
**Survey Comment
Report**



Vandalia Correctional Center 2023 MQPL Survey Comments

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Introduction

Vandalia Correctional Center (Vandalia) is a minimum-security male prison within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) that housed 506 people on March 27, 2023. The John Howard Association of Illinois (JHA) conducted a modified short [Measuring the Quality of Prison Life](#) (MQPL) survey by providing enough survey packets (consisting of the [MQPL survey](#), an informed consent notice/instruction sheet, and a privileged mail prepaid business reply envelope addressed to JHA) so that every person incarcerated at Vandalia had an opportunity to participate in the voluntary and anonymous survey if they chose to do so. JHA received 171 responses to the MQPL survey from people at Vandalia through May 24, 2023, representing approximately 34% of the static population.

Below are the comments from the MQPL surveys for the open-ended survey questions followed by marginalia comments. Please note:

- All blank answers have been omitted
- Names and other personally identifying details have been redacted
- Spelling and grammar have been lightly edited for understanding and to account for possible transcriber typos

OPEN-ENDED SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q12. What are the most positive things about life in this prison?

1. The positive things about life in prison are meditation, reflection, and growth. With this time, I'm able to relax my mind and think of ways to improve overall for my community, family, and for myself. Also, with some of the reading material I get I'm able to learn new techniques to battle stress, so I won't come back.
2. Nothing.
3. Teaches you to stay out of trouble when thing dont go your way
4. Waking up every day
5. Plenty of good-time opportunities. Decent commissary.
6. Change is available if you want it.

7. The general staff treat inmates fair, with the exceptions of a few over zealot officers, who have to justify their positions or status.
8. This question largely depends on which prison you are at but here at Vandalia television programming is terrible because we watch the same thing over and over. It would be nice to have a movie channel like at most other prison facilities.
9. None.
10. Able to get outside clearance. Work industries get off the deck work stay busy.
11. these people make there own rules
12. When you get to leave.
13. there is nothing positive here in Vandalia.
14. gym yard when we have it
15. Lower numbers of inmates due to COVID which means it less negative people in my environment.
16. School.
17. I was in prison in AZ and it was by far more positive than Illinois. Better and more jobs and more positive programs.
18. I am not stuck in a tiny cell with an individual who wants to kill me.
19. I am able to use the law library frequently
20. That you may get double contracts, earn good-time.
21. Lake Land College is offered, an the teachers are helpful & fair. School was also my only chance to get good-time as well as something positive out of this prison.
22. Schooling & schooling staff mental health staff double contracts
23. The schooling The schooling staff
24. none come to mind
25. Were still alive
26. Being able to stay in contact with family.
27. Working out, and working or going to school to get good-time.
28. The Chapel offers a lot of services, "foundations for life," "taking the lead," and "celebrate recovery"
29. programs and schooling.
30. I get to read books, get commissary, read my bible to get closer to Jesus and to network with people.
31. Nothing really other than having time to reflect on your past in take time out to figure out your future and when you get out.
32. Staying away from drugs
33. None
34. The opportunity for work and school trades
35. Vocational classes
36. Nothing
37. Everyone here is somewhat close to the release date. School and vocational classes. Jobs.
38. It's all about what you make of it. This place is just the eye opener. It's up to you to make the decisions
39. My MSR date.

40. Time to read, time to think, work out
41. They cant keep me forever
42. School, jobs
43. Nothing
44. I don't have any positive things to look at in this prison because they don't apply to me. Things such as Chapel services, and pasteurized plant jobs.
45. None
46. Schooling
47. Nothing to positive about being here
48. Nothing
49. The majority of inmates are reasonably courteous to each other. Plenty of hand soap. Two blankets. New linen and clothes issued at intake.
50. Only thing positive about this prison is the free weights and school good-time.
51. We get rec every day, when we not in quarantine. We get to use the phone whenever we want, we not locked up in a cell. We get tablets and shop every week.
52. Gym, yard
53. Being allowed school when its available. There really is no positive attributes outside of that
54. Washer & dryer for clothes. Bar soap, laundry detergent, and toilet paper are provided.
55. The most positive is the exercise regiment, the in-dorm laundry machine, and our current 90-day officer because she has been as helpful as anyone here.
56. None
57. Yard.
58. N/A
59. The good-time, the programs, the conditions at the work camp are great.
60. I really dont have any positive feel because there is no order in here from staff
61. Getting to know oneself.
62. Shit at all this prison is in violation health codes its black mold everywhere
63. Nothing
64. School is the best part
65. EPSC, School
66. That Im leaving in 6 months
67. nothing
68. Self-reflection, to the person you were before you're arrest
69. I'm still alive
70. Nothing
71. We have outdates
72. Nothing is positive we get treated poorly
73. not sure
74. Nothing, not even the food or counselors
75. nothing
76. nothing
77. Use of phones + books

78. Absolutely nothing straight fucking miserable.
79. Free food and plenty of time to sleep.
80. Nothing
81. Absolutely nothing straight miserable
82. You have access to use the phones.
83. really nothing, but they do give you a little bit of chance to reduce your sentence.
84. We are able to use the phones.
85. Might get out someday
86. Nothing
87. Self-reflection on past mistakes in life.
88. nothing
89. rec time is decent the library is good and chapel is good
90. the 45 day school good-time
91. Healthy, sober
92. Nothing this worst prison Ive been to out 4 bits
93. None
94. Looking forward towards your outdate
95. Nothing is positive here. It's a very dark place
96. I really can't think of anything except when seeing people leave
97. There is nothing positive about this prison.
98. Good mental health program
99. MSR date, nothing else
100. None
101. Your outdate
102. Knowing you have a release date
103. There is nothing positive about this prison for Blacks
104. None
105. Safety
106. This place makes you hate enough to not want to come back here but it does make you want to transfer elsewhere
107. I guess that if you hate it here enough then you definitely would not want to ever come back especially to Vandalia!
108. Its open + for the most part clean.
109. I make money at ICI job.
110. Gym, yard
111. Getting out to my family
112. If you are going to come back than this is a place to learn the life and get the hook ups you need. If you trin to better yourself rehab is a whole lot better, This is a school for felons, hustlers, gang bangers
113. Im alive
114. It is a minimum security, so we aren't "locked down" all day.
115. The mental health help is very good
116. Not locked down all the time.
117. There isn't any positive thing about Vandalia

118. My outdate!
119. The workcamp is in close proximity to chowhall, yard, & gym but far from HCU and different functions for inmates.
120. My outdate!
121. I have not seen much too be positive about.
122. I think the food is the best in the state, and this prison is good on making sure we get our rec. time.
123. The vocational classes, double contracts
124. lots of time to read or draw, plus if you want education they do help you get into school quickly so that's good.
125. There are no positive things about life in this prison.
126. Classes, school, work.
127. Nothing
128. They offer schooling
129. that I wake up, and leave this place
130. N/A
131. School, jobs. This prison is okay, for being prison.
132. This prison sucks there are no TVs in your own control the two TVs in the dayroom are controlled by an reject that always play dumb shit the guards are always trying to fuck with you they play with your good-time and everything here is run down
133. None.
134. Phone & commissary.
135. The sun rise and sun sets are nice.
136. Honestly this prison should be shut down and condemned due to safety hazards
137. You can stay out of trouble.
138. None thing
139. free healthcare. 3 hots & a cot
140. Nothing
141. I get to make phone calls to my family and loved ones every day. I have a outdate.
142. The most positive thing about this prison is that I have an outdate to leave it one day. Also I can contact family on a daily basis.
143. The support in the way of healthcare + mental healthcare to help one rehabilitate themselves back into society. Having outside contact + support
144. None
145. The Building Blocks program and open phones
146. It's a dorm setting. So you are not locked in a cell.
147. Possibly a healthy reform
148. I'm a peer educator so I teach multiple classes to my peers Mental Health **[STAFF NAME REDACTED]** has helped me so much kudos! Chapel is always open for some type of service kudos **[NAME REDACTED]**! Also, the law library is great, its always available + stocked with current news, good books, law clerks + **[NAME REDACTED]** is a great lady kudos to her!
149. Nothing is positive about prison life.
150. Yard, 3 meals, chapel, check up.

151. Food is hot compared to county and Stateville!

Q13. What are the most negative things about life in this prison?

1. The most negative things about life in prison is the staff. Here they don't treat you with respect. They call you names such as "convict", "inmate", and sometimes "boy." Those behaviors are not good for my overall growth especially when you feel like theres nothing you can do.
2. The C/O's are openly racist. How disrespectful the C/O's treat us inmates. We do not get yard or gym time and food is terrible no TV's no submission of EDSC. It's so hot and humid with no air condition.
3. Listening to jail house lawyers
4. The staff at Vandalia
5. Program after program being eliminated. There used to be many very good programs – only a couple remain. Bunk rules are entirely to strict. We live here 24/7 with a 3' by 7' space.
6. Wheres the "good-time" time off your outdate from jobs
7. This facility lacks rehab programs. Healthcare unit treats patience with medication and suggest that "we should drink more water."
8. The treatment by the senior staff (some), especially here at Vandalia are definitely racially bias towards blacks. Even when they try to hide it it still comes out
9. Some of the staff treatment is terrible, the rules are not consistent and some are made up.
10. Everything (racism)
11. There is no structure can be hard to get answers to questions, programs. Staff are not trained they make their own rules.
12. The food is horrible, the way they treat you, counselors do nothing to help you, really sad treat you like a animal
13. the most negative treatment that I have ever seen is here at Vandalia, the staff here is very lazy, they play games with our mail and the rules
14. Racism.
15. Grievances are hidden or ignored if there is a valid argument.
16. The conditions. The way they talk to inmates. The way they treat inmates overall. They need to close this place period.
17. Way to many inmates and not enough jobs and programs.
18. Staff and others inmate treat me like a monster or someone lower than dog shit... daily
19. All the lying and deceiving. Public officials do not know or understand rules
20. They call this prison Klandalia. There are no minority workers in this prison. Only white officers. Who don't like minorities.
21. The staff, the way they operate like this is a max. Their attitudes towards us, as well as unorganized & lazy!

22. The way its ran the Sgt, Lts, heads of departments abuse their power
23. The way its ran how the Sgt & Lts abuse their power theres no individual TVs & the TVs in the dayroom are all on the same programing always sports
24. disrespect by staff, favoritism
25. Being treated like slaves or animals
26. One of the officers telling me he was going to stab me in my eye with his pen.
27. The way we are treated is not that great. Its a very dirty prison, roaches everywhere in dietary and they dont like to hand out good-time to the ones that deserve it.
28. Not enough staff to run self help programs. Programs constantly get cancelled. Not enough jobs for people who can't get outside clearance.
29. Being forced to interact with people, officers, staff that are negative, daily.
30. I'll try to be honest, the structure of communication, respect is not given even when it is given to the officers, disposal of my property when it is properly placed away. Also the harassment.
31. The most negative is you have guards that take they job to serious where they get big head and take their personal life and bring it to work. You have relationships with C/Os and family organization going on.
32. Its hard to get good-time
33. Never getting what I've worked for, Good-time never is correct they take away
34. Consistency
35. Not enough room to write all of the negative things.
36. They do not have TVs
37. Very few jobs, especially at night/evenings. No TVs and dayroom TV is always playing SPORTS on it! No night classes and school available. The food is horrible, our contracts are always short of days and it takes months to get processed. Commissary is always out of most everything. Getting put on COVID quarantine often for weeks at a time. Testing every week for COVID.
38. Just a lot of the staff here and a lot of other places abuse they authority more than help
39. C/O treat you like dirt, the food you dont know if its past is exp. date, we got fucked out of rec, C/Os pick + choose rules to enforce but dont follow their guidelines they carry and use chewing tobacco on prison grounds.
40. Staff attitude + actions. Each officer is different never knows the right thing to do or way to go. Staff is LAZY, don't want to do anything. Paperwork takes FOREVER to get processed. Inmates trying to move on in life and get no help.
41. There is no consistency in rules, punishment or quarantines
42. There are not a lot of options for jobs or school compared to the amount of inmates. The Dietary is awful.
43. **[STAFF NAMES REDACTED]**. No individual TVs. Lack of variety in school, jobs.
44. Racism is still real
45. No Jobs or programs
46. They don't offer more trades or higher education without being cleared for outside movement. The officers harass people who make a mistake and do not help them get corrected. They don't equally give everyone a chance like they do whites.
47. no drug program. living with black mold
48. Almost everything
49. The staff attitude towards inmates. No personal TVs The lack of urgency for paperwork to be filed, the way staff is so quick to ticket detainees to lose good-time, The way staff pick & chooses who they want to target
50. the counselors dont really do there job. Just tell you whatever they feel is best

51. No jobs or classes readily available. I have been told I'm too short to sign up for programs (less than a year). I have tried contacting all counselors and reentry staff concerning help upon release and can get very little help since I'm doing my parole time.
52. The most negative things about this prison is how we get treated by the staff. Another thing is how we must shut the dayroom down and be in our bunks by 930, It was 1030 so they took a hour from us. Another thing is how they process our contracts. Another thing is how we have no space to put our belongings and when they come through and do compliance checks or shakedowns they take our things. Same with our commissary.
53. It's not many programs we can get in for good-time. We always on quarantine. We lock up at 9:30 pm instead of 10:30 pm now. We get shakedowns to much. We get tickets for everything without warning.
54. Don't really try to help anyone get the good-time from the state. They want you here as long as possible
55. I'm a parole violator and the most negative for me is that IDOC don't help people getting discharged without parole time to do with outside living arrangements besides the streets.
56. I am expected to follow rules that were never provided to me in written form. Constant loud noise level and tremendous amount of vulgar language. I receive no support from any staff when submitting requests. We are treated like animals no matter how polite you may be toward staff.
57. Food allocation. Phone system. Arbitrary shakedowns. Commissary. Library (size of). Competency of staff. Medical assistance. Drug and alcohol programs. Counseling
58. There isn't enough programs to help re-enter society as a better person. Counselors are careless and do not help individuals with anything. Quarantine doesn't allow for education to flourish.
59. No A/C Run like a max prison.
60. Not enough programs or jobs
61. N/A
62. The negative attitudes of individuals in custody
63. How they control who gets good-time that they dont give out its always criminal history we already have been punished for in the past.
64. Not working on change
65. The staff racist they call it Klandalia
66. The other prisoners and staff Healthcare is good.
67. Bullshit tickets
68. living in a dorm
69. everything
70. treatment towards prisoners
71. No good healthcare
72. Everything
73. How they talk to us.
74. everything the staff the living we get treated poorly
75. Staff are outwardly disrespectful and instigate issues with us, use favoritism. retaliate against us
76. Staff treatment of inmates and no programs to help us for release.
77. We are being treated less than people
78. it's hard to leave here

79. The staff and security of inmates
80. treatment of inmates and no programs to help us for release or to better are self. the condition and the way the use the covid.
81. Lack of time outside living quarters. More time outside in the sun.
82. Everything
83. Racism, conditioned, poorly ranned, not enough staff. **[ILLEGIBLE]** trying to pee in something!!!!
84. Staff treatment of inmates and no programs to help us for release.
85. The staff are on drugs. Also they all act like immature adults. They make different rules as the year goes. They only try to tell you what to do not have a solution. They try to take our good-time, for every way. They don't summit people to Springfield. They are lazy. So as long as they denie you for good-time, or home detention or work release they wont have to do paperwork.
86. I can't get into programs to I get close to my release date **[YEAR REDACTED]**. The staff treat inmates badly.
87. Everything! Food is unbearable. Staff is very hostile. Everyday is worse, can't ever sleep, fear, stressful, anxiety, depression, hostile
88. everything
89. The staff doesn't view prisoners as human beings, they view us as the livestock. It's job security if we keep coming back. They don't care if come back to prison as long as the crimes committed are not by their home.
90. No matter how much I try, I keep coming back to prison.
91. The staff throws our grievances away and lie to our face and tell us we never turned them in but wont check the camera facing the box. We get searched or a shakedown every other day in our dorm. There is no respect towards us as a man. And there are no college classes offered on the hill other than career tech
92. the C/O's
93. missing home.
94. Counselor don't do thier jobs nor do they help you with your questions. Thing not working such as toilets when thier only 3 per 60 inmate and only 2 work
95. everything
96. The way C/O's treat inmates
97. Staff conduct towards us. The prison is old and run down nothing gets fixed. The food is not enough, We are treated like scum.
98. food, staff conduct. There is nothing positive to learn or activities to spend time doing. This is the worste prison in Illinois.
99. They do not support change and growth and they do nothing to help you get back to your family and community.
100. Staff is disrespectful, not enough jobs for everyone, to strict you have more at a max prison and this is a work camp. The food isn't very good. The commissary runs out of stuff all the time.
101. The C/O's treat people with no respect.
102. everything
103. Some of the staff treats inmates like they are not human
104. Poor support from counselors & staff, counselors don't know what to do and give you the wrong answers. No support for jobs or programs.
105. This prison is racist.
106. Staff and inmates
107. No TVs for inmates to have of their own only dayroom tv which causes inmates to become disgruntled because they are forced to watch TV their not interested in or

- not at all and the fact that you are not getting good-time- because you are not being submitted to Springfield for it but they lie and say you are!
108. This prison offers nothing to fairly better myself after I leave as far as getting a job or a place to live
 109. No one really seem to have any answers, or know their job. I have never been trouble here yet I cant get a job and I have a college education. I was also never a diabetic until I came to prison and this only my first offense.
 110. All they want is control. What you watch (no TVs) lights out to early. Mold in most showers. Half toilets + sinks don't work.
 111. No TV – was told two years ago TV cable will be here – still not here.
 112. Not free
 113. The staff
 114. If you not a gangster or gangbanger than all this is negative. Im hated by inmates. Im hated by C/O's so my life in here is hard cause I don't associate with either so my time is very hard n slow
 115. only certain people get the good jobs
 116. It's rough to even get contracts to earn good-time to get home to my family, unless Im of the same skin tone as certain exceptable persons, or unless I know the right officers. Sadly Im a white male and Im struggling.
 117. It is ran differently than every other prison in the state. Hard to get good-time. Very unorganized and they almost seem as if they make up their own rules.
 118. The staff is disrespectful and are bullys. The commissary is out of stuff all the time and the food sucks. Not enough jobs for everyone
 119. Staff single me out and mistreat me. Medical staff provide poor care and make huge mistakes.
 120. No personal TVs, no structure, gangs run the dorms showers and phones. People gamble causing problems. No drug program. Cannot escape the noise people are disrespectful including staff. The prison is horrible, the counselors and staff only care about paychecks not prisoners. Roaches in the kitchen the food is horrible spicy everything. Transfers take years. This place sucks healthcare and dentist are horrible.
 121. The staff!!!
 122. The negativity that leads to unnesscary fights.
 123. They do anything they want and get away with it. No grievance helps calling nothing and only certain color get good jobs and clearance (whites)
 124. I have been denied everything because of my background and deserved too get more than I have gotten.
 125. They are really slow at giving people their good-time, that was worked for. Some of the staff has really negative attitudes towards prisoners.
 126. The way its run, the fact that if you don't have outside clearance people know your background. No inmate TVs and the dayroom TVs are alway sports, the grievance procedures, everyone spins you
 127. No time alone to think straight. No routine or schedule of rules or yard or commissary. TV is controlled by them. bias of sports.
 128. Staff conduct, mail, counselors, guards, Wardens, commissary, there are no rights, prejudice, racism.
 129. Being able to get selected for classes, school, work
 130. everything
 131. They do not treat us with respect
 132. Is how this place is ran and how people are being treated

133. Laws in general
134. No TV (Individuals)
135. Good-time, programs, schooling, food, TVs, this prison should be shut down there mold and asbestos on the pipes here and most of the dorm are shut down
136. Dealing with disrespectful staff
137. No Personal TV & they control dayroom TV
138. I try to think positively.
139. The structure everything is falling apart poor staff should be shut down
140. You have to do the time.
141. Staff conduct, prejudice unprofessional
142. Attitude of some of staff, clothing, commissary, amount of time to eat
143. Food, staff conduct, building infrastructure, staff chewing tobacco including top brass, and staff sleep there whole shift on 3rds
144. The guards are very cruel and disrespectful. They belittle the individuals in custody and constantly tell them they are going to be a recidivist. They threaten us and constantly tempt us to attack them. Also when the guards don't like a certain person they try to have other individuals attack them.
145. The most negative thing about this prison is that it is biased, the majority of the guards are improperly trained. We do not receive adequate help with situations. It's as if they don't care. I understand that it's a prison, but there is little rehabilitation here.
146. The limited options of classes or opportunities to not be able to earn any good-time at 85%. How much mail is kept or handled and the fact we cannot choose what's on TV. No yard.
147. Racism
148. Lack of jobs + programs offered. The way that staff treats + dehumanizes the inmates. I feel unsafe scared and threatened because staff sleeps a lot on shift.
149. Good-time (EDSC)
150. The correctional officers are very corrupt, racist, and unprofessional. When a C/O makes a mistake, the other C/O's cover the issue up. Many C/O's chew tobacco, which is smuggling contraband into a penal institution. We do not get the required (Rec) time.
151. They all intend to spin you Basically everyone says talk to this person then when you talk to that person, they say talk to this person. And they all lie.
152. Being A Diabetic commissary sucks I need hard candy just in case my blood sugar drops but they never have not even a peppermint. The nurses are very rude to the inmates especially **[STAFF POSITION AND NAME REDACTED]** it is a shame how he curses at us and tells inmates F you don't pay my bills or oh well deal with it. And his boss hears him **[NAME REDACTED]** allows it to happen.
153. Mostly everything about prison life is negative except for a couple of programs.
154. Bullies, sexual harassment, gambling, fights
155. Very slow to access programs, clearance to work. No veteran programs. Limited programs, no longer have certain programs. I believe they do not want to give good-time but keep you incarcerated longer.

Q14. What suggestions do you have for improvement?

1. They can improve on more programs to help offenders prior to them being released. Also they need to hire better trained staff. Last but not least have a much better healthy selection of food such as fruit and veggies.
2. To train the C/O's on being more professional. Give us the allowed recreation time. For C/O's to stop smuggling chew tobacco. Make more fair for Spanish speaking inmates.
3. Nothing
4. Close this place down
5. Install the personal TV system that has been promised for 3 yr now! Work was being done installing hardware but that stopped 1 ½ yr. ago
6. I dont know, I never been locked up before
7. Give inmates an opportunity to improve their outlook of themselves and others through rehab program. Vandalia currently doesn't have any rehab pgms.
8. The prison needs more experienced C/O's & staff preferably with past military leadership if possible
9. The employees need better or more training when it comes to dealing with inmates/people
10. Close it down or diversity training
11. Better management to enforce rules and train staff to use trained skills not their feelings towards inmates.
12. Close it
13. More jobs for people. More day for day jobs & programs! 1/2 day for day is bullshit! More activities to do. More time outside
14. fix the rules and either hire or train better staff!
15. Stop being racist
16. Grievances should be put on the tablet and be not in the hands of our counselor who throws them away.
17. Close it or change the staff. On second thought just close it. Shut it down.
18. Change the I.L. prison system for more positive outcomes.
19. Make information on your "case" type + details unavailable to C/O's + other inmates so you can be treated like everyone else. Like a person!
20. Close the facility
21. Maybe if this prison was more divert with the staff.
22. Better staff, that actually car about people & want this job an not just the pay to sit on their ass.
23. Close it down
24. Close it down
25. More staff training and more programs for the inmates. We can go to more often.
26. give inmates more time to finish eating fruits & vegetables.
27. Replace the officers with ones who actually care.
28. Shut it down, no room for improvement.

29. Create more jobs for people who cant get outside clearance. More self help programs. Close down dorms that dont have air conditioning.
30. Have overseeing of staff and the way they communicate to inmates
31. Stop harassing people with racial jokes, sexual jokes and have some class.
32. They need to be more open and understand some of us made mistakes and are learning from them to become better not just for ourself but for others and family they need to treat us more like humans then animals.
33. more programs and ways to earn a good-time
34. More training and end racism
35. Consistency with staff and more maintenance done to the dorms.
36. Close it
37. get TVs for the inmates
38. Night classes and jobs available to inmates. Better, healthier food options. No more COVID lockdowns. Definitely allow us to buy personal TV's — no more 24/7 sports on dayroom TV. Process contracts in more timely manner and keep better track of our days earned. Better counselors thats actually willing to help
39. Fully filling out the staffs before allowing them to work around us people, a lot of them are hateful people here
40. Better training for officers, + or close this institution down.
41. Staff need to leave their problems at home, not take them out on us. The staff should be more respectful, they act like bullies and holier than thou. Consistency. Help inmates w/ things like work release, parole sights, home confinement etc.! Get things done
42. Close it down
43. Better food. Better options for improving ones self while incarcerated, and more available jobs as well. More commissary options (better stocked)
44. More jobs. Variety of school, vocational. Individual TV's.
45. give us our own TV. give more black people better jobs. in let us stay up until 10:30 pm
46. Everything
47. That they have more programs for people to attend to help them with their problems. Also that they get more staff in order to run a prison like the others. More ways to have people get educated with school and trades.
48. fix sinks, showers, toilets. get rid of black mold
49. Better food, commissary, recreation, etc.
50. More personnel, more job training classes, more counselors trying to get you on your feet. Jobs & classes for good-time.
51. More staff
52. Err.....funny!
53. We need more time for yard. The staff need to treat us with respect. They need to change the dayroom hours back to 10:30 pm. We should be able to program the TV to what we want to watch instead of what the staff want to watch.
54. Counselor that do work.
55. This prison needs a fair individual to hear and discipline you for your tickets. It should be 10:30pm lock up instead of 9:30pm. Need more fair staff member overall.
56. Give respect to inmates
57. The prison itself is falling apart because of the age and the lack of finances. The commissary is lacking and the schooling could be better.

58. Remove violent and degrading television programs. Add shows/movies that depict success from high moral standards and hard LEGAL work. Mandatory attendance at motivational speaker presentations. Anti gang, anti violence programming on TV.
59. There needs to be an overhaul of staff. The people who do not consider this a job where they have to assist detainees should be replaced w/ individuals who have properly trained to do their perspective position.
60. Better counselors, better programs, freedom to control what we watch on television, better food. mental health.
61. More jobs & programs. And more counselors so people can be heard
62. N/A
63. Equal opportunities for all individuals in custody or put A/C everywhere
64. If staff would stop talking down on people and treat them like there people
65. Start over with new staff
66. Close it down
67. More time for yard
68. Tear it down
69. Smaller amount of people on a dorm
70. help inmates become better people and stop treating them like there nobodys
71. to treat prison as a development facility, rather than a zoo
72. Close it!! To old
73. Close this prison or give more good-time
74. People training to talk to each other better
75. teach these people, people skills
76. retraining or new staff. Shut down.
77. Retrain all the staff members and/or get Springfield involved.
78. The whole prison staff needs reform
79. Need to be closed down
80. More cameras, better communication with inmates + needs.
81. Retrain all staff members and/or get Springfield involved.
82. Vandalia is an old prison, most dorms have mold issues and in general very dirty. Things like windows and exhaust fans especially. Areas inmates cannot clean.
83. Springfield get involved.
84. Close down, or higher Black folks, have counselors to stop lying to inmates about anything
85. Retrain all the staff members and/or get Springfield involved.
86. They need to follow prison state rules + not they own. Staff off drugs random drug test 2x a week, They need to not be lazy! Stop denying people for good-time, work release, prison transfers, start allowing Springfield to have everybody name first then they decide whats good or not!
87. Retrain all the staff members and/or get Springfield involved.
88. I would change staff. Offer help and more for inmates. They way the house people. Offer edible food
89. Close it
90. Quality of life would be better if the staff treated us as equals instead looking down on us.
91. Sell TVs, hold a federal investigation on how this prison is being operated.

92. Improve the grievance process stop allowing the officers to break state and local laws on duty like **[STAFF NAME REDACTED]** cause the death of an horse by hitting him in a side by side and failed to report it and the horse died. They the officers have sex on duty everywhere in here on 3rd shift. It's a sex post and has been for a long time for real!
93. the C/O need to learn to obide by their rules too. Every C/O has something dif to say
94. ?
95. Have set rules all C/O's follow. Do their by guide meaning counselors
96. Shut down
97. For the C/O's to follow the rules.
98. Shut it down there is nothing here
99. It needs to close this place is a breeding grounds for hate and recidivism
100. They should give people a real chance to get back to their family and should give better programs to earn good-time
101. Staff needs sensitivity training, they need to hire more staff. If you work ICC jobs you shouldn't be allowed another job. Better food and keep the commissary stocked better
102. Shut it down, theres mold everywhere. J, K, and L dorm are closed and condemed for mold.
103. Close it
104. Tear it down its very dilapitated
105. Educate and train our support staff
106. Higher more diverse people. Diversity training
107. TVs for inmates to have of their own. Being put in for good-time from Springfield and not being denied for it by Vandalia Direct's office!
108. To stop spinning us when a question is asked and treat us as people and not just a way to get paid. They also need to stop provoking us.
109. Get TVs fix more stuff inmates use. And fix how they select outside clearance. Allow black inmates to work in the pasteurizer plant.
110. TV being sold – honor dorms.
111. Allow all outgoing phone calls
112. For the C/O to treat us like people
113. Give everybody a chance to work and not let other inmates run the job care here I can not get a job in pasturizer because inmates dont like me so the boss there listens to them
114. More contract opportunities and alot more behavioral classes that offer more good-time incentives. Give us the resorces to become better persons and the incentives to want to obtain opportunities from those resorces.
115. Shut this place down!!!
116. More sensitivity training for staff, quit letting people work industries and other jobs. Better food and keep commissary stocked better
117. SHUT IT DOWN!!!
118. Shut the place down its falling apart. half the shower heads work the toilets backup into the dorms. There is black mold everywhere.
119. The C/O's need better people skills, + they need to get better counselors!!!
120. Routine and communication between staff members, confusion breeds chaos. Nobody is on the same page.
121. Close it down It's mill dued and really old and unliveable situation

122. Need a lot of help.
123. More useful programs!
124. Close it down
125. Art program, I'm bias for this honestly. Organized, and consistency of rules, meals, commissary and rek yard.
126. New staff from Warden on down, Feds need to acquire control of the prison
127. allow all to take classes, school, work.
128. We are all human
129. They should help us more so that the chances of us coming back are none
130. Improvement of drug, gun, and sex laws. As well, as, self-defense laws.
131. Individual TVs would make this prison a better prison.
132. To shut this shit hole down
133. Train officers better
134. Sell us TVs
135. I try to think positively
136. None
137. We get more good-time
138. To close it down, all of it!
139. Burn it down & build a new one. Better staff, mattresses. Better food & commissary.
140. Close it!! Stop C/O's from chewing tobacco in a prison Its a crime!
141. Get a more diverse group of guards in here to run it. The guards think they are better than us because of one situation that landed us here. More programs and jobs to help better us when we get out.
142. Equalness, fairness, and more training for the guards. More programs, more of a chance to show that you are growing and still human.
143. Have measurements taken when suggestions or grievances are made. Have counselors get more involved.
144. Closing this horrible place
145. Add more jobs + programs. Hold staff more responsible for the mistakes they make. Make more fair for culturally diverse people.
146. TVs, put in for EDSC
147. The C/O's need to be held accountable, they all protect each other. Are basic rights are always violated, and nothing happens to the people who violate them. The prison is old, inhabitable, and filled with black mold. The place should be shut down.
148. none
149. Stop opening legal mail in the mail room out of my presence. Stop policing this prison like its a Supermax prison. Follow up from the counselors and especially the grievance officers would help. Vandalia loses 6-10 grievances and tell you that it was never submitted or that it was written in pencil when it wasn't so they just throw it away like counselor **[NAME REDACTED]** has done recently... hello what?
150. I would suggest that IDOC start thinking about the inmates more. Oppose to mistreating the inmates
151. More guards watching
152. Create a self-guided/self-study program in social/behavior modification and re-entry to give good-time to those who complete programs. Expand programs and/or bring back the horse/dog programs.

Q15. Please write any other comments or feedback on this survey below.

1. I hope this survey makes some changes here. I've been here a full year and this has been a tough experience. I've never been somewhere where I feel like I'm nothing. The only thing that gets done down here is taking away privileges and delays on things to make this place run better. I know we all made mistakes but to be treated like nothing is the ultimate injustice. Thank you for hearing our thoughts and concerns and I hope eventually this here will make a change!
2. The C/O's smuggle tobacco products in the prison. If you are not white, you are treated different. The C/O's, sergeants, and lieutenants cover for each other when inmate rights are violated. This is by far the worst prison in the state. We are surrounded by racist. There is nothing for people with 85%. It's hard to do time here. The C/O's violate the rules and the law regularly without accountability. Send help please. This institution does not meet state or federal requirements + should be shut down. These are inhumane living conditions with no air condition.
3. NA
4. It is so fucked up here! You have to be white just to make it here – Thay is not putting us in for our good-time
5. The entire facility is in a state of disrepair. Buildings + grounds – for this dorm many sinks, toilets + half the showerheads dont work – I have been in this dorm 11 mo. – still broken. No staff plumber!
6. need more parole site/half-way housing updates
7. The officers + staff here are racist, the mail is always late and sometimes lost.
8. C/O's need more supervision from higher ups, better training. Counselors dont do their jobs constantly lie to you giving you false information or no information on your manner. The dietary is horrible inmates run the kitchen make whats easier to feed us horrible tasting. Not nutritious, not enough vegetables or fruit. They dont give us the juice, milk, or other things. The people in industries or kitchen workers eat the better food they dont serve for chow.
9. This place need to be shut down
10. One C/O will say dont do this. Another will say do it. The handbook is vague/not a lot of info. More visits by the wardens
11. I helped a Spanish speaking person fill out a grievance about a Spanish translation T.A.B.E. test, which Vandalia does not offer. So, he cannot pass the test in English. Also, he works a \$300 a month job at the meat plant and cannot get the money for the job because he dont have citizenship paper work. if he works he needs to get paid and not just get good-times days for it.
12. This should not be considered prison-or-jail period. it sucks.
13. Survey is a good thing. So you can get answers without staff getting in the way of answers because it goes out as legal mail and cant be messed with.

14. If prison were more of a place of learning and healing for our various issue instead of a place of ridicule and degrading attitude/punishments then there would be a lot less recidivism! In other words, help not hurt!
15. This prison is condemned. Look it up online
16. **[ILLEGIBLE]** it should be closed.
17. Need diversity, other nationalities, strong feeling these (most) C/Os are racist & unfair to minority!
18. Some inmates are concerned that these questionnaires won't even make it out of the prison, that they'll be thrown away. This may be pointless writing this. Maybe you can come up with a way to inform us of how many you actually received. If you read this.
19. Officers here use heavy profanity to get the point across. That's not necessary. It makes negativity & hostility amongst one another
20. Every prison in Illinois sells personal TVs besides this one. Personal TVs would make a big difference. There is a Toilet in the WS dorm that has been unusable and out of order for 10 months that I've been here. Also it's hard to get a haircut regularly because we have no regular staff barber.
21. Today was Easter Sunday... I am new here and asked a question and got talk to like a little child I witness a C/O call another inmate a retard... we are getting rushed and herded like animals without warnings times we do things change so it's like we are supposed to be standing at the door 24/7 waiting or else we get whipped (mentally) and I'm already stressed. It's hard not to stress and flip out when you're trapped in an environment designed to make you stress and flip out because if we do it's our own fault.
22. It's a construction zone not perfection. It'll take time but this treatment here is unacceptable, there's no accountability here. GOD BLESS YOU
23. I really just feel as if we were treated better and if they had more of a heart to understand where we come from they would understand sometimes this is not how we were raised but the environments we're around. That's where our mistakes get made some of us don't choose this lifestyle but people and your environment bring you to protect yourself. Then the good-time becomes confusing because you have people a lot of people getting denied because of criminal history but we all have a criminal history then you got some people who got their good-time with worst backgrounds then others and that's just not right.
24. Prison sucks.
25. Racism is a big part in this facility and only White guys get the day for day jobs never Mexicans or Blacks just the White guy's sad.
26. Believe people with 85% cases should be able to earn some good-time!
27. This is a min. joint. I would rather be in a max.
28. The counselors are not helpful at all. They act as though it's a burden to even ask the simplest questions. We are often put on Covid lockdown so the staff don't have to deal with us. A lot of office people (counselors, records office, etc...) has become very lazy since Covid. They do not want to work. LTS officer **[NAME REDACTED]** plays sports everyday and the prison will not allow us to buy personal TVs to watch what we prefer. They try to brainwash us with the B.S. they play on TV only sports and CBS news!
29. Nothing to much more than that
30. Certain officers + Lt. will go search people's charges up at home and come to jail telling inmates
31. This prison (Vandalia Correctional Center) lacks programs schooling and jobs. Time spent here is not in rehabilitation.

32. There are a lot of staff that are on a power trip, the counselors are all spin doctors and spin you off with bullshit and never actually help with anything. Not all staff are like that but a lot are.
33. People come + go quickly. Any issues go unsolved/unresolved/under addressed. no menu for breakfast lunch dinner. Asked for transfer papers in Jan. (beginning), turned in at end of Jan. was submitted for transfer in April. Still here.
34. Thank you for your time.
35. They need to stop with all the petty down talking to inmates and provoking of inmates petty tickets food and less people per dorm
36. The living situations are poor & gross. people are stacked on top of each other.
37. I have been trying to get counseling for mental health issues and there is no programming or group available here at all. I am being released with no parole and have nothing to get out to so I really need support but it is not available. I'm terrified and have made multiple requests for help and I just keep getting the same response. "We are experiencing staff shortages." Is that a valid excuse to deny people health treatment?
38. On the dorm that I'm on there are no sprinkler system. Only 2 toilets work on the dorm. The ICI jobs are basically limited to white inmates especially the pasteurizing plant. They sell us more commissary than we are "Allowed" to have according to the staff. We really need somebody to come inspect this place to see the black mold thats here, how the staff treats us.
39. I believe that the governments should take a strong look at helping those of us who truly want and need outside support. There are certain staff that actually look out for us and try to do what they can for us but there is a lot of red tape to tie their hands
40. I am guessing that these surveys are mandatory and not driven by any sincere concern about quality. I expect nothing to change as a result of this.
41. The dormitories are antiquated. A poor cooling system that is in place coupled w improper ventilation system. Sinks and toilets do not work properly (which is not sanitary). Showers leak and many shower heads do not work. Communication devices are faulty and irregular Constant harassment by officers make living conditions unbearable. Their disregard for a detainees personal liberties is deplorable. This place should be condemned!!
42. We need better staff, and grievances are being torn up and thrown out.
43. Have 3 months left the doctor in Springfield wants to **[MEDICAL DETAILS REDACTED]** + wont let me go home on ankle bracelet to see my doctor also have **[MEDICAL DETAILS REDACTED]** but wont let me go home, counselor is not trying to get me home
44. We need to be treated as people not as a number. Stop the discrimination and stereotypical judgement. Help us Help me I want to be a better person.
45. N/A
46. Thanks for bettering my life
47. How can they over ride the judges + states attorney rule like saying youll get a year good-time when you get here this place says you dont get it on class 3+4 charge's non-violent.
48. Wardens here not really in touch with what's going on and not having barber shop open. its also dirty in places that need cleaning.
49. 85% needs some good-time in some way!!
50. Stop with this nonsense. If you came to this unit, you would see 50 people in custody with 1 sink 3 Toilet 3 urinals 4 Phones. Get Real.
51. I've been waiting 2 months for healthcare.

52. Hope this helps
53. I think this prison should be shut down. the living conditions are poor and the staff treats you poorly... Oh and it's a lot of racism here towards blacks.
54. This place isn't right, and need to be close down
55. N/A
56. I think this prison should be closed down the living conditions are poor and the staff treats you poorly and the keep taking everything good for us away it like the trying to keep people here when the suppose to be kicking people out. Nothing is positive about Vandalia CC. They take everything from us on a daily basis. Don't offer any reentry for individuals here Basically just do your time just unfair.
57. Here at Vandalia you can ask a Sgt, a Lt, a Major, and a Warden the exact same question and get diffent answers from them all. Also from one shift to the next things are ran differently. The only things staff agree on are their supposive low wages and being short on staff. This had lead to a culture of depression amongst the staff which can be felt by the inmates.
58. I hate it here.
59. Get me the hell up outta here. Thank you. Sincerely yours. Convict. Nothing is positive about Vandalia CC. They take everything from us on a daily basis. Dont offer any reentry for individuals here. Basically just do your time just unfair.
60. I think this prison should be shut down. the living conditions are poor and the staff treats you poorly... Oh and it's a lot of racism here towards blacks.
61. They need to fix this prison Vandalia CC the system and building. The drinking sinks leaks Dirty stuff is rigged up around drinking supplies. The staff don't know how to run a business. They all avoid doing whats nessesary. They lie all the time, Springfield don't know the half about what goes on here. They have janitor's everybody take a shift or break for another C/O How can a janitor become a C/O all in 30 minutes in the same clothes he janitor in. They need to allow people to transfer, get good-time, or home detention. They deny everybody for criminal history and stop Springfield for reviewing it if they deny stop it here first, so Springfield never gets to have any say so out of 100 people nobody gets it.
62. I think this prison should be shut down, the living conditions are poor and the staff treats you poorly. It's a lot of racism here towards black inmates.
63. They constantly put us on lockdown for no reason, no one has Covid. They are committing fraud and lie. Theres mold here, smell shit all day everyday. Guards can be hostile and abusive. They treat me [ILLEGIBLE] Cant ever attend any service school program or work. I would like to talk to someone. Havent been able to talk to anyone I know and cant buy anything I need. Its not fair to me at all. I never been here befor and have not done anything to these people at all. I would like to have info to write someone outside of Illinois.
64. They make it horrible to report real problems
65. I been incarcerated for almost [20+] years now, I was doing fine in the previous prison I was in. I had a steady job, stayed out of trouble. Since I been down in Vandalia C.C. I feel like I am regressing back to my worser days in prison. It's causing me to be mentally unstable. I don't like that feeling.
66. This prison is a trap, they bring you in and push you back out so you could back to prison. They don't help with prepare for the free world.
67. The counselors waited over a week to pass these out and not to everyone the workers out of the dorm hasn't gotten them. Some dorms have and some have not. The officers told us to be patient for what IDOC has had these since last week before Easter or so. Programs about drugs and stuff is offered to a few groups but damn

- near 70% of us are here because of drug use, selling or theft to get the drugs So offer it to anyone who wants it.
68. the C/O do not care where we are kept if things work toilets work or not one day we had a broke urinal with pee leaking on the floor not to mention the urinal was in our living area we were denied mops cleaning products while on a Covid quarantine
69. I've been resumed on parole and I need a halfway house or rehab placement can you help me please **[NAME AND ID REDACTED]**. thank you
70. This prison is a joke for all prison this family run prison son's daughters husband wives don't follow Springfields rules what so ever make up own rules as they go and between shift. I thought first ticket minor one was verbal not here
71. The C/O's like to make up rules and try to punish inmates for bogus shit when theres regular C/O's, sargeant's lieutenant's, and two majors that break laws every day by bringing tobacco into the facility.
72. There is no programs and the ones that there is has long waiting list. All the officers chew tobacco + spit it all over and bring it into the facility which is a crime
73. Its corrupt here, staff bring in contraband such a chewing tobacco and do it right in our faces knowing it's a crime & they are very racist towards Blacks & sex offenders
74. It is needed so people outside of prison can understand what's going on in these prisons instead of what the officers say to keep a job. So we can come together as a whole to fix the problems.
75. The mail room needs to hire and train another person, we have went any where from 1-5 days with no mail or emails because the one lady who works the mail room is off
76. They need better counselors than the ones they have now. Stop the guards from sleeping while they are on the clock getting paid to work not to sleep
77. You should have asked about good-time or time off for work or from the state I think this place take away peoples good-time like mine my 6 months good-time was taken because of my record, I don't have a bad record
78. The most used answer from counselor is "I don't know." Counselor won't take extra steps to help you.
79. This prison has a white power culture. The Black population is discriminated against and treated different then the white population. The nick name for this place is Klandalia
80. Hope that is will improve Vandalia because they are keeping people here because of money
81. I have seen other prisons, i.e. Robinson, Taylorville that run 10 times better than Vandalia and they treat you more humane. They staff here (most) need more training on how to communicate with all races of people not just one race.
82. I feel most of the counselors here, don't do what is asked of them. And writing grievances here never get back to inmates so we can forward to Springfield. And being in other prisons, this is the most racised prison i've ever been in! Also, this facility has the worse mailing system/mailroom, i seen or been around in IDOC
83. C/O need to enforce rules – they just sleep on job, rooms are way to loud after lights out – I work from 4am-2pm.
84. Allow all outgoing phone calls
85. As well I cant get a transfer to Murphysboro because I am a vulnerable status. I got raped on my first bit, nothing was done as reported til by second bit now Im on my third bit trin to be transferred to a facility that I can earn good-time and better myself but they wont let me because they put a label on me and did nothing about the situation. So now Im paying the price again. I was forced to live with the person who raped me until he got caught with another inmate. And now Im force to live in a place

- that has no programs to better myself, no good-time 4 jobs because inmate run the job care so I stuck here with **[NUMBER REDACTED]** years left already done **[NUMBER REDACTED]** years and its just horrible because I cant transfer this place is keeping me hostage. Keeping me from bettering myself, keeping me from receiving good-time. Thank you.
86. I have a daughter who was just born. I want to be a better father & man in general. We men deserve to be in an environment that is beneficial to our need to rehabilitate and overall embetterment of ourselves. We need behavioral classes and incentives to want to better ourselves. There are not enough job's or behavioral class or educational openings to help everyone out in this prison. Hire more staff. Fund more educational and behavioral classes with incentives that will drive inmates to want to participate. Maybe even offer more incentives to the inmate job's. Rehabilitation – vs – incarceration.
 87. Conditions are terrible. Worst prison in Illinois by far!!! I've been to 2 others and Stateville NRC also.
 88. Video visits get cancelled all the time because short staff our mail and emails get held up if the lady doesnt work we have been denied mail for from 1-4 days
 89. I have been here for 8 months and can't get a job. Staff are being vindictive because I write grievances about valid events and concerns. The whole over-all operation of this facility is poor.
 90. The best thing about Vandalia is you can refuse housing to get shipped out.
 91. This is the most racist institution I've ever been in!!! They make rules up as they go + use the Direct Order rule to hide behind.
 92. This institution is by far the worst institution I've been to. Confusion among staff which doesn't allow inmates to get into a routine, and there are no TVs to keep people involved in something besides drama!
 93. Glad it gave us chance to exspress and it possibly get heard our grievance get thrown away + punish us without a hearing always guilty no matter what (Racist place)
 94. they deny you things here and say Springfield did it, and Springfield doesn't even know about certain things. Like work release, ankle monitor, 6 months good-time, or anything else.
 95. I hope this gets something done, Thank you for the survey
 96. Most of staff is polite and helpful honestly. They do help with school to help but the inmate in custody has to put in leg work for everything. And the don't help you look for halfway houses for those in need. and Covid testing is ridiculous when there is no Covid restrictions and quarantined locked down, cut our commissary down and feels like a punishment. and if you don't test they do punish you with seg.
 97. The staff will definitely read this and make life here a lot worse.
 98. prison should be held accountable more.
 99. lock up the Black man was planed they make up 14% of pop USA but make up 72% of the people in custody.
 100. Is to be treated of a man of respect or as a number or a animal
 101. As said in Q14.
 102. **[STAFF NAME REDACTED]** should be reviewed. She treats everyone with disrespect.
 103. The staff chew tobacco, smoke and treat us like animals
 104. Teach officer how to talk to inmates with respect
 105. Complete waste of my time
 106. Executive inspector general have all of my complaints

107. The biggest improvement that has been made since my incarceration at this resort has been in the medical staff. The nurse practitioner tries as best as she can to help heal your issues
108. Substance abuse is at a all time high involving individuals coming to IDOC there is nothing here for addicts but a 60 day class
109. I hope this survey helps us because this prison isn't safe. We constantly have to look over our shoulders, not from each other but from the staff. They try to dehumanize us as much as possible and constantly tell us were worthless. I was once told that I would be stabbed in my eye with a pen by staff. They also make jokes about penises and other sexual advances and think that it's okay. I feel this prison should be strongly looked into.
110. I know prison is a business but as a prisoner we still have rights don't we? We get called "Inmates," we get treated poorly with no explanation and most of us are stressed and feel incapable. Maybe I did put myself here but it's supposed to be about becoming a better person. I am not just a paycheck. Our grievances don't even make it out the building most times. And there will almost always be retaliation for writing one.
111. Allow 85% timers (inmates) to be allowed to earn good-time.
112. This place is horrible; and ran by racist people and staff. And inmates.
113. Jobs should be day for day good-time like programs are.
114. I feel this place is a disgrace to the Illinois prison system. The C/O's even complain. Our rights as prisoners are almost always violated, with no consequences to the people who violate them. I feel unsafe, threatened, and scared for my life in this institution. Grievance policies are not followed, and the issue is never resolved. When I express an issue, almost always is it followed up with a shakedown. It is like they use them as retaliation. There is no cultural diversity, if you are not white, you are treated as below a human. They have no Spanish speaking C/O's, so if you do not know English it's very hard to get by without getting in trouble for not knowing what the C/O's are saying. Please take serious. Please send help!!!
115. I would ask for you guys to look into how these people talk to us. Also how they lie on tickets in order to stop our good-time, and how they take us into the covid dorm to get everyone sick so they can get more money. The Sgt told me he was going to beat my ass and make my time harder at Vandalia. Thanks
116. D Dorm I've been in were on an internet satellite communications MABAS periodically tethered to inmates staff and officers. I was under an article II that might have something to do with it all. I'm set to get out in **[MONTH REDACTED]** but while I'm here I'm being coerced into complaining about how I'm being tether touched and restrained like painful tightening of my shoulder or knee. **[NAME AND ID REDACTED]**.
117. Ive been here a long time and its a shame how the men disrespect the women by sexually harassing them. Also on third shift the C/O's have sex all over the place and brag about it to us so you know we look at the woman a little differently. I even saw **[STAFF NAME REDACTED]** come on F dorm while his girlfriend was working 3rd Shift + while sitting on the toilet I heard him and **[STAFF NAME REDACTED]** having intercourse for at least five minutes. Also they screw in the barber shop, gym, chapel, basement of healthcare, visiting room + the closed dorms on the south end. Also inmates are not allowed to have cigarettes or tobacco products but the officers, Sgt., LT. all walk around with chew in their jaw like its legal. Thats an outright crime to bring that stuff in the penal system!!! And on third shift someone is so comfortable that they smoke on grounds near the barbershop we can smell the smoke like they

- are sitting next me. Ive seen officers with E-cigs recently she went in her pocket to get something and it hit the floor. C/O [NAME REDACTED] smokes in the bathroom on her shift like she is at home and has the inmates spray some smell good in the living area to mass the smell. And they are all allowed to administer justice to us, treat us like shit. Break a local, State + Federal Law and treat this place like a whore house and get paid to do it. SMMFH IDOC!!!
118. Please check into Vandalia C.C. they are not being fair to the inmates about they're freedom and also rights.
 119. More good-time for first offender/only offender
 120. If you are not white, it is harder to be granted jobs or programs. You can see all white workers in pasteurizing/yard jobs. Very few minorities are granted positions. If population is mostly imbalanced to work/job/school placement! Provide programs to veterans for their service to country!

OTHER MARGINALIA COMMENTS

Q2. Race or ethnicity (White, Black, Hispanic or Latino, or Other)

1. [Other] I'm an African American. Black is a color not a race.
2. [Blank] Afr. Amer.

Q4. Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25? (Yes/No)

1. [Yes] 24

Q5. What housing status are you on?

1. [Blank] Covid 19 lockdown 30 days now.
2. [Other] The Crazy House.
3. [Other] Quarantine.
4. [General Population] (quarantine unit).
5. [General Population] (quarantine unit).
6. [Other] Work camp.
7. [General Population] "Quarantined"
8. [General Population] (quarantine unit)
9. [General Population] (quarantine unit)
10. [Other] They keep putting us on Covid lockdown no one is sick and no one new comes or goes for anyone to be sick. They are defrauding government funds and creating a hostile environment wrongfully locking us down [ILLEGIBLE] time in a row.
11. [Other] work camp

Q6. Are you currently getting at least two hours a day out of your cell or sleeping area? (Yes or No)

1. [No] 1-1 1/2 hours.
2. [Yes] Dormitories.

Q7. Do you have a work or school assignment? (Work, School, Both, Neither)

1. [Work and School] But do to covid quarantine neither
2. [Work] Not allowed to go due to quarantined.
3. [Blank] But do to lockdown. Getting neither one.
4. [Work and School] isn't due to Covid quarantine, so what's up with that
5. [Neither] medical restriction
6. [Neither] Cant get schooling/inmates stop me from getting job

Q8. Mark response that best describes how you feel (Strongly Agree = SA, Agree = A, Neutral = N, Disagree = D, Strongly Disagree = SD)

Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.

1. [N] Individuals
2. [SD] Staff
3. [SA] either the C/O like you or they dont

Staff here treat incarcerated people fairly when applying the rules.

1. [D] Whites are treated better.

I get along well with the officers on my unit.

1. [Blank] Anytime I ask about something Im cussed at yelled at belittled and make me feel stupid and my life dont matter

The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.

1. [Blank] **[ILLEGIBLE]** to get anything done
2. [SD] They don't let us follow chain
3. [SD] you cant get nothing done unless you know some one

I have been helped significantly by a staff member with a particular problem.

1. [N] Vagueness, limited

I am treated as a person of value

1. [SD] A C/O will disrespect you/but if you disrespect them the tear up your box and area than throw away or give your property to other inmates

Q9. Mark response that best describes how you feel (Strongly Agree = SA, Agree = A, Neutral = N, Disagree = D, Strongly Disagree = SD)

Some of the treatment I receive is degrading

1. LT. [NAME REDACTED]

To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations

1. [SA] Doesnt matter what I say or do

To get things done, you have to ask and ask and ask.

1. [SA] Everything – no results

Supervision of incarcerated people is poor.

1. [Blank] ?

The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.

1. [Blank] No one will help.

Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.

1. [A] Whites

I can't improve my situation through good behavior.

1. [SA] I have been here for more than a year but cant get a job because of other inmates

On the whole, I am just doing time rather than using my time.

1. [SA] Wasting time

Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms

1. [SA] (Only)

When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.

1. [A] Warden only
2. [D] Can't get a face to face.

There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.

1. [SA] (Race)

I have to buy and sell things in order to get by.

1. [Blank] I plead the fifth.
2. [Blank] unable to buy or sell food is unbearable and not always allowed to eat.

Decisions are dominated by concerns about security.

1. [Blank] I don't know

Q10. Mark response that best describes how you feel (Strongly Agree = SA, Agree = A, Neutral = N, Disagree = D, Strongly Disagree = SD)

Anyone who harms themselves is considered by staff to be more of an attention seeker than someone who needs help.

1. [Blank] Have not experienced that.

I am able to maintain meaningful contact with my outside supports.

1. [N] I have to buy phone time from inmates

This prison is safe for incarcerated people.

1. [A] If you are white.

Mental health treatment is available.

1. [A] Limited.

I am satisfied with food from dietary.

1. [SD] Horrible and nasty.
2. [SD] Cold and bad

Q11. Overall, on a scale of 1 to 10, mark the box this prison deserves in term of the quality of life/general treatment of the people incarcerated here.

1. [5] Fix the food and commissary. No T.C Pattys we dont eat them state waste money.
2. [1] negitive -10

Miscellaneous Comments

1. Klandalia such as the Ku Klux Klan.
2. I'm still on lockdown and I have gotten the Covid 19 shot. Not getting no good-time.
3. Please acknowledge
4. Vandalia prison should be shut down its a shit hole and is full of mold and asbestos wrapped pipes



This report was compiled by JHA staff. Media inquiries should be directed to JHA's Executive Director Jennifer Vollen-Katz at (312) 291-9555 x205 or jvollen@thejha.org

Incarcerated individuals can send privileged mail to report concerns and issues to the John Howard Association, P.O. Box 10042, Chicago, IL 60610-0042. JHA staff read every letter and track this information to monitor what is occurring behind prison walls and to advocate for humane policies and practices. Family and friends can contact JHA via our website www.thejha.org or by leaving us a voicemail at (312) 291-9183.

Since 1901, JHA has provided public oversight of Illinois' juvenile and adult correctional facilities. Every year, JHA staff and trained volunteers inspect prisons, jails, and detention centers throughout the state. Based on these inspections, JHA regularly issues reports that are instrumental in improving prison conditions. JHA humbly thanks everyone who agreed to be interviewed for this report and who graciously shared their experiences and insights with us.

