



John Howard Association of Illinois

2015 recipient of MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions

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Decatur Correctional Center: Inmate Survey Results from JHA's Monitoring Visit Conducted November 9th 2017

Decatur Correctional Center is a minimum-security prison that housed 501 adult female inmates on the day of JHA's monitoring visit. JHA collected 273 surveys from inmates (54.5% 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	67	25%
White	165	60%
Hispanic	16	6%
Other	16	6%
No response	9	3%
Total	273	100%

Age		
Under 26	29	11%
26-35	89	33%
36-45	74	27%
46-55	48	18%
Over 55	32	12%
No response	1	0%
Total	273	100%

How long have you been in this prison?		
Less than 6 months	70	26%
6 months or more	198	73%
No response	5	2%
Total	273	100%

Primary assignment		
Work	174	64%
School	57	21%
Unassigned	19	7%
Other	12	4%
No response	11	4%
Total	273	100%

Responses to Inmate Survey Questions:

Q1: I feel safe		
Strongly Agree	73	27%
Agree	106	39%
Neutral	64	23%
Disagree	17	6%
Strongly Disagree	10	4%
No Response	3	1%
Total	273	100%

Q2: Staff treat inmates with respect		
Strongly Agree	19	7%
Agree	53	19%
Neutral	88	32%
Disagree	64	23%
Strongly Disagree	44	16%
No Response	5	2%
Total	273	100%

Q3: Inmates treat inmates with respect		
Strongly Agree	4	2%
Agree	36	13%
Neutral	114	42%
Disagree	77	28%
Strongly Disagree	37	14%
No Response	5	2%
Total	273	100%

Q4: I know the rules or where to find them		
Strongly Agree	74	27%
Agree	137	50%
Neutral	35	13%
Disagree	17	6%
Strongly Disagree	5	2%
No Response	5	2%
Total	273	100%

Q5: Staff follow rules		
Strongly Agree	16	6%
Agree	55	20%
Neutral	88	32%
Disagree	64	23%
Strongly Disagree	46	17%
No Response	4	2%
Total	273	100%

Q6: My Correctional Counselor is effective		
Strongly Agree	27	10%
Agree	63	23%
Neutral	73	27%
Disagree	57	21%
Strongly Disagree	48	18%
No Response	5	2%
Total	273	100%

Q7: I am satisfied with medical services		
Strongly Agree	10	4%
Agree	27	10%
Neutral	42	15%
Disagree	69	25%
Strongly Disagree	121	44%
No Response	4	2%
Total	273	100%

Q8: I avoid health care to avoid \$5 co-pay		
Strongly Agree	110	40%
Agree	56	21%
Neutral	34	13%
Disagree	39	14%
Strongly Disagree	33	12%
No Response	1	0%
Total	273	100%

Q9: The disciplinary process is fair		
Strongly Agree	15	6%
Agree	43	16%
Neutral	80	29%
Disagree	61	22%
Strongly Disagree	69	25%
No Response	5	2%
Total	273	100%

Q10: This facility is safe for inmates		
Strongly Agree	38	14%
Agree	95	35%
Neutral	91	33%
Disagree	25	9%
Strongly Disagree	20	7%
No Response	4	2%
Total	273	100%

Q11: There is at least one staff member who I could ask for help		
Strongly Agree	94	34%
Agree	116	43%
Neutral	40	15%
Disagree	14	5%
Strongly Disagree	7	3%
No Response	2	1%
Total	273	100%

Q12: The grievance process is effective		
Strongly Agree	12	4%
Agree	26	10%
Neutral	82	30%
Disagree	64	23%
Strongly Disagree	84	31%
No Response	5	2%
Total	273	100%

Q13: I would feel comfortable filing a grievance		
Strongly Agree	26	10%
Agree	49	18%
Neutral	68	25%
Disagree	58	21%
Strongly Disagree	68	25%
No Response	4	2%
Total	273	100%

Q14: Contraband from outside facility often gets inside		
Strongly Agree	13	5%
Agree	18	7%
Neutral	54	20%
Disagree	100	37%
Strongly Disagree	86	32%
No Response	2	1%
Total	273	100%

Q15: There is frequent gang activity here		
Strongly Agree	1	0%
Agree	7	3%
Neutral	28	10%
Disagree	116	43%
Strongly Disagree	116	43%
No Response	5	2%
Total	273	100%

Q16: Mail is timely		
Strongly Agree	28	10%
Agree	80	29%
Neutral	67	25%
Disagree	46	17%
Strongly Disagree	44	16%
No Response	8	3%
Total	273	100%

Q17: Adequate cleaning supplies are provided		
Strongly Agree	32	12%
Agree	80	29%
Neutral	54	20%
Disagree	65	24%
Strongly Disagree	40	15%
No Response	2	1%
Total	273	100%

Q18: Temperature is comfortable		
Strongly Agree	22	8%
Agree	77	28%
Neutral	74	27%
Disagree	55	20%
Strongly Disagree	43	16%
No Response	2	1%
Total	273	100%

Q19: Posted schedules are accurate		
Strongly Agree	29	11%
Agree	103	38%
Neutral	70	26%
Disagree	43	16%
Strongly Disagree	27	10%
No Response	1	0%
Total	273	100%

Q20: Ventilation is adequate		
Strongly Agree	16	6%
Agree	59	22%
Neutral	73	27%
Disagree	65	24%
Strongly Disagree	56	21%
No Response	4	2%
Total	273	100%

Q21: When something is broken it is fixed in a timely manner		
Strongly Agree	14	5%
Agree	39	14%
Neutral	61	22%
Disagree	79	29%
Strongly Disagree	76	28%
No Response	4	2%
Total	273	100%

Q22: I am satisfied with food from dietary		
Strongly Agree	15	6%
Agree	55	20%
Neutral	74	27%
Disagree	58	21%
Strongly Disagree	70	26%
No Response	1	0%
Total	273	100%

Q23: Clothing provided by state is adequate		
Strongly Agree	8	3%
Agree	52	19%
Neutral	65	24%
Disagree	72	26%
Strongly Disagree	72	26%
No Response	4	2%
Total	273	100%

Q24: I have adequate access to showers		
Strongly Agree	96	35%
Agree	125	46%
Neutral	30	11%
Disagree	8	3%
Strongly Disagree	11	4%
No Response	3	1%
Total	273	100%

Q25: Enough state hygiene items are provided		
Strongly Agree	11	4%
Agree	25	9%
Neutral	42	15%
Disagree	74	27%
Strongly Disagree	117	43%
No Response	4	2%
Total	273	100%

Q26: There is enough rec		
Strongly Agree	31	11%
Agree	78	29%
Neutral	73	27%
Disagree	50	18%
Strongly Disagree	37	14%
No Response	4	2%
Total	273	100%

Q27: I have adequate access to law library		
Strongly Agree	79	29%
Agree	133	49%
Neutral	40	15%
Disagree	11	4%
Strongly Disagree	8	3%
No Response	2	1%
Total	273	100%

Q28: I have enough access to phones		
Strongly Agree	93	34%
Agree	129	47%
Neutral	37	14%
Disagree	6	2%
Strongly Disagree	7	3%
No Response	1	0%
Total	273	100%

Q29: Helpful reentry info is provided by staff		
Strongly Agree	44	16%
Agree	68	25%
Neutral	89	33%
Disagree	33	12%
Strongly Disagree	36	13%
No Response	3	1%
Total	273	100%

Q30: Rehabilitative & Education programming is adequate		
Strongly Agree	24	9%
Agree	29	11%
Neutral	47	17%
Disagree	58	21%
Strongly Disagree	113	41%
No Response	2	1%
Total	273	100%

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