
Survey Results



Vandalia 2023 MQPL Survey Results

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Introduction

Vandalia is a minimum-security male prison within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) that housed approximately 506 people in March 27, 2023. The John Howard Association of Illinois (JHA) conducted a modified short [Measuring the Quality of Prison Life](#) (MQPL) survey by providing enough survey packets (consisting of the [MQPL survey](#), informed consent notice/instruction sheet, and privileged mail prepaid business reply envelope addressed to JHA) so that every person incarcerated at Vandalia had an opportunity to participate in the voluntary and anonymous survey if they chose to do so. JHA received 171 responses to the MQPL survey from people at Vandalia through the May 24, 2023, representing approximately 34% 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

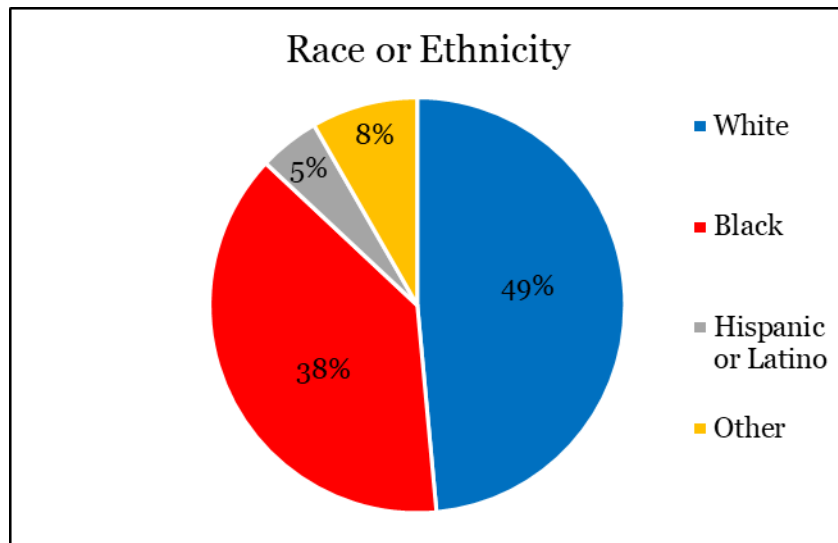
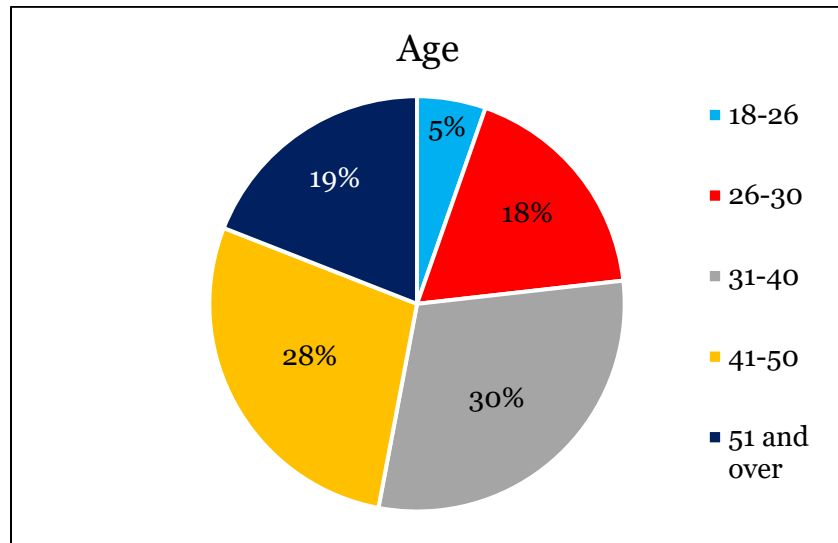
- **Harmony: Questions relating to interpersonal aspects of the prison experience**
 - Respect/courtesy – Positive, respectful, and courteous attitudes towards incarcerated people by staff.
 - Staff-incarcerated people relationships – Trusting, fair and supportive interactions between staff and incarcerated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

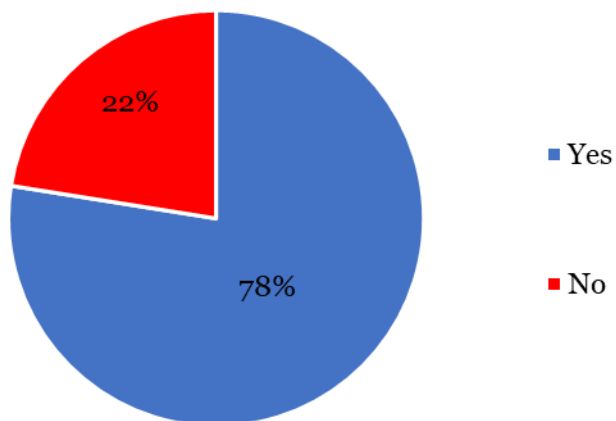
Charts: Demographic Information of Respondents

Total respondents = 171¹

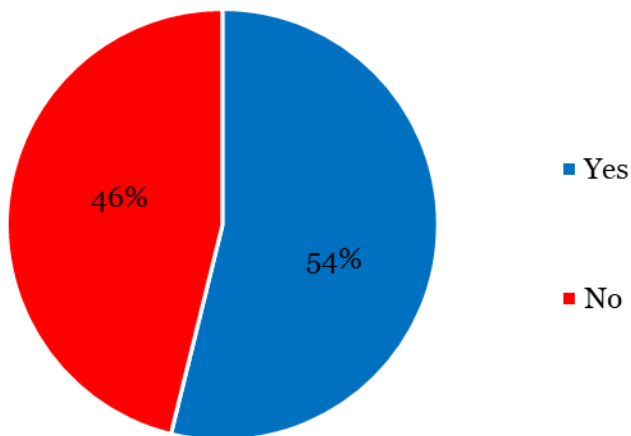


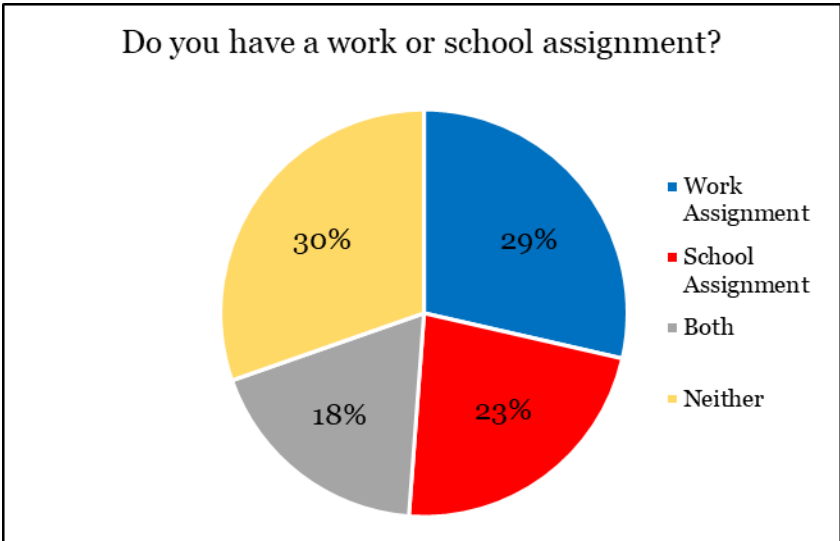
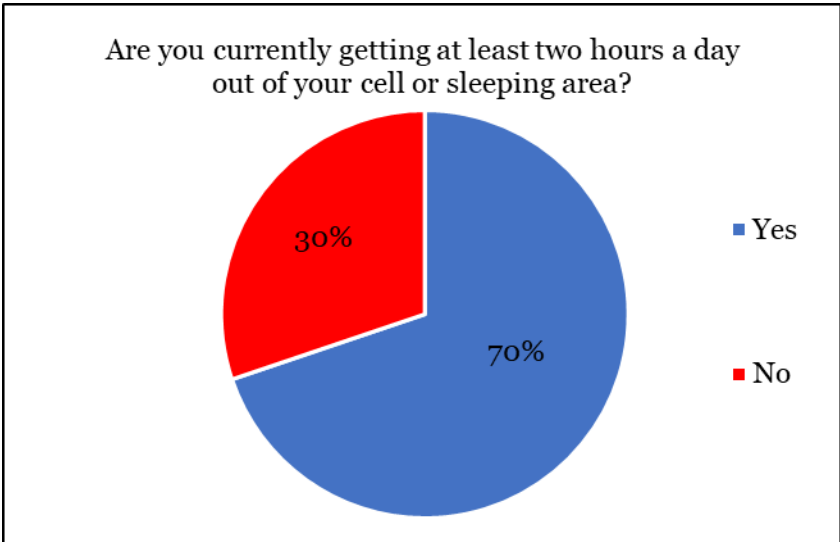
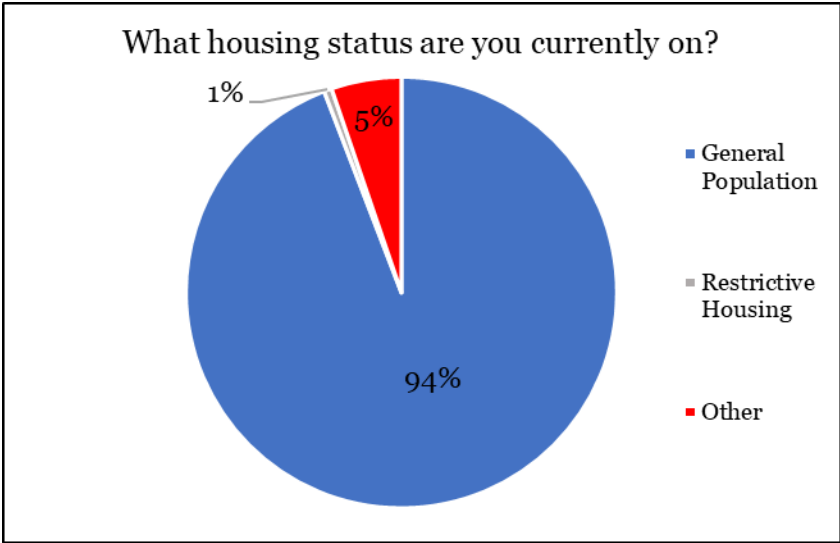
¹ Due to rounding, not all percentages total 100%. Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of respondents per question.

Are you within two years of release?



Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?

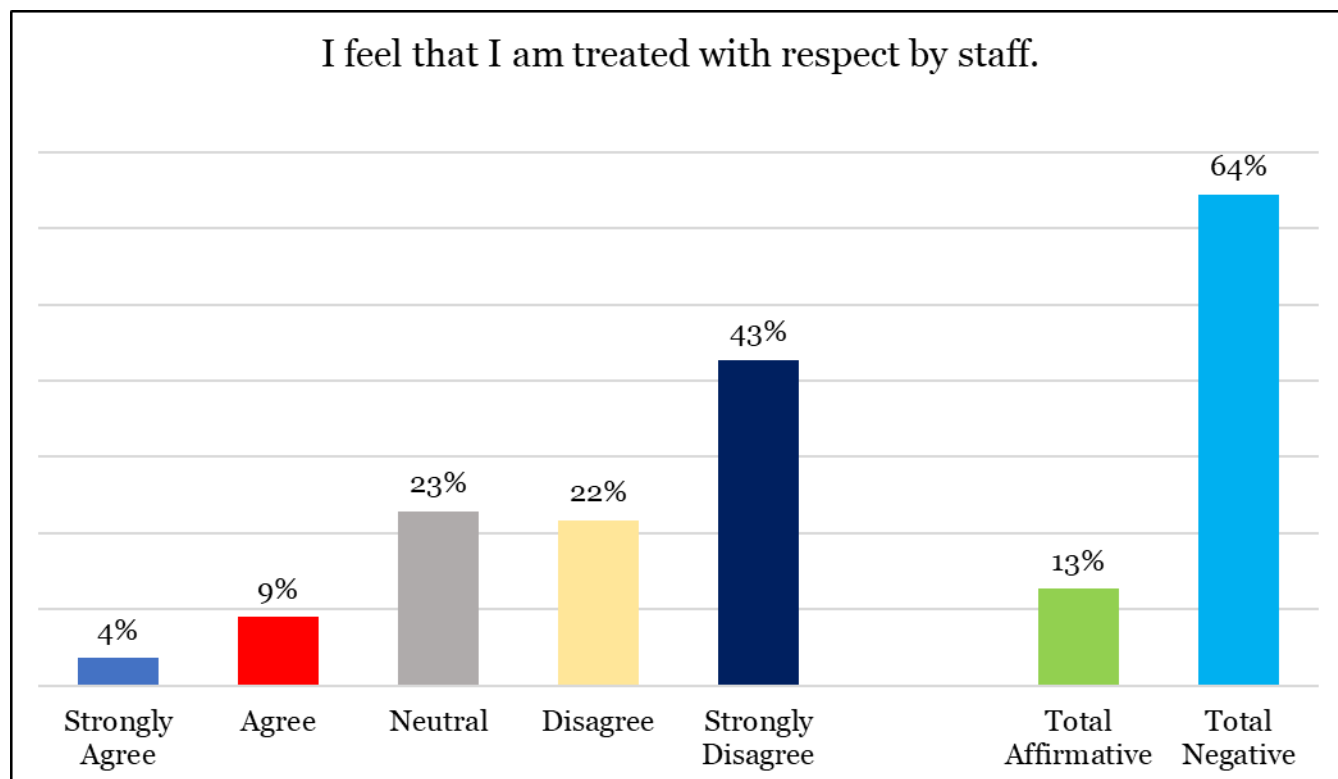




Charts: MQPL Dimensions²

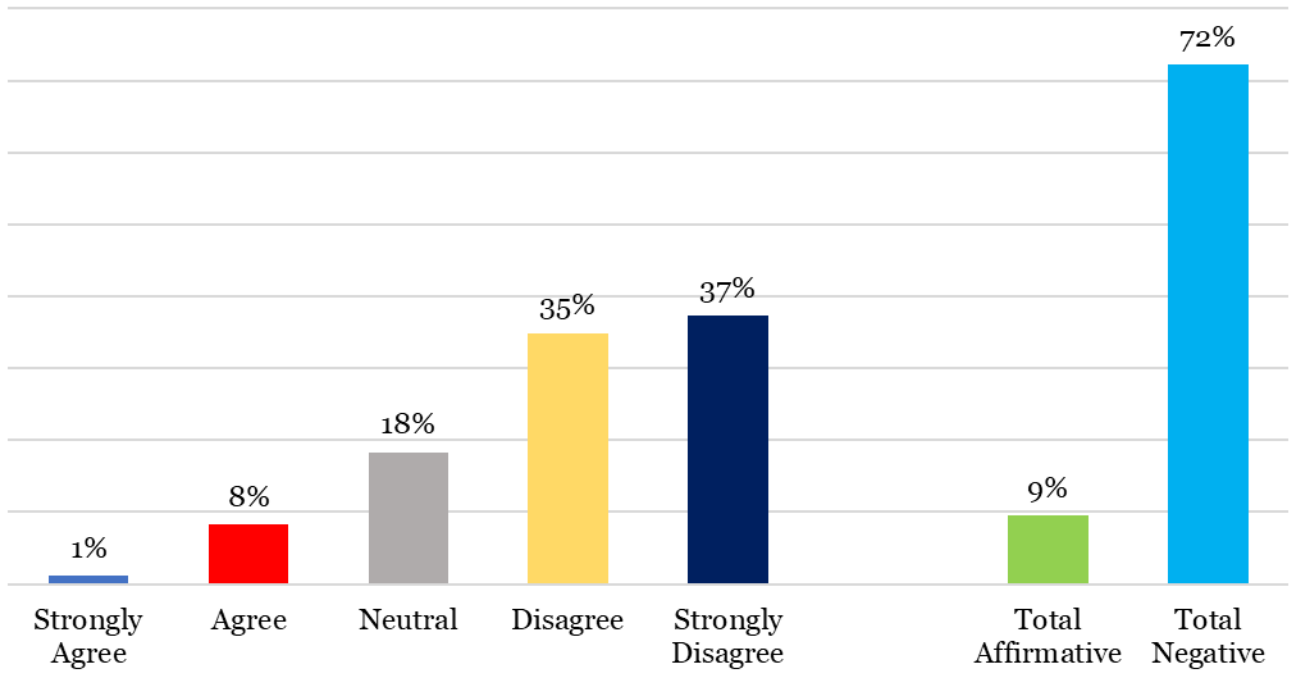
Harmony

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

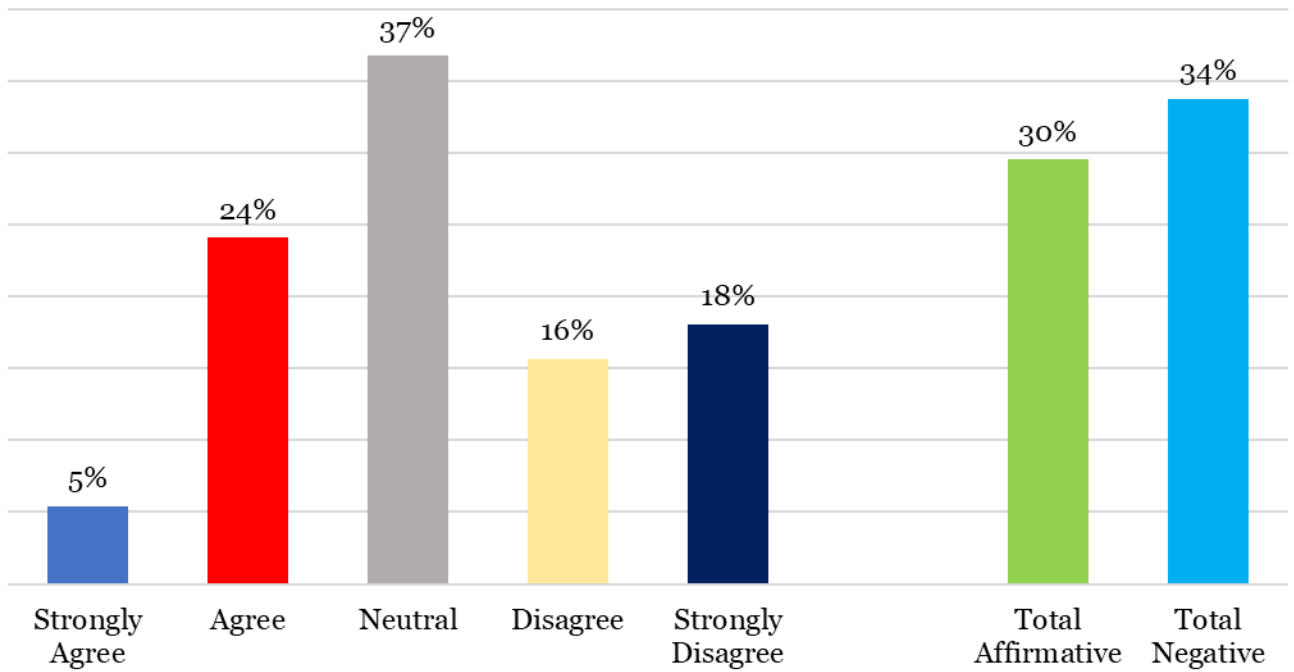


² "Total Affirmative" combines "Strongly Agree" and "Agree." "Total Negative" combines "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree." Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of responses per question.

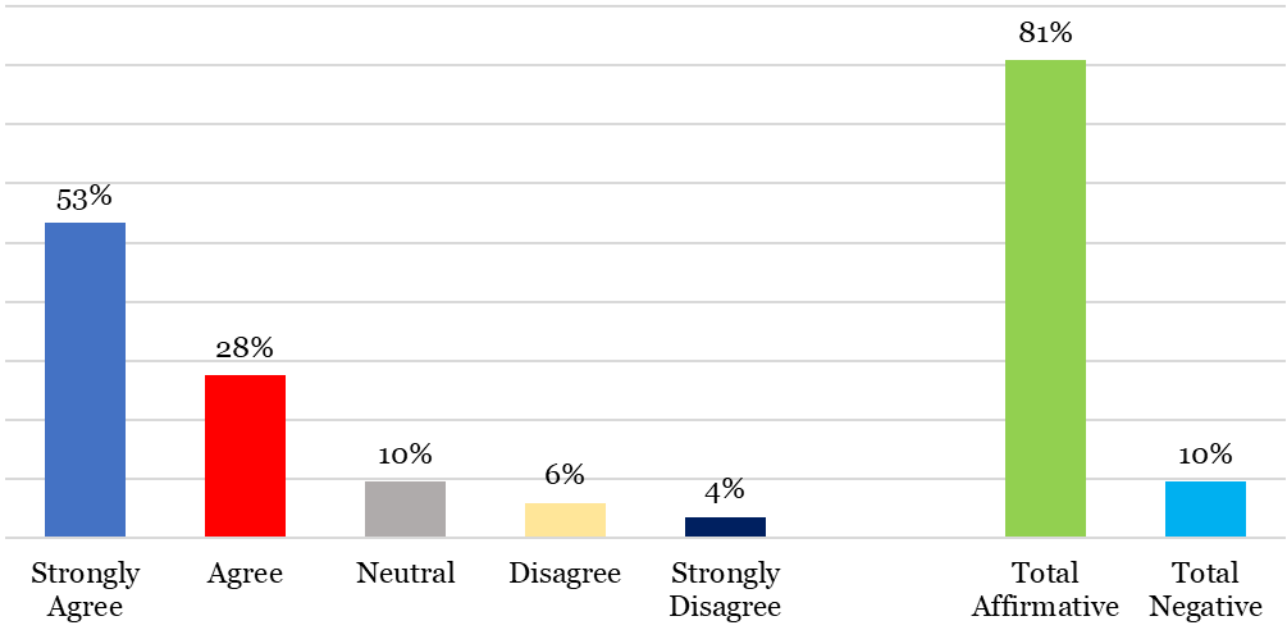
Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.



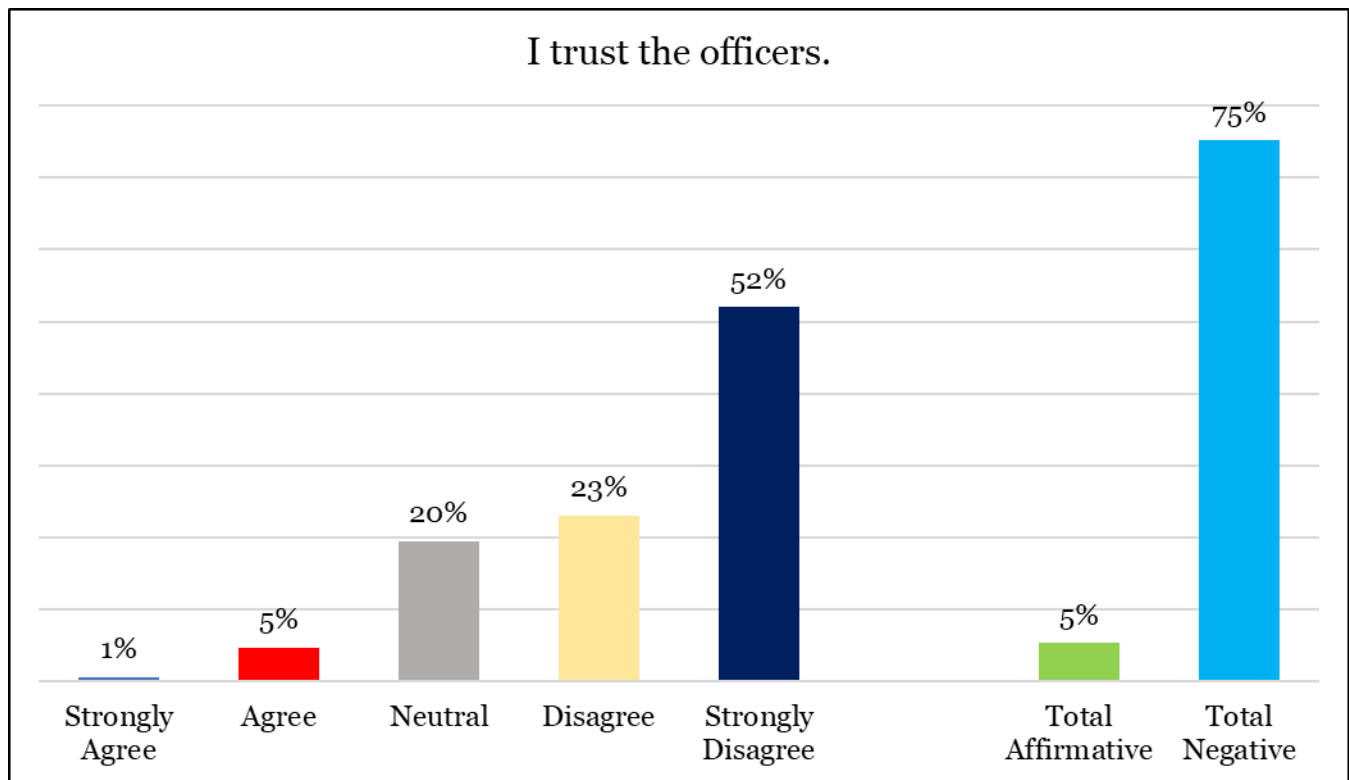
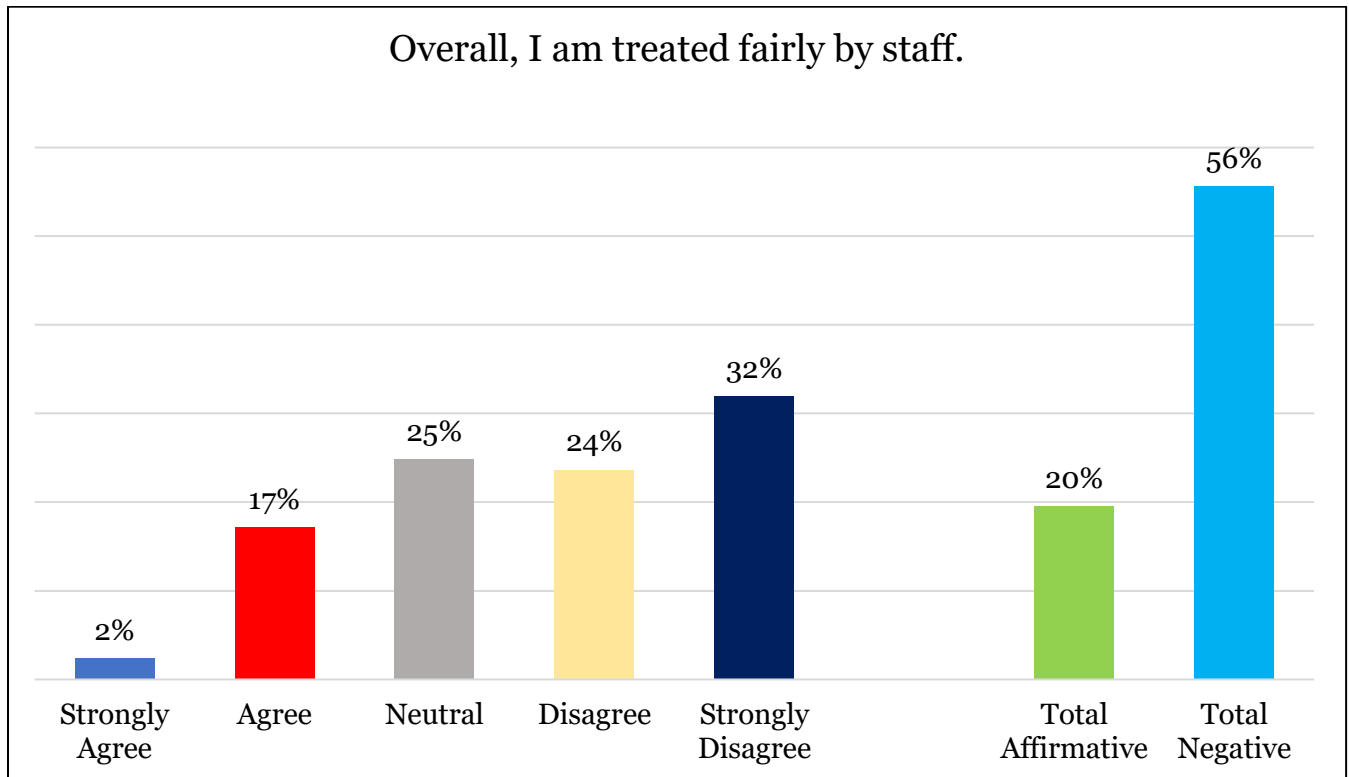
I get along well with the officers on my unit.



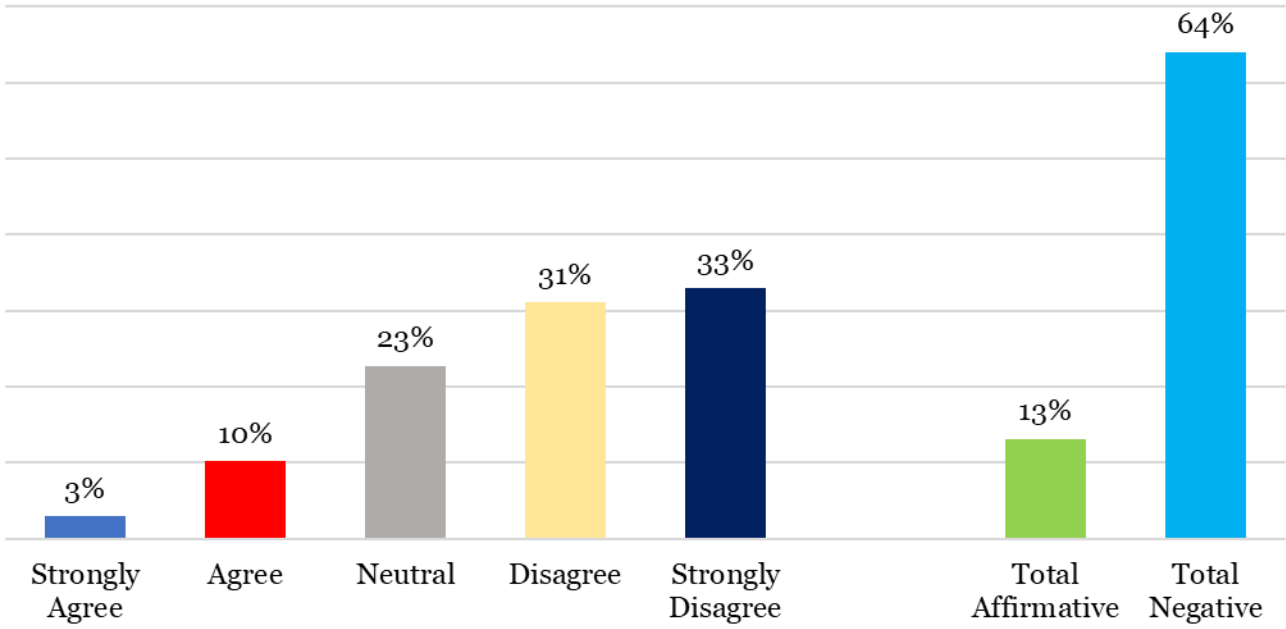
Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.



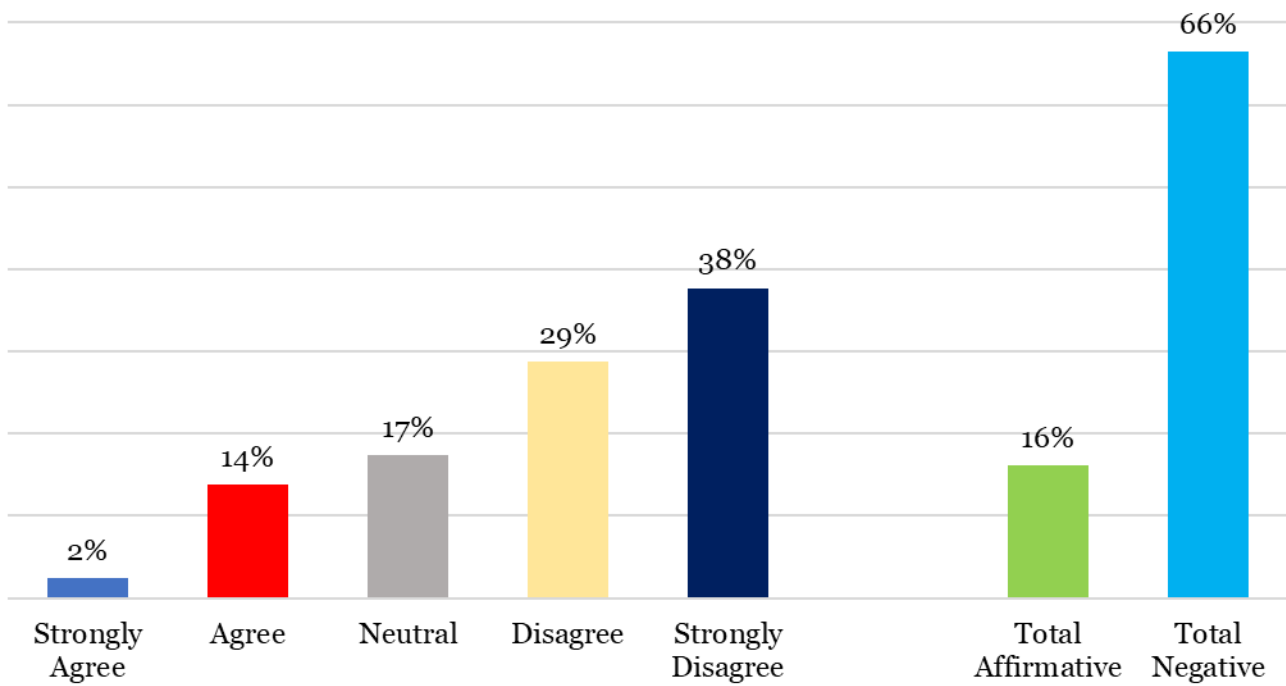
STAFF-INCARCERATED PEOPLE RELATIONSHIPS – TRUSTING, FAIR AND SUPPORTIVE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN STAFF AND INCARCERATED PEOPLE



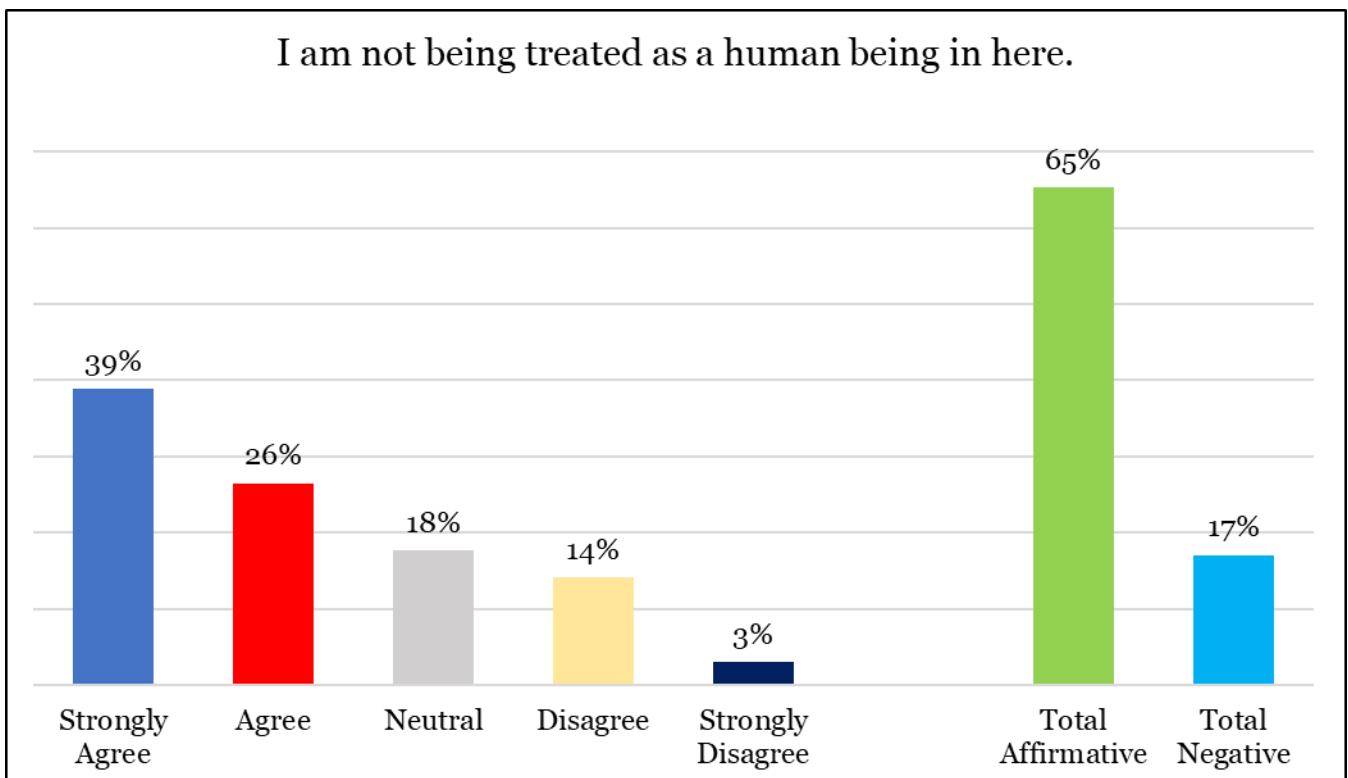
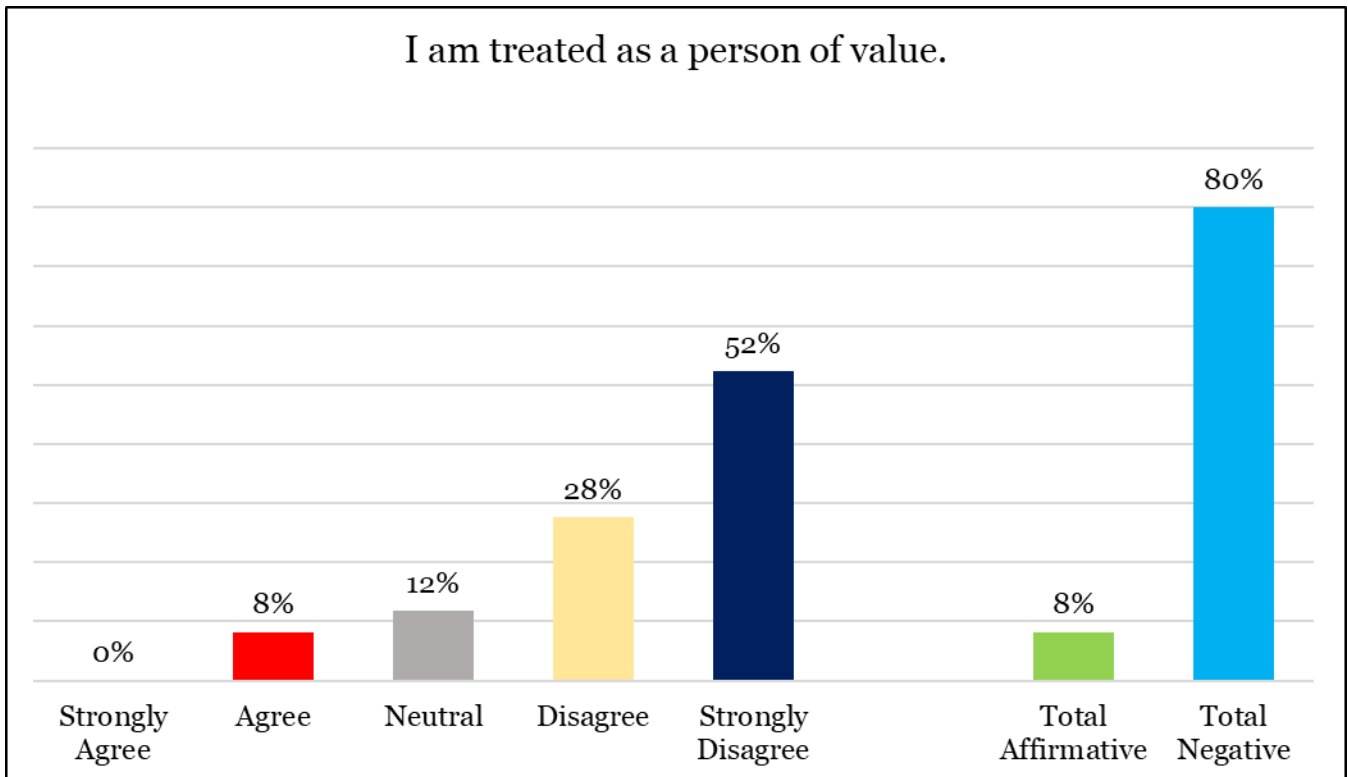
When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.



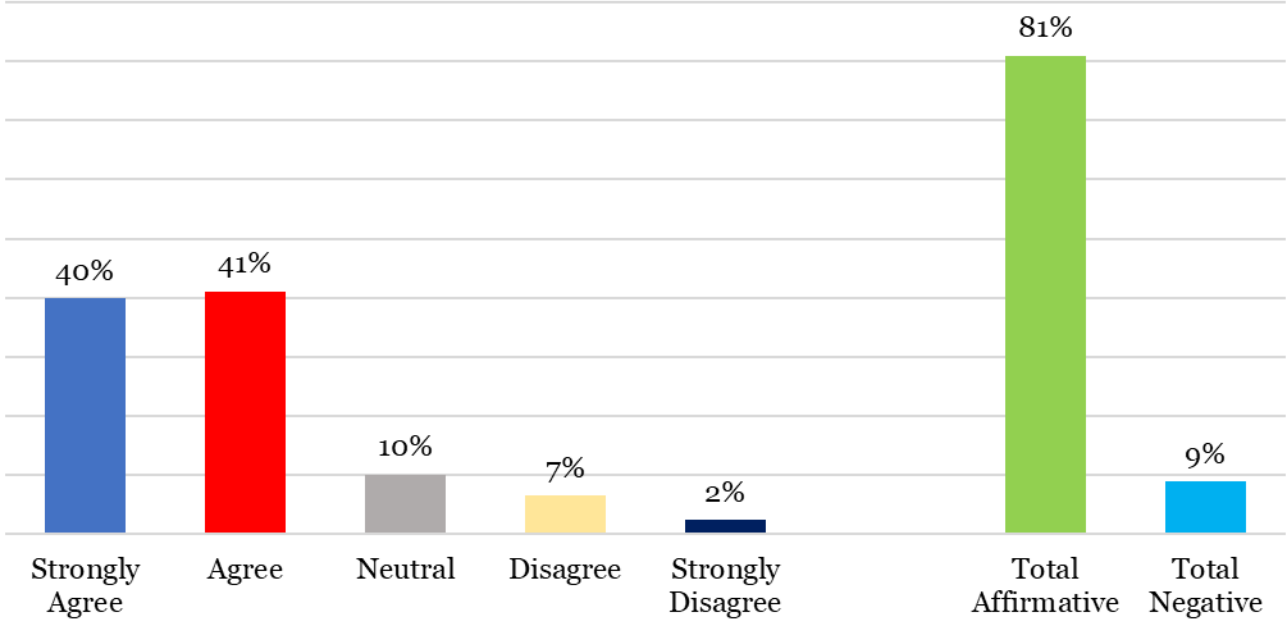
I receive support from staff when I need it.



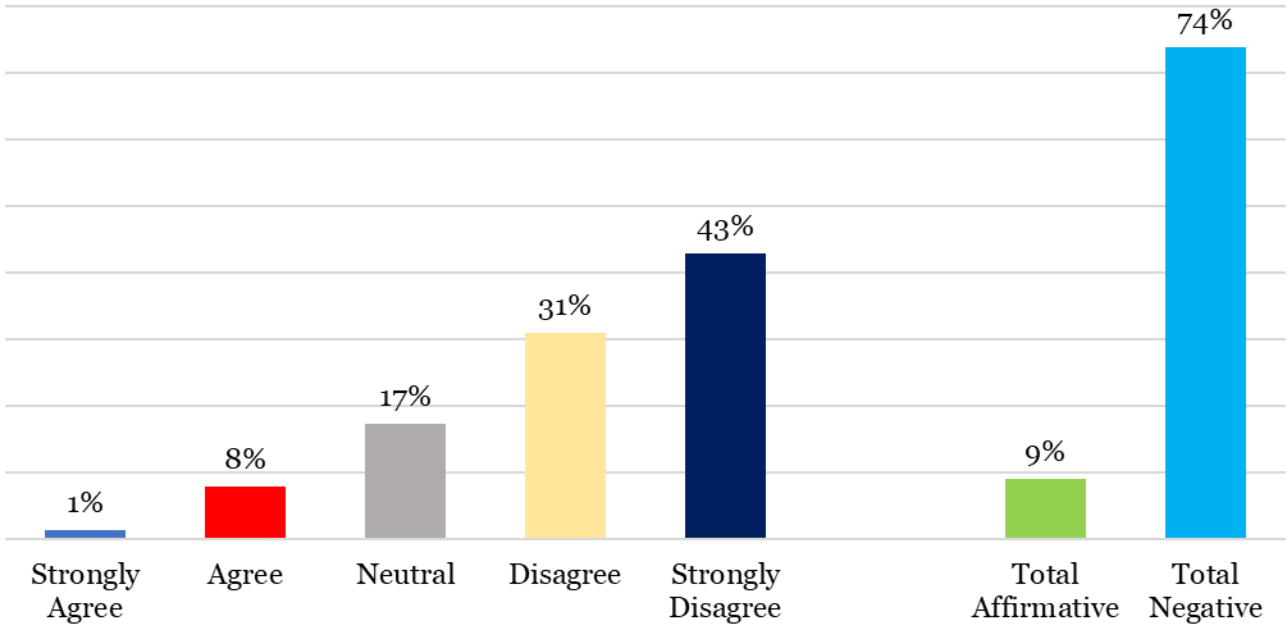
HUMANITY – AN ENVIRONMENT CHARACTERIZED BY KIND REGARD AND CONCERN FOR THE PERSON, WHICH RECOGNIZES THE VALUE AND HUMANITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL



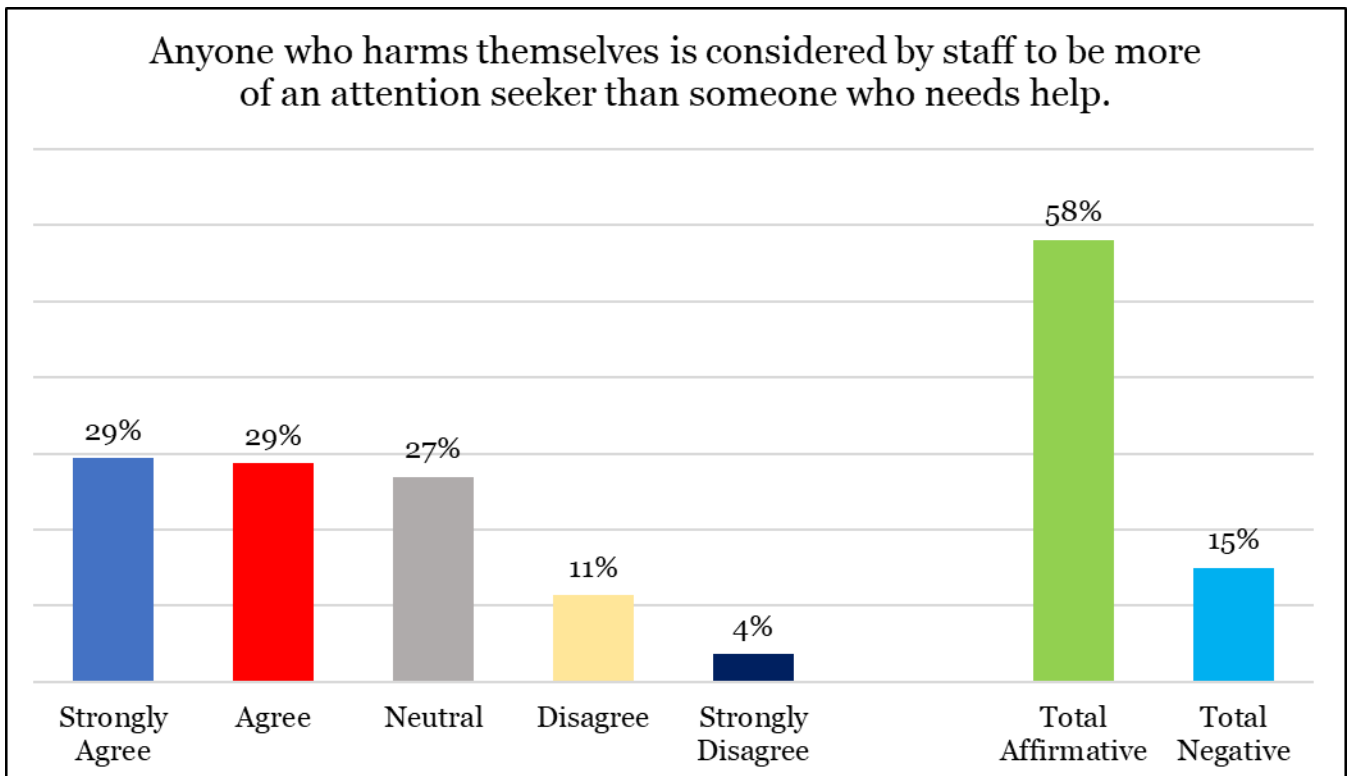
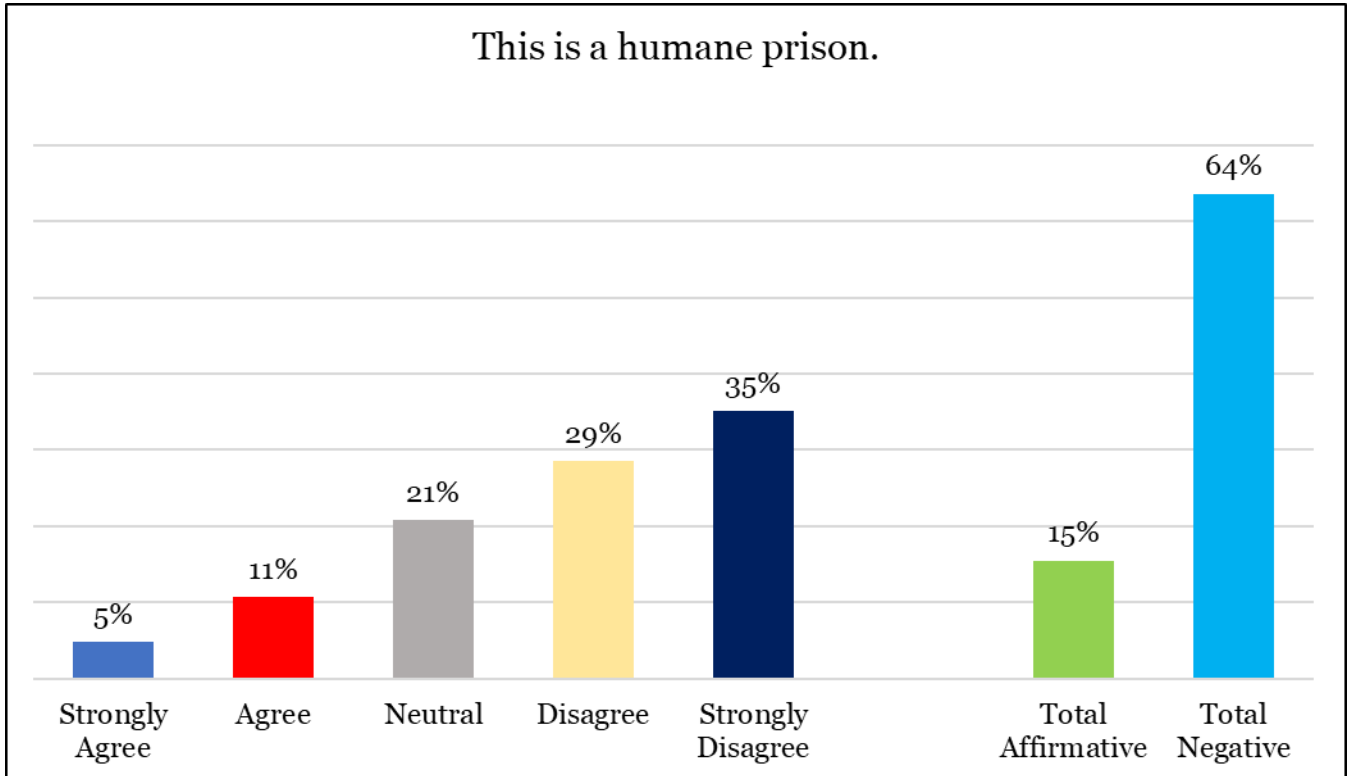
Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.



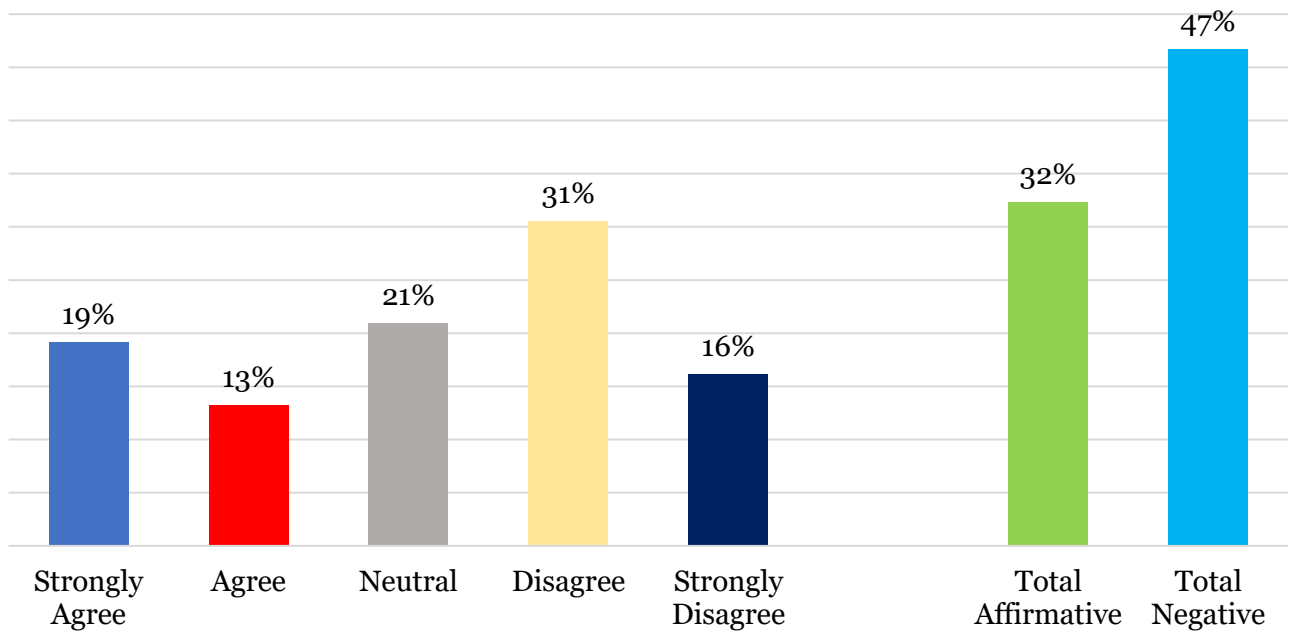
Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.



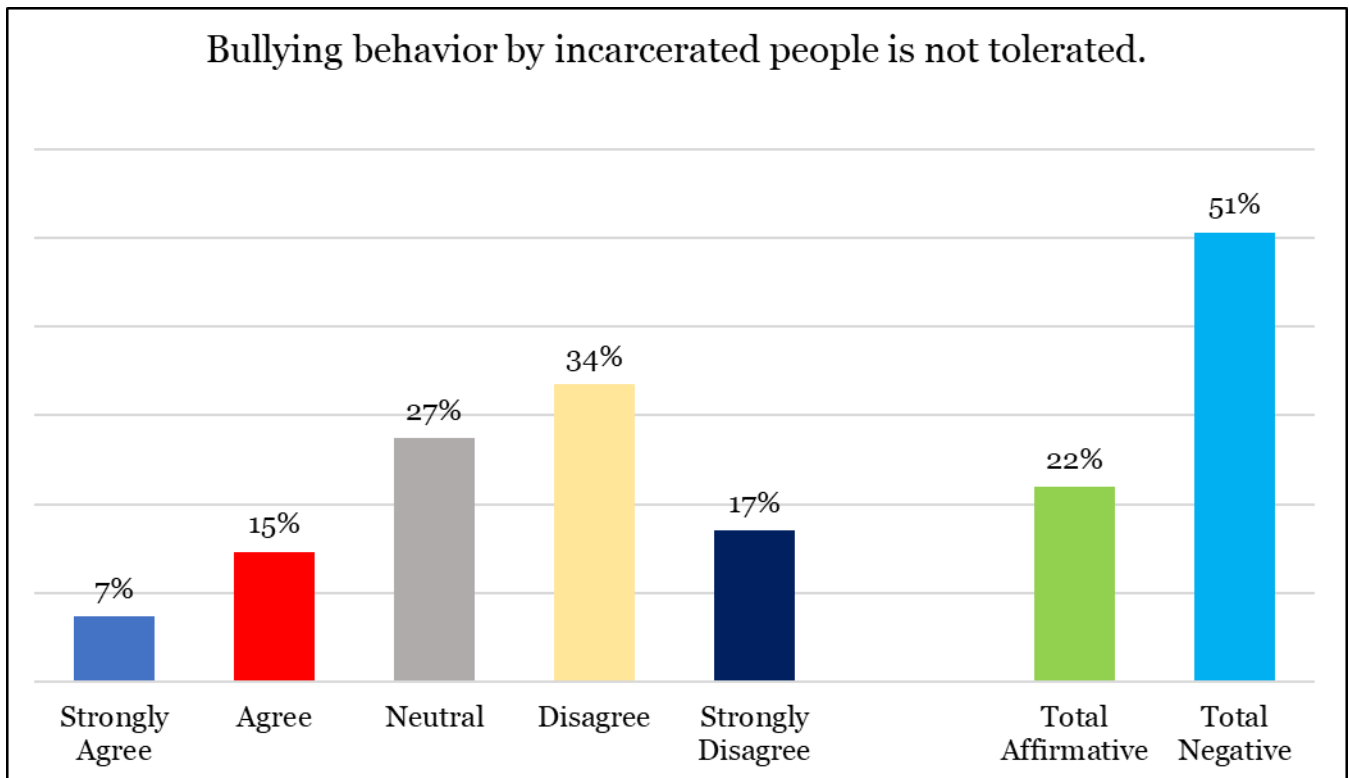
DECENCY - THE EXTENT TO WHICH STAFF AND THE REGIME ARE CONSIDERED REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE



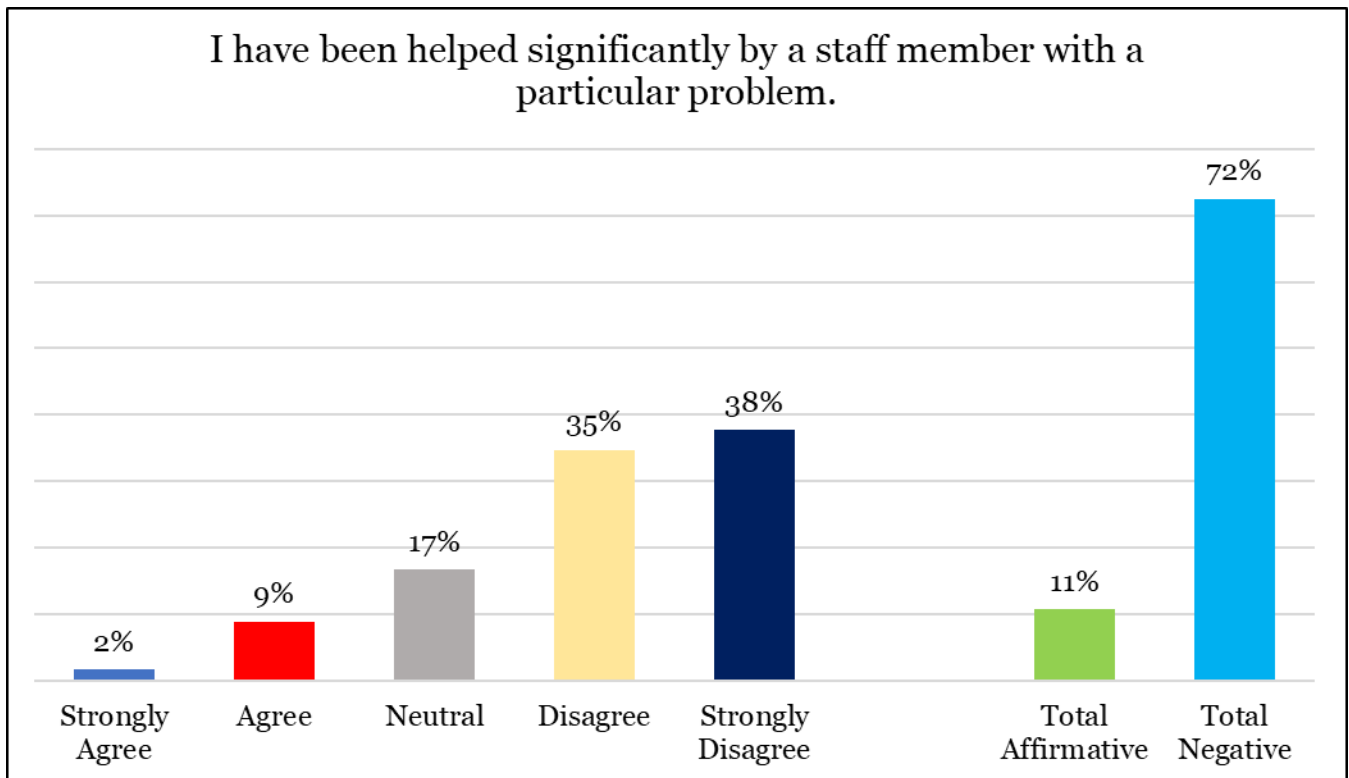
Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.



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

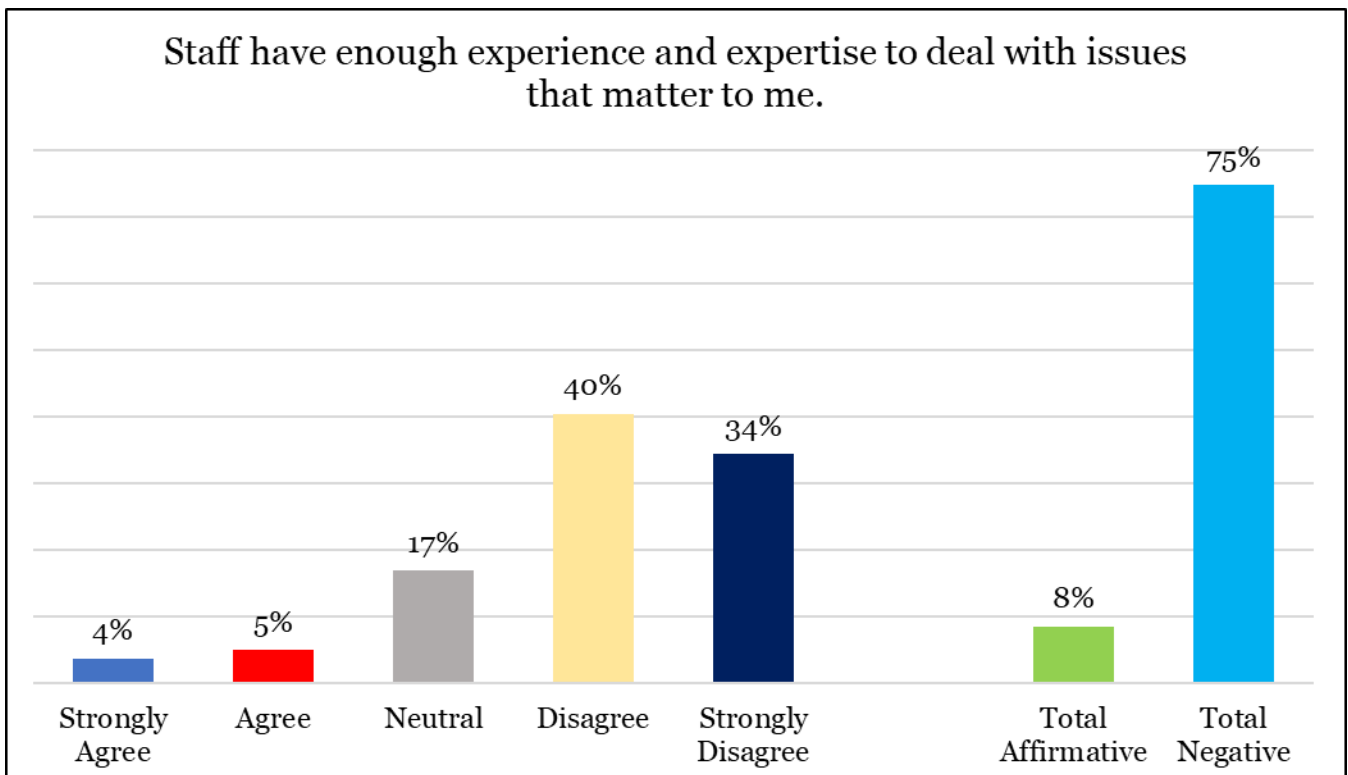
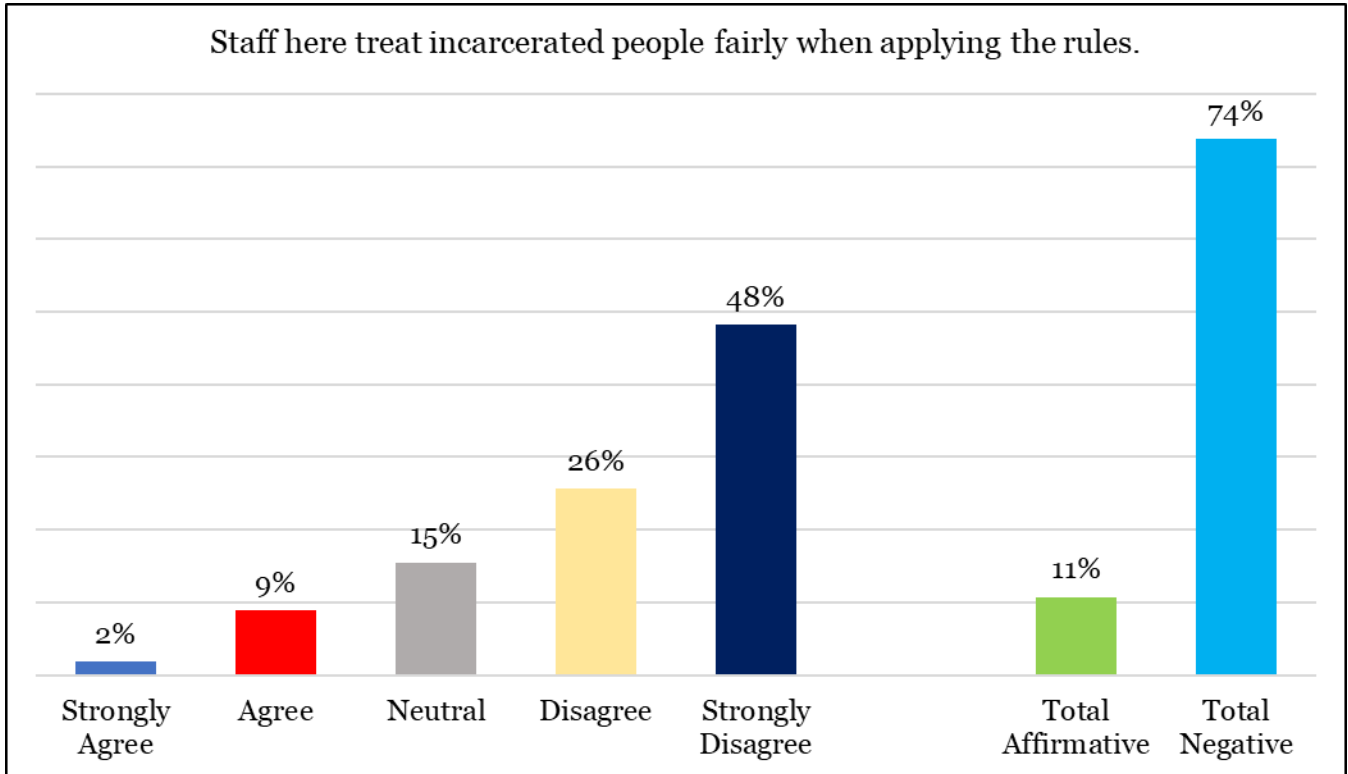


HELP AND ASSISTANCE – SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN TO INCARCERATED PEOPLE FOR PROBLEMS INCLUDING DRUGS, HEALTHCARE AND PROGRESSION

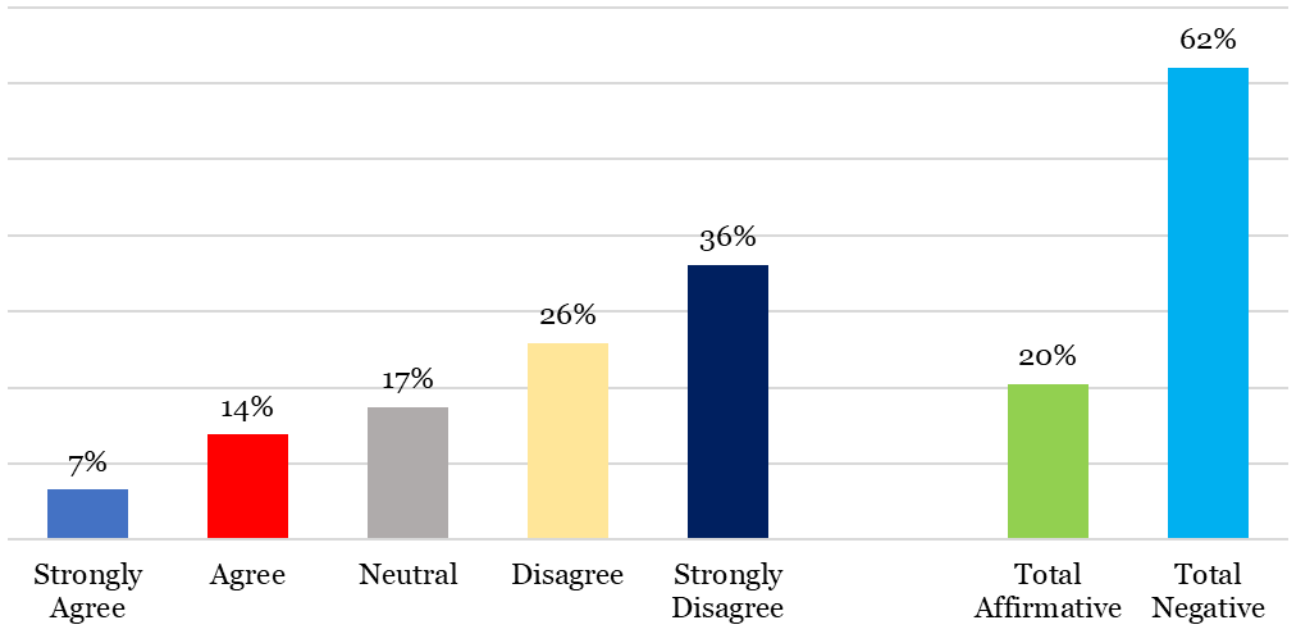


Professionalism

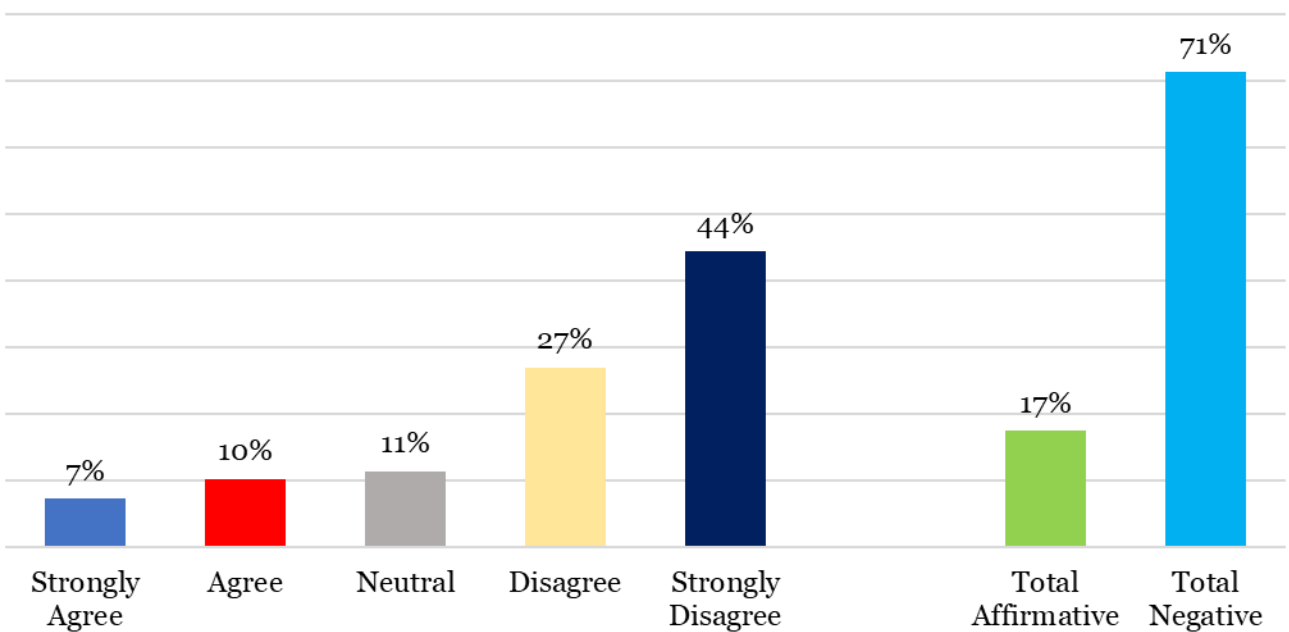
STAFF PROFESSIONALISM – STAFF CONFIDENCE AND COMPETENCE IN THE USE OF AUTHORITY



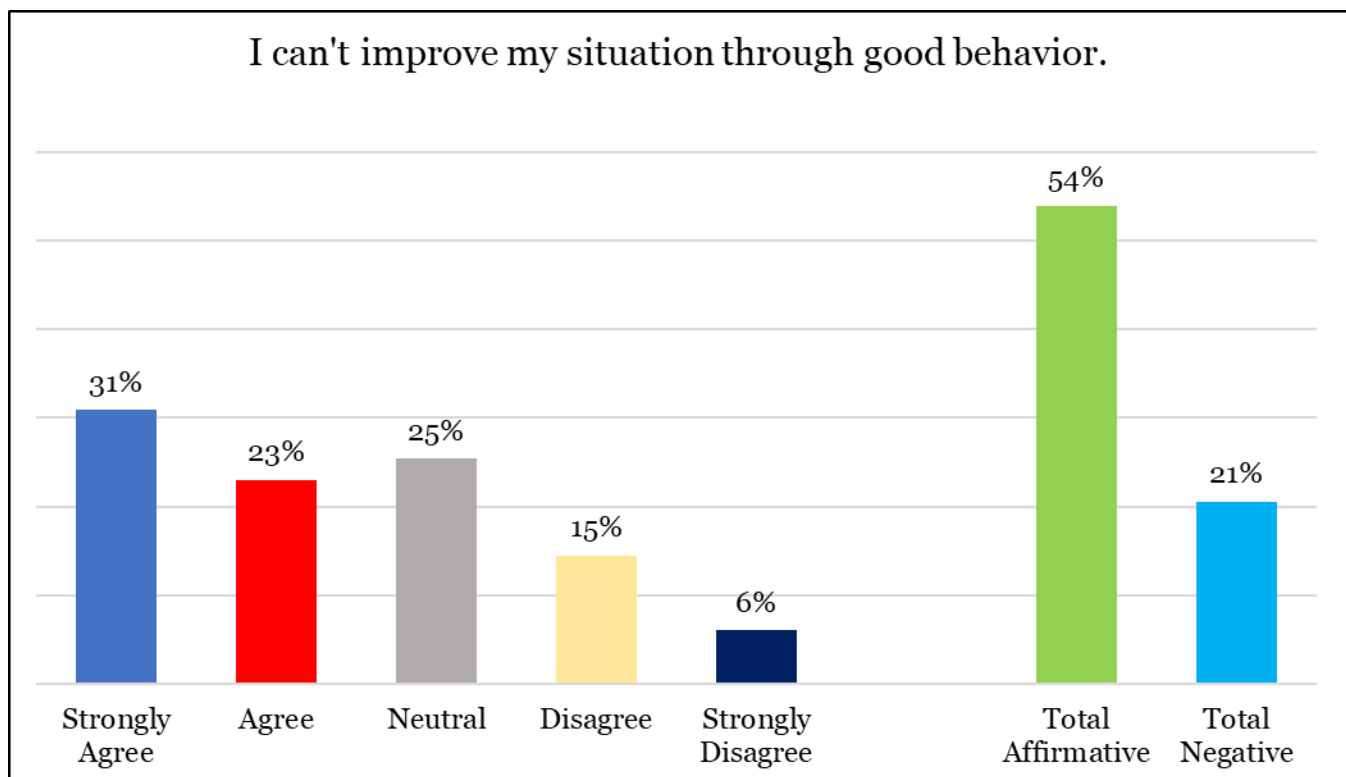
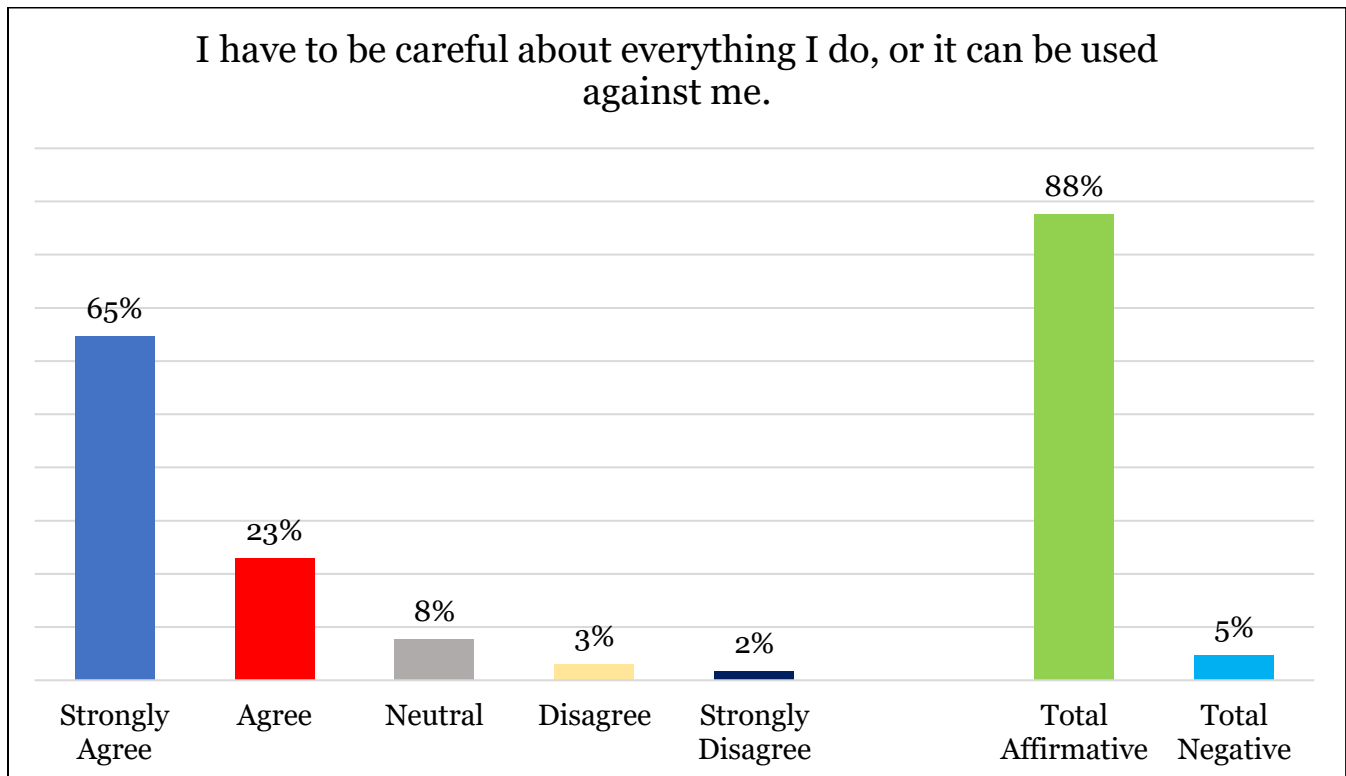
The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.



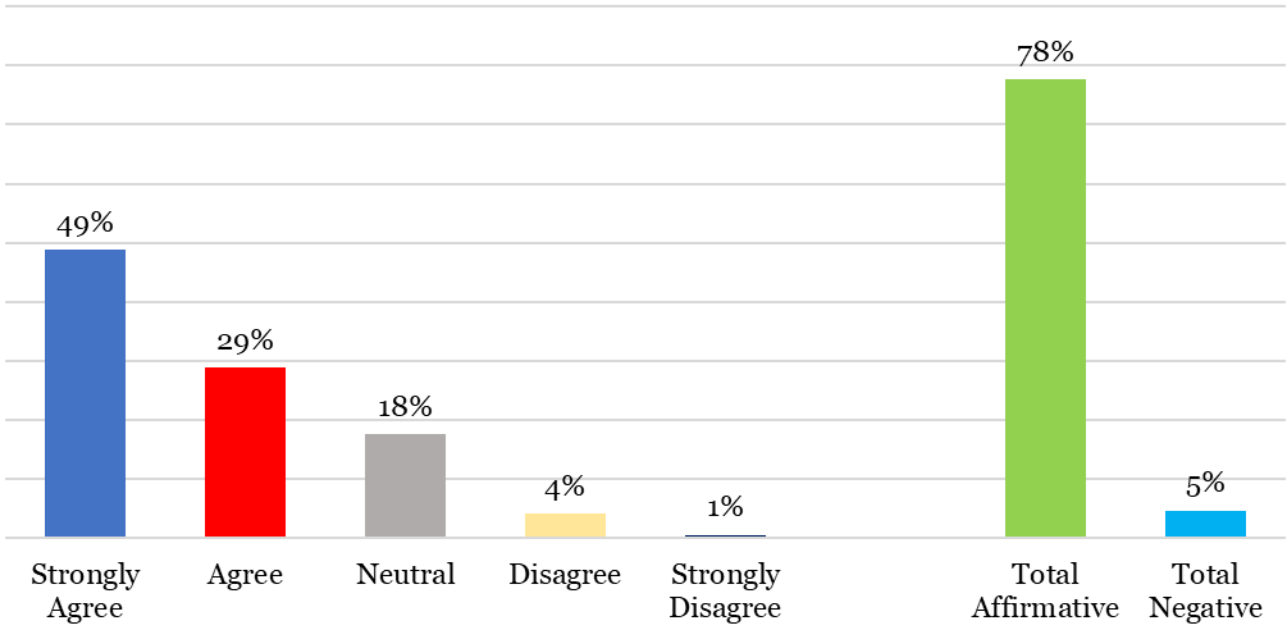
If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.



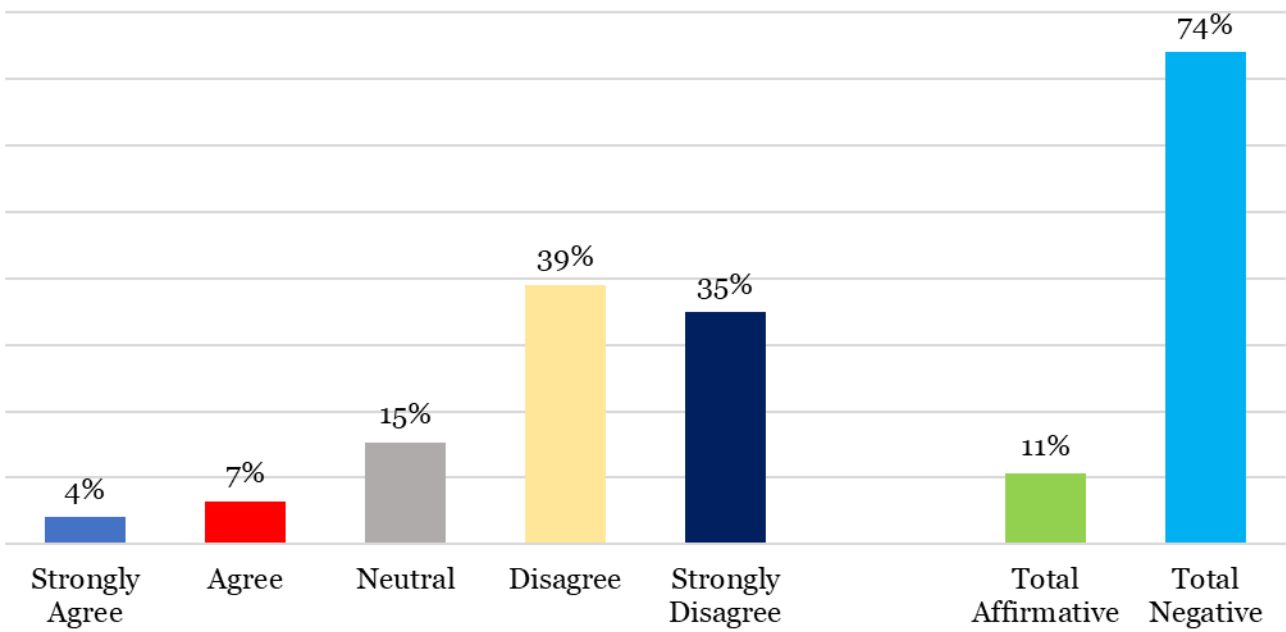
BUREAUCRATIC LEGITIMACY – THE TRANSPARENCY AND RESPONSIVENESS OF THE PRISON/PRISON SYSTEM AND ITS MORAL RECOGNITION OF THE INDIVIDUAL



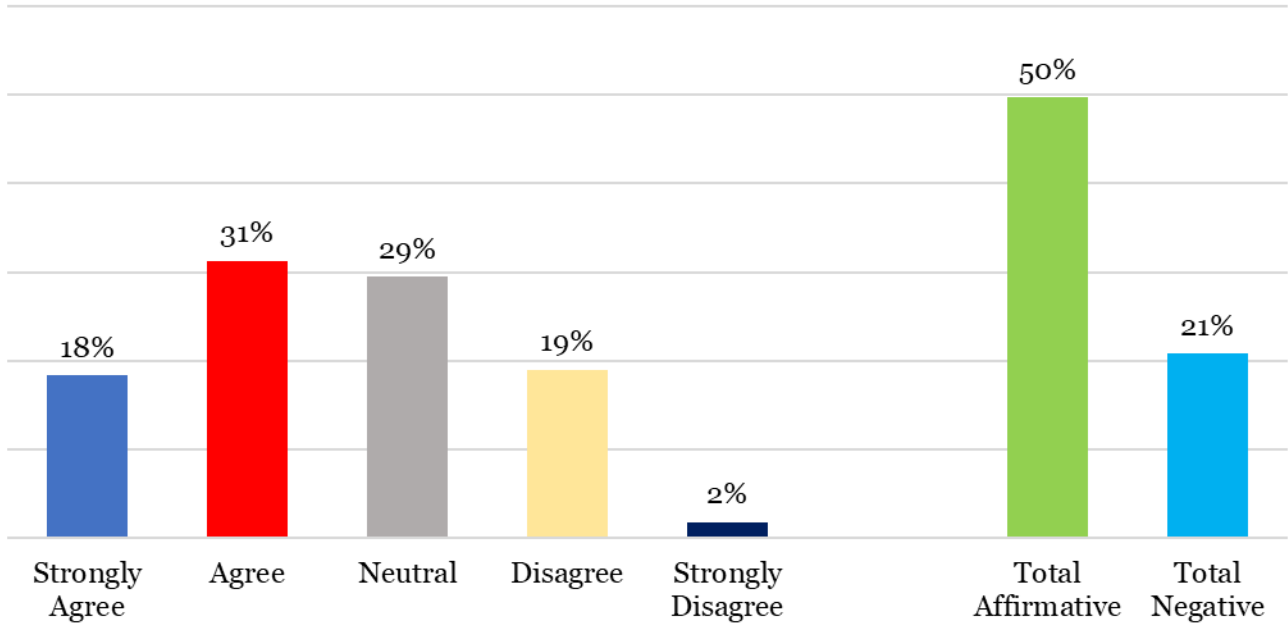
All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.



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

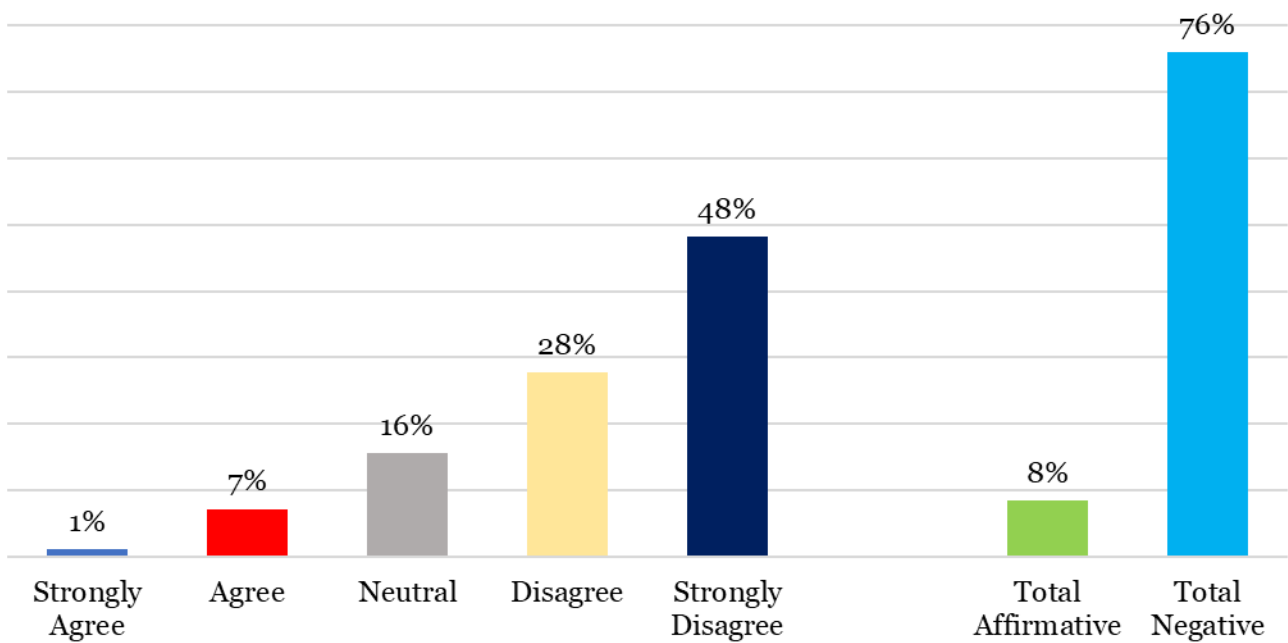


To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.

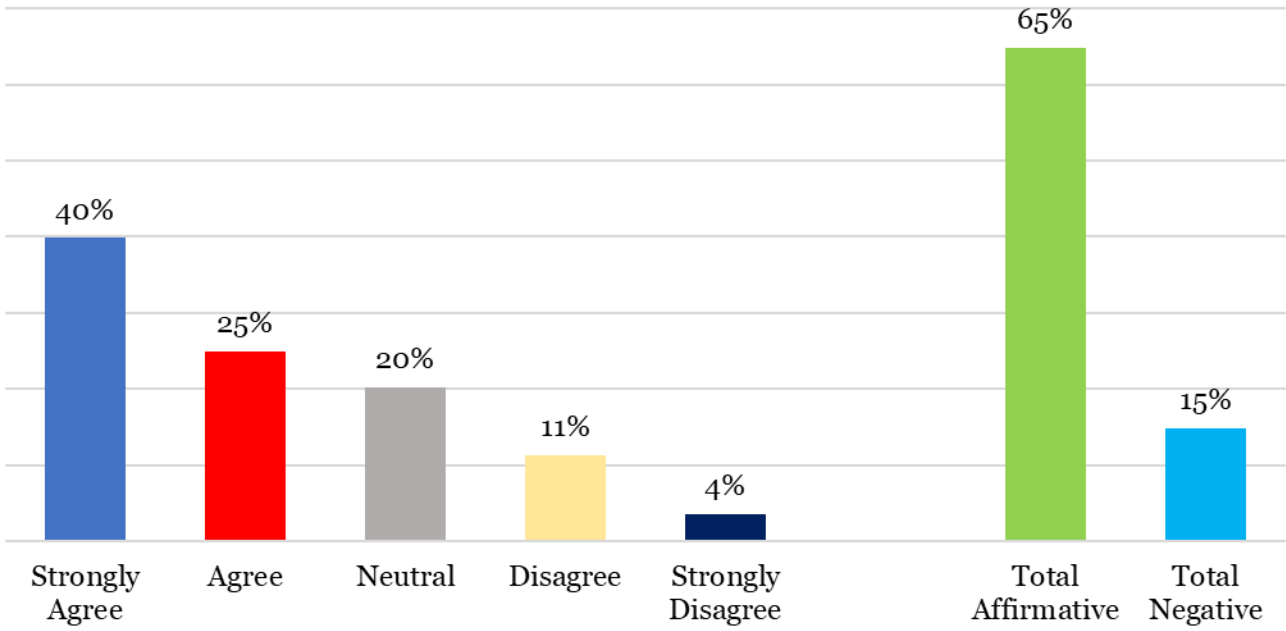


FAIRNESS – THE PERCEIVED IMPARTIALITY, PROPORTIONALITY AND LEGALITY OF PUNISHMENTS AND PROCEDURES

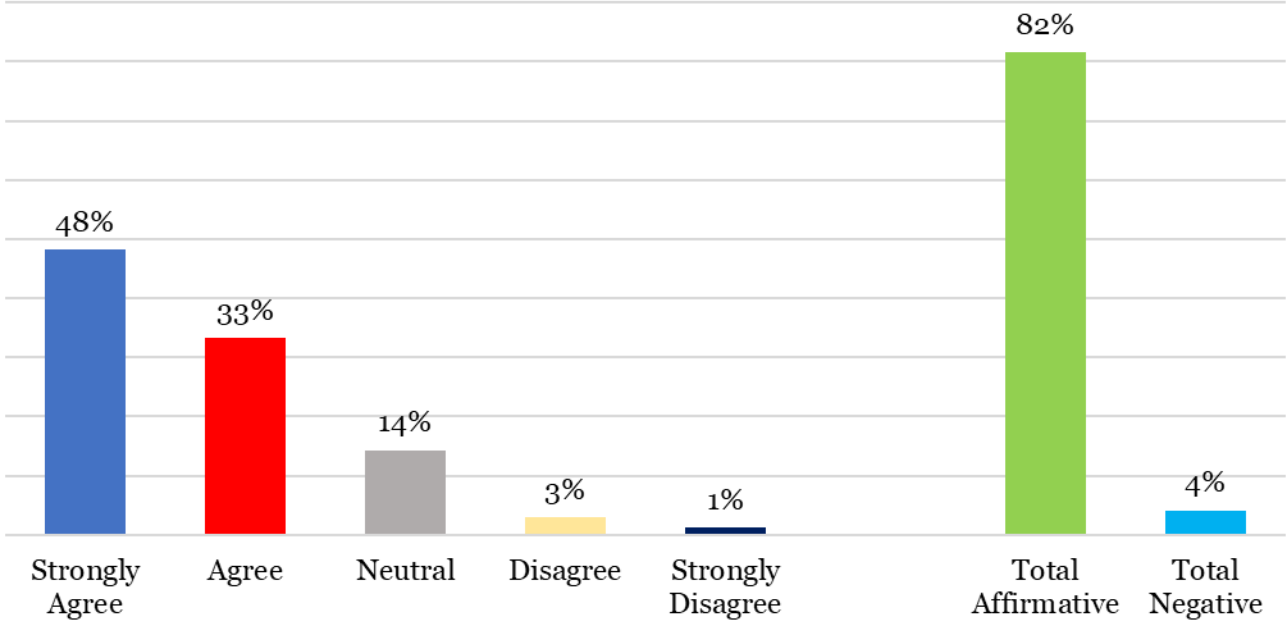
The disciplinary system is fair.



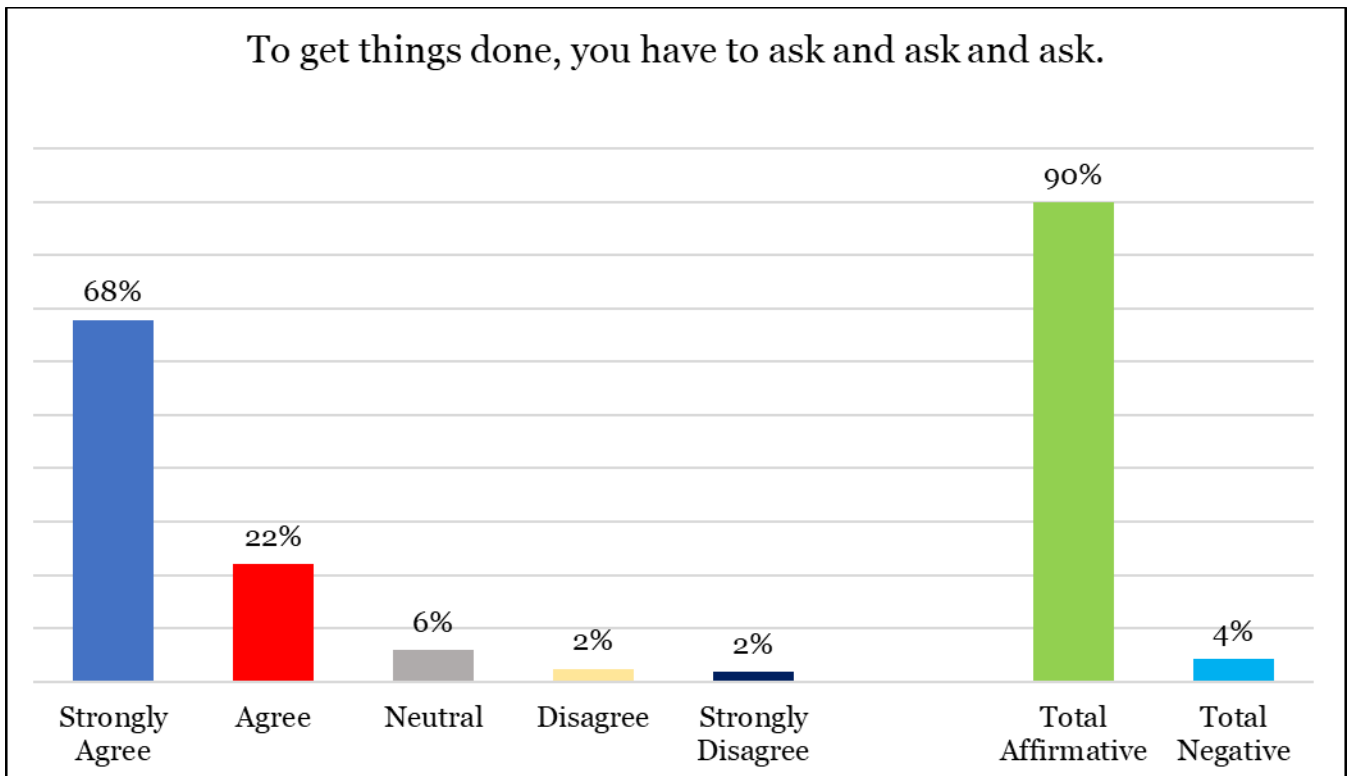
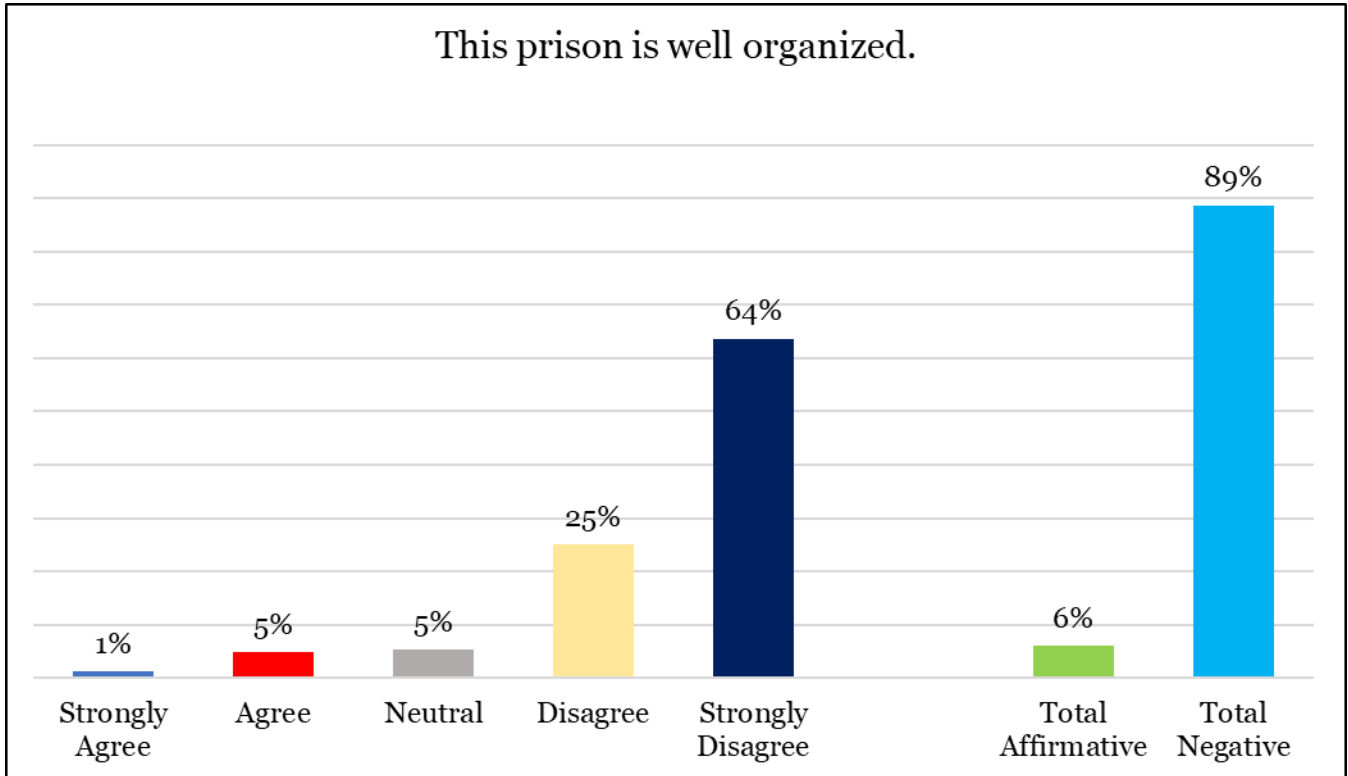
Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.



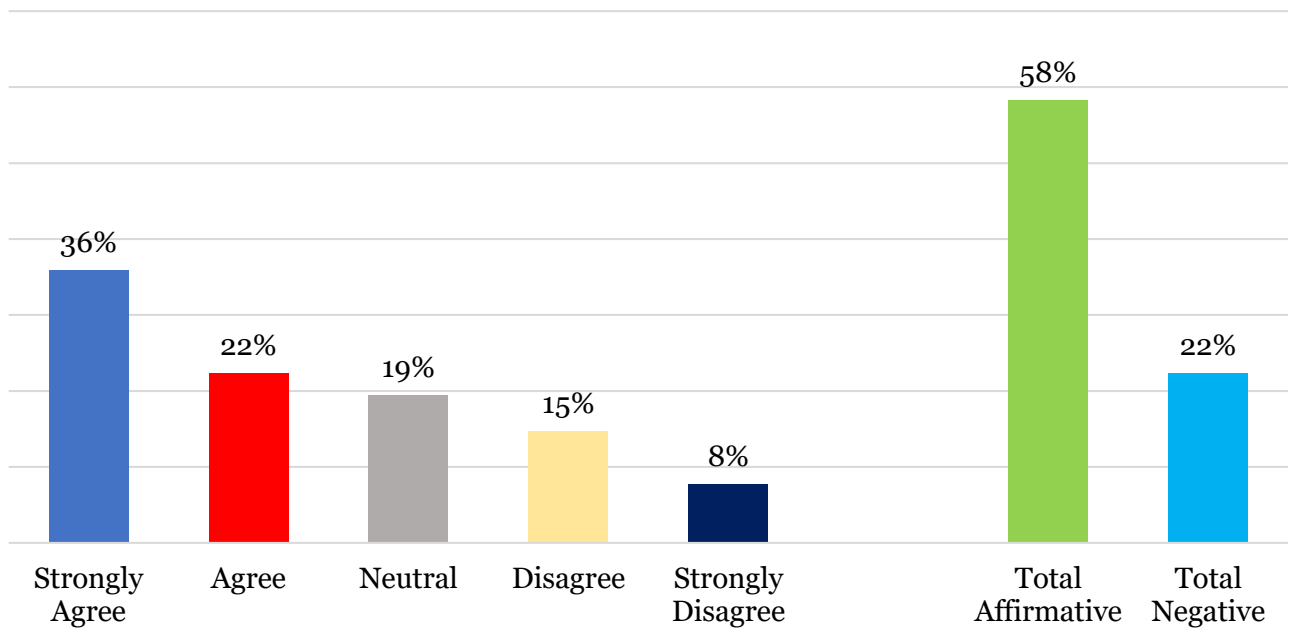
This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.



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

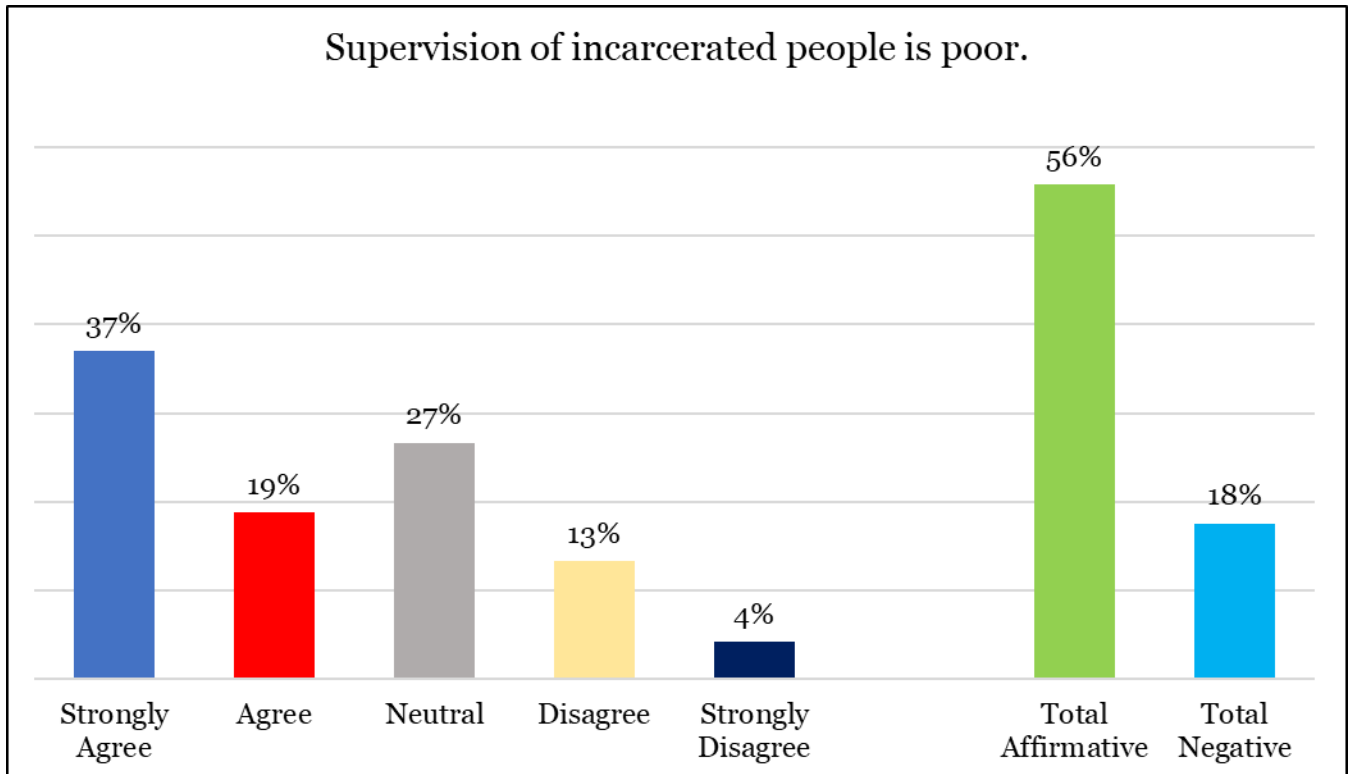


You never know the rules.

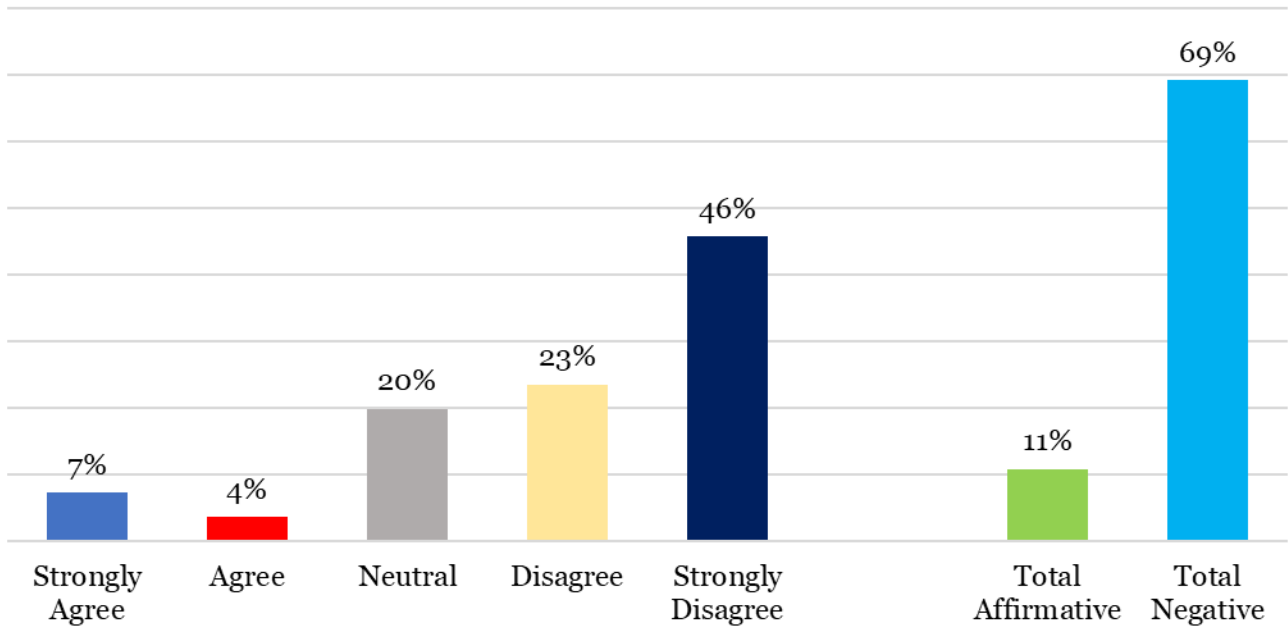


Security

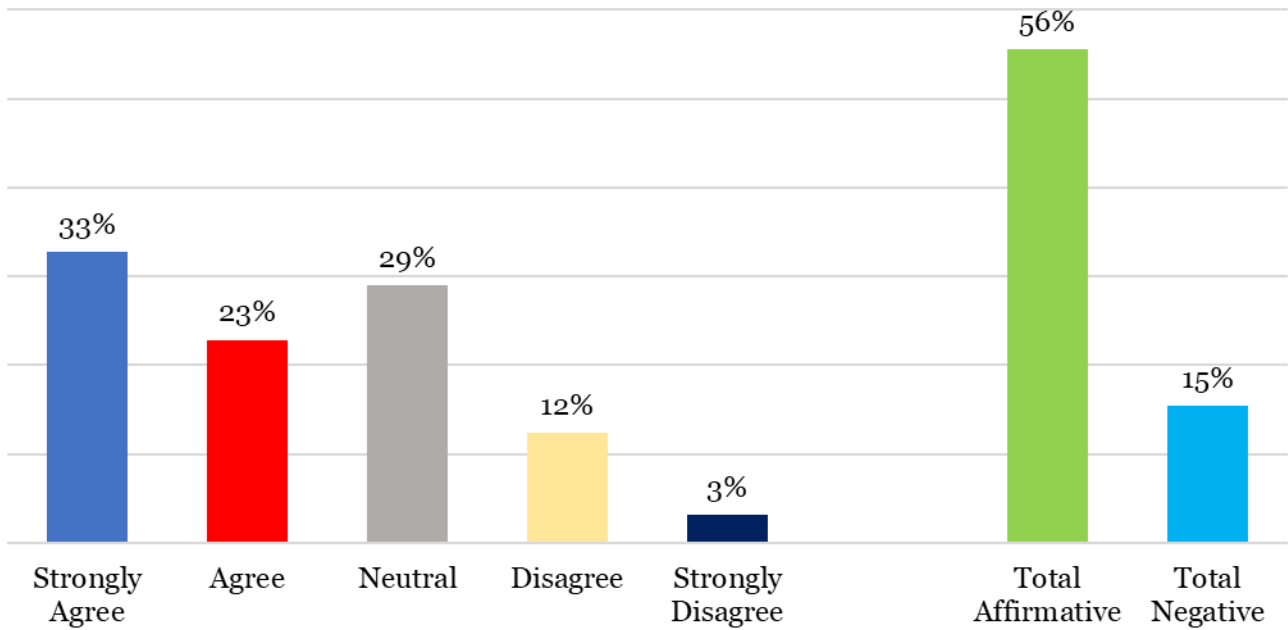
POLICING AND SECURITY – STAFF SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT



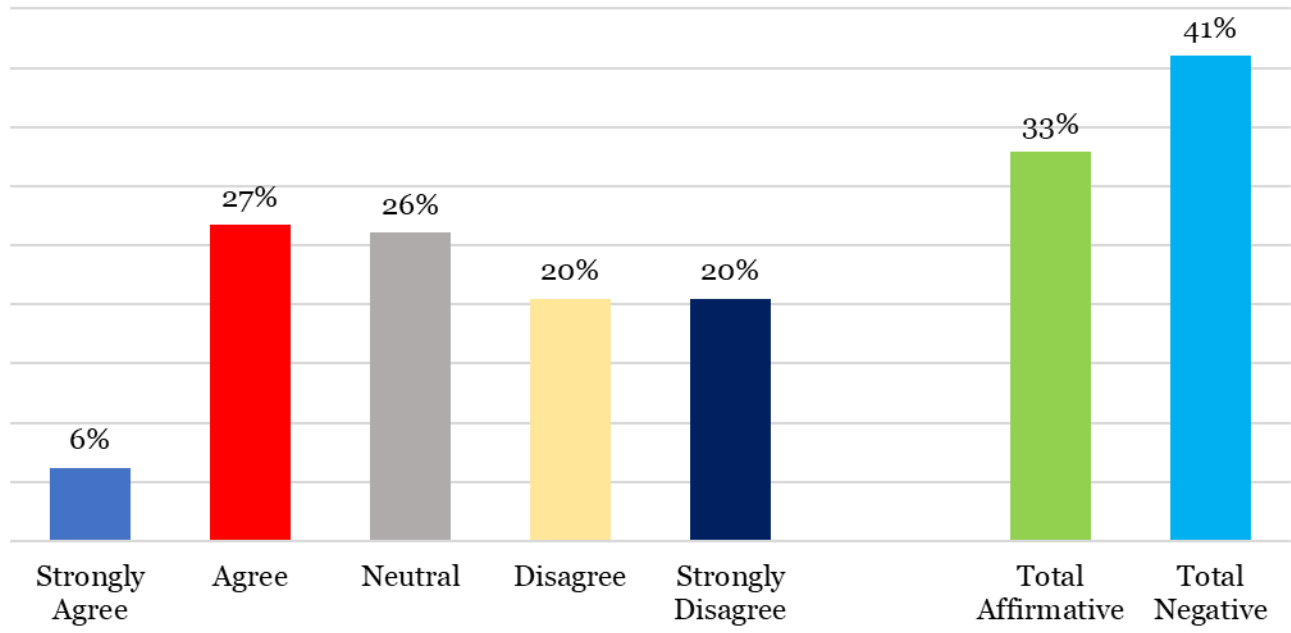
This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.



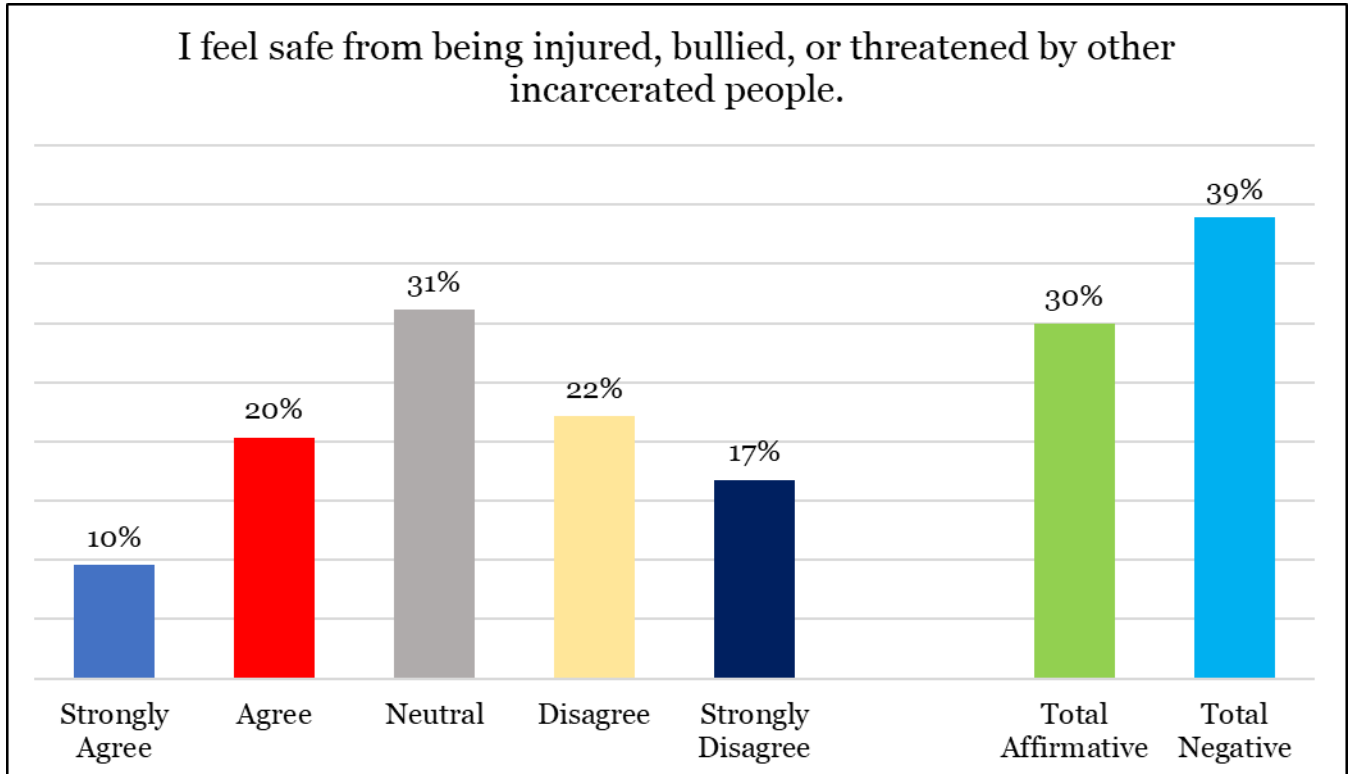
There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.



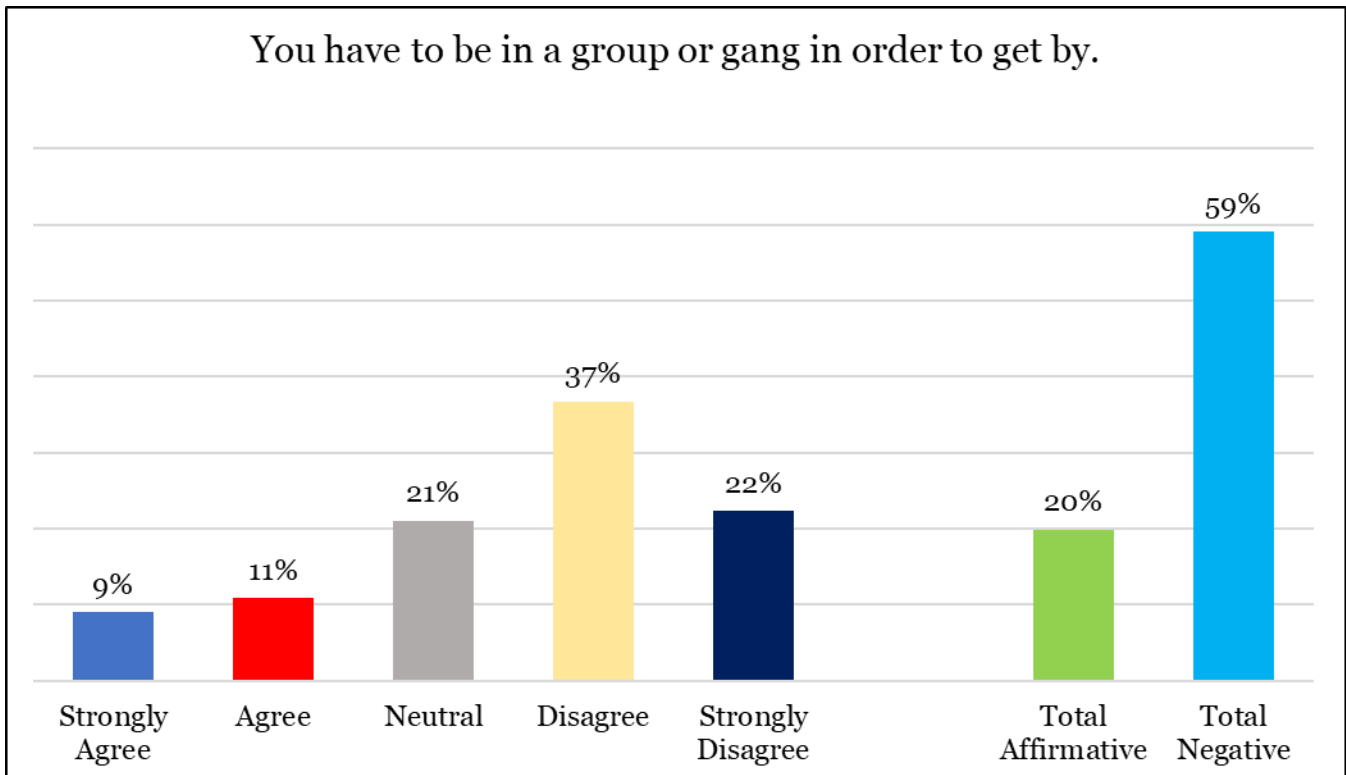
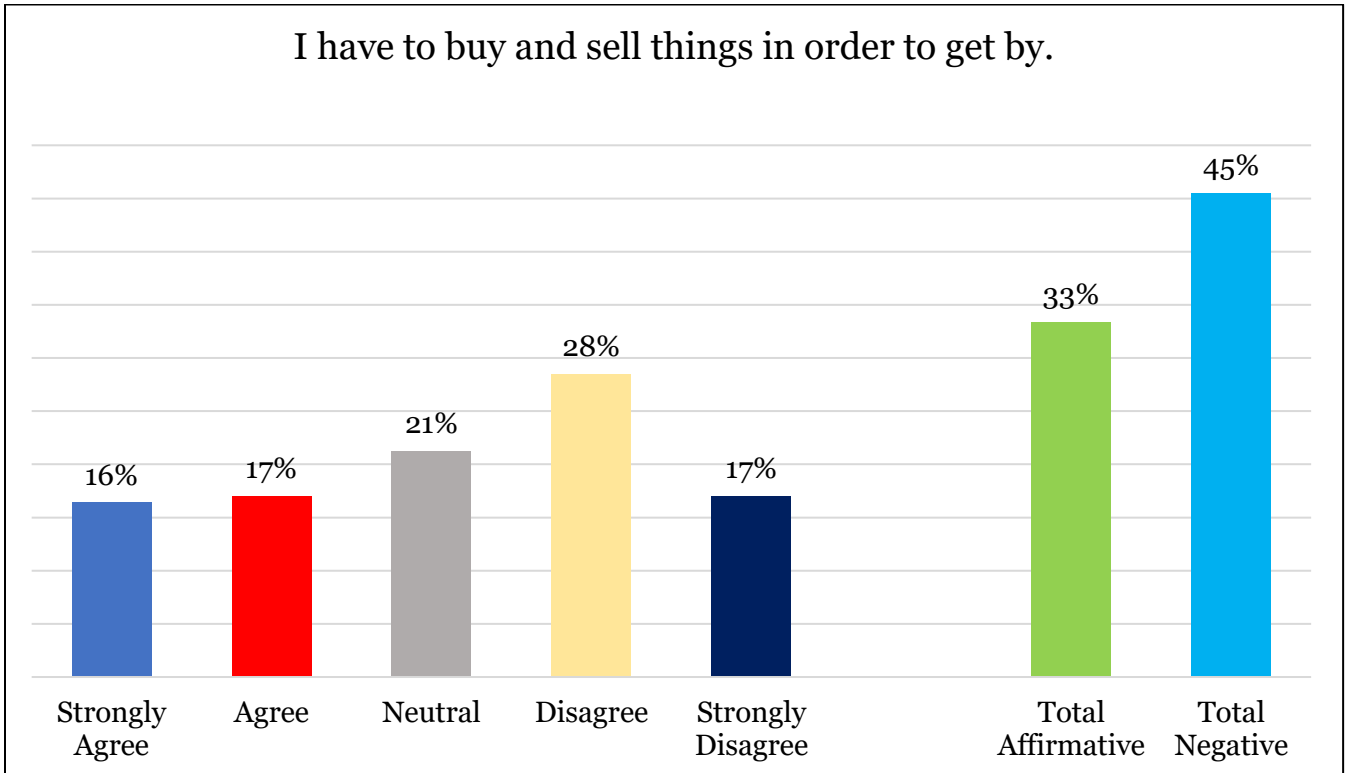
Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.



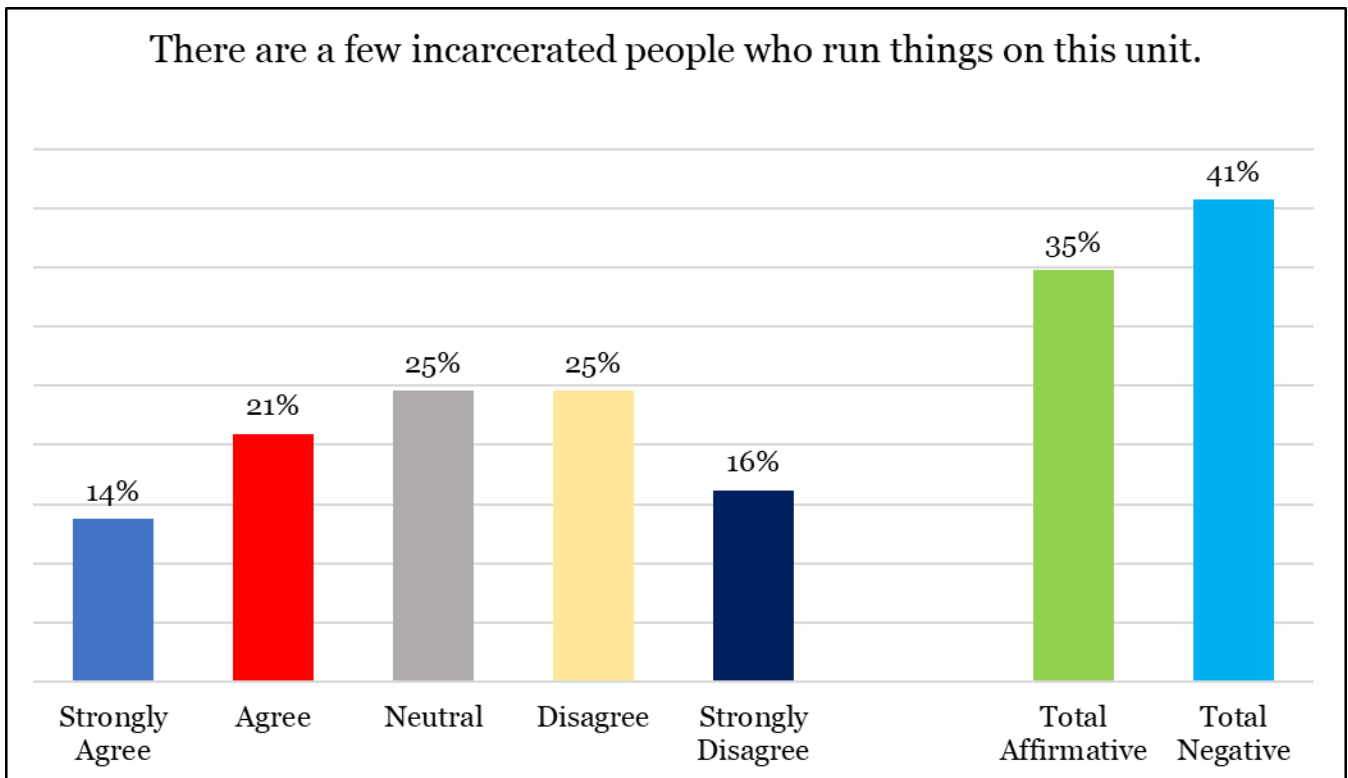
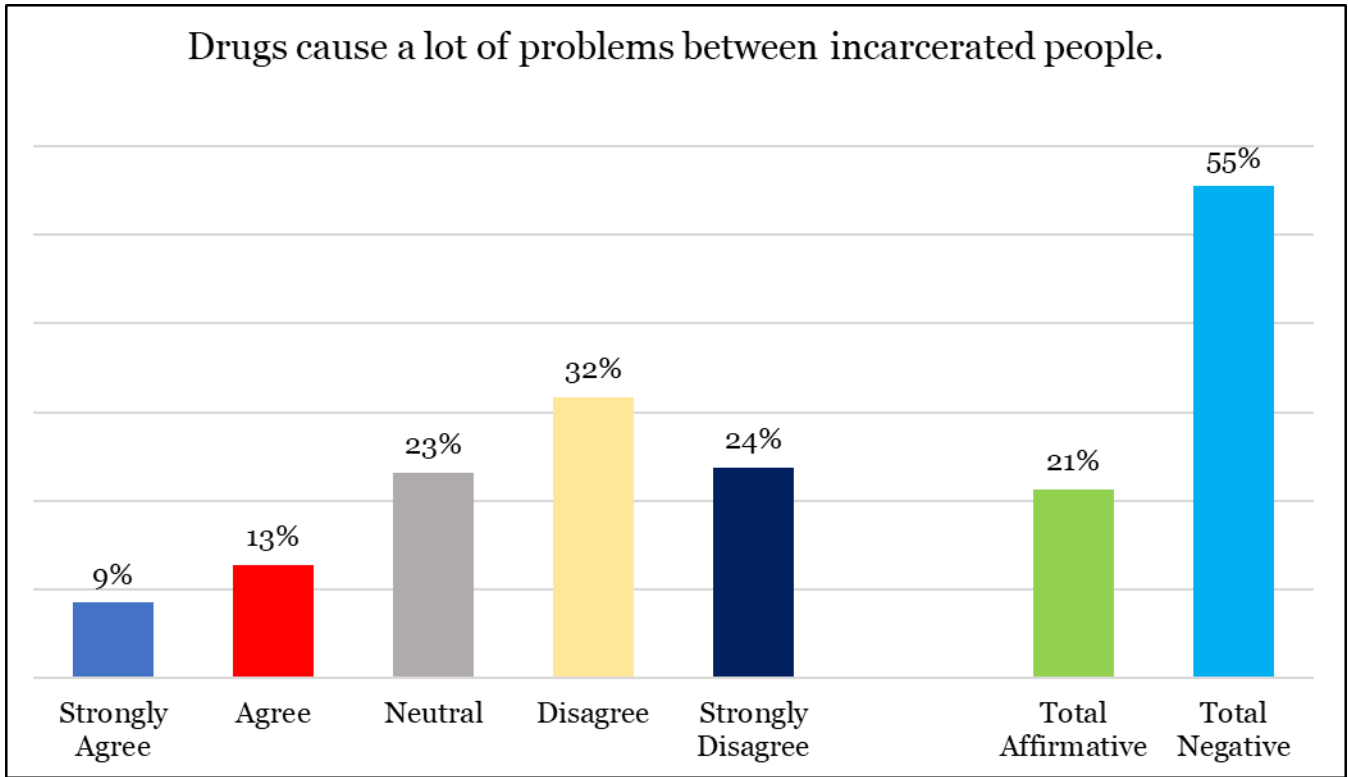
INCARCERATED PERSON SAFETY – THE FEELING OF SECURITY OR PROTECTION FROM HARM, THREAT OR DANGER



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

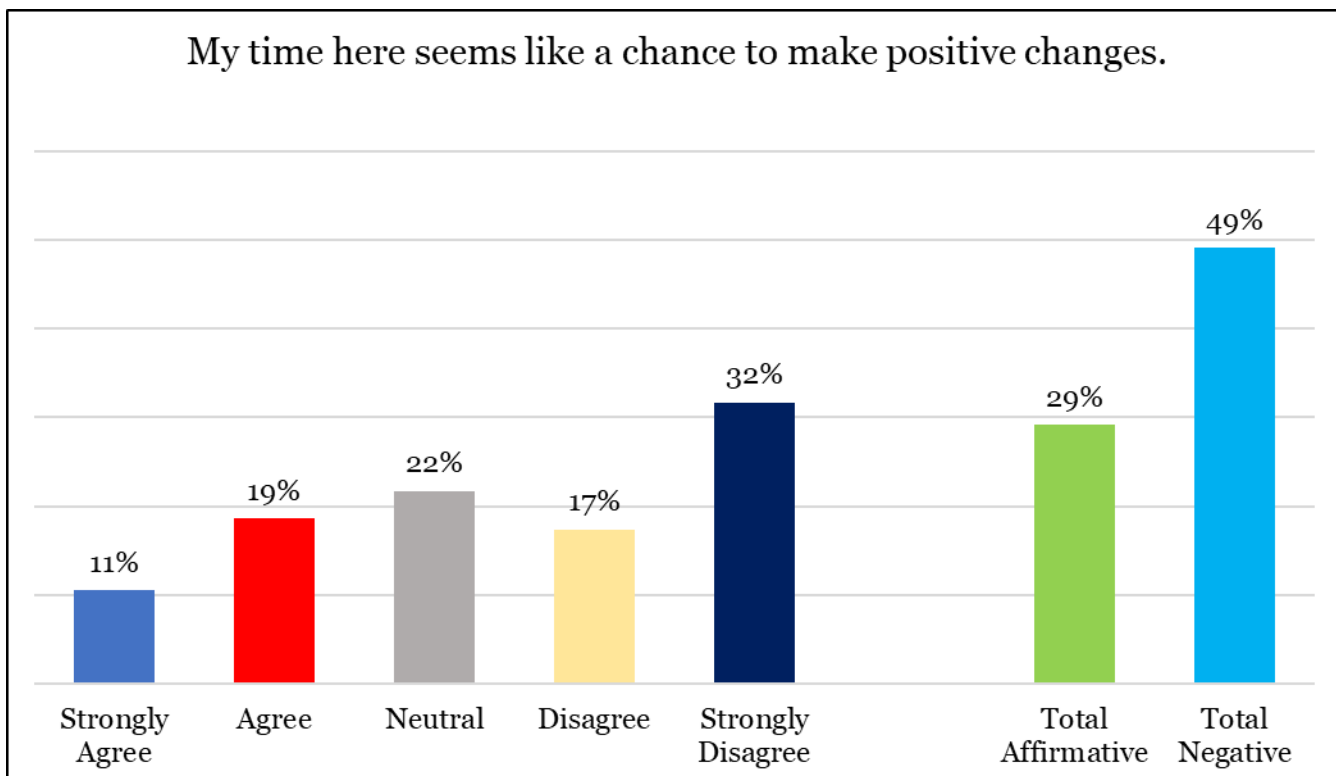
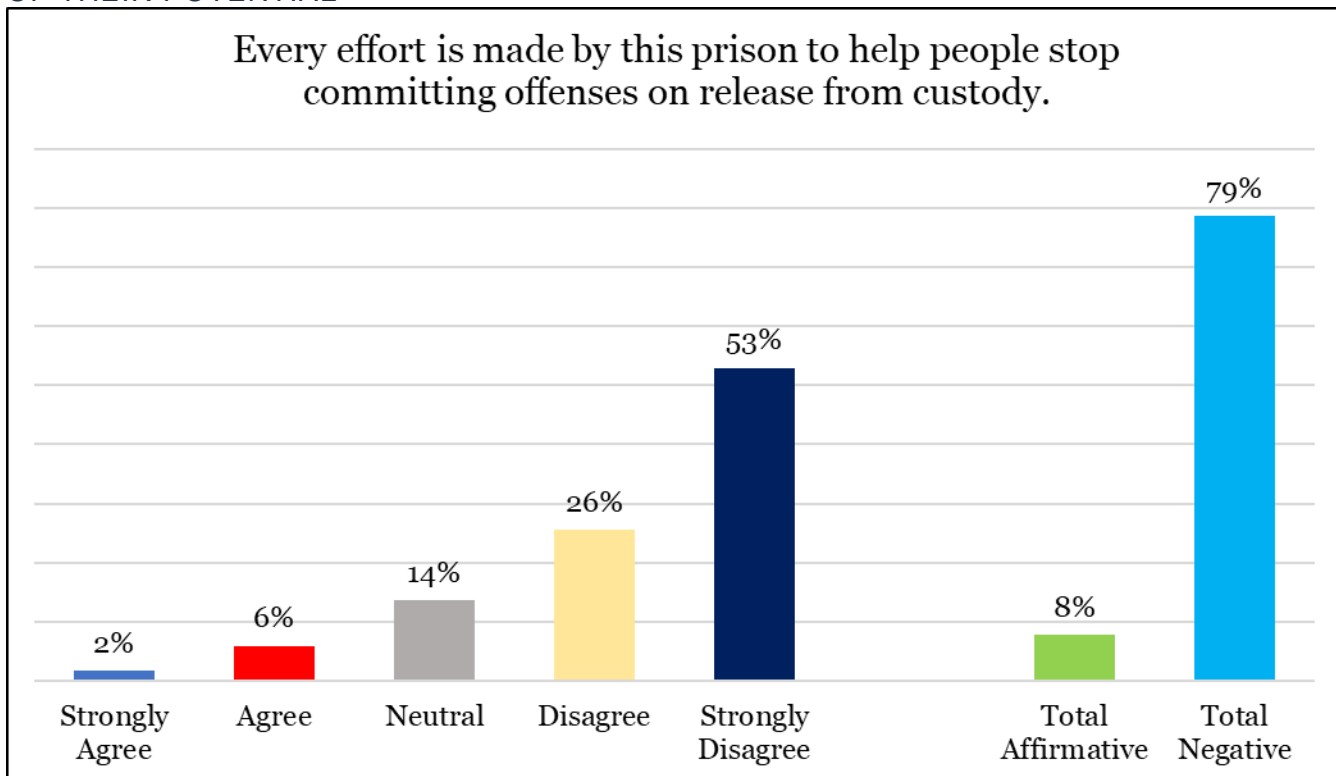


DRUGS AND EXPLOITATION – THE LEVEL OF DRUGS, BULLYING AND VICTIMIZATION IN THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT

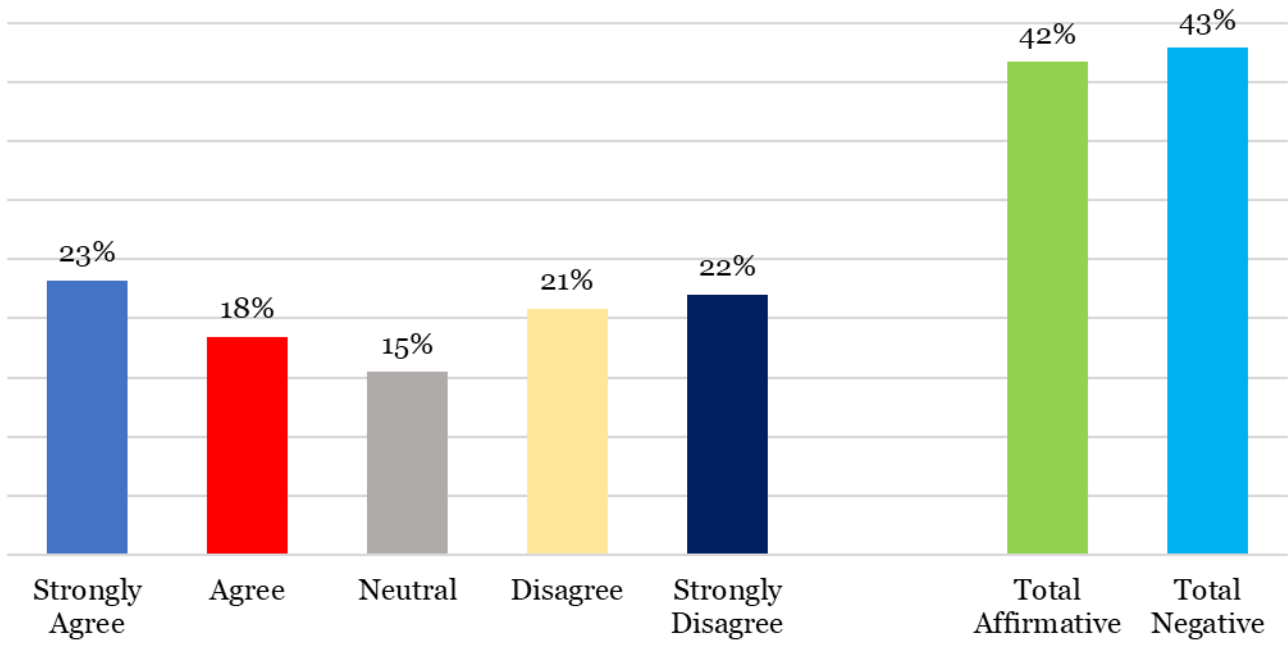


Well-being and Development

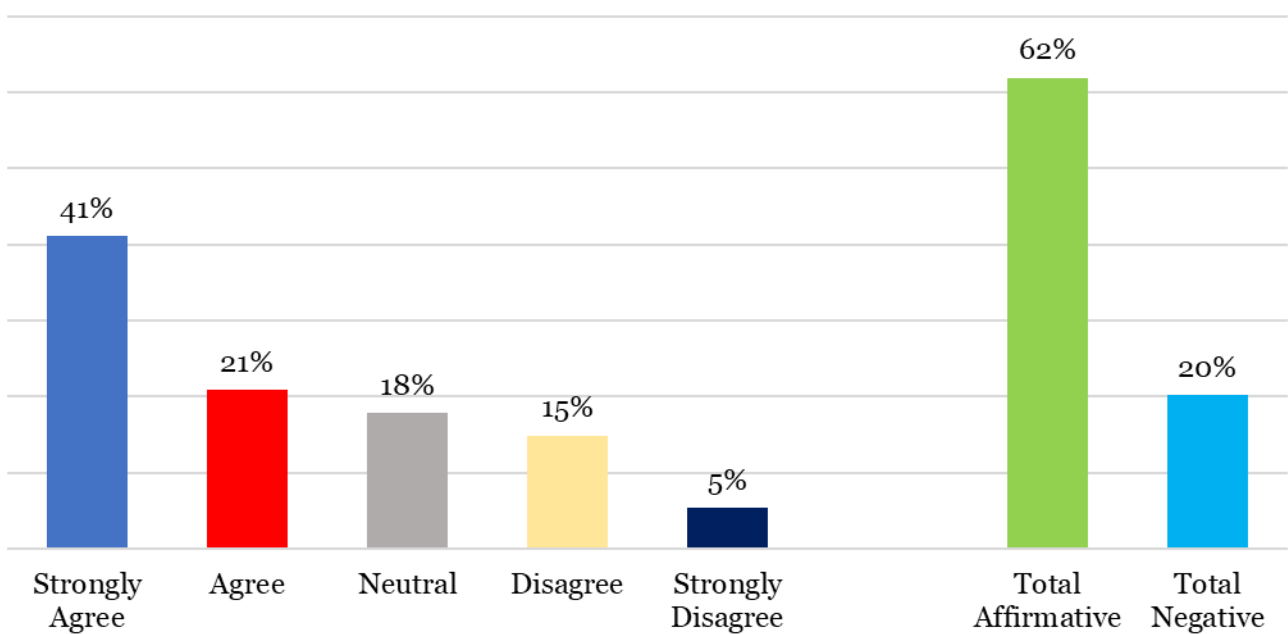
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT HELPS INCARCERATED PEOPLE WITH OFFENDING BEHAVIOR, PREPARATION FOR RELEASE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR POTENTIAL



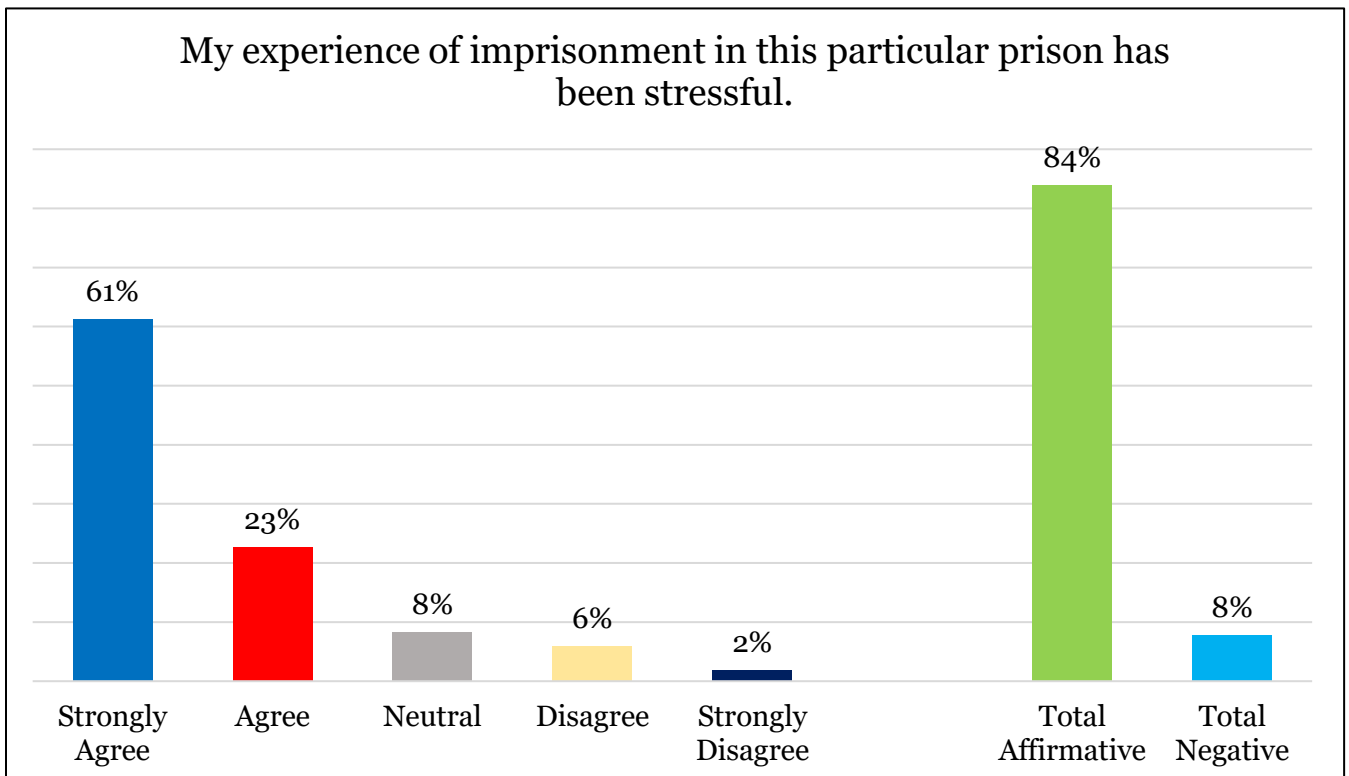
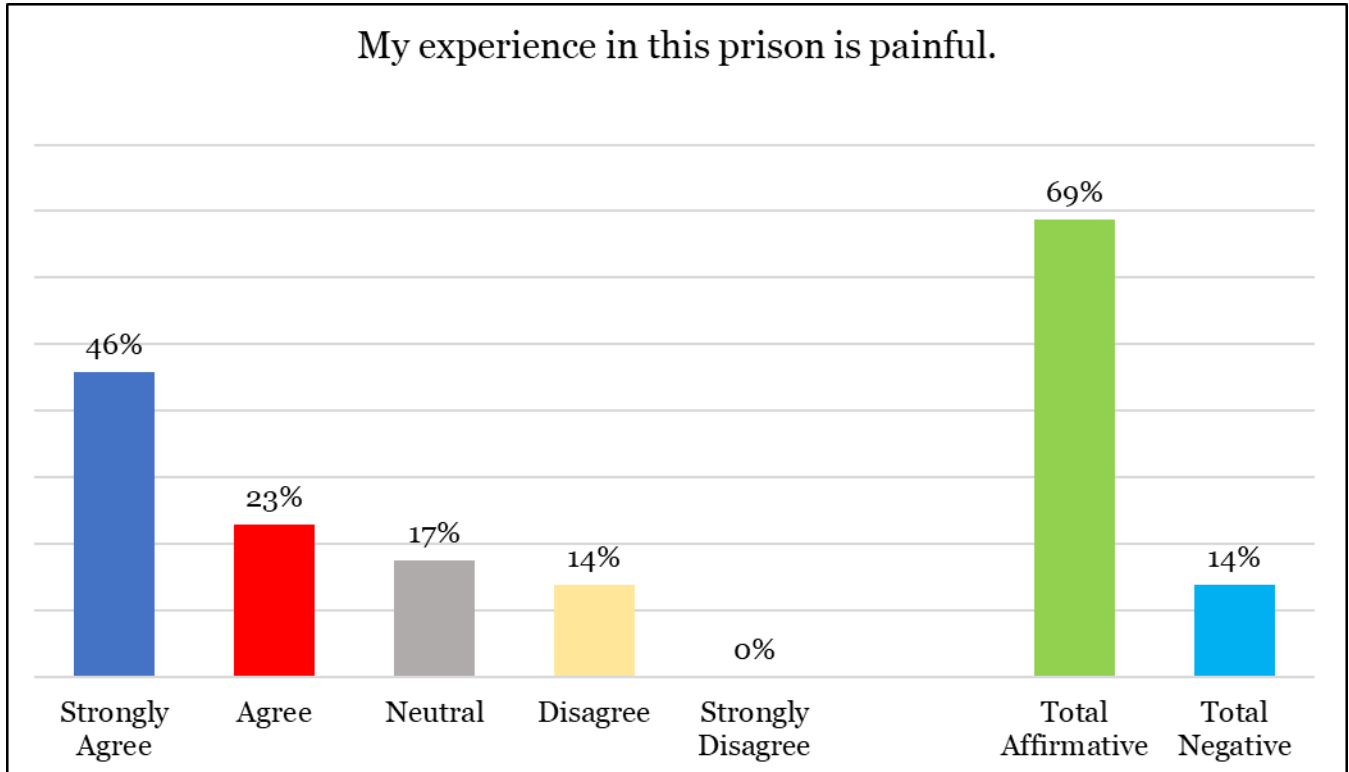
The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.



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

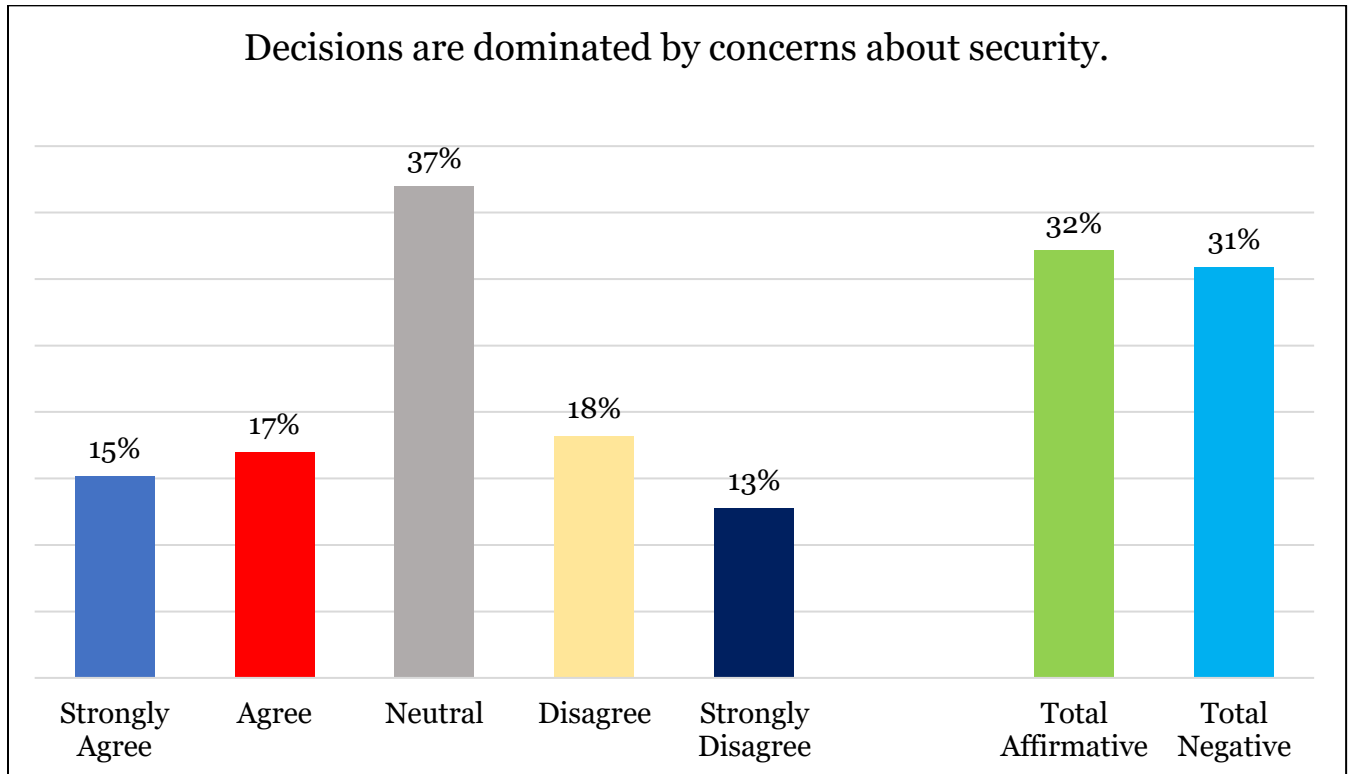


WELL-BEING – FEELINGS OF PAIN, PUNISHMENT AND TENSION EXPERIENCED BY INCARCERATED PEOPLE

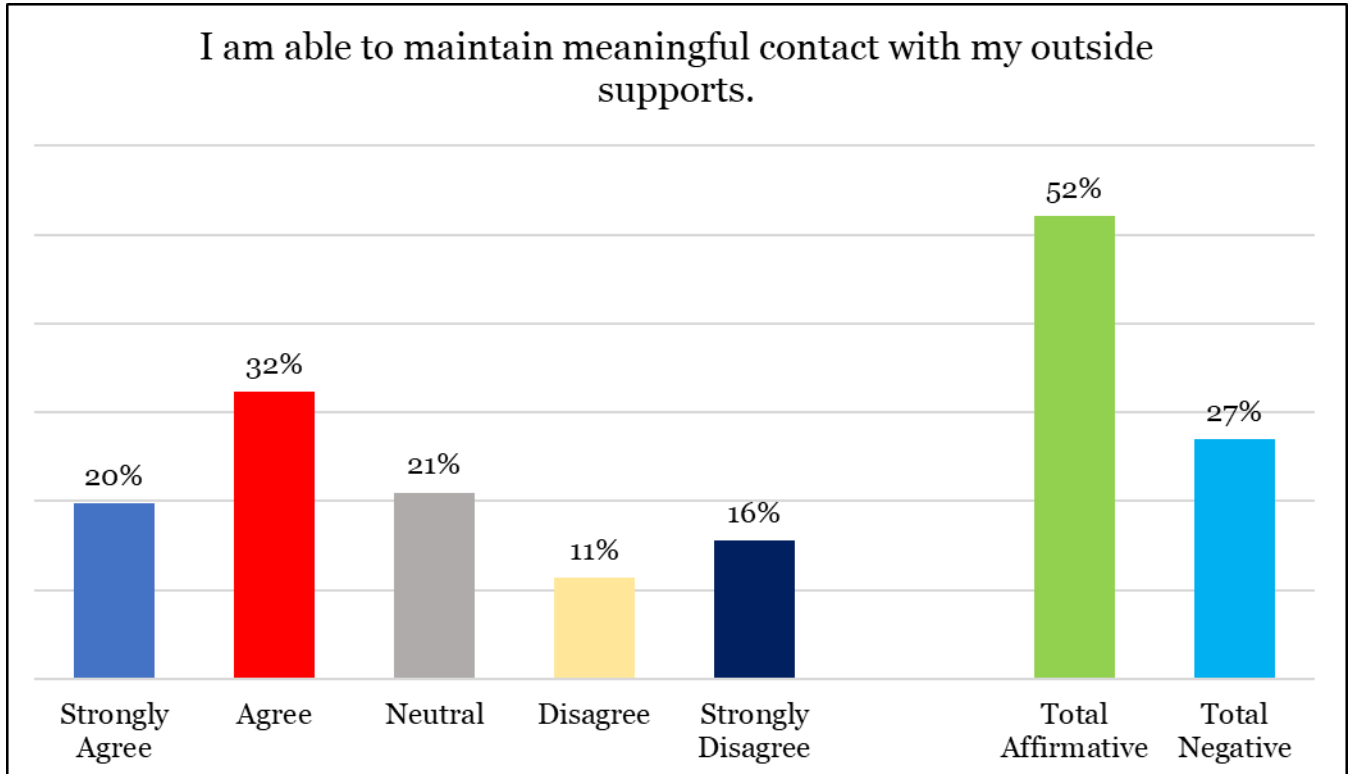


Additional Questions

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

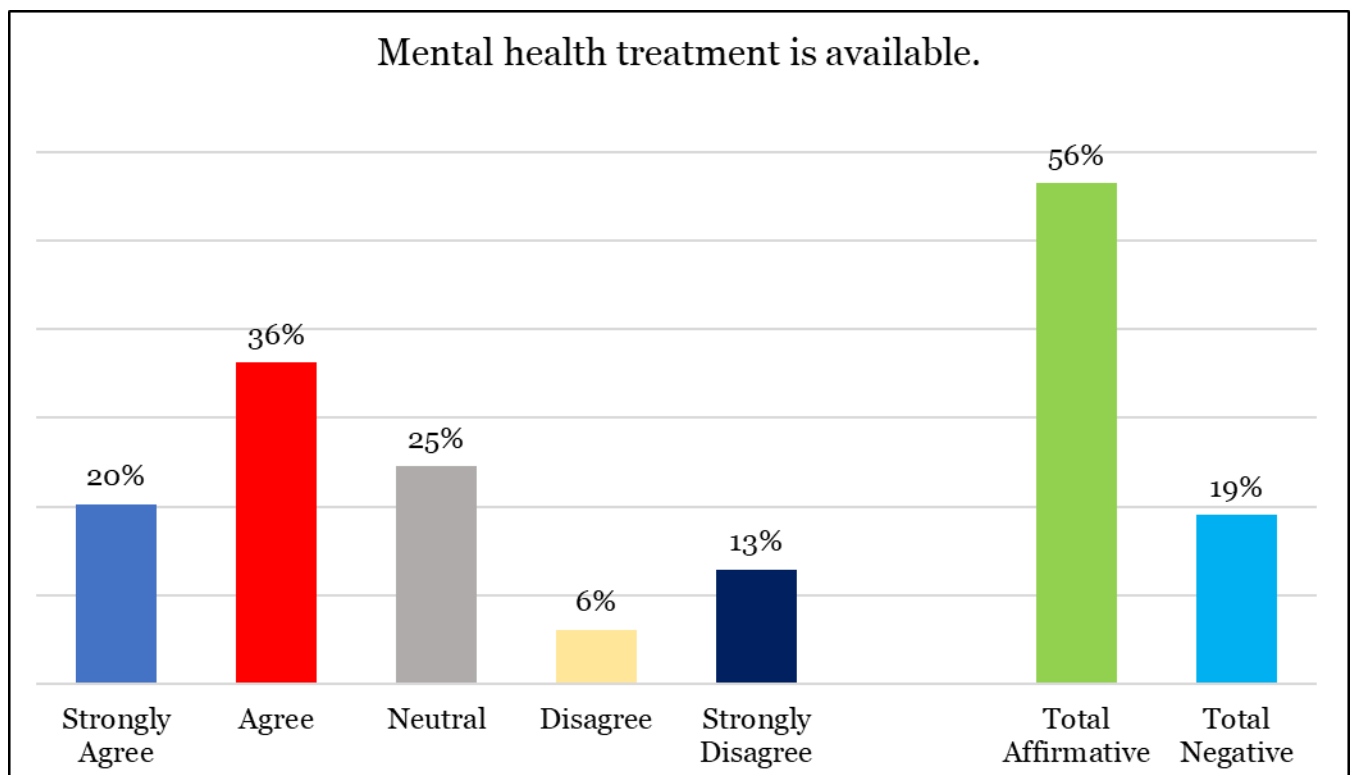
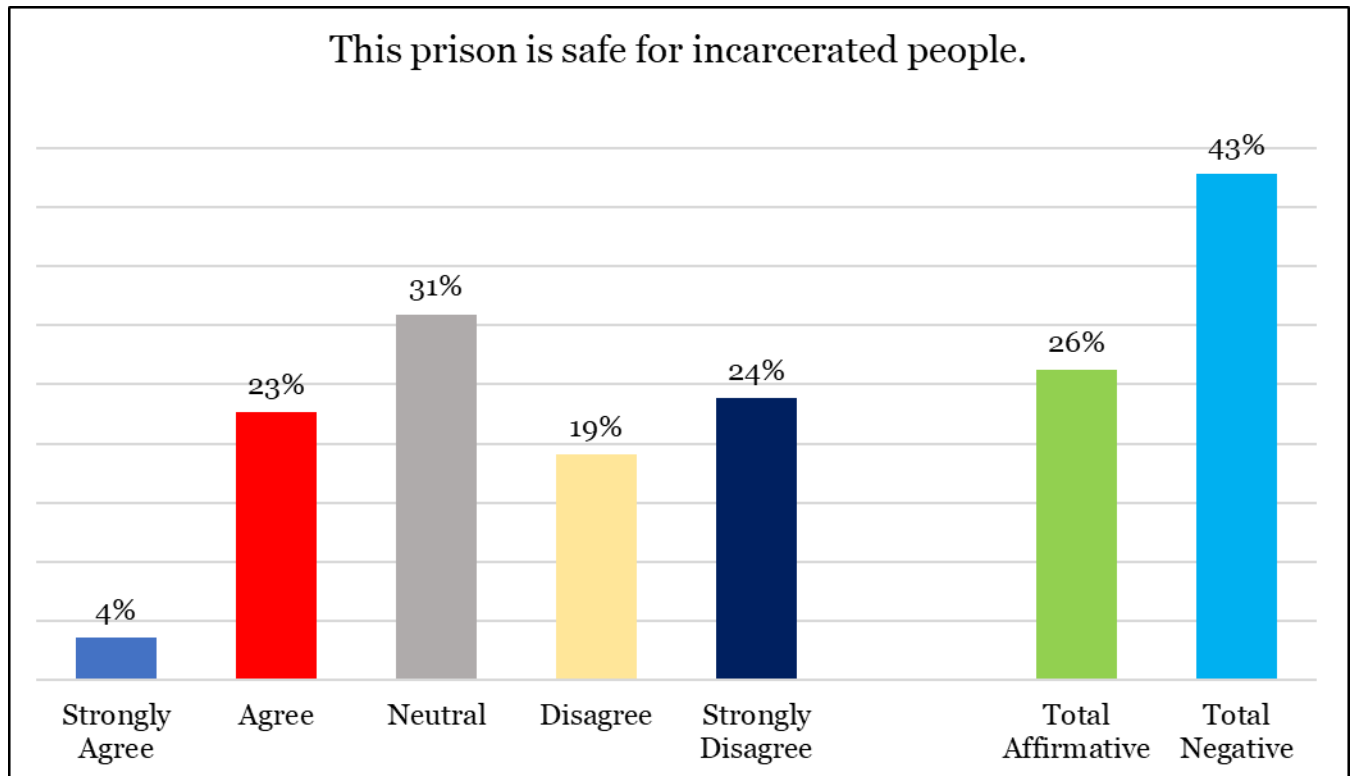


FAMILY CONTACT – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT FACILITATES INCARCERATED PEOPLE MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOVED ONES

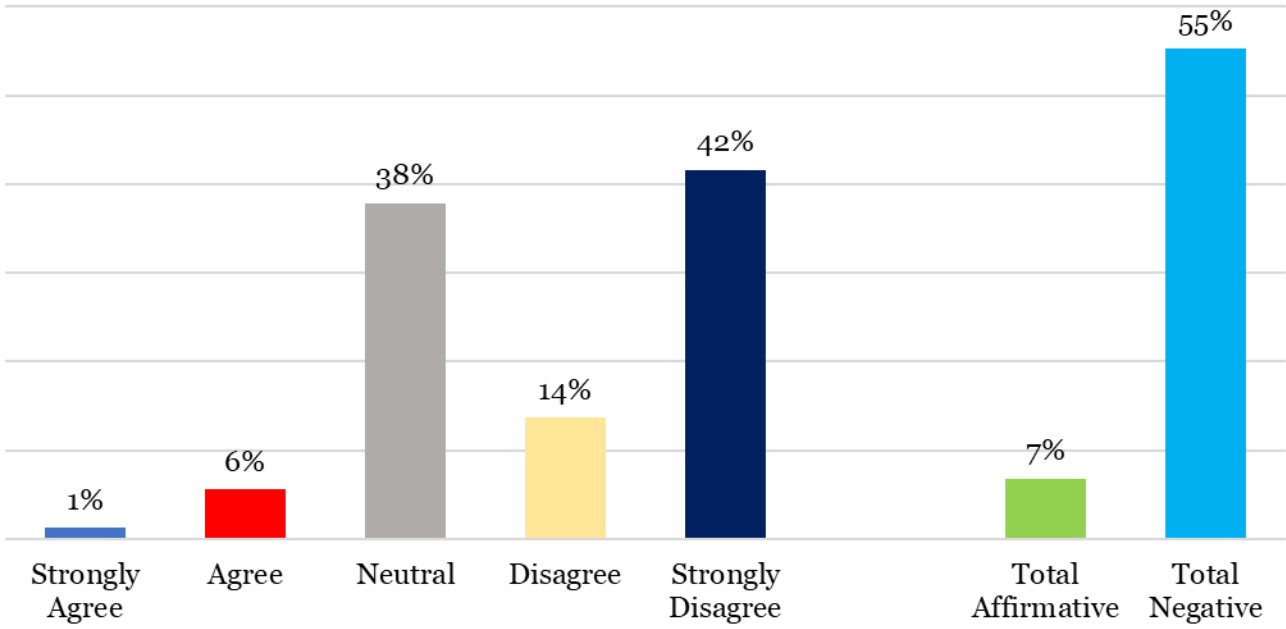


Charts: JHA Questions

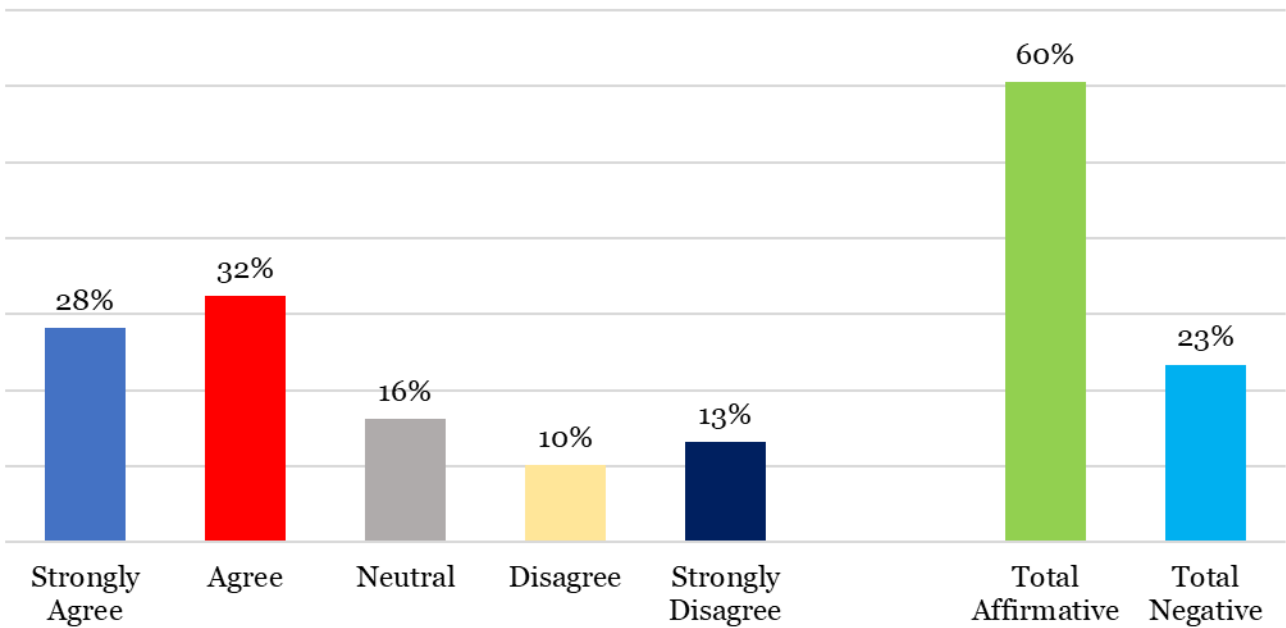
QUESTIONS USED IN PREVIOUS JHA SURVEYS



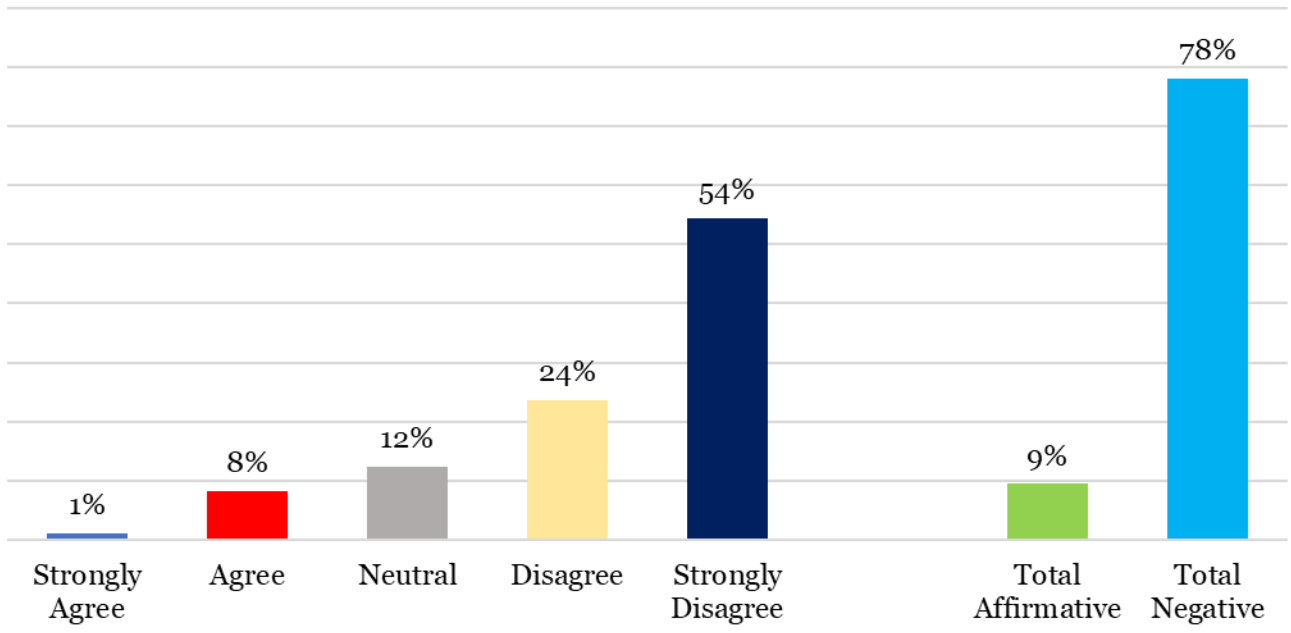
This prison is better now than it was last year.



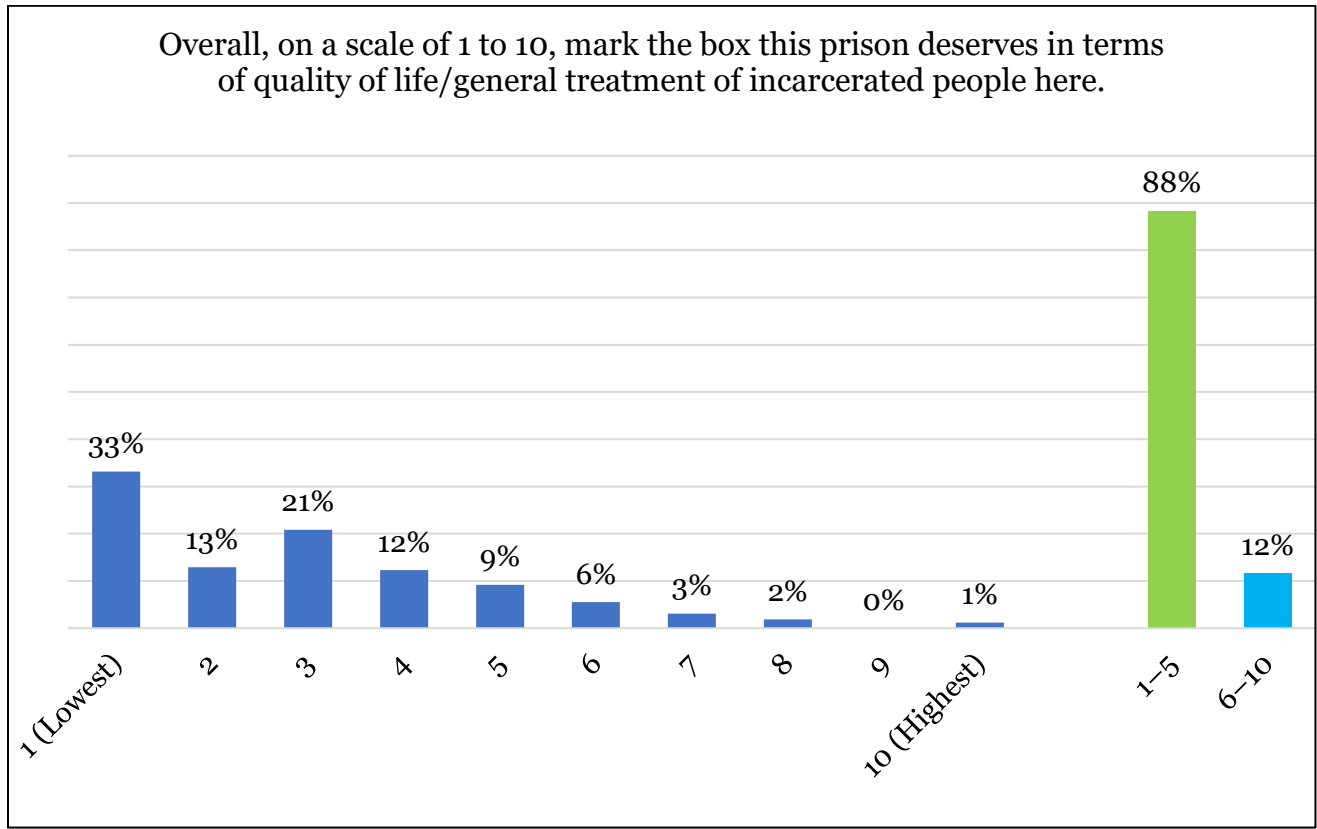
I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.



I am satisfied with food from dietary.



OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE



Tables of Results by Individual Survey Items

Age		
18-26	9	5%
26-30	30	18%
31-40	50	30%
41-50	47	28%
51 and over	32	19%
No response	3	

Race or ethnicity		
White	82	49%
Black	65	38%
Hispanic or Latino	8	5%
Other	14	8%
No response	2	

Are you within two years of release?		
Yes	131	78%
No	38	22%
No response	2	

Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?		
Yes	91	54%
No	78	46%
No response	2	

What housing status are you currently on?		
General Population	161	94%
Restrictive Housing	1	1%
Other	9	5%
No response	0	

Are you currently getting at least two hours a day out of your cell or sleeping area?		
Yes	118	70%
No	51	30%

Do you have a work or school assignment?		
Work Assignment	48	29%
School Assignment	38	23%
Both	31	18%
Neither	51	30%
No response	3	

Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.		
Strongly Agree	2	1%
Agree	14	8%
Neutral	31	18%
Disagree	59	35%
Strongly Disagree	63	37%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	16	9%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	122	72%
No response	2	

I receive support from staff when I need it.		
Strongly Agree	4	2%
Agree	23	14%
Neutral	29	17%
Disagree	48	29%
Strongly Disagree	63	38%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	27	16%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	111	66%
No response	4	

Staff here treat incarcerated people fairly when applying the rules.		
Strongly Agree	3	2%
Agree	15	9%
Neutral	26	15%
Disagree	43	26%
Strongly Disagree	81	48%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	18	11%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	124	74%
No response	3	

I trust the officers.		
Strongly Agree	1	1%
Agree	8	5%
Neutral	33	20%
Disagree	39	23%
Strongly Disagree	88	52%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	9	5%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	127	75%
No response	2	

I get along well with the officers on my unit.		
Strongly Agree	9	5%
Agree	40	24%
Neutral	61	37%
Disagree	26	16%
Strongly Disagree	30	18%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	49	30%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	56	34%
No response	5	

The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.		
Strongly Agree	11	7%
Agree	23	14%
Neutral	29	17%
Disagree	43	26%
Strongly Disagree	60	36%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	34	20%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	103	62%
No response	5	

I have been helped significantly by a staff member with a particular problem.		
Strongly Agree	3	2%
Agree	15	9%
Neutral	28	17%
Disagree	58	35%
Strongly Disagree	63	38%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	18	11%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	121	72%
No response	4	

Overall, I am treated fairly by staff.		
Strongly Agree	4	2%
Agree	29	17%
Neutral	42	25%
Disagree	40	24%
Strongly Disagree	54	32%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	33	20%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	94	56%
No response	2	

I am treated as a person of value.		
Strongly Agree	0	0%
Agree	14	8%
Neutral	20	12%
Disagree	47	28%
Strongly Disagree	89	52%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	14	8%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	136	80%
No response	1	

Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.		
Strongly Agree	67	40%
Agree	69	41%
Neutral	17	10%
Disagree	11	7%
Strongly Disagree	4	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	136	81%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	15	9%
No response	3	

I feel safe from being injured, bullied, or threatened by other incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	16	10%
Agree	34	20%
Neutral	52	31%
Disagree	37	22%
Strongly Disagree	28	17%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	50	30%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	65	39%
No response	4	

If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.		
Strongly Agree	12	7%
Agree	17	10%
Neutral	19	11%
Disagree	45	27%
Strongly Disagree	74	44%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	29	17%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	119	71%
No response	4	

To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.		
Strongly Agree	30	18%
Agree	51	31%
Neutral	48	29%
Disagree	31	19%
Strongly Disagree	3	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	81	50%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	34	21%
No response	8	

Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	89	53%
Agree	46	28%
Neutral	16	10%
Disagree	10	6%
Strongly Disagree	6	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	135	81%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	16	10%
No response	4	

Staff have enough experience and expertise to deal with issues that matter to me.		
Strongly Agree	6	4%
Agree	8	5%
Neutral	28	17%
Disagree	67	40%
Strongly Disagree	57	34%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	14	8%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	124	75%
No response	5	

To get things done, you have to ask and ask and ask.		
Strongly Agree	114	68%
Agree	37	22%
Neutral	10	6%
Disagree	4	2%
Strongly Disagree	3	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	151	90%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	7	4%
No response	3	

Supervision of incarcerated people is poor.		
Strongly Agree	61	37%
Agree	31	19%
Neutral	44	27%
Disagree	22	13%
Strongly Disagree	7	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	92	56%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	29	18%
No response	6	

I can't improve my situation through good behavior.		
Strongly Agree	51	31%
Agree	38	23%
Neutral	42	25%
Disagree	24	15%
Strongly Disagree	10	6%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	89	54%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	34	21%
No response	6	

The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.		
Strongly Agree	39	23%
Agree	31	18%
Neutral	26	15%
Disagree	35	21%
Strongly Disagree	37	22%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	70	42%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	72	43%
No response	3	

My experience of imprisonment in this particular prison has been stressful.		
Strongly Agree	103	61%
Agree	38	23%
Neutral	14	8%
Disagree	10	6%
Strongly Disagree	3	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	141	84%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	13	8%
No response	3	

Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.		
Strongly Agree	67	40%
Agree	42	25%
Neutral	34	20%
Disagree	19	11%
Strongly Disagree	6	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	109	65%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	25	15%
No response	3	

I have to be careful about everything I do, or it can be used against me.		
Strongly Agree	110	65%
Agree	39	23%
Neutral	13	8%
Disagree	5	3%
Strongly Disagree	3	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	149	88%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	8	5%
No response	1	

On the whole, I am just doing time rather than using my time.		
Strongly Agree	69	41%
Agree	35	21%
Neutral	30	18%
Disagree	25	15%
Strongly Disagree	9	5%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	104	62%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	34	20%
No response	3	

Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.		
Strongly Agree	10	6%
Agree	43	27%
Neutral	42	26%
Disagree	33	20%
Strongly Disagree	33	20%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	53	33%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	66	41%
No response	10	

This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.		
Strongly Agree	12	7%
Agree	6	4%
Neutral	33	20%
Disagree	39	23%
Strongly Disagree	76	46%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	18	11%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	115	69%
No response	5	

When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.		
Strongly Agree	5	3%
Agree	17	10%
Neutral	38	23%
Disagree	52	31%
Strongly Disagree	55	33%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	22	13%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	107	64%
No response	4	

This prison is well organized.		
Strongly Agree	2	1%
Agree	8	5%
Neutral	9	5%
Disagree	42	25%
Strongly Disagree	107	64%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	10	6%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	149	89%
No response	3	

You never know the rules.		
Strongly Agree	61	36%
Agree	38	22%
Neutral	33	19%
Disagree	25	15%
Strongly Disagree	13	8%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	99	58%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	38	22%
No response	1	

I feel that I am treated with respect by staff.		
Strongly Agree	6	4%
Agree	15	9%
Neutral	38	23%
Disagree	36	22%
Strongly Disagree	71	43%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	21	13%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	107	64%
No response	5	

My experience in this prison is painful.		
Strongly Agree	76	46%
Agree	38	23%
Neutral	29	17%
Disagree	23	14%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	114	69%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	23	14%
No response	5	

I have to buy and sell things in order to get by.		
Strongly Agree	27	16%
Agree	28	17%
Neutral	35	21%
Disagree	47	28%
Strongly Disagree	28	17%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	55	33%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	75	45%
No response	6	

There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	53	33%
Agree	37	23%
Neutral	47	29%
Disagree	20	12%
Strongly Disagree	5	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	90	56%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	25	15%
No response	9	

Decisions are dominated by concerns about security.		
Strongly Agree	25	15%
Agree	28	17%
Neutral	61	37%
Disagree	30	18%
Strongly Disagree	21	13%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	53	32%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	51	31%
No response	6	

The disciplinary system is fair.		
Strongly Agree	2	1%
Agree	12	7%
Neutral	26	16%
Disagree	46	28%
Strongly Disagree	80	48%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	14	8%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	126	76%
No response	5	

My time here seems like a chance to make positive changes.		
Strongly Agree	17	11%
Agree	30	19%
Neutral	35	22%
Disagree	28	17%
Strongly Disagree	51	32%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	47	29%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	79	49%
No response	10	

There are a few incarcerated people who run things on this unit.		
Strongly Agree	23	14%
Agree	35	21%
Neutral	41	25%
Disagree	41	25%
Strongly Disagree	27	16%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	58	35%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	68	41%
No response	4	

I am not being treated as a human being in here.		
Strongly Agree	66	39%
Agree	45	26%
Neutral	30	18%
Disagree	24	14%
Strongly Disagree	5	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	111	65%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	29	17%
No response	1	

You have to be in a group or gang in order to get by.		
Strongly Agree	15	9%
Agree	18	11%
Neutral	35	21%
Disagree	61	37%
Strongly Disagree	37	22%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	33	20%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	98	59%
No response	5	

Bullying behavior by incarcerated people is not tolerated.		
Strongly Agree	12	7%
Agree	24	15%
Neutral	45	27%
Disagree	55	34%
Strongly Disagree	28	17%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	36	22%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	83	51%
No response	7	

When important decisions are made about me, I am treated as an individual and not a number.		
Strongly Agree	7	4%
Agree	11	7%
Neutral	26	15%
Disagree	66	39%
Strongly Disagree	59	35%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	18	11%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	125	74%
No response	2	

All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.		
Strongly Agree	83	49%
Agree	49	29%
Neutral	30	18%
Disagree	7	4%
Strongly Disagree	1	1%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	132	78%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	8	5%
No response	1	

Drugs cause a lot of problems between incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	14	9%
Agree	21	13%
Neutral	38	23%
Disagree	52	32%
Strongly Disagree	39	24%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	35	21%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	91	55%
No response	7	

Anyone who harms themselves is considered by staff to be more of an attention seeker than someone who needs help.		
Strongly Agree	49	29%
Agree	48	29%
Neutral	45	27%
Disagree	19	11%
Strongly Disagree	6	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	97	58%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	25	15%
No response	4	

I am able to maintain meaningful contact with my outside supports.		
Strongly Agree	33	20%
Agree	54	32%
Neutral	35	21%
Disagree	19	11%
Strongly Disagree	26	16%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	87	52%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	45	27%
No response	4	

This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.		
Strongly Agree	81	48%
Agree	56	33%
Neutral	24	14%
Disagree	5	3%
Strongly Disagree	2	1%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	137	82%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	7	4%
No response	3	

Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.		
Strongly Agree	2	1%
Agree	13	8%
Neutral	29	17%
Disagree	52	31%
Strongly Disagree	72	43%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	15	9%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	124	74%
No response	3	

This is a humane prison.		
Strongly Agree	8	5%
Agree	18	11%
Neutral	35	21%
Disagree	48	29%
Strongly Disagree	59	35%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	26	15%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	107	64%
No response	3	

Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.		
Strongly Agree	32	19%
Agree	22	13%
Neutral	35	21%
Disagree	51	31%
Strongly Disagree	27	16%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	54	32%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	78	47%
No response	4	

This prison is safe for incarcerated people.		
Strongly Agree	6	4%
Agree	38	23%
Neutral	52	31%
Disagree	32	19%
Strongly Disagree	40	24%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	44	26%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	72	43%
No response	3	

Mental health treatment is available.		
Strongly Agree	33	20%
Agree	59	36%
Neutral	40	25%
Disagree	10	6%
Strongly Disagree	21	13%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	92	56%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	31	19%
No response	8	

This prison is better now than it was last year.		
Strongly Agree	2	1%
Agree	9	6%
Neutral	61	38%
Disagree	22	14%
Strongly Disagree	67	42%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	11	7%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	89	55%
No response	10	

I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.		
Strongly Agree	47	28%
Agree	54	32%
Neutral	27	16%
Disagree	17	10%
Strongly Disagree	22	13%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	101	60%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	39	23%
No response	4	

Every effort is made by this prison to help people stop committing offenses on release from custody.		
Strongly Agree	3	2%
Agree	10	6%
Neutral	23	14%
Disagree	43	26%
Strongly Disagree	89	53%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	13	8%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	132	79%
No response	3	

I am satisfied with food from dietary.		
Strongly Agree	2	1%
Agree	14	8%
Neutral	21	12%
Disagree	40	24%
Strongly Disagree	92	54%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	16	9%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	132	78%
No response	2	

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)	54	33%
2	21	13%
3	34	21%
4	20	12%
5	15	9%
6	9	6%
7	5	3%
8	3	2%
9	0	0%
10 (Highest)	2	1%
<i>1-5</i>	144	88%
<i>6-10</i>	19	12%
No Response	8	
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.

