

Buffalo Federal Detention Center – Batavia, N.Y.

The Batavia facility is currently the largest immigration detention center in New York with an average daily population of more than 550 and capacity of 650. The facility, which began housing immigration detainees in March 1998, is the result of a federal detention appropriation to the former INS.

The facility, which underwent its most recent expansion in 2012, is designed to house adult male aliens charged with violating federal criminal statutes or immigration laws. At any given time, there are typically nationals from more than 80 countries represented. The detainees are in ICE custody pending a decision in their immigration cases or awaiting final arrangements for their repatriation.

While at Batavia, the detainees are housed in a cell or open dormitory environment. The detainees have access to an on-site law library, a medical clinic, and religious services. The nearly 145,000 square foot facility also includes dining and visitation rooms, as well as recreation areas. Those held at the center receive three meals daily using menus developed by a registered dietician, who ensures individuals' unique health, dietary and religious needs are met. The detainees' health care is provided by clinical staff from ICE Health Service Corps. Upon arrival at Batavia, detainees undergo an initial screening for contagious diseases, such as tuberculosis.

There are two courtrooms at the facility where federal immigration judges conduct removal hearings for detained individuals. The courts are operated by the U.S. Department of Justice's Executive Office for Immigration Review. When an individual is ordered removed, ICE staff work to obtain the documents required to complete the person's repatriation.

Batavia is utilized by ICE to house long-term immigration detainees, that is individuals who are going to remain in agency custody for more than 72 hours.

ICE detains an average of more than 40,000 aliens a day in more than 200 facilities nationwide. All ICE facilities are subject to regular inspections and must comply with ICE's rigorous Performance Based National Detention Standards. These requirements reflect the agency's commitment to maintain safe, secure and humane conditions for those in ICE custody.