
**Survey Comment
Report**



Joliet Treatment Center 2023 MQPL Survey Comments

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Introduction

Joliet Treatment Center (JTC) is a multi-security male prison within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). While most people are housed at JTC for mental health treatment, the facility also houses some minimum-security workers who are not in treatment. The Joliet Inpatient Treatment Center (JITC), opened in June 2022, is an inpatient-level part of JTC that is a multi-security coed secure medical and mental health treatment center, which housed approximately 15 people, including a few women, at the time the survey was conducted. The total population of JTC was 203 people on March 27, 2023; JITC alone has a reported rated capacity of 202. 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 JTC had an opportunity to participate in the voluntary and anonymous survey if they chose to do so. JHA received 34 responses to the MQPL survey from people at JTC through May 3, 2024, representing approximately 17% of the static population. JHA visited JTC in October 2023.

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. The thought of getting out someday.
2. The concern the staff has for the wellbeing of the inmates
3. Going to JITC to get the help I need.

4. Do not have to put up with a celly controlling the cell, we have groups every day accept weekins
5. That I will be going home one day!
6. Everything is positive about life in this prison. From morning to night, best staff ever, one of the best experiences thus far in my life. I am a better person because of this prison.
7. Enforced medication, staff cares
8. I am able to contact my family & attorney
9. Some staff really go out there way to help you.
10. You listen and you learned how to cope with different skills.
11. Groups
12. The single man cell, cleaning supplies are normally available to clean the cell and meal times are fairly consistent each day along with count times and dayroom hours.
13. Most staff are friendly & will help you but when it comes to sticking together with their coworkers they don't care about inmates.
14. Time to reflect and change you just have to egnore the negativity from staff/residents
15. Hey I have been incarcerated for **[30+]** yrs straight, None
16. Getting state loans. Some groups. Mental health
17. Mental health is a outlet to complain to when staff is doing wrong
18. Mental health care
19. Attending groups
20. Out of cell time; dayroom. Staff really tries to help us. Staff doesn't act tough or combative. If staff can't physically help us they at least talk to us about our problems. Seg is the last option in terms of discipline. Big cells, no cellies.
21. Mental health
22. Everyday is what you make it
23. I'm not dead and able to have a second chance at life
24. Theres not alot of racism or physical abuse to individuals in custody
25. Nothing they treat you wrong the medical care is very bad and the mental health treatment here is very poor
26. The psychologist is excelent here. Food gets delivered at a reasonable time. They have yard in the summer if we are not locked down. There are only a couple of officers that do not get along with people. Most of the officers here respond well to prisoners.
27. Single cells
28. Life!!? existence of time. Also words like "most" is lazy English. Please, in future surveys steer away from hyperbole. Name some positive things about your time at JTC? One man cell placement. People whose backgrounds resemble mine, work here.
29. Work, School, Programs

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

1. No real freedom between housing unit.
2. They can hold you in prison passed your release date, offensive behaviors and criminal behavior aggravated and they can take things from you
3. Having to be locked up.
4. You got to worry about alot of bullying good on in prison with people who are not in a gang
5. The staff making fun, belittleing me. Talking down to me at Logan.
6. Got to do what is become law by warden
7. They don't care about me!
8. No negative remarks or things abowt this prison. (All remarks are positive and well above the expected standard This prison should be used as the example for all prisons.)
9. None
10. I am treated very unfairly.
11. Most staff don't really care or your mental health or situation
12. Not partisapating in all the groups that are offeder.
13. The treatment/CO officers being provoking + negative energy
14. Dietary dept. staff are permitted to have inmates work for them on shifts in violation of established security protocols mixing maximum security mental health residents with minimum security unit workers on the 1st + 3rd shifts. It's not okay to have individuals with life sentences, or 50 or 60 years working around dietary tools with individuals who have just a few years or months left, especially when the mental health lifer residents are cuters with visible scars all over their arms.
15. They dont judge our disciplinary actions accordingly or by the rules of the AD's, ID's & DR 504(s). They have a habit of if they dont like you they are going to slam you period. These officers arent regular CO's, their CTO (correctional treatment officers) who never de-escalate they only walk you to Seg or write you a ticket even if your in the right they still find you guilty.
16. Constitutional rights being violated. Filing of law suits still get ignored tho!
17. All kind
18. This CTO are showing others how to hurt residents and each of them selfers to cut up! **[NAME AND NUMBER REDACTED]**
19. The way staff use technology to hurt inmates
20. Safety of transgender residents not good
21. Being around negative people
22. Staff treat "cool" inmates better, small concrete yards, only 1 yard per week. Vegan food from dietary is terrible
23. Staff
24. Your not allowed to be outspoken
25. being away from my family + women
26. Being BMU you are not allowed to participate in work or school to earn good conduct credit which makes individuals lose sight of the ultimate goal rehabilitating to go home asap.
27. The medical is bad and the mental health here is very poor

28. I got beat up alot of times because I pray my rosary. I was told to leave here by prisoners and not return because I believe in God. The prisoners have keys to the cells and at night someone came in while I was sleeping and killed me. I am the only one who that seems to have this problem. I am not an asshole. The warden here is a great warden.
29. Lack of consistency + communication btwn. admin + officers which impacts us negatively
30. Name some negatives: Rule infractions: hearings are unfair. lack of body cameras on all staff (with exceptions for medical and psych—it should be optional unless patient is distressed) The grievance process is worthless and utterly biased towards staff and towards being ineffective.
31. Fights, Bad energy

Q14. What suggestions do you have for improvement?

1. Give more tim to EAT: Instead of having to inheal your food.
2. Better food. Better medic excess.
3. Get a porter to clean the showers on **[HOUSING UNIT REDACTED]** at Logan Correctional Center, also at JITC
4. Ways we can earn more good time or allow every one to have two contracts if they want them. porter specialist go too all dorms, roll model talk to other inmates
5. They need to learn how to treat prisoners!
6. No suggestions needed. This prison has a perfect mark for current programs and daily activities. The warden, ASST warden and all staff do an excellent job with everything each and every day and night.
7. More food
8. Equal equality for all and staff needs better training.
9. Getting along with my peers playing card games and having fun doing things I like to do.
10. Utilising the big dayroom other than groups/being able to earn commissary privileges far as food wise
11. To recruit workers for the MSU that present with a willingness to work inside a mental health treatment center, and who additionally present with a particular temper conducive to this environment. Improve the laundry service and Ice availability for the MSU workers.
12. That staff follow there own rules & that the start being CTO's & not regular CO's. follow the fucken rules.
13. Only the federal courts can change prison life and thats only after the filing of a law suit.
14. Shut it down their no treatment here but on paper they say the do that Bullshit I been here 2 yrs.
15. New staff
16. Need independent investigators
17. Better care for transgender residents
18. More computer classes, game room for the wellness of patients.

19. Don't cater to "cool" inmates. More yard. Do more gallery rounds (I have heart rate, bp, cholesterol problems)
20. Mental health
21. There needs to be more communication with staff to staff COs + mental health
22. conjugal visits
23. Dorm 8 BMU should have more programs to offer for offenders who can earn good conduct credit and more groups that target behavior patters and how to break them
24. Just better medical care and mental health treatment
25. These prisoners should not be here. They are Gods. They belong to a gang. Get rid of the people in A wing. They are all devils. I am not a devil or a God. I am still good, and capable of going home. I asked to stay because the staff usually treats me well. I believe these prisoners should get their key taken away. You should have a guard on the door to keep people from using a credit card to get in your cell. Popping the lock.
26. A new warden!!!! (#1 warden)
27. Body cameras on all staff (with exceptions). grievances be handled by outside agency not housed in prison! there needs to be seperation/punishment not allowed to further seperate us from family id est! Rule violation need to not be to result in us being further seperated from phones and visits. We need more phones available at yard at gym & more in dayroom. PTSD needs to be treated. ADHD needs to be treated without medically baseless pre requirement. Medications dot on manufacture says to not crush, needs to not be crushed.
28. More programs, work release,

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

1. I've done enough for today!!
2. This survey was helpful. I have no complaints at JITC, only to clean the showers, which I do in my pod.
3. Only one dorm is allow to always have two contracks dorm 4 can only have two contracks if we have a job and we going too school; only two groups we can earn 31 days and ten days in the other one we should be allow to earn good time in most groups make room for the new
4. We need help from the out side!
5. (All staff) at this prison from junior to senior, including warden and asst warden, officers, counselor, doctors, nurses, school, healthcare, dietary, chaplain, grounds, laundry, craftsmen, electricians, IA (everyone all staff) have been some of the nicest people I have ever meet in life. They all love and care for each and every inmate that comes into this prison. (This prison should be used as a model for all prisons.)
6. Fair survey
7. There is no heat provided in your jail systems.
8. People with disability has hard time with what they need to get by. The side walks are uneven and they have pot wholes that make it hard for wheelchairs & school need teachers add for those with special needs.
9. I'm just hoping we get better than we are, still good coping skills.

10. **[NAME AND NUMBER REDACTED]**
11. Just want the correctional officers/treatment officers to be more professional and not mean & more nicer
12. Yall need to visit this place. This is a treatment center but they run it like Menard or Stateville.
13. This isnt life, it has to be more, this cant be us!
14. People please listen I have been gone **[30+]** yrs from **[DATES REDACTED]** I finally go home after I beg, cry, plea, for **[30+]** yr to IDOC director and mental health director in prison spring and many law makers like IL gov, IL attorney general, IL senator Dick Durbin Chicago mayor's cook county state attorney Ms Fox John Howard association, uptown people's law center only two places has answer my plead, cry, beg for a long term mental placement in **[30+]** yrs IDOC has not help me with my seriously mentally ill problems I have wrote each places law makers, IDOC higher ups many times over **[30+]** yrs asking for help only 2 places uptown peoples law center in Chicago Attorney **[REDACTED]** it took her and a social worker from Illinois prison project **[REDACTED]** only 6 f ing months something that law makers and IDOC highers refuse to do in **[30+]** yrs. I have been seriously mentally ill over 45yrs and only if you people knew what I was incarcerated for you would really strongly agree that I need to be put away for life in a real mental health ward. Shame on IDOC JTC lawmakers of IL. Hey in one letter I wrote it was 11 pages I sent one copy to each lawmakers IL gov, IL attorney general, senator Dick Durbin all 3 offices IDOC director Rob Jeffrey IDOC chief of mental health **[REDACTED]**, IL springfield, Chicago mayor Lightfoot cook county states attorney Ms Kimberly Fox John Howard association, and uptown people's law center in Chicago and I got proof my attorney from uptown people's law center **[REDACTED]** does got copies of my outgoing legal/privilege mail from JTC mail room it show how many time I have send these people letters like it say the person name address what dated I sent it out to them **[REDACTED]** and it said all them law makers name and the offices addresses. This mail room here does keep all inmates legal/privilege mail going out of JTC and keep records of incoming legal/privilege mail and my attorney does got a copy of my 11 page letter I sent out to each person, if you want me to I will tell my attorney on the phone please let anyone have a copy of my JTC mail room outgoing legal/privileged and incoming legal mail and she can give you a copy of my 11 page letter that I sent out on **[REDACTED]** to IL attorney general office IL senator Dick Durbin all 3 office address 1 springfield Chicago, Wash DC IL dept of corr director Rob Jeffreys, IL dept of corr chief mental health **[REDACTED]** Chicago mayor Ms Lightfoot at city hall, cook county states attorney Ms Kimberly Fox john howard association in Chicago, and uptown people's law center in Chicago, so these people can not say I have never wrote them or sent them letter my attorney got proof. all of you only got to read that 11 page letter and you will see lawmakers in IL does not care about inmates who ask for help who is seriously mentall ill and don't care about public safety. in that 11 page letter it talk about me wanted to do a massive shooting also how sick I am in the head. But now my attorney **[REDACTED]** did find me a long term placement in Chicago it a specialized mental health rehabilitation faciliate its call **[REDACTED]** I will be going their on **[REDACTED]** thats my outdate at JTC. I can not believe how law makers could not help me in **[30+]** yrs. But my attorney **[REDACTED]** only been on my case after she read my 11 page letter begging for help asking someone please help me get to a long term mental health hospital that 11 page letter got to uptown people's law center boss **[REDACTED]** and **[REDACTED]** and **[REDACTED]** and **[REDACTED]**. **[REDACTED]** read it and she told her boss **[REDACTED]** I want to med **[REDACTED]** and see if he would let me

try and help him and she did god bless her I love her she got a wonderful heart it only took her 6 months to find that place. Now on [REDACTED] she will come to JTC and pick me up and take me to my new home after [30+] yrs suffering in IDOC. Now look I will give you my full name I don't care if you use my name. I will give you every right to my copies of 11 page letter and my JTC mail room record outgoing legal mail my name is [REDACTED] my number is [REDACTED] my attorney name is [REDACTED] she work at uptown peoples law center at 4413 N Sheridan Chicago, IL 60640 like I said if you would like to contact her at that address please feel free. if you want to contact me after [REDACTED] you can write me at that longterm placement in Chicago. I am sorry for writing a long letter but I felt it is worth it I want you people to see for your self how law makers in IL refuse to help me get a placement after begging pleading cry for help let me make myself clear NO IDOC or IL law makers did not have anything to do with helping my attorney [REDACTED] find this placement it was 100% [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from Illinois Prison Project in Chicago IL at 53 W Jackson Suite 452 Chicago, IL 60604 Thank you PS please show this to Jennifer your boss I would love to hear from Jennifer about this. I know she will say damn. PS remember I am getting released [REDACTED] after doing [30+] yrs straight.

15. This prison need more programs
16. I was almost killed by a hanging by a officer in Menard Correctional Center and what was most troubling was they tried to use inmates to kill me to. The sad part is that they even tortured me. There was no one to complain to or even help me. They were just trying to cover for each other, and they still cover for each other today.
17. Thank you.
18. I think that their should be LTS groups for second shift. Leisure time service.
19. better set up in the visiting for the kids and games for visits
20. They need a better medical doctor and better mental health treatment
21. This survey is for prison only. The warden [REDACTED] was a great warden this other warden is very good too. If I recieved commissary once a month it would make this placement tolerable for me. The prisoners hate people that are not devils. If you do not belong to a gang; their gang, you are not welcome here. I have someone in me shooting me from within. Someone pressed a gun in my body and a spirit or ghost that can do things shoots me from within. I love this prison. This prison has the potential to be the best prison I was ever in. If they can get rid of these prisoners. Pray the rosary for peace in your life, and for hope for the world. You have to pray 5 rosarys to go to heaven. That includes everyone. Wear a scapular when you pray.
22. This is not a treatment center although it is called one.
23. Conjugal visits. queer people should be having excess to finasteride. When you go to seg your property—all of it!—needs to follow you. Complex punishments need to end. if am sent to seg dat needs to be the punishment—period! The ARB needs to return all original grievance mailed to dem. Requests for 2nd opinions in medical & in such depart. needs to be respected.
24. This survey was good. Im just getting by and trying to get work release

OTHER MARGINALIA COMMENTS

Q1. Age (Under 26, 26-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51 and over)

1. [31-40] [BIRTHDATE REDACTED]

Q2. Race or ethnicity (White, Black, Hispanic or Latino, Other)

1. [Other] I identify as Human. Others call me "Black"

Q3. Are you within 2 years of release? (Yes, No)

1. [No] on stand by for clemency approval
2. [No] Lifer

Q4. Where you first incarcerated prior to age 25? (Yes, No)

1. [No] 27
2. [Yes] 24, I was 24 when duh crime I got convicted of occurred

Q5. What housing status are you currently on? (General Population, Restrictive Housing, Other)

1. [Other] Joliet Treatment Center
2. [Other] Inpatient
3. [Other] RTC @ Joliet JTC

Q7. Do you have a work or school assignment? (Work assignment, School assignment, Both, Neither)

1. [Work assignment] Only because I'm at work.
2. [Blank] Trying to get in school
3. [Neither] but dey are readily available. I got ADHD which they suck at treating. Untreated i am not healthy enough to work or school at dis time

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

I get along well with the officers on my unit.

1. [N] depends who

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. [D] dey don't treat my PTSD

To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.

1. [A] because grievances dont work.

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

1. [A] But dont use them

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

1. [N] depends

I have to be careful about everything I do, or it can be used against me.

1. [A] queer/prior past misdiagnoses

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

1. [A] MDP sucks

My experience in this prison is painful.

1. [A] In all prisons/sometimes

There are a few incarcerated people who run things on this unit.

1. [A] That's in all prisons

I have to buy and sell things in order to get by.

1. [A] That's the story of all indigent people

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

I am not being treated as a human in here.

1. [A] Om locked in uh cage... what prison treats duh imprisoned like humans?

This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.

1. [A] communication is uh Problem in all prisons Id assume

This is a humane prison.

1. [N] all prisons ar inhumane

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

1. [N] depends on where you are placed

Mental health treatment is available.

1. [N] (But poor)
2. [SD] sometime cant trust

This prison is better now than it was last year.

1. [A] covid restricts have lifted

Every effort is made by this prison to help people stop committing offenses on release from custody.

1. [SD] Every is hyperbole... too strong

I am satisfied with food from dietary.

1. [N] JTC is among the better: still not fresh enough

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

1. [N] we get gym a lot, in place of yard. it's uh LAST 8 MONTH LONG issue.

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. [6] 6 – JTC (RTC); 5 – Dixon BMU/Stateville pop.; 4 – Menard (pop)

Miscellaneous Comments

1. Staff need better training in how to deal with Mental Health People SMI. we need Better and more Activity.
2. My name is [REDACTED] My captive # is [REDACTED] my dead name is [REDACTED] I don't do anonymous. My lawyers #'s are: [REDACTED] civil cases against Wexford & Idoc. I got two pending civil cases against IDOC & Wexford. You has my permission to speak with my lawyers about dem. Signed [REDACTED] I don't do anonymous. Please feel free to publish all of my contributions as you see fit.



This report was compiled by JHA staff. Media inquiries should be directed to JHA's Executive Director Jennifer Vollen-Katz at (312) 291-9183 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 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.

