
Survey Results



Graham 2023 MQPL Survey Results

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Introduction

Graham is a medium-security male prison within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) that housed approximately 1,311 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 Graham had an opportunity to participate in the voluntary and anonymous survey if they chose to do so. JHA received 471 responses to the MQPL survey from people at Graham through July 19, 2023, representing approximately 36% 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

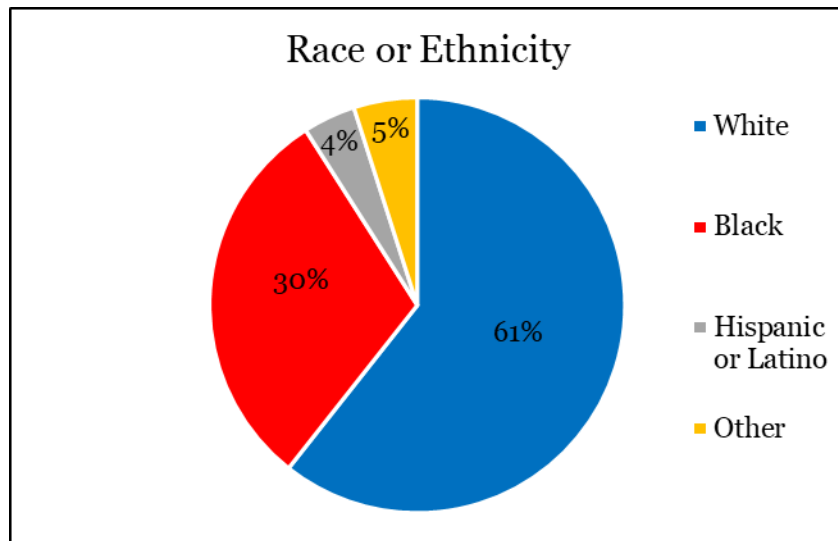
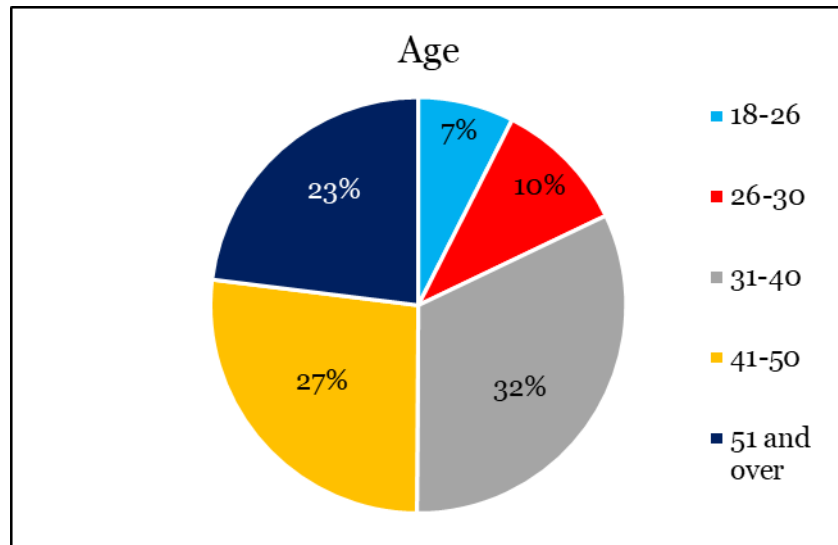
- **Harmony: Questions relating to interpersonal aspects of the prison experience**
 - Respect/courtesy – Positive, respectful, and courteous attitudes towards incarcerated people by staff.
 - Staff-incarcerated people relationships – Trusting, fair and supportive interactions between staff and incarcerated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

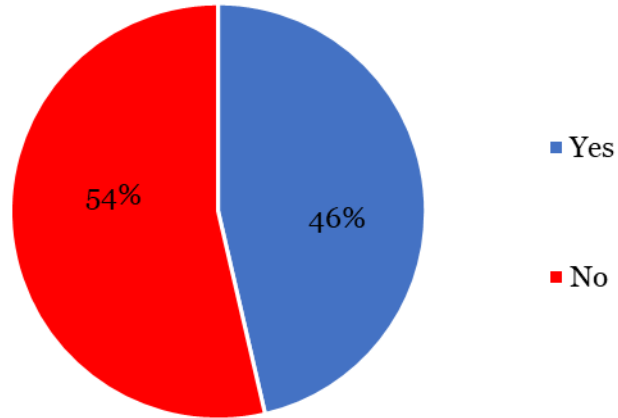
Charts: Demographic Information of Respondents

Total respondents = 470¹

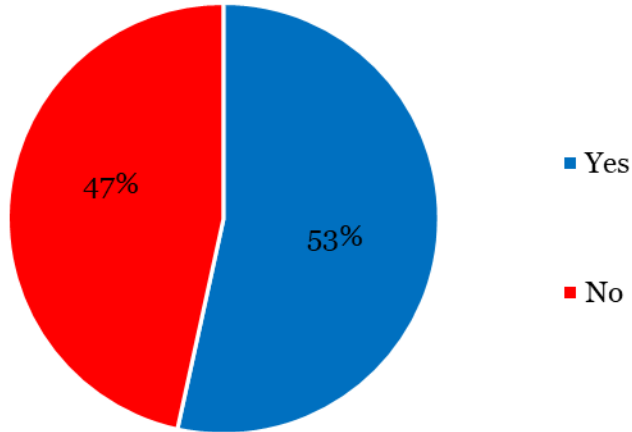


¹ Due to rounding, not all percentages total 100%. Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of respondents per question.

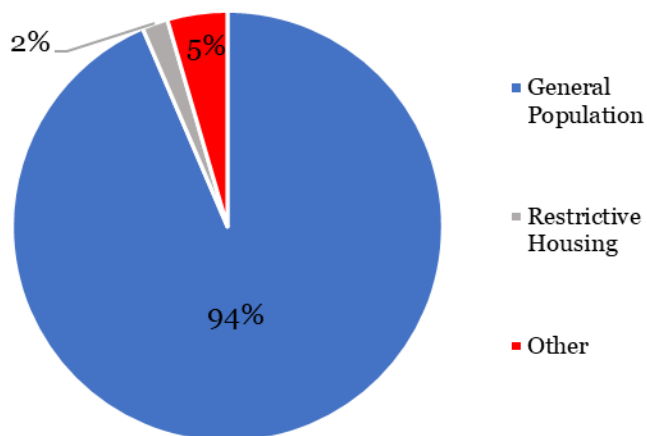
Are you within two years of release?



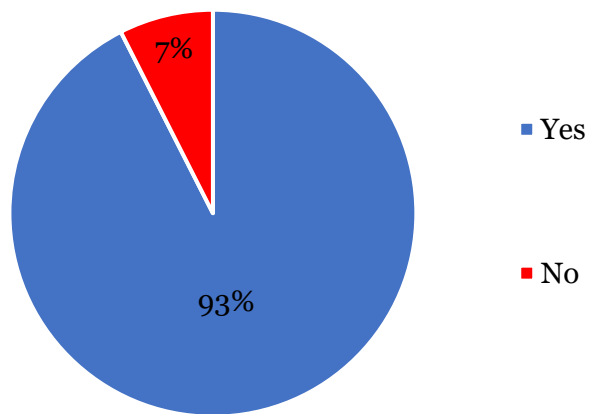
Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?



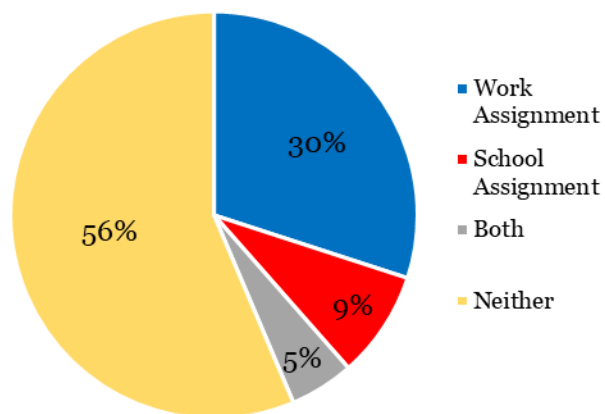
What housing status are you currently on?



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



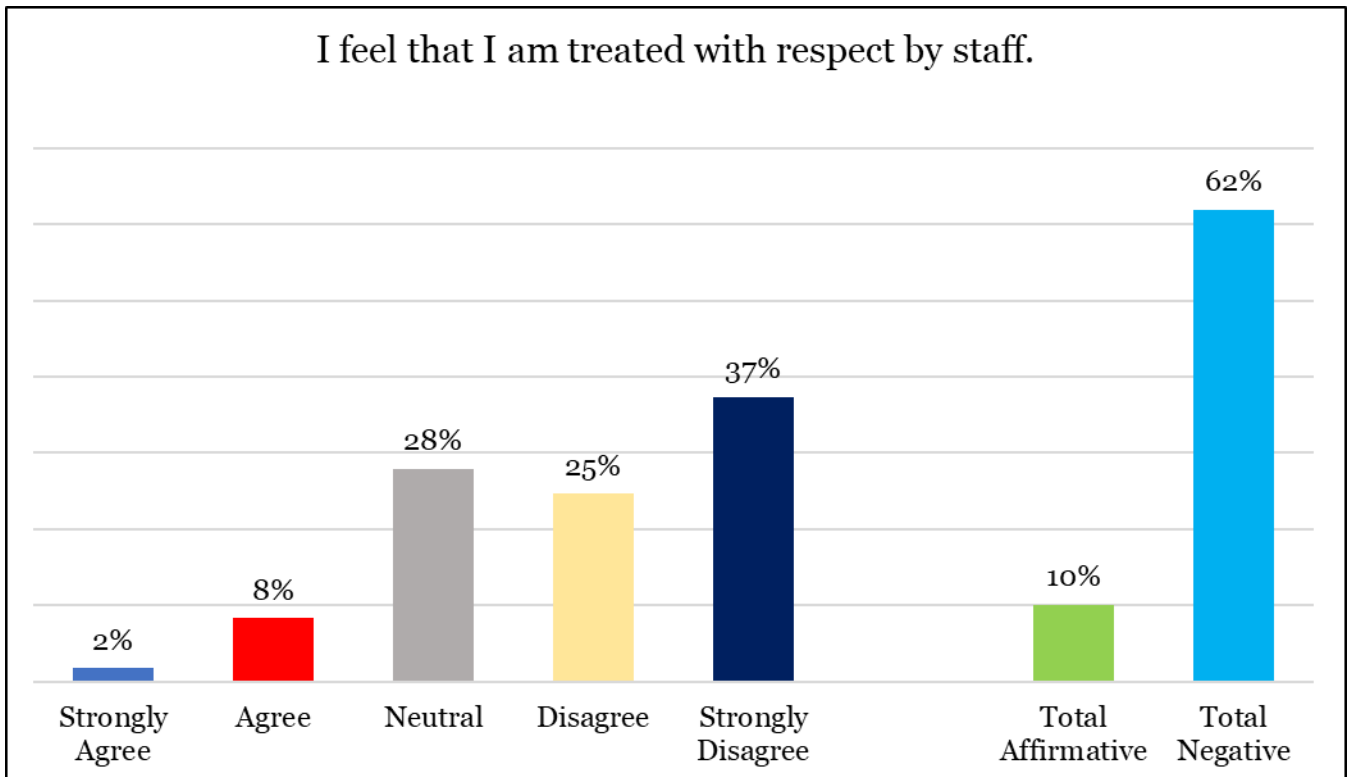
Do you have a work or school assignment?



Charts: MQPL Dimensions²

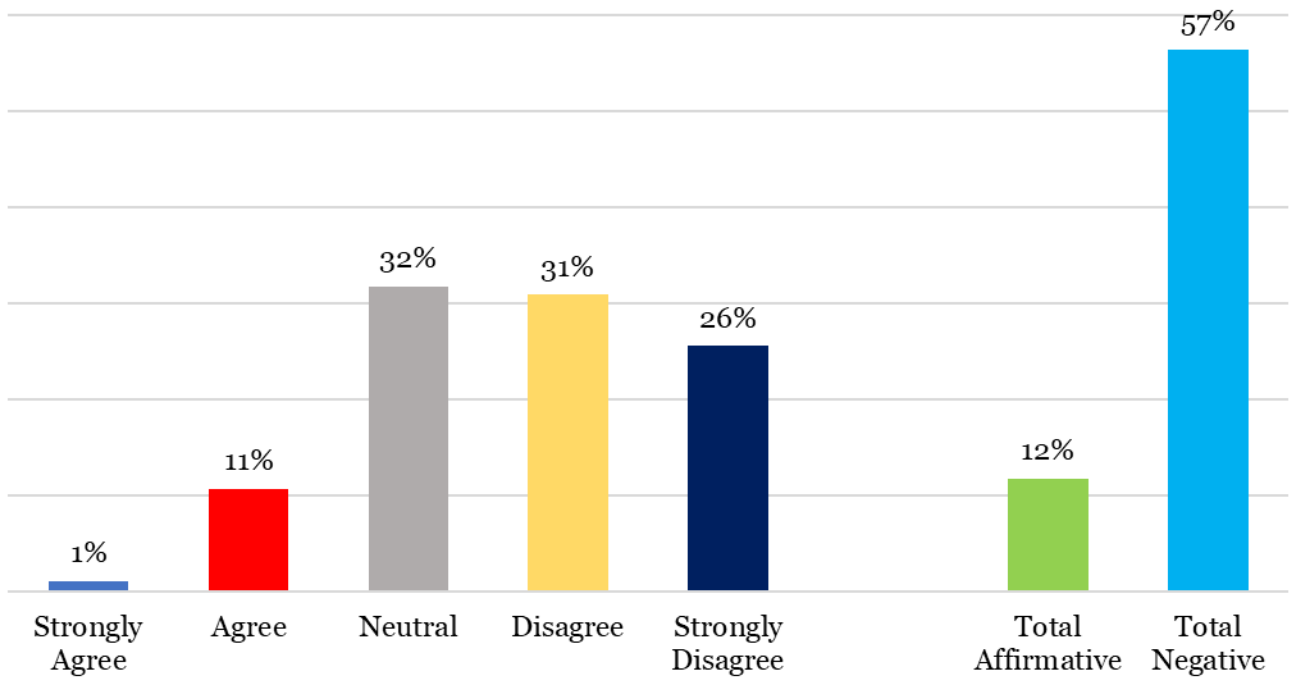
Harmony

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

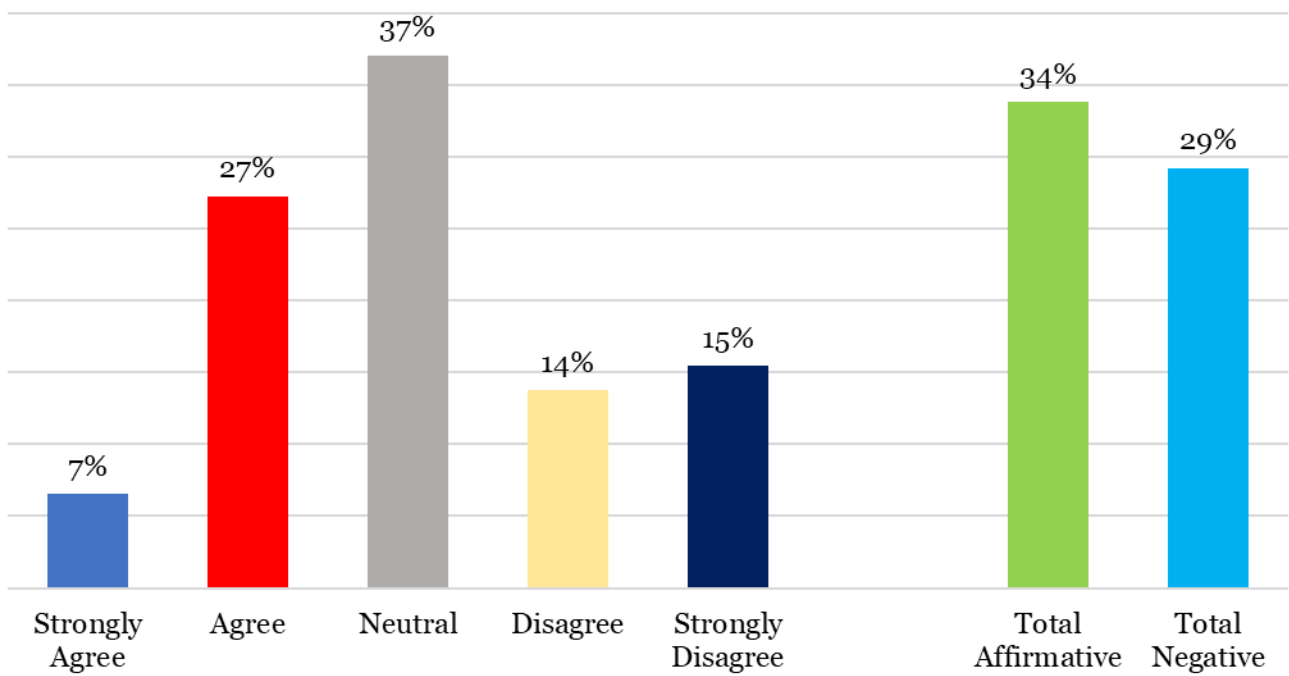


² “Total Affirmative” combines “Strongly Agree” and “Agree.” “Total Negative” combines “Strongly Disagree” and “Disagree.” Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of responses per question.

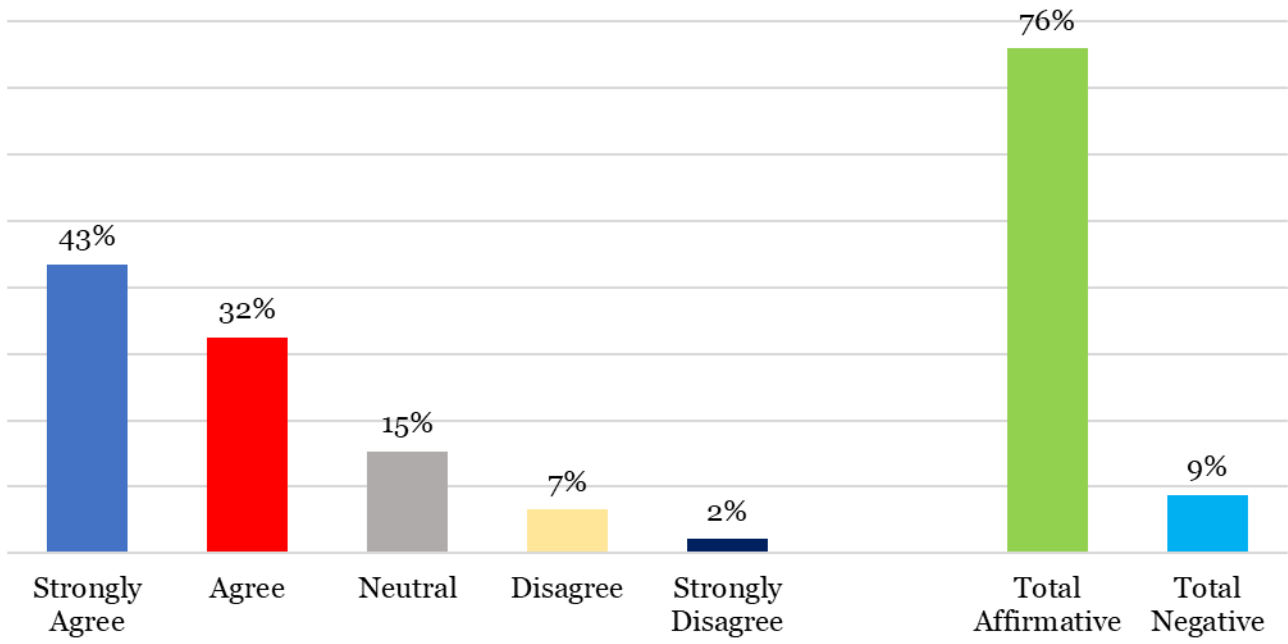
Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.



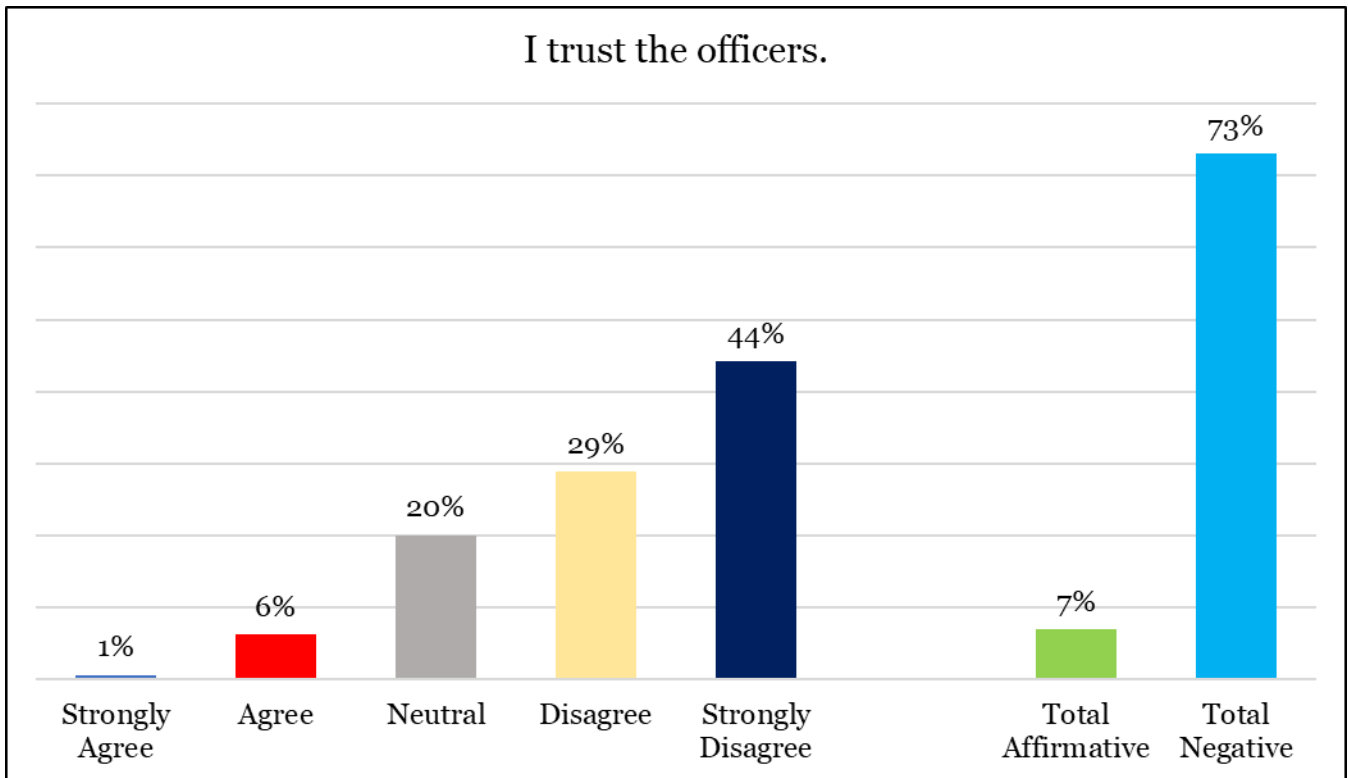
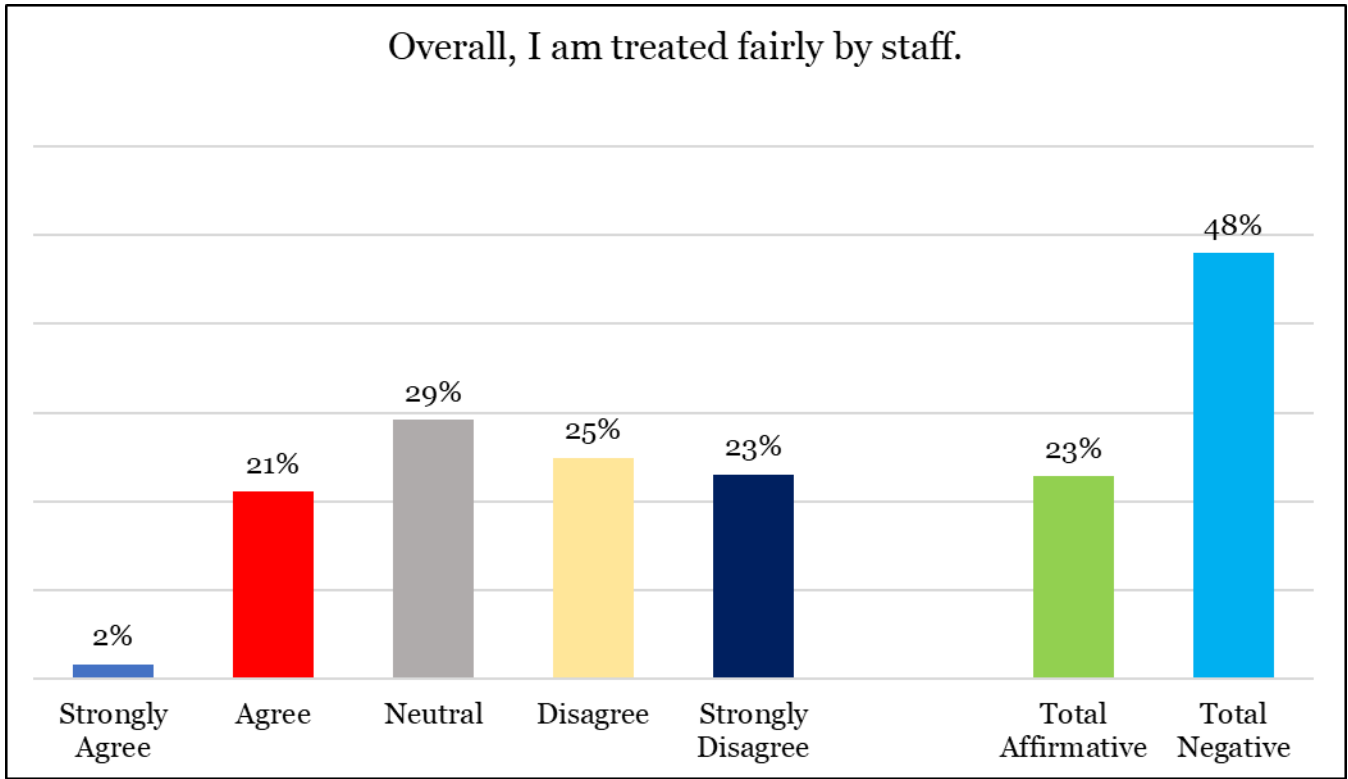
I get along well with the officers on my unit.



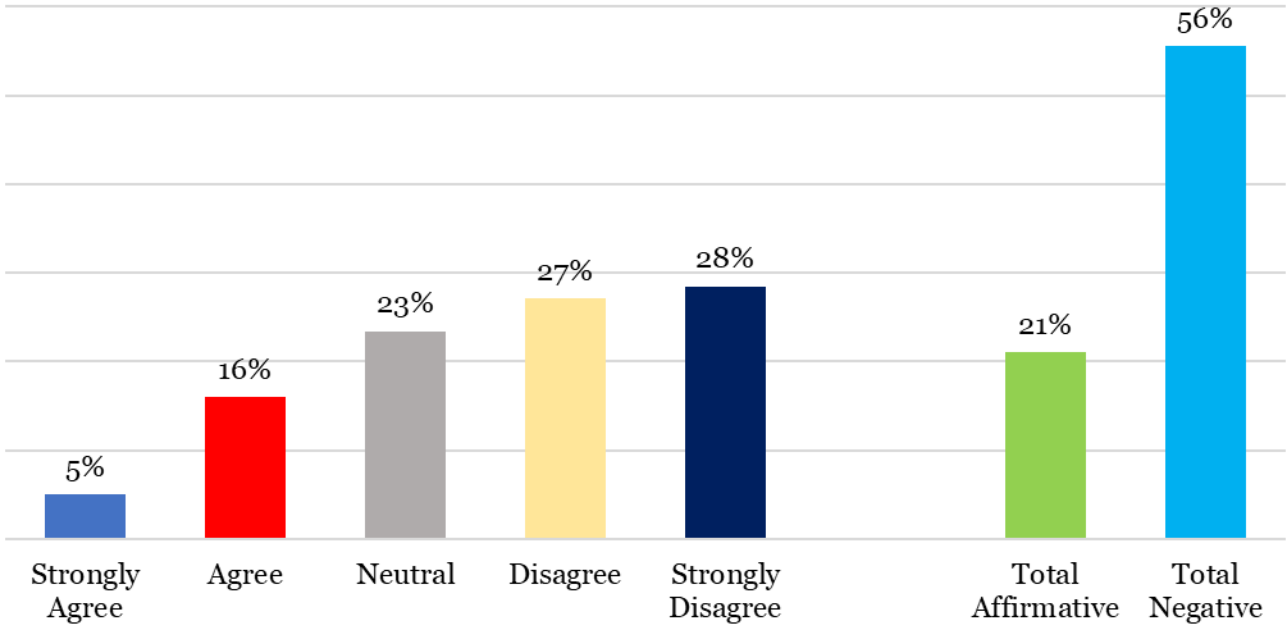
Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.



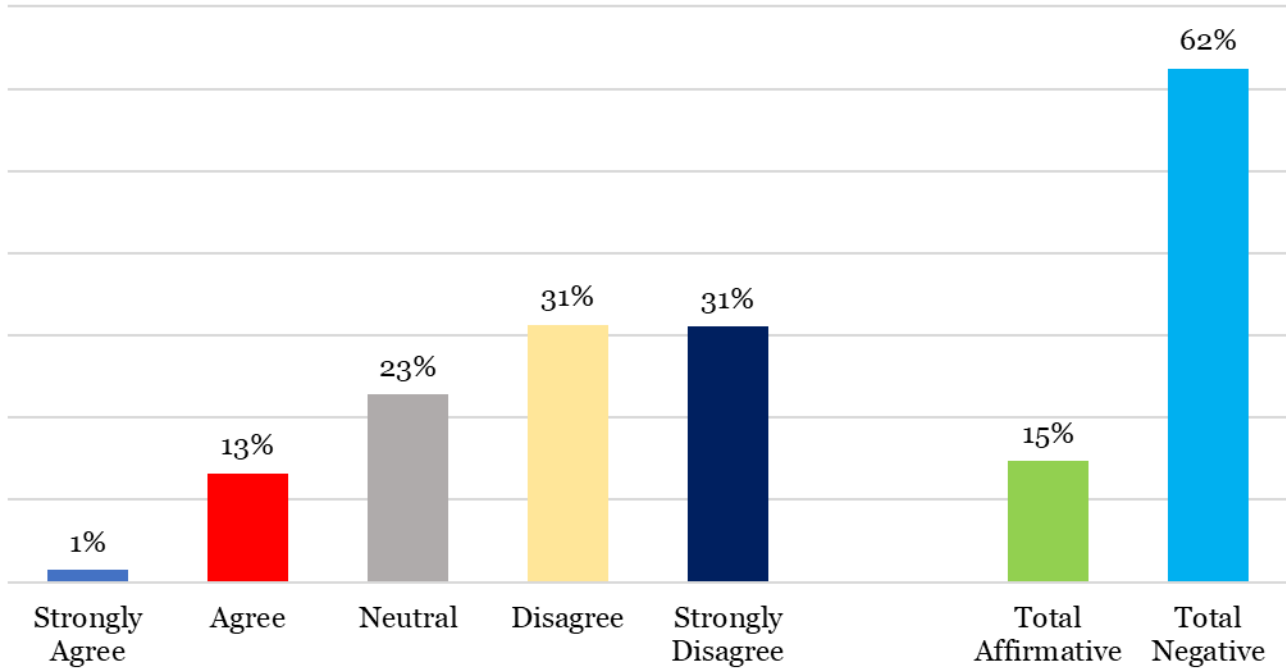
STAFF-INCARCERATED PEOPLE RELATIONSHIPS – TRUSTING, FAIR AND SUPPORTIVE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN STAFF AND INCARCERATED PEOPLE



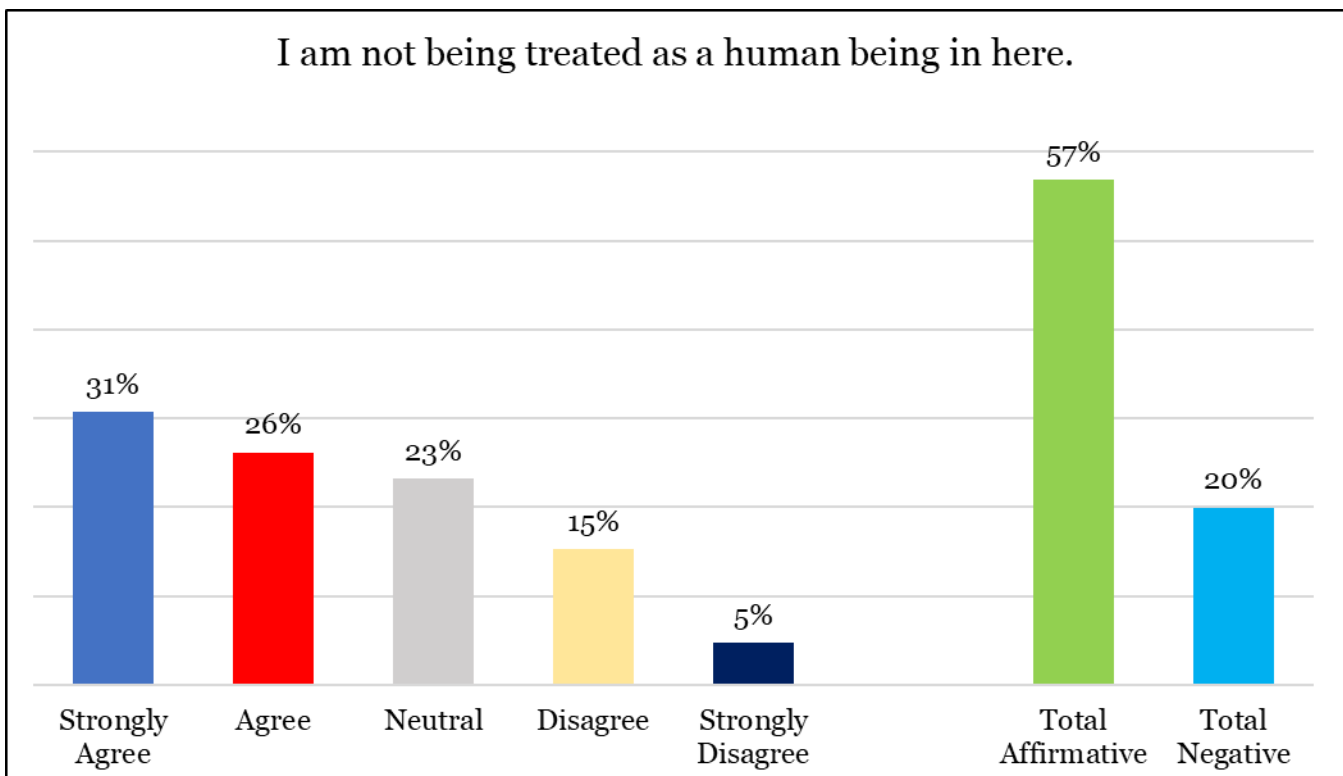
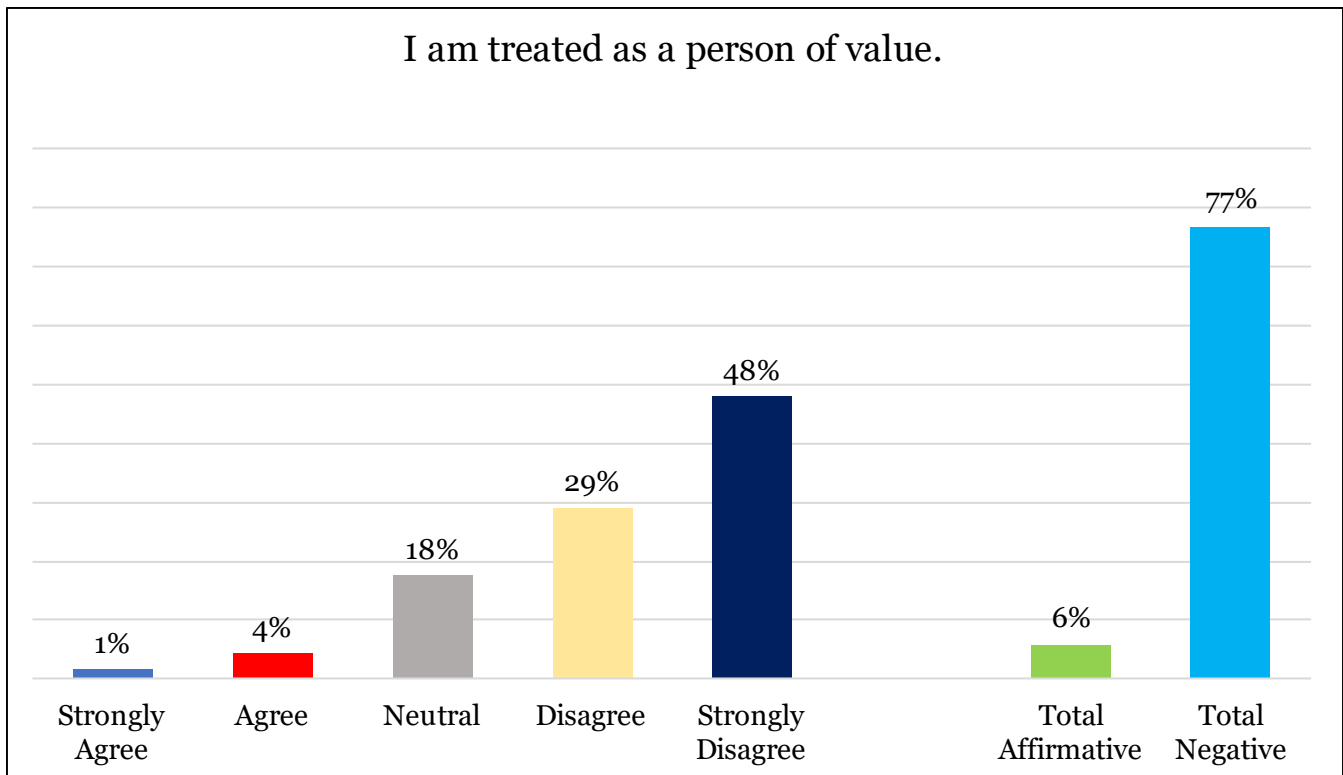
When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.



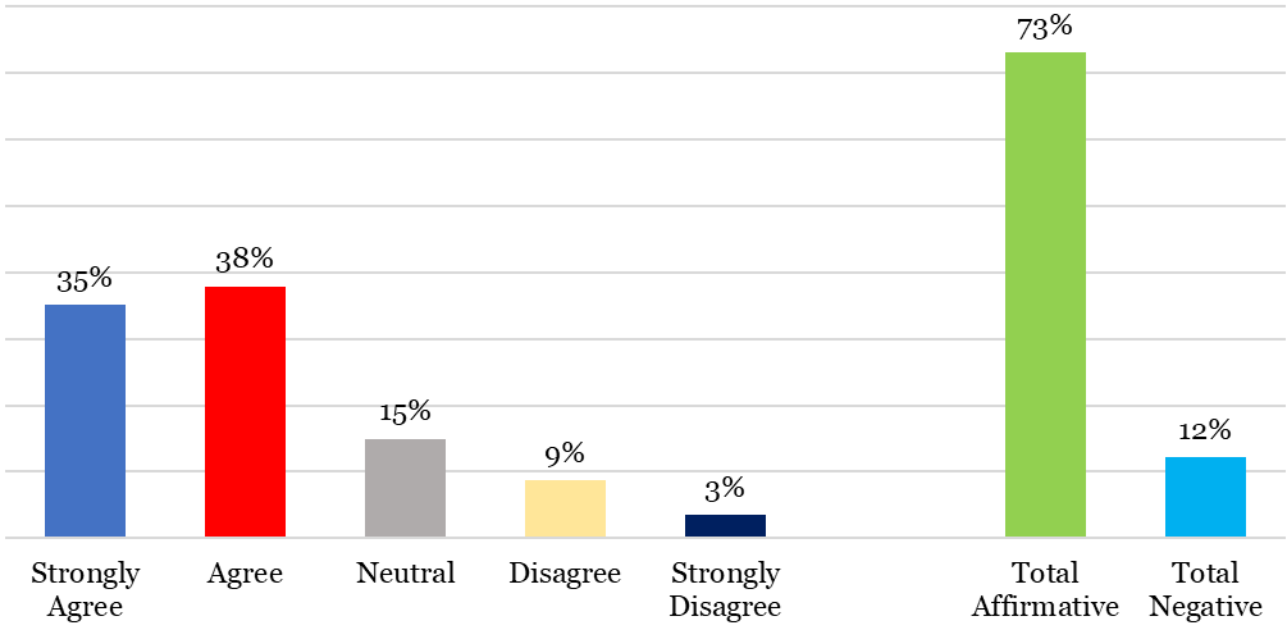
I receive support from staff when I need it.



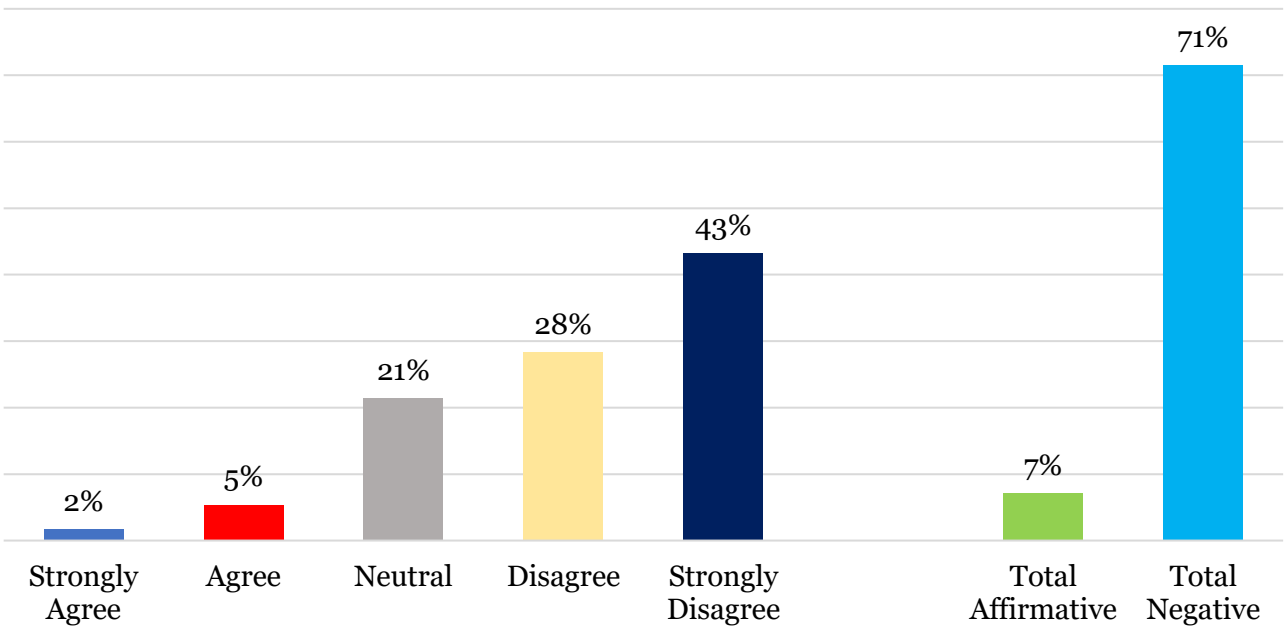
HUMANITY – AN ENVIRONMENT CHARACTERIZED BY KIND REGARD AND CONCERN FOR THE PERSON, WHICH RECOGNIZES THE VALUE AND HUMANITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL



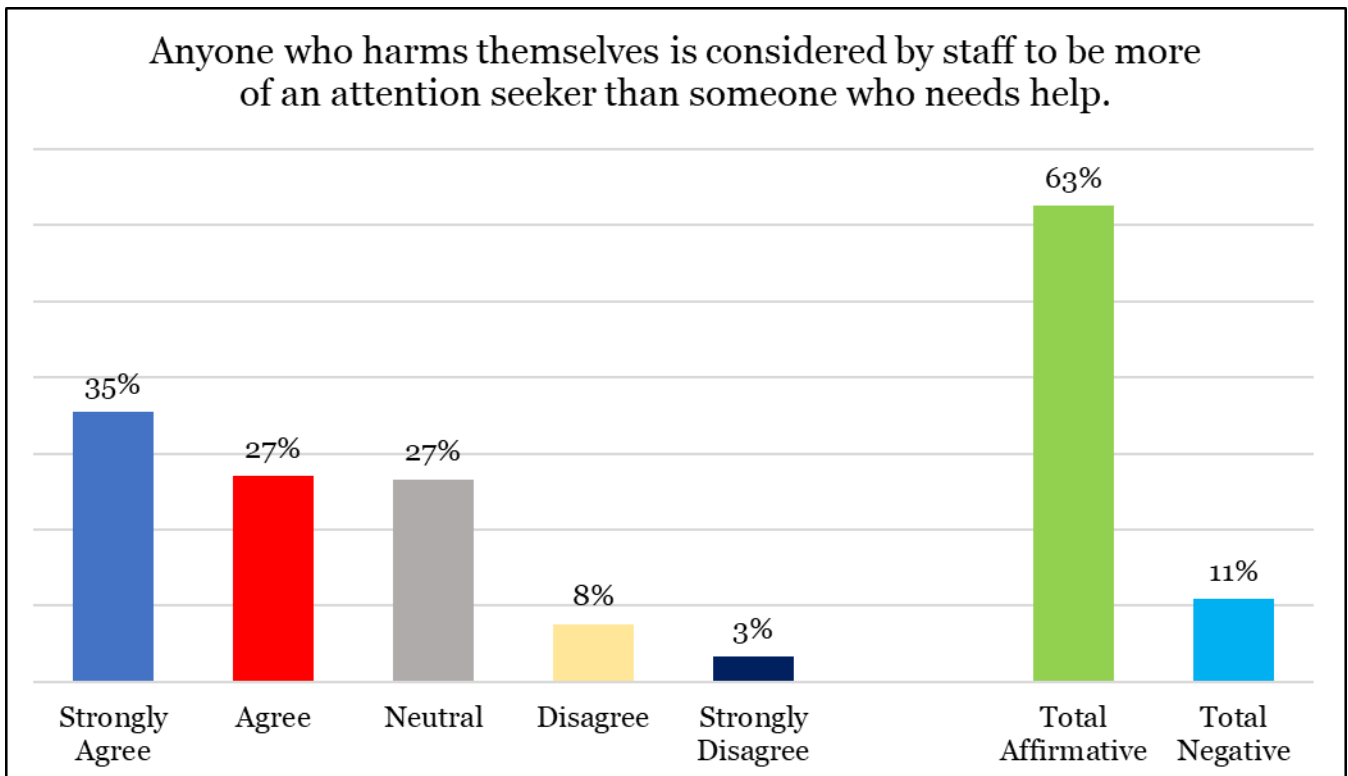
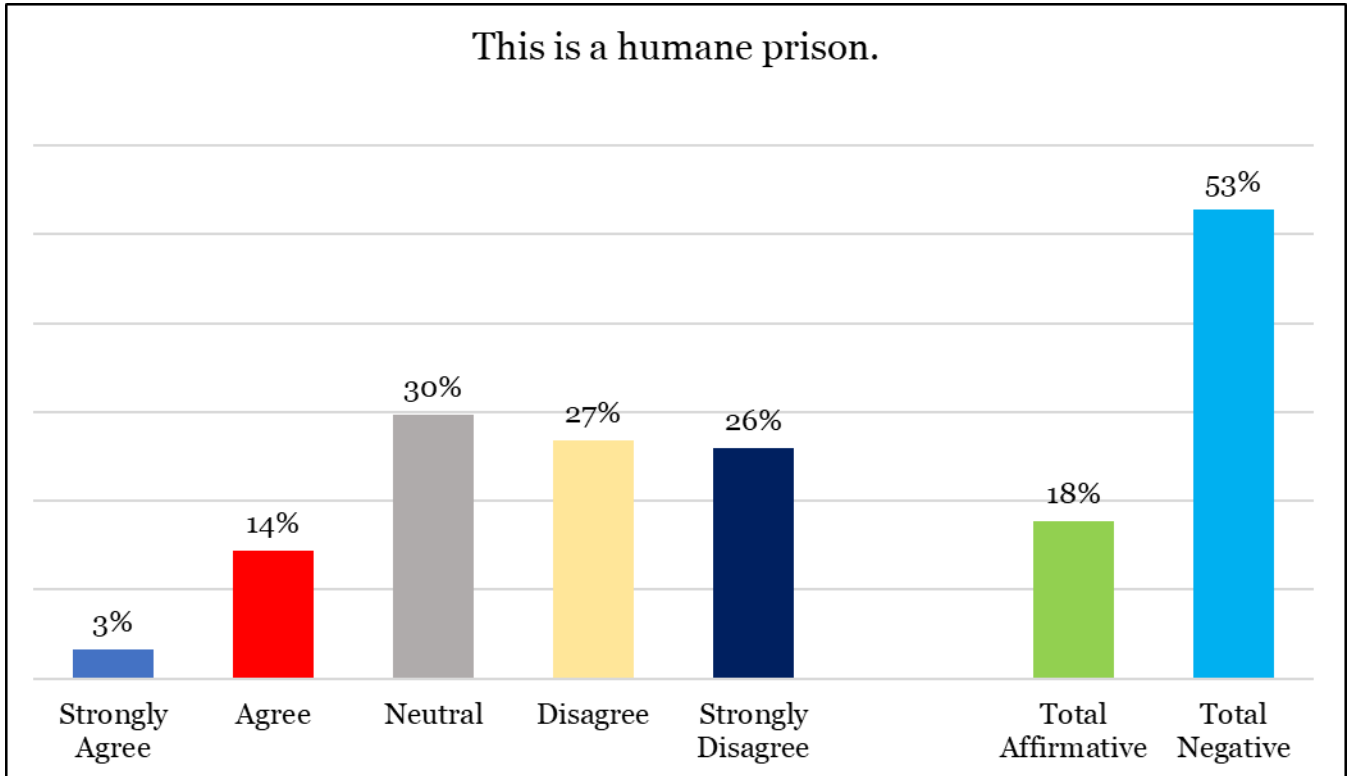
Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.



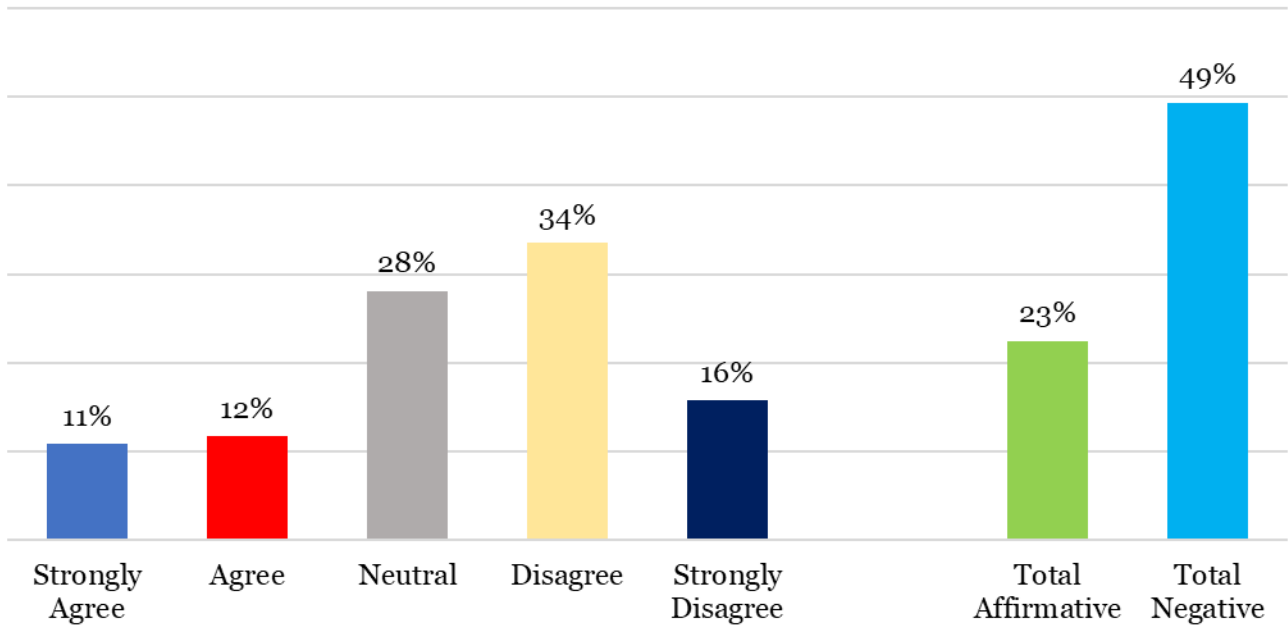
Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.



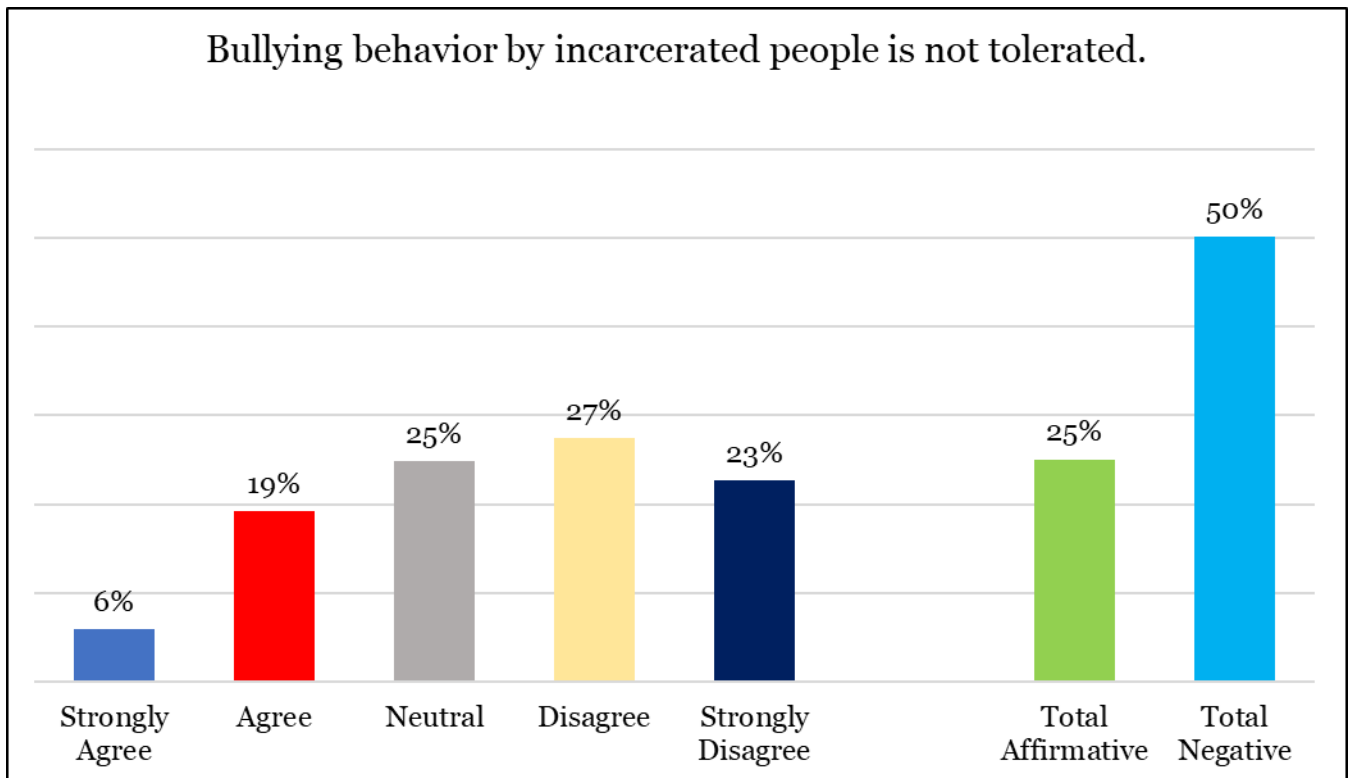
DECENCY - THE EXTENT TO WHICH STAFF AND THE REGIME ARE CONSIDERED REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE



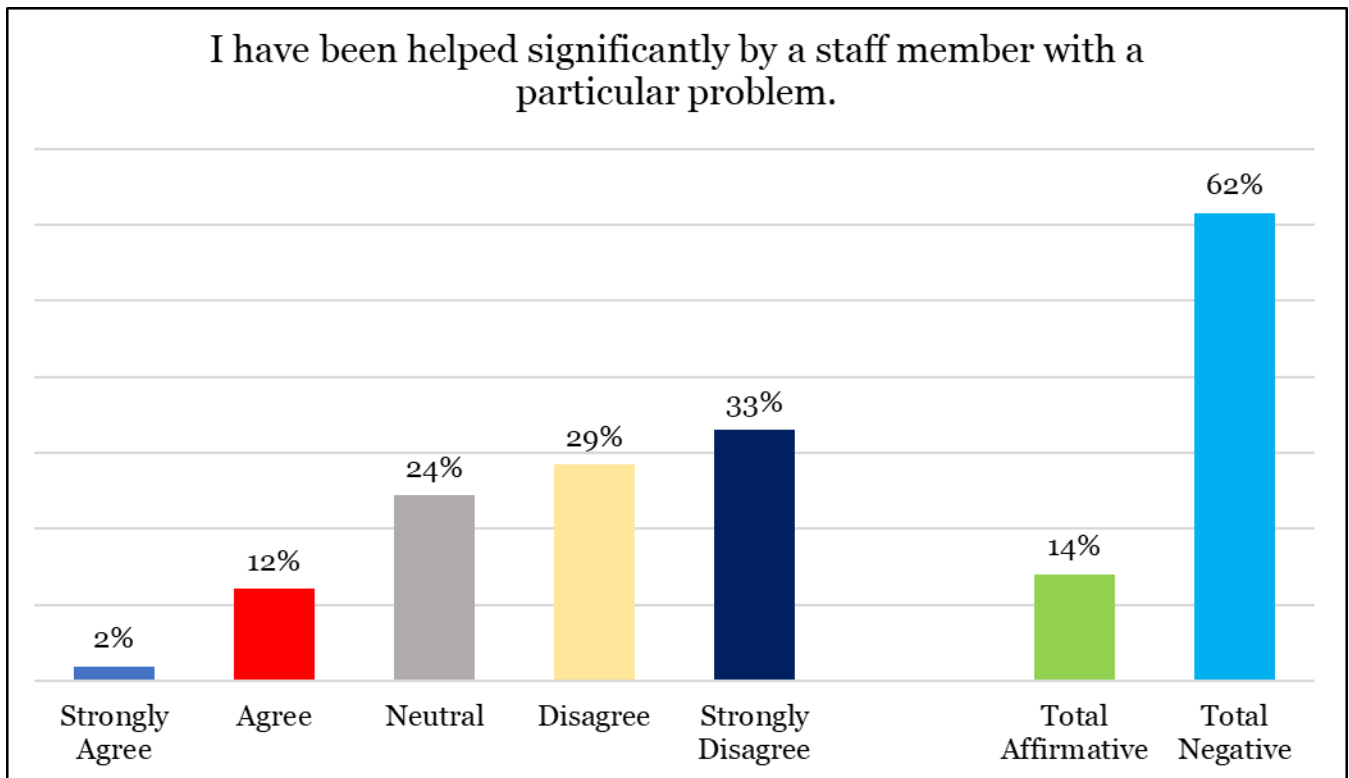
Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.



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

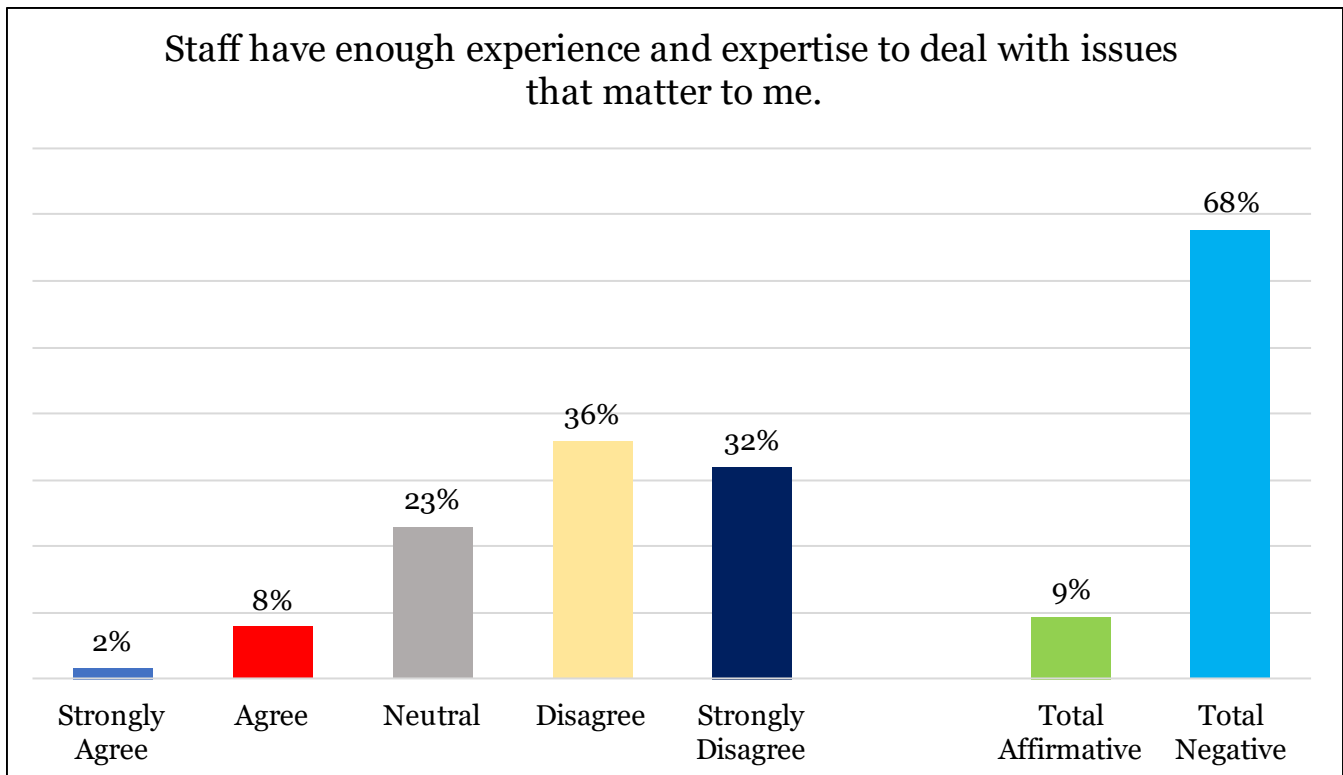
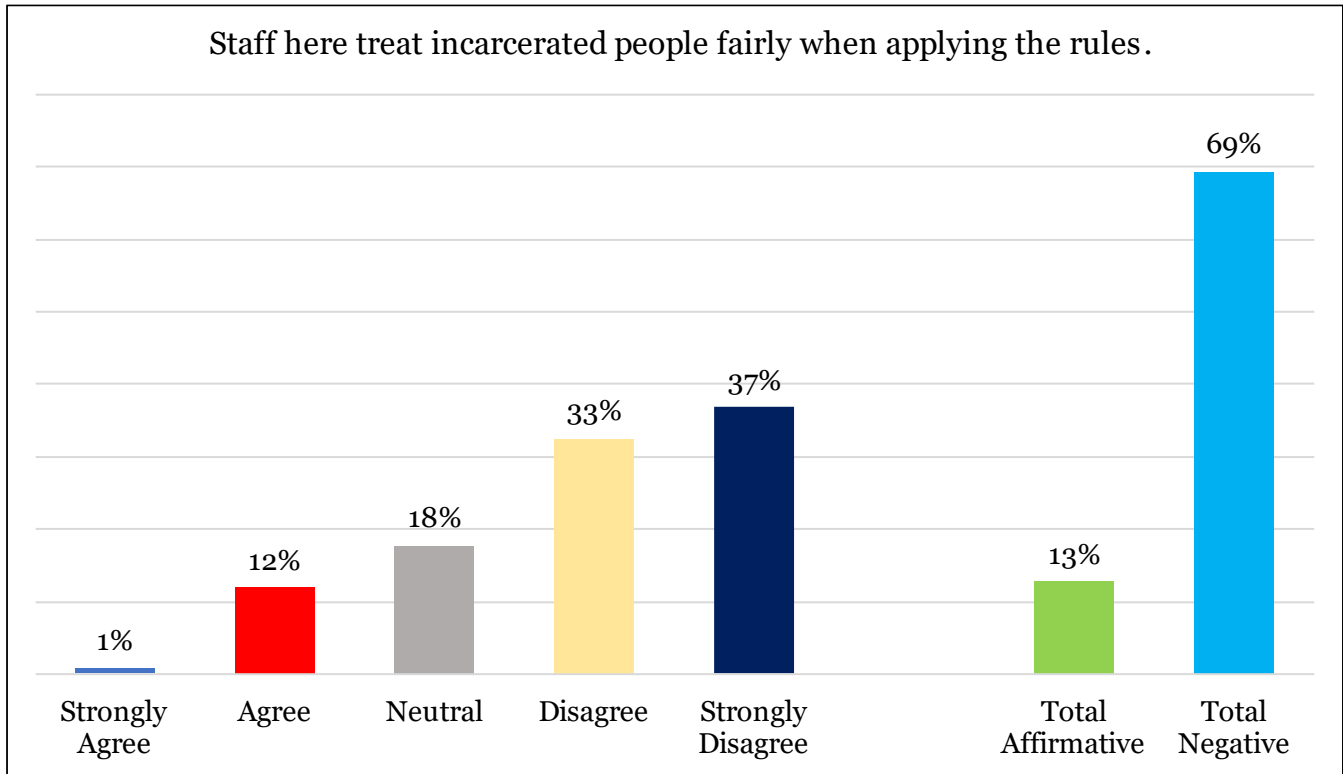


HELP AND ASSISTANCE – SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN TO INCARCERATED PEOPLE FOR PROBLEMS INCLUDING DRUGS, HEALTHCARE AND PROGRESSION

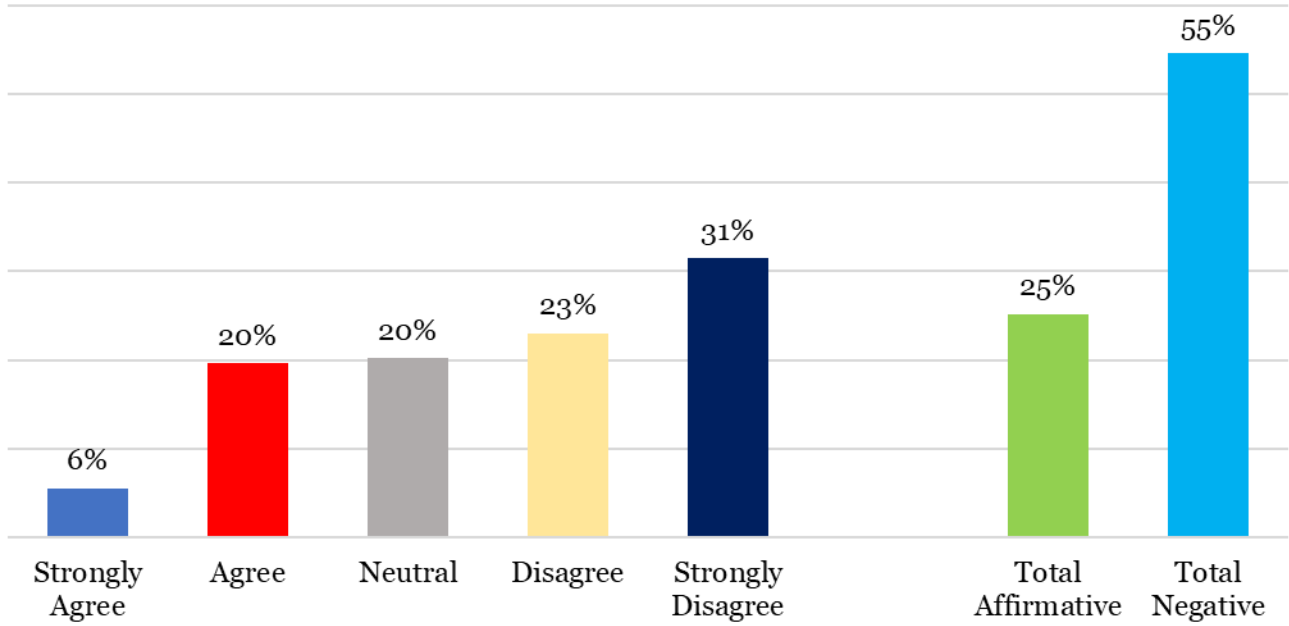


Professionalism

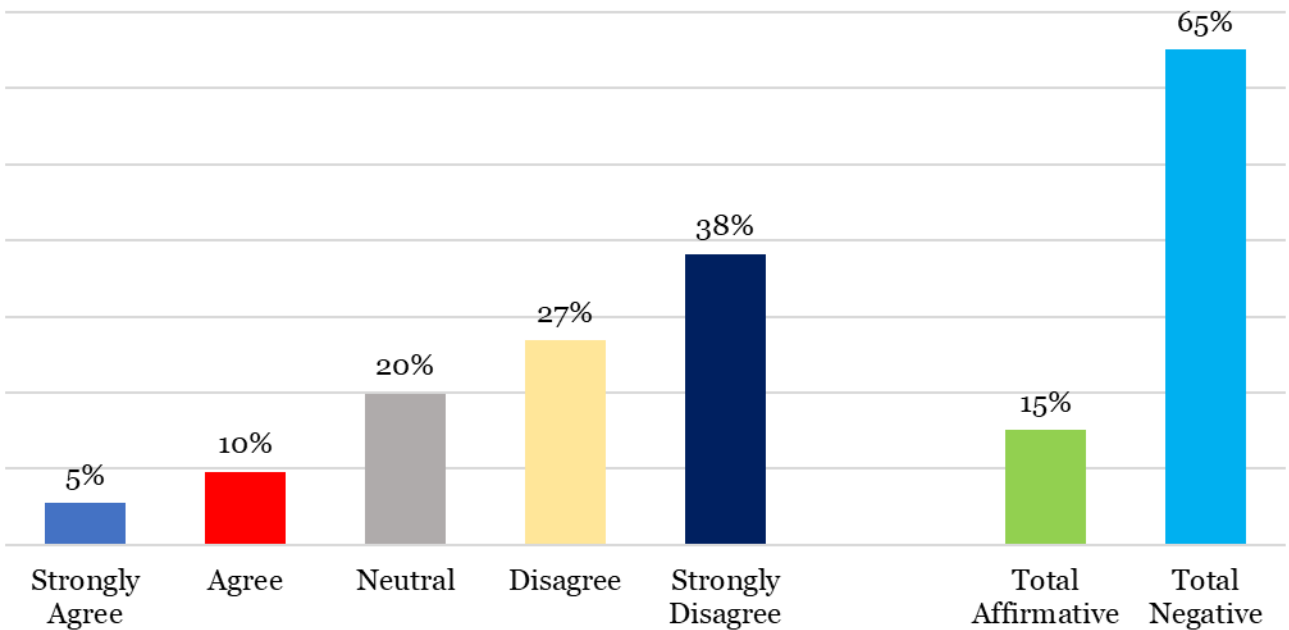
STAFF PROFESSIONALISM – STAFF CONFIDENCE AND COMPETENCE IN THE USE OF AUTHORITY



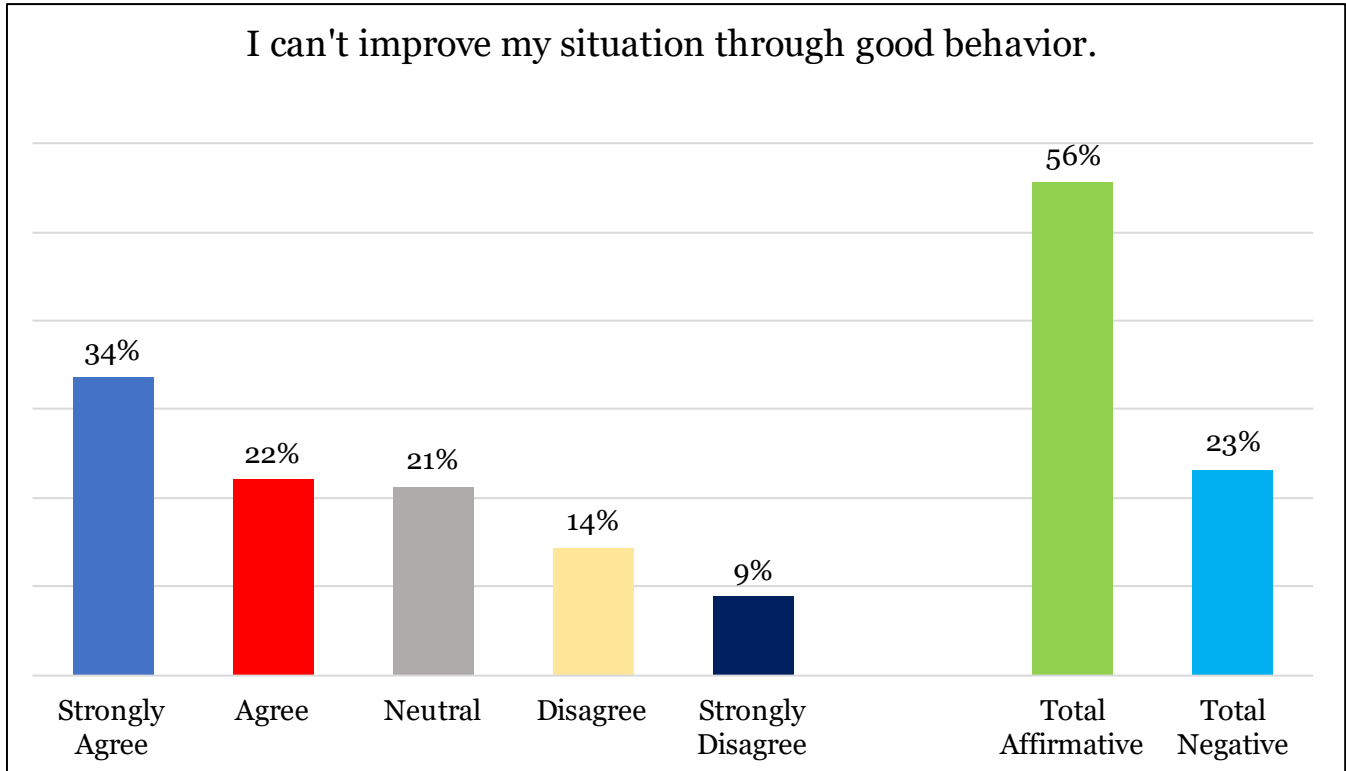
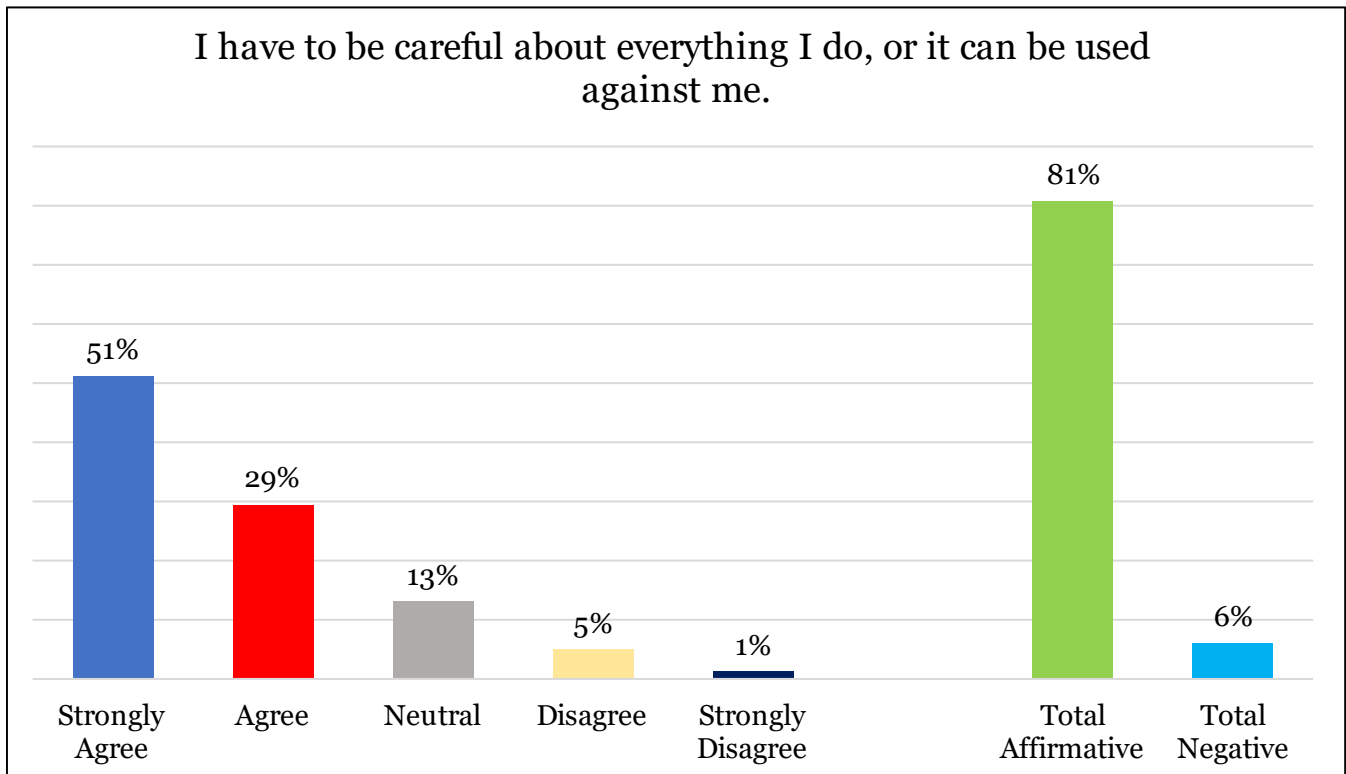
The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.



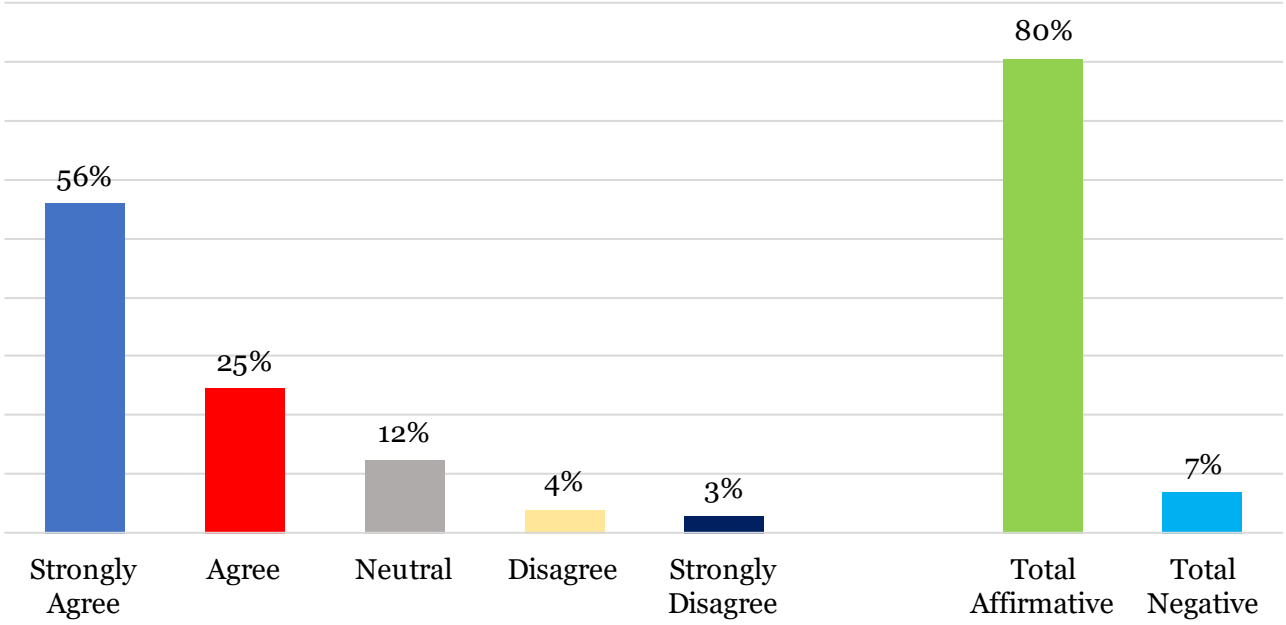
If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.



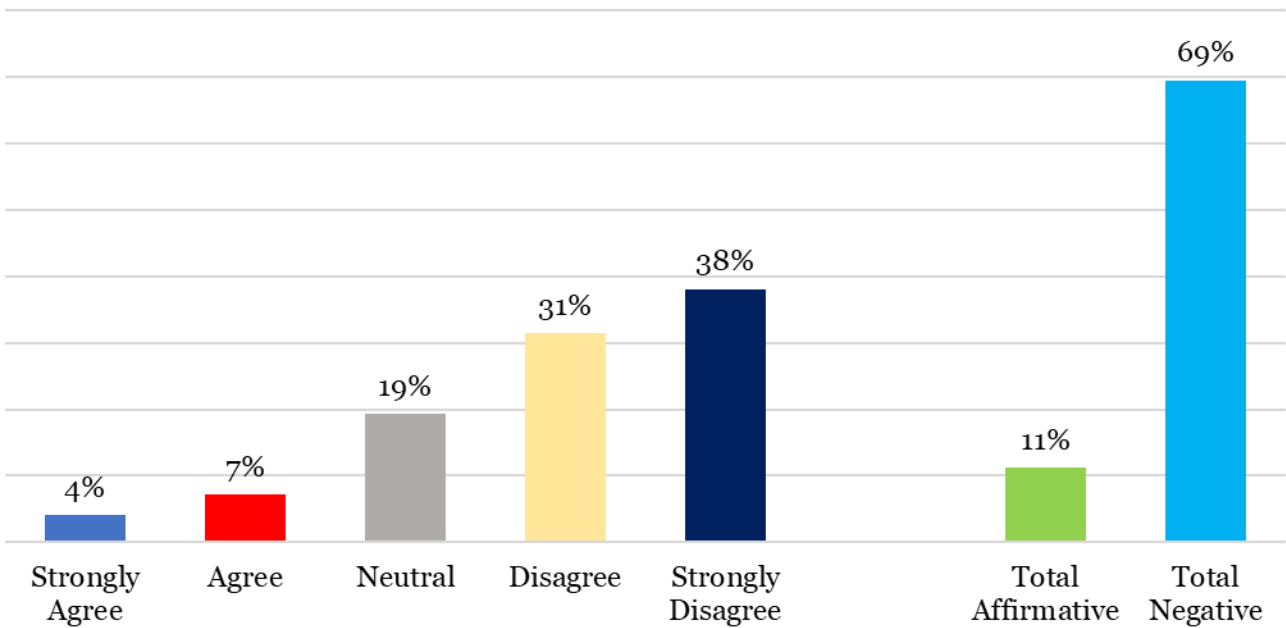
BUREAUCRATIC LEGITIMACY – THE TRANSPARENCY AND RESPONSIVENESS OF THE PRISON/PRISON SYSTEM AND ITS MORAL RECOGNITION OF THE INDIVIDUAL



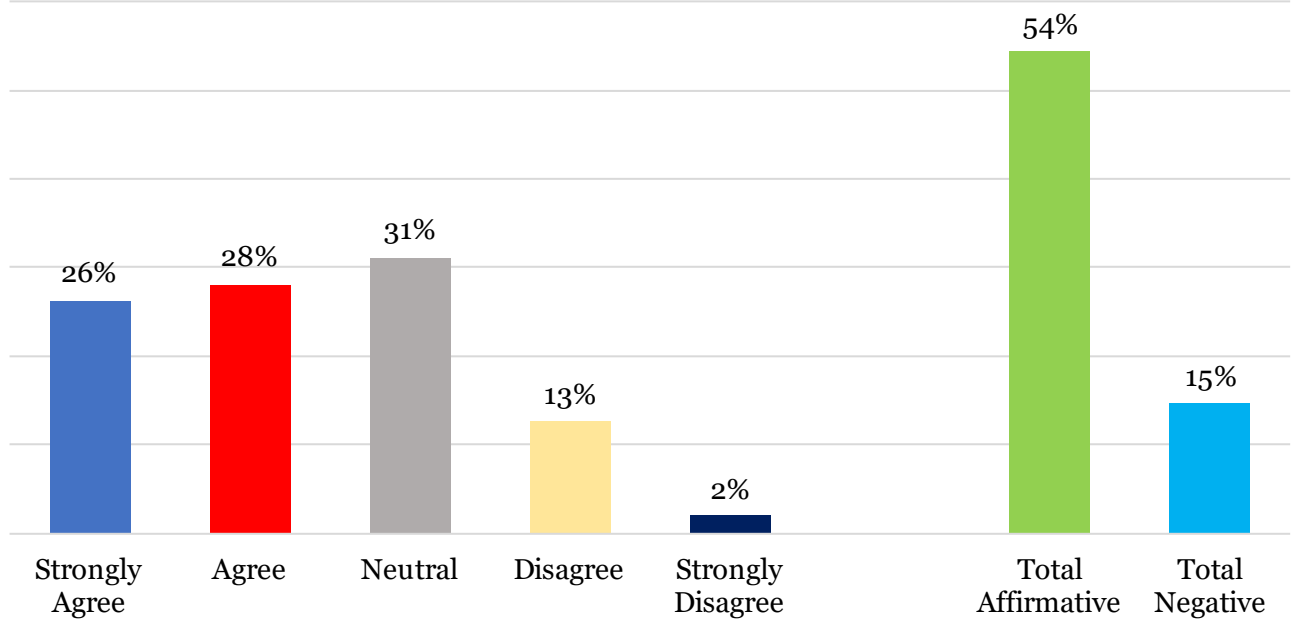
All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.



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

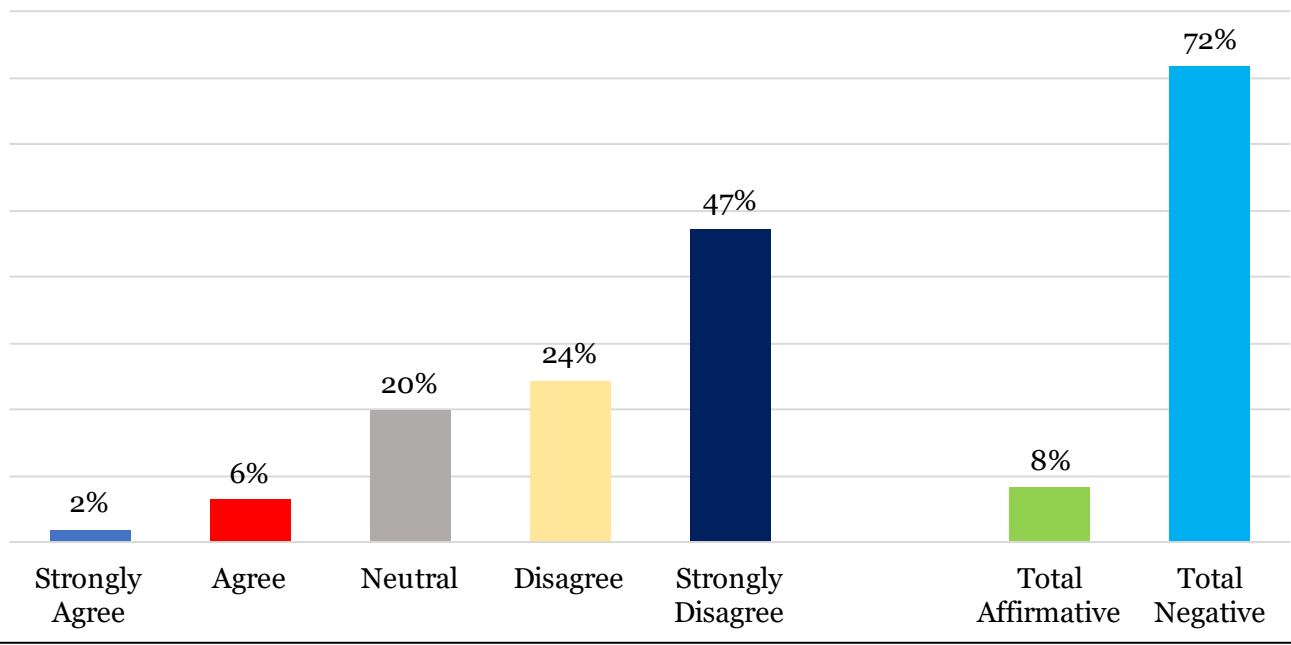


To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.

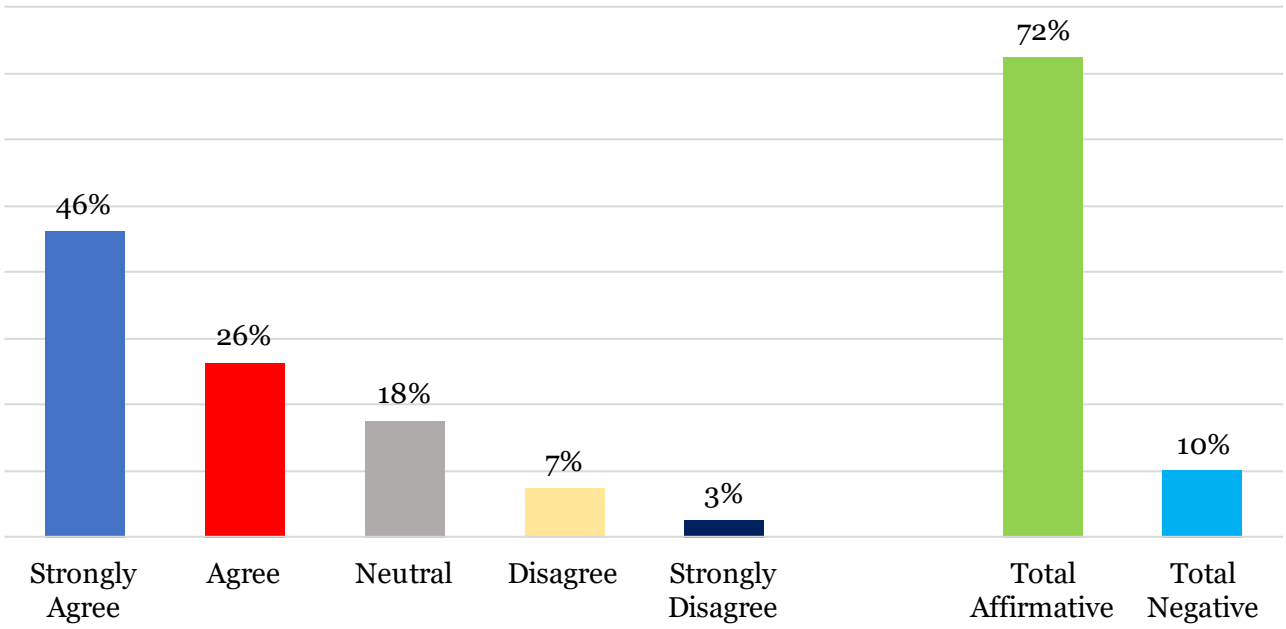


FAIRNESS – THE PERCEIVED IMPARTIALITY, PROPORTIONALITY AND LEGALITY OF PUNISHMENTS AND PROCEDURES

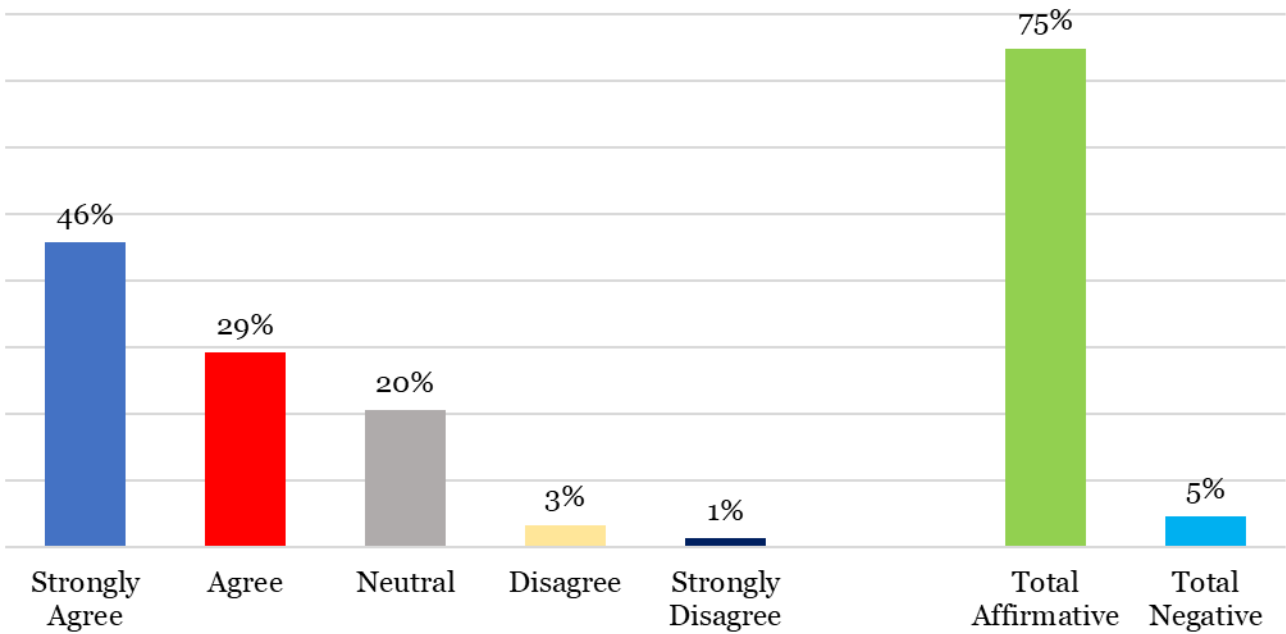
The disciplinary system is fair.



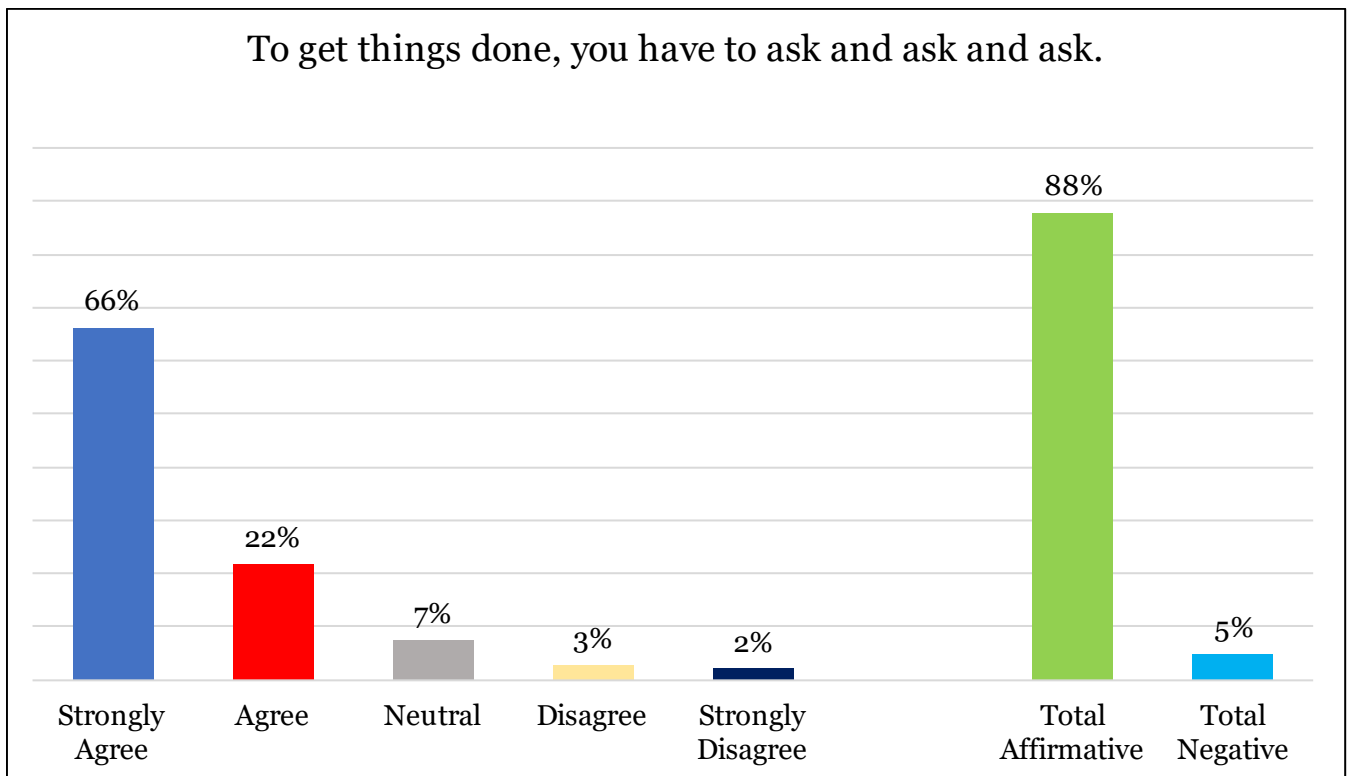
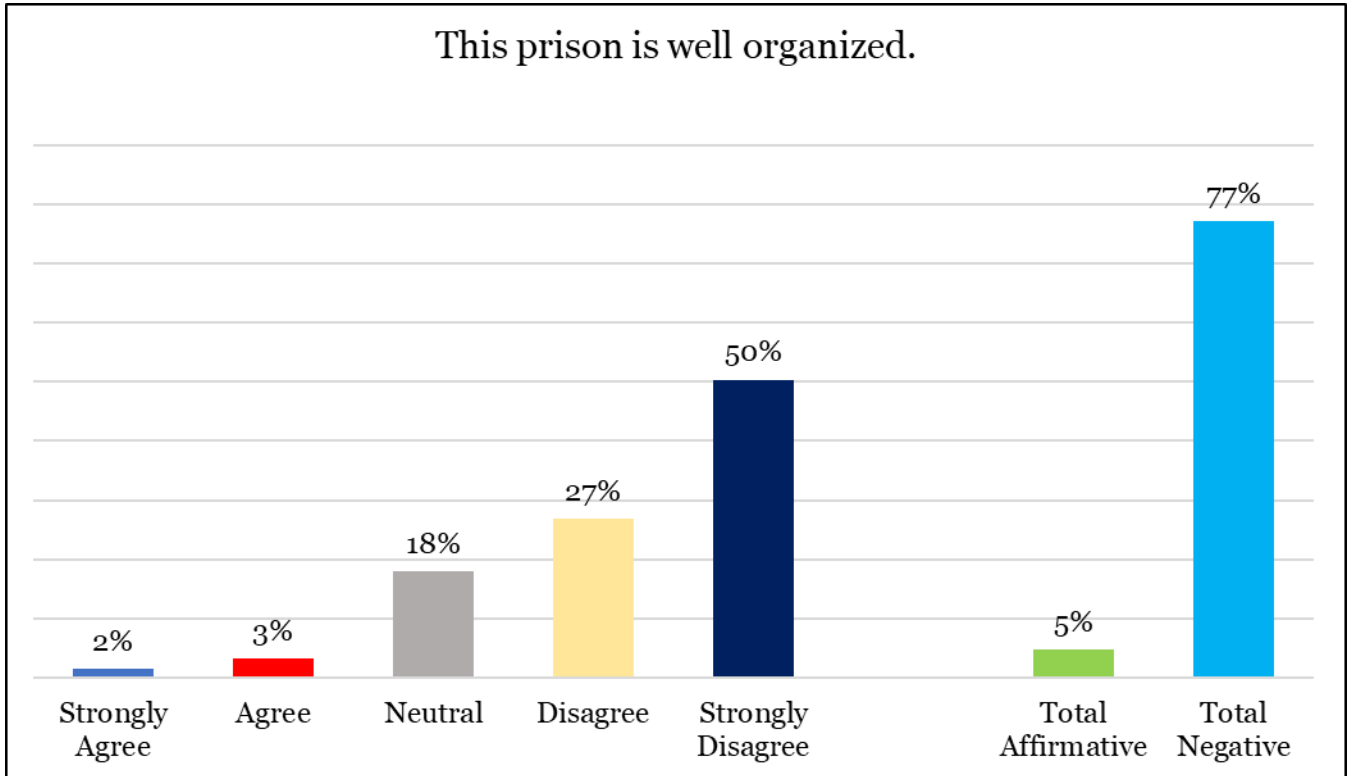
Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.



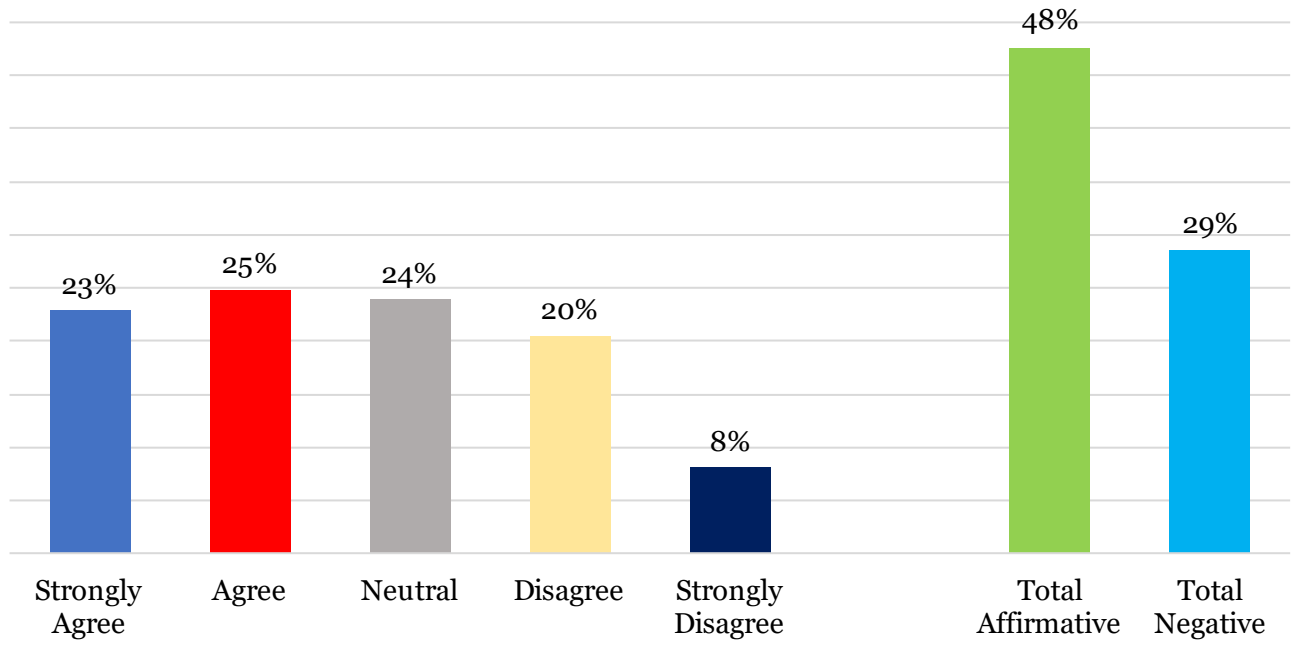
This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.



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

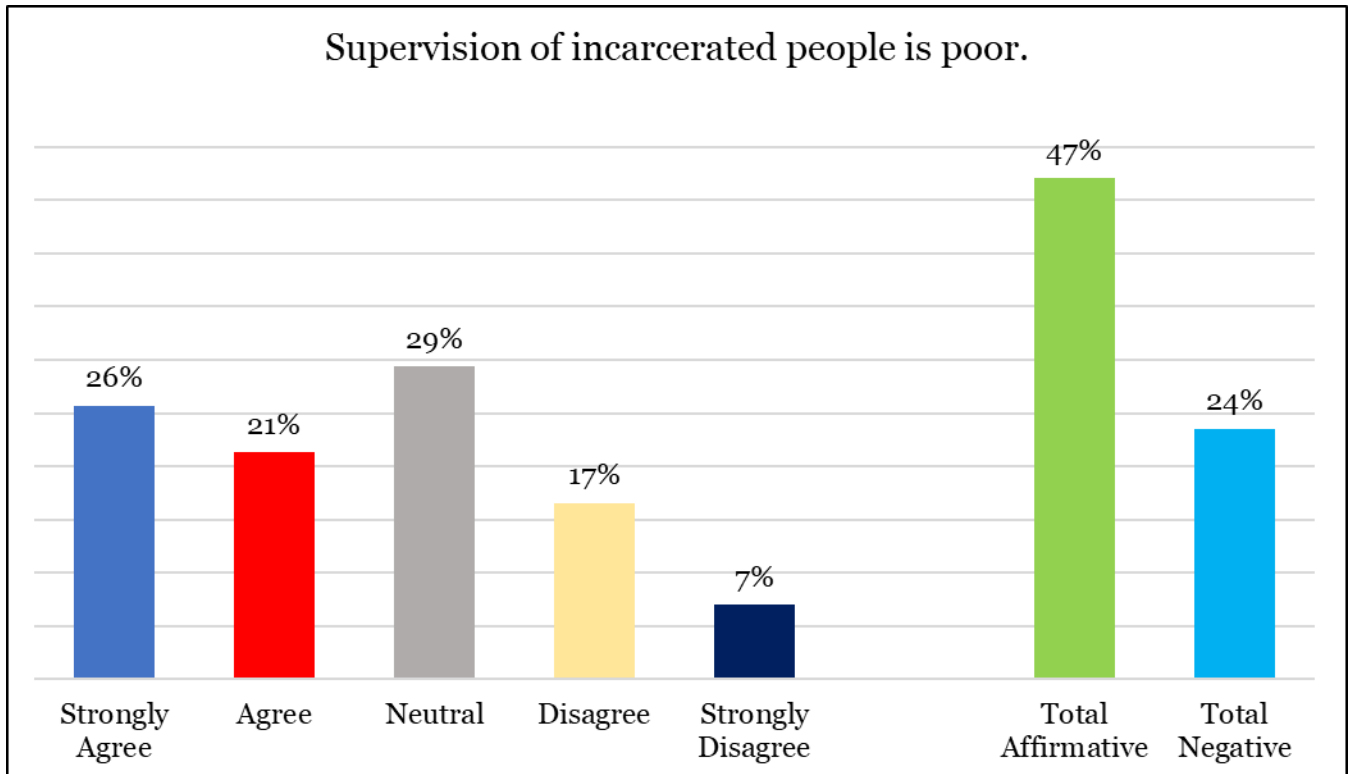


You never know the rules.

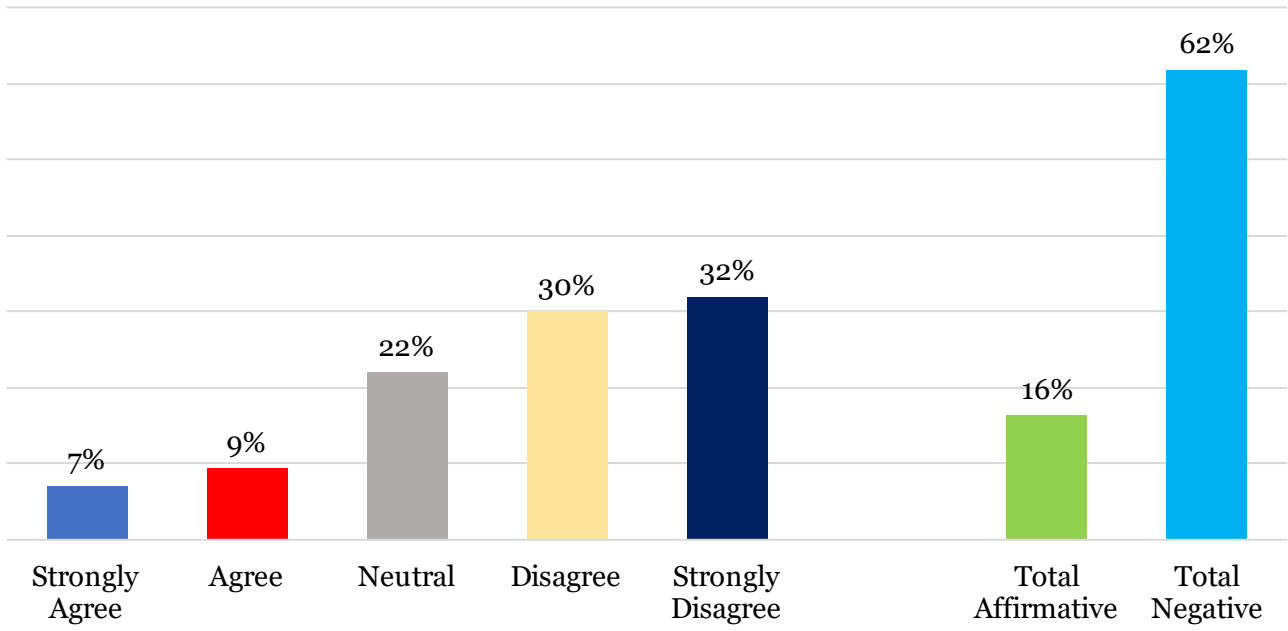


Security

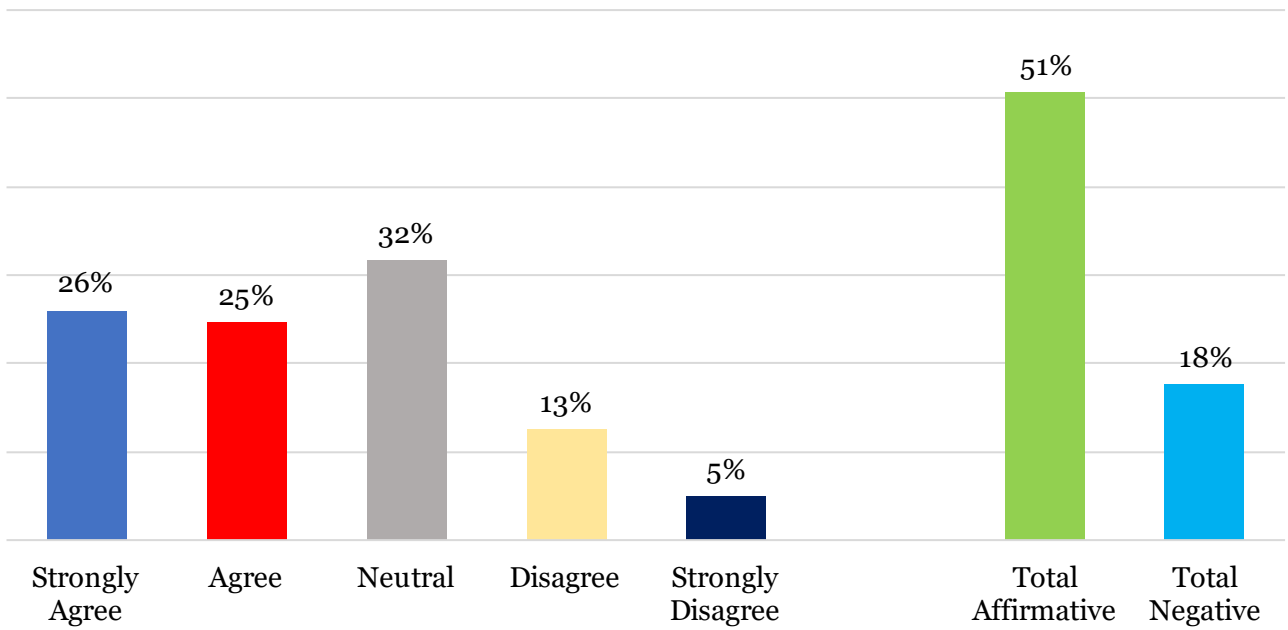
POLICING AND SECURITY – STAFF SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT



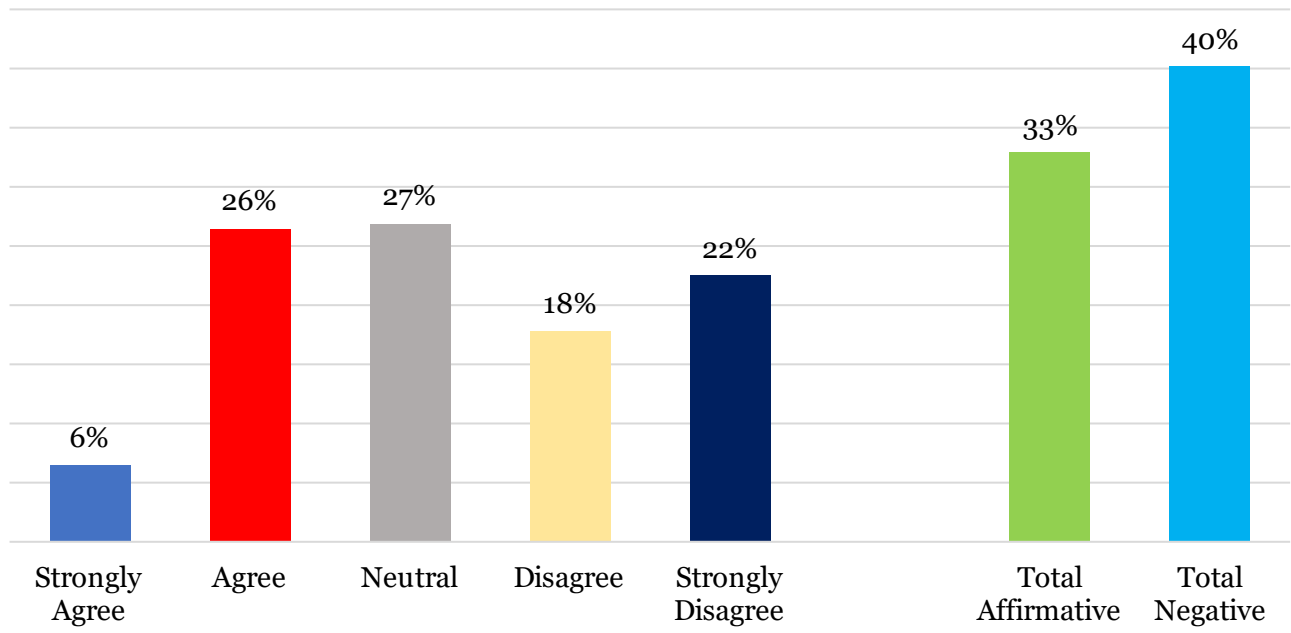
This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.



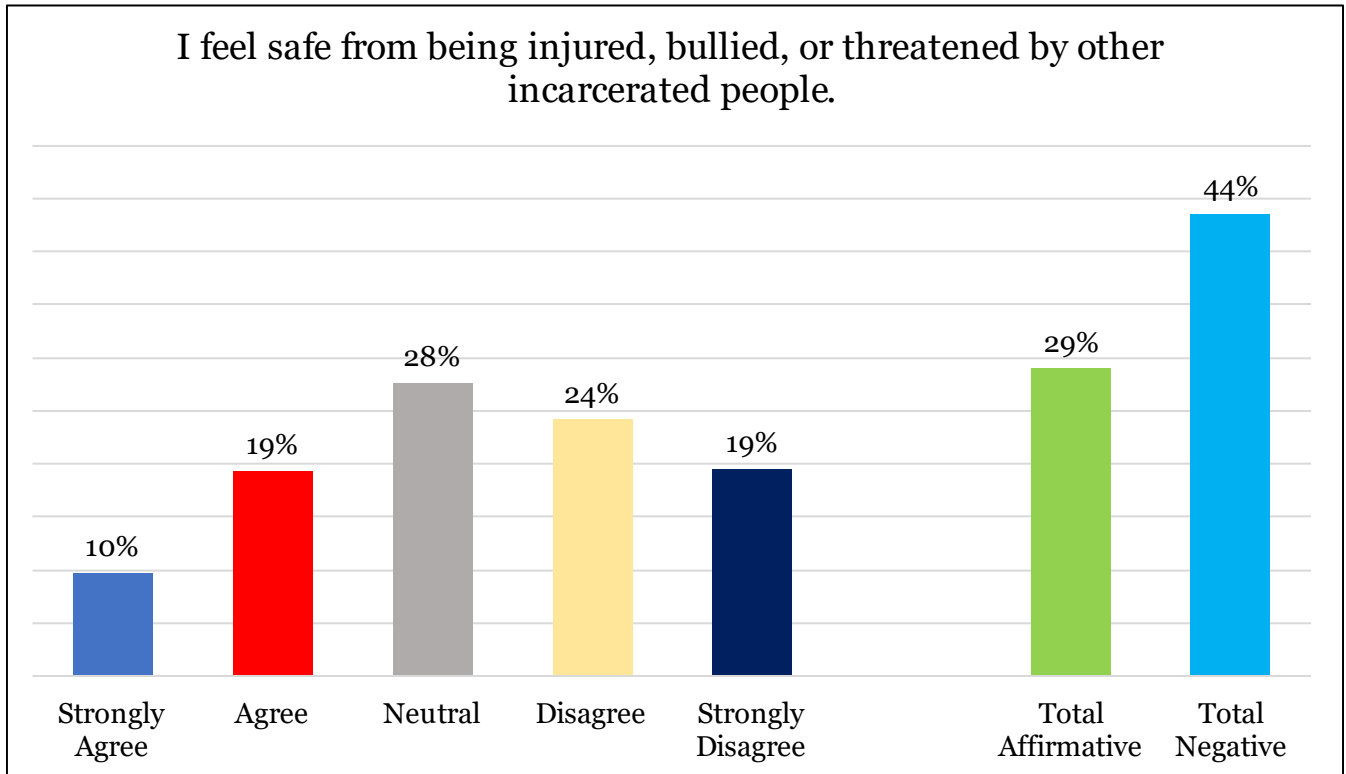
There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.



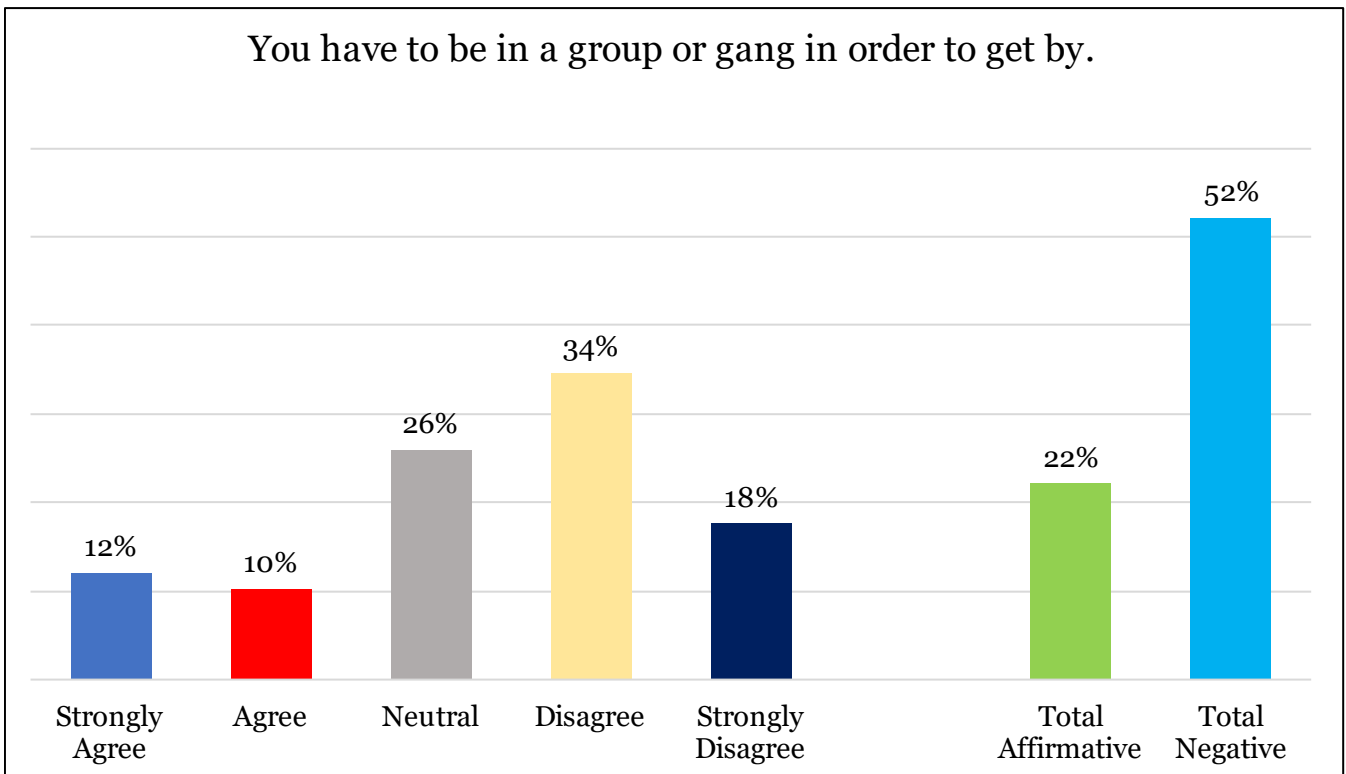
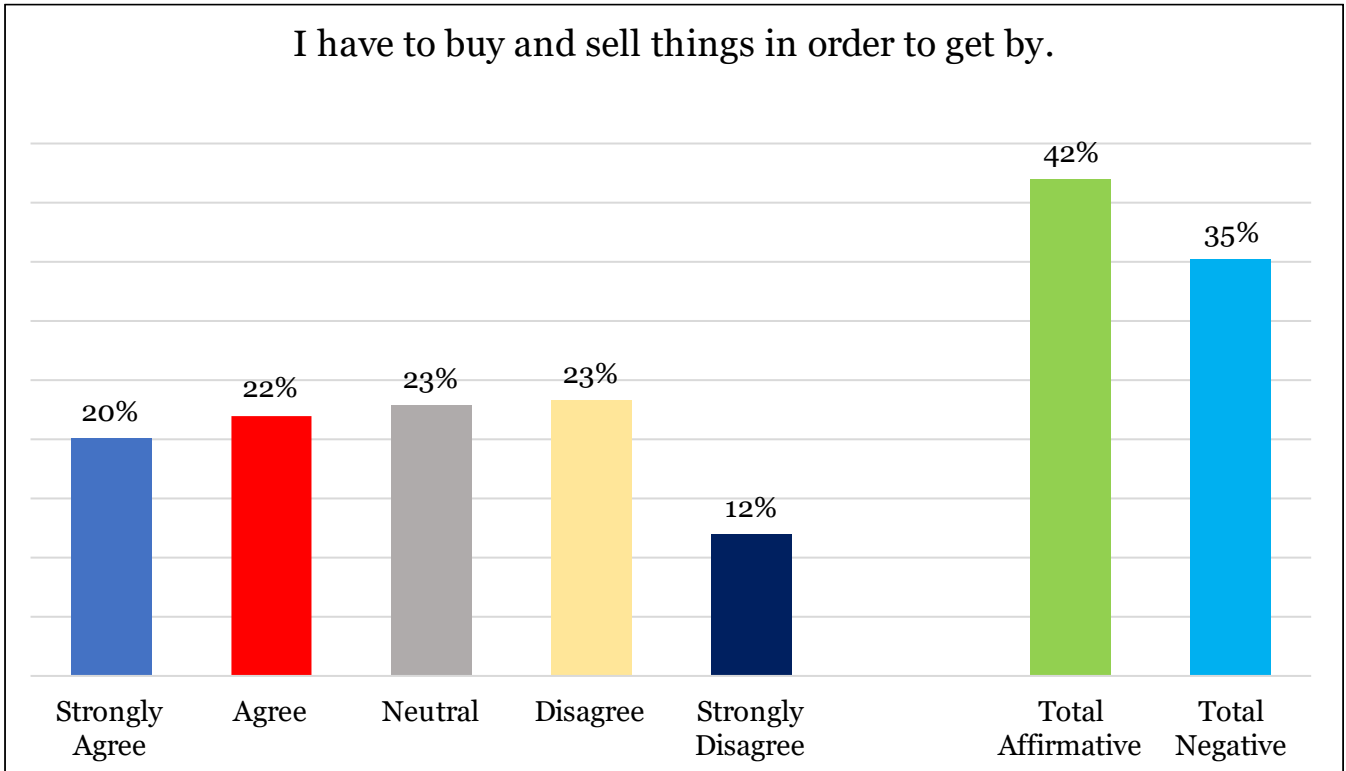
Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.



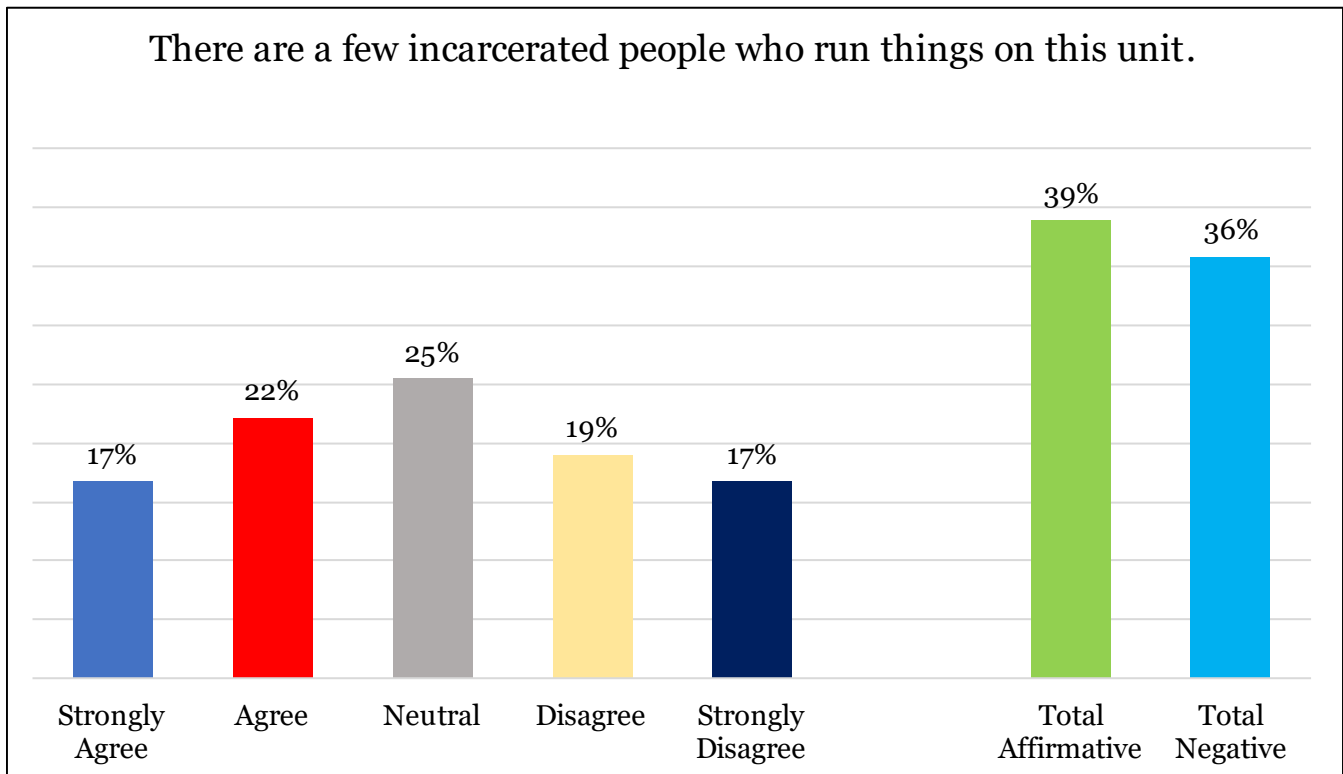
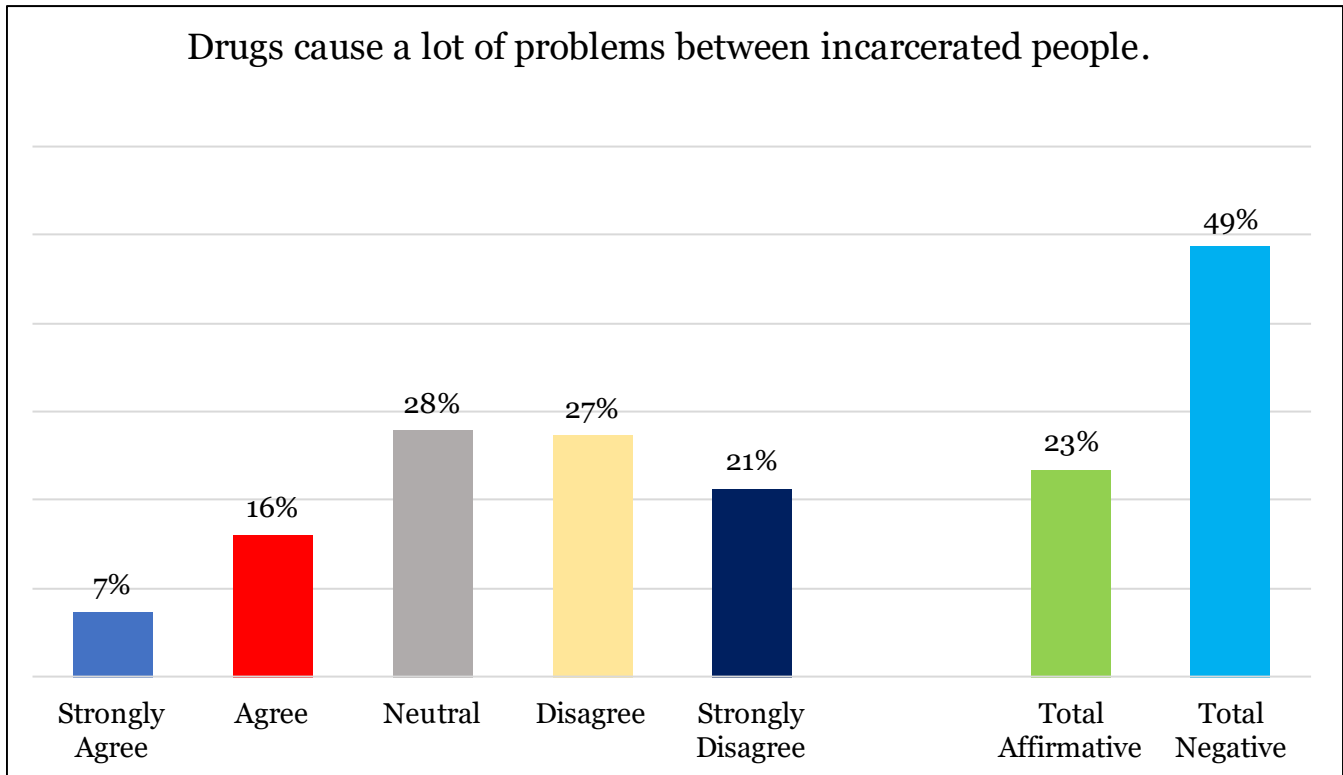
INCARCERATED PERSON SAFETY – THE FEELING OF SECURITY OR PROTECTION FROM HARM, THREAT OR DANGER



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

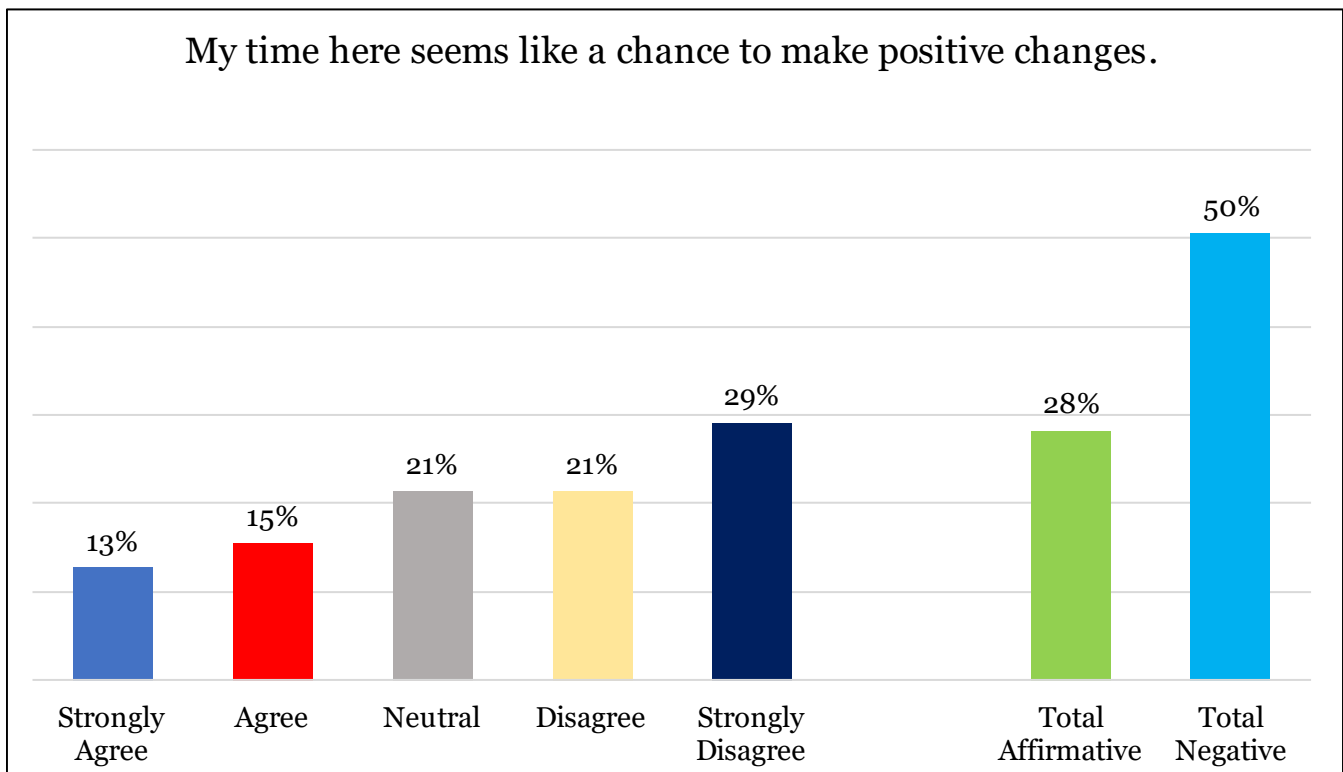
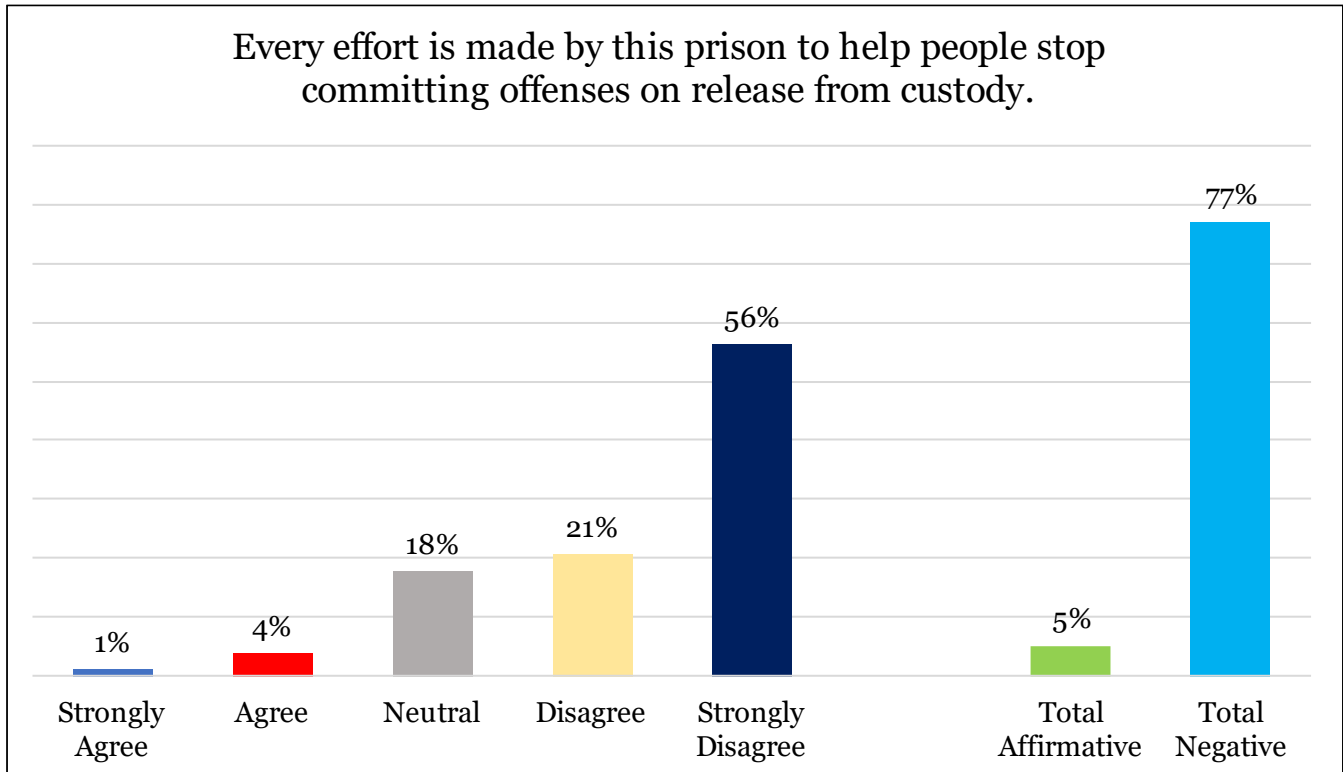


DRUGS AND EXPLOITATION – THE LEVEL OF DRUGS, BULLYING AND VICTIMIZATION IN THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT

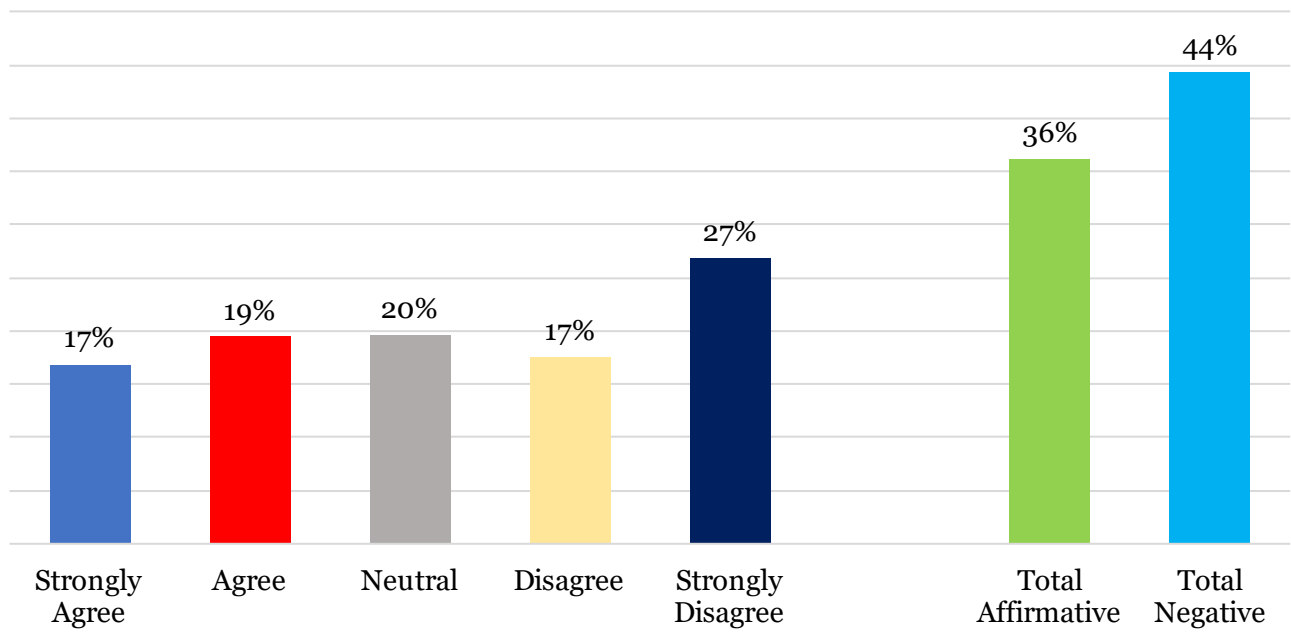


Well-being and Development

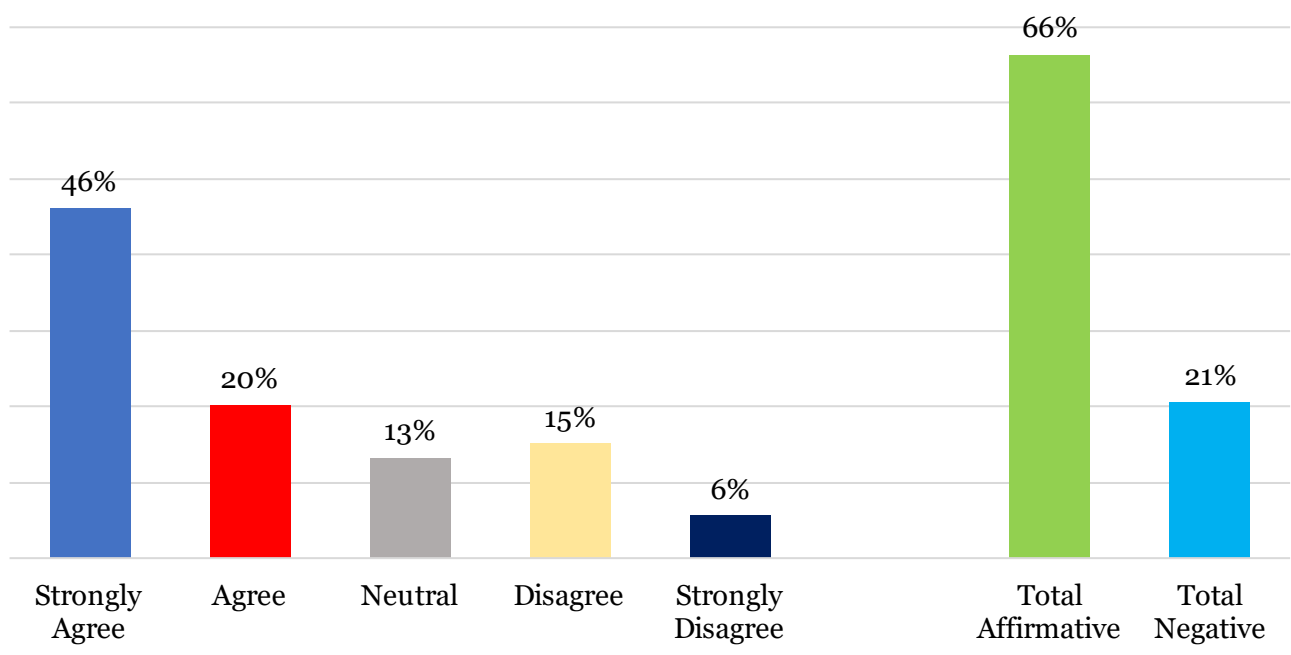
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT HELPS INCARCERATED PEOPLE WITH OFFENDING BEHAVIOR, PREPARATION FOR RELEASE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR POTENTIAL



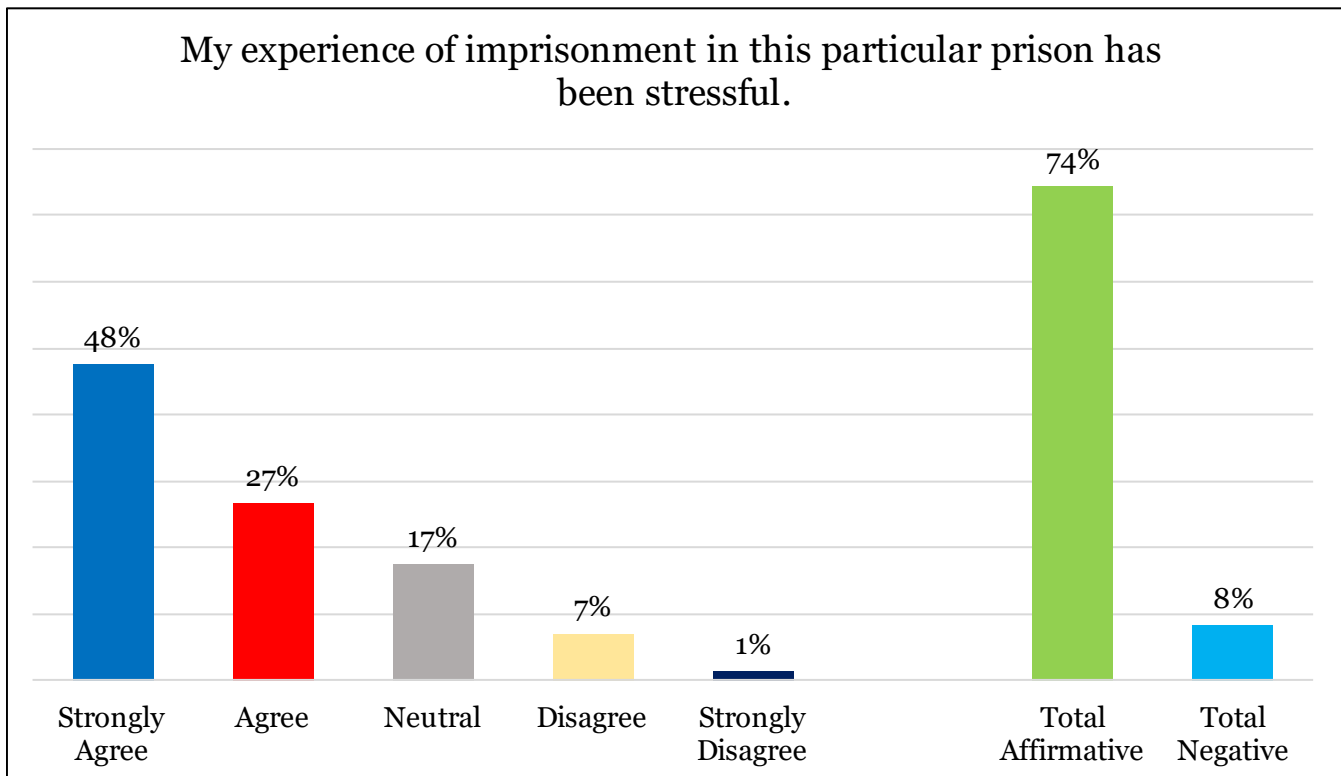
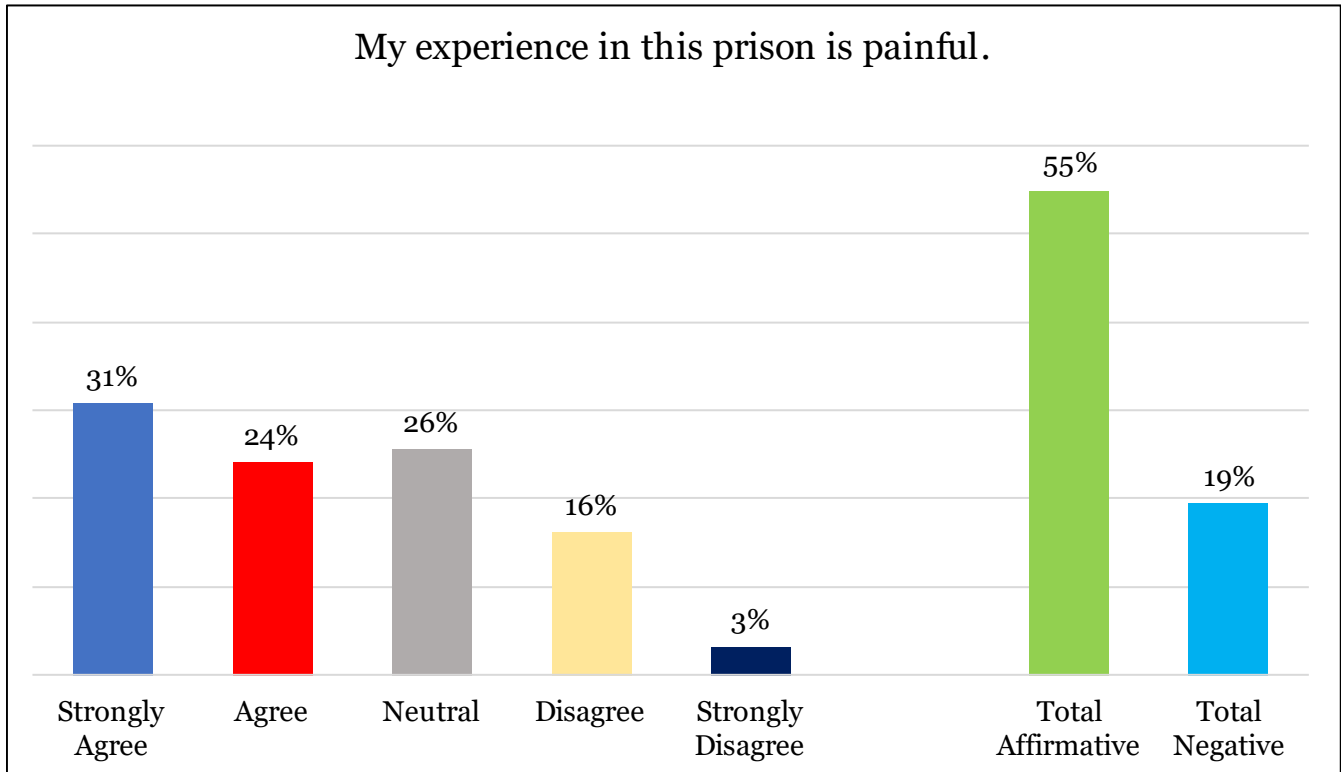
The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.



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

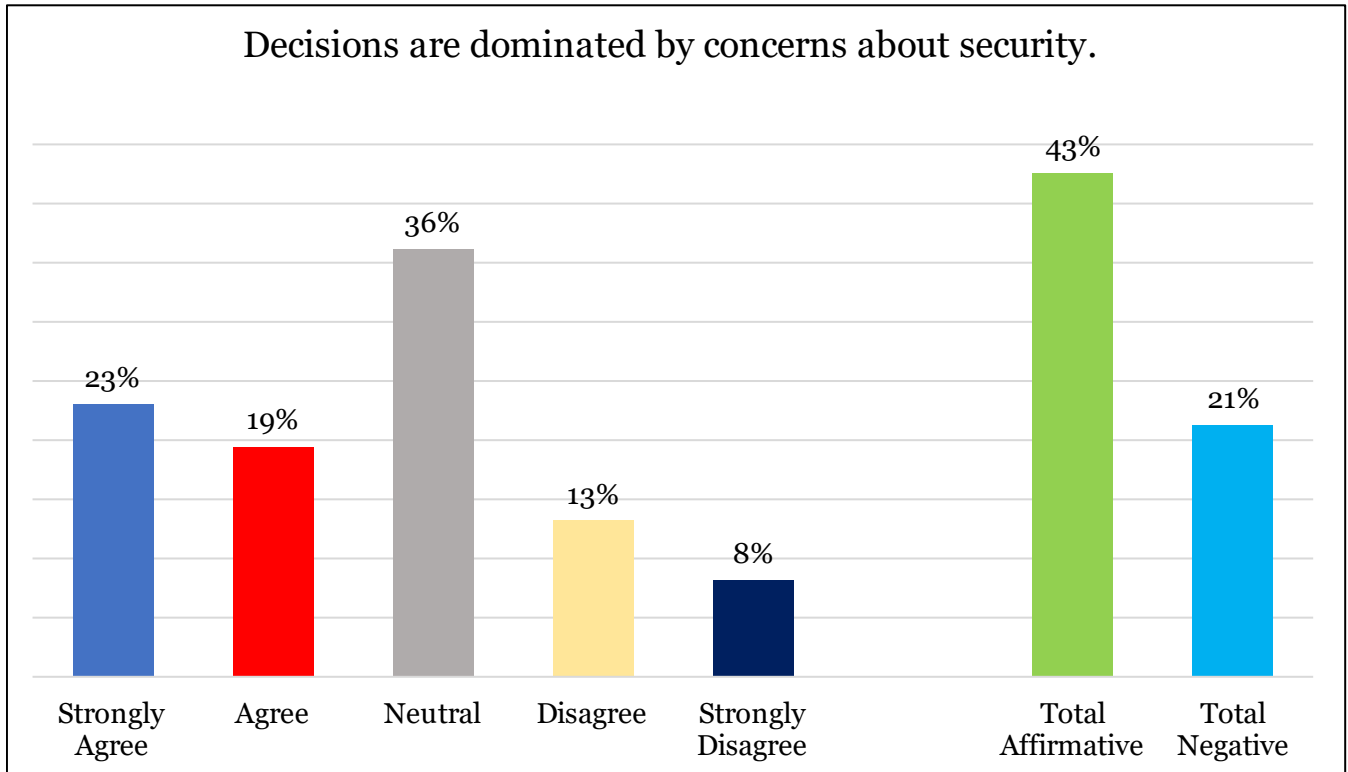


WELL-BEING – FEELINGS OF PAIN, PUNISHMENT AND TENSION EXPERIENCED BY INCARCERATED PEOPLE

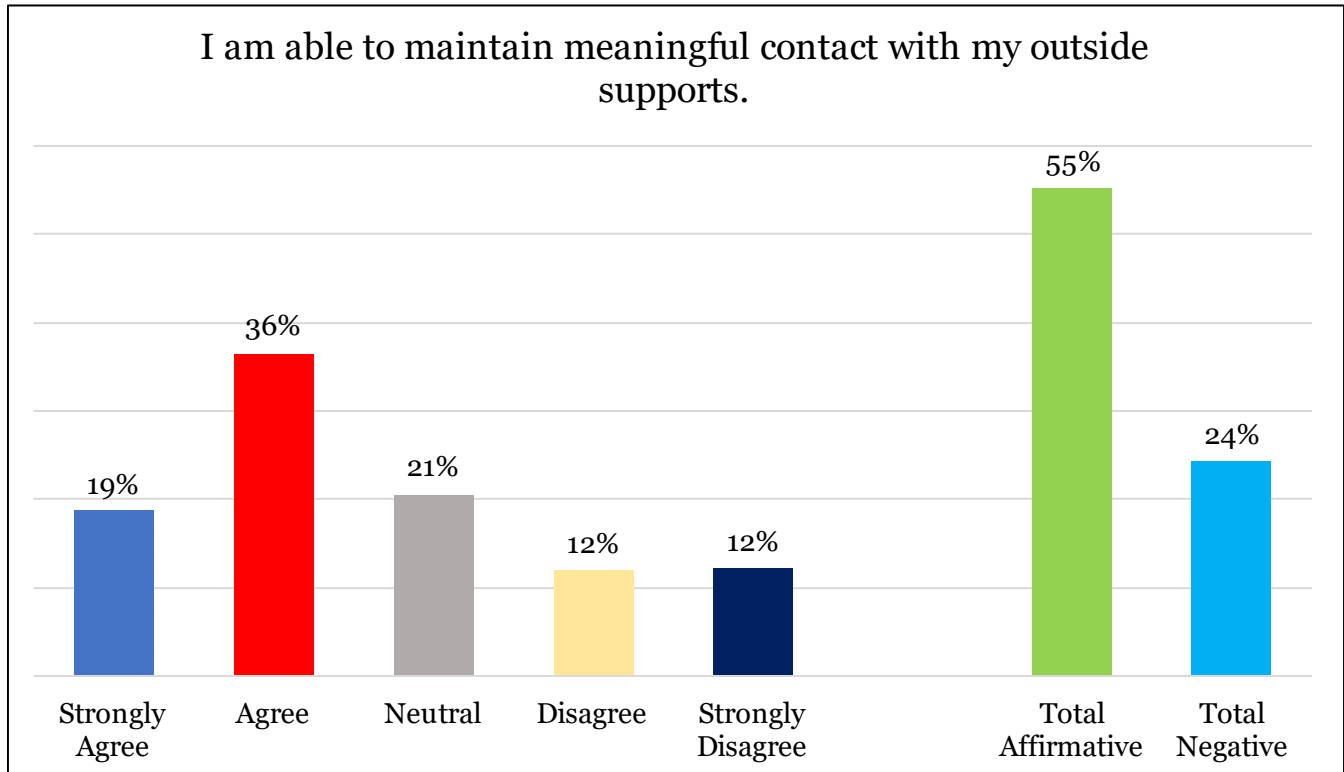


Additional Questions

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

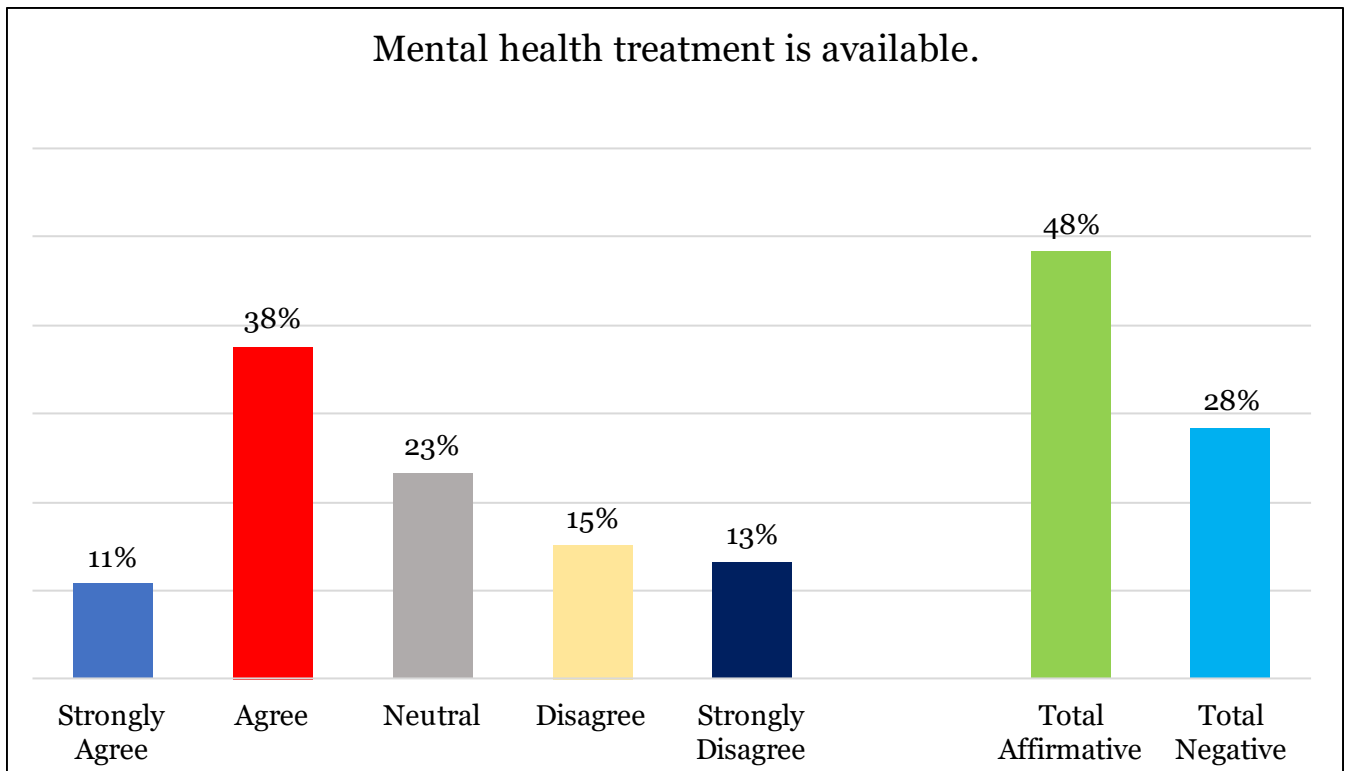
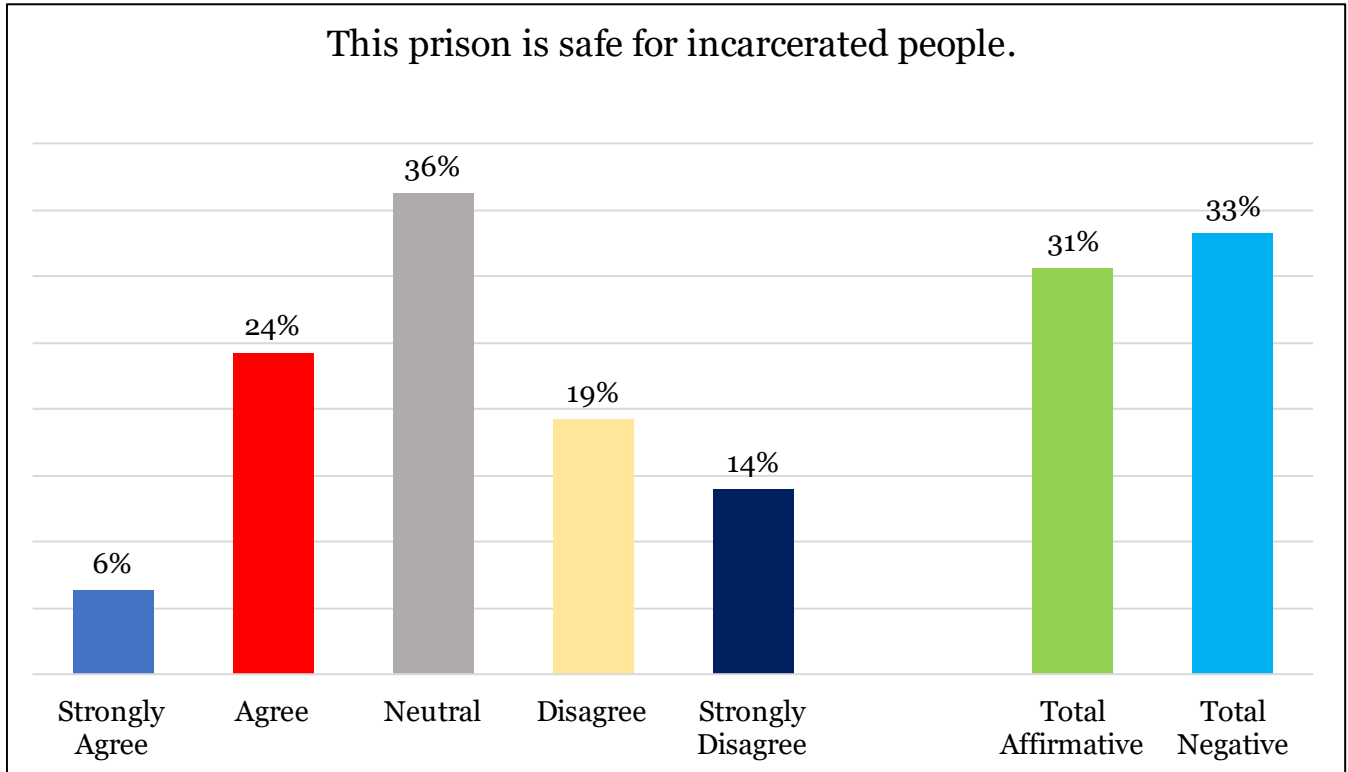


FAMILY CONTACT – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT FACILITATES INCARCERATED PEOPLE MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOVED ONES

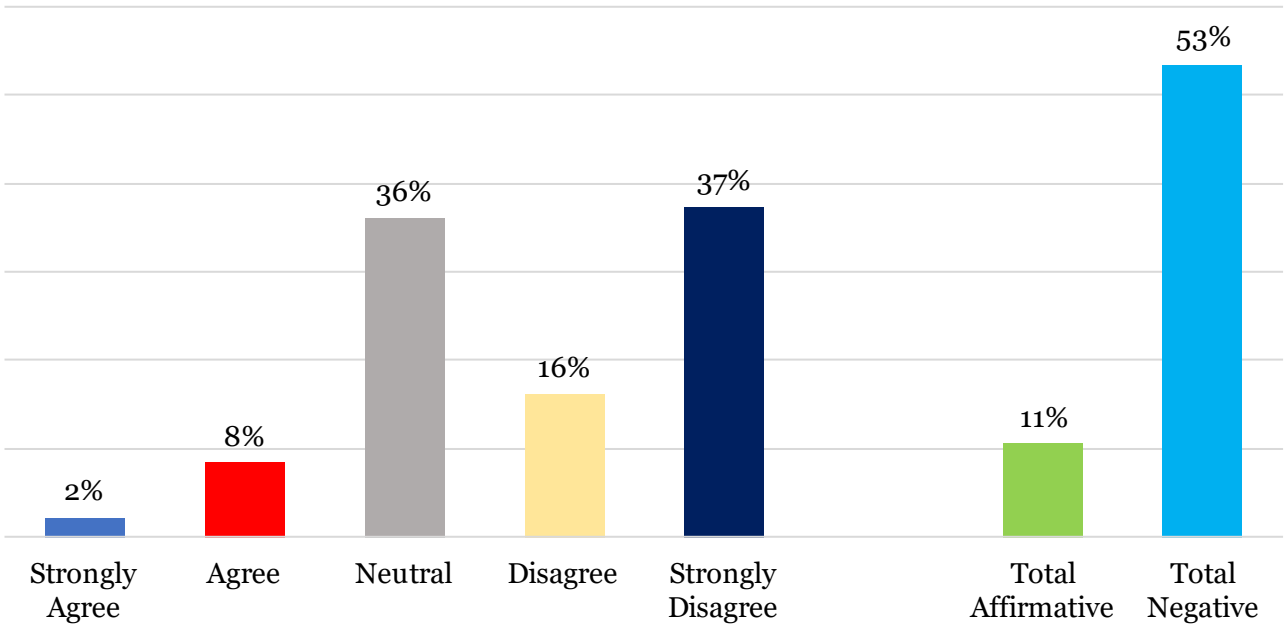


Charts: JHA Questions

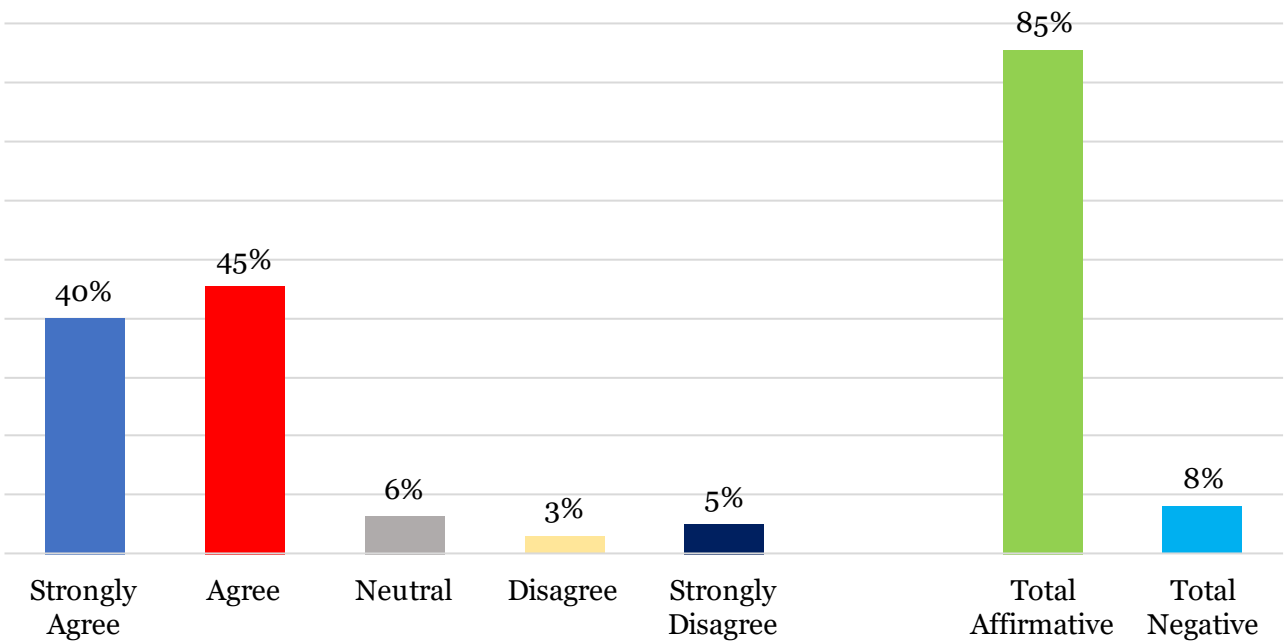
QUESTIONS USED IN PREVIOUS JHA SURVEYS



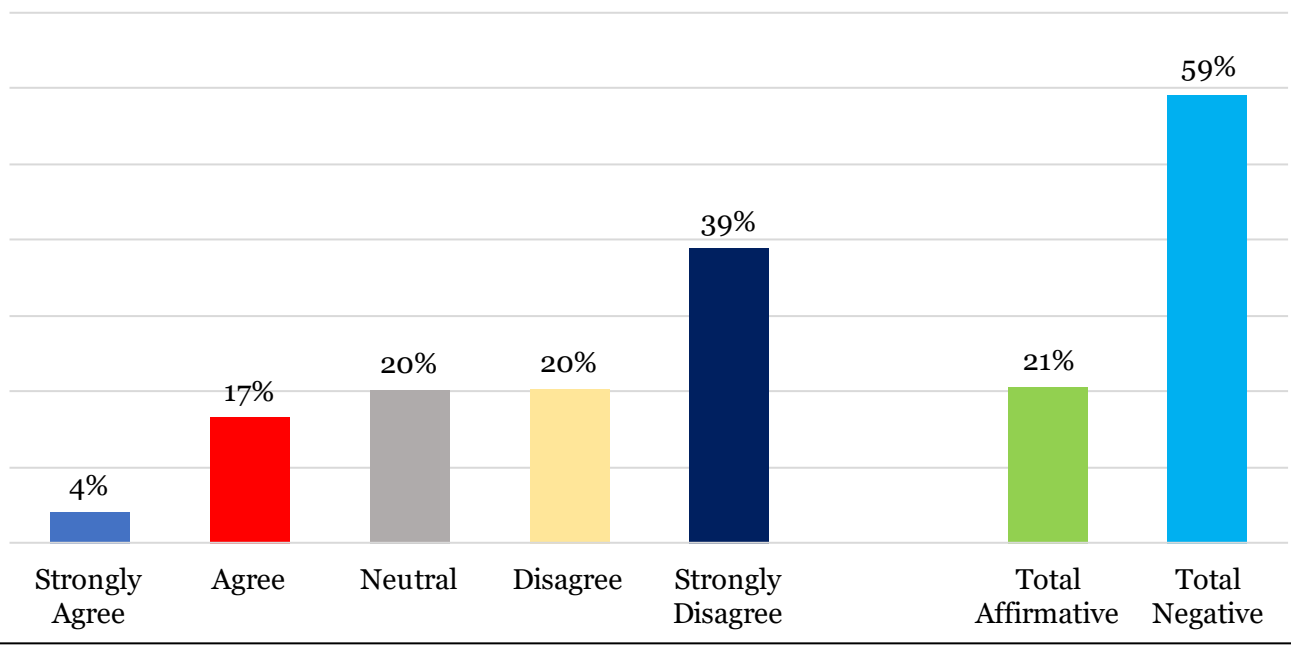
This prison is better now than it was last year.



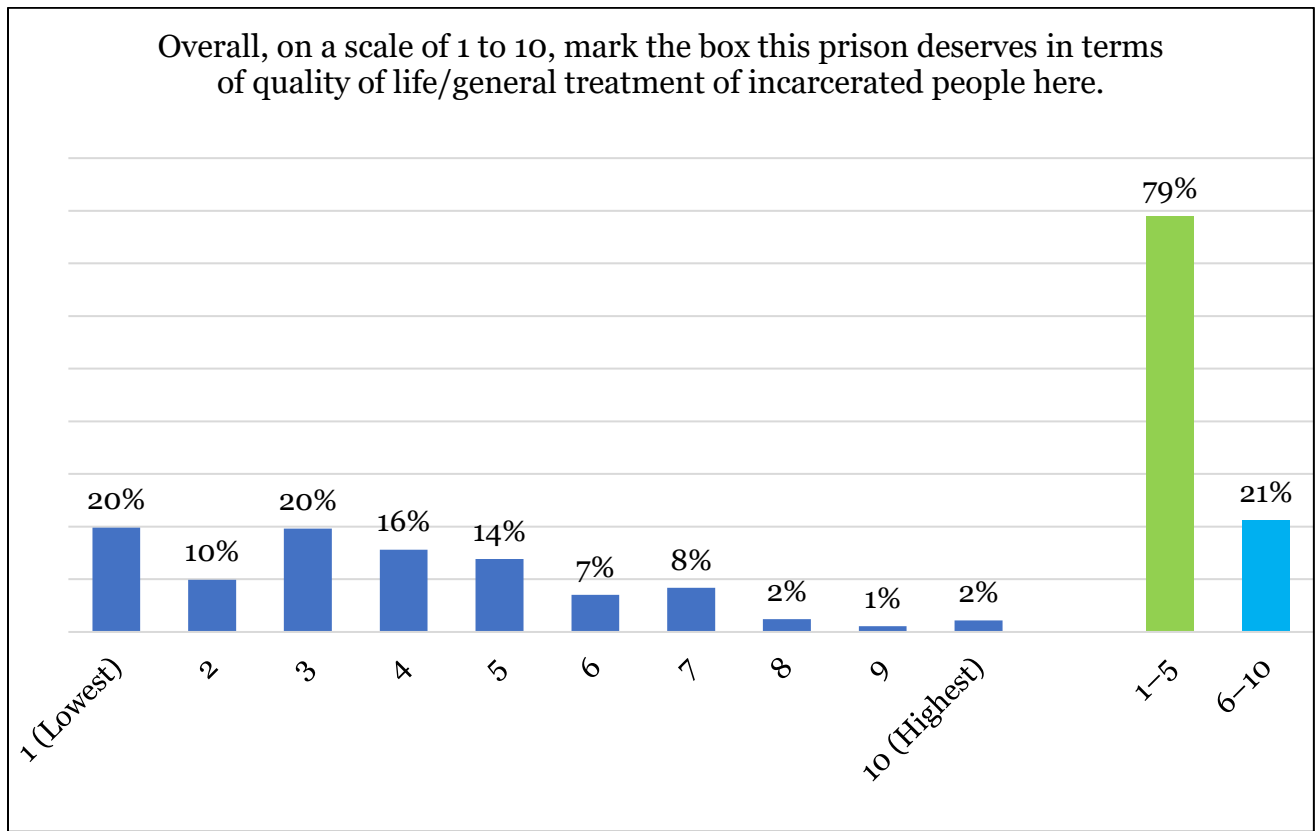
I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.



I am satisfied with food from dietary.



OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE



Tables of Results by Individual Survey Items

| Age | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|
| 18-26 | 35 | 7% |
| 26-30 | 49 | 10% |
| 31-40 | 151 | 32% |
| 41-50 | 126 | 27% |
| 51 and over | 108 | 23% |
| No response | 1 | |

| Race or ethnicity | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|
| White | 282 | 61% |
| Black | 141 | 30% |
| Hispanic or Latino | 19 | 4% |
| Other | 23 | 5% |
| No response | 5 | |

| Are you within two years of release? | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Yes | 217 | 46% |
| No | 251 | 54% |
| No response | 2 | |

| Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25? | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Yes | 249 | 53% |
| No | 217 | 47% |
| No response | 4 | |

| What housing status are you currently on? | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| General Population | 436 | 94% |
| Restrictive Housing | 9 | 2% |
| Other | 21 | 5% |
| No response | 4 | |

| Are you currently getting at least two hours a day out of your cell or sleeping area? | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Yes | 433 | 93% |
| No | 35 | 7% |

| Do you have a work or school assignment? | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Work Assignment | 141 | 30% |
| School Assignment | 40 | 9% |
| Both | 24 | 5% |
| Neither | 265 | 56% |
| No response | 0 | |

| Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 5 | 1% |
| Agree | 50 | 11% |
| Neutral | 149 | 32% |
| Disagree | 145 | 31% |
| Strongly Disagree | 120 | 26% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 55 | 12% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 265 | 57% |
| No response | 1 | |

| I receive support from staff when I need it. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 7 | 1% |
| Agree | 62 | 13% |
| Neutral | 107 | 23% |
| Disagree | 147 | 31% |
| Strongly Disagree | 146 | 31% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 69 | 15% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 293 | 62% |
| No response | 1 | |

| Staff here treat incarcerated people fairly when applying the rules. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 4 | 1% |
| Agree | 56 | 12% |
| Neutral | 83 | 18% |
| Disagree | 152 | 33% |
| Strongly Disagree | 172 | 37% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 60 | 13% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 324 | 69% |
| No response | 3 | |

| I trust the officers. | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 3 | 1% |
| Agree | 29 | 6% |
| Neutral | 93 | 20% |
| Disagree | 134 | 29% |
| Strongly Disagree | 205 | 44% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 32 | 7% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 339 | 73% |
| No response | 6 | |

| I get along well with the officers on my unit. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 30 | 7% |
| Agree | 125 | 27% |
| Neutral | 170 | 37% |
| Disagree | 63 | 14% |
| Strongly Disagree | 71 | 15% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 155 | 34% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 134 | 29% |
| No response | 11 | |

| The best way to get things done is to go through official channels. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 26 | 6% |
| Agree | 91 | 20% |
| Neutral | 94 | 20% |
| Disagree | 107 | 23% |
| Strongly Disagree | 146 | 31% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 117 | 25% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 253 | 55% |
| No response | 6 | |

| I have been helped significantly by a staff member with a particular problem. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 9 | 2% |
| Agree | 56 | 12% |
| Neutral | 113 | 24% |
| Disagree | 132 | 29% |
| Strongly Disagree | 153 | 33% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 65 | 14% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 285 | 62% |
| No response | 7 | |

| Overall, I am treated fairly by staff. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 8 | 2% |
| Agree | 99 | 21% |
| Neutral | 137 | 29% |
| Disagree | 117 | 25% |
| Strongly Disagree | 108 | 23% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 107 | 23% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 225 | 48% |
| No response | 1 | |

| I am treated as a person of value. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 7 | 1% |
| Agree | 20 | 4% |
| Neutral | 82 | 18% |
| Disagree | 135 | 29% |
| Strongly Disagree | 224 | 48% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 27 | 6% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 359 | 77% |
| No response | 2 | |

| Some of the treatment I receive is degrading. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 162 | 35% |
| Agree | 175 | 38% |
| Neutral | 69 | 15% |
| Disagree | 40 | 9% |
| Strongly Disagree | 16 | 3% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 337 | 73% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 56 | 12% |
| No response | 8 | |

| I feel safe from being injured, bullied, or threatened by other incarcerated people. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 44 | 10% |
| Agree | 88 | 19% |
| Neutral | 126 | 28% |
| Disagree | 110 | 24% |
| Strongly Disagree | 89 | 19% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 132 | 29% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 199 | 44% |
| No response | 13 | |

| If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 25 | 5% |
| Agree | 44 | 10% |
| Neutral | 91 | 20% |
| Disagree | 123 | 27% |
| Strongly Disagree | 175 | 38% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 69 | 15% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 298 | 65% |
| No response | 12 | |

| To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 119 | 26% |
| Agree | 127 | 28% |
| Neutral | 141 | 31% |
| Disagree | 57 | 13% |
| Strongly Disagree | 9 | 2% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 246 | 54% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 66 | 15% |
| No response | 17 | |

| Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 198 | 43% |
| Agree | 148 | 32% |
| Neutral | 70 | 15% |
| Disagree | 30 | 7% |
| Strongly Disagree | 10 | 2% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 346 | 76% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 40 | 9% |
| No response | 14 | |

| Staff have enough experience and expertise to deal with issues that matter to me. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 7 | 2% |
| Agree | 36 | 8% |
| Neutral | 105 | 23% |
| Disagree | 164 | 36% |
| Strongly Disagree | 146 | 32% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 43 | 9% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 310 | 68% |
| No response | 12 | |

| To get things done, you have to ask and ask and ask. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 303 | 66% |
| Agree | 99 | 22% |
| Neutral | 34 | 7% |
| Disagree | 12 | 3% |
| Strongly Disagree | 10 | 2% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 402 | 88% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 22 | 5% |
| No response | 12 | |

| Supervision of incarcerated people is poor. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 118 | 26% |
| Agree | 98 | 21% |
| Neutral | 135 | 29% |
| Disagree | 76 | 17% |
| Strongly Disagree | 32 | 7% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 216 | 47% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 108 | 24% |
| No response | 11 | |

| I can't improve my situation through good behavior. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 152 | 34% |
| Agree | 100 | 22% |
| Neutral | 96 | 21% |
| Disagree | 65 | 14% |
| Strongly Disagree | 40 | 9% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 252 | 56% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 105 | 23% |
| No response | 17 | |

| The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 77 | 17% |
| Agree | 89 | 19% |
| Neutral | 90 | 20% |
| Disagree | 80 | 17% |
| Strongly Disagree | 123 | 27% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 166 | 36% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 203 | 44% |
| No response | 11 | |

| My experience of imprisonment in this particular prison has been stressful. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 218 | 48% |
| Agree | 122 | 27% |
| Neutral | 80 | 17% |
| Disagree | 32 | 7% |
| Strongly Disagree | 6 | 1% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 340 | 74% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 38 | 8% |
| No response | 12 | |

| Positive things only happen for a certain type of people. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 212 | 46% |
| Agree | 121 | 26% |
| Neutral | 81 | 18% |
| Disagree | 34 | 7% |
| Strongly Disagree | 12 | 3% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 333 | 72% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 46 | 10% |
| No response | 10 | |

| I have to be careful about everything I do, or it can be used against me. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 235 | 51% |
| Agree | 135 | 29% |
| Neutral | 60 | 13% |
| Disagree | 23 | 5% |
| Strongly Disagree | 5 | 1% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 370 | 81% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 28 | 6% |
| No response | 12 | |

| On the whole, I am just doing time rather than using my time. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 208 | 46% |
| Agree | 91 | 20% |
| Neutral | 60 | 13% |
| Disagree | 68 | 15% |
| Strongly Disagree | 25 | 6% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 299 | 66% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 93 | 21% |
| No response | 18 | |

| Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 29 | 6% |
| Agree | 119 | 26% |
| Neutral | 121 | 27% |
| Disagree | 80 | 18% |
| Strongly Disagree | 101 | 22% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 148 | 33% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 181 | 40% |
| No response | 20 | |

| This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 32 | 7% |
| Agree | 42 | 9% |
| Neutral | 100 | 22% |
| Disagree | 136 | 30% |
| Strongly Disagree | 145 | 32% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 74 | 16% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 281 | 62% |
| 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 | 73 | 16% |
| Neutral | 107 | 23% |
| Disagree | 124 | 27% |
| Strongly Disagree | 130 | 28% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 96 | 21% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 254 | 56% |
| No response | 13 | |

| This prison is well organized. | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 7 | 2% |
| Agree | 15 | 3% |
| Neutral | 82 | 18% |
| Disagree | 122 | 27% |
| Strongly Disagree | 229 | 50% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 22 | 5% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 351 | 77% |
| No response | 15 | |

| You never know the rules. | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 104 | 23% |
| Agree | 113 | 25% |
| Neutral | 109 | 24% |
| Disagree | 93 | 20% |
| Strongly Disagree | 37 | 8% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 217 | 48% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 130 | 29% |
| No response | 14 | |

| I feel that I am treated with respect by staff. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 8 | 2% |
| Agree | 37 | 8% |
| Neutral | 125 | 28% |
| Disagree | 110 | 25% |
| Strongly Disagree | 167 | 37% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 45 | 10% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 277 | 62% |
| No response | 23 | |

| My experience in this prison is painful. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 141 | 31% |
| Agree | 110 | 24% |
| Neutral | 117 | 26% |
| Disagree | 74 | 16% |
| Strongly Disagree | 15 | 3% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 251 | 55% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 89 | 19% |
| No response | 13 | |

| I have to buy and sell things in order to get by. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 91 | 20% |
| Agree | 100 | 22% |
| Neutral | 104 | 23% |
| Disagree | 106 | 23% |
| Strongly Disagree | 54 | 12% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 191 | 42% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 160 | 35% |
| No response | 15 | |

| There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 114 | 26% |
| Agree | 108 | 25% |
| Neutral | 139 | 32% |
| Disagree | 55 | 13% |
| Strongly Disagree | 22 | 5% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 222 | 51% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 77 | 18% |
| No response | 32 | |

| Decisions are dominated by concerns about security. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 102 | 23% |
| Agree | 86 | 19% |
| Neutral | 160 | 36% |
| Disagree | 58 | 13% |
| Strongly Disagree | 36 | 8% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 188 | 43% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 94 | 21% |
| No response | 28 | |

| The disciplinary system is fair. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 9 | 2% |
| Agree | 29 | 6% |
| Neutral | 91 | 20% |
| Disagree | 111 | 24% |
| Strongly Disagree | 215 | 47% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 38 | 8% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 326 | 72% |
| No response | 15 | |

| My time here seems like a chance to make positive changes. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 56 | 13% |
| Agree | 68 | 15% |
| Neutral | 94 | 21% |
| Disagree | 94 | 21% |
| Strongly Disagree | 128 | 29% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 124 | 28% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 222 | 50% |
| No response | 30 | |

| There are a few incarcerated people who run things on this unit. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 76 | 17% |
| Agree | 100 | 22% |
| Neutral | 115 | 25% |
| Disagree | 86 | 19% |
| Strongly Disagree | 76 | 17% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 176 | 39% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 162 | 36% |
| No response | 17 | |

| I am not being treated as a human being in here. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 143 | 31% |
| Agree | 122 | 26% |
| Neutral | 108 | 23% |
| Disagree | 71 | 15% |
| Strongly Disagree | 22 | 5% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 265 | 57% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 93 | 20% |
| No response | 4 | |

| You have to be in a group or gang in order to get by. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 55 | 12% |
| Agree | 47 | 10% |
| Neutral | 119 | 26% |
| Disagree | 159 | 34% |
| Strongly Disagree | 81 | 18% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 102 | 22% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 240 | 52% |
| No response | 9 | |

| Bullying behavior by incarcerated people is not tolerated. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 27 | 6% |
| Agree | 88 | 19% |
| Neutral | 114 | 25% |
| Disagree | 126 | 27% |
| Strongly Disagree | 104 | 23% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 115 | 25% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 230 | 50% |
| No response | 11 | |

| When important decisions are made about me, I am treated as an individual and not a number. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 19 | 4% |
| Agree | 33 | 7% |
| Neutral | 89 | 19% |
| Disagree | 145 | 31% |
| Strongly Disagree | 176 | 38% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 52 | 11% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 321 | 69% |
| No response | 8 | |

| All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 260 | 56% |
| Agree | 114 | 25% |
| Neutral | 58 | 12% |
| Disagree | 19 | 4% |
| Strongly Disagree | 14 | 3% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 374 | 80% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 33 | 7% |
| No response | 5 | |

| Drugs cause a lot of problems between incarcerated people. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 34 | 7% |
| Agree | 74 | 16% |
| Neutral | 128 | 28% |
| Disagree | 126 | 27% |
| Strongly Disagree | 98 | 21% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 108 | 23% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 224 | 49% |
| No response | 10 | |

| Anyone who harms themselves is considered by staff to be more of an attention seeker than someone who needs help. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 164 | 35% |
| Agree | 125 | 27% |
| Neutral | 123 | 27% |
| Disagree | 35 | 8% |
| Strongly Disagree | 15 | 3% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 289 | 63% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 50 | 11% |
| No response | 8 | |

| I am able to maintain meaningful contact with my outside supports. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 87 | 19% |
| Agree | 170 | 36% |
| Neutral | 96 | 21% |
| Disagree | 56 | 12% |
| Strongly Disagree | 57 | 12% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 257 | 55% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 113 | 24% |
| No response | 4 | |

| This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 210 | 46% |
| Agree | 134 | 29% |
| Neutral | 94 | 20% |
| Disagree | 15 | 3% |
| Strongly Disagree | 6 | 1% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 344 | 75% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 21 | 5% |
| No response | 11 | |

| Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 8 | 2% |
| Agree | 25 | 5% |
| Neutral | 99 | 21% |
| Disagree | 131 | 28% |
| Strongly Disagree | 200 | 43% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 33 | 7% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 331 | 71% |
| No response | 7 | |

| This is a humane prison. | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 15 | 3% |
| Agree | 66 | 14% |
| Neutral | 136 | 30% |
| Disagree | 123 | 27% |
| Strongly Disagree | 119 | 26% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 81 | 18% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 242 | 53% |
| No response | 11 | |

| Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 50 | 11% |
| Agree | 54 | 12% |
| Neutral | 130 | 28% |
| Disagree | 155 | 34% |
| Strongly Disagree | 73 | 16% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 104 | 23% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 228 | 49% |
| No response | 8 | |

| This prison is safe for incarcerated people. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 29 | 6% |
| Agree | 111 | 24% |
| Neutral | 166 | 36% |
| Disagree | 88 | 19% |
| Strongly Disagree | 64 | 14% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 140 | 31% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 152 | 33% |
| No response | 12 | |

| Mental health treatment is available. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 49 | 11% |
| Agree | 171 | 38% |
| Neutral | 106 | 23% |
| Disagree | 69 | 15% |
| Strongly Disagree | 60 | 13% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 220 | 48% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 129 | 28% |
| No response | 15 | |

| This prison is better now than it was last year. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 10 | 2% |
| Agree | 38 | 8% |
| Neutral | 163 | 36% |
| Disagree | 73 | 16% |
| Strongly Disagree | 169 | 37% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 48 | 11% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 242 | 53% |
| No response | 17 | |

| I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week. | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 187 | 40% |
| Agree | 212 | 45% |
| Neutral | 30 | 6% |
| Disagree | 14 | 3% |
| Strongly Disagree | 24 | 5% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 399 | 85% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 38 | 8% |
| No response | 3 | |

| Every effort is made by this prison to help people stop committing offenses on release from custody. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 6 | 1% |
| Agree | 18 | 4% |
| Neutral | 82 | 18% |
| Disagree | 96 | 21% |
| Strongly Disagree | 260 | 56% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 24 | 5% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 356 | 77% |
| No response | 8 | |

| I am satisfied with food from dietary. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Strongly Agree | 19 | 4% |
| Agree | 77 | 17% |
| Neutral | 94 | 20% |
| Disagree | 95 | 20% |
| Strongly Disagree | 181 | 39% |
| <i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i> | 96 | 21% |
| <i>Negative (SD/D)</i> | 276 | 59% |
| No response | 4 | |

| 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) | 90 | 20% |
| 2 | 45 | 10% |
| 3 | 89 | 20% |
| 4 | 71 | 16% |
| 5 | 63 | 14% |
| 6 | 32 | 7% |
| 7 | 38 | 8% |
| 8 | 11 | 2% |
| 9 | 5 | 1% |
| 10 (Highest) | 10 | 2% |
| <i>1-5</i> | 358 | 79% |
| <i>6-10</i> | 96 | 21% |
| No Response | 16 | |
| 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.

