
COVID-19 Survey Results: Lawrence 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 871 people imprisoned at Lawrence 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 1,936 people imprisoned at Lawrence. Thus, this sample of survey respondents consists of 44.99% of Lawrence'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 Lawrence 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 871.

The results of the surveys JHA collected from people imprisoned at Lawrence 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	334	38.35%
Inmate info channel on TV	583	66.93%
Verbal communication by staff	94	10.79%
Other	171	19.63%
I did not get this information	34	3.90%
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	310	36.30%
Yes	510	59.72%
Unsure	34	3.98%
Total	854	100%
No response: 17 (1.95%)		

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	59	7.03%
2 to 3 times last week	40	4.77%
Once last week	222	26.46%
None	518	61.74%
Total	839	100%
No response: 32 (3.67%)		

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	267	31.82%
Yes	54	6.44%
Unsure	15	1.79%
No, I did not get any cleaning chemicals	503	59.95%
Total	839	100%
No response: 32 (3.67%)		

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	117	20.97%
Some areas cleaned, but not all	384	45.50%
Yes, all areas were cleaned	202	23.93%
Unsure	81	9.60%
Total	844	100%
No response: 27 (3.10%)		

Q6: Have you tried to get medical care because of COVID-19 in the last week?		
No, because I did not want to	38	4.49%
No, because I was not sick	659	77.80%
Yes, but no response from staff	124	14.64%
Yes, and staff responded	26	3.07%
Total	847	100%
No response: 24 (2.76%)		

Q7: Would you tell IDOC staff (medical or security) if you were sick because of COVID-19?		
No	79	9.28%
Yes	722	84.84%
Unsure	50	5.88%
Total	851	100%
No response: 20 (2.30%)		

Q8: Did you go to yard at least once in the last week?		
No, not allowed to	133	15.72%
No, did not want to	312	36.88%
Yes	401	47.40%
Total	846	100%
No response: 25 (2.87%)		

Q9a: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by washing their hands often?		
No	192	22.91%
Yes	157	18.74%
Unsure	489	58.35%
Total	838	100%
No response: 33 (3.79%)		

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	293	35.22%
Yes	253	30.41%
Unsure	286	34.38%
Total	832	100%
No response: 39 (4.48%)		

Q9c: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	375	45.29%
Yes	279	33.70%
Unsure	174	21.01%
Total	828	100%
No response: 43 (4.94%)		

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	518	62.18%
Yes	182	21.85%
Unsure	133	15.97%
Total	833	100%
No response: 38 (4.36%)		

Q10a: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by washing your hands often?		
No	14	1.65%
Yes	832	98.00%
Unsure	3	0.35%
Total	849	100%
No response: 22 (2.53%)		

Q10b: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by covering your mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing?		
No	43	5.09%
Yes	794	93.96%
Unsure	8	0.95%
Total	845	100%
No response: 26 (2.99%)		

Q10c: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	200	24.39%
Yes	592	72.20%
Unsure	28	3.41%
Total	820	100%
No response: 51 (5.86%)		

Q10d: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from others when possible?		
No	303	37.04%
Yes	468	57.21%
Unsure	47	5.75%
Total	818	100%
No response: 53 (6.08%)		

Q11: Could you take a shower at least 3 times last week?		
No	44	5.16%
Yes	808	94.84%
Total	852	100%
No response: 19 (2.18%)		

Q12: Did you get laundry service in the last week (whites and blues)?		
No, was not offered	46	5.41%
No, do not want to use laundry service	10	1.18%
Yes, and my laundry was cleaned	596	70.12%
Yes, but they did not use detergent	198	23.29%
Total	850	100%
No response: 21 (2.41%)		

Q13: Did you get at least one free phone call in the last week?		
No	487	59.32%
Yes	207	25.21%
Yes, but the call cut out early	45	5.48%
This does not apply to me	82	9.99%
Total	821	100%
No response: 50 (5.74%)		

Q14: Did you get a free video visit in the last week?		
No	404	49.03%
Yes, and it worked	39	4.73%
Yes, but bad service/ cut short	215	26.09%
This does not apply to me	166	20.15%
Total	824	100%
No response: 47 (5.40%)		

Q15: Could you send and get mail in the last week?		
No	115	13.92%
Yes	666	80.63%
This does not apply to me	45	5.45%
Total	826	100%
No response: 45 (5.17%)		

Q16: Did commissary run on schedule this week?		
Yes, full shop	221	26.76%
Yes, limited shop	50	6.05%
Yes, but not my unit's shop week	182	22.03%
No	373	45.16%
Total	826	100%
No response: 45 (5.17%)		