

**REPORT ON THE
INSPECTION OF**

OHIO STATE PENITENTIARY

INSPECTION DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2026



DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Ohio State Penitentiary
Inspection Date: February 19, 2026

Acronym: OSP
Address: 884 Coitsville-Hubbard Rd., Youngstown, Ohio 44505
Warden/Superintendent: Bryant Palmer
CFIS Team Members Present: J. Wesson / D. Drummond / B. Forrest / D. Thompson

FACILITY INFORMATION

Date Institution Opened: 1998
Population Type: Male Female
Security Level Type: Minimum
 Medium
 Special Management
 Restrictive Housing
 Death Row
 Juvenile
Total Acres: 240
Total Buildings On-Site: 4
Total Custody Staff: 246
Total Service Area Staff: 64
Total Staff: 310
Total Volunteers: 89

INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL INFORMATION

Current Count: 397
Total Available Capacity: 502
Incarcerated Person Age Range: 19 - 76
Incarcerated Person Average Age: 36.4

RECENT INTERNAL MANAGEMENT AUDIT

OSP’s most recent Internal Management Audit (IMA) was conducted on Jan. 6-8, 2026. The IMA is an annual audit conducted by an independent auditor who reviews a facility’s compliance with the American Correctional Association’s (ACA) 5th Edition Standards and the 2025 Ohio Standards and Observations, in preparation for the next ACA Audit. All institutional work, industries, vocational, and educational programs are also audited. The table below illustrates OSP’s rates of compliance for the previous three years:

IMA Audit Scores	2024	2025	2026
ACA Mandatory	100%	100%	100%
ACA Non-Mandatory	99.8%	99.8%	99.6%
Ohio Standards	100%	97.3%	97.4%

OSP External Inspection Results	Date of Inspection	Violations	Violations Corrected
State Fire Marshall	4/09/2025	1	1
Health Department	8/19/2025	0	0
Annual Facility Safety & Sanitation Inspection	2/5/2026	1	1

OVERVIEW OF CFIS INSPECTION

Per Ohio Revised Code Section 109.39, mandatory areas of inspection are food services, the grievance process, and an educational or rehabilitative program. In addition to these mandatory areas of inspection, R.C. 109.39 empowers CFIS to inspect any other areas that it deems appropriate. While at OSP, the CFIS team also inspected the following:

- Recreation (indoor)
- Recovery services
- Medical
- Library/law library (Ohio Means Jobs)
- Transitional programming unit (TPU)
- Mental health
- Visitation area
- General population (D-2 cadre unit)
- Reversion unit A4 (housing unit)
- Recovery unit D4 (housing Unit)

In advance of arrival, CFIS inspectors requested copies of the previous seven days of Administrative Duty Officer (ADO) (50-PAM-02) reports and the 15 most recent grievances. In addition, CFIS requested the following:

- Current vacancy rates (total staff/custody/non-custody overtime report)
- Current facility incarcerated population count (racial breakdown, average age)
- Current facility security threat group numbers
- Facility drug testing (previous quarter)
- Facility educational program numbers (program enrollment/completion)
- Approved volunteers (total)
- Facility Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) reports (past year/current, total of completed investigations)

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE (Ohio Administrative Rule 5120-9-31)

The DRC inmate grievance procedure is a three-step process which is governed by Ohio Administrative Code Section 5120-9-31. The goal of the process is to address inmate complaints related to institutional life which directly and personally affect the incarcerated person (IP), including those related to DRC policies and procedures, conditions of confinement, or the actions of institutional staff. Whenever possible, complaints should be resolved at the lowest step. Informal complaints must contain enough specificity to allow institutional staff to investigate and take corrective action, where necessary (e.g., the date, time, and place of the event; the name or names of personnel involved; and witnesses). An IP may file a “John/Jane Doe” complaint if he or she does not know the identity of the personnel involved. Such complaints must still provide specific dates, times, places, and physical descriptions of personnel, as well as the actions giving rise to the complaint.

The steps to the process are as set forth below:

Step One: The filing of an informal complaint:

An IP must file an informal complaint within 14 calendar days of the event about which the complaint is being filed. The complaint shall be filed to the direct supervisor of the staff member or department most directly responsible for the subject matter of the complaint. Staff shall respond in writing within seven calendar days of receipt of the informal complaint, though the inspector may grant an additional four calendar days for response. The inspector of institutional services (IIS) is required to ensure that the IP’s informal complaint is responded to within seven calendar days. If it is not, the informal complaint step is waived, and the IP may proceed to step two. Informal complaint responses must reflect an understanding of the inmate’s complaint, be responsive to the issue, cite any relevant departmental or institutional rules or policies, and specify the action taken, if any.

The IIS is responsible for monitoring compliance with the informal complaint process and reporting any pattern of non-compliance to the warden for appropriate action. The IIS may also waive the informal complaint process (step one) if, among other reasons, he or she determines that there is a substantial risk of physical injury to the grievant. If an inmate does not follow the required procedure—such as failing to submit an Informal Complaint Resolution (ICR) within 14 calendar days of the event or neglecting to include specific dates, times, locations, descriptions of staff involved, and details of the actions that led to the complaint—the inspector will notify the inmate that the grievance is denied.

Step Two: Filing a notification of grievance:

If the inmate is dissatisfied with the informal complaint response, or the informal complaint process has been waived, the inmate may file a notification of grievance with the IIS no later than 14 calendar days from the date of the informal complaint response or waiver of the informal complaint step. The IIS may waive this timeframe for good cause. Within 14 calendar days of receiving the grievance the IIS shall provide a written response that summarizes the complaint, describes the steps taken to investigate it, and sets forth the IIS’s findings and decisions. The IIS may extend the response time up to 14 days, with notice to the inmate. If there is no disposition within 28 days of receipt of the grievance, it will be deemed unresolved, and the IP may proceed to step three of the process. Expedited responses shall be made to grievances that, as determined by the IIS, present a substantial risk of physical injury to the grievant or for other good cause.

Step Three: Filing an appeal of the disposition of grievance:

If an IP disagrees with the grievance resolution, he or she may appeal it to the office of the chief inspector. An appeal must be filed within 14 calendar days of the disposition, unless that time is waived by the chief inspector for good cause. The chief inspector, or his or her designee(s), is required to provide a written response to the appeal within 30 days of receipt, unless that time is extended for good cause and with notice to the inmate. The chief inspector/designee’s decision on the appeal is final.

Are the incarcerated issued tablets with access to the grievance procedure: Yes No N/A

Are facility staff answering ICRs within policy: Yes No N/A

If issued tablets are not available, are there other measures in place to provide access to the grievance procedure: (e.g., open office hours, paper grievance forms (DYS): Yes No N/A

Upon reviewing response(s), are there any issues with timelines or lack of substance within the responses to the ICRs: Yes No N/A

Additional Notes: While inspecting the Ohio State Penitentiary, CFIS focused on ensuring that the institution is systematically logging and tracking grievances in DRC's electronic grievance system, ViaPath, that staff are responding to grievances timely, and that the grievance response is within policy guidelines. CFIS reviewed 44 grievances from Jan. 20 to Feb. 19, 2026, 19 of which were at the appeal level.

Complaints were logged and tracked electronically through the ViaPath system and accessible on IPs' tablets. The OSP grievance process is operating in accordance with administrative rule (5120-9-31).

FOOD SERVICE AREA INSPECTION (60-FSM-02)

The food service department was inspected to ensure compliance with DRC policy 60-FSM-02, Food Service Operations, and DRC 60-FSM-06, Safety and Health Protection for Staff and Incarcerated Individuals Assigned to Food Service.

Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds: Yes No N/A

A. SANITATION

Dining room(s) meet DRC policy for cleanliness: Yes No N/A

Serving line(s) meet DRC policy: Yes No N/A

Handwashing stations in working order: Yes No N/A

Handwashing stations operate at a proper temperature: Yes No N/A

Eye washing stations operate appropriately: Yes No N/A

B. FOOD SERVING & STORAGE COMPLIANCE

Appropriate food menus posted: Yes No N/A

Food temperatures in compliance with DRC policy: Yes No N/A

Food service workers wearing hairnets, gloves, etc.: Yes No N/A

Serving utensils appear to be in good working order: Yes No N/A

Freezer temperatures are satisfactory: Yes No N/A

C. CHEMICAL & TOOL CONTROL

Tools properly stored/signed out/accounted for: Yes No N/A

Tools properly etched with an identifier: Yes No N/A

Chemicals properly stored and inventoried: Yes No N/A

Additional Notes: During the inspection, CFIS sampled a lunch meal that included creamy chicken macaroni, garden salad, French dressing, green beans, whipped margarine, white bread, and a choice of cinnamon bread or fruit. The meal was appropriate in portion size and met policy standards for taste, appearance, and temperature.

The meal preparation and food service areas were clean and organized. Aramark workers (non-IP contract workers) were appropriately dressed in protective clothing (hair and beard nets, rubber gloves). Uniforms were neat and clean. OSP has a recycling area in the food service area for cans, cardboard, and plastic containers.

CFIS reported to facility leadership that the items stored in the freezers and coolers did not comply with ServSafe guidelines (storing of items six inches from the floor and away from the wall), as they were not kept away from walls. This issue was immediately addressed.

Food was properly labeled and dated. The dish room was clean and dish cleaning water temperatures complied with DRC 60-FSM-02. CFIS verified completion of sanitation and hygiene training for food service workers to ensure compliance with 60-FSM-06. ServSafe certification was also verified. The food service area used DRC-approved cleaning chemicals and disinfectants.

The back dock area was clean and free of odor. The area surrounding the trash compactor was free of debris. No indication of rodents or pests was observed in the food service area or on the back dock. CFIS spoke with several Aramark staff in the food services area, and none reported any concerns which would constitute a violation of DRC policy. The food service manager did not report any issues or concerns. There were no violations of DRC policy noted or observed during the inspection.

Due to the security level (extended restrictive housing) of the facility, food service staff prepare meals and deliver food trays to housing units for the incarcerated individuals to be served in their cells. There are no incarcerated food service workers. The meals are delivered on trays (i.e., hot trays) to satellite areas (housing units).

Per DRC policy, the start time of tray preparation and the temperature of each food item for meals delivered to satellite areas (housing units) must be recorded using the Daily Food Production Record/Satellite Feeding Log (DRC1181). The cold food items must have an initial temperature of 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below when removed from cold storage/holding area. Hot food items must have an initial temperature of 140 degrees Fahrenheit or greater when removed from hot storage/holding area. Preparation time for the total trays delivered to the satellite area must not exceed 30 minutes and is recorded using the Daily Food Production Record/Satellite Feeding Log (DRC1181). If the combined time for tray preparation and delivery exceeds 30 minutes, all trays must be returned to the food service department and discarded. New trays must then be prepared and re-delivered with the new delivery start time documented on the Daily Food Production Record/Satellite Feeding Log (DRC1181). Mealtimes are also recorded on the Restrictive Housing Daily Activity Log (DRC 4117). CFIS did not observe any violations of DRC policy 60-FSM-02.

EDUCATION & REHABILITATIVE PROGRAMS (57-EDU-01- 02)

The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) offers educational programs designed to meet the needs of incarcerated people throughout DRC. The programs include adult education courses and technical training, all of which incorporate technology into programming. Collectively, the programs are designed to enhance the incarcerated population's employability upon release.

A. EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Does the facility have an education department for in-person learning? Yes No N/A

Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds: Yes No N/A

Programs offered: GED ACADEMIC CAREER-TECH APPRENTICESHIP

VOCATIONAL DEGREE PROGRAMS/CERT.

OTHER: N/A

Are there currently any vacant teaching/staff positions within the education dept.: Yes No N/A

Appropriate signage/information displayed: Yes No N/A

Does the education department comply with DRC standards for cleanliness: Yes No N/A

Additional Notes: Due to the security level (restrictive housing) of the IPs housed at OSP, there is not an educational area, and educational services are limited. Some programming is offered to the IPs through ViaPath tablets. There is also limited programming offered within the units, with six to eight IPs at a time situated in a secure holding area that allows the facilitator to conduct programming with the IPs present.

OSP's educational programming is delivered in a hybrid format. That is, participants separated in program booths use Chromebooks for online instruction in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. The online platform also monitors GED testing opportunities and instantly highlights areas in which improvement is needed, while offering supplemental activities to help determine each individual's baseline skills.

CFIS verified the instructors' qualifications, and no violations of DRC 57-EDU-08, Education Staff Credentials, were observed or reported. OSP's educational material and technology were up to date. Staff were appropriately logging and tracking enrollment and attendance. The facility was providing accommodations for IPs with learning disabilities.

B. REHABILITATIVE/RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS

Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds: Yes No N/A

Rehabilitative/re-entry programs offered: Victim awareness, Thinking for a Change

Appropriate signage/information displayed: Yes No N/A

Does the re-entry department comply with DRC standards for cleanliness: Yes No N/A

Additional Notes: There is no re-entry department at OSP. Re-entry programming is offered through ViaPath and in the programming area, which is where IPs can meet in a secure setting. IPs with 12 months or less remaining in their sentences are housed in a re-entry focused housing unit (A5), if appropriate. Unit A5 is located in the reversion unit, which prepares IPs for their transitions back into the community. Most IPs in the reversion program and unit actively participate in release preparation programming, including Decision Points, Money Smart, Ready to Rent, and InsideOut Dad.

MEDICAL (68-MED-01)

A. MEDICAL SERVICES

Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds: Yes No N/A

Services offered: Medical and dental, optometry, medication distribution, preventative care for those with prolonged medical issues, and telemedicine.

Are there any staffing vacancies within the medical dept.: Yes No N/A

Appropriate signage/information displayed: Yes No N/A

Does the medical department meet DRC policy standards for cleanliness: Yes No N/A

Are there any maintenance issues that may hinder sufficient medical care: Yes No N/A

Are there any ongoing hunger strikes, watches, dry cell, or special supervision IPs in this area:
Yes No N/A

Additional Notes: CFIS toured and inspected the medical department and spoke to staff. The medical department has a dental area where the incarcerated population can be seen by the dentist twice per week. There is an optometrist that visits OSP once per month to offer eye care. Due to the security level of the facility, medical staff prepare a medical cart for the housing units, and the medication distribution process is conducted at the IPs' cells. Examination rooms are available in the infirmary area if treatment cannot be given in the housing units. In addition, OSP has a telemedicine conference room available for offsite medical needs.

There were three holding cells for IPs awaiting treatment. Additionally, there were two constant watch cells in the medical department. A constant watch is used for any crisis in which the highest level of control, containment, and monitoring is necessary; for example, when an IP is actively suicidal, threatening, or engaging in self-injury, or as an initial precaution prior to a mental health evaluation. There was one IP on constant watch during the inspection. The officer assigned to constant watch was alert and attentive, and had completed the required form (DRC 2534, Crisis Precautions Log) accurately and in a timely manner. CFIS reviewed the DRC crisis precautions log, and there was no violation of DRC policy 67-MNH-09, Suicide Prevention.

There was also one incarcerated individual housed within the infirmary for medical observation due to a hunger strike. A hunger strike is when an incarcerated person has refused to accept food intake (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) for three consecutive days. It is DRC policy to monitor any IP who is participating in a hunger strike and to provide treatment, with involuntary medical treatment if necessary, before death or serious, irreversible damage to life or major organs occurs. DRC policy also requires that a hunger strike management team of the following staff is assembled:

- Deputy warden (hunger strike team leader)
- Unit management chief
- Chief of security
- Healthcare administrator
- Mental health administrator
- Other members designated by the team leader, which may include, but are not limited to religious services, education, recovery, recreation, dietary, and/or dental services.

CFIS inspectors reviewed DRC 4178, hunger strike log, and all protocols were properly followed. No violations of DRC procedures or policy (Hunger Strike 81-OHS-02) were observed or noted.

RECREATION (77-REC-01)

A. RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds: Yes No N/A

Appropriate signage/information displayed: Yes No N/A

Types of recreation programs offered: Bodyweight and bodybuilding exercise programs

Types of recreation: Indoor Outdoor N/A

Are equipment and facilities in working order: Yes No N/A

Does the recreation department comply with DRC policy standards for cleanliness: Yes No N/A

Additional Notes: Because OSP is a restrictive housing (RH1) unit facility, it follows all procedures and privileges published within the Restrictive Housing policy (55-SPC-02). Incarcerated people housed under RH1 status must be offered out-of-cell time seven calendar days per week for a minimum of one hour per day. Five of the seven out-of-cell periods must be for exercise/recreation. This includes both indoor/outdoor recreation, as the facility permits, and as scheduled by the managing officer, unless security or safety considerations dictate otherwise.

An IP is not required to choose between meal service and recreation. If an IP attends recreation during mealtime and it overlaps with the allotted recreation, the IP must be permitted to eat and then return to recreation. Weight management and wellness programs are offered. Board games, cornhole, cards, and DVD players are available based on the housing unit's security level. All OSP IPs receive arts and crafts supplies. Yoga is broadcast on the movie channel. OSP has two general activity therapists who provide recreation equipment and one-on-one activities for incarcerated individuals.

No violations of DRC 77-REC-01, Recreation and Leisure Time Activities, were observed or reported.

LIBRARY (58-LIB-01)

A. LIBRARY

Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds: Yes No N/A

Does the library provide access to LexisNexis: Yes No N/A

Does the library have policies, procedures, administrative rules available: Yes No N/A

Does the library have operation hours and information posted: Yes No N/A

Does the library meet DRC policy standards for cleanliness: Yes No N/A

Additional Notes: In the library, minimum-security IPs can access the law library and Ohio Means Jobs, which provides specialized employment services, including re-entry résumé support. Maximum-security level IPs may access library services through the ViaPath kite system. Books and materials are delivered to this population on a scheduled or as-needed basis. If the library does not have the books requested, staff reach out to the community library to obtain the requested books.

No violations of DRC 58-LIB-01, Comprehensive Library Services, were observed or reported.

VISITATION (76-VIS-01)

A. VISITATION

Visitation hours: Wednesday-Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds: Yes No N/A

Visits allowed: Contact Non-Contact Semi-Contact

Does the visitation area provide adequate seating: Yes No N/A

Does visitation area provide food and drink options: Yes No N/A

Does the visitation area have appropriate information posted: Yes No N/A

Does the visitation area meet DRC policy standards for cleanliness: Yes No N/A

Additional Notes: On the day of the inspection, OSP's visitation area was bright, clean, organized, and well-kept. The institution offers three different types of visits depending on the incarcerated individual's security level.

A non-contact visit is when the visitor and IP are separated by a wall with a glass window and cannot physically touch or embrace.

A semi-contact visit allows for a simple handshake, signing documents, or hand-holding only through a small opening in a glass window, which separates the visitor and IP.

Contact visits are when the visitor and IP can make physical contact, embrace, and actively engage in activities, such as games, meals, coloring, etc. The contact visitation area appeared to allow IPs and their families an opportunity to engage in a setting designed to encourage positive interaction among family members, especially children. Children's books were available for use during visitation. There were vending machines and food ordering service available for visitors to purchase sandwiches, snacks, and drinks.

No violations of DRC 76-VIS-01, Incarcerated Person Visitation, were observed or reported.

SPECIALIZED HOUSING

A. SPECIALIZED HOUSING #1

Name/Identifier: A5

Type of Specialized Housing: Restrictive Housing (55-SPC-02) RTU (67-MNH-23)

Reception (52-RCP-01, 02, 06) Death Row (67-MNH-31, 52-RCP-02)

Limited Privilege Housing Level 1/Outside Worker Nursery

Dementia Protective Custody Other: Reversion unit

Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds: Yes No N/A

Appropriate signage/information displayed: Yes No N/A

Does this specialized housing unit offer programming: Yes No N/A

Type of unit: Open Dorm Cells

Are all equipment, facilities, etc. in working order: Yes No N/A

Does the specialized housing unit comply with DRC standards for cleanliness: Yes No N/A

Additional Notes: Unit A5 is a reversion unit, a less restrictive housing unit dedicated to preparing IPs to transition back to the community. It is limited to IPs with 14 months or less remaining on their sentences and can house up to 16 IPs. OSP staff begin screening IPs for the unit 18 months from their scheduled release. The unit staff and warden review the IP's history of behavior, gang affiliation, and past conduct violations to determine if they are appropriate for the unit. CFIS spoke with several IPs on the reversion unit, and none expressed any concerns. IPs spoke highly of unit staff.

No violations of DRC 55-SPC-02, Restrictive Housing Procedures, were observed or reported.

B. SPECIALIZED HOUSING #2

Name/Identifier: D4

Type of specialized housing: Restrictive Housing (55-SPC-02) RTU (67-MNH-23)
 Reception (52-RCP-01, 02, 06) Death Row (67-MNH-31, 52-RCP-02)
 Limited Privilege Housing Level 1/Outside Worker Nursery Dementia
 Protective Custody Other: Recovery/treatment

Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds: Yes No N/A

Appropriate signage/information displayed: Yes No N/A

Does this specialized housing unit offer programming: Yes No N/A

Type of unit: Open Dorm Cells

Are all equipment and facilities in working order: Yes No N/A

Does the specialized housing unit comply with DRC standards for cleanliness: Yes No N/A

Additional Notes: CFIS inspected D4, a recovery unit that provides substance abuse and addiction treatment and programming. There were eight IPs in the recovery program. Programming is offered through the ViaPath tablet, which IPs can use to log in and complete assignments at their own pace.

No violations of DRC 55-SPC-02, Restrictive Housing Procedures, were observed or reported.

C. SPECIALIZED HOUSING #3

Name/Identifier: D2

Type of specialized housing: Restrictive Housing (55-SPC-02) RTU (67-MNH-23)
 Reception (52-RCP-01, 02, 06) Death Row (67-MNH-31, 52-RCP-02)
 Limited Privilege Housing Level 1/Outside Worker Nursery Dementia
 Protective Custody Other: Normalcy unit

Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds: Yes No N/A

Appropriate signage/information displayed: Yes No N/A

Does this specialized housing unit offer programming: Yes No N/A

Type of unit: Open Dorm Cells

Are all equipment and facilities in working order: Yes No N/A

Does the specialized housing unit comply with DRC standards for cleanliness: Yes No N/A

Additional Notes: The normalcy unit, part of a DRC initiative, houses 21 minimum-security level IPs. These individuals are screened from other institutions throughout the state and volunteer to be housed in OSP and complete job duties needed within the confines of the facility. Their duties include, but are not limited to, working in maintenance, as barbers, unit porters, seamsters, and outside workers (grounds keeping). An exercise room, study room, and lounge area are available in the unit.

D. SPECIALIZED HOUSING #4

Name/Identifier: Transition Program Unit (TPU)

Type of specialized housing: Restrictive Housing (55-SPC-02) RTU (67-MNH-23)
 Reception (52-RCP-01, 02, 06) Death Row (67-MNH-31, 52-RCP-02)
 Limited Privilege Housing Level 1/Outside Worker Nursery Dementia
 Protective Custody Other:

Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds: Yes No N/A

Appropriate signage/information displayed: Yes No N/A

Does this specialized housing unit offer programming: Yes No N/A

Type of unit: Open Dorm Cells

Are all equipment and facilities in working order: Yes No N/A

Does the specialized housing unit comply with DRC standards for cleanliness: Yes No N/A

Additional Notes: TPU was found to be clean and orderly. Incarcerated adults are provided access to their tablets and both indoor and outdoor recreational facilities. CFIS inspectors reviewed the TPU’s staff sign-in log DRC 6011, which indicated that rounds were conducted by staff according to DRC policy 50-PAM-02.

CFIS observed and reviewed multiple TPU DRC 4118 reports. A DRC 4118 report documents each IP’s essential daily functions, including acceptance or refusal of meals, personal hygiene, and recreation activities. Each DRC 4118 is signed or initialed by the institutional staff as confirmation that these necessities have been provided to each IP. All DRC 4118s reviewed were completed appropriately, including dates, times, and staff initials to document the care provided. The TPU was appropriately staffed. None of the incarcerated people interviewed reported any issues or concerns that would constitute a violation of DRC policy. No sanitation issues were reported or observed during the inspection.

No violations of DRC 55-SPC-02, Restrictive Housing Procedures, were observed or reported.

ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM INSPECTION

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

PREA provides for the analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape in federal, state, and local institutions. It provides information, resources, recommendations and funding to protect IPs from prison sexual assaults and rapes. PREA applies to all DRC institutions, including privately operated and juvenile correctional facilities.

As the law enforcement agency responsible for investigating criminal offenses inside correctional institutions, the Ohio State Highway Patrol tracks sexual assaults using the PREA incident system. CFIS staff interviewed the PREA coordinator who confirmed that OSP has not had any substantiated PREA cases in the past 12 months. PREA signage and local rape crisis center information were appropriately posted.

In addition, DRC (OSP) has PREA victim support teams made up of staff that can assist the victim with information and emotional support services. No violations of ODRC policy 79-ISA-01, Prison Rape Elimination Act, were observed.

Staff Recruiting and Retention

On the date of the inspection, OSP had a vacancy rate of less than 10%. Hiring events are being conducted and job openings are posted.

Naloxone (Narcan) Kits

OSP offered Narcan kits to IPs on the day of their release. Each kit contained two doses of naloxone and 10 fentanyl test strips. The kits are stored within a "Harm Reduction Vending Machine" in a discrete area. OSP complied with DRC 10-SAF-20, Naloxone Safety and Health Procedure.

Administrative Duty Officer Reports (ADO)

CFIS reviewed the ADO (50-PAM-02) reports from the week prior to the inspection, which were provided upon request. An ADO report is completed daily by the designated executive staff tasked with completing inspection rounds. The designated rounds cover food service, visitation, housing units, the recreation area, and any other area designated by the warden. Upon completion of the ADO rounds, a report documenting the rounds is provided to the warden's office for review. The report includes the date and time of the rounds, areas visited, observations, concerns, and recommendations. A review of DRC 6011 (DRC sign-in logbook) indicated that staff are conducting rounds according to policy, and the ADO reports reviewed were completed in a timely manner (50-PAM-02).

Security and Safety

An IP shall only be placed in restrictive housing when they pose a direct threat to the safety of individuals, including themselves, or an elevated, clear, and ongoing threat to the safe and secure operations of the facility. An IP may not be placed in restrictive housing solely based on gender identity.

DRC practices and has a policy to establish privileges and services for IPs assigned to restrictive housing. Privileges are designed to ensure housing and programming areas are safe and secure and to encourage and motivate IPs to comply with DRC and institution rules and regulations.

On the day of the inspection, OSP housing units were staffed by six correctional officers, a case manager, a sergeant, and a unit manager. A strong staff presence was observed. Units were clean and organized. Restrooms were clean with all showers, sinks, and toilets in good working condition. Units had essential items, such as ice machines and water fountains. All were in working order. No maintenance issues were reported or observed. Fire evacuation plans were posted in conspicuous areas. Unit team pictures were posted. Cleaning products and supplies were secured appropriately. A review of DRC 6011 (DRC sign-in logbook) indicated that staff are conducting rounds according to policy (50-PAM-02).

There were no security issues or DRC policy violations noted or observed during the inspection.

Drug Prevention and Testing

DRC has increased efforts toward contraband interdiction statewide to reduce unauthorized items brought into facilities. Additional DRC canine teams have been formed to assist in drug interdiction.

In addition, DRC's centralized mail processing center (OMPC) in Youngstown receives, inspects, and scans all mail. Mail is then sent to IPs electronically via their tablets (75-MAL-01, Incarcerated Population Mail). This reduces the amount of paper at OSP, as paper (e.g., an envelope) can be soaked in illegal substances and ingested or smoked by an IP.

During the current reporting period of January 2026 to the date of the inspection, the following had been seized at OSP in varying amounts: fentanyl, amphetamines, suboxone, methamphetamines, and synthetic cannabinoid (K2). IP drug testing results for the period are as follows:

Test Category	Number of Tests	Results
Random Testing	48	0 Positive
Program Testing	0	0 Positive
For-Cause Testing	23	8 Positive (1 Amphetamine, 4 Suboxone, 2 Fentanyl, 1 Methamphetamine)

Security Threat Groups (STG)

Security Threat Groups (STG) are organized groups at correctional facilities that are often linked to gang activity/organized crime and pose significant risks to the safety and security of the facility. Classifying an individual as an STG member assists the facility and DRC in proper tracking, housing, and monitoring of trends.

OSP has 248 STG members. The top seven groups are: Heartless Felons (83 members), Bloods (49 members), Folk/Gangster Disciples (32 members), Crips (21 members), Aryan Brotherhood (19 members), Konvicted Family (17 members), and others (13 members).

Institutional Overtime

Corrections officers worked a total of 1,780.8 overtime hours in January 2026. No violations of DRC policy 35-PAY-01, Employee Pay, Timekeeping, and Overtime Issues, were noted.

Annual Evacuation Drills

CFIS verified that OSP’s health and safety coordinator conducts quarterly fire drills on all shifts, in compliance with DRC’s policies and procedures (10-SAF-05, Fire Prevention and Safety Practices).

Special Events/Family Engagement Events

Over the past 12 months, the Ohio State Penitentiary hosted at least six special events. Additionally, the facility organized approximately four volunteer events during the period. Events were conducted in compliance with DRC policy 77-REC-01, Recreation and Leisure Time Activities.

CONCLUSION

In general, the grievance process plays a vital role in maintaining the smooth and effective operation of the correctional facility. During the period reviewed, OSP demonstrated strong adherence to established grievance procedures and ensured that responses were both policy-driven and timely. This approach helps to facilitate prompt resolution of issues, which in turn supports the overall efficiency of the institution.

Leadership at OSP seemed to encourage a constructive and supportive environment. Staff members showed a comprehensive understanding of practices that promote safety and humane treatment within the facility, reinforcing the institution’s commitment to responsible and ethical corrections management.



DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

**REPORT ON THE
INSPECTION OF
OHIO
STATE
PENITENTIARY**

Correctional Facilities Inspection Services

30 E. Broad St. 17th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
800-282-0515
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov