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**Survey Results**



# Centralia 2023 MQPL Survey Results

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# Introduction

Centralia is a medium-security male prison within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) that housed approximately 1,142 people on March 27, 2023. 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 Centralia had an opportunity to participate in the voluntary and anonymous survey if they chose to do so. JHA received 325 responses to the MQPL survey from people at Centralia through May 24, 2023, representing approximately 29% of the static population.



The MQPL questions are organized by dimensions: harmony, professionalism, security, and well-being & development (descriptions on next page). 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

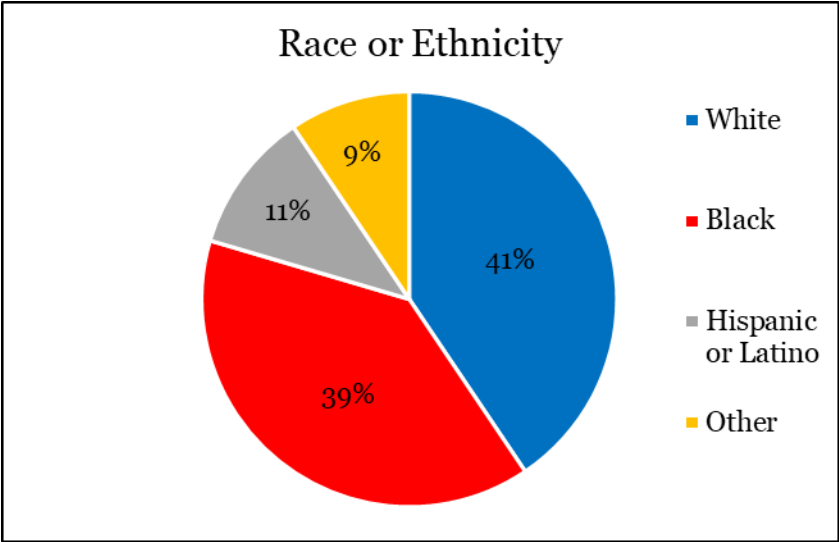
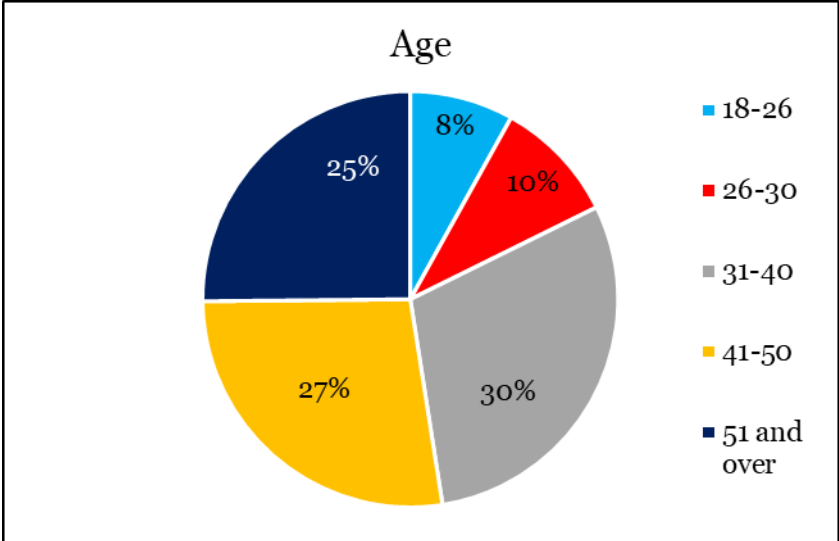
- **Harmony: Questions relating to interpersonal aspects of the prison experience**
  - Respect/courtesy – Positive, respectful, and courteous attitudes towards incarcerated people by staff.
  - Staff-incarcerated people relationships – Trusting, fair and supportive interactions between staff and incarcerated 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

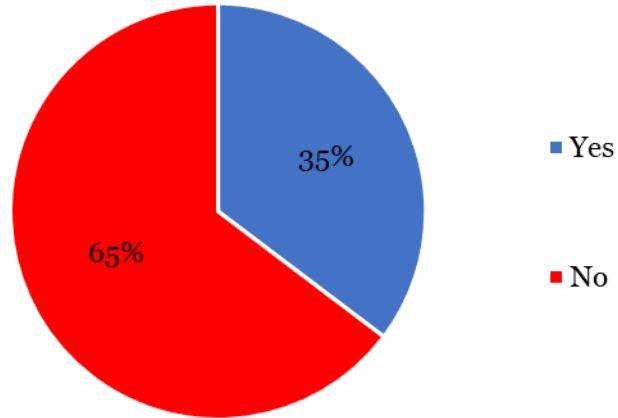
Total respondents = 325<sup>1</sup>



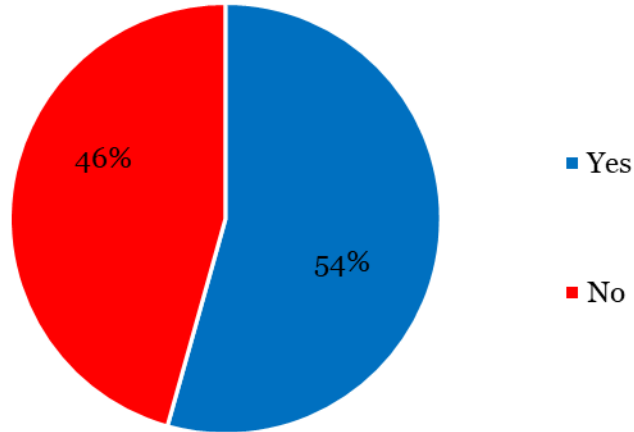
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<sup>1</sup> Due to rounding, not all percentages total 100%. Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of respondents per question.

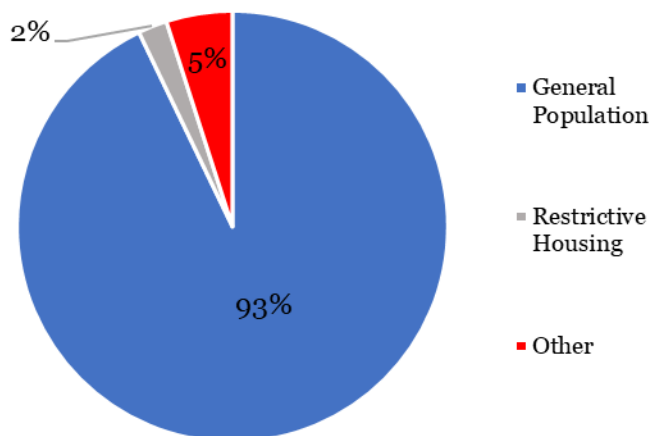
Are you within two years of release?



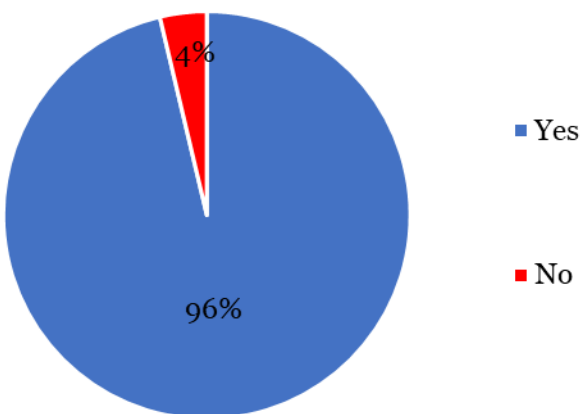
Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?



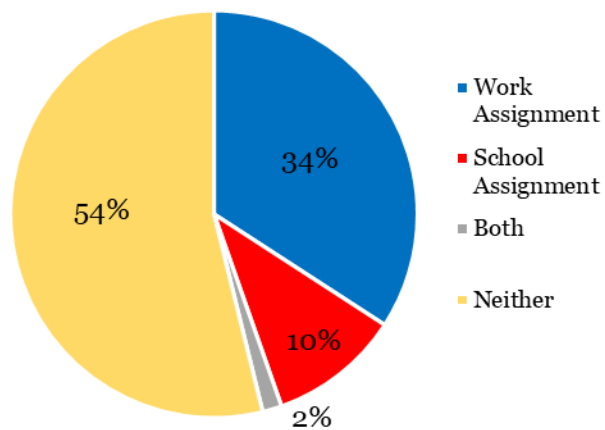
What housing status are you currently on?



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?

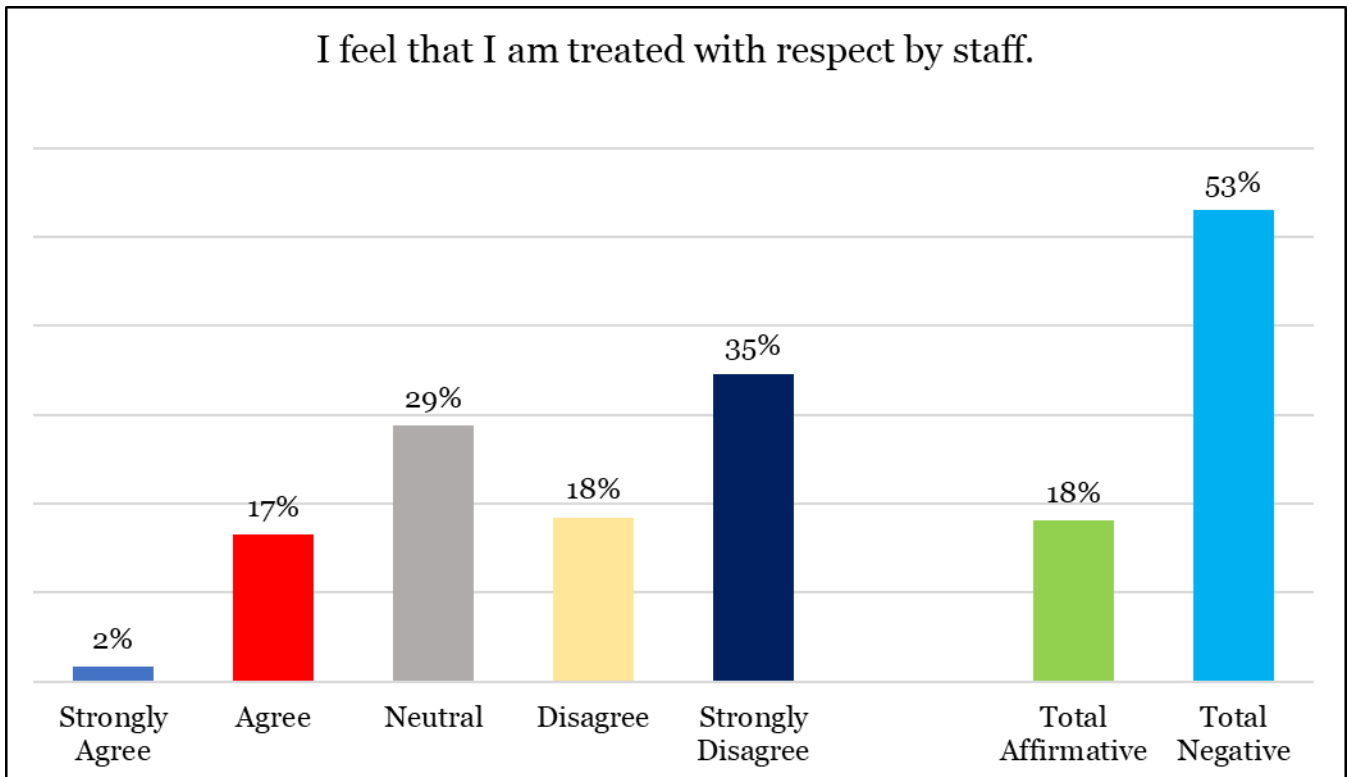




# Charts: MQPL Dimensions<sup>2</sup>

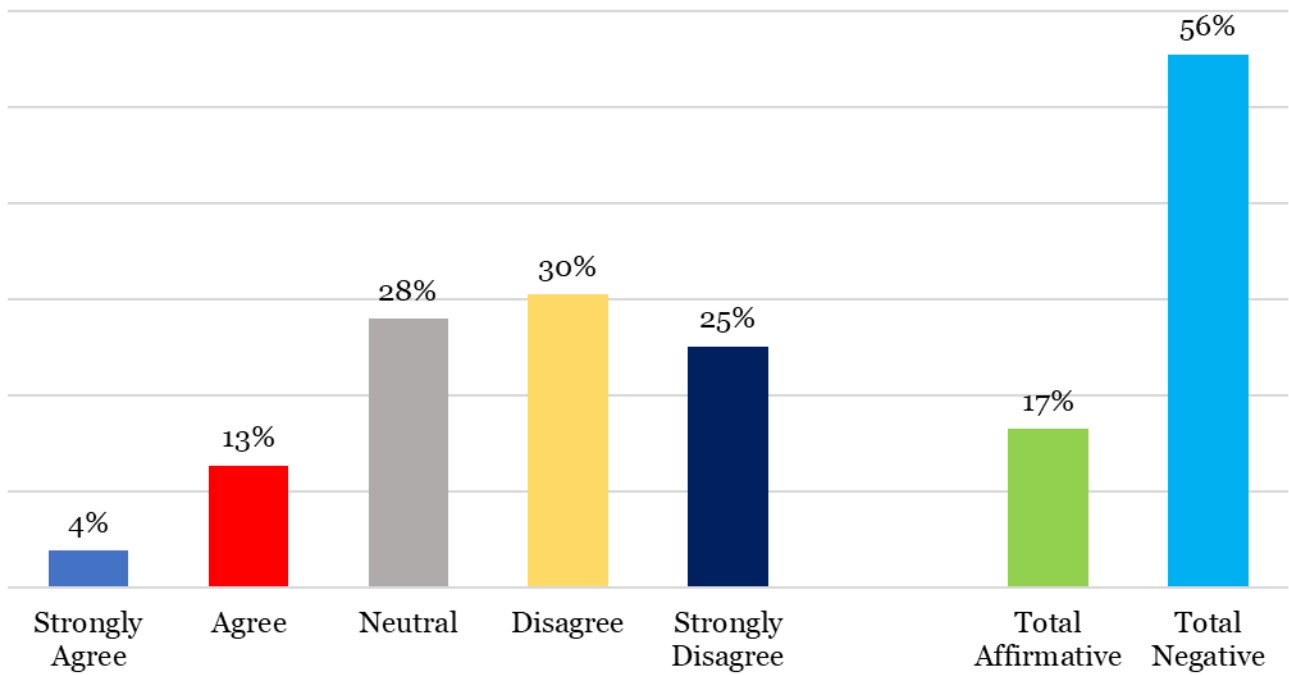
## Harmony

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

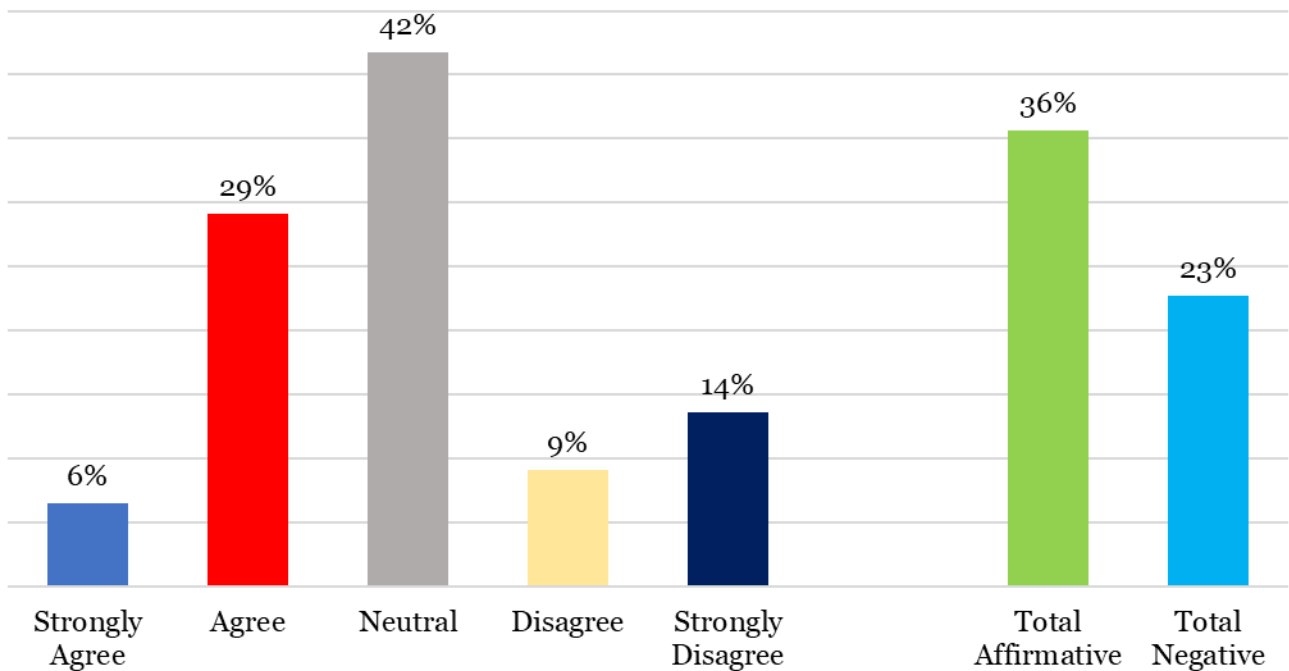


<sup>2</sup> “Total Affirmative” combines “Strongly Agree” and “Agree.” “Total Negative” combines “Strongly Disagree” and “Disagree.” Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of responses per question.

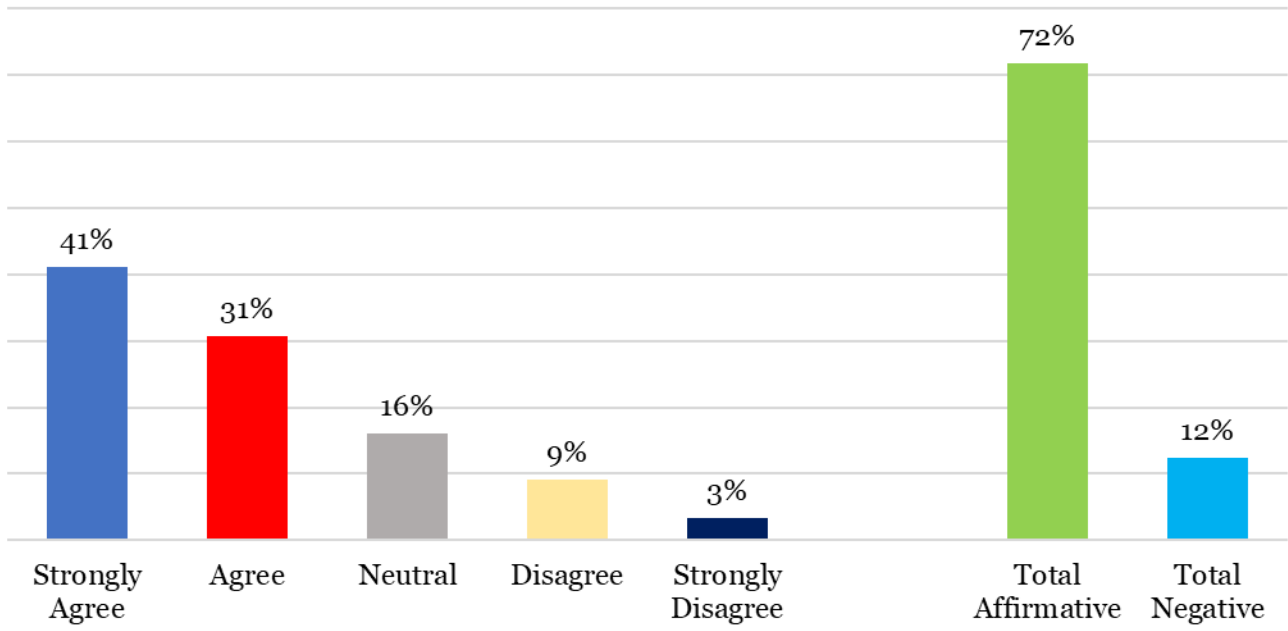
### Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.



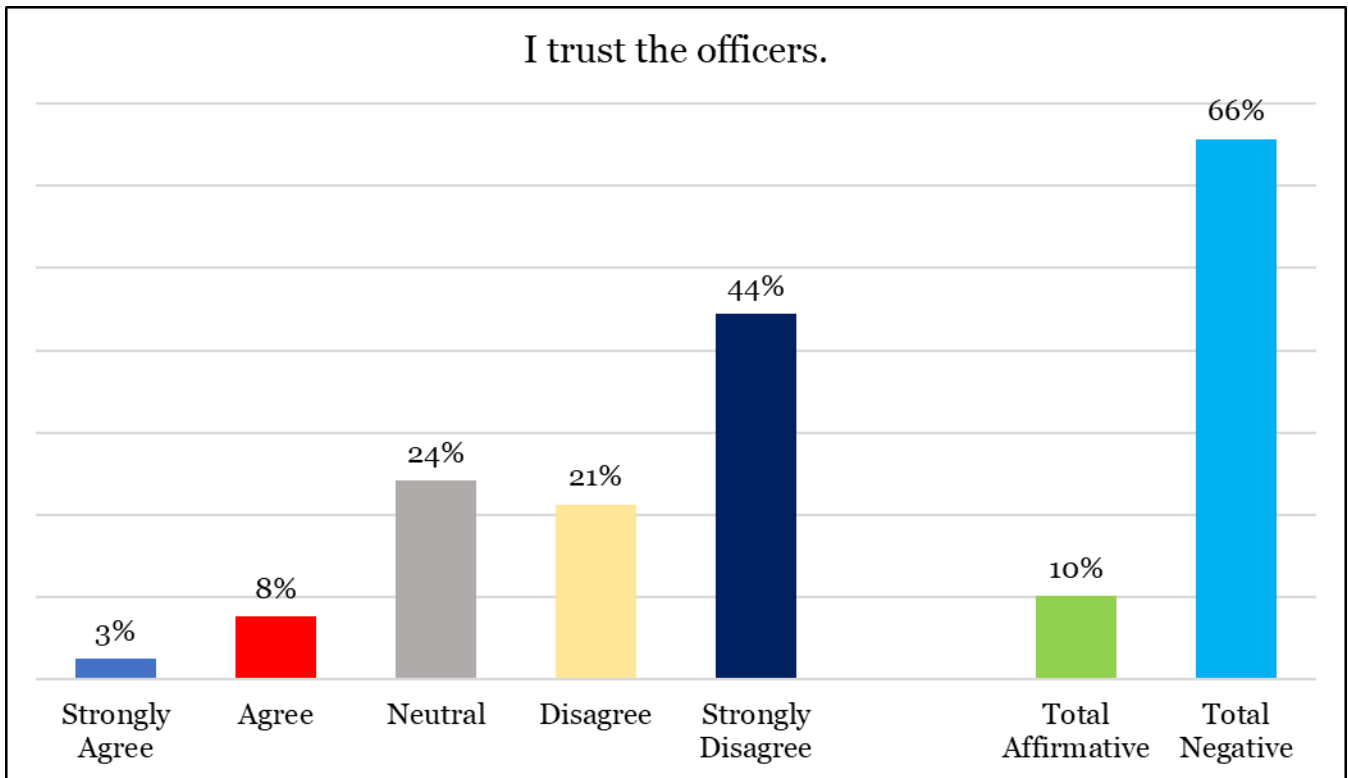
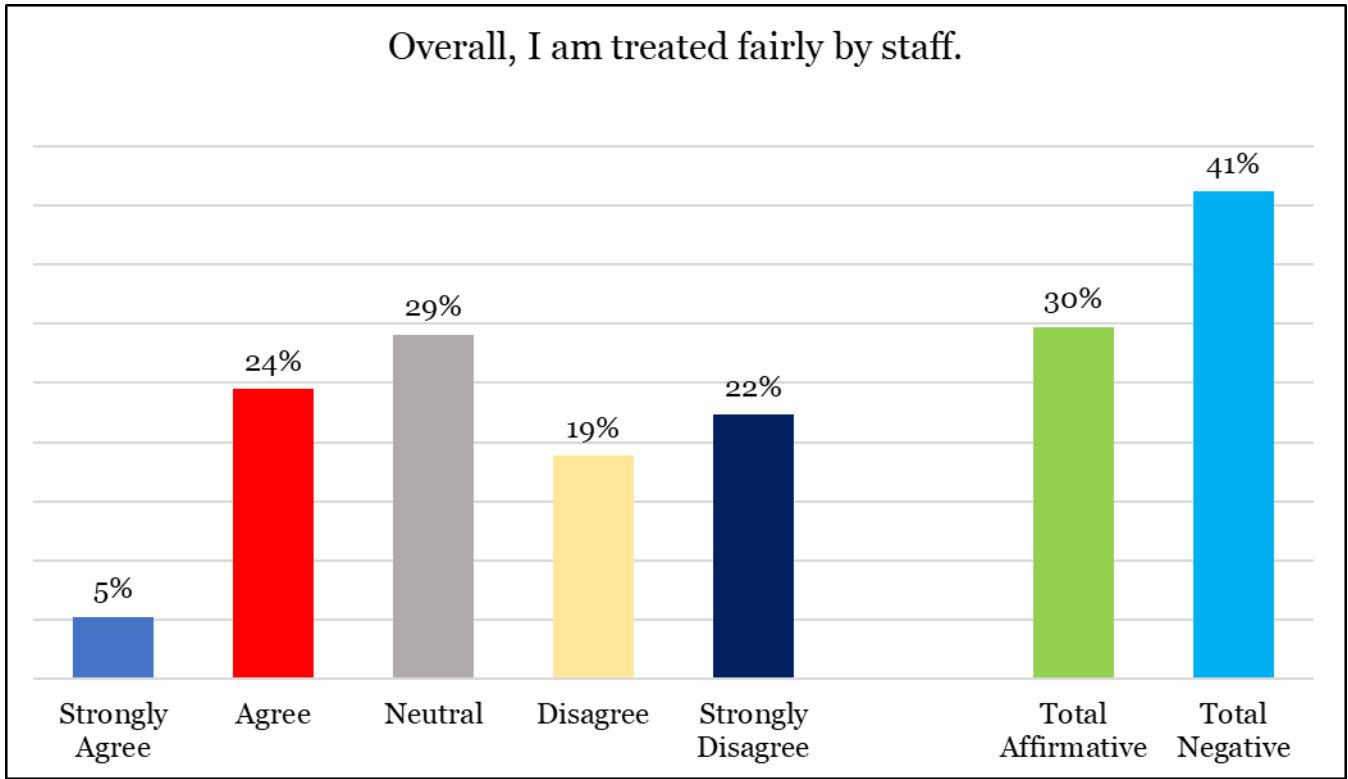
### I get along well with the officers on my unit.



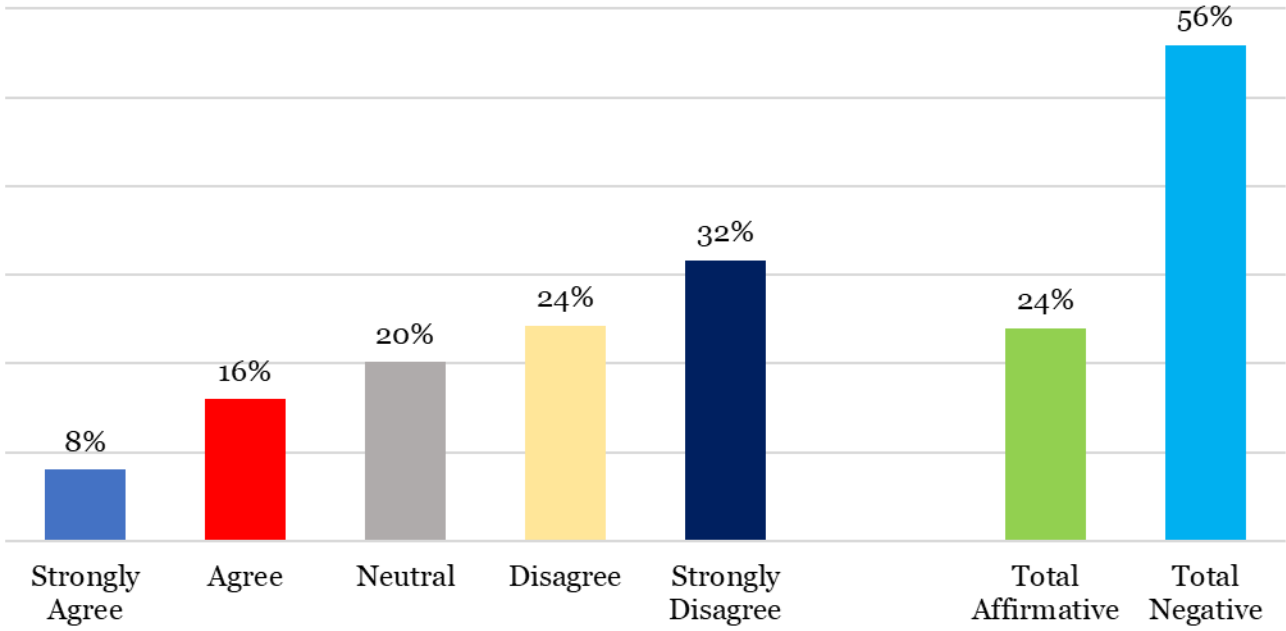
### Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.



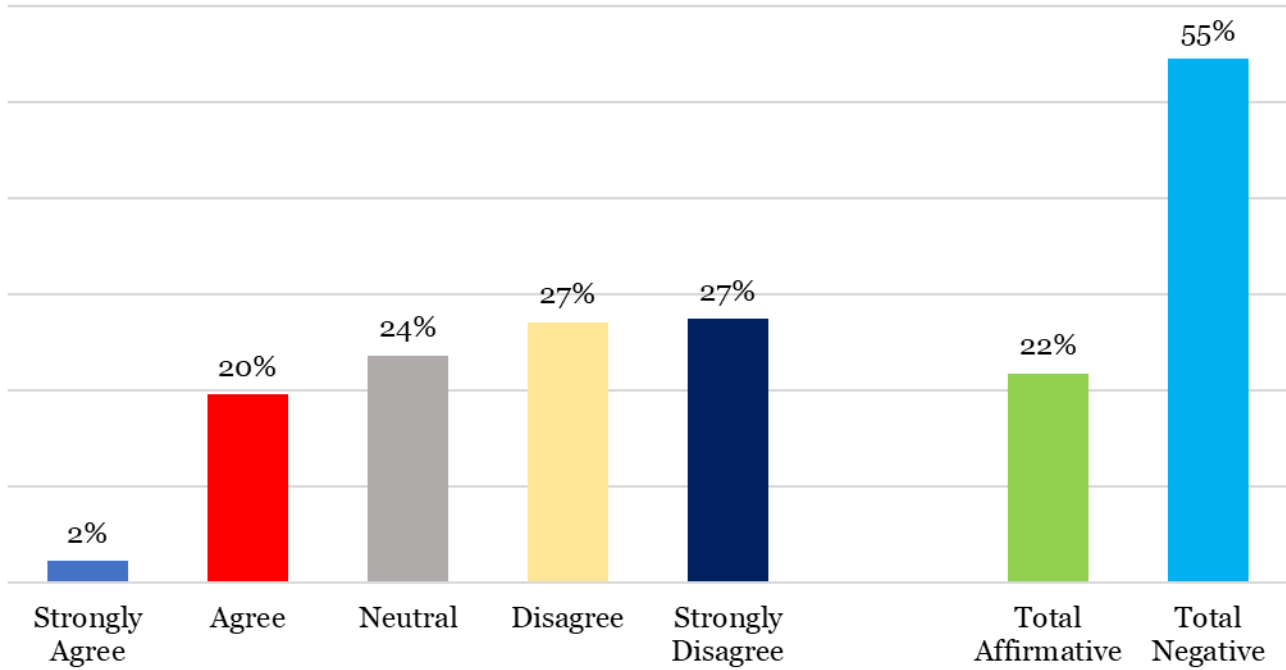
**STAFF-INCARCERATED PEOPLE RELATIONSHIPS – TRUSTING, FAIR AND SUPPORTIVE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN STAFF AND INCARCERATED PEOPLE**



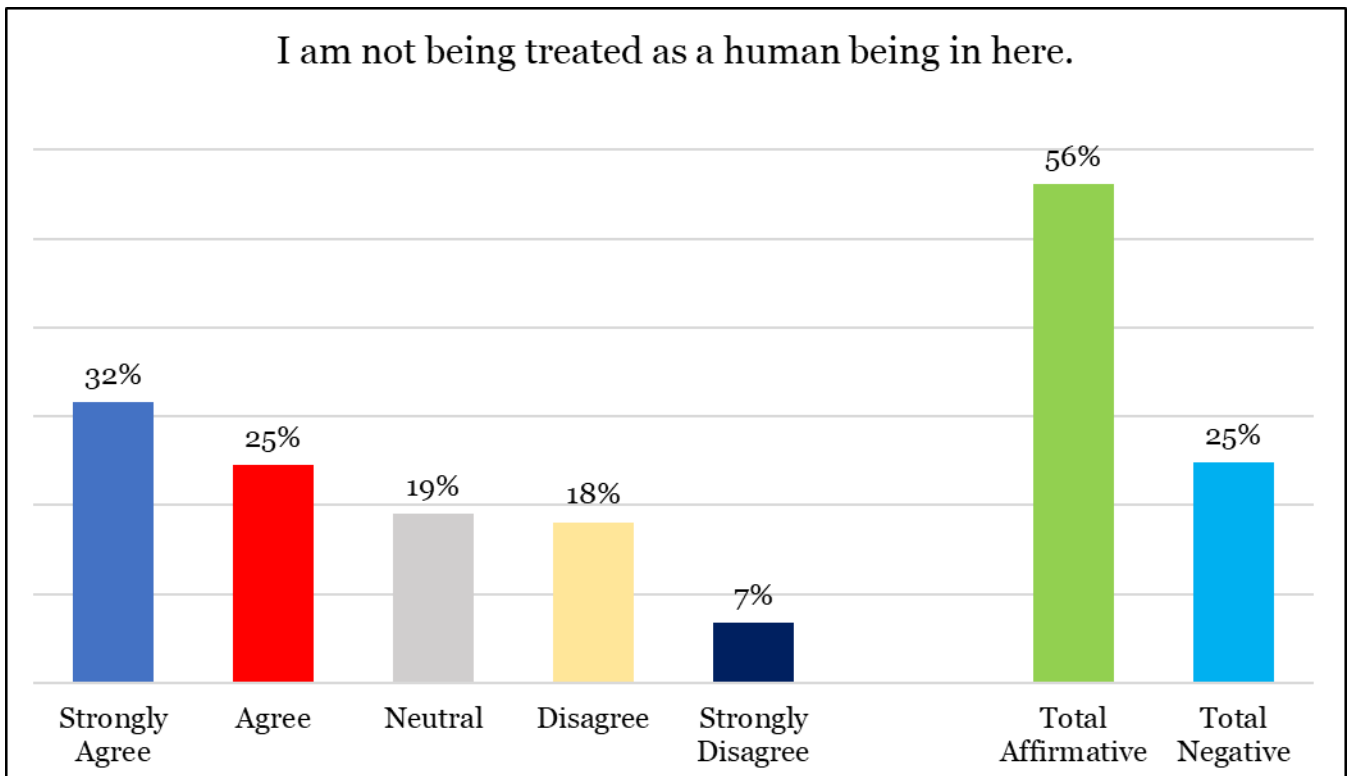
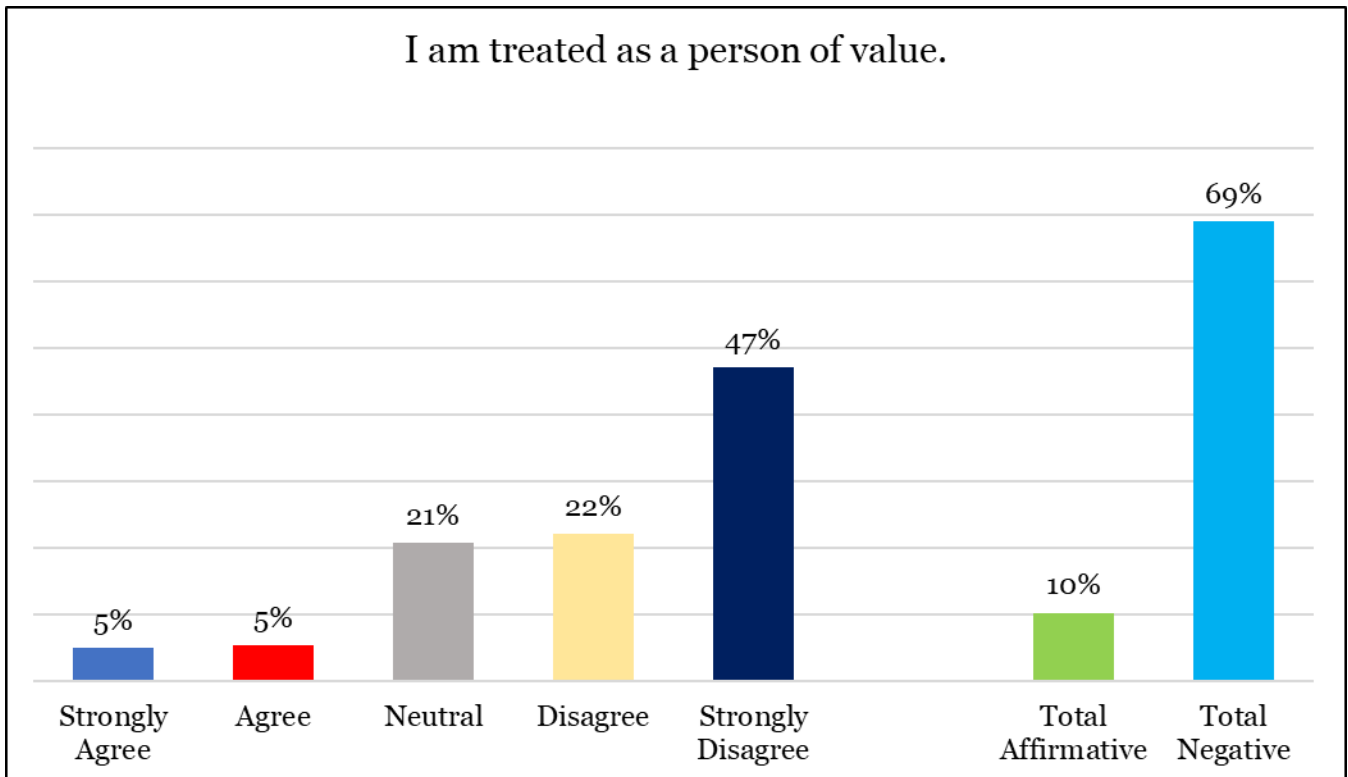
When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.



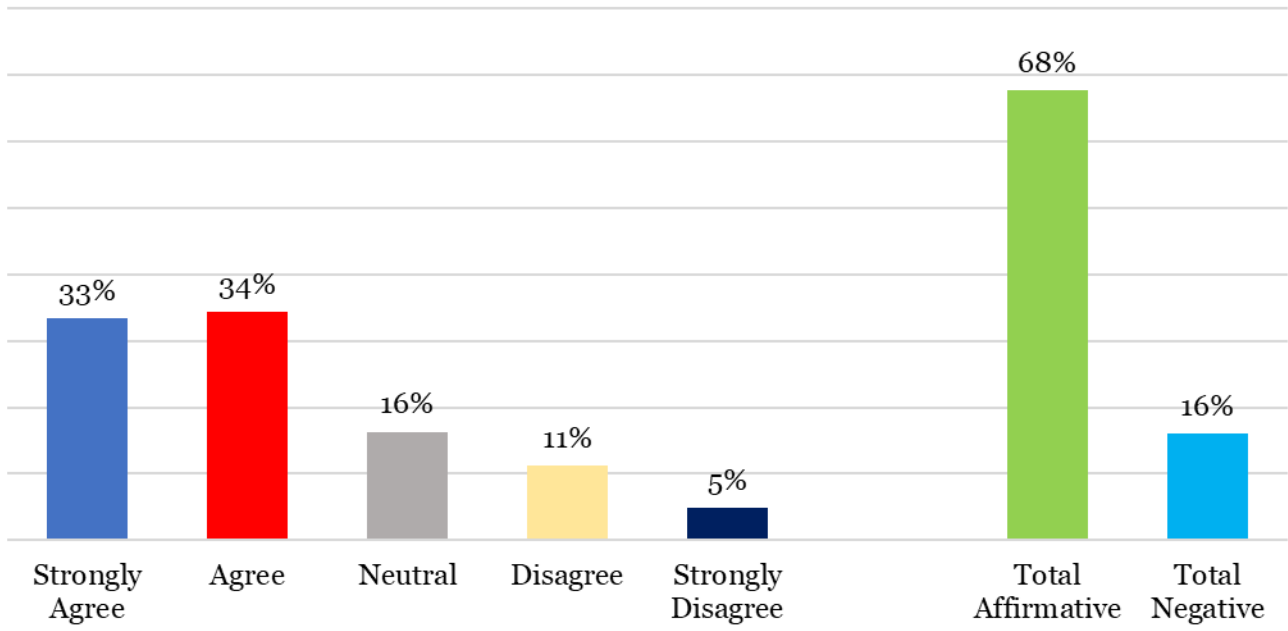
I receive support from staff when I need it.



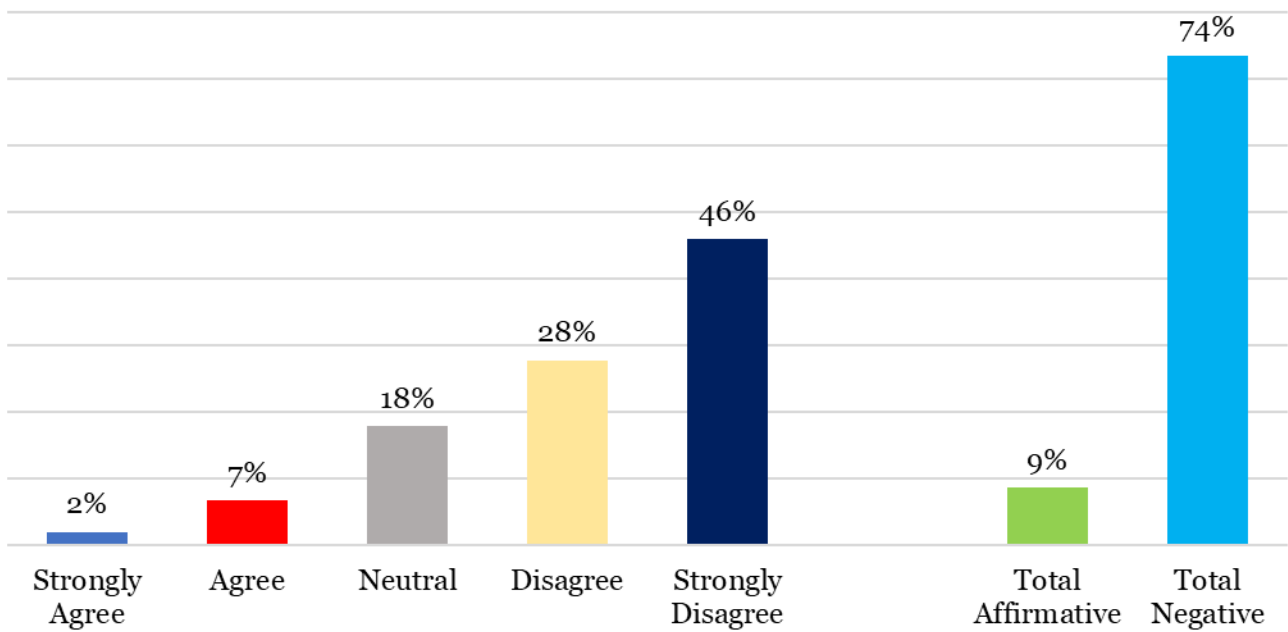
**HUMANITY** – AN ENVIRONMENT CHARACTERIZED BY KIND REGARD AND CONCERN FOR THE PERSON, WHICH RECOGNIZES THE VALUE AND HUMANITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL



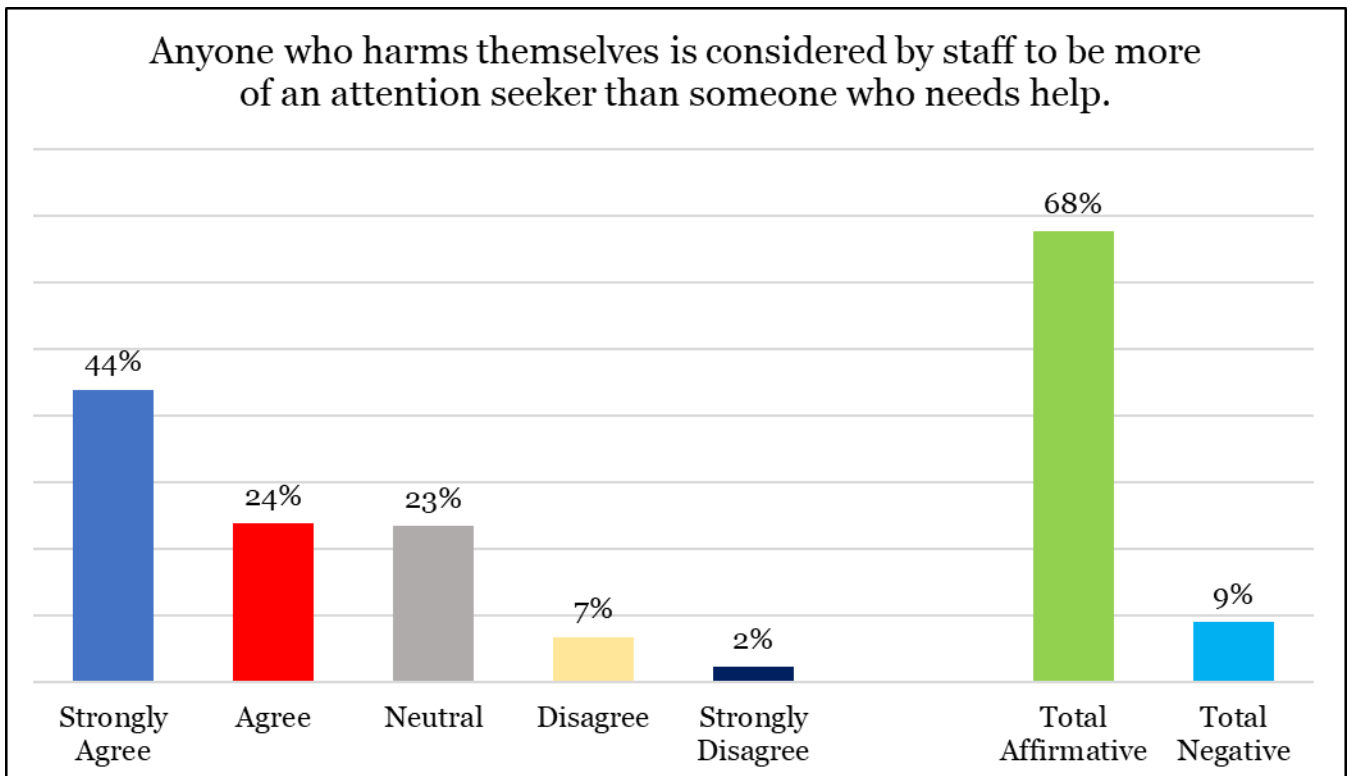
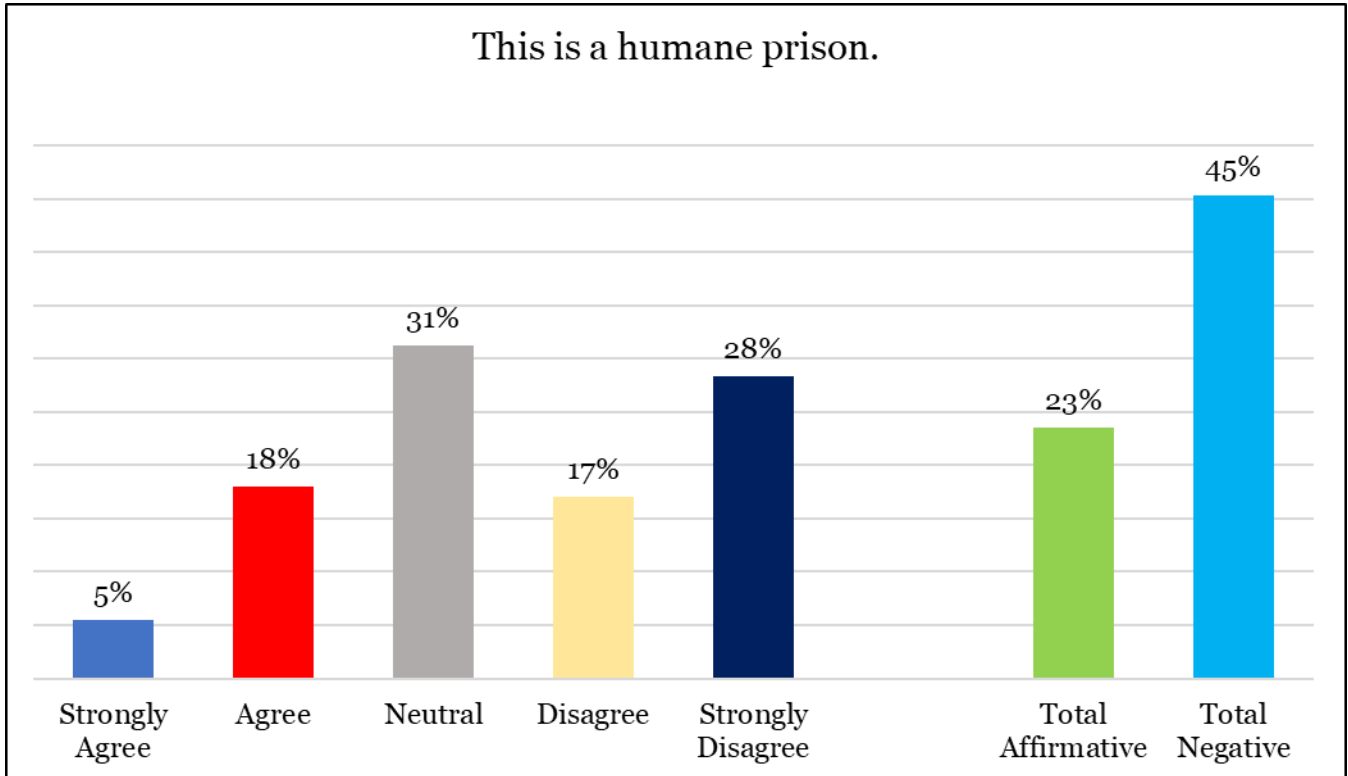
### Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.



### Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.

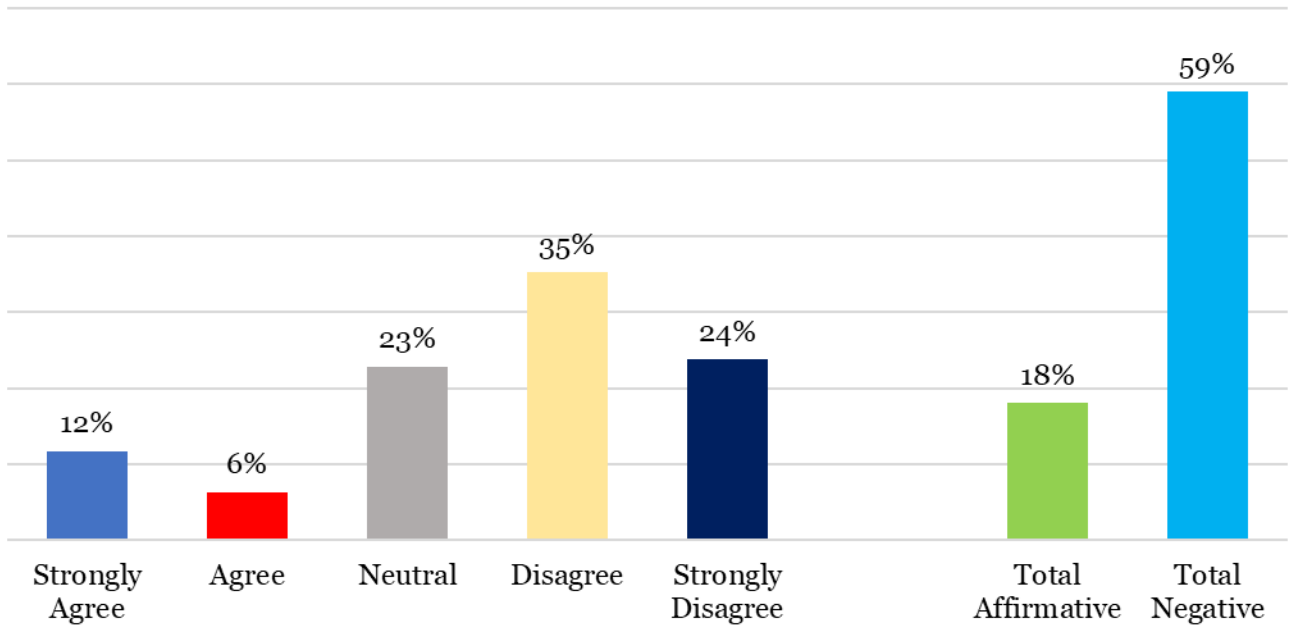


**DECENCY - THE EXTENT TO WHICH STAFF AND THE REGIME ARE CONSIDERED REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE**

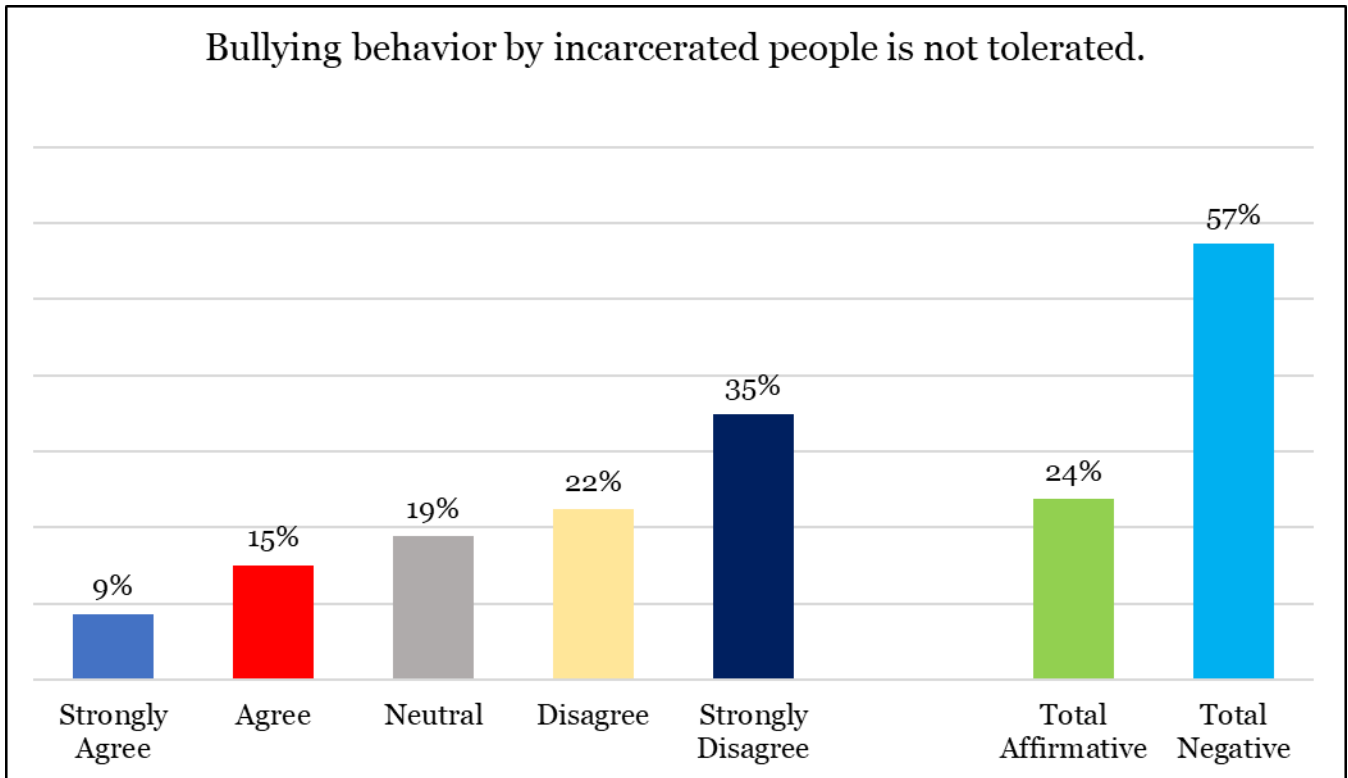




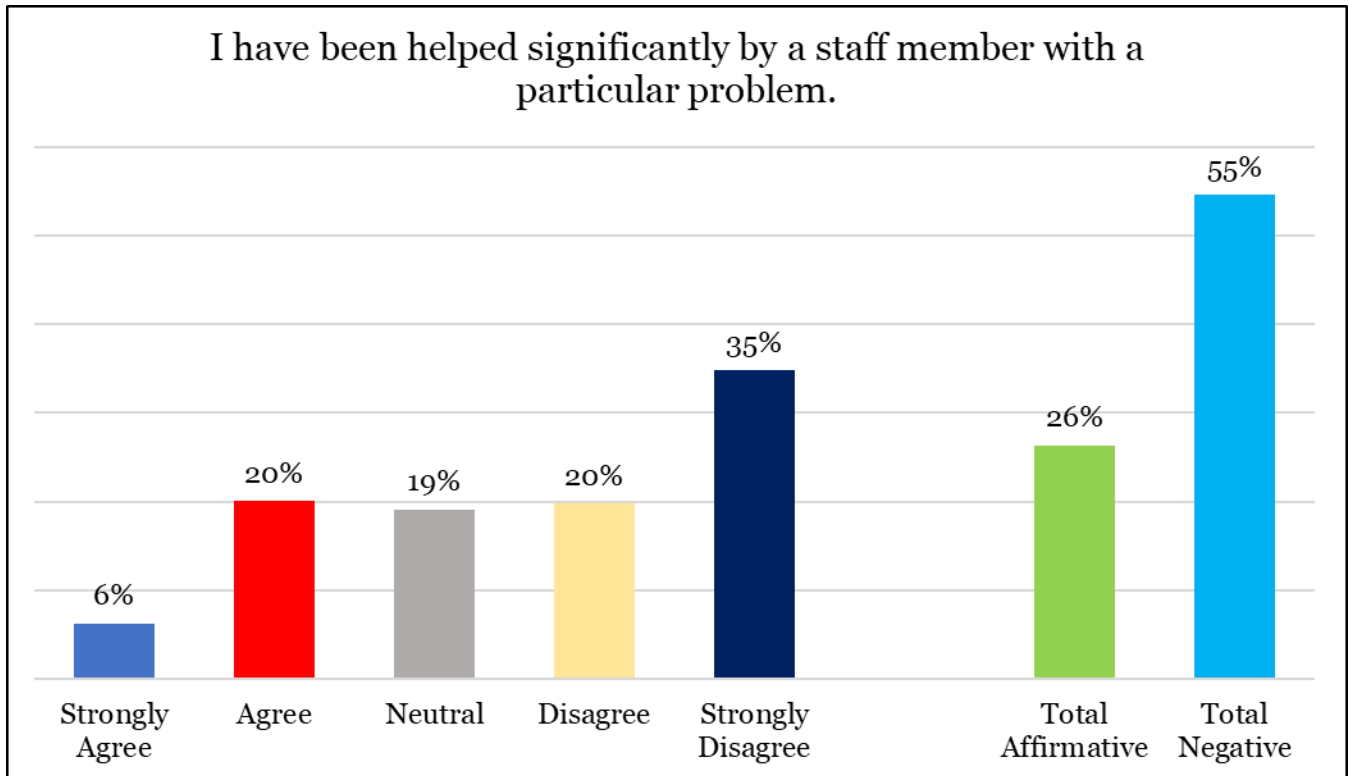
Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.



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

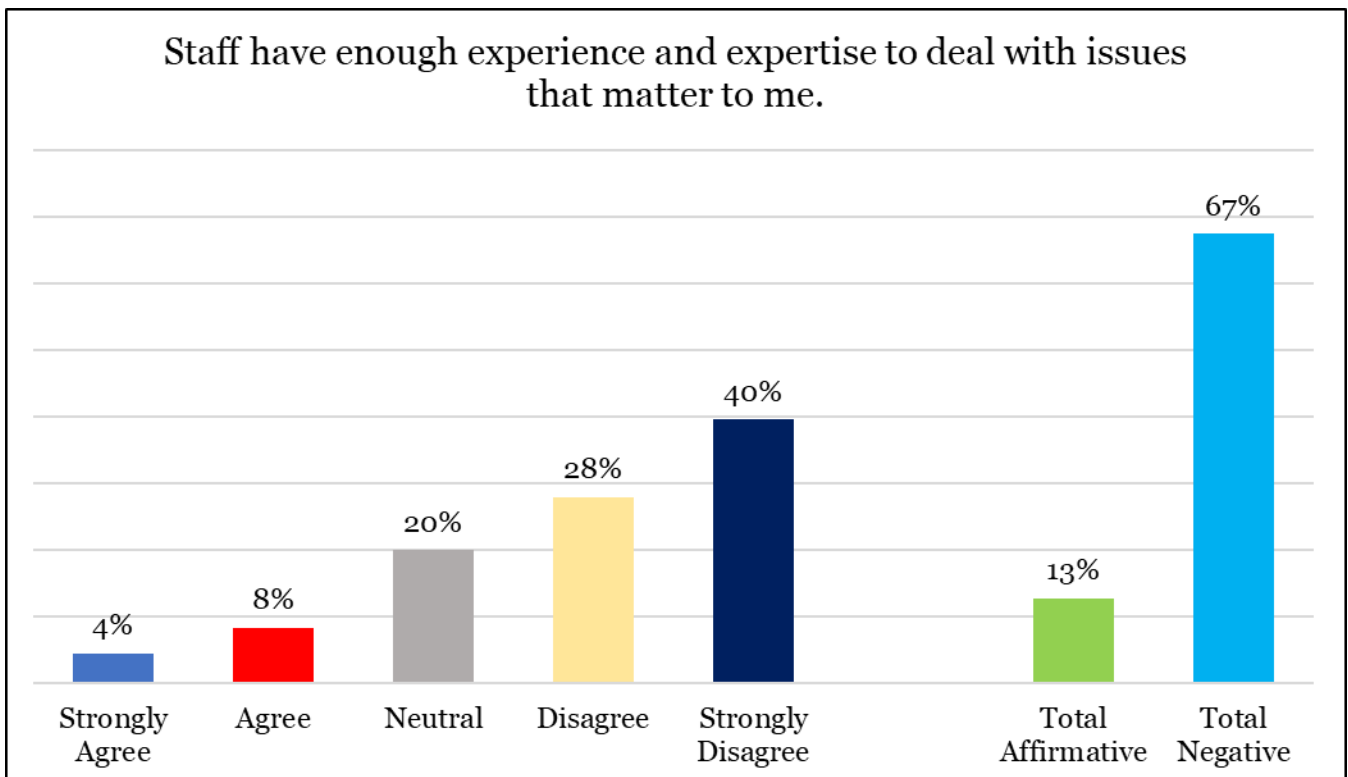
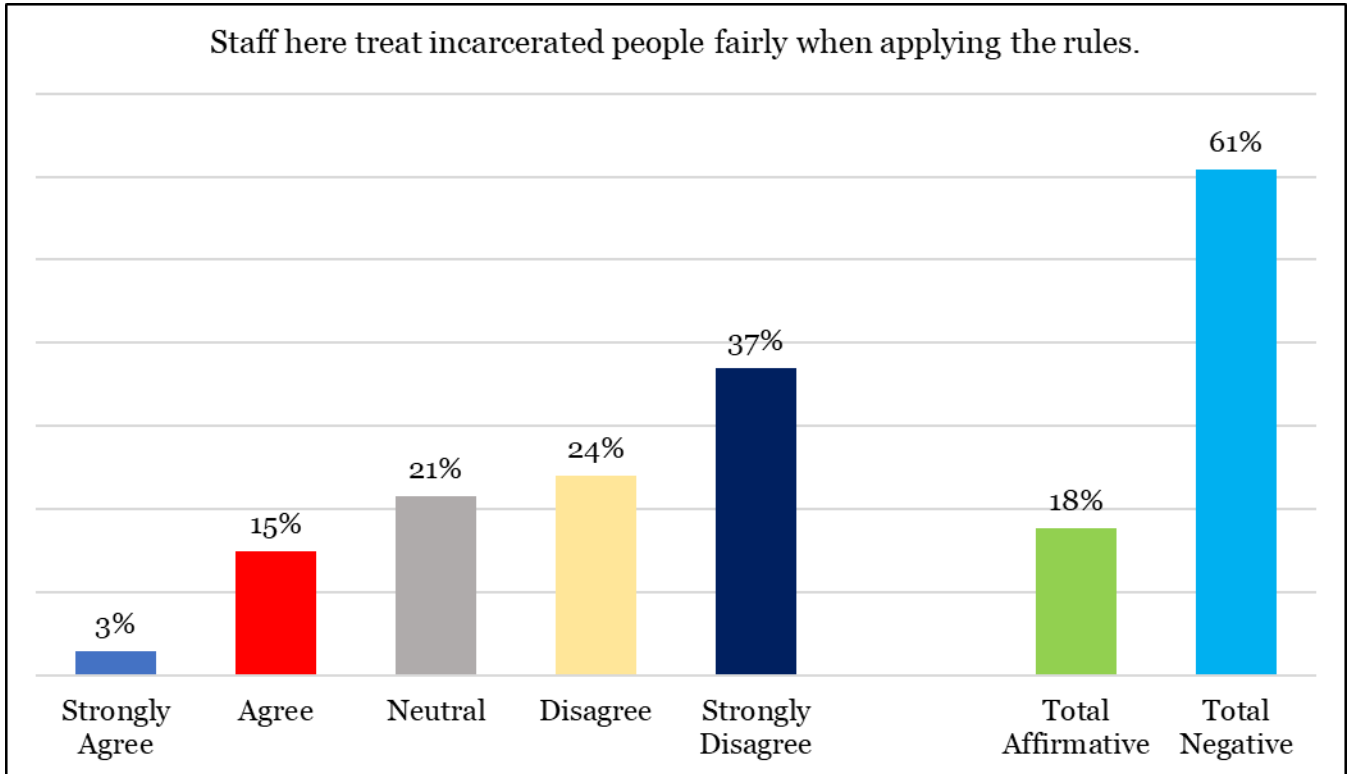


**HELP AND ASSISTANCE – SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN TO INCARCERATED PEOPLE FOR PROBLEMS INCLUDING DRUGS, HEALTHCARE AND PROGRESSION**

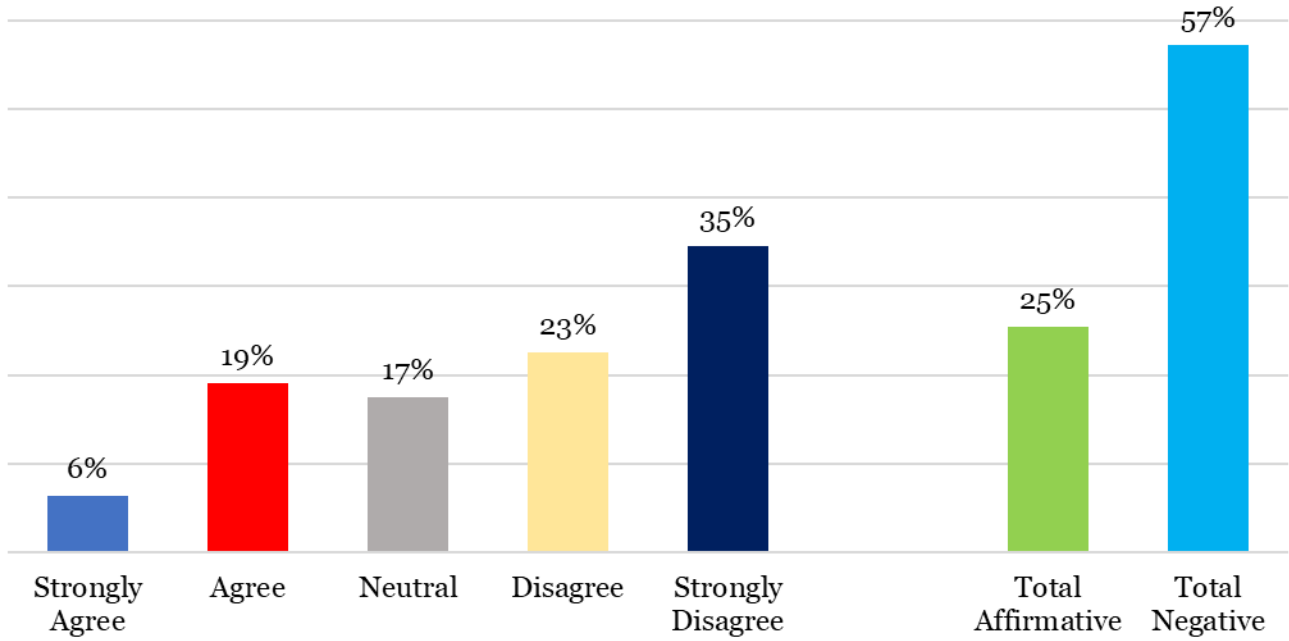


# Professionalism

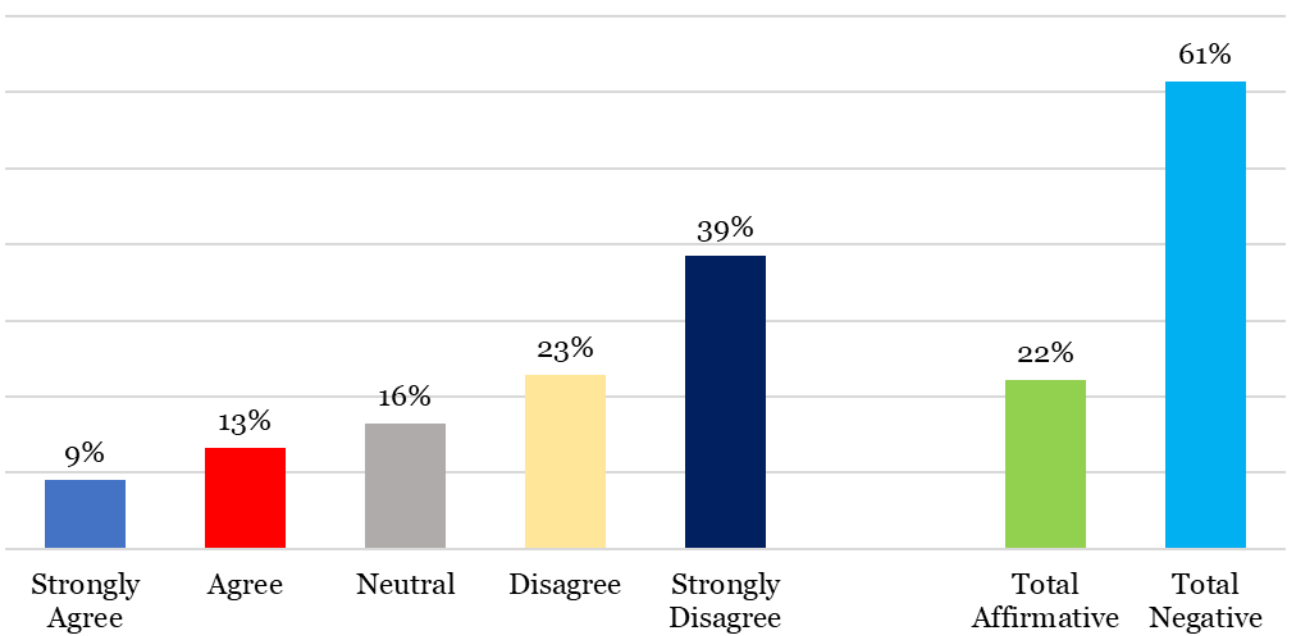
## STAFF PROFESSIONALISM – STAFF CONFIDENCE AND COMPETENCE IN THE USE OF AUTHORITY



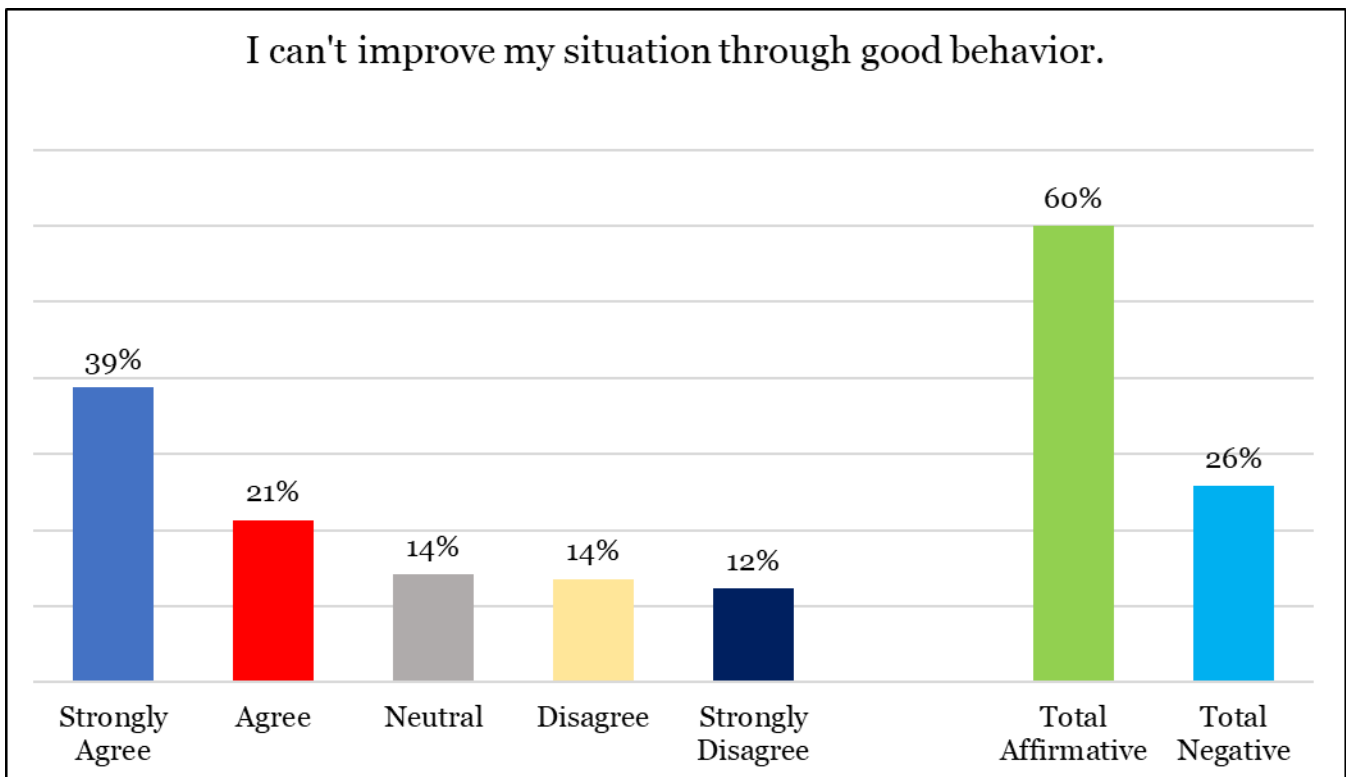
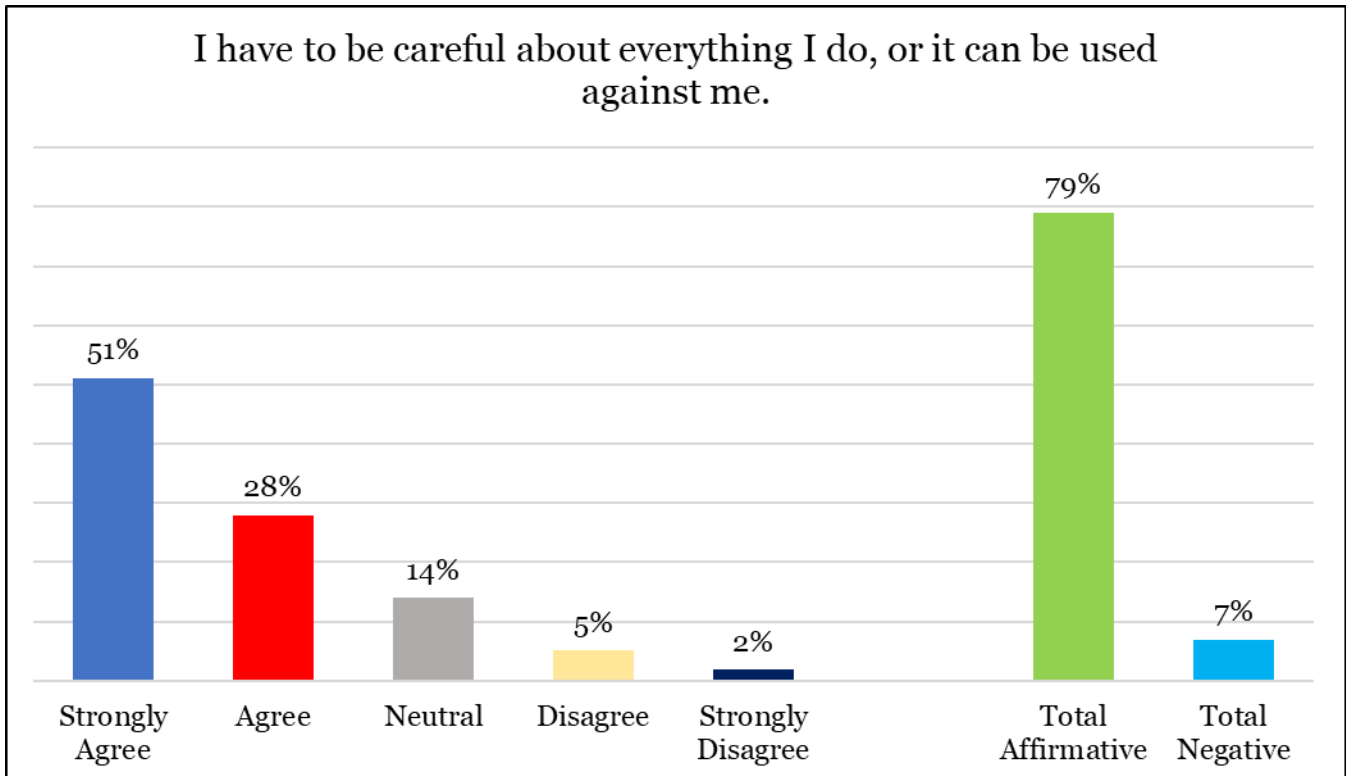
The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.



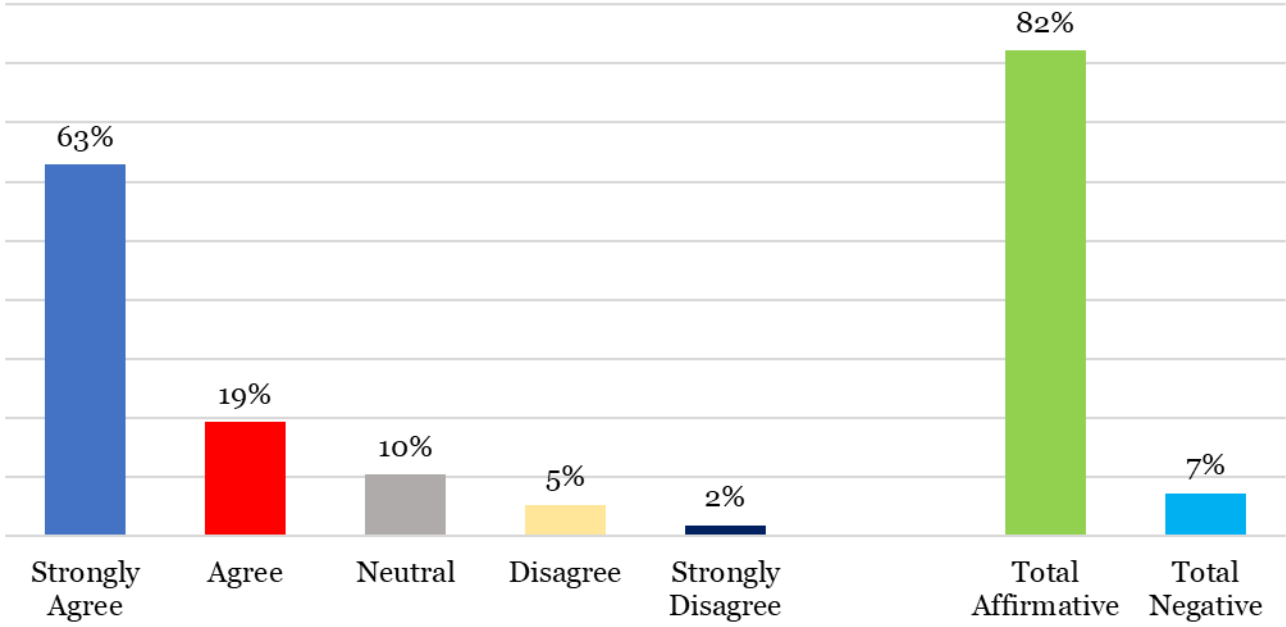
If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.



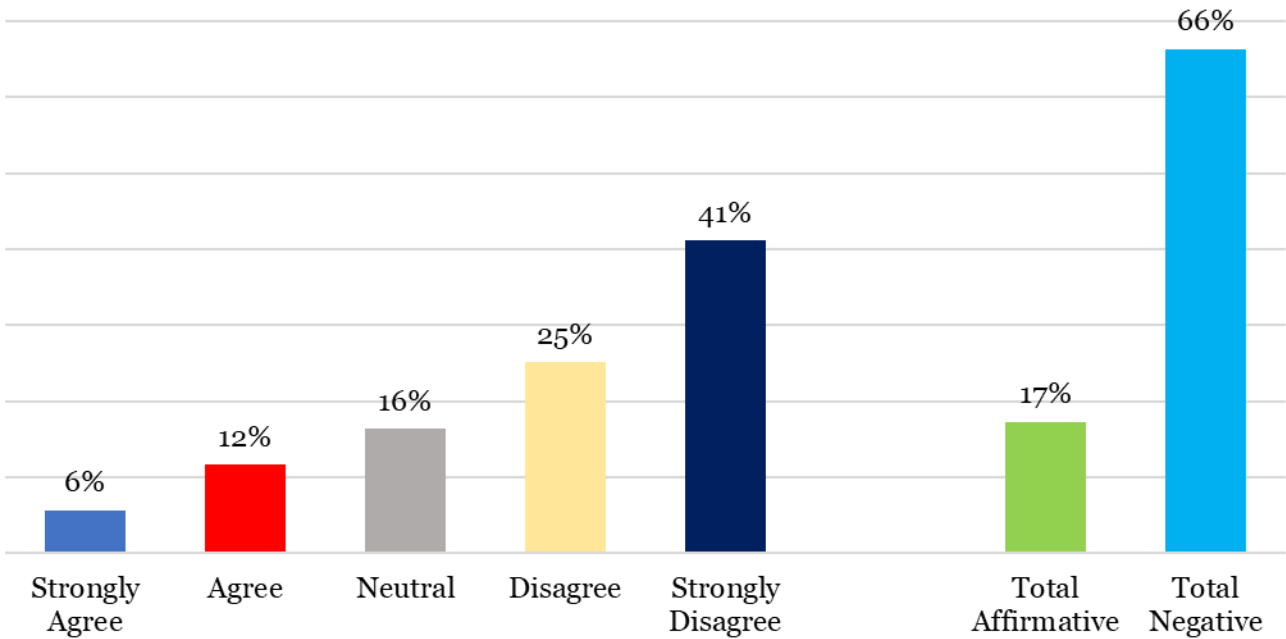
**BUREAUCRATIC LEGITIMACY – THE TRANSPARENCY AND RESPONSIVENESS OF THE PRISON/PRISON SYSTEM AND ITS MORAL RECOGNITION OF THE INDIVIDUAL**



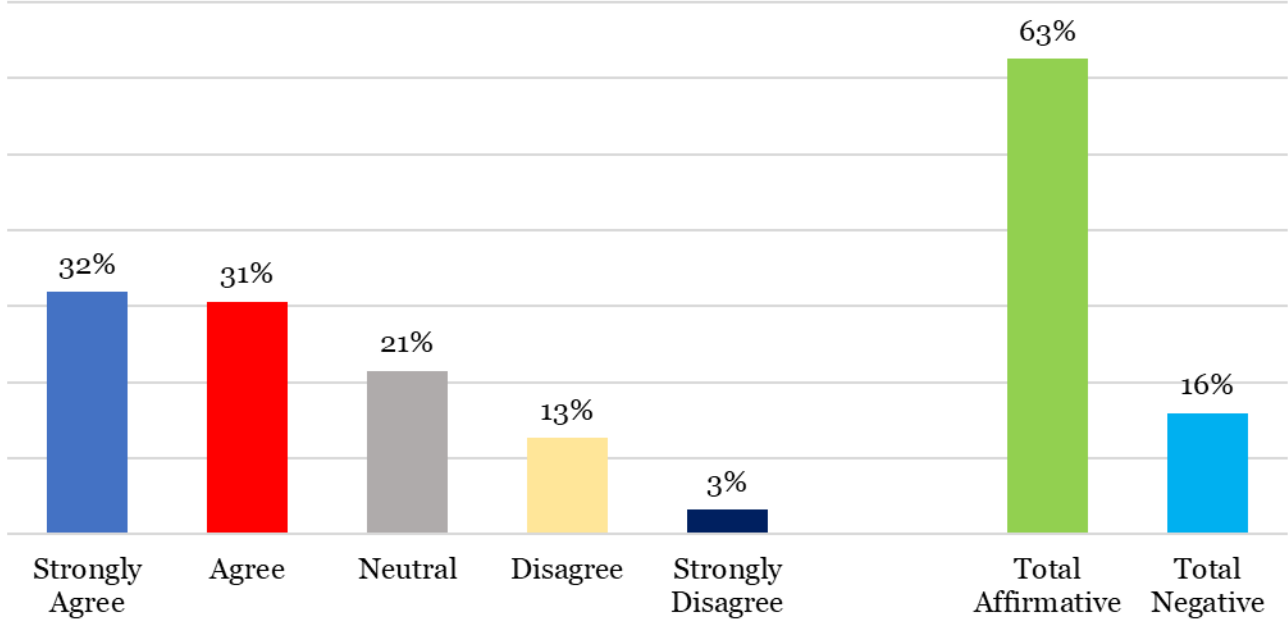
All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.



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

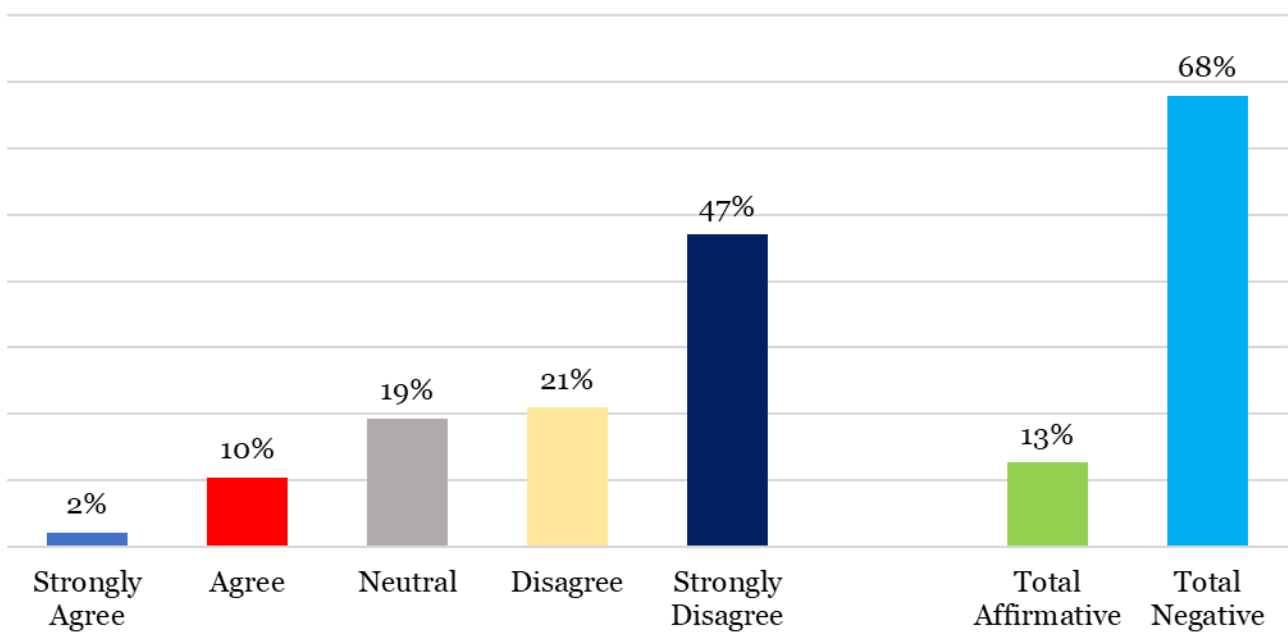


To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.



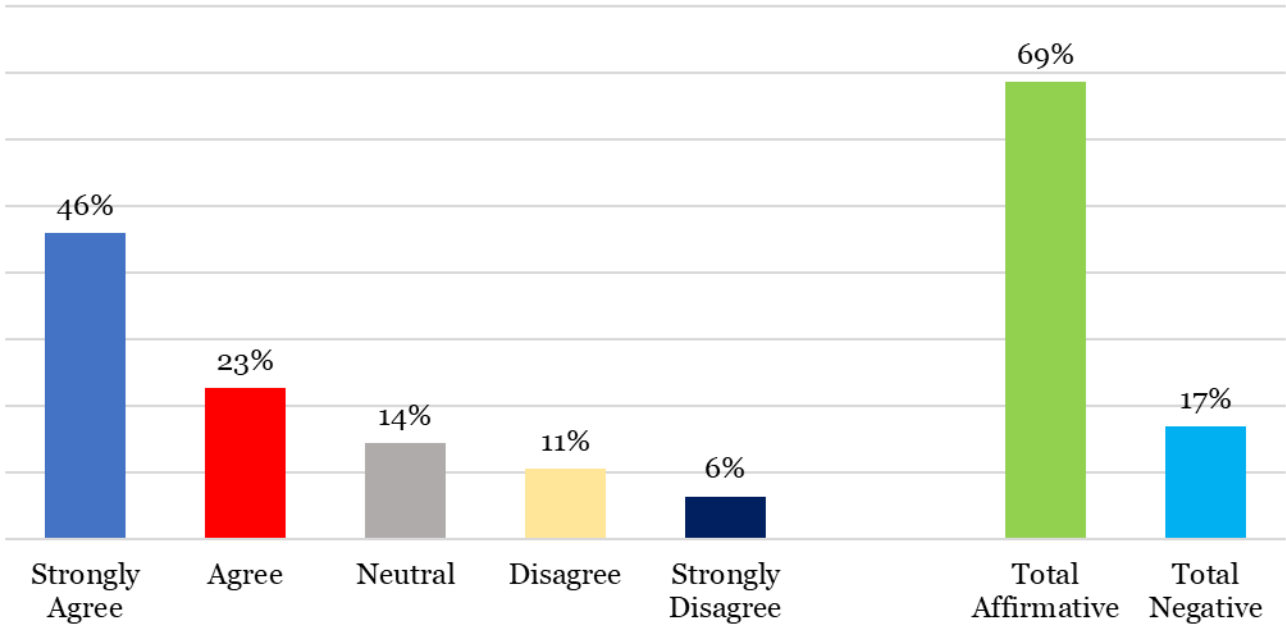
**FAIRNESS** – THE PERCEIVED IMPARTIALITY, PROPORTIONALITY AND LEGALITY OF PUNISHMENTS AND PROCEDURES

The disciplinary system is fair.

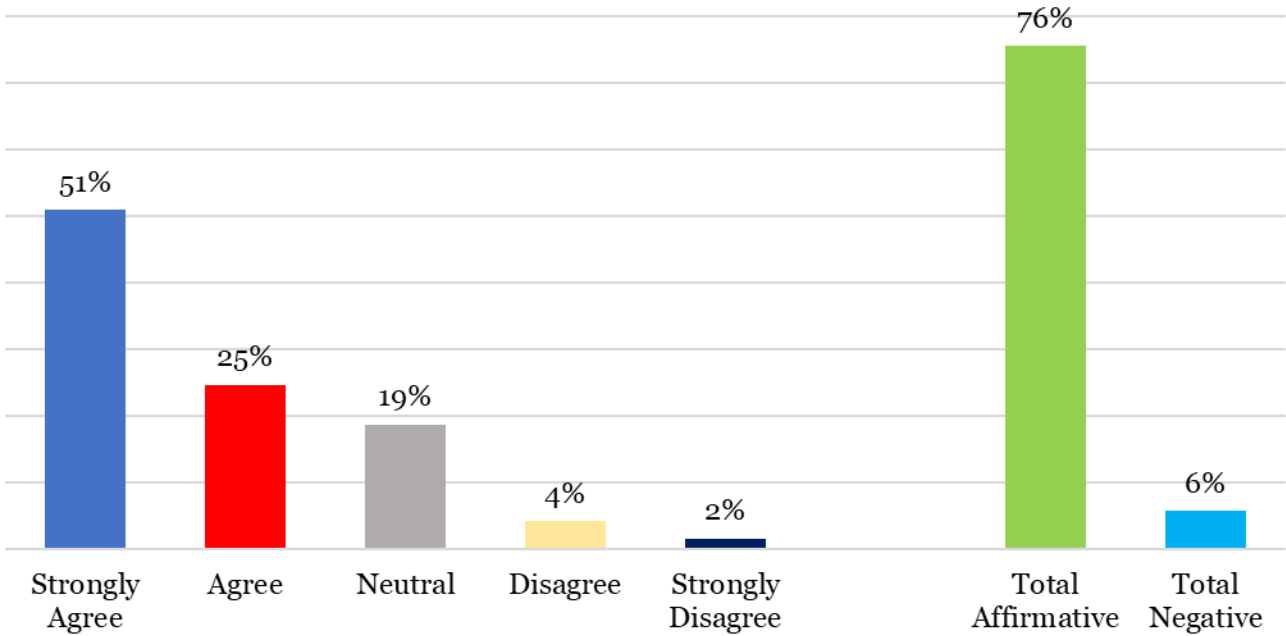




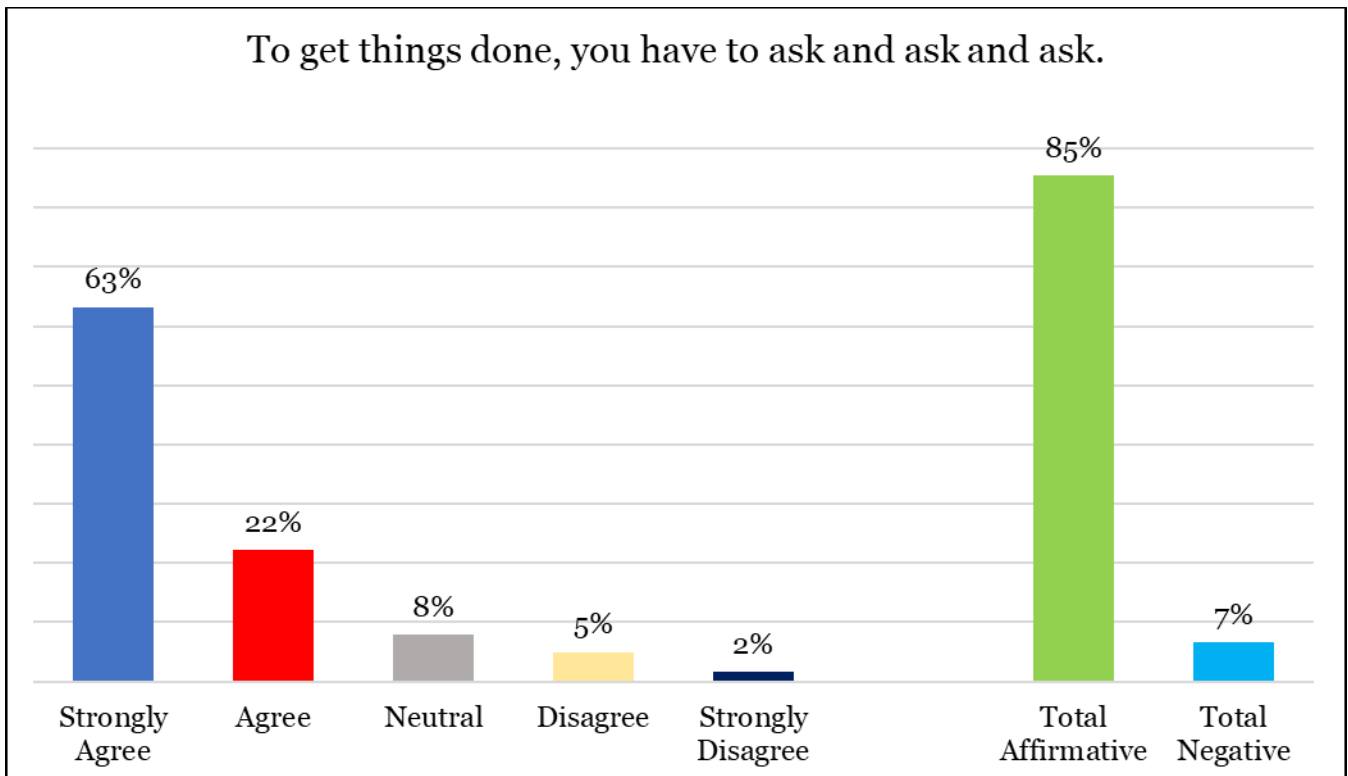
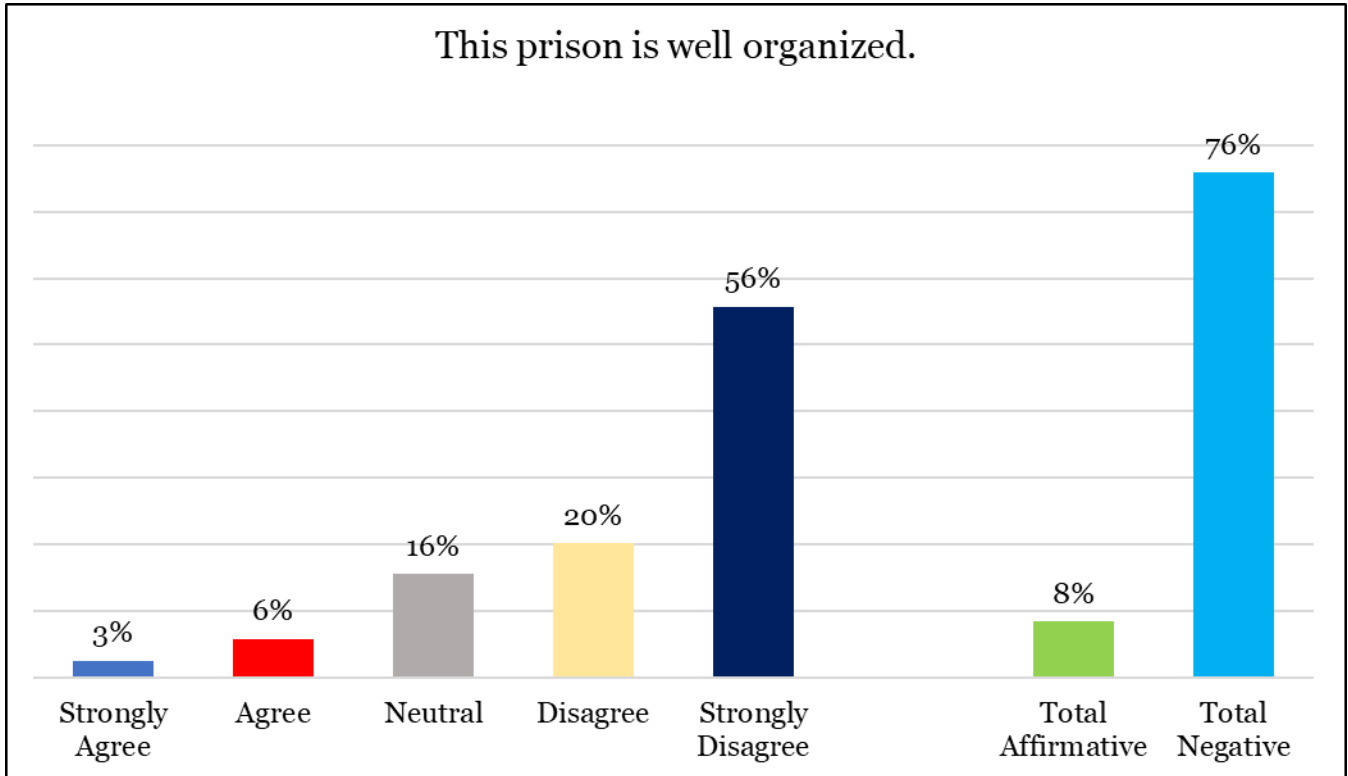
Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.



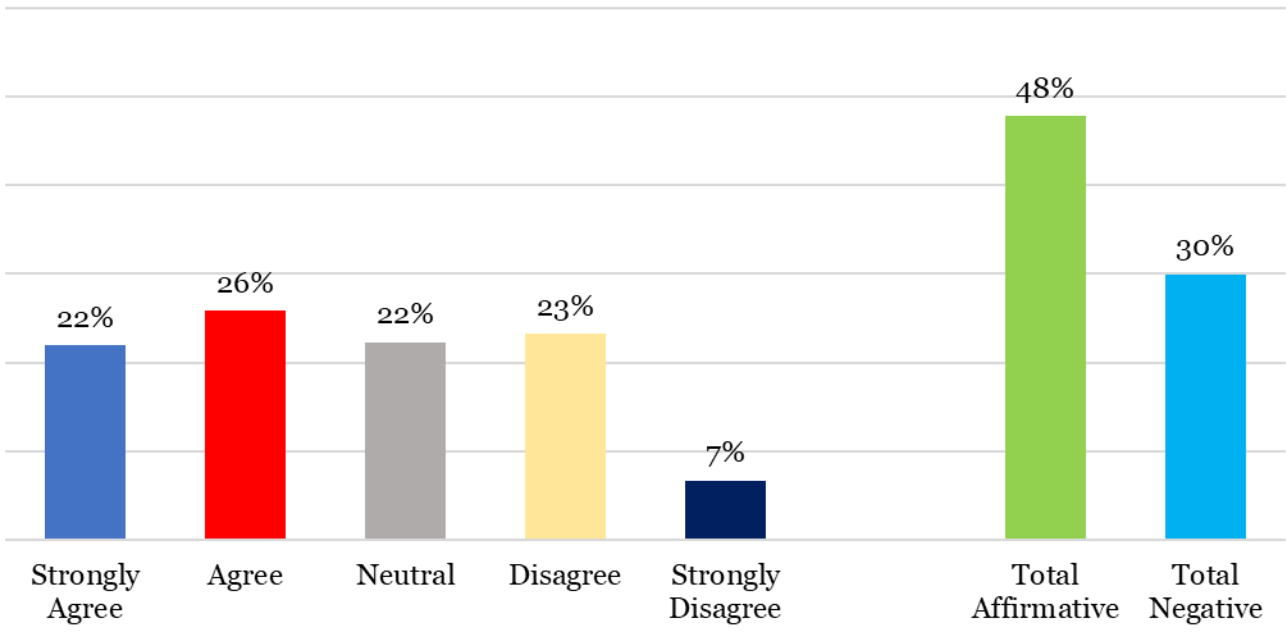
This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.



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

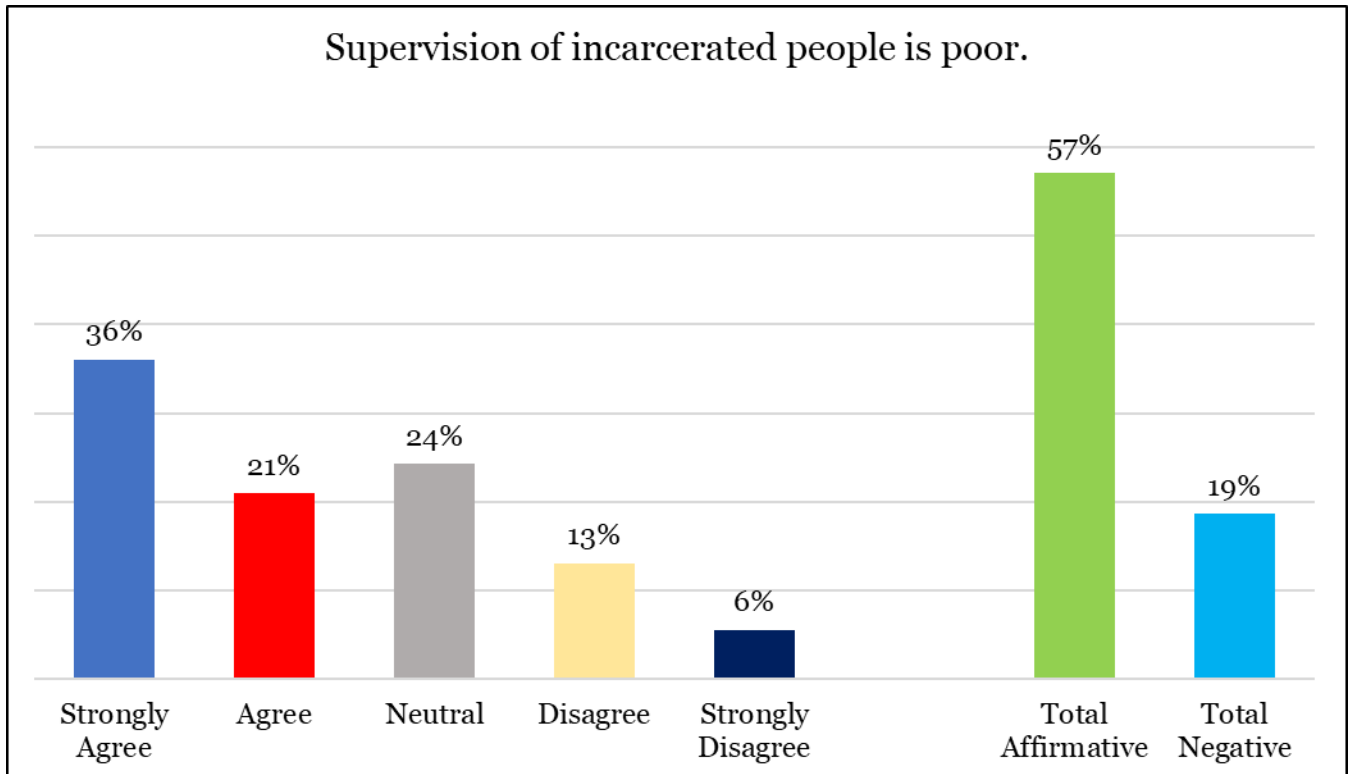


### You never know the rules.

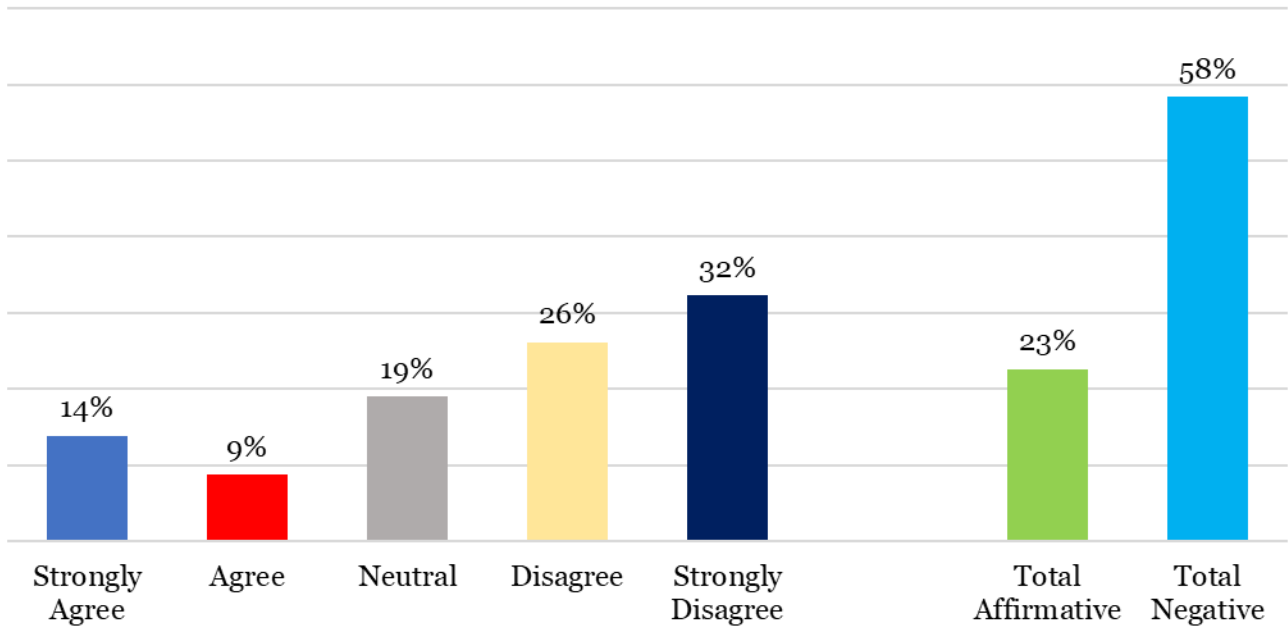


# Security

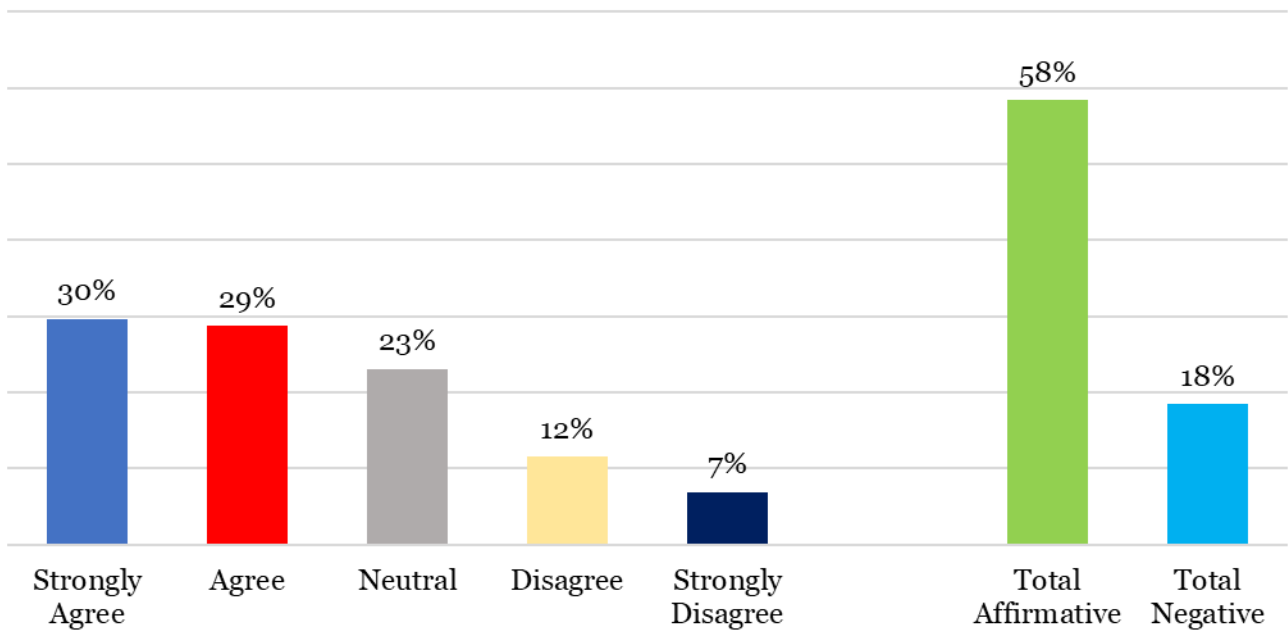
## POLICING AND SECURITY – STAFF SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT



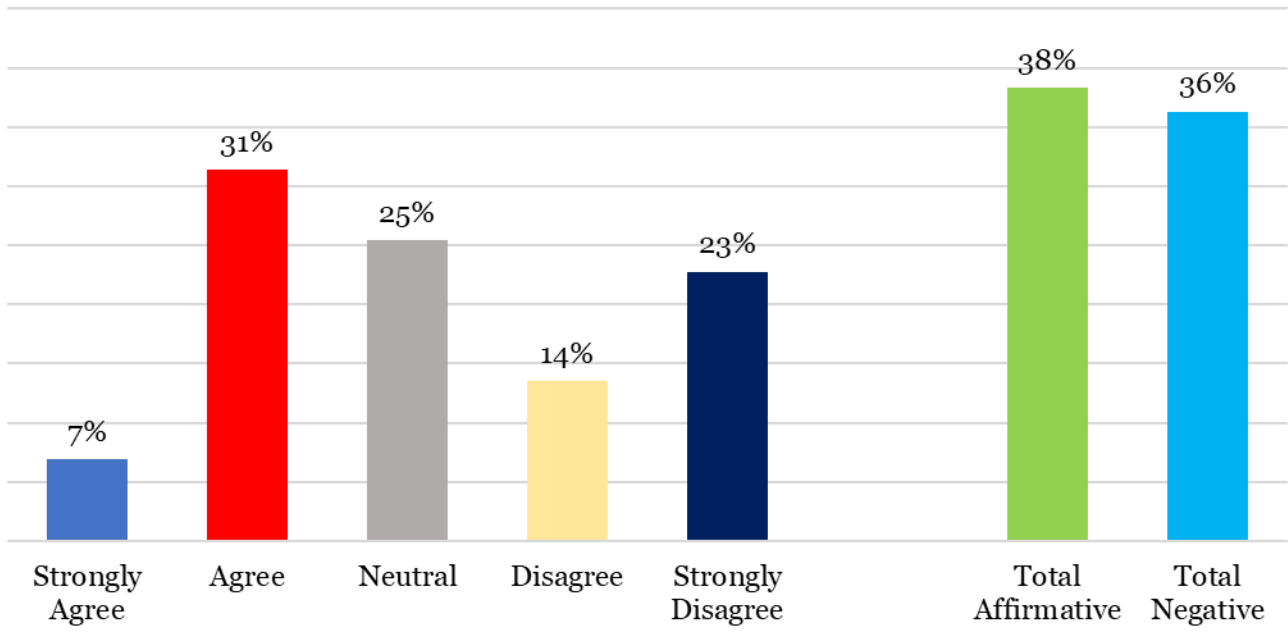
This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.



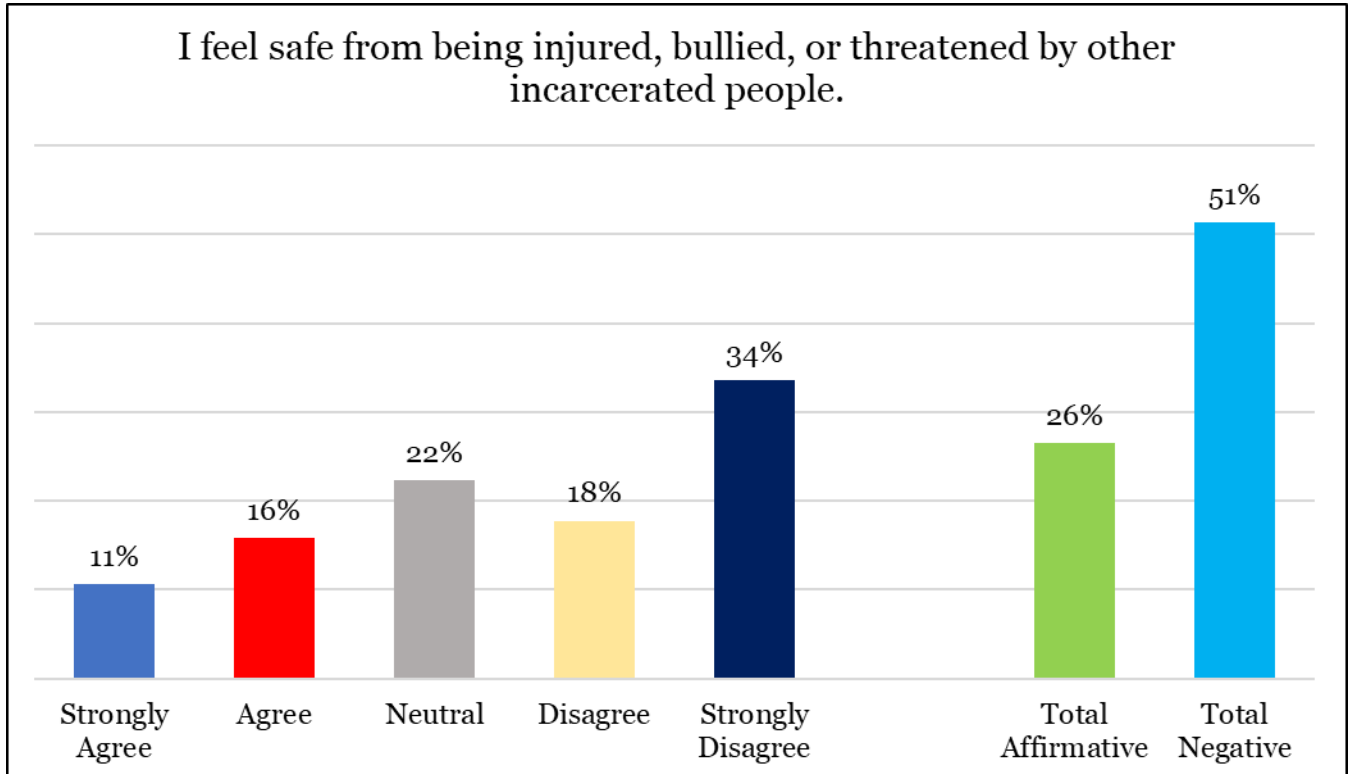
There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.



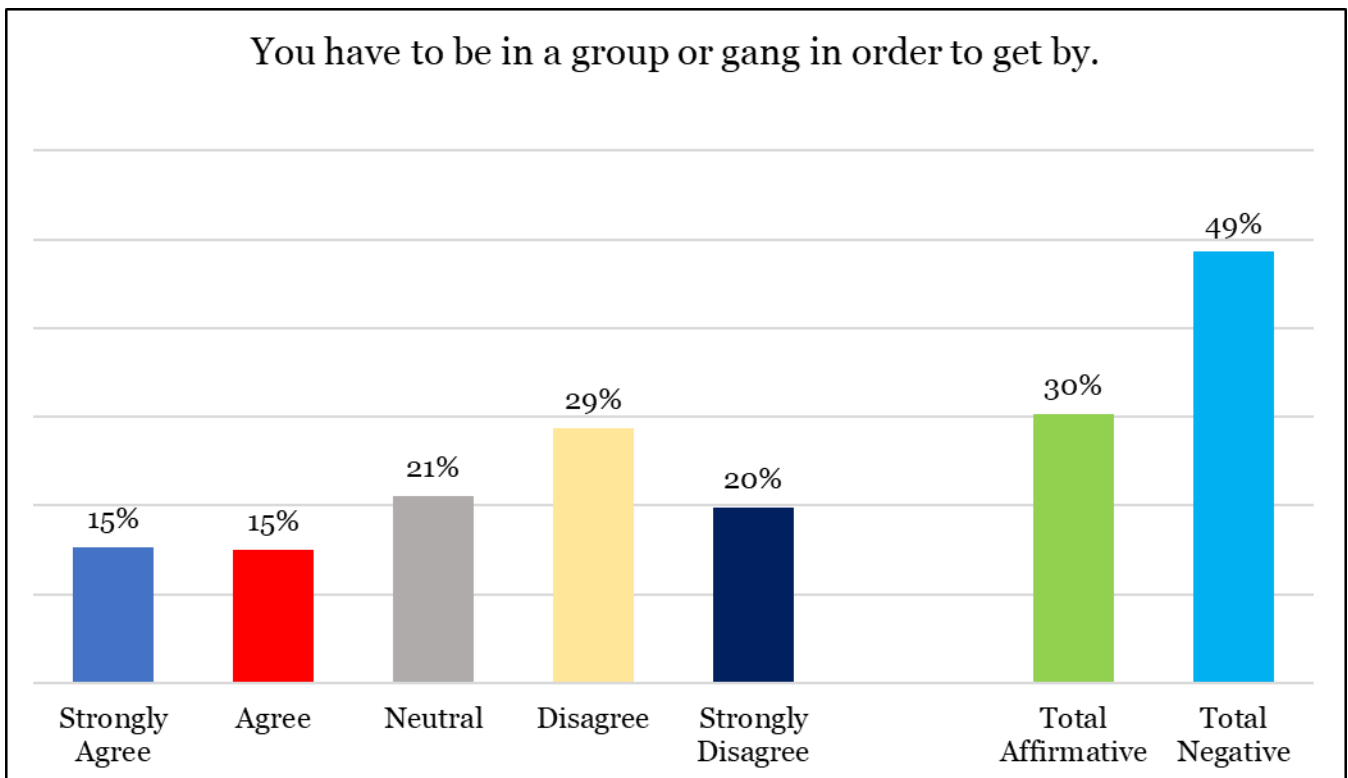
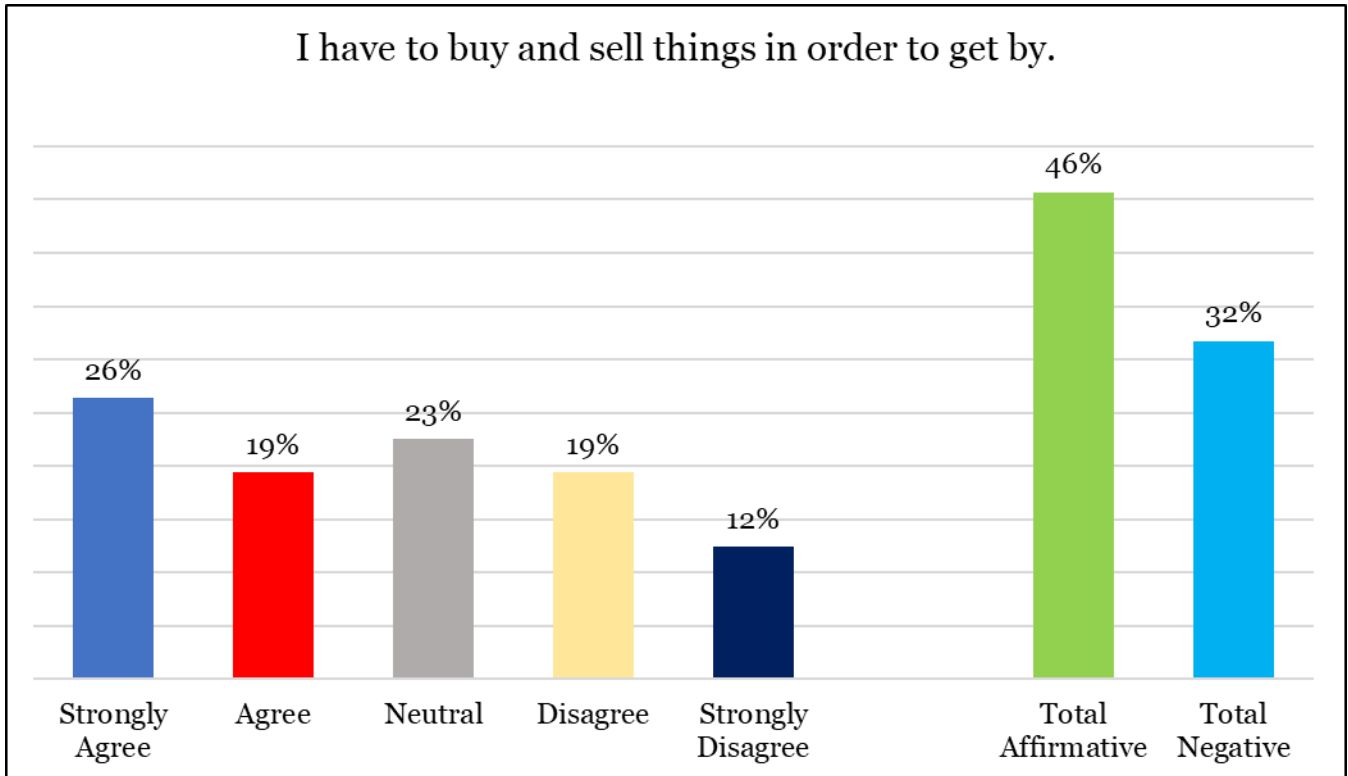
### Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.



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

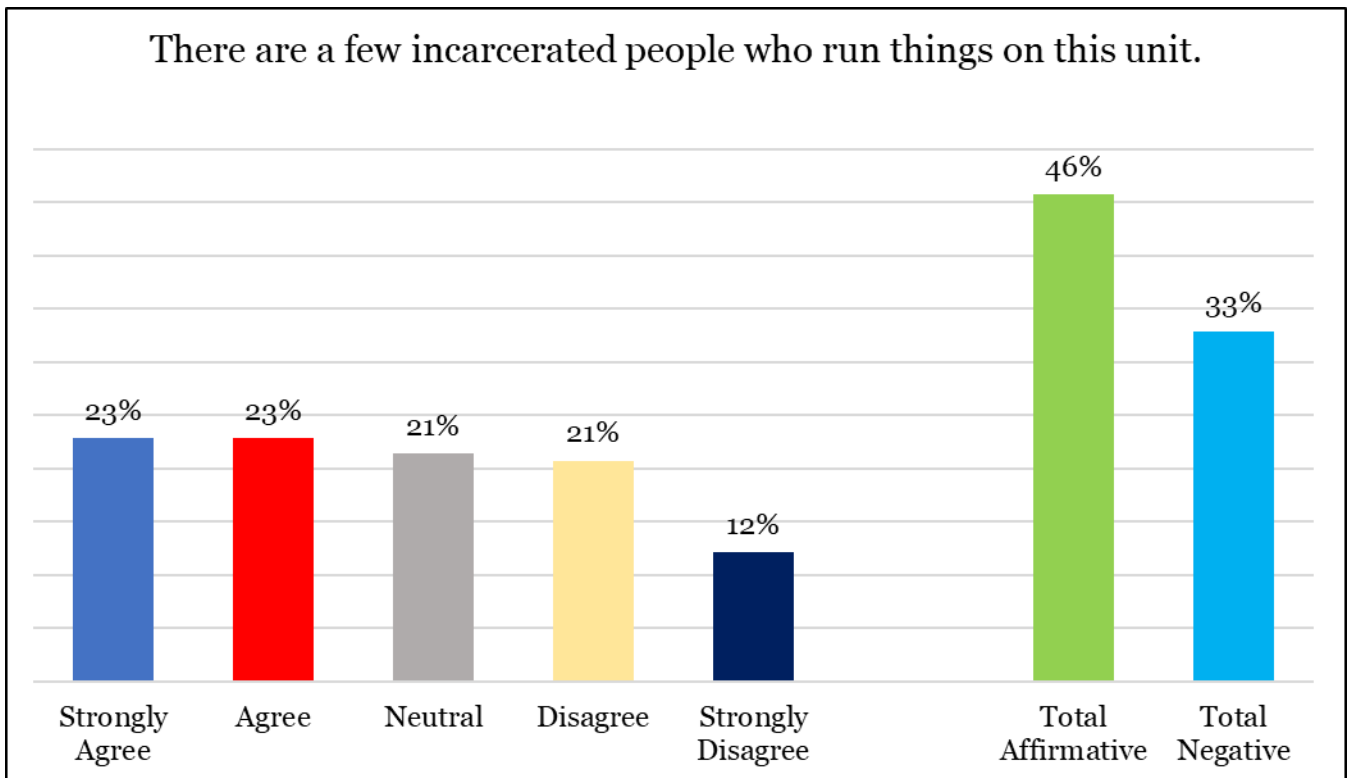
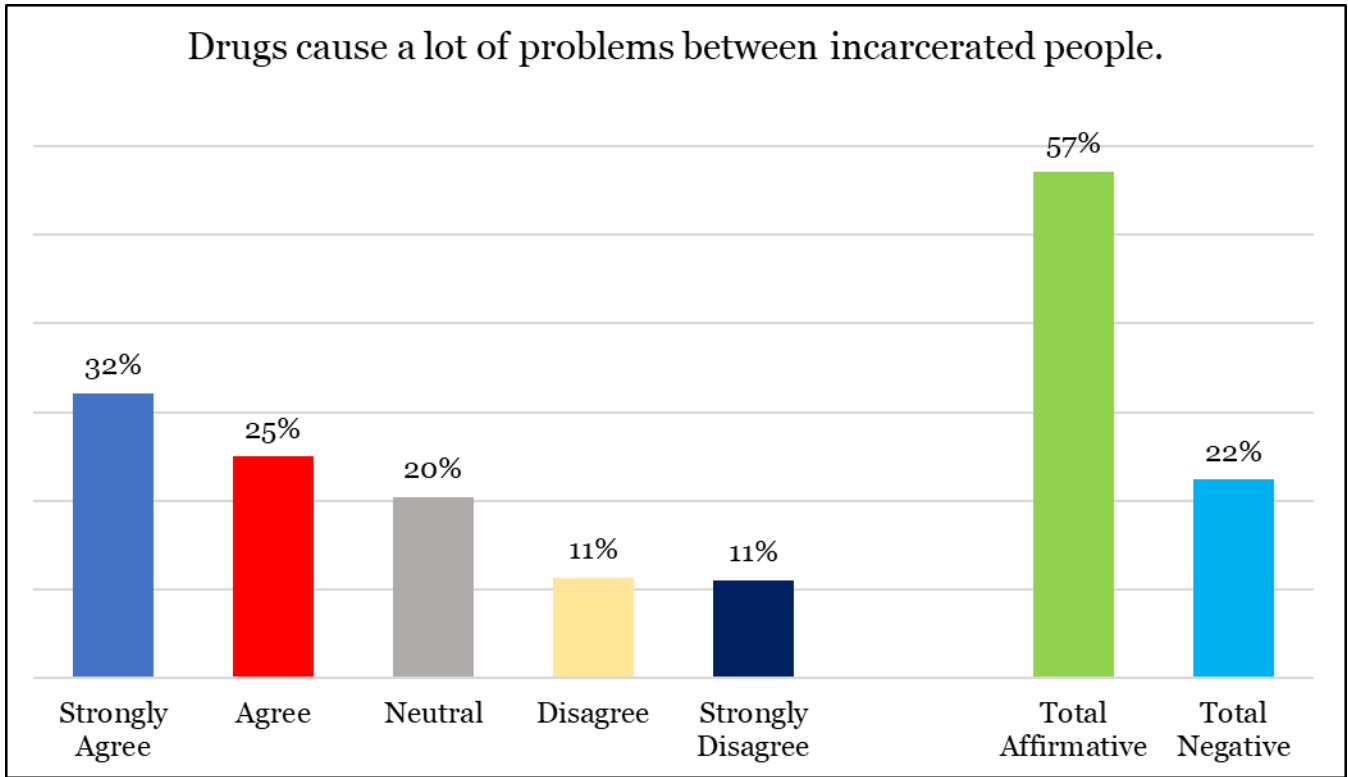


**INCARCERATED PERSON ADAPTATION – THE NEED OR PRESSURE TO GET INVOLVED IN TRADE AND ALLEGIANCES**



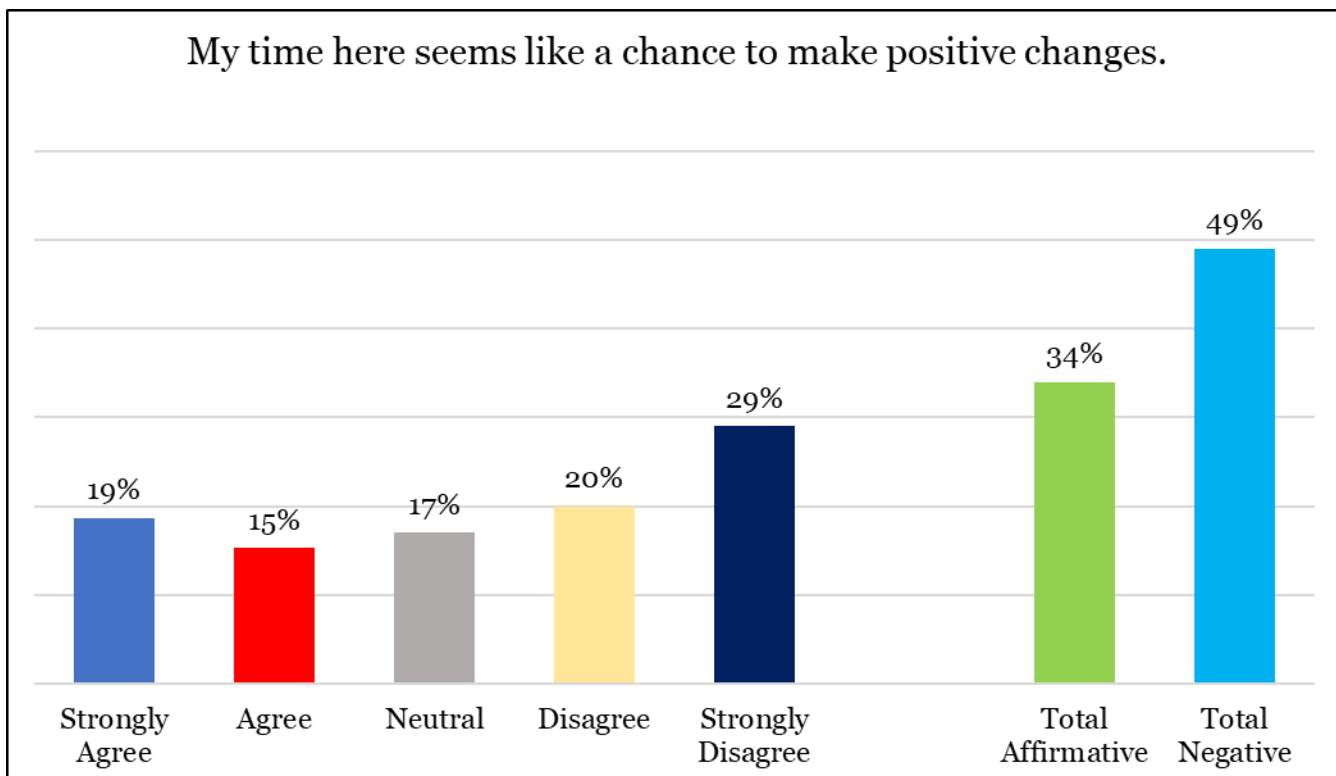
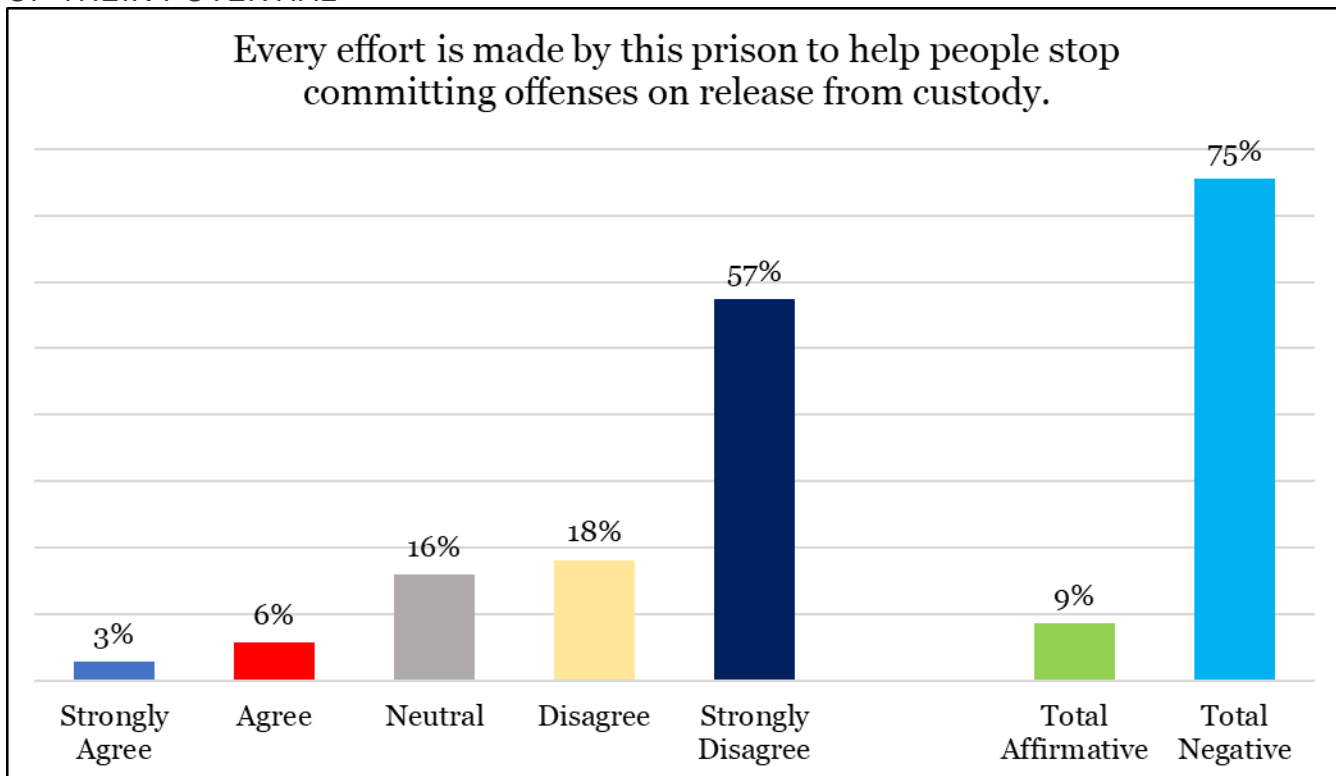


**DRUGS AND EXPLOITATION – THE LEVEL OF DRUGS, BULLYING AND VICTIMIZATION IN THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT**

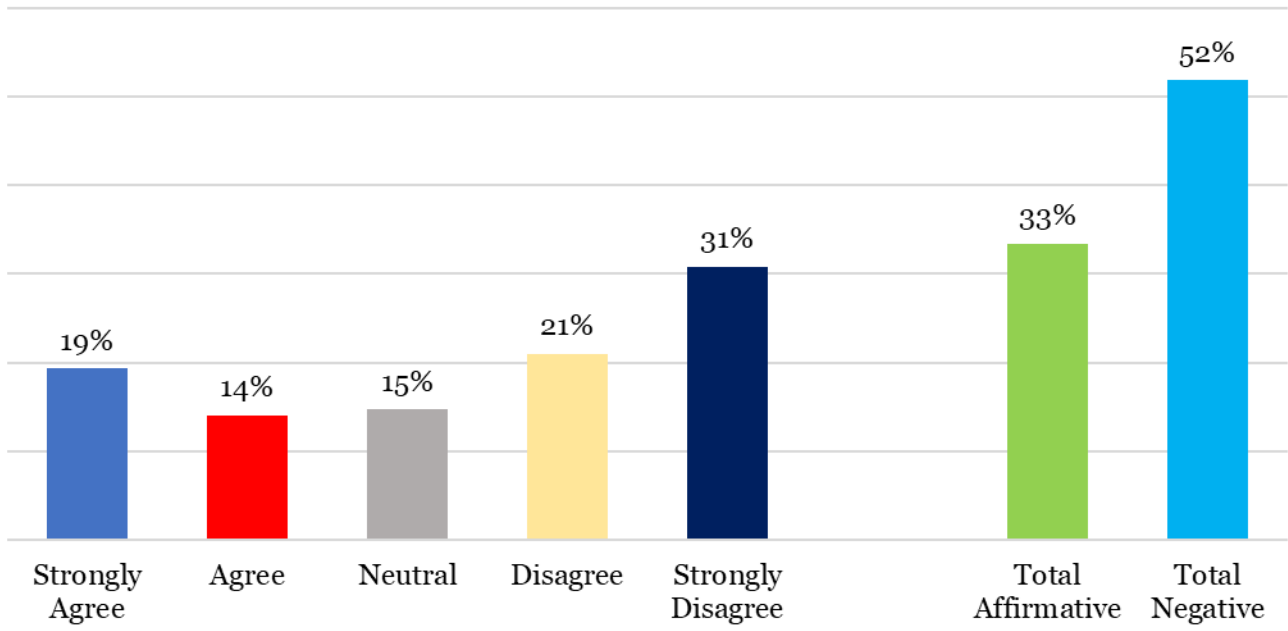


# Well-being and Development

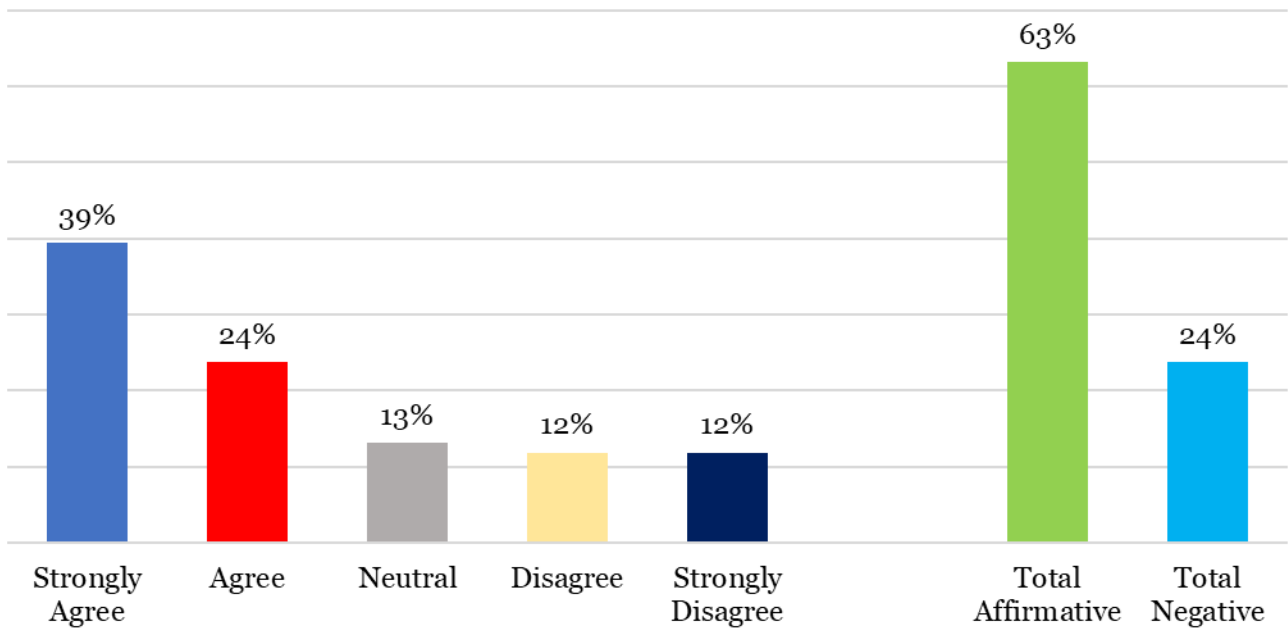
**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT** – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT HELPS INCARCERATED PEOPLE WITH OFFENDING BEHAVIOR, PREPARATION FOR RELEASE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR POTENTIAL



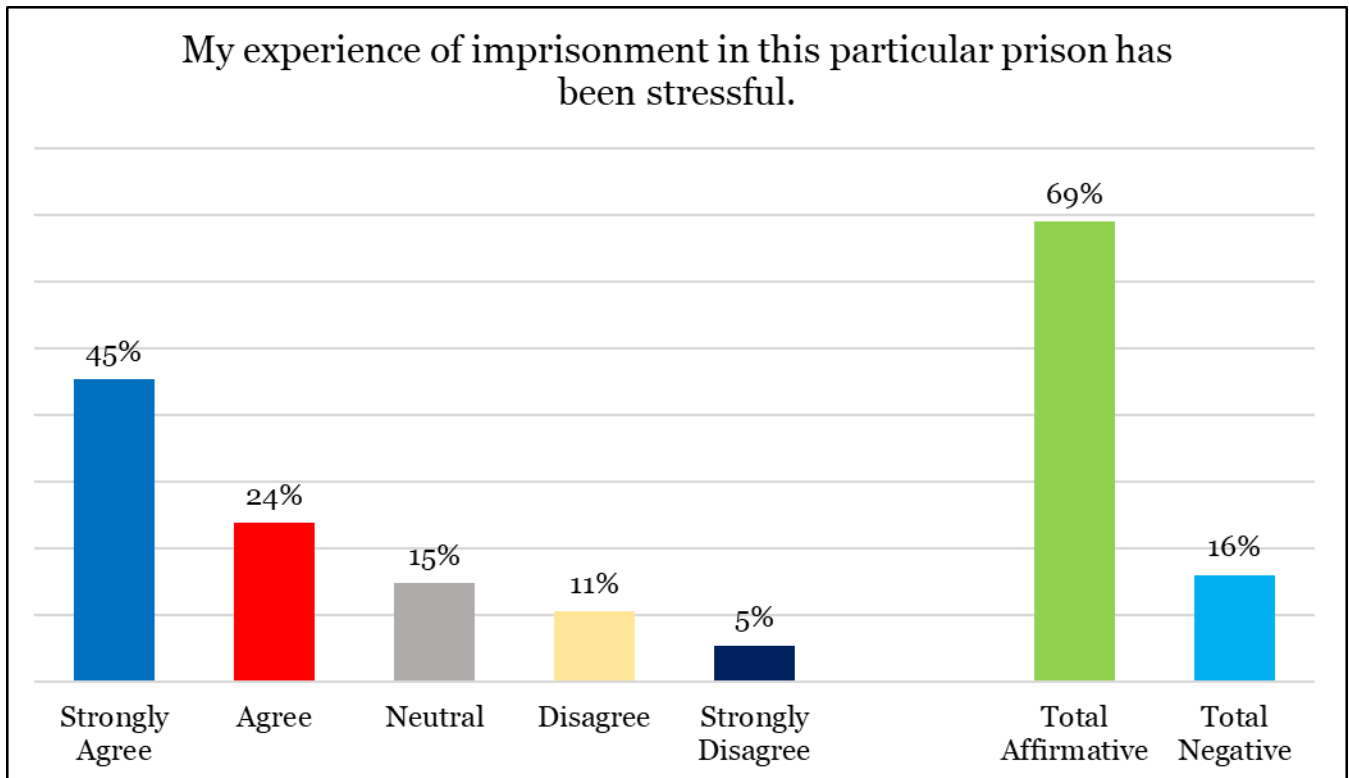
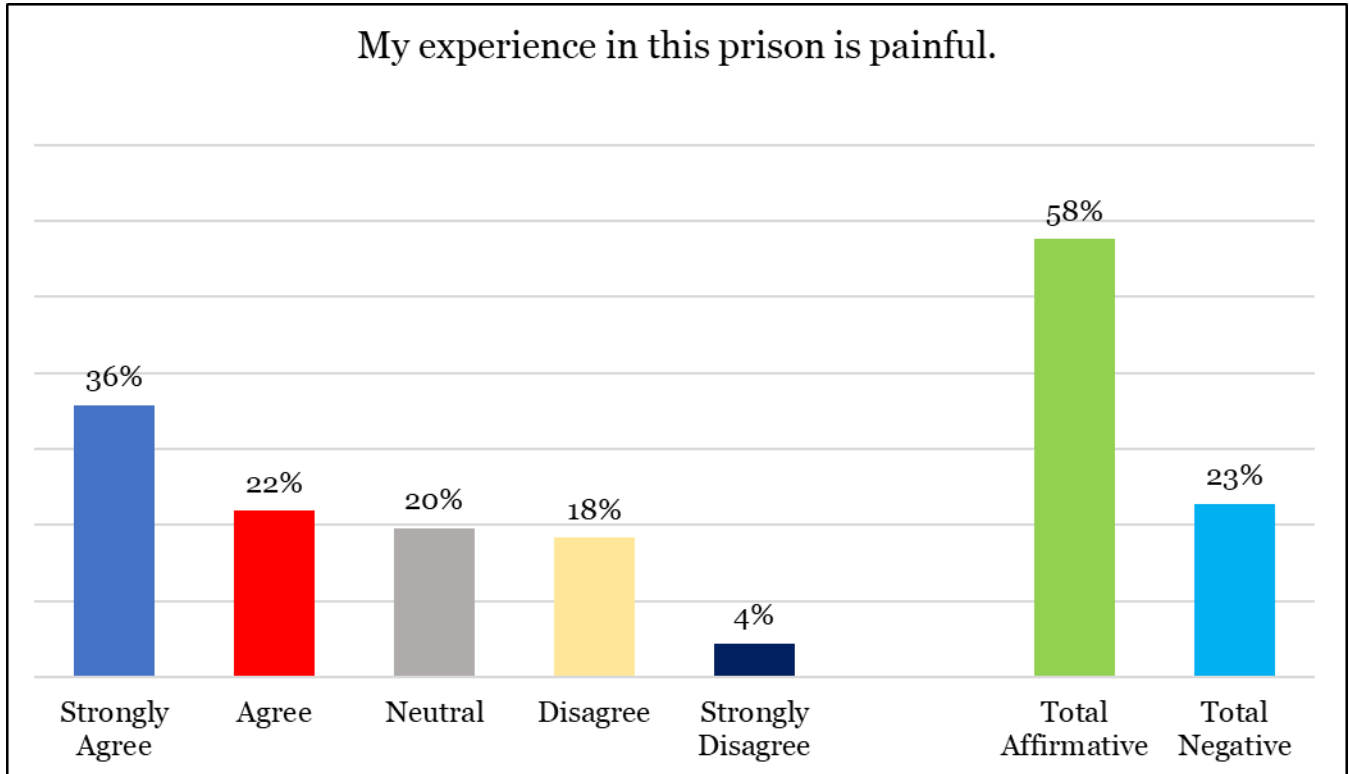
The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.



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

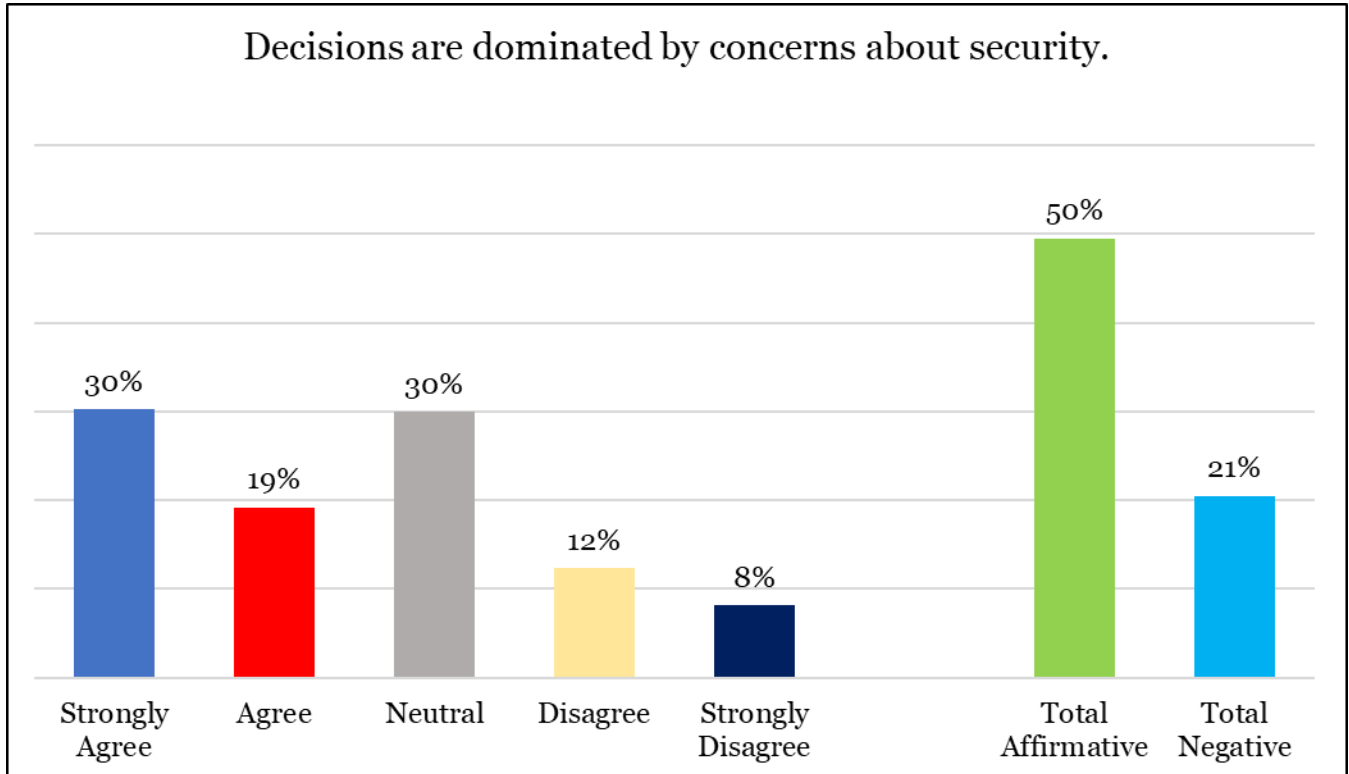


**WELL-BEING – FEELINGS OF PAIN, PUNISHMENT AND TENSION EXPERIENCED BY INCARCERATED PEOPLE**

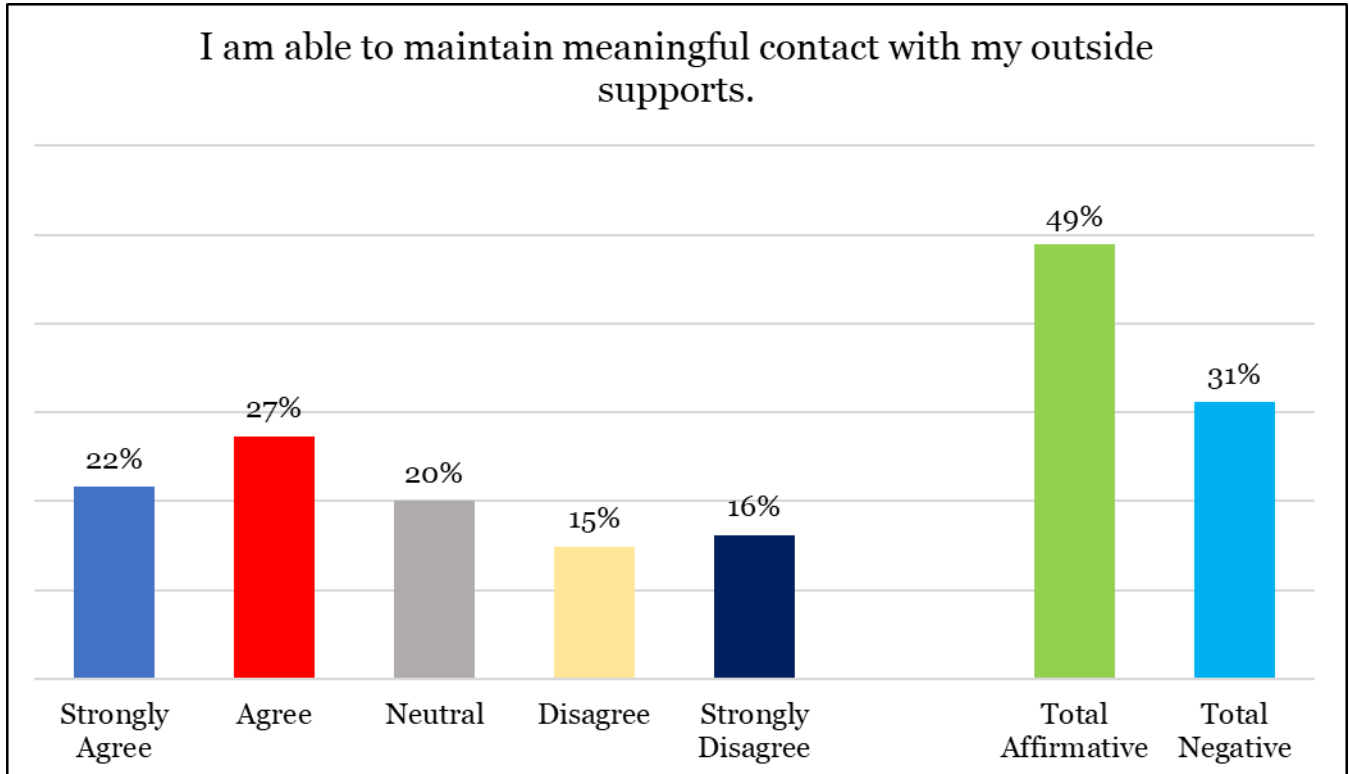


## Additional Questions

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

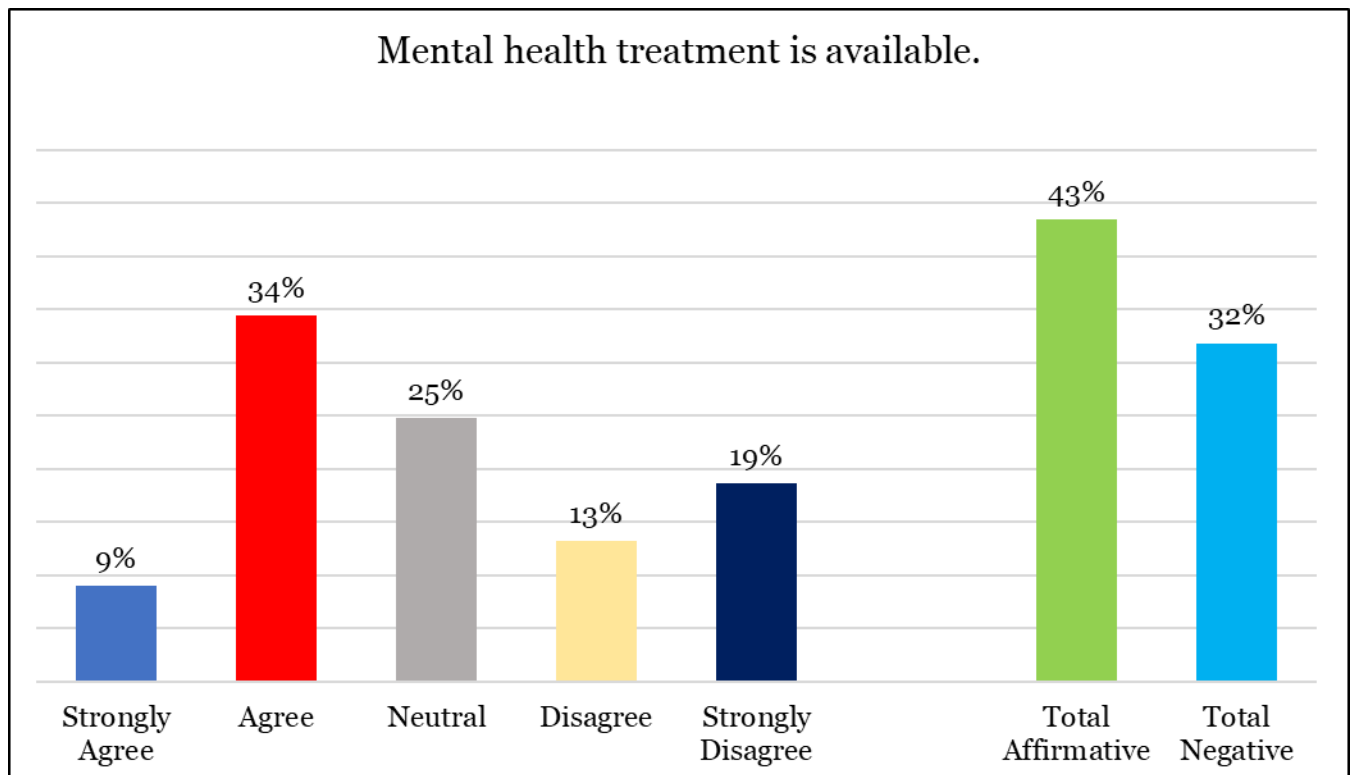
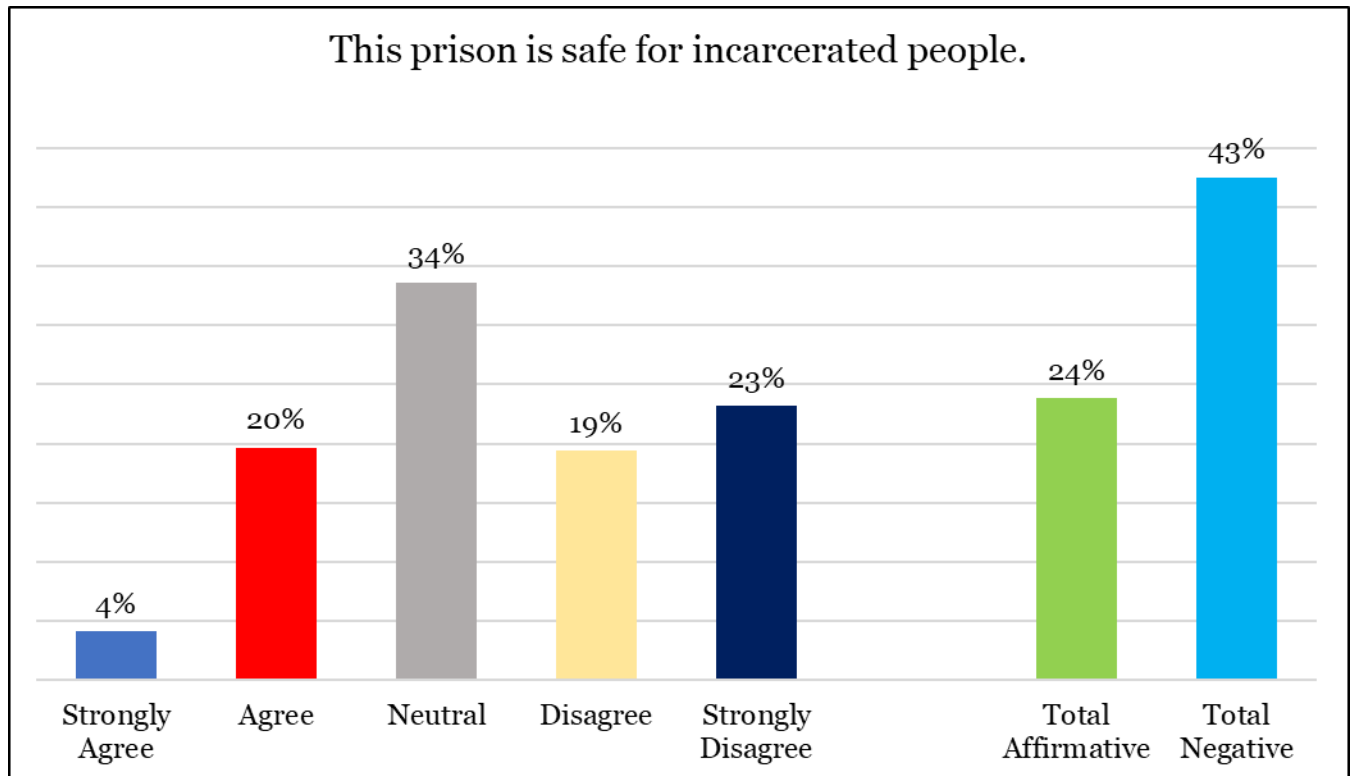


**FAMILY CONTACT – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT FACILITATES INCARCERATED PEOPLE MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOVED ONES**

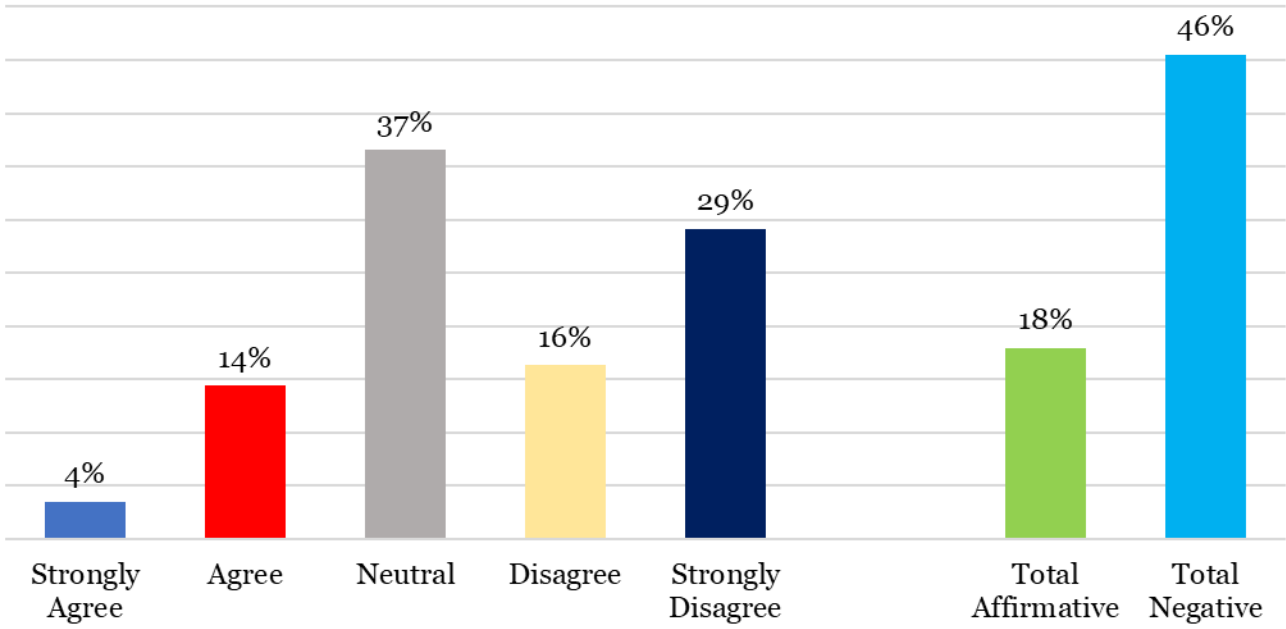


# Charts: JHA Questions

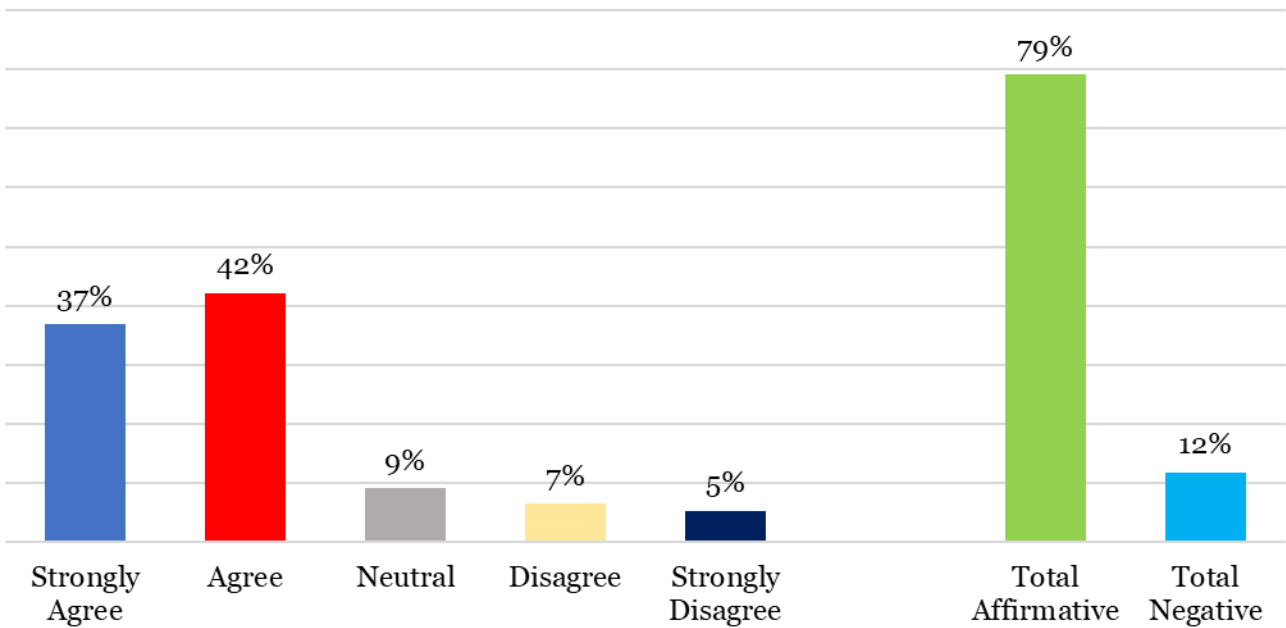
## QUESTIONS USED IN PREVIOUS JHA SURVEYS



This prison is better now than it was last year.

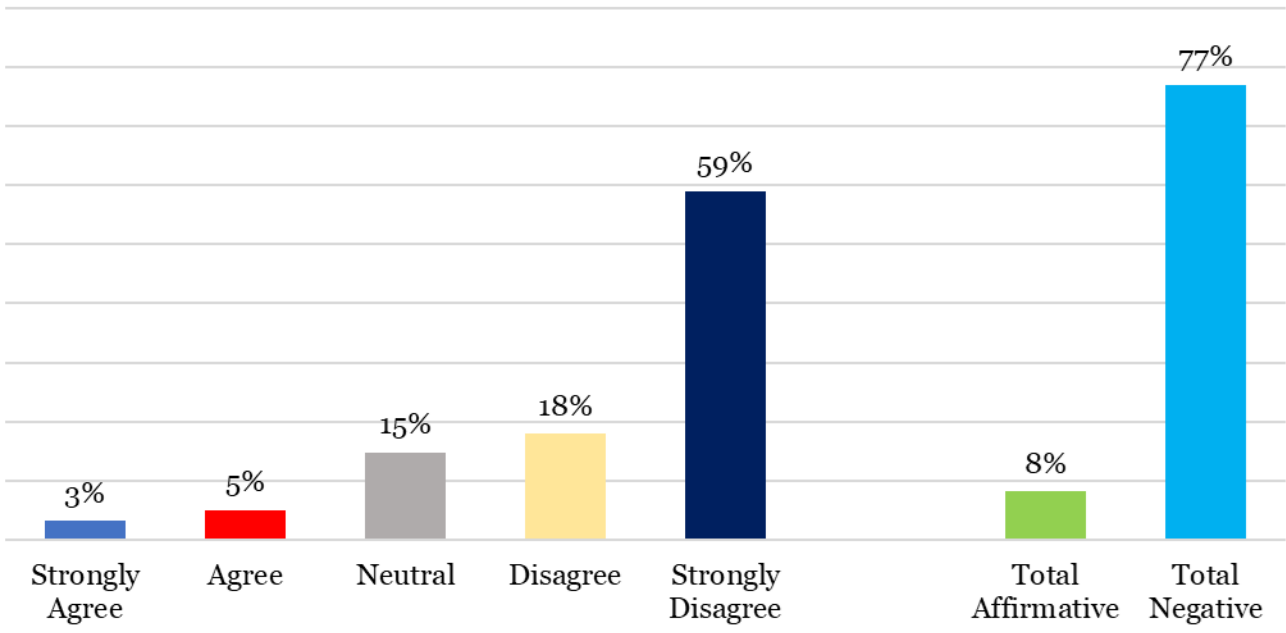


I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.

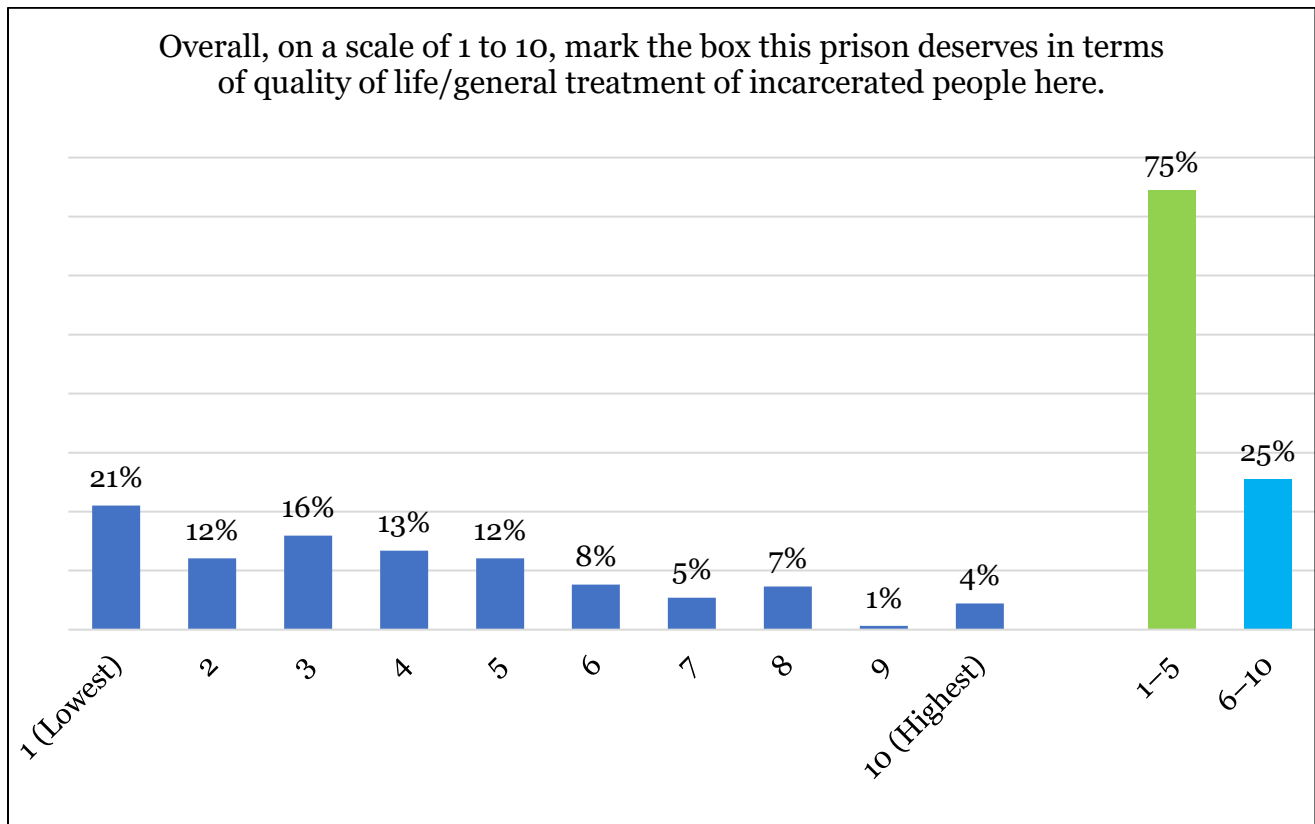




I am satisfied with food from dietary.



## OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE



# Tables of Results by Individual Survey Items

Age		
18-26	26	8%
26-30	31	10%
31-40	96	30%
41-50	88	27%
51 and over	81	25%
No response	3	

Race or ethnicity		
White	129	41%
Black	124	39%
Hispanic or Latino	35	11%
Other	30	9%
No response	7	

Are you within two years of release?		
Yes	112	35%
No	206	65%
No response	7	

Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?		
Yes	175	54%
No	147	46%
No response	3	

What housing status are you currently on?		
General Population	299	93%
Restrictive Housing	7	2%
Other	16	5%
No response	3	

Are you currently getting at least two hours a day out of your cell or sleeping area?		
Yes	311	96%
No	12	4%

Do you have a work or school assignment?		
Work Assignment	111	34%
School Assignment	34	10%
Both	5	2%
Neither	175	54%
No response	0	

Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.		
Strongly Agree	12	4%
Agree	40	13%
Neutral	88	28%
Disagree	96	30%
Strongly Disagree	79	25%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	52	17%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	175	56%
No response	10	

I receive support from staff when I need it.		
Strongly Agree	7	2%
Agree	62	20%
Neutral	75	24%
Disagree	86	27%
Strongly Disagree	87	27%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	69	22%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	173	55%
No response	8	

<b>Staff here treat incarcerated people fairly when applying the rules.</b>		
Strongly Agree	9	3%
Agree	47	15%
Neutral	68	21%
Disagree	76	24%
Strongly Disagree	117	37%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	56	18%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	193	61%
No response	8	

<b>I trust the officers.</b>		
Strongly Agree	8	3%
Agree	24	8%
Neutral	76	24%
Disagree	67	21%
Strongly Disagree	140	44%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	32	10%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	207	66%
No response	10	

<b>I get along well with the officers on my unit.</b>		
Strongly Agree	20	6%
Agree	90	29%
Neutral	129	42%
Disagree	28	9%
Strongly Disagree	42	14%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	110	36%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	70	23%
No response	16	

<b>The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.</b>		
Strongly Agree	20	6%
Agree	60	19%
Neutral	55	17%
Disagree	71	23%
Strongly Disagree	109	35%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	80	25%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	180	57%
No response	10	

<b>I have been helped significantly by a staff member with a particular problem.</b>		
Strongly Agree	20	6%
Agree	64	20%
Neutral	61	19%
Disagree	63	20%
Strongly Disagree	111	35%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	84	26%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	174	55%
No response	6	

<b>Overall, I am treated fairly by staff.</b>		
Strongly Agree	17	5%
Agree	79	24%
Neutral	94	29%
Disagree	61	19%
Strongly Disagree	72	22%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	96	30%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	133	41%
No response	2	

<b>I am treated as a person of value.</b>		
Strongly Agree	16	5%
Agree	17	5%
Neutral	67	21%
Disagree	71	22%
Strongly Disagree	152	47%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	33	10%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	223	69%
No response	2	

<b>Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.</b>		
Strongly Agree	104	33%
Agree	107	34%
Neutral	51	16%
Disagree	35	11%
Strongly Disagree	15	5%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	211	68%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	50	16%
No response	13	

<b>I feel safe from being injured, bullied, or threatened by other incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	33	11%
Agree	49	16%
Neutral	69	22%
Disagree	55	18%
Strongly Disagree	104	34%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	82	26%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	159	51%
No response	15	

<b>If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.</b>		
Strongly Agree	28	9%
Agree	41	13%
Neutral	51	16%
Disagree	71	23%
Strongly Disagree	120	39%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	69	22%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	191	61%
No response	14	

<b>To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.</b>		
Strongly Agree	98	32%
Agree	94	31%
Neutral	66	21%
Disagree	39	13%
Strongly Disagree	10	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	192	63%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	49	16%
No response	18	

<b>Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	126	41%
Agree	94	31%
Neutral	49	16%
Disagree	28	9%
Strongly Disagree	10	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	220	72%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	38	12%
No response	18	

<b>Staff have enough experience and expertise to deal with issues that matter to me.</b>		
Strongly Agree	14	4%
Agree	26	8%
Neutral	63	20%
Disagree	88	28%
Strongly Disagree	125	40%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	40	13%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	213	67%
No response	9	

<b>To get things done, you have to ask and ask and ask.</b>		
Strongly Agree	191	63%
Agree	67	22%
Neutral	24	8%
Disagree	15	5%
Strongly Disagree	5	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	258	85%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	20	7%
No response	23	

<b>Supervision of incarcerated people is poor.</b>		
Strongly Agree	110	36%
Agree	64	21%
Neutral	74	24%
Disagree	40	13%
Strongly Disagree	17	6%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	174	57%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	57	19%
No response	20	

<b>I can't improve my situation through good behavior.</b>		
Strongly Agree	120	39%
Agree	66	21%
Neutral	44	14%
Disagree	42	14%
Strongly Disagree	38	12%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	186	60%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	80	26%
No response	15	

<b>The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.</b>		
Strongly Agree	59	19%
Agree	43	14%
Neutral	45	15%
Disagree	64	21%
Strongly Disagree	94	31%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	102	33%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	158	52%
No response	20	

<b>My experience of imprisonment in this particular prison has been stressful.</b>		
Strongly Agree	141	45%
Agree	74	24%
Neutral	46	15%
Disagree	33	11%
Strongly Disagree	17	5%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	215	69%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	50	16%
No response	14	

<b>Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	144	46%
Agree	71	23%
Neutral	45	14%
Disagree	33	11%
Strongly Disagree	20	6%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	215	69%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	53	17%
No response	12	

<b>I have to be careful about everything I do, or it can be used against me.</b>		
Strongly Agree	161	51%
Agree	88	28%
Neutral	44	14%
Disagree	16	5%
Strongly Disagree	6	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	249	79%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	22	7%
No response	10	

<b>On the whole, I am just doing time rather than using my time.</b>		
Strongly Agree	123	39%
Agree	74	24%
Neutral	41	13%
Disagree	37	12%
Strongly Disagree	37	12%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	197	63%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	74	24%
No response	13	

<b>Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.</b>		
Strongly Agree	21	7%
Agree	95	31%
Neutral	77	25%
Disagree	41	14%
Strongly Disagree	69	23%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	116	38%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	110	36%
No response	22	

<b>This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.</b>		
Strongly Agree	43	14%
Agree	27	9%
Neutral	59	19%
Disagree	81	26%
Strongly Disagree	100	32%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	70	23%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	181	58%
No response	15	

<b>When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.</b>		
Strongly Agree	25	8%
Agree	50	16%
Neutral	63	20%
Disagree	76	24%
Strongly Disagree	99	32%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	75	24%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	175	56%
No response	12	

<b>This prison is well organized.</b>		
Strongly Agree	8	3%
Agree	18	6%
Neutral	48	16%
Disagree	62	20%
Strongly Disagree	171	56%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	26	8%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	233	76%
No response	18	

<b>You never know the rules.</b>		
Strongly Agree	69	22%
Agree	81	26%
Neutral	70	22%
Disagree	73	23%
Strongly Disagree	21	7%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	150	48%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	94	30%
No response	11	

<b>I feel that I am treated with respect by staff.</b>		
Strongly Agree	5	2%
Agree	51	17%
Neutral	89	29%
Disagree	57	18%
Strongly Disagree	107	35%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	56	18%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	164	53%
No response	16	

<b>My experience in this prison is painful.</b>		
Strongly Agree	113	36%
Agree	69	22%
Neutral	62	20%
Disagree	58	18%
Strongly Disagree	14	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	182	58%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	72	23%
No response	9	

<b>I have to buy and sell things in order to get by.</b>		
Strongly Agree	83	26%
Agree	61	19%
Neutral	71	23%
Disagree	61	19%
Strongly Disagree	39	12%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	144	46%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	100	32%
No response	10	

<b>There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	90	30%
Agree	87	29%
Neutral	70	23%
Disagree	35	12%
Strongly Disagree	21	7%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	177	58%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	56	18%
No response	22	

<b>Decisions are dominated by concerns about security.</b>		
Strongly Agree	93	30%
Agree	59	19%
Neutral	92	30%
Disagree	38	12%
Strongly Disagree	25	8%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	152	50%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	63	21%
No response	18	

<b>The disciplinary system is fair.</b>		
Strongly Agree	7	2%
Agree	33	10%
Neutral	61	19%
Disagree	66	21%
Strongly Disagree	148	47%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	40	13%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	214	68%
No response	10	

<b>My time here seems like a chance to make positive changes.</b>		
Strongly Agree	56	19%
Agree	46	15%
Neutral	51	17%
Disagree	60	20%
Strongly Disagree	87	29%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	102	34%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	147	49%
No response	25	

<b>There are a few incarcerated people who run things on this unit.</b>		
Strongly Agree	74	23%
Agree	57	18%
Neutral	75	24%
Disagree	63	20%
Strongly Disagree	47	15%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	131	41%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	110	35%
No response	9	

<b>I am not being treated as a human being in here.</b>		
Strongly Agree	98	32%
Agree	76	25%
Neutral	59	19%
Disagree	56	18%
Strongly Disagree	21	7%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	174	56%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	77	25%
No response	15	



<b>You have to be in a group or gang in order to get by.</b>		
Strongly Agree	48	15%
Agree	47	15%
Neutral	66	21%
Disagree	90	29%
Strongly Disagree	62	20%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	95	30%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	152	49%
No response	12	

<b>Bullying behavior by incarcerated people is not tolerated.</b>		
Strongly Agree	27	9%
Agree	47	15%
Neutral	59	19%
Disagree	70	22%
Strongly Disagree	109	35%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	74	24%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	179	57%
No response	13	

<b>When important decisions are made about me, I am treated as an individual and not a number.</b>		
Strongly Agree	18	6%
Agree	37	12%
Neutral	52	16%
Disagree	80	25%
Strongly Disagree	131	41%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	55	17%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	211	66%
No response	7	

<b>All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.</b>		
Strongly Agree	198	63%
Agree	61	19%
Neutral	33	10%
Disagree	17	5%
Strongly Disagree	6	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	259	82%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	23	7%
No response	10	

<b>Drugs cause a lot of problems between incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	99	32%
Agree	77	25%
Neutral	63	20%
Disagree	35	11%
Strongly Disagree	34	11%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	176	57%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	69	22%
No response	17	

<b>Anyone who harms themselves is considered by staff to be more of an attention seeker than someone who needs help.</b>		
Strongly Agree	137	44%
Agree	74	24%
Neutral	73	23%
Disagree	21	7%
Strongly Disagree	7	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	211	68%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	28	9%
No response	13	

<b>I am able to maintain meaningful contact with my outside supports.</b>		
Strongly Agree	68	22%
Agree	86	27%
Neutral	63	20%
Disagree	47	15%
Strongly Disagree	51	16%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	154	49%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	98	31%
No response	10	

<b>This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.</b>		
Strongly Agree	161	51%
Agree	78	25%
Neutral	59	19%
Disagree	13	4%
Strongly Disagree	5	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	239	76%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	18	6%
No response	9	

<b>Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.</b>		
Strongly Agree	6	2%
Agree	21	7%
Neutral	56	18%
Disagree	87	28%
Strongly Disagree	144	46%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	27	9%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	231	74%
No response	11	

<b>This is a humane prison.</b>		
Strongly Agree	17	5%
Agree	56	18%
Neutral	97	31%
Disagree	53	17%
Strongly Disagree	88	28%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	73	23%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	141	45%
No response	14	

<b>Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.</b>		
Strongly Agree	37	12%
Agree	20	6%
Neutral	72	23%
Disagree	111	35%
Strongly Disagree	75	24%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	57	18%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	186	59%
No response	10	

<b>This prison is safe for incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	13	4%
Agree	62	20%
Neutral	106	34%
Disagree	61	19%
Strongly Disagree	73	23%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	75	24%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	134	43%
No response	10	

<b>Mental health treatment is available.</b>		
Strongly Agree	28	9%
Agree	107	34%
Neutral	77	25%
Disagree	41	13%
Strongly Disagree	58	19%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	135	43%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	99	32%
No response	14	

<b>This prison is better now than it was last year.</b>		
Strongly Agree	11	4%
Agree	45	14%
Neutral	114	37%
Disagree	51	16%
Strongly Disagree	91	29%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	56	18%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	142	46%
No response	13	

<b>I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.</b>		
Strongly Agree	118	37%
Agree	135	42%
Neutral	29	9%
Disagree	21	7%
Strongly Disagree	17	5%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	253	79%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	38	12%
No response	5	

<b>Every effort is made by this prison to help people stop committing offenses on release from custody.</b>		
Strongly Agree	9	3%
Agree	18	6%
Neutral	50	16%
Disagree	57	18%
Strongly Disagree	180	57%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	27	9%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	237	75%
No response	11	

<b>I am satisfied with food from dietary.</b>		
Strongly Agree	10	3%
Agree	16	5%
Neutral	47	15%
Disagree	57	18%
Strongly Disagree	187	59%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	26	8%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	244	77%
No response	8	

**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)	66	21%
2	38	12%
3	50	16%
4	42	13%
5	38	12%
6	24	8%
7	17	5%
8	23	7%
9	2	1%
10 (Highest)	14	4%
<i>1-5</i>	234	75%
<i>6-10</i>	80	25%
No Response	11	
Mean Score		4.0



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](mailto: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](http://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.

