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**Survey Results**



# **Lawrence 2023 MQPL Survey Results**

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# Introduction

Lawrence Correctional Center is a maximum-security male prison within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) that housed 617 people on March 27, 2023. Lawrence has been undergoing a transition from being a medium-security prison to become a maximum over the past few years, during which time some medium-security people remained at the prison. In addition to housing general population maximum and medium-security at the time of the survey, Lawrence also housed almost all individuals in IDOC who are in [Administrative Detention](#) (AD) status (approximately 75), individuals in [Protective Custody](#) (PC), and had a particular housing unit (R7) where people were typically housed when they were new to the prison that had greater restrictions.

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](#), an informed consent notice/instruction sheet, and a privileged mail prepaid business reply envelope addressed to JHA) so that every person incarcerated at Lawrence had an opportunity to participate in the voluntary and anonymous survey if they chose to do so. JHA received 143 responses to the MQPL survey from people at Lawrence through July 26, representing approximately 23% of the static population. Additional survey comments from surveys received since the data collection was closed may be included. JHA visited Lawrence in October 2023, at which time population had increased to about 750 people, with about 100 people remaining who were classified as medium-security.



The MQPL questions are organized by dimensions: harmony, professionalism, security, and well-being & development. 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.

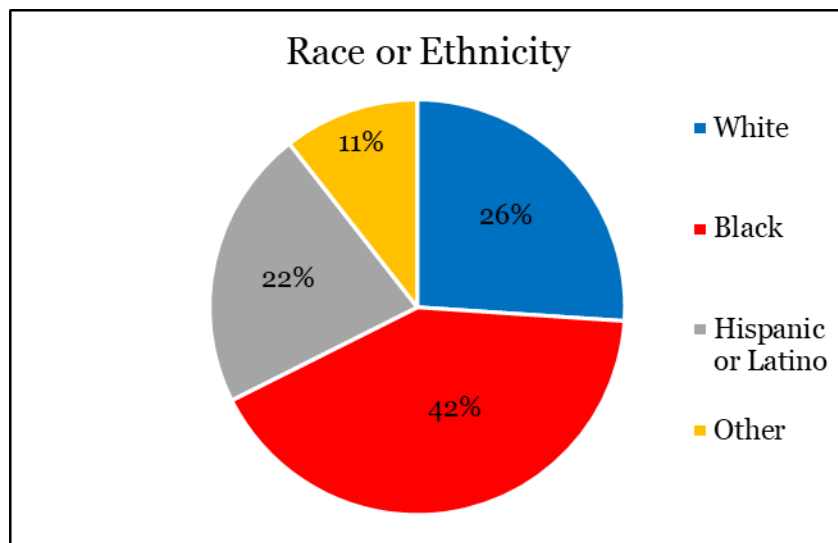
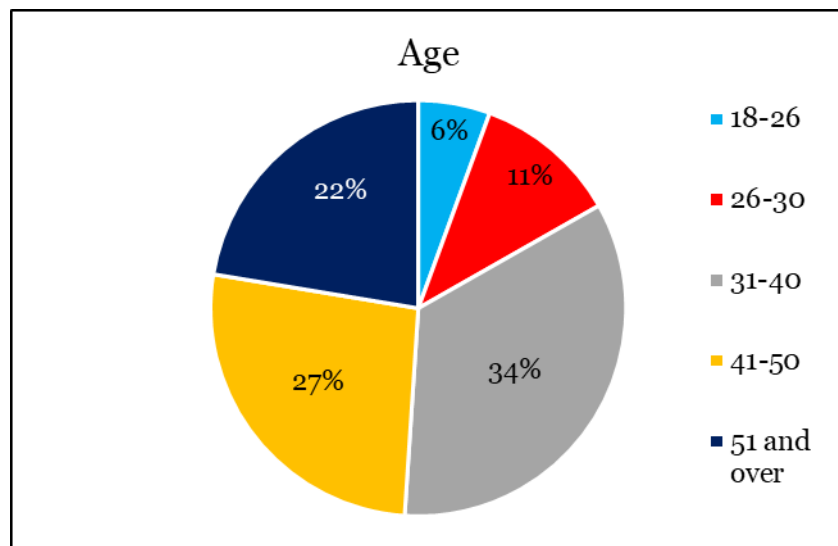
## Description of MQPL Dimensions

- **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

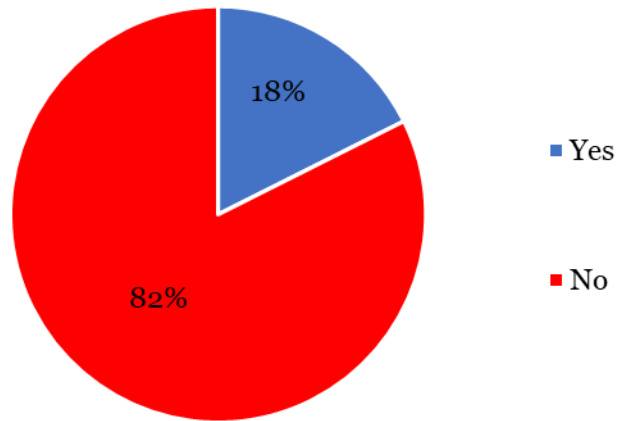
Total respondents = 143<sup>1</sup>



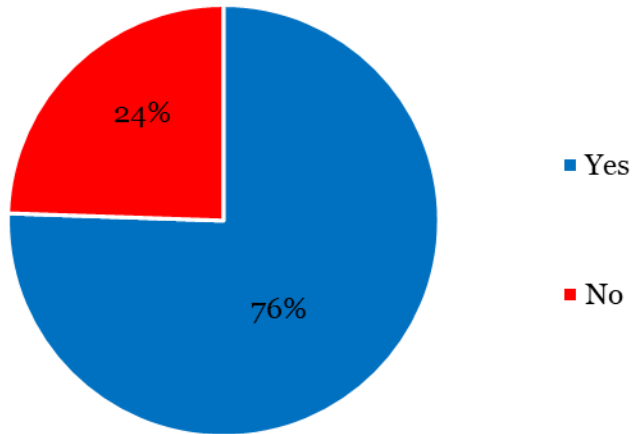
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<sup>1</sup> Due to rounding, not all percentages total 100%. Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of respondents per question.

Are you within two years of release?

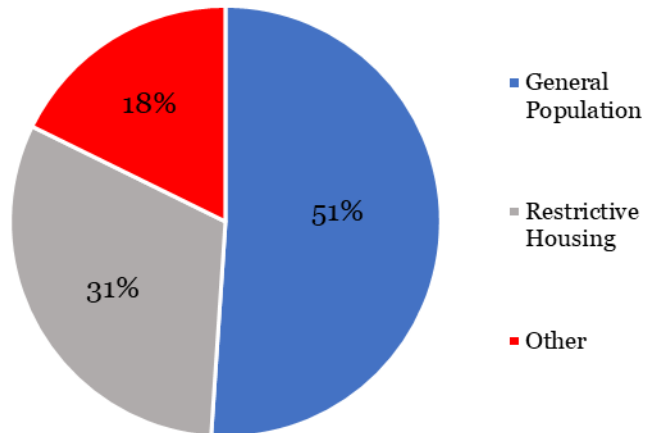


Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?

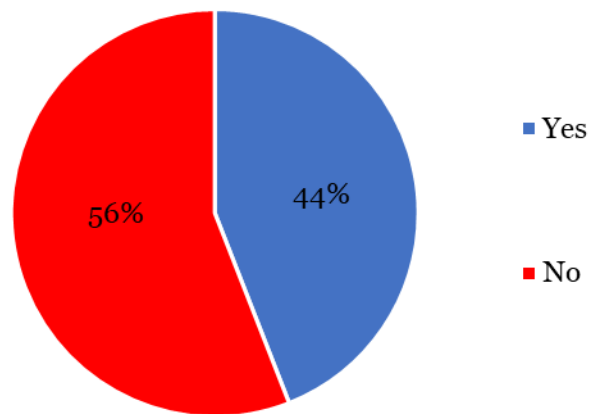




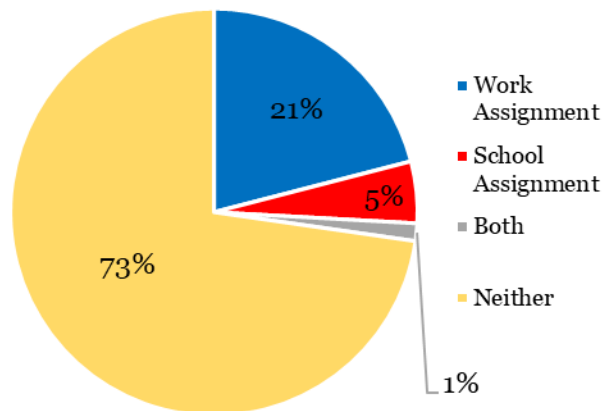
What housing status are you currently on?



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?

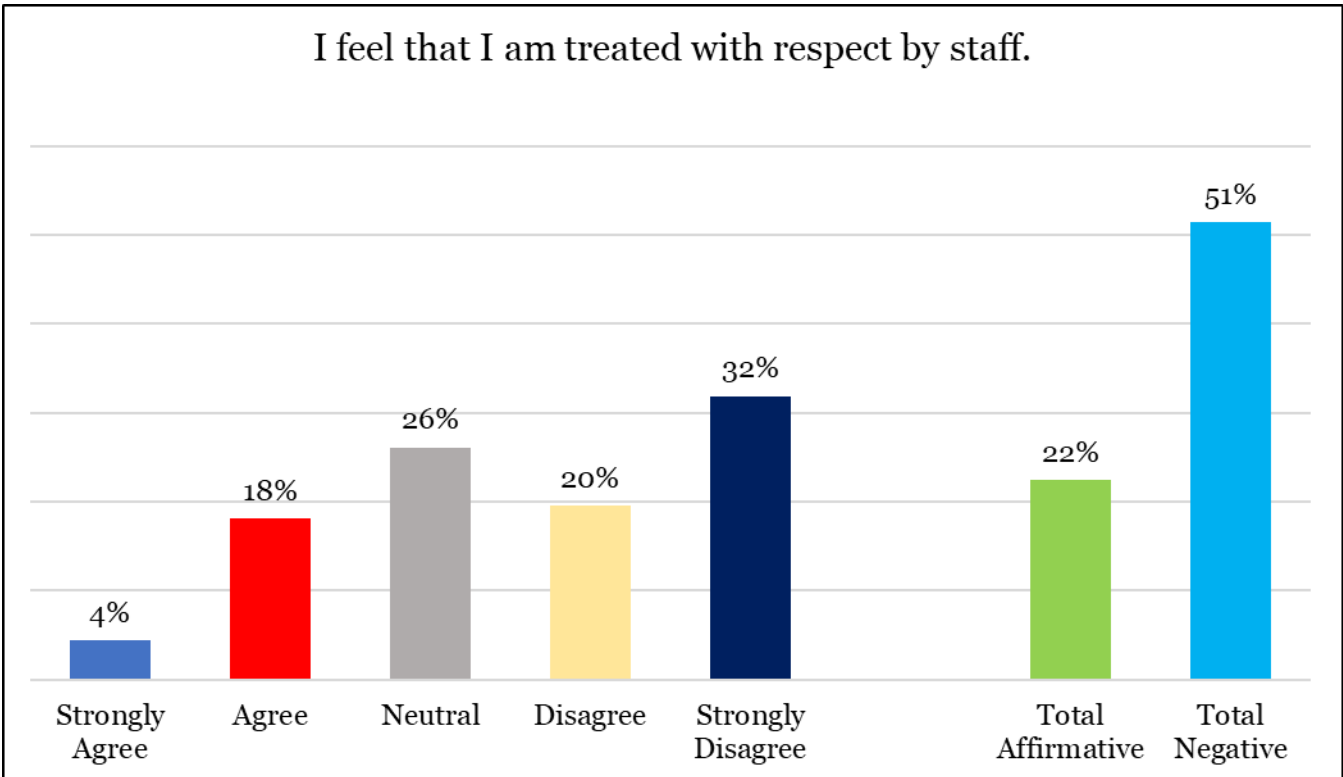




# Charts: MQPL Dimensions<sup>2</sup>

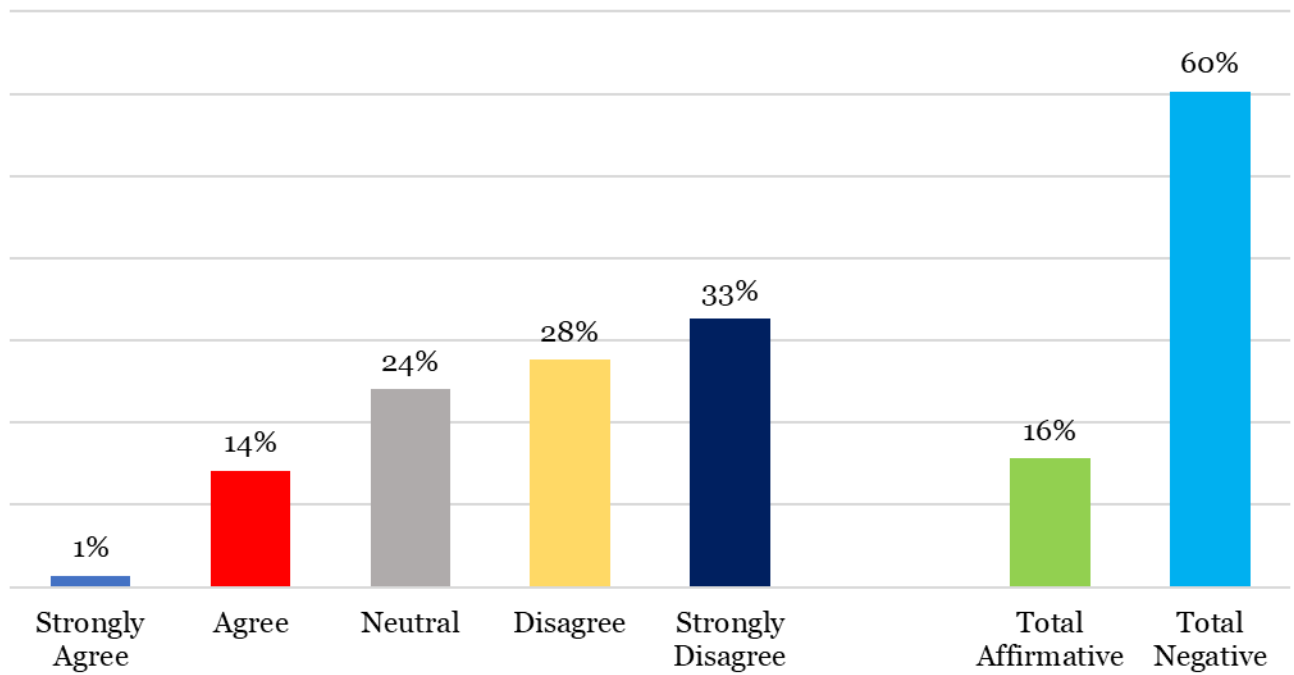
## Harmony

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

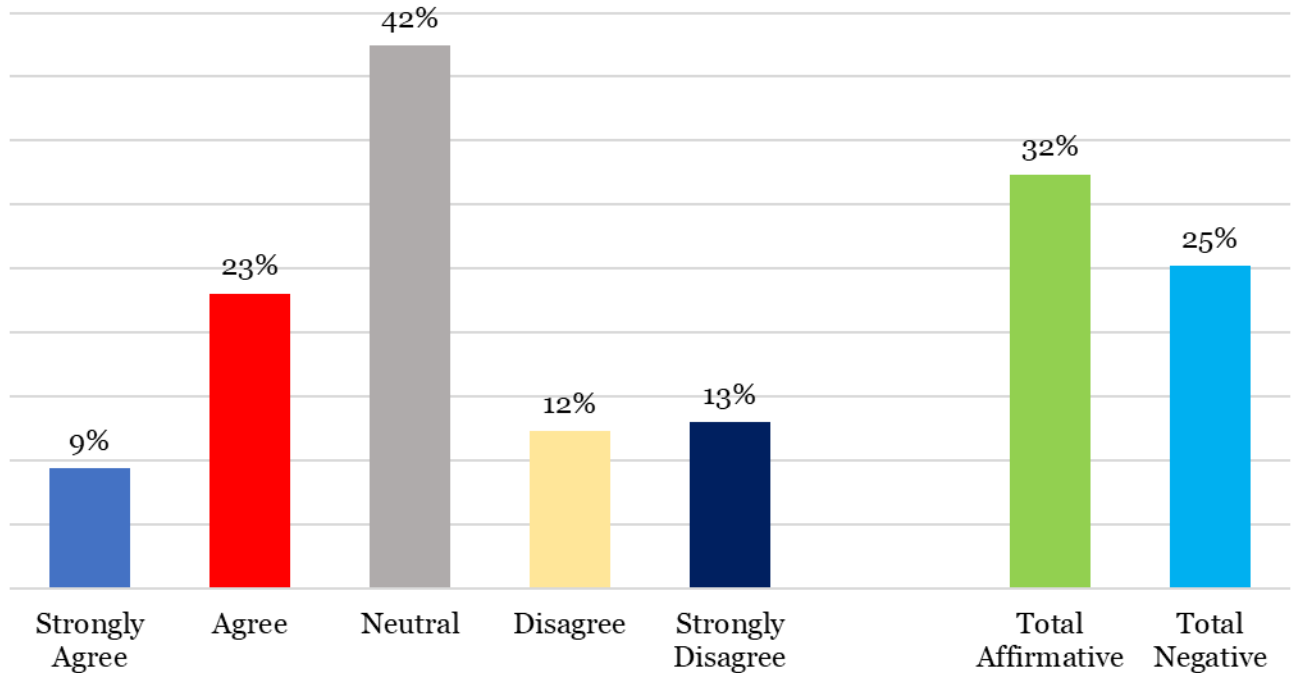


<sup>2</sup> "Total Affirmative" combines "Strongly Agree" and "Agree." "Total Negative" combines "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree." Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of responses per question.

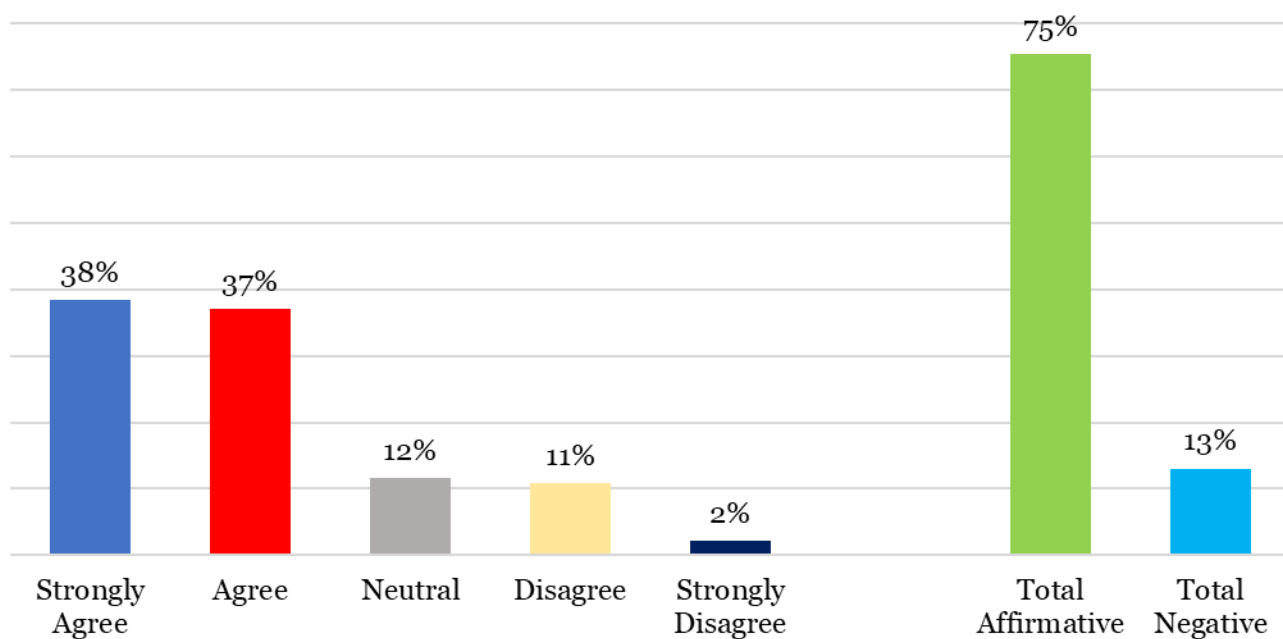
Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.



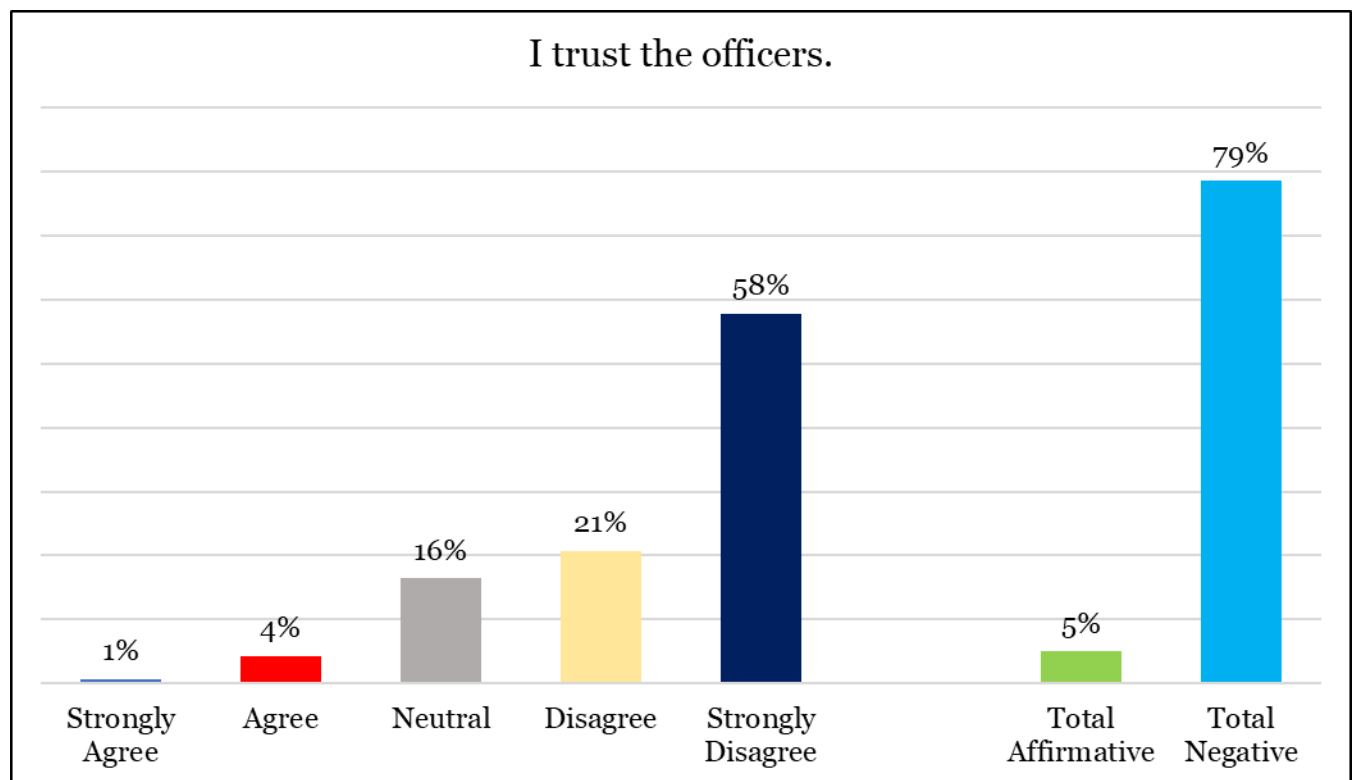
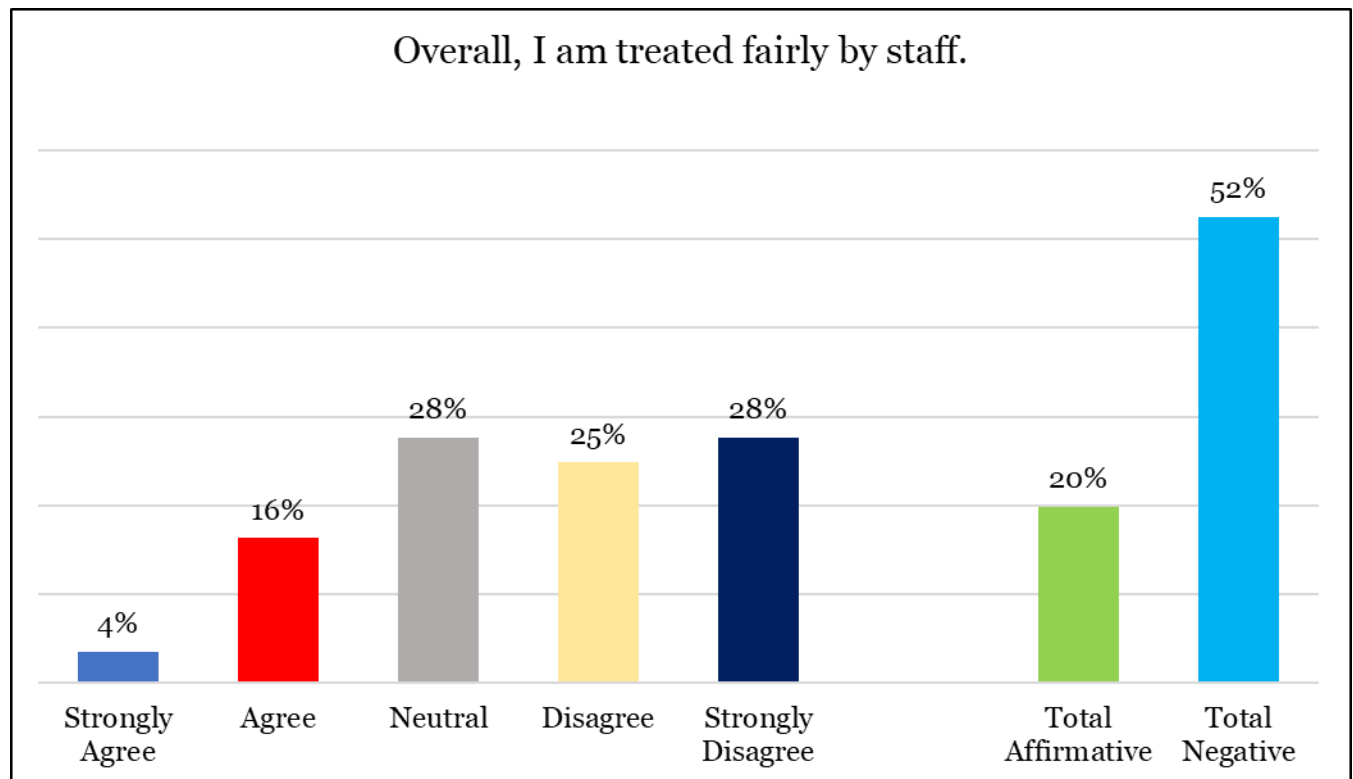
I get along well with the officers on my unit.



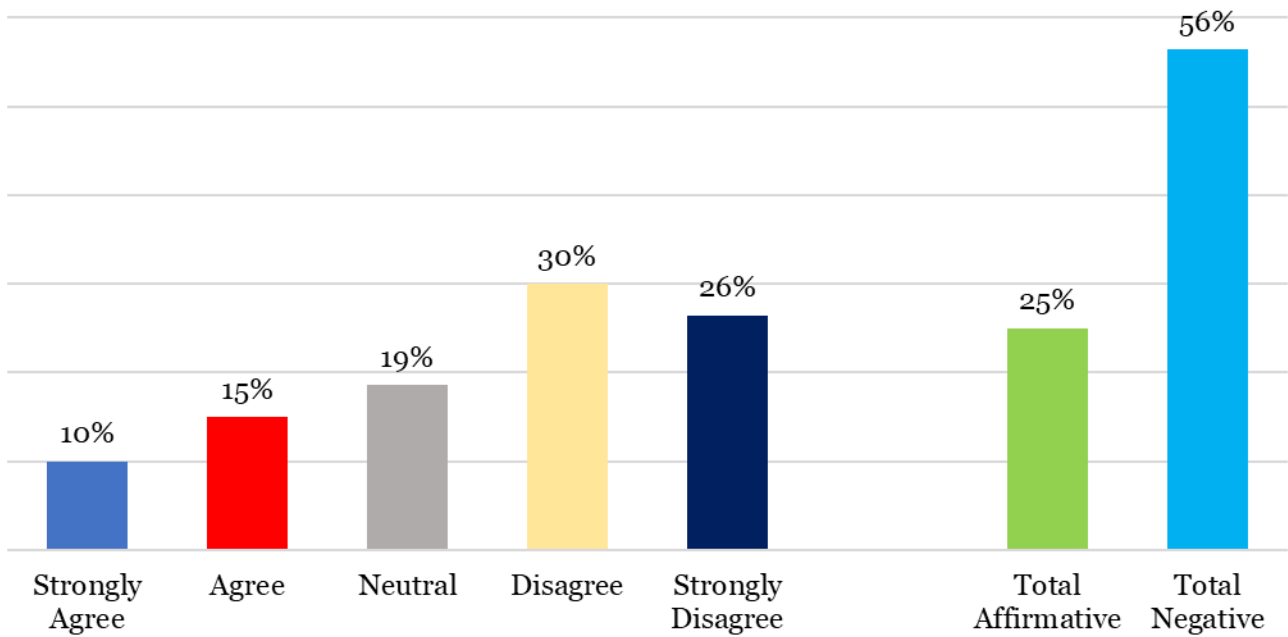
### Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.



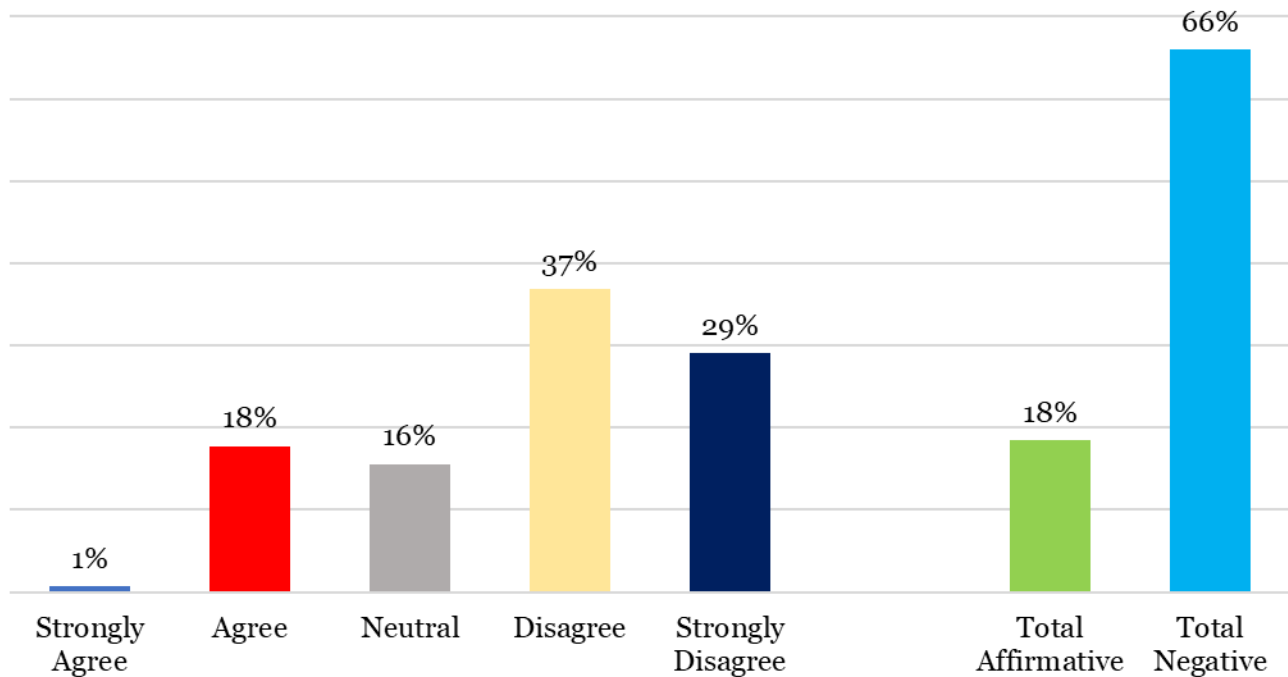
**STAFF-INCARCERATED PEOPLE RELATIONSHIPS – TRUSTING, FAIR AND SUPPORTIVE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN STAFF AND INCARCERATED PEOPLE**



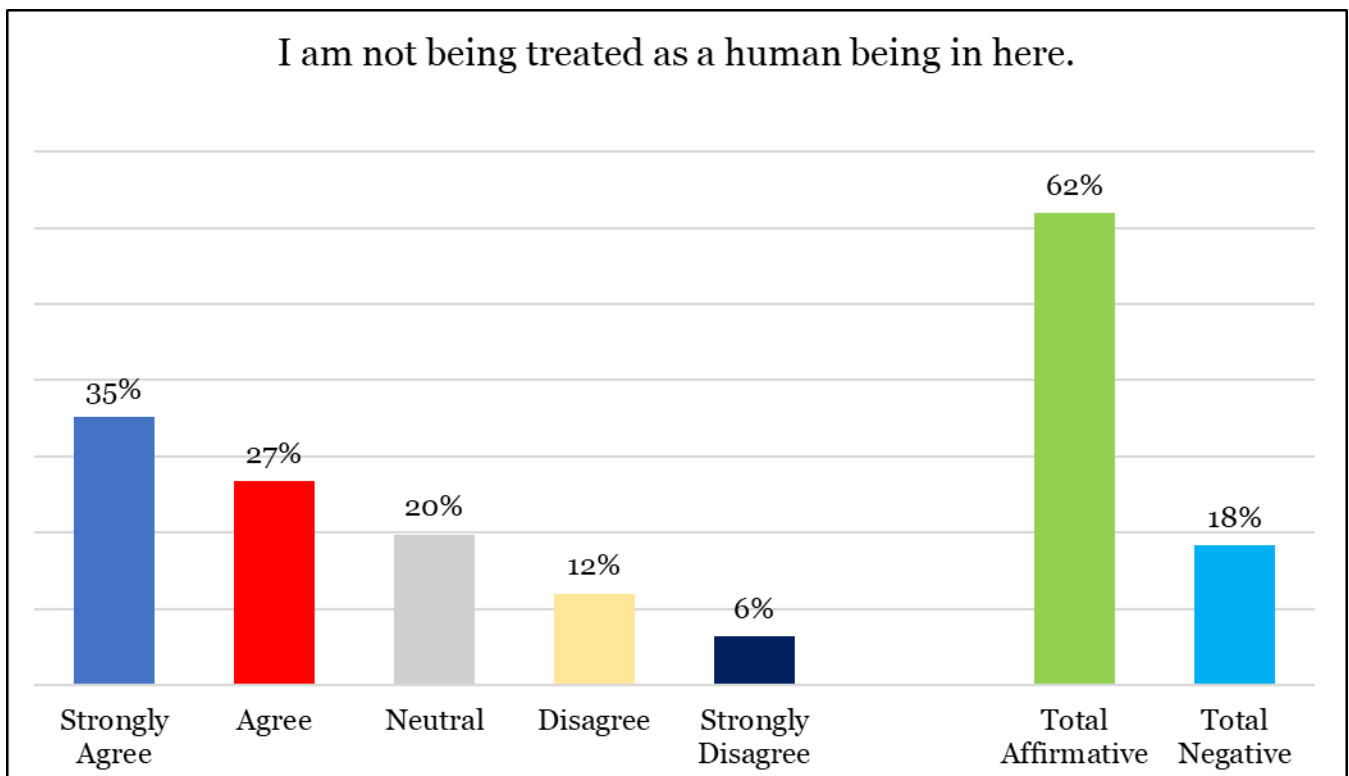
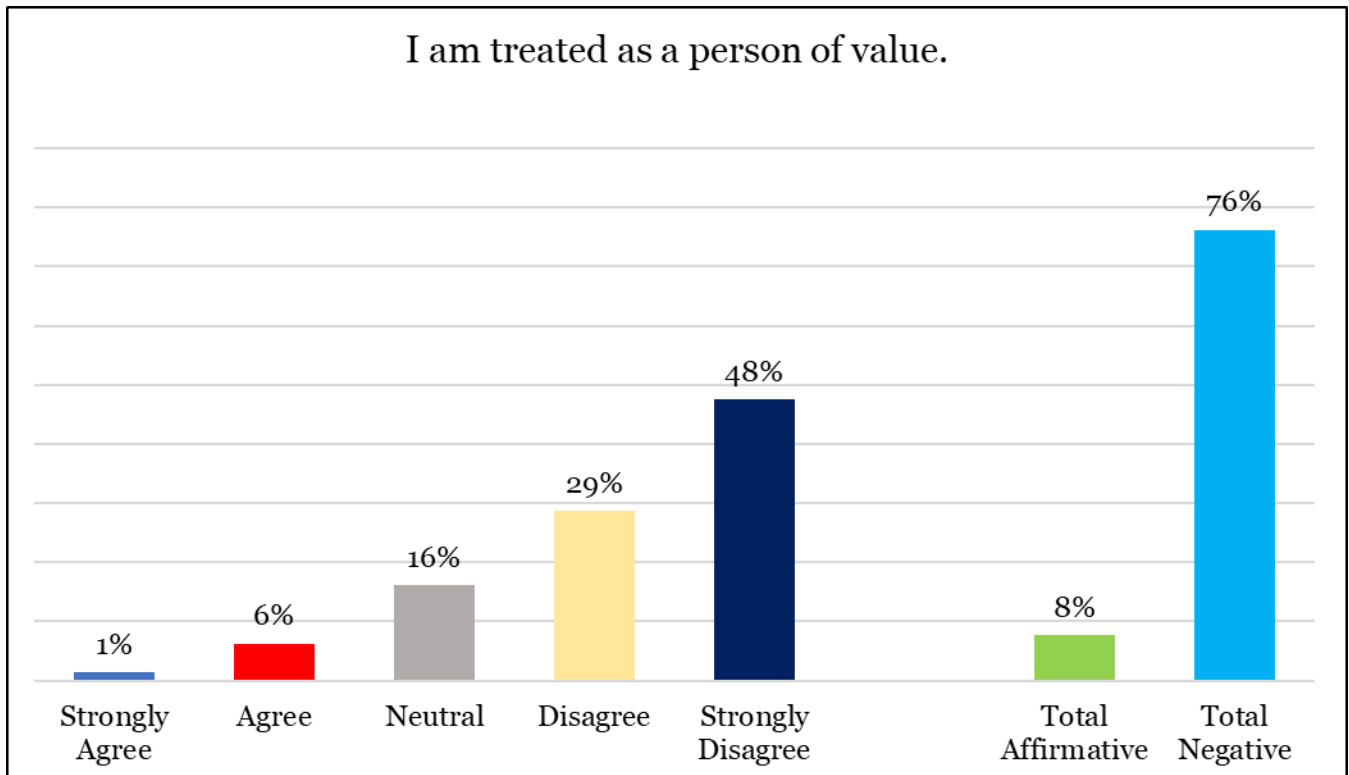
When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.



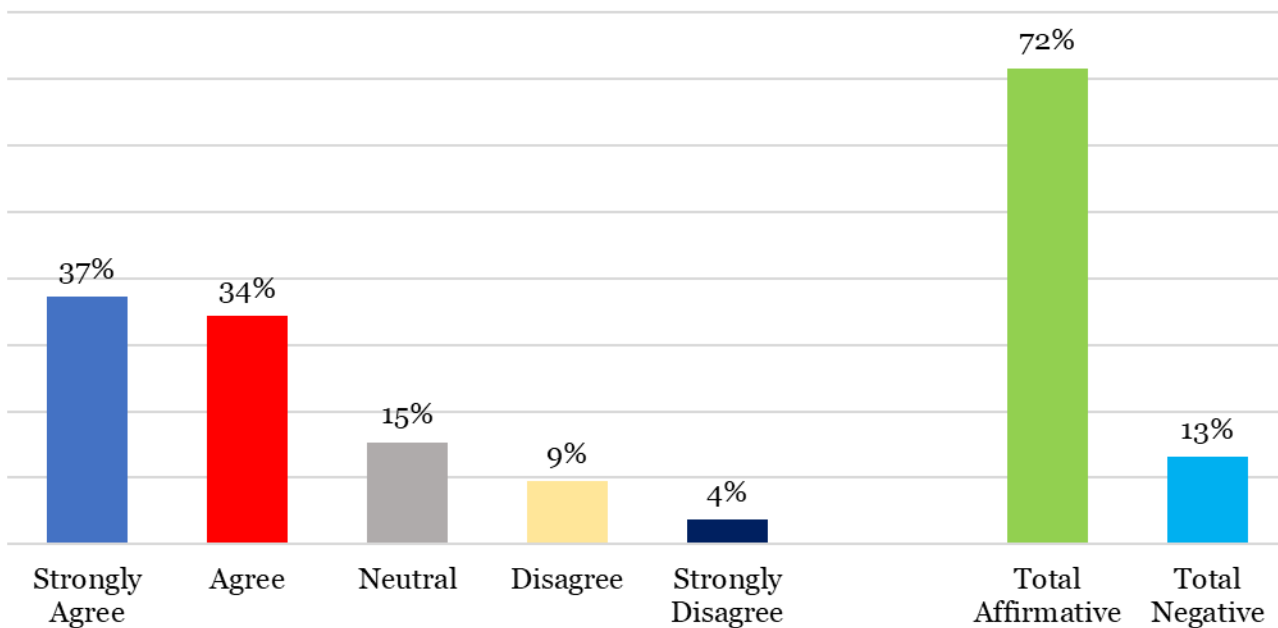
I receive support from staff when I need it.



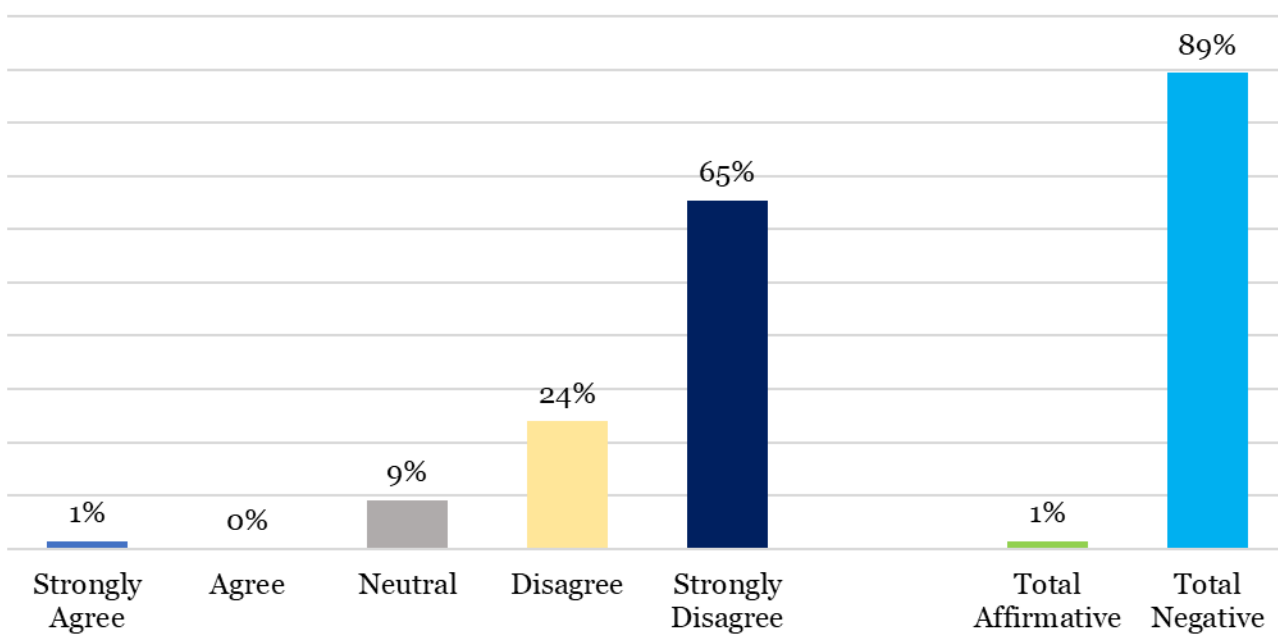
**HUMANITY** – AN ENVIRONMENT CHARACTERIZED BY KIND REGARD AND CONCERN FOR THE PERSON, WHICH RECOGNIZES THE VALUE AND HUMANITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL



Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.

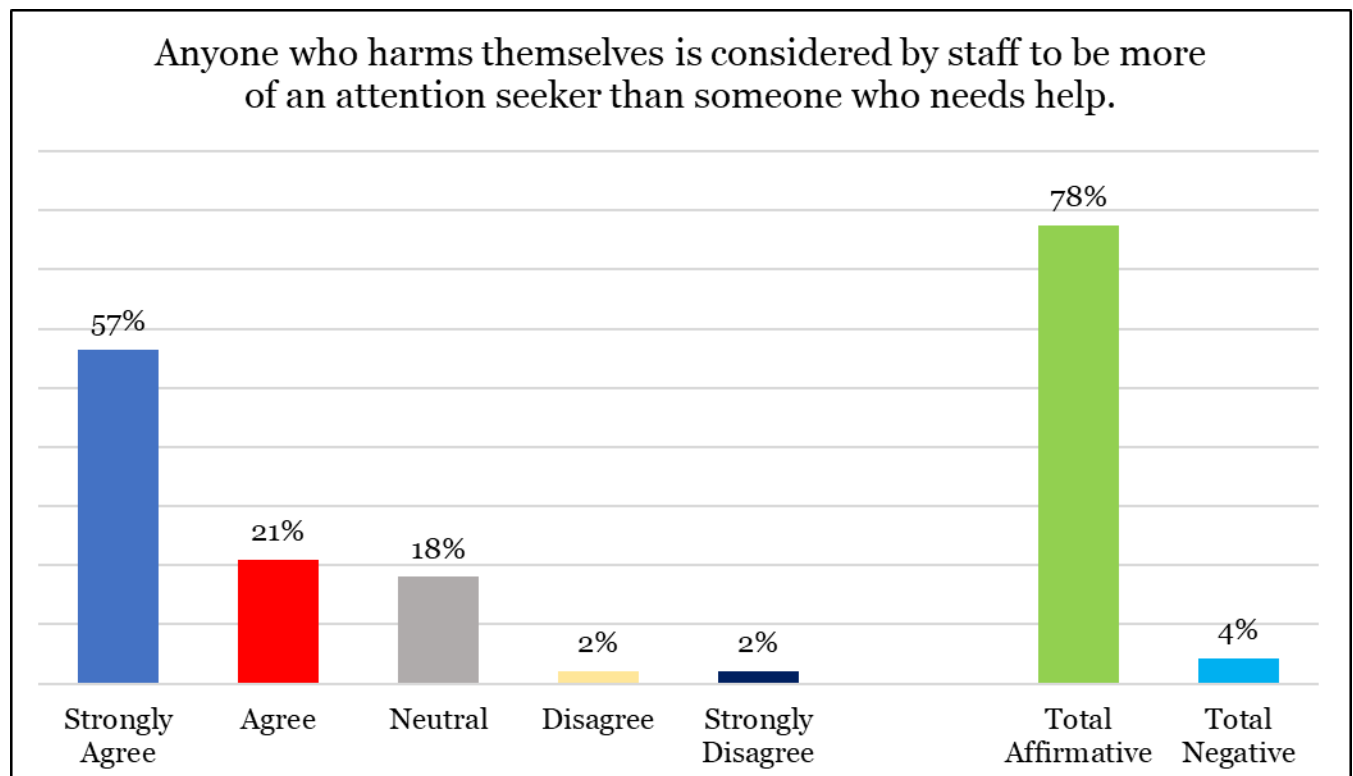
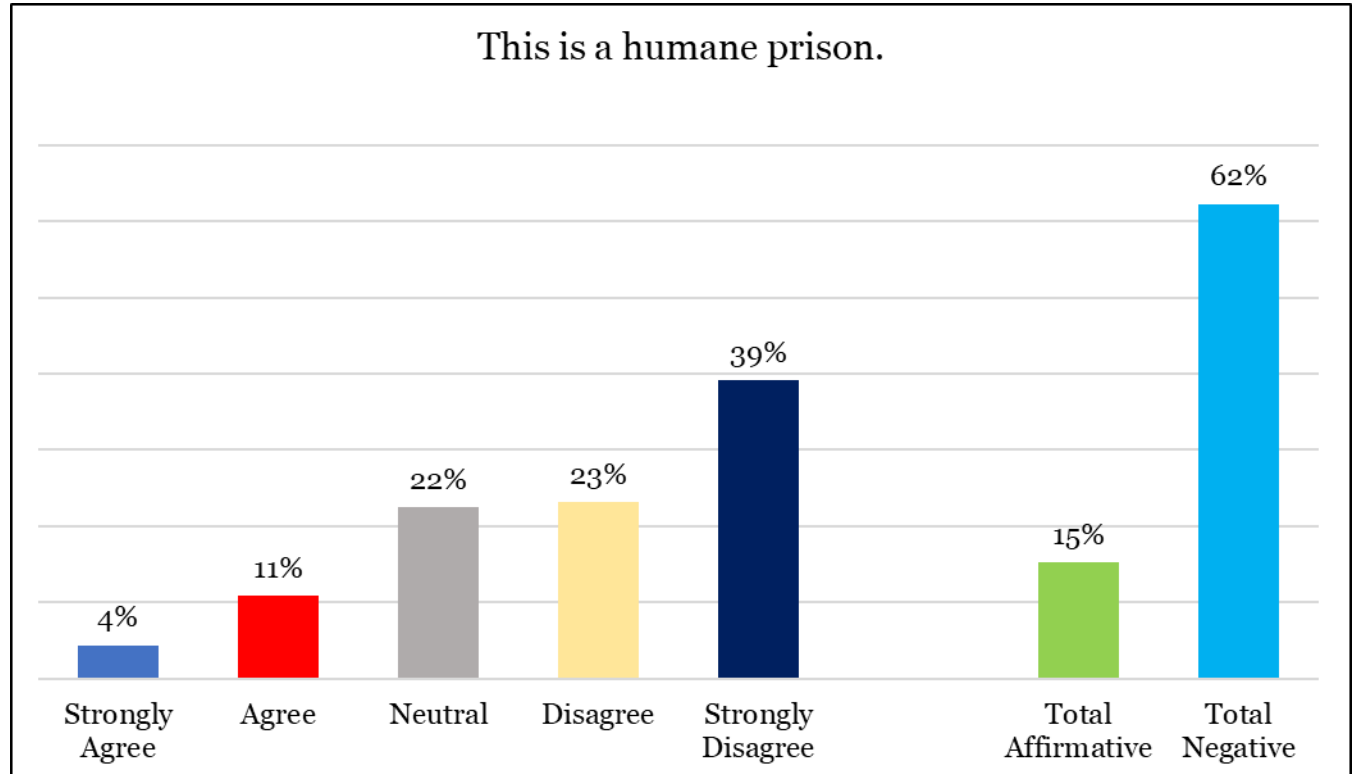


Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.

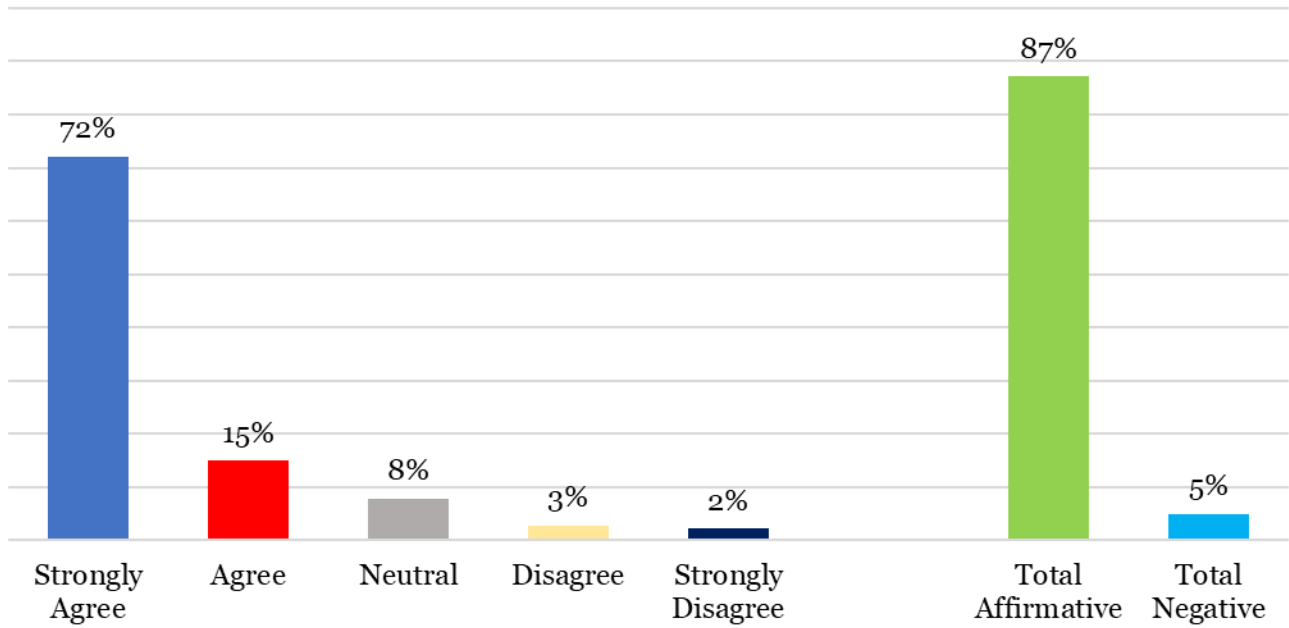




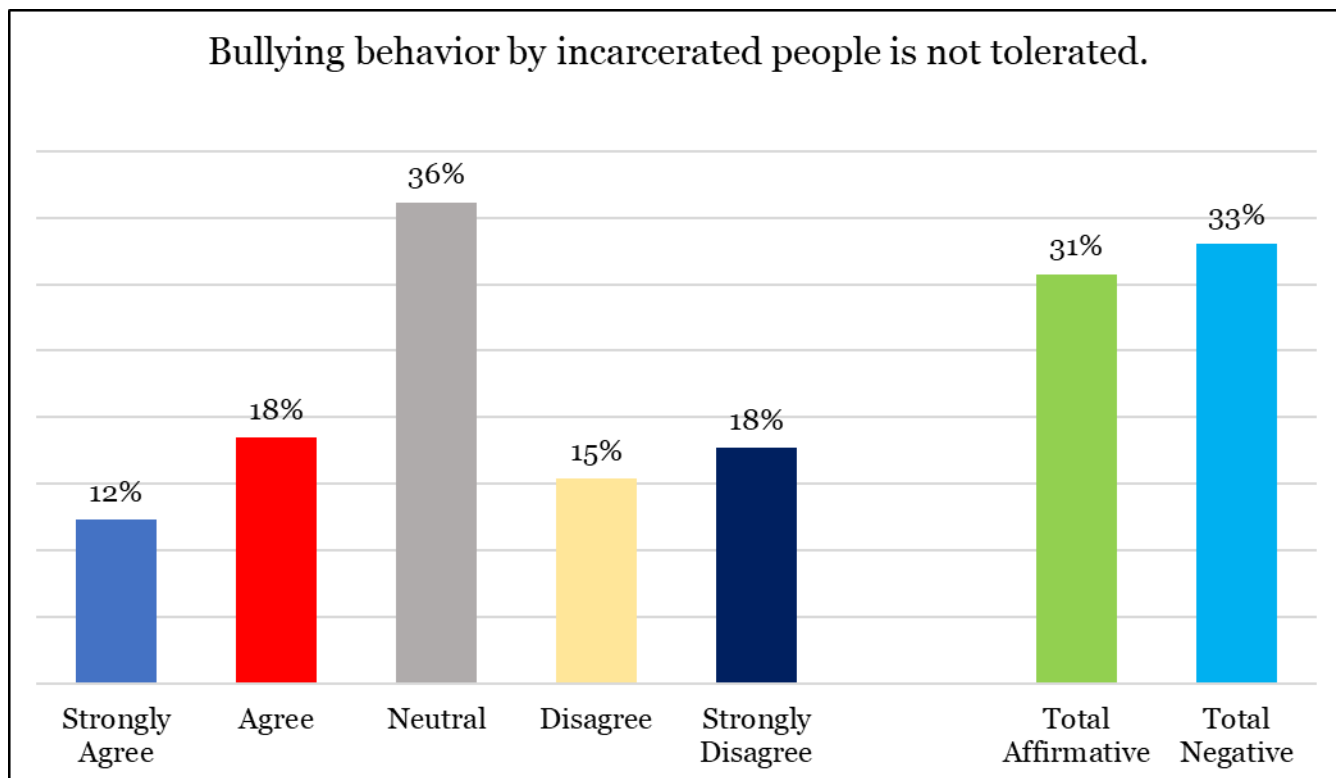
**DECENCY - THE EXTENT TO WHICH STAFF AND THE REGIME ARE CONSIDERED REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE**



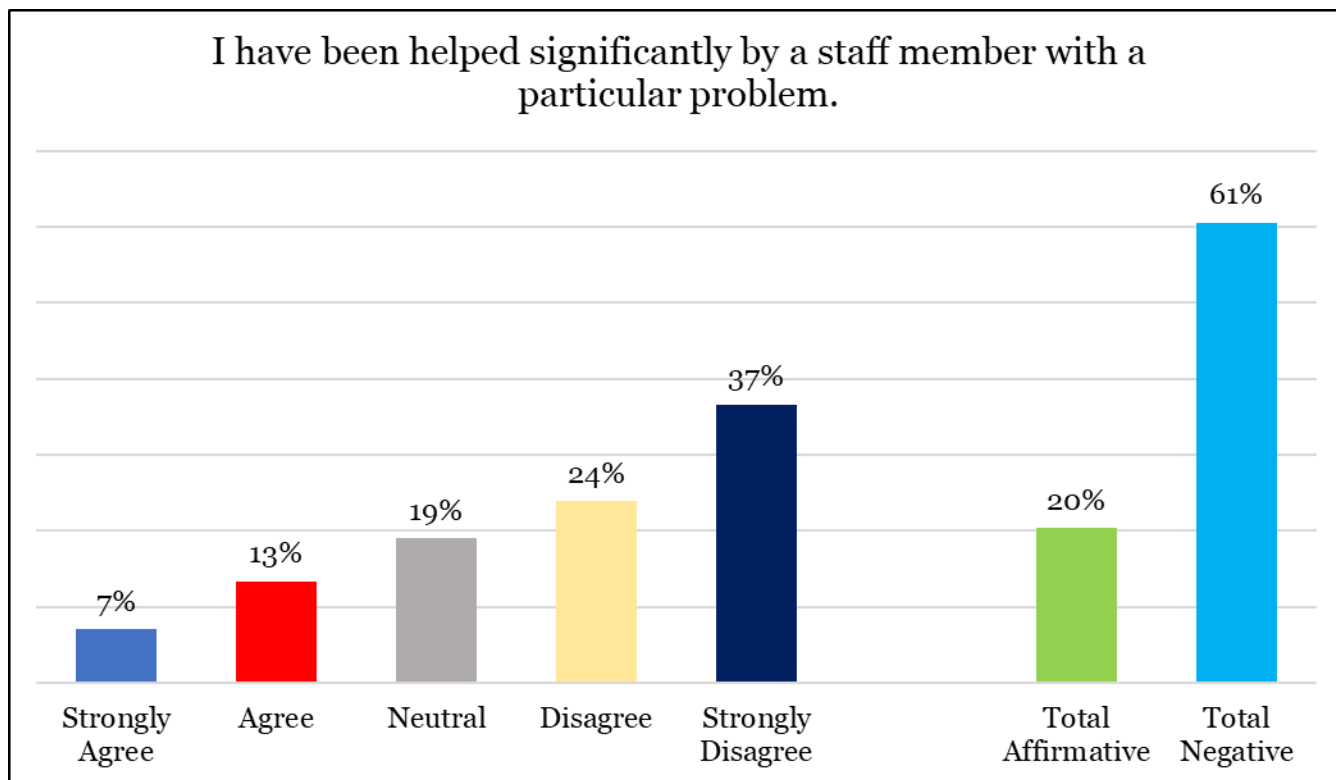
Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.



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

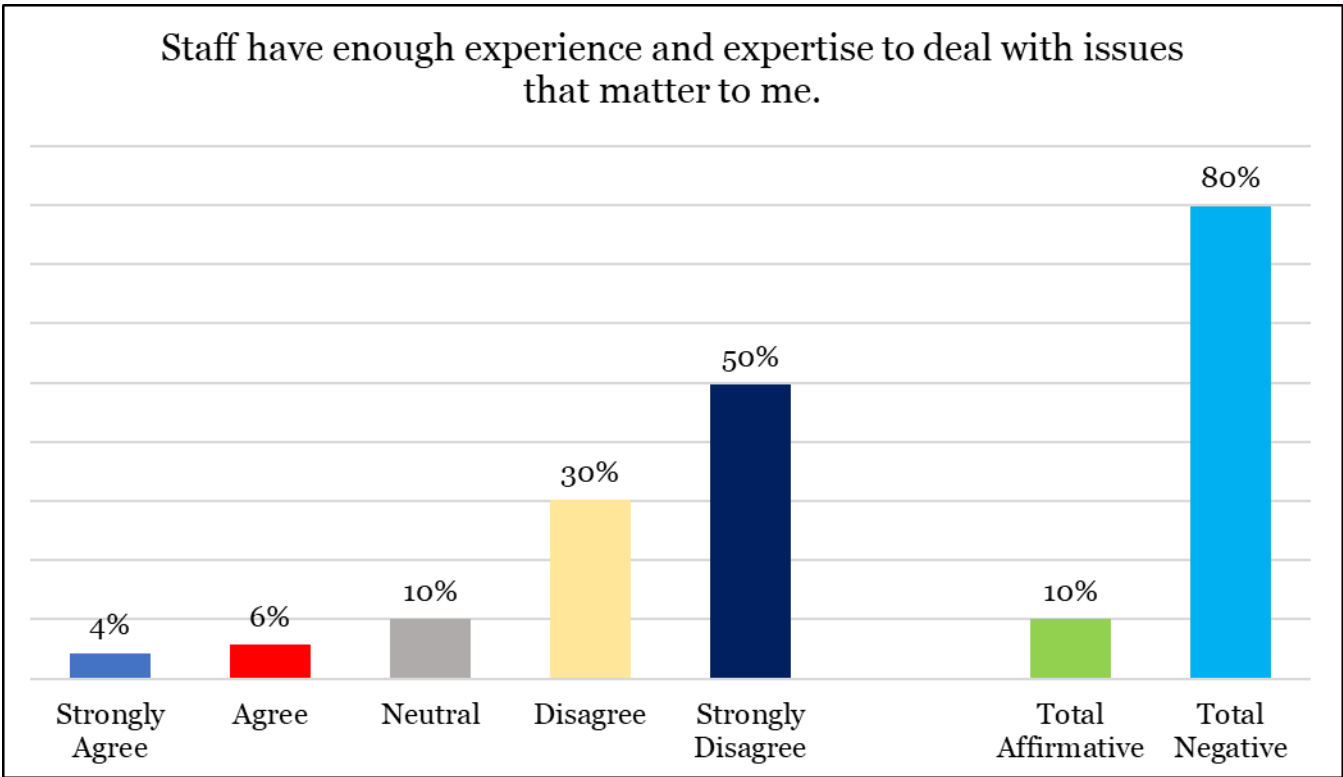
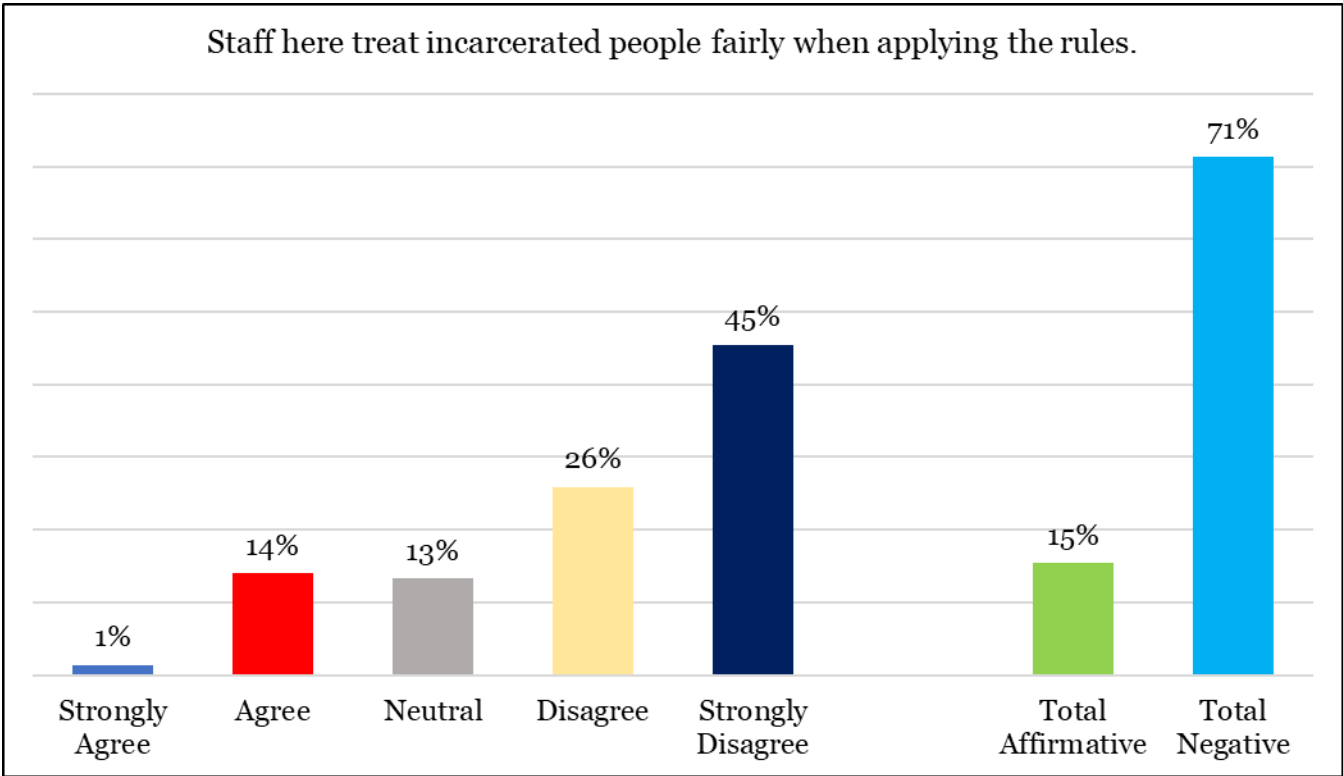


**HELP AND ASSISTANCE – SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN TO INCARCERATED PEOPLE FOR PROBLEMS INCLUDING DRUGS, HEALTHCARE AND PROGRESSION**

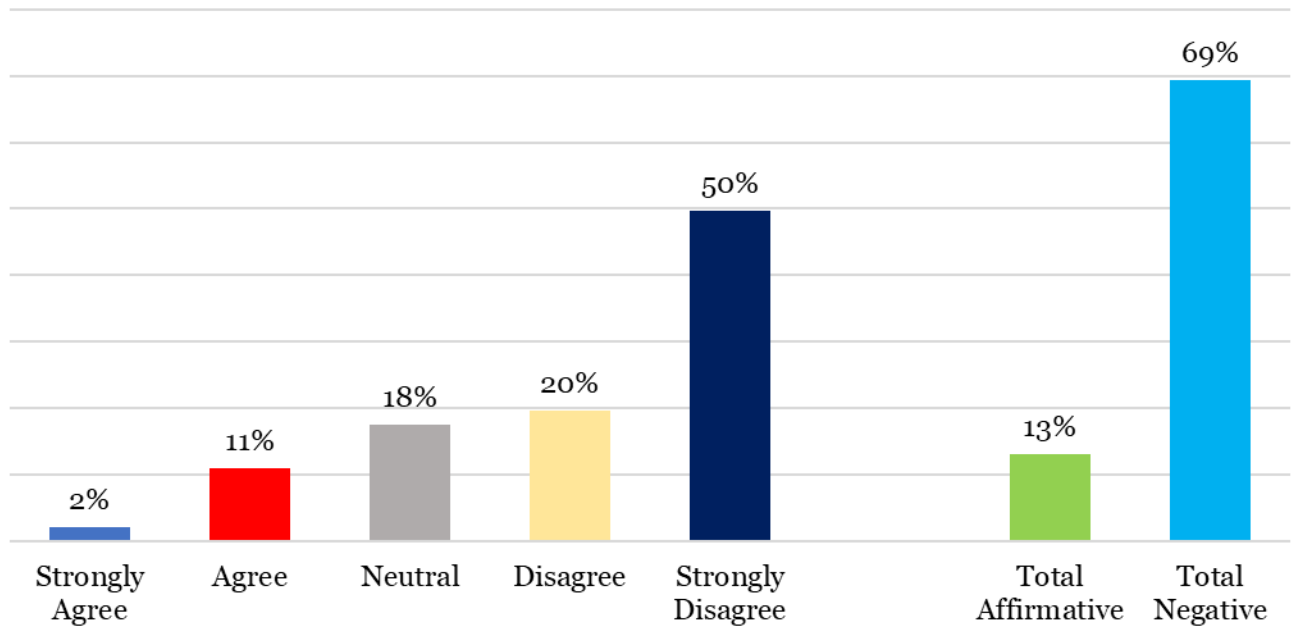


# Professionalism

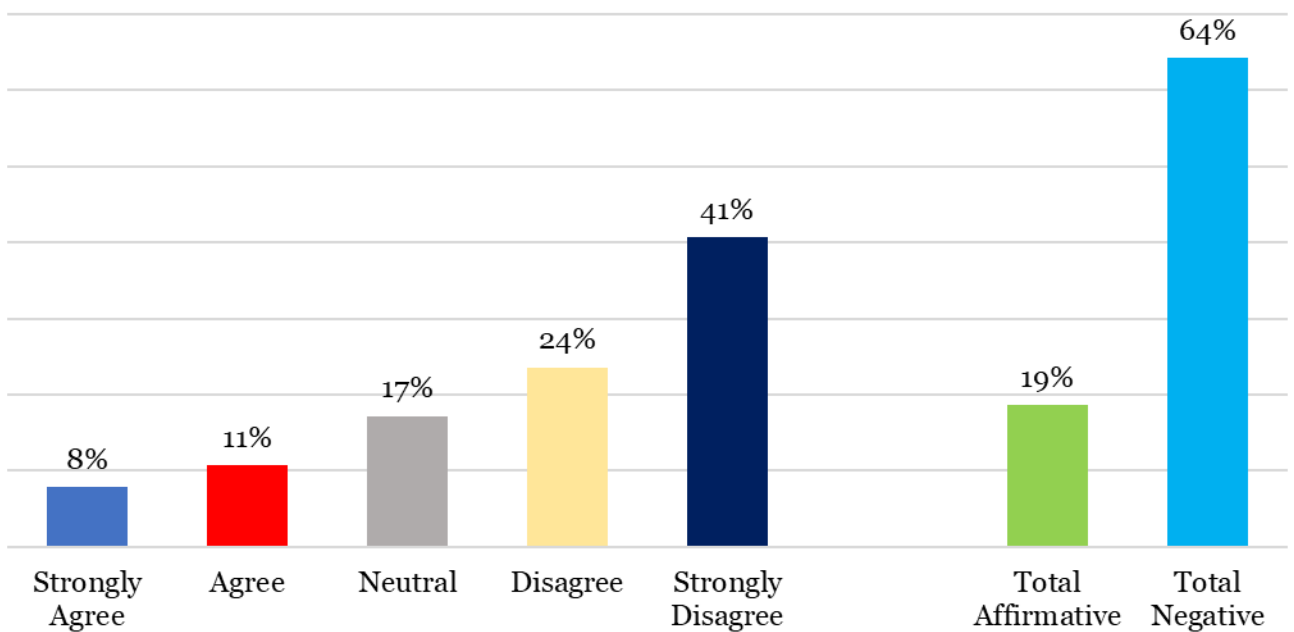
## STAFF PROFESSIONALISM – STAFF CONFIDENCE AND COMPETENCE IN THE USE OF AUTHORITY



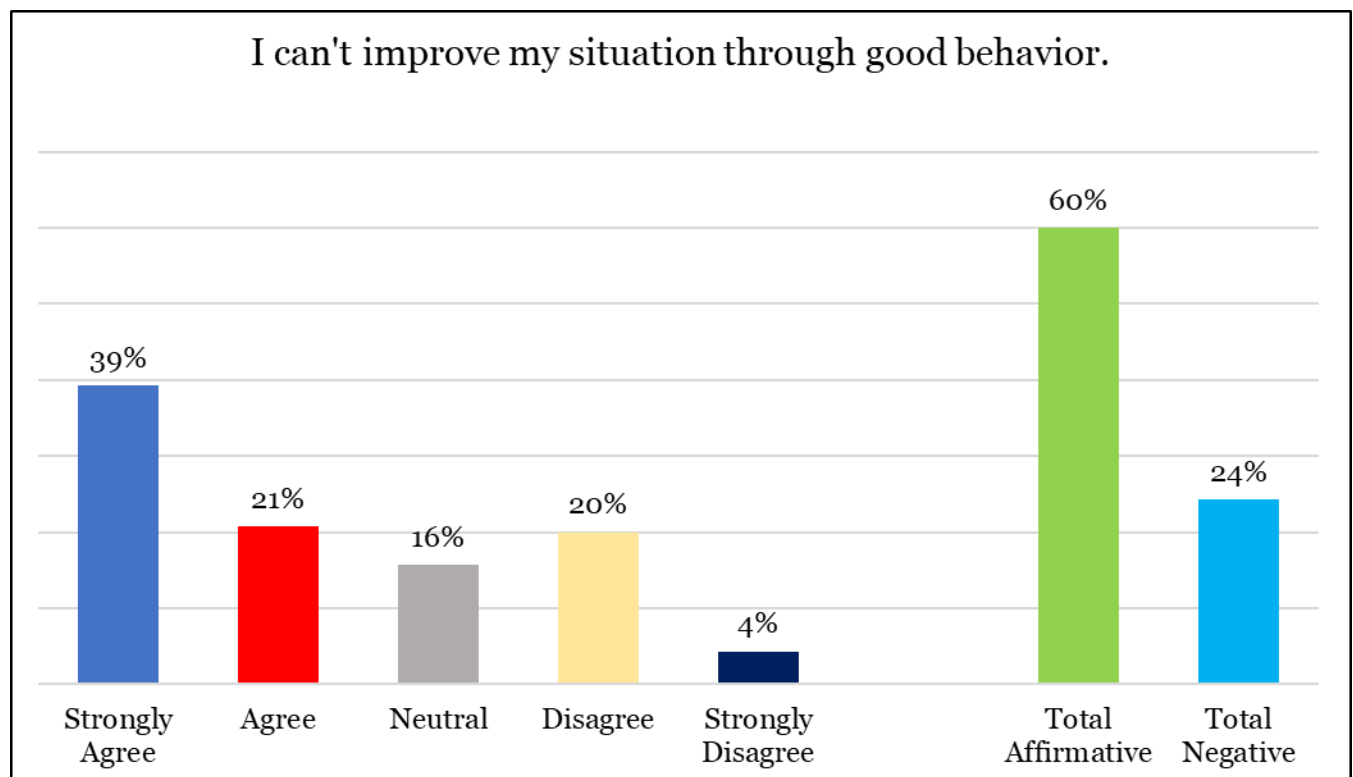
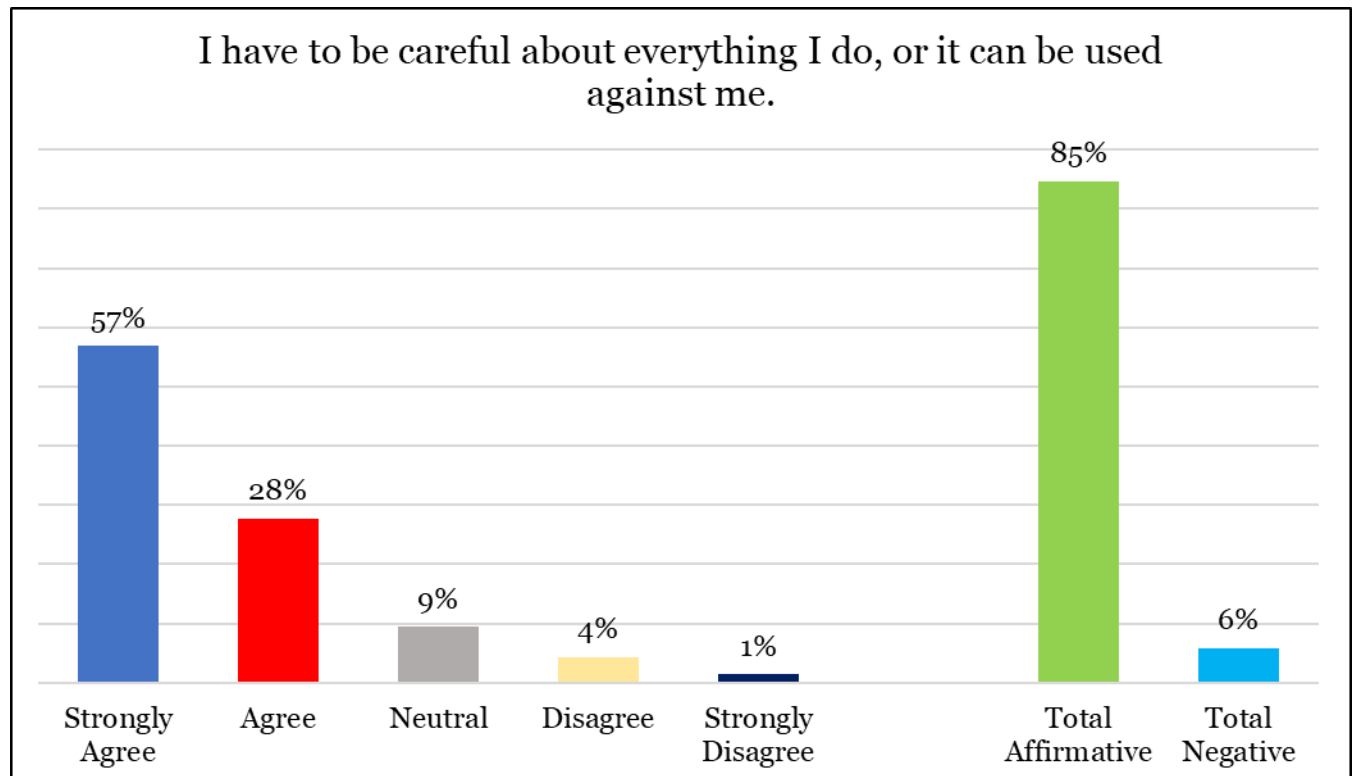
The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.



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

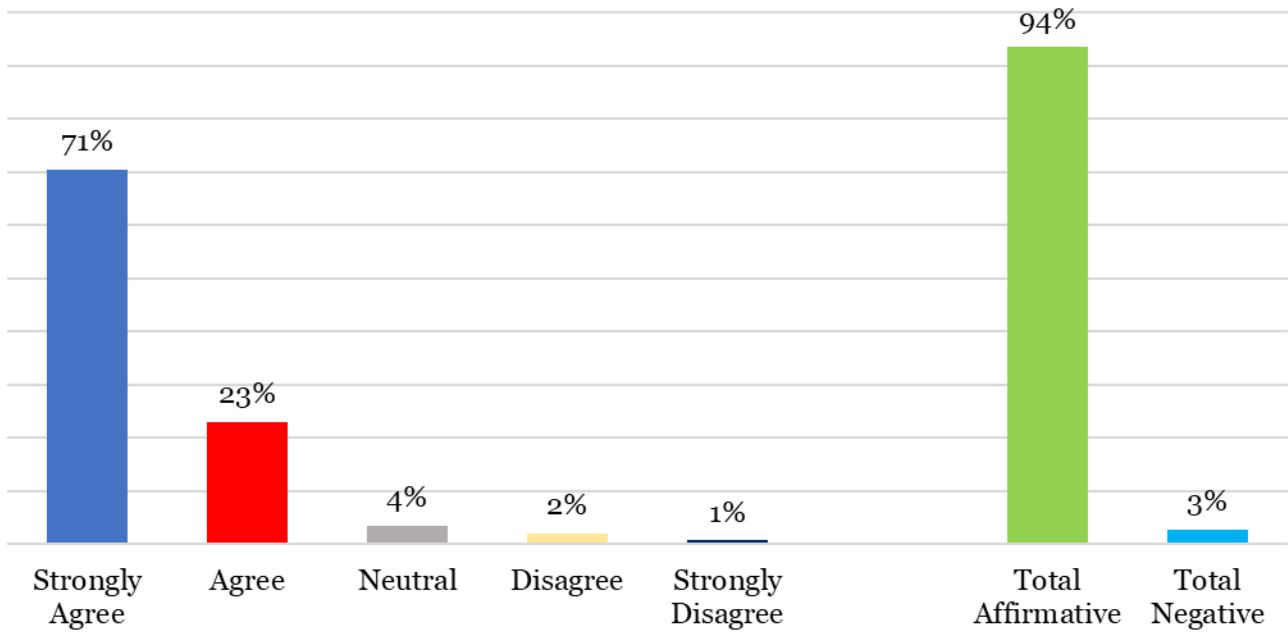


**BUREAUCRATIC LEGITIMACY – THE TRANSPARENCY AND RESPONSIVENESS OF THE PRISON/PRISON SYSTEM AND ITS MORAL RECOGNITION OF THE INDIVIDUAL**

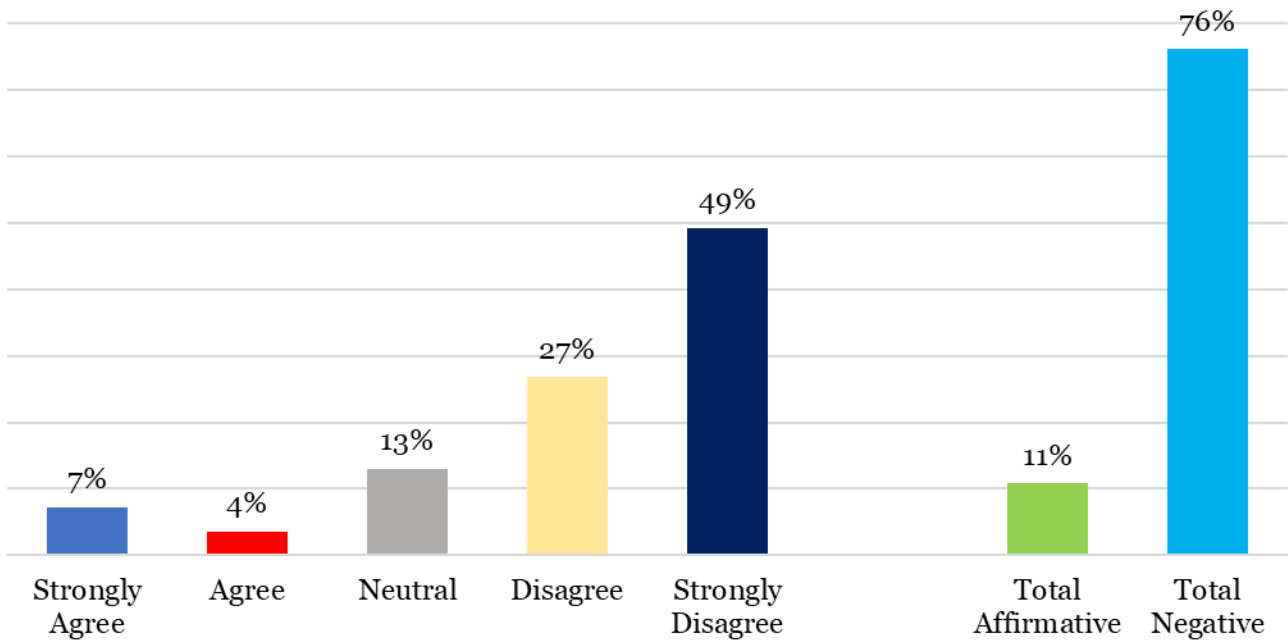


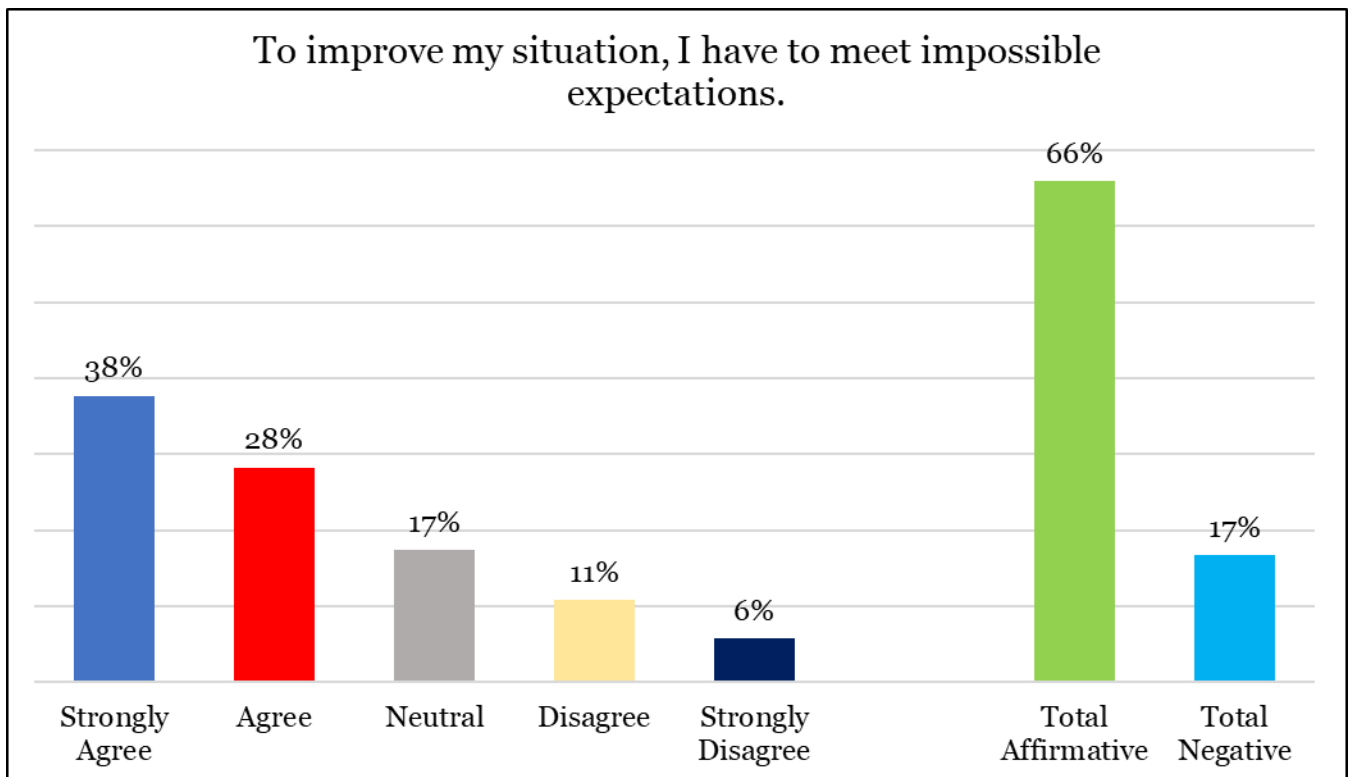


All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.

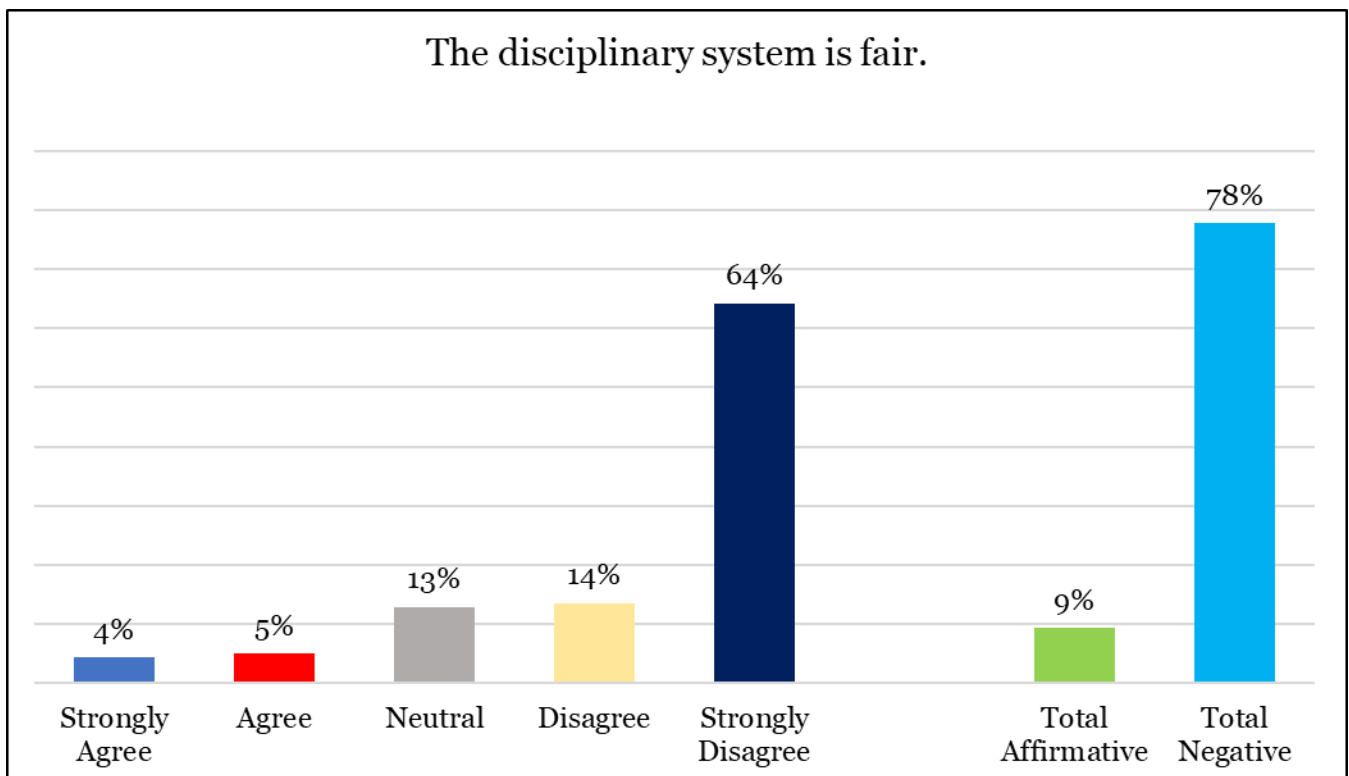


When important decisions are made about me, I am treated as an individual, not a number.

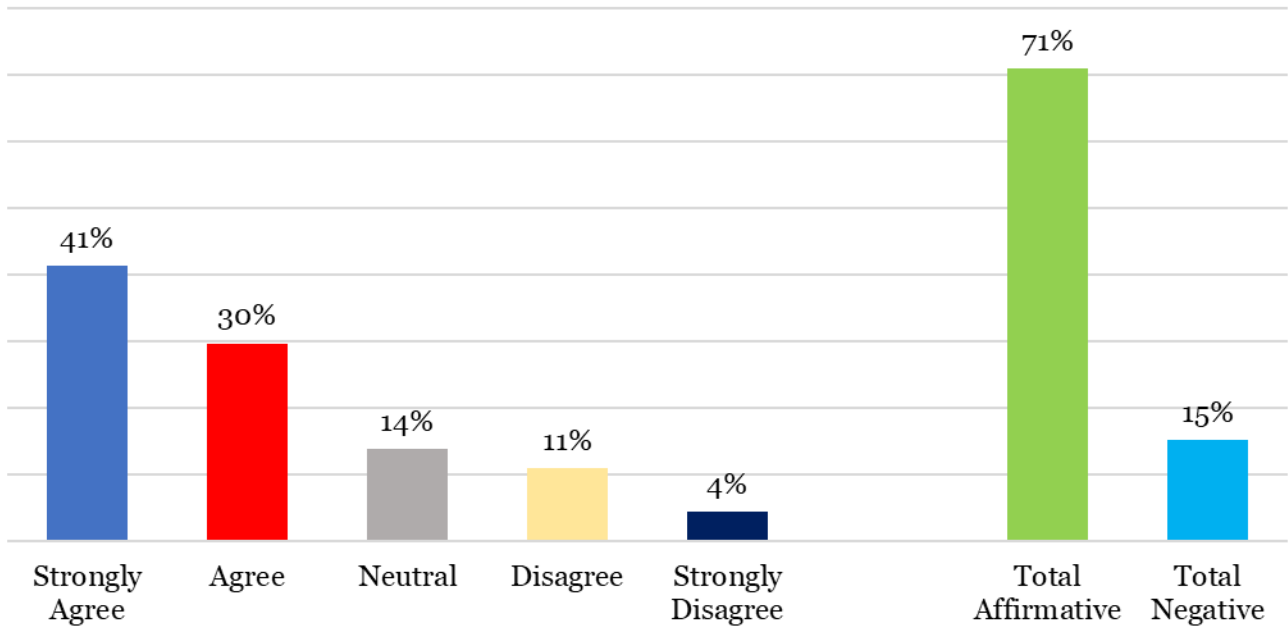




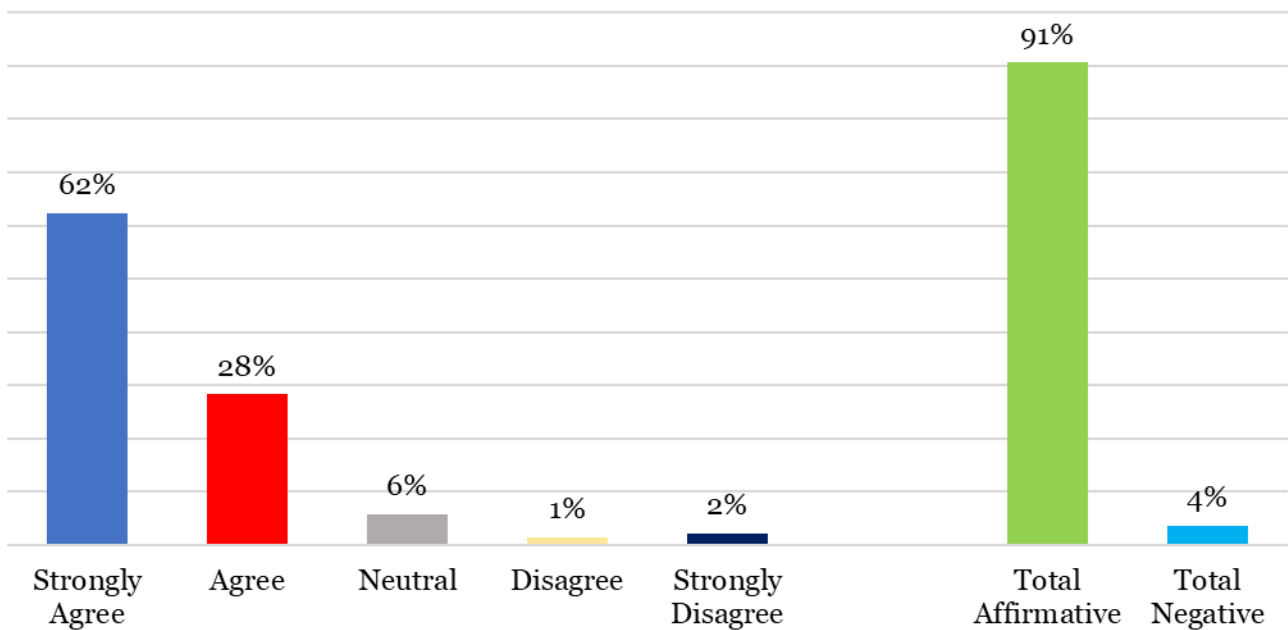
**FAIRNESS** – THE PERCEIVED IMPARTIALITY, PROPORTIONALITY AND LEGALITY OF PUNISHMENTS AND PROCEDURES



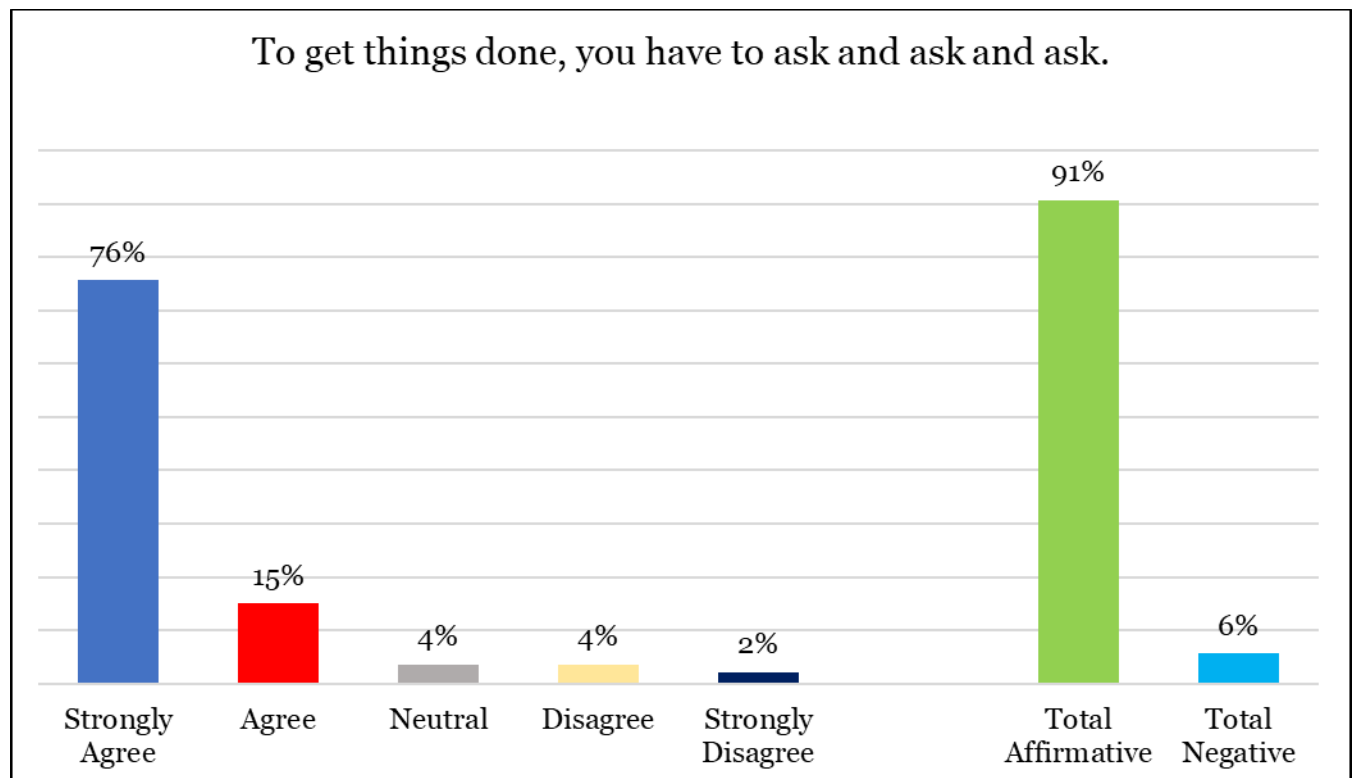
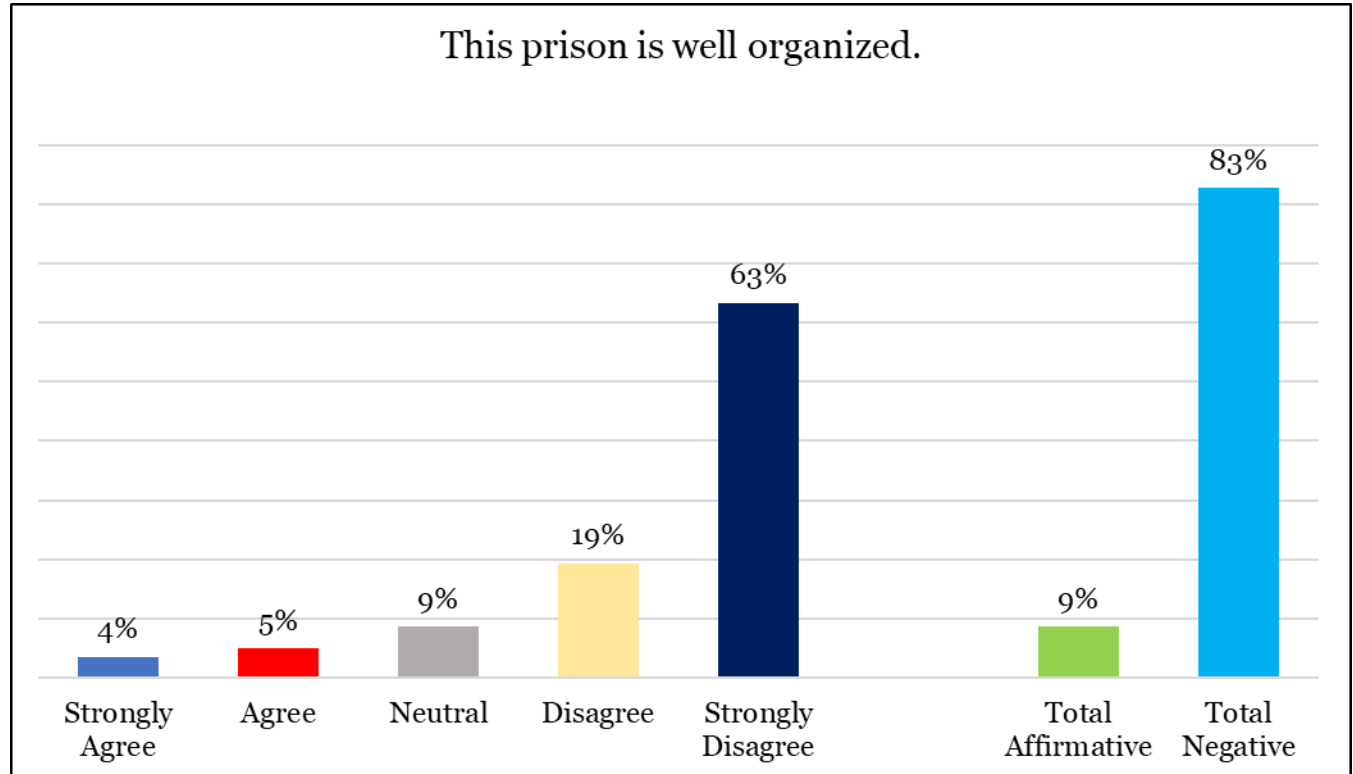
Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.



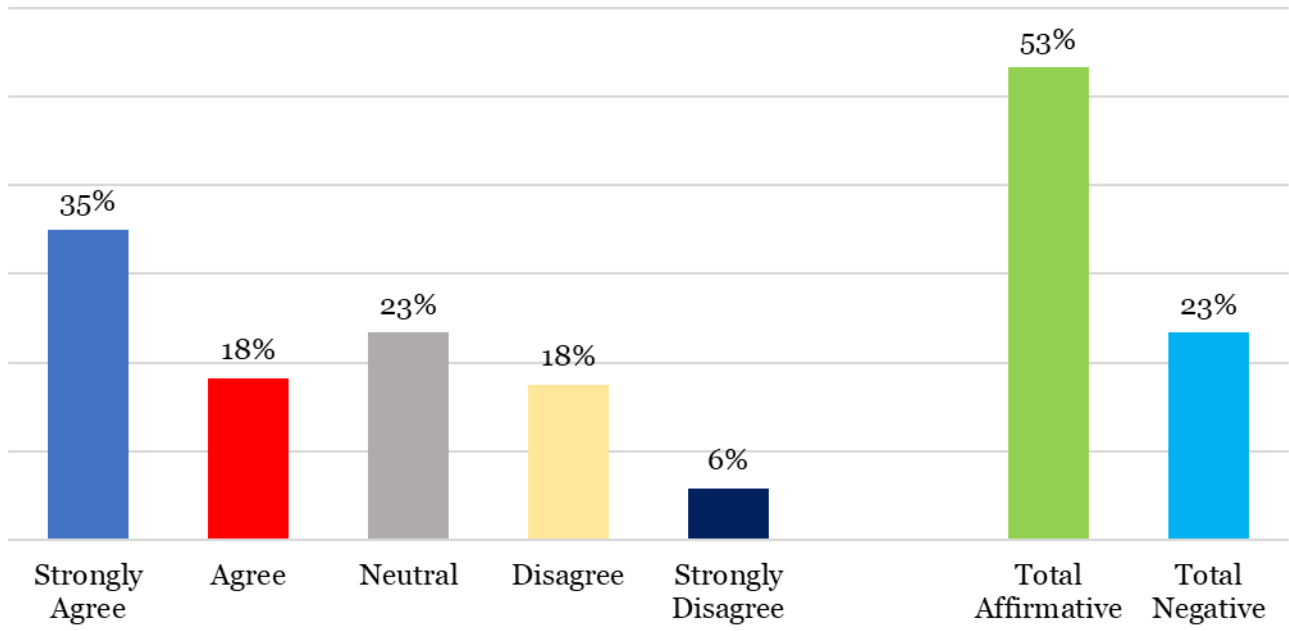
This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.



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

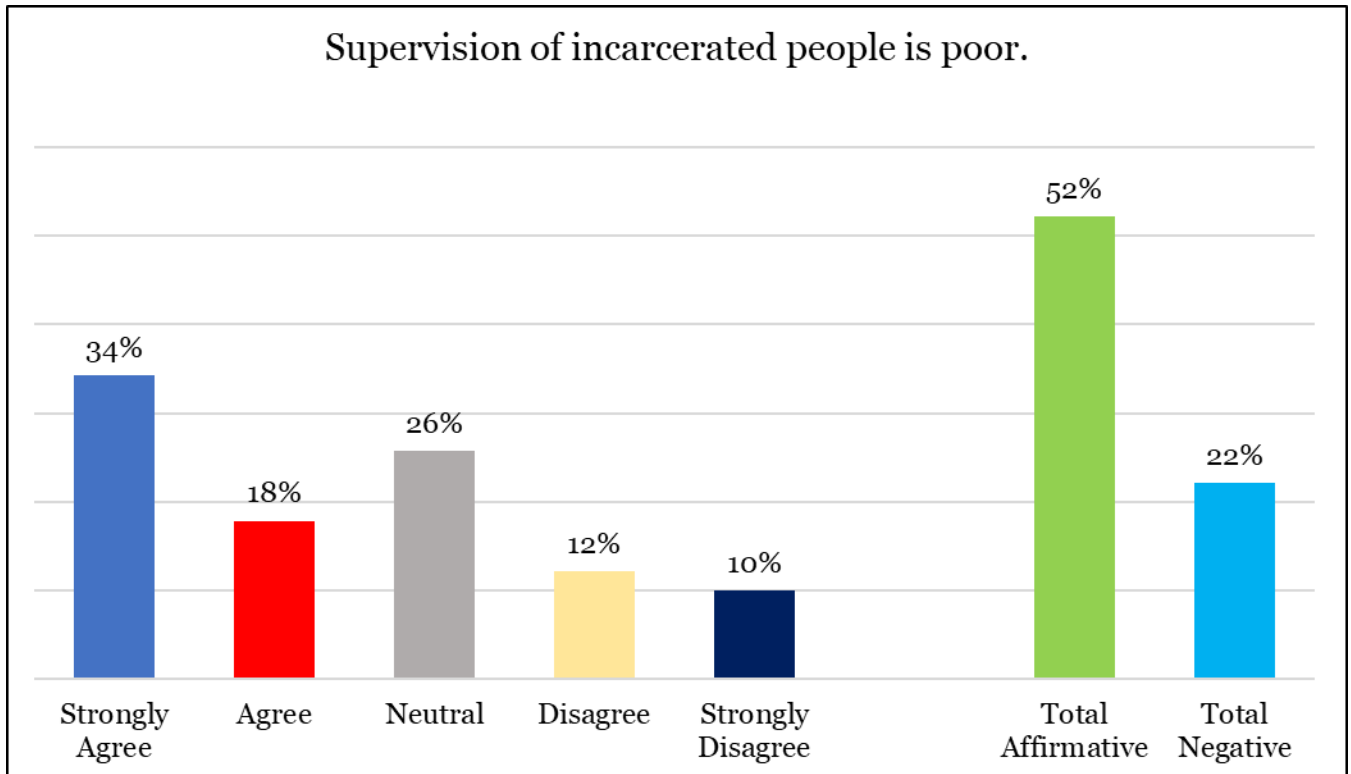


You never know the rules.

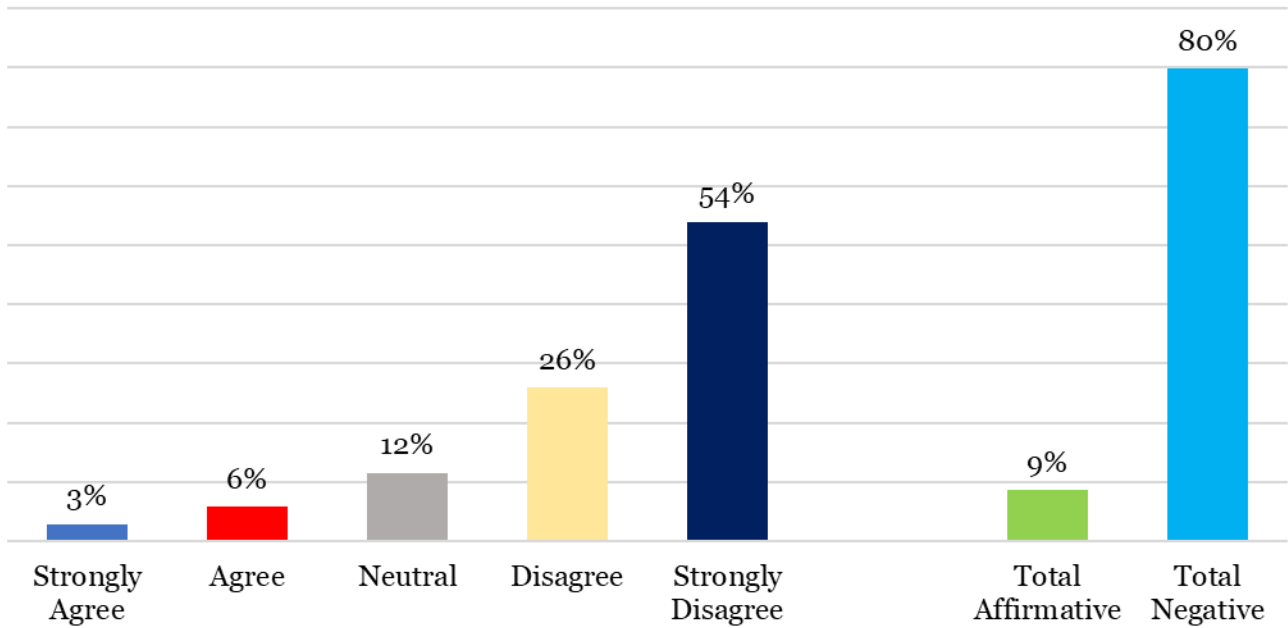


# Security

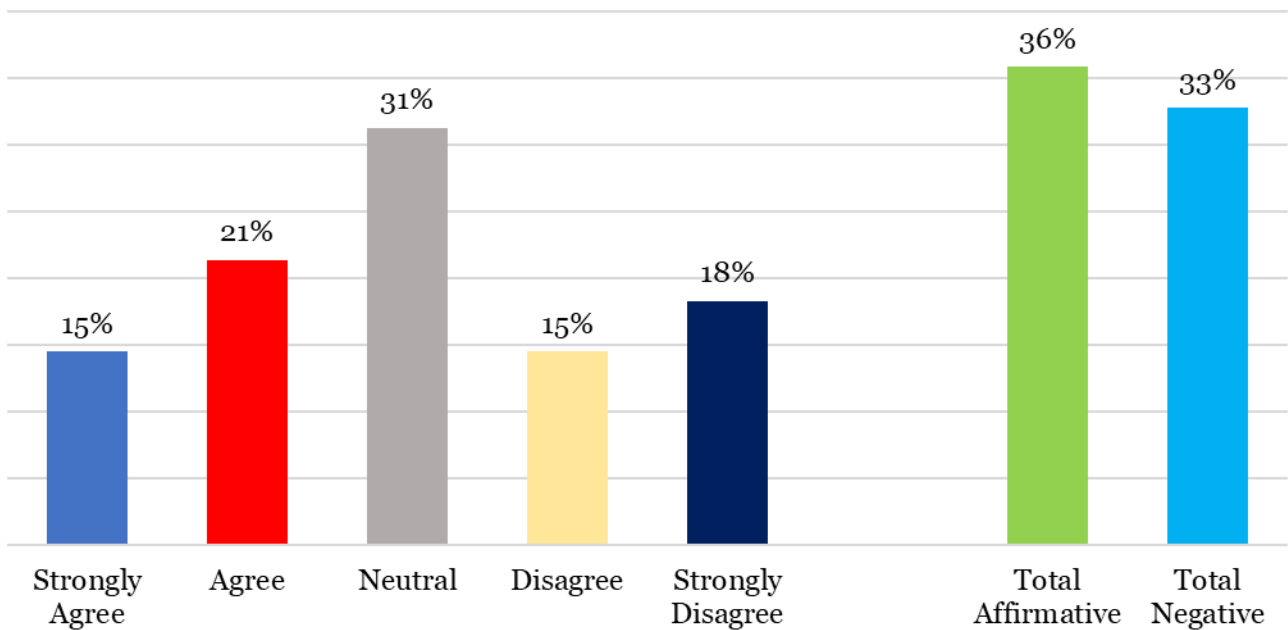
## POLICING AND SECURITY – STAFF SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT



This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.

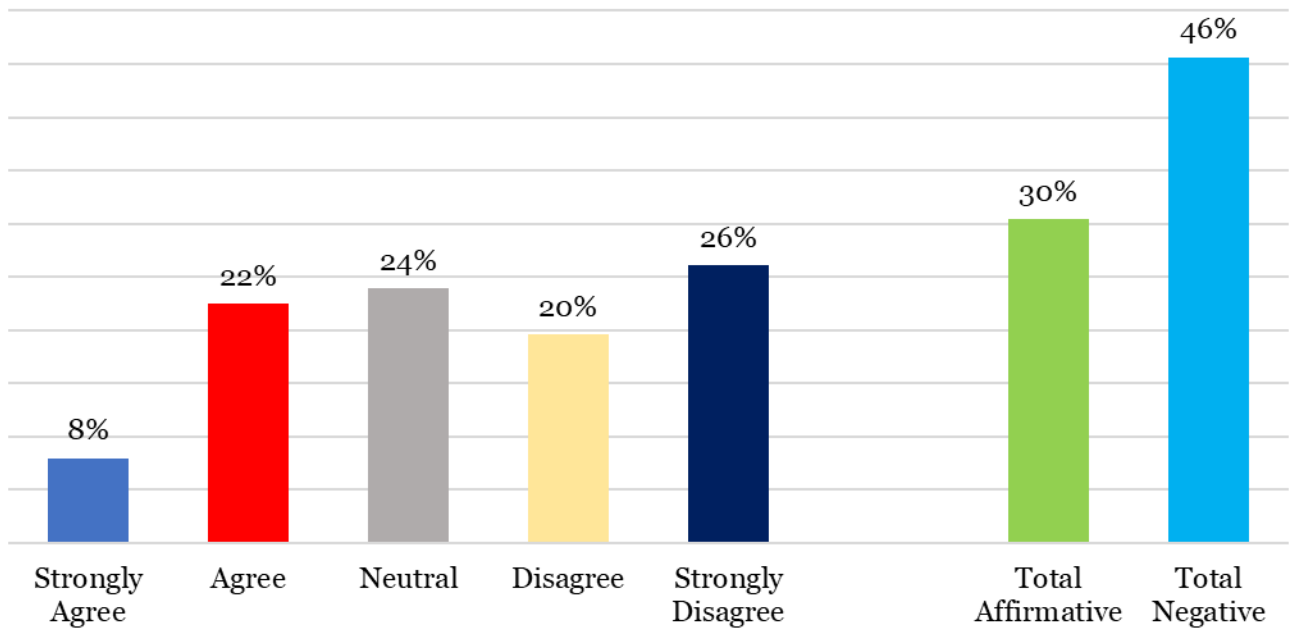


There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.

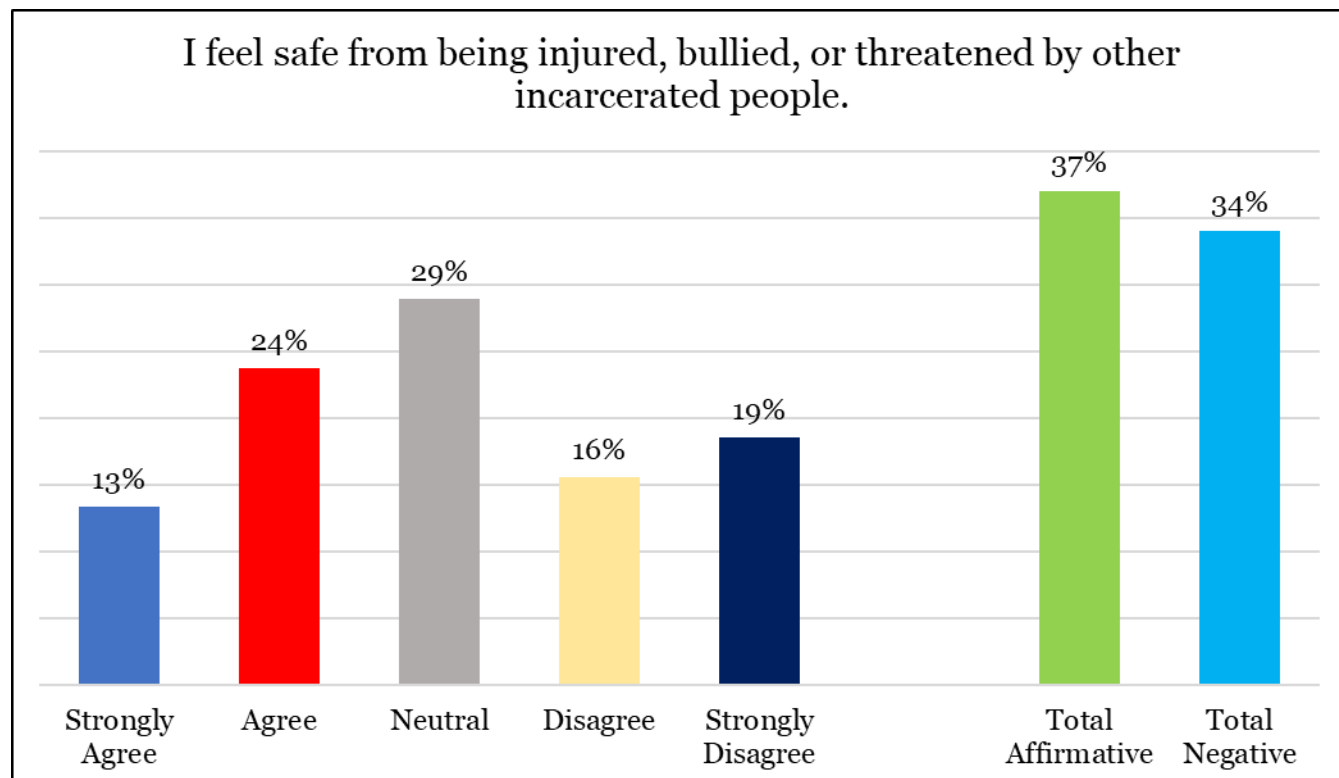




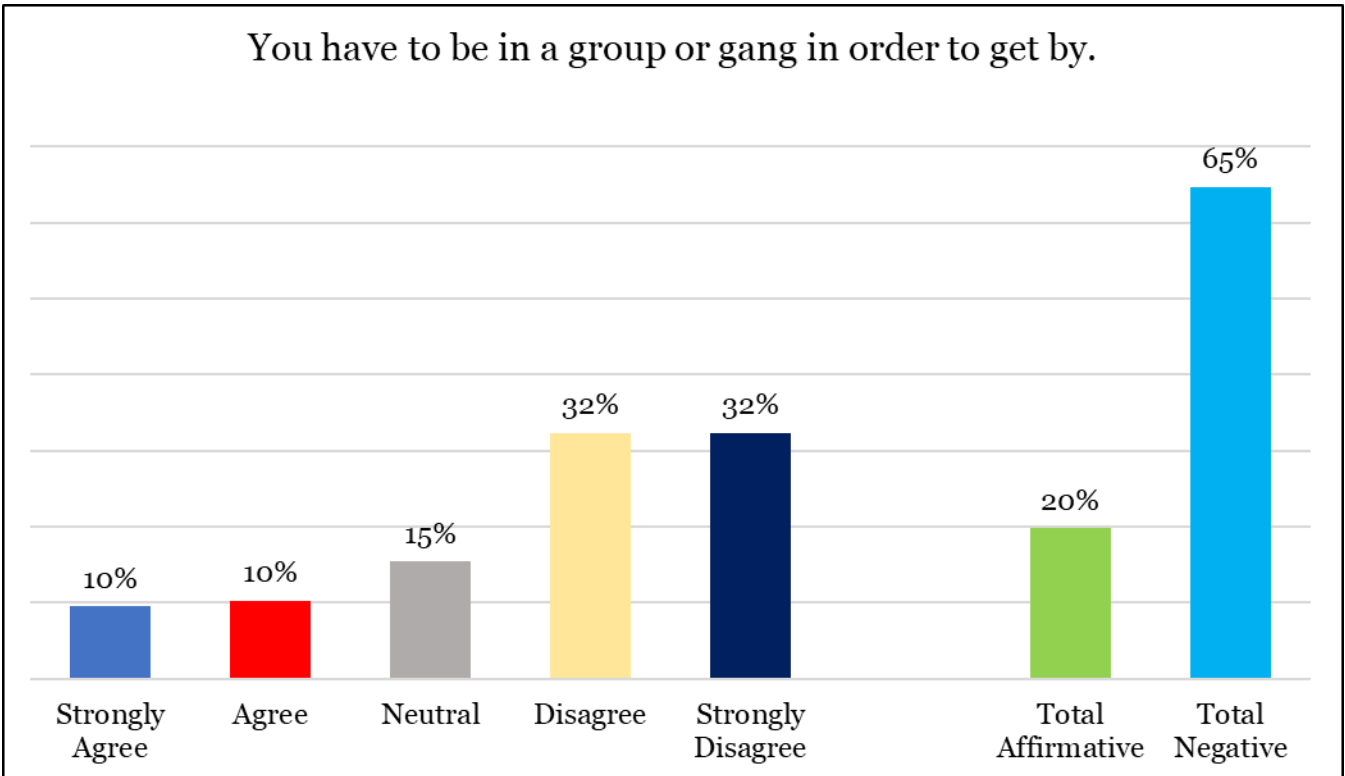
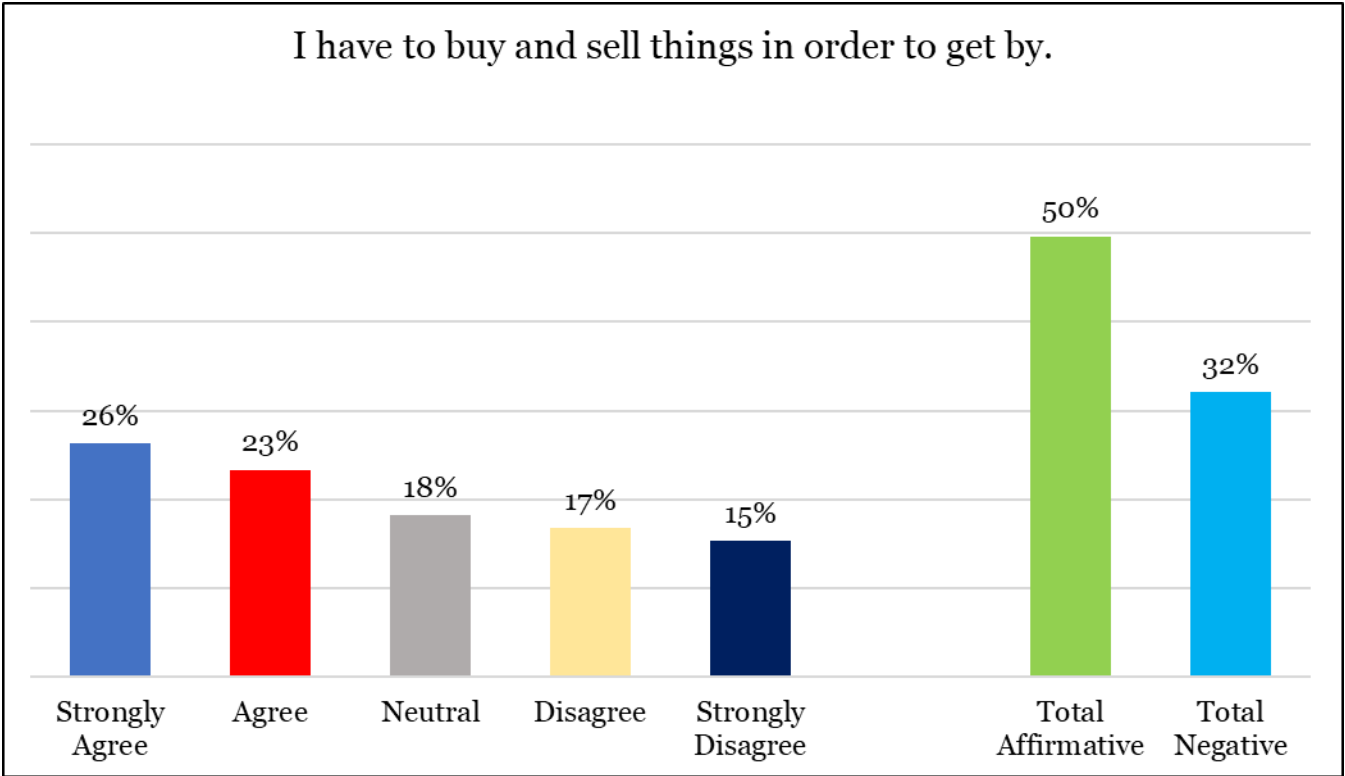
### Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.



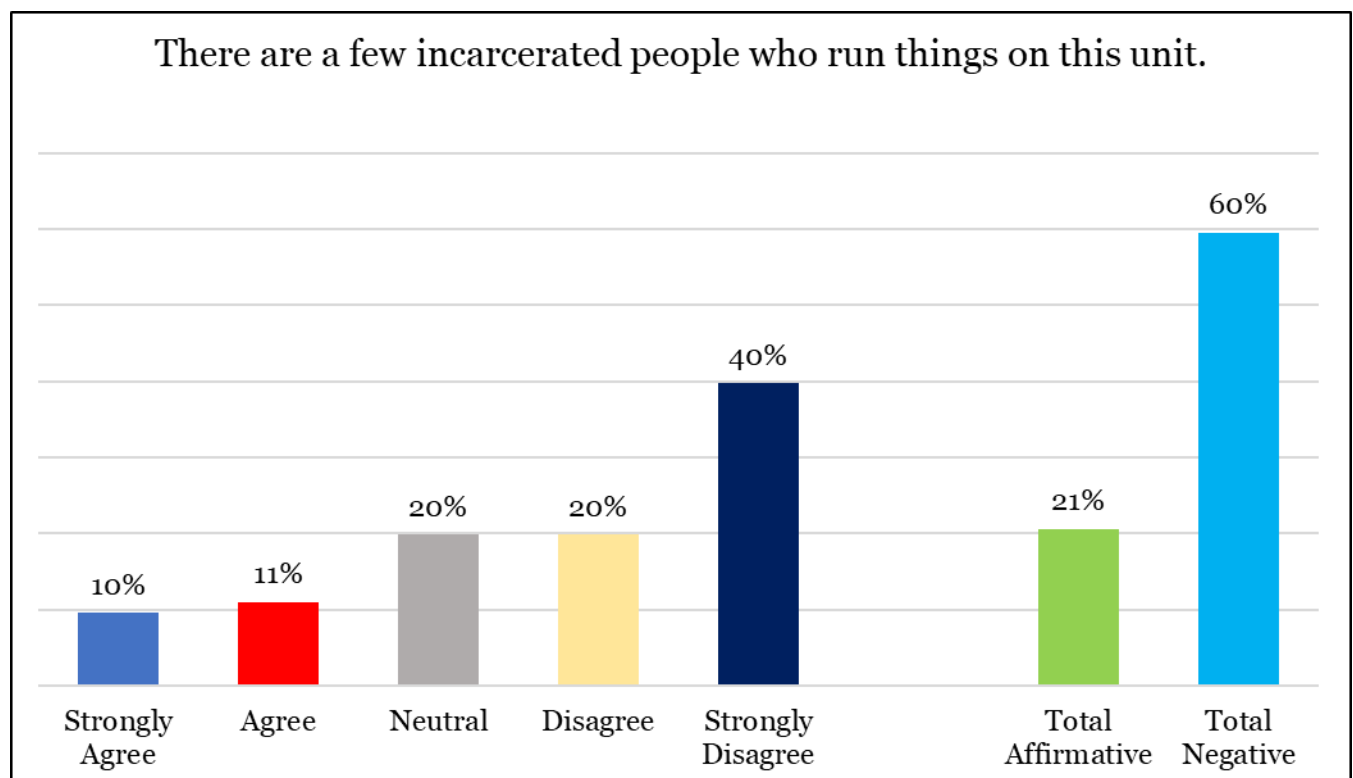
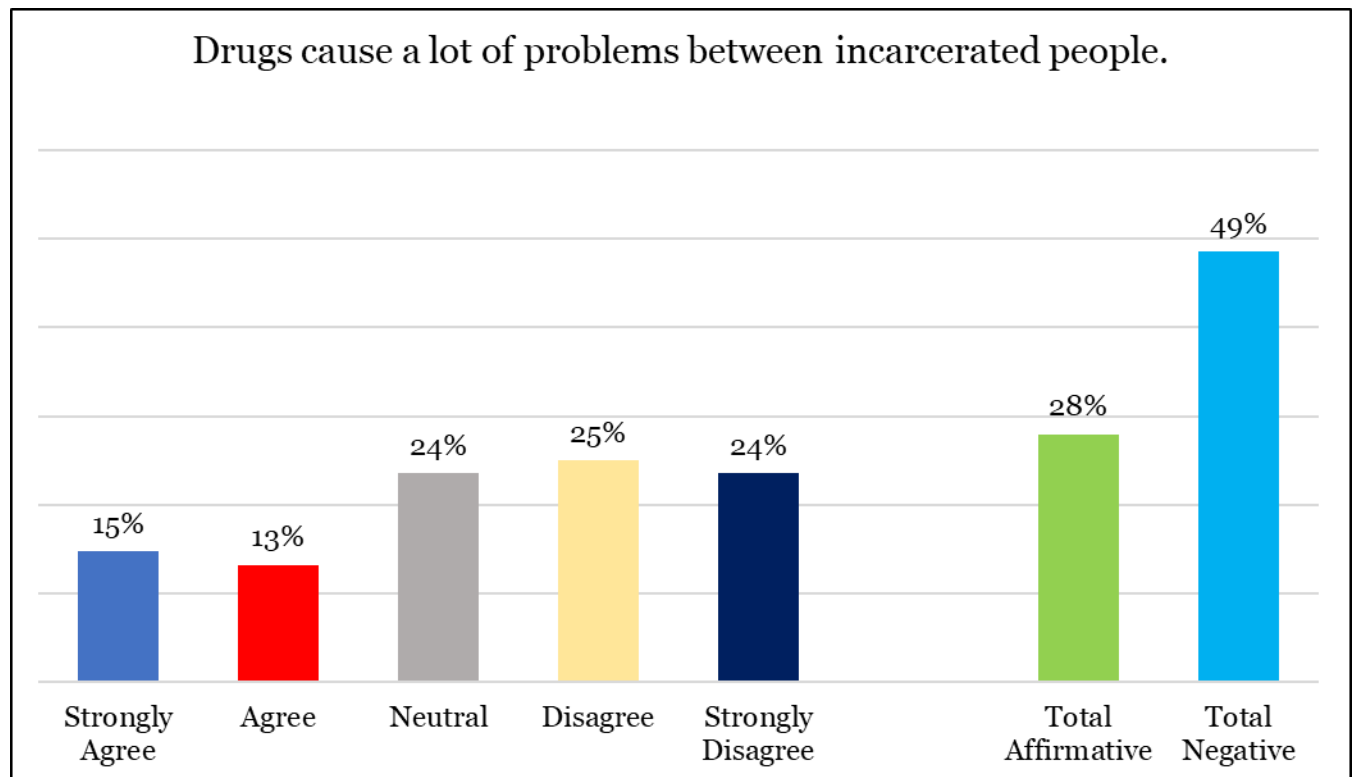
**INCARCERATED PERSON SAFETY – THE FEELING OF SECURITY OR PROTECTION FROM HARM, THREAT OR DANGER**



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

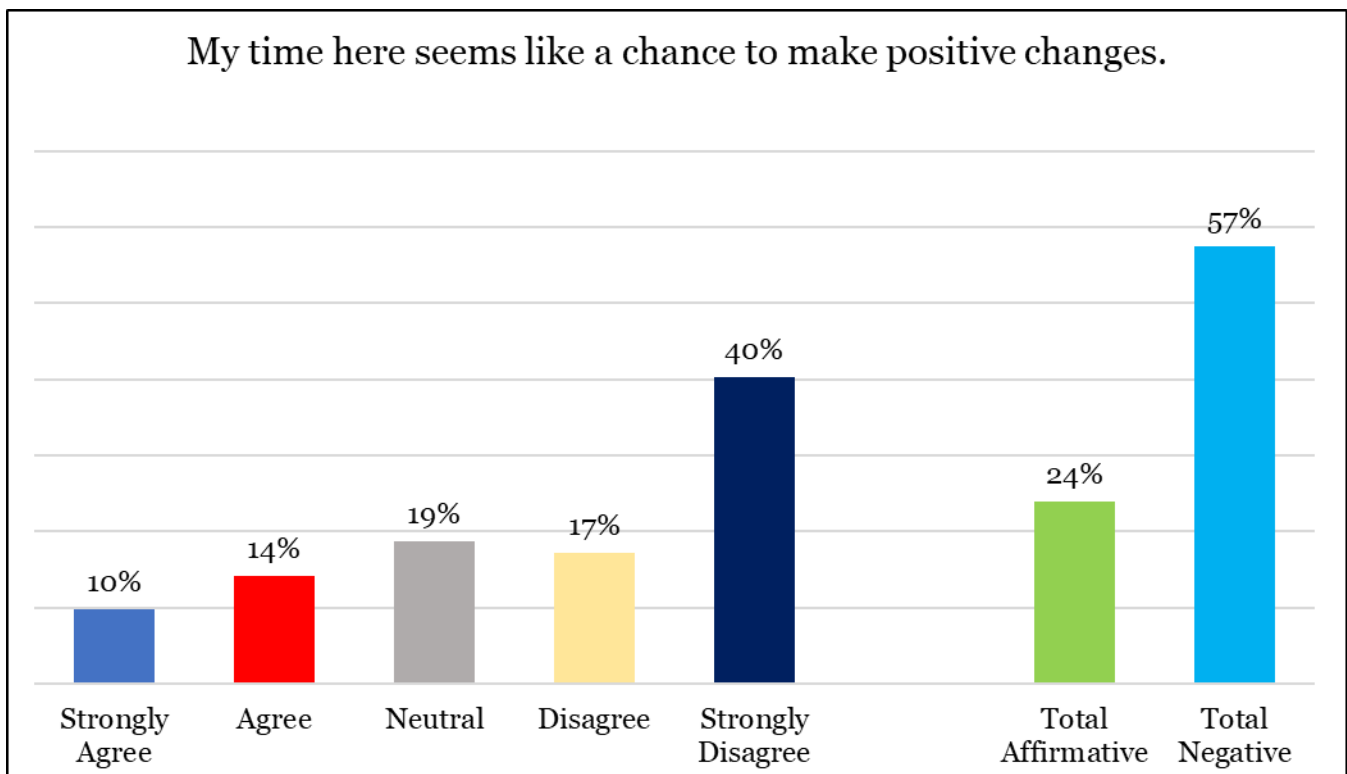
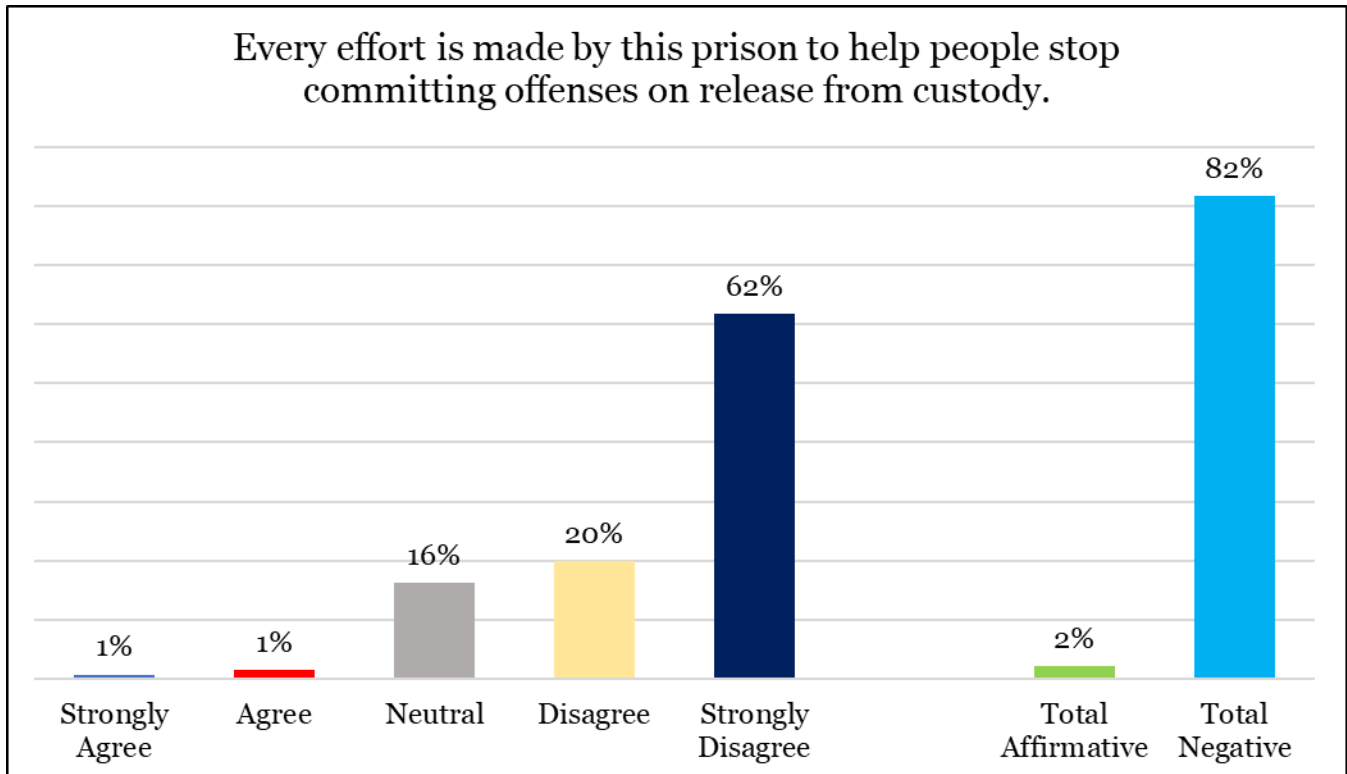


**DRUGS AND EXPLOITATION – THE LEVEL OF DRUGS, BULLYING AND VICTIMIZATION IN THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT**

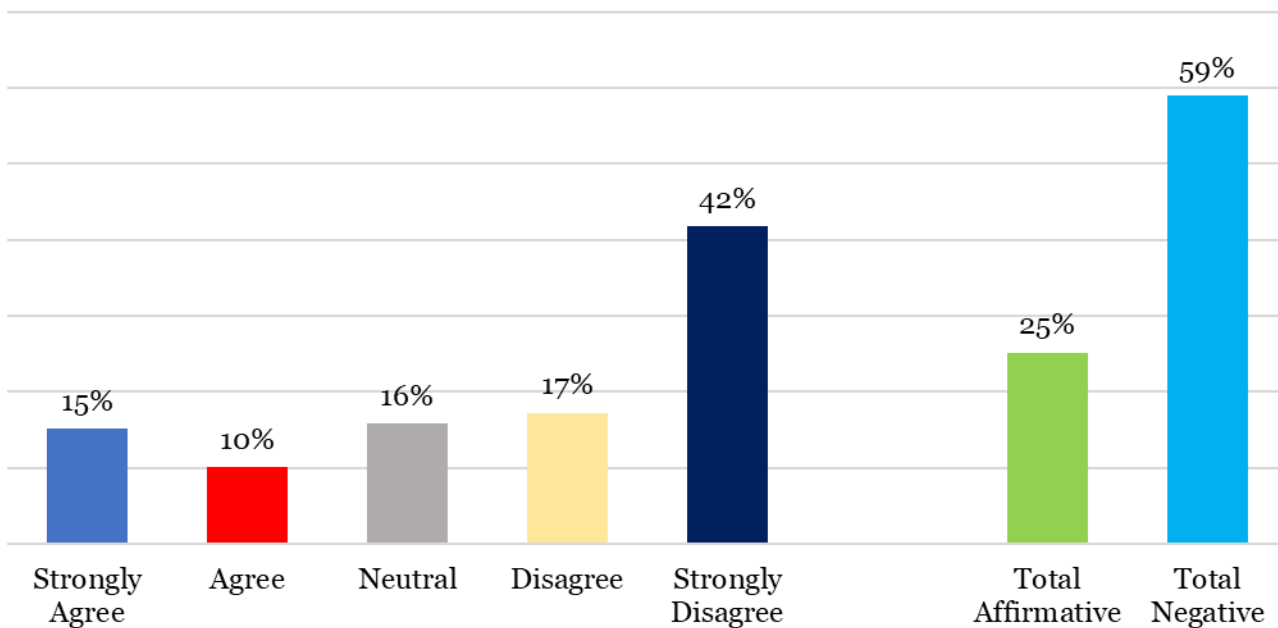


## Well-being and Development

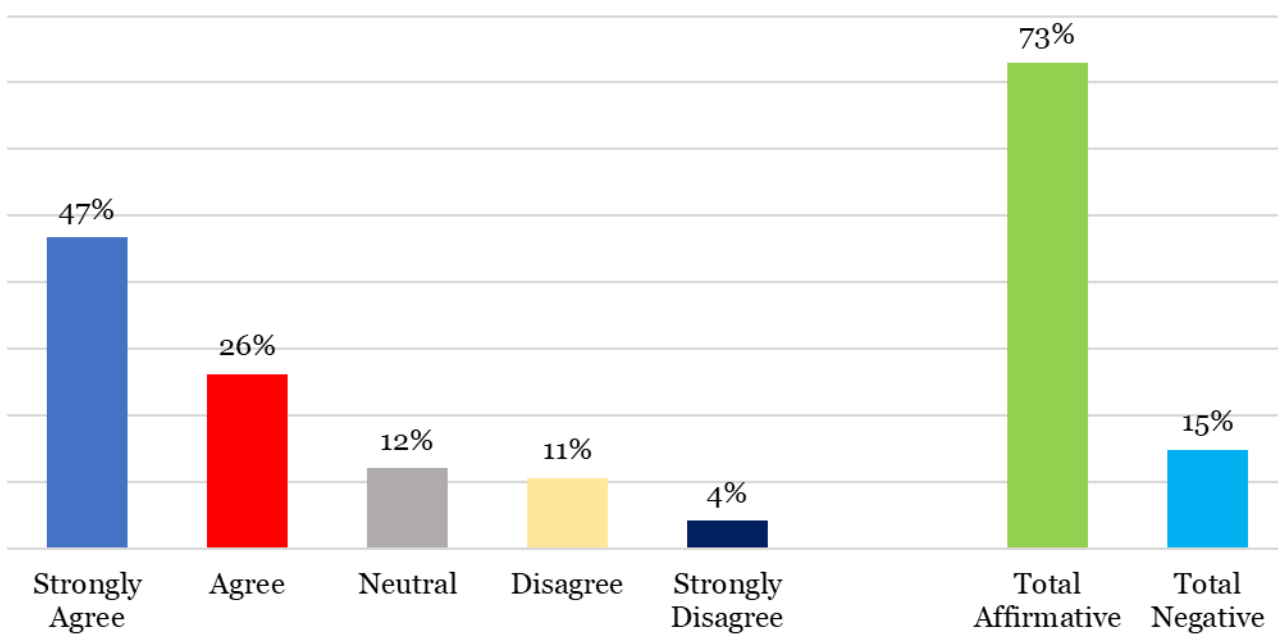
**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT** – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT HELPS INCARCERATED PEOPLE WITH OFFENDING BEHAVIOR, PREPARATION FOR RELEASE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR POTENTIAL



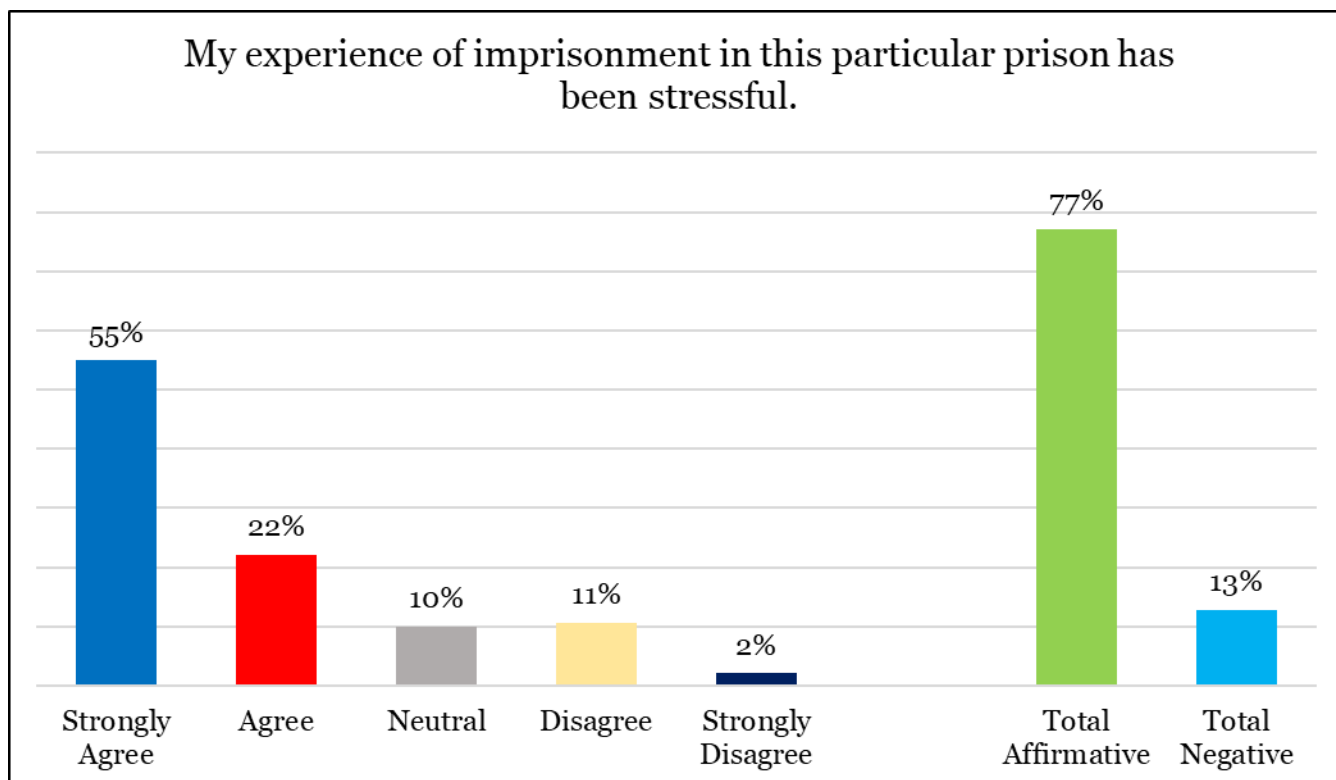
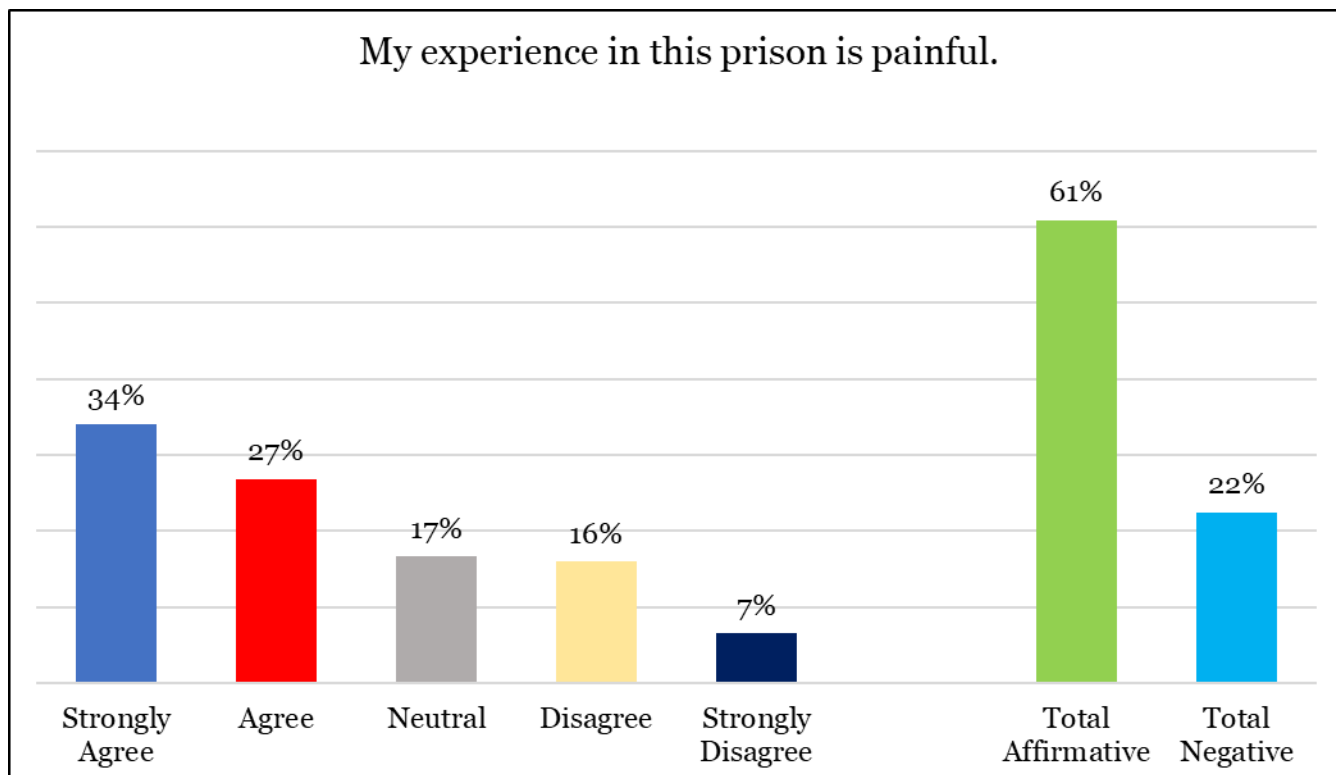
The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.



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



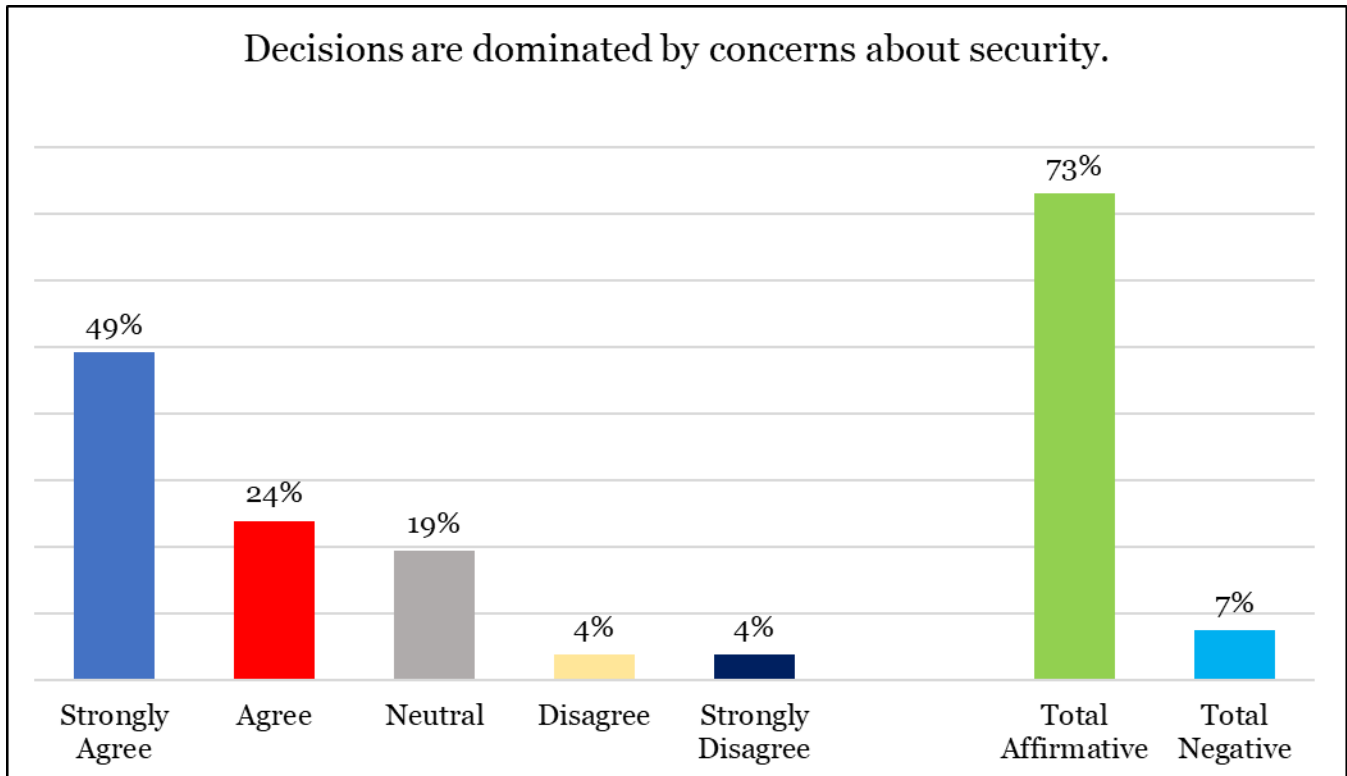
**WELL-BEING** – FEELINGS OF PAIN, PUNISHMENT AND TENSION EXPERIENCED BY INCARCERATED PEOPLE



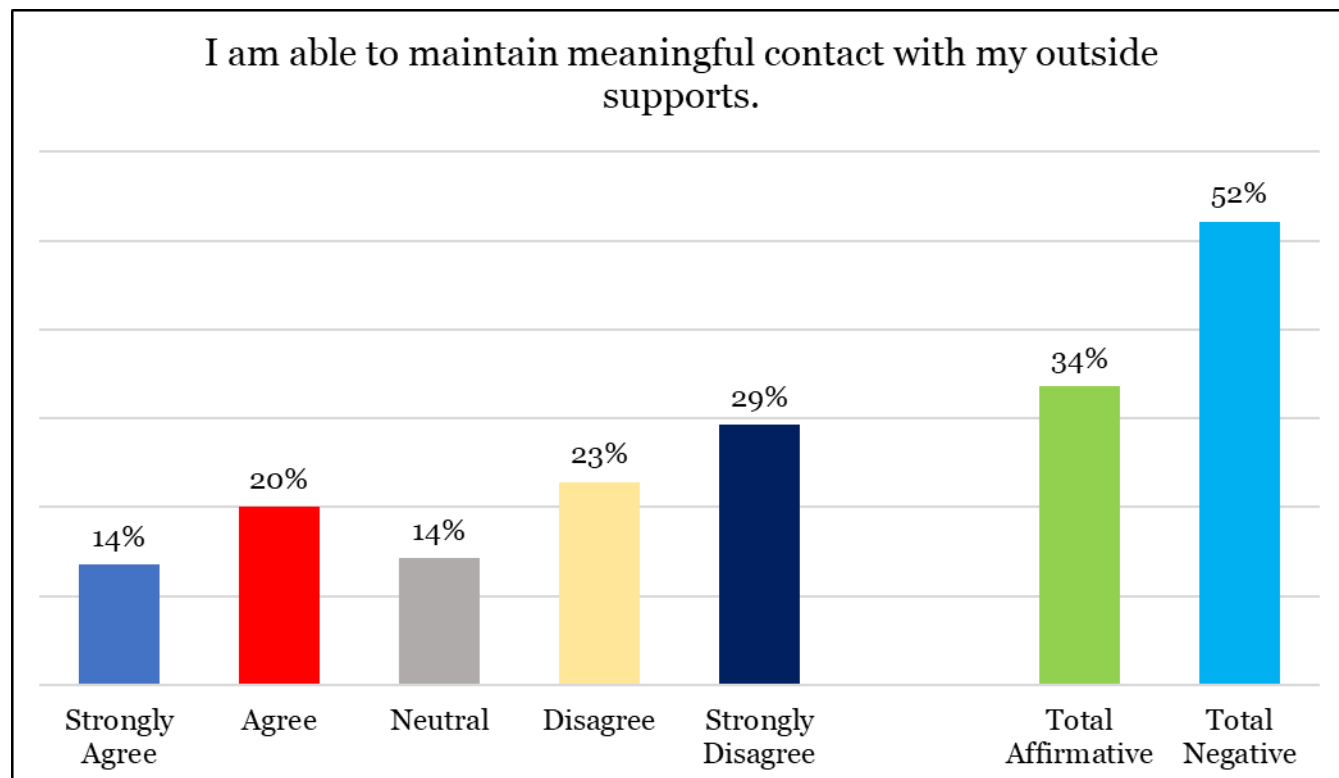


## Additional Questions

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

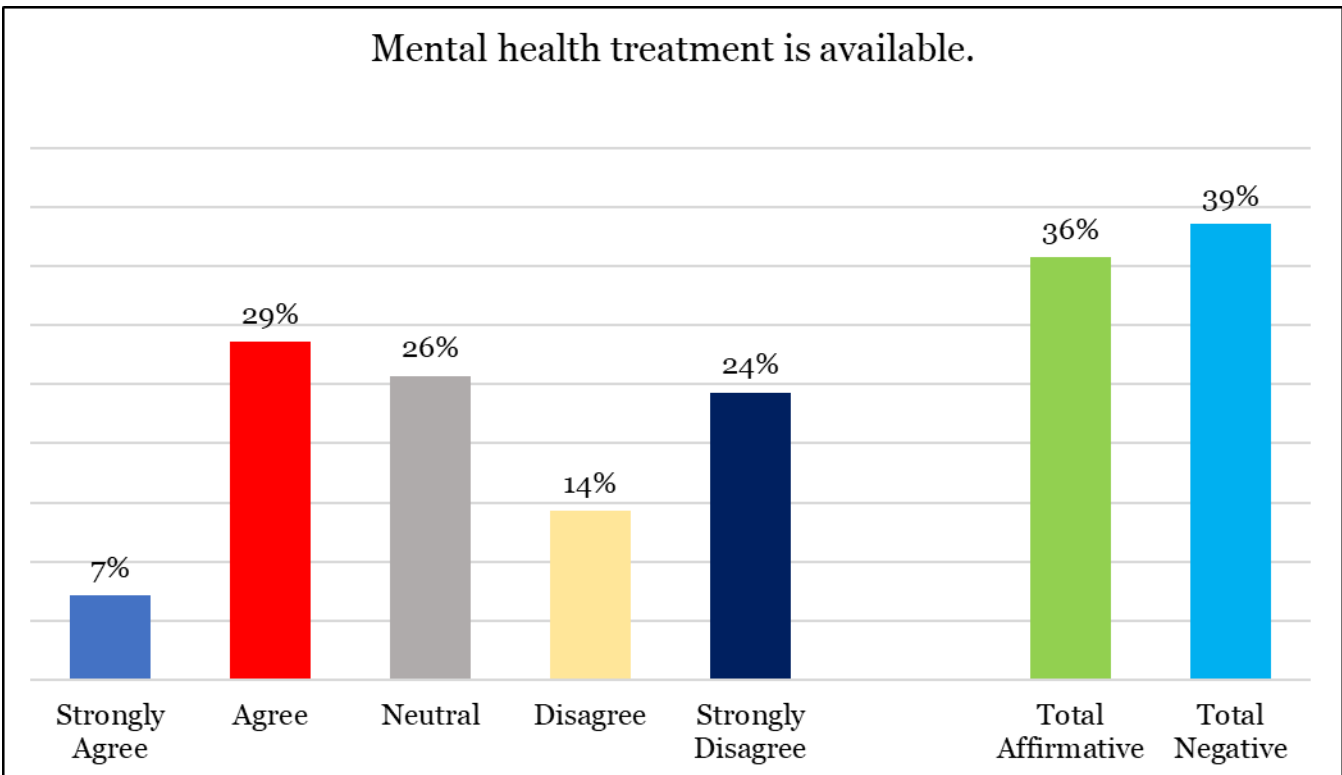
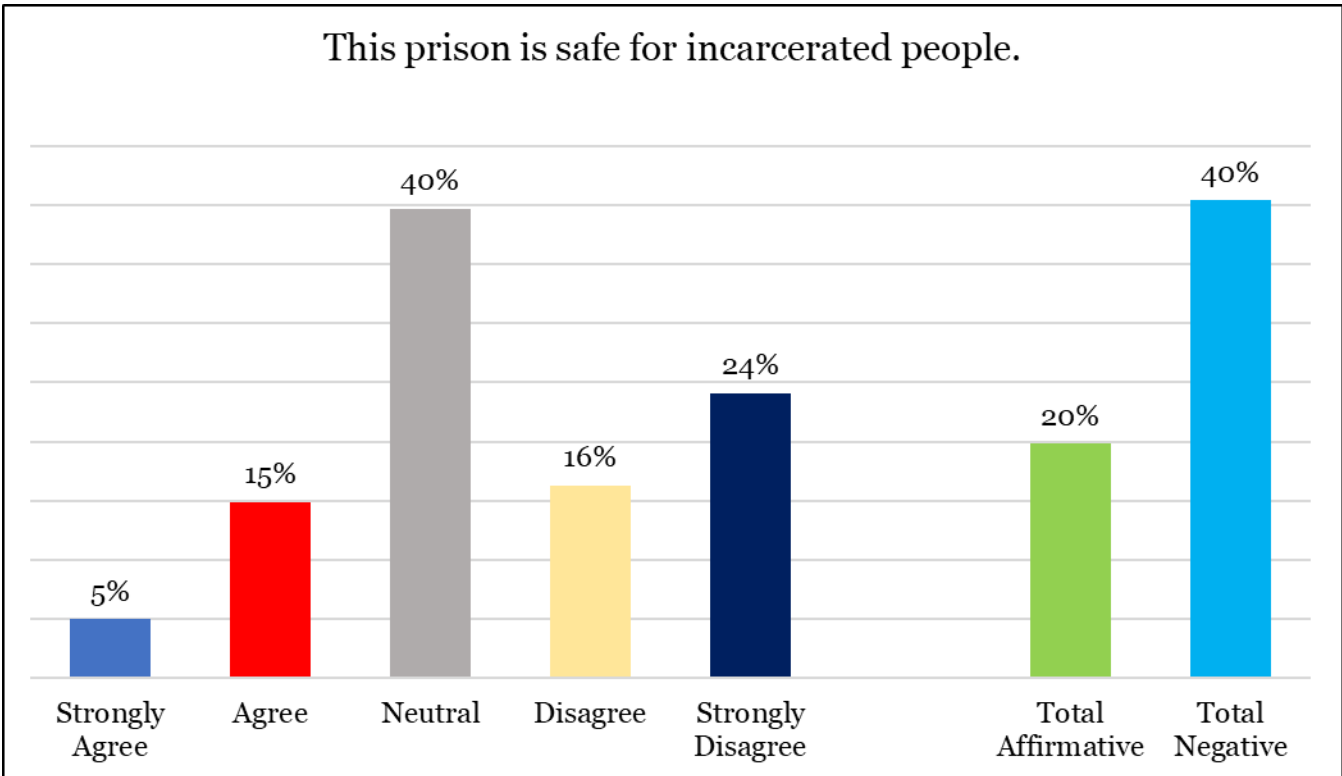


**FAMILY CONTACT – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT FACILITATES INCARCERATED PEOPLE MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOVED ONES**

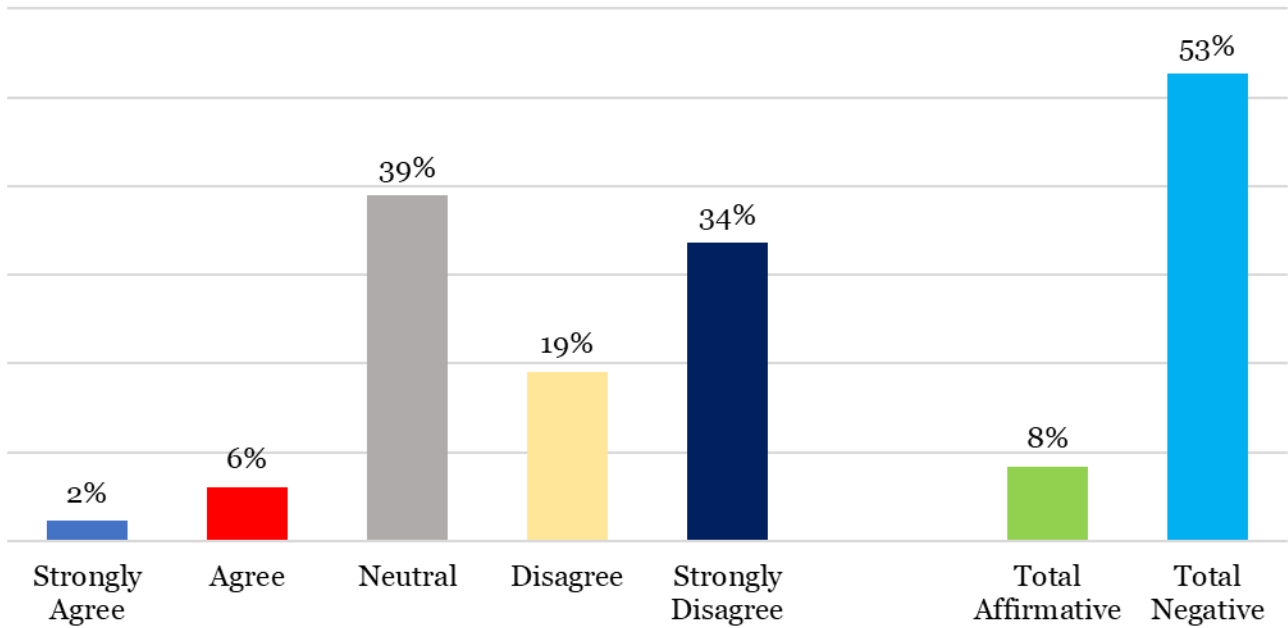


# Charts: JHA Questions

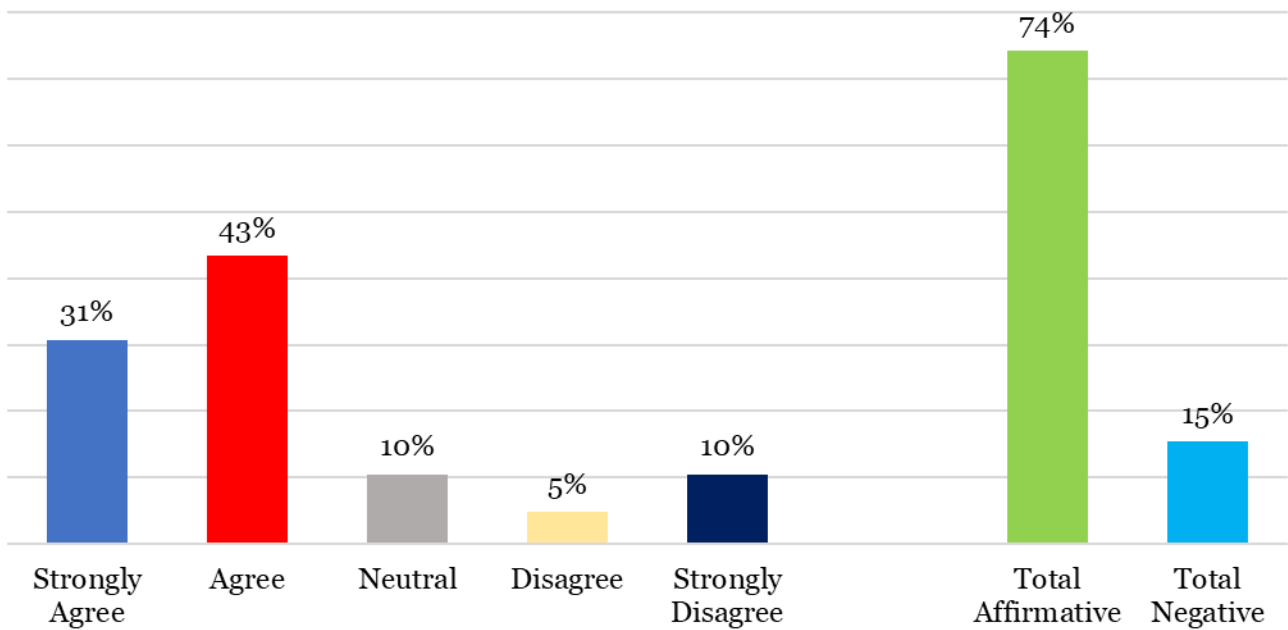
## QUESTIONS USED IN PREVIOUS JHA SURVEYS



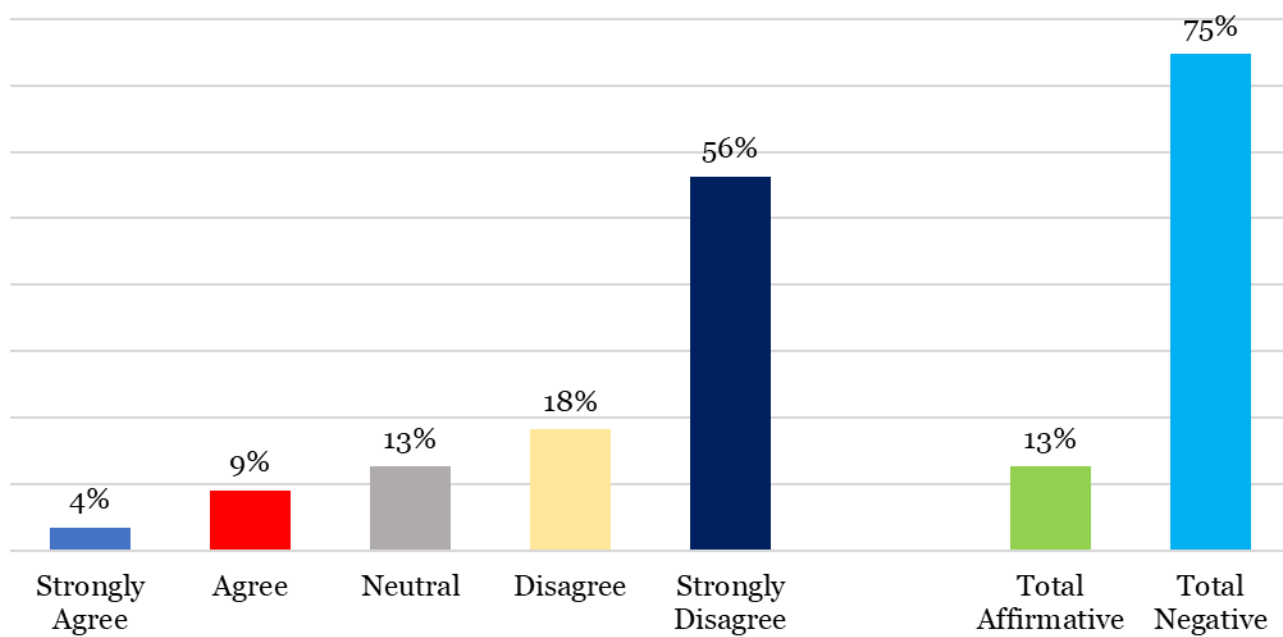
This prison is better now than it was last year.



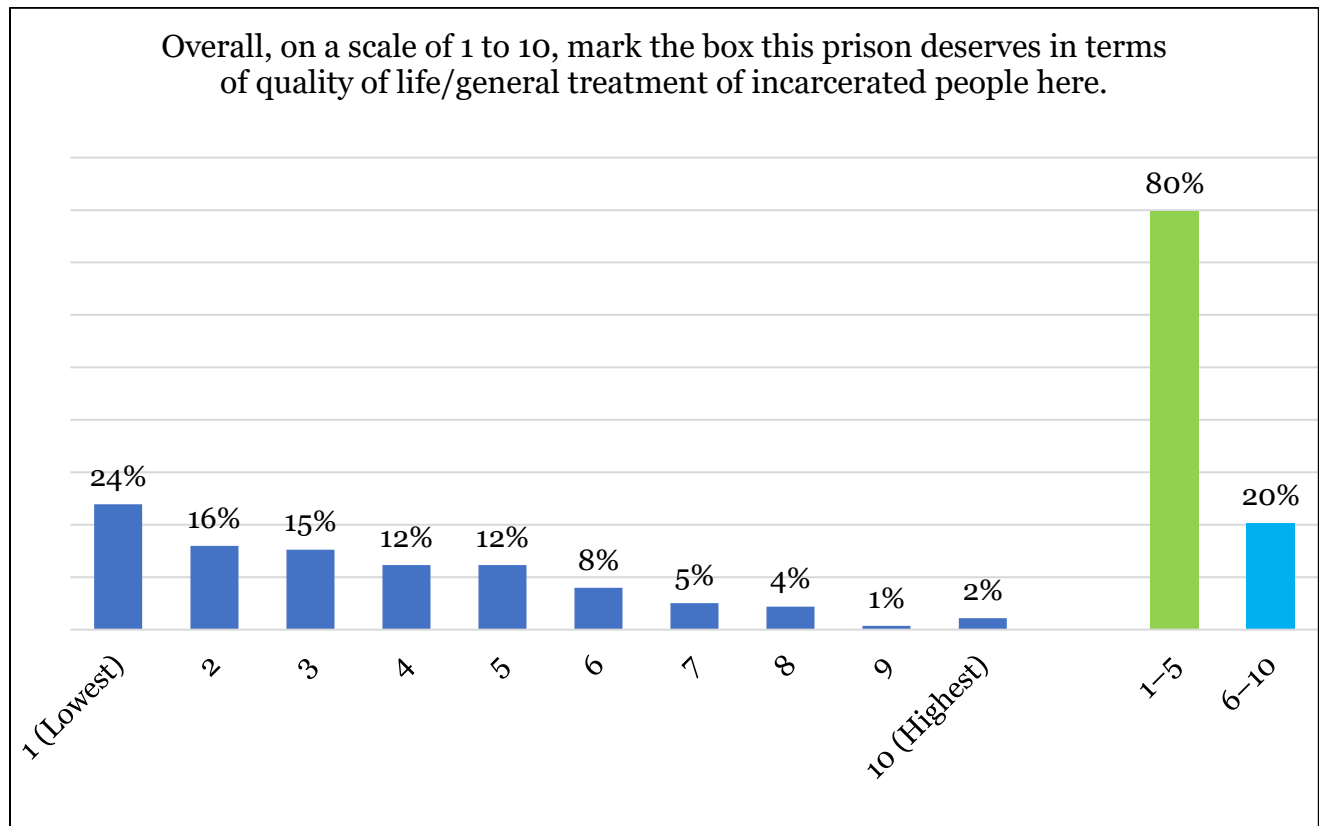
I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.



I am satisfied with food from dietary.



## OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE



# Tables of Results by Individual Survey Items

Age		
18-26	8	6%
26-30	16	11%
31-40	49	34%
41-50	38	27%
51 and over	32	22%
No response	0	

Race or ethnicity		
White	37	26%
Black	59	42%
Hispanic or Latino	31	22%
Other	15	11%
No response	1	

Are you within two years of release?		
Yes	25	18%
No	117	82%
No response	1	

Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?		
Yes	105	76%
No	34	24%
No response	4	

What housing status are you currently on?		
General Population	72	51%
Restrictive Housing	44	31%
Other	25	18%
No response	2	

Are you currently getting at least two hours a day out of your cell or sleeping area?		
Yes	63	44%
No	80	56%

Do you have a work or school assignment?		
Work Assignment	30	21%
School Assignment	7	5%
Both	2	1%
Neither	104	73%
No response	0	

Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.		
Strongly Agree	2	1%
Agree	20	14%
Neutral	34	24%
Disagree	39	28%
Strongly Disagree	46	33%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	22	16%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	85	60%
No response	2	

I receive support from staff when I need it.		
Strongly Agree	1	1%
Agree	25	18%
Neutral	22	16%
Disagree	52	37%
Strongly Disagree	41	29%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	26	18%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	93	66%
No response	2	

<b>Staff here treat incarcerated people fairly when applying the rules.</b>		
Strongly Agree	2	1%
Agree	20	14%
Neutral	19	13%
Disagree	37	26%
Strongly Disagree	65	45%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	22	15%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	102	71%
No response	0	

<b>I trust the officers.</b>		
Strongly Agree	1	1%
Agree	6	4%
Neutral	23	16%
Disagree	29	21%
Strongly Disagree	81	58%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	7	5%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	110	79%
No response	3	

<b>I get along well with the officers on my unit.</b>		
Strongly Agree	13	9%
Agree	32	23%
Neutral	59	42%
Disagree	17	12%
Strongly Disagree	18	13%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	45	32%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	35	25%
No response	4	

<b>The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.</b>		
Strongly Agree	3	2%
Agree	15	11%
Neutral	24	18%
Disagree	27	20%
Strongly Disagree	68	50%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	18	13%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	95	69%
No response	6	

<b>I have been helped significantly by a staff member with a particular problem.</b>		
Strongly Agree	10	7%
Agree	19	13%
Neutral	27	19%
Disagree	34	24%
Strongly Disagree	52	37%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	29	20%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	86	61%
No response	1	

<b>Overall, I am treated fairly by staff.</b>		
Strongly Agree	5	4%
Agree	23	16%
Neutral	39	28%
Disagree	35	25%
Strongly Disagree	39	28%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	28	20%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	74	52%
No response	2	

<b>I am treated as a person of value.</b>		
Strongly Agree	2	1%
Agree	9	6%
Neutral	23	16%
Disagree	41	29%
Strongly Disagree	68	48%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	11	8%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	109	76%
No response	0	

<b>Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.</b>		
Strongly Agree	51	37%
Agree	47	34%
Neutral	21	15%
Disagree	13	9%
Strongly Disagree	5	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	98	72%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	18	13%
No response	6	



<b>I feel safe from being injured, bullied, or threatened by other incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	18	13%
Agree	32	24%
Neutral	39	29%
Disagree	21	16%
Strongly Disagree	25	19%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	50	37%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	46	34%
No response	8	

<b>If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.</b>		
Strongly Agree	11	8%
Agree	15	11%
Neutral	24	17%
Disagree	33	24%
Strongly Disagree	57	41%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	26	19%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	90	64%
No response	3	

<b>To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.</b>		
Strongly Agree	52	38%
Agree	39	28%
Neutral	24	17%
Disagree	15	11%
Strongly Disagree	8	6%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	91	66%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	23	17%
No response	5	

<b>Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	53	38%
Agree	51	37%
Neutral	16	12%
Disagree	15	11%
Strongly Disagree	3	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	104	75%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	18	13%
No response	5	

<b>Staff have enough experience and expertise to deal with issues that matter to me.</b>		
Strongly Agree	6	4%
Agree	8	6%
Neutral	14	10%
Disagree	42	30%
Strongly Disagree	69	50%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	14	10%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	111	80%
No response	4	

<b>To get things done, you have to ask and ask and ask.</b>		
Strongly Agree	106	76%
Agree	21	15%
Neutral	5	4%
Disagree	5	4%
Strongly Disagree	3	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	127	91%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	8	6%
No response	3	

<b>Supervision of incarcerated people is poor.</b>		
Strongly Agree	48	34%
Agree	25	18%
Neutral	36	26%
Disagree	17	12%
Strongly Disagree	14	10%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	73	52%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	31	22%
No response	3	

<b>The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.</b>		
Strongly Agree	21	15%
Agree	14	10%
Neutral	22	16%
Disagree	24	17%
Strongly Disagree	58	42%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	35	25%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	82	59%
No response	4	

<b>Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	57	41%
Agree	41	30%
Neutral	19	14%
Disagree	15	11%
Strongly Disagree	6	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	98	71%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	21	15%
No response	5	

<b>I can't improve my situation through good behavior.</b>		
Strongly Agree	55	39%
Agree	29	21%
Neutral	22	16%
Disagree	28	20%
Strongly Disagree	6	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	84	60%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	34	24%
No response	3	

<b>My experience of imprisonment in this particular prison has been stressful.</b>		
Strongly Agree	77	55%
Agree	31	22%
Neutral	14	10%
Disagree	15	11%
Strongly Disagree	3	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	108	77%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	18	13%
No response	3	

<b>I have to be careful about everything I do, or it can be used against me.</b>		
Strongly Agree	78	57%
Agree	38	28%
Neutral	13	9%
Disagree	6	4%
Strongly Disagree	2	1%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	116	85%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	8	6%
No response	6	

<b>On the whole, I am just doing time rather than using my time.</b>		
Strongly Agree	66	47%
Agree	37	26%
Neutral	17	12%
Disagree	15	11%
Strongly Disagree	6	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	103	73%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	21	15%
No response	2	

<b>This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.</b>		
Strongly Agree	4	3%
Agree	8	6%
Neutral	16	12%
Disagree	36	26%
Strongly Disagree	75	54%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	12	9%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	111	80%
No response	4	

<b>This prison is well organized.</b>		
Strongly Agree	5	4%
Agree	7	5%
Neutral	12	9%
Disagree	27	19%
Strongly Disagree	88	63%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	12	9%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	115	83%
No response	4	

<b>I feel that I am treated with respect by staff.</b>		
Strongly Agree	6	4%
Agree	25	18%
Neutral	36	26%
Disagree	27	20%
Strongly Disagree	44	32%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	31	22%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	71	51%
No response	5	

<b>Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.</b>		
Strongly Agree	11	8%
Agree	31	22%
Neutral	33	24%
Disagree	27	20%
Strongly Disagree	36	26%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	42	30%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	63	46%
No response	5	

<b>When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.</b>		
Strongly Agree	14	10%
Agree	21	15%
Neutral	26	19%
Disagree	42	30%
Strongly Disagree	37	26%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	35	25%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	79	56%
No response	3	

<b>You never know the rules.</b>		
Strongly Agree	48	35%
Agree	25	18%
Neutral	32	23%
Disagree	24	18%
Strongly Disagree	8	6%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	73	53%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	32	23%
No response	6	

<b>My experience in this prison is painful.</b>		
Strongly Agree	47	34%
Agree	37	27%
Neutral	23	17%
Disagree	22	16%
Strongly Disagree	9	7%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	84	61%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	31	22%
No response	5	

<b>There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	19	15%
Agree	28	21%
Neutral	41	31%
Disagree	19	15%
Strongly Disagree	24	18%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	47	36%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	43	33%
No response	12	

<b>The disciplinary system is fair.</b>		
Strongly Agree	6	4%
Agree	7	5%
Neutral	18	13%
Disagree	19	14%
Strongly Disagree	90	64%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	13	9%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	109	78%
No response	3	

<b>There are a few incarcerated people who run things on this unit.</b>		
Strongly Agree	13	10%
Agree	15	11%
Neutral	27	20%
Disagree	27	20%
Strongly Disagree	54	40%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	28	21%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	81	60%
No response	7	

<b>I have to buy and sell things in order to get by.</b>		
Strongly Agree	36	26%
Agree	32	23%
Neutral	25	18%
Disagree	23	17%
Strongly Disagree	21	15%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	68	50%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	44	32%
No response	6	

<b>Decisions are dominated by concerns about security.</b>		
Strongly Agree	66	49%
Agree	32	24%
Neutral	26	19%
Disagree	5	4%
Strongly Disagree	5	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	98	73%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	10	7%
No response	9	

<b>My time here seems like a chance to make positive changes.</b>		
Strongly Agree	13	10%
Agree	19	14%
Neutral	25	19%
Disagree	23	17%
Strongly Disagree	54	40%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	32	24%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	77	57%
No response	9	

<b>I am not being treated as a human being in here.</b>		
Strongly Agree	50	35%
Agree	38	27%
Neutral	28	20%
Disagree	17	12%
Strongly Disagree	9	6%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	88	62%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	26	18%
No response	1	

<b>You have to be in a group or gang in order to get by.</b>		
Strongly Agree	13	10%
Agree	14	10%
Neutral	21	15%
Disagree	44	32%
Strongly Disagree	44	32%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	27	20%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	88	65%
No response	7	

<b>Bullying behavior by incarcerated people is not tolerated.</b>		
Strongly Agree	16	12%
Agree	24	18%
Neutral	47	36%
Disagree	20	15%
Strongly Disagree	23	18%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	40	31%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	43	33%
No response	13	

<b>When important decisions are made about me, I am treated as an individual and not a number.</b>		
Strongly Agree	10	7%
Agree	5	4%
Neutral	18	13%
Disagree	37	27%
Strongly Disagree	68	49%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	15	11%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	105	76%
No response	5	

<b>All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.</b>		
Strongly Agree	98	71%
Agree	32	23%
Neutral	5	4%
Disagree	3	2%
Strongly Disagree	1	1%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	130	94%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	4	3%
No response	4	

<b>Drugs cause a lot of problems between incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	20	15%
Agree	18	13%
Neutral	32	24%
Disagree	34	25%
Strongly Disagree	32	24%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	38	28%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	66	49%
No response	7	

<b>Anyone who harms themselves is considered by staff to be more of an attention seeker than someone who needs help.</b>		
Strongly Agree	78	57%
Agree	29	21%
Neutral	25	18%
Disagree	3	2%
Strongly Disagree	3	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	107	78%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	6	4%
No response	5	

<b>I am able to maintain meaningful contact with my outside supports.</b>		
Strongly Agree	19	14%
Agree	28	20%
Neutral	20	14%
Disagree	32	23%
Strongly Disagree	41	29%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	47	34%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	73	52%
No response	3	

<b>This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.</b>		
Strongly Agree	86	62%
Agree	39	28%
Neutral	8	6%
Disagree	2	1%
Strongly Disagree	3	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	125	91%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	5	4%
No response	5	

<b>Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.</b>		
Strongly Agree	2	1%
Agree	0	0%
Neutral	13	9%
Disagree	34	24%
Strongly Disagree	93	65%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	2	1%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	127	89%
No response	1	

<b>This is a humane prison.</b>		
Strongly Agree	6	4%
Agree	15	11%
Neutral	31	22%
Disagree	32	23%
Strongly Disagree	54	39%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	21	15%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	86	62%
No response	5	

<b>Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.</b>		
Strongly Agree	101	72%
Agree	21	15%
Neutral	11	8%
Disagree	4	3%
Strongly Disagree	3	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	122	87%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	7	5%
No response	3	

<b>This prison is safe for incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	7	5%
Agree	21	15%
Neutral	56	40%
Disagree	23	16%
Strongly Disagree	34	24%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	28	20%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	57	40%
No response	2	

<b>Mental health treatment is available.</b>		
Strongly Agree	10	7%
Agree	40	29%
Neutral	36	26%
Disagree	20	14%
Strongly Disagree	34	24%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	50	36%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	54	39%
No response	3	

<b>This prison is better now than it was last year.</b>		
Strongly Agree	3	2%
Agree	8	6%
Neutral	51	39%
Disagree	25	19%
Strongly Disagree	44	34%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	11	8%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	69	53%
No response	12	

<b>I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.</b>		
Strongly Agree	44	31%
Agree	62	43%
Neutral	15	10%
Disagree	7	5%
Strongly Disagree	15	10%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	106	74%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	22	15%
No response	0	

<b>Every effort is made by this prison to help people stop committing offenses on release from custody.</b>		
Strongly Agree	1	1%
Agree	2	1%
Neutral	22	16%
Disagree	27	20%
Strongly Disagree	84	62%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	3	2%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	111	82%
No response	7	

<b>I am satisfied with food from dietary.</b>		
Strongly Agree	5	4%
Agree	13	9%
Neutral	18	13%
Disagree	26	18%
Strongly Disagree	80	56%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	18	13%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	106	75%
No response	1	

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)	33	24%
2	22	16%
3	21	15%
4	17	12%
5	17	12%
6	11	8%
7	7	5%
8	6	4%
9	1	1%
10 (Highest)	3	2%
1-5	110	80%
6-10	28	20%
No Response	5	
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 with us

