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**Survey Results**



# Hill 2023 MQPL Survey Results

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# Introduction

Hill is a medium-security male prison within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) that housed approximately 1,501 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 Hill had an opportunity to participate in the voluntary and anonymous survey if they chose to do so. JHA received 499 responses to the MQPL survey from people at Hill through the July 19, 2023, representing approximately 34% of the static population. JHA also conducted a monitoring visit of the prison in June 2023.



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

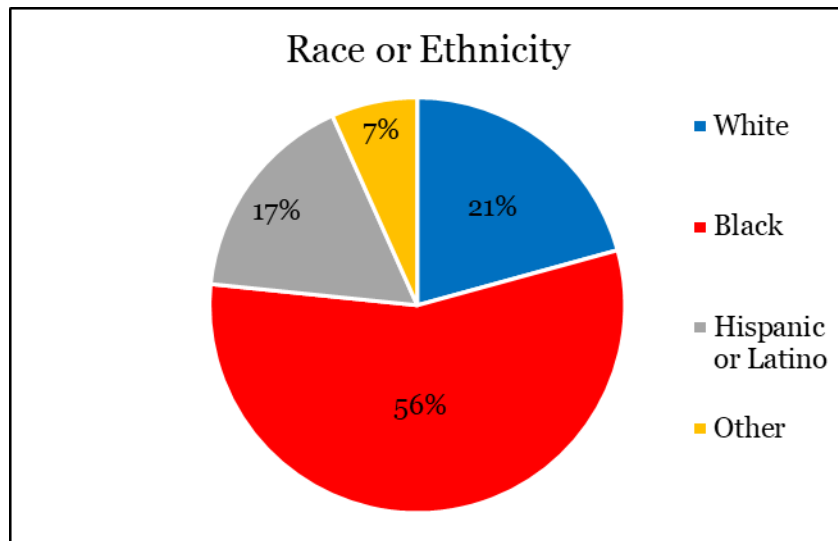
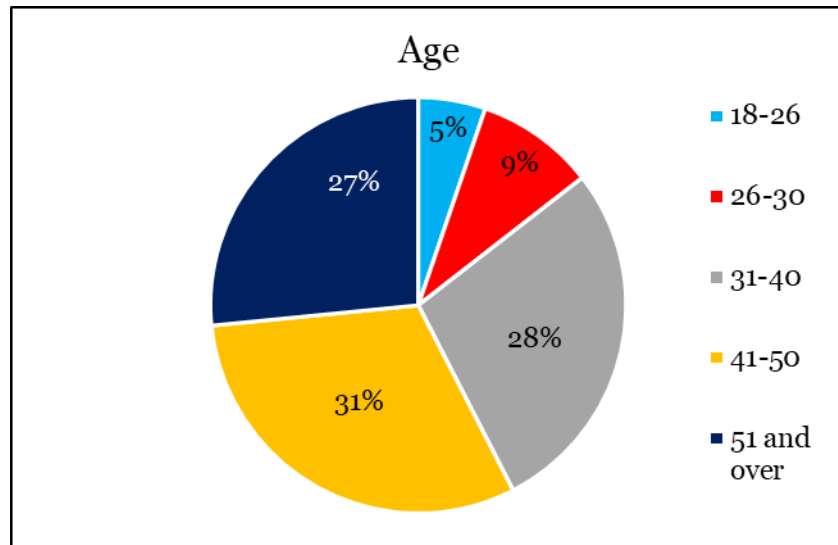
- **Harmony: Questions relating to interpersonal aspects of the prison experience**
  - Respect/courtesy – Positive, respectful, and courteous attitudes towards incarcerated people by staff.
  - Staff-incarcerated people relationships – Trusting, fair and supportive interactions between staff and incarcerated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

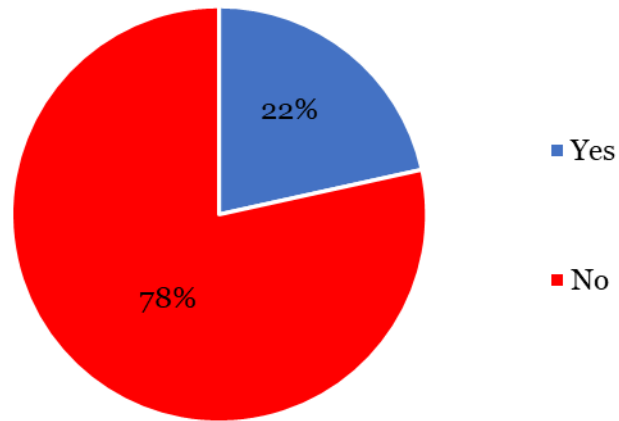
Total respondents = 493<sup>1</sup>



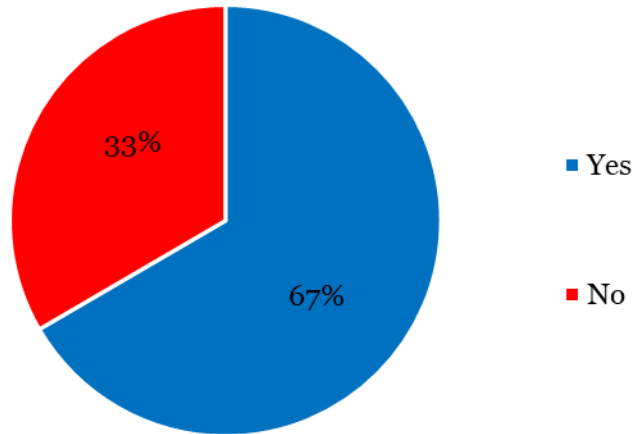
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<sup>1</sup> Due to rounding, not all percentages total 100%. Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of respondents per question.

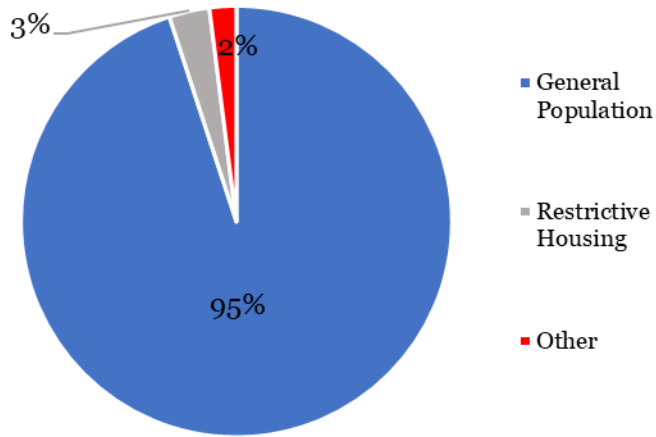
Are you within two years of release?



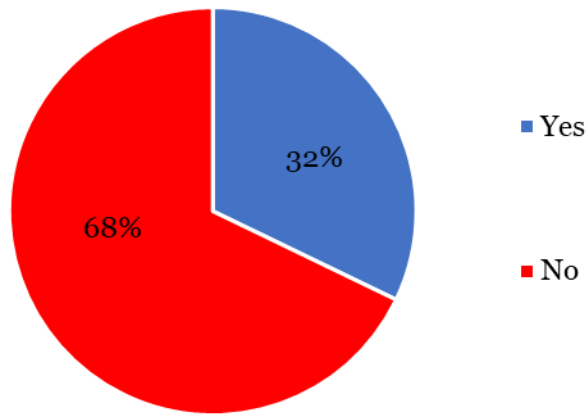
Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?



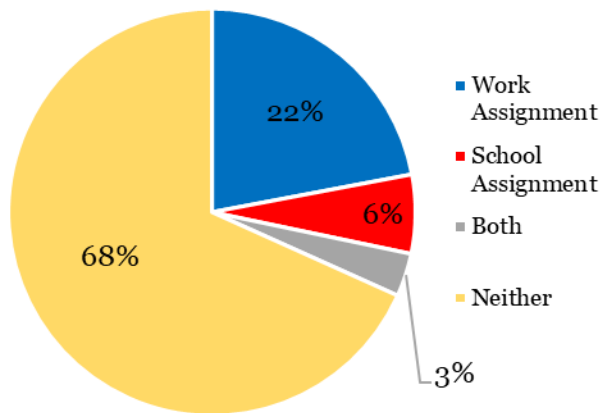
What housing status are you currently on?



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?

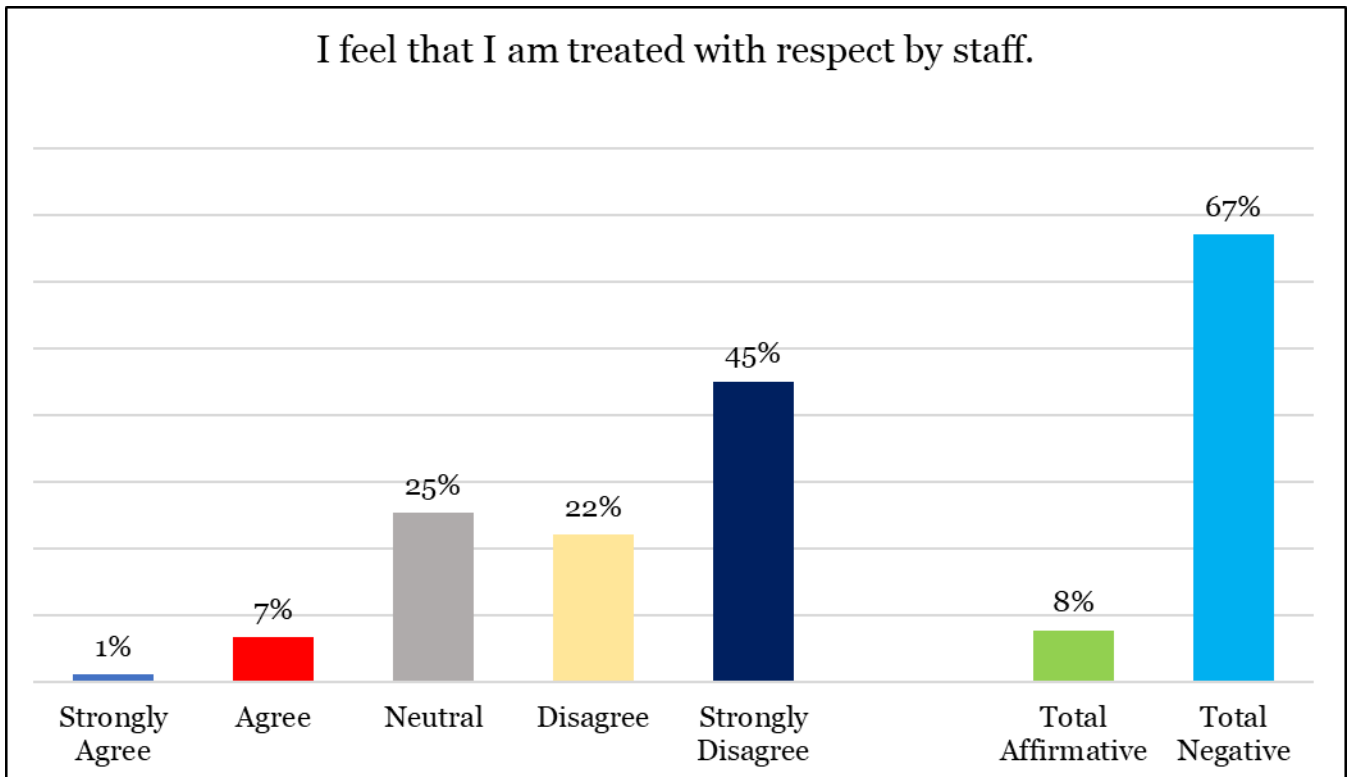




# Charts: MQPL Dimensions<sup>2</sup>

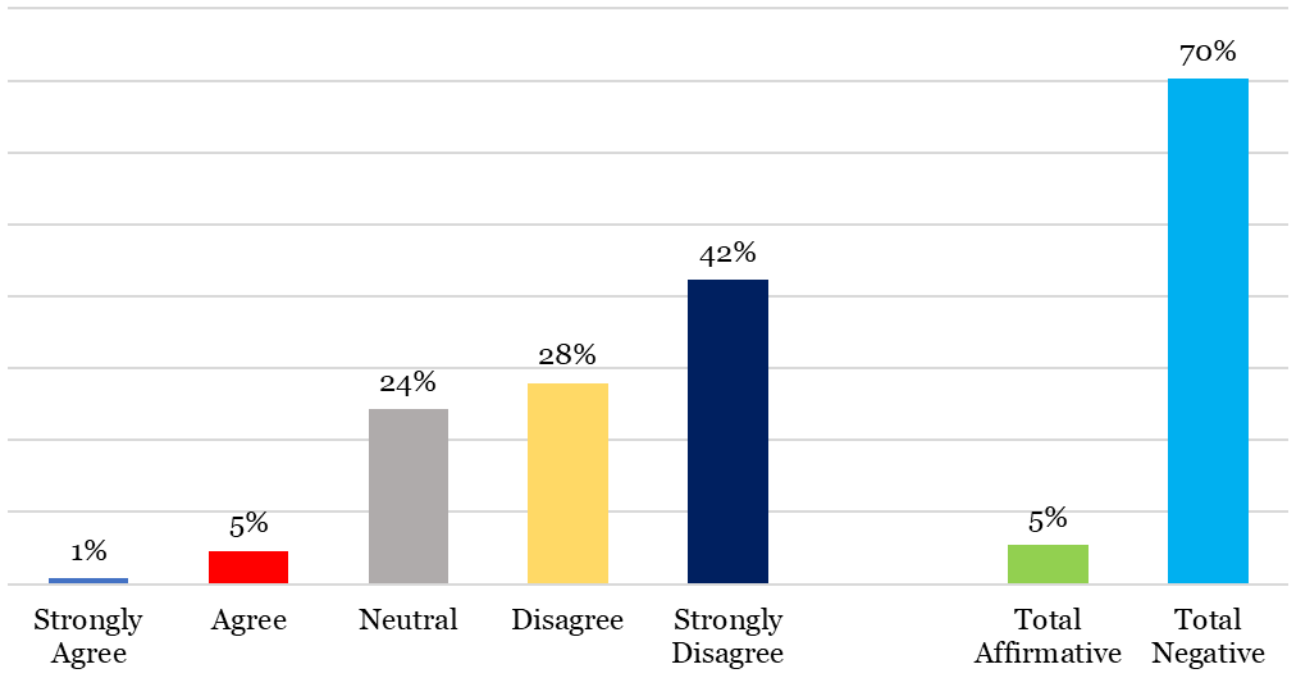
## Harmony

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

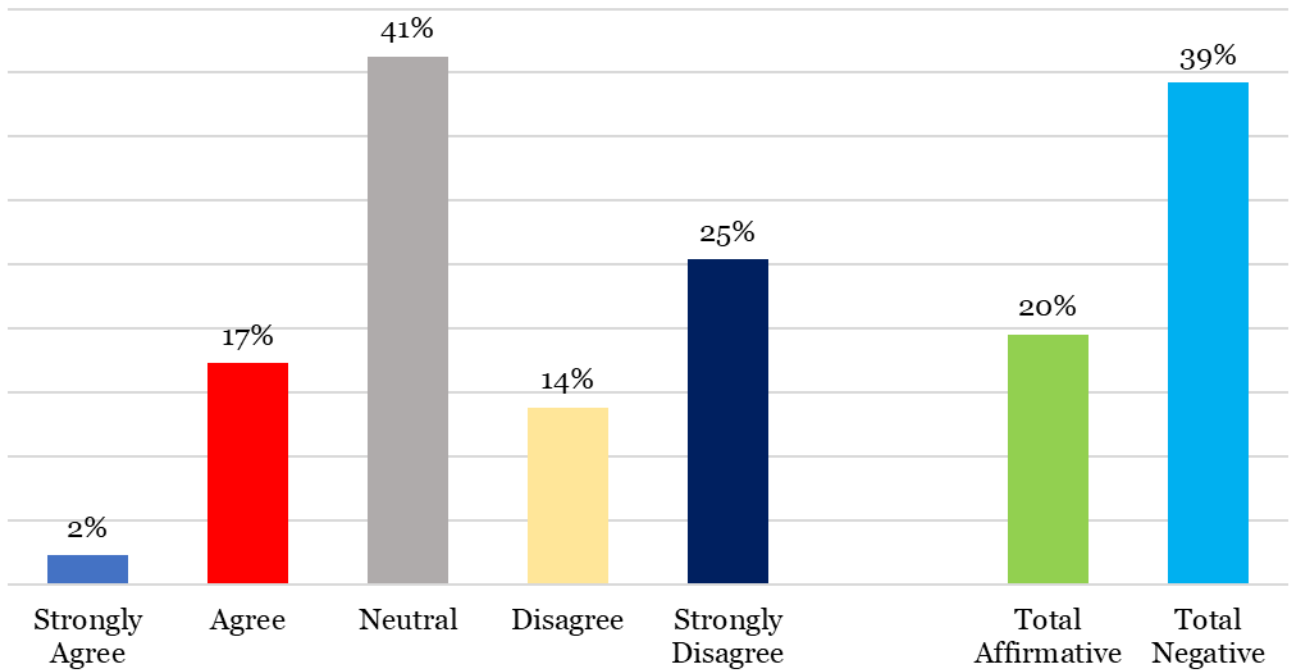


<sup>2</sup> “Total Affirmative” combines “Strongly Agree” and “Agree.” “Total Negative” combines “Strongly Disagree” and “Disagree.” Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of responses per question.

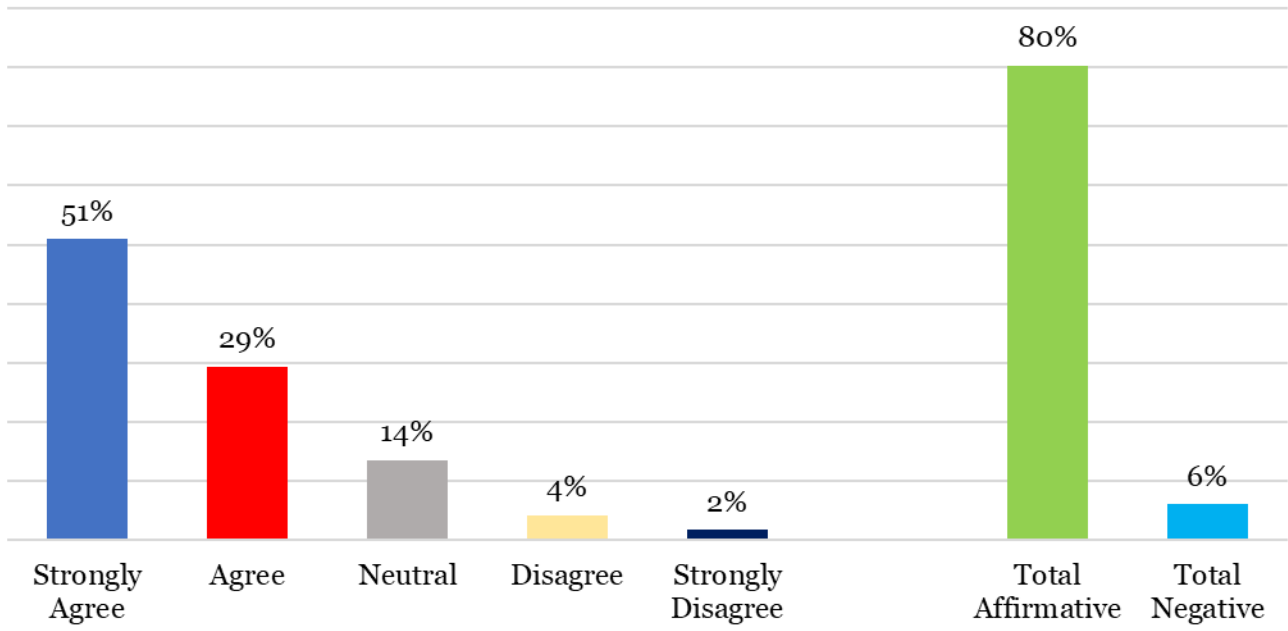
### Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.



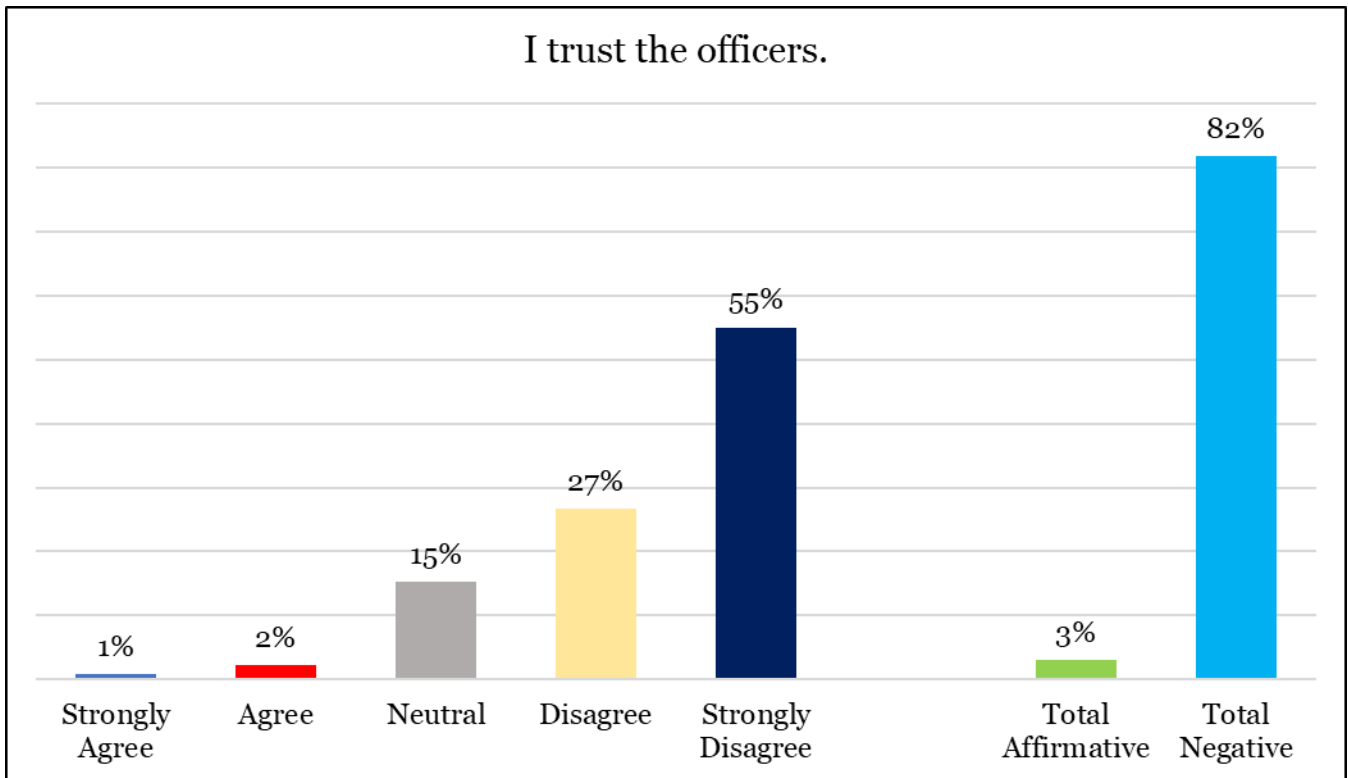
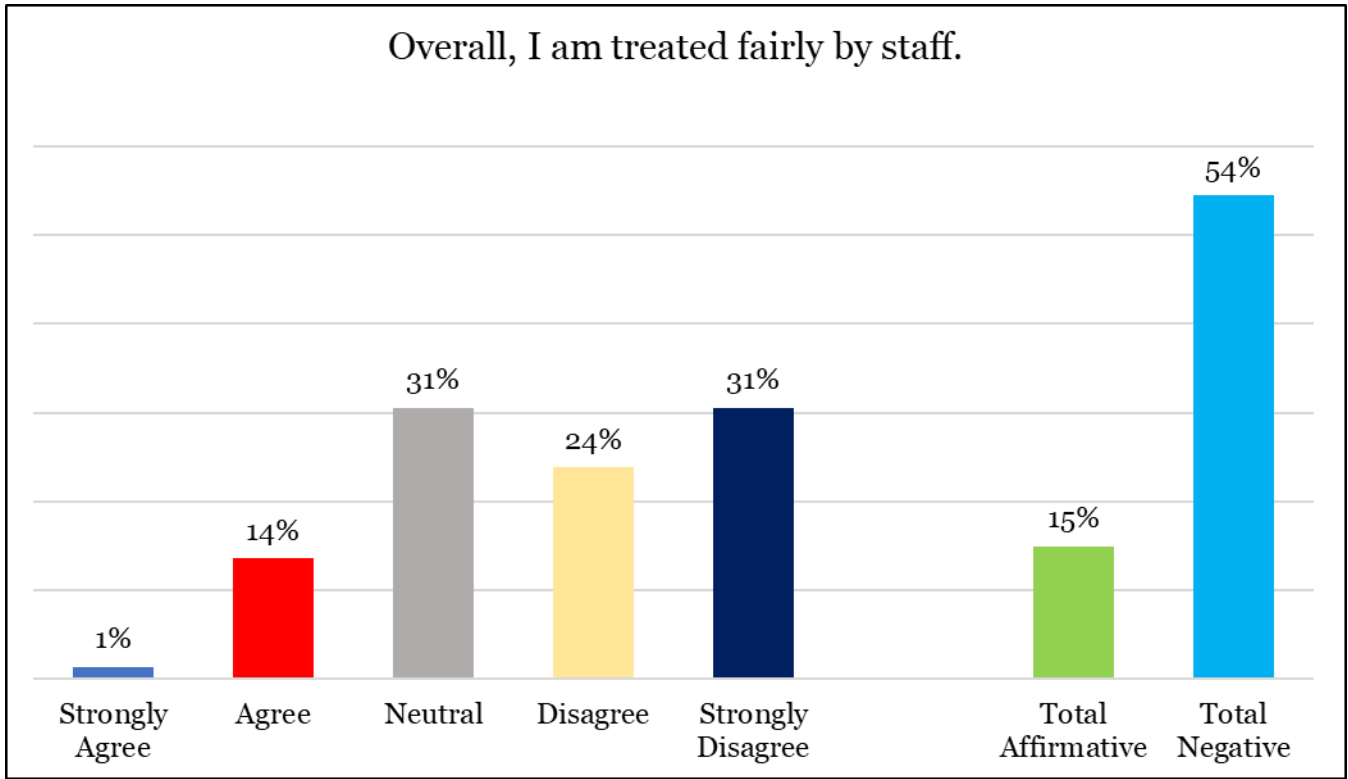
### I get along well with the officers on my unit.



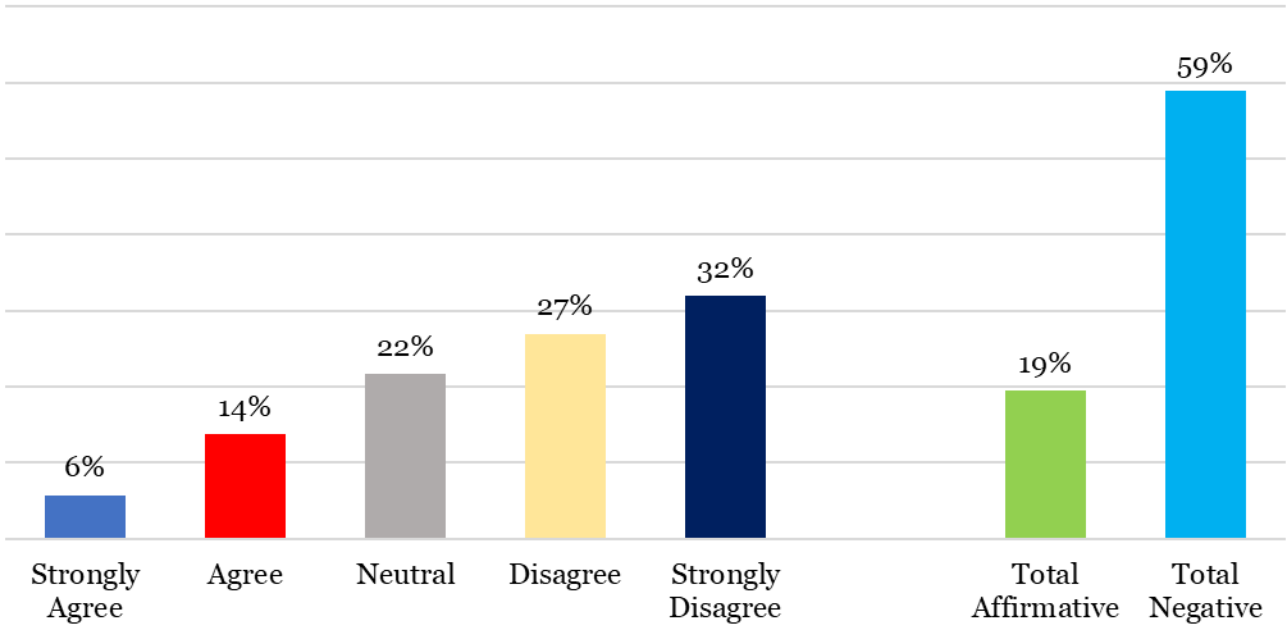
### Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.



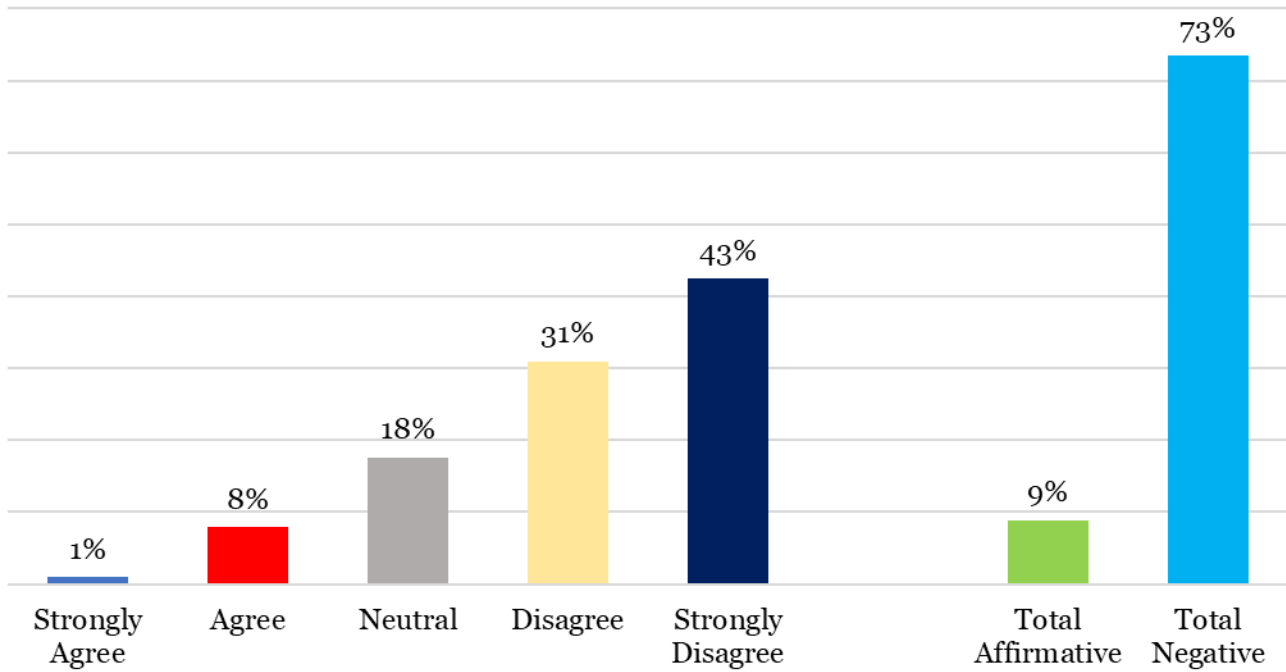
**STAFF-INCARCERATED PEOPLE RELATIONSHIPS – TRUSTING, FAIR AND SUPPORTIVE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN STAFF AND INCARCERATED PEOPLE**



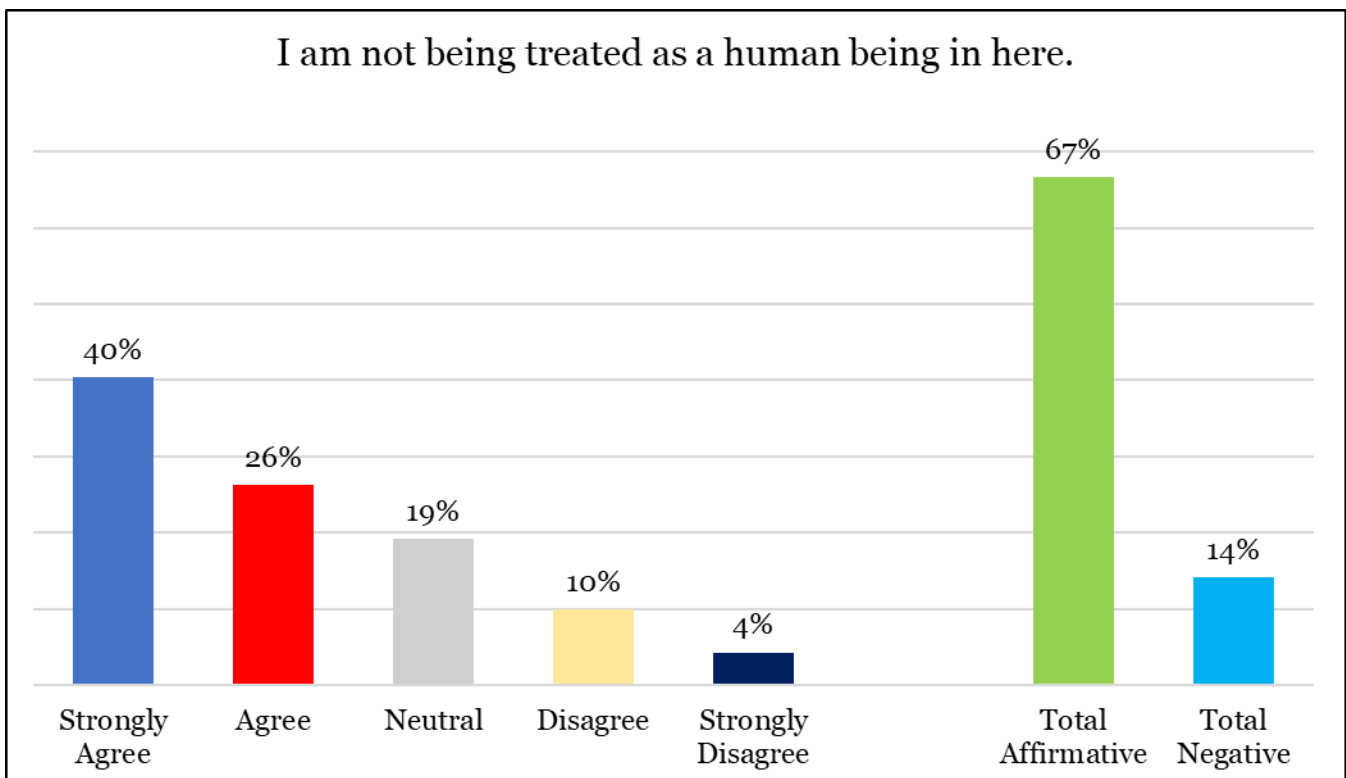
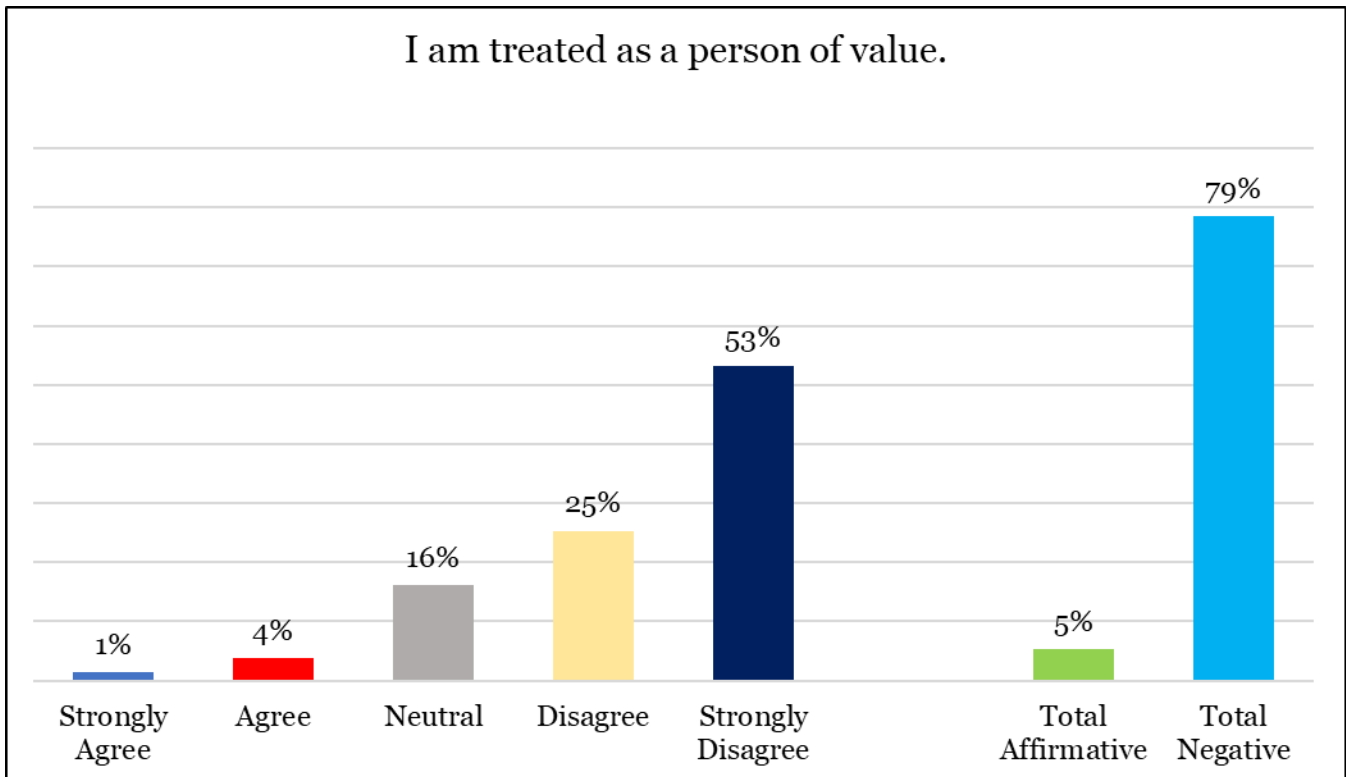
When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.



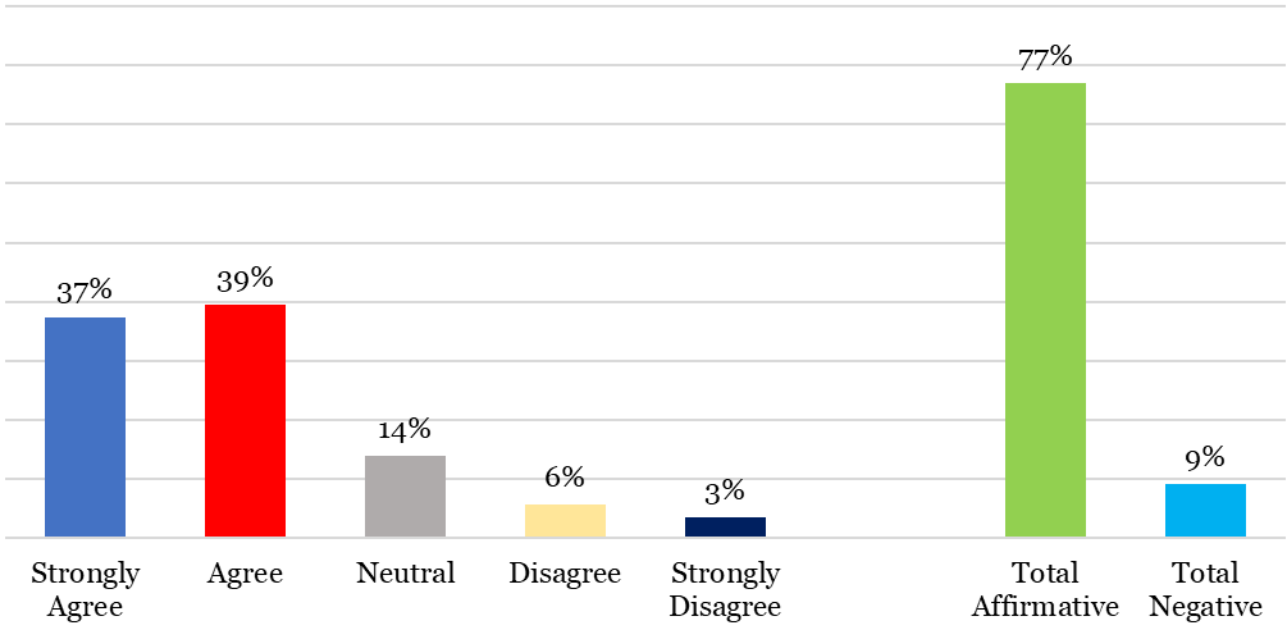
I receive support from staff when I need it.



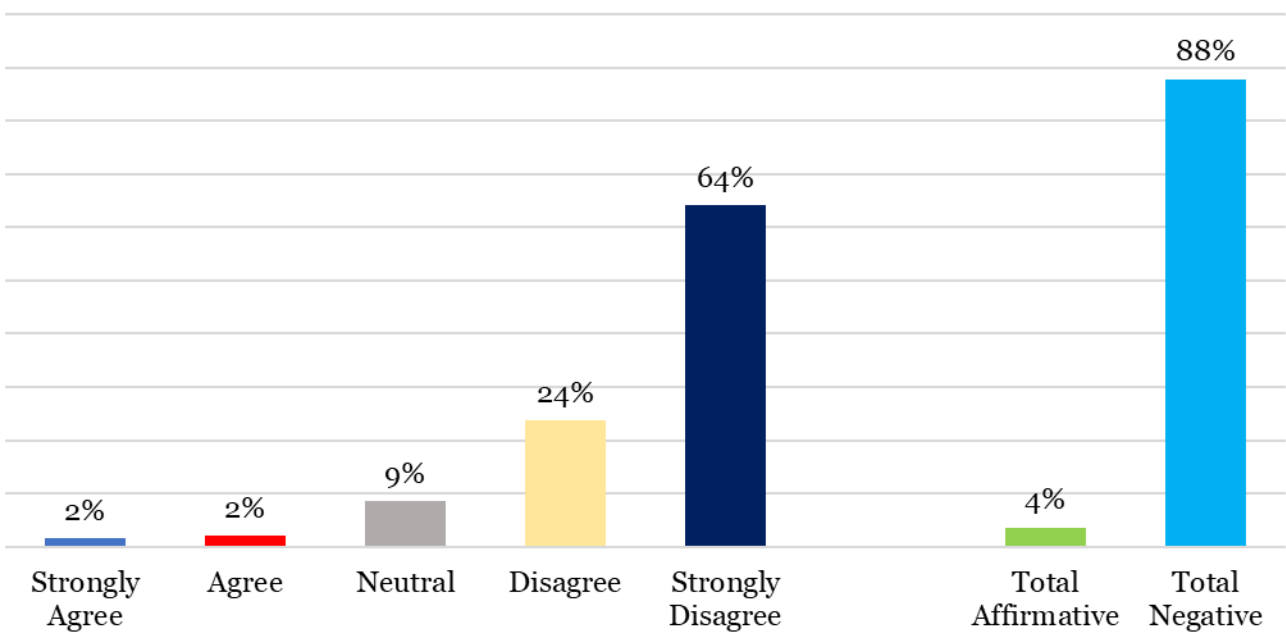
**HUMANITY** – AN ENVIRONMENT CHARACTERIZED BY KIND REGARD AND CONCERN FOR THE PERSON, WHICH RECOGNIZES THE VALUE AND HUMANITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL



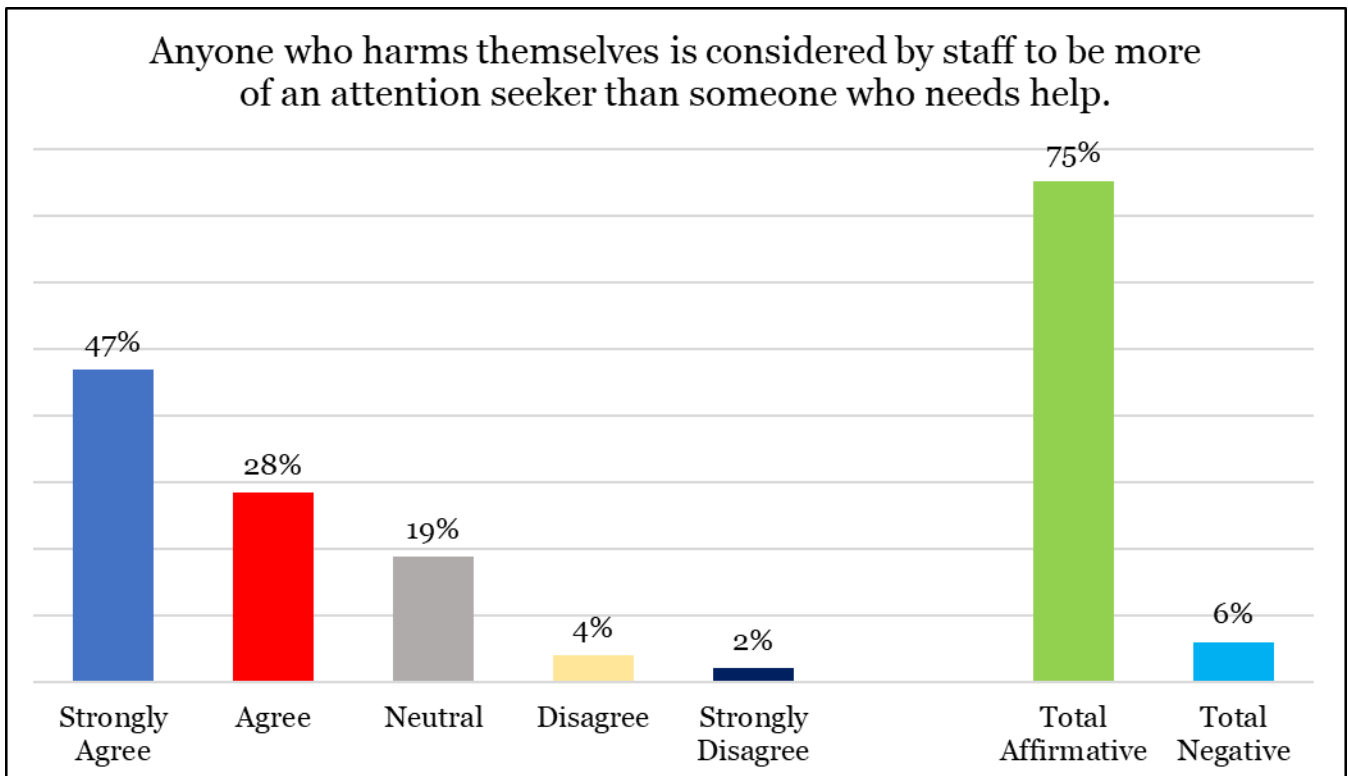
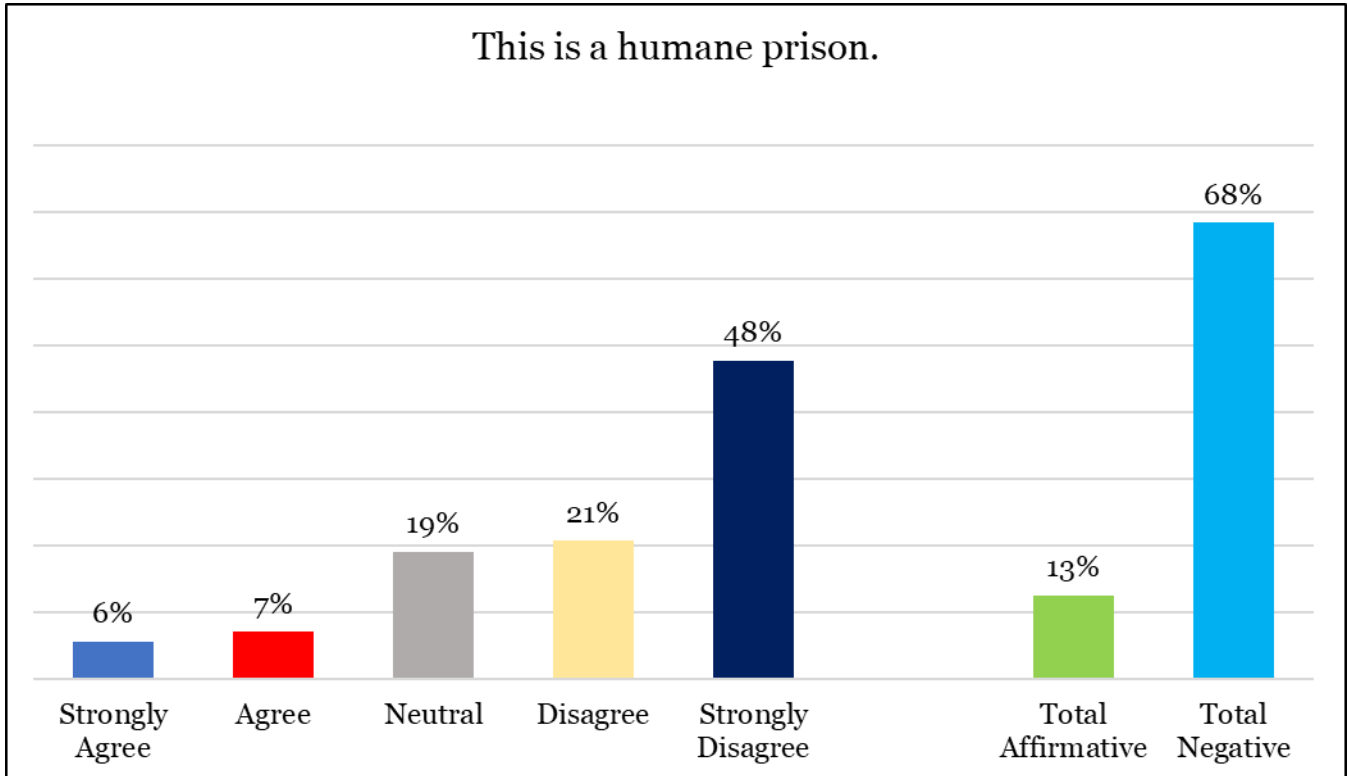
Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.



Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.

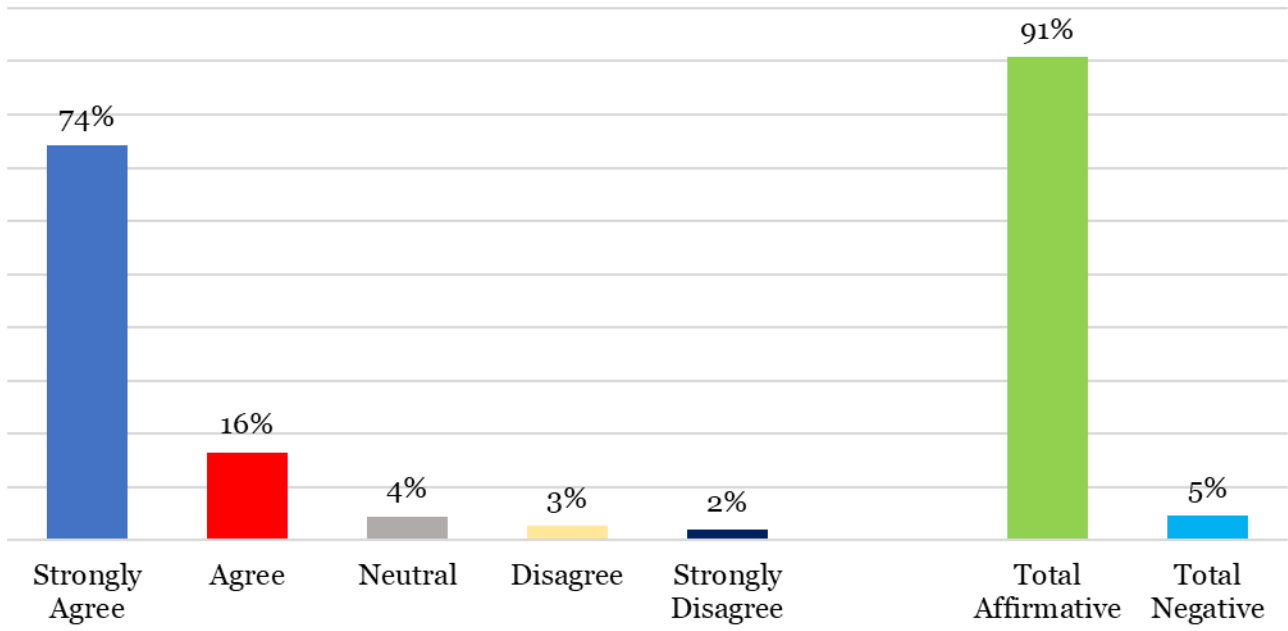


**DECENCY - THE EXTENT TO WHICH STAFF AND THE REGIME ARE CONSIDERED REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE**

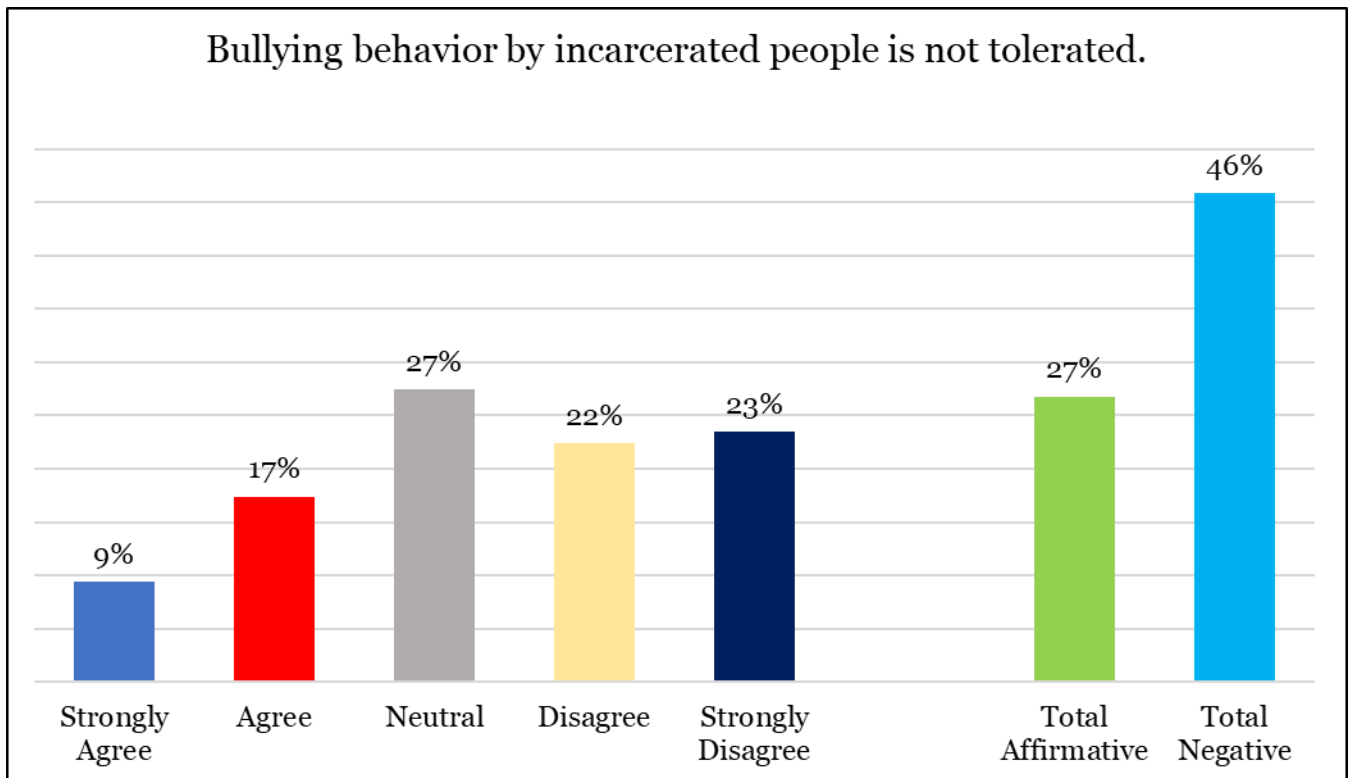




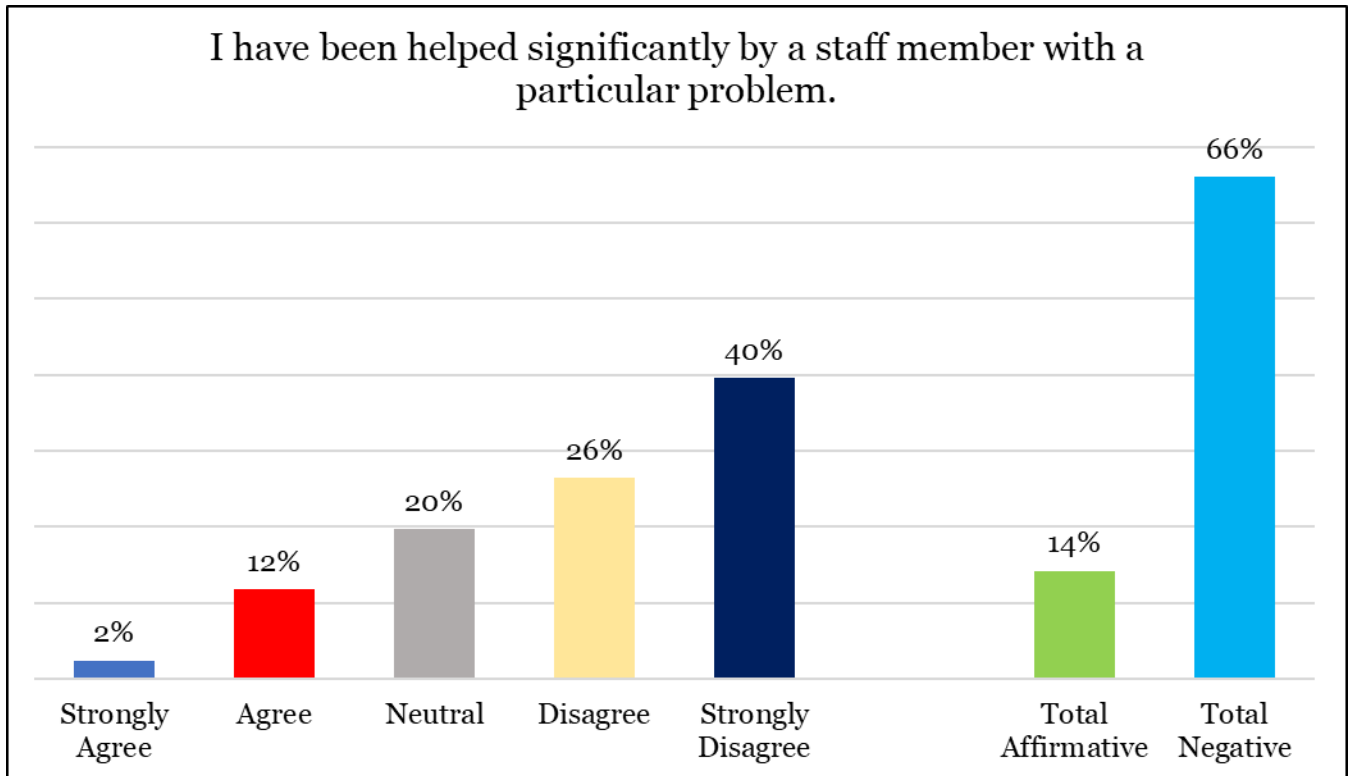
Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.



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

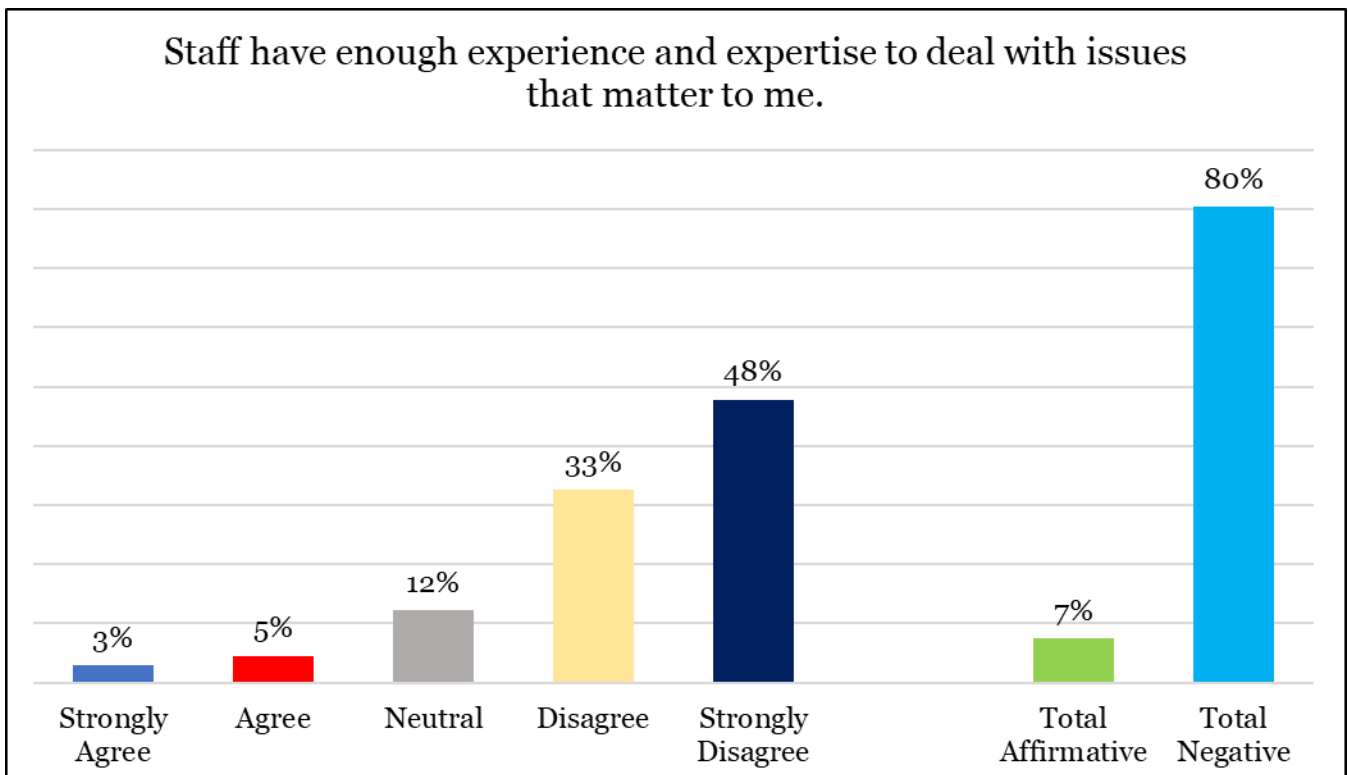
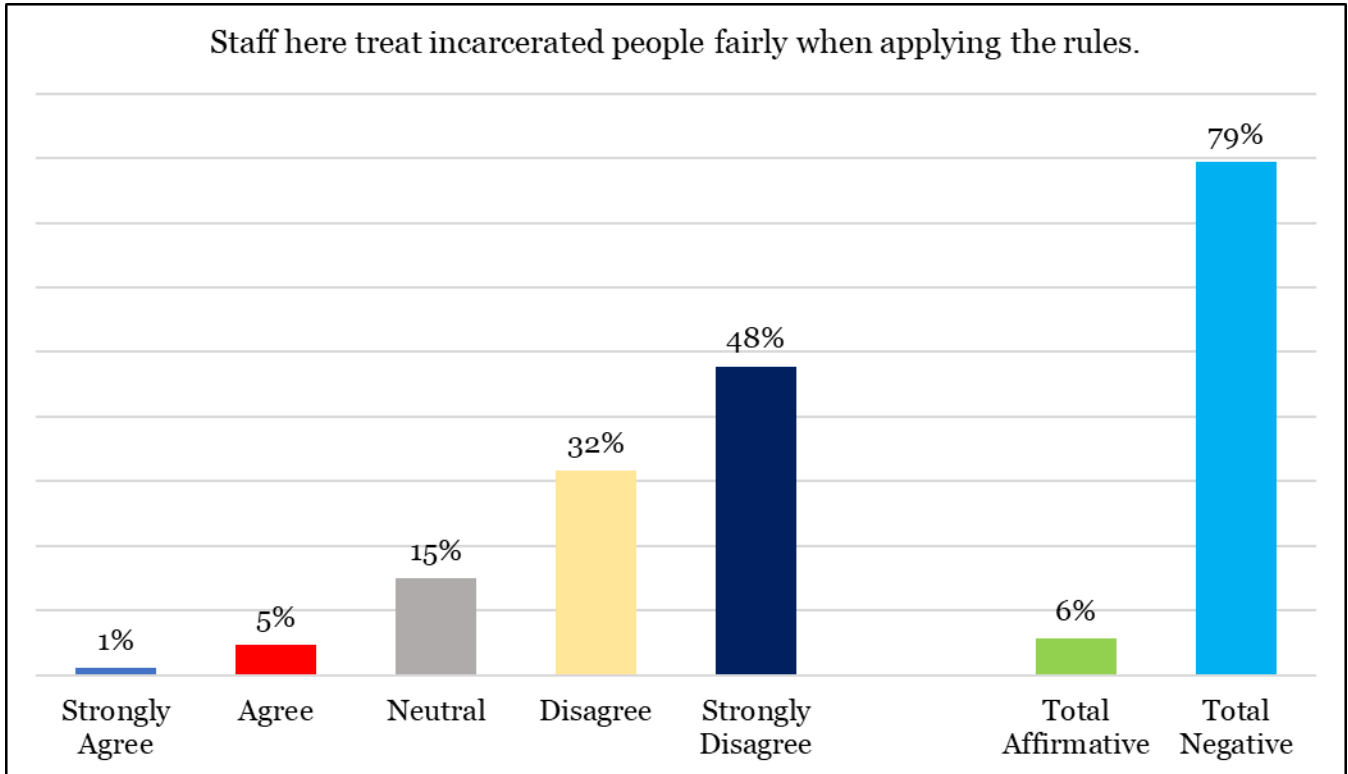


**HELP AND ASSISTANCE – SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN TO INCARCERATED PEOPLE FOR PROBLEMS INCLUDING DRUGS, HEALTHCARE AND PROGRESSION**

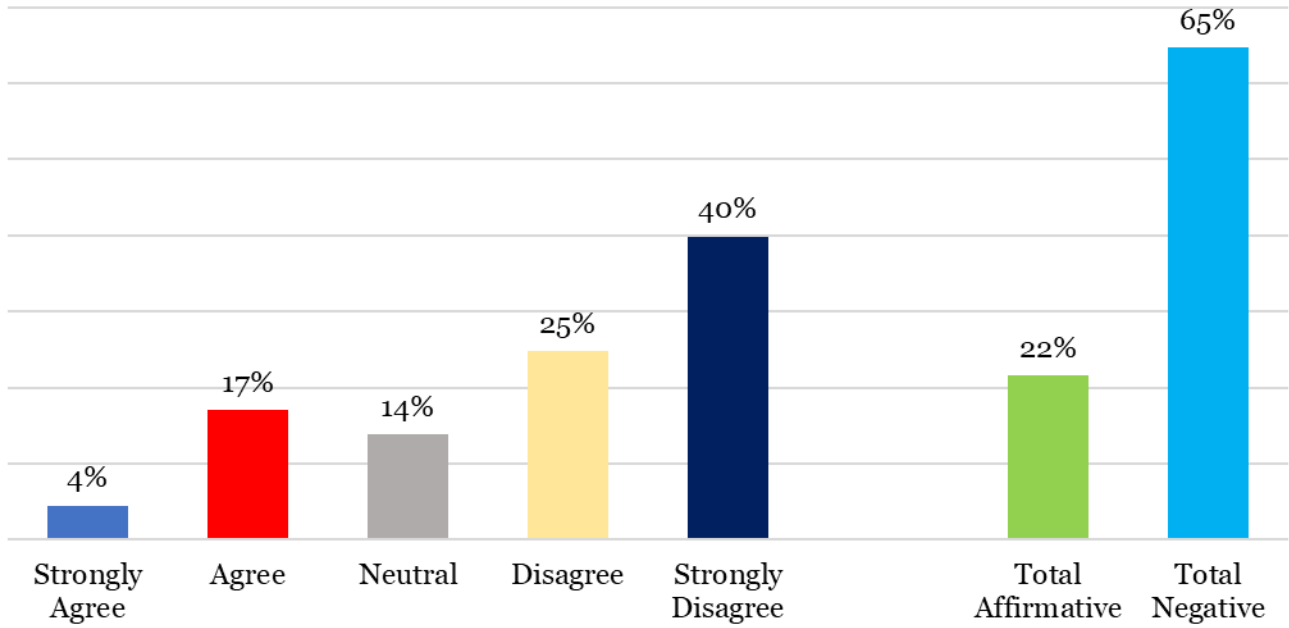


# Professionalism

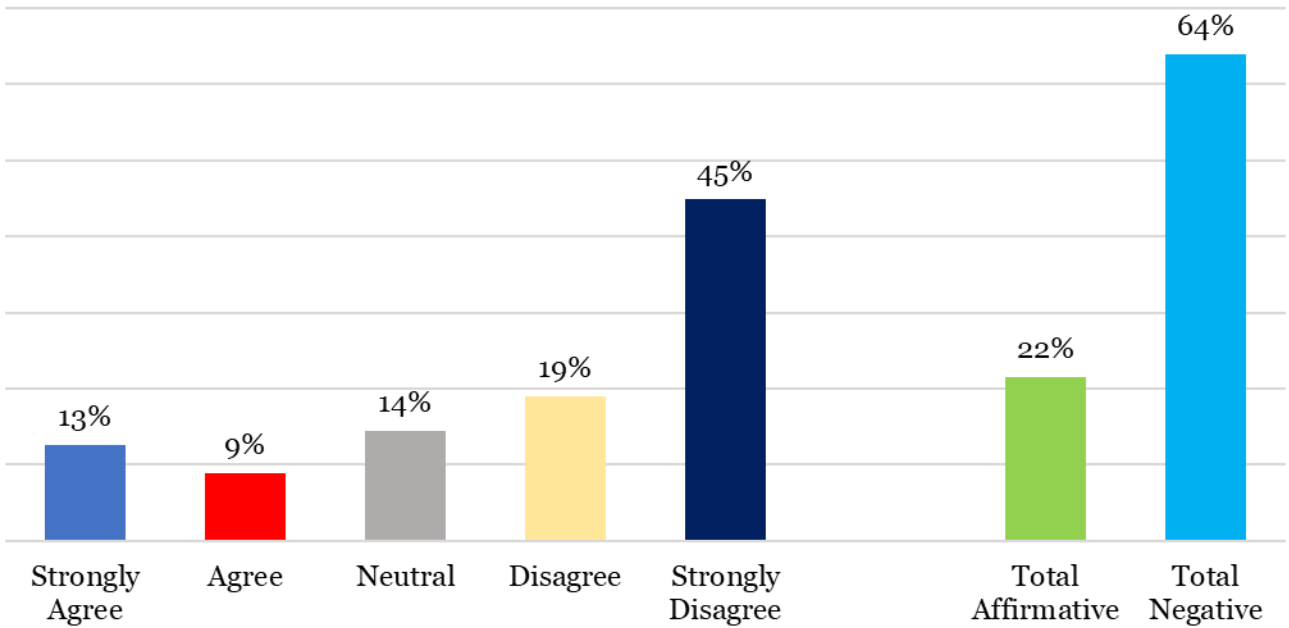
## STAFF PROFESSIONALISM – STAFF CONFIDENCE AND COMPETENCE IN THE USE OF AUTHORITY



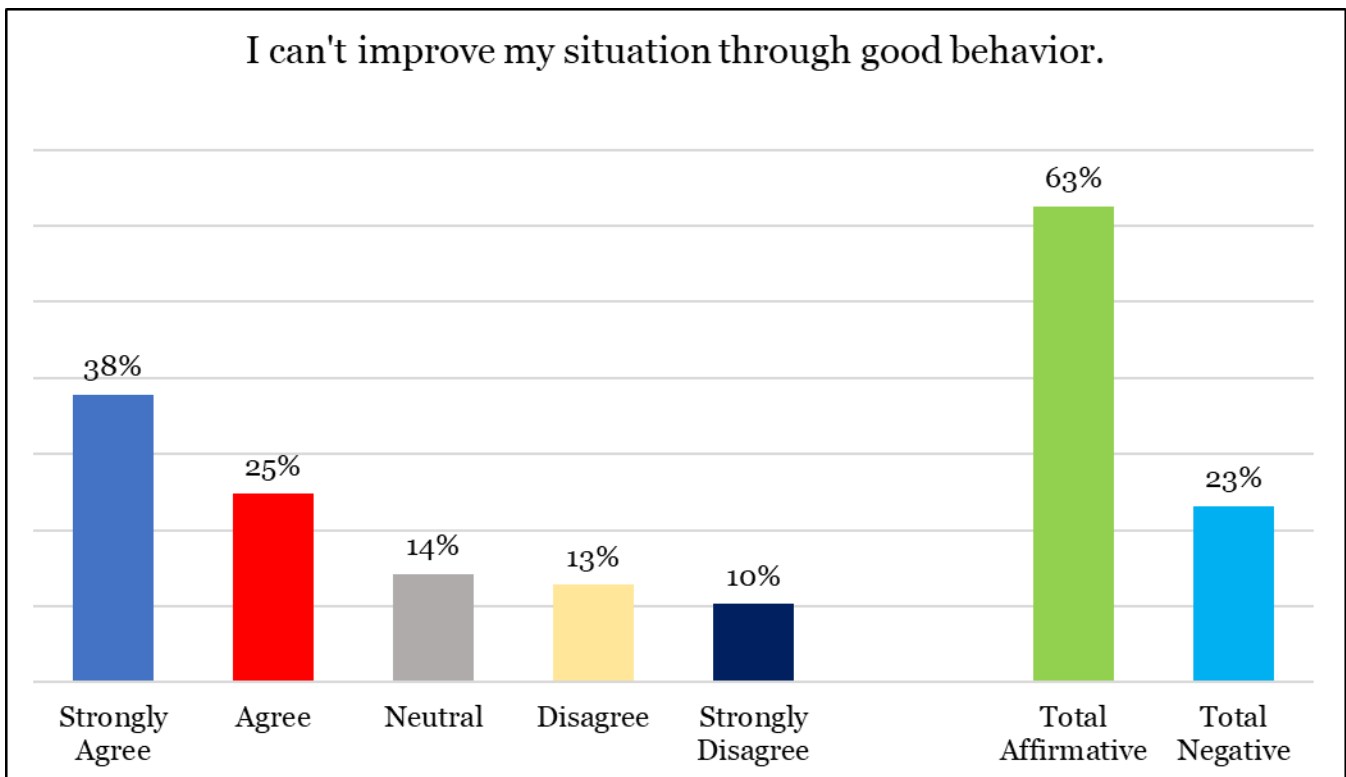
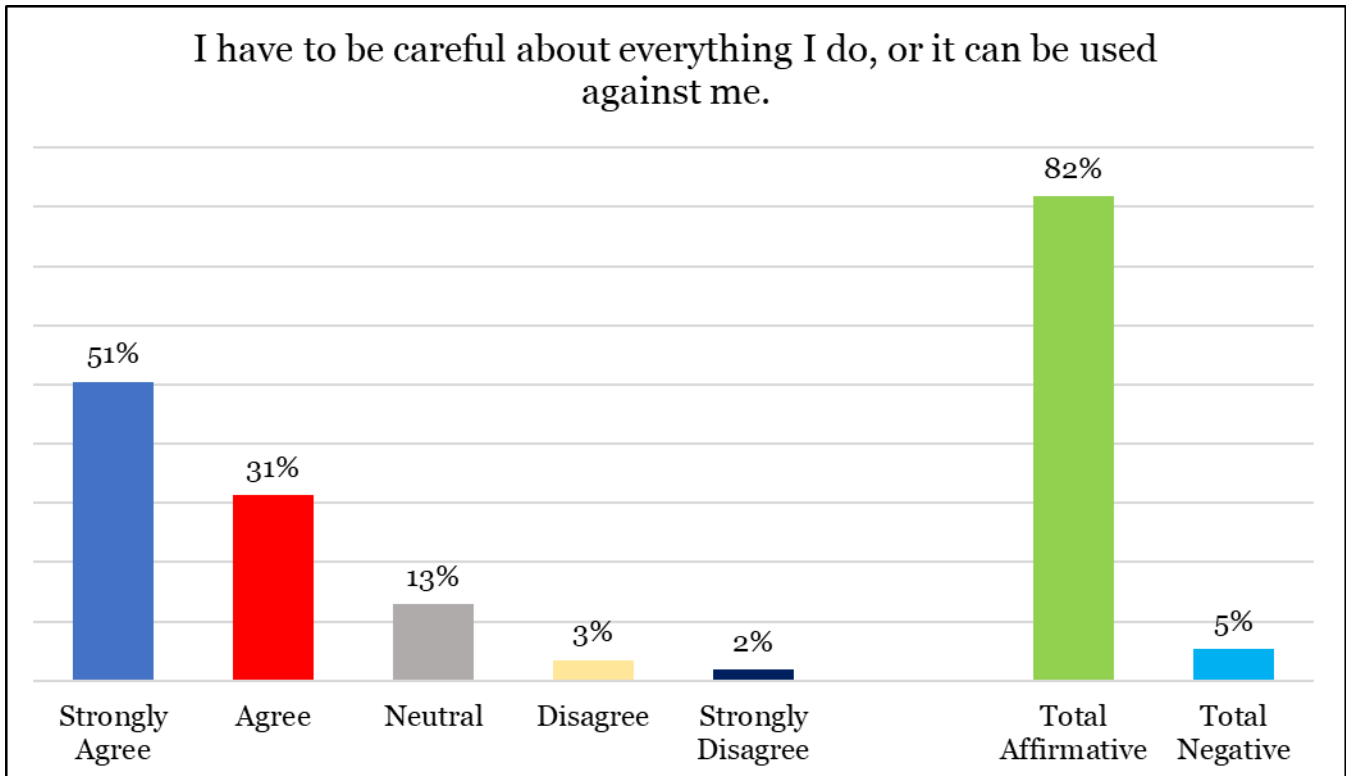
The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.



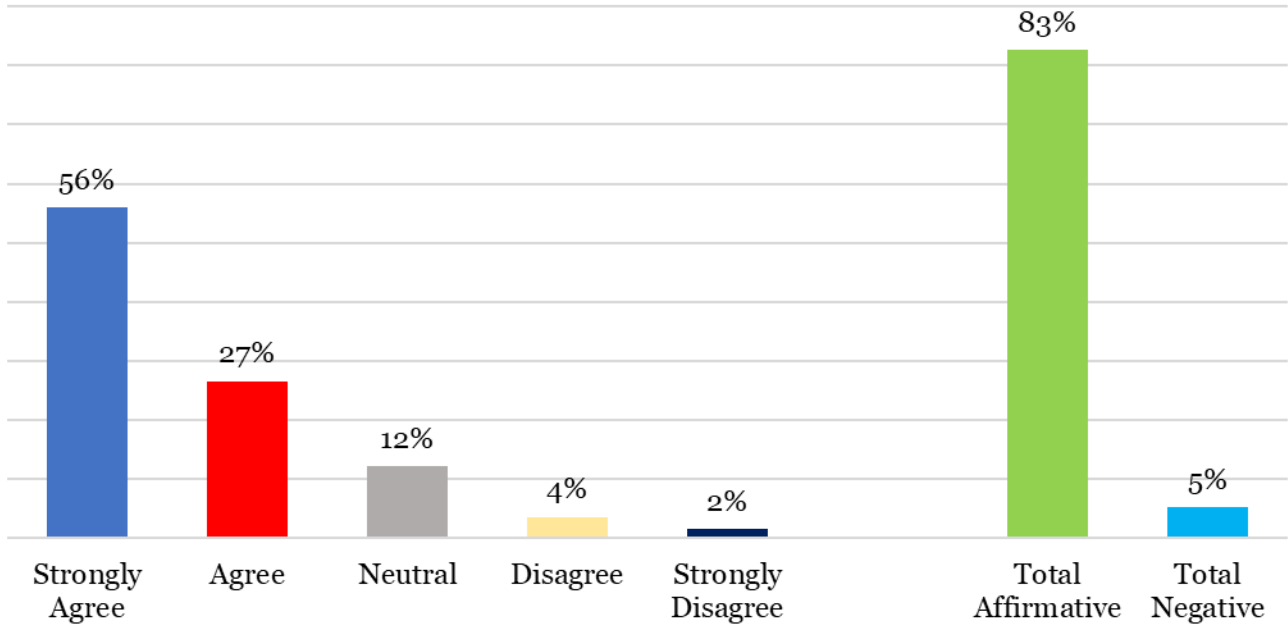
If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.



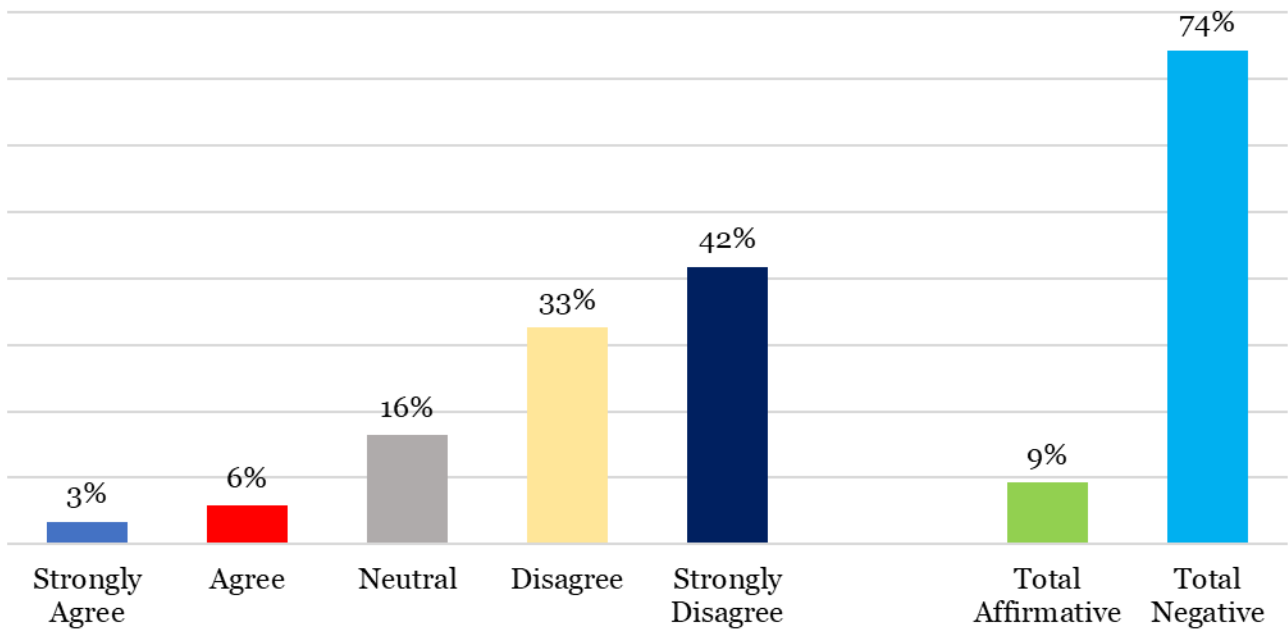
**BUREAUCRATIC LEGITIMACY – THE TRANSPARENCY AND RESPONSIVENESS OF THE PRISON/PRISON SYSTEM AND ITS MORAL RECOGNITION OF THE INDIVIDUAL**



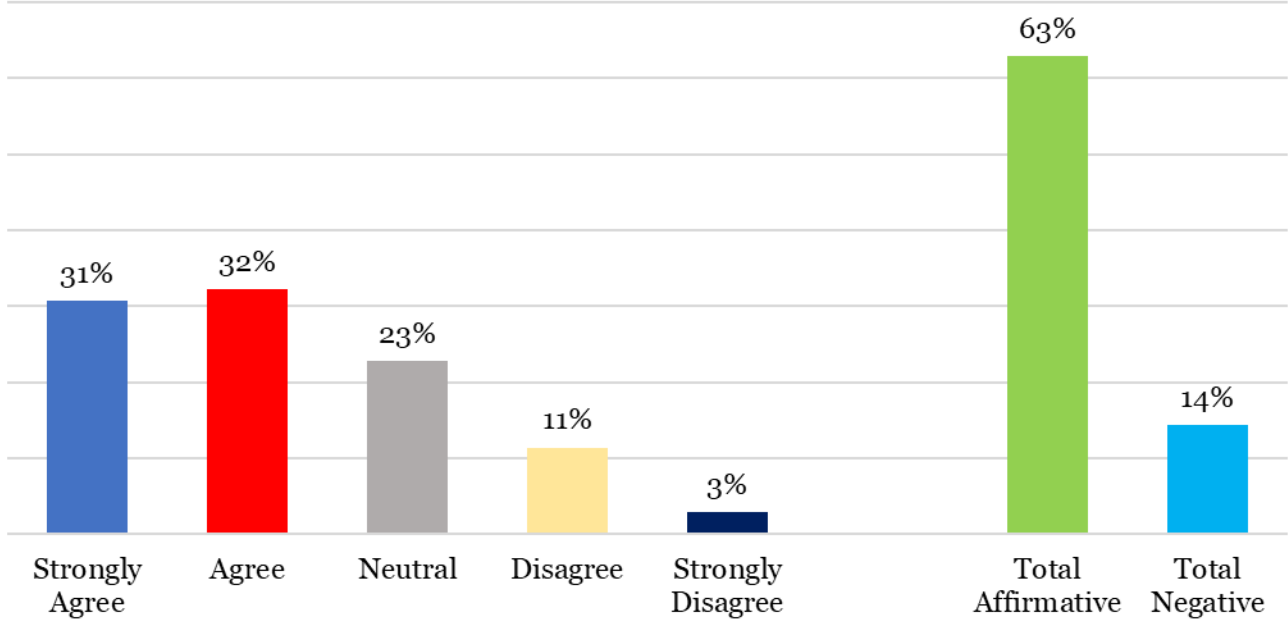
All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.



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

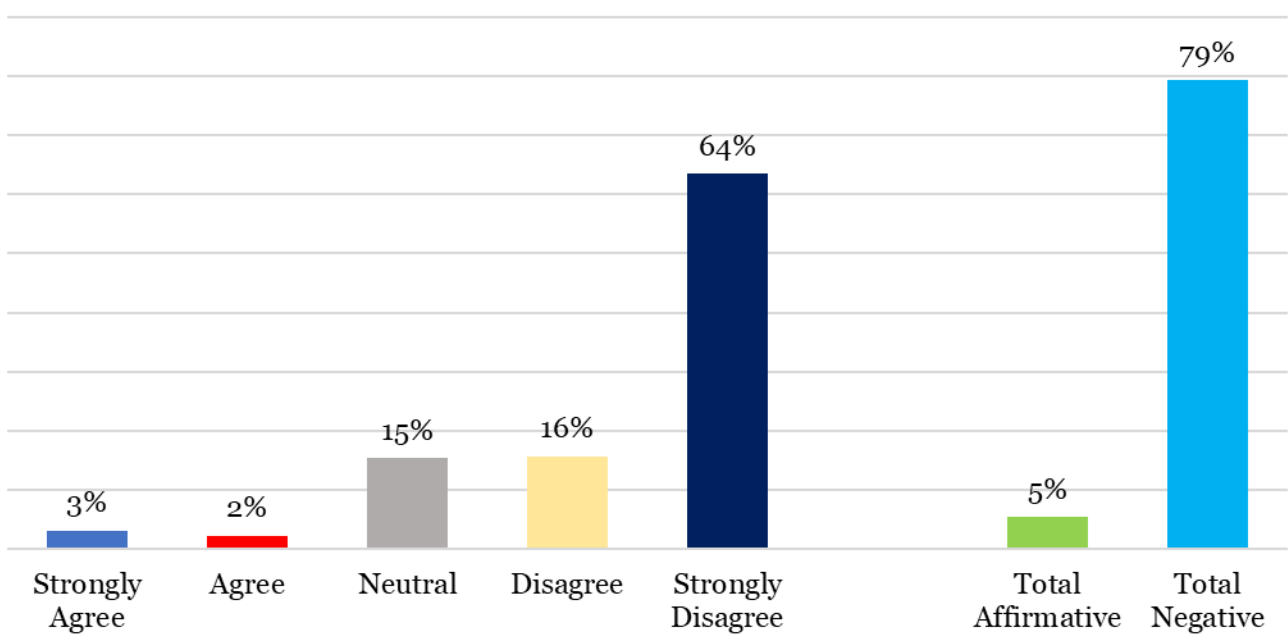


To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.



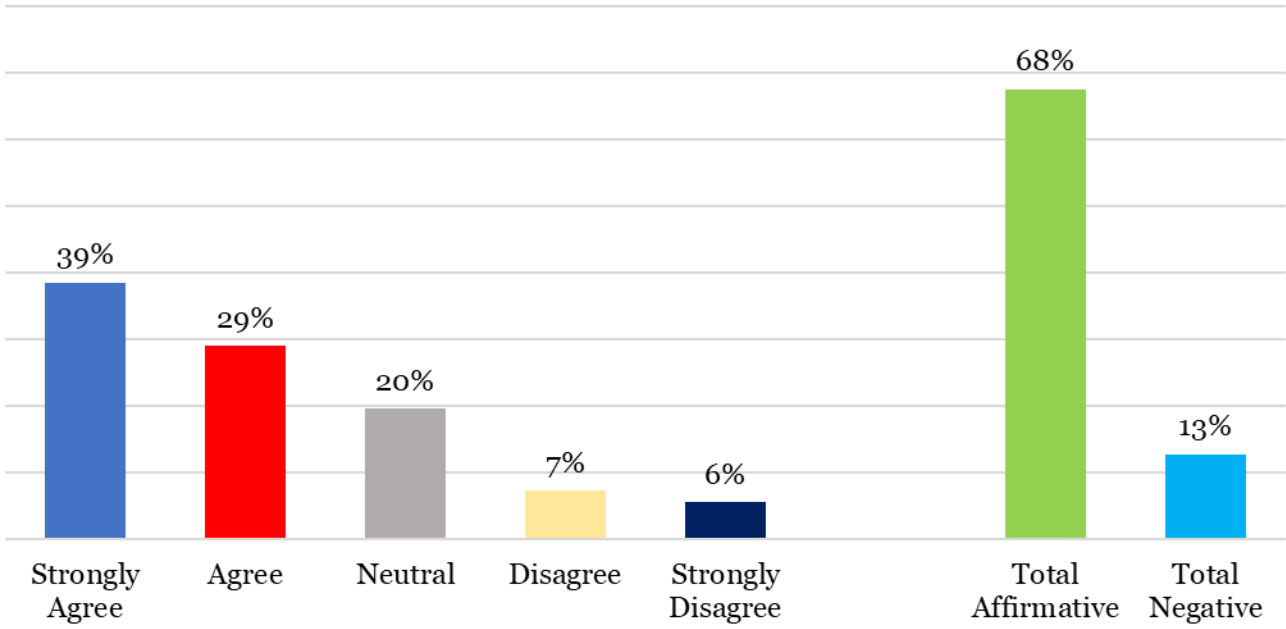
**FAIRNESS** – THE PERCEIVED IMPARTIALITY, PROPORTIONALITY AND LEGALITY OF PUNISHMENTS AND PROCEDURES

The disciplinary system is fair.

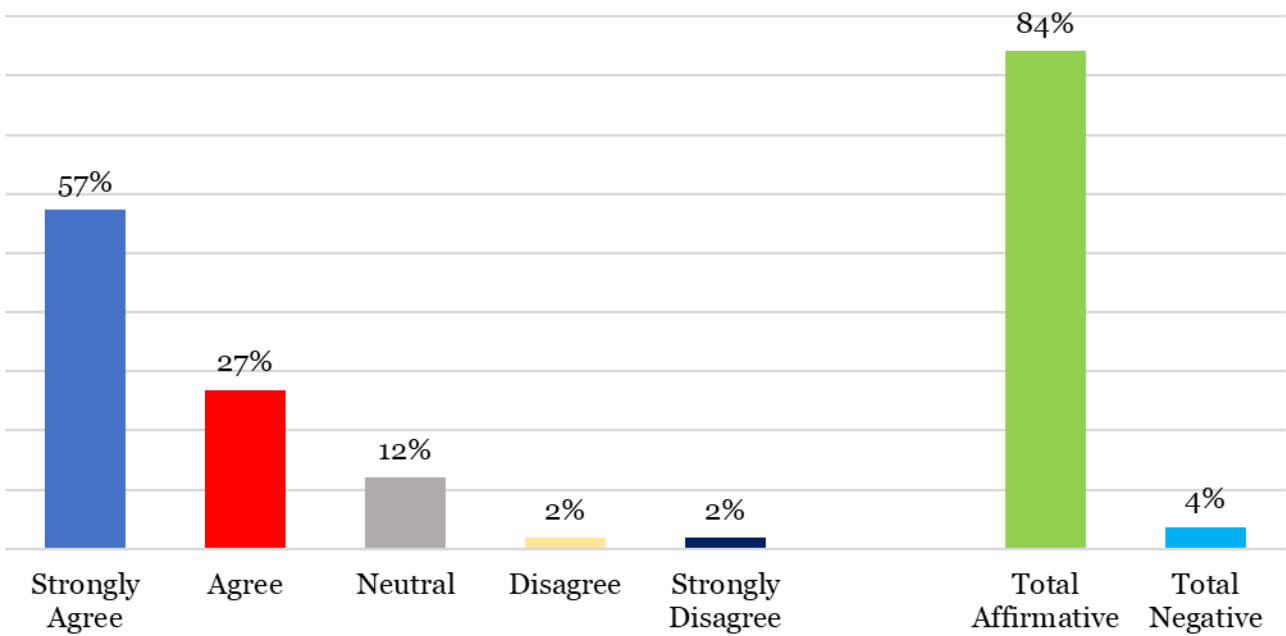




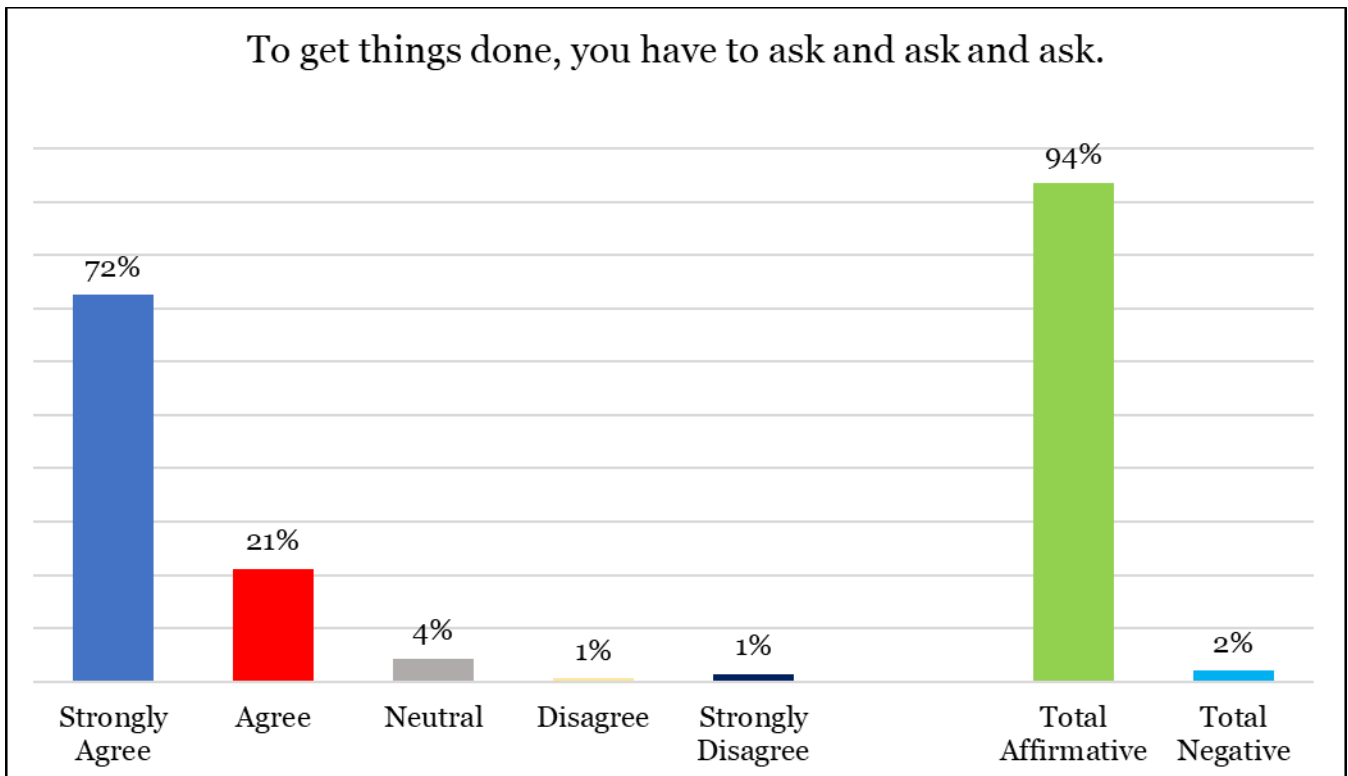
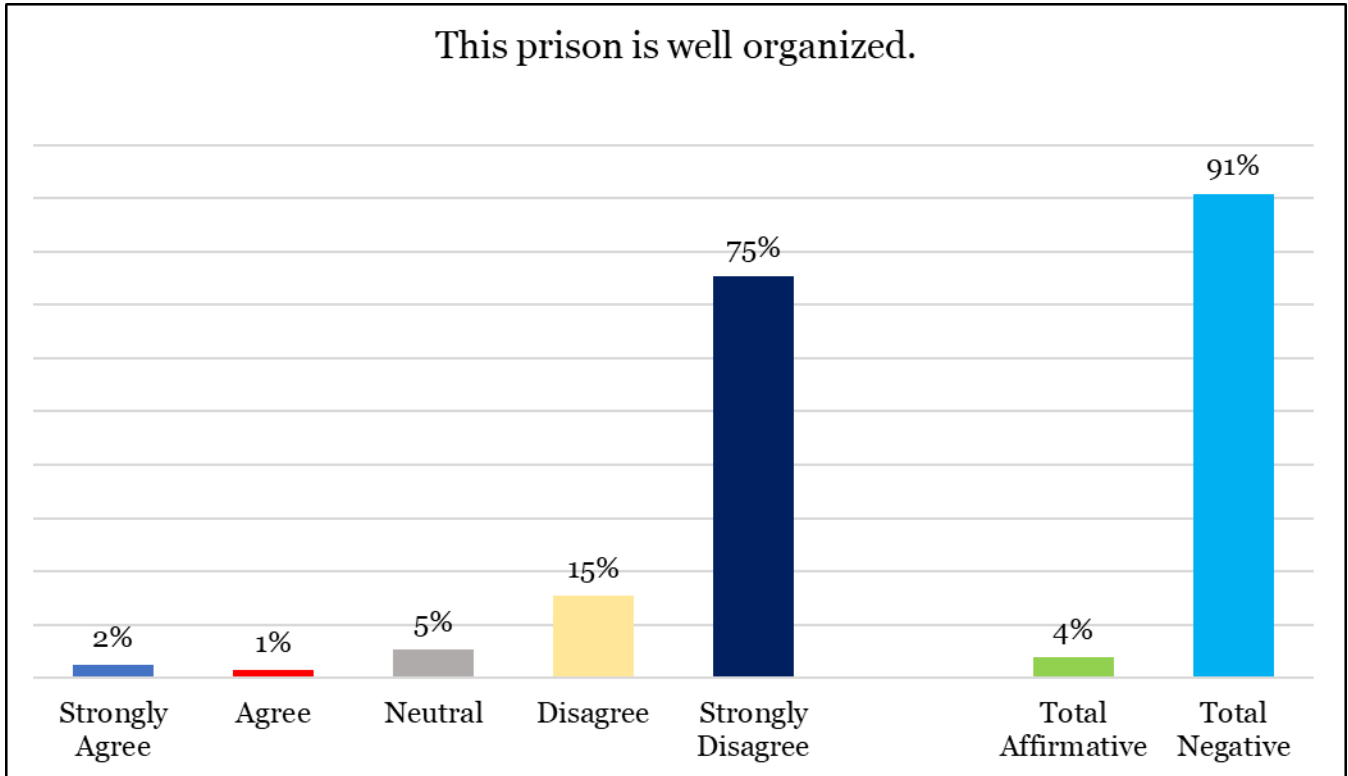
Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.



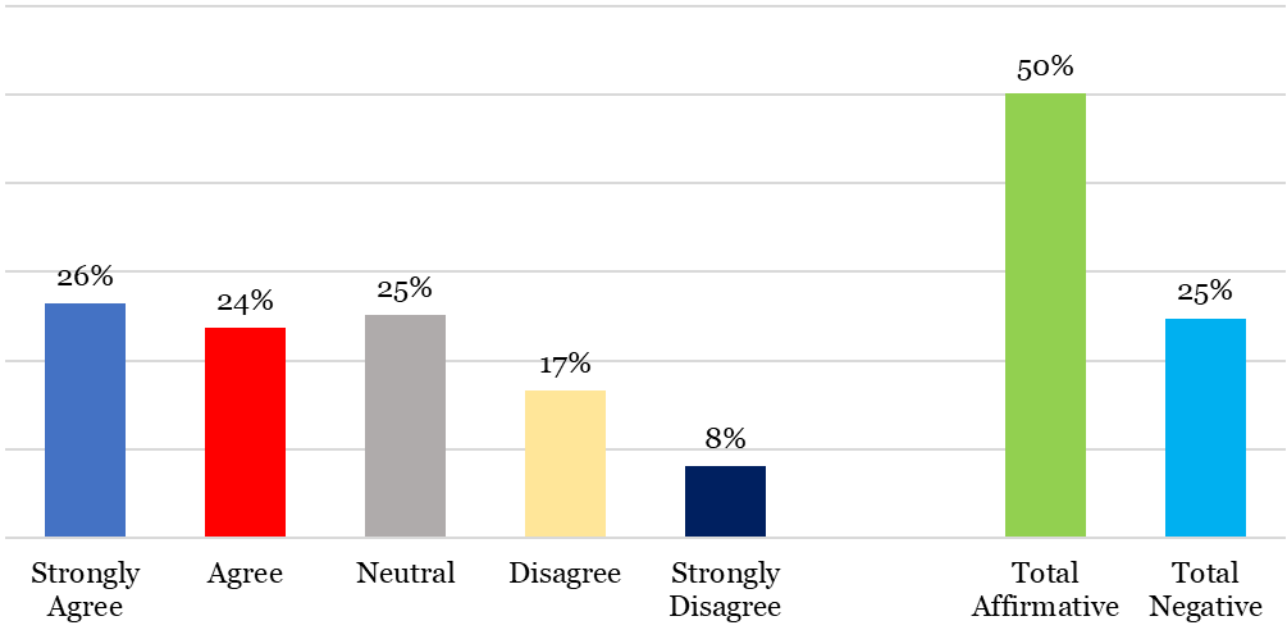
This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.



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

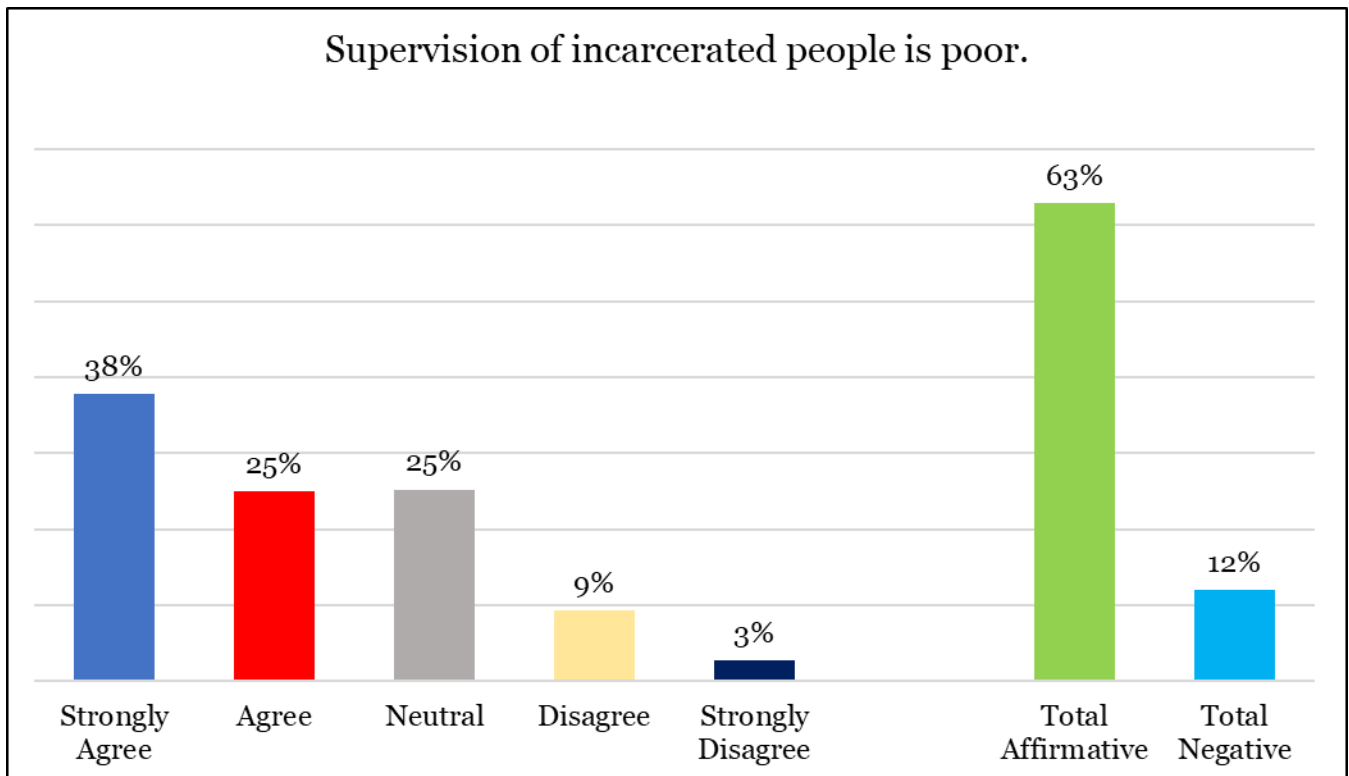


### You never know the rules.

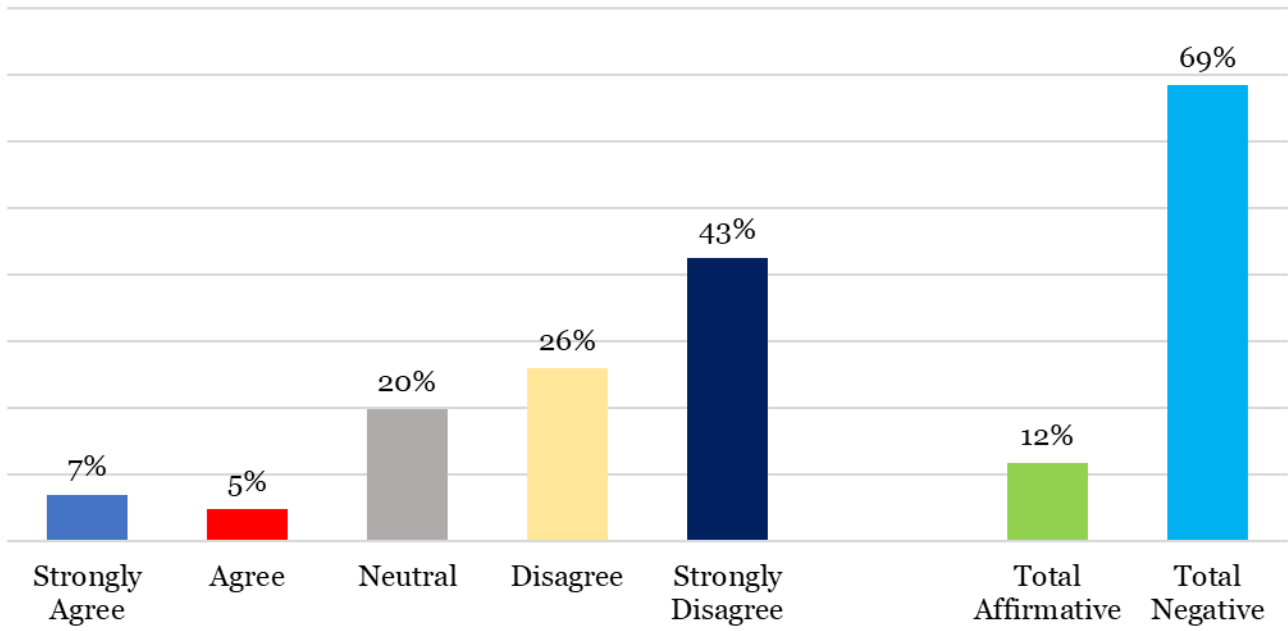


# Security

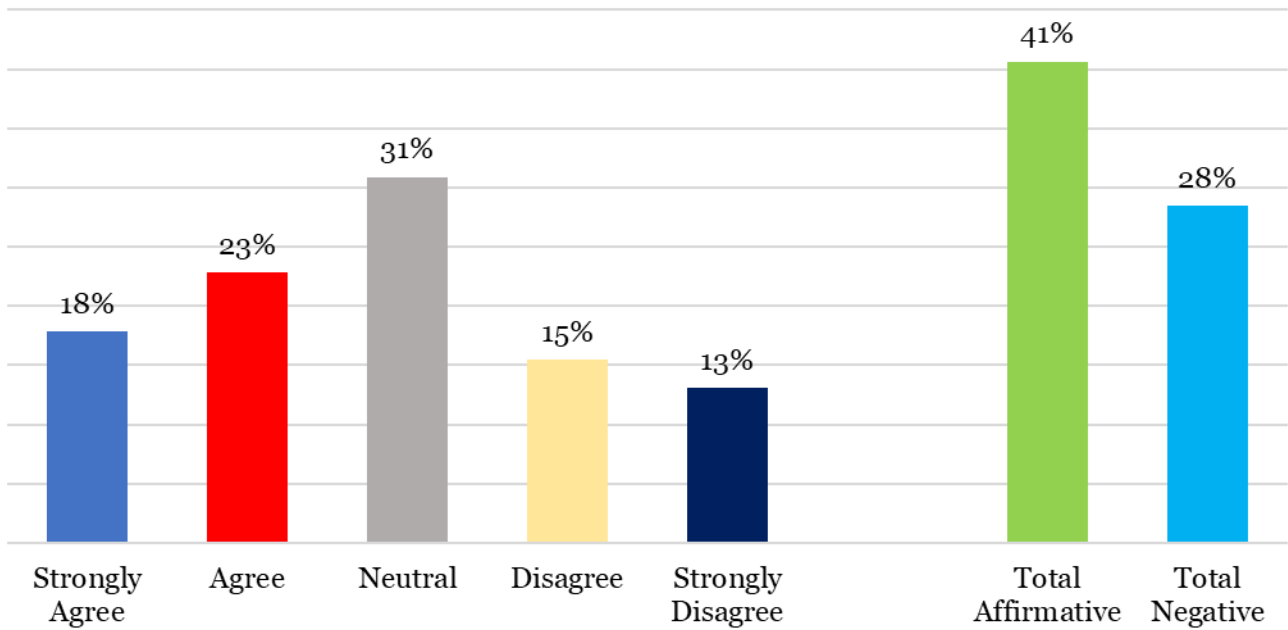
## POLICING AND SECURITY – STAFF SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT



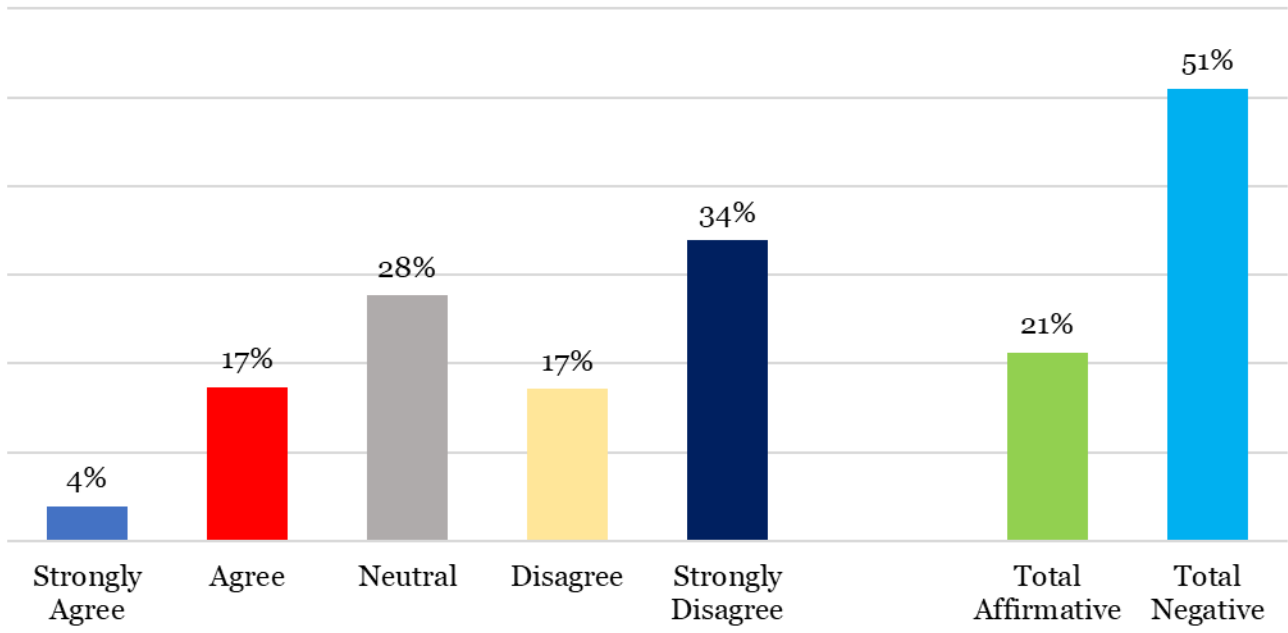
This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.



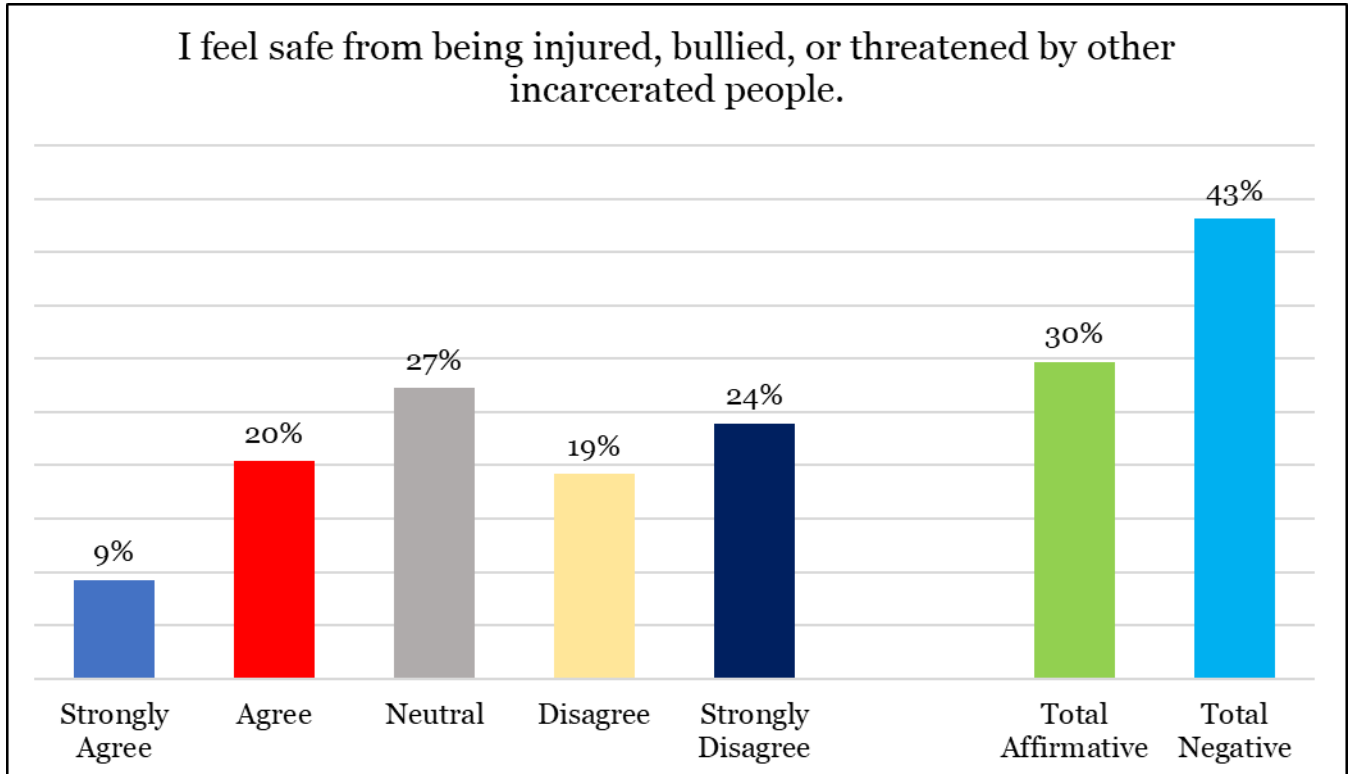
There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.



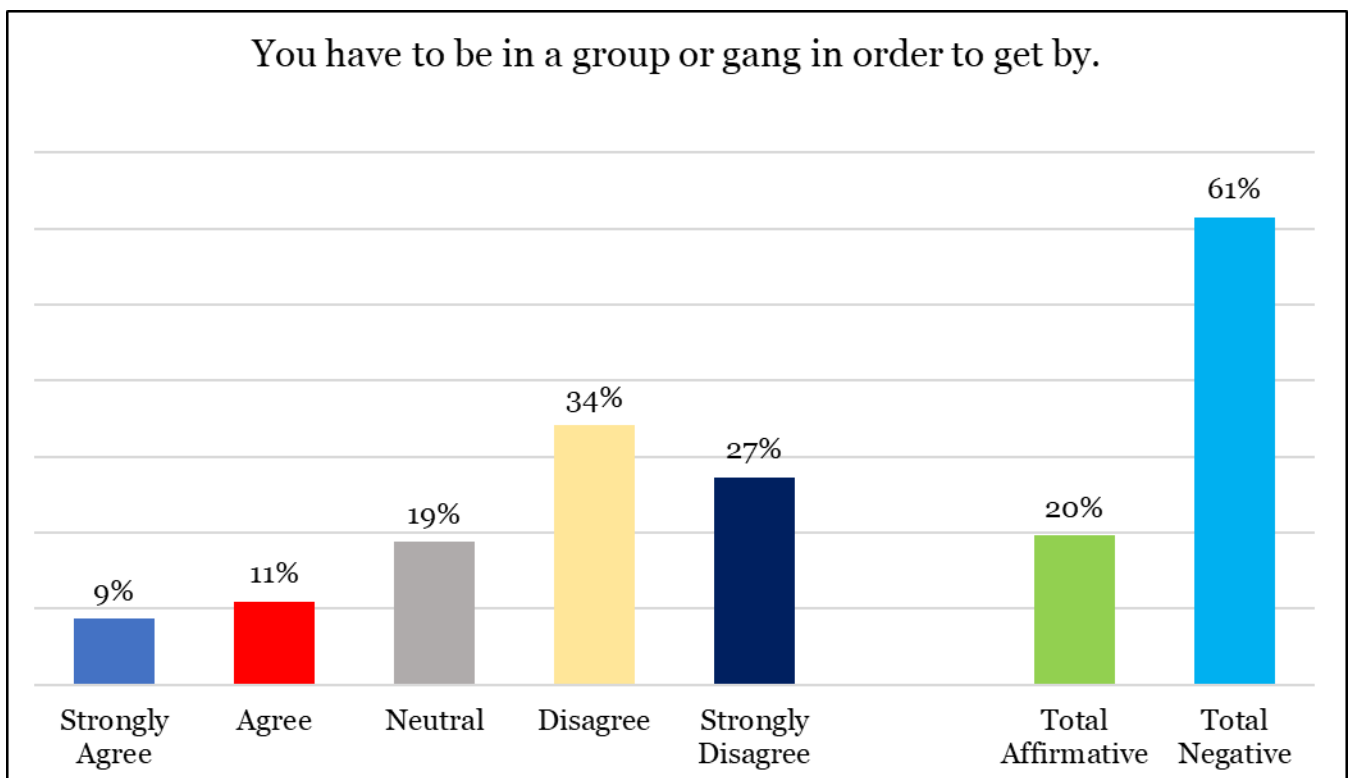
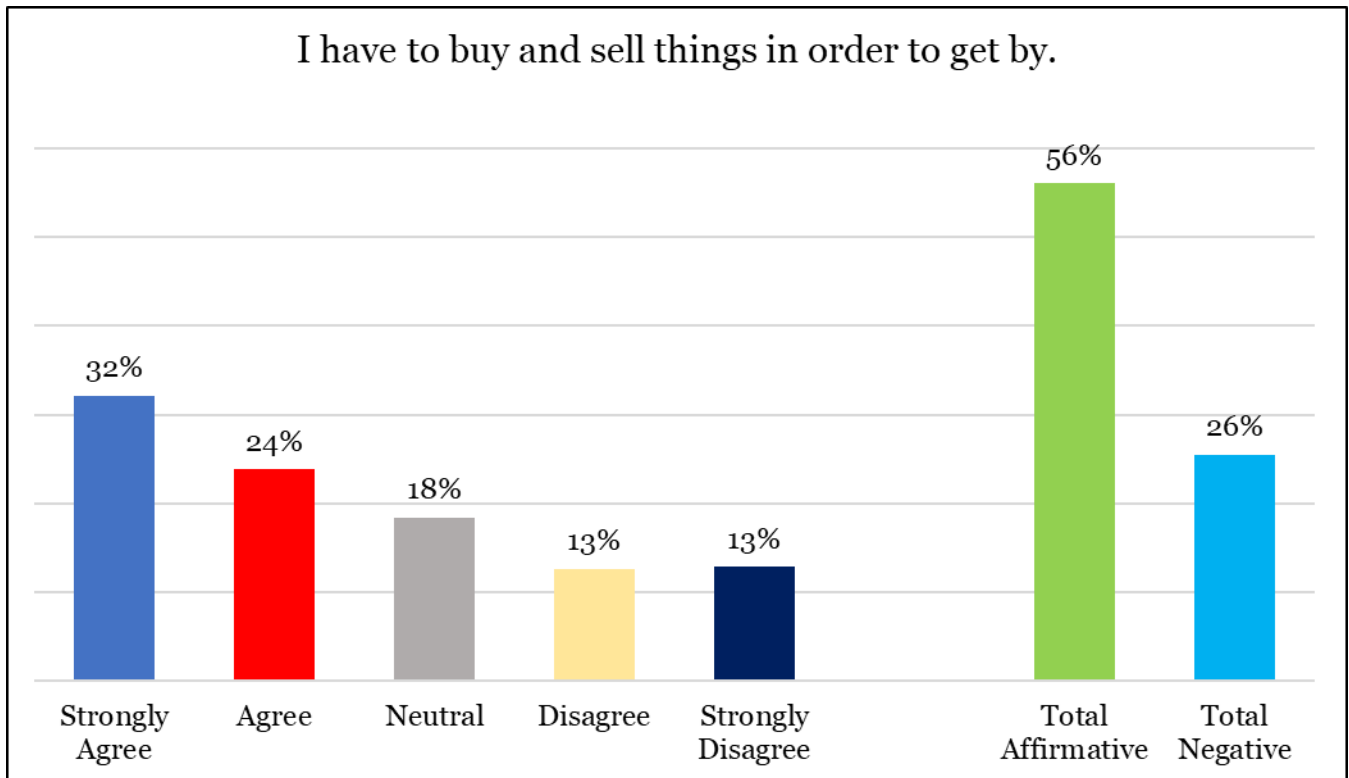
### Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.



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

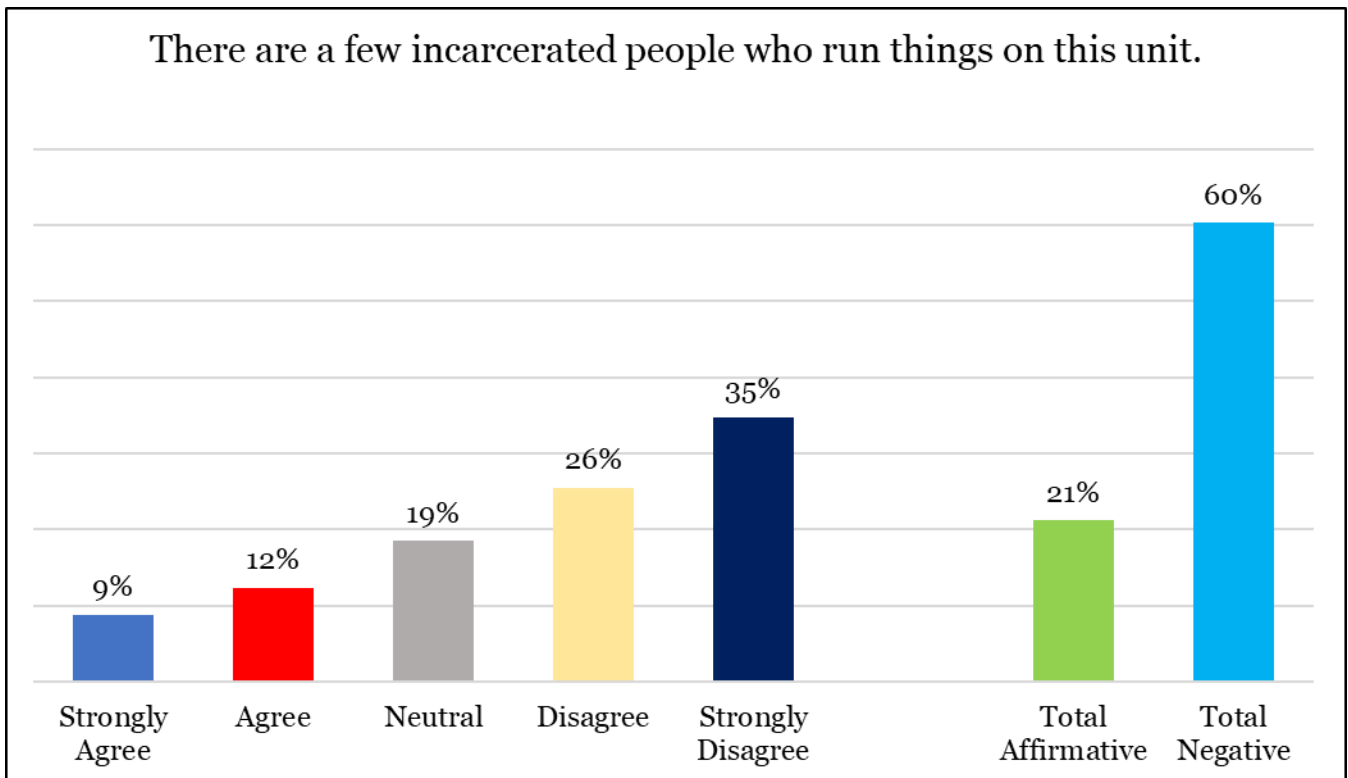
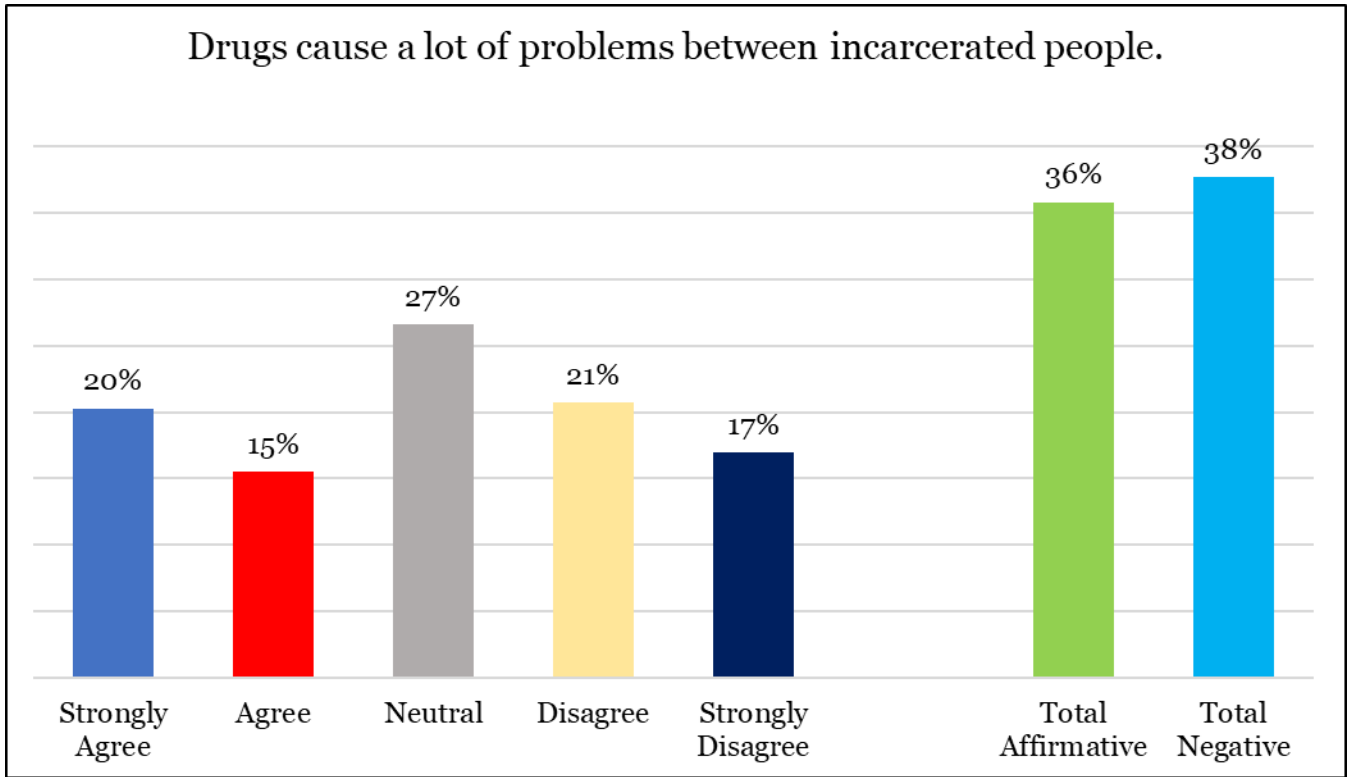


**INCARCERATED PERSON ADAPTATION – THE NEED OR PRESSURE TO GET INVOLVED IN TRADE AND ALLEGIANCES**



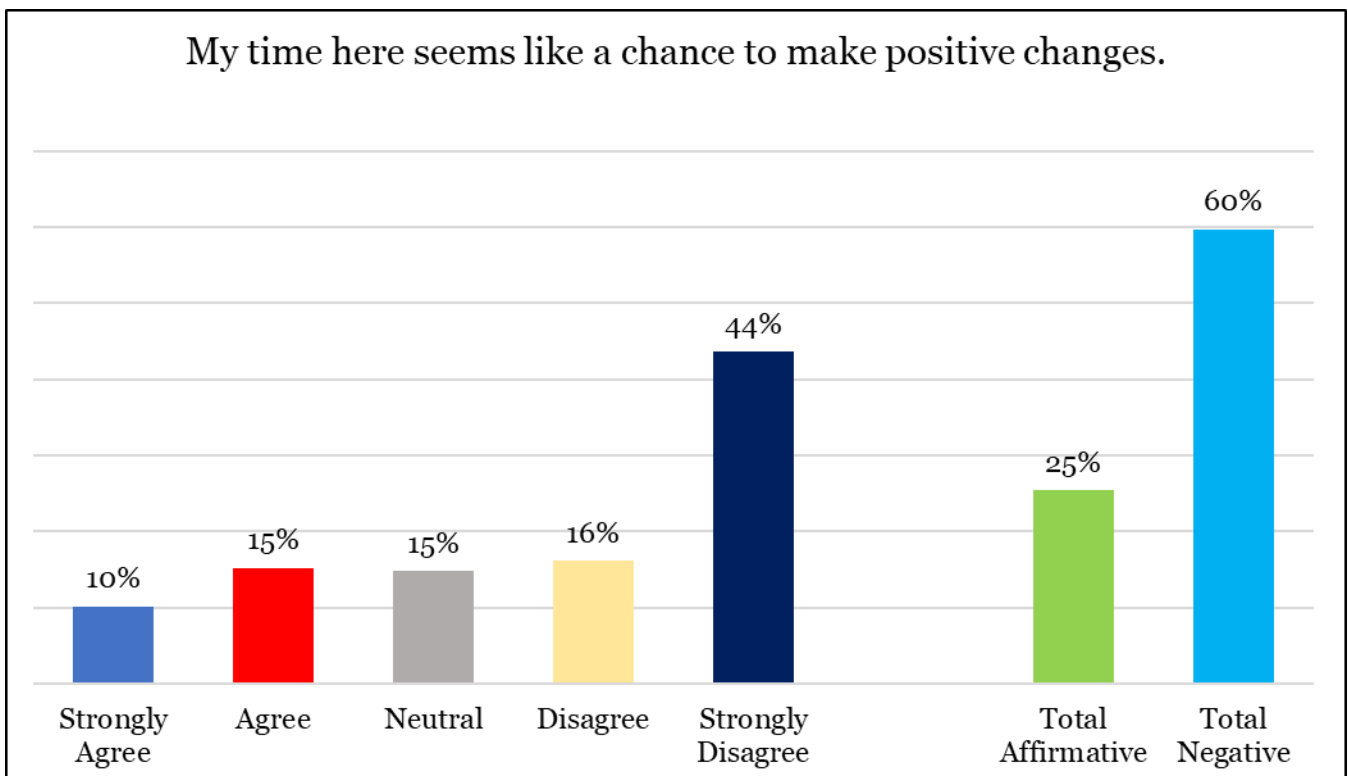
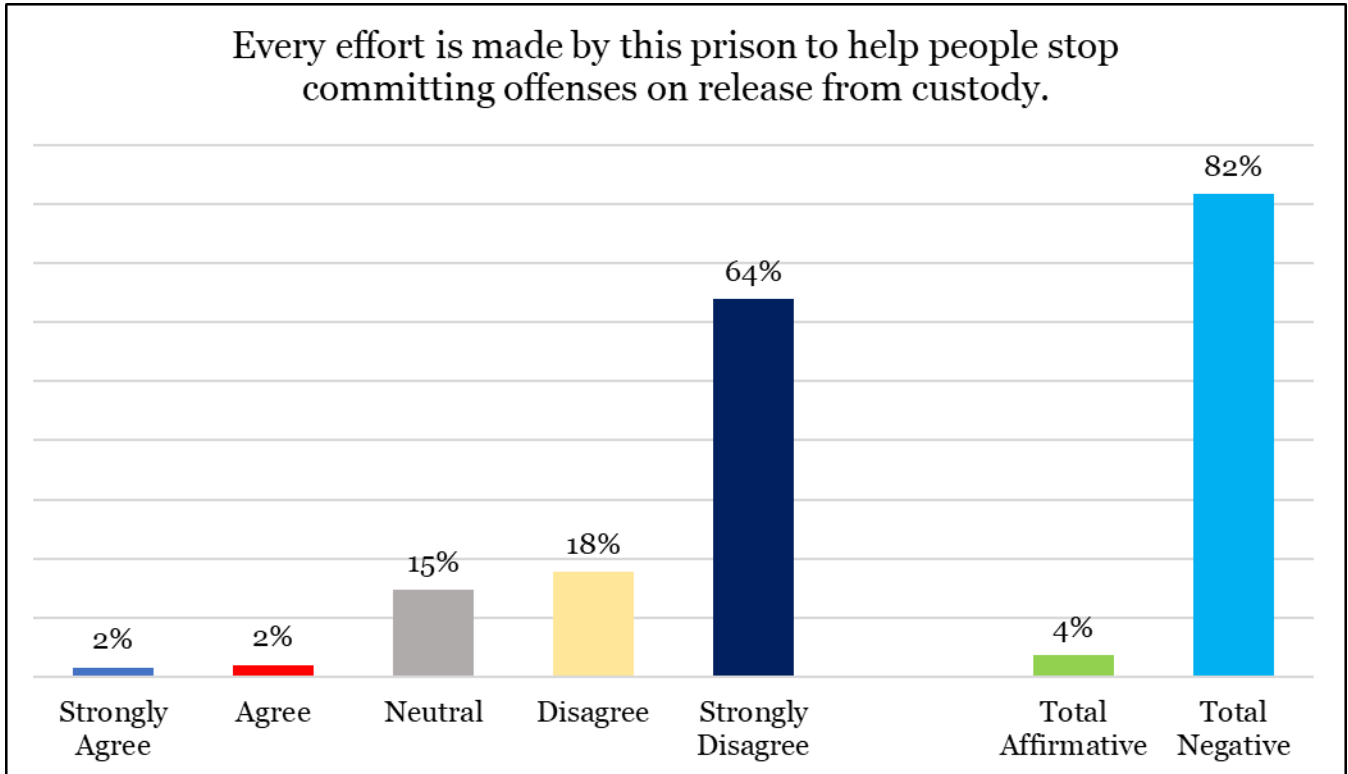


**DRUGS AND EXPLOITATION – THE LEVEL OF DRUGS, BULLYING AND VICTIMIZATION IN THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT**

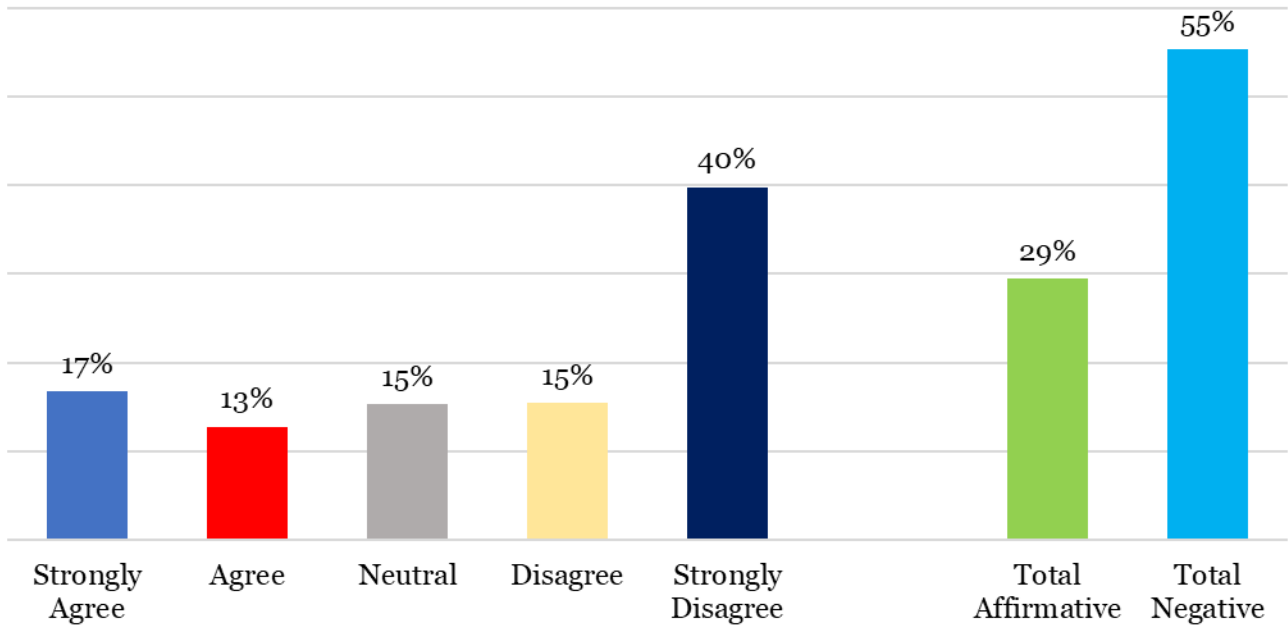


# Well-being and Development

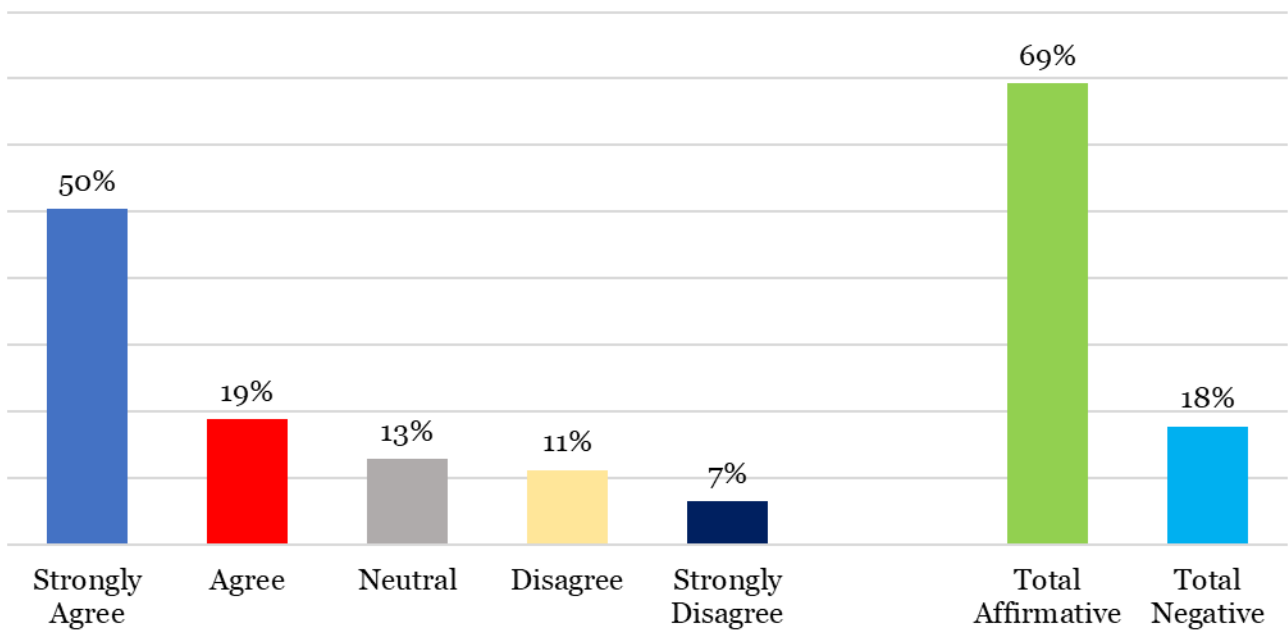
**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT** – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT HELPS INCARCERATED PEOPLE WITH OFFENDING BEHAVIOR, PREPARATION FOR RELEASE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR POTENTIAL



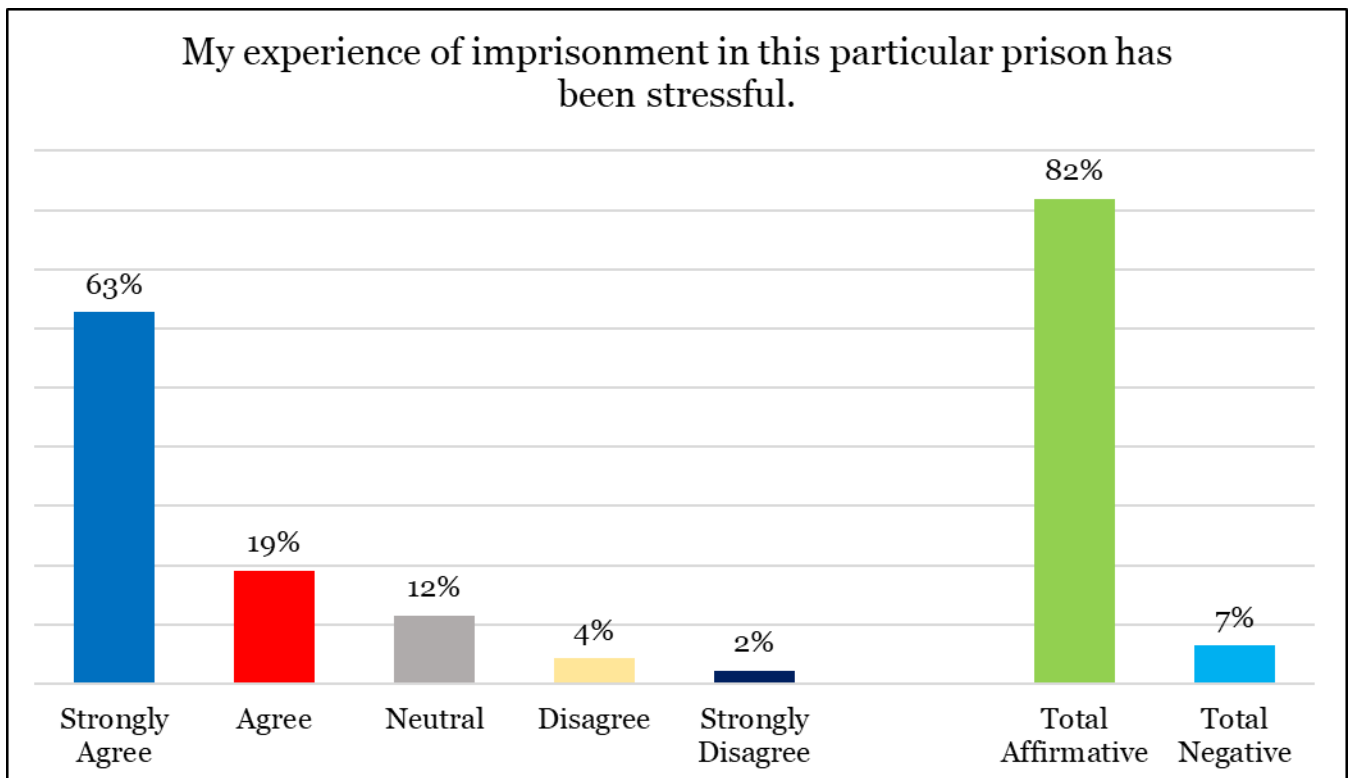
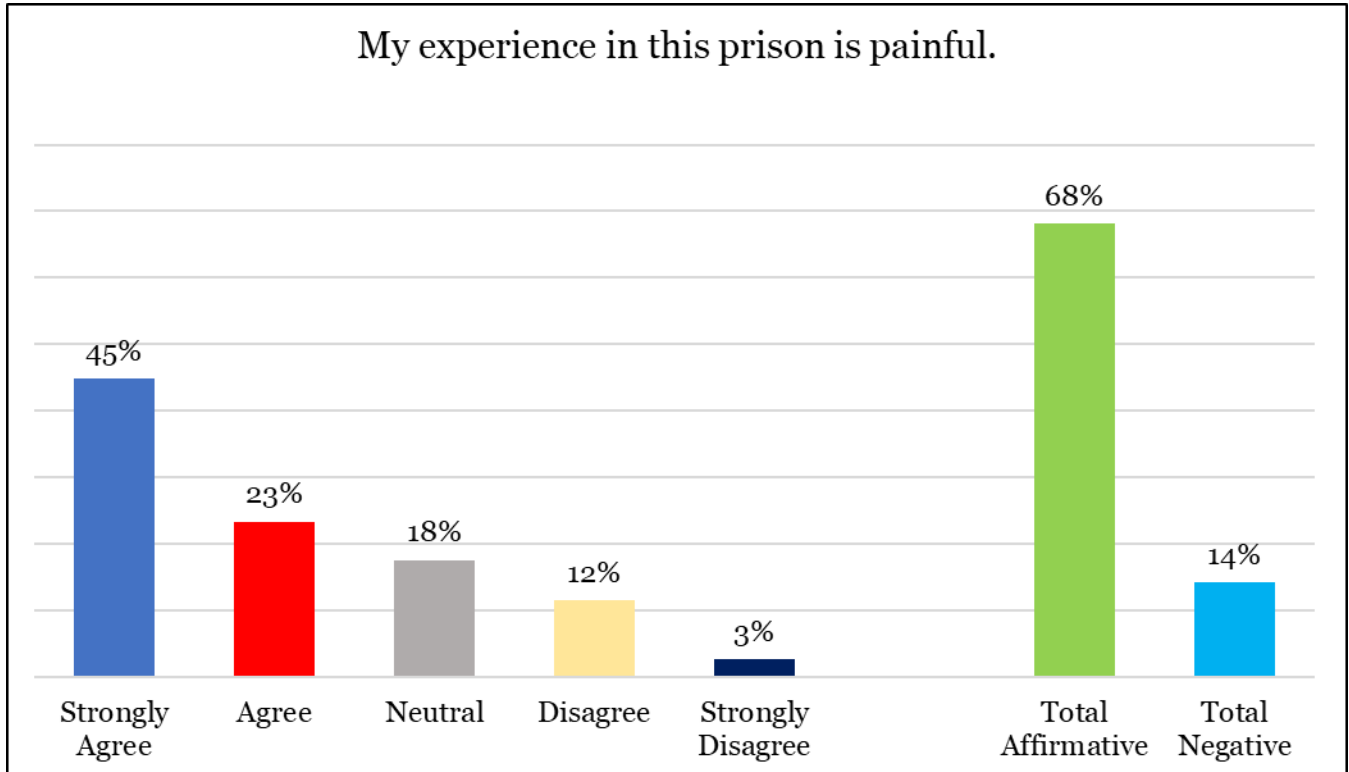
The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.



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

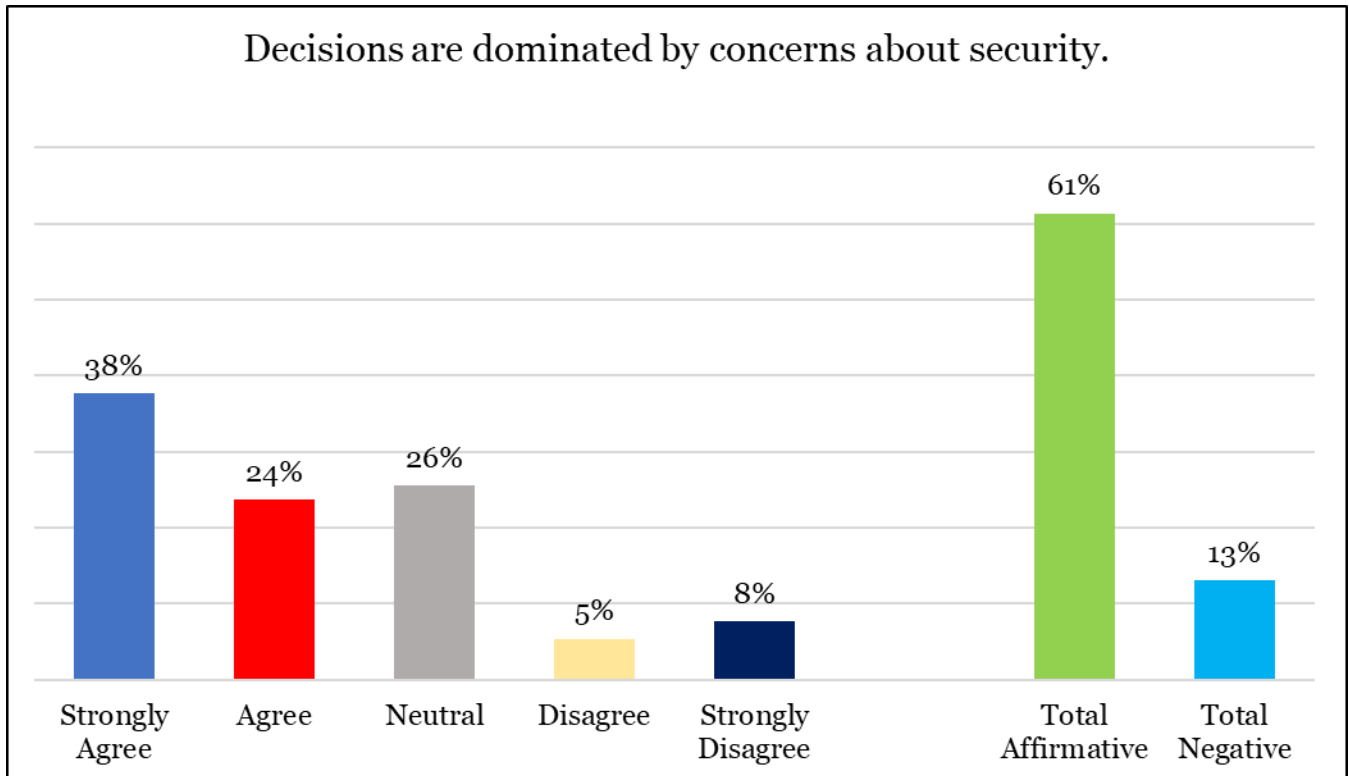


**WELL-BEING** – FEELINGS OF PAIN, PUNISHMENT AND TENSION EXPERIENCED BY INCARCERATED PEOPLE

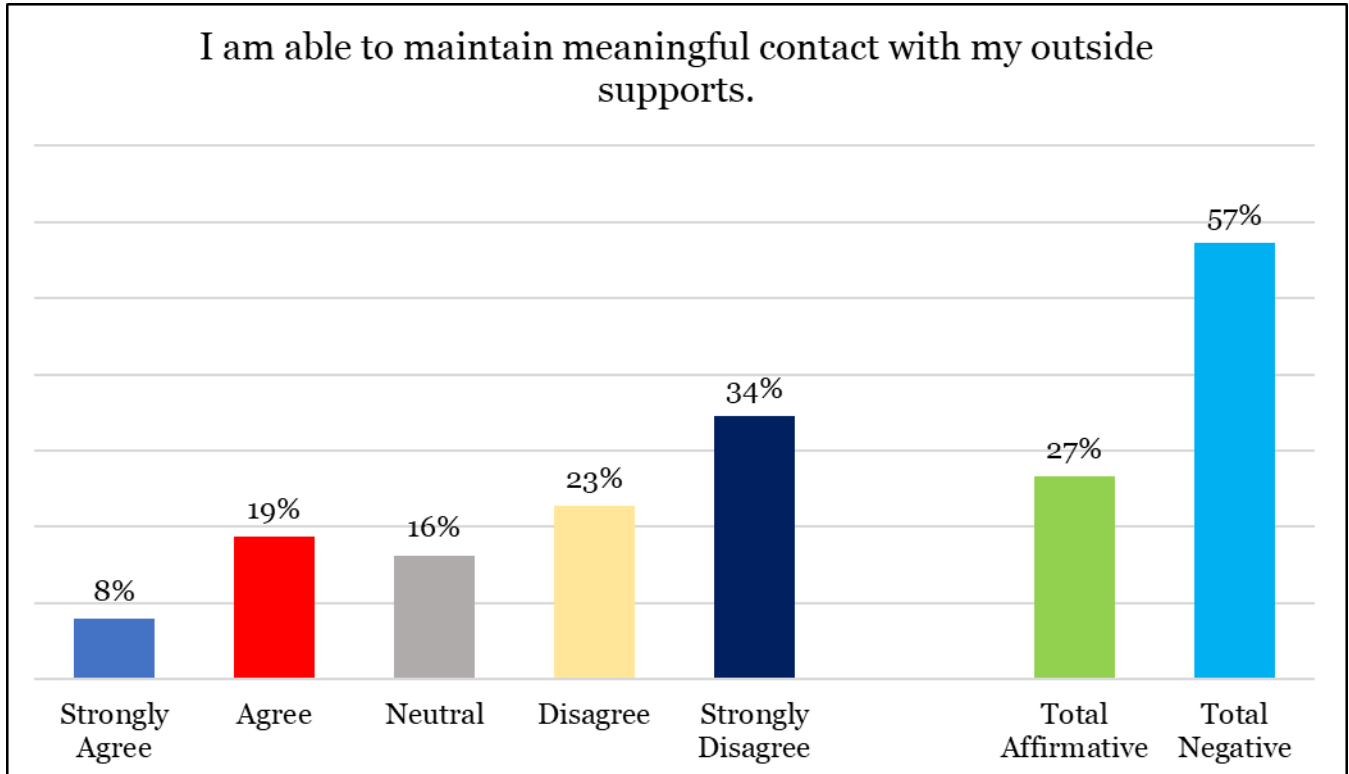


## Additional Questions

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

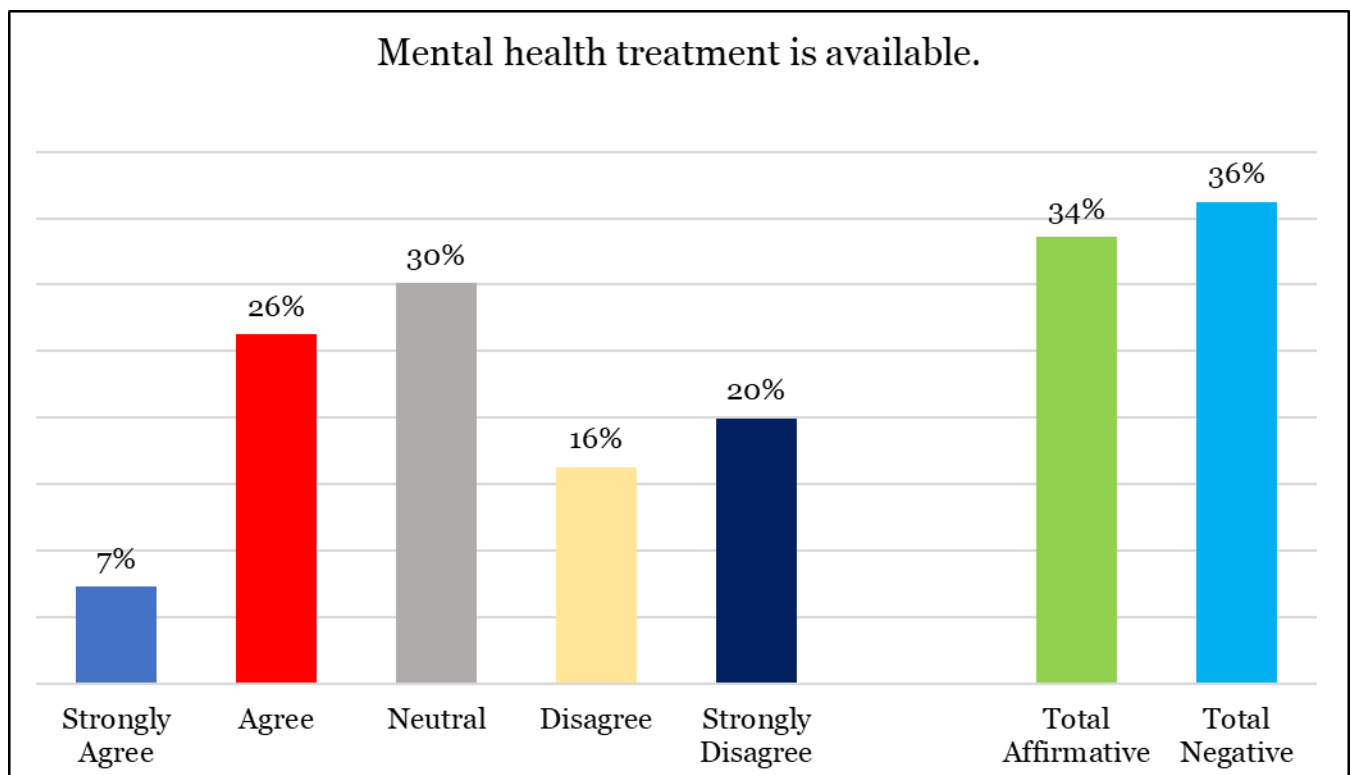
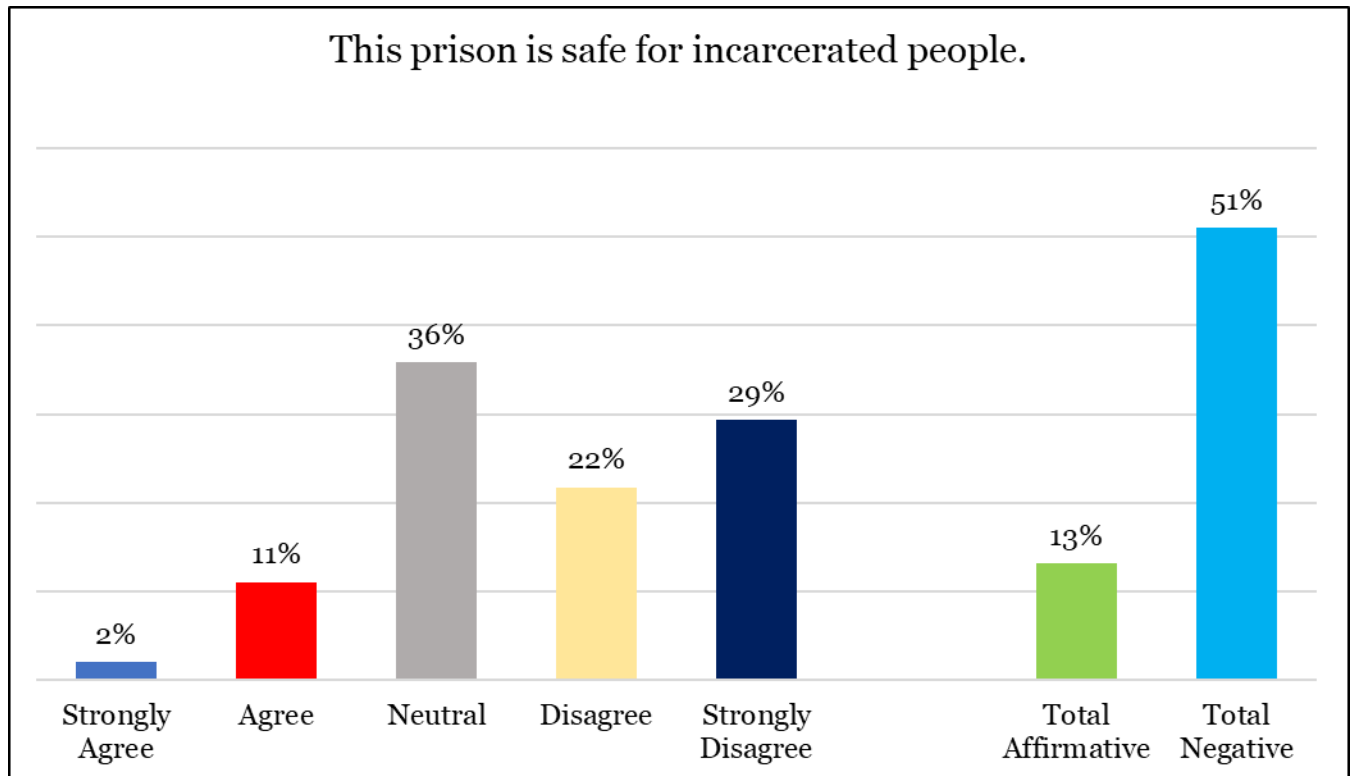


**FAMILY CONTACT – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT FACILITATES INCARCERATED PEOPLE MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOVED ONES**

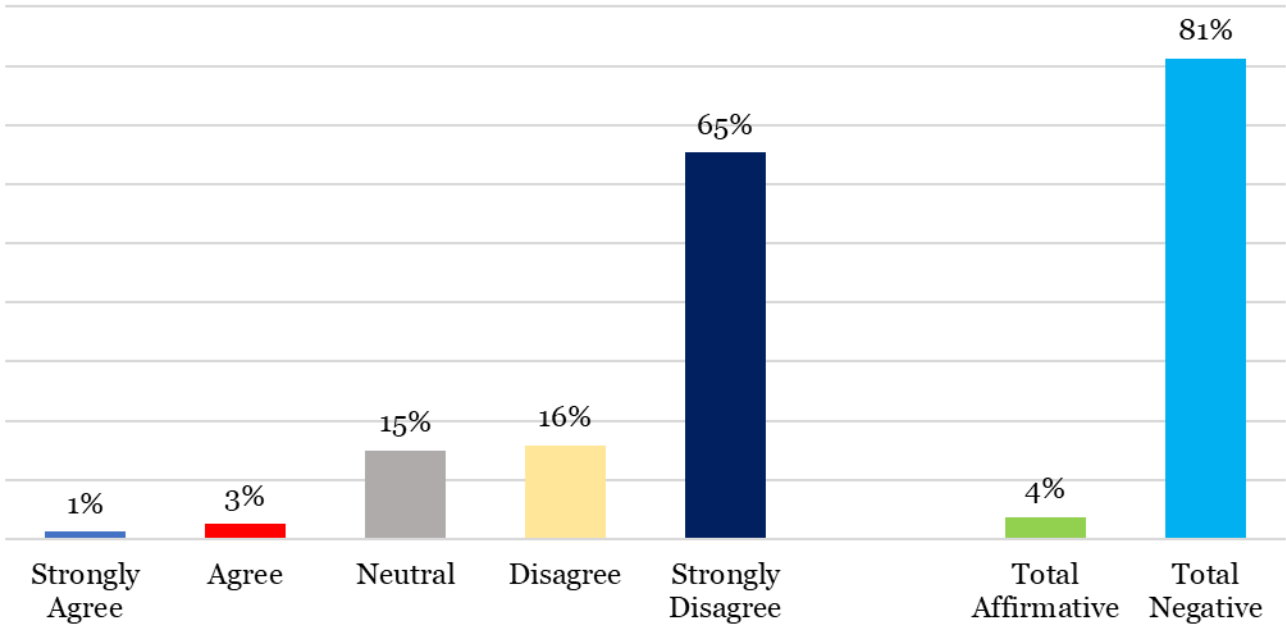


# Charts: JHA Questions

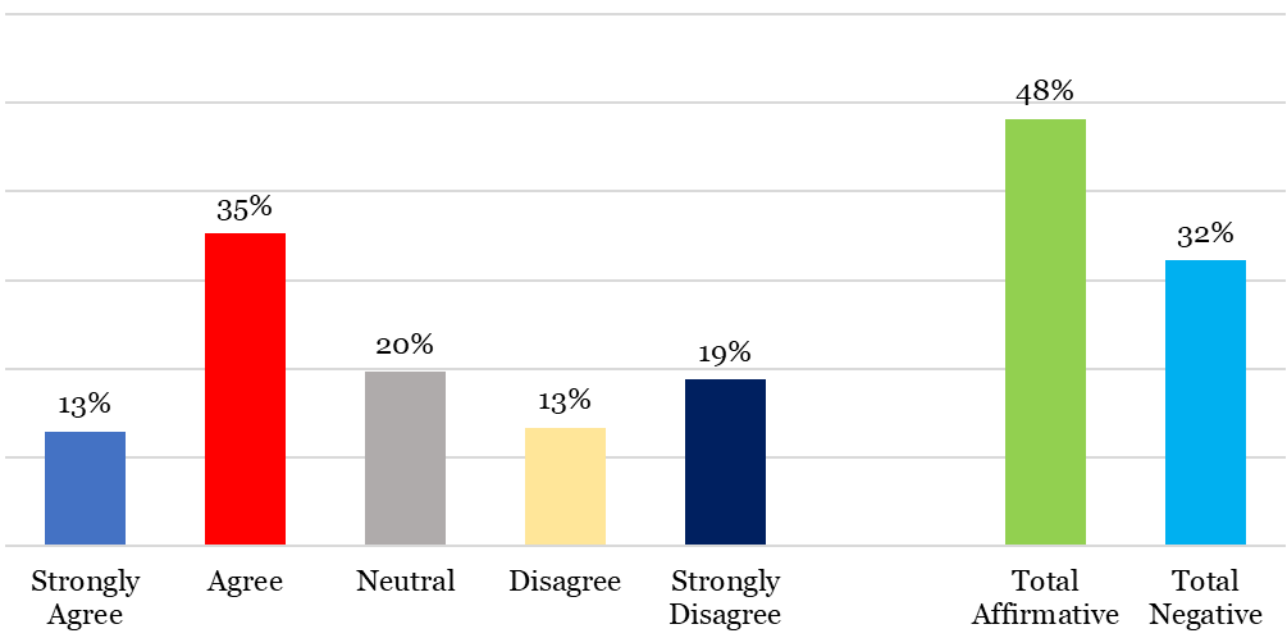
## QUESTIONS USED IN PREVIOUS JHA SURVEYS



This prison is better now than it was last year.

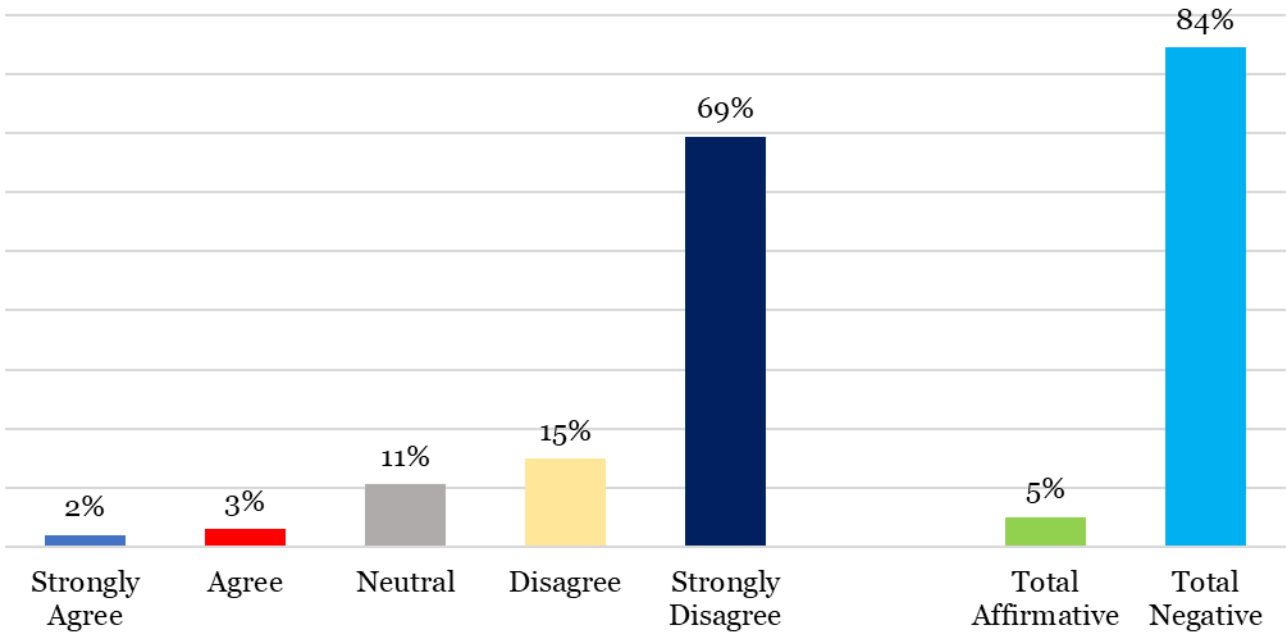


I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.

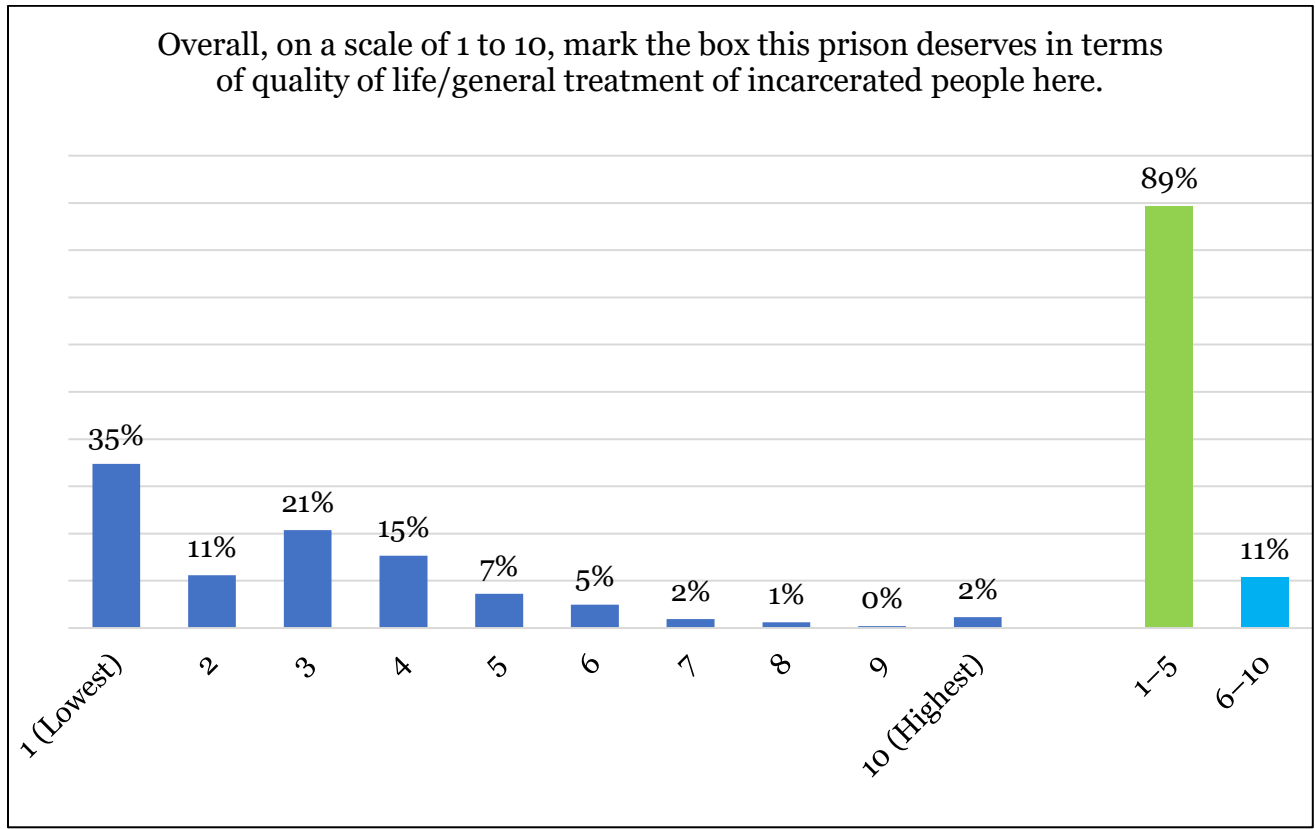




I am satisfied with food from dietary.



## OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE



# Tables of Results by Individual Survey Items

Age		
18-26	26	5%
26-30	46	9%
31-40	139	28%
41-50	154	31%
51 and over	132	27%
No response	2	

Race or ethnicity		
White	102	21%
Black	275	56%
Hispanic or Latino	82	17%
Other	33	7%
No response	7	

Are you within two years of release?		
Yes	106	22%
No	386	78%
No response	7	

Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?		
Yes	327	67%
No	164	33%
No response	8	

What housing status are you currently on?		
General Population	471	95%
Restrictive Housing	15	3%
Other	10	2%
No response	3	

Are you currently getting at least two hours a day out of your cell or sleeping area?		
Yes	153	32%
No	323	68%

Do you have a work or school assignment?		
Work Assignment	109	22%
School Assignment	31	6%
Both	17	3%
Neither	338	68%
No response	4	

Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.		
Strongly Agree	4	1%
Agree	23	5%
Neutral	121	24%
Disagree	139	28%
Strongly Disagree	210	42%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	27	5%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	349	70%
No response	2	

I receive support from staff when I need it.		
Strongly Agree	5	1%
Agree	39	8%
Neutral	87	18%
Disagree	153	31%
Strongly Disagree	210	43%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	44	9%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	363	73%
No response	5	

<b>Staff here treat incarcerated people fairly when applying the rules.</b>		
Strongly Agree	5	1%
Agree	23	5%
Neutral	74	15%
Disagree	157	32%
Strongly Disagree	237	48%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	28	6%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	394	79%
No response	3	

<b>I trust the officers.</b>		
Strongly Agree	4	1%
Agree	11	2%
Neutral	75	15%
Disagree	132	27%
Strongly Disagree	272	55%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	15	3%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	404	82%
No response	5	

<b>I get along well with the officers on my unit.</b>		
Strongly Agree	11	2%
Agree	85	17%
Neutral	203	41%
Disagree	68	14%
Strongly Disagree	125	25%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	96	20%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	193	39%
No response	7	

<b>The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.</b>		
Strongly Agree	22	4%
Agree	84	17%
Neutral	68	14%
Disagree	122	25%
Strongly Disagree	196	40%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	106	22%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	318	65%
No response	7	

<b>I have been helped significantly by a staff member with a particular problem.</b>		
Strongly Agree	12	2%
Agree	58	12%
Neutral	97	20%
Disagree	130	26%
Strongly Disagree	195	40%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	70	14%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	325	66%
No response	7	

<b>Overall, I am treated fairly by staff.</b>		
Strongly Agree	7	1%
Agree	67	14%
Neutral	151	31%
Disagree	118	24%
Strongly Disagree	151	31%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	74	15%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	269	54%
No response	5	

<b>I am treated as a person of value.</b>		
Strongly Agree	7	1%
Agree	19	4%
Neutral	80	16%
Disagree	125	25%
Strongly Disagree	263	53%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	26	5%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	388	79%
No response	5	

<b>Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.</b>		
Strongly Agree	183	37%
Agree	193	39%
Neutral	68	14%
Disagree	28	6%
Strongly Disagree	17	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	376	77%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	45	9%
No response	10	

<b>I feel safe from being injured, bullied, or threatened by other incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	45	9%
Agree	99	20%
Neutral	132	27%
Disagree	93	19%
Strongly Disagree	116	24%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	144	30%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	209	43%
No response	14	

<b>If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.</b>		
Strongly Agree	61	13%
Agree	43	9%
Neutral	70	14%
Disagree	92	19%
Strongly Disagree	217	45%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	104	22%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	309	64%
No response	16	

<b>To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.</b>		
Strongly Agree	148	31%
Agree	155	32%
Neutral	110	23%
Disagree	55	11%
Strongly Disagree	14	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	303	63%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	69	14%
No response	17	

<b>Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	248	51%
Agree	143	29%
Neutral	66	14%
Disagree	21	4%
Strongly Disagree	9	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	391	80%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	30	6%
No response	12	

<b>Staff have enough experience and expertise to deal with issues that matter to me.</b>		
Strongly Agree	14	3%
Agree	22	5%
Neutral	59	12%
Disagree	158	33%
Strongly Disagree	232	48%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	36	7%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	390	80%
No response	14	

<b>To get things done, you have to ask and ask and ask.</b>		
Strongly Agree	350	72%
Agree	102	21%
Neutral	21	4%
Disagree	3	1%
Strongly Disagree	7	1%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	452	94%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	10	2%
No response	16	

<b>Supervision of incarcerated people is poor.</b>		
Strongly Agree	183	38%
Agree	121	25%
Neutral	122	25%
Disagree	45	9%
Strongly Disagree	13	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	304	63%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	58	12%
No response	15	

<b>I can't improve my situation through good behavior.</b>		
Strongly Agree	183	38%
Agree	120	25%
Neutral	69	14%
Disagree	62	13%
Strongly Disagree	50	10%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	303	63%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	112	23%
No response	15	

<b>The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.</b>		
Strongly Agree	81	17%
Agree	62	13%
Neutral	74	15%
Disagree	75	15%
Strongly Disagree	193	40%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	143	29%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	268	55%
No response	14	

<b>My experience of imprisonment in this particular prison has been stressful.</b>		
Strongly Agree	309	63%
Agree	94	19%
Neutral	57	12%
Disagree	21	4%
Strongly Disagree	11	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	403	82%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	32	7%
No response	7	

<b>Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	187	39%
Agree	141	29%
Neutral	95	20%
Disagree	35	7%
Strongly Disagree	27	6%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	328	68%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	62	13%
No response	14	

<b>I have to be careful about everything I do, or it can be used against me.</b>		
Strongly Agree	247	51%
Agree	153	31%
Neutral	63	13%
Disagree	17	3%
Strongly Disagree	9	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	400	82%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	26	5%
No response	10	

<b>On the whole, I am just doing time rather than using my time.</b>		
Strongly Agree	246	50%
Agree	92	19%
Neutral	63	13%
Disagree	55	11%
Strongly Disagree	32	7%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	338	69%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	87	18%
No response	11	

<b>Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.</b>		
Strongly Agree	19	4%
Agree	84	17%
Neutral	134	28%
Disagree	83	17%
Strongly Disagree	164	34%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	103	21%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	247	51%
No response	15	

<b>This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.</b>		
Strongly Agree	34	7%
Agree	23	5%
Neutral	96	20%
Disagree	126	26%
Strongly Disagree	207	43%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	57	12%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	333	69%
No response	13	

<b>When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.</b>		
Strongly Agree	28	6%
Agree	67	14%
Neutral	106	22%
Disagree	132	27%
Strongly Disagree	156	32%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	95	19%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	288	59%
No response	10	

<b>This prison is well organized.</b>		
Strongly Agree	12	2%
Agree	7	1%
Neutral	26	5%
Disagree	75	15%
Strongly Disagree	369	75%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	19	4%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	444	91%
No response	10	

<b>You never know the rules.</b>		
Strongly Agree	127	26%
Agree	114	24%
Neutral	121	25%
Disagree	80	17%
Strongly Disagree	39	8%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	241	50%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	119	25%
No response	18	

<b>I feel that I am treated with respect by staff.</b>		
Strongly Agree	5	1%
Agree	32	7%
Neutral	122	25%
Disagree	106	22%
Strongly Disagree	217	45%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	37	8%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	323	67%
No response	17	

<b>My experience in this prison is painful.</b>		
Strongly Agree	217	45%
Agree	113	23%
Neutral	85	18%
Disagree	56	12%
Strongly Disagree	13	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	330	68%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	69	14%
No response	15	

<b>I have to buy and sell things in order to get by.</b>		
Strongly Agree	155	32%
Agree	115	24%
Neutral	89	18%
Disagree	61	13%
Strongly Disagree	62	13%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	270	56%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	123	26%
No response	17	

<b>There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	82	18%
Agree	105	23%
Neutral	142	31%
Disagree	71	15%
Strongly Disagree	60	13%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	187	41%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	131	28%
No response	39	

<b>Decisions are dominated by concerns about security.</b>		
Strongly Agree	181	38%
Agree	114	24%
Neutral	123	26%
Disagree	26	5%
Strongly Disagree	37	8%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	295	61%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	63	13%
No response	18	

<b>The disciplinary system is fair.</b>		
Strongly Agree	15	3%
Agree	11	2%
Neutral	74	15%
Disagree	76	16%
Strongly Disagree	307	64%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	26	5%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	383	79%
No response	16	

<b>My time here seems like a chance to make positive changes.</b>		
Strongly Agree	48	10%
Agree	72	15%
Neutral	70	15%
Disagree	76	16%
Strongly Disagree	206	44%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	120	25%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	282	60%
No response	27	

<b>There are a few incarcerated people who run things on this unit.</b>		
Strongly Agree	43	9%
Agree	60	12%
Neutral	90	19%
Disagree	124	26%
Strongly Disagree	169	35%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	103	21%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	293	60%
No response	13	

<b>I am not being treated as a human being in here.</b>		
Strongly Agree	200	40%
Agree	130	26%
Neutral	95	19%
Disagree	49	10%
Strongly Disagree	21	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	330	67%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	70	14%
No response	4	



<b>You have to be in a group or gang in order to get by.</b>		
Strongly Agree	42	9%
Agree	53	11%
Neutral	91	19%
Disagree	165	34%
Strongly Disagree	132	27%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	95	20%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	297	61%
No response	16	

<b>Bullying behavior by incarcerated people is not tolerated.</b>		
Strongly Agree	45	9%
Agree	83	17%
Neutral	131	27%
Disagree	107	22%
Strongly Disagree	112	23%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	128	27%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	219	46%
No response	21	

<b>When important decisions are made about me, I am treated as an individual and not a number.</b>		
Strongly Agree	17	3%
Agree	29	6%
Neutral	81	16%
Disagree	161	33%
Strongly Disagree	206	42%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	46	9%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	367	74%
No response	5	

<b>All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.</b>		
Strongly Agree	276	56%
Agree	131	27%
Neutral	60	12%
Disagree	18	4%
Strongly Disagree	8	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	407	83%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	26	5%
No response	6	

<b>Drugs cause a lot of problems between incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	97	20%
Agree	74	15%
Neutral	127	27%
Disagree	99	21%
Strongly Disagree	81	17%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	171	36%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	180	38%
No response	21	

<b>Anyone who harms themselves is considered by staff to be more of an attention seeker than someone who needs help.</b>		
Strongly Agree	229	47%
Agree	139	28%
Neutral	92	19%
Disagree	19	4%
Strongly Disagree	10	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	368	75%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	29	6%
No response	10	

<b>I am able to maintain meaningful contact with my outside supports.</b>		
Strongly Agree	39	8%
Agree	92	19%
Neutral	80	16%
Disagree	112	23%
Strongly Disagree	170	34%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	131	27%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	282	57%
No response	6	

<b>This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.</b>		
Strongly Agree	280	57%
Agree	131	27%
Neutral	59	12%
Disagree	9	2%
Strongly Disagree	9	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	411	84%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	18	4%
No response	11	

<b>Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.</b>		
Strongly Agree	8	2%
Agree	10	2%
Neutral	42	9%
Disagree	117	24%
Strongly Disagree	317	64%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	18	4%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	434	88%
No response	5	

<b>This is a humane prison.</b>		
Strongly Agree	27	6%
Agree	34	7%
Neutral	93	19%
Disagree	101	21%
Strongly Disagree	233	48%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	61	13%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	334	68%
No response	11	

<b>Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.</b>		
Strongly Agree	365	74%
Agree	81	16%
Neutral	22	4%
Disagree	13	3%
Strongly Disagree	10	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	446	91%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	23	5%
No response	8	

<b>This prison is safe for incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	10	2%
Agree	54	11%
Neutral	175	36%
Disagree	106	22%
Strongly Disagree	143	29%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	64	13%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	249	51%
No response	11	

<b>Mental health treatment is available.</b>		
Strongly Agree	36	7%
Agree	129	26%
Neutral	148	30%
Disagree	80	16%
Strongly Disagree	98	20%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	165	34%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	178	36%
No response	8	

<b>This prison is better now than it was last year.</b>		
Strongly Agree	6	1%
Agree	12	3%
Neutral	72	15%
Disagree	76	16%
Strongly Disagree	314	65%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	18	4%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	390	81%
No response	19	

<b>I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.</b>		
Strongly Agree	64	13%
Agree	174	35%
Neutral	97	20%
Disagree	66	13%
Strongly Disagree	93	19%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	238	48%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	159	32%
No response	5	

<b>Every effort is made by this prison to help people stop committing offenses on release from custody.</b>		
Strongly Agree	8	2%
Agree	10	2%
Neutral	72	15%
Disagree	87	18%
Strongly Disagree	313	64%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	18	4%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	400	82%
No response	9	

<b>I am satisfied with food from dietary.</b>		
Strongly Agree	10	2%
Agree	15	3%
Neutral	52	11%
Disagree	74	15%
Strongly Disagree	343	69%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	25	5%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	417	84%
No response	5	

<b>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.</b>		
1 (Lowest)	168	35%
2	54	11%
3	100	21%
4	74	15%
5	35	7%
6	24	5%
7	9	2%
8	6	1%
9	2	0%
10 (Highest)	11	2%
<i>1-5</i>	431	89%
<i>6-10</i>	52	11%
No Response	16	
Mean Score		3.0



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.

