
Survey Report



Analysis of 2022-23 MQPL Survey Comments

**Top issues reported by
respondents at Logan
Correctional Center**

Logan Correctional Center

Logan Correctional Center is a multi-security female prison within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) that housed 986 people on December 6, 2022. The John Howard Association of Illinois (JHA) conducted a modified short [Measuring the Quality of Prison Life \(MQPL\) survey](#) by passing out the [MQPL survey](#) and an informed consent notice/instruction sheet, and collecting completed surveys by hand, and distributing a privileged mail prepaid business reply envelope addressed to JHA to those who had not completed the survey in the time allotted, so that every person incarcerated at Logan had an opportunity to participate in the voluntary and anonymous survey if they chose to do so. JHA received 410 responses to the MQPL survey from people at Logan through February 15, 2023, representing approximately 42% of the static population.

This report highlights some of the most common issues raised in response to our MQPL survey question **"What are the most negative things about life in this prison?"** We selected this question to analyze because it is where most survey respondents chose to report the issues that they were experiencing while incarcerated. All survey comments for Logan can be found in our [2022-23 MQPL Survey Comments](#) report. Quantitative survey results for Logan can be found in our [2022-23 MQPL Survey Results](#) report.

Methodology

To identify the most common issues, we identified the most common words people used in response to the question "What are the most negative things about life in this prison?" For the Top Ten Words, all instances of each word and its plural form were counted (e.g., "program" and "programs.") Hyphenated words were counted as one word. Words like "the" and "not" were filtered from the analysis. Then, indicator words were counted under seven issue categories to determine top issues in each facility's survey responses. When an indicator word appeared within a longer word, the longer word was included. For example: the indicator word, "medic," picked up both "medical" and "medication." Prior to the issue analysis, the language in each report was standardized so that indicator words consistently appeared in a form that would be picked up by our software (e.g. "CO" was changed to "C/O," "good time" was changed to "good-time"). The indicator words by issue can be found [here](#).

To avoid double-counting issues, issue categories were only counted once per response. This means that the response "the cells are cold and dirty" would count as raising only one issue related to conditions, even though two indicator words ("cold" and "dirty") are used in the response.

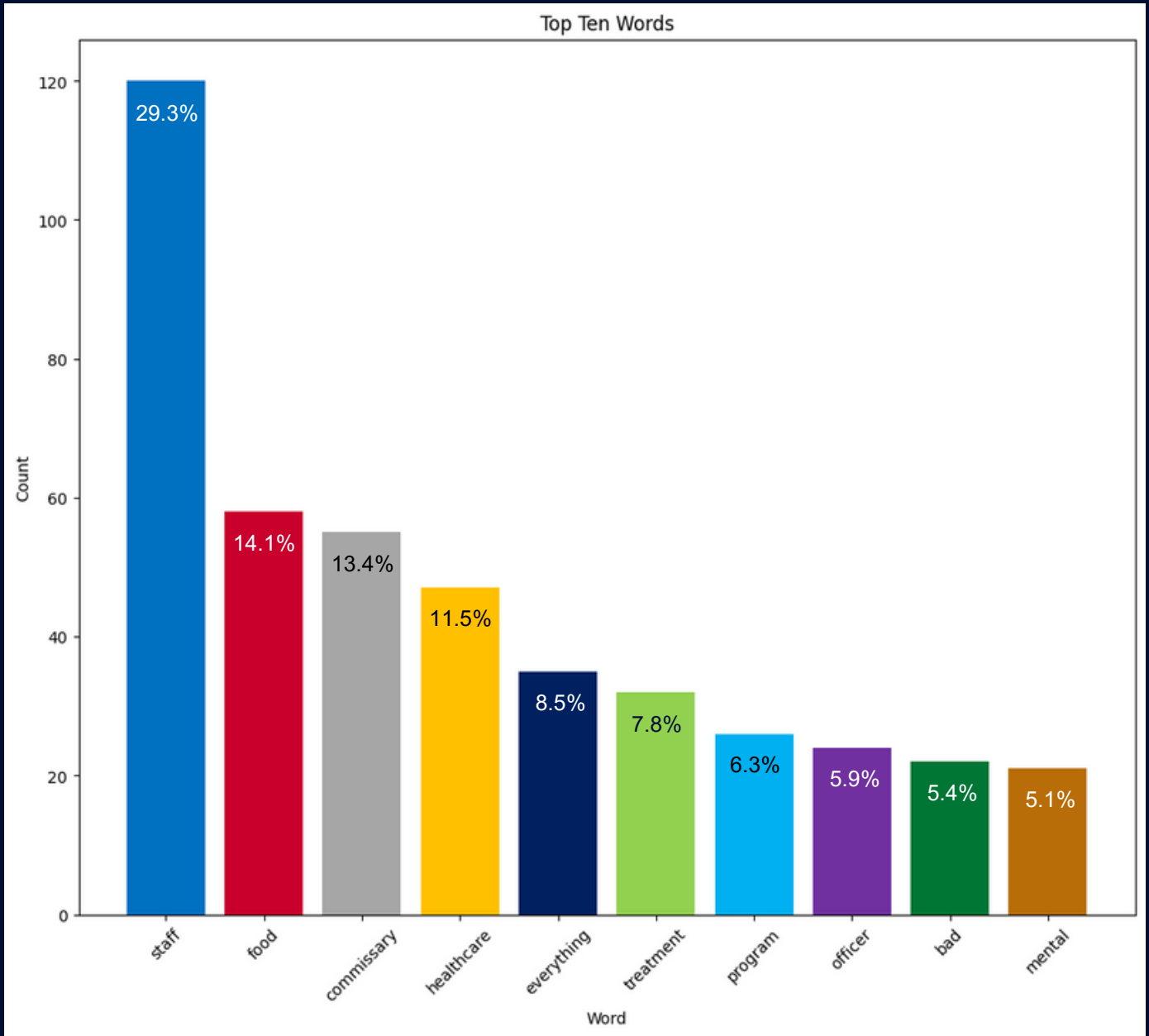
There are limitations with this method, such as sentiment analysis. For example we are unable to distinguish statements such as "The doctor is good" and "I haven't seen a doctor." However, it is reasonable to conclude that instances of "doctor" are in a negative context in response to the question. Additionally, some indicator words that were frequently applied to multiple issue categories were removed. For example, we did not include "job" under productive activity because we could not distinguish statements relevant to the issue area, like "I can't get a job," from statements relevant to other issue areas, like "Staff don't do their jobs." Nor did we include "cell" under movement, e.g. "I am in my cell 24/7," because we could not distinguish from "School is always cancelled" or "The cells are too small" under this method of counting.

This report includes quotes from survey responses that we found to be either representative of the diversity of issues raised for each category or particularly insightful. Some quotes have been abbreviated to highlight the relevant issue.

Top 10 Indicator Words

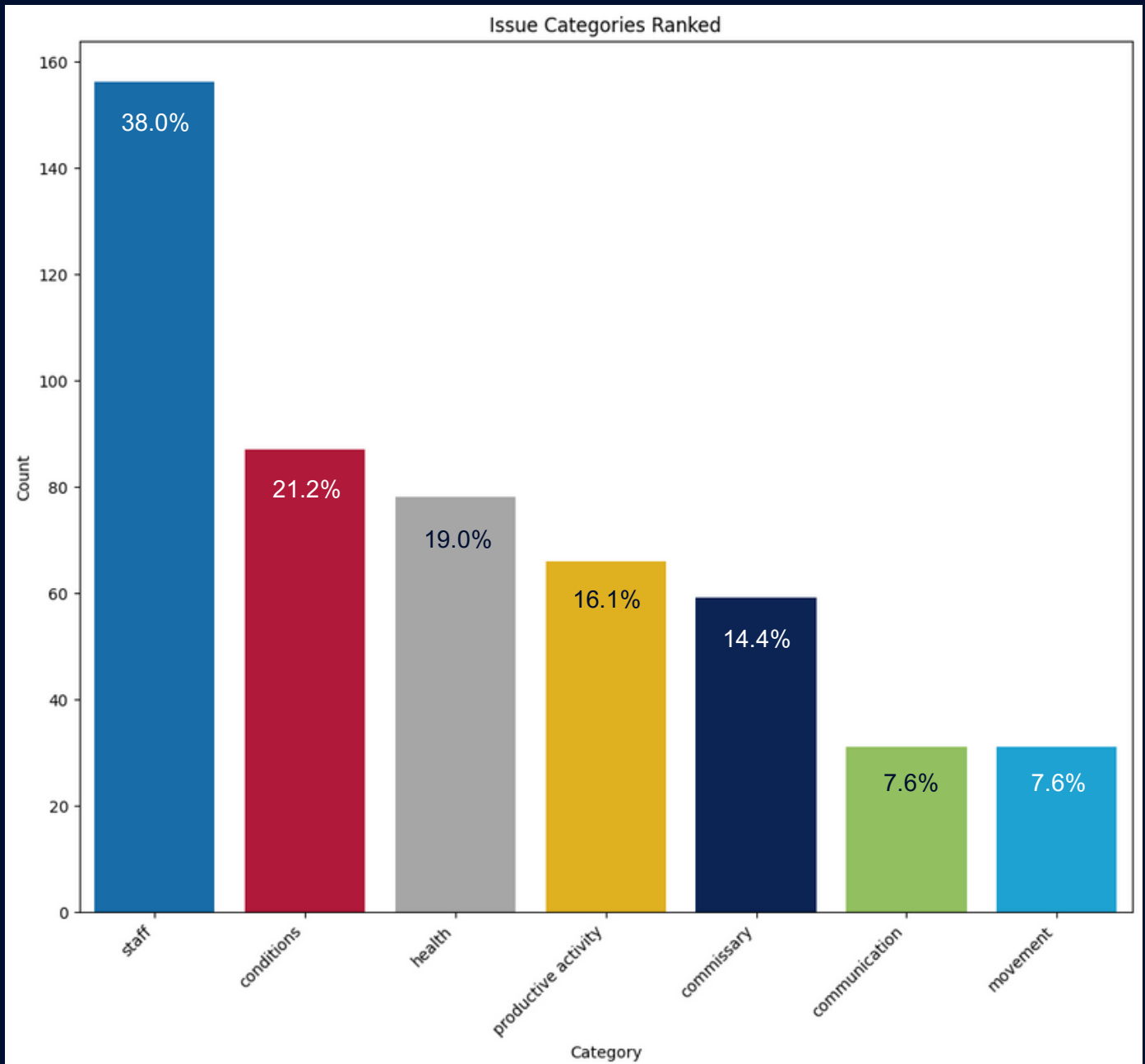
Used in responses to "What are the most negative things about life in this prison?"

Percentages are of the survey responses in which the word appeared.



Issue Categories Ranked by Prevalence

Issue rankings are determined by indicator word frequency. Common words used in survey responses have been sorted into seven issue categories. When a survey response uses one of a category's indicator words, it is tallied as raising an issue in that category. For example, a survey with the words "medical," "nurse," or "infection" is tallied as raising an issue related to health. Survey responses may include more than one issue. Percentages are of the survey responses in which an issue was raised.



Selected direct quotes from Logan survey responses

1

STAFF

Encompasses issues related to prison staff, such as lack of staff or staff conduct.

Lack of staff that cause more stress on everyone.

Discrimination, hatred, animosity by staff and administration towards trans women.

The way we are treated by officers and staff. Not all of us steal and/or are bad people. Kindness goes a long way.

If you have problems, staff (IA) won't help you, you basically have to stay away from them or get into a fight to be moved, especially if on the same unit.

They call it "the jungle" because of how people act, and staff lets them get away with the fighting, the harassment, the sexual relationships, etc.

2

CONDITIONS

Encompasses issues related to living conditions, such as food, water, temperature, and sanitation.

Our water has legionella, our showers have leeches, our housing units have black mold & abestos, The housing units are falling in on us

Food we are served is like feeding portions a 3 year old gets and the majority of it goes in the garbage because it's not good.

no heat, Mold everywhere, the water, lack of commissary, Birds pooping in kitchen, toilets breaking down, lack of staff & counselors, not putting us in for days. leaks everywhere.

The bathroom is in horrible condition and toilets constantly leak or break. The walls and ceilings are falling apart.

The showers have missing tiles, Black mold growing on the walls & funk growing on the shower floor

3

HEALTH

Includes issues related to healthcare, mental health services, and COVID-19 concerns.

The lack of healthcare. There is absolutely no real treatment for our medical issues. We're all treated as liars. Total disregard for our physical + mental health

The Healthcare really sucks here at Logan it has been months before I got the help from the Nurse Practitioner.

The Health, safety, and well being along with the mental stress in the life of the sick, disabled, and elderly that we will not get the Health care we need here

Mental health is a joke! Do I have to be housed at MHUs to be listened to?

Medical attention is subpar. Medline is at unpredictable times. Writ paperwork, x-rays, follow up appointments get lost

4

PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY

Includes issues related to productive activities, such as work assignments, education, or programming.

There is not enough rehabilitation classes/services for inmates to do better. There is not enough classes or schools for individuals in custody. We cannot get education or help.

They tell everyone who is serving a short time that they don't have enough time. IE not enough time for the drug program but it's those of us on the way out that need it most.

There are no groups, programs, or schooling (classes) for long-termers to better educate themselves.

Long timers (people with 20 plus years to do) are ineligible to be in programs, drug treatment for example, because of the short timers who get 1st option.

Most groups even school is constantly being cancelled. And they won't do much but put people on waiting lists... forever.

5

COMMISSARY

Encompasses issues such as frequency of shopping opportunity and item availability.

No shoes available to purchase, personals & laundry soap not sold at commissary more than not

Commissary sucks. They don't sell the proper hygiene products we need.

Food. Dietary food is bleh most days so I depend on commissary for the bulk of my caloric intake. Commissary has been horrible this year so I've been consistently underweight.

Commissary is down to once per month + half of the time they are out of most things.

Commissary is only once a month. There isn't enough items to get through the month. When you first get here you only get a \$30 shop with no clothes

6

COMMUNICATION

Includes issues related to phone availability, visitation, mail, and other means of communication.

Won't let family visit on video/in person due to a felony conviction from 10 yrs ago with NO IDOC Record!

There's not enough phones for the amount of people.

The phone situation Be Better if calling was allowed on tablets!

The continued COVID restrictions on our in person visits. I've not seen my grandkids in more than 3 years.

We are frequently only given a maximum of 1 call a day being we aren't able to call more than either our children or parents

7

MOVEMENT

Includes concerns about time spent out of the cell or sleeping area and yard/dayroom availability.

We are locked on the D wing for 22 hours a day + I am minimum security

The fact entire houses are locked down for people who test positive and removed.

confined to a single cell - only allowed out 2 1/2 hrs/day. No rec time - restricted chow - movement after 2pm/10c of security level:

There is an utter lack of outdoor activity

Mental health unit from August 2022 to December 2022, we did not have any yard at all.



This report was written by JHA staff. Media inquiries should be directed to JHA's Executive Director Jennifer Vollen-Katz at jvollen@thejha.org or 312-291-9183.

Incarcerated individuals can send privileged mail to report concerns and issues to the John Howard Association, P.O. Box 10042, Chicago, IL 60610-0042. JHA staff read every letter and track this information to monitor what is occurring behind prison walls and to advocate for humane policies and practices. Family and friends can contact JHA via our website www.thejha.org or by leaving us a voicemail at (312) 291-9183.

Since 1901, JHA has provided public oversight of Illinois' juvenile and adult correctional facilities. Every year, JHA staff and trained volunteers inspect prisons, jails, and detention centers throughout the state. Based on these inspections, JHA regularly issues reports that are instrumental in improving prison conditions. JHA humbly thanks everyone who graciously shared their experiences and insights with us.



Defying Injustice. Defending Humanity.