



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
JUSTICE RESEARCH INITIATIVE

VERMONT PRISON CLIMATE SURVEYS

SUMMARY FINDINGS REPORT

RE-ORDERED TO SUPPORT HOUSE CORRECTIONS AND INSTITUTIONS TESTIMONY

FEB 16, 2022



SURVEY RESPONDENTS - STAFF



70%

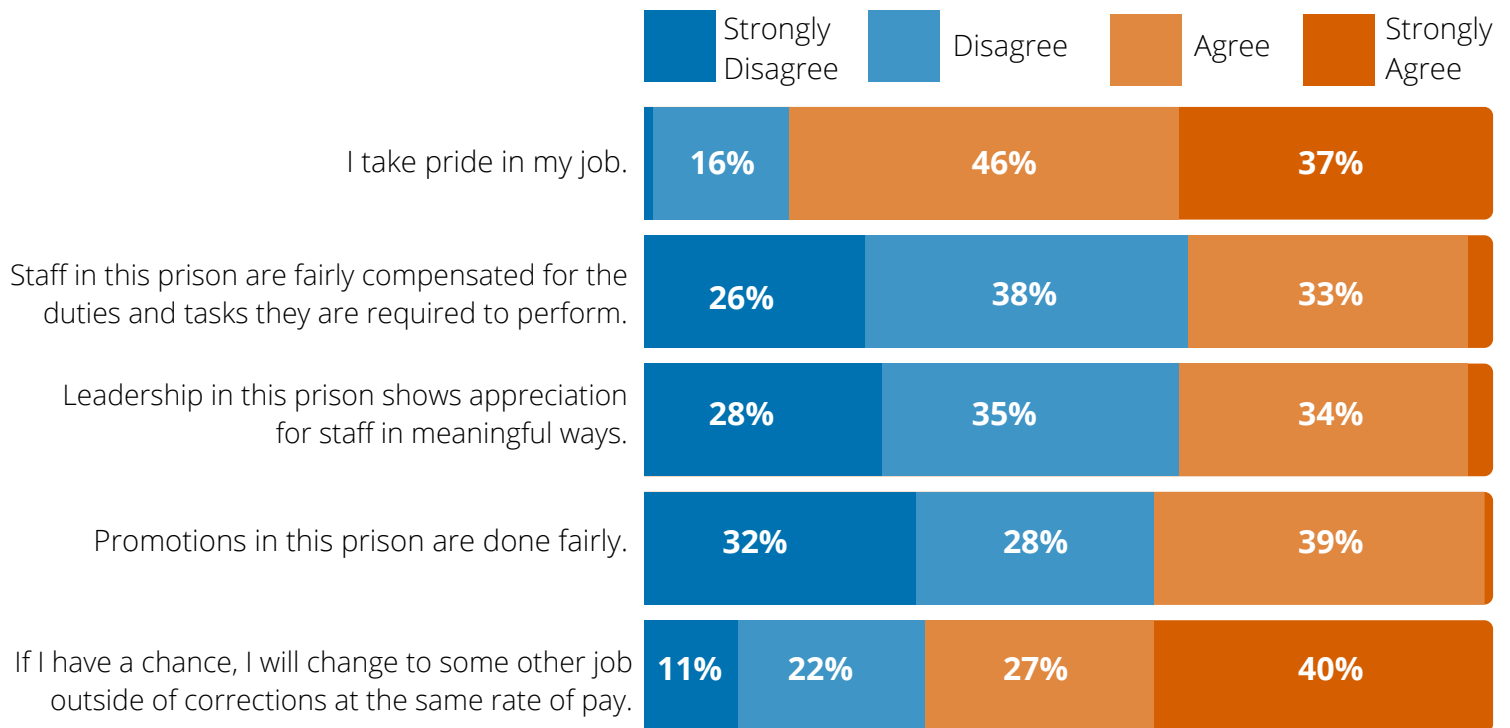
of correctional
staff completed
the survey.

- Age: 42 years (median)
- Race: 91% white
- Ethnicity: 86% white
- Gender identity: 21% female, 79% male
- Employer: 95% corrections, 5% contractor
- # Years working at SSCF
 - 40% 0-5 years, 60% 6+ years
- # Years working in Corrections
 - 33% 0-5 years, 67% 6+ years

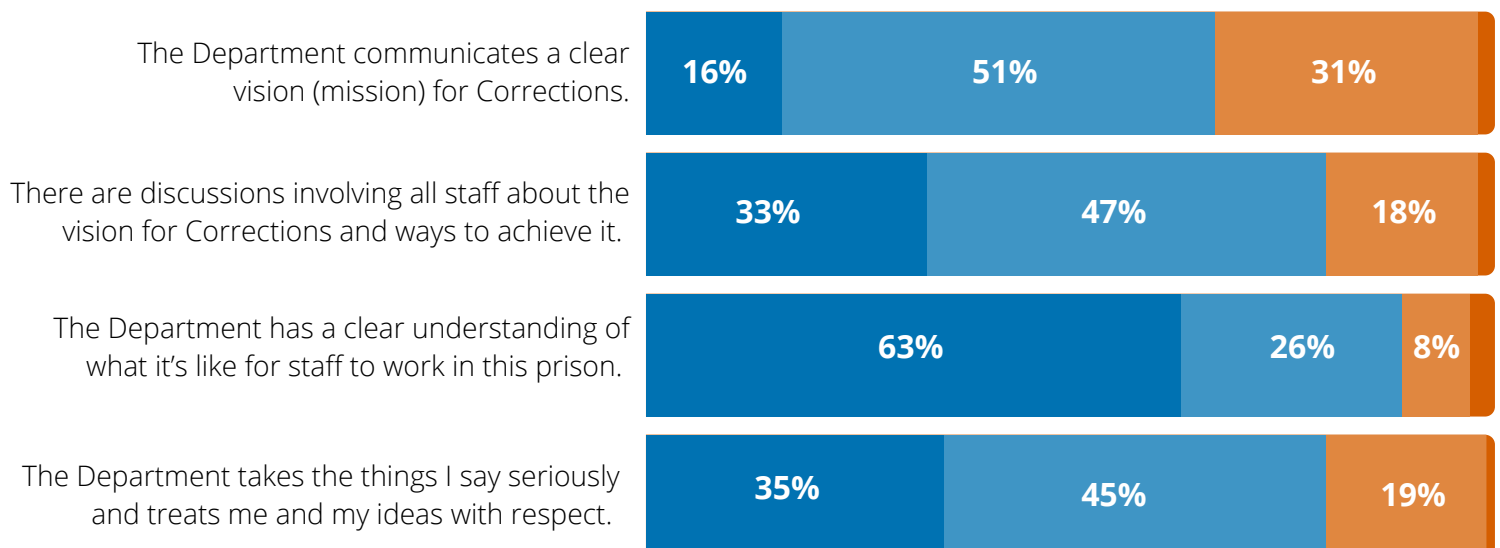
The Correctional Staff Vermont Prison Climate Survey was administered to staff working in Vermont's Southern State Correctional Facility in June 2021. Surveys were paper-based, confidential, and anonymous. Of 131 eligible correctional staff, 92 completed the survey (70% response rate). The demographic data presented here are self-reported.



1. JOB SATISFACTION



2. THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS (CENTRAL OFFICE)





SURVEY RESPONDENTS - INCARCERATED PERSONS



70%

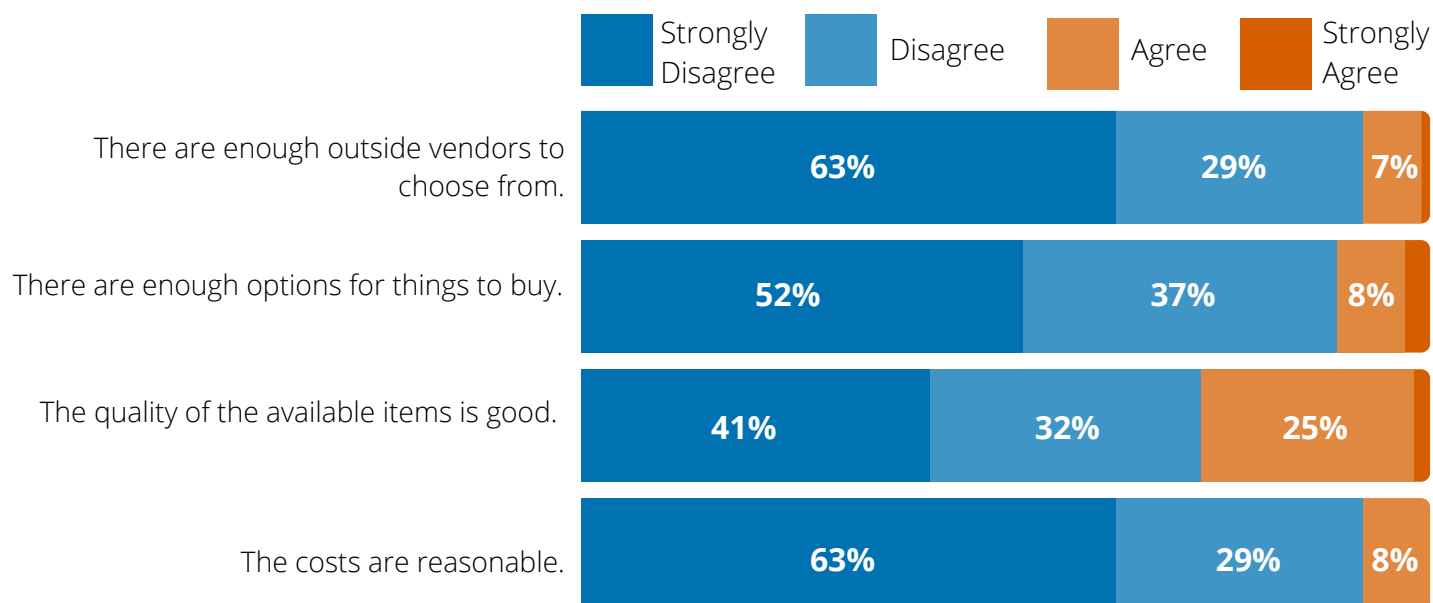
of incarcerated
persons
completed the
survey.

- Age: 39 years (median)
- Race: 80% white
- Ethnicity: 77% white
- Gender identity: 91% male
 - Transgender: 6%
- Status:
 - 27% Detained, awaiting trial
 - 50% Serving sentence
 - 22% Incarcerated for a violation of conditions
- # Years incarcerated at SSCF
 - 85% 0-5 years, 15% 6+ years

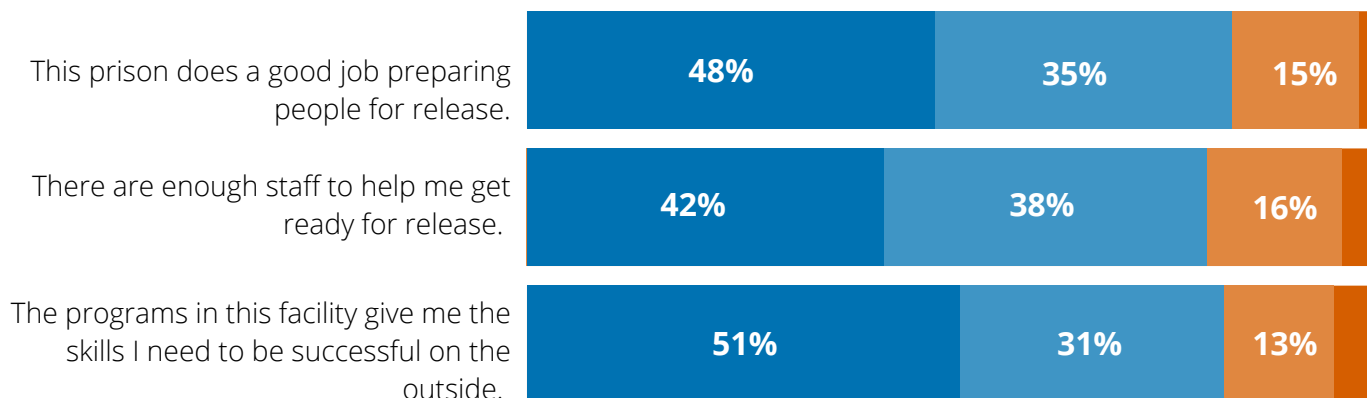
The Incarcerated Persons Vermont Prison Climate Survey was administered to people incarcerated in Vermont's Southern State Correctional Facility in June 2021. Surveys were paper-based, confidential, and anonymous. Of 267 eligible incarcerated people, 186 completed the survey (70% response rate). The demographic data presented here are self-reported.



1. COMMISSARY

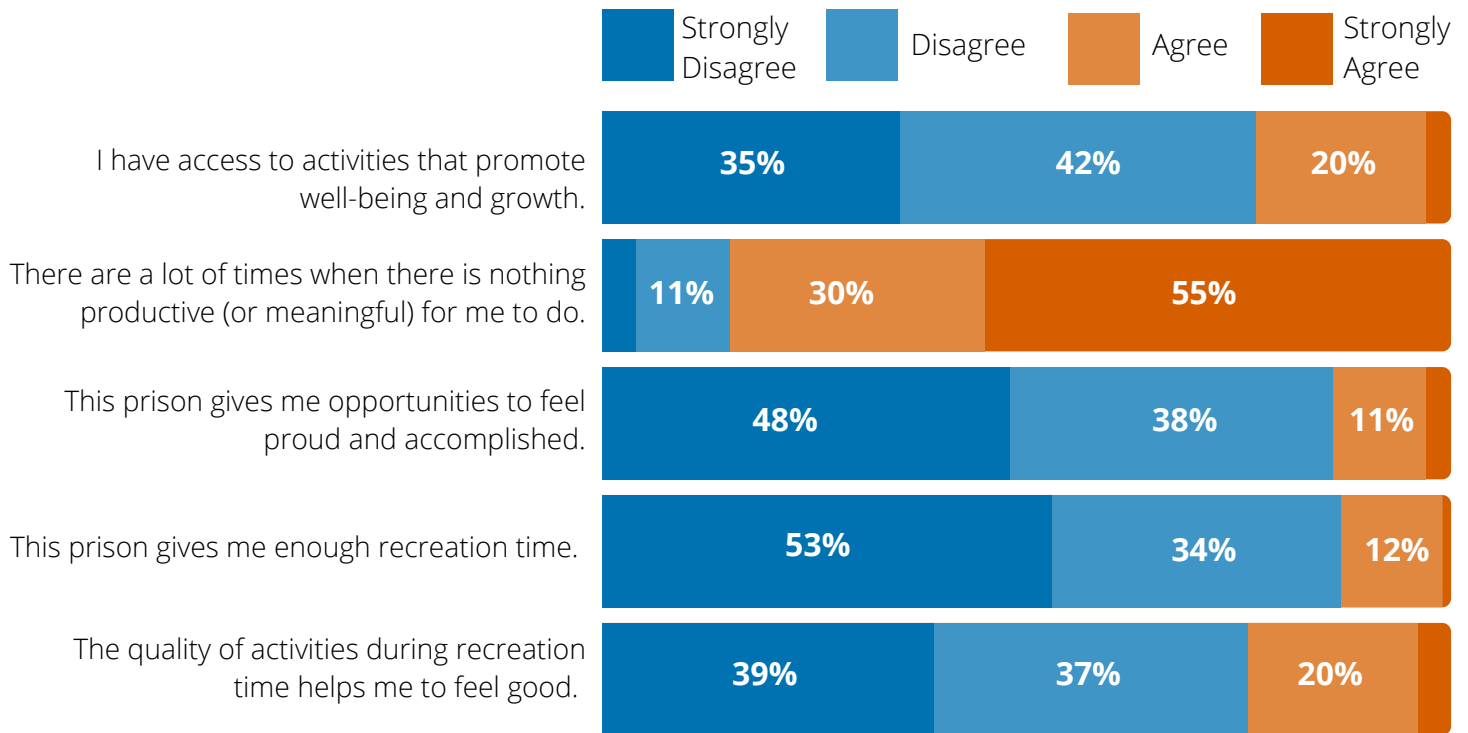


2. PLANNING & PREPARATION FOR RELEASE





3. PRISON ACTIVITIES

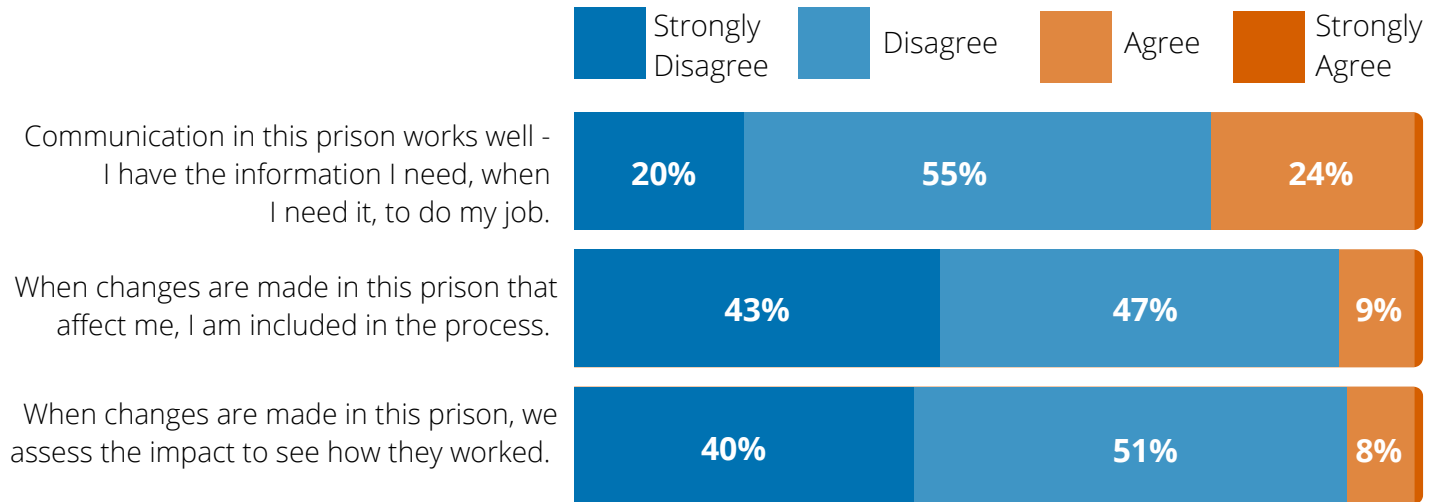


When asked, "What types of programs would you find most helpful to meet your needs?" This is how incarcerated people answered:

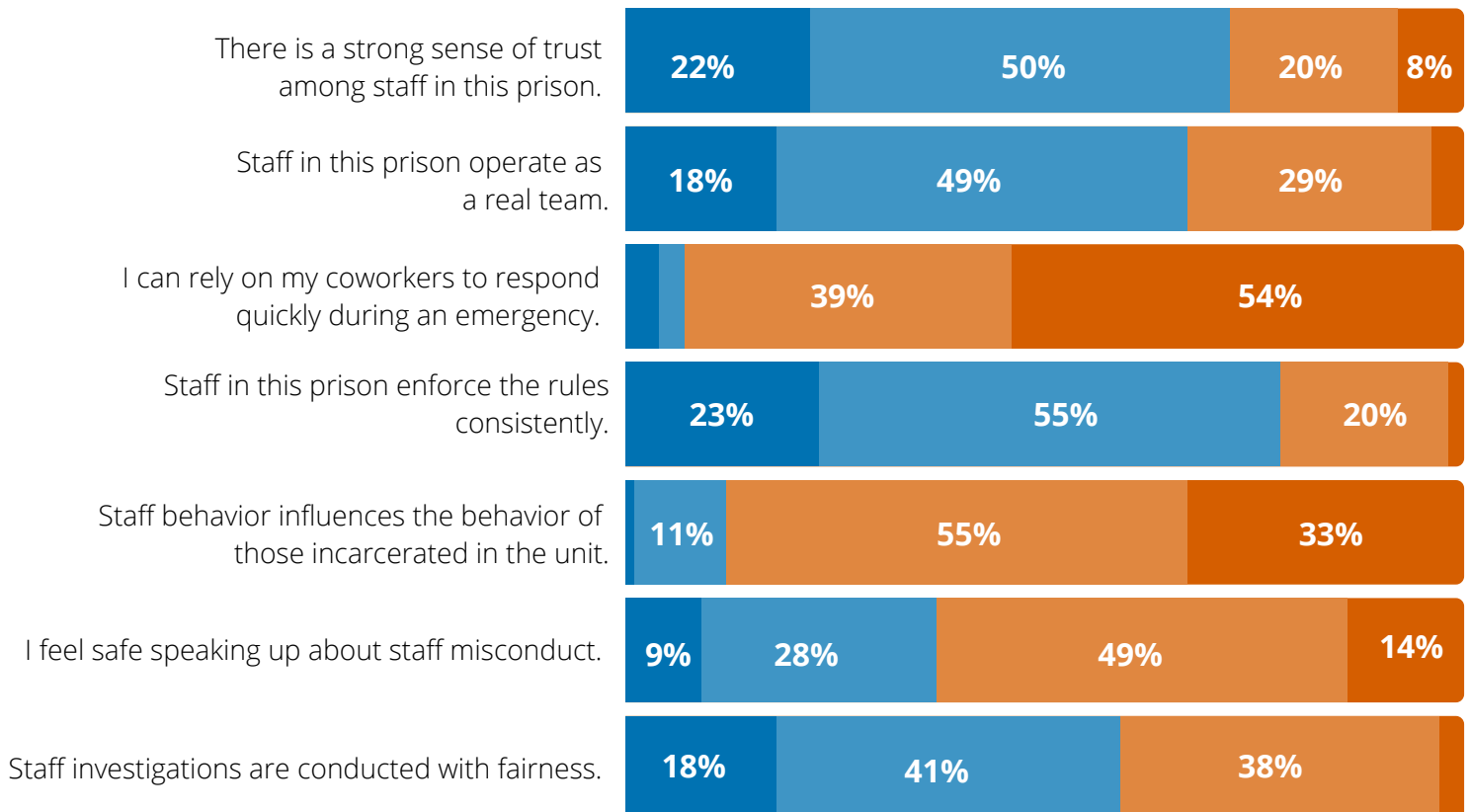
- **63%** Job Training.
- **49%** Community service (e.g. dog training program, gardening for food shelf).
- **47%** Meaningful activities to pass time (e.g. book club, music or art programs).
- **35%** Education.



3. COMMUNICATIONS & CHANGE

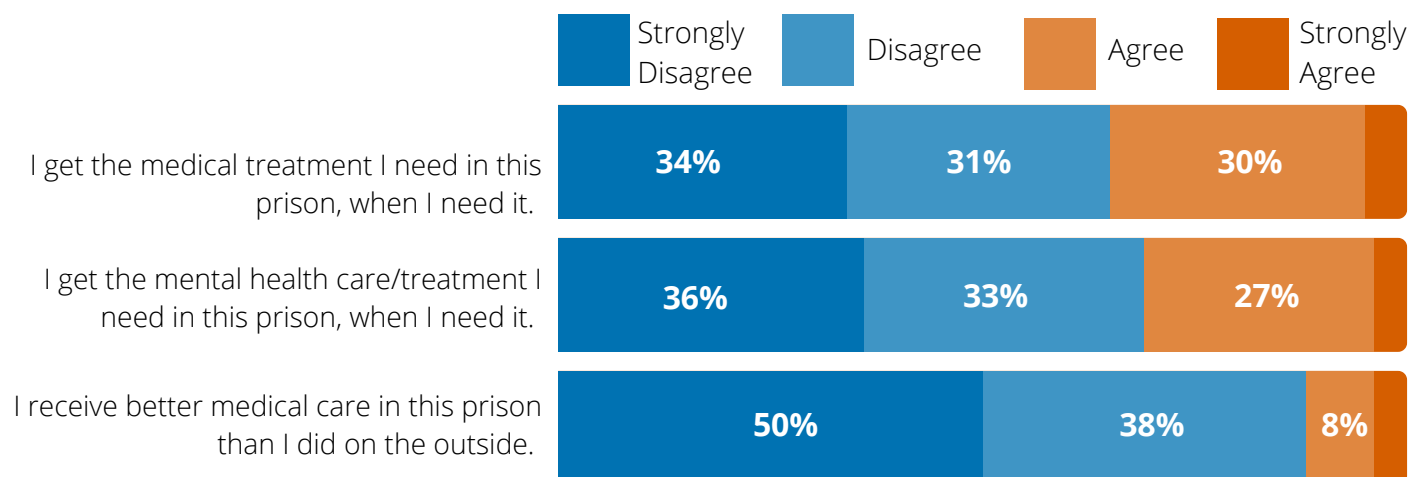


4. STAFF RELATIONSHIPS & CULTURE





4. MEDICAL & MENTAL HEALTH CARE



5. HEALTH & WELL-BEING



When asked, "Since entering prison, have you developed the following health conditions?" This is how incarcerated people answered:

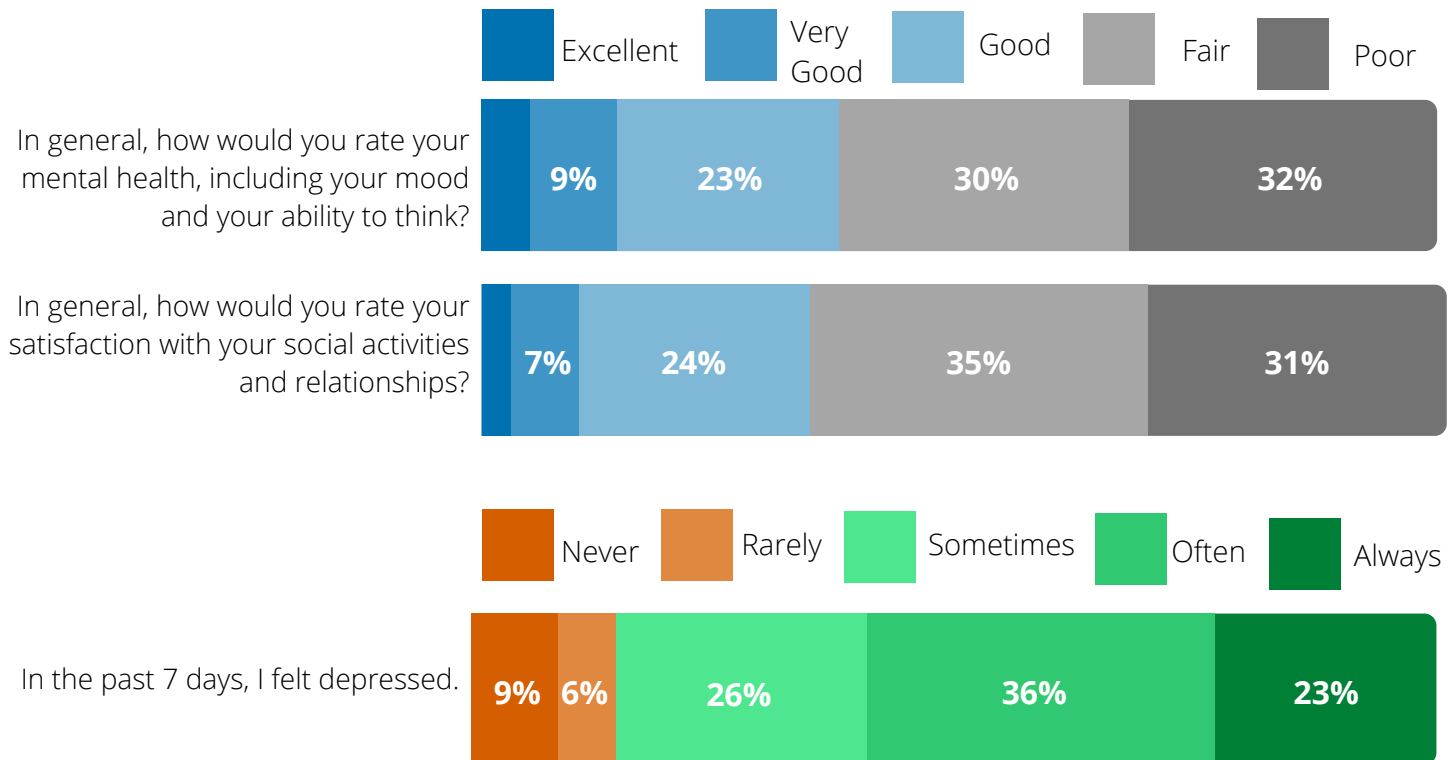
➤ **70%** Anxiety

➤ **65%** Depression

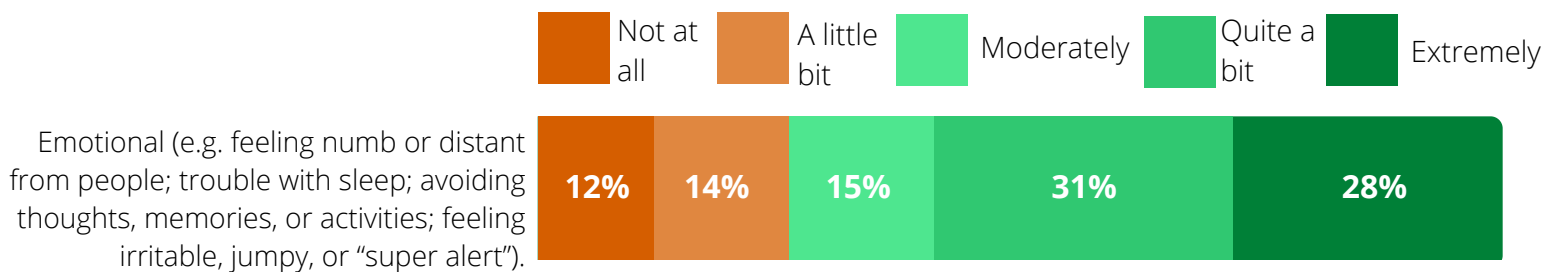
➤ **55%** Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)



5. HEALTH & WELL-BEING, CONTINUED



In the past month, how much have you been bothered by emotional reactions when something reminded you of a stressful experience from the past?



At any time in the last 12 months did you seriously think about trying to kill yourself?





5. CORRECTIONAL PRACTICES & ACTIVITIES

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

There are options for staff to reward incarcerated people for good behavior.

22%

51%

26%

The programs in this prison give incarcerated people the skills they need to be successful in the community.

38%

48%

13%

When incarcerated people do not have enough to do they are more likely to engage in negative behavior.

42%

53%

This prison provides enough opportunities so incarcerated people can stay busy all day.

38%

46%

16%

6. STAFFING

There are enough staff to meet the current needs of this prison.

85%

9%

Frequent staff turnover is a problem in this prison.

13%

84%

Mandatory overtime is a problem in this prison.

14%

82%

My work schedule causes conflict at home.

11%

31%

19%

39%

Generally, staff morale is high.

72%

23%

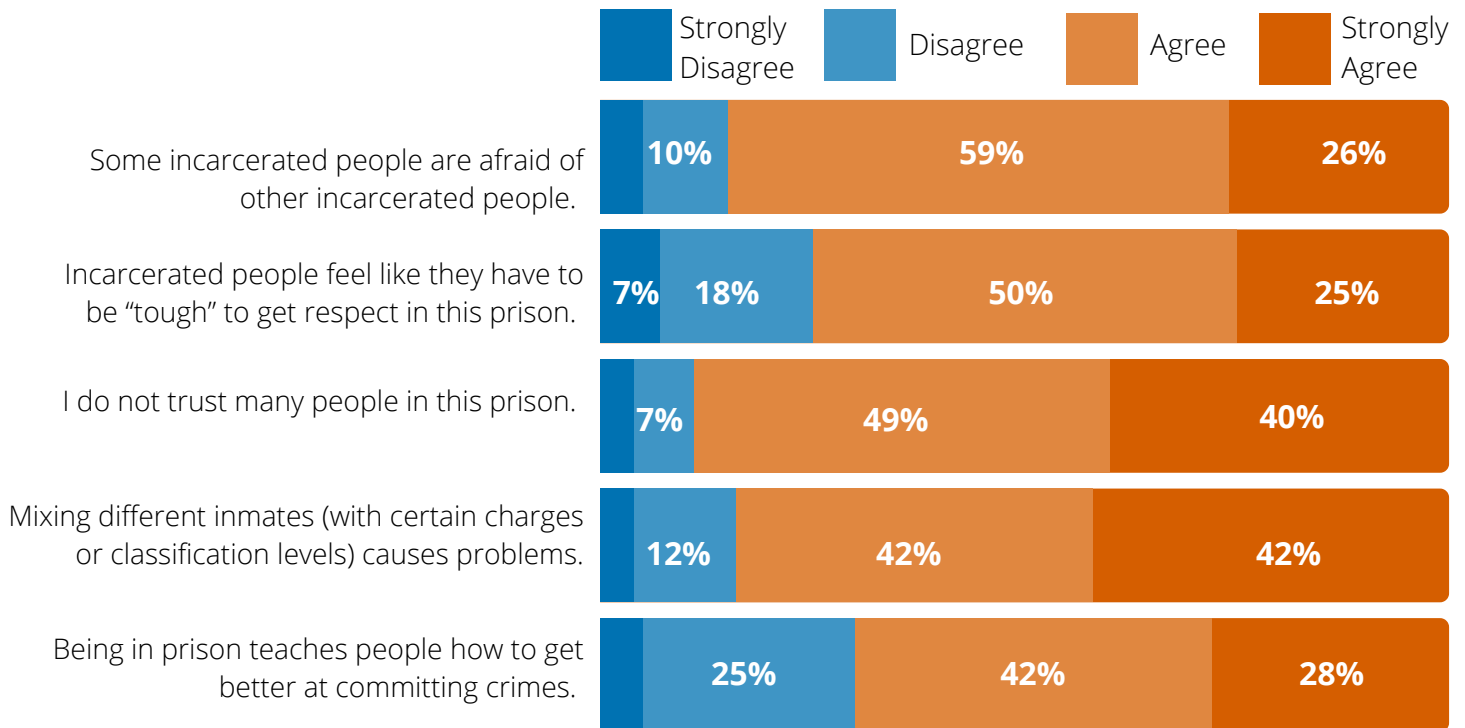
My coworkers show signs of stress.

18%

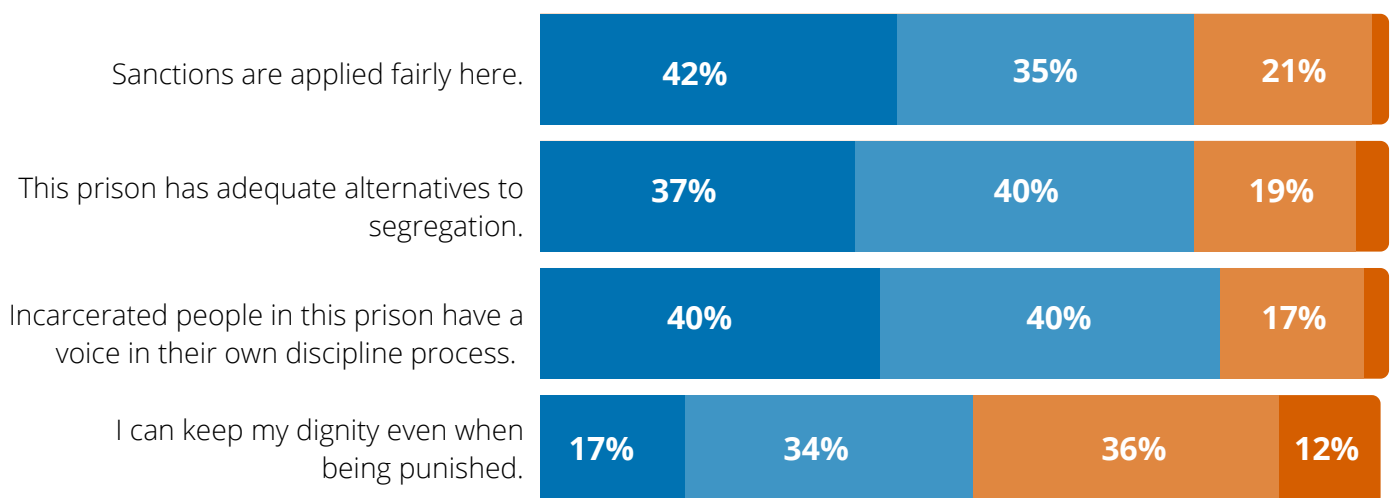
79%



6. PRISON CULTURE

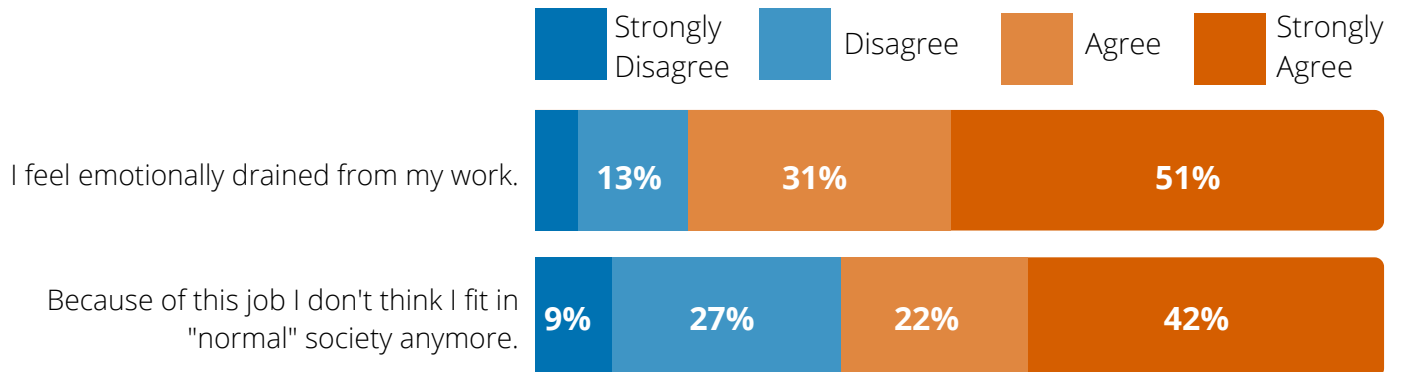


7. DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES





7. HEALTH & WELL-BEING

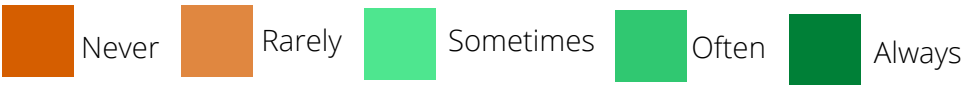


When asked, "Since starting work in corrections, have you developed the following health conditions?" This is how correctional staff answered:

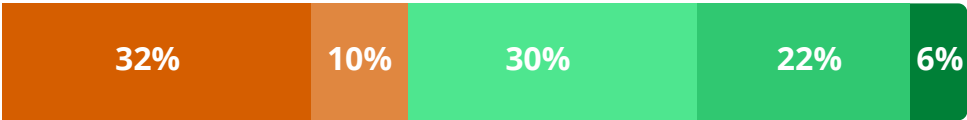
- **49%** Anxiety
- **46%** Depression
- **43%** Being overweight or obese
- **40%** High blood pressure
- **39%** Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- **23%** Alcohol or substance use disorder



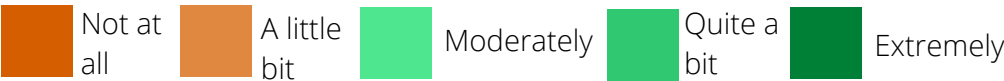
7. HEALTH & WELL-BEING, CONTINUED



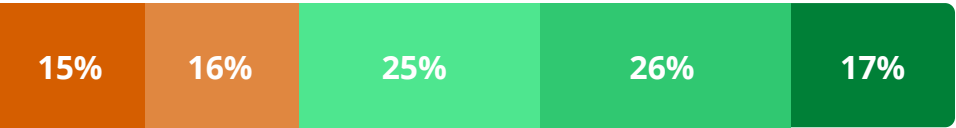
In the past 7 days, I felt depressed.



In the past month, how much have you been bothered by emotional reactions when something reminded you of a stressful experience from the past?



Emotional (e.g. feeling numb or distant from people; trouble with sleep; avoiding thoughts, memories, or activities; feeling irritable, jumpy, or “super alert”).

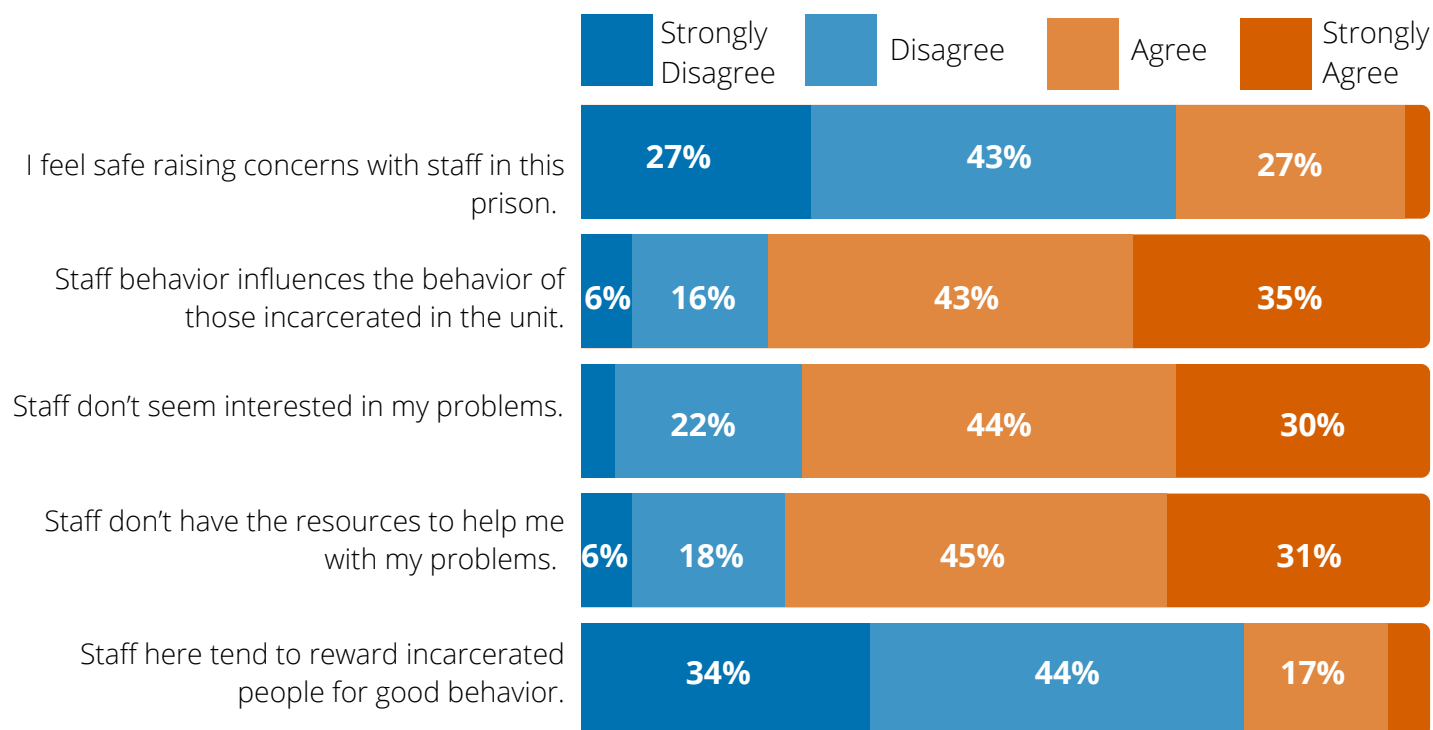


At any time in the last 12 months did you seriously think about trying to kill yourself?





8. CORRECTIONAL STAFF & PRACTICES



9. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

