



A Joint Committee of the Ohio General Assembly

REPORT ON THE UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION OF ROSS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2024

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**REPORT ON THE
 UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION OF
 ROSS CORRECTIONAL
 INSTITUTION
 SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2024**

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OVERVIEW

Facility Overview

Ross Correctional Institution (RCI) is a close security male prison housing Level 3 (close) security individuals incarcerated and a small population of Level 2 (medium) security individuals incarcerated. The facility opened in 1987 and is located on 1,707 acres in Chillicothe, Ohio. RCI is a campus-style facility with housing units H 1-8 and J -Dorm.

The initial design capacity for RCI was 1,124 individuals incarcerated. As of March 5, 2024, the institution housed 1,845 individuals incarcerated. As of September 16, 2024, the institution employed 479 total staff of which 320 were officers. There were 59 total vacancies (11.1%), including 47 for officer positions (12.8%).

On the March 8-11, 2021, American Correctional Association (ACA) Reaccreditation audit, the institution scored 100% compliance for applicable, mandatory standards, and 99.6% on the applicable, non-mandatory standards.

In its March 7-9, 2023, Internal Management Audit (IMA), the institution scored 98.3% compliance for 64 applicable mandatory standards, 99% on the applicable non-mandatory standards, and an 95.7% on the applicable Ohio standards.

Inspection Overview

Preparation for the inspection of Ross Correctional Institution took place in the month prior to site visitation. The most recent inspection of the facility, completed in September 2023, was reviewed to identify areas of previous concern or praise. The CIIC database of concerns received from individuals incarcerated, constituents, and staff was analyzed for topics of frequent concern. Facility staff were not notified of the inspection until an hour prior to visitation.

The day of inspection, Thursday, September 26th, 2024, consisted of a review of safety and security, full facility tour, review of health and wellbeing, review of fair treatment, review of rehabilitation and reentry, and review of fiscal accountability.

An initial inspection report draft was provided to Warden Cool and their staff, as an opportunity to review and notify CIIC staff of any discrepancies. On November 12, 2024, a teleconference was held between CIIC and Warden Cool to finalize the inspection report draft.



Dates of Inspection: September 26th, 2024

Type of Inspection: Unannounced

CIIC Staff Present:

Chris Albanese, Executive Director

Jeff Noble, Chief Inspector

Matt Eiting, Communications and Policy Coordinator

Hannah Kramer, Project Manager

Warden:

Bill Cool

Survey results are displayed throughout the report, compared to the results of previous surveys. The response rate resulted in a margin of error of approximately +/- 2% at a 95% confidence level. Each result can be stated that, "we are 95% confident that the true response is within 2% of the reported response." 1,105 individuals incarcerated responded to the 2024 survey.

RATINGS SUMMARY

Methodology

Ratings are derived from a four-point scale based on the balance of the indicator ratings for that area. A rating of “Exceptional” for an indicator means that there is no room for improvement and, generally, that the facility performs above other prisons. A rating of “Good” means that the prison more than meets the standard, but is not significantly better than other prisons or there is still room for improvement. A rating of “Acceptable” means that the prison just meets the standard or meets the standard with minor exceptions. A rating of “In Need of Improvement” means that the prison does not meet standards, is significantly different from other prisons in a negative manner, or that CIIC staff had serious concerns.

	2021	2023
SAFETY & SECURITY	GOOD	GOOD
Violence Outcome Measures	Acceptable	Acceptable
Use of Force	Acceptable	Good
Control of Illegal Substances	Deferred	Acceptable
Individual Incarcerated Perception of Safety	Exceptional	Acceptable
Unit Security Management	Good	Good
Institutional Security Management	Acceptable	Good
Prison Rape Elimination Act	Good	Good
HEALTH & WELLBEING	ACCEPTABLE	GOOD
Unit Conditions	Good	Good
Medical Services	Good	Good
Mental Health Services	Acceptable	Good
Recovery Services	Acceptable	Good
Food Services	In Need of Improvement	Good
Recreation	Good	Good
FAIR TREATMENT	GOOD	GOOD
Staff/Individual Incarcerated Interactions	Acceptable	Acceptable
Grievance Procedure	Acceptable	Acceptable
Discipline	Good	Good
Library & Legal Services	Good	Good
WORKFORCE READINESS	GOOD	GOOD
Reentry Planning and Programming	Acceptable	Acceptable
Family & Community Connections	Good	Good
Academic Programming	Good	Good
Vocational & Work Skill Development	Acceptable	Acceptable
FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY	ACCEPTABLE	ACCEPTABLE
Fiscal Wellness	Acceptable	Acceptable
Energy & Waste Management	Good	Good
Staff Management	Acceptable	Acceptable

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Key Findings

In 2023, RCI recorded 1,063 Rule 4.5 and 4.6 violations, which is a 23.5% increase from 2022 (861).

During 2023, the facility reported 736 use of force incidents. This is an increase from 2022 (450), which was a decrease from 2021 (667).

From 2022 to 2023, both the number of individuals incarcerated tested as well as the total percent positive increased.

An increased number of individuals incarcerated reported a presence of illegal substances at RCI.

In 2023, RCI housed 924 individuals incarcerated identified as being part of a Security Threat Group. This made up 50% of their total population.

Administrative Rule 5120-9-06 outlines the Inmate Rules of Conduct.

Rule numbers 1.1-1.6 are categorized as "Assault and Related Acts."

In 2023, the rate of Assault and Related Acts decreased. At the same time, the comparative institutions rate of assault and related acts both increased and decreased over all six Level 3 institutions.

Due to changes made at the beginning of 2024, staff stated the rate of violence had since been reduced.

SAFETY & SECURITY

	2021	2023
Violence Outcome Measures	Good	Good
Use of Force	Acceptable	Good
Control of Illegal Substances	Deferred	Acceptable
Individual Incarcerated Perception of Safety	Exceptional	Acceptable
Unit Security Management	Good	Good
Institutional Security Management	Acceptable	Good
Prison Rape Elimination Act	Good	Good

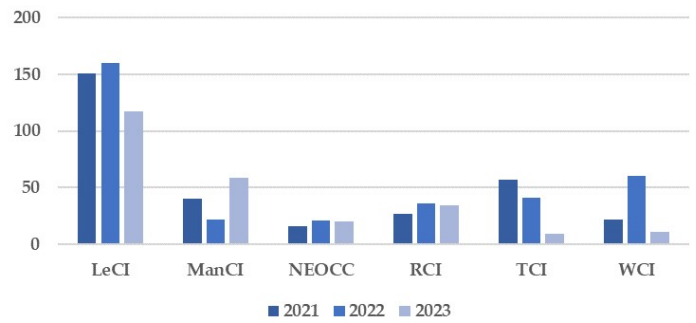
Violence Outcome Measures

Evaluation of violence focuses on the number and rate of disciplinary convictions for assaults, fights, the number of homicides, and disturbances at the institution during a year in comparison to the previous year; the comparator prison rate; and the DRC average.

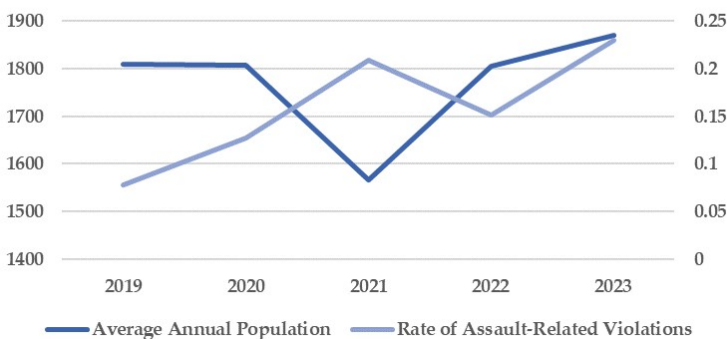
There were no homicides nor disturbances from 2019-2023.

In 2023, there were 34 violent incidents against staff. This is a 5.6% decrease from 2022 (36).

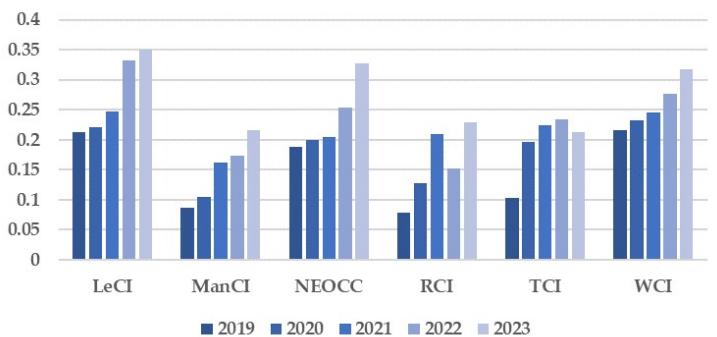
Comparative Facilities Rate of Violent Incidents Against Staff, by Year



RCI Rate of Assault and Related Acts vs Population, by Year



Comparative Facilities Rate of Assault and Related Acts Violations, by Year

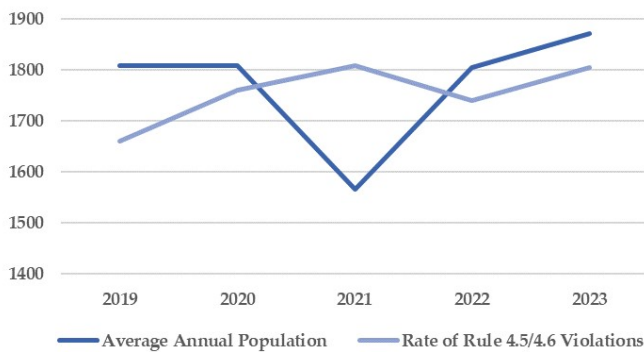


SAFETY AND SECURITY

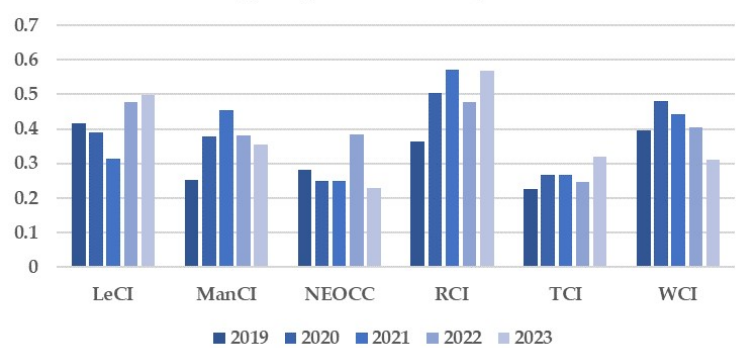
Violence Outcome Measures, Continued

During 2023, the Rule for fighting changed from Rule 19, “Instigation of, perpetuation of, or fighting,” to Rule 4.5, “Fighting,” and Rule 4.6, “Engaging in a group fight with 4 or more incarcerated persons.” In 2023, RCI recorded 1,063 Rule 4.5 and 4.6 violations, which is a 23.5% increase from 2022 (861).

RCI Rate of Rule 4.5/4.6 (Fighting) Violations vs Population, by Year



Comparative Facilities Rate of Rule 4.5/4.6 (Fighting) Violations, by Year



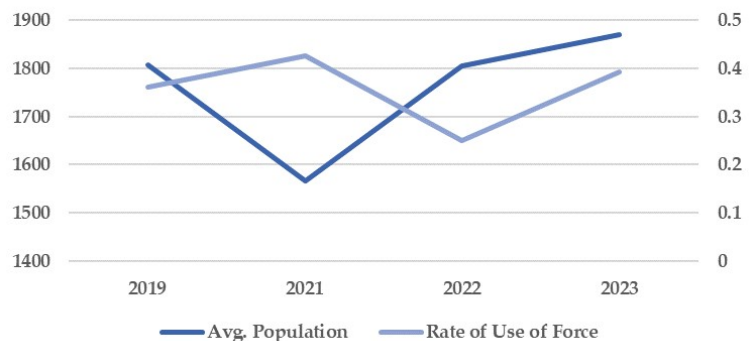
Use of Force

Evaluation of use of force focuses on the number of uses of force at the institution as well as an evaluation of a random sample of completed use of force reports.

During 2023, the facility reported 736 use of force incidents. This is an increase from 2022 (450), which was a decrease from 2021 (667). Due to changes made at the beginning of 2024, staff stated use of force incidents had since reduced considerably.

Ten use of force incidents were reviewed during inspection. Video and documentation, including officers body worn cameras, was reviewed on all ten incidents. Officer statements reviewed were generally thorough and clearly stated directives given prior to force. The required documentation was completed and included in the packets. Officer responses to incidents generally appeared appropriate. Most use of force incidents were minor disturbances with no, or minor, injuries to participants.

RCI Rate of Use of Force Incidents vs Population, by Year



Staff in contact with individuals incarcerated are required to wear body worn cameras (63-UOF-01). Officers were observed to be wearing the body worn cameras according to policy. Additionally, officers noted an increase in effective de-escalation techniques, attributing it to the body worn cameras.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Control of Illegal Substances

Evaluation of control of illegal substances focuses on the percentage of individuals incarcerated who tested positive for an illegal substance in comparison to the previous year, the comparator prisons, and the DRC average, violations for consuming, possessing, or conveying drugs, and survey responses.

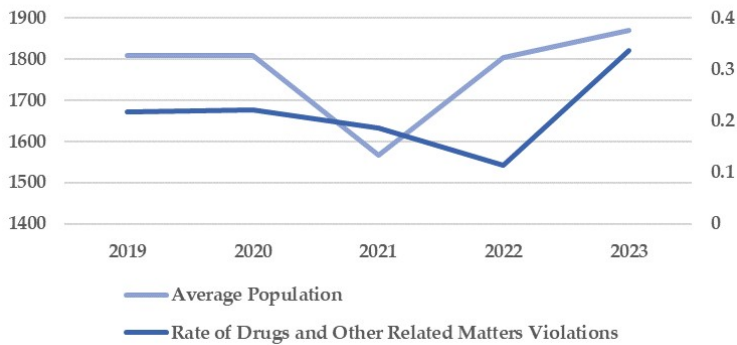
The Chief of Security was interviewed and detailed multiple forms of drug interdiction efforts currently in place. Additional interdiction efforts are forthcoming. Due to changes made at the beginning of 2024, staff stated rates of illegal substances entering the facility had decreased considerably.

	2021*		2022		2023	
	# Tested	% Positive	# Tested	% Positive	# Tested	% Positive
RCI Total Drug Testing	951	8.5%	1,524	7.5%	1,588	10.8%
Level 3 Average	1,011	12.7%	1,310	12.8%	1,400	12.8%
DRC Average	1,082.23	9.6%	1,371	8.1%	1,521	7.6%

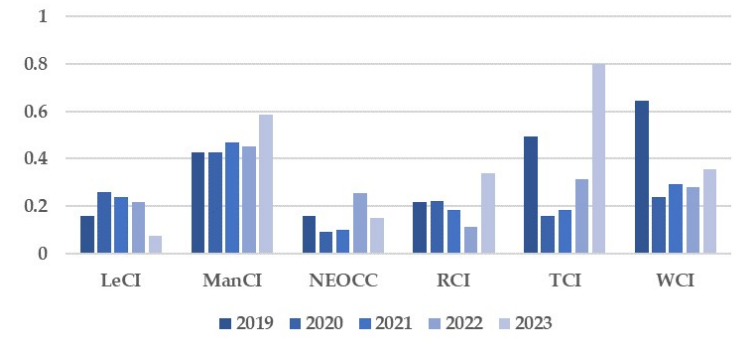
*Drug testing was reduced in 2020 and resumed in mid-2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions and precautions.

Ohio Administrative Code 5120-9-06 defines rule violations 10.1-10.7 as “Drugs and Other Related Matters.” In 2023, Level 3 institutions saw both an increase and a decrease in the rate of violations of Drugs and Other Related Matters. At the same time, institutional drug testing percentages of positives continued to decrease, suggesting a continued rise in synthetic drugs.

RCI Rate of Drugs and Other Related Matters Violations vs Population, by Year



Comparative Facilities Rate of Drugs and Other Related Matters Violations, by Year



Individuals Incarcerated Survey Question(s)

Question(s)	2022	2023	2024
Are drugs available at your institution?	11.1%	52.7%	75.2%
What types of substances are available at your institution?*			
Synthetics	53.8%	Opioids 63.8%	Opioids 22.3%
Stimulants	53.8%	Stimulants 63.0%	Stimulants 21.6%
Opioids	50.0%	Synthetics 66.8%	Synthetics 28.4%
Depressants	46.2%	Depressants 63.0%	Depressants 21.1%
		Psychedelics 17.4%	Psychedelics 6.5%

*Survey respondents can select all that apply (i.e. multiple prohibited substances)

SAFETY AND SECURITY

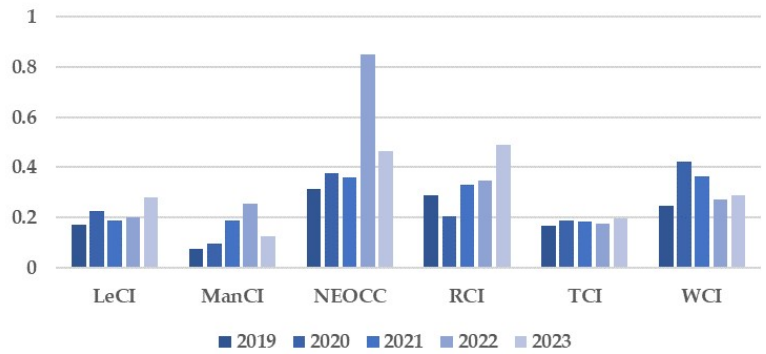
Individuals Incarcerated Perception of Safety

Evaluation of individual's incarcerated perception of safety focuses on survey responses by individuals incarcerated, the annual number of Rule 5.5, violations compared to previous years and comparator prisons, and the number of investigations for protective control.

There were 916 violations of Rule 5.5 (*Refusal to lock*) in 2023. This was a 45.4% increase from 2022 (630). Individuals incarcerated refuse to lock many times due to threats, debts, concerns for safety, etc.

An individual incarcerated can also request protective control (PC), but a risk to their safety must be substantiated. No individuals who were incarcerated were reported to be under investigation for PC.

Comparative Facilities Rate of Rule 5.5 (Refusal to Lock) Violations , by Year



Individuals Incarcerated Survey Question(s)

	2022	2023	2024
<i>Do you feel safe from other offenders here?</i>	85.2%	77.8%	83.5%

Unit Security Management

Evaluation of unit security management focuses on policy compliance for officer rounds, documented shakedowns, cell/bunk security, and security classification/privilege level reviews.

Officers were consistent in documenting security rounds in the requisite 30 minute, staggered intervals (31-SEC-01). Housing unit officers are required to search individuals incarcerated bunks/cells for contraband, including drugs and weapons (61-PRP-01). Officers were consistent in the documentation of shakedowns. Executives are required to make rounds at specified intervals. Executive rounds were reviewed and appeared according to policy. Unit staff are required to conduct reviews of individuals incarcerated security classification to ensure proper institutional placement. There were no overdue security classification reviews on the day of the inspection.

Institutional Security Management

Evaluation of institutional security management focuses on escapes and corresponding rules, critical incident management communication, and security threat group (STG) management.

There were no escapes nor walkaways from 2021 to 2023, and to-date in 2024.

A majority of officers interviewed reported they feel informed when beginning their shifts. Interviewed officers reported they receive information from roll call, supervisors, and other officers. These practices allow for critical information to be communicated for awareness.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Institutional Security Management, Continued

Institution	2021			2022			2023		
	# of STG Individuals Incarcerated	% of Gen. Pop.	Rule 17 Violations	# of STG Individuals Incarcerated	% of Gen. Pop.	Rule 17 Violations	# of STG Individuals Incarcerated	% of Gen. Pop.	Rule 4.3 Violations
RCI	835	46.7%	105	1,003	50.4%	119	924	50%	106
Level 3 Average	623.3	37.5%	96.2	641.8	37.6%	101.1	657	43%	88

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

Evaluation of the institution's compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) focuses on a review of the most recent PREA audit report, education and awareness of reporting, the number of reported incidents, unit PREA policy compliance, and survey responses.

The facility met 34 and exceeded 11 standards on its December 7, 2023 PREA audit (34-USC-30301). No corrective action was required as all standards were met. All staff completed PREA training with the exception of those on medical leave. An interview with the PREA coordinator explained the process by which incoming individuals incarcerated, new staff, contract staff, and volunteers are educated on PREA issues, identification, and the required reporting process.

Required PREA notifications were posted throughout the housing units and common areas explaining how individuals incarcerated can report PREA concerns. A few showers in the housing units did not have PREA rated curtains. A PREA alarm was successfully tested, alerting individuals incarcerated of different gendered staff entering the unit (79-ISA-01).

Those that reported harassment or threats by other individuals incarcerated reported the most common as "insulting remarks" and "having commissary/property taken." Those that reported they had been abused by other individuals incarcerated reported physical abuse (21.6%) and sexual abuse (2.4%), but the majority reported no abuse (78.1%) from individuals incarcerated at RCI.

Those that reported harassment or threats by staff reported the most common as "insulting remarks" and "multiple shake-downs." Those that reported they had been abused by staff reported physical abuse (21.4%) and sexual abuse (2.5%), but the majority reported no abuse (77.9%) from staff at RCI.

Investigations/Allegations	2021	2022	2023
Total Alleged Incidents	16	19	25
Outcomes	0 Substantiated	0 Substantiated	0 Substantiated
	16 Unsubstantiated	17 Unsubstantiated	17 Unsubstantiated
	0 Unfounded	2 Unfounded	8 Unfounded

Individuals Incarcerated Survey Question(s)	2022	2023	2024
	"Yes"		
<i>Have you been harassed or threatened by other individuals incarcerated here?</i>	24.7%	33.7%	31.2%
<i>Have you ever been abused by individuals incarcerated here?</i>	9.5%	21.6%	20.1%
<i>Have you been harassed or threatened by staff here?</i>	41.1%	57.8%	54.2%
<i>Have you ever been physically abused by staff here?</i>	5.8%	22.7%	20.5%
<i>Do you know how to report sexual harassment or abuse?</i>	87.1%	73.3%	73.3%

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Key Findings

Medical staff relayed that through their continued hard work and strategizing they had been able to reduce their Chronic Care backlog from 28% to 22% within one week.

As of September 16, 2024, Mental Health Services had a 22.2% vacancy rate.

A meal was sampled at the main compound, per ORC 103.73(A)(3) (B) according to the menu; a chicken sandwich with ketchup, beans, cabbage and carrots, and a brownie.. Serving sizes and temperatures were appropriate and overall taste was acceptable.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

	2021	2023
	ACCEPTABLE	GOOD
Unit Conditions	Good	Good
Medical Services	Good	Good
Mental Health Services	Acceptable	Good
Recovery Services	Acceptable	Good
Food Services	In Need of Improvement	Good
Recreation	Good	Good

Unit Conditions

Evaluation of unit conditions consists of direct observation of housing areas.

A tour of the housing cellblocks and dormitory was completed during inspection. Housing units included a normalcy/reentry, a general population, a level two, a death row, and a dog training unit.

All dayrooms / common areas were “good to exceptional” based on their cleanliness and overall appearance. The dayrooms had tables/chairs, board games, and cable television. Each unit had various exercise equipment including, kettle balls, pull-up bars, stationary bikes, incline machines, elliptical machines, etc. The cell conditions were also rated as “acceptable to good”, with a few cells needing improvement. Shower conditions were rated as “needs improvement to good.” All toilets and urinals reviewed were working appropriately (21-CAM-12).

Cleaning materials were appropriately secured and adequately stocked (21-CAM-12). A review of the daily chemical box was completed. Several officers explained the cleaning process. Visibility and property control appeared according to policy (61-PRP-01).

Telephones, video kiosks, water fountains, televisions, ice machines, and microwaves were in good working order (21-CAM-12). Central laundry services were provided for, clothing, blankets, and sheets. Each unit had multiple washers and dryers for individual incarcerated personal laundry, and all were in good repair. Fire evacuation routes (OAC 1301.7), CIIC information, rules of conduct (OAC 5120.9), and program information (50-PAM-02) were posted in each housing unit. Viapath tablet reception appeared adequate. Several individuals incarcerated indicated that tablet reception was adequate. Staff indicated that most tablets issues were caused by individuals incarcerated damaging their tablets. Some individuals incarcerated complained about their cable television reception.

Medical Services

Evaluation of medical services is comprised of a nurse focus group, an interview with the Health Care Administrator, a tour of the medical facilities, and data analysis.

RCI medical facilities were toured during inspection and appeared spacious, clean, and orderly (68-MED-03). Facilities included a waiting area, eight private exam rooms, an E.R. triage room, staff offices, a pill call window, phlebotomy area, telemedicine room, records room, x-ray room, three-chair dental clinic, and ten-bed infirmary. The ten-bed infirmary wing had two safe cells.

As of September 16, 2024, staffing consisted of two Correctional Nurse Practitioners, five Licensed Practical Nurses, thirteen Nurses, one Nurse Supervisor, and one Safety and Health Coordinator. Vacancies included one Nurse (4.3% vacancy rate). 10

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Medical Services, Continued

An interview was conducted with the Health Care Administrator at the time of inspection. The following was relayed: there were no concerns regarding staff retention or performance; there was one vacancy at the time of inspection but had recently been filled; supervisory staff conduct monthly all-staff meetings, as well as quarterly meetings; new staff are trained on Department policies and procedures at orientation and on-the-job training, existing staff are involved in policy reviews to ensure they are up-to-date on newly implemented policies; staff are involved in quarterly emergency response training and drills; new patients receive information on Medical Services at orientation, as well as through their medical assessment and literature given to individuals incarcerated; patients are informed of treatment plan changes during their medical appointment; there was a Chronic Care backlog of 22%; Chronic Care compliance is addressed by increasing the number of individuals being seen per day.

Staff relayed that through their continued hard work and strategizing they had been able to reduce their Chronic Care backlog from 28% to 22% within one week.

Staff relayed that individuals incarcerated were having success with the Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) program. Individuals incarcerated viewed the MAT program as being positive and helpful. Some concerns voiced by staff regarding the MAT program included the increase in the number of intoxications and the unknown interactions that Tune, or K2, have with the medication utilized in this program. Staff relayed that investigators have done a great job reducing the number of intoxications seen on the compound.

In its March 8-11, 2021, American Correctional Association (ACA) Reaccreditation audit, no medical standards were found to be in noncompliance. In its March 7-9, 2023, Internal Management Audit (IMA), the standard in noncompliance was regarding Informal Complaint response.

	2022	2023	2024
Individuals Incarcerated Survey Question(s)	"Very Satisfied" to "Neutral"		
<i>How satisfied are you with the quality of the care you get from the nurses?</i>	82.8%	70.8%	68.4%
<i>How satisfied are you with the quality of the care you get from the Doctor?</i>	81.1%	72.7%	67.7%
	"Next Day" or "Within 2 Days"		
<i>On average, when do you see the nurse after filing a health service request?</i>	65.4%	44.2%	38.2%
	"Yes"		
<i>If you are on the chronic care caseload, do you see medical regularly?</i>	60.0%	60.1%	48.5%

Mental Health Services

Evaluation of mental health services focuses on a direct observation of facilities, staffing, access to mental health staff, programming, audit data, and survey responses.

Mental health facilities were toured during inspection and appeared spacious, clean, and orderly. Facilities included staff offices, a waiting area, and group program rooms.

As of September 16, 2024, staffing consisted of two Behavioral Healthcare Provider 1's, two Behavioral Healthcare Provider 2's, one Mental Health Administrator, and two Psychiatric/DD Nurses. Vacancies included one Behavioral Healthcare Provider 1 and one Behavioral Healthcare Provider 2 (22.2% vacancy rate).

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Mental Health Services, Continued

An interview was conducted with the Mental Health Administrator (MHA) at the time of inspection. The following was relayed: there were no concerns regarding staff performance, but there were concerns regarding staff retention as RCI had lost multiple mental health staff to CCI; supervisory staff conduct monthly all-staff meetings; new staff are trained on Department policies and procedures through orientation and on-the-job training; staff are involved in emergency response training and drills quarterly; Continuous Quality Improvement meetings are held quarterly with Medical Services, Security, and Recovery Services; new patients receive information on Mental Health Services at orientation, as well as a meeting with staff; new patient records are reviewed upon intake; patients are educated on treatment plan changes at Treatment Team meetings; open office hours are held daily from 8-4 pm; mental health staff are utilized during use of force incidents and after-action review; the most prominent concern voiced by staff is the lack of staffing; the Community Linkage Coordinator is utilized in assisting individuals incarcerated continue mental health services through reentry.

The MHA relayed that due to the large number of individuals incarcerated who are found to be in violation of drug-related rule violations, a drug-treatment specific unit would be beneficial for those struggling with substance misuse.

At the time of inspection, RCI had four mental health peer supporters. Peer supporters are trained individuals incarcerated who help assist mental health staff in conducting programming, can support peers experiencing crisis, need information about mental health services, or simply need someone to talk to. Staff relayed that peer supporters are hard to retain due to eligible individuals incarcerated being released, having their level reduced, or moving facilities.

Staff relayed that the staff response to the Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) program has been relatively positive. Some concerns staff have voiced regarding the MAT program include the backlog it has created and the difficulty to get in. Staff relayed that some individuals incarcerated do not believe the MAT program is effective, while others have had success.

In its March 8-11, 2021, American Correctional Association (ACA) Reaccreditation audit, no mental health standards were found to be in noncompliance. In its March 7-9, 2023, Internal Management Audit (IMA), the standard in noncompliance was regarding initiation of psychotropic medication.

Individuals Incarcerated Survey Question(s)	2022	2023	2024
	“Very Satisfied” to “Neutral”		
<i>How satisfied are you with the quality of the care you get from mental health?</i>	55.6%	52.8%	52.1%

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Recovery Services

Evaluation of recovery services focuses on a direct observation of facilities, staffing, participation of individuals incarcerated, access, and survey responses.

Recovery services facilities consisted of staff offices and shared programing rooms located in the school building. All facilities appeared clean and spacious at the time of inspection.

An interview with the Recovery Services Administrator (RSA) was conducted at the time of inspection. The following was relayed: there were no concerns regarding staff retention or performance; supervisory staff conduct weekly meetings, as well as monthly all-staff meetings; new staff are trained on Department policies and procedures at orientation and on-the-job training; new patients receive information on Recovery Services at orientation and through their initial screening; individuals incarcerated who are not on the caseload or who are not eligible to be on the caseload can receive information on Recovery Services through kiting recovery staff; patients awaiting program enrollment can utilize Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Brief Intervention Program, Intensive Outpatient Program, Starting Point, and Peer Supporters; efforts to maintain individuals incarcerated in programming include utilizing earned credit, giving out hygiene kits, hosting movie days, and graduations; family members are able to engage in the recovery process at graduation in which family members can visit their individual incarcerated and learn about what they had learned in recovery; the RSA was looking for volunteers to host AA and NA but had been hosting virtual AA/NA programming; the Community Linkage Coordinator is utilized to assist the individual incarcerated continue recovery through reentry.

Staff relayed that they utilized one peer supporter in Recovery Services. It was relayed that peer supporters are difficult to get approved. Peer supporters are utilized to assist in conducting programming, as well as supporting peers who are struggling with substance misuse.

Neither its March 8-11, 2021, American Correctional Association (ACA) Reaccreditation audit, nor its March 7-9, 2023, Internal Management Audit (IMA) found any recovery standards in noncompliance.

	2022	2023	2024
Individuals Incarcerated Survey Question(s)	"Yes"		
<i>Do you feel you are able to get into Recovery Services Programs?</i>	46.6%	37.4%	38.5%

Food Services

Evaluation of food services included eating the individuals incarcerated meal, an observation of the dining hall, food preparation area and the loading dock, an interview with the Food Service Manager, staffing, on-site documentation review, and survey responses.

RCI had two dining halls with one large central kitchen. The tables and the floor of the dining halls were clean and clear of debris. The serving lines were clear of food particles. The food preparation area was orderly and clean. Cooking equipment appeared clean while in use and stored equipment was clean and orderly.

The CIIC conducted an interview with the Food Service Director who conveyed the following: other than the freezers and coolers, only the power washer needed to be replaced; pest control comes weekly to monitor the kitchen and prep areas; special meals to meet dietary restrictions were available; individuals incarcerated wishing to work in the kitchen are brought to the kitchen by the Lieutenant after conducting a background check.

A walkthrough of the coolers, freezers, and dry storage areas found them to be clean and orderly. The loading dock was clean and orderly. One freezer was found to be out of order therefore, RCI was utilizing three mobile freezers. Four coolers were found to be out of order. Two operational coolers were well-organized with enough space for storage.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Food Services, Continued

Chemical and tool logs were reviewed and appeared according to policy. Dishwasher temperatures were checked. Temperatures were taken on the food line and all items were within safe ranges.

A meal was sampled at the main compound, per ORC 103.73(A)(3)(B) according to the menu; a chicken sandwich with ketchup, beans, cabbage and carrots, and a brownie. Serving sizes and temperatures were appropriate and overall taste was acceptable.

Neither its March 8-11, 2021, American Correctional Association (ACA) Reaccreditation audit, nor its March 7-9, 2023, Internal Management Audit (IMA) found any recovery standards in noncompliance.

The most recent health inspection on August 24, 2023, found one non-critical observation, *“Non-durable equipment observed. Observed 3 coolers and the dish machine not in operation.”* In its most recent contract monitor report on December 27, 2023, the facility scored 86% with areas of noncompliance being incarcerated person comments/grievances/training, reporting, sanitation, and staffing.

<u>Individuals Incarcerated Survey Question(s)</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
	<u>“Satisfied” or “Neutral”</u>		
<i>How satisfied are you with the food in the chow hall?</i>	9.5%	7.4%	11.7%

Recreation

Evaluation of recreation focuses on a direct observation of facilities, an interview with the Recreation Supervisor, available activities, access, and survey results.

Physical facilities appeared clean. The institution had two large recreation facilities located separately on the north and south side of the compound. Each indoor recreational facility consisted of a full court gym, cardio equipment, and a general equipment room. Both indoor gymnasiums had brand-new, state of the art flooring that helps traction when participating in activities. The south gym also had a room for arts and craft programs. Each side of the compound also had an outdoor yard area with handball, basketball, stationary equipment, softball, and horseshoes.

Individuals incarcerated are offered a variety of activities for recreation including team sports, horseshoes, art programs, tournaments, and aerobics. Movies are made accessible and are rotated frequently. Art programming consisted of paint and pencil drawing, and other options by request. Tournaments and leagues are completely participant-led. Staff have ensured access to meaningful recreation activity by allowing various opportunity for recreation within the housing units, such as games, body weight exercise machines, television, and movies.

The Recreations Director was not in on the day of inspection, so CIIC conducted an interview with one of the General Activity Therapists who conveyed the following: RCI offers many recreation programs with themes of subconscious rehabilitation through physical activities; offenders are required to show their IDs to use gym equipment to ensure accountability; individuals incarcerated lead many programs and activities with staff supervision; new recreation opportunities are introduced quarterly; the only equipment awaiting maintenance is a reverse curl machine.

<u>Individual Incarcerated Survey Question(s)</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
	<u>“Satisfied” or “Neutral”</u>		
<i>How satisfied are you with recreation?</i>	45.6%	40.9%	43.3%

FAIR TREATMENT

Key Findings

A review of ten informal complaints and ten grievances found them all to be timely and professionally addressed complaints, with the exception of some grievances which were found to be untimely and in need of more explanation.

The librarian makes weekly rounds to Restrictive Housing, and individuals incarcerated may also kite specific requests to the librarian.

FAIR TREATMENT	2021 GOOD	2023 GOOD
Staff/Individual Incarcerated Interactions	Acceptable	Acceptable
Grievance Procedure	Acceptable	Acceptable
Discipline	Good	Good
Library & Legal Services	Good	Good

Staff/Individuals Incarcerated Interactions

Evaluation of staff/individuals incarcerated interactions is based on a survey of individuals incarcerated and interviews of staff.

Individual Incarcerated Survey Question(s)	2022	2023 "Yes"	2024
<i>On most days, are your housing unit officers professional?</i>	64.3%	56.9%	62.0%
<i>On most days, are your housing unit officers helpful?</i>	57.1%	48.8%	53.8%
<i>Have you been harassed or threatened by staff here?</i>	57.6%	57.8%	54.2%
<i>Have you ever been physically abused by staff here?</i>	5.8%	22.7%	20.5%

Grievance Procedure ORC 103.73(A)

Evaluation of the grievance procedure includes an interview with the Inspector of Institutional Services, a review of a random sample of informal complaints and grievances, individuals incarcerated survey responses, and data analysis.

An interview was conducted with the Inspector. The following was relayed: the Inspector targets all housing units, Food Service, and Restrictive Housing when making rounds; individuals incarcerated can access the Inspector by sending a kite; new staff are educated on the Grievance Procedure through Pre-Service training and e-learns; to ensure timely responses the Inspector allocates Informal Complaints to respective person and sends memos when within two days of deadline; the top areas of complaints are staff accountability and property; staff members who are frequent subjects of complaints are included in a report to the Warden, as well as their supervisor being notified; there have not been any substantiated complaints regarding retaliation for utilizing the Grievance Process; areas and persons of complaint are discussed with executive staff every Thursday; additional staff would be beneficial in assuring timeliness of responses.

A review of ten randomly chosen informal complaint responses measuring timeliness, investigation, and professionalism was completed. The responses all professionally addressed the complaints, and were completed within the allowed timeframe.

A similar review of ten randomly chosen grievance responses was conducted and measured timeliness, investigation, and professionalism. The responses reviewed all provided thorough explanations of the investigations and evidence reviewed, professionally addressed the complaints, and were completed within the allowed timeframe. Some responses were found to be untimely, and could have been more explanatory and cited policy.

FAIR TREATMENT

Grievance Procedure ORC 103.73(A), Continued

In 2023, the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) selected a new vendor for grievance procedure data management through a competitive bid. Due to the change in vendor and new vendor update requirements, the Annual Grievance Report was not available at the time of publication. A full review of the grievance procedure will be conducted in the Biennial Report to the 136th General Assembly.

	Informal Complaints Filed	Average # of Days to Answer	Untimely	Grievances Filed	Average # of Days to Answer	Untimely
2020	1,618	2.67	35 (2.2%)	538	20.81	39 (7.2%)
2021	1,679	1.26	28 (1.7%)	588	13.08	96 (16.3%)
2022	2,125	2.17	69 (1.6%)	778	17.53	295 (19.6%)
2023	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Offender Survey Question(s)	2022	2023	2024
	"Yes"		
<i>Do you know who the inspector is?</i>	17.5%	16.9%	19.9%
<i>Are you able to get the following: Informal Complaints?</i>	77.8%	68.1%	72.4%
<i>Have you ever felt that staff would not let you use the grievance procedure here?</i>	49.6%	44.4%	40.4%
<i>Do you feel that Informal Complaints are handled fairly at this institution?</i>	12%	6.7%	12.8%
<i>Do you feel that Grievances are handled fairly at this institution?</i>	14.4%	5.9%	14.6%

Discipline

Evaluation of discipline includes observation of Rules Infraction Board (RIB) hearings, a review of a random sample of closed RIB cases, and direct observation of the disciplinary housing unit(s).

The Transitional Programming Unit (TPU), used for disciplinary housing, appeared clean and orderly on the day of inspection. Toilets and sinks were in-cell. Visibility, cell contents, and property control were rated as "good" (55-SPC-02). Several cells and showers needed to be cleaned more thoroughly.

The Segregation Unit Daily Activity Log (DRC4117), detailing the offering of meals, linens, clothing, and barbering, was viewed during inspection and appeared according to policy. The Segregation Unit Individual Record Sheet (DRC4118), detailing the meal refusals, alternative meal requests, and the offering for shower, shave, recreation, medical, and mental health, were viewed during inspection and appeared according to policy (55-SPC-02).

The Segregation Unit Daily Activity Log (DRC4117), detailing the offering of meals, linens, clothing, and barbering, was viewed during inspection, and appeared according to policy. The unit served meals via serving cart in the unit. The Segregation Unit Individual Record Sheet (DRC4118), detailing the meal refusals, alternative meal requests, and the offering for shower, shave, recreation, medical, and mental health, were viewed during inspection and appeared according to policy (55-SPC-02).

All individuals incarcerated are issued jumpsuits, underwear, and shoes upon entry into the unit if they do not possess them. A basic hygiene kit with toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, and deodorant is issued to individuals incarcerated as needed in the unit. Visiting is provided on a non-contact basis.

All recreation spaces appeared clean and in good condition (77-REC-01). There were no inoperable cells on the day of the inspection. Food is delivered to each cell via satellite feeding.

Mental health, library, and unit staff visit the unit per policy. Non-emergent medical care is provided in the unit.

FAIR TREATMENT

Discipline, Continued

A Rules Infractions Board (RIB) case was observed during inspection. The case was professionally conducted with the committee members reading the charges, informing the individual incarcerated of their rights, recording their testimony, discussing the case, rendering a decision, and informing the individual incarcerated of the decision with an explanation of their right to appeal. The RIB chairperson indicated that there were no backlogged cases. It was indicated that throwing feces at staff and offender intoxication were the top RIB cases at the institution.

Library & Legal Services

Evaluation of library and legal services focuses on a direct observation of the facilities, an interview with the Librarian, and access to library and legal services.

The library appeared spacious, organized and clean with a good selection of materials at the time of inspection. Hours of operation were posted which included both nights and weekends. The library had recently received a \$10,000 grant to purchase a large selection of new books. The Librarian conveyed there had recently been a few complaints about the Library's schedule. With Death Row having recently been moved to RCI, the library's schedule was changed to keep the DR population separate from General Population.

The librarian makes weekly rounds to Restrictive Housing, and individuals incarcerated may also kite specific requests to the librarian.

Present was a law library with six LexisNexis computers, and staff relayed that all individuals incarcerated have access to LexisNexis on their Viapath tablets during certain periods each week.

Also present was a reentry resource area within the library. Staff relayed that satellite library bookshelves are maintained within each housing unit.

As of September 16, 2024, staffing consisted of one Librarian and one Library Assistant. There were no vacancies at the time of inspection (0% vacancy rate).

WORKFORCE READINESS

Key Findings

As of September 16, 2024, academic staffing had a 25.0% vacancy rate.

A reentry or educational program was unable to be observed at the time of inspection (ORC 103.73).

On the day of inspection, RCI had won and accepted a \$10,000 grant that allowed them to purchase new books for individuals incarcerated.

RCI offers three vocational programs: Barber, Carpentry, and B.O.S.S.

As of September 16, 2024, staffing consisted of four Unit Managers and nine Correctional Program Specialists (Case Managers). Vacancies included one Unit Manager (7.1% vacancy rate).

Due to the Unit Management Chief (UMC) being on vacation, an interview was unable to be conducted.

Programs conducted by unit staff included Job Readiness, 12-Step Study, Speak Out, B.A.S.E., Chess Club, T.O.P.U.C.U., Cage Your Rage, Decision Points, W.R.A.P., and Post Traumatic Growth.

RCI had a reentry resource center located in the library, which contained an abundance of reentry resources available to assist in the reentry process. Available to individuals incarcerated were six LexisNexis computers, 2 Ohio Means Jobs computers, 7 Word Processors and two typewriters. Staff relayed that individuals incarcerated have access to Ohio Means Jobs via their Chromebooks when they're in their units. A reentry case plan provided to individuals incarcerated within 180 days of release, which allowed them to access information on transportation, housing, employment, and administrative requirements such as passport and license plate renewal.

A reentry or educational program was unable to be observed at the time of inspection (ORC 103.73).

	2021	2023
WORKFORCE READINESS	GOOD	GOOD
Reentry Planning and Programming	Acceptable	Acceptable
Family & Community Connections	Good	Good
Religious Services	N/A	N/A
Academic Programming	Good	Good
Vocational & Work Skill Development	Acceptable	Acceptable

Reentry Planning & Programming

Evaluation of reentry planning and programming includes interviews of staff, a review of unit-based program enrollment and completions, on-site observations, and survey responses.

Individuals Incarcerated Survey Question(s)	2022	2023	2024
	"Easy" or "Neutral"		
<i>How easy or difficult is it to get into Unit Programs?</i>	80.0%	54.4%	49.1%
	"Yes"		
<i>Have staff talked with you about what programs to take while incarcerated?</i>	24.4%	24.4%	28.6%
<i>Do you know where you can find reentry information?</i>	27.5%	27.5%	35.6%

WORKFORCE READINESS

Family Engagement & Community Connections

Evaluation of family engagement and community connections focuses on a review of family-oriented activities, observation and analysis of visitation, community service and volunteer data, and survey results.

The visitation area at RCI was clean and orderly, with one room designed for attorney visits. General visitation rules were displayed for individuals incarcerated and their loved ones (76-VIS-01). The indoor visitation area had an established Reading Room so that children could associate with parents while in plain sight of facility staff. It was in orderly condition with a diverse selection of age-appropriate books, learning aids, and toys that appeal to the interests of children (76-VIS-01). Also present in the visitation area were six vending machines and one microwave so individuals incarcerated can share a snack with their loved ones.

<u>Individual Incarcerated Survey Question(s)</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
		<i>"Yes"</i>	
<i>Have you had any problems with mail?</i>	53.9%	53.0%	57.6%
<i>Have you had any problems with telephones?</i>	55.2%	69.0%	70.7%
<i>Have you had any problems with visitation?</i>	42.1%	45.5%	43.5%

Religious Services

Evaluation of religious services focuses on a direct observation of the facility, a conversation with the Chaplain, and adherence to department policy.

RCI's Religious Services utilized shared space with Recovery Services, as well as in the units. All areas appeared clean, orderly, and spacious.

Religious programming included Protestant Worship Services, Catholic Mass, Islamic Service, Shabbat Service, Life-Skills, and KYROS.

Special events held by Religious Services included celebrations of life, suicide awareness, and holiday services.

The Chaplain was interviewed at the time of inspection. The following was relayed: individuals incarcerated have access to multiple religious programming opportunities; there were five active Steven's Ministers who assisted in different areas of the institution, such as the TPU; funding for additional religious staff, such as another Chaplain, or Administrative Assistant would provide many benefits such as being able to assist the Chaplain in paperwork and hosting programs.

As of September 16, 2024, staffing included one Chaplain. There were no vacancies at the time of inspection (0% vacancy rate).

WORKFORCE READINESS

Academic Programming

Evaluation of the quality of academic programming focuses on data analysis, a document review, direct observation of at least one program, and individuals incarcerated survey responses.

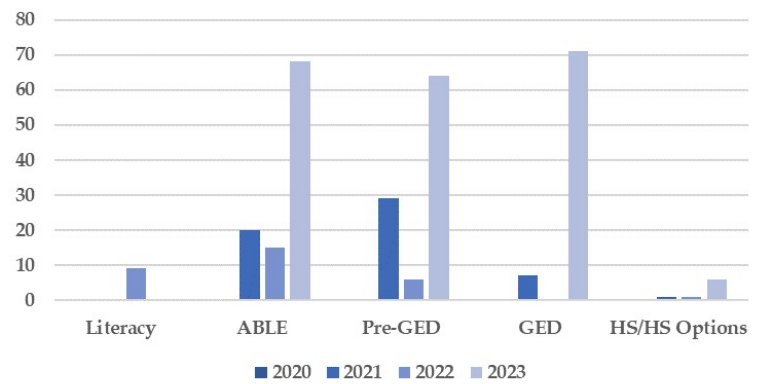
Educational facilities consisted of classrooms and offices. There were two academic buildings in the institution, a north and south side educational facility. A walkthrough of the education area found the classrooms to be clean and organized. The education department offers Pre-GED, GED, ABLE, Literacy, Special Education, Title 1, career technical education, career enhancement program, advanced job training, and apprenticeship programs.

The Principal was out on intercession at the time of inspection, so CIIC conducted an interview with the guidance counselor who conveyed the following: RCI offers a comprehensive education program; all staff members have valid respective licensures; Earned Credits have been an effective incentive to increase academic participation; offenders in disciplinary housing have access to academic programming through their tablets and Chromebooks.

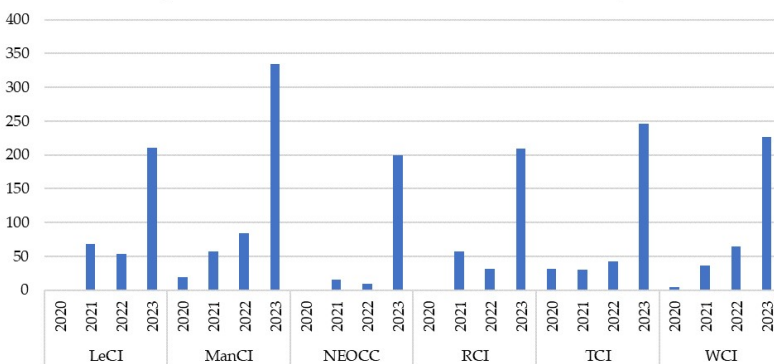
Chromebooks have been recently implemented as a way to offer hybrid education courses, in which students can work at their own speed and instructors are able to more easily identify and address areas of concern. Individuals in Limited Privilege Housing continue with in-person classes, and individuals in Restrictive Housing receive materials to work on while in segregation.

As of September 16, 2024, staffing included one Education Specialist, one Teacher 1 (Vocational-Carpentry), one Teacher 2, two Teacher 2's (Career-Tech Barbering), two Teacher 3's (Adult Basic Ed GED), one Teacher 4 (Adult Basic Ed GED), and one Teacher 4 (Special Education-Intervention Specialist). Vacancies included one Assistant Principal, one Teacher 2 (Adult Basic Ed GED), and one Teacher 3 (Career-Tech Admin) (25.0% vacancy rate).

RCI Academic Certificates Per Year, Per Program



Comparative Facilities Total Academic Certificates, by Year



Programs*	Enrollment	Waitlist
Literacy	0	0
ABLE	55	85
Pre-GED	51	93
GED	56	90
HS/HS Options	9	0

*Adapted from August 2024 OCSS Report

Individual Incarcerated Survey Question(s)

	2022	2023	2024
How easy or difficult is it to get into Academic Programming?	29.2%	37.5%	26.5%

"Easy" or "Neutral"

WORKFORCE READINESS

Vocational & Work Skill Development

Evaluation of the quality of vocational and work skill development focuses on data analysis, a document review, and individuals incarcerated survey responses.

The vocational department consisted of offices and a large shop. The area appeared clean, organized, and conducive to learning.

RCI offers three vocational programs: Barber, Carpentry, and B.O.S.S. The instructor was recently hired and was preparing for the first course. Participants will not only learn carpentry but will also have the opportunity to learn tangential trades for increased marketability post-release. These skills include foundation, drywall, trusses, roofing, and masonry. The course is 600 hours, and participants may receive certifications through the National Center for Construction Education and Research and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

RCI had a written plan for full-time work and program assignment for all individuals incarcerated in general population. All eligible individuals incarcerated were assigned an institutional work assignment unless they had been assigned to an approved education or training program (54-WRK-02).

Programs*	Enrollment	Waitlist
Barbering	18	93
BOSS	0	50
Carpentry	14	194

**Adapted from August 2024 OCSS Report*

Individual Incarcerated Survey Question(s)

	2022	2023	2024
	“Easy” or “Neutral”		
<i>How easy or difficult is it to get into Vocational Programming?</i>	30.4%	18.4%	18.8%

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Key Findings

In their Fiscal Audit report completed on March 1, 2023, the External Auditor made nine observations with recommendations for corrective action.

In FY 23, RCI reported earning \$13,759 from recycling 105.28 tons of material.

In 2023, RCI had 77 staff separations (16.1% separation rate).

In their Fiscal Audit report completed on March 1, 2023, the External Auditor made nine observations with recommendations for corrective action regarding religious service contracts, commissary, cashier's office, inmate trust fund, industrial and entertainment fund, and employee activity fund. The previous audit made six observations with recommendations.

RCI has an institutional budget of \$55,640,420.38 for Fiscal Year 2024, which is an increase of 1.7% from Fiscal Year 2023.

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

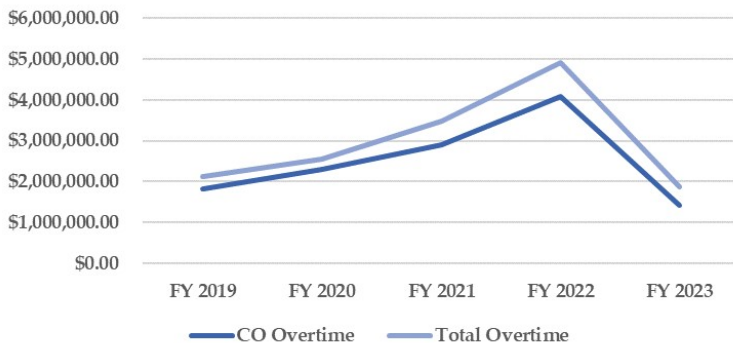
	2021	2023
FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY	ACCEPTABLE	ACCEPTABLE
Fiscal Wellness	Acceptable	Acceptable
Energy & Waste Management	Good	Good
Staff Management	Acceptable	Acceptable

Fiscal Wellness

Evaluation of fiscal wellness focuses on a document review of the institution budget status report, fiscal audits, overtime, and capital improvement projects.

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
CO Overtime	\$2,287,582	\$2,912,548	\$4,089,744	\$1,419,144
Total Overtime	\$2,560,469	\$3,489,862	\$4,923,309	\$1,863,863

RCI Facility Staff Overtime Expenses vs CO Overtime Expenses



Capital Improvement Projects FY 25-26

Project	Cost
Paving & Fire Access Road	\$1,500,000
Interior Lighting Upgrade	\$3,000,000

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Energy & Waste Management

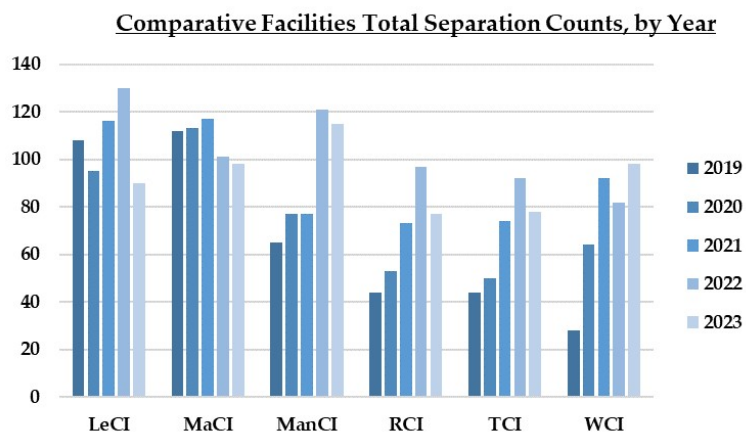
Evaluation of energy and waste management focuses on a direct observation of conservation initiatives, a document review of the utility bills and an interview of staff regarding the implementation of cost saving initiatives, both those required by policy and those independently developed by staff.

In FY 23, RCI reported earning \$13,759 from recycling 105.28 tons of material. The previous fiscal year saw \$5,583 in earnings from 127.51 tons of material. In FY 23, waste removal cost \$83,151 for 1044.70 tons of waste. In the previous fiscal year waste removal cost \$83,151 for 1002.99 tons of material.

Energy Type	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Water (gal)	105,687,980 gal	88,377,900 gal	133,445,735 gal	N/A
	\$875,096	\$907,228	\$731,768	N/A
Natural Gas (ccf)	447,500 ccf	490,270 ccf	436,260 ccf	556,680 ccf
	\$199,065	\$280,115	\$422,537	\$440,588
Electric (kWh)	7,866,000 kWh	7,126,200 kWh	7,381,800 kWh	7,227,000 kWh
	\$544,598	\$493,993	\$526,146	\$667,125
Total Costs	\$1,618,759	\$1,681,336	\$1,680,451	\$1,107,713

Staff Management

Evaluation of staff management focuses on a data review, training and performance evaluation completions, and staff interviews regarding overtime management, turnover ratio, morale, training, and evaluations.



As of September 16, 2024, the institution employed 479 total staff of which 320 were officers. There were 59 total vacancies (11.1%), including 47 for officer positions (12.8%).

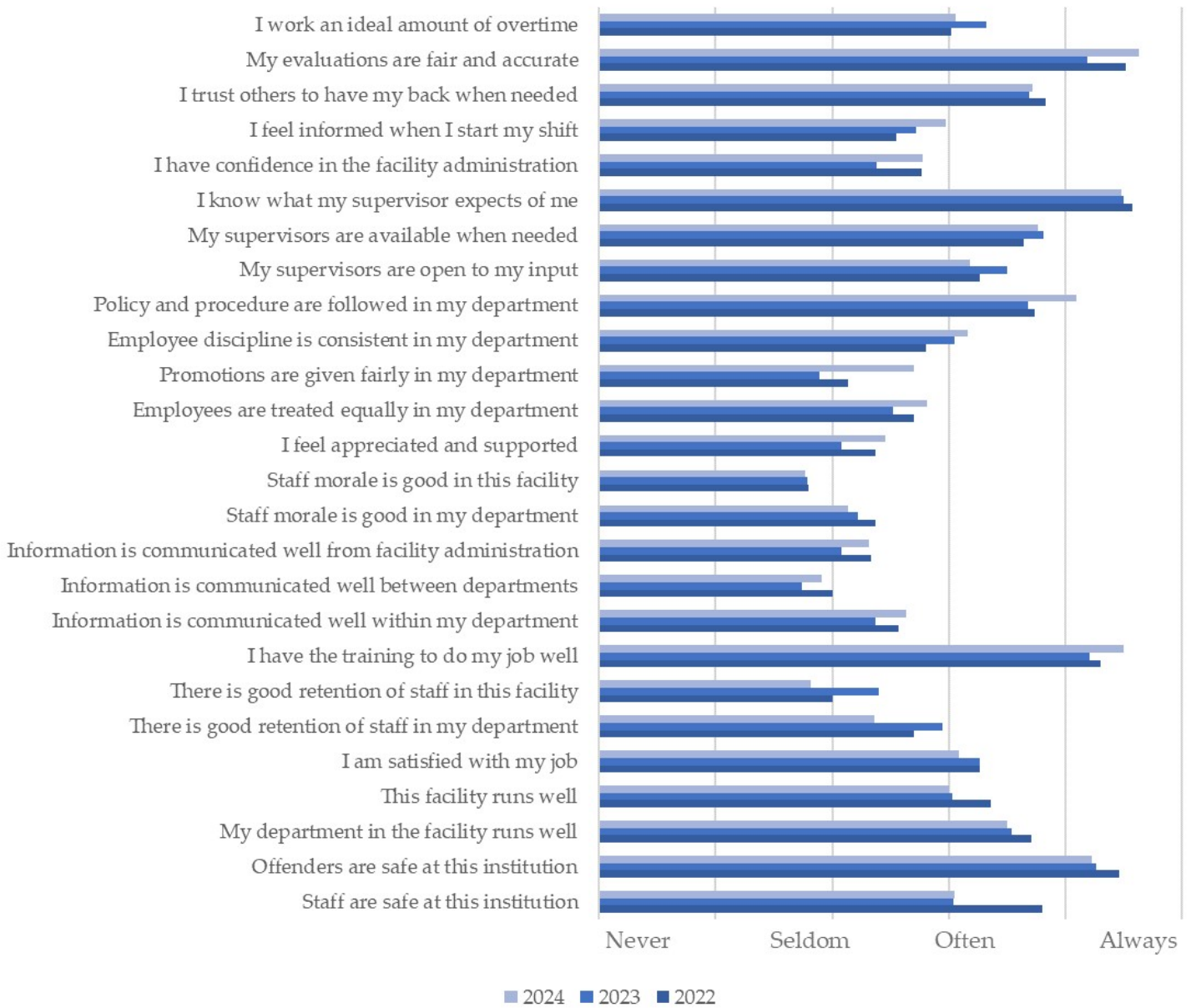
Staff stated changes to interviewing and qualifications in the beginning of 2024 had reduced staff separations, as well as increased quality of staff.

	RCI Total Separations	RCI Rate	Total State Institution Separations	State Institution Rate
FY 2019	44	8.8%	1,437	13.1%
FY 2020	53	10.7%	1,500	13.7%
FY 2021	73	14.9%	1,864	17.0%
FY 2022	97	21.4%	2,300	22.7%
FY 2023	77	16.1%	2,024	20.0%

Staff Management, Continued

The CIIC received 43 responses, which makes up 9.1% of RCI's total staff.

Staff Survey



CITATIONS

- i. CIIC Inspection Report, RCI, 2022.
- ii. CIIC Inspection Report, RCI, 2023.
- iii. ACA Reaccreditation Audit, RCI, 2021.
- iv. ODRC Internal Management Audit, RCI, 2022.
- v. ODRC Rules Infraction Board Counts by Institution.
- vi. ODRC Assaults & UOF by Institution.
- vii. ODRC Inmate Deaths by Type and Institution.
- viii. ODRC Drug Testing Results by Institution.
- ix. DOJ PREA Audit, RCI, 2021.
- x. ODRC PREA Case Summary Report.
- xi. ODRC Ohio Grievance Report.
- xii. ODRC Institution Budgets.
- xiii. ODRC Internal Fiscal Audit, RCI, 2021.
- xiv. ODRC Overtime by Institution.
- xv. ODRC Capital Improvements by Institution.
- xvi. ODRC Monthly Staffing Report.
- xvii. ODRC Separation Rates by Institution.

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