

COVID-19 Survey Results: Lincoln 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 404 people imprisoned at Lincoln 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 893 people imprisoned at Lincoln. Thus, this sample of survey respondents consists of 45.24% of Lincoln'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 Lincoln 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 404.

The results of the surveys JHA collected from people imprisoned at Lincoln 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	174	43.07%
Inmate info channel on	118	29.21%
TV		
Verbal communication	123	30.45%
by staff		
Other	80	19.80%
I did not get this	32	7.92%
information		
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	172	43.88%
Yes	192	48.98%
Unsure	28	7.14%
Total	392	100%
No response: 12 (2.97%)		

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	97	24.87%
2 to 3 times last week	31	7.95%
Once last week	51	13.08%
None	211	54.10%
Total	390	100%
No response: 14 (3.47%)		

Q4: Did you get enough cleaning chemicals to thoroughly clean your cell/sleeping area in the last week?			
No, I did not get enough10025.51%to make cell clean100100			
Yes	73	18.62%	
Unsure	20	5.10%	
No, I did not get any cleaning chemicals	199	50.77%	
Total	392	100%	
No response: 12 (2.97%)			

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	83	20.96%
Some areas cleaned, but	179	45.20%
not all		
Yes, all areas were	100	25.25%
cleaned		
Unsure	34	8.59%
Total	396	100%
No response: 8 (1.98%)		

Q6: Have you tried to get medical care because of COVID-19 in the last week?		
No, because I did not	20	5.14%
want to		
No, because I was not	288	74.04%
sick		
Yes, but no response	64	16.45%
from staff		
Yes, and staff responded	17	4.37%
Total	389	100%
No response: 15 (3.71%)		

Q7: Would you tell IDOC staff (medical or security) if you were sick because of COVID-19?			
No 26 6.55%			
Yes	339	85.39%	
Unsure	32	8.06%	
Total	397	100%	
No response: 7 (1.73%)			

Q8: Did you go to yard at least once in the last week?		
No, not allowed to	205	52.30%
No, did not want to	93	23.72%
Yes	94	23.98%
Total	392	100%
No response: 12 (2.97%)		

Q9a: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by washing their hands often?		
No	200	52.36%
Yes	86	22.51%
Unsure	96	25.13%
Total	382	100%
No response: 22 (5.45%)		

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	239	62.40%
Yes	74	19.32%
Unsure	70	18.28%
Total	383	100%
No response: 21 (5.20%)		

Q9c: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	176	46.81%
Yes	135	35.90%
Unsure	65	17.29%
Total	376	100%
No response: 28 (6.93%)		

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	315	82.68%		
Yes	42	11.02%		
Unsure 24 6.30%				
Total 381 100%				
No response: 23 (5.69%)				

Q10a: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by washing your hands often?				
No 21 5.44%				
Yes	363	94.04%		
Unsure	2	0.52%		
Total 386 100%				
No response: 18 (4.46%)				

Q10b: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by covering your mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing?				
No 23 5.94%				
Yes 360 93.02%				
Unsure 4 1.03%				
Total 387 100%				
No response: 17 (4.21%)				

Q10c: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?			
No	58	15.06%	
Yes	316	82.08%	
Unsure	11	2.86%	
Total 385 100%			
No response: 19 (4.70%)			

Q10d: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from others when possible?		
No	189	50.00%
Yes	167	44.18%
Unsure	22	5.82%
Total	378	100%
No response: 26 (6.44%)		

Q11: Could you take a shower at least 3 times last week?			
No 29 7.30%			
Yes	368	92.70%	
Total 397 100%			
No response: 7 (1.73%)			

Q12: Did you get laundry service in the		
last week (whites and blues)?		
No, was not offered	34	8.92%
No, do not want to use	2	0.52%
laundry service		
Yes, and my laundry was	288	75.59%
cleaned		
Yes, but they did not use	57	14.96%
detergent		
Total	381	100%
No response: 23 (5.69%)		

Q13: Did you get at least one free phone call in the last week?		
No	263	68.49%
Yes	86	22.40%
Yes, but the call cut out	8	2.08%
early		
This does not apply to	27	7.03%
me		
Total	384	100%
No response: 20 (4.95%)		

Q16: Did commissary run on schedule		
this week?		
Yes, full shop	26	6.70%
Yes, limited shop	257	66.24%
Yes, but not my unit's	25	6.44%
shop week		
No	80	20.62%
Total	388	100%
No response: 16 (3.96%)		

Q14: Did you get a free video visit in the last week?		
No	239	62.40%
Yes, and it worked	43	11.23%
Yes, but bad service/ cut	42	10.97%
short		
This does not apply to	59	15.40%
me		
Total	383	100%
No response: 21 (5.20%)		

Q15: Could you send and get mail in the last week?		
No	57	14.84%
Yes	314	81.77%
This does not apply to	13	3.39%
me		
Total	384	100%
No response: 20 (4.95%)		

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