Coronavirus (Covid-19) Phase Nine Action Plan”, p. 3. August 5, 2020. Available at <https://www.themarshallproject.org/documents/7016444-BOP-Phase-9-COVID-Action-Plan>

²⁴ Appendix C BOP Response to CIC Preliminary Covid-19 Report

Survey respondents used “lockdown” and “modified lockdown” as general terms for significant restrictions to movement and programming access. Respondents expounded on the terms using additional comments to describe the various levels of restrictions experienced, which will be included in a forthcoming report.

Q: What is your current housing?

N=503



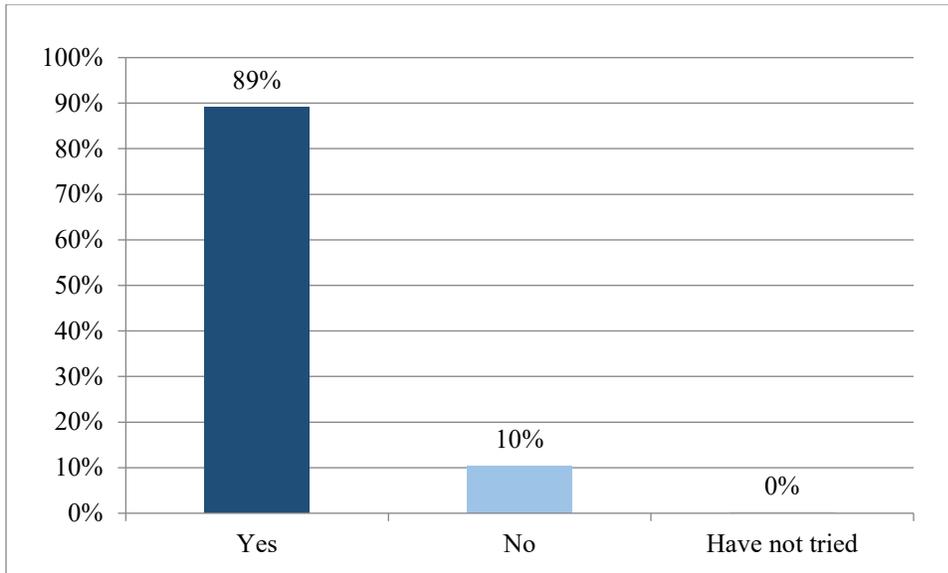
The type of housing available in BOP facilities varies by security level. Minimum and low-security facilities typically have dormitory-style housing, while medium and high-security facilities typically have cell-based housing. Administrative facilities, including medical and transfer facilities, tend to have a variety of housing types.²⁵ Cells can be designed for single-occupancy, double-occupancy, or rarely for housing more than two individuals. “Triple-celled” refers to three people sharing a cell designed to house two people. In some cases, individuals sleep on cots in the common area of units rather than in cells.

BOP guidance indicated that strategies for accomplishing social distancing should be evaluated, especially in open bay/barracks-style living quarters.²⁶

²⁵ https://www.bop.gov/about/facilities/federal_prisons.jsp

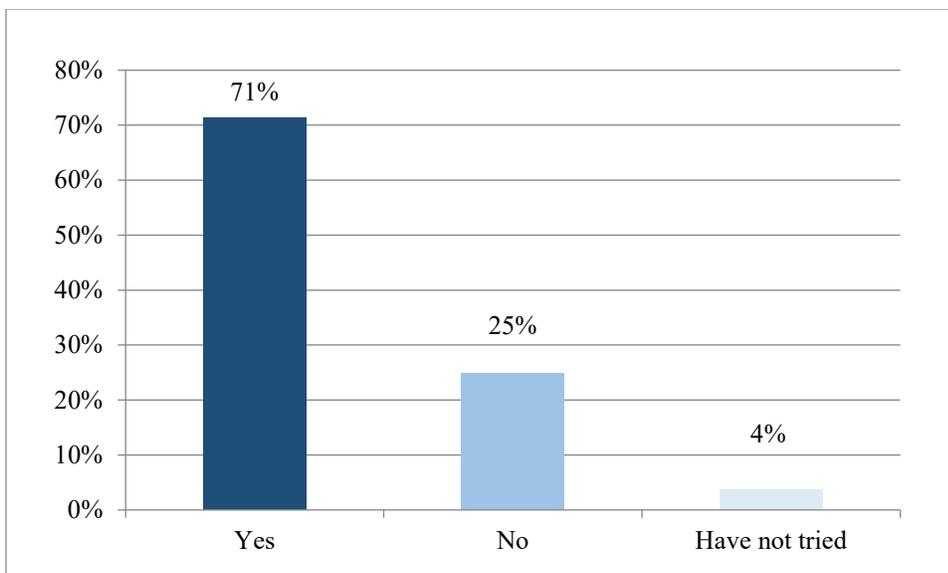
²⁶ “BOP Phase Six Action Plan”, p. 5.

Q: Are you able to make phone calls?
N=513



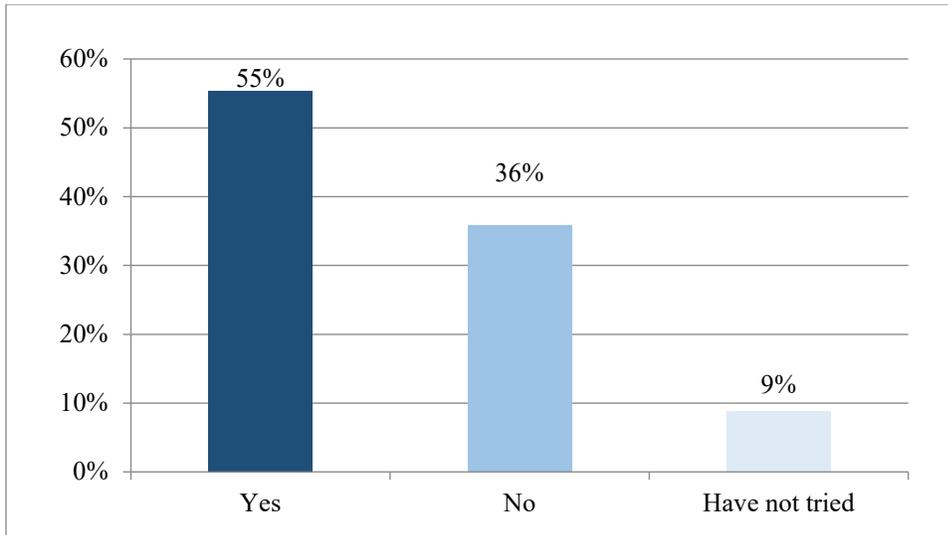
BOP guidance regarding access to phone calls during the period of the survey is vague. The BOP's public website about modified conditions indicated that when social visits were suspended, inmate telephone system minutes were increased to 500 minutes per month. In the BOP's March 31, 2020 guidance, the agency stated that they were allowing limited group gatherings "to the extent practicable" to provide access to phones.

Q: Are you able to send emails?
N=515



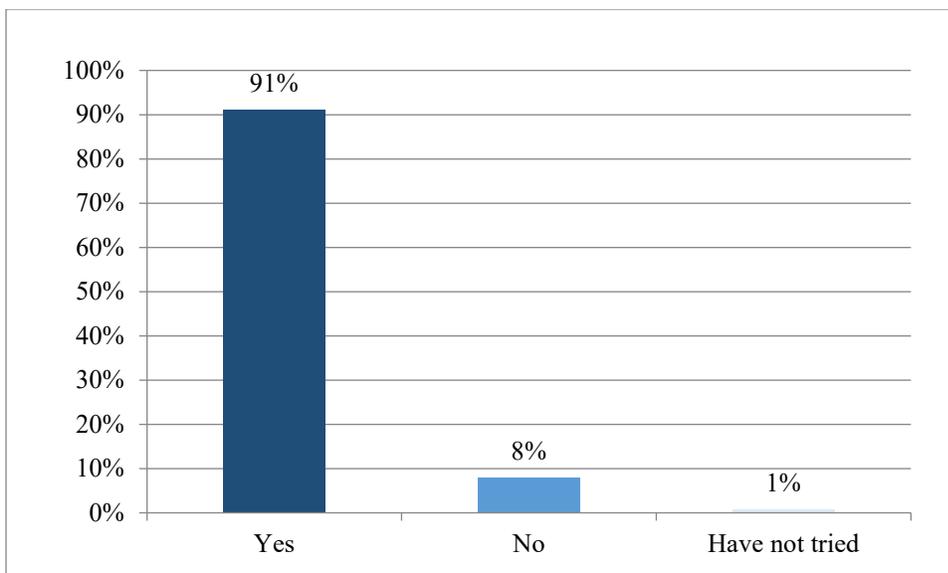
Guidance provided by the BOP regarding access to email only states that limited group gatherings should be allowed "to the extent practicable" to provide access to TRULINCS, the limited email program available to inmates.

Q: Are you able to use the law library?
N=504



Prior to the BOP's Phase Nine Action Plan, access to law library materials, either electronic or physical, was not discussed in BOP guidance. The Phase Nine Action Plan indicated that wherever possible, inmates "should be permitted access to the Electronic Law Library (ELL) under conditions determined by the Warden at each facility," and recommended that a schedule to permit fair and timely access to this information be established and provided to inmates.²⁷

Q: Are you able to purchase items from the commissary?
N=509



As with phone and email access, the BOP advised that movement in small numbers was allowed for the purposes of accessing commissary.

²⁷ "Phase Nine Action Plan", p. 3

V. Conclusion

The respondents to this survey are from 90 facilities with different security levels, population and staff sizes, and locations around the United States. The CIC received responses from facilities with a wide variety of Covid-19 exposure ranging from those with only a few positive Covid-19 tests to facilities where significant outbreaks have occurred or were occurring at the time the responses were sent. Responses were also received from facilities with specialized populations, including individuals in transit and those with intensive medical needs.

Survey respondents provided a wealth of additional qualitative information about their daily experiences during the months in which the BOP has been responding to the threat and/or presence of Covid-19 in its facilities. This preliminary report aims to capture a very broad snapshot of the experience of DC individuals in the BOP during Covid-19. The forthcoming final report of the results of this survey will include analysis of the qualitative information, as well as direct quotations from survey responses.

This survey reflects a snapshot of the experiences of DC residents in the BOP between late June and early August 2020. The CIC is in the process of conducting a follow-up survey asking about current experiences of DC residents in the BOP as the agency's response to the pandemic has changed.

Appendix A: Methodology

The CIC drafted a twenty-question survey focused primarily on institutional hygiene, access to medical care, communication, and movement. The survey was sent to a subset of just over half of DC Code offenders based on a list provided by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) on May 15, 2020. In order to obtain information from as many facilities as possible, while limiting the sample size to allow the CIC to process and report on data in a timely manner, a subset of survey recipients was chosen. At every facility with less than 30 DC individuals, every DC individual was mailed a survey. At every facility with more than 30 DC individuals, surveys were mailed to 30 individuals selected at random to represent that facility. The CIC sent 1,750 surveys to individuals at 111 facilities between approximately June 16, 2020 and June 24, 2020. The CIC received 519 completed surveys between June 25, 2020 and August 15, 2020 for a response return rate of 30 percent.

The CIC received 35 surveys from individuals who were not on the original recipient list, including three surveys from FCI Dublin, though only two surveys were mailed to that facility. The CIC is not able to explain this result. Twenty-nine of these 35 surveys are from individuals who can be identified as part of the DC population.

The surveys were compiled using SurveyMonkey, a business intelligence tool, with unique identifiers used to protect confidentiality. Data was exported to Microsoft Excel, and CIC analysts applied statistical weights to the responses so that the data would more accurately reflect the full population of DC individuals in the BOP. Responses from facilities with less than 30 DC individuals were counted as approximately half of one response, while responses from facilities with 30 or more DC individuals were weighted as approximately 1.5 responses.

Charts were produced through Microsoft Excel. Charts and other analysis do not include non-responses. Chart totals may not equal 100 due to rounding. In the interests of timeliness, only quantitative responses have been included in this preliminary report. Qualitative responses from the surveys are being compiled and analyzed by the CIC and will be included to provide context in the CIC's final report on this survey.

The CIC provided the BOP with a draft version of the report for review of factual information and an opportunity to respond to follow-up questions and any other information in the report. The BOP responses to the CIC preliminary report are included at the end of this report.

Appendix B: Responses by Facility

Facility Code	Facility Name	Surveys Sent	Responses Received	Response Rate	Covid-19 Positive Tests?
ALD	FPC Alderson	3	1	33%	No Info
ALF	FCI Allenwood Low	21	3	14%	Yes
ALI	FCI Aliceville	6	4	67%	Yes
ALM	FCI Allenwood Medium	30	7	23%	Staff Only
ALP	USP Allenwood	30	8	27%	Staff Only
ASH	FCI Ashland	10	5	50%	Yes
ATL	USP Atlanta	30	6	20%	Yes
ATW	USP Atwater	30	12	40%	Yes
BAS	FCI Bastrop	1	0	0%	Yes
BEC	FCI Beckley	30	7	23%	Yes
BEN	FCI Bennettsville	30	14	47%	Yes
BER	FCI Berlin	30	10	33%	Inmates Only
BIG	FCI Big Spring	2	1	50%	Yes
BML	FCI Beaumont Low	4	2	50%	Yes
BMM	FCI Beaumont Medium	8	3	38%	Yes
BMP	USP Beaumont	30	11	37%	Yes
BRO	MDC Brooklyn	7	1	14%	Yes
BSC	CI Big Spring	1	1	100%	No Info
BSY	USP Big Sandy	30	11	37%	Yes
BTF	FCI Butner Medium II	30	20	67%	Yes
BUF	FCI Butner Low	14	10	71%	Yes
BUH	FMC Butner	27	6	22%	Yes
BUT	FCI Butner Medium I	23	4	17%	Yes
CAA	USP Canaan	30	7	23%	Yes
CCC	MCC Chicago	1	0	0%	Yes
CLP	USP Coleman II	30	7	23%	Yes
COL	FCI Coleman Low	11	3	27%	Yes
COM	FCI Coleman Medium	18	9	50%	Yes
COP	USP Coleman I	30	12	40%	Yes
CRW	FMC Carswell	15	6	40%	Yes
CUM	FCI Cumberland	30	4	13%	Yes
DAL	CI Giles W. Dalby	1	0	0%	No Info
DAN	FCI Danbury	13	3	23%	Yes
DEV	FMC Devens	30	10	33%	Yes
DRJ	CI D. Ray James	4	1	25%	No Info
DUB	FCI Dublin	2	3	150% ²⁸	Yes
EDG	FCI Edgefield	30	14	47%	Yes

²⁸ The CIC received 35 surveys from individuals who were not on the original recipient list, including three surveys from FCI Dublin, though only two surveys were mailed to that facility. The CIC is not able to explain this result.

Facility Code	Facility Name	Surveys Sent	Responses Received	Response Rate	Covid-19 Positive Tests?
ELK	FCI Elkton	16	6	38%	Yes
ENG	FCI Englewood	4	1	25%	Yes
ERE	FCI El Reno	3	1	33%	Yes
FAI	FCI Fairton	30	11	37%	Yes
FLF	FCI Florence	2	0	0%	Yes
FLM	USP Florence ADMAX	28	1	4%	No Info
FLP	USP Florence High	30	0	0%	Staff Only
FOM	FCI Forrest City Medium	8	2	25%	Yes
FOR	FCI Forrest City Low	6	0	0%	Yes
FTD	FCI Fort Dix	30	11	37%	Yes
FTW	FMC Fort Worth	4	2	50%	Yes
GIL	FCI Gilmer	30	0	0%	Yes
HAF	FCI Hazelton	30	4	13%	Staff Only
HAZ	USP Hazelton	30	7	23%	Yes
HER	FCI Herlong	4	0	0%	Yes
HOU	FDC Houston	1	0	0%	Yes
JES	FCI Jesup	17	10	59%	Yes
LEE	USP Lee	30	1	3%	Yes
LEW	USP Lewisburg	30	14	47%	Yes
LEX	FMC Lexington	10	4	40%	Yes
LOM	USP Lompoc	6	0	0%	Yes
LOR	FCI Loretto	25	4	16%	Yes
LVN	USP Leavenworth	18	7	39%	Yes
MAN	FCI Manchester	15	5	33%	Yes
MAR	USP Marion	17	9	53%	Yes
MCA	CI McRae	3	0	0%	No Info
MCD	FCI McDowell	30	5	17%	Staff Only
MCK	FCI McKean	25	9	36%	No Info
MCR	USP McCreary	30	4	13%	Yes
MEM	FCI Memphis	8	4	50%	Yes
MEN	FCI Mendota	7	4	57%	Yes
MIL	FCI Milan	1	1	100%	Yes
MRG	FCI Morgantown	4	0	0%	Staff Only
MVC	CI Moshannon Valley	6	3	50%	No Info
NLK	CI North Lake	2	0	0%	No Info
OAD	FCI Oakdale II	2	1	50%	Yes
OAK	FCI Oakdale I	6	5	83%	Yes
OKL	FTC Oklahoma City	22	7	32%	Yes
OTV	FCI Otisville	11	4	36%	Yes
OXF	FCI Oxford	3	2	67%	Yes
PEK	FCI Pekin	2	0	0%	Yes
PEM	FCI Petersburg Medium	30	5	17%	Yes

Facility Code	Facility Name	Surveys Sent	Responses Received	Response Rate	Covid-19 Positive Tests?
PET	FCI Petersburg Low	28	7	25%	Yes
PHL	FDC Philadelphia	30	7	23%	Yes
PHX	FCI Phoenix	3	2	67%	Yes
POL	USP Pollock	30	9	30%	Yes
POM	FCI Pollock	13	3	23%	Yes
RBK	FCI Ray Brook	17	5	29%	Yes
RCH	FMC Rochester	11	3	27%	Yes
REE	CI Reeves I and II	3	2	67%	No Info
RIV	CI Rivers	30	6	20%	No Info
SCH	FCI Schuylkill	30	8	27%	Yes
SEA	FCI Seagoville	3	0	0%	Yes
SHE	FCI Sheridan	5	3	60%	Inmates Only
SPG	MCFP Springfield	30	13	43%	Yes
SST	FCI Sandstone	1	0	0%	Inmates Only
TAL	FCI Tallahassee	5	2	40%	Yes
TCN	FCI Tucson	1	1	100%	Yes
TCP	USP Tucson	30	8	27%	Yes
TDG	FCI Talladega	16	7	44%	Yes
TEX	FCI Texarkana	2	1	50%	Yes
THA	FCI Terre Haute	4	1	25%	Yes
THP	USP Terre Haute	30	11	37%	Yes
TOM	AUSP Thomson	30	14	47%	Yes
TRM	FCI Terminal Island	1	0	0%	Yes
TRV	FCI Three Rivers	1	0	0%	Yes
VIM	FCI Victorville Medium I	4	0	0%	Yes
VIP	USP Victorville	30	12	40%	Yes
VVM	FCI Victorville Medium II	4	0	0%	Yes
WAS	FCI Waseca	2	0	0%	Yes
WIL	FCI Williamsburg	27	0	0%	Yes
YAM	FCI Yazoo City Medium	19	5	26%	Yes
YAP	USP Yazoo City	5	2	40%	Yes
YAZ	FCI Yazoo City Low	10	6	60%	Yes

Regularly updated information on the number of completed, pending, and positive tests at each BOP facility is available on the BOP's website at <https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/>.

Appendix C: BOP Reponse to Draft Report

BOP's COMMENTS TO CIC REGARDING THE ATTACHED REPORT:

Because the BOP has expanded testing and precautionary measures taken since June (when the CIC's report was written), we would like to provide you with more comments than normal so that you have the opportunity to update your current report or another forthcoming report that may discuss more details with respect to qualitative observations provided in your survey as noted on page 13 in the attached report.

As observed in our feedback from prior years, we cannot always speak to a survey respondent's opinion but we can share the following factual information on what the BOP is doing in response to COVID-19.

For **Section II "Institutional Cleaning"** (page 5), we can confirm that all cleaning, sanitation, and medical supplies have been inventoried at the BOP's facilities. Currently, an ample supply is on hand and ready to be distributed or moved to any facility as deemed necessary. As the COVID-19 outbreak continues to evolve, the BOP updates and refines its recommendations based on CDC guidance, and protocols, and will continue to provide helpful information to staff, inmates and federal, state and local partners.

Since the onset of the pandemic, the BOP has maintained an abundance of personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies and is utilizing them in accordance with CDC guidance. As has been made clear by the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>), supplies of PPE and prudence dictates that equipment is used to optimize the limited supply available in both the private and public sectors. As a nationwide system, we have been able to leverage and transfer resources to correctional institutions with the greatest need.

Soap is available throughout our institutions in cells and in common areas at each facility (e.g., restrooms, work sites). In addition to providing hand soap in common areas and to indigent inmates who do not have the means to purchase soap, individual bars of soap are available as needed for the inmate population, or can be purchased for personal use in the inmate commissary, if an inmate prefers. Inmates have been educated on CDC guidelines for hand washing, coughing/sneezing in a sleeve or tissue, and no physical contact. Additionally, staff, including all executive staff and department heads, are readily available to address any concerns by the inmates, and if an inmate reports feeling ill, he/she is immediately screened by health services personnel. Inmates presenting as symptomatic are isolated in accordance with CDC guidance and public health directives.

In response to the April 3rd updated guidance from the CDC, we issued surgical masks to everyone – staff and inmates – in our prisons. Federal Prison Industries (FPI, or UNICOR) factories began production on cloth face coverings for our staff and inmate population, non-surgical medical gowns for medical facilities, and packaging hand sanitizer for use within the BOP and other agencies. While we are no longer manufacturing PPE or hand sanitizer, we distributed the cloth face coverings as they were produced to preserve surgical masks for quarantine and screening purposes with the goal being, consistent with CDC guidance, to limit transmission of coronavirus by “asymptomatic” or “pre-symptomatic” persons, when social distancing cannot be achieved.

Guidance as to where and when PPE such as N95 masks should be worn have been provided to all sites, is consistent with CDC guidance, and depends on several factors, including whether or not an institution has an active case and each employee's job description. As noted in guidance from the CDC and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), there are several types of respiratory masks as well as surgical face masks; certain masks are appropriate and effective in certain scenarios and not in others. Some scenarios would require an employee to wear the N95 mask, whereas it would not be necessary in other cases. Guidance on what types of PPE are necessary and under what circumstances is available here www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html. Staff working in areas of medical isolation and quarantining are required to wear full PPE.

For **Section III "Medical Care"** (page 7), we would like to point out that the BOP follows CDC guidance the same as community doctors and hospitals with regard to quarantine and medical isolation procedures, along with providing appropriate treatment. The majority of inmates who test positive for COVID-19 are asymptomatic (positive with no symptoms) and do not require the level of care offered in a hospital setting. While a prison setting is unique when addressing a pandemic, the care and treatment of an identified positive COVID-19 case is not.

All inmates who are positive for COVID-19 or symptomatic are isolated and provided medical care in accordance with CDC guidance. Symptomatic inmates whose condition rises to the level of acute medical care will be transferred to a hospital setting; either at a local hospital, or at an institution's hospital care unit, if they have one.

Effective March 26, 2020, the BOP issued guidance that all newly admitted inmates into the BOP are screened and temperature checked by employees wearing PPE, to include surgical masks, face shields/goggles, gloves, and gowns in accordance with CDC guidance.

Effective June 19, 2020, all inmates entering or departing any BOP facility, to include voluntary surrenders, BOP-to-BOP transfers, or transfers from outside the BOP system, are screened and tested by medical staff for COVID-19 upon arrival, and placed in quarantine or medical isolation. Quarantine in the context of COVID-19 refers to separating inmates (in an individual room or unit) apart from other incarcerated individuals not in quarantine. If an inmate tests negative and is asymptomatic (with no symptoms), they remain in quarantine for at least 14 days and are observed for symptoms and signs of the illness during the incubation period, and must test negative again with a commercial PCR test prior to being placed in general population. If an inmate tests positive and/or is symptomatic for COVID-19, the inmate is placed in medical isolation until they are considered recovered by medical staff as determined by CDC guidelines listed at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>. All institutions have areas set aside for quarantine and medical isolation. Inmates are treated at the institution unless medical staff determine they require hospitalization. All inmates are managed per CDC guidelines.

All inmates releasing or transferring from BOP facilities to other BOP facilities or other agencies, or to the community are placed in a test-in/out pre-release quarantine for a minimum of 14 days prior to their scheduled departure from the institution. This includes but is not limited to Full Term releases, Good Conduct Time releases, releases to detainers, furloughs, and transfers to Residential Reentry Centers (RRC's or halfway houses) or home confinement. The only exception to this

guidance are inmates with a history of COVID-19 infection who have met criteria for release from medical isolation; within 90 days of their initial symptom onset (for symptomatic cases) or initial positive COVID-19 test (for asymptomatic cases). In these cases, these inmates do not need to be placed in quarantine, and should not be tested. Following the 14-day quarantine period, an inmate who tests negative and is asymptomatic is approved to transfer/release. If the inmate tests positive or becomes symptomatic, the inmate is placed in medical isolation and is not permitted to transfer until they are considered recovered by medical staff as determined by CDC guidelines. If an inmate has active COVID-19 or is in medical isolation on their release date, or is an immediate release because of statutory or judicial requirements, the institution notifies the local health authorities in the location where the inmate is releasing. Institution staff also coordinate with local Health Department authorities to minimize exposure with the public, upon release. Transportation that will minimize exposure is used, with an emphasis on transportation by family and friends, and inmates are supplied a cloth facial covering to wear.

While in general population, any inmate displaying symptoms for COVID-19 will be tested and placed in medical isolation. A contact investigation is conducted per CDC guidance to identify any potential exposures and may include widespread testing, as clinically indicated.

Staff, contractors, and other visitors to the institution also must undergo a COVID-19 screening and temperature check by a staff member or contractor wearing appropriate PPE prior to entering the facility, with those who register a temperature of 100.4° Fahrenheit or higher denied access to the building. As much as possible, staff are being assigned to the same posts and not rotating, as an additional measure to mitigate the spread of the virus.

For those staff who are presenting with symptoms or have been identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 diagnosed individual, given the critical role our staff play with regard to public safety, we have developed a letter for staff who are in close contact of a COVID-19 positive individual to provide to the local Health Department, to ensure such persons receive priority COVID-19 testing. In addition, the BOP has also obtained a national contract to perform staff testing. This contract supplements the testing of staff within the local community in the event the local health departments are unable to absorb institutional testing needs, particularly when mass testing or serial testing may be indicated. Symptomatic or positive staff self-quarantine at their homes.

For more information about COVID-19, to include the BOP's COVID-19 Action Plan, the number of inmates tested, the number of open, positive test, COVID-19 cases for staff and inmates, and the official number of COVID-19 related deaths, please visit the BOP's Coronavirus resource page on our public website here <https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp>. Scroll down to the "Full Breakdown and Additional Details" link under the "COVID-19 Cases" heading for the number of cases at each institution.

Due to the rapidly evolving nature of this public health crisis, the BOP will update the open COVID-19 confirmed-positive test numbers, the number of COVID-19 tests conducted, and the number of COVID-19 related deaths every weekday at 3:00 p.m. The positive test numbers are based on the most recently available confirmed results involving open cases from across the agency as reported by the BOP's Office of Occupational Health and Safety. The number of open positive test cases only reflects current cases that have not been resolved. The total number of open, positive tests, COVID-19 cases fluctuates up and down, as new cases are added and resolved cases are removed.

As testing resources have become more widely available, we are testing our inmate population more broadly, which is helping us to quickly identify and isolate positive cases to rapidly flatten the curve when outbreaks occur. As a result of our expanded testing capabilities and the BOP's robust pandemic plan, we currently have significantly more staff and inmates recovered from COVID-19 than are positive. Also, there has been a steep decline in the number of inmate hospitalizations, inmates requiring the use of a ventilator, and inmate deaths, since early May, 2020.

The BOP continues to provide testing for COVID-19 symptomatic inmates, as recommended by the CDC. The bulk of our testing conducted by the BOP is rRT-PCR testing through commercial labs. Test kits are obtained as necessary from these contract labs. These samples are then sent back to the respective labs (e.g. Quest Diagnostics, Lab Corps, local hospitals) for processing.

The BOP is also utilizing the Abbott ID NOW instrument for Rapid RNA testing. Test results are typically received within 10-15 minutes. Expanding the testing with the Abbott ID NOW instruments on asymptomatic inmates assists in the slowing of transmission by isolating those individuals who test positive and quarantining contacts.

The deployment of these additional resources will be based on facility need to contain widespread transmission and the need for early, aggressive interventions required to slow transmission at facilities with a high number of at-risk inmates such as medical referral centers. Currently, the BOP has received 250 Abbott ID NOW instruments, which have been distributed among every BOP facility with some facilities having multiple instruments as deemed necessary. Increased testing of these inmates with the Abbott ID NOW instruments may increase the number of COVID-19 positive cases reflected on the BOP's website.

Please note that COVID-19 transmission rates among staff and inmates in the BOP's correctional institutions generally mirror those found in local communities. Fortunately, the BOP is using critical testing tools to help mitigate the spread of the virus. Like in every community, the number of positive cases reported in prison typically rises with increased testing (not primarily as a result of transfers between prisons). However, the majority of the BOP's positive inmates are asymptomatic and healthy. The efficacy of the BOP's mitigation strategies can be seen in the very low number of hospitalized inmates.

Critical services such as mental health care, crisis intervention, and religious observance have continued unabated throughout the pandemic. First Step Act Evidence-Based Recidivism Reduction (EBRR) Programs and Productive Activities (PA) were temporarily suspended in some locations until they could be delivered safely. Key EBRR Programs that are residential in nature were generally able to continue, as the inmates are already a cohort in a single housing unit. In August, 2020, the BOP began resuming other EBRR Programs and PAs in reduced capacity to allow for social distancing. As of early September, 2020, approximately 50,000 inmates were enrolled in First Step Act programs.

For **Section IV "Communication and Movement"** (page 9), all BOP institutions were on enhanced modified operations as of April 1, 2020, under our Phase 5 Action Plan found here https://www.bop.gov/resources/news/pdfs/20200331_press_release_action_plan_5.pdf. This

action was taken as a means to further mitigate exposure and spread of COVID-19 at the facility. Please note that some people, possibly including a number of inmates who responded to your survey, confuse the terms 'lockdown' and 'enhanced modified operations'. Enhanced modified operations are not a lockdown, but rather a means to minimize inmate movement, to minimize congregate gathering, and maximize social distancing among the inmate population. Under enhanced modified operations, inmates are limited in their movements within the institution, with inmate movement in small numbers authorized for access to commissary, laundry, showers, telephone and electronic messaging access, medical and mental health care, and some essential work details or work assignments. Symptomatic inmates are not placed on any work details or work assignments. Just like in communities nationwide who have been required to shelter-in-place, the BOP implemented this course of action to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Phases 6 and 7 generally extended the guidance of the Phase 5 Action Plan. Phase 8 of the COVID-19 Action Plan extended the guidance of the Phase 5 Action Plan, and provided additional guidance to staff to assist with the planning of in-person court appearances, ceasing the use of the quarantine site model for newly arriving inmates into BOP custody, as well as additional guidance to staff in regard to inmate transfers and releases. On Wednesday, August 5, 2020, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons ordered the implementation of Phase 9 of its COVID-19 Action Plan. This phase extended all measures from Phase 8, to include measures to modify and control movement and decrease the spread of the virus. We realize that suspending social visiting has an impact on inmates and their loved ones. Therefore, on August 31, 2020, a modification to the Phase 9 Action Plan was implemented to specifically address reinstating social visiting. The Phase 9 Action Plan, along with this modification guidance, will remain in place until further notice.

At the onset of the pandemic, the BOP took aggressive action to limit internal and external movement, understanding that movement could increase the risk of transmission throughout our facilities. However, the BOP is required to accept inmates awaiting trial remanded to our custody. We must also accept newly-convicted inmates for service of their sentence. This requirement is based in federal statute (see the Bail Reform Act, Title 18 U.S.C. § 3141); if a federal judge orders a pre-trial offender to be detained, the Federal government, which includes BOP facilities, must assume custody and care of the inmate. To be clear, while the BOP can control and limit its intra-agency movements, we have no authority to refuse inmates brought to us by the US Marshals Service. As we return to a more normalized inmate movement, movement nationwide can be simple, short-distance transfer, or a complex, multi-day, multi-institution process. However, any inmate with a known positive COVID-19 test, or who has a fever or symptoms, will not be permitted to transfer.

The BOP recognizes the importance for inmates to maintain relationships with friends and family. During modified operations in response to COVID-19, the BOP suspended social visitation; however, inmates were afforded 500 (instead of just 300) telephone minutes per month at no charge to help compensate for the suspension of social visits. As a modification of the BOP's Phase Nine Action Plan, and in accordance with specific guidance designed to mitigate risks, social visits are being reinstated, where possible to maintain the safety of our staff, inmates, visitors, and communities. Each individual institution has made plans consistent with their institutional resources (including physical space) and will continuously monitor their visiting plan, and make prompt modifications, as necessary, to effectively manage COVID-19. Such modification may include limiting or postponing visitation, providing visitation by appointment, or other adjustments as appropriate.

All visits will be non-contact and social distancing between inmates and visitors will be enforced, either via the use of plexiglass, or similar barriers, or physical distancing (i.e., 6 feet apart). Inmates in quarantine or isolation will not participate in social visiting. The number of visitors allowed in the visiting room will be based on available space when utilizing social distancing. The frequency and length of visits will be established to ensure all inmates have an opportunity to visit at least twice a month. Visitors will be symptom screened and temperature checked; visitors who are sick or symptomatic will not be allowed to visit. Both inmates and visitors must wear appropriate face coverings (e.g. no bandanas) at all times and will perform hand hygiene just before and after the visit. Tables, chairs and other high-touch surfaces will be disinfected between visitation groups; all areas, to include lobbies, will be cleaned following the completion of visiting each day.

During the pandemic, access to legal counsel remains a paramount requirement. As such, based on available resources at the local level, in-person attorney-client visitation will be accommodated to the extent possible and will follow preventative protocols (e.g., face coverings required), and confidential legal calls will be allowed in order to ensure inmates maintain access to counsel. When/where possible, we are also facilitating attorney client-visitation, as well as judicial proceedings, via video conference, primarily at our detention centers. Whenever possible and consistent with social distancing protocols and safe institution operations, inmates are permitted access to the Electronic Law Library under conditions determined by the Warden at each facility. For **Section V. "Conclusion"** (page 13), we would like to add that the BOP has taken swift and effective action in response to COVID-19, and has emerged as a correctional leader in the pandemic. As with any type of emergency situation, we carefully assess how to best ensure the safety of staff, inmates and the public. All of our facilities are implementing the BOP's guidance on mitigating the spread of COVID-19. That guidance can be found on our website's Coronavirus resource page at <https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp>. We will continue to evaluate our mitigation strategies and make adjustments, as needed.

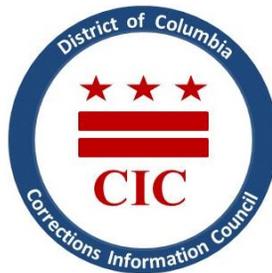
The BOP has instituted a comprehensive management approach that includes screening, testing, appropriate treatment, prevention, education, and infection control measures. The BOP has been coordinating our COVID-19 efforts since January 2020 (six weeks ahead of the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic), using subject-matter experts both internal and external to the agency, including guidance and directives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Office of the Vice President. In particular, the BOP engaged with the CDC in order to assist them with developing guidance specific to the unique nature of correctional environments. The engagement was mutually beneficial. As a result of these collaborative efforts, the CDC published the Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Correctional and Detention Facilities on March 23, 2020; the subsequent update on July 14, 2020, was also issued with BOP input.

Using the Incident Command System (ICS) framework, we developed and implemented an incident action plan that addressed our Continuity of Operations Program (COOP), supply management, inmate movement, inmate visitation, and official staff travel, as well as other important aspects. Our Central and Regional Offices, and the National Institute of Corrections continue to coordinate planning and guidance with state and local prisons, jails, and health authorities. The first phases of our nationwide action plan were vital steps essential to slowing the spread of the virus. These actions included establishing a task force to begin strategic planning

and building on our already existing procedures for managing pandemics. We started limiting facility-to-facility transfers, and other inmate movement, as well as implementing screening, quarantine and medical isolation procedures. In addition, we suspended social and legal visits, cancelled staff training and travel, limited access for contractors and volunteers, and established enhanced screening for staff and inmates, including temperature checks. We began inventorying sanitation, cleaning, and medical supplies and procuring additional supplies of these items. All of these actions were carried out with the goal of reducing the risk of introducing and spreading the virus inside our facilities.

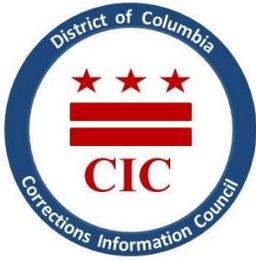
To ensure all of our facilities are in compliance with CDC and BOP guidance and directives related to the management of COVID-19 and the mitigation of disease transmission, COVID-19 Compliance Review Teams were established in August, 2020, as a component of our Program Review Division. These teams will visit every facility throughout the pandemic to conduct a thorough review, evaluating compliance measures, monitoring response techniques, and developing further COVID-19 mitigation strategies. Recommendations and best practices will be shared with and implemented at all of our facilities, as deemed appropriate.

This virus is challenging, as our nation as a whole has seen, and in particular, is even more complex to address given the nature of our correctional environment. Initially, we were challenged by an upsurge in inmate positive cases, but as a result of our mitigation strategies and lessons learned, we were able to flatten the curve, both at our hotspots and in our institutions nationwide. We remain deeply concerned for the health and welfare of those inmates who are entrusted to our care, and for our staff, their families, and the communities we live and work in. It is our highest priority to continue to do everything we can to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our facilities.



**District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council**

The electronic version of this report is
available on the CIC website:
<http://www.cic.dc.gov/>



CIC | Corrections Information Council

CIC Ongoing Monitoring of Covid-19 Outbreaks at FCI Fort Dix

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Over the last year, the CIC has continued to monitor conditions at BOP facilities, particularly the BOP's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Several facilities have experienced serious Covid-19 outbreaks, including recently at FCI Fort Dix in New Jersey. Fort Dix has the highest total number of individuals who have tested positive for Covid-19 of any BOP facility. This includes individuals who tested positive but have since been marked as "recovered." The facility has 2,700 residents, and 1,664 have tested positive since the BOP began testing and tracking coronavirus in March 2020 (note: some individuals who tested positive may have been released or transferred from Fort Dix since receiving their positive test.) According to the most recent roster provided to the CIC in early January 2021, there are 69 DC individuals currently at Fort Dix. The CIC has no information about how many DC individuals at the facility have tested positive for Covid-19.

In early October 2020, the BOP transferred more than 150 individuals from FCI Elkton in Ohio to Fort Dix. Elkton had been severely affected by Covid-19, and several individuals who were transferred tested positive for Covid-19. Shortly after the transfer, Fort Dix had a large increase in Covid-19 positive tests. By November 9, 2020 there were at least 228 active cases among incarcerated individuals at Fort Dix. In response, the BOP instituted a moratorium on transfers to Fort Dix. The BOP stated that there was "no evidence" the outbreak was connected to the transfer of individuals from Elkton to Fort Dix.

Members of the New Jersey congressional delegation, including Senators Cory Booker and Robert Menendez and eight members of Congress, repeatedly called on the BOP to provide information about its plan for addressing the outbreak at Fort Dix, including testing, treatment, and a breakdown of how the facility used funds from the CARES Act. The delegation wrote to BOP Director Carvajal in November 2020 requesting that the BOP implement regular testing and an effective plan to address the Covid-19 outbreak at Fort Dix. The number of Covid-19 cases among inmates and staff spiked to more than 300 during the month of November. On November 24, 2020, the BOP lifted the moratorium on transfers to Fort Dix. The congressional delegation wrote again in December expressing concern about these developments and asking for updated information on the facility response. The Congressional delegation also asked

whether the facility was releasing individuals to home confinement and raised concerns about the insufficient provision of medical care to individuals infected with Covid-19.

As of January 6, 2021, nearly 600 inmates out of the 2,700 at Fort Dix were listed as having active Covid-19 cases.

On January 12, 2021, the Senators from New Jersey wrote to the Warden of Fort Dix, David Ortiz, expressing ongoing concern about the use of home confinement, the provision of PPE and social distancing, and medical care for individuals with Covid-19 at the facility. On January 15, Senators Booker and Menendez and eight members of Congress from New Jersey sent a letter to the Inspector General asking that his office investigate the pandemic response at Fort Dix.

On January 14, 2021, the CIC learned that individuals incarcerated in Unit 5812 at Fort Dix had shared documents about their experience in a public Dropbox folder during early January. The information released inside of that folder included a letter summarizing the situation, a detailed timeline going back to mid-October listing Covid-related events, memos from the facility administration to inmates, administrative remedy forms, and a few legal pleadings. The CIC has not been able to determine whether any of the individuals on the unit or listed in the shared documents are DC residents.

The CIC reached out to the BOP for information regarding the current situation at Fort Dix. The BOP responded with the statement below, noting that “a review team from the BOP’s Program Review Division...recently traveled to Fort Dix to evaluate compliance with Covid-19 protocols,” and that the first dose of vaccines was delivered to Fort Dix on January 19, 2021. As of today, the BOP vaccine website lists that 174 staff members at Fort Dix have been fully inoculated, and zero inmates have been fully inoculated. The BOP website currently lists 54 active Covid-19 cases among inmates at Fort Dix, and 36 active Covid-19 cases among staff at the facility.

On February 1, 2021, Warden David Ortiz was temporarily reassigned to the BOP’s regional administrative office in Philadelphia. The CIC will continue to monitor the situation at Fort Dix. The CIC gratefully welcomes any information about the situation at Fort Dix, particularly from individuals who are in contact with family or friends currently incarcerated at that institution.

Our staff can be reached by phone at (202) 478-9211 (TTY: 711) or by email: dccic@dc.gov

BOP Response to CIC Inquiries Regarding Management of Covid-19 Outbreaks at FCI Fort Dix
Received Feb 3, 2021:

“The Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is committed to ensuring the safety of all inmates in our population, our staff, and the public. Over the past year, the BOP has worked hard to prevent, contain, and mitigate the spread of the global pandemic.

The BOP has taken swift and effective action in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and has emerged as a correctional leader in the pandemic. As with any type of emergency situation, we carefully assess how to best ensure the safety of institutions. All of our facilities, including FCI Fort Dix, are required to implement the BOP's guidance on mitigating the spread of COVID-19. That guidance can be found on our website here <https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp>.

In response to COVID-19, the BOP has instituted a comprehensive management approach that includes screening, testing, appropriate treatment, prevention, education, and infection control measures. We have continually evaluated our correctional settings and made adjustments to safety precautions and personnel as needed in order to best serve our staff, the inmate population, partner agencies, and the public.

In fulfillment of this mission, the BOP has been proactive in establishing internal review teams that have been systematically reviewing our correctional institutions nationwide to ensure compliance with our COVID-19 protocols. These audits are done without prior notification to our institutions to ensure a thorough and accurate assessment of our facilities. Toward this end, a review team from the BOP's Program Review Division - not the Office of Inspector General - recently traveled to FCI Fort Dix to evaluate compliance with COVID-19 protocols.

As of Tuesday, January 19, 2021, the first dose of vaccine had been delivered to FCI Fort Dix. More information on the BOP's COVID-19 vaccine implementation can be located here: <https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp>."



CIC | District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

Friday March 27, 2020

For Immediate Release

RE: CIC Visit to Hope Village on Thursday, March 26, 2020

As part of its ongoing oversight activities, the CIC has been in regular correspondence with Hope Village executive staff for the last several weeks regarding their preparations and response to the novel coronavirus outbreak. Hope Village has advised the CIC several times during the last two weeks regarding to their operational changes, which includes limiting residents' ability to go out into the community, discontinuing family visitation, and adjusting programming and services within the facility.

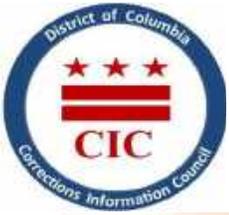
On Thursday March 26, 2020, the CIC conducted a site visit at Hope Village in response to community concerns raised this week about inadequate supplies. CIC staff had a conversation with Hope Village executive staff and program staff, as well as the BOP Residential Re-Entry Manager - who participated via speaker phone. CIC asked a number of questions about updated policies for daily activities at Hope Village, as well as questions about programming, movement, transit between facilities, visitation, and release.

CIC staff then walked through the dining areas currently in use and several areas where supplies and food are being stored. CIC was not permitted to conduct individual interviews with current residents, but Hope Village staff indicated that – with approval from the Bureau of Prisons (BOP)- a future time would be scheduled to provide that opportunity.

We have organized our observations below by area of concern.

Covid-19 testing and treatment

As of our visit, no staff had been tested for Covid-19, and there were no concerns about staff health. Three residents had been tested for Covid-19 - with two tests coming up negative, and one still awaiting results. Hope Village staff told the CIC that all staff members are trained in CPR. The CIC saw the first aid closet, including rehydration supplies, masks, gloves, thermometers, several packages of protective suits, and additional cleaner and first aid supplies.



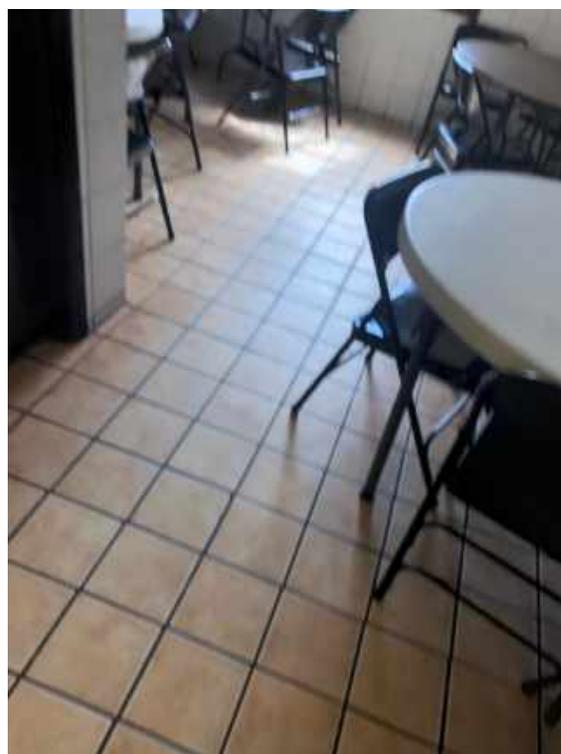
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Food/meals

Staff indicated that they are trying to achieve social distancing during meals by opening up a second dining area in a vacant apartment. The CIC viewed the two dining spaces currently being used for meals. Staff indicated that approximately 20-25 people are eating in each space at a given time. This would mean five people to each of five or six round tables in each space. Each table is approximately 5 feet in diameter.

Staff indicated that all food deliveries are currently happening as scheduled. In addition to viewing storerooms for non-perishable food (large cans of vegetables, fruit, and beans, and large bags of rice and flour) near the kitchen facilities, the CIC viewed an empty apartment currently being used to store additional supplies, which was well-stocked with cases of canned vegetables, canned fruit, rice, pasta, and condiments. Staff also indicated that residents can bring large containers with them to meals to refill on filtered water and other beverages. Residents can also come down between meals to refill liquids with permission from staff.



Cleaning Supplies

The CIC viewed Hope Village's current stock of paper products and cleaning supplies. In the storage area near the kitchens, the CIC saw jugs of pink cleaner, bleach, spray cleaner with bleach, and Pine-Sol disinfectant. In the apartment being used for storage, one room contained twenty cases of toilet tissue and nine cases of nitrile gloves. The CIC found that Hope Village possesses an adequate supply of hygiene and cleaning products for staff and residents. It should also be noted that the DOC conducted its own independent investigation, and found that Hope Village has adequate hygiene and cleaning supplies.



Hope Village staff indicated that residents are still required to clean their apartments each morning, and cleaning supplies including disinfectant, are available in each building for the residents to use at any time. Staff also indicated that each resident has their own bar of soap; they are not required to share with other residents. Per staff, toilet tissue is distributed on Tuesdays and Fridays each week, with quantities dependent on the number of residents in a unit. Staff are also cleaning high-traffic areas more frequently, particularly light switches and door handles.



Supply drop-offs

Hope Village staff provided a memo dated March 20, 2020 describing the policy for family members to drop off supplies to residents at Hope Village. Each building at Hope Village has a designated day and time for drop-offs, and families are permitted to provide toiletries, packaged food, and bottled water. Families are not allowed to provide cleaning supplies due to safety issues.



Releases/transfers

According to the BOP Residential Reentry Manager, applications for home confinement are being processed with modifications. The BOP still requires that the proposed location have a landline, but is allowing home confinement locations to be reviewed via Skype, and for host family visits to be conducted by phone. The BOP has also waived social pass requirements for home confinement. Hope Village staff indicated that they had four individuals releasing to home confinement this week, and four more planned for next week.

The BOP Residential Reentry Manager indicated that transfers from BOP institutions to Hope Village are still ongoing by order of the Department of Justice. Individuals being released from BOP institutions are being screened for Covid-19 per BOP's current policy on transfers (including temperature and symptom checks).

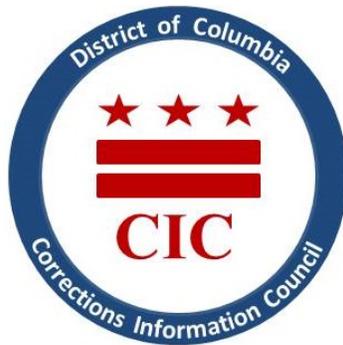
Other Daily Functions

Hope Village executive staff indicated that they are still conducting groups, including drug treatment and transitional skills journaling, but they are operating in smaller groups while having people sit several seats away from each other to maintain social distance. Mental health counseling is also still being provided, and staff indicated that they have suggested setting up phone sessions with Community Connections for residents. Residents are being allowed out of their buildings into the parking lot for 30 minutes at a time to get fresh air. Subsistence payments were suspended as of March 20, 2020.

Thank you.

Donald Isaac

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DC Corrections Information Council (CIC)
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Secure Female Facility Hazelton Inspection Report

**District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council
April 6, 2020**

District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

Charles Thornton, Board Chair
Katharine A. Huffman, Board Member
Nkechi Taifa, Board Member
Charlie Whitaker, Board Member
Calvin Woodland Jr., Board Member

About the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

The District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC) is an independent oversight body mandated by the United States Congress and the Council of the District of Columbia to inspect, monitor, and report on the conditions of confinement in correctional facilities where inmates from the District of Columbia are incarcerated. This includes facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DOC), and private contractors.

The CIC reports its observations and recommendations to the District of Columbia Representative in the United States Congress, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Council of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, the Director of the BOP, the Director of the DOC, and the community.

Although the CIC does not handle individual complaints or provide legal representation or advice, individuals are still encouraged to contact the CIC. Reports, concerns, and general information from incarcerated DC residents and the public are very important to the CIC, and they greatly inform our inspection schedule, recommendations, and reports. However, unless expressly permitted by the individuals or required by law, names and identifying information of inmates, corrections staff not in leadership, and members of the general public will be kept anonymous and confidential.

DC Corrections Information Council

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Secure Female Facility (SFF) Hazelton Profile

Date of Inspection: August 14-15, 2019	Security Level: Medium
Location: Bruceton Mills, WV	Rated Capacity: 384
Distance from DC: 193 miles	Total Population: 502 (131.12% capacity)

DC Inmate Population – August 2019

DC Population: 25	Average Sentence: 217 months
Average Age: 45.2 years old	Individuals with Detainers: 3

Facility Highlights

The CIC highlights the following facility practices, which led to recommendations:

- **Mass Punishment:** The women interviewed stated that a current practice is to punish all inmates for the infractions of a few. Examples of mass punishment include lowering the limit on spending for commissary; eating on the units rather than in the dining hall; mail restrictions, including photocopying letters and photographs; and unit level “lockdowns”.
- **Limited Programming:** The women interviewed spoke about the lack of programming. Seven women specifically noted that they were not participating in any programs due to a lack of availability and a desire for additional programs. Three DC women are participating in the Resolve Program, which focuses on women’s trauma; however, there is a long waiting list.
- **Recreation:** The SFF Hazelton Recreation Department has the capacity to host a variety of leisure activities, art and hobby crafts, and wellness programs.
- **Triple Bunking:** As of October 22, 2019, 343 of the 502 inmates were tripled bunked.
- **Medical and Dental Services:** The women and staff reported excessive waiting periods and limited staff for medical and dental care. The medical and dental staff rotate amongst the facilities within the Hazelton complex.
- **Staffing Levels and Responsibilities:** Staffing is based upon the needs of the Hazelton complex, rather than the needs of the inmates at the SFF. Correctional officers can be re-assigned at any time without prior training on the specific needs of the population.

Recommendations

Based on the inspection of SFF Hazelton, the CIC makes the following recommendations:

- Eliminate or limit the use of “mass punishment”.
- Increase programming opportunities, such as the Resolve Program, and prioritize efforts to reduce lengthy waiting lists.

- Eliminate triple bunking.
- Shorten lengthy wait times for medical and dental care by increasing medical and dental staff.
- Mandate that all corrections officers receive training focused on gender specific mental health and trauma. Assure that staffing responsibilities are filled by officers who have undergone trainings relative to the populations with whom they are working.

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INTRODUCTION

Secure Female Facility Hazelton (SFF Hazelton), one of four institutions that comprise the Hazelton Federal Correctional Complex in Bruceton Mill, West Virginia, currently houses 25 DC women held in custody by the Bureau of Prisons (BOP). SFF Hazelton houses the largest cluster of DC female inmates (approximately 25% of all female DC inmates in the custody of the BOP), but the 25 DC inmates are less than 5% of the population.

CIC previously reported on the conditions of confinement at SFF Hazelton based on site visits conducted in May 2014 and October 2016. During those visits, the population of DC inmates was 76 (11.5% of the total population) and 57 (8% of the total population), respectively. During the most recent visit, there were only 25 DC inmates.

The rated capacity of SFF Hazelton is 384. Its housing population of 502 inmates places the facility at more than 130% of capacity. In addition to over-crowding, the facility is understaffed. Throughout Hazelton FCC, there were 50 staff vacancies during the pay period September 1-14, 2019. Out of the 50 staff vacancies, 20 are correctional officer positions.¹ Correctional officer posts can be re-assigned at any time. Correctional Programs staff, i.e., the Unit Team, may be re-assigned for various reasons, i.e., staff promotions, transfers, etc. . . based on the staffing needs of the institution.”² With the exception of 18 staff members assigned to specific units at Hazelton SFF, the staff is shared among all three institutions. Since staff rotates amongst the three facilities, it is difficult to determine the staffing and staff ratio of the SFF. It is also difficult to discern how many or how well staff are trained regarding trauma, and whether or not the BOP is meeting its stated goal that “sufficient resources/staffing should be allocated to deliver appropriate programs and services to female offenders and related special populations. This goal is particularly important at female satellite facilities attached to male institutions.”³

Women as a Special Population

The Bureau of Prisons considers women a special population, and states:

Women in Bureau custody are offered many of the same educational and treatment programs that are available to male offenders; however, women in prison differ from their male counterparts in significant ways. For example, women are more likely to experience economic hardship, employment instability, and fewer vocational skills as compared with males. Since they are more likely than men to have a history of trauma and abuse, which poses additional challenges for reentry, specialized initiatives and programs that are trauma-informed and address women's gender-based needs are offered at female facilities.⁴

The BOP Female Offender manual states, “. . .the Bureau provides programs, services, and policies that are gender-responsive, trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, and address the unique

¹ HAZ Staffing report Pay Period 18 (9/1/19—9/14/19) provided by the BOP.

² Email Correspondence from Correctional Programs Division dated October 25, 2019.

³ U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons Program Statement OPI: RSD/FOB Number 5200.02 Female Offender Manual November 23, 2016 <https://www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/5200.02.pdf>

⁴ Website of Federal Bureau of Prisons entitled “Female Offenders”https://www.bop.gov/inmates/custody_and_care/female_offenders.jsp

needs of incarcerated females at facilities that house female offenders.”⁵ However, during the site visit, the CIC observed that with the exception of the availability of feminine hygiene products and one program, Resolve, which the Bureau of Prison conducts in several female facilities and only one male facility (ADX Florence), SFF Hazelton and its programs and services were indistinguishable from other BOP facilities.

Many incarcerated women face trauma, and research⁶ recommends methods to mitigate the additional trauma created by incarceration and separation from loved ones, including children. SFF Hazelton is located in a remote area with limited hotel accommodations and no public transportation, which poses substantial challenges for child and family visitation. The children’s visitation area is 416 square feet, and contains few children’s toys, games, or books.

Visitation

Visitation is available on Mondays from 1:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The visitation room at SFF Hazelton includes a common area, which used to contain tables and chairs. Recently, the tables, microwave oven, and vending machine with hot and warm items were removed. CIC staff noted the smell of fresh paint in the visiting room. Another individual noted that an allergic reaction to mold was triggered inside of the visiting room.

The CIC also observed that the children’s area was marked as off limits to inmates. Several inmates stated that the children’s area of the visiting room was often declared off limits by the staff; therefore, children who visit do not receive the benefit of a supportive environment. Only four out of the twelve women who have children under the age of 18 indicated that their children have been able to visit. They stated that the distance and dearth of toys and books heightened the stress that children experience while visiting.

Parenting

Twelve of the twenty-nine women surveyed have children younger than 18 years of age. Three quarters of the mothers (8 out of 12) have two or more children under the age of 18. Eight of the 15 respondents to the survey stated that they speak on the phone weekly to their children, and five of the 15 stated they speak monthly with their children by telephone. Communication via mail was less frequent than by phone. Only 3 of the 15 respondents to the survey stated they write or receive letters from their child(ren) weekly or monthly.

The BOP provided information on a parenting program, which operates under an open/exit enrollment policy available to all interested inmates. None of the women interviewed indicated they were currently or previously enrolled. The parenting program “is designed to give the opportunity to strengthen and maintain the bond and family ties between the spouse, the children, and the incarcerated parent.”⁷ The parenting class entitled, “How to be a Responsible Mother”, is a 12 session course, and the stated goal is “to enlighten and give all participants a clear

⁵ U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons Program Statement OPI: RSD/FOB Number 5200.02 Female Offender Manual November 23, 2016 <https://www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/5200.02.pdf>

⁶ Critical Issues Impacting Women in the Justice System: A Literature Review National Institutes of Correction July, 2014 <https://nicic.gov/sites/default/files/033010.pdf>

⁷ SFF Hazelton, Bruceton Mills, WV, Education Department handout “Parenting Program” page 2

understanding of how to nurture, protect, raise, and love their children from the time of their incarceration until their release home.”⁸ A pre-test consisting of ten true or false questions is administered, as well as a mid-term exam consisting of ten true or false questions, six open ended questions, and four fill in the blank questions. Students must achieve a score of at least 75% on the final exam, which consists of twenty-five true or false questions, four open ended questions, and fifteen fill in the blank questions.⁹

The 4-H LIFE program began at SFF Hazelton during the end of 2016 but was discontinued due to the lack of volunteers. The 4-H LIFE program was “ a partnership between land grant university extension agents, corrections, and 4-H volunteer mentors” guiding families “in education, fun activities held during monthly 4-H Family Clue meetings, and quarterly meetings between the incarcerated parent, custodial parent, and child in the prison visiting room.”¹⁰

There is limited re-entry programming focused on family reintegration upon release. There are also no links to supportive mental health or trauma-informed resources within the community.

Communication

Mail Correspondence

All of the DC inmates at SFF Hazelton expressed concerns about the current mail room practices. A memo was issued by the Complex Warden on July 2, 2019 stating that all general correspondence must be single faced on 8.5 x 11 paper, and that all general correspondence, including photographs, will be photocopied.¹¹ Inmates only receive the photocopy, and may not receive any correspondence on card stock or construction paper. During the CIC’s visit, the Warden stressed that the policy was implemented due to a significant increase in attempts to introduce contraband. The inmates were particularly concerned about the policy of photocopying and subsequently disposing of highly treasured family photographs.

Telephone Usage

The cost for a 15-minute long-distance phone call is \$3.15. Eight of 15 women (53.3%) reported speaking weekly on the phone with their children. An additional five (33.3%) reported speaking monthly on the phone with their children. Four women (21%) stated that they did not have access to the telephone while in SHU.

Email

Inmates at SFF Hazelton have access to email through CorrLinks, which is the email server on the TRULINCS software platform used by the BOP. The cost to access CorrLinks is \$0.05 per minute.

⁸ SFF Hazelton, Bruceton Mills, WV, Education Department handout “Parenting Program” page 2

⁹ SFF Hazelton, Bruceton Mills, WV, Education Department handout “Parenting Program” page 2

¹⁰ Memorandum for S. Kallis, Warden from M. Tompkins, Supervisor of Education Subject: 4-H LIFE Project Visitation dated March 3, 2017

¹¹ Notice to the Inmate Population July 2, 2019

Recreation

The SFF Hazelton Recreation Department has the capacity to host a variety of leisure activities, art and hobby crafts, and wellness programs. There are organized and informal sports, physical fitness exercises, painting, and classes, such as basic drawing and basic painting, and basic, intermediate, and advanced guitar. The facility also has a large recreation yard, as well as stationary exercise equipment.

Meals

The CIC did not tour the dining hall, because staff and inmates reported that inmates have been eating from trays inside of their housing units since mid-June. Hazelton follows the standard BOP menu and provides pre-packed special diets to inmates, including heart healthy meals, kosher meals, or “no flesh-meals” i.e. vegetarian meals. Several women noted the over-reliance on sandwiches and cold meals due to the current practice of eating in their housing units.

Commissary

The standard commissary list for SFF Hazelton carries a variety of items: stamps, batteries, electronics, food, beverages, snacks, cosmetics, feminine hygiene products, hair care items, clothing, shoes, dental care items, over the counter medications, office supplies, recreational items, and religious items, including hijabs, prayer rugs, and shawls. The Bureau of Prisons also provides a Standardized Transgender Commissary sheet, which contains a variety of clothing items, hair products, cosmetics, skin care, and hygiene items.

Several of the women noted two primary concerns about commissary. Their first concern is the limitation on spending imposed as mass punishment (*see page 11*). Their second concern is the favoritism showed by the inmates assigned to distribute commissary. Several women said those in charge of distributing commissary hold back highly desired items for either themselves or inmates willing to provide favors or additional money: “Commissary is run poorly; you have to wait long periods of time because the [inmates] that pay [bribes to] commissary workers [get their items] first. It’s the system, the same as the streets.”

While in the SHU, inmates are able to purchase a very limited number of items from the commissary, none of which are food or beverage items. The only items on the commissary available to the women in the SHU are stamps, over the counter medications, feminine products, and one type of reading glasses.

Religious Services

At the time of the CIC visit, the Chaplain was newly hired. Of the twenty-five women who indicated their religious affiliation, fifteen (60%) identified as Christian; four (16%) are Muslim; and six (24%) stated they were other. Bureau of Prison’s policy permits religious attire for women, including hijabs and jumper dresses.¹² The CIC observed a number of women wearing jumper dresses and hijabs.

¹² U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons Program Statement Religious Beliefs and Practices BOP policy OPI: CPD/RSB NUMBER: P5360.09 December 31, 2004 https://www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/5360_009.pdf

DC POPULATION

DC inmates comprise 4.98% of the total population at SFF Hazelton. In addition to being a small minority within the population, the population of women sentenced by DC is different than the overall population; almost three-quarters of the women from DC are 45 years of age or older, while less than one-quarter of the women in SFF Hazelton are 45 years or older. Ninety-six percent of the DC inmates are black, while less than 39% of the overall population is black. Of the survey participants, twenty-two identified as female, three identified as transgender male, one identified as transgender female, and three skipped the question.

DC inmates at SFF Hazelton are serving much longer sentences on average than the overall population at SFF Hazelton. Eleven of the 25 DC inmates are serving sentences of 20 years or longer. There are only 34 non-DC women at SFF Hazelton with similar extended sentences. *See Figure 1.*

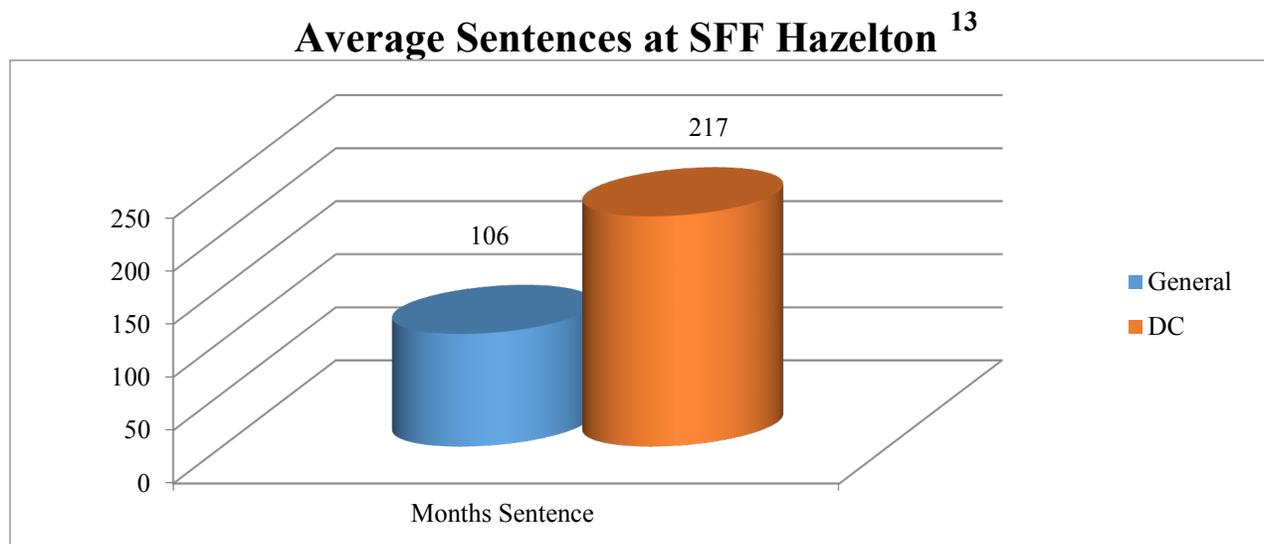


Figure 1

Average Sentence (in months)

General population: 106

DC population: 217

The length of a sentence is a significant factor when considering programming. Several of the women noted that they had previously completed the programs offered and are seeking new and different opportunities. On average, DC women are held more than twice the time of non-DC women; therefore, they need programming well beyond the current offerings.

¹³ Note: The data provided by the Bureau of Prisons on the total inmate population (502 persons) at SFF Hazelton includes the 25 women from DC. Since the DC women are included in the total, slight variances in the comparisons may exist.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Mass Punishment

All of the women expressed displeasure regarding the use of “mass punishment”—the practice of holding all residents responsible for the behaviors of a few. They believe that infractions credited to an individual should warrant individual consequences. The women were most concerned about having to eat bagged meals on the housing units, and the spending limit placed on commissary. One inmate stated, “Mass punishment! This compound has made their focus discipline and everything else has fallen by the wayside. I have been locked down for weeks, eaten cold sandwiches, had my commissary changed constantly, had my mail changed, visitation restricted, and I have never engaged in anything that’s against the rules.”

At the time of the site visit, the spending limit was \$25. BOP’s policy permits the imposition of spending limits as a method of lessening any disparities; however, it only addresses using spending limits as a disciplinary measure to restrict gambling and other activities involving payoffs.¹⁴

From September 2018 to August 2019, SFF Hazelton reported the most frequent violations of prohibited acts. *See Figure 2.*

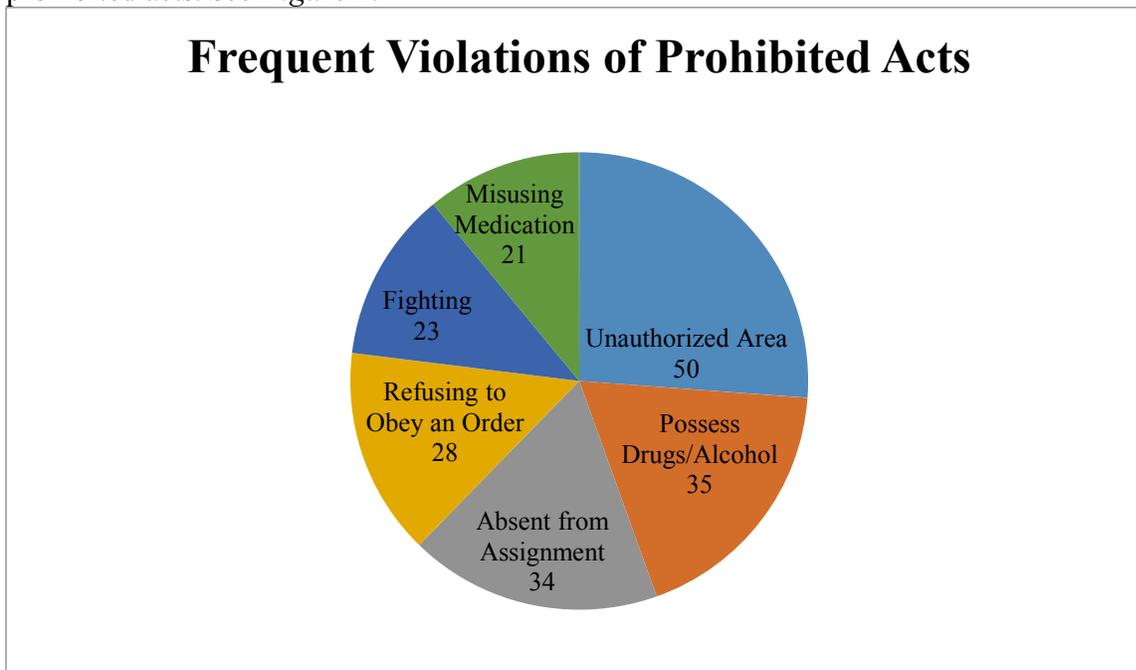


Figure 2

No explanation was given for the current or repeated use of commissary spending limits.

¹⁴ US DOJ BOP Program Statement Number 4500.12 Trust Fund/Deposit Fun Manual issued March 14, 2018. <https://www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/4500.12.pdf>

Use of Force and Restraints

Between September 2018 and August 2019, there were five uses of force, three uses of chemicals, and three uses of restraints. “Five of the calculated use of force incidents involved the same inmate who is a Care Level 2 Mental Health inmate. Restraints were used in three of these incidents to prevent the inmate from harming herself and staff”.¹⁵

Recommendation

Eliminate or limit the use of “mass punishment”.

PRODUCTIVE USE OF TIME

The Bureau of Prisons Directory of National Programs¹⁶ provides information on five education and vocational programs, including parenting; eleven psychology services programs, including the Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP) and the Resolve program; and a Life Connections Program under Chaplaincy Services programs. In addition to the national programs, institutions may offer inmate led classes referred to as Adult Continuing Education (ACE), and opportunities led by local organizations and volunteers.

Programs

The Psychology Department offers the following staff instructed programs:

- Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP) -585 participants since 2015.
- Non-Residential Drug Programming (NRES) - 1857 participants since 2015.
- Challenge Program - 505 participants since 2015.
- Resolve-518 participants since 2015; 109 participated in 2019(through October 1, 2019).¹⁷

Three of the DC women participate in the Resolve program at SFF Hazelton. The Resolve program is a cognitive-behavioral program designed to address the trauma-related mental health needs of the inmates. Specifically, the program seeks to decrease the incidence of trauma-related psychological disorders, and improve inmates’ level of functioning. In addition, the program aims to increase the effectiveness of other treatments, such as drug treatment and healthcare. The program uses a standardized treatment protocol consisting of three components: an initial psycho-educational workshop (Trauma in Life); a brief skills-based treatment group (Seeking Safety); and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, and/or a Skills Maintenance Group, which are intensive, cognitive-behavioral treatment groups designed to address persistent psychological and interpersonal difficulties. The program content focuses on the development of personal resilience, effective coping skills, emotional self-regulation, and healthy interpersonal relationships. These skills are attained through the use of educational, cognitive, behavioral, and

¹⁵ Email Correspondence from Correctional Programs Division dated October 25, 2019.

¹⁶ Federal Bureau of Prisons Directory of National Programs May 18, 2017

https://www.bop.gov/inmates/custody_and_care/docs/20170518_BOPNationalProgramCatalog.pdf

¹⁷ Email Correspondence from Correctional Programs Division dated October 25, 2019

problem-solving focused interventions. The program materials are modified to be gender responsive.¹⁸

While the program utilizes elements from several evidence-based programs, data is not available on the success of the Resolve program as implemented at SFF Hazelton. The CIC observed a session and spoke with several participants. During the presentation, the staff stated that the current waiting list for the Resolve program exceeds 60 women. The residents involved in the Resolve program spoke highly of the program during the session, but they did not provide positive or negative feedback in the interviews or surveys.

Additionally, the Psychology Department provides evidence based treatment to mentally ill and general population inmates; including - but not limited to - the following programs: Illness Management and Recovery, Anger Management, Criminal Thinking, Basic Cognitive Skills, Seeking Safety, and Dialectical Behavior Therapy.¹⁹

Education

SFF Hazelton offers programs and services in the following areas: Literacy (GED), English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, Adult Continuing Post-Secondary Education (College Correspondence), Vocational Education Programs, Parenting, Adult Continuing Education (ACE), and Career Counseling/Pre-Release (RPP).

At the time of the inspection, the Education department consisted of five classrooms and six paid education staff, five of whom are teachers. Six DC inmates are enrolled in the GED program.²⁰ The BOP reported that 20 DC women have completed the GED program. Twenty of the twenty-seven (74%) women responding to the survey said they have a high school diploma or GED. Of those, three (11.1%) reported having a college degree, and eleven reported that they received their GED while incarcerated. Seven women (25.9%) reported not having a high school diploma or GED. One woman stated that, “. . . teachers don’t teach us. They are “never” in the classroom but a couple of minutes. They leave the teaching to the inmate who doesn’t know any more than I do.”

College courses are not available on site. They are only available via correspondence. The BOP indicated that two DC women are enrolled in correspondence classes. No specificity regarding the level or content of those classes was provided. One inmate stated, “Programming is either not available or there is a year or longer waiting list.” Another inmate stated, “We don’t have any real programs that can help us advance in the real world except GED classes. I’ve tried to ask Education about college classes but to no avail.”

SFF Hazelton offers a variety of inmate taught ACE classes, which are offered in the evenings. The classes have included the following: SFF Blue Planet, SFF Geometry, SFF Setting Your Intentions, SFF Amazing Ladies, SFF Electronic Law Library, SFF Poetry, SFF Religions of the World, SFF Julius Caesar's Rome, SFF Tutor Training, SFF US Geography, SFF A Man Among

¹⁸ Email Correspondence from Correctional Programs Division dated October 25, 2019

¹⁹ Email Correspondence from Correctional Programs Division dated October 25, 2019

²⁰ Email Correspondence from Correctional Programs Division dated October 25, 2019

Men- The Presidents of the United States, SFF Creative Writing, SFF GED Preparation, SFF American History, SFF Developing Yourself As A Leader, and SFF Reading Comprehension.²¹

One inmate noted, “You have to fight tooth and nail to get into programs.” Another questioned the value of the classes saying: “I’ve taken four ACE classes since being here and out of all the classes I’ve literally learned little. Inmates teach classes to take their points down, not to really help the inmates they are teaching.”

In regard to the shortage of programs, one inmate stated, “It’s very hard to sign up. . . [after a year] you run out of classes. . . I’ve taken just about every program . . .” Another inmate stated, “The small number of classes and programs that are available fill up so quickly that a lot of the women aren’t able to participate in the programming.” A different inmate, who is involved in several programs (none of which are classified as educational), stated, “I’ve never encountered education, but programming takes too long to get into. . .”

Vocational Training

Two DC inmates are participating in vocational training and three are on the waiting list.²² The following Vocational Training programs are facilitated by BOP staff: ServSafe and Culinary Arts, Microsoft Office Beginning and Advanced, Resume Writing/Job Skills Class, Women in the 21st Century, and Parenting: How To Be A Responsible Mother. There is also a partnership with Pierpont Community College to provide training resulting in an Administrative Assistant certificate.

A contract between Pierpont Community and Technical College and the BOP signed on August 14, 2019 refers to an AOE Administrative Assistant Program for FCC Hazelton from August 2019 until September 2019. None of the DC inmates participated in the program, and there was no on-site evidence of the program. When describing the program, staff at SFF Hazelton said that the program existed at one time during the past year, but they were not sure if it was going to resume.

Employment

There are limited opportunities for employment: housekeeping, laundry services, kitchen services, and commissary.

Preparation for Re-Entry

While only six of the women interviewed were within 24 months of being released, fourteen have participated in programs focused on reentry or pre-release planning. Seven of the women have spoken with their unit team about halfway house eligibility. Twenty-two of the twenty-eight women (78.57%) have received information about reentry resources in the community. Nineteen women said that DC government agencies reached out to them regarding programs, services, and treatment available upon release.

²¹ Email Correspondence from Correctional Programs Division dated October 25, 2019

²² Email Correspondence from Correctional Programs Division dated October 25, 2019

The pre-release planning appears dependent upon DC agencies who contact people inside of the institution. One inmate noted, “When people come from DC to help, it is very helpful; the staff here doesn’t seem to care.” Staff of the BOP reported the following about release preparation resources primarily made available by the efforts of DC agencies and organizations:

- DC Informational Resource Fairs - Participants have ranged from MORCA representatives, MBI Health Services, the DC Office on the Aging, the Office of Human Rights, Voices for a Second Chance, the W.I.R.E., Hope Foundation, Medicaid Enrollment Specialists, Thrive DC, Inner Voices, Cease Fire, Inc., the Department of Corrections Portal of Entry, the Board of Elections, the Department of Behavioral Health, the U.S. Parole Commission, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), Friendship Place, National Association for the Advancement of Returning Citizens (NAARC), and Substance Abuse and Recovery agencies.
- Participation in Institutional Mock Job/Transition Fairs -MORCA representatives and partners, such as the DC Office of the Aging and CSOSA staff, participate as they are available. Other agencies participating and offering information to all offenders who participate include: U.S. Probation staff, Oxford House (Sober Living Homes), Workforce WV, Dismas Charities RRC, Renewal Inc., RRC, the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans Outreach Specialists, KISRA, Pierpont Community and Technical College, and Clay-Battelle Health Services Agency.
- CSOSA Community Resource Day Video Conferences - Various agencies present reentry information to DC offenders, ranging from the Mayor's Office on Returning Citizens Affairs (MORCA), the University of D.C. Community College Workforce Development Office, Vocational Opportunities, Training, Education and Employment, D.C. Central Kitchen, to Housing Counseling Services.
- Catholic Charities Welcome Home Reentry Program - A Reentry Coordinator speaks to offenders about mentoring and reentry resources for offenders returning to Maryland and Washington, DC. Topics of discussion include SmartTrip cards, clothing vouchers, housing referrals, education referrals, GED fees, ID/Birth certificate assistance, workforce development referrals, and employment and substance abuse referrals.
- Family Reunifications Trips - A family/relationship strengthening event sponsored by MORCA and coordinated with the Reentry Affairs office. These trips consist of free transportation for family members and loved ones of those incarcerated from the DC area to visit at FCC Hazelton during regular visitation days/hours.
- WRAP video conference - A CSOSA-sponsored video conference for Women Returning After Pretrial/Probation/Parole (WRAP) to highlight community based services for DC women to aid in re-stabilization and reducing recidivism.
- DC and MD Reentry Resources Workshops - Reentry Specialists from the Maryland AUSA's office facilitate workshops to provide reentry resource information to offenders releasing to the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia.

DC offenders are also welcome to participate in various opportunities open to the general population, which are coordinated throughout the year, and include the following: the U.S. Department of Labor, ex-offender motivational speakers, child support video conferences, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Workforce Development, Fair Shake Reentry Resource Network, United Summit Center - Peer Recovery Coaching, Veterans Court information presentation, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.²³

There is no formal process for ensuring that inmates are directly linked to mental health services or parenting programs upon release.

Recommendation

Increase programming opportunities, such as the Resolve Program, and prioritize efforts to reduce lengthy waiting lists.

LIVING CONDITIONS

Housing

SFF Hazelton has four housing units supervised by 18 unit staff. As of October 22, 2019, there were 114 triple bunk cells and a total of 343 (68.3%) inmates that were triple bunked.²⁴ Nearly seven out of ten inmates share a cell with two additional women, which has a square footage adequate to house two women.

The American Correctional Association (ACA) noted during its March 2018 site inspection of the Hazelton Correctional Complex that “the Secure Female Facility houses inmates in two or three person cells. As a result, they do not meet standard 4-4132 as it affords 50.9 square feet of unencumbered space, not the 75 sq. feet required. Ninety-nine cells have triple occupancy, 131 have double occupancy, 16 have single occupancy.”²⁵ One inmate stated: “It is impossible for 3 women to live sanely and comfortably in these small cells. It causes fights and disagreements. The constant lock downs are inhumane.” Additionally, several of the women stated that they were uncomfortable sharing living quarters with transgendered individuals or inmates that identify as male.

The number of triple occupancy cells has increased from 99 to 114 - a 15% increase in triple bunking after being cited by the ACA for not meeting standard 4-4132.

Recommendation

Eliminate triple bunking.

²³ Email Correspondence from Correctional Programs Division dated October 25, 2019

²⁴ Email Correspondence from Correctional Programs Division dated October 25, 2019

²⁵ American Correctional Association Accreditation Report Federal Correctional Compound Hazelton March 20-22, 2018 page 8

Restrictive Housing/ SHU

The Special Housing Unit (SHU), also referred to as segregated or restrictive housing, is designed to securely separate inmates from the general inmate population. In the BOP, inmates placed in the SHU are housed in two-person cells. The two categories of Special Housing are administrative detention²⁶ and disciplinary segregation.²⁷ According to BOP policy, an inmate may be placed in administrative detention for the following reasons:

- a) Pending classification or reclassification of custody level;
- b) Holdover status while awaiting redesignation to another facility;
- c) Investigation of alleged violation of agency regulation or criminal law;
- d) Awaiting transfer to another facility;
- e) Administrative detention for the inmate's own protection; or
- f) Post-disciplinary detention.

Disciplinary segregation is a form of separation from the general population for a specified period of time. The Discipline Hearing Officer (DHO) orders disciplinary segregation for inmates who commit serious violations of BOP rules. The DHO can impose the sanction of disciplinary segregation if she or he determines that no other available course of action will adequately punish that inmate to deter her or him from violating BOP rules again. An inmate may be placed in disciplinary segregation only by the order of the DHO following a hearing in which it was determined that the inmate violated a BOP rule in the Greatest, High, or Moderate categories, or committed a repeat offense in the Low Moderate category.²⁸

Inmates in the SHU are generally confined to their cells for 23 to 24 hours a day. BOP policy provides for five hours of recreation time per week, which ordinarily should occur in one-hour periods on separate days.²⁹ Plans to increase recreation time are developed locally at each institution.³⁰ Inmates are also permitted to receive one non-contact visit³¹ per month and make one 15-minute phone call per month. Inmates may be allowed to make additional calls in the event of an emergency or death.

Staff report that an average stay in restrictive housing (SHU) is 20 days. Fourteen women indicated that their maximum stay in the SHU was less than three months, while one individual reported that she was held for more than a year. Nine (37.5%) of the women stated they had never been in the SHU. Inmates reported that a majority received showers (77.78%); access to telephones (63.16%); and library services, and reading and writing materials (57.89%). Several inmates stated that the temperature is extremely cold in the SHU, and requests for a second blanket are denied.

²⁶ Fed. Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Dep't of Justice, Program Statement No. 5270.10, Special Housing Units (Nov. 23, 2016). https://www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/5270_011.pdf

²⁷ Disciplinary segregation is imposed as a sanction for violations of BOP rules and regulations.

²⁸ Guide to Segregation in Federal Prisons

http://www.washlaw.org/pdf/Guide_to_Segregation_in_Federal_Prisons.pdf

²⁹ Fed. Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Dep't of Justice, Program Statement No. 5270.11, Special Housing Units (Nov. 23, 2016). https://www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/5270_011.pdf

³⁰ Fed. Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Dep't of Justice, Program Statement No. 5270.11, Special Housing Units (Nov. 23, 2016). https://www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/5270_011.pdf

³¹ Non-contact visit is not defined: could be face to face, through glass, or via video

HEALTH SERVICES

Mental Health Care

SFF Hazelton is a Mental Health Care Level 3 facility.³² Care Level 3 inmates are fragile outpatients with mental health conditions that require daily to monthly clinical contact. These inmates may have chronic or recurrent mental illnesses or ongoing cognitive impairments that require daily to monthly psychiatric health services or psychology contacts to maintain outpatient status. These inmates may also require assistance in performing some activities of daily living, but do not require daily nursing care. Inmates in this care level may periodically require hospitalization to stabilize the inmate's medical or mental health condition. Five of the 25 DC women five have mental health diagnoses.

The Psychology Services Department at the Hazelton Complex (SFF, FCI, and USP) consists of 24 mental health services staff. Eight of the 24 are specifically assigned to SFF Hazelton. However, there is currently a 50% vacancy rate in the Psychology Services Department at SFF Hazelton: there are three psychologists, one social worker, and four vacant positions.

Mental Health Medications

When asked about medication for mental health, 25 DC women responded. 14 (56%) indicated they were currently taking mental health medications. One inmate commented, "The medical staff here makes us feel as though we are an inconvenience to them; they constantly cancel sick calls. There is no medical staff available after 4 p.m. on this compound, which is unsafe. I stopped taking my [psychiatric] meds in February, and not one staff member has questioned it."

Suicide & Para-Suicidal Gestures

SFF Hazelton reported no suicides during the 2019 calendar year, and six suicide admissions in the last 12 month period. The CIC was not permitted to view the suicide watch area since an inmate was under observation. The average length of time on suicide watch is 96 hours (4 days). The institution did not provide data on the number or nature of suicide attempts or gestures.

Several inmates were profoundly impacted by the suicide of an inmate during January 2018, which affected them individually, and impaired the morale of the overall female population. In response to the question "what, if any, services were put in place to help the women cope with the inmate suicide which occurred January 2018", a BOP representative wrote, "Counseling services were offered to all inmates and Psychology Services enhanced their availability by increasing rounds and standing mainline. In addition, a Psychologist met with inmates known to associate with or have a close relationship with inmate who died."³³

³² BOP Mental Health Care Levels CIC Info Sheet

https://cic.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cic/page_content/attachments/BOP%20Mental%20Health%20Care%20Levels%205.17.17.pdf

³³ Email Correspondence from Correctional Programs Division dated October 25, 2019

Medical Care

SFF Hazelton is a Medical Health Care Level 2 facility.³⁴ Inmates with Care Level 2 needs are those who are stable outpatients, requiring at least quarterly clinician evaluations. Examples of such conditions are medication-controlled diabetes, epilepsy, and emphysema. There are 53 full time, 12 part time, and 3 remote health care staff on the Hazelton complex. At SFF Hazelton, there is a total of five medical staff: 1 medical doctor (MD), 1 Contract medical doctor (MD), 1 Physician's Assistant (PA), 1 contract Physician's Assistant, and one Registered Nurse (RN). The one contract doctor (MD) floats throughout the Hazelton Complex and serves SFF Hazelton every Tuesday and two additional days a week twice a month.³⁵ Institutional staff reported that medical staff is on-site, seven-days a week. Inmates said that no medical staff are available after 3 pm on weekdays, or any time during the weekend. Inmates reported that the health services department is chronically understaffed, and appointments are frequently cancelled. Inmates and staff reported excessive waiting periods for medical care.

Respondents indicated that medical and psychological services were equally accessible (69.57%).

One inmate commented:

You have to be halfway dead to be seen. I have had mental issues since 10 years old and I am not being treated now. When I tell psychology I need to be seen they tell me to put in a sick call. When you put in a sick call its cancelled or they pick the ones they feel need medical care or attention. After 3:00 there is no medical staff so you are to fend on your own if staff don't feel your medical is serious.

Another noted, "Sick call is constantly being cancelled, inmates are being turned away and told to wait until chronic care which is every six months." More than a majority (60.87%) of the women surveyed and interviewed indicated that they did not have access to gynecological services. A third inmate stated, "I've been here 1 year and three months and have yet to see the gynecologist. Also it takes up to 2-3 years in order to get your teeth cleaned."

Dental Care

Dental services at SFF Hazelton are provided on-site. Inmates and staff reported excessive waiting periods. The staff consists of one dentist, one hygienist, and one dental assistant. There are currently no vacancies. The data on accessibility to dental services was mixed 52.17% of the women surveyed responded no when asked if they have access to dental services. According to dental staff at SFF Hazelton, there is a three year wait for cleaning services. One inmate commented:

I feel that our needs here are not being listened to at all. I've been had a problem with a tooth being pulled for over a year. The past few months the dentist has been trying to

³⁴ BOP Medical Health Care Levels CIC Info Sheet

https://cic.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cic/page_content/attachments/BOP%20Medical%20Care%20Levels%2005.17.17.pdf

³⁵ Email Correspondence from Correctional Programs Division dated January 8, 2020

help me . . . Dental asked for me to have oral work done, but it was denied. I've been in a lot of pain taking a lot of pain reliever . . . It may be infected again. I'm afraid of what the pain pills are doing to other parts of my body . . . I've been having a lot of pain in my arms. . .

Recommendation

Shorten lengthy wait times for medical and dental care by increasing medical and dental staff.

STAFF

The institution is under new leadership, and several key personnel have been assigned to Hazelton fairly recently. Inmates repeatedly spoke about staff turnover and staff shortages. At the beginning of September 2019, there were 50 vacant positions; twenty were Correctional Officers positions.³⁶ Staff shortages impact the inmates because staff members have to perform their assigned duties and the duties of vacant positions. All positive comments from inmates about unit staff referenced staff members who are assigned full time to the SFF, and do not rotate to the other facilities on the complex.

The BOP calculates the inmate to staff ratio by dividing the total staff (774) of the entire Hazelton complex by the total inmate population (2,319) of the complex, which equates to an inmate to staff ratio of 1 staff member for every 2.99 inmates. Staffing figures specific to SFF Hazelton are difficult to ascertain. A BOP representative stated: "The SFF Administrator is permanently assigned to the SFF. Because the SFF is part of a Correctional Complex, Correctional Officer posts in the Complex, including at the SFF, are bid upon on a quarterly basis, based on seniority. Correctional Officer posts can be re-assigned at any time. Correctional Programs staff, i.e. the Unit Team may be re-assigned for various reasons, e.g. staff promotions, transfers, etc. . . , based on the staffing needs of the institution. However, Unit Team staff at the SFF have been in place for over a year."³⁷

The BOP is unable to determine what percentage of time is spent at SFF (as opposed to other facilities on the complex) for each of the positions, including those on the vacancy list.

The Hazelton Complex is reportedly known as "Misery Mountain", where staff rotates in order to "get their promotion to move up and out". Inmates provided both positive and negative feedback about staff members. One counselor was singled out repeatedly for being helpful, while one particular officer was singled out repeatedly for planting drugs during room inspections.

Harassment & Abuse by Staff

Fifty-five percent of the women who completed a survey reported abuse and harassment by staff. They reported staff remarks that are racist, ageist, sexist, anti-Islamic, homophobic, and sexual. Several inmates commented on the staff's treatment of women. One woman stated: "[staff] wouldn't talk to men half as bad as they talk to us, officers respect the men more. Some officers

³⁶ HAZ Staffing Report Pay Period 18 (9/1/19—9/14/19) provided by the BOP.

³⁷ Email Correspondence from Correctional Programs Division dated October 25, 2019

treat us like we're nothing.” They also reported staff bias and racism. One inmate noted that staff referred to religious head wear as “that thing on your head” in reference to a hijab.

Two of the women noted that they were obligated to purchase rain gear from the commissary then not permitted to wear it, and thus were wet, cold, and uncomfortable when walking unprotected in the rain. One inmate noted, “[We] have to walk to [the] dining room in pouring rain with no head gear or jackets and get soaked.”

Reporting Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment

Only one DC woman reported the sexual abuse or sexual harassment she experienced by staff while at SFF Hazelton. Five years ago (August 26, 2015), the CIC investigation revealed significant concerns about male officers invading inmates’ privacy, including viewing the female inmates undressed inside of their cells.

Recommendation

Mandate that all corrections officers receive training focused on gender specific mental health and trauma. Assure that staffing responsibilities are filled by officers who have undergone trainings relative to the populations with whom they are working.

GRIEVANCES

Sixteen DC residents interviewed have used the grievance process at SFF Hazelton.

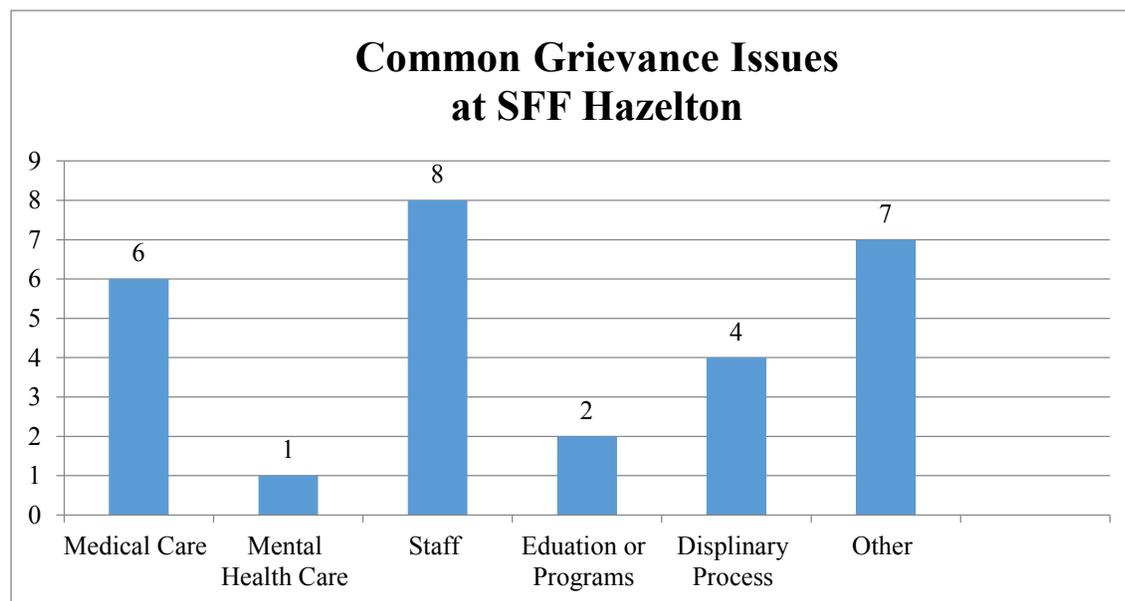


Figure 3 The number of grievances filed by survey respondents at SFF Hazelton.

The Administrative Remedy Program in the Federal Bureau of Prisons, commonly referred to as the grievance procedure, allows inmates to seek a formal review of complaints related to their confinement. Typically, the process provides four levels of review to resolve inmate complaints.

The grievance process usually begins by completing a BP-8 form (also known as an informal complaint or cop-out), and giving it to a staff member.

After attempting the informal resolution above, an inmate may initiate a formal complaint by completing a Request for Administrative Remedy (BP-9), and giving it to the Warden. The BP-9 must be completed within 20 calendar days from the date of the incident, unless it is not feasible, which should be explained in the complaint. If an inmate's request is not rejected by the institution, but the inmate is still not satisfied with the Warden's response, the inmate may file a Regional Administrative Remedy Appeal (BP-10) within 20 calendar days of the Warden's response.³⁸ If still seeking redress, the inmate may file a Central Office Appeal (BP-11).

Comments about the Grievance Process:

"Most issues can be resolved in house with an 8."

"I don't know what grievance means."

"Staff ignores or fails to return the paperwork"

"After writing up staff we are retaliated against or placed in solitary confinement."

"The counselor you have determines how smooth the process goes. My counselor helps it go rather smoothly. As for receiving an answer from the warden - that is very scarce."

The Administrative Remedies Tracking Data on BP-9, BP-10, and B-P11 from Hazelton includes filings by the women at SFF Hazelton and the men at FCI Hazelton without distinguishing between the two. The most frequently cited issues on the grievance forms at the Institutional level are medical care, staff, and classification matters. The most frequently cited issues raised to the regional level from Hazelton are housing appeals, complaints about staff, and medical care. The most frequently cited issues raised to the National Office level from Hazelton are housing appeals, complaints about staff, and classification matters.³⁹

³⁸ FBOP Administrative Remedy Program, DC Corrections Information Council
https://cic.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cic/page_content/attachments/BOP%20Administrative%20Remedies%2011.15.17%20REVISED.pdf

³⁹ Data on Institutional (BP-9), Regional Office (BP-10), and Central Office (BP-11) Office of Research and Evaluation September 12, 2019.

Appendix A: Demographics of DC Population

The table below provides an overview of the inmate demographics at SFF Hazelton provided by the BOP as of August 2019.

Facility Population Demographics

		Total	%	DC	%
Population	Facility Population	502	100.0%	25	100.0%
Age	18-24	44	8.8%	0	0 %
	25-34	199	39.6%	6	24 %
	35-44	141	28.1%	6	24%
	45-54	72	14.3%	7	50.6 %
	55-64	33	6.6%	4	16 %
	65+	13	2.6%	2	8 %
	<i>Average</i>	<i>37.2 years</i>	-	<i>45.2 years</i>	-
Race	White	275	58.8%	1	4 %
	Black	194	38.6%	24	96 %
	Asian/Pacific Islander	2	0.4%	0	0.0%
	American Indian	11	2.2 %	0	0.0%
Ethnicity	Hispanic	55	11%	1	4.0%
	Non-Hispanic	447	89%	24	96%
Citizenship	USA	475	94.6%	24	96%
	Foreign	27	5.4%	1	4.0%
Legal Residence	USA	480	95.6%	24	96 %
	Foreign	22	4.4%	1	4 %
Religion	American Indian	25	5 %	0	0.0%
	Catholic	36	7.2%	1	4.0%
	Muslim	36	7.2%	5	20 %
	Protestant	105	20.9%	12	48 %
	Other	43	8.6%	2	8 %
	No Preference	252	50.2%	5	20 %
Security Classification	Minimum	15	3%	0	0.0%
	Low	486	96.8%	25	100 %
	Medium	1	0.2%	0	0.0%
	High	0	0%	0	0.0%
Offense	Drugs	219	43.6%	1	4 %
	Weapons/Explosives	53	10.6%	0	%
	Homicide/Aggravated Assault	28	5.6%	18	72 %
	Burglary/Larceny	47	9.4%	2	8 %
	Counterfeit/Embezzlement	3	0.6%	0	0.0%
	Court/Corrections	7	1.4%	0	0.0%

	Immigration	5	1%	0	0.0%
	Fraud/Bribery/Extortion	57	11.4%	0	0.0%
	Sex Offenses	44	8.8%	1	4 %
	National Security	1	0.2%	0	0.0%
	Robbery	24	4.8%	2	8 %
	Miscellaneous	8	1.6%	1	4.0%
	Continuing Criminal Enterprise	2	0.4%	0	0.0%
	Missing	4	0.8%	0	0.0%
History of Violence	None	255	50.8%	11	44%
	Minor <5 years ago	94	18.7%	3	12 %
	Minor 5-10 years ago	31	6.2%	2	8 %
	Minor 10+ years ago	20	4%	1	4 %
	Serious <5 years ago	29	5.8%	0	0%
	Serious 5-10 years ago	27	5.4%	1	4 %
	Serious 10-15 years ago	25	5%	2	8 %
	Serious 15+ years ago	21	4.2%	4	16%
Sentence Imposed	0-12 months (misdemeanor)	23	4.6%	1	4%
	12-35 months	88	17.5%	3	12.%
	36-59 months	77	15.3%	2	8.0%
	60-119 months	151	30.1%	5	20 %
	120-179 months	79	15.7%	2	8 %
	180-239 months	35	7%	1	4 %
	240+ months	34	6.8%	7	28 %
	Life	11	2.2%	4	16 %
	Missing	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	<i>Average</i>	<i>106 months</i>	-	<i>217 months</i>	-
Sentence Served	0-25%	124	24.7%	6	24 %
	26-75%	319	63.5%	14	56%
	76-90%	40	8%	1	4 %
	91%+	3	0.6%	0	0.0%
	Missing	16	3.2%	4	16 %
Project Time Left to Serve	4 months or less	63	12.5%	2	8 %
	5-8 months	56	11.2%	1	4 %
	9-12 months	30	6 %	1	4 %
	13-24 months	83	16.5%	2	8 %
	25-60 months	119	23.7%	4	16 %
	61-120 months	85	16.9%	5	20%
	121+ months	50	10%	6	24%
	Missing	16	3.2%	4	16 %

Appendix B: Administrative Remedy Filings

The table below provides an overview of the categories with the most numerous administrative remedy filings submitted at each level regarding SFF Hazelton between September 2018 and August 2019.

Facility Level (BP-9s)					
	Submitted	Rejected	Filed	Answered	Granted
Medical-Exc Forced Medical Treatment	95	36	59	56	5
Staff/Others - Complaints	59	38	21	21	0
UDC/RRC Actions	55	34	21	20	0
Classification Matters	37	17	20	17	0
Operations, Institution	29	19	10	10	0
Mail Communication	27	9	18	14	0
Community/Pre-Release Programs	22	9	13	13	1
Transfer—Request/Objection	21	12	9	8	0
Regional Office (BP-10s)					
	Submitted	Rejected	Filed	Answered	Granted
DHO/CDC/Cont. Housing Appeals	137	76	61	47	8
Staff/Others-Complaints	66	60	6	6	0
Medical-Exc Forced Treatment	34	15	19	18	1
Classification Matters	19	10	9	9	0
Central Office (BP-11s)					
	Submitted	Rejected	Filed	Answered	Granted
DHO/CDC/Cont. Housing Appeals	29	14	15	9	0
Staff/Others Complaints	12	10	2	2	0
Classification Complaints	9	5	4	1	0
Medical - Exc. Forced Treatment	8	4	4	2	0
Program Institution	5	3	2	1	0

Appendix C: Methodology

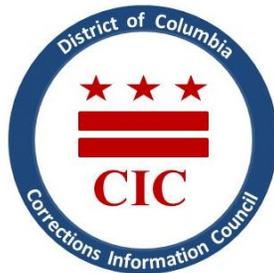
In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CIC and the BOP that requires at least 30 days' notice of an inspection, the CIC notified the BOP on July 16, 2019 of its request to inspect SFF Hazelton, including a tour of all areas to which inmates have access, discussions with staff, and confidential interviews with DC inmates. Prior to the onsite inspection, the CIC communicated with DC inmates at SFF Hazelton, informing them of the upcoming inspection and offering them the opportunity for a confidential interview with a member of the CIC.

The CIC conducted an onsite inspection of SFF Hazelton on August 14-15, 2019. In preparation for the site visit, the BOP provided demographic and other data on the 25 DC residents with DC code offenses. At the end of the tour, the CIC spoke to all DC inmates to offer each individual the opportunity to fill out a survey and speak with a member of the CIC. The CIC interviewed twenty-nine (29) inmates on August 14-15, 2019. Of the twenty-nine, twenty-five were DC residents with DC code offenses, two were DC residents with federal offenses and two were Maryland residents with DC code offenses.

After the inspection, the surveys were compiled using SurveyMonkey, a business intelligence tool, with unique identifiers used instead of individual names to protect confidentiality. Charts and other analysis do not include non-responses, and the total number of respondents for a particular question is noted on each chart. Extended responses from the surveys were compiled with comments from other forms of communications with DC inmates at the facility, and were used to inform analysis and provide context in applicable sections.

In addition to the onsite inspection, survey data, and communication with individuals incarcerated at the facility, the CIC reviewed general inmate and facility data related to inmate population and demographics, facility staffing, significant incidents, urine surveillance, and disciplinary records. The CIC also reviewed an education report, dining menus, commissary lists, the Admissions and Orientation Handbook, the most recent ACA audit, the most recent Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) report, and administrative remedy filings and responses at the facility, Regional Office, and Central Office levels.

The CIC provided the BOP with a draft version of the report for review of factual information and an opportunity to respond to follow-up questions and any other information in the report. The BOP responses to the CIC draft report are included in at the end of this report.



**District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council**

The electronic version of this report
is available on the CIC website:
<http://www.cic.dc.gov/>



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Washington, DC 20534

March 31, 2020

Donald Isaac, Executive Director
DC Corrections Information Council
1400 I Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Isaac:

This letter is in response to the draft inspection report received on March 2, 2020, regarding the August 14-15, 2019, visit to the Secure Female Facility (SFF) Hazelton. The Bureau of Prisons recognizes the value of the Corrections Information Council (CIC) inspections of its facilities and the voice it provides the D.C. Superior Court inmates. We hope to continue working closely to improve the Bureau facilities and raise awareness with regard to those inmates' needs.

The Bureau is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our staff, the public and all inmates in our population. Allegations of misconduct are thoroughly investigated and based on the findings, appropriate action is taken, if necessary.

I offer the following responses to the statements and recommendations in the report:

- 1. The draft report recommends:** Eliminate or limit the use of "mass punishment." The women interviewed stated that a current practice is to punish all inmates for the infractions of a few. Examples of mass punishment include lowering the limit on spending for commissary; eating on the units rather than in the dining hall; mail restrictions, including photocopying letters and photographs; and unit level "lockdowns."

Response: The decision to restrict eating areas, spending limits, and securing an institution is one that is never taken lightly. It is only done when absolutely necessary to maintain the safe and secure running of the institution. The primary objective is to investigate what necessitated an event and to determine how best to prevent it from happening in the future. The need for a type of restriction will always be dictated by the nature, duration and magnitude of each situation. The goal remains to return to normal

operating procedures as expeditiously as possible following the conclusion of any necessitating event.

As for mail restrictions, the Correctional Systems staff process all mail on a daily basis and ensure it is delivered the same day. In attempt to reduce the amount of contraband introduced through the mailroom, parameters have been implemented to ensure the safety and security of the institution for inmates and staff. For example, photographs printed on paper (as opposed to photograph paper) are photocopied. In addition greeting cards, colored paper and scented paper are no longer allowed; as well as colored/painted pictures, as the aforementioned have all contributed to the introduction of contraband and affects the orderly operation of the institution. Inmates were notified via TRULINCS prior to the implementation of this measure and advised to inform their friends and family of this change.

- 2. The draft report recommends:** Increase programming opportunities, such as the Resolve Program, and prioritize efforts to reduce lengthy waiting lists. The women interviewed spoke about the lack of programming. Seven women specifically noted that they were not participating in any programs due to a lack of availability and a desire for additional programs. Three DC women are participating in the Resolve Program, which focuses on women's trauma; however, there is a long waiting list.

Response: SFF Hazelton is in compliance with Program Statement 5300.21, Education, Training and Leisure Time Program Standards, and recently added a number of programs to assist inmates with their transition back into society. This includes, the First Step Act recognized National Parenting from Prison Program Phase I and Phase II. Additionally, beginning June 2020, SFF Hazelton will introduce the Female Integrated Treatment (FIT) program to its institution. It will accommodate 240 inmates into the program. The FIT program is a unit-based therapeutic program, which addresses the specific needs of women. The FIT Program integrates treatment for trauma, substance abuse, and mental health, while also focusing on work and family-related issues, ultimately preparing women for a successful transition into society.

- 3. The draft report recommends:** Eliminate triple bunking. As of October 22, 2019, 343 of the 502 inmates were tripled bunked.

Response: As of November 26, 2019, a memorandum approving a population of 384 inmates for SFF Hazelton-General Population was approved by the Correctional Programs Assistant Director. This cap will enable the facility to discontinue the use of triple bunks.

- 4. The draft report recommends:** Shorten lengthy wait times for medical and dental care by increasing medical and dental staff. Medical and Dental Services: The women and staff reported excessive waiting periods and limited staff for medical and dental care. The medical and dental staff rotate amongst the facilities within the Hazelton complex.

Response: SFF ensures medical and dental care is triaged in order of emergency, and the most serious clinical problems are addressed first. We are always seeking to recruit medical and dental professionals, but have historically had difficulty filling these positions. Nonetheless, we have increased our dental staff to nearly the recommended numbers. We usually have dental staff on-site at each facility most days of the week. We have had more challenges filling the medical staff positions, especially physicians. We have one staff physician and one contract physician for the entire complex. Multiple avenues are being utilized to recruit more physicians and mid-level providers. We have renovated our sick-call process to maximize the available staff and address patient concerns, as soon as possible.

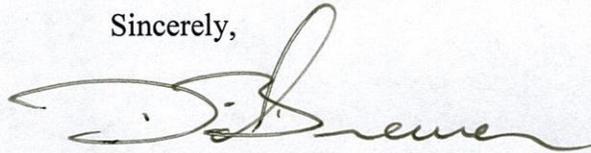
5. **The draft report recommends:** Mandate that all corrections officers receive training focused on gender specific mental health and trauma. Assure that staffing responsibilities are filled by officers who have undergone trainings relative to the populations with whom they are working. Staffing is based upon the needs of the Hazelton complex, rather than the needs of the inmates at the SFF. Correctional officers can be reassigned at any time without prior training on the specific needs of the population.

Response: Every officer at FCC Hazelton has undergone Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) trainings relative to the populations with whom they are working. TIC training is an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma. The Trauma-Informed Correctional Care training is provided to every new staff member prior to working any housing unit, and it is also conducted annually during staff annual training.

I appreciate the opportunity to review and provide comments to your inspection report regarding SFF Hazelton.

Please contact me at (202) 353-3638, if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Brewer', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

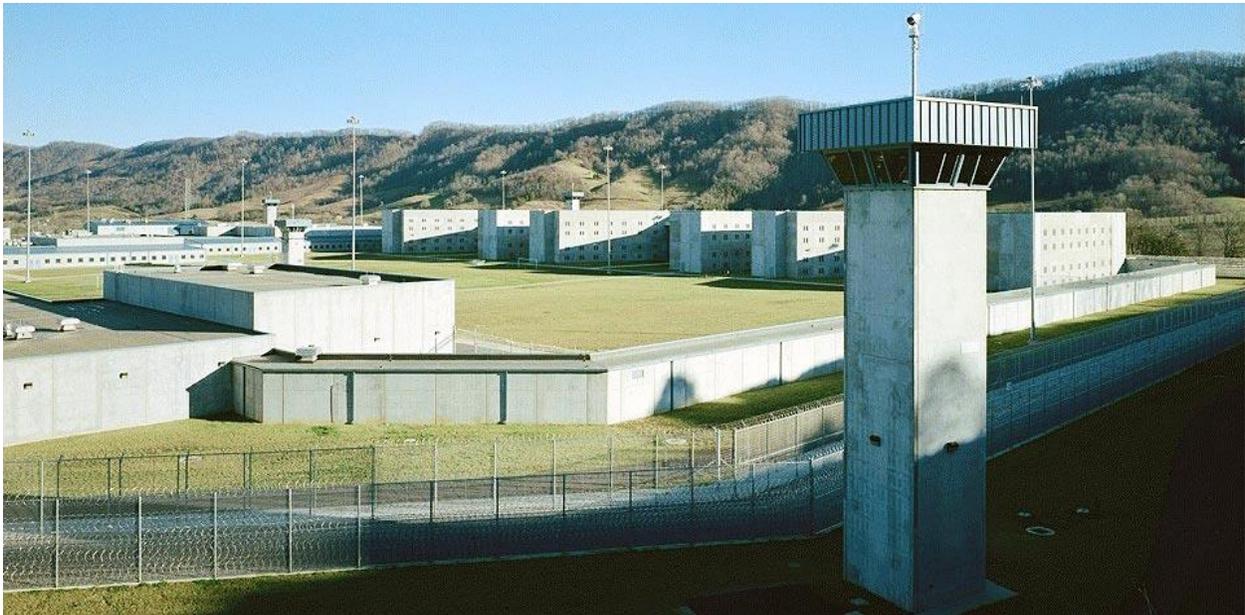
David Brewer, Administrator
Correctional Programs Branch

District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council



USP Big Sandy

Inspection Report



USP Big Sandy

(photo by Federal Bureau of Prisons)

October 21, 2019



District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

Charles Thornton, Board Chair
Katharine A. Huffman, Board Member
Calvin Woodland Jr., Board Member
Nkechi Taifa, Board Member
Charlie Whitaker, Board Member

About the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

The District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC) is an independent oversight body mandated by the United States Congress and the Council of the District of Columbia to inspect, monitor, and report on the conditions of confinement in correctional facilities where inmates from the District of Columbia are incarcerated. This includes facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DOC), and private contractors.

The CIC reports its observations and recommendations to the District of Columbia Representative in the United States Congress, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Council of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, the Director of the BOP, the Director of the DOC, and the community.

Although the CIC does not handle individual complaints or provide legal representation or advice, individuals are still encouraged to contact the CIC. Reports, concerns, and general information from incarcerated DC residents and the public are very important to the CIC, and they greatly inform our inspection schedule, recommendations, and reports. However, unless expressly permitted by the individuals or required by law, names and identifying information of inmates, corrections staff not in leadership, and members of the general public will be kept anonymous and confidential.

DC Corrections Information Council

1400 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 478-9211
Email: dc.cic@dc.gov
Website: <https://cic.dc.gov/>

Executive Summary

Facility Profile

Dates of Inspection: August 29-30, 2018
Location: Inez, Kentucky
Distance from DC: 430 miles
Year of Activation: 2002

Security Level: High
Rated Capacity: 1,088
Average Daily Population 2018: 1,371

Total Population (August 2018)

Population: 1,247
Average Age: 35.3 years
Average Sentence: 156 months

DC Population (August 2018)

Population: 100 (8% of total population)
Average Age: 33.5 years
Average Sentence: 194 months

Key Findings

The CIC made the following key findings about USP Big Sandy:

- The individuals the CIC met with reported no incidents of physical abuse from staff or other inmates, and few instances of verbal harassment or abuse.
- By far the most common concern the CIC heard was the frequency of lockdowns, and their impact on visitation, programming, and religious practice.
- Inmates in the Special Housing Unit reported that staff was generally respectful and helpful, and that the Warden and the Captain came through the unit regularly.
- Inmates expressed concern about the limited number of programs and felt that the programs that are offered will not help them once they return to the community.
- 75% of respondents to CIC's survey felt that they did not have adequate access to medical and dental services.
- Most inmates surveyed reported that they did have access to grievance forms, but most did not believe the grievance process was fair. They reported delayed responses and confusion as to how to use the forms.
- Other concerns included the quality and quantity of food, difficulty receiving mail, inadequate ventilation to disperse the frequent use of OC pepper spray, and plumbing issues.

CIC Recommendations

Based on the inspection of USP Big Sandy, the CIC makes the following recommendations:

- The facility staff should continue to work towards reducing the frequency of lockdowns. They should also consider options to minimize the impact of lockdowns on the entire facility. The BOP should ensure that the facility has sufficient staff to address security issues without needing to lockdown the entire facility.
- Facility leadership should limit the impact of lockdowns on inmates participating in programming, including consideration of creating specific programming units that could continue to function under normal or partial lockdown status while other parts of the facility are on lockdown.
- The executive staff should review the current educational programming to ensure that they are in full compliance with the requirements of Program Statement 5300.21, Education, Training and Leisure Time Program Standards, which requires that the warden and education supervisor must ensure that inmates have meaningful opportunities to acquire or improve marketable skills through educational programming and career counseling. The supervisor of education should pursue accreditation or independent certification for education and occupation programs, as suggested by Program Statement 5300.21(10)(c).
- To the extent that program availability is limited by lack of funding, the BOP Mid-Atlantic Regional Director should ensure that USP Big Sandy receives adequate resources to provide meaningful educational and occupational programming to the inmates in its care.
- Facility leadership should ensure that correctional officers are not limiting access to emergency medical care, which must be available to SHU inmates at all times, per 28 CFR §541.32(a).
- Facility leadership should ensure that inmates are given access to cleaning materials frequently enough to maintain their cells in a sanitary condition.
- The executive staff should ensure that inmates with acute medical needs are seen and treated promptly in accordance with Program Statement 6031.01, Patient Care.
- The BOP should ensure that adequate numbers of medical providers are available to provide medical care to individuals incarcerated at USP Big Sandy.
- The executive staff should ensure that inmates are being seen for comprehensive dental care consistent with the national wait list as laid out in Program Statement 6400.03, Dental Care.
- Facility leadership should ensure that all food served to inmates at USP Big Sandy is properly prepared and maintained at appropriate temperatures per the BOP Food Service Manual.
- Facility leadership should consider offering additions to the National Menu as contemplated by the BOP in Program Statement 4700.06, Food Service Manual Chapter 2, Section 3, page 16.
- Facility staff should provide inmates with clear and accessible instructions for filing both informal and formal grievances, and inform them that they may request assistance from institution staff or another inmate in preparing grievances.
- Facility staff should work towards reducing delays in processing inmate mail.
- Facility staff should ensure that physical plant issues are resolved promptly to maintain housing units in a safe and habitable condition.
- Facility staff should ensure that housing units have appropriate ventilation in accordance with Program Statement 4200.12, Facilities Operations Manual Chapters 12 and 16, pages 9 and 6, respectively.

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Introduction

United States Penitentiary Big Sandy, also known as USP Big Sandy, is a high-security facility located in Inez, Kentucky, with an adjacent minimum security satellite camp. The facility is approximately 461 driving miles from Washington, DC. The CIC conducted an initial inspection of USP Big Sandy on July 16, 2015 and a follow-up visit consisting primarily of interviews with DC inmates on August 29-30, 2018.

At the time of the CIC's 2018 visit, the facility held 1,247 male inmates, 1,087 of whom were housed in the USP, 86 in the Residential Drug Abuse Program, and 74 at the satellite camp. This is 115% of the facility's rated capacity of 1,077. One hundred of the inmates incarcerated at the facility during the CIC's visit were DC Code Offenders. Of those 100 individuals, 47 spoke with the CIC, including 10 individuals in the Special Housing Unit (SHU) and 37 in general population units. Staff informed the CIC that 53 individuals declined to speak with the CIC.

USP Big Sandy Inspection 2015

The CIC conducted its initial onsite inspection of USP Big Sandy on July 16, 2015. During the inspection, CIC staff toured the facility, had dialogue with facility staff, and conducted confidential interviews with 15 DC inmates.

USP Big Sandy has a Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP) and a Challenge Program unit. The RDAP was activated in January 2013 and was located on housing unit B. The unit had 64 double bunked cells, two of which were accessible for those with disabilities. At the time of the 2015 inspection, no DC inmates were enrolled in RDAP.

During the inspection, the SHU housed 123 inmates, seven of whom were from DC. USP Big Sandy had recently transferred 30 SHU inmates to USP Lee in exchange for 20 individuals from the SHU at USP Lee in response to recent violence at USP Lee. According to facility staff, inmates in the SHU had access to GED education, the law library, and release planning, and they ate the same meals as the general population. Staff also reported that they were one of a limited number of USP facilities offering GED education in the SHU. Survey responses from inmates indicated a range of experiences in the SHU, including two complaints about lack of educational or programming opportunities. Two inmates reported "the only good thing about the SHU is getting time to read." Other concerns from inmates who had been in the SHU included always receiving cold food, having no table and chair in cells, being labeled a gang member because of DC status, and having to wait three weeks to be seen by medical staff.

In the medical department, staff reported one vacancy among the 17 BOP and contract positions at the time of inspection. The chronic care caseload included approximately 325 individuals, 25 of whom were DC inmates, and the main reason for chronic care status was hypertension. The facility had no deaf inmates and one blind inmate at the time of inspection. Staff reported that the blind individual had an inmate companion to help him navigate.

Staff indicated that dental sick call occurred every Tuesday and Thursday, and routine call outs every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Inmates with dental emergencies were generally seen the same day, and the average wait time for dental cleanings and other routine procedures was between four and six months.

The facility had three psychologists on staff and held group therapy. At the time of inspection, 20 people were on the waitlist for group therapy, with a typically wait of three to six months. CIC staff observed PREA signs in all housing units, and the facility reported having a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a community mental health center for additional treatment of individuals with mental health concerns.

Inmates' feedback on medical and mental health care included six complaints about the cost of receiving medical care at USP Big Sandy, and two reports that medical care was good; three individuals had not used health services at

the facility. Other complaints included long waits for orthopedic and dental care, and medical staff diagnosing an injury to the inmate during a visit, but failing to record the injury in his file.

Staff reported during the inspection that 75% of the inmates had jobs, although inmate survey responses reported that the facility did not have enough jobs or programming options. Inmates also reported a high level of assaults due to people not having enough to do throughout the day. Other individuals stated that programs were full or limited for inmates who had already received their GED. In the past, USP Big Sandy had a UNICOR factory which employed 100 inmates at a time producing textiles.¹ By 2015, staff reported that the factory was not officially closed but was no longer actively operating.

Facility staff reported an average of 60 inmates participating in hobby craft classes, and mentioned that inmates could obtain the National Federal Personal Trainers certification if they paid to take the certification exam. Staff also mentioned that inmates created and led a Stop the Violence program in the facility chapel with 60 to 80 inmate participants.

Inmate reports on staff conduct were mixed, with several individuals indicating that staff was “mostly better than other places” and “treats everyone the same,” while others feeling that staff were “aggressive,” “cold-blooded,” and “hard to deal with if you try.” Six of the fifteen inmates interviewed said they had never interacted with the warden. Several inmates reported problems with case managers and unit teams, including one who said that trying to get your institutional jacket reviewed was “like trying to lift up a boulder.” Other inmates raised concerns about issues that were resolved at previous facilities but were preventing institutional progress at USP Big Sandy.

The CIC also received several complaints from inmates regarding sentence designation and computation, such as hurdles to transferring to a lower custody facility, including the lack of available programming at some institutions.

USP Big Sandy Findings 2018

The CIC revisited USP Big Sandy in August 2018 to conduct follow-up interviews with incarcerated individuals who were from DC. According to inmates who spoke with the CIC, the most negative aspects of USP Big Sandy were the frequency of lockdowns (8 responses), followed by staff treatment (6 responses), food (4 responses), distance from family (3 responses), and classification or transfer issues (3 responses). When asked to identify the most positive aspect of USP Big Sandy, inmates mentioned staff respect (2 responses), telephones (2 responses), program units (1 responses), and that the captain has improved the lockdowns (1 responses).

Inmates were asked to provide one recommendation for improving the conditions of confinement at USP Big Sandy. Their responses focused on changing staff behavior (5 responses), increasing job and programming opportunities (4 responses), providing better food (4 responses), reducing the frequency of lockdowns (3 responses), and moving DC inmates closer to home (3 responses).

The CIC received one report of injuries as a result of being placed in restraints at USP Big Sandy, and no reports of physical abuse by staff or inmates at USP Big Sandy. Eight inmates reported verbal harassment by staff, mostly consisting of insulting remarks regarding race or DC residency status. Ten individuals reported that they had not been told how to report sexual abuse.

¹ UNICOR is the trade name for Federal Prison Industries (FPI), a government-owned corporation that employs inmates in a factory setting to manufacture products or provide services to the government and private sectors. Additional information is available on the BOP website at https://www.bop.gov/inmates/custody_and_care/unicor.jsp.

Lockdowns

The most common concern the CIC heard from inmates was the frequency of lockdowns and their impact on visitation, programming, and religious practices. Inmates reported that the facility is on lockdown nearly half of each month. Several inmates indicated that lockdowns often last about two weeks. They are sometimes out of their cells for a few days and then locked down again for a new incident. Inmates reported that the whole facility is locked down for incidents occurring on a single unit, and that lockdowns happen for “any small incident.”

Inmates expressed a number of problems due to the frequent lockdowns. Several inmates mentioned the lockdowns interfering with visitation from family, particularly since they are unable to notify family members of lockdowns before they undertake long and expensive travel to USP Big Sandy. One individual stated that lockdowns interfered with communication with family and his ability to work on his legal case. Two inmates indicated that they are unable to practice their religion during lockdowns. Another noted that the facility stays “locked down so much it’s frivolous to get in a class” because inmates are unable to attend classes consistently or make progress.

Recommendation:

The facility staff should continue to work towards reducing the frequency of lockdowns. They should also consider options to minimize the impact of lockdowns on the entire facility. The BOP should ensure that the facility has sufficient staff to address security issues without needing to lockdown the entire facility.

Programming and Jobs

Ten of the individuals the CIC interviewed expressed that there are no programs available at USP Big Sandy. Three inmates commented that there was no opportunity for rehabilitation and they were being warehoused. Two inmates indicated that the programs offered are not things they can use once they return home, while another individual commented on the lack of certification programs. Other inmates noted that programs were hard to get into or had long wait times. Several inmates had received their GED, including one who said the program could be better and another who said it was “okay.”

Inmates who spoke with the CIC also commented that jobs were “limited” and “hard to get,” both in general and particularly for individuals from DC. One inmate stated that “you have to be very consistent to try to get [a job],” while two other inmates complained that they were not paid enough.

Twelve out of thirty individuals with whom the CIC spoke at USP Big Sandy were participating in vocational training, while another eight were participating in an academic program, and seven were participating in the Challenge Program. Twenty-one of forty 40 DC inmates interviewed were participating in a general prison job.

The inmates' survey responses were divided on how easy it was to get a job or access programming. Just over half of the individuals surveyed found it easy or somewhat easy to access the Challenge Program or academic programs, while two-thirds of respondents found it difficult or somewhat difficult to access prison jobs.

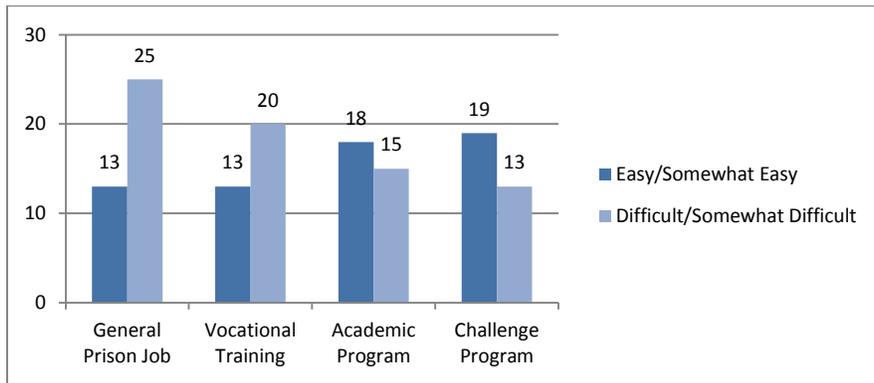


Figure 1²

Two-thirds of survey respondents said they were unsatisfied with their prison job, and three-quarters were unsatisfied with their vocational training. Inmates were split as to whether they were satisfied or unsatisfied with the academic programs and the Challenge Program.

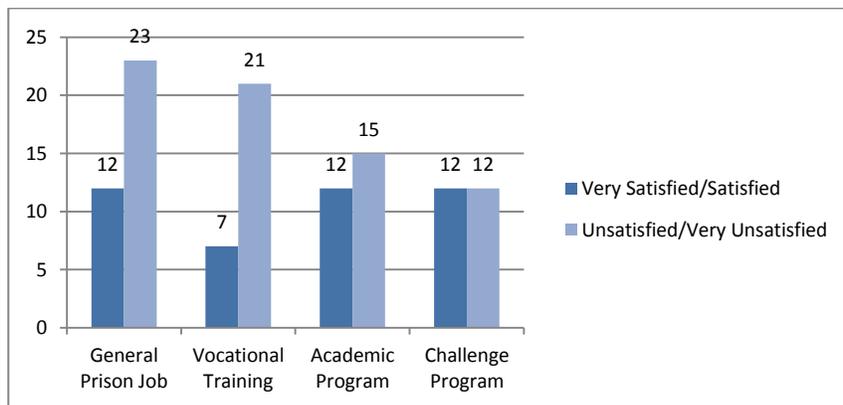


Figure 2

Recommendations:

Facility leadership should limit the impact of lockdowns on inmates participating in programming, including consideration of creating specific programming units that could continue to function under normal or partial lockdown status while other parts of the facility are on lockdown.

The executive staff should review the current educational programming to ensure that they are in full compliance with the requirements of Program Statement 5300.21, which requires that the warden and education supervisor must ensure that inmates have meaningful opportunities to acquire or improve marketable skills through educational programming and career counseling. The supervisor of education should pursue accreditation or independent certification for education and occupation programs, as required when feasible by Program Statement 5300.21(10)(c).

² Charts do not include 'not applicable' responses. See Appendix B for responses in full detail.

To the extent that program availability is limited by lack of funding, the BOP Mid-Atlantic Regional Director should ensure that USP Big Sandy receives adequate resources to provide meaningful educational and occupational programming to the inmates in its care.

Special Housing Unit

Most of the inmates the CIC interviewed stated that the staff in the SHU at USP Big Sandy was generally respectful and helpful. Inmates noted that the warden and the captain came through units regularly and that correctional officers help inmates when asked.

The individuals who spoke with the CIC had a few notable concerns about the SHU. One inmate expressed that he spent 16 hours in waist chains on one occasion and was pepper sprayed,³ causing him to lose his eyesight for two days. Another inmate shared a serious concern that correctional officers were not responding to medical alert buttons in cells, citing an incident in which an individual waited 20 minutes for a response from staff while having an acute asthma attack. Another individual mentioned that he had received no answer to three separate grievances filed while in the SHU.

Several inmates mentioned that they were pleased to have access to hygiene products from commissary while in the SHU, though one individual noted that this is only if you have money to buy hygiene products from commissary. One inmate mentioned that laundry is not done often, and another mentioned that not all showers in the SHU work, and that inmates receive cell cleaning products only once a month.

A few inmates mentioned that medical staff members are attentive and walk the range twice a day, though another inmate commented that you still have to put in a request to be seen by medical. Two inmates mentioned that psychology staff performs rounds in the SHU once a week, and another said he has had no problems receiving his psychiatric medication while in the SHU.

Other issues mentioned included a report of problems with sending and receiving legal mail from the SHU, and a complaint that the air conditioning was turned off for two days in the summer.

Recommendations:

Facility leadership should ensure that correctional officers are not limiting access to emergency medical care, which must be available to SHU inmates at all times, per 28 CFR §541.32(a).

Facility leadership should ensure that inmates are given access to cleaning materials frequently enough to maintain their cells in a sanitary condition.

Medical Care

Two inmates interviewed by the CIC stated that medical was their primary concern at USP Big Sandy. Several others expressed that they felt they had no access to medical care. One individual said that, “medical doesn’t really do a lot for you,” and so he would not put in for sick call if he needed care. Another complained about being charged the \$2 co-pay despite never being seen by medical staff. One inmate said he was told he was “too young for some of [his] symptoms,” and another was told by medical staff that he did not need the medication prescribed to him by an outside medical facility.

³ Pepper spray is another term for oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray. BOP Program Statement 5576.06, Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Aerosol Spray, authorizes and regulates the use of OC spray by correctional officers.

Eight inmates mentioned long wait times for dental care, ranging from “weeks” to be seen for a toothache to “wait[ing] 20 months for dental” to “almost three years.” One individual said he put in three requests but still had not been seen.

Overall, individuals the CIC spoke with were unsatisfied with the quality and wait times for both medical and dental care. Seventy-five percent of respondents felt that they did not have adequate access to medical and dental services.

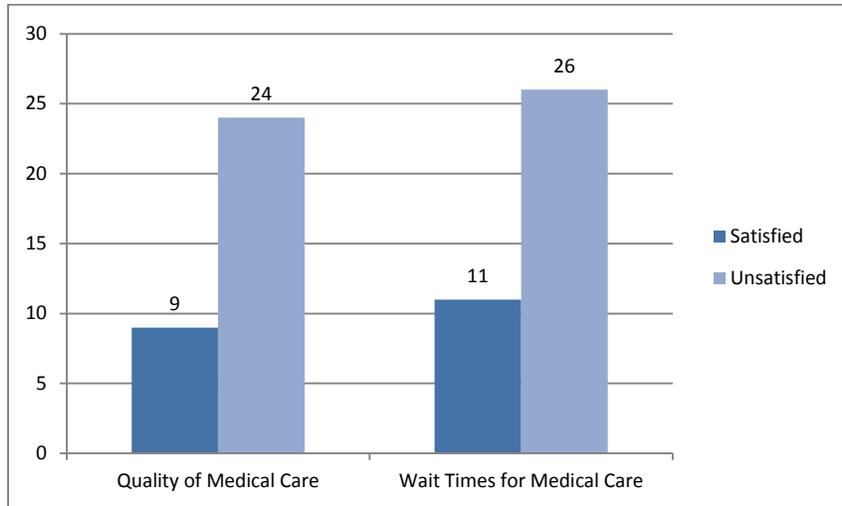


Figure 3

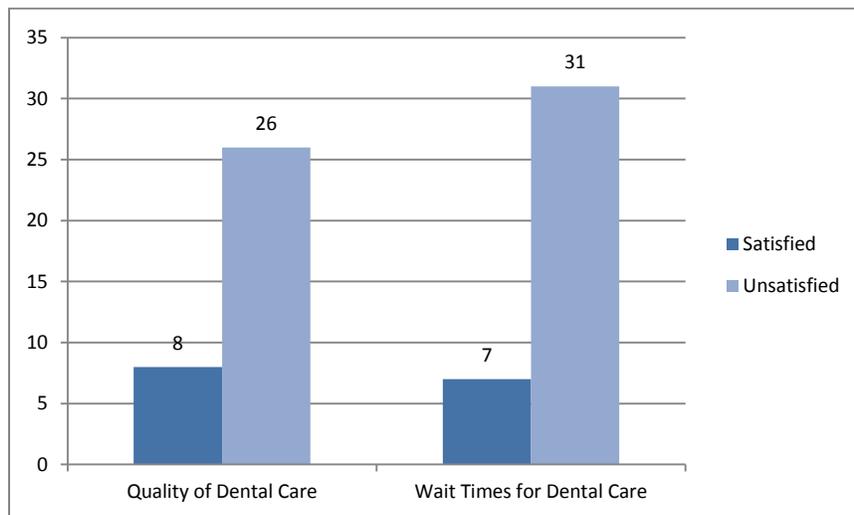


Figure 4

Recommendations:

The executive staff should ensure that inmates with acute medical needs are seen and treated promptly in accordance with Program Statement 6031.01, Patient Care.

The BOP should ensure that adequate numbers of medical providers are available to provide medical care to individuals incarcerated at USP Big Sandy.

The executive staff should ensure that inmates are being seen for comprehensive dental care consistent with the national wait list as laid out in Program Statement 6400.03, Dental Care.

Food

Twenty-four of 35 inmates surveyed had complaints about food. Specific complaints included insufficient portions (10), cold food (8), uncooked food (3), and lack of nutrition or vegetables (2). Many inmates also brought up the food during their interviews as a primary concern. Two individuals mentioned that they always ate on their units and never in the dining hall, while four inmates mentioned the lack of hot meals and small variety of food while on lockdown.

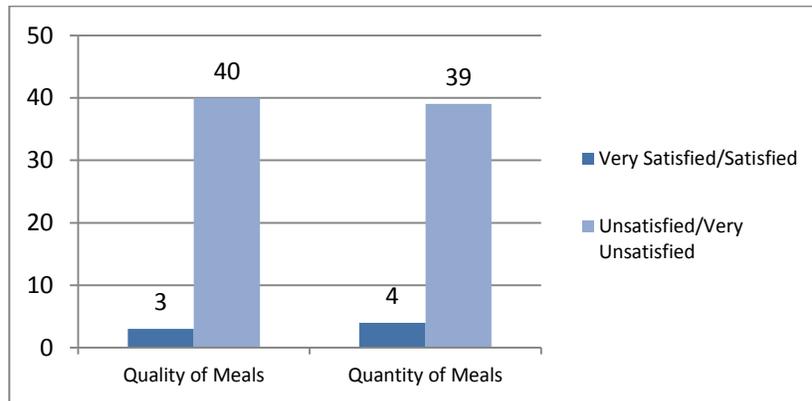


Figure 5

Recommendations:

Facility leadership should ensure that all food served to inmates at USP Big Sandy is properly prepared and maintained at appropriate temperatures per the BOP Food Service Manual.

Facility leadership should consider offering additions to the National Menu as contemplated by the Program Statement 4700.06, Food Service Manual Chapter 2, Section 3, page 16.

Grievances

Most inmates surveyed indicated that they normally had access to informal complaint forms — known as “cop-outs” — and formal administrative grievance and appeal forms. Inmates were divided on whether they thought these processes were dealt with fairly. Fifty percent of inmates surveyed felt that cop-outs were dealt with fairly, while thirty percent of inmates surveyed felt that administrative grievances and appeals were dealt with fairly. Complaints about the process included that “cop-outs take too long to be answered,” facility staff members “do not explain the proper procedures of the forms and if you mess it up they throw it away,” and “the same person who has done me wrong is the person who hears the formal resolutions.”

Recommendations:

Facility staff should provide inmates with clear and accessible instructions for filing both informal and formal grievances, and inform them that they may request assistance from institution staff or another inmate in preparing grievances.

Other Issues

Ten inmates complained of issues with the mail, including delays of up to three months, receiving damaged mail or copies of postcards and photographs instead of originals, and an inability to receive re-entry materials such as a drivers' manual or program information from local organizations.

Several individuals mentioned flooding issues resulting from rain coming into the units, particularly in Unit A-2. Another individual reported that flooding also stems from toilets, which contain feces.

Several inmates mentioned that OC pepper spray is used frequently (one individual said "maybe every day"), and that improper ventilation on units causes it to linger in the air.

Recommendations:

Facility staff should work towards reducing delays in processing inmate mail.

Facility staff should ensure that physical plant issues are resolved promptly to maintain housing units in a safe and habitable condition.

Facility staff should ensure that housing units have appropriate ventilation in accordance with Program Statement 4200.12, the Facilities Operations Manual.

Appendix A: Methodology

USP Big Sandy Inspection Methodology

July 9, 2015 Onsite Inspection

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Corrections Information Council (CIC) and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the CIC requested to inspect USP Big Sandy on June 9, 2015. The inspection request itinerary included a tour of all areas of the facility to which inmates have access, discussions with staff, confidential interviews with DC inmates, and document review and collection. Prior to the onsite inspection, the CIC communicated with DC inmates at USP Big Sandy to notify them of the upcoming inspection and offer the opportunity to participate in a confidential interview with a member of the CIC.

Prior to the visit, per the CIC's request, the BOP sent the CIC the following documents which are on file with the CIC:

- Roster of DC Inmates (as of July 2015)
- USP Big Sandy Department Head List (as of July 2015)
- Significant Incidents (June 2014 – May 2015)
- Inmate Disciplinary Record (June 2014 – May 2015)
- Administrative Remedies Tracking Data for BP-9, BP-10, and BP-11 (June 2014 – May 2015)
- Staffing Vacancies (as of July 2015)
- Inmate Demographics Fact Sheet (as of July 2015)
- DC Specific Inmate Demographics Fact Sheet (as of July 2015)
- Urine Surveillance Records (June 2014 – May 2015)
- 2015 Monthly Average Daily Populations and Staff-to-Inmate Ratios (June 2014 – May 2015)
- Education Profile (October 2014 – March 2015)
- American Correctional Association Accreditation Report (March 2013)

The CIC conducted an onsite inspection of USP Big Sandy on July 16, 2015. The onsite inspectors included board members Phylisa Carter and Katherine Huffman, program analyst Cara Compani, and legal intern Sophia Browning. During the onsite inspection, the CIC was escorted by the warden and members of the executive staff. CIC staff toured the facility, had dialogue with facility staff, and conducted confidential interviews with 15 DC inmates.

July 2018 Follow-Up Interviews

On July 27, 2018, the CIC requested to return to USP Big Sandy for follow-up interviews with DC inmates currently incarcerated at the facility. Prior to the onsite inspection, the CIC communicated with DC inmates at USP Big Sandy to notify them of the upcoming visit and offer the opportunity to participate in a confidential interview with a member of the CIC.

Prior to the visit, per the CIC's request, the BOP sent the CIC the following documents which are on file with the CIC:

- Roster of DC Inmates
- Significant Incidents (August 2017 – July 2018)
- Prohibited Act Rates (August 2017 – July 2018)
- Administrative Remedies Tracking Data for BP-9, BP-10, and BP-11 (August 2017 – July 2018)
- Inmate Sentencing and Designation Fact Sheet (as of July 2018)
- DC Specific Inmate Sentencing and Designation Fact Sheet (as of July 2018)
- Inmate Demographics Fact Sheet (as of July 2018)
- DC Specific Inmate Demographics Fact Sheet (as of July 2018)
- 2017 Monthly Average Daily Populations (August 2017 – July 2018)
- Inmate Enrollment in Programs (October 2017 – July 2018)
- Summary of Urinalysis Results (August 2017 – July 2018)
- *Completed CIC Pre-inspection Information Worksheet (documenting DC-specific populations in SHU and educational programming)*

The CIC conducted an on-site visit for interviews on August 29 and 30, 2018. The 2018 inspection team included program analysts Laura de las Casas and Rebekah Joab, and communications specialist Mabel Tejada. The CIC interviewed 53 DC individuals during the onsite visit. Of those individuals, 42 completed surveys consisting of multiple-choice and open-ended questions covering a range of their experience at USP Big Sandy.

Following the inspection, the survey responses and interview notes were compiled. The responses are available in Appendix B. Open-ended survey responses include answers collected on the surveys themselves and during interviews with CIC staff. Open-ended responses were edited for clarity and to erase identifying information.

The CIC provided the BOP with a draft version of the report for review of factual information and an opportunity to respond to follow-up questions and any other information in the report. The BOP responses to the CIC draft report are available in Appendix C.

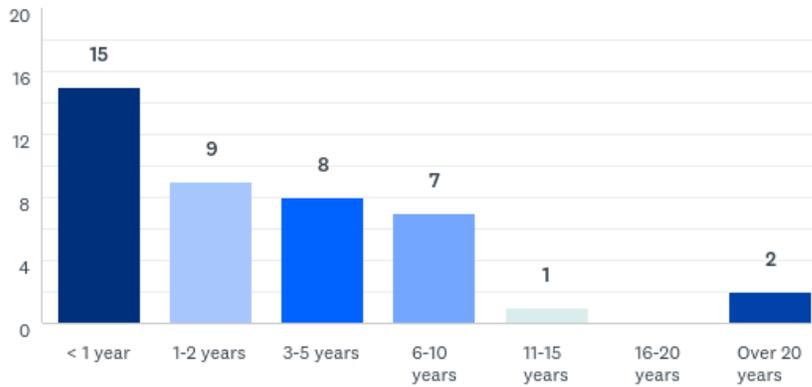
Appendix B: Inmate Survey Responses

USP Big Sandy Inmate Survey Responses

43 Total Respondents⁴

How long have you been incarcerated at USP Big Sandy?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 1

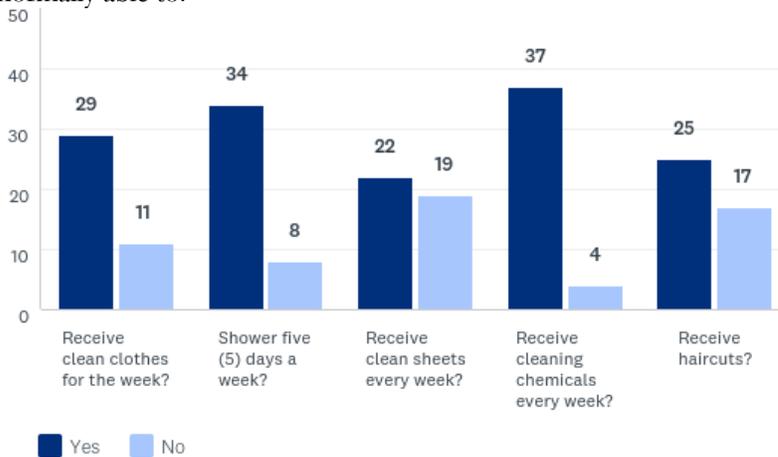


Appendix Figure 1

Hygiene

Answered: 43 Skipped: 0

Are you normally able to:

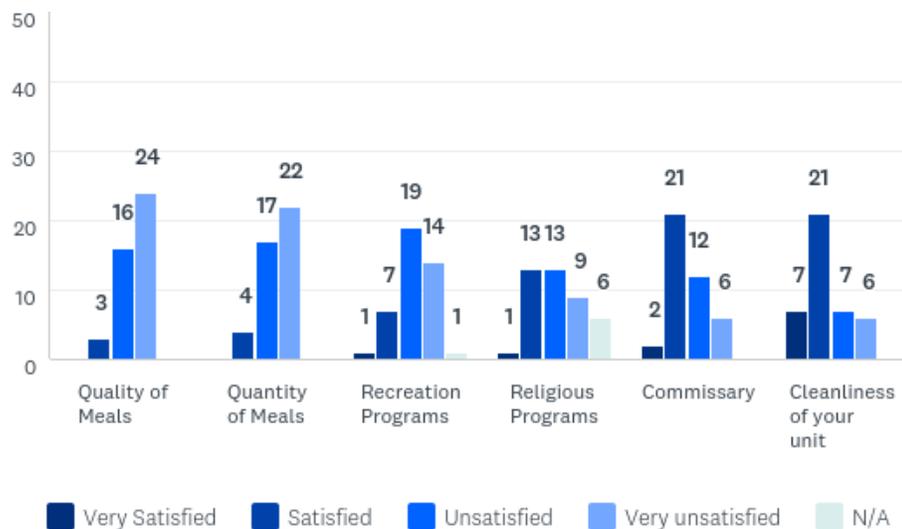


Appendix Figure 2

⁴ Open-ended responses include information that was gathered from inmate surveys as well as interviews. Open-ended responses were edited to erase identifying information, and were also edited for clarity.

How satisfied are you with:

Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



Appendix Figure 3

Please provide examples of why you are satisfied or unsatisfied with the previously discussed items:

Inmate Responses
Food is bad and never enough. Commissary is fine just not enough items.
Because they play too many games.
It stay clean and mop no bad smell
Food is always cold and a little bit
The food very cold and not done most of the time. There don't be enough food on the tray. Religious: the chaplain is very disrespectful
The food is always cold.
The food is not well prepared all the time.
The food are horrible.
I'm satisfied because of health reasons; we are not provided with enough programs. An idle mind is the devil's playground.
They don't feed us, they racist, they treat us bad, lock us down for any.
The portions of our meals are very small.
Need more vegetables daily.
Food is always cold and small portions. They say caloric requirements are met.
I am unsatisfied because compared to other institutions we don't have as much of anything.
Food is terrible, quantity/quality is basura.
The food horrible.
They are very incompetent of how they do things.
There are not any activities or programs that are consistent.
Honestly, it's not what I prefer. But it's also too repetitive.
I am not satisfied because I know this prison can do better and are supposed to do better.
Religious service doesn't allot the prescribed time for study group in the Nation of Islam. Food is terrible.
Because when come to recreation they have no programs and IF so they can't be used.
The food is horrible, the portions are Terrible, The give us cold Food
There aren't many recreation programs going on.
No nutrition in food. I do not get the chance to change sheets every week
The food is too little and not good.

It's no set routine, food might be half cooked, you have to wash clothes with everybody else's, Always have to have commissary, don't get good portions of food
The meals are served cold with little regard to preparation
Not always accessible in a timely manner.
The quality and quantity of the meals are poor, no salt, not enough. Recreation is never consistent, they're closed most of the time.
Commissary it's always spicy items or things that the staff pick. Food it's always cold and microwaves are broken in some units.
The meals are trash and it not enough.
The food is not fully cooked
The food is always cold.
Because the food is very bad.

Appendix Figure 4

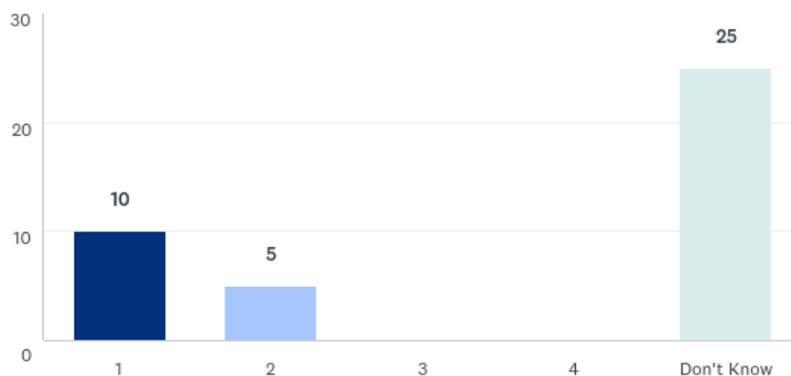
Is there anything else you would like to share about daily life at USP Big Sandy?

Inmate Responses
Not enough Jobs.
Not really just concern more about leaving.
Consent Racism towards the DC Inmates
It can be stressful at times do to the increasing security risks that the institution finds very violent.
The medical is not good at all.
It's very boring and stressful and it's very far from home so we don't get visits.
It's cool, but the classification is worst.
Yes, close it down turn it into FCI.
There are too many lockdowns which prolong program
I want to be closer to home.
It to locked down not a lot to do as program
We have Flood problem all week every week for weeks at a time before it gets fixed.
We are on locked down on a regular basis
Big Sandy is a rollercoaster Ride, you never know when your gonna talk, see, your family, very stressful
There is a big lack in job availability to help bring in some form of income
We need more programs.

Appendix Figure 5

What is your Medical Care Level?

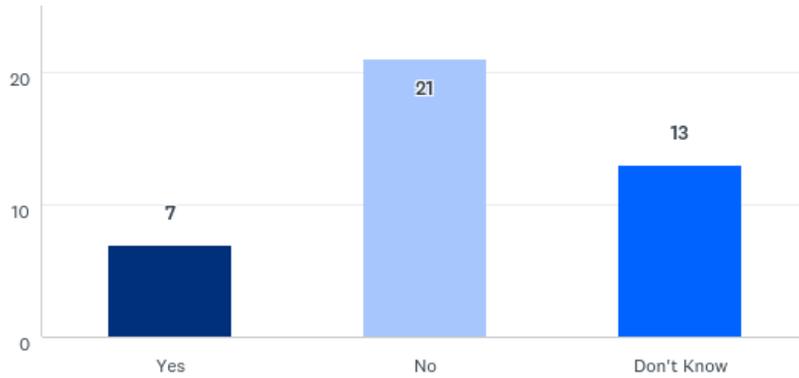
Answered: 40 Skipped: 3



Appendix Figure 64

Are you on the chronic caseload?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 2



Appendix Figure 7

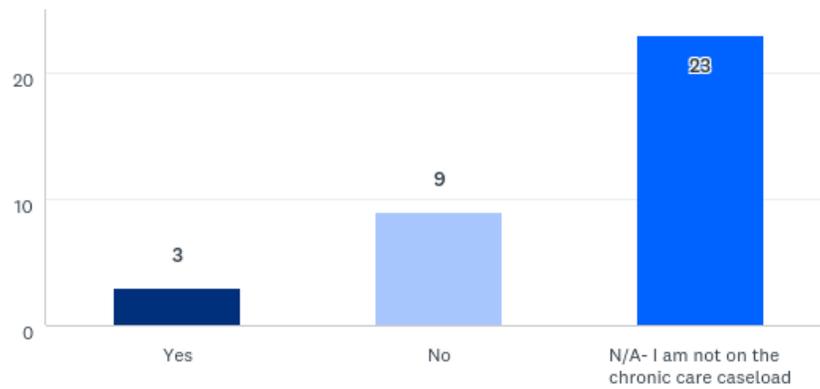
If you are on the chronic care caseload, please give the reason(s) why:

Inmate Responses
I have arthritis in my spine. I had it for a long time.
Asthma
I am supposed to be but was taken off because they claim I make poor food choices.
flat foot border line - (up and down)
Age and prostate (Bph)
I tested positive for TB back in 99 had to take meds

Appendix Figure 8

If you are on the chronic care caseload, are you generally receiving timely follow-ups?

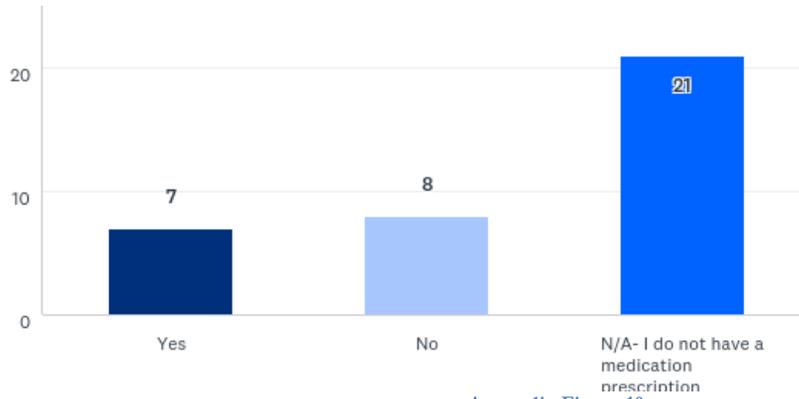
Answered: 35 Skipped: 8



Appendix Figure 9

If you have a medication prescription, do you feel you receive medications in a timely manner?

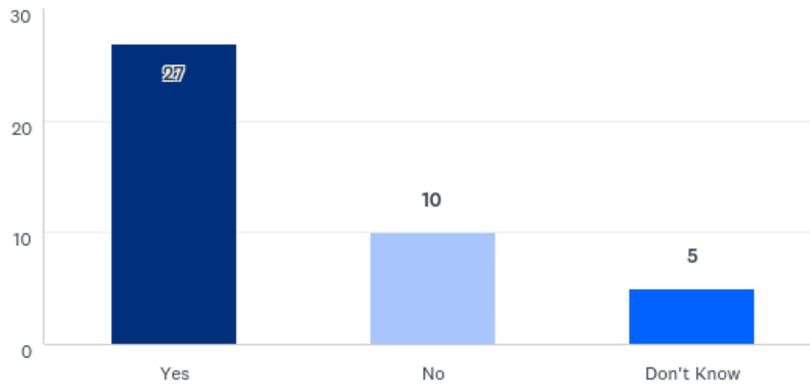
Answered: 36 Skipped: 7



Appendix Figure 10

Do you normally have access to sick call slips?

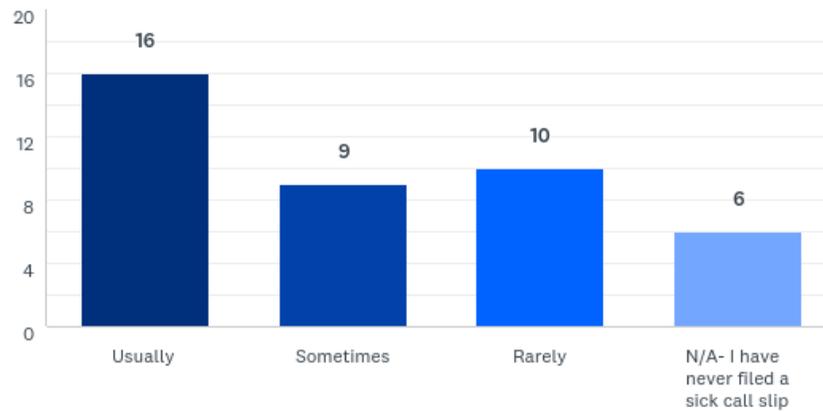
Answered: 42 Skipped: 1



Appendix Figure 11

Does Health Services respond to sick call slips within 48 hours?

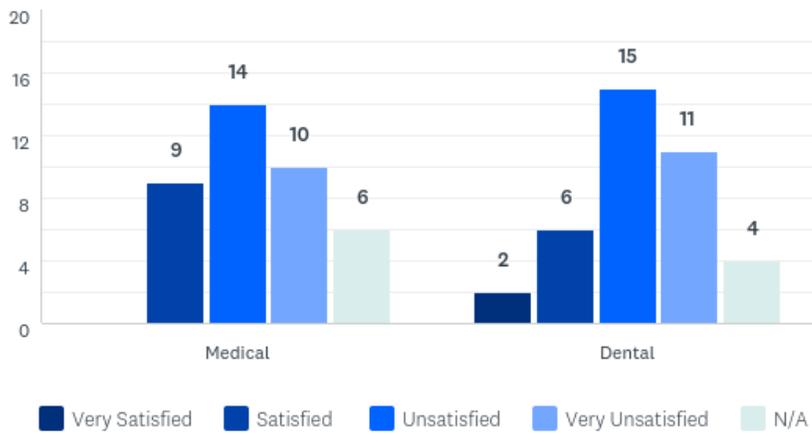
Answered: 41 Skipped: 2



Appendix Figure 12

Overall, how satisfied are you with the QUALITY of care provided by the following:

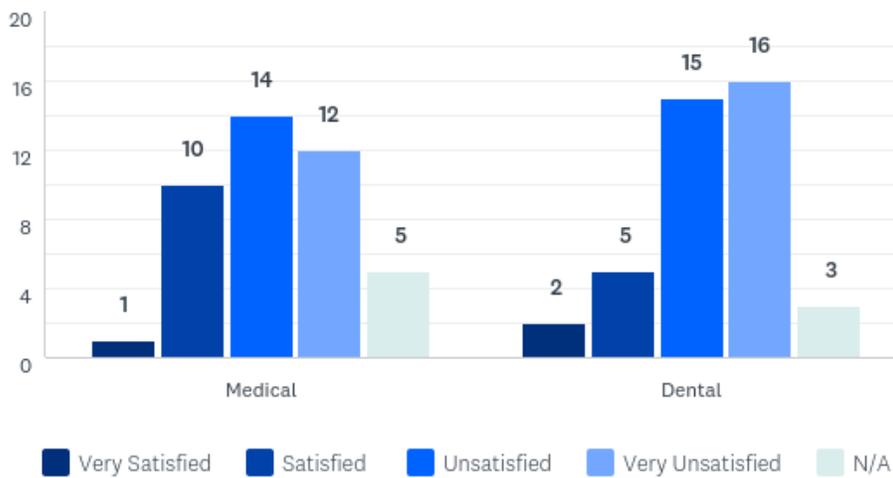
Answered: 40 Skipped: 3



Appendix Figure 53

Overall, how satisfied are you with the WAIT TIMES to see the following:

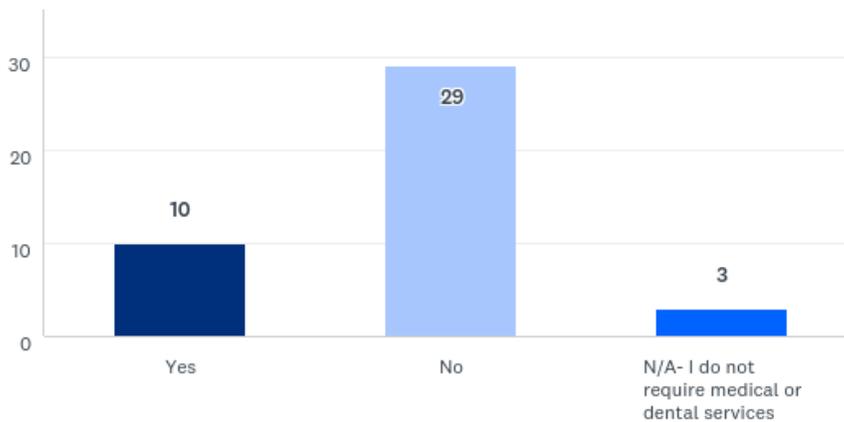
Answered: 42 Skipped: 1



Appendix Figure 64

Do you feel you have adequate access to medical and dental services?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 1



Appendix Figure 5

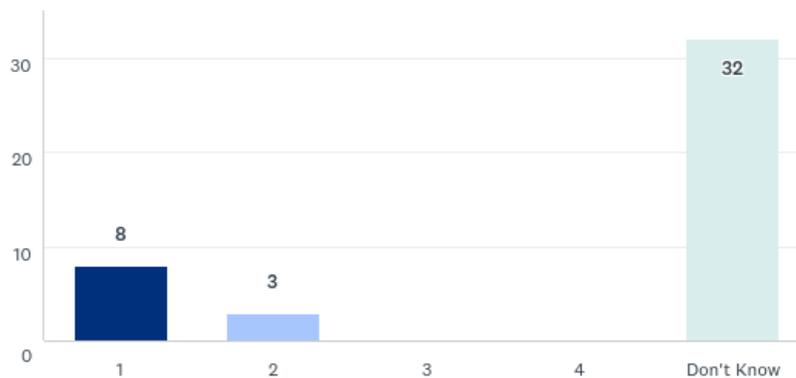
Is there anything else you would like to share about medical or dental care at USP Big Sandy?

Inmate Responses
They need more dentist and eye doctors take too long to see them.
I have only been seen by medical one time since I've been here and I am still waiting to see the dental
Big sandy has given me help here.
Because of so many lockdown I don't get to see medical in time.
No, they are wrong as an organization.
In almost three years I still have not been able to see dental.
Yes. I have been waiting on to get my teeth clean for sometime now and my teeth have not been clean from my time at Big Sandy...
I don't think being treated medical fair at all..
It takes too long to see the dentist.
I've been here for 2 months and still haven't had a response to my sick call about my massive headaches.
They tell me I'm too young for some of my symptoms. Tooth broken they won't see me.
When you tell them you have an issue they tell you it's something else wrong
The services aren't up to par at the camp
I do not have adequate dental access due to there being
Cada año pecivo mi limpieza de diente y ya llevo parra 2 años que no la hacen.
I see people even myself who will need immediate attention at times but will have to keep complaining to get proper treatment over periods of time.
They can be a lot better attentive then they are
If you're not dying they don't care.

Appendix Figure 16

What is your designated Mental Health Care Level?

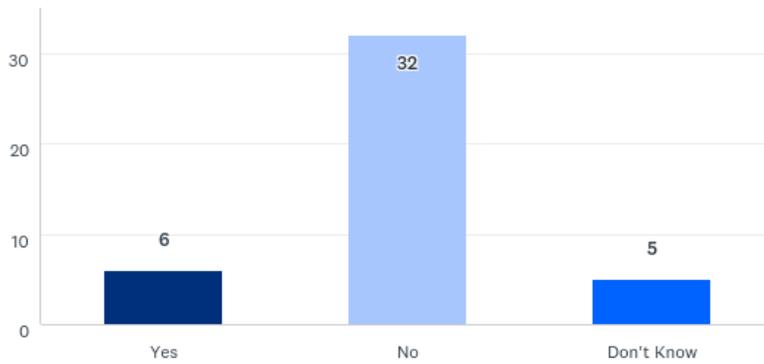
Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



Appendix Figure 77

Have you ever been diagnosed with a mental health issue, at this facility or elsewhere?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



Appendix Figure 88

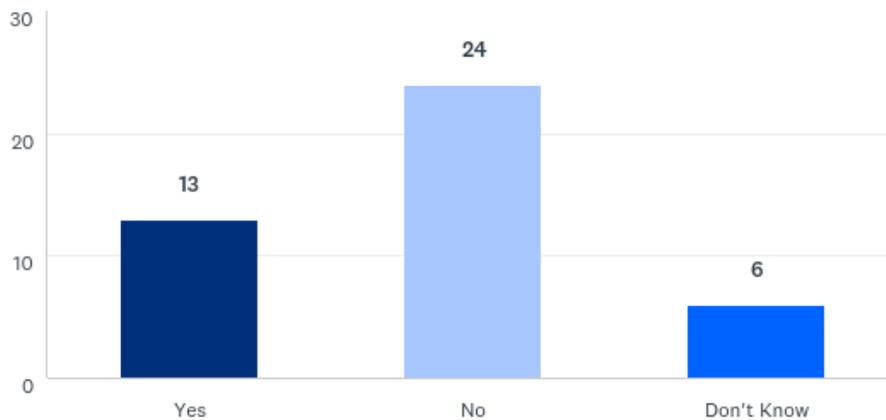
If you have been diagnosed with a mental health issues, please give the reason(s) why:

Inmate Responses
Depression, stress disorder.
We need more mental health examinations do to the exposure of violent mindset. A mind that reflect its environment.
ADHD
Everything!
Acid reflux.
Black outs, Depression and bipolar.
Recommended never have been seen

Appendix Figure 99

Did you have a mental health evaluation when arriving at USP Big Sandy?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



Appendix Figure 20

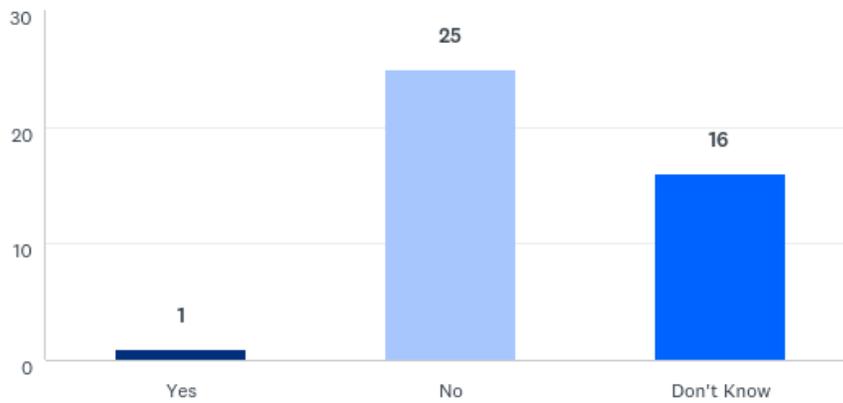
If you did have a mental health evaluation, please describe:

Inmate Responses
Answered some questions.
I saw an officer and ask me about my mental health.
The most evaluation I've had is how are you feeling? Which can be interpreted as either medical, safety, mental, etc.
Questionnaire.
For my case.
I don't even remember...
On the streets been said to be bipolar and schizophrenic
They just ask you questions about your life drug history suicide and substance abuse issues.

Appendix Figure 21

Did your mental health diagnosis change when you arrived at USP Big Sandy?

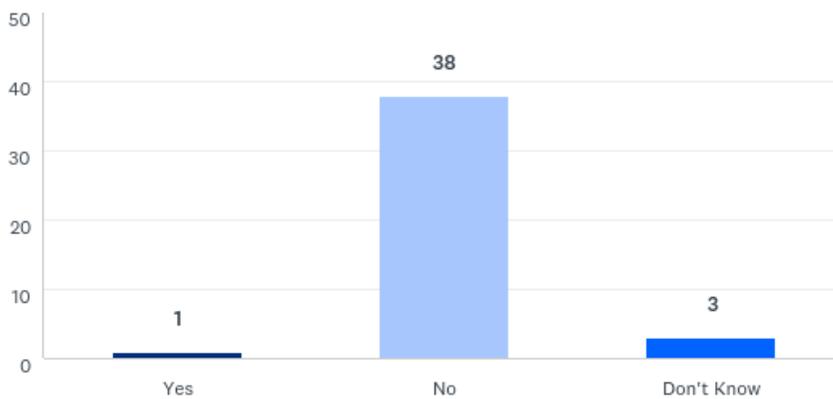
Answered: 42 Skipped: 1



Appendix Figure 22

Are you currently receiving psychotropic medication?

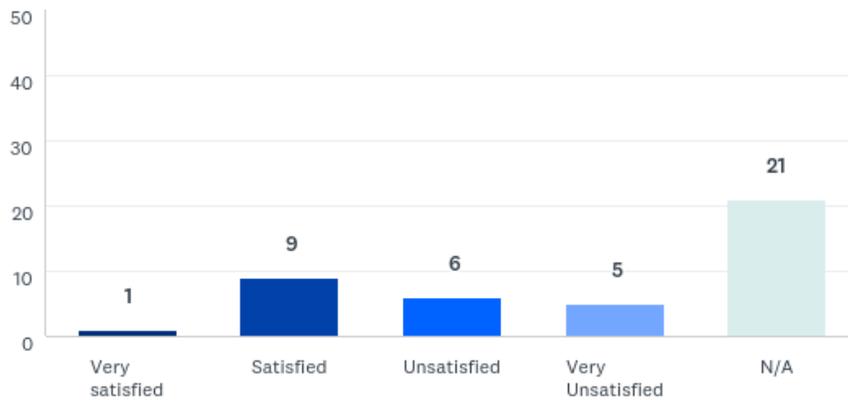
Answered: 42 Skipped: 1



Appendix Figure 23

Overall, how satisfied are you with the QUALITY of mental health care?

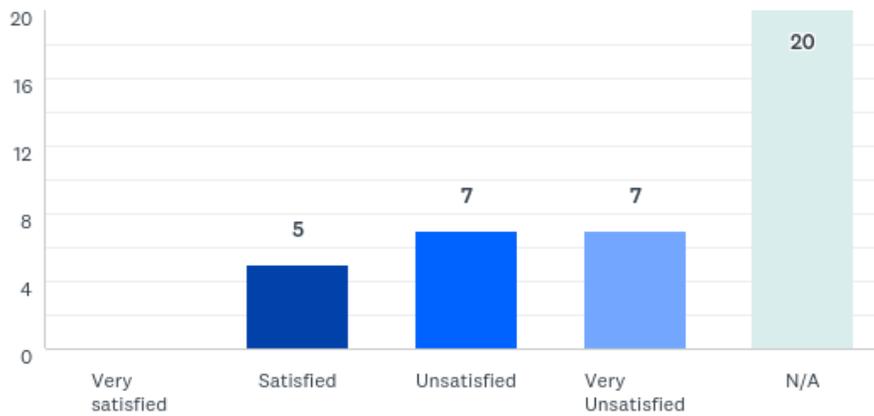
Answered: 42 Skipped: 1



Appendix Figure 24

Overall, how satisfied with the WAIT TIMES to see mental health services?

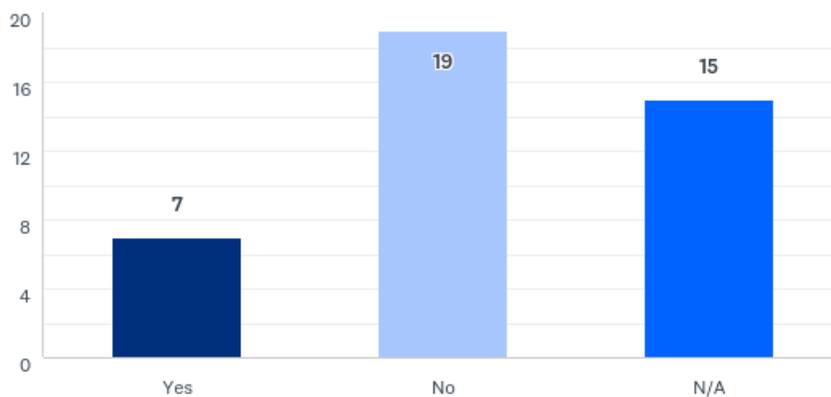
Answered: 39 Skipped: 4



Appendix Figure 25

Do you feel you have adequate access to mental health services?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 4



Appendix Figure 106

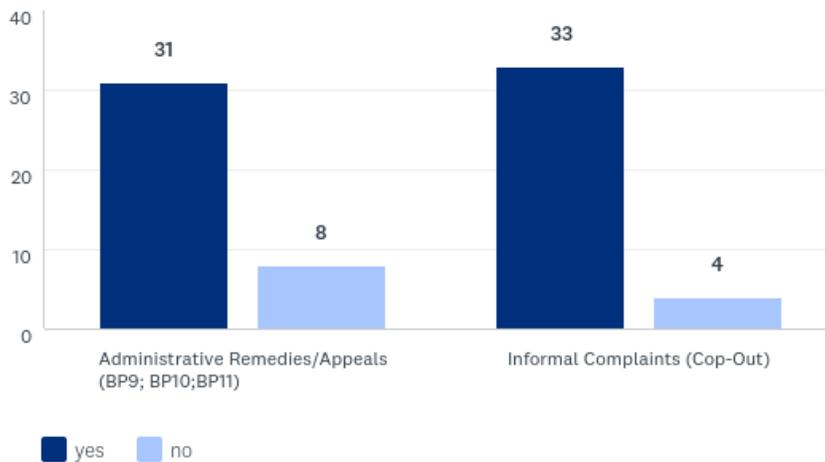
Is there anything else you would like to share about mental health care at USP Big Sandy?

Inmate Responses
Due to an overstanding of most inmates uncontrollable desires, the psychology dept is leery about most inmates intentions to seek true mental health.
It's not taken seriously @ USP Big Sandy.
still waiting to be seen
I was never called to ask about the mental service.
Mental health service is basically there to do their own thing with their own agenda
The head of the department is unapproachable.

Appendix Figure 27

Do you normally have access to the following:

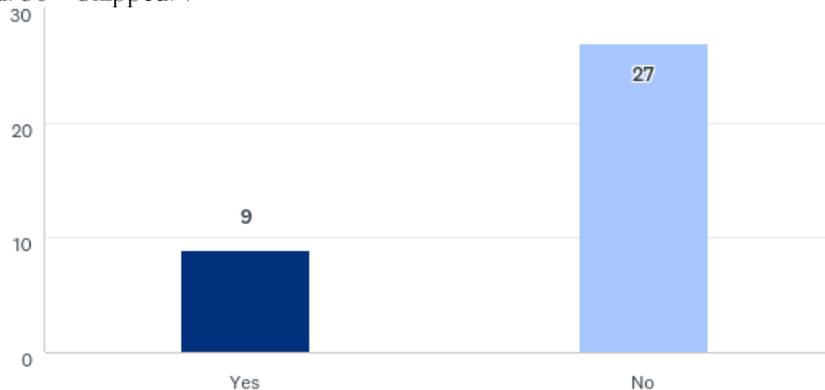
Answered: 39 Skipped: 4



Appendix Figure 118

Have you ever used the administrative remedy process at USP Big Sandy?

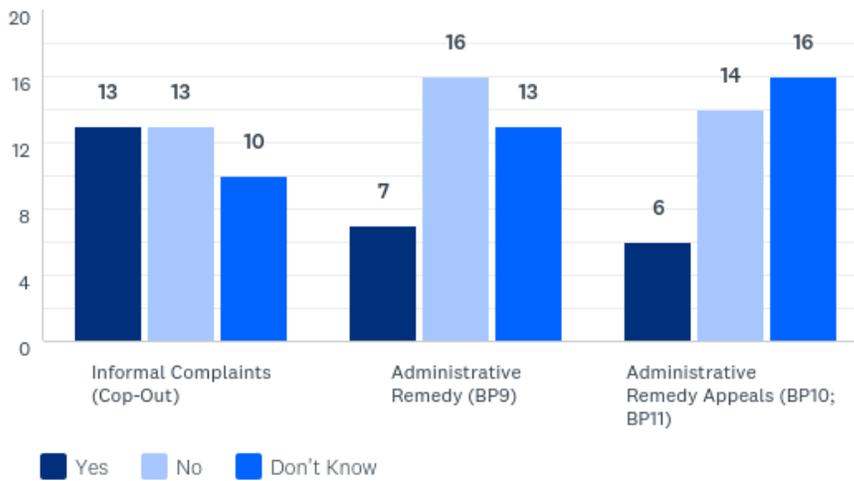
Answered: 36 Skipped: 7



Appendix Figure 29

Do you feel that the following are generally dealt with fairly at USP Big Sandy?

Answered: 36 Skipped: 7



Appendix Figure 3012

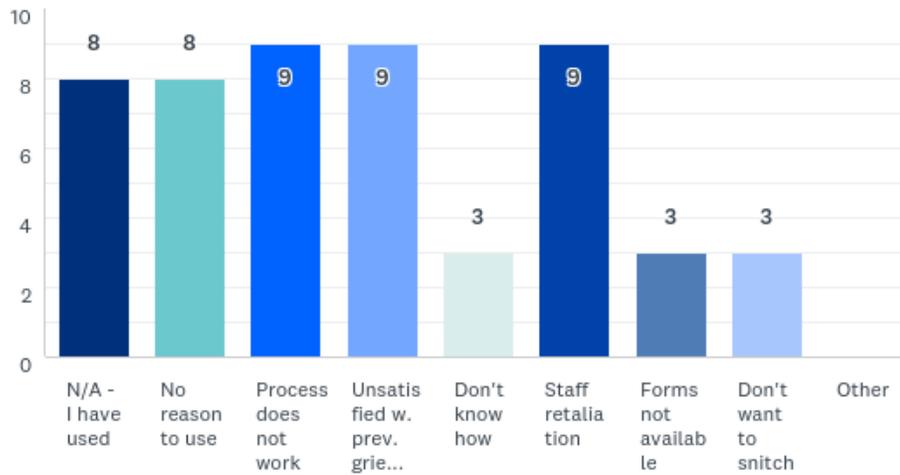
Why do you feel the above items are fair or unfair?

Inmate Responses
Cop outs take too long to be answered back.
I can't answer this because I never dealt with it.
I didn't put none in unfair
BP-9s are not accessible as you're supposed to have. It's like they don't want you to file them.
Most BP-8 forms lack carbon copy which shows that a complaint was filed. A lot of complaints were either lost or held beyond the response time that is required.
Because keep saying when it comes to my staff you're not going to win.
We lose jail time for being wrote up, the staff lose nothing.
Staff work together to keep issues under wraps... you can't use the items when needed..
They do not explain the proper procedures of the forms and if you mess up they throw it away
I normally don't use them.
Unfair.
Fair.
mp3, boots, shoes and Sony radio Missing!
Because the solve the issue they see fit, not the way it's supposed to get Handled
Because the services that are supposed to be given are not given.
A cop-out usually gets answered / admin remedies I see guys when they let people know what's going on its just a waste of time the cops stick together they are a gang
For one there is no adequate counselor for the unit one counselor for 4 units is not going to get the job done with administrative remedies etc.
It seems like the outcome always favor the person/persons that make the complaint.
The same people who have done me wrong is the same person who hears the formal resolutions.
Because when you voice something they'll tell you they know about the situation, but will say they can't disclose the outcome of the problem.
At times they're accessible.
Because they don't give you a fair chance to beat your shots if they do something wrong you still lose.

Appendix Figure 31

If you have chosen not to use the administrative remedy process, why not? (check all that apply)

Answered: 36 Skipped: 7



Appendix Figure 32

Is there anything else you would like to share about the administrative remedy process at USP?

Inmate Responses
One form of retaliation is, you cannot get a BP-9 or 10 if you have not been given a response to your initial complaint. Although, there is a 20-day response time. I would like to see a change in the response time.
They are not fair they don't care about us.
Nothing going to happen.
They don't answer back
I never did a complaint form here but at my last spot there was staff retaliation
they get rid of them
It doesn't work
It's not gonna work and then they will single you out and transfer you to another facility on the west coast far from Home

Appendix Figure 33

Overall, do you feel that the disciplinary decisions are fair from the following:

Answered: 41 Skipped: 2



Appendix Figure 34

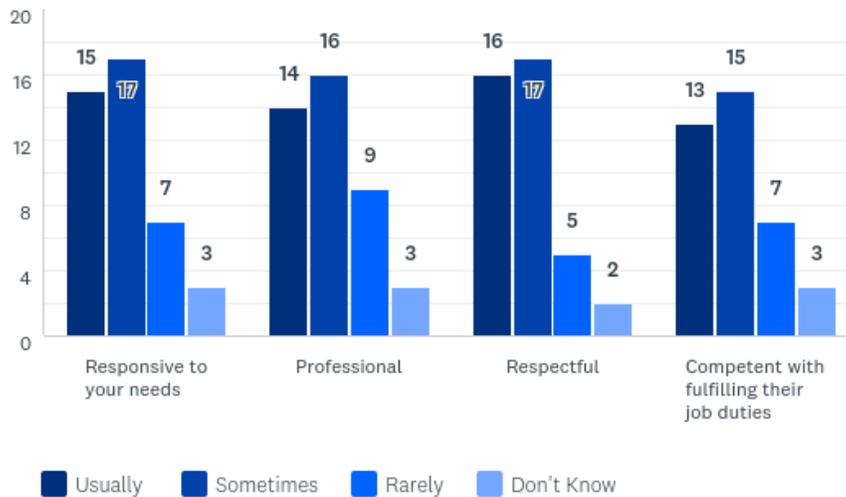
Is there anything else you would like to share about disciplinary decisions at USP Big Sandy?

Inmate Responses
On my first shot my only shot they took 45 of my good days away which I believe was not Fair.
Other than the DHO reinforces the institutional mindset (behaviors) which incentivize behavior.
DHO just not fair!!!
unrealice with sanction
Racist investigate this place! Dirty
It's only one way and that's whatever they feel like doing
The DHO Hearing is not recorded so they can say you said anything.
They aren't fair

Appendix Figure 35

Are your housing unit officers generally:

Answered: 42 Skipped: 1



Appendix Figure 36

Do you feel that the following are helpful?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 2



Appendix Figure 37

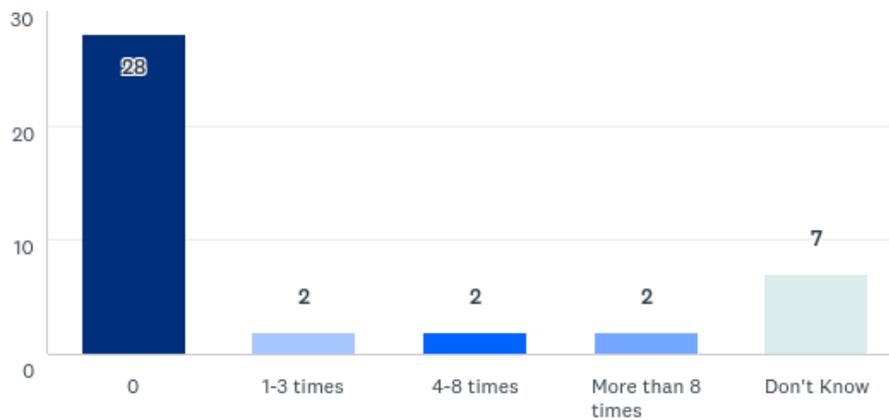
Is there anything else you would like to share about staff at USP Big Sandy?

Inmate Responses
A lot of hate
Better communication to ensure less aggressive behavior to staff in general.
They harass us, they don't treat us with respect, they call us names.
Very unprofessional...
Unit Counselor moved non-dc to dc unit to start trouble.
Some of them are Racist, talk to u any kind of way
Very unprofessional
The staff passes you off to other people who spin you until you bug them to get things done
They're not available or accessible when you need to see them. The unit team is a joke
A lot of them (not all) don't conduct themselves in a professional manner.
I was kicked out the challenge program along with two others for something I had no knowledge of while the person who stole the items confessed and was allowed to stay and the staff tried to make the whole ordeal a racial issue because the guy who stole it

Appendix Figure 38

How many times have you been placed in ambulatory restraints at USP Big Sandy?

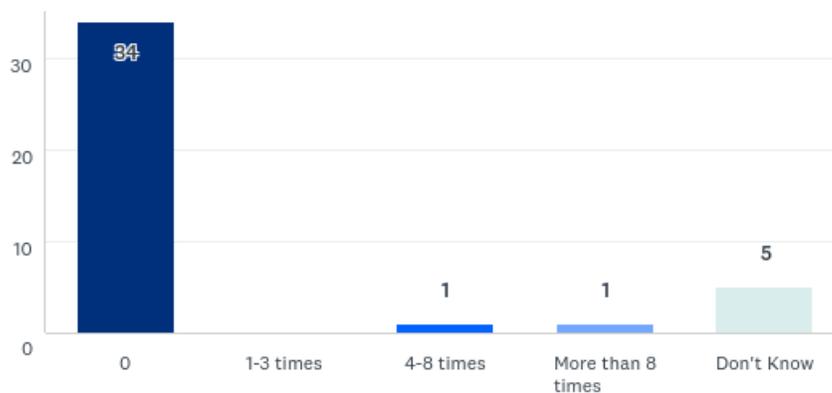
Answered: 41 Skipped: 2



Appendix Figure 39

How many times have you been placed in four-point restraints at USP Big Sandy?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 2



Appendix Figure 40

If you have been placed in restraints at USP Big Sandy, what is the maximum time you have spent in restraints at one time? (Ambulatory of four-point)

Inmate Responses
Two to Three mins
I've been handcuff for four hours.

Appendix Figure 41

If you have been placed in restraints at USP Big Sandy, do you have any injuries from use and application of restraints? If so, please describe:

Inmate Responses
No, I don't know about that, I'm smart and have self-control.
I've lost the feeling in my left thumb.
Don't do the right thing why being injured...
No injuries.
They slammed someone on their face for no reason.
Never have...
No
No
No

Appendix Figure 42

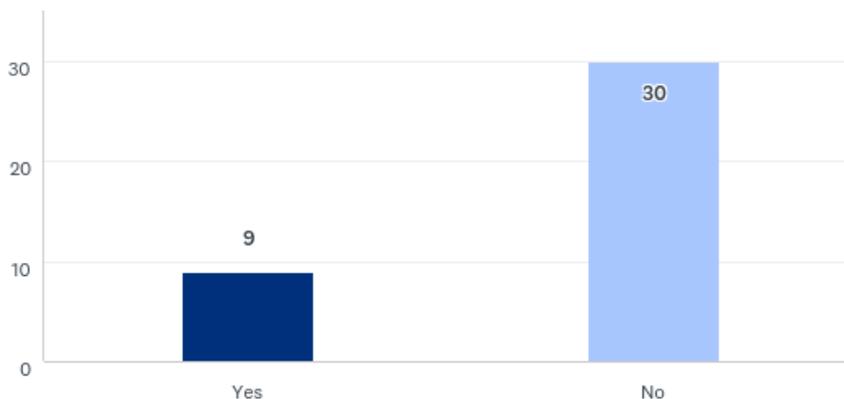
If you have been placed in restraints at USP Big Sandy, did staff provide the opportunity to use the toilet? Please describe:

Inmate Responses
Never have.
No
I haven't been restrained.
No.
Unsure.
I hate Big Sandy...

Appendix Figure 43

Have you ever been harassed, threatened, or abused by staff at USP Big Sandy?

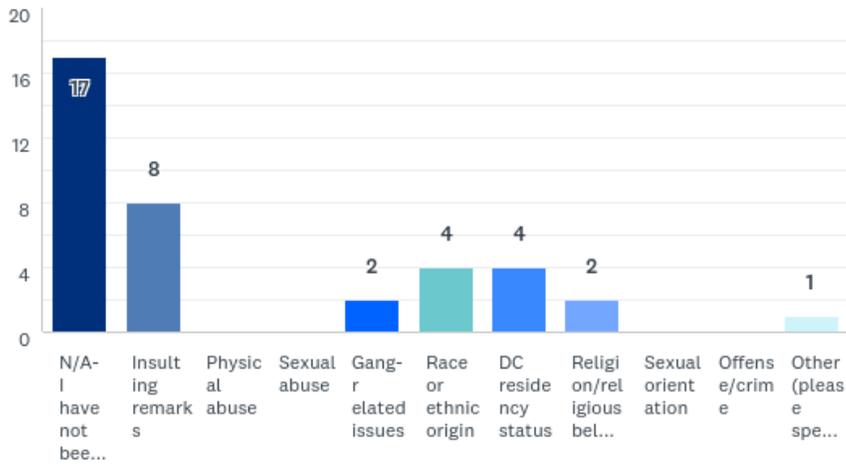
Answered: 39 Skipped: 4



Appendix Figure 4413

If yes, what did it involve? (check all that apply)

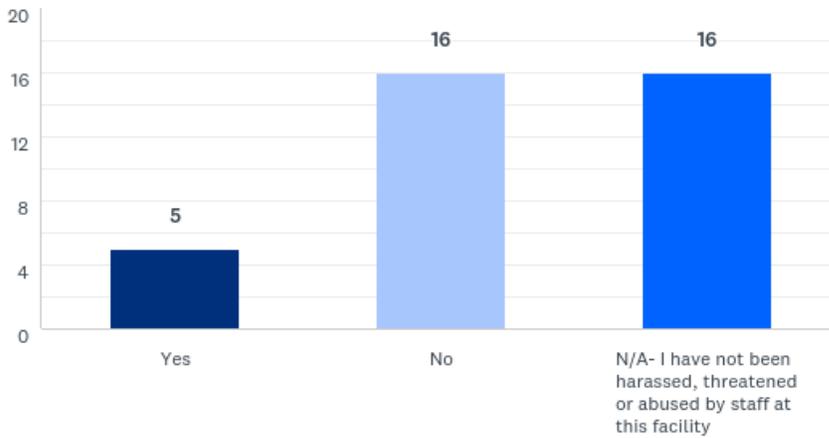
Answered: 27 Skipped: 16



Appendix Figure 45

If you have been harassed, threatened, or abused by staff at USP Big Sandy, did you report it?

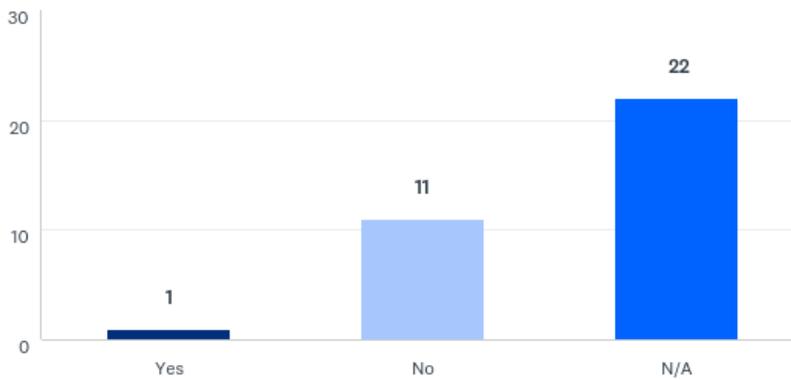
Answered: 37 Skipped: 6



Appendix Figure 46

If yes, are you satisfied with how it was handled?

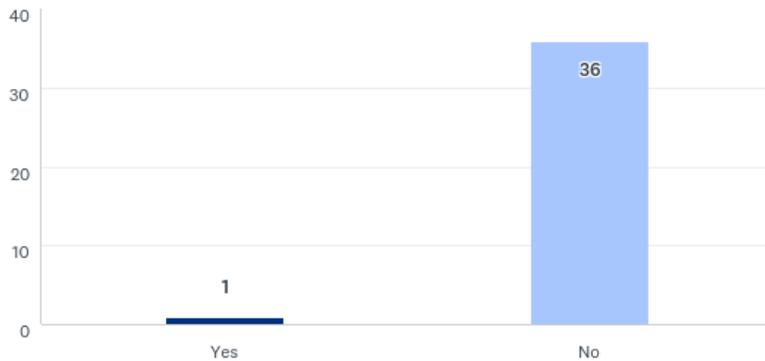
Answered: 34 Skipped: 9



Appendix Figure 47

Have you ever been harassed, threatened or abused by other inmates at USP Big Sandy?

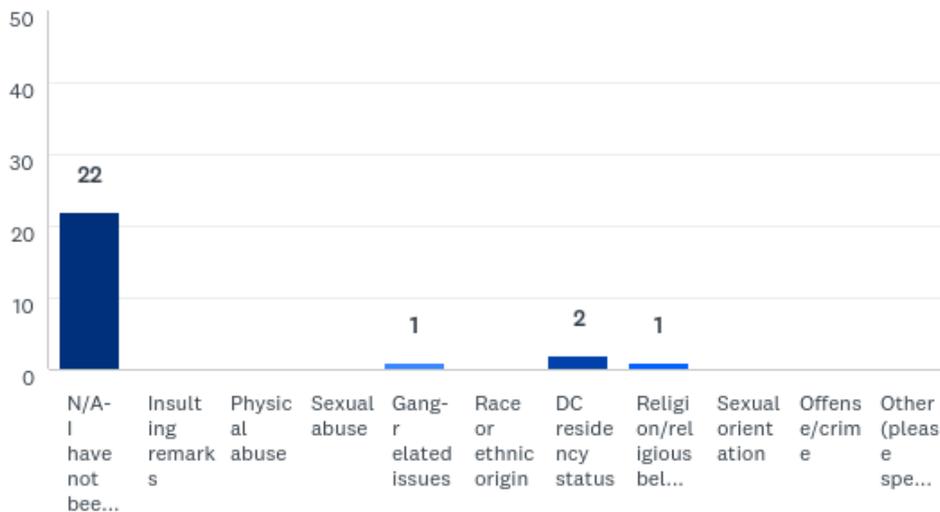
Answered: 37 Skipped: 6



Appendix Figure 48

If yes, what did it involve? (check all that apply)

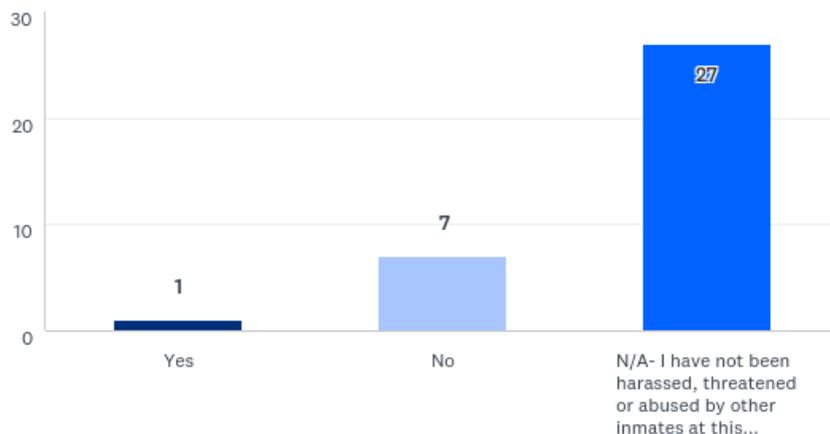
Answered: 23 Skipped: 20



Appendix Figure 49

If you have been harassed, threatened or abused by other inmates at USP Big Sandy, did you report it?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 8



Appendix Figure 50

If yes, are you satisfied with how it was handled?

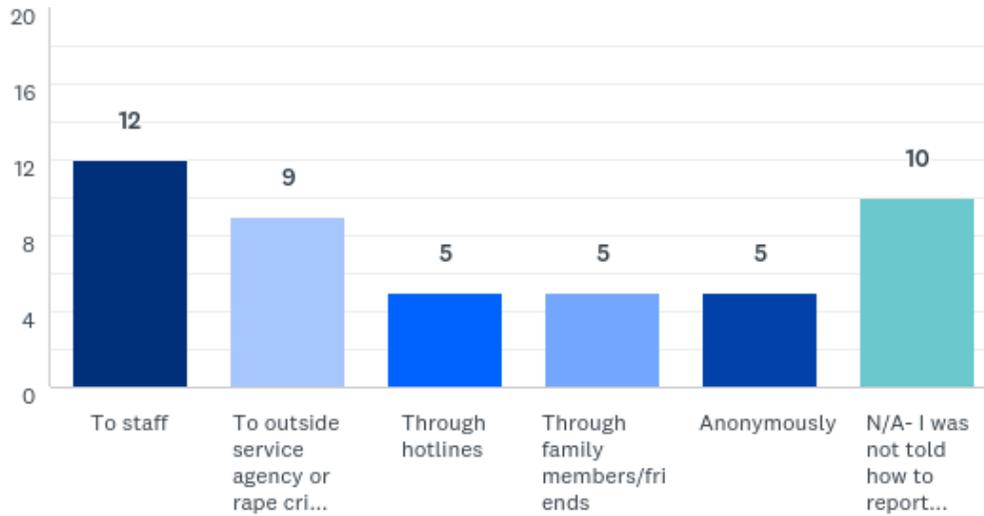
Answered: 29 Skipped: 14



Appendix Figure 51

Were you told that you could report sexual abuse in the following ways:

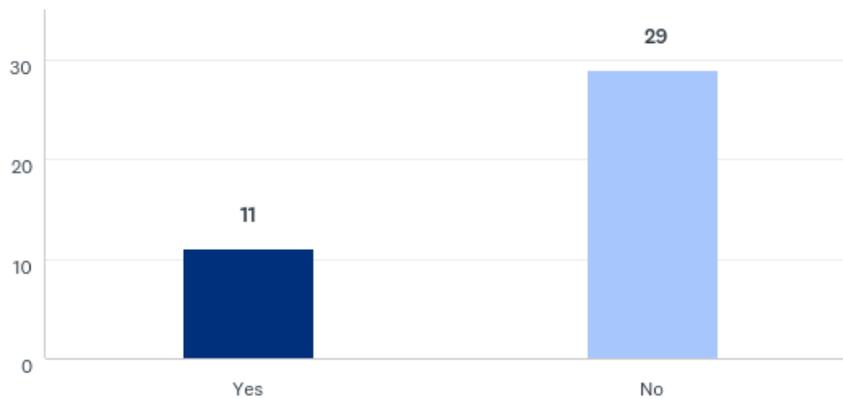
Answered: 25 Skipped: 18



Appendix Figure 52

Are you within 18 months of release?

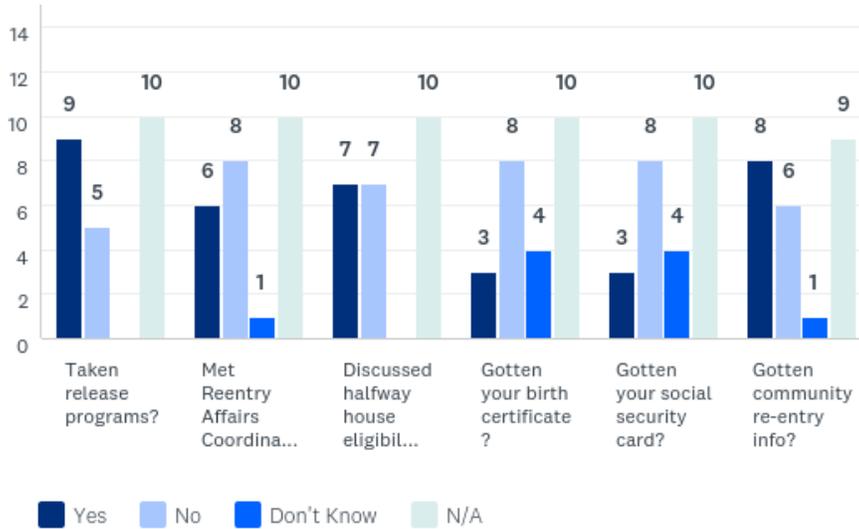
Answered: 40 Skipped: 3



Appendix Figure 53

If you are within 18 months of release, have you:

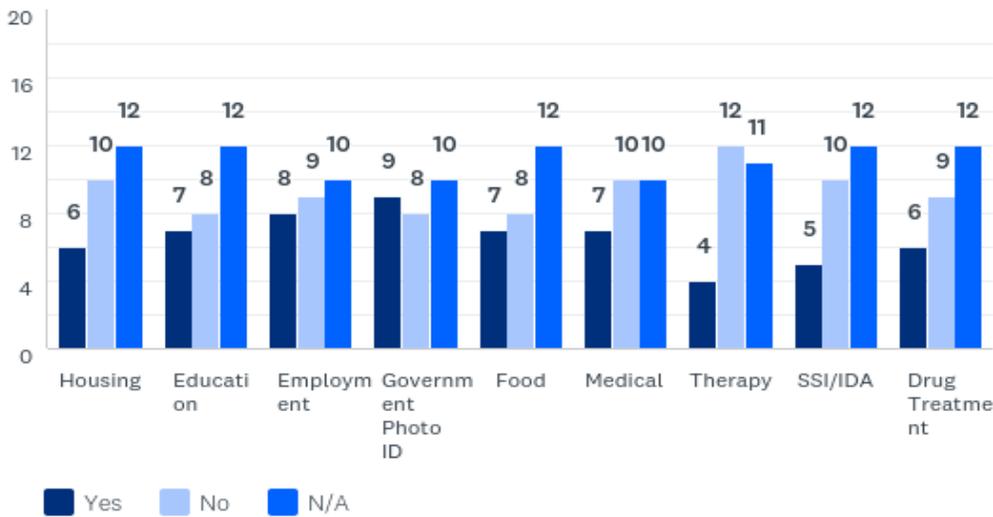
Answered: 25 Skipped: 18



Appendix Figure 54

If you are within 18 months of release, do you know how to obtain the following after release?

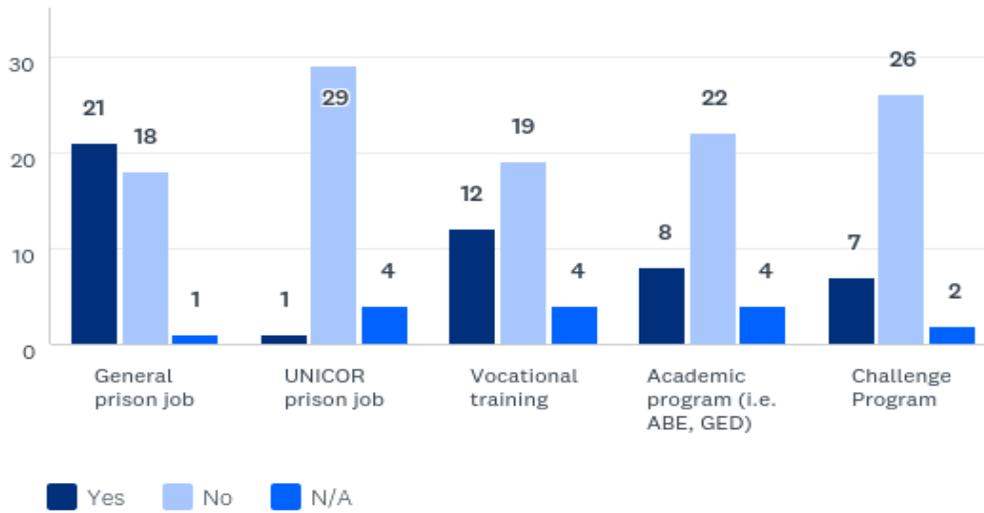
Answered: 28 Skipped: 15



Appendix Figure 55

Are you currently participating in:

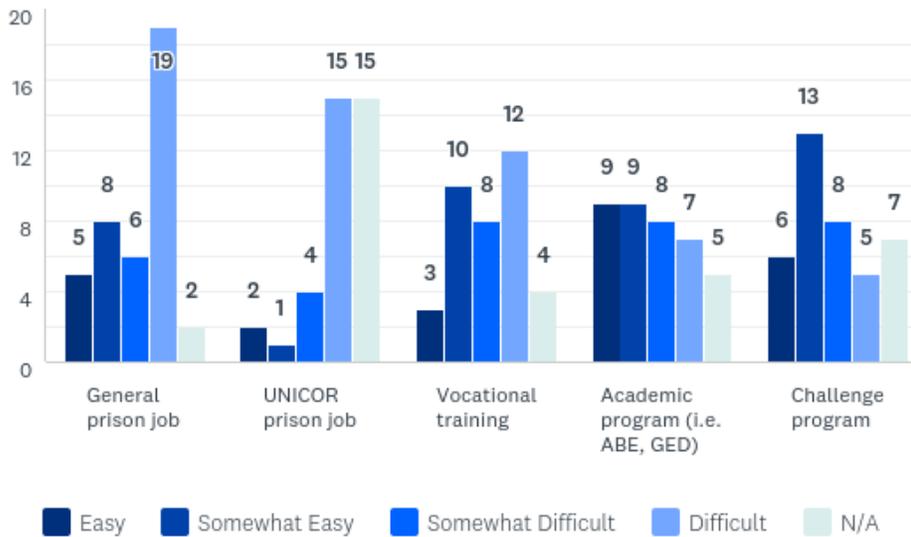
Answered: 41 Skipped: 2



Appendix Figure 56

How easy or difficult is it to get into the following activities in this facility?

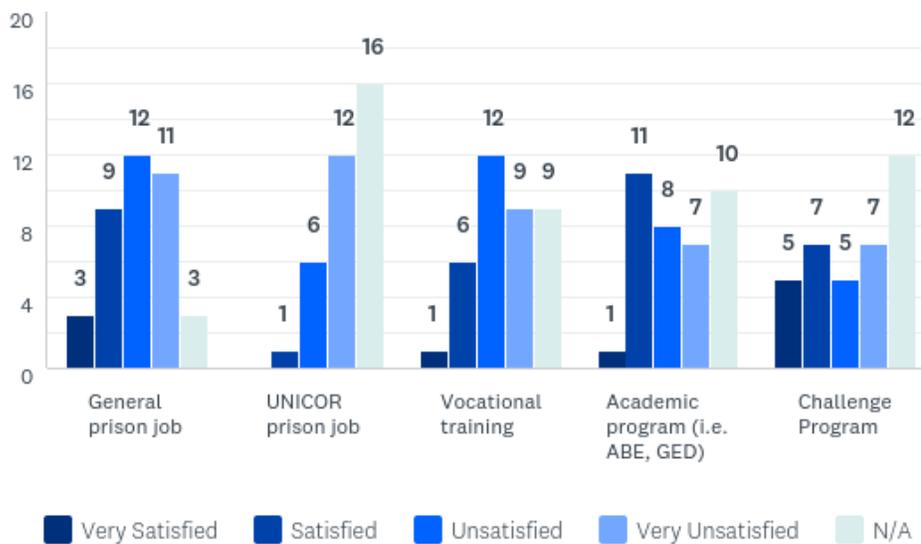
Answered: 40 Skipped: 3



Appendix Figure 57

How satisfied are you with the following activities in this facility?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 4



Appendix Figure 58

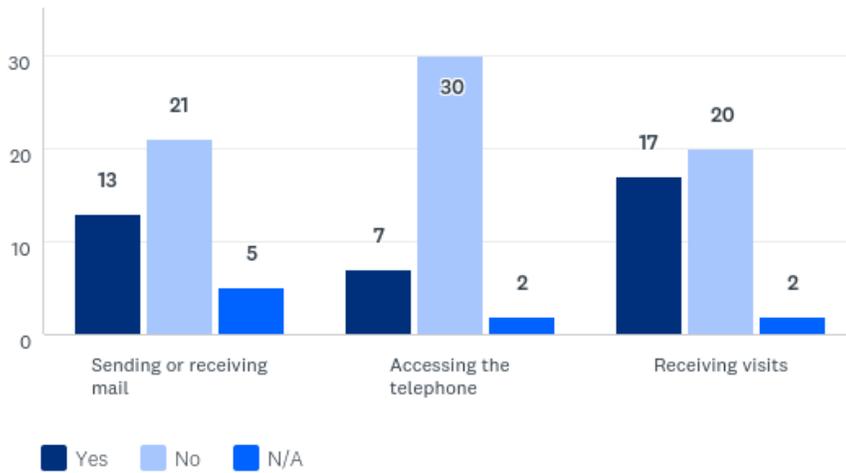
Is there anything else you would like to share about education and programming at USP Big Sandy?

Inmate Responses
Not enough trades.
No.
In Lorton Reformatory all educational, vocational, jobs, UNICOR (industry) were geared towards reacclimation to society. As opposed to the Fed system which reinforces our existing mindset. You get two educations the one they give us, one you give yourself
They don't care about us.
It's a very long waiting time because we are locked down so much.
It's not good.
I hate Big Sandy...
We don't get paid enough.
There are no certification programs.
They take out \$25 for jobs every 3 months no job though. CDL class
It's really nothing you can use when you return Home to help you survive
There could be better programs as far as reentering society as jobs is concerned and education
They are limited.

Appendix Figure 59

Have you had any problems within the past six months:

Answered: 40 Skipped: 3



Appendix Figure 60

If you have problems accessing the telephone, why?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 20

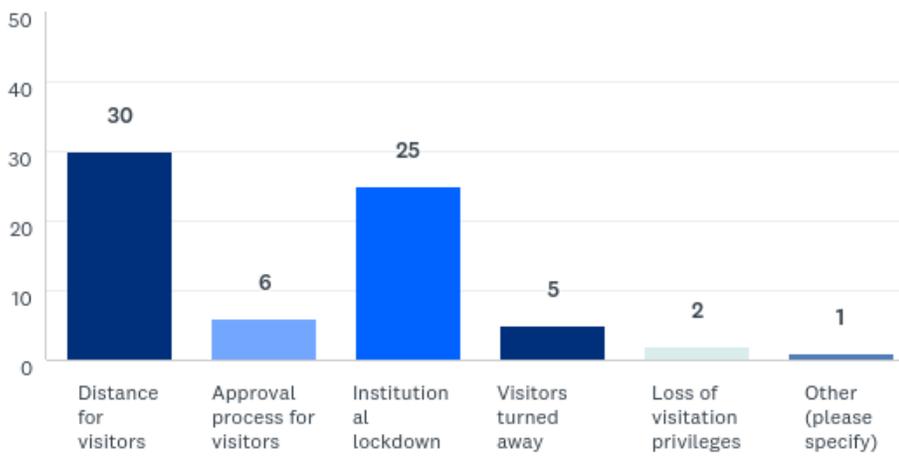
If you currently do not have phone privileges, how long have you been without phone privileges?

Inmate Responses
1 month so far.
Since June 17, 2017
7 months
I haven't had my phone since 2010

Appendix Figure 61

If you have problems receiving visits, why?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 9



Appendix Figure 62

If you currently do not have visitation privileges, how long have you been without visitation privileges?

Inmate Responses
I don't get visits too short, I got them I just don't go.
They stay on lockdown for nothing...
Since June 17, 2017
1 year
I haven't had any visitation privileges since 2009
6 months

Appendix Figure 63

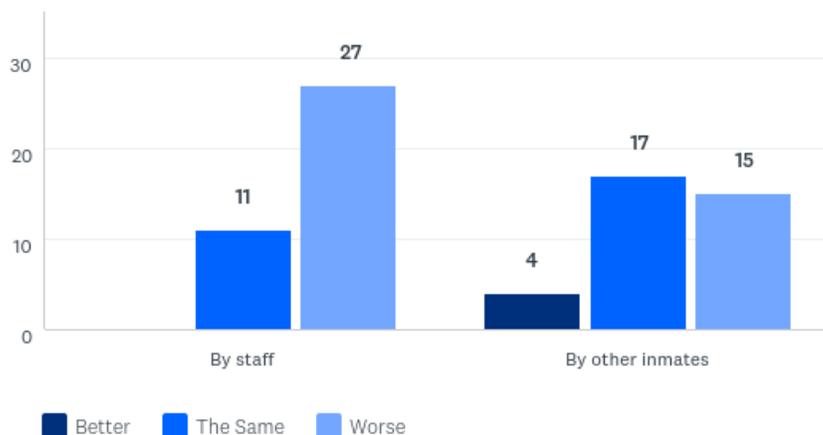
Is there anything else you would like to share about communication and visitation at USP Big Sandy?

Inmate Responses
There are no activities for the kids, food machines mostly be out of order, staff harassing DC Inmates
Most guys like myself are lifers, so comfortability is a high priority. It is well known that lockdown is the most potent tool an institution has and it is being wielded effectively to politicians. We are 500 miles of DC (air wise) but to a family that lives below the poverty level, it is costly and stressful.
I'm good on that.
We really need visits to help with stress and the phone calls cost too much.
Too far to come and get turn around.
We have the voice thing going on for the, we have to say our name into the phone but we have to say our name at least seven or eight time before it goes through.
I hate Big Sandy...
It's bad because they try to make you uncomfortable.
They lockdown and won't allow the family to enter even after a very long trip.
It's rolling the dice if you don't have a strong support system you will lose all of you support
I don't have any privileges to be able to effectively communicate with my family I been incarcerated 24 yrs. and the last 10yrs my privileges has been taken until phone 2032, visits 2028, E-mail 2026

Appendix Figure 64

Compared to other inmates, how do you feel DC inmates are treated?

Answered: 38 Skipped: 5



Appendix Figure 65

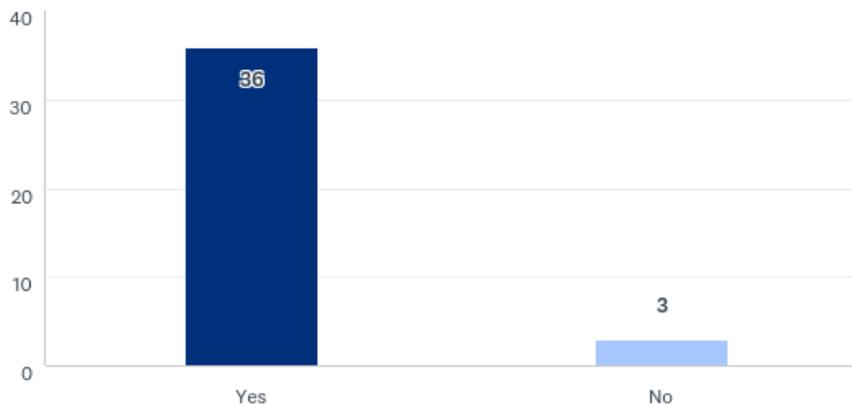
Please give an example of better or worse treatment:

Inmate Responses
Just because of where I'm from they treat us different.
The institution has what is called politics where inmates talk to officers to iron different misunderstandings or problems. DC prisoners don't politic, inmates respect this because they understand us.
Inmates respect us, staff don't.
We are looked at like animals.
They look at you a certain way because they think we are very violent.
Everybody hate us! Everybody staff and inmates.
Once they find out that we're from DC they treat us wrong...
I hate our style the way we walk talk...
Singled out.
Hateful
Harassment, assaulted, etc.
We cannot transfer because of our sentence structure.
DC most hated in BOP
I guess it has to do with the fact that anytime DC comes up there's a negative connotation with it
For whatever reason DC prisoners are treated by the reputation of former prisoners before.
The staff specifically identify us and make it hard in areas that are easier for other inmates.
Can't really explain
Just jobs, cell rotations
Other inmates, from other states get less hassle from staff

Appendix Figure 66

If you had the opportunity to be closer to DC during the last 24 months of your incarceration to prepare for your reentry, would you be interested in doing so?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 4



Appendix Figure 67

Please explain why or why not:

Inmate Responses
So I can be close to my mom
Cause it's close to home for me and I can see my son
To help get adjusted back to the word
I would love to be closer to home to be able to see my mother that is getting old. I don't have anybody to bring my mother to see me.
So that I can see my family and prepare for life living in DC.
Because I can be more in tone with the world.

Familial connection is better.
Cause I can get away from this racist and dangerous place.
Because I would like to be close to my family.
I would like to be closer to my family.
Preparation
Be home near my family.
I really don't know.
See my family and get the ties back.
I want out of Big Sandy, they're very unprofessional.
I hate Big Sandy...
To reunite with my family and friends
It would be a great benefit.
Can't
To be closer to home.
It would give an opportunity to build family ties.
Because It will give us the time to see our loved one and build a relationship
Can be closer to my family
To be able to see my family!!
To see my mother she is 76 years old
Because I could interact with my family and have more personal time with them.
Just so you can try and get back in tune with your loved ones
I am custody classified as a 13 as far as my points is concerned the manage variable comes off next year so being closer
I could really work on relationship with family and make it to an F.C.I
I have strong family ties and I would love to be able to communicate with them face to face for the mental support of getting ready for society.
Because I think anywhere other than West Virginia and Kentucky so far will be better, just the atmosphere of the staff.
So I can reconnect with my family.
More resources & access overall

Appendix Figure 68

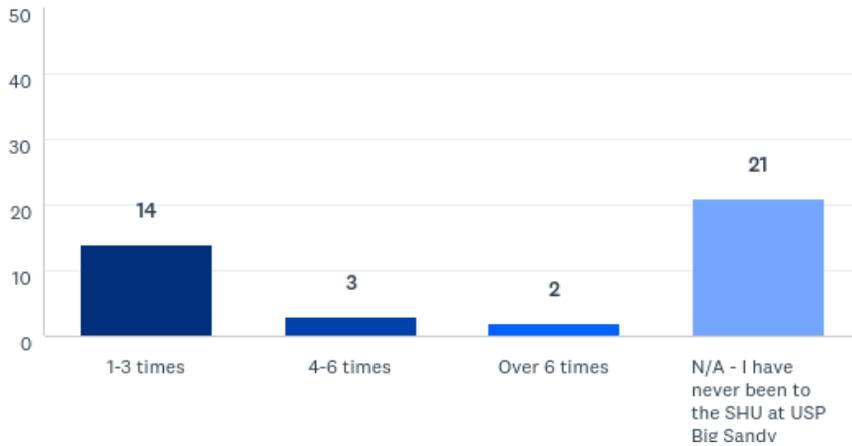
Is there anything else you would like to share about the treatment of DC inmates?

Inmate Responses
It just seems we are held to a different standard.
They hate us even more cause we stand up to what we believe in respect and we smart and know how to move.
We are seen differently, we are classified different.
They need to stop picking on us.
I hate Big Sandy because they hate us...
It is very important that the transfer policy be scrutinized that makes us eligible for lower security transfers. In the lower security prisons there are many more re-entry programs. Much needed to help a healthy transition back to society.
We need some type of go between because we're all not bad, just maybe misinformed on some issues overall not bad we are human and have family that love and miss us too.
We seem to be of lesser importance.

Appendix Figure 69

How many times have you been in the SHU at USP Big Sandy?

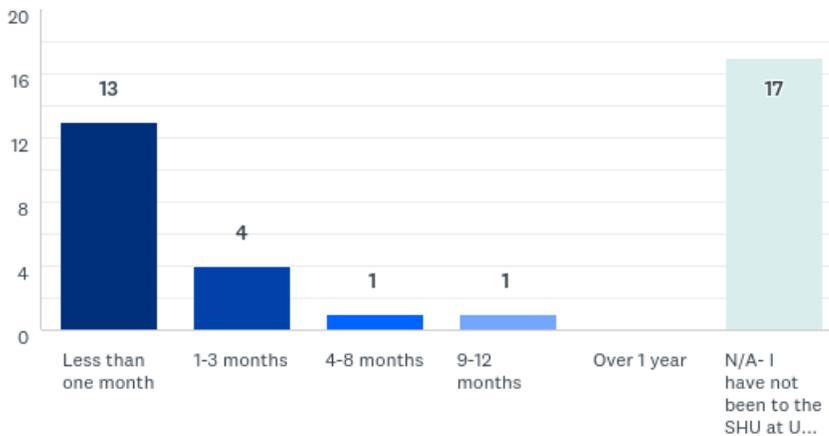
Answered: 40 Skipped: 3



Appendix Figure 70

What is the maximum time you have spent in the SHU at one time in USP Big Sandy?

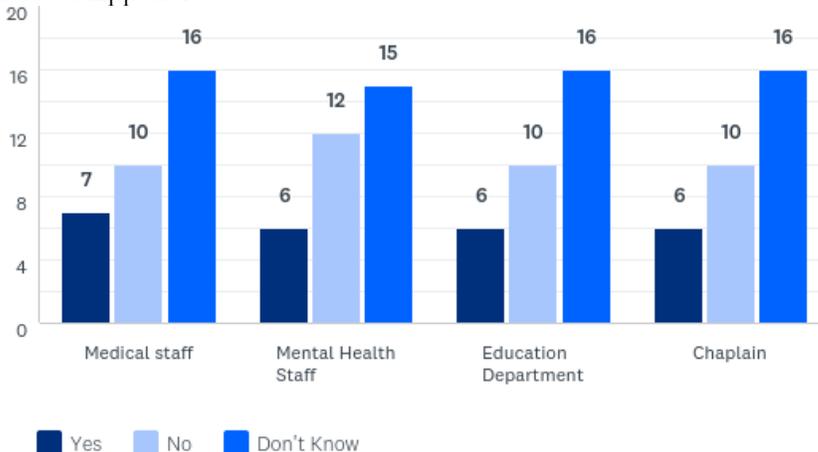
Answered: 36 Skipped: 7



Appendix Figure 71

Did the following conduct weekly rounds?

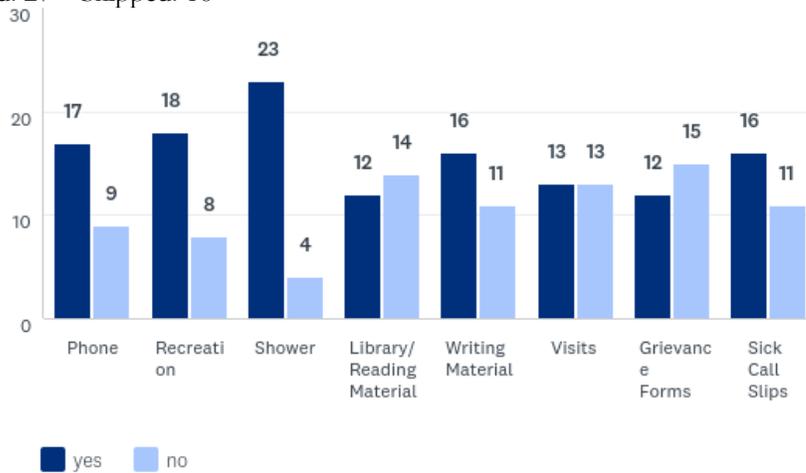
Answered: 33 Skipped: 10



Appendix Figure 14

Did you have access to the following:

Answered: 27 Skipped: 16



Appendix Figure 73

Is there anything else you would like to share about the SHU at USP Big Sandy?

Inmate Responses
It's unsanitary.
Although I've said yes to the accessibility to staff I can't say how frequent because I wasn't down there long enough. I haven't been, I calculate my steps in here it's too dangerous to be everywhere, that's why the staff always say look alive when they count.
I think you all should look into Big Sand...
The unit team do not make rounds in the SHU. They sign the book then go!
Telephone and recreation access sometimes.
They don't give out rolls of toilet paper.

Appendix Figure 74

What is the most positive aspect of USP Big Sandy?

Inmate Responses
The staff respect you
Nothing
I wish I could say something good about this place
The new cap has improved the lockdown.
Certain officers in my unit are respectful.
Nothing.
My job.
Nothing is positive to me.
Microwaves.
Program units
The telephone and email.
Nothing, being out the cells.
It's cool with each other.
There is none!
Nothing in the sky and the birds and life itself...
Don't know

I've grown up.
Telephones.
Being at the camp
the R.D.A.P.

Appendix Figure 75

What is the most negative aspect of USP Big Sandy?

Inmate Responses
lockdown
USP BIG SANDY
The lockdown.
The way the officers treat us.
Racism.
Lack of community resources and human resources.
People die, staff disrespectful.
Lockdowns.
Medical and lockdowns, food.
Too far!
Vibe.
Being around so many people with life sentences.
The classification is worst.
Very unprofessional.
The staff...
everything
All
Too far, food, medical.
The transfer policy for DC prisoners.
Being far from my Family
locked downs
you never know when you're gonna be on lockdown
The safety, the Food
Treatment of DC prisoners when it comes to things like transfer, greater punishment for infractions.
The treatment of the officers toward the inmates.
Lockdowns, food, jobs.
I don't know
Lock downs impede progress

Appendix Figure 76

Please provide one recommendation you would give to improve the conditions of confinement at USP Big Sandy:

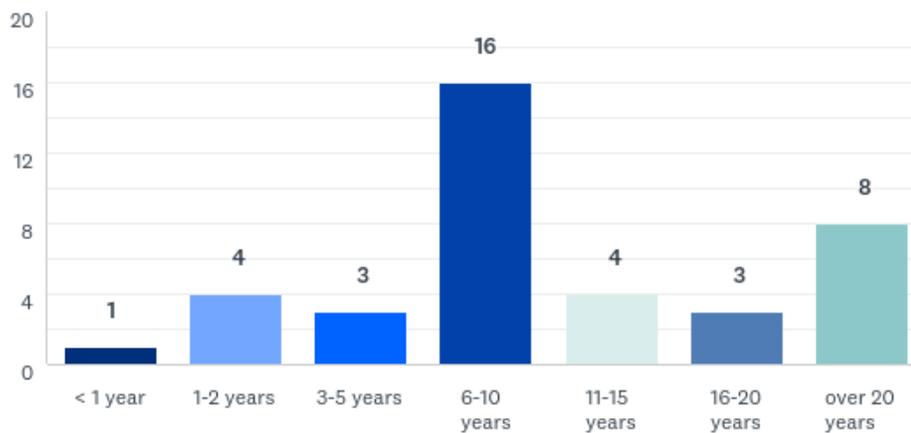
Inmate Responses
more jobs
Bad too much lockdown
STAFF
If you are eligible for a transfer for you to be allowed to.
More black staff.
Human resources.
Show us respect, feed us better.
Better food service.
Not so many lockdowns, but they've improved lately.

Better food and medical.
Get closer.
Do whatever it take.
To let DC inmates receive special visits and to lessen the cost of phone calls because we don't have a choice but to be far from home.
Better food.
Get DC dude out the fed.
Talk with respect conduct themselves in a professional manner.
I hate Big Sandy...
Less lockdown more program
I want to leave.
Everything, visitation.
better access to law library
Better jobs, programs, so that people won't just be sitting around stressing being warehoused
Jobs
Oversight by the outside.
More jobs, programs for the yard instead of just for the C-side.
Stop the lockdowns.

Appendix Figure 77

How long have you been incarcerated overall?

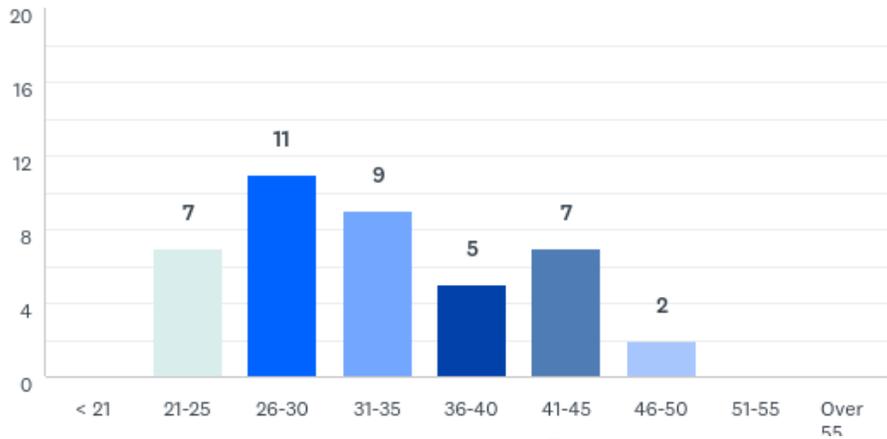
Answered: 39 Skipped: 4



Appendix Figure 78

How old are you?

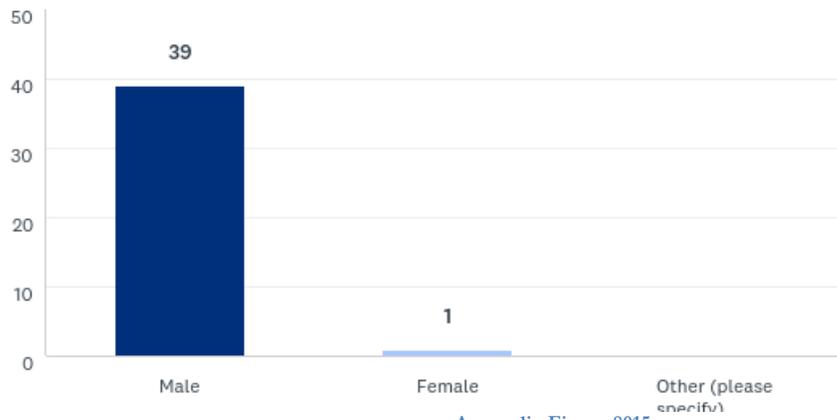
Answered: 41 Skipped: 2



Appendix Figure 79

What is your gender?

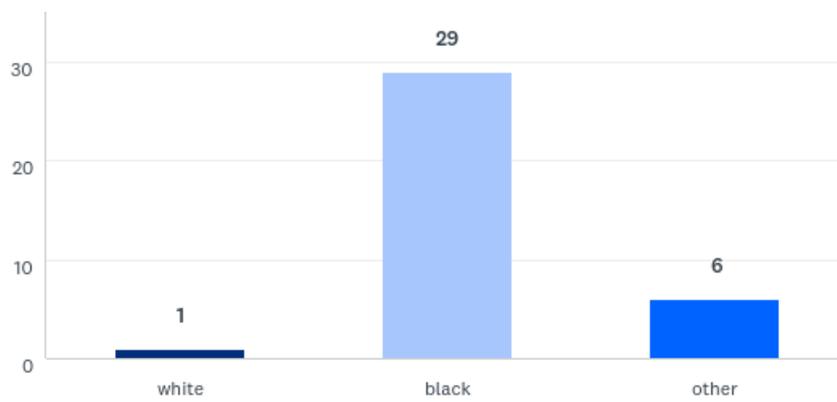
Answered: 40 Skipped: 3



Appendix Figure 8015

With what race do you most closely identify?

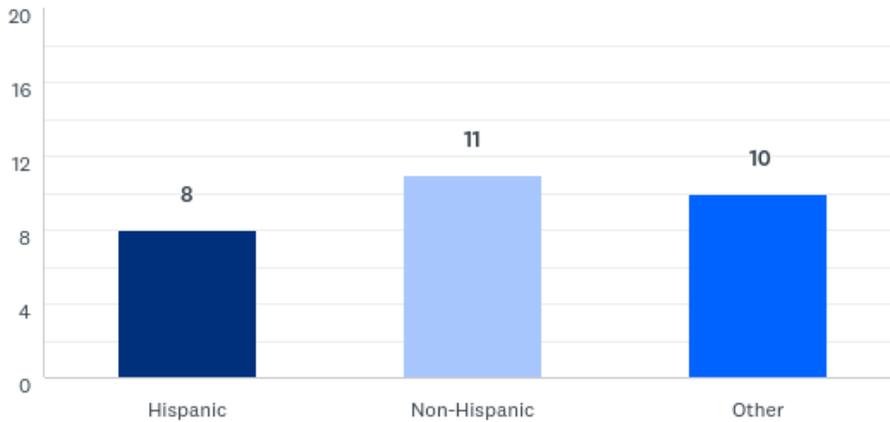
Answered: 36 Skipped: 7



Appendix Figure 81

With what ethnicity do you most closely identify?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 14



Appendix Figure 82

Is there anything else you would like to share with the CIC about your experience at USP Big Sandy?

Inmate Responses
I am ready to leave. If it's my choice I would like to leave now, and never come back
It was the worst time in my life.
Trust fund don't spend the inmate trust account to upgrade institutional programs
No, I hate it and can't wait to get out of here it's hell.
Just that the medical is so bad.
Cruel.
Very stressful.
I want to leave.
It's not a place for human beings to be, and if you're trying to rehabilitate you can't.
I've completed the challenge program and have been denied three transfers. It's guys that have transferred and had incident reports and I haven't had any and my points were lower than theirs.

Appendix Figure 83

Appendix C: BOP Response



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Washington, DC 20534

October 2, 2019

Donald Isaac, Executive Director
DC Corrections Information Council
1400 I Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Isaac:

This letter is in response to the draft inspection report received on August 1, 2019, regarding the August 29-30, 2018, visit to the United States Penitentiary (USP) Big Sandy. The Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) recognizes the value of the Corrections Information Council (CIC) inspections of its facilities and the voice it provides the D.C. Superior Court inmates. We hope to continue working closely to improve the Bureau facilities and raise awareness with regard to those inmates' needs.

Throughout the report, unsubstantiated allegations are made without direct observation by the CIC or supported by facts that can be corroborated. The Bureau notes the draft report findings are based on a small percentage of DC inmates assigned to USP Big Sandy. The Bureau is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our staff, the public and all inmates in our population. Allegations of misconduct are thoroughly investigated and based on the findings, appropriate action is taken, if necessary.

I offer the following responses to the statements and recommendations in the report:

- 1. The draft report states recommends:** The facility staff should continue to work towards reducing the frequency of lockdowns. They should also consider options to minimize the impact of lockdowns on the entire facility. The BOP should ensure that the facility has sufficient staff to address security issues without needing to lockdown the entire facility.

Response: The decision to lock down an institution is one that is never taken lightly. It is only done when absolutely necessary to maintain the safe and secure running of the institution. The primary objective is to investigate what necessitated a lockdown, and to determine how best to prevent it from happening in the future. The need for a type of

lockdown will always be dictated by the nature, duration and magnitude of each situation. High security level institutions, such as a penitentiary, are fluid in nature. The goal remains to return to normal operating procedures as expeditiously as possible following the conclusion of any necessitating event.

USP Big Sandy continues to work toward ways of reducing the frequency of lockdowns. Depending on the situation, options which have been implemented include the continuance of visitation and extensions of programming and classes to accommodate for these situations. USP Big Sandy Special Investigations Services works tirelessly to ensure investigations are completed thoroughly and timely to ensure the institution can safely resume normal operations.

2. **The draft report states recommends:** Facility leadership should limit the impact of lockdowns on inmates participating in programming, including consideration of creating specific programming units that could continue to function under normal or partial lockdown status while other parts of the facility are on lockdown.

Response: The decision to lock down an institution is one that is never taken lightly. It is only done when absolutely necessary to maintain the safe and secure running of the institution. The primary objective is to investigate what necessitated a lockdown, and to determine how best to prevent it from happening in the future. The need for a type of lockdown will always be dictated by the nature, duration and magnitude of each situation. High security level institutions, such as a penitentiary, are fluid in nature. The goal remains to return to normal operating procedures as expeditiously as possible following the conclusion of any necessitating event.

USP Big Sandy continues to work toward ways of reducing the frequency of lockdowns. Depending on the situation, options which have been implemented to include the continuance of visitation and extensions of programming and classes to accommodate for these situations. USP Big Sandy Special Investigations Services works tirelessly to ensure investigations are completed thoroughly and timely to ensure the institution can safely resume normal operations.

3. **The draft report states recommends:** The Executive Staff should review the current educational programming to ensure that they are in full compliance with the requirements of Program Statement 5300.21, Education, Training and Leisure Time Program Standards, which requires that the warden and education supervisor must ensure that inmates have meaningful opportunities to acquire or improve marketable skills through educational programming and career counseling. The supervisor of education should pursue accreditation or independent certification for education and occupation programs, as suggested by Program Statement 5300.21(10)(c).

Response: USP Big Sandy is in compliance with Program Statement 5300.21, Education, Training and Leisure Time Program Standards, and recently added a number of programs to assist inmates with their transition back to society. There are two new apprenticeship programs through the Department of Labor and Big Sandy Community and Technical

College at USP Big Sandy.

The GED Program at USP Big Sandy is always near the top of the country for GED Completions. USP Big Sandy is also the only institution in the Mid-Atlantic Region that is programming inmates above 40% of the enrollment requirement.

USP Big Sandy also provides three marketable vocational training programs; two of which provides computer skills needed to be competitive in today's workforce. The other vocational training program teaches inmates a marketable skill in appliance repair.

- 4. The draft report states recommends:** To the extent that program availability is limited by lack of funding, the BOP Mid-Atlantic Regional Director should ensure that USP Big Sandy receives adequate resources to provide meaningful educational and occupational programming to the inmates in its care.

Response: The Mid-Atlantic Regional Office and Central Office have provided additional funding in fiscal year 2019 for programming at USP Big Sandy, specifically directed to vocational training and English as a Second Language courses.

As noted above, USP Big Sandy also operates a Career Resource Center which contains District of Columbia information. It is accessible to inmates seven days a week. The Re-Entry Affairs Coordinator focuses on obtaining social security cards and other forms of identification for inmates releasing. Inmates also participate in annual job fairs focusing on interview skills and resume writing.

- 5. The draft report states recommends:** Facility leadership should ensure that correctional officers are not limiting access to emergency medical care, which must be available to SHU inmates at all times, per 28 CFR §541.32(a).

Response: Additional and specific information is needed to adequately review this allegation. Inmates in SHU to have access to emergency medical care at all times.

- 6. The draft report states recommends:** Facility leadership should ensure that inmates are given access to cleaning materials frequently enough to maintain their cells in a sanitary condition.

Response: USP Big Sandy provides cleaning products to inmates in SHU two times per week to ensure inmates are able to maintain sanitary conditions inside their cells.

- 7. The draft report states recommends:** The Executive Staff should ensure that inmates with acute medical needs are seen and treated promptly in accordance with Program Statement 6031.01, Patient Care.

Response: Program Statement 6031.04, Patient Care, Section 17. Triage/Access to Care, outlines the sick call/triage process. Inmates are also informed of the availability of medical services, which includes medical and dental, during intake screening. They also

sign for and are provided a copy of Inmate A&O Handbook which outlines the process and procedures to access both medical and dental care. Inmates have access to routine sick call four (4) days/week. Sick call rounds are conducted daily in the Special Housing Unit.

Emergency care is provided on an as needed basis, dependent on the inmate's complaint and assessment findings.

8. **The draft report states recommends:** The BOP should ensure that adequate numbers of medical providers are available to provide medical care to individuals incarcerated at USP Big Sandy.

Response: Program Statement 6031.04, Patient Care, Section 12. Ambulatory Care Services, describes the Patient Care Provider Team and staffing pattern guidelines. Even though not all clinical positions are filled, contracts have been procured to provide services to account for the vacant positions. USP Big Sandy has a full time contract Physician. Additionally, aggressive recruiting efforts have been implemented to fill vacancies, as soon as possible. Despite occasional key positions being vacated, provisions are always in place to ensure inmates receive the medical and dental care they need.

9. **The draft report states recommends:** The Executive Staff should ensure that inmates are being seen for comprehensive dental care consistent with the national wait list as laid out in Program Statement 6400.03, Dental Care.

Response: Program Statement 6031.04, Patient Care, Section 12. Ambulatory Care Services, describes the Patient Care Provider Team and staffing pattern guidelines. Even though not all clinical positions are filled with Bureau employees, contracts have been procured to provide services to the areas with vacant positions. However, provisions are always in place to ensure inmates receive urgent medical and dental care as needed. Aggressive recruiting efforts are implemented to fill vacancies as soon as possible.

10. **The draft report states recommends:** Facility leadership should ensure that all food served to inmates at USP Big Sandy is properly prepared and maintained at appropriate temperatures per the BOP Food Service Manual.

Response: All food served to inmates at USP Big Sandy is properly prepared and maintained at appropriate temperatures per Program Statement 4700.06, Food Service Manual.

11. **The draft report states recommends:** Facility leadership should consider offering additions to the National Menu as contemplated by the BOP in Program Statement 4700.06, Food Service Manual, Chapter 2, Section 3, page 16.

Response: Additions and supplemental food such as rice and beans have been added to

the national menu at USP Big Sandy, as outlined in Program Statement 4700.06, Food Service Manual. The quality of the food served to the inmate population is a priority for the BOP. Our food service mission is to provide nutritionally sound and appetizing meals that meet the needs of the general population and those at nutritional risk. Additionally, inmates received a yearly survey to assist Food Service Administrators with determining inmate eating preferences.

- 12. The draft report states recommends:** Facility staff should provide inmates with clear and accessible instructions for filing both informal and formal grievances, and inform them that they may request assistance from institution staff or another inmate in preparing grievances.

Response: Every inmate is provided with a copy of the Inmate Admissions and Orientation (A&O) handbook at their initial screening, during the intake process. The A&O handbook outlines the grievance process and is distributed in both English and Spanish versions, contingent upon the inmates' primary language.

All inmates have access to Administrative Remedy forms through their Unit Team staff. Staff also discuss, explain and answer questions regarding the formal and informal grievance process. All inmates are informed assistance is available, upon request from staff, regarding the preparation of a grievance.

- 13. The draft report states recommends:** Facility staff should work towards reducing delays in processing inmate mail. Facility staff should work towards reducing delays in processing inmate mail.

Response: Correctional Systems staff process all mail on a daily basis and ensure it is delivered the same day. In attempt to reduce the amount of contraband introduced through the mailroom, parameters have been implemented to ensure the safety and security of the institution for inmates and staff. For example, photographs printed on paper (as opposed to photograph paper) are photocopied. If the inmate is unsatisfied with the quality, he has 30 days to request a new copy. In addition greeting cards, colored paper and scented paper are no longer allowed; as well as colored/painted pictures as the aforementioned have all contributed to the introduction of contraband and affects orderly operation of the institution.

- 14. The draft report states recommends:** Facility staff should ensure that physical plant issues are resolved promptly to maintain housing units in a safe and habitable condition.

Response: USP Big Sandy Facilities Department responds to plumbing problems and flooding in the housing units with the utmost priority. The Information Technology Managed Services (ITMS) web-request system tracks all work orders and work is completed by priority. Moreover, the ITMS system tracks and maintains the preventive maintenance care plan to ensure the facility's structural and mechanical components are operational.

15. The draft report states recommends: Facility staff should ensure that housing units have appropriate ventilation in accordance with Program Statement 4200.12, Facilities Operations Manual Chapters 12 and 16, pages 9 and 6, respectively.

Response: If OC spray is discharged in the housing units, the Facilities Department completely opens the outside fresh air dampeners on the HVAC system to relieve the effects of the spray. As it pertains to SHU, the negative air pressure function is used to refresh the air and alleviate the effects of OC spray. A further review indicates OC spray has not been utilized as frequently as reported.

I appreciate the opportunity to review and provide comments to your inspection report regarding USP Big Sandy.

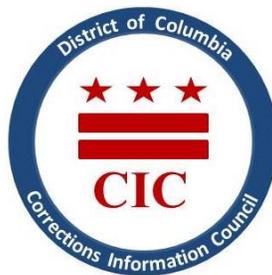
Please contact me at (202) 353-3638, if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Brewer', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

David Brewer, Administrator
Correctional Programs Branch

[Type here]



**District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council**

The electronic version of this
report is available on the CIC website:

<https://www.cic.dc.gov/>



CIC | District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

DC Corrections Information Council
1400 Eye Street NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005

August 11, 2020

United States Parole Commission
90 K Street NE #300
Washington, DC 20002

RE: Request for data concerning DC Code Offenders in light of COVID-19 Response Supplemental Emergency Amendment Act.

In accordance with the COVID-19 Response Supplemental Emergency Amendment Act (D.C. Act 23-286), DC Code offenders who were initially given indeterminate sentences are now retroactively being awarded 54 days of good time credits, which will change the initial parole hearing dates for those who qualify.

1. How is the USPC conducting parole hearings for DC Code Offenders during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. Are parole hearings being done virtually or in person, and if there is a mixture of both how do you decide which method to use for a specific individual?
3. Does the USPC have a record of how many initial parole hearing dates have been changed for DC Code offenders as a result of COVID-19 Response Supplemental Emergency Amendment Act (D.C. act 23-286)?
4. How many parole hearings have resulted in immediate releases for DC Code Offenders who had their dates moved up as a result of COVID-19 Response Supplemental Emergency Amendment Act (D.C. Act 23-286)?

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Kareem McCraney
Program Analyst
Corrections Information Council
Email: Kareem.McCraney@dc.gov