

Operational Issues Review of the Philadelphia Prisons Department

OFFICE OF THE CITY CONTROLLER

After receiving complaints regarding conditions inside Philadelphia Department of Prisons' facilities, the Office of the City Controller conducted a review of operational issues, including overall staffing levels, inmate population, leave usage and attrition rates, using data provided by Prisons in an attempt to improve safety for correctional officers and inmates. Overall, the Controller's Office found that while the inmate population decreased slightly since Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19), correctional officer vacancies tripled and prisons' conditions declined.

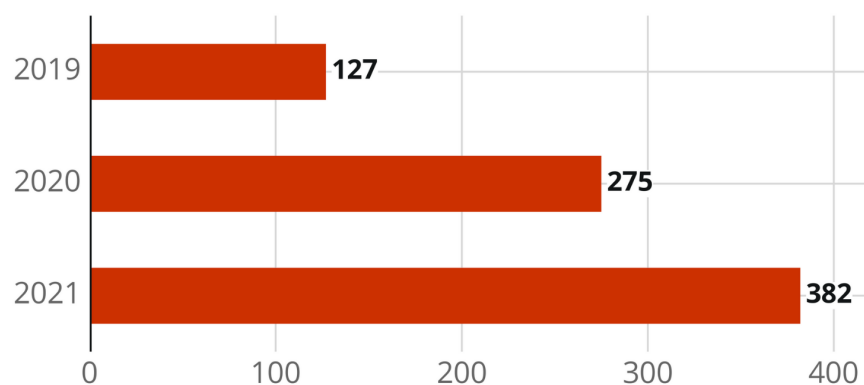
Increasing Vacancies

Vacancies for correctional officers have **tripled** since FY19.

The current **Post Plan**, the approved policy regarding staff deployment for Philadelphia Prisons to ensure the safety of both inmates and staff, calls for 1,884 officers, **382 officers more than the current staffing level**.

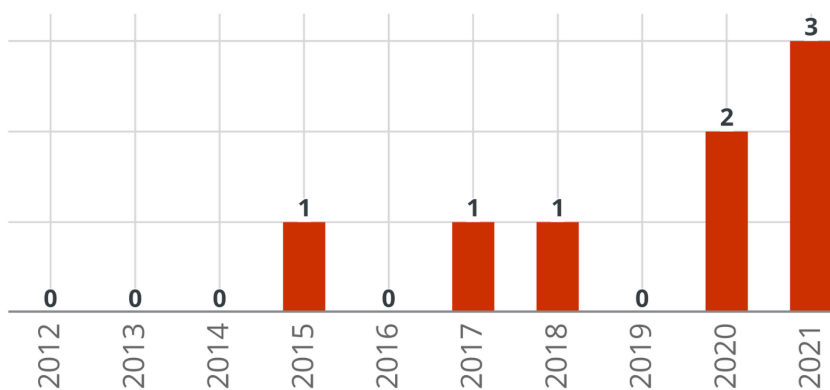
Unfilled Prison Positions Relative to Post Plan Level

The number of unfilled positions has tripled since 2019



Inmate Homicides in Prisons Over the Last 10 Years

Inmate homicides have spiked, with 5 homicides since August 2020



Unsafe Conditions

Between August 2020 and May 2021, there were **five inmate on inmate homicides** at Philadelphia Prisons' facilities.

This represents **a total higher than the eight years prior combined**.

Key Findings

Since FY19, the number of correctional officers has declined significantly faster than the inmate population. According to data provided by the Department of Prisons, 4,487 inmates were housed in Prisons' facilities during the second quarter of FY21, a 4% decrease over FY19's inmate count (4,675). Meanwhile, correctional staffing declined by 23% or 440 officers, from 1,942 in FY19 to 1,502 officers in FY21.

Separations through attrition have increased considerably, while hiring has not been fast enough to compensate. There were 300 separations as of May 10th of FY21 compared to 171 separations in FY19. Over the two-year period, only 119 new correctional officers were hired.

City Controller Rebecca Rhynhart called on the Kenney Administration to hire more than 300 new correctional officers over fiscal year 2022 (FY22) to ensure the safety of Prisons staff and inmates.