



John Howard Association of Illinois

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

Illinois River Correctional Center: Inmate Survey Results from JHA's Monitoring Visit Conducted May 8, 2019

Illinois River Correctional Center is a medium-security prison that housed 1,890 adult male inmates on the day of JHA's monitoring visit. JHA collected 944 surveys from inmates (49.9% 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	502	53.2%
White	216	22.9%
Hispanic	136	14.4%
Other	37	3.9%
No response	53	5.6%
Total	944	100%

Age		
Under 26	146	15.5%
26-35	321	34.0%
36-45	240	25.4%
46-55	143	15.1%
Over 55	74	7.8%
No response	20	2.1%
Total	944	100%

What County are you from?		
Cook County	521	55.2%
Not Cook County	390	41.3%
No response	33	3.5%
Total	944	100%

Primary assignment		
Work	189	20.0%
School	108	11.4%
Unassigned	548	58.1%
Other	30	3.2%
No response	69	7.3%
Total	944	100%

Responses to Inmate Survey Questions:

Q1: I feel safe		
Strongly Agree	124	13.1%
Agree	252	26.7%
Neutral	308	32.6%
Disagree	128	13.6%
Strongly Disagree	100	10.6%
No Response	32	3.4%
Total	944	100%

Q2: Most staff treat inmates with respect		
Strongly Agree	48	5.1%
Agree	180	19.1%
Neutral	202	21.4%
Disagree	243	25.7%
Strongly Disagree	236	25.0%
No Response	35	3.7%
Total	944	100%

Q3: Most inmates treat other inmates with respect		
Strongly Agree	36	3.8%
Agree	172	18.2%
Neutral	341	36.1%
Disagree	215	22.8%
Strongly Disagree	152	16.1%
No Response	28	3.0%
Total	944	100%

Q4: Mental Health Treatment is available		
Strongly Agree	97	10.3%
Agree	288	30.5%
Neutral	225	23.8%
Disagree	138	14.6%
Strongly Disagree	141	14.9%
No Response	55	5.8%
Total	944	100%

Q5: Most staff follow rules		
Strongly Agree	29	3.1%
Agree	172	18.2%
Neutral	218	23.1%
Disagree	224	23.7%
Strongly Disagree	258	27.3%
No Response	43	4.6%
Total	944	100%

Q6: My Correctional Counselor is effective		
Strongly Agree	27	2.9%
Agree	100	10.6%
Neutral	176	18.6%
Disagree	210	22.2%
Strongly Disagree	395	41.8%
No Response	36	3.8%
Total	944	100%

Q7: I am satisfied with medical services		
Strongly Agree	25	2.6%
Agree	109	11.5%
Neutral	167	17.7%
Disagree	218	23.1%
Strongly Disagree	364	38.6%
No Response	61	6.5%
Total	944	100%

Q8: I avoid health care to avoid \$5 co-pay		
Strongly Agree	387	41.0%
Agree	166	17.6%
Neutral	90	9.5%
Disagree	100	10.6%
Strongly Disagree	129	13.7%
No Response	72	7.6%
Total	944	100%

Q9: The disciplinary process is fair		
Strongly Agree	23	2.4%
Agree	77	8.2%
Neutral	201	21.3%
Disagree	207	21.9%
Strongly Disagree	402	42.6%
No Response	34	3.6%
Total	944	100%

Q10: This facility is safe for inmates		
Strongly Agree	56	5.9%
Agree	211	22.4%
Neutral	360	38.1%
Disagree	165	17.5%
Strongly Disagree	122	12.9%
No Response	30	3.2%
Total	944	100%

Q11: There is at least one staff member who I could ask for help		
Strongly Agree	149	15.8%
Agree	290	30.7%
Neutral	193	20.4%
Disagree	125	13.2%
Strongly Disagree	154	16.3%
No Response	33	3.5%
Total	944	100%

Q12: The grievance process is effective		
Strongly Agree	20	2.1%
Agree	46	4.9%
Neutral	192	20.3%
Disagree	228	24.2%
Strongly Disagree	413	43.8%
No Response	45	4.8%
Total	944	100%

Q13: I would feel comfortable filing a grievance		
Strongly Agree	50	5.3%
Agree	116	12.3%
Neutral	215	22.8%
Disagree	234	24.8%
Strongly Disagree	306	32.4%
No Response	23	2.4%
Total	944	100%

Q14: This facility is better now than last year		
Strongly Agree	37	3.9%
Agree	125	13.2%
Neutral	317	33.6%
Disagree	164	17.4%
Strongly Disagree	242	25.6%
No Response	59	6.3%
Total	944	100%

Q15: Contraband from outside the facility often gets inside		
Strongly Agree	16	1.7%
Agree	34	3.6%
Neutral	152	16.1%
Disagree	274	29.0%
Strongly Disagree	404	42.8%
No Response	64	6.8%
Total	944	100%

Q16: There is frequent gang activity here		
Strongly Agree	72	7.6%
Agree	117	12.4%
Neutral	211	22.4%
Disagree	243	25.7%
Strongly Disagree	228	24.2%
No Response	73	7.7%
Total	944	100%

Q17: Mail is timely		
Strongly Agree	24	2.5%
Agree	26	2.8%
Neutral	51	5.4%
Disagree	122	12.9%
Strongly Disagree	685	72.6%
No Response	36	3.8%
Total	944	100%

Q18: Temperature is comfortable		
Strongly Agree	20	2.1%
Agree	114	12.1%
Neutral	230	24.4%
Disagree	219	23.2%
Strongly Disagree	310	32.8%
No Response	51	5.4%
Total	944	100%

Q19: Posted schedules are accurate		
Strongly Agree	61	6.5%
Agree	233	24.7%
Neutral	216	22.9%
Disagree	168	17.8%
Strongly Disagree	212	22.5%
No Response	54	5.7%
Total	944	100%

Q20: Ventilation is adequate		
Strongly Agree	21	2.2%
Agree	135	14.3%
Neutral	229	24.3%
Disagree	224	23.7%
Strongly Disagree	291	30.8%
No Response	44	4.7%
Total	944	100%

Q21: When something is broken it is fixed in a timely manner		
Strongly Agree	20	2.1%
Agree	109	11.5%
Neutral	143	15.1%
Disagree	215	22.8%
Strongly Disagree	415	44.0%
No Response	42	4.4%
Total	944	100%

Q22: I am satisfied with food from dietary		
Strongly Agree	29	3.1%
Agree	144	15.3%
Neutral	239	25.3%
Disagree	201	21.3%
Strongly Disagree	295	31.3%
No Response	26	3.8%
Total	944	100%

Q23: Clothing provided by state is adequate		
Strongly Agree	23	2.4%
Agree	147	15.6%
Neutral	180	19.1%
Disagree	236	25.0%
Strongly Disagree	322	34.1%
No Response	36	3.8%
Total	944	100%

Q24: I have adequate access to showers		
Strongly Agree	126	13.3%
Agree	385	40.8%
Neutral	171	18.1%
Disagree	94	10.0%
Strongly Disagree	131	13.9%
No Response	37	3.9%
Total	944	100%

Q25: Enough state hygiene items are provided		
Strongly Agree	30	3.2%
Agree	71	7.5%
Neutral	119	12.6%
Disagree	191	20.2%
Strongly Disagree	498	52.8%
No Response	35	3.7%
Total	944	100%

Q26: There is enough rec		
Strongly Agree	36	3.8%
Agree	124	13.1%
Neutral	138	14.6%
Disagree	225	23.8%
Strongly Disagree	379	40.1%
No Response	42	4.4%
Total	944	100%

Q27: I have adequate access to law library		
Strongly Agree	82	8.7%
Agree	278	29.4%
Neutral	274	29.0%
Disagree	120	12.7%
Strongly Disagree	141	14.9%
No Response	49	5.2%
Total	944	100%

Q28: I have enough access to phones		
Strongly Agree	19	2.0%
Agree	85	9.0%
Neutral	108	11.4%
Disagree	173	18.3%
Strongly Disagree	529	56.0%
No Response	30	3.2%
Total	944	100%

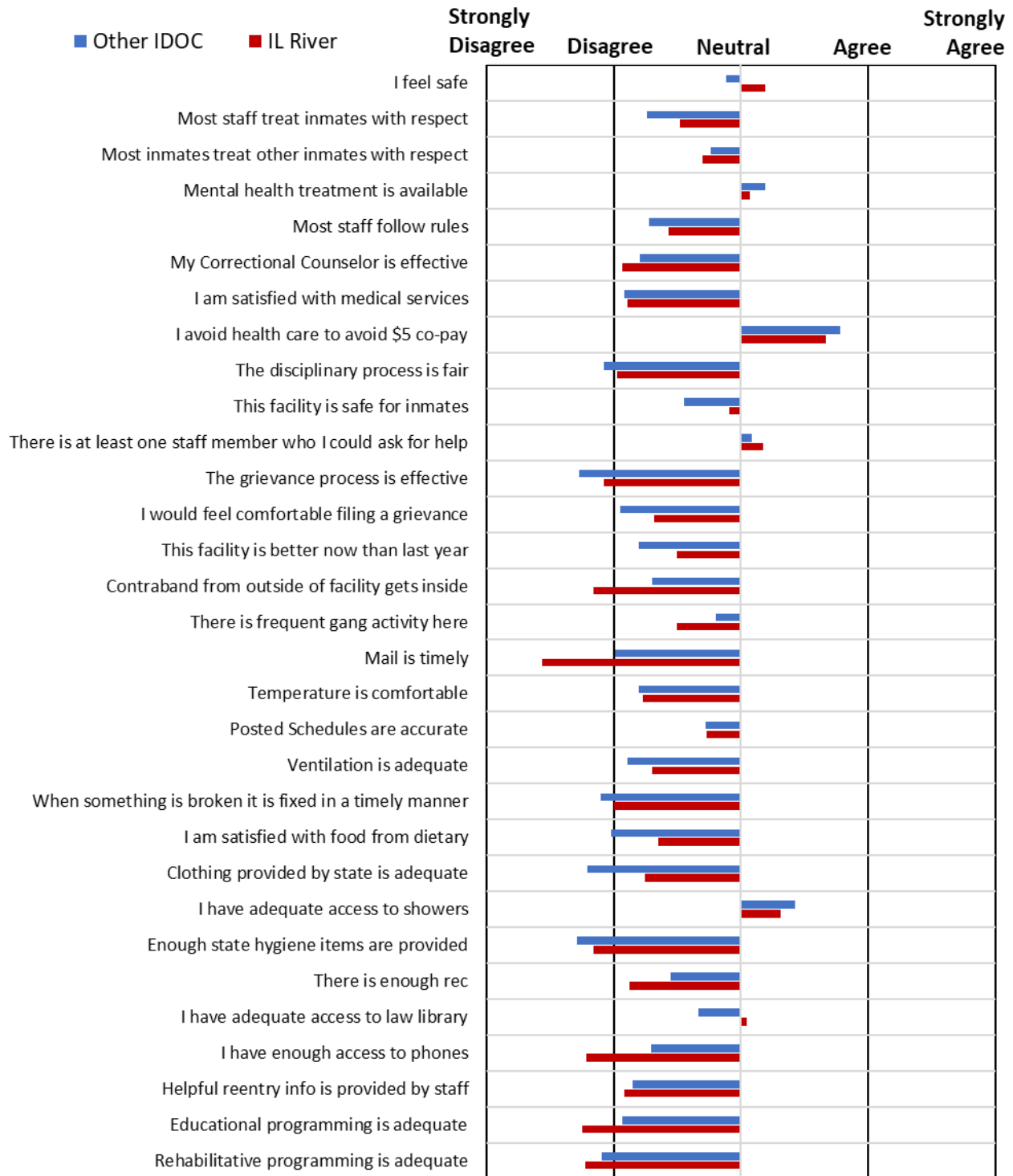
Q29: Helpful reentry info is provided by staff		
Strongly Agree	18	1.9%
Agree	59	6.3%
Neutral	245	26.0%
Disagree	222	23.5%
Strongly Disagree	340	36.0%
No Response	60	6.4%
Total	944	100%

Q30: Education programming is adequate		
Strongly Agree	16	1.7%
Agree	53	5.6%
Neutral	129	13.7%
Disagree	203	21.5%
Strongly Disagree	506	53.6%
No Response	37	3.9%
Total	944	100%

Q31: Rehabilitative programming is adequate		
Strongly Agree	13	1.4%
Agree	45	4.8%
Neutral	165	17.5%
Disagree	186	19.7%
Strongly Disagree	497	52.6%
No Response	38	4.0%
Total	944	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, Illinois River Compared to Other IDOC Prisons, 2018-2019



Other IDOC facilities surveyed include the following prisons: Big Muddy, Centralia, Danville, Dixon, Graham, Jacksonville, Kewanee, Lawrence, Logan, Menard, Menard

MSU, Murphysboro, Pontiac, Pontiac MSU, Robinson, Shawnee, Stateville, Vandalia, Vienna, Western.

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.