
Survey Results



Pontiac 2023 MQPL Survey Results

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Introduction

Pontiac Correctional Center is a maximum-security male prison within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) that housed 736 people on March 27, 2023. Pontiac housed approximately 34 people in designed mental health housing, including a Behavioral Management Unit (BMU). It also housed some medium-security individuals in the maximum-security part of the prison after the closure of the Medium Security Unit (MSU) in early 2022. 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 Pontiac had an opportunity to participate in the voluntary and anonymous survey if they chose to do so. JHA received 243 responses to the MQPL survey from people at Pontiac through July 19, 2023, representing approximately 33% of the static population. JHA visited Pontiac in November 2023.



The MQPL questions are organized by dimensions: harmony, professionalism, security, and well-being & development (descriptions on next page). JHA’s survey also included questions on demographics of respondents as well as some questions JHA had asked in previous JHA surveys. Results are presented in this report first in chart format, followed by table format. Tables are organized in the order that questions appeared on the survey.

Description of MQPL Dimensions

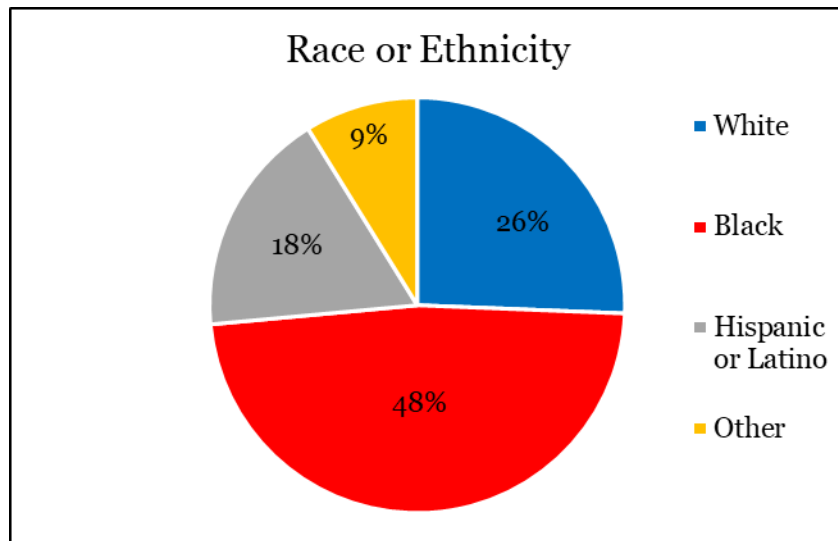
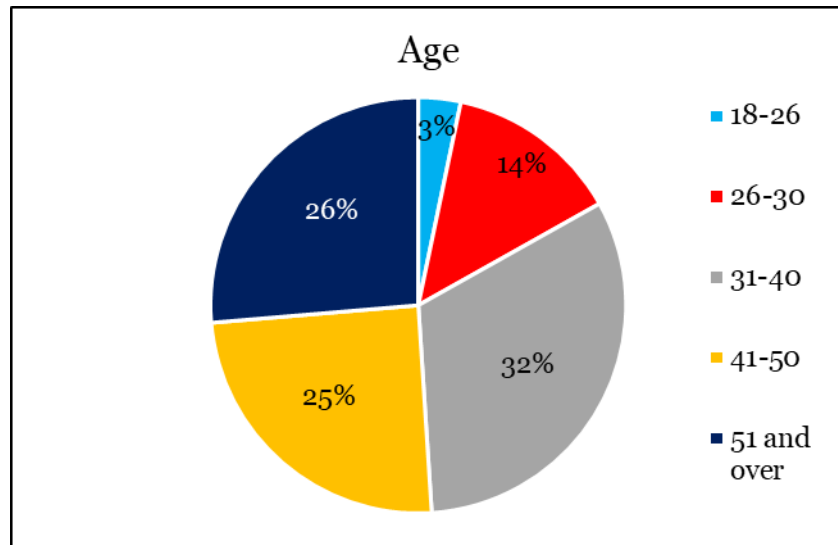
- **Harmony: Questions relating to interpersonal aspects of the prison experience**
 - Respect/courtesy – Positive, respectful, and courteous attitudes towards incarcerated people by staff.
 - Staff-incarcerated people relationships – Trusting, fair and supportive interactions between staff and incarcerated people.
 - Humanity – An environment characterized by kind regard and concern for the person, which recognizes the value and humanity of the individual.
 - Decency – The extent to which staff and the regime are considered reasonable and appropriate.
 - Care for the vulnerable – The care and support provided to incarcerated people at risk of self-harm, suicide, or bullying.
 - Help and assistance – Support and encouragement given to incarcerated people for problems including drugs, healthcare, and progression.
- **Professionalism: Questions relating to how the prison operates**
 - Staff professionalism – Staff confidence and competence in the use of authority.
 - Bureaucratic legitimacy – The transparency and responsiveness of the prison/prison system and its moral recognition of the individual.
 - Fairness – The perceived impartiality, proportionality, and legality of punishments and procedures.
 - Organization and consistency – The clarity, predictability, and reliability of the prison.
- **Security: Questions relating to use of authority and safety**
 - Policing and security – Staff supervision and control of the prison environment.
 - Incarcerated person safety - The feeling of security or protection from harm, threat, or danger.
 - Incarcerated person adaptation – The need or pressure to get involved in trade and allegiances.
 - Drugs and exploitation – The level of drugs, bullying, and victimization in the prison environment.
- **Well-being & Development: Questions relating to welfare and prospects**
 - Personal development – An environment that helps incarcerated people with offending behavior, preparation for release, and the development of their potential.
 - Well-being – Feelings of pain, punishment and tension experienced by incarcerated people.

- **Additional MQPL Questions**

- Decision-making – The extent to which administrators prioritize security concerns over other factors.
- Family contact – An environment that facilitates incarcerated people maintaining relationships with loved ones.

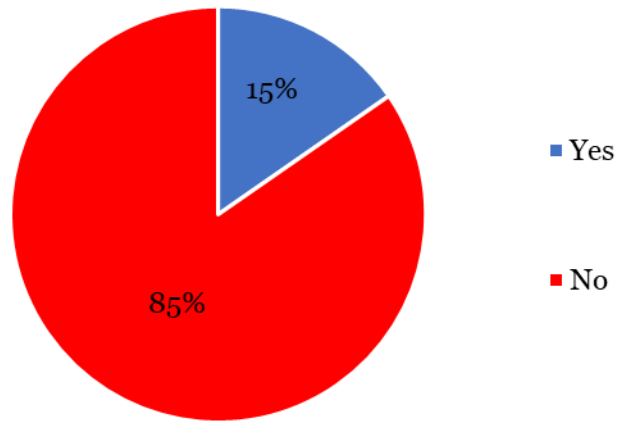
Charts: Demographic Information of Respondents

Total respondents = 243¹

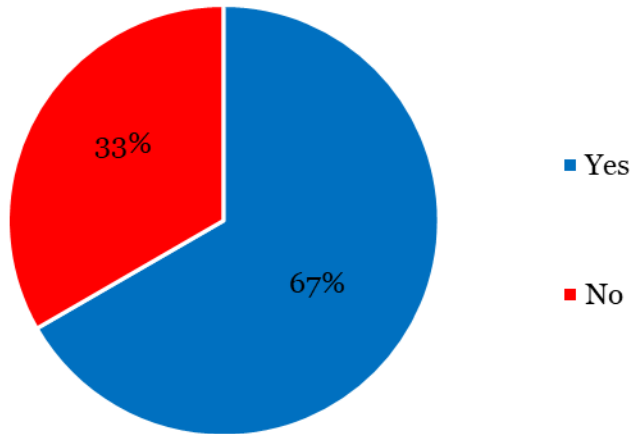


¹ Due to rounding, not all percentages total 100%. Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of respondents per question.

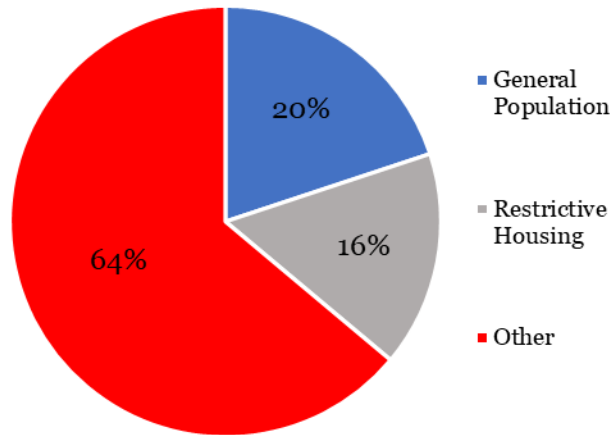
Are you within two years of release?



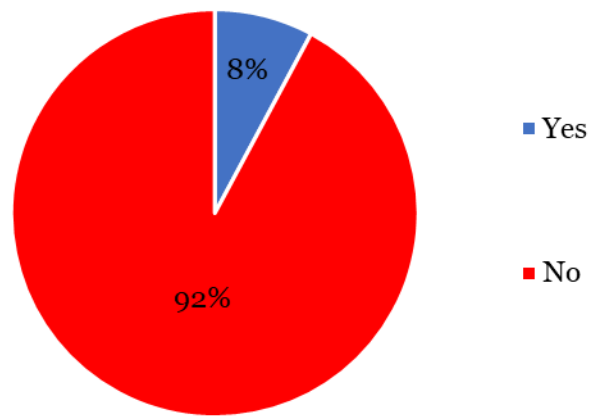
Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?



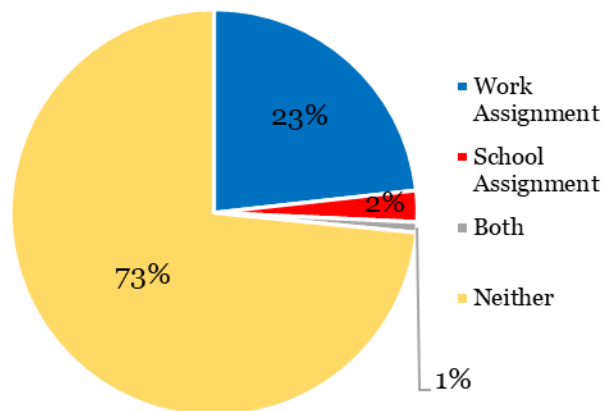
What housing status are you currently on?



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



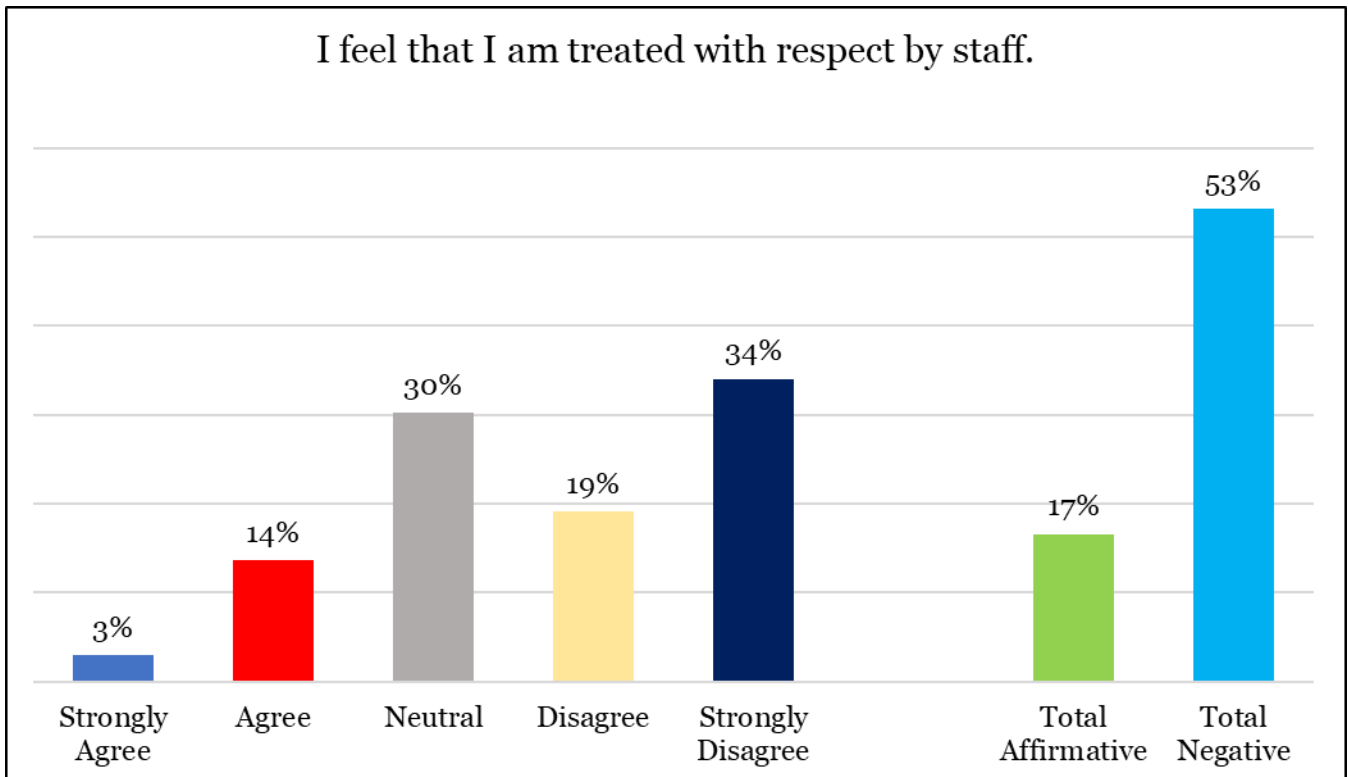
Do you have a work or school assignment?



Charts: MQPL Dimensions²

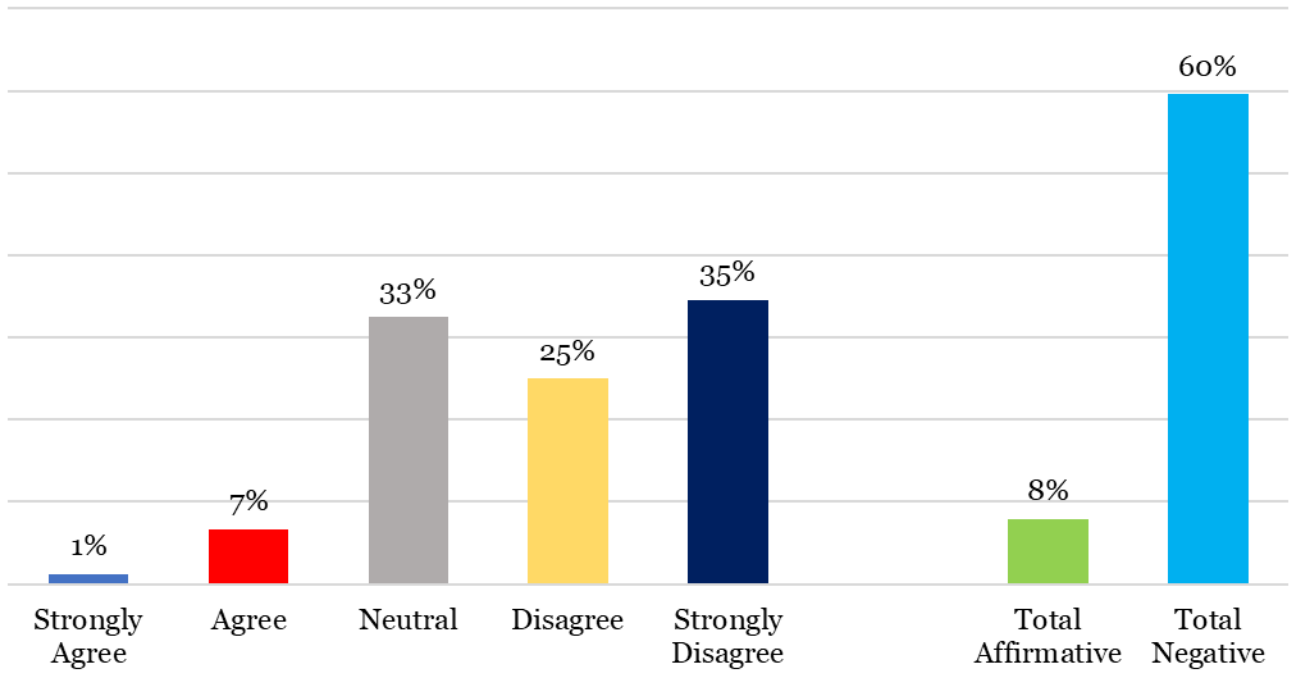
Harmony

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

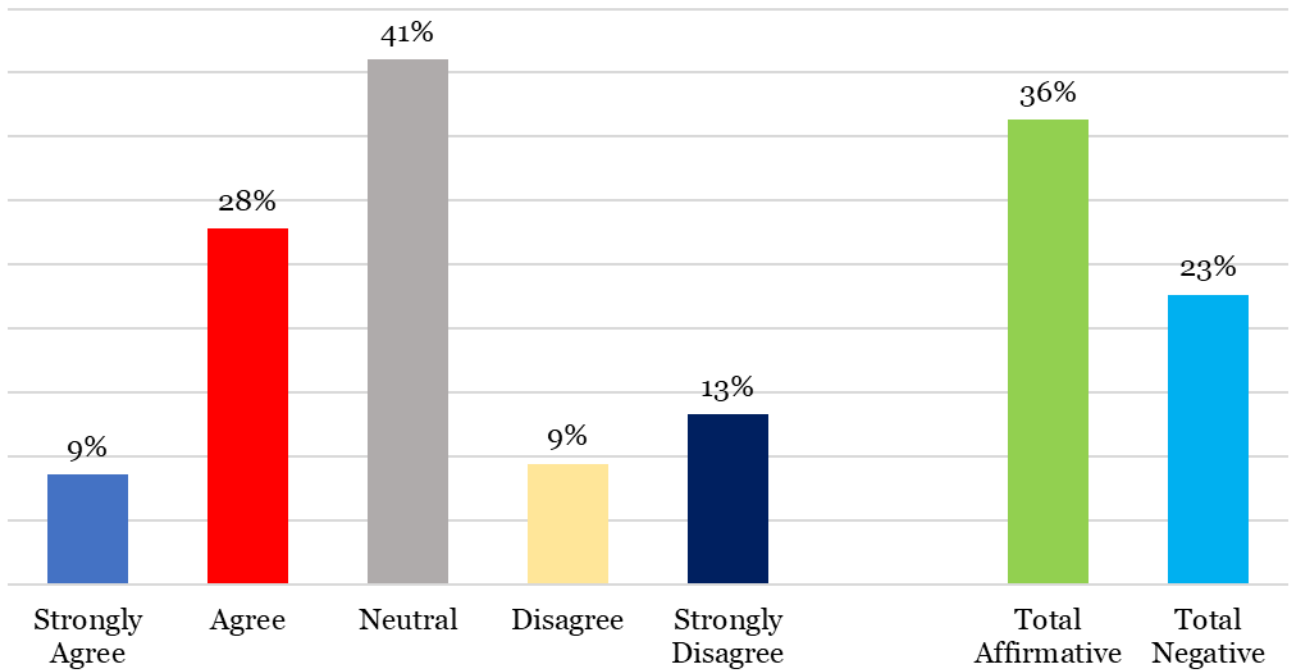


² "Total Affirmative" combines "Strongly Agree" and "Agree." "Total Negative" combines "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree." Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of responses per question.

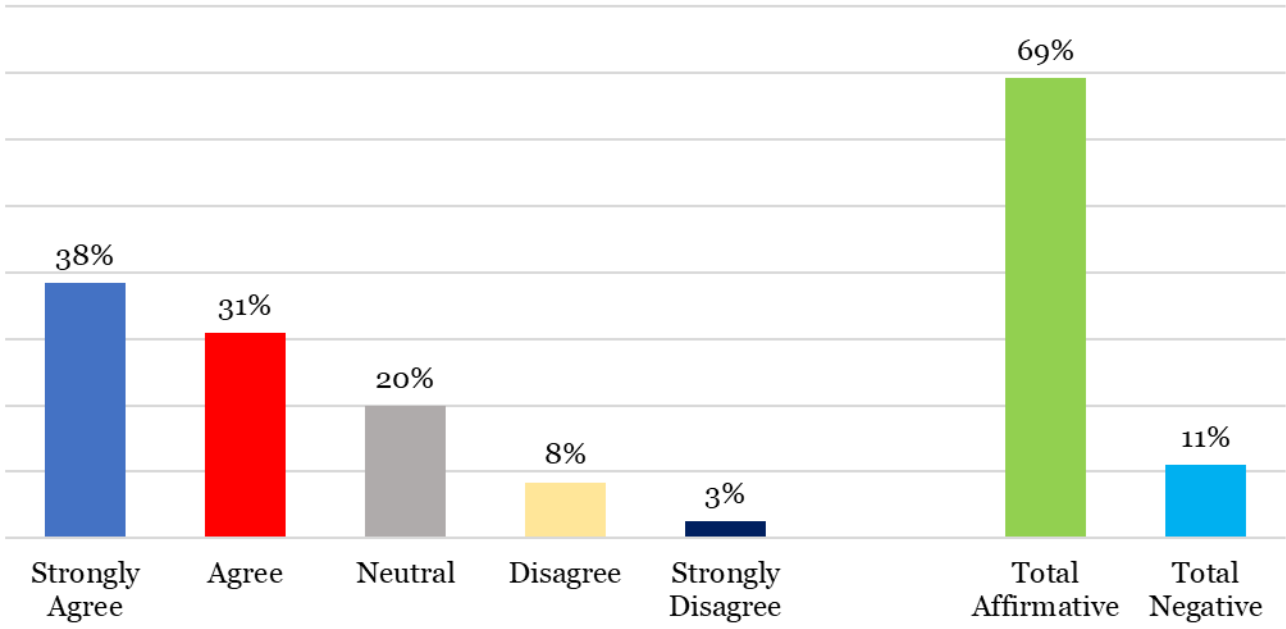
Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.



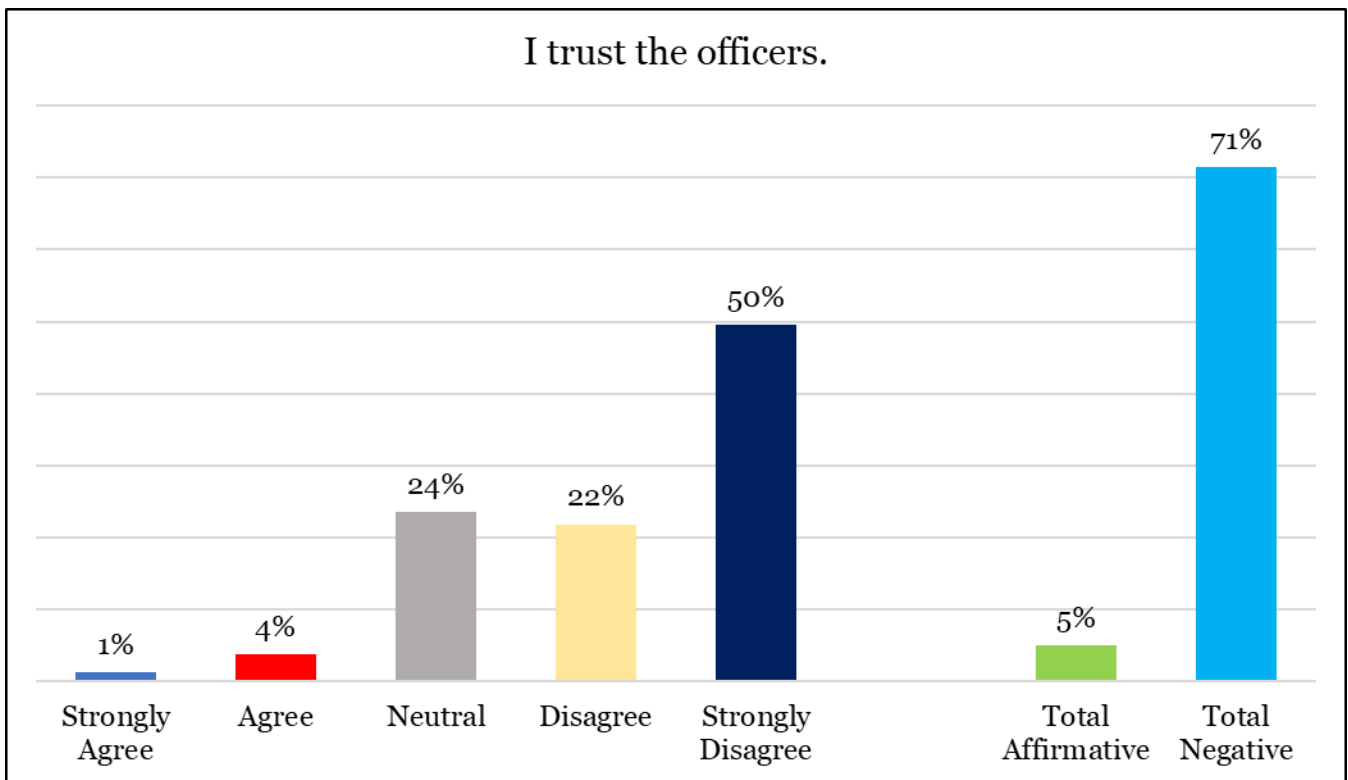
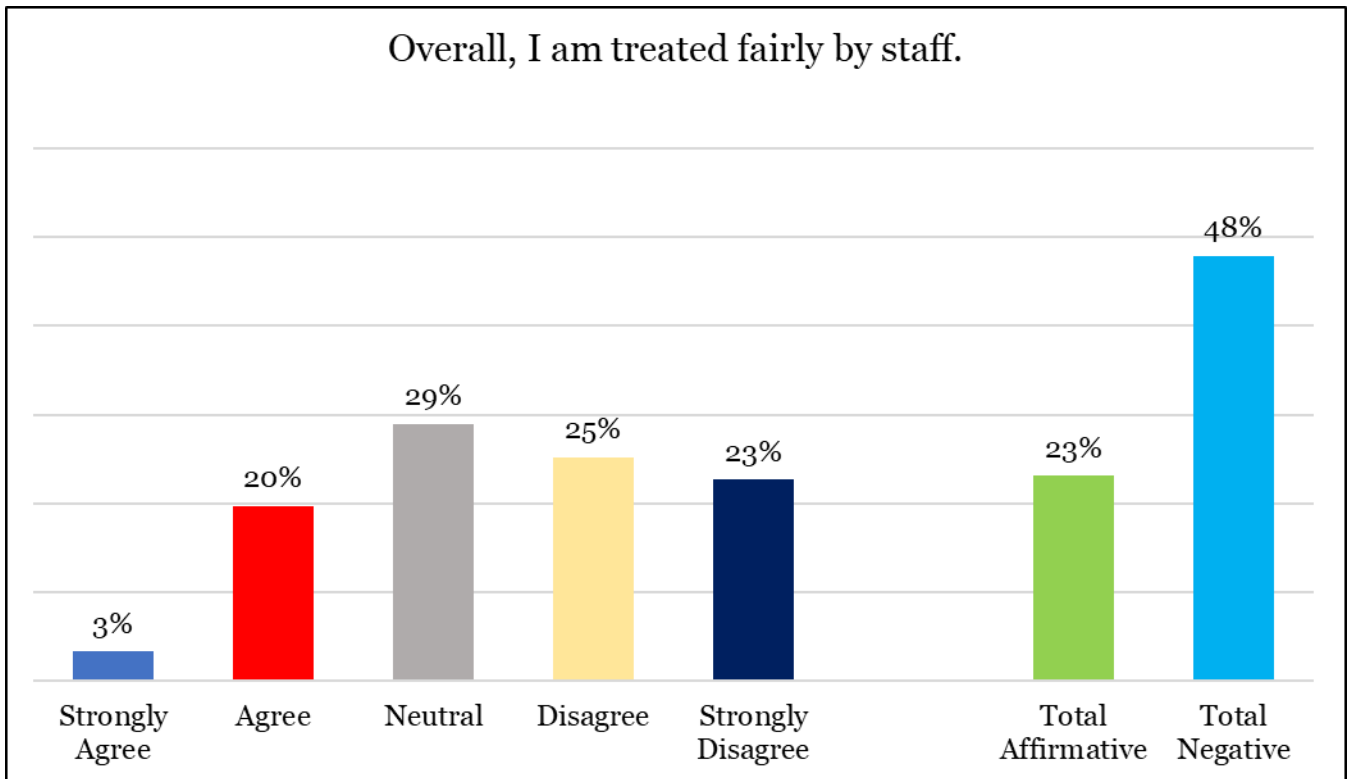
I get along well with the officers on my unit.



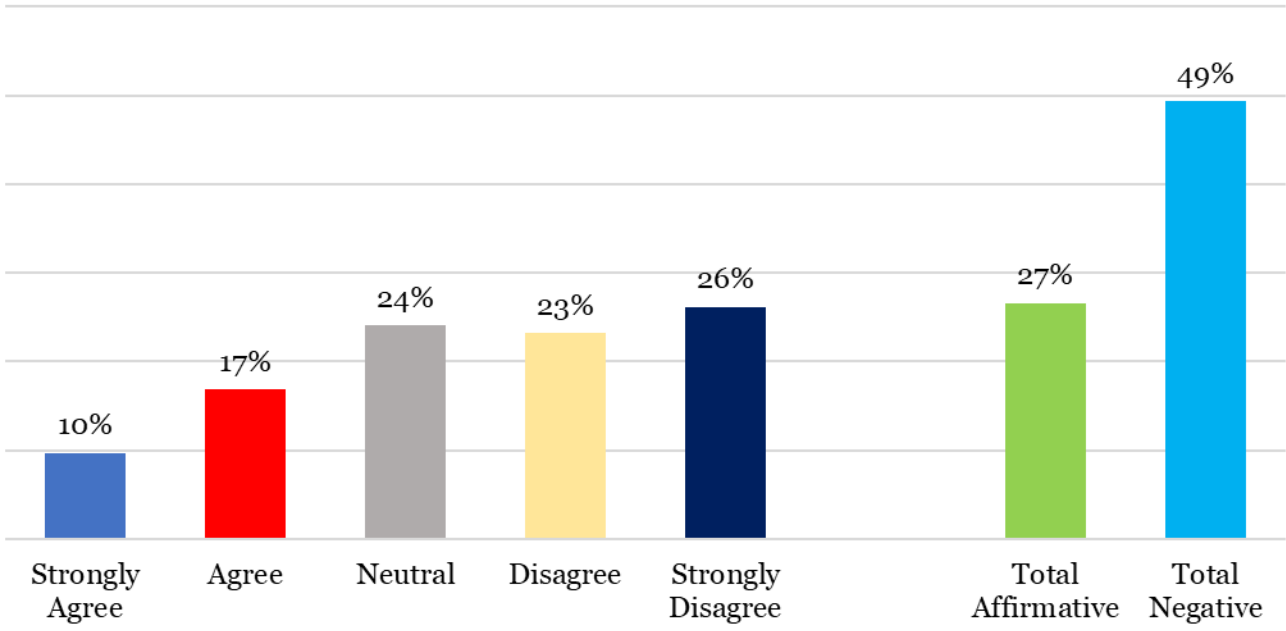
Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.



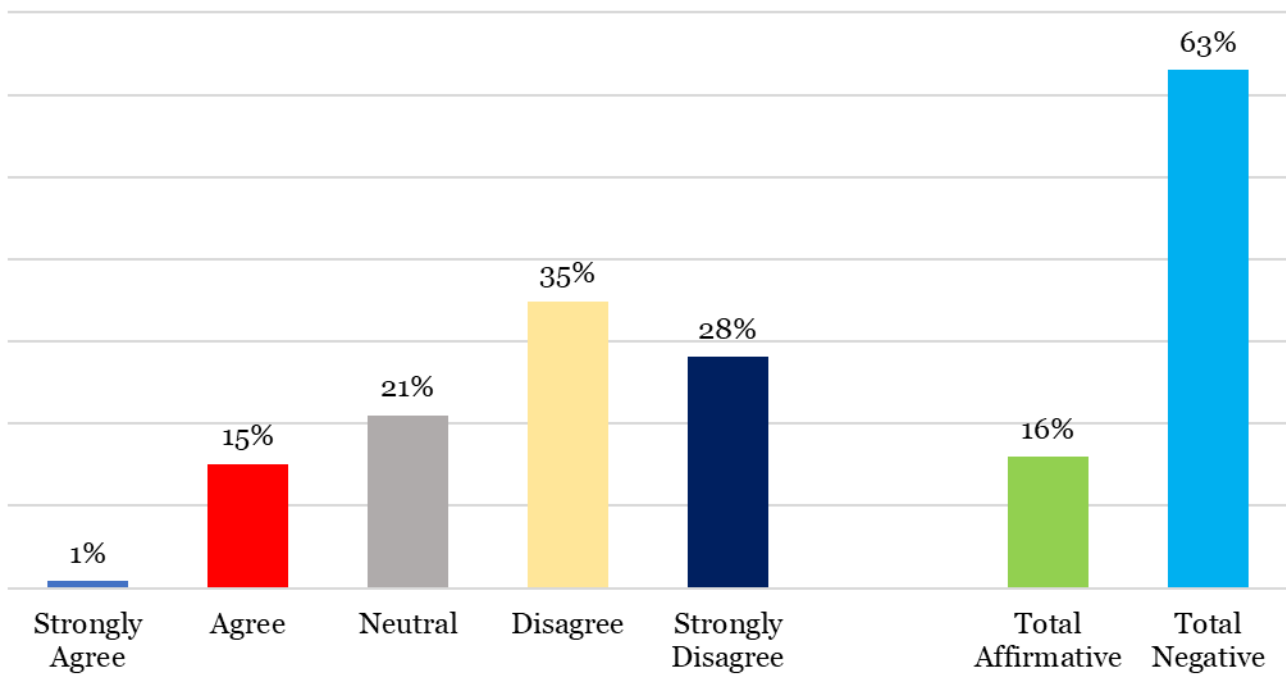
STAFF-INCARCERATED PEOPLE RELATIONSHIPS – TRUSTING, FAIR AND SUPPORTIVE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN STAFF AND INCARCERATED PEOPLE



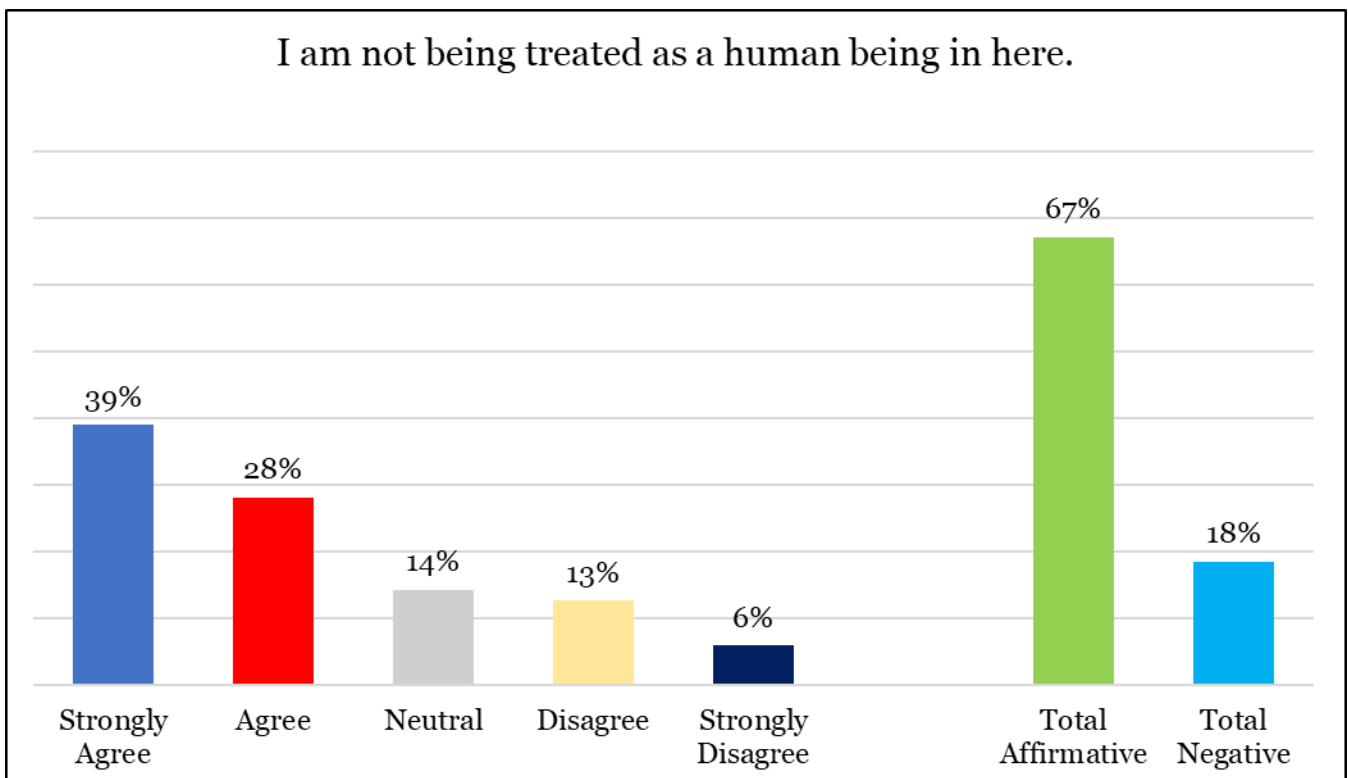
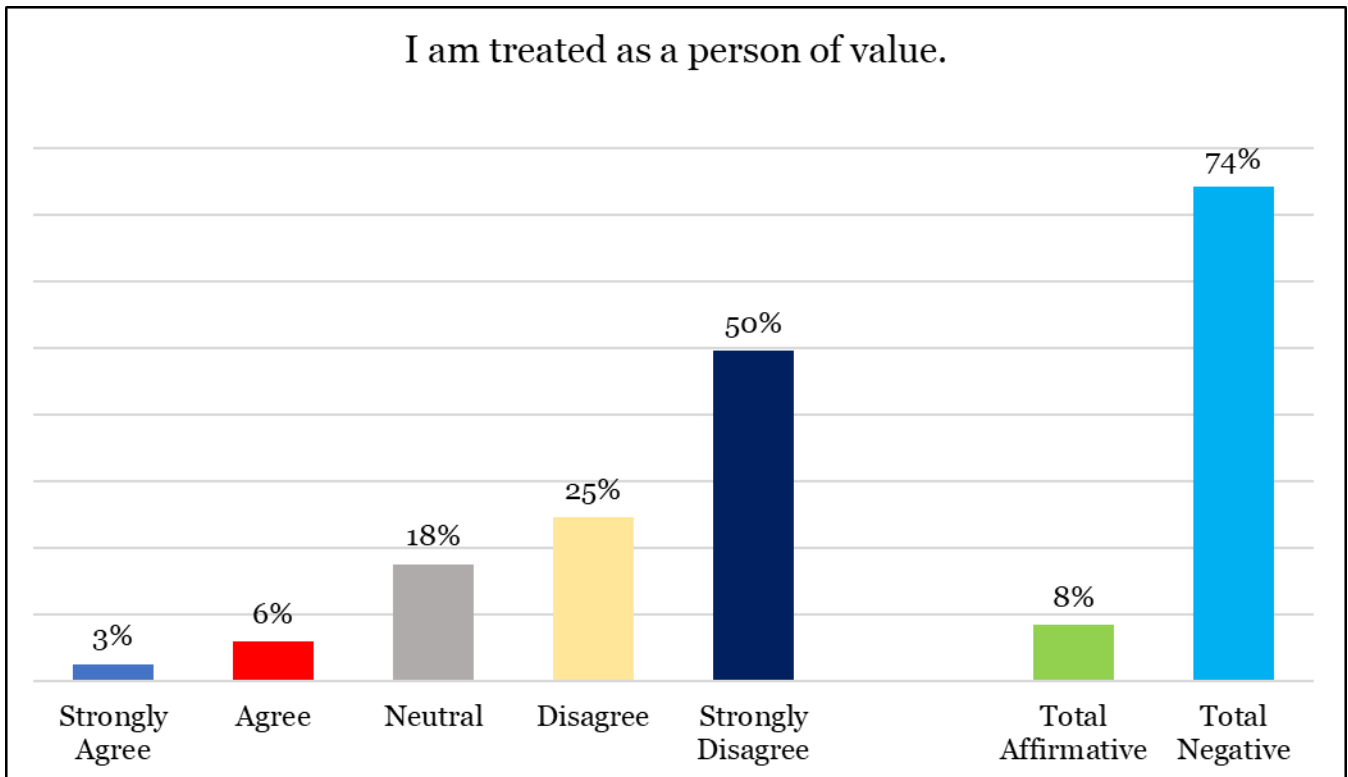
When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.



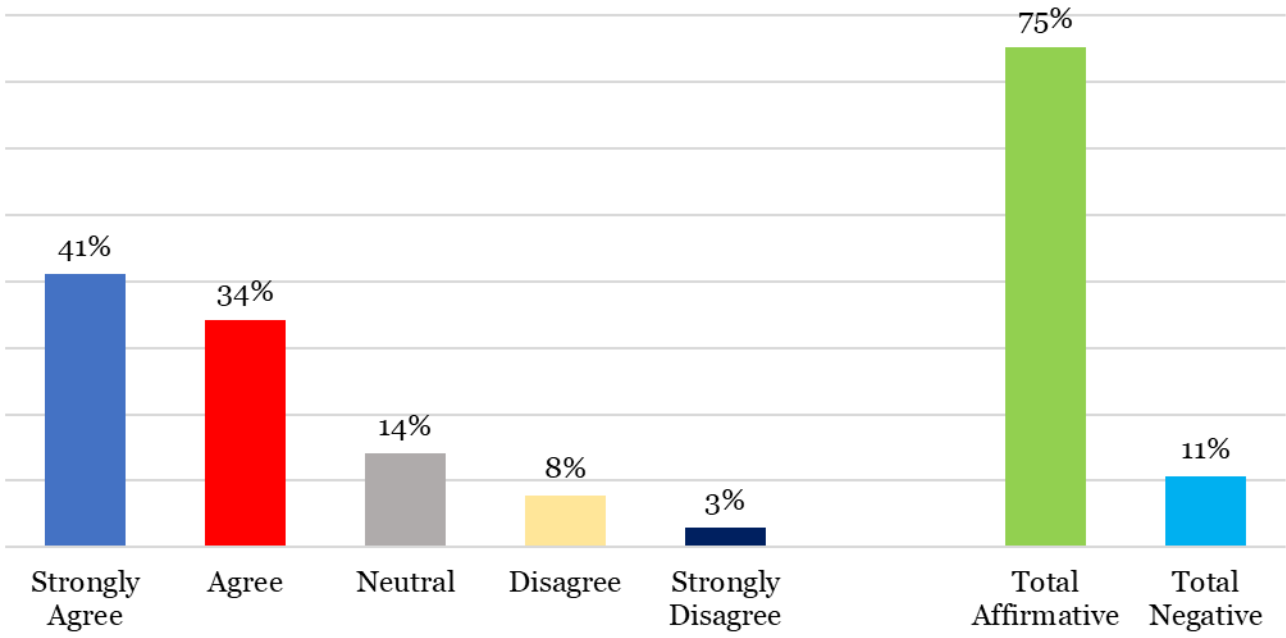
I receive support from staff when I need it.



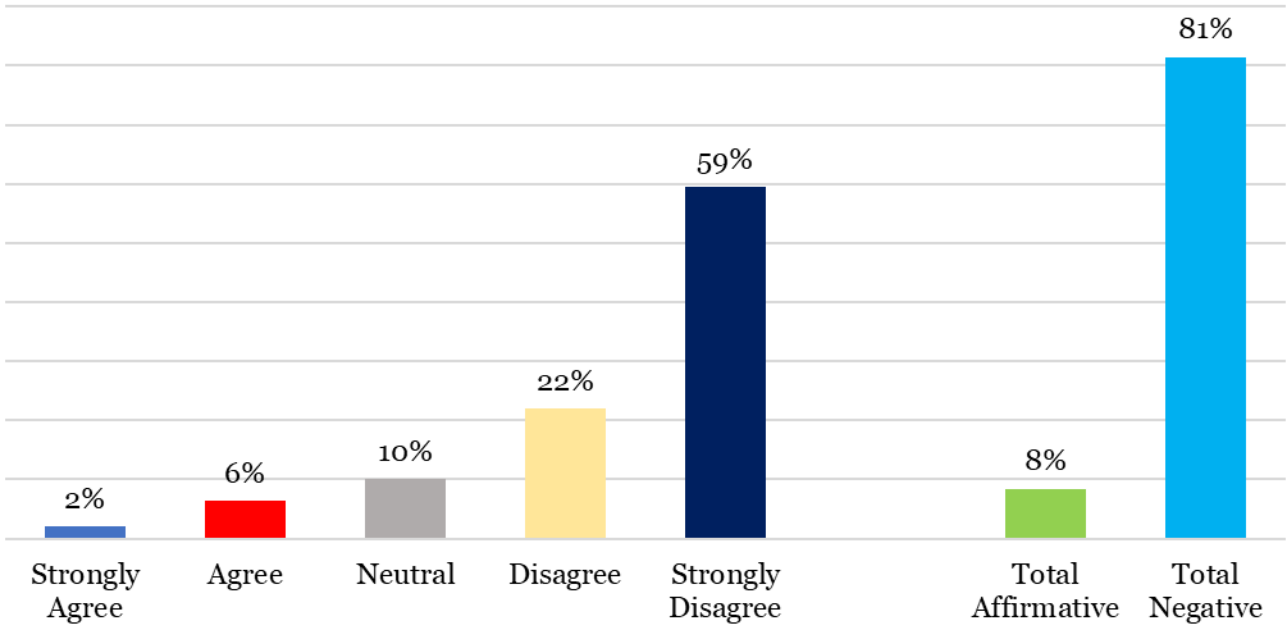
HUMANITY – AN ENVIRONMENT CHARACTERIZED BY KIND REGARD AND CONCERN FOR THE PERSON, WHICH RECOGNIZES THE VALUE AND HUMANITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL



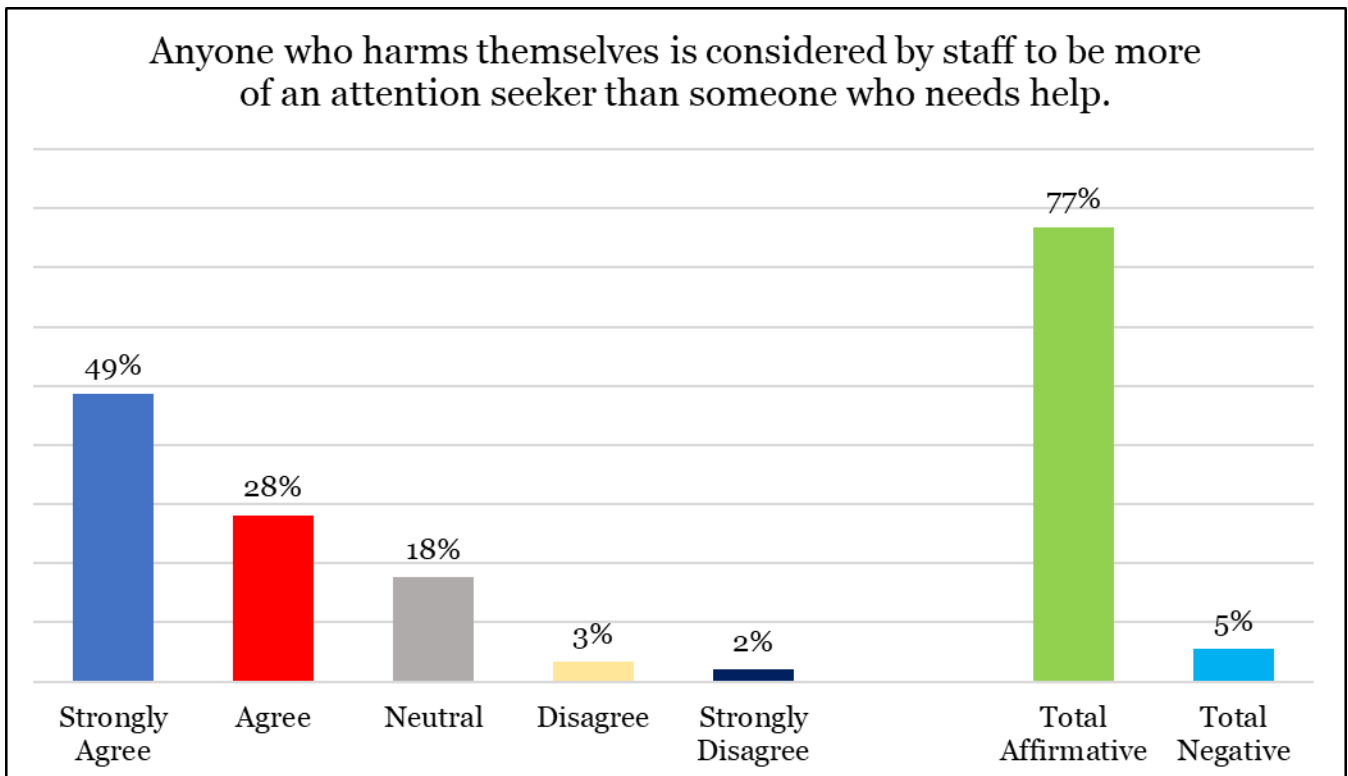
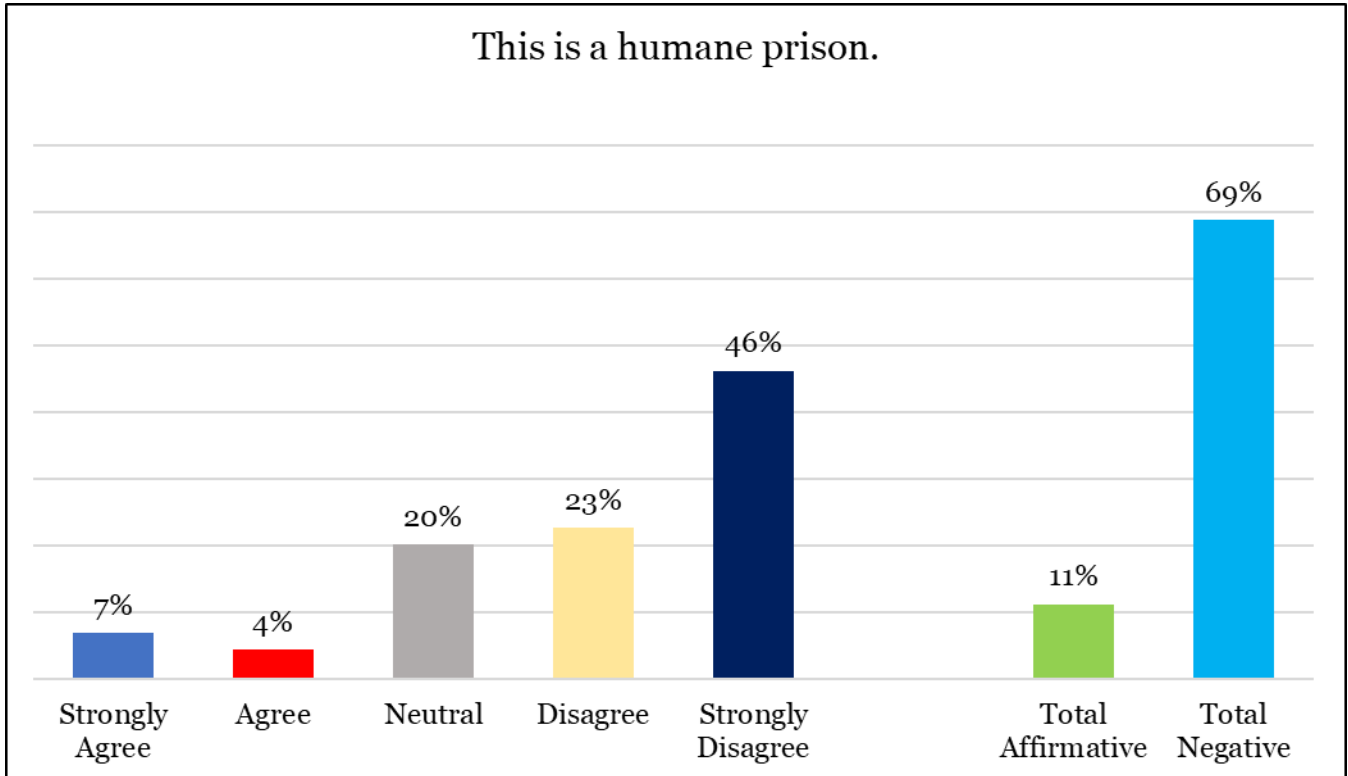
Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.



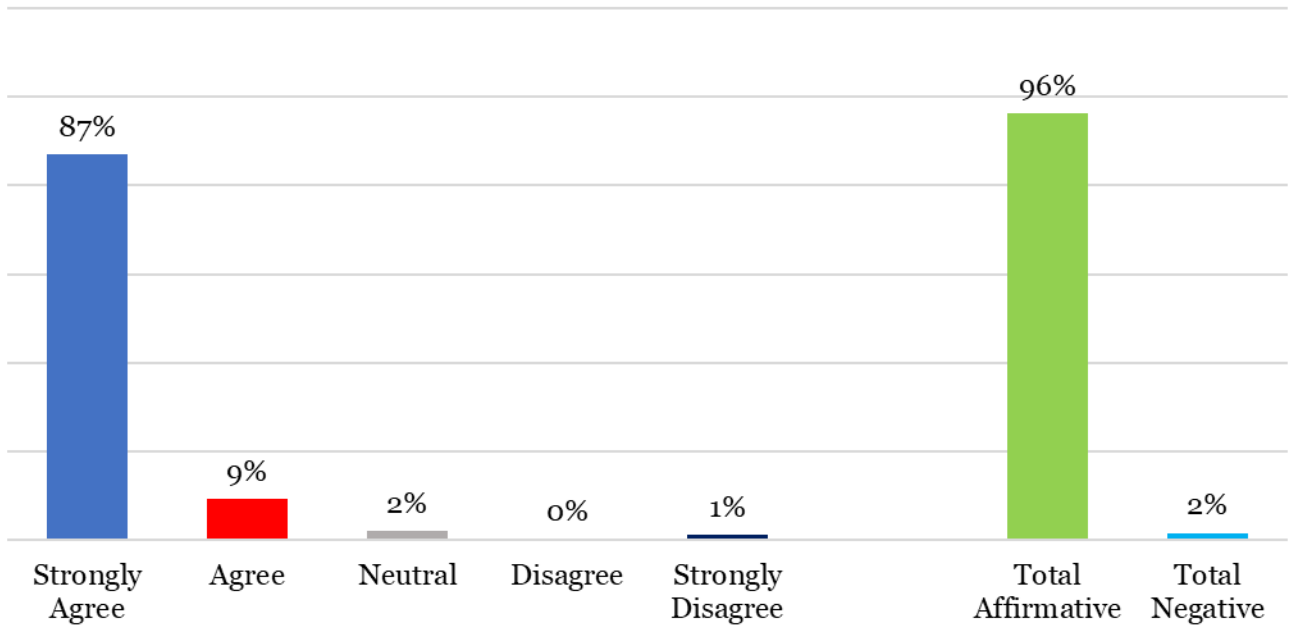
Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.



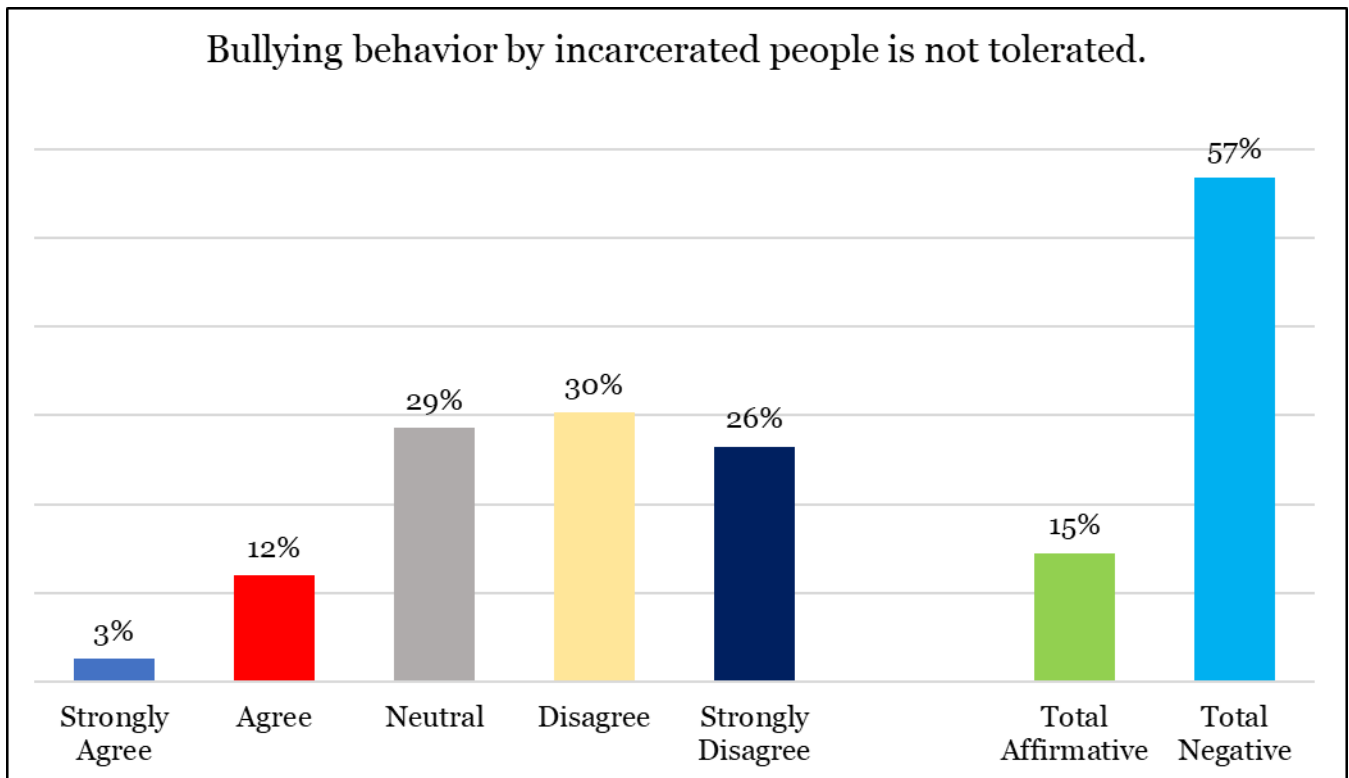
DECENCY - THE EXTENT TO WHICH STAFF AND THE REGIME ARE CONSIDERED REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE



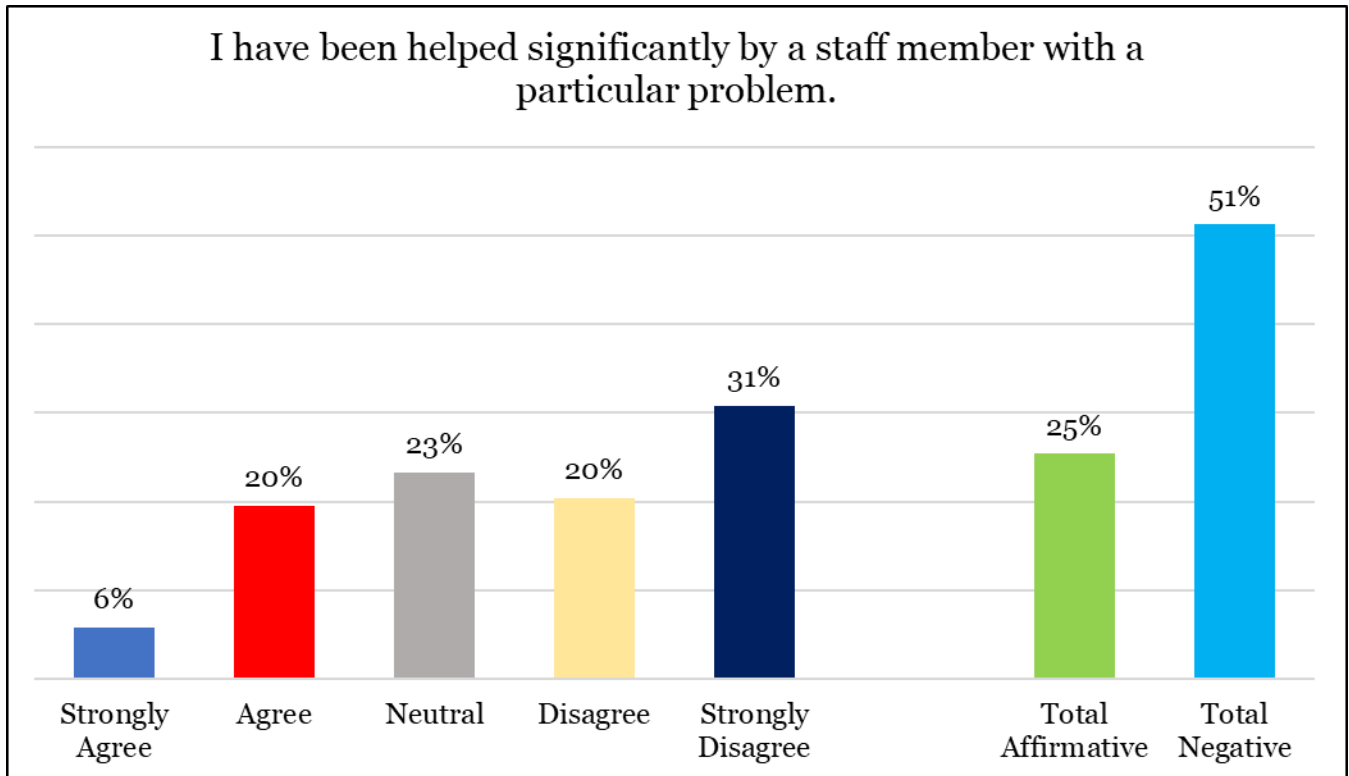
Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.



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

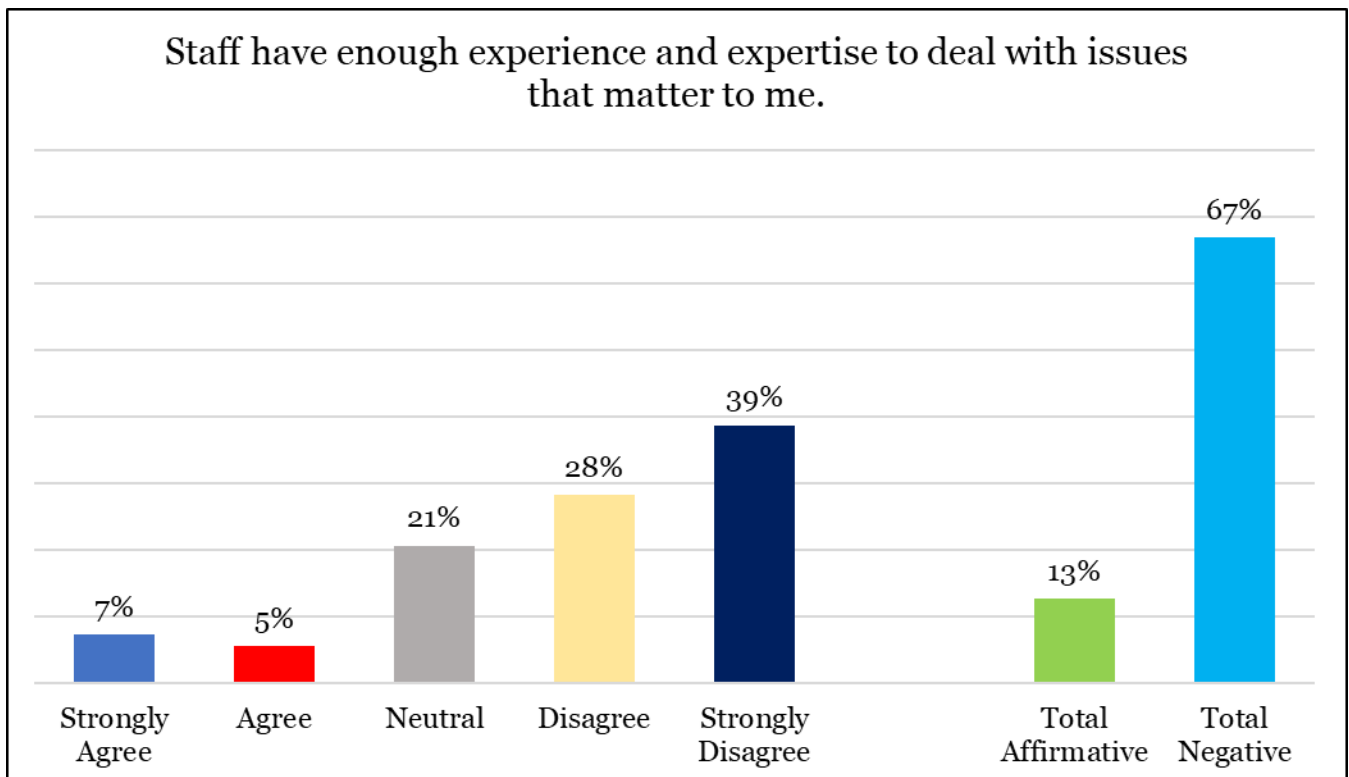
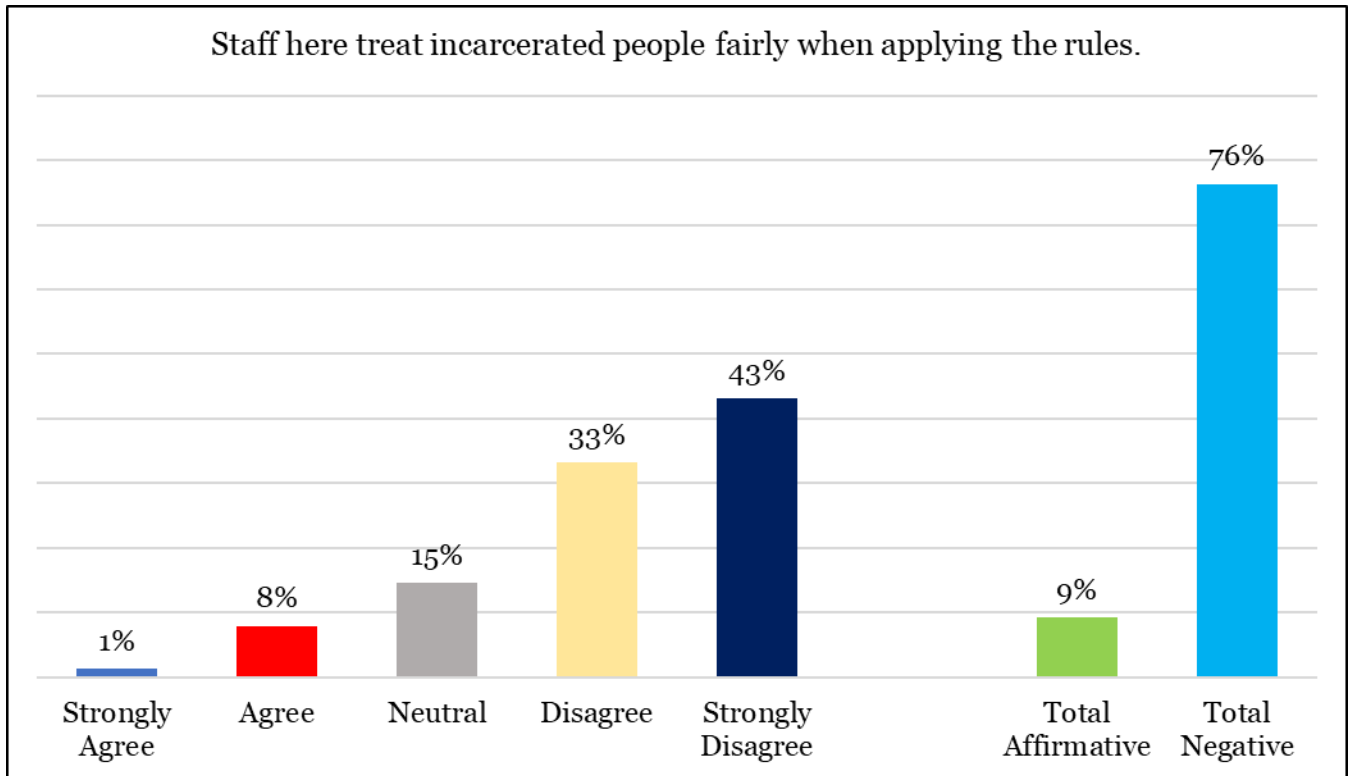


HELP AND ASSISTANCE – SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN TO INCARCERATED PEOPLE FOR PROBLEMS INCLUDING DRUGS, HEALTHCARE AND PROGRESSION

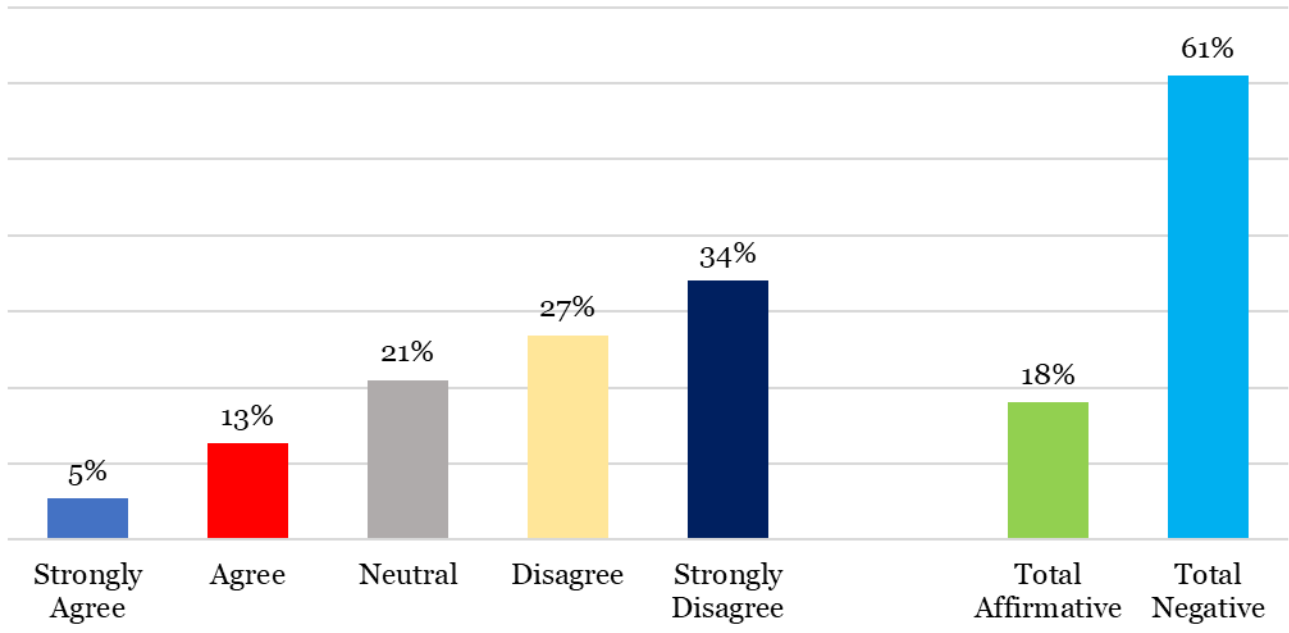


Professionalism

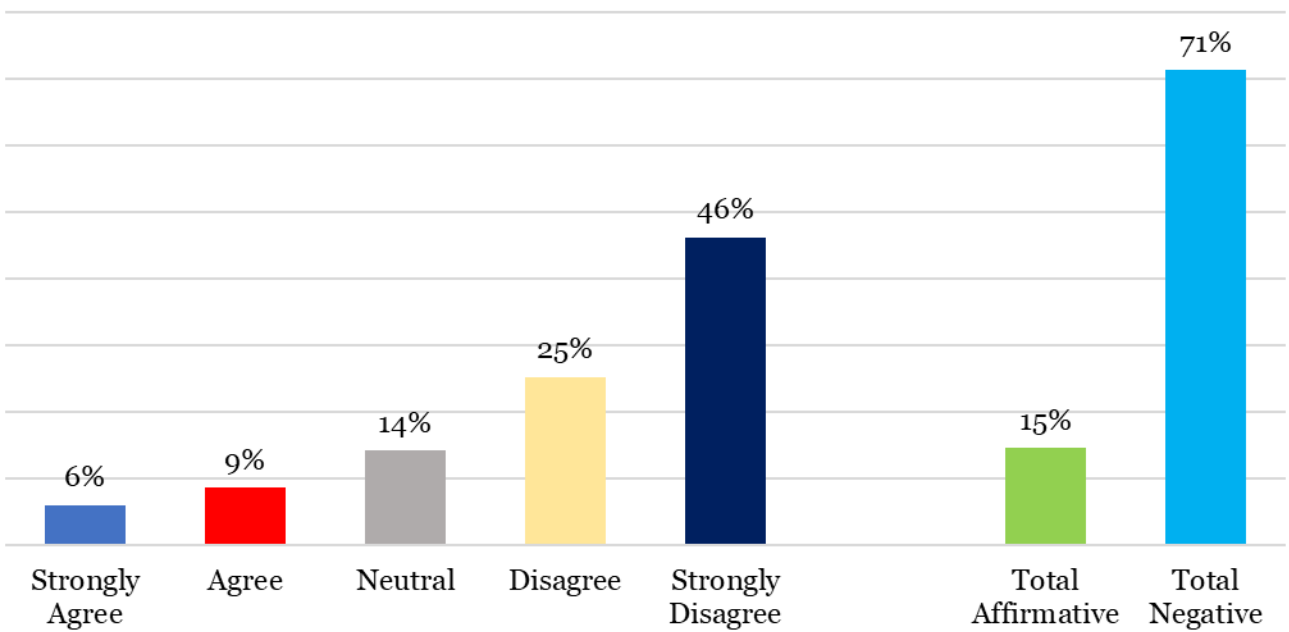
STAFF PROFESSIONALISM – STAFF CONFIDENCE AND COMPETENCE IN THE USE OF AUTHORITY



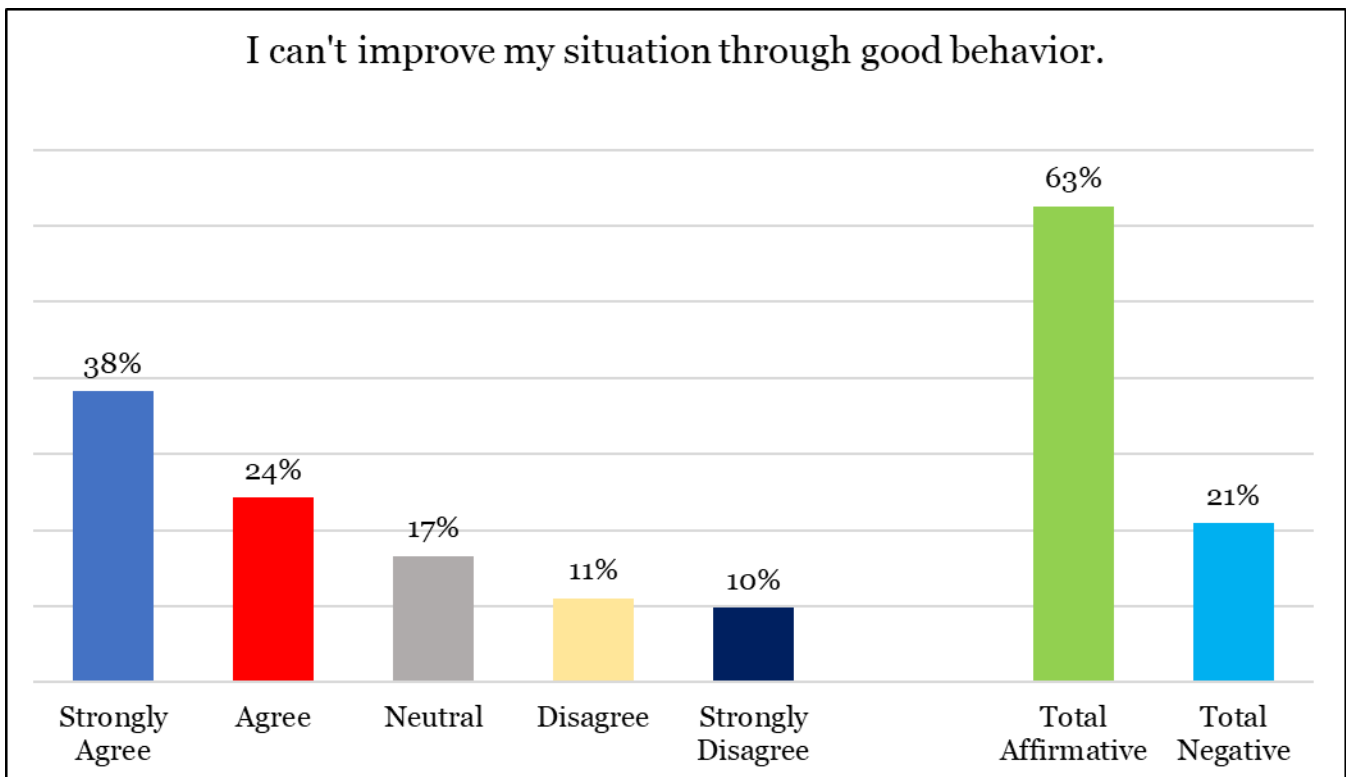
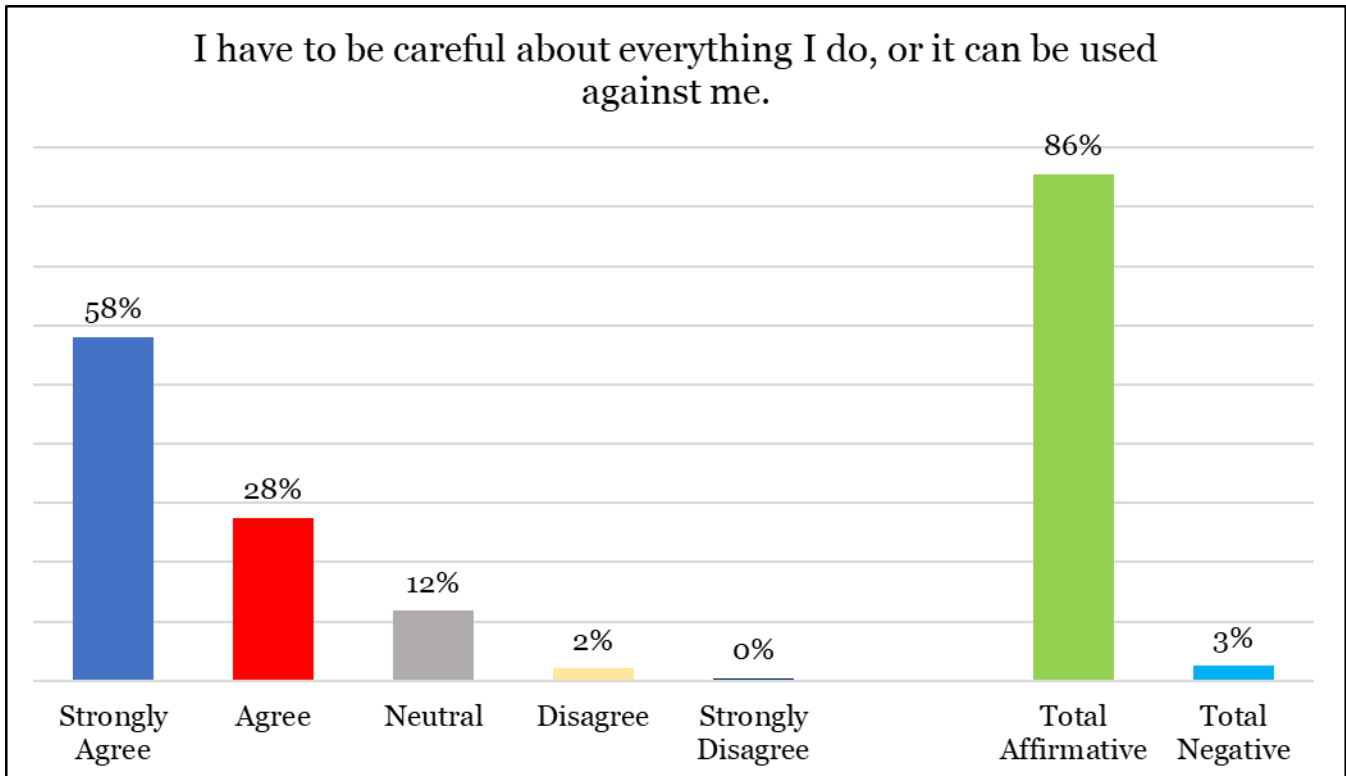
The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.



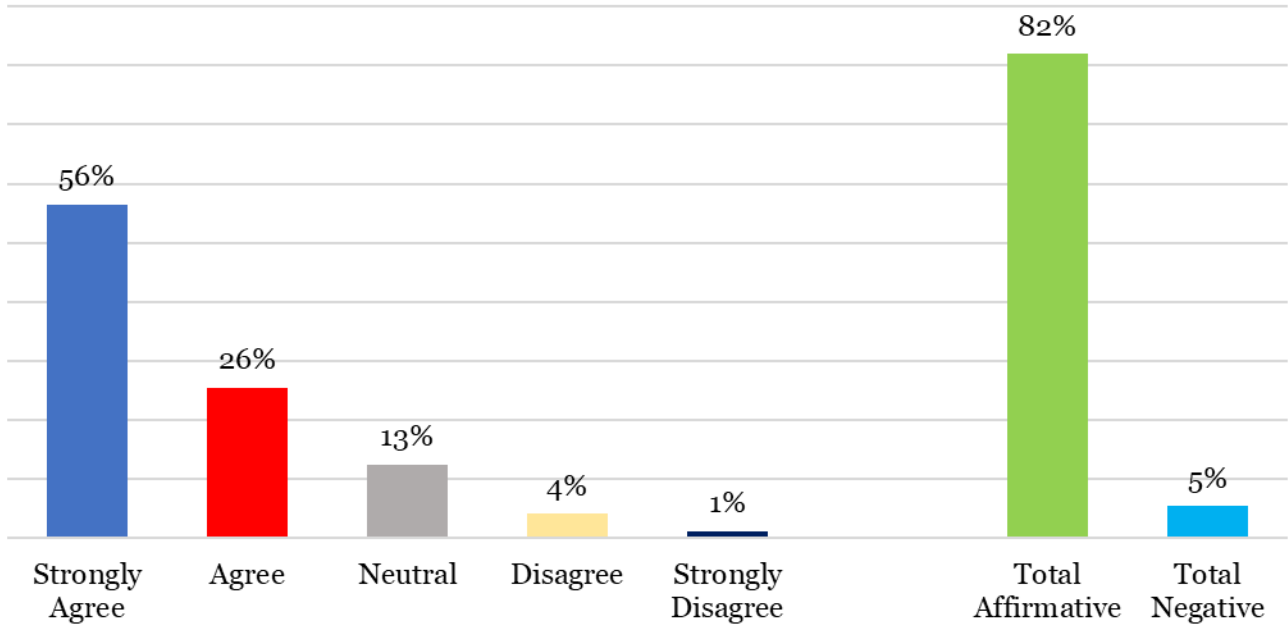
If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.



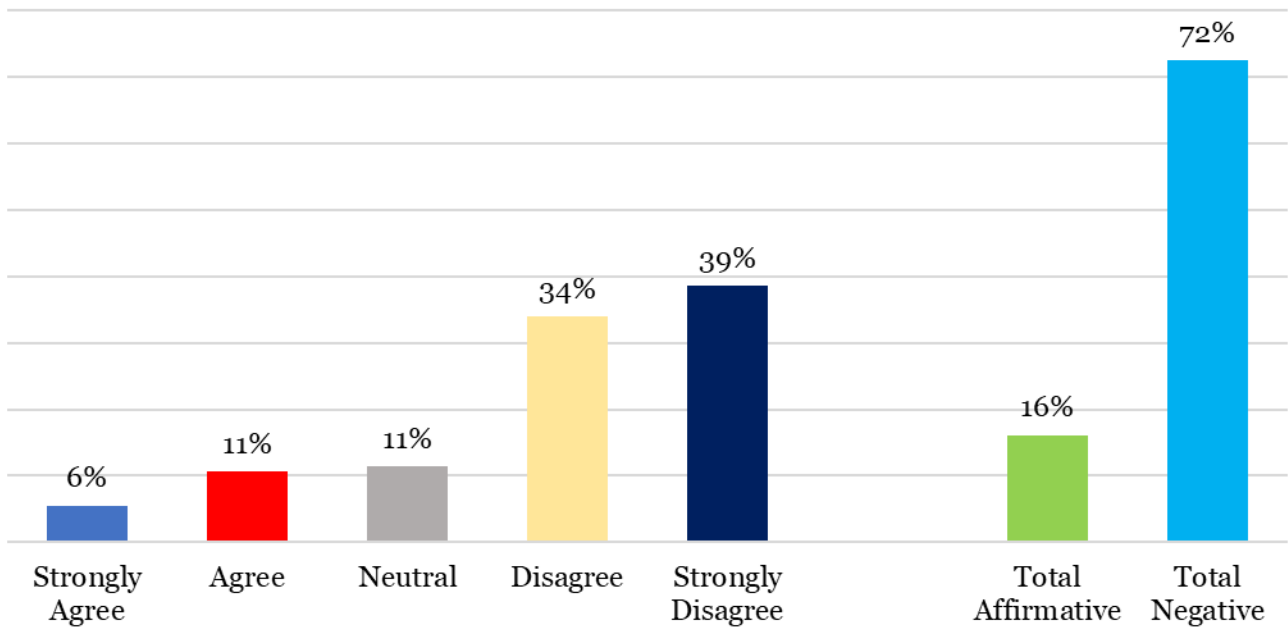
BUREAUCRATIC LEGITIMACY – THE TRANSPARENCY AND RESPONSIVENESS OF THE PRISON/PRISON SYSTEM AND ITS MORAL RECOGNITION OF THE INDIVIDUAL



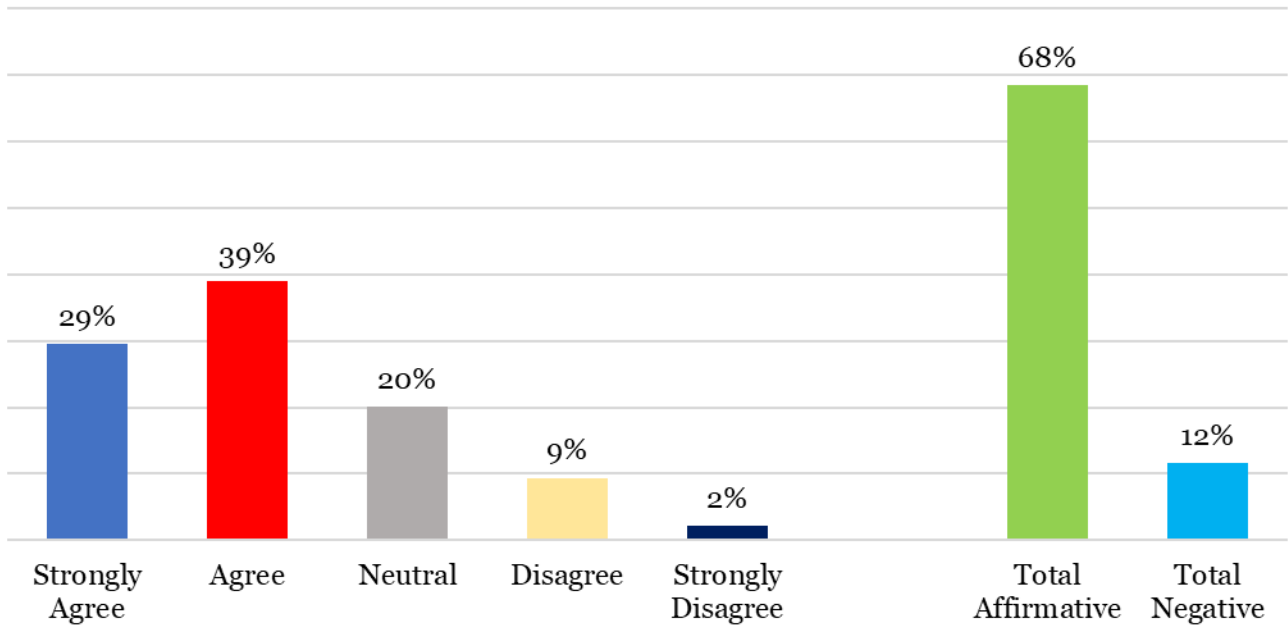
All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.



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

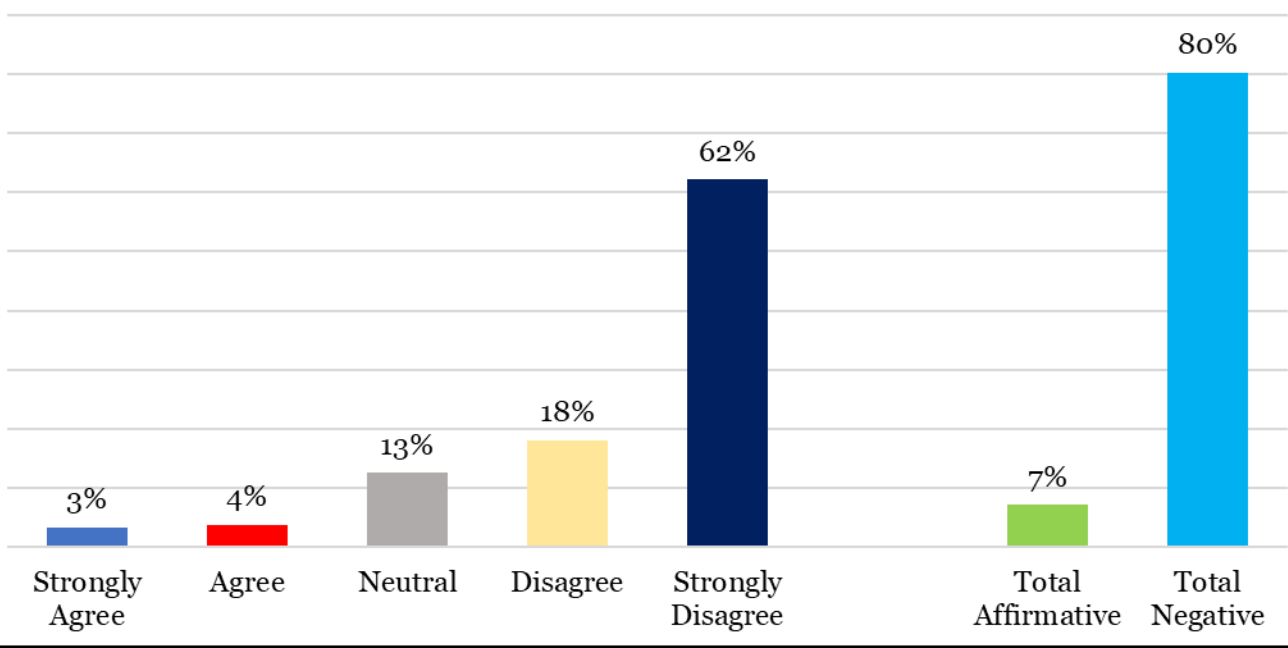


To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.

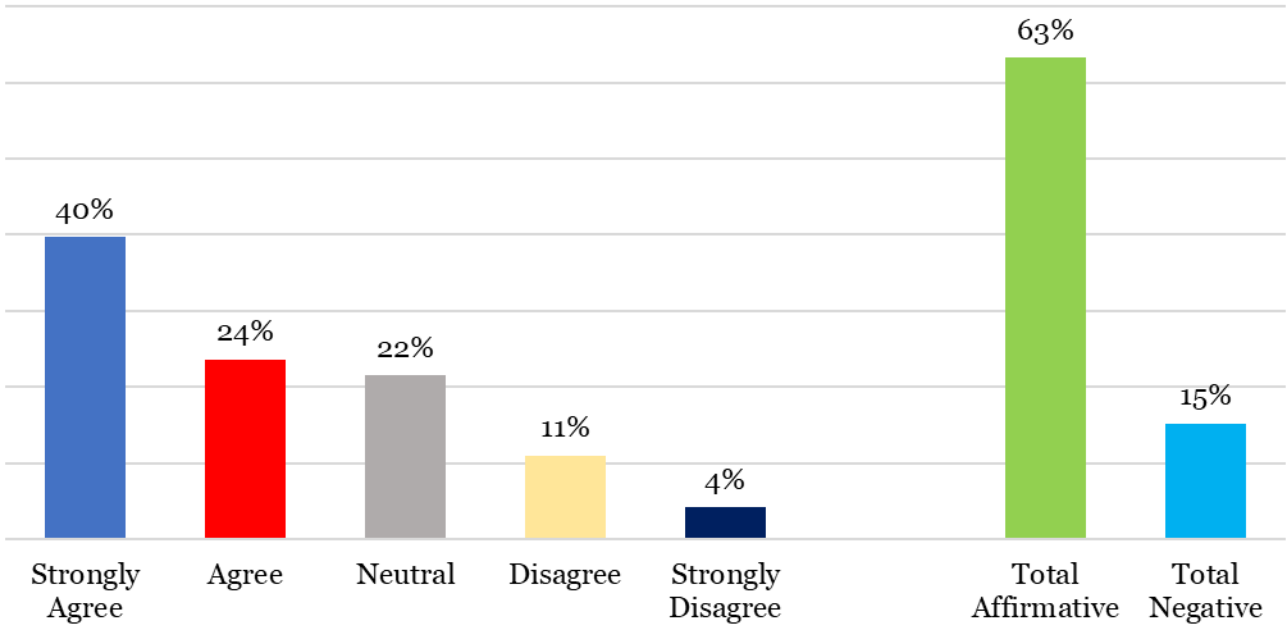


FAIRNESS – THE PERCEIVED IMPARTIALITY, PROPORTIONALITY AND LEGALITY OF PUNISHMENTS AND PROCEDURES

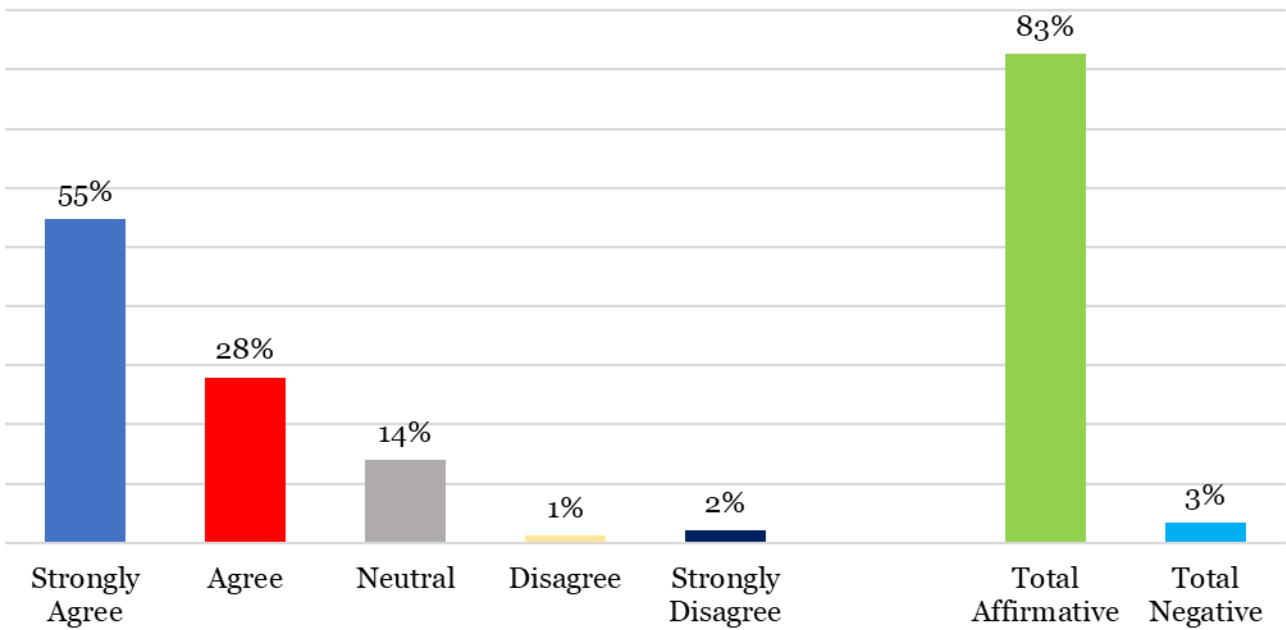
The disciplinary system is fair.



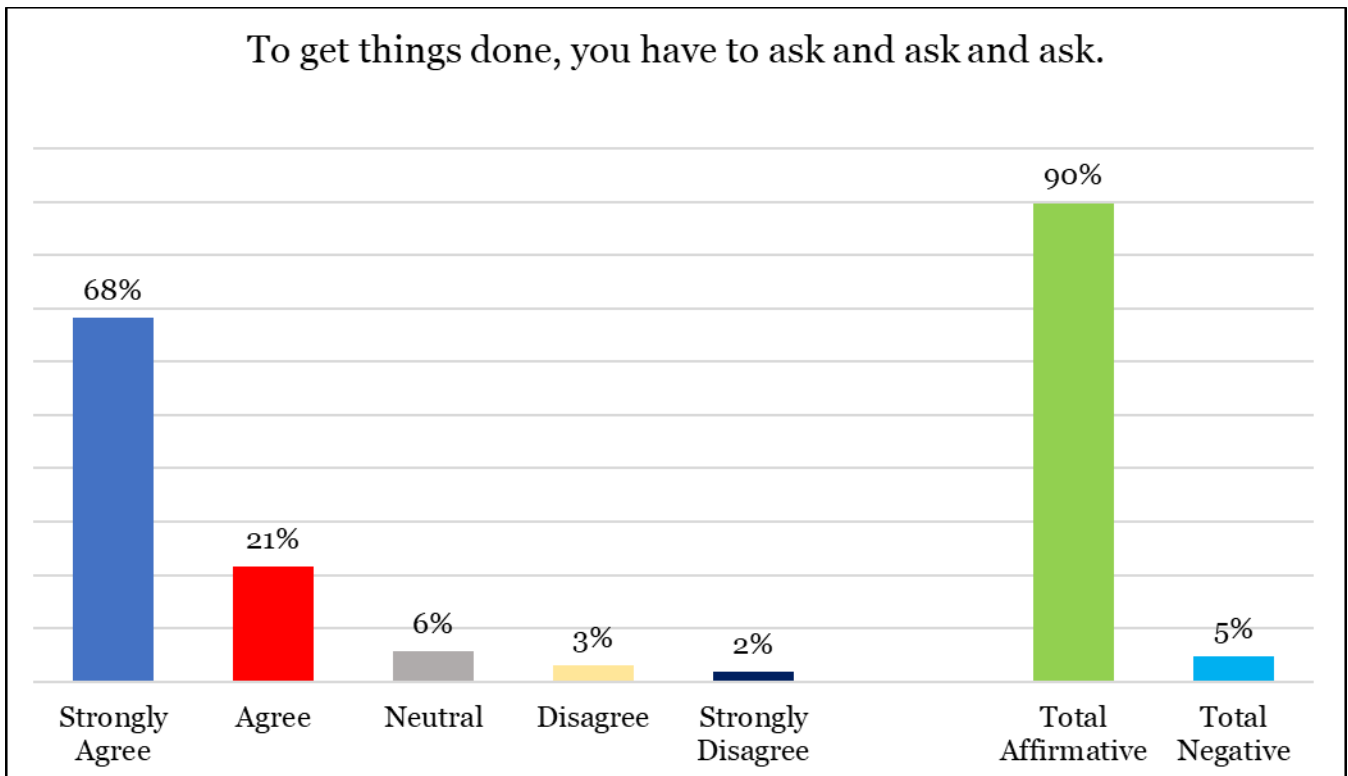
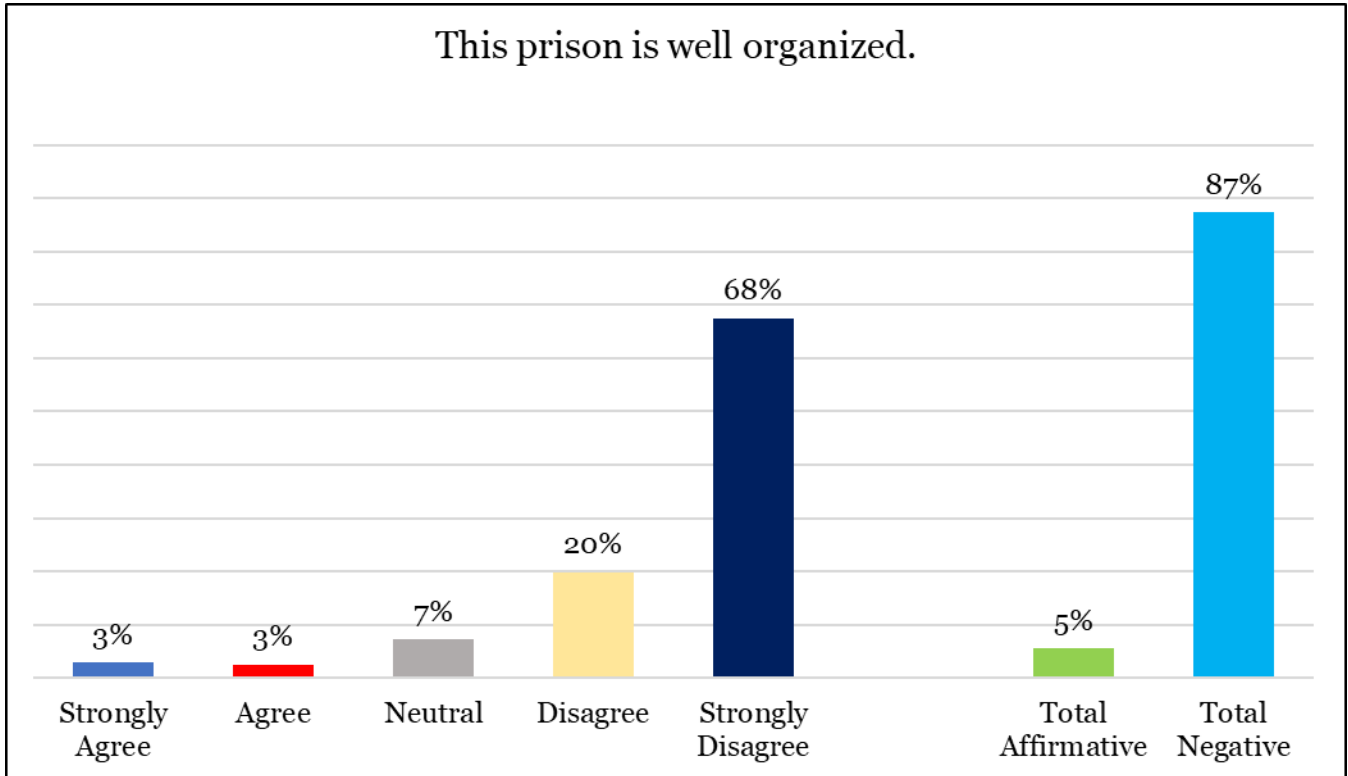
Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.



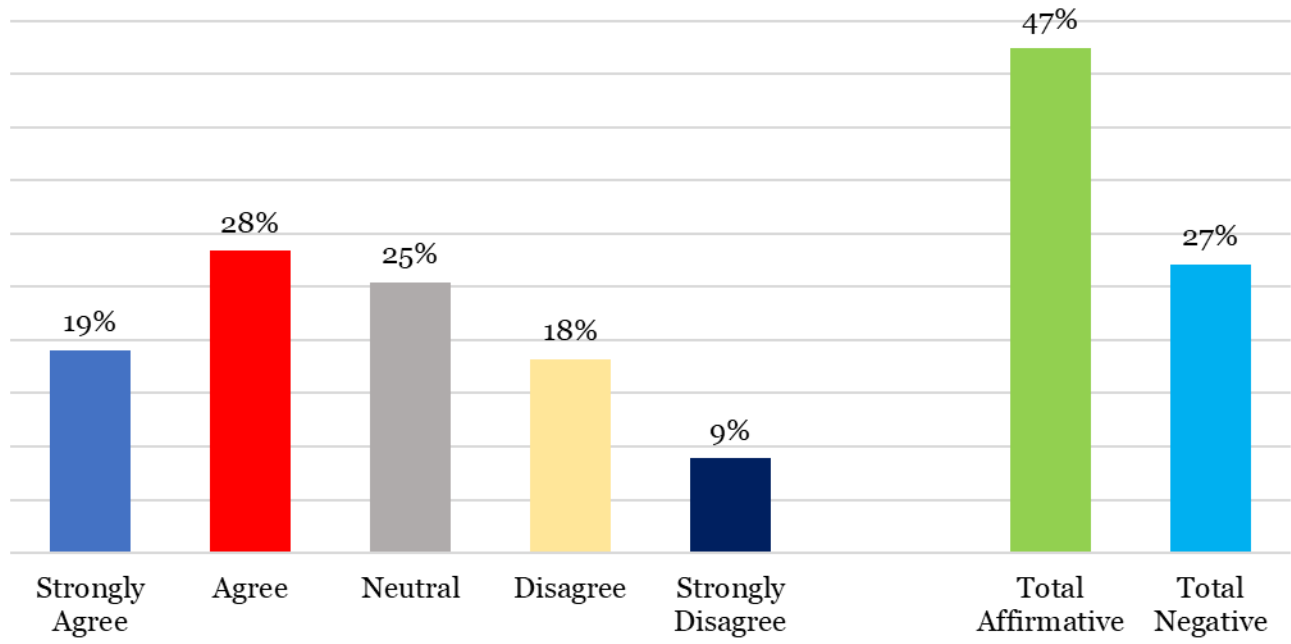
This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.



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

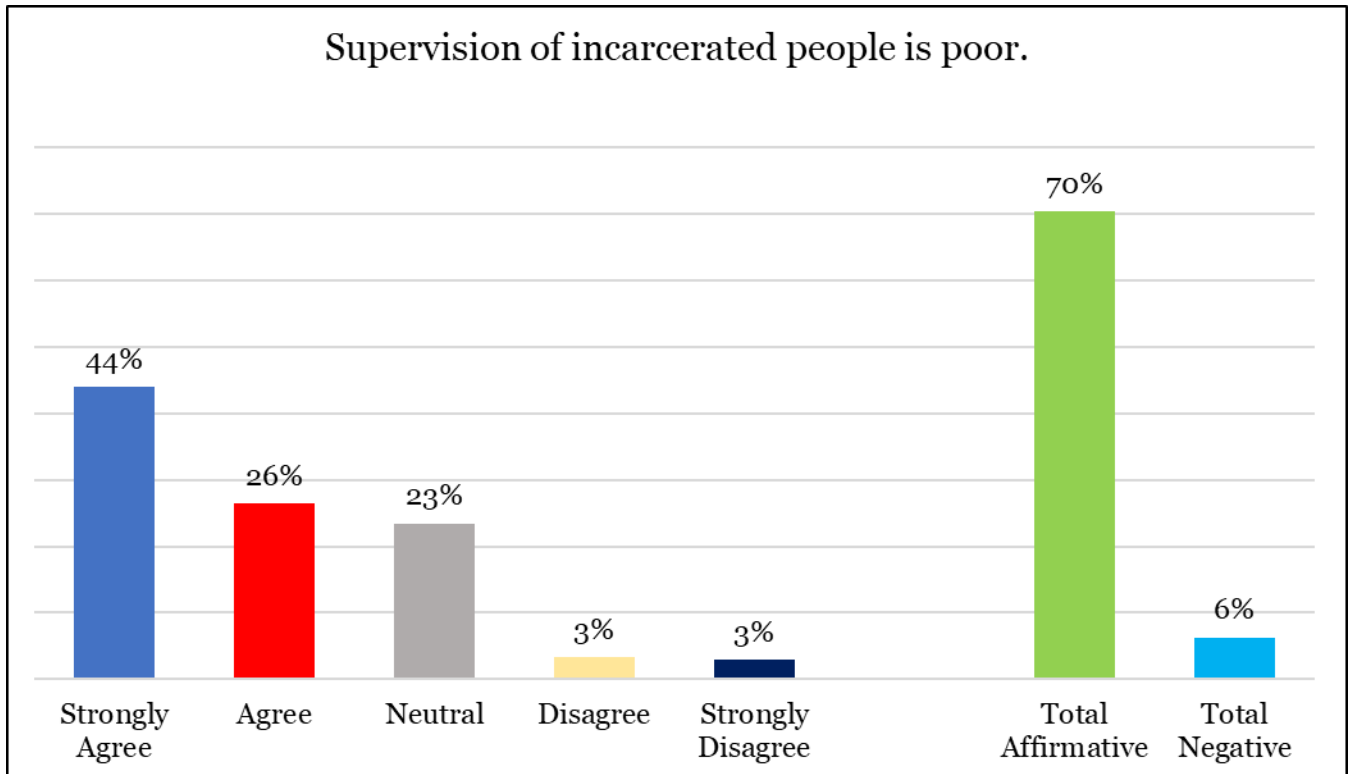


You never know the rules.

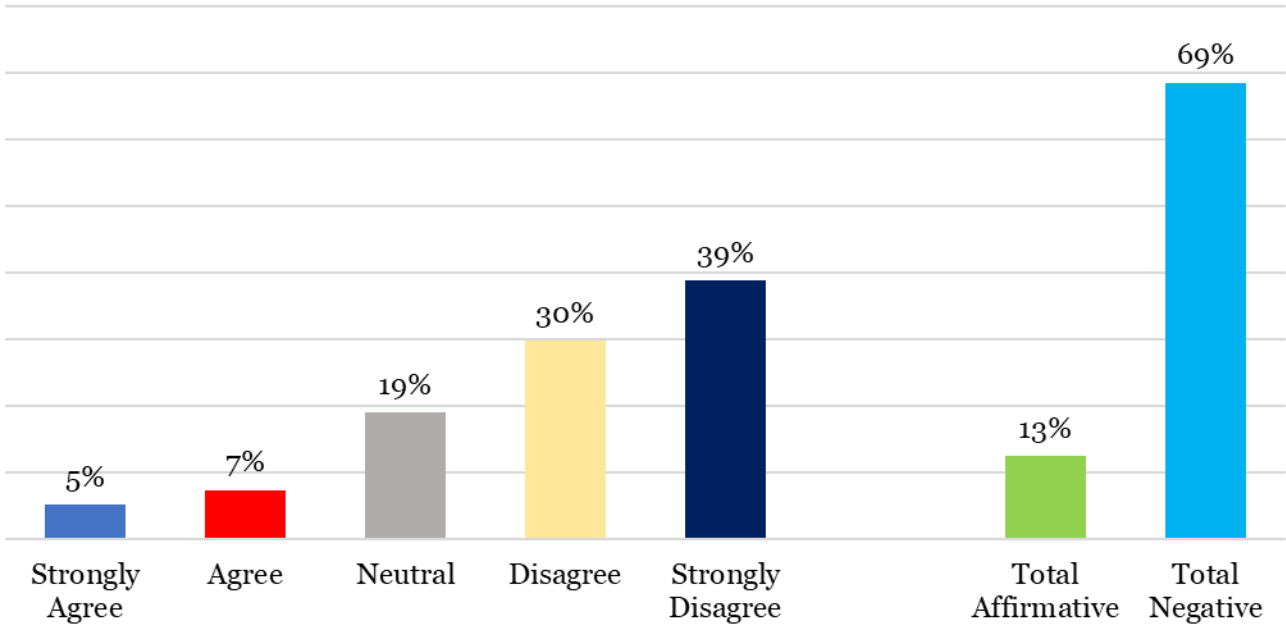


Security

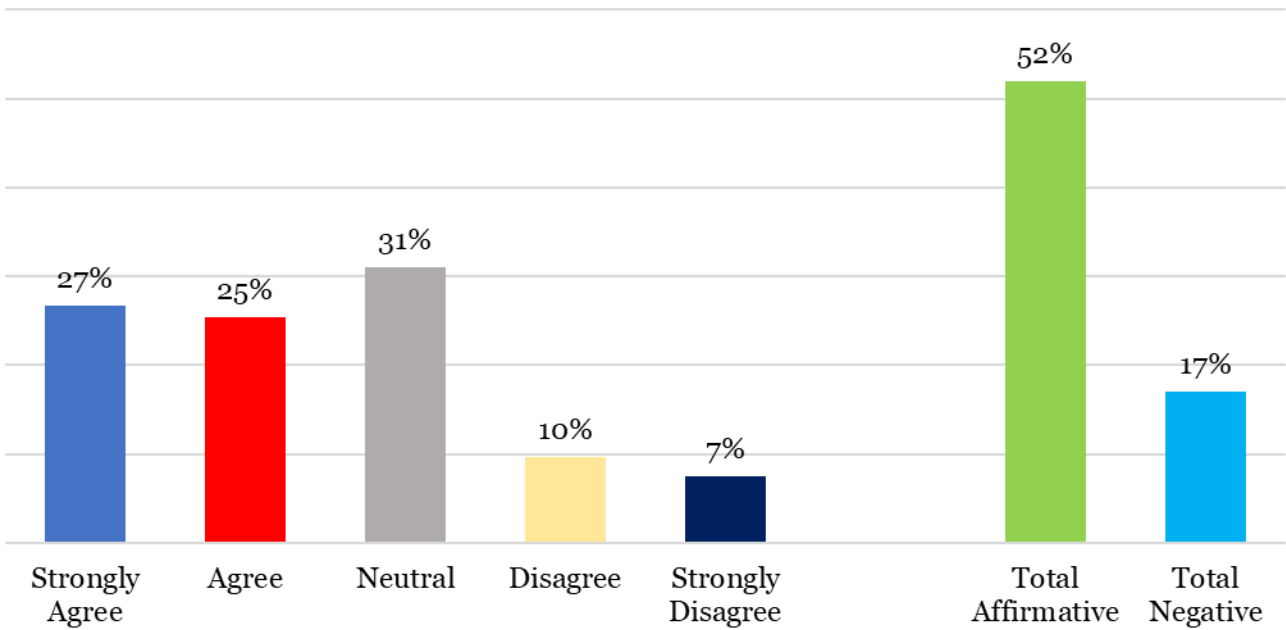
POLICING AND SECURITY – STAFF SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT



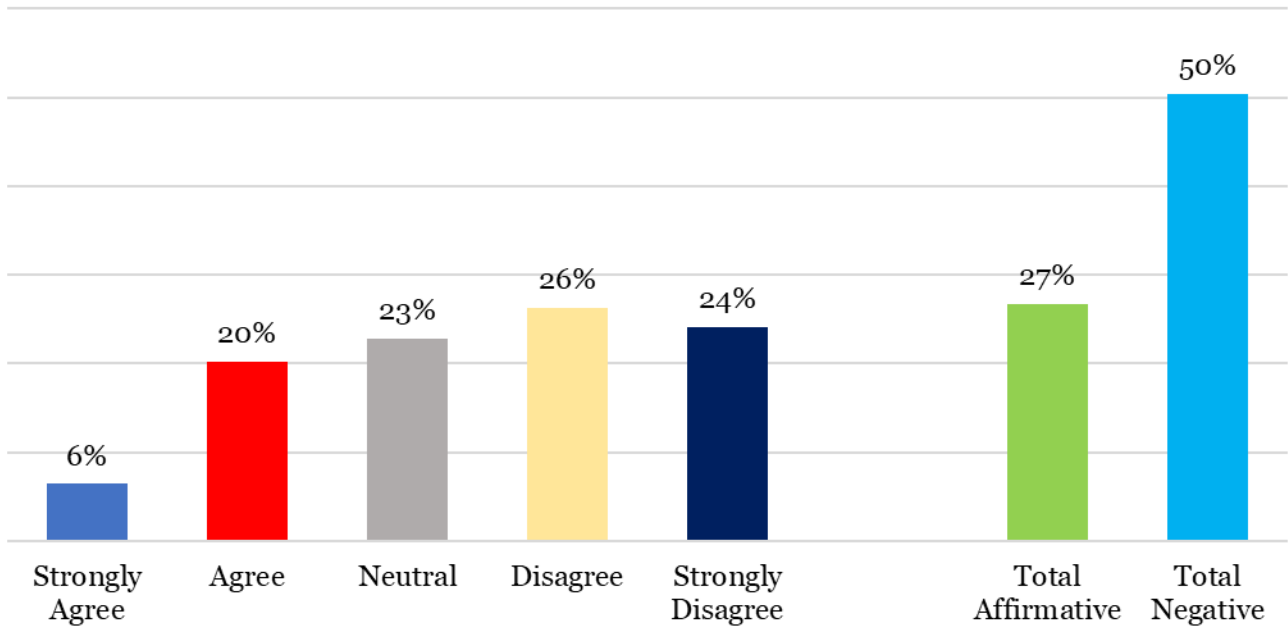
This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.



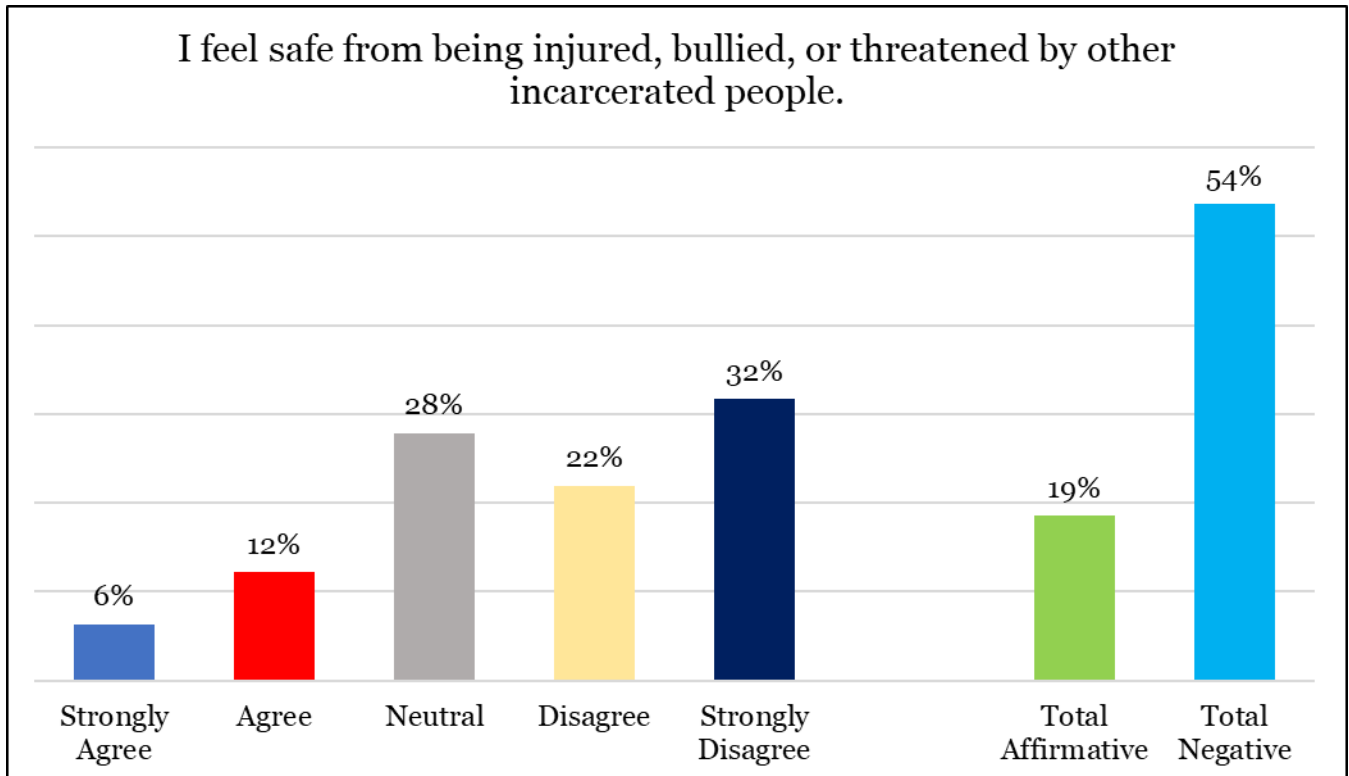
There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.



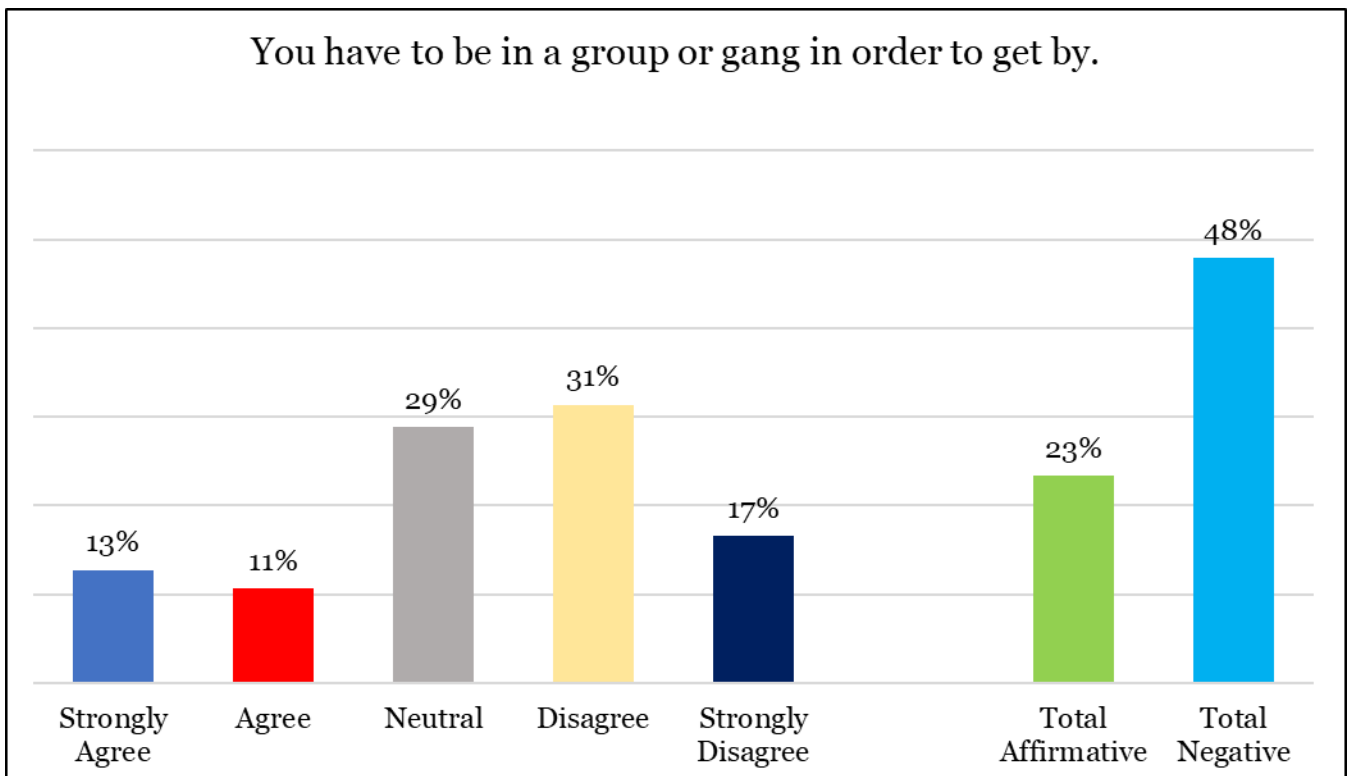
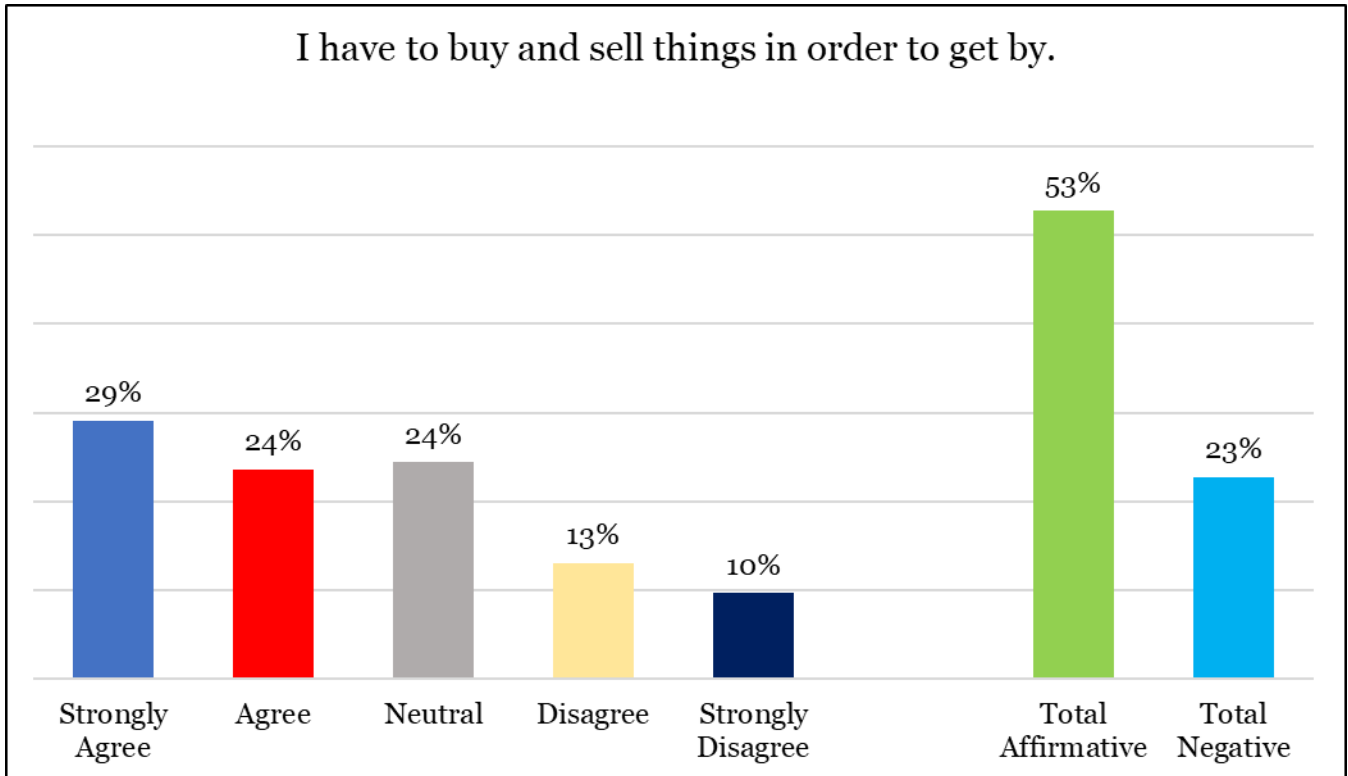
Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.



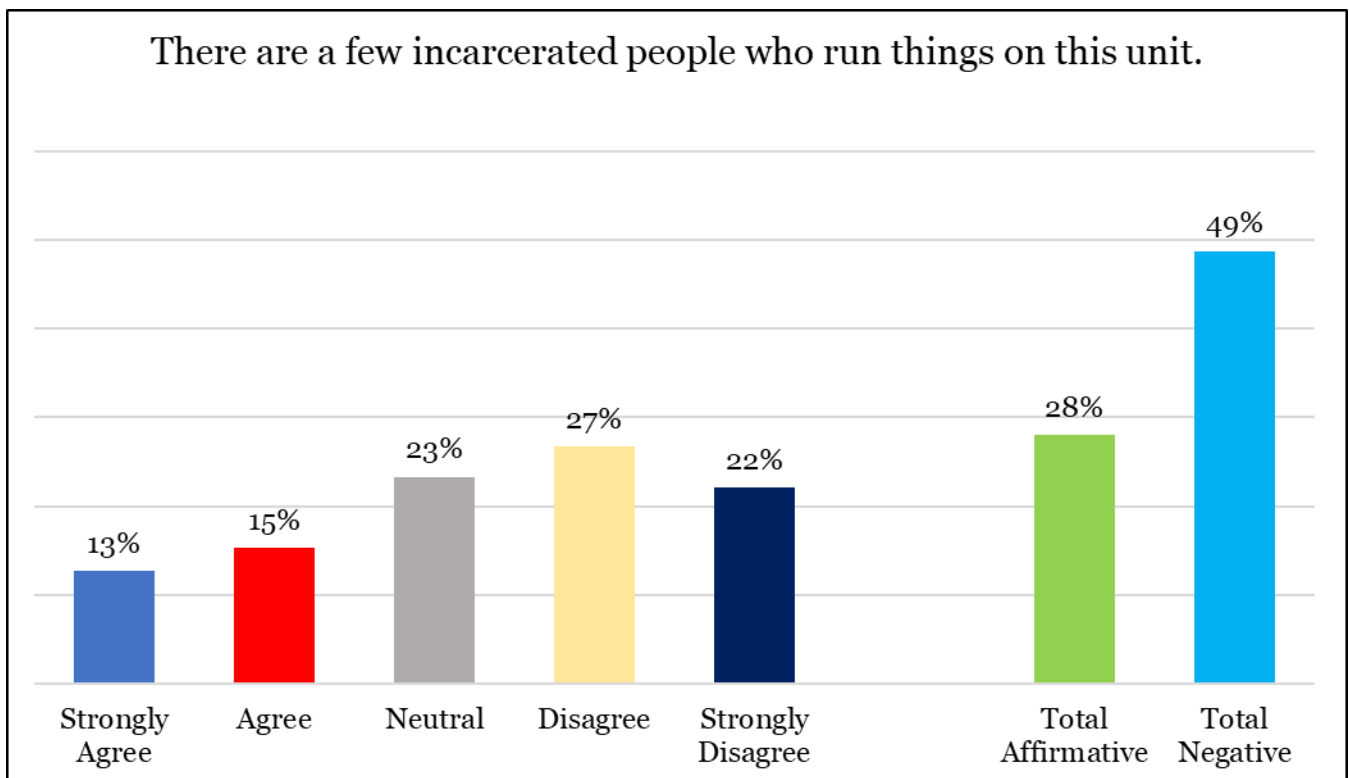
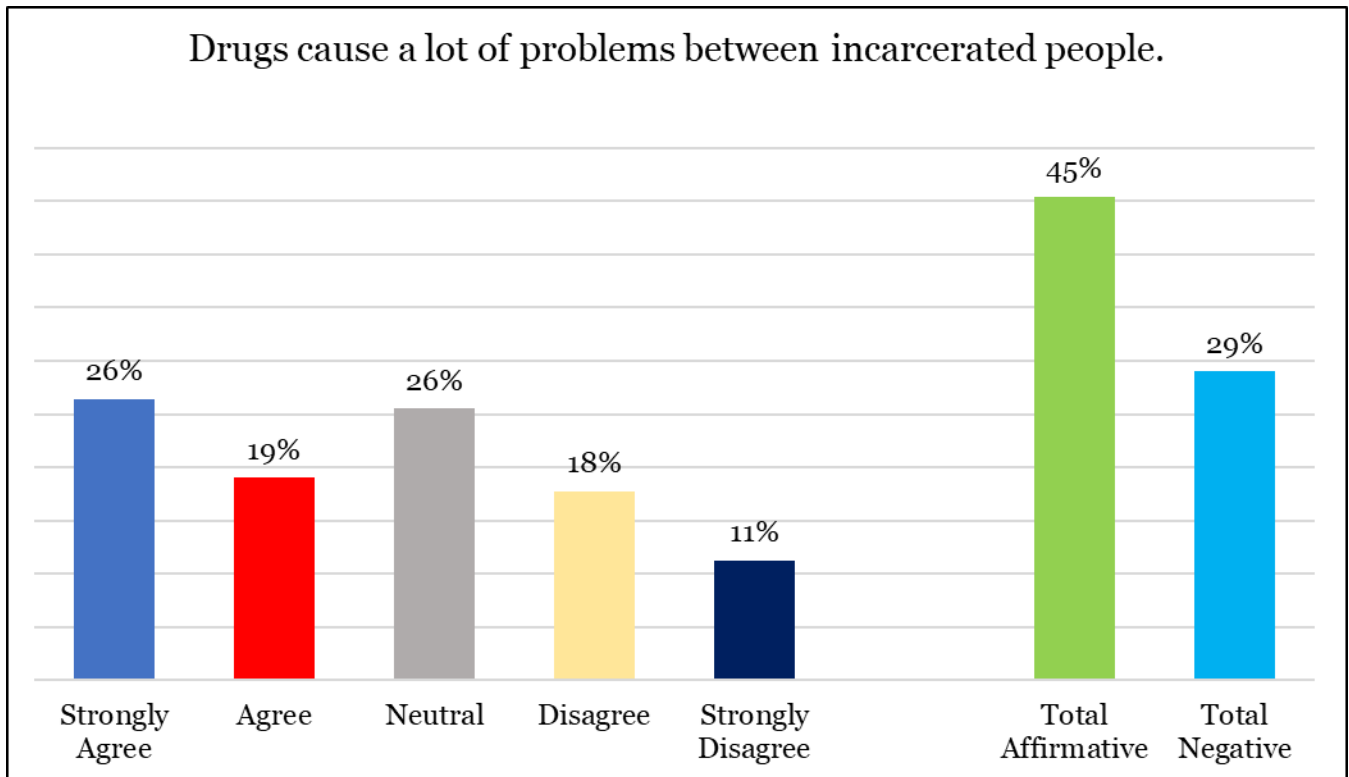
INCARCERATED PERSON SAFETY – THE FEELING OF SECURITY OR PROTECTION FROM HARM, THREAT OR DANGER



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

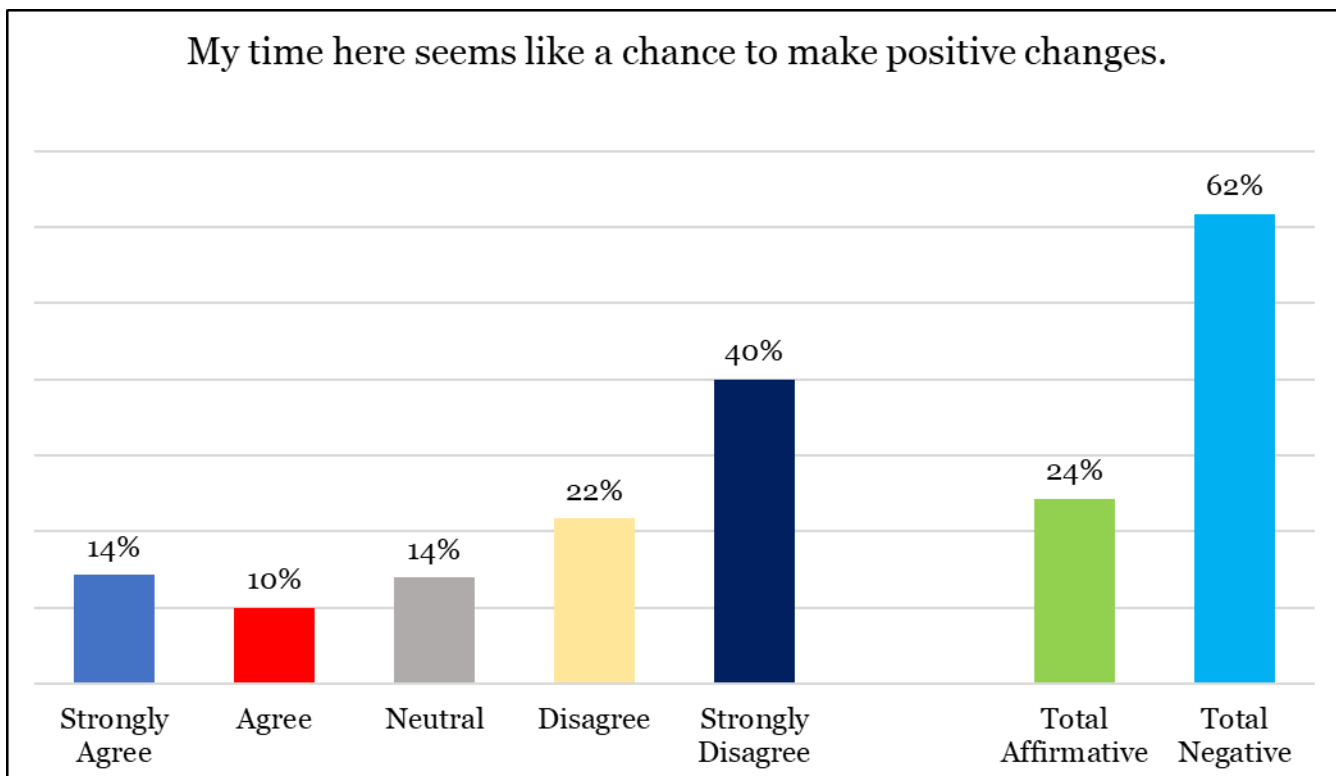
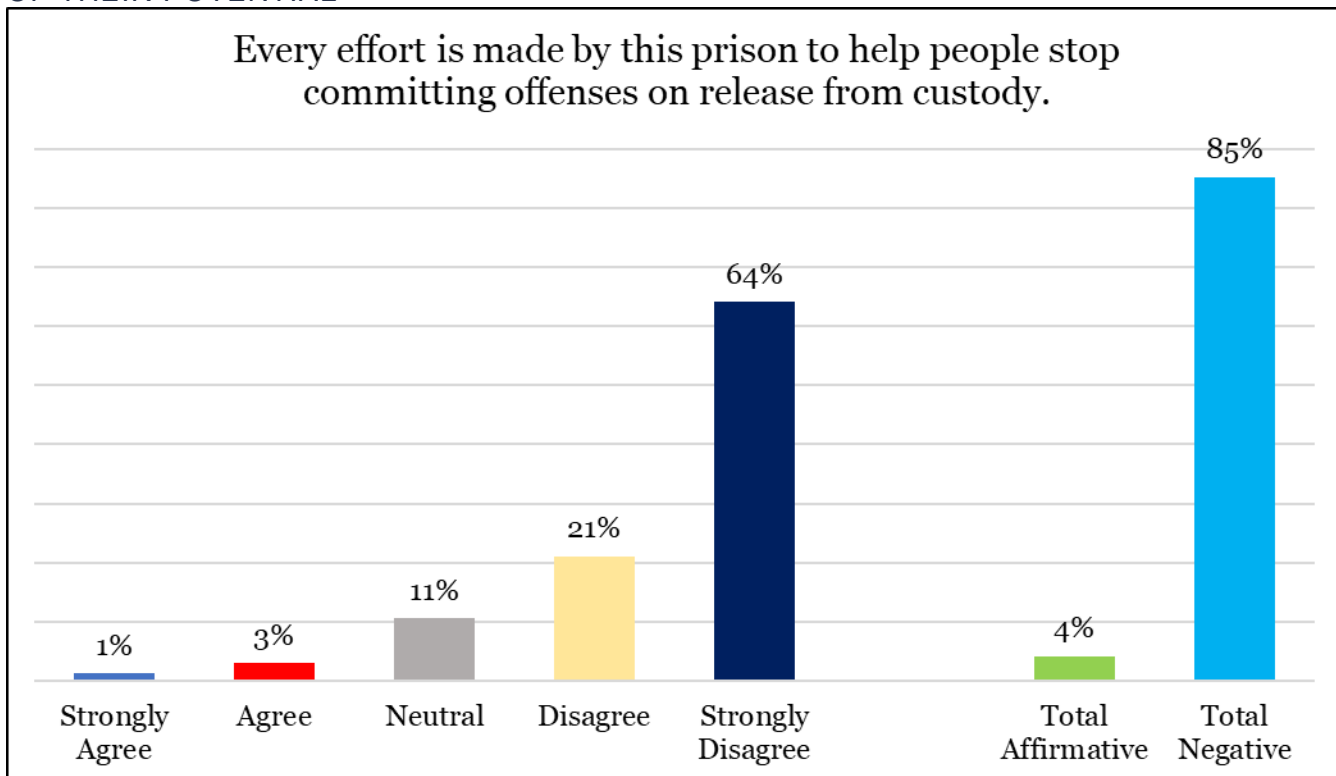


DRUGS AND EXPLOITATION – THE LEVEL OF DRUGS, BULLYING AND VICTIMIZATION IN THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT

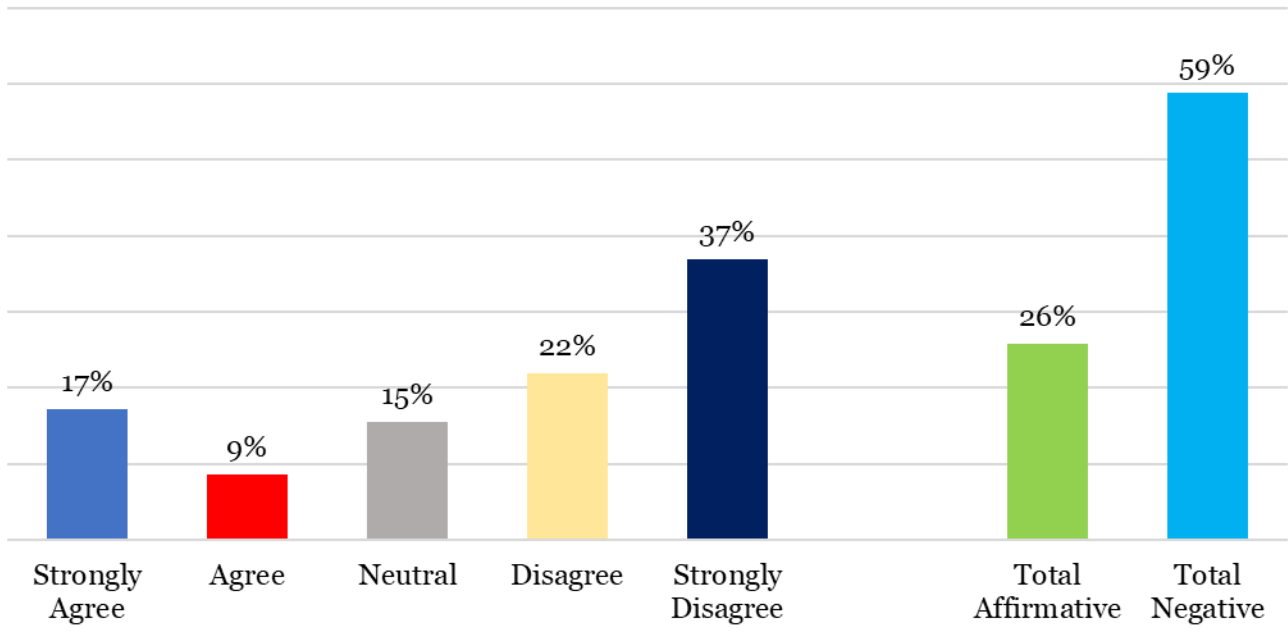


Well-being and Development

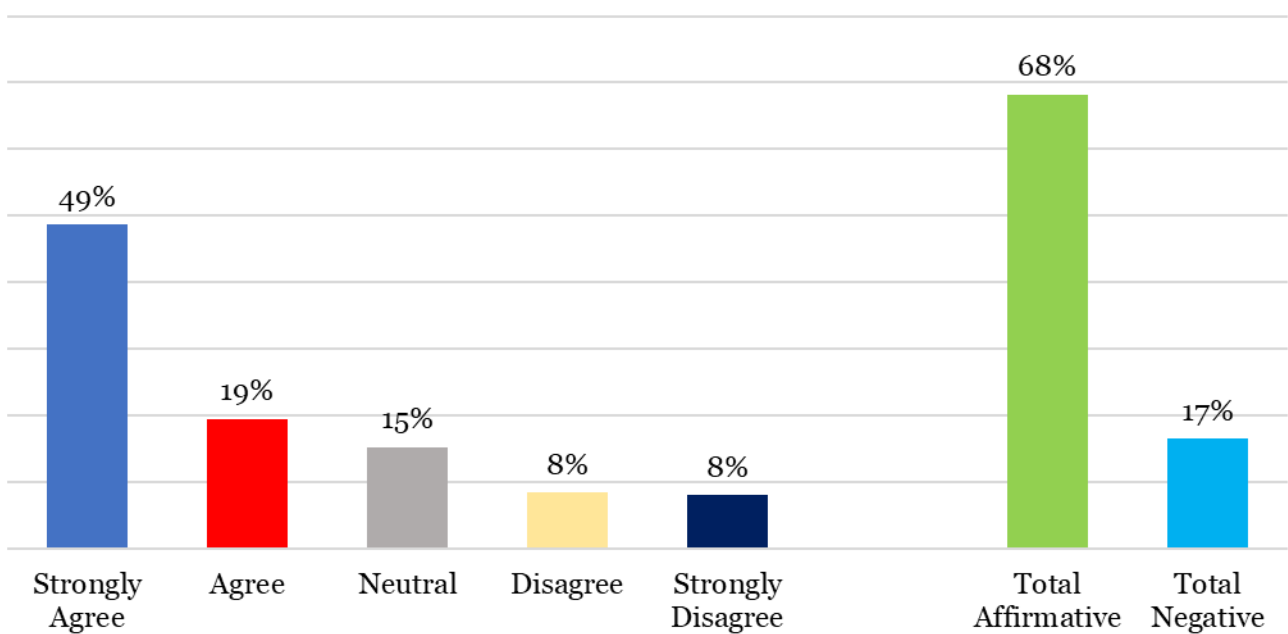
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT HELPS INCARCERATED PEOPLE WITH OFFENDING BEHAVIOR, PREPARATION FOR RELEASE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR POTENTIAL



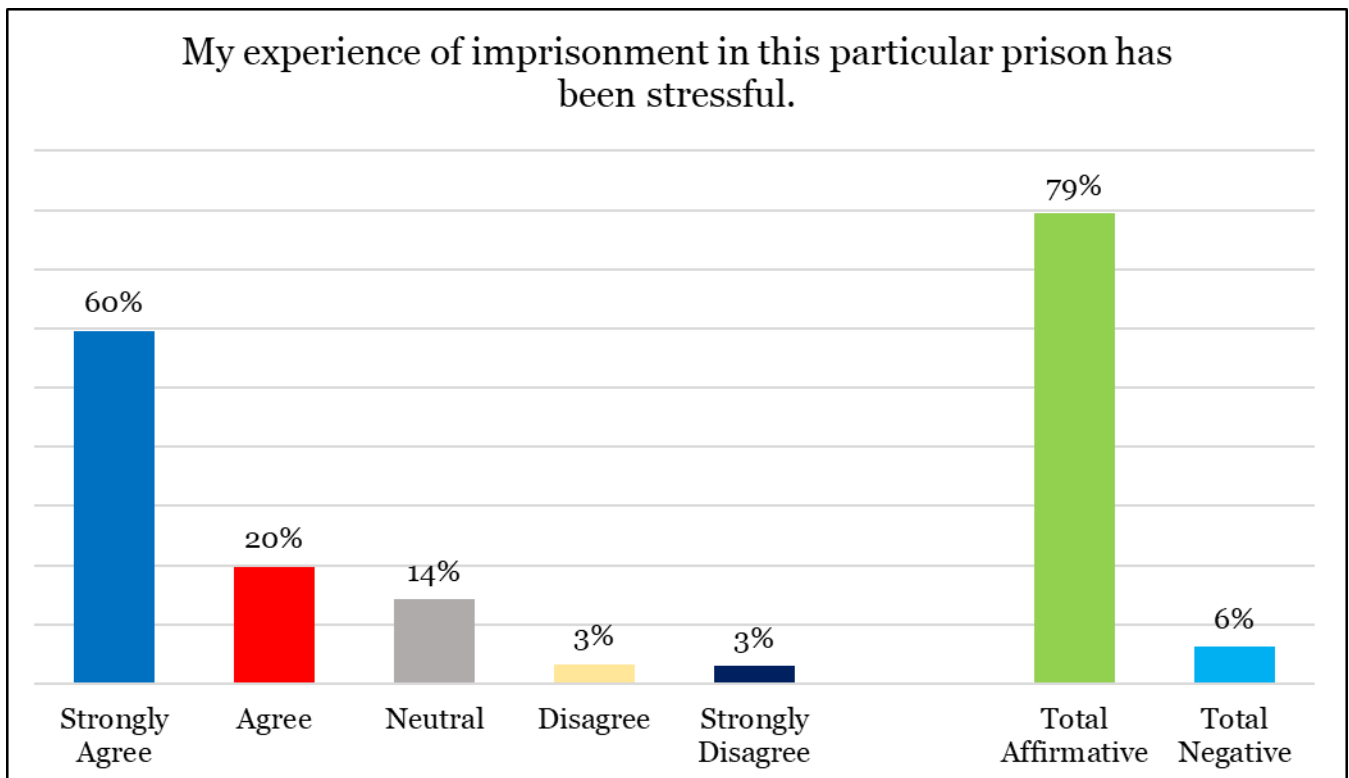
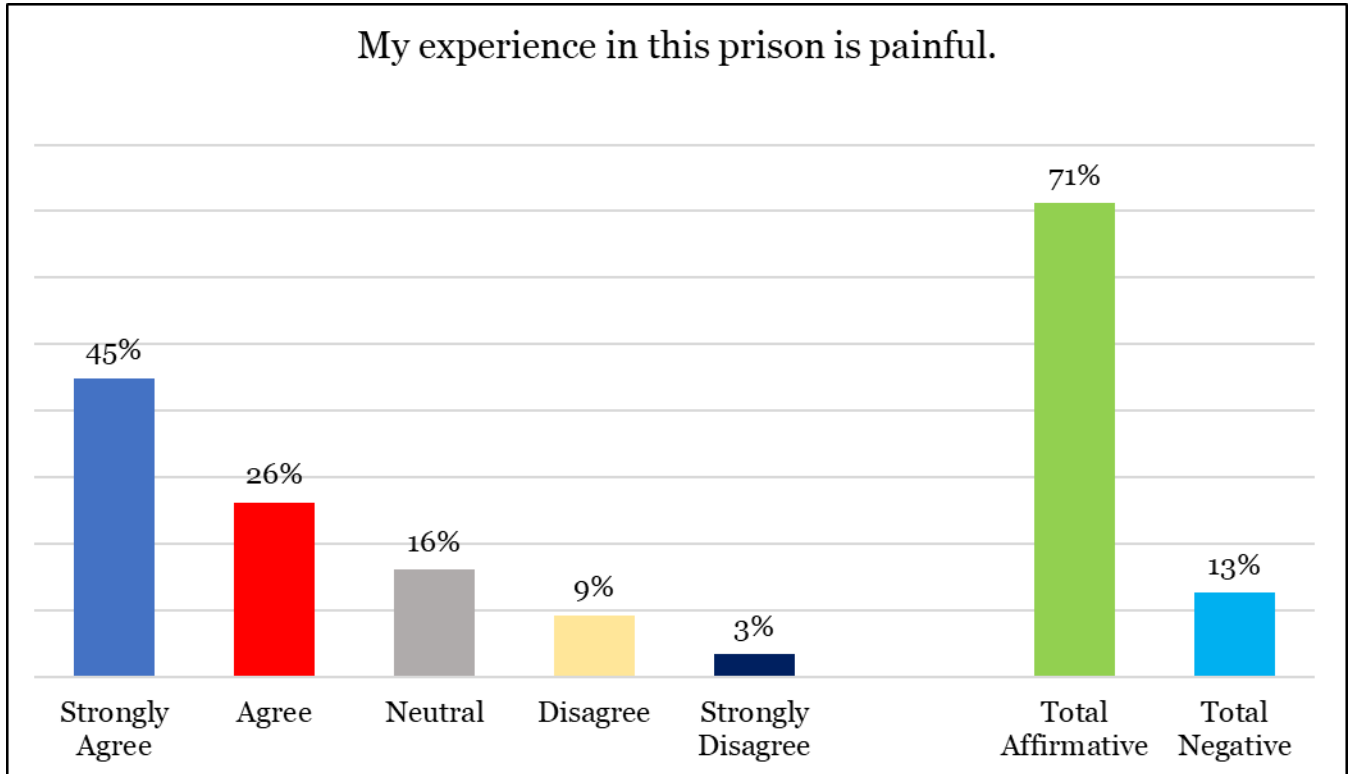
The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.



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

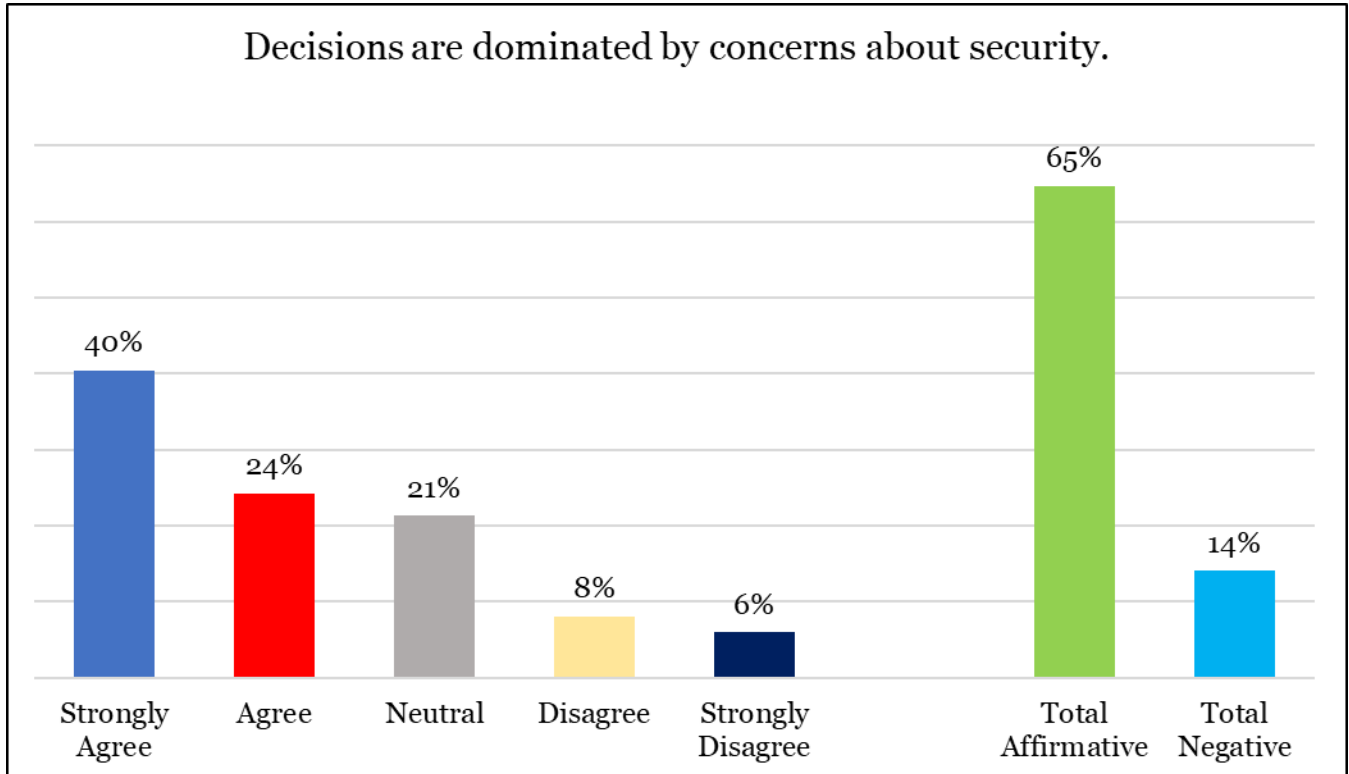


WELL-BEING – FEELINGS OF PAIN, PUNISHMENT AND TENSION EXPERIENCED BY INCARCERATED PEOPLE

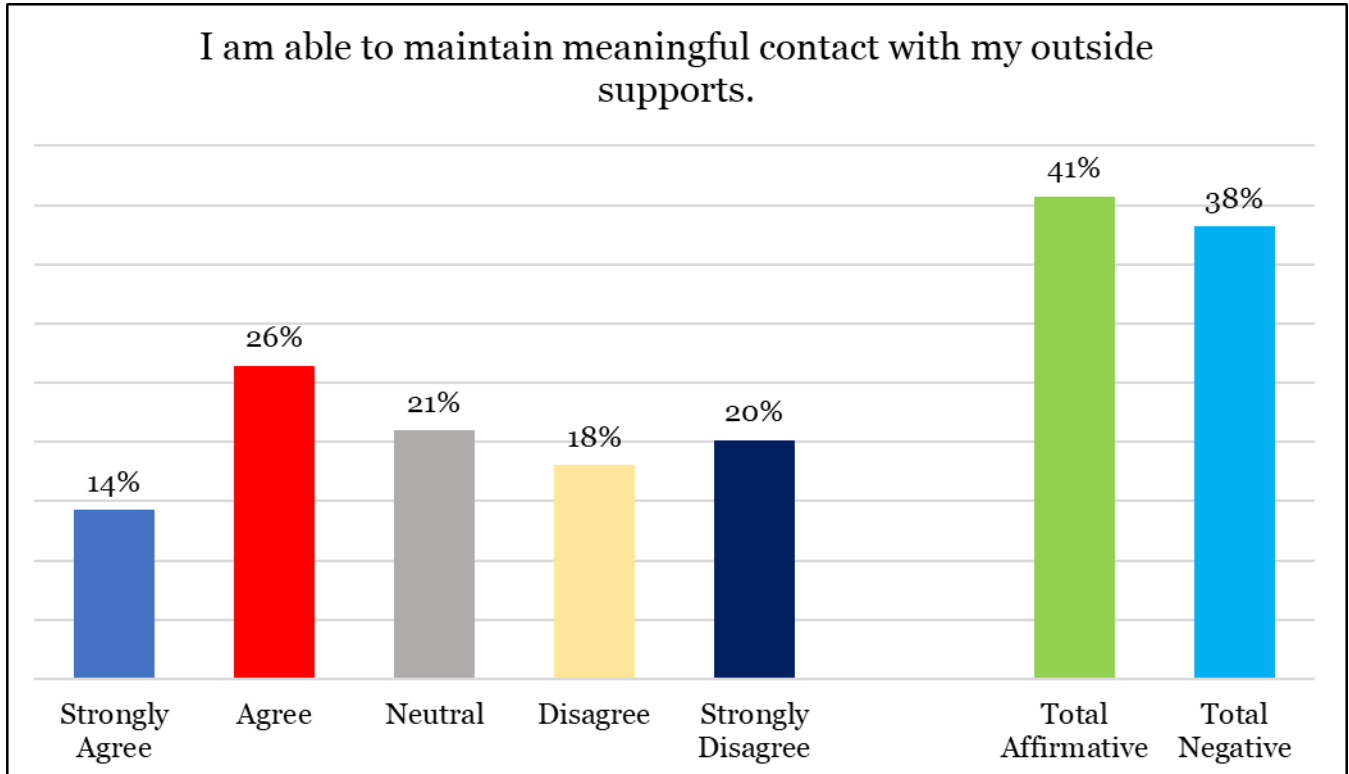


Additional Questions

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

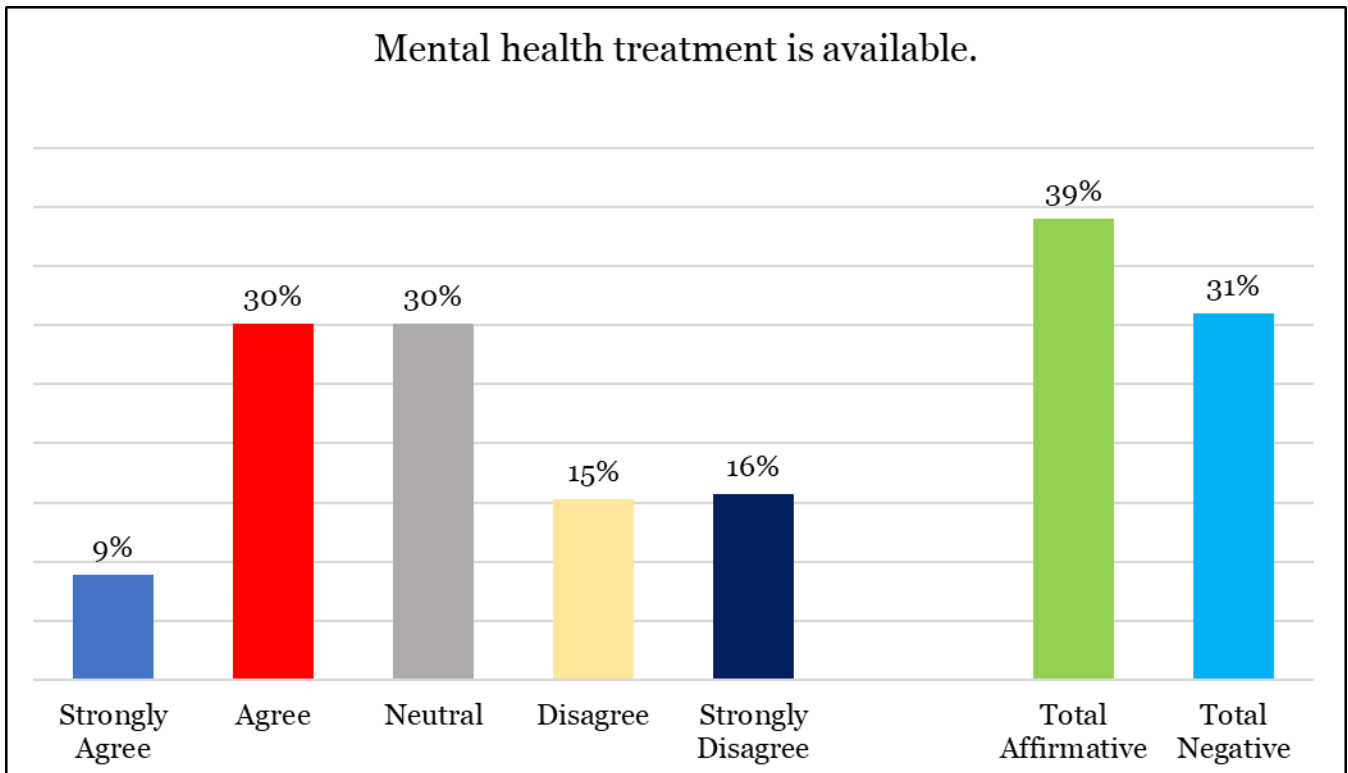
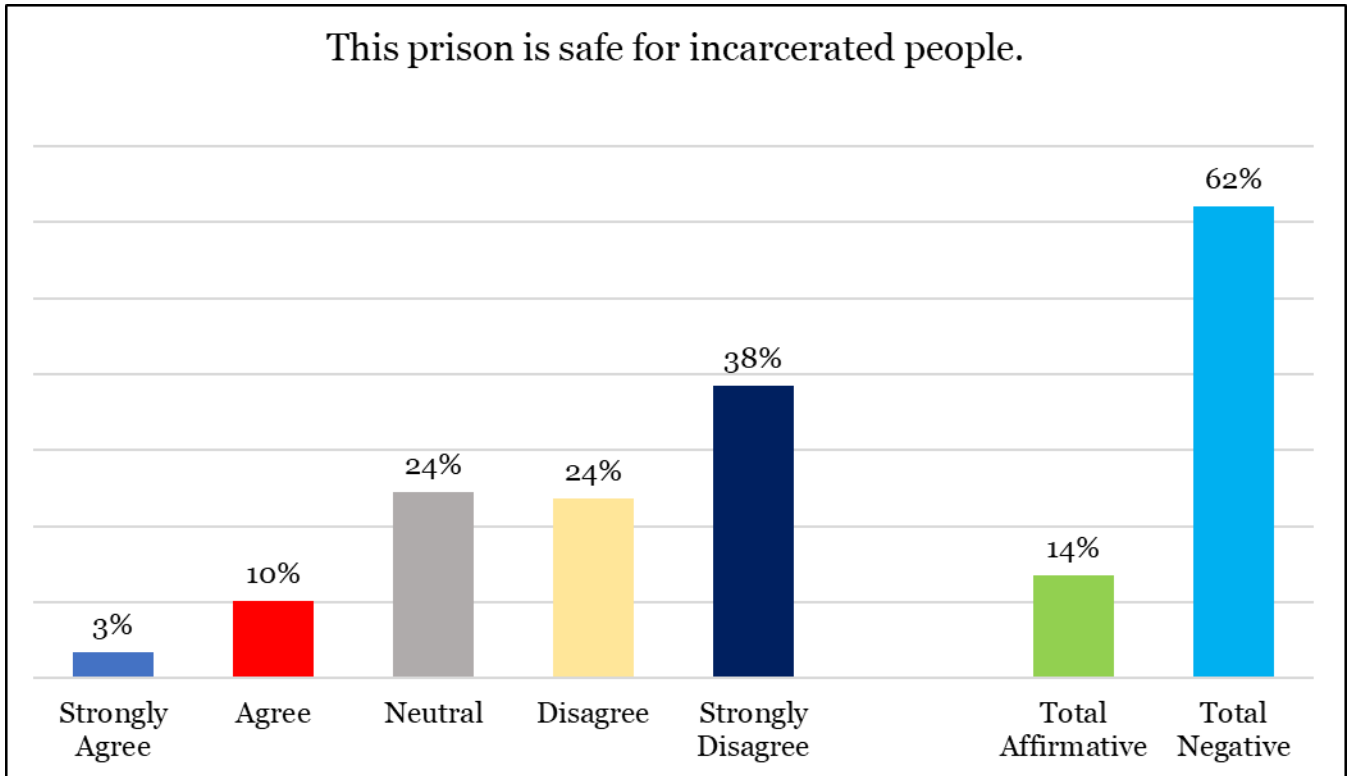


FAMILY CONTACT – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT FACILITATES INCARCERATED PEOPLE MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOVED ONES

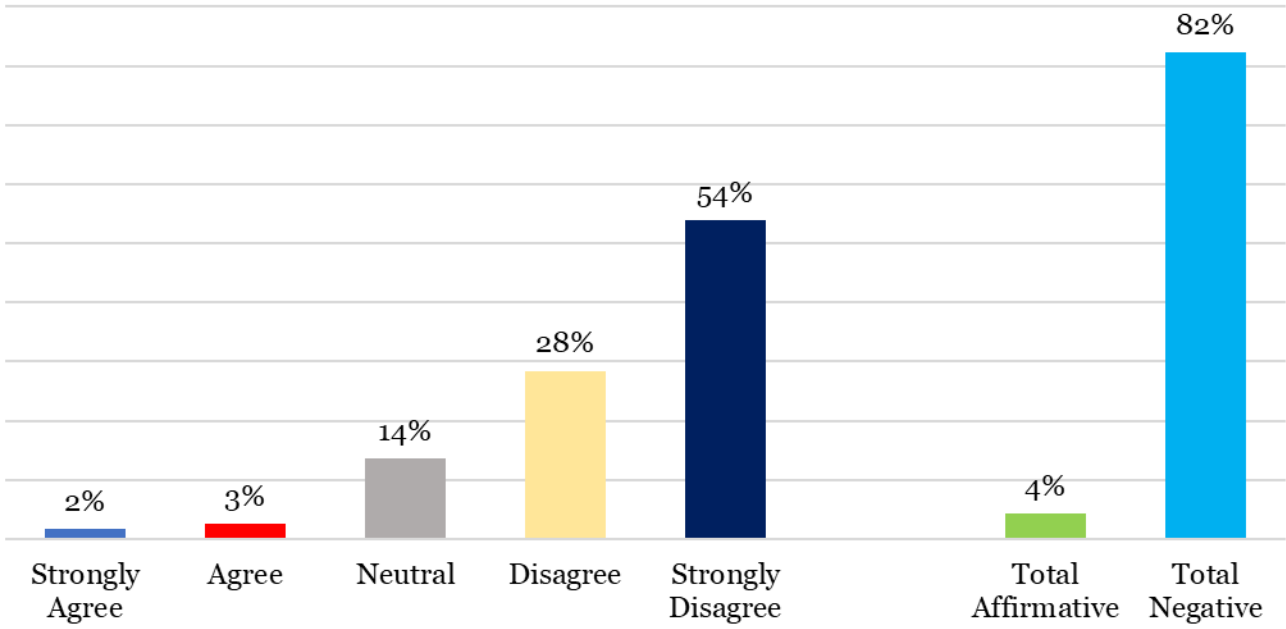


Charts: JHA Questions

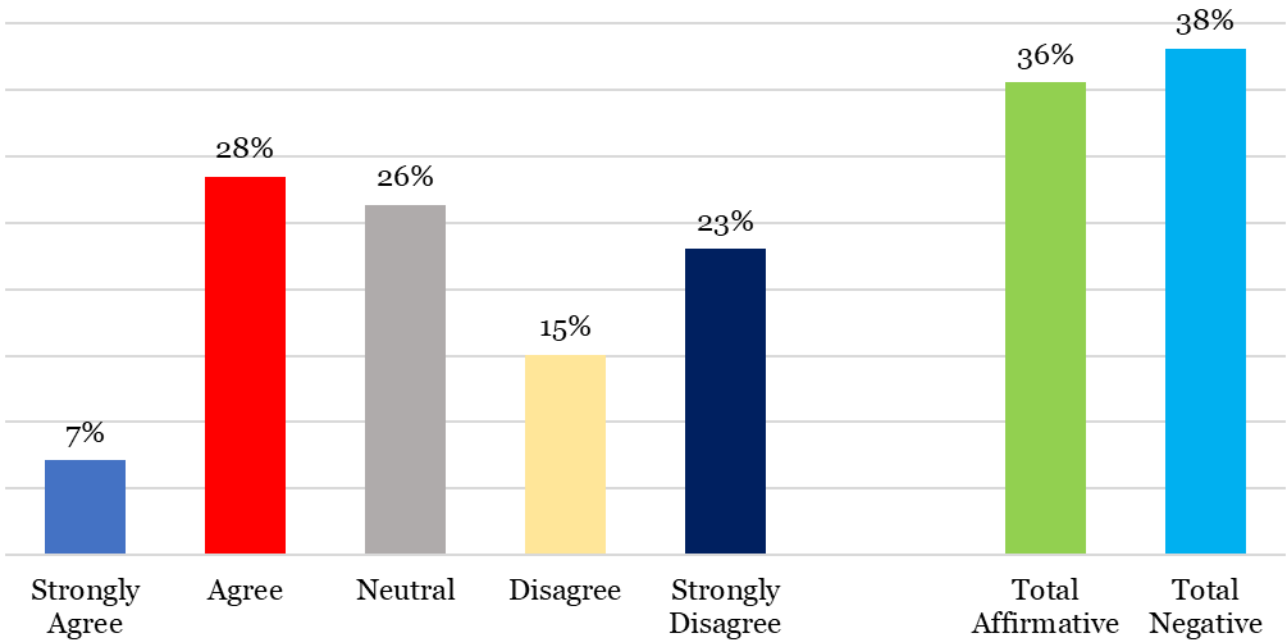
QUESTIONS USED IN PREVIOUS JHA SURVEYS



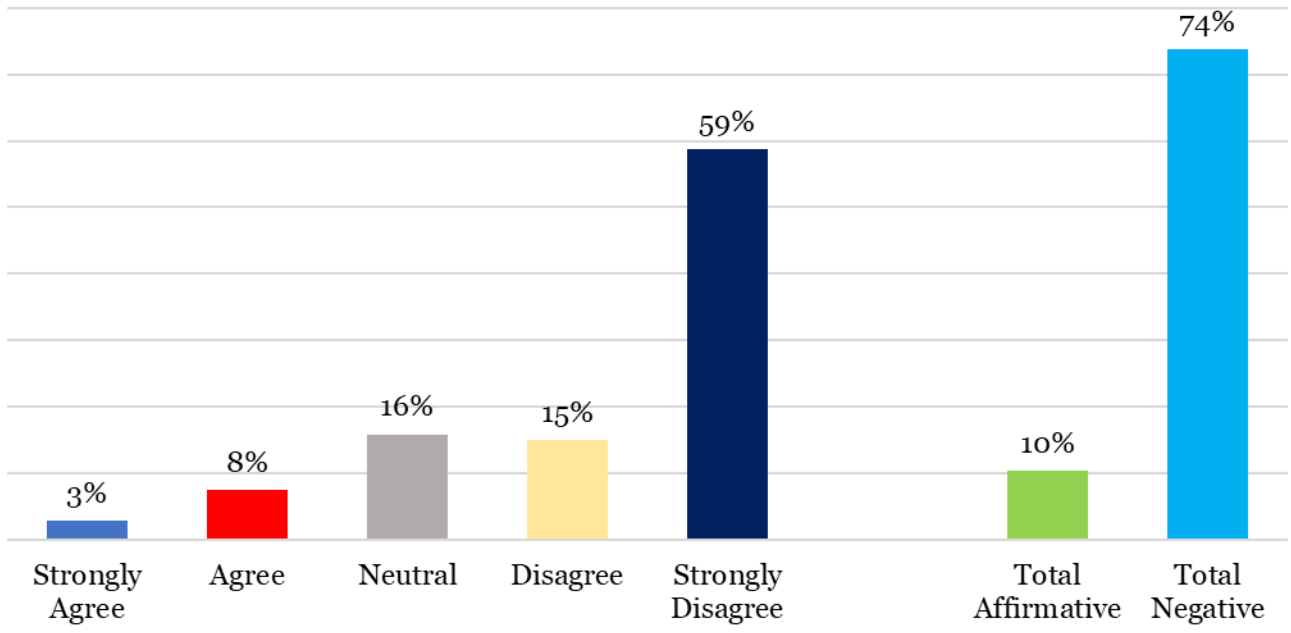
This prison is better now than it was last year.



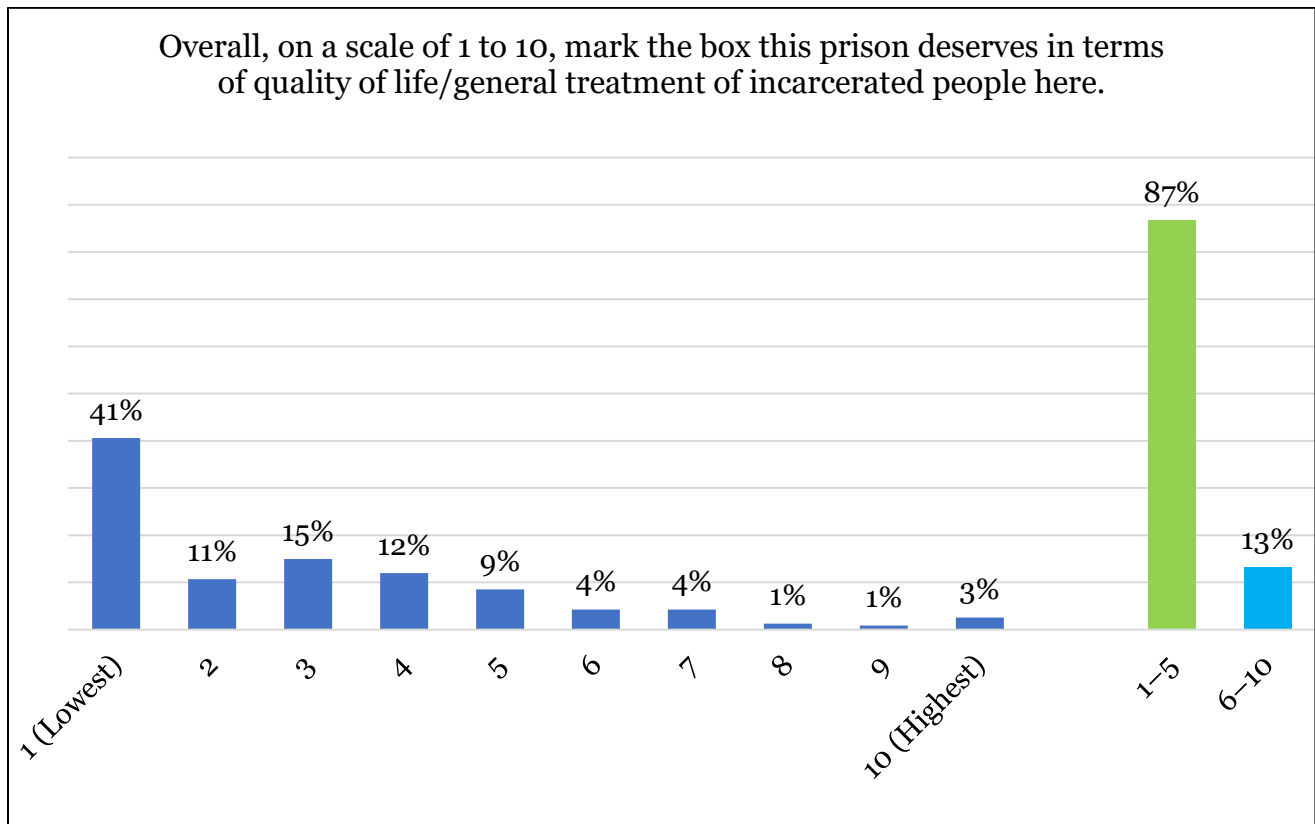
I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.



I am satisfied with food from dietary.



OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE



Tables of Results by Individual Survey Items

Age		
18-26	8	3%
26-30	33	14%
31-40	78	32%
41-50	60	25%
51 and over	64	26%
No response	0	

Race or ethnicity		
White	61	26%
Black	114	48%
Hispanic or Latino	42	18%
Other	21	9%
No response	5	

Are you within two years of release?		
Yes	37	15%
No	204	85%
No response	2	

Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?		
Yes	160	67%
No	80	33%
No response	3	

What housing status are you currently on?		
General Population	48	20%
Restrictive Housing	39	16%
Other	154	64%
No response	2	

Are you currently getting at least two hours a day out of your cell or sleeping area?		
Yes	19	8%
No	223	92%

Do you have a work or school assignment?		
Work Assignment	56	23%
School Assignment	6	2%
Both	2	1%
Neither	177	73%
No response	2	

Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.		
Strongly Agree	3	1%
Agree	16	7%
Neutral	78	33%
Disagree	60	25%
Strongly Disagree	83	35%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	19	8%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	143	60%
No response	3	

I receive support from staff when I need it.		
Strongly Agree	2	1%
Agree	36	15%
Neutral	50	21%
Disagree	83	35%
Strongly Disagree	67	28%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	38	16%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	150	63%
No response	5	

Staff here treat incarcerated people fairly when applying the rules.		
Strongly Agree	3	1%
Agree	19	8%
Neutral	35	15%
Disagree	80	33%
Strongly Disagree	104	43%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	22	9%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	184	76%
No response	2	

I trust the officers.		
Strongly Agree	3	1%
Agree	9	4%
Neutral	56	24%
Disagree	52	22%
Strongly Disagree	118	50%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	12	5%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	170	71%
No response	5	

I get along well with the officers on my unit.		
Strongly Agree	20	9%
Agree	65	28%
Neutral	96	41%
Disagree	22	9%
Strongly Disagree	31	13%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	85	36%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	53	23%
No response	9	

The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.		
Strongly Agree	13	5%
Agree	30	13%
Neutral	50	21%
Disagree	64	27%
Strongly Disagree	81	34%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	43	18%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	145	61%
No response	5	

I have been helped significantly by a staff member with a particular problem.		
Strongly Agree	14	6%
Agree	47	20%
Neutral	56	23%
Disagree	49	20%
Strongly Disagree	74	31%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	61	25%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	123	51%
No response	3	

Overall, I am treated fairly by staff.		
Strongly Agree	8	3%
Agree	47	20%
Neutral	69	29%
Disagree	60	25%
Strongly Disagree	54	23%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	55	23%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	114	48%
No response	5	

I am treated as a person of value.		
Strongly Agree	6	3%
Agree	14	6%
Neutral	42	18%
Disagree	59	25%
Strongly Disagree	119	50%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	20	8%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	178	74%
No response	3	

Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.		
Strongly Agree	96	41%
Agree	80	34%
Neutral	33	14%
Disagree	18	8%
Strongly Disagree	7	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	176	75%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	25	11%
No response	9	

I feel safe from being injured, bullied, or threatened by other incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	15	6%
Agree	29	12%
Neutral	66	28%
Disagree	52	22%
Strongly Disagree	75	32%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	44	19%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	127	54%
No response	6	

If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.		
Strongly Agree	14	6%
Agree	20	9%
Neutral	33	14%
Disagree	59	25%
Strongly Disagree	108	46%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	34	15%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	167	71%
No response	9	

To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.		
Strongly Agree	69	29%
Agree	91	39%
Neutral	47	20%
Disagree	22	9%
Strongly Disagree	5	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	160	68%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	27	12%
No response	9	

Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	91	38%
Agree	73	31%
Neutral	47	20%
Disagree	20	8%
Strongly Disagree	6	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	164	69%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	26	11%
No response	6	

Staff have enough experience and expertise to deal with issues that matter to me.		
Strongly Agree	17	7%
Agree	13	5%
Neutral	49	21%
Disagree	67	28%
Strongly Disagree	92	39%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	30	13%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	159	67%
No response	5	

To get things done, you have to ask and ask and ask.		
Strongly Agree	159	68%
Agree	50	21%
Neutral	13	6%
Disagree	7	3%
Strongly Disagree	4	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	209	90%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	11	5%
No response	10	

Supervision of incarcerated people is poor.		
Strongly Agree	105	44%
Agree	63	26%
Neutral	56	23%
Disagree	8	3%
Strongly Disagree	7	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	168	70%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	15	6%
No response	4	

I can't improve my situation through good behavior.		
Strongly Agree	90	38%
Agree	57	24%
Neutral	39	17%
Disagree	26	11%
Strongly Disagree	23	10%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	147	63%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	49	21%
No response	8	

The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.		
Strongly Agree	40	17%
Agree	20	9%
Neutral	36	15%
Disagree	51	22%
Strongly Disagree	86	37%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	60	26%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	137	59%
No response	10	

My experience of imprisonment in this particular prison has been stressful.		
Strongly Agree	142	60%
Agree	47	20%
Neutral	34	14%
Disagree	8	3%
Strongly Disagree	7	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	189	79%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	15	6%
No response	5	

Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.		
Strongly Agree	94	40%
Agree	56	24%
Neutral	51	22%
Disagree	26	11%
Strongly Disagree	10	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	150	63%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	36	15%
No response	6	

I have to be careful about everything I do, or it can be used against me.		
Strongly Agree	137	58%
Agree	65	28%
Neutral	28	12%
Disagree	5	2%
Strongly Disagree	1	0%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	202	86%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	6	3%
No response	7	

On the whole, I am just doing time rather than using my time.		
Strongly Agree	115	49%
Agree	46	19%
Neutral	36	15%
Disagree	20	8%
Strongly Disagree	19	8%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	161	68%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	39	17%
No response	7	

Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.		
Strongly Agree	15	6%
Agree	47	20%
Neutral	53	23%
Disagree	61	26%
Strongly Disagree	56	24%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	62	27%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	117	50%
No response	11	

This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.		
Strongly Agree	12	5%
Agree	17	7%
Neutral	44	19%
Disagree	69	30%
Strongly Disagree	90	39%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	29	13%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	159	69%
No response	11	

When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.		
Strongly Agree	23	10%
Agree	40	17%
Neutral	57	24%
Disagree	55	23%
Strongly Disagree	62	26%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	63	27%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	117	49%
No response	6	

This prison is well organized.		
Strongly Agree	7	3%
Agree	6	3%
Neutral	17	7%
Disagree	47	20%
Strongly Disagree	160	68%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	13	5%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	207	87%
No response	6	

You never know the rules.		
Strongly Agree	45	19%
Agree	67	28%
Neutral	60	25%
Disagree	43	18%
Strongly Disagree	21	9%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	112	47%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	64	27%
No response	7	

I feel that I am treated with respect by staff.		
Strongly Agree	7	3%
Agree	32	14%
Neutral	71	30%
Disagree	45	19%
Strongly Disagree	80	34%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	39	17%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	125	53%
No response	8	

My experience in this prison is painful.		
Strongly Agree	106	45%
Agree	62	26%
Neutral	38	16%
Disagree	22	9%
Strongly Disagree	8	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	168	71%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	30	13%
No response	7	

I have to buy and sell things in order to get by.		
Strongly Agree	69	29%
Agree	56	24%
Neutral	58	24%
Disagree	31	13%
Strongly Disagree	23	10%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	125	53%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	54	23%
No response	6	

There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	61	27%
Agree	58	25%
Neutral	71	31%
Disagree	22	10%
Strongly Disagree	17	7%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	119	52%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	39	17%
No response	14	

Decisions are dominated by concerns about security.		
Strongly Agree	95	40%
Agree	57	24%
Neutral	50	21%
Disagree	19	8%
Strongly Disagree	14	6%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	152	65%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	33	14%
No response	8	

The disciplinary system is fair.		
Strongly Agree	8	3%
Agree	9	4%
Neutral	30	13%
Disagree	43	18%
Strongly Disagree	148	62%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	17	7%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	191	80%
No response	5	

My time here seems like a chance to make positive changes.		
Strongly Agree	33	14%
Agree	23	10%
Neutral	32	14%
Disagree	50	22%
Strongly Disagree	92	40%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	56	24%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	142	62%
No response	13	

There are a few incarcerated people who run things on this unit.		
Strongly Agree	30	13%
Agree	36	15%
Neutral	55	23%
Disagree	63	27%
Strongly Disagree	52	22%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	66	28%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	115	49%
No response	7	

I am not being treated as a human being in here.		
Strongly Agree	93	39%
Agree	67	28%
Neutral	34	14%
Disagree	30	13%
Strongly Disagree	14	6%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	160	67%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	44	18%
No response	5	

You have to be in a group or gang in order to get by.		
Strongly Agree	30	13%
Agree	25	11%
Neutral	68	29%
Disagree	74	31%
Strongly Disagree	39	17%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	55	23%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	113	48%
No response	7	

Bullying behavior by incarcerated people is not tolerated.		
Strongly Agree	6	3%
Agree	28	12%
Neutral	67	29%
Disagree	71	30%
Strongly Disagree	62	26%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	34	15%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	133	57%
No response	9	

When important decisions are made about me, I am treated as an individual and not a number.		
Strongly Agree	13	6%
Agree	25	11%
Neutral	27	11%
Disagree	80	34%
Strongly Disagree	91	39%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	38	16%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	171	72%
No response	7	

All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.		
Strongly Agree	135	56%
Agree	61	26%
Neutral	30	13%
Disagree	10	4%
Strongly Disagree	3	1%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	196	82%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	13	5%
No response	4	

Drugs cause a lot of problems between incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	61	26%
Agree	44	19%
Neutral	59	26%
Disagree	41	18%
Strongly Disagree	26	11%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	105	45%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	67	29%
No response	12	

Anyone who harms themselves is considered by staff to be more of an attention seeker than someone who needs help.		
Strongly Agree	116	49%
Agree	67	28%
Neutral	42	18%
Disagree	8	3%
Strongly Disagree	5	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	183	77%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	13	5%
No response	5	

I am able to maintain meaningful contact with my outside supports.		
Strongly Agree	34	14%
Agree	63	26%
Neutral	50	21%
Disagree	43	18%
Strongly Disagree	48	20%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	97	41%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	91	38%
No response	5	

This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.		
Strongly Agree	129	55%
Agree	66	28%
Neutral	33	14%
Disagree	3	1%
Strongly Disagree	5	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	195	83%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	8	3%
No response	7	

Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.		
Strongly Agree	5	2%
Agree	15	6%
Neutral	24	10%
Disagree	52	22%
Strongly Disagree	141	59%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	20	8%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	193	81%
No response	6	

This is a humane prison.		
Strongly Agree	16	7%
Agree	10	4%
Neutral	47	20%
Disagree	53	23%
Strongly Disagree	108	46%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	26	11%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	161	69%
No response	9	

Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.		
Strongly Agree	207	87%
Agree	22	9%
Neutral	5	2%
Disagree	1	0%
Strongly Disagree	3	1%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	229	96%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	4	2%
No response	5	

This prison is safe for incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	8	3%
Agree	24	10%
Neutral	58	24%
Disagree	56	24%
Strongly Disagree	91	38%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	32	14%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	147	62%
No response	6	

Mental health treatment is available.		
Strongly Agree	21	9%
Agree	71	30%
Neutral	71	30%
Disagree	36	15%
Strongly Disagree	37	16%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	92	39%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	73	31%
No response	7	

This prison is better now than it was last year.		
Strongly Agree	4	2%
Agree	6	3%
Neutral	32	14%
Disagree	67	28%
Strongly Disagree	127	54%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	10	4%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	194	82%
No response	7	

I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.		
Strongly Agree	17	7%
Agree	68	28%
Neutral	63	26%
Disagree	36	15%
Strongly Disagree	55	23%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	85	36%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	91	38%
No response	4	

Every effort is made by this prison to help people stop committing offenses on release from custody.		
Strongly Agree	3	1%
Agree	7	3%
Neutral	25	11%
Disagree	50	21%
Strongly Disagree	152	64%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	10	4%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	202	85%
No response	6	

I am satisfied with food from dietary.		
Strongly Agree	7	3%
Agree	18	8%
Neutral	38	16%
Disagree	36	15%
Strongly Disagree	141	59%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	25	10%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	177	74%
No response	3	

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)	95	41%
2	25	11%
3	35	15%
4	28	12%
5	20	9%
6	10	4%
7	10	4%
8	3	1%
9	2	1%
10 (Highest)	6	3%
<i>1-5</i>	203	87%
<i>6-10</i>	31	13%
No Response	9	
Mean Score		3.0



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

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.

