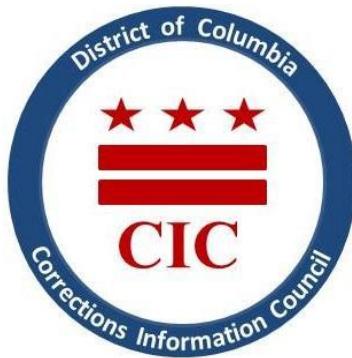


**District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council**



**Survey Results for Bureau of Prisons Facilities Housing
30 or Less Residents Sentenced by DC Superior Court**

March 21, 2024



District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

Charles Thornton, Board Chair
Katharine A. Huffman, Board Member
Nkechi Taifa, 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

Background and Methodology

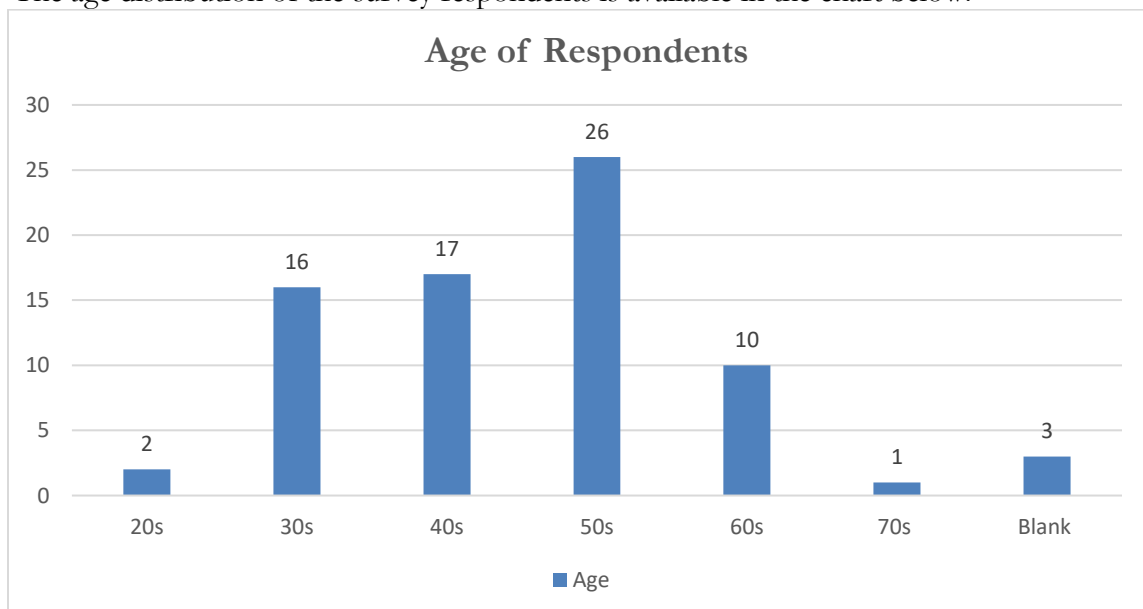
The Bureau of Prisons has more than 100 secure facilities throughout the United States, which house persons sentenced by DC Superior Court under the DC Code. The CIC physically inspects approximately a half dozen complexes each year. In addition to other considerations, the BOP locations inspected by the CIC are generally those with the highest number of persons sentenced by DC Superior Court. With the exception of facilities housing women, the CIC generally inspects facilities with more than 30 persons sentenced by DC Superior Court.

In order to learn more about conditions in facilities that CIC is not likely to visit due to the low population, the CIC mailed surveys on November 22, 2022 to 477 people sentenced by DC Superior Court. They were housed in 73 secure BOP facilities that currently house fewer than 30 people sentenced by DC Superior Court. Fourteen surveys were returned because the person had been transferred from one facility to another. Of the 14, only one person was transferred to another facility which housed fewer than 30 persons sentenced by DC Superior Court, so a replacement letter was sent; the others did not receive replacements due to their transfers to high population facilities.

The initial mailing yielded only 61 responses. Due to the low response rate, the CIC sent a second mailing on May 8, 2023 to 326 people who had not responded and were still housed with fewer than 30 people sentenced by DC Superior Court. The second mailing yielded only 14 responses. This report is based on the total 75 respondents: 66 of whom identified as male, 4 as female, 2 as transgender male, and 3 as transgender female. A listing of the facilities and the rate of response for each facility is listed in Appendix A.

Due to the overall low response rate, it is difficult to gain a true picture of the conditions of confinement in the facilities housing 30 or fewer persons sentenced by DC Superior Court; thus, no recommendations are included in this report. It is designed to present a snapshot of the conditions experienced by 75 people currently housed in 38 BOP facilities.

The age distribution of the survey respondents is available in the chart below.



Daily Living

The initial questions in the survey ask about access to basic items provided by the institution. While showers seem to be plentiful, except during times of lockdowns, grievance forms were not available to 28 of the 75 of the respondents.

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Blank
Showers	72	3	0	0
Clean Clothes	66	8	1	2
Clean Sheets and Towels	56	12	3	4
Cleaning Supplies	54	17	2	2
Masks/PPE	40	31	2	2
Haircuts	51	18	2	4
Reading Materials	63	8	2	2
Writing Materials	57	16	0	2
Legal Materials	53	19	1	2
Grievance Forms	44	28	0	3
Telephone	69	5	0	1
Visitation	49	24	0	2
Recreation	64	7	1	2
Commissary	66	5	1	2
Mail	67	4	3	1

Comments by survey respondents include:

“There are a very limited number of toilets and showers available. Each cell has 6 or more inmates in it. There is no A/C in the building and conditions no hot days are unbearable.”

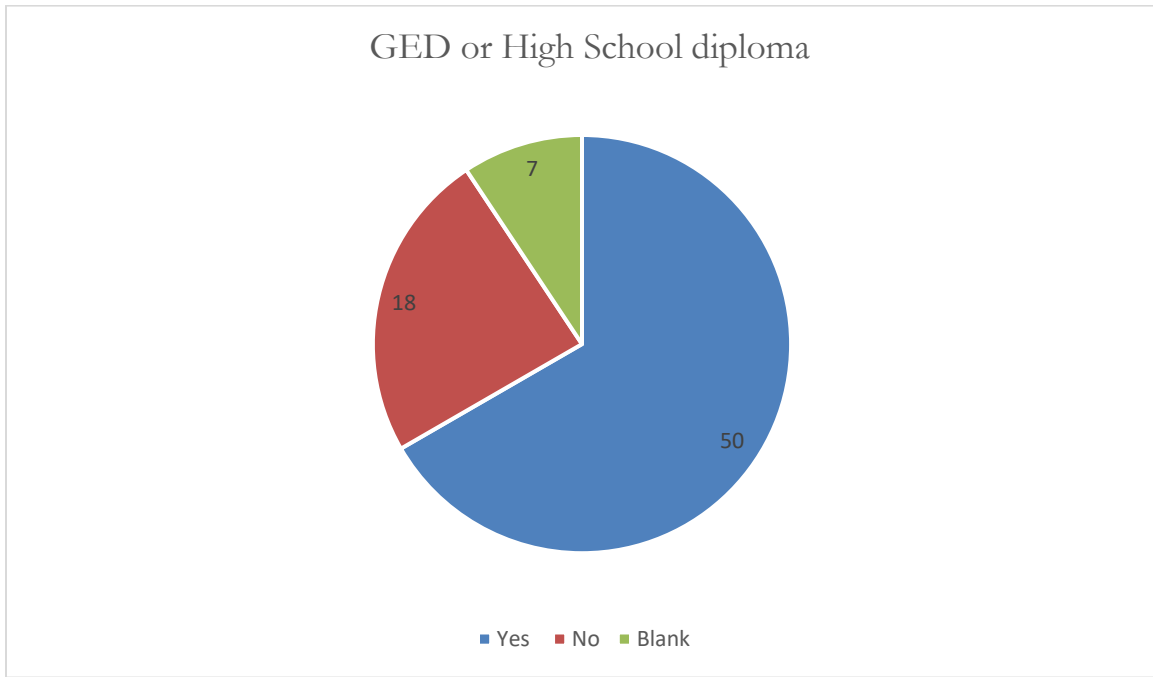
“There have been times when we have taken cold showers for months, as well as the cells and units being cold in the winter.”

“Holy Qurans are confiscated from Muslim inmates by their unit manager as “contraband”.

Education and Programming

Educational Attainment

Fifty of the 75 survey respondents stated that they have a high diploma or GED (See subsequent chart). Of the 50 survey respondents who have a GED, twenty-four reported that they received their GED while incarcerated. Nine survey respondents stated they have a college degree.



Very few survey respondents reported their participation in programming. Only 25 of the 75 are participating in educational programs, and only 4 of the 75 are participating in residential drug treatment.

Participation in Programming

	Yes	No	Do Not Need	Blank
Residential Programming (RDAP)	4	49	1	21
Vocational Training	10	45		20
Education (GED, ACE, etc.)	25	30		20
Other programs (please specify)	25	21		29

Programs mentioned as “other” included Trauma or Victim Impact (8), Anger Management (4), Employment (3), and UNICOR (1).

Comments by survey respondents include:

“D.C. inmates are not allowed to sign up for programs.”

“I have completed the Challenge Program, Life Connections Program, Overcomers Mentor Program. I have been programming every chance I get since 2010.”

“When they decide to teach, I’ve been trying to get tested; it’s been 18 months.”

“Recreation and education are randomly shut down for unknown reasons, even while the compound is on fully open status.”

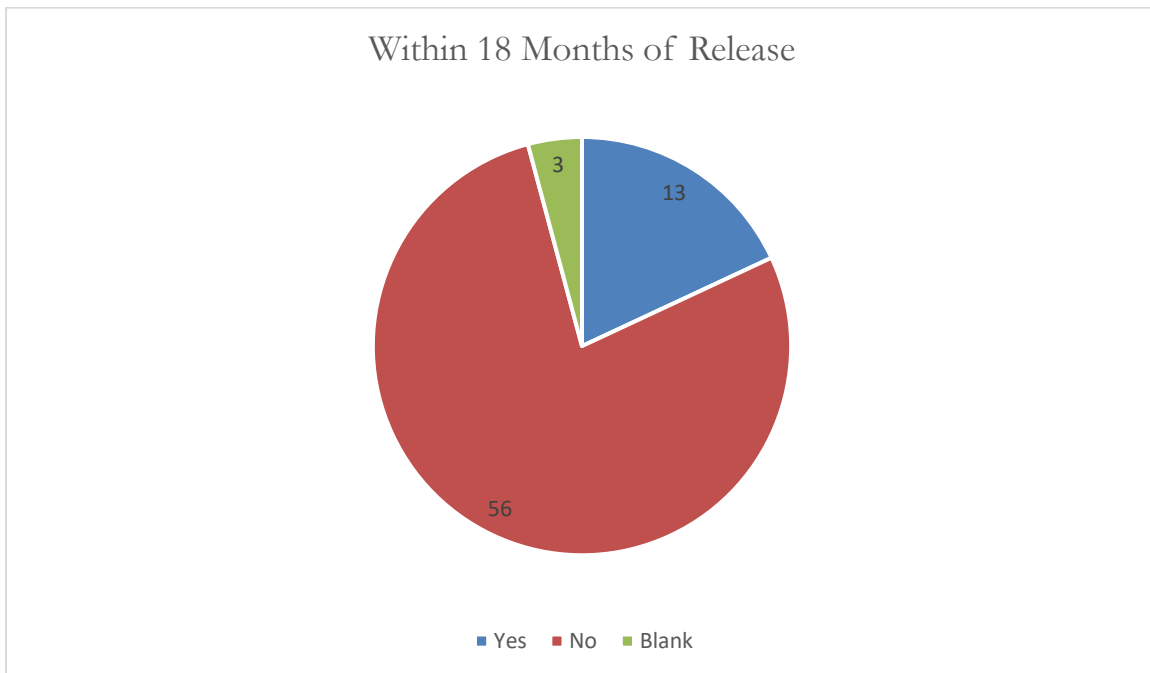
“There are no jobs available here. I went fifteen months jobless until someone with influence recommended me to UNICOR – though I have prior UNICOR and Commissary work history.”

“Last year I took a correspondence course to become a paralegal because I represented myself pro se in several actions, and assisted other prisoners who seek my assistance. I help these other prisoners file their own pro se motions, file administrative remedies, and file both habeas and compassionate release motions.”

“Mail from the courts that does not contain the phrase “Legal Mail-Open only in the presence of inmate” is routinely opened and copied, even when the BOP is the defendant in a legal/civil case.”

Reentry

The Bureau of Prisons states that programming is focused on preparing people to return to the community. The survey asks about resident’s experiences with reentry services; however, those responses were not reported since so few respondents are within 18 months of release.



The CIC publishes quarterly information sheets on persons sentenced by DC Superior Court who are serving life or extended sentences (20 or more years), so it is not surprising that less than one in five people were within 18 months of release. Several comments by respondents expressed the frustration experienced by people with long sentences when they are trying to enroll in programming.

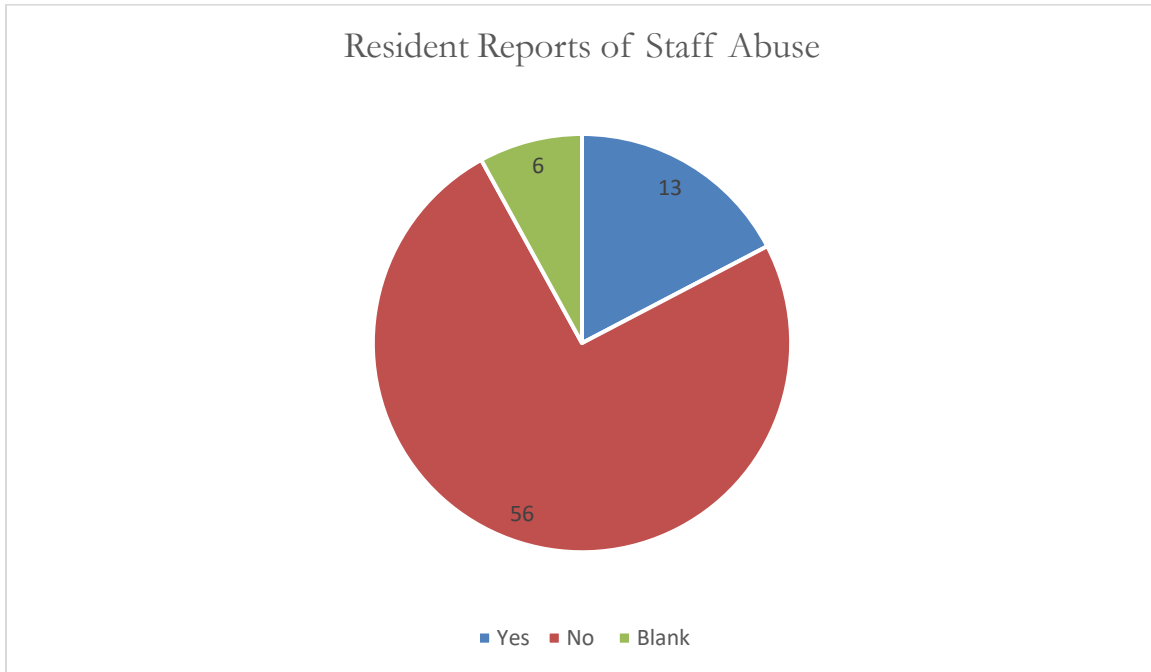
Varied comments by survey respondents include:

“It’s almost impossible to participate in programs due to inmates 24 months to release being prioritized.”

“My unit team has been helpful to me in preparing me for release and are always available to me.”

Institutional Safety and Staff Interactions

Prisons have a reputation as dangerous places; therefore, the questionnaire inquired about personal safety. The questions focused on interactions with staff and interactions with other residents inside of their institutions.



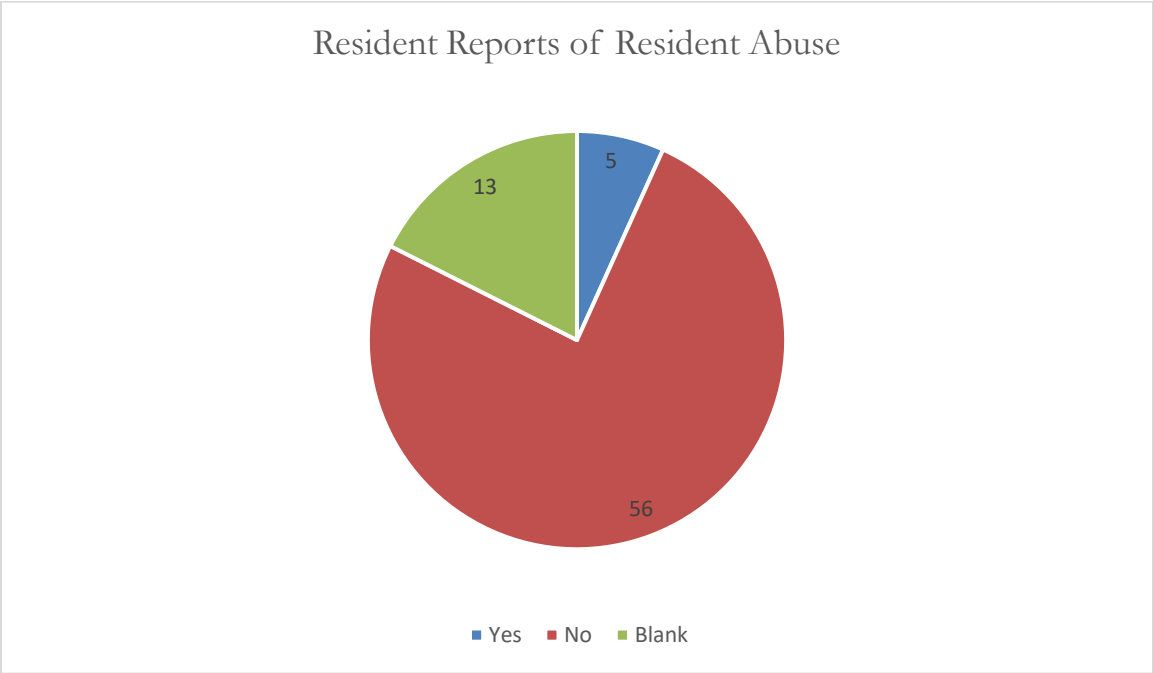
While almost one out of five reported abuse by staff, most of the comments about abuse focused on a toxic environment or petty forms of harassment, rather than reports of physical assaults by staff members.

Comments by survey respondents include:

“Staff is often not very helpful even when asked basic questions.”

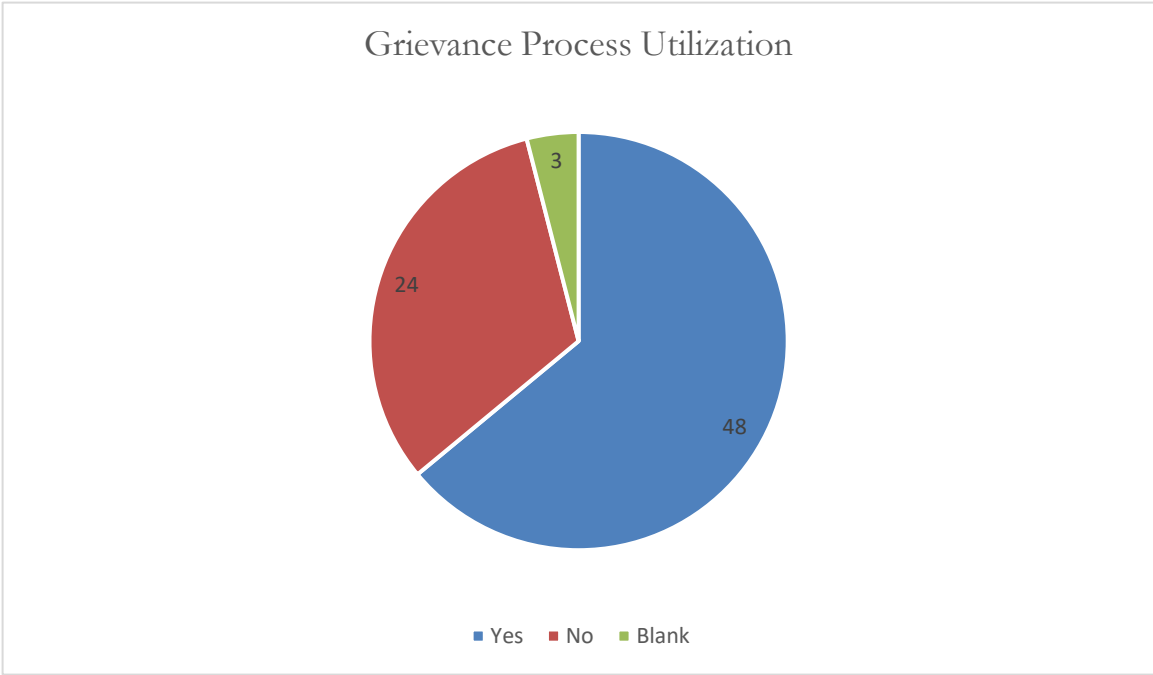
“Disciplinary procedures are capricious and arbitrary. Staff laugh at due process complaints and the administrative remedy is a sham process.”

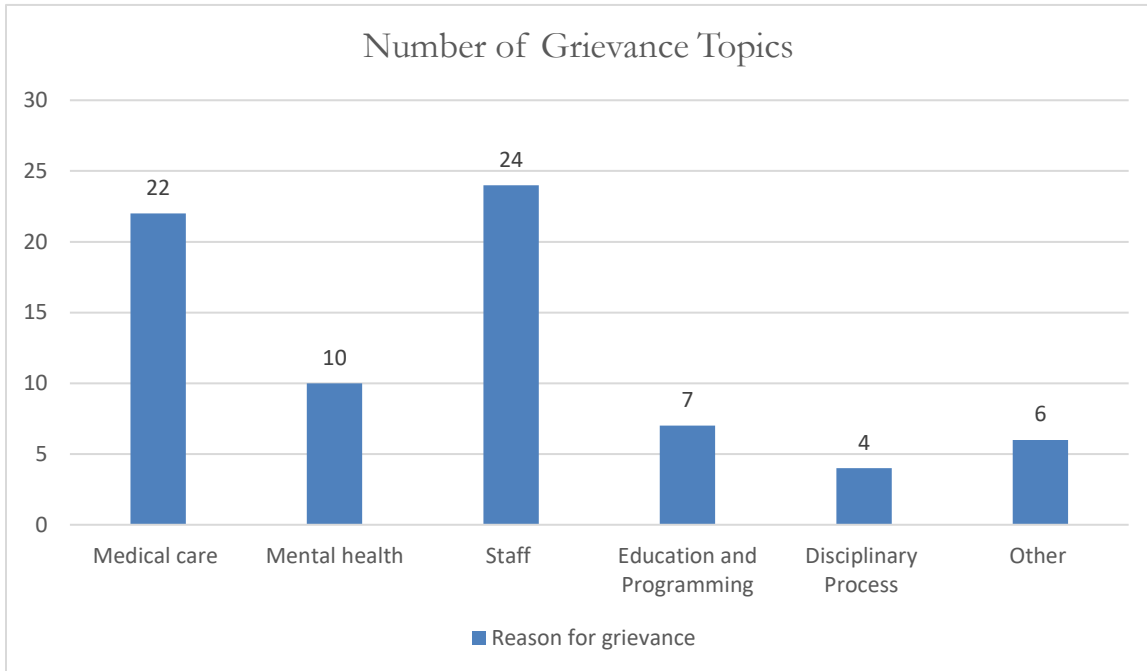
Several respondents spoke about staff encouraging a culture of violence; however, only 8% of respondents reported abuse from other residents (see subsequent chart).



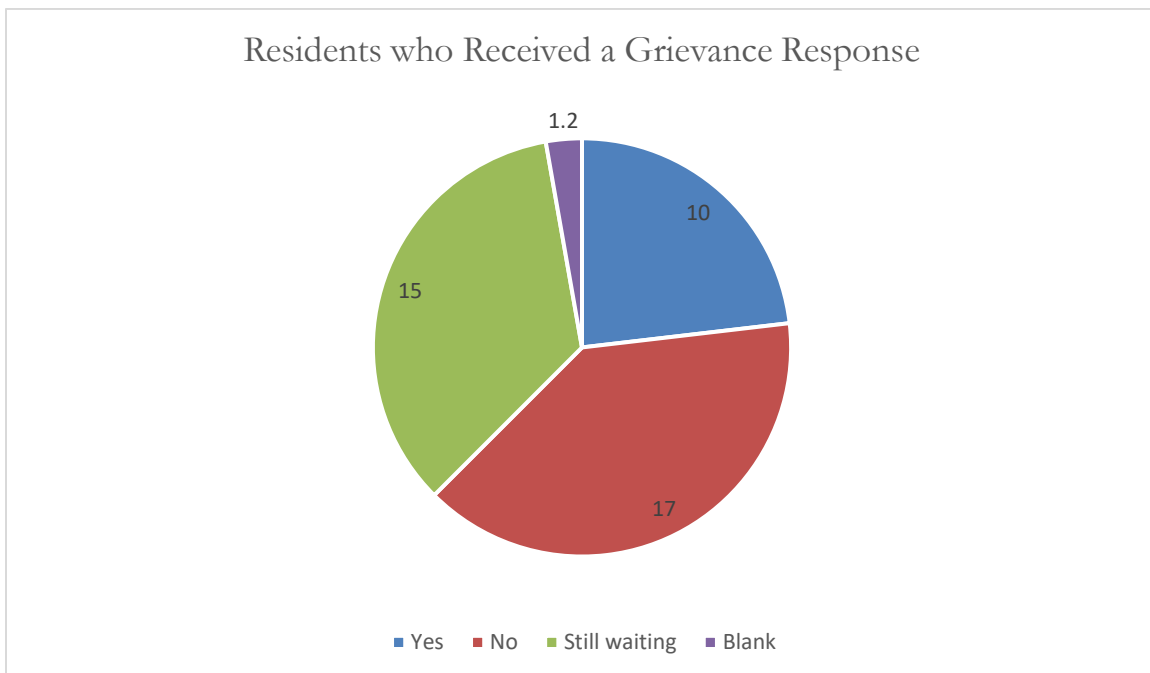
Grievance Process

The grievance process is the recourse used when residents are not satisfied with the provision of services. Two out of three respondents indicated they have used the grievance process at their current facility.





Many of the respondents who had filed a grievance stated that they had not received a response yet.



Comments by survey respondents include:

“I filed a grievance to this region for not getting certified legal mail. I still have gotten no response.”

“Inmates are afraid to file grievances for fear of retaliation from staff. Cell shakedown, a trip to the SHU, or physical abuse from Lieutenants can result. With 99% white staff, this place is very racist in its handling of African American inmates.”

Health Services

The survey asked about access to different health services. The provision of health services (or the lack thereof) is the second most frequent reason that survey respondents filed a grievance.

Access to Health Services				
	Yes	No	Do Not Know	Blank
Medical/Sick call	59	9	0	7
Dentist	46	22	2	5
Mental Health	43	21	2	9

Comments by survey respondents include:

“Medical department is deliberately indifferent to inmate needs regarding medications which are needed to treat medical conditions by relegating them to burying needed meds on commissary.”

“Recently I broke my tooth on a rock that was in my food. Dental seen me the same day.”

“The staff is good; especially the nurses/ doctors.”

“I have not seen the dentist in five years. There have been three new dentists at this facility in that time.”

“Allergy medication was taken away without any reason given.”

“I had to wait three months to see a doctor for chronic stomach problems. Although I received triage it was more than three months before I was seen by a doctor. When my thyroid function degraded, I was refused treatment for three years. The BOP audiologist said I need hearing aids in both ears, but the BOP refuses to let me have them.”

Appendix

Rate of Response by Institution

Facility	Type	Mailed	Responses	Percent
Alderson	FPC	2	1	50%
Aliceville	FCI	7	2	28%
Allenwood Low	FCI	13	0	0%
Ashland	FCI	9	2	22%
Atlanta	USP	4	0	0%
Beaumont Low	FCI	2	0	0%
Beaumont Medium	FCI	1	0	0%
Berlin	FCI	15	5	33%
Big Spring	FCI	2	0	0%
Butner	FMC	16	1	6%
Butner Low	FCI	6	1	16%
Butner Medium I	FCI	12	3	25%
Carswell	FMC	7	1	14%
Coleman Low	FCI	2	0	0%
Coleman Medium	FCI	16	2	12%
Danbury	FCI	8	0	0%
Devens	FMC	21	2	9%
Dublin	FCI	2	1	50%
Edgefield	FCI	27	3	11%
El Reno	FCI	1	0	0%
Elkton	FCI	4	1	25%
Englewood	FCI	1	0	0%
Fairton	FCI	30	3	10%
Forrest City Low	FCI	4	2	50%
Forrest City Medium	FCI	5	2	40%
Fort Worth	FMC	4	1	25%
Greenville	FCI	2	0	0%
Herlong	FCI	5	0	0%
Honolulu	FDC	1	0	0%
Jesup	FCI	9	0	0%
Leavenworth	USP	11	0	0%
Lewisburg	USP	17	2	12%
Lexington	FMC	12	1	8%
Lompoc	USP	10	3	30%
Loretto	FCI	23	4	17%
Manchester	FCI	18	4	22%
Marianna	FCI	6	2	33%
Marion	USP	16	2	12%

McRae	CI	1	0	0%
Memphis	FCI	1	0	0%
Mendota	FCI	7	0	0%
Miami	FCI	1	0	0%
Milan	FCI	1	0	0%
Oakdale I	FCI	1	0	0%
Oakdale II	FCI	2	0	0%
Otisville	FCI	9	1	11%
Oxford	FCI	3	0	0%
Pekin	FCI	4	1	25%
Pekin	FCP	1	1	100%
Philadelphia	FDC	3	0	0%
Phoenix	FCI	2	0	0%
Pollock	FCI	12	1	8%
Raybrook	FCI	1	0	0%
Rochester	FMC	3	1	33%
Sandstone	FCI	1	0	0%
Seagoville	FCI	2	1	50%
Sheridan	FCI	2	1	50%
Springfield	MCFP	9	2	22%
Talladega	FCI	7	0	0%
Tallahassee	FCI	2	0	0%
Terre Haute	FCI	2	2	100%
Texarkana	FCI	2	0	0%
Three Rivers	FCI	2	0	0%
Tucson	FCI	1	0	0%
Victorville Medium I	FCI	4	2	50%
Victorville Medium II	FCI	4	0	0%
Waseca	FCI	1	1	100%
Williamsburg	FCI	30	4	13%
Yazoo City	USP	11	3	27%
Yazoo City Low	FCI	5	1	20%
Yazoo City Medium	FCI	6	0	0%
Blank			2	
		494	75	

