



# John Howard Association of Illinois

P.O. Box 10042, Chicago, IL 60610-0042  
Tel. 312-291-9237 Fax. 312-526-3714

## Western Correctional Center: Inmate Survey Results from JHA's Monitoring Visit Conducted May 9, 2019

Western Correctional Center is a medium-security prison that housed 1,295 adult male inmates on the day of JHA's monitoring visit. JHA collected 661 surveys from inmates (51% of the population) during our monitoring visit of this prison. Inmate responses to survey questions are reported below.

### Responses to Inmate Demographic Questions:

<b>Race</b>		
Black	345	52.2%
White	151	22.8%
Hispanic	95	14.4%
Other	38	5.7%
No response	32	4.8%
Total	661	100%

<b>Age</b>		
Under 26	105	15.9%
26-35	189	28.6%
36-45	159	24.1%
46-55	113	17.1%
Over 55	75	11.3%
No response	20	3.0%
Total	661	100%

<b>What County are you from?</b>		
Cook County	368	55.7%
Not Cook County	265	40.1%
No response	28	4.2%
Total	661	100%

<b>Primary assignment</b>		
Work	164	24.8%
School	126	19.1%
Unassigned	310	46.9%
Other	14	2.1%
No response	47	7.1%
Total	661	100%

## Responses to Inmate Survey Questions:

<b>Q1: I feel safe</b>		
Strongly Agree	30	4.5%
Agree	118	17.9%
Neutral	187	28.3%
Disagree	119	18.0%
Strongly Disagree	181	27.4%
No Response	26	3.9%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q2: Most staff treat inmates with respect</b>		
Strongly Agree	5	0.8%
Agree	50	7.6%
Neutral	84	12.7%
Disagree	173	26.2%
Strongly Disagree	315	47.7%
No Response	34	5.1%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q3: Most inmates treat other inmates with respect</b>		
Strongly Agree	26	3.9%
Agree	173	26.2%
Neutral	253	38.3%
Disagree	102	15.4%
Strongly Disagree	80	12.1%
No Response	26	3.9%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q4: Mental Health Treatment is available</b>		
Strongly Agree	49	7.4%
Agree	203	30.7%
Neutral	195	29.5%
Disagree	91	13.8%
Strongly Disagree	73	11.0%
No Response	50	7.6%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q5: Most staff follow rules</b>		
Strongly Agree	10	1.5%
Agree	66	10.0%
Neutral	109	26.5%
Disagree	180	27.2%
Strongly Disagree	270	40.8%
No Response	26	3.9%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q6: My Correctional Counselor is effective</b>		
Strongly Agree	13	2.0%
Agree	57	8.6%
Neutral	158	23.9%
Disagree	156	23.6%
Strongly Disagree	242	36.6%
No Response	35	5.3%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q7: I am satisfied with medical services</b>		
Strongly Agree	16	2.4%
Agree	96	14.5%
Neutral	134	20.3%
Disagree	146	22.1%
Strongly Disagree	185	28.0%
No Response	84	12.7%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q8: I avoid health care to avoid \$5 co-pay</b>		
Strongly Agree	272	41.1%
Agree	131	19.9%
Neutral	63	9.5%
Disagree	69	10.4%
Strongly Disagree	65	9.8%
No Response	61	9.2%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q9: The disciplinary process is fair</b>		
Strongly Agree	4	0.6%
Agree	33	5.0%
Neutral	100	15.1%
Disagree	155	23.4%
Strongly Disagree	334	50.5%
No Response	35	5.3%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q10: This facility is safe for inmates</b>		
Strongly Agree	12	1.8%
Agree	67	10.1%
Neutral	165	25.0%
Disagree	154	23.3%
Strongly Disagree	224	33.9%
No Response	39	5.9%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q11: There is at least one staff member who I could ask for help</b>		
Strongly Agree	57	8.6%
Agree	188	28.4%
Neutral	117	17.7%
Disagree	101	15.3%
Strongly Disagree	167	25.3%
No Response	31	4.7%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q12: The grievance process is effective</b>		
Strongly Agree	4	0.6%
Agree	24	3.6%
Neutral	128	19.4%
Disagree	153	23.1%
Strongly Disagree	315	47.7%
No Response	37	5.6%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q13: I would feel comfortable filing a grievance</b>		
Strongly Agree	27	4.1%
Agree	55	8.3%
Neutral	91	14.7%
Disagree	191	28.9%
Strongly Disagree	277	41.9%
No Response	14	2.1%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q14: This facility is better now than last year</b>		
Strongly Agree	15	2.3%
Agree	47	7.1%
Neutral	191	28.9%
Disagree	142	21.5%
Strongly Disagree	215	32.5%
No Response	51	7.7%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q15: Contraband from outside the facility often gets inside</b>		
Strongly Agree	15	2.3%
Agree	20	3.0%
Neutral	134	20.3%
Disagree	190	28.7%
Strongly Disagree	255	38.6%
No Response	47	7.1%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q16: There is frequent gang activity here</b>		
Strongly Agree	69	10.4%
Agree	99	15.0%
Neutral	151	22.8%
Disagree	153	23.1%
Strongly Disagree	141	21.3%
No Response	48	7.3%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q17: Mail is timely</b>		
Strongly Agree	43	6.5%
Agree	201	30.4%
Neutral	151	22.8%
Disagree	118	17.9%
Strongly Disagree	113	17.1%
No Response	35	5.3%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q18: Temperature is comfortable</b>		
Strongly Agree	19	2.9%
Agree	113	17.1%
Neutral	164	24.8%
Disagree	166	25.1%
Strongly Disagree	170	25.7%
No Response	29	4.4%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q19: Posted schedules are accurate</b>		
Strongly Agree	47	7.1%
Agree	214	32.4%
Neutral	172	26.0%
Disagree	103	15.6%
Strongly Disagree	87	13.2%
No Response	38	5.7%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q20: Ventilation is adequate</b>		
Strongly Agree	14	2.1%
Agree	108	16.3%
Neutral	146	22.1%
Disagree	161	24.4%
Strongly Disagree	183	27.7%
No Response	49	7.4%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q21: When something is broken it is fixed in a timely manner</b>		
Strongly Agree	18	2.7%
Agree	105	15.9%
Neutral	135	20.4%
Disagree	173	26.2%
Strongly Disagree	207	31.3%
No Response	23	2.5%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q22: I am satisfied with food from dietary</b>		
Strongly Agree	7	1.1%
Agree	104	15.7%
Neutral	131	19.8%
Disagree	149	22.5%
Strongly Disagree	235	35.6%
No Response	35	5.3%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q23: Clothing provided by state is adequate</b>		
Strongly Agree	3	0.5%
Agree	43	6.5%
Neutral	70	20.6%
Disagree	145	21.9%
Strongly Disagree	369	55.8%
No Response	31	4.7%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q24: I have adequate access to showers</b>		
Strongly Agree	97	14.7%
Agree	225	34.0%
Neutral	116	17.5%
Disagree	94	14.2%
Strongly Disagree	89	13.5%
No Response	40	6.1%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q25: Enough state hygiene items are provided</b>		
Strongly Agree	3	0.5%
Agree	38	5.7%
Neutral	74	11.2%
Disagree	138	20.9%
Strongly Disagree	376	56.9%
No Response	32	4.8%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q26: There is enough rec</b>		
Strongly Agree	38	5.7%
Agree	141	21.3%
Neutral	104	15.7%
Disagree	134	20.3%
Strongly Disagree	209	31.6%
No Response	35	5.3%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q27: I have adequate access to law library</b>		
Strongly Agree	30	4.5%
Agree	136	20.6%
Neutral	179	27.1%
Disagree	121	18.3%
Strongly Disagree	158	23.9%
No Response	37	5.6%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q28: I have enough access to phones</b>		
Strongly Agree	36	5.4%
Agree	107	16.2%
Neutral	114	17.2%
Disagree	127	19.2%
Strongly Disagree	247	37.4%
No Response	30	4.5%
Total	661	100%

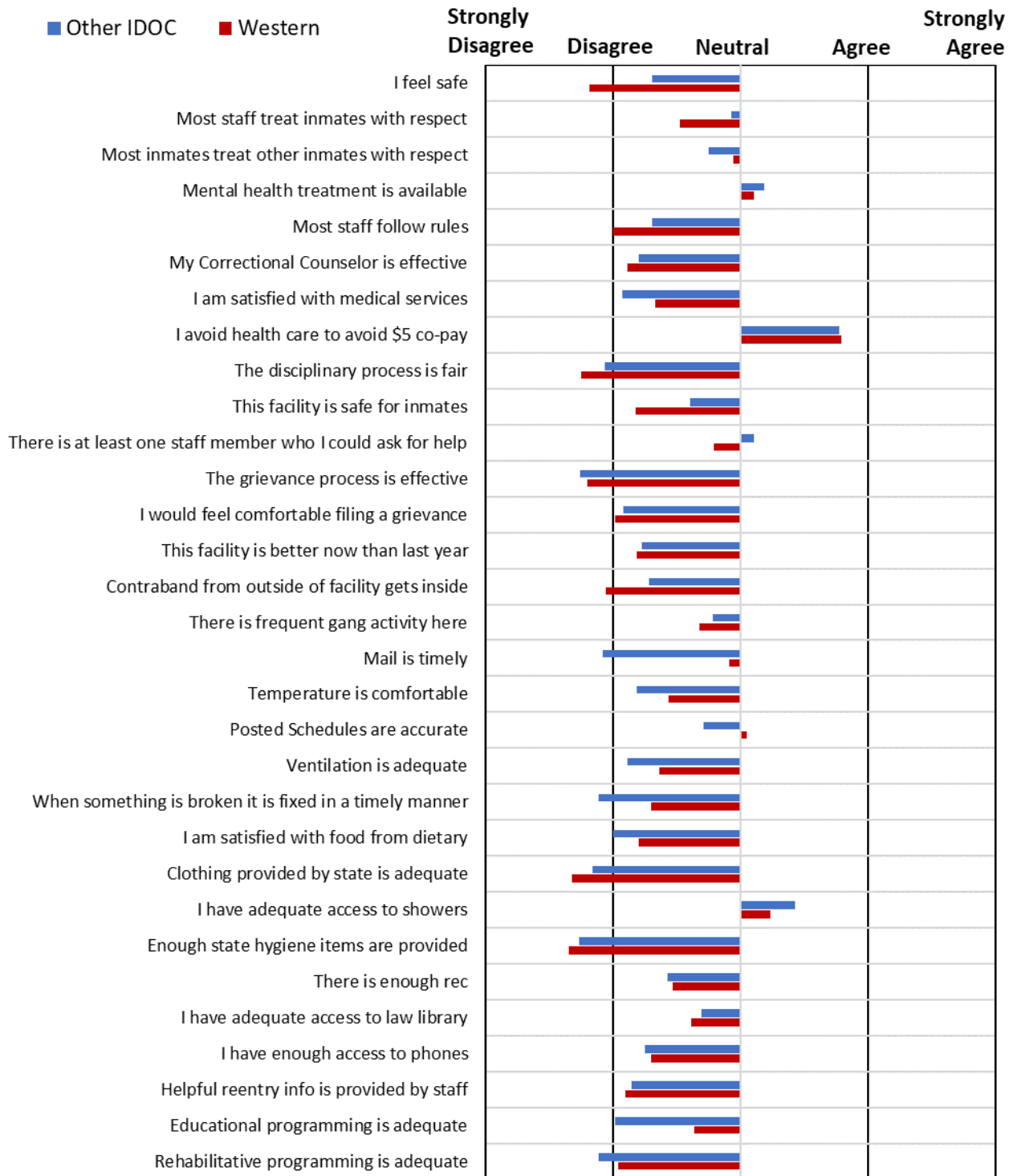
<b>Q29: Helpful reentry info is provided by staff</b>		
Strongly Agree	10	1.5%
Agree	43	6.5%
Neutral	172	26.0%
Disagree	157	23.8%
Strongly Disagree	231	34.9%
No Response	48	7.3%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q30: Education programming is adequate</b>		
Strongly Agree	27	4.1%
Agree	142	21.5%
Neutral	186	28.1%
Disagree	111	16.8%
Strongly Disagree	155	23.4%
No Response	40	6.1%
Total	661	100%

<b>Q31: Rehabilitative programming is adequate</b>		
Strongly Agree	9	1.4%
Agree	47	7.1%
Neutral	165	25.0%
Disagree	140	21.2%
Strongly Disagree	263	39.8%
No Response	37	5.6%
Total	661	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, Western 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, Pontiac MSU, Robinson, Shawnee, Stateville, Vandalia, Vienna.

**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.