
**Survey Comment
Report**



Stateville 2022-23 MQPL Survey Comments

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Open-Ended Survey Questions	4
Q12. What are the most positive things about life in this prison?	4
Q13. What are the most negative things about life in this prison?	9
Q14. What suggestions do you have for improvement?	18
Q15. Please write any other comments or feedback on this survey below.....	26
Other Marginalia Comments	38

Introduction

Stateville Correctional Center is a maximum-security male prison within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) that housed 616 people on September 14, 2022. It is the parent prison for the Northern Reception and Classification Center (NRC) and the Stateville Minimum Security Unit (MSU). 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](#), informed consent notice/instruction sheet, and privileged mail prepaid business reply envelope addressed to JHA) so that every person incarcerated at Stateville in the max or MSU had an opportunity to participate in the voluntary and anonymous survey if they chose to do so. JHA did not survey people in NRC. At the time of the survey Stateville was in the beginning stages of transforming to become a multi-security prison. JHA received 189 responses to the MQPL survey from people at Stateville through February 15, 2023, representing approximately 30.7% of the static population. JHA also conducted a monitoring visit of the prison close in time to survey distribution.

Comments from an additional four surveys received after the data compilation are included herein; one specifically speaks to experiences at Stateville NRC, which JHA did not otherwise include in this survey.

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. I'm not surrounded by racist white officers ALL the time.
2. That there is no violence
3. Opportunity for school and learning. Allowing in religious organizations that come on a regular basis.
4. That it's close 2 Chicago, so able 2 get visits
5. Nothing is positive about life in this prison
6. The telephone system; the dietary food
7. College classes
8. Nothing
9. The personal changes
10. Certain programs, close to city for family travel
11. I learned that this is not where I want to be for the rest of my life and I have learned my lesson, plus if I ever get out I will not come back.
12. The education programs, think tanks, college courses, etc.
13. The fact that I still have life
14. Somewhat more movement than Menard, opportunity to change, etc.
15. Educational programs if you are in the fortunate few to be accepted.
16. TV cable – cell alone
17. Visitation distance and the school programs
18. I really like the staff. The administration and the counseling staff are very responsive (communication wise).
19. Staying to myself which I haven't been to the yard during the past 3 years
20. Wake up call to be better, avoid prison
21. It gives you time to think and appreciate the small things in life
22. None
23. Educational opportunities—especially college degrees
24. Your not homeless or living on the streets
25. The school and other programs they have here for us.
26. The fact that they have a higher education program for those wishing to participate. There is not a lot of positives about this place.
27. Nothing
28. Going for a master's degree that's it
29. I am close to the city, my family, friends... There are some good officers that will help you
30. Dialysis Treatment

31. 1) the college programs and chapel services 2) at times the work details 3) trips to the outside hospital
32. Learning from your situation!!!
33. Self-development
34. Educational programs are slowly coming back!
35. Educational programs. Mental help.
36. Programs and yards when not on lockdown because staff refuse to come to work
37. There is only one, it's close to home
38. Go outside
39. Educational programs (point blank) and that's if/when you are allowed to enroll into said programs.
40. Almost no violence
41. Close to Chicago, Black officers so there is no racism.
42. If you act like you have some sense, you get treated like you have sense
43. None! This place fuckin sucks! I've been in crack houses better than this!
44. Nothing at all!
45. The educational opportunities. The overall promptness of sending and receiving emails.
46. Educational opportunities
47. School!
48. Education to those in need
49. Nothing!
50. School
51. Education opportunities & being close to loved ones in Chicago enabling easy visitation
52. Honestly speaking we still alive; nothing else positive
53. The most positive thing about this prison is the opportunity/privilege to attend the different universities. I wish I could have said visits from family and others who support you and religious services or programs. However these have stopped totally or by 90%. This prison is both hell and death if not for the universities.
54. Time
55. Although the living conditions here are inhumane, there is great educational opportunities available to some. This facility is close to where my family members live. The staff is not violent, but they do not do their jobs. Period!
56. College classes
57. I don't know
58. At this time nothing.
59. Location to Loved ones
60. The college programs
61. The prison is so POOR on ALL levels it makes you really focus on getting out.
62. There are no positive things about life in prison
63. Being close to Chicago
64. This situation will not last forever, and because of my experience I'll never return.
65. Being alive

66. The inhumane living conditions forces me to think & be positive in order to have a chance at freedom one day.
67. They have a school system
68. Being involved in Northwestern Prison Education Program. There are changes taking place in IDOC to better us looking forward. Hopefully parole will come back to the State of Illinois!
69. School
70. 1. That some staff and security do not complain about cell compliance. 2. How that I have been afforded a chance at a college-level education I am feeling better about my future prospects. But it has taken me all this time to be allowed to do so. I have been in and out of prison since I was [**>20 YEARS OLD**] and this is my first chance at a college degree.
71. More relaxed. Not too strict on, for example, "cell compliance." Access to texting/music on tablets
72. College classes
73. That I wake up, to another day, closer to my MSR date.
74. I'm lived to see another day. Stateville is one of the prisons that offer higher education (college courses)
75. School
76. None
77. The most positive things about life in this prison is the universities such as North Park, Northwestern, DePaul, Northeastern, and other programs that come in
78. Waking up being able to thank god that you're still alive + not dead!
79. There are college degree programs in this prison even though they only have limited availability
80. Being creative
81. Nothing
82. Islamic Jumma prayer service
83. You're allowed to persuade your solitude to become a new you. to know one teach one (KOTO)...In prison we have an enormous amount of time a college student would trade for. Also we have a large amount of self-help time to use (18) hours of daily cell time
84. I don't have anything positive to say?
85. There is nothing positive about being in prison
86. no one has killed me yet.
87. Nothing
88. Gives you the time to reflect on past decision's hoping to make better one's in the future! And also you will grow and just be a better and smarter person regardless of the situation you can still do better
89. This prison have good educational programs
90. That most people are regular people who just messed up and want to go home. I have gained friends, brothers, and faith. All of which want the best for me. Really
91. School programs and jobs

92. For certain people you are able to really become a better person from going to the classes they have to offer and the education is a plus
93. There is nothing positive about this prison
94. I was able to get into north park!
95. If you have the right connections, you are able to get a decent education
96. Nothing
97. The northwestern prison education program
98. Can't say
99. My mental health counselor and psychiatrist. They're 2 great women whom helped change me as a person
100. Programs, school, college, closer home
101. Being close to my elderly grandmothers
102. Schools
103. Teaching the younger people the ways
104. Is nothing positive here. Because is no programs here. You go home the same way you come here
105. One day you go home or you die here, this is not a positive place
106. The most positive things about Stateville are its proximity to family/friends in Chicago and the fact that they offer a Master's Degree program from North Park University **[PERSONAL DETAILS REDACTED]** a Bachelor's degree from Northwestern University and NE14's University without Walls program. Other than that, there is nothing much else positive here.
107. The ability to have the time to do introspection on yourself
108. School
109. Nothing
110. There is none
111. Academic (degree) programs offered are exceptional
112. There are none
113. Being able to use the phone, getting into school, programs if you happen to know somebody or catch the right person in traffic to sign up into a class or program. Your close as your going to get in a prison, for your family to be able to come and visit you, if you live out here in chicago that you are around staff who are somewhat similar to you, as far not just in race, but the same kind of upbringing and more relatable than in a farther prison like down south in Menard, where seeing a black or latino staff member is as rare as bumping into your favorite celebrity. Just walking down the street! It just don't happen!???
114. A one-man cell now!
115. Still Alive
116. The only positive things about life in this prison are that 1) its close to home and 2) if you are one of the lucky few to get in, there is the college programs like Northwestern, and UWW (Northeastern Illinois). That's it
117. Church, opportunity to possibly go to school
118. Been able to talk to mental health
119. The opportunity to go to college

120. [STAFF NAME REDACTED] has programs that helps individuals in the long run but nothing else is positive here
121. There are none
122. There are not one positive thing about this prison
123. Your going to have some sort of work ethic if you lacking in that area you can't be here unless you work
124. Nothing
125. Not one thing at all
126. Not a damn thing!
127. Quiet time with GOD
128. Going home
129. We are not supposed to be here long
130. Nothing
131. Loads of downtime in contrast to life outside that seems to never relent. This downtime is beneficial when planning my future, setting goals, finding myself, or for self-education
132. There really are no positives here
133. It's close to my family that's it!!
134. Time to think. Reflection is key in not becoming part of the recidivism rate. your release date
135. Learning to deal with different people all day everyday
136. It's close to my family
137. My job assignment coincides with my profession in the world
138. Education, programs
139. College
140. Having time to educate yourself reading
141. One remains busy by working (mandatory)
142. Nothing
143. Phone access, higher education (NPEP, North Park, UWW, etc.)
144. Nothing! Worst place in the state
145. You have time to want to change if needed...
146. Northwestern University, North Park Seminary, Northeastern (PNAP Programs), and the graduation ceremonies held in the theater building
147. Some of the programs do help but most are just ways to pass time
148. School, college(s)
149. Mental health, educational programs, community involvement with prisoners
150. I'm locked in most days so it affords me a lot of time to reflect
151. It's close to my family and friends, making it convenient for them to visit when allowed. The Northwestern Prison Education Program is here. Staff do not care about certain cell compliance issues—they are lazy
152. Visiting schools and churches
153. Some people are allowed to get an education
154. Being able to look back at all of the mistakes that you've made in life, and becoming a better person. Going to school, get a degree

155. Very little. Its basically what you do personally to create anything positive. So much is unnecessary and the focus is on things that are not/or should not be a priority whereas the priority issues are ignored and/or given very little attention
156. Its not staffed with all white racist c/o's
157. School, college
158. The most positive thing about this prison is it's a diversity of people who work in the administration and having opportunities to seek higher education and other work, or life tools with all walk of life people
159. The hope of justice being served and you're release due to your innocence
160. The college programs, mental health, the way the individuals in custody refrain from allowing staff and the administration from provoking them into violent situations. This is the least violent prison in the state of Illinois. Credit to the Individuals in Custody
161. The different class they have here, when was can go to them.
162. College programs and mental Health care!
163. My Neighbors help me get thru the day! Some people will help others won't. Phone time is highlight of Day/Time with Family!
164. EDUCATION
165. The educational programs
166. L.M.A.O!
167. There are no positives.
168. Time to study, know and be honest with self and to study other essential things, and to exercise + meditate
169. The college degree programs.
170. The Higher Education programs.
171. The programs that are available, being close proximity of the community I came from and being able to communicate with staff that look like me and understand my cultural background.
172. Schooling. **[PERSONAL DETAILS REDACTED]** But other than that, Stateville needs to be closed. No ifs, ands, or buts about it... This prison needs to be shut down.
173. single person cell reduces a lot of potential conflicts. Having school keeps mind occupied while learning a new skill or to just read & write
174. **[REGARDING NRC]** There was nothing + about this NRC Stateville, IL Shawnee is better although commissary is inconsistent! Again once a month if lucky.

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

1. I don't get the help I need when I need it.
2. No one (officials) care about your health or mental state for someone like me who has been in Stateville for **[20+]** years. This time has been locked in the cell for the most part and not given anything to prepare me for re-entry into society.

3. Lack of yard, unrepaired toilets and sinks. Poor cable and antenna reception for tv. Lack of commissary items (food and toiletries and appliances, shaver, watches, radios, etc.)
4. The living conditions. NO hot water, no good water 2 drink, roaches everywhere, mold, etc.
5. The food is bad the water is bad the prison is not clean very dirty
6. The laziness and incompetence from the security staff; the lack of care and concern from counselors; the conditions of the buildings
7. Water, cell conditions, visits restrictions, late mail, living conditions! Can't see a doctor until 3-4 weeks after requested.
8. The infrastructure, water, electricity, chipping paint, dirty, roaches, mice, birds
9. Missing my freedom, being away from my family, the things that I have to put up with
10. Commissary items, water, rude staff who treat us how they want, food, no cable, not enough yard, rodents, short staff/lockdown, **[NO]** educational opportunity for everyone
11. All of the damn gangs and the COs don't really care about the inmates
12. The conditions of confinement. Being in our cells most of the summer due to staff shortages
13. I'm treated like I'm not a human
14. Just sometimes being here waking up here it's a joke from staff warden to inmates.
15. Horrible access to and variety of commissary. Profoundly poor mattresses. No cable. No visits because of vaccine requirements. Dilapidated building, old, water, plumbing, electric old in horrible shape.
16. Staff conduct inmate complaints etc.
17. The way it's ran
18. Staff conduct, living conditions—mold, no hot water, constant plumbing problems, no cable (commissary shortages, food + hygiene)
19. There is generally more talk than action and a lot of the decisions don't always make sense. Also, administration generally protect staff wrong-doing, thereby making the grievance process a joke.
20. Conditions and inmates that are inconsiderate and try to get out on other inmates
21. Health, food, conditions, no freedom, no family contact
22. Being looked at and treated less than
23. No resources
24. No drinking water! Lead in tap water. They pass out water in a bag that tastes like chemicals or some sort of contamination. Occasionally they sell bottled water but you can't count on it. We've had no hot water for months. They've run out of soap. Food is terrible. Cable has been out for months.
25. Been treated as slaves
26. The lack of order, like you never know when you gone be able to go to law library, yard and school programs, cause they always being canceled. And the commissary is not good at all.
27. The constant lockdowns, the cancelling of yard time, and especially how often they cancel the law library. They usually do these things using the excuse that they are short of staff.

28. Everything
29. Brown water, no cable, cold water for showers, no hot food, dirty trays
30. Nothing to do, no programs, the guards are rude always writing tickets, IA is always messing with prisoners for know reasons, taking our property. They treat people with crutches and wheelchairs like shit. And this prison is very dirty as Hell...
31. To many lockdown
32. 1. Water and over all conditions including the lack of any tv channels, 2. the Cold water in the showersit's horrible!!, 3. No healthy items on commissary, 4. The lack of good faith medical treatment, 5. The horrible officers in leadership.
33. Having to do all this time!!!
34. Negative Environment and the appropriate type of mental health. No Vocational Training.
35. We are treated and fed inhumanely and are locked in our cells, canceling yard most of all days of the week. Also limiting in-person visits.
36. The living condition. No programs for lifers to better ourselves. Once a month commissary. No cable.
37. Commissary has too much gas station food meaning junk food instead of healthy products
38. Every individual is treated inhumanly—constantly judged by staff
39. Being housed in your cell all day
40. The water has high levels of lead and copper. We do not even have basic cable, the food is very low level (quality) rarely do we have fish, chicken or turkey (no beef at all) even the commissary is a candy store.
41. Commissary. Frequent denial of scheduled yard. No TV cable whatsoever
42. Quality of life is low. No drinking water, no soap, toothbrushes, no time out of cell.
43. Repairs to plumbing take tooo long. Most cells don't have a desk.
44. The water. Not enough phone time. No rec/yard time on regular basis. Food/commissary. Not enough visits (only 3)
45. This water and the air is filled with dust. We can't breathe! Roaches
46. The water, the food, the negative effects of isolation, the stress from this negative, anti-rehabilitation staff, and many incarcerated persons. The cable, GTL music + movies, and video visiting.
47. 1. Not being treated like a human being. 2. No drinking tap water. 3. No hot water. 4. Mentality of staff. 5. Rat & Roach infested. 6. No edible food. 7. No healthy food to purchase at commissary. 8. Moldy showers. 9. Cellhouses and 10. Unstable foundation structures!
48. Not treated like a human being. Why? Our sinks and toilets break and we are mistreated for wanting them fixed. It seems that the positive people are targeted and those who are negative get rewarded for misdeeds.
49. Food/Water/cable/attitude by staff
50. Staff in general
51. Lead and diseases in water. No hot water. Mold in cells—no soap in store.
52. Horrible living conditions

53. Showers in cold water; nasty; will cancel yard unless outsiders; have to get bottled water every day; unsanitary w/ water cooler; nasty floors. Black + White mold in the cells; chipping paint; Rust everywhere; bottom barrel
54. This would be administration's and staff's inhuman, degrading, listless, apathetic view/position regarding "inmates" and no accountability for their actions and/or inactions.
55. No cable, no hot water, lead in drinking water, roaches, mice, vermin infested and rodent infested kitchen, constant lockdowns, short staff, mold in cells, no ventilation, brutal heat in summer, lack of supplies (i.e. soap, deodorant, toothpaste, etc.) not enough phones... lead paint on walls in cells, not enough yard access, no staff professionalism, lack of healthcare access, commissary shortages, slow mail and more!
56. All the staff know what the problems are but just go along with the things that are wrong because they get paid the same if they do their jobs or not. There are numerous food items and water that is donated to the prisoners but these items are kept and distributed amongst the staff and prisoners who have jobs only.
57. Food, Healthcare, mental care, cell time, lack of quality water, cold showers, lead paint, cell size, law library, toxic gym, lack of cleaning supply, commissary, rodent infestations, bugs
58. Being treated as a number
59. No hot water, cable, edible food, commissary, adequate clothing, adequate yard, contact visits, etc., etc., etc. This is the most incompetently run prison I've been in in **[20+]** years.
60. Lack of staff training. They rely too much on snitch info. Therefore following the rules means nothing. Institution functions off snitch info.
61. Everything from the quality of water to the inhabitable buildings
62. Closing law library, school. Canceling yard. Poor commissary. Poor food in dietary. Everything. No hot water, no cable, not enough phone time. Bad water poor air quality.
63. Everything is negative
64. No cable, quality of commissary products. Lockdown for "staff shortage." This institution won't allow you to have a job for 2-5 years depending on your last seg ticket.
65. That your humanity is an afterthought.
66. The inhuman conditions
67. LIVING CONDITIONS! INHUMAN!
68. Drugs
69. Stateville should be overhauled or closed. No hot water for the past two months, legionella bacteria in our drinking water supply, also lead was found. Commissary is never stocked with items we need, all junk food. Phone system are terrible. Infestation of roaches and spiders. I sleep with roaches crawling all in my bed and I keep myself and my cell clean.
70. No cable, no drinkable water, no commissary, bag water taste like soap, cold water showers, dirty cellhouses, mold in cells
71. There is not enough room on this paper to list them. But the food is not Halal and as a Muslim I need that. The water isn't hot, the cable is out, the prison allows for GTL to

continue to steal from us, the prison is falling apart, the staff shortages cause me to lose my right to Friday services and yard, the officers steal from us, Grievances do not get answered, etc.

72. Lack of information/tablets not used by Admin to fullest. No advance notice of writs + sometimes chow + yard, cable system, commissary (lack of stock i.e. underwear, electronics, etc.)
73. Time lost with family
74. The system itself, has a conservative underlying tone that dehumanize individuals
75. Not being seen as a productive member of society. Not having any value. Just a number.
76. Being mistreated, because of other's misbehavior
77. The food, the medical, the uncleanness of the place/and unprofessional conduct. Constantly.
78. The living conditions and unprofessional staff
79. The degrading way staff treats us, as well as the deplorable/inhumane living conditions (rat, roach/vermin/birds, mold, lead filled water, unsanitary living conditions) on top of the lack of programs (education/trade) to transform inmates from bad mindsets/behavior patterns to be productive individuals to return to society. Such lack robs us from any form of hope collectively/individually.
80. Living conditions
81. Not being able to get dayroom and more yards. Not being able to have access to the phone app on our tablets. Not being able to have more visits and more visitation time. Being locked in the cell all day. No programs.
82. Everything
83. Inmates on visits in visiting room are not allowed to use "toilet" in visiting room. Stateville prison is the only max prison that does this? Why? And no parole board!
84. The prison complex is only housing individuals not offering vocational trades which would offer relief to society, i.e. carpentry, plumbing, electrician, locksmith etc. Everyone don't want college
85. everything is a mess here at Stateville!
86. Everything is negative here in this Dirty Prison
87. water, health care, no cable, no help, commissary is a joke! no one cares about anything except overtime
88. The feeling of never going home. I am black and is getting a bad deal
89. Life's goes on and you just miss out on so many things and being around so much negative energy sometimes makes you want to give up!
90. The water isn't drinkable because of legionella bacteria
91. The degradation and dehumanizing behavior of staff. The less than attitude
92. No hot water, commissary, no gym shoes in my size, grievance process, no cable channels.
93. So many debbie downers it's like everybody is miserable even the staff and they just want to push it on you so you can feel like them
94. Not seeing family, 30 people sharing one phone during covid, dealing with mice, roaches, black mold

95. The water!!! The hot isn't hot, the cool isn't clear, the staff are told not to drink it, and we have to do everything with it like cook out food, wash up in it, drink it wash out clothes, you name it but nothing is being done to fix it!!
96. There is no incentive for rehabilitation. It has to be a personal choice and personal desire.
97. Everything
98. Being surrounded by idiots
99. Bad
100. Everyday is a toss up. I never no nothing around here. The water is not safe to drink. The maintenance is horrible everything is broken. No hot water, no cable, anything that I'm supposed to have coming doesn't
101. The cable, the water, the health treatment, it's dirty, no care for your health because the staff don't know nothing. there's no chain of command. If I have a question its always I don't know. who is in charge. Always that's not my Dept, that's over my paygrade
102. Not getting what we're entitled to
103. Condition of the jail
104. This prison is in need of major repair and they won't fix
105. Not being in the school. not have a good programs
106. What one cares about my well being or what I have to say. there is no hot water for showers or the cell. There is no cable channels, the food is the worst, and everyone knows it yet does nothing about it
107. The drinking water is contaminated; people are developing cancer here at an alarming rate; the air circulation is very poor and we are developing upper respiratory problems from breathing in entirely too much dust/other unknown air pollutants on a daily basis for years on end; Black mold inside cells; very bad roach and mouse infestation; no cable tv; no phone apps on our GTL tablets to minimize spread of germs/disease through common phone usage, and not enough time out of the cell. covid visiting protocols are preventing families from visiting us
108. The germs, the water, the unstable staff
109. Health care, resources, staff support, and poor living conditions
110. Conditions
111. The way staff treats you
112. Double (two-man) cells. Single man cell options should be allowed for non-security threat non-aggressive persons.
113. Everything is negative
114. Offenders, staff misconduct goes without repercussions and discipline. Our assigned counselors try and help us out who bother to write grievances of these incidents with officers. Fall on deaf ears because majority of our assigned counselors here at Stateville C.C. are all correctional counselors, meaning on 7-3 shift they are counselors then at 3 to 11 shift they sign up for overtime or get mandated and they dress up in c/o uniform all staff misconduct grievances are never substantiated as the response...this is a very biased system, I believe it's meant to be designed this way for

- a reason. So staff could stay protected at all times. Why would one officer turn against the other when they work together/hang out?
115. The jobs. you can be in A-grade, but if you get a ticket for not taking your meds they call that a drug violation so no job for 5 yrs
 116. Talking crazy to me
 117. Lack of clean drinking water and healthy food; insect (roaches) and mice infestation; lack of meaningful access to Law library and legal assistance; lack of job and recreation opportunities, or even out of cell time; lack of adequate necessities like bedding, clothing, hygiene, cleaning supplies; just the overall inhumane treatment we are subjected to daily.
 118. Gangs, favoritism, shortages of staff, delays in commissary, locked in your cell for way to long, staff conduct
 119. No good water, no good food, rat's, roaches, no time out of the cell, not enough school for everybody and better treatment for officers
 120. The long cell time, no cable tv. No healthy food no drinking water. Roaches
 121. The water is brown at times, there is black mold in the showers, rats/mouses are here in the kitchen. If you don't work or not able to work due to medical reasons they put you in NRC for months at a time until you get shipped or released.
 122. Being in here
 123. The most negative thing about this place is that if you get sick and can't work these people will lock you up and put you in NRC and leave **[you]** there for months at a time until they feel like shipping you out to somewhere else
 124. No cable TV, horrible food and no programs and they search you every time you leave the wing. I feel this place is getting me ready to go do time not ready for the world
 125. There are a lot of negative things about this prison. The counselor won't help you. We can't get night yard on a regular. Are commissary don't have enough stuff for everybody. My unit is always last to commissary
 126. Some of everything
 127. There are lots of negative things about life in this prison they really don't give a fuck about us in this prison
 128. To many misery people
 129. Promise of work release, water
 130. daily essentials are not obtainable, commissary is poor, weights and yard equipment is TERRIBLE, food is old and outdated, no cable or functioning TV, not adequate storage for belongings
 131. That if someone mess up then they take it out on everyone
 132. The environment itself there's too much to list, from the social structure to the diet...it's all bad
 133. Living conditions lack of re-entry programs the threat of going to seg at any time. Lack of schooling being treated as if we are in maximum security
 134. Poor healthcare, show a lot favoritism, they tend to put us in NRC for just about anything **[as]** far as when you have a medical issue, hearsay and just the living environment period
 135. Food. Cleanliness. Infestation (rats/mice problem) Phones. Water—undrinkable

- 136. There is nothing to learn or gain while incarcerated, we can't even watch T.V. (M.S.U)
- 137. Poor healthcare, and instead of punishing the 1 or 2 bad apples, they punish us as a whole. They lock you behind the N.R.C. doors when you complain about your health
- 138. Overall neglect by counselors and healthcare. the "drinking/potable" water
- 139. Drugs, disrespectful staff, lack of programs and jobs
- 140. Some staff's philosophy on punishment
- 141. Having to deal with no clean water
- 142. No cable (t.v.) commissary is not on point...no clothes, no antennas, nothing serious
- 143. You can't drink the water, there is no cable, commissary is the worst I have seen in **[10+]** years of incarceration staff are always playing with the A/C turning it off at night so you wake up and can't breathe cuz you can't open a window
- 144. Conditions; no cable, no adequate commissary items, staff call in and programs get cancelled 3-4 times per week. Food is questionable
- 145. Healthcare staff are liars and refuse to process sick-call requests to see individuals for their various problems. Renewals of medication regularly expire without notice where we experience withdrawals and are in a great deal of pain! Healthcare staff are incompetent! There is filth everywhere, mold, mice, roaches, contaminated water w/ forever chemicals, et al. This is the only known facility in this state w/o cable T.V. Commissary sucks and is frequently out of stock. Cleaning supplies only exist for cellhouse porters to clean only once per day and showers are only cleaned once per week! There is peeling paint, leaking roof w. water running down the walls. We are literal slaves! The mattresses are worthless as we sleep on near steel due to the mattresses wearing thin in a matter of weeks upon receiving a new one if even possible. No pillows, non-working toilets, showers, sink drains. Some wings have more telephones than others, causing conflict. Foundation of concrete floors sinking. Inadequate laundry facilities where clothes are not removed from the bags and are not cleansed properly. 24 hour constant illumination, no educational opportunities. dish soap not sold not provided. ventilation frequently turned off without the ability to open any windows for ventilation and fresh air. Gross racism between staff and inmates. **[STAFF NAME REDACTED]** continued daily threats against inmates. Not being able to speak in the chow hall
- 146. No care for rehabilitation no system to work on such...
- 147. The poor water quality (most specifically the lead from the old pipes that the powers that be refuse to replace that lead to the quarter units—and that the kitchen still use to cook the population food)
- 148. Living conditions, untrained staff, poor food, no yard, visit restrictions due to "covid" allegedly
- 149. No yard when on level 2 lock-down, staff disrespect toward inmates from time 2 time, in cell 24 hours a day when staff is short!
- 150. NO family visitation as prisoners have in california, washington, new york and connecticut
- 151. 1) we are treated less than human 2) the environment is really dirty and there's a lot of problems with the water it's cold most days and our toilets are in poor condition

152. Internal affairs runs everything, doing their best to validate their jobs and reign terror and stress on individuals who reside here. Constantly on short staff lockdowns. It's good and bad that staff are lazy. Commissary is horrible and daily schedule inconsistent and impact my mental health negatively. Overall cell house/living conditions are deplorable—uninhabitable
153. Food, water, cells w/o desks, chairs, paint, roaches, no cable, no hot water, too much brown water, no commissary
154. It's filthy, you're locked up all day, staff will not fix the plumbing issues, paint is peeling from the walls, there is mold and roaches everywhere, if you complain the staff will retaliate against you, the food is inedible, you can't even pass your time with decent T.V.
155. Using drugs, hanging with negative people, C.O.s that are crooked, and gang members
156. Food, water, mold, roaches, mice, fruit flies, cold water for months, lazy staff unorganized, staff lying to you administration lying to you, commissary no healthy foods or no hygiene products
157. Just about everything, especially for those of us with natural life sentences. The custom and practice of treating everyone the same instead of as an individual whereas those who follow the rules are thrown in together with those who don't follow the rules.
158. Lack of hope and ability to earn better conditions
159. Lockdowns, shakedowns, food
160. There isn't any administrative structure and no real skill work programs to help individuals in custody to have job trade skills with reentry success back into the real world of society
161. Too much cell time. Lazy staff.
162. The suffering + inhumane conditions + being away from my children + parents
163. Staff attendance! Food in dietary, The overall environment. Lack of consistent commissary, no hot water, no cable, undrinkable water, state attitude towards individuals in custody
164. The living and Quality of it is taking a chance within a chance.
165. dysfunction, bad quality of water (drinking), No Hot water No cable, hard to get in college programs, bad roach infestation. Always canceling yard, need more health food.
166. No Cable. Lying About Cable. Violence by Staff. Poor Healthcare. Food Sucks. Nothing in Commissary for Diabetic people. Staff Lies Constantly.
167. Being lock up 24/7 living in a BATHROOM, PERVERTS.
168. 1. The WATER situation, 2. movement 3. food 4. lack of having Cable TV
169. Really?
170. Most are unqualified, be they officers or Medical Staff which clearly reflects on Management and Administration
171. Lack of opportunity to associate with women in a sincere, meaningful manner, and with positive, sincere people. And lack of meaningful opportunities.
172. The laziness and incompetence of the staff. Grievance process. Staff is always right.
173. The dysfunction

174. Prison conditions, the lack of consistency and accountability.
175. There's mold in my cell, roaches everywhere, mice, birds flying around, no cable at all, short of staff, so yard & school are canceled & we eat in our cells – basically a Level 2 Lockdown. Food/clothing/electronic shortage at commissary, 3 week wait to see a doctor at healthcare and it's not even a real doctor, it's a "nurse practitioner," lead has been found in the water system, Legionella, hot water in different units keeps going out, a judge ordered all inmates had to be transferred out – 6-7 days later after the prison was emptied, they miraculously fixed the hot water.
176. Gossip especially unsubstantiated to wreck a person character. Staff destroying or throwing away boxes of legal property that an inmate would need on a federal habeas. Mailroom – holding legal & personal mail over 30 days, in hope of a denial.
177. **[REGARDING NRC]** They do not care about anything. I was forced to stay in a cell with no working toilet for 3.5 days. When I respectfully complained I was ignored and denied dinner one of those days as well as told to piss in a sink and shit in a bag. The toilet was full and I slept 3ft away from it.

Q14. What suggestions do you have for improvement?

1. Listen to suggestions from individuals that have thoughts and/or opinions about improvement
2. Give guys a reason to want to be released by preparing them (us) to be able to take care of ourselves not by just handed over to welfare
3. Allow prisoners to order merchandise from outside vendor and store. Better quality radios, shaver, watches, shoes and such items as these.
4. Shut it down like they did F-house. close the whole jail or just have someone who really cares about our well-being as humans, not inmates, 2 run the prison
5. To close this prison
6. An administration that shows more care and concern for short timers; preferential treatment (cell, house, and work assignments) for military veterans (offenders in custody); single-man cells; more personalized help to every inmate who desires it.
7. Hire more staff! Add more college + vocational classes. Add more church services—different denominations. Actually have counselors able to help us—add more of them! Fix the whole place including cable/phone/visits, yards + gym
8. Blow it up! Plumbers and electricians have way too much power and earn way too much money not to be fixing things promptly and correctly.
9. Cleaning the place, better programs, better food, more recreation
10. More accountability COs lazy. Water filters, better plumbing. Air conditioning/heaters. More staff.
11. To close it down!!!
12. Change!

13. To understand we're humans & stop tryna make everything a privilege. Such as using the phone. Communication is so important.
14. None!
15. Beyond repair. Infrastructure is too poor. Give everyone education REGARDLESS OF SENTENCE. They devalue the lives of long term offenders.
16. Get cable in D-house fixed etc.
17. Shut it down due to all the health violations that are being ignored
18. Staff overhaul, several reentry programs, more maintenance staff. Staff here is lazy and only care about their \$
19. Get rid of the officers who are not on board with making the facility better. Allowing individuals in custody to have a voice in the decisions that impact us.
20. Begin programs that teaches inmates to focus on consideration, respect and rehabilitation
21. Better food; more/better and healthy commissary; better cable/tv and streaming shows for help, education, entertainment for distraction; stop taking our mail because they "think" we shouldn't have it (pornography, art, etc.)
22. Communication and transparency
23. Close it down
24. Bring in management/leadership that cares. Most staff members are apathetic & complacent. They just show up to get a check & do not care that there is mold on the walls or no drinking water.
25. More out of cell time
26. To many officers filling the other staff roles like counselors food supervisors, commissary staff, I think this is a conflict of interest
27. This prison has a lot of issues that need to be fixed. Is the state content to continue to put "Band Aids" on serious maintenance problems, or invest in a new prison(s). We are incarcerated here, we live with these problems day in and day out.
28. Better program, a chance for everybody to do something instead of only a few.
29. Get rid of all the plumbers who refused to work trying to get overtime
30. Help prisoners to better themselves before they go home, so that they don't come back to prison
31. Dayroom, no birds, no mice, no roaches, no mold
32. 1. Drinkable water, 2. Clean cellhouses, 3. TV Channels, 4. Good health care, 5. Healthy food on commissary, 6. Get the tents out of the gym so we can use the gym during the winter months.
33. Make a rule and stick to it, 100%!!!
34. The establishment of self-help programs and vocational training.
35. Training the officers differently in treating us as human beings. The warden and staff need a different approach based on more rehabilitative relationships with us.
36. Improve on the overall living condition. Fix cable. Fix commissary. Create programs for lifers.
37. Fix what's broken, cable, water, shower water cold, mold, birds in chow hall, holes in ceiling chow hall Hell need I continue.

38. Better state pay for those who don't have any family support. Better access to law library.
39. None
40. The water/cable situations (first) and the job/school program should be open to all not just certain people (trustees) and medical staff need to be more professional and keep officers out of prisoners medical care.
41. More out of cell time. A tv cable system. A stocked commissary.
42. Fix the water problem, make sure we have proper hygiene materials at all times, and let us out the cell when yard is scheduled. Yard is scheduled 4-5 times a week we get 1-2 yard.
43. Install desk and stools, fix cable, spray for roaches
44. Shut this bitch down!
45. Bring some trade schools or close it down, this place is condemned!
46. Cleaner, less infested living quarters. Clean water, adequate ventilation healthier, better tasting food. Better relations between us and staff community building/conflict resolution between us + staff, as well as one another. Better cable and media providers.
47. None! Close Stateville down! Use the money to buy Thomson back from Fed as an educational hub.
48. The mentality of the staff has to change from a culture of indifference and punishment to begin. Next, positivity needs to be promoted highlighted and encouraged. We shouldn't be punished for wanting to be educated and have a job. Privileges should be made more available for those individuals, instead of making them choose between school or getting fresh air outside.
49. Close it
50. Better prison conditions. If a staff member particularly (as now) has covid in the law library have an immediate replacement.
51. Shut it down—need hot water
52. Hot water & Clean water & a cleaner environment
53. Get the people in here that will do the work. Bring more education in prison
54. The only problem with this prison is the conduct of the people who are placed in the position of running it. People are the principal problem in all things. Their actions and/or inactions. Where there is no accountability there is no hope just broken acceptance.
55. Close it!
56. That there is cameras places throughout the institutions that can be monitored by the general public so that they can see what's happening in prisons and where/what their tax dollars are being spent on. Also regular accounting of where resources are being extended/accountability.
57. Change out all guards that is against change, hire civilian staff (counselors, kitchen sup, commissary sup) every position in this prison is being held by officer staff
58. For staff to follow the rules
59. Demolish it.

60. More in custody involvement in upkeep, and function of institution. This will teach individuals, and allow observation of those that are ready to be (released as) productive members of the community (release eligible)
61. Tear it down, close it
62. Closing it, shut it down
63. Conjugal visits, the allowance of pre-packaged food packages (amazon et al) internet access for legal work and educational purposes, and overall entertainment. To be paid a living wage for the work that we perform, as we still have responsibilities, ie. children, grandchildren, parents.
64. Add phones to tablets and/or more phone jacks. This will allow us at least 2 phone calls per day.
65. Train staff that prison is the punishment and it's not their job to punish the incarcerated.
66. It's unimprovable
67. CLOSING IT DOWN!!!
68. It needs a more professional administration
69. Oh my god, where do I start. That prison administration treat us as if it were them in this position. I'm not asking for a red carpet just do what's right for us, the state and our future.
70. There needs to be a person assigned by the JHA to be stationed inside the prison so that they can see for themselves the crap that goes on. Actually it would need to be a group of individuals, so we can express our concerns to them. Almost like an internal affairs.
71. Better flow of information. Improved commissary selection. Open gym. Allow other religious services (Reformed)/classes again (Divine Hope)
72. More school. And time with family
73. How do you improve a system that is rooted in hate and injustice?
74. Education... life skills... Education... Life skills
75. To get security to quit undermining the new programs. Along with the new admin's directions
76. A complete overhaul. Better humane training of staff.
77. Close it!!!
78. That IDOC live up to their mission statement & provide programs (education/trade) & that staff [in] the front office (wardens) give us what we have coming to us such as better treatment, living conditions, counselor service, ability to community with family/loved ones through in-person visits, video visits, email, social media, provide us with better food instead of the slop prepared for us on a daily. Grant us more yard, access to the gym, better healthcare service, laundry service, law library, chapel & commissary services. This prison under IDOC's duty to decrease recidivism needs to create safe spaces to combat illiterate/uneducated prisons by implementing literacy initiatives/programs.
79. Better living conditions, better opportunities to be in programs
80. Staff and inmate team building

81. Allow inmates to use visiting room toilet again like in the 90's. Service hot breakfast in the chow hall instead of cold breakfast in cellhouse/trays. Allow yard every day (1 1/2 hours) instead of twice weekly.
82. Do not allow the prison to become even more than a industrial warehousing of people who can be an utility to the community. Who bring some good to the neighborhood...
83. close it?
84. The Higher ups need to do better at doing there jobs.
85. Close it down
86. shut it down, close it. fire everyone
87. Inmates should have a way to talk with the prison staffs, like Warden, officers. Hear some of our ideas
88. This prison needs improvement with a lot health care, living conditions (the water) and the way staff handles us as inmates. But mainly healthcare because they will let you die here!
89. Improve the water system, and to teach prison staff the important of being informed
90. Close it! The water has so much lead we have had no drinking or bathing water all summer. Also the place is literally falling apart.
91. Fix our cable.
92. To actually listen and do what needs to be done instead of what they won't to be done
93. Close it down, fire everyone, these people are stealing the tax payer's money—the public is unaware of how we're being treated...
94. We need to have more people from the outside allowed to come into here to see what's going on inside of here. Also we need a new phone system, we have one phone for 30 people and it's still covid going around, so put them on our table or sell us cellphones
95. Overall conditions needs to be adequately address, w/o just putting a temporary band-aid on the problem. And more meaning programming
96. Close it
97. Close it down
98. Nothing/shut it down
99. Honestly it's a lot and I think it's an impossible task to accomplish. Maintenance for one. Everything is broken. Get rid of the roaches, fix the hot water. Better commissary and dietary meals. It has to get cleaner.
100. Hire more staff allow more workers to clean up some of the prison, have some structure between the staff and inmates. a line of communication
101. Bring in people who really care about us and not just security
102. Warden who really wants change
103. Get some real workers to fix the problems—not somebody related to someone that works for IDOC
104. To bring good programs so people can learn
105. None—things will stay the same anyway
106. Shut it down for renovations. Replace all of the water pipes system; install a new air-circulation system; gut out every cell to completely renew them and make them inhabitable/safe. Completely remove the roach/mouse infestation in the cell-houses,

school building, health care unit and kitchen. Train staff to be more professional, require conflict transformation & nonviolent communication skills training. Add vocational/trade schools for reentry planning and preparation. Put phone apps on our tablets, new cable system w/ more educational programs, give us more yard time and new exercise equipment

107. I suggest that the administration be held to a higher standard
108. Close it down
109. Demolish
110. "close it down"
111. Allow incarcerated persons to own bottles (plastic security safe) with filters, single man cell allowance for nonviolent etc. persons, allow us to order commissary items from (Walkenhorst) distributors directly
112. Hire a staff that has a more positive attitude towards Black people
113. Assign non-correctional social workers (counselors) to each cell house who will be unbiased to properly address offender grievances. More phones to each gallery. Phones on our tablets would decrease unnecessary problems over the phone. Increase our phone time back up to 30 minute calls instead of 20 minutes. All staff hierarchy be all on the same page. not everyone trying to set their own rules. to be consistent with what they say they will do to help one offender, the next offender should be able to receive the same help. Have a better dietary and programs available to all individuals in custody to occupy their time positively. Come up with some type of reward for offenders to look forward to for staying out of trouble achieving change in their lifestyle. coming up with a extra visit, longer phone time, extra shop, extra yards etc. for staying on A-grade for 3-6 months with out a "I.D.R"
114. Let men work who are in A-grade, once you get out of A-grade than you lose your job: if you get a G.E.D. let them go to voc. school not a TABE test again
115. Prayer
116. You should start with simple staff oversight and accountability—they shouldn't work here if they won't do their job with professionalism. I don't think this prison can be improved without independent oversight because the culture of corruption and laziness is just too pervasive
117. A complete overhaul. Staff education to treat us as people, rehabilitation for every incarcerated individual! Put the men to work, teach them basic living skills to take care of themselves, give them all a way to live peacefully instead of criminally
118. Making the officers to be hold accountable for they wrong doing and training the officers to deal with people with mental health
119. More jobs, better food selection, more yard time, more visits a month, a better investigation committee for disciplinary.
120. More activity/programs. Having them realize that "MSU" is NOT "Statesville", we're the lowest on the security level and Stateville is a maximum
121. more concern about inmates health, mentally, and especially physically
122. They need to get some programs down here this is supposed to be a program place and they don't have not one program down here. they may have it on paper but there know programs. I been here 9 months and haven't seen one program. They had a

summit in April and talked about all the programs they have I couldn't believe the lies I was hearing. How they made the people that was visiting believe they had programs. this place is one big lie

123. Cable TV, more programs, visit 7 days a week not just on weekends, better food, more counselors that actually help us for us
124. Better staff that will actually help someone. Getting better commissary food and better on getting yard at night
125. Stay home
126. Improve our living conditions and food
127. Respect be given from both sides
128. close it down
129. Too many things wrong
130. Treat people the way they want to be treated and more programs for us.
131. Treat it like the minimum its suppose to be. Programs and schooling is needed staff needs to stop lying to individuals in custody
132. Improve the living environment get officers that have a sense for a minimum security unit more programs for are well being once released. staff that actually care about there jobs and is not lazy
133. Better food, cable more phones, better water
134. To hook up some cable, that would help a lot for inmates to kick back and chill instead of stress. Vocational school they only offer GED. Some re-entry programs, programs to really get you ready for going home, the real world.
135. Real accountability for these officers that are breaking the rules. And you guys really doing something about it this time. The correctional officers have already started **[saying]** this questionnaire will not change anything
136. Evacuate it from all human life, both staff and prisoners...then drop an H-bomb on it
137. Programs, vocational programs
138. Foster a community of positivity and encouragement
139. Clean water, answers from counselors
140. The water... they said we couldn't drink it, yet they keep giving us "ice", witch is the same water we're "not supposed to drink"
141. Cleaning up dietary cockroaches, mice, mold on pans, trays serving expired food, cooking our food in contaminated water
142. Shut it down. Discipline staff for being unprofessional. Change administration and staff, etc. Fix all condition issues! cable, water, commissary, dietary, etc.
143. That it be condemned! The opposite of "Q13"!
144. Stop just housing prisoners—give chance to reform and cut sentences thereby...
145. Lower the security level, allow incarcerated individuals to escort themselves according to their cell passes, with security personnel and check points—if one isn't where they suppose to be they are disciplined accordingly and or disciplinarly transferred.
146. Close it, the state doesn't have money to repair this place
147. More movement/less lock downs due to staff shortage, more respect toward us inmates
148. Family visitation, the repealing of felony disenfranchisement laws

149. Any suggestions does not matter, there have been lawsuits won, yet the quality of living here is still very poor. And health care treatment.
150. Honestly? Shut it down. The state doesn't have the \$ to properly rehab their facility—the I.D.O.C. as a governmental entity is corrupt. Each individual in custody should be treated individually w/ programs and treatment geared to help them.
151. Close this place down and help us get to a healthier place
152. Close Stateville Down!! It is too old and in need of millions of dollars in structural repairs. This place is not fit for human habitation. Enforce the mask wearing policy for the staff. They refuse to wear their masks. This pandemic will never be over. They don't care
153. Better training for C.O.s, some not all think that they are gang members
154. Close it, it is unhealthy and unsanitary, too many people catching cancer, and lots of asbestos behind the cells in the tunnels that is causing harm and unsafe for us
155. To treat each individual by how he behaves, reward those with good records and deal with those who don't follow the rules accordingly. make vast improvements with the grievance procedure as the current procedure is unconstitutional at best and a complete waste of time
156. Set up a system to where inmates are given goals to meet to be able to gain privileges & possible release
157. More training and screening for staff, better food and commissary
158. Allow individuals in custody to obtain higher education, job trade skills, give more resources while incarcerated. Activities, such as athletic programs, and help work to make individuals in custody to be better human beings by providing the tools and hands on duties to become rehabilitative people
159. Warden should run this prison—not staff union. Revise movement policies.
160. Tear it down + burn it!
161. One thing that I've learned is that people hate change. Staff should have to take a class to teach them that times are changing. The[y] hate mental health, and security trumps everything. If this prison security level is being changed the staff needs to know how to differentiate between super max + medium max!
162. To close it down!!
163. fix Drinking water, fix Hot water, need exterminator for roaches, Do makeup yard, sell more healthy food. Allow more contact.
164. Return Cable TV, STOP Lying by Staff. Fire Lazy and Violent Staff. Get the Healthcare/Pharmacy that help, Not hinders. Treat people As Humans Not numbers.
165. More classes Yard, Tournaments, like cards, DOM, Handball, BAGS, Basket Ball
166. Programs here incarcerated people can help to maintain the space we live in by having paint crews, more gardening things that show life not death inside here!
167. Burn it DOWN...
168. There can be no improvement save its destruction and its rebuilding into a modern environment where there are no roaches or rats and the water is safe to drink.
169. Let the incarcerated men get + function as men + hire staff that are qualified to supervise incarcerated men.
170. More phone access. Better communication between Admin. and incarcerated.

171. Administration needs to be more hands on to improve conditions.
172. The prison conditions must be addressed, develop a consistent manner of operating the facility and create a system of accountability.
173. CLOSE THIS PRISON!!!!
174. Have POST Office personnel come in to pick up mail. Some CO's don't believe it is part of their job. Have more wheelchairs based on the actual # of those disabled. Need more than 1 wheelchair pusher
175. **[REGARDING NRC]** New staff, staff that care to make a change and actually do their jobs instead of sitting in an office playing on the computer and phone. This is visible to inmates.

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

1. I just got a ticket for "intimidational threats" because I did not immediately go in the cell when I came out for a shower. A shower I was denied on Sunday. I had not had a shower since Thursday and would not take another until Tuesday. The adjustment committee thinks I was wrong for coming out of the cell, therefore I was wrong for not going back in. Inhumane! I just wanted a shower.
2. This prison should have been closed years ago. There is no proper communication between prisoners and staff. And too many decisions are made for political purposes, that hurt or deny prisoners every single day. Prisoners are used as pawns and too many officers try to force inmates to hurt them so that they can get paid leaves, since staff now has control, they intimidate, threaten and harass persons in custody for personal gain.
3. Medical and healthcare services could be improved.
4. This place needs help for inmates, staff doesn't care and racism is strong with some officers like IA trying 2 provoke us 2 do harm 2 staff + each other so they can make it look like a dangerous place in order 2 keep certain type of max pay when this place is not dangerous at all.
5. To bring back the parole board
6. I am a nonviolent, 50% sentencing, short time offender, The only reason I am in this maximum-security facility is because of an unjust EXTREMELY HIGH escape risk classification. Every inmate, staff, and employee knows I shouldn't be placed in this facility with some of the most violent criminals. All of my requests for help to be transferred are denied, because this facility gets extra money to house me here. Instead of transferring me to another facility where I can take full advantage of good time programs, I am held here.
7. Offer courses in apprenticeship; allow individuals in custody to run groups i.e. NA/AA anger management, mental health, health + wellness. Allow community church, grassroots organizations to come in on a regular basis to participate in groups and

have input. Stop holding 30 year old offenses against individuals in custody especially when individual in custody for 40 years straight!

8. Fix the hot water. No hot shower since the first week of August. Had cold showers for 6 weeks with no end in sight. Make the staff show up for work. Sept 15th through Sept 18th there was no yards or chow. Left my cell only on Friday Sept 16th for a shower. Been locked up (3) full days. Have no water pressure in my sink. I have to splash about using cold water. Again no hot water. The meals are good with plentiful portions. Commissary is getting better. More schooling is planned. Am not working or in school, get very little out of cell time, so yard is important to me.
9. Please help eliminate unconstitutional laws—gun enhancement proportionate penalty clause that is holding a lot of us inmates for 20+ years in inhumane conditions. Thank you. God bless you!
10. Stateville is in transition. They're trying something different here. It must change. The system must change
11. Depressive, constant nonsense favoritism with college classes jobs cell moves etc. Staff super lazy Warden **[NAMES REDACTED]** are jokes. Their own staff laughs at them seen this with my own 2 eyes. Stateville's a zombie land everybody's on drugs that's not been prescribed. staff—wardens knows this but refuses to do anything about it. Major K2 problem...guys true demons come out on that stuff.
12. Fix the cable and water issues and commissary items
13. Stateville haven't sold fans, not enough for everyone to buy one
14. We need blue collar simulators to learn new trades (CDLs, forklifts, heating and air-conditioning anything that deals with future energy sources.) Installing solar panels. Not enough real trades offered to those of us who have over 20 years left. Most of us will be released in the future. I want to be future ready.
15. Too many inmates and staff are not considerate or caring enough for the environment to be less stressful and problematic.
16. Something needs to be done
17. They force you to choose between yard or a shower. Or between school or commissary. There are few healthy commissary options. Wifi reception is spotty.
18. I really hope this survey can bring come change, better treatment, with health care, more out of cell time, better food, maybe giving the chance to have a job etc.
19. Also the living conditions no hot water for almost 4 months. No gym for almost 2 years now.
20. We fill these surveys out when JHA, or others send them. We put ideas or suggestions on how to make things better, but it seems that nothing ever gets done. The courts may order IDOC to do something, but if IDOC don't want to do what the court ordered, they just don't do it. So we inmates file suit in court, if we win, the IDOC (state) ends up paying some money. It seems like in some things, IDOC ignores what is right, even when there are negative, sometimes harmful effects on the inmates. IDOC is always going to do what IDOC wants to do.
21. They do not **[wear]** the mask, so Covid19 will spread again.
22. This survey would be good if John Howard Association would do something instead of asking for feedback. This is about the fourth survey I've filled out

23. Hope you are here to really do something for the good, to help us
24. **[STAFF NAME REDACTED]** is a horrible Lt. Please discuss how IDOC promotes it's staff. Even with complaints on file.
25. This place could be RAN better!!! And better used all this labor!!!
26. The correct type of mental health staff **[needs]** to be established that will supersede "security" and allow mental health to do their job. Mental health is limited because of security overruling their position.
27. We are constantly having our yard canceled every week with little rec time. It is a very bad situation with being able to go outside and enjoy yard.
28. None
29. I am experiencing racism here at Stateville. If you file a grievance, you rarely get justice—they might lose your grievance (but you can be assured to get an "adverse" response from your counselor and the grievance officer.) The staff do not wear masks, but demand that inmates wear them.
30. Staff refusing to show up yet still get paid causes unnecessary level one lockdown
31. We just need these officers to treat us like they would like to be treated
32. I don't really believe this survey will make a difference
33. We need more phone time, more air time, and better staff members with soft skills such as communication, compassion, and understanding. We need staff members with culinary art skills.
34. If you're not going to do anything about these issues. My feedback is: close it down. Send us home!
35. We do not need anonymity! You need to identify the people with legitimate grievances, as well as these who have ideas/suggestions that can ameliorate the problems. We need to sit with staff and administrators and dialogue! Talk to each other, stop seeing one another as enemies, and work to improve the environment for incarcerated folks, and work conditions for staff. We may never learn to "love" one another, but if we can agree to treat one another with kindness, compassion, respect and collaborate in the rehabilitative/transformative process! Imagine what we could do together, staff, administrators and incarcerated humans. Think about it!
36. As of now & since 1978 Illinois has not had a parole for violent offenders. Also the Truth in Sentencing 100% of serving a sentence for certain cases (violent) has not worked. After 20 years of serving time one is rehabilitated already!
37. Questions were left blank that needed more context or could be misunderstood
38. Hope it is not only heard but taken heed to, as well as examined by the source(s) whom it represents.
39. Please get parole in Illinois
40. I was in the meeting with JHA when they visited Stateville in 2022. Although much of our conversation were centered on the access to liberative education, this facility is so inhumane that any academic achievements we have made are supernatural. I believe that the inhumane conditions I listed above (in Q13) were, in that meeting overshadowed by our academic achievements. This was purposeful and tactful. Though I (unconsciously) did contribute to the overshadowing of the problematic (and

desperate) living conditions of the facility, I cannot overstate now how cruel it is to actually be here.

41. The maintenance staff should have work crews who regularly preform preventative maintenance rather than wait until things are in a state of disrepair. Audit the guy who is over the commissary—it's common knowledge amongst the staff and workers that he's stealing and misappropriating funds. Personally interview individual prisoners who don't have jobs.
42. Change everything or close it!!!
43. More questions about what would improve institutional life. Institution requires programs to provide outlook of those that are fit for parole, and to show the help others may need before they can be released on parole.
44. This is the only place that you can be promoted for not doing your job. The water is harming us more than we know.
45. The school they run here—when they don't cancel it—is the only positive thing about this prison
46. I like the new format
47. Adding phones to the tablets will eliminate a high majority of incidents. Being able to order commissary once a month from an outside designated source will be great for the morale. There should be more leniency for visitors to visit that's been convicted after staying clean for a set time. People who've been through the system are more understanding and sometimes just as supportive.
48. The living conditions are poor! The water is contaminated! Rats + roaches infest the kitchen and food storage areas.
49. What type of action/relief for me as a prisoner can I expect to see according to the filling out of said survey. And when?
50. I HOPE TO SEE ACTION FROM THIS SURVEY, CLOSING STATEVILLE IS THE ONLY ANSWER!!!
51. Clean drinking water. Showers every day. Running programs. Efficient staff workforce we reduce the lockdowns! Professionalism on behalf of staff.
52. I recently **[PERSONAL DETAILS REDACTED]** and requested to see mental health and they called me out of my cage, to another cage to talk about **[PERSONAL DETAILS REDACTED]**, which I declined to do...because I am a human being with feeling and emotions. I have been incarcerated **[25+]** years and **[PERSONAL DETAILS REDACTED]**, my children don't know me, and the system that keeps the record of my wrong, reminds the world of my mistake and nothing else! I continue to reform and self-reflect for the good of the world around me but how can I move forward if everything around me continues to see only my past. I am in a **[REDACTED]** degree program, I just received a **[REDACTED]** Degree in **[REDACTED]** and still feel like a crime who is punished over and over again. This institution and the order of operation continues by design to dehumanize individuals like myself, and we have become mentally afraid to stand against it, for retaliation is more than a word, it is a Action word... which is not healthy. My saga continues.
53. I'm more than a number

54. Security wants Stateville, to maintain their jobs with lower security, there are less residents and a lower amount of security jobs. Security tries hard to incite bad behavior now. They do not want change.
55. We are human beings in this 21 century. But Stateville does nothing to try and teach in custody how to uplift ourselves—they just keep up lock up as much as possible—and release us back into society with mess up mindset - then ever before.... And they know in Springfield how to make Illinois Prisons Better. Programs—vocational—like they had in the 1970s and 80s where in custody learn how to use their minds + hands more instead of just sitting in a cell with none of the new computers or instruments in these tiny cells with 2 people stuck in them. So sad! So much like a third world county. How to be more humane is already in Springfield's books under Gov. J. Thomson – and J.B. They never had this problem where most of the prisoners are sick—young and old—no one cares anymore, so it seem!
56. The water is undrinkable, there is no hot water, there is no cable, yard is not ran at all. Staff is worse than individuals in custody, they want us to react to living in this hell they call prison.
57. JHA need to come in the prison to personally speak with inmates, analyze the deplorable/inhumane living conditions, dietary intake or consumption etc. & really take to heart the individual/collective grievances/concerns of the entire community & then really advocate on our behalf 100% addressing the issues & circumstances according to 21st century law, morals & human obligations for the greater of humanity/society to push for real rehabilitation, prison reform & decrease of recidivism. There's great talent/skillsets in prison. Men just need opportunities & second chances to prove ourselves worthy. "We're not our mistakes"...!
58. First I wish thanks to the JHA again and again for your tireless service on behalf of IDOC residents; and I hope that you will in the future allow us free copies of legal cases and for IDOC rules. Too many weekly lockdowns due to staff shortage prevent access to prison law library; your survey should be done twice yearly to be effective.
59. Incarceration has to entail more than holding bodies and then returning them to society. Why?? Call them Correctional Centers and they don't correct. Penitentiaries built men up for service in society. A penitent person will serve much much better than an ex-convict... Being penitent for those who are Guilty will cause them to repent and be sorry or ashamed for having done wrong and willing to Atone; Repentant.
60. Thank you we need help? I am locked up in this cell for 23 ½ hour everyday How do you think I feel! That is why I am sick! **[NAME AND ID REDACTED]**
61. I've done this survey over 6 times nothing has really changed or at least we don't notice any change.
62. no one cares about us in here, including you guys. Correction is a joke. The money wasted could be used to help people instead of housing people like animals. Hell animals are treated better, fed better.
63. I have no comments. But thank you for this survey. I hope we (the prisoners) get some help. Stateville would be a good prison if the hot water got hot, if the prison gave prisoners more to do.

64. I hope that you all can make something happen because were denied so much here at Stateville things that were promised and are suppose to get we don't. But then staff turn around and stand on us about things, they bend and break the rules as the days go on. And it's not fair to us we're treated less than human here and it's very frustrating to deal with this on the regular
65. Thank you for asking these question, but most individual in I.D.O.C. lost hope in John Howard Association to care when it became public knowledge that this association was no longer an independent association and start being funded by the state of Illinois. So what could be done by this association to help us understand the above statement more clearly because we never here anything back from John Howard after we have turned in these form back to you and I have been in prison for **[15+]** years now?
66. No one knows what rehabilitation is so how can we ever achieve it. I'll soon be an 8th grade graduate who got my **[REDACTED]** Degree in prison. My entire mindset on life has changed but none of this will get me out of prison. I have been in personal and group therapy for years in a effort to become a better me. Still they won't let me go home. So really this survey is a joke.
67. We haven't had hot water in over 3 months, cable in over 4 months, soap sold on commissary for over 9 months, clean trays in 8 months, pictures taken in over two years, our dietary has 1000's of mice
68. I took my time to do this, now we need to see something done. This place is in a very bad condition and needs a lot of work some of which just needs to be New. From cells to cellhouses to staff and how they are trained. Yes this is a prison, but we still need to get treated like humans. Dogs get better treatment than we do in fact if you were to treat dogs like this you would be put in jail!!!
69. There is a lack of resources for one to better themselves. If I don't meet the qualification to get an education from one of the few institution supported programs, then it is extremely hard to get state recognition from a correspondence I choose to partake in at my own expense
70. This survey, I hope will shed light on the disturbing things that is going on here. The lack of leadership. The impossible tasks! This survey is spot on with the questions and no answer I marked is untrue or exaggerated. IDOC in whole is terrible. They need to change drastically. Thank you!
71. Allow us to buy the things we need over two years the canteen has been not selling us clothes to wear boxers & sweaters & **[ILLEGIBLE]** shoes. Art supplies. And other items. The rules are set for us but at the same time they want us to follow them. But the prison is not providing are needs like having a shelf for a TV. A table to write on. Soap and toothbrush when we need them. To get me by I pray & thank the Lord for what I have & don't have & being content. But until I'm free there always going to be some thing wrong...but if in the state care, I should be taken care **[of]** as a human being to help myself to get by. This place is a walking contradiction!
72. N/A

73. Every year your office comes out and does a survey, but I don't see a lot of change—your suppose to make them do “right” by fixing, compiling, and do the necessary things to fix the problem.
74. The health care need to be fixed because people are dying here. Urgent.
75. I wish this survey could make some changes here. But I have been answering these surveys and others. Things here only get worst
76. Thank you for doing this survey and allowing me this opportunity to participate. I appreciate you all coming around earlier today 9/21/22 to make sure we got these surveys and turned them in. I'm being transferred to **[FACILITY AND OTHER DETAILS REDACTED]** after spending **[5+]** yrs here at Stateville. Prior to Stateville I was at **[FACILITY REDACTED]** for **[5+]** yrs. and at **[COUNTY FACILITY REDACTED]** for **[5+ years]**. I'll be **[AGE REDACTED]** on **[BIRTHDAY REDACTED]** and have been incarcerated **[20+ years]** and currently getting ready for my release from prison :) I'm really grateful for the important work that JHA is doing to help improve living conditions for prisoners in Illinois. God bless you all.
77. Over all the powers that be exaggerate the danger in this prison, they play union games
78. I hope this survey is or will be helpful
79. Our mattresses are horrible! Causing most persons unnecessary back problems. The “new” mattresses deflate within 2-3 weeks. Memory foam or air cushioned ones is better than sleeping on metal shelves (steel bunks)—If necessary, many of us will purchase mattresses if allowed. Like our high priced flat screen t.v's, we could purchase [our] own good mattresses with contracts, etc. *Inspect the kitchen do surprise inspections of the food prep areas for the “inmate meal prep areas” and “officer's kitchen meal prep areas.” Pests and unsanitary conditions define both areas
80. All the staff should be fired and a more positive staff hired
81. I hope that this would help you guys study how this prison system is being ran here. There is no consistency here with correctional staff. One lieutenant comes and tells us one thing the next day a different Lt. will come and won't allow us to do what the Lt. from yesterday told us etc. This prison has an entire office of officers assigned as internal affairs (IA) who are hoping to keep conflict going between offenders trying to stir up trouble so they could keep their jobs secured. The rumor is that Stateville is transitioning to be a medium penitentiary with better programs, school, and opportunity for us and these IA are panicking trying to make Stateville seem worse than what it is. They have a special respond team “SORT.” “The ninjas” **[are]** what they call themselves who sit inside a room in the front of the building joking, playing around, getting paid extra, looking like they are actually doing something. They only come out to watch lines move back and forth to chow and yards. It's unnecessary. Majority of any fights are between 2 people one and ones. These fights are already over before this “SORT” even responds to the incident and it's just unnecessary scare tactics by this institution to try and make individuals in custody seem like we are just worse criminals who never will change. I believe they are all more scared to give us the opportunity to change. I could only hope that one day IDOC the Illinois department of

- corrections! Will allow us who would like to correct ourselves and really rehabilitate ourselves the chance to do so.
82. We need more programs to help us on the outside I don't know how to get online to take care of my business or use the phone with all the things on it.
83. Things just hard and mess up for me
84. You can purchase tobacco, alcohol, drugs have which affects others who want to do better. Staff conduct really needs to be addressed. Medical needs to be monitored. It will take time but the prison system in Illinois can get better so no one comes back. I suffer from mental health issues due to **[MEDICAL CONDITION REDACTED]**. **[PERSONAL DETAILS REDACTED]** and it affects my concentration. I have asked for help but I am told there is nothing they can do. So **[MEDICAL CONDITION REDACTED]** as well as other chronic illnesses need to be addressed on regulating the illness and preventive care.
85. Stateville/MSU is not a place to do 2-3 years straight because they treat you like you're a peasant and they're a God and commissary always runs out because the space is way too small.
86. This place has very bad health issues far as brown water coming out the sink also it be oily. Black mold in showers, lack of medical attention far as cancer screening for people at high risk or low, lack of programs to get people home quick (especially if this concerned a re-entry or work camp) it need a lot of help. Staff need help in **[that]** they treat this place as if it supermax I can go on and on but this just a few important things
87. This place is lacking and everything you can think of from commissary, black mold to no programs, it's very hard doing time here but I really wanna get home so I keep on pushing have a bless day
88. I have been here for **[12+ months]** I have been trying to transfer out of here so I can get closer to home. Nobody here wants **[to]** help me. My counselor keep telling **[me]** she did this and did that but never do nothing. I don't want to be here no more. They just trying to work you and work you then if you tell them you sick or you trying to leave they tell you they will put you behind the door. Then you got dietary has no working pots, or nothing we are cooking with a nasty water hose. the supervisor don't care about nothing but want the food cooked with a water hose. I WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS PRISON PLEASE HELP ME OUT. I am trying to get closer to home. My time have not been hard until I got to this prison and they know we are about to go home so they try to make are little time let harder then what it need to be.
89. I am a diabetic and I can't get stuff done like I need to also we don't get a good diabetic snack.
90. I really hope this helps everybody out and it really fixes a lot of stuff if not please stop selling us dreams on how y'all trying to help us better these prisons
91. N/A
92. There is no alone time, constantly force to be around people who you have nothing in common with
93. If we could get counselor's and other people to help us the way they supposed to help and not look down on us

94. Do this more frequently if you really wanna gain insight into the injustices and corruptness that is the Illinois penial system
95. I feel this place should not exist it's a horrible atmosphere they do not prepare you to enter the free world they just want us to work and shut up
96. They need to give us at 100% and 85% some type of rhythm I've been incarcerated since I was [**>20 years old**] and I'm going on [**5+ years**] this is my first offense and since being in IDOC I have not had any help or programs to really rehabilitate me. I feel dumber than when I first came in. I was drafted here and being forced to work with no compensation? What's the benefit of being here?
97. Commissary is being poorly ran. I'm breathing in black mold. I have disabilities and I'm being threatened with punishments if I complain about them our counselors refuse to take care of important matters in a timely fashion I have [**MEDICAL CONDITION REDACTED**] that's not being taken care of I went to the emergency room [**DATE REDACTED**] about [**MEDICAL CONCERN REDACTED**] and still have not seen a [**REDACTED**] specialist. No washers or dryers on these wings and we work all day every day and these buildings are condemned. The Chicago Tribune has done an article about the poor conditions about this facility, but yet we are still here getting treated like slaves and animals
98. I have been working hurt for 5-6 months, grieved my situation and still have not been properly treated. The grievance has yet to be responded to (over 2 months)
99. The survey has expanded and gives more opportunity to explain living conditions, but may be vague in some instances
100. Laundry...we went from doing state laundry 3x's a week to twice. We need washer/dryer on the wing, like most prisons they don't even use bleach to disinfect!
101. Working hazardous jobs without proper P.P.E. or vaccinations when dealing with human waste
102. if you need any insight into these claims and others, I urge you to contact [**INDIVIDUAL IN CUSTODY NAME AND ID REDACTED**] to reveal these truths
103. A survey needs to do more than take assessment... Censor...
104. If I marked neutral it is either because it is a yes and no answer, or I was unable to apply or understand the question. And by the way-I do not care about being anonymous—I am upright, fearless, and independent and known to be an activist at times. Right is right, wrong is wrong! If you need to contact me for more of my 20 plus year experience at Stateville please feel free! [**NAME AND ID REDACTED**]
105. I have been here [**20+**] years and have seen many of these and your visits but nothing ever changes. You are only going to see the people in "college" courses and a few people here and there. Look around when here. The yards all need repairs to equipment, there is bird crap and nests in every unit and the staff in cell houses don't make the workers clean so they don't. I recently was in a cell for [**30+**] days where the sink did not drain despite work orders and grievances. I was moved to another unit instead of fixing it. There is white mold on the walls and I recently bought paint on the commissary to paint bare spots. Its ridiculous
106. Change the truth & sentence laws and a lot of us can be released immediately. Bring back the parole system for long term offenders!

107. I rather be back in the Minnesota Supermax or Federal Supermax despite of the violence in ADX Colorado. Television receptions is **[so]** bad, that we have to purchase cable antennas and stick them out the cell because we have no cable. I do not understand why the prison refuses to air NPR, WBEZ 91.5 FM on the TV. The shoes they sell are less expensive, but poor quality.
108. I have **[MEDICAL CONDITION REDACTED]** and they will not have a specialist see me nor provide me with **[MEDICAL ACCOMODATION REDACTED]**. I have **[MEDICAL ACCOMODATION REDACTED]** and have funds, but I should not **[have to]** purchase **[MEDICAL ACCOMODATION REDACTED]**. End of submitted statement
109. This place needs to be shut down, it's filthy and no one really gives a damn as far as doing what's necessary to make things better here. There's no consistency.
[INDIVIDUAL IN CUSTODY NAME AND ID REDACTED]
110. Pre Covid-19, my mind "broke." Even receiving visits and **[being]** a part of **[DEGREE PROGRAM REDACTED]**, this place is destructive. Mentally. **[PERSONAL DETAILS REDACTED]** I have been receiving a **[REDACTED]** Degree here and I'm **[AMOUNT OF TIME REDACTED]** from earning my **[REDACTED]** Degree. However, I'm suspended for **[PERIOD OF TIME REDACTED]** for an issue that I honestly don't see anything wrong with. **[DESCRIPTION OF EVENT REDACTED]** Well I guess that's violation of some rule here? Even though nothing inappropriate happened **[REDACTED]**. So Internal Affairs has taken it personally to mess w/ me, and stole a lot of my property. I'm allowed to have that they NO LONGER even sell here. They ruined a healthy and wholesome relationship I was developing, even though I really never did anything to jeopardize the safety and security of the institution. I've been put on visiting restriction. I can't go to commissary when we do get the chance to go now, and I'm restricted to only 2 phone calls a week. Oh, and I'm suspended from my **[PROGRAM REDACTED]** education for **[AMOUNT OF TIME REDACTED]**, and am constantly ignored by wardens, trying to reach out and speak to them. My elderly parents are more stressed out. But hey, I guess what I'm guilty of is being human? Responding to someone, developing a healthy relationship. So now I'm forced to sit in my cell w/nothing positive to focus on and go back to feeling like my humanity is not recognized or valued.
111. I have never had a ticket—ever; I completed a **[DEGREE REDACTED]** in **[YEAR REDACTED]** and am **[NUMBER REDACTED]** classes from a **[DEGREE REDACTED]** and I'd gladly quit to be transferred to a safer, cleaner place in a minute. **[INDIVIDUAL IN CUSTODY NAME AND ID REDACTED]**
112. Education is the key to shutting down this whole corrupt system. What are you still holding these old sick men in the 50's, 60's, 70's for? Let the elderly non-threats to society go. Make prison a place for rehabilitation. If we can find redemption in people like George Washington, 300 slaves, Thomas Jefferson, 600 slaves, Andrew Jackson, 200 slaves, and build monuments, make national holidays, and hold in such reverence, surely we can find redemption in a bunch of old misguided men who must have served 30, 40 years in prison for their crimes. Stop with the insanity. After all these "great white men" murdered millions of people, ask the Native Americans, they murdered millions of Africans they were rapists, child molesters, the worst human

beings on planet Earth. Why are we so much less than them?? What is so unredeeming about us? Hypocrites!!

113. Do a better screening of the officers before they hired. Improve the grievance process, no matter how right you are you still lose.
114. I've been incarcerated for **[30+]** years and on the surface with focus on mental health (which is needed but those who need it most do not get it while those who manipulate the system take up all the time) and health care as provided by Wexford since 2006 has never been adequate and has gotten worse. And the school being offered has been a good thing but not for everyone and much of it is for appearance sake The ongoing involuntary actions for filing grievances and/or lawsuits has been what has contributed to my litigation on a personal basis as a Prisoner At Law ("PAL")
115. Each staff member enforces different rules at different times so you never know what you can do and what you can't. If the c/o's that run the cellhouse 5 days a week run it one way then staff that normally isn't in the cellhouse come in they start writing tickets for things that the regular staff have no problem with. There is no way to prove you didn't do something they say you did. They can write you a ticket for leaving your T.V. on when not in the cell and though they have no video or anything to prove it you will be found guilty because you have no way to show it's not true, tickets are mostly their word against yours and inmates can never win. I heard JHA was told that the chow hall was using water from bags to cook with. My celly works in the chow hall and this is not true. They use water from the tap.
116. psychological screening for staff. Biases, racism, and employment reasons for working in a prison
117. I am a compact prisoner from **[STATE REDACTED]**. My legal rights afforded me in **[STATE REDACTED]** DOC are not recognized here--nor does this prison understand **[INTERSTATE CORRECTIONS COMPACT]** law. Staff should be instructed to know this law if they are accepting **[INTERSTATE COMPACT]** prisoners.
118. We know that the living conditions are horrific. But to makes it worse are the constant cancelling of our yard/recreation. We are on lockdown due to (short staff) every other day we NEVER get 2 hours out of the cell every day
119. If staff take off all the time yard is missed, gym has already been taken. To relieve stress is a great way to reduce drama. Recreational activities does that. There is no punishment for the staff lack of attendance, that should change.
120. If we just stop talking about change is coming. I say Just show it to us!
121. Some higher authority needs to hold Stateville Administration accountable for denying us access to hot water, clean drinking water immediately! Also provide exterminator for the bad roaches, until they are gone.
122. This place is Corrupt And Cover-Up for it. Get rid of problem people Don't Let Corruption ruin prison! Encourage people Not belittle them. Encourage rehabilitation Not Reliving History! Jail should be used to help people To return To Love Not only way To Survive is Crime! Crime only pays when you work for the government. (State employees). A better prison Life must start with New ideas, New people in Charge and New set of goals.
123. I know you are trying to Do Good, but sometimes it make it worst.

124. Let me get a cheese burger and lg fry w/ strawberry shake. They tried to kill us with the water!
125. There should be more refined questions asked about mental health treatment + about living conditions, yet it still is a good survey presently. Thank you!
126. This has epic waste of my time because nothing has changed, nothing change--in fact they are worse than they were during COVID. By the way the surveys were never even passed out. We had to get them directly from your staff.
127. Maintenance staff take too long to fix Electrical, plumbing or leaks. Healthcare take too long to address Serious healthcare problems Stateville has terrible drinking water in sink/faucet
128. This prison has waaaaaay too many problems to remain open & functioning. This prison is being sued up the ass. **[PERSONAL DETAILS REDACTED]** Soap – we’re supposed to receive state soap every week (2 bars) but for at least the last month they haven’t passed non out. And the commissary only sold us one single bar for the entire month. Some guys couldn’t buy any soap at all because they ran out at commissary. So if they ran out of soap at commissary and the prison isn’t handing out its weekly supply, what are we suppose to use? Also, Stateville admitted to lead being in the water! So, lead in the water, Legionnaire’s in the water, mold in these cells, cracks in these buildings, leaks everywhere, plumbers that never show up, cable that’s been off for months now, hot water is off in these sinks and in the showers, what more is needed?? This place needs to SHUT DOWN PERIOD! They have college/school in the absolute wrong prison! College/School is all it has going – any only because it’s so close to the city. – End of Comment –
129. Cut ADA (American Disability Act) yard from 5 hours to 2.5 especially in the winter so as not to get frostbite. Find other food & clothing suppliers so cold weather gear can be bought by everybody instead of serving only 1/3 of inmates. Can’t go outside w/o thermals. Build ramp for wheelchair access in quarter units. Offer computer programming classes & buy computer books. Give jobs to people in wheelchairs, for now they don’t. It’s discriminatory not too. Stop making people work 7 days a week. IDOC should compensate every inmate who has a tablet but couldn’t take it MSU for 6 days, although MSU does have Wi-Fi. Compensation should be financial. IDOC should pay every person who slept on the floor of MSU for 6 days w/o concern if that person had/has a wheelchair and or crutches. Counselors need to make rounds more than 1 eveyr 60-90 days. Remove mold growing on walls inside of cells. Periodically spray for buys & vermin.
130. **[REGARDING NRC]** Phones only come “if the officer on duty is actually present and in the mood.” Rec/yard was the same. I was offered it 1 time in 30 days. We never received hot or warm food only cold. We were stuck in a tiny cell not allowed out at all we shower every 14 days. We had nothing to do no books unless we came with 1 or 2. No Library. Fights broke out often due to energy and testosterone build up with no outlet for it. 3 deaths occurred 1 hung himself due to the treatment and environment. Some ppl like myself have been sent to a Max facility with only months left to serve. I should have been sent to a Min or Med. I am no threat to the public and have little time. It is also my first time in prison. Commissary is done on a “as they feel like it”

basis. So once a month if we are lucky. Staff Threaten and cuss at I/M. Commissary you never get what you order because I'M run it and save items for themselves and buddies. So \$40 order you only get \$15.

Other Marginalia Comments

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

1. [Other] Native American French Canadian
2. [Other] African/Ethiopian
3. [Black] God
4. [Other] African-American
5. [Hispanic or Latino] Mestizo

Q3. Are you within two years of release? (Yes/No)

1. [Blank] Maybe

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

1. [Blank] Not every day
2. [Blank] Depends on staff lock down. Staff just won't come to work. Have not left no cell in 4 days.
3. [No] !!!
4. [Yes] (When we are not on lock-down due to staff not showing up)
5. [Yes] Only because I'm a "worker." General population = NO

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

1. [Work] But it keeps me housed in my cell
2. [Both] But am not being paid for work assignment

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

Staff here treat incarcerated people fairly when applying the rules.

1. [Blank] people or me...
2. [SD] They (staff) want us in compliance but the prison is NOT

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

1. [A] (most)

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

1. [A] Death of family member

I am treated as a person of value.

1. [A] As a worker only

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

I feel safe from being injured, bullied, or threatened by other incarcerated people

1. [A] But not because of the staff.
2. [SA] I'm the bully.

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

1. [SA] Only because I want to leave this Hell!

This prison is well organized.

1. [N] L.O.L.

I feel that I am treated with respect by staff.

1. [A] for the most part
2. [SD] Living conditions!

Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms

1. [SD] Only to staff medical emergencies or fights
2. [SA and SD] Only if one of them, Only if one of us

There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.

1. [N] L.O.L.

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

1. [SA] Commissary

My time here seems like a chance to make positive changes.

2. [N] L.O.L.

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

I am not being treated as a human being in here.

1. [SA] Couldn't agree more
2. [SA] Living conditions!

Drugs cause a lot of problems between incarcerated people.

1. [A] Authorized drugs

Bullying behavior by incarcerated people is not tolerated.

1. [SA] Not by me
2. [D] L.O.L.

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

1. [Blank] I don't know

This is a humane prison.

1. [SD] Living conditions!

This prison is safe for incarcerated people.

1. [Blank] Need clarification
2. [SD] Living conditions!

This prison is better now than it was last year.

1. [SD] Covid somewhat forced staff to do their jobs

I am satisfied with food from dietary.

1. L.O.L.

I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.

1. [A] When not on lockdown for staff shortages
2. [SD] No, I'm in Northwestern. No detail yard for us.

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

1. [1] Living conditions!
2. [Blank] Compared to what?

Miscellaneous Comments

1. I do not wish to remain anonymous! **[NAME AND ID REDACTED]**
2. Thank you God Bless you all

This report was written by JHA staff. Media inquiries should be directed to JHA's Executive Director Jennifer Vollen-Katz at (312) 291-9183 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.

