



John Howard Association of Illinois

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

Pontiac Correctional Center's medium security unit (MSU), commonly referred to as "the farm," housed 391 adult male inmates on the day of JHA's monitoring visit. JHA collected 65 surveys from inmates (16.6% 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	25	38.5%
White	20	30.8%
Hispanic	13	20.0%
Other	6	9.2%
No response	1	1.5%
Total	65	100%

Age		
Under 26	4	6.2%
26-35	19	29.2%
36-45	16	24.6%
46-55	10	15.4%
Over 55	14	21.5%
No response	2	3.1%
Total	65	100%

What County are you from?		
Cook County	34	52.3%
Not Cook County	29	44.6%
No response	2	3.1%
Total	65	100%

Primary assignment		
Work	26	40%
School	7	10.8%
Unassigned	26	40.0%
Other	1	1.5%
No response	5	7.7%
Total	65	100%

Responses to Inmate Survey Questions:

Q1: I feel safe		
Strongly Agree	5	7.7%
Agree	20	30.8%
Neutral	24	36.9%
Disagree	5	7.7%
Strongly Disagree	8	12.3%
No Response	3	4.6%
Total	65	100%

Q2: Most staff treat inmates with respect		
Strongly Agree	2	3.1%
Agree	9	13.8%
Neutral	26	24.6%
Disagree	22	33.8%
Strongly Disagree	14	21.5%
No Response	2	3.1%
Total	65	100%

Q3: Most inmates treat other inmates with respect		
Strongly Agree	3	4.6%
Agree	12	18.5%
Neutral	30	46.2%
Disagree	13	20.0%
Strongly Disagree	5	7.7%
No Response	2	3.1%
Total	65	100%

Q4: Mental Health Treatment is available		
Strongly Agree	3	4.6%
Agree	17	26.2%
Neutral	23	35.4%
Disagree	8	12.3%
Strongly Disagree	8	12.3%
No Response	6	9.2%
Total	65	100%

Q5: Most staff follow rules		
Strongly Agree	3	4.6%
Agree	6	9.2%
Neutral	12	18.5%
Disagree	29	44.6%
Strongly Disagree	15	23.1%
No Response	0	0.0%
Total	65	100%

Q6: My Correctional Counselor is effective		
Strongly Agree	5	7.7%
Agree	13	20.0%
Neutral	15	23.1%
Disagree	15	23.1%
Strongly Disagree	14	21.5%
No Response	3	4.6%
Total	65	100%

Q7: I am satisfied with medical services		
Strongly Agree	0	0.0%
Agree	2	3.1%
Neutral	5	7.7%
Disagree	16	24.6%
Strongly Disagree	41	63.1%
No Response	1	1.5%
Total	65	100%

Q8: I avoid health care to avoid \$5 co-pay		
Strongly Agree	28	43.1%
Agree	18	27.7%
Neutral	7	10.8%
Disagree	3	4.6%
Strongly Disagree	7	10.8%
No Response	2	3.1%
Total	65	100%

Q9: The disciplinary process is fair		
Strongly Agree	0	0.0%
Agree	4	6.2%
Neutral	13	20.0%
Disagree	15	23.1%
Strongly Disagree	31	47.7%
No Response	2	3.1%
Total	65	100%

Q10: This facility is safe for inmates		
Strongly Agree	3	4.6%
Agree	10	15.4%
Neutral	22	33.8%
Disagree	13	20.0%
Strongly Disagree	16	24.6%
No Response	1	1.5%
Total	65	100%

Q11: There is at least one staff member who I could ask for help		
Strongly Agree	12	18.5%
Agree	23	35.4%
Neutral	13	20.0%
Disagree	10	15.4%
Strongly Disagree	5	7.7%
No Response	2	3.1%
Total	65	100%

Q12: The grievance process is effective		
Strongly Agree	0	0.0%
Agree	3	4.6%
Neutral	8	12.3%
Disagree	15	23.1%
Strongly Disagree	37	56.9%
No Response	2	3.1%
Total	65	100%

Q13: I would feel comfortable filing a grievance		
Strongly Agree	0	0.0%
Agree	8	12.3%
Neutral	16	24.6%
Disagree	16	24.6%
Strongly Disagree	22	33.8%
No Response	3	4.6%
Total	65	100%

Q14: This facility is better now than last year		
Strongly Agree	1	1.5%
Agree	5	7.7%
Neutral	12	18.5%
Disagree	21	32.3%
Strongly Disagree	22	33.8%
No Response	4	6.2%
Total	65	100%

Q15: Contraband from outside the facility often gets inside		
Strongly Agree	2	3.1%
Agree	2	3.1%
Neutral	17	26.2%
Disagree	19	29.2%
Strongly Disagree	22	33.8%
No Response	3	4.6%
Total	65	100%

Q16: There is frequent gang activity here		
Strongly Agree	2	3.1%
Agree	10	15.4%
Neutral	29	44.6%
Disagree	12	18.5%
Strongly Disagree	8	12.3%
No Response	4	6.2%
Total	65	100%

Q17: Mail is timely		
Strongly Agree	0	0.0%
Agree	11	16.9%
Neutral	18	27.7%
Disagree	18	27.7%
Strongly Disagree	18	27.7%
No Response	0	0.0%
Total	65	100%

Q18: Temperature is comfortable		
Strongly Agree	0	0.0%
Agree	4	6.2%
Neutral	9	13.8%
Disagree	18	27.7%
Strongly Disagree	32	49.2%
No Response	2	3.1%
Total	65	100%

Q19: Posted schedules are accurate		
Strongly Agree	1	1.5%
Agree	11	16.9%
Neutral	22	33.8%
Disagree	17	26.2%
Strongly Disagree	11	16.9%
No Response	3	4.6%
Total	65	100%

Q20: Ventilation is adequate		
Strongly Agree	0	0.0%
Agree	3	4.6%
Neutral	11	16.9%
Disagree	18	27.7%
Strongly Disagree	30	46.2%
No Response	3	4.6%
Total	65	100%

Q21: When something is broken it is fixed in a timely manner		
Strongly Agree	0	0.0%
Agree	0	0.0%
Neutral	0	0.0%
Disagree	4	6.2%
Strongly Disagree	60	92.3%
No Response	1	1.5%
Total	65	100%

Q22: I am satisfied with food from dietary		
Strongly Agree	4	6.2%
Agree	7	10.8%
Neutral	13	20.0%
Disagree	14	21.5%
Strongly Disagree	26	40.0%
No Response	1	1.5%
Total	65	100%

Q23: Clothing provided by state is adequate		
Strongly Agree	1	1.5%
Agree	9	13.8%
Neutral	6	9.2%
Disagree	17	26.2%
Strongly Disagree	30	46.2%
No Response	2	3.2%
Total	65	100%

Q24: I have adequate access to showers		
Strongly Agree	14	21.5%
Agree	33	50.8%
Neutral	4	6.2%
Disagree	4	6.2%
Strongly Disagree	9	13.8%
No Response	1	1.5%
Total	65	100%

Q25: Enough state hygiene items are provided		
Strongly Agree	0	0.0%
Agree	4	6.2%
Neutral	15	23.1%
Disagree	10	15.4%
Strongly Disagree	36	55.4%
No Response	0	0.0%
Total	65	100%

Q26: There is enough rec		
Strongly Agree	11	16.9%
Agree	24	36.9%
Neutral	11	16.9%
Disagree	12	18.5%
Strongly Disagree	7	10.8%
No Response	0	0.0%
Total	65	100%

Q27: I have adequate access to law library		
Strongly Agree	6	9.2%
Agree	24	36.9%
Neutral	19	29.2%
Disagree	8	12.3%
Strongly Disagree	6	9.2%
No Response	2	3.1%
Total	65	100%

Q28: I have enough access to phones		
Strongly Agree	3	4.6%
Agree	16	24.6%
Neutral	13	20.0%
Disagree	11	16.9%
Strongly Disagree	22	33.8%
No Response	0	0.0%
Total	65	100%

Q29: Helpful reentry info is provided by staff		
Strongly Agree	1	1.5%
Agree	7	10.8%
Neutral	16	24.6%
Disagree	17	26.2%
Strongly Disagree	17	26.2%
No Response	7	10.8%
Total	65	100%

Q30: Education programming is adequate		
Strongly Agree	0	0.0%
Agree	7	10.8%
Neutral	12	18.5%
Disagree	11	16.9%
Strongly Disagree	29	44.6%
No Response	6	9.2%
Total	65	100%

Q31: Rehabilitative programming is adequate		
Strongly Agree	1	1.5%
Agree	2	3.1%
Neutral	7	10.8%
Disagree	14	21.5%
Strongly Disagree	35	53.8%
No Response	6	9.2%
Total	65	100%

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

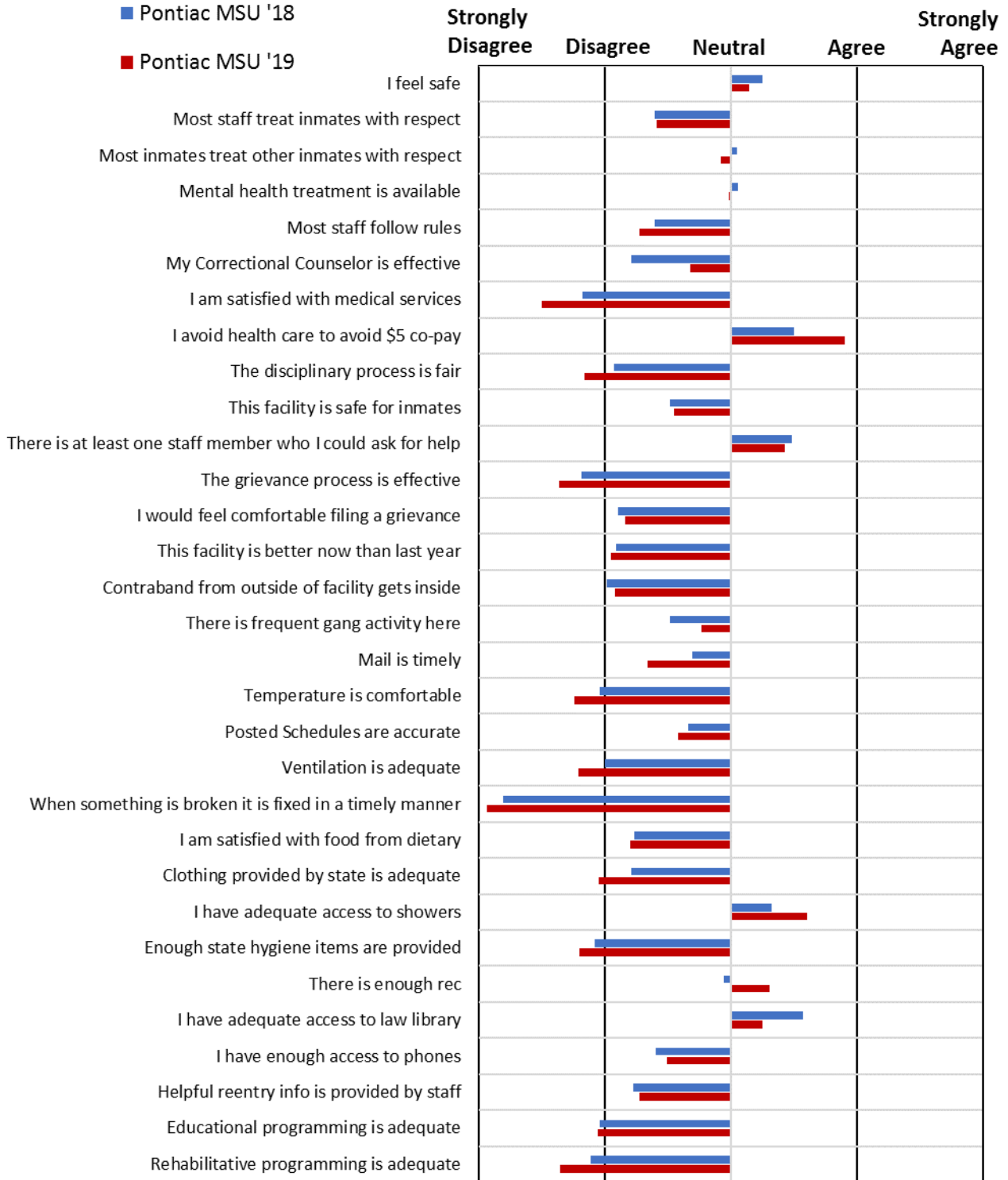
Comparison Chart: Average Inmate Response to Survey Items, Pontiac MSU Compared to Other IDOC Prisons, 2018-2019



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, Robinson, Shawnee, Stateville, Vandalia, Vienna, Western.

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



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.