
**Survey Comment
Report**



**Decatur 2022
MQPL Survey
Comments**

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Introduction

Decatur Correctional Center is a minimum-security female prison within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) that housed 411 people on July 15, 2022. The John Howard Association of Illinois (JHA) conducted a modified short [Measuring the Quality of Prison Life](#) (MQPL) survey by providing enough survey packets (consisting of the [MQPL survey](#), an informed consent notice/instruction sheet, and a privileged mail prepaid business reply envelope addressed to JHA) so that every person incarcerated at Decatur had an opportunity to participate in the voluntary and anonymous survey if they chose to do so. JHA received 204 responses to the MQPL survey from people at Decatur through the end of 2022, representing approximately 49.6% of the static population. JHA planned to conduct a monitoring visit of the prison close in time to survey distribution in August; however, the visit was rescheduled to October due to a COVID lockdown.

Below are the comments from the MQPL surveys for the open-ended survey questions followed by marginalia comments. Please note:

- All blank answers have been omitted
- Names and other personally identifying details have been redacted
- Spelling and grammar have been lightly edited for understanding and to account for possible transcriber typos.

Open-Ended Survey Questions

Q12. What are the most positive things about life in this prison?

1. There is none
2. Other inmates sharing their experience, strength + hope
3. This is more max security than Logan
4. none
5. That the housing units are safe and clean
6. At the moment, there is nothing positive other than the air conditioning.

7. At one point in time I could say their was positive but now I can only think of the negative everything positive gets took away. Working for days! New school Program.
8. none
9. Programs + Opportunities
10. Getting clean
11. None
12. When we are not on lockdown I am in school have a job
13. AC, Contracts
14. The mental health that's available, and the structure they use upon your release
15. Getting on the right track to get home and get everything I need for my return home.
16. Church, groups, and mental help
17. None
18. They can't keep us forever.
19. Being on the same unit as my sister, getting to go to school, patio/yard when it is offered
20. Can get showers daily
21. It use to be **[NAME REDACTED]** that was over the LTS
22. I learned patience and how shitty prison is. How I never want to break the law again.
23. The school was going great until they quarantined/locked down the prison. My teacher (**[NAME REDACTED]**) was helpful and kind. There are also some great COs
24. My MSR is this month. It's kind of clean.
25. Nothing it's all bad
26. There is nothing positive besides it's clean.
27. That I have a tablet to listen to the most updated music, news, podcasts, messages from the outside world. That we have a private bathroom and a patio to go outside.
28. The first shift staff on Tier A is great! The officer is very helpful and treats everyone fairly, he tries to help as much as he can.
29. The library
30. Patio
31. Nothing! Anything you can do that is positive is held over your head. Or they have a limit on the positive things you can do, like education.
32. Closed off bathroom - 1 Stall
33. Paying my debt to society
34. Nothing
35. Nothing!
36. None
37. Working on my people skills
38. At the moment nothing. We are on Covid Lockdown.
39. I'm sober, I'm alive, new friends. Closer to family, my kids visit

40. The food is edible most days.
41. I can watch tv or order commissary
42. Work, school, groups (seeking safety, drug awareness, etc.) *Only when available*
43. Nothing
44. The environment is mostly clean and there is air conditioning. Weekly commissary shops are nice too.
45. I love that there's structure here. That's what I wanted after doing so many years. Warden **[NAME REDACTED]** is very receptive and really helps out. She's so swamped all of the time because she's about the only one who cares.
46. None
47. It's a quicker stop home, your able to work on yourself a little more. If your allowed for groups whenever they are available you can attend.
48. Schooling
49. A chance to reflect, on your situation, find some support of your own to make a change, before released. Self-reflection, self love, and support.
50. The only positive thing in this prison is that Warden **[NAME REDACTED]** is the only one whom understand us women and don't treat us like caged animals and give us a voice to speak.
51. I got a chance to find myself again but do not like the prison experience.
52. We are not locked in cells
53. Clean, organized
54. Being able to go outside, having dayroom when not locked down.
55. There aren't much. There is not many programs. The time to get involved takes too long.
56. Not necessarily life in this prison but just me personally I got to take a pause + reflect on my life + take hold of my life back.
57. I really don't see a lot of positivity at all!!
58. Hard to say. Not too much positive here. We get to shop commissary weekly.
59. Structure times- learn job structure
60. Nothing
61. Air conditioning. Shop every week.
62. None
63. There['s] not
64. Air conditioning.
65. You are sober and have a clear head. Your eyes are opened to see the bigger picture.
66. It's fairly clean
67. That we get to shop weekly. That our doors aren't locked.
68. The academic teachers
69. Meating new people + looking forward to going home.
70. That it cannot and will not last forever
71. I can work every day while we are locked down so I get my half a day for 1 work day.

72. There is nothing positive to say cause we get nothing done in here ever by anybody never get mail or talk to anyone to get stuff done for us!
73. It's strict compared to Logan which makes me feel safe.
74. When we are not on quarantine lockdown. When pregnant women get treated with respect.
75. It is brightly lit. There is little black mold in the showers. It's airconditioned.
76. I wake up at another chance to be better than the day before :)
77. NOTHING!
78. My outdate! There is no rehabilitation. No programs, and no way to help change yourself. I'd rather be in the max prison.
79. Nothing positive, I feel unsafe.
80. Made me more humble + how to be a better person + able to do school
81. Am still breathing ready to get the fuck out
82. Reflection on the bad choices that brought me here meeting people getting outside my comfort zone and understanding other people's way of life
83. To be able to go to school
84. The mental health treatment
85. We get showers everyday
86. The 1 day a week we get mail if we are lucky
87. It can teach you to not take life for granted
88. The fact that I'm under 60 days
89. I think that staff try and make things good even if it don't work
90. There are no positives
91. They try to not make it feel as much like a prison
92. Leisure Time Services
93. I am sober, safe and have housing
94. School
95. None
96. Air conditioning
97. Nothing, I hate it here! I'm mad at myself for being here! Not a place I want to be!
98. Most people are nice
99. All about how you look at it.
100. There isn't!
101. It's not maximum
102. **[NAME REDACTED]** - she is trying to make things better here but gets a lot of pushback from Warden and staff. Too bad.
103. Learn not to come back!
104. NA
105. Health needs are good I guess...slow but good
106. Air conditioning. No locked cells—still have to be in our rooms to long
107. I've had the opportunity to find my sobriety and who I am without the lifestyle I was living before
108. Air conditioning
109. Video calls home and in person visits

110. Me! Making better decisions for my future. Some positive officers and staff you work for.
111. Give you time too think & try & help get your mind set too do the right things when you get out & you can earn certificates & degrees & work ethics in here as you apply yourself or the staff deems worthy
112. School, and west care
113. We get to go outside
114. Westcare and **[NAME REDACTED]** class start now and some of the C/O's.
115. It is what you try to make it
116. Don't come back
117. Clean environment
118. Taking time to reflect on my bad choices I made.
119. Phone calls. Air conditioning.
120. Climate control
121. Getting out
122. Air conditioning. You can control the temp. of the shower H2O.
123. Realizing you will do what you have to do to Never come back.
124. There are a few staff/C.O.'s who are compassionate and do their jobs without favoritism or bribery. Not many
125. You get 1/2 day off your sentence for everyday you work. That's a great incentive.
126. nothing. maybe gym, (if we have a CO/staff member that wants to take us.
127. Contact w/ my family.
128. That it ends.
129. I learned more about myself than I knew about myself in my past. I've gotten several certificates, Learned How to do Hair+nails, Furthered my Education as well.
130. going home.
131. This prison has a/c & temp. control in showers & toilet doors.
132. School - Church
133. Some nice Counselors & CO's
134. That there [is] stability + structure.
135. N/A
136. None that I can think of.
137. nothing at all maybe the commissary when your not being degraded by the staff that work there
138. Nothing is positive. You must self-help yourself, if you Choose too. Prison life sucks. There is no regard for individuals in custody lives. We do time. We are not suppose to have a life in prison.
139. There are a couple of staff members that seem to actually care
140. Westcare treatment. Start Now. Anger management—Mental Health is available
141. honestly can't think of anything. I've never been to prison or served county time so I'm just confused how someone with no criminal history can automatically get sentenced to prison time with a nonviolent crime
142. You get to work as well as school

143. They make you not want to come back! You get days for school and jobs even some groups!
144. None
145. nothing at all
146. They offer schooling almost immediately, I got a job within my 61 days
147. LTS. Mothers + babies unit. Maintaining connections with outside.
148. In Here Decatur Nothing no Groups to better areself we do are own Recovery AA, NA, on are unit. I know I do my own Recovery, and Group Shit in Decatur CC. This is Hell for sure. they Don't care about us, for real.
149. Getting to go outside. Most staff is friendly and treats you as though you're a person.
150. Structure
151. the other inmate that [treat] you like family and help each other out more than any of the staff do when it comes to anything mentally, and emotionally
152. meeting other inmates and helping each other get through this time positively.
153. The staff there really down to Earth & there easy to talk to
154. Controlled Environment
155. Getting Good days off your sentence
156. Everything is organized!
157. N/A
158. Nothin we locked down for 24/7 days a week
159. I haven't died yet.
160. It's minimum security and before COVID lockdown we got to go to the library, the law librarian **[NAME REDACTED]** immediately harassed and ridiculed me everytime I went there for something – making a scene in front of officers and other inmates 4X – then she finally left the employ of Decatur.
161. There are no positive things
162. The ability to work and go to school.
163. at this point and time I see nothing positive about this prison – I will be filing law suits
164. clean environment. Safe & secure.
165. For me no access to street drugs
166. None
167. Knowing I still have a life ahead of me to pay off old bills, make \$ get Jobs pay fines get on the right track, and live a great life fishing to get my bait & my dinner to rest
168. Ways I got to be able to better myself and prepare for getting out.
169. Education
170. WestCare, drug treatment
171. Theres nothing positive about this prison. No programs are anything being offered.
172. You learn not to come back, because of the conditions. “It sucks.”
173. Its relatively safe here in terms of violence.

Q13. What are the most negative things about life in this prison?

1. They treat you worse than a animal they Bully you
2. No organization, improper sanitation, terrible food, and undertrained staff.
3. EVERYTHING!
4. Everything! It's very unclean, dishwasher has been down for almost 2 years. Staff here favor inmates. They give all the programs to inmates who constantly get tickets. I can't get any help or answers in here. We don't get mail, yard, groups, movement or treated like humans.
5. The way they run things
6. No rec, no classes, no groups, no respect from staff. We are not allowed to get video visits or reg visits because of COVID, which effects mental health. We don't get mail on a regular basis.
7. In the 3yr I have been here I haven't had my teeth cleaned a filling, no proper dental, I haven't seen a OB dr. for a yearly check up and **[NAME REDACTED]** refuses to do anything about my chest pain so the healthcare here is bad they don't care. No mail, no visits, constant lock down
8. Counselors!! Visiting rooms
9. IA is messy. They like to start fights and target you if you make them do their job.
10. The way we are treated by staff, getting into programs, being on lockdown.
11. COVID quarantining for months/weeks at a time
12. It's hard to get into groups if you have a further out outdate
13. Credit for working, food, dental
14. The mail, dietary, and the overall care for us individuals in custody
15. Negative people, bullying, and being on lockdown because of Covid, and not getting out of our room but for 20 min a day.
16. No mail. Certain COs how they treat us. Rules always change that we don't know.
17. Everything here
18. Everything and COVID lockdown.
19. Lack of organization and communication in regards to staff. Disrespectful staff/nurses. Lack of rehabilitative incentives/programs for those with mental health issues.
20. COs let some do whatever
21. We don't have a chaplain. We have not had one for almost 3 years, and we don't have church!!
22. The food, the negative nonhelpful officers
23. Lack of things for time management. I'm too broke to afford food snacks hygiene
24. Some of the COs are degrading, mean and say inappropriate things. We are on lockdown and are barely giving us 20 min to shower and there is no structure.
25. I don't feel safe, they don't answer request or address when you're being threatened, they hardly ever bring mail and NO counselor will answer any questions I have.
26. No classes. No way to get more good time all we do is stay locked up.

27. This prison has no structure and the officers yell at you all day long and show a lot of favoritism.
28. Neglect of duties from the staff not putting our paperwork in for house arrest, work release, or SSC Days and then waiting till we are too short to not be eligible because they did not do their job in a timely fashion.
29. We have a counselor **[HOUSING AREA REDACTED]** who is not helping us as he should, **[NAME REDACTED]** ignore our request and refuses to interact with us during our scheduled time to meet with us. Our request and questions go unanswered because he doesn't want to be bothered with us.
30. Staff lets the individuals they favor run the prison. They pick and choose who gets to do things.
31. People that have more than a year or 2 to do can't get into school if they are mandated for school. They have no programs for people with 4 or more years to do.
32. Schooling, programing etc. is not fair to those with later outdates. IF your outdate is later than others you can spend a lot of time doing nothing, leading to depression and a sense of unworthiness.
33. Commissary, Staff
34. Politics! Due to so many married couples and or family members that work here, if one staff member gives you problems 10 more follow suit. IA is no help! They feed into the drama, rather it be staff or staff incarcerated or incarcerated or staff on incarcerated drama.
35. No communication for release plans or any information
36. Not getting things in order to leave like caseplans - groups - and nowhere to go where I'm from
37. Poor treatment poor food no resources for help absolutely no correction at all!
38. How the COs talk to us like shit
39. No structure, church, groups, jobs, grass needs cut, a lot units need fixed, we need are mail. This place is an unorganized shit show.
40. Away from family. Waiting game for programs.
41. I'm currently pumping for my **[AGE REDACTED]** baby and I was on the pregnancy and baby + mom unit, then was kicked off and forced to pump in healthcare then they were making me pump in the bathroom of healthcare.
42. Drama, punishment, take my outside support away
43. I feel like that this place should have more programs to help us reconnect with our children and family
44. COs don't respect us. The food sucks. Food is expired. We do not have proper shampoos for our hair.
45. The treatment from staff. Nobody cares! All the quarantine and lockdowns has taken a major toll on mental health. No fresh air. No chaplain available. Have not had one over 2 years!!
46. They took my whole year of good time over a crime I did not commit nor did they have proof of the crime. When you are "C" or "B" grade you cannot contact your family but 2 phone calls a week and you cannot order food, clothes, etc. We hardly get mail due to not enough staff.

47. Everything
48. Understaffed; lack of staff effort to advise inmates on how to better their time and get home soonest. Commissary options and personal care products are terrible. This is minimum security and ran like max.
49. They go too far with the structure and overdo it with nit-picking. The staff can bully. There's not much fighting but there is bullying in the room. I've been trying to obtain a religious diet for over a year. Lack of fresh fruit. Lack of anything positive to do/ Programs, etc.
50. Everything
51. To be in school you have to have a shorter sentence, their more of a priority. The ones that go to school hardly want to be there. The ones that want to just sit around and wait. School isn't good, no good programs. COVID has halted a lot. No consistency.
52. Treated like pieces of shit. Cannot get covid under control. On lockdown yet again.
53. The inconsistencies in the system. The Rules are day to day, different always changing. No effort to keep a constant rule, privilege, or helpfulness. CO make their own rules.
54. There are no programs that can even help anyone here to start rehabilitation. They'll make a group and then it'll get cancelled or even only allow an inmate whom getting ready leave the option to participate. They only have Dual Diagnosis NOT Substance abuse. They don't have any programs for us woman at Decatur and we barely leave the unit.
55. There is no church and the food sucks terribly. This is a poorly run prison system.
56. No outside time.
57. No programs, lack of staff, no resources, not able to work on what brought you here
58. Never getting mail b/c there is no mail officer—only getting mail once a week
59. No one sticks to one rule. Not offer hardly any positive courses.
60. Right now it's constant quarantine due to Covid
61. Not everyone is held accountable for their own actions or if they are EVERYONE gets in trouble for one or two people's wrongs.
62. Staff, counselors not doing their jobs. Being locked in our rooms all day. No exercise. Not good for mental health.
63. Very unprofessional staff.
64. The way we are treated
65. The staff members. If you're being bullied or ostracized they do not care. All they want to do is take days from people. They want people to get in trouble.
66. We don't get our request answered! We don't get our mail! We don't get our needs met!
67. Being locked in your sell from the time you wake up til the time you go to bed
68. We are treated like we are of lower class. Only get mail one time a week if we are lucky. Mail is 3-4 weeks behind because they refuse to staff the mailroom but have multiple guards sitting all day in dietary when it's not necessary. Never have any commissary.
69. The staff playing favoritism. They discriminate against gay people.

70. They never give us mail. When we receive it, it is from months previous, and legal mail is always opened. They make it impossible to have visits and we never get to see counselors.
71. We never get yard or gym
72. Everything the COs lack compassion you are just a # no gym yard library can't get mail or in touch with administration
73. Food + depressing people that put everyone down
74. Just about everything
75. I have been sick since I got here the dietary do not have proper ways available to clean dishes.
76. Never get to talk to counselor. Never get mail. No movement out of the unit.
77. Being on lockdown
78. Sharing small space with multiple people
79. Adapting to all of the different people/personalities here.
80. There is more drama between staff members than there is inmates. Proper placement between inmates. The care for pregnant women.
81. There are ants in the rooms. The area we can go outside is very sterile—no flowers or beauty just grass and cement walls. Rooms are very small and overcrowded. There is no security about putting certain people together for roommates (I work 3rd shift and have not been able to [ILLEGIBLE] myself for the hours as I cannot get any sleep—roommates very disrespectful). Commissary fills our orders—we get no time to check the order for discrepancies and staff initials our receipt for us as well as put their initials when we are charged for things we did not receive there's no recourse for us.
82. No structure, No positive inspiration of individuals in custody worth as being priceless to change for better
83. If you have time to do, you're not able to get into programs until your time is shorter. Also, the CO do not care!
84. The staff, the food, no programs, no outside, no gym, no yard
85. No cable, no video visits from your own family + the grounds are so overgrown, you get bugs (ticks) when you try to go outside for fresh air
86. Staff disrespect us inmates, Not getting mail. Get treated like we not human beings.
87. The whole prison is negative
88. There's not enough space for work assignment, school, or other programs such long waiting periods, not being able to earn time off when we are on lock down for Covid. At least for me in school.
89. The mail system, we do not get mail everyday. The way staff talks to us is degrading and disrespectful and if you voice your opinion they want to discipline you. They pick and choose when to enforce rules. No consistency!
90. How rude and disrespectful staff is
91. Treatment, no structure, no communication, lack of mail (if lucky 2 days a week)
92. We only get 20 mins out, no yard, no gym, no church, no mail, shitty food
93. Staff, quarantine, food, no programs
94. No family contact

95. The wardens don't do nothing, the staff is very very disrespectful and there's no programs to rehabilitate yourself while being locked down
96. Seeing those who don't want to change and get there life right get rewarded and those who are changing not get rewarded they only suffer.
97. Everything
98. Not a whole you can't do that much at all
99. Everything. I've seen more violence here than I ever saw in my prior 3 years at Logan.
100. Being away from my kids, being on covid lockdown being around addicts not ready for change
101. Lack of communication
102. They just want you to stay in your cell
103. Most staff is on a power trip
104. Waiting for schooling and/or a job
105. Everything! The officers & inmates. Black officers treat black people worse! :(
106. I cannot order food 60 days + less from my departure.
107. Everything
108. Everything! Nobody listens! Nothing gets done. Food sucks. No mail.
109. They make it hard to visit with your support and family. It takes a long time to get approved and the visitor restrictions are harsh especially for people whose family members have been an inmate before
110. You can drop a million slips with no answer back. They are short staffed. You are degraded daily. They show favoritism. Most the time they don't acknowledge you're here if your outdate is too far you can't get in any programs. You are left feeling discouraged.
111. Commissary - there are no quality hygiene products. We're told that we get only the cheapest available product - even if it makes my hair fall out. We are not treated as people.
112. The people being bullied
113. Bullying, Locked Away from Family, No help from mental health
114. No Church, No programs, Neg people and staff, No one to pass mail/Sort mail!
115. Staff treats you as if you're not human like them, like we don't go through things as well as them/our feelings aren't valid
116. Food. C.O. rudeness + being in a maximum [minimum] facility but treated like we are in a maximum security facility. Not enough contracts for everyone, Mail we don't get Monday-Friday or our Messages. Men get treated better then Females in IDOC (Illinois Dpt. Of Corrections)
117. The bullying and the fact we have to wait so long for anything to get done
118. Bullying, Personal care items available on commissary. No care packages for indigent people.
119. They always want us in our rooms & just yell about it. There's never officers to take us to yard or gym. There's nothing to offer people who have time I have [ILLEGIBLE] years no schooling nothing
120. There is lots of inconsistency

121. Not enough Programs/college classes. Not enough staff help. No volunteer church/Bible Studies.
122. Being away from my friends & family & mainly my babies & also realizing how much hurt we have put on everyone on the outside & how we are hurting ourselves in one way shape or form!
123. The staff
124. Racist staff & inmates
125. **[NAME REDACTED]** - Commissary lady and **[NAME REDACTED]** C/O few others that treat us and talk to us like we are animals
126. People. Staff.
127. Staff members don't believe you when an incident happens
128. can't interact with others. We never get mail, not even once a week. Personal property is a joke.
129. The food. The inconsistency. The staff that look down on us. The beds.
130. They don't give us mail throughout the weekdays & they don't allow any type of programs/assistance to those of us with little time
131. We are not being treated as people but as animals, numbers, or I would say wild animals.
132. Untrained new staff. Lack of resources.
133. Everything here is negative
134. Because the # of non-white inmates is much lower, non-whites are more likely to be able to get into programs/classes/work assignments. IE: A white inmate may get into programs 1 or 2x/year but non-whites inmates will get into double or triple the amount to keep everything "racially balanced." And those whites who most often attend are the chosen few of two of the wardens.
135. Negative employees. no consistency. All the lies you are told by staff
136. It sucks being locked down 24-7. shut up in your cell all day & night
137. The way staff treats you/Not enough staff on any given day. We do NOT get mail daily Monday-Friday. This prison uses excuses for reasons we have no mail, yard, gym, class, etc. That it's Springfield's fault the reason for short staff
138. There are C.O.'s that talk down to people like they are beneath them. Also they are always short staffed so a lot of activities are canceled. We are not getting outside mail often because of having no one in the mail room.
139. the lockdowns due to covid. the food. no positive programs. The commissary if you can afford it. Prices change every week.
140. I can't get proper shoes for my Job in dietary. we can't [get] our mail when we should.
141. That there is one.
142. The people (staff included), being warehoused year after year, pushed back being placed on a waiting list for everything while others get their Education or in Groups before you Based on outdates. When they might be a repeat offender, OH my apologies, individual in custody.
143. Not a lot of help on TRAC School that is mandatory for Parole ID 2 School
144. treatment, food, Edsc (good time)

145. Group shower, C/O's speak nasty to people living here, no provided hygienes, state pay withheld & locked in cell all but 20 min a day. They do nothing to try to prevent conflict. Tickets issued for laughing. Ticketed by some C/O's for asking questions. Mail withheld.
146. The lack of communication.
147. Rarely have yard, and mail and medical sucks due to staff shortage. Decatur suppose to be a place to reunify with kids, and families
148. Be promised all these opportunities and not given to us because of covid
149. lack of staff, lack of rec time, inconsistency, favoritism from staff towards certain inmates.
150. Understaffing, not getting our mail daily. Not having Quality Hygiene Items or sizes in commissary, no shoes to fit me.
151. every thing the I.A. that works here are terrible people when you feel unsafe they just think your causing trouble I was assaulted and put back on the same unit even though I fear for my life nobody believes us.
152. lack of communication with support (mail, phone, video visits, physical visits). Staff do not care if communication is maintained or not. It is not their life. Very selfish Staff. No programs. Programming time for school is minimal. Give 85%-TIS convictions some perks - law reform.
153. Not being able to have contact with our outside support people & family members. The inconsistency of how Rules are handled. Poor communication from Administration or noncommunication is more like it.
154. It don't let you double-contact
155. The food quality is absolutely disgusting
156. LockDowns- Classes take a long time to get into and by the time you get them your to short for the days to count
157. waiting for phone lists to get approved. being away from family. the food. covid lockdowns.
158. there isn't enough staff
159. We are state property if we have a problem we are told to drop grievances and in return get non-helpful responses!
160. Everything the way they treat you on down to the food everything in between
161. They dont pass mail. I feel they are understaffed. There has been Rat Poop in the food. Mold in the showers. They don't answer slips dropped, my counselor always says he doesn't know anything.
162. Inmates are not held accountable unless they are seen by an officer committing the act.
163. in Decatur is the medical treatment. the long wait to see the outside specialist to even get an appt. we can or even have LTS. We are on quarantine again in Lockdown can't even get my waged work Done!
164. There's no one working full time in the mail room we waited 3 weeks for our mail. Legal time sensitive mail isn't priority here.
165. Attitude, food
166. we never know whats going on never informed of anything accurately

167. The availability to speak to someone above a C/O. The attitude of my counselor when I have questions or concerns (Counselor **[NAME REDACTED]**)
168. mental healthcare. Healthcare. Dental care. Not being able to talk to someone that will help you or take you seriously.
169. The females that Don't understand structure. and discipline.
170. Lack of programs/activities
171. Food. The disrespectful staff. Not getting mail, nothing on commissary. Roaches and spider everywhere and it stank.
172. Not being able to earn a degree or certificate while incarcerated. Not receiving fresh air on a daily basis. Going outside. Not being looked at as worthy or valuable. Legionnaires' disease in the water!!! No fresh mask!!!
173. When you go to staff about another individual in custody (elderly lady) that you having problems with, they tell you to beat her up in order for anything to be done!
174. We cant even do classes Nothin to do for good time
175. They don't really care about or for any of the ladies that are held here
176. They have no AA, Bible study or church - no chaplain...mailroom is backed up - no mail room officer, they assign you jobs and even if you have medical conditions require you to do that job rather than assign you a light duty job. I'm **[50+ with serious medical conditions, SPECIFICS REDACTED]** and they assigned me kitchen duty on feet for hours. Gave 28 yr olds porter jobs/laundry porter
177. They don't respond to inmates request slips. They give false hope. The counselors are rude. They don't give you your mail from the outside.
178. The waiting list for school, we rarely get out mail, there is never an officer to take us to the gym or yard, the library always closes early
179. There medical is horrible- There treatment of the elderly those with medical issues is uncalled for - There dietary is impossible for those with health issues - medical personnel and management cannot make decisions on what is needed for prisoners with medical issues - They keep passing the Book back and forth
180. No cable. Commissary vendors are horrible.
181. Population with careless people
182. Dietary
183. There are struggles with medications that I need, and healthcare the nurses and the doctors don't/cant do a lot Im very ill need to see an outside doctor cant feel my hands or feet have **[DIAGOSIS REDACTED]** etc.
184. Not getting mail, the way we are treated by staff
185. Being here
186. Not being able to keep my son with me after he was born
187. No programs to help us. No staff for mail room. We never get our mail. No staff for activities.
188. The whole system
189. Very unprofessional staff, very hateful individuals who seem to get some sick pleasure out of doing unnecessary hateful things. **[ILLEGIBLE]** Decatur Correctional Center.

Q14. What suggestions do you have for improvement in this prison?

1. I suggest closing it firing everyone and reopen another with new staff
2. Warden **[NAME REDACTED]** should retire.
3. HIRE ALL NEW STAFF that actually care about us and not just a paycheck!
4. More programs, jobs, movement, more staff actually listening and answering questions. Sanitary conditions, not expired food and more resources.
5. New ways. New Consistent rules.
6. Compassion and understanding from staff. Regular rec/yard time, we need to stop going on lockdown because of Covid!
7. More groups for AA, NA, support groups. Activities. Getting mail, and our video visits with our family and children. Getting fresh air on lockdown.
8. Get more counselors that are here and do what they say
9. Fire **[NAMES REDACTED]**
10. Staff, more opportunities for prisoners, more time outside/gym
11. Giving us mandatory school packets so while on quarantine we can still get our days to go home. It's not our fault we are on mandatory COVID lockdown.
12. Every officer should keep the rules the same. Diabetics should get diabetic trays not 4 starches on one tray.
13. Dietary gets full day credit for working, hire more dental help
14. Listen to the individuals in custody's problems, especially health related issues.
15. Let both sides out North and South at the same time and getting off of lockdown because COVID
16. Everything! Please help us!
17. Too many
18. Getting new staff. More the IA stuff
19. Everyone needs to be on the same page, more staff need to be hired, a mailroom officer needs to be hired. Warden **[NAME REDACTED]** needs to retire her racist self!
20. Have rules that apply for all not just certain people
21. Get monthly programs for drug addicts, bully self-harm prevention, mental health etc. Hire people who care and want to help others.
22. Needs anything to keep inmates busy
23. The inmates need to be informed of rules. There need to be more structure and help with questions the inmates have. The counselor has not seen me one time in 4 months to answer any of my questions.
24. More classes, more stuff to do
25. They need to offer more groups for people to take to help them better their life
26. To hire more staff, to have more programs to get contracts (days) and to get cable. We spend \$200 on a TV to only have a few channels.
27. Need better counselors
28. New majors and wardens - more training for staff. Less judgmental employees.

29. Opportunity for people with time to do.
30. New Warden
31. Stop going by outdates for programs. Go by general waitlist, More Springfield IA involvement in monitoring Staff conduct. Treat individuals according to that individuals behavior, [do] not hold positive change or willingness to make positive change over individual head.
32. More staff, More available information
33. To better educate counselors on getting people in for work release and to have answers or what recidivism scores are on why Springfield denies you or your EDSC days
34. Make more resources available and hire more staff so there can be more correction classes.
35. Talk to us like we are human beings stop locking us in these rooms we don't have toothpaste we do not have heat in the winter time and they put 2 Whites with 1 Black I feel some type of way about that.
36. 360 turnaround or shut down.
37. Timeframe for programs
38. I honestly think they need a better healthcare staff, also they need more staffing for Westcare it's a great program and the counselors go above and beyond for us in the program, but they don't help them.
39. It needs better hygiene, more commissary, better food, no spoiled milk
40. Get rid of "cock in the sock" our reference to hot dogs and the spoiled lunch meat we call "slick meat" and it is gray and green color.
41. Better shampoo... Better phone systems.... Better commissary stock
42. Make easier to get into groups - put windows you can at least see daylight/get fresh air when on Covid lockdown and quarantines!
43. For staff to treat inmates like humans and not animals. For us to actually get our mail regularly. For punishments to be handled according. For inmates to be allowed to call and email their support no matter what.
44. This is supposed to be a min prison and they treat us like max prison. Train the officers better.
45. Wardens with concern for inmates rather than concern for paychecks. More "corrective" opportunities. More caseworking staff to help women educate/better themselves and begin better futures faster. Better WOMENS products on commissary.
46. More positive things to occupy our time. The Ridicule of inmates to cease. Allow chances with in-person visits. No one can come and see me because no matter how much time has passed since our family/friends last incident they deny the visit. Even my friend whose record was expunged they denied. More fresh fruit. The pregnant women can't do ANYTHING!
47. Board it up Start fresh.
48. More groups and programs for (ALL) individuals. Schooling is more open.
49. Hire COs that give a shit.
50. Everyone keeps on same rules each day, keep schedule the same. Consistency is key, no excuses.

51. Programs, more outside time, give us our dayroom times back so we can use the phones more than 0 or 3 times a day to speak with our loved ones. And better support from the staff, stop being treated as animals. Rule book say lock up time is 9:30pm they locking us up 30 min early why?
52. Improve food. Plus should make TV a thing that is available.
53. More outside time and more respect for us
54. Groups, programs, resources, more communication with support
55. Have mail 5x a week, allowing offenders to double contract to get home.
56. Let people go with shorter time to focus on the prison as a whole. Hire enough workers to run a facility correctly. Take each individual serious focus on them.
57. More activities and Westcare should be available for all inmates not just inmates with over a year left.
58. To have the vents cleaned out. Seriously. Showers power washed at least once a week until mold is gone then once a month. People with a long time should be able to be in classes first or second time around.
59. Better staff. Better food. More groups/classes.
60. Better food would be nice. Healthcare nurses are rude, malicious. Please look into healthcare, dietary needs.
61. Training to wardens + staff that we are human beings not animals
62. Need more staff to be able to take individuals to yard + gym. IA does not need to control everything here.
63. Hire more staff and give us more to better ourself for when we get out.
64. More time out. Staff to be more trueful
65. Get counselors that actually care to help us. Force them to staff the mailroom so we can have contact with our family + outside world. We have been told receiving mail is a privilege not mandatory.
66. New staff - more understanding staff.
67. More communication, and more options for help
68. Better health programs and for us to exercise
69. Better communication/staff
70. Don't go to prison or come back
71. Allow proper healthcare and mental health care. Hire someone who CARES about Humanity (Humans)
72. Springfield needs to come down here and check up on this place
73. Need better staff. More help for the individuals in custody. More jobs for more days.
74. Open dayroom all day for both sides
75. Place roommates by aggression levels at least. Staff could at least provide the name of the person to contact for an answer when they have none to a questions. When I ask a lieutenant for help because the ants are so bad in my room I told him I was concerned about them in my bed his response was Oh I'm sorry to hear that but there is nothing I can do to help you. I caulked windows with toothpaste!
76. The officers need to actually do their job instead of looking for a free paycheck, not wanting to earn their keeps
77. Offer more programs for long timers

78. Trades, school, their aren't enough staff to even give me my mail in 3 weeks. This prison needs redone completely the men have it way better
79. More staff
80. Better staff/More staff. Staff that respect inmates. Better dietary food.
81. Keep [ILLEGIBLE]
82. Creating more opportunity for work assignments and school, which probably means more staff.
83. Get training for these officers to realize this is a job and not a place to be emotional or unprofessional
84. Give us more programs to better ourselves and earn good time
85. Tear it down
86. Give us our mail, hire more staff, figure out how to handle covid
87. Giving day for day for those in here for less[er] offenses
88. Structure, better food, more programs and better living situations it's mold and worms in the showers rusty water in sinks + toilets
89. Give those in prison time to at least eat their food. You either steal your food or chuck it in the garbage.
90. Better training
91. Getting people out faster
92. Internal Affairs needs to worry more about actual security risks than relationships
93. More rehab, more contracts
94. Better staffing
95. More treatment
96. Increase education certificates
97. Just because I am incarcerated doesn't mean treat me like an animal, I am a Human Being!
98. Fire Officer [NAME REDACTED] the female
99. EVERYTHING NEED IMPROVEMENT
100. Make it easier for prisoners to receive visits and more help for people who don't have money for commissary like everyone else.
101. More programs for girls with longer time, fair treatment. I want to better myself but it's hard in here. I keep getting bumped off every list because of my outdate the staff need to talk better to us!
102. Fire Warden [NAME REDACTED] and AW [NAME REDACTED] - find Wardens with experience in running a prison. Even though this is minimum security it is run as if it was max facility.
103. Watch for bullies more
104. Help with everything
105. More Staff.
106. I feel that we should have more groups and more involvement in support groups as to being hands on to starting new groups. Personal needs that we can buy off commissary or receiving gift bags from family that caters to our unique skin types & personal hygiene problems that most women have.
107. More staff- more programs, counselors who are willing to do their job.

108. More people to work more on helping the inmates leave instead of keeping them here
109. I believe they need more action programs to teach people new ways of making positive choices
110. More staff and we need more programs there's nothing for us women to do.
111. A permanent Chaplain. Church & Bible Study classes. Self-Help classes. Arts/Crafts.
112. Idk ummm...Incarcerated people getting treated like we are human & all the CO's treat us with respect as we do them (or me at least) & not like we are animals & the CO's realize they aren't better than us
113. new staff with more experience
114. More variety of workers
115. More compassion, more programs, need more staff
116. Staff. Days for working. Good time days.
117. More mail. More groups
118. Build a new one.
119. Programs for all individuals even with quicker outdates. Mail Monday-Friday.
120. Better commissary. Greater chance at visits with kids and family.
121. Make it structurally sound, its very unsafe and unclean
122. Treat inmates Better
123. New staff who know what they are doing. Be more consistent
124. the Counselors to be on time & truthful
125. More programs, more staff. Be more family oriented in reunification. Solid Reentry classes. Consistency. Better incentives and awardable good days.
126. There needs to be more classes/opportunities for people to work on themselves. There needs to be more available for those who have longer outdates.
127. They need trustworthy officials running this institution.
128. get someone to work in the mail room like they should. we have barely no food.
129. That there is a hierarchy and that we are all adults here. Not children.
130. Allow people that are doing lengthy sentence the chance to get an education Education Op, in Groups, before a Repeat Individual in custody who have use the system as a revolving door. They should go at the bottom of the list for school & Groups.
131. More things to make you get the help you need to get a job. Instead live on unemployment
132. they need to be consistent, officers passing covid to us
133. The above issues fixed. Hygienes offered clothing offered.
134. Better communication, and staffing
135. more staff, lack of mail, and no yard or gym due to no staff short of staff
136. That we should get covid Days
137. We should be able to call home from our tablets - more groups!!
138. Better staffed. Quality Items & Sizes in commissary. Better Food. More school opportunities.
139. everyone is family or related that works here so no matter what they side with each other this is a terrible place designed to break you

140. Employ staff that care about others. Employ staff that are not judgmental. Employ staff that do not discriminate. Don't be afraid to discipline Black/Brown individuals. Decatur is a racist prison.
141. More programs, more classes. More jobs. Get rid of covid lockdowns they don't work
142. put hooks in the bathroom for when we change in there, get better commissary food/hair products, + get more officers so we can get yard/gym time
143. Hire more staff get more programs to help inmates go home. also feed inmates a little more food
144. More groups that help people guards who do their jobs feminine products on commissary hairbrushes, soap etc.!! good food properly cooked
145. Better staff counselors everything better food more time out the sell
146. Organization, hire more people, that actually want to do their jobs
147. Make sure your staff are here for the right reasons. Separate the problematic inmates from the one's whom care about their future.
148. There is none. You all Don't care either 4-real. You just have your Name out their I have wrote you so many time about this medical class action on **[DATE REDACTED]** Last time you all were Here and No respond. Thanks for nothing.
149. Hire mail room staff full time.
150. get more help and programs to help incarcerated people for the world whether it be doing classes/programs or other things like that
151. Better counselors. Better food (we've been served all purpose patties 6 times this week)
152. I am sure other prisons are under staffed, but taking it out on us is not our fault you are working 16 hours, or 7 days a week. We would just like proper medical/dental care, and be treated with respect how we have to treat others.
153. make a unit for all persons not able to follow Rules make them suffer not the Rest
154. More programs/activities options
155. New staff, better food, receiving our mail, more programs, bombing the bugs.
156. Tend to the water issue. Legionnaires' disease in the drinking water. Better care for COVID patients and precautions.
157. Get RID of the staff in IA because they just want you to fight w/ other individuals!
158. more classes. more stuff to do. the food isnt even food
159. They need to be equipped for handicapped people or not house them here.
160. Get more staff to implement programs, they don't even have a full orientation. Restart AA/NA and groups for grief, addictions, etc. Have church resume and Bible study. Train staff to enforce the same rules consistently
161. They need to get better counselors who want to help and have answers. Make sure that you get mail. CO's could be more polite and don't treat us like animals
162. Start school classes, groups more often and have more activities so we don't spend so much time just sitting in our cells.
163. Better medical and people who know how to make decisions without fear
164. better commercial vendors. more staff.
165. More trained staff. More peer leadership. More religious programs.
166. Better food, more C/O's

167. If medical is serious get someone help if they cant feel there hands & feet they are numb & blue and need blood draw for **[DIAGONSES REDACTED]**. Do more programs mandatory. Also yard & gym.
168. Better/more staff, better hygiene products on commissary
169. Since it is a minimum prison there should be more opportunities than other prisons. Decatur is treated more like maximum.
170. Open up the mom's and babies program
171. Shut it down.
172. Think sometimes about the "85%" people with contracts
173. Healthcare is horrible, the nurses are rude and don't seem to care about our health needs.

Q15. Please write any other comments or feedback on this survey below.

1. They don't help us or give us hope
2. I have had my request slips not answered, put in rooms with bullies and I've been on waiting list for WestCare for 5 months. The Kitchen gives expired food and unclean trays, and spoons. We get no yard, no mail, and the COs here treat us like Dogs, talk to us like Dogs. I've been asked to be put in for ED and no answers. There is no tools or programs to help on outside world.
3. Health care is horrible they don't treat your problems.
4. We have no LTS, No Chaplain, no church services. Trust fund our checks get lost in the mail they make us pay to cancel them. Our visits have been took away and they say it's because they have no staff. South side North side constantly cancelling yard because staff but then they got 3 or 4 staff members sitting on the unit at 6pm doing nothing talking, they lock us in our room and give us 20 min phone some times 10 min and 10 min to shower that's when were off lock down its a little different but we are currently on lock down. In the chow hall they feed the CO special food and allow them to eat it in front of us.
5. It does not matter what I say things have not nor will change they only get worse
6. People who have a lot of time aren't offered the same opportunities as someone with a lesser amount of time.
7. We're currently on lockdown with nothing to do we need more programs and groups to get out and help us. Better food.
8. Why do you people even do these surveys it doesn't change anything. Just because only a few say something is wrong or even just one person, doesn't mean it didn't happen to them. Are surveys pointless?
9. Thanks for taking time out to be concerned on how life is here for us. Get us off lockdown please!!!
10. The mental health here at Decatur is great and certain COS **[NAMES REDACTED]**.

11. This place does not care about the safety or us.
12. We often go weeks w/o mail. If you have over 5 years to do there aren't any programs and right now even though staff says we're post covid we're currently under a medical lockdown - however OPD fairground workers are allowed to leave our facility and go to work. I can't go to school or attend a video visit but other inmates are allowed to leave the facility to work. I don't think the "lockdown" should only apply to those with jobs/school on the premises. It should apply to everyone or no one.
13. This prison has so much potential to help young women if they would set a plan and stick to it. I see amazing things here just in the short time I've spent here. See insert
14. Only get mail once a week if that
15. I have been here since **[DATE REDACTED]** and got Covid within 3 days of arrival. After I was taken back to GP I was put to work, then school but I also requested to meet with a counselor but I still haven't I am now on another Covid unit with the entire prison. It has been a disaster and my husband has been trying to call and get answers.
16. N/A
17. Prison needs a program set in place for a person to be productive once released instead of throwing them out there to the wolves with nothing.
18. They do not do anything extra to relieve the stress of the pregnant offenders.
19. We are on lockdown. We get 40 minutes out a day if that. The quarantine process needs help.
20. I participate in the **[JOB ASSIGNMENT REDACTED]**. However every day I have to worry if my CO supervisor is in a bad mood, if my CO supervisor is going to be consistent with her treatment of me, if my CO supervisor's morning is going to effect the way she treats or talks to me throughout the day. There is no system in place to ensure the [workers] are treated fairly! If we grieve CO we will face blow back of being reassigned.
21. They are so understaffed it's sad
22. Please give more info on Haymarket and other halfway houses
23. This prison is a joke. There's not enough staff and no organization. Favoritism is shown everywhere! Basically this is a very terrible adult daycare! No correction what so ever offered.
24. I feel safer at Logan than I do Decatur. They don't help you they look at you like you're spit on the bottom of your shoe the COs are very disrespectful. I hate it here it is so bad here. Can you please help us get cable. I still have 6 years to go. Thank you so, so much.
25. Nothing to order on commissary, clothes don't fit, certain people get certain things. It's a joke here.
26. Our mail is week behind due to staffing problems. Please help us!
27. I have a friend in here who went to healthcare multiple times to healthcare about her stomach and Nurse **[NAME REDACTED]** and **[NAME REDACTED]** told her she was faking it, they eventually found out she had **[DIAGNOSES REDACTED]**, they brought her back and had to send her back to the hospital for **[DIAGNOSES REDACTED]**. I'm not sure how long she was here or how long this went on but I know she is terminal and in [the hospital] fighting for her life. They could have helped her, but to be honest

most of these nurses don't do their job or help us. **[FURTHER IDENTIFYING DETAILS REDACTED]**

28. They have violated my rights in many ways, not letting me breastfeed my baby in our in person visits, and my pump has been worthless for weeks and the women and families lady just ignores my slips. They aren't freezing my milk on time. It's crazy how much they don't care.
29. Your family have to be vaccinated in order to visit you in person, and they have to get naked before visits.
30. I was being bullied in my room since the first day I got here. I dropped multiple slips to IA everyday and talked to **[NAME REDACTED]** personally and his response was "She is just testing you. Stand your ground" which I didn't and continued to get bullied so I would not get beat up.
31. Figure out something better with Covid lockdown. Dietary can work every day but can't use phone to call family when woke up.
32. Even though I don't think this will make a difference somebody needs to know - there is no rehabilitation here. Most these inmates need treatment - not just locked up like a caged animal in this all indoor facility!
33. I don't think it's right that staff uses limiting phone calls as punishment or deleting inmates friends and family from email and phone list. I have been "c" grade for 4 months and now "B" grade which I must do 5 months of and it limits me to only allowed 2 phone calls a week. They block family and friends from my e-mail as well and that also limits me from talking to my supportive loved ones! I feel less than human here due to many reasons that include staff. Please help make this place a positive place for me and others to rebuild our lives so we don't go home and make the same choices. Thank you!
34. No Ethics, we speak on our problems and officers tell the people we have a problem with that we said it and cause more problems for us. They don't have our safety in their interest.
35. Some staff (the "good" ones) are FAR overworked while the disrespectful and all around angry, robotic staff get what they want. Hire more people who really want to help inmates better themselves. It feels too much like this prison WANTS to keep us all here when it should be encouraged to double contract those who are willing. Commissary items severely lack quality personal care for women. COVID LOCKDOWNS ARE RIDICULOUS!
36. When I first came to Decatur [over a year ago] I felt like all hope was lost. I've been incarcerated **[10+]** years and put in to go to Decatur. When I got here I was denied everything because my outdate is **[ILLEGIBLE]** The officers nit-picked BAD! I only worked weekends in dietary. Nothing positive. Everything was demeaning. Yell. Scream. Curse at **[ILLEGIBLE]** I cried daily. Trapped. No outlets. NO programs. No industry. No rules were explained. Everything was ticket, ticket, ticket. Again, screaming **[ILLEGIBLE]** If an officer helped us their fellow officers would belittle them and call them "inmate lovers." It wasn't like I wanted to run rampant. I left logan's chaos in hopes of more structure. I was doing good. **[PROGRAM NAME REDACTED]**. College. Groups. Peer Educating. Because I've been here so long the

staff has come to know me and feels they can trust me thereby I'm treated fairly and for the most part with respect. Yet, I see how they treat others and it hurts my soul. I remember the feeling. As a whole inmates here are treated like we're disgusting vermin who don't deserve anything or have rights. Why do nearly all bras get denied? They'll say there's mental on it but it'll be plastic. Even if it's metal clasps...why not? Why can't we have glasses sent in? The glasses the state gives us have metal in them also.

37. This prison is a joke the staff is on power trips they treat you like shit the nurses don't give you medical treatment you need you never get outside mail or our video visits anymore only get one phone call a day.
38. I hope that this survey helps!
39. I cannot wait to get the Heck out of here!!
40. COs makes their own rules, so every time a new person comes to work their shift, rules change, privileges come and go. Schedules exists or not. Punishments are extremely inconsistent. Things need to be the same for everyone, each day
41. I hope our surveys don't go [in] vain cause a lot of things need addressing in this prison.
42. We are currently 7 days without outside mail. I'm able to use the phone 1x a day. No visits. No contract days because of COVID quarantine. I thought I took time to better myself. Instead I'm just sitting here without support from the outside or inside.
43. They need to have the mail officer and chaplain replaced ASAP. Not getting mail from family is unacceptable. Need to have edible food.
44. I have contacted this facility numerous times due to my mother being terminally sick. I have yet to hear from any of them. My family has called. They give out unfactual info every phone call.
45. There's a lot of COs who just like to write tickets if they having bad days but the ticket follow us and causes us obstacles
46. I believe everyone should get their days if they don't get tickets and work hard. 85 +100% work hard and get nothing. Why? How the hell did I get Covid? I don't get visits and stay to myself with my mask and lots of handwashing. Over half the staff does not wear theirs all the time or the right way. They need a surprise visit!!
47. Counselors here are not good. Negative. Do not do their jobs.
48. We need someone to protect + advocate for the imprisoned.
49. Staff treat us like prisoners not human beings. They do not care about our needs. They don't even bring us our mail if they don't feel like it. They say "mail is a privilege." This place is a joke.
50. They don't give us no respect or what we need to help us in here at all. We don't get the right medical treatment or info when we need it!
51. Get employees that care about humans. A new person in charge of commissary that will let you actually shop or will order stuff to buy. Please do something about the mail + us never getting to have gym or yard because of "no staff."
52. The staff at Decatur CC play favoritism. Also they discriminate against gay people. They aren't fair. They disrespect inmates. There was an incident were some girl asked for a crisis and the CO/Sgt. told her "if it's that serious just kill yourself." This place is

not run like a minimum prison. Also they barely have anything offered for people's MSR dates are [more than 5 years out]. They say those people aren't priorities. There is no consistency at this facility.

53. Why are we held 14 days after our immediate release dates? And why we don't receive mail on a regular basis.
54. You never see dr dentist or counselor never allowed yard maybe once month if lucky
55. I think the guards need to live the prison life a few days maybe get a better outlook on our position + lifes + see we are not all bad people + should be treated like so.
56. It'd help if they'd actually improve things but I do realize this state isn't famous for doing things to help life or humanity so I certainly won't get my hopes up. They'll ALWAYS let certain people get away with murder, It's the Illinois way.
57. They need more staff so they can do jobs properly and inmates can go to yard + gym when suppose to. And they need to learn how to handle or deal with Covid 19!
58. I've been in all four women's prisons over the last 20+ years Dwight Lincoln Logan Decatur beauty on the grounds has always been important. Flowers, birds, squirrels, even skunks and raccoons. I think an opportunity is being lost here, as the old smoking rooms inside could be filled with flowering plants that could be protected even if they could not be in the tiny yard area off the wing.
59. Help please!
60. Need my mail! And you claim to be "family oriented" yet I can't get a visit from you own daughter + grandkid or my fiance, who is approved at other IDOC facilities.
61. More classes/groups for inmates. Better hygiene on commissary. Cable instead of antenna.
62. No comments, my ass keep leaking, & then we need mail, & then **[ILLEGIBLE]** then my phone system sucks and the unit positive & you still go to work & then you work 7 day a week
63. My work assignment was took when I started school because they said they didn't have enough space for everyone to be double contracted which they never bothered to tell me I was unassigned to start with but the things is they keep trying to give all these people work assignments who would rather refuse and get a ticket or who won't benefit from earning days but then you got people like me begging and signing up for whatever I can get into to better myself and try to hurry up to get home to my kids and get them out of the system. It don't make no sense. Thank you for your time.
64. There are not reliable staff members (counselor) to help people get out of here or to try to (e.g. try to talk to someone to sign up for ED or work release) I have been incarcerated at Logan CC for the last **[5-10]** years and have recently been sent here the last year and the officers here are so unprofessional. The only positive for me has been being able to get into school.
65. The staff are the ones bringing the covid check them better we are the ones suffering and hire a mail person it should be illegal never giving us our MAIL
66. Some COs are not courteous to people's **[ILLEGIBLE]** needs
67. The showers are horrible and disgusting, ceilings are leaking, the floors are cracking. The staff is very disrespectful.

68. They using Covid to keep us here longer cause they need money and that sucks. Stop it's not our fault we all are broke.
69. IA is too involved in the daily lives of the inmates. We have no privacy, and feel we can't trust anyone because they make it a game out of turning inmate against inmate.
70. Please allow contract days to be allotted even if COVID days locked down are in effect. It's not our fault we can't work.
71. Need to give everyone a chance to get days 75-85-100% should have a chance, all 50% get classes + treatment first. They get days
72. (12 step program unit not Westcare) Trying to place people in work and/or education based off their outdate is ridiculous. If you get 10 years you should be able to place yourself in classes from GED & up. Education should not be the last thing it should be the first option.
73. If you want me in jail why do I have to pay for anything? Why? The worst part is lockdown like my life is already on hold! Lockdown stops everything :(
74. Need more programs
75. Help!
76. More productive programs and better art supplies to help us really change and correct our behaviors and spend our time improving ourselves in a creative positive way
77. The woman's prisons have less opportunities we need more programs to get home to our kids we need more than one work release center. We need to be able to order womanly products & clothes every thing is for men the clothes, shoes, body wash, etc.
78. Warden **[NAME REDACTED]** is hardly ever here. Staff comments regularly that no one is running the prison and they feel treated worse then the inmates. There is no leadership. We have been on continuous Covid protocols since March 2020. With no break, per staff they would like to see us locked down 23 hours a day. **[NAME REDACTED]** refuses to acknowledge that, as women, would like hygiene products that do not make our [hair] fall out, real toothpaste, deodorant that stops odor and lotion that does not dry out my skin. This is a womens prison run by women can't we please get personals that don't harm us?
79. Help before more people get hurt or worse
80. Send the health Department ASAP!
81. Prison needs to understand that we are humans as well and our mental/spiritual health matters just as much as theirs (guards/hierarchy). Also can we get some physical therapy here; some people have serious bone & body deficiencies that need some care. Thank you :)
82. In Illinois they do more for men then women in prison. We don't get mail Like we should Mon-Fri— ignorance from C.O.s
83. Need more staff. Evaluate Individuals before Shipping Them From Logan C.C. Lower prices on commissary. More commissary Name Brand (Personals). (Make 4-man Dorms 2-man) - (8-man = 4 man) 2 man dorms 1-man. The Rooms are Too Small for a Tight Squeezed dorm. Especially on Covid Restrictions. Every one in facilities in I.D.O.C. Should of received snack packs in evening. More fresh veggies/fruit. 100% and 85% Individuals to Receive time off of any job assignment/school on their sentences. Thank you!

84. There are some good staff members, but there are also horrible, racist, mean workers that treat us like dirt and judge us by different reasons, mental health reasons.
85. I wrote to your foundation & never heard anything back
86. This place is so inconsistent with everything, say one thing and do another
87. I was taken to seg and didn't know why for 24 hrs. and still haven't received a ticket and was called a liar about said incident.
88. We've been on covid lockdown for so long so we only can talk to family once a day. We're locked down and the only thing the prison recommend is mental health. I don't like the fact they try to give you medicine for every problem you have.
89. is anyone aware that we go days/weeks without getting mail? We are told by staff that mail is a privilege!
90. stop letting inmates getting Bullied by others C/Os that treat Inmates better stop yelling & Name Calling
91. My family was treated horrible at Main gate! the officers don't try to help they treat you like gum on the bottom of their shoes. Not all but at least 50%. And non-security staff are so inconsistent and usually don't know what they are talking about.
92. This is bull all way around no brakes nothin, they need to tell the truth not play with minds or emotions
93. This prison is not in good shape. The unit I am in you can see mold growing in places. Preventative maintenance is a joke- Tiles are missing on the floor in places. The water taste funny like moldy. The plumbing backs up often. All in all this place needs work severely.
94. I do as I'm supposed to and work towards bettering myself. I would like to have more outside resources available. I think that C.O.'s do treat some people better than others and of course have favorites. I'm treated fine because I obey the rules and Keep mostly to myself. I do see some inmates getting away with things that others aren't allowed. Everyone should be treated equally. Thank you.
95. no point nothing will be looked at or changed anyways.
96. This place has more con's than pro's. Simple things that are suppose to be provided to us aren't. Covid is Running rampant in this prison.
97. STOP allowing vaccinated & non-vaccinated individuals Transferring into Decatur w/o quarantining them for 10 days to keep the covid population down Here in Decatur. STOP throwing them on the units with us. saying the vaccinated they are slowly killing us. They also need to change our mask more than just once a week.
98. more programs to help you want to improve yourself. prior to release.
99. so many issues need to be addressed, certain Sgt. flirt with inmates, covid is a big concern to me.
100. We need a mail & LTS officer. Compassion training. Education options. Drug education options. Actual therapy options.
101. Hire more workers. Dietary need to do better on cooking food all the way better, and not serve expire food, that cause sickness. Medical needs to be better and Dental for inmates being sick.
102. Just a lot needs work in this prison. Definitely an orientation when you arrive here. Better programs to prepare you to leave here too.

103. investigate I.A.
104. Prison sucks. Everyone in this world is a criminal until you get caught. It doesn't matter one drink, one drug if you get caught, you are a felon. No one is ever in the correct state of mind when a traumatic event happens. Everyone will get their karma...
105. There are a lot of ways to make improvements - I have changed since coming here- hopefully for the better. Group showering should be stopped. Church and Chaplain services is needed badly.
106. there needs to be more staff also needs to at least feed inmates better and make sure inmates get a short and sweat outfit also more hygiene stuff
107. This isn't a horrible prison but it isn't great either they do not care about us as people. **[NAME REDACTED]** had **[DIANOSSES REDACTED]** and they dehydrated her to the point she started to septic once at the hospital she found out she had E. Coli from the food, worse part of it is she could of died and no one called her emergency contact!
108. This prison is very understaffed and us inmates are suffering because of this. Clinical services doesn't do their jobs. We barely get mail due to understaffing. There are no available programs, leisure activities, we rarely ever get to go to yard or gym due to lack of staff. The rules change every day. The treatment by staff is not fair to others. The food is terrible. They feed us the same things all the time. There are no mental health programs. The rehabilitative process here is nonexistent.
109. My time here has been from Jan. 2022 to now August 2022 and I have been afraid for my physical safety twice in which I had to call a crisis in both cases and almost wasn't going to be moved the second time. I have never received any disciplinary tickets during my incarceration because I try my best to conform to this prison's expectations which aren't difficult at all. I have never been incarcerated before and this will be my only. Thank you for this survey I hope my opinion of experience makes a difference.
110. What will you do for us?? that's the Question!
111. This is my first time in prison I've been here 3 months. It's not bad they seem organized and together other than the mail situation.
112. Prisons need more programs for individuals that only have 6 mths. We are not offered anything due to being to short to start or even be a part of any programs of any kind
113. I recently had lice, the nurses here have absolutely no idea what to do to treat it. I'm a licensed cosmetologist, I had to walk them through how to treat it, then a week later when I was supposed to have another treatment, (via the manufacturer's directions). I was denied my 2nd treatment. Their lice procedure is wrong and the nurses have no clue what they're doing.
114. The questions are very generic.
115. for the most part this is a good prison & the employees are understandable.
116. Extreme boredom is the only reason I participated in this survey!
117. This prison sucks! I would have rather stayed in Logan!
118. we don't even get our mail in here. this place is a joke.
119. My experience has been very poor and degrading to say the least. I pray for those who are still here after me, as I fear for my safety and health being incarcerated at Decatur Correctional Center. This is very inhumane.

120. Have staff ensure we don't miss yard/gym time due to shortage of personnel. Ensure staff makes notes of every incident of bullying or prejudice attitude to ensure that people are not living everyday with a bully - just enflaming situations in living quarters. I am expecting to be released [SPECIFICS REDACTED] - will call to discuss having a meeting about conditions here.
121. This place give false hope on certain things. They don't give good timelines on certain things. They can be more polite. The counselors could be a lot more helpful.
122. Hire more staff so things are run the way they are supposed to be and actually hand out mail daily as it should be done.
123. Several of us contracted COVID - There remedy is to throw us into a dorm unit with no medical attention - leave us there for 10-14 days and throw us back into general Population continuing to keep us locked down.
124. Get a new system for the "Drop a slip" system. It sucks and never gets responses or Just thrown away. There has to be a better way to communicate.
125. Communication system
126. Thank you for taking the time to read this is there any lawyer info you can send me for my logistics lawsuit I have my medical papers in here. I need a good lawyer have a good day sir. Thanks
127. Cable not antenna, better dietary food
128. Decatur needs to have a system in place for longtimers and assistance for their release. There should be more options than work release for women.
129. I came to prison pregnant and was unable to keep my son with me after he was born and it was the most heartbreaking experience of my entire life. Please open up the mom's and babies program so other moms never have to feel the way I felt.
130. This prison offers no programs for inmates. No church. School takes forever to get in. Never get any responses from anybody about request we send in. You pretty much just sit until they come tell you you are going home.
131. Give the inmates a second chance. (Please), and the living [conditions] need looking into. ("Have a good day.")
132. Please look into healthcare at Decatur Correctional Center. It's awful we don't get treated well. The nurses are very unprofessional and hateful towards us and do not take us seriously when we have a medical problem.

Other Marginalia Comments

Q5. What housing status are you on?

1. [General Population] "Quarantine" status
2. [General Population and Other] Locked down/Quarantine
3. [Other] Quarantine
4. [Other] pregnancy
5. [General Population and Other] COVID

6. [Other] COVID Quarantine Lockdown
7. [Other] Locked down
8. [Other] Quarantine
9. [Other] Lock down
10. [Other] lockdown
11. [Other] I'm currently pregnant

Q6. Are you currently getting at least two hours a day out of your cell or sleeping area?

1. [No] Currently on quarantine due to COVID
2. [Yes] (Work only)
3. [No] We are on Medical Lockdown over 40 women in Decatur prison have Covid - I just got over it.
4. [No] (On lockdown right now due to COVID) [Q7 Work] (Previous to COVID)
5. [No] NO!
6. [No] Medical quarantine lockdown.
7. [No] Not permitted to come out of rooms while on quarantine lockdown which we are currently on!
8. [No] Medical quarantine

Q7. Do you have a work or school assignment?

1. [Both] When we are not on lockdown
2. [School] My job assignment was taken with no explanation. I never missed a day excelled at my job yet my contract was taken from me when I started school. The times did not conflict with each other.
3. [Both/Neither] At them b/c **[ILLEGIBLE]**
4. [Work] But have not yet been able to go into work due to COVID lockdown
5. [School] Not in session
6. [Work] But not working cause lockdown

Q8. Mark response that best describes how you feel (Strongly Agree = SA, Agree = A, Neutral = N, Disagree = D, Strongly Disagree = SD)

I have been helped significantly by a staff member with a particular problem.

1. ?

Q9. Mark response that best describes how you feel (Strongly Agree = SA, Agree = A, Neutral = N, Disagree = D, Strongly Disagree = SD)

I feel safe from being injured, bullied, or threatened by other incarcerated people.

1. [A] I do but others may not

Staff have enough experience and expertise to deal with issues that matter to me.

1. [A] Not for some others

Staff are augmentative towards incarcerated people.

1. [N] Some

To get things done, you have to ask and ask and ask.

1. [A] Depends on who you are
2. [SA] I've wrote essays to try to get things done to numerous people.

When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.

1. [D] I have to drop slips with essays to maybe get it taken care of.

The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.

1. [N] I have to

I can't improve my situation through good behavior.

1. [N] Bad behavior is rewarded

My experience of imprisonment in this particular prison has been stressful.

1. [SD] I want to go back to Logan prison so badly

On the whole, I am just doing time rather than using my time.

1. [SA] I am at 100% and I can't do anything here but work.
2. [SA] not a lot to do here

I have to buy and sell things to get by.

1. I used to. We don't have toothpaste.

If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.

1. Depends on who and which staff member

There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.

1. ?

The disciplinary system is fair.

1. [D] when it's used properly

Decisions are dominated by concerns about security.

1. Not sure what is asked

Q10. Mark response that best describes how you feel (Strongly Agree = SA, Agree = A, Neutral = N, Disagree = D, Strongly Disagree = SD)

Anyone who harms themselves is considered by staff to be more of an attention seeker than someone who needs help.

1. [N] Haven't witnessed situation

I am able to maintain meaningful contact with my outside supports.

1. [SD] Still waiting for #s to be approved 92 days now
2. [A] Besides for not getting mail
3. [A] By my own means

Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.

1. [SA] 20 min out a day

Mental health treatment is available.

1. [N] Sometimes

This prison is better now than it was last year.

1. [SD] Worse
2. [N] Not sure wasn't here last year

I am satisfied with food from dietary.

1. [N] Not for diabetics
2. [SD] They have rat shit in food
3. [SD] Do not eat it. Very awful nasty.

I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.

1. [SD] 0 times a week zero
2. [A] Unless lock down

Q11. Overall, on a scale of 1 to 10, mark the box this prison deserves in terms of quality of life/general treatment of the people incarcerated here.

1. [7] There is things that could be better
2. [makes zero checkbox]

Miscellaneous Comments

1. I hate Decatur prison.
2. **[NAME REDACTED]** I need your help!
3. They need closed this prison soon. They never have commissary and serving tray only have beans & they don't help you with **[ILLEGIBLE]**



This report was written by JHA staff. Media inquiries should be directed to JHA's Executive Director Jennifer Vollen-Katz at (312) 291-9555 x205 or jvollen@thejha.org

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 are reading every letter and tracking 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 agreed to be interviewed for this report and who graciously shared their experiences and insights with us.

