

COVID-19 Survey Results: Sheridan 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 1,003 people imprisoned at Sheridan 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 1,579 people imprisoned at Sheridan. Thus, this sample of survey respondents consists of 63.52% of Sheridan'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 Sheridan 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 1,003.

The results of the surveys JHA collected from people imprisoned at Sheridan 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	284	28.32%
Inmate info channel on TV	505	50.35%
Verbal communication by staff	112	11.17%
Other	237	23.63%
I did not get this information	70	6.98%
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	272	27.93 %
Yes	668	68.58%
Unsure	34	3.49%
Total	974	100%
No response: 29 (2.89%)		

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	17	1.75%
2 to 3 times last week	462	47.68%
Once last week	331	34.16%
None	159	16.41%
Total	969	100%
No response: 34 (3.39%)		

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	512	52.46%
Yes	226	23.16%
Unsure	64	6.56%
No, I did not get any cleaning chemicals	174	17.83%
Total	976	100%
No response: 27 (2.69%)		

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	277	28.32%
Some areas cleaned, but not all	265	27.10%
Yes, all areas were cleaned	168	17.18%
Unsure	268	27.40%
Total	978	100%
No response: 25 (2.49%)		

Q6: Have you tried to get medical care because of COVID-19 in the last week?		
No, because I did not want to	50	5.17%
No, because I was not sick	789	81.59%
Yes, but no response from staff	106	10.96%
Yes, and staff responded	22	2.28%
Total	967	100%
No response: 36 (3.59%)		

Q7: Would you tell IDOC staff (medical or security) if you were sick because of COVID-19?		
No	61	6.22%
Yes	851	86.84%
Unsure	68	6.94%
Total	980	100%
No response: 23 (2.29%)		

Q8: Did you go to yard at least once in the last week?		
No, not allowed to	965	99.08%
No, did not want to	7	0.72%
Yes	2	0.21%
Total	974	100%
No response: 29 (2.89%)		

Q9a: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by washing their hands often?		
No	194	19.90%
Yes	356	36.51%
Unsure	425	43.59%
Total	975	100%
No response: 28 (2.79%)		

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	248	25.54%
Yes	318	32.75%
Unsure	405	41.71%
Total	971	100%
No response: 32 (3.19%)		

Q9c: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	195	20.31%
Yes	481	50.10%
Unsure	284	29.58%
Total	960	100%
No response: 43 (4.29%)		

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	393	40.94%
Yes	367	38.23%
Unsure	200	20.83%
Total	960	100%
No response: 43 (4.29%)		

Q10a: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by washing your hands of		
No	11	1.12%
Yes	968	98.67%
Unsure	2	0.20%
Total	981	100%
No response: 22 (2.19%)		

Q10b: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by covering your mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing?		
No	16	1.65%
Yes	948	97.73%
Unsure	6	0.62%
Total	970	100%
No response: 33 (3.29%)		

Q10c: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	113	11.69%
Yes	814	84.18%
Unsure	40	4.14%
Total	967	100%
No response: 36 (3.59%)		

Q10d: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from others when possible?		
No	225	23.76%
Yes	693	73.18%
Unsure	29	3.06%
Total	947	100%
No response: 56 (5.58%)		

Q11: Could you take a shower at least 3 times last week?		
No	141	14.49%
Yes	832	85.51%
Total	973	100%
No response: 30 (2.99%)		

Q12: Did you get laundry service in the last week (whites and blues)?		
No, was not offered	118	12.18%
No, do not want to use laundry service	11	1.14%
Yes, and my laundry was cleaned	561	57.89%
Yes, but they did not use detergent	279	28.79%
Total	969	100%
No response: 34 (3.39%)		

Q13: Did you get at least one free phone call in the last week?		
No	635	66.42%
Yes	214	22.38%
Yes, but the call cut out early	77	8.05%
This does not apply to me	30	3.14%
Total	956	100%
No response: 47 (4.69%)		

Q14: Did you get a free video visit in the last week?		
No	788	81.32%
Yes, and it worked	45	4.64%
Yes, but bad service/ cut short	49	5.06%
This does not apply to me	87	8.98%
Total	969	100%
No response: 34 (3.39%)		

Q15: Could you send and get mail in the last week?		
No	235	24.43%
Yes	699	72.66%
This does not apply to me	28	2.91%
Total	962	100%
No response: 41 (4.09%)		

Q16: Did commissary run on schedule this week?		
Yes, full shop	2	0.21%
Yes, limited shop	70	7.31%
Yes, but not my unit's shop week	31	3.24%
No	855	89.25%
Total	958	100%
No response: 45 (4.49%)		