



From January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025, the OIG's Force Investigation Review Team completed its review of 13 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR or the department) closed use-of-force investigation cases. The OIG evaluated the department's overall performance in the 13 closed use-of-force investigations as follows:

For each investigation monitored, the OIG evaluated the performance of the Office of Internal Affairs' investigators to determine whether they conducted thorough and timely investigations. The OIG also evaluated whether hiring authorities made reasonable decisions about those completed investigations. The OIG assessed the entities within the department as follows:

The OIG's Assessment of 13 Investigations for January Through June 2025

Rating	Number of Investigations
Adequate	1
Improvement Needed	0
Inadequate	12
Totals	13

Source: Analysis prepared by staff of the Office of the Inspector General.

The OIG's Assessment of CDCR's Performance of 13 Investigations for January Through June 2025

Rating	Performance	
	Office of Internal Affairs	Hiring Authority
Adequate	2	1
Improvement Needed	2	1
Inadequate	9	11
Totals	13	13

Source: Analysis prepared by staff of the Office of the Inspector General.

Below we present summaries of five notable closed use-of-force investigations the OIG reviewed during this reporting period.



OIG Case Number
0001

Rating Assessment
Inadequate

Incident Summary

On April 21, 2023, an officer allegedly slammed an incarcerated person to the floor, ignored his need for medical attention, ordered him to get down on the ground, and did not give him sufficient time to comply before the officer resorted to an unreasonable use of force.

Disposition

The hiring authority found insufficient evidence to sustain the allegations against the officer. The OIG concurred.

Overall Assessment

Overall, the department's performance was inadequate. On December 29, 2023, the Office of Internal Affairs provided its report to the hiring authority. The hiring authority did not conduct the investigative and disciplinary findings conference until July 11, 2024, six months and 12 days thereafter. The OIG determined the hiring authority delayed conducting the investigative and disciplinary findings conference for 12 days beyond the deadline to impose disciplinary action against the officer, if warranted.

Office of Internal Affairs Investigator Assessment

The Office of Internal Affairs' performance was adequate.

Hiring Authority Assessment

The hiring authority's performance was inadequate. On December 29, 2023, the Office of Internal Affairs provided its report to the hiring authority. The hiring authority did not conduct the investigative and disciplinary findings conference until July 11, 2024, six months and 12 days thereafter. The OIG determined the hiring authority delayed conducting the investigative and disciplinary findings conference for 12 days beyond the deadline to impose disciplinary action against the officer, if warranted.

OIG Case Number
0002

Rating Assessment
Inadequate

Incident Summary

On June 9, 2024, an officer allegedly deployed pepper spray on an incarcerated person when her back was turned toward the officer and she did not pose an imminent threat.



Disposition

The hiring authority found insufficient evidence to sustain the allegation. The OIG did not concur with the hiring authority's determination because the investigation was insufficient. Instead of making a finding, the hiring authority should have referred the case back to the Office of Internal Affairs for further investigation.

Overall Assessment

Overall, the department's performance was inadequate. The investigator did not interview any of the incarcerated people who were potential witnesses who may have observed the incident between the officer and the incarcerated person who submitted the complaint. The investigator failed to request all video-recorded evidence relevant to the investigation. The hiring authority found the investigation to be sufficient even though the investigation was not thorough. The hiring authority should have returned the investigation to the Office of Internal Affairs for further investigation.

Office of Internal Affairs Investigator Assessment

The investigator's performance was inadequate. The investigator did not interview any incarcerated people who may have witnessed the incident. In addition, the investigator did not obtain all relevant body-worn-camera and surveillance video recordings. The investigator should have requested previous body-worn-camera and surveillance video recordings to observe the initial interaction between the officer and the incarcerated person that led to the incident.

Hiring Authority Assessment

The hiring authority's performance was inadequate. The hiring authority found the investigation to be sufficient even though the investigator did not interview any incarcerated people who were potential witnesses, and the investigator failed to obtain all body-worn-camera and video-recorded evidence. The hiring authority should have returned the case to the Office of Internal Affairs for further investigation.

OIG Case Number
0003

Rating Assessment
Inadequate

Incident Summary

On May 17, 2023, four officers allegedly punched and kicked a handcuffed incarcerated person in the ribs and kicked him in the face and head. One of the four officers allegedly made an inappropriate comment related to the incarcerated person's gender identity while they searched him during a cell transfer.



Disposition

The hiring authority found insufficient evidence to sustain the allegations. The OIG did not concur with the hiring authority's determination because the investigation was insufficient. Instead of making a finding, the hiring authority should have referred the case back to the Office of Internal Affairs for further investigation.

Overall Assessment

Overall, the department's performance was inadequate. The investigator failed to interview the four officers who were the subjects and the two sergeants who were potential witnesses of the investigation. The investigator failed to author an adequate investigative report and failed to investigate the allegation the incarcerated person made during his interview that an officer made an inappropriate comment about the incarcerated person's gender identity. The investigator also failed to admonish the incarcerated person of the need to keep the investigation confidential while the investigation was pending. The hiring authority failed to identify the investigation was insufficient to determine an appropriate finding and failed to identify an additional allegation of staff misconduct. The hiring authority received the investigation on January 24, 2024, but did not conduct the investigative and disciplinary findings conference until May 14, 2024, 111 days thereafter.

Office of Internal Affairs Investigator Assessment

Overall, the Office of Internal Affairs' performance was inadequate. The investigator failed to interview the four officers who were subjects and the two sergeants who were potential witnesses of the investigation. The investigator also failed to investigate the incarcerated person's allegation that an officer made an inappropriate comment about the incarcerated person's gender identity and failed to prepare a thorough investigative report. In addition, the investigator failed to admonish the incarcerated person of the need to keep the investigation confidential while the investigation was pending.

Hiring Authority Assessment

The hiring authority's performance was inadequate. The hiring authority failed to identify that the investigation was insufficient and failed to identify an additional allegation of staff misconduct. The hiring authority delayed conducting the investigative and disciplinary findings conference. The hiring authority received the investigative report on January 24, 2024, but did not conduct the investigative and disciplinary findings conference until May 14, 2024, 111 days after the hiring authority received the completed investigative report. The hiring authority also determined findings without sufficient facts.



OIG Case Number
0004

Rating Assessment
Inadequate

Incident Summary

On March 22, 2024, an officer allegedly punched an incarcerated person in the lower back two times while the incarcerated person was on the ground and did not pose an imminent threat.

Disposition

The hiring authority determined that the conduct did occur and that the investigation revealed the actions were justified, lawful and proper. The OIG did not concur with the hiring authority's determination because the investigation was insufficient. Instead of making a finding, the hiring authority should have referred the case back to the Office of Internal Affairs for further investigation.

Overall Assessment

The department's performance was inadequate. The Office of Internal Affairs investigator failed to interview officers who reported they observed the incident and failed to interview the incarcerated person who submitted the complaint.

Furthermore, the investigator, during the audio-recorded interview with the officer who was the subject of the investigation, stated that he reviewed the incident report and video-recorded evidence with the officer prior to the interview. In addition, the investigator failed to request and review the escorting officer's body-worn-camera footage. The escorting officer witnessed the incident, and his body-worn camera would have captured relevant footage. The hiring authority improperly found that the investigation was sufficient and failed to return the case to the Office of Internal Affairs for further review and investigation.

Office of Internal Affairs Investigator Assessment

The Office of Internal Affairs' performance was inadequate. The investigator failed to interview officers who reported they observed the incident and failed to interview the incarcerated person who submitted the complaint. Furthermore, the investigator, during an interview with the officer who was the subject of the investigation, stated that he reviewed the incident report and video-recorded evidence with the officer prior to the interview. In addition, the investigator failed to request and review the escorting officer's body-worn-camera footage.

Hiring Authority Assessment

The hiring authority's performance was inadequate. The hiring authority did not identify that the investigator failed to interview officers who reported they observed the incident and failed to interview the incarcerated person who submitted the complaint. Furthermore, the investigator, during an interview with the officer who was the subject



of the investigation, stated that he reviewed the incident report and video-recorded evidence with the officer prior to the interview. In addition, the investigator failed to request and review the escorting officer's body-worn-camera footage. The hiring authority improperly found that the investigation was sufficient and failed to return the case to the Office of Internal Affairs for further review and investigation.

OIG Case Number
0005

Rating Assessment
Inadequate

Incident Summary

On July 4, 2023, a sergeant, an officer, and multiple other unidentified officers allegedly pulled an incarcerated person off a toilet while he was defecating with his pants down.

Disposition

The hiring authority found insufficient evidence to sustain the allegations against the sergeant and the officer. The OIG did not concur with the hiring authority's determination because the investigation was insufficient. Instead of making a finding, the hiring authority should have referred the case back to the Office of Internal Affairs for further investigation.

Overall Assessment

The department's performance was inadequate. The investigator only interviewed the sergeant and the officer who were subjects of the investigation and physically escorted the incarcerated person out of the restroom but failed to interview additional officers who were present during the incident. In addition, the investigator should have interviewed a lieutenant whom the sergeant consulted regarding a potential controlled use of force to determine what, if any, contact he had with the sergeant, and should have interviewed the incarcerated person who submitted the complaint. The hiring authority failed to identify these deficiencies in the investigation and should have returned the case to the Office of Internal Affairs for further investigation.

Office of Internal Affairs Investigator Assessment

The Office of Internal Affairs' performance was inadequate. The investigator only interviewed the sergeant and the officer who physically escorted the incarcerated person out of the restroom and failed to interview additional officers who were present during the incident. The investigator should have interviewed the lieutenant whom the sergeant consulted to determine what, if any, contact he had with the sergeant regarding a potential controlled use of force, and should have interviewed the incarcerated person who submitted the complaint.



Hiring Authority Assessment

The hiring authority's performance was inadequate. The hiring authority failed to identify that the investigator should have conducted additional interviews. The hiring authority also inappropriately determined that the investigation was sufficient, despite the Office of Internal Affairs investigator's failure to interview the lieutenant to determine what information the sergeant and the lieutenant exchanged regarding the decision to conduct a controlled use of force during the incident. The hiring authority should have returned the matter to the Office of Internal Affairs for further investigation. The hiring authority had insufficient evidence to appropriately determine a finding.