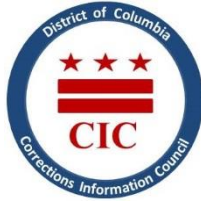
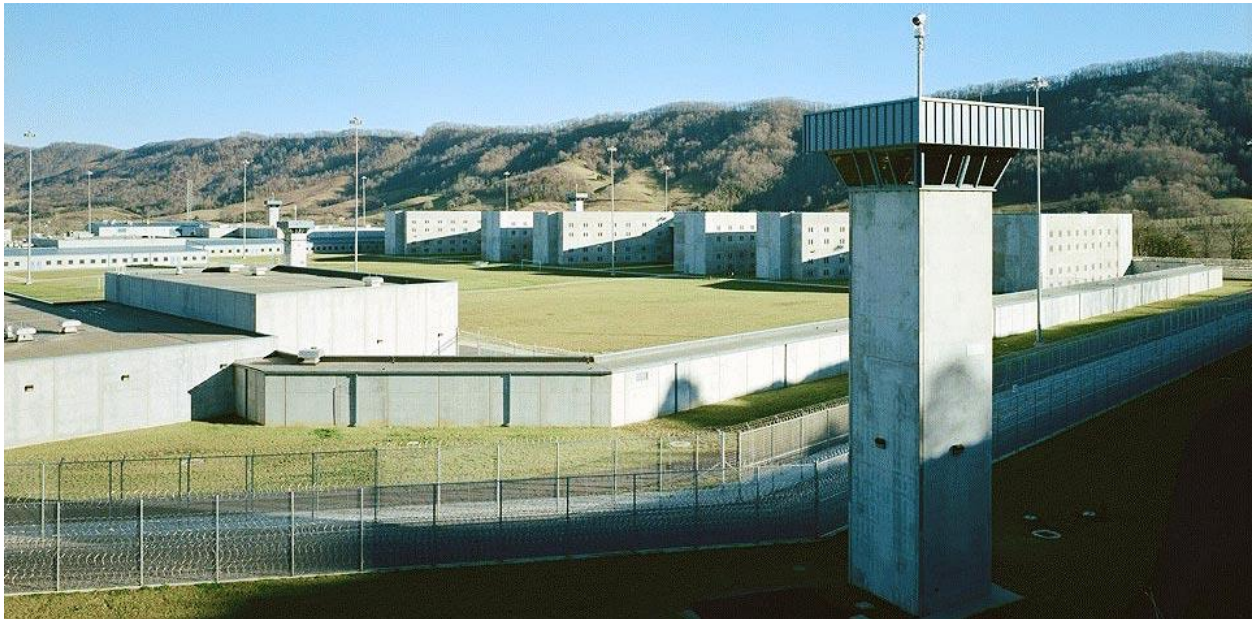


District of Columbia  
Corrections Information Council



# USP LEE

## Follow-Up Inspection Report



*USP Lee*

*(photo by Federal Bureau of Prisons)*

September 6, 2019



## District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

Charles Thornton, Board Chair  
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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.

### **DC Corrections Information Council**

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## Executive Summary

### USP Lee Facility Profile

**Dates of Inspection:** October 16-17, 2018  
**Location:** Pennington Gap, VA  
**Distance from DC:** 430 miles  
**Year of Activation:** 2002

**Security Level:** High  
**Rated Capacity:** 1,088  
**Average Daily Population 2018:** 1,371

### Total Population – August 2018

**Population:** 1,312  
**Average Age:** 36.3  
**Average Sentence:** 199 months

### DC Population – August 2018

**Population:** 113 (8.6% of total population)  
**Average Age:** 36.4  
**Average Sentence:** 223 months

### Facility Findings Summary

The CIC notes the following programs and facility practices:

- In the year leading up to the CIC inspection, there were frequent facility lockdowns that adversely affected inmates' access to programming, communication, hot meals, and hygiene.
- Inmates who had spent time in SHU expressed concerns about staff violence and meaningful access to hygiene and recreation.
- Throughout the facility, inmates the CIC spoke with expressed concerns about a culture of violence extending to facility leadership, and including staff both perpetrating and encouraging violence against inmates.
- Medical and dental care at USP Lee received mixed reports from inmates.
- Inmates expressed frustration at the limited programming opportunities, particularly the lack of programming focused on re-entry skills
- Plumbing issues were reported on several units, including cells repeatedly flooded with raw sewage, and inmates forced to clean sewage from cells and unit common spaces without proper protection.
- Several inmates within eighteen months of release reported that their case managers refused to submit their residential re-entry center placement packets for consideration.
- Many individuals mentioned that batteries had recently been removed from the commissary list at USP Lee, limited their ability to use radios and other devices. Inmates noted that in light of the frequent lockdowns, the ability to listen to radios while confined to a cell is particularly important.

## CIC Recommendations

Based on the inspection of USP Lee, the CIC makes the following recommendations:

- The facility should explore ways to minimize the impact of lockdowns on the entire facility, including allowing inmates to be locked down to their units rather than their individual cells and locking down only the unit where a disciplinary incident occurs, rather than the entire facility.
- The BOP should ensure that the facility is funded and staffed at appropriate levels to support inmate movement to recreation, programming, and meals.
- USP Lee should assess why SHU is routinely at capacity and move to address this problem.
- BOP and USP Lee Administration should review conditions of confinement in SHU to ensure compliance with program statements regarding hygiene and recreation opportunities.
- The BOP Regional Director should impress upon staff the limited role of physical force in the administration of USP facilities.
- The leadership team at USP Lee should address the culture of violence directly, including leading by example and holding staff accountable for committing and inciting violence.
- The medical and dental departments should be adequately funded and staffed to provide routine diagnostic and treatment services as required.
- Facility leadership should conduct an evaluation of why so few inmates are participating from programming and address existing issues to facilitate increased participation.
- The facility should ensure that the plumbing system is adequate to handle facility needs and prevent regular flooding.
- All individuals exposed to raw sewage should be provided appropriate protective gear to ensure their health and safety.
- Case management staff should adhere to program statements regarding the RCC placement process.
- Facility staff should reconsider the decision to remove batteries from commissary.

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## Introduction

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United States Penitentiary Lee (USP Lee) is a high-security facility located in Pennington Gap, Virginia, with an adjacent minimum security satellite camp. The facility is approximately 433 driving miles from Washington, DC. The CIC conducted an initial inspection of USP Lee on October 22, 2015, and a follow-up visit consisting primarily of interviews with DC inmates on October 16-17, 2018.

At the time of the CIC's 2018 visit, the facility held 1,312 male inmates, 1,218 of which were at the USP and 93 at the camp. This population is down from 1,422 inmates during the CIC's visit in 2015, but it is still about 20% over its current rated capacity of 1,088 individuals.<sup>1</sup> Ninety-four of the inmates listed in custody at USP Lee during the CIC's visit were DC Code Offenders. Of those 94 individuals, 58 spoke with the CIC, including 12 individuals in the SHU and 46 in general population units. Staff informed the CIC that 36 individuals declined to speak with the CIC.

## USP Lee Inspection 2015

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The CIC conducted a full inspection of USP Lee on October 22, 2015. During the onsite inspection, the CIC was escorted by the warden and members of the executive staff. CIC staff toured the facility, spoke with facility staff, and conducted confidential interviews with 22 DC inmates. After the inspection, the CIC received correspondence regarding conditions of confinement from three other inmates.

The CIC inspected USP Lee approximately three months after reported riots and disturbances took place at the facility. Information conveyed to CIC staff included fights breaking out between groups of inmates and eight people sustaining injuries. Those injured were transported to Holston Valley Medical Center, and reported injuries included stab wounds, broken teeth, and lacerations.<sup>2</sup> Lee County emergency responders were called to the prison, and Virginia State Police troopers were called to help secure the facility perimeter. After the altercations were contained, the facility remained on limited operational status.<sup>3</sup>

In 2015 individuals provided mixed reviews about medical care including difficulties getting treatment (including surgeries at outside facilities) due to repeated lockdowns, medical care being "good but slow," "pretty good," and "garbage – no good." Inmates also reported mixed experiences with dental care, including that it was "timely," "slow, especially for dental," "alright and good, and it didn't take long to get teeth cleaned," and that it took two weeks to see the dentist for a toothache.

Between the months of April 2015 and June 2015 there were 69 enrollments in the GED program and seven completions.<sup>4</sup> The GED waitlist had 200 inmates. There were two ESL enrollments with four completions, 114 enrollments in continuing education classes with 19 completions, and 21 enrollments in the parenting

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<sup>1</sup> In 2015 the facility's rated capacity was reported as 960 individuals. In 2018, the facility's rated capacity was reported as 1,088 individuals. The BOP did not respond to a request to clarify the reasoning supporting the rated capacity increase.

<sup>2</sup> WJHL published July 9, 2015, available at <http://wavy.com/2015/07/09/8-injured-in-riot-at-va-federal-prison>.

<sup>3</sup> WJHL published July 9, 2015, available at <http://wjhl.com/2015/07/09/breaking-multiple-injuries-after-fight-at-lee-co-va-federal-prison>.

<sup>4</sup> BOP USP Lee Quarterly Education Profile, July 2015.

program with no completions.<sup>5</sup> There were no enrollments in the post-secondary educational programs at the time of the inspection.<sup>6</sup>

During the inmate interviews, there were reports of having to wait for educational programming because of having a longer sentence than someone else. Inmates also reported all of the educational classes being taught by inmates. One inmate reported that although USP Lee says they offer a victim impact class, the classes have not taken place, and he is frustrated because this class looks good to the parole board.

The vocational programs provide hands-on training to inmates in the fields of Microsoft administration and culinary arts.<sup>7</sup> The programs required a high school diploma or a GED to participate. There were five enrollments and one completion in the vocational programs. The occupational technical classes had no new enrollments, but 56 completions at the time of the 2015 inspection.<sup>8</sup> During the 2015 inspection, UNICOR employed 200 inmates at USP Lee in textile manufacturing, producing 20,000 units per month for the Defense Supply Center of Philadelphia.<sup>9</sup>

DC inmates who were interviewed expressed mixed experiences of their treatment as compared to other inmates. One inmate reported having “positive interactions with staff and the environment being good until the riot,” while another noted that staff “make us feel uncomfortable and don’t care about us.” An inmate stated, “After the riot, many DC inmates got shipped out, and we are discriminated against by other inmates and staff. They don’t see your parole date, they just see your life sentence and treatment reflects the sentence.” Another reported that “DC inmates are not treated equal because they think we are violent. If caught with knives we are transferred versus other inmates not from DC being allowed to go back on the yard.” Additionally, the CIC received correspondence detailing information about officers not flushing inmates’ toilets for three to five days as a form of punishment in the SHU. By design, all SHU toilets must be flushed from the outside of the cell according to the inmate.

In 2015, USP Lee was staffed with one reentry coordinator to assist with efforts to reduce recidivism. The facility held a day devoted to reentry and was visited by officials from the U.S. Attorney’s Office in April 2015,<sup>10</sup> and the facility held a mock job fair for 20 inmates where recruiters and businesses came to the facility and held mock interviews for inmates who had less than two years remaining on their sentences. The facility formed a Community Relations Board, which met twice a year to share concerns and be briefed on reentry programs.<sup>11</sup> Inmates who were interviewed reported that DC inmates do not benefit from the reentry and pre-release services.

Some inmates reported that visits were stressful due to the facility having so many restrictions. Other inmates expressed frustration with the rule of not being able to hold their children during a visit, and all DC inmates interviewed reported the main problem regarding visits is being so far from family.

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<sup>5</sup> Id.

<sup>6</sup> Id.

<sup>7</sup> Id.

<sup>8</sup> Id.

<sup>9</sup> UNICOR is the trade name for Federal Prison Industries (FPI), a government-owned corporation that employs inmates to manufacture products and provide services that are sold to government agencies and private sector partners. See [www.bop.gov/inmates/custody\\_and\\_care/unicor.jsp](http://www.bop.gov/inmates/custody_and_care/unicor.jsp).

<sup>10</sup> Office of the United States Attorney, Western District of Virginia, available at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdva/reentry-usp-lee>.

<sup>11</sup> Id.



## USP Lee Findings 2018

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### *I. Retaliation Concerns*

Many inmates who spoke with the CIC expressed the expectation that they would face some form of retaliation for their participation in these interviews, from physical assaults by staff to loss of facility jobs and having their mail held for an excessive period. One inmate we spoke with explained that a counselor on his unit had asked inmates if they were really going to speak with the CIC because “there will be retaliation.” The inmate indicated that he witnessed individuals refusing visits with the CIC due to these concerns.

**Recommendation:** The BOP and USP Lee should make clear to facility leadership and staff that they may not punish inmates for choosing to participate in CIC interviews, or infer the possibility of punishment to discourage participation.

### *II. SHU*

Inmates raised numerous concerns about the SHU, among them staff violence towards inmates, hygiene concerns, insufficient access to recreation, and no access to reading material of any kind. Many of the inmates who spoke with the CIC indicated that medical staff performs daily rounds and mental health staff performs rounds in the SHU weekly.

The reports of staff violence were many and varied. Several individuals either personally experienced or witnessed staff physically assaulting inmates while the inmates were in four-point restraints. Individuals reported being left in four-point restraints for 12 to 13 hours and more than 16 hours without access to toilet facilities. Several individuals mentioned a regular practice in which inmates were assaulted, restrained, put in a paper gown, and forced to walk backwards down the tier. One inmate stated that he was slammed to the ground by an officer and then tied to a chair and left in an office for an hour before being transported to SHU. Inmates said that staff beat inmates with apples in socks or through a shield to prevent leaving marks of the assault. A few individuals also mentioned sexual assault or sexual harassment by staff, including seeing an officer grab an inmate’s testicles.

Inmates mentioned that they are unable to get hygiene supplies from commissary while in SHU, and that they are not given cleaning supplies for their cells. Several inmates stated that they are given 10 to 12 squares of toilet paper per day and that it is insufficient for hygiene purposes. One inmate stated that the SHU toilets do not flush, and so they put a towel over their waste until maintenance staff arrives, which is sometimes a week later. Another inmate said that he had been wearing the same set of clothing for five days even though inmates in SHU are supposed to receive clean clothing twice a week. Another individual expressed concern that staff was spitting chewing tobacco into a cup while serving food trays to inmates. Several inmates also shared frustration with the cardboard utensils provided in SHU, noting that they dissolved or went limp in many types of food and were essentially unusable.

A number of individuals stated that there is no audible announcement regarding recreation time and that staff will instead remove their keys and “sneak” down the tier at five or six o’clock in the morning to ask if individuals want to come out for their recreation period. Inmates said that if they are not standing at their cell door at that unannounced time, they will be told that they failed to request recreation for the day and will not receive their recreation period.



Lastly, many inmates expressed frustration regarding their inability to access newspapers, magazines, books, or personal photographs while in the SHU. They expressed that reading material would go a long way towards easing the psychological stress of being in SHU.

### **Recommendations:**

The BOP and facility administration should ensure that the SHU meets the basic program objective of being a safe and orderly environment for staff and inmates. This requires investigating and addressing the numerous and specific reports of physical violence by staff against inmates.

Conditions of confinement in the SHU at USP Lee should be reviewed to ensure compliance with BOP policy statements, specifically §541.31(c) regarding necessary opportunities to exchange clothing or have it washed, §541.31(f) regarding receipt of personal items necessary to maintain an acceptable level of personal hygiene, and §541.31(g) regarding a genuine opportunity to exercise outside individual quarters at least five hours a week.

The BOP and facility administration should ensure that inmates held in SHU under administrative detention orders receive access to books, magazines, legal material, mail, newspapers, photographs, and personal hygiene items as required by BOP policy.

### ***III. Facility Lockdowns***

Through inmate interviews, the CIC learned that the facility has been on lockdown much if not most of the last year. Individuals reported being on lockdown four days out of every week, 22 days out of every month, and eight months out of this year. Staff as well as inmates explained that a common cause of lockdowns is that the SHU has been operating at or near capacity. The warden indicated that the facility remains locked down because if inmates were allowed regular movement and violence or disciplinary incidents occurred, then there would be no room in SHU to house the individuals involved.

The DC inmates that CIC interviewed cited numerous problems flowing from the frequent state of lockdown, among them lack of hot meals, decreased hygiene, increased violence between cellmates, and the inability to communicate with family, participate in programming and jobs, or access the law library. Every interviewee noted that they have rarely received a hot meal in the last year due to lockdowns. Instead, DC inmates reported receiving a bag meal alternate for lunch and dinner every day that they are on lockdown. This meal consists of one peanut butter sandwich and one bologna sandwich.

Inmates reported that they are unable to regularly shower or do laundry due to the lockdowns. Eighty-two percent of the inmates surveyed said they do not normally have the opportunity to shower five days a week or to get clean sheets once a week. In the brief periods when lockdowns are lifted, there is high demand for the washing machines (generally two per unit) and inmates are unable to wash and dry their clothing and sheets before the facility returns to lockdown.

Several inmates noted that being on lockdown so frequently puts tension on cellmate relationships and has led to an increase in violence between cellmates.

The frequent state of lockdown negatively impacts inmates' relationships with their families in several ways. Inmates are unable to make phone calls while on lockdown, and they are not able to receive visits when the facility is on lockdown. Several inmates also noted that because they do not know when lockdowns will be imposed, they are not able to notify family members who are planning to visit not to make the long drive.

One inmate mentioned that the inability to talk to his family has prevented him from making necessary plans for his re-entry.

Individuals noted that programs are helpful but they are unable to complete them because they are “always on lockdown.” As a result, there is little to no turnover in program spaces for individuals waiting to begin programming. Several inmates also mentioned that they are unable to visit the law library due to the frequent lockdowns which has prevented them from doing necessary legal work.

#### **Recommendations:**

The facility should explore ways to minimize the impact of lockdowns on the entire facility, including allowing inmates to be locked down to their units rather than their individual cells and locking down only the unit where a disciplinary incident occurs, rather than the entire facility.

The BOP should ensure that the facility is funded and staffed at appropriate levels to support inmate movement to recreation, programming, and meals.

The facility should strive to reduce the frequency of lockdowns. At a minimum, facility leadership should complete a thorough assessment of why the SHU is routinely at capacity and address identified issues. Facility leadership should also consider proposing alternative segregation housing arrangements outside the SHU as contemplated by BOP Program Statement 5270.11.

#### ***IV. Institutional Culture of Violence***

Many inmates expressed concerns that executive staff encourages an institutional culture of violence. Several individuals described incidents of staff assaulting inmates, particularly in the SHU (see above) but also on the compound. One inmate stated that a lieutenant put a shield on the inmate’s chest and knelt on it while the inmate was on his back and shackled. Inmates also mentioned use of racial slurs and being told by staff that “they hope [inmates] get stabbed to death by other inmates.”

An individual told the CIC that during cell shakedowns, officers routinely sweep inmates’ belongings into the trash, including clothes, food, and hygiene products purchased off commissary, and fail to give them documentation of their property. One inmate stated that the Warden told him that his grievance would “never make it out of the SHU,” while another said that any complaint inmates might file, “isn’t going anywhere because the Warden will lie for his staff.”

Inmates expressed that the culture of violence extends to staff encouraging violence between inmates. According to interviewees, the officers and facility leadership have refused to separate cellmates who requested separation due to interpersonal conflict and have told inmates to fight or stab each other.

#### **Recommendations:**

The BOP should seriously investigate reports of staff violence towards inmates.

Facility leadership should set the institutional culture by modeling appropriate language and behavior with both staff and inmates. The warden should hold staff accountable both for committing violence against inmates and for inciting violence among inmates. Personnel and inmates should be appropriately sanctioned for incidents of violence.

The facility should require staff to complete training, including regular refresher courses, to help improve their interactions with inmates. Possibilities include courses from the National Institute for Corrections on Communicating Effectively and Professionally with Inmates, Anger Management Essentials, and Moral Leadership and Development.

## ***V. Health Care***

The CIC received varying reports from inmates about the current state of medical care at USP Lee. Several inmates said that the medical staff does their job well, while others agreed but with caveats such as “they only see you when they choose” or the “care takes forever.” Inmates mentioned waiting more than six months for glasses, being mistreated for an infection that eventually required hospital care, and inadequate follow-up care from outside surgery. Several inmates indicated that there has not been a doctor at the facility for a portion of the past year. Another common concern from inmates was that they pay a fee to come to sick call only to be told to purchase over-the-counter medication from commissary.

Many inmates reported that there is not a dentist currently on staff, and that they have been waiting anywhere from seven months to six years for dental care at USP Lee. One inmate reported that there is a dentist again as of quite recently, but “they still don’t see anyone.”

Only a few inmates had comments on the mental health treatment team. Comments came from an individual frustrated at being removed from psychiatric medication and told he no longer needed it, and an inmate with serious mental illness who wants counseling rather than only intervention when he is actively decompensating. Another individual told CIC that mental health staff told him the death of a close relative “was not serious enough for mental health treatment.”

### **Recommendation:**

Facility leadership should ensure that the medical and dental departments at USP Lee are staffed with adequate numbers of physicians and support staff to provide routine diagnostic and treatment services to the facility population in a timely manner. The BOP should provide adequate funding to support a full complement of medical, dental, and mental health staff.

## ***VI. Other Areas of Concern***

Most of the individuals the CIC spoke with expressed frustration at the limited programming opportunities. Inmates indicated that the only programming opportunities are GED classes, the victim impact classes, and the Challenge Program. According to documentation provided by the facility, other programs include parenting, adult continuing education, recreational wellness, release preparation, technical, ESL, recreation leisure, a job fair, and vocational programming. However, based on the enrollment numbers provided by the facility, approximately 37% of inmates are currently participating in any type of programming.<sup>12</sup> Facility documentation also indicates that eight inmates completed GED programming at USP Lee between October 1, 2017, and July 31, 2018, while 58 were subject to involuntary withdrawal from the program. In the same period, 17 inmates attended a job fair, nine completed vocational programming, and six completed a program in recreation wellness. During that period, the average daily population ranged from 1,312 to 1,411 inmates.

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<sup>12</sup> This figure is based on facility documentation indicating 483 distinct enrollments during FY 2018 in any of the 10 program categories. Assuming that some inmates enrolled in multiple program categories, the total percentage of individuals enrolled in programming could be lower than 37%.

One individual mentioned that the programs that exist are not consistently available. Another individual said that he had been trying to sign up for the GED classes for fifteen months, but his requests were ignored. Several inmates mentioned that there are no programs to assist with reentry. In particular, they are interested in programs that would provide them with basic skills to navigate computers and other technology now commonly used in the communities to which they will return. As noted above, many inmates were also frustrated with the frequent lockdowns limiting access to the programs that do exist. The warden mentioned the possibility of UNICOR returning to USP Lee, which would increase job opportunities for inmates. He indicated that two currently unoccupied units could be set aside for UNICOR participants, and that these specialized units could be less affected by the lockdowns in the rest of the facility.

Several inmates raised concerns about sewage drains backing up and causing flooding, particularly in Unit B and Unit I. One inmate indicated that there are problems with the drains backing up all around the prison. Inmates reported flooding as frequent as every week to three times in one day. The inmates noted that the flooding has frequently contained human waste and that it has entered inmate cells. An inmate indicated that the facility was on lockdown during a recent flood, and sewage water that flooded the unit day room was left sitting overnight. Another inmate told the CIC that he and others on his unit were forced to clean up the sewage water in their cells without protective equipment. The warden indicated that the flooding often results from inmates flushing inappropriate items.

Several inmates reported that their case managers were refusing to submit referral packets for placement at residential reentry centers (RRCs, also known as halfway houses) and instead recording that the inmates had refused such placement.

Multiple inmates also mentioned the recent removal of batteries from the commissary list. Inmates noted that the only radio available through commissary costs \$57, and it is rechargeable (via hand-cranking) up to 1,000 hours. Because the facility is so frequently locked down, inmates use their radios frequently. Since inmates are unable to purchase batteries, the expensive radios quickly become useless.

### **Recommendations:**

Facility leadership should conduct an evaluation of why so few inmates are currently benefitting from programming. The BOP should provide adequate funding to support education and other program staff to implement existing programs.

The facility should make certain that appropriate backflow preventers, bar screens, and waste augers are installed in the wastewater system at USP Lee and properly maintained to prevent sewage flooding. The facility and the BOP should consider installation of industrial-strength sewage grinders if necessary to handle debris in the plumbing system.

Exposure to raw sewage can cause a wide range of adverse health effects, including major infections. Any inmates exposed to raw sewage or tasked with sewage cleanup should be given appropriate protective gear.

The facility should ensure that case management staff is in compliance with Program Statement 7310.04, which requires that all eligible inmates have opportunities to participate in residential community corrections programs, and that staff members begin the RRC placement process in a timely manner including submission of referral packets.

Facility staff should reconsider the decision to remove batteries from commissary.

## Appendix A: Methodology

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### ***USP Lee Inspection: Methodology***

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Corrections Information Council (CIC) and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), on August 12, 2015, the CIC requested to inspect USP Lee. The inspection request itinerary included a tour of all areas of the facility to which inmates have access, discussions with staff, confidential interviews with DC inmates, and document review. Prior to the onsite inspection, the CIC communicated with DC inmates at USP Lee to notify them of the upcoming inspection and offer the opportunity to participate in a confidential interview with a member of the CIC.

Prior to the visit, per the CIC's request, the BOP sent the CIC the following documents which are on file with the CIC:

- Roster of DC Inmates
- Significant Incidents (August 2014 – July 2015)
- Inmate Disciplinary Record (August 2014 – July 2015)
- Administrative Remedies Tracking Data for BP-9, BP-10, and BP-11 (July 2015)
- Inmate Demographics Fact Sheet (as of July 2015)
- DC Specific Inmate Demographics Fact Sheet (as of July 2015)
- Urine Surveillance Records (August 2014 – July 2015)
- Monthly Average Daily Populations (2015)
- Education Profile (October 2014 – June 2015)

The CIC conducted an onsite inspection of USP Lee on October 22, 2015. During the onsite inspection, the facility was operating under lockdown status. The CIC was escorted by the warden, the executive assistant, and other members of the executive staff. The onsite inspection consisted of a facility tour, discussions with staff, interviews with DC inmates, and document review.

On August 7, 2018, the CIC requested to return to USP Lee for follow-up interviews with DC inmates currently located at the facility. Prior to the onsite inspection, the CIC communicated with DC inmates at USP Lee to notify them of the upcoming visit and offer the opportunity to participate in a confidential interview with a member of the CIC.

Prior to the visit, per the CIC's request, the BOP sent the CIC the following documents which are on file with the CIC:

- Roster of DC Inmates
- Significant Incidents (August 2017 – July 2018)
- Prohibited Act Rates (August 2017 – July 2018)
- Administrative Remedies Tracking Data for BP-9, BP-10, and BP-11 (August 2017 – July 2018)
- Inmate Sentencing and Designation Fact Sheet (as of July 2018)
- DC Specific Inmate Sentencing and Designation Fact Sheet (as of July 2018)
- Inmate Demographics Fact Sheet (as of July 2018)
- DC Specific Inmate Demographics Fact Sheet (as of July 2018)
- Monthly Average Daily Populations (August 2017 – July 2018)
- Inmate Enrollment in Programs (October 2017 – July 2018)

- Summary of Urinalysis Results (August 2017 – July 2018)
- Most current American Correctional Association Accreditation Report
- Completed CIC Pre-inspection Information Worksheet (documenting DC-specific populations in SHU and educational programming)

The CIC conducted an onsite visit for interviews on October 16 and 17, 2018.

Following the inspection, the survey responses and interview notes were compiled, and the complete responses can be found in Appendix B. Open-ended survey responses include answers collected on the surveys themselves and during interviews with CIC staff. Open-ended responses include information that was gathered from inmate surveys as well as interviews. Open-ended responses were edited to remove identifying information and also edited for clarity.

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 can be found attached to the end of this report.



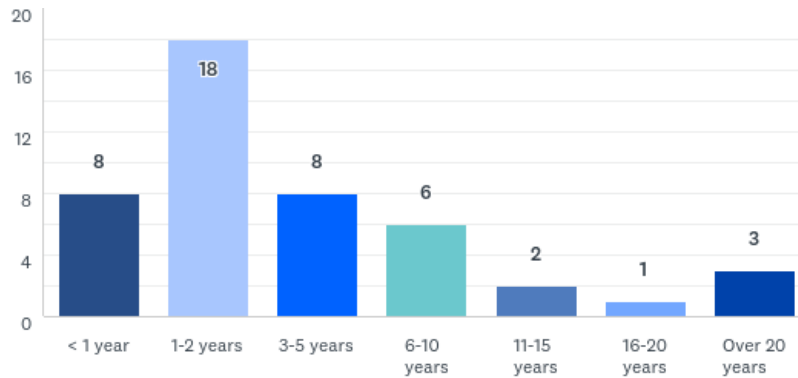
## Appendix B: Inmate Survey Responses

## USP Lee Inmate Survey Responses

46 Total Respondents<sup>13</sup>

### How long have you been incarcerated at USP Lee?

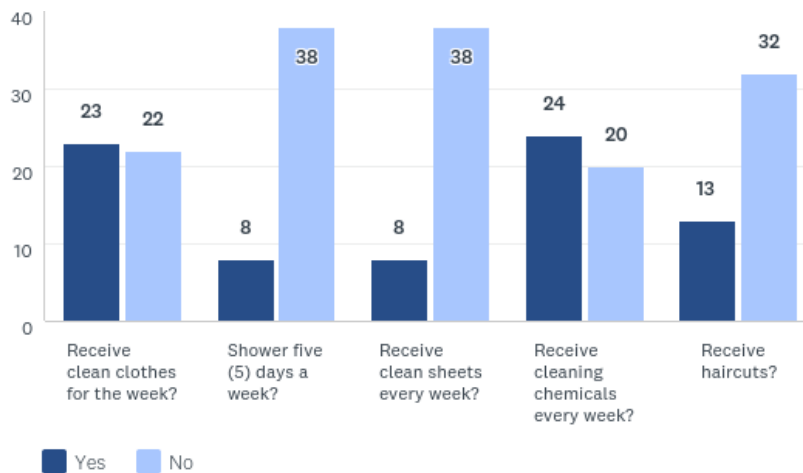
Answered: 46 Skipped: 0



### Hygiene

Answered: 46 Skipped: 0

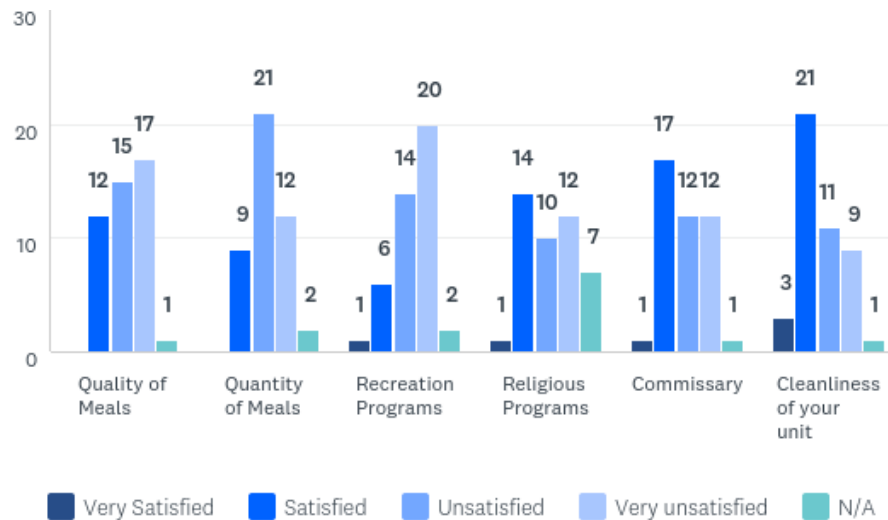
Are you normally able to:



<sup>13</sup> Open-ended responses include information that was gathered from inmate surveys as well as interviews. Open-ended responses were edited to erase identifying information, and were also edited for clarity.

### How satisfied are you with:

Answered: 46 Skipped: 0



Please provide examples of why you are satisfied or unsatisfied with the previously discussed items:

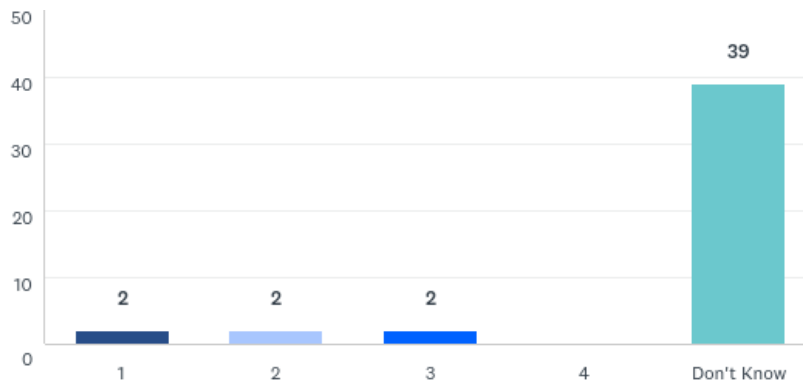
Inmate Responses
Prices. They don't give us enough to eat. Some of us don't have jobs or family support and the meals are all we have. They need to make CHEF SALAD a Lunch meal NOT a dinner Meal I am Mental Health so this Really gets to Me
Spending Money doesn't benefit me. Overflow of feces at least 3 times a month. We are Lockdown in this institution @ least 9 months of the past 2 years, so it Like You're always in the Hole!
For example: we are always locked down so they feed us cold bologna, no healthy foods, and we are unable to attend commissary and our various programs for the same reason.
Due to lockdowns meals= makeup meals rec= slip yard
Quality and Quantity is horrible recreation privileges close to non-existent
I'm unsatisfied with being fed lunch meat twice a day when the prison is on lockdown which is very often
They keep us on lockdown all the time, cant program or anything.
They don't feed you enough and the commissary is trash!
Because I've been to place's that treat fed inmates way better
We stay on lock down too much
We always on lock down and eat bologna for every meal when lock down
I am unsatisfied because this institutions Do Not Follow Policy
We are Normally Locked Down 3 weeks out of Every Month
The food is never cooked until it is done. We don't have programs in Rec to keep us busy, commissary never has anything we need
we are fed Bologna everyday we're lockdown and my unit Floods at least Twice a month with Feces
I don't feel like I'm receiving the proper portion of food during main line.

**Is there anything else you would like to share about daily life at USP Lee?**

Inmate Responses
They lock us down because the Shu is Full, which is basically every weekend. on lockdown we don't get hot meals. When it's not for disciplinary reasons, they still treat the lockdown as such, it, handcuffed going/comod/ from shower, no communication to the
ONLY D.C. Prisoners with parolable Life are told they have to be here "6 years" before you can transfer_____
USP Lee officers have no respect for inmates. My health is always down and I receive no medical attention.
On lock almost every other day. Haven't been out a full month as of yet. Lockdown for the SHU being full regularly.
A facility where you'll be lucky to get anything important you need done because of planned selfish lockdowns 4 days out of a week
They are just putting anyone in the cell with you. Saying if you want him removed, then do something to him
They feed us bologna and peanut butter non-stop which is high in salt giving me headache during lockdowns
man get as far away from lee county
They're very rude and disrespectful towards inmates
The staff does not do any work
Well if you don't have a strong mind set you can lose your temper quick because we don't get to see our families cause of unnecessary lockdowns.
Lee is a Care Level 1 Medical Facility 1 is the Lowest Level
D.C. inmates are treated different from other inmates
When we're NOT, Locked Down Which is often, Floods on Regular (Feces). We're Locked Down Too Much.
We are treated very disrespectfully. They force us to cell with others that we can't get along with. They tell us to fight or stab each other.
There are no programs. The staff here is very prejudice.
IT'S THE WORST
There are no more 6 month clothing exchange here, nothing is normal here! Lately we have been locked down every 3 days for approximately 10 days at a time. I'm walking on eggshells, just trying to make it.
This is "hell" on earth!!!
stressful, disrespectful officer's - Hard life
We get lock down too much and the staff Do not like D.C. guys..
We have problems all around the prison with the drains, there always back up even in the kitchen
YES staff mistreatment
We need the water in the shower to be hot more often!!
Because of lockdown we get baloney 2x out of the day and it end up messing with your stomach
Officers are disrespectful
This milieu is not bad, other than the excessive lock downs that are often unwarranted in my opinion

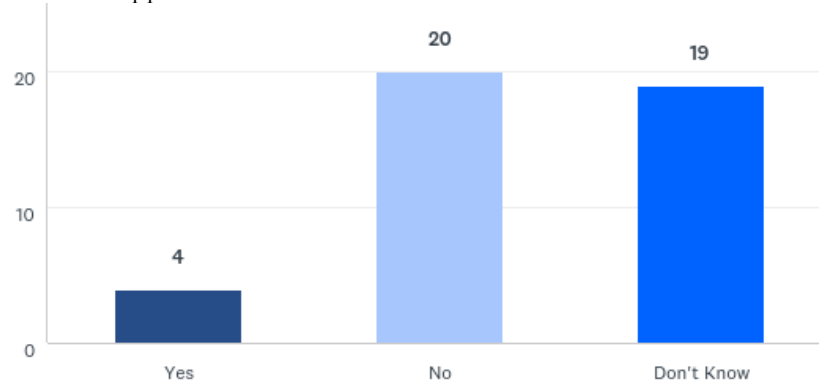
### What is your Medical Care Level?

Answered: 46 Skipped: 0



### Are you on the chronic caseload?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 3

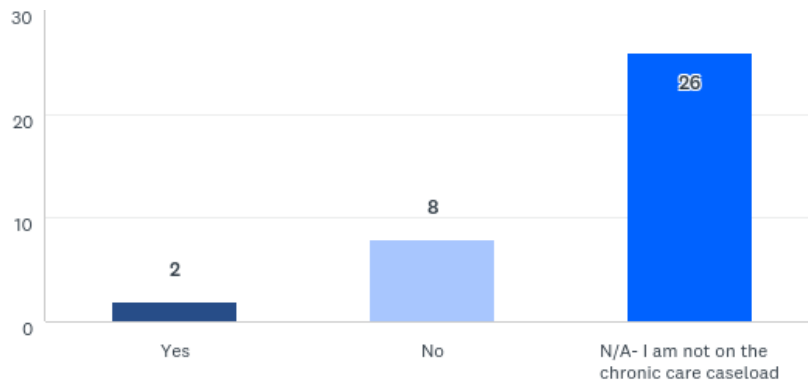


If you are on the chronic care caseload, please give the reason(s) why:

Inmate Responses
I take medication for my high blood pressure, mood swings and anxiety.
In the last 16 years I've developed, a skin disorder during my stint in ADX. which I was treated off and on for years. my medical records shows it.
ADHD and court ordered mental health by judge... and anger management.
Pre Existing Traumatic Brain Injury Family History of Stroke High Blood Pressure
I have psoriasis, for 13 years the BOP has given me medicated shampoo until I cam here. I was told this is not the care level institution to get this medication.
Back and Lee have bad medical care.
I have dropfoot from a gun shoot.

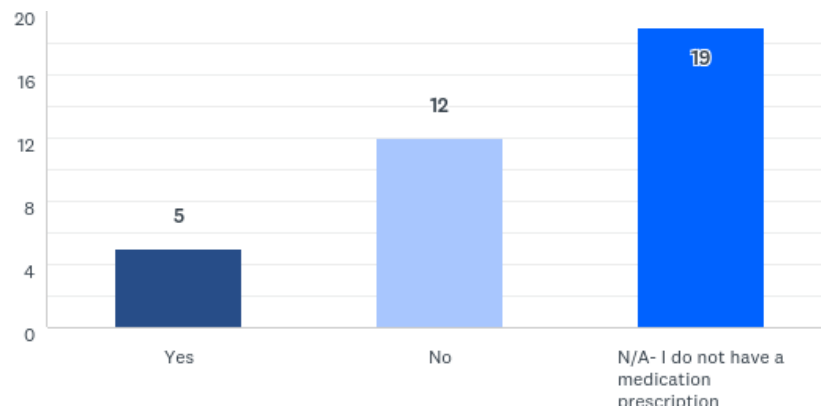
**If you are on the chronic care caseload, are you generally receiving timely follow-ups?**

Answered: 36 Skipped: 10



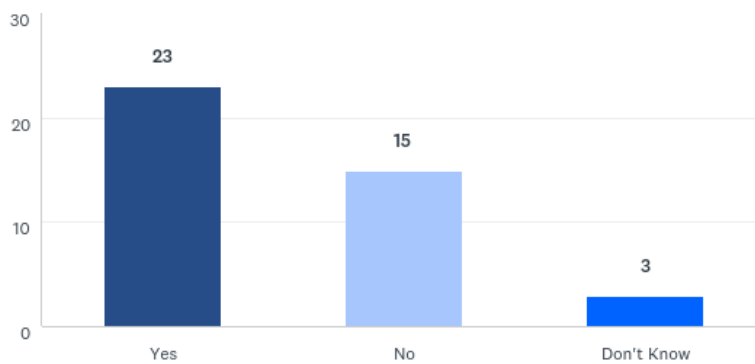
**If you have a medication prescription, do you feel you receive medications in a timely manner?**

Answered: 36 Skipped: 10



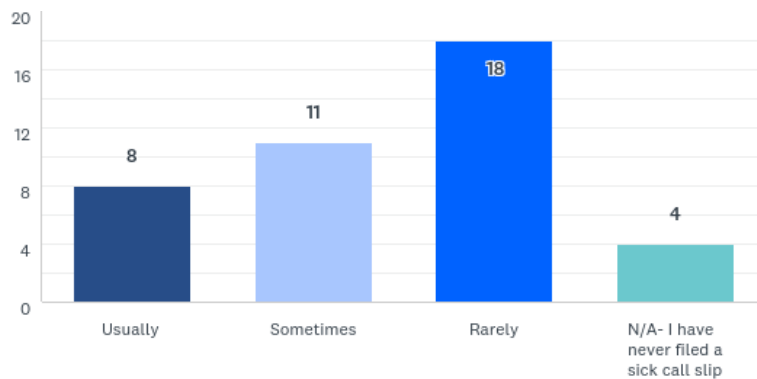
**Do you normally have access to sick call slips?**

Answered: 41 Skipped: 5



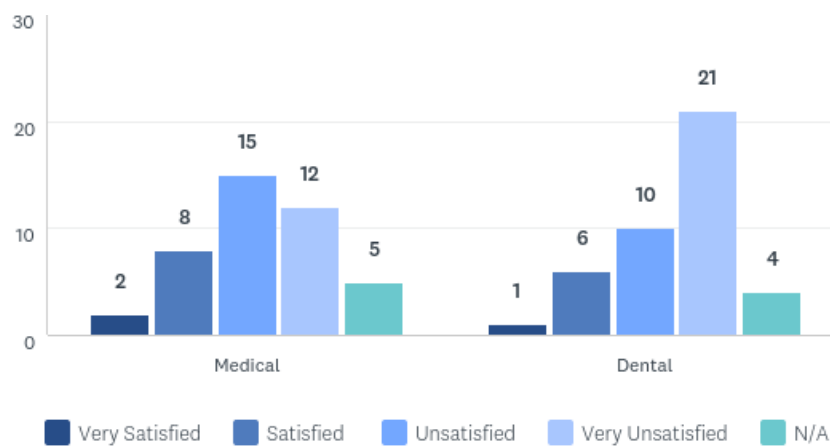
### Does Health Services respond to sick call slips within 48 hours?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 5



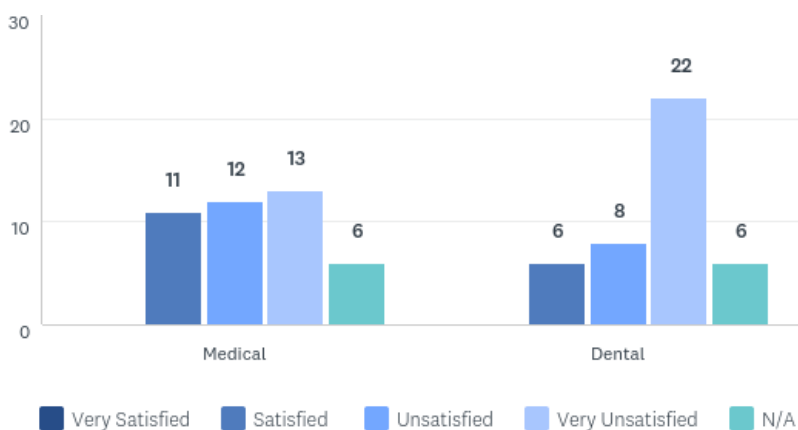
### Overall, how satisfied are you with the QUALITY of care provided by the following:

Answered: 44 Skipped: 2



### Overall, how satisfied are you with the WAIT TIMES to see the following:

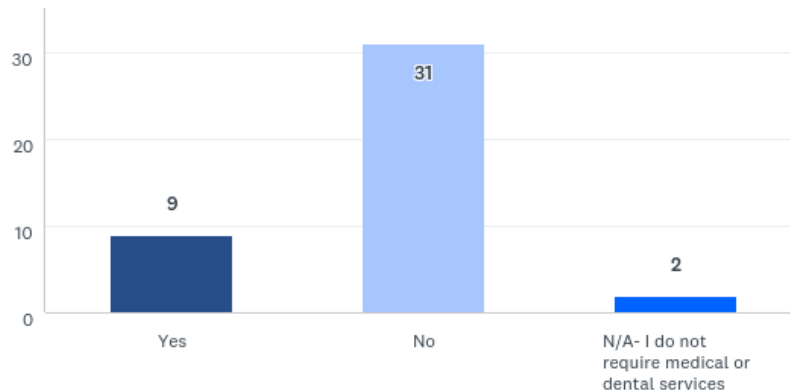
Answered: 44 Skipped: 2





### Do you feel you have adequate access to medical and dental services?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 4

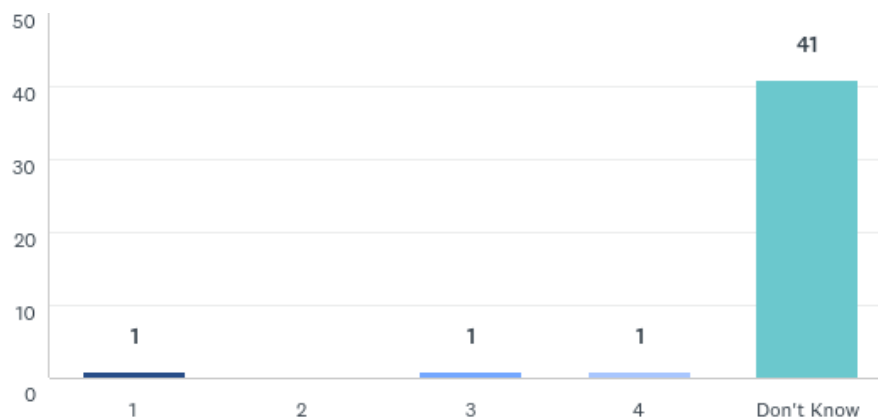


### Is there anything else you would like to share about medical or dental care at USP Lee?

Inmate Responses
They really should be expedient about dental. The waiting List is too Long
They do not give out our medication sometimes for days when the institution is on lockdown.
Most of the staff aren't qualified for their positions
They didn't have a doctor for a while and I still don't if they have one
It is not professional at all and they charge you \$2.00 every time u request 2 see them and some people don't have the money!
Not very professional
The Dental Care is ONLY for Emergency at Lee. You have to Need a Tooth Pulled Before You get Any Attention
They never have a dentist here and when one comes they want to pull your teeth instead of fixing it. and when you come to sick call they charge 2 \$ and they haven't done anything
It's Really No good, No DeNtal Nothing Really going oN.
Haven't had my teeth clean in 4 yrs. This medical is unreal. I been here almost 6 yrs and only have my teeth clean twice. No physicals except one time.
They make us pay to see medical then tell us to buy medication from commissary
IT'S NOT FAIR
Good job!!!
The only time they respond is when something happen like a fight breaks out
Just they a certain care level you have to be about to die or die before you set seen.
They haven't had a DenTisT in 6 months
I have asked for dental and I was told that I was put on the waiting list. That was over 1 year ago.
I have put in multiple requests to be seen by dental over a year ago to be evaluated for missing tooth and be fitted for a partial to no avail.
I have been here since 2013 I have only gotten dental hygiene 1 time
I been waiting to see the dentist for 7 months
They never are here
It takes too long for us to get our teeth cleaned
The medical services are decent, however dental services are very protracted. The waiting list time is unreasonable

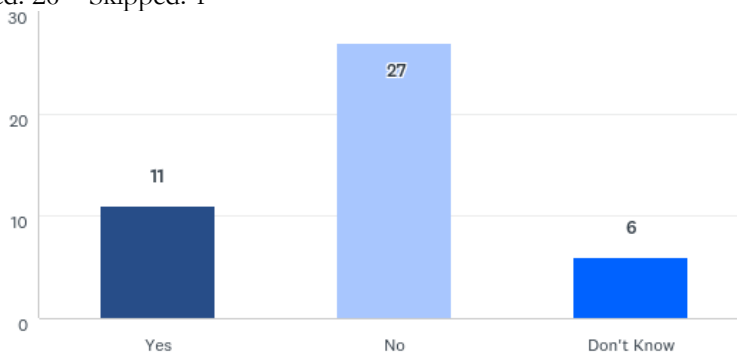
### What is your designated Mental Health Care Level?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 2



### Have you ever been diagnosed with a mental health issue, at this facility or elsewhere?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 1

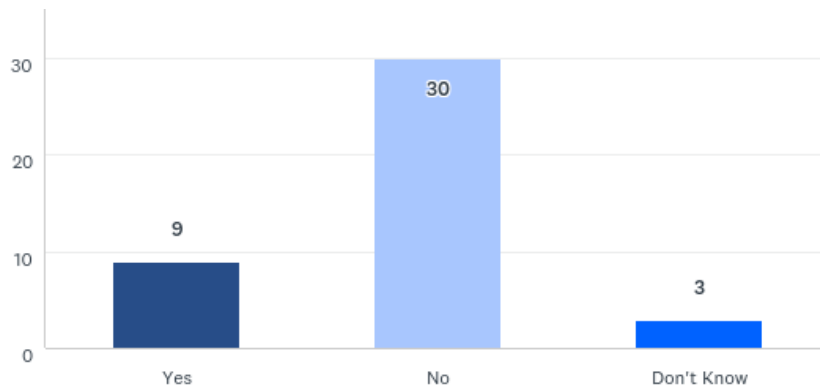


If you have been diagnosed with a mental health issues, please give the reason(s) why:

Inmate Responses
P.T.S.D Deep Depression- recurrent with psychotic Features Mild schizophrenia, anxiety. MY MOM Died before I got Locked up!!!
Because I received additional time to my sentence and my judge court ordered me mental health treatment
I have anxiety Problems, breakdowns, PTSD
I have Anxiety Attacks, Panic Dis Order and P.T.S.D.
I have sugey. everything.
Anxiety. PTSD.
Depression
I need to be checked now
Lack of staying focused and alleged bipolar
I don't know

### Did you have a mental health evaluation when arriving at USP Lee?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 1

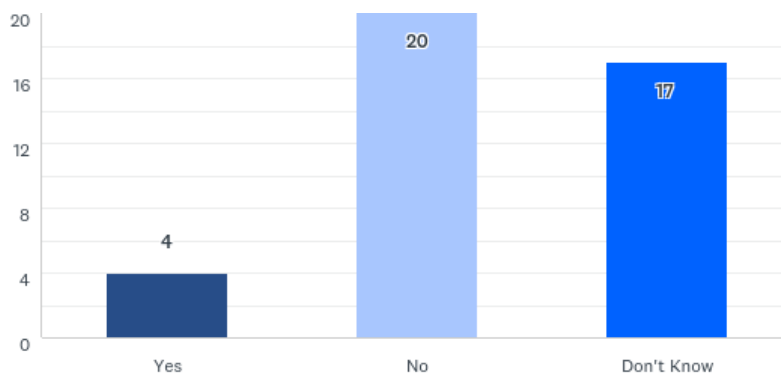


### If you did have a mental health evaluation, please describe:

Inmate Responses
If you want to call it that they just told me this place is #1 for convictions
Too hard to visit psychology, to many pre-conceived outlooks!
I had it done on the street before.
It was more like a cursory interview.
They just asked what medication
Psychology staff talked to me in R&O
ALOT OF QUESTIONS AND SO FORTH
They asked me was I feeling suicidal
I was interviewed and asked if I had any issues and concerns.
Briefly
Challenge Program
It was basically a perfunctory evaluation, but thorough

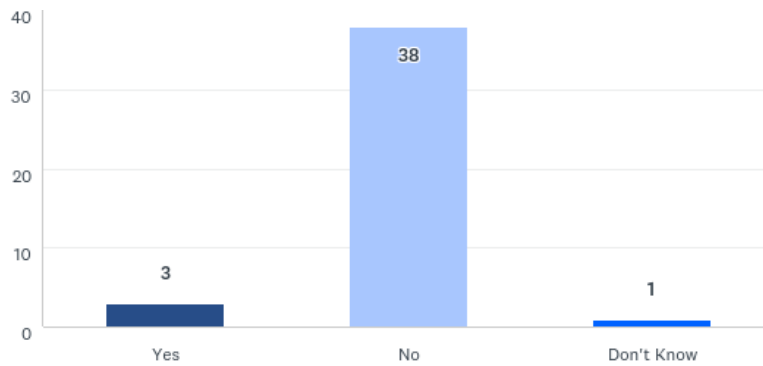
### Did your mental health diagnosis change when you arrived at USP Lee?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 5



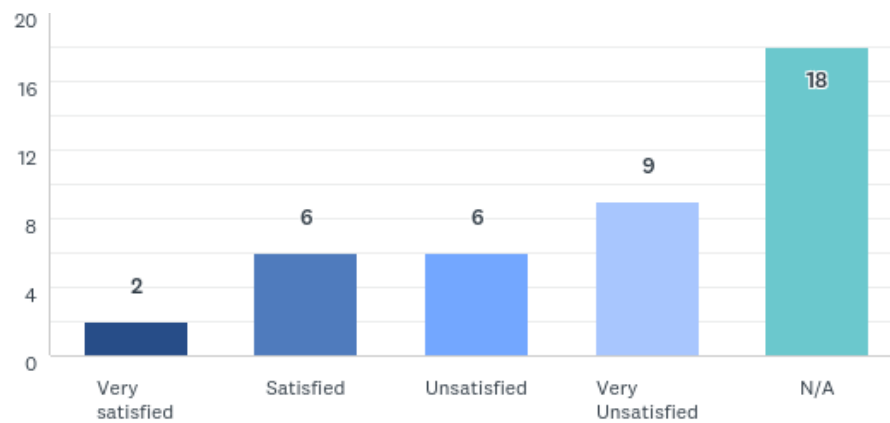
**Are you currently receiving psychotropic medication?**

Answered: 42 Skipped: 4



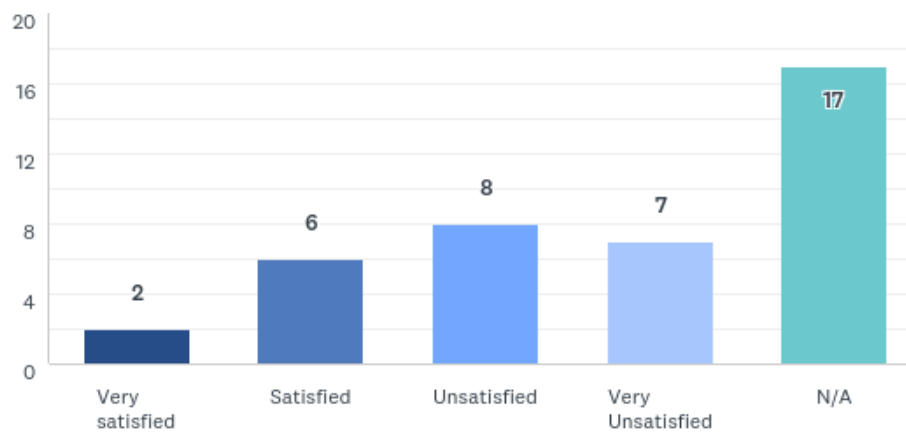
**Overall, how satisfied are you with the QUALITY of mental health care?**

Answered: 41 Skipped: 5



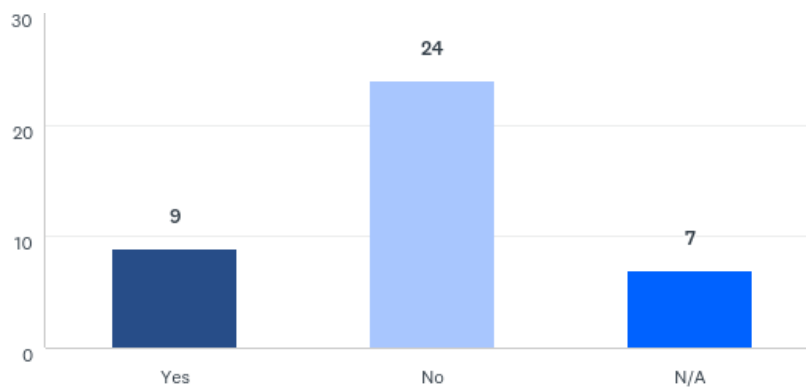
**Overall, how satisfied with the WAIT TIMES to see mental health services?**

Answered: 40 Skipped: 6



### Do you feel you have adequate access to mental health services?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 6

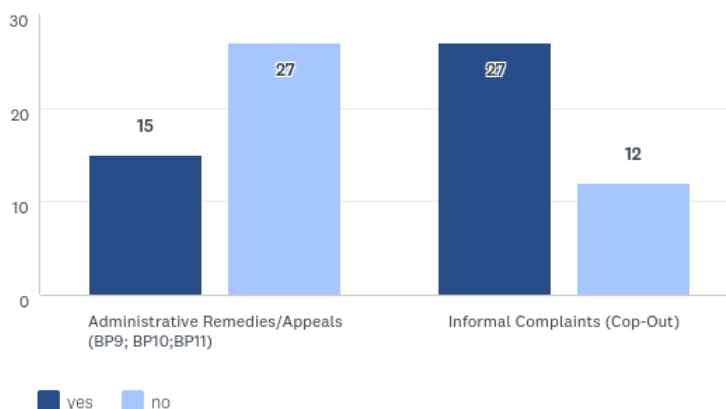


### Is there anything else you would like to share about mental health care at USP Lee?

Inmate Responses
I wish they would talk to Me More, see how I'm doing. I cant Afford the \$2. Please just talk to me once a month!! without charging Me!!
EVERything @ U.S.P. Lee is for Show! They torturing Us!
I always ask to see mental because my mother died in September and they said that's not a good enough issue.
That I informed USP Lee about my situation also I have a time line sheet to inform about everyone I informed and they all said that this isn't the place for me
I believe it's the Best Department in Lee county
I came to Lee from a Care Level 2 Facility, Lee is NOT equipped for my Mental Issues
The head mental health staff is very insensitive towards our needs.
It's Really No Good, and They Really don't care.
Good job!!!
That's probably the only department running good

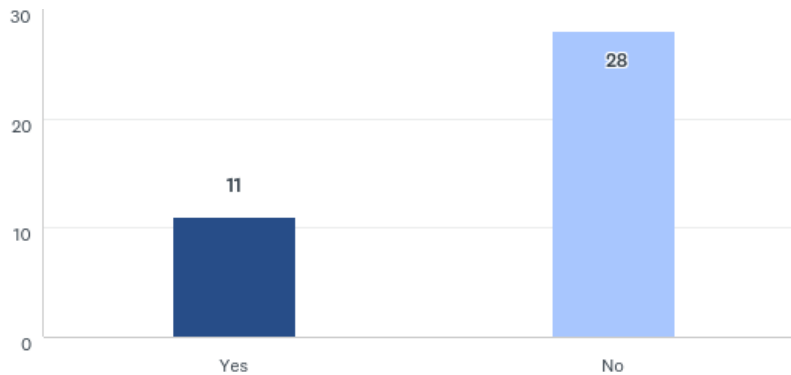
### Do you normally have access to the following:

Answered: 43 Skipped: 3



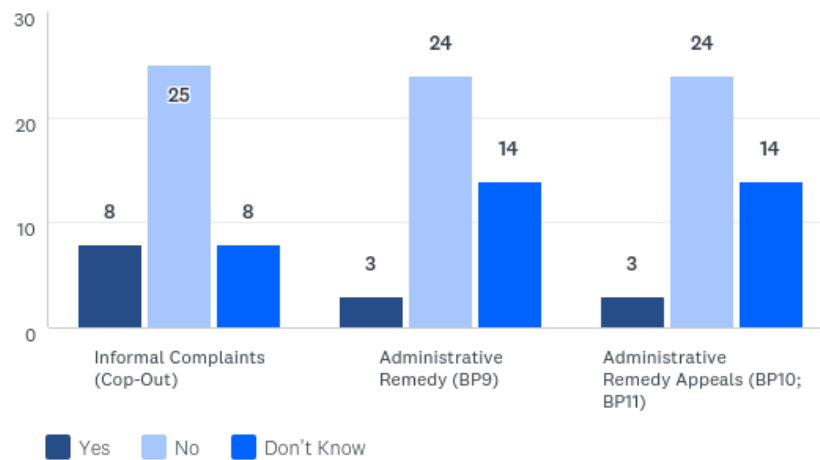
### Have you ever used the administrative remedy process at USP Lee?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 7



### Do you feel that the following are generally dealt with fairly at USP Lee?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 5



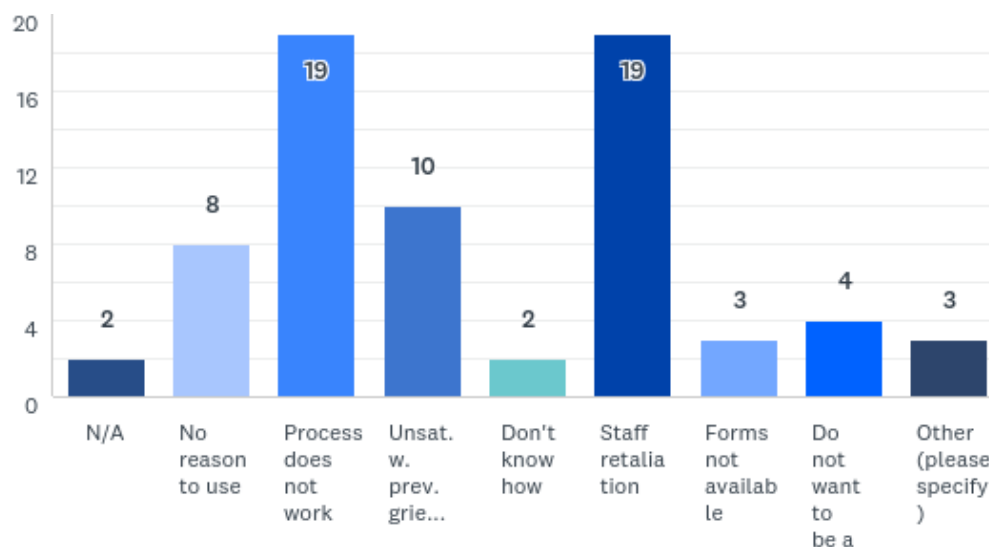
### Why do you feel the above items are fair or unfair?

Inmate Responses
USP Lee has chosen to "punish" to inmate population for everything one-or-two individuals do so you can never program at your own accord!
Because the officers work together and it might not go to the proper people. the officers at USP Lee is like running a criminal organization
They never respond back!
There's never a response or action being taking towards your situation using these remedies
Cause they don't care.
Because it's a lot of thing that USP Lee does that need to be addressed and they don't provide us the things we need
Because they don't address issues
They are very unfair
some Fair and unfair
I feel in fact I know that I have been denied my rights to grieve everything
because the staff always pick staff side over the inmate even when the inmate is right
Because they'll Tell us straight out the warden got my back I'm not doing it.
They don't respond in a timely manner or they just ignore them.

They are unfair because we have no rights according to staff here. And they use intimidation all the time because the staff side with the staff regardless whether right or wrong
UNFAIR
If you try to file a BP-9 on them they will put you in the hole.
Because it's a buddy buddy system.
Because the warden overrides everything
Every time I ask for a BP-9 I never receive one. I Asked once, earlier this year. Asked in B unit. Captain tried to fight him (physically). I Tried to get him Through metal detector, refused (had crutches).
If a legitimate grievance is filed, usually it is dealt with fairly
They don't really listen to us they spin us.
I only use copout sources and I've learned the other process doesn't work.
I never filed BP-9, but have heard that they take forever to respond
I've never utilized the admin remedy service, but to my knowledge, it's no less fair than other places.

**If you have chosen not to use the administrative remedy process, why not? (check all that apply)**

Answered: 37 Skipped: 9



**Is there anything else you would like to share about the administrative remedy process at USP?**

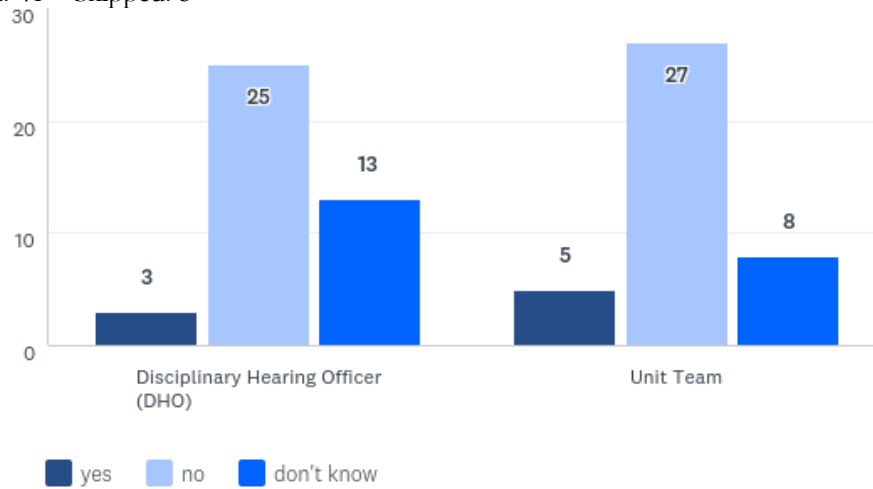
Inmate Responses
There should be a way to bypass all the steps and go straight to the source.
It's All one-sided in favor of Staff!!
They will target you and plant things on you or try to antagonize you so disrespectfully so you could say the smallest things to stop them and they Jump you.
Administration
I want to file out of fear of retaliation seriously
They dont have all the proper help that I need, and this spot isnt for me.
It Does Not work on an institutional level
The Staff at Lee make it Clear You will be Punished Lee is he WORST place I have been in my 6 yr. 7 Month Incarceration. Everything at Lee is wrong.



It Don't Work!!
It's unfair and the region sides with the prison staff. They should record the Hearings
Really There people Really don't care about Nobody. or Nothing
THE WAY THIS PLACE IS RAN IS INSANE
Nothing good
Everybody I seen file an administration remedy process they end up going to SHU after their room shook down by the same officer

**Overall, do you feel that the disciplinary decisions are fair from the following:**

Answered: 41 Skipped: 5

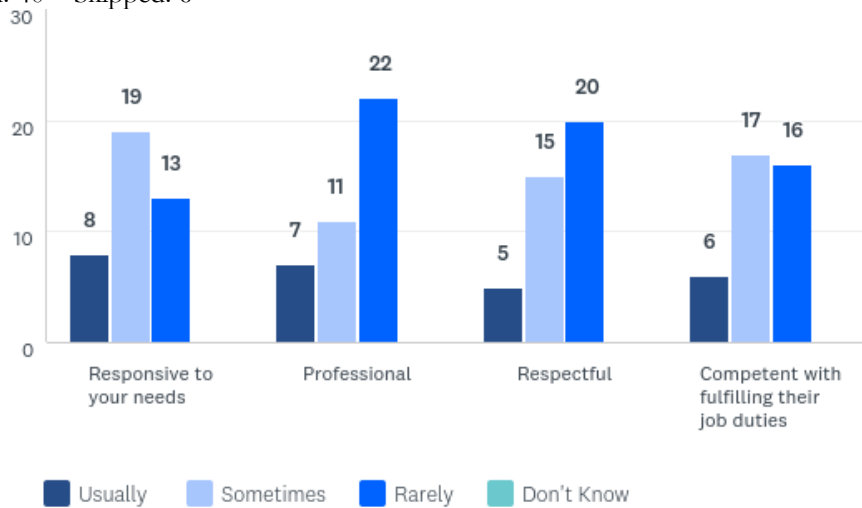


**Is there anything else you would like to share about disciplinary decisions at USP Lee?**

Inmate Responses
Your job should never be taken from you if you have no outside support
(Never got into trouble but been Lockdown over 2 years) They use it to Keep D.C. inmates at U.S.P. Lee, for "Very-Long Periods" of time. (one disciplinary Report results in 6 years here even if it's a 300 serious, but staff won't)
Can guarantee your disciplinary consequences will be as worse as possible
You are always going to get found guilty no matter what. It's you against three people at the hearing
They Don't Follow Policy. I am a max custody which policy states there should be a memo on why and there isn't one and that has allow them to keep me in USP instead Decreasing my custody level.
The D.H.O at Lee physically assaulted Me. Then he summoned Lt. Avery and his Goon Squad to subdue me.
The DHO has the trust say so regardless of the evidence.
It's completely biased.
Everybody is Found guilty That a Fact.
Buddy buddy system.
They are in cahooTs with the Warden and SIS
unit Team do not care to help us like when we put in for a med.
Well, my only gripe with AHO is, I have not received my report back yet and it's been a year. I want to file an appeal on my infraction but can't until I get the report back.

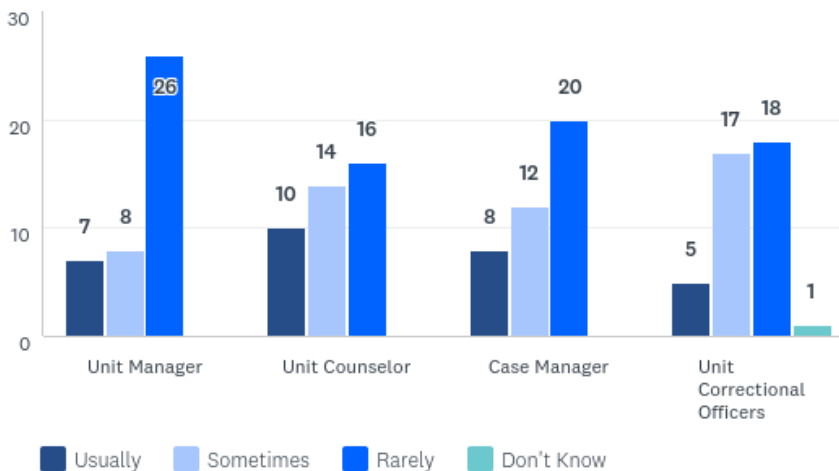
### Are your housing unit officers generally:

Answered: 40 Skipped: 6



### Do you feel that the following are helpful?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 5



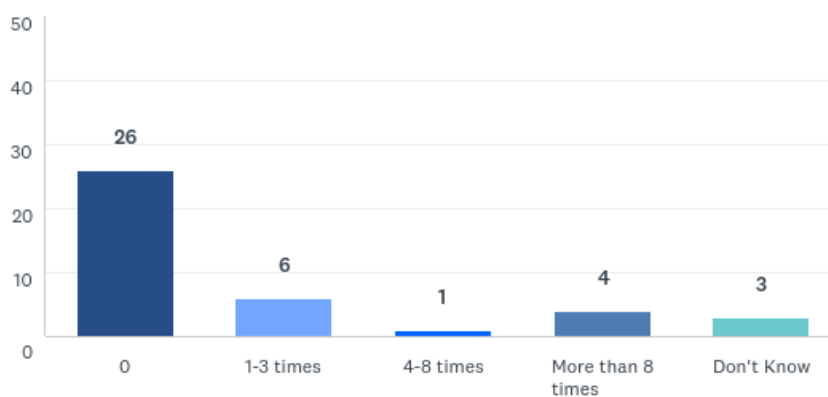
### Is there anything else you would like to share about staff at USP Lee?

Inmate Responses
They are quick to pass the buck. They should focus on helping us get out give us All info to help us be productive
As They should, "they're all backing the others bullcrap"!!
They are disrespectful, nasty in attitude, They take from us the things we paid for, and more.
Staff is not the problem. It's the administration that's the main problem, and why D.C. prisoners are targeted.
Majority are very disrespectful
If they don't like you or you voice your opinion they will put a knife in your cell to put you in the SHU
not respectful
The staff at Lee are All on the Same Accord; Against the Inmates; and they have a Special Hate for D.C.
They case manager does not do his job at all.
The same unfairness is normal here

People who don't care, most of Them.
THEY DISRESPECTFUL
Disrespectful Mostly, unprofessional
As I stated in my written complaint, the staff here is not professional.
Disrespectful.

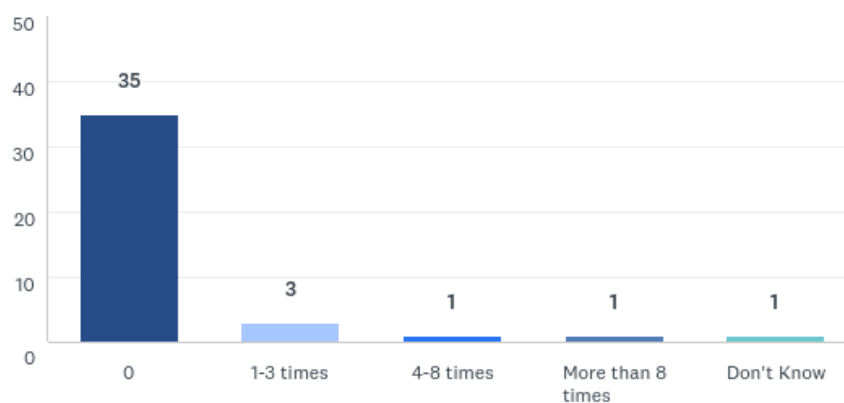
**How many times have you been placed in ambulatory restraints at USP Lee?**

Answered: 40 Skipped: 6



**How many times have you been placed in four-point restraints at USP Lee?**

Answered: 41 Skipped: 5



**If you have been placed in restraints at USP Lee, what is the maximum time you have spent in restraints at one time? (Ambulatory or four-point)**

Inmate Responses
Never
Just over a month
Ambulatory 2 ½ hours
18 hours
6-8 hours
1 hour
6 hours
for about a hour and a half

**If you have been placed in restraints at USP Lee, do you have any injuries from use and application of restraints? If so, please describe:**

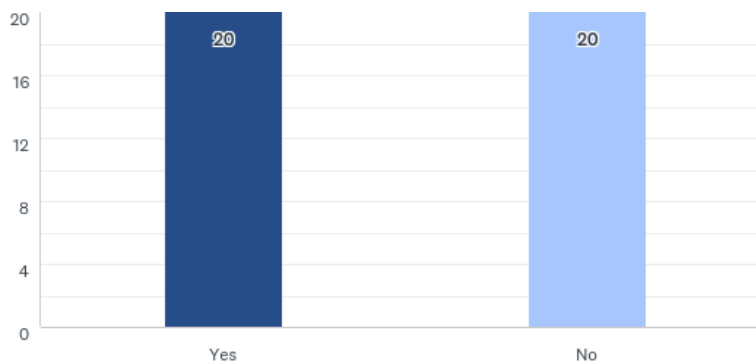
Inmate Responses
They put the cuFFs on too tight. I have issues with left wrist
Never!!!
yes, still dont have full feeling in my hands and still have scars
I have a leaking Cyst on my back Right Now from Lt. Avery, his Goon Squad and his Shackles
They use the four points as a means of torture.
I have heard of people Being put in Restraints For Long periods of Time
Not me but I've seen an inmate held in 4 point restraints for 15-16 hours

**If you have been placed in restraints at USP Lee, did staff provide the opportunity to use the toilet? Please describe:**

Inmate Responses
Hell No I had to throw-up on Myself No 1 and No 2 Also, Which they laughed and Called Me Old Man
No, Not at all I'm talking about any and all Restraints
yes
No: asked and was Denied
No Not at all. I just held it until I was released

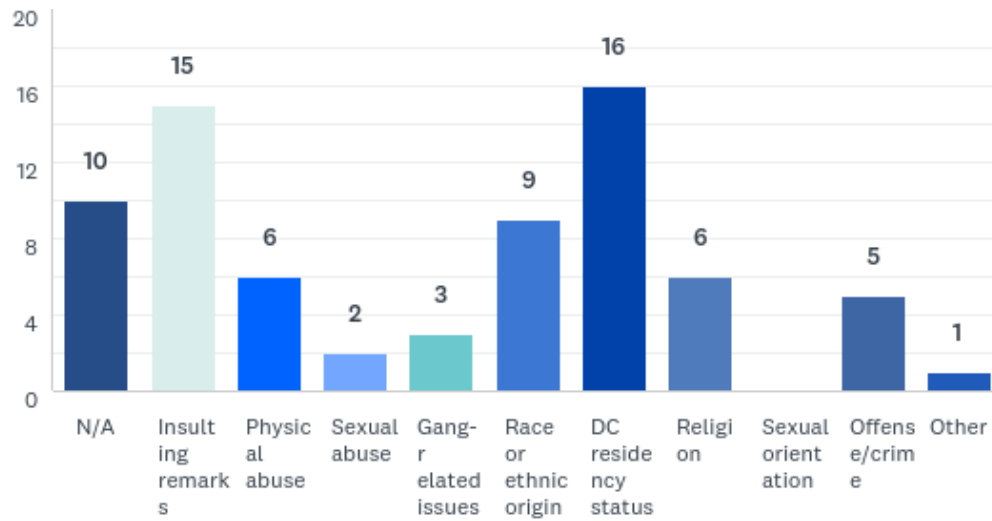
**Have you ever been harassed, threatened, or abused by staff at USP Lee?**

Answered: 40 Skipped: 6



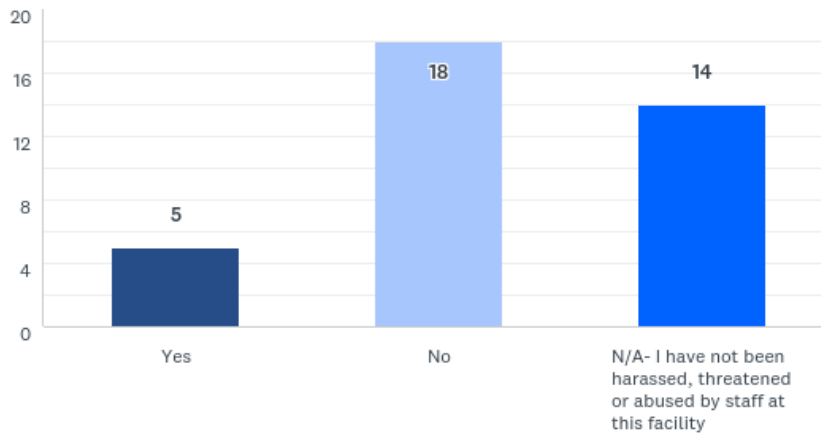
**If yes, what did it involve? (check all that apply)**

Answered: 30 Skipped: 16



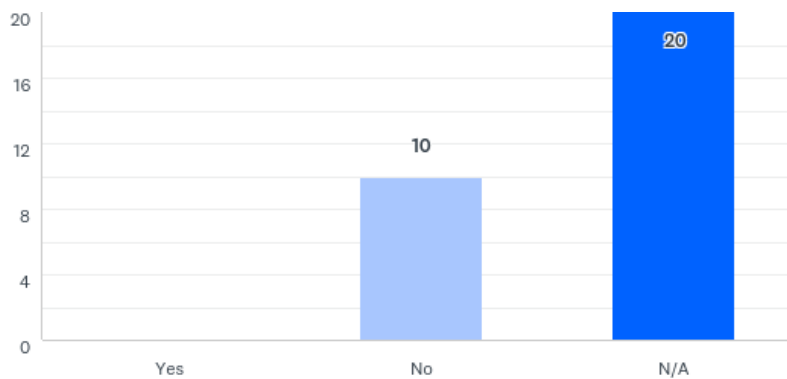
**If you have been harassed, threatened, or abused by staff at USP Lee, did you report it?**

Answered: 37 Skipped: 9



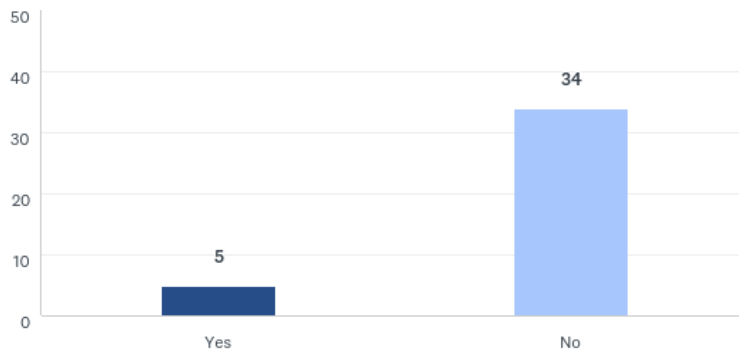
**If yes, are you satisfied with how it was handled?**

Answered: 30 Skipped: 16



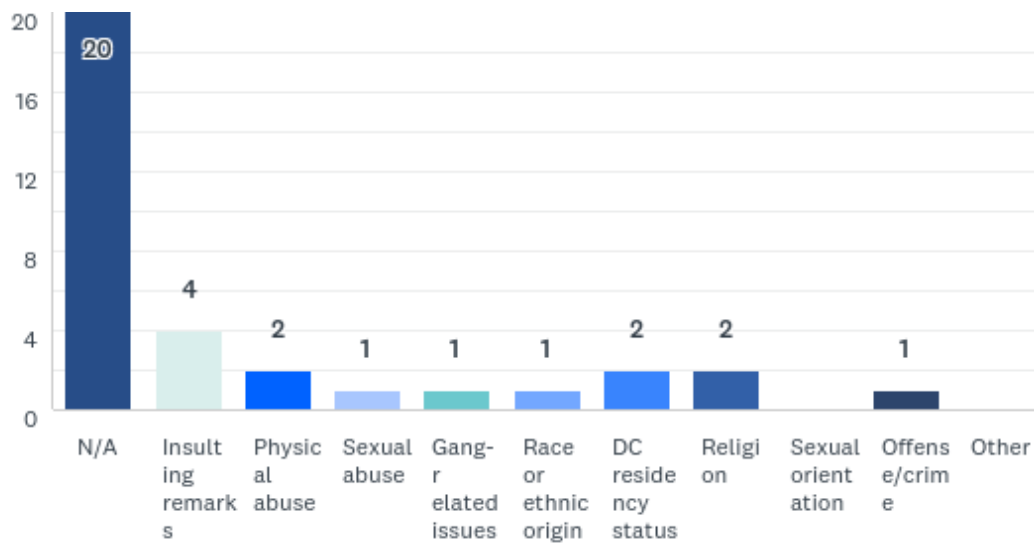
### Have you ever been harassed, threatened or abused by other inmates at USP Lee?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 7



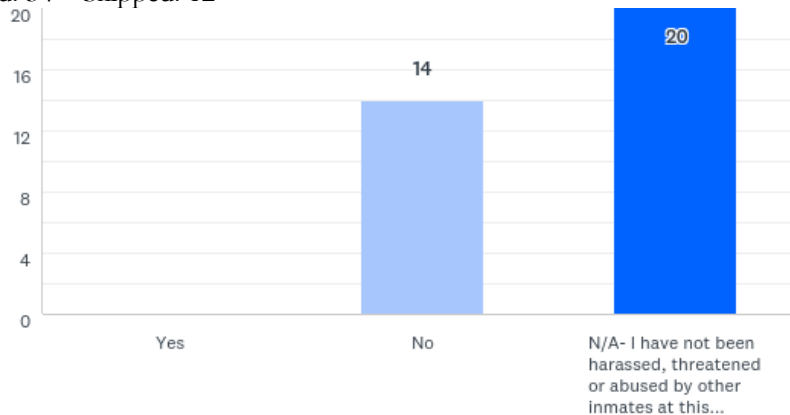
### If yes, what did it involve? (check all that apply)

Answered: 25 Skipped: 21



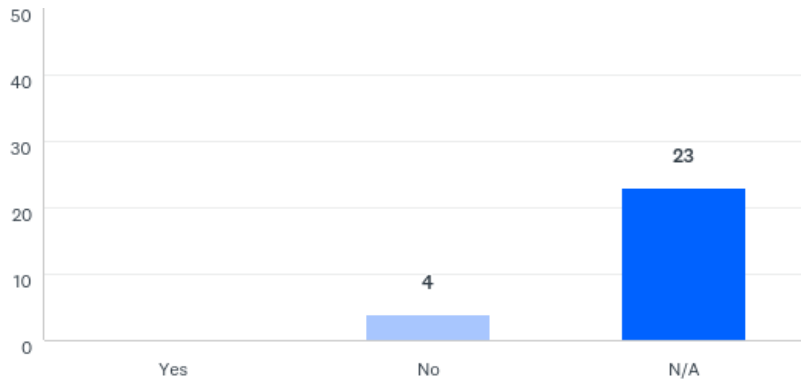
### If you have been harassed, threatened or abused by other inmates at USP Lee, did you report it?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 12



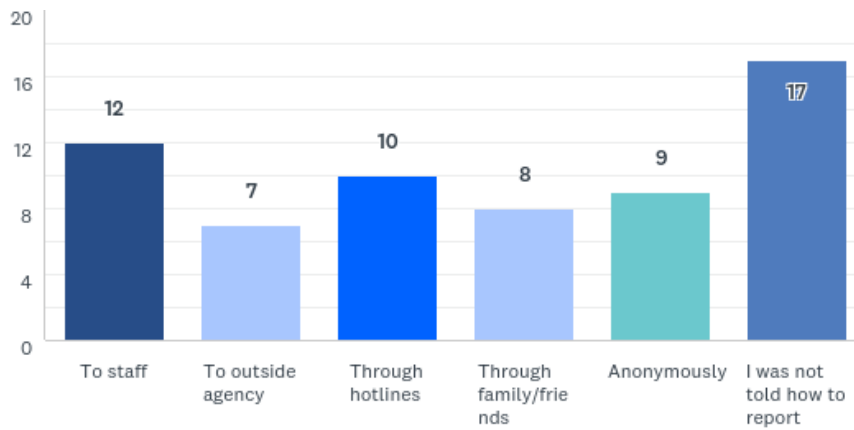
**If yes, are you satisfied with how it was handled?**

Answered: 27 Skipped: 19



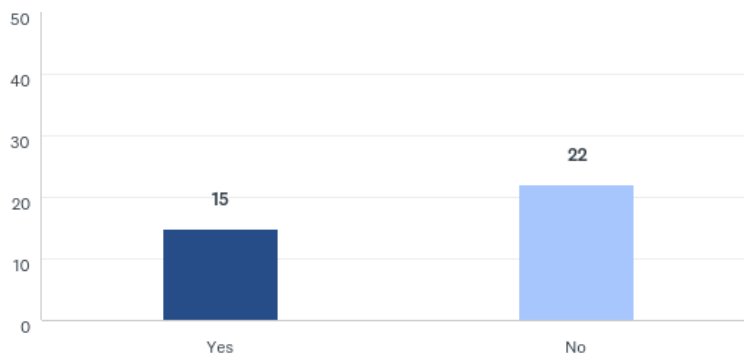
**Were you told that you could report sexual abuse in the following ways:**

Answered: 32 Skipped: 14



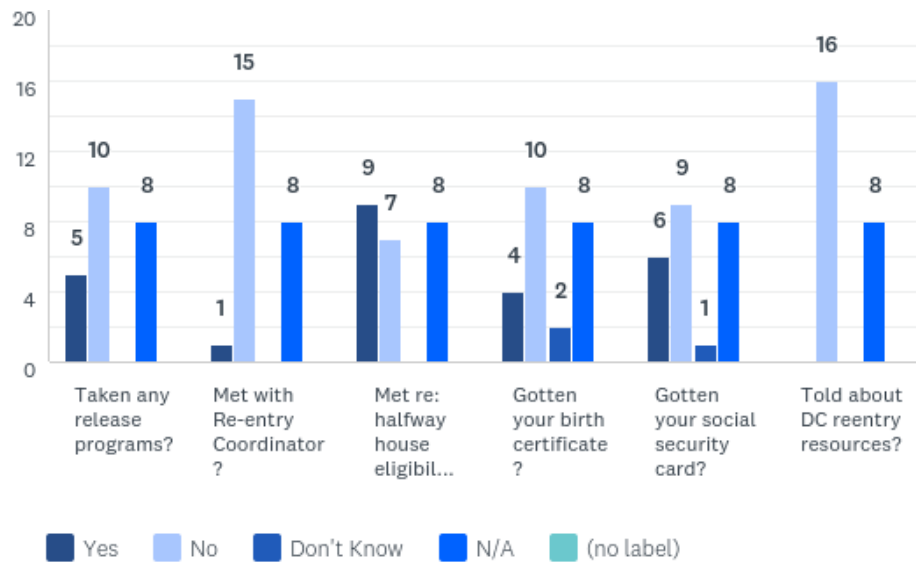
**Are you within 18 months of release?**

Answered: 37 Skipped: 9



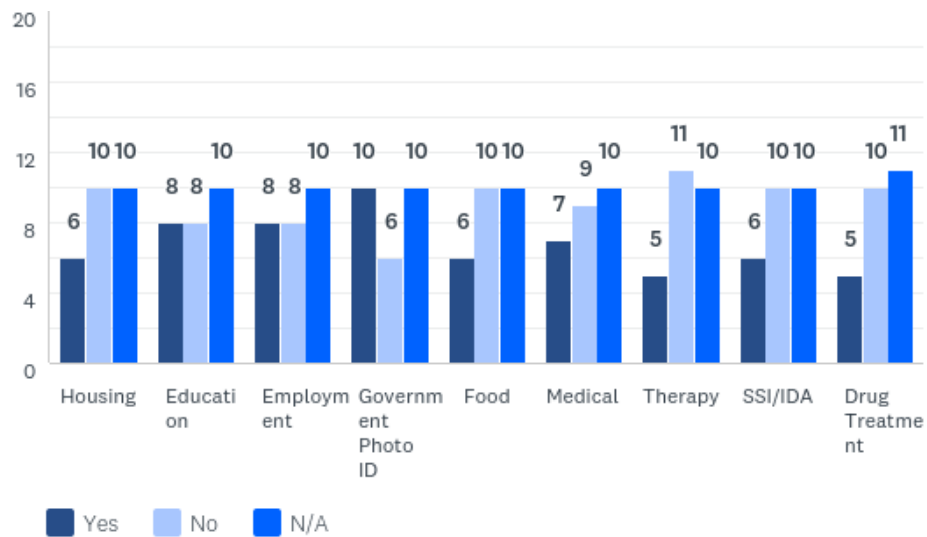
**If you are within 18 months of release, have you:**

Answered: 24 Skipped: 22



**If you are within 18 months of release, do you know how to obtain the following after release?**

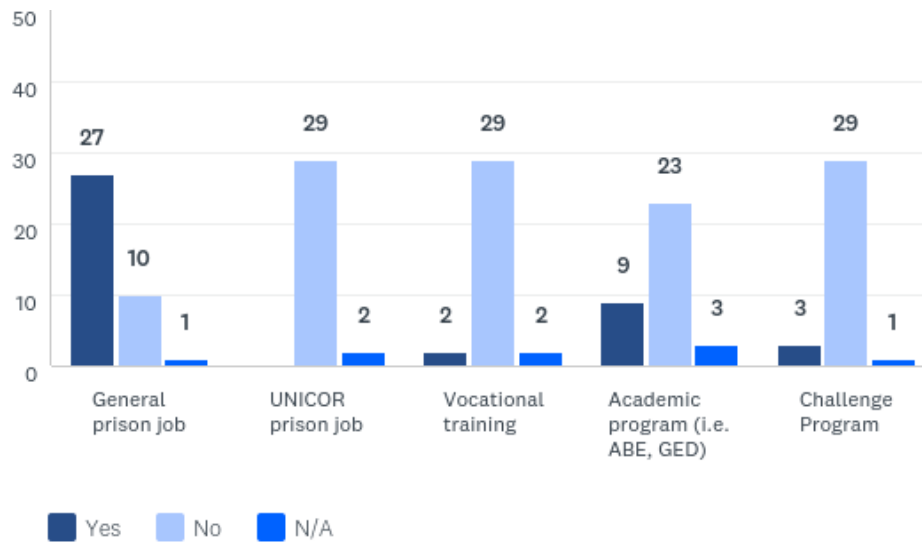
Answered: 26 Skipped: 20





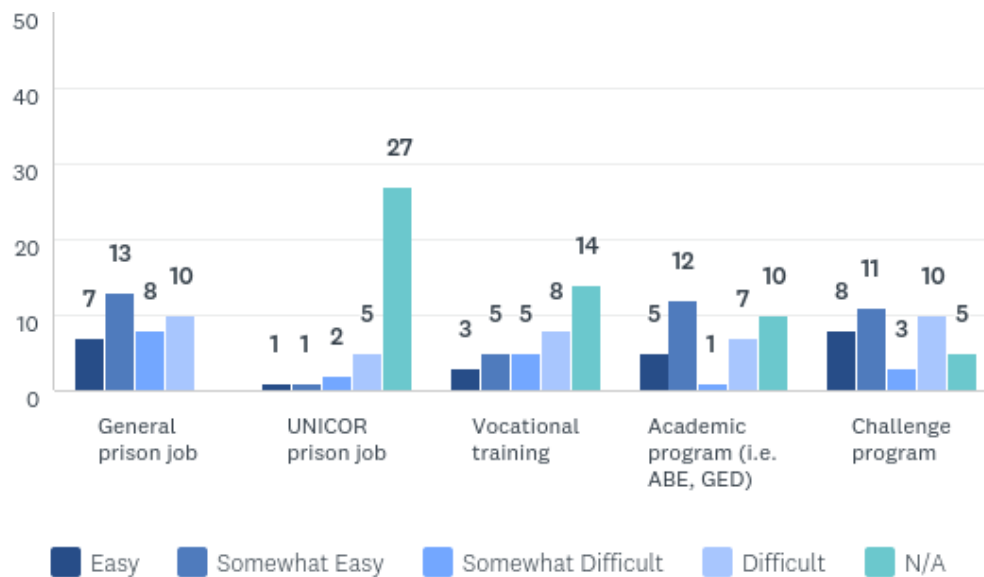
### Are you currently participating in:

Answered: 41 Skipped: 5



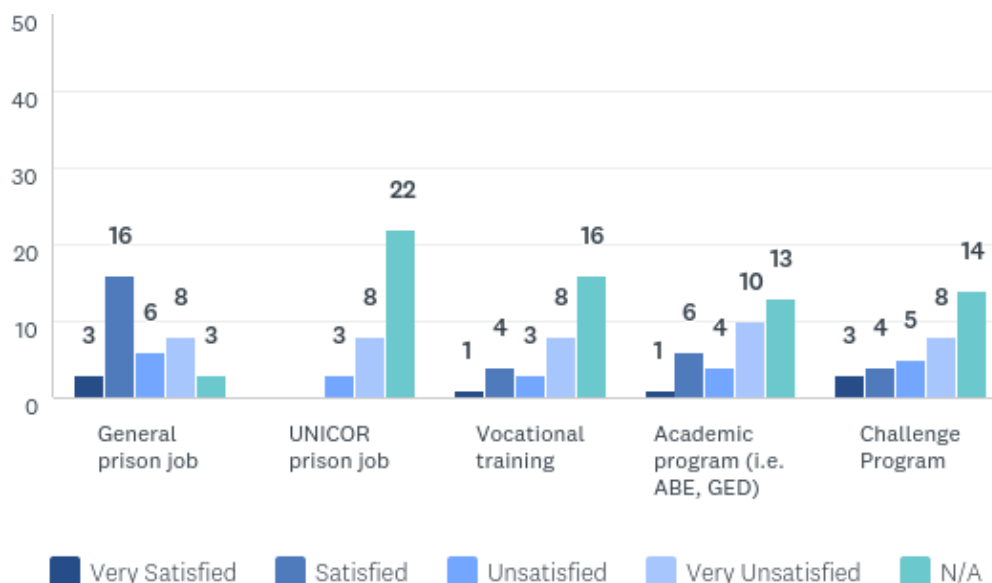
### How easy or difficult is it to get into the following activities in this facility?

Answered: 38 Skipped: 8



### How satisfied are you with the following activities in this facility?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 1

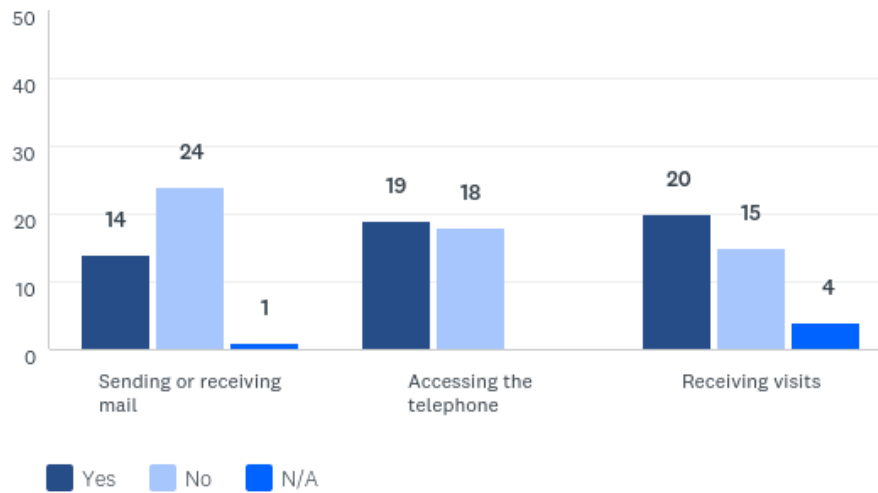


### Is there anything else you would like to share about education and programming at USP Lee?

Inmate Responses
Give us More Programs
Can't Complete Any Programs because of constant Lock-downs! Very hard to get into programs. You can't work or program so you can't program for Re-entry @ all. Can't save funds or educate yourself
The Kitchen is very dirty. We have no cleaning supplies. The machines are grimy and dirty, none of the toilets or sinks work and one toilet in the kitchen has feces piled in it, and won't no one clean it.
USP Lee administration won't hire me, because I'm max custody, we're lock down too much to complete programs on time.
No programs to participate in
you really don't get a chance to get it done due to the fact you are on lockdown (indicated multiple times constant lockdown)
They are too full to get into
You can Never Complete or Start a Program Due to All the Lock Downs Consistent Lock-Downs
They need programs so we can have things to do and stay out of trouble
I think it needs to be a little bit more programs available to us.
IT'S HARD TO GET IN THE PROGRAMS HERE
No programming here is of any benefit to me i.e. good time. There is nothing here that interests me otherwise except the psychology library book program
I got put out of the GED program for missing days. But the reason I missed those days because my unit was on lockdown. I have tried numerous of the time to get back into the class but I have yet to get a response.
We have very little educational, vocational or any other programming at this Facility.
We need new programs.

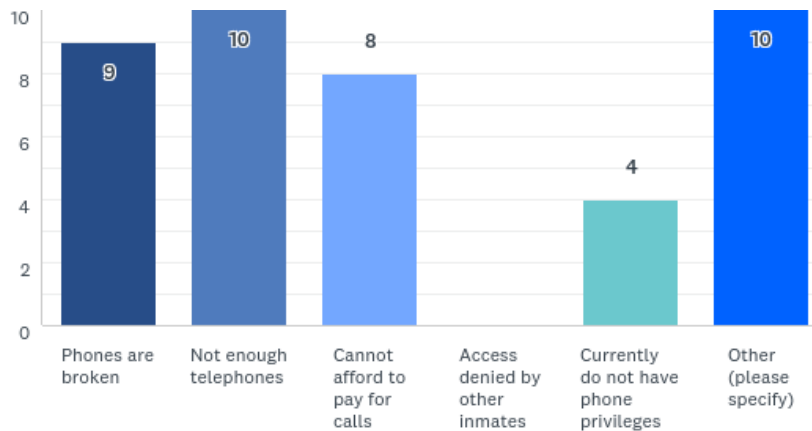
### Have you had any problems within the past six months:

Answered: 41 Skipped: 5



### If you have problems accessing the telephone, why?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 19



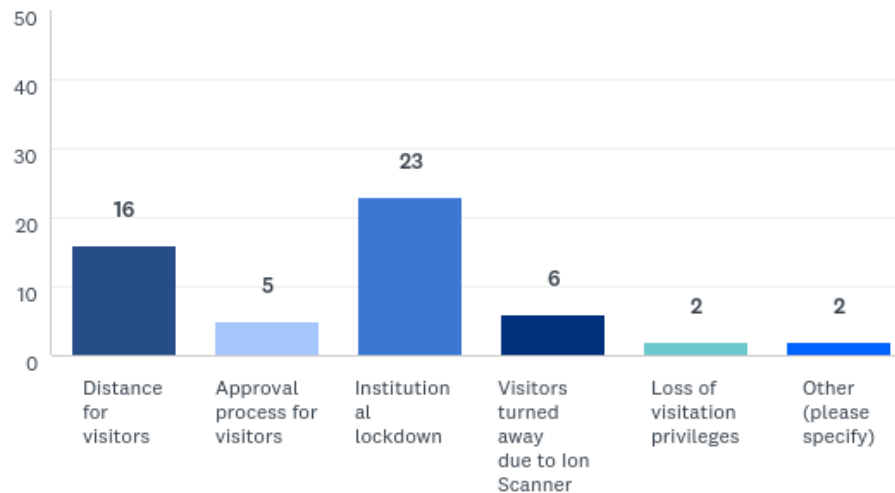
**Other responses:** All the time! We lockdown; Lockdown; lockdown

### If you currently do not have phone privileges, how long have you been without phone privileges?

Inmate Responses
180 days?
2 months loss of privileges
you really dont get a chance to get it done due to the fact you are on lockdown (indicated multiple times constant lockdown)
Not Currently; But Recently for Six Months.
6 Months
for 3 months
3 months

### If you have problems receiving visits, why?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 14



### If you currently do not have visitation privileges, how long have you been without visitation privileges?

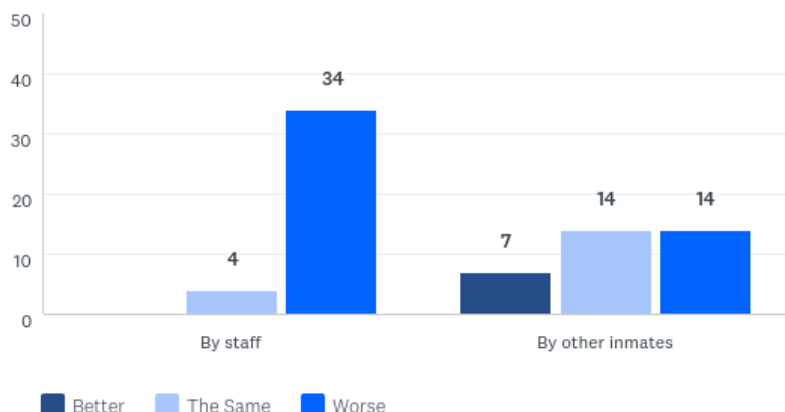
Inmate Responses
180 days?
depending on the lockdowns.
for 1 1/2 years
1 year

### Is there anything else you would like to share about communication and visitation at USP Lee?

Inmate Responses
Let us tell our people when we get lockdown
We're 10hrs away! My family is too old.
Lockdown too often
On Lock-Down You Do Not have Phone Access. Lee does Not Publish their Prolific Lockdowns; so my People are unaware that we are on Lockdown until Arrival
The way they let you greet your love ones upon entering the visits and the way they have you sitting with them
Lengthy lock downs for no reason. I be having problems receiving my mail regularly.
We are always locked down. This is too far for my family to visit me." This warden has a new rule that everything that comes here must be ALL white envelopes, paper cards. When mail is rejected, it's held forever,
Your people can be coming
It's going stay locked Down
My family has sent several visiting forms but have been denied.
Other than being on lockdown very often, I don't have outside communication problems
There are too many lock downs and this undermines visitation.

### Compared to other inmates, how do you feel DC inmates are treated?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 7



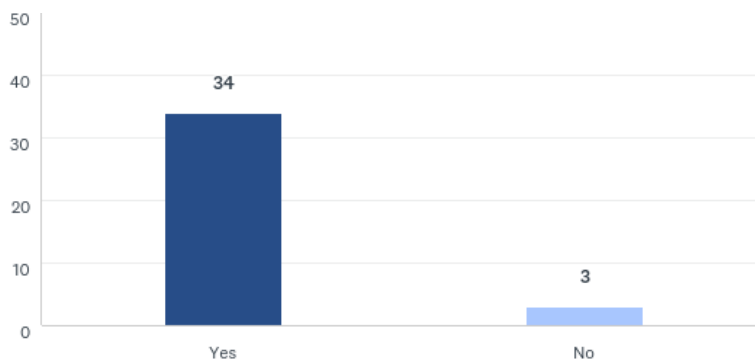
### Please give an example of better or worse treatment:

Inmate Responses
We are feared and respected
Discrimination in the transfer process. Only D.C. resident aren't housed in camps and lows but are used to fill up FBOP's Penitentiary with the least amount of time
We are targeted here by this administration.
DC inmates get toll for every thing
They label me as a troublemaker and a burden!
Treated differently because of prejudice to DC inmates
Don't respect the good men!
Because they think we're over populated
It's the way they talk to us like we are shit to them
Always saying got to be a 007 <sup>14</sup>
They stereotype us
Worse Treatment is Exemplifies by How they sent us here Today without opportunity to take Showers yesterday
We don't never get what we supposed to have as transfer to the medium
Because we Don't run with a gang they deal with us Harsher.
Denied certain things because of where I'm From like jobs or halfway house.
We are considered a gang, so they force us to move as such
If DC guys get info they might ship all of us
I am treated with prejudice because I'm from DC
We are label and stigmatized as the worst and treated more harshly because.
When I say better by other inmates is because we are in the same place lock up
Staff here don't like to give certain Jobs to be inmates
They say that we are Trouble makers.
We are treated as a gang of the worst sort.
The staff feel as if we're nothing and incompetent.
Staff treat us like we are a gang and punish everyone for another's actions.
We are sometime single out as trouble makers
Just overall, I feel DC prisoners are treated worse everywhere in feds.

<sup>14</sup> Many/most DC inmates have a federal register number ending in 007.

**If you had the opportunity to be closer to DC during the last 24 months of your incarceration to prepare for your reentry, would you be interested in doing so?**

Answered: 37 Skipped: 9



**Please explain why or why not:**

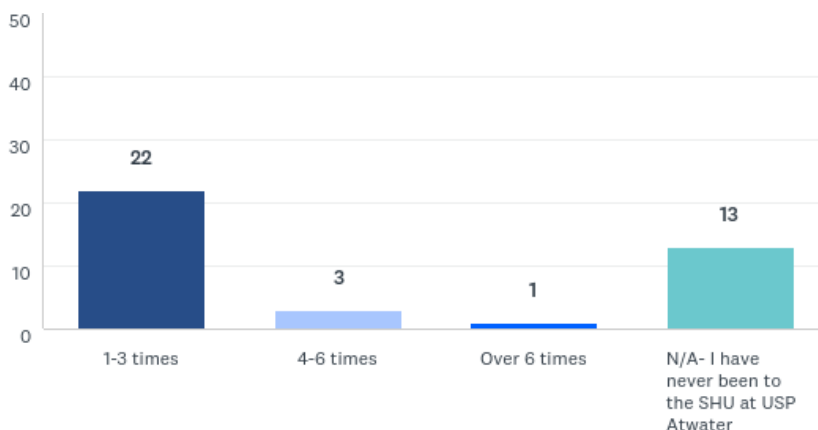
Inmate Responses
FUCK YEAH send me to the jail! on the mental health block!! It would be SOOO much better for me in SOO many ways, more visits, better Meds and adequate resources
I would Love too!!
So I can be closer to my family and be prepared for life has offer outside of here.
Can function better close to home, and setup my re-entry plans better.
get to see my kids
Honestly speaking, It will be a blessing to leave U.S.P Lee and go to any other prison.
Closer contact with family to prepare for home
So, that I can strengthen my relationships
yes to be closer to family and friends
Because I'm trying to come home a change man and get my life in order. Also to stay out of jail
I would have the time to see my family and make a plan for my release
It takes My Family 5 1/2 hrs to get Here The visits Only Last 4 hrs.
To be closer to my family and be better to help out with my case.
I think it's important to get treatment or help to transition back to society.
The case manager's here are not good at their job, and they use it to punish us.
family is everything to me, always
I can see my family more
BECAUSE I WOULD LOVE TO SEE MY FAMILY ESPECIALLY MY SON AND MY GRANDMOTHER BEFORE SHE GET TO OLD
I'm not eligible for reentry until 2042
Just to be more focuses on coming home.
Because I can be closer to my family
So I can set my outside living conditions together
Because I haven't seen my family in 22 years now.
To get closer to family and try to establish job support.
as we get closer to the door we have to get closer to home our city
It will allow me the possibility to possibly receive visits from my family
I would like for it to be easier for my family to visit
Being closer facilitates the entire process overall.

### Is there anything else you would like to share about the treatment of DC inmates?

Inmate Responses
DO Not take Away our Halfway house I heard they are destroying them everywhere
Why bother!?!? It's unreal how we're sent out here with no Liaison from D.C. to ensure we be treated the same As Lorton or Like every "federal inmate with a parolable sentence"!
We are threatened by staff, strip searched, cells searched, property taken, and disrespected.
They treat us like s*it!!!
There is no treatment for us but I wish it was so I can be a better person when i go home.
Lee county institution Do Not Follow Policy concerning custody with DC inmates.
D.C. inmates have a Pre-Conceived Bad Reputation at Lee; due to Lorton
Guys under old law are treated unfairly and discriminated against when dealing with lower security transfers.
I don't think they treat DC Inmates fair I think we actually get treated worse.
It's very unfair and bias, to say the least
how is it that we are house under federal Rule and Regulations, but we do not receive and of the positive benefits as good time and and such thing of that Nature?
We just dont get a fair shape of things
WE JUST GET TREATED THE WORSE BECAUSE THEY FEEL THAT WE ARE OVER POPULATED
These staff don't care about if you are from DC or not
They don't like us.
We are kept in the Bureau of prison's penitentiaries For longer stays than other prisoners, dou to no reasonable explanation.
we're discriminated due to our upbringing. We've being given a tag by staff that causes them all to view us as trouble or not worthy of change.

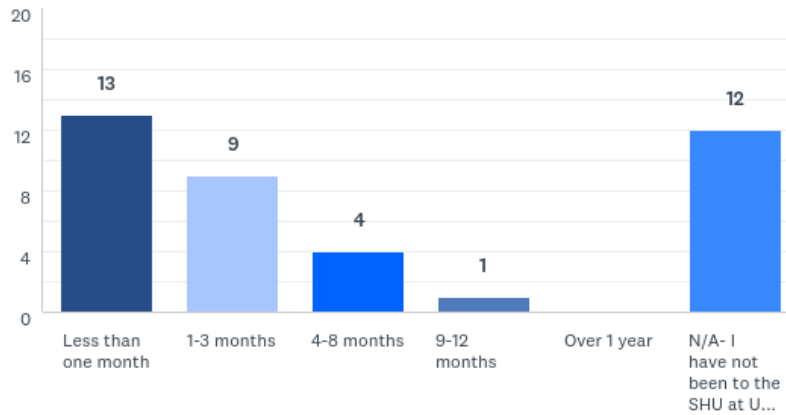
### How many times have you been in the SHU at USP Lee?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 7



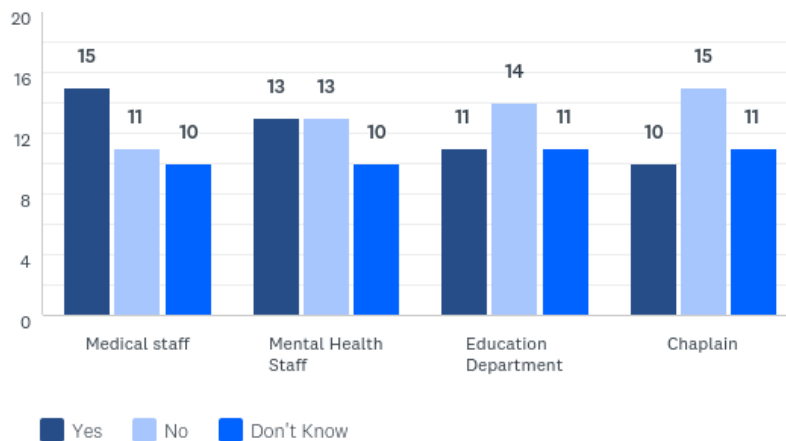
**What is the maximum time you have spent in the SHU at one time in USP Lee?**

Answered: 39 Skipped: 7



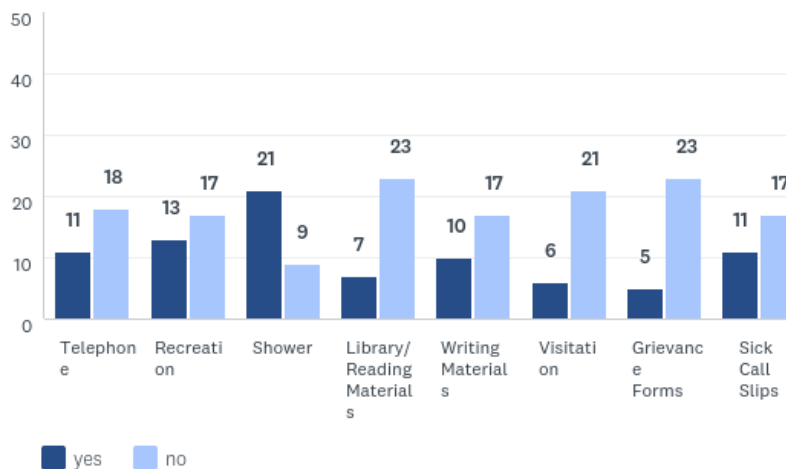
**Did the following conduct weekly rounds?**

Answered: 36 Skipped: 10



**Did you have access to the following:**

Answered: 30 Skipped: 16





**Is there anything else you would like to share about the SHU at USP Lee?**

Inmate Responses
The staff are killing inmates back there, and people are not receiving proper medical Treatment.
No reading material at all no radio just cruel and unusual punishment
They treat you like pure s*it!!!
The staff will fuck you up back there
It's Abusive to inmates, very, very violent
The S.H.U. when I was there You could NOT Flush Your own Toilet The Buttons to Flush were Outside the Doors.
they are beating the inmates real bad back there
They give you a complete napkins once a day for whatever no toilet paper. No spoon to eat with.
It's a torture house back there in the SHU. The Lt. in there is very evil.
I NEVER SEEN A HOLE AS BAD AS THIS ONE
The staff in SHU, I have heard go above and beyond in disrespecting, provoking responses, and excess force used in the SHU, some officers are designated there specifically for this reason. (i.e. Lt Bowles)
There restraining People Beating them up. Also they give u paper spoons and Piece of toilet paper for 1 Day
It's terrible. No books. The officers are disrespectful. You rarely get cleaning supply. The staff physically treat people bad.

**What is the most positive aspect of USP Lee?**

Inmate Responses
It's closer to home than USP Pollock-or-USP Big Sandy
most of the basic staff, programs in place
There victim impact program.
There isn't any
Officers is Respectful
I can Not think of One
Rec.
There is NONe
I CANT RELLY SAY
I 4 months I should leave for an FCI
The mountains
Leaving and don't come back
work all the Time
within 500 miles of home
There isn't any
In my eyes there isn't a positive aspect here at Lee. It is the worst federal prison I have been to.
Education programs are good

**What is the most negative aspect of USP Lee?**

Inmate Responses
We stay locked down All the time
They're Always on lockdown here. Please Look at the Actual amount of days we're in the cell. we Even been in them the Last 4 days b-4 your visit.
The officers
Administration and its policy.
Everything
The respect level from staff
Everything about it
Why we don't get fed hot meals on lockdowns, outside of modified lockdowns.
Some staff
Everything
Lock down
inmate
The Unit Teams Are Not Just.
That it Exists
Everything
Attitude of staff
INMATE Treatment
Everything
THEY LOCK US DOWN FOR NO REASON
Warden
The communication between staff and inmates
The mountains
Don't ever come here
They really Don't care.
Institutional lockdowns, vindictive Warden and administration
Everything (lockdowns, staff treatment)
We stay locked down
The programming, the unprofessionalism of staff.
The excessive lock downs.

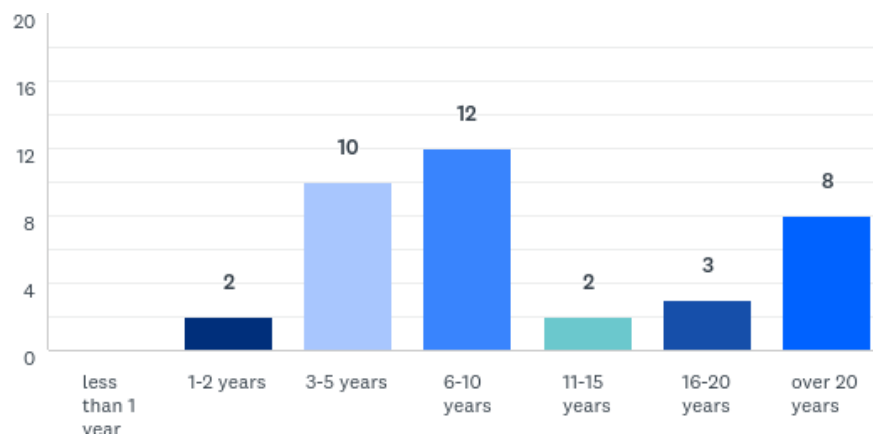
**Please provide one recommendation you would give to improve the conditions of confinement at USP Lee:**

Inmate Responses
Do not Punish all of us For isolated incidents
CLOSE IT!!
Don't come here. It's a chance you won't make it out of here alive.
Get rid of the entire administration.
more education programs
stop locking down every week because of "SHU" overload

New Warden.
Better Staff
more respect and stop be so lazy
programs
Shut this Hell-Hole-Down
when we are on lockdown let the inmates see their family
No response
Programs
Investigate this place for Inhumane treatment
STOP LOCKING THIS PLACE DOWN SO MUCH FOR NO REASON IT REALLY HURTS OUR FAMILY MEMBERS
First, get a new warden, then require interpersonal communication classes for all staff.
Stop locking down so much
New Staff
Get a new warden.
More programs and activities For inmates
I believe they forget in the feds that we're DC inmates not FED prisoner
That the way we as men are treated improves drastically, show us respect
Find a way to better deal with the prison lock-down. The lock-down hinder inmates from programming and staying in touch with their family.
Its unwarranted, excessive lock downs

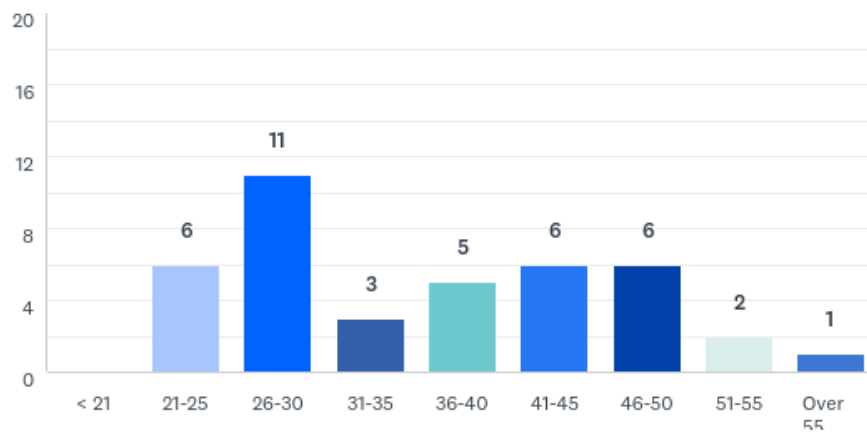
### How long have you been incarcerated overall?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 9



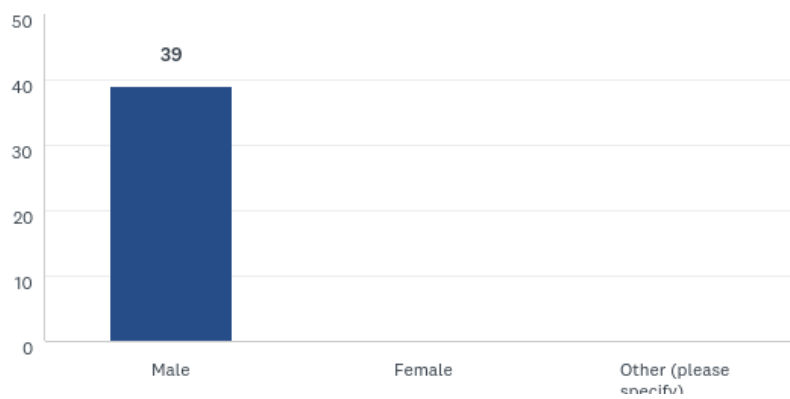
### How old are you?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 6



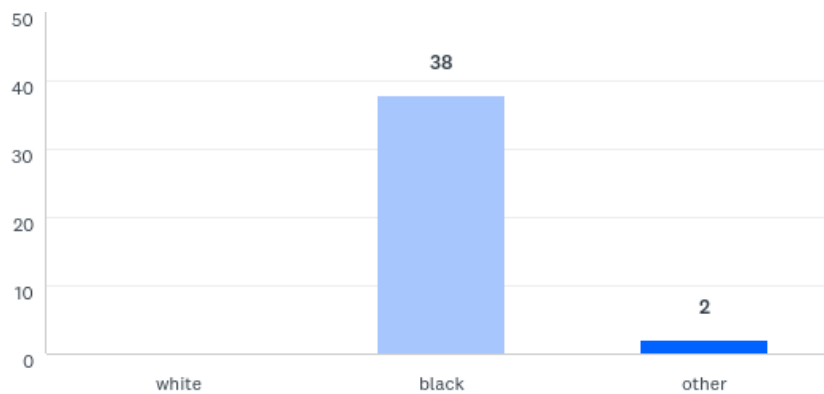
### What is your gender?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 7



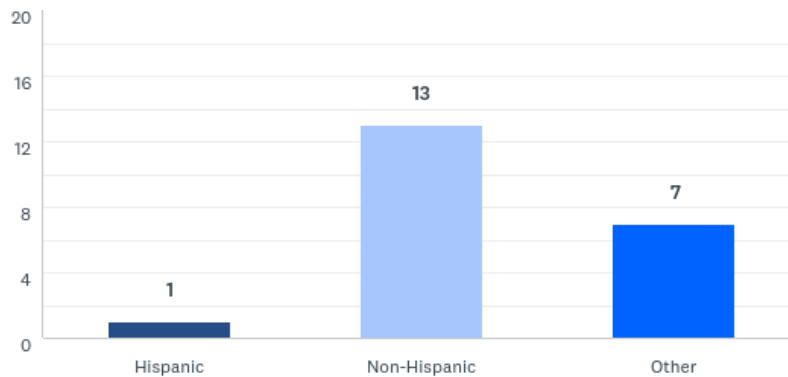
### With what race do you most closely identify?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 6



**With what ethnicity do you most closely identify?**

Answered: 21 Skipped: 25



**Is there anything else you would like to share with the CIC about your experience at USP Lee?**

Inmate Responses
It's Interesting
It's really been hell, and Congresswoman Norton knows D.C. Prisoners' that been incarcerated over 25 years are being treated as it they're never making parole even 6 months to their eligibility they still are
I've been sexually harassed, threatened, and been a victim to physical abuse.
This isnt the place for a person who has medium custody level as myself... and shouldn't be house at a maximum facility.
it is all bad
Because of the lock Downs Lee county is not beneficial to programing.
The K-2 and Suboxone problem is so prevalent at Lee that it Undermines any attempts to address Inmate Safety.
This is a very harsh environment, recently
This place is No good they stay Lock up here, I been here 6 months been Lock in my cell For 5 months For nothing. can't get Nothing new.
Too much to put on paper, we will talk
NO It's the worse place in BOP it's A privilege SHU
Is has been a constant downward spiral as Far as the conditions in this Facility goes, from programming to access to Hygiene supplies, commissary, health and dental, or communicating to outside Friends and Family
yes, this facility needs to make major changes
Look at my written statement



District of Columbia  
Corrections Information Council

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



## U.S. Department of Justice

### Federal Bureau of Prisons

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*Washington, DC 20534*

August 27, 2019

Donald Isaac, Executive Director  
DC Corrections Information Council  
1400 I Street, NW  
Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Isaac:

This letter is in response to the draft inspection report received on August 1, 2019, regarding the October 16-17, 2018, visit to the United States Penitentiary (USP) Lee. The Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) recognizes the value of the Corrections Information Council (CIC) inspections of its facilities and the voice it provides the D.C. Superior Court inmates. We hope to continue working closely to improve the Bureau facilities and raise awareness with regard to those inmates' needs.

Throughout the report, unsubstantiated allegations are made without direct observation by the CIC or supported by facts that can be corroborated. The Bureau notes the draft report findings are based on a small percentage of DC inmates assigned to USP Lee. The Bureau is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our staff, the public and all inmates in our population. Allegations of misconduct are thoroughly investigated and based on the findings, appropriate action is taken, if necessary.

I offer the following responses to the recommendations in the report:

**The draft report recommends:** The facility should explore ways to minimize the impact of lockdowns on the entire facility, including allowing inmates to be locked down to their units rather than their individual cells and locking down only the unit where a disciplinary incident occurs, rather than the entire facility.

**Response:** The decision to lock down an institution is one that is never taken lightly. It is only done when absolutely necessary to maintain the safe and secure running of the institution. The primary objective is to investigate what necessitated a lockdown, and to determine how best to prevent it from happening in the future. The need for a type of lockdown will always be dictated by the nature, duration and magnitude of each situation. High security level institutions, such as



a penitentiary, are fluid in nature. The goal remains to return to normal operating procedures as expeditiously as possible following the conclusion of any necessitating event.

USP Lee has instituted modified operating procedures which are used when the institution cannot operate under normal procedures. These modified operations allow inmates to be out of their cells, in their unit, to have access to the telephones, email and television. They also travel to Food Service to obtain their meals and may go to the Health Services Department. Additionally, through rotations, each unit has access to programming in Education, Recreation, Religious Services and Psychology.

**The draft report recommends:** The BOP should ensure that the facility is funded and staffed at appropriate levels to support inmate movement to recreation, programming, and meals.

**Response:** USP Lee is staffed at 96.16% and is adequately funded. The Recreation and Food Service departments are staffed at 100%. A Vacancy Announcement to fill the open Teacher position closed on August 1, 2019. USP Lee is appropriately staffed to support inmate movement to recreation, programming and meals.

**The draft report recommends:** USP Lee should assess why SHU is routinely at capacity and move to address this problem.

**Response:** In accordance with Program Statement, 5270.11, Special Housing Units, a multidisciplinary team including institution Executive Staff, Correctional Services, Unit Team, Health Services, and Psychology Staff reviews each inmate's initial and ongoing placement in SHU. This committee meets on a regular basis, ordinarily weekly. In addition to this weekly review, each inmate is reviewed within 3 days, 7 days and after 30 days of their placement in SHU. Additionally, the Unit Teams ensure requests for transfer are routed to the Designation and Sentence Computation Center (DSCC) within the established time frames.

**The draft report recommends:** BOP and USP Lee Administration should review conditions of confinement in SHU to ensure compliance with program statements regarding hygiene and recreation opportunities.

**Response:** USP Lee is in compliance with Program Statement 5270.11, Special Housing Units. Inmates in SHU have access to a wash basin and toilet. They receive personal items necessary to maintain an acceptable level of personal hygiene, for example, toilet tissue, soap, toothbrush and cleanser, shaving utensils, etc. They have an opportunity to shower and shave at least three times per week. Each USP Lee SHU cell has a shower, toilet, and a wash basin which can be used, as needed. Inmates also have access to hair care services, as necessary.

Additionally, inmates receive the opportunity to exercise outside their individual quarters at least five hours per week, ordinarily on different days in one-hour periods.

USP Lee also conducts quarterly training with staff assigned to SHU to ensure policy requirements are met.



**The draft report recommends:** The BOP Regional Director should impress upon staff the limited role of physical force in the administration of USP facilities.

**Response:** As outlined in Program Statement 5566.06, Use of Force and Application of Restraints, the Bureau of Prisons authorizes staff to use force only as a last alternative after all other reasonable efforts to resolve a situation have failed. When authorized, staff must use only that amount of force necessary to gain control of the inmate, to protect and ensure the safety of inmates, staff and others, to prevent serious property damage, and to ensure institution security and good order.

USP Lee conducts yearly training to refresh staff with these use of force procedures.

**The draft report recommends:** The leadership team at USP Lee should address the culture of violence directly, including leading by example and holding staff accountable for committing and inciting violence.

**Response:** The Federal Bureau of Prisons expects staff to exhibit high standards of professionalism. Allegations of misconduct are thoroughly investigated and based on the findings, appropriate action is taken, if necessary.

**The draft report recommends:** The medical and dental departments should be adequately funded and staffed to provide routine diagnostic and treatment services as required.

**Response:** USP Lee is staffed overall at 96.16% and is adequately funded. The USP Lee Human Resources Department has scheduled an interview for one vacancy in the Health Services Department. The Human Resources Department is actively recruiting for a second open position in the Health Services Department. The Health Services Department is able to provide routine diagnostic and treatment services, as required.

**The draft report recommends:** Facility leadership should conduct an evaluation of why so few inmates are participating from programming and address existing issues to facilitate increased participation.

**Response:** Staff at USP Lee provide inmates with a variety of programming opportunities. USP Lee currently offers Literacy programs which include General Educational Development (GED), Spanish GED, Special Learning Needs, and English as a Second Language. Inmates have an opportunity to participate in a Heating and Ventilation Certification Program at the USP. USP Lee offers programming in Adult Continuing Education (ACE). ACE Programs include a Commercial Driver License Preparation Course, Spanish as a Second Language, Money Smart, and Parenting. Inmates also have the opportunity to participate in Leisure programs such as Leather Craft, Crocheting, Basic Guitar, and Art. During FY 2019, 16 inmates earned a GED Certificate. During FY 2019, inmates at USP Lee have completed 235 ACE Programs, 131 Parenting Programs, 47 Education Release Preparation Programs, and 41 Leisure Programs.

**The draft report recommends:** The facility should ensure that the plumbing system is adequate to handle facility needs and prevent regular flooding.



**Response:** Flooding may occur when inmates flush unapproved items (such as clothing, trash, towels, etc.). When flooding occurs, it is handled on an individual basis depending on the clog. As outlined in Program Statement 4200.12, Facilities Operations Manual, maintenance, inspections, and testing programs are used at USP Lee to maintain the facility's infrastructure.

**The draft report recommends:** All individuals exposed to raw sewage should be provided appropriate protective gear to ensure their health and safety.

**Response:** In the event of sewage contamination, the affected area is treated with Tri-Base Multi-Purpose Cleaner and disinfected using HDQc2 disinfectant. All soiled mops and broom heads are disposed of and replaced with new ones. Inmates are also provided with appropriate personal protective equipment.

**The draft report recommends:** Case management staff should adhere to program statements regarding the CCC placement process.

**Response:** Case Management Staff at USP Lee use Program Statement 7310.04, Community Corrections Center (CCC) Utilization and Transfer Procedure, as well as the First Step Act to review and refer inmates for Residential Reentry Placement.

**The draft report recommends:** Facility staff should reconsider the decision to remove batteries from commissary.

**Response:** On March 20, 2018, and April 4, 2018, the Warden posted notifications to the inmate population, via TRULINCS, regarding the removal of batteries. This action was a direct result of the increased incidents of inmates being found in possession of batteries that were altered for purposes other than their intended use, typically as an ignition source. This decision was not in violation of Program Statement (PS) 4500.12, Trust Fund/Deposit Fund Manual. Rather, it was specifically supported by, Chapter 3.3 (a.), regarding "item determination" wherein it clearly states: "Within the following guidelines, the Warden and designated staff decide, based on the security, programs, climate, character and composition of the inmate population, as well as Trust Fund infrastructure limitations, what items to sell in the Commissary. Consumable items and medical items sold shall complement, not supplement, diet and medical care provided to the inmate population." Additionally, Chapter 3.3 (g.), Items Prohibited from Sale in the commissary lists: "Lighters or lighting paraphernalia." Due to the multiple instances in which commissary-sold batteries were used as lighting/ignition sources, the determination was made to eliminate their sale through the commissary.

USP Lee now offers wind-up radios as well as chargeable MP3 players for purchase in the commissary.

I appreciate the opportunity to review and provide comments to your inspection report of USP Lee.

Please contact me at (202) 353-3638 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Brewer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

David Brewer, Administrator  
Correctional Programs Branch