

# Impact of COVID-19 on Manila City Jail: Perspectives of Persons Deprived of Liberty and Jail Officers

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**Abstract:-** This study aimed to assess the implementation of COVID-19 health protocols by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) at Manila City Jail and to determine the impact of the pandemic on Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) and jail officers in terms of family, psychological, physical, and infrastructure factors. The study involved 50 PDLs and 50 jail officers, and used a quantitative research approach. The findings revealed that the BJMP had strictly implemented COVID-19 health protocols within the jail, such as mandatory mask-wearing, temperature checks, social distancing, and sanitization measures. However, the COVID-19 outbreak still significantly impacted the PDLs and jail officers. In terms of family, the pandemic caused high levels of fear for the safety of family members, affected family relationships, and limited visitation and communication. Psychologically, the respondents experienced high levels of worry about the virus spreading due to overcrowding, and feeling scared of potential COVID-19 symptoms. Regarding physical and infrastructure factors, the jail had insufficient hygiene supplies and poor environmental conditions that increased virus transmission. While there were substantial differences between PDLs and jail officers in their assessments of the pandemic's impact on family, no significant differences were found in their psychological and physical/infrastructure assessments. The study recommends that the BJMP continue implementing strict health protocols, provide peer support networks and counseling services to address mental health, and organize regular sanitization campaigns to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases within the jail. Overall, the findings highlight the significant challenges faced by PDLs and jail officers during the pandemic, underscoring the need for comprehensive strategies to protect the health and well-being of these vulnerable groups.

**Keywords:-** Impact, COVID-19 Protocols, Jail Officers, Person Deprived of Liberty.

## I. INTRODUCTION

### ➤ Background of the Study

Significant social and economic upheaval has been brought about by the pandemic all across the world, including the largest worldwide recession since the Great Depression. This epidemic affects Persons Deprived of

Liberty (PDLs) in jails and other detention facilities in addition to the general populace. Prison settings have been particularly heavily struck by the COVID-19 pandemic and remain extremely prone to accelerated illness outbreaks and enhanced disease transmission. The 2019 COVID-19 coronavirus illness outbreak has had a serious negative influence on people's life. Disaster-prone communities found it more difficult to adapt to COVID-19's limitations and their severe negative economic repercussions. In addition to the communities, the virus had a detrimental effect on convicts.

Globally, COVID-19 has had a disproportionately detrimental effect on prison systems and over 11 million inmates. It is believed that over 527,000 prisoners in 122 countries have contracted the virus, and over 3,800 deaths have been documented in 47 countries. According to Barnert et al. (2020), considering our detention facilities is essential for an effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the age of mass incarceration. If a comprehensive plan wasn't developed for these individuals, it would be an unusually harsh penalty.

The precise number could be much higher because the situation is always changing and many countries have inadequate testing capabilities. It should be acknowledged that due to their frequent and close interactions with prisoners, prison staff members—including police and medical personnel—are more likely to become infected. Without a doubt, people who live and work in prisons are at a greater risk of contracting COVID-19. According to Franco et al. (2020), there have been multiple documented respiratory illness epidemics in jails and prisons. Rates of infection among prisoners have increased considerably in comparison to the general population. These outbreaks have centred on custodial facilities. Measles, mumps, and the novel coronavirus are examples of highly contagious viral diseases that spread swiftly among prisoners and staff and may even reach the public. Prisons can serve as breeding grounds for infectious disease epidemics in part due to overcrowding, inadequate sanitation, poor ventilation, and inadequate healthcare.

Standards of hygiene in jails are frequently substantially worse than those in the public. A lack of finance for criminal justice systems worldwide has also led to inadequate healthcare, unfavorable working conditions, and a shortage of professionals with the necessary training.

Prisons are now ticking time bombs waiting for COVID-19 to set the fuse, thanks to these conditions. Our government acted quickly and ordered us to stay at home under the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) to prevent the widespread disease. Our nation's cooperatives responded to the call to join the national effort to address the adverse effect of the COVID-19 pandemic to decrease the impact of this crisis on our society. The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) of the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Bureau of Corrections (BUCOR) of the Department of Justice are two federal authorities that have taken decisive action in the fight against the epidemic. Inmates with low-level offenses and a high risk of COVID-19 should be released from overcrowded jails and prisons, as well as older inmates and those with pre-existing medical conditions.

According to Crawford (2020), although COVID-19 may be a brand-new viral strain, many of the issues it has brought up in the criminal justice system are issues we have before seen. The COVID-19 pandemic crisis has made problems with crime fear, jail overcrowding, and problems with non-violent crimes more prominent in the United States. According to statistics, there are a lot of old, ill, and at-risk in mates as well as a lot of non-violent, pretrial convicts in American jails, which makes them coronavirus hotspots.

To protect jails nationwide from the COVID-19 danger, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) has launched "OPLAN 2019 Novel Coronavirus." As a result, Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) visiting has been prohibited, and some of their jails are no longer receiving inmates from lockup cells. Due to inadequate ventilation and overcrowding, it is hard to practice physical and social distancing in correctional facilities despite all precautions and measures being taken to prevent virus outbreaks. As thousands of people were detained for breaking curfews and quarantines, the situation with the crowds has gotten worse. Six hundred thirty-seven fatalities and almost 9,000 cases of COVID-19 have been recorded in the Philippines.

Furthermore, COVID-19 outbreaks, according to Barnert et al. (2020), increase the risk of transmission in the communities surrounding detained and incarcerated individuals, and almost certainly result in an occupational health crisis for hundreds of thousands of professionals who perform essential work in detention facilities across the nation. Given the serious but little-known and little-discussed health risks, public health and custodial leadership must move swiftly to prevent COVID-19 from entering correctional settings and to put strong mitigation measures in place for when it does.

The Manila Police District (MPD) Station 11 in Binondo was placed under an exceptional quarantine lockdown during the pandemic due to increased coronavirus infections among station staff. 46 out of the 121 personnel who underwent swab tests for the virus were positive, according to the Manila Police District (MPD). Only 37

tests have come back negative, and 38 more are waiting for results. According to Manila Police District (MPD), the 38 without test results would be quarantined inside their stations and precincts until the results are received. Thirty-three other officers in the Gandara precinct are either awaiting results or without swab tests, while one has tested positive. Four police officers from the San Nicolas precinct tested positive, but no swabs tests.

No operations have yet been carried out in the station's Juan Luna precinct. The police district stated: "Other operations in the police station are discontinued. The remaining workers with negative results would continue their duties. "According to the statement, the 30-person increase will be distributed to police community precincts and sectors affected by contact tracing.

Dhami et al. (2020) stated that the people under lockdown had much less thoughts about missing their freedom and their relatives and friends who lived outside in both areas than did first-time detainees. However, compared to first-time convicts, those under lockdown in both areas participated much less in a variety of everyday activities. Additionally, in both areas, those under lockdown had a greater sense of hopelessness than those who were new to jail.

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed unprecedented challenges to correctional facilities worldwide, including Manila City Jail, where the implementation of health protocols is crucial to prevent the spread of the virus among Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) and jail officers. The unique carceral environment, characterized by close confinement and limited resources, amplifies the risks associated with infectious diseases, making it essential to assess the effectiveness of COVID-19 protocols within these settings.

Existing literature highlights the vulnerability of incarcerated populations to infectious diseases due to overcrowding, inadequate healthcare access, and underlying health conditions. Studies have underscored the urgent need for robust infection control measures in correctional facilities to safeguard the health and well-being of inmates and staff. However, there remains a gap in understanding the specific impact of COVID-19 protocols on the Manila City Jail population, necessitating a focused investigation to evaluate the implementation and outcomes of these measures.

This study aims to address this gap by examining the adherence to and implications of COVID-19 health protocols enforced by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology at Manila City Jail. By assessing the experiences of PDLs and jail officers regarding family concerns, psychological well-being, physical health, and infrastructure adequacy, the research seeks to provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of the protocols and the challenges encountered in their execution.

### ➤ *Objectives of the Study*

The objectives of this study were to assess the implementation of the BJMP of Manila City Jail on COVID-19 health protocols and to determine the impact of the outbreak of the spreadable disease in our country on the Persons of Deprived of Liberty and jail officers of the Manila City Jail in terms of family, psychological stress and physical and Infrastructure factors. This study was deemed essential to the PDLs of the Manila City Jail Male Dormitory. This study would help them to be heard and acknowledge their challenges inside the Jail such as overcrowding, and unequal access to health care and social services.

This study provided information and knowledge to the Jail officers of the Manila City Jail with regard to the health services inside the jail. Along with that, Criminology students and future researchers can gather information as a reference regarding the COVID-19 outbreak inside the jail.

## II. METHODOLOGY

### ➤ *Research Design*

The researcher aimed to investigate the impact of COVID-19 on male PDLs and jail officers at Manila City Jail with regard to implementation of health protocols and managing their psychological well-being throughout the pandemic.

To shed more light on the investigation and conversation surrounding the pandemic issue, the researcher opted for a quantitative approach. Because a quantitative method eliminates the need for the laborious process of coding large numbers of responses, it is more efficient and was chosen by the researcher. By locating data that either confirms or refutes the theories, researchers employed these studies to evaluate hypotheses regarding how or why particular events occur. Expert researchers are aware that every research methodology has its limitations. Reliable quantitative research requires the knowledge and skills to scrutinize your findings thoroughly. This means carefully considering and reporting on your test variables, predictions, data collection, and testing methods before developing your final conclusion.

### ➤ *Locale and Population*

This study was conducted in Manila City Jail located at 851 Oroquieta St. Santa Cruz, Manila, 1003 Metro Manila. The researchers chose this locale since this is one of the jails in the Philippines with large numbers of PDLs.. With that, the researcher can gather information to know the status, challenges, and prospect sin Manila City Jail's response to the COVID-19 outbreak, and how they manage to prevent the spread of this virus. Future researchers may conduct research in other locations. The respondents in this study include fifty (50) Persons Deprived of Liberty in Male Dormitory and and fifty (50) Jail officers inside the Manila City Jail. The chosen respondents to this study are persons deprived of liberty in Male dormitory and jail officers who were on duty and imprisoned before and after the pandemic to compare the differences to the respondents' situations.

The said respondents were identified and elected using snowball sampling method which is an unbiased technique when it comes to survey questionnaire form. According to Etikan et al. (2016) snowball sampling or chain-referral sampling of a hidden population starts with a convenience sample of the initial subject. Under some circumstances, it enables the researcher to get asymptotically unbiased estimates from snowball samples. As a result, respondent-driven sampling and snowball sampling enable participants to estimate the social network connecting the concealed population.

### ➤ *Data-Gathering Tools*

In gathering data, the researcher utilized the survey questionnaire to collect data that use quantitative information to answer research questions. In quantitative research, numerical data are analyzed. That can be used for statistical analysis.

The researcher used a survey form questionnaire a collection of questions used in research that comprises questions or other prompts intended to collect information from participants.

The questionnaires were composed of two parts. The part 1 of the instrument focuses on the level of implementation of COVID-19 health protocols in the Bureau of Jail Management in Manila City Jail as perceived by the jail officers and Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL). While Part 2 is about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the everyday lives and activities of the group of respondents in terms of family, psychological stress, and physical and infrastructure.

### ➤ *Ethical Consideration*

This research has been evaluated and approved by the Philippine College of Criminology Research Ethics committee for implementation, according to the ethical standards for research set forth by the committee and the PCCR.

This research aimed to determine how difficult the situation was inside the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) during the COVID-19 pandemic for all jail officers and for PDL. The researchers acknowledged the condition of the officers and PDL inside the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) during the pandemic. The motivation for this study was to explore their experiences and challenges during the pandemic. The researchers wrote a letter to management requesting permission to conduct this study.

Respondents can decline or participate in the study without feeling obligated to do so. Particularly, the Jail officers asked the PDLs who would like to volunteer to participate in answering the survey questionnaires. The researcher recognized that this is a sensitive topic that must be handled with care and full respect for the respondents' privacy while conducting the study. Their information remains confidential even after the study has been completed. Respondents who agreed to participate in this

study received a letter outlining the study's objectives, the questions they answered during the survey, and how it benefited both parties.

Furthermore, if a participant decided to withdraw at any point during the survey, the researcher fully respected the respondents' decision without any hostility. The researchers used the principle of justice to avoid judgment and bias and to provide fair treatment to all study participants. The researchers ensured the study's

transparency by openly and comprehensively disseminating the entire research process to the public and obtaining informed consent from each participant. Any changes or modifications that could affect the expected outcomes of the study were immediately communicated to the participants. The researchers followed all ethical considerations to promote respect and justice further, ensuring that the well-being of the respondents was prioritized over the research objectives.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### A. Results

##### ➤ Assessment on the Implementation of COVID-19 Health Protocols in Manila City Jail

Table 1 Level of Implementation of COVID-19 Health Protocols by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology at Manila City Jail

HEALTH PROTOCOL INDICATORS	JAILOFFICER		PDL		TOTAL	
	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation
1. "NoMaskNo Entry" policy	3.88	Very Much Implemented	3.60	Very Much Implemented	3.74	Very Much Implemented
2.Body temperature check	3.80	Very Much Implemented	3.50	Very Much Implemented	3.65	Very Much Implemented
3.Social distancing	3.70	Very Much Implemented	3.00	Very Much Implemented	3.35	Very Much Implemented
4.Observance of hand sanitation	3.84	Very Much Implemented	3.30	Very Much Implemented	3.57	Very Much Implemented
5.Observanceof structural sanitation	3.86	Very Much Implemented	3.80	Very Much Implemented	3.86	Very Much Implemented
6.Consultation from adoctorin the command center if there is/aresign/sand symptom/s of COVID-19	3.84	Very Much Implemented	3.70	Very Much Implemented	3.77	Very Much Implemented
7.Suspension of ball games	3.34	Very Much Implemented	3.60	Very Much Implemented	3.47	Very Much Implemented
8.Disallowance of physical interaction among PDL'S to any body outside the inner gate	3.62	Very Much Implemented	3.40	Very Much Implemented	3.51	Very Much Implemented
TOTAL	3.74	Very Much Implemented	3.48	Very Much Implemented	3.61	Very Much Implemented

Table above shows the level of implementation of COVID-19 Health Protocols by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology at Manila City Jail for Male dormitory as perceived by the Jail Officer and PDL. In this study it has been found that the health protocols are very much implemented, even though there are lack of facilities and poor hygienic facilities condition. The jail environment and their health were prioritized to avoid contracting COVID-19 as a result.

The overall assessment of the two groups of respondents is 3.61 interpreted as VMI. The group of Jail Officers has an assessment of 3.74 interpreted as VMI, and the group of PDL has an assessment of 3.48 interpreted as VMI.

On the part of the Jail officers, all indicators have an assessment of Very Much Implemented such as (indicators 1. "No Mask No Entry" policy, 5. Observance of structural sanitation 4. Observance of hand sanitation, 6. Consultation from a doctor in the command center if there is/are signs and

symptom/s of COVID-19, 2. Body temperature check, 3. Social Distancing, 7. Suspension of ball games 8. Disallowance of physical interaction among PDL’s to anybody outside the inner gate) with mean scores of 3.88, 3.86, 3.81, 3.84, 3.80, 3.70, 3.34, 3.62 respectively.

On the part of the PDLs, seven (7) indicators have an assessment of VMI such as (indicator # 5. Observance of structural sanitation, 6. Consultation from a doctor in the command center if there is/are signs and symptom/s of COVID-19, 1.” No Mask No Entry” policy, 7. Suspension of ball games, 2. Body temperature check, 8. Disallowance of physical interaction among PDL’S to anybody outside the inner gate, 4. Observance of hand sanitation) with mean scores of 3.80, 3.70, 3.60, 3.60, 3.50, 3.40, and 3.30 respectively, and 1 indicator has an assessment of A such as indicator #2 with mean scores of 3.00.

According to Henry (2020) people who are incarcerated are disproportionately more likely to develop COVID-19. Prisons are where COVID-19 is most prevalent. dissemination, including to the neighborhood. Pre-existing health issues are prevalent, yet access to high-quality health care is scarce. It is hard to lessen the effect of COVID-19 in prisons due to the impossibility of socially isolating inmates. Due to a combination of societal conditions, persons of

color and those without children makeup a disproportionate share of the prison population. with stigmatized mental. Iran and Ireland have reduced their jail populations significantly by moving inmates to home confinement.

Furthermore, none of the prisons or detention facilities had immediate access to lab tests for potential cases. As stated by Mekonnen et al. (2021), every employee in prisons and detention facilities acknowledged that COVID-19 training had not yet been provided. But preventive measures including physical separation, using handwashing stations, donning masks, and maintaining respiratory hygiene were not used in any jails or detention facilities.

In addition, Duarte et al. (2022) mentioned that prisons are such effective super spreading environments, including the small, communal settings where people are imprisoned for extended periods of time, poor ventilation, a lack of non-punitive areas for quarantine/medical isolation, and the astoundingly high numbers of people who experience incarceration.

➤ *Assessment on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic as Perceived by the Respondents in Manila City Jail in terms of Family Factors*

Table 2 The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic Among the Respondents in Bureau of Jail Management and Penology at Manila City Jail in terms of Family

FAMILY INDICATORS	Jail Officer		PDL		TOTAL	
	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation
1.Myfamilyvisited me during the pandemic.	3.10	Agree (High Impact)	<b>2.66</b>	Agree (High Impact)	2.88	Agree (High Impact)
2.I was scared for my family’s safety duringtheCOVID-19 pandemic.	3.60	Strongly agree (Very High Impact)	<b>2.84</b>	Agree (High Impact)	2.22	Disagree (Low Impact)
3.COVID-19 Pandemic affected my family relationship.	3.40	Strongly agree (Very High Impact)	<b>2.66</b>	Agree (High Impact)	3.03	Agree (High Impact)
4.The jail institution developed a peer support network duringtheCOVID-19 pandemic.	3.00	Strongly agree (Very High Impact)	<b>2.54</b>	Agree (High Impact)	2.77	Agree (High Impact)
5.The jail institution Allows visitation and mail services	3.50	Strongly agree (Very High Impact)	<b>2.50</b>	DA	3.00	Agree (High Impact)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.32</b>	<b>Strongly agree (Very High Impact)</b>	<b>2.64</b>	<b>Agree (High Impact)</b>	<b>2.98</b>	<b>Agree (High Impact)</b>

Table shows the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the BJMP in Manila City Jail in terms of family factors.

The level of impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the BJMP in Manila City Jail in the table above shows that the overall assessment of two groups of respondents is interpreted as AGREE. The group of Jail officers has an

assessment of 3.32 interpreted as STRONGLY AGREE and the group of PDL has an assessment of 2.64 interpreted as AGREE.

PDL’s are more worried about family members becoming ill with COVID-19 or about unknowingly transmitting the disease to the family especially those times

that the quarantine alert level has lifted up as so as their family members were allowed to visit them inside the Manila City Jail. Since they are not with their family members, they are also worried about their state of living because almost everyone has experienced difficulties. Moreover, there is an increased rate of unemployment in this time of pandemic, PDLs are worried about their family's financial vulnerability because they can't help with daily expenses or to provide for the needs of their family members.

According to Neves et al. (2021), the early effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on hunger, unemployment, and poverty in Brazil. Data on the unemployment rate, unemployment insurance claims, the number of families living in extreme poverty, and food insecurity were gathered from public research studies, studies published by government organizations, scientific journals, and news portals. After the pandemic started, the rise in unemployment and the number of families living in extreme poverty—which has been on an upward trajectory since 2015—was exacerbated. This negatively impacted people's ability to buy food and their access to it, primarily affecting women and people in the northern and northeastern regions. Brazil's unemployment increased by 3% between January and September 2020, and there were over 485 thousand more families there in October.

Compared to January of the same year, in abject poverty. The Brazilian government's answers to the above challenges are minimal and inadequate. With the elimination of the Food and Nutrition Security programs and the growth of fiscal austerity measures, which began with the political-economic crisis in 2015, there has been a significant rise in hunger in Brazil. The Covid-19 epidemic is a new factor that amplifies this trend. With the development of increasingly substantial contributions on the influence of the pandemic on the phenomena of poverty and hunger, it is urgently necessary to restore the importance of the agenda for fighting hunger in Brazil.

According to Zhang (2020), coronavirus (COVID-19)'s quick propagation has a significant impact on global financial markets. Investors have seen large losses in a very short amount of time as a result of the unprecedented level of risk that has been generated. This article tries to map the broad trends of systemic and country-specific risks in the international financial markets. It also examines the prospective effects of policy changes, such as the US' choice to pursue unlimited quantitative easing(QE)and a zero percent interest rate, and how much these changes would increase market uncertainty globally.

Moreover, Charles et al. (2022), stated that since American prisons are frequently overcrowded, the COVID-19 outbreak presented significant social isolation problems as well as a shortage of personal protective equipment. Institutions swiftly altered their policies in reaction, delaying programming, canceling in-person visits, and releasing some inmates with minor charges. Despite this, a sizable number of people were still behind bars, and it is

unclear how these sudden procedural changes would affect them in the middle of an ongoing pandemic. 33 adults in a medium-sized county jail were interviewed to get a sense of their experiences in order to start looking into this. The majority of the participants were Black men, half of whom were parents, and all had undergone COVID-19 testing. Results from the collection of quantitative and qualitative data showed that COVID-19 negatively affected daily jail operations.

Impacted health and caused tension in family connections. According to reports, depleted mental health combined with the use of segregation, delayed court cases, insufficient health responses, postponed programs, and visits with few other options for interaction led to feelings of isolation and increased worry for the welfare of family members. Policy and practice ramifications that would assist jailed person sin receiving the support they require and keeping in touch with their families while reducing health issues that arise during public health crises are examined.

On the part of the Jail Officers, three (3) indicators (2.I was scared for my family's safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, 3.COVID-19 pandemic affected my family relationship, 5.The jail institution allows visitation and mail services ) have an assessment of STRONGLYAGREE such as(2. I was scared for my family's safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, 3.COVID-19 pandemic affected my family relationship, 5.The jail institution allows visitation and mail services.) with mean scores of 3.60, 3.40, 3.50 respectively and 2 indicators (1.My family visited me during the pandemic, 4.The jail institution developed a peer support network during the COVID-19 pandemic) of AGREE such as (1.My family visited me during the pandemic, 4.The jail institution developed a peer support network during the COVID-19 pandemic)with mean scores of 3.10 and 3.00 respectively.

On the part of the PDL, four (4) indicators have an assessment of AGREE such as (2.I was scared for my family's safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, 1. My family visited me during the pandemic, 3.COVID-19 pandemic affected my family relationship, 4.The jail institution developed a peer support network during the COVID-19 pandemic) with mean scores of 2.84, 2.66, 2.66, 2.54 respectively, and 1 indicator has an assessment of DISAGREE such as (5. The jail institution allows visitation and mail services) with mean scores of 2.50.

As stated by Power (2020), without prompt action, the detrimental effects on families are likely to continue for years. Without the (often unacknowledged) basis of employment given by the "care economy": the replication of daily life via cooking, raising children, and other such activities, what we typically refer to as "the economy" would not operate. Not only are individuals physically prohibited from entering workplaces, but many families are presently forced to raise and educate their children without institutional help, which is cutting paid working hours and raising stress levels.

➤ *Assessment on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic as Perceived by the Respondents in Manila City Jail in terms of Psychological Factors*

Table 3 The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic as Perceived by the Respondents in Bureau of Jail Management and Penology at Manila City Jail in terms of Psychological

PSYCHOLOGICAL INDICATORS	Jail Officer		PDL		TOTAL	
	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation
1.COVID-19pandemic caused me mental problems.	2.20	Disagree (Low Impact)	2.04	Disagree (Low Impact)	2.12	Disagree (Low Impact)
2.COVID-19caused me self-harm and suicide attempts	2.30	Disagree (Low Impact)	2.14	Disagree (Low Impact)	2.22	Disagree (Low Impact)
3.I was worried that COVID-19mayspread more quickly because of the overcrowding in Manila City Jail.	3.20	Agree (High Impact)	2.78	Agree (High Impact)	2.99	Agree (High Impact)
4.Iwasveryscared that I might have symptoms of the COVID-19 virus.	3.20	Agree (High Impact)	2.82	Agree (High Impact)	3.01	Agree (High Impact)
5.I barely sleep at night thinking of the situation we have duringtheCOVID-19 pandemic.	2.70	Agree (High Impact)	2.48	Agree (High Impact)	2.59	Agree (High Impact)
TOTAL	2.82	Agree (High Impact)	2.45	Disagree (Low Impact)	2.58	Agree (High Impact)

From the table above, it shows the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic to the BJMP in Manila City Jail in terms of PSYCHOLOGICAL.

The level of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to the BJMP in Manila City Jail in Table 3 shows that the overall assessment of the two respondents is 2.58 interpreted as AGREE. The group of Jail Officers have an assessment of 2.72 interpreted as AGREE and the group of PDL have an assessment of 2.45 interpreted as DISAGREE.

On the part of the Jail Officers, three (3) indicators have an assessment of AGREE which include (3. I was worried that COVID-19 may spread more quickly because of the overcrowding in Manila City Jail, 4.I was very scared that I might have symptoms of the COVID-19 virus, 5.I barely sleep at night thinking of the situation we have during the COVID-19 pandemic) with mean scores of 3.20, 3.20 and 2.70 respectively and 2 indicators have an assessment of Disagree such as (2.COVID-19 caused me self-harm and suicide attempts,1.COVID-19 pandemic caused mental problems)with a mean scores of 2.30 and 2.20 respectively.

On the part of the PDL, two (2) indicators have an assessment of AGREE which include (4.I was very scared that I might have symptoms of the COVID-19 virus, 3. I was worried that COVID-19 may spread more quickly because of the overcrowding in Manila City Jail) with mean scores of 2.82 and 2.78 respectively and 3 indicators that have an assessment of DISAGREE such as (5.I barely sleep at night thinking of the situation we have during the COVID-19 pandemic, 1. COVID-19 pandemic caused me mental problems, 2. COVID-19 caused me to self-harm and suicide attempts, 1.COVID-19 pandemic caused me mental

problems) with mean scores of 2.48, 2.14, and 2.04 respectively.

PDL and jail officials injured themselves during the COVID-19 pandemic because they were preoccupied with thoughts about the virus that was sweeping the nation at the time. The PDL worried about their relatives, who live far away and about whose condition they do not know, in addition to themselves because they are incarcerated and there is a great chance that they may have contracted the virus due to their close proximity. Regarding the jail officers, they struggled because they were afraid that, due to the diverse nature of the persons they dealt with, they would bring a virus home with them.

A study by Singu (2022), the Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, a significant virus epidemic in the twenty-first century, has caused unprecedented risks to mental health worldwide. Patients and health care professionals are given psychological assistance, but the general public's mental health also needs a lot of attention. The objective of this systematic review is to summarize the existing research on the impact of COVID-19 and related risk factors on the psychological outcomes of the general population.

Furthermore, Hewson et al. (2020), mentioned that prisoners are a vulnerable group with numerous complex health needs and worse health outcomes than the general population globally. To date, little attention has been paid to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of prisoners, an area of concern given their high rates of pre-existing mental disorders, suicide, and self-harm, as well as the links between these issues and reoffending behavior.

➤ *Assessment on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic as Perceived the Respondents in Manila City Jail in terms of Physical and Infrastructure*

Table 4 The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic as Perceived by the Respondents in Bureau of Jail Management and Penology at Manila City Jail in terms of Physical and Infrastructure

PHYSICAL & INFRASTRUCTURE INDICATORS	Jail Officer		PDL		TOTAL	
	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation
1.The facilities are always cleaned and sanitized.	2.50	Disagree (Low Impact)	2.42	Disagree (Low Impact)	2.46	Disagree (Low Impact)
2.The jail institution has enough hygiene supplies.	2.80	Agree (High Impact)	2.52	Agree (High Impact)	2.66	Agree (High Impact)
3.There is an improved access to health care (e.g., checkups) for PDL /jail officers	2.70	Agree (High Impact)	2.60	Agree (High Impact)	2.65	Agree (High Impact)
4.There was an isolation area and treatment of PDL inside the jail.	2.80	Agree (High Impact)	2.30	Disagree (Low Impact)	2.55	Agree (High Impact)
5.The jail institution has poor environment conditions which increased the transmission of COVID-19 virus.	2.20	Disagree (Low Impact)	2.62	Agree (High Impact)	2.41	Disagree (Low Impact)
TOTAL	2.60	Agree (High Impact)	2.49	Disagree (Low Impact)	2.54	Agree (High Impact)

The table illustrates the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic to the BJMP in Manila City Jail in terms of Physical. The level of impact of COVID-19 pandemic in Manila City Jail in table 4 shows that the overall assessment of the two groups of respondents is 2.54 interpreted as Agree. The Group of Jail Officers have an assessment of 2.60 interpreted as AGREE and the group of PDL have an assessment of 2.49 interpreted as DISAGREE.

On the part of Jail Officers, three (3) indicators have an assessment of AGREE such as (2.The jail institution has enough hygiene supplies, 3.There is an improved access to healthcare for PDL and jail officers, 4. There was an isolation area and treatment of PDL inside the jail) with mean scores of 2.80, 2.80 and 2.70 respectively and 2 indicators have an assessment of DISAGREE, such as (1.The facilities are always cleaned and sanitized, 5.The jail institution has poor environment conditions which increased the transmission of COVID-19 virus) with mean scores of 2.50 and 2.20 respectively.

On the part of PDL, indicators have an assessment of AGREE such as (5. The jail institution has poor environment conditions which increased the transmission of COVID-19 virus, 3. There is an improved access to health care for PDL /jail officers, 2. The jail institution has enough hygiene supplies) with mean scores of 2.62, 2.60 and 2.52 respectively and 2 indicators have an assessment of DISAGREE such as (1. The facilities are always cleaned and sanitized, 4. There was an isolation area and treatment of PDL inside the jail) with mean scores of 2.42 and 2.30 respectively.

Absence of modern furnishings including jail officers' rooms and sleeping spaces for PDLs. Antiquated toilets with inadequate cleaning. Refurbishing existing facilities and adding new ones could lessen and stop the COVID-19 virus from spreading inside the jail.

According to Rubin (2020), COVID-19 transmission is more likely among inmates or other PDL in a given institution since they frequently originate from different places. Additionally, there are typically few choices for isolating COVID-19 patients, and many hospitals restrict access to soap and paper towels in addition to outlawing alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

In addition, Esposito (2022) revealed that there are documented health concerns in jails, especially in overcrowded and underfunded facilities. The COVID-19 pandemic in 2019 changed that, making them a public health emergency. In actuality, there are more than 10 million inmates in the world; the majority of them have subpar living and medical circumstances. It's challenging to control the cell spacing. The general populace would be at risk if infection in jails were not kept under control. Additionally, tighter jail regulations may result in a degradation of prisoners' human rights.

During the pandemic, the probability of infection in jails was directly correlated with a number of variables, including overcrowding, educational attainment, and environmental and medical conditions. It is incorrect to believe that because the PDL are already isolated from the outside world, the risk of contracting COVID-19 is lower. In truth, the general public thinks that convicts are less exposed in prison since they are in a confined setting and cannot leave the facility.



➤ *Comparative Assessment of the Respondents on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Manila City Jail*

Table 5 Differences in the Assessment of the Respondents on the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic in the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology at Manila City Jail

TABLE 5 VARIABLES	JAIL OFFICER		PDL		TOTAL	
	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation
FAMILY	3.32	Strongly Agree (Very High Impact)	2.64	Agree (High Impact)	2.98	Agree (High Impact)
PSYCHOLOGICAL	2.72	Agree (High Impact)	2.45	Disagree (Low Impact)	2.56	Agree (High Impact)
PHYSICAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE	2.60	Agree (High Impact)	2.49	Disagree (Low Impact)	2.54	Agree (High Impact)
OVERALL MEAN	2.88	Agree (High Impact)	2.52	Agree (High Impact)	2.70	Agree (High Impact)

Table shows the comparative assessment of the respondents on the Impact of COVID-19 pandemic to the BJMP in Manila City Jail.

Jail Officers have an overall weighted mean of 2.88 interpreted as AGREE in terms of the effect of COVID-19 to their Family (They were scared for their family’s safety during the COVID-19 pandemic), Psychological (They were scared that they might have symptoms of the COVID-19 virus), Physical (The jail institution has enough hygiene supplies).

On the part of the PDL, they have an overall weighted mean of 2.52 interpreted as AGREE in terms of the effect of COVID-19 to their Family (They were scared for their family’s safety, during the COVID-19 pandemic), Psychological (They were scared that they might have symptoms of the COVID-19 virus), Physical (The jail institution has enough hygiene supplies).

The overall assessment of the two (2) groups of respondents with regard to the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic to the BJMP in Manila City Jail has an overall weighted mean of 2.70 interpreted as AGREE.

Table 6 Differences in the Assessment of the Respondents on the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic in the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology at Manila City Jail

VARIABLES	T-RATIO		INTERPRETATION	DECISION
	COMPUTED	TABULAR		
Family	5.23	1.860	There is Significance Difference	Rejected
Psychological	1.00	1.860	There is no Significance Difference	Accepted
Physical	0.26	1.860	There is no Significance Difference	Accepted

Since the computed value for the family, value of 5.23 is greater than the t-tabular value/ critical value of 1.860 at 0.05 level of significance with 8 degrees of freedom. The null hypothesis is disconfirmed. This means there is a significant difference between jail officers and PDL.

In terms of PSYCHOLOGICAL, the computed value of 1.00 is less than the t-tabular/ critical value of 1.860 at 0.05 level of significance with 8 degrees of freedom. The null hypothesis is disconfirmed. This means there is a significant difference between jail officers and PDL.

In terms of PHYSICAL, the computed value of 0.26 is less than the t-tabular/ critical value of 1.860 at 0.05 level of significance with 8 degrees of freedom. The null hypothesis is disconfirmed. This means there is a significant difference between jail officers and PDL.

**IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

➤ *Conclusions*

The study revealed that the BJMP has implemented strict COVID-19 health protocols within Manila City Jail, including mandatory mask-wearing, temperature checks, social distancing measures, and enhanced sanitization practices. These efforts demonstrate a proactive approach to mitigating the spread of the virus within the correctional facility. Despite the implementation of protocols, the study identified significant challenges faced by both Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) and jail officers. These challenges include concerns about family safety, psychological stress related to the pandemic, and limitations in physical infrastructure and hygiene practices within the jail environment. Further, it was revealed that the restrictions on visitation and communication due to the pandemic have had a profound impact on the family dynamics of inmates and staff. Fear for the safety of family members, limited contact with loved ones, and disrupted

relationships have contributed to heightened stress and anxiety among the jail population. In conclusion, the study provides valuable insights into the challenges and implications of COVID-19 health protocols in Manila City Jail, emphasizing the need for ongoing support, resources, and strategic interventions to safeguard the health and well-being of PDLs and jail officers during public health emergencies.

#### ➤ Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions, it is recommended that the BJMP must continue to prioritize the strict implementation of COVID-19 health protocols while addressing the identified challenges. This includes enhancing mental health support services, improving hygiene practices, and providing additional resources to support the well-being of both PDLs and jail personnel. In relation to mental health, BJMP may develop and implement comprehensive mental health support programs for both Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) and jail personnel to address the psychological stress and anxiety resulting from the pandemic. This may include counseling services, peer support groups, and mental health awareness campaigns within the correctional facility. Further, hygiene practices within Manila City Jail must be strengthened by ensuring the availability of adequate sanitation supplies, promoting regular handwashing, and enhancing cleaning protocols in high-traffic areas. Regular training sessions on proper hygiene practices should be conducted for inmates and staff to minimize the risk of virus transmission. Additionally, BJMP may implement innovative strategies to facilitate communication between PDLs and their families, such as virtual visitation programs, increased phone call privileges, and family support groups. These initiatives aim to alleviate the emotional distress caused by restricted visitation and enhance the well-being of both inmates and their loved ones. Allocate resources for infrastructure upgrades within the jail facility to improve living conditions and reduce overcrowding. Enhancements may include ventilation improvements, increased spacing between PDLs, and the provision of adequate medical facilities to support the health needs of the incarcerated population. Most importantly, BJMP must implement a robust monitoring and evaluation system to assess the effectiveness of the recommended interventions and track the progress of COVID-19 protocol implementation. Regular assessments and feedback mechanisms will enable continuous improvement and adaptation of strategies based on emerging needs and challenges.

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