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**Survey Comment  
Report**



**East Moline 2022  
MQPL Survey  
Comments**

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# Introduction

East Moline Correctional Center is a minimum-security male prison within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) that housed 449 people on June 29, 2022. The John Howard Association of Illinois (JHA) conducted a modified short [Measuring the Quality of Prison Life](#) (MQPL) survey by providing enough survey packets (consisting of the [MQPL survey](#), an informed consent notice/instruction sheet, and a privileged mail prepaid business reply envelope addressed to JHA) so that every person incarcerated at East Moline had an opportunity to participate in the voluntary and anonymous survey if they chose to do so. JHA received 131 responses to the MQPL survey from people at East Moline through the end of 2022, representing approximately 29.2% of the static population. JHA also conducted a monitoring visit of the prison close in time to survey distribution.

Below are the comments from the MQPL surveys for the open-ended survey questions followed by marginalia comments. Please note:

- All blank answers have been omitted
- Names and other personally identifying details have been redacted
- Spelling and grammar have been lightly edited for understanding and to account for possible transcriber typos

## Open-Ended Survey Questions

### **Q12. What are the most positive things about life in this prison?**

1. Waking up
2. Everybody got a outdate
3. NOTHING
4. Hopefully I will get out of here soon safe.
5. Time spent out of cell, access to phones and state loan tv and fan.
6. I really can't say, because I don't like this prison at all.
7. Being released.
8. You get a chance to refocus on life and realize what's important in life and get back on the right path.

9. That most people here are almost be released. So far the most part is ok.
10. I have a chance to go home.
11. You still get to breath, 2. You still get food and water, 3. You get a space to sleep
12. NO LOCKED DOORS???
13. They will try to help at the end of your sentence.
14. Here you can use your time working and taking classes to rehabilitate
15. None
16. We sit alone and do not get bothered by staff too much.
17. There is nothing positive about this place, I don't feel safe at all, from the C/O's.
18. Good-time, it gives you hope to get back home to your family if you work for it.
19. Working out/commissary every week
20. The view of the river. Going to school. Yard and/or gym six times per week.
21. None, unjust environment, staff seeks you out they write bogus tickets
22. Nothing!
23. Learn to accept self discipline for my actions learning to deal with anger management, watching my diet and weight, off the streets and instigators, away from drugs and poor habits
24. Through a grant, I am earning a Bachelor's degree from Augustana College.
25. Work to get out
26. Haven't seen anything positive at this facility.
27. I must say that they try to get people into school for an education.
28. You get to work on yourself and become a better person.
29. The school and programs they have started.
30. Going to work and school
31. N/A
32. As bad as it is here, there are places that are worse.
33. Nothing is being done to rehabilitate anyone. This is just one giant fucking fraternity. Tattoos and [ILLEGIBLE]
34. L.T.A, Education, and the little movement we have for yard
35. It sucks and they don't treat you or others with respect.
36. For anybody who is put in prison, become smart enough not to allow themselves to return to any form of incarceration
37. Huh?
38. APEP Program = school (college) (for me) The view
39. Most staff treat you well, and some do not
40. That I did some SELF reflection. Was not offered many classes. Was constantly told I had too much time. Now that I'm short I still have not been offered classes that I wanted to take.
41. Living
42. None
43. There are no positive things here this place needs to be shut down ASAP
44. Nothing
45. It is starting to bring back programs, to help us get ready for the world...
46. The cells do not lock

47. Zero: What positive thing do you expect in hell?
48. 90% of staff is great. They do try to help out. But are limited by the higher ups at times, when they know it will help solve things. The Programs - they finally have great programs and education. A little too late for me, but I am glad to see it here. I would like to see more! And with that, and those taking programs/education in [ILLEGIBLE] to receive more privileges/benefits, to entice others to think for themselves and go and do it versus what others want them to do. ONE thing - honor the promised good time that's to come with it.
49. I am able to work and go to school so I do stay busy. Low population but it's increasing. The officers are open to suggestions if you are trying to make the prison better.
50. Self help if available
51. Nothing
52. Freedom of movement and yard time
53. Officer [NAME REDACTED] seem to be the most helpful officer in this prison
54. They try and help you make plan to keep you out.
55. Yard Scenery
56. The staff treats me well knowing I'm going home. They seem to be happy for me. Of course I treat them the way I want to be treated.
57. I never met not one or many positive
58. Other than getting a chance to get clean, nothing
59. If and when there is a prime interest in a person's rehabilitation. When an incarcerated individual is not punished but corrected, sought as valuable and turned away from the interest of criminal activity.
60. I have an outdate. For me there are few that believe in me, and my future meaning life in prison for me is good.
61. There are none.
62. What you do!!!
63. Here nothing
64. Movement
65. You get to deal with your feelings. When I know my outdate it's positive.
66. Nothing
67. Dayroom Commissary Yard access
68. That one has the time to work on self.
69. You're not locked in a cell all day and you get plenty yard.
70. They give me good time.
71. No passing away because COVID has killed several guys in this place.
72. Nothing
73. Being out of your cell a lot
74. Time to think/reflect
75. Having a job and being able to go to school.
76. "None"
77. Time out of cell

78. That you get to re-think your priorities and becoming more responsible and respectful for the rules in life by educating yourself with the programs they have to offer.
79. That I'm alive to share the problems with society.
80. That you have a chance to regroup on having a positive state of mind.
81. Going to church
82. NONE
83. Warden [NAME REDACTED] and Chaplain [NAME REDACTED] are very good at helping and trying to improve conditions and your reentry being a better person
84. Commissary
85. For most of the day you can get away from staff.
86. Paying for your crime
87. You are able to receive work release. You can go to commissary one time a week.
88. Staff and incarcerated people relationship in terms of communication
89. Haven't seen any yet
90. Ain't nothing positive about life and prison cause some of us are not guilty.
91. Going to school program church keep positive hope ALIVE
92. There are none. Credit is not given where credit is due. The way things are run here and correctional staff attitude is not geared toward inmate rehabilitation it is more geared toward disrespecting others and debate.
93. The available state loans. The fact of commissary though not fully stocked is every week.
94. Freedom of movement, commissary frequency
95. Psychiatrist help
96. The food they feed us.
97. The view
98. Change
99. Gives you time to re-evaluate yourself and learn from your mistakes. It is never too late to start fresh.
100. Not sure. I am still in "training"
101. Come visit then honestly answer that.
102. Keep our doors open because of heat
103. Haven't been here long enough to honestly say. I also can't really complain either.
104. Nothing this prison should be condemned. Black mold everywhere old dilapidated buildings old system of intake.

## **Q13. What are the most negative things about life in this prison?**

1. Not being with family
2. The staff from counselor to CO don't care about people locked up.
3. EVERYTHING

4. No air circulation, no AC, officers lie on you and the adjustment committee will still find you guilty.
5. The buildings are not air conditioned and falling apart. Surrounded by buildings that are condemned. Facility is outdated and should be closed. Can't provide proper food, milk or education.
6. The staff and Cos are disrespectful and treat us like we are no one. The heat and hot water doesn't work in the winter, and the heat blows out of the vents in spring and summer and the hot water goes in and out causing it to burn you. The staff and Cos eat better with our food than we do, and our healthcare is horrible.
7. Staff don't know how to deal with inmates who has been locked up for over 20 years.
8. Not enough staff so inmates can utilize programs to better ourselves for release.
9. The staff has no respect for you and treat you like trash cause you're incarcerated.
10. That when your charge is at 85 to 100% there is nothing here for you.
11. The staff are racist.
12. 1. Forced to interact with people, 2. Forced to have rules applied to you from institution and general pop, 3. Lack of heart-felt sharing
13. STAFF
14. Dietary, staff, good time reviewal
15. Staff bully us - curse us out - call us names - lie to us all the time - treat us like shit!
16. Hearing people die
17. The staff
18. 1. It's a minimum and we only get 1 yard, 6 days a week. We feel as if we are in a medium max! In the summer we are supposed to get 1 day and 1 night yard everyday in a minimum camp, and we do not here. 2. The commissary here is horrible, our items change or run out almost every week. There is no price list here because items change so rapidly! The hygiene items are restricted to very few items that run out constantly it is a huge problem here.
19. They're lazy nobody does any work, they are racists, we are threatened everyday, treated less than human beings, lied on to be put in seg. Talked to like nothing.
20. Not having accurate information when it comes to outside sources that help prisoners get release.
21. Dealing with people/Improper treatment
22. Officers with petty, antagonistic behavior, the lack of vocational courses, no way to earn GEDs. Something is always malfunctioning (i.e. heat, A/C, hot water)
23. The staff, Lt. **[NAME REDACTED]**, every ticket no matter what you're guilty
24. Everything! Mostly the housing situation! What happened to combatting COVID?
25. loss of work, time away from loved ones and family, freedom and outdoor activities, road trips, driving, dining, missing out on friend gatherings and family, holidays and pictures, missing time seeing nieces and nephews grow up and age. Finding out I have to serve more time than what I was sentenced too.
26. If aliens were to land on Earth, I would bring them to East Moline C.C. to demonstrate what dysfunction and lack of communication looks like. I continue to request law library access, and I have been given 1 hour in the past month. Medical care is non-existent, and medical staff treat us like animals.

27. Say on the right things for life
28. Loss of contact with family/friends.
29. They try to put those with less time into programs and put those with time on the waiting list.
30. Not having access to positive things to help better self.
31. The disrespectful way people are, and the harassment by staff.
32. Not being with family
33. Over crowded, No AC and no enough phones
34. It is improperly ran by staff. Staff breaks rules and act as if they are entitled to do as they wish with no consequences. They are immoral and corrupt.
35. Little concern for justice. Little help from staff. Too many tickets. Shit food. Inconvenient count times and needless confinement cell in segregation
36. Communication, very little movement and programs, no incentives for truth in sentencing and those who have been incarcerated 20-plus years.
37. I don't like here because I miss my family
38. The most negative thing other than prison is anybody who waste time from life itself
39. Individual/staff relationships; treatment.
40. Too many sex offenders. Constant negative attitudes from staff, they instigate, they make problems worse. Horrible healthcare, very mean nurses.
41. Living conditions, mold, etc.
42. Lack of classes, not being able to voice concerns, not being taken serious. Was taught that you have to act a fool in order to get things done.
43. Good thing
44. The decay of the prison and staff attitude
45. Everything in here needs to be worked on from the food to the counselors and the entire staff here
46. Place is nasty and don't have much outside time and dietary is nasty maggots and roaches and 3 house roof leaks
47. Dealing with the negative that come out of a officer's mouth and the lack of leadership that they do not have... Start from the top...
48. Gangs are allowed to control the phones, washing machines, and tables in dayroom
49. All are considered illiterate. I did my high school in [REDACTED]. Then Bachelors Education - 4 years Masters of Arts - 3 years Masters Business Management - Diploma Education - 3 years PhD - D-Hum - they nullified all that and forced me to do stupid exam!!!! For [ILLEGIBLE]
50. The 10% of the staff - even going to the chain of command tends to side with staff vs. directly offer a better compromising solution. The few inmates who don't like new rules or current rules to be enforced don't like it call Springfield and call bias. Example ice - when a CO says 1 scoop until everyone gets some ice - esp. summertime, they get in an uproar because they can't get their bags of ice first. That leads to others not getting any at all. And a few inmates have a "kid" mentality and it changes the whole atmosphere of the wing. Those should be housed together with doors that close after 9:30 final count as they're the ones to take too much advantage a minimum security offers putting more scrutiny on the wing and such. Maintenance - supervisor a Big



issue. Won't do the things that will bring more peace and [ILLEGIBLE] to the majority. Like keeping an ice machine (a new one) functioning. Or repair showers or leaking ceiling light.

51. You get denied for things without actually been put in with no viable explanation like EDSC, work release, transfers
52. treatment and lack of access to person needs
53. treatment by staff is terrible, poor programs, horrible healthcare
54. They won't give certain jobs of higher pay, or certain educational opportunities based on offense and not the individual
55. Counselors and staff supervisors are not very helpful when you ask an important question about certain things. They try to give me an answer to my problem by ignoring the real question like making something up.
56. You cannot talk to females down here much because sexual cases.
57. Treatment by staff and healthcare. Not enough programs. sense of hopelessness
58. We have a [ILLEGIBLE] that makes medical decisions without patient doctor conferencing. For some reason they seem to be unorganized.
59. These staff tell lie and get away it
60. The living condition here, no schooling, being too far from family, staff put your safety at risk, then when you have to fight, you get blamed
61. The endurance of a slow mental breaking on top of the systemic strain on resources finances and contact with your family.
62. A lot of negative people (individuals) A lot of negative staff that look down at all individuals
63. There is no chance for success.
64. People!!!
65. They lie about everything when it comes to people with sex offenses. They treat and talk to you like you are subhuman and they have the worst turnaround at the door policy when it comes to sex offenders telling you that they are looking for housing knowing 100% that no housing or living facilities exist in the state of Illinois it was closed back in 2013 East St. Louis.
66. I can't get medications I need for pain I'm totally disabled. I have a [REDACTED MEDICAL DEVICE] I can't use the way I'm supposed to. They won't let me.
67. Certain staff members are incompetent. Food is terrible.
68. It's depressing when counselors don't want to help you with good time
69. No school, yard
70. Lack of proper maintenance, mechanical and janitorial
71. Healthcare Staff aggressive attitudes Lack of programs
72. Here at East Moline staff treats incarcerated individuals like less than people. They lie and never explain their reasons even if you ask a direct and clear question, they either ignore you or answer something that you never asked.
73. They're always on different pages when it comes to enforcing the rules.
74. Missing out on contact with people and activities.
75. How staff treat and talk to inmates.
76. No programs

77. The Lt., C.O. all bad and the food is bad too.
78. Staff! How things are run! How they talk to us!
79. Being lonely
80. Drugs are easy to find.
81. The overpaid babysitters and how they treat people here. Just 2 weeks ago they beat a [REDACTED] boy half to death while handcuffed in "seg," put a fake charge on him and ship him out. That's what happens here. "Black and brown" get beat and set up.
82. The staff and help especially when trying to get something done
83. The overcrowdedness, and when you have to certain staff or officer be rank or not are not acting accordingly as they should regarding their position in a control environment.
84. Having to exhale and inhale the toxic asbestos and mold and the water
85. Being away from family and loved ones.
86. They don't care about the skills one has.
87. Time lost with loved ones. Unable to better oneself intellectually, educationally. Worst medical nursing system.
88. Our counselors (former COs) do not care. Lie to inmates, and have to pressure them to do their jobs. There are no programs for substance abuse, especially allowing EPSC. Having high TABE scores actually hurts you here. Reward stupidity and bad behavior.
89. No AC
90. There is nothing to do little time given to yard. Most have three yards a day in summer here you may get 1 hour over a day not days of yard.
91. They write our names and ID number on our KN95 mask in marker and make us wear the mask. It's like sniffing a marker. I've been having headaches, also I been getting dizzy from sniffing the marker that's on my mask. This is East Moline. They write us tickets if we don't wear the mask that they wrote on in marker.
92. Wasting life
93. The dietary has rats and roaches - there's not enough food in trays. The staff are overaggressive with no repercussions. The dayroom hours for this level prison is not adequate enough. The washers and dryers stay broke. Black mold everywhere.
94. Infrastructure - Living environment
95. The teachers don't want to come to work there is no substance abuse programs
96. The food and the officers cause some of them come to work to control others.
97. Getting along with others
98. Extreme heat in housing units both in the winter because of steam heat with no thermostats and in the summer with no working cooling system and no ventilation. Poor food items in dietary with no real nutritional value. No milk served in dietary. Not adhering to 730 ILCS 5/3-6-3(2)(3.0)(4.2) Rules and Regulations for sentence Credit
99. Water, Ice, phones, some sergeants and COs are disrespectful, phones are controlled by incarcerated individuals, the heat inside is unbearable. Commissary never has a stock of shoes, clothes, electronics. Dietary is full of roaches. Yard is too limited with quality and quantity of weights.
100. Assignment mistakes/pay mistakes. Food in dietary. Bugs in dietary. Housing unit maintenance. Hygiene supplies

101. Work restrictions
102. Some cells are molded. We're allowed one cup of ice a day in the summer time and the building has no AC.
103. No equality in being chosen for programs and school. Mostly whites and hispanics get picked.
104. Not enough fans at store
105. Attitude
106. How people talk to you with no respect.
107. Med center and lunch room are just too far away. Not given enough time to digest my food.
108. Mole in walls, no ventilation of air, no air, very hot in summer, very cold in winter months
109. Staff treat us wrong and don't help when needed not able to do school work or programs
110. The housing unit and cell I was assigned. Mold everywhere.
111. Everything. How staff treats you. They pick and nit pick at small things lock you down for no reason give you tickets just because. It sucks here.

## **Q14. What suggestions do you have for improvement?**

1. More programs
2. Get rid of the racist officer and staff.
3. BURN IT DOWN
4. More check up from Springfield from people that are really concerned about individuals in custody.
5. Close facility or total rehab. Get rid of roaches in dietary. Provide milk daily. Provide food that won't be just thrown away by every inmate. Provide a humane environment.
6. To be honest I know my suggestions don't really matter, I'm just an incarcerated individual.
7. Why, it's never going to happen!!!
8. Someone to pay more attention to people health and living situations here.
9. A new warden be installed.
10. Stop the policy of not being able to cell inside your own race. Blacks can cell together but Mexican and whites can't. This is not fair and is being taken advantage of.
11. RETRAINING!!!
12. Try better techniques when they are dealing with Individuals in custody.
13. Close this place down - that would be the improvement!
14. To treat others with empathy and obey the law!
15. Staff leave their problems at home

16. 1. I do believe the commissary officers need to be reviewed and looked into because we have such a drastic change, and lack of having certain items such as hygiene. 2. We need to have at least 2 yards a day especially for 1st shift workers, we barely get any movement in this minimum camp
17. Close down, because nothing works here and the staff is the worst I have ever seen in my life, it's a lot of us that don't feel safe.
18. There should be surveys that prisoners take to improve prisons. They are the ones locked up.
19. Better food/Run yard and gym daily Better ADA assistance/Having a working water fountain on deck
20. More meaningful vocation courses. Better communication from staff.
21. Fire Lt. [NAME REDACTED] and a lot of other staff
22. Seeing as how all these housing units are actually condemned, why not just shut this place down? Or at the very least lower the population while you continued with your patchwork.
23. If they had healthier food where we just don't pack on pounds, get extreme acid, indigestion and heartburn, more variety of channels on TV, extra inmate clothing for the week, especially for those who work on assignments and dietary. Follow the exact sentence time that was issued to be at court which is only 6 months!
24. Quit hiring the mentally handicapped to run this prison and IDOC. Put cameras in this facility. Fix the Chow Hall Floor. Water is leaking through the Chow Hall Floor down into offender's legal storage area.
25. Work to do good
26. More available programs, inmates be housed by their needs, medical - mental - ADA - etc.
27. Everything, with the way staff talks to us, the way of living and not having enough cleaning materials to clean our environment.
28. Open up the self-help classes for all inmates, not just the ones with short time!
29. Be more reasonable and respectful they treat people.
30. More school for everyone, to help them not to come back
31. shut it down or open it completely
32. Put in cameras so there is proof of what is happening here.
33. Close it!!!
34. open movement, more help with family support system, and re-entry planning, and allow offenders to help rebuild the prison for sentencing credit
35. Better Dietary food and more better commissary items and get the things that we need on commissary.
36. Train all food supervisors in general food service preparations before they stop being correctional officers first and have more if any compassion in food service sanitation in dietary
37. Staff oversight. Individual suggestion inclusion.
38. Advise staff to calm down, they're not here to punish me, I am a man. Nurses, especially nurse [NAME REDACTED], must be taught how to talk to people. The healthcare is horrible.

39. The grievance process needs to be handled by someone else because grievances come up missing. They are not taken serious, they are handled by the very people that you write up and no one really cares. It's a joke.
40. None
41. Put in Central air and fix the buildings to livable standards.
42. Just start over bring in new everything including staff members
43. CLOSE IT DOWN
44. First of all the staff need to be retrained to be more respectable to a person need and learn how to communicate with that person... Second more programs that will fix our needs on release....
45. Staff to get more involved and take control of phones and kick out any active gang members to prisons where they are locked behind doors
46. Close them all - shit!!!
47. Honor the good time for programs taken. Put those in programs and school together in Housing Unit 3 and 4 and fix the AC and make it better. Anyone "goofing" around give 1 warning before kicking out for 2 months or so. This will show when you're there it's serious time to focus on self, which radiates to the others in the same environment. This will help tremendously! Have a Housing Unit for those who don't want to take programs or can't due to time to be housed together, and move the "kids" to another wing. It'd suck for the one CO to work it, but put the true "problematic" COs there. But doing this will not penalize the rest when they're gearing up to be released - stay focused. Maintenance needs to get their ass moving. The Supervisor walks around with the Warden all the time and yes does get nitpicked about minor problems but some are legit and for the whole wing, and [ILLEGIBLE] won't care. Nothing gets done. The electrician, carpenter - they get the job done and right right away sometimes they're even limited by the supervisor.
48. The clinical services staff need to be more hands on and help more with things (concerns) for us.
49. Change in upper management Wardens/counselor
50. More good programs. Day for Day credit for All jobs and schooling, sensitivity training, nurse [NAME REDACTED] should be fired.
51. Treat everyone as an individual not as a whole based on offense
52. More attention to the details of their jobs by records and counselors. They're not helpful at all.
53. Rebuild most of the prison and trust the resident more and let them walk around more.
54. More mental health staff. More good time programs. Day for day credit for all jobs. Teach staff how to talk to us
55. Consistent scheduling for certain movement such as pill line and then bubble pack. Times vary.
56. They need better staff body cam
57. Better schooling, living conditions, and treatment from staff
58. More incentives, more opportunity, and attention to our needs. We need programs that target issues or mentality we all have in common. We need to hit our problems and disorders head on and reverse them.

59. It starts with the Administration prior warden [NAME REDACTED] did an outstanding job. Current Wardens [NAMES REDACTED] honestly do not have the staff under control like [NAME REDACTED] previous warden.
60. Tear it down, it is an outhouse.
61. Close them down build new ones!
62. Treat offenders as people stop lying about things you know that are not true they should also follow laws and policies when it comes to transfers and visits.
63. To get the medication you need to at least lower your constant pain
64. More better training!!
65. To hold counselors responsible for not helping people who need the help
66. More yard, school
67. Develop better maintenance programs
68. Improve healthcare Staff needs to learn how to talk to people More recreation More programs for good time
69. Some type of internal oversight that is not a part of IDOC, especially the grievance process. We can never win a grievance because they (staff) always work together against us.
70. Get everyone as far as staff on one accord. So that they'll be some consistency when it comes to rule enforcement application.
71. It needs more older, more experienced officers here. Especially C/Os who have worked at Stateville, Menard, and Pontiac.
72. Work shops and getting school
73. Communicate better and treat everyone with respect. Just because we're here doesn't make us bad people.
74. More programs
75. Have the C/Os run the prison and not inmates.
76. "Shut it down"
77. To give the same opportunities to all inmates not just selective ones or because of their case. If they are sex offenders or not because they are treated different be it not going to school or hard to find to find housing inside or leaving. And that the officers receive 90 days in higher security prison so they will have a feel and experience before going to a lower security because then they would appreciate it after training. Better food.
78. Follow the money trail
79. To have more programs; yard and gym activities; better food.
80. That all C/O's take "Thinking for a Change" classes and stop doing so many over time in order for them to not falsely accuse someone or functioning well for their own health.
81. Change health care complete. Hire competent MD's, nurses, etc. Do not renew contract with Wexford!
82. Classes, rewarding and getting classes, programs to people who do not have bad behavior or lie. Train the COs and have outside people for dietary.
83. Rebuild in entirety
84. This is supposed to be a lower level reentry. Make it that. No one asked to come here we were just moved one day. No school with usable skills.

85. Sanitation
86. Close this prison because of rodent infestation. Black mold. Reclassify and reassign individuals to new prisons or hire new staff.
87. Remodel the buildings as standard for good and health living conditions
88. Get us in programs faster than 90 days
89. Cleaning it up cause the health care center looks very nasty and dark and hot.
90. To control the phone in order not abuse let be fair allow everyone to use to talk to family
91. Install thermostatically controlled heating values. Install working cooling systems for individuals in custody. Improve nutritional value of food in dietary. Serve Vitamin D whole milk. Adhering to the law for 1/2 day sentence credit for each day in self-help programs AA and NA. As outlined in 730 ILCS 5/3-6-3(2)(3.0)(4.2) revised July 1, 2021?
92. Fix water fountains and ice machines. Ice machines need to be on each wing available all day every day. Commissary needs to be stocked with more items. Phone lists or phones assigned to 10 or 11 cells each (phone #1 is for cells 1-10, #2 is for 11-21 and so on) Classes and good time need to be available to individuals with very little criminal backgrounds.
93. Better food/cleanliness in dietary. Extermination in dietary. Raises in pay for all inmates with skilled worker status. Make time more comfortable for inmates.
94. Training
95. Treat inmates how they should wanna be treated if they was in our shoes
96. People here want to better themselves but not everyone is given the chance to.
97. ?
98. None
99. Serve tea in lunch room.
100. Everything that's needed, air, respectful staff etc. ...
101. Better staff
102. More workers are needed to improve the quality of life here (to clean this place up)!
103. More staff that's understanding, patient, willing to empathy. Not everyone in here is a bad person just made bad choices.

## **Q15. Please write any other comments or feedback on this survey below.**

1. Close down EMCC. It's old and unfit for any human to live here. And the staff treats people like they want to and nothing is done about it.
2. People with 85% who are wrongfully convicted should get an opportunity at work release or house arrest. WE ARE NOT ANIMALS WE ARE HUMAN BEINGS!!!
3. There is very little schooling opportunities. Very little incentive to become a better person. Very little job opportunity for vocational - just slave labor type jobs - janitorial -

need a more human rights approach. Too many officers getting overtime for basically nothing or sleeping on the job.

4. You all need to take a real look into this prison and ask the inmates real questions. This place should be shut down. It's not suitable to live in!!!
5. The problem here the chow hall is filthy. The people incarcerated are not the problem it's certain staff members who are disrespectful, unprofessional, and untrained.
6. Overall not bad living conditions is a big part of doing good time. But racial environment exist in every prison. Two people who can cell together should be able to do so. Not force race boundaries.
7. Over the past couple weeks it's been in the 90-100 degrees and there are over 100 grown men that has to share 5 gallons of water per shift. And when ask officers for more they say it's not in the rulebook that they must supply ice water at all!
8. Help this facility with they reviewing for EDSC and they process of being put into programs. Help the next person get out.
9. This place needs to be investigated from an independent outside source - no one really cares - not even you!
10. This prison is selective on who and when receives opportunity even if you are well behaved no disciplinary tickets. People should be given opportunity when earning the privilege. Do not hold people to a double standard. (Violation of 5th Amendment)
11. ADA staff here sucks
12. The teachers only come to A.B.E. school 4 days a week, most only come 2-3 days a week. The classrooms hold approx. 20 people however they only put 6-12 in a class at a time. It takes 6 months to complete mandatory A.B.E. schooling and another 6 months for advanced A.B.E. schooling/that's 3 months for each class. That means once you're in school it could take up to 1 year to just get started on G.E.D. schooling. THIS NEEDS TO CHANGE!!! I believe they are doing this for population control. The average person does not have enough time to complete their G.E.D. while incarcerated because of the days the teachers show up actually and how many they put in each class. This needs to be looked at!!
13. This is a horrible place to be I have been threatened, walked in the shower on, this place needs to be investigated and they need to come and talk to some of the inmates, I am so depressed every day here, I feel sadness, anger, fear, anxiety every day. I HATE it here.
14. They should create a program that lets prisoners recreate the prison to fit needs of others and themselves so that they leave a better mark to not return but be remembered.
15. I have seen ADA inmates get harassed constantly by multiple staff. Almost daily sometimes, [IDENTIFYING INFORMATION REDACTED]
16. Fire Lt. [NAME REDACTED], they need to help people more to prepare them for the world, more classes
17. What's the point in this survey? Every year you all do a survey and you must know how run down and unprofessional this staff is and place should not have anybody living here. And nothing improves here. No positive changes. What's the point? COVID-19 is still killing people making people sick, and still they stack us on top of



each other. Is it an attempt to slowly kill us off? Is the JHA and the IDOC in bed together? Is this some kind of thing you all do to keep getting funded? How can you be an independent correctional monitoring organization and not force positive changes. What good is this information if you're not going to do anything with it. Help or stop all to oversight stuff! It's a LIE!

18. I thank you for your concerns and questions about my stay at East Moline. I look at this prison more like a summer camp/outdoor education/recovery treatment for mental, drug and alcohol and behavioral disabilities. I just hope I do only 6 months here which is what the judge ordered me to serve but receiving my M.S.R. date it's dated [**DATE REDACTED**]. I hope they don't add on extra time to my sentence and would like for someone to correct my M.S.R. date and calculations sheet. Thank you and God bless John Howard Association!
19. Had Augustana not started their B.A. Program here, I would have done anything to transfer to another prison. This administration to learn to communicate. IDOC needs to modernize. We have no computer to type a clemency, yet they (clemency) have to be typed.
20. Do good to get out
21. East Moline fails to properly care for medical and/or ADA needs of many of us! The security staff often times bullies older and inmates with special needs at East Moline.
22. All staff and C/O's should be made to continue to wear their MASK at all time while at work!
23. More yard and more school
24. N/A
25. There is a level of corruption at this facility that most would never believe unless they saw it for themselves. The problem is no one believes what is really happening. They believe the false report written by staff.
26. Why. Nobody gives a dam about the overall welfare of the inmates. Just a fraternity of COs, male and female collecting paychecks and absolutely nothing more Nothing more.
27. Been incarcerated 21 years, hope to be released before my mother past with so many medical issues. Have [**NUMBER REDACTED**] years remaining. Been here over 3 years, on waiting list hoping for Kewanee re-entry center, and need a change for family motivation. Been gone so long I feel my family has given up. Need more help before release. "We need sentencing credit for Truth-in-Sentencing"
28. Do a complete overhaul of ordering commissary items bring back ice cream at a lower price more choices in flavors and also name brand sodas at a reasonable price and microwave food items put microwave ovens on every unit in East Moline Correctional Center. Inmate Trust Fund can pay for each oven! This can be done. I was in East Moline before [in 1990s]! On A wing we all cleaned after each use.
29. The survey is good, but it doesn't target healthcare at all. This is supposed to be a low security minimum, but staff here act like they want it to be much worse, they antagonize and instigate situations. They make my time so much harder.
30. Good overall?
31. Why is nothing changing but you keep giving us surveys

32. There are roaches in the food, and the cooks sometimes don't wear gloves Something needs be done no one wants 2 do nothing
33. I do see how this place is trying to improve, but the lack of leadership will hold this place back, and the staff will never fall in line because of it...
34. I appreciate the John Howard Association involvement but East Moline in a whole meets bare minimum requirements when it comes to issuing inmates requirements that they need.
35. They have no single respect for humanity. They have no single respect for my religion Islam. I'm a Muslim and there are 30 Muslims. [REDACTED]
36. This place can be a truly influential place for those who are close to being released. This place can put the mindset in others that it's time to prepare, put the game face on and be ready to tackle release head on. A few adjustments said above, and throughout my survey will help fine tune this. Also Springfield, IDOC and the State needs to play ball. If this place is to remain here, shore up their infrastructure - the old tunnels, sewer systems that have been here since late 1800s - and where their electricity, water, sewer lines run through, and which will stop the sinkholes - the land being washed through. Then fix up the buildings. This facility is so unique and a huge benefit being the way it is close to society. It's like "freedom" is right there, RIGHT there, but I still have a fence between. That's what you're striving for. To get THERE! That is inspiration and the facility is like a society, all different and spread out housing units and such. A pain for maintenance, but a beauty for the psych, mental health, and preparation for the individual in custody to be more focused and determined. One day, I'd love to see a work detail, a van or two after careful consideration, to go to the John Deere factory to work - say 7am-1pm. They can get some real world experience, allow that as a reference to a resume and more importantly to save up some money to help transition or establish a place to stay that may be required to parole. An honor dorm. Yes there may be an idiot or two - they're everywhere, but would be taken seriously by majority. And sex crimes, don't get good time, a level of benefits that can't be passed. Certain and better jobs, parole as lack of housing available out in society, etc. A chance should be given here too. Or a different job or work detail that's about equivalent but within acceptable reason - maybe even on grounds should be tried. They have skills too. And leave the trees alone! It's an awesome perk to being here. The leaves changing, to the birds and wildlife using them. And plant some damn flowers or flowerbeds. Make it look and smell a little good. Use the horticulture class or get one. Thanks for listening.
37. Good survey very general though
38. This facility is practicing racist and retaliatory practices inhumane treatment living in unsafe living conditions breathing mold and asbestos drinking water that is colored and foul smelling. Dietary conditions are unsafe eating to eat in with roaches and pest such as mice and maggots. This place really needs an outside audit and the IDPH to come in and do a thorough walk through of all living areas. There are no working water fountains and we are not given the opportunity to purchase safe drinking water. The memo enclosed is proof of how we are being treated by Asst. Warden [NAME REDACTED] Thank you.

39. This people talk to me like I'm a dog. I need help, I don't know what to do in society, I'm on my 9th prison bit!! I don't know what to do and no one here does either. I've been denied Kewanee, I've been denied work release. The next time the police will have to kill me, I will not go through this again, but I don't know how to live out there. I'm not going to a shelter or halfway house. But I have no where to go. I have no money, no clothes, no transportation. I have no options. My life sucks, it always has. So you tell me what the plan is? If you people truly care, you explain to me what I'm suppose to do out there.
40. If they trust us they would let us work outside the gates more, they do not trust us to wash the outside window
41. No one wants to fill these surveys out, they all say it's pointless, that you don't care. There's no hope here. I don't believe anyone really cares. Do you care? What are you gonna do to help?
42. Well all inmates should be treat better as human being and do test on these staff and white shirt
43. Staff say taxpayers pay to make sure they make our time hell. That's not their job. And the state pay ain't right a case of noodles is 10.56 State pay \$10 a month if you have a job you only get \$20 a month. You're forced to get in debt with gangs to get by.
44. Thanks
45. Thank you for sending the survey I speak for myself it crazy but a lot of stuff sometimes goes on in the institution that I am completely unaware of. I focus on me and what's best for me and my future.
46. This prison is run by very petty people. There is no chance for convicts to start a new or rehabilitated life. We cannot do anything other than return to this prison or another. It's a damn shame.
47. They need help more than us, but let them tell us, they are the smart ones!!!
48. Counselors are supposed to be in a facility to help instead of telling you that they will not put sex offenders in for good time because it goes against their moral compass or tell your information to other inmates to make you look bad or just to gossip for them to tell other inmates.
49. Start a group that goes to prisons and finds out what really happens here. Then do something about it to fix the problems make people responsible for their actions.
50. Offer more programs also they want you to snitch to receive good jobs. Too many roaches in chow hall come check and see for yourself.
51. Say what you say
52. These people don't know how to speak with respect, they talk down to me, they are not better than me. I feel dehumanized on a regular basis.
53. I have lies by staff [NAME REDACTED] in writing, presented it in a grievance, and my grievance was still denied. I spoke to the warden about the issue and he responded, "I don't know, I am not clinical services," blatantly disregarding my concerns.
54. 1. They said if I got a G.E.D I'd get 90 days off. 2. They said to go for a G.E.D. I had to get 8.0 on TABE test. 3. I got 8.0 on TABE test. 4. I was told the G.E.D. education/test would not be offered. 5. Some people do bad on the test on purpose, so they can go to school and then get 45 days off."

55. The food and healthcare here need a total upgrade from top to bottom.
56. Help! Us please all
57. I wish this prison gets closed down and we all get re-located to a better prison.
58. It's a complete survey overall. Hopefully, issues will be looked into and/or addressed. The survey doesn't ask about treatment of ADA inmates, East Moline being the worst. As for my treatment and ADA needs, ADA inmates are often bullied by staff here.
59. Inmates and C/Os have relationships
60. The things that happen here I hate to say it, but an inmate one day will die here. I feel you people don't really care. Because if you did you would really look into this place and find the truth, you would see for yourselves the bullshit that's here. "Save us."
61. I think reforming the prison system since the governor came in and wanting change for the better and releasing good time to give those an early chance to get back their lives in the free world. And I know that are some improvements, and more work is needed with staff in how they conduct themselves as well as programs given. That free movement creates a positive feel and attitude for low security facilities. Have leadership that is truly quality at the top to set the standards for lower staff members, and allowing inmates to be an example to the younger. Inmates who should be rewarded as trustees and placed in special housing unit as they called honor dorm because of their work ethics to steer inmates in the right direction. And the most important to me is to have church members of Christianity that represent different faith or choice of denomination be told to come in. That would really make the difference to bring a peaceful atmosphere in all prisons I find is the solution to solve a lot of problems because it helps and is the answer toward change. When your faith in God is instituted, to those who choose and have a choice when opportunities are available.
62. The prisoners are not treated as in-custody individuals; how do I know this? Because it has taken me twelve years to get a MRI to learn **[DIAGOSIS REDACTED]**, so explain to me how is prison life, when Wexford Health Sources, Inc., sees me simply as a budgetary costs cutting concern!
63. It was helpful and being thoughtful of the well-being of those incarcerated.
64. IDOC has a mission statement. If they would inquire that question, I wonder if it's any importance to the C/O's or this association that's handing out this survey. People want to change. But I know whoever is reading this feels secure by having your job. Do you want to feel sexually harassed and laughed at? How about being dismissed and ignored? Help us, this time! The higher ups are installing fear with the C/O's and nothing is being done because we're nothing but a bunch of idiots. I do not like being yelled at or feeling threatened by them just because they have an off-duty police officer mindset. All these C/O's are related or are engaged, boyfriend or girlfriend.
65. Would like to see concrete results of these surveys you do, and see if your efforts improve somewhat this prison system.
66. Blacks can have black cellmates. Whites can't have white cellmates. = Bullshit E.M.C.C.
67. Poor on health care. No time given to heal. No food given to heal!!! Takes too long to get medical help. Poor doctors. Doctors care more about IDOC than what is going wrong with you.

68. The female staff here are very disrespectful and they talk to us like we are unhuman, and they either are dating another CO staff member here so the male staff will come over and shake down your room, or give you a hard time and threaten you. The staff here at East Moline do not abide by the rules, and they stick together, even when they are wrong.
69. More reentry help
70. WE NEED HELP ASAP!! No one cares if we live or die!!!
71. Dietary needs to cut down on serving preserved food, which mostly contains high concentration of sodium and preservatives, which are harmful as people sitting mostly around - incarcerated - cooked food preferably.
72. I shouldn't have to take a TABE test to get a job. We need people who want to help us. Substance abuse would be great.
73. Please help clean up NRC cause that make you get in sewer water, give you cell with no lights, give you sheets with piss and blood on them.
74. People need to follow the rules and not get by they make it bad for the good people
75. **[NAME REDACTED]** are not giving individuals in custody our lawful right to receive 1/2 day earned program sentence credit (EPSC) for our participation in alcoholics anonymous AA and narcotics anonymous NA each day we are in either of these self-help programs as they do in other Illinois prisons and as outlined in the Illinois Statute 730 ILCS 5/3-6-3(2)(3.0)(4.2) Rules and regulations for sentence credit (revised July 1, 2021). **[NAME REDACTED]** told our AA group "If I give you guys your sentence credit do you know how many guys would show up." It's called Due process to the law of Illinois and they're not adhering to the law here. Nor will **[NAME REDACTED]** resubmit us for EDSC review after we've been denied the first time. Earned Discretionary Sentence credit can be resubmitted every 90 days according to **[NAME REDACTED]**. \*Because of the heat in the pharmacy here all of our medication is compromised, which in my case are blood thinners to help me stay alive. \***[NAME REDACTED]** an education teacher here had to be shown by an inmate/student that he was teaching us an algebra formula for the equation of a line incorrectly and **[NAME REDACTED]** had a hard time saying he was wrong, he would only admit that he wrote it incorrectly on the chalk board.
76. The survey will be great if they're taken seriously.
77. The COs in this institution for the most part do a great job. Maintenance needs more help. My suggestions are due to the fact that I am doing an extended term in this prison (more than 5 years) and I have done 3 years here already.
78. Please allow a chance for everyone to be chosen for programs and school. I have no major offenses and a year left and yet people I came here with were chosen before me.
79. Thank you!
80. No comments. Just passing through on a mistake with short-time. Lesson learned to stay out the way and put family first. Abide the laws.
81. Med center should deliver ones meds rather than me go pick it up.
82. .... Please help us here ... please

83. I've had serious contact with mold here and I feel my health is diminishing because of it.

## Marginalia Comments

### Q2. Race or Ethnicity

1. Caucasian.

### Q5. What housing status are you currently on?

1. [Other] Medical

### Q8. Mark response that best describes how you feel (Strongly Agree = SA, Agree = A, Neutral = N, Disagree = D, Strongly Disagree = SD)

Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.

1. [N] Not all staff

Staff here treat incarcerated people fairly when applying the rules.

1. [A] From [NAME REDACTED]

I trust the officers.

1. [A] 90% of them 10% no

The best way to get things done is to go through official channels

1. [N] As long as it's not one of the 10%
2. [A] Only option though

I have been helped significantly by a staff member with a particular problem.

1. [A] [NAME REDACTED]

Overall, I am treated fairly by staff.

1. [A] Inmates some don't like rules, thus complain bias when not.

**Q9. Mark response that best describes how you feel (Strongly Agree = SA, Agree = A, Neutral = N, Disagree = D, Strongly Disagree = SD)**

Some of the treatment I receive is degrading

1. [A] Again those 10% are those some

Staff have enough experience and expertise to deal with issues that matter to me.

1. [A] Execution of this is another matter.

If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.

1. [SD] All the time
2. There is no other option, they punish one, regardless

Staff are augmentative towards incarcerated people.

1. [N] Some
2. [D] 10% are
3. Sometimes

To get things done, you have to ask and ask and ask.

1. [D] Maintenance esp. the supervisor to allow them to – yeah
2. Sometimes

The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.

1. [SA] Big improvement from the last 3 years of surveys
2. Sometimes in a negative way towards COs

Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.

1. [SD] White
2. [SA] Snitches
3. [SA] White people
4. Sometimes

My experience of imprisonment in this particular prison has been stressful.

1. [A] Mom past away.
2. [D] Most of time no maintenance maintaining things in common areas, is a problem

This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.

1. [D] Those few inmates who don't like rules enforced for the fairness of all esp. the quiet/shy, try to use bias to change it back their liking.

This prison is well organized.

1. [N] Once things start to go – yes, but now changes take a good minute to get going. It's slower here.

I feel that I am treated with respect by staff.

1. [N] Some
2. [SD] Every morning Sgt. [NAME REDACTED] yells and bogusly shakes us down.

My experience in this prison is painful.

1. [A] Mom past away.
2. [SD] AC or more ice in summer but doesn't stop me from continuing on.

There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.

1. Usually is

The disciplinary system is fair.

1. [SD] There is nothing but family here, sons, daughter, cousins, brothers, sisters

There are a few incarcerated people who run things on this unit.

1. [SD] Phones are a constant thing, but those are the ones who don't like new rules

Decisions are dominated by concerns about security.

1. [D] Everything seems to be taken into account.
2. Do not understand "Decisions are dominated by concerns about security"

My time here seems like a chance to make positive changes.

1. [SA] I try
2. [D] Only because the choice I make not because the staff or programs. I choose to better myself.
3. [SD] They treat us like shit and nothing gets fixed around here there are rooms here with no lights over two weeks. Just living in the dark.
4. [SA] It's getting there finally! From the first 3 years of surveys.

**Q10. Mark response that best describes how you feel (Strongly Agree = SA, Agree = A, Neutral = N, Disagree = D, Strongly Disagree = SD)**

You have to be in a group or gang in order to get by.

1. [SD] If so it's the KKK
2. [N] Race

Bullying behavior by incarcerated people is not tolerated.



1. [A] Those few but it's minor

Anyone who harms themselves is considered by staff to be more of an attention seeker than someone who needs help.

1. [SA] They laugh at someone who needs help rather than helping.
2. I don't know

I am able to maintain meaningful contact with my outside supports.

1. [SD] They only thing they will say "Oh well."

This is a humane prison.

1. [SA] Except for AC ice for summer

This prison is better now than it was last year.

1. [SA] Last year COVID changed things but let the new admin run for once without it. I bet it will.
2. [SD] Hell No!

Mental health treatment is available.

1. If that's what you call it No HELP!!

Every effort is made by this prison to help people stop committing offenses on release from custody.

1. [A] Programs finally here, yes!
2. [SD] Their demeanor is very negative.

I am satisfied with food from dietary.

1. [SD] They have cockroaches and maggots
2. [A] It's gotten way better. More fresh fruit and veg.
3. [SD] Staff eat better

**Q11. Overall, on a scale of 1 to 10, mark the box this prison deserves in terms of quality of life/general treatment of the people incarcerated here.**

1. 7+
2. -100
3. -2

## **Miscellaneous Comments**

1. I just got cast put on today sorry.

2. I don't need to remain anonymous. My name is **[REDACTED]**. I would be happy to answer any questions about my statements about this facility, its staff, and the corruption here. Including corrupt staff members, drugs, contraband brought in by staff, staff covering for other staff, sex between staff members at work that aren't their spouses. This place is more corrupt than the crimes that brought me here.
3. East Moline Corruptional Center, 100 Hillcrest Rd., East Moline, IL 61244 Help me close this fallacy of a prison.
4. I have to say this, Nurse **[NAME REDACTED]** is a horrible person. She's vindictive and spiteful, she's harsh and uncaring. I don't know why she even works here. Her treatment of men here is borderline criminal.



This report was written by JHA staff. Media inquiries should be directed to JHA's Executive Director Jennifer Vollen-Katz at (312) 291-9555 x205 or [jvollen@thejha.org](mailto:jvollen@thejha.org)

Incarcerated individuals can send privileged mail to report concerns and issues to the John Howard Association, P.O. Box 10042, Chicago, IL 60610-0042. JHA staff are reading every letter and tracking this information to monitor what is occurring behind prison walls and to advocate for humane policies and practices. Family and friends can contact JHA via our website [www.thejha.org](http://www.thejha.org) or by leaving us a voicemail at (312) 291-9183.

Since 1901, JHA has provided public oversight of Illinois' juvenile and adult correctional facilities. Every year, JHA staff and trained volunteers inspect prisons, jails, and detention centers throughout the state. Based on these inspections, JHA regularly issues reports that are instrumental in improving prison conditions. JHA humbly thanks everyone who agreed to be interviewed for this report and who graciously shared their experiences and insights with us.

