



John Howard Association of Illinois

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Big Muddy Correctional Center: Inmate Survey Results from JHA's Monitoring Visit Conducted April 10, 2019

Big Muddy Correctional Center is a medium-security prison that housed 1,189 adult male inmates on the day of JHA's monitoring visit. JHA collected 566 surveys from inmates (47.6% of the population) during our monitoring visit of this prison. Inmate responses to survey questions are reported below.

Responses to Inmate Demographic Questions:

Race		
Black	169	29.9%
White	296	52.3%
Hispanic	52	9.2%
Other	34	6.0%
No response	15	2.7%
Total	566	100%

Age		
Under 26	28	4.9%
26-35	151	26.7%
36-45	132	23.3%
46-55	124	21.9%
Over 55	115	20.3%
No response	16	2.8%
Total	566	100%

What County are you from?		
Cook County	160	28.3%
Not Cook County	392	69.3%
No response	14	2.5%
Total	566	100%

Primary assignment		
Work	206	36.4%
School	107	18.9%
Unassigned	185	32.7%
Other	33	5.8%
No response	35	6.2%
Total	566	100%

Responses to Inmate Survey Questions:

Q1: I feel safe		
Strongly Agree	43	7.6%
Agree	172	30.4%
Neutral	167	29.5%
Disagree	83	14.7%
Strongly Disagree	86	15.2%
No Response	15	2.7%
Total	566	100%

Q2: Most staff treat inmates with respect		
Strongly Agree	11	1.9%
Agree	90	15.9%
Neutral	113	20.0%
Disagree	181	32.0%
Strongly Disagree	159	28.1%
No Response	12	2.1%
Total	566	100%

Q3: Most inmates treat other inmates with respect		
Strongly Agree	9	1.6%
Agree	118	20.8%
Neutral	198	35.0%
Disagree	142	25.1%
Strongly Disagree	88	15.5%
No Response	11	1.9%
Total	566	100%

Q4: Mental Health Treatment is available		
Strongly Agree	41	7.2%
Agree	224	39.6%
Neutral	143	25.3%
Disagree	90	15.9%
Strongly Disagree	56	9.9%
No Response	12	2.1%
Total	566	100%

Q5: Most staff follow rules		
Strongly Agree	5	0.9%
Agree	74	13.3%
Neutral	109	19.3%
Disagree	194	34.3%
Strongly Disagree	175	30.9%
No Response	9	1.6%
Total	566	100%

Q6: My Correctional Counselor is effective		
Strongly Agree	24	4.2%
Agree	75	13.3%
Neutral	135	23.9%
Disagree	142	15.1%
Strongly Disagree	185	32.7%
No Response	5	0.9%
Total	566	100%

Q7: I am satisfied with medical services		
Strongly Agree	8	1.4%
Agree	65	11.5%
Neutral	85	15.0%
Disagree	149	26.3%
Strongly Disagree	250	44.2%
No Response	9	1.6%
Total	566	100%

Q8: I avoid health care to avoid \$5 co-pay		
Strongly Agree	282	49.8%
Agree	114	20.1%
Neutral	61	10.8%
Disagree	56	9.9%
Strongly Disagree	44	7.8%
No Response	9	1.6%
Total	566	100%

Q9: The disciplinary process is fair		
Strongly Agree	11	1.9%
Agree	39	6.9%
Neutral	124	21.9%
Disagree	126	22.3%
Strongly Disagree	248	43.8%
No Response	18	3.2%
Total	566	100%

Q10: This facility is safe for inmates		
Strongly Agree	24	4.2%
Agree	143	25.3%
Neutral	170	30.0%
Disagree	114	20.1%
Strongly Disagree	108	19.1%
No Response	7	1.2%
Total	566	100%

Q11: There is at least one staff member who I could ask for help		
Strongly Agree	80	14.1%
Agree	213	37.6%
Neutral	89	15.7%
Disagree	89	15.7%
Strongly Disagree	88	15.5%
No Response	7	1.2%
Total	566	100%

Q12: The grievance process is effective		
Strongly Agree	5	0.9%
Agree	9	1.6%
Neutral	92	16.3%
Disagree	132	23.3%
Strongly Disagree	320	56.5%
No Response	8	1.4%
Total	566	100%

Q13: I would feel comfortable filing a grievance		
Strongly Agree	18	3.2%
Agree	32	5.7%
Neutral	84	14.8%
Disagree	159	28.1%
Strongly Disagree	265	46.8%
No Response	8	1.4%
Total	566	100%

Q14: This facility is better now than last year		
Strongly Agree	9	1.6%
Agree	38	6.7%
Neutral	160	28.3%
Disagree	132	23.3%
Strongly Disagree	213	37.6%
No Response	14	2.5%
Total	566	100%

Q15: Contraband from outside the facility often gets inside		
Strongly Agree	48	8.5%
Agree	101	17.8%
Neutral	176	31.1%
Disagree	132	23.3%
Strongly Disagree	84	14.8%
No Response	25	4.4%
Total	566	100%

Q16: There is frequent gang activity here		
Strongly Agree	49	8.7%
Agree	121	21.4%
Neutral	165	29.2%
Disagree	128	22.6%
Strongly Disagree	88	15.5%
No Response	15	2.7%
Total	566	100%

Q17: Mail is timely		
Strongly Agree	10	1.8%
Agree	70	12.4%
Neutral	94	16.6%
Disagree	133	23.5%
Strongly Disagree	248	43.8%
No Response	11	1.9%
Total	566	100%

Q18: Temperature is comfortable		
Strongly Agree	6	1.1%
Agree	79	14.0%
Neutral	144	25.4%
Disagree	160	28.3%
Strongly Disagree	172	30.4%
No Response	5	0.9%
Total	566	100%

Q19: Posted schedules are accurate		
Strongly Agree	18	3.2%
Agree	148	26.1%
Neutral	166	29.3%
Disagree	124	21.9%
Strongly Disagree	103	18.2%
No Response	7	1.2%
Total	566	100%

Q20: Ventilation is adequate		
Strongly Agree	10	1.8%
Agree	81	14.3%
Neutral	106	18.7%
Disagree	160	28.3%
Strongly Disagree	199	35.2%
No Response	10	1.8%
Total	566	100%

Q21: When something is broken it is fixed in a timely manner		
Strongly Agree	8	1.4%
Agree	65	11.5%
Neutral	80	14.1%
Disagree	172	30.4%
Strongly Disagree	231	40.8%
No Response	10	1.8%
Total	566	100%

Q22: I am satisfied with food from dietary		
Strongly Agree	6	1.1%
Agree	50	8.8%
Neutral	89	15.7%
Disagree	157	27.7%
Strongly Disagree	261	46.1%
No Response	3	0.5%
Total	566	100%

Q23: Clothing provided by state is adequate		
Strongly Agree	4	0.7%
Agree	40	7.1%
Neutral	75	13.3%
Disagree	133	23.5%
Strongly Disagree	308	54.4%
No Response	6	1.1%
Total	566	100%

Q24: I have adequate access to showers		
Strongly Agree	117	20.7%
Agree	271	47.9%
Neutral	99	17.5%
Disagree	40	7.1%
Strongly Disagree	34	6.0%
No Response	5	0.9%
Total	566	100%

Q25: Enough state hygiene items are provided		
Strongly Agree	8	1.4%
Agree	33	5.8%
Neutral	50	8.8%
Disagree	122	21.6%
Strongly Disagree	346	61.1%
No Response	7	1.2%
Total	566	100%

Q26: There is enough rec		
Strongly Agree	11	1.9%
Agree	49	8.7%
Neutral	76	13.4%
Disagree	149	26.3%
Strongly Disagree	279	49.3%
No Response	2	0.4%
Total	566	100%

Q27: I have adequate access to law library		
Strongly Agree	17	3.0%
Agree	112	19.8%
Neutral	141	24.9%
Disagree	125	22.1%
Strongly Disagree	161	28.4%
No Response	10	1.8%
Total	566	100%

Q28: I have enough access to phones		
Strongly Agree	63	11.1%
Agree	212	37.5%
Neutral	139	24.6%
Disagree	69	12.2%
Strongly Disagree	76	13.4%
No Response	7	1.2%
Total	566	100%

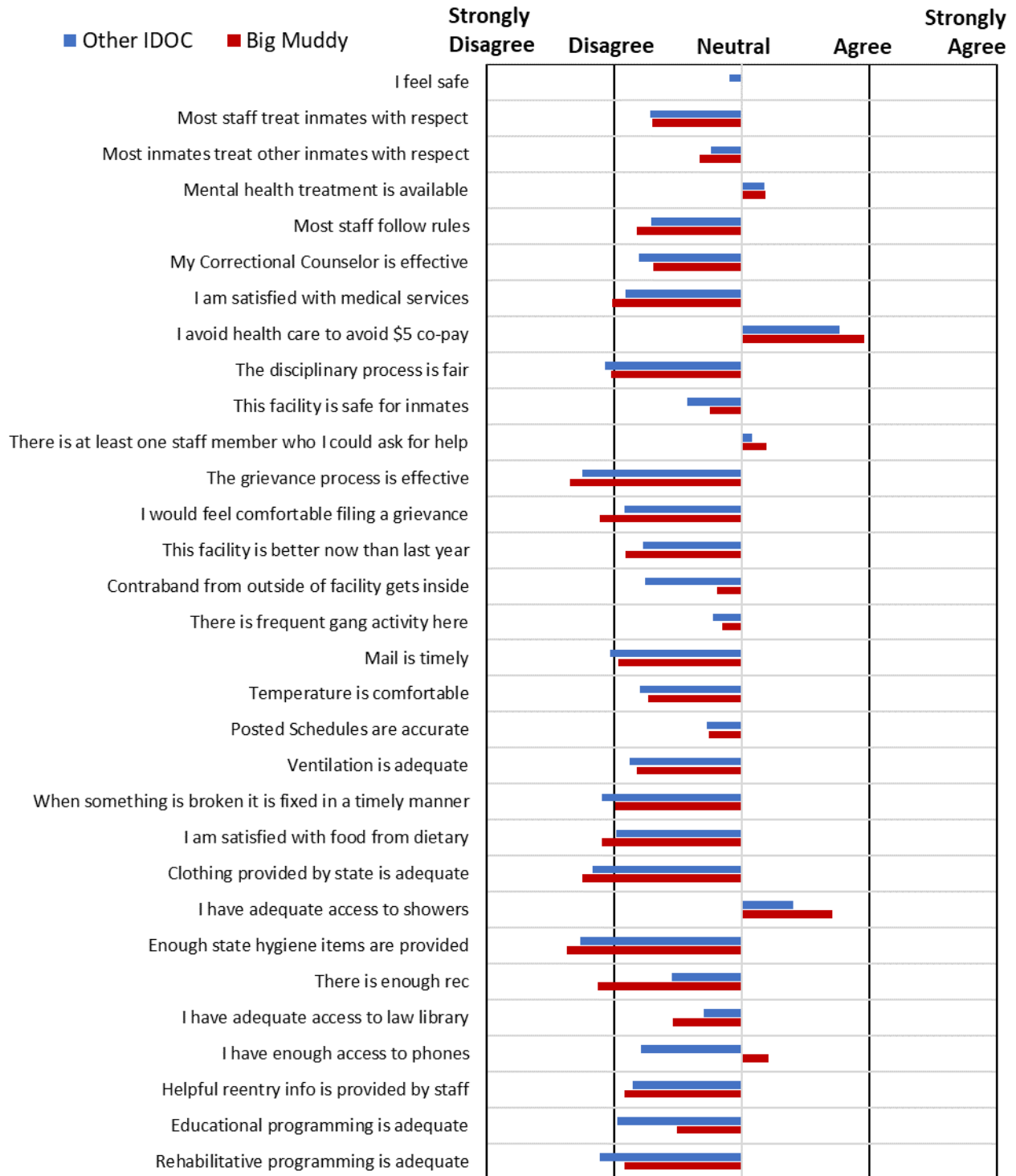
Q29: Helpful reentry info is provided by staff		
Strongly Agree	10	1.8%
Agree	44	7.8%
Neutral	140	24.7%
Disagree	131	23.1%
Strongly Disagree	216	38.2%
No Response	25	4.4%
Total	566	100%

Q30: Education programming is adequate		
Strongly Agree	27	4.8%
Agree	106	18.7%
Neutral	146	25.8%
Disagree	111	19.6%
Strongly Disagree	165	29.2%
No Response	11	1.9%
Total	566	100%

Q31: Rehabilitative programming is adequate		
Strongly Agree	20	3.5%
Agree	48	8.5%
Neutral	128	22.6%
Disagree	114	20.1%
Strongly Disagree	239	42.2%
No Response	17	3.0%
Total	566	100%

- Not all percentages reported for individual survey items add up to 100% due to percentages being rounded.

Comparison Chart: Average Inmate Response to Survey Items, Big Muddy Compared to Other IDOC Prisons, 2018-2019



Other IDOC facilities surveyed include the following prisons: Centralia, Danville, Dixon, Graham, Illinois River, Jacksonville, Kewanee, Lawrence, Logan, Menard, Menard MSU,

Murphysboro, Pontiac, Pontiac MSU, Robinson, Shawnee, Stateville, Vandalia, Vienna, Western.

Methodology:

For the comparison chart, average inmate survey responses were calculated by converting the survey response options “Strongly Disagree” through “Strongly Agree” to a numerical value of -2 through 2 for each survey question, so that “Strongly Disagree” equals -2, “Disagree” equals -1, and so on, and then an average was calculated based on the aggregate responses to each survey item, or question after applying filter: prison x and all prisons other than prison x. The bars indicate the direction from, and the extent to which the average inmate response to each survey item deviates from “neutral,” or 0 as a numerical value for the prison highlighted in this summary of results versus all other prisons included in the sample.

When JHA conducted a monitoring visit of a prison, paper copies of the Inmate Survey were mailed to the prison prior to JHA’s visit and distributed by IDOC staff. Enough surveys were provided so that every inmate had an opportunity to complete a survey if they elected to do so. Each survey was accompanied by an information sheet, explaining to the inmate that participation was voluntary and completed surveys would be held in confidence by JHA staff. The information sheet was constructed based on the Federal Bureau of Prisons guidelines for anonymous surveys for prisoners. On the day of the monitoring visit, completed surveys were collected from the inmates who volunteered to complete a survey by JHA staff.