

COVID-19 Survey Results: Joliet Correctional Center

The John Howard Association (JHA) is an independent citizen correctional oversight organization that goes into prisons to monitor conditions of confinement and treatment of people who are incarcerated; we fight for a fair and humane system and for government transparency and accountability. For 119 years we have been the eyes and ears of the public inside Illinois' prisons, reporting what we see, hear and learn inside facilities and using this information to recommend policy and practice changes and advocate for system reform.

It is critical that we know and understand how people in prison are experiencing the COVID-19 health crisis and what the government must do to meet the health needs of people in prison. To further this end, JHA launched a special system-wide COVID-19 survey to enable us to hear directly from those who are in prisons about prison conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survey results reported herein indicate how 58 people imprisoned at Joliet Correctional Center responded to survey items contained within the COVID-19 survey during the time frame of April 24th to May 20th 2020. As of April 24th, 2020, there were 196 people imprisoned at Joliet. Thus, this sample of survey respondents consists of 29.59% of Joliet's prison population. COVID-19 surveys that were completed after May 20th will be accounted for in JHA's work and analyses conducted in the future, but are not reported below.

JHA provided prison administrators with enough survey packets (COVID-19 survey, informed consent notice/instruction sheet, and business reply envelope addressed to JHA) so that every person imprisoned at Joliet had an opportunity to participate in the COVID-19 survey if they chose to do so. Because some people who submitted a survey did not answer all questions within the survey, the count of people who responded to each question is less than the overall sample of 58.

The results of the surveys JHA collected from people imprisoned at Joliet Correctional Center are tabulated on the pages that follow.

Tables of Results by Individual Survey Items:

Q1: How did you get information from IDOC about COVID 19 prevention?		
Paper bulletin on unit	33	56.90%
Inmate info channel on TV	29	50.00%
Verbal communication by staff	11	18.97%
Other	9	15.52%
I did not get this information	4	6.90%
Total does not add to 100% for this question because more than one answer could be selected		

Q2: Did you have enough soap to regularly wash your hands in the last week?		
No	11	19.64%
Yes	44	78.57%
Unsure	1	1.79%
Total	56	100%
No response: 2 (3.45%)		

Q3: How often did you get cleaning chemicals from IDOC to clean your cell/sleeping area in the last week (examples: soap, bleach, Citral Green or peroxide)?		
Once a day	34	62.96%
2 to 3 times last week	5	9.26%
Once last week	10	18.52%
None	5	9.26%
Total	54	100%
No response: 4 (6.90%)		

Q4: Did you get enough cleaning chemicals to thoroughly clean your cell/sleeping area in the last week?		
No, I did not get enough to make cell clean	12	21.43%
Yes	34	60.71%
Unsure	3	5.36%
No, I did not get any cleaning chemicals	7	12.50%
Total	56	100%
No response: 2 (3.45%)		

Q5: Did the common areas you have access to get cleaned at least two times a day in the last week (examples: dayrooms, showers)?		
No	6	10.71%
Some areas cleaned, but not all	16	28.57%
Yes, all areas were cleaned	30	53.57%
Unsure	4	7.14%
Total	56	100%
No response: 2 (3.45%)		

Q6: Have you tried to get medical care because of COVID-19 in the last week?		
No, because I did not want to	3	5.45%
No, because I was not sick	41	74.55%
Yes, but no response from staff	10	18.18%
Yes, and staff responded	1	1.82%
Total	55	100%
No response: 3 (5.17%)		

Q7: Would you tell IDOC staff (medical or security) if you were sick because of COVID-19?		
No	3	5.36%
Yes	51	91.07%
Unsure	2	3.57%
Total	56	100%
No response: 2 (3.45%)		

Q8: Did you go to yard at least once in the last week?		
No, not allowed to	18	32.73%
No, did not want to	16	29.09%
Yes	21	38.18%
Total	55	100%
No response: 3 (5.17%)		

Q9a: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by washing their hands often?		
No	19	33.93%
Yes	21	37.50%
Unsure	16	28.57%
Total	56	100%
No response: 2 (3.45%)		

Q9b: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by covering their mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing?		
No	25	45.45%
Yes	20	36.36%
Unsure	10	18.18%
Total	55	100%
No response: 3 (5.17%)		

Q9c: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	20	38.46%
Yes	27	51.92%
Unsure	5	9.62%
Total	52	100%
No response: 6 (10.34%)		

Q9d: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from others when possible?		
No	30	55.56%
Yes	20	37.04%
Unsure	4	7.41%
Total	54	100%
No response: 4 (6.90%)		

Q10a: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by washing your hands often?		
No	2	3.51%
Yes	55	96.49%
Unsure	0	0.00%
Total	57	100%
No response: 1 (1.72%)		

Q10b: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by covering your mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing?		
No	5	9.09%
Yes	50	90.91%
Unsure	0	0.00%
Total	55	100%
No response: 3 (5.17%)		

Q10c: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	13	23.21%
Yes	41	73.21%
Unsure	2	3.57%
Total	56	100%
No response: 2 (3.45%)		

Q10d: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from others when possible?		
No	21	41.18%
Yes	30	58.82%
Unsure	0	0.00%
Total	51	100%
No response: 7 (12.07%)		

Q11: Could you take a shower at least 3 times last week?		
No	8	14.04%
Yes	49	85.96%
Total	57	100%
No response: 1 (1.72%)		

Q12: Did you get laundry service in the last week (whites and blues)?		
No, was not offered	2	3.70%
No, do not want to use laundry service	7	12.96%
Yes, and my laundry was cleaned	32	59.26%
Yes, but they did not use detergent	13	24.07%
Total	54	100%
No response: 4 (6.90%)		

Q13: Did you get at least one free phone call in the last week?		
No	36	66.67%
Yes	8	14.81%
Yes, but the call cut out early	1	1.85%
This does not apply to me	9	16.67%
Total	54	100%
No response: 4 (6.90%)		

Q14: Did you get a free video visit in the last week?		
No	39	72.22%
Yes, and it worked	4	7.41%
Yes, but bad service/ cut short	3	5.56%
This does not apply to me	8	14.81%
Total	54	100%
No response: 4 (6.90%)		

Q15: Could you send and get mail in the last week?		
No	9	16.98%
Yes	39	73.58%
This does not apply to me	5	9.43%
Total	53	100%
No response: 5 (8.62%)		

Q16: Did commissary run on schedule this week?		
Yes, full shop	30	54.55%
Yes, limited shop	9	16.36%
Yes, but not my unit's shop week	4	7.27%
No	12	21.82%
Total	55	100%
No response: 3 (5.17%)		