

Lake Erie Correctional Institution Inspection Brief

Correctional Institution Inspection Committee

February 22, 2013

Institution Profile

- Conneaut, Ohio
- Levels 1 and 2 (minimum/medium) security
- Population: 1,794 (as of 1/22/13)
 - Capacity: 1,798
 - 60.1% Black, 36.5% White
- In 2011, Ohio sold the facility to the Corrections Corporation of America, which assumed control of operations on December 31, 2011.
- In 2012, the facility increased its population by 300 inmates.

Inspection Overview

Safety and Security: In Need of Improvement

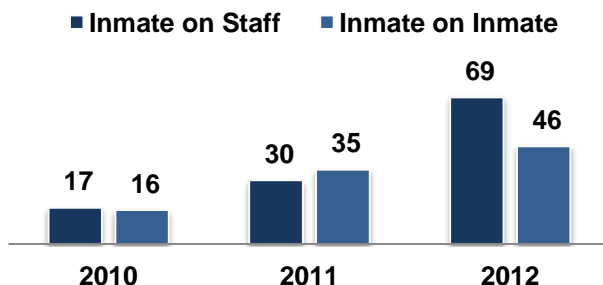
Health and Wellbeing: Good

Fair Treatment: In Need of Improvement

Reentry and Rehabilitation: In Need of Improvement

Fiscal Accountability: In Need of Improvement

Assaults



Key Findings

- **Assaults:** From 2010 to 2012, inmate-on-inmate assaults increased by 187.5%; inmate-on-staff assaults increased by 305.9%.
- **Fights:** The rate of rule 19 (fight) convictions increased by more than 40% between 2011 and 2012.
- **Disturbances:** Total disturbances in 2012 doubled in comparison to prior years.
- **Use of Force:** Total uses of force increased by 24.1% between 2010 and 2012. Use of chemical agents increased by 127.3%.
- **Access to Illegal Substances:** In the prior six months, 6.7% of inmates tested positive, which is higher than the DRC average. An inmate recently died from a suspected overdose of an illegal substance (heroin).
- **Unit Conditions:** The average level of cleanliness was rated as good and there were minimal maintenance concerns.
- **Healthcare:** There were no backlogs reported for either medical or mental health services.
- **Staff Accountability:** Inmate focus group participants expressed that staff lack control over the inmate population, that policies and procedures are inconsistently followed, and that officers avoid confrontation.
- **Inmate Discipline:** Inmates are not being held accountable even when committing serious rule infractions.
- **Access to Purposeful Activities:** Unit activities and space on units for activities were lacking. A high rate of inmate idleness was observed.
- **Quality of Programming:** GED passage rates were high.