

COVID-19 Survey Results: Dixon 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 934 people imprisoned at Dixon 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 2,145 people imprisoned at Dixon. Thus, this sample of survey respondents consists of 43.54% of Dixon'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 Dixon 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 934.

The results of the surveys JHA collected from people imprisoned at Dixon 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	309	33.08%
Inmate info channel on TV	399	42.72%
Verbal communication by staff	88	9.42%
Other	228	24.41%
I did not get this information	79	8.46%
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	306	33.70%
Yes	559	61.56%
Unsure	43	4.74%
Total	908	100%
No response: 26 (2.78%)		

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	36	3.96%
2 to 3 times last week	16	1.76%
Once last week	73	8.02%
None	785	86.26%
Total	910	100%
No response: 24 (2.57%)		

Q4: Did you get enough cleaning chemicals to thoroughly clean your cell/sleeping area in the last week?		
No, I did not get enough to make cell clean	89	9.69%
Yes	48	5.23%
Unsure	17	1.85%
No, I did not get any cleaning chemicals	764	83.22%
Total	918	100%
No response: 16 (1.71%)		

Q5: Did the common areas you have access to get cleaned at least two times a day in the last week (examples: dayrooms, showers)?		
No	130	14.44%
Some areas cleaned, but not all	323	35.89%
Yes, all areas were cleaned	300	33.33%
Unsure	147	16.33%
Total	900	100%
No response: 34 (3.64%)		

Q6: Have you tried to get medical care because of COVID-19 in the last week?		
No, because I did not want to	45	5.08%
No, because I was not sick	722	81.49%
Yes, but no response from staff	80	9.03%
Yes, and staff responded	39	4.40%
Total	886	100%
No response: 24 (4.38%)		

Q7: Would you tell IDOC staff (medical or security) if you were sick because of COVID-19?		
No	89	9.76%
Yes	741	81.25%
Unsure	82	8.99%
Total	912	100%
No response: 22 (2.36%)		

Q8: Did you go to yard at least once in the last week?		
No, not allowed to	79	8.75%
No, did not want to	271	30.01%
Yes	553	61.24%
Total	903	100%
No response: 31 (3.32%)		

Q9a: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by washing their hands often?		
No	255	28.33%
Yes	191	21.22%
Unsure	454	50.44%
Total	900	100%
No response: 34 (3.64%)		

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	359	40.34%
Yes	259	29.10%
Unsure	272	30.56%
Total	890	100%
No response: 44 (4.71%)		

Q9c: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	255	28.72%
Yes	465	52.36%
Unsure	168	18.92%
Total	888	100%
No response: 46 (4.93%)		

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	566	64.03%
Yes	233	26.36%
Unsure	85	9.62%
Total	884	100%
No response: 50 (5.35%)		

Q10a: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by washing your hands often?		
No	29	3.21%
Yes	869	96.13%
Unsure	6	0.66%
Total	904	100%
No response: 30 (3.21%)		

Q10b: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by covering your mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing?		
No	37	4.16%
Yes	837	94.15%
Unsure	15	1.69%
Total	889	100%
No response: 45 (4.82%)		

Q10c: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	159	17.95%
Yes	700	79.01%
Unsure	27	3.05%
Total	886	100%
No response: 48 (5.14%)		

Q10d: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from others when possible?		
No	278	31.77%
Yes	555	63.43%
Unsure	42	4.80%
Total	875	100%
No response: 59 (6.32%)		

Q11: Could you take a shower at least 3 times last week?		
No	70	7.73%
Yes	836	92.27%
Total	906	100%
No response: 28 (3.00%)		

Q12: Did you get laundry service in the last week (whites and blues)?		
No, was not offered	158	17.91%
No, do not want to use laundry service	29	3.29%
Yes, and my laundry was cleaned	611	69.27%
Yes, but they did not use detergent	84	9.52%
Total	882	100%
No response: 52 (5.57%)		

Q13: Did you get at least one free phone call in the last week?		
No	592	66.67%
Yes	157	17.68%
Yes, but the call cut out early	33	3.72%
This does not apply to me	106	11.94%
Total	888	100%
No response: 46 (4.93%)		

Q14: Did you get a free video visit in the last week?		
No	469	52.87%
Yes, and it worked	85	9.58%
Yes, but bad service/ cut short	181	20.41%
This does not apply to me	152	17.14%
Total	887	100%
No response: 47 (5.03%)		

Q15: Could you send and get mail in the last week?		
No	83	9.22%
Yes	788	87.56%
This does not apply to me	29	3.22%
Total	900	100%
No response: 34 (3.64%)		

Q16: Did commissary run on schedule this week?		
Yes, full shop	19	2.13%
Yes, limited shop	500	55.99%
Yes, but not my unit's shop week	58	6.49%
No	316	35.39%
Total	893	100%
No response: 41 (4.39%)		