

**Allegheny County Jail Survey:  
Responses from Individuals who were  
Incarcerated, fall 2021**

Prepared in Response to Request by:  
Inmate Welfare Fund Subcommittee  
of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board

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## Introduction and Methodology

The current needs assessment was begun in response to a request by the Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF) Subcommittee of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board's (JOB) for assistance in better understanding how they could effectively and appropriately utilize proceeds generated from commissary sales. The Inmate Welfare Fund Subcommittee felt that they had inadequate information on needs, perceptions, and interests of people who are incarcerated in the jail to develop adequate approaches for using these funds as intended to benefit the education and welfare of inmates. Because the IWF is responsible for allocating funds generated by commissary sales, they requested this survey to provide input from people whose purchases generate these funds.

After this initial discussion with the IWF, JOB and various key stakeholders (e.g., Jail Chaplain, Warden, DHS personnel), the contract was routed through Allegheny DHS for funding to the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. The evaluation team was led by Dr. Elizabeth Farmer, PhD, Dean of the School of Social Work and included several post-doctoral fellows and student research assistants. Project timeline:

- October 2020 – initial proposal to Jail Oversight Committee
- Winter/Spring 2021 – development of measures, discussions with key stakeholders
- Late Summer/Fall 2021 – data collection
- Fall 2021 – data entry/cleaning
- Winter 2022 – data analysis
- Spring/Summer 2022 – report/dissemination

### Overview of Methodology

The study was designed to capture information about key domains, as determined by and discussed with the Inmate Welfare Fund Subcommittee, Jail Oversight Board, jail personnel, and other key stakeholders. These focused on issues that were of interest and concern and that had the potential to be addressed with strategic resource distribution from commissary revenues.

**Context.** It is important to recognize the larger context in which this work was conducted. This project collected data in late summer/early fall 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, jail policies designed to safeguard individuals who were incarcerated as well as jail personnel were in place. These included 23/1 lockdown, no in-person visitation, some delays in court and other proceedings, and personnel and supply chain issues that affected the broader society. Since this report is based on a one-time cross-sectional assessment, it is impossible to know the extent of these contingencies on the responses.

**Survey Design and Data Collection.** It was determined that a survey that could be completed by all individuals who were currently incarcerated in the jail would provide the most complete, comprehensive, and relevant information. Data collection was designed to cover dimensions that reflect and affect health, safety, and well-being of the jail's population. The

instrument was designed to provide sufficient detail and data so that the IWF and JOB could use the results to make informed decisions about priorities for resource allocations to improve health, safety, and well-being. A copy of the resulting survey is included as Appendix A.

After discussions with jail personnel, it was determined that the most feasible and appropriate methodology for collecting data involved paper/pencil survey distribution and completion (lack of access to external internet links made it difficult to utilize an online survey platform, COVID-19 protocols eliminated possibility of any in-person interviews or data collection). The jail agreed that all currently incarcerated individuals (except those who were currently experiencing mental health episodes/emergencies) would be eligible to participate in the study. Data collection with people who are currently incarcerated raises serious questions about confidentiality and voluntariness. To address these issues, surveys were distributed by a senior jail employee, not by unit-level Corrections Officers. Each inmate was given a survey with a cover note, a manila envelope, and a pen. The cover note indicated that we were asking for their input, participation was fully voluntary, individual responses would not be shared with jail personnel, and results would all be presented in aggregate form. If they chose to participate, they were asked to complete the survey and put it in the envelope (and seal it) before turning it in. Each respondent was given a bottle of Pepsi as a token of appreciation when they turned in the envelope. Please note that inmates could turn in a completed or blank survey in the envelope to receive the soda.

**Participation and Response Rate.** A total of 1,418 respondents completed the survey. This is approximately 89% of the number of eligible participants who were incarcerated at the time of data collection. Of these respondents, 1,019 (72%) provided qualitative responses to open-ended qualitative questions within the survey. Hence, these form the basis for this report.

**Analysis and Presentation of Results.** The survey included both quantitative and qualitative questions. After extensive discussion about the relevant timeframe for the questions, it was decided that respondents should be asked about their entire current period of incarceration. Hence, many questions are framed as “Since you have been in this jail....?” For some questions, a more limited timeframe was determined to be appropriate. For instance, questions that asked respondents to provide details on amount of time spent on activities (e.g., tablets, reading) were framed in shorter time frames (e.g., “in the past week”). Questions about mental health symptoms were derived from established measures that utilize a one-month reporting period, and this same timeframe was used here. Quantitative closed-ended questions (i.e., scales, yes/no, predetermined “check which apply” lists) were included to allow respondents to provide a quick overview of a wide range of potentially relevant topical areas. Qualitative open-ended responses were designed to give respondents space to elaborate on answers that might provide more complete information to guide use of the data gathered via quantitative measures (for example, if a respondent indicated that they’d like more variety in reading materials, they were asked what types of materials they would recommend). And the survey concluded with a general open-ended question “Do you have any additional comments that you would like to share about your experiences in the Allegheny County Jail?”

Presentation of data from quantitative questions focuses on frequencies and distributions. This project was viewed as a needs assessment and program evaluation enterprise, so it was not designed to test hypotheses or develop generalizable knowledge. Rather it was designed to gather input from individuals who were currently in the jail about their experiences and perceptions. Quantitative responses are reported as percentages, means, or other relevant aggregate measures of the response distribution. Because the focus was on the entire population, extensive subgroup analyses were not conducted for this report. However, given the vast discrepancy between the number of males and females in the jail, analyses were run to compare responses by gender. This was done because, given the small number of women in the overall sample, any results that were relevant primarily to women may have been lost in the overwhelmingly male sample.

Qualitative questions were analyzed by the research team to identify common themes. Coding of themes was developed iteratively by reading through the open-ended responses to each question, identifying ideas/constructs that were evident across multiple surveys to develop initial thematic areas, then re-reading and coding interviews to refine, expand, and consolidate themes. This report provides information on themes that emerged from the open-ended questions and provides some quotes from individual responses to illustrate what respondents actually said. These are included to allow readers to understand the ways in which respondents discussed an identified theme. They should be viewed as illustrative. All identifying information has been removed, to protect confidentiality of individual respondents. All identified themes reflect comments that were repeatedly identified by respondents. If a concern was raised by just a few respondents, it is not included here.

Finally, a note on accuracy and interpretation of the data. All data included in this report come from respondents' answers to the written surveys. The high response rate indicates that most of the individuals who were incarcerated at the jail when the survey was distributed participated in the project. Given the salience of the questions to their lives and the lack of other activities during the COVID-19 lockdown, this may not be surprising. Responses reflect what participants reported. Individuals choose to report what they want to. This is a combination of their personal perceptions and experiences, their own literacy and understanding of questions, their histories of experiences with the jail and other relevant social structures and systems, and their sense of what they wish to and feel safe/comfortable sharing. Data collection with people who are currently incarcerated always poses significant concerns and challenges. The methodology employed here was designed to reduce a sense of coercion, to provide an opportunity for honest responses, and to give a voice to individuals who were experiencing the conditions and context of the jail at the time data were collected. The sample's demographic composition suggests that the sample was representative of the jail's population. Analysis of non-sensical response patterns and reading of open-ended answers suggest that the vast majority of respondents appeared to understand the written questions. Hence, these data are reported as the best available summary of the views, perceptions, and experiences of the intended population.

**Appendix A contains the entire survey.** Please note that surveys were available in English and Spanish. Nearly all respondents (97.9%) completed the survey in English.

**Appendix B provides detailed responses and distributions to survey questions (tables and/or figures).**

## Summary of Results

### Characteristics of Participants

**Response rate.** As seen in Table 1 (p. 30), the needs assessment had an excellent response rate. Of approximately 1,600 individuals who were incarcerated during the time of data collection, 1,418 (89%) completed a survey.

**Demographics.** Based on known distributions of the population in the jail (from the Allegheny County Jail Dashboard), the sample showed the expected distributions and over-representations. It was comprised primarily of young men and over-represented people of color.

**Gender.** As expected, based on the jail's census, the vast majority of respondents were male (91.4%), with 7.4% female, and 1.4% indicating their gender as trans/non-binary/other.

**Race.** The sample was 57% Black, 26% white, 6.4% multi-racial, 5.3% "other," and less than 2.5% each for Latino/a, Native American, or Asian-Pacific Islander.

**Age.** The sample was predominantly young, with 47% of respondents under the age of 30 and 78% under the age of 40.

**Veterans.** 5.6% of respondents indicated that they had served in the military.

**Incarceration History.** The vast majority (81%) of respondents reported that they had been incarcerated in the Allegheny County Jail at least one other time prior to their current stay.

**Participation Across Pods.** As seen on Table 2 (p. 31), nearly all pods were well represented in this project. A small number of respondents (n=63, 4.4% of sample) did not indicate their pod on their survey.

### Basic Needs

Respondents were asked a series of questions about how well their basic needs were being met (hygiene, medical care, adequate clothing, comfortable temperature). Full data presented on pp. 32-34 (Table 3 to Table 9).

- Overall, 28% of respondents indicated that they "always" had "everything you need to maintain basic hygiene." (Table 3)

- A similar percentage indicated that they “rarely” (20.3%) or “never” (8.2%) had everything needed to maintain basic hygiene (28.5%)
- In response to “Where have you gotten hygiene items?” 30.6% indicated that they were given to them by the jail, and 82% of respondents reported that they purchased hygiene products from the commissary (Figure 1, p. 32) (Note, percentages total to more than 100% because respondents were instructed to “check all that apply.”)
- When asked, “Since you haven been in this jail, have you had to purchase items from the commissary that you believe are necessities?” 77% of respondents indicated that they always (57.4%) or frequently (19.6%) had to purchase “necessary” hygiene items from the commissary (Table 4)
  - In an open-ended response, the following items were the most frequently listed as necessary items that respondents purchased at the commissary:
    - soap
    - toothpaste
    - shampoo
    - deodorant
    - lotion
    - toothbrush
    - toilet paper
    - socks
    - food
    - shoes
    - boxers
- When women of menstruating age were asked about feminine hygiene products (Table 5):
  - 29% indicated that they “mostly” had access to necessary products
  - 35% indicated that the products they have were sufficient to meet their needs

## Medical Care

Respondents showed high levels of dissatisfaction with medical care in the jail (Table 6).

- Overall, 66% reported dissatisfaction -- Very Unhappy (49.7%) or Somewhat Unhappy (16%) with medical care in the jail
- 23% indicated that they were “somewhat happy” or “very happy” with medical care
- Nearly 12% (11.6%) indicated that they didn’t know or hadn’t used jail medical services
- Open-ended responses here were very consistent and descriptive and centered on a number of thematic issues (We include a few quotes here to provide direct voice to participants – each of these themes is based on a core of common responses, not on the few illustrative

quotes included here. Please note that quotes have been shortened (via ...) to remove identifying information. Themes included:

- **Length of time they waited to be seen** (this was for pre-existing conditions as well as emergent medical needs while in the jail)
  - *"You have to wait forever for medical then they just want to give you medication instead of trying to work on the issues."*
  - *"It's been 2 months since I submitted 2 sick call slips. Still no doctor visit. I'm a veteran with service-connected disabilities with a rating of 50% and I'm not getting the care I need."*
  - *"I was waiting for an MRI [for 13 months]"*
  - *"It takes medical weeks to see you even when they know you have severe conditions"*
  - *"Came in the jail at 170 [pounds]. After 3 days in the booking process was down to 160 as a type 2 diabetic. Took me four days to get the prescribed meds."*
  
- **Not receiving proper care or treatment for medical issues**
  - *"Before entering the jail, I was ... awaiting surgery. They give me nothing for the pain and have been telling me for 3 months that I am scheduled to see a surgeon."*
  - *"It took over a year of incarceration to get my insulin right. Sometimes I don't receive my insulin."*
  - *"... a sick call can they take a week. Their favorite remedy is Motrin. Shit you could be on your death bed they tell you to take some damn Motrin?"*
  - *"My social worker emailed the jail [4 months ago] to have me seen by mental health. I still haven't been seen. I am bipolar and unmedicated."*
  - *"Medical does not adhere to injuries or medical needs in a respectful/reasonable period."*
  
- **Concerns about dental care**
  - *"It took me over a year to see the dentist! They wait until you want your tooth pulled to see you. Even then it takes 6-8 weeks to get that done. They never believe you. When you're in pain about anything."*
  - *"I have been waiting over 3 1/2 months to go to the dentist to have a tooth pulled."*
  - *"Their answer for tooth problems is okay we are going to schedule you to get it removed. That's it. They don't fill cavities, they don't clean your teeth."*

- *“They refuse to help you with dental work unless you want your teeth pulled! So, you have to sit around in pain.”*

- **Issues with medication**

- *“They often miss doses of my [chronic condition] medication and antibiotics.”*
- *“After the nurse sees you about your sickle cell slip it can take months before the clinic calls you.”*
- *“It can take days or weeks to see medical. Pain meds and certain other items must be purchased to have it when needed.”*
- *“They're careless. I'm a diabetic and there are some days I don't get my insulin, whether it be because the jail is on lock down, medical is short, etc.”*
- *“If you have chronic medical conditions will still take you off your medication. Special diet trays consist of the same 2-3 meals. They make you pay for certain medications.”*
- *“Arthritis and pain force [me] to pay very high price for Tylenol”*
- *“Things like Tylenol must be purchased from commissary at a ridiculous upcharge.”*
- *“Prescriptions from outside have not been provided, constantly go without meds for days waiting on refills. Short staffed a lot and very sporadic med times.”*

### **Comfort (temperature and sleep quality)**

- 71% of respondents indicated that they found the jail temperature to be Somewhat (33.8%) or Very Uncomfortable (37.4%) (Table 7)
- Only 25% indicated that they had sufficient clothes and/or covers to always (13.3%) or frequently (11.9%) stay warm (Table 8)
- Only 6% of respondents reported that they “sleep well.” (Table 9)
  - 56% reported that they “sleep poorly” (30.4%) or “never get good sleep” (25.4%)
  - Open-ended responses shed light on the concerns and explanations for this lack of quality sleep. Overall, respondents indicated that the jail-supplied pillows, blankets, and mattresses were uncomfortable and insufficient.
    - One concern that was expressed repeatedly was concern about getting sleeping medication in the middle of the afternoon, rather than close to bedtime.

## Food

- 72% were “very dissatisfied” with food in the jail (Table 10)
  - Open-ended responses showed strong themes and substantial concerns, including sanitary conditions, variety, and needing to purchase food from the commissary.
    - *“... no fresh fruit at all!!”*
    - *“We eat the same things over and over.”*
    - *“They’ve sent up roaches with the food 3 times in 5 months.”*
    - *“Food comes up hours late, if it comes at all.”*
    - *“Plenty of times where roaches were on the food cart. Many times, I found pebbles on the trays mixed into the food.”*
    - *“Also, there would be roaches in our food and rock like materials in there as well and the jail expects us to eat such a thing.”*
- For respondents who were on special diets for medical conditions, 76% reported that the food they were served did not meet their dietary requirements (Table 11)
- 88% of respondents indicated that they went to bed hungry while in jail “frequently” (53%) or “sometimes” (35%) (Table 12)
- 75% of respondents indicated that they “frequently” supplemented their provided diet with food from the commissary because they were unhappy with the provided food (Figure 4)
  - Respondents had a great deal to say about the commissary, in terms of costs, quality, and nutritional content
    - *“The food being provided forces detainees to purchase overpriced commissary items at astronomical prices.”*
    - *“... so we buy commissary we don't get no healthy choices at any time”*
    - *“For instance, the food is unacceptable, so I spend \$150 a week on food. That’s \$600 a month to eat!”*
    - *“Commissary sells us dollar store items such as peanut butter/jelly for \$5 and it’s generic. They also sell us individual items that are not for sell individually sell, such as little Debbie cupcakes the box price is \$3.09, we pay \$4.99”*
    - *“Things cost sometimes 5 to ten time what they cost at home.... Thank you for hearing me. \$3.00 for a slim Jim???”*
    - *“commissary is sky high way too high. It is ridiculous”*
    - *“They want \$7 for a f-ing fish. \$2 for a 2.5-ounce bag of rice...”*
- When asked why they were unhappy with the provided food:
  - 85% “not enough variety”
  - 81% “not enough fruits/vegetables”
  - 79% “bland/unseasoned”
  - 70% “portions too small”

## Mental Health

Respondents were asked a set of standardized questions that have been used in other studies of incarcerated populations to assess mental health symptoms and resilience (K6 distress scale<sup>1</sup> and Connor-Davidson Resilience scale<sup>2</sup>). Full results are shown on pp. 38-41.

- Based on established algorithms for these measures, approximately half of the respondents (50% of men, 44% of women) reported symptoms that would place them in the range of having a likely diagnosis of a serious mental illness (Figure 5)
  - For each included symptom (e.g., nervous, hopeless, restless/jumpy, depressed, worthless) (Tables 15-20):
    - Approximately 20% of respondents reported experiencing the symptom “all of the time,” approximately 15% reported “most of the time,” and approximately 25% reported “some of the time.”
    - Hence, for each queried symptom, approximately 35% reported significant experience with this symptom (all/most of the time) and 60% expressed substantial experience with each (all/most/some)
- We did not ask open-ended questions in the section on mental health. However, it was central enough to respondents that many of them included comments about mental health in the final “anything else?” open-ended question:
  - *“Mental health is so slow to see us. There should be programs for people who come in on meds like Adderall, Ritalin ....”*
  - *“I get disrespect verbally, I have been assaulted physically, I have been tormented. I have been not able to cope or talk to someone who could help me, and I have felt abandoned”*
  - *“Need more access to drug and alcohol and mental health... there are a lot of suicide attempts and violence because lack of mental health plus all the locked in cell time.”*
  - *“The place is very punitive mental torture. They are breeding mental illness.”*
  - *“I feel this place is designed to break your mental health.”*
  - *“I wish we had more support groups.”*

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<sup>1</sup> Kessler, R. C., Barker, P. R., Colpe, L. J., Epstein, J. F., Gfroerer, J. C., Hiripi, E., Howes, M. J., Normand, S. L., Manderscheid, R. W., Walters, E. E., & Zaslavsky, A. M. (2003). Screening for serious mental illness in the general population. *Archives of general psychiatry*, 60(2), 184–189. <https://doi.org/10.1001/archpsyc.60.2.184>

<sup>2</sup> Connor, K. M., & Davidson, J. R. (2003). Development of a new resilience scale: the Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale (CD-RISC). *Depression and anxiety*, 18(2), 76–82. <https://doi.org/10.1002/da.10113>

## Activities and Services in Jail

**Tablet Use.** At the time of data collection, tablets had been in use at the jail for approximately 6 months

- Overall, respondents indicated considerable use of the tablets (Table 21, 22)
- Average amount of time on the tablets per day ranged from 0 to 12 hours, with a mean of 6.57 hours.
- Respondents used tablets for a variety of activities: movies (73%), video visits with family/friends (54%), reading (52%). (See full listing in Figure 6 on p. 40).
- When asked if the tablets provided enough access to free material, only 4% said “definitely yes.” The most common response, 58% was “definitely no.” (Figure 7)
- Similarly, most respondents indicated that they did not have sufficient funds to cover paid material on the tablets (34% “never,” 48% “sometimes”) (Figure 8).
- 82% indicated that they were dissatisfied with the cost of paid material on the tablets (58% “very unhappy,” 24% “somewhat unhappy”) (Figure 9)
- When asked what they wanted more access to on the tablets, their responses mirrored their current use responses (Movies (50%), video visits (34%), reading (33%)) (Figure 10)

**Contact with Family and Friends.** Even though COVID-19 restrictions had curtailed in-person visitation, respondents reported a good deal of contact with family and friends (Table 24).

- 74% indicated that they were in touch with family/friends multiple times per week
- Nearly half (49%) indicated that they were in touch “every day/almost every day,” and an additional 25% indicated they were in touch “a few times a week.”
- Telephone was the most frequent means of communication (83%), but tablet/video chatting was also very common (72%). Nearly half (42%) indicated that they used text/chat to communicate (Figure 11).

**Exercise.** Full responses are found on pp. 46-47/

Note that the survey was completed in August/September 2021 while the jail was on 23/1 lock down because of covid. Hence, responses on exercise were heavily influenced by issues of access to time outside their cells and are likely not representative of experiences during non-covid times.

- Exercise is the one area of the survey where there are significant differences between men and women’s responses (Table 25)
  - Men exercised considerably more than women ( $X^2=47.2, <.001$ )
    - 16% of men vs. 7% of women reported exercising “frequently”
    - 19% of men vs. 46% of women reported exercising “never”

- Men were somewhat, though not significantly, more satisfied with the amount of exercise (44% “very unsatisfied” for men vs. 57% for women) (Table 26)
- Men and women also engaged in somewhat different types of exercise (Figure 12)
  - For both men and women, exercising in their cell was the dominant form of exercise (67% of men, 62% of women) (Recall, of course, lack of alternatives during COVID-19.)
  - Men were more likely to participate in basketball, while women were more likely to participate in yoga

**Reading.** Reading was one of the most frequent activities reported by respondents. 76% all respondents indicated that reading was a common activity for them (Table 27), and of those who reported that they liked to read, 95% indicated that they had done it in the past week (Table 28).

- While males and females were equally likely to report that they read in jail, men reported spending more time doing so -- 57% of men reported spending more than 3 hours reading per day, while 40% of women reported this level of reading ( $X^2=13.2$ ,  $p<.05$ )
- Most respondents reported reading physical books (78%) and on the tablets (60%). 26% reported reading magazines (Figure 14).
- Approximately 2/3 of respondents said that they read “very well” when rating their own proficiency (61% of men, 68% of women). 8% of men and 6% of women rated their reading proficiency as quite low (recall, of course, that this was gathered on a self-administered written survey, so non/low-proficiency readers may be under-represented among respondents) (Table 29)
  - 56% of respondents said that they would “definitely” or “probably” participate in a reading program, if it were offered to them (Table 30).
  - While there was a relatively small number of Spanish-speaking respondents (who completed the survey in Spanish), reading proficiency was rated as significantly higher by English-speaking than Spanish-speaking respondents (62% “very well” vs. 35%; Table 31). Spanish-speaking respondents were also more likely to say that they would “definitely” participate in a reading program (48% vs. 32%; Table 32).
- The vast majority of respondents (82%) indicated that they wanted more reading material available (Table 35).
  - The following indicates the most common requests for expanded access/types of reading materials
    1. Updated magazines
    2. Newspapers

3. Sports
4. Urban fiction/hood books
5. Black authors/Black history
6. James Patterson books
7. Educational books (science, reading, career-focused)
8. Self- help
9. Law books
10. History books

### **Religious Activities.**

- 57% of respondents indicated that they “frequently”(31%) or “sometimes” (26%) engaged in religious activities while in jail (Table 37).
- The most common type of participation was engaging in religious services (66%) (Figure 17)
- Approximately 1/3 of respondents indicated that they engaged in private prayer/meditation (38%) or reading religious books (37%)

### **Other Leisure Activities.**

Respondents were asked about a range of other leisure activities that people may engage in. Many respondents indicated a wide range of leisure activities that they enjoy (see figure 15 and 16 on p. 51).

- Activities that they enjoyed and which they also participated in while in jail included listening to music, playing card games, and playing chess/checkers.
- Activities that many people reported enjoying, but which had very low rates of participation while in jail included arts/crafts (50% enjoy, 10% participated in jail) and drawing/writing (52% enjoy, 32% participate in jail)

### **Open-ended Comments**

At the end of the survey, respondents were asked if they had any additional information they wanted to share. They were prolific! As noted at the start, 72% of respondents included something in response to this open-ended prompt.

This section captured a range of issues already covered in the structured survey questions as well as topics that were not specifically asked about. Open-ended responses about topics that were specifically addressed in the survey were included in those sections (above).

The following includes additional themes that were evident in this final response. As above, the included quotes are not exhaustive – rather they are included to illustrate points that were made consistently across surveys.

**23 and 1.** Surveys were collected in late summer/early fall 2021, when the jail had been on an extended 23/1 schedule due to COVID-19. Many respondents commented on this.

- *“Being in a cell for multiple hours causes loneliness, stress, depression, and suicidal thoughts.”*
- *“They need to make more rec time for the people fast and hurry in the cells all day not good for the mind at all.”*
- *“Being trapped in a cell for 23 hours a day for over a year is inhumane.”*
- *“He quarantines process is inhumane. No rec, showering only every like 4 days, cold meals, nobody will help you or answer any questions for you. Barely are given a tablet or staff because there "isn't enough". Completely inhumane.”*
- *“We are being punished to disciplinary measures because of a virus. The supervising staff- whoever is reading this, I want you to lock yourself or imagine being locked in your bathroom for 23 hours at a time and in that 1 hour not you can shower or walk-in circles in your kitchen.”*

#### **Treatment by Staff.**

- *“The CO's are very aggressive, and some are downright abusive. We are placed in the hole and left there even after we have finished our whole time”*
- *“... allows officers to verbally and physically abuse inmates with no kind of consequences and he also encourages excessive force to be used and I have the marks to prove this claim.”*
- *“The men receive so much more privileges than the women. They discriminate against transgenders and gay.”*
- *“Policy is never followed. Rules never enforced; inmates are placed in danger due to staff conduct. There are no consequences for staff assault.”*
- *“The COs are terrible they abuse their authority they can say or do whatever and never be held responsible for their actions.”*

#### **Cleanliness: Lack of Access to Showers.**

- *“(In) processing sleep on 10x8 room with 18 grown men with vomit and feces everywhere on the floor where we sleep.”*
- *“We shower once a week.”*

- *“Yes, it took 6 days since my arrival for the jail to let me get a shower. I think that is nasty and should not be a thing.”*
- *“I've been here 5 days and have had only 1 shower, and when I ask for a towel and washcloth, I was told they didn't have any, these are basic human needs that I'm being denied, and I haven't even been convicted of anything.”*
- *“The showers have bugs and mildew.”*

#### **Commissary.**

- *“The commissary is overcharging. It is insane that I could buy 5 items and it costs \$30. ... it's like they would rather give us bad food, so we buy more commissary that is overly expensive.”*
- *“I should not have to buy 6-dollar toothpaste. The commissary is too high.”*
- *“The food being provided forces detainees to purchase overpriced commissary items at astronomical prices.”*
- *“...commissary way too high and I feel like the people that control the food we on the trays should be controlling the commissary, they feed us poorly, so we have to buy this very high commissary.”*
- *“We have no choice but to buy their over-priced merchandise and the jail profits from it.”*
- *“They extort your family for money through commissary and tablets and phones, everything is marked up a thousand percent because they know you have to pay it! It's dirty!”*

#### **Conclusion**

This report contains findings from a survey of individuals who were incarcerated at the Allegheny County Jail in September 2021. The project was originally requested by the Inmate Welfare Fund Subcommittee of the Jail Oversight Board and supported via funding by the Allegheny County Department of Human Services. Data were collected from 1,418 respondents (89% of eligible participants).

Findings include respondents' input, experiences, and perspectives on a variety of topics – basic needs, medical care, mental health, food, and activities. In each area, respondents provided overviews and details in response to quantitative and qualitative written survey questions.

These data were collected in fall of 2021, while the jail was under unique circumstances due to COVID-19. While this serves as the best available information on conditions at that time, repeated data collection may be useful to assess conditions and experiences beyond this point-in-time.

These data were requested to help guide the Inmate Welfare Fund Subcommittee's decisions about utilization of proceeds from the commissary. The data may also be useful for other purposes. Given the importance of knowing the broader system, parameters, and considerations for such decision making, we provide these data to inform discussions, but do not make recommendations ourselves. We would be happy to be involved in future discussions, analysis, and interpretation of these data. We hope that the perspectives and information shared by the 1,418 individuals who participated in this project can help inform this decision-making process.

**APPENDIX A: SURVEY**

**Information About You**

1. On what date were you most recently admitted to this jail?

Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Have you ever been admitted to *this jail* before?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

3. How do you describe yourself? (Select the one that best fits you)

\_\_\_\_\_ Male

\_\_\_\_\_ Female (**please see 3A**)

\_\_\_\_\_ Trans (**please see 3A**)

\_\_\_\_\_ Nonbinary (**please see 3A**)

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (**please see 3A**)

**3A.** If you use pads, tampons, or items for your period:

Do you have access to hygiene products that you need for your period?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ Sometimes

\_\_\_\_\_ Rarely

\_\_\_\_\_ No

\_\_\_\_\_ N/A

**3B.** Do these products meet your needs?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ Sometimes

\_\_\_\_\_ Rarely

\_\_\_\_\_ No

\_\_\_\_\_ N/A

4. What is your current age? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is your race/ethnicity? (Check all that apply)

\_\_\_\_\_ Native American

\_\_\_\_\_ Asian or Pacific Islander

\_\_\_\_\_ Black or African-American

\_\_\_\_\_ White (Caucasian)

\_\_\_\_\_ Latino/Hispanic

\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is your preferred language to speak?

English

Spanish (**please answer 6A**)

Other (what language?) \_\_\_\_\_ (**please answer 6A**)

**6A. If Spanish or Other:**

Have you received any translation services at the jail?

Yes (**please answer next question**)

No

- If you marked **Yes**: Were you happy with these services?

Definitely

Somewhat

Not at all

Not sure/Don't want to answer

7. Are you now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

Married

Widowed

Divorced

Separated

Never Married

8. Have you served in the military?

Yes

No

### Tablet Use

9. **In the past week**, about how many hours have you used the tablet per day? \_\_\_\_\_

10. What are you using the tablet for? Check all that apply.

Games

Educational help/Kahn Academy

Meditation/Mindfulness/Mental Health apps

Movies

Video visits

Sports

Exercise Programming

Reading material (Books, Magazines)

Other (**what else?**) \_\_\_\_\_

11. Is there one type of activity that you do the most?

- Games
- Educational help/Kahn Academy
- Meditation/Mindfulness/Mental Health apps
- Movies
- Video visits
- Sports
- Exercise Programming
- Reading material (Books, Magazines)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Not really, I do different activities about the same amount

12. Is there anything you would like more access to on your tablet? (Check all that apply)

- Games
- Educational help/Kahn Academy
- Meditation/Mindfulness/Mental Health apps
- Movies
- Video visits
- Sports
- Exercise Programming
- Reading material (Books, Magazines)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

13. Do you feel you have enough access to free material on the tablet?

- Definitely yes
- Somewhat yes
- Somewhat no
- Definitely no

14. Do you have enough funds to cover the paid material on the tablet?

- Always
- Most of the time
- Sometimes
- Never
- Don't Know/Don't use tablet

15. Are you happy with the cost of paid material on tablets?

- Very Happy
- Somewhat Happy
- Somewhat Unhappy
- Very Unhappy
- Don't Know/Don't use tablet

**Contact with Family and Friends**

16. Since you have been in this jail, have you had any contact with friends or family outside the jail?

- Yes (**please answer 16A and 16B**)
- No

16A. If YES, how often have you communicated with friends or family?

- Everyday/Almost everyday
- A few times a week
- Weekly
- Less than weekly

16B. How have you communicated with family or friends? (Check all that apply)

- Tablet (**please answer 16C-16E**)
- Phone
- E-mail
- Text/Chat
- Social Media
- Letters/Mail
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

16C. Since you haven been in this jail, have you used **the tablet** to communicate with friends or family?

**Yes--** How often?

- Everyday
- A few times a week
- Weekly
- Less than weekly

16D. How happy are you with your access to friends or family on the **tablet**?

- Very Happy
- Somewhat Happy
- Somewhat Unhappy (**please answer 16E**)
- Very Unhappy (**please answer 16E**)

16E. If you are **not happy**, why not?

---

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Recreation Activities**

17. Since you haven been in this jail, have you been able to exercise in the jail?

- Frequently (**please answer 17A**)
- Sometimes (**please answer 17A**)
- Rarely (**please answer 17A**)
- Never

<p>17A. If you were able to exercise, what have you been doing? <b>Check all that apply</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Basketball</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Yoga</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Exercises in cell</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Other (what else?) _____</li></ul> <p>17B. How often have you been able to exercise?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Everyday/Almost everyday</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> A few times a week</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Weekly</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Less than weekly</li></ul>
--

18. How satisfied are you with your level of exercise since you haven been in this jail?

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Somewhat unsatisfied
- Very unsatisfied

19. Do you enjoy reading?

- Very much
- Somewhat
- Not at all

20. In the last week, did you spend any time reading?

- Yes (**please answer 20A**)
- No

<p>20A. If Yes: About how much time did you spend reading on an average day?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> None (0 hours)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 hours</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 hours</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> More than 4 hours</li></ul> <p>20B. What have you used for reading purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Tablet</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Books</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Magazines</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<b>what else?</b>) _____</li></ul>
---

21. Are there reading materials available to you in a language you can read?

- Very available
- Somewhat available
- Not often available
- Rarely available
- Not applicable/Don't read

22. Do you wish that more reading materials were available to you?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

23. **If Yes or Maybe:** What kind of books, newspapers, or magazines do you wish were available?

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24. Many people say they don't read as well as they would like. Overall, how well do you think you read?

- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Not very well
- Not at all well

25. If a program to help you learn to read better was available at the jail, would you participate?

- Definitely
- Probably
- Maybe
- Definitely not

26. Do you enjoy participating in any of these activities (check all that apply):

- Arts/crafts
- Card Games/Playing cards
- Dominoes
- Chess/Checkers
- Other Board games
- Listening to Music
- Playing Music/Singing
- Drawing/Writing/Journaling
- Anything else? \_\_\_\_\_

27. Since you haven been in this jail, have you done any of these (check all that apply):

- Arts/crafts
- Card Games/Playing cards
- Dominoes
- Chess/Checkers
- Other Board games
- Listening to Music
- Playing Music/Singing
- Drawing/Writing/Journaling
- Anything else? \_\_\_\_\_

28. If a music program were offered where you could learn and/or play instruments, would you be interested in participating?

- Definitely
- Probably
- Maybe
- Definitely not

29. Since you have been in this jail, have you engaged in any religious activities?

- Frequently (**Go To 29A**)
- Sometimes (**Go To 29A**)
- Rarely (**Go To 29A**)
- Never

29A. What type(s) of activities have you participated in? (Check all that apply)

- Religious services
- Private prayer or meditation
- Bible (or other religious books) reading or studying
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**BASIC NEEDS**

30. Since you have been in this jail, have you had everything you need to maintain basic hygiene?

- Always
- Frequently
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

31. Where have you gotten hygiene items: (Check all that apply)

- Commissary
- Sent by Family
- Given by the jail
- Provided by the Chaplain
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

32. Since you haven been in this jail, have you had to purchase items from the commissary that you believe are necessities?

- Always
- Frequently (**please answer 32A**)
- Sometimes (**please answer 32A**)
- Rarely
- Never

<p><b>32A. If you answered Frequently, Sometimes:</b></p> <p>What types of items have had to buy that you think should be given:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
--

33. Thinking about COVID cleaning and public health rules, do you feel the jail is providing you with safe conditions during COVID?

- Always
- Frequently
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

34. How happy are you with Jail Medical?

- Very Happy
- Somewhat Happy (**please answer 34A**)
- Somewhat Unhappy (**please answer 34A**)
- Very Unhappy (**please answer 34A**)
- DK/Don't use Jail Medical

<p><b>34A. Would you like to share your experiences with Jail Medical?</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
--

35. Since you haven been in this jail, which of the following best describes your experience in your cell?

- I am often too hot
- I am sometimes too hot
- I am usually comfortable
- I am sometimes too cold
- I am often too cold

36. If you have too cold, have you had enough clothing and/or covers to make you warm?

- Always
- Frequently
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

37. Since you haven been in this jail, how is your quality of sleep?

- I sleep well
- I sleep ok
- I sleep poorly (**Go To 37A**)
- I never get good sleep (**Go To 37A**)
- It varies a lot (sometimes good; sometimes bad) (**Go To 37A**)

<p><b>37A.</b> What would improve your quality of sleep?</p> <hr/> <hr/>
--

**Food**

38. Since you haven been in this jail, how satisfied are you with the **quality** of food you are given?

- Very Satisfied
- Somewhat Satisfied
- Somewhat Dissatisfied
- Very Dissatisfied

39. Since you haven been in this jail, how satisfied are you with the **variety** of food you are given?

- Very Satisfied
- Somewhat Satisfied
- Somewhat Dissatisfied
- Very Dissatisfied

40. Since you haven been in this jail, how satisfied are you with the **amount** of food you are given?

- Very Satisfied
- Somewhat Satisfied
- Somewhat Dissatisfied
- Very Dissatisfied

41. Do you have a special diet because of religion, culture, medical condition, or preference?

Yes (**please answer 41A**)

No

**41A. If yes to either of the above:**

Please indicate your diet:

Vegetarian

Vegan

Pescatarian

Halal

Kosher

Low salt/Low Sugar

Pregnancy diet (**please answer 42B**)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**41B. If you are pregnant,** are you being provided extra snacks and fresh fruit?

Yes

No

42. Has the jail provided food that you can eat with your diet?

Yes

No (**please answer 42A**)

**42A. If not, what has not met your dietary requirements?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

43. Since you haven been in this jail, have you ever gone to bed hungry?

Frequently

Rarely

Sometimes

Never

44. Are you provided with free snacks between meals?

Frequently

Rarely

Sometimes

Never

45. If you do not want to eat the meal provided, are you given an alternative meal?

Frequently

Rarely

Sometimes

Never

46. Do you like the food provided to you by the jail?

- Frequently
- Rarely (Please see 46A)
- Sometimes (Please see 46A)
- Never (Please see 46A)

**46A. If you answered Sometimes, Rarely, or Never:**

Why are you unhappy with the food? (Mark all that apply)

- Portions too small
- Bland/unseasoned
- Not enough fresh fruit and vegetables
- Not enough variety/same foods over and over again
- Lack of foods you eat at home (familiar)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

47. Do you purchase food items from the commissary because you are unhappy with the food provided?

- Frequently
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Never

**HEALTH & WELLNESS**

48. During the past month, about how often did you?

	ALL OF THE TIME	MOST OF THE TIME	SOME OF THE TIME	A LITTLE OF THE TIME	NONE OF THE TIME
Feel nervous?					
Feel hopeless?					
Feel restless or jumpy?					
Feel so depressed that nothing could cheer you up?					
Feel that everything was an effort?					
Feel worthless?					

49. Please indicate how much you agree with each statement as they apply to how you have responded to life stress over the past month.

	<b>Not true at all</b> 0	<b>Rarely true</b> 1	<b>Sometimes true</b> 2	<b>Often true</b> 3	<b>True nearly all the time</b> 4
I am able to adapt when changes occur.	0	1	2	3	4
I can deal with whatever comes my way.	0	1	2	3	4
I try to see the humorous side of things when I am faced with problems.	0	1	2	3	4
Having to cope with stress can make me stronger.	0	1	2	3	4
I tend to bounce back after illness, injury, or other hardships.	0	1	2	3	4
I believe I can achieve my goals, even if there are obstacles.	0	1	2	3	4
Under pressure, I stay focused and think clearly.	0	1	2	3	4
I am not easily discouraged by failure.	0	1	2	3	4
I think of myself as a strong person when dealing with life's challenges and difficulties.	0	1	2	3	4
I am able to handle unpleasant or painful feelings like sadness, fear, and anger.	0	1	2	3	4

50. Do you have any additional comments that you would like to share about your experiences in the Allegheny County Jail?

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**APPENDIX B: TABLES AND FIGURES**

**Characteristics of Participants**

**Table 1. Characteristics of Participants**

<b>Overall</b>		<b>1,418</b>		<b>100%</b>		
<b>Gender (n=1,406)</b>	<b>Male</b>	1,285		91.4%		
	<b>Female</b>	102		7.3%		
	<b>Other</b>	<b>Trans</b>	19	10	1.4%	0.7%
		<b>Non-Binary</b>		1		0.1%
<b>Other</b>		8		0.6%		
<b>Race (n=1,409)</b>	<b>Black/African American</b>	805		57.1%		
	<b>White</b>	368		26.1%		
	<b>Other</b>	<b>API</b>	236	10	16.7%	0.7%
		<b>Native</b>		34		2.4%
		<b>Latino only</b>		30		2.1%
		<b>Multiple</b>		87		6.4%
<b>Other</b>		75		5.3%		
<b>Age (n=1,382)</b>	<b>Under 18</b>	20		1.4%		
	<b>18~20</b>	73		5.3%		
	<b>20s</b>	559		40.4%		
	<b>30s</b>	432		31.3%		
	<b>40s</b>	177		12.8%		
	<b>50s</b>	94		6.8%		
	<b>60s</b>	24		1.7%		
	<b>Over 70</b>	3		0.2%		
<b>Marital Status (n=1,386)</b>	<b>Married</b>	164		11.8%		
	<b>Widowed</b>	16		1.2%		
	<b>Divorced</b>	107		7.7%		
	<b>Separated</b>	87		6.3%		
	<b>Never Married</b>	1,012		73.0%		
<b>Previously Admitted (n=1,399)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	1,133		81.0%		
	<b>No</b>	266		19.0%		
<b>Language (n=1,400)</b>	<b>English</b>	1,371		97.9%		
	<b>Spanish</b>	19		1.4%		
	<b>Other</b>	10		0.7%		
<b>Military Service (n=1,386)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	77		5.6%		
	<b>No</b>	1,309		94.4%		

**Table 2. Participants by Pods**

<b>Pods</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>2A</b>	53	3.7%
<b>2B</b>	45	3.3%
<b>2C</b>	40	2.8%
<b>2D</b>	46	3.2%
<b>2E</b>	47	3.3%
<b>2F</b>	40	2.8%
<b>3A</b>	64	4.5%
<b>3B</b>	57	4.0%
<b>3C</b>	72	5.1%
<b>3D</b>	67	4.7%
<b>3E</b>	54	3.8%
<b>3F</b>	36	2.5%
<b>4A</b>	78	5.5%
<b>4B</b>	57	4.0%
<b>4C</b>	59	4.2%
<b>4D</b>	45	3.2%
<b>4F</b>	65	4.6%
<b>5D</b>	9	0.6%
<b>5E</b>	28	2.0%
<b>5F</b>	33	2.3%
<b>5MC</b>	19	1.3%
<b>6D</b>	71	5.0%
<b>6E</b>	69	4.9%
<b>6F</b>	61	4.3%
<b>7D</b>	37	2.6%
<b>7E</b>	35	2.5%
<b>8D</b>	50	3.5%
<b>8E</b>	18	1.3%
<b>unknown</b>	63	4.4%

\* Female Pods : 4D, 4F

\*\* Juvenile Pod : 5MC

\*\*\* Self-reported gender not matching with pod

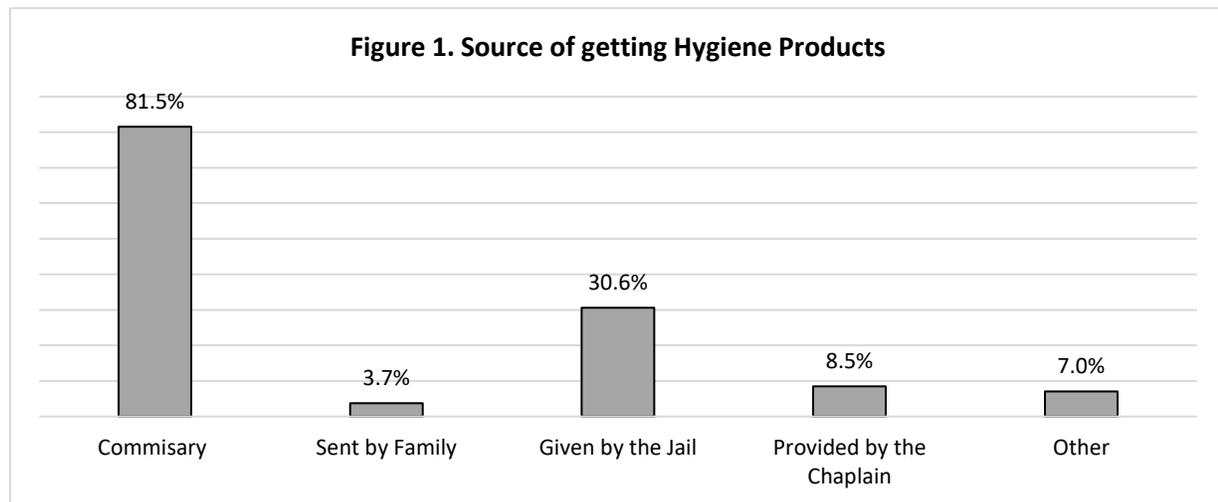
Female pod inmates identifying as male (n=5), transgender (n=2), non-binary (n=1), and other (n=2)

Male pod inmates identifying as female (n=3), transgender (n=8), non-binary (n=0), and other (n=6)

## Basic Needs

**Table 3. Have you had everything you need to maintain basic hygiene? (by gender)**

	Gender			Total
	Male	Female	Other	
<b>Overall</b>	<b>1,266</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1,382</b>
<b>Always</b>	356 (28.1%)	26 (26.3%)	1 (5.9%)	383 (27.7%)
<b>Frequently</b>	190 (15.0%)	10 (10.1%)	2 (11.8%)	202 (14.6%)
<b>Sometimes</b>	365 (28.8%)	29 (29.3%)	9 (52.9%)	403 (29.2%)
<b>Rarely</b>	254 (20.1%)	21 (21.2%)	5 (29.4%)	280 (20.3%)
<b>Never</b>	101 (8.0%)	13 (13.1%)	0 (0.0%)	114 (8.2%)



**Table 4. Have you had to purchase items from the commissary that you believe are necessary? (by gender)**

	Male	Female	Other	Total (n=1,356)
<b>Always</b>	719 (57.9%)	53 (54.1%)	7 (43.8%)	779 (57.4%)
<b>Frequently</b>	239 (19.2%)	22 (22.4%)	5 (31.3%)	266 (19.6%)
<b>Sometimes</b>	152 (12.2%)	11 (11.2%)	1 (6.3%)	164 (12.1%)
<b>Rarely</b>	75 (6.0%)	4 (4.1%)	2 (12.5%)	81 (6.0%)
<b>Never</b>	57 (4.6%)	8 (8.2%)	1 (6.3%)	66 (4.9%)

**Table 5. Do you have access to hygiene products that you need for your period? Do these products meet your needs?**

	<b>Access to Feminine Hygiene products (n=116)</b>	<b>Feminine Hygiene products meet need (n=97)</b>
<b>Yes</b>	34 (29.3%)	34 (35.1%)
<b>Sometimes</b>	44 (37.9%)	20 (20.6%)
<b>Rarely</b>	13 (11.2%)	9 (9.3%)
<b>No</b>	15 (12.9%)	25 (25.8%)
<b>N/A</b>	10 (8.6%)	9 (9.3%)

**Table 6. how happy are you with jail medical? (by gender)**

	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Very Happy</b>	124 (9.9%)	9 (9.2%)	0 (0.0%)	133 (9.7%)
<b>Somewhat Happy</b>	167 (13.3%)	11 (11.2%)	0 (0.0%)	178 (13.0%)
<b>Somewhat Unhappy</b>	192 (15.3%)	22 (22.4%)	4 (25.0%)	218 (15.9%)
<b>Very Unhappy</b>	618 (49.3%)	51 (52.0%)	10 (62.5%)	679 (49.7%)
<b>DK/Don't use Jail Medical</b>	152 (12.1%)	5 (5.1%)	2 (12.5%)	159 (11.6%)

**Table 7. Which of the following describes your experience in your cell? (by gender)**

	Male	Female	Other	Total (n=1,354)
<b>Very Uncomfortable</b> ("often too hot" or "often too cold")	453 (36.6%)	45 (45.5%)	9 (56.3%)	507 (37.4%)
<b>Somewhat Uncomfortable</b> ("sometimes too hot" or "sometimes too cold")	420 (33.9%)	35 (35.4%)	3 (18.8%)	458 (33.8%)
<b>Comfortable</b> ("usually comfortable")	366 (29.5%)	19 (19.2%)	4 (25.0%)	389 (28.7%)

**Table 8. If you have been too cold, have you had enough clothing and/or covers to keep warm (by gender)**

	Male	Female	Other	Total (n=1,281)
<b>Always</b>	157 (13.4%)	13 (13.5%)	1 (6.7%)	171 (13.3%)
<b>Frequently</b>	141 (12.1%)	10 (10.4%)	2 (13.3%)	153 (11.9%)
<b>Sometimes</b>	329 (28.1%)	32 (33.3%)	3 (20.0%)	364 (28.4%)
<b>Rarely</b>	299 (25.6%)	19 (19.8%)	3 (20.0%)	321 (25.1%)
<b>Never</b>	244 (20.9%)	22 (22.9%)	6 (40.0%)	272 (21.2%)

**Table 9. Quality of Sleep (by gender)**

	Male	Female	Other	Total (n=1,380)
<b>Sleep Well</b>	66 (5.2%)	9 (8.9%)	1 (6.3%)	76 (5.5%)
<b>Sleep OK</b>	354 (28.0%)	22 (21.8%)	3 (18.8%)	379 (27.5%)
<b>Sleep poorly</b>	384 (30.4%)	31 (30.7%)	4 (25.0%)	419 (30.4%)
<b>Never get good sleep</b>	319 (25.3%)	25 (24.8%)	7 (43.8%)	351 (25.4%)
<b>Varies</b>	140 (11.1%)	14 (13.9%)	1 (6.3%)	155 (11.2%)

## Food

**Table 10. How satisfied are you with the *quality* of food you are given? How satisfies are you with the *variety* of food you are given? How satisfied are you with the *amount* of food you are given?**

	Quality (n= 1,392)	Variety (n= 1,393)	Amount (n= 1,392)
Very Satisfied	31 (2.2%)	33 (2.4%)	40 (2.9%)
Somewhat Satisfied	72 (5.2%)	60 (4.3%)	171 (12.3%)
Somewhat Dissatisfied	155 (11.1%)	164 (11.8%)	179 (12.9%)
Very Dissatisfied	1,134 (81.5%)	1,136 (81.6%)	1,002 (72.0%)

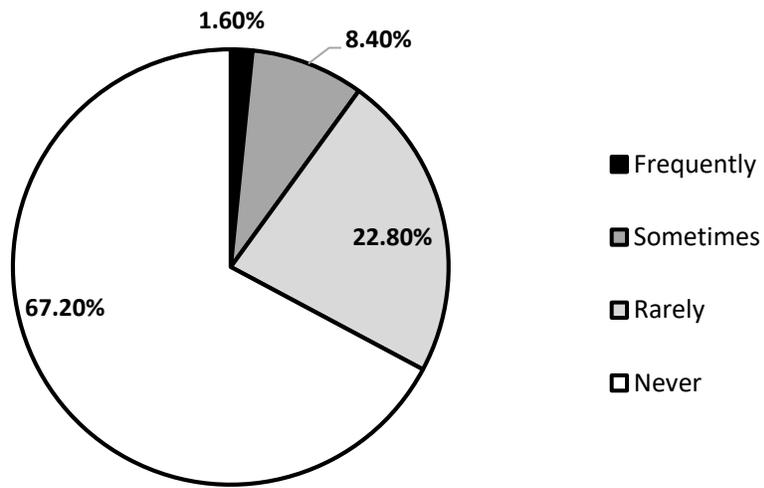
**Table 11. If you have a special diet..., has the jail provided you with food that you can eat with your diet?**

	Special Diet
Yes, Food met Diet	72 (23.8%)
No, Food did not meet Diet	230 (76.2%)
Total	302

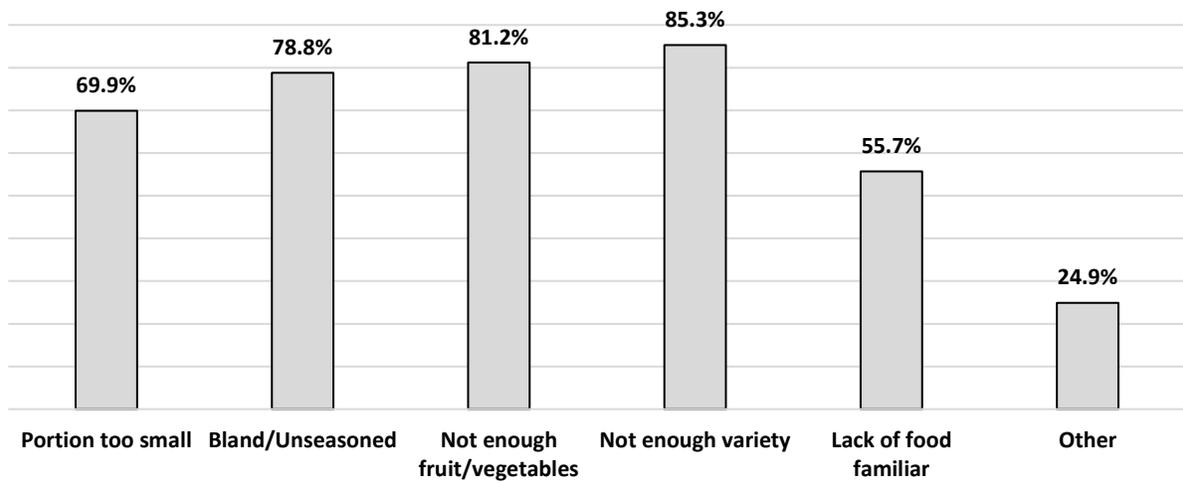
**Table 12. Experience with Food (Questions 43, 44, 45 on survey)**

	Gone to Bed Hungry (n= 1,387)	Provided with Snacks (n= 1,384)	Provided with Alternative Meal (n= 1,386)
Frequently	733 (52.8%)	20 (1.4%)	18 (1.3%)
Sometimes	489 (35.3%)	64 (4.6%)	27 (1.9%)
Rarely	103 (7.4%)	61 (4.4%)	30 (2.2%)
Never	62 (4.4%)	1,239 (89.5%)	1,311 (94.6%)

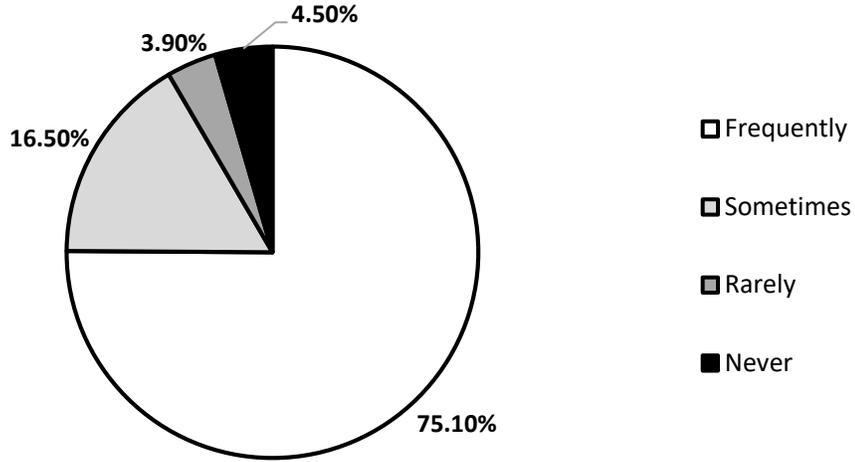
**Figure 2. Do you like the food provided by the jail?**



**Figure 3. Reason Why Unhappy with Food**



**Figure 4. Do you purchase food items from the commissary because you are unhappy with the food provided?**



## Mental Health

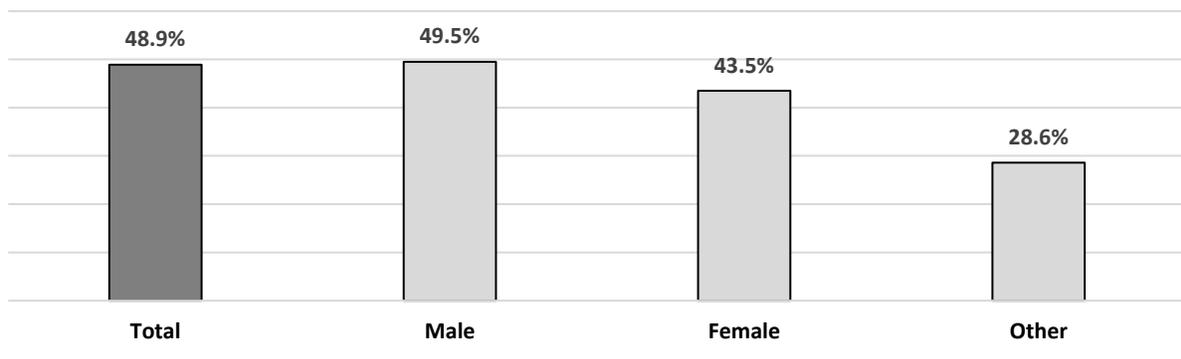
**Table 13. Mental Health and Resilience Scores (by gender) (Generated, using established scoring algorithms, from Questions 48 and 49 on Survey)**

	Gender	M (SD)	Total
<b>Overall Mental Health (range 0~24)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>12.36 (SD=7.23)</b>	.610 (p=.544)
	Male	12.41 (SD=7.20)	
	Female	11.49 (SD=7.53)	
	Other	10.63 (SD=6.95)	
<b>Resilience (range 0~40)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>26.80 (SD=8.63)</b>	.841 (p=.432)
	Male	26.88 (SD=8.67)	
	Female	26.32 (SD=8.05)	
	Other	24.50 (SD=8.78)	

**Table 14. Mental Health Score by Symptoms (by gender)**

Item	Gender	M (SD)	F value
<b>During the past month, I Felt Nervous (n=1,337 / M=1.99 / SD= 1.45)</b>	Male (n=1,222)	2.01 (1.45)	<b>F=1.67, p=.189</b>
	Female (n=99)	1.74 (1.39)	
	Other (n=16)	1.94 (1.39)	
<b>During the past month, I Felt Hopeless (n=1,339 / M=1.97 / SD= 1.44)</b>	Male (n=1,225)	1.98 (1.43)	<b>F=.707, p=.494</b>
	Female (n=98)	1.85 (1.46)	
	Other (n=16)	1.69 (1.40)	
<b>During the past month, I Felt Restless or Jumpy (n=1,327 / M=1.87 / SD= 1.39)</b>	Male (n=1,215)	1.88 (1.39)	<b>F=.4087, p=.665</b>
	Female (n=96)	1.89 (1.36)	
	Other (n=16)	1.56 (1.26)	
<b>During the past month, I Felt so Depressed that nothing could Cheer Me Up (n=1,341 / M=2.03 / SD= 1.42)</b>	Male (n=1,229)	2.03 (1.42)	<b>F=1.67, p=.189</b>
	Female (n=98)	2.06 (1.43)	
	Other (n=14)	1.71 (1.07)	
<b>During the past month, I that Everything was an Effort (n=1,315 / M=2.00 / SD= 1.41)</b>	Male (n=1,203)	2.01 (1.40)	<b>F=.614, p=.541</b>
	Female (n=96)	1.91 (1.47)	
	Other (n=16)	1.69 (1.30)	
<b>During the past month, I Felt Worthless (n=1,339 / M=2.37 / SD= 1.54)</b>	Male (n=1,225)	2.38 (1.54)	<b>F=.444, p=.641</b>
	Female (n=98)	2.23 (1.58)	

**Figure 5. Potential Severe Mental Health Problem (based on established cut-points for determining likelihood of diagnosis, Question 48)**



**Table 15. During the past month, I Felt Nervous (by gender)**

$\chi^2 = 15.71$ (p=.047)	Male (n=1,229)	Female (n=98)	Other (n=14)	Total (n=1,337)
All of the time	273 (22.3%)	23 (23.2%)	3 (18.8%)	299 (20.4%)
Most of the time	177 (14.5%)	27 (27.3%)	3 (18.8%)	207 (15.5%)
Some of the time	313 (25.6%)	17 (17.2%)	5 (31.3%)	335 (25.1%)
A little of the time	180 (14.7%)	17 (17.2%)	2 (12.5%)	199 (14.9%)
None of the time	279 (22.8%)	15 (15.2%)	3 (18.8%)	297 (22.2%)

**Table 16. During the past month, I Felt Hopeless (by gender)**

$\chi^2 = 7.21$ (p=.514)	Male (n=1,225)	Female (n=98)	Other (n=16)	Total (n=1,339)
All of the time	263 (21.5%)	24 (24.5%)	3 (18.8%)	290 (21.7%)
Most of the time	204 (16.7%)	20 (20.4%)	6 (37.5%)	230 (17.2%)
Some of the time	327 (26.7%)	21 (21.4%)	3 (18.8%)	351 (26.2%)
A little of the time	155 (12.7%)	13 (13.3%)	1 (6.3%)	169 (12.6%)
None of the time	276 (22.5%)	20 (20.4%)	3 (18.8%)	299 (22.3%)

**Table 17. During the past month, I Felt Restless or Jumpy (by gender)**

$\chi^2= 5.74$ (p=.677)	Male (n=1,215)	Female (n=96)	Other (n=16)	Total (n=1,327)
All of the time	273 (22.5%)	19 (19.8%)	3 (18.8%)	295 (22.2%)
Most of the time	219 (18.0%)	21 (21.9%)	6 (37.5%)	246 (17.6%)
Some of the time	327 (26.9%)	24 (25.0%)	4 (25.0%)	355 (24.4%)
A little of the time	178 (14.7%)	16 (16.7%)	1 (6.3%)	195 (16.0%)
None of the time	218 (17.9%)	16 (16.7%)	2 (12.5%)	236 (22.1%)

**Table 18. During the past month, I Felt so Depressed that nothing could Cheer Me Up (by gender)**

$\chi^2= 6.75$ (p=.564)	Male (n=1,229)	Female (n=98)	Other (n=14)	Total (n=1,341)
All of the time	248 (20.2%)	18 (18.4%)	2 (14.3%)	268 (20.0%)
Most of the time	214 (17.4%)	19 (19.4%)	3 (21.4%)	236 (17.6%)
Some of the time	297 (24.2%)	23 (23.5%)	7 (50.0%)	327 (24.4%)
A little of the time	198 (16.1%)	15 (15.3%)	1 (7.1%)	214 (16.0%)
None of the time	272 (22.1%)	23 (23.5%)	1 (7.1%)	296 (22.1%)

**Table 19. During the past month, I that Everything was an Effort (by gender)**

$\chi^2= 9.31$ (p=.317)	Male (n=1,203)	Female (n=96)	Other (n=16)	Total (n=1,315)
All of the time	250 (20.8%)	22 (22.9%)	4 (25.0%)	276 (21.0%)
Most of the time	182 (15.1%)	21 (21.9%)	2 (12.5%)	205 (15.6%)
Some of the time	329 (27.3%)	17 (17.7%)	7 (43.8%)	353 (26.8%)
A little of the time	194 (16.1%)	16 (16.7%)	1 (6.3%)	211 (16.0%)
None of the time	248 (20.6%)	20 (20.8%)	2 (12.5%)	270 (20.5%)

**Table 20. During the past month, I Felt Worthless (by gender)**

$\chi^2= 2.55$ (p=.959)	Male (n=1,225)	Female (n=98)	Other (n=16)	Total (n=1,339)
All of the time	231 (18.9%)	21 (21.4%)	3 (18.8%)	255 (19.0%)
Most of the time	152 (12.4%)	15 (8.8%)	3 (18.8%)	170 (12.7%)
Some of the time	216 (17.6%)	16 (16.3%)	3 (18.8%)	235 (17.6%)
A little of the time	174 (14.2%)	12 (12.2%)	1 (6.3%)	187 (14.0%)
None of the time	452 (36.9%)	34 (34.7%)	6 (37.5%)	492 (36.7%)

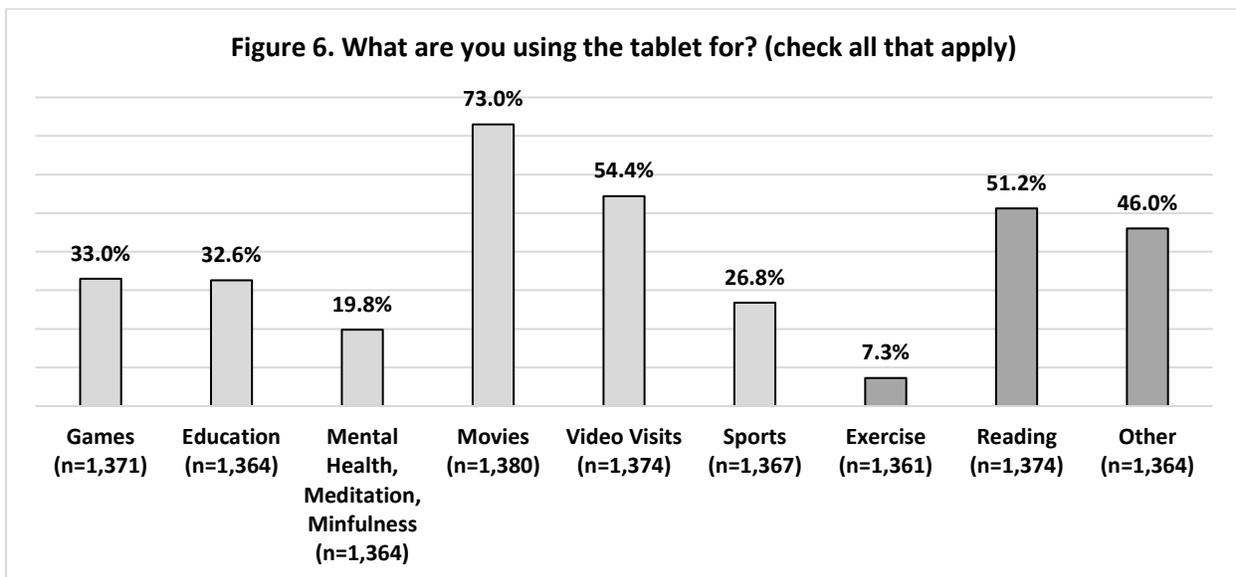
**Activities and Services in Jail**

**Table 21. Average Daily Tablet Use (hours; by gender)**

	Gender	M (SD)	F value
Tablet Use Time (hours)	Total (n= 1,241)	6.57 (4.06)	6.705 (p < .01)
	Male (n=1,125)	6.69 (4.07)	
	Female (n=96)	5.16 (3.66)	
	Other (n=14)	5.64 (4.11)	

**Table 22. In the past week, about how many hours have you used the table per day? (by gender)**

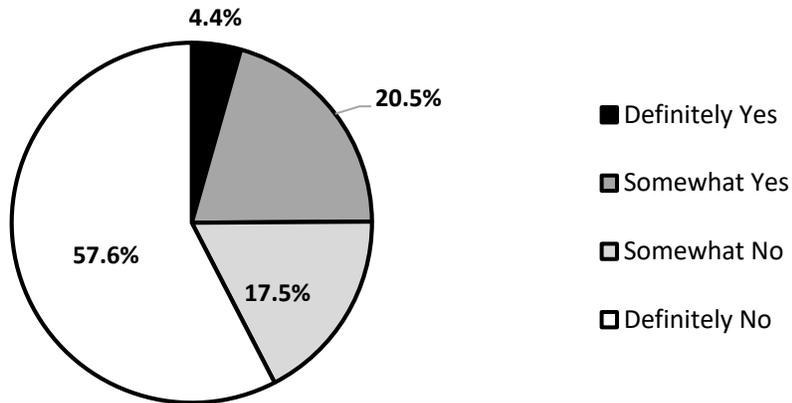
$\chi^2 = 19.350$ (p<.05)	Male (n=1,125)	Female (n=96)	Other (n=14)	Total (n=1,235)
Do not use at all	58 (5.2%)	8 (8.3%)	2 (14.3%)	68 (5.5%)
2 hours or less	155 (13.8%)	16 (16.7%)	1 (7.1%)	172 (13.9%)
More than 2 hours, less than 6 hours	371 (33.0%)	44 (45.8%)	7 (50.0%)	422 (34.2%)
More than 6 hours, less than 10 hours	236 (21.0%)	16 (16.7%)	1 (7.1%)	253 (20.5%)
More than 10 hours	305 (27.1%)	12 (12.5%)	3 (21.4%)	320 (25.9%)



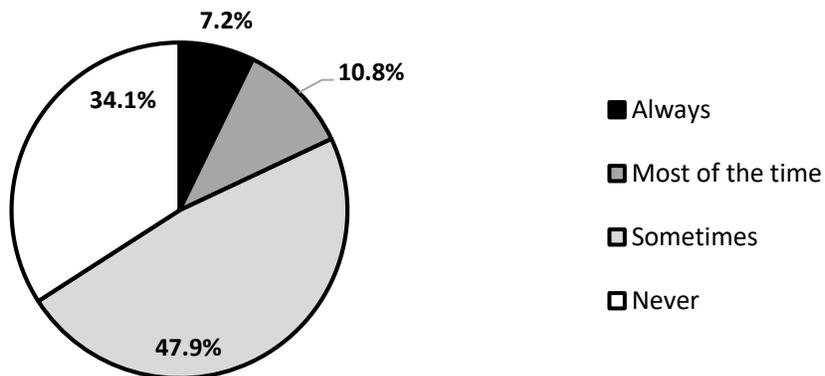
**Table 23. Is there one type of activity that you do the most (on the Tablet)? (n=1,379)**

Games	Education	Mental Health	Movies	Video Visits	Sports	Exercise	Reading	Other	Multiple
2.5%	2.5%	0.8%	24.9%	5.2%	1.6%	0.9%	9.5%	14.5%	37.6%

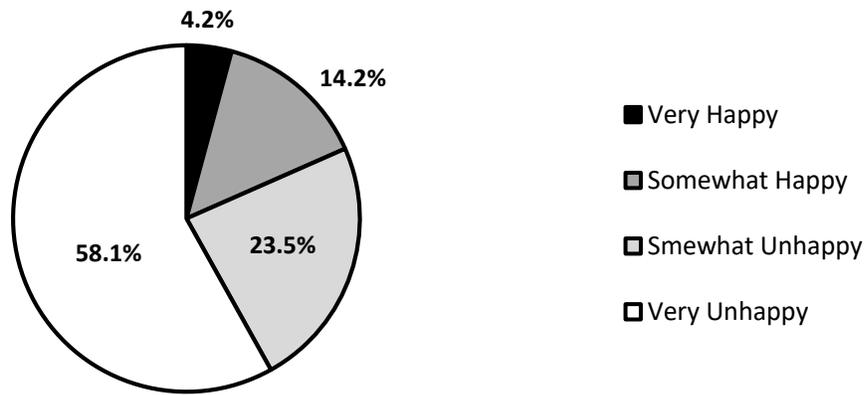
**Figure 7. Do you feel you have enough access to free material on the tablet?**



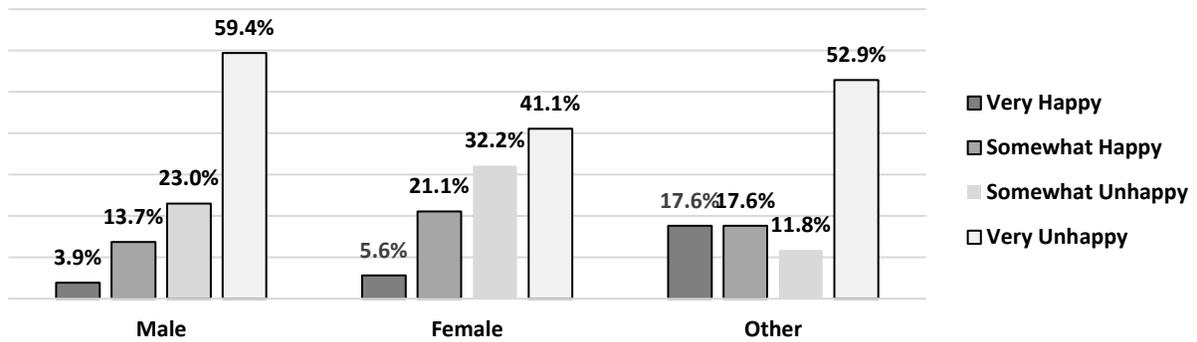
**Figure 8. Do you have enough funds to cover paid material on the tablet?**



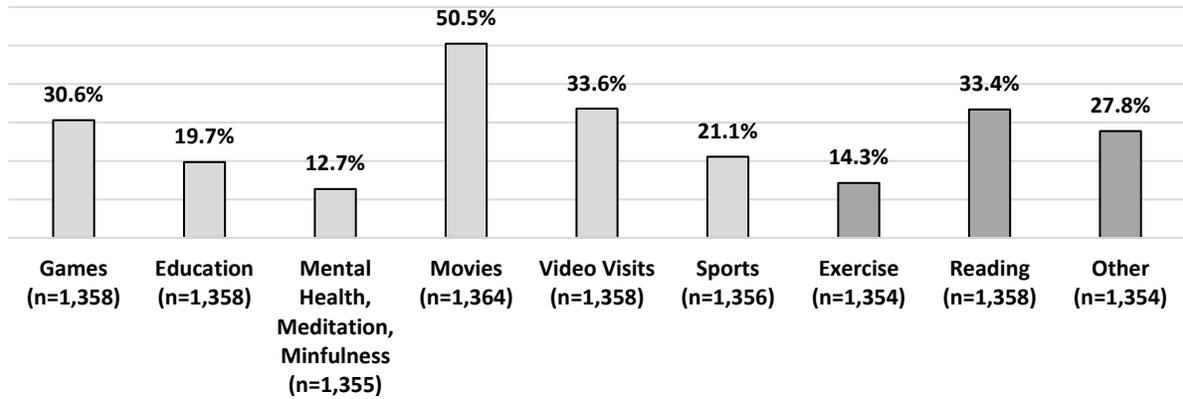
**Figure 9. Are you happy with the cost of paid material on the tablet?**



**Figure 9-1. Satisfaction with cost of paid materials (by gender;  $\chi^2= 20.21 / p=.003$ )**



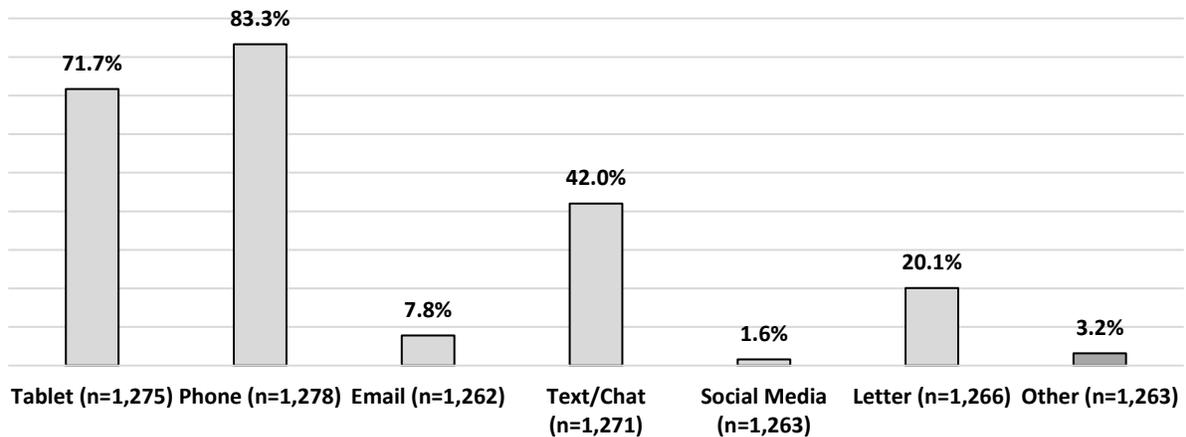
**Figure 10. Is there anything you would like more access to on your tablet?  
(Check all that apply)**



**Table 24. Among respondents who have had any contact with outside friends/family: How often have you communicated with friends or family**

Regular Contact				
Frequency of Contact (n= 1,259)	Everyday / Almost Everyday	A Few times a week	Weekly	Less than weekly
	613 (48.7%)	311 (24.7%)	164 (13.0%)	171 (13.6%)

**Figure 11. How have you communicated with family or friends?  
(Check all that apply)**

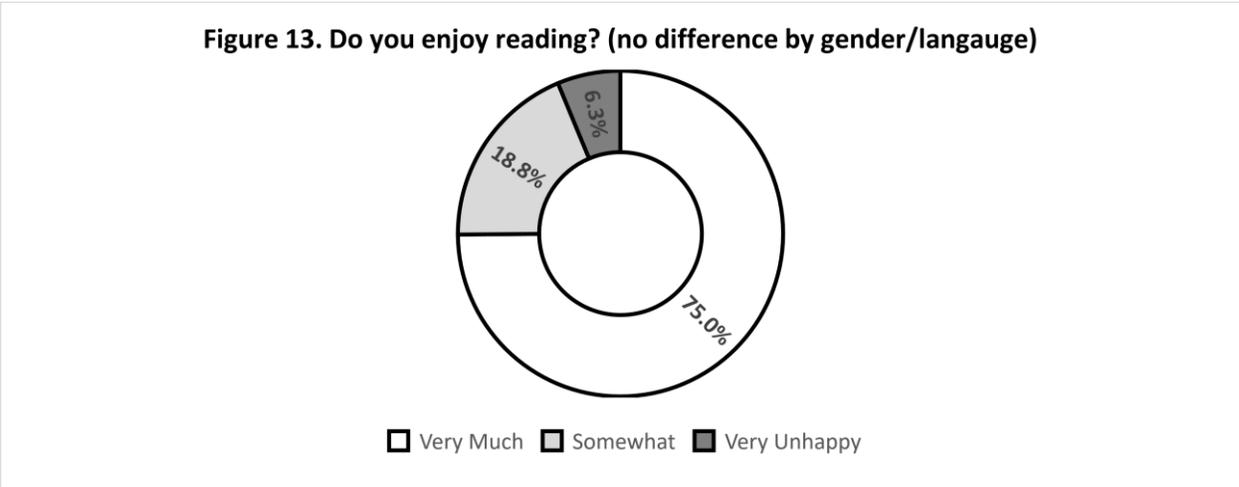
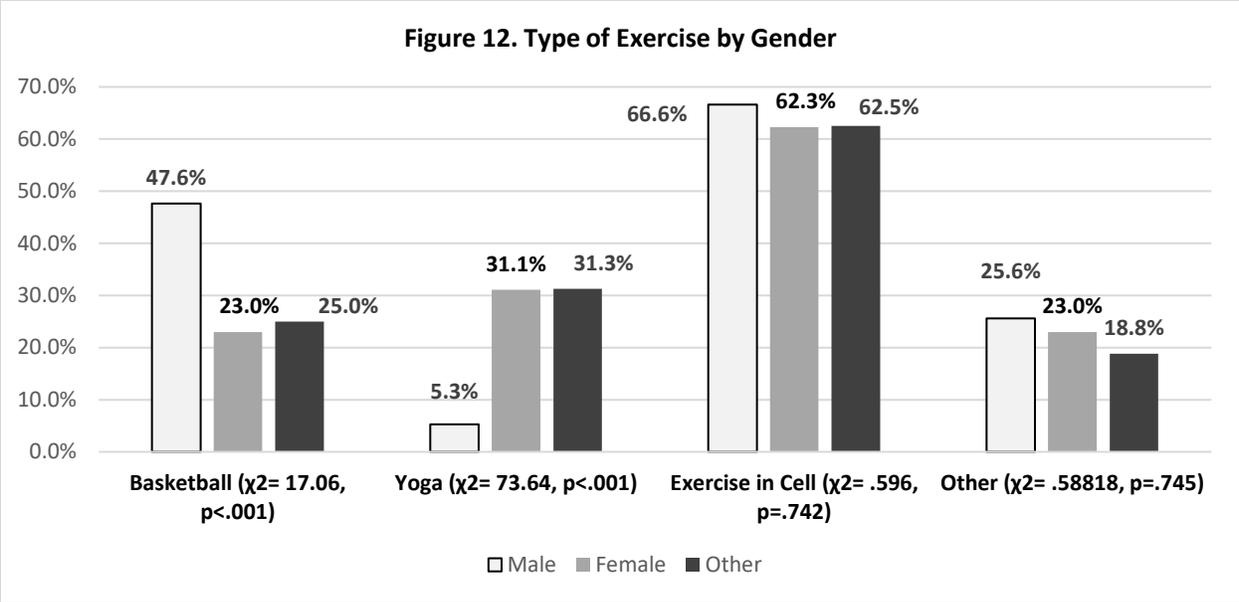


**Table 25. Since you have been in this jail, have you been able to exercise? (by gender)**

$\chi^2= 47.18 (p<.001)$		Gender			Total
Overall	Male	Female	Other	1,382	
	1,264	101	17		
Frequently	198 (15.7%)	7 (6.9%)	0 (0.0%)	205 (14.8%)	
Sometimes	423 (33.5%)	21 (20.8%)	5 (29.4%)	449 (32.5%)	
Rarely	404 (32.0%)	27 (26.7%)	9 (52.9%)	440 (31.8%)	
Never	239 (18.9%)	46 (45.5%)	3 (17.6%)	288 (20.8%)	

**Table 26. How satisfied are you with your level of exercise....?**

$\chi^2= 10.35 (p=.111)$		Gender			Total
Overall	Male	Female	Other	1,377	
	1,261	100	16		
Very Satisfied	103 (28.8%)	5 (5.0%)	1 (6.3%)	109 (7.9%)	
Somewhat Satisfied	293 (23.2%)	19 (19.0%)	2 (12.5%)	314 (22.8%)	
Somewhat Unsatisfied	311 (24.7%)	19 (19.0%)	2 (12.5%)	332 (24.1%)	
Very Unsatisfied	554 (43.9%)	57 (57.0%)	11 (68.8%)	662 (45.2%)	



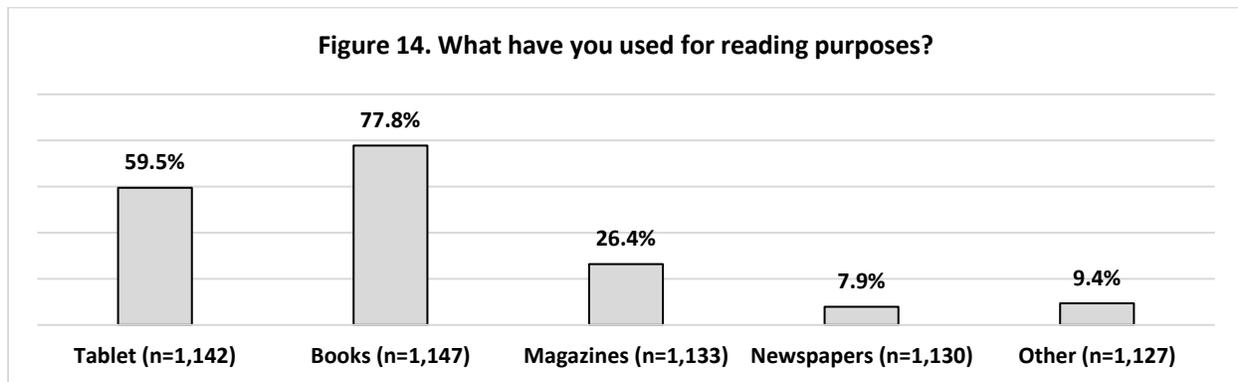
**Table 27. In the last week, about how much time did you spend reading on an average day?**

By Gender	Total (n=1,384)	Male (n=1,268)	Female (n=99)	Other (n=17)
$\chi^2= 2.33 (p=.312)$	1,045 (75.5%)	962 (75.9%)	69 (69.7%)	14 (82.4%)

**Table 28. Average Daily Reading Time**

$\chi^2= 13.19$ (p<.05)		Gender			Total
Overall	Male	Female	Other	1,134	
	1,045	73	16		
None	58 (5.6%)	4 (5.5%)	0 (0.0%)	63 (5.6%)	
1~2 Hours	395 (37.8%)	40 (54.8%)	4 (25.0%)	439 (38.7%)	
3~4 Hours	304 (29.1%)	19 (26.0%)	7 (43.8%)	330 (29.1%)	
More than 4 Hours	288 (27.6%)	10 (13.7%)	5 (31.3%)	302 (26.6%)	

**Figure 14. What have you used for reading purposes?**



**Table 29. Many people say they don't read as well as they would like to. Overall, how well do you think you read? (by gender)**

$\chi^2= 7.351$ (p=.290)		Gender			Total
Overall	Male	Female	Other	1,375	
	1,261	99	15		
Very Well	768 (60.9%)	67 (67.7%)	13 (86.7%)	848 (61.7%)	
Somewhat Well	396 (31.4%)	26 (26.3%)	2 (13.3%)	424 (30.8%)	
Not Very Well	72 (5.7%)	3 (3.0%)	0 (0.0%)	75 (5.5%)	
Not at all Well	25 (2.0%)	3 (3.0%)	0 (0.0%)	28 (2.0%)	

**Table 30. If a program to help you learn to read better was available at jail, would you participate? (by gender)**

$\chi^2= 3.113$ (p=.374)		Gender			Total
Overall	Male	Female	Other	1,362	
	1,251	95	16		
Definitely	408 (32.6%)	31 (32.6%)	6 (37.5%)	445 (32.7%)	
Probably	255 (20.4%)	19 (20.0%)	4 (25.0%)	278 (20.4%)	
Maybe	286 (22.9%)	13 (13.7%)	3 (18.8%)	302 (22.2%)	
Definitely Not	302 (24.1%)	32 (33.7%)	3 (18.8%)	337 (24.7%)	

**Table 31. ... How well do you this you read? (by language)**

$\chi^2= 17.360$ (p<.001)		Language		Total
Overall	English	Spanish	1,377	
	1,351	26		
Very Well	842 (62.3%)	9 (34.6%)	851 (61.8%)	
Somewhat Well	414 (30.6%)	10 (38.5%)	424 (30.8%)	
Not Very Well	70 (5.2%)	5 (19.2%)	75 (5.4%)	
Not at all Well	25 (1.9%)	2 (7.7%)	27 (2.0%)	

**Table 32. If a program to help you learn to read better...., would you participate? (by language)**

$\chi^2= 7.214$ (p=.302)		Language		Total
Overall	English	Spanish	1,365	
	1,338	27		
Definitely	435 (32.5%)	13 (48.1%)	448 (32.8%)	
Probably	272 (20.3%)	5 (18.5%)	277 (20.3%)	
Maybe	298 (22.3%)	4 (14.8%)	302 (22.1%)	
Definitely Not	333 (24.9%)	5 (18.5%)	338 (24.8%)	

**Table 33. Are there reading materials available to you in a language you can read? (by gender)**

$\chi^2= 7.785$ (p=.254)	Male	Female	Other	Total
<b>Very Available</b>	687 (54.7%)	49 (52.1%)	7 (43.8%)	743 (54.4%)
<b>Somewhat Available</b>	294 (23.4%)	19 (20.2%)	7 (43.8%)	320 (23.4%)
<b>Not often Available</b>	107 (8.5%)	12 (12.8%)	2 (12.5%)	121 (8.9%)
<b>Rarely Available</b>	125 (9.9%)	12 (12.8%)	0 (0.0%)	137 (10.0%)
<b>Don't Read / Not applicable</b>	44 (3.5%)	2 (2.1%)	0 (0.0%)	46 (3.4%)

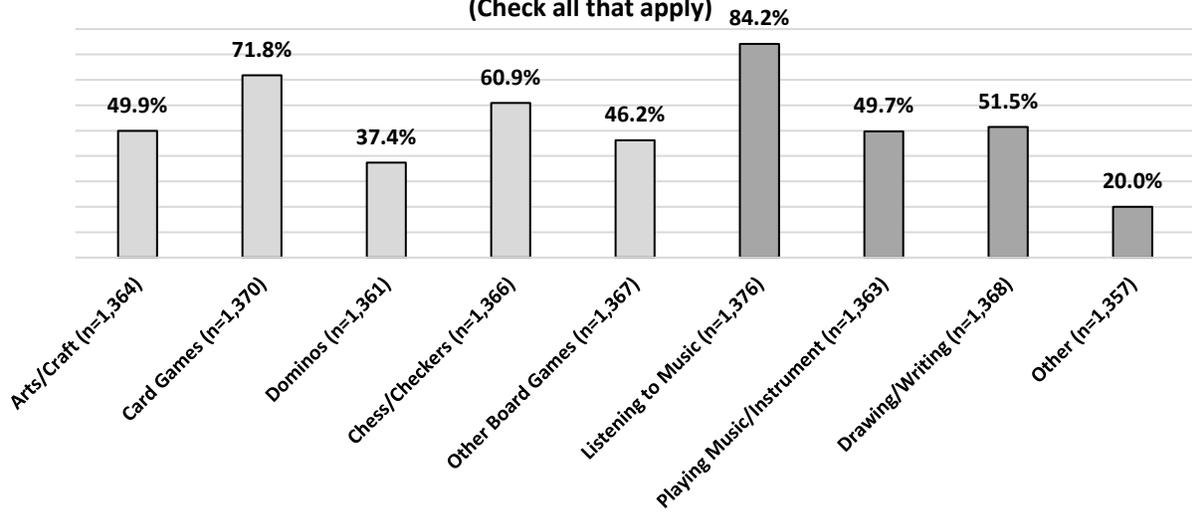
**Table 34. Are there reading materials available to you in a language you can read? (by language)**

$\chi^2= 29.096$ (p<.001)	English	Spanish	Total
<b>Very Available</b>	741 (55.2%)	4 (14.8%)	745 (54.4%)
<b>Somewhat Available</b>	316 (23.5%)	6 (22.8%)	322 (23.5%)
<b>Not often Available</b>	114 (8.5%)	7 (25.9%)	121 (8.9%)
<b>Rarely Available</b>	130 (9.7%)	8 (29.6%)	138 (10.0%)
<b>Don't Read / Not applicable</b>	41 (3.1%)	2 (7.4%)	43 (3.1%)

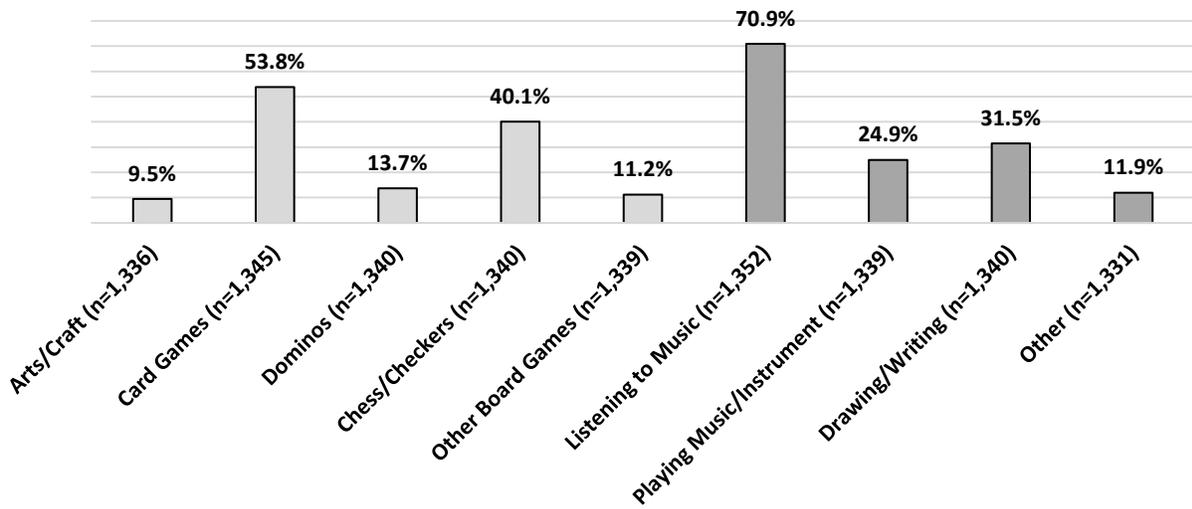
**Table 35. Do you wish that more reading materials were available to you? (by gender)**

$\chi^2= 2.30$ (p=.681)	Gender			Total
Overall	Male	Female	Other	1,373
	1,260	98	15	
<b>Yes</b>	1,035 (82.1%)	79 (80.6%)	11 (73.3%)	1,125 (81.9%)
<b>Maybe</b>	144 (11.4%)	10 (10.2%)	3 (20.0%)	157 (11.4%)
<b>No</b>	81 (6.4%)	9 (9.2%)	1 (6.7%)	91 (6.6%)

**Figure 15. Do you enjoy participating in any of these activities?  
(Check all that apply)**



**Figure 16. Since you have been in this jail, have you done any of these? (Check all)**



**Table 36. If a program were offered where you could learn and/or play instruments, would you be interested in participating? (by gender)**

$\chi^2= 4.60 (p=.596)$		Gender			Total
Overall	Male	Female	Other	1,381	
		1,263	101		17
Definitely	721 (57.1%)	61 (60.4%)	13 (76.5%)	795 (57.6%)	
Probably	211 (16.7%)	16 (15.8%)	0 (0.0%)	227 (16.4%)	
Maybe	208 (16.5%)	15 (14.9%)	3 (17.6%)	226 (16.4%)	
Definitely Not	123 (9.7%)	9 (8.9%)	1 (5.9%)	133 (9.6%)	

**Table 37. Since you have been in this jail, have you engaged in any religious activities? (by gender)**

$\chi^2= 10.49 (p=.105)$		Gender			Total
Overall	Male	Female	Other	1,373	
		1,258	98		17
Frequently	401 (31.9%)	22 (22.4%)	6 (35.3%)	429 (31.2%)	
Sometimes	332 (26.4%)	20 (20.4%)	3 (17.6%)	355 (25.9%)	
Rarely	160 (12.7%)	20 (20.4%)	3 (17.6%)	183 (13.3%)	
Never	365 (29.0%)	36 (36.7%)	5 (29.4%)	406 (29.6%)	

