



John Howard Association of Illinois

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Pontiac Correctional Center: Inmate Survey Results from JHA's Monitoring Visit Conducted March 14, 2019

Pontiac Correctional Center is a maximum-security prison that housed 776 adult male inmates on the day of JHA's monitoring visit. JHA collected 310 surveys from inmates (39.9% 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	149	48.1%
White	77	24.8%
Hispanic	43	13.9%
Other	27	8.7%
No response	14	4.5%
Total	310	100%

Age		
Under 26	29	9.4%
26-35	92	29.7%
36-45	88	28.4%
46-55	49	15.8%
Over 55	44	14.2%
No response	8	2.6%
Total	310	100%

What County are you from?		
Cook County	182	58.7%
Not Cook County	116	37.4%
No response	12	3.9%
Total	310	100%

Primary assignment		
Work	67	21.1%
School	2	0.6%
Unassigned	175	56.5%
Other	32	10.3%
No response	34	11.0%
Total	310	100%

Responses to Inmate Survey Questions:

Q1: I feel safe		
Strongly Agree	19	6.1%
Agree	44	14.2%
Neutral	61	19.7%
Disagree	66	21.3%
Strongly Disagree	115	37.1%
No Response	5	1.6%
Total	310	100%

Q2: Most staff treat inmates with respect		
Strongly Agree	4	1.3%
Agree	46	14.8%
Neutral	66	21.3%
Disagree	87	28.1%
Strongly Disagree	102	32.9%
No Response	5	1.6%
Total	310	100%

Q3: Most inmates treat other inmates with respect		
Strongly Agree	13	4.2%
Agree	47	15.2%
Neutral	85	27.4%
Disagree	83	26.8%
Strongly Disagree	77	24.8%
No Response	5	1.6%
Total	310	100%

Q4: Mental Health Treatment is available		
Strongly Agree	12	3.9%
Agree	70	22.6%
Neutral	76	24.5%
Disagree	65	21.0%
Strongly Disagree	75	24.2%
No Response	12	3.9%
Total	310	100%

Q5: Most staff follow rules		
Strongly Agree	5	1.6%
Agree	30	9.7%
Neutral	46	14.8%
Disagree	86	27.7%
Strongly Disagree	137	44.2%
No Response	6	1.9%
Total	310	100%

Q6: My Correctional Counselor is effective		
Strongly Agree	13	4.2%
Agree	46	14.8%
Neutral	56	18.1%
Disagree	69	22.3%
Strongly Disagree	123	39.7%
No Response	3	1.0%
Total	310	100%

Q7: I am satisfied with medical services		
Strongly Agree	2	0.6%
Agree	18	8.5%
Neutral	48	15.5%
Disagree	68	21.9%
Strongly Disagree	166	53.5%
No Response	8	2.6%
Total	310	100%

Q8: I avoid health care to avoid \$5 co-pay		
Strongly Agree	161	51.9%
Agree	49	15.8%
Neutral	28	9.0%
Disagree	31	10%
Strongly Disagree	31	10%
No Response	10	3.2%
Total	310	100%

Q9: The disciplinary process is fair		
Strongly Agree	5	1.6%
Agree	11	3.5%
Neutral	38	12.3%
Disagree	41	13.2%
Strongly Disagree	211	68.1%
No Response	4	1.3%
Total	310	100%

Q10: This facility is safe for inmates		
Strongly Agree	10	3.2%
Agree	34	11.0%
Neutral	56	18.1%
Disagree	66	21.3%
Strongly Disagree	138	44.5%
No Response	6	1.9%
Total	310	100%

Q11: There is at least one staff member who I could ask for help		
Strongly Agree	56	18.1%
Agree	108	34.8%
Neutral	52	16.8%
Disagree	29	9.4%
Strongly Disagree	59	19.0%
No Response	6	1.9%
Total	310	100%

Q12: The grievance process is effective		
Strongly Agree	2	0.6%
Agree	14	4.5%
Neutral	25	8.1%
Disagree	58	18.7%
Strongly Disagree	207	66.8%
No Response	4	1.3%
Total	310	100%

Q13: I would feel comfortable filing a grievance		
Strongly Agree	11	3.5%
Agree	35	11.3%
Neutral	42	13.5%
Disagree	75	24.2%
Strongly Disagree	141	45.5%
No Response	6	1.9%
Total	310	100%

Q14: This facility is better now than last year		
Strongly Agree	9	2.9%
Agree	31	10.0%
Neutral	83	26.8%
Disagree	44	14.2%
Strongly Disagree	127	41.0%
No Response	16	5.2%
Total	310	100%

Q15: Contraband from outside the facility often gets inside		
Strongly Agree	20	6.5%
Agree	23	7.4%
Neutral	60	19.4%
Disagree	79	25.5%
Strongly Disagree	112	36.1%
No Response	16	5.2%
Total	310	100%

Q16: There is frequent gang activity here		
Strongly Agree	42	13.5%
Agree	57	18.4%
Neutral	70	22.6%
Disagree	65	21.0%
Strongly Disagree	69	22.3%
No Response	7	2.3%
Total	310	100%

Q17: Mail is timely		
Strongly Agree	127	41.0%
Agree	59	19.0%
Neutral	58	18.7%
Disagree	47	15.2%
Strongly Disagree	12	3.9%
No Response	7	2.3%
Total	310	100%

Q18: Temperature is comfortable		
Strongly Agree	3	1.0%
Agree	29	9.4%
Neutral	68	21.9%
Disagree	85	27.4%
Strongly Disagree	120	38.7%
No Response	5	1.6%
Total	310	100%

Q19: Posted schedules are accurate		
Strongly Agree	3	1.0%
Agree	47	15.2%
Neutral	83	26.8%
Disagree	73	23.5%
Strongly Disagree	93	30.0%
No Response	11	3.5%
Total	310	100%

Q20: Ventilation is adequate		
Strongly Agree	3	1.0%
Agree	15	4.8%
Neutral	28	9.0%
Disagree	69	22.3%
Strongly Disagree	189	61.0%
No Response	6	1.9%
Total	310	100%

Q21: When something is broken it is fixed in a timely manner		
Strongly Agree	1	0.6%
Agree	6	1.9%
Neutral	12	3.9%
Disagree	41	13.2%
Strongly Disagree	246	79.4%
No Response	3	1.0%
Total	310	100%

Q22: I am satisfied with food from dietary		
Strongly Agree	19	16.1%
Agree	40	12.9%
Neutral	78	25.2%
Disagree	72	23.2%
Strongly Disagree	98	31.6%
No Response	3	1.0%
Total	310	100%

Q23: Clothing provided by state is adequate		
Strongly Agree	6	1.9%
Agree	49	15.8%
Neutral	59	19.0%
Disagree	74	23.9%
Strongly Disagree	120	38.7%
No Response	2	0.6%
Total	310	100%

Q24: I have adequate access to showers		
Strongly Agree	28	9.0%
Agree	125	40.3%
Neutral	59	19.0%
Disagree	48	15.5%
Strongly Disagree	45	14.5%
No Response	5	1.6%
Total	310	100%

Q25: Enough state hygiene items are provided		
Strongly Agree	1	0.3%
Agree	9	2.9%
Neutral	30	9.7%
Disagree	62	20.0%
Strongly Disagree	203	65.5%
No Response	5	1.6%
Total	310	100%

Q26: There is enough rec		
Strongly Agree	18	5.8%
Agree	51	16.5%
Neutral	63	20.3%
Disagree	59	19.0%
Strongly Disagree	114	36.8%
No Response	5	1.6%
Total	310	100%

Q27: I have adequate access to law library		
Strongly Agree	15	4.8%
Agree	60	19.4%
Neutral	63	20.3%
Disagree	66	21.3%
Strongly Disagree	102	32.9%
No Response	4	1.3%
Total	310	100%

Q28: I have enough access to phones		
Strongly Agree	20	6.5%
Agree	67	21.6%
Neutral	34	11.0%
Disagree	40	12.9%
Strongly Disagree	140	45.4%
No Response	9	2.9%
Total	310	100%

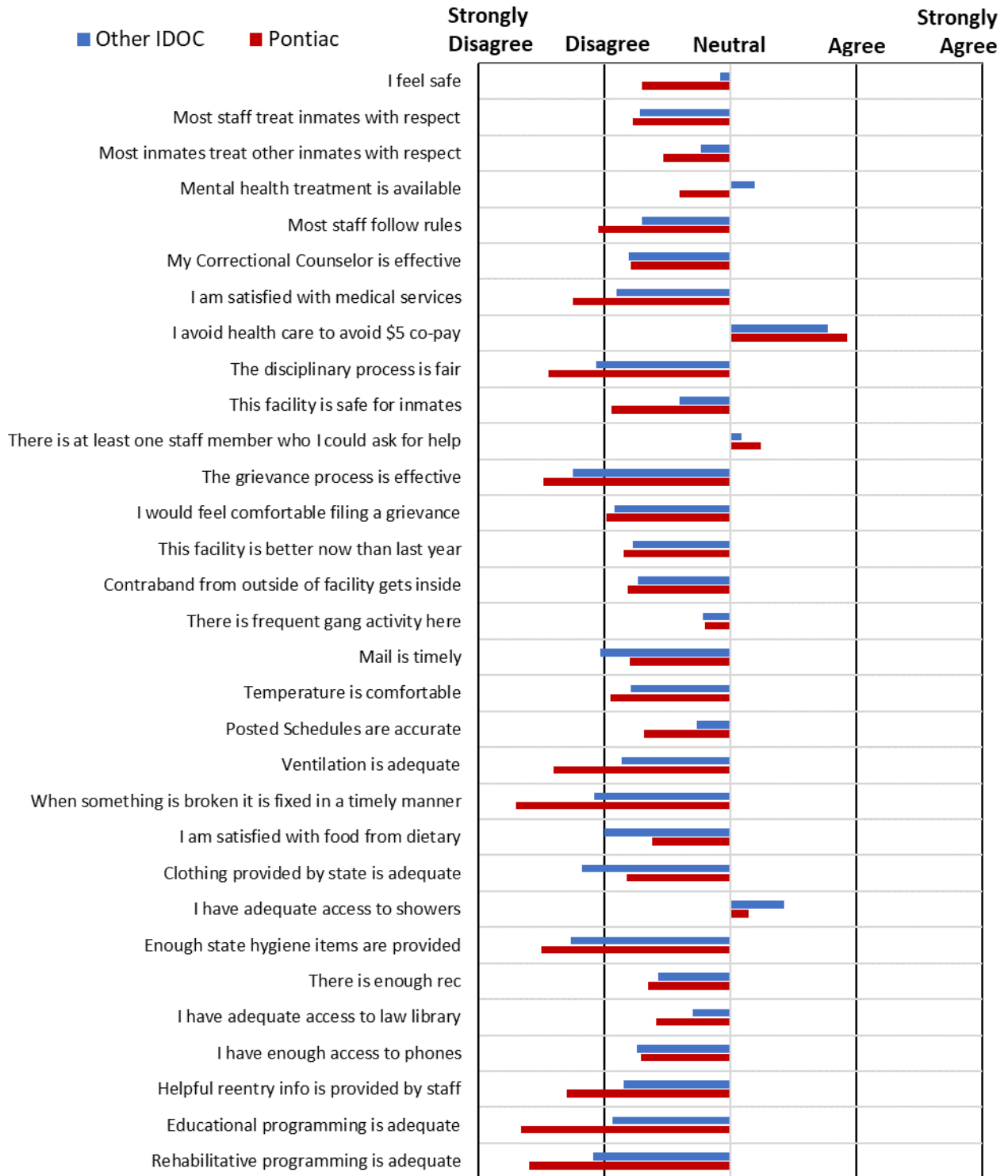
Q29: Helpful reentry info is provided by staff		
Strongly Agree	5	1.6%
Agree	7	2.3%
Neutral	57	18.4%
Disagree	46	14.8%
Strongly Disagree	171	55.2%
No Response	24	7.7%
Total	310	100%

Q30: Education programming is adequate		
Strongly Agree	1	0.3%
Agree	5	1.6%
Neutral	23	7.4%
Disagree	36	11.6%
Strongly Disagree	237	76.5%
No Response	8	2.6%
Total	310	100%

Q31: Rehabilitative programming is adequate		
Strongly Agree	3	1.0%
Agree	8	2.6%
Neutral	23	7.4%
Disagree	40	12.9%
Strongly Disagree	228	73.5%
No Response	8	2.6%
Total	310	100%

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

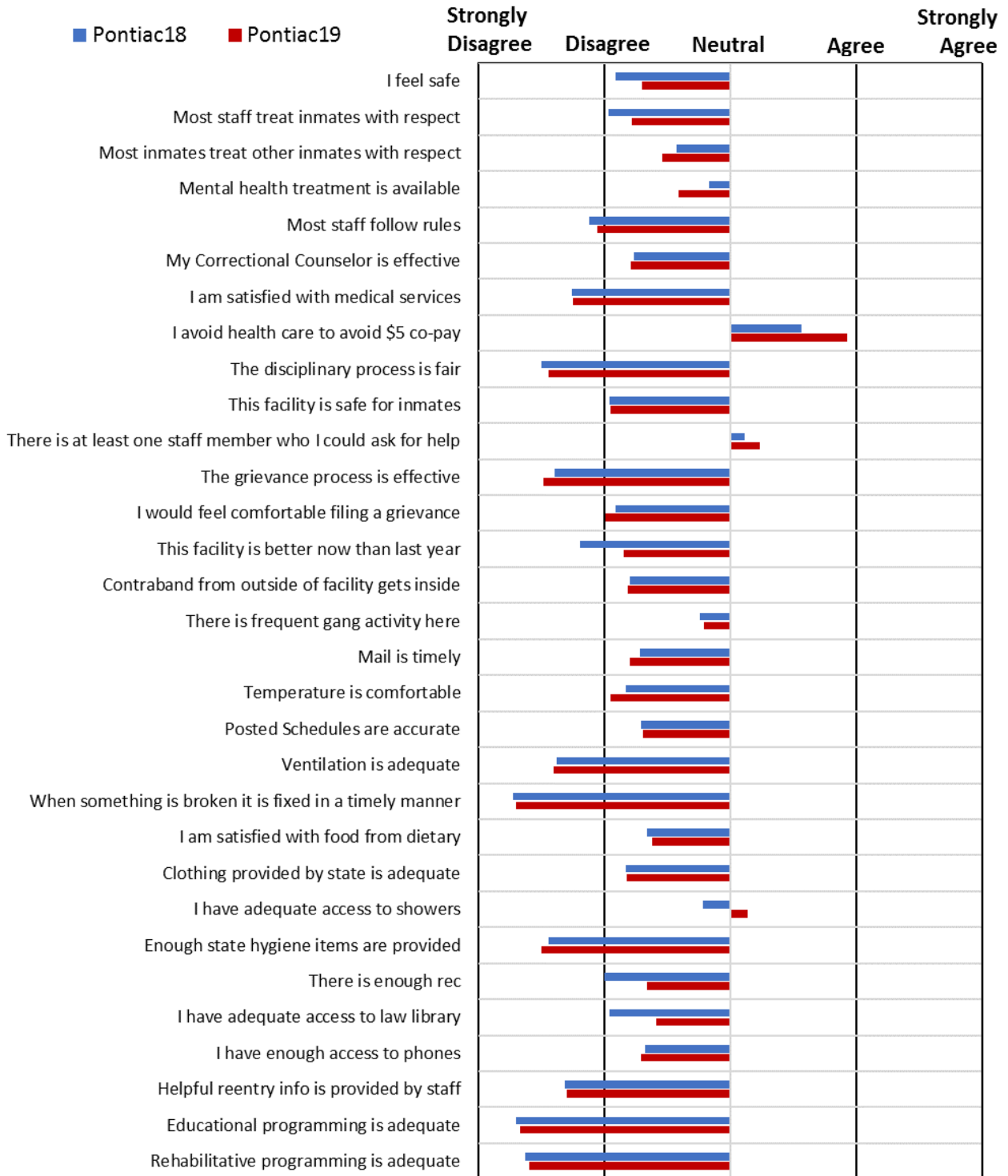
Comparison Chart: Average Inmate Response to Survey Items, Pontiac Compared to Other IDOC Prisons, 2018-2019



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

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

Comparison Chart: Average Inmate Response to Survey Items, Pontiac 2019 compared to Pontiac 2018



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.