

COVID-19 Survey Results: Stateville 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 556 people imprisoned at Stateville 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 1,138 people imprisoned at Stateville. Thus, this sample of survey respondents consists of 48.86% of Stateville'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 Stateville 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 556.

The results of the surveys JHA collected from people imprisoned at Stateville 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	39	7.01%
Inmate info channel on TV	304	54.68%
Verbal communication by staff	49	8.81%
Other	186	33.45%
I did not get this information	44	7.91%
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	312	58.10%
Yes	204	37.99%
Unsure	21	3.91%
Total	537	100%
No response: 19 (3.42%)		

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	64	11.79%
2 to 3 times last week	149	27.44%
Once last week	299	55.06%
None	31	5.71%
Total	543	100%
No response: 13 (2.34%)		

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	360	66.18%
Yes	114	20.96%
Unsure	27	4.96%
No, I did not get any cleaning chemicals	43	7.90%
Total	544	100%
No response: 12 (2.16%)		

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	244	44.94%
Some areas cleaned, but not all	158	29.10%
Yes, all areas were cleaned	27	4.97%
Unsure	114	20.99%
Total	543	100%
No response: 13 (2.34%)		

Q6: Have you tried to get medical care because of COVID-19 in the last week?		
No, because I did not want to	42	7.91%
No, because I was not sick	330	62.15%
Yes, but no response from staff	119	22.41%
Yes, and staff responded	40	7.53%
Total	531	100%
No response: 25 (4.50%)		

Q7: Would you tell IDOC staff (medical or security) if you were sick because of COVID-19?		
No	33	6.08%
Yes	473	87.11%
Unsure	37	6.81%
Total	543	100%
No response: 13 (2.34%)		

Q8: Did you go to yard at least once in the last week?		
No, not allowed to	526	97.05%
No, did not want to	8	1.48%
Yes	8	1.48%
Total	542	100%
No response: 14 (2.52%)		

Q9a: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by washing their hands often?		
No	105	19.44%
Yes	124	22.96%
Unsure	311	57.59%
Total	540	100%
No response: 16 (2.88%)		

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	169	32.07%
Yes	120	22.77%
Unsure	238	45.16%
Total	527	100%
No response: 29 (5.22%)		

Q9c: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	148	28.19%
Yes	166	31.62%
Unsure	211	40.19%
Total	525	100%
No response: 31 (5.58%)		

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	305	58.65%
Yes	90	17.31%
Unsure	125	24.04%
Total	520	100%
No response: 36 (6.47%)		

Q10a: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by washing your hands of		
No	10	1.83%
Yes	534	97.98%
Unsure	1	0.18%
Total	545	100%
No response: 11 (1.98%)		

Q10b: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by covering your mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing?		
No	20	3.75%
Yes	506	94.76%
Unsure	8	1.50%
Total	534	100%
No response: 22 (3.96%)		

Q10c: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	38	7.06%
Yes	489	90.89%
Unsure	11	2.04%
Total	538	100%
No response: 18 (3.24%)		

Q10d: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from others when possible?		
No	147	28.21%
Yes	351	67.37%
Unsure	23	4.41%
Total	521	100%
No response: 35 (6.29%)		

Q11: Could you take a shower at least 3 times last week?		
No	313	58.07%
Yes	226	41.93%
Total	539	100%
No response: 17 (3.06%)		

Q12: Did you get laundry service in the last week (whites and blues)?		
No, was not offered	162	30.34%
No, do not want to use laundry service	234	43.82%
Yes, and my laundry was cleaned	85	15.92%
Yes, but they did not use detergent	53	9.93%
Total	534	100%
No response: 22 (3.96%)		

Q13: Did you get at least one free phone call in the last week?		
No	348	66.67%
Yes	90	17.24%
Yes, but the call cut out early	18	3.45%
This does not apply to me	66	12.64%
Total	522	100%
No response: 34 (6.12%)		

Q14: Did you get a free video visit in the last week?		
No	295	55.56%
Yes, and it worked	54	10.17%
Yes, but bad service/ cut short	82	15.44%
This does not apply to me	100	18.83%
Total	531	100%
No response: 25 (4.50%)		

Q15: Could you send and get mail in the last week?		
No	127	24.38%
Yes	374	71.79%
This does not apply to me	20	3.84%
Total	521	100%
No response: 35 (6.29%)		

Q16: Did commissary run on schedule this week?		
Yes, full shop	67	12.84%
Yes, limited shop	46	8.81%
Yes, but not my unit's shop week	74	14.18%
No	335	64.18%
Total	522	100%
No response: 34 (6.12%)		