



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOJ OIG Releases an Inspection of the BOP's Federal Correctional Institution Sheridan

Department of Justice (DOJ) Inspector General Michael E. Horowitz [announced today the release of an inspection](#) of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' (BOP) Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Sheridan, a men's prison in Oregon with an adjacent male detention center and minimum-security prison camp. The onsite inspection, which occurred from November 27 to December 1, 2023, was the third unannounced inspection under the DOJ Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) new BOP inspections program.

The DOJ OIG inspection identified several serious operational deficiencies at FCI Sheridan. Among the most concerning were the alarming staffing shortages among healthcare workers and Correctional Officers.



FCI Sheridan Main Entrance

Our findings include:

- **Healthcare Worker Shortages Affect the Delivery of Healthcare to Inmates.** Specifically, we found that, due to staff vacancies in the Health Services Department, the institution had a backlog of 725 laboratory orders for blood draws or urine collection and 274 pending x-ray orders at the time of our inspection. These backlogs cause medical conditions to go undiagnosed and leave providers unable to appropriately treat their patients.
- **High Correctional Officer Vacancy Rate Affects Inmate Monitoring and Operations.** We found that institution management was not always able to fill all inmate-monitoring posts and therefore lacks the employees it needs to safely supervise inmates. As a result, inmates must routinely be confined to their cells during daytime hours and are therefore often unable to participate in programs and recreational activities. As we have detailed in our prior work, including our recent report on inmate deaths in custody, when inmates are not appropriately monitored the chance that they will engage in self-harm, violence, and other illicit activities increases. We also found that, due to substantial staffing shortages, FCI Sheridan did not always have available Correctional Officers to escort inmates to external medical providers.
- **Psychology Services Department and Education Department Staffing Shortages Resulted In Significant Wait Times For Inmate Programs.** We found that serious shortages among drug treatment program employees, prevented the institution from offering its Residential Drug

Treatment Program (RDAP) to inmates at the minimum-security camp. We also found long waitlists, some exceeding over 500 names, for other trauma-related mental health, anger management, and work skills classes.

- **FCI Sheridan did not centrally track the number of all allegations of inmate-on-inmate sexual misconduct reported to employees.** The failure to accurately track these allegations undermines the ability of both FCI Sheridan and the BOP to collect data consistent with Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards that would allow them to assess and improve the effectiveness of sexual misconduct prevention efforts.

Most of the significant issues we found at FCI Sheridan were consistent with findings the OIG has made in other recent BOP oversight work, which we have reported on publicly. We did not make recommendations in this report because in our prior work we have recommended that the BOP address many of these issues at an enterprise level. In monitoring the BOP's efforts to address those recommendations at all of its institutions, we will track the actions the BOP takes at FCI Sheridan.

Report: Today's report can be found on the OIG's [website](#).

Video: To accompany today's report, the OIG has released a 3-minute video of the Inspector General discussing the report's findings. The video and a downloadable transcript are available [on our website](#).

A version of the video without graphic overlays is also available here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vxMo78N0LI>.

Photos: High-resolution versions of the photos included in today's report are available upon request.

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