

COVID-19 Survey Results: Big Muddy Correctional Center

The John Howard Association (JHA) is an independent citizen correctional oversight organization that goes into prisons to monitor conditions of confinement and treatment of people who are incarcerated; we fight for a fair and humane system and for government transparency and accountability. For 119 years we have been the eyes and ears of the public inside Illinois' prisons, reporting what we see, hear and learn inside facilities and using this information to recommend policy and practice changes and advocate for system reform.

It is critical that we know and understand how people in prison are experiencing the COVID-19 health crisis and what the government must do to meet the health needs of people in prison. To further this end, JHA launched a special system-wide COVID-19 survey to enable us to hear directly from those who are in prisons about prison conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survey results reported herein indicate how 698 people imprisoned at Big Muddy Correctional Center responded to survey items contained within the COVID-19 survey during the time frame of April 24th to May 20th 2020. As of April 24th, 2020, there were 1,149 people imprisoned at Big Muddy. Thus, this sample of survey respondents consists of 60.75% of Big Muddy's prison population. COVID-19 surveys that were completed after May 20th will be accounted for in JHA's work and analyses conducted in the future, but are not reported below.

JHA provided prison administrators with enough survey packets (COVID-19 survey, informed consent notice/instruction sheet, and business reply envelope addressed to JHA) so that every person imprisoned at Big Muddy had an opportunity to participate in the COVID-19 survey if they chose to do so. Because some people who submitted a survey did not answer all questions within the survey, the count of people who responded to each question is less than the overall sample of 698.

The results of the surveys JHA collected from people imprisoned at Big Muddy Correctional Center are tabulated on the pages that follow.

Tables of Results by Individual Survey Items:

| Q1: How did you get information from | | |
|--|-----|--------|
| IDOC about COVID 19 prevention? | | |
| Paper bulletin on unit | 447 | 64.04% |
| Inmate info channel on | 175 | 25.07% |
| TV | | |
| Verbal communication | 70 | 10.03% |
| by staff | | |
| Other | 172 | 24.64% |
| I did not get this | 28 | 4.01% |
| information | | |
| Total does not add to 100% for this question | | |
| because more than one answer could be | | |
| selected | | |

| Q2: Did you have enough soap to regularly wash your hands in the last week? | | |
|---|-----|--------|
| No | 172 | 18.59% |
| Yes | 535 | 78.33% |
| Unsure | 21 | 3.07% |
| Total | 683 | 100.0% |
| No response: 15 (2.10%) | | |

| Q3: How often did you get cleaning chemicals from IDOC to clean your cell/sleeping area in the last week (examples: soap, bleach, Citral Green or peroxide)? | | | |
|--|-----|--------|--|
| Once a day | 45 | 6.67% | |
| 2 to 3 times last week | 44 | 6.52% | |
| Once last week | 81 | 12.00% | |
| None | 505 | 74.81% | |
| Total 675 100.0% | | | |
| No response: 23 (3.30%) | | | |

| Q4: Did you get enough cleaning chemicals to thoroughly clean your | | |
|---|-----|--------|
| cell/sleeping area in the last week? | | |
| No, I did not get enough | 106 | 15.77% |
| to make cell clean | | |
| Yes | 64 | 9.52% |
| Unsure | 14 | 2.08% |
| No, I did not get any | 488 | 72.62% |
| cleaning chemicals | | |
| Total | 672 | 100.0% |
| No response: 26 (3.70%) | | |

| Q5: Did the common areas you have |
|--|
| access to get cleaned at least two times |
| a day in the last week (examples: |
| dayrooms, showers)? |

| | | 1 |
|-------------------------|-----|--------|
| No | 69 | 10.19% |
| Some areas cleaned, but | 208 | 30.72% |
| not all | | |
| Yes, all areas were | 312 | 46.09% |
| cleaned | | |
| Unsure | 88 | 13.00% |
| Total | 677 | 100.0% |
| No response: 21 (3.00%) | | |

| Q6: Have you tried to get medical care because of COVID-19 in the last week? | | |
|---|-----|--------|
| No, because I did not want to | 19 | 2.77% |
| No, because I was not sick | 608 | 88.76% |
| Yes, but no response from staff | 36 | 5.26% |
| Yes, and staff responded | 22 | 3.21% |
| Total | 685 | 100.0% |
| No response: 13 (1.90%) | | |

Q7: Would you tell IDOC staff (medical
or security) if you were sick because of
COVID-19?No497.13%

| Yes | 564 | 82.10% |
|-------------------------|-----|--------|
| Unsure | 74 | 10.77% |
| Total | 687 | 100.0% |
| No response: 11 (1.60%) | | |

| Q8: Did you go to yard at least once in the last week? | | |
|--|-----|--------|
| No, not allowed to | 129 | 19.14% |
| No, did not want to | 149 | 22.11% |
| Yes | 396 | 58.75% |
| Total | 674 | 100.0% |
| No response: 24 (3.40%) | | |

| Q9a: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by washing their hands often? | | |
|---|-----|--------|
| No | 132 | 19.38% |
| Yes | 208 | 30.54% |
| Unsure | 341 | 50.07% |
| Total | 681 | 100.0% |
| No response: 17 (2.40%) | | |

| Q9b: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by covering their mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing? | | |
|---|-----|--------|
| No | 213 | 31.93% |
| Yes | 206 | 30.88% |
| Unsure | 248 | 37.18% |
| Total | 667 | 100.0% |
| No response: 31 (4.40%) | | |

| Q9c: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)? | | |
|--|-----|--------|
| No | 191 | 28.64% |
| Yes | 311 | 46.63% |
| Unsure | 165 | 24.74% |
| Total | 667 | 100.0% |
| No response: 31 (4.40%) | | |

| Q9d: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from others when possible? | | |
|---|-----|--------|
| No | 335 | 50.45% |
| Yes | 239 | 35.99% |
| Unsure | 90 | 13.55% |
| Total | 664 | 100.0% |
| No response: 34 (4.90%) | | |

| Q10a: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by washing your hands of | | |
|--|-----|--------|
| No | 16 | 2.33% |
| Yes | 666 | 96.80% |
| Unsure | 6 | 0.87% |
| Total | 688 | 100.0% |
| No response: 10 (1.40%) | | |

| Q10b: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by covering your mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing? | | |
|--|-----|--------|
| No | 23 | 3.37% |
| Yes | 651 | 95.31% |
| Unsure | 9 | 1.32% |
| Total | 683 | 100.0% |
| No response: 15 (2.10%) | | |

| Q10c: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)? | | |
|--|-----|--------|
| No | 167 | 24.89% |
| Yes | 475 | 70.79% |
| Unsure | 29 | 4.32% |
| Total | 671 | 100.0% |
| No response: 27 (3.90%) | | |

| Q10d: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from others when possible? | | |
|---|-----|--------|
| No | 174 | 26.17% |
| Yes | 458 | 68.87% |
| Unsure | 33 | 4.96% |
| Total | 665 | 100.0% |
| No response: 33 (4.70%) | | |

| Q11: Could you take a shower at least 3 times last week? | | |
|--|-----|--------|
| No | 58 | 8.41% |
| Yes | 632 | 91.59% |
| Total | 690 | 100.0% |
| No response: 17 (3.10%) | | |

| Q12: Did you get laundry service in the last week (whites and blues)? | | | |
|---|----|-------|--|
| No, was not offered | 10 | 1.46% | |
| No. do not want to use | 7 | 1.02% | |

| | | - |
|---------------------------|-----|--------|
| No, do not want to use | 7 | 1.02% |
| laundry service | | |
| Yes, and my laundry was | 535 | 78.33% |
| cleaned | | |
| Yes, but they did not use | 131 | 19.18% |
| detergent | | |
| Total | 683 | 100.0% |
| No response: 15 (2.10%) | | |

| Q13: Did you get at least one free phone call in the last week? | | |
|---|-----|--------|
| No | 328 | 49.85% |
| Yes | 177 | 26.90% |
| Yes, but the call cut out | 30 | 4.56% |
| early | | |
| This does not apply to | 123 | 18.69% |
| me | | |
| Total | 658 | 100.0% |
| No response: 40 (5.70%) | | |

| Q14: Did you get a free video visit in the | | |
|--|-----|--------|
| last week? | | |
| No | 335 | 50.07% |
| Yes, and it worked | 63 | 9.42% |
| Yes, but bad service/ cut | 61 | 9.12% |
| short | | |
| This does not apply to | 210 | 31.39% |
| me | | |
| Total | 669 | 100.0% |
| No response: 29 (4.20%) | | |

| Q15: Could you send and get mail in the last week? | | |
|--|-----|--------|
| No | 57 | 8.42% |
| Yes | 586 | 86.56% |
| This does not apply to | 34 | 5.02% |
| me | | |
| Total | 677 | 100.0% |
| No response: 21 (3.00%) | | |

| Q16: Did commissary run on schedule this week? | | |
|--|-----|--------|
| Yes, full shop | 54 | 7.86% |
| Yes, limited shop | 593 | 86.32% |
| Yes, but not my unit's | 12 | 1.75% |
| shop week | | |
| No | 28 | 4.08% |
| Total | 687 | 100.0% |
| No response: 11 (1.60%) | | |

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