



U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General

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Inspection of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Federal Correctional Institution Berlin

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Between Monday, January 12, and Thursday, January 15, 2026, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) conducted an unannounced, on-site inspection of Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Berlin in Berlin, New Hampshire. [The institution houses both Federal Bureau of Prisons \(BOP\) inmates and detainees who are in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\) custody.](#)

We found various areas in which FCI Berlin's institutional practices and operational limitations pose risks to the institution. We summarize our findings below:

- FCI Berlin struggled to meet staffing needs and was experiencing [staffing gaps that were particularly acute in the Correctional Services, Health Services, and Psychology Services](#) Departments.
- FCI Berlin used short-term solutions, including temporary duty assignments, [augmentation, and overtime](#), to help fill staffing gaps.
- The additional custody population of [ICE detainees presented challenges for the already strained BOP staffing](#) complement at FCI Berlin, including:
 - a [higher volume of turnover that generated greater processing needs in receiving and discharge](#);
 - incomplete or [inaccurate medical and criminal histories](#) that required additional research and evaluation;

Staffing Challenges

- requirements that **BOP inmates and ICE detainees remain separated, which necessitated movement restrictions** and additional custody duties; and
- **in-house healthcare needs, which were addressed by BOP personnel when U.S. Public Health Service staff were not on site.**



Medical and Mental Healthcare

- FCI Berlin generally conducted required screenings, such as intake examinations and examinations for those with chronic conditions, consistent with BOP policy.
- **Vacant positions, including physician and psychologist positions, affected FCI Berlin's ability to provide healthcare** in certain instances.
- **FCI Berlin struggled to address BOP inmate requests for routine medical care** inside the institution and to arrange for BOP inmates to see outside medical providers. **We identified months-long delays** between some BOP inmates' initial requests for care and their encounters with providers.
- We observed **unsafe conditions and practices in Health Services** areas, including improper placement and **storage of sharp implements** and hazardous chemicals, **inadequate supervision of BOP inmate workers**, **unsafe medication administration practices**, and risks with treatment for opioid use disorder.



Safety and Security

- Correctional **Officers did not consistently conduct required rounds** to monitor **BOP inmates and ICE detainees**, increasing the **risk of self-harm, violence, and other illicit activities.**
- FCI Berlin employees did not fully comply with the BOP's policy for tracking **sexual misconduct complaints.**
- New digital cameras produced higher-quality video, but FCI Berlin experienced issues storing and producing footage from these cameras.
- **Contraband was present** and highly visible in inmate housing units, **contraband interdiction equipment was not operational**, and employee search practices were not completed according to policy.
- The institution's major **infrastructure systems were operational but approaching the end** of their projected lifespan.

Physical Conditions and Infrastructure

- FCI Berlin has requested over \$17 million for infrastructure projects, including heating system repairs.
- There was [water damage in housing unit bathroom](#) and shower areas, and many fixtures produced [water outside required temperature](#) ranges.
- Nearly [half of the Food Service Department pieces of equipment were in need of repair or replacement](#), some of which had been out of service since 2020.

Inmate Programming

- FCI Berlin is dedicated to BOP inmate programming and has the space and materials to offer various programming opportunities to BOP inmates.
- [Staffing shortages in the Psychology Services Department](#), as well as the reassignment of [non-custody Education Department](#) employees into Correctional Officer posts, [limited availability of personnel to provide programming](#) and created significant backlogs for inmate participation.
- [Restrictions on BOP inmate movement, necessitated by the presence of ICE detainees](#), exacerbated challenges FCI Berlin experienced in offering programming to BOP inmates.

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