

COVID-19 Survey Results: Danville 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 850 people imprisoned at Danville 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 1,541 people imprisoned at Danville. Thus, this sample of survey respondents consists of 55.16% of Danville'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 Danville 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 850.

The results of the surveys JHA collected from people imprisoned at Danville 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	470	55.3%
Inmate info channel on TV	274	32.24%
Verbal communication by staff	62	7.29%
Other	246	28.94%
I did not get this information	40	4.71%
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	246	29.67%
Yes	550	66.34%
Unsure	33	3.98%
Total	829	100%
No response: 21 (2.47%)		

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	116	13.99%
2 to 3 times last week	47	5.67%
Once last week	161	19.42%
None	505	60.92%
Total	829	100%
No response: 21 (2.47%)		

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	193	23.25%
Yes	120	14.46%
Unsure	35	4.22%
No, I did not get any cleaning chemicals	482	58.07%
Total	830	100%
No response: 20 (2.35%)		

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	178	21.42%
Some areas cleaned, but not all	336	40.43%
Yes, all areas were cleaned	196	23.59%
Unsure	121	14.56%
Total	831	100%
No response: 19 (2.24%)		

Q6: Have you tried to get medical care because of COVID-19 in the last week?		
No, because I did not want to	42	5.08%
No, because I was not sick	666	80.53%
Yes, but no response from staff	100	12.09%
Yes, and staff responded	19	2.30%
Total	827	100%
No response: 23 (2.71%)		

Q7: Would you tell IDOC staff (medical or security) if you were sick because of COVID-19?		
No	71	8.46%
Yes	707	84.27%
Unsure	61	7.27%
Total	839	100%
No response: 11 (1.29%)		

Q8: Did you go to yard at least once in the last week?		
No, not allowed to	36	4.32%
No, did not want to	151	18.13%
Yes	646	77.55%
Total	833	100%
No response: 17 (2.00%)		

Q9a: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by washing their hands often?		
No	258	31.12%
Yes	125	15.08%
Unsure	446	53.80%
Total	829	100%
No response: 21 (2.47%)		

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	337	41.05%
Yes	195	23.75%
Unsure	289	35.20%
Total	821	100%
No response: 29 (3.41%)		

Q9c: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	354	43.38%
Yes	272	33.33%
Unsure	190	23.28%
Total	816	100%
No response: 34 (4.00%)		

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	542	67.33%
Yes	158	19.63%
Unsure	105	13.04%
Total	805	100%
No response: 45 (5.29%)		

Q10a: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by washing your hands often?		
No	16	1.91%
Yes	810	96.77%
Unsure	11	1.31%
Total	837	100%
No response: 13 (1.53%)		

Q10b: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by covering your mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing?		
No	32	3.83%
Yes	795	95.10%
Unsure	9	1.08%
Total	836	100%
No response: 14 (1.65%)		

Q10c: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	153	18.70%
Yes	647	79.10%
Unsure	18	2.20%
Total	818	100%
No response: 32 (3.76%)		

Q10d: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from others when possible?		
No	282	34.94%
Yes	481	59.60%
Unsure	44	5.45%
Total	807	100%
No response: 43 (5.06%)		

Q11: Could you take a shower at least 3 times last week?		
No	38	4.58%
Yes	792	95.42%
Total	830	100%
No response: 20 (2.35%)		

Q12: Did you get laundry service in the last week (whites and blues)?		
No, was not offered	40	4.88%
No, do not want to use laundry service	9	1.10%
Yes, and my laundry was cleaned	600	73.17%
Yes, but they did not use detergent	171	20.85%
Total	820	100%
No response: 30 (3.53%)		

Q13: Did you get at least one free phone call in the last week?		
No	440	55.28%
Yes	216	27.14%
Yes, but the call cut out early	28	3.52%
This does not apply to me	112	14.07%
Total	796	100%
No response: 54 (6.35%)		

Q14: Did you get a free video visit in the last week?		
No	388	48.62%
Yes, and it worked	92	11.53%
Yes, but bad service/ cut short	159	19.92%
This does not apply to me	159	19.92%
Total	798	100%
No response: 52 (6.12%)		

Q15: Could you send and get mail in the last week?		
No	82	10.15%
Yes	693	85.77%
This does not apply to me	33	4.08%
Total	808	100%
No response: 42 (4.94%)		

Q16: Did commissary run on schedule this week?		
Yes, full shop	1	0.12%
Yes, limited shop	224	27.65%
Yes, but not my unit's shop week	48	5.93%
No	537	66.30%
Total	810	100%
No response: 40 (4.71%)		