

COVID-19 Survey Results: Shawnee Correctional Center

The John Howard Association (JHA) is an independent citizen correctional oversight organization that goes into prisons to monitor conditions of confinement and treatment of people who are incarcerated; we fight for a fair and humane system and for government transparency and accountability. For 119 years we have been the eyes and ears of the public inside Illinois' prisons, reporting what we see, hear and learn inside facilities and using this information to recommend policy and practice changes and advocate for system reform.

It is critical that we know and understand how people in prison are experiencing the COVID-19 health crisis and what the government must do to meet the health needs of people in prison. To further this end, JHA launched a special system-wide COVID-19 survey to enable us to hear directly from those who are in prisons about prison conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survey results reported herein indicate how 450 people imprisoned at Shawnee Correctional Center responded to survey items contained within the COVID-19 survey during the time frame of April 24th to May 20th 2020. As of April 24th, 2020, there were 1,471 people imprisoned at Shawnee. Thus, this sample of survey respondents consists of 30.59% of Shawnee's prison population. COVID-19 surveys that were completed after May 20th will be accounted for in JHA's work and analyses conducted in the future, but are not reported below.

JHA provided prison administrators with enough survey packets (COVID-19 survey, informed consent notice/instruction sheet, and business reply envelope addressed to JHA) so that every person imprisoned at Shawnee had an opportunity to participate in the COVID-19 survey if they chose to do so. Because some people who submitted a survey did not answer all questions within the survey, the count of people who responded to each question is less than the overall sample of 450.

The results of the surveys JHA collected from people imprisoned at Shawnee Correctional Center are tabulated on the pages that follow.

Tables of Results by Individual Survey Items:

Q1: How did you get information from IDOC about COVID 19 prevention?		
Paper bulletin on unit	227	50.44%
Inmate info channel on TV	165	36.67%
Verbal communication by staff	30	6.67%
Other	117	26.00%
I did not get this information	33	7.33%
Total does not add to 100% for this question because more than one answer could be selected		

Q2: Did you have enough soap to regularly wash your hands in the last week?		
No	125	28.54%
Yes	292	66.67%
Unsure	21	4.79%
Total	438	100%
No response: 12 (2.67%)		

Q3: How often did you get cleaning chemicals from IDOC to clean your cell/sleeping area in the last week (examples: soap, bleach, Citral Green or peroxide)?		
Once a day	7	1.59%
2 to 3 times last week	12	2.73%
Once last week	162	36.90%
None	258	58.77%
Total	439	100%
No response: 11 (2.44%)		

Q4: Did you get enough cleaning chemicals to thoroughly clean your cell/sleeping area in the last week?		
No, I did not get enough to make cell clean	110	25.00%
Yes	68	15.45%
Unsure	9	2.05%
No, I did not get any cleaning chemicals	253	57.50%
Total	440	100%
No response: 10 (2.22%)		

Q5: Did the common areas you have access to get cleaned at least two times a day in the last week (examples: dayrooms, showers)?		
No	102	23.45%
Some areas cleaned, but not all	166	38.16%
Yes, all areas were cleaned	90	20.69%
Unsure	77	17.70%
Total	435	100%
No response: 15 (3.33%)		

Q6: Have you tried to get medical care because of COVID-19 in the last week?		
No, because I did not want to	19	4.30%
No, because I was not sick	352	79.64%
Yes, but no response from staff	62	14.03%
Yes, and staff responded	9	2.04%
Total	442	100%
No response: 8 (1.78%)		

Q7: Would you tell IDOC staff (medical or security) if you were sick because of COVID-19?		
No	46	10.36%
Yes	363	81.76%
Unsure	35	7.88%
Total	444	100%
No response: 6 (1.33%)		

Q8: Did you go to yard at least once in the last week?		
No, not allowed to	193	44.37%
No, did not want to	75	17.24%
Yes	167	38.39%
Total	435	100%
No response: 15 (3.33%)		

Q9a: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by washing their hands often?		
No	144	32.73%
Yes	99	22.50%
Unsure	197	44.77%
Total	440	100%
No response: 10 (2.22%)		

Q9b: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by covering their mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing?		
No	172	39.36%
Yes	120	27.46%
Unsure	145	33.18%
Total	437	100%
No response: 13 (2.89%)		

Q9c: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	169	38.67%
Yes	171	39.13%
Unsure	97	22.20%
Total	437	100%
No response: 13 (2.89%)		

Q9d: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from others when possible?		
No	247	56.39%
Yes	118	26.94%
Unsure	73	16.67%
Total	438	100%
No response: 12 (2.67%)		

Q10a: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by washing your hands often?		
No	13	2.95%
Yes	425	96.59%
Unsure	2	0.45%
Total	440	100%
No response: 10 (2.22%)		

Q10b: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by covering your mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing?		
No	15	3.45%
Yes	417	95.86%
Unsure	3	0.69%
Total	435	100%
No response: 15 (3.33%)		

Q10c: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	81	18.71%
Yes	333	76.91%
Unsure	19	4.39%
Total	433	100%
No response: 17 (3.78%)		

Q10d: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from others when possible?		
No	106	24.88%
Yes	298	69.95%
Unsure	22	5.16%
Total	426	100%
No response: 24 (5.33%)		

Q11: Could you take a shower at least 3 times last week?		
No	46	10.38%
Yes	397	89.62%
Total	443	100%
No response: 7 (1.56%)		

Q12: Did you get laundry service in the last week (whites and blues)?		
No, was not offered	54	12.36%
No, do not want to use laundry service	20	4.58%
Yes, and my laundry was cleaned	275	62.93%
Yes, but they did not use detergent	88	20.14%
Total	437	100%
No response: 13 (2.89%)		

Q13: Did you get at least one free phone call in the last week?		
No	285	65.37%
Yes	68	15.60%
Yes, but the call cut out early	28	6.42%
This does not apply to me	55	12.61%
Total	436	100%
No response: 14 (3.11%)		

Q14: Did you get a free video visit in the last week?		
No	277	64.12%
Yes, and it worked	29	6.71%
Yes, but bad service/ cut short	40	9.26%
This does not apply to me	86	19.91%
Total	432	100%
No response: 18 (4.00%)		

Q15: Could you send and get mail in the last week?		
No	47	10.98%
Yes	364	85.05%
This does not apply to me	17	3.97%
Total	428	100%
No response: 22 (4.89%)		
Q16: Did commissary run on schedule this week?		
Yes, full shop	5	1.18%
Yes, limited shop	94	22.27%
Yes, but not my unit's shop week	49	11.61%
No	274	64.93%
Total	422	100%
No response: 28 (6.22%)		