

COVID-19 Survey Results: Pinckneyville 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 727 people imprisoned at Pinckneyville 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 1,817 people imprisoned at Pinckneyville. Thus, this sample of survey respondents consists of 40.01% of Pinckneyville'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 Pinckneyville 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 727.

The results of the surveys JHA collected from people imprisoned at Pinckneyville 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	373	51.31%
Inmate info channel on TV	312	42.92%
Verbal communication by staff	89	12.24%
Other	170	23.38%
I did not get this information	24	3.30%
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	205	29.00%
Yes	472	66.76%
Unsure	30	4.24%
Total	707	100%
No response: 20 (2.75%)		

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	183	25.85%
2 to 3 times last week	142	20.06%
Once last week	205	28.95%
None	178	25.14%
Total	708	100%
No response: 19 (2.61%)		

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	407	57.49%
Yes	120	16.95%
Unsure	23	3.25%
No, I did not get any cleaning chemicals	158	22.32%
Total	708	100%
No response: 19 (2.61%)		

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	189	26.73%
Some areas cleaned, but not all	224	31.68%
Yes, all areas were cleaned	183	25.88%
Unsure	111	15.70%
Total	707	100%
No response: 20 (2.75%)		

Q6: Have you tried to get medical care because of COVID-19 in the last week?		
No, because I did not want to	37	5.29%
No, because I was not sick	548	78.29%
Yes, but no response from staff	93	13.29%
Yes, and staff responded	22	3.14%
Total	700	100%
No response: 27 (3.71%)		

Q7: Would you tell IDOC staff (medical or security) if you were sick because of COVID-19?		
No	49	6.84%
Yes	612	85.47%
Unsure	55	7.68%
Total	716	100%
No response: 11 (1.51%)		

Q8: Did you go to yard at least once in the last week?		
No, not allowed to	324	46.48%
No, did not want to	166	23.82%
Yes	207	29.70%
Total	697	100%
No response: 30 (4.13%)		

Q9a: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by washing their hands often?		
No	207	29.20%
Yes	129	18.19%
Unsure	373	52.61%
Total	709	100%
No response: 18 (2.48%)		

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	274	39.09%
Yes	175	24.96%
Unsure	252	35.95%
Total	701	100%
No response: 26 (3.58%)		

Q9c: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	377	53.70%
Yes	196	27.92%
Unsure	129	18.38%
Total	702	100%
No response: 25 (3.44%)		

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	461	66.24%
Yes	129	18.53%
Unsure	106	15.23%
Total	696	100%
No response: 31 (4.26%)		

Q10a: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by washing your hands often?		
No	14	1.96%
Yes	694	97.20%
Unsure	6	0.84%
Total	714	100%
No response: 13 (1.79%)		

Q10b: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by covering your mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing?		
No	31	4.38%
Yes	671	94.77%
Unsure	6	0.85%
Total	708	100%
No response: 19 (2.61%)		

Q10c: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	175	25.00%
Yes	505	72.14%
Unsure	20	2.86%
Total	700	100%
No response: 27 (3.71%)		

Q10d: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from others when possible?		
No	274	39.54%
Yes	389	56.13%
Unsure	30	4.33%
Total	693	100%
No response: 34 (4.68%)		

Q11: Could you take a shower at least 3 times last week?		
No	52	7.26%
Yes	664	92.74%
Total	716	100%
No response: 11 (1.51%)		

Q12: Did you get laundry service in the last week (whites and blues)?		
No, was not offered	23	3.25%
No, do not want to use laundry service	27	3.82%
Yes, and my laundry was cleaned	489	69.17%
Yes, but they did not use detergent	168	23.76%
Total	707	100%
No response: 20 (2.75%)		

Q13: Did you get at least one free phone call in the last week?		
No	290	42.21%
Yes	279	40.61%
Yes, but the call cut out early	82	11.94%
This does not apply to me	36	5.24%
Total	687	100%
No response: 40 (5.50%)		

Q14: Did you get a free video visit in the last week?		
No	349	49.50%
Yes, and it worked	65	9.22%
Yes, but bad service/ cut short	150	21.28%
This does not apply to me	141	20.00%
Total	705	100%
No response: 22 (3.03%)		

Q15: Could you send and get mail in the last week?		
No	58	8.41%
Yes	612	88.70%
This does not apply to me	20	2.90%
Total	690	100%
No response: 37 (5.09%)		

Q16: Did commissary run on schedule this week?		
Yes, full shop	55	7.98%
Yes, limited shop	171	24.82%
Yes, but not my unit's shop week	92	13.35%
No	371	53.85%
Total	689	100%
No response: 38 (5.23%)		