

COVID-19 Survey Results: Graham 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 903 people imprisoned at Graham 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 1,788 people imprisoned at Graham. Thus, this sample of survey respondents consists of 50.5% of Graham'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 Graham 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 903.

The results of the surveys JHA collected from people imprisoned at Graham 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	485	53.71%
Inmate info channel on TV	283	31.34%
Verbal communication by staff	93	10.30%
Other	203	22.48%
I did not get this information	80	8.86%
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	384	44.04%
Yes	461	52.87%
Unsure	27	3.10%
Total	872	100%
No response: 31 (3.43%)		

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	48	5.41%
2 to 3 times last week	11	1.24%
Once last week	111	12.50%
None	718	80.86%
Total	888	100%
No response: 15 (1.66%)		

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	122	13.88%
Yes	44	5.01%
Unsure	13	1.48%
No, I did not get any cleaning chemicals	700	79.64%
Total	879	100%
No response: 24 (2.66%)		

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	97	11.07%
Some areas cleaned, but not all	254	29.00%
Yes, all areas were cleaned	359	40.98%
Unsure	166	18.95%
Total	876	100%
No response: 27 (2.99%)		

Q6: Have you tried to get medical care because of COVID-19 in the last week?		
No, because I did not want to	45	5.11%
No, because I was not sick	720	81.82%
Yes, but no response from staff	101	11.48%
Yes, and staff responded	14	1.59%
Total	880	100%
No response: 23 (2.55%)		

Q7: Would you tell IDOC staff (medical or security) if you were sick because of COVID-19?		
No	79	8.89%
Yes	735	82.68%
Unsure	75	8.44%
Total	889	100%
No response: 14 (1.55%)		

Q8: Did you go to yard at least once in the last week?		
No, not allowed to	146	16.63%
No, did not want to	230	26.20%
Yes	502	57.18%
Total	878	100%
No response: 25 (2.77%)		

Q9a: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by washing their hands often?		
No	224	25.48%
Yes	245	27.87%
Unsure	410	46.64%
Total	879	100%
No response: 24 (2.66%)		

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	278	31.84%
Yes	285	32.65%
Unsure	310	35.51%
Total	873	100%
No response: 30 (3.32%)		

Q9c: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	322	37.23%
Yes	359	41.50%
Unsure	184	21.27%
Total	865	100%
No response: 38 (4.21%)		

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	429	49.60%
Yes	299	34.57%
Unsure	137	15.84%
Total	865	100%
No response: 38 (4.21%)		

Q10a: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by washing your hands often?		
No	19	2.14%
Yes	860	97.07%
Unsure	7	0.79%
Total	886	100%
No response: 17 (1.88%)		

Q10b: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by covering your mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing?		
No	27	3.05%
Yes	841	95.14%
Unsure	16	1.81%
Total	884	100%
No response: 19 (2.10%)		

Q10c: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	158	18.22%
Yes	679	78.32%
Unsure	30	3.46%
Total	867	100%
No response: 36 (3.99%)		

Q10d: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from others when possible?		
No	245	28.82%
Yes	567	66.71%
Unsure	38	4.47%
Total	850	100%
No response: 53 (5.87%)		

Q11: Could you take a shower at least 3 times last week?		
No	102	11.46%
Yes	788	88.54%
Total	890	100%
No response: 13 (1.44%)		

Q12: Did you get laundry service in the last week (whites and blues)?		
No, was not offered	40	4.57%
No, do not want to use laundry service	11	1.26%
Yes, and my laundry was cleaned	634	72.37%
Yes, but they did not use detergent	191	21.80%
Total	876	100%
No response: 27 (2.99%)		

Q13: Did you get at least one free phone call in the last week?		
No	560	65.19%
Yes	161	18.74%
Yes, but the call cut out early	27	3.14%
This does not apply to me	111	12.92%
Total	859	100%
No response: 44 (4.87%)		

Q16: Did commissary run on schedule this week?		
Yes, full shop	39	4.40%
Yes, limited shop	775	87.37%
Yes, but not my unit's shop week	12	1.35%
No	61	6.88%
Total	887	100%
No response: 16 (1.77%)		

Q14: Did you get a free video visit in the last week?		
No	476	55.16%
Yes, and it worked	93	10.78%
Yes, but bad service/ cut short	110	12.75%
This does not apply to me	184	21.32%
Total	863	100%
No response: 40 (4.43%)		

Q15: Could you send and get mail in the last week?		
No	56	6.46%
Yes	791	91.23%
This does not apply to me	20	2.31%
Total	867	100%
No response: 36 (3.99%)		