

COVID-19 Survey Results: Southwestern 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 345 people imprisoned at Southwestern 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 555 people imprisoned at Southwestern. Thus, this sample of survey respondents consists of 62.16% of Southwestern'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 Southwestern 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 345.

The results of the surveys JHA collected from people imprisoned at Southwestern 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	151	43.77%
Inmate info channel on TV	68	19.71%
Verbal communication by staff	19	5.51%
Other	81	23.48%
I did not get this information	57	16.52%
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	147	44.14%
Yes	162	48.65%
Unsure	24	7.21%
Total	333	100%
No response: 12 (3.48%)		

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	70	21.02%
2 to 3 times last week	48	14.41%
Once last week	101	30.33%
None	114	34.23%
Total	333	100%
No response: 12 (3.48%)		

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	138	40.71%
Yes	73	21.53%
Unsure	38	11.21%
No, I did not get any cleaning chemicals	90	26.55%
Total	339	100%
No response: 6 (1.74%)		

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	71	21.52%
Some areas cleaned, but not all	166	50.30%
Yes, all areas were cleaned	65	19.70%
Unsure	28	8.48%
Total	330	100%
No response: 15 (4.35%)		

Q6: Have you tried to get medical care because of COVID-19 in the last week?		
No, because I did not want to	13	3.90%
No, because I was not sick	264	79.28%
Yes, but no response from staff	52	15.62%
Yes, and staff responded	4	1.20%
Total	333	100%
No response: 12 (3.48%)		

Q7: Would you tell IDOC staff (medical or security) if you were sick because of COVID-19?		
No	26	7.76%
Yes	273	81.49%
Unsure	36	10.75%
Total	335	100%
No response: 10 (2.90%)		

Q8: Did you go to yard at least once in the last week?		
No, not allowed to	213	65.14%
No, did not want to	48	14.68%
Yes	66	20.18%
Total	327	100%
No response: 18 (5.22%)		

Q9a: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by washing their hands often?		
No	177	52.52%
Yes	77	22.85%
Unsure	83	24.63%
Total	337	100%
No response: 8 (2.32%)		

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	192	56.80%
Yes	71	21.01%
Unsure	75	22.19%
Total	338	100%
No response: 7 (2.03%)		

Q9c: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	110	33.33%
Yes	165	50.00%
Unsure	55	16.67%
Total	330	100%
No response: 15 (4.35%)		

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	315	94.03%
Yes	12	3.58%
Unsure	8	2.39%
Total	335	100%
No response: 10 (2.90%)		

Q10a: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by washing your hands of		
No	14	4.14%
Yes	322	95.27%
Unsure	2	0.59%
Total	338	100%
No response: 7 (2.03%)		

Q10b: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by covering your mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing?		
No	16	4.78%
Yes	314	93.73%
Unsure	5	1.49%
Total	335	100%
No response: 10 (2.00%)		

Q10c: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	39	12.07%
Yes	276	85.45%
Unsure	8	2.48%
Total	323	100%
No response: 22 (6.38%)		

Q10d: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from others when possible?		
No	226	69.75%
Yes	90	27.78%
Unsure	8	2.47%
Total	324	100%
No response: 21 (6.09%)		

Q11: Could you take a shower at least 3 times last week?		
No	23	6.74%
Yes	318	93.26%
Total	341	100%
No response: 4 (1.16%)		

Q12: Did you get laundry service in the last week (whites and blues)?		
No, was not offered	38	11.34%
No, do not want to use laundry service	19	5.67%
Yes, and my laundry was cleaned	209	62.39%
Yes, but they did not use detergent	69	20.60%
Total	335	100%
No response: 10 (2.90%)		

Q13: Did you get at least one free phone call in the last week?		
No	244	75.54%
Yes	52	16.10%
Yes, but the call cut out early	7	2.17%
This does not apply to me	20	6.19%
Total	323	100%
No response: 22 (6.38%)		

Q14: Did you get a free video visit in the last week?		
No	183	55.12%
Yes, and it worked	20	6.02%
Yes, but bad service/ cut short	50	15.06%
This does not apply to me	79	23.80%
Total	332	100%
No response: 13 (3.77%)		

Q15: Could you send and get mail in the last week?		
No	31	9.54%
Yes	281	86.46%
This does not apply to me	13	4.00%
Total	325	100%
No response: 20 (5.80%)		

Q16: Did commissary run on schedule this week?		
Yes, full shop	5	1.47%
Yes, limited shop	291	85.84%
Yes, but not my unit's shop week	2	0.59%
No	41	12.09%
Total	339	100%
No response: 6 (1.74%)		