

COVID-19 Survey Results: Hill 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 629 people imprisoned at Hill 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 1,557 people imprisoned at Hill. Thus, this sample of survey respondents consists of 40.4% of Hill'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 Hill 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 629.

The results of the surveys JHA collected from people imprisoned at Hill 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	253	40.22%
Inmate info channel on TV	282	44.83%
Verbal communication by staff	56	8.90%
Other	137	21.78%
I did not get this information	31	4.93%
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	321	52.20%
Yes	270	43.90%
Unsure	24	3.90%
Total	615	100%
No response: 14 (2.23%)		

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	54	8.88%
2 to 3 times last week	53	8.72%
Once last week	172	28.29%
None	329	54.11%
Total	608	100%
No response: 21 (3.34%)		

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	217	35.34%
Yes	39	6.35%
Unsure	17	2.77%
No, I did not get any cleaning chemicals	341	55.54%
Total	614	100%
No response: 15 (2.38%)		

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	79	12.91%
Some areas cleaned, but not all	186	30.39%
Yes, all areas were cleaned	192	31.37%
Unsure	155	25.33%
Total	612	100%
No response: 17 (2.70%)		

Q6: Have you tried to get medical care because of COVID-19 in the last week?		
No, because I did not want to	30	4.89%
No, because I was not sick	498	81.11%
Yes, but no response from staff	75	12.21%
Yes, and staff responded	11	1.79%
Total	614	100%
No response: 15 (2.38%)		

Q7: Would you tell IDOC staff (medical or security) if you were sick because of COVID-19?		
No	54	8.81%
Yes	516	84.18%
Unsure	43	7.01%
Total	613	100%
No response: 16 (2.54%)		

Q8: Did you go to yard at least once in the last week?		
No, not allowed to	596	97.55%
No, did not want to	12	1.96%
Yes	3	0.49%
Total	611	100%
No response: 18 (2.86%)		

Q9a: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by washing their hands often?		
No	101	16.37%
Yes	166	26.90%
Unsure	350	56.73%
Total	617	100%
No response: 12 (1.91%)		

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	135	22.35%
Yes	151	25.00%
Unsure	318	52.65%
Total	604	100%
No response: 25 (3.97%)		

Q9c: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	103	17.22%
Yes	319	53.34%
Unsure	176	29.43%
Total	598	100%
No response: 31 (4.93%)		

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	223	37.35%
Yes	209	35.01%
Unsure	165	27.64%
Total	597	100%
No response: 32 (5.09%)		

Q10a: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by washing your hands often?		
No	19	3.09%
Yes	594	96.74%
Unsure	1	0.16%
Total	614	100%
No response: 15 (2.38%)		

Q10b: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by covering your mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing?		
No	15	2.48%
Yes	583	96.52%
Unsure	6	0.99%
Total	604	100%
No response: 25 (3.97%)		

Q10c: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	95	15.81%
Yes	492	81.86%
Unsure	14	2.33%
Total	601	100%
No response: 28 (4.45%)		

Q10d: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from others when possible?		
No	121	20.30%
Yes	457	76.68%
Unsure	18	3.02%
Total	596	100%
No response: 33 (5.25%)		

Q11: Could you take a shower at least 3 times last week?		
No	550	88.57%
Yes	71	11.43%
Total	621	100%
No response: 8 (1.27%)		

Q12: Did you get laundry service in the last week (whites and blues)?		
No, was not offered	90	14.71%
No, do not want to use laundry service	19	3.10%
Yes, and my laundry was cleaned	412	67.32%
Yes, but they did not use detergent	91	14.87%
Total	612	100%
No response: 17 (2.70%)		

Q13: Did you get at least one free phone call in the last week?		
No	378	62.58%
Yes	147	24.34%
Yes, but the call cut out early	30	4.97%
This does not apply to me	49	8.11%
Total	604	100%
No response: 25 (3.97%)		

Q14: Did you get a free video visit in the last week?		
No	504	83.58%
Yes, and it worked	3	0.50%
Yes, but bad service/ cut short	17	2.82%
This does not apply to me	79	13.10%
Total	603	100%

Q15: Could you send and get mail in the last week?		
No	126	21.21%
Yes	449	75.59%
This does not apply to me	19	3.20%
Total	594	100%
No response: 35 (5.56%)		

Q16: Did commissary run on schedule this week?		
Yes, full shop	42	6.87%
Yes, limited shop	19	3.11%
Yes, but not my unit's shop week	66	10.80%
No	484	79.21%
Total	611	100%
No response: 18 (2.86%)		