

COVID-19 Survey Results: North Lawndale Adult Transition 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 20 people imprisoned at North Lawndale Adult Transition Center (ATC) responded to survey items contained within the COVID-19 survey during the time frame of late April to early May 2020. The results were tallied on May 27th, 2020. As of April 24th, 2020, there were 96 people imprisoned at North Lawndale ATC according to IDOC's daily population report; however, this number may include residents who were furloughed and not physically present at the facility. This sample of survey respondents, thus consists of, at minimum, 20.83% of North Lawndale's population. As of June 8, 2020, there were 71 people reported to be at North Lawndale in IDOC's daily population report.

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 North Lawndale 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 20.

The results of the surveys JHA collected from people imprisoned at North Lawndale ATC 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	7	35%
Inmate info channel on TV	5	25%
Verbal communication by staff	5	25%
Other	6	30%
I did not get this information	1	5%
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	8	40%
Yes	10	50%
Unsure	2	10%
Total	20	100%
No response: -		

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	9	53%
2 to 3 times last week	2	12%
Once last week	-	-
None	6	35%
Total	17	100%
No response: 3 (15%)		

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	10	50%
Yes	7	35%
Unsure	1	5%
No, I did not get any cleaning chemicals	2	10%
Total	20	100%
No response: -		

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	5	28%
Some areas cleaned, but not all	6	33%
Yes, all areas were cleaned	4	22%
Unsure	3	17%
Total	18	100%
No response: 2 (10%)		

Q6: Have you tried to get medical care because of COVID-19 in the last week?		
No, because I did not want to	-	-
No, because I was not sick	11	58%
Yes, but no response from staff	8	42%
Yes, and staff responded	-	-
Total	19	100%
No response: 1 (5%)		

Q7: Would you tell IDOC staff (medical or security) if you were sick because of COVID-19?		
No	3	15%
Yes	13	65%
Unsure	4	20%
Total	20	100%
No response: -		

Q8: Did you go to yard at least once in the last week?		
No, not allowed to	19	95%
No, did not want to	-	-
Yes	1	5%
Total	20	100%
No response: -		

Q9a: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by washing their hands often?		
No	9	45%
Yes	2	10%
Unsure	9	45%
Total	20	100%
No response: -		

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	9	45%
Yes	6	30%
Unsure	5	25%
Total	20	100%
No response: -		

Q9c: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	10	53%
Yes	5	26%
Unsure	4	21%
Total	19	100%
No response: 1 (5%)		

Q9d: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from other people when possible?		
No	16	80%
Yes	3	15%
Unsure	1	5%
Total	20	100%
No response: -		

Q10a: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by washing your hands often?		
No	-	-
Yes	20	100%
Unsure	-	-
Total	20	100%
No response: -		

Q10b: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by covering your mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing?		
No	-	-
Yes	20	100%
Unsure	-	-
Total	20	100%
No response: -		

Q10c: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	3	16%
Yes	13	68%
Unsure	3	16%
Total	19	100%
No response: 1 (5%)		

Q10d: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from other people when possible?		
No	6	32%
Yes	12	63%
Unsure	1	5%
Total	19	100%
No response: 1 (5%)		

Q11: Could you take a shower at least 3 times last week?		
No	-	-
Yes	19	100%
Total	19	100%
No response: 1 (5%)		

Q12: Did you get laundry service in the last week (whites and blues)?		
No, was not offered	14	70%
No, do not want to use laundry service	-	-
Yes, and my laundry was cleaned	5	25%
Yes, but they did not use detergent	1	5%
Total	20	100%
No response: -		

Q13: Did you get at least one free phone call in the last week?		
No	18	90%
Yes	2	10%
Yes, but the call cut out early	-	-
This does not apply to me	-	-
Total	20	100%
No response: -		

Q14: Did you get a free video visit in the last week?		
No	18	90%
Yes, and it worked	-	-
Yes, but bad service/ cut short	-	-
This does not apply to me	2	10%
Total	20	100%
No response: -		

Q15: Could you send and get mail in the last week?		
No	8	40%
Yes	12	60%
This does not apply to me	-	-
Total	20	100%
No response: -		

Q16: Did commissary run on schedule this week?		
Yes, full shop	-	-
Yes, limited shop	-	-
Yes, but not my unit's shop week	-	-
No	19	100%
Total	19	100%
No response: 1 (5%)		

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