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**Survey Results**



# **Illinois River 2023 MQPL Survey Results**

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# Introduction

Illinois River is a medium-security male prison within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) that housed approximately 1,466 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 Illinois River had an opportunity to participate in the voluntary and anonymous survey if they chose to do so. JHA received 470 responses to the MQPL survey from people at Illinois River through the July 19, 2023 representing approximately 32% 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

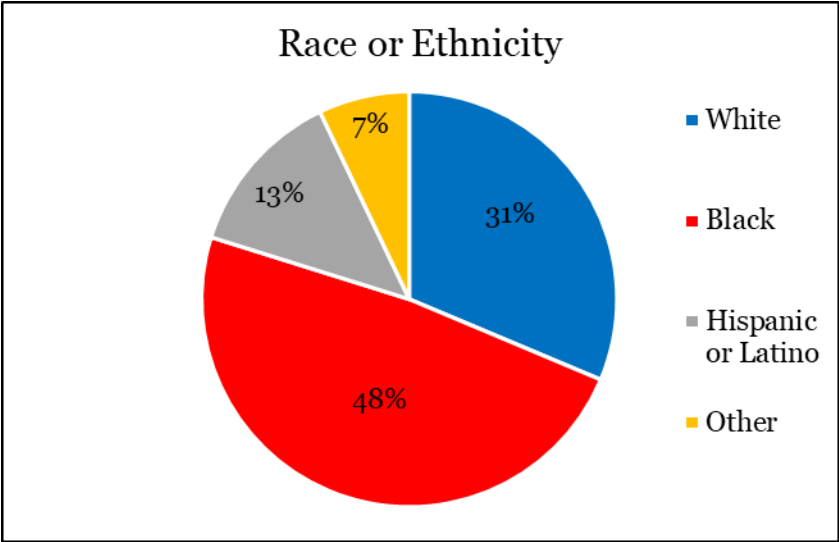
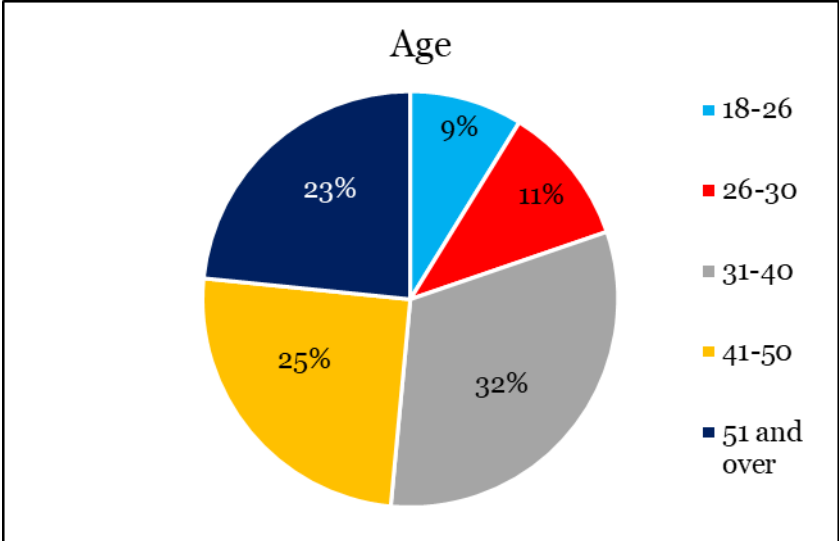
- **Harmony: Questions relating to interpersonal aspects of the prison experience**
  - Respect/courtesy – Positive, respectful, and courteous attitudes towards incarcerated people by staff.
  - Staff-incarcerated people relationships – Trusting, fair and supportive interactions between staff and incarcerated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

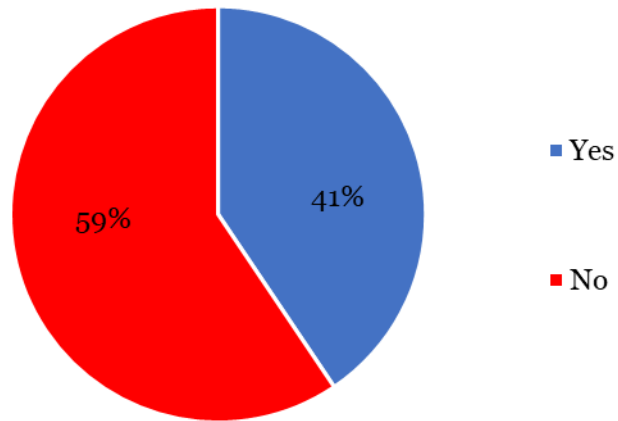
Total respondents = 470<sup>1</sup>



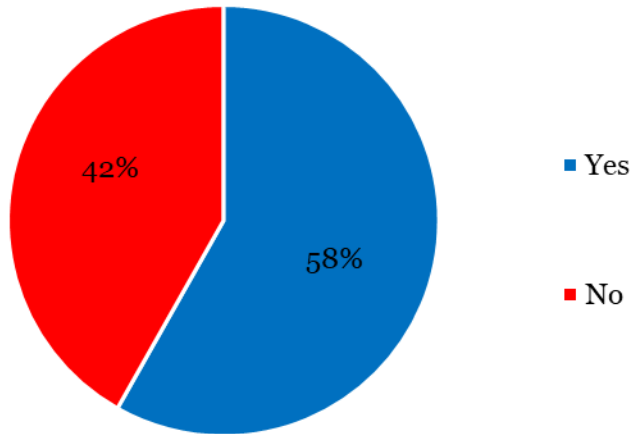
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<sup>1</sup> Due to rounding, not all percentages total 100%. Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of respondents per question.

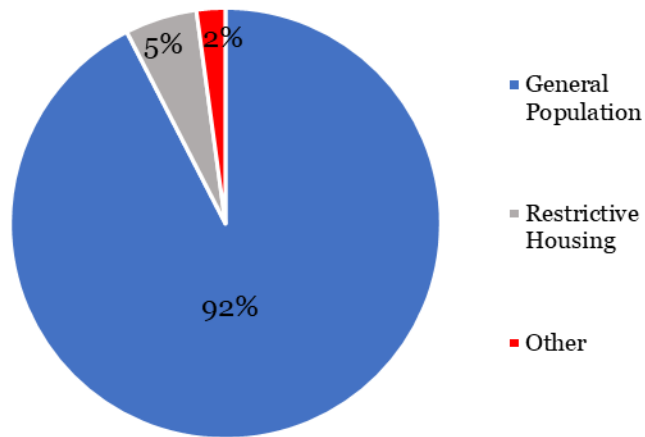
Are you within two years of release?



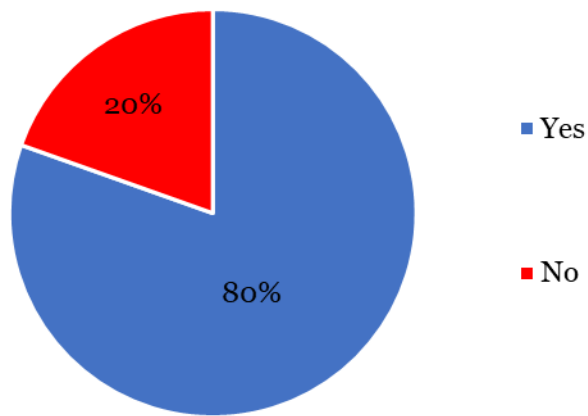
Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?



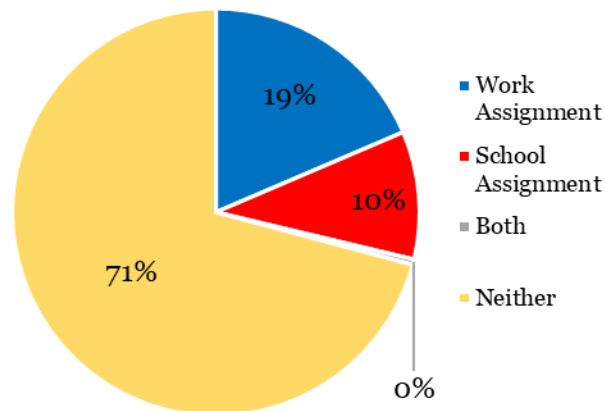
What housing status are you currently on?



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?

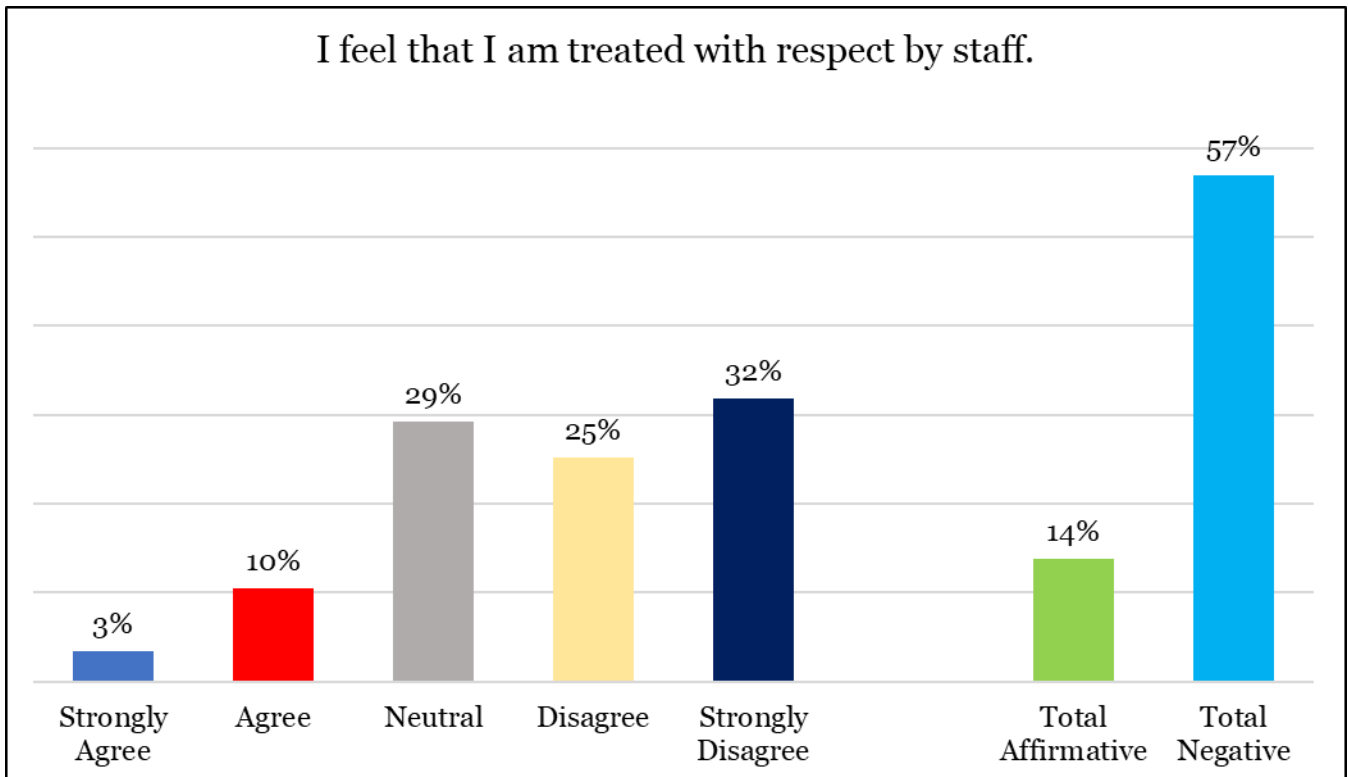




# Charts: MQPL Dimensions<sup>2</sup>

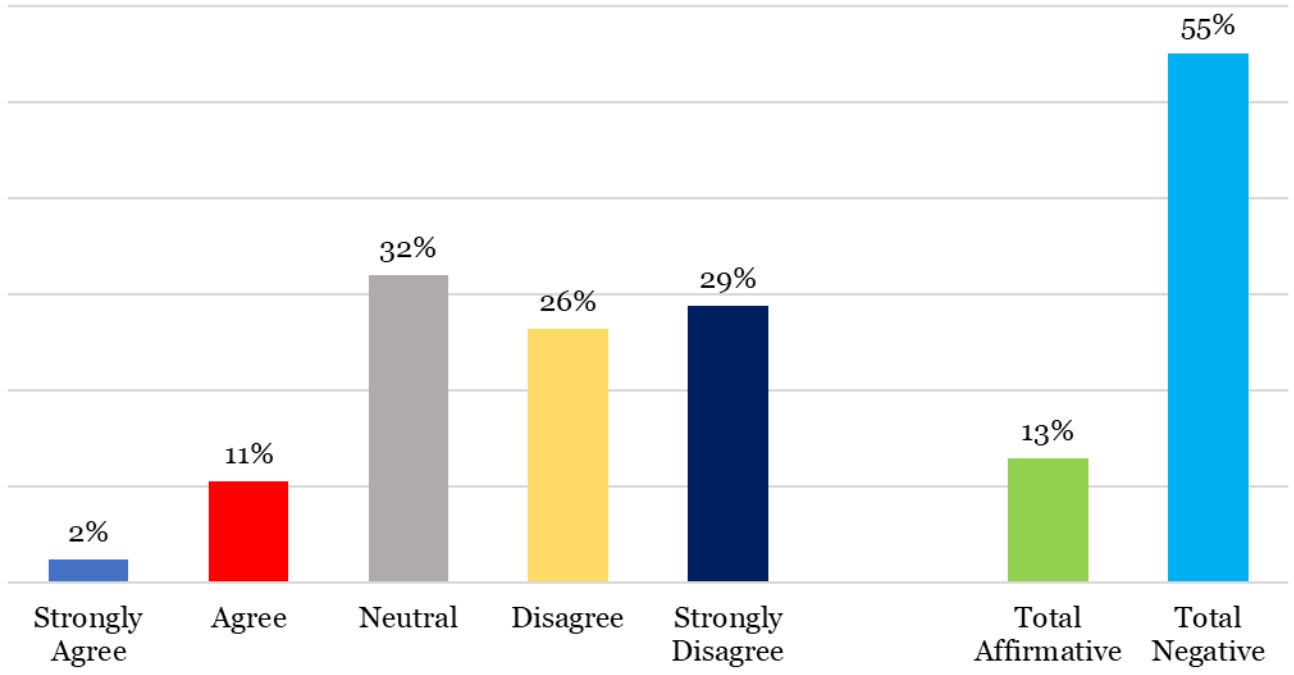
## Harmony

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

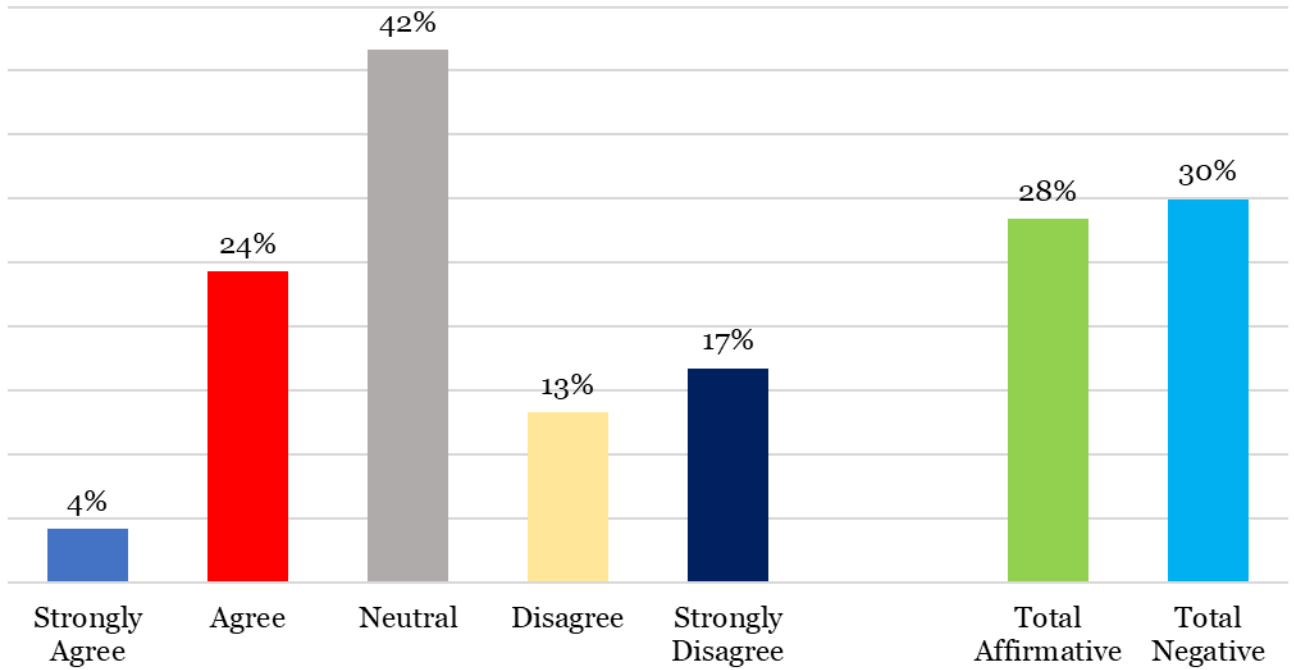


<sup>2</sup> "Total Affirmative" combines "Strongly Agree" and "Agree." "Total Negative" combines "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree." Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of responses per question.

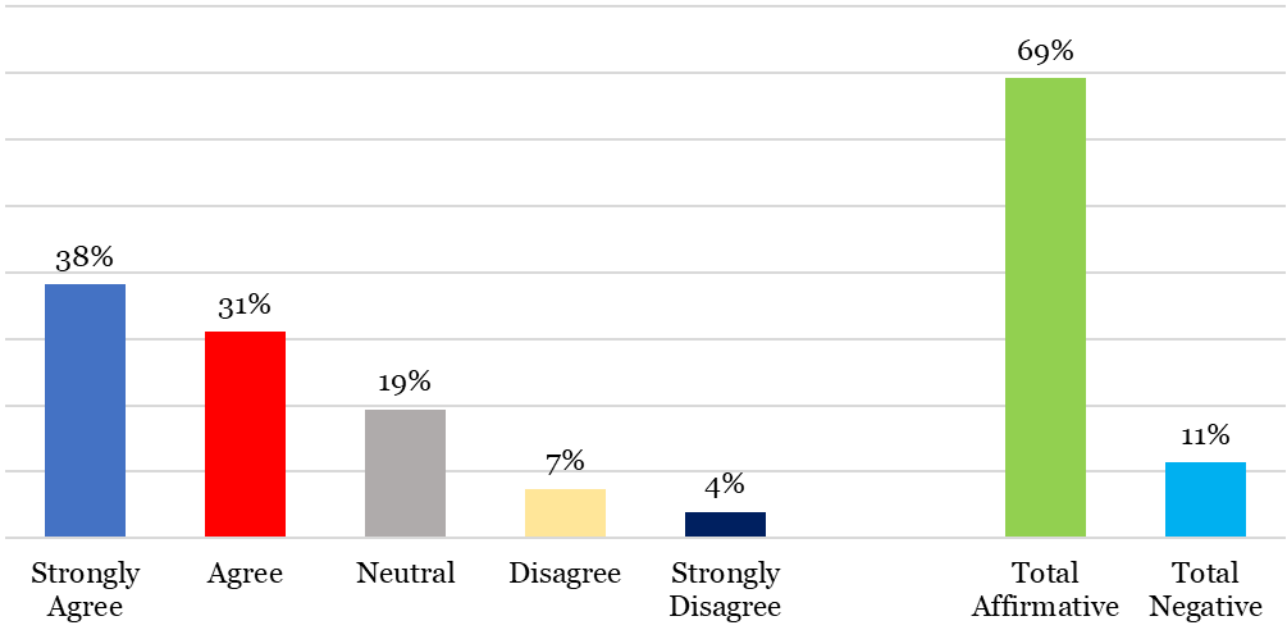
### Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.



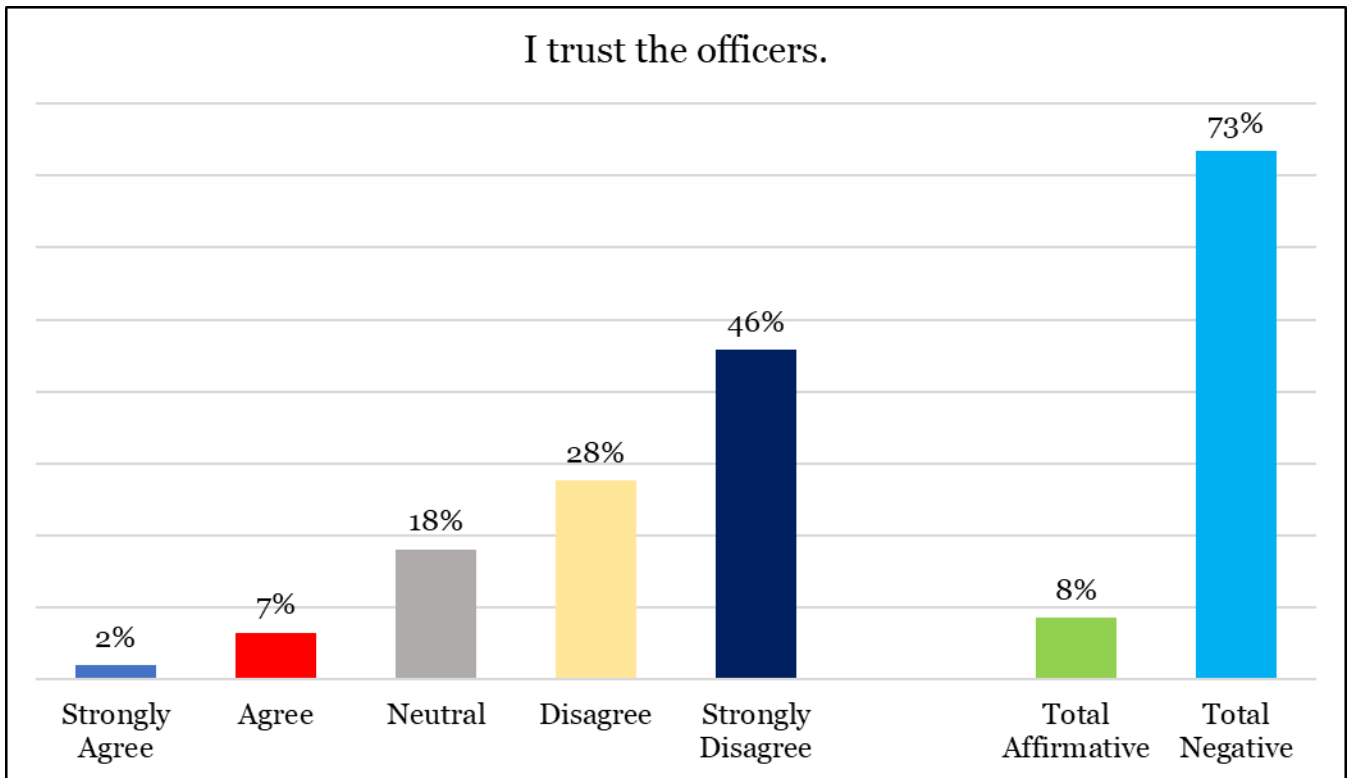
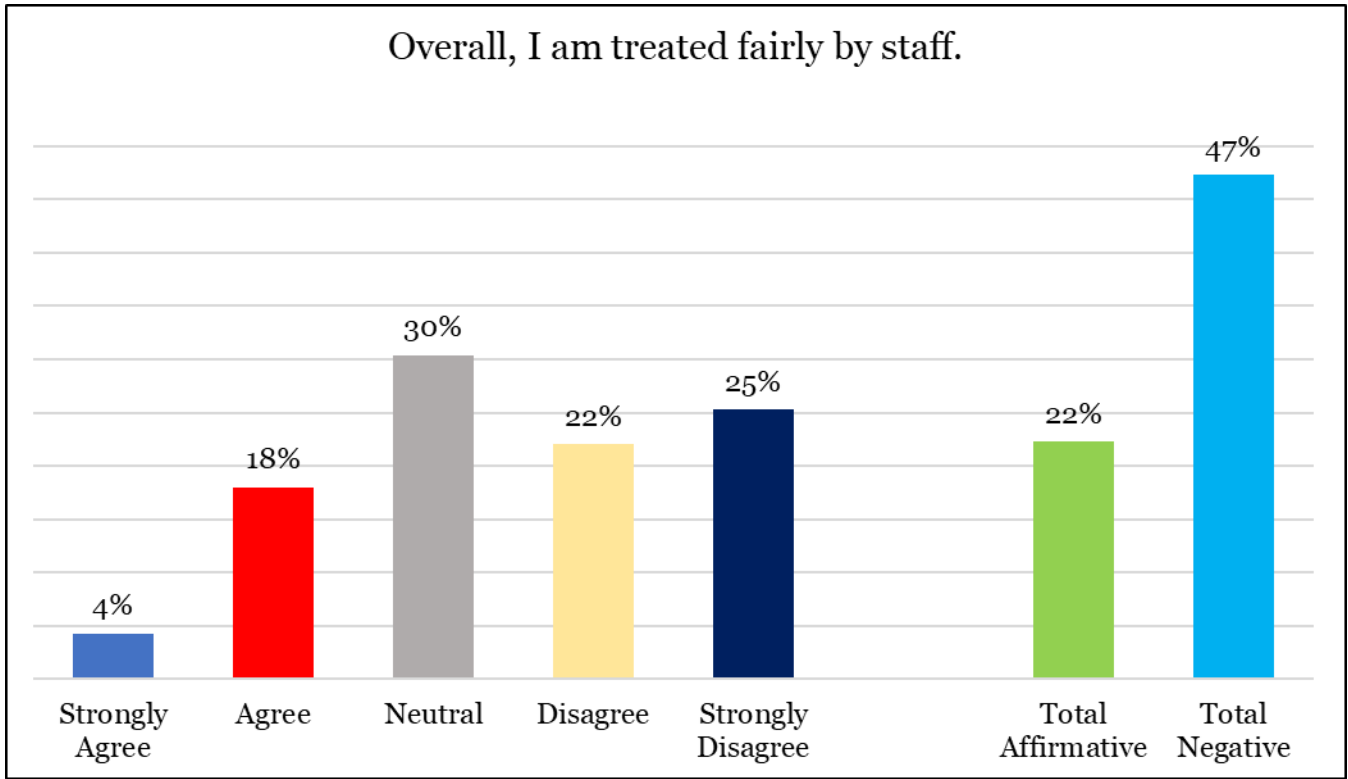
### I get along well with the officers on my unit.



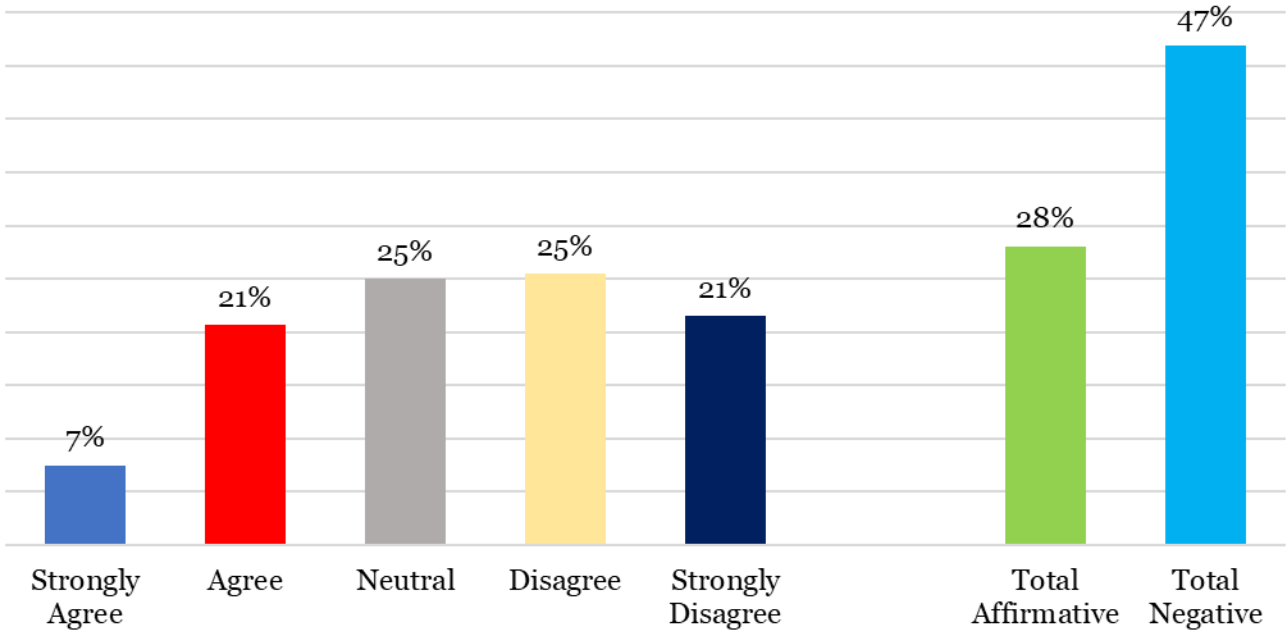
Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.



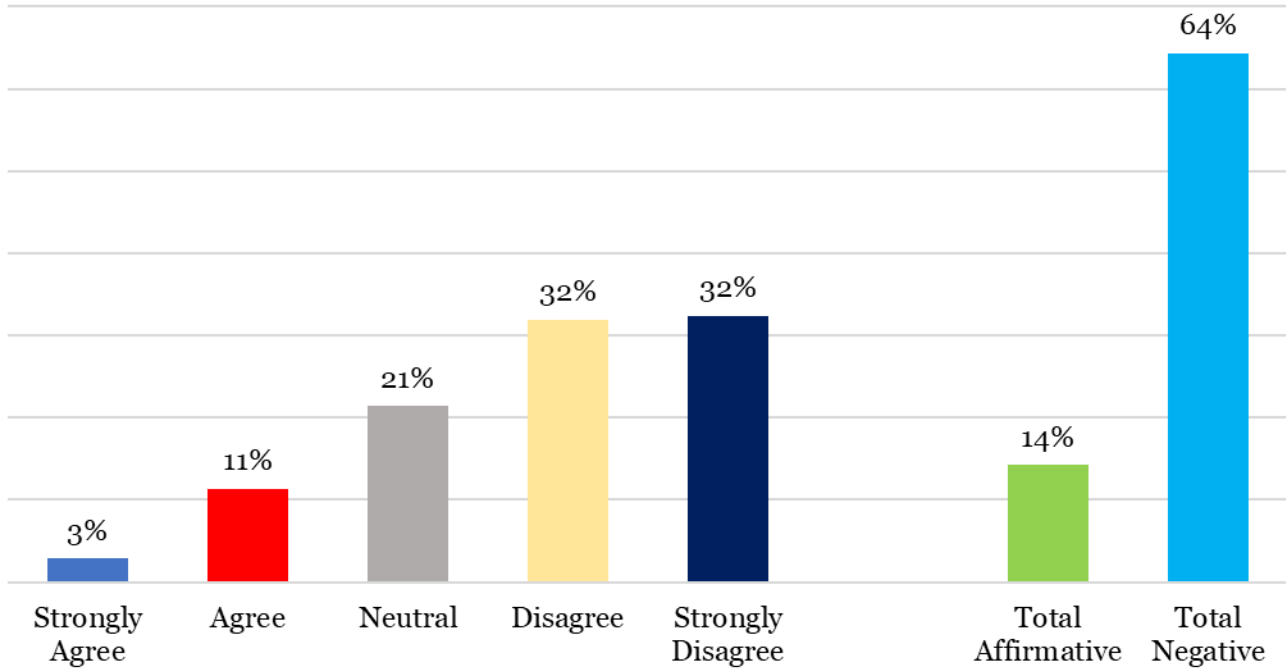
**STAFF-INCARCERATED PEOPLE RELATIONSHIPS – TRUSTING, FAIR AND SUPPORTIVE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN STAFF AND INCARCERATED PEOPLE**



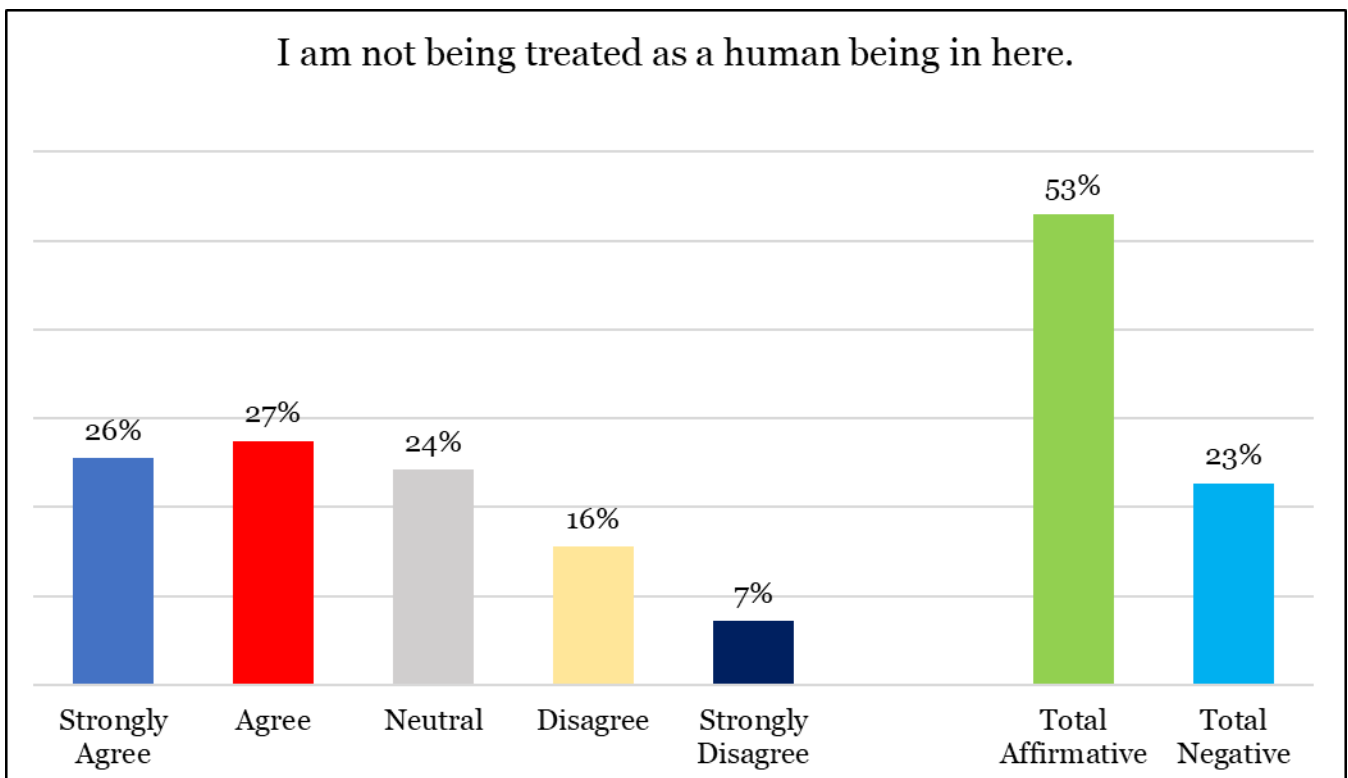
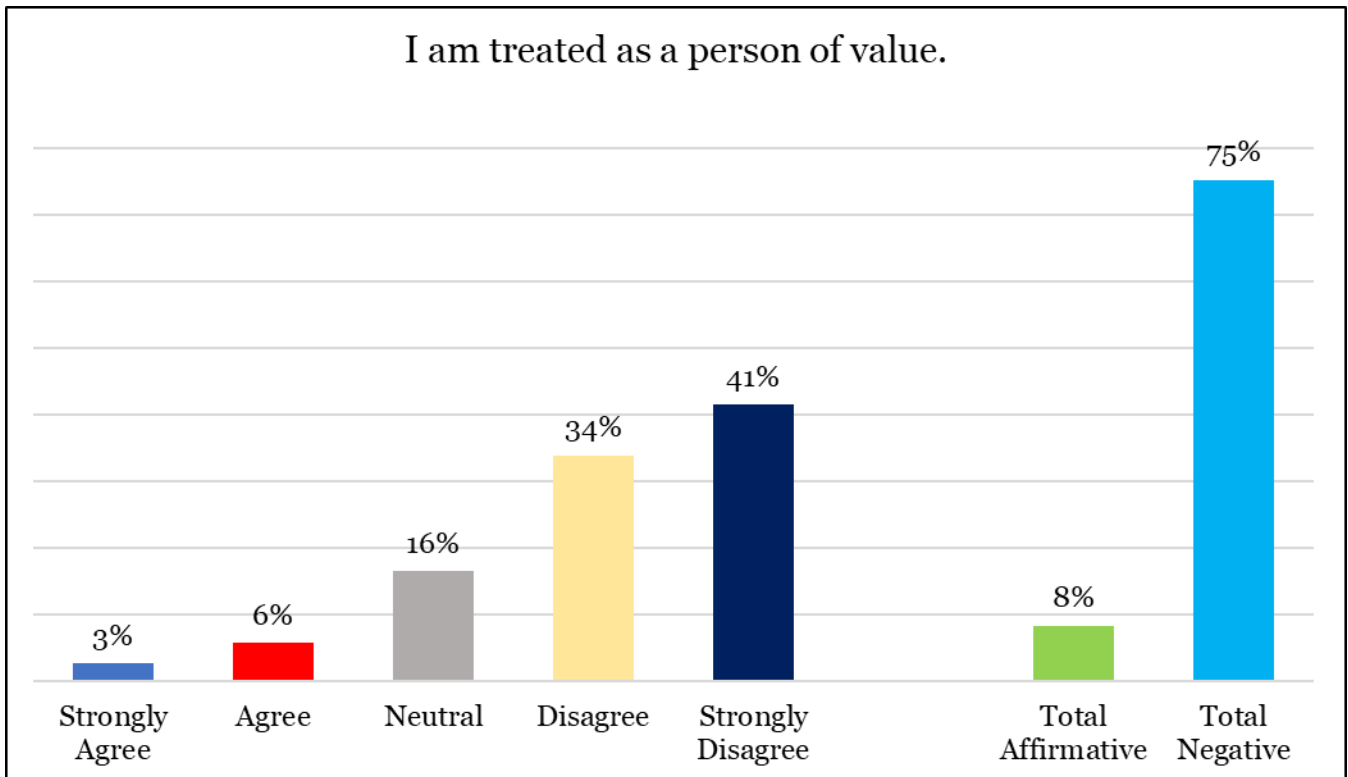
When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.



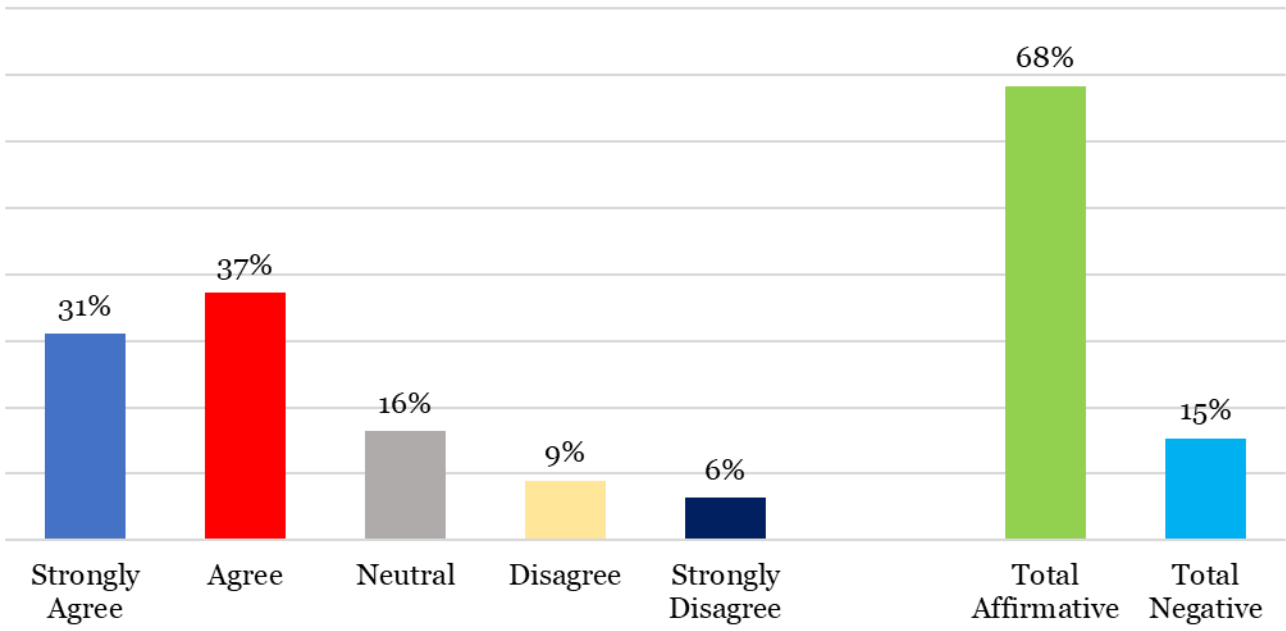
I receive support from staff when I need it.



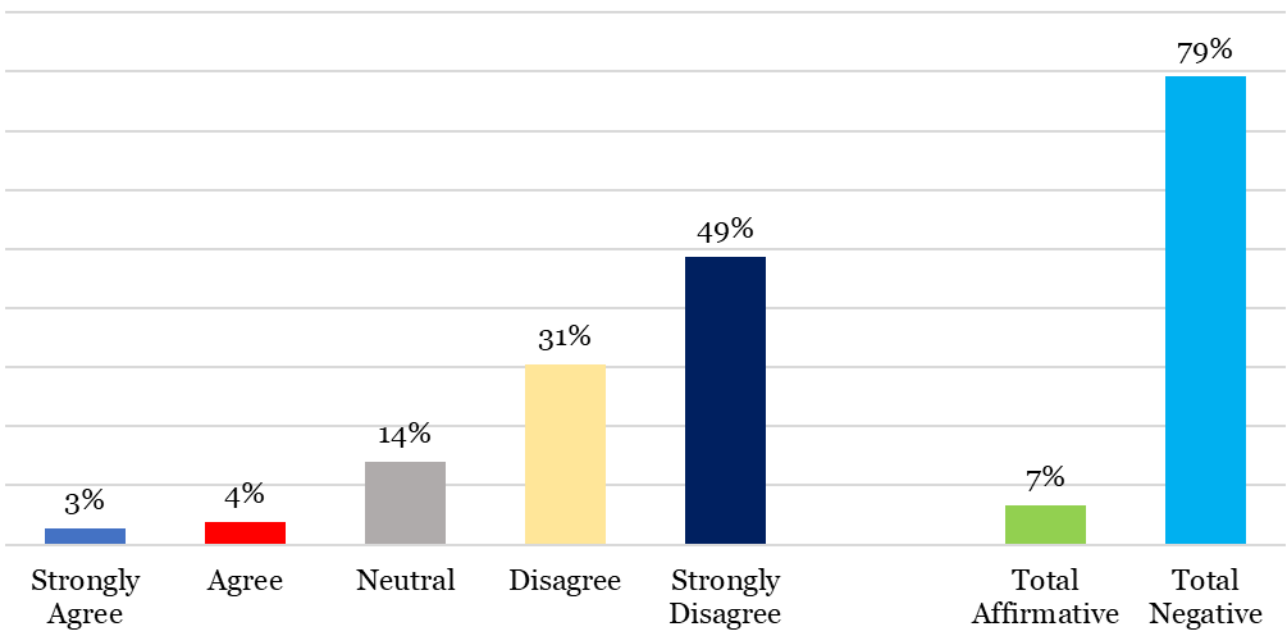
**HUMANITY** – AN ENVIRONMENT CHARACTERIZED BY KIND REGARD AND CONCERN FOR THE PERSON, WHICH RECOGNIZES THE VALUE AND HUMANITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL



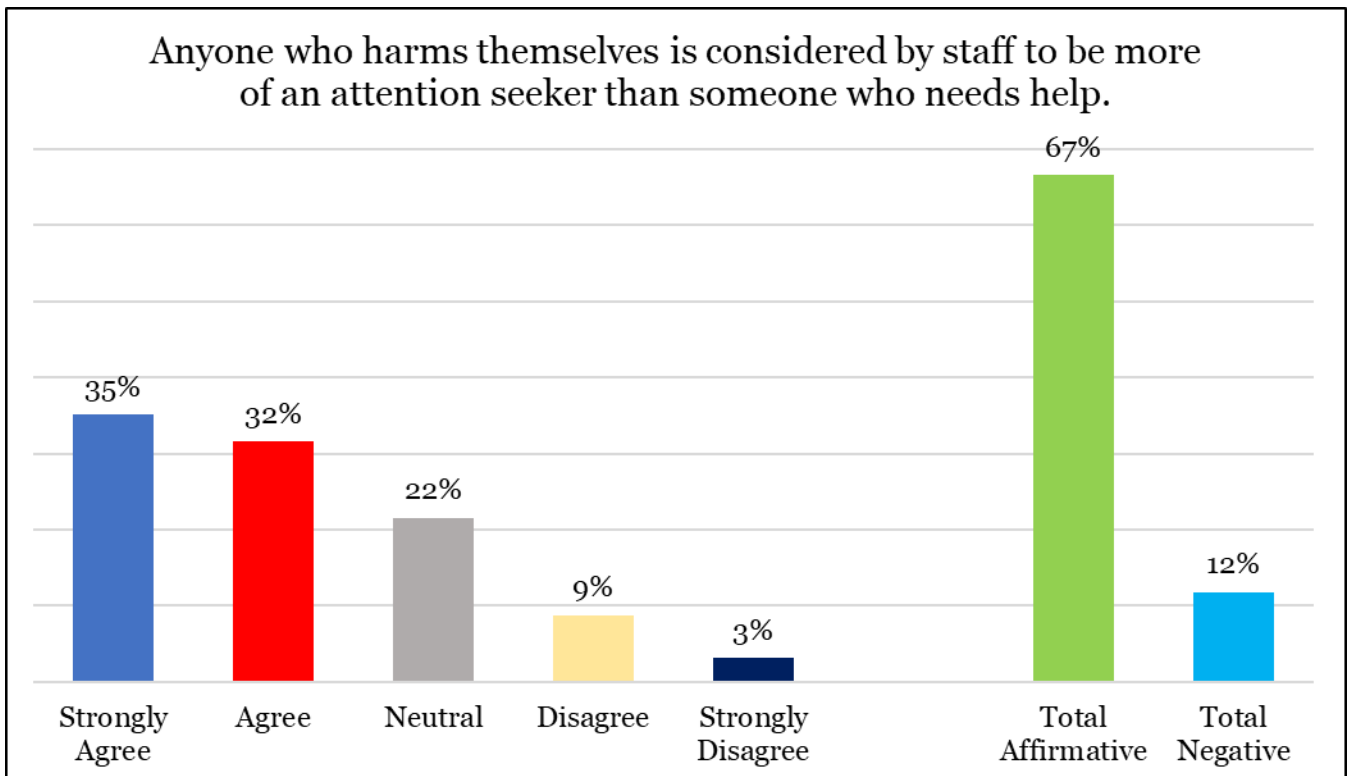
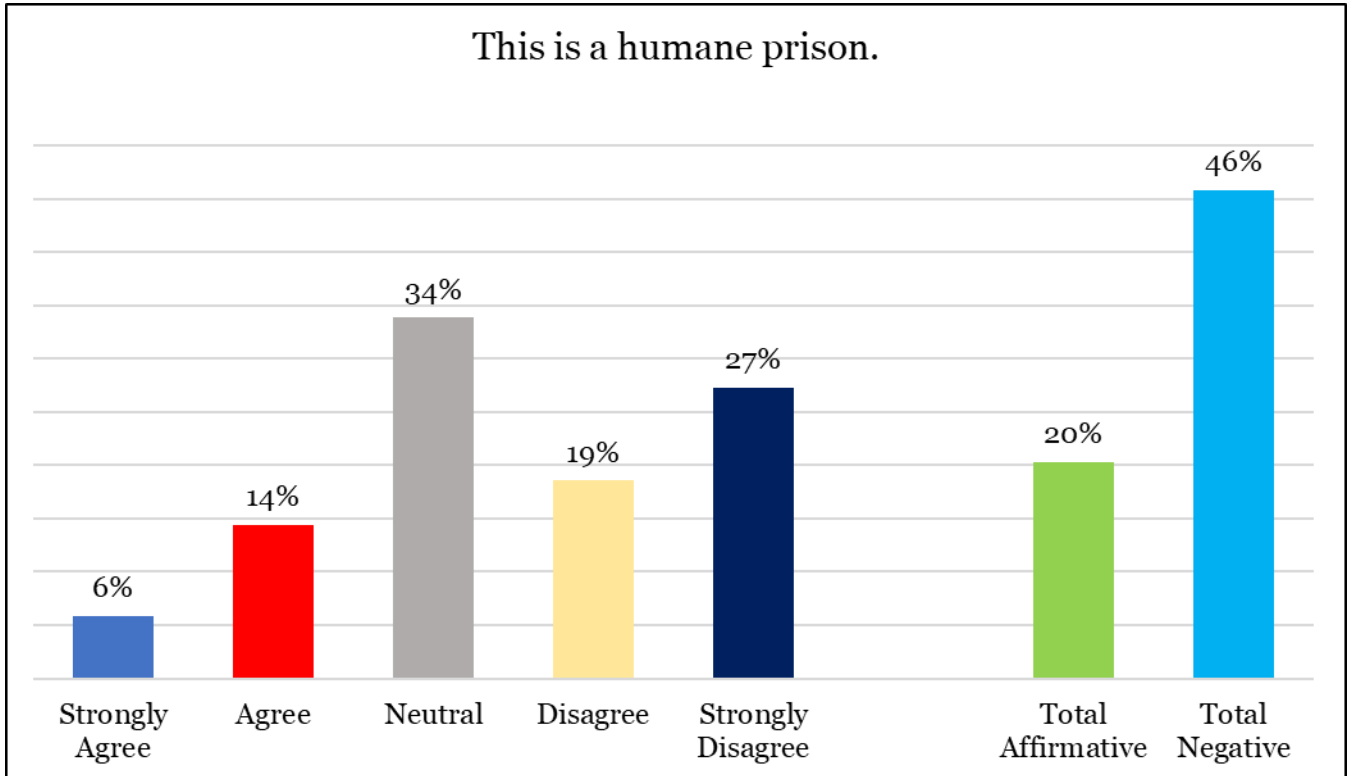
Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.



Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.

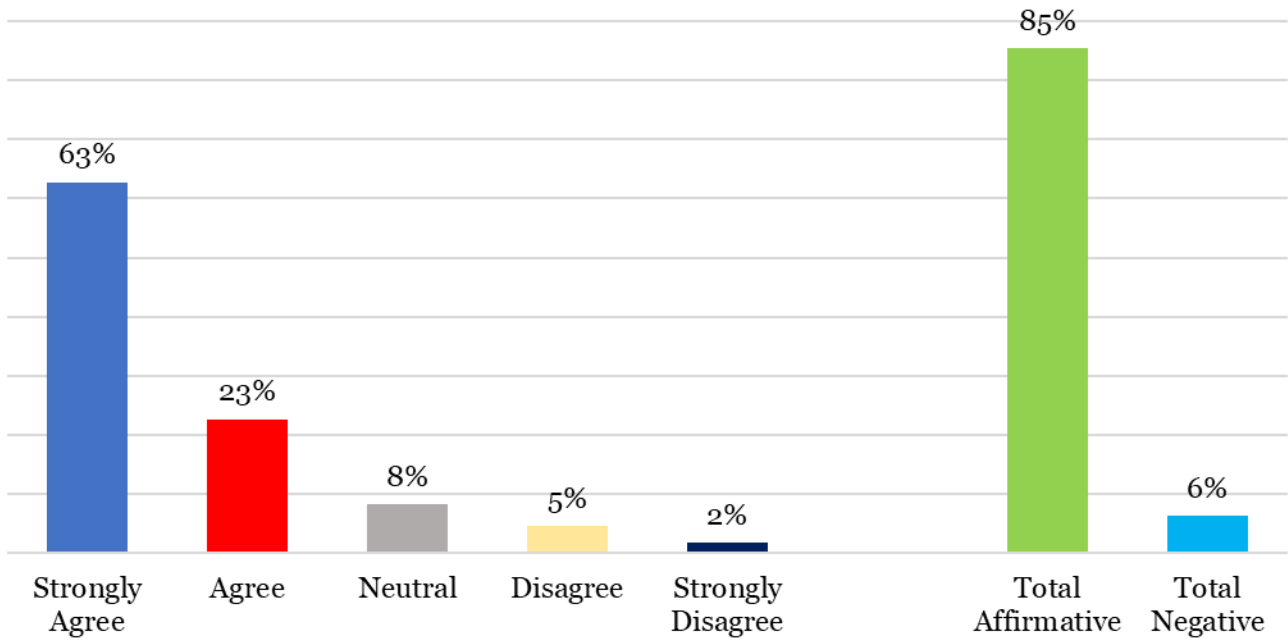


**DECENCY - THE EXTENT TO WHICH STAFF AND THE REGIME ARE CONSIDERED REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE**

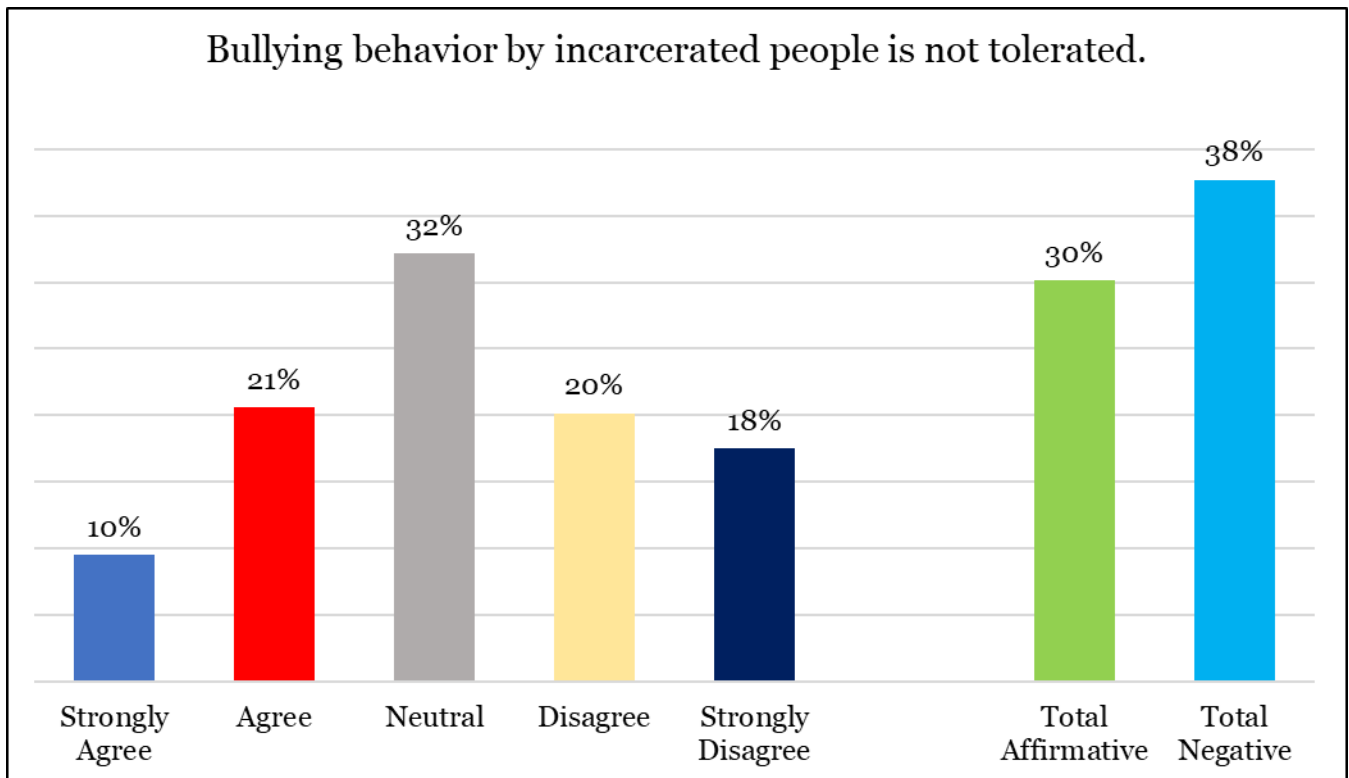




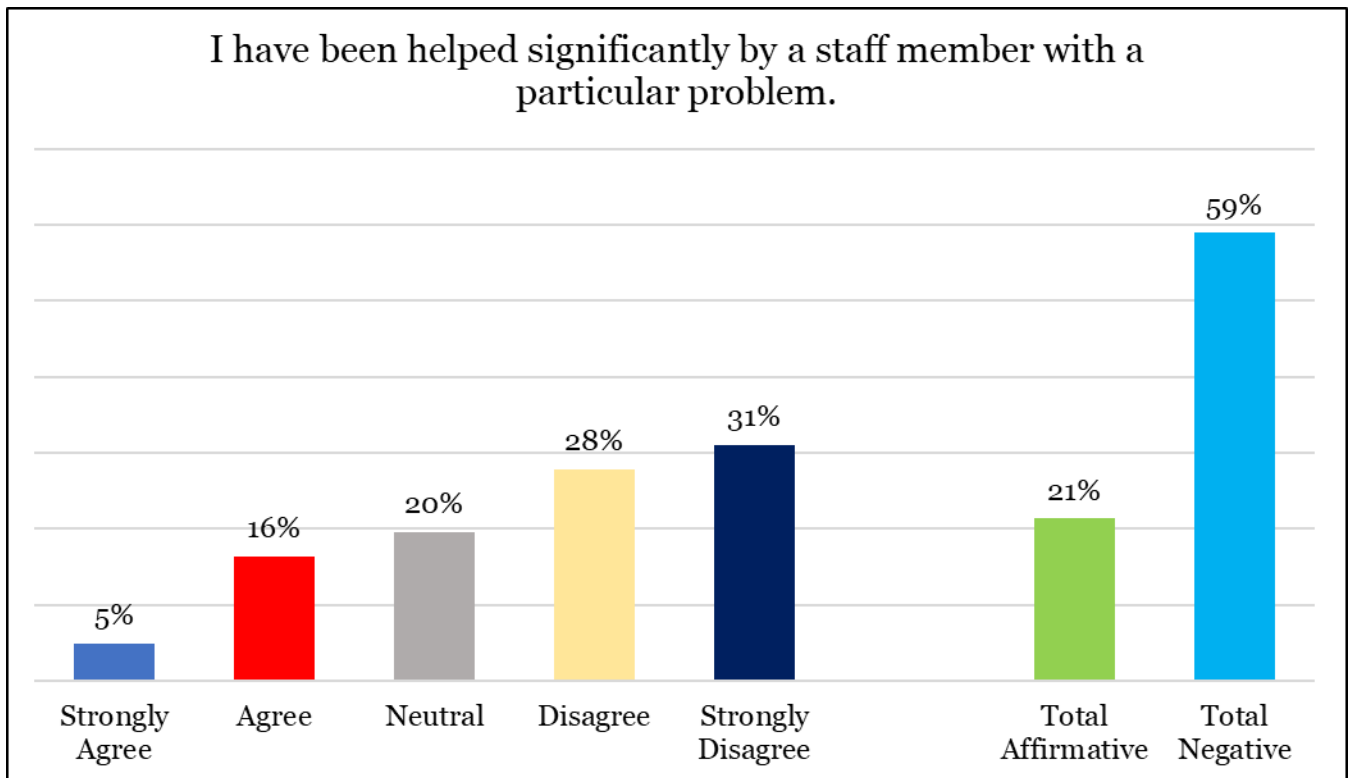
Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.



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

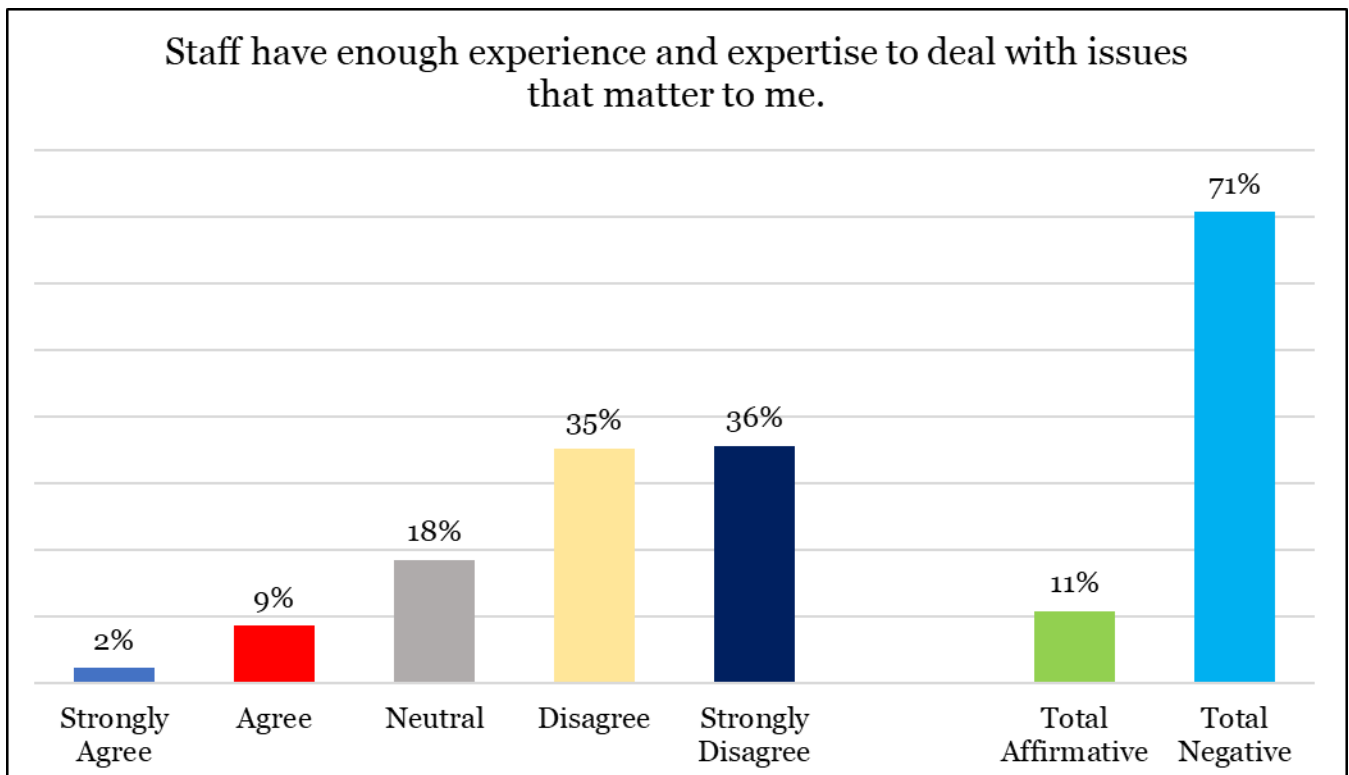
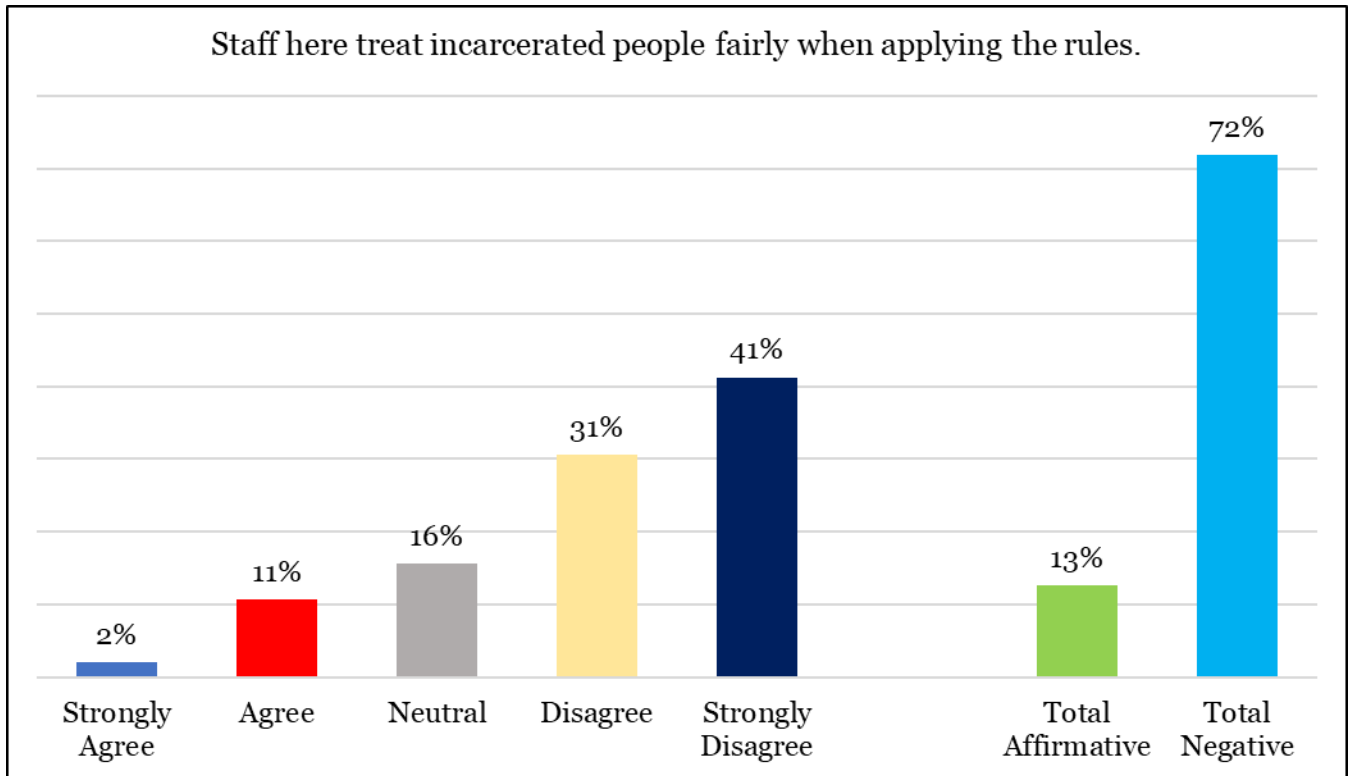


**HELP AND ASSISTANCE – SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN TO INCARCERATED PEOPLE FOR PROBLEMS INCLUDING DRUGS, HEALTHCARE AND PROGRESSION**

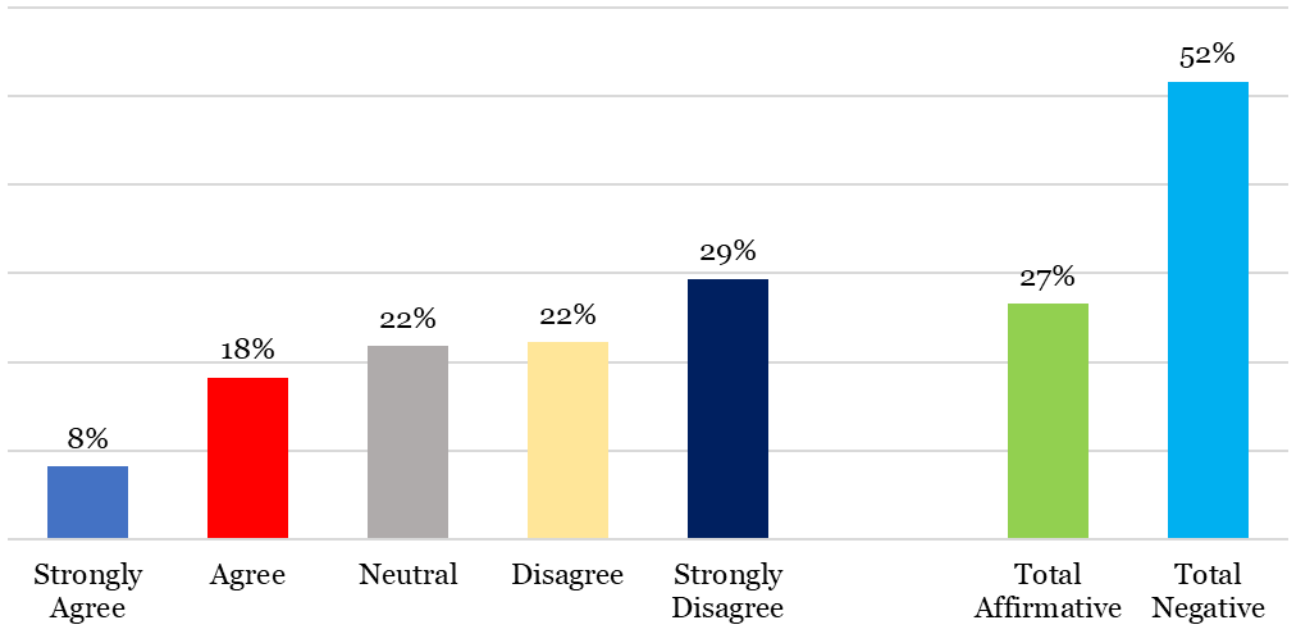


# Professionalism

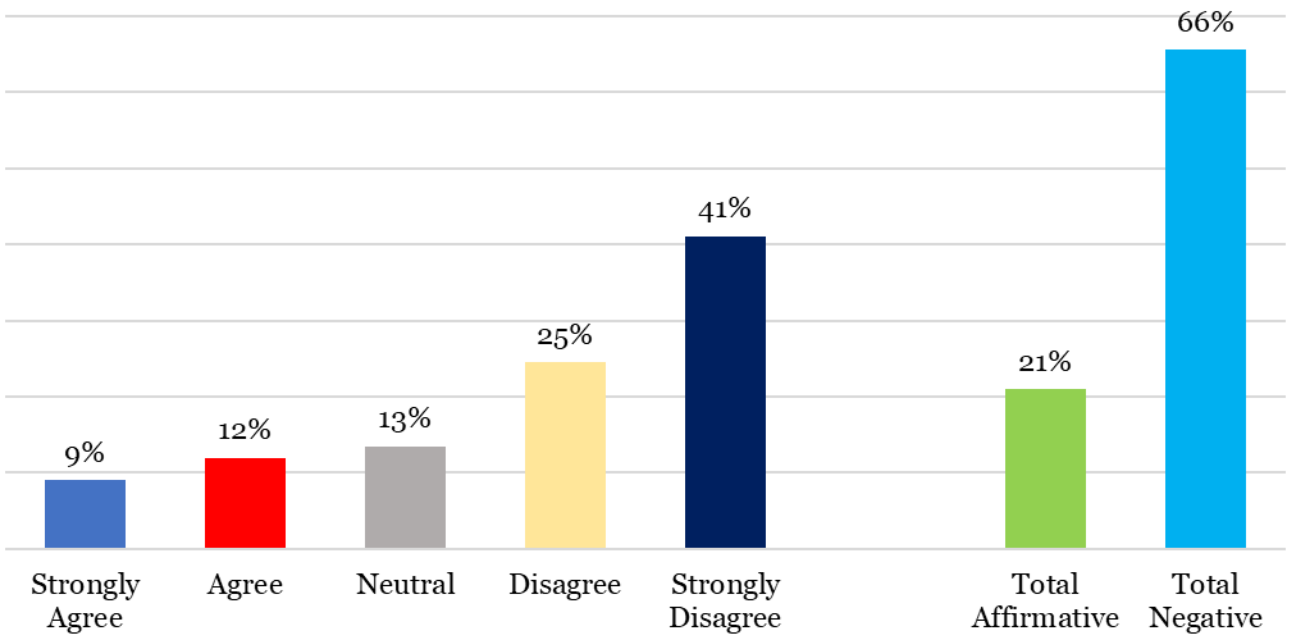
## STAFF PROFESSIONALISM – STAFF CONFIDENCE AND COMPETENCE IN THE USE OF AUTHORITY



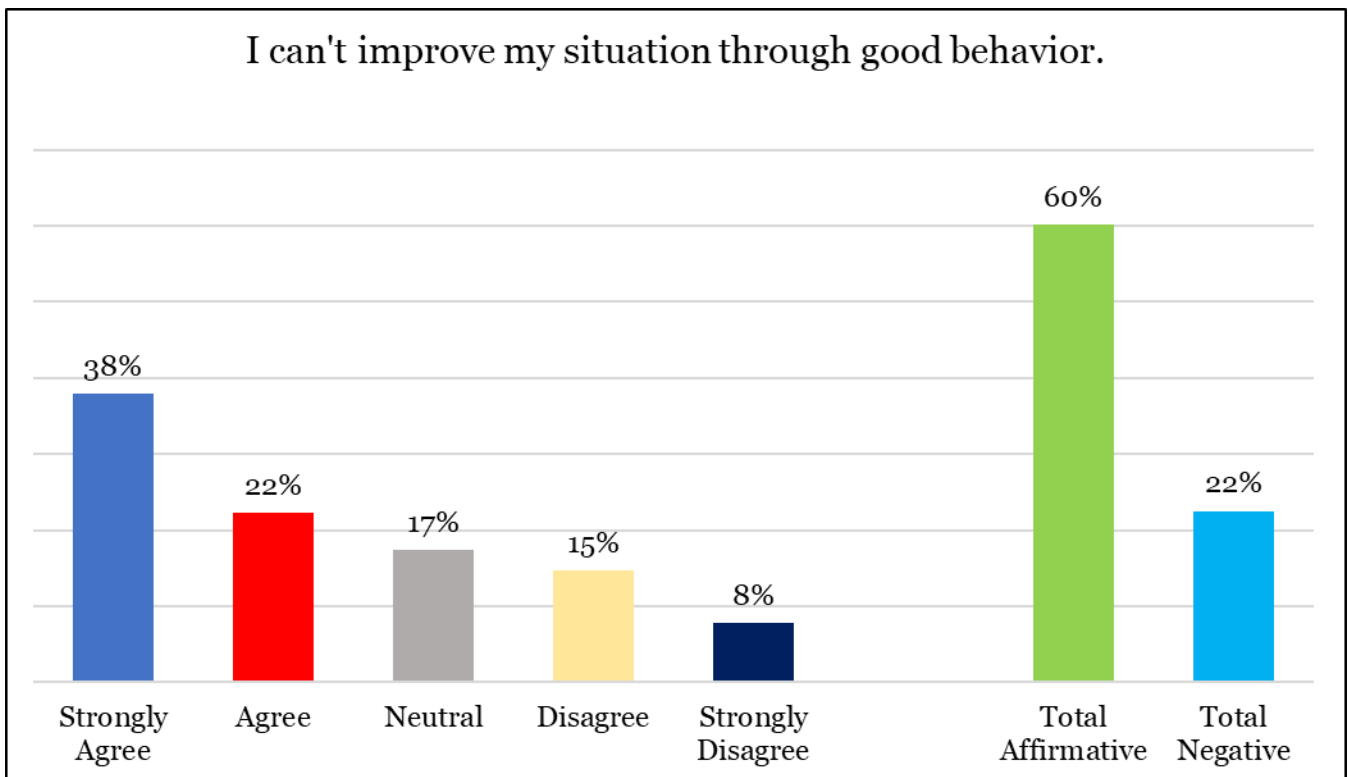
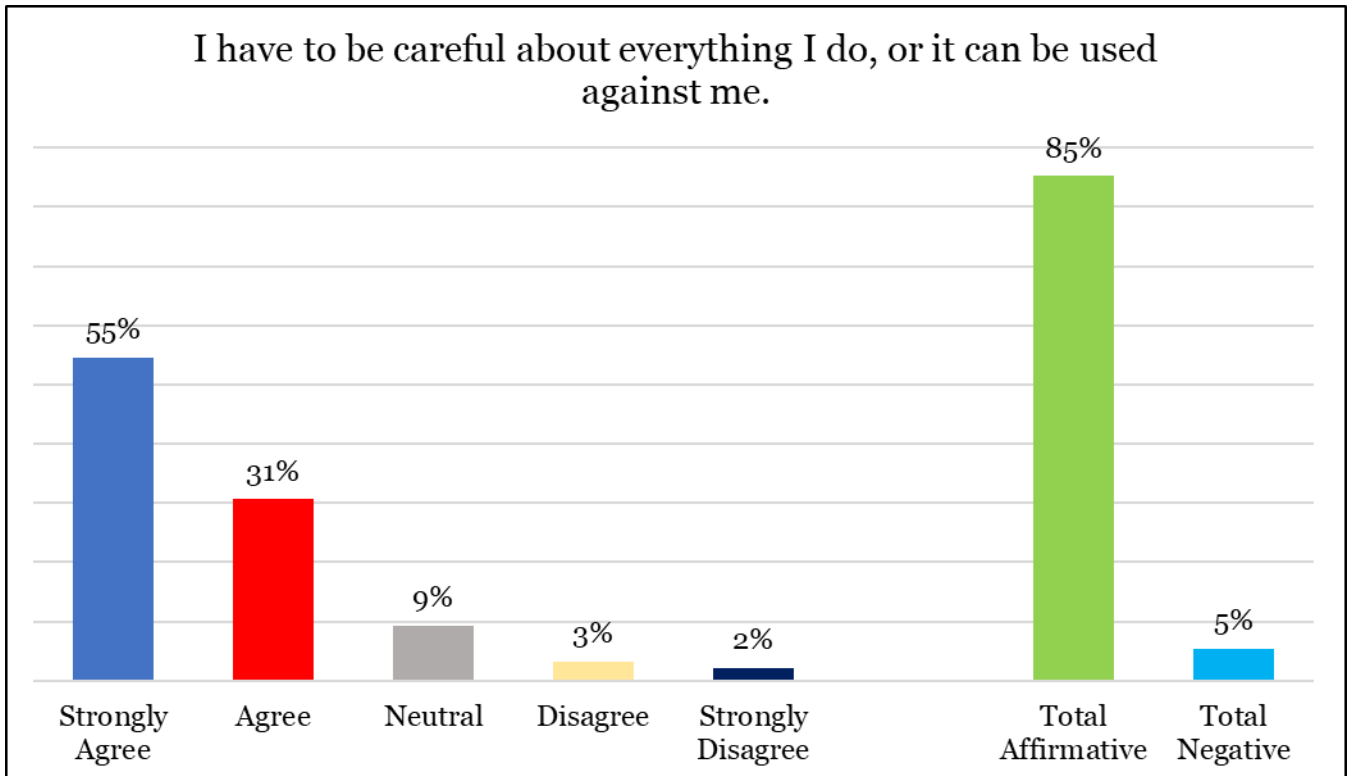
The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.



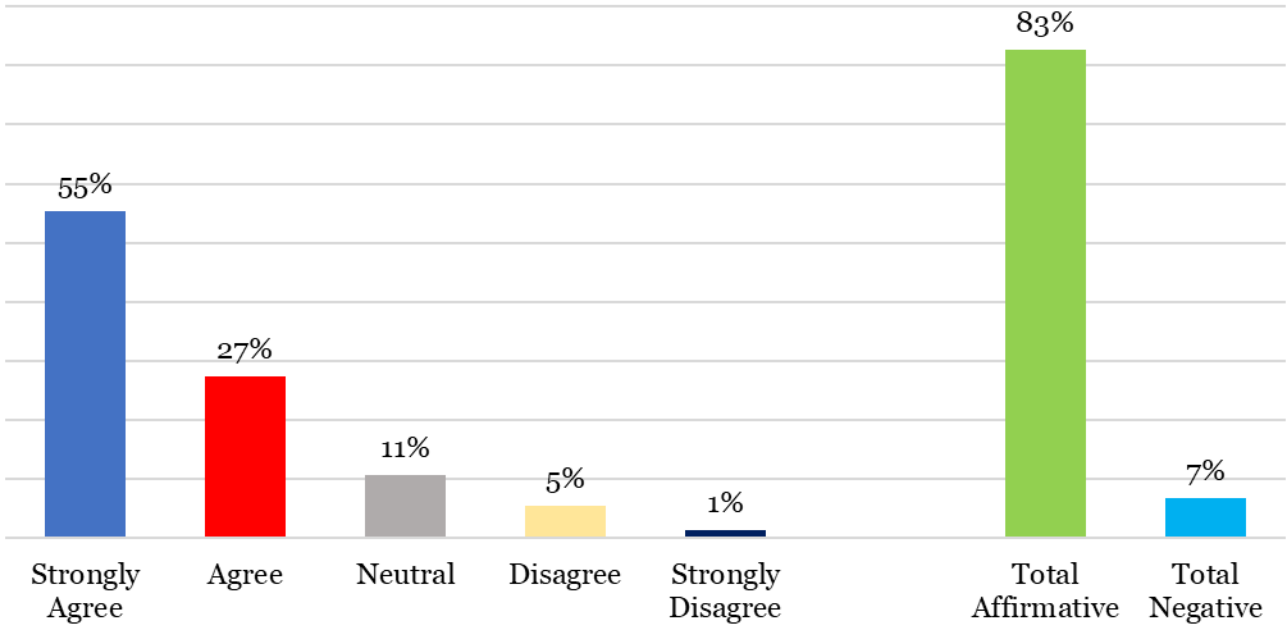
If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.



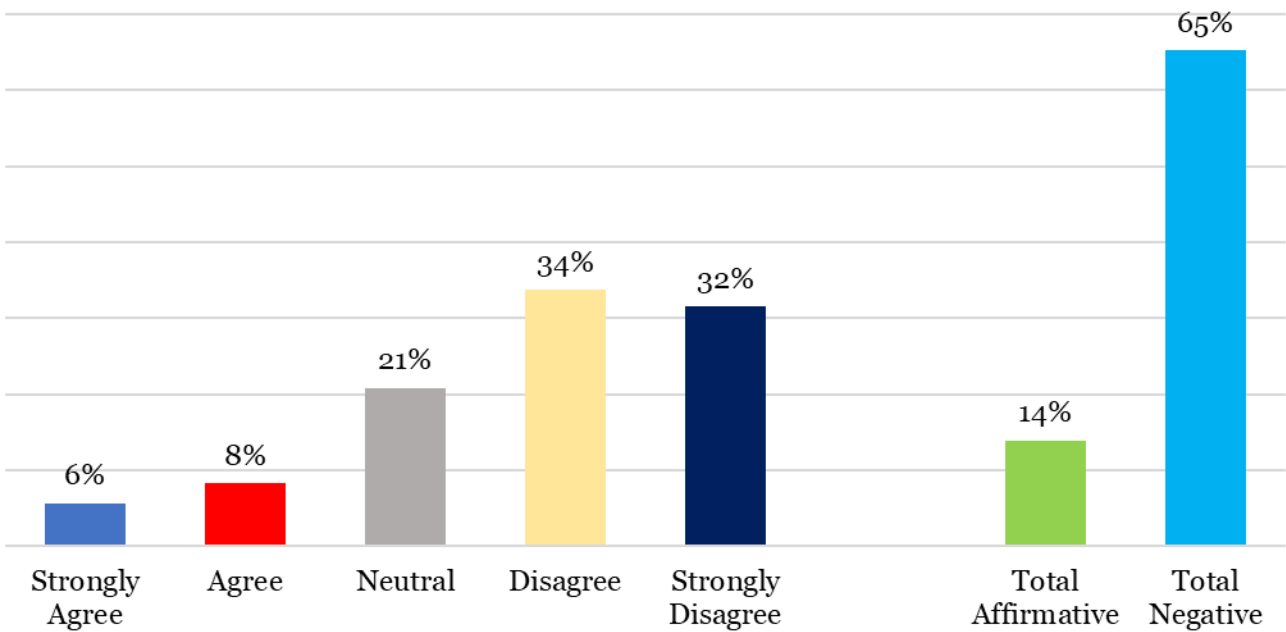
**BUREAUCRATIC LEGITIMACY – THE TRANSPARENCY AND RESPONSIVENESS OF THE PRISON/PRISON SYSTEM AND ITS MORAL RECOGNITION OF THE INDIVIDUAL**



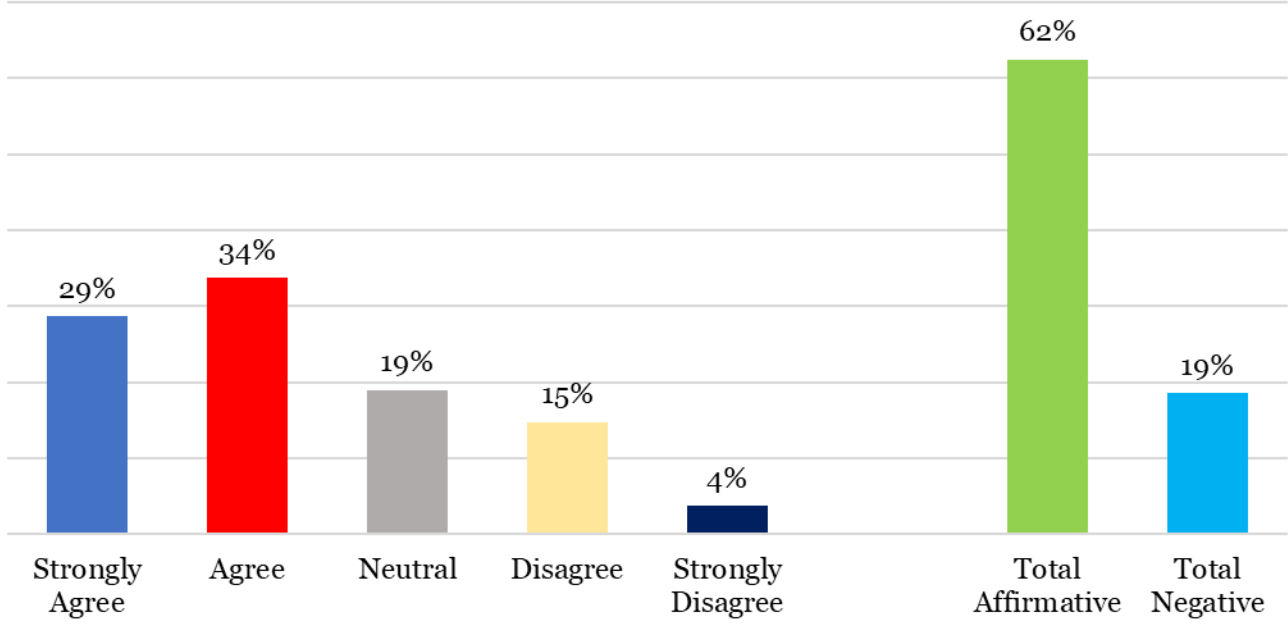
All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.



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

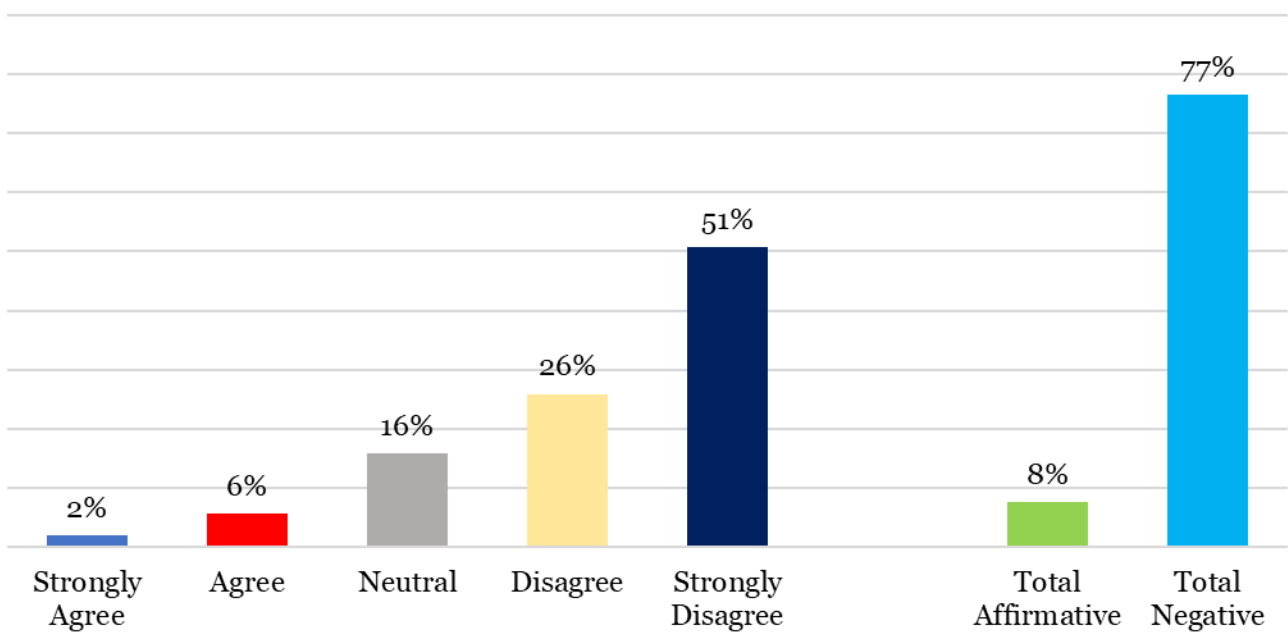


To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.



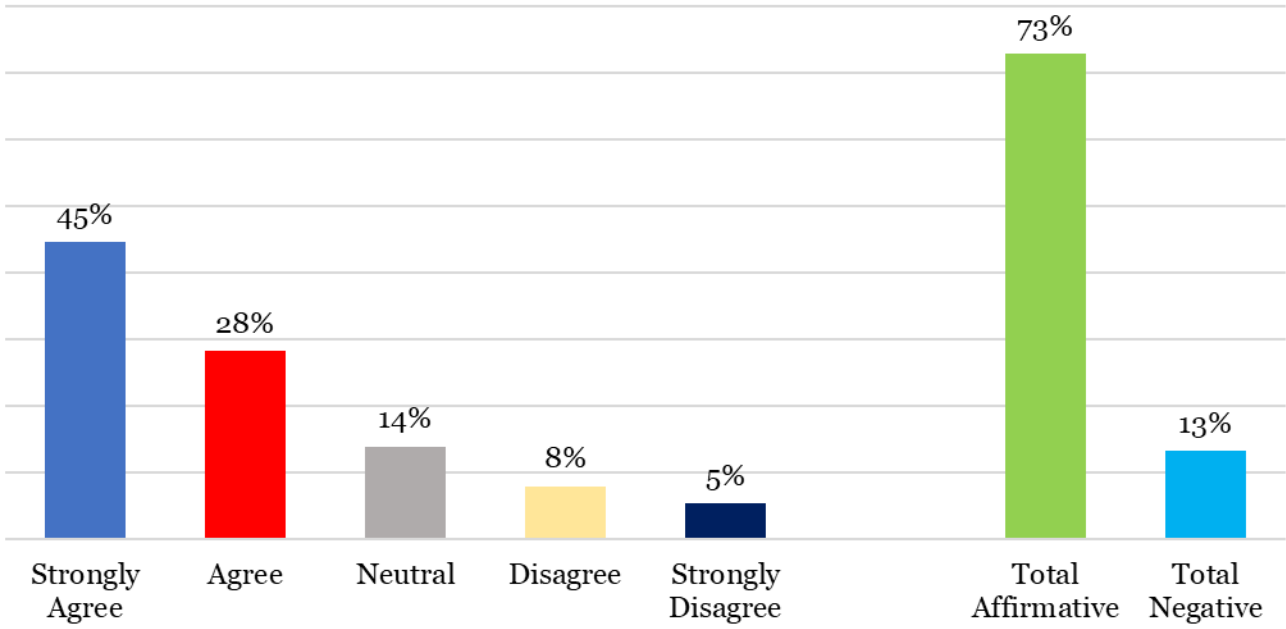
**FAIRNESS** – THE PERCEIVED IMPARTIALITY, PROPORTIONALITY AND LEGALITY OF PUNISHMENTS AND PROCEDURES

The disciplinary system is fair.

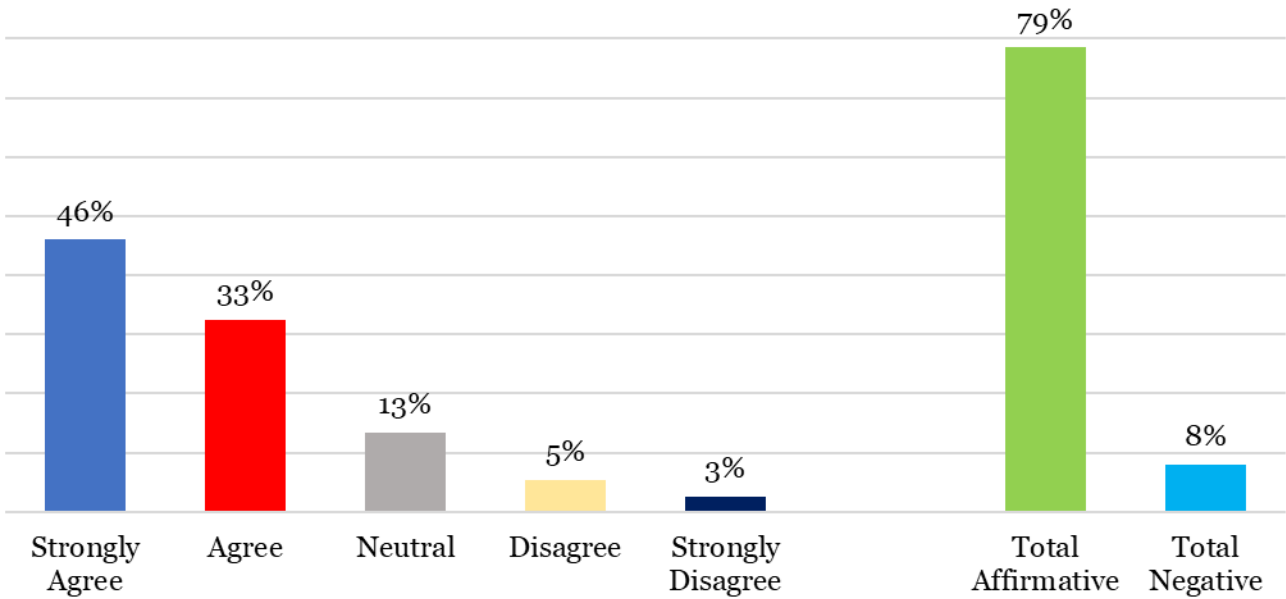




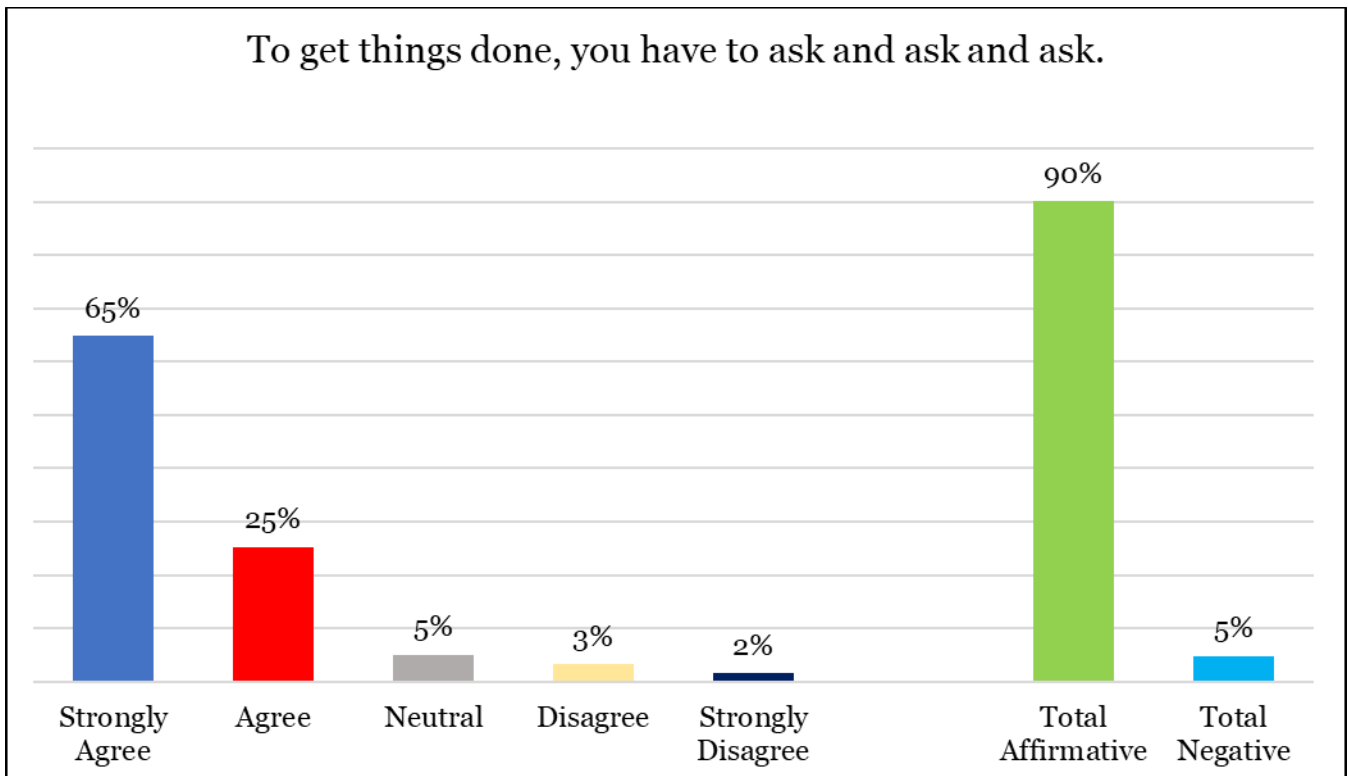
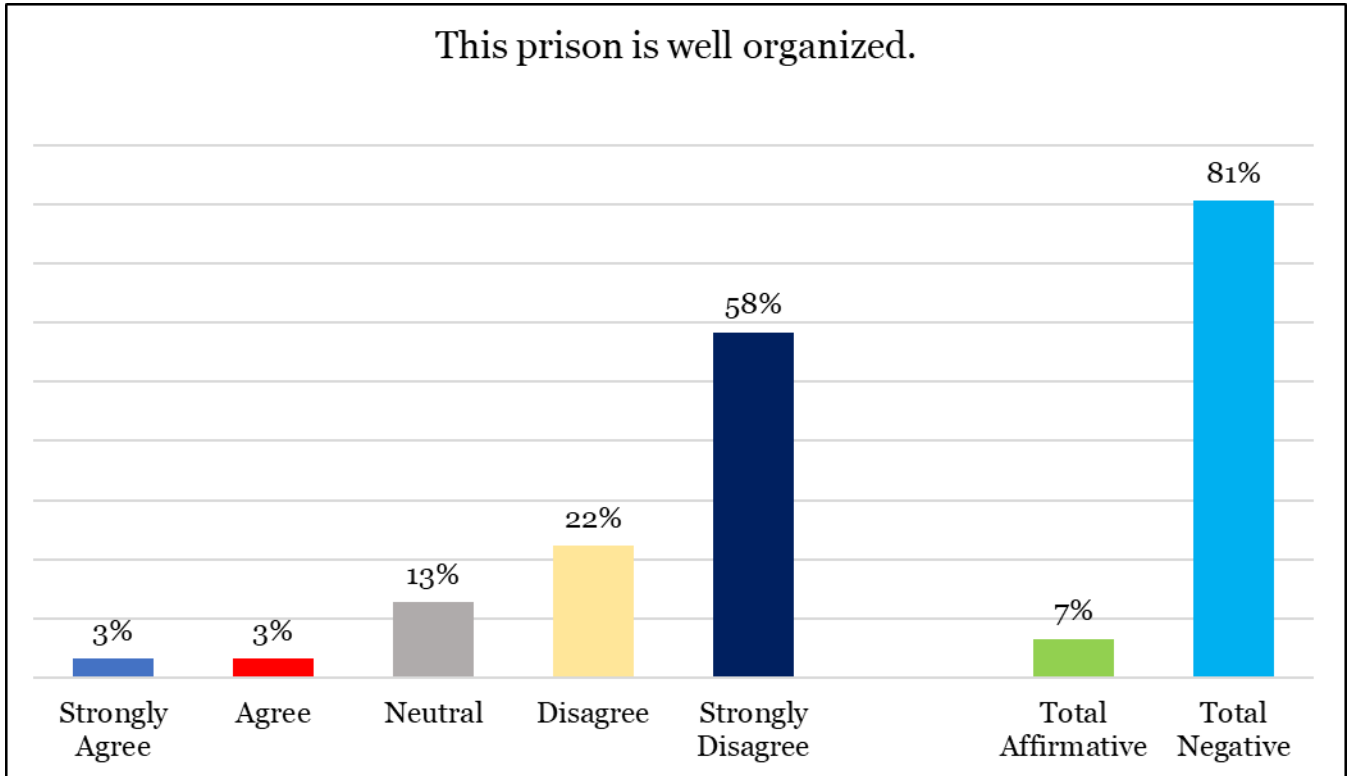
Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.



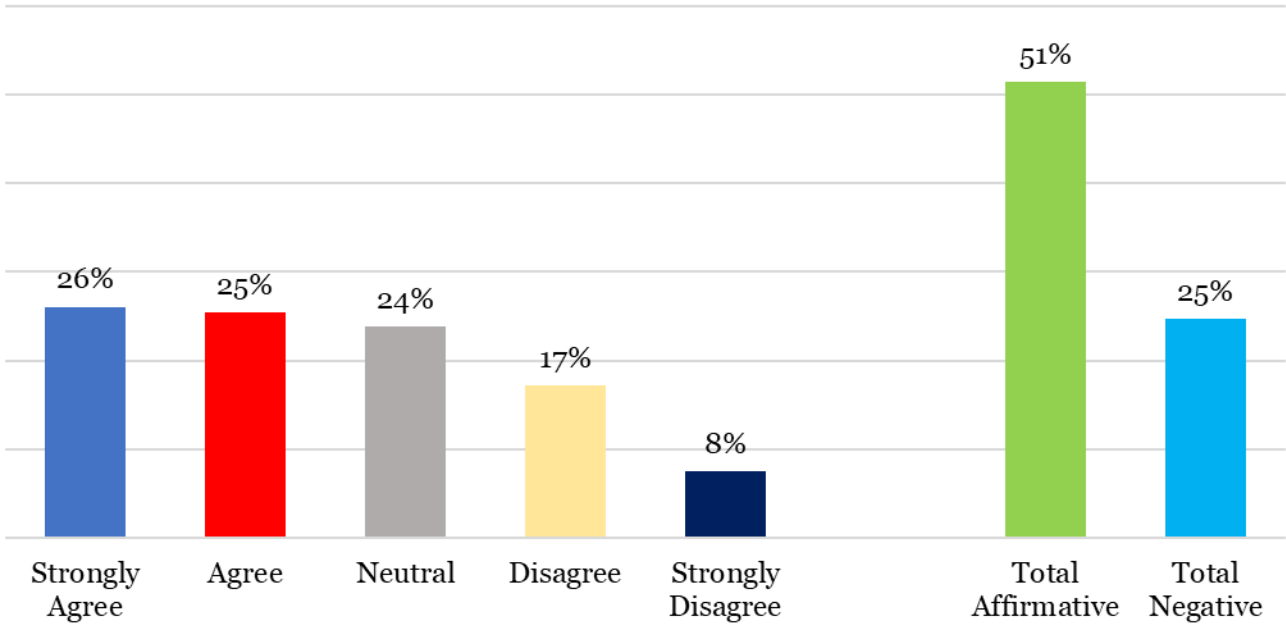
This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.



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

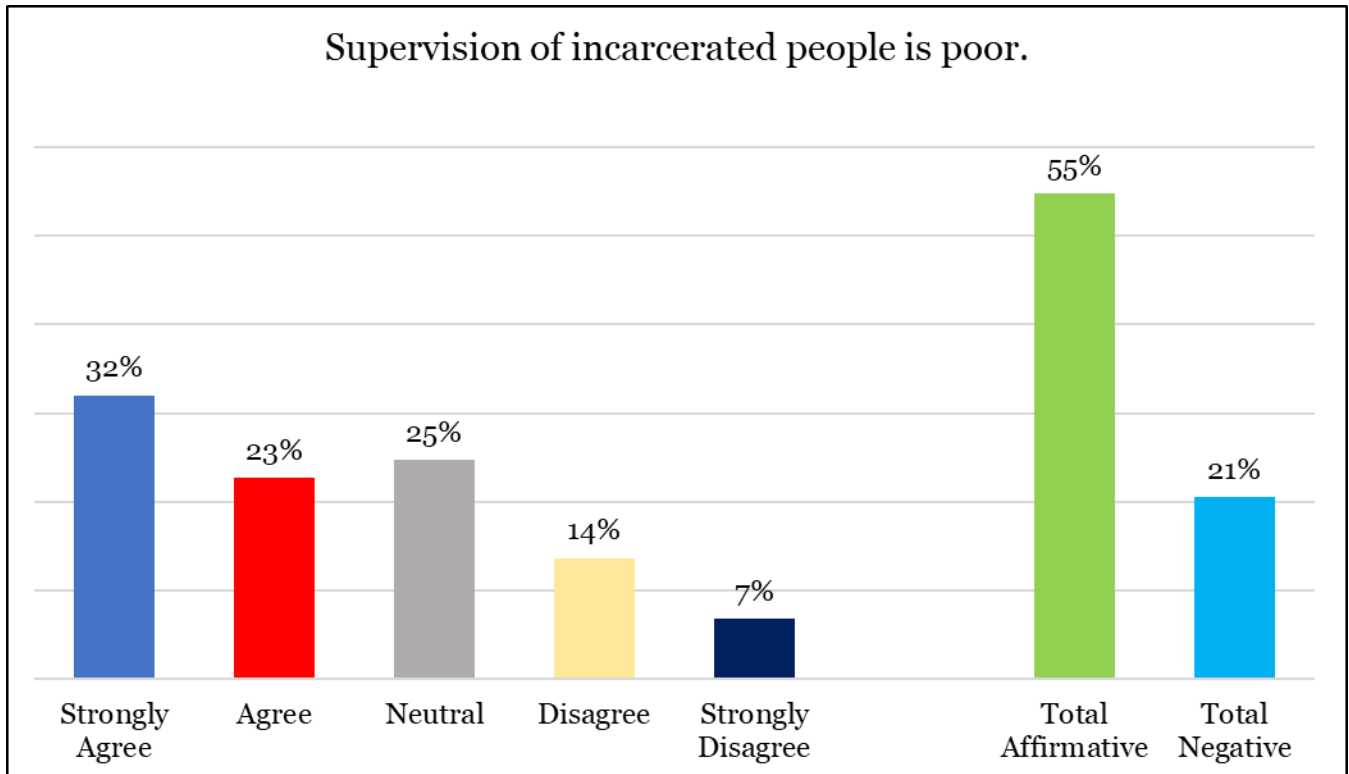


### You never know the rules.

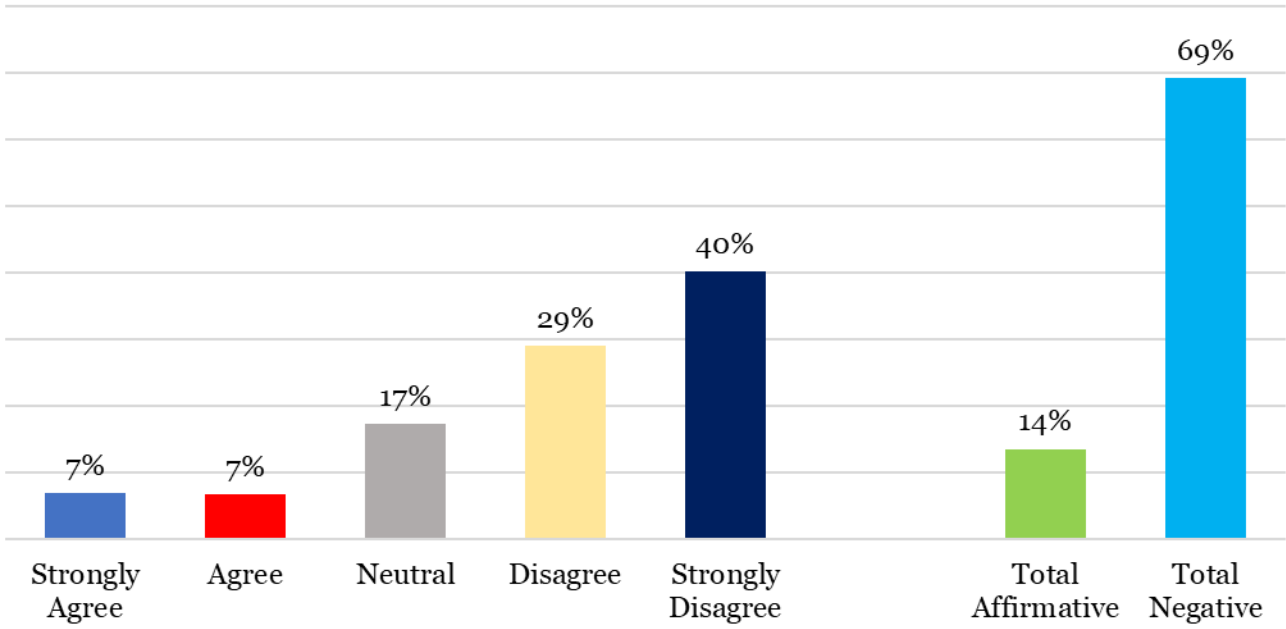


# Security

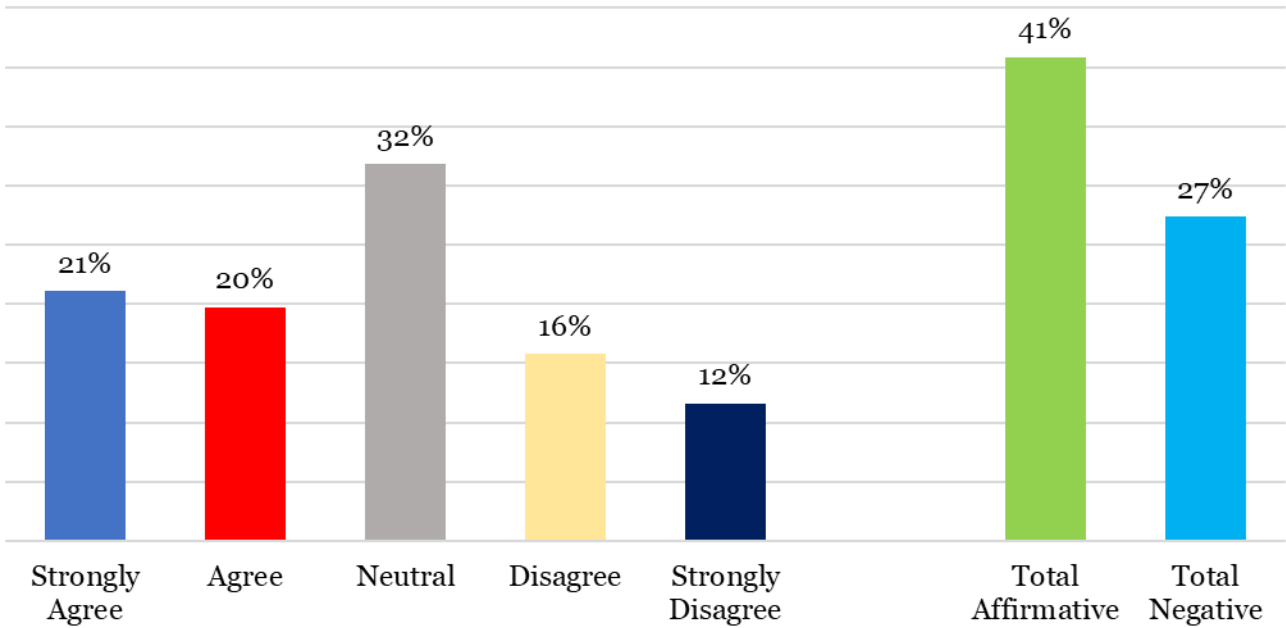
## POLICING AND SECURITY – STAFF SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT



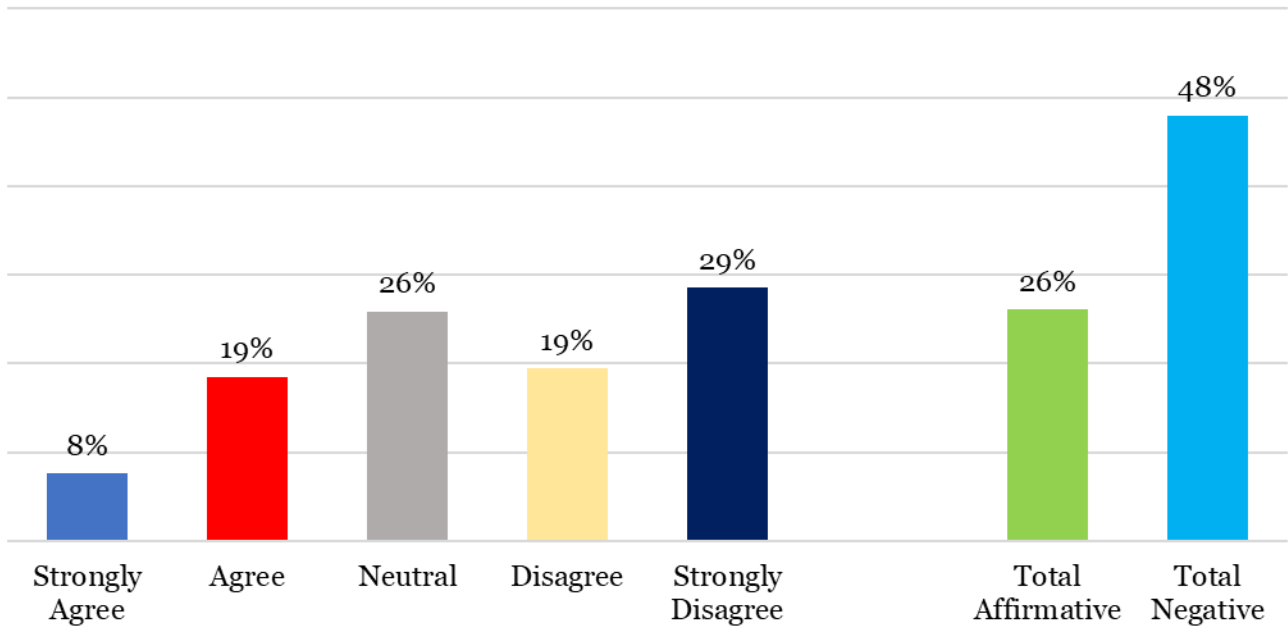
This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.



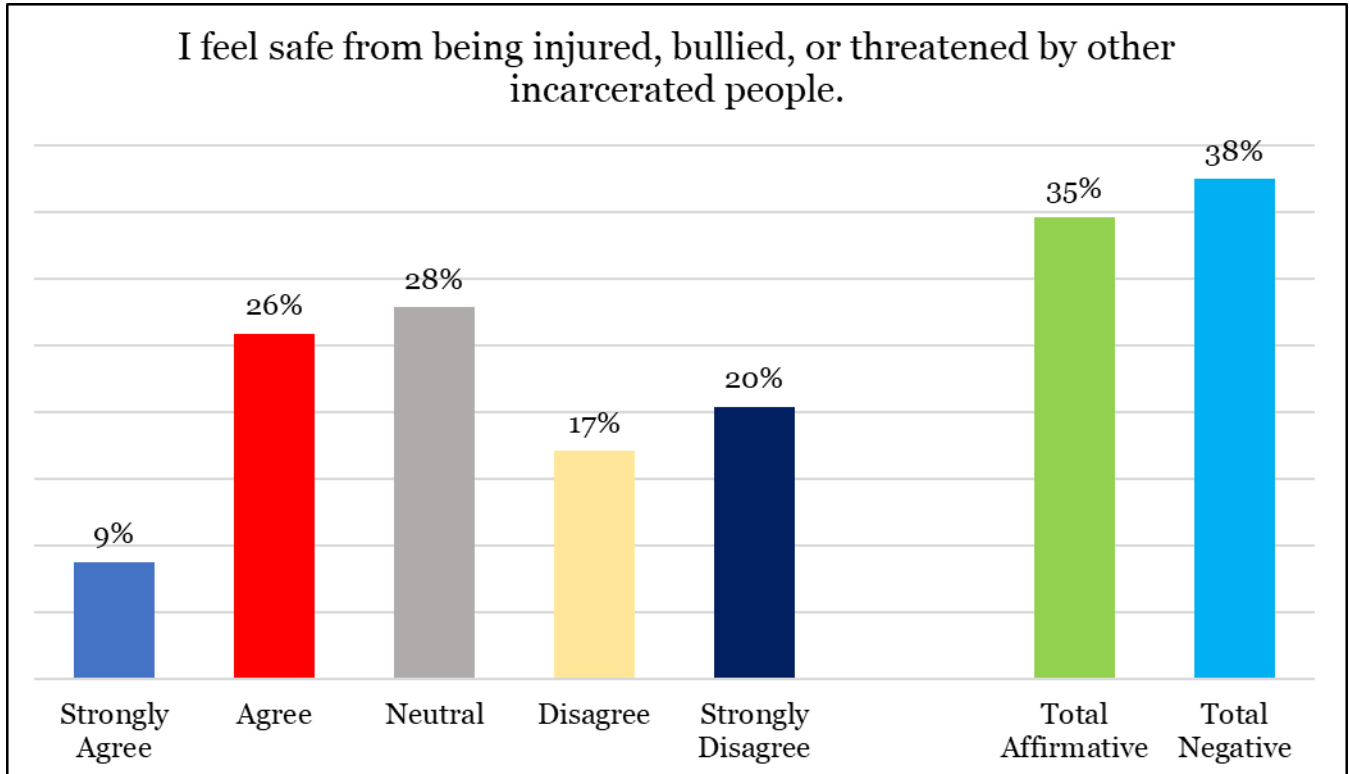
There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.



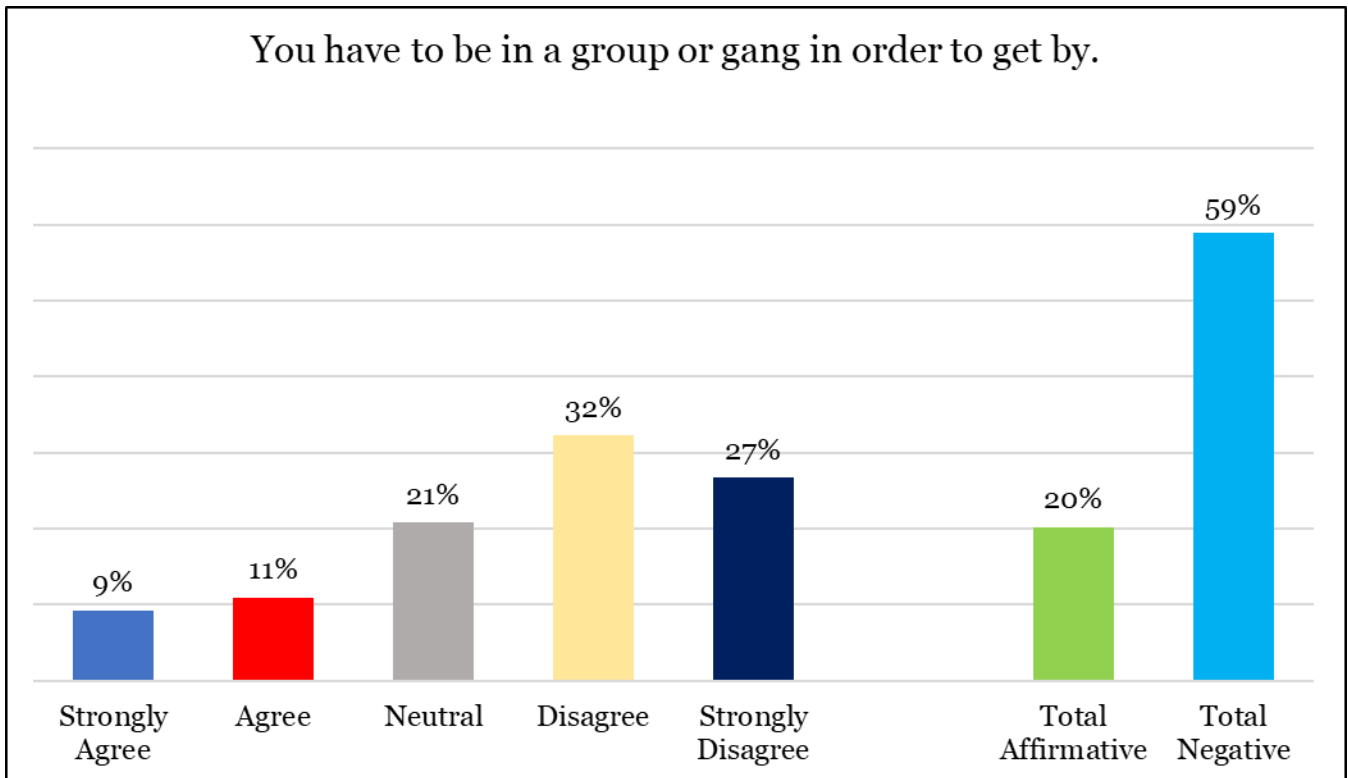
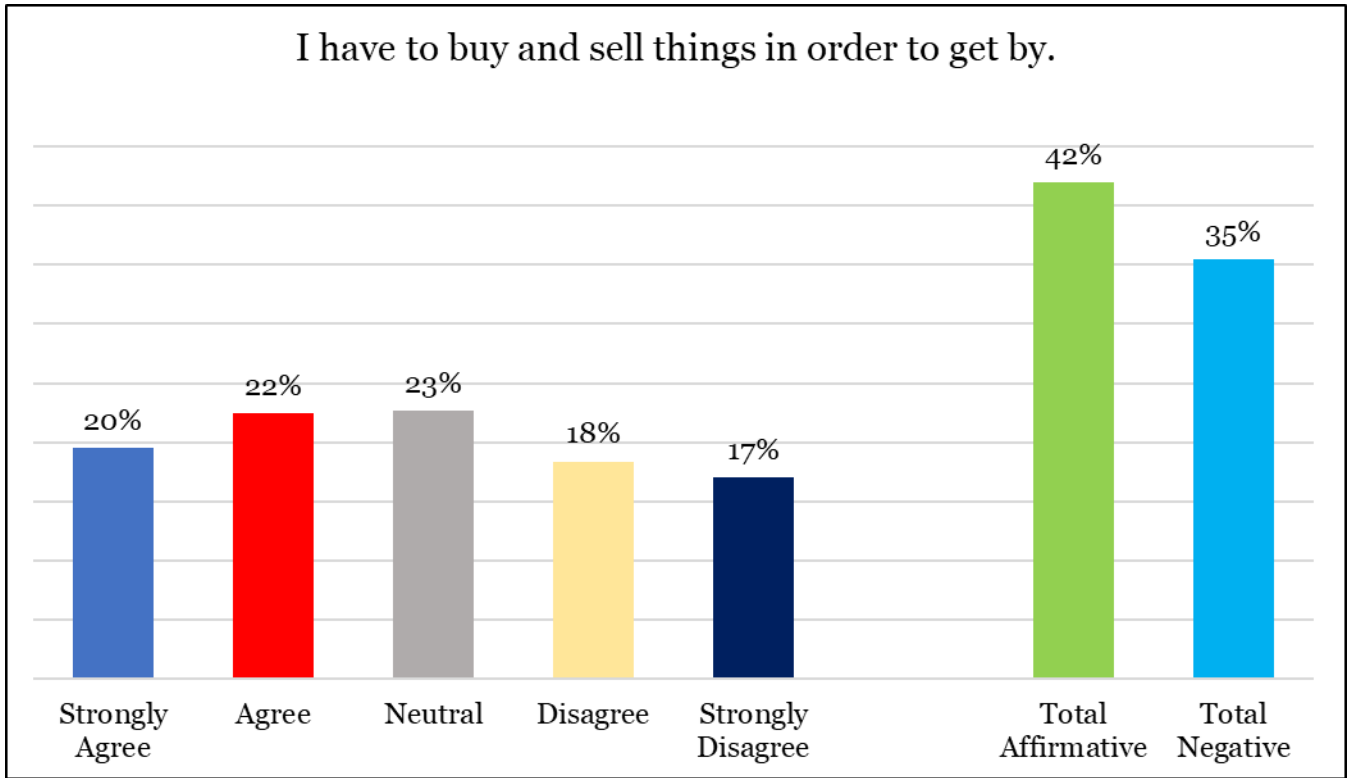
### Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.



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

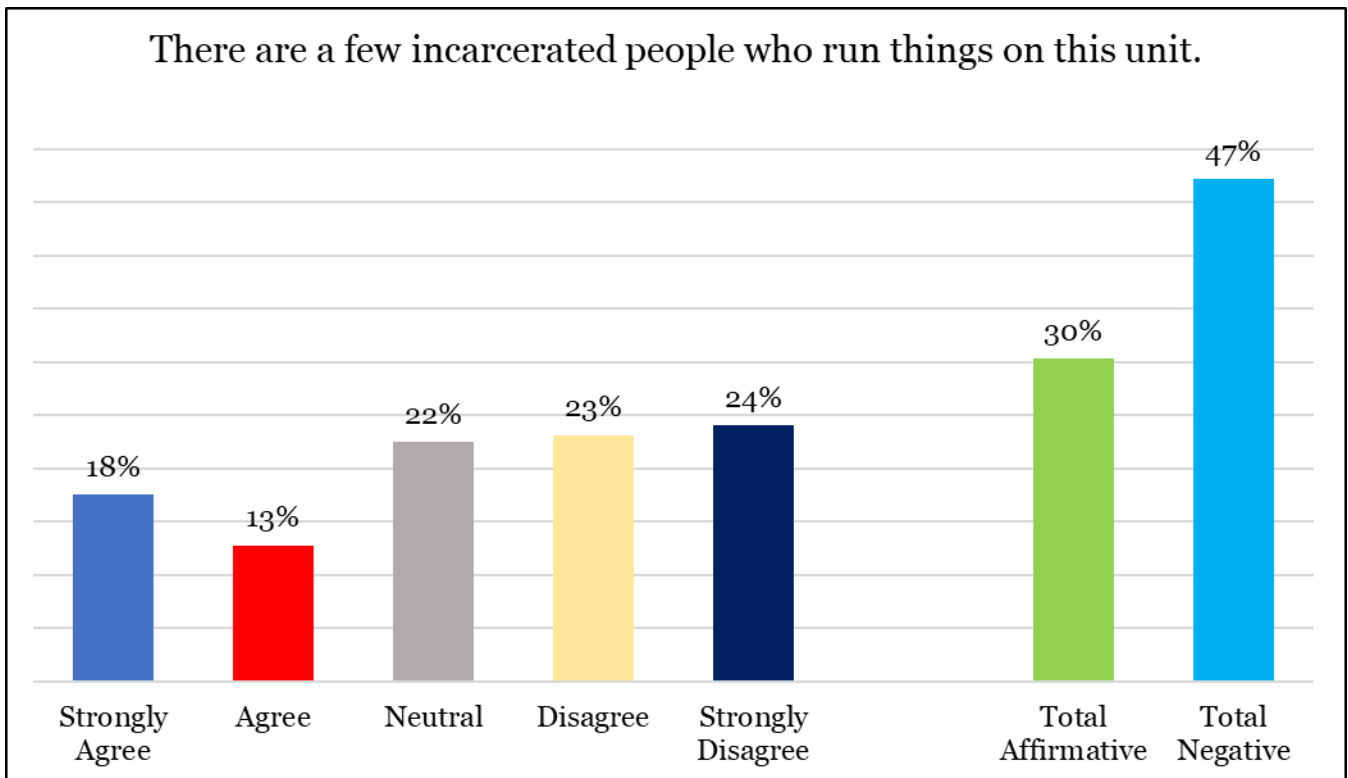
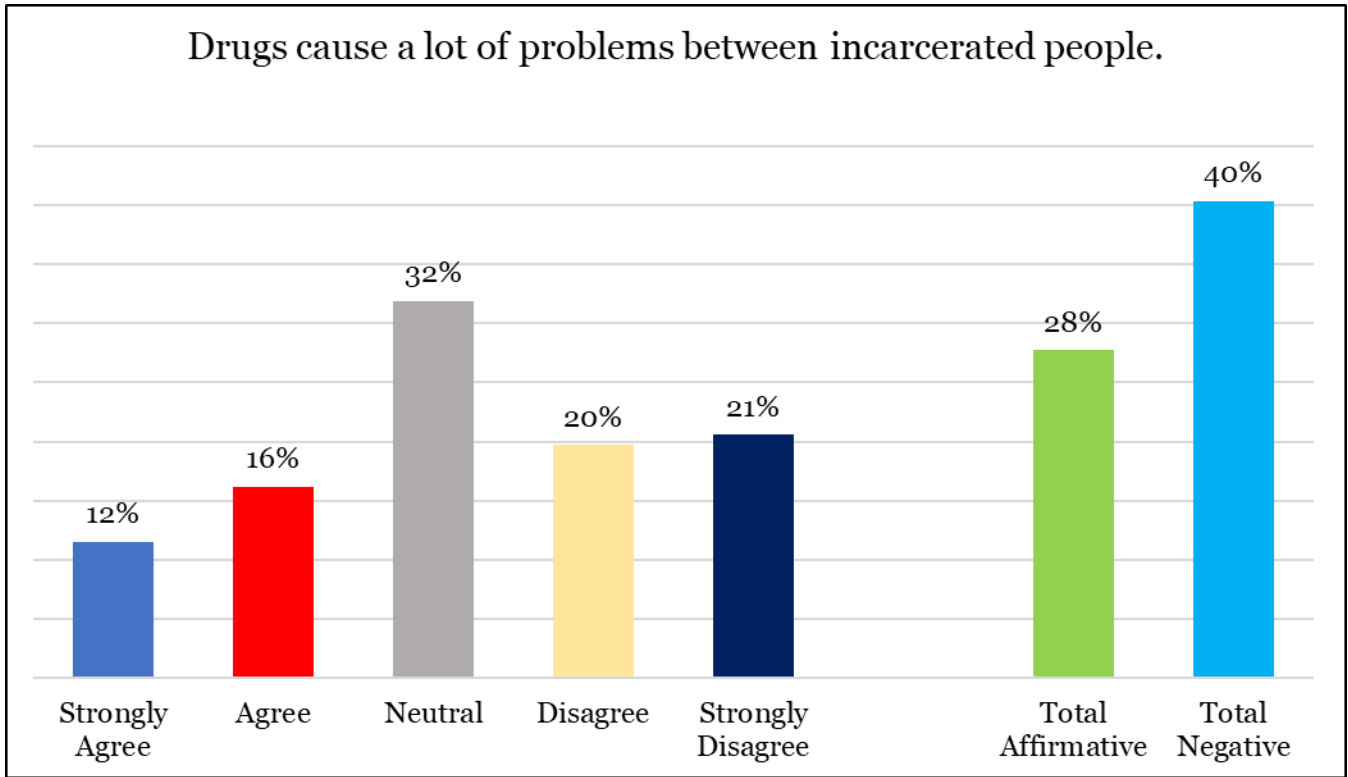


**INCARCERATED PERSON ADAPTATION – THE NEED OR PRESSURE TO GET INVOLVED IN TRADE AND ALLEGIANCES**



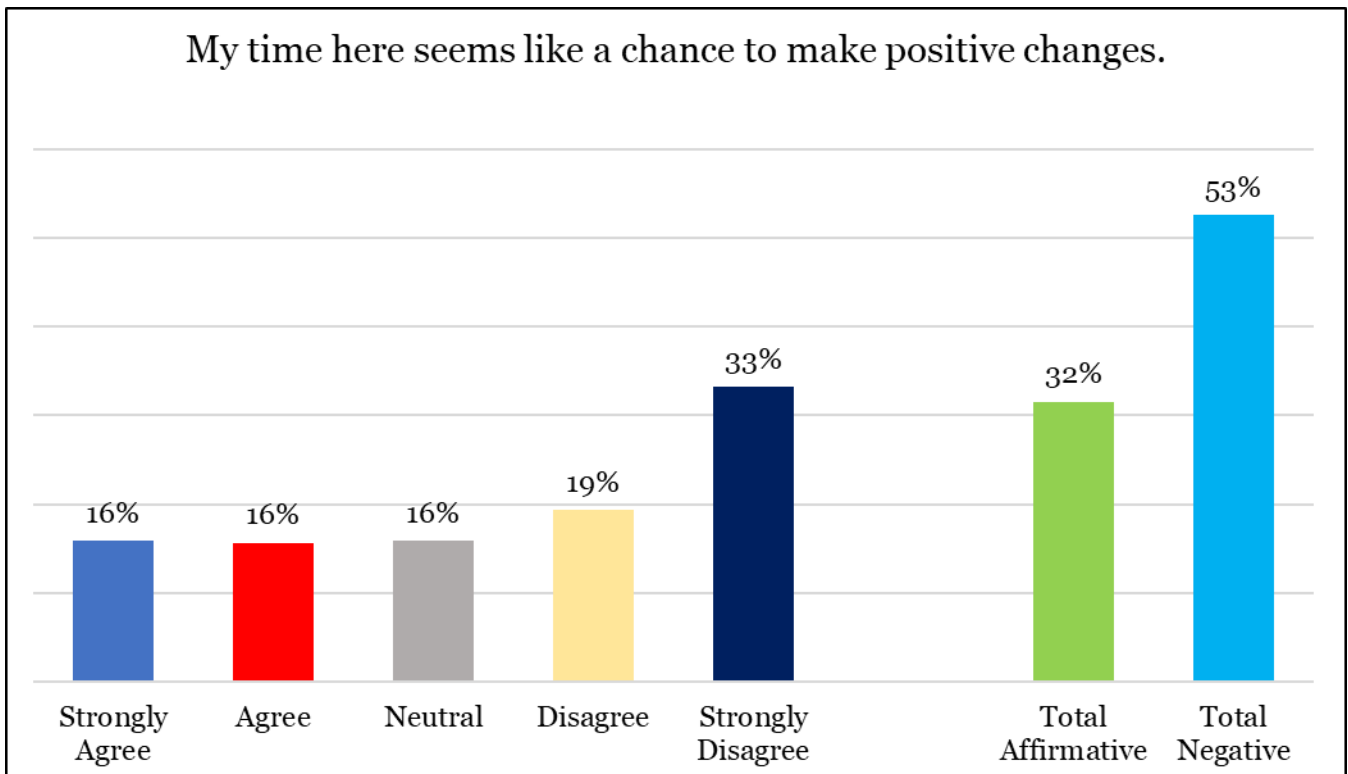
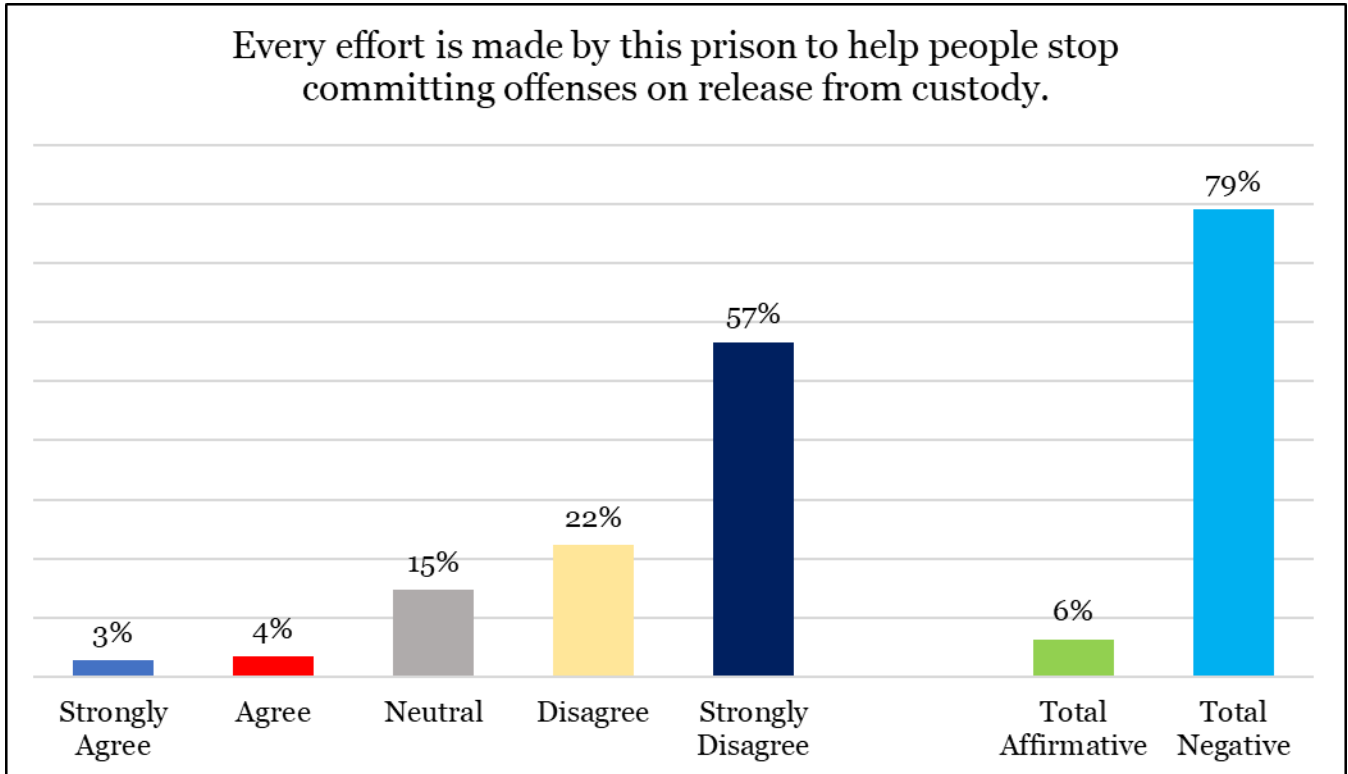


**DRUGS AND EXPLOITATION – THE LEVEL OF DRUGS, BULLYING AND VICTIMIZATION IN THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT**

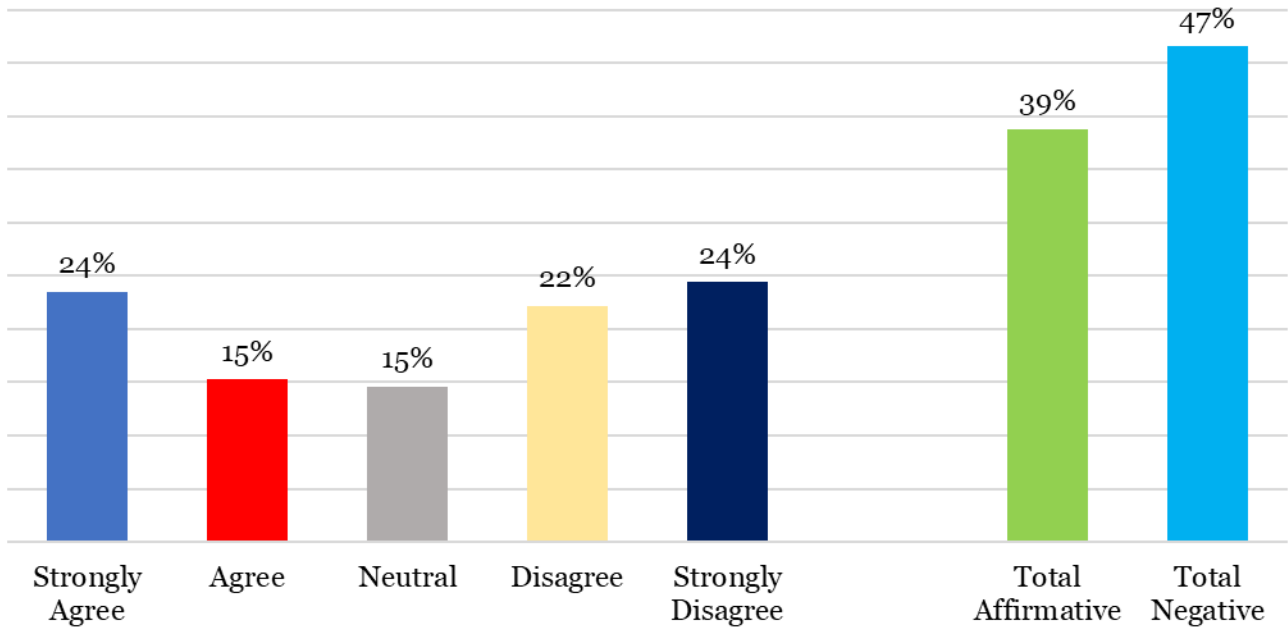


# Well-being and Development

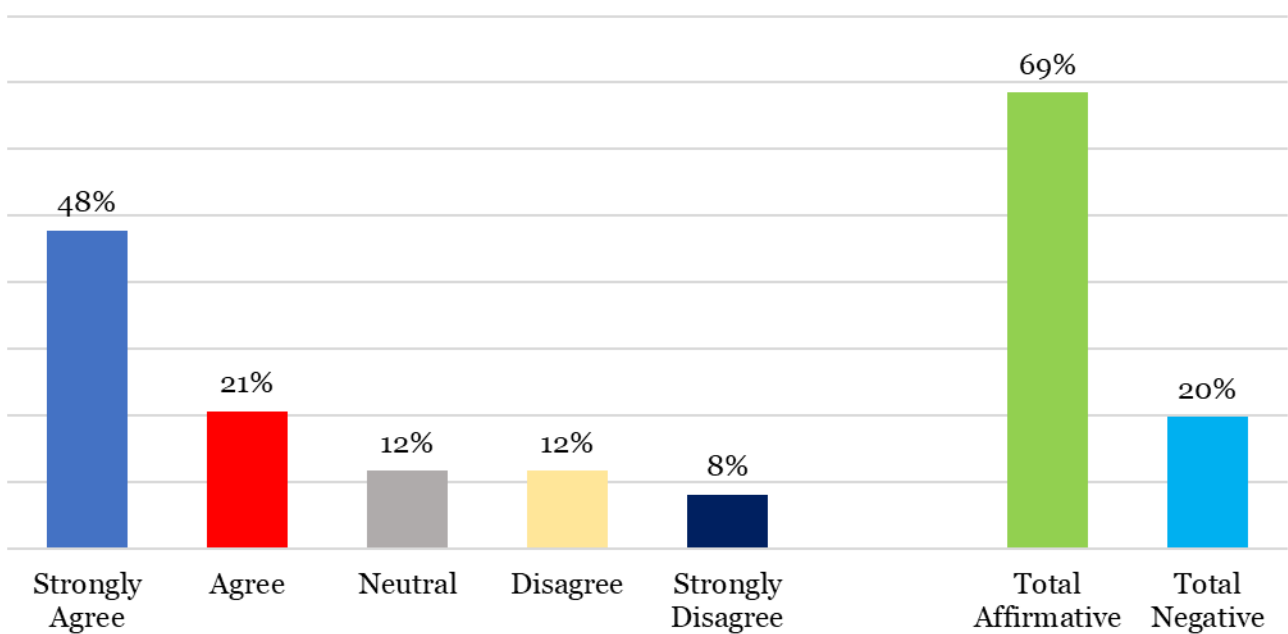
**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT** – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT HELPS INCARCERATED PEOPLE WITH OFFENDING BEHAVIOR, PREPARATION FOR RELEASE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR POTENTIAL



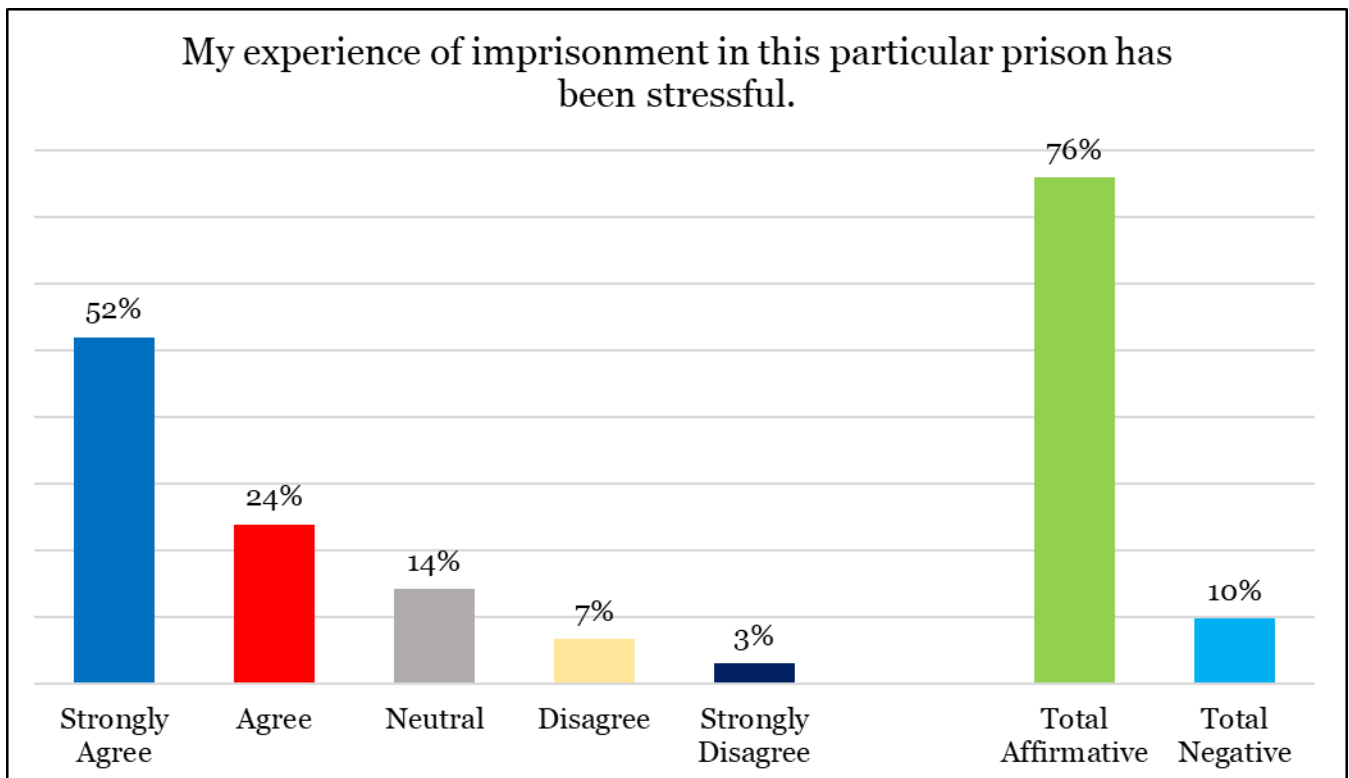
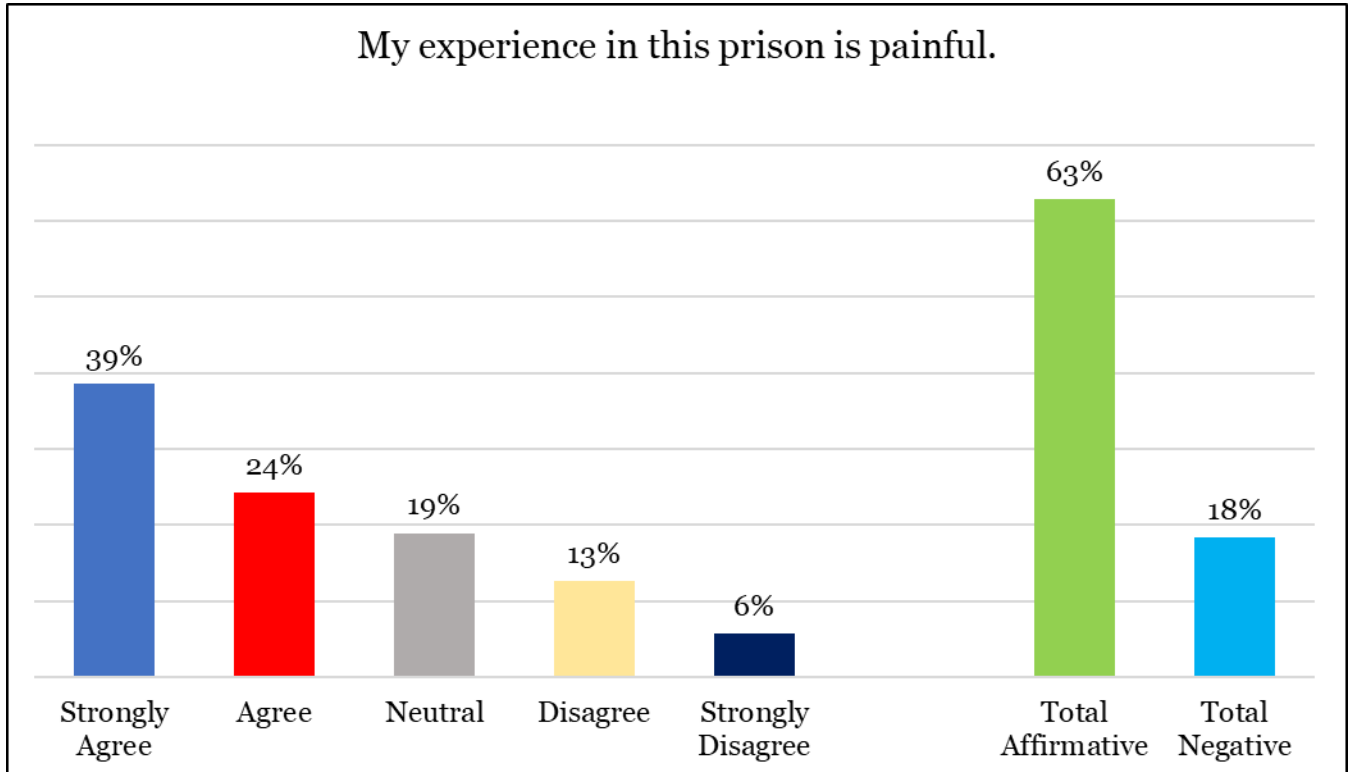
The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.



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

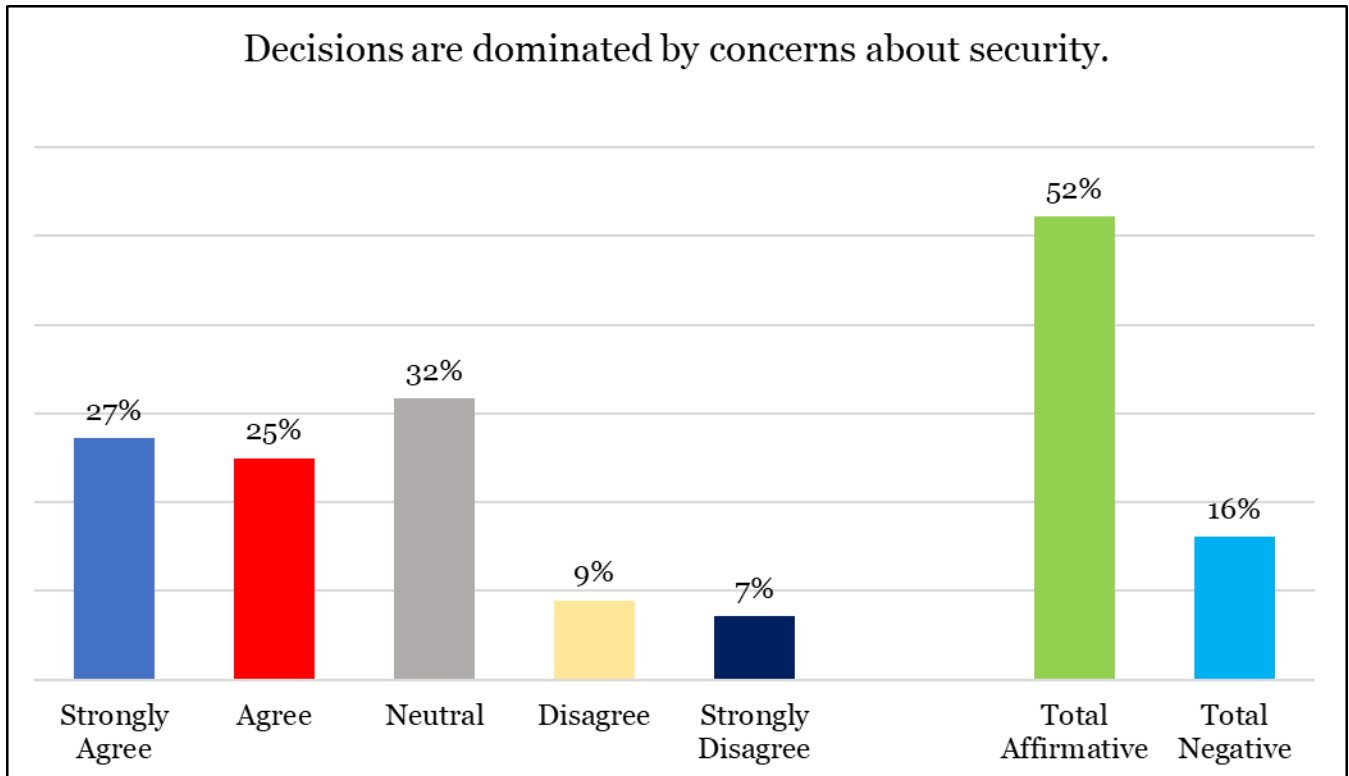


**WELL-BEING** – FEELINGS OF PAIN, PUNISHMENT AND TENSION EXPERIENCED BY INCARCERATED PEOPLE

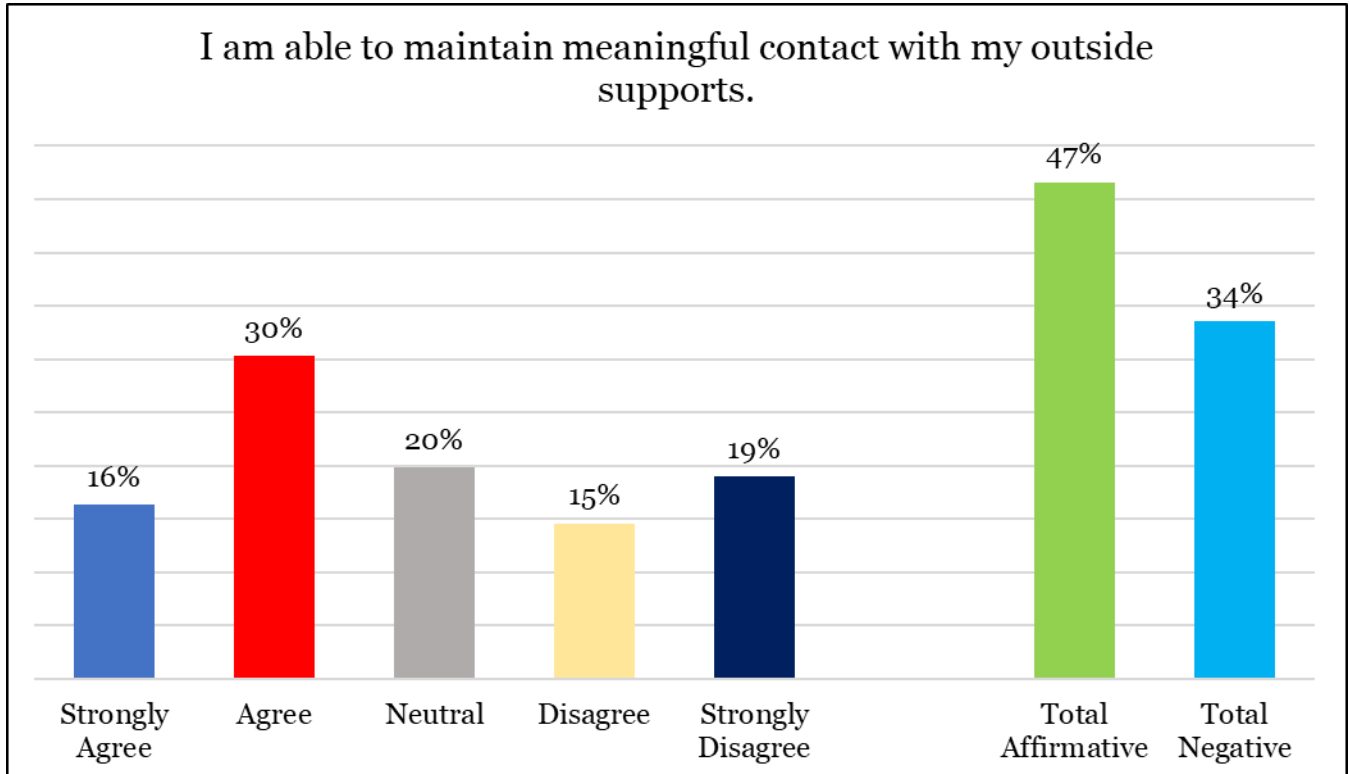


## Additional Questions

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

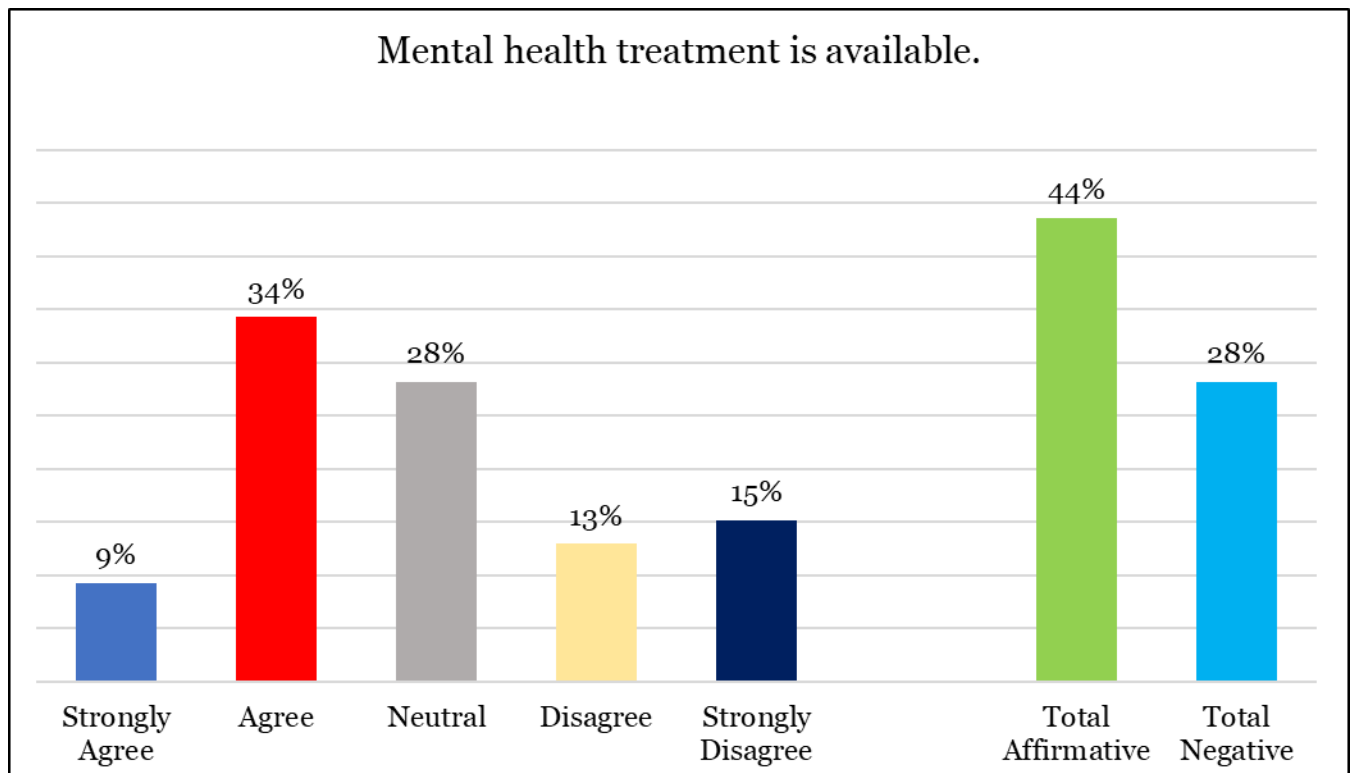
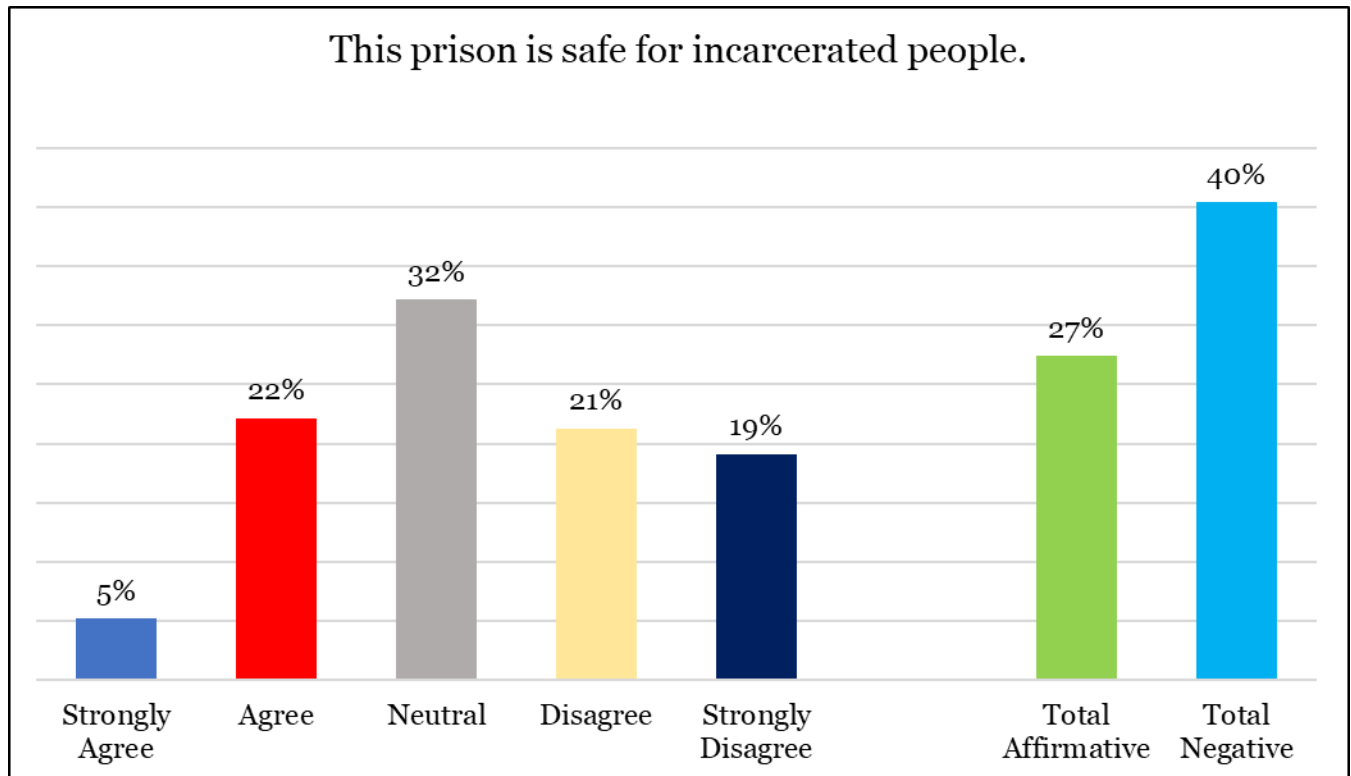


**FAMILY CONTACT – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT FACILITATES INCARCERATED PEOPLE MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOVED ONES**

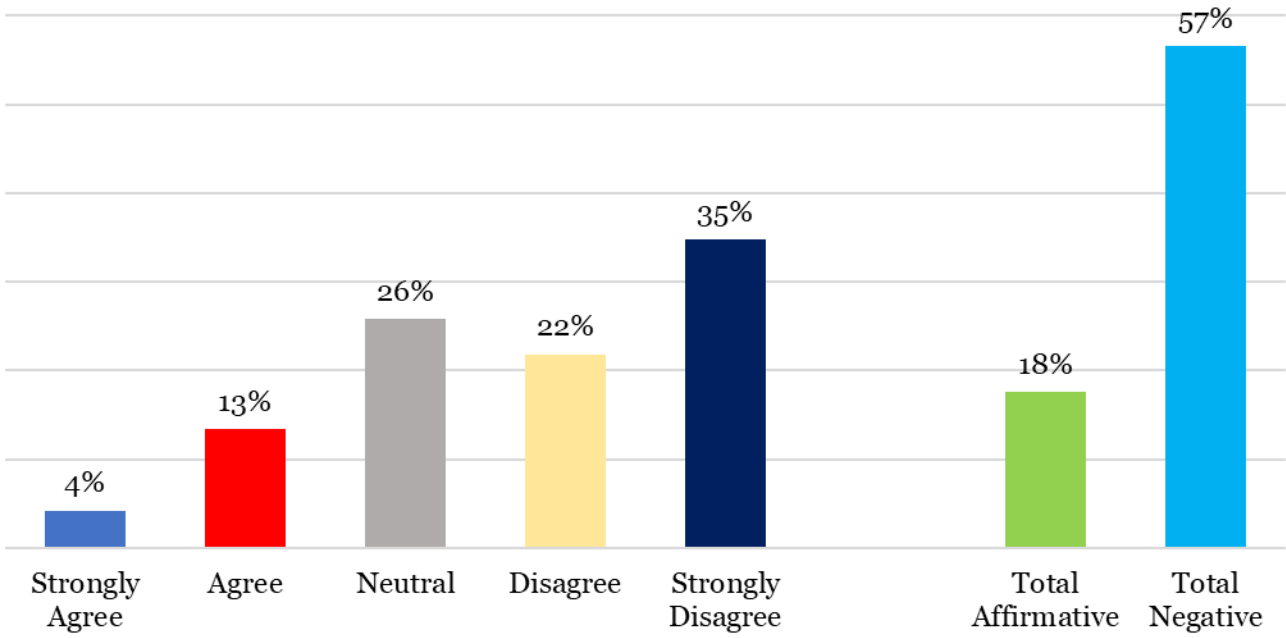


# Charts: JHA Questions

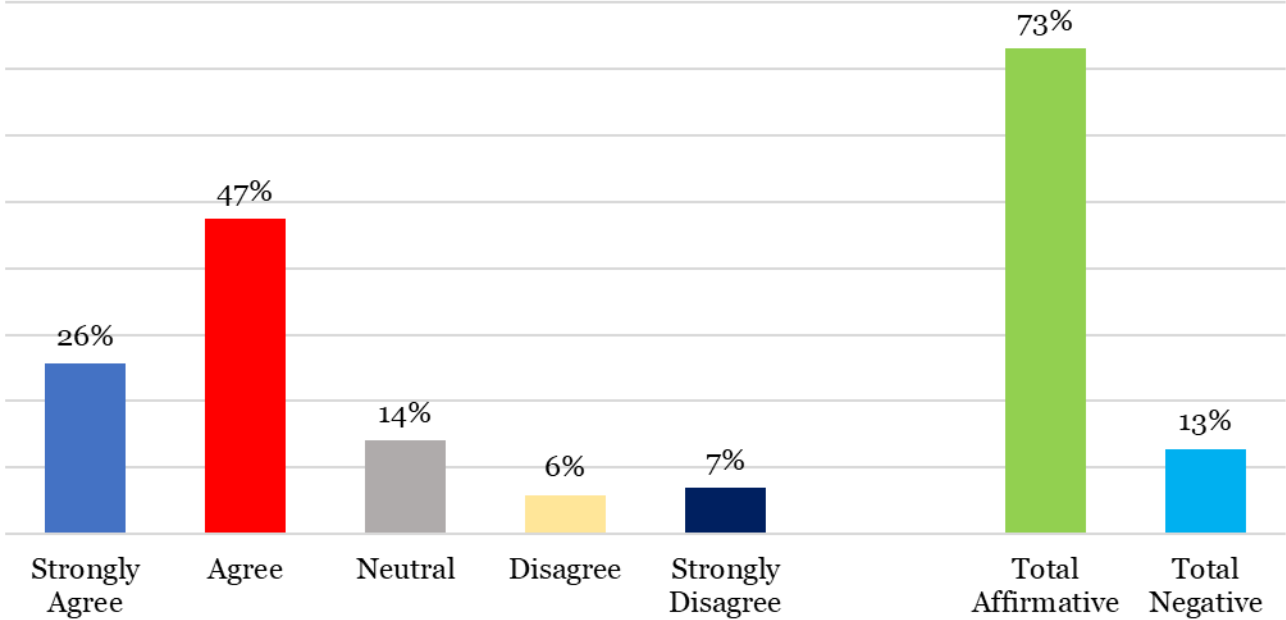
## QUESTIONS USED IN PREVIOUS JHA SURVEYS



This prison is better now than it was last year.

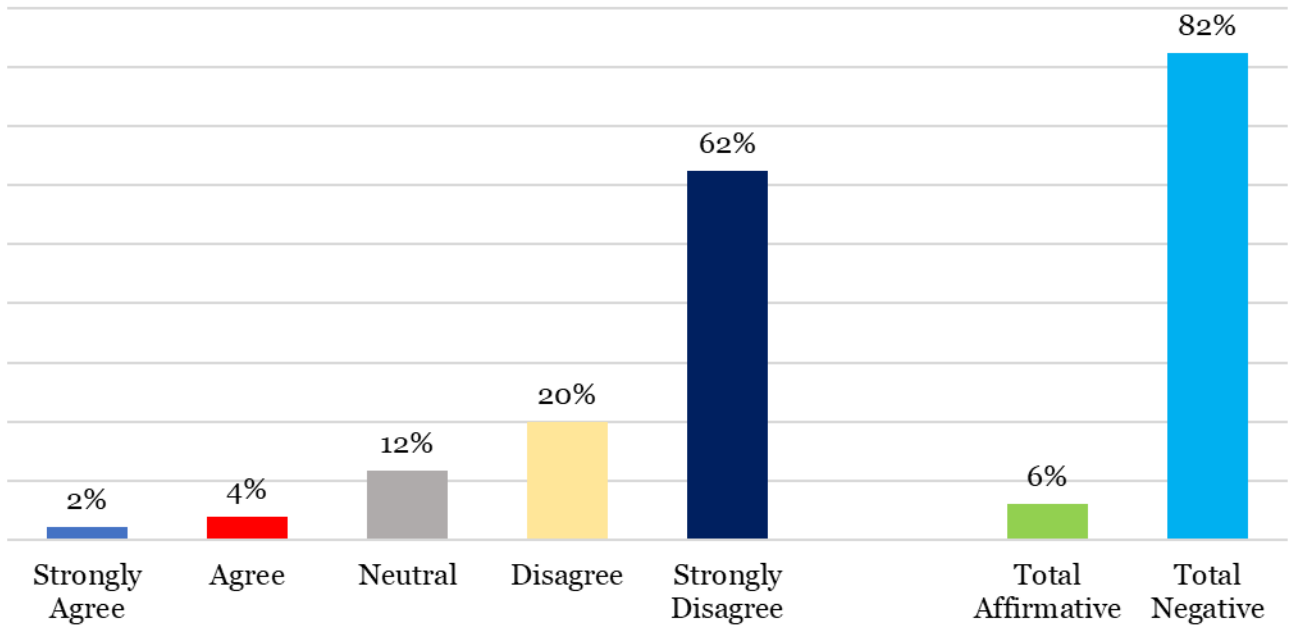


I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.

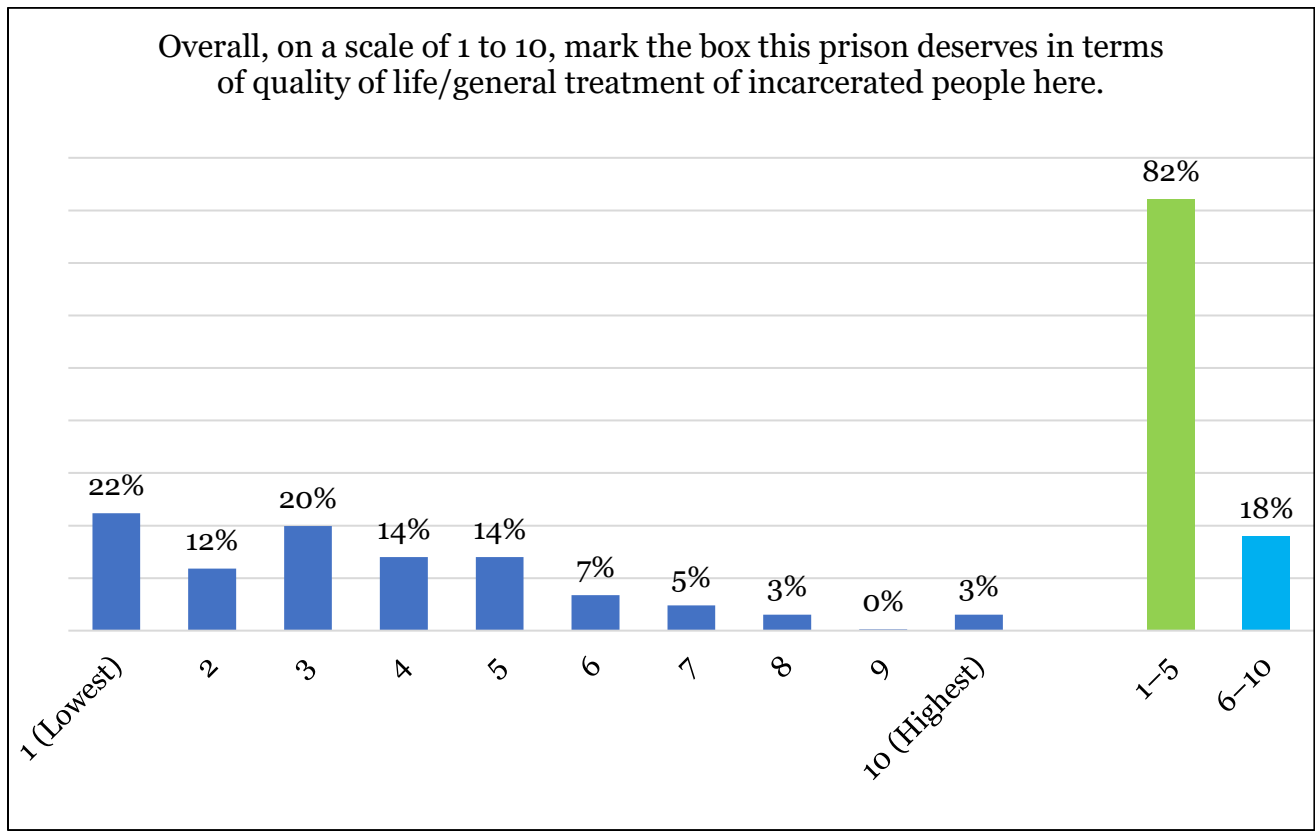




I am satisfied with food from dietary.



## OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE



# Tables of Results by Individual Survey Items

Age		
18-26	41	9%
26-30	51	11%
31-40	148	32%
41-50	117	25%
51 and over	109	23%
No response	4	

Race or ethnicity		
White	146	31%
Black	226	48%
Hispanic or Latino	61	13%
Other	33	7%
No response	4	

Are you within two years of release?		
Yes	187	41%
No	274	59%
No response	9	

Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?		
Yes	270	58%
No	194	42%
No response	6	

What housing status are you currently on?		
General Population	427	92%
Restrictive Housing	25	5%
Other	10	2%
No response	8	

Are you currently getting at least two hours a day out of your cell or sleeping area?		
Yes	374	80%
No	91	20%

Do you have a work or school assignment?		
Work Assignment	86	19%
School Assignment	47	10%
Both	2	0%
Neither	328	71%
No response	7	

Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.		
Strongly Agree	11	2%
Agree	49	11%
Neutral	149	32%
Disagree	123	26%
Strongly Disagree	134	29%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	60	13%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	257	55%
No response	4	

I receive support from staff when I need it.		
Strongly Agree	13	3%
Agree	52	11%
Neutral	98	21%
Disagree	146	32%
Strongly Disagree	148	32%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	65	14%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	294	64%
No response	13	

<b>Staff here treat incarcerated people fairly when applying the rules.</b>		
Strongly Agree	9	2%
Agree	49	11%
Neutral	72	16%
Disagree	141	31%
Strongly Disagree	190	41%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	58	13%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	331	72%
No response	9	

<b>I trust the officers.</b>		
Strongly Agree	9	2%
Agree	30	7%
Neutral	83	18%
Disagree	127	28%
Strongly Disagree	210	46%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	39	8%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	337	73%
No response	11	

<b>I get along well with the officers on my unit.</b>		
Strongly Agree	19	4%
Agree	112	24%
Neutral	192	42%
Disagree	61	13%
Strongly Disagree	77	17%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	131	28%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	138	30%
No response	9	

<b>The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.</b>		
Strongly Agree	38	8%
Agree	84	18%
Neutral	100	22%
Disagree	102	22%
Strongly Disagree	135	29%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	122	27%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	237	52%
No response	11	

<b>I have been helped significantly by a staff member with a particular problem.</b>		
Strongly Agree	23	5%
Agree	76	16%
Neutral	91	20%
Disagree	129	28%
Strongly Disagree	144	31%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	99	21%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	273	59%
No response	7	

<b>Overall, I am treated fairly by staff.</b>		
Strongly Agree	20	4%
Agree	84	18%
Neutral	142	30%
Disagree	103	22%
Strongly Disagree	118	25%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	104	22%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	221	47%
No response	3	

<b>I am treated as a person of value.</b>		
Strongly Agree	12	3%
Agree	26	6%
Neutral	76	16%
Disagree	156	34%
Strongly Disagree	191	41%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	38	8%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	347	75%
No response	9	

<b>Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.</b>		
Strongly Agree	142	31%
Agree	170	37%
Neutral	75	16%
Disagree	41	9%
Strongly Disagree	29	6%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	312	68%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	70	15%
No response	13	

<b>I feel safe from being injured, bullied, or threatened by other incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	40	9%
Agree	118	26%
Neutral	127	28%
Disagree	78	17%
Strongly Disagree	93	20%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	158	35%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	171	38%
No response	14	

<b>If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.</b>		
Strongly Agree	41	9%
Agree	54	12%
Neutral	61	13%
Disagree	111	25%
Strongly Disagree	186	41%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	95	21%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	297	66%
No response	17	

<b>To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.</b>		
Strongly Agree	130	29%
Agree	153	34%
Neutral	86	19%
Disagree	67	15%
Strongly Disagree	17	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	283	62%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	84	19%
No response	17	

<b>Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	173	38%
Agree	141	31%
Neutral	88	19%
Disagree	34	7%
Strongly Disagree	18	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	314	69%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	52	11%
No response	16	

<b>Staff have enough experience and expertise to deal with issues that matter to me.</b>		
Strongly Agree	10	2%
Agree	39	9%
Neutral	84	18%
Disagree	160	35%
Strongly Disagree	162	36%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	49	11%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	322	71%
No response	15	

<b>To get things done, you have to ask and ask and ask.</b>		
Strongly Agree	295	65%
Agree	115	25%
Neutral	23	5%
Disagree	15	3%
Strongly Disagree	7	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	410	90%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	22	5%
No response	15	

<b>Supervision of incarcerated people is poor.</b>		
Strongly Agree	145	32%
Agree	103	23%
Neutral	112	25%
Disagree	62	14%
Strongly Disagree	31	7%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	248	55%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	93	21%
No response	17	

<b>I can't improve my situation through good behavior.</b>		
Strongly Agree	170	38%
Agree	100	22%
Neutral	78	17%
Disagree	66	15%
Strongly Disagree	35	8%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	270	60%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	101	22%
No response	21	

<b>The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.</b>		
Strongly Agree	106	24%
Agree	69	15%
Neutral	66	15%
Disagree	100	22%
Strongly Disagree	110	24%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	175	39%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	210	47%
No response	19	

<b>My experience of imprisonment in this particular prison has been stressful.</b>		
Strongly Agree	239	52%
Agree	110	24%
Neutral	65	14%
Disagree	31	7%
Strongly Disagree	14	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	349	76%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	45	10%
No response	11	

<b>Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	202	45%
Agree	128	28%
Neutral	63	14%
Disagree	36	8%
Strongly Disagree	24	5%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	330	73%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	60	13%
No response	17	

<b>I have to be careful about everything I do, or it can be used against me.</b>		
Strongly Agree	251	55%
Agree	141	31%
Neutral	43	9%
Disagree	15	3%
Strongly Disagree	10	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	392	85%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	25	5%
No response	10	

<b>On the whole, I am just doing time rather than using my time.</b>		
Strongly Agree	217	48%
Agree	94	21%
Neutral	53	12%
Disagree	53	12%
Strongly Disagree	37	8%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	311	69%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	90	20%
No response	16	

<b>This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.</b>		
Strongly Agree	31	7%
Agree	30	7%
Neutral	78	17%
Disagree	131	29%
Strongly Disagree	181	40%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	61	14%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	312	69%
No response	19	

<b>This prison is well organized.</b>		
Strongly Agree	15	3%
Agree	15	3%
Neutral	58	13%
Disagree	101	22%
Strongly Disagree	265	58%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	30	7%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	366	81%
No response	16	

<b>I feel that I am treated with respect by staff.</b>		
Strongly Agree	15	3%
Agree	47	10%
Neutral	131	29%
Disagree	113	25%
Strongly Disagree	143	32%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	62	14%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	256	57%
No response	21	

<b>Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.</b>		
Strongly Agree	34	8%
Agree	83	19%
Neutral	116	26%
Disagree	87	19%
Strongly Disagree	128	29%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	117	26%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	215	48%
No response	22	

<b>When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.</b>		
Strongly Agree	34	7%
Agree	94	21%
Neutral	114	25%
Disagree	116	25%
Strongly Disagree	98	21%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	128	28%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	214	47%
No response	14	

<b>You never know the rules.</b>		
Strongly Agree	118	26%
Agree	115	25%
Neutral	108	24%
Disagree	78	17%
Strongly Disagree	34	8%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	233	51%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	112	25%
No response	17	

<b>My experience in this prison is painful.</b>		
Strongly Agree	175	39%
Agree	110	24%
Neutral	86	19%
Disagree	57	13%
Strongly Disagree	26	6%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	285	63%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	83	18%
No response	16	

<b>I have to buy and sell things in order to get by.</b>		
Strongly Agree	87	20%
Agree	100	22%
Neutral	101	23%
Disagree	82	18%
Strongly Disagree	76	17%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	187	42%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	158	35%
No response	24	

<b>There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	91	21%
Agree	85	20%
Neutral	137	32%
Disagree	68	16%
Strongly Disagree	50	12%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	176	41%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	118	27%
No response	39	

<b>Decisions are dominated by concerns about security.</b>		
Strongly Agree	122	27%
Agree	112	25%
Neutral	142	32%
Disagree	40	9%
Strongly Disagree	32	7%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	234	52%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	72	16%
No response	22	

<b>The disciplinary system is fair.</b>		
Strongly Agree	9	2%
Agree	25	6%
Neutral	71	16%
Disagree	116	26%
Strongly Disagree	227	51%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	34	8%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	343	77%
No response	22	

<b>My time here seems like a chance to make positive changes.</b>		
Strongly Agree	69	16%
Agree	68	16%
Neutral	69	16%
Disagree	84	19%
Strongly Disagree	144	33%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	137	32%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	228	53%
No response	36	

<b>There are a few incarcerated people who run things on this unit.</b>		
Strongly Agree	78	18%
Agree	57	13%
Neutral	100	22%
Disagree	103	23%
Strongly Disagree	107	24%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	135	30%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	210	47%
No response	25	

<b>I am not being treated as a human being in here.</b>		
Strongly Agree	118	26%
Agree	127	27%
Neutral	112	24%
Disagree	72	16%
Strongly Disagree	33	7%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	245	53%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	105	23%
No response	8	



<b>You have to be in a group or gang in order to get by.</b>		
Strongly Agree	43	9%
Agree	51	11%
Neutral	97	21%
Disagree	150	32%
Strongly Disagree	124	27%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	94	20%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	274	59%
No response	5	

<b>Bullying behavior by incarcerated people is not tolerated.</b>		
Strongly Agree	43	10%
Agree	93	21%
Neutral	145	32%
Disagree	91	20%
Strongly Disagree	79	18%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	136	30%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	170	38%
No response	19	

<b>When important decisions are made about me, I am treated as an individual and not a number.</b>		
Strongly Agree	26	6%
Agree	38	8%
Neutral	96	21%
Disagree	155	34%
Strongly Disagree	145	32%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	64	14%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	300	65%
No response	10	

<b>All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.</b>		
Strongly Agree	255	55%
Agree	126	27%
Neutral	49	11%
Disagree	25	5%
Strongly Disagree	6	1%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	381	83%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	31	7%
No response	9	

<b>Drugs cause a lot of problems between incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	52	12%
Agree	73	16%
Neutral	144	32%
Disagree	89	20%
Strongly Disagree	93	21%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	125	28%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	182	40%
No response	19	

<b>Anyone who harms themselves is considered by staff to be more of an attention seeker than someone who needs help.</b>		
Strongly Agree	161	35%
Agree	145	32%
Neutral	99	22%
Disagree	40	9%
Strongly Disagree	14	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	306	67%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	54	12%
No response	11	

<b>I am able to maintain meaningful contact with my outside supports.</b>		
Strongly Agree	75	16%
Agree	139	30%
Neutral	91	20%
Disagree	67	15%
Strongly Disagree	87	19%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	214	47%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	154	34%
No response	11	

<b>This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.</b>		
Strongly Agree	212	46%
Agree	150	33%
Neutral	62	13%
Disagree	25	5%
Strongly Disagree	12	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	362	79%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	37	8%
No response	9	

<b>Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.</b>		
Strongly Agree	13	3%
Agree	18	4%
Neutral	65	14%
Disagree	141	31%
Strongly Disagree	225	49%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	31	7%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	366	79%
No response	8	

<b>This is a humane prison.</b>		
Strongly Agree	27	6%
Agree	66	14%
Neutral	155	34%
Disagree	85	19%
Strongly Disagree	125	27%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	93	20%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	210	46%
No response	12	

<b>Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.</b>		
Strongly Agree	288	63%
Agree	104	23%
Neutral	38	8%
Disagree	21	5%
Strongly Disagree	8	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	392	85%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	29	6%
No response	11	

<b>This prison is safe for incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	24	5%
Agree	102	22%
Neutral	148	32%
Disagree	98	21%
Strongly Disagree	88	19%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	126	27%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	186	40%
No response	10	

<b>Mental health treatment is available.</b>		
Strongly Agree	43	9%
Agree	158	34%
Neutral	130	28%
Disagree	60	13%
Strongly Disagree	70	15%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	201	44%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	130	28%
No response	9	

<b>This prison is better now than it was last year.</b>		
Strongly Agree	19	4%
Agree	60	13%
Neutral	116	26%
Disagree	98	22%
Strongly Disagree	156	35%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	79	18%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	254	57%
No response	21	

<b>I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.</b>		
Strongly Agree	118	26%
Agree	218	47%
Neutral	65	14%
Disagree	27	6%
Strongly Disagree	32	7%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	336	73%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	59	13%
No response	10	

<b>Every effort is made by this prison to help people stop committing offenses on release from custody.</b>		
Strongly Agree	13	3%
Agree	16	4%
Neutral	67	15%
Disagree	102	22%
Strongly Disagree	259	57%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	29	6%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	361	79%
No response	13	

<b>I am satisfied with food from dietary.</b>		
Strongly Agree	10	2%
Agree	18	4%
Neutral	54	12%
Disagree	92	20%
Strongly Disagree	289	62%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	28	6%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	381	82%
No response	7	

**Overall, on a scale of 1 to 10, mark the box this prison deserves in terms of quality of life/general treatment of incarcerated people here.**

1 (Lowest)	102	22%
2	54	12%
3	91	20%
4	64	14%
5	64	14%
6	31	7%
7	22	5%
8	14	3%
9	1	0%
10 (Highest)	14	3%
<i>1-5</i>	375	82%
<i>6-10</i>	82	18%
No Response	13	
Mean Score		3.6



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

