
Survey Results



Big Muddy River 2023 MQPL Survey Results

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Introduction

Big Muddy River Correctional Center (Big Muddy) is a medium-security male prison within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) that housed 1,175 people on January 3, 2023. Big Muddy housed approximately 144 people who are civilly committed as [Sexually Dangerous Persons](#) (SDPs) and offers a voluntary sex offender treatment program (VSOTP), which had 44 participants as of October 2023, when JHA visited Big Muddy. Approximately 50% of the Big Muddy population were serving sentences for sex offenses, compared to 17% of the total IDOC population.

The John Howard Association of Illinois (JHA) conducted a modified short [Measuring the Quality of Prison Life](#) (MQPL) survey by providing enough survey packets (consisting of the [MQPL survey](#), informed consent notice/instruction sheet, and privileged mail prepaid business reply envelope addressed to JHA) so that every person incarcerated at Big Muddy had an opportunity to participate in the voluntary and anonymous survey if they chose to do so. JHA received 493 responses to the MQPL survey from people at Big Muddy through July 19, 2023, representing approximately 42% of the static population.



The MQPL questions are organized by dimensions: harmony, professionalism, security, and well-being & development (descriptions follow). JHA's survey also included questions on demographics of respondents as well as some questions JHA had asked in previous JHA surveys. Results are presented in this report first in chart format, followed by table format. Tables are organized in the order that questions appeared on the survey.

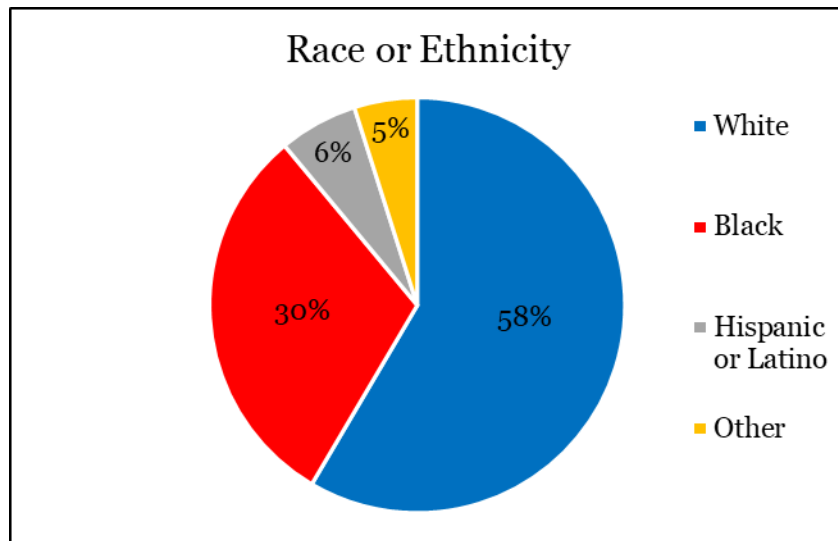
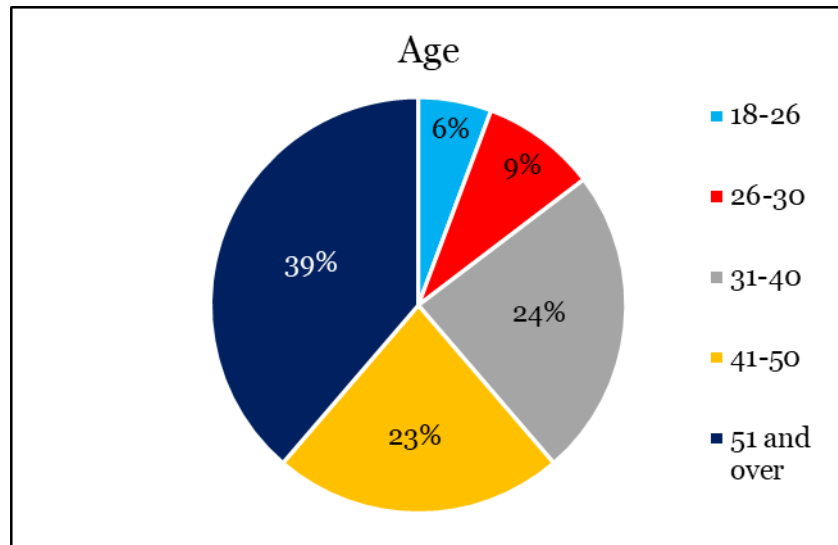
Description of MQPL Dimensions

- **Harmony: Questions relating to interpersonal aspects of the prison experience**
 - Respect/courtesy – Positive, respectful, and courteous attitudes towards incarcerated people by staff.
 - Staff-incarcerated people relationships – Trusting, fair and supportive interactions between staff and incarcerated people.
 - Humanity – An environment characterized by kind regard and concern for the person, which recognizes the value and humanity of the individual.
 - Decency – The extent to which staff and the regime are considered reasonable and appropriate.
 - Care for the vulnerable – The care and support provided to incarcerated people at risk of self-harm, suicide, or bullying.
 - Help and assistance – Support and encouragement given to incarcerated people for problems including drugs, healthcare, and progression.
- **Professionalism: Questions relating to how the prison operates**
 - Staff professionalism – Staff confidence and competence in the use of authority.
 - Bureaucratic legitimacy – The transparency and responsiveness of the prison/prison system and its moral recognition of the individual.
 - Fairness – The perceived impartiality, proportionality, and legality of punishments and procedures.
 - Organization and consistency – The clarity, predictability, and reliability of the prison.
- **Security: Questions relating to use of authority and safety**
 - Policing and security – Staff supervision and control of the prison environment.
 - Incarcerated person safety - The feeling of security or protection from harm, threat, or danger.
 - Incarcerated person adaptation – The need or pressure to get involved in trade and allegiances.
 - Drugs and exploitation – The level of drugs, bullying, and victimization in the prison environment.

- **Well-being & Development: Questions relating to welfare and prospects**
 - Personal development – An environment that helps incarcerated people with offending behavior, preparation for release, and the development of their potential.
 - Well-being – Feelings of pain, punishment and tension experienced by incarcerated people.
- **Additional MQPL Questions**
 - Decision-making – The extent to which administrators prioritize security concerns over other factors.
 - Family contact – An environment that facilitates incarcerated people maintaining relationships with loved ones.

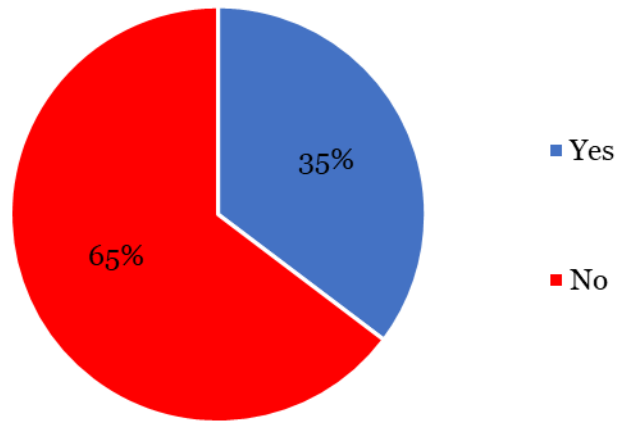
Charts: Demographic Information of Respondents

Total respondents = 493¹

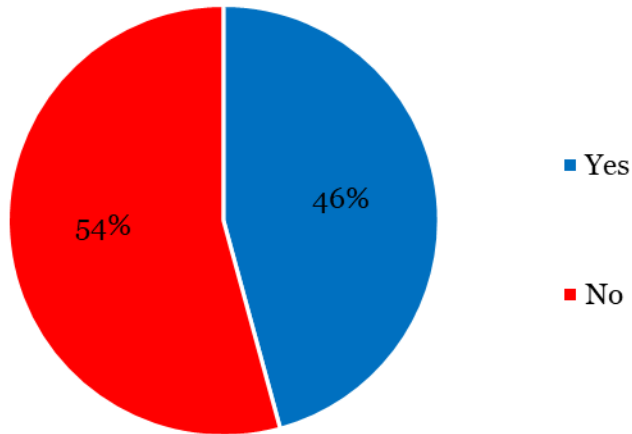


¹ Due to rounding, not all percentages total 100%. Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of respondents per question.

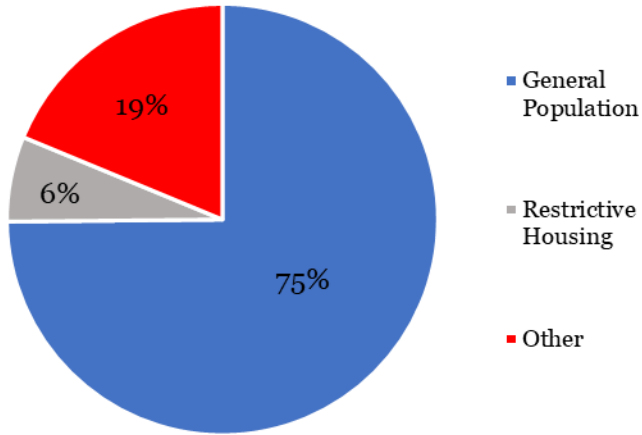
Are you within two years of release?



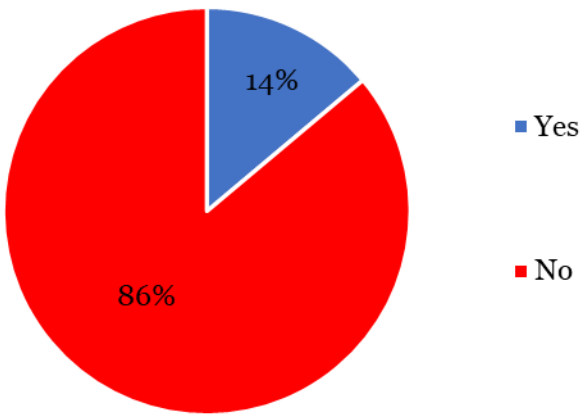
Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?



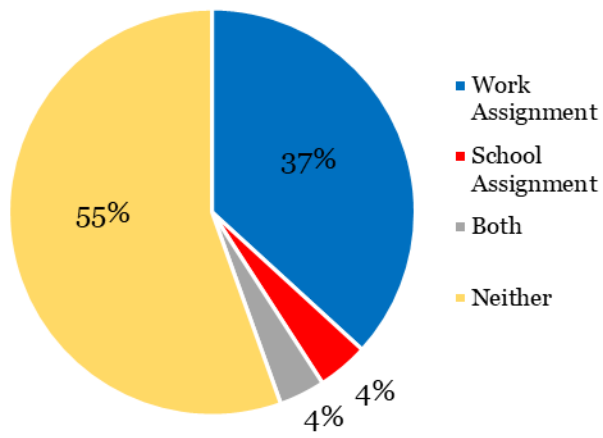
What housing status are you currently on?



Are you currently getting at least two hours a day out of your cell or sleeping area?



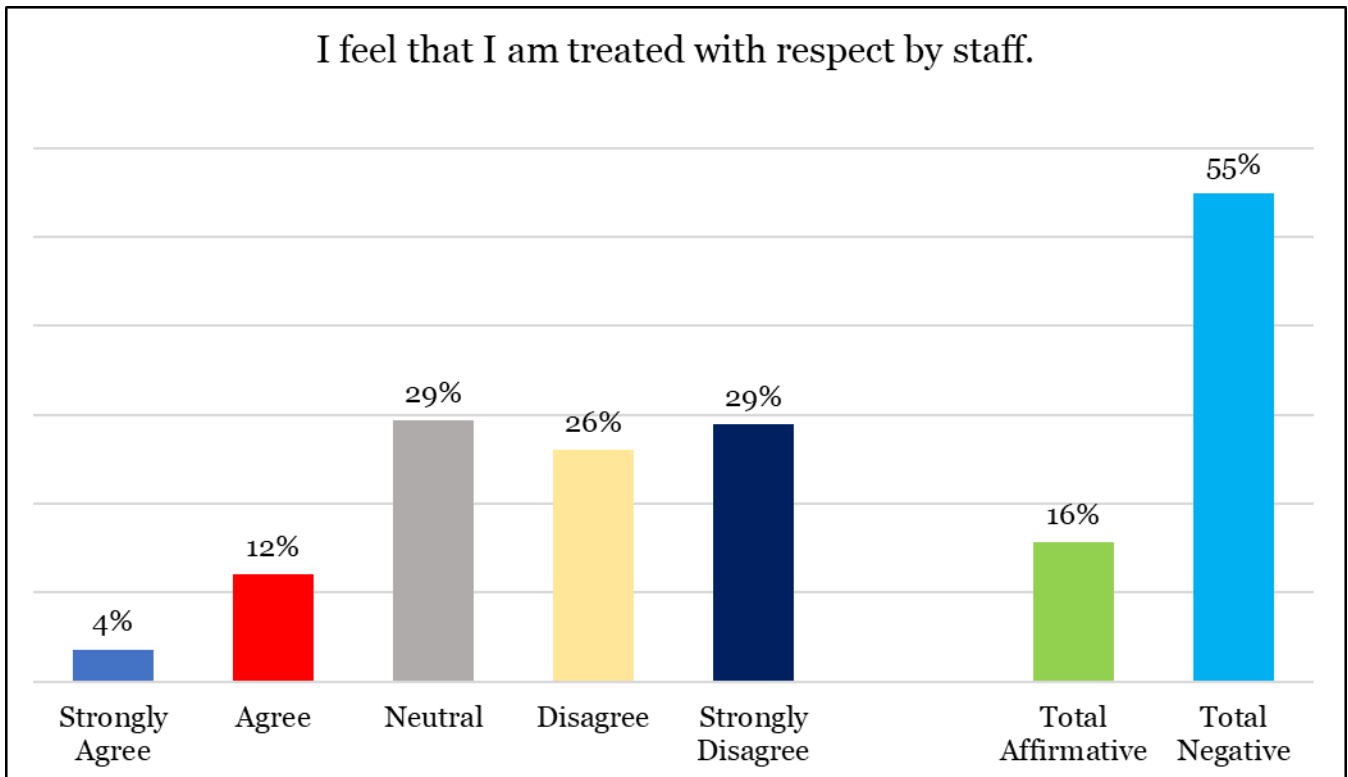
Do you have a work or school assignment?



Charts: MQPL Dimensions²

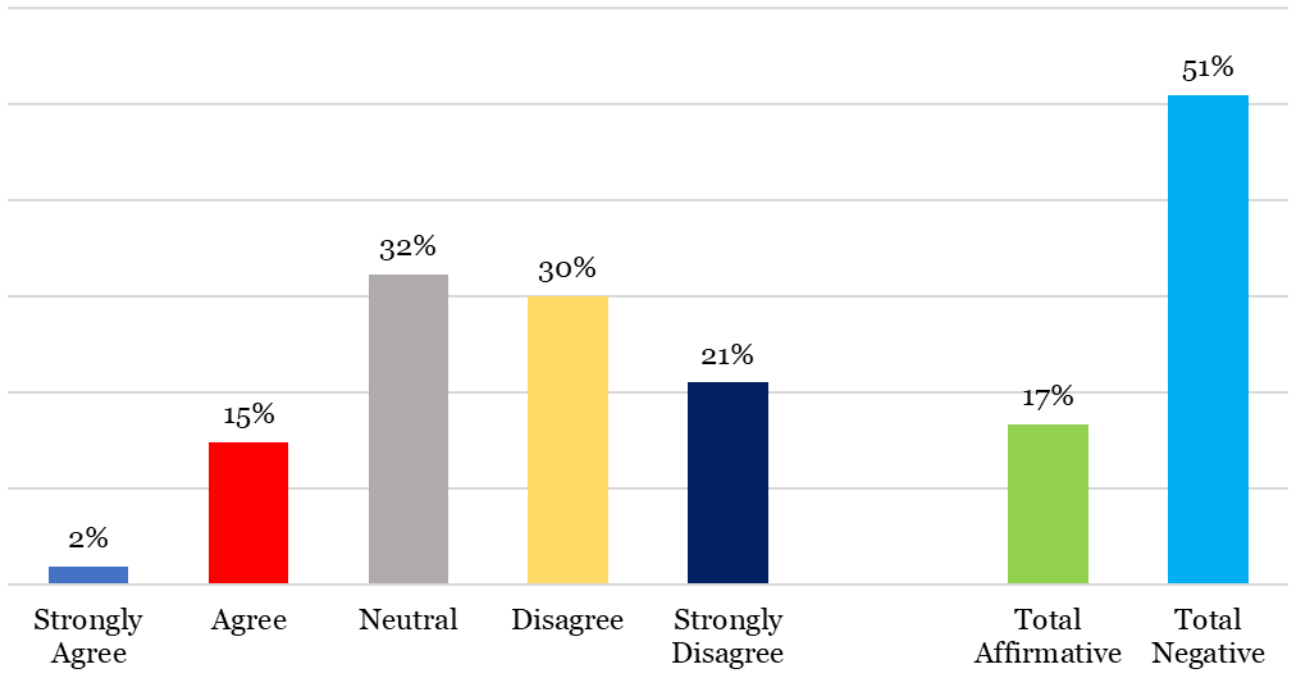
Harmony

RESPECT / COURTESY – POSITIVE, RESPECTFUL, AND COURTEOUS ATTITUDES TOWARDS INCARCERATED PEOPLE BY STAFF

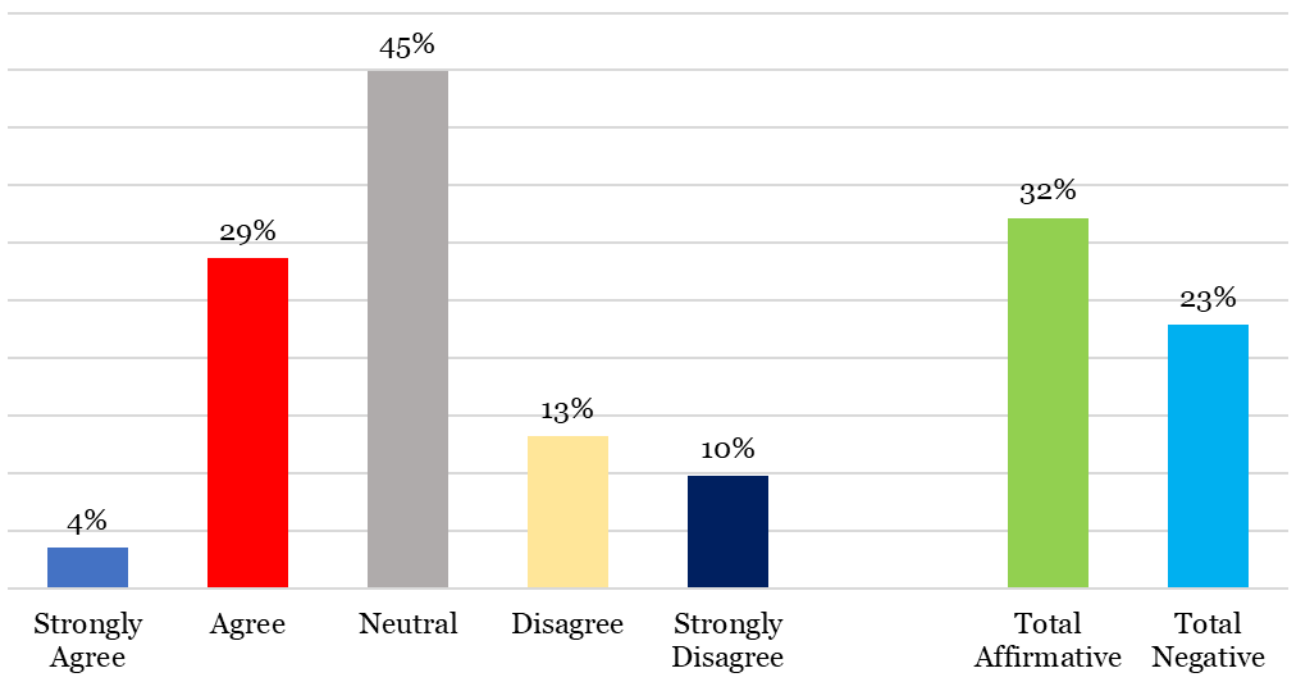


² "Total Affirmative" combines "Strongly Agree" and "Agree." "Total Negative" combines "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree." Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of responses per question.

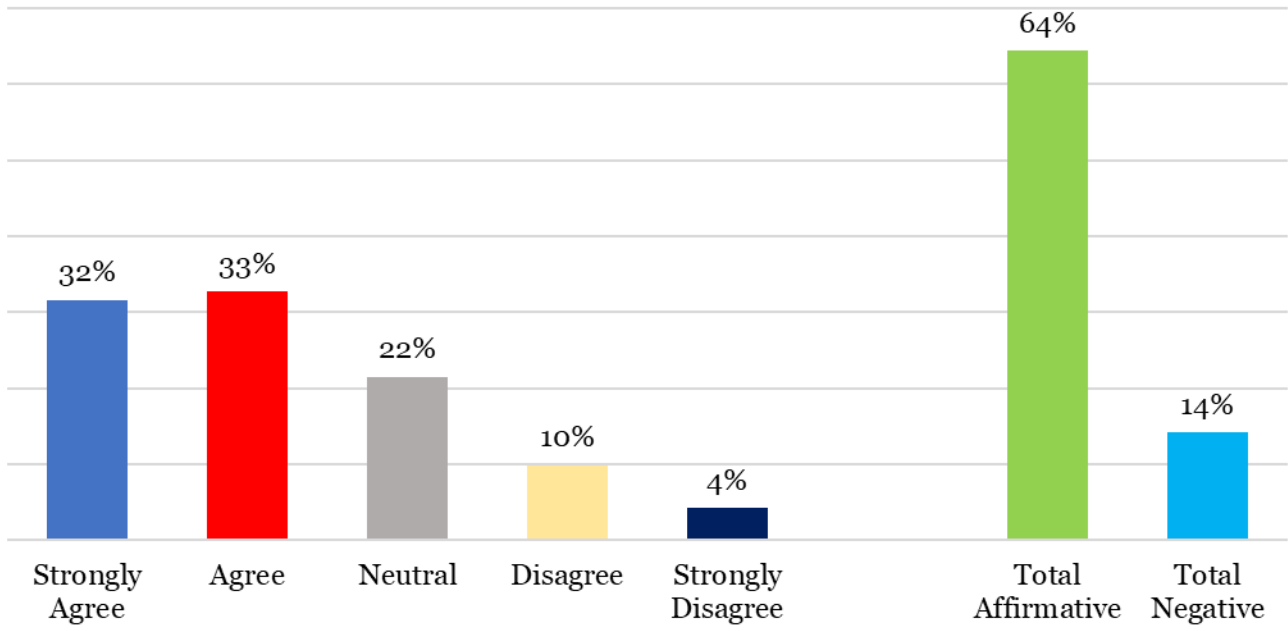
Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.



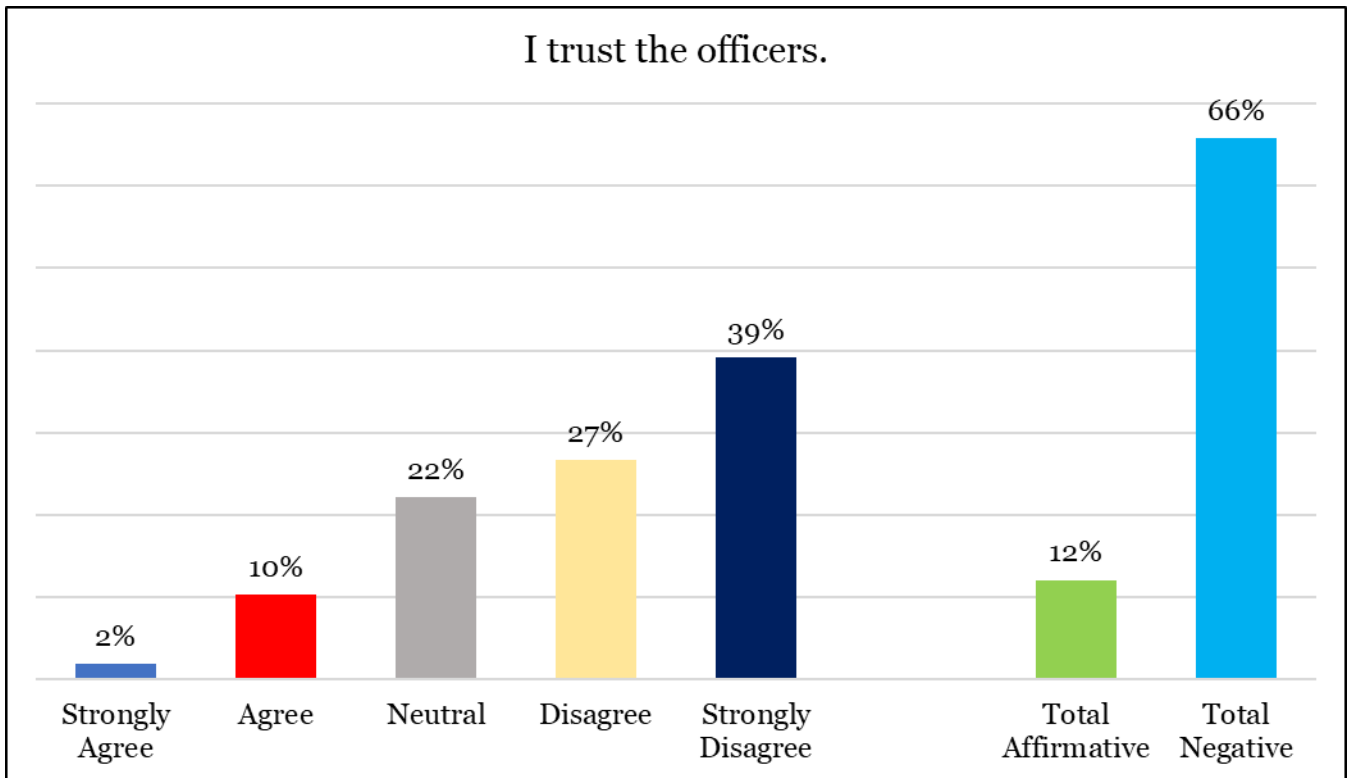
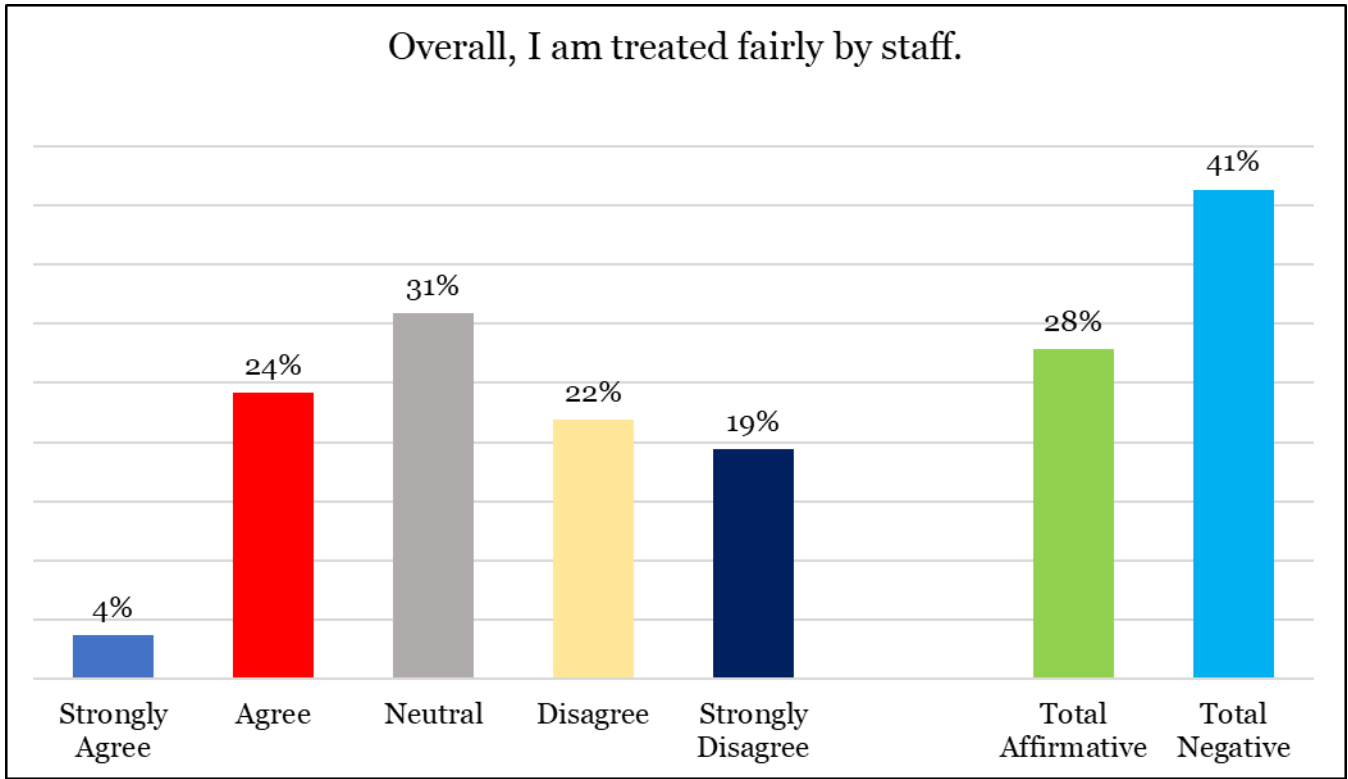
I get along well with the officers on my unit.



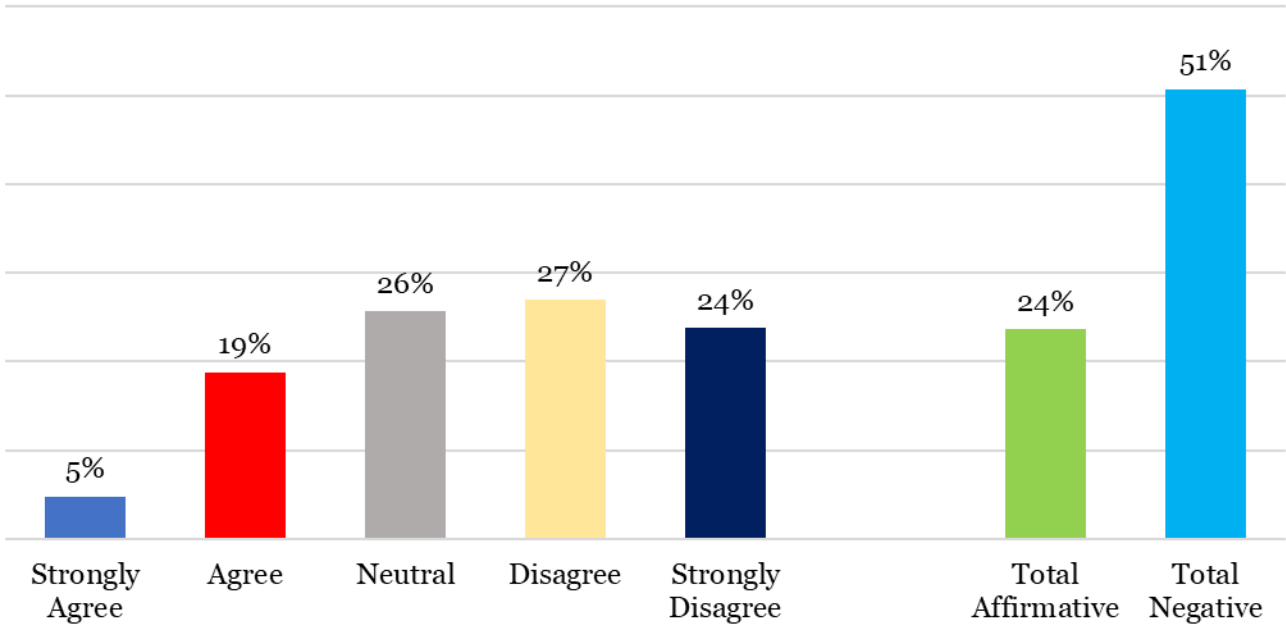
Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.



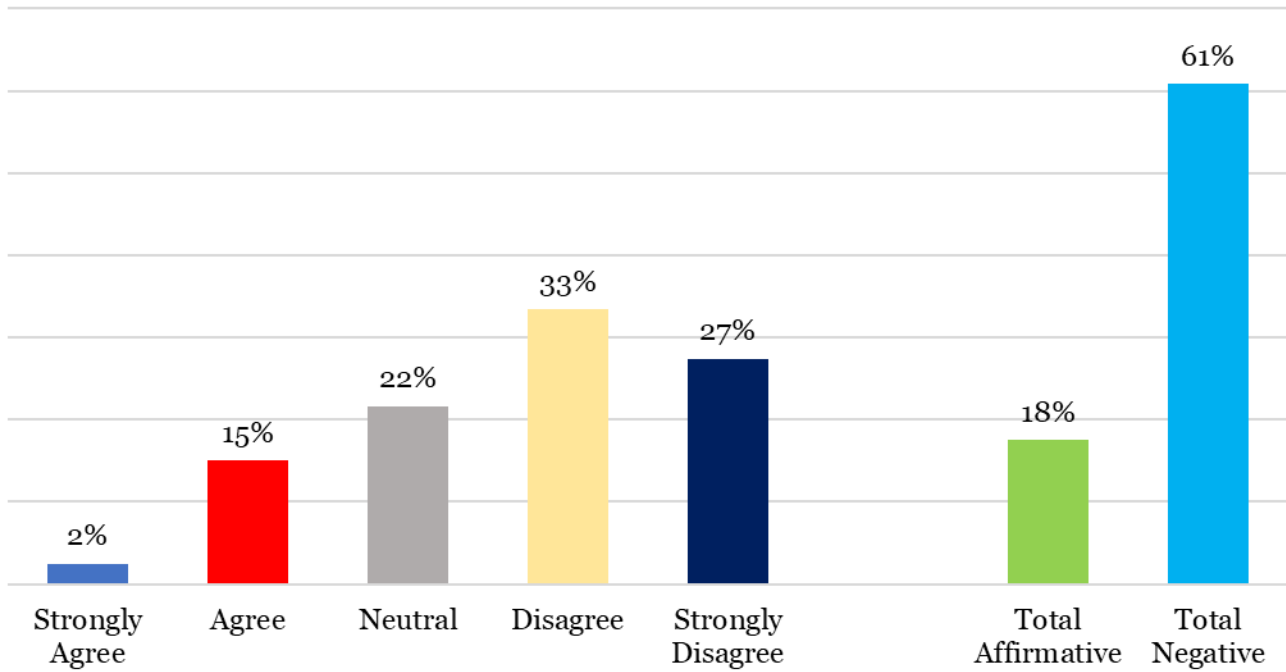
STAFF-INCARCERATED PEOPLE RELATIONSHIPS – TRUSTING, FAIR AND SUPPORTIVE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN STAFF AND INCARCERATED PEOPLE



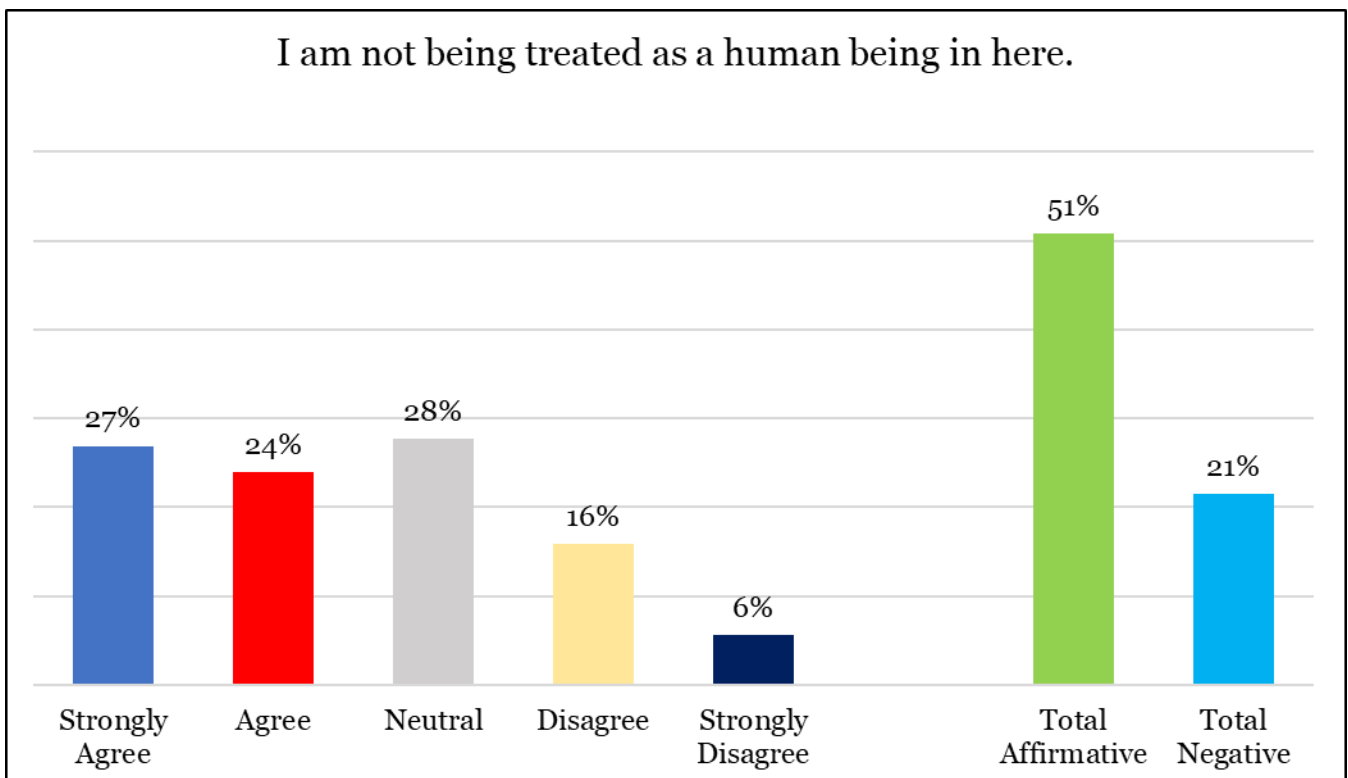
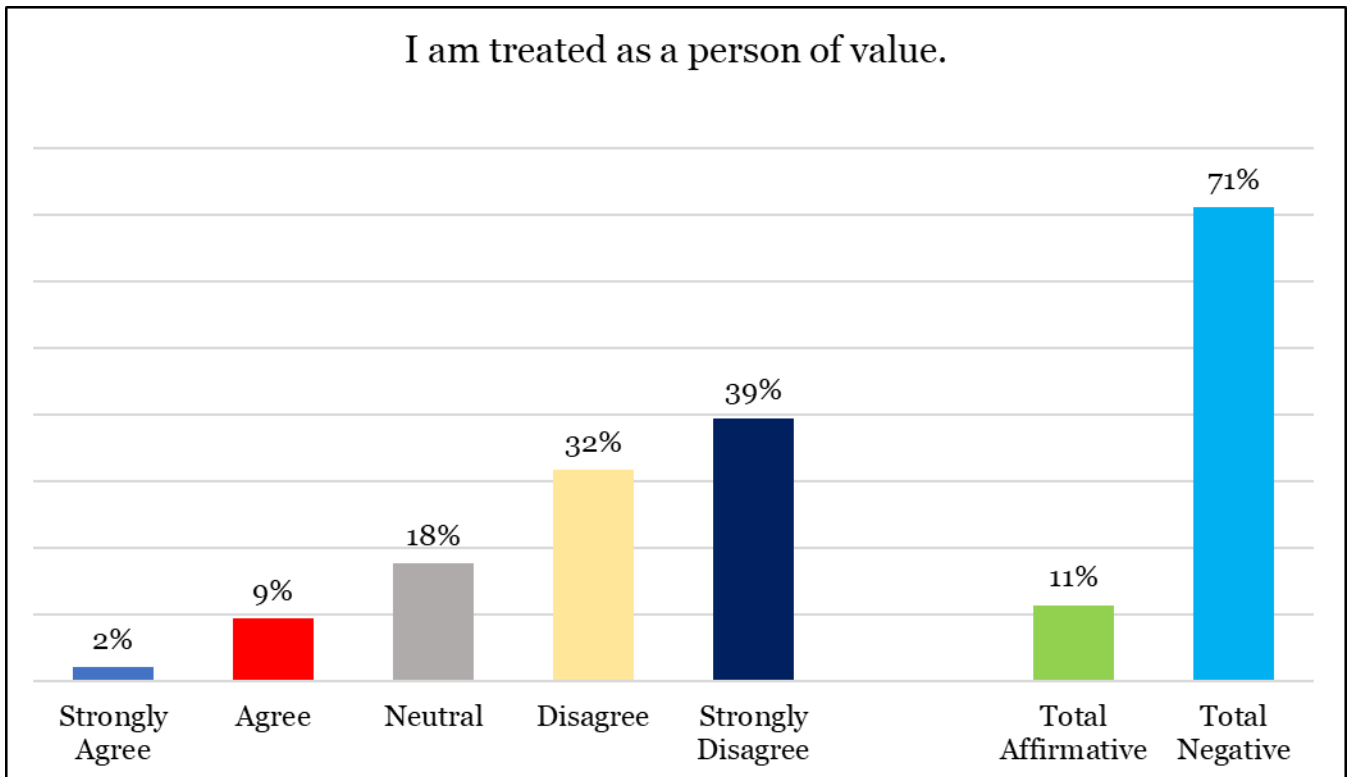
When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.



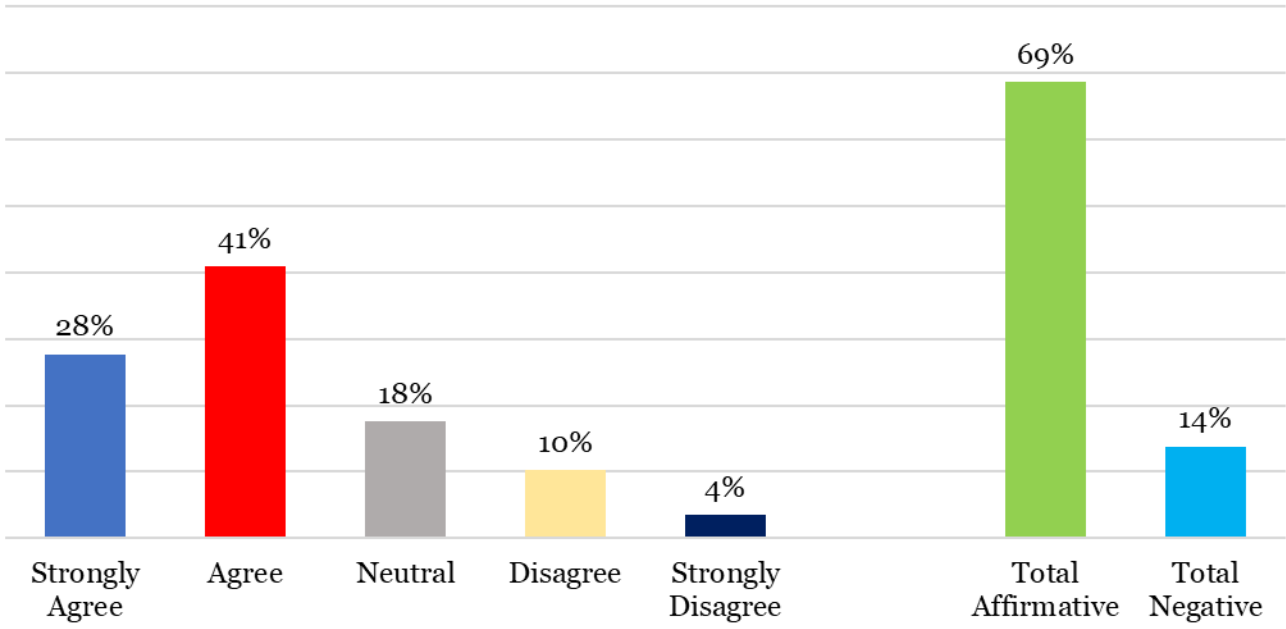
I receive support from staff when I need it.



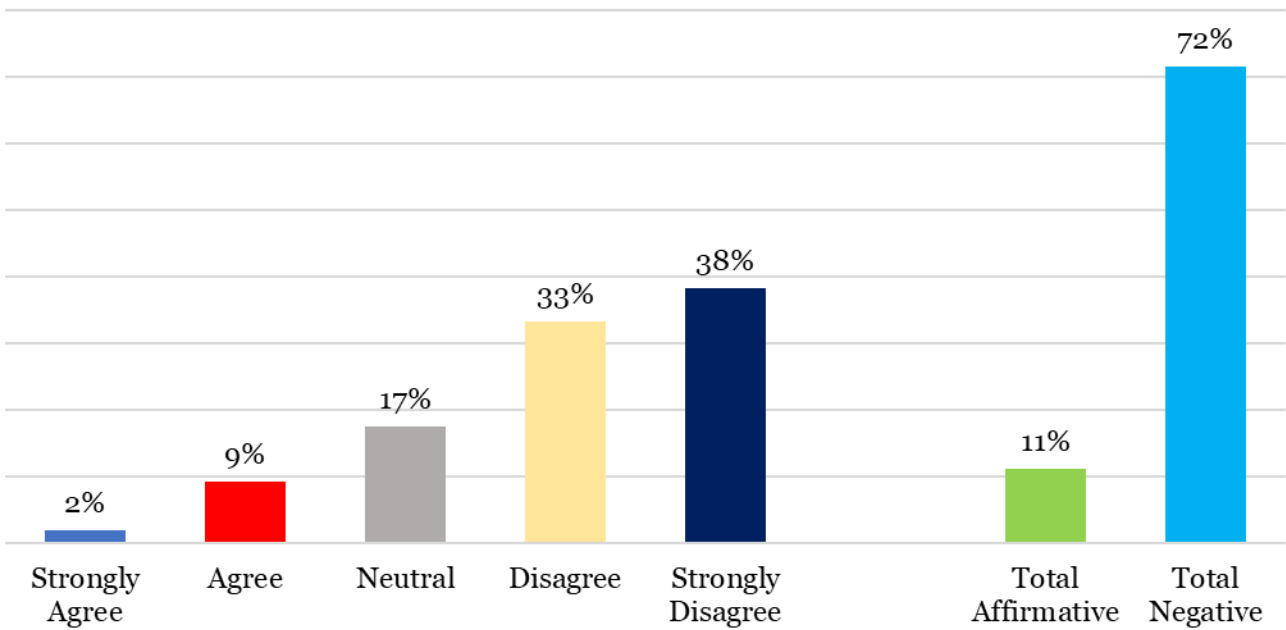
HUMANITY – AN ENVIRONMENT CHARACTERIZED BY KIND REGARD AND CONCERN FOR THE PERSON, WHICH RECOGNIZES THE VALUE AND HUMANITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL



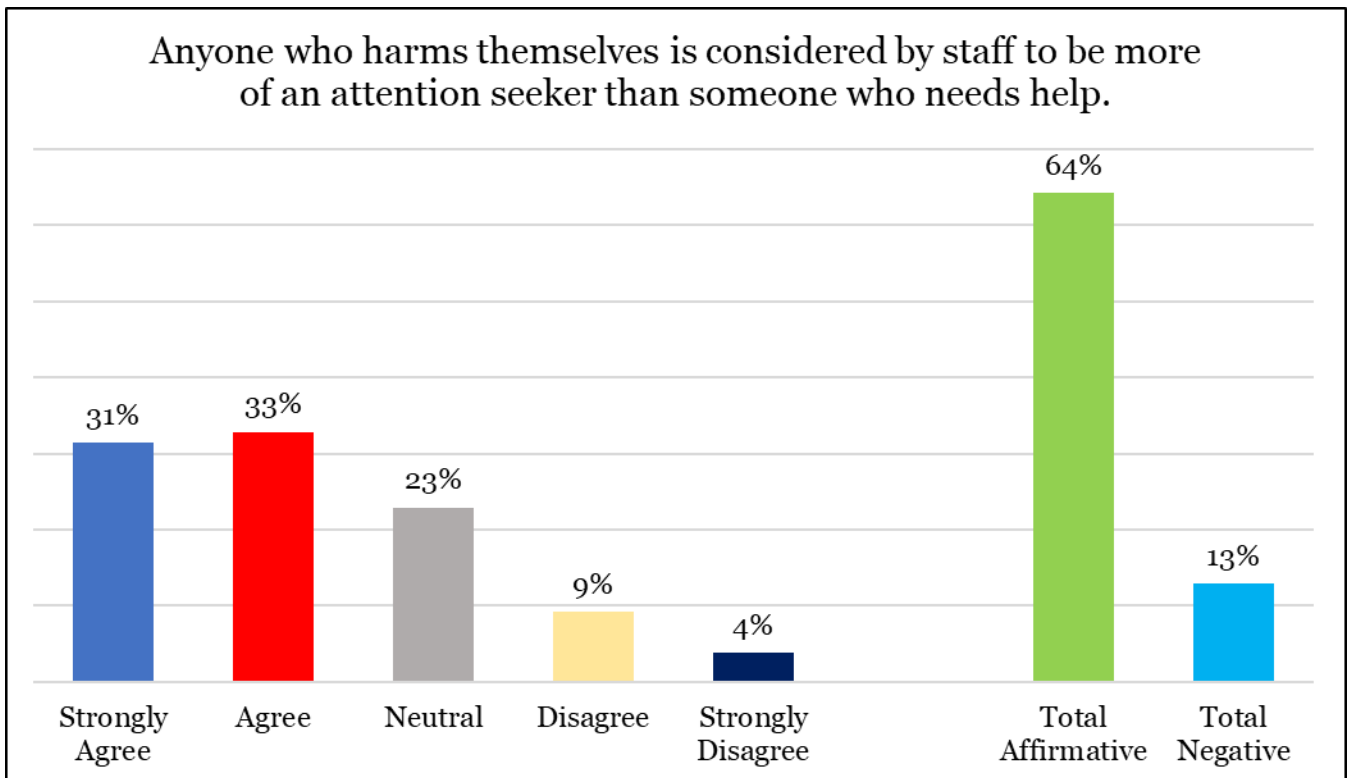
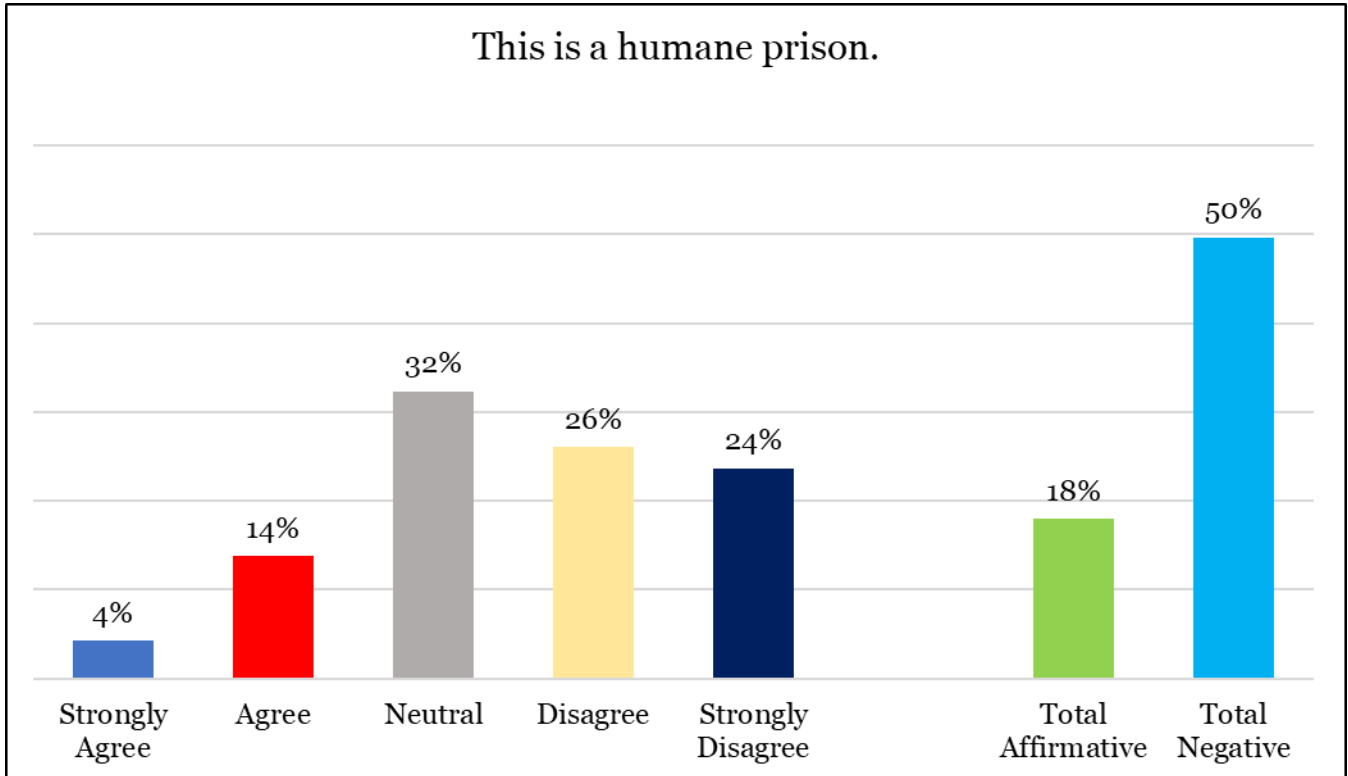
Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.



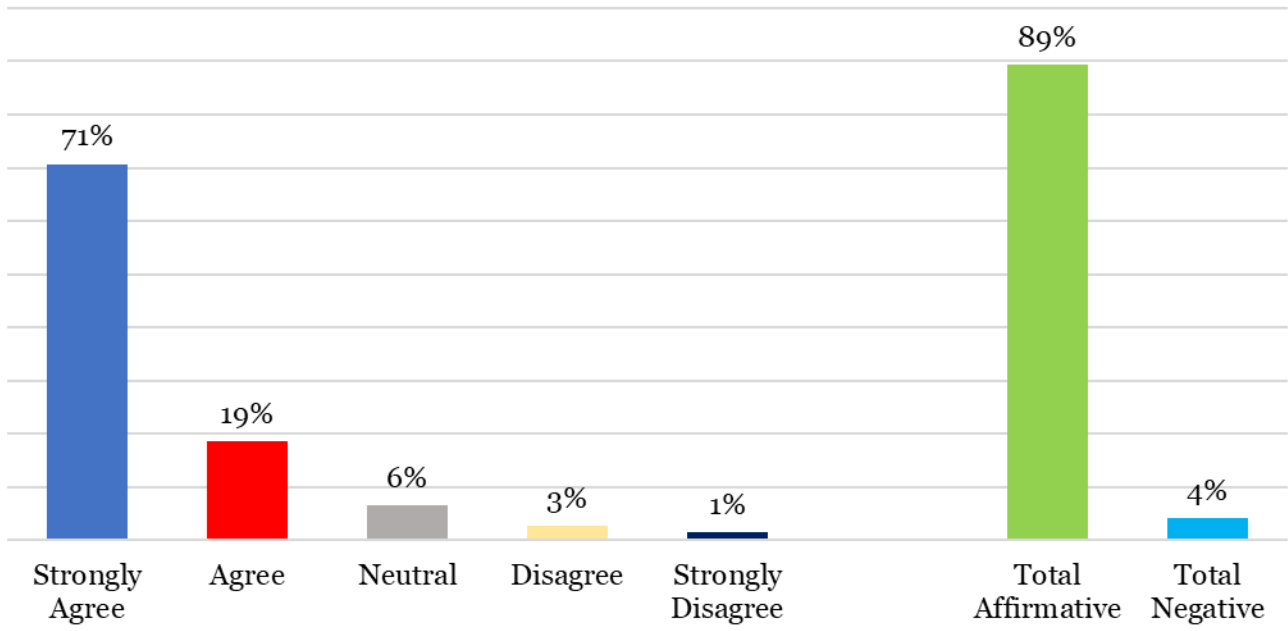
Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.



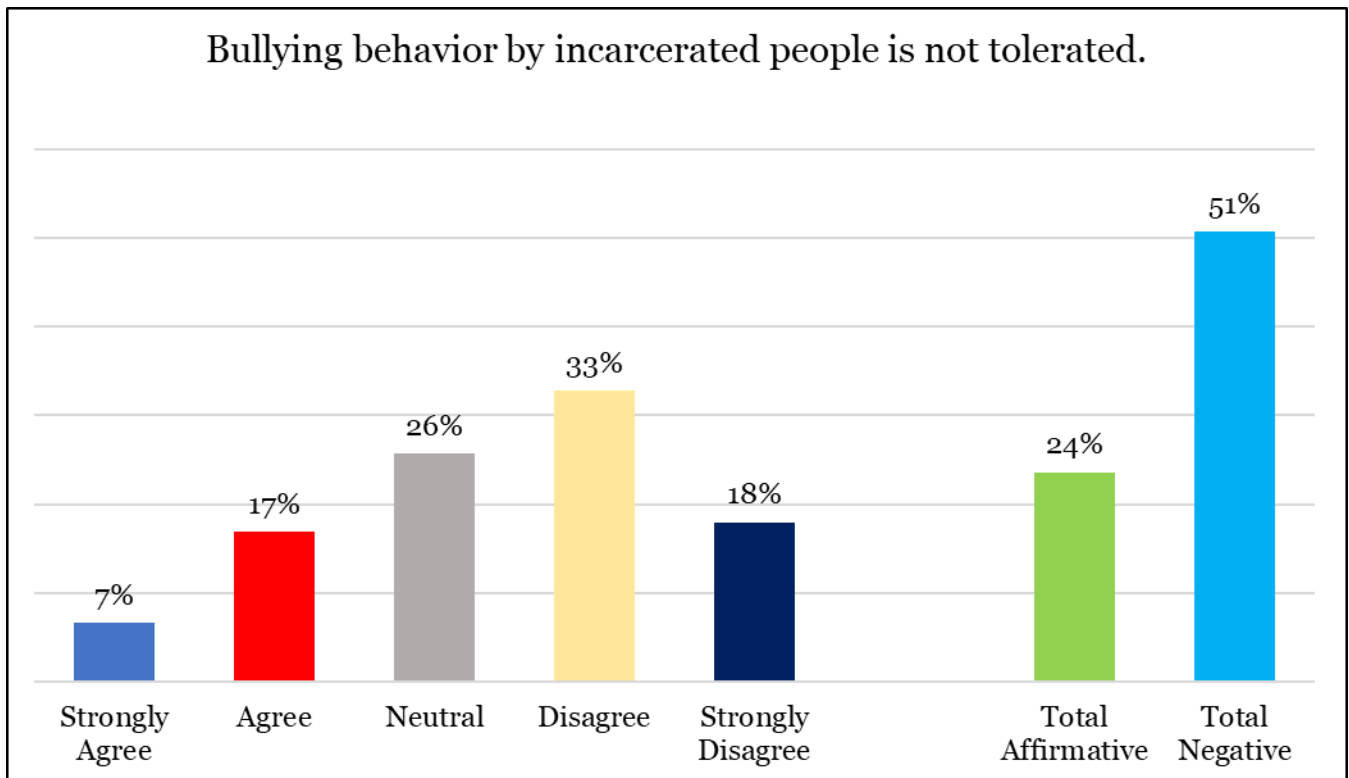
DECENCY - THE EXTENT TO WHICH STAFF AND THE REGIME ARE CONSIDERED REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE



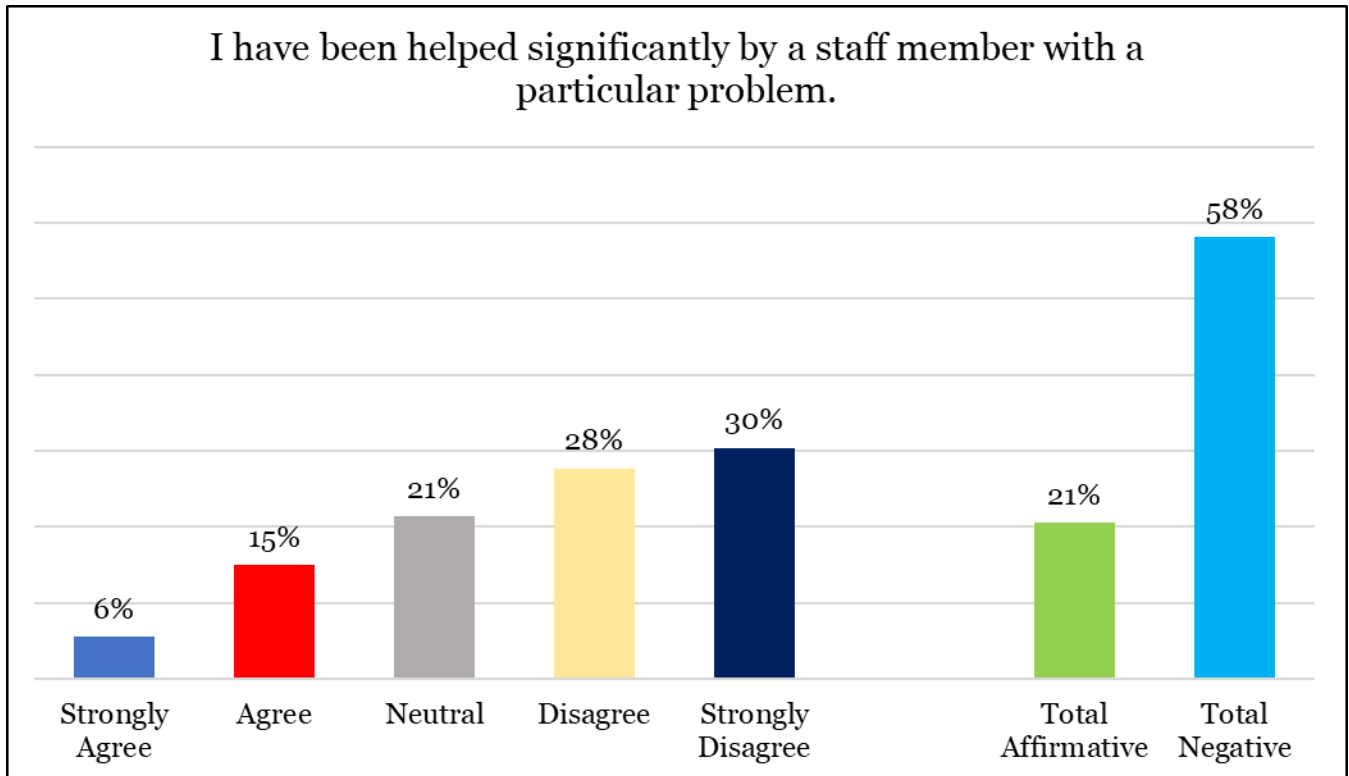
Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.



CARE FOR THE VULNERABLE – THE CARE AND SUPPORT PROVIDED TO INCARCERATED PEOPLE AT RISK OF SELF-HARM, SUICIDE OR BULLYING

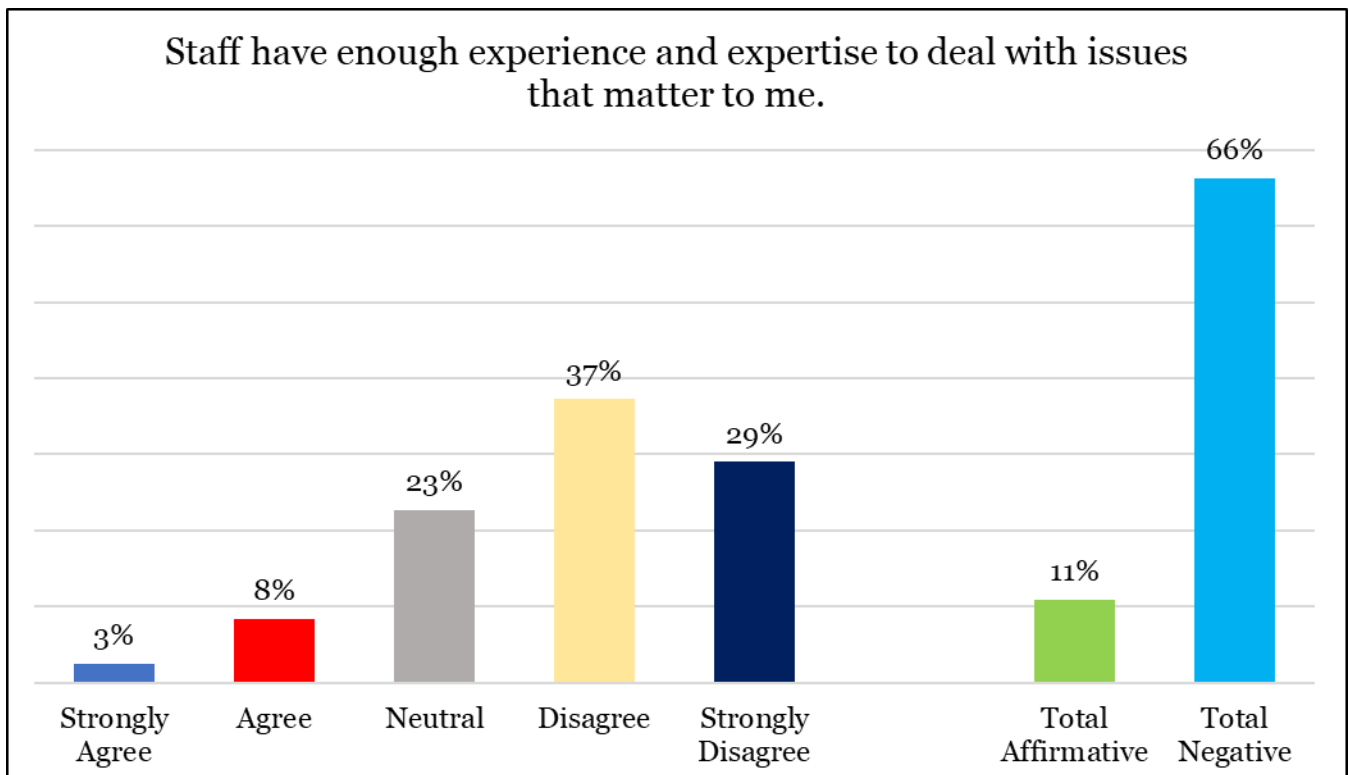
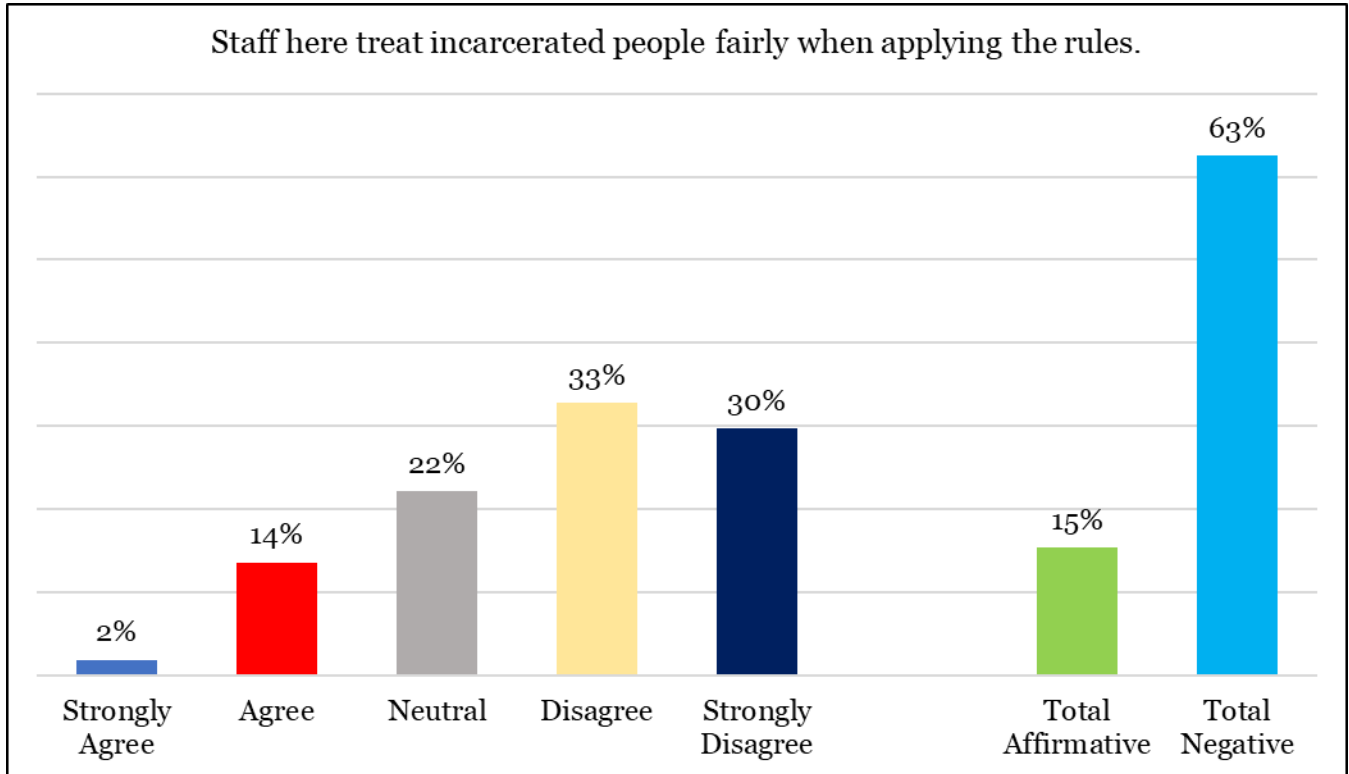


HELP AND ASSISTANCE – SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN TO INCARCERATED PEOPLE FOR PROBLEMS INCLUDING DRUGS, HEALTHCARE AND PROGRESSION

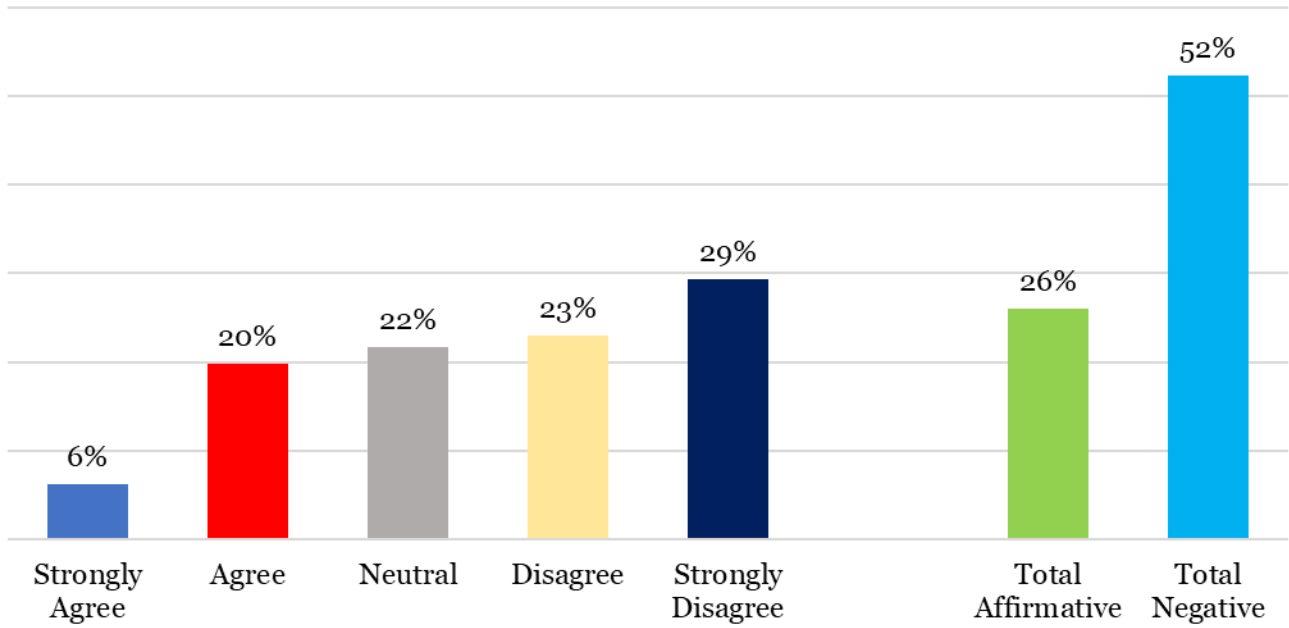


Professionalism

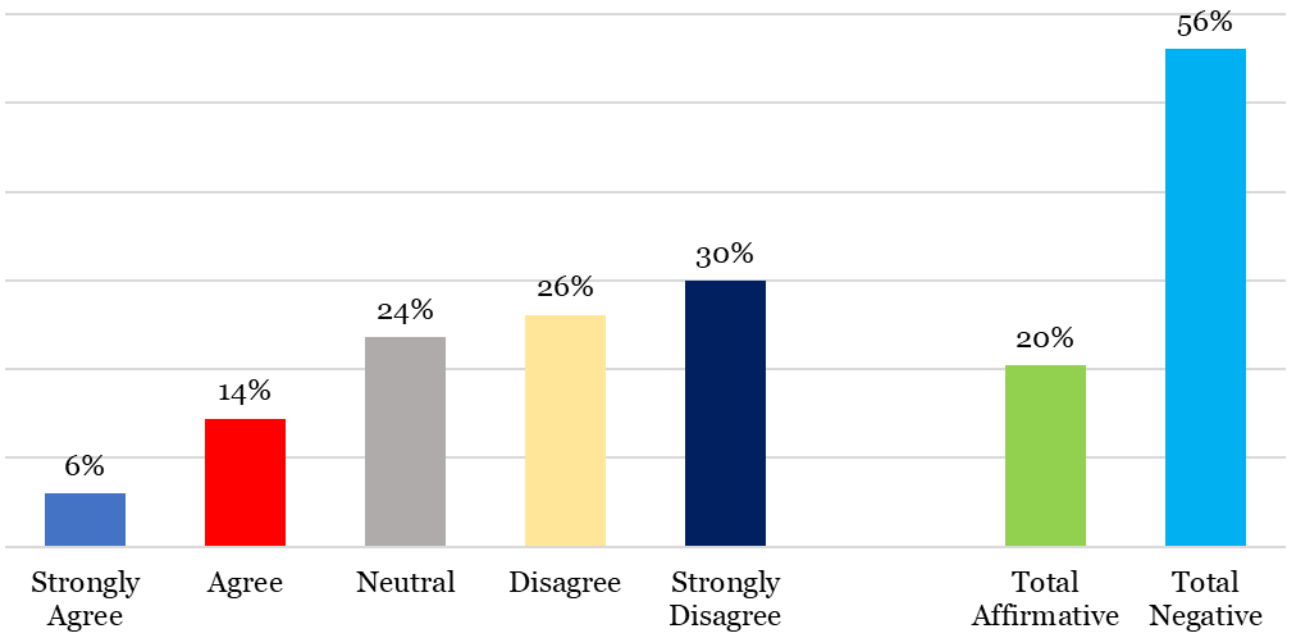
STAFF PROFESSIONALISM – STAFF CONFIDENCE AND COMPETENCE IN THE USE OF AUTHORITY



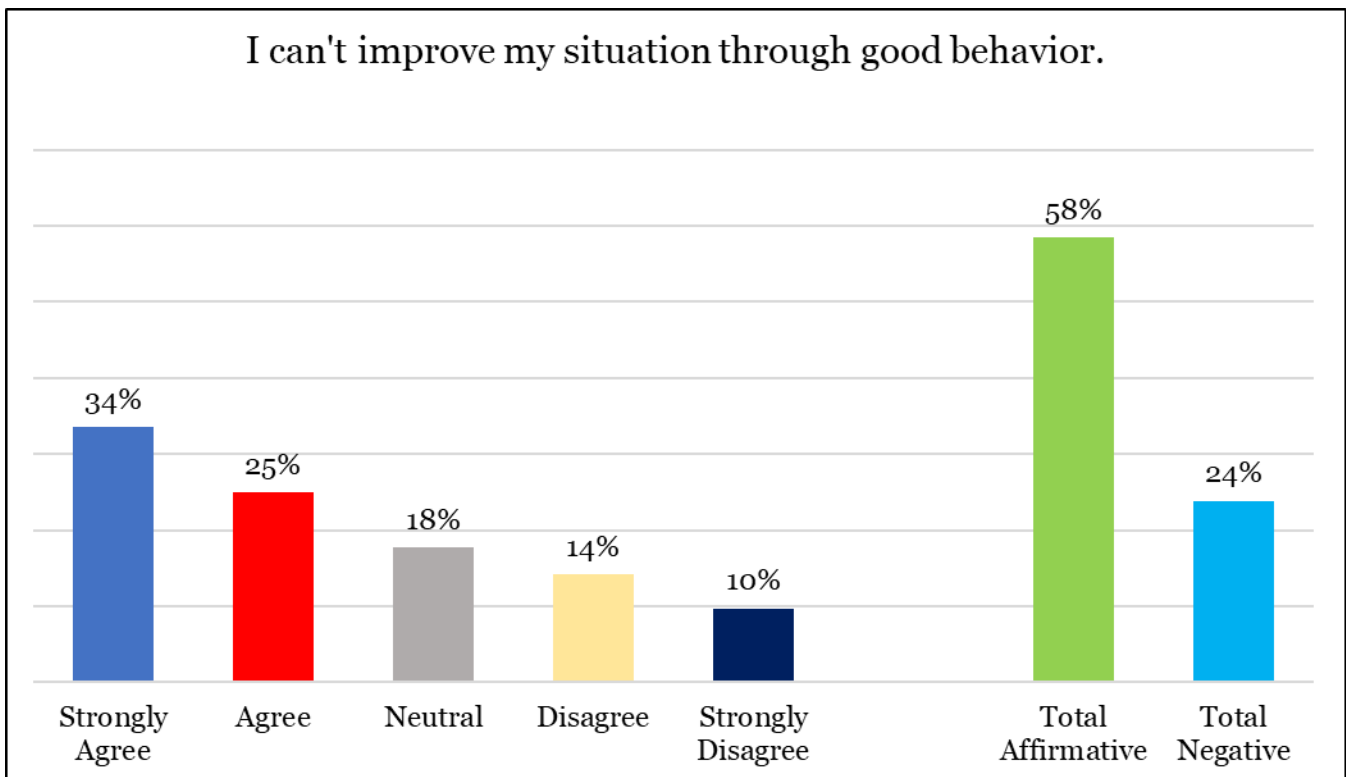
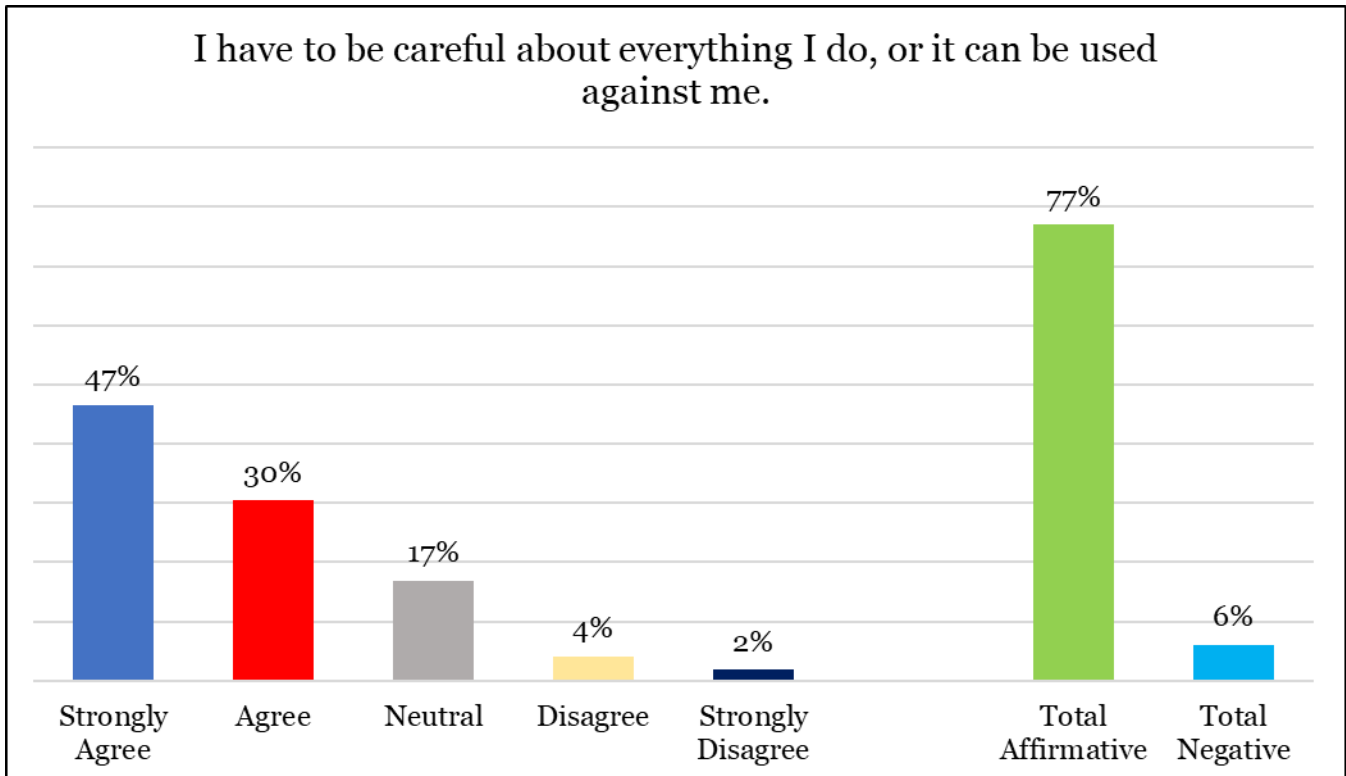
The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.



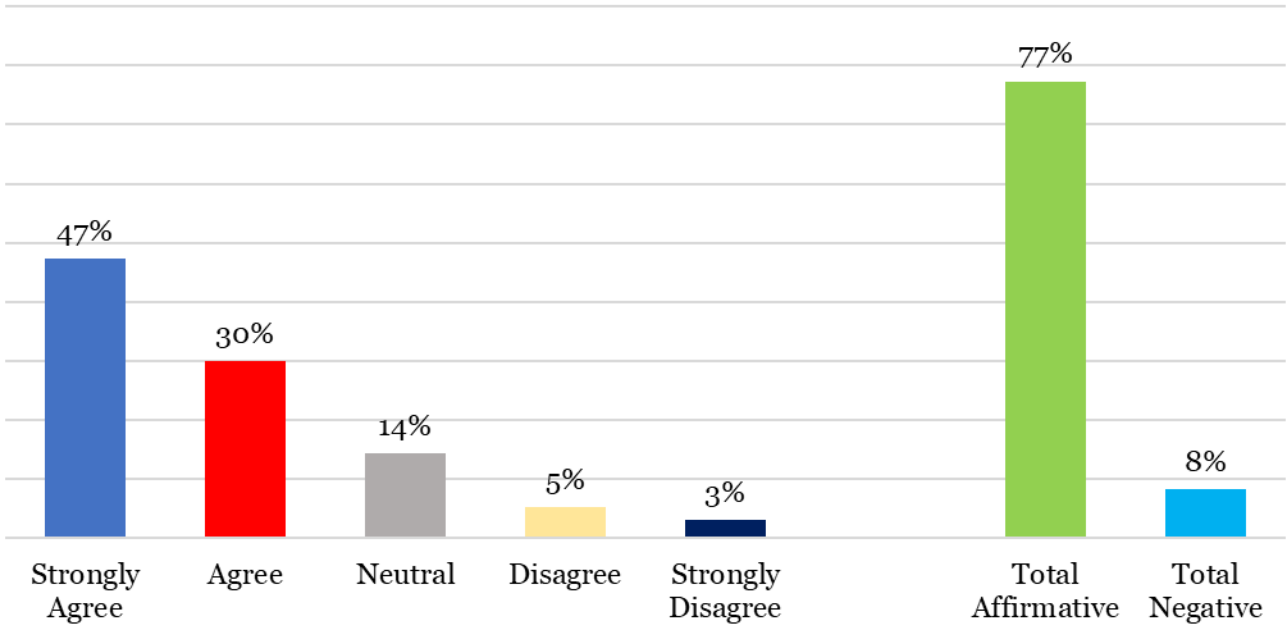
If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.



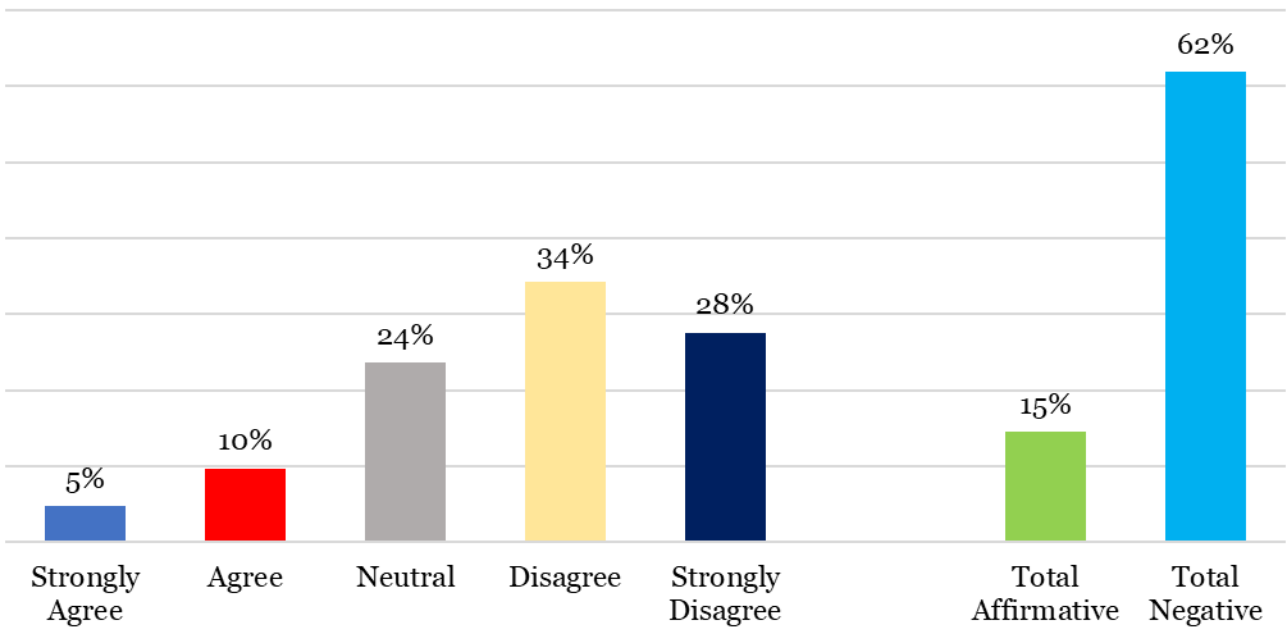
BUREAUCRATIC LEGITIMACY – THE TRANSPARENCY AND RESPONSIVENESS OF THE PRISON/PRISON SYSTEM AND ITS MORAL RECOGNITION OF THE INDIVIDUAL



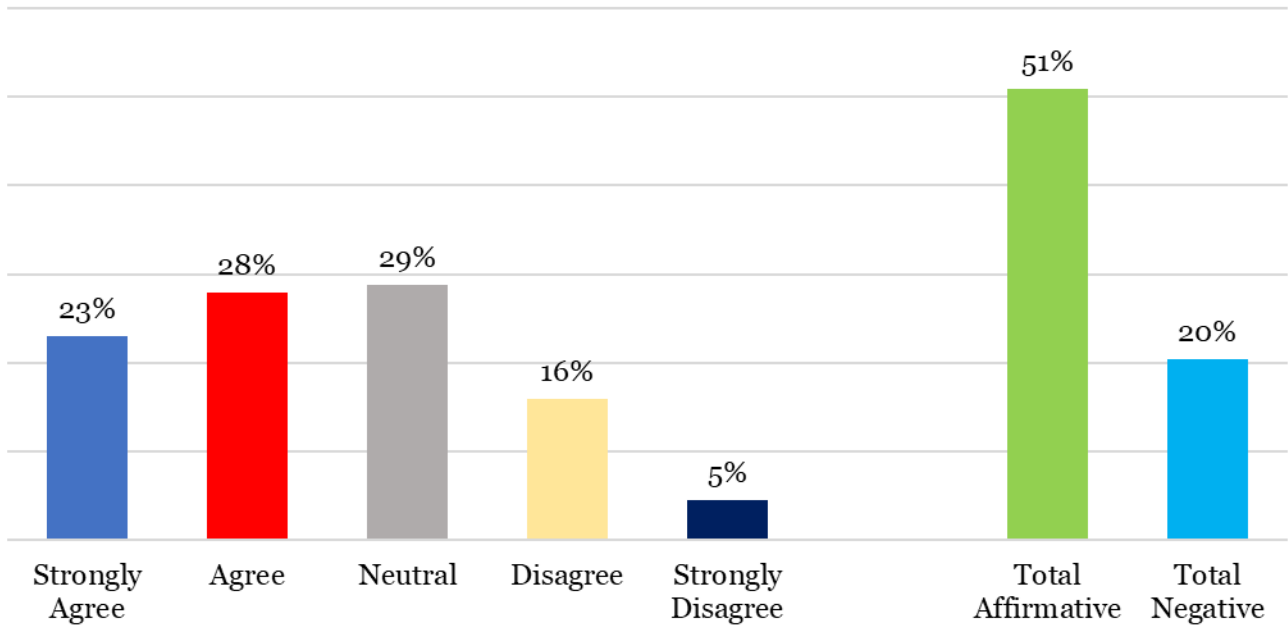
All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.



When important decisions are made about me, I am treated as an individual, not a number.

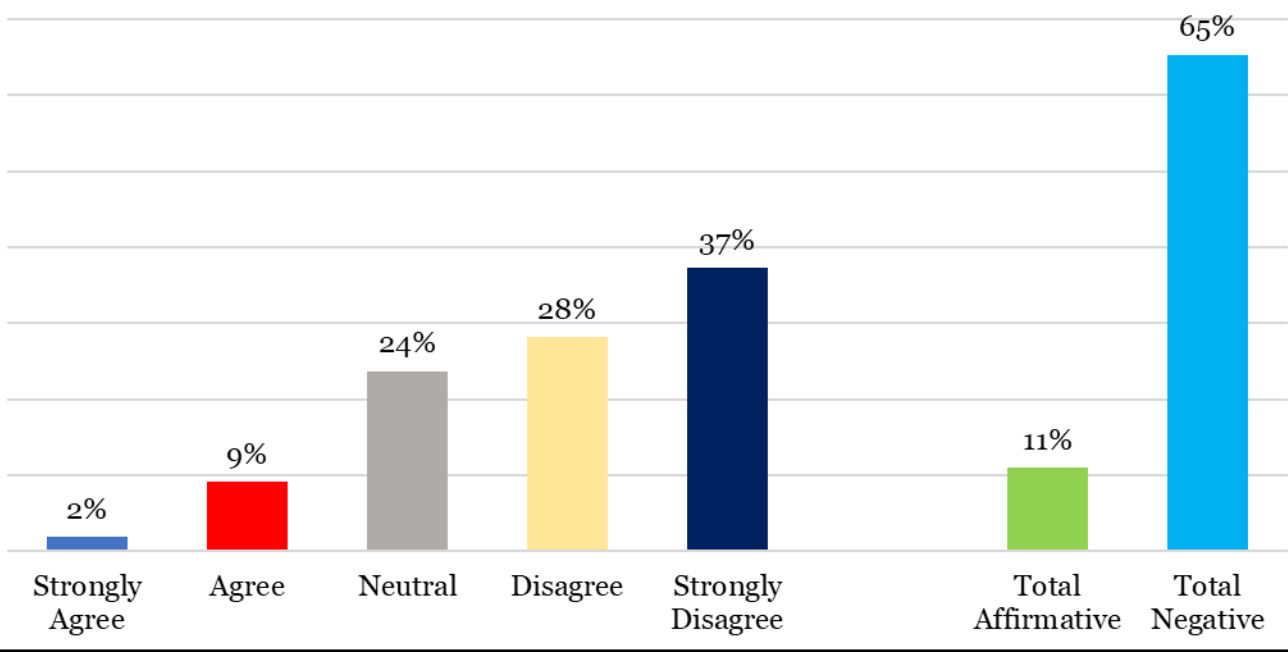


To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.

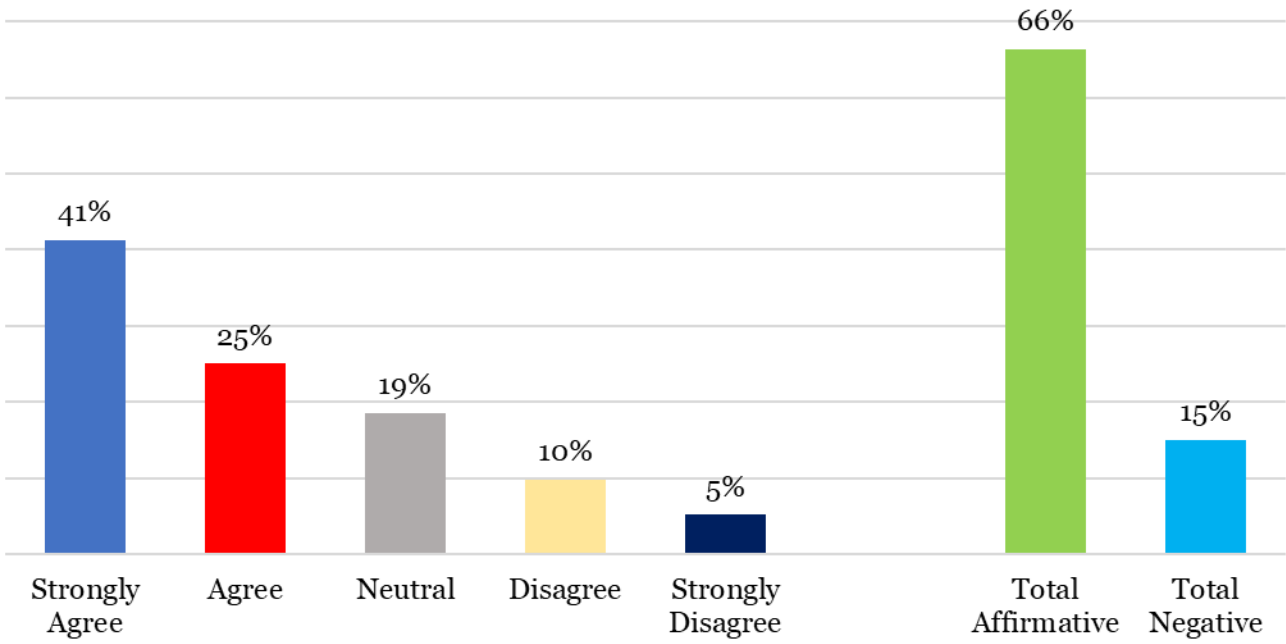


FAIRNESS – THE PERCEIVED IMPARTIALITY, PROPORTIONALITY AND LEGALITY OF PUNISHMENTS AND PROCEDURES

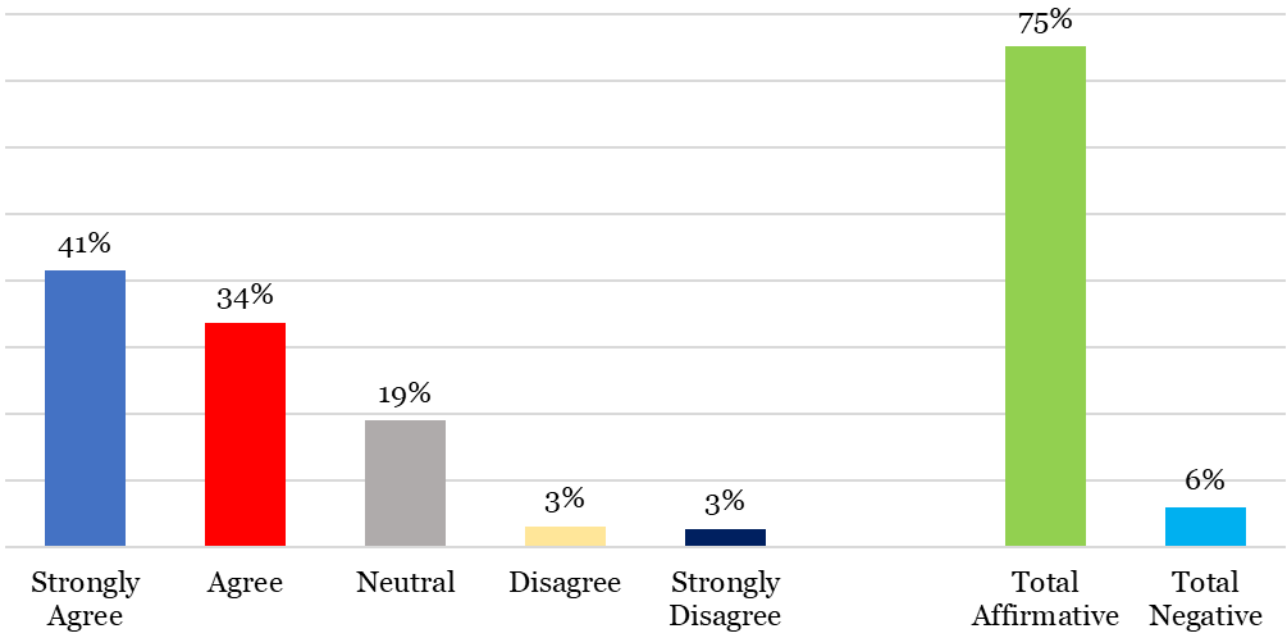
The disciplinary system is fair.



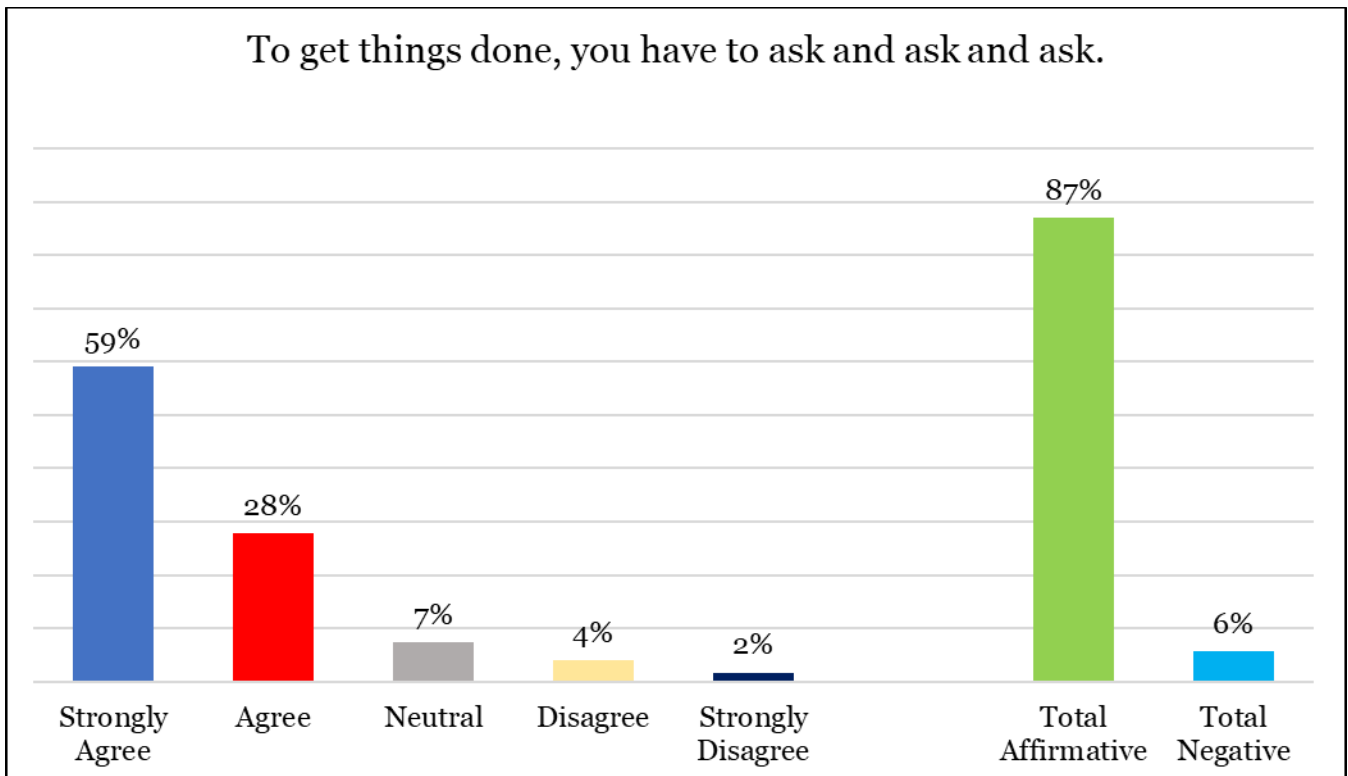
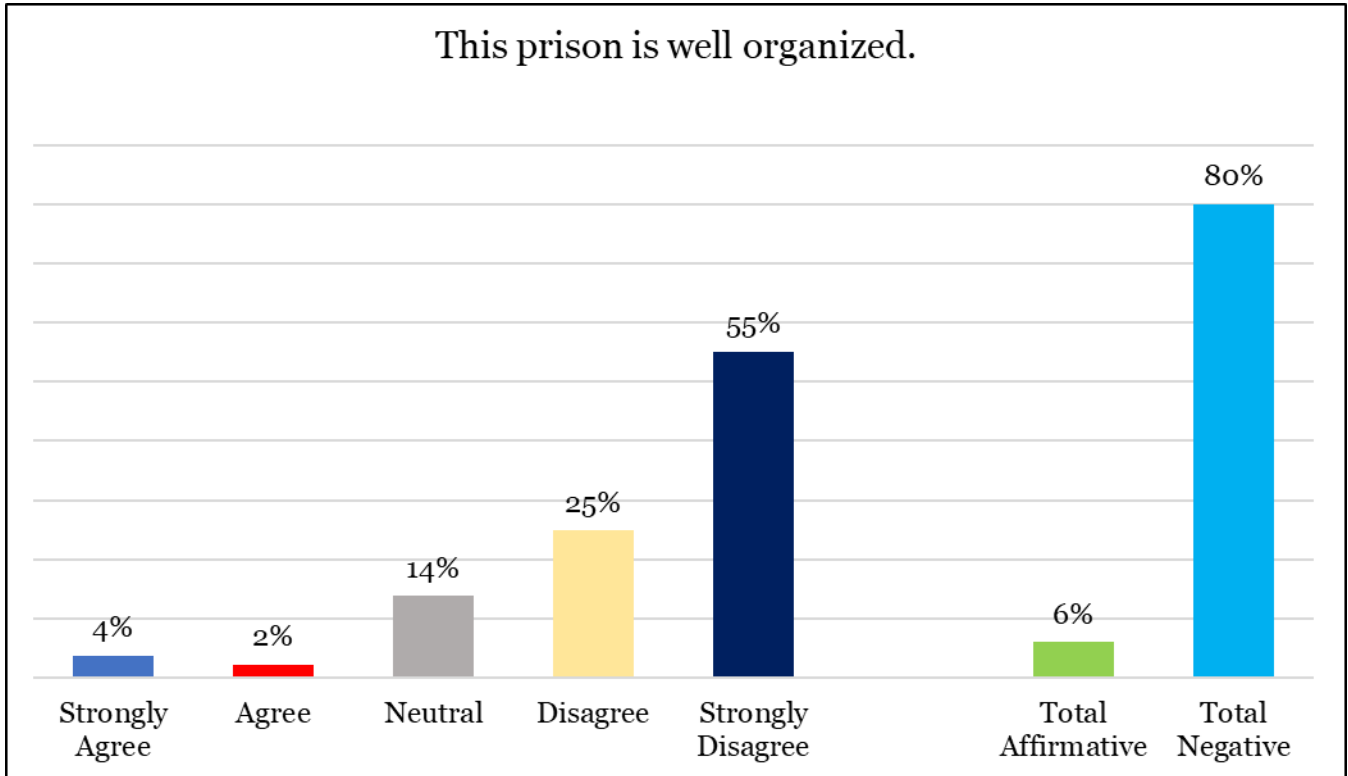
Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.



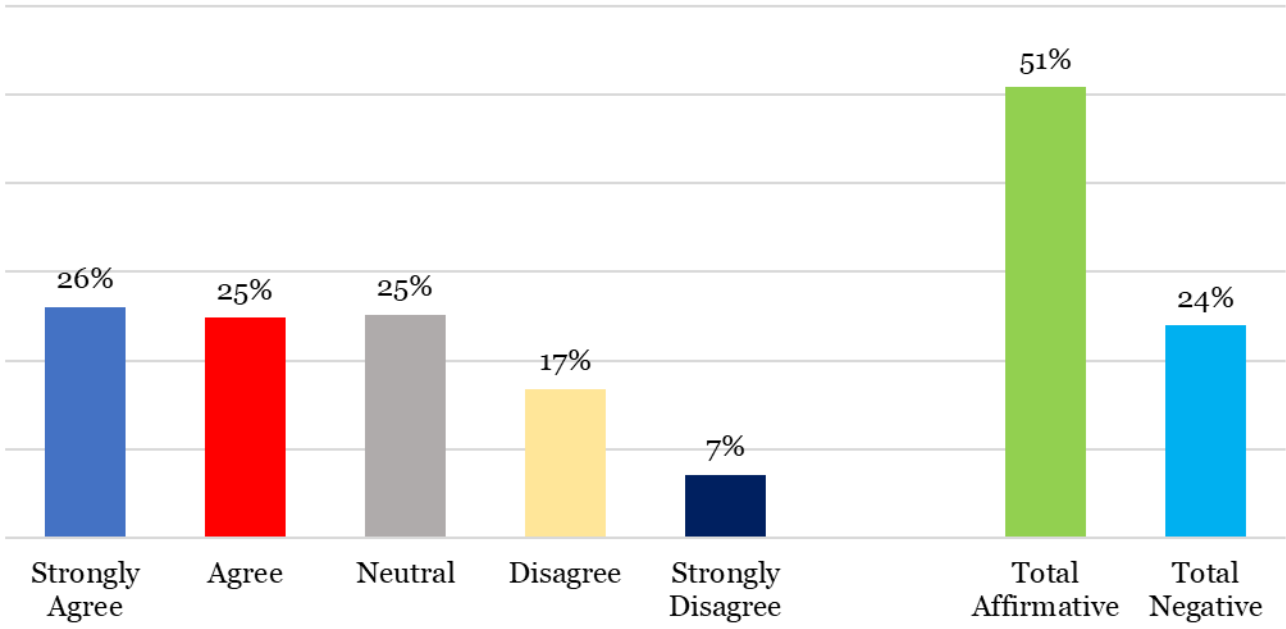
This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.



ORGANIZATION AND CONSISTENCY – THE CLARITY, PREDICTABILITY AND RELIABILITY OF THE PRISON

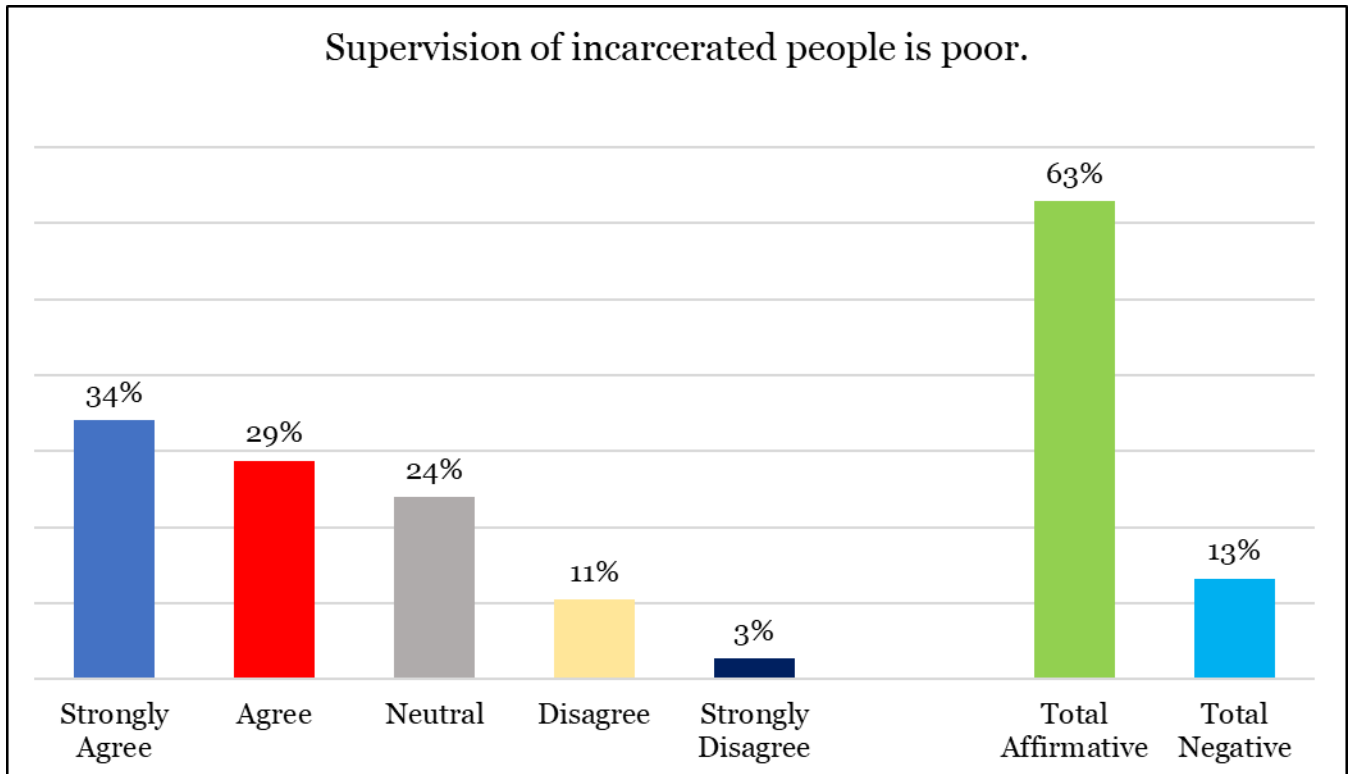


You never know the rules.

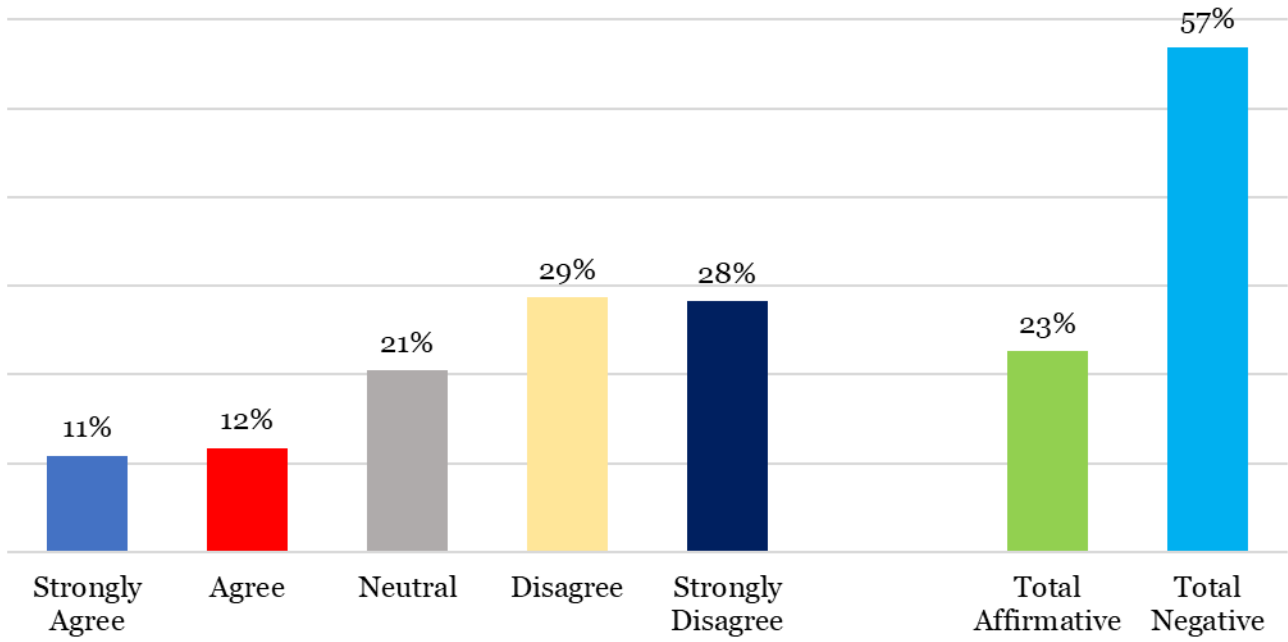


Security

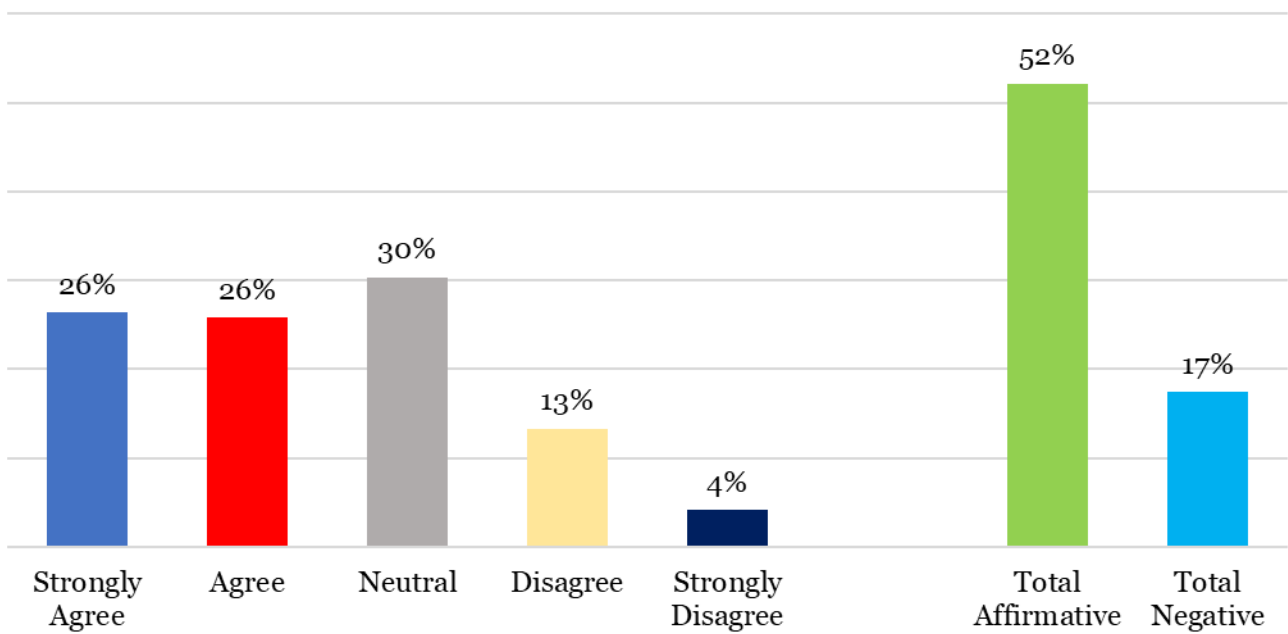
POLICING AND SECURITY – STAFF SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT



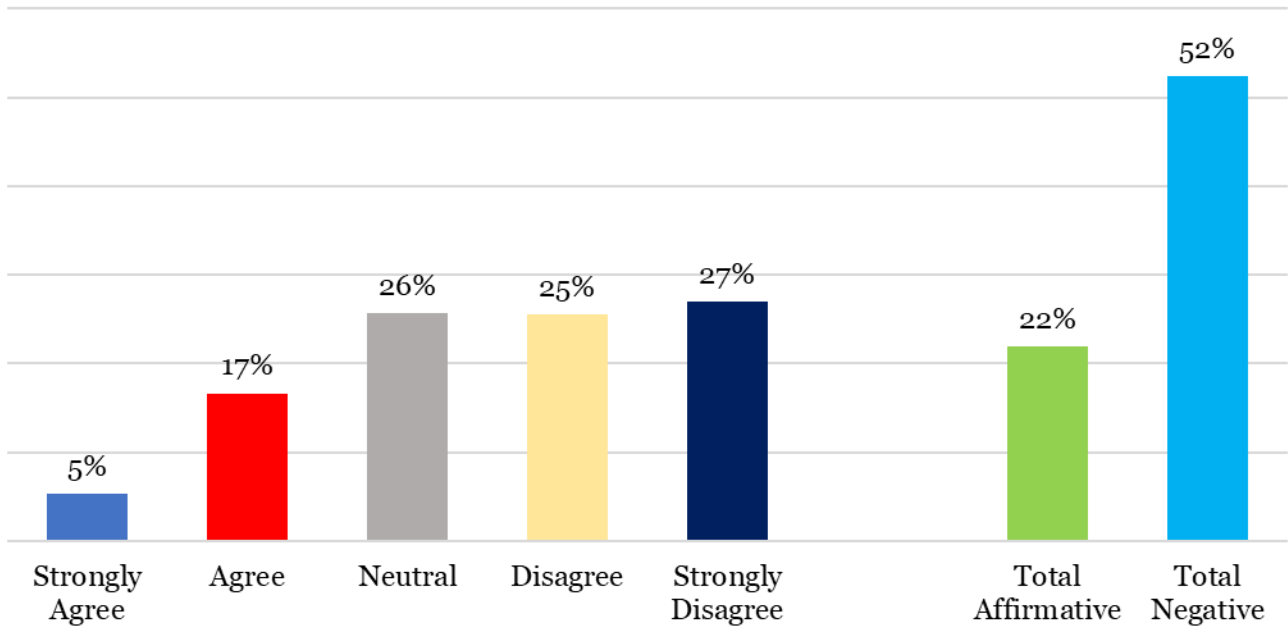
This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.



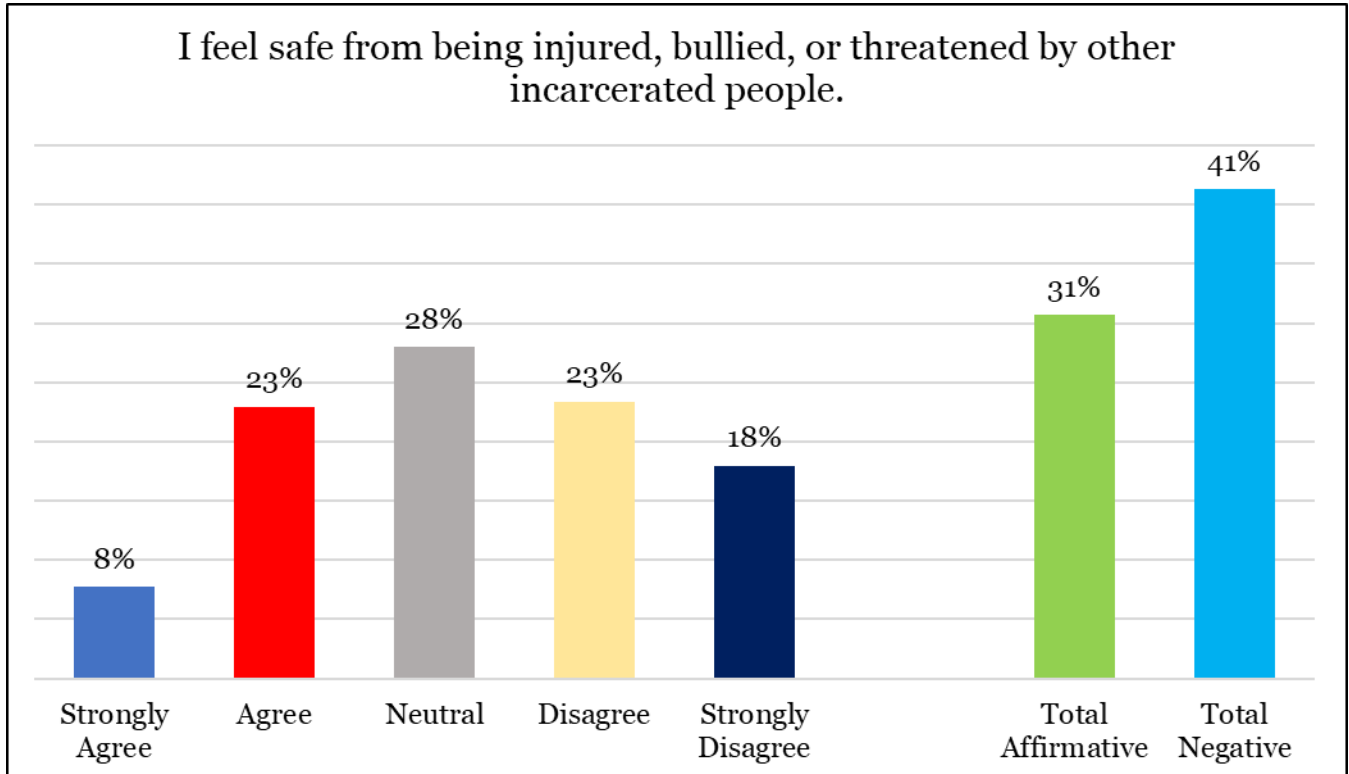
There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.



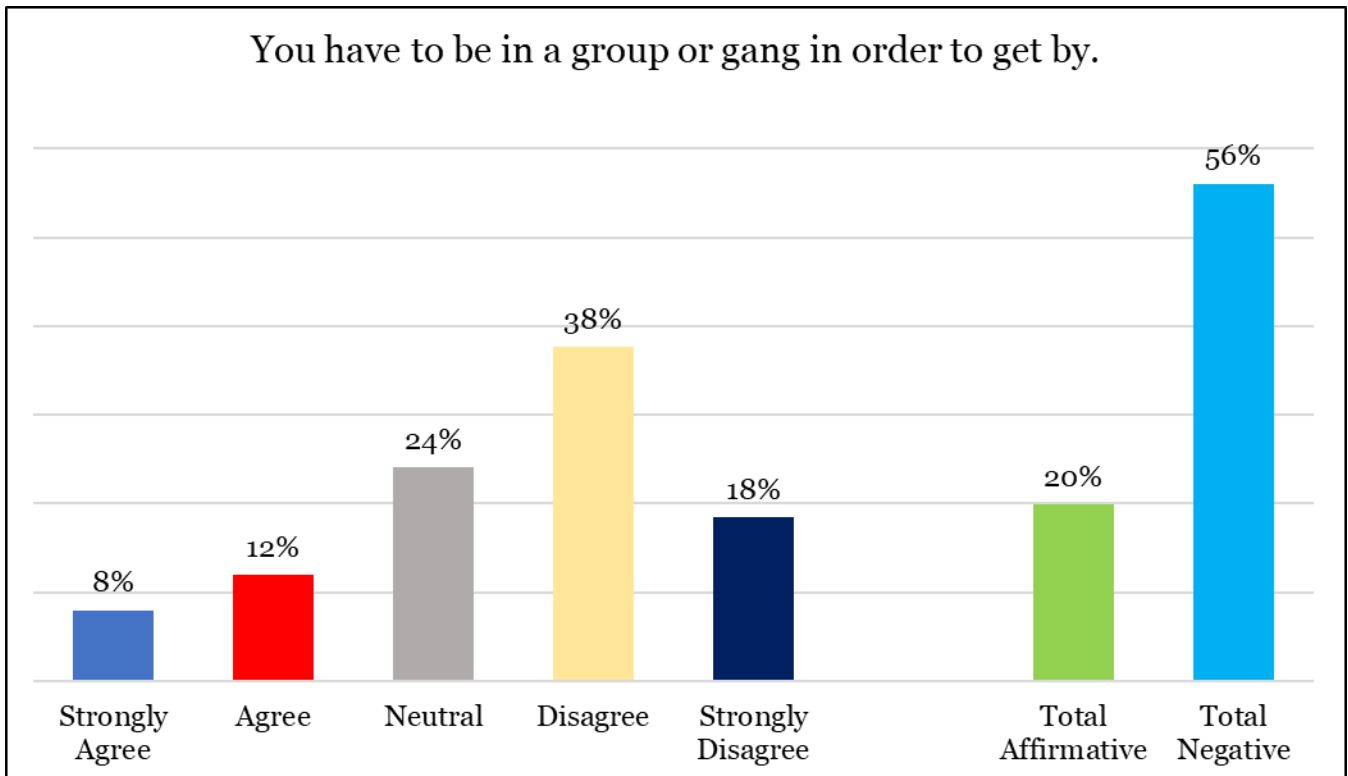
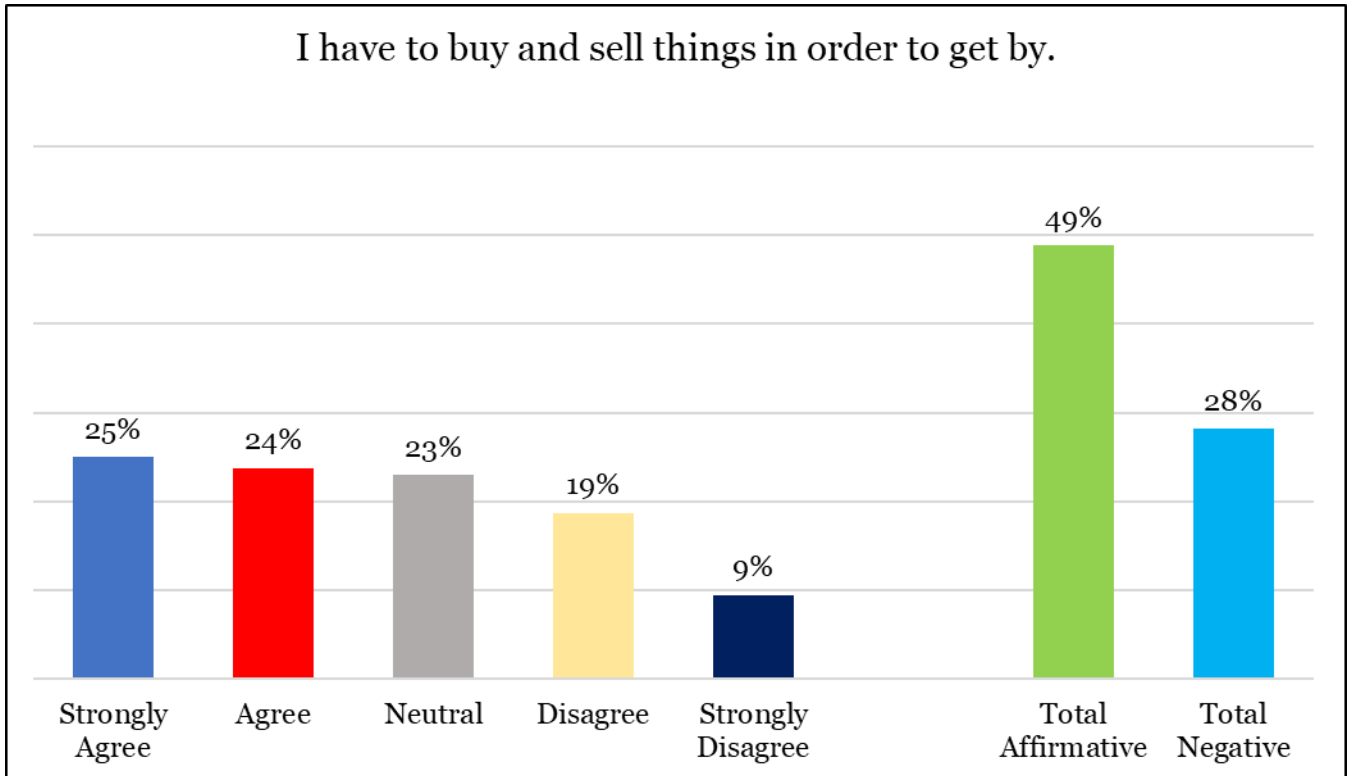
Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.



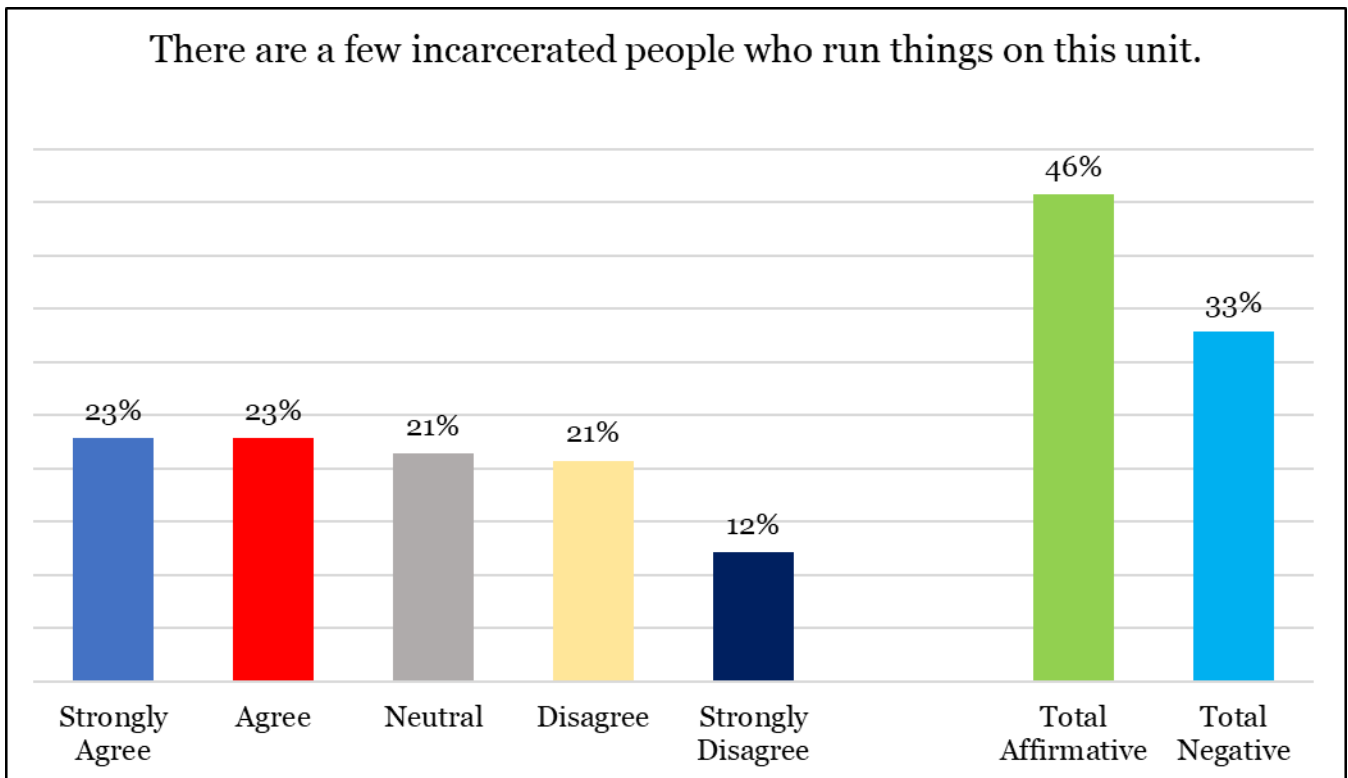
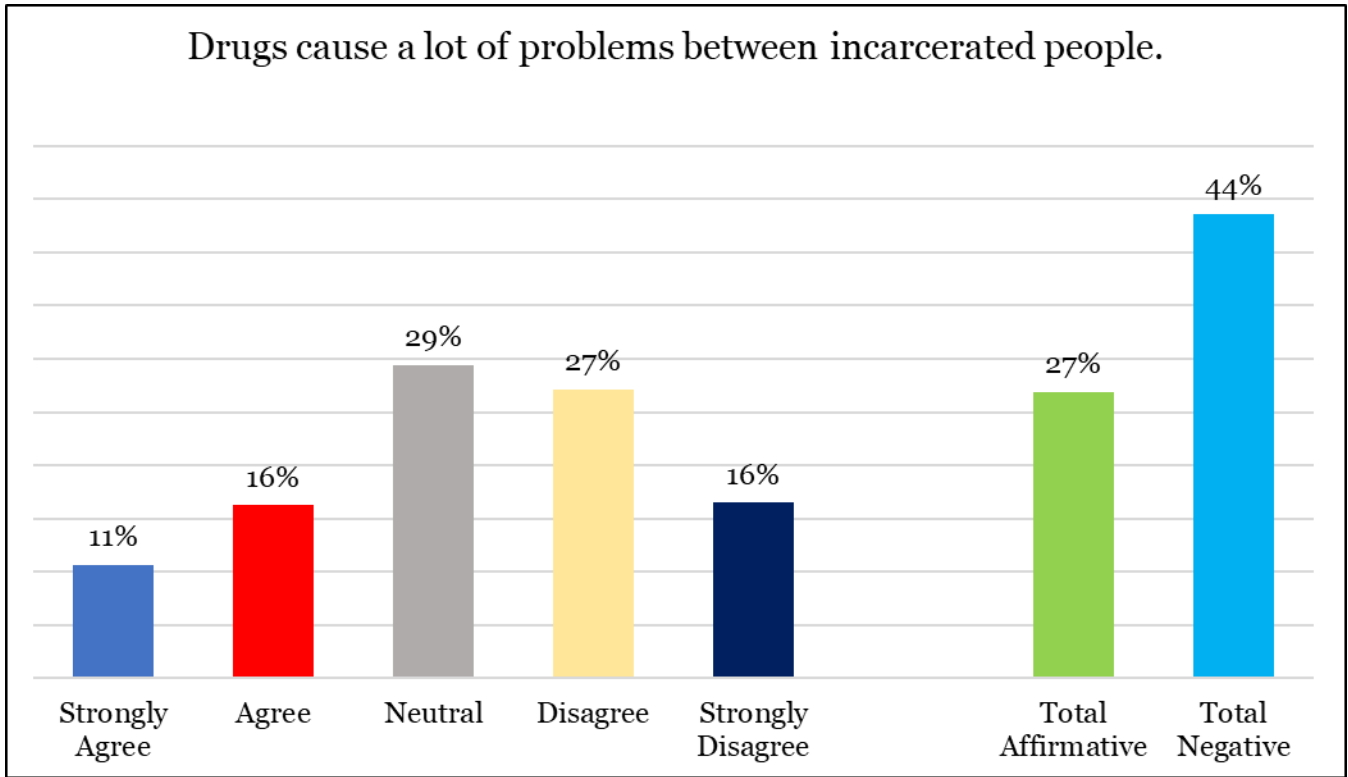
INCARCERATED PERSON SAFETY – THE FEELING OF SECURITY OR PROTECTION FROM HARM, THREAT OR DANGER



INCARCERATED PERSON ADAPTATION – THE NEED OR PRESSURE TO GET INVOLVED IN TRADE AND ALLEGIANCES

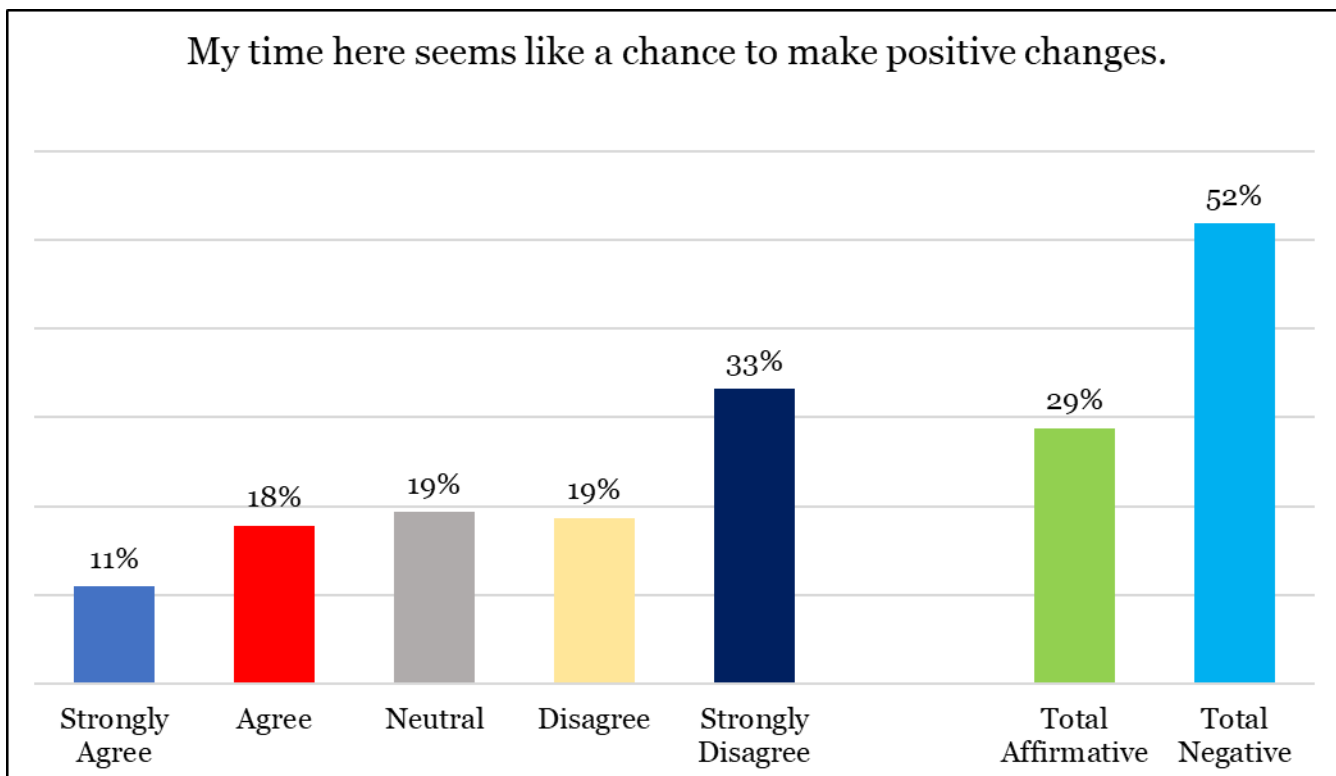
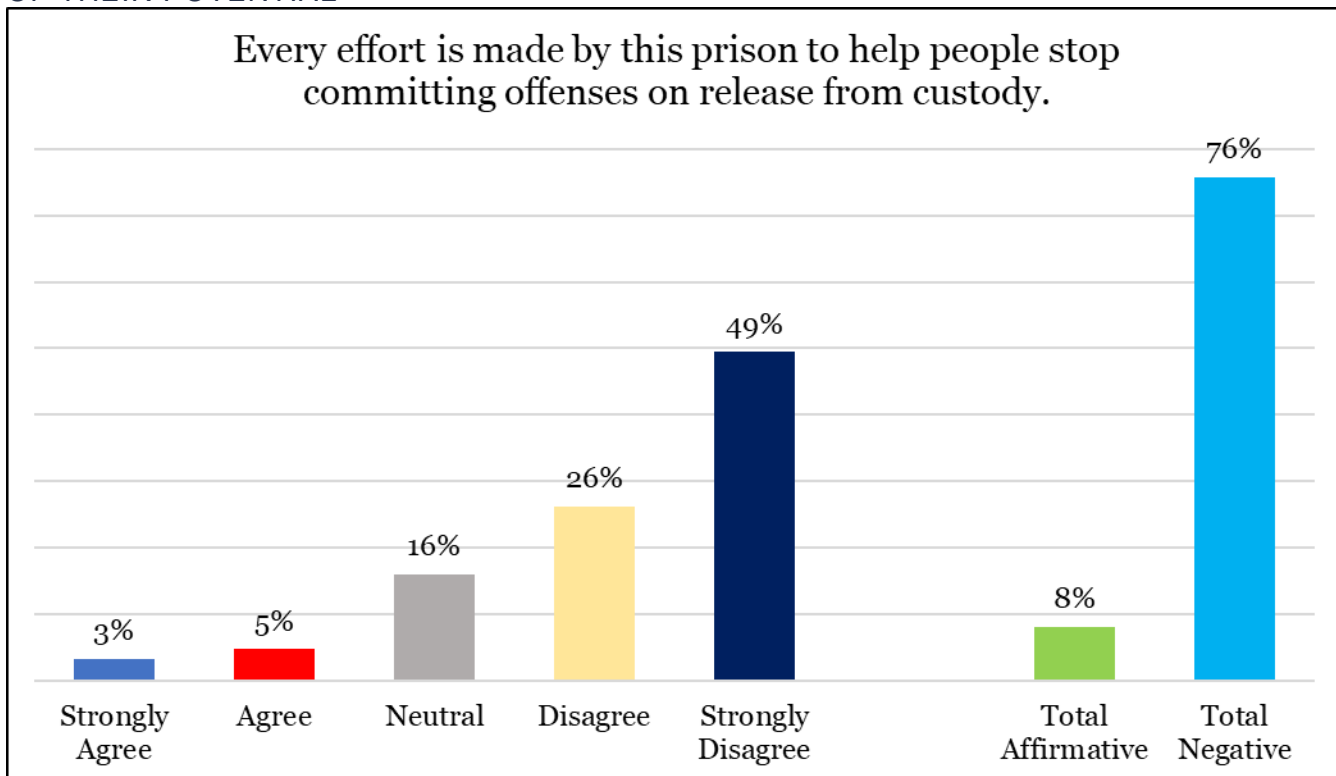


DRUGS AND EXPLOITATION – THE LEVEL OF DRUGS, BULLYING AND VICTIMIZATION IN THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT

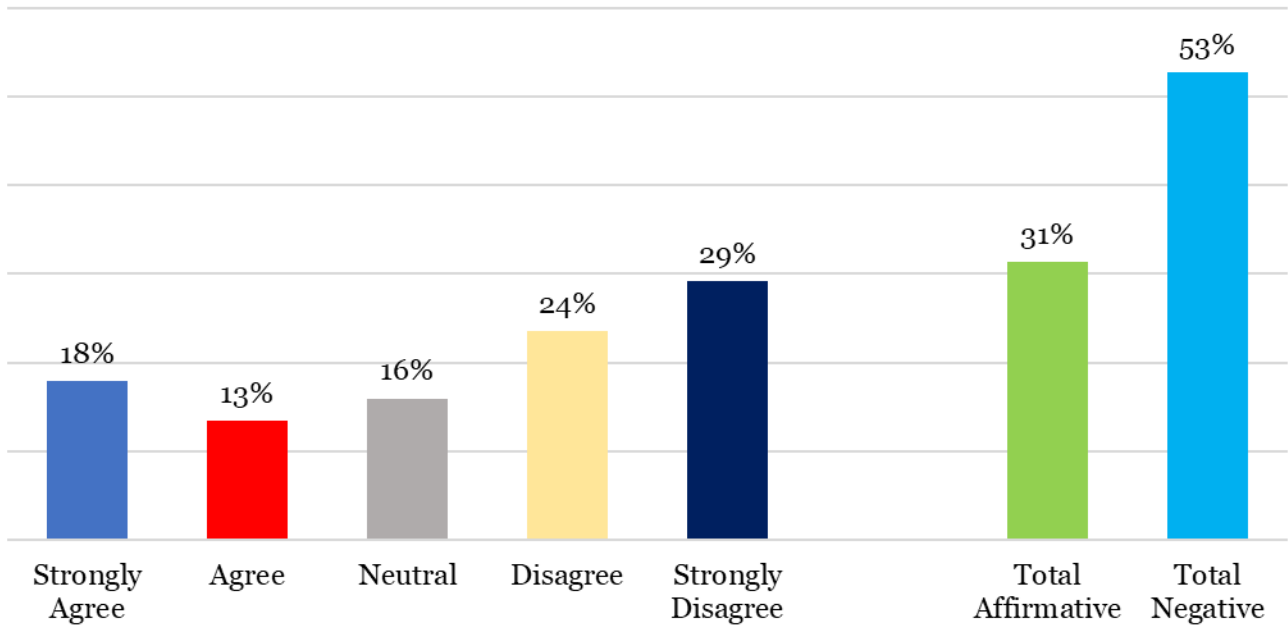


Well-being and Development

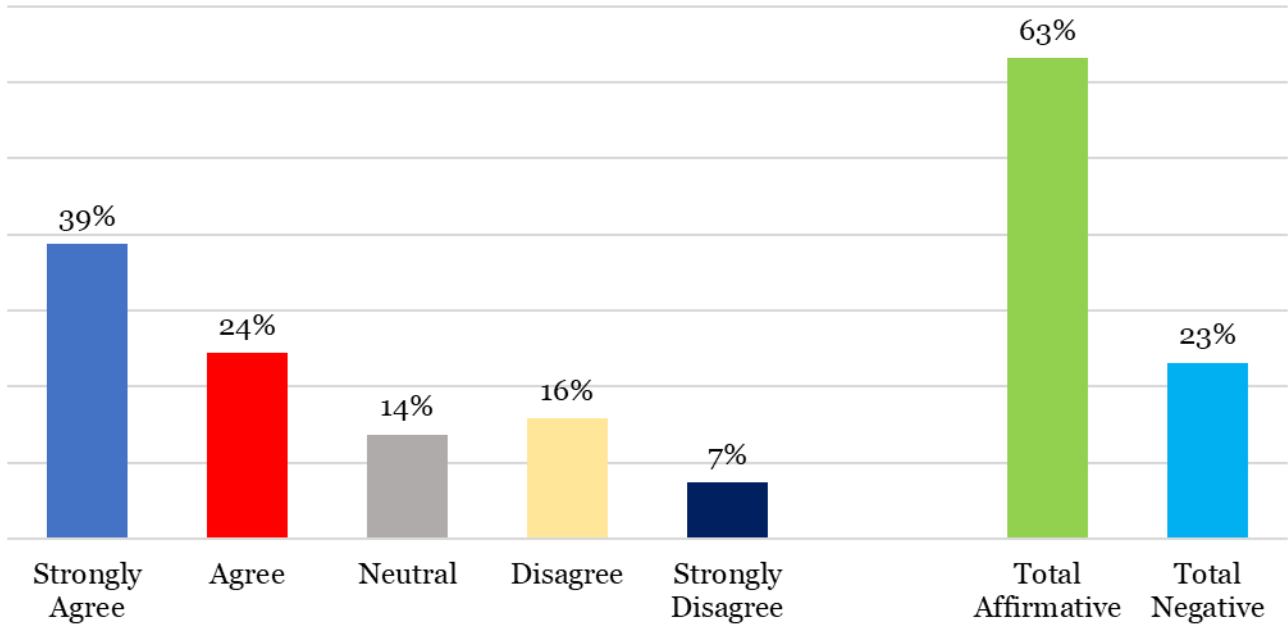
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT HELPS INCARCERATED PEOPLE WITH OFFENDING BEHAVIOR, PREPARATION FOR RELEASE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR POTENTIAL



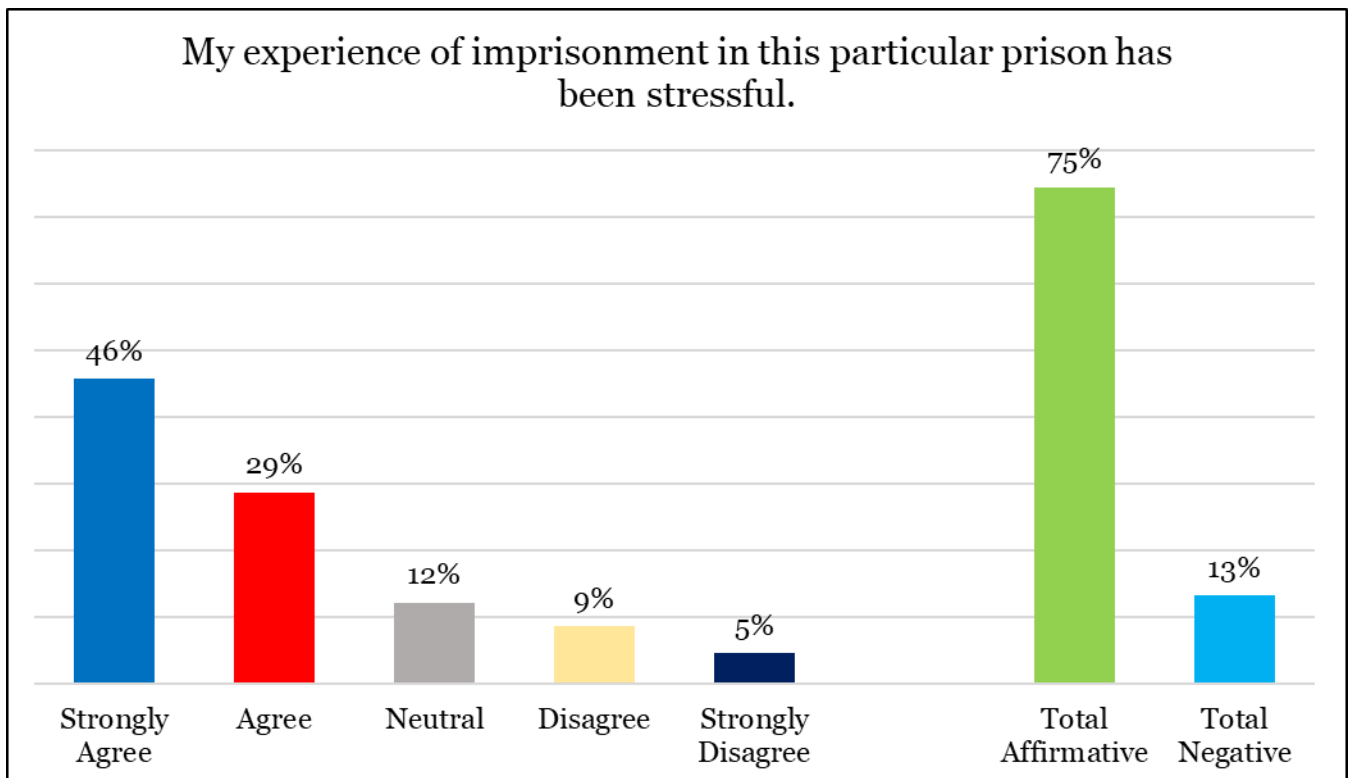
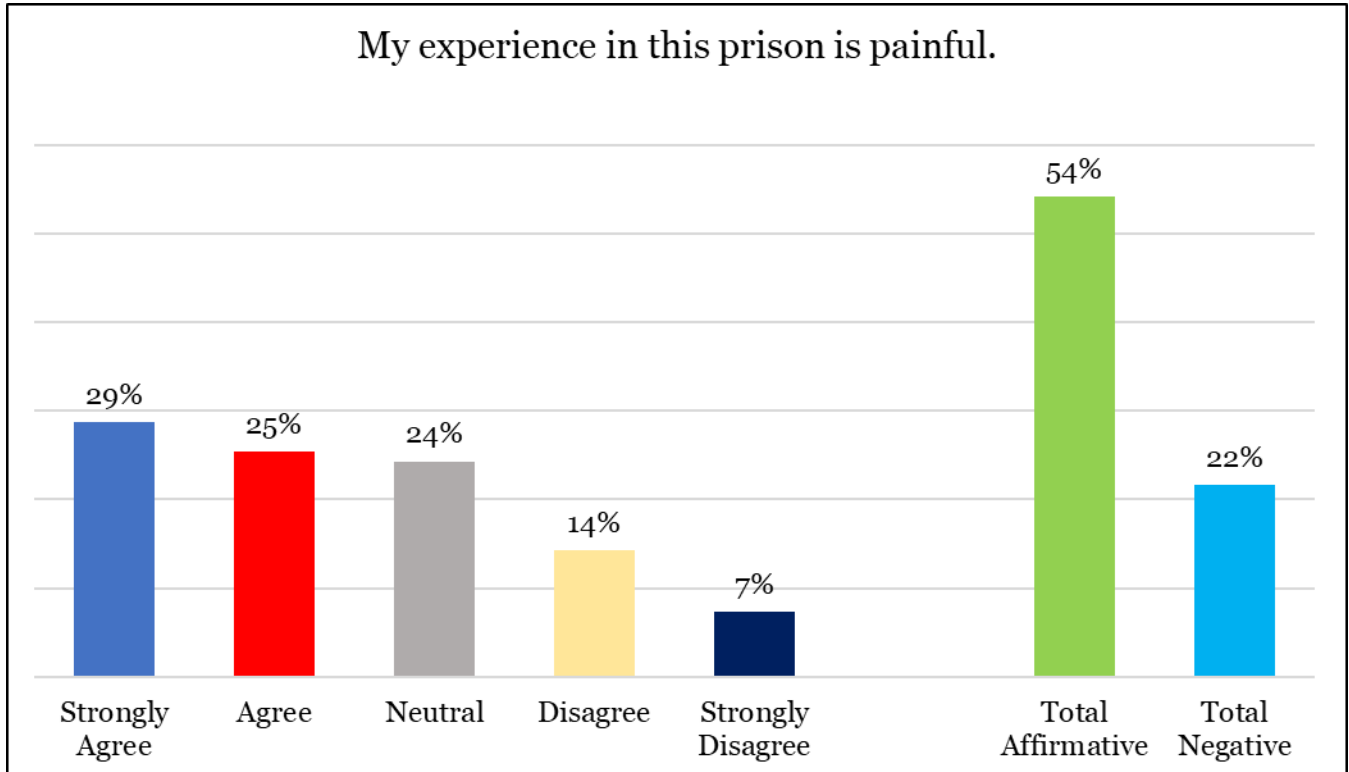
The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.



On the whole, I am just doing time rather than using my time.

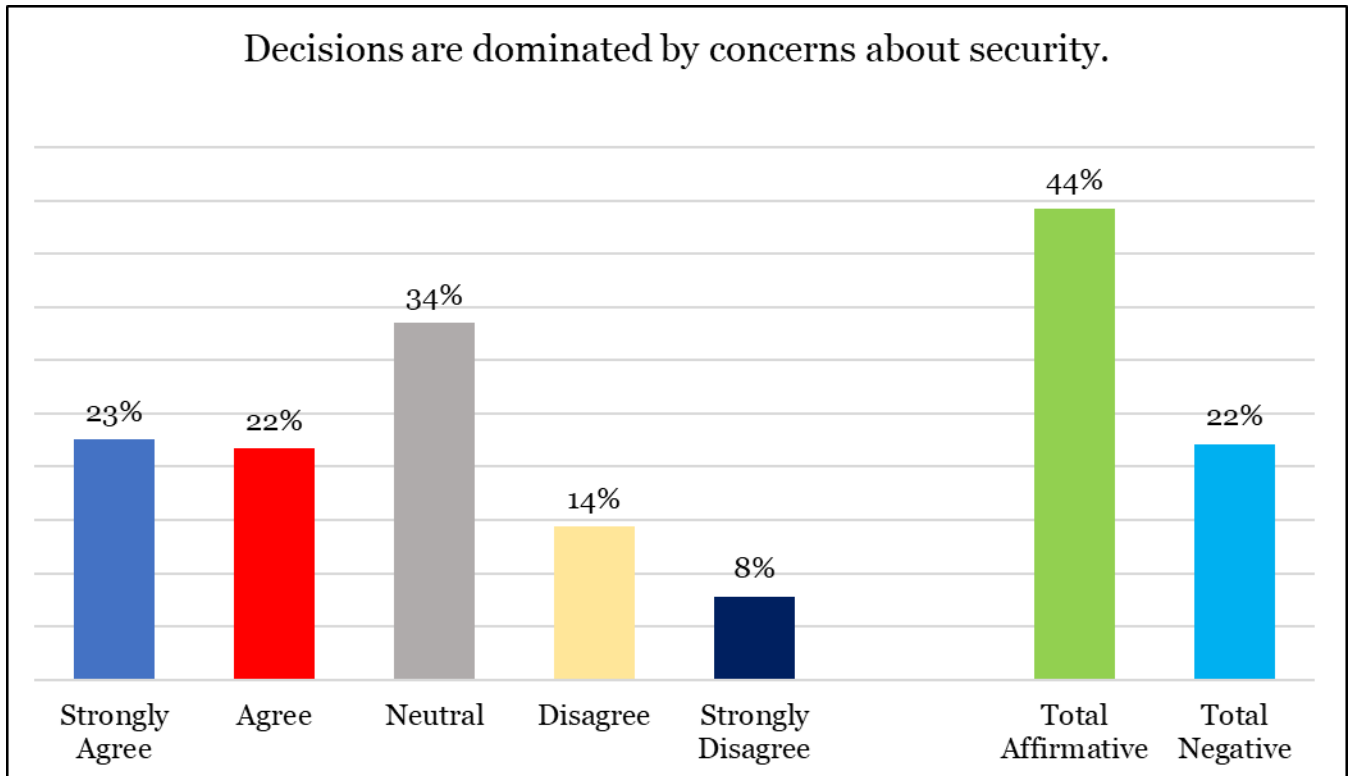


WELL-BEING – FEELINGS OF PAIN, PUNISHMENT AND TENSION EXPERIENCED BY INCARCERATED PEOPLE

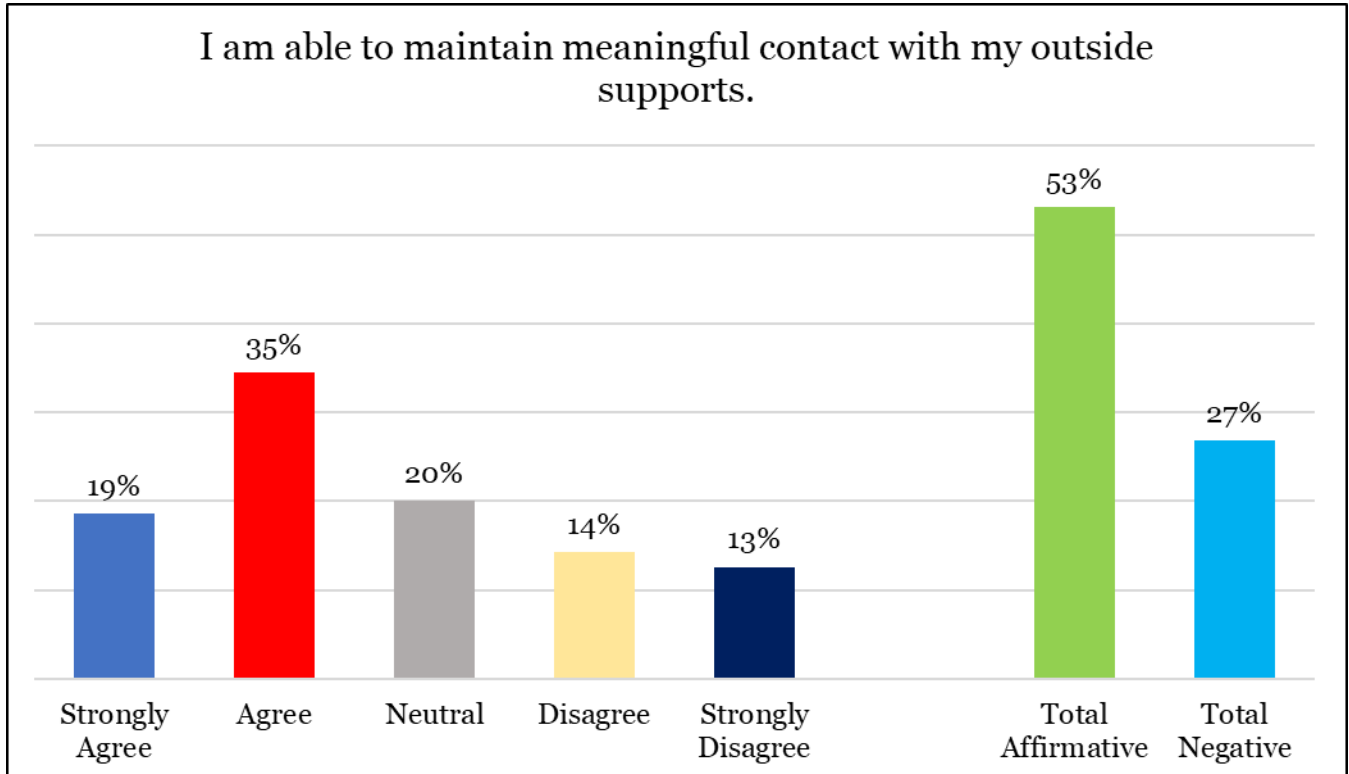


Additional Questions

DECISION-MAKING – THE EXTENT TO WHICH ADMINISTRATORS PRIORITIZE SECURITY CONCERNS OVER OTHER FACTORS

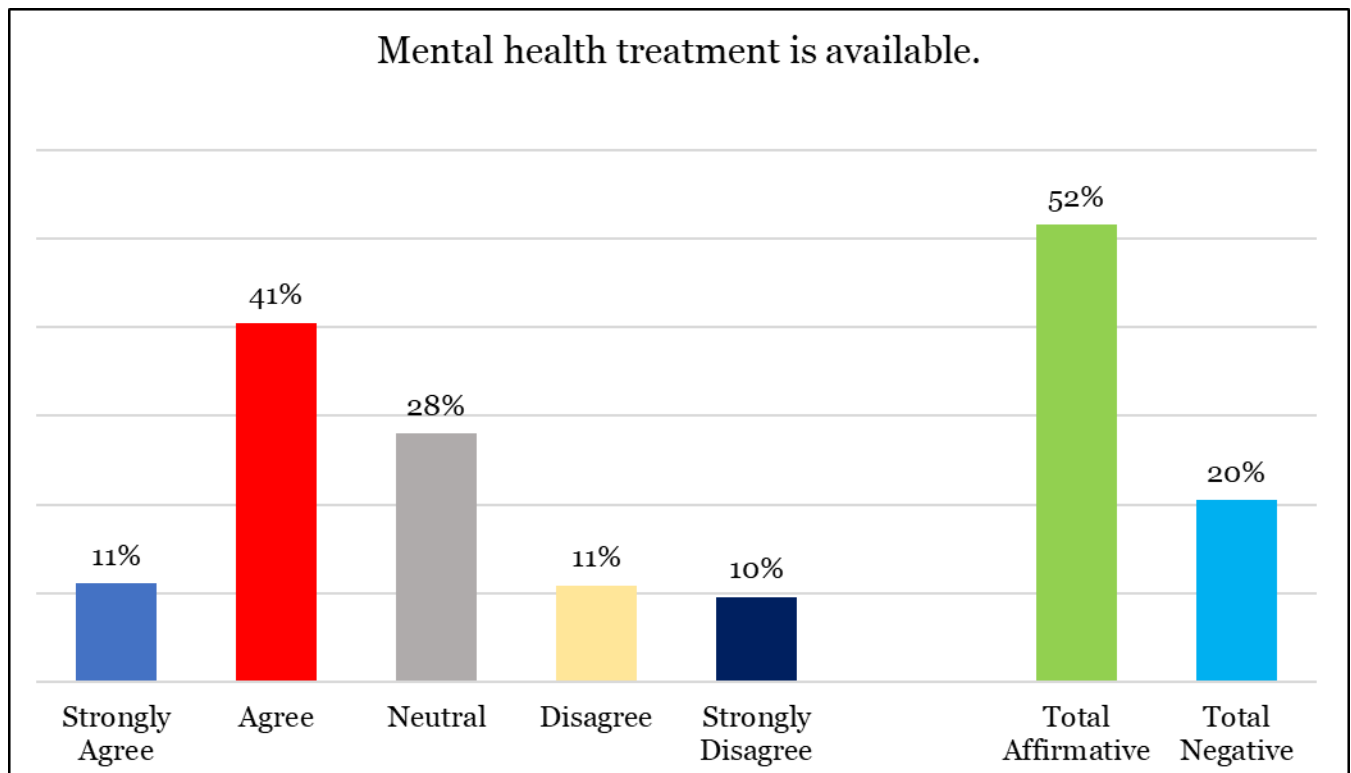
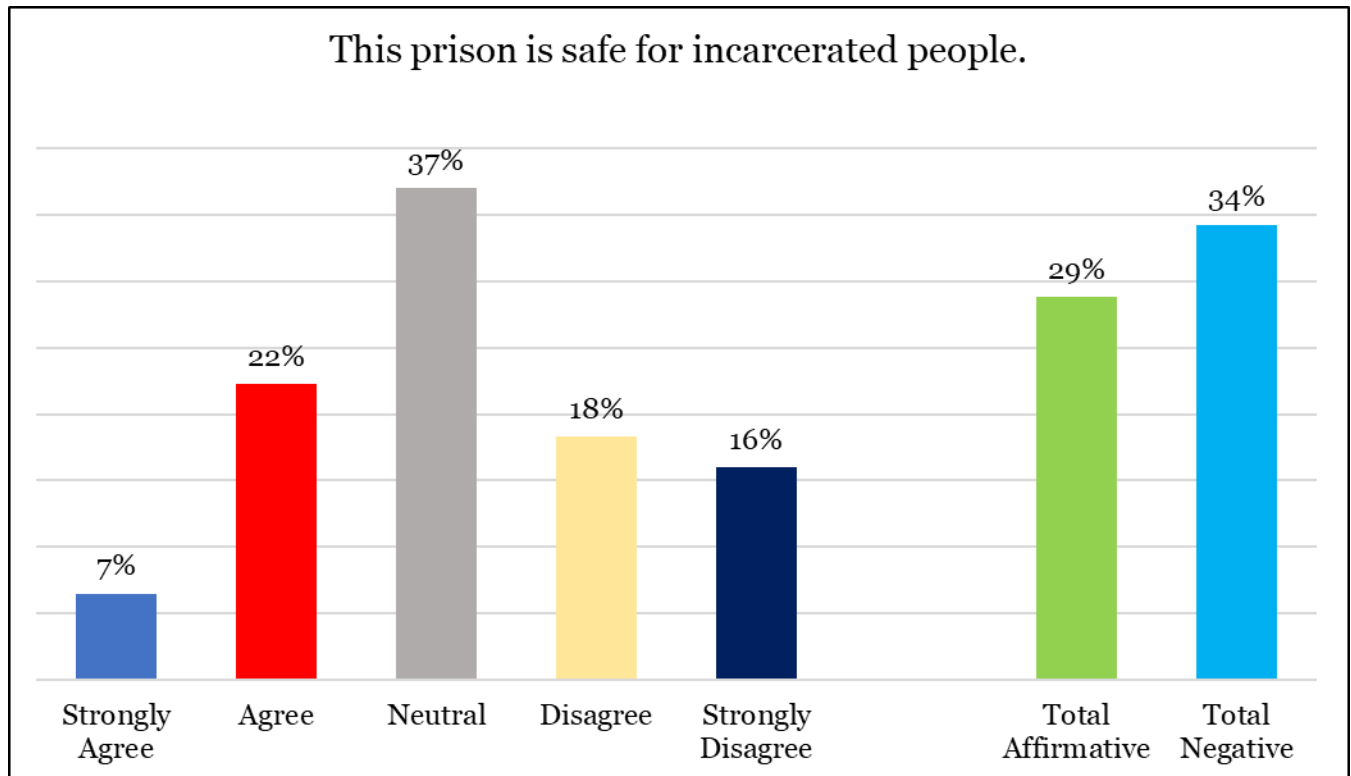


FAMILY CONTACT – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT FACILITATES INCARCERATED PEOPLE MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOVED ONES

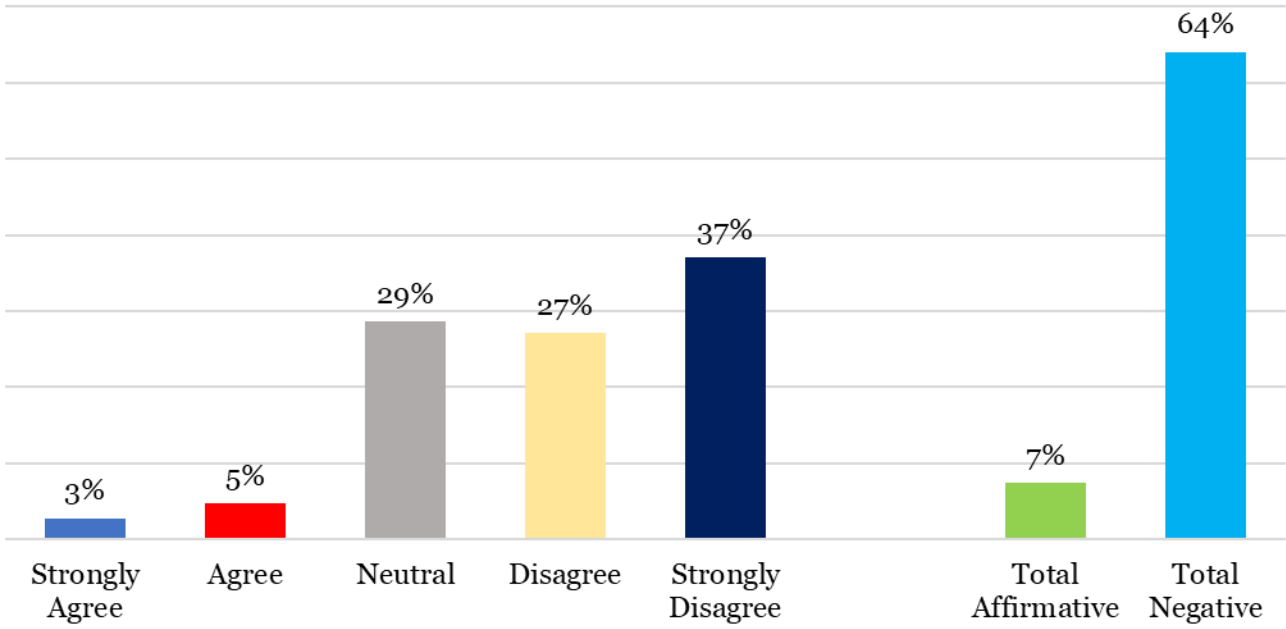


Charts: JHA Questions

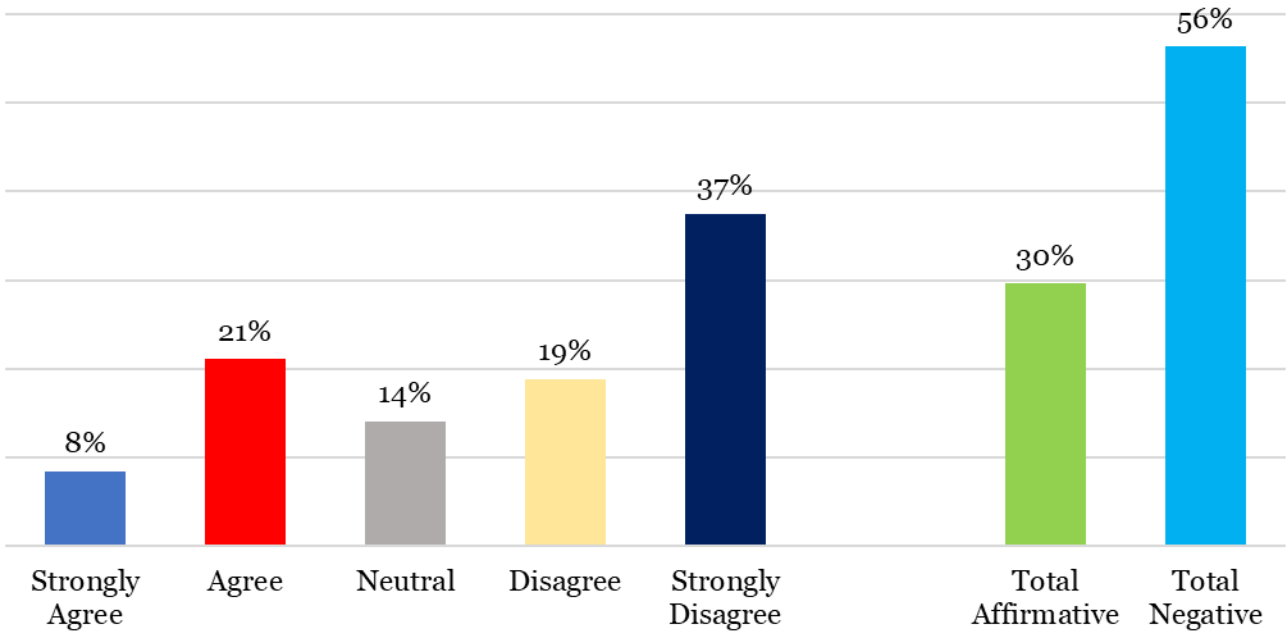
QUESTIONS USED IN PREVIOUS JHA SURVEYS



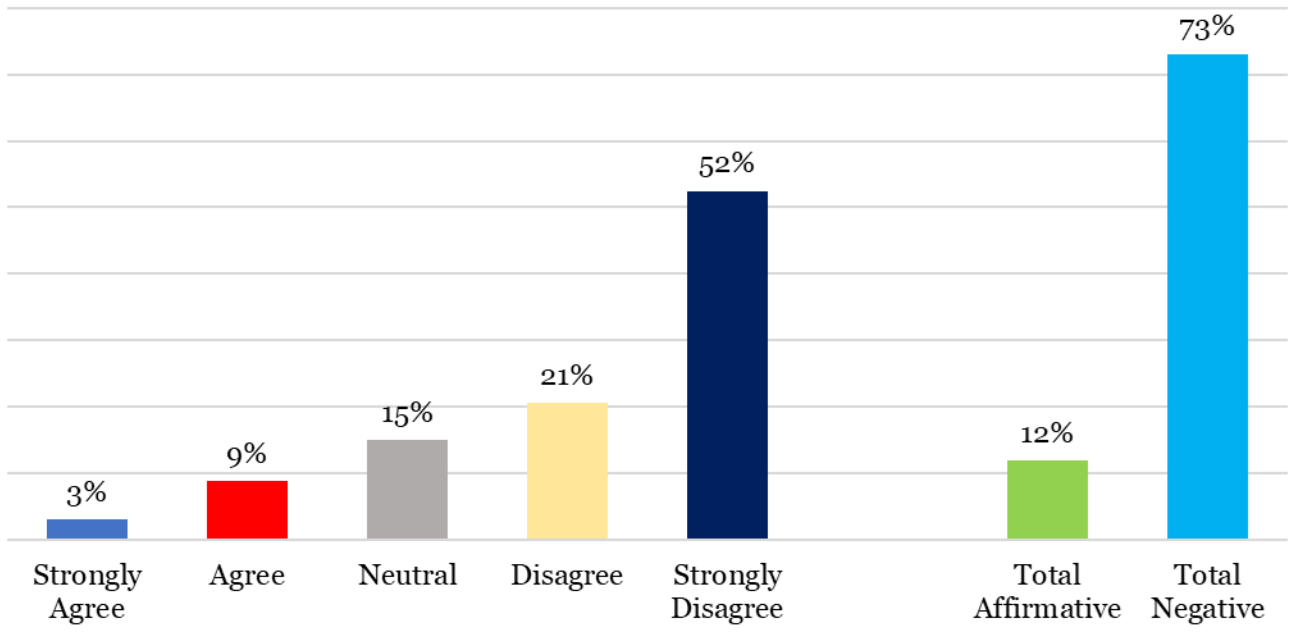
This prison is better now than it was last year.



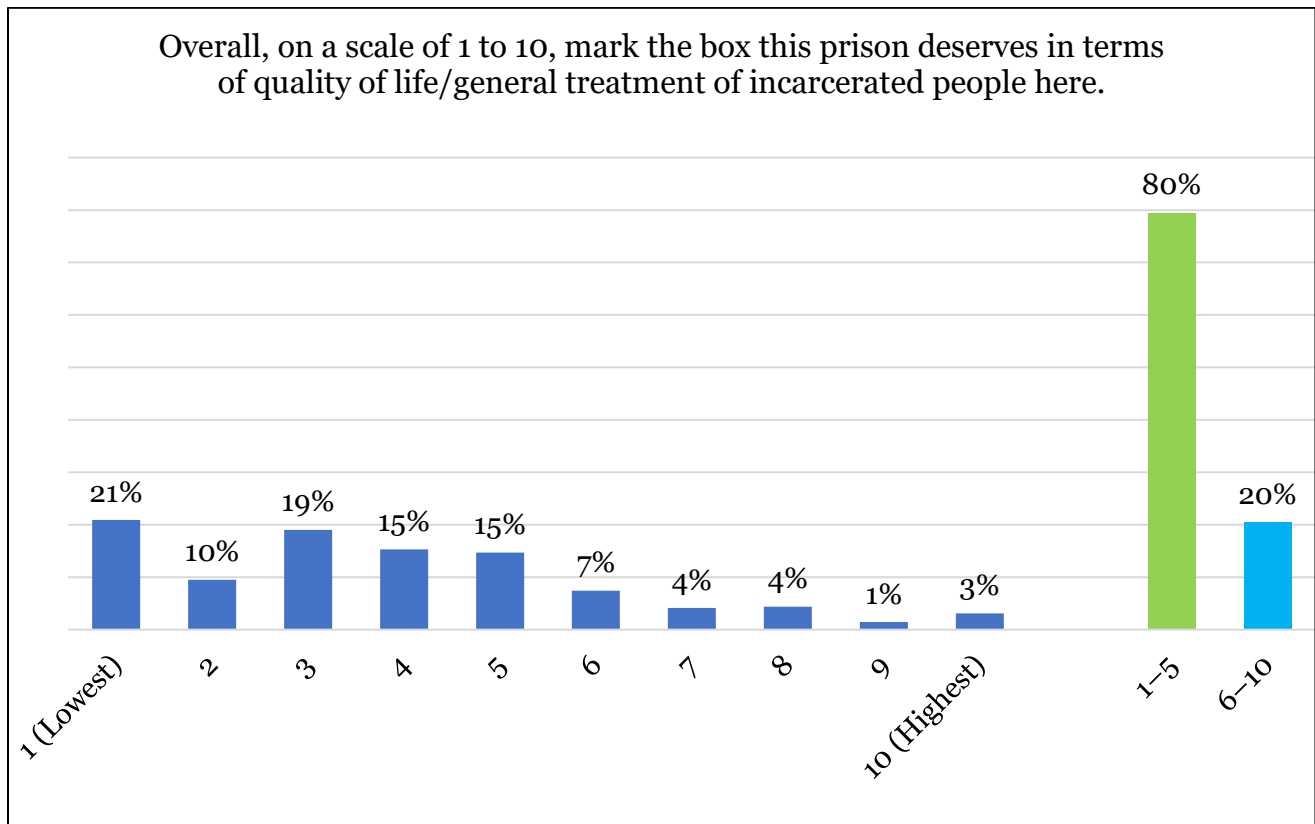
I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.



I am satisfied with food from dietary.



OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE



Tables of Results by Individual Survey Items

Age		
18-26	28	6%
26-30	44	9%
31-40	118	24%
41-50	111	23%
51 and over	190	39%
No response	2	

Race or ethnicity		
White	286	58%
Black	149	30%
Hispanic or Latino	30	6%
Other	24	5%
No response	4	

Are you within two years of release?		
Yes	168	35%
No	308	65%
No response	17	

Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?		
Yes	221	46%
No	262	54%
No response	10	

What housing status are you currently on?		
General Population	363	75%
Restrictive Housing	31	6%
Other	91	19%
No response	8	

Are you currently getting at least two hours a day out of your cell or sleeping area?		
Yes	67	14%
No	415	86%

Do you have a work or school assignment?		
Work Assignment	181	37%
School Assignment	20	4%
Both	18	4%
Neither	273	55%
No response	1	

Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.		
Strongly Agree	9	2%
Agree	72	15%
Neutral	157	32%
Disagree	146	30%
Strongly Disagree	102	21%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	81	17%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	248	51%
No response	7	

I receive support from staff when I need it.		
Strongly Agree	12	2%
Agree	73	15%
Neutral	105	22%
Disagree	162	33%
Strongly Disagree	133	27%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	85	18%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	295	61%
No response	8	

Staff here treat incarcerated people fairly when applying the rules.		
Strongly Agree	9	2%
Agree	66	14%
Neutral	108	22%
Disagree	160	33%
Strongly Disagree	145	30%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	75	15%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	305	63%
No response	5	

I trust the officers.		
Strongly Agree	9	2%
Agree	50	10%
Neutral	108	22%
Disagree	130	27%
Strongly Disagree	191	39%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	59	12%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	321	66%
No response	5	

I get along well with the officers on my unit.		
Strongly Agree	17	4%
Agree	139	29%
Neutral	218	45%
Disagree	64	13%
Strongly Disagree	47	10%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	156	32%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	111	23%
No response	8	

The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.		
Strongly Agree	30	6%
Agree	96	20%
Neutral	105	22%
Disagree	111	23%
Strongly Disagree	142	29%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	126	26%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	253	52%
No response	9	

I have been helped significantly by a staff member with a particular problem.		
Strongly Agree	27	6%
Agree	73	15%
Neutral	104	21%
Disagree	135	28%
Strongly Disagree	148	30%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	100	21%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	283	58%
No response	6	

Overall, I am treated fairly by staff.		
Strongly Agree	18	4%
Agree	118	24%
Neutral	151	31%
Disagree	107	22%
Strongly Disagree	95	19%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	136	28%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	202	41%
No response	4	

I am treated as a person of value.		
Strongly Agree	10	2%
Agree	45	9%
Neutral	85	18%
Disagree	153	32%
Strongly Disagree	191	39%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	55	11%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	344	71%
No response	9	

Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.		
Strongly Agree	132	28%
Agree	195	41%
Neutral	84	18%
Disagree	49	10%
Strongly Disagree	17	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	327	69%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	66	14%
No response	16	

I feel safe from being injured, bullied, or threatened by other incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	37	8%
Agree	110	23%
Neutral	134	28%
Disagree	112	23%
Strongly Disagree	86	18%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	147	31%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	198	41%
No response	14	

If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.		
Strongly Agree	28	6%
Agree	68	14%
Neutral	111	24%
Disagree	123	26%
Strongly Disagree	141	30%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	96	20%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	264	56%
No response	22	

To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.		
Strongly Agree	107	23%
Agree	130	28%
Neutral	134	29%
Disagree	74	16%
Strongly Disagree	21	5%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	237	51%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	95	20%
No response	27	

Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	150	32%
Agree	155	33%
Neutral	102	22%
Disagree	47	10%
Strongly Disagree	20	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	305	64%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	67	14%
No response	19	

Staff have enough experience and expertise to deal with issues that matter to me.		
Strongly Agree	12	3%
Agree	40	8%
Neutral	108	23%
Disagree	177	37%
Strongly Disagree	138	29%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	52	11%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	315	66%
No response	18	

To get things done, you have to ask and ask and ask.		
Strongly Agree	280	59%
Agree	132	28%
Neutral	35	7%
Disagree	19	4%
Strongly Disagree	8	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	412	87%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	27	6%
No response	19	

Supervision of incarcerated people is poor.		
Strongly Agree	162	34%
Agree	137	29%
Neutral	114	24%
Disagree	50	11%
Strongly Disagree	13	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	299	63%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	63	13%
No response	17	

I can't improve my situation through good behavior.		
Strongly Agree	159	34%
Agree	118	25%
Neutral	84	18%
Disagree	67	14%
Strongly Disagree	46	10%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	277	58%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	113	24%
No response	19	

The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.		
Strongly Agree	85	18%
Agree	64	13%
Neutral	76	16%
Disagree	112	24%
Strongly Disagree	139	29%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	149	31%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	251	53%
No response	17	

My experience of imprisonment in this particular prison has been stressful.		
Strongly Agree	218	46%
Agree	137	29%
Neutral	58	12%
Disagree	41	9%
Strongly Disagree	22	5%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	355	75%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	63	13%
No response	17	

Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.		
Strongly Agree	198	41%
Agree	120	25%
Neutral	89	19%
Disagree	47	10%
Strongly Disagree	25	5%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	318	66%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	72	15%
No response	14	

I have to be careful about everything I do, or it can be used against me.		
Strongly Agree	223	47%
Agree	146	30%
Neutral	81	17%
Disagree	20	4%
Strongly Disagree	9	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	369	77%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	29	6%
No response	14	

On the whole, I am just doing time rather than using my time.		
Strongly Agree	184	39%
Agree	116	24%
Neutral	65	14%
Disagree	75	16%
Strongly Disagree	35	7%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	300	63%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	110	23%
No response	18	

Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.		
Strongly Agree	25	5%
Agree	79	17%
Neutral	122	26%
Disagree	121	25%
Strongly Disagree	128	27%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	104	22%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	249	52%
No response	18	

This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.		
Strongly Agree	52	11%
Agree	56	12%
Neutral	98	21%
Disagree	137	29%
Strongly Disagree	135	28%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	108	23%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	272	57%
No response	15	

When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.		
Strongly Agree	23	5%
Agree	90	19%
Neutral	123	26%
Disagree	129	27%
Strongly Disagree	114	24%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	113	24%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	243	51%
No response	14	

This prison is well organized.		
Strongly Agree	18	4%
Agree	11	2%
Neutral	66	14%
Disagree	118	25%
Strongly Disagree	262	55%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	29	6%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	380	80%
No response	18	

You never know the rules.		
Strongly Agree	124	26%
Agree	118	25%
Neutral	120	25%
Disagree	80	17%
Strongly Disagree	34	7%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	242	51%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	114	24%
No response	17	

I feel that I am treated with respect by staff.		
Strongly Agree	17	4%
Agree	57	12%
Neutral	139	29%
Disagree	123	26%
Strongly Disagree	137	29%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	74	16%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	260	55%
No response	20	

My experience in this prison is painful.		
Strongly Agree	137	29%
Agree	121	25%
Neutral	116	24%
Disagree	68	14%
Strongly Disagree	35	7%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	258	54%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	103	22%
No response	16	

I have to buy and sell things in order to get by.		
Strongly Agree	119	25%
Agree	113	24%
Neutral	109	23%
Disagree	89	19%
Strongly Disagree	45	9%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	232	49%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	134	28%
No response	18	

There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	121	26%
Agree	118	26%
Neutral	139	30%
Disagree	61	13%
Strongly Disagree	19	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	239	52%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	80	17%
No response	35	

Decisions are dominated by concerns about security.		
Strongly Agree	107	23%
Agree	103	22%
Neutral	159	34%
Disagree	68	14%
Strongly Disagree	37	8%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	210	44%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	105	22%
No response	19	

The disciplinary system is fair.		
Strongly Agree	9	2%
Agree	43	9%
Neutral	112	24%
Disagree	133	28%
Strongly Disagree	176	37%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	52	11%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	309	65%
No response	20	

My time here seems like a chance to make positive changes.		
Strongly Agree	50	11%
Agree	81	18%
Neutral	88	19%
Disagree	85	19%
Strongly Disagree	151	33%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	131	29%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	236	52%
No response	38	

There are a few incarcerated people who run things on this unit.		
Strongly Agree	109	23%
Agree	109	23%
Neutral	102	21%
Disagree	99	21%
Strongly Disagree	58	12%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	218	46%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	157	33%
No response	16	

I am not being treated as a human being in here.		
Strongly Agree	129	27%
Agree	115	24%
Neutral	133	28%
Disagree	76	16%
Strongly Disagree	27	6%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	244	51%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	103	21%
No response	13	

You have to be in a group or gang in order to get by.		
Strongly Agree	38	8%
Agree	57	12%
Neutral	115	24%
Disagree	180	38%
Strongly Disagree	88	18%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	95	20%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	268	56%
No response	15	

Bullying behavior by incarcerated people is not tolerated.		
Strongly Agree	32	7%
Agree	81	17%
Neutral	123	26%
Disagree	157	33%
Strongly Disagree	86	18%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	113	24%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	243	51%
No response	14	

When important decisions are made about me, I am treated as an individual and not a number.		
Strongly Agree	23	5%
Agree	47	10%
Neutral	114	24%
Disagree	165	34%
Strongly Disagree	133	28%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	70	15%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	298	62%
No response	11	

All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.		
Strongly Agree	227	47%
Agree	144	30%
Neutral	69	14%
Disagree	25	5%
Strongly Disagree	15	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	371	77%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	40	8%
No response	13	

Drugs cause a lot of problems between incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	51	11%
Agree	78	16%
Neutral	141	29%
Disagree	130	27%
Strongly Disagree	79	16%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	129	27%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	209	44%
No response	14	

Anyone who harms themselves is considered by staff to be more of an attention seeker than someone who needs help.		
Strongly Agree	151	31%
Agree	158	33%
Neutral	110	23%
Disagree	44	9%
Strongly Disagree	18	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	309	64%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	62	13%
No response	12	

I am able to maintain meaningful contact with my outside supports.		
Strongly Agree	90	19%
Agree	167	35%
Neutral	97	20%
Disagree	69	14%
Strongly Disagree	61	13%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	257	53%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	130	27%
No response	9	

This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.		
Strongly Agree	199	41%
Agree	162	34%
Neutral	91	19%
Disagree	15	3%
Strongly Disagree	13	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	361	75%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	28	6%
No response	13	

Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.		
Strongly Agree	9	2%
Agree	44	9%
Neutral	84	17%
Disagree	160	33%
Strongly Disagree	184	38%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	53	11%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	344	72%
No response	12	

This is a humane prison.		
Strongly Agree	20	4%
Agree	65	14%
Neutral	153	32%
Disagree	123	26%
Strongly Disagree	112	24%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	85	18%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	235	50%
No response	20	

Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.		
Strongly Agree	338	71%
Agree	89	19%
Neutral	31	6%
Disagree	13	3%
Strongly Disagree	7	1%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	427	89%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	20	4%
No response	15	

This prison is safe for incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	31	7%
Agree	106	22%
Neutral	176	37%
Disagree	87	18%
Strongly Disagree	76	16%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	137	29%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	163	34%
No response	17	

Mental health treatment is available.		
Strongly Agree	53	11%
Agree	194	41%
Neutral	134	28%
Disagree	52	11%
Strongly Disagree	46	10%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	247	52%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	98	20%
No response	14	

This prison is better now than it was last year.		
Strongly Agree	13	3%
Agree	22	5%
Neutral	136	29%
Disagree	129	27%
Strongly Disagree	176	37%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	35	7%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	305	64%
No response	17	

I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.		
Strongly Agree	41	8%
Agree	102	21%
Neutral	68	14%
Disagree	91	19%
Strongly Disagree	181	37%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	143	30%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	272	56%
No response	10	

Every effort is made by this prison to help people stop committing offenses on release from custody.		
Strongly Agree	16	3%
Agree	23	5%
Neutral	77	16%
Disagree	126	26%
Strongly Disagree	237	49%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	39	8%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	363	76%
No response	14	

I am satisfied with food from dietary.		
Strongly Agree	15	3%
Agree	43	9%
Neutral	73	15%
Disagree	100	21%
Strongly Disagree	255	52%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	58	12%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	355	73%
No response	7	

Overall, on a scale of 1 to 10, mark the box this prison deserves in terms of quality of life/general treatment of incarcerated people here.		
1 (Lowest)	101	21%
2	46	10%
3	92	19%
4	74	15%
5	71	15%
6	36	7%
7	20	4%
8	21	4%
9	7	1%
10 (Highest)	15	3%
<i>1-5</i>	384	80%
<i>6-10</i>	99	20%
No Response	10	
Mean Score		3.8



This report was written by JHA staff. Media inquiries should be directed to JHA's Executive Director Jennifer Vollen-Katz at (312) 291-9183 or jvollen@thejha.org

Incarcerated individuals can send privileged mail to report issues to the John Howard Association, P.O. Box 10042, Chicago, IL 60610-0042. JHA staff read every letter and track this information to monitor what is occurring behind prison walls and to advocate for humane policies and practices. Family and friends can contact JHA via our website www.thejha.org or by leaving us a voicemail at (312) 291-9183.

Since 1901, JHA has provided public oversight of Illinois' juvenile and adult correctional facilities. Every year, JHA staff and trained volunteers inspect prisons, jails, and detention centers throughout the state. Based on these inspections, JHA regularly issues reports that are instrumental in improving prison conditions. JHA humbly thanks everyone who graciously shared their experiences and insights with us.

