the presence of the epidemic in the US was recognized in mid-March. The objective was to determine to what extent the restrictions resulting from the presence of a new disease was affecting older adults in their daily lives, and in their plans for the future. All respondents were over the age of 60 and half were more than 80 years old. Two-thirds lived by themselves; most others lived with a husband or wife. Respondents for the most part were following guidelines to wear masks, practice social distancing and avoid close contact with persons outside their homes, including other family members. Over half had already made dramatic changes in their daily activities. Some found an opportunity to develop new skills, had connected with people from the past, or had become more introspective. Others, while exhibiting some of the same characteristics, were more focused on the restrictions they faced, and were more aware than ever of the limited amount of time left in their lives. Differences between respondents in the emphasis of their perspectives are explored, by age, gender, and other characteristics.

WORSENING MENTAL HEALTH AND SELF-RATED HEALTH IN OLDER INCARCERATED PERSONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
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Incarcerated persons age 50 and older comprise one of society’s most vulnerable groups given high rates of chronic illness, estrangement from family/friends, and suicide. Consequently, the mental health impact of COVID-19 on this population may be especially salient. Using data from the ongoing Aging Inmates’ Suicidal Ideation and Depression study (Aging INSIDE), we determined change in older incarcerated persons’ mental health (anxiety and depression symptoms) and change in self-rated health (SRH) from before to during the COVID-19 pandemic, and evaluated how these variables were related. Of the 202 still-incarcerated Aging INSIDE participants, 157 (77%) completed Check-In Surveys between August-September 2020. Participants were 96% male, racially diverse (41% White, 41% Black, 18% Hispanic/Other) and average age was 56.0(±5.8) years. From before to during the COVID-19 pandemic, average anxiety symptom scores, assessed by the GAD-7, increased (worsened) (from 6.4±5.7 to 7.8±6.6; p<0.001), average depression symptoms scores, measured by the PHQ-8, increased (worsened) (from 5.5±6.0 to 8.1±6.5; p<0.001), and average SRH decreased (worsened) (from 3.0±0.2 to 2.6±0.2; p<0.001). Worsening anxiety led to worsening depressive symptoms (direct effect = 0.339; p<0.05). A mediation model controlling for age, race, chronic conditions, years until release, and change in social support score found a total effect of change in anxiety on SRH change of -0.04 (p<0.001), of which 34.2% flows indirectly through change in depression (p<0.001). Older incarcerated persons experienced worsening mental health and SRH during the COVID-19 pandemic. Future research will determine if mental health and SRH improve following vaccination and return to “normal” procedures.