

# PENNSYLVANIA PRISON SOCIETY

To: Mike Resnick, Commissioner  
Adam Theil, Managing Director  
From: Claire Shubik-Richards, Pennsylvania Prison Society Executive Director  
Noah Barth, Pennsylvania Prison Society Prison Monitoring Director  
Regarding: DC Walkthrough, December 9, 2025  
Date: March 30, 2026

This memorandum summarizes the Prison Society's walkthrough of the Detention Center (DC) on December 9, 2025.

On this walkthrough there were notable improvements in:

- Access to basic hygiene items like toilet paper and soap; and
- Access to phone calls.

That said, as in our previous walkthroughs over the last several years,<sup>i</sup> we observed and/or people reported:

- Inadequate food,
- Lack of purposeful activity,
- Persistent delays in laundry,
- Rodents and roaches on the housing units; and
- Assaults by staff members.

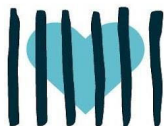
Most of these findings are consistent with those of the federally appointed court monitor's reports, published on November 4, 2022, March 3, 2023, October 12, 2023, March 29, 2024, October 1, 2024, March 31, 2025, and September 30, 2025.<sup>ii</sup>

## Background

The Pennsylvania Prison Society serves as Pennsylvania's independent prison monitor. The Prison Society assists people in custody resolving issues related to their health, safety, and dignity.

On December 9, 2025, Prison Monitoring Director Noah Barth, Regional Manager Dzemila Bilanovic, and three Prison Society volunteers<sup>iii</sup> conducted a walkthrough of DC. They were escorted by members of Philadelphia Department of Prisons (PDP) senior administration.<sup>iv</sup>

This is the Prison Society's 17<sup>th</sup> walkthrough of a PDP facility since June 2021, and our fifth walkthrough of DC.<sup>v</sup> We previously conducted walkthroughs of DC in September 2021,



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October 2021, January 2023, and August 2024. When we asked the same question on multiple walkthroughs, we have included answers over time.

This walkthrough included a tour of three general population housing units, two of which are dormitories; the third unit houses men 55 or older in two-person cells. Only four men were in the cell-based unit when we visited because the majority were at their work assignment as dog trainers. We also toured the former kitchen and currently unused dining hall. We were pleased to hear from the Warden that DC intends to resume meal service in the dining hall in the near future. The kitchen will remain unused with food prepared off-site at the Curan-Fromhold Correction Center (CFCF).

On this walkthrough we conducted structured interviews with 53 incarcerated men. All interviews were voluntary, anonymous, and interviewees were randomly selected. The interviews were conducted either in small groups in the dormitories' open space or one-on-one through cell doors.

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Number of interviewees</b>
C	Men's general population, cells	4
E	Men's general population, dormitory	24
G	Men's general population, dormitory	25
<b>TOTAL</b>		53

The purpose of these walkthroughs is to identify commonly experienced issues inside of the jail. The intention is not to identify or address the individual concerns of jail residents. That is why interview responses are reported in aggregate.

People we interviewed during every walkthrough we have conducted at PDP have expressed a fear of reprisal from staff for speaking with us. This is why all interviews and reporting are anonymous. When individuals raise specific concerns and ask the Prison Society for help in resolving their specific concerns, we give their name, ID number, and details of the complaint to our staff escorts.

A note of caution in interpreting the findings from our interviews with incarcerated people: the small sample size means that answers may be skewed. In addition, any survey conducted in a prison setting should be viewed with the understanding that people in custody are likely unhappy with their circumstances and that this may lead them to enlarge complaints. These walkthrough findings should not be read as a completely accurate depiction of what is happening. Nevertheless, when you have people in different housing units who have no way of interacting with each other, reporting the same thing, that is an indication there is an issue.

Many of these questions are asked over time, and answers have evolved over time with no indication of changes in conditions. As the saying goes, where there is smoke, there is fire. Our interviews with incarcerated people indicate there is smoke but are insufficient to determine the precise scope and heat of the fire.

### Physical plant

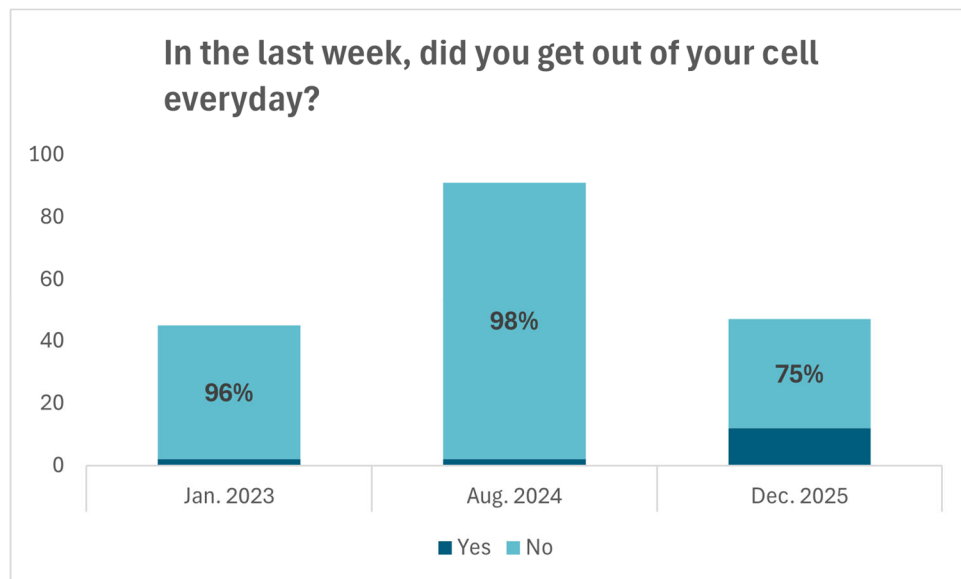
The housing units we visited were recently painted, though tables and other fixtures were rusty, had corroded grout, and other signs deferred maintenance. Lighting was very dim. The bathroom areas in the dormitory units were clean; the showers in the cell-based unit appeared dirty and in general disrepair. The heating system appeared to be working well with a comfortable temperature. Unlike in other PDP facilities, no one we spoke to reported cold cells.

### Out of cell time

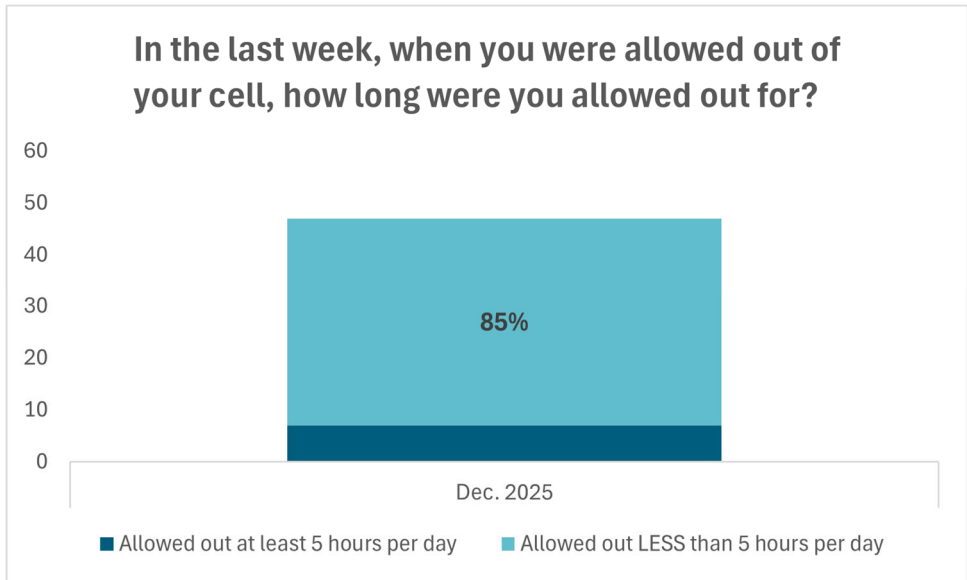
We asked 47 people if they were allowed out of their cell or dorm every day in the last week. Of the 47 we asked, 12 (26%) said that they were; this included all four people we interviewed who are housed in cells.

*(We get out of cell time) for medications, that's it!*

*We were going (outdoors) every two to three days, but no more.*



Forty out of the 47 people we asked (85%) reported that when they are allowed out of their dorm or cell, it is for less than five hours total per day. While the dormitories allow for more freedom of movement than cells, there is no large open space to gather, exercise, or engage in purposeful activity.

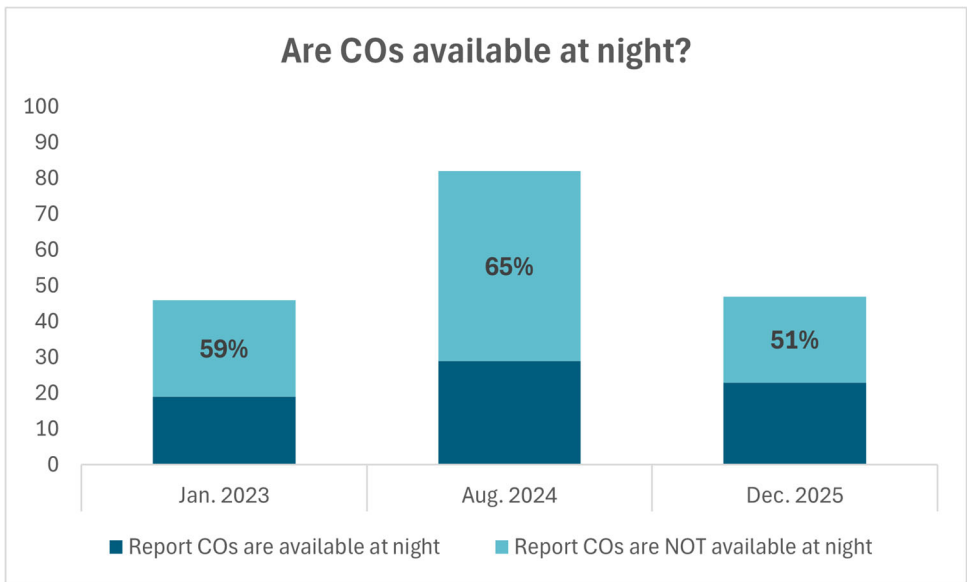


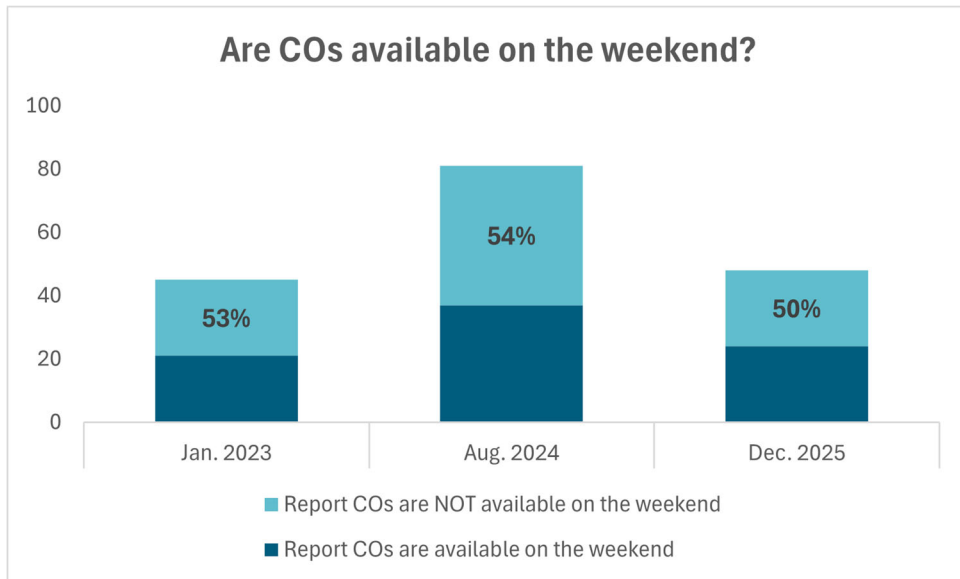
*During previous walkthroughs, we measured interviewees' responses based on the three hour per day minimum set by the Remick v. City of Philadelphia decision.<sup>vi</sup> In his 3/21/2025 response to our walkthrough memo from Riverside Correctional Facility, Commissioner Resnick stated that all people in general population units receive a minimum of five hours of out of cell time per day<sup>vii</sup>. We have adjusted our question to reflect the Commissioner's statement.*

**Staff supervision**

Of the 47 people we asked if corrections officers (COs) are available in the evenings, 23 (49%), said they are. Similarly, 24 of the 48 people we asked (50%), said that staff are available on the weekends. This is particularly problematic if an incarcerated person experiences an emergency during any of these times as there may be no one to respond.

*One of them (on duty, but) it's at their discretion if they help*





### Access to medical care and counseling services

Of the 44 people we interviewed who said they had submitted a sick call slip to request medical care, 26 (41%) reported their request was responded to within one week or less.

Several people we interviewed reported timely responses to their sick slips. One stated: “best way (is to submit via) the tablet, they see you in 24 hours. That’s something they don’t play with.” Another man reported that the medical department responds to requests “in 24 hours, they’re pretty good at responding.”

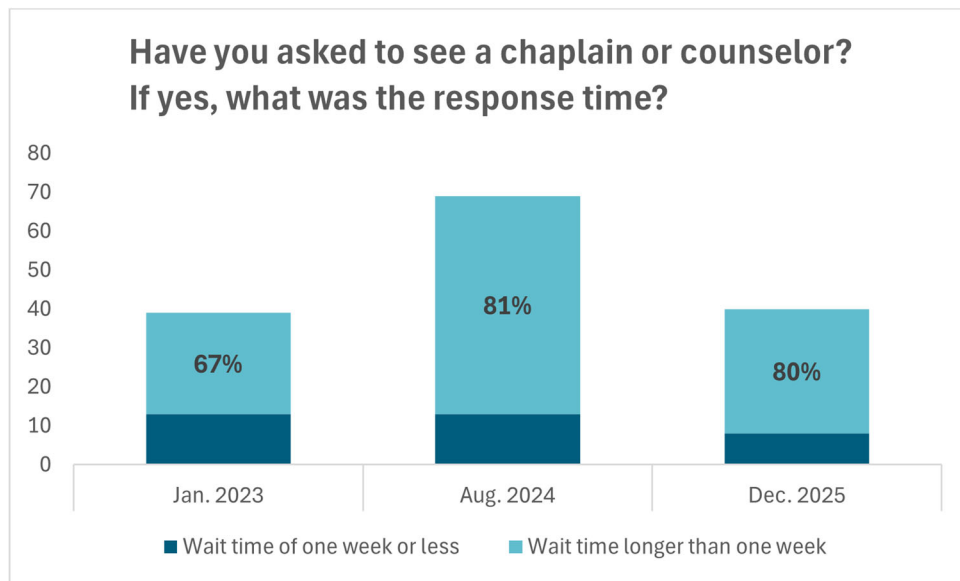


Of the 40 people we interviewed who said that they had asked to see a chaplain or counselor, eight (20%) reported their request was responded to within one week or less.

*(I've been) waiting a month for a social worker, everything is a pass the buck thing.*

*They barely come, maybe once a month.*

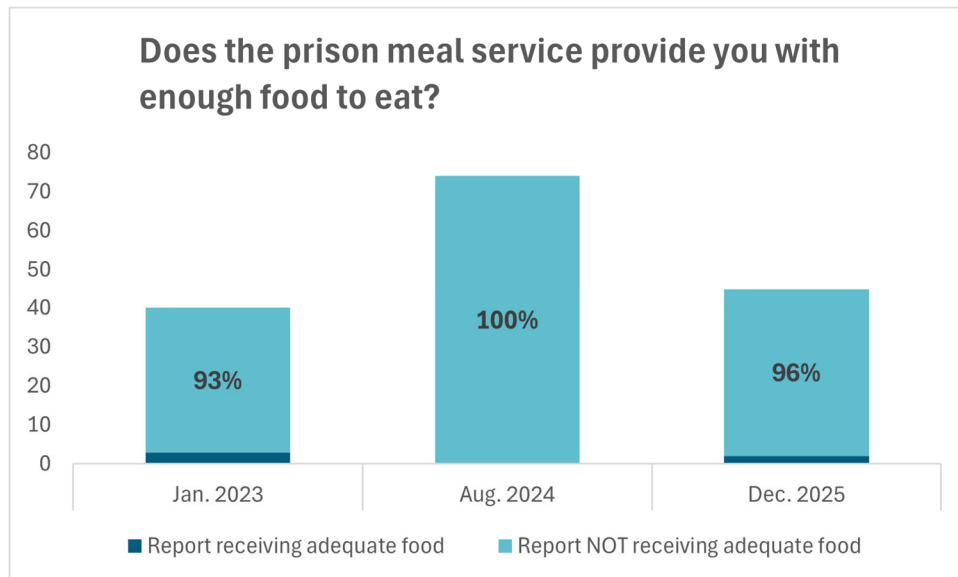
*Nothing for Muslims- no Qur'ans, no Jummah, nothing.*



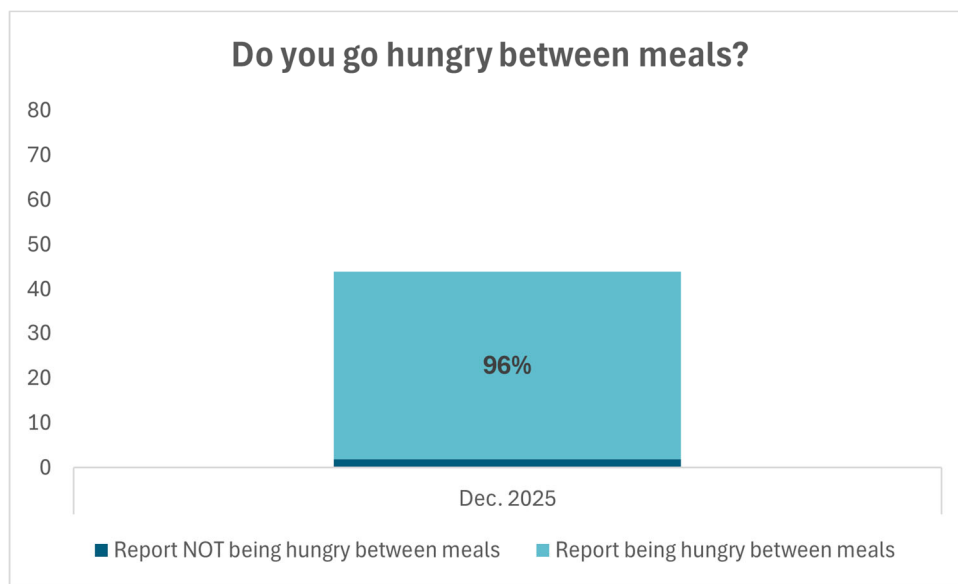
### **Inadequate food**

Of the 45 people we asked, only two (4%) said that the prison meal service provided them with enough food to eat. The majority of people we have interviewed at every PDP facility since we began asking this question in March 2023 have reported insufficient food. We have observed meals being served over one dozen times and the portions have consistently appeared to be too small.

*It's enough for a teenage child; it's not enough for a grown man.*



Forty-two out of the 44 people we asked (96%) reported going hungry between meals. The men we interviewed report dinner is served between 4:00 and 5:00pm. One man stated, “we save bread and apples and stuff to get us through.”



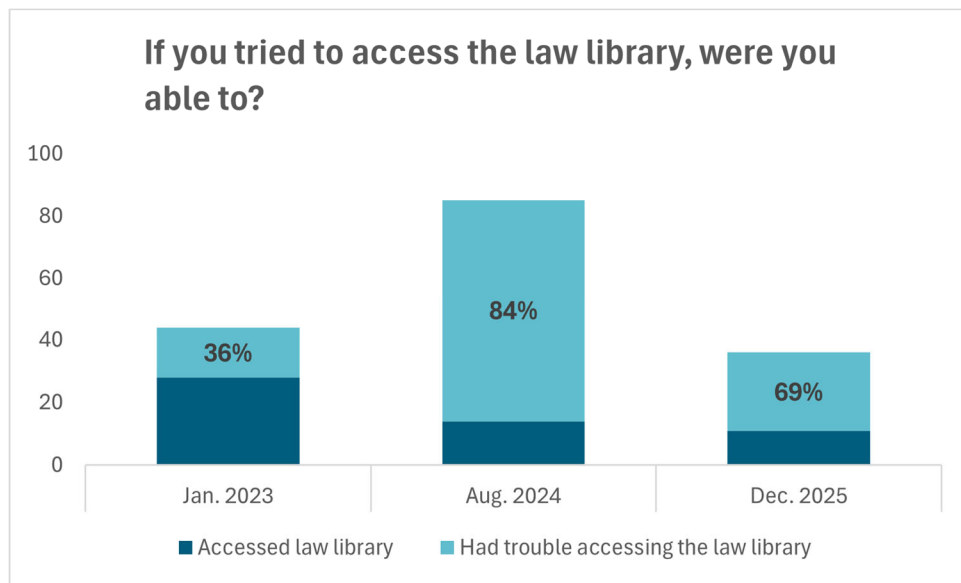
While we did not ask a question about food quality, several of the people we interviewed commented on it. One man stated, “it’s horrible, dogs wouldn’t eat it,” another commented, “some of the stuff they feed you, you wouldn't want to eat it.”

### Other prison services

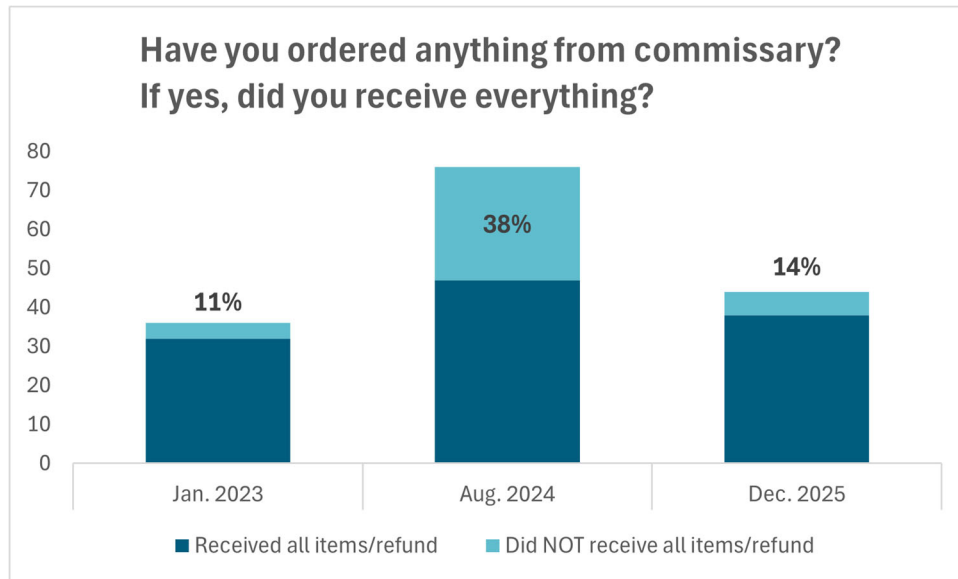
Of the 36 people we interviewed who said they had tried to access the law library, 11 (21%) said they were able to.

*It's a little better because it's (also) on the tablet, but they only let five guys go at a time, so we really can't go.*

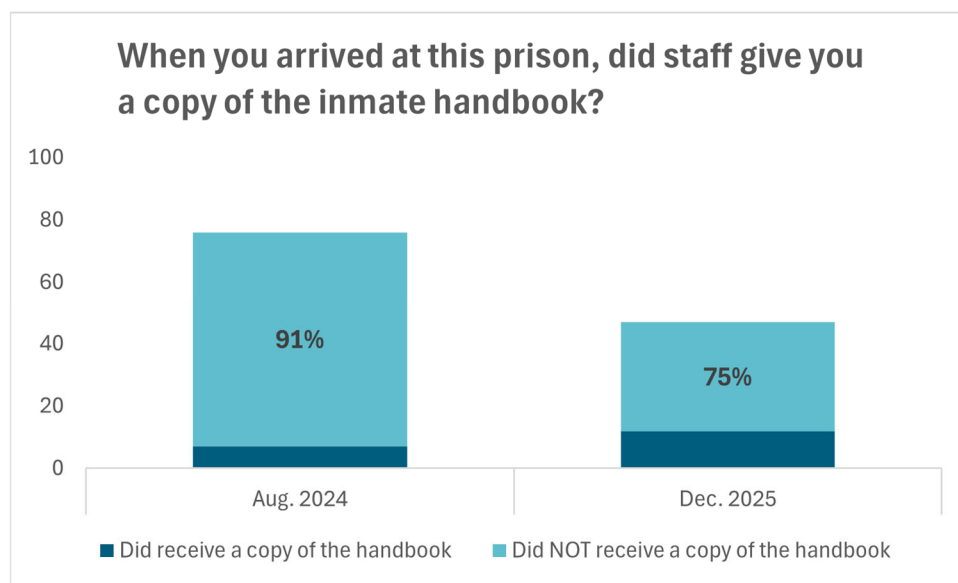
*That's almost impossible. It's supposed to be two hours but ends up being only one- if they call it.*



When asked about ordering from commissary, 38 of the 44 (86%) people who said they had ordered from commissary reported that the system worked well with timely order delivery and refunds when items were out of stock.



Twelve of the 47 people we asked (16%) said they received a copy of the inmate handbook at some point during their stay at PDP. In the Commissioner’s July 2025 response to our walkthrough memo from the CFCF<sup>viii</sup>, he stated that “there is an ample supply of inmate handbooks readily available in the intake housing area” and provided a photograph. It appears, however, that some incarcerated people are not receiving the handbooks. This means that they have no knowledge of or access to the expectations and rules that govern their confinement.



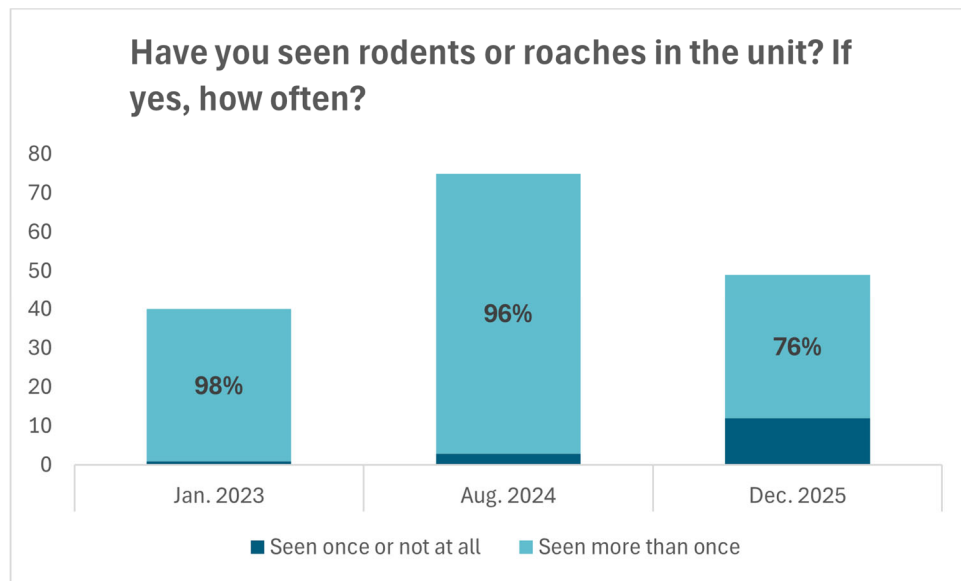
*No, never. I seen them on the tablet in Bucks County but never here.*

*One guy shared his Spanish copy (but that’s it).*

## Hygiene

Thirty-seven of the 49 people we asked (76%) reported seeing rodents or cockroaches multiple times in their housing unit.

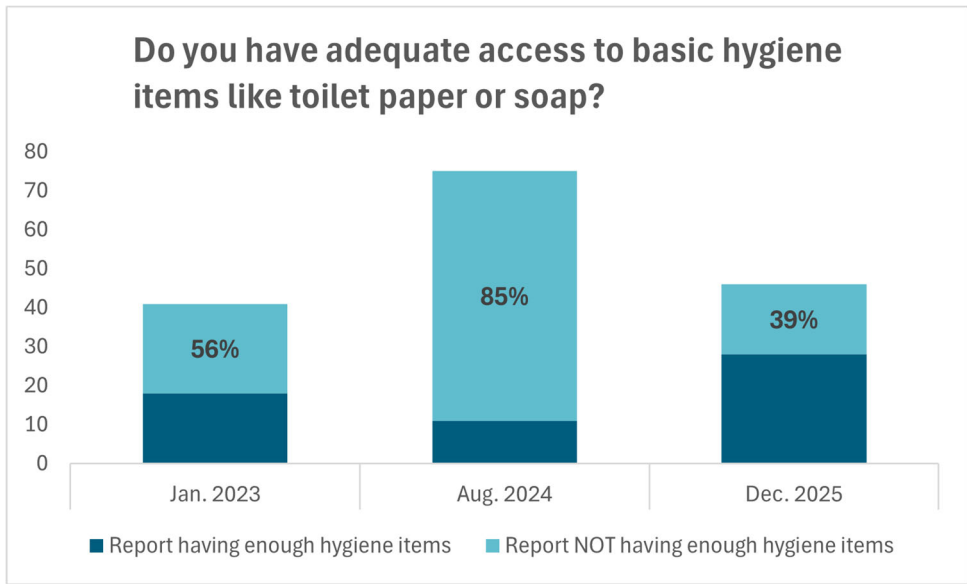
*Oh yeah... flying cockroaches, the mice look like rats.*



When asked if they have adequate access to basic hygiene products like toilet paper and soap, 28 of the 46 people we asked (61%) said that they do. This is a significant improvement over our August 2024 walkthrough of DC when only 15% of people interviewed reported sufficient access. Enough toilet paper and soap are not only a problem for hygiene, but also for facility safety, as in prior walkthroughs men have reported a black market for toilet paper.

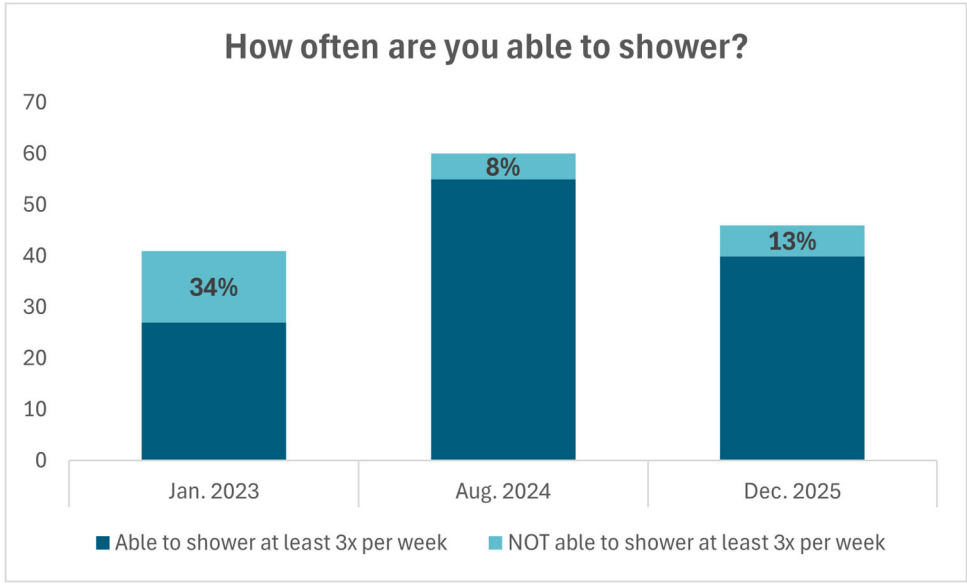
*It's hit or miss. They have it, they pass it out. But sometimes they don't even have it.*

*Soap is sometimes hard to get, they make us sign for it. Toilet paper is easy.*

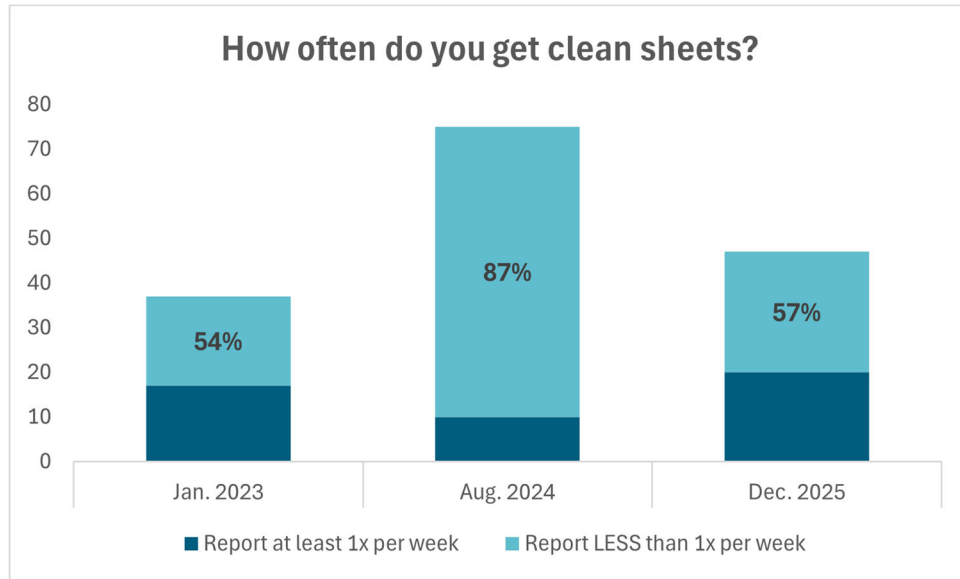


All 46 people we asked (100%) reported that they are able to shower at least three days a week. The majority of people we asked this question (42) live in dormitories where showers are available throughout day.

In each unit we visited we observed and multiple people reported to us that the showers have mold, peeling paint, and rust. This was most pronounced in the cell-based unit where residents do not have ready access to the showers. One group of men we interviewed in a dormitory unit reported that the prison does not provide them with any cleaning supplies and they take it upon themselves to regularly clean the showers as best as they can. One man we interviewed in a dormitory unit reported that the shower drain had previously been clogged rendering it unusable for a month.

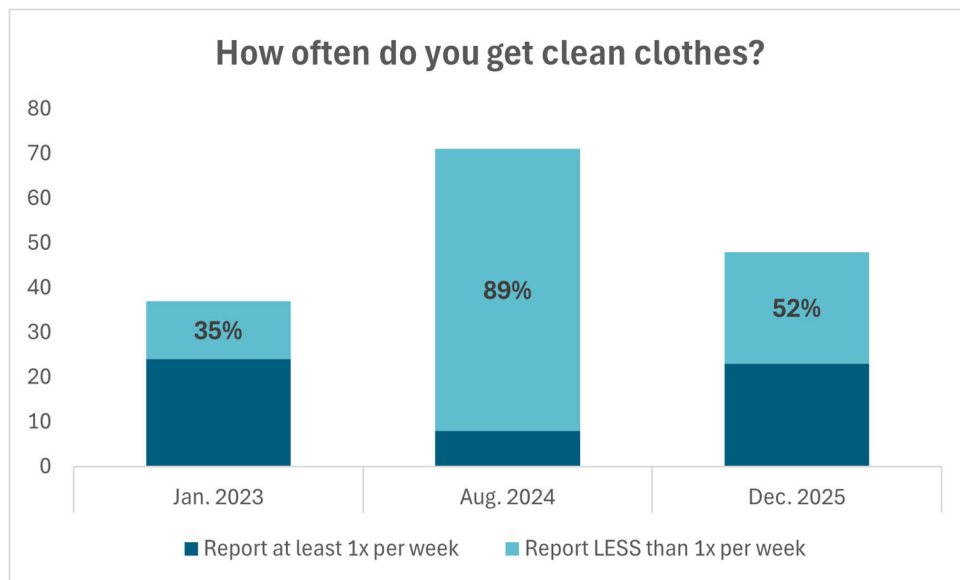


Page 13 of the inmate handbook states “Linens and prison-issue clothing are exchanged on a one-for-one basis each week.”<sup>ix</sup> When asked how often they are getting clean sheets, 20 out of 47 people we asked (57%) said it was happening on a weekly basis.



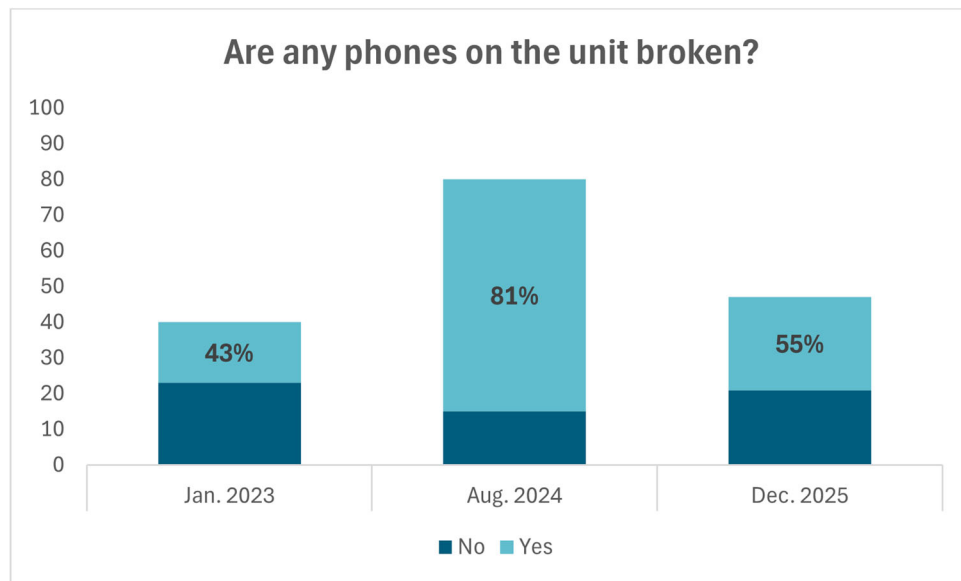
*Sometimes you might get them that week (i.e. clean sheets), sometimes you might not.*

When asked about getting clean clothes, 23 out of 48 people we asked (48%) reported they receive clean clothes every week.



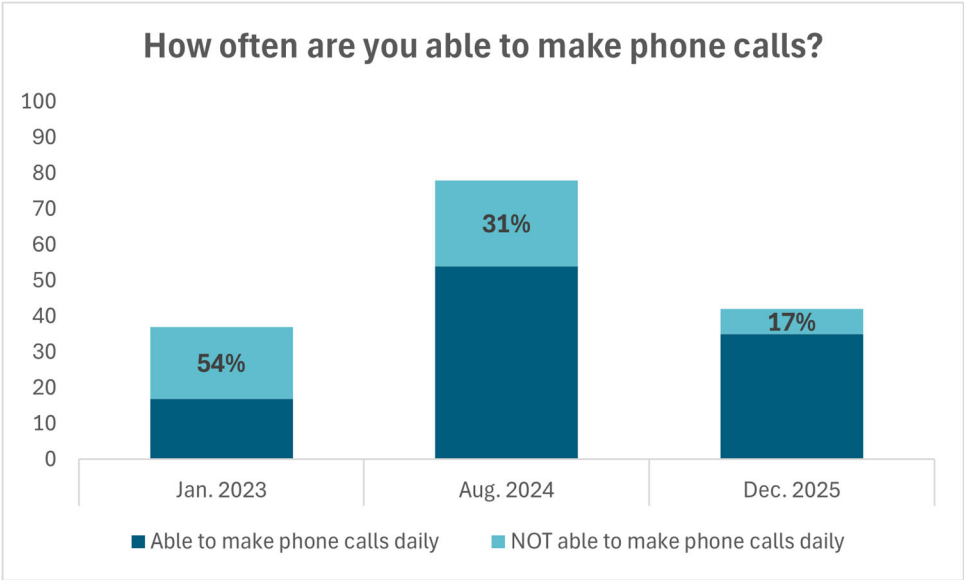
## Communications

When asked “are any of the phones on your housing unit broken,” 26 out of the 47 people we asked (55%) reported at least one broken phone. In two different dormitory units, men reported that one of the two payphones and one of the two tablets which can also make phone calls were broken. One payphone had reportedly been broken for three months.



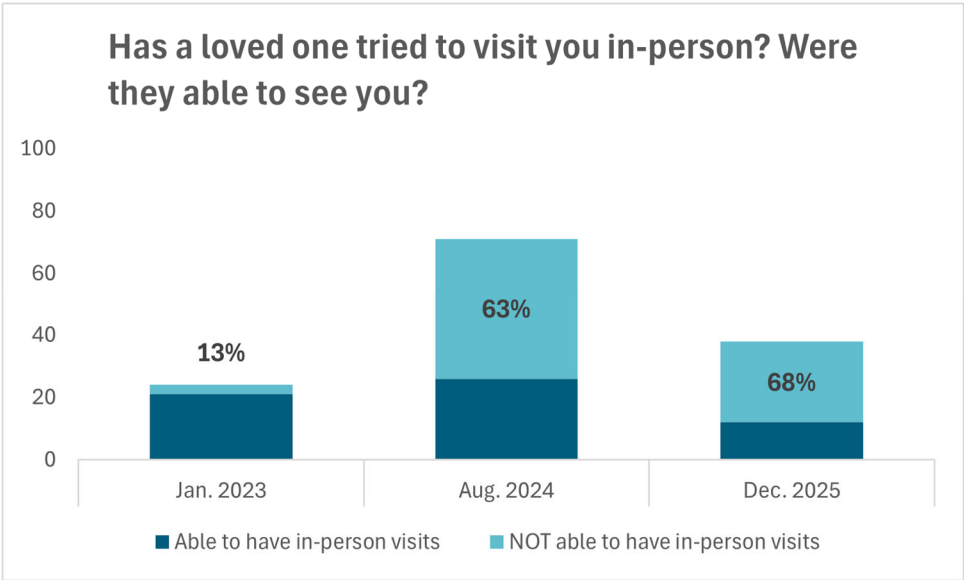
When asked, “how often are you able to make phone calls?” the majority of people we interviewed said they could make a call at least once a day. Only seven out of the 42 people we asked (17%) reported that they could not make a daily phone call. This is a significant improvement over our August 2024 walkthrough of DC when 69% of people we interviewed said they could make a call at least once a day.

All seven people who said they couldn’t make daily calls were in the dormitory units where physical access to phones is unrestricted 24 hours a day. One man explained “they (COs) might turn off the phones ‘till twelve o’clock, so you might get one call, this leads to fights.” Another man on the same unit reported “they turn everyone’s phones off if someone in another (housing) pod smokes.”



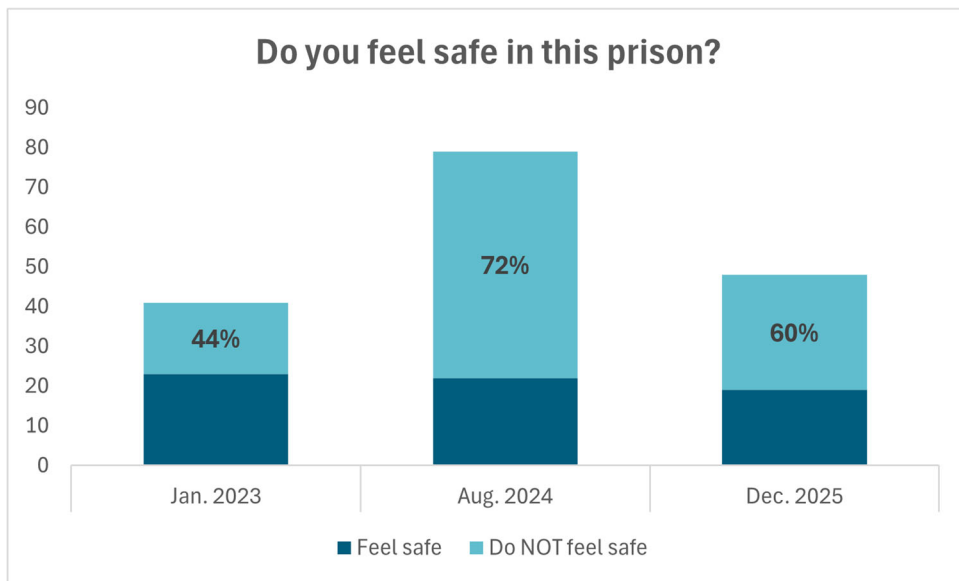
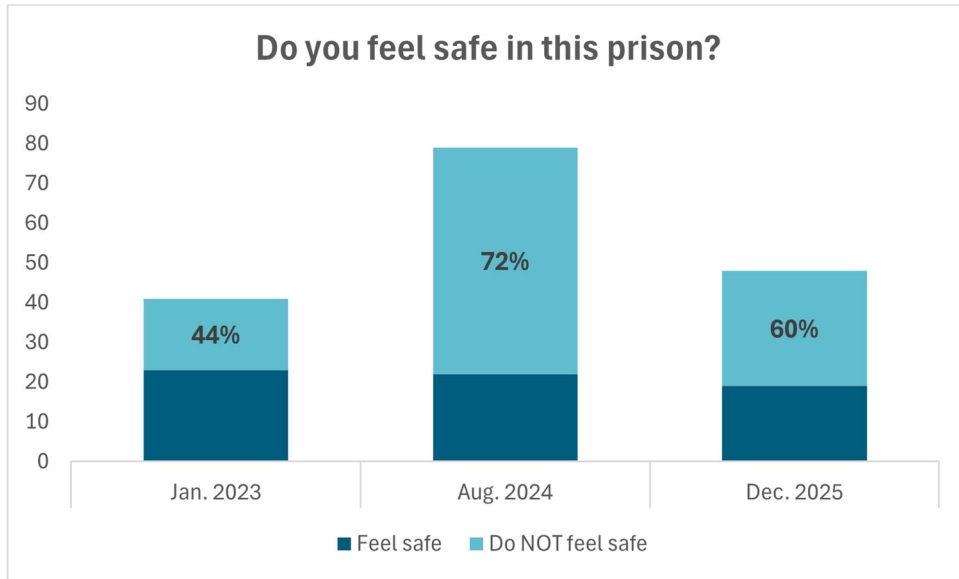
Of the 38 people we spoke to who said that a family member had attempted to visit them in-person, only twelve (32%) said the visit was able to happen. Several people we spoke to explained that visits happen in another building requiring transport and long wait times for themselves as well as for their family members. “They (i.e. family) have a hardship of waiting two to three hours for a one-hour visit, then one hour wait to go back (so they can leave).”

*My wife came yesterday but nobody (on staff) called me.*

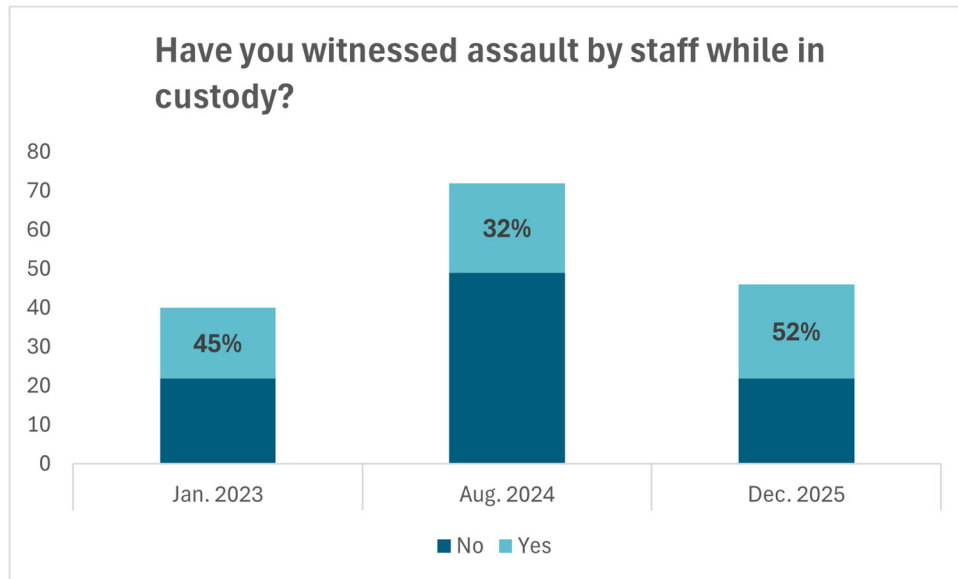


## Violence

Twenty-nine out of the 48 people we asked (60%) reported not feeling safe in DC. One man stated “naw, nobody here gives a fuck.” Thirty-two out of the 46 people we asked (70%) reported witnessing fights between incarcerated people in DC.



Twenty-four out of the 46 people we asked (50%) reported witnessing assaults by staff.



### What does a good day look like?

The final question of our interview is “What does a good day in this jail look like?” The question focuses on positive aspects of the prison experience, a vantage point that is often overlooked but can provide important ideas for how to improve conditions. When people have a good day, they are less likely to commit infractions, and the jail is more likely to run in an orderly manner.

Interview responses universally focused on simple themes such as decent food, access to phone calls, recreation time, and the absence of harassment or mistreatment. Comments included: “the DVD (player) is working, and we can watch a movie,” “a good card game,” “the chicken is cooked all the way through,” “when we get pancakes or pizza for cleanest block,” and “Sunday football.”

### Recommendations

This walkthrough showed some improvement. Distribution of basic necessities like toilet paper has improved, most people can shower and make phone calls, and commissary is functioning.

Key to this improvement is the historic reduction in the incarcerated population of the city's prisons. Since May of last year, the PDP’s average daily population has been approximately 3,500 people, a 33-year low.<sup>x</sup> A reduced population allows for increased access to basic needs such as phone calls and showers, as well as critical prison services such as medical care and family visits. This reduction eases the burden on the PDP's beleaguered staff; an improved work atmosphere will in turn make continued staff recruitment and retention easier. A better functioning, more efficiently run prison is better for all parties involved.

While these are impressive improvements that took significant efforts to achieve, men are locked in their cells or dorms for the majority of the day, without purposeful activity, sufficient food, and without basic safety.

The City's investment in the Department of Prisons must continue. The Department's work to recruit, train, and improve staff must continue. The criminal justice stakeholders' initiatives to address inefficiencies in the judicial process that led to the historic reduction in the population must continue.

We look forward to seeing improved food service, including the re-opening of DC's dining hall and increased access to phone calls and purposeful activity as jail-provided tablets are instituted. We also anticipate seeing an increase in out-of-cell-time and programming over the next year as the staff-to-resident ratio continues to improve.

In the interim, there are serious issues at DC including rodents, laundry, and distribution of the inmate handbook. These can be addressed quickly and will make a tremendous difference in the lives of people in the custody of the City of Philadelphia. As the interviewees' responses to our question "what does good day look like" clearly reflect, simple improvements to day-to-day issues can have a significant impact.

We look forward to the City's response to this memorandum, and we look forward to scheduling our next walkthrough for March 2026.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.prisonersociety.org/resources/reports>

<sup>ii</sup> United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Thomas Remick et al, v. City of Philadelphia, No.:2:20-cv-01959-BMS <https://www.phila.gov/documents/philadelphia-department-of-prisons-monitoring-reports/>

<sup>iii</sup> Andrea Striepen, Yvonne Newkirk, and John Knapich

<sup>iv</sup> Chief of Staff Greg Vrato, Warden Robert Rose, and Deputy-Warden Segal

<sup>v</sup> Previous DC walkthrough summaries and Department responses can be found at:

<https://www.prisonersociety.org/resources/reports>

<sup>vi</sup> United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Thomas Remick et al, v. City of Philadelphia

<sup>vii</sup> [https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/62957b3831cc3cd13ca36180/67e2b3c357dbc0c4c4c40b45\\_Monitoring%20Report%26ResponsesRCFDecember2024.pdf](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/62957b3831cc3cd13ca36180/67e2b3c357dbc0c4c4c40b45_Monitoring%20Report%26ResponsesRCFDecember2024.pdf)

<sup>viii</sup> [https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/62957b3831cc3cd13ca36180/68752972c256d5e644db8b4a\\_250626%20Combined%20Memo%20on%20Prison%20Society%20April%202025%20CFCF%20walkthrough%20and%20response.pdf](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/62957b3831cc3cd13ca36180/68752972c256d5e644db8b4a_250626%20Combined%20Memo%20on%20Prison%20Society%20April%202025%20CFCF%20walkthrough%20and%20response.pdf)

<sup>ix</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wLGOXOVOq\\_MruGzsyhQSumSFW0IX9aYP/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wLGOXOVOq_MruGzsyhQSumSFW0IX9aYP/view)

<sup>x</sup> <https://www.phila.gov/2025-05-20-incarcerated-population-drops-to-all-time-low-thanks-to-partners-in-the-justice-system/>

## APPENDIX

### Philadelphia Detention Center Walkthroughs January 2023 – December 2025

	<u>Jan. 2023</u>		<u>Aug. 2024</u>		<u>Dec. 2025</u>	
	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>In the last week, did you get out of your cell everyday?</b>						
Yes	2	4%	2	2%	12	26%
No	43	96%	89	98%	35	75%
<b>In the last week, when you were allowed out of your cell, how long were you allowed out for?</b>						
Allowed out at least 3 hours per day	3	8%	17	21%	N/A	N/A
Allowed out LESS than 3 hours per day	34	92%	64	79%	N/A	N/A
Allowed out at least 5 hours per day	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	15%
Allowed out LESS than 5 hours per day	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	40	85%

**Are COs available at night?**

Report COs are available at night	19	41%	29	35%	23	49%
Report COs are NOT available at night	27	59%	53	65%	24	51%

**Are COs available on the weekend?**

Report COs are available on the weekend	21	47%	37	46%	24	50%
Report COs are NOT available on the weekend	24	53%	44	54%	24	50%

**Have you ever used the in-cell buzzer system?**

**Did the COs respond?**

Report COs did respond	2	12%	5	29%	14	64%
Report COs did NOT respond	15	88%	12	71%	8	36%

**Are any phones on the unit broken?**

No	23	58%	15	19%	21	45%
Yes	17	43%	65	81%	26	55%

**How often are you able to make phone calls?**

Able to make phone calls daily	17	46%	54	69%	35	83%
NOT able to make phone calls daily	20	54%	24	31%	7	17%

**Has a loved one tried to visit you in-person?  
Were they able to see you?**

Able to have in-person visits	21	88%	26	37%	12	32%
NOT able to have in-person visits	3	13%	45	63%	26	68%

**When you arrived at this prison, did staff give you a copy of the inmate handbook?**

Did receive a copy of the handbook	N/A	N/A	7	9%	12	26%
Did NOT receive a copy of the handbook	N/A	N/A	69	91%	35	75%

**If you tried to access the law library, were you able to?**

Accessed law library	28	64%	14	17%	11	31%
Had trouble accessing the law library	16	36%	71	84%	25	69%

**Have you ordered anything from commissary?  
If yes, did you receive everything?**

Received all items/refund	32	89%	47	62%	38	86%
Did NOT receive all items/refund	4	11%	29	38%	6	14%

**Have you asked to see a chaplain or social worker? If yes, what was the response time?**

Wait time of one week or less	13	33%	13	19%	8	20%
Wait time longer than one week	26	67%	56	81%	32	80%

**Have you tried to access medical care? If yes, what was the response time?**

Wait time of one week or less	19	48%	22	31%	N/A	N/A
Wait time longer than one week	21	53%	50	69%	N/A	N/A

**If you have submitted a sick call slip, how long did it take before a nurse met with you to discuss your sick call request?**

Wait time of one week or less	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	18	41%
Wait time longer than one week	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	26	59%

**Does the prison meal service provide you with enough food to eat?**

Report receiving adequate food	3	8%	0	0%	N/A	N/A
Report NOT receiving adequate food	37	93%	74	100%	N/A	N/A

**Do you go hungry between meals?**

Report NOT being hungry between meals	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	5%
Report being hungry between meals	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	42	96%

**Do you have adequate access to basic hygiene items like toilet paper or soap?**

Report having enough hygiene items	18	44%	11	15%	28	61%
Report NOT having enough hygiene items	23	56%	64	85%	18	39%

**How often are you able to shower?**

Able to shower at least 3x per week	27	66%	55	92%	40	87%
NOT able to shower at least 3x per week	14	34%	5	8%	6	13%

**Have you seen rodents or roaches in the unit?  
If yes, how often?**

Seen once or not at all	1	3%	3	4%	12	25%
Seen more than once	39	98%	72	96%	37	76%

**How often do you get clean sheets?**

Report at least 1x per week	17	46%	10	13%	20	43%
Report LESS than 1x per week	20	54%	65	87%	27	57%

**How often do you get clean clothes?**

Report at least 1x per week	24	65%	8	11%	23	48%
Report LESS than 1x per week	13	35%	63	89%	25	52%

**Do you feel safe in this prison?**

Feel safe	23	56%	22	28%	19	40%
Do NOT feel safe	18	44%	57	72%	29	60%

**Have you witnessed a fight between incarcerated people while in custody here?**

No	27	66%	42	56%	14	30%
Yes	14	34%	33	44%	32	70%

**Have you witnessed assault by staff while in custody?**

No	22	55%	49	68%	22	48%
Yes	18	45%	23	32%	24	52%



# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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Michael R. Resnick, Esquire  
Commissioner

April 9, 2026

Claire Shubik-Richards  
Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Prison Society  
230 S. Broad St., Suite 605  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Ms. Shubik-Richards,

I am writing in response to your March 30, 2026 memorandum concerning the Philadelphia Department of Prisons (PDP), based on the Pennsylvania Prison Society tour of the Detention Center (DC) on December 9, 2025. The tour was conducted by Prison Monitoring Director Noah Barth, Regional Manager Dzemila Bilanovi, and three (3) Pa Prison Society Volunteers. The tour was escorted by PDP senior staff and myself.

First, I appreciate your acknowledgement of notable improvements that you observed regarding access to basic hygiene items like toilet paper and soap; and access to phone calls.

I also appreciate your acknowledgment that, not only are your surveys regarding conditions based on a very small sample size, but, also, “with the understanding that people in custody are likely unhappy with their circumstances and that this may lead them to enlarge complaints” and that “[t]hese walkthrough findings should not be read as a completely accurate depiction of what is happening.”

Beyond that, there is a significant event that occurred subsequent to your December 9 visit, which created a significant change regarding several complaints made by the incarcerated population during your interviews. That event was the implementation of 1 to 1 tablets for our entire incarcerated population during the week of January 12, 2026. For the first time, every inmate now has 24/7 access to the law library, the inmate handbook, video visits and calls, education, programming, and entertainment. This has changed the nature of incarceration in the PDP and puts an end to many of the concerns raised during your December visit related to these issues.

In any event, we are otherwise striving to provide the best services we can to our incarcerated population. I will address your concerns in turn.

**Physical plant conditions:** There were many good things that you acknowledged in your report: that the housing units were recently painted, the bathroom areas in the dormitory units were clean, “the heating system appeared to be working well with a comfortable temperature” and “no one we spoke to reported cold cells.” However, regarding the negatives you mention: we are currently working on replacing all tables on the block side housing areas. We power wash all showers and bathroom areas weekly on a regular schedule as we have Correctional Officers assigned specifically to this cleaning seven days a week. The areas are also cleaned several times a day by the classified inmate workers of each housing area.

**Time out of cell:** The answers regarding time out of cell are an example of the potentially skewed reaction that you acknowledge above. The actual time out of cell at the Detention Center far exceeds the answers given. Incarcerated people in the dorm sections are able to move about freely in their section for 24 hours a day. The dorms and dayrooms also receive yard recreation two hours a day, weather permitting, and two hours in the gym daily. Regarding the few blocks that are in DC, they are out of their cells for over 10 hours a day and are afforded gym and yard time two hours a day. The gym schedule can be altered due to maintenance issues or special programs.

**Staff Supervision:** You state that 23 out of 47 (49 %) interviewed state that staff are available in the evenings and 24 of 48 (50 %) state that staff are available on weekends. However, the Detention Center has not experienced any issue for at least six months regarding staff shortage, even during this past winter’s snow emergencies. DC consistently has staff available to run evening and weekend church services and programs without having to cancel any for staffing issues. No housing area post has ever been left unattended during this time period. Indeed, please see the attached documentation which shows that DC has averaged 90 % of scheduled staff showing up for every shift since 10/25/25, & as a weekend snapshot, 91 % of staff scheduled showed up during the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of April.

#### **Access to medical care & counseling services**

Regarding access to medical care, I’m pleased to see that several incarcerated people you spoke with reported timely responses to their sick call slips, also referencing that the usage of the sick call tablets speeds up the process further. Indeed, the PDP has eliminated backlog for medical appointments in all facilities.

Regarding chaplaincy services, we are continuing to strive to add chaplains and enable greater access to services accordingly. We have sent out a formal posting for Islamic Chaplain. We will hopefully be able to select viable candidates to be able to increase those services.

#### **Meals**

It was reported that 89 % of the (54) inmates interviewed stated that their meals are inadequate. Mealtimes at the Detention Center are on a consistent schedule and are documented. All meals come sealed and prepackaged. There are documented, weekly inspections of meals by our food monitoring staff, who check the meals for presentation, quality, temperature, cleanliness, and correctness according to the menu and portion size. Our food services are in alignment with the City's Get Healthy Philly guidelines. As stated previously regarding complaints of inadequate portions/quality, our food service provider prepares meals based on the nutrition standards of the 2020-2025 USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which includes recommended daily caloric intakes.

However, in response to feedback, a new menu was implemented on July 1, 2025, which increased the daily caloric intake from 2, 239 to 2, 417 calories. The new menu also includes, at the request of the population, chicken thighs twice a week. We will be pursuing further options to enhance our meals, while still adhering to proper health guidelines, with our next contract for food services. We are continuing to evaluate ways to enhance our food services through the use of an outside auditor, who is evaluating our food services and provide recommendations accordingly.

**Law library and inmate handbook:** You state that only 11 out of 36 incarcerated people you interviewed stated that they have been able to access the law library. However, the Detention Center law library is offered in-person on a regular schedule. Most importantly, as stated above, the law library is now available on every inmate's personal tablet for 24-hour 7 day-a-week access.

Regarding the inmate handbook, each inmate is given an inmate handbook during intake processing at CFCF. There are copies in the law library and housing areas if needed. As with the law library, the inmate handbook is now accessible on personal tablets 24 hours 7 days-a-week.

**Hygiene:** Regarding pest control, we are contracted with a pest control service and are pleased with their diligence in maintaining a pest free environment. We continue to work with the incarcerated population to maintain the cleanliness of the housing areas. As Detention Center meals are now being served in the dining hall, another major change implemented since your December 9 visit, this will limit the amount of food stored in the housing areas with only commissary being stored in provided containers.

**Laundry:** Laundry exchange has been provided weekly to all areas in the facility. All laundry is sent to a central facility and then returned when completed. Please see the attached documentation.

**Communication:** Regarding broken phones, any phone reported to be inoperable is repaired that day. Most importantly, all inmates now have a personal tablet which allows them to make phone calls any time, in addition to video visitation. Regarding in-person visitation, yes, In-person visits

are held at RCF and require the family members to schedule the visit in advance. Inmates are transported to RCF and for the visits when scheduled.

- **Violence**

It was reported that 32 of the (48) inmates interviewed (70 %) reported witnessing fights while being incarcerated at the Detention Center. Unfortunately, violent incidents do occur in correctional facilities. We have undertaken several measures to increase security, reduce violent incidents and interdict contraband, including homemade weapons. You also state that 24 of 46 inmates interviewed (50%) reported witnessing assaults by staff. We train our staff to respond promptly while ensuring that their response is proper within the confines of the law. We act swiftly on any allegation of staff using unnecessary or excessive force. Upon confirming evidence regarding any improper conduct by staff, action is swiftly taken to address it by way of discipline, and, potentially, referral for criminal charges. Our goal is to ensure that all inmates and staff feel safe at all PDP facilities. Of note, we are on the verge of phased implementation of body cameras for PDP security staff, beginning at the Detention Center. This will assuredly provide a great tool for transparency regarding the usage of force by staff.

- **Recommendations**

Regarding the Recommendations, I'm pleased that you acknowledge some of the many improvements we are making. Specifically, in referencing our historically low population compared to our increased staffing (which has risen from 53 % staffed in June 2024 to 82 % staffed as of this letter), you noted that "these are impressive improvements that took significant efforts to achieve."

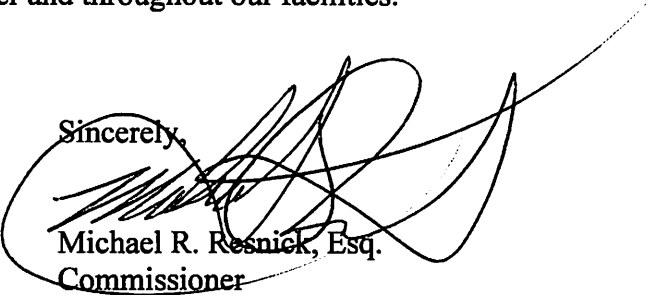
Also, you mention at the outset of your letter that the answers you received in your survey were consistent with previous Remick Monitoring reports. This was stated with a negative inference. However, the Remick Monitor just released the 8<sup>th</sup> Monitoring Report dated March 31, 2026. That report states: "Based on compliance findings, PDP achieved more progress in this reporting period than it has in any previous reporting period since monitoring commenced" and "[i]n this reporting period, PDP has shown improvement across virtually every substantive provision in the Agreement. This improvement reflects commitment and sustained effort by PDP leadership and staff."

I have otherwise addressed the concerns you raised above.

We will continue to work on increasing staffing and making operational improvements.

In closing, I appreciate the concerns raised, and I look forward to an ongoing dialogue with you and the Pennsylvania Prison Society in addressing issues which will improve conditions for our inmate population at the Detention Center and throughout our facilities.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Resnick, Esq.  
Commissioner

cc: Adam Thiel, Managing Director  
Tara Mohr, First Deputy Managing Director  
Adam Geer, Public Safety Director  
Brian Clinton, Chief of Staff for the Managing Director  
Greg Vrato, Esq., Prisons Chief of Staff