

Office of Professional Responsibility

South Central Regional Jail Inspection 2024-003-439

September 24–26, 2024



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement



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Office of Detention Oversight
Special Review
2024-003-439

Enforcement and Removal Operations
ERO Philadelphia Field Office

South Central Regional Jail
Charleston, West Virginia

September 24-26, 2024

SPECIAL REVIEW
of the
SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL JAIL
Charleston, West Virginia

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SPECIAL REVIEW TEAM MEMBERS



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FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) conducted a special review of the South Central Regional Jail (SCRJ) in Charleston, West Virginia, from September 24 to 26, 2024.¹ The facility opened in 1994 and is owned by the State of West Virginia and operated by West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at SCRJ in 2004 under the oversight of ERO’s Field Office Director in Philadelphia (ERO Philadelphia). The facility operates under the National Detention Standards (NDS) 2019.

[REDACTED] A superintendent handles daily facility operations and manages [REDACTED] support personnel. Aramark provides food services, Wexford Health Sources provides medical care, and Union Supply provides commissary services at the facility. The facility was accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care in January 2023.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Bed Capacity ²	[REDACTED]
Average ICE Population ³	[REDACTED]
Adult Male Population (as of September 24, 2024)	[REDACTED]
Adult Female Population (as of September 24, 2024)	[REDACTED]

During its last rated inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, ODO found 5 deficiencies in the following areas: Environmental Health and Safety (1); Food Service (1); Hunger Strikes (1); Medical Care (1); and Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention (1).

¹ This facility holds male and female detainees with low, medium-low, medium-high, and high security classification levels for periods greater than 72 hours.

² Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of September 23, 2024.

³ *Ibid.*

SPECIAL REVIEW PROCESS

ODO conducts oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population (ADP) of 10 or more, and where detainees are housed for over 72 hours, to assess compliance with ICE national detention standards. While these inspections focus on facility compliance with detention standards that directly affect detainee life, health, safety, and/or well-being, in FY 2024 ODO added additional standards to the scope of each full inspection to ensure ODO inspects every standard at each facility at least once every other year.⁴

ODO identifies violations of ICE detention standards, ICE policies, or operational procedures, as “deficiencies.” ODO highlights instances when the facility resolves deficiencies prior to completion of the ODO inspection. Where applicable, these corrective actions are annotated with “C” under the *Special Review Findings* section of this report.

In FY 2022, ODO began conducting special reviews of under 72-hour ICE detention facilities with an ADP of 1 or more detainees and over 72-hour ICE detention facilities with an ADP of 1 to 9 detainees. Additionally, ODO began conducting unannounced inspections of ICE detention facilities, regardless of ADP of detainees, as well as reviews of ICE special/emerging detention facilities/programs. As such, these facility inspections will result in an ODO Inspection Compliance Rating; however, for facilities that are not contractually obligated to an ICE NDS, those ratings will be for ERO’s informational purposes. ODO will conduct a complete review of several core standards, in accordance with the facility’s contractually required ICE NDS or in accordance with the ICE NDS listed in the current ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List for facilities that are not contractually obligated to an ICE NDS, which may include but are not limited to Medical Care/Health Care, Medical Care (Women)/Health Care (Females), Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention, Hunger Strikes, Food Service, Environmental Health and Safety, Special Management Units (SMU) or Hold Rooms (if the facility does not have an SMU), Use of Force and Restraints/Use of Physical Control Measures, and Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention.

Upon completion of each special review or unannounced inspection, ODO conducts a closeout briefing with facility and local ERO officials to discuss preliminary findings. A summary of these findings is shared with ERO management officials. Thereafter, ODO provides ICE leadership with a final compliance inspection report to: (i) assist ERO in developing and initiating uniform corrective action plans (UCAPs); and (ii) provide senior executives with an independent assessment of facility operations. ODO’s findings inform ICE executive management in their decision-making to better allocate resources across the agency’s entire detention inventory.

⁴ ODO reviews the facility’s compliance with selected standards in their entirety.

FINDINGS BY NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2019 MAJOR CATEGORIES

NDS 2019 Standards Inspected ^{5,6,7}	Deficiencies
Part 1 - Safety	
Environmental Health and Safety	1
Sub-Total	1
Part 2 - Security	
Use of Force and Restraints	0
Special Management Units	0
Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 4 - Care	
Food Service	1
Hunger Strikes	0
Medical Care	1
Personal Hygiene	0
Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention	0
Sub-Total	2
Part 5 - Activities	
Recreation	0
Sub-Total	0
Total Deficiencies	3

⁵ For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the *Special Review Findings* section of this report.

⁶ Beginning in FY 2024, ODO instituted a process of rotating all standards every other year. As a result, some standards may not be present in all inspections.

⁷ During a special review, ODO will review a facility's compliance with at least 10 individual standards.

DETAINEE RELATIONS

The facility's ICE detainee population count was zero during the inspection; therefore, ODO did not conduct any detainee interviews. Despite the facility housing no detainees during the inspection, the facility maintains an active contract to house ICE detainees and had an ADP of 4 for FY 2023, meeting the ODO requirement for special reviews.

SPECIAL REVIEW FINDINGS

SAFETY

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (EHS)

ODO reviewed [REDACTED] staff training records and found in [REDACTED] out of [REDACTED] records, staff assigned to handle hazardous materials received no appropriate training to include classification code and safe handling procedures for each material (**Deficiency EHS-23⁸**). **This is a repeat deficiency.**

CARE

FOOD SERVICE (FS)

ODO interviewed the FS director and found no FS staff received a documented pre-employment medical examination (**Deficiency FS-86⁹**). **This is a repeat deficiency.**

MEDICAL CARE (MC)

ODO reviewed [REDACTED] detainee medical records and found in [REDACTED] out of [REDACTED] records, the facility did not complete a tuberculosis screening of the detainee prior to placing the detainee in general population (**Deficiency MC-18¹⁰**). **This is a priority component.**

CONCLUSION

During this inspection, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 10 standards under NDS 2019 and found the facility in compliance with 7 of those standards. ODO found three deficiencies in the remaining three standards. Since SCRJ's last rated inspection in March 2023, the facility has trended upward. SCRJ went from 5 deficient standards and 5 deficiencies in March 2023 to 3 deficient standards and 3 deficiencies during this most recent special review. ODO did not receive

⁸ "Staff and detainees who work with hazardous materials will have appropriate training, including the classification code and safe handling procedures for each material." See ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Environmental Health and Safety, Section (II)(A)(6)(b).

⁹ "All food service personnel (both staff and detainee) shall receive a documented preemployment medical examination." See ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Food Service, Section (II)(I)(3)(a).

¹⁰ "All new arrivals shall receive tuberculosis (TB) screening in accordance with the most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, including, but not limited to, CDC Guidelines for Correctional Facilities, prior to being placed in general population." See ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Medical Care, Section (II)(D)(1).

a completed UCAP for its last inspection of SCRJ in March 2023, which may have contributed to the repeat deficiencies. ODO recommends ERO Philadelphia work with the facility to resolve any deficiencies that remain outstanding in accordance with contractual obligations.

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2023 Special Review (NDS 2019)	FY 2024 Special Review (NDS 2019)
Standards Reviewed	11	10
Deficient Standards	5	3
Overall Number of Deficiencies	5	3
Priority Component Deficiencies	2	1
Repeat Deficiencies	5	2
Areas Of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	0	0
Facility Rating	Acceptable/Adequate	Good



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