



"A Message from the Acting Inspector General: Inspection of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Federal Detention Center SeaTac," September 2025

Hello, I'm Bill Blier, Acting Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Today, my office released a report on the inspection of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Federal Detention Center in Seattle, Washington, known as FDC SeaTac. This was the 12th unannounced inspection that we conducted of a BOP facility since February 2023. At the time of our inspection in December 2024, FDC SeaTac housed approximately 660 female and male individuals, including pretrial detainees as well as inmates assigned to the institution.

We identified several issues at FDC SeaTac, but the most critical findings related to inmate healthcare quality. Indeed, as FDC SeaTac's Health Services Department leadership told us, the institution's healthcare situation was a "crisis".

Substantial shortages of healthcare employees and Correctional Officers have created widespread operational challenges at FDC SeaTac that substantially affect the health, welfare, and safety of employees and inmates. At the time of our inspection, FDC SeaTac's Correctional Services Department was staffed at only 69 percent, and its Health Services Department was staffed at only 50 percent. The Clinical Director position had been vacant for at least 18 months, only three of nine nursing positions were filled, and only one of the two pharmacist positions was filled.

These shortages contributed to significant issues with FDC SeaTac's provision of healthcare to inmates. For example, we found that there was a backlog of 480 laboratory orders affecting FDC SeaTac's ability to monitor inmates with chronic conditions, such as diabetes. There were delays in health intake screenings and in providing treatment to inmates for both routine and serious inmate health conditions. We also observed several unsafe medication administration and management practices, in addition to unsanitary and disorganized conditions in Health Services Department areas. These conditions further undermined the quality of healthcare at FDC SeaTac and posed risks to employees and inmates.

Additionally, we found that Correctional Officers did not consistently complete all inmate-monitoring rounds, did not conduct random pat searches of employees across all shifts, and exempted visiting attorneys entering the institution from pat searches—all of which are security measures required by BOP policy to mitigate the risk of inmate self-harm, violence towards employees and other inmates, and the introduction of contraband into the institution.

To read today's report and our 11 recommendations, please visit our website oig.justice.gov, or go to oversight.gov. Thank you.