

---

**Survey Comment  
Report**



**Murphysboro 2023  
MQPL Survey  
Comments**

---

# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Open-Ended Survey Questions</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Q12. What are the most positive things about life in this prison? .....	3
Q13. What are the most negative things about life in this prison? .....	4
Q14. What suggestions do you have for improvement? .....	5
Q15. Please write any other comments or feedback on this survey below.....	5

# Introduction

Murphysboro Life Skills Reentry Center (LSRC) is a minimum-security male prison within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) that housed 119 people on January 3, 2023. 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 Murphysboro had an opportunity to participate in the voluntary and anonymous survey if they chose to do so. JHA received 22 responses to the MQPL survey from people at Murphysboro through May 3, 2023, representing approximately 19% of the static population.

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. Day for day goodtime, working out
2. It is small
3. Sentence credit, Gym, showers, mostly free movement, except yard outside time
4. The staff and programs
5. Day for day good time
6. Mental health professionals, various classes, and ease of all operations!
7. Programs, commissary everyday!
8. None
9. That you get to go to gym everyday
10. It's laid back and free movement for the most part

11. Safety and comfortability
12. Great admin/superintendent, GED program
13. 3 meals lots of company
14. Programs, staff, respect for other inmates, etc.
15. Staff helping you
16. Freedom of movement, good staff/officers
17. That I know I have an out date

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

1. staff/officers
2. It is too small to walk around inside
3. Being lied to by staff about programming
4. Commissary and television
5. Your stuck here with no way to transfer out
6. Nasty individuals who don't clean after themselves! **[STAFF NAME REDACTED]** speaking to us multiple times back to back!
7. Everything
8. They don't put you in the class you need before you go home
9. Counselors are lazy and unwilling to help
10. Relationship between inmates and counselors. They act as though we're a burden and bothersome when we speak to them
11. Group punished for one person's actions
12. I wanna see more hot bitches
13. the food could be a lot better, due to covid can't be next to family in a visit
14. Individuals thinking they are right no matter what
15. Chow hall feeds the officers all our chicken, then gives us slick meat. Commissary sucks to expensive always out of stuff
16. Counselors lie to us, you have to beg to get anything because they lie and say they will do what you ask but they don't and lie to inmates and staff
17. Food and commissary a box of oatmeal 52 count cost \$32.00. That is the only oatmeal in commissary \$32.00 for a box we cannot afford that but staff allows inmates to order our stuff
18. Commissary has doubled and state pay is the same.

## Q14. What suggestions do you have for improvement?

1. Staff—officers should learn to be less assholes
2. A bigger yard and more to do
3. More programs, maybe construction. More Yard time. Better food selections, better commissary
4. Consistency on canteen w/ whites on hand and shoes and boots
5. It needs its own warden
6. Counselors being allowed and/or instructed to put us in for good time! Force GTL to make ensure video visits go through so we communicate as much as possible w/ loved ones!
7. That they need to more prepare you to go home
8. Counselors be more informative and helpful and treat me like a person, not an inmate
9. Better counselors
10. Change program to 4 months
11. I wanna be able to do what I want
12. "(better food)"
13. Better Food!!!
14. Fire all day shift dietary staff, they have been feeding us expired food several times in the last 6 months

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

1. It probably won't make any difference
2. No meat from commissary, no way to see how much money is spent at any time
3. For the most part MYB is a legit jail
4. I hate not having drugs
5. I'm thankful to be in programs + to have the support from family + friends. These programs really help and it can't hurt to keep improving more programs for inmates
6. Supervisors don't help cook or make food better!!!
7. A female here is doing stuff she shouldn't be doing with someone incarcerated in here
8. **[STAFF NAME REDACTED]** has been having a sexual relationship with an inmate but everyone so far has ignored it!
9. Dietary staff is hateful to inmates **[STAFF TITLE REDACTED]** is having sex w/ multiple inmates since June of 22

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](mailto: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](http://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.

