

# FCI McKean Inspection Report



*Source: bop.gov*

**District of Columbia  
Corrections Information Council**

**July 11, 2019**

## District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

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### *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

| <b>FCI McKean Facility Profile</b>  |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> July 20, 2017  | <b>Security Level:</b> Medium                  |
| <b>Location:</b> Lewis Run, PA  | <b>Rated Capacity:</b> 856                     |
| <b>Distance from DC:</b> 217 miles  | <b>Total Population:</b> 932 (108.9% capacity) |
| <b>DC Inmate Population – May 2017</b>  |  |
| <b>DC Population:</b> 33 (3.54% of total population)  | <b>Average Sentence:</b> 198 months            |
| <b>Average Age:</b> 36.8 years old  | <b>Individuals with Detainers:</b> 5           |
| <b>Facility Highlights</b>  |  |
| <p>The CIC highlights the following programs and facility practices:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. FCI McKean employs a Bureau best practice in that they consistently commit to having staff and wardens participate in “mainline.”</li> <li>2. The CIC was concerned with the policy that allows for two inmates to be present in the food prep room and the fridge attached to the food prep room without a cook supervisor.</li> <li>3. The Education Department adopted an innovative and promising practice of offering “Family Day” every four weeks where the facility permits a full-day visitation by children of inmates participating in parenting classes.</li> <li>4. FCI McKean offers a recycling program that was implemented in October 2015. There are 30 inmates currently participating, with a capacity to have 40. Those participating are doing administrative work, working with machines, scaling, and sorting through new materials to prepare for recycling. The program was created by current staff who developed an innovative way to make use of an empty warehouse previously used by UNICOR.</li> <li>5. The Medical Director reported several instances where the facility received inmates who had their care levels lowered at the previous facility and still required medical services beyond the capacity of a Care Level I facility. In such instances, the Medical Director stated he directly contacts the Regional Director to get the individual transferred to an appropriate facility.</li> <li>6. FCI McKean participates in the DC Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA)’s quarterly Community Resource Day via videoconference.</li> </ol> |  |
| <b>Recommendations</b>  |  |
| <p>Based on the inspection of FCI McKean, the CIC makes the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure adequate ventilation in SHU and install a heating system to guarantee appropriate temperatures in cells.</li> <li>2. Increase quality and size of meals.</li> <li>3. Guarantee the presence of a BOP cook supervisor when more than one inmate is working in the locked food prep or attached food prep fridge space to prevent sexual contact.</li> <li>4. Although response numbers for mental health treatment and programs were small, the CIC recommends that the facility regularly evaluate wait times for inmate receipt of services and access to recovery programs.</li> <li>5. Provide staff regular training on diversity and professionalism.</li> </ol>   |  |

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## I. Introduction

Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) McKean is a medium security facility located in Lewis Run, PA, approximately 217 miles from DC. The facility also includes an adjacent minimum security camp.

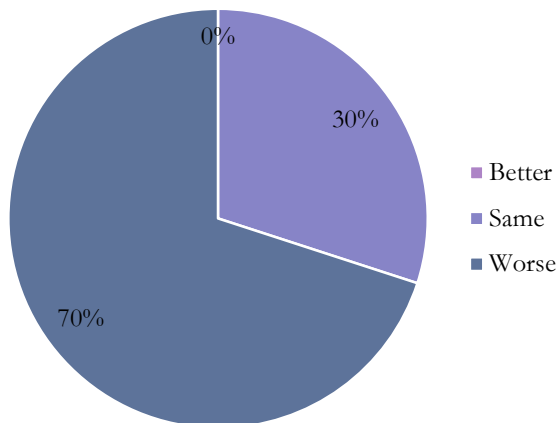
The rated capacity of FCI McKean is 856. As of May 2017, the inmate population was 932, or 108.9% capacity. The facility had 33 individuals sentenced under the DC Code, comprising 3.54% of the total population.

## II. Treatment of DC Population

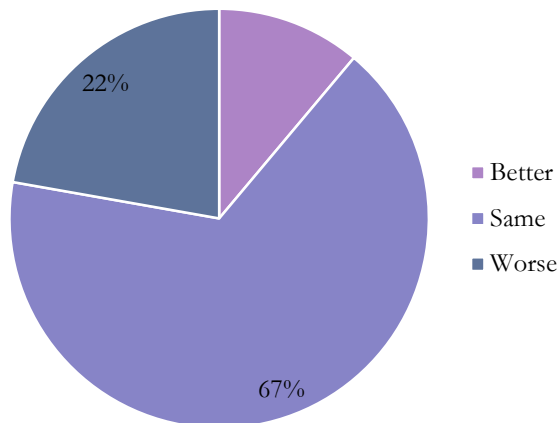
DC inmates were nearly unanimous (all but one) in expressing their desire to move closer to home if given the opportunity. The majority of the DC inmates spoke of wanting to be transferred close to home for family to visit them and to improve their chance at a successful reentry.

When asked how staff treats DC inmates in comparison to other inmates, seven DC inmates reported worse treatment, three reported equal treatment, and none reported better treatment (Figure 3.1). When asked whether DC inmates are treated better or worse by other inmates, two DC inmates reported worse treatment, six reported equal treatment, and one reported better treatment (Figure 3.2). Regarding overall treatment of DC inmates by staff and other inmates, respondents pointed out that DC inmates are seen as trouble.

**Figure 3.1:**  
**Treatment by Staff**  
(n = 10)



**Figure 3.2:**  
**Treatment by Other Inmates**  
(n = 10)



### III. Living Conditions

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#### A. Housing

FCI McKean has four housing units. Each housing unit has 63 double-celled rooms; with a total capacity of 126 inmates. All triple-celled rooms at FCI McKean have been converted into double-celled rooms. At the time of the inspection, staff reported all housing units had 100 – 115 inmates. Each housing unit has a Unit Team consisting of two correctional officers, one unit manager, two case managers, one secretary and two counselors. Each unit has six computers, four phone booths, seven televisions, two microwaves, seven showers, an ice machine, a hot water dispenser, a pull-up bar and a stationary bike.

Staff reported inmates are provided laundry services two times a week for linens and another for personal laundry. All ten DC inmates responding to the survey at FCI McKean reported normally having enough clean clothes for the week and having the opportunity to exchange clean sheets every week.

#### B. 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 SHU are housed in two-person cells. The two categories of Special Housing are administrative detention<sup>1</sup> and disciplinary segregation.<sup>2</sup> 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.

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.<sup>3</sup> The BOP further states that plans to increase recreation time are developed locally at each institution.<sup>4</sup> Inmates are also permitted to receive one non-contact visit 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.

Prior to inspection, FCI McKean reported having 85 inmates in SHU, one of whom was a DC Code Offender. Thirty-one individuals were in SHU due to disciplinary action and 31 due to administrative detention. Of those under administrative detention, four were in SHU for Protective Custody, and 20 were in the SHU pending transfer to another facility. Staff reported that none of the inmates in the SHU had been there for over a year. Twenty-five inmates in the SHU were reported as having been diagnosed with a mental health issue.

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<sup>1</sup> Fed. Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Dep't of Justice, Program Statement No. 5270.10, Special Housing Units (Nov. 23, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> Disciplinary segregation is imposed as a sanction for violations of BOP rules and regulations.

<sup>3</sup> Fed. Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Dep't of Justice, Program Statement No. 5270.11, Special Housing Units (Nov. 23, 2016).

<sup>4</sup> Id.

On the day of the CIC inspection there were 82 inmates in the SHU, none of whom were reported to be DC Code Offenders. The Executive staff noted that around 40% of inmates in the SHU were there for drug-related activity, 40% were there for protective custody and that 10% of them were in the SHU due to disciplinary segregation. Staff reported that they did not have any inmates on the unit with physical disabilities.

The Captain noted to the CIC that all departments (Medical, Psychology, Unit Teams, Education, Recreation, Religion, Reentry and Commissary) visit the SHU at least once a week. The Captain noted that some departments visit more than once a week and that the Warden visits every day. The CIC observed the sign-in sheet and noted that the psychology team visited multiple days a week.

Per discussion with the Captain, SHU inmates are given more than the standard recreation of 1 hour per weekday. Recreation can occur in secured recreation cages which fit 4-6 people. Inmates can also still participate in GED programming while in the SHU. Staff pushes a book cart into the SHU every two weeks and inmates are allowed to take up to 5 books at a time. Inmates in the SHU must make a “call-out” to use the electronic law library located nearby.

SHU inmates do not currently have access to recreational games in their cells. However, in response to inmates scratching pictures into the metal bed frames, the Captain is considering providing SHU cells with a demarcated chess board to encourage mental stimulation of inmates.

Five DC inmates surveyed reported they have been in the SHU at FCI McKean between one to three times. Of those five individuals, three had been in SHU less than one month, and two had been in SHU between one to three months. One individual who had been in the SHU at FCI McKean reported his cell was freezing when he was in the SHU during the winter.

### **C. Visitation**

FCI McKean is located in a remote area with limited travel and hotel accommodations. Visitation is available on Mondays between 1:30 – 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The visitation room at FCI McKean includes a common area with seating for visitors to have contact visits with inmates, a parenting room that provides a child-friendly area, one attorney-client room and a library room. At the time of inspection, the facility did not provide video visitation.

The Education Department at FCI McKean adopted an innovative and promising practice of offering “Family Day” every four weeks where the facility permits a full-day visitation by children of inmates participating in parenting classes. Inmates currently facing disciplinary action are not eligible to participate in Family Day.

Staff noted that they do get a consistent flow of visitors including a fair amount of visitors from DC. Visitors can be denied entry for a number of reasons, including having an invalid form of identification, wearing inappropriate clothing, or not being on the list of approved visitors for that individual inmate. Executive staff noted that when individuals are added to an approved visitor list, it takes at most one day to complete a background check. Once approved, those who visit the facility will have to remove all watches, cell phones, money, food or drinks from their possession, enter through a medical detector and be subject to an Ion Spectrometry device/scanner which is used by staff to check for drugs/contraband.

The Unit manager noted that the facility has had positive detections using the Spectrometry device but that mostly tests of visitors turn out negative. In the case that a test for contraband is positive, a confirmation test is performed after the initial positive test. If the confirmation test is positive, that individual will be prevented for visiting for the next 24 hours. After a second positive test a visitor will be prevented from visiting within the next 48 hours. After a third positive test, that individual will not be able to visit for the next 6 months.

In response to the CIC survey, the most common type of visitation problem for DC inmates was the distance for visitors. Two individuals reported family members were turned away after traveling from DC.

## **D. Communication**

### **Mail Correspondence**

Several DC inmates expressed concerns about sending or receiving mail at FCI McKean. One individual noted recent mail restrictions prohibiting colored envelopes or color photos. He further explained a specific incident where his children's drawing was returned to the family because it had colors on it. Staff noted on the day of the inspection that the enhanced restrictions on mail correspondence are in response to a rise in opioids being sent through the mail. Staff indicated that substances are harder to detect on colored paper.

In response to the CIC survey, four DC inmates reported having problems sending or receiving legal mail at FCI McKean within the last six months. One DC inmate commented that his legal mail is always opened before he receives it.

### **Telephone Usage**

The cost for a 15-minute long-distance phone call is \$3.45. A majority of the DC inmates who responded to the survey question reported they did not have problems accessing the telephone. One DC inmate, however, reported he could not afford to pay for calls.

### **Email**

Inmates at FCI McKean have access to email through CorrLinks, the email server on the TRULINCS software platform used by the BOP. The cost to access CorrLinks is \$0.05 per minute.

## **E. Recreation**

FCI McKean's Recreation Department hosts a variety of leisure, art & hobby crafts, and wellness programs that include organized and informal sports, physical fitness, painting, and fitness/nutrition counseling. The facility also has a large recreation yard that opens at 6:45 a.m. daily. The CIC did not inspect the recreation space at FCI McKean.

Two of the nine survey respondents reported being either very satisfied or satisfied with the recreation programs at FCI McKean, while seven reported being unsatisfied or very unsatisfied.

## **F. Meals**

The Dining Hall at FCI McKean has a maximum occupancy capacity of 400 inmates. FCI McKean spends \$2.65 per day per inmate for all meals. FCI McKean follows the standard BOP menu and provides pre-packed special diets to inmates including heart healthy meals, kosher meals, halal meals, "no flesh-meals"/vegetarian meals or "self-select" meals (meals in which inmate can select or de-select certain parts of the meal available for that day). On the day of inspection, staff noted that four inmates at FCI McKean were on religious diets. Breakfast is served by housing unit around 7:15am,



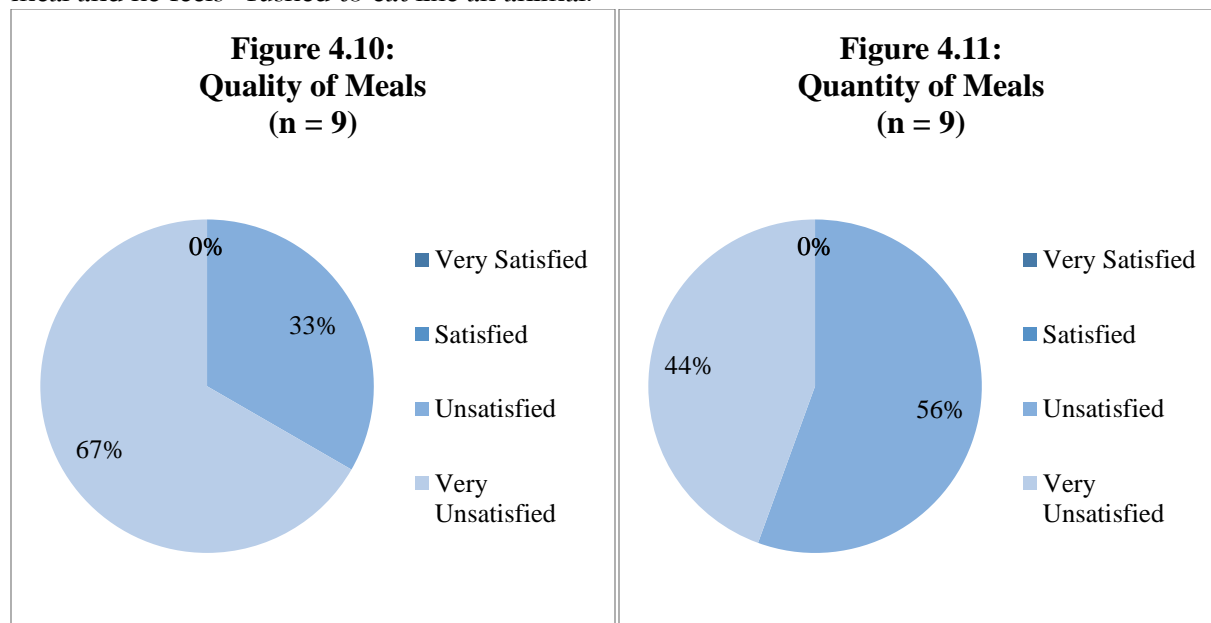
lunch at 11:00am and dinner by 5pm. The cleanest housing units eat first, and each housing unit is allowed 20 minutes in the dining hall. Housing units are mixed during meal times.

FCI McKean has 14 cook supervisors on staff, and employs 125 inmates in the dining hall. Three DC inmates work in the dining hall. Eligible inmates working in the kitchen are able to participate in the ServSafe certification program, a nationally-recognized food and beverage safety training administered by the National Restaurant Association.

The CIC was concerned by a policy allowing two inmates to be present in the food prep room and the attached walk-in fridge without a cook supervisor. The CIC appreciates that the executive staff makes efforts to manage separatee issues (i.e. separating inmates who might have an issue with working or living together), however due to safety concerns we recommend that there be cook supervisors present when more than one inmate is working in the food prep room or attached food prep fridge space.

FCI McKean employs a Bureau best practice in that they consistently commit to having staff and Wardens participate in “mainline.” “Mainline” is the practice of having staff and warden present during meal time to answer any questions or address any concerns of inmates present. “Mainline” at FCI McKean takes place during breakfast and lunch, and usually involves the presence of the Executive Staff, the Education Department and Unit Counselors. Executive staff noted that the Warden participates in “mainline” quite often during breakfast.

All nine respondents to the CIC’s survey said that they were “unsatisfied” or “very unsatisfied” with both the quantity and quality of meals (Figures 4.10 and 4.11). Three DC inmates said that the meals are poorly prepared. An individual also reported that 20 minutes was not enough time to finish his meal and he feels “rushed to eat like an animal.”



### G. Commissary

All inmates are allowed to make purchases at the commissary at FCI McKean. Inmates in the Special Housing Unit (SHU) have access to a limited version of the standard commissary list at the facility.

Per BOP policy, all items are marked up 30% except for religious items<sup>5</sup>, postage, self-improvement textbooks, correspondence courses, legal materials, tools and materials for educational/vocational training, Smoking Cessation Program materials, and Passover meals during Passover.<sup>6</sup> The maximum spending limit is \$360 per month.

The Commissary Department at FCI McKean is staffed by four inmates and supervised by two Correctional Officers. The items available in the commissary are reviewed, added or removed quarterly by staff. When deciding which items to add or remove, executive staff considers the input/opinions of the Chaplains and the inmates as well as security concerns.

In response to the CIC's survey, nine out of ten individuals reported being very unsatisfied or unsatisfied with the commissary at FCI McKean. Three individuals expressed concern about the high prices and limited options, and others expressed that inmate input was not considered in deciding commissary items.

## H. Religious Services

The Religious Services Department at FCI McKean facilitates worship services for individuals from more than 18 religious affiliations. Religious Services at FCI McKean has three staff, including two Protestant Chaplains and an Administrative Coordinator. The facility contracts with a Muslim Imam and a Catholic Priest, and has 35 religious services volunteers. For the death of an immediate family member of an inmate, staff reported a chaplain will notify the inmate and offer spiritual counseling. In addition, staff reported that the inmate is provided a complimentary phone call to their family if they have not been previously notified of the death.

Three of nine survey respondents reported being satisfied with religious programs, and four reported being unsatisfied.

### Recommendations

1. Ensure adequate ventilation in SHU and install a heating system to guarantee appropriate temperatures in cells.
2. Increase quality and size of meals.
3. Guarantee the presence of a BOP cook supervisor when more than one inmate is working in the locked food prep or attached food prep fridge space.

## IV. Health Services

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### A. Mental Health Care

FCI McKean is a Mental Health Care Level I facility.<sup>7</sup> During the onsite inspection, staff reported that the majority of inmates are designated as Mental Health Care Level I, with four inmates at Level II, none of whom were DC Code Offenders. Prior to the inspection, the facility informed the CIC that five DC inmates had mental health diagnoses.

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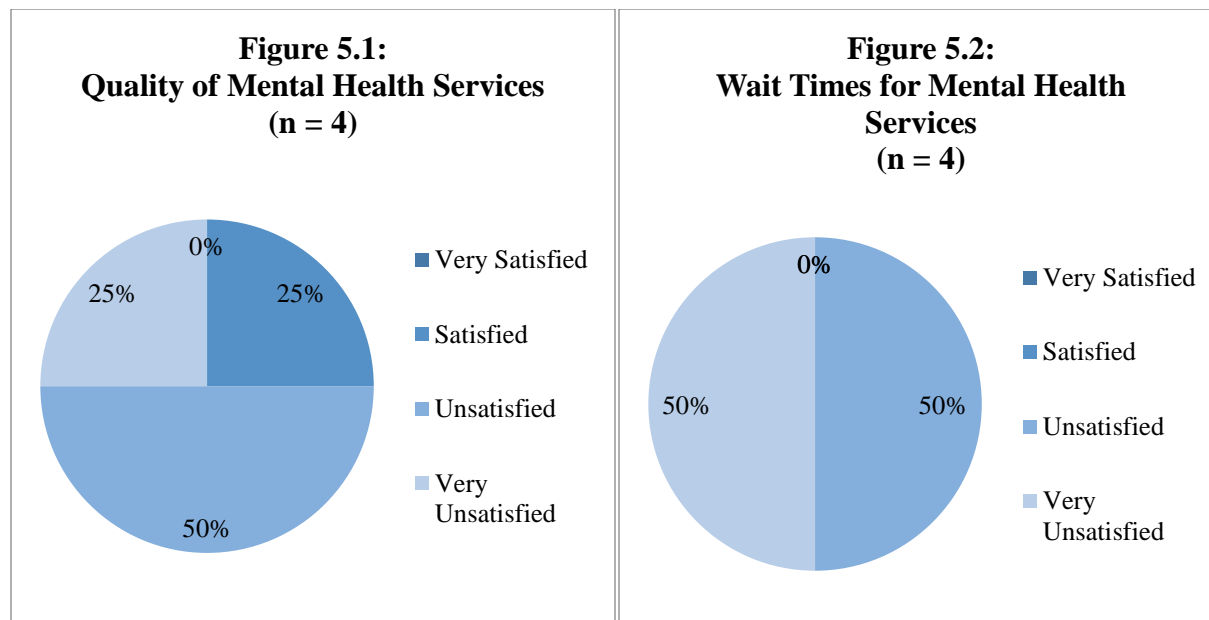
<sup>5</sup> This excludes edible religious items.

<sup>6</sup> Fed. Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Dep't of Justice, Program Statement No. 4500.11, CN-1, Trust Fund/Deposit Fund Manual (Dec. 16, 2016).

<sup>7</sup> For more information about BOP Mental Health Care Levels, please refer to the CIC Info Sheet, available online at [https://cic.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cic/page\\_content/attachments/BOP%20Mental%20Health%20Care%20Levels%205.17.17.pdf](https://cic.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cic/page_content/attachments/BOP%20Mental%20Health%20Care%20Levels%205.17.17.pdf).

The Psychology Services Department at FCI McKean consists of three Psychologists, one non-residential drug abuse program coordinator, and one technician. Staff reported one vacant psychologist position. The Department has three offices and one communal area for group sessions. Psychology Services offers a number of classes taught by staff including drug education (a 12-week program for 20 to 30 people, held at the Chapel), a non-residential drug program (currently four groups serving 24 to 30 inmates; four of whom are from DC) and anger management groups. Psychology Services offers an open house period every Thursday for one hour. The facility does not currently use telepsychology. Inmates in general population can request a “call-out” to access psychology and drug treatment services. The psychology department reported making weekly rounds in the SHU. Psychology staff noted that the psychology team reviews notes about inmates in the SHU once a month, with extensive reviews occurring every six months.

The four DC inmates who reporting using mental health services, reported varied satisfaction with the quality of mental health services (Figure 5.1). Regarding wait times, all four DC inmates noted they were “unsatisfied” or “very unsatisfied” (Figure 5.2). Three respondents stated they did not have adequate access to mental health services, while six individuals reported not requiring mental health services.



### **Evaluations:**

The Psychology Department is also responsible for overseeing 30-day evaluations for incoming inmates and those with ongoing mental health diagnoses. Upon arrival at the facility, a member of the psychology team may be requested to do a 30-day evaluation (using the PSIQ form, a pre-screening slip with mental health history from an inmate’s previous facilities) or do a risk assessment based on a referral from the unit manager. Psychology Services staff may change an individual’s mental health care level during such an evaluation. The Psychology Services staff at FCI McKean reported that in the last year or two they have made such changes more. The Medical Director also reported several instances in which the facility received inmates whose medical care level had been lowered at a previous facility, but who required medical services beyond the capacity of a Care Level I facility. The Medical Director explained that in these cases he contacts the Regional Medical Director directly to request that the individual be transferred to an appropriate facility.

Out of the 10 respondents surveyed at FCI McKean, five stated that they received a mental health evaluation upon arriving at FCI McKean. When asked to describe the evaluation, several DC inmates reported having a conversation with Psychology Staff for a couple of minutes. Most individuals did not perceive the conversation to be an evaluation. One DC inmate reported having his mental health diagnosis change upon arriving at FCI McKean. Of particular concern, all ten DC inmates surveyed reported not knowing their designated Mental Health Care Level.

### ***Suicide & Para-Suicidal Gestures:***

FCI McKean reported no suicide incidents between July 2016 and June 2017. During the CIC's inspection, the Medical Director reported one inmate currently on suicide watch. Additionally, the Director of Psychology Services reported to the CIC that there have been seven to eight incidents of para-suicidal gestures (apparent suicide attempts in which the aim is not death.)

## **B. Medical Care**

FCI McKean is a Medical Health Care Level I facility.<sup>8</sup> During the onsite inspection, staff reported that the majority of inmates are designated as Medical Health Care Level I, with seven inmates at Level II, none of whom were DC Code Offenders. Prior to the inspection, the facility also informed the CIC that eight DC inmates were designated as chronic care, and that no DC inmates at FCI McKean have physical or cognitive disabilities.

The Health Services Department at FCI McKean includes one Clinical Director, two Nurses, three Paramedics, one Medical Assistant, three Mid-Level Practitioners, and one Medical Records Technician. All staff is onsite at McKean from 9am to 10pm Monday through Friday. On Weekends and holidays they can work up to 12 hours. A paramedic and a nurse are usually present after hours and the Medical Director is on call 24/7. Staff reported seeing around 30 patients a day.

The Medical Director noted that wait times for physicals are usually less than 14 days; if the person is seriously ill, they will be seen that day. In emergencies, staff will transport an inmate 30 to 45 minutes away to a general surgeon or specialist.

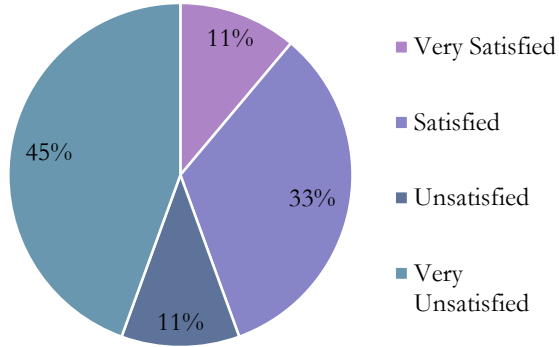
The Director noted several challenges to delivery of medical services, including lack of staff with specialized medical knowledge, particularly Rheumatology and Endocrinology expertise. The Director also noted difficulty finding a specialist within a reasonable drive that is willing to take Medicare patients. Furthermore, the Director noted that the department struggles to adequately treat new inmates, including prescribing medication, due to delays in receiving vital medical records from previous facilities. The department also lacks sufficient screening equipment. The Medical Director reported that staff struggles to transfer new inmates with medical needs because they lack the tools to properly diagnose individuals to support a transfer request. The Director noted that providing more Care Level IV beds would alleviate the pressures placed on lower care level facilities.

DC inmates were divided on their satisfaction with quality of medical care (Figure 5.8), and wait times for medical care (Figure 5.9).

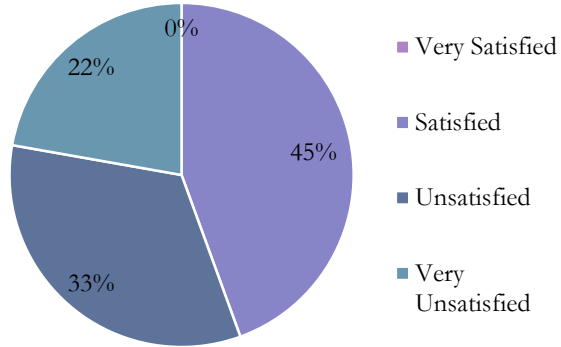
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<sup>8</sup> For more information about BOP Medical Health Care Levels, please refer to the CIC Info Sheet, available online at [https://cic.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cic/page\\_content/attachments/BOP%20Medical%20Care%20Levels%2005.17.17.pdf](https://cic.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cic/page_content/attachments/BOP%20Medical%20Care%20Levels%2005.17.17.pdf).

**Figure 5.8:**  
Quality of Medical Services  
(n = 9)



**Figure 5.9:**  
Wait Times for Medical Services  
(n = 9)



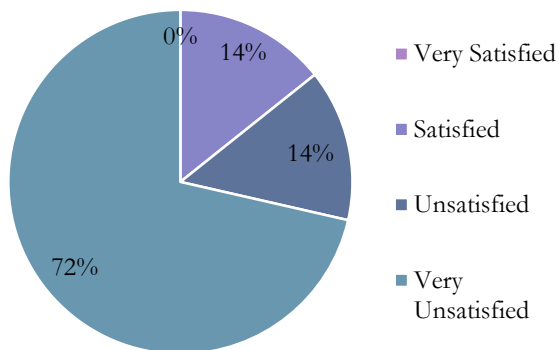
Of particular concern, seven DC inmates surveyed reported not knowing their designated Medical Health Care Level. Out of the 10 respondents surveyed at FCI McKean, two DC inmates reported being on the chronic care caseload. A majority of respondents reported normally having access to sick call slips.

**C. Dental Care**

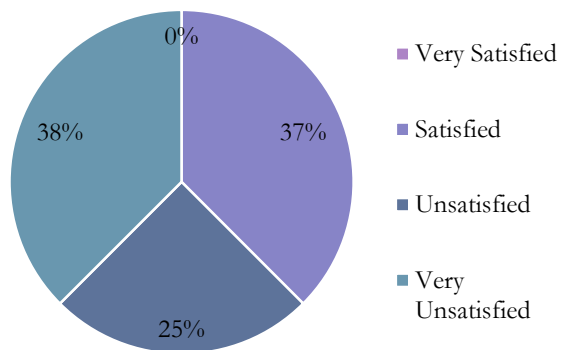
Dental Services at FCI McKean are provided on-site. The staff consists of one dentist and one hygienist.

One DC inmate noted that they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the quality of dental services (Figure 5.10). Regarding wait times, five DC inmates noted they were “unsatisfied” or “very unsatisfied” with wait times for dental services (Figure 5.11).

**Figure 5.10:**  
Quality of Dental Services  
(n = 7)



**Figure 5.11:**  
Wait Times for Dental Services  
(n = 8)



### **Recommendations**

4. Although response numbers for mental health treatment and programs were small, the CIC recommends that the facility regularly evaluate wait times for inmate receipt of services and access to recovery programs.

## **V. Education, Programming & Employment**

### **A. Education**

FCI McKean offers General Education Diploma (GED) classes, Spanish GED classes, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, Adult Continuing Education (ACE) classes, Special Education classes, Parenting Classes, mail correspondence college courses, vocational tech classes, job skills sessions and resume prep/mock job fairs (led by the Career Resource Center).

At the time of the inspection, the Education Department at FCI McKean consisted of five classrooms, a Career Resource Center, 20 computer stations and 12 paid education staff. Full-time staff included five teachers, three vocational trade teachers, between two to four paid classroom aides, one education technician/librarian and one education department supervisor. Staff further reported between 60 - 80 inmates working within the education department as orderlies with wages ranging from 0.12 to 0.40 cents per hour.

Inmate tutors are used to teach the Correspondence and ACE classes, which are offered four times a year. Two Inmate tutors are assigned per staff person, and ACE classes are taught in the evenings. The inmate tutors assist with the administrative responsibilities of the ACE classes being delivered, and they receive one hour of training. The parenting classes are supplemented by a local nonprofits which visits the facility and teaches incarcerated parents/inmates how to read to their children. All non-GED classes are offered in the evening and on Saturdays.

During the inspection, the CIC spoke with the education technician about FCI McKean's GED programming. GED classes are offered at 7:30am, 9:00am, Noon and 2:00pm, and the facility offers online GED education and testing as of early 2017. Ten of the twenty computer stations in the education department are official GED testing stations. All inmates interested in GED prep first go through pre-GED education. If they excel on pre-GED testing, they will be allowed to move on to studying and testing for the GED.

In the past 12 months a total of 16 inmates at FCI McKean completed the GED program, 14 in English and 2 in Spanish. Staff reported that they were working to get accommodations for the ten inmates with educational disabilities. Currently, there is no staff member who speaks Spanish fluently; staff reported that the current GED instructor receives assistance from Spanish-speaking inmates who help translate GED instruction for their fellow inmates.

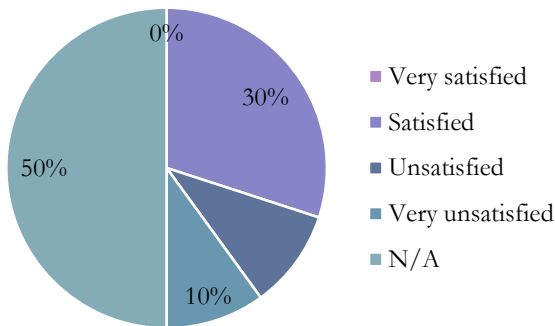
**Education Program Participation**

| <b>GED Program</b>            |  | <b>Number of DC Inmates</b> |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Enrolled                      |  | 10                          |
| Completed                     |  | 29                          |
| On Waiting List               |  | 0                           |
| Dropped or Refused Program    |  | 2                           |
| <b>College Classes</b>        |  | <b>Number of DC Inmates</b> |
| Enrolled                      |  | 0                           |
| <b>Correspondence Classes</b> |  | <b>Number of DC Inmates</b> |
| Enrolled                      |  | 1                           |

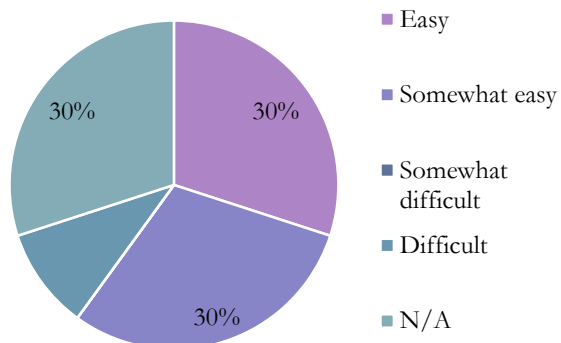
Source: Federal Bureau of Prisons. July 2017.

Two of the ten DC residents interviewed were participating in academic programming at FCI McKean at the time of the CIC’s visit. Three individuals reported being satisfied with academic programming (Figure 6.2). Six individuals reported finding it either “easy” or “somewhat easy” to get into academic programming at FCI McKean (Figure 6.3).

**Figure 6.2:**  
Satisfaction with Academic Programs  
(n = 10)



**Figure 6.3:**  
Difficulty Getting into Academic Programs  
(n = 10)



**B. Vocational Training**

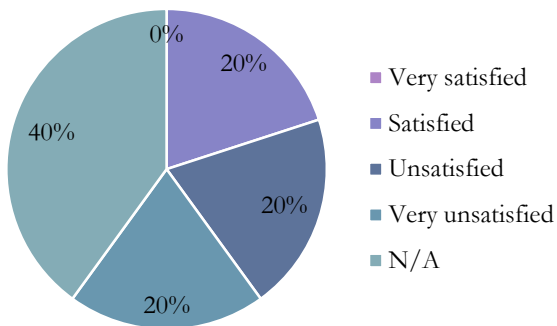
The facility reported offering a woodworking program, accredited by the National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER). The program includes a morning and an evening class and 15 inmates were participating at the time of the CIC’s visit. This programs trains inmates with no skill to advanced levels. There are nine inmates in the advanced portion. Inmates in the program make wooden toys and furniture for the Bradford, PA Elf Fund, which provides holiday gifts to children and seniors in the area. The inmates are given pictures of their finished products to put into a portfolio.

FCI McKean also offers a recycling program that was implemented in October 2015. There are 30 inmates currently participating, with room for 10 more. Those participating are doing administrative work, working with machines, scaling, and sorting through new materials to prepare for recycling. The program was created by current staff that developed an innovative way to make use of an empty warehouse previously used by UNICOR.

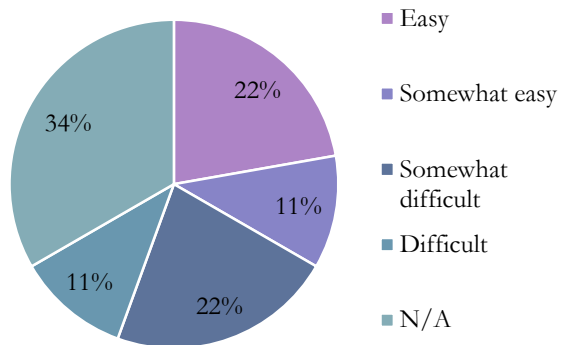
Staff reported one DC inmate participating in vocational programming and no DC inmates on the waitlist for vocational programming.

Two of ten DC residents interviewed were participating in vocational programming at FCI McKean. Both reported being satisfied with vocational programming (Figure 6.4). Three individuals reported finding it “easy” or “somewhat easy” to get into vocational programming at FCI McKean (Figure 6.5).

**Figure 6.4:**  
**Satisfaction with Vocational Training Programs**  
 (n = 10)



**Figure 6.5:**  
**Difficulty Getting into Vocational Training Programs**  
 (n = 9)

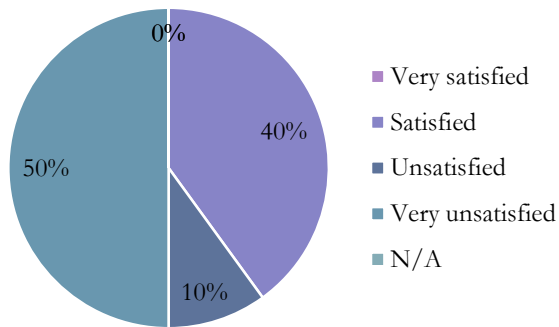


### C. Employment

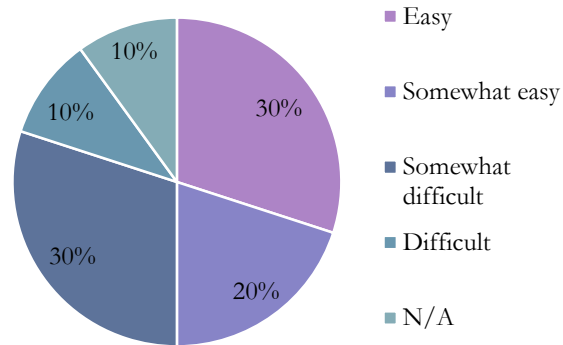
Seven of ten DC residents interviewed were employed at FCI McKean. Four individuals reported being satisfied with their work assignment (Figure 6.6). Five individuals reported finding it “easy” or “somewhat easy” to get a work assignment at FCI McKean (Figure 6.7).



**Figure 6.6:**  
Satisfaction with General  
Prison Jobs  
(n = 10)



**Figure 6.7:**  
Difficulty Getting into General  
Prison Jobs  
(n = 10)



## VI. Safety & Security

The BOP reported that between July 2016 and June 2017 there were 17 instances of use of force by staff, 11 instances of restraints placed on inmates, seven instances of chemical force (oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray) used on inmates. The BOP also reported three institutional lockdowns between July 2016 and June 2017 at FCI McKean.

The BOP reported that between July 2016 and June 2017 there was one assault on a staff member with a weapon, 11 assaults on staff with no weapon, and three attempted assaults on staff with no weapon. During the same period there were six instances of assault on an inmate with no weapon and one attempted assault on an inmate with no weapon.

### ***Harassment, Threats, & Abuse by Staff***

Six of the nine DC inmates who responded to questions regarding safety at FCI McKean, reported being harassed, threatened, or abused by staff at the facility. Six individuals reported staff making insulting remarks, mostly regarding race or DC residency status. Two inmates reported these incidents to the facility.

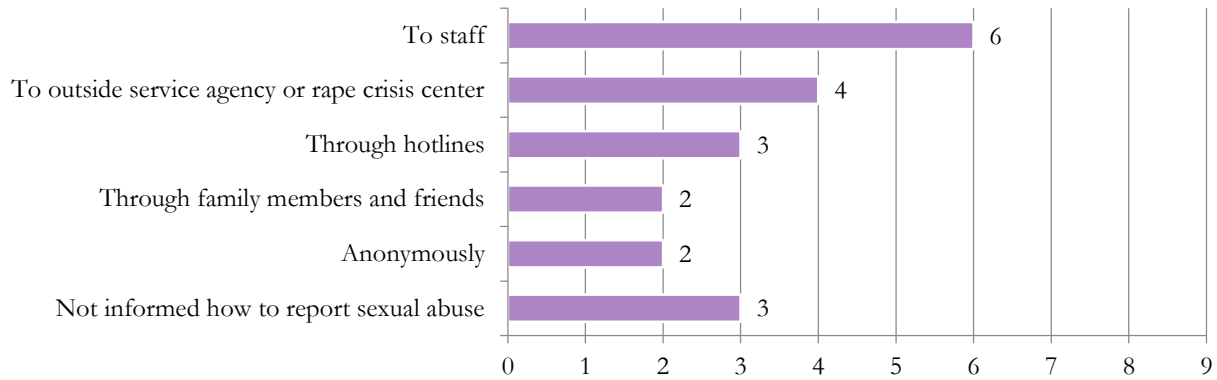
### ***Harassment, Threats, & Abuse by Other Inmates***

One DC inmate reported other inmates making insulting remarks about race. Eight inmates reported no harassment, threats, or abuse from other inmates.

### ***Reporting Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment***

Six of nine inmates surveyed reported knowing at least one method for reporting sexual abuse and/or harassment. Three inmates reported that they were not informed how to report such issues (Figure 7.5).

**Figure 7.5:**  
**Individuals Reporting Knowing They Could Report Sexual Abuse:**  
 (n = 9)



**Recommendations**

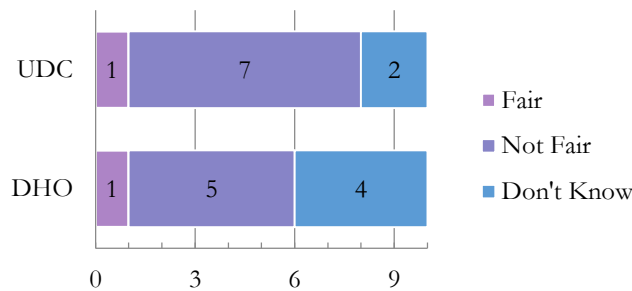
- 5. Provide staff regular training on diversity and professionalism.

**VII. Disciplinary Process**

Violations of Bureau of Prisons rules and regulations are handled by the Unit Discipline Committee (UDC) or the Discipline Hearing Officer (DHO). An incident report is made if a staff member observes or believes an inmate has breached rules and/or regulations. Reports proceed to an informal resolution, an initial hearing with the UDC for low moderate or moderate offenses, or a disciplinary hearing with the DHO for high severity offenses. Initial hearings must be held within five work days of the staff becoming involved, and the UDC must provide its decision by the close of business the next work day.

The CIC asked DC inmates about the fairness of disciplinary decisions by the UDC and DHO (Figure 7.7).

**Figure 7.7:**  
**Fairness of Disciplinary Decisions**  
 (n = 10)



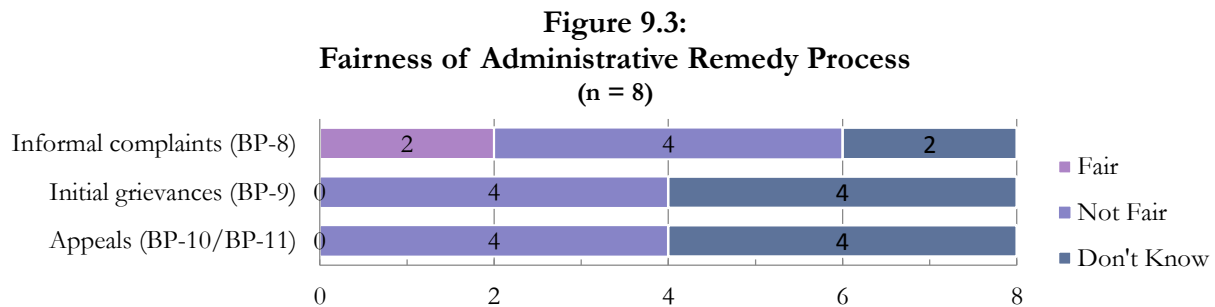
Three DC inmates reported having no meaningful opportunity to challenge incident reports. Examples included no investigations and being denied an opportunity to bring a witness to testify on the inmate’s behalf.

## VIII. Administrative Remedy Program

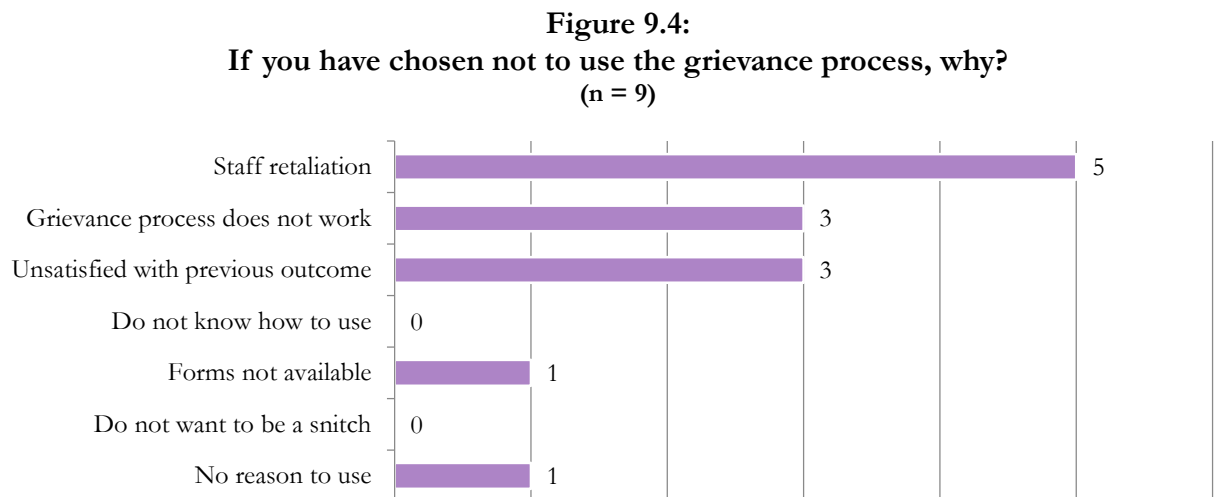
The Administrative Remedy Program in BOP facilities, commonly referred to as the grievance procedure, allows inmates to seek formal review of complaints related to their confinement.<sup>9</sup> In the year prior to the inspection, the most common categories of administrative remedy submissions at FCI McKean were UDC actions, staff misconduct, and jail time credit. A chart of the top submissions from June 2016 to May 2017 is available in Appendix A.

In response to the CIC survey, five DC inmates reported not having access to informal complaints, and six reported not having access to administrative remedies (Figures 9.1 & 9.2).

Seven of ten DC residents interviewed have used the grievance process at FCI McKean. Two individuals reported that informal complaints are treated fairly, while none of the respondents indicated that grievances or grievance appeals are treated fairly (Figure 9.3).



Six respondents had elected to not use the administrative remedy process at FCI McKean. Individuals mostly cited concerns about staff retaliation and belief that the grievance system does not work as their reasons for not filing grievances (Figure 9.4).



Additional information shared by DC inmates regarding the administrative remedy process included the belief that the process does not resolve complaints. One inmate reported submitting

<sup>9</sup> For more information about administrative remedies, please refer to the CIC Info Sheet - BOP Administrative Remedies (aka “Grievance”) Process. Available online at [https://cic.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cic/page\\_content/attachments/BOP%20Administrative%20Remedies%2011.15.17%20REVISED.pdf](https://cic.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cic/page_content/attachments/BOP%20Administrative%20Remedies%2011.15.17%20REVISED.pdf)

administrative remedies but his complaints were never resolved and “all my issues are always swept under the rug.”

## IX. Reentry

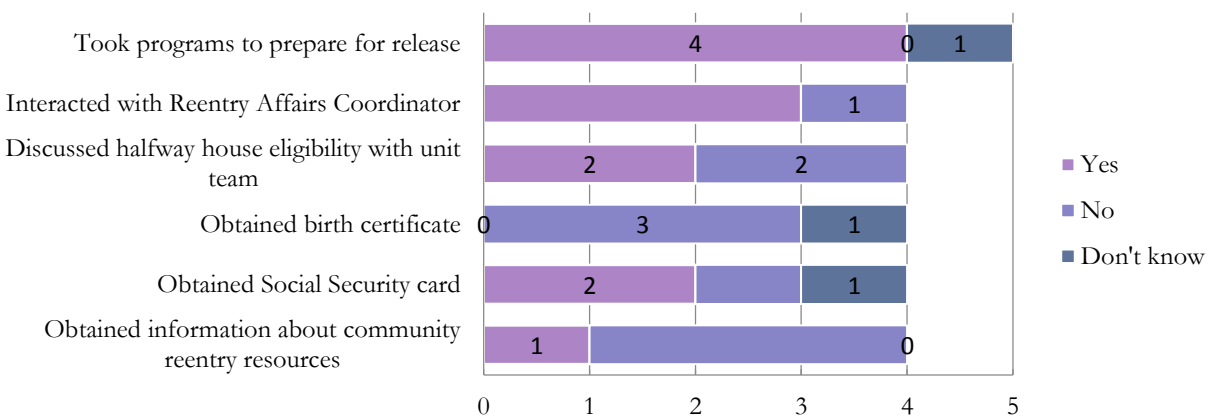
To prepare inmates for release, FCI McKean offers release preparation classes, job fairs with mock interviews, and packets of information related to reentry. The facility participates in the DC Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA)’s quarterly Community Resource Day via videoconference.<sup>10</sup> Staff noted that FCI McKean was the only facility in the BOP with a dedicated Reentry Library. This space has two classrooms and a coaching room and is stocked with reentry-related resources and books. The Library is staffed by one full-time BOP employee and two college interns, and employs 40 inmates.

As of the date of the inspection, FCI McKean does not use the newly released standardized and national Release Preparation Program (RPP) curriculum released by BOP Central Office, though staff indicated they plan to consider the curriculum for the next fiscal year. Instead, FCI McKean prepares inmates for release through their own RPP, which is administered by the case manager coordinator. Inmates teach parts of the program.

FCI McKean offers a Life Coaching Program through the Institute for Life Coach Training (ILCT). At the time of inspection, 40 inmates had received coaching certification through this program. FCI McKean also partners with the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford to provide volunteer interns who facilitate Introduction to College classes.

Three of the ten DC inmates who spoke with the CIC reported that they were within 18 months of release. They reported varying experiences with pre-release programming and services (Figure 8.1).

**Figure 8.1:**  
**Pre-Release Programming and Services Within 18 Months of Release**  
(n = 5)



<sup>10</sup> CSOSA’s Community Resource Day Videoconference for DC inmates in BOP facilities brings together CSOSA Staff and representatives from other organizations to provide information on housing, healthcare, employment, education and other resources in the DC-area to DC inmates who are within 90 days of release.

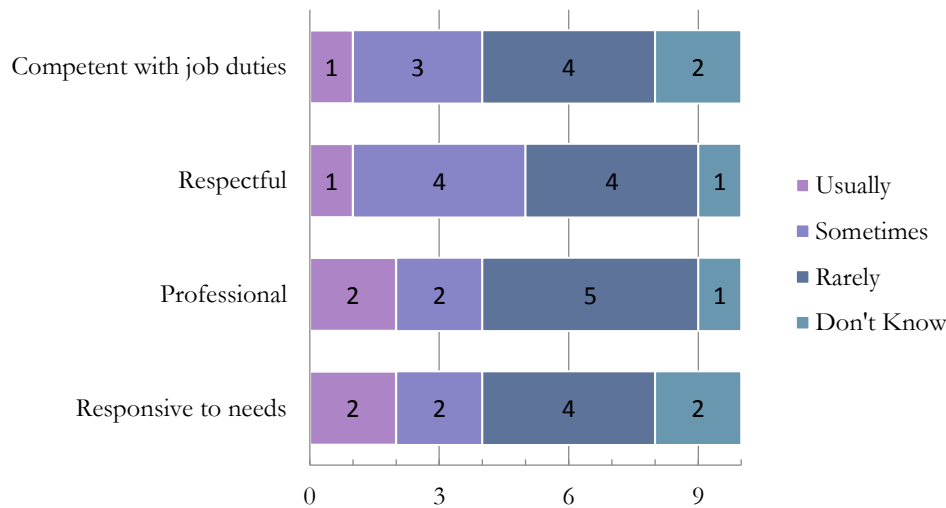
Only one DC inmate surveyed reported knowing how to obtain housing, education, employment, therapy, drug treatment and food. Three DC inmates reported knowing how to obtain their state IDs. One individual commented that reentry services at FCI McKean did not focus on services available back in DC and the topics discussed were not helpful for successful reentry back home.

## X. Staff

Annual staff training includes a module on wellness and stress relief. The facility also sends out additional monthly “health and wellness” resources and information. The BOP provides an Employee Assistance Program to all employees across the agency, which includes an internal website for assistance in resolving issues related to both work and life outside of work.

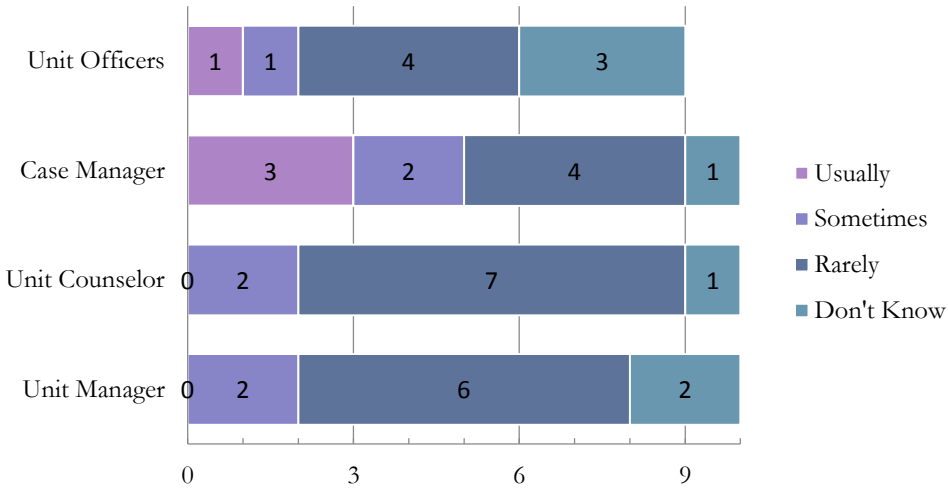
The CIC received mixed feedback from DC inmates about the unit staff at FCI McKean (Figure 10.1). Four of ten respondents indicated that housing unit officers are “usually” or “sometimes” competent, professional and responsive. Another four respondents indicated that housing unit officers are “rarely” competent, respectful, or responsive.

**Figure 10.1:**  
**Feedback on Housing Unit Officers**  
(n = 10)



DC inmates were also asked how often their unit managers, case managers, and unit counselors are helpful. Case managers received the most positive feedback (Figure 10.2).

**Figure 10.2:**  
**Helpfulness of Housing Unit Officers by Position**  
 (n = 10)



Additional comments from DC inmates were largely negative and included specific examples of unprofessionalism, such as several concerns that staff is biased and racist.

## Appendix A: Demographics of DC Population

The table below provides an overview of the inmate demographics at FCI McKean as of May 2017.

**Facility Population Demographics**

|                                |                             | Total             | %      | DC | %                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------|----|-------------------|
| <b>Population</b>              | Facility Population         | 932               | 100.0% | 33 | 100.0%            |
| <b>Age</b>                     | 18-24                       | 57                | 6.1%   | 3  | 9.1%              |
|                                | 25-34                       | 309               | 33.2%  | 12 | 36.4%             |
|                                | 35-44                       | 374               | 40.1%  | 8  | 24.2%             |
|                                | 45-54                       | 151               | 16.2%  | 8  | 24.2%             |
|                                | 55-64                       | 38                | 4.1%   | 2  | 6.1%              |
|                                | 65+                         | 3                 | 0.3%   | 0  | 0.0%              |
|                                | <i>Average</i>              | <i>44.4 years</i> | -      | -  | <i>36.8 years</i> |
| <b>Race</b>                    | White                       | 342               | 36.7%  | 2  | 6.1%              |
|                                | Black                       | 578               | 62.0%  | 31 | 93.9%             |
|                                | Asian/Pacific Islander      | 4                 | 0.4%   | 0  | 0.0%              |
|                                | American Indian             | 8                 | 0.9%   | 0  | 0.0%              |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>               | Hispanic                    | 231               | 24.8%  | 1  | 3.0%              |
|                                | Non-Hispanic                | 701               | 75.2%  | 32 | 96.9%             |
| <b>Citizenship</b>             | USA                         | 784               | 84.1%  | 32 | 96.9%             |
|                                | Foreign                     | 148               | 15.9%  | 1  | 3.0%              |
| <b>Legal Residence</b>         | USA                         | 810               | 86.9%  | 33 | 100.0%            |
|                                | Foreign                     | 122               | 13.1%  | 0  | 0.0%              |
| <b>Religion</b>                | American Indian             | 19                | 2.0%   | 1  | 0.0%              |
|                                | Catholic                    | 139               | 14.9%  | 1  | 3.0%              |
|                                | Muslim                      | 135               | 14.5%  | 16 | 48.5%             |
|                                | Protestant                  | 272               | 29.2%  | 3  | 9.1%              |
|                                | Other                       | 166               | 17.8%  | 6  | 18.2%             |
|                                | No Preference               | 192               | 20.6%  | 6  | 18.2%             |
| <b>Security Classification</b> | Minimum                     | 3                 | 0.3%   | 0  | 0.0%              |
|                                | Low                         | 22                | 2.4%   | 0  | 0.0%              |
|                                | Medium                      | 901               | 96.7%  | 33 | 100.0%            |
|                                | High                        | 6                 | 0.6%   | 0  | 0.0%              |
| <b>Offense</b>                 | Drugs                       | 412               | 44.2%  | 2  | 6.1%              |
|                                | Weapons/Explosives          | 246               | 26.4%  | 3  | 9.1%              |
|                                | Homicide/Aggravated Assault | 32                | 3.4%   | 18 | 54.5%             |
|                                | Burglary/Larceny            | 70                | 7.5%   | 1  | 3.0%              |
|                                | Counterfeit/Embezzlement    | 2                 | 0.2%   | 0  | 0.0%              |
|                                | Court/Corrections           | 6                 | 0.6%   | 0  | 0.0%              |
|                                | Immigration                 | 42                | 4.5%   | 0  | 0.0%              |
|                                | Fraud/Bribery/Extortion     | 27                | 2.9%   | 0  | 0.0%              |
|                                | Sex Offenses                | 31                | 3.3%   | 0  | 0.0%              |

|                                   |                                |                    |       |                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
|                                   | National Security              | 1                  | 0.1%  | 0                 | 0.0%  |
|                                   | Robbery                        | 49                 | 5.3%  | 8                 | 24.2% |
|                                   | Miscellaneous                  | 3                  | 0.3%  | 1                 | 3.0%  |
|                                   | Continuing Criminal Enterprise | 3                  | 0.3%  | 0                 | 0.0%  |
|                                   | Missing                        | 8                  | 0.8%  | 0                 | 0.0%  |
|                                   |                                |                    |       |                   |       |
| <b>History of Violence</b>        | None                           | 228                | 24.5% | 10                | 30.3% |
|                                   | Minor <5 years ago             | 180                | 19.3% | 8                 | 24.2% |
|                                   | Minor 5-10 years ago           | 79                 | 8.5%  | 3                 | 9.1%  |
|                                   | Minor 10+ years ago            | 52                 | 5.6%  | 2                 | 6.1%  |
|                                   | Serious <5 years ago           | 39                 | 4.2%  | 1                 | 3.0%  |
|                                   | Serious 5-10 years ago         | 105                | 11.3% | 2                 | 6.1%  |
|                                   | Serious 10-15 years ago        | 109                | 11.7% | 2                 | 6.1%  |
|                                   | Serious 15+ years ago          | 140                | 15.0% | 5                 | 15.2% |
|                                   |                                |                    |       |                   |       |
| <b>Sentence Imposed</b>           | 0-12 months (misdemeanor)      | 18                 | 1.9%  | 2                 | 6.1%  |
|                                   | 12-35 months                   | 71                 | 7.6%  | 4                 | 12.1% |
|                                   | 36-59 months                   | 56                 | 6.0%  | 1                 | 3.0%  |
|                                   | 60-119 months                  | 217                | 23.2% | 3                 | 9.1%  |
|                                   | 120-179 months                 | 229                | 24.6% | 4                 | 12.1% |
|                                   | 180-239 months                 | 134                | 14.4% | 8                 | 24.2% |
|                                   | 240+ months                    | 177                | 19.0% | 8                 | 24.2% |
|                                   | Life                           | 22                 | 2.4%  | 3                 | 9.1%  |
|                                   | Missing                        | 8                  | 0.9%  | 0                 | 0.0%  |
|                                   | <i>Average</i>                 | <i>91.3 months</i> | -     | <i>198 months</i> | -     |
|                                   |                                |                    |       |                   |       |
| <b>Sentence Served</b>            | 0-25%                          | 187                | 20.1% | 5                 | 15.2% |
|                                   | 26-75%                         | 608                | 65.2% | 23                | 69.7% |
|                                   | 76-90%                         | 103                | 11.1% | 2                 | 6.1%  |
|                                   | 91%+                           | 4                  | 0.4%  | 0                 | 0.0%  |
|                                   | Missing                        | 30                 | 3.2%  | 3                 | 9.1%  |
|                                   |                                |                    |       |                   |       |
| <b>Project Time Left to Serve</b> | 4 months or less               | 68                 | 7.3%  | 3                 | 9.1%  |
|                                   | 5-8 months                     | 72                 | 7.7%  | 3                 | 9.1%  |
|                                   | 9-12 months                    | 52                 | 5.6%  | 2                 | 6.1%  |
|                                   | 13-24 months                   | 83                 | 8.9%  | 3                 | 9.1%  |
|                                   | 25-60 months                   | 240                | 25.8% | 4                 | 12.1% |
|                                   | 61-120 months                  | 238                | 25.5% | 7                 | 21.2% |
|                                   | 121+ months                    | 149                | 16.0% | 8                 | 24.2% |
|                                   | Missing                        | 30                 | 3.2%  | 3                 | 9.1%  |



## 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 FCI McKean between June 2016 and May 2017.

| <b>Facility Level (BP-9s)</b>   |                  |                 |              |                 |                |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
|                                 | <b>Submitted</b> | <b>Rejected</b> | <b>Filed</b> | <b>Answered</b> | <b>Granted</b> |
| UDC/RRC Actions                 | 61               | 22              | 39           | 39              | 1              |
| Staff/Others - Complaints       | 42               | 17              | 25           | 25              | 0              |
| Jail Time Credit                | 27               | 5               | 22           | 22              | 0              |
| Medical - Exc. Forced Treatment | 18               | 9               | 9            | 9               | 0              |
| <b>Regional Office (BP-10s)</b> |                  |                 |              |                 |                |
|                                 | <b>Submitted</b> | <b>Rejected</b> | <b>Filed</b> | <b>Answered</b> | <b>Granted</b> |
| DHO/CDC/Cont. Housing Appeals   | 151              | 79              | 72           | 72              | 19             |
| UDC/RRC Actions                 | 31               | 18              | 13           | 13              | 9              |
| Jail Time Credit                | 31               | 16              | 15           | 15              | 3              |
| Staff/Others - Complaints       | 26               | 18              | 8            | 8               | 0              |
| <b>Central Office (BP-11s)</b>  |                  |                 |              |                 |                |
|                                 | <b>Submitted</b> | <b>Rejected</b> | <b>Filed</b> | <b>Answered</b> | <b>Granted</b> |
| DHO/CDC/Cont. Housing Appeals   | 21               | 7               | 14           | 8               | 0              |
| Jail Time Credit                | 17               | 9               | 8            | 8               | 0              |
| Staff/Others - Complaints       | 8                | 6               | 2            | 1               | 0              |
| Medical - Exc. Forced Treatment | 4                | 3               | 1            | 1               | 0              |
| Legal Matters                   | 4                | 3               | 1            | 1               | 0              |

## Appendix C: Methodology

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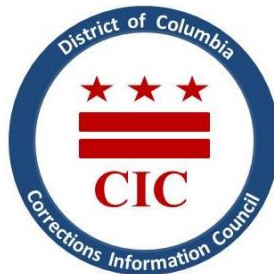
In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CIC and the BOP that requires at least 30 days' notice of an inspection, the CIC notified the BOP on June 20, 2017 of its request to inspect FCI McKean, including a tour of all areas to which inmates have access, discussions with staff, and confidential interviews with DC inmates. Prior to the onsite inspection, the CIC communicated with DC inmates at FCI McKean, 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 FCI McKean on July 20, 2017.

At the end of the tour the CIC spoke to all DC inmates to offer each individual an opportunity to fill out a survey and speak with a member of the CIC. The CIC interviewed ten DC inmates on July 20, and each interviewee completed a survey.

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/>