
Survey Results



Menard 2023 MQPL Survey Results

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Introduction

Menard Correctional Center is primarily a maximum-security male prison within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC), which housed 1,859 people on March 27, 2023 between the maximum-security population and a medium-security unit (MSU, housing about 340 people). 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 Menard max and MSU had an opportunity to participate in the voluntary and anonymous survey if they chose to do so. Menard also operates the southern Reception & Classification Center (housing approximately 50 people), where people were not surveyed. JHA received 742 responses to the MQPL survey from people at Menard through the July 19, 2023, representing approximately 40% 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

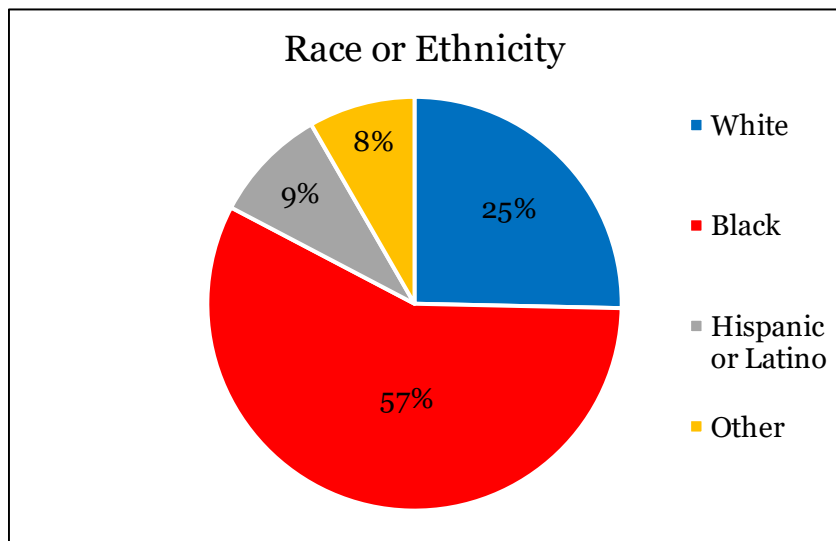
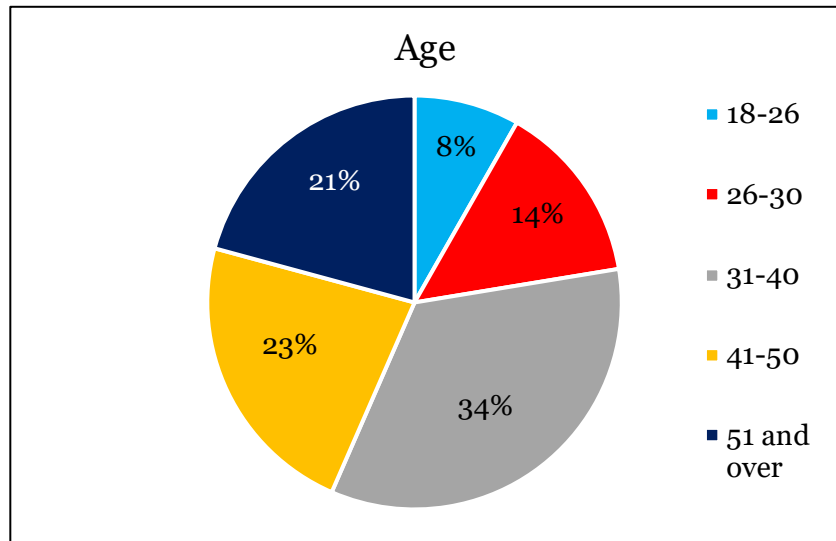
- **Harmony: Questions relating to interpersonal aspects of the prison experience**
 - Respect/courtesy – Positive, respectful, and courteous attitudes towards incarcerated people by staff.
 - Staff-incarcerated people relationships – Trusting, fair and supportive interactions between staff and incarcerated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

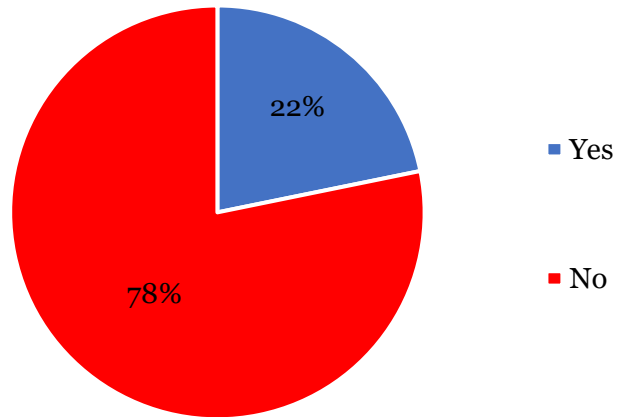
Charts: Demographic Information of Respondents

Total respondents = 742¹

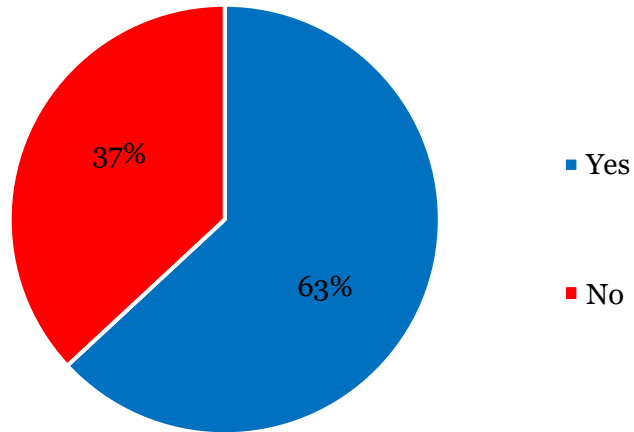


¹ Due to rounding, not all percentages total 100%. Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of respondents per question.

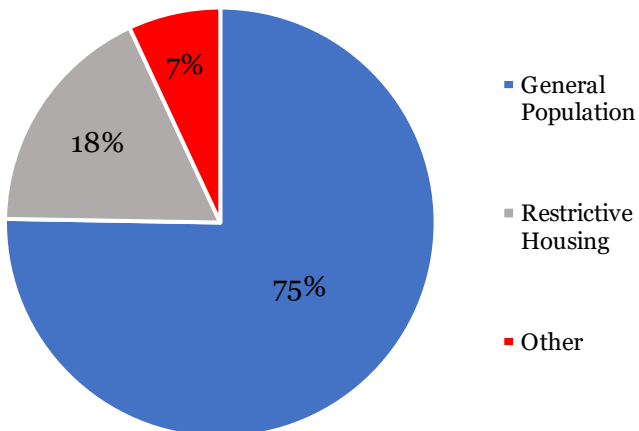
Are you within two years of release?



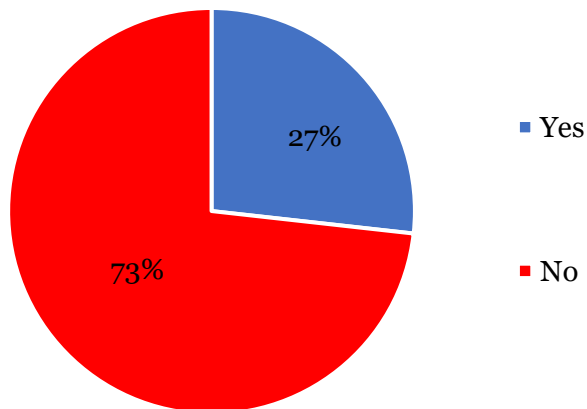
Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?



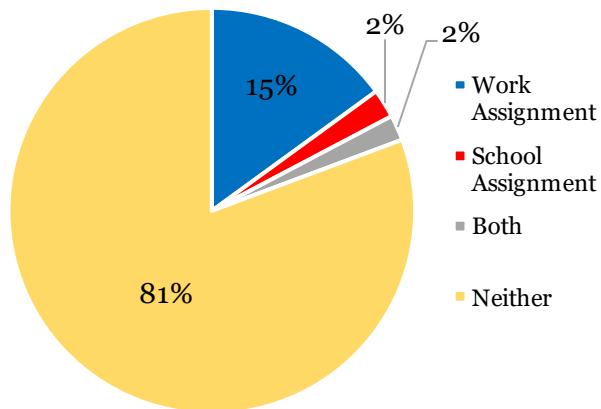
What housing status are you currently on?



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



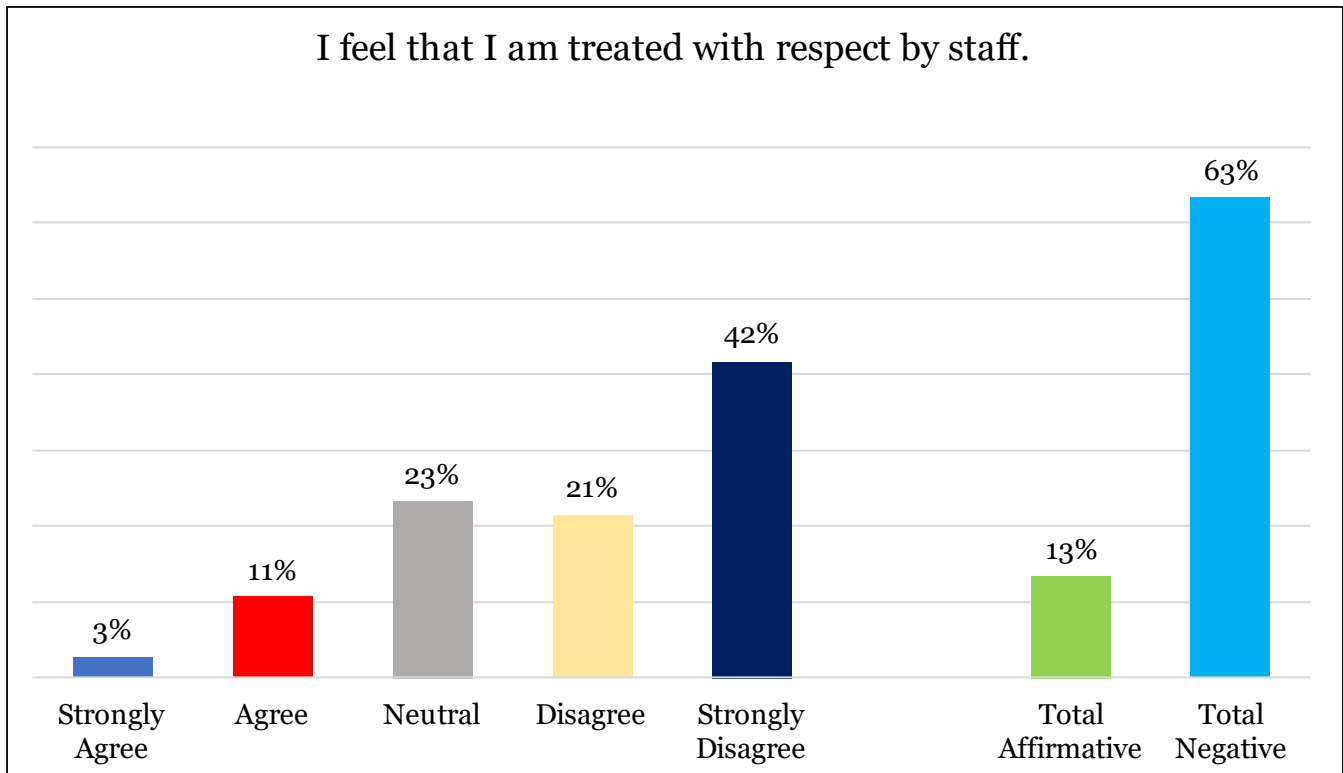
Do you have a work or school assignment?



Charts: MQPL Dimensions²

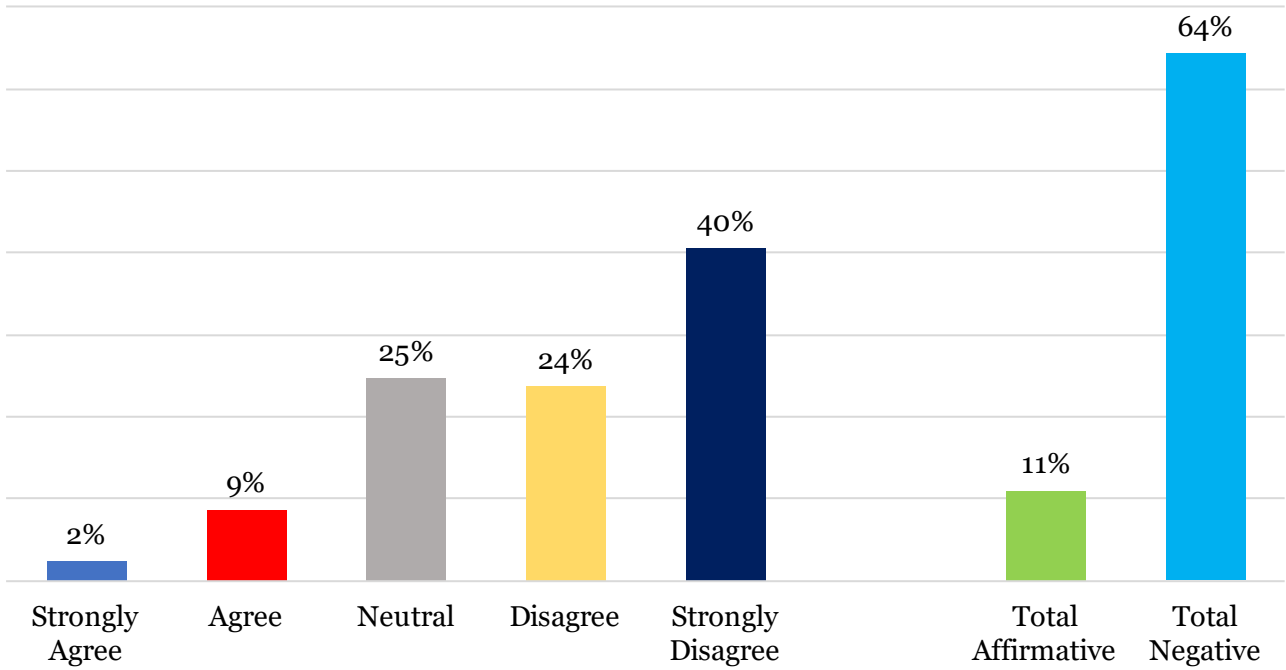
Harmony

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

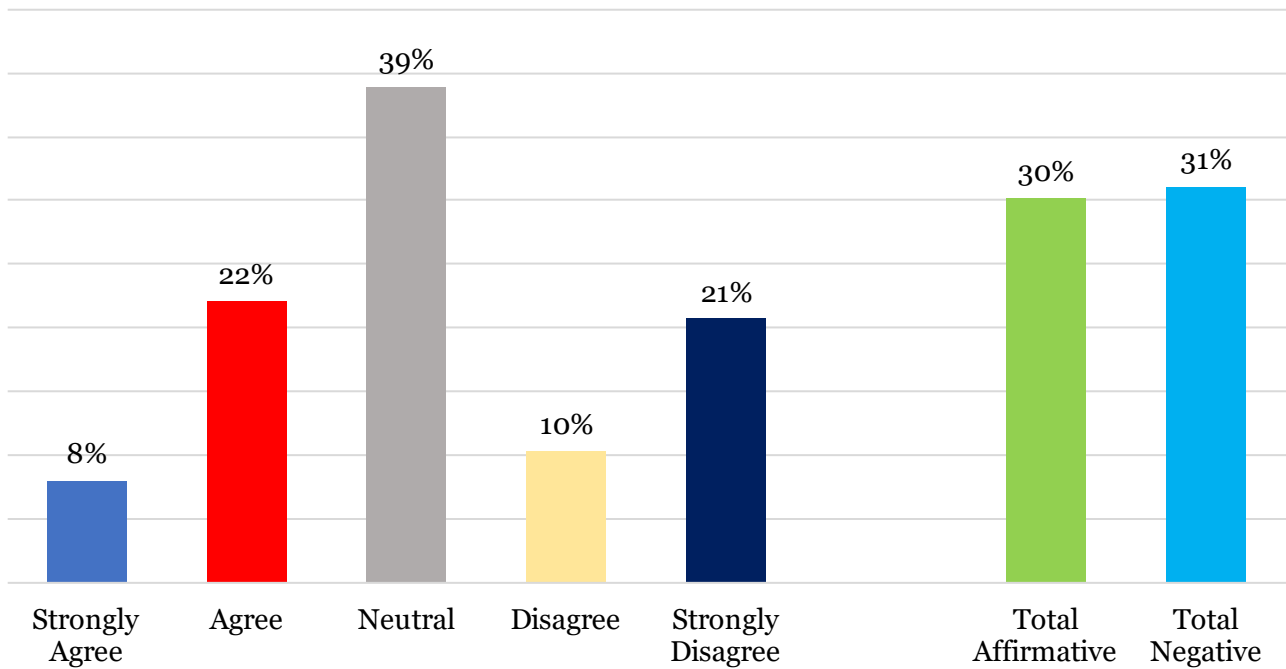


² "Total Affirmative" combines "Strongly Agree" and "Agree." "Total Negative" combines "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree." Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of responses per question.

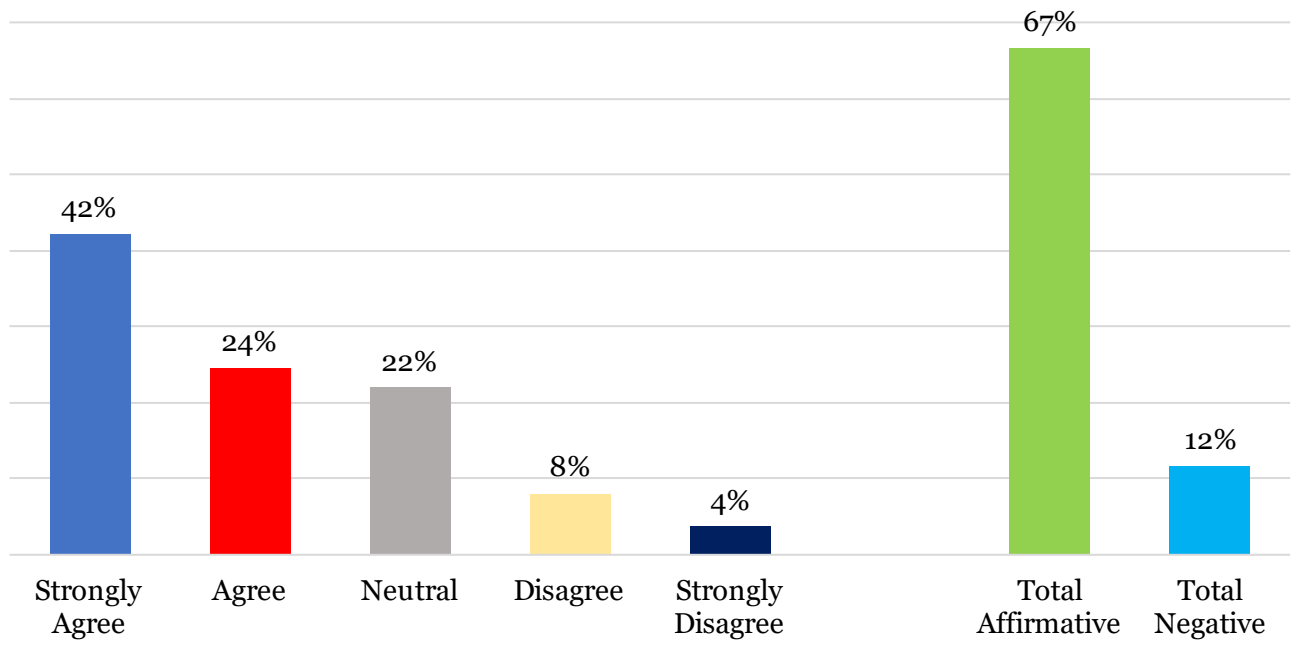
Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.



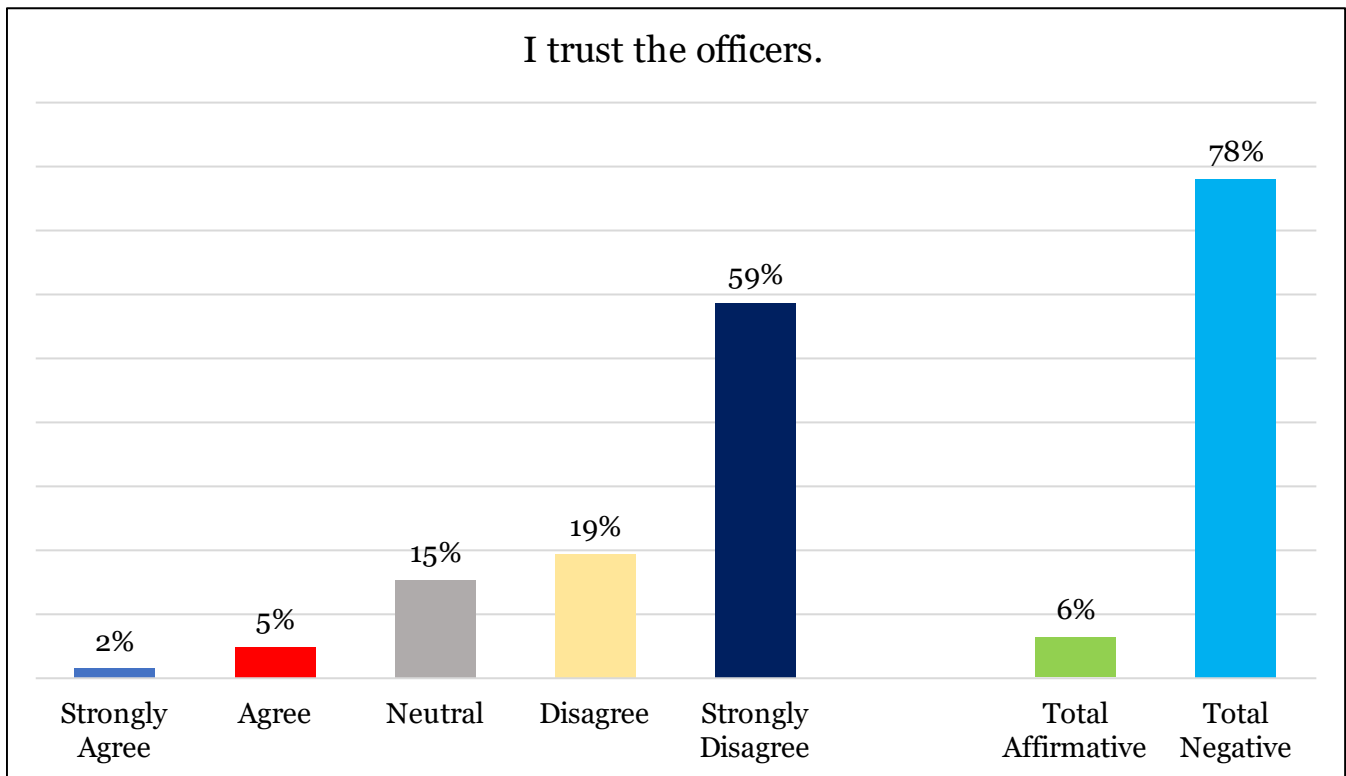
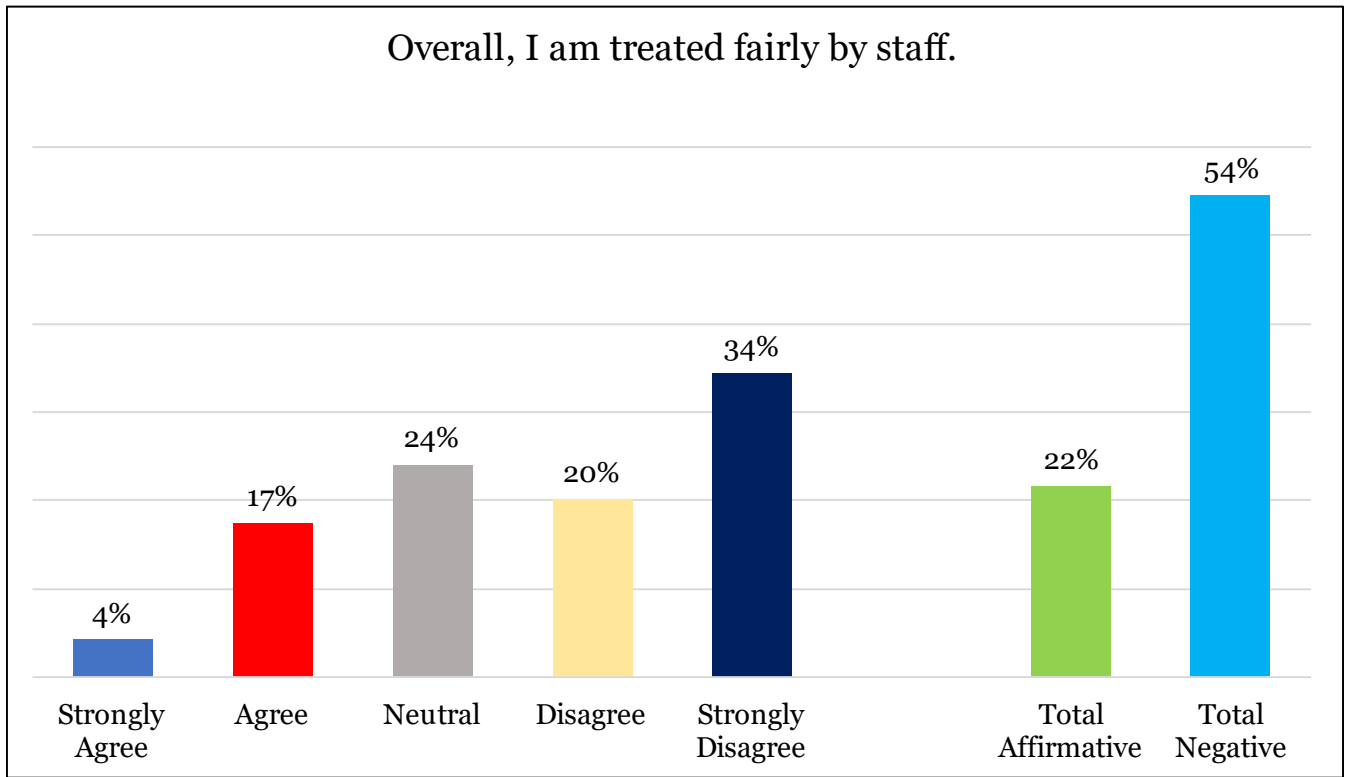
I get along well with the officers on my unit.



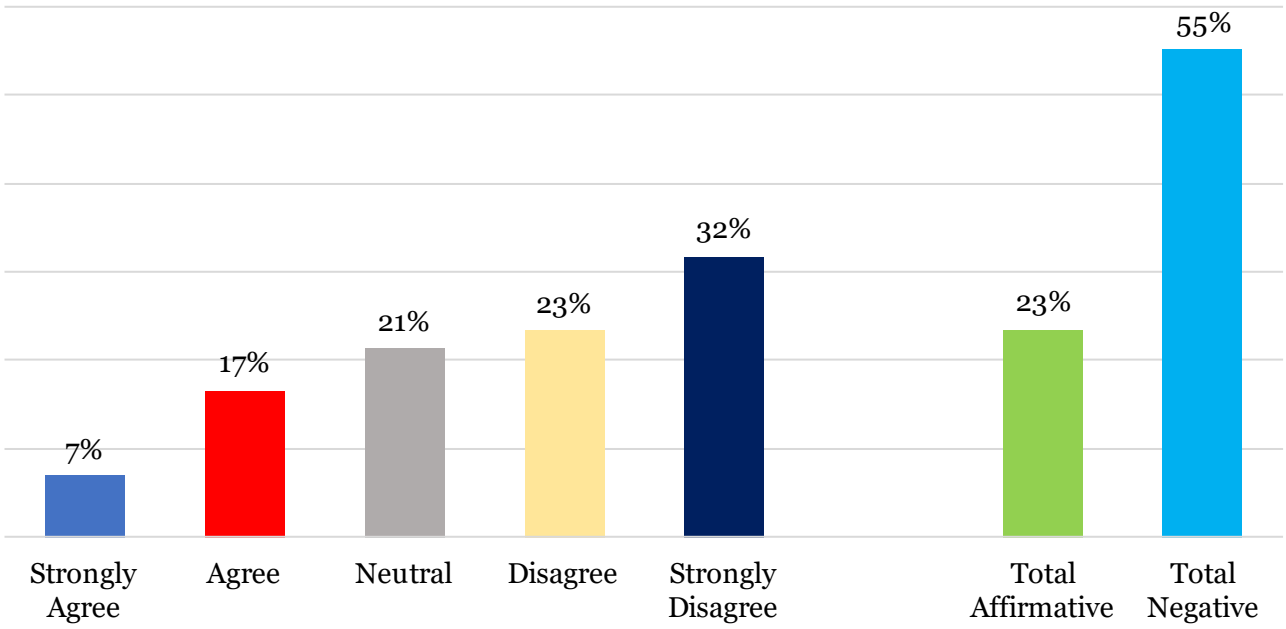
Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.



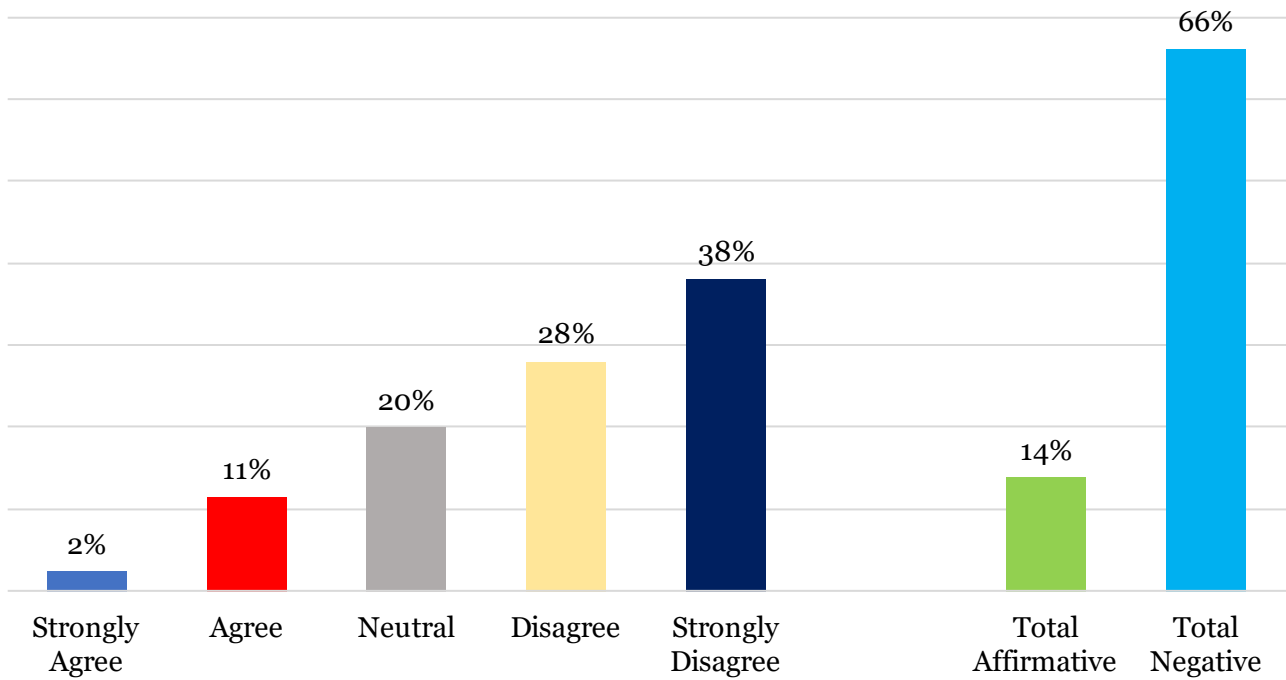
STAFF-INCARCERATED PEOPLE RELATIONSHIPS – TRUSTING, FAIR AND SUPPORTIVE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN STAFF AND INCARCERATED PEOPLE



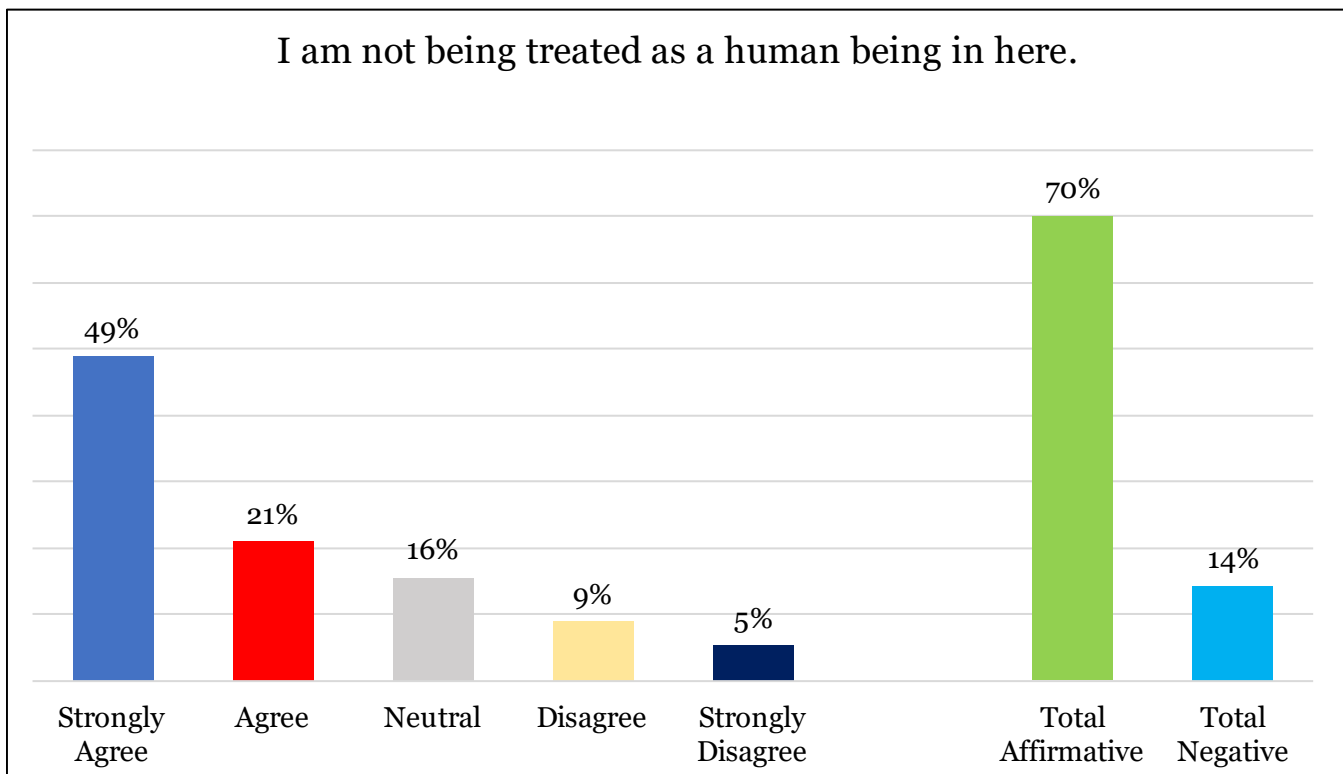
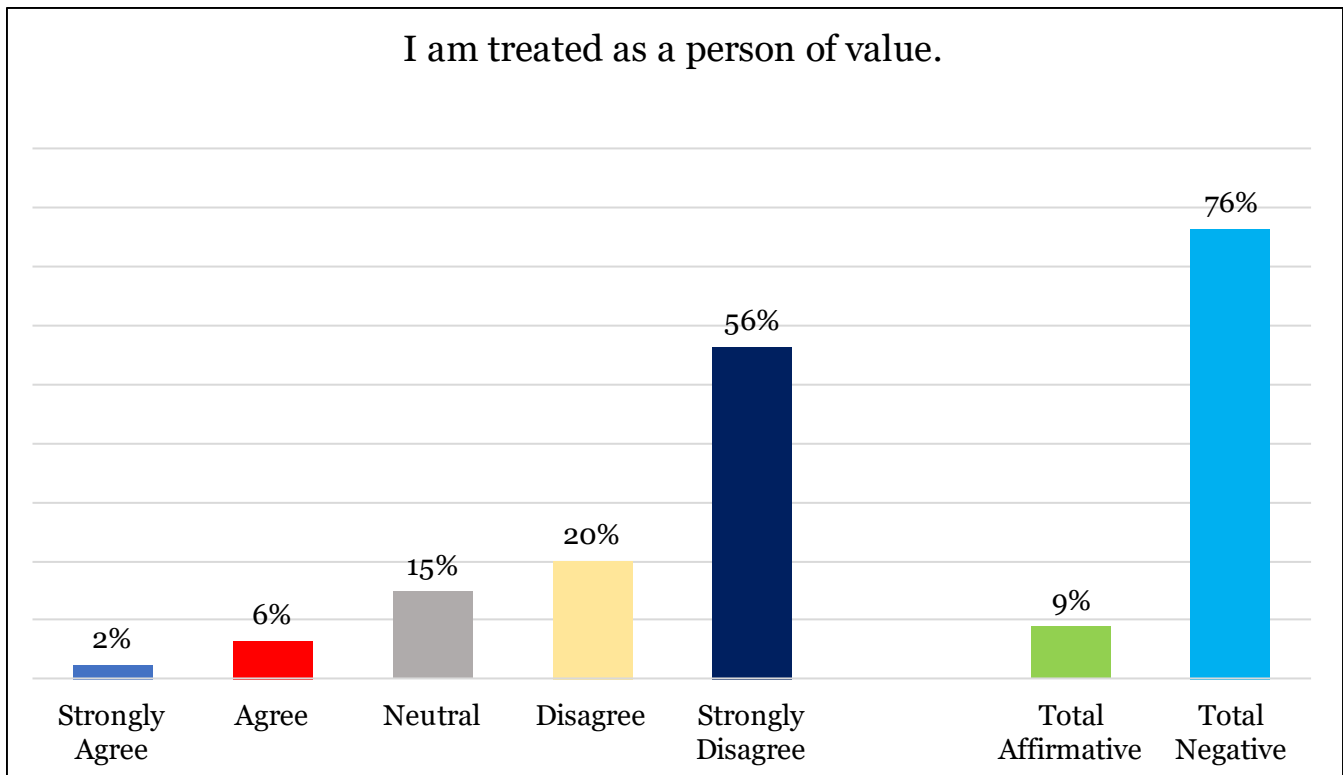
When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.



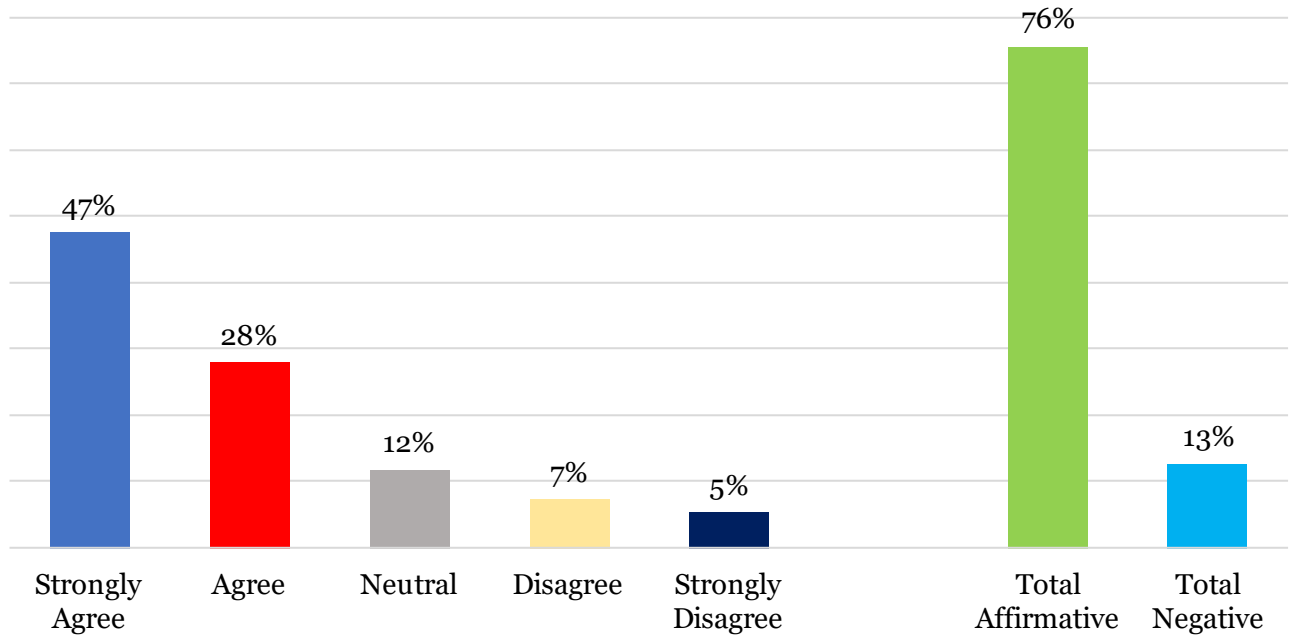
I receive support from staff when I need it.



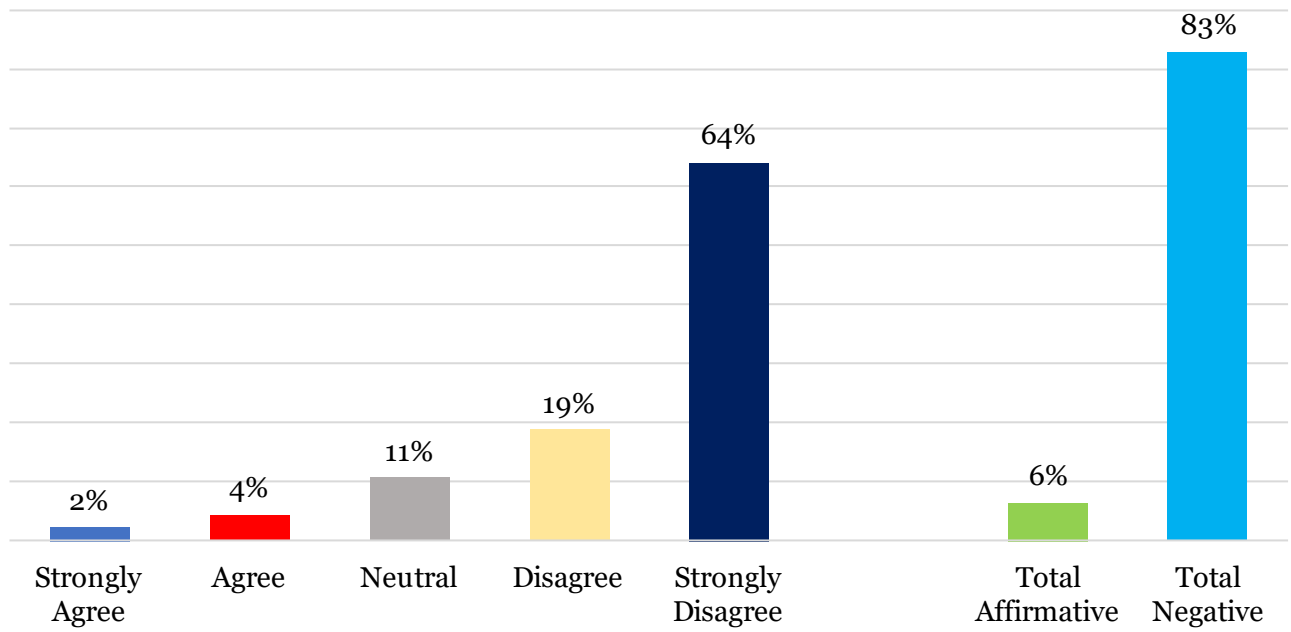
HUMANITY – AN ENVIRONMENT CHARACTERIZED BY KIND REGARD AND CONCERN FOR THE PERSON, WHICH RECOGNIZES THE VALUE AND HUMANITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL



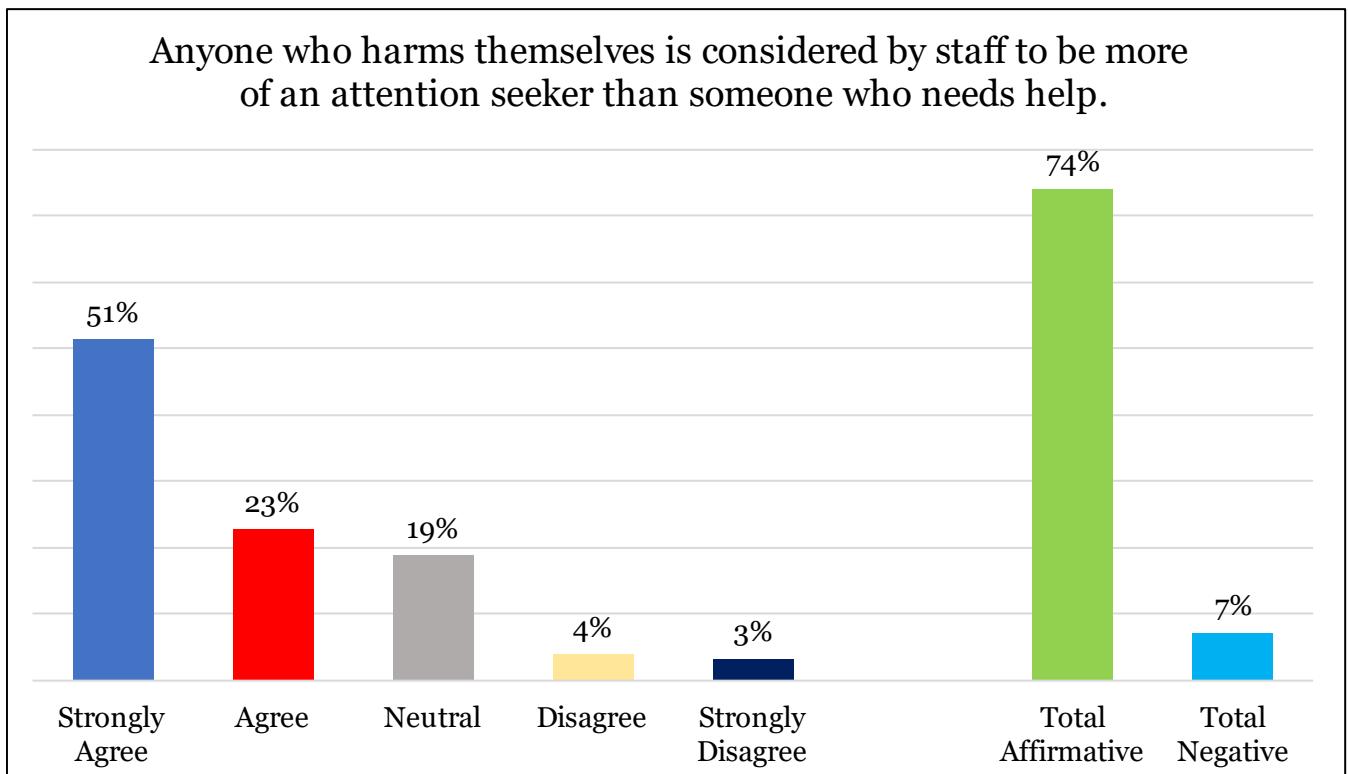
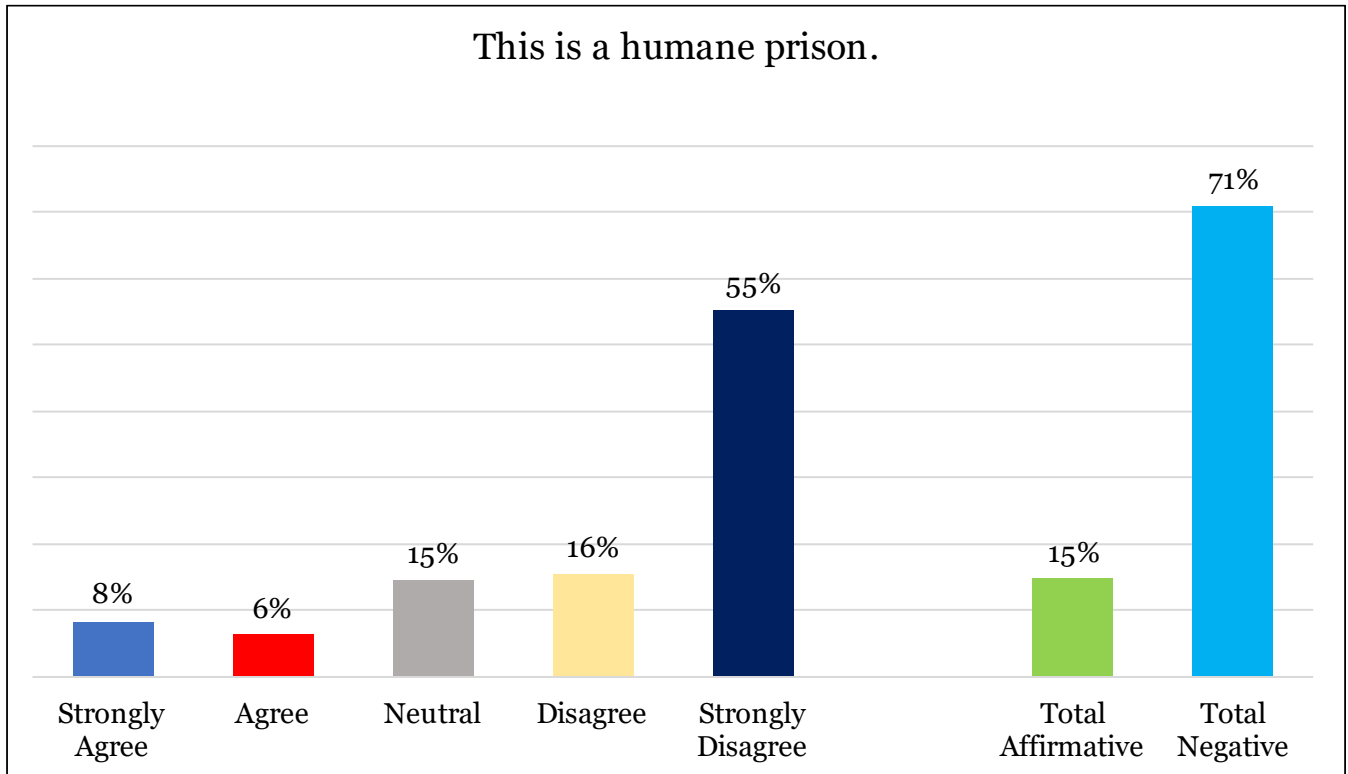
Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.



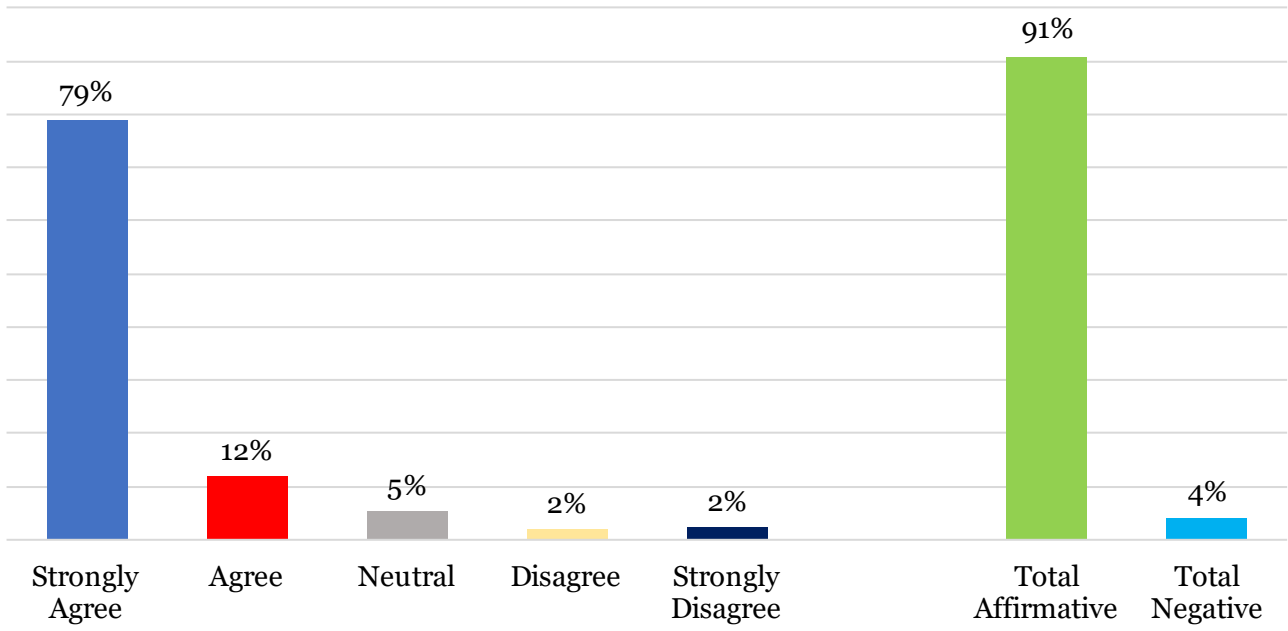
Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.



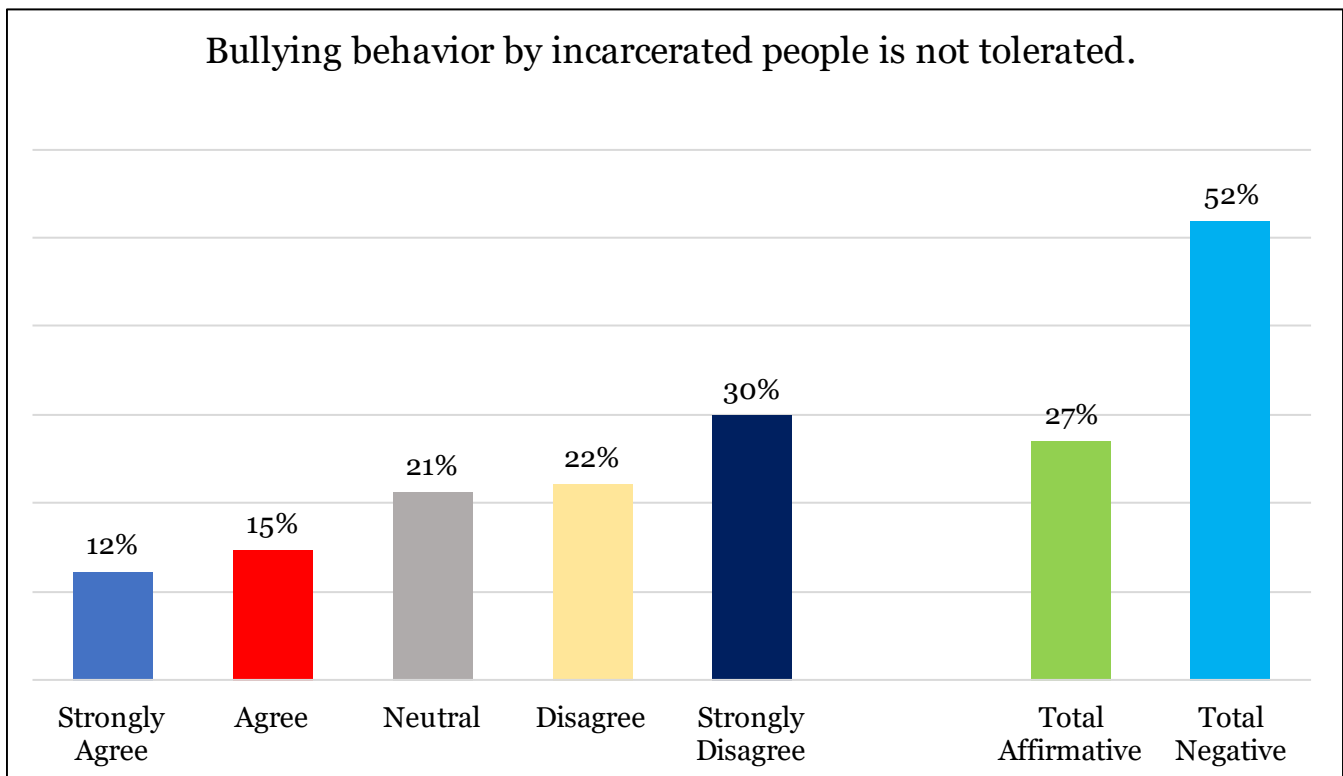
DECENCY - THE EXTENT TO WHICH STAFF AND THE REGIME ARE CONSIDERED REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE



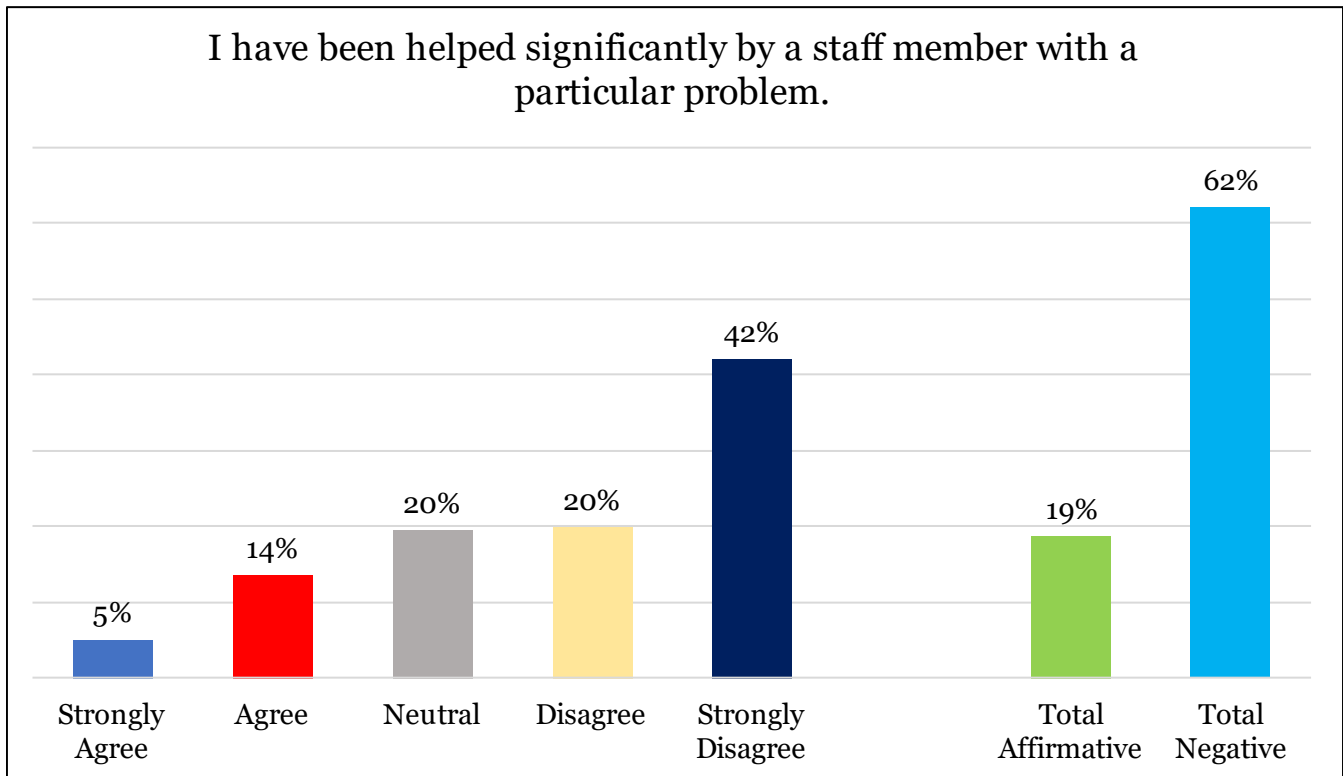
Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.



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

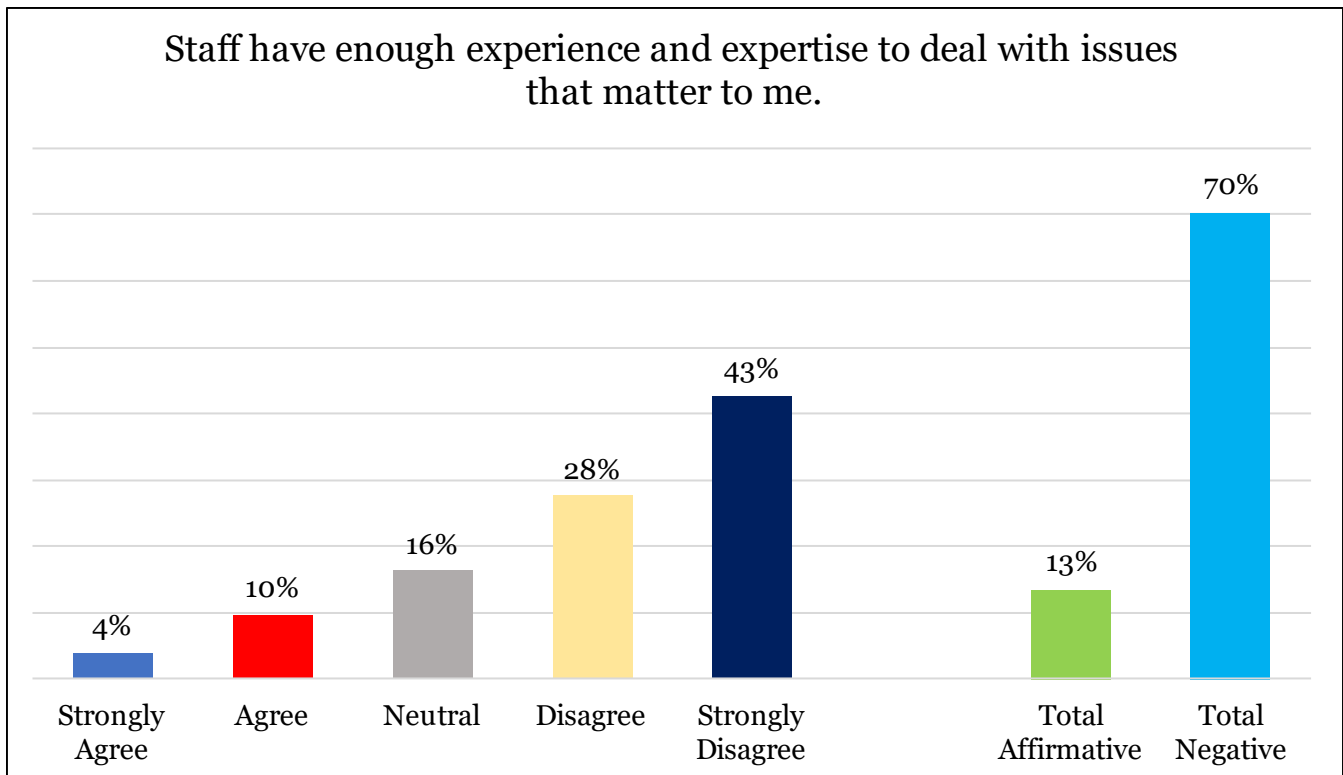
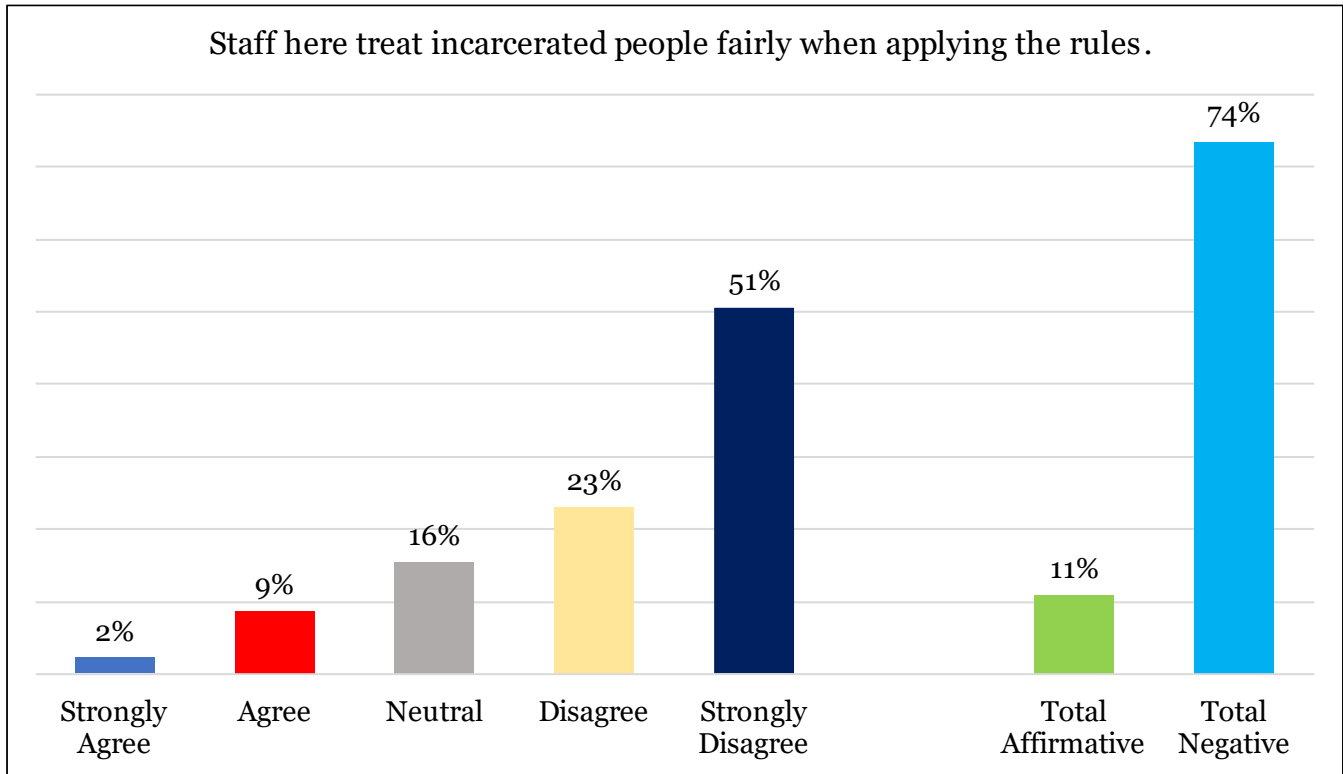


HELP AND ASSISTANCE – SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN TO INCARCERATED PEOPLE FOR PROBLEMS INCLUDING DRUGS, HEALTHCARE AND PROGRESSION

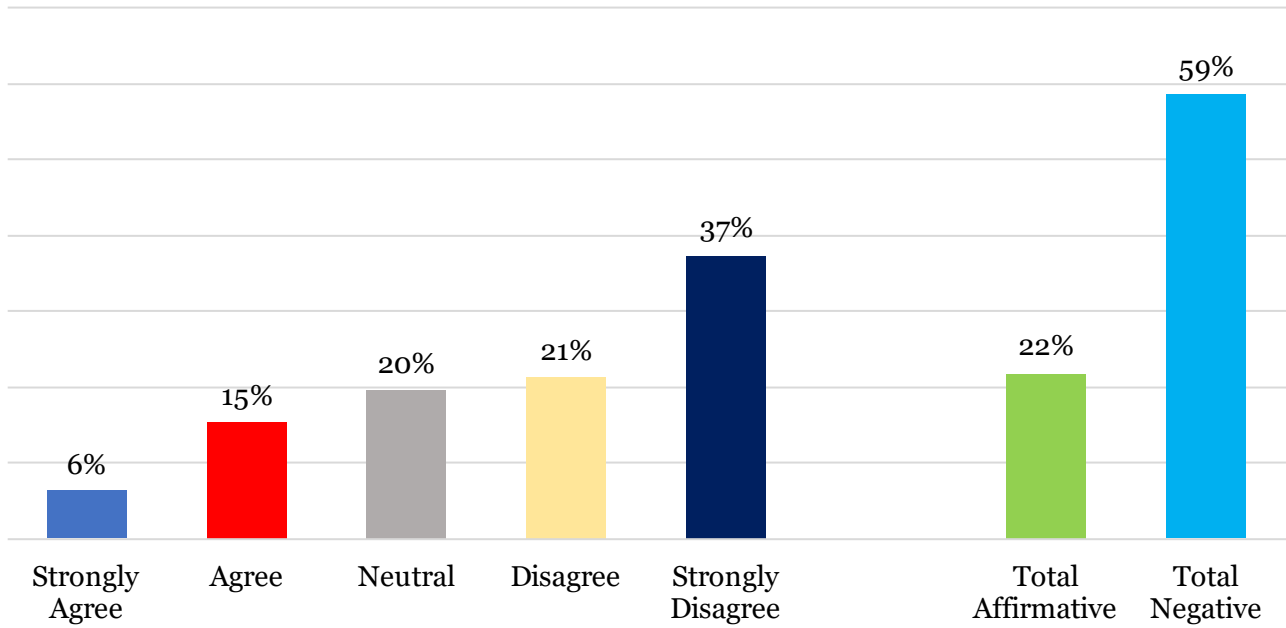


Professionalism

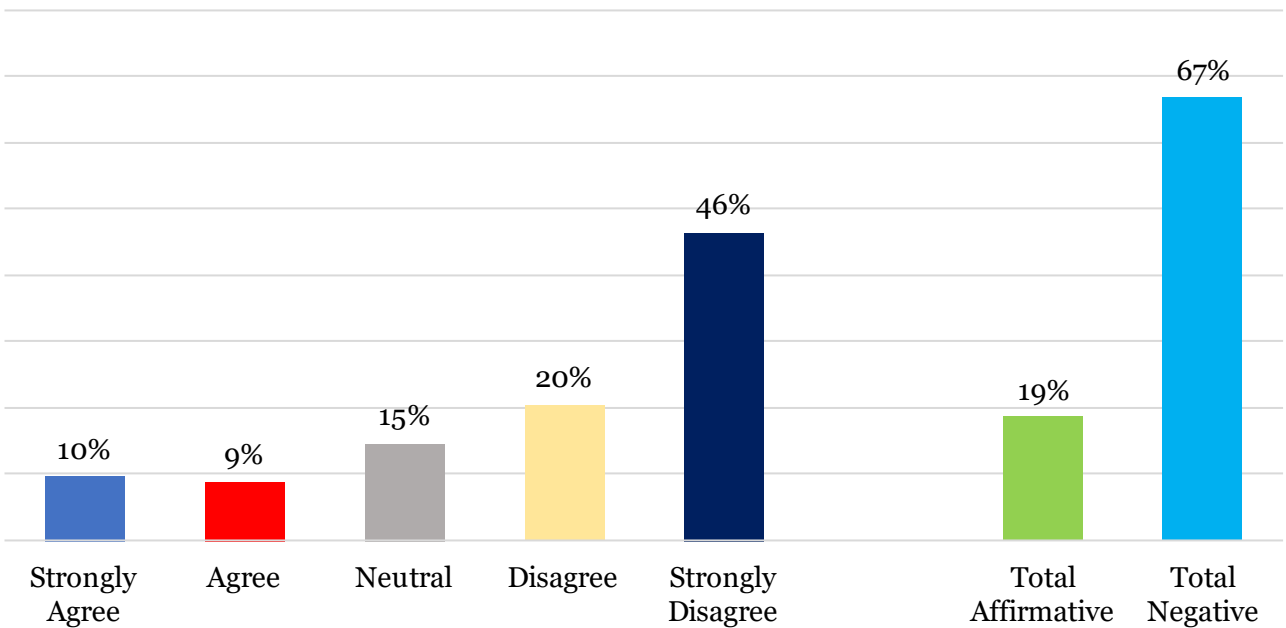
STAFF PROFESSIONALISM – STAFF CONFIDENCE AND COMPETENCE IN THE USE OF AUTHORITY



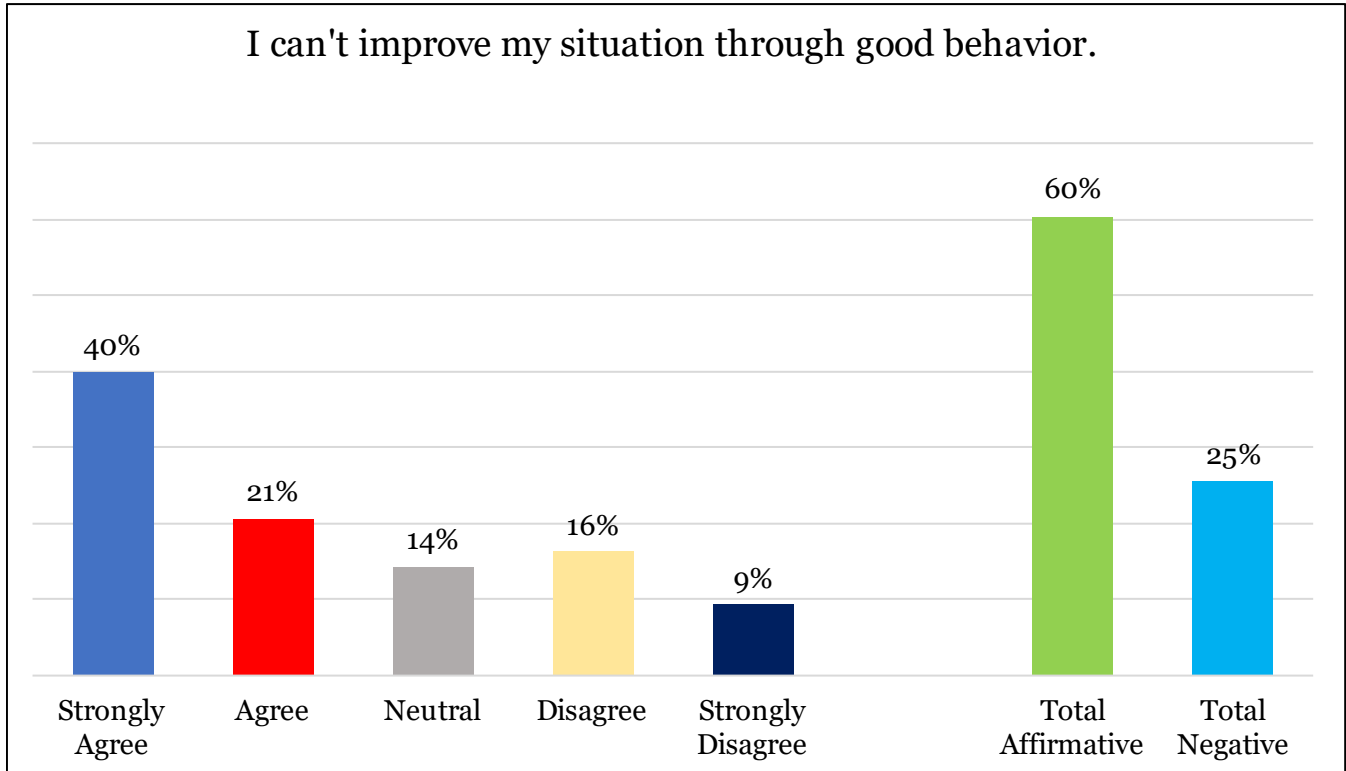
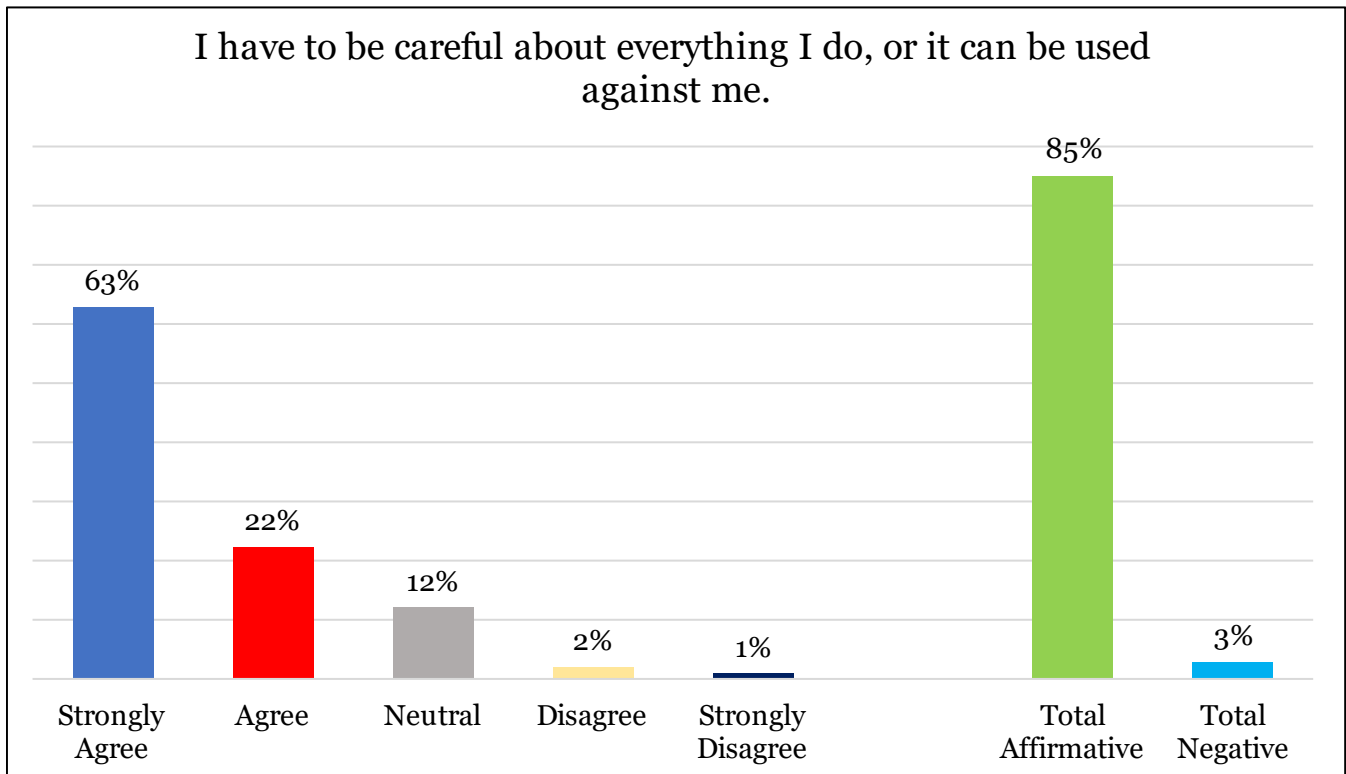
The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.



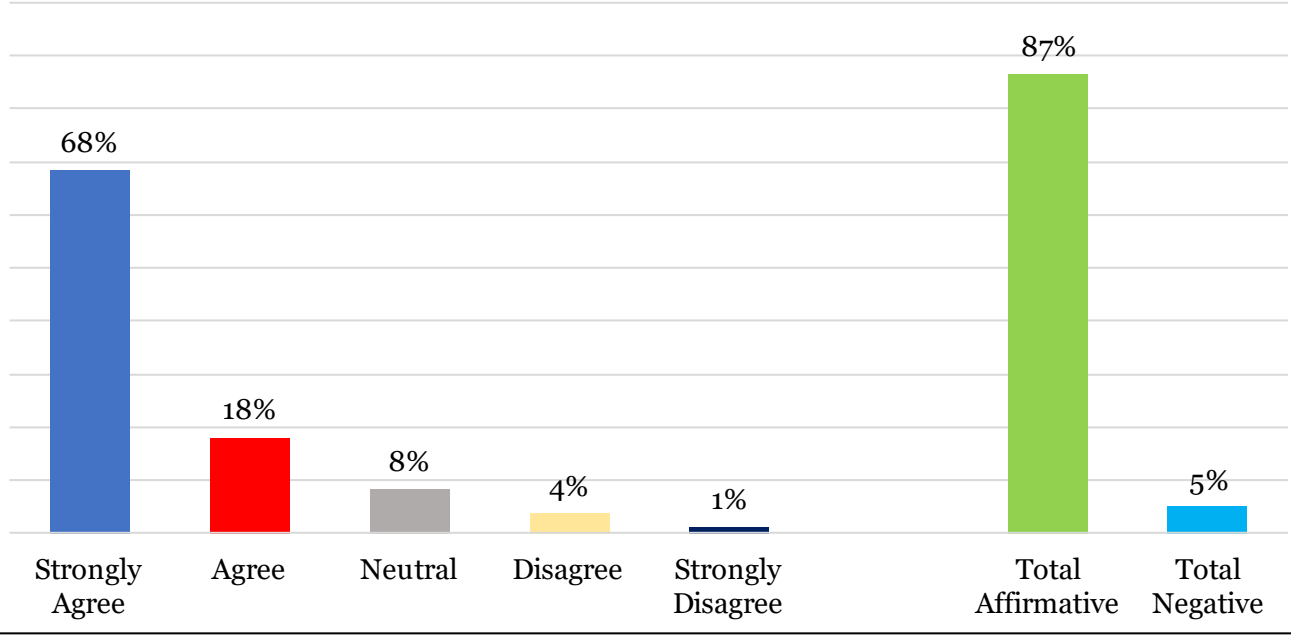
If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.



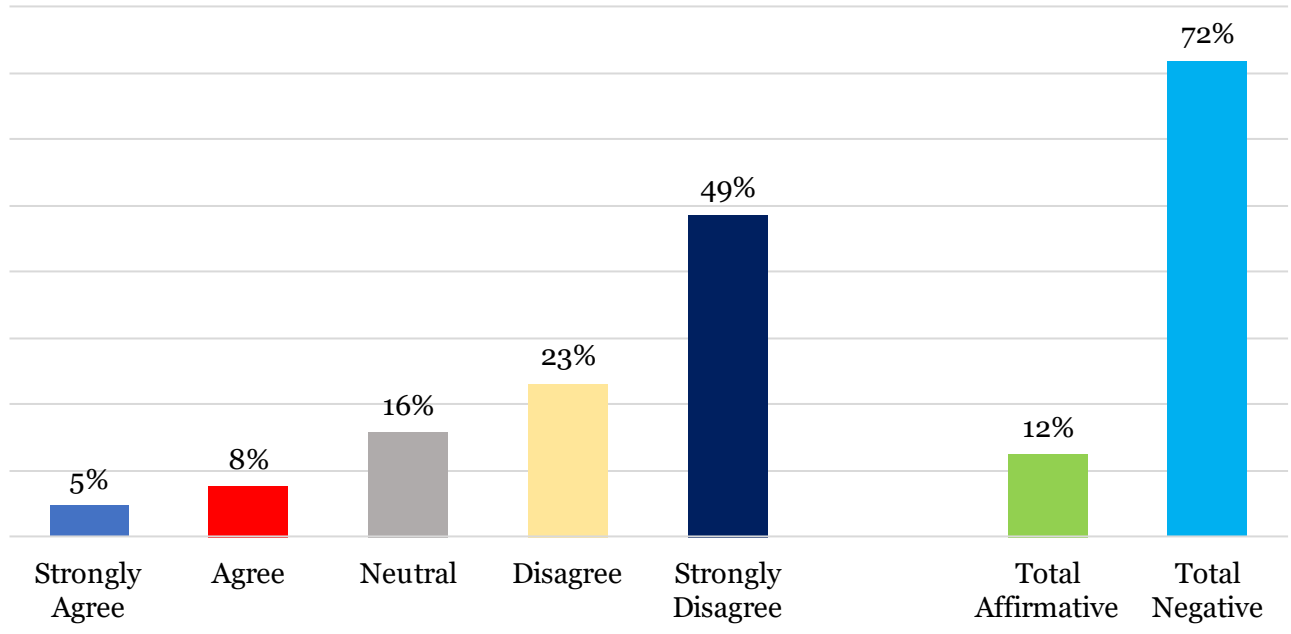
BUREAUCRATIC LEGITIMACY – THE TRANSPARENCY AND RESPONSIVENESS OF THE PRISON/PRISON SYSTEM AND ITS MORAL RECOGNITION OF THE INDIVIDUAL



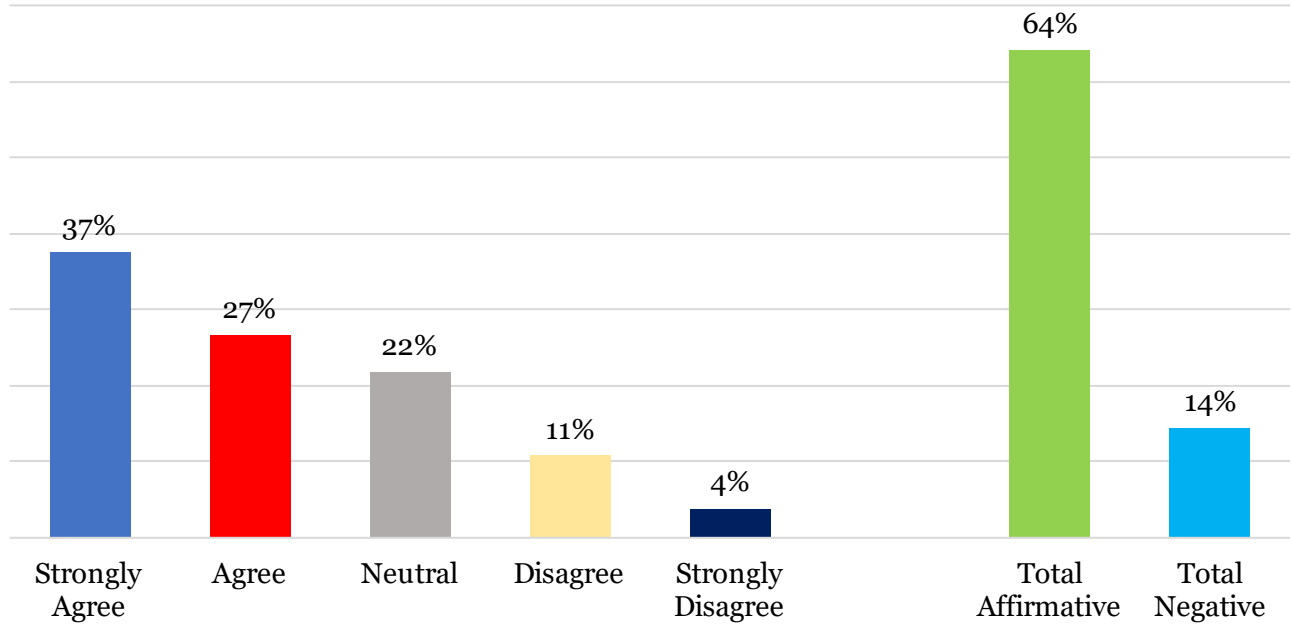
All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.



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

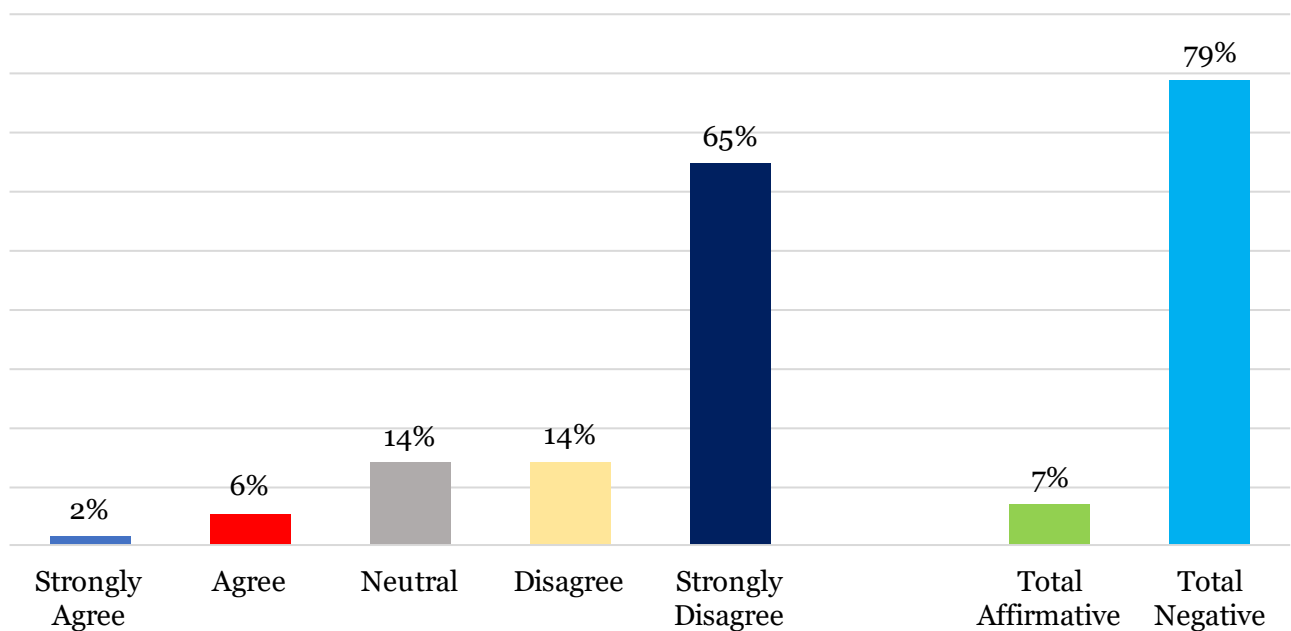


To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.

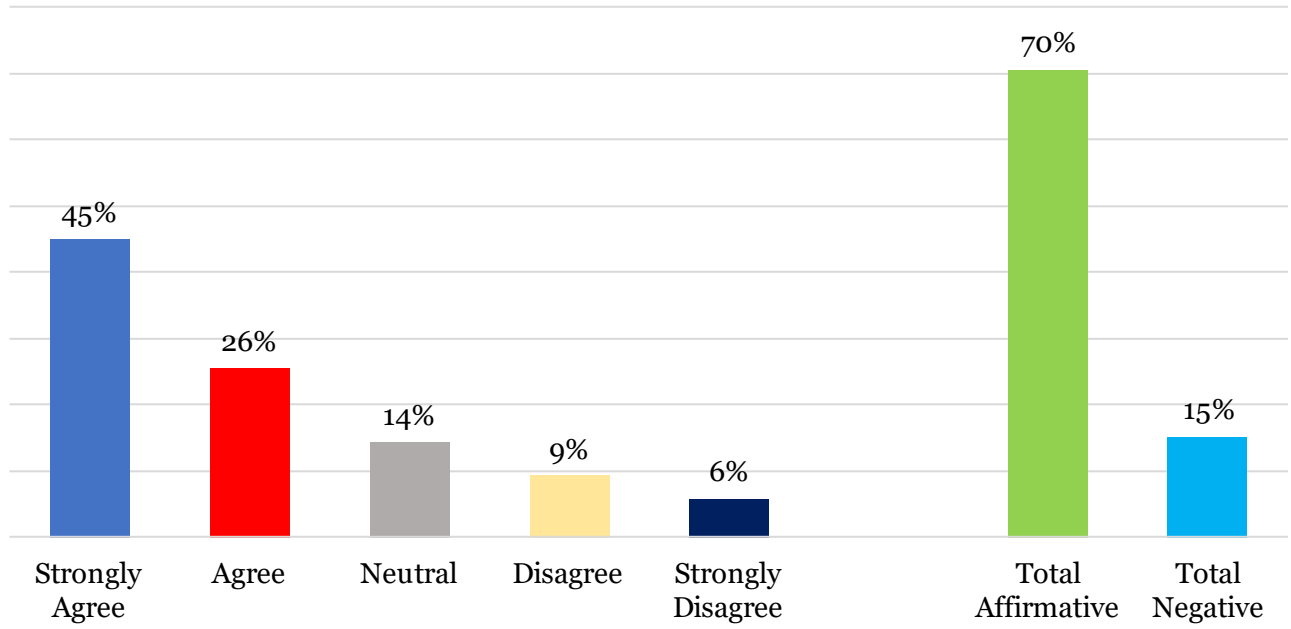


FAIRNESS – THE PERCEIVED IMPARTIALITY, PROPORTIONALITY AND LEGALITY OF PUNISHMENTS AND PROCEDURES

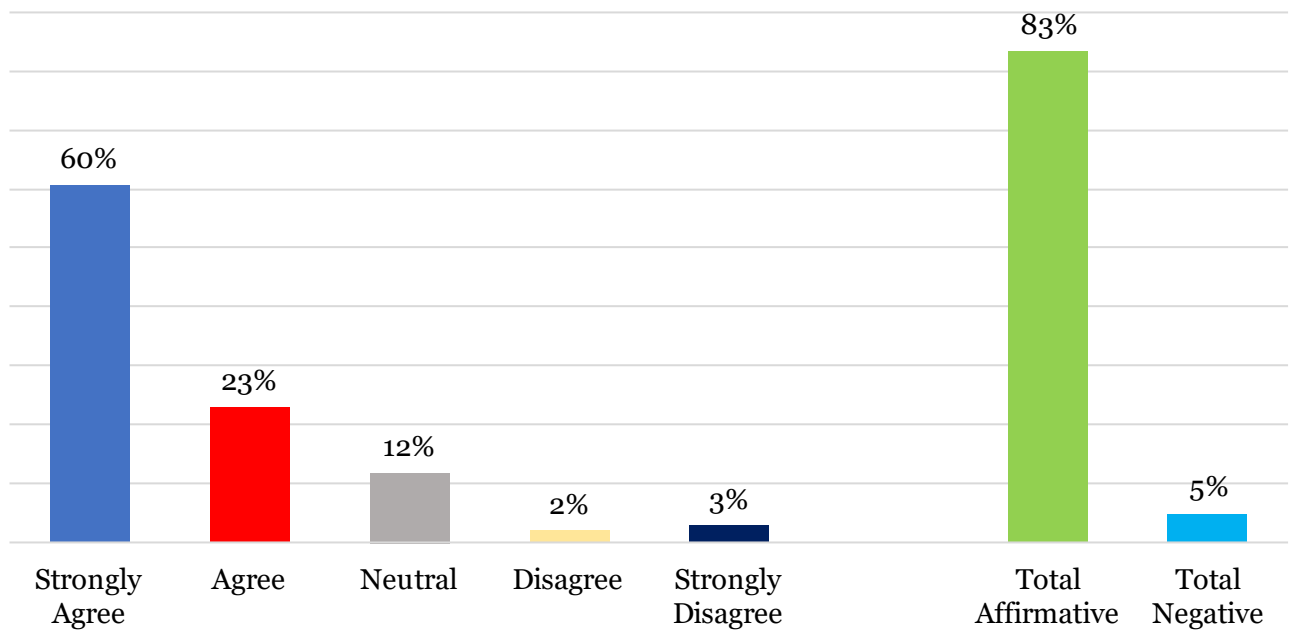
The disciplinary system is fair.



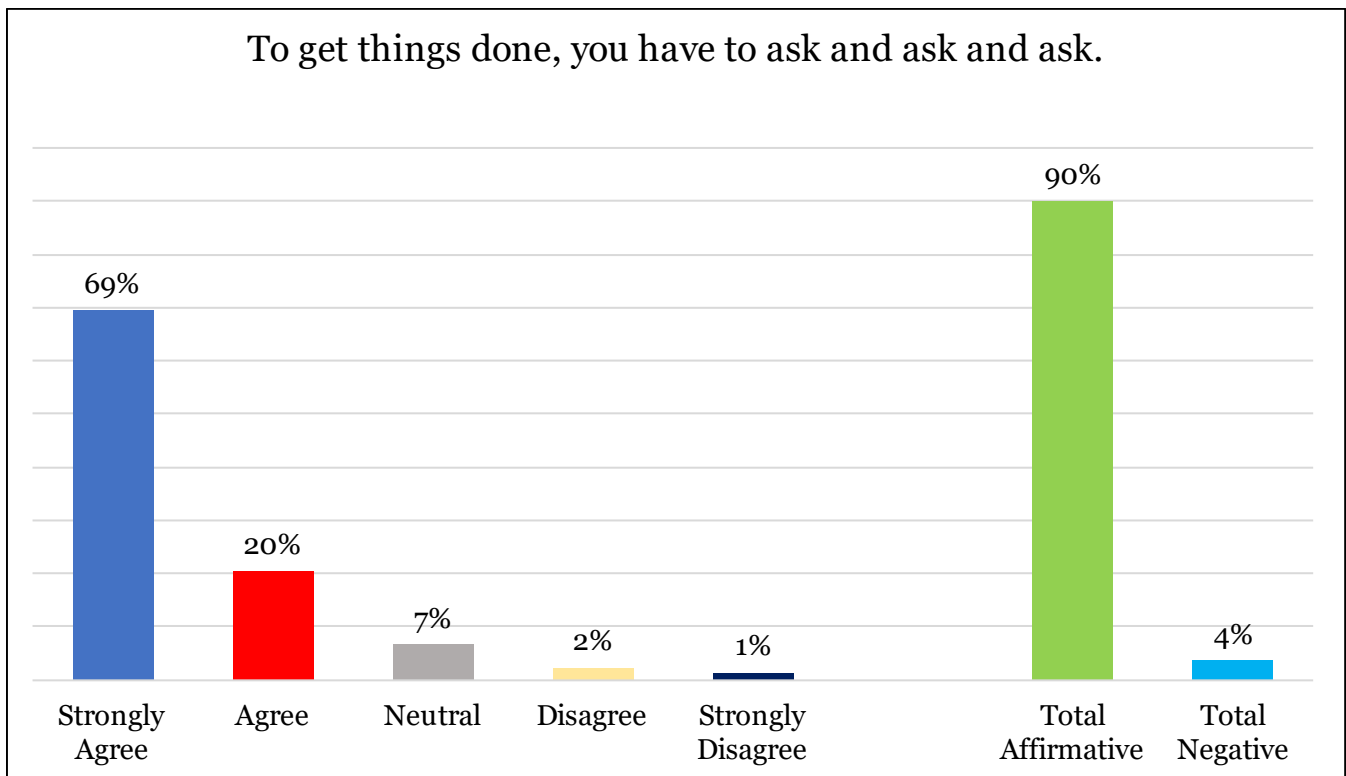
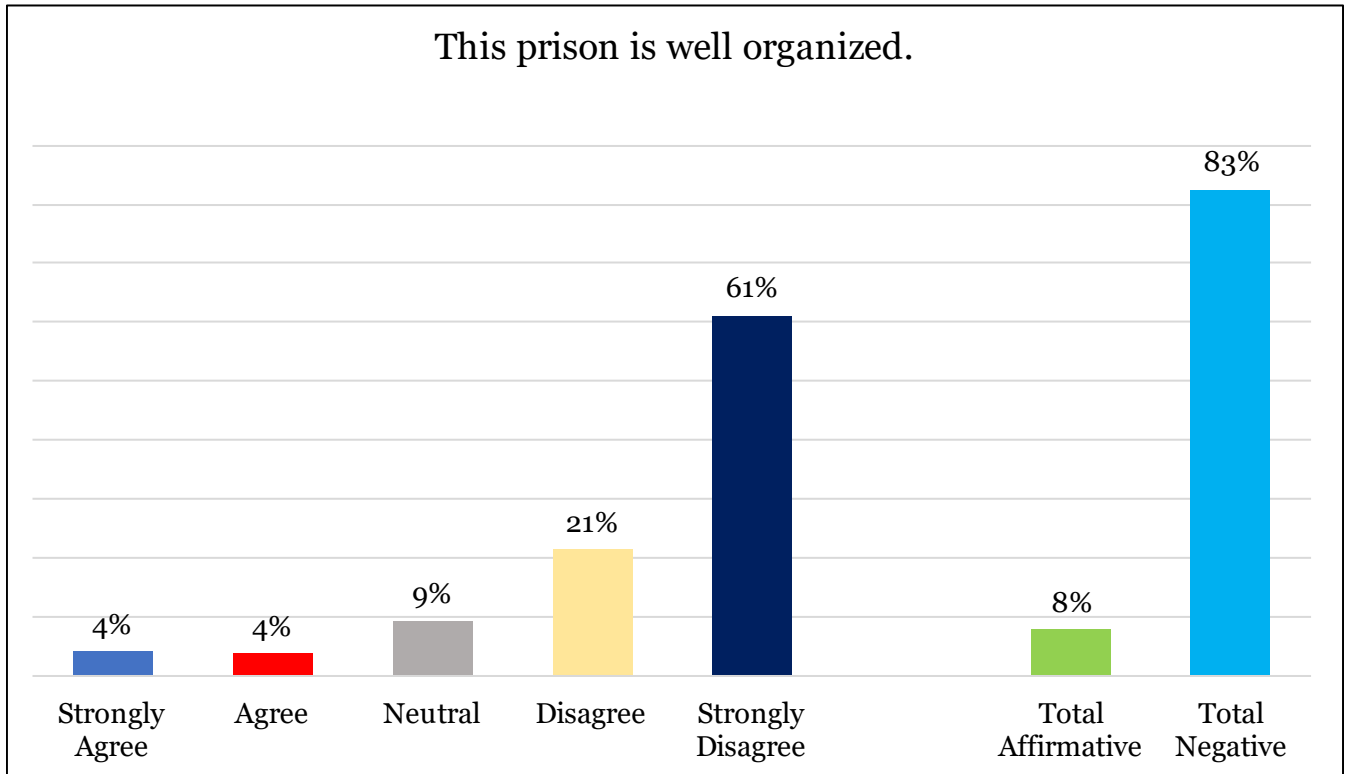
Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.



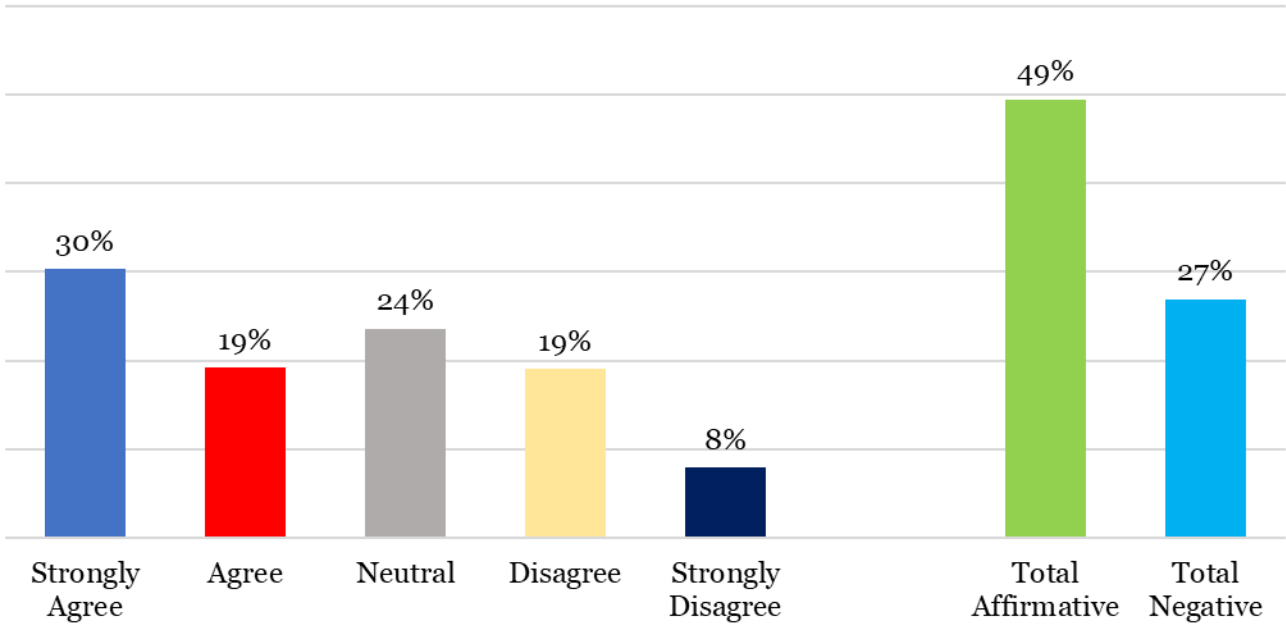
This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.



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

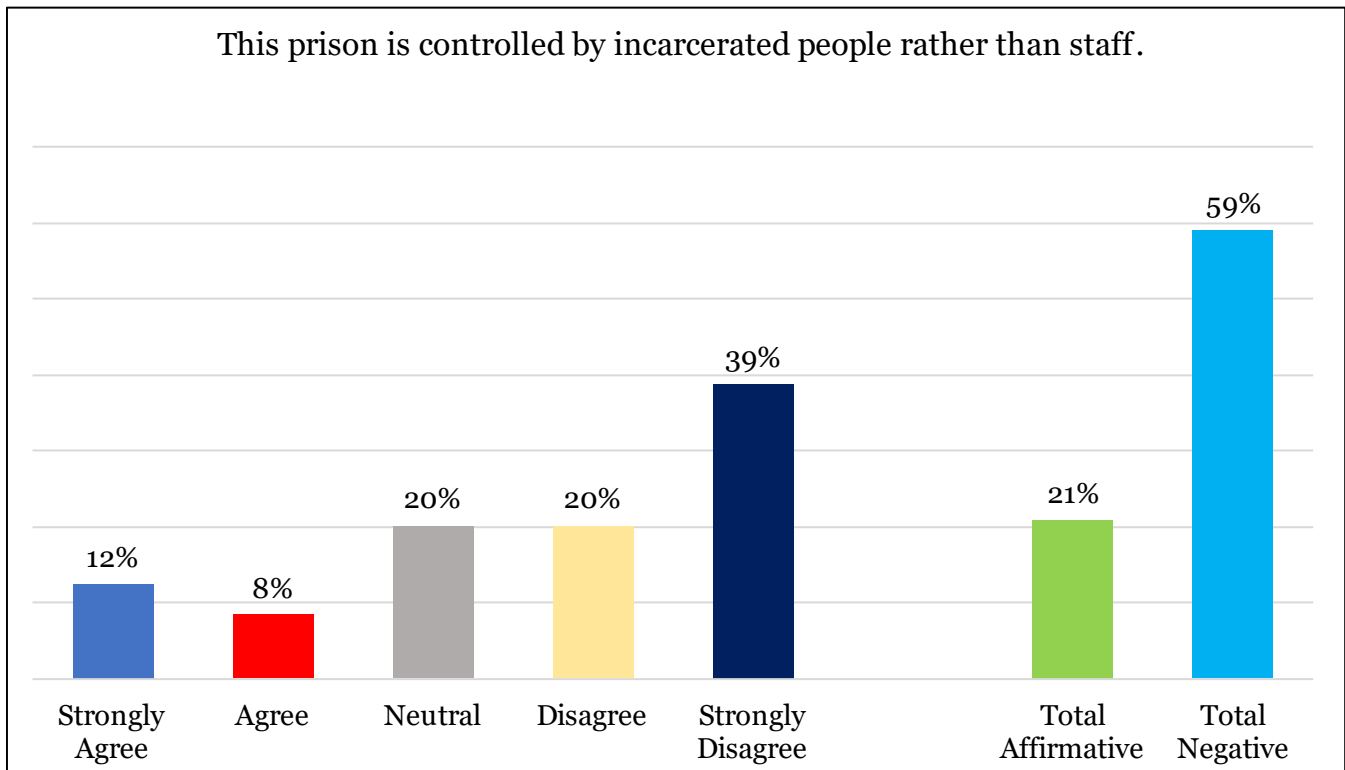
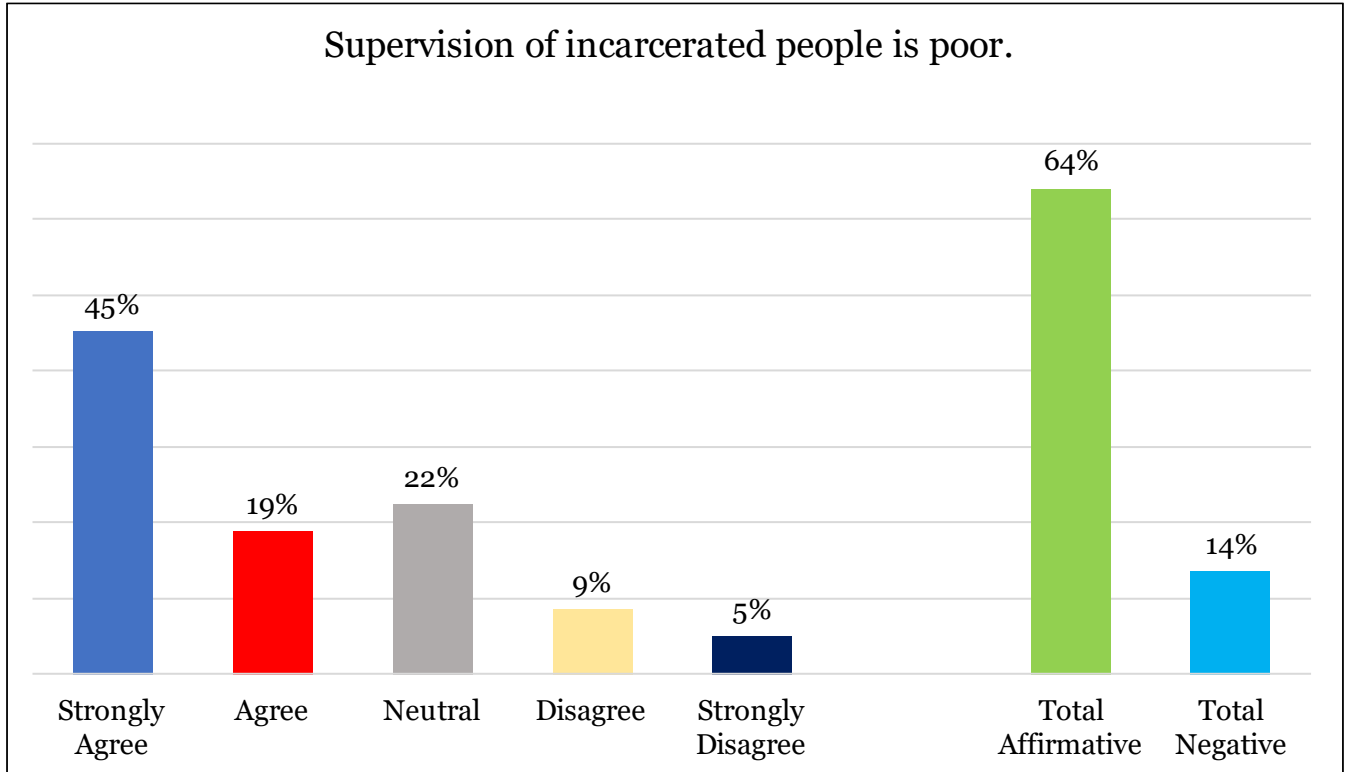


You never know the rules.

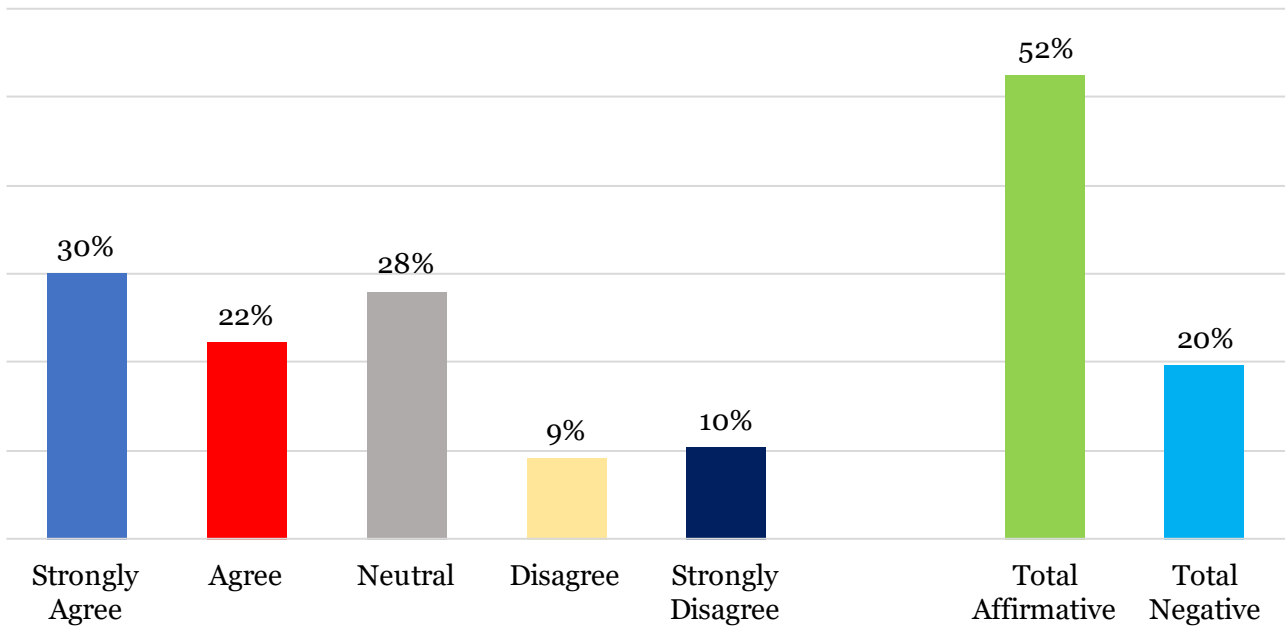


Security

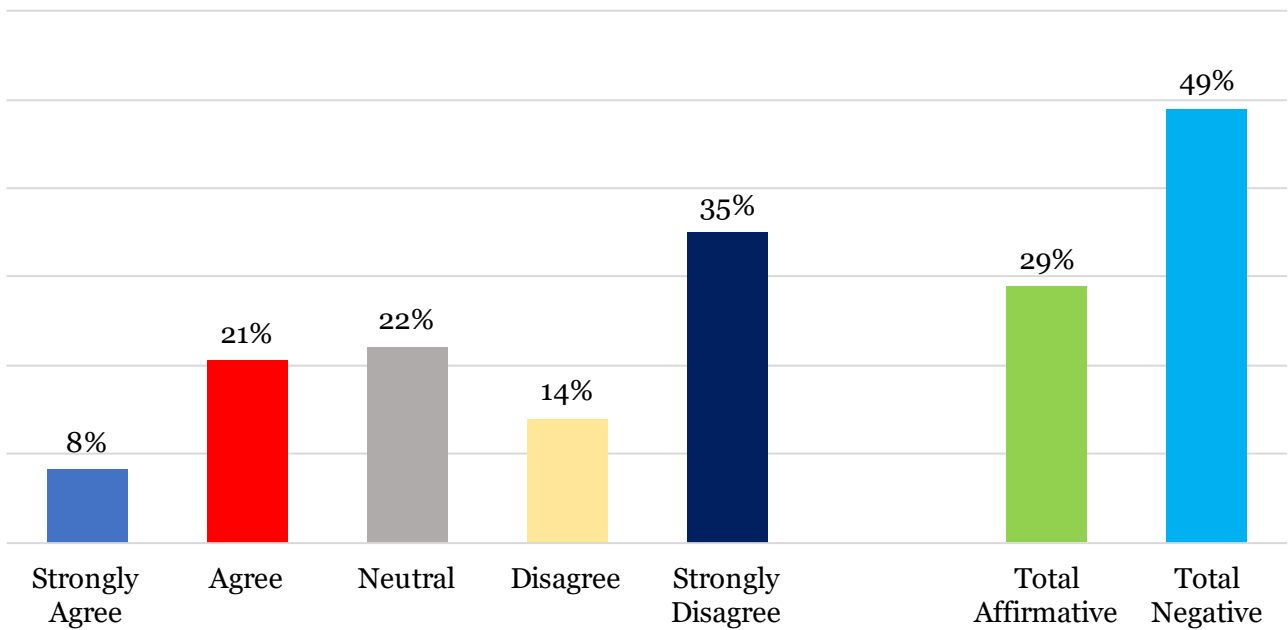
POLICING AND SECURITY – STAFF SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT



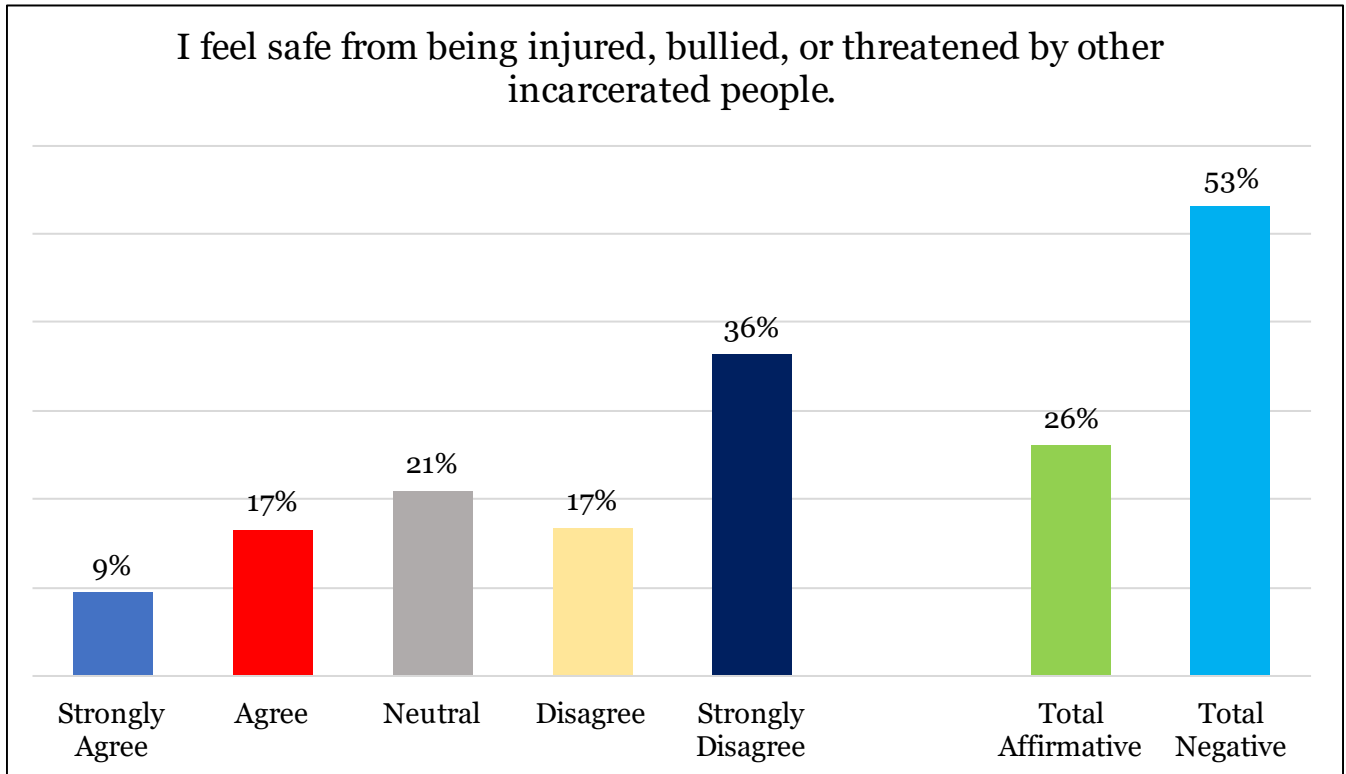
There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.



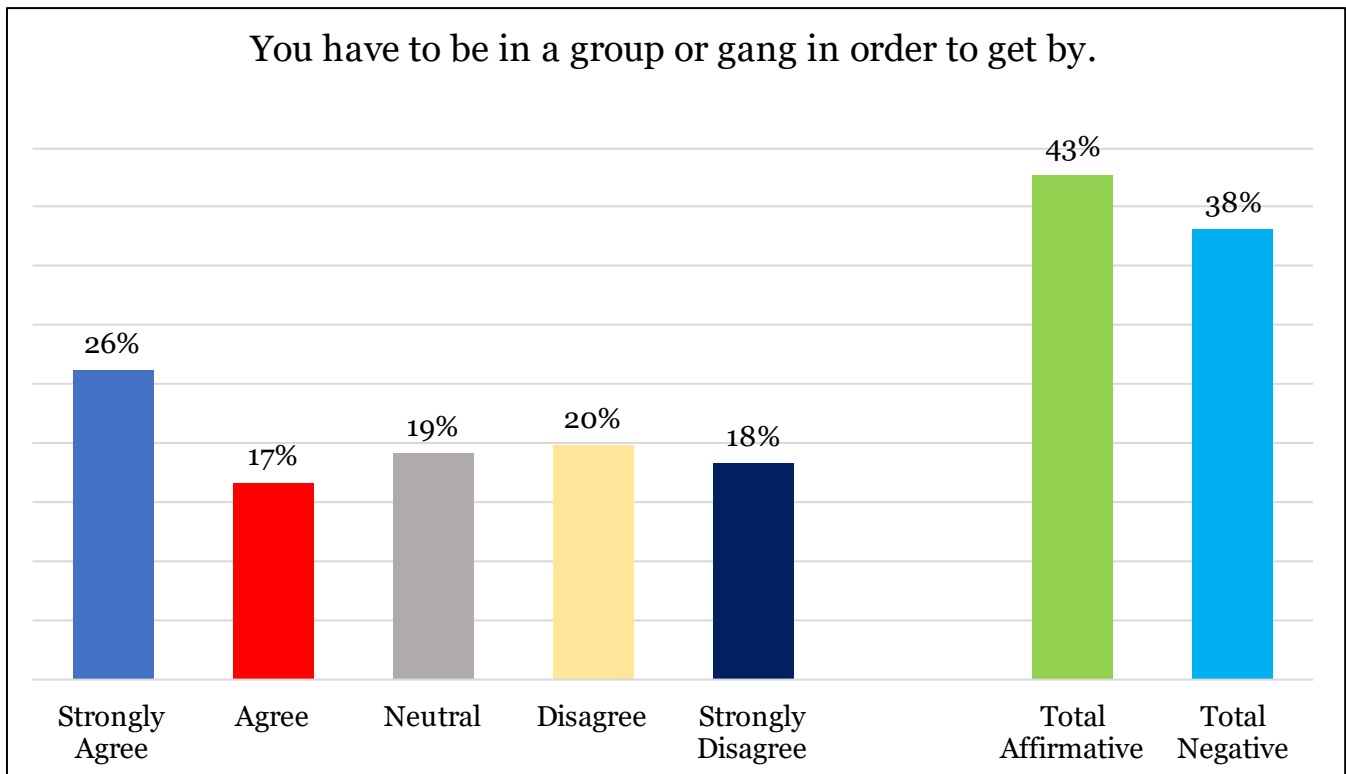
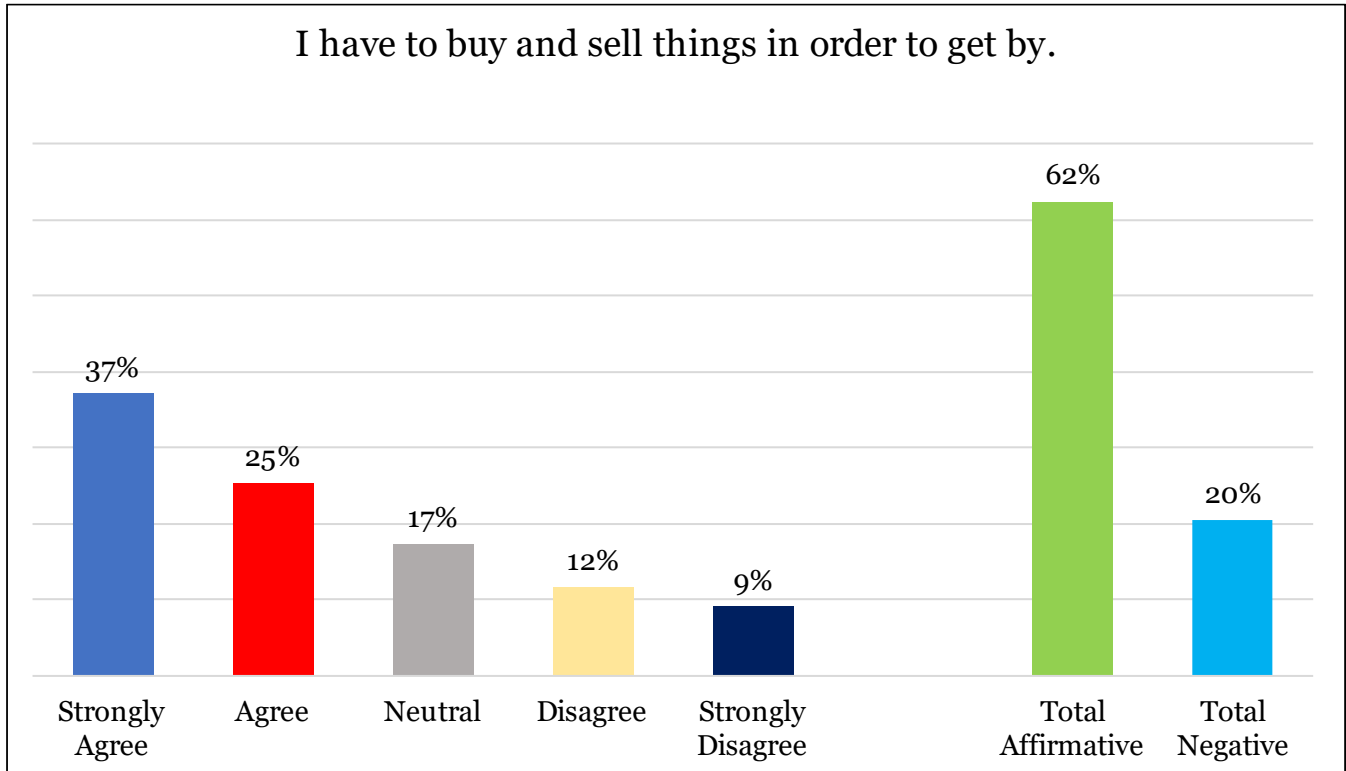
Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.



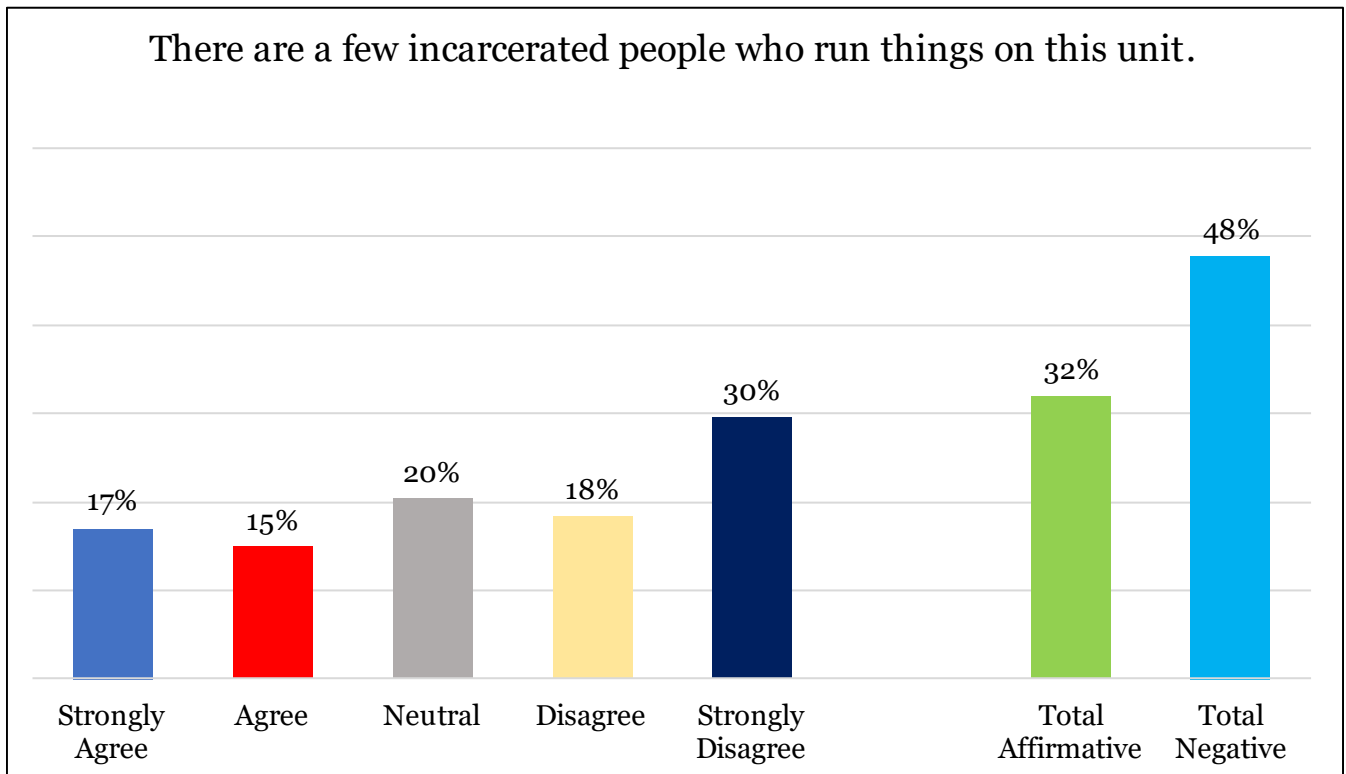
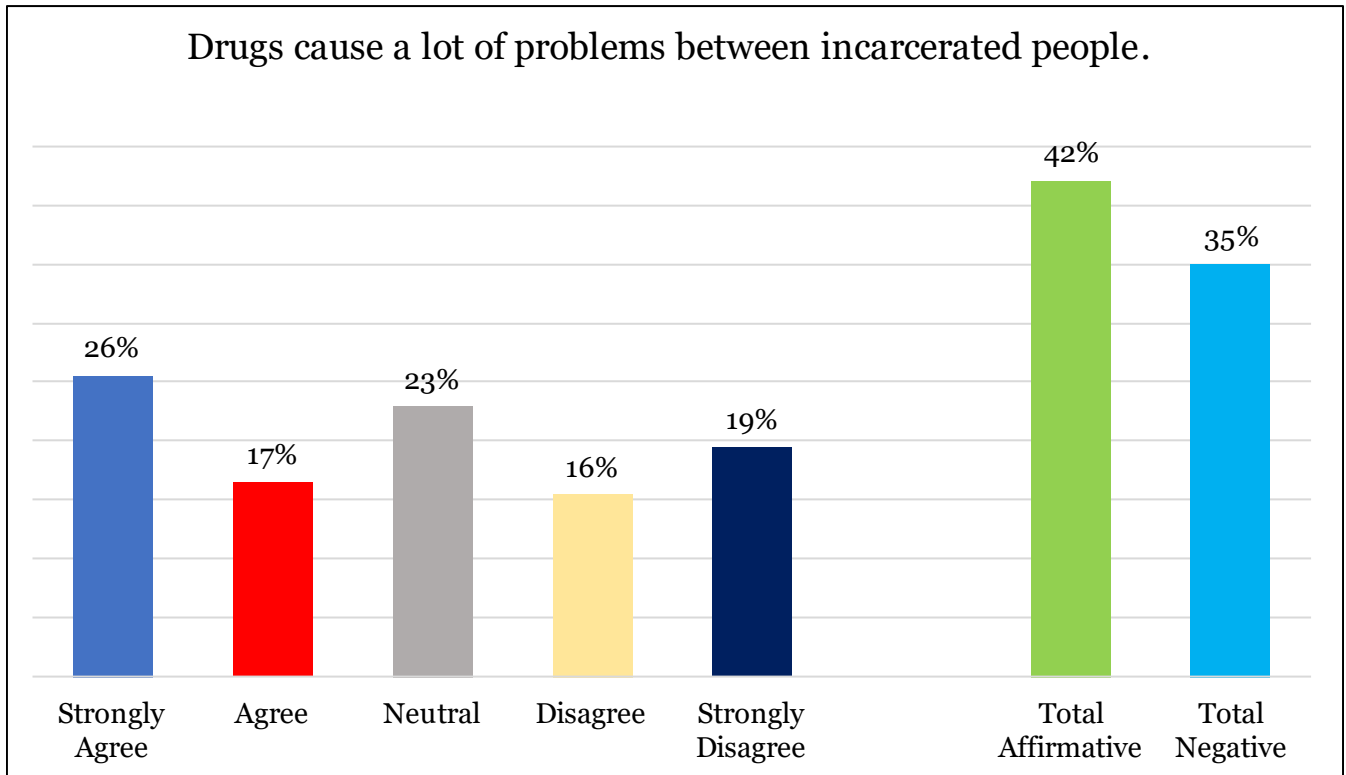
INCARCERATED PERSON SAFETY – THE FEELING OF SECURITY OR PROTECTION FROM HARM, THREAT OR DANGER



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

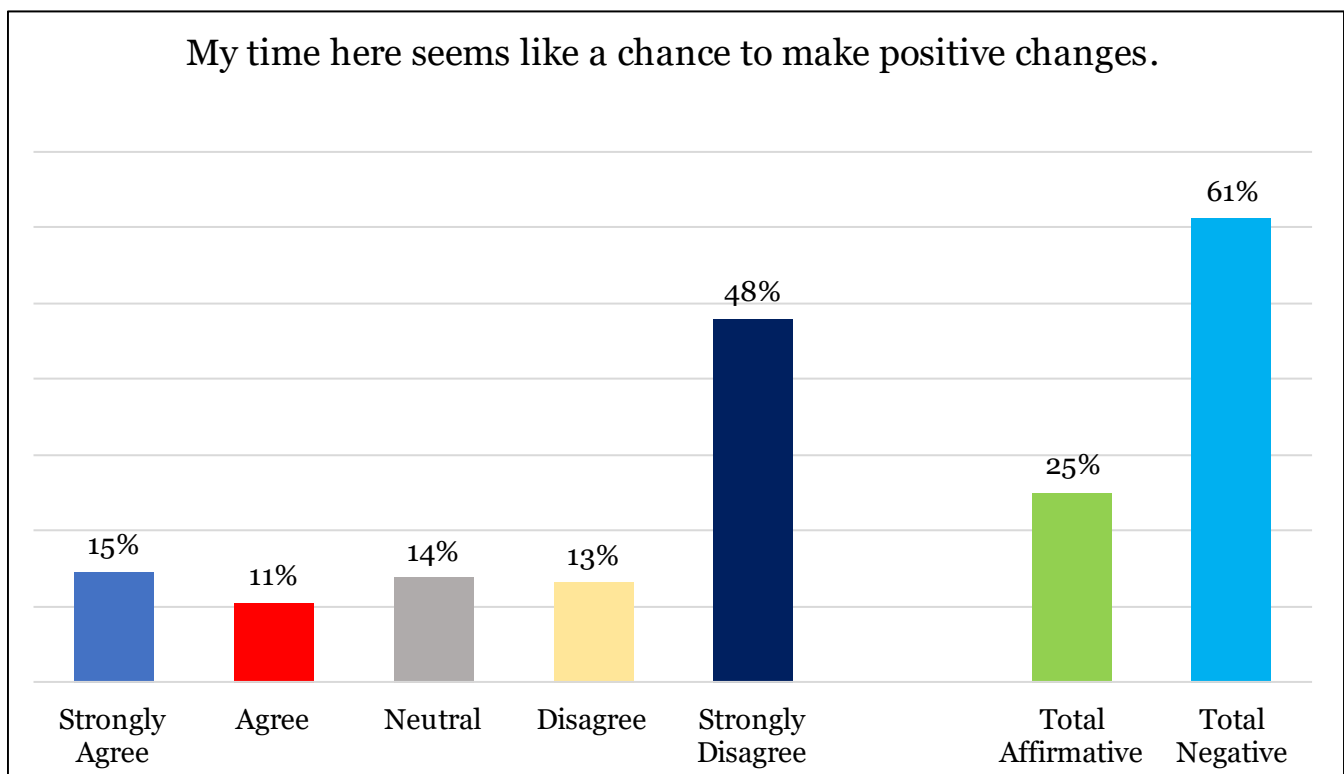
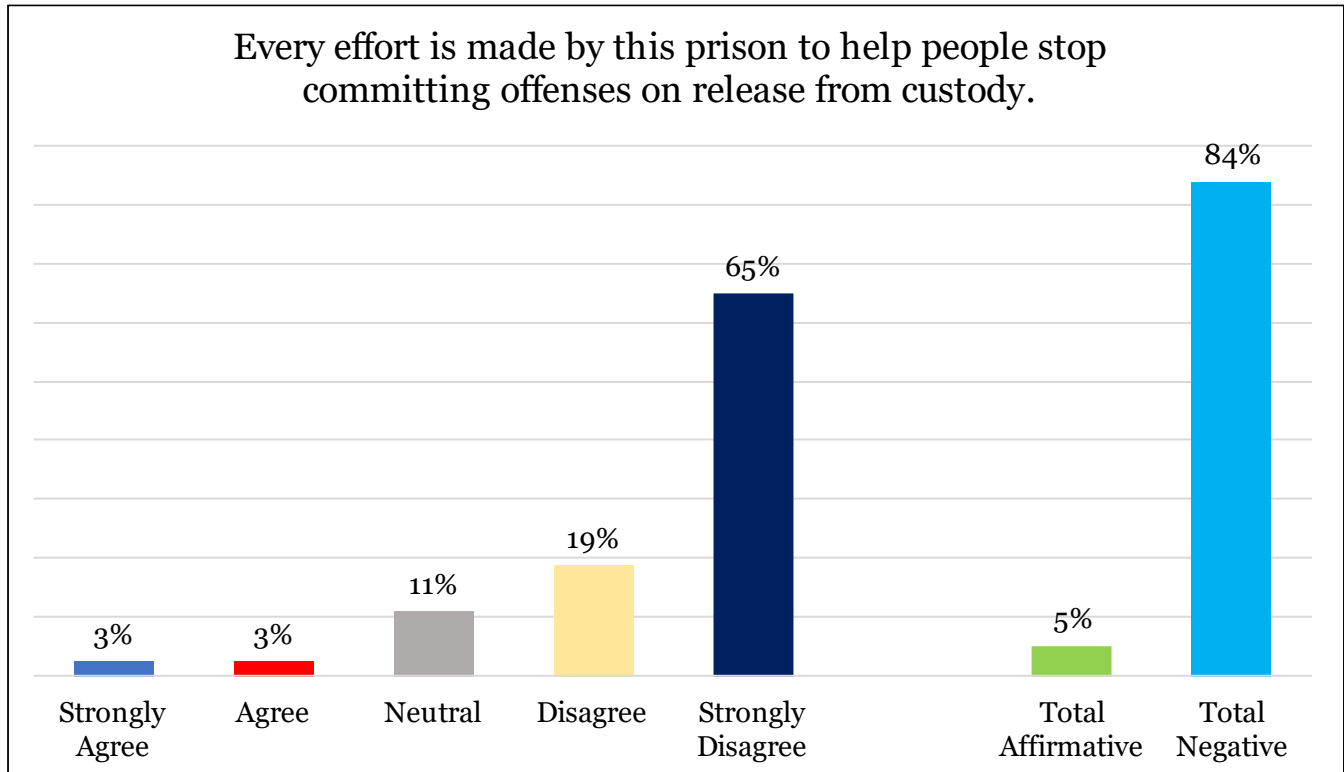


DRUGS AND EXPLOITATION – THE LEVEL OF DRUGS, BULLYING AND VICTIMIZATION IN THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT

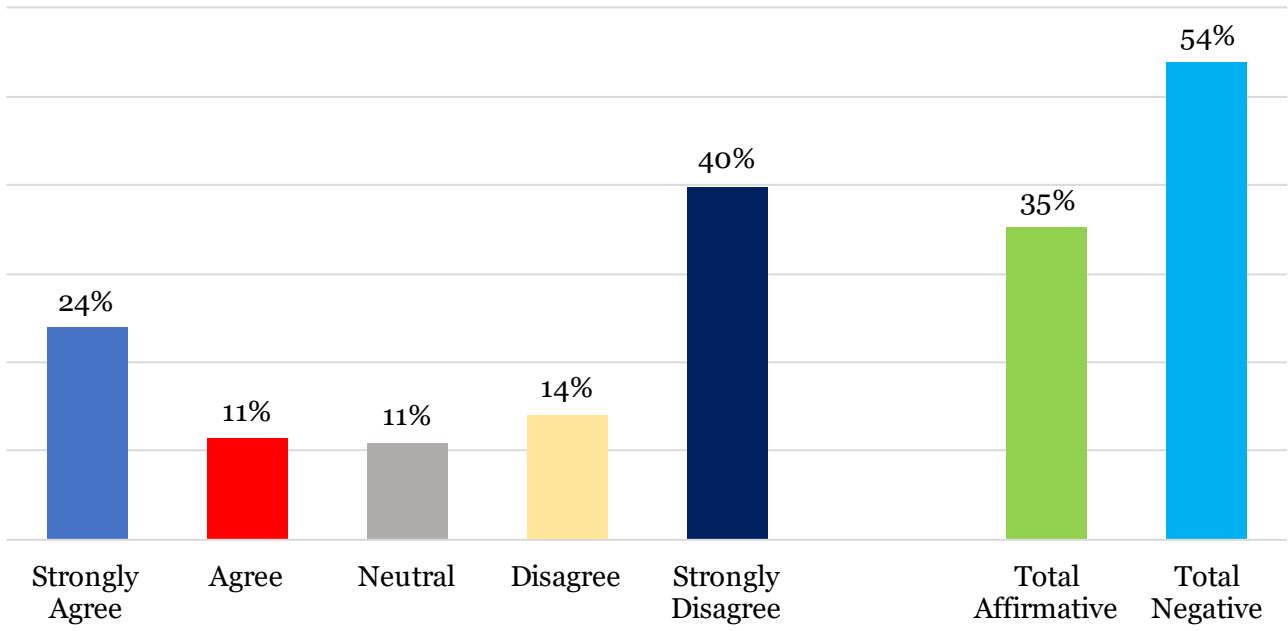


Well-being and Development

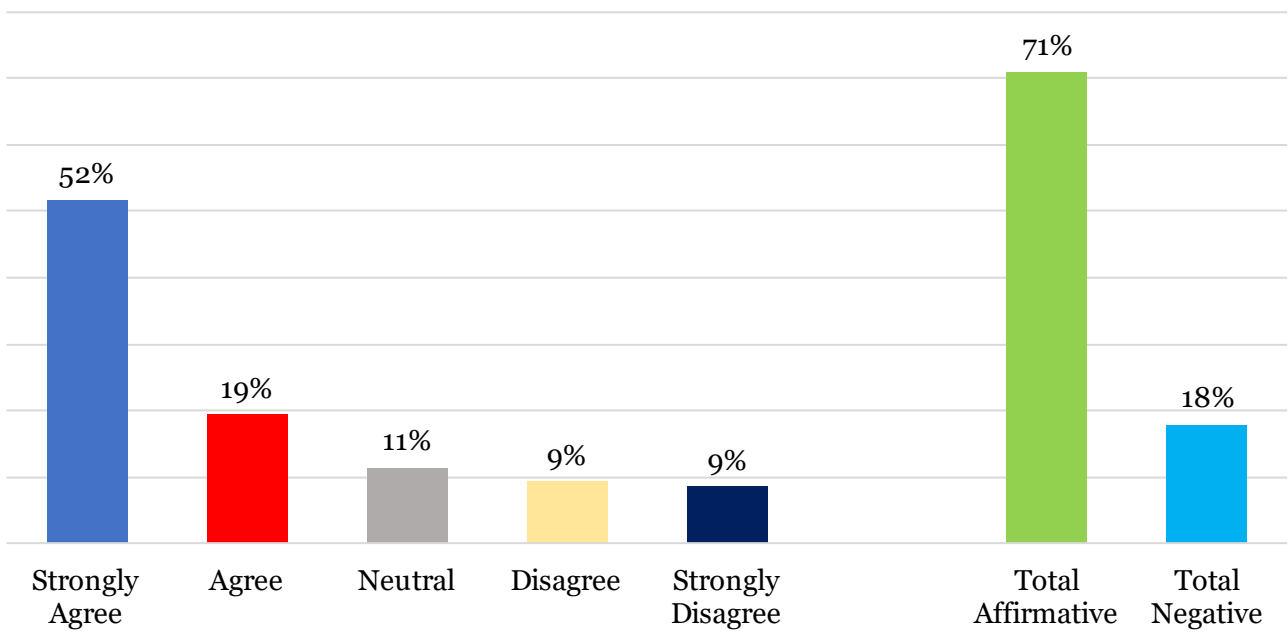
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT HELPS INCARCERATED PEOPLE WITH OFFENDING BEHAVIOR, PREPARATION FOR RELEASE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR POTENTIAL



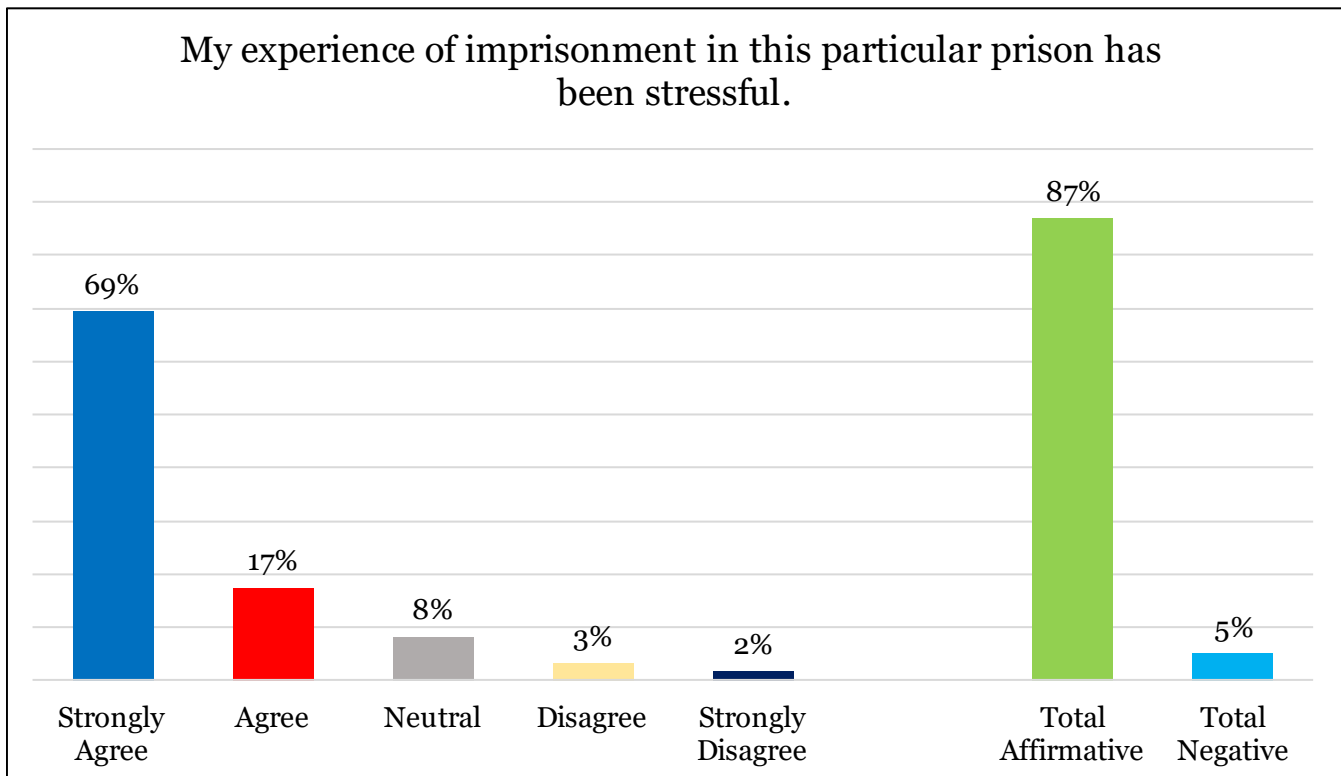
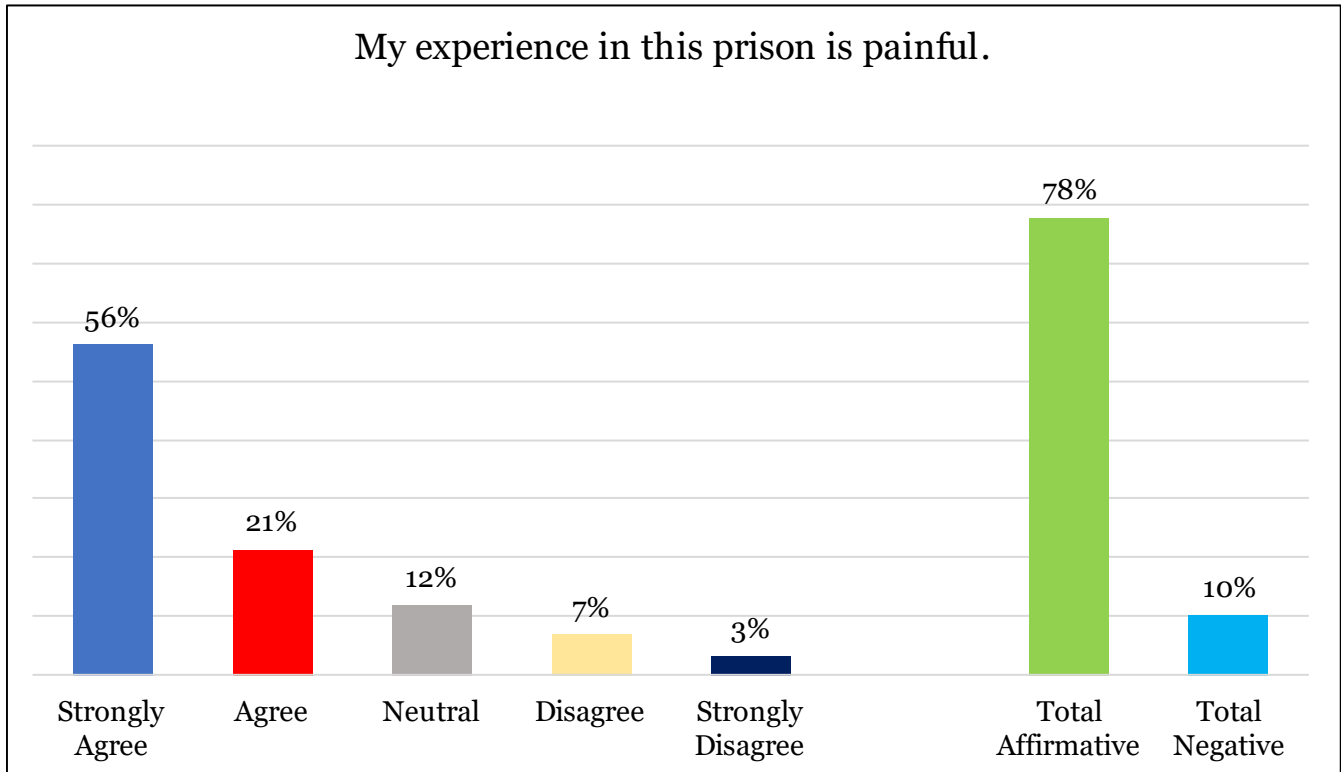
The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.



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

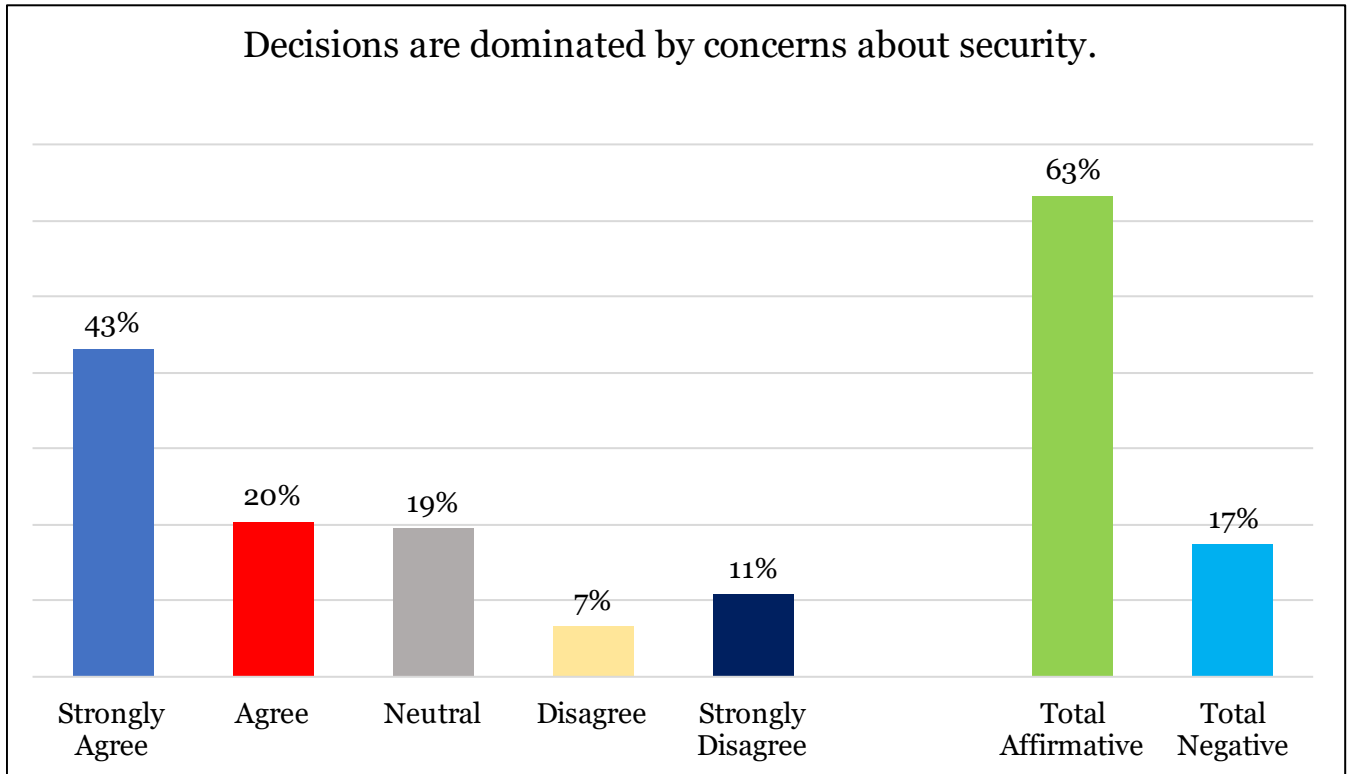


WELL-BEING – FEELINGS OF PAIN, PUNISHMENT AND TENSION EXPERIENCED BY INCARCERATED PEOPLE

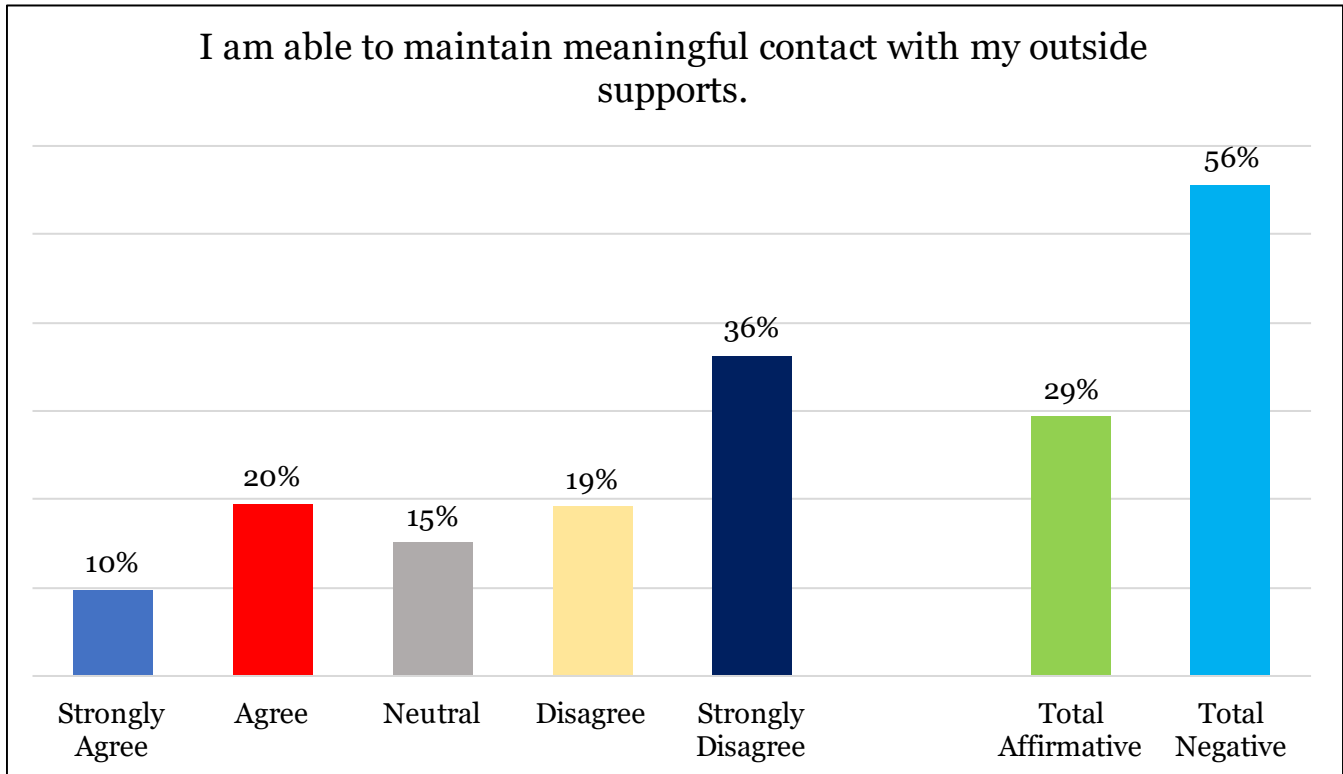


Additional Questions

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

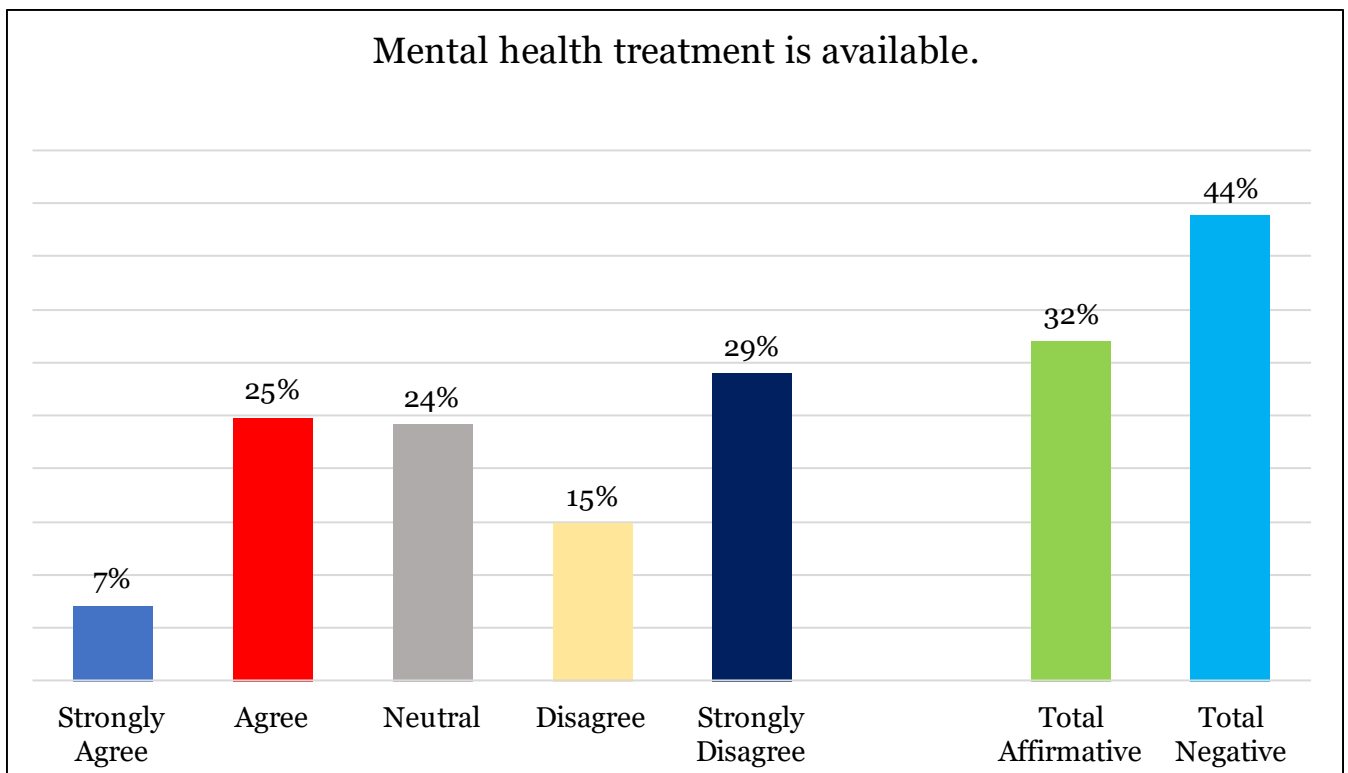
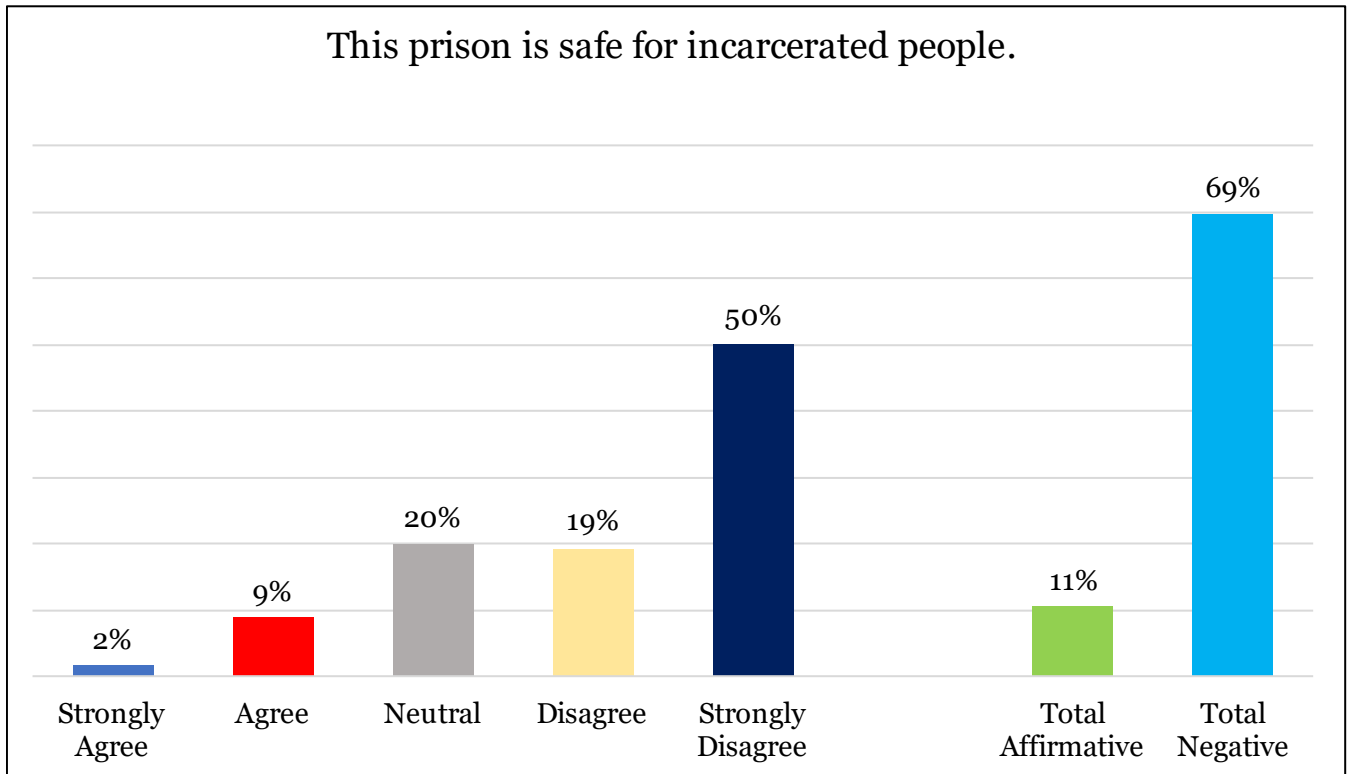


FAMILY CONTACT – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT FACILITATES INCARCERATED PEOPLE MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOVED ONES

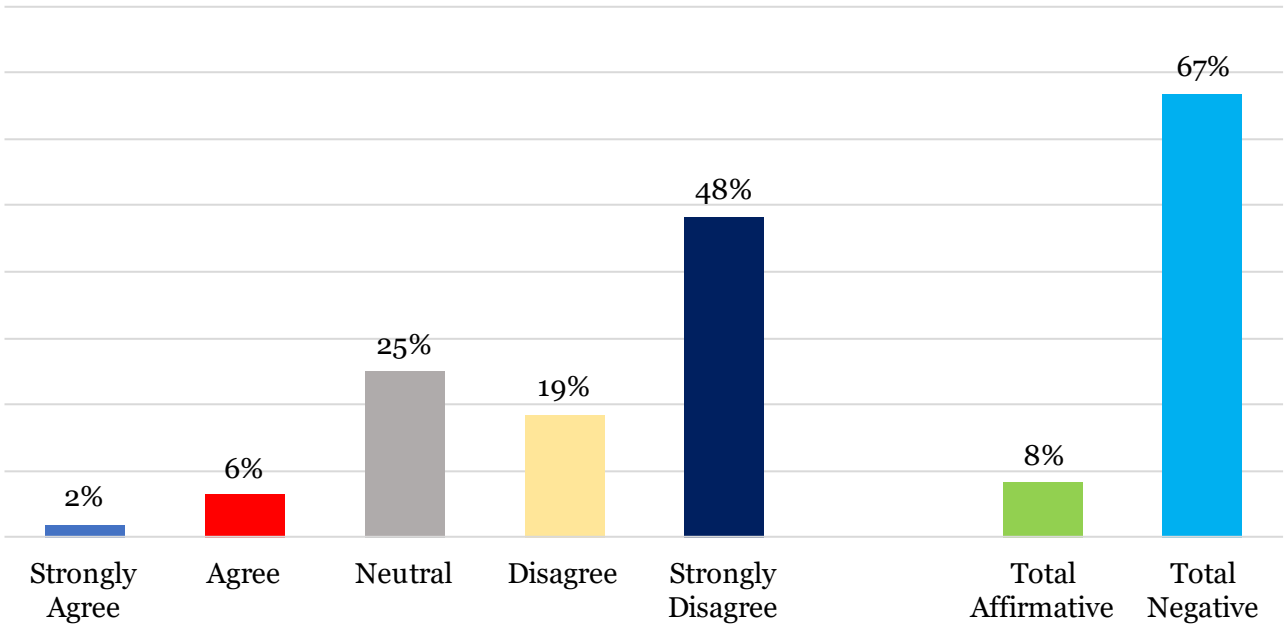


Charts: JHA Questions

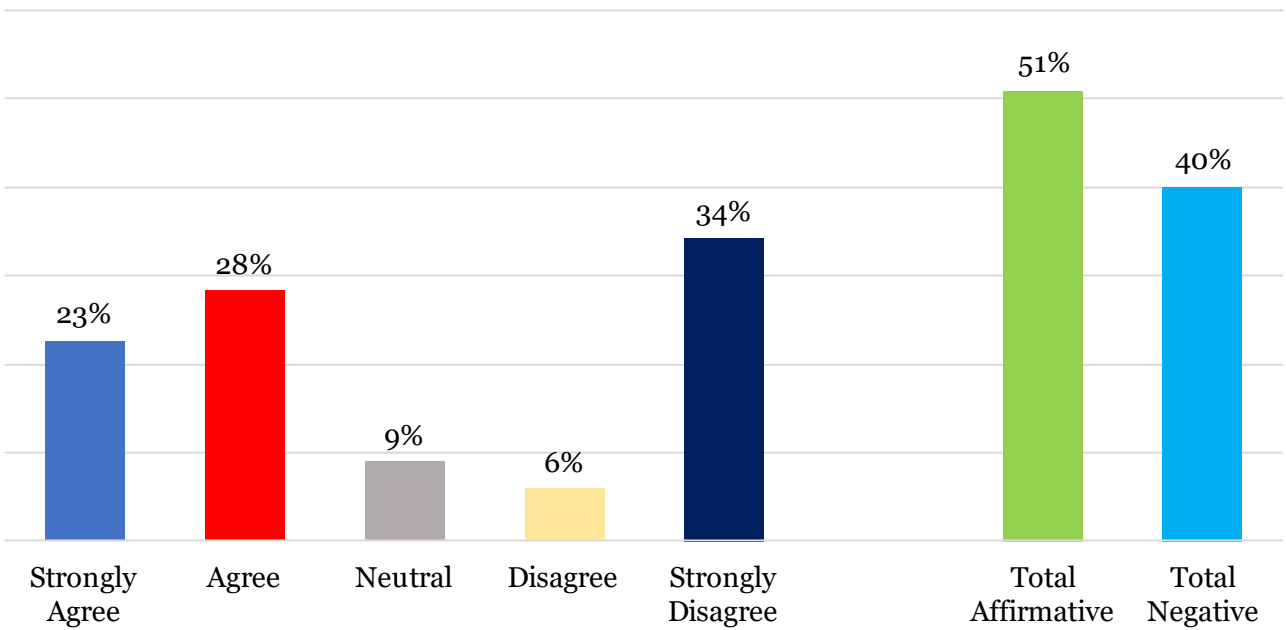
QUESTIONS USED IN PREVIOUS JHA SURVEYS



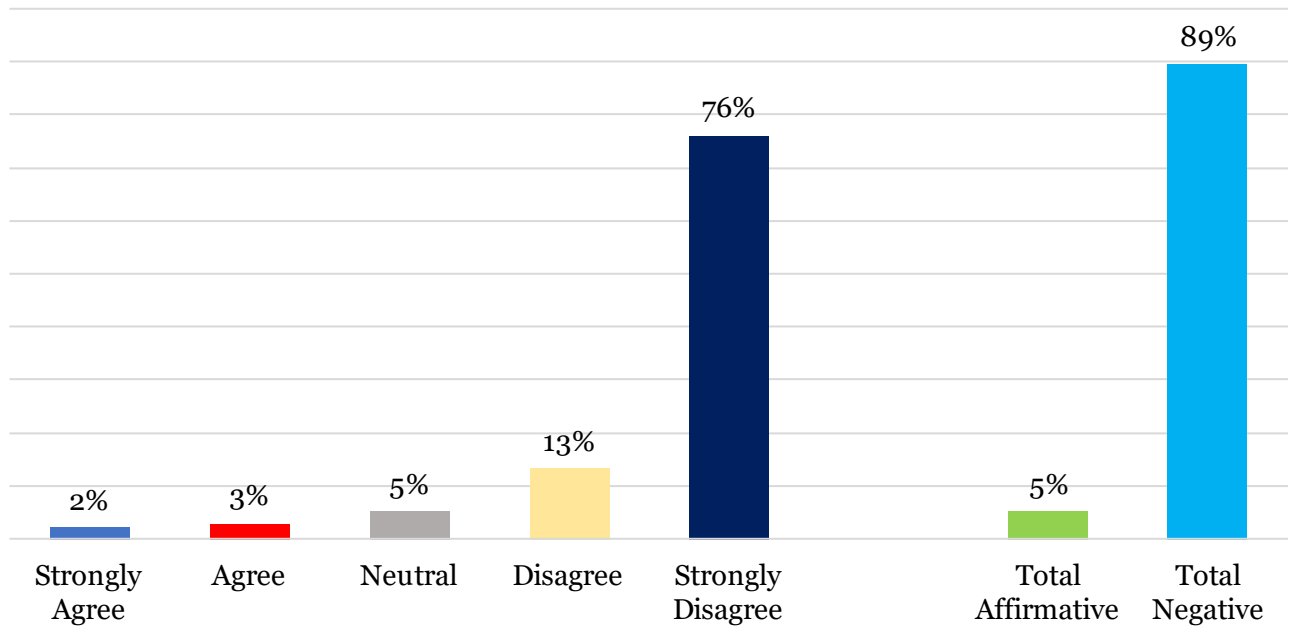
This prison is better now than it was last year.



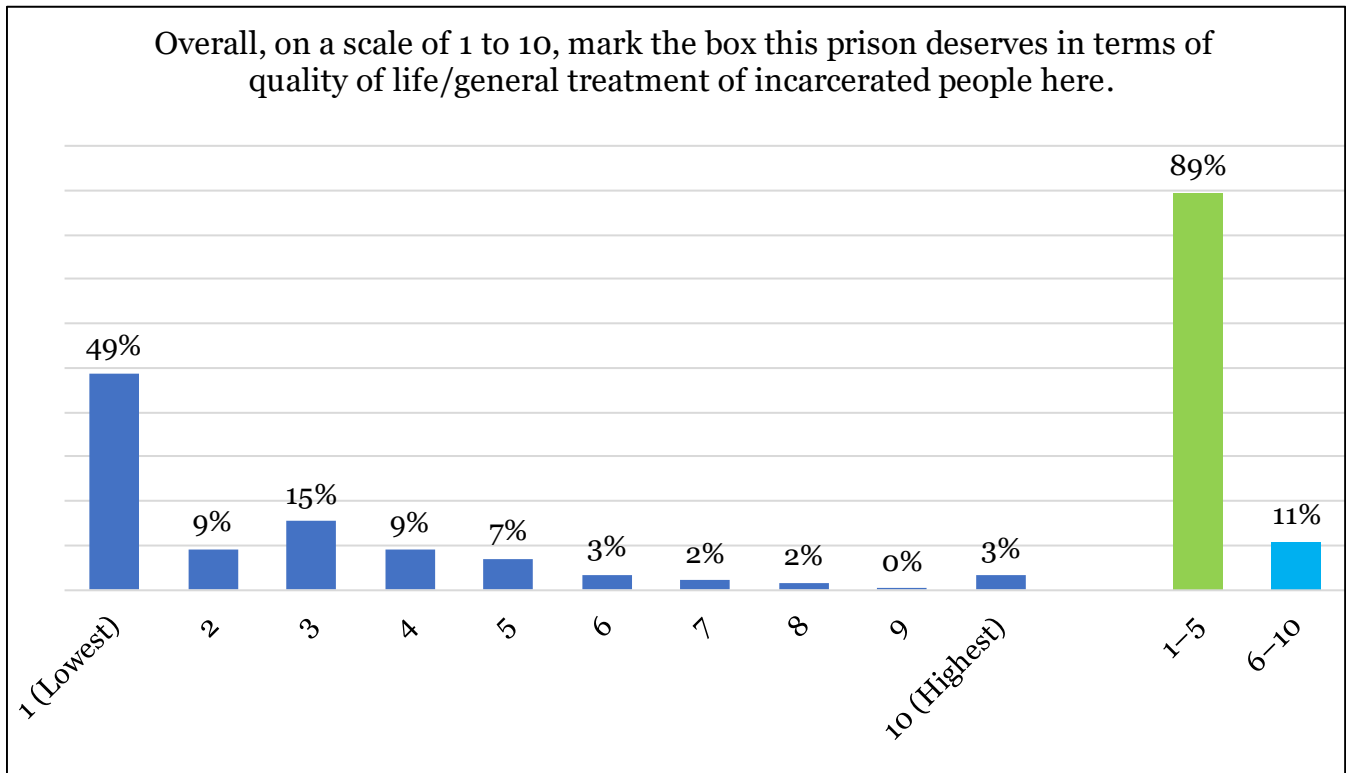
I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.



I am satisfied with food from dietary.



OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE



Tables of Results by Individual Survey Items

Age		
18-26	61	8%
26-30	105	14%
31-40	253	34%
41-50	168	23%
51 and over	154	21%
No response	1	

Race or ethnicity		
White	186	25%
Black	421	57%
Hispanic or Latino	66	9%
Other	61	8%
No response	8	

Are you within two years of release?		
Yes	158	22%
No	567	78%
No response	17	

Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?		
Yes	463	63%
No	271	37%
No response	8	

What housing status are you currently on?		
General Population	554	75%
Restrictive Housing	131	18%
Other	51	7%
No response	6	

Are you currently getting at least two hours a day out of your cell or sleeping area?		
Yes	197	27%
No	539	73%

Do you have a work or school assignment?		
Work Assignment	111	15%
School Assignment	17	2%
Both	15	2%
Neither	598	81%
No response	1	

Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.		
Strongly Agree	17	2%
Agree	64	9%
Neutral	182	25%
Disagree	175	24%
Strongly Disagree	298	40%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	81	11%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	473	64%
No response	6	

I receive support from staff when I need it.		
Strongly Agree	18	2%
Agree	84	11%
Neutral	146	20%
Disagree	205	28%
Strongly Disagree	278	38%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	102	14%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	483	66%
No response	11	

Staff here treat incarcerated people fairly when applying the rules.		
Strongly Agree	17	2%
Agree	63	9%
Neutral	114	16%
Disagree	169	23%
Strongly Disagree	371	51%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	80	11%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	540	74%
No response	8	

I trust the officers.		
Strongly Agree	11	2%
Agree	36	5%
Neutral	113	15%
Disagree	142	19%
Strongly Disagree	430	59%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	47	6%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	572	78%
No response	10	

I get along well with the officers on my unit.		
Strongly Agree	58	8%
Agree	160	22%
Neutral	282	39%
Disagree	75	10%
Strongly Disagree	150	21%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	218	30%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	225	31%
No response	17	

The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.		
Strongly Agree	46	6%
Agree	112	15%
Neutral	142	20%
Disagree	154	21%
Strongly Disagree	271	37%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	158	22%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	425	59%
No response	17	

I have been helped significantly by a staff member with a particular problem.		
Strongly Agree	37	5%
Agree	99	14%
Neutral	143	20%
Disagree	146	20%
Strongly Disagree	308	42%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	136	19%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	454	62%
No response	9	

Overall, I am treated fairly by staff.		
Strongly Agree	31	4%
Agree	128	17%
Neutral	177	24%
Disagree	148	20%
Strongly Disagree	253	34%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	159	22%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	401	54%
No response	5	

I am treated as a person of value.		
Strongly Agree	18	2%
Agree	48	6%
Neutral	109	15%
Disagree	148	20%
Strongly Disagree	416	56%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	66	9%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	564	76%
No response	3	

Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.		
Strongly Agree	343	47%
Agree	203	28%
Neutral	85	12%
Disagree	53	7%
Strongly Disagree	39	5%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	546	76%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	92	13%
No response	19	

I feel safe from being injured, bullied, or threatened by other incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	68	9%
Agree	120	17%
Neutral	151	21%
Disagree	121	17%
Strongly Disagree	263	36%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	188	26%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	384	53%
No response	19	

If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.		
Strongly Agree	69	10%
Agree	63	9%
Neutral	104	15%
Disagree	145	20%
Strongly Disagree	330	46%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	132	19%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	475	67%
No response	31	

To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.		
Strongly Agree	266	37%
Agree	189	27%
Neutral	154	22%
Disagree	76	11%
Strongly Disagree	26	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	455	64%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	102	14%
No response	31	

Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	303	42%
Agree	176	24%
Neutral	158	22%
Disagree	57	8%
Strongly Disagree	26	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	479	67%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	83	12%
No response	22	

Staff have enough experience and expertise to deal with issues that matter to me.		
Strongly Agree	28	4%
Agree	70	10%
Neutral	118	16%
Disagree	201	28%
Strongly Disagree	310	43%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	98	13%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	511	70%
No response	15	

To get things done, you have to ask and ask and ask.		
Strongly Agree	501	69%
Agree	148	20%
Neutral	47	7%
Disagree	16	2%
Strongly Disagree	10	1%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	649	90%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	26	4%
No response	20	

Supervision of incarcerated people is poor.		
Strongly Agree	324	45%
Agree	135	19%
Neutral	161	22%
Disagree	61	9%
Strongly Disagree	36	5%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	459	64%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	97	14%
No response	25	

I can't improve my situation through good behavior.		
Strongly Agree	289	40%
Agree	149	21%
Neutral	103	14%
Disagree	118	16%
Strongly Disagree	67	9%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	438	60%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	185	25%
No response	16	

The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.		
Strongly Agree	172	24%
Agree	82	11%
Neutral	79	11%
Disagree	101	14%
Strongly Disagree	287	40%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	254	35%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	388	54%
No response	21	

My experience of imprisonment in this particular prison has been stressful.		
Strongly Agree	508	69%
Agree	128	17%
Neutral	60	8%
Disagree	23	3%
Strongly Disagree	13	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	636	87%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	36	5%
No response	10	

Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.		
Strongly Agree	322	45%
Agree	183	26%
Neutral	103	14%
Disagree	67	9%
Strongly Disagree	42	6%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	505	70%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	109	15%
No response	25	

I have to be careful about everything I do, or it can be used against me.		
Strongly Agree	459	63%
Agree	163	22%
Neutral	88	12%
Disagree	15	2%
Strongly Disagree	6	1%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	622	85%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	21	3%
No response	11	

On the whole, I am just doing time rather than using my time.		
Strongly Agree	374	52%
Agree	140	19%
Neutral	82	11%
Disagree	67	9%
Strongly Disagree	62	9%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	514	71%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	129	18%
No response	17	

Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.		
Strongly Agree	59	8%
Agree	147	21%
Neutral	158	22%
Disagree	100	14%
Strongly Disagree	250	35%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	206	29%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	350	49%
No response	28	

This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.		
Strongly Agree	90	12%
Agree	61	8%
Neutral	145	20%
Disagree	145	20%
Strongly Disagree	280	39%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	151	21%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	425	59%
No response	21	

When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.		
Strongly Agree	50	7%
Agree	120	17%
Neutral	155	21%
Disagree	169	23%
Strongly Disagree	230	32%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	170	23%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	399	55%
No response	18	

This prison is well organized.		
Strongly Agree	30	4%
Agree	28	4%
Neutral	69	9%
Disagree	156	21%
Strongly Disagree	445	61%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	58	8%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	601	83%
No response	14	

You never know the rules.		
Strongly Agree	218	30%
Agree	138	19%
Neutral	170	24%
Disagree	137	19%
Strongly Disagree	57	8%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	356	49%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	194	27%
No response	22	

I feel that I am treated with respect by staff.		
Strongly Agree	20	3%
Agree	77	11%
Neutral	168	23%
Disagree	155	21%
Strongly Disagree	301	42%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	97	13%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	456	63%
No response	21	

My experience in this prison is painful.		
Strongly Agree	409	56%
Agree	156	21%
Neutral	87	12%
Disagree	51	7%
Strongly Disagree	24	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	565	78%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	75	10%
No response	15	

I have to buy and sell things in order to get by.		
Strongly Agree	264	37%
Agree	180	25%
Neutral	123	17%
Disagree	82	12%
Strongly Disagree	64	9%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	444	62%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	146	20%
No response	29	

There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	200	30%
Agree	148	22%
Neutral	186	28%
Disagree	61	9%
Strongly Disagree	69	10%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	348	52%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	130	20%
No response	78	

Decisions are dominated by concerns about security.		
Strongly Agree	301	43%
Agree	142	20%
Neutral	136	19%
Disagree	46	7%
Strongly Disagree	75	11%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	443	63%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	121	17%
No response	42	

The disciplinary system is fair.		
Strongly Agree	11	2%
Agree	40	6%
Neutral	102	14%
Disagree	103	14%
Strongly Disagree	469	65%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	51	7%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	572	79%
No response	17	

My time here seems like a chance to make positive changes.		
Strongly Agree	99	15%
Agree	72	11%
Neutral	94	14%
Disagree	90	13%
Strongly Disagree	327	48%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	171	25%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	417	61%
No response	60	

There are a few incarcerated people who run things on this unit.		
Strongly Agree	120	17%
Agree	105	15%
Neutral	143	20%
Disagree	129	18%
Strongly Disagree	208	30%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	225	32%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	337	48%
No response	37	

I am not being treated as a human being in here.		
Strongly Agree	358	49%
Agree	154	21%
Neutral	114	16%
Disagree	66	9%
Strongly Disagree	39	5%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	512	70%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	105	14%
No response	11	

You have to be in a group or gang in order to get by.		
Strongly Agree	186	26%
Agree	118	17%
Neutral	136	19%
Disagree	141	20%
Strongly Disagree	130	18%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	304	43%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	271	38%
No response	31	

Bullying behavior by incarcerated people is not tolerated.		
Strongly Agree	85	12%
Agree	102	15%
Neutral	147	21%
Disagree	153	22%
Strongly Disagree	207	30%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	187	27%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	360	52%
No response	48	

When important decisions are made about me, I am treated as an individual and not a number.		
Strongly Agree	35	5%
Agree	56	8%
Neutral	115	16%
Disagree	169	23%
Strongly Disagree	354	49%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	91	12%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	523	72%
No response	13	

All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.		
Strongly Agree	500	68%
Agree	132	18%
Neutral	62	8%
Disagree	27	4%
Strongly Disagree	9	1%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	632	87%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	36	5%
No response	12	

Drugs cause a lot of problems between incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	180	26%
Agree	116	17%
Neutral	161	23%
Disagree	109	16%
Strongly Disagree	137	19%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	296	42%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	246	35%
No response	39	

Anyone who harms themselves is considered by staff to be more of an attention seeker than someone who needs help.		
Strongly Agree	374	51%
Agree	165	23%
Neutral	137	19%
Disagree	28	4%
Strongly Disagree	24	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	539	74%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	52	7%
No response	14	

I am able to maintain meaningful contact with my outside supports.		
Strongly Agree	71	10%
Agree	142	20%
Neutral	110	15%
Disagree	140	19%
Strongly Disagree	264	36%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	213	29%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	404	56%
No response	15	

This is a humane prison.		
Strongly Agree	60	8%
Agree	45	6%
Neutral	104	15%
Disagree	111	16%
Strongly Disagree	395	55%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	105	15%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	506	71%
No response	27	

This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.		
Strongly Agree	434	60%
Agree	164	23%
Neutral	85	12%
Disagree	14	2%
Strongly Disagree	21	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	598	83%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	35	5%
No response	24	

Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.		
Strongly Agree	574	79%
Agree	85	12%
Neutral	38	5%
Disagree	13	2%
Strongly Disagree	16	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	659	91%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	29	4%
No response	16	

Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.		
Strongly Agree	16	2%
Agree	31	4%
Neutral	78	11%
Disagree	136	19%
Strongly Disagree	466	64%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	47	6%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	602	83%
No response	15	

This prison is safe for incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	12	2%
Agree	64	9%
Neutral	143	20%
Disagree	139	19%
Strongly Disagree	360	50%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	76	11%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	499	69%
No response	24	

Mental health treatment is available.		
Strongly Agree	51	7%
Agree	179	25%
Neutral	174	24%
Disagree	107	15%
Strongly Disagree	209	29%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	230	32%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	316	44%
No response	22	

This prison is better now than it was last year.		
Strongly Agree	14	2%
Agree	45	6%
Neutral	177	25%
Disagree	132	19%
Strongly Disagree	343	48%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	59	8%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	475	67%
No response	31	

I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.		
Strongly Agree	166	23%
Agree	208	28%
Neutral	66	9%
Disagree	43	6%
Strongly Disagree	251	34%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	374	51%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	294	40%
No response	8	

Every effort is made by this prison to help people stop committing offenses on release from custody.		
Strongly Agree	19	3%
Agree	18	3%
Neutral	79	11%
Disagree	135	19%
Strongly Disagree	463	65%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	37	5%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	598	84%
No response	28	

I am satisfied with food from dietary.		
Strongly Agree	17	2%
Agree	22	3%
Neutral	38	5%
Disagree	97	13%
Strongly Disagree	556	76%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	39	5%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	653	89%
No response	12	

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)	346	49%
2	65	9%
3	109	15%
4	63	9%
5	50	7%
6	24	3%
7	16	2%
8	11	2%
9	2	0%
10 (Highest)	23	3%
<i>1-5</i>	633	89%
<i>6-10</i>	76	11%
No Response	33	
Mean Score		2.7



This report was written by JHA staff. Media inquiries should be directed to JHA's Executive Director Jennifer Vollen-Katz at (312) 291-9183 or jvollen@thejha.org

Incarcerated individuals can send privileged mail to report issues to the John Howard Association, P.O. Box 10042, Chicago, IL 60610-0042. JHA staff read every letter and track this information to monitor what is occurring behind prison walls and to advocate for humane policies and practices. Family and friends can contact JHA via our website www.thejha.org or by leaving us a voicemail at (312) 291-9183.

Since 1901, JHA has provided public oversight of Illinois' juvenile and adult correctional facilities. Every year, JHA staff and trained volunteers inspect prisons, jails, and detention centers throughout the state. Based on these inspections, JHA regularly issues reports that are instrumental in improving prison conditions. JHA humbly thanks everyone who graciously shared their experiences and insights with us.

