
COVID-19 Survey Results: All Four Adult Transition Centers

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 115 people imprisoned at IDOC's four Adult Transition Centers (ATCs) responded to survey items contained within the COVID-19 survey during the time frame of late April to early May 2020. JHA received numerous blank surveys returned from Crossroads, which were not included. The results were tallied on June 8, 2020. As of April 24th, 2020, when surveys were made available, there were 448 people in ATCs, 159 people at Crossroads, 55 at Fox Valley, 96 at North Lawndale and 138 at Peoria 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, about a quarter, 25.66%, of the ATC population. By June 8, 2020, there were 295 people reported to be at ATCs, 98 people at Crossroads, 19 at Fox Valley, 107 at Peoria, and 71 at North Lawndale, which again may be counting people where they are not physically present. As of September 15, 2020, reported population at ATCs continues to be down and was 190, 65 counted at Crossroads, 28 at Fox Valley, 47 at North Lawndale, and 50 at Peoria.

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 all four ATCs 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 115.

The results of the surveys JHA collected from people imprisoned at all four ATCs 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	65	48%
Inmate info channel on TV	27	20%
Verbal communication by staff	18	13%
Other	16	12%
I did not get this information	7	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	48	37%
Yes	58	45%
Unsure	23	17%
Total	129	100%
No response: 2 (1.5%)		

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	39	35%
2 to 3 times last week	11	10%
Once last week	10	9%
None	49	45%
Total	109	100%
No response: 6 (5.5%)		

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	26	23%
Yes	40	36%
Unsure	3	2%

No, I did not get any cleaning chemicals	41	37%
Total	110	100%
No response: 5 (4.5%)		

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	31	28%
Some areas cleaned, but not all	34	31%
Yes, all areas were cleaned	38	34%
Unsure	7	6%
Total	110	100%
No response: 5 (4.5%)		

Q6: Have you tried to get medical care because of COVID-19 in the last week?		
No, because I did not want to	9	8%
No, because I was not sick	83	74%
Yes, but no response from staff	16	14%
Yes, and staff responded	3	2%
Total	111	100%
No response: 4 (3.6%)		

Q7: Would you tell IDOC staff (medical or security) if you were sick because of COVID-19?		
No	19	16%
Yes	75	65%
Unsure	20	17%
Total	114	100%
No response: 1(0.8%)		

Q8: Did you go to yard at least once in the last week?		
No, not allowed to	97	85%
No, did not want to	7	6%
Yes	10	8.7%
Total	114	100%
No response: 1(0.8%)		

Q9a: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by washing their hands often?		
No	48	43%
Yes	38	34%
Unsure	25	22%
Total	111	100%
No response: 4 (3.6%)		

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	52	45%
Yes	41	36%
Unsure	20	17%
Total	114	100%
No response: 1(0.8%)		

Q9c: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	52	46%
Yes	34	30%
Unsure	25	22%
Total	111	100%
No response: 4 (3.6%)		

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	78	70%
Yes	28	25%
Unsure	6	5%
Total	112	100%
No response: 3 (2.6%)		

Q10a: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by washing your hands often?		
No	2	1.8%
Yes	109	98.1%
Unsure	-	-
Total	111	100%
No response: 4(3.6%)		

Q10b: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by covering your mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing?		
No	2	1.8%
Yes	108	97%
Unsure	1	.9%
Total	111	100%
No response: 4(3.6%)		

Q10c: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	11	10%
Yes	90	84%
Unsure	6	5.6%
Total	107	100%
No response: 8 (7.4%)		

Q10d: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from other people when possible?		
No	27	25%
Yes	75	69%
Unsure	7	6%
Total	109	100%
No response: 6 (5.2%)		

Q11: Could you take a shower at least 3 times last week?		
No	1	.9%
Yes	111	99%
Total	112	100%
No response: 3 (2.6%)		

Q12: Did you get laundry service in the last week (whites and blues)?		
No, was not offered	35	33%
No, do not want to use laundry service	12	11%
Yes, and my laundry was cleaned	55	51%
Yes, but they did not use detergent	4	3%
Total	106	100%
No response: 9 (8.4%)		

Q16: Did commissary run on schedule this week?		
Yes, full shop	5	4%
Yes, limited shop	16	15%
Yes, but not my unit's shop week	3	3%
No	79	76%
Total	103	100%
No response: 12(11.6%)		

Q13: Did you get at least one free phone call in the last week?		
No	82	73%
Yes	12	10%
Yes, but the call cut out early	-	-
This does not apply to me	17	15%
Total	111	100%
No response: 4 (3.6%)		

Q14: Did you get a free video visit in the last week?		
No	88	78%
Yes, and it worked	-	-
Yes, but bad service/ cut short	-	-
This does not apply to me	24	21%
Total	112	100%
No response: 3 (2.6%)		

Q15: Could you send and get mail in the last week?		
No	19	17%
Yes	81	73%
This does not apply to me	11	10%
Total	111	100%
No response: 4(3.6%)		