

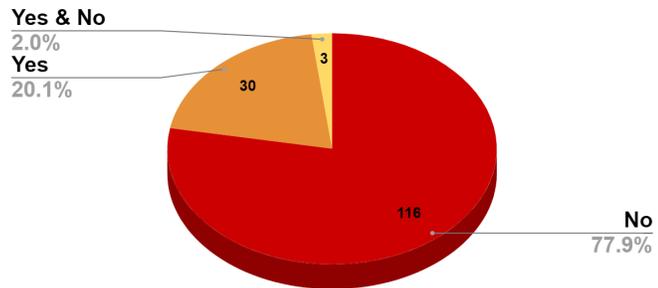
“Community Insights on California Jails” Survey: Summary of Findings

ADDENDUM: HARD COPY SURVEY RESULTS

The “Community Insights on California Jails” survey was developed to seek input from community members who have direct experience in California’s county jails. This Addendum summarizes findings from 63 survey responses submitted as hard copies from people currently incarcerated in California’s county jails, as well as some individuals who were recently released.

These hard copy responses were received in addition to 99 online responses submitted via Google Forms and analyzed in the original Summary of Findings. These insights by directly impacted individuals detail conditions inside California’s county jail facilities and recommend revisions to the Adult Titles 15 and 24 Regulations.

Most respondents do/did not feel safe while in county jail.



Materials previously submitted to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC):

- “Community Insights on California Jails” Survey Summary of Findings¹
- Proposed Adult Title 15 Revisions Re: “Community Insights on California Jails” Survey²
- “Community Insights on California Jails” Survey - Hard Copy Narrative Responses³

During the biennial Title 15/24 regulations revisions process⁴ by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), community-based organizations had serious concerns that the BSCC did not facilitate an accessible method for input from justice-involved people. This left many of the most critical voices out of a decision-making process that affects thousands. As a result, proposed revisions as of May 28, 2021 were extremely limited and would have resulted in little material change to the day-to-day lives of Californians in county jails.

This extensive survey elevates lived experiences of those best situated to describe current conditions in California’s jails and what improvements are necessary to protect all Californians. We request that the BSCC share these comments with the Adult Titles 15 and 24 Regulations Revision Executive Steering Committee (ESC). We ask the ESC to propose additional revisions after seriously considering these survey responses and recommendations.

The following organizations developed and analyzed the survey: Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC), Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ), Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC), MILPA (Motivating Individual Leadership for Public Advancement), and Starting Over, Inc. Contact: Renee Menart at renee@cjcj.org or 1-415-621-5661 x. 103.

¹ Submitted to BSCC by the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, et al on August 11, 2020. At: https://www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/CJCJ-Community-Insights-on-California-Jails_Survey-Findings_8.11.2021.pdf.

² Submitted to BSCC by the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, et al on August 28, 2021. At: https://www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/CJCJ-Letter-Sent-8.28.2021_Proposed-Title-15-Regulations-for-ESC.pdf.

³ Submitted to BSCC by the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, et al on August 30, 2021. At: <https://www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Community-Insights-on-California-Jails-Survey-Hard-Copy-Narrative-Responses.pdf>.

⁴ For more information, visit <https://www.bscc.ca.gov/adult-titles-15-and-24-regulations-revision/>.

SECTION OVERVIEW

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DEMOGRAPHICS

Respondents experienced jail conditions in 23 California counties. Note: Some respondents experienced detention in multiple counties, as reflected in the tally.

- Alameda (14)
- Butte (1)
- Contra Costa (6)
- Los Angeles (18)
- Monterey (1)
- Orange (1)
- Placer (1)
- Sacramento (4)
- San Bernardino (10)
- San Diego (4)
- San Francisco (2)
- San Joaquin (1)
- San Luis Obispo (1)
- San Mateo (1)
- Santa Barbara (2)
- Santa Clara (3)
- Shasta (1)
- Sonoma (2)
- Stanislaus (1)
- Riverside (6)
- Tulare (2)
- Ventura (2)
- Yuba (1)

Direct experience: What were respondents' experiences with California's county jails?

- Currently in county jail - 80.33% (49)
- Recently released - 19.67% (12)

Gender and sexual orientation: How did respondents identify?

- Man - 91.80% (56)
- Women - 8.20% (5)
- LGBTQIA - 5.45% (3)

Note on sexual identity: 15 respondents identified as LGBTQIA+. This survey is limited in its makeup of LGBTQIA+ individuals and coverage of their unique experiences in the jail settings. This population should be a priority for future outreach.

PERSONAL HYGIENE

While they were incarcerated in county jail, did they receive personal hygiene items needed to stay clean? For example: toothbrush, shampoo, razors, soap, cleaning products, deodorant, feminine pads and tampons (if applicable), access to showers and enough shower time, and other items. They also talked about the quality of the products they received.

- Yes - 47.46% (28)
- No - 49.15% (29)
- Yes & No - 3.39% (2)

While they were incarcerated in county jail, did they receive a clean mattress/sleeping pad, bed sheets, blankets, and clothing?

- Yes - 42.62% (26)
- No - 52.46% (32)
- Yes & No - 4.92% (3)

Was the county jail clean?

- Yes - 13.11% (8)
- No - 80.33% (44)
- Yes & No - 4.92% (3)

NUTRITION

Did they ever go to bed hungry because they did not have enough food?

- Yes - 83.87% (52)
- No - 16.13% (10)

Was the food they received a good source of nutrition? (i.e. a healthy balance of fruits, vegetables, grains, and meat)

- Yes - 25.00% (15)
- No - 70.00% (42)
- Yes & No - 5.00% (3)

CELL TIME & ISOLATION

How much time did they spend out of their cell on a usual day?

- Less than 1 hour - 24.24% (16)
- 1-2 hours - 22.73% (15)
- 3-4 hours - 33.33% (22)
- 5-6 hours - 0.00% (0)
- 6-7 hours - 0.00% (0)
- 8-9 hours - 1.52% (1)
- 10 or more hours - 6.06% (4)
- Other - 12.12% (8)

Note: Some respondents noted multiple timeframes depending on facility/unit placement.

Did this amount of time out of their cell feel sufficient for their physical, mental, and emotional health?

- Yes - 22.58% (14)
- No - 74.19% (46)
- Yes & No - 1.61% (1)

If they responded No, how much time would they need out of their cell to attend to their needs on a usual day? For example: phone calls with loved ones, showers, visiting commissary, yard time, time for exercise, etc.

- 1-2 hours - 11.11% (6)
- 3-4 hours - 27.78% (15)
- 5-6 hours - 25.93% (14)
- 6-7 hours - 7.41% (4)
- 8-9 hours - 12.96% (7)
- 10 or more hours - 9.26% (5)
- Other - 5.56% (3)

Note: Some respondents noted multiple recommended timeframes.

How much time did they spend outdoors on a usual day? For example: on the rec yard or other locations outside of buildings.

- Less than 1 hour - 50.79% (32)
- 1-2 hours - 23.81% (15)
- 3-4 hours - 12.70% (8)
- 5-6 hours - 0.00% (0)
- 6-7 hours - 0.00% (0)
- 9-8 hours - 0.00% (0)
- 10 or more hours - 0.00% (0)
- Other - 12.70% (8)

Note: Many of the responses included in the "Less than 1 hour" per day category were, in fact, far fewer. Some responses expressed rarely if ever going outside, while others said they had limited yard time on a weekly or every other week basis.

Did this amount of time outdoors feel sufficient for their physical, mental, and emotional health?

- Yes - 18.97% (11)
- No - 81.03% (47)

Have they ever been placed in solitary confinement? Solitary confinement may include being temporarily held in isolation, or a longer term placement. If yes, please describe the reason, duration, frequency, and/or conditions of the room.

- Yes - 74.60% (47)
- No - 23.81% (15)

If so, did they feel like this was a reasonable response to their situation?

- Yes - 25.49% (13)
- No - 68.63% (35)
- Yes & No - 3.92% (2)

PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH

Were they able to go to the doctor/nurse/physical therapist when they needed to?

- Yes - 37.70% (23)
- No - 57.38% (35)
- Yes & No - 4.92% (3)

Were they able to see a psychologist/counselor/therapist when they needed to?

- Yes - 45.61% (26)
- No - 50.88% (29)
- Yes & No - 3.51% (2)

Were they able to get the health treatment they needed in a timely manner? For example, medications, mobility aids, medical procedures, HIV therapy, hormone therapy, or other health accommodations.

- Yes - 30.00% (18)
- No - 66.67% (40)
- Yes & No - 3.33% (2)

Were the COVID-19 precautions at their facility sufficient to maintain a safe and healthy environment?

- Yes - 26.32% (15)
- No - 64.91% (37)
- Yes & No - 1.75% (1)

Did they receive information regarding the COVID-19 virus, precautions, and/or vaccines?

- Yes - 71.43% (40)
- No - 19.64% (11)
- Yes & No - 1.79% (1)

GRIEVANCES

If they had a problem with a staff person or another incarcerated person, was there someone they could report it to who would correct the problem?

- Yes - 38.98% (23)
- No - 52.54% (31)
- Yes & No - 6.78% (4)

Have they ever filed a grievance?

- Yes - 95.00%
- No - 5.00%
- **85.96% (49 of 57) of respondents who have filed a grievance reported that the problem was not fixed.**

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Did the facility allow their family and friends to visit them in-person?

- Yes - 36.67% (22)
- No - 51.67% (31)
- Yes & No - 3.33% (2)

How often were they given the opportunity to communicate with their friends and family by phone or mail?

- Less than once a week - 5.00% (3)
- 1 day per week - 3.33% (2)
- 2-3 days per week - 10.00% (6)
- 4-6 days per week - 8.33% (5)
- Every day - 61.67% (37)
- Other/Self-description - 10.00% (6)

Note: "Other" self-descriptions primarily noted that opportunities to communicate with family depended on unit placement, out-of-cell time, and access to financial resources.

If they were a parent while locked up: Were they able to see their children during in-person visits regularly?

- Yes - 34.78% (16)
- No - 56.52% (26)
- Yes & No - 2.17% (1)

STAFF USE OF FORCE AND SAFETY

Did staff use restraints on them or other people around them that felt excessive or unwarranted? (e.g., handcuffs, leg shackles, belly chains, etc.)

- Yes - 75.44% (43)
- No - 22.81% (13)
- Yes & No - 1.75% (1)

Have they or anyone they know been sexually abused by correctional staff?

- Yes - 23.64% (13)
- No - 74.55% (41)

Do they feel that disciplinary measures in the county jail were fair?

- Yes - 31.03% (18)
- No - 58.62% (34)
- Yes & No - 8.62% (5)

Were basic resources ever withheld as a form of discipline? For example: food, personal hygiene items, showers, out of cell time, visits or calls with loved ones.

- Yes - 79.66% (47)
- No - 20.34% (12)

How often did guards conduct safety checks on a usual day? Note: A safety check is conducted when a staff member does “rounds” and has direct visual observation of them.

- Every 15 minutes - 2.90% (2)
- Every 30 minutes - 30.43% (21)
- Every 45 minutes - 11.59% (8)
- Every 60 minutes - 39.13% (27)
- Less frequently than every hour - 4.35% (3)
- Other/Self-description - 11.59% (8)

Note: Some respondents noted multiple timeframes since they varied. Additionally, many “other” self-descriptions remarked that safety checks were infrequent and poorly implemented (e.g., staff disregarding visual observations).

Did this frequency of safety checks feel sufficient?

- Yes - 50.85% (30)
- No - 47.46% (28)

REENTRY

Did anyone at the jail help them to prepare for reentry before they left the county facility? For example: job placement, school, vocational programs, housing, health insurance enrollment, driver’s license, CalFresh, and other services.

- Yes - 14.04% (8)
- No - 82.46% (47)
- Yes & No - 1.75% (1)