
**Survey Comment
Report**



**Pontiac 2023
MQPL Survey
Comments**

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Introduction

Pontiac Correctional Center is a maximum-security male prison within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) that housed 736 people on March 27, 2023. Pontiac housed approximately 34 people in designed mental health housing, including a Behavioral Management Unit (BMU). It also housed some medium-security individuals in the maximum-security part of the prison after the closure of the Medium Security Unit (MSU) in early 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 Pontiac had an opportunity to participate in the voluntary and anonymous survey if they chose to do so. JHA received 243 responses to the MQPL survey from people at Pontiac through July 19, 2023, representing approximately 33% of the static population. JHA visited Pontiac in November 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. TBD. Can't really think of nothing positive at the moment.
2. Nothing
3. Phones are made available to inmates to contact people they know if they choose to and the 3 meals a day they give here is excellent in comparison to the other two Max prisons here in Illinois (Menard and Stateville).
4. Nothing; it prison
5. safety from prison gangs, law library
6. Being able to use the Phone on a regular basis.
7. Mental health actually try to help. But I can only speak on my experience

8. nothing!
9. Their really isn't any that I know of...
10. Nothing at all because staff does not care about positive for G.P. inmates only P.C. get positive things such as go to school, work etc....
11. Nothing probably the mental health program
12. Tablets being allowed. Daily phone calls. Having a TV
13. That since I wanted to do something different with myself I have time to focus on me. Personally I like being alone in my cell & I have been able to become a published author which allows me to provide for myself & family.
14. Most positive is that I'm alive
15. There not really anything you can call positive or look forward but commissary **[ILLEGIBLE]** dayroom Dayroom Visit
16. nothing
17. The mental health treatment
18. Nothing
19. God wake me up everydays but beside that none
20. None
21. TV, cable system
22. The programs.
23. Nothen
24. From my perspective I cannot think of anything positive. Over the last few years the maintenance of this facility has gone way down. Staffing shortages have stopped all programs here meant to better oneself.
25. I am able to see and talk to my family when we are not on lockdown and I have a job assignment.
26. I am able to get the phone daily where I am at right now. At this moment in time I have a single cell.
27. Nothing in this prison is positive just being real about MQPL in Pontiac
28. There are none
29. (I'm) going on **[5+]** years sober. Had I not come to prison. I would've died in 201**[X]** of an overdose. The staff the most part is fair. That's all I can name positive.
30. Commissary, groups and yard when not on lockdown.
31. Nothing.
32. I get to use the phone to talk to family
33. You get to reflect on the mistake you made. You also have the time to work on your self and change your mind into thinking positive.
34. It gives you enough time to meditate on who you really are, & want to become. Makes you "Not" wanna come back.
35. Job assignment pay. Some programs. Good time credits.
36. Having a Job
37. I don't have to get involved in the daily lives of others based on affiliation/Race
38. Phone, yard, working, tablet
39. I love the food here, in PC. Theres less gang banging even though it still exists.
40. Not, a, damn, thang!! Real talk.
41. Cable TV channels. Commissary is good.
42. None
43. Nothing
44. None
45. Nothing

46. Nothing
47. None.
48. There are none, absolutely none.
49. Nothing
50. That if one is working on bettering himself as a person, he'd better figure out how to do it from within himself, because very little help is provided otherwise.
51. Close to home.
52. You learn a lot of things that going to be helpful thru out life.
53. Nothing!
54. We have mental health services, we have group therapy
55. When harassing guards are off & I am sleep
56. Pontiac Prison Commissary, Phone call nothing more
57. Staff don't just harass people unless inmates make them do there job staff have the attitude of you leave us alone we leave you alone
58. They run commissary on a fairly routine basis 2 times a month.
59. Jobs and good time
60. I am probably treated better than most inmates due to the fact that I have never been in trouble or caused any trouble, and I have had privileged jobs, and because Im not a thief I am more trusted, so my time is pretty easy.
61. Nothing
62. That I'm alive still & I have opportunity to help myself grow as a man mentally & emotionally
63. Nothing!
64. Really not much! This is a horrible, inhumane place. Dogs and animals are treated better. I seriously have nothing positive to say. Rules change daily depending upon staff that is here.
65. Nothing to me??
66. my family! & time I have to aid in my own rehabilitation because this prison, outside of the recent Defy Ventures program has nothing!
67. Nun
68. Some of the guys. We've done over **[20+]** years together; & try to support & uplift each other. Only other positive thing is for me personally & only reason I do not transfer is my family lives **[nearby]**.
69. None
70. 1. It close to my home + support by loved ones. 2. There are some staff members who do take their job seriously + care for the well being of individuals in custody.
71. One has a lot of time to read, study, and think.
72. Commissary jobs for PC.
73. Nothing. This prison and its employed staff(s) are all indulging in psychological warfair designed to degrade and mentally deteriate its prisoners.
74. Housed in a cell by myself, and the phone comes to your cell for use—though as of 03-01-23 prisoners not in grade can't use the phone i.e. despite my family still affected by COVID-19.
75. Sleeping
76. Having a Job and being paid at least 50.00 a month for doing it.
77. Can't trust anyone. Currently having no celly—because there so many wolf in sheep clothing
78. None

79. You can pick your cellie. That's good because you in your cell a lot. And you can get a Job if you don't get a lot of KSF.
80. Not having to worry about my life, and keep to myself
81. Talking with my family cause if not mentally I don't know if I would live threw another day and because of the tickets they write they try to limit that.
82. As medium security inmates we have a better chance of transferring to a medium security prison that offers programs, education, and recreation which is not an option here.
83. You have a chance to still live then being on the street
84. There is some good people here & try 2 be kind & understanding 2 them
85. Nothing
86. We get the phones everyday
87. There isn't positive things
88. There are none
89. Nothing & the water & living conditions is killing me slowly!
90. Closer to Home than down state.
91. Other then being close to Home there is non
92. None.
93. To me, your sure to go to seg for silly offensive. This place needs to be shut down I see nothing positive.
94. nothing
95. Nothing
96. Just getting seg cut/grade cut only thing that's good everything else its being treated wrong. 100% facts
97. que es PC
98. N/A
99. Focusing
100. The fact you are not too far from Chicagoland, Single cells and phone access.
101. in Pontiac nothing
102. Waking up to see another day on earth
103. Being able to focus on God because of having time. Get to go through programs that can help with certain issues in your life. Still get amenities to be able to feel not completely incarcerated like commissary, visits, phone calls
104. Nothing! Positive, respectful moments happen, but they are few and far between.
105. Just being able to call and speak to my family at least once or twice a day!
106. The counselors try to help that's all
107. I can get Job. I get my hormone treatment
108. We get easy access to the phone in population. We get 2 yards a week and we're able to go to commissary and law library.
109. We do not have to worry about being fed.
110. I never found anything to be positive since I have been in prison.
111. There's nothing positive about Pontiac
112. Nothing is positive in this prison.
113. I have a single cell, I can interact with female staff when they come to my cell.
114. possibly having a cellmate that you get along with.
115. Learn about one self and Do the Right thing
116. you are inside your cell for 24/7 And Have time to think about life
117. There are no positive things in pontiac
118. That I'm still Alive

119. For me it's not about what—but about how I choose to make things positive for me. I'm the only one truly in control of that. Because this prison doesn't offer much help towards staying positive. I go out my way to find positivity in my everyday living here.
120. Really I Don't Know But I can say prison is one of the Reason alot of people isn't dead.
121. I'm close to home (chicago).
122. access to the phone
123. There is no gangs activity, individuals here treat each other with respect.
124. it's not no positive thing in this Prison Because I Told them I need High care of level in they not getting it to me staff not givein me my crisis when I call for them first shift in 2 shift they Dont like this BMU in Im talking about staff it's alot going on that you Dont no about for Real I Dont feel safe Down here one C/O Told me he can kill me
125. There is not one Thing positive here
126. NONE
127. The Movie Channel
128. Nothing
129. Nothing
130. None
131. It's close to my home city Chicago.
132. nothing
133. None except my electronics such as TV Tablet and my books my family sends me.
134. I'm in Protective Custody, so we don't have to deal with gangs like out in population.
135. N/A
136. I haven't had any positive things happen except my job detail
137. Time to focus on spiritual and physical improvement
138. ?
139. Bad water, plumbing maintenance. Bad staff!
140. Working my Job assignment
141. Nothing is positive.
142. That I have a job, and I receive maintenance therapy for a chronic disease.
143. Phones, when I can get them. Commissary, before Springfield/Pontiac messed it all up. I read alot of books. I have become very politically astute—lets go Brandon. I have had alot of time to study classical music. Being in PC I am away from alot of the B.S. of Menard even though Warden [REDACTED] is really striving & trying real hard to turn pontiac into Menard. All in all, in overall life, there is nothing positive about prison for me. I am innocent, I had a nice normal life, prison has ruined my life, my wifes life & my sons life, my familys life, I try to find some positive things to do in prison, but prison has NO positives for me
144. Having the time to prioritize life choices
145. ME learning how to get out of prison
146. Safety & staff knowing I'm not a trouble maker or disciplinary problem. Being able to call my Father a few times a week.
147. N/A. Nothing positive ... in this prison
148. For Me My Work Assignment
149. Having at least 3 yrs on a Cable contract for my TV. Electricity in cell is great. Ability to use phone.

150. Prison is hard, but this prison drains the life, and hope out of you. It is a struggle to get through the day. There is NOTHING positive about this prison
151. Phone operations
152. Phones, visits, commissary, yard
153. I learned Not too come back
154. It is not too far from home enabling visitation
155. I make my own way through meditation/mental Health/and family
156. Nothing
157. Having inmate jobs. Good cable TV selection.
158. Nothing
159. New programs that they have implimented such as educational or reentry programs.
160. a roof over my head, food 3 times a day, a bed to sleep in, free weights on the rec yard, Tablet use for messages & music. TV to watch movies, etc. A small Fan to cool me off in these hot cells. A toilet that flushes, a sink that both hot & cold work, can send clothes to laundry to get washed, single showers, don't have to be subjected to...
161. Close to home
162. That it makes me to never want to come back.
163. 3 Hots and a Cot. Cable TV. 3 Showers a week and 2 yards a week IF WE ARE LUCKY.
164. Having a job.
165. Nothing is positive about this prison
166. The ability to work a Job assignment
167. the most Positive thing is that we can wake up each Day, and try to improve our situation's, as well as Helping other's do the same. with Love
168. Use of tablets to access music, news, reading material
169. Nothing we are locked in the cell most of the time...
170. Being locked down so much allows individuals to fully understand who they are...If they take that Road of "acceptance"...
171. Mental health practioner **[NAME REDACTED]**
172. Nothing at all.
173. nothing
174. Can't get killed by a drunk driver. A roof to sleep under.
175. Nothing is positive here in pontiac C.C. Protective Custody unit
176. There is none
177. nothing because their is anything here to better yourself
178. That I wake-up breathing every morning
179. There are no positive things about prison life.
180. There is no positives here at Pontiac
181. Yard, showers, chow
182. I can study what I want and use my time as I want
183. None: If I have to mention one from one to ten 5 and is work. All the prison cares about is prisoners to work for them
184. I am in Protective Custody in Pontiac C.C. the most positive thing here is there is no or Barely Any Gang Activity in P.C. But that is about the only Good thing.
185. Some cell house LTs are willing to try to put people as cell mates when possible.
186. Sorry this may seem harsh But Nothing about this place is Positive. We have To Fight Tooth & Nail Just to still get Nothing
187. Most positive things in prison at pontiac corr center. They got good TV system.

188. Nothing
189. I get to Talk to my family and kick with People I know and love
190. I Don't Have any
191. This prison is way better than Menard. I do feel safe around staff, and I think they care about us to a certain extent.
192. To be honest the only real positive thing is not having to pay bills.
193. Work assignment, 2 yards a week, 1 Law Library, shower everyday you work or a total of 2 for no assignment, decent food, clothing, the commissary
194. Having the opportunity to Reflect, and change behavior that led to imprisonment
195. They allow us to work and stay busy, nothing else
196. Are you serious? It's prison
197. My Personal mind state, my relationship with (God), The positive TV Channel that the Chaplain utilizes to uplift us, the Few correspondance classes they provide/classes.
198. None That comes to mind
199. The access to phones when not on lockdown is absolutely the only positive thing in this prison
200. When we were getting more then 2 yards a week.
201. they positivly don't give a dam about inmates other than keeping people here to keep prison open
202. That it's close to home.
203. Nothing
204. NONE
205. The food is good.
206. can you repeat the question in a language I can understand??
207. There are no positive things in this prison. They don't do anything positive to help those of us, myself included to better ourselves, to become better individuals. Or to help prepare us for reentry back into the freeworld. There is no schooling at all. A.B.E., G.E.D. nothing. We need this
208. Waking up every morning. The healthcare system is basically non-existent if your not on your last breath you don't get help. The prison is filthy, the plumbing is horrible, no school, barely get yard, the staff are lazy, and do things whenever they feel like it with no repercussions
209. Nothing at all.
210. Pontiac C.C. Have a good Lerning religious channel
211. School, Work
212. The Support of the Chaplain
213. Not to far from Chicago and Peoria
214. Phone use—access good, wifi good for taking video visits fruit at Lunch's currently, commissary good
215. it allow you time to sit steel & contemplate & soul-search think about (how to better your life). No more Drugs, change the way you view the world!
216. Wow, that's a tough one.
217. Honestly, there is not much positivity going around to even answer this question truthfully
218. Im close to home, more access to the phones

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

1. Living conditions eg: programs, water contaminated bad, disrespectful staff, recreation
2. everything, staff assaulting inmates, and putting bogus assaults & criminal charges on inmates
3. That they leave it up to the inmates to pass the phones cell to cell.
4. being in prison
5. prison staff are not held accountable. They don't get discipline, too much homosexuality, visits behind a window glass, water is contaminated with a black substance
6. The quality of water is very Poor. Being confined to a cell for 24 hours. No programs or work for "Population." no School.
7. Some C/Os purposely create chaos among inmates.
8. 1. The water has black stuff floating in it. Looks like lead from paint but it black stuff that comes from the pipes. 2. Personal Property takes away most of our personal belongings when you go to seg. And also takes weeks to return your property once you get out of seg. #3. They have a nurse practioner acting as a Medical Doctor.
9. Peoples COs & Inmates
10. They keep us lock up 98% of the time especially if you don't have a job.
11. The water, staff, G.P. not being able to work or making their time productive by work or school due to only P.C. having that right!
12. locked up All Day Racist comments and being victims of Biasness
13. 1. The drinking water is bad. 2. Medical treat. 3. Mental health treatment. 4. The "so called yard" that M.S.U. has to use. M.S.U. is being housed in the max part of Pontiac due to the medium part being closed down in March 2022.
14. The visit are behind glass for everyone & my family don't feel it's worth it & say it'll make them sad which stops us growing. It feels like officers is doing things to provoke assaults on them. They're said it only get them more money.
15. most negative is that I'm prohibited from normal human/emotion reactions or responses because they're taken as insolence, threatening etc. due to my incarcerated status
16. Waking up incarcerate Female staff in male imprisonment False legislation when hearing tickets
17. the abuse of process
18. The adjustment committee
19. everything
20. They be sending us 2 seg for no reason or beat
21. C/O sabotaging mail, property, playing games when it come to giving a individual a legal review
22. Lack of maintenance
23. Some people.
24. The water
25. The degrading atmosphere. The constant negativity and hopelessness from all sides.
26. Lockdown for things we don't do and short of staff.

27. Environmental health effects. Those closest with staff and IA run things. There are no programs. Delayed and stifled medical treatment. Security bias medical and mental health Admin personel security as a whole is against mental health and programs. No treatment for autism.
28. Staff and healthcare is poor
29. Not see my friend
30. The unsafe drinking water.
31. Honest, a lot of the people I live with. They are from Chicago and their families taught them to be racist against White people. So I'm not treated like "another person" by them. I'm treated like I invented slavery. The staff treat "me" better than some others because I'm respectful towards them. The quality of water here is also very, very foul.
32. We also get almost no rec time. Myself, I'm a student in GED and only get (1) yard per week pre-Covid-19. I used to get (3) a week. The quality of medical care here is also 3rd world country quality.
33. Officers attitude.
34. The staff and mental health staff don't listen to inmates concern or problem. If they did, they will ask the inmate how can they help to resolved the problem before staff make a decisions. The staff don't give all the inmates the equally treatment.
35. When theres a serious situation staff doesn't take things serious
36. It can hurt you mentally, physically, and emotionally. The conditions and staffing is terrible.
37. The staff members. The healthcare/medical help. We all get blamed for person's mistakes/punishment. Ruins relationships/with all the lock downs/no phones, late messages/no visits. Like what's happening now.
38. Job assignment pay. Less programs. No advance schooling.
39. Only getting 4hrs of yard a week untills something effects or cancels it.
40. Trouble makers and mentally ill offenders are mixed in amongst the humble and sane people.
41. not using the phone like that, locked in the cell all day, not be able to get a job, + no schooling
42. Cant get any replys to hardly anything without the threat of a grievance or other threats or acting out. Staff here are lazy, antagonistic (this includes Intel & IA officers) and all good ideas suggested to improve this prison & relations between incarcerated persons and staff are ignored. Very few staff care!
43. 1. The Warden, **[NAME REDACTED]** is dumb-as-hell. Cant/don't know how to run the prison. 2. Don't do wardens tours. 3. Medical is fucked up. Ive had rectual bleed since **[DATE REDACTED]** + still aint been seen by nurse practioner/Doctor for real!!
44. Medical care is ridiculously poor. Food/Dietary is poor. Im in MSU (Medium Security Unit) but treated like Maximum Security.
45. Right now the water.
46. N/A
47. Not professional enough
48. Everything
49. Everything
50. Excessive force, inadequate medical care, protection and programs/school.

51. Everything you could imagine to be negative in a prison but it starts with the staff and how they treat us. Things are not right in Pontiac C.C. this place needs to be shut down and the staff need to be retrained. Even the non security.
52. Prison
53. The inability of the inmates to understand that their impulsive behaviors reflect on us all, and give staff an excuse to stereotype us all as being the same.
54. They way staff treats you. Visits behind the glass. No contact.
55. It drives a person mentally insane
56. When your things or personal belongings go to property it takes at least a month to get them back. At best a couple of weeks every single time. Always.
57. The cleanliness is poor. The showers don't get cleaned regularly. And the gallery hasn't been mopped in a month.
58. When harassing guards are here & I am awake
59. everything outside of what I list at top, worst prison in IDOC
60. No movement
61. Number one thing ... Administration/staff treatment an inmates. Bad medical-dental treatment. Too much time in the cell. No school. No programs. Bad Food
62. Locked in cell basically all day
63. You have nothing to look forward to. Until the change laws I am under 100%. The food here is horrible. Either over cooked or under cooked every day. No flavor. The menu that they show to Springfield sounds so good, but it is far from what they serve us.
64. everything/no time out/no staff help
65. The treatment by staff, which is inhumane, degrading & super disrespectful. They purposely try to bring out the worst in everybody here & nothing is ever fair & impartial - nor is due process given when it should.
66. Everything!
67. There is no hope for release! No programs. Pontiac hates us inmates. I cannot receive good-time for my behavior, work assignments, or programs because I am 100%—Truth-in-Sentencing
68. Everybody and what they do around me that's negative!!
69. Losing out on days, months, & years with family! Growing & evolving & spending those most precious & priceless moments with those you love! And specifically for me seeing ppl who need help knowing I might have been able to help & couldn't!
70. Everything, starting with the water Poor living in the cells
71. Morale! No staff! No opportunities! Always viewed based on crime & not change & effort. Water...no maintenance.
72. Everything
73. 1. Visits are behind glass no matter your status so we don't have access to food especially visitors who travel to yet here on time then have to sit for 2 1/2 hours.
2. No school or programs especially for individuals in custody with lengthy times.
3. The help on communicating with outside support is horrible (ex: Emails take days sometimes a week to go out and/or be received) what would be the point in doing it. 1 + 3 discourages outside support to do any of these things 4. The water system is contaminated 5. Safety of others is taken lightly
74. Water, food, imprisoned 24 hours a day, It causes stress, suicide, depression, Arrested development Emotionally & mentally. Conditions of confinement, Medical, Mental, and Dental.

75. no transgender support, attempted rapes, sexual harassment, excessive lockdowns, less yard hours than every other prison in the state, lack of mental health support
76. The conditions. The treatment from staff. The food. EVERY. THING.
77. Locked in cell 24 hrs a day. I'm eligible for EPSC, and there are no programs (hardly any) and there is no school at all.
78. 95% of people in prison, and being locked in a cell 24 hrs a day for every week except on yard days
79. The C/Os & incarcerated people who gang up on people for no reason at all.
80. Tac Team-P.E.R.T. going around attacking assaulting inmates and moving video cameras evidence of it destroyed and conceal to cover up. The same when mental ill inmates self harm on video cameras they destroy video evidence falsify observation reports on suicide watch to watch inmates self harm on camera for hours.
81. No movement. We get 2 yards a week. But (1) usually get cancelled. Its no trades, or college classes, the gallery have too many inmates, not enough phones, and staff don't no how to communicate with the inmates. Drinking water Bogus.
82. the ability to not go to yard even once a week, and the living quarter of our cell
83. The adjustment committee because C/O lie on you on tickets to be bias and unfair because they know the Adjustment Committee going to find you guilty.
84. Poor Healthcare. It can take a month to be seen for a medical request sometimes longer. We have to keep putting in requests, and complaining to be treated only to be put on waiting lists, and neglected.
85. The hardship when it comes to survival
86. All Kin is gone—I do have a Job 2 by some commissary. I no so many try 2 help at X-mas & w Senate Bills & info, I like some have No one left
87. Everything
88. No time out the cells, and its nasty everywhere especially in the shower. Staff doesn't treat us right. No programs or Jobs for General Population.
89. You have to stay in your cell most of your day, some days you don't go anywhere.
90. Too many to name.
91. Water; Mold, Staff, Temperature swings, and the list goes on.
92. conditions, water, cleanliness, mold in cells and tunnels behind cells where we breathe 24/7. No movement in the cell 24 hrs a day, so in bed maybe 16 to 20 hrs, may get yard 2 times wk.
93. Everythang, and u didn't send enough paper for that
94. the disregard of our safety. How staff will lie for years. How the water was contaminated and not bother to do nothing of it. Just to keep their jobs. From having this prison getting closed down. How far staff will go to cover up crimes of their staff committed against inmates in custody.
95. See quest 12 Above
96. staff
97. Everything
98. all staff in I mean all staff its negative that's all they know. they people who throw piss & shit. Sad 100%
99. Pobre mantenimiento & los pribelejios **[TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH: Poor maintenance & the privileges]**

100. Mental illness inmates are not properly treated. And those who "pretend" to be mentally ill get Anything they desire.
101. People with too much control, or influence use it for the wrong reason.
102. Bad water, incompetent staff, too many lockdowns, and security trumps all.
103. In Pontiac, conditions and water
104. being a transgender is so hard the officers and inmates don't have any respect for us period and they allow inmates to hit on us
105. Needs better mental healthcare, the visiting room is non-contact, being that this is (pc) protect custody we should have option to receive commissary in our cells.
106. 1. Healthcare staff and services, 2. Housing units and living conditions, 3. Food/meals
107. Not being able to have Education classes or a chance to earn a trade or a degree or Masters
108. The water system the way the officers sergeants/Wardens treat us individuals in custody
109. The Warden is an idiot & the head person for Internal Affairs is "Dirty"/Bad cop. We as whole only get 5 hours of yard a week.
110. We are not allowed gym at all, we don't walk to chow, officers never care about any complaints for example. IF we are in P.C. we shouldn't have to be forced in a cell with somebody and we should be able to go in the cell with a person where both parties agree to it. Property is always late. Food is horrible. The water is terrible, no ice or good water gets passed out.
111. There are very few programs offered and only a GED course. We are in our cells pretty much all day.
112. Dying here.
113. Everything is negative about this prison ... the people mental health, schooling, workers
114. the way the staff act around certain individuals.
115. The administrations write us tickets for minute things such as having empty soda bottles in our cell and then restrict us from using the phone. which is entirely disproportionate, so because I had some trash I'm not allowed to call anybody in the world for months? And the water is unfit for human to drink but we're forced to drink it!
116. The fact that it feels like we're not even living. Just caged up like animals treated like animals
117. Not safe clean & not let me contact my ppl in the outside
118. To. many Fights
119. everything The water has Black stuff in it the staff treats you like your not Human they take the Phone and will not let you out your cell other then 4 times every 2 months. and when you Have a Health treatment they leave you for 5 days before doing.
120. This prison and staff they believe there above the law and the tickets they write they said any thing and get away with it springfield do not care
121. The staff don't do their Job of careing for prisoner Health well being. The water have Black ink Lead in the water And we can't drink it without getting sick, staff here has set inmates up to Be harmed by other staff or Inmates the warden lack any power to control her staff bad actions here at Pontiac II. CC. And the living is hard no bedding thin cotton sleeping on hard steel, no medical doctor And staff has quit since 2021-2023 lack of staff help.

122. This is hard to sum up because there's so many ... but I'll begin with the way our visits are here in Pontiac. This is the only prison in the state that handles visits the way they do. For me seeing my family is everything. But I can't enjoy my visits with my family thru a glass window. Then there's the lack of programs. How can I accomplish my goals without the tools to do so here.
123. It Don't help Rehabilitate you like it suppose to that's why alot of us end up Right Back.
124. we spend alot of time on lockdown. The only thing staff understand is chaos, for example; if you ask (respectfully) for something, you get overlooked. Whereas if you scream, yell, bang on your cell door, threaten to harm, or actually harm (yourself or others) they'll give you whatever you want. These people (staff) don't understand what the word "incentive" means, so no matter how good you do, you'll get treated just as shitty as the guys who are acting shitty.
125. living conditions
126. We are MEDIUM SECURITY Unit living in a MAX Institution. We are constantly being put in Lockdown because of the actions from MAX Inmates!
127. it's Alot going on Down here like i said in this Right Here is not go change nunthing I hope it Do
128. Medical care, The way staff treat you, No real programs to go to like school for me ADA no library, Food, mental healthcare, Getting things done. water, supply here.
129. No Jobs or school classes, Food Bad, no movement
130. Everything—The Water, food, being in the cell all day, the Guards, the mental Health treatment, No phones in seg, the excessive seg and punishments of C-grade & restrictions. No contact visit so we can eat Food, etc.
131. Not being able to be with family and Loved ones
132. Every thing: The place needs to be shut down. It is litterally falling apart. Also inmates being killed by staff and staff not being held accountable. Staff being physically violent toward offenders.
133. Everything
134. Law library. The yard. Healthcare. Staff response to health issues. Conditions of living. The water. Everything.
135. there not passionate about there jobs, duties, and rehabilitation
136. Everything!
137. The maintenance is horrible. A lot of cells do not work properly as far as plumbing issues are concerned. And you barely ever see a plumber to fix anything
138. staff.
139. Quality of water. Treatment overall. Staff considers us as (assholes) healthcare & mental health. yard schedule
140. Locked in cell all day. No programs of positive
141. Staff
142. good food, work employment.
143. The Grievance process
144. Everything.
145. Very little yard. No programs. Too noisy/chaotic. Drug/alcohol epidemic is ignored.
146. 1. The food, the water, the pepper spray. 2. Healthcare, it took more than **[2+]** yrs to have a diabetes bloodwork follow up. 3. I'm still suffering from COVID, it took **[2+]** yrs. for my grievance to be answered only to be told that I know sick call

- procedure, I almost died from COVID but was told to stop whining that it was only a cold or flu by nurses with badges that said COVID staff
147. The visits. PC is not allowed normal contact visits w/ vending machines. Like EVERY other prison in IDOC. Our commissary used to be good, B4 COVID, now it sux. Buncha draconian limits, snack sized items only, MSU—which is also housed inside the max prison, can shop once a week for \$150 per shop, PC can only shop twice a month for \$100 per shop. MSU \$600 a month, PC \$200 a month. My grievances go nowhere. MSU gets full contact visits w/ vending machines—PC does not—plus our only allowed visit days are every 3 days. I am a med security inmate. Also, lockdowns, being punished for things I had no part in. I follow the rules & get punished anyway. I am med security, why cant I have my typewriter? Hotpot? Because I'm in PC?
 148. Missing Being able to hold my wife & kids
 149. We are in the cell 24 hrs. We only come out for showers, visits, library, & 2 hrs of yard 2 times a week if they dont cancel it. Almost all the cells have plumbing issues. & no programs or school. & no contact visits.
 150. Healthcare mental health staff been around other inmates and the food and the water and living area
 151. Being taken off Level "E" (3) times and being put back on (3) times without reason or cause given. I have been told I'm a model inmate without any disciplinary issues. Not being able to have a job, lack of yards, dirty water & being locked down for General Population problems.
 152. The most negative things in this prison is everything...
 153. For Me Lockdowns + Healthcare
 154. Quality of food has majorly decreased. The condition of Yards. Out of cell time available. Level of equal treatment. Housing code violations. Visitation Gym Law Library My Innocence
 155. There is too much to list. 1. inhumane treatment. 2. lack of movement outside the cell. 3. conditions of confinement. Everything is broken or falling apart and they wont fix it.
 156. Programming, Education, Job qualification
 157. Phones Ran unfairly, commissary Ran unfairly (some people shop \$600.00 Per month when I can only shop \$200.00 per month) yard is only Ran when cell house isn't "short of staff" when MSU Gets yard Daily. visits MSU has contact visits while PC has visits Behind Glass no contact. video visits are able to be watch By other Inmates (NO Privacy)
 158. Everything
 159. Inside of cell with another individual almost everyday for 24 hrs with nothing constructive to do
 160. the staff actions
 161. Being locked up all day!
 162. Constantly using "short-staffing" as an excuse to cancel programs + recreation. The poor plumbing, that doesn't get fixed in cells.
 163. There are no programs to help us get/be better persons. Everyone is treated as if we are all troublemakers and are seen as if we are.
 164. The inconsistancies of being able to get our Basic Rights met, as inmates.
 165. If anything bad happens, any where at all in this prison, every single Inmate is punished. No phones, no rec yard, no school, no library, no work, no showers, no video or in person visits. A single fight in another cell House can do this. Poor food quality, No Commissary. Can last anywhere from 1 week-A month +

166. 1. Healthcare 2. plumbing 3. ventilation (air quality) 4. access to law library 5. Officers are always right—even when you prove them wrong 6. Inmates burning K2 and officers disregarding it, claiming they can do nothing about it
167. Our visits are behind a glass in a booth. The people who do good and stay out of trouble are never rewarded. Our movement is limited
168. Too much cell time, no educational programs. Also, the amount of hostility between inmates and constant loss of yard privileges due to staff shortages and lock downs. Also many cells are Condemned and cell house unsanitary Conditions
169. Everything! Not able to be close to my partner.
170. Not enough usage of the phone. Its not available.
171. Treatment of IIC's. Total disregard of our needs
172. The most negative Thing in This Prison, is The Fact That 80% does not Treasure Life, There is no Hope
173. Staff attitudes/Backbiting ... Constant maintenance issues ... Medical inattention (thank God I was an EMT) ... Mental Health staff bordering on "useless."
174. Locked in the cell 24 hours a Day 5 Day's out the week...
175. there are NO programs. your only allowed to yard 2x a week (If your lucky) The Rest of the time your in your cell. "East house" is unacceptably dirty. They never let us in the law library. If they do its NOT enough ... There considering shutting it down.
176. Too much time in cell, no schooling programs, horrible visiting room and schedule
177. All the lockdowns that this place has.
178. Everything
179. Drinking water. No A.C.
180. Staff beaten up prisoners
181. everything. staff are worthless, they take from us and treat most of us like crap
182. everything you dont know what will happen.
183. Being stuck in a walk-in closet (cell) 90% of the time with nothing to do!
184. Being in prison and forced to be in a cell with another. Having to sleep on a steel frame called bunk without a real mattress. Drinking hard water from most likely old lead pipes.
185. Terrible living quarters, cells dirty and nothing works, Dirty water, we dont get required yards or gym. Healthcare system is the worst I ever seen in my life I been tryin to get treated for shoulder injury **[6+]** months ago and they still havnt treated me or given MRI only Tylenol.
186. Not enough yard not enough medical attention
187. The inmate fighting with C/O. And they put us on lockdown for it for months at a time. The water and the black mold all over the places. Healthcare does not help with thing they dont show up for sick calls. I was Raped at different prison and got no help for it. Just needs to help with it.
188. I am forced to deal with bullies as cellmates. I am constantly punished for other peoples wrong doing. (like current lockdown.)
189. Conditions of the cells. Every cells in SPC have plumbing problems.
190. You are literally locked in your cell 24 Hours a Day Except when we go to yard once a week maybe twice For 2 1/2 Hrs. Also the staff treat + Degrade you Every chance they Get.
191. we are constantly treated like animals and as liers even when we have proof of what we are saying. segregation and suicide watch are the worst. Nobody is

- trying to help us, the incarcerated to stay out of seg. or to help with our MH while in "watch". (suicide watch).
192. Again this may seem harsh unless you live here 24/7. But Everything about this Place is Negative
 193. at pontiac, medical care, no doctors, no real medical help. no out of cell time recreation & no college course or programs only ppl who go to seg fight or I.A. likes get shit. That's it. & They feed us like shit. They charge us triple for commissary products the normal price
 194. Everything
 195. We don't get enough Time out of my/our cells
 196. Being lockdown. No school
 197. When we go on lockdown they take the phones away so it hurts our communication with our people.
 198. No school, Not enough Jobs, and not enough movement
 199. people like me who are at 85% or 100% get no good time and have no chance at early release, and when you are some one like me who has a lot of time you watch a lot of your family pass away and never get the chance to spend time with them again. Also we are treated as a number and not a person and no one cares about our side of the story.
 200. The water system contamanated, Healthcare unit, Mental Health, Staff very disrespectful
 201. Not able to use all resources that are available, and not enough access to family and outside world.
 202. There is no room for any type of growth and developement rather it be physical, mental or emotional not even spiritual. Healthcare is super duper rock bottom, no one tries to help any more.
 203. They come & tell me to get naked spread my ass cough & grab my Cxxx lift & seperate & if I refuse 7 or so tactical officers come & maze us, beat us & tear our clothes off & do what I mention themselves. If I was to do this to someone man or female in the outside world I would be charged with a sex case but they do this to us all the time so if you think about it we go through a type of sexual assault all the time
 204. People die/and killed/severe mental illness and Drug abuse and smoking that hurts my health, Lungs + Brain. Incompetant + unprofessional staff they dont care we're only a dollar sign, Commissary is breaking the law with sick price hikes, sometimes double at once. Not nearly enough out of cell yard/recreation.
 205. The Favoritism among Inmates
 206. Mental Health, Medical. Mental Health pushes pills on to inmates but the counseling is almost none existent. Medical personel refuse to give proper medication, or permits based on personal beliefs and request by Wardens. Also the cells are almost inhumane, and water has particles in it.
 207. how it's ran by the Administration.
 208. staff stealing, lying on tickets, food, lack of movement. Very limited library 1 our every 4 wks. commissary passes change every two on whatever is popular till they stop selling it.
 209. No type of programs.
 210. Everything
 211. Staff's Favor some Inmates better Then others when you need Things Done
 212. cell size, Plumbing doesn't work. I have no Hot water in my cell.

- 213. nepotism, favoritism, sexual preference being used to hire workers. sexuality being used as a factor in everything, denying educational opportunities except for favored inmates, jobs being offered to the same inmates ad nauseum on a continuous loop leaving no opportunities for rehabilitation or acquiring skills for anyone else.
- 214. Everything. No exercise. No school. Food is Horribal. and Life Sucks to the Point of Praying For a Early Demise
- 215. Not enough job assignments. No programs, ie, education, trades, etc.
- 216. pontiac p.c. has a bunch of individuals who have been here for 20, 25, even 30 years. Who these officials cater to their every whim. They get to have any assigned job they want, for as long as they want. They get to run and operate the inmate phones. And these individuals dont even need protective custody anymore.
- 217. The staff and how they treat individuals in custody, not all staff or C/Os are bad but they go along w/each other and that doesnt help
- 218. All the lockdowns, that this place has.
- 219. Being locked inside our cell For long periods of times A day.
- 220. mistreatment
- 221. Isolation, Lack of programs, Lack of Exercise, Lack of Proper Healthcare. lack of Clean Drinking water, Lack of Mental Stimulation, Constant Loud Noise, Being Subject to extreme temperature
- 222. In cell all day with no real programming, school and/or jobs for R.T.U.- M.T.C./BMU!
- 223. noise staff Lacking knowledge e.g. answers always I dont know to everything asked them
- 224. All of the sex-assults & rape-assults & gang bangers and all the evil/cruel treatment by other prisoners
- 225. Lack of accountability amongst staff.
- 226. Locked in cell 24/7. No programs—religious service.
- 227. Water in the sink is nasty, no out of cell time (no out of cell education, chapel) in person visitation doesn't allow you to sit and visit with family. No job assignments available. No in person law library being seen by medical takes months.

Q14. What suggestions do you have for improvement?

- 1. See q13 mentioned above
- 2. Close it down
- 3. For correctional officers to make sure each inmate in each cell gets the chance to use the phone if the inmate chose to, also to allow inmates either in protective custody or not to have contact visits and eat food with their visitors.
- 4. better food, better
- 5. education. Learning skills. More technology. Staff personel needs to be held accountable and discipline
- 6. Make school and programming available for all. Transfer individuals after they have done their segregation time. Fix the water situation. Close this facility down!
- 7. Functioning cells working hot/cold water and stop holding the whole cellhouse responsible for one persons action.

8. Close it down.
9. Job training My stay here has been extremely scary and over depressing, so we need to be able to go to the yard 4 times a week if not more. Ways to get your GED plus they should let some of us older guys go...
10. Just treat people like people, meaning all inmates deserve to be treated fair no matter crime, murder, rape, robbery etc. ... They are still people, its not like they did what they are charged with everyday, but they are humane every day!
11. Everything
12. 1. Fix the bad water issue. 2. Repair the on going plumbing issues. 3. Fix the "very staticky" cable (North house—low end of 2-gallery) only place with bad Cable.
13. Training for officers. Something more for offenders to look forward to. And better mental health & medical treatment.
14. If there wasn't so many relatives, spouses & relationships among the staff fair treatment could possibly be possible ... upon review it will reflect everyone here is related or in relationships so it's not a problem for a brother, sister, cousin, wife, son, daughter, etc. to seek revenge for the other for things as simple as a grievance that was written on the other
15. more gym yard and less staff working at night
16. more freedom
17. Everyone take responsibility for their department
18. School and more programs to help people to have a better chance one their release
19. that they need 2 close this place down n send us some where better where we can get real treatment
20. Transfer me to a different facility
21. Hire more maintenance that actually want to work.
22. Excersie and actions.
23. It to fair Gone
24. More staff and better education for that staff on how to deal with people. Better more qualified maintenance staff. More medical staff.
25. Close it!
26. Change in culture for staff to rehabilitation and not strictly "security." More programming and show of rehabilitation of incarcerated. This prison has an enormous chance to do something extremely positive and introduce programming specified to the medium security and transfer people in and out upon completion and change the culture allowing peer education and peer revitalization but chooses not to. Instead now treats the medium like the max.
27. Staff need to start respect incarcerated people more and also healthcare
28. Help people
29. Close it down.
30. Change. IDOC needs to add more incentive(s) to hire more officers (other) staff. They need to be trained properly, and act professional. There needs to be change to our visits so we can have contact visits with loved ones, a higher spending limit at commissary (dietary only gives us about 1,800 calories per day. I'm **[HEIGHT AND WEIGHT REDACTED]**—not enough calories for me...). Safer, cleaner drinker water, and when I do get to go outside I shouldn't have to see homosexual activity on the yard. Staff sometimes turn a blind eye to Homo and Transexual people performing sexual acts on one another during recreation.
31. Hire part time staff.

32. 1. Before a staff make a decision or give a recommendaton for a inmate about this mental problem, they should first ask the inmate how can they help resolved the problem first. 2. Treat all inmates equally, fairly regardless who they are. 3. Allow offenders to have a cellmate if they request a cellmate. Regardless if they are celled alone or single celled.
33. We need better staff training when issues occur
34. Better staff behavior. Better food. Better maintenance of facility. Start school. More time out of cell.
35. Work on more movement. Stop putting us on lockdown for general populations wrong doings. Change the food menu/instead of the same stuff, just changing from lunch to dinner. Give us more programs to help improve our future/and wanna keep moving forward. Give us more to spend at commissary. More yard. More gym.
36. Better paying assignments. Need programs for all levels. College and/or vocational courses.
37. More jobs and yard times.
38. Separate Troubled people and mentally ill from the rest, get better food, allow contact visiting. Allow hot pots, and fix the water supply or allow the purchases of unlimited water.
39. More yards/gyms, phones on the tablets, more jobs + be able to get more food at store we only can get \$100 but MSU can get \$150 + it's not there store room + they are not even in this prison
40. 1. We should be allowed to & be given a safe place to work on ideas without fear or worrys of projects or project ideas being destroyed or stolen. I want to build my prototype for a self sustained waterfall for a hydroelectric genorator so that we can save the state money by using them to power IDOC facility. But I want to own my patent for my own ideas & invention. 2. The Adjustment Committee should have all non security staff only otherwise its biased Preferred civilian volunteers like a jury so no corrupt staff can influence unjust or biased outcomes. Security may be present only to observe and for safety.
41. 1. Get a real Warden. 2. Get a real/different Nurse Practitioner. Get Doctor. 3. Get different, fair Adjustment Committee Chair person. We have a Lt. on committee who has sister as nurse here, brother, brother-in-law and if nurse write ticket he find us guilty cause his nurse sister is nurse, too.
42. Eliminate Unions. Hire minimum wage Wackenhut-like guards. Lessen power & grip of Administrators. Improve drastically the quality of medical care, right now and since Jan. 2023 there is zero Medical Director and/or Doctor here. The Nurse Practitioner runs it even though not authorized to do so
43. give us bottled water til you get the water fixed
44. For these staff to stop the Abuse of the people that that's in prison and stop braking our property and stop putting they hands on us!
45. Make changes for everyone and have a passion to help people.
46. I don't know
47. Better Warden and better training for staff—they don't know how to treat us.
48. First of all this place is to old to be open, shut it down. As for the staff, send them back to the academy and for non-security, retrain them on how to do their jobs. The most important thing to improve prison life is to get rid of their union. That's the problem.
49. Remove **[NAME REDACTED]** Acting Warden

50. That staff look at inmates as people instead of lower forms of life to be treated like animals. Those of us who don't project unruliness.
51. Treat a person according to his conduct and discipline and not like everyone else. Give us a visiting room where we can sit and interact with our loved one. Play a game or have a meal together.
52. More diverse staff Better dietary food.
53. To close it down.
54. Get a warden who cares about inmates instead of just looking at us as offenders.
55. Guards need REAL professionalism standards
56. you cant improve it the only way is to kill the culture/close the prison
57. This prison use to have some thing for the inmates to do each day now your Lucky if you get two yards each week.
58. Improve all the negative things above. Create Incentives programs, awards. Like, if your in A-grade, you can buy fresh restaurant type food. Burgers fries, chicken strips, pizza, ice cream the food can be made at prison by inmates as skill training etc. ... Movie night for new release movies if your in A grade. A think group should meet with inmates to discuss these things. In return, these things can be incentives to give inmates something positive to strive for on a weekly, monthly, yearly basis.
59. Close it
60. Proper training to inmates for cooking. Be more upfront instead of lying to inmates. Run things consistently. The grievance system is flawed. It is always designed for you to lose. Get a proper water treatment system.
61. New warden and rules
62. Close it down.
63. More programs!! GED class.
64. There is no medical treatment, mental health treatment, water is bad. Food is bad. There are no programs. Phone calls only 20 minutes. Visits only 2 hours. Buildings are falling apart. Bad plumbing. This place will make you suicidal. I pray for death every day!
65. Really none because its going to be shut down soon!!
66. More programs. School. Jobs.
67. Close it down! Burn it! & never do THIS one again!
68. Close it Down!
69. Close it. If not—then staff it with people and would see us as people—rehabilitation minded.
70. Close it
71. Everything I put in Q13 box is fixed
72. Wreacking Ball, Wreacking Ball! Destroy this inhuman prison please!
73. designated transgender coordinator, send transpeople to medium security, more yard to equal the hours similar institutions, overhaul mental health, transpeople cannot shave in seg
74. Fire all its employed staff. Release all its individuals in custody. And BURN IT DOWN.
75. Shut it down, and start over a new. It's to broken to fix.
76. night yards, more yard time, we only get 4 hrs a week if nothing effects our yard time
77. *Main Problem* Stop allowing people to benefit because they are homosexual or race.

78. Have all video cameras footage preserve, reviewed and prohibited from being destroyed. So the courts can see and learn the truth of what occurs—allow inmates write discipline reports on staff misconduct on video cameras—stop covering up staff misconduct will stop lawsuits from being filed at a high rate.
79. More yards, gyms, bring college classes, trades. The visit room is none contact. That's very Big here!!!
80. get wider cells, and better cells in general. Plus being able to go to yard, gym, or other activities. That we are allowed.
81. For the C/O to be monitored for better mental health. For the Adjustment Committee to be ranned by people who don't work here and not going to lie. To be able to communicate more with our family.
82. Remove all medium security inmates from this prison (Pontiac C.C.) We have been treated like maximum security inmates since being relocated to the max side in March 2022 when the (M.S.U.) closed down.
83. More programming and also more free time out the cell
84. The water heer is stanky & a lot times has Bad fishy smell & taste
85. Humanity!!
86. More time out. More cleaning Fix the water problem. More Jobs and Programs. Better food
87. Let us have class and let our family come see us more
88. Too many to name.
89. Close this entire facility!
90. Close it. Or 1. Replace all of plumbing as well as the drinking wells, and toilets faucets showers etc. The tunnels behind the cells are condemed like dangerous mold, leaks, stagnant water elsewhere leaks in ceilings, condemed cells have mold as well as some cells.
91. Tear it down and make it a land feel.
92. Close the prison down. Can nothing improve it. The staff for decades got used to doing nothing and improvement only means them actually doing some work No one in a union will stand for that. People who run a prison who get paid to nothing but sit on their ass is not gonna change ever to improve inmates lives. Shit that require them to work more and continue to get paid the same. It's not the good/nice staff that get promoted to sergeants, Lt. or Majors. It always the Bad the worst of all staff who get those promotions. you can not change that kind of people.
93. Neutral
94. No Hope
95. Matter fact Nothing can improve this prison.
96. I want more out of cell time to get my G.E.D.
97. que ha arregren. Y que nos den mejor calidad de agua. **[TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH: that has been fixed. And that they give us better quality water.]**
98. Religious services, school opportunities, and job opportunities for general population. Not just protective custody inmates.
99. Offer more programs that are beneficial to everyday life
100. Give out Bottled water, bring hot food to visiting rooms.
101. Close it down, to many condem cells, bad water
102. Train the officer to respect transgenders and to communicate better
103. This water is unsanitary & often comes out with brown particles in it or unsafe to drink & the facility knows it & denies to provide sanitary drinking water.

104. More help for those with mental issues sometimes people need someone to talk to but if you're not on their caseload you don't really get that opportunity.
105. This is outside of my purview, I have given up long ago on seeing any type of rational or logical organization, and I simply try to survive daily and stay out of trouble.
106. figure out a way to give us more movement to yard for fresh air, movement for gym and Educational Classes, a chance to at least learn something to be useful for when we are released!
107. New Warden that cares more programs activities and contact with our family
108. Get a new Warden and for sure more yard time.
109. We should get more movement. Gym, more yard, and walk to chow. We should be able to have some free access to good quality water. The food could get a little better and bigger proportions, not like your feeding a 5 year old.
110. Allow more yards, more movement, more programs for people to get resocialized.
111. More schooling and programs. Most of us are searching on how to become better men. Also better training for officers.
112. Shut this prison down and start over
113. Better staff, more time out of the cell, stop being put on Lockdown for other housing units actions, better commissary, more job options for protective custody.
114. close it down!
115. I dont think theres any hope of change in this prison. This joint is ran by family and friends who either live around here or who likes to make it difficult to live in here
116. to give better support & help a person be more sane to deal & live in the outside world plus give a person what they got coming
117. single cells and Better healthcare
118. Let us out our cells at least 4 times a month and give us Phone's and Healthcare treatment when Needed also Fix the water and start treating us like we Human beings they Need more schooling
119. Remove most of Higher up Warden, Majors and some Lt and bring in other that are not from here
120. Better staffing that's here to help better this prison from All the bad acts of staffing + Inmates + Healthcare system that's here to help prisoners + staff the same A warden that stand for righteousness and correcting the bad act's clearing the pipeing water system for showering + drinking water fix the Rat's + roaches Broken cell pipes Roof with crack + Hole leak from rain water
121. Real Family visit's, more time out the cell, programs, education, suitable cells (there to small for 2 people.) more jobs, more opportunity's to re-enter life with tools to show for. And more support!
122. Someone need to come in And hold C/Os Accountable for the Rules they brake and how they treat us with S.M.I.
123. Create incentive-based programming. Not only that, but if somebody does something bad, punish the individuals not the entire prison. Sometimes situations that turn out bad, don't even have to end that way, so many situations (negative situations) can be avoided by using simple communication & respect. If you treat people like human beings, more often than not, you'll get the same treatment in return. However, when an animal gets more out-of-cage time than we receive out-of-cell time, how else are people supposed to act?

124. Burn it down it is condemned
125. Treat us how we are supposed to be treated, as M.S.U. Inmates. We don't have the privileges we used to have like when we had our own living units in the farm.
126. they not Trying to get me to Another prison I Do everything they ask in i get nunthing still. i Tell them in when i say them I mean people who run BMU i need High care of level they Dont want to help me They Tell me anything everyday then the next Day it's some else
127. Closing it would be the only way to improve it
128. Shut Down this whole Prison/Transfer All Inmates
129. Better training For staff. More programs For everyone. More rehabilitation than punishment. Better ways to get help when there's problems. Better mental Health treatment. More time out of the cell. Contact visits so not only the Farm get Food but so does GP & P.C. Individuals. Video Visits & Phone For C-Grade.
130. more yard programs Recreation, Better fooding
131. Tear down and rebuild.
132. More programs, real mental health Advocates, Healthcare response, rehabilitation programs for recidivism, school/GED, vocational, Everything hierarchy
133. Condemn it. Close it down.
134. mental health treatment, classes, groups. [ILLEGIBLE] For people to become more effective to themselves and [ILLEGIBLE]. Schooling education is priceless
135. more schooling, programs and better Healthcare treatment and more qualified staff.
136. fire all of the maintenance staff, and get people who will do the job properly. Plumbers, people to make sure the heaters work properly, etc.
137. more programs, school, fair treatment
138. More programs to improve myself. How to integrate back into society. How to just leave this condemned place
139. more time out of the cell. more programs
140. Close it
141. financial manigment, staff, Administration! (Medical Healthcare)
142. Increase out of cell opportunities, i.e. yard, gym
143. More time out of my cell, more yard time, make college courses available to everyone. Also, I would like to be able to get in person visit instead of behind the glass.
144. Put all mail on tablets to address the drug epidemic. Provide educational programs, etc. Need more yard; out of cell time.
145. Close it please
146. Contact visits with vending machines—like EVERY other prison in IDOC, including Pontiac MSU, just because I was forced into PC I have to have bogus visits. My family will not even visit me now because of this. XBOX's. IDOC is all stick no carrot. Need more things to strive for. Getting rid of seg without having something else to steer ppl to good behavior is a disaster waiting to happen. Conjugal visits. Outside food, etc. More carrot, less stick. PC needs to have a medium security PC AND a max PC. I am a med sec but PC is only max. Just because I have to be in PC should not condemn to a max security prison.
147. policy change!
148. More re-entry programs & school. & More time out of the cell.
149. close it down

150. Take me off Level "E" and give me a job, More Yards, clean water & not being punished for others problems. The phone on the tablet and being rewarded for good behavior.
151. My suggestions to improvement in this prison is to let me go home...
152. At Pontiac There Are 5 cell Houses East, West, North, MSU, SPC and South mental. When one cell House Has a issue say fight staff assault all the other cell Houses shouldn't be punished for what happened that cellhouse. When they have did nothing
153. Real building maintenance. Overall staff numbers + overtime. Maybe Justice system/IDOC accountability. A prison building only 30-40 yrs old.
154. more programs. more yard. And overall more humane treatment.
155. Do better on trying to rehabilitate
156. Contact visits, Phones on our Tablet also, video visits on our Tablet. more movement (yard, Law library, school, other classes) more of a selection at commissary (Example During flu season There was no cough Drops or Anything for a cold only thing there was nasal spray and Aspirin)
157. Shut it Down ASAP
158. Close it down for renovation for there are alot of structure issue that endanger my well being and possibly releasing those who qualify to create more opportunity
159. Being treated as a Human
160. More yard and out of the cell time
161. More educational programs. Fixing the multiple plumbing problems. Hire more staff. Hire an eye doctor.
162. More programs, extra curricular programs; other opportunities
163. The staff only follow rules when it applies to us but our rights they often disregard.
164. Stop going overboard with these stupid lockdowns. why, I do right, mind my own business, yet, when some jack asses, elsewhere, fight or cause even the slightest of disturbance, I can expect to get punished, like Segregation style from 1 week-1 month. what About my good behavior & Attitude. Yard time should be more than only 2-4 hrs per week
165. For everyone drawing a paycheck from the Illinois taxpayers to come to work and do their job instead of engaging in a competition to see who can do the least and get paid the most.
166. Take us off COVID Protocall and allow more movement.
167. The lockem up and throw away the key mind set has to change. The only incintive to do good is not going to Segregation. There is no system set up for those who demonstrate good behavior.
168. More Ged classes, Better Medical team, I/A stop KSFing people just because. More opportunity to better myself. Get an eye doctor!
169. more yards, 2 is not enough.
170. Listen to the older population, who've been here for a long time.
171. My suggestion, is that we get a staff, from warden's to C/Os that really want to improve this Prison and the People Housed Here
172. Only one thing can cure Pontiac's ills. Closure. To be fair, I'll volunteer to donate the padlock for the front gate.
173. Officers to Lightin up and More freedom...
174. allow individuals to apply themselves, start programs, give us gym back, give guys "Hope," focus their minds.
175. Allow video visits everyday; let prisoners have more yard

176. Stop all the bullying and threatened by staff all the time.
177. Everything
178. New plumbing for cleaner water.
179. More time out the cell, better staff members such as women
180. Close it down
181. you can't help this prison It need to be close down
182. Follows rules + directives as written, need educational + program courses to aid in rehabilitation. Organization. More yard time. Open gymnasium. More law library time. Staff oversight & accountability. Fix & repair buildings. Better air circulation. Better water quality. Hot meals (open dining rooms). Better medical care. E.T.C. Better state pay to go w/current times/economy. Prevent racism + favoritism among staff/inmates.
183. Positive reinforcement programs. Rehabilitation as a priority. Allow more support from the outside community to be a positive impact on incarcerated persons.
184. Fix all the leaking cells, get more staff so we can get our Required hrs of Yard and gym. Cleaning supplies passed out. Actual Nurses and Doctor that will treat you properly
185. more programs
186. They should just follow their own rules. I have a case that requires—by IDOC's own rules—that I be single celled. In 17 years in IDOC this rules has never been followed, except **[10+]** days in NRC. This has caused me to put up with violence and bullying from both staff and inmates.
187. Better leadership from the Administration. Every Rank C/O has his own Rules.
188. More phones, more yard, Some type of schooling or Educational/work courses, contact visits we only Get visit Behind a separate Glass Room This make it almost impossible For us to connect with one children, Better water, Better staff.
189. We need to be treated as individuals and handled based on how we treat staff. suicide watch should provide mental health services as often as possible. Not just stopping at the door and asking if the person is still suicidal then leaving.
190. Better communication, between Staff & incarcerated Individuals. Better access to communication to Friends & Family outside, this primitive Phone system spreads Covid, or other diseases. More Access to Recreational time instead of Keeping us cooped up & Access to Rehabilitative tools to help us Before the Transition of going home or how to cope with Being in Prison
191. For everything to go back to how it use to be before Covid hit. 4 yards a week & nightyard & Gym & LTS activities tournaments. Art class. Jobs available, Church. The commissary was better Law Library access better Medical was better. to Be Honest even the TV cable was better.
192. more security cameras, Better training for Staff Member and More people of Color in Authority more people of color employed here.
193. Make sure we get more Time out of our cells
194. school. Better food + living
195. More staff in various positions so we can get things like school and recreation running
196. more Jobs, some kind of schooling, and movement
197. more education programs to give inmates the tools/skills for Jobs when they get out. more out of cell time. Better food. And every inmate should get good time. Better living conditions.
198. need phone app on tablet and law Library on tablet, better training in dealing with mental health and issues inmate have. contact visit

199. More programs, and more qualified staff to be able to deal with individuals separate and separate circumstances in a more positive way or ways
200. More exercise time, healthier food's more program's for mind development. Also staff should stop telling other inmate's about my personal business or any other inmate's for that matter. The staff here is extremely unprofessional they encourage gossip amongst inmate's
201. Stop telling us to get Naked for another man
202. Staff training on being humane treatment, racial sensitivity. We need more out of cell exercise, more self help classes of all sorts. We Need Phones on the tablets to stop Phone Fights, broken Phones and the Passing of virus because 50 men use the same Phone passing viruses.
203. (1) Education programs (2) yard
204. For one outsource a different company for Medical that will put the patient first. Get real Mental Counselors that help with issues instead of pushing medication. Redo all water pipes and water source. Give Inmates more stuff to do for example: Game Systems (Playstation, XBox), Dayrooms, Fix the Visitation everywhere else its face to face this is the only prison that doesn't allow for proper visitation
205. Change of Administration
206. Let us eat what staff eat. we get no gym. contact visit like farm inmates here have. listen act on complaints about staff. stop playing with library time. need an association that will look-listen & do something
207. Changed of Administration
208. Fire the Wardens, Director and 80% of the staff
209. is Never going to improve nothing staffs cover each other up They "full of shit"
210. Fix the plumbing and move to single man cell housing.
211. Here's an example of the way they manipulate situations. The tabe test is a 5 part test they give 2 & use an impossible grading curve to make sure none but those they like score an 8.0 and as a result I was denied schooling opportunities. off 2 parts I scored a 7.5 & 1 part was 8.0+ & the plus points weren't used to make my score favorable
212. give us Programs. out of cell Time, Jobs Exercise Classes
213. Tear it down and build new according to federal guidelines.
214. Fix the plumbing, alot of cells are condimed cells, use the inmates here to help fix the facility. Allow more yard, allow inmates to shower everyday. For maintenance to stop being so lazy. And do the job they are paid to do.
215. Wardens that care and stand on its staff to make sure this prison is ran smoothly. Staff to give the respect they expect & want. Better food, school, jobs, and phone on tablets so not a lot of fights won't be over the phones fix the plumbing electricity, paint and clean this prison
216. Not been bullying + threatened by staff all the time.
217. programs that prepares training to rewrite inmates Future with comprehensive employment-readiness, Education programs too.
218. Donations of food.
219. A clear overhaul of the system that requires true oversight and accountability of staff. The grievance process and procedure should be totally independant of correctional staff who are unionized. There should be a direct line to report staff misconduct and inhumane conditions.

- 220. More out of cell time like walk to chow, church, law library, yard, other programs, school and jobs. Just like other Max/Med. Max prisons and R.T.U. facilities. stop snowing us claiming "short-staff"! That shit old and played out...
- 221. close it, wipe off earth, Build new Modern prison Cause its dead from inside-out From age lack of proper Repairs Maintenance
- 222. get out of prison & go home to a place of peace & never come back to prison (under any circumstance)!
- 223. Educational programs, gym, yard time.
- 224. Close it down
- 225. Allow general population individuals in custody education, jobs, better visitation, law library, chapel. Give us pillows, better mattresses, fix the water system. Better, faster medical service

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

1. I just hope/pray that I'm not wasting my ink & time on this survey b/c it's too hard to even get a pen! Think about that! That's how bad this prison is at Pontiac CC Everything here is terrible nothing works. Even the healthcare/staff treat us unkind + unfair. Unprofessional.
2. Pontiac CC treatment is the recipe for an serial killer.
3. Even if an inmate is in protective custody, he should have the right to sit with his visitor/s in a secure, supervised area and should be allowed to eat food or drink beverages from a vending machine. Visitors drive farther distances than others to see an inmate behind plexiglass/plastic windows. We are also in the future, meaning items in vending machines in the visiting room and at the commissary should be up-to-date and futuristic as far as energy drinks go. Since energy drinks do not have alcohol, I do not see why they are not sold in the commissary or are they available in the visiting room for visitors and the inmate they are visitings. Coffee or energy drinks are not available for inmates and visitors at the other two MAX prisons in Illinois either which are Menard and Stateville.
4. when we got to segregation our property is taken away to be shake down it takes up to two weeks. Once is process than we only receive a limited number of property clothes, books, etc. no tv, no trimmers. So when we get out of segregation we look like bums.
5. This is the most depressing prison in the state it's not conducive to anything designed to better a individual.
6. get the buildings up to code, fix the water issue, and give us what we are entitled too.
7. Please study these surveys carefully. Because theirs a lot going on in this prison that this survey does not touch on. The Warden by the name of **[REDACTED]** never comes to the prison she's rarely to never seen. Around the prison. They treat inmates in seg very poorly. They do not help inmates with there problems. They totally disregard inmates in seg unless its an inmate that the staff favors. other inmates in seg staff will totally walk by then when asking for help for something or if they need something like soap, or tissue, blankets, sheets. Just about anything if you are not favored by C/Os in this prison. That going for population, just as well as protective custody.

8. What good is this survey going to do. Pontiac CC staff isn't going to change their ways. Guy will still be treated like shit or over seriously hurt or killed by staff because a part of what they do here at Pontiac CC. So by me being a transfer from [PRISON REDACTED] constantly I'm overly scared for my safety as well as my life, not just by other prisoners but by staff. Pontiac CC is a Death Trap...
9. People need to start actually caring & doing something about prison conditions in IL prisons one of the worst systems in America instead of surveys that change nothing walk-through where people who come report & do nothing! I will warn whoever may read this a big riot is going to break out mark my words Staff don't know how to treat people they don't come from where most people in Jail come from & that's a big problem due to the fact they treat people like there less than them due to the fact they don't understand the people they watch over! Mark my words a "Big Riot" is going to take place in a IL Prison some inmates are gone die, get Hurt, etc. ... & some staff gone die, get hurt, even Raped because Jail is a Joke all Higher ups do (ex. Wardens, Majors, Director) is nothing at all about living condition, Family relationship etc. ... Them people on the outside all they do is talk or give out a survey like this, but most of all nobody does anything at all Facts! Like I say a riot going to happen in the near future somewhere staff getting assaulted in library was just a start, but the news broadcasting only the wrongs of the inmates & nothing about the C/Os beating one of those inmates to near death & knocking him out cold broke the camel back! I hope someone finally start to actually look into these matters & so much more, and don't that this as some threat but as a cry for help of someone who knows its coming.
10. I don't think y'all going to help us
11. 1. Pontiac CC should provided bottle water to all inmates until they can get the contaminated water issue addressed. 2. Sell better earbuds on Commissary for use with tablet music. 3. Go back to selling good large bags of stuff on our commissary, instead of the smallest, cheapest stuff they can find. Example Large bags of chip, instead of single size. 8 oz. coffee instead of the 3 oz. we now get.
12. What is the point of this if it won't have any effect? People used to see JHA as the ones that will help us, y'all have the connections to start a conversation on both sides so why not? Guys here don't trust y'all, when these surveys were passed out, it was bad talk but we need y'all on our side to make prison better for everyone (us & officers) & make IDOC understand that the "C" stands for Corrections & this is just a housing for us because some will get out. Thank y'all.
13. If rules were followed by staff and administrators in Pontiac it would be a safer prison... A news conference was conducted in which a spokesperson for Pontiac C.C. stated on the news that there's been over 100 assaults on staff in a certain time frame higher than any prison in the state, but we know 99% of those assaults are individual throwing bodily waste... yet in still the question should be... if IDOC has a uniformed policy to be followed by every prison then why is this specific prison averaging so many "Assaults" that no other facility's seeing?
14. Prisons are only for people who falsely share existence with people who hate people without a cause only show it by development in lacking outside support Men or women fundamental assistance in job, healthcare, or transportation
15. You have good & bad COs in every institution
16. They need to be more higher ups to look into how certain prison is being ran especially Pontiac
17. close this place down asap.
18. I'm supposed to be in MSU, but it's more like Max G.P.

19. I don't have any.
20. This facility is critically short staffed. Some evenings and overnights there are less than five officers for this cellhouse which contains a couple hundred inmates. Some nights there is only one medical staff on grounds to cover the entire facility that has over seven hundred. The maintenance tunnel behind the cells have significant water and sewage leaks that are never repaired. Whenever staff go into that area they wear rain jackets to keep it off of them. Whenever an audit of your comes through the staff always keep them away from that area. Have a true, qualified auditors go through the entire facility. There is no possible way this place can be up to code. I believe if a true inspection of this building were done that this building would be condemned.
21. It is a great survey and the right people (JHA) to take care of these matters.
22. I am in a unique situation right now in the medium security at Pontiac that has few people. However, if still controlled by those closest to IA and staff and the few active gang members. I have actively sought out rehabilitative efforts not provided by this institution. I have made program suggestions that have been stifled and inmates here actually want to do programs that are peer led however the beauracracy in this institution prohibits such programs because the union wants someone to get paid to teach rather than allowing a volunteer or better yet an incarcerated individual. This same thing is often the case with jobs as well. Although people don't want the job or to teach a program. The union will not allow it until someone gets hired for it. However, without a parole board or good time people are left without hope in many aspects!
23. Pontiac need to be shut down due to the way staff as a whole
24. I developed a tumor like growth from drinking the water in East cell house.
25. Some questions listed are sort of vague. Let me be clear, this place is like a high school campus sometimes with the things I see and hear from inmates and staff alike. I can only hope that this survey will eventually have some sort of impact. The things I said above are True and staff—better yet administration needs to know this stuff. I just hope this wasn't a waste of time!
26. 1. If a person is vulnerable status or is vulnerable status by force they all still should have equally living treatment of having a cellmate. If they request to have a cellie and agree to be that person cellie. They allow them to have a cellie regardless of such status or single cell. 2. The inmates should be allow to have gym days in the months of winter time 2 days out a week or one day out a week for 3 hours. So they wont be on a cold yard in winter. 3. All transgender offenders in Pontiac protective custody who are Approval for Transgender medical treatment, womens underwears, makeup. They should not be allow to have no cellmate who aint no transgender. They should only be allow to have a cellmate who is a transgender or accept to be in a cell alone. All transgender at Pontiac should have they on gallery in P.C. for all transgender offenders. It should be a gallery in P.C. to house all transgender offenders together. Let them have they own movement together, well as a job assignment to be a gallery worker on the transgender gallery only.
27. Stop! Blaming/or punishing us for General populations problems, & mess ups. We have "nothing" to do with them. They don't like us, we "don't" like them. As simple as that. Give us more movement. We "need" more school programs/programs period. Please fix our medical Department/our Healthcare Sucks! Let us spend more money at commissary. Put phones on our tablets. More yard. More gym.

28. Same as Q14
29. None of this will matter being that anyone can enter protective custody and behave like their in general population. It's madness in that respect. We need a protective custody prison where we can live, act and interact like general population with family. Visitation with family is like restrictive housing, basically punishment for choosing protective custody despite security level.
30. Please by use filling this out we need you to stand on this because this prison needs help on helping us get what we need to stay out of the way
31. 1. I'd like a one on one contact visit with one of your staff so that I can tell you everything you need to know and see without staff listening in. I can be restrained fully if you'd like I understand safety concerns. 2. It is rumored here at Pontiac Corr. Ctr. That JHA is being payed off by IDOC/Pontiac and is actually conducting these surveys to give feedback to Intel to IDOC/Pontiac so they may silence/seal the leaks. I personally have taken this into consideration after seeing the level of corruption here inside Pontiac Corr Ctr including IA officers and have taken measures to ensure that if anything happens to me that measures will be taken to shut down Pontiac even if that means illegal measures without loss of life!
32. 1. They allow inmates jumped by gang members. C/O get beat-up. They cry-out foul! 2. The water is very bad.
33. Nothing on Medical care in the survey. Not talking about mental health, but physical medical care. For such is grossly inadequate. Fix it.
34. Stop breaking our audio visual stop putting they hand on us I fear for my safety here of the correctional officers and **[STAFF NAMES REDACTED]** I want you to put this in your report using me my name and ID# **[NAME AND ID REDACTED]** Call this # **[PHONE NUMBER REDACTED]** Ask the Wardens why they officers break my tv & tablet on **[DATE REDACTED]** All my audio visual was working on **[DATE REDACTED]** when I got my tablet it don't turn on at all on **[DATE REDACTED]** when I got my tv its broken! the only people that touch my audio visual was all staff!
35. I just want to say thank you all for sending these surveys. I hope they help to do whats best for us who have to endure this harsh living in Pontiac.
36. Stop playing games with us, y'all aint gonna do shit. People are going crazy in here.
37. If seems virtually impossible at times to get the most basic of medical treatment in Pontiac, even when one is in very serious need, and inmates have to suffer in pain needlessly as a result.
38. I personally have been incarcerated since 2014 and have never been to seg and I have only one ticket for not going to work and I am treated the same, and sometimes worse than other individuals who cause problems all the time. When I bring it up to staff and ask why, they all agree that that is the case but do nothing to change it. So it makes one think "why behave and be respectful if the results seem like punishment. We should be treated according to our conduct. Its only fair.
39. 1. The water here is contaminated with black stuff floating in it. It looks like lead from paint. But it comes from the water pipes. 2. Once you get out of restrictive housing it takes at least 2 weeks to get your personal belongings (every time). 3. Most Lt. and Sgt in the East cellhouse does nothing to help inmates with problems such as property, clothing They just want to send guys to seg. That's All! To keep this place open.

40. What yall gone do about it?
41. Pontiac prison has 0 programs poor healthcare poor mental health services staff don't give a f***. Grievance don't work lawsuit don't work we only get 2 yards and walk to commissary we are getting less then restrictive housing far as out of cell time. when you speak up about it everything get taken away from you tv. tablet. commissary. phone.
42. The staff do not do there required 30 minute rounds we are Lucky to see staff every few hours this can be proven by watching gallery camera footage.
43. This prison is ran differently than most. You house Protective Custody, Seg, Mental health and Population. And a few of us that are Left from the MSU. We all get treated as a whole when another House assaults staff. They ship the assaulter out to another prison and we are left to deal with the punishment of Lockdown we can't contact our families. We get our property shookdown and we are treated like we did the assault. It makes no sense to me of why you would punish other inmates for something somebody else did. I believe that is why they have so many problems with inmates. When you have done nothing wrong, and you are being punished and your Loved ones are being Denied to visit or talk to you, it pisses a lot of inmates off. I hear comments of thats why you cant trust these officers and staff. And they say thats why one gets assaulted, they deserve it. The IDOC Administration from the Director to the Wardens to the Staff needs to be Reformed and trained. Its a shame that Grown adults are treated like children. It is also a shame that we voice our concerns to you and you guys do Nothing about it.
44. Start treating us with more respect and allow us time out our cells instead of having us in a kennel all day
45. JHA should actually advocate for change & prison reform & not cover-up for IDOC's misconduct & inhumane treatment of prisoners. Get outta bed with IDOC!
46. The prison is poorly ran and unorganized! Officers are not trained. The officers are lazy. Once a person is incarcerated, there life is over! There are NO second chances. One mistake and your life is over! There is no God here! This is hell. The Devil runs everything! THERE IS NO HOPE! PONTIAC HATES INMATES!
47. I'm good!!
48. Hopefully you all help!
49. It's a total shit show, they lie about everything They don't give us water as they say. Food is basic it the same thing n cooked in the bad water. So Wtf are we to do? Then 3 people have died within the last few months, they Didn't even try to help them. We are being poisoned on every level they are not even hiding it anymore. It's sicken and Im just worried if I might catch cancer or something Be we have no choice but to use the water or die. Im a realist not here to play the word game cause my life is being stamped on for selfish ass reasons. 1. The East N West House is condem. 2. Look man we understand this takes time but people are dying here cause this poison ass water, they are not even hiding the fact it messing up our health. The news is only exploiting our life for views. People coming up sick left n right. I have these skin splotches n I only got them once I got here they said its a fungus in the water. That's the same water we use to bath in drink everyday also our food get cooked with. What's nexts? So what is the goal right now? the water that was donated is being sold to use ... like they aint trying to help, also they using B.S reason to lock us down. (3 yards West) gets N gets, P.C is told they get 2 but they aint standing on their word with that. My thing is they let a men call for help 2 whole hrs N he died (the same day). So

- why TF would they care about us bein in a condem building n poison ass water?
P.S I'm **[NAME REDACTED]** There are all facts n can be checked.
50. We are drowning in negativity here ... someone please help us! We are all being sucked into an eternal blackness.
 51. Extremely appreciated for the concern. I hope I shed a lot of light + help to fix this prison.
 52. These are some of the most racist ppl I ever been Ruled by. Read the Chicago Tribune 2017 Who Killed Jenkins. If they (Police) Beat & kill Black and Brown citizens, imagine what they do when you are incarcerated/convicted!!!!
 53. Pontiac has one of the highest transgender populations, but has an anti-trans population. They're the most vulnerable population housed w/ sexually aggressive inmates. I believe I will be raped here. Someone's already tried once.
 54. Cant wait to see the day that prisoners' completion of these surveys ACTUALLY MAKES CHANGES within these prisons. Respectfully.
 55. This place creates domestic terrorists. When I'm released MSR in approx. 18 months I intend to return. I'm going to stalk and hunt security command staff and their families to get my revenge for what they've done to me here. I'm going to be famus.
 56. treat all inmates equally when it comes to jobs and not based on an inmates offense
 57. I believe people in control know what the problems are but instead of fixing them they put incarcerated people in situation to complain in order to get things done because they don't want their co-workers & incarcerated people look at them as the bad person.
 58. There's no use of knowing about unconstitutional, criminal, and abusive Pontiac prison conditions if no one going to stop it. The mental health lawsuit Rasho v. Baldwin did not change nothing it's worsen in Pontiac and abuse for Attorney fees. We need a class action lawsuit on how they operate the video cameras cause us physical injuries by staff knowing the cameras evidence going to be destroyed encourage a corrupt prison of staff misconduct, even in front of cameras crimes is carried out in Pontiac, is bias authority making disciplinary decisions against inmates.
 59. Pontiac need to get contact visits, more schooling and trades, the drinking water is very Bad.
 60. N/A
 61. Ive been here almost a year and the healthcare treatment is said Ive been throwing up Blood and very sick and all they perscribe is Tylenol cant by bottle water cause I have years of C grade but I think Im getting sick drinking this water. Also we are being treated unfair I've been called racial slurs and disrespected by staff but when I take up for myself I get written tickets and sent to Restrictive Housing and Automatically found guilty. The food is Horrible. We Always on Lockdown Due to they saying short of staff. But staff will sit around playing doing Nothing. This institution has made me think about Death on numerous occasions.
 62. My **[FAMILY MEMBER]** Died and they messed my funeral visit up last month didn't get to see my **[FAMILY MEMBER]** cause I was in RH I didn't get to call family.
 63. Medium security inmates are regressing instead of progressing by being placed in the maximum security part of Pontiac prison. We are overshadowed by what goes on in max, punished with lockdowns, and shakedown. Visits are

- frequently canceled for no reason. We are threatened with segregation if we refused to work 12 hour shifts in the kitchen during lockdowns.
64. If you can make a difference do so.
65. The State will make any cost 2 put ya in prison, if ya's rite or rong. But the State will not help truly the innocent. They State can't be rite all the time & reel good people lay in prison—4 there doing rong 2 others, yes there Very few associations that truly help innocent But I sure they R doing all they can do, as 4 yourselfs ya help others with civil & Human Rites, I do so Thank you all—4 Im a innocent man, in prison 4 over 20 yrs 4 a supposed crime, some dont understand sometimes theres a odd or freek accident that the State makes a Murder charge crime outa it! Just ask any rongly convicted person How they get in prison. Hatred, greed, lies & sometimes \$. This State Need 2 Be looks at & works on the Judical Sector.
66. No matter how we feel, or what we say things inside prison will never change because it was built on and off "Cruelty"
67. I just want for these officers to act like we ok Real peoples.
68. N/A
69. I appreciate John Howard's Staff's mission, survey, effort & pure concern!
70. This prison is really condemed. On the surface they may be able to dress it up, but check the tunnels and see what we are forced to breathe, why does the water have black oily substance in it, and what is the long term damage to my body. To fix the water you would have to replace all plumbing and miles of pipes, wells, etc. There is no fixing the tunnels.
71. Healthcare sucks ASS real bad, the C/Os are real disrespectful and always trying to bate us in so they can have a reason to say they was assaulted by a individual in custody all just to attempt to keep this facility open. The bedding is bad very bad to the point of maken our joints really bad.
72. Staff get sued all the time for doing things against inmates and inmates get settlements from them and that staff will continue working here. You want to change prison to the better they need to make it a strict policy that any staff who loses a settlement from a inmate he had injured that officer shall lose his job at the facility or the state attorney sue that officer to gain that loss of state funds back. Lawsuits are paid out from the inmates trust fund. Money gained from the interest earned from sales of commissary. Money we inmates spend grows that inmate fund. So staff has no fear or care whatsoever of doing wrong cause if we sue them it's money not of theirs that pay the settlements. It's not state money or prison money. Cause if it was 100% the state or prison would not ever allow staff to do the unlawful shit they do. The making of Administrative Directives. Dont change prison policy if no staff bothers to follow it. Administrative Directive 05.06.110 shows that Pontiac is no longer a multi-security facility. Yet it continues to have (2) gallerys in (NCH) just for (MSU) inmates. who also got all the prison jobs. get dayroom. shop commissary every week allowed \$150 to spend on commissary. (MSU) is not supposed to exist no more in this facility. Not allowing us from PC with (medium) security levels to have all those jobs—but we only allowed to have jobs as cell house workers and at the inmate kitchen—how will our prison lives will improve without jobs at a facility that doesn't have school—or college courses—they started TABE testing but that is not school—every facility is supposed to test us for that upon our first entry to prison. Now West Cell House (general population) get transferred to medium facilities every week but Pontiac refuse to transfer anyone from (P.C.) despite many of us

having medium security levels and approved to transfer to medium facilities. They wont let no one from PC to voluntarily check out of P.C. cause if they do allow us we would go to West House and they will have to transfer us and they are preventing us from doing that so I.A. will toss away our sign out forms. lose them. Ignore us and just place us on deadlock—for months we are a lot of inmates trying to check out. Just to get our self transferred with those from West House. The water is contaminated unsafe to drink and while we on lockdown for shit general population didnt—and the facility wont allow us to buy bottled water. cause we on Level 2 lockdown. Ignoring the fact that the drinking water is unsafe to drink—How is that? They giving a fuck of our well being. I was (medium) security and Pontiac approved me for a transfer but (2) day after I filed a grievance about (MSU) not supposed to be here no more—they upgraded my security to (maximum) as retaliation—without no hearing—or notice—when I appealed the matter the warden—the warden CAO—approved the classification committee decision—not caring if they followed the rules or not.—I had to undergo a hunger strike for 20 days. Just to get the warden attention and have her look at the (annual review forms) that the committee approved me for a medium security level and approved my transfer—and she looked at the counselor summary how i was never given notice of an upgrade of security or notice of a hearing for the upgrade and she looked at the Administrative Directive 05.05.104 that govern that procedures for security reviews and only then was my security level reduced back to (medium)—but Honestly—how will staff care of following the rules—[NAME REDACTED] Warden—agrees with anything the staff even if they are 100% wrong. Like in my case. Every warden that has been here has done that—and will continue to do that. Changing this prison will only come from someone a warden that actually 100% believe change is needed. I was at Dixon C.C. in 201[YEAR REDACTED] and the warden was [NAME REDACTED] and every day you will see her on grounds walking, walking to inmates about their issues and actually doing things about them. All the staff was 100% on their best behavior every day—she will come to the cell house (1) a month—I never heard of a lawsuit against any staff while I was there—that's a warden who cares someone like that can change this prison—but that will never happen. Cause this staff, sergeants, Lieutenant and Majors aint with that. All the staff here have their union—and they will all agree. getting paid for doing nothing is better than doing more with the same amount of pay—regardless how much they already make a year (a lot) You want change. Fire all the staff that have a lot of grievances against them, PREAs filed against them, or have been involved in injuring an inmate, use of excessive force against an inmate, and only keep those staff who have very low to none of those. That includes sergeants, Lt, majors and hire new staff only then can change for the better can begin at this prison—cause bad staff will only influence others to do bad.

73. Neutral
74. Shut Down Pontiac
75. Close this Bitch down.
76. Nothing I mean Nothing we need help here with the water/food/program/yard/visits/ healthcare aint Nobody positive any more in this world well here at Pontiac dis the worst prison I had ever been to.
77. que no jusguen por las assiones de los otros. Porque nos jagan justas por pecadere si una casa ase argo mal, todos pagamos. Y y que no separen a

- todos esos que quieran vivir bien. **[TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH:** Let them not judge by the actions of others. Because they play us fair for sins, if a house goes wrong, we all pay. And they don't separate all those who want to live well.]
78. The staff could better handle and treat all inmates fairly and give more access to mental health staff. Also, the staff should look into issues before they punish inmates. Also be non-bias in said situations.
 79. Officers, staff, or administration plays a negative role in most inmate-on-inmates issues. Meaning that the Admin. Leak information to arouse negative outcome
 80. These kinds of questions are more productive.
 81. Im really hope that this survey not a waste of my time and that you or the concern people push for serious change in the department of correction
 82. This like all the previous surveys will have no bearing or effect on my quality living in this chaotic environment, but God bless your good intentions.
 83. I just want to say thank you to all that are trying to make things better for those of who are locked up that are really trying to be better and do better, not only for myself but for my kids and my family! Thank you for your time + Understanding! Blessings to you All!!!!
 84. We really need Help here they do anything they want to us. They don't do their 30 minutes routine check a person could be dead they don't care about us we have no outside way to contact our family besides a letter we cant use phone or video visits and Springfield does nothing about this
 85. These CO honestly go out of their way to harass the other people. I mean they target transgenders destroy their stuff, leave them in cuffs for 6-7 hours, scar them on trays, call them fags. This is happening in the Seg cell house. It's messed up cause certain C/Os legit try to mistreat, hurt, harm us, then when a staff assault happens this prison plays a victim card. The Warden honestly doesnt try rectify this. That's makes for a cocktail of violence and a very unsafe work place. let alone living environment for us. Like on **[DATE REDACTED]** was my first day here, Lockdown cause two C/Os were assaulted one of which was cut or stabbed. Not even 5 months another 2 C/O got beat bad like one of has to get constructive surgery in the face. Then the people say as soon we came off lockdown it's gonna be worse or is gonna happen again. I mean it's the Warden, 95%-90% of issue steam from that. Honestly ya'll should send a undercover to really see what's up. The cells are too small for two people to be FORCED to live their. When you file numerous grievances they target you. Move you to a high aggression cell house OR label them dangerous communications and you go to seg. Really if ya'll get undercover staff and prisoners you'll see the problems. It's really hard. I mean hard living in here. Even a in person presence will/would help soooo much but yeah our commissary for transgenders should be a lot like the women prisons. Womenly soaps & body washes, real white/gray bras not sports bras, etc. commissary is universal. Although these dont see us girls as people so...
 86. there was a lot of box questions asked about officers the best way to describe a good 88% of officers here in Pontiac, they make me feel like they will get or have gotten too excited and apply too much force and kill some one instead of actually care talking and correcting. Like some on the streets. We all need proper training. Thank you.
 87. Pontiac needs more programs to help people who are getting ready to go home be more prepared.

88. Some questions should be given the opportunity to elaborate on the answer because the limited options for answers can be misleading. such as "The prison is safe for incarcerated people" it's safe because I'm never let out of the cell, I would rather be out of the cell. And "supervision of incarcerated people is poor" would give you the impression that they let us run free, but the truth is we're left in our cells and not checked on I could kill myself and be dead for several hours before they know.
89. This place robs you of your personal belongings that you either payed for, or was sent to you by family. this place is only half way fair to the P.C individuals and us GP gets no jobs. no schooling, no movement and struck in our cells, to have our bodies deteriorate
90. They Need to transfer people like they say they will they come and wake you up at 8 am and say pack you transferring to another prison then 25 minutes later tell you your not they Need to let those who write Books send them out to our Family.
91. What is the point of this survey if nothing Changes the problem is no one wants to actual change prison
92. I truly hope you All can help fix All the problem's that grow's in Illinois DOC prison's as it has gotten totally out of control with sexual Rap By staff + Inmate's sexual Harrasment's and the assaults and crooked cop stuff that accur's with in these prison of not only Pontiac C.C. But Also menard C.C. that i know of and it's not what this prison was made up for, it's to Rehabilitate those who were lose and help them Learn that it's A Better way of going about all the wrong way/things that we have done to put ourselves in this matter. And come out with A Better mindframe than when we came In. by doing program's classes that help us see things more clearly in changeing our past Behavior. Thank you All for All you All are doing to help make A change in this prison + world. God Bless You All.
93. Don't really know if any of this will ever make a differance because change never comes. This is my second time filling this out in my 13 yrs of imprisonment. And, change has not crossed my path yet. I'm still hopeful. Good conduct should also NOT go unnoticed and be credited towards reducing time.
94. hopefully this Be helpful And Also that one Day Change Come. Here At Pontiac we get treated As if we not human. Here in the BMU/RTU we only get about 2 groups A week. No out of cell time on 3-11 shift And Also when we call for a crisis we don't get it or we get force on watch As A means of punishment. No schooling. Long term seg. No mental health treatment 1-1 meetings. Something most change for the better
95. The warden here has no backbone. There's a Lt. named [REDACTED], he incites alot of issues between individuals in custody & staff. Back to the warden, anytime a major incident takes place she locks the whole prison down, which is fine, we're used to it. But here's the thing, after they've transferred the individuals responsible to another prison, we still have to pay for those actions. Because we remain on lockdown. What kind of message does that send to people? This is the message: If somebody does something in a cell-house that you don't even live in, you're still going to pay for it, whether you like it or not. Deal with it. Isn't that corporal punishment?? Asking for a friend.
96. Please look into the living conditions we are being exposed to here in Pontiac C.C. We as M.S.U. (Medium Security Unit) are constantly being Punished for the actions comitted by MAX residents by being put in Lockdown!

97. I Dont want To Be Here Because they not Helpin me at all they might Tell yall in Put everything in Black in white so it can look good To they Bosses But it's not that they let C/O say anything to us like a sgt told one guy Down the way from me He look like Toby in that's a Guy that's was in a slave Back in the Day grievances was wrote in everything in if you Think that Im liein go look for the grievances where Im at they got that some where Here.
98. Please help get us moved
99. Holding me Back From Being Release And they stopping me From Furthering my Education and Working a Job. The living conditions is unacceptable/water Bad.
100. This survey was needed. Snitches has a big impact on the way the C/Os and Intel treat other inmates. They (snitches) are the ones who get away with selling drugs but lie on someone else and the actual guilty person get away. They get a free pass. This system needs a WHOLE REDO—Top to Bottom. We should not start to get Rehabilitation classes/privileges when we are only 2 or 3 years short. For one people go home early everyday off appeals & clemencies. So they never get that Real world experience/training & their forced back out into society the same person. Thats how people end back up in Jail. I have been in jail since I was [**<18**] years old and now im [**25+**] yrs old serving [**30+**] yrs at 100%. with my Appeal and, New Juvenile Laws I will Be out Anyday soon but I haven't received Any Rehabilitation at all!
101. I spend my life here going into 40 years I am Due to be out more for exercise reasons but they Are keeping me in a cell 162 1/2 hours a week. No time for the Elderly Out For What is required
102. The whole IDOC (espesially) max needs to go thru a reformation. I've been working on a plan if you want to know what it is talk to me other wise I will wait 10 to 15 years and work on putting it in place
103. N/A
104. an inmate to be allowed eligible For goodtime even if here under the truth for sentence 85%
105. This is the second worst prison I went to. The medical treatment is really bad in here. and there will be retaliation against you if you file grievances, tell family to call springfield or file lawsuits
106. This prison is not equip to house people in here. The cells are leaking and don't work well
107. this prison had held me hostage. I did my 90 day's seg time & now I've been here over a year just trying to receive good time so I can be released early & I haven't had a ticket since I got here, what else do I have to do?
108. Governer needs to close down Pontiac Correctional Center
109. Water not potable
110. I don't Belive in this Prison or any As a way of Life for me. Other inmate think diffrent. (Not I) I am all alone, I have no out side contact family and any friends. I do have a lots of Automotive, [**ILLEGIBLE**], Auto Body [**ILLEGIBLE**] Welding repair, motor Rebuilding, Drag racing, Diagnostic and other scills (Hear at pontiac c.c. Thire are NO way To advance your self!?)
111. I want to see this prison make an effort to help us become better people for society.
112. Administration limits us to 1000 Magic: The Gathering cards; which is a positive, constructive hobby, and keeps us out of trouble, while there is a drug/alcohol epidemic here that they do nothing about. The majority of guys here get

- drunk/high on a daily basis, while the administration ignores it. Yet, they're worried about me having too many magic cards.
113. At this point, it seems violence is the only thing that gets results and for people or staff to understand that we/me are human beings, I try to avoid trouble as much as possible and too many times I have mediated conflict, but I feel what's the point. I get punished when other's engaged in negative conduct. I do the phone list and portion out the time's, I don't get paid for this, it is not my responsibility, I do this to keep the peace, my status as a former **[REDACTED]** prisoner gives me some room to mediate, but whats the point, Im subject to punishment for the conduct or acts of others. It took 9-months to get my glasses, I can't see without my glasses, did staff help, no. I was threatened with a ticket if I kept asking. Rule breaking is the only means to survive now; the food is so bad that staff show you the tray to see if you want it, many a times, the food is that bad that refusing it is the best option, it also mean's less work for staff.
114. Lockdowns. I follow the rules and I get punished. I have been approved for transfer to a med security—Danville & Big Muddy for over 2 years now. I follow the rules, got a clean record yet I cant transfer. **[10+]** years in a max, I have proven I am a good non-violent inmate. IDOC does NOTHING for lifers like me. We are last for everything if we even qualify. I am a sex offender lifer, the only job I am allowed is kitchen. Why? I am discriminated against in many ways due to my sentence & charges. Why has the commissary went to crap? Crazy stupid limits, always out of items, snack size items, no "premium" items like tasters choice. Why do we not have more incentives for good behavior? I have approx 15 years of I.T. (computer) exp. I was a suit & tie computer guy working at **[REDACTED]** corporate headquarters upon my false arrest. IDOC could use my exp in many different ways, but doesn't. Because I am a lifer sex offender, they refuse to treat my ADHD so I can not manage to do any of my more complex legal work. The tablet is a joke, many different reasons I have no room to get into here. GTL treats us VERY bad. IDOC does next to nothing to aid or assist in us maintaining our family bonds, quite the opposite actually. I am extremely limited on which medicine I can have because some people do stupid things, I don't why do I have to suffer? John Howard needs to have more access & more ... power ... in IDOC high level and daily decisions. Warden **[REDACTED]** must go. Now. Today. Who cares about stupid crap like calling us people in custody instead of inmates, that is putting lip stick on the pig, nobody in here gives 2 craps about that kind of woke garbage, that kind of thing has no place in here, we have real problems to deal with, major problems, and that sort of insidious trash is not one of them ... I've got 99 problems, etc etc. We need word processors, we need access to lexis nexus in our cell, we need phone on our tablet, why does some event in some other cellhouse equal me being cut off from my family? We need better email/messaging system. The one we have is next to useless. Why cant I have a clear keyboard (piano) with no speaker—headphone only, so I can learn how to play piano? Why cant my wife and I have some ... private alone time? Why cant we have an X-Box? Why cant we order outside food once & while if we are good lil boys? Other states do ALL of these things. COVID is over with, we have moved on to Ukraine now, so every last thing needs to go back to exactly like it was pre-COVID right now, today, ok ... I digest ... LOL
115. They only offer contact visits to a certain group of people while the rest of us have Non contact visiting room.

116. Just close pontiac Down. am inserting my info **[NAME AND ID REDACTED]**
Pontiac correctional center
117. I filled out the questionnaire in the past and things haven't gotten better here.
Only worse. I written The John Howard Association multiple times with my main
issue and because it doesn't effect everyone but me, I get no help. Actions do far
more than words.
118. My comments on this feedback on this survey need a more work...
119. Wardens Should walk the cell houses or when weather permits walk to the yards.
It would go a long way in helping with problems
120. A problem to help prison levels would include prison sentencing equality + equal
protection of rights.
121. #1 Officers wont walk through except once ever 2-3 hours (Depending on
officer.) #2 Positive things only happen to people that do favors for staff!! #3
Rules change and we're not notified and we Get in trouble when such Rule is
Broken. #4 When signing into PC was a chance to Get away from gangs and
such But even That I Did sign into PC I am still Held as a Gang member now that
I am at Pontiac C.C. It is one apple spoils the Bunch motto instead of treating the
none involved party as not Involved and we Get Disciplined as we are part of that
Involved Party. #5 Previously when in General population #6 yard is Ran in times
that we're not short of staff and it seems Like all of the Time we're short of staff
when mass Line movement is to be Ran
122. Nothing But This Time in prison almost got me Killed Alot of times
123. Its hard to put into words But within this system there is no true justice
124. We should not be locked down and they take the phone and we can't talk to our
family because something somebody else done, they should lock the building or
house down that did it not everybody.
125. Stop punishing the entire prison, when only one or two inmates cause a problem.
126. It's not that I dont think staff Don't know what rules they Have to Follow. I truely
Believe that they are being trained to Disregard us on many issues Because the
Lieutenant, major, warden's allow or condone so much that the run things the
way they Do. Plus most of us wont Take the time to write grievances Because
Despite How Truthful You are or proof You have the grievance usually Comes
Back moot or without merit or Dismissed.
127. Most of the problems occur with the General Population Inmates, housed at west
House. Why are they even here, this is supposed to be a Protective Custody
Specific Institution. Ship them problem Children Away to An Institution that can
properly deal with their bad behavior. Most of these P.C. Inmates Just want to be
left alone. We are being over Restricted, by Others Behaviors. Most P.C. Inmates
are Medium Custody, but are housed and treated as Maximum High Risk
Prisoners. you know, If they just keep us in our cages all the time, and take away
our TV's, tablets, etc. Guess what would happen? Some would raise hell with
each other, or the guards physically. Then others would learn the law, & sue the
institution and every employee they could get Names and position. Treat like
Animals = Act like Animals.
128. I am **[55+]** years old. I have been locked up since **[YEAR REDACTED, 20+ yrs]**.
I am a person who doesn't fight with others, or create any problems for staff. I am
respectful and have never been in a gang, yet I get punished with constant
lockdowns and shakedown for deeds done by the very few who act out and
assault others. Prison sucks.

129. Pontiac Corr. Cnt. Hasn't had an eye doctor in 3 1/2 yrs. I haven't had glasses for 2 yrs Medical sucks!!!!
130. We need the phone App on the Tablet. People always fight over the phone.
131. The medical staff here is deplorable. They are the most careless caregivers I've ever seen. Denying meds. Taking people off meds w/o warning or replacement. Not nearly enough exercise.
132. We the Individual's in Custody, need To see and be able to talk with People on the outside, we need more Educational Program's, as well as program's to Help us back into a free society. I wish this survey could have been done in Person!
133. Focus on bringing more of an urgency to Executive Clemencies. If an Individual In Custody can get a Recommendation For Executive Clemency from the Prisoner Review Board, why does the Governor not sign it? Executive Clemency Reform!
134. Pontiac corr center sucks BAD!!
135. please do NOT allow them to shut down our law library ... please note ... they may use a "security threat" because theres no gun towers ... But ... Menard Has No gun tower ... logan Has no gun tower in their law librarys, so whats the difference
136. Pontiac is the only prison that has an every 3 day visiting schedule and doesn't allow video visits every day! we do not leave our unit/gallery for video visits—there's no security risk—so we should be allowed to have our family schedule video visits any day of the week. Also, our family should be allowed to pay for the extended 55 minute video visit like before.
137. Thanks for doing these surveys.
138. help to improve incarcerated people so we can go home To are Love Ones and Live a good Life and Dont come Back.
139. The water we, here at Pontiac, have in our cells taste's nasty and smells REALLY BAD! Because of that, I have to Buy water from commissary, which isn't fare.
140. Hopefully this survey is useful and not a waste of time
141. Those of us who dont mess with staff seem to be treated worse and messed with alot. Most of the cells are condemned. They put you around people just to cause problems.
142. It need to be close down
143. Need more action and accountability to come from these surveys.
144. This is a start. At least there are people who are concerned about prison conditions and how to improve them.
145. Better Healthcare. Cleaner cells. more staff for us to Be able come out our cells more.
146. We Are lockdown 24 hrs a day shower 3 days a week we get yard 2 times a week. this has changed my mental health a lot do to being lockdown for this long. Thank you for your time.
147. I have been incarcerated for [30+] years I am under the 50% Law. I get half day good time for every work day. Everytime other unit do something we go on Lockdown. So I don't work and I do not get any good time. I feel been punish twice.
148. In this Joint S.M.I & Homosexuals get Everything they want & need while those of us who are trying to stay out of trouble an get home get treated the worst you could imagine. It's like Having no Right or no voice and anything you say or need gets completely ignored. This is a terrible Place to Be if you are trying to Do the

Right thing while Being incarcerated. This place will make you act out violently or aggressively just To Be Heard. There is no Rehabilitation in a place like this only Punishment & neglect. I can't say Enough this is a terrible place But Because I have to Be in P.C. I am stuck in this prison or menard which is 100 times worse For Protective Custody. I am miserable.

149. Jobs should be offered equally. The institution currently only offers a few jobs to offenders with sex charges but murder cases can get ANY job. The institution says this is to protect female officers and staff however the inmate kitchen where most sex offenders work has a majority female staff. Also, if the goal is to protect staff wouldn't it be a high priority to protect staff from murder as well as sexual assault. They are simply using this as a way to treat inmates differently based solely on their charges and not at all based on their individual interactions, disciplinary record or Job history or training. An inmate with a Murder charge can get several "107s" (sexual misconduct) on the staff and still work inside grounds but an inmate with ANY sex crime, even if they have a perfect DOC record and good, respectful interactions would NOT be allowed to work the same Job. Inside grounds has male staff and the inmates are constantly under watch of the armed towers. By the institutions logic, the kitchen staff is who would need to be protected more but because it is the least desirable Job, logic isn't considered. Thank you, for listening and for helping us.
150. I Just hope that things said & Boxes checked actually make a difference in the Quality of Life in Pontiac & IDOC as a whole. Cause we're already Taught this Helpless mentality that it'll never get Better By People who claim that they're Trying to help. Also it would've Been Better to have the John Howard Association actually come yourself it show's that even though you're Busy you Took Time out of your day to walk & talk. Those things matter. I'm Putting my Information cause i want it to be known who it is that feels this way. **[NAME AND ID REDACTED]**
151. Look. Stop using short staff as a way to place us on lockdown to not run Gym yards & stop allowing staff sit around & do nothing & get paid. Let us get our L.T.S. our yards our law library our Jobs or programs. & get a REAL plumber & fix our water & toilets. we drink brown & black shit test our actual sink water not ya "pipes" come get water out my sink. Also hire a doctor pontiac aint got a doctor!
152. This Survey is OK but you all at the John Howard Association don't do nothing. Because you all made a pack with IDOC.
153. None
154. Prison life sucks in general, but from I have seen is that Pontiac does try the best they can to have programs. All the max's are lacking in the field of betterment. Sometimes I feel like we are left to rot. When there are actually a lot of individuals that want to learn, grow, and better themselves.
155. IDOC is a unfair and unjust system they has over incarcerated people the prisons are over flowing. first time offenders get way to much time. 85% and 100% can not get any good time to get home early. We are treated by our case not who we really are. no one cared that I was a victim in my case I was used by a person who pretended to care about me he made me do horrible things in order to receive food and a roof over my head. I was a runaway at 17 this man used me for his sick game when we got caught he only got 18 years at 85% and I got **[30+]** at 85%. This was my first case it was his third case/time incarcerated. IDOC is a unfair system and needs to be fixed they do not care about justice they care about there conviction rate.

156. No Contact visit here at this prison Pontiac
157. As a person who has been incarcerated for 15 years and to see the changes that lawmakers are trying to make it give people who we thought had a chance to be back in society. I think that I.D.O.C. should find a healthy positive way to transition people back in society with a work ethic, and a different way of thinking. Also some type of work camp for releases, or work house were it give individuals real opportunity at being productive
158. I appreciate this survey and being able to express my self in it. In this prison it is all about ware houseing no rehabilitation any more period. And the healthcare aint even trying to improve at all period. Most are lazy and want to get paid for doing as little work as possible.
159. Repair cells we live in the sink leak, wont stop running, slow drains. mental + physical health is declining because of lack of exercise/out of cell. We need Phone Service on the tablets to Stop Fights + virus, bacteria, Fungus, disease. more Programs, education, Parole board brough back. We need ventilation system, pontiac built in the 1800's/inadequate windows no air or heat broke down. Please advocate for a State Pay raise to help with ridiculous inflation on Commissary Prices. We only get \$13 a month, not enough For much at all. magic shave went from 3 something to 6 something, a cheap \$30-\$40 TV cost \$282.00, its all insane!
160. I used to run a recreational program. The game system is everywhere else in the country. It does so much when it comes to stress, depression, and overall mood. Everyones not going to put this, but almost everyone I talk to say the same thing. Lastly Ive seen and heard people overdosing on medication. Why is that? Mental Health pushes medications. Secondly they inmates are going crazy because of the enviroment. Some just plainly want to escape from this place for while. Best solution to this issue is T.H.C. This way it helps with Mental Health issues, and cant be overdosed on.
161. stop lying so much. Inmates need to talk to people without DOC around. mailroom opens your legal mail/& have been know to steal some items i.e. magazines. stamp envelopes only come with easy to reopen seal—but they have no problem opening legal mail then taping closed Inmates cant have tape. when our property is sent to personnel property mice are allowed to piss & shit on items "check grievances" you don't get property back from staff on inmate returns. inmate are allowed by staff to steal & staff steals your stuff especially art projects
162. I have absolutely nothing Good to Say about the Pontiac prison or the people who Run and Operate it or the prison System.
163. you's should Come and see This Place for yourself's and listen To Inmates Problem's This writeing don't Mean nothing it go's in The file and forgot Tomorrow. we are The one's who got To live in This Place each day. This Prison need To be Close. The water system is all mass up Toilets sinks are leaking for I dont know how long but Most of the water is felling To The back of Cell's Tunel That is building up some mold That stinking smell be comeing out The cell's vent. Thats a long story about This Prison Cause it have so many issue's. also a lot of cells have cracks in The celings the water be leaking
164. Prison is supposed to be about rehabilitation and personally the only thing I've seen in prison is prison trying to do the utmost to promote recidivism by not giving those with the lowest chance of recidivism to excel while giving those with the highest chance all the opportunities & make those with the lowest chance

- seem like the highest on paper. Yet everything about individuals that prove they actually have a chance is denied & hidden away while they promote mentally + intellectually inferior persons as if they have promise when they in fact only prove the system ineffective for reducing recidivism. Because no one who deserve a chance gets the chance because they rather scam colleges, universities, do the bare minimum work & tout success of mentally ill deserving individuals
165. I Don't Think U R doing anything Except using this to pretend like U R Helping. No one gives 2 shits about us so please stop Lying to us and acting like U care. its only a means for U to get Donations and make money! Fuck off & let me Die in peace!
166. Revamp judicial system. People who didn't commit the crime should not lose their freedom, family and loved ones simply because a prosecutor wanted another gold star on his/her employment record.
167. Pontiac C.C. needs to house S.M.I. (serious mental Ill) inmates in a cellhouse by themselves to better control and treat them, because not all staff are equipped to deal with these S.M.I. inmates, but they are housed everywhere. For internal affairs, gang intel, to stop allowing certain individuals to put down anyone as a enemy. Which causes a security issue for the facility. And a safety issue as well. I truly do like answer surveys about prison life "IF" these surveys are actually going to be used to make life in the IDOC better for those of us who really want to better ourselves. I have been incarcerated for **[30+]** years, since I was **[<18]** yrs old. I get released in a little over 5 years. I don't have a support system in society. So I dearly want IDOC to offer me something to prepare me for reentry. IDOC doesn't prepare inmate's for release. period. Two years ago pontiac released a inmate named "**[NAME REDACTED]**" an "A"# after over 50 yrs of incarceration. They did not prepare him, because he was back several weeks later.
168. This prison is filthy, most cells are condemned, the staff talks crazy we barely get yard twice a week, staff treats us like shit, their lazy they play cards in the breakroom & leave ones in showers or gallery for long periods of time. This prison needs a whole new makeover if its to remain open this prison is suppose to be condemned.
169. Thanks for doing these surveys.
170. Thanks For your concern
171. My first time coming to Pontiac was **[YEAR REDACTED]** with a couple years of seg. I accumulated over 100 years in seg and privilege restrictions. The BMU in Menard helped me to eliminate my seg. time and earn back my privileges. But since I've been back here I noticed the Majors and Lt. is the security that was here before the laws and policy changes that don't keep us in the cells 24 hours a day. And the Sgt. and C.O. have only been working here since the Covid lockdown. So, not only do all staff no nothing about working in an up and running population facility, all staff mastered how to come to work and do less work as possible. Plus, they hear so many stories of the "old Pontiac" when inmates went to some extremes self-harming that they're already desensitized when they see someone bleeding or on fire. Also, they've seen and heard of staff writing fake staff assaults and falsefying reports to keep inmates in seg., where they have the less/limited privileges, so they don't have to work while at the same time keeping them in Pontiac with new cases for job security—it create the current culture of "Low Quality of Prison Life" that's going to only get staff hurt more, until innocent people are killed! Rules, Policies and regulations have already been put in place.

- There's only a need for real watchdogs and Monitors to make sure Pontiac impliment them or blood will be on their hands!
172. water tastes + smells Like dead fish 365 days a year Hot water over salted to try and prevent drains cloggin up over How bad it makes your skin feel or to wash-up with Does it Rain in your Bedroom? as it does in many cells from plumbing leaks and fools flooding there cells Does your Bedroom constantly smell of human shit Broken pipes behind walls And the Insane amont of grey-Black furry dust etc everyday all over everything
 173. My name is **[REDACTED]**, i arrived here, i was a teenager, **[PERSONAL DETAILS REDACTED]** (i was **[<20]** years of age, **[30+]** years ago. Today i am **[55+]** years old, (recently,**[DATE REDACTED]**) i received D-N-A Evidence that clearly Exonerate's me! God is Good! if, it is (at all possible), can your staff member's File a executive clemency petition to gov. jb Pritzker and demand my immediate release? Further, this newly discovered D-N-A evidence was never given to my 1985 Trial attorney (attorney **[NAME REDACTED]**) ... And this D-N-A evidence was never given to my 1985 Trial judge (**[NAME REDACTED]**) cook county court Chicago!
 174. Im **[MEDICAL DETAILS REDACTED]** (ADA) and the cells aren't ADA accessible for me. Nor the showers. My name is: **[NAME REDACTED]**
 175. This prison only offers gen pop individuals in custody 2 yards a week. Our third yard was stopped due to short staff problems. We recently got gym ever 2 week. Besides that I'm in the cell. I get no education, rehabilitation, chaplian service. Protective custody gets more opportunities

OTHER MARGINALIA COMMENTS

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

1. [Other] Brown
2. [Blank] Brown
3. [Black] Indian
4. [Black] Human Being
5. [White and Other] Hebrew
6. [Blank] African Decendant. Black—color

Q3. Are you within two years of release? (Yes/No)

1. [No] (emphasis on "No")...
2. [No] I go home in 3 yrs.
3. [No] 2 yrs 4 mos.
4. [No] Natural Life
5. [No] currently life term **[30+]** years In.

Q4. Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25? (Yes/No)

1. [Yes] again at 29
2. [Yes] age 18

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

1. [Other] Protective Custody
2. [Other] PC
3. [Blank] Back an forth (GP/RH)
4. [GP] M.S.U.
5. [Other] P.C.
6. [Other] PC
7. [Other] Right now Segregation but PC!
8. [Other] P.C.
9. [Other] Medium Security Unit (M.S.U.)
10. [Other] It's all Restrictive Housing
11. [Other] P.C.
12. [Other] Protective custody
13. [Other] M.S.U.
14. [Other] General population/(Medium Security Unit)
15. [Other] PC
16. [Other] protective custody
17. [Other] PC wanting to check out and cant
18. [Other] protective custody
19. [Other] PC
20. [Other] General Population (MSU)
21. [Other] P.C.
22. [Other] Protective custody
23. [Other] protective custody
24. [Other] protective custody
25. [Other] Protective Custody
26. [Other] P.C.
27. [Other] Protective custody
28. [Other] protective custody
29. [Other] PC
30. [Other] P.C.—Protective Custody
31. [Other] P.C.
32. [Other] "Protective Custody"
33. [Other] PC
34. [Other] Protective Custody
35. [Other] PC

36. [Other] SPC
37. [Other] PC
38. [Other] SPC
39. [Other] (P.C.)
40. [Other] P.C.
41. [Other] Protective Custody
42. [Other] PC
43. [Other] PC
44. [Other] M.T.C.
45. [Other] Medium security classed But very Housed old Death Row Pontiac cause farm closed **[DATE REDACTED]**
46. [Other] Protective Custody

Q6. Are you currently getting at least two hours a day out of your cell or sleeping area? (Yes or No)

1. [No] 2 yards a week for 2 hour each yards
2. [Blank] It varies to how the major feels
3. [No] on 3 week lockdown
4. [No] Y'all know that!
5. [No] Lockdown 2 weeks
6. [Yes] When not on Lockdown
7. [Yes] only because of work assignment
8. [No] lockdown
9. [No] (Lockdown right now)
10. [No] (lockdown)
11. [No] HELL NO/not close
12. [Yes] But Not always nor everyday

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

1. [Neither] That I'm aware of!!!
2. [Neither] It should Be school But no school
3. [Neither] Level "E" status no Disciplinary IDRs
4. [Neither] Forced out of assignment due to medical issue. Refused to accomodate even though I have medical permits stating limits/duties
5. [Neither] Black Balled from them
6. [School] In cell parenting class. Note only cellhouse worker jobs are available for Gen. Pop individuals

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

Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.

1. [N] Alright
2. [N] Depends on who staff is
3. [A] But its false relationships
4. [N] same as below
5. [SD] Hell no
6. [N] 50/50

I receive support from staff when I need it.

1. [N] Sometime
2. [N] very little
3. [SD] I tried to (KSF) other inmates who I keep having problems with & staff ignore me
4. [SD] lies told

Staff here treat incarcerated people fairly when applying the rules.

1. [N] There are some that does & some that don't
2. [SD] they force us to follow Rules but wont follow their own Rules at all
3. [D] to many pets

I trust the officers

1. [A] Some
2. [N] A handful of them maybe
3. [SD] Hell no
4. [SD] Hell No—they are racist
5. [N] 50/50
6. [SD] Not on my life nor for needed healthcare

I get along well with the officers on my unit.

1. [Blank] Depends
2. [SD] an officer pee in my lunch tray.

The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.

1. [D] Not all the time
2. [SD] Hell no—grievances get denied—nothing gets done.
3. [SD] calls to springfield or outside to Here

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

1. [A] Once! Sgt **[NAME REDACTED]** Respect!!!!
2. [SD] Hell no
3. [N] Rarely

Overall, I am treated fairly by staff.

1. [SD] Hell no
2. [N] 50/50

I am treated as a person of value

1. [N] The COs try to, but the administration don't
2. [N] (sometimes)

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

Some of the treatment I receive is degrading

1. [SA] all the treatment

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

1. [SA] only because I aint gone accept it!
2. [SD] Never
3. [SD] staff wont interfere, you are on your own.
4. [SA] Because of myself, not IDOC or Pontiac
5. [N] 50/50
6. [SD] lack of control + security
7. [SD] I am not safe
8. [N] Some yes Some no
9. [SD] its encouraged by staff by ignoring it.

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

1. [SA] But they Dont!
2. [SD] staff are clueless, and just doesn't care.
3. [A] most of them
4. [N] 50/50
5. [SA] But they don't
6. [SD] ?

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

1. [SD] what other options?
2. [N] dont understand

Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.

1. [A] Some
2. [SA] always
3. [A] some are
4. [N] sometimes
5. [N] 50/50
6. [A] some

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

1. [SA] and when this does not work we got to kick the door.
2. [SA] And even then, it might not get done.
3. [A] staffing issues

Supervision of incarcerated people is poor.

1. [N] Depends on the C/O
2. [SA] I only see gallery staff at count time and pass out trays—and never see them after that
3. [N] 50/50

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

1. [Blank] Death sooner than later Hopefully

Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.

1. [SA] white people
2. [SA] people who Bug up
3. [SA] Not all earn or deserve it

I can't improve my situation through good behavior.

1. [SA] I tried and they took my medium security level without me getting in any trouble.
2. [SA] Not here
3. [SA] I have no tickets
4. [SA] Been out of seg 5 yrs.
5. [SA] Have to give up Medical Hold to do so AKA Refuse Medical Here

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

1. [A] most times
2. [SA] Nightmare 20 plus years Pontiac
3. [N] Home sick

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

1. [SA] I cant do the right thing and report illegal activity cause staff will tell other inmates I snitched

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

1. [N] Yes & No
2. [N] I try to Be productive But Here prevents that

This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.

1. [A] snitches run the prison
2. [SD] snitches yeah
3. [D] controlled to much by staff
4. [A] assignments gang controlled favoritism
5. [N] yes + no many factor's

This prison is well organized.

1. [SD] Hell no
2. [SD] Joke

I feel that I am treated with respect by staff.

1. [A] Most
2. [SD] Hell no
3. [A] By some others no
4. [N] depends on staff

Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms

1. [N] Don't know the standard for this
2. [SD] Hell no
3. [Blank] Fights yes medical no
4. [A] Except to Assist us

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

1. [D] Getting a face to face is difficult unless its MH
2. [N] Yes & No
3. [SD] Hell No—we all got to kick on doors and ask for a (crisis team) mental health to talk to them just to get something done

You never know the rules

1. [A] They keep changing often
2. [SA] (Because they change them for thereselves)
3. [Blank] We inmate know the Rules. Its staff who dont know them
4. [N] they twist the rules to benefit them
5. [N] rules arent normally applied
6. [SA] staff dont

My experience in this prison is painful.

1. [N] sometimes
2. [N] 50/50

There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.

1. [SA] gang members (over) everyone else
2. [SD] not here

The disciplinary system is fair.

1. [SD] Biased as Hell
2. [SD] Hell No
3. [SD] it's rigged

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

1. [A] Phone

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

1. [SA] wont let PC get jobs except cell house worker and inmate kitchen, which are only few
2. [SA and A] Lie

Decisions are dominated by concerns about security.

1. [SD] Nothing is done in regard to security reasons. If they did there wouldnt be so many lawsuits against staff for shit they do that's unconstitutional against the inmates to begin with.
2. [SA] even when it makes more sense to do something else
3. [SA] allegedly!

My time here seems like a chance to make positive changes.

1. [SA] Not here specifically but prison in general
2. [SD] theres no school, no college, and library access is only (1) time a week (How) can anyone make positive changes without no education??
3. [N] 50/50 need more educational + program courses
4. [A] only if I want to
5. [Blank] to prevent Bad Changes I endure Hell
6. [A] Only because I put effort in to be Positive on the prison hinders growth or doesn't offer assistance

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 being in here.

1. [A] I'm an item in a warehouse
2. [N] 50/50
3. [A] Dog sub Human. Dont matter dont exist

You have to be in a group or gang in order to get by.

1. [A] I'm not affiliated

When important decisions are made about me, I am treated as an individual, not a number.

1. [N and D] sometimes
2. [N] sometimes

Drugs cause a lot of problems between incarcerated people.

1. [SA] Pills
2. [Blank] Don't know
3. [A] and for

All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.

1. [A] some
2. [SA] Too True!
3. [SA] Not everybody but most of them

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

1. [SA] Sometimes it's the only way to get their attention to get something done
2. [N] This behavior is rewarded

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

1. [SD] as of [DATE REDACTED]
2. [N] It depends on the situation
3. [SA] Except when the max side does something
4. [SA] phone and mail and tablet messaging
5. [N] not enough need Phone on Tablet

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

1. [SA] Reasons for what decisions??
2. [SA] They pass the buck
3. [A] dont get question But yes for Bad decisions

Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.

1. [A] Phone
2. [N] they dont care

This is a humane prison.

1. [N] it's better now
2. [N] 50/50
3. [SD] Inhumane old old system

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

1. [SA] Unless you have a Job
2. [SD] 10x
3. [SA] 24 Hours

This prison is safe for incarcerated people.

1. [D and SD] Staff let people die!
2. [SD] fuck no—water is containminated
3. [N] 50/50
4. [SD] Not from staff nor other inmates nor conditions nor good Healthcare

Mental health treatment is available.

1. [N] They don't Help at all
2. [Blank] Sometime
3. [Blank] Don't know
4. [N] They are of minimal help
5. [SD] they are limited by security what they can offer us. Everyone who tried to help us got fired.

This prison is better now than it was last year.

1. [SD] Much worst
2. [Blank] I don't know if It was ever better
3. [SD] Hell no—it's worst

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

1. [SD] Hell No
2. [Blank] Don't know
3. [SD] they need to stop them from committing offenses in here first before they get released?

I am satisfied with food from dietary.

1. [SD] HEEL NO
2. [SD] they put extrogen hormones in the food to make everyone grow breast.
3. [SA] Hell no!

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

1. [N] It depends on how the administration feels
2. [SD] over strongly disagree
3. [A] When not on lockdown
4. [A] Depends on shortage of staff!
5. [SA] When not on lockdown for the Max side
6. [SD] wheelchair user But wheelchair not allowed
7. [N] 50/50
8. [D] They cancel yard dam near all the time.
9. [D] Always limited movement "short-staff"

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. [Blank] Don't understand the Question
2. [2] One—the lowest in all of the IDOC and the DOC, U.S. wide
3. [2] I'm on the verge of killing someone
4. [2] also depends what cell (Broken down) your in

Miscellaneous Comments

1. My name is **[NAME REDACTED]** I've been incarcerated since I was 19
2. What will you gona do about the contaminated water—none of this improvements of staff treating us humanly will uncontaminate the water we all have to drink as long we all continue to stay at this facility.
3. Will you actually read all this?
4. The counselors. Whenever we write any grievances that can get a staff member in trouble, the grievances disappear.
5. This is from the pontiac CC. "protective custody" unit
6. From Pontiac CC. you should get copy of staff-Bulletin #23-04 2-27-23 subject B+C grade privileges effective 3, 1 2023 In part concerning it referes to Medical care, with critical issues funeral furlouse as institutional privileges correct me if Im wrong But proper Medical Care is a fed + state Right. isnt it Bulletin approved by Warden **[REDACTED]**
7. I suggest that the Governor provide body cams on all guards.



This report was compiled 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 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.

