

**U.S. Department of Justice**

Federal Bureau of Prisons

*Federal Correctional Complex,*

*Yazoo City, MS*

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Suspected Botulism Cases Among Inmates in Yazoo City and Oklahoma City Federal Correctional Facilities

Yazoo City, MS − The Federal Bureau of Prisons, in coordination with the Mississippi State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is working to investigate and treat 17 suspected cases of botulism identified among inmates at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Yazoo City Medium, and one case at the Federal Transfer Center (FTC) in Oklahoma City. The inmates are believed to have become ill as a result of drinking a homemade alcoholic beverage known as hooch, pruno or brew, which can be made from vegetable and fruit scraps, sugar and water. The inmate at FTC Oklahoma drank the intoxicant prior to transferring to the Oklahoma City facility.

Fifteen inmates remain hospitalized and two have returned to the facility in Yazoo City. Additional inmates who may have been exposed are being closely monitored.

The incubation period for botulism can range from hours to 10 days; accordingly, staff at the FCI are educating and monitoring the inmate population there and encouraging inmates to report to prison officials if they consumed the intoxicant.

Botulism is not spread person-to-person.  Only inmates who consumed the homemade intoxicant are at risk. CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service officers are in Mississippi to assist with the investigation and consult with clinicians at the hospitals treating patients. More information can be found on the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/botulism/index.html>.

FCI Yazoo City is currently on limited operations as a precautionary measure, has temporarily ceased any outgoing movement of inmates, and has suspended family visitation until further notice.

FCI Yazoo City is a medium security facility housing 1310 male inmates.