

HMIPS Pre-Inspection Survey Findings (Pilot)

**HMP Shotts
April 2022**

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Introduction

This document reports on the findings of the HMIPS pre-inspection survey conducted in HMP Shotts on 12-13th April 2022.

A total of 240 prisoners in HMP Shotts were asked to complete the survey, of whom 145 completed and returned it, providing a 60% response rate. The sample is therefore representative of the whole population of HMP Shotts prisoners at a 95% confidence level with a 7% margin of error.

The data is presented according to the HMIPS inspection standards. There are no results for Standard 8 as the questionnaire does not ask any questions relating to this standard in the prisoner survey. Responses to the questions on Standard 7 (transitions to the community) have been omitted because of the small number of prisoners who reported being due for release in the next six weeks.

Method and limitations

The survey was conducted by HMIPS staff and two Independent Prison Monitors (IPMs). Approximately one week before, HMIPS requested a full list of prisoners held in HMP Shotts on that date, including their cell location, and a random sample of prisoners were taken from this list.

Where possible, HMIPS staff/IPMs personally spoke to each selected participant, to explain the survey and ask if they wished to take part. Those who wanted to take part were given a paper copy of the questionnaire along with the privacy notice, a pen and an envelope. They were also asked if they required assistance to complete the questionnaire, and so, this was provided. Those who did not wish to take part were not given the questionnaire. Respondents were asked to complete the questionnaire and seal it in the envelope provided and to hand it back to HMIPS staff/IPMs when they returned later in the day. Where selected participants were at work or elsewhere when the survey was handed out, a survey and cover letter were left on their bed for them to complete when they returned. HMIPS staff returned to each hall several times throughout the day, and the following day, to collect completed questionnaires.

The responses to each completed questionnaire were entered into a digital version of the same survey by HMIPS staff on site, and these results were analysed.

As with all survey data, the findings reported here are limited by a number of factors, including non-response and response bias. And while it is planned for future surveys, it was not possible during this pilot to translate the survey into languages other than English.

Note on presentation of data

With the exception of the demographic information in the respondent profile section, for each question in the following report, any non-responses or invalid responses have been excluded from the analysis. When conducting the data entry, responses were marked as invalid where a respondent had ticked two or more answers, or

where it was not clear which box they had ticked. Where any other type of response has been excluded in this analysis, this is explained in the text.

Each chart gives a figure (N = X) to show how many responses are included in the analysis.

Participant Profile

The most common age groups that took part in the survey were 31-40 year olds (32%) and 41-50 year olds (23%). 51-60 year olds made up 17% of participants, as did those aged 30 or under. Those aged over 60 accounted for 8%. 3% of respondents did not disclose their age group.

86% of participants described themselves as white. 10% described themselves as other ethnicities, although the figures were too low to provide breakdowns due to the risk of identifying participants. The remainder chose not to disclose their ethnicity.

92% of participants said that they were UK citizens. The remaining 8% either were not UK citizens or declined to disclose this information.

61% of respondents stated a religion, while 35% said that they had no religion, and 4% did not disclose this information. The most common religious groups were Roman Catholic (26%) and Church of Scotland (19%).

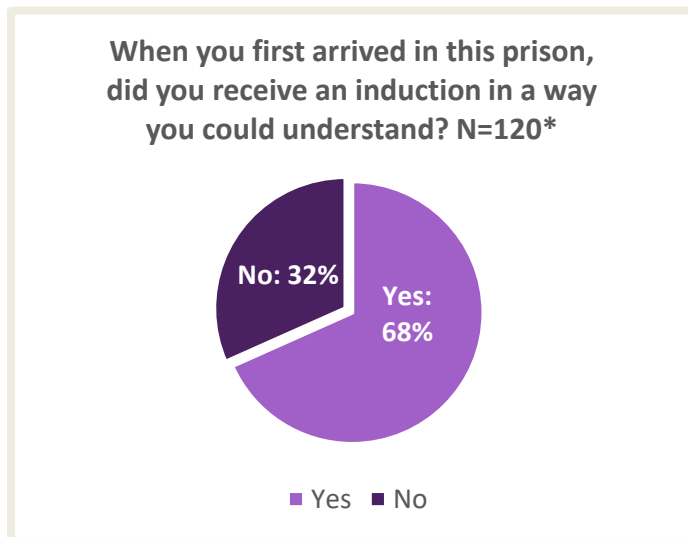
55% said that they had a disability or long-term health condition, 41% said that they did not, and 3% did not provide a valid response to this question.

The majority of participants said that they had been at HMP Shotts for three years or more (63%), and almost all (95%) said that their current sentence was of four years or more.

Standard 1: Lawful and Transparent Custody

Induction

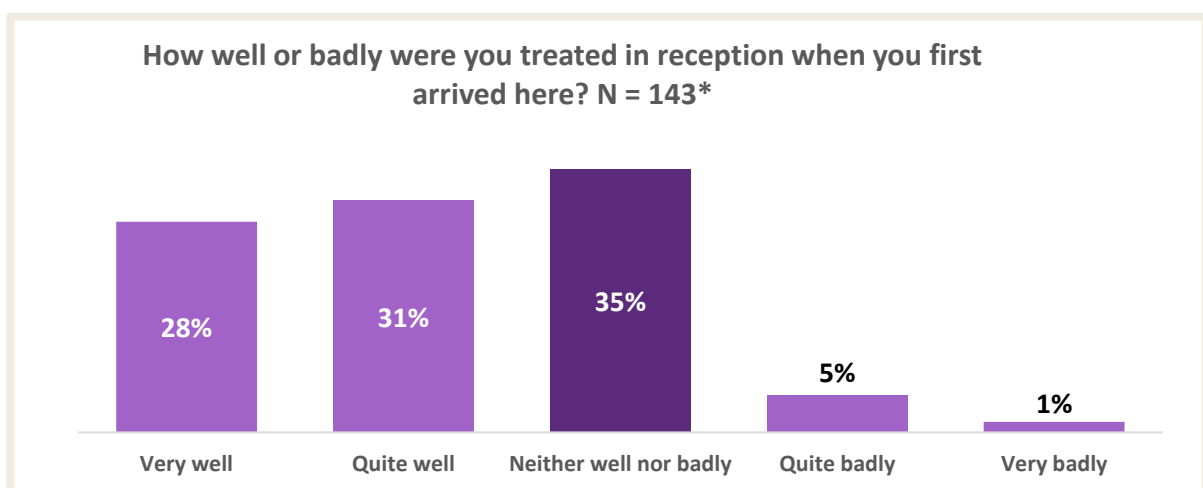
When asked whether they received an induction in a form they could understand when arriving at the prison, 15% of respondents could not remember, and 3% did not provide a valid response. Of the remaining 120 respondents, 68% said that they did receive an induction in a way they could understand, and 32% said that they did not.



*Excludes "don't remember" (15% of valid responses)

Treatment in reception

Of those who could remember how they were treated in reception on arrival (143 respondents), the majority (69%) said that they were treated quite well or very well. A very small proportion (6%) said that they were treated badly in reception.

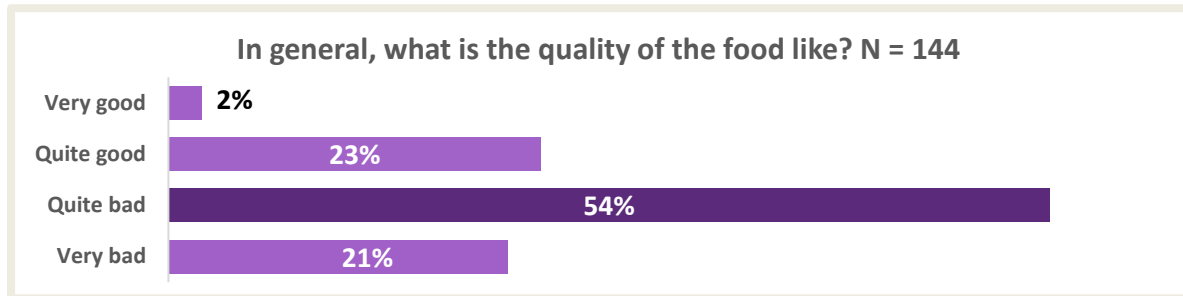


*Excludes "don't remember" (1% of valid responses)

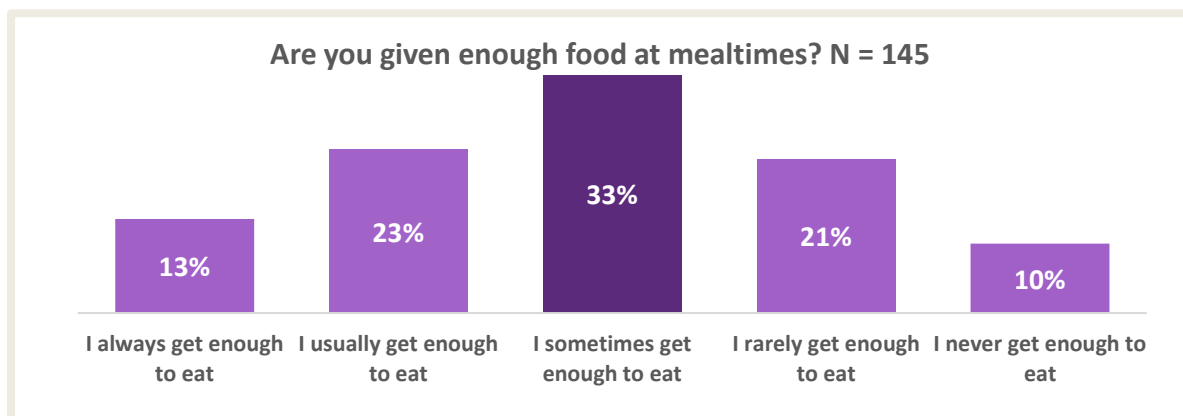
Standard 2: Decency

Food

Overall, respondents viewed the quality of food negatively, with 75% saying that the food was either quite bad or very bad. More than half of all respondents (54%) rated the food as quite bad.

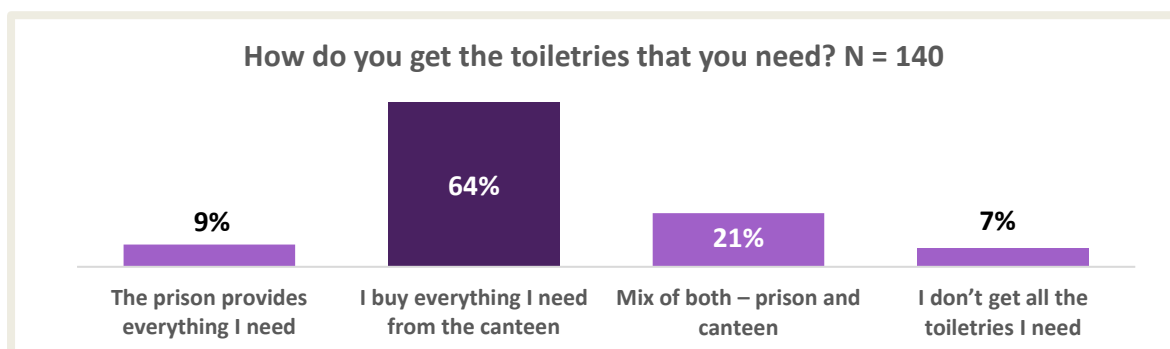


The majority of respondents (87%) reported that they did not always get enough to eat at mealtimes. 23% said that they usually got enough to eat; 33% said that they sometimes got enough to eat; and 31% said that they rarely or never got enough to eat.



Toiletries, showering and laundry

Just 9% of respondents said that the prison provided all the toiletries that they need. The majority (64%) said that they buy all the toiletries that they need from the canteen, while 21% said they get what they need from both the prison and canteen.



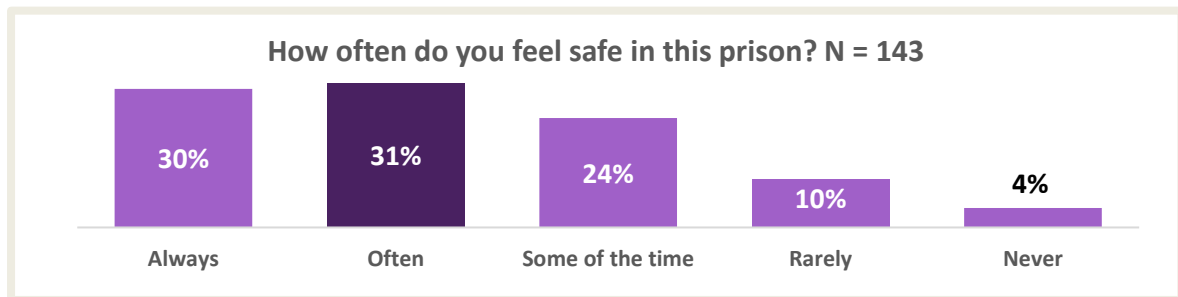
All respondents said that they were able to have a shower every day, and the majority (85%) said that they were able to have their clothes washed at least once a week. 13% said that they could get their clothes washed every 2-3 weeks. 1% said that they could get their clothes washed every 2-3 weeks.



Standard 3: Personal Safety

Perception of safety

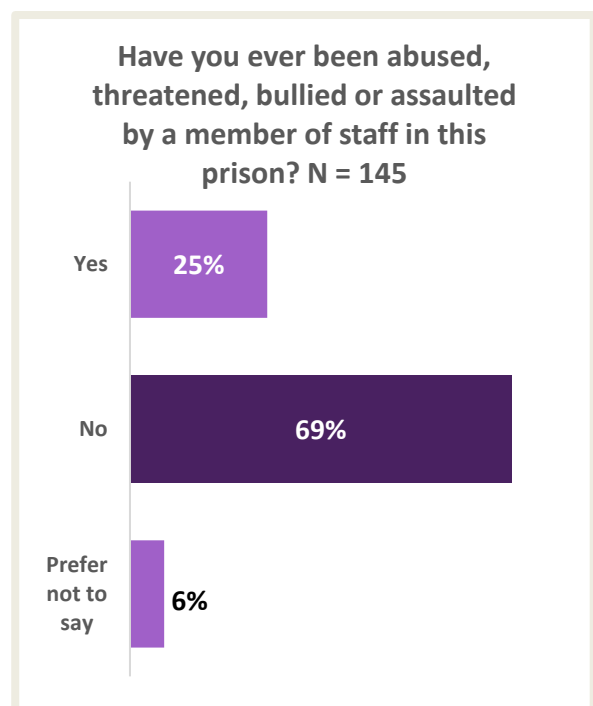
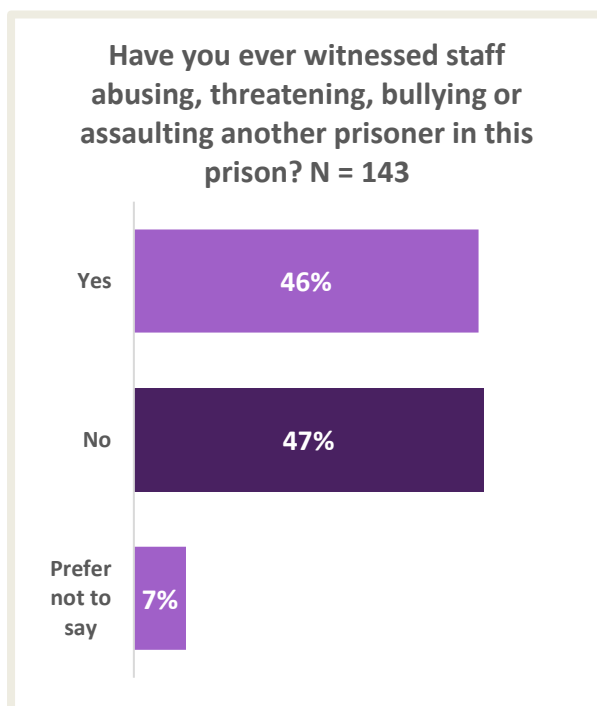
Just under a third (30%) of respondents reported always feeling safe in HMP Shotts, while 14% said that they rarely (10%) or never (4%) felt safe. The most common response was that they often felt safe (31%).



Abuse, threats, bullying or assault by staff

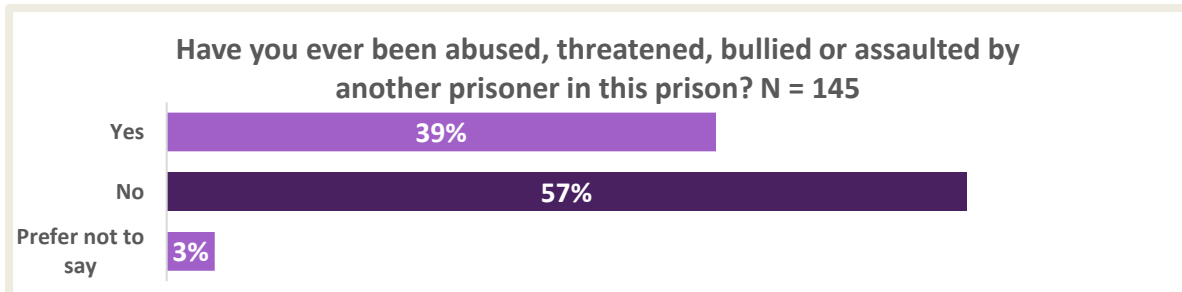
Almost half of respondents (47%) said that they had never witnessed staff abusing, threatening, bullying or assaulting another prisoner, while almost half (46%) said that they had. Of those who answered this question, 7% said that they would prefer not to say.

A quarter of respondents (25%) reported having been abused, threatened, bullied or assaulted by staff in HMP Shotts, while the majority said they had not been (69%). Of those who answered this question, 6% said that they would prefer not to say.



Abuse, threats, bullying or assault by prisoners

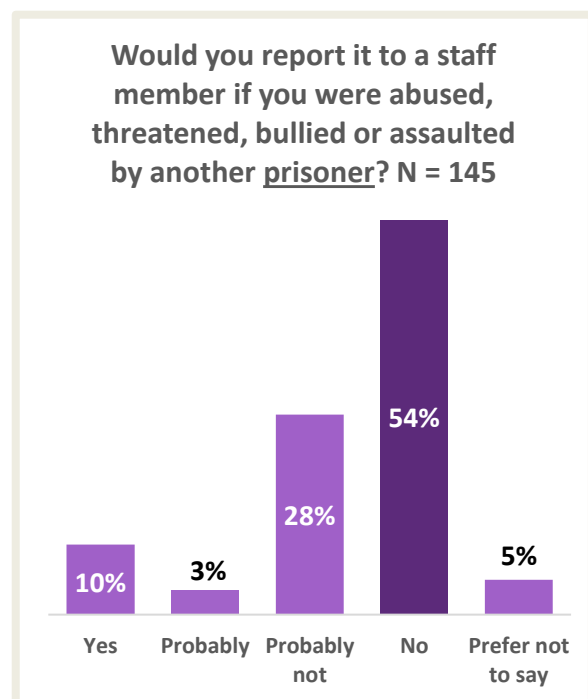
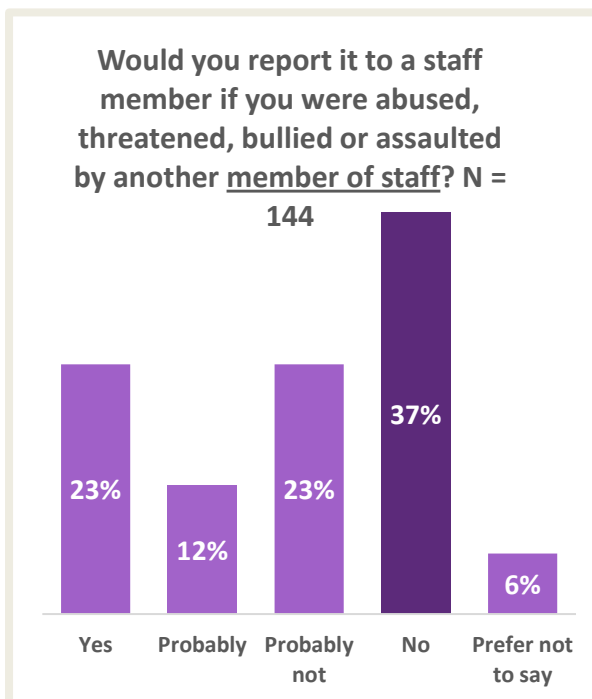
The majority of respondents (57%) said that they had never been abused, threatened, bullied or assaulted by another prisoner in HMP Shotts. Almost four in ten said that they had been (39%), and 3% said that they would prefer not to say.



Reporting abuse, threats, bullying or assault

Most respondents (60%) said that they either would not (37%) or probably would not (23%) report it if they were abused, threatened, bullied or assaulted by a staff member. Just under a quarter (23%) said that they would report it.

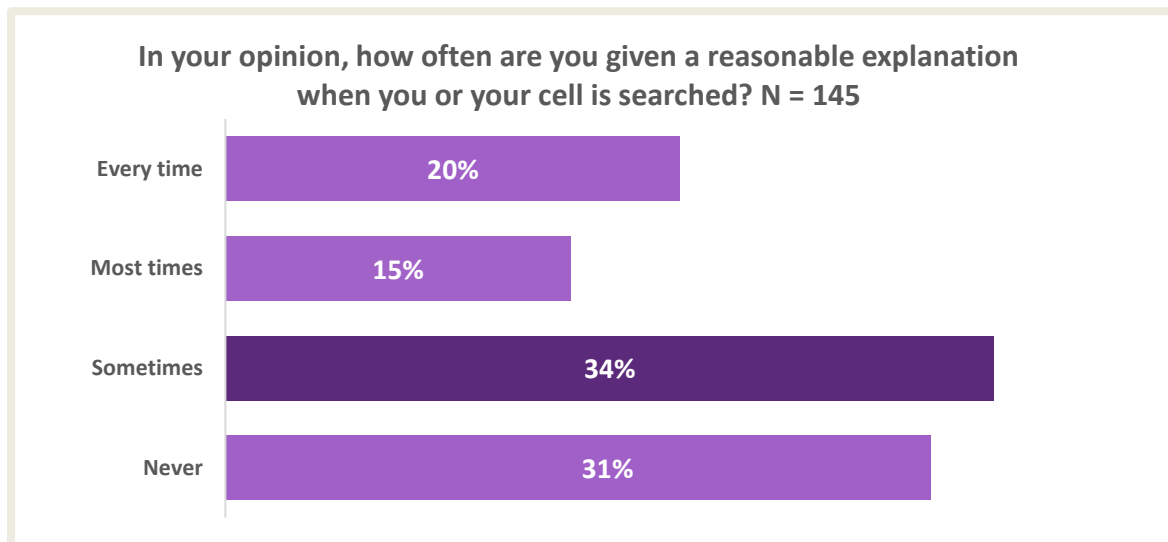
A large majority (82%) said that they would not (54%) or probably would not (28%) report it to staff if they were abused, threatened, bullied or assaulted by another prisoner. Only 10% said they would report it, and 3% said they would probably report it. Of those who responded, 5% said they would prefer not to say.



Standard 4: Effective, Courteous and Humane Use of Authority

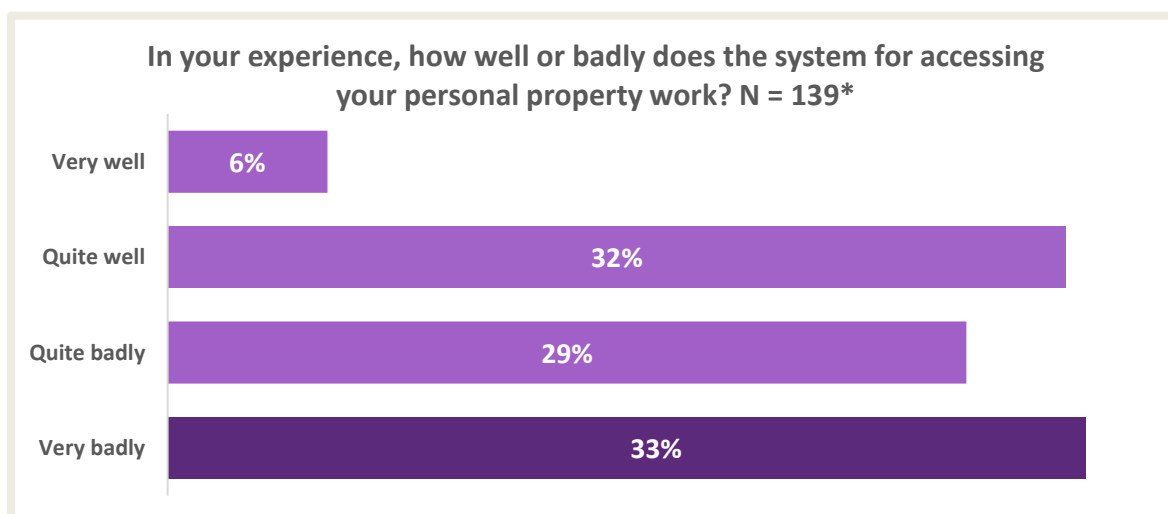
Searching

Just 20% of respondents said that they are given a reasonable explanation every time they or their cell is searched, while 15% said that they were given a reasonable explanation most times. The most common response to this question was that they were sometimes given a reasonable explanation (34%), while 31% said that they were never given a reasonable explanation.



Accessing personal property

Excluding those who said they did not know (4%), the majority of respondents (62%) felt that the system for accessing personal property worked poorly, with 33% saying it worked very badly, and 29% saying it worked quite badly. 38% of respondents felt that the system for accessing personal property worked well, including 32% who said it worked quite well, and 6% who said that it worked very well.

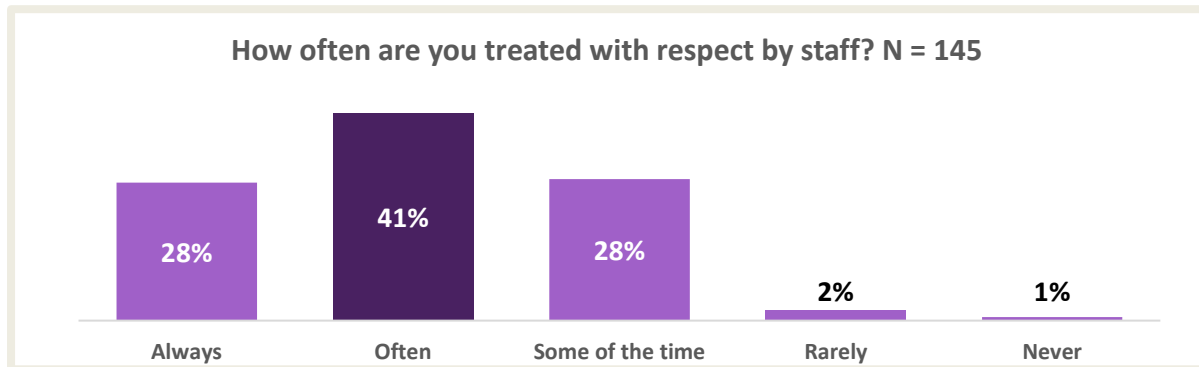


*Excludes "don't know" (4% of valid responses)

Standard 5: Respect, Autonomy and Protection against Mistreatment

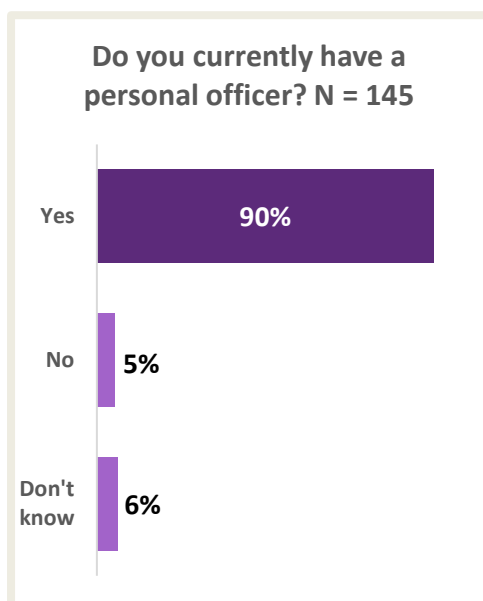
Respect

Almost one third of respondents (28%) said that they were always treated with respect by staff, while 41% said that they were often treated with respect by staff. 3% said that they were rarely or never treated with respect.



Personal officers

90% of respondents said that they currently had a personal officer, while 5% said that they did not, and 6% said they did not know.

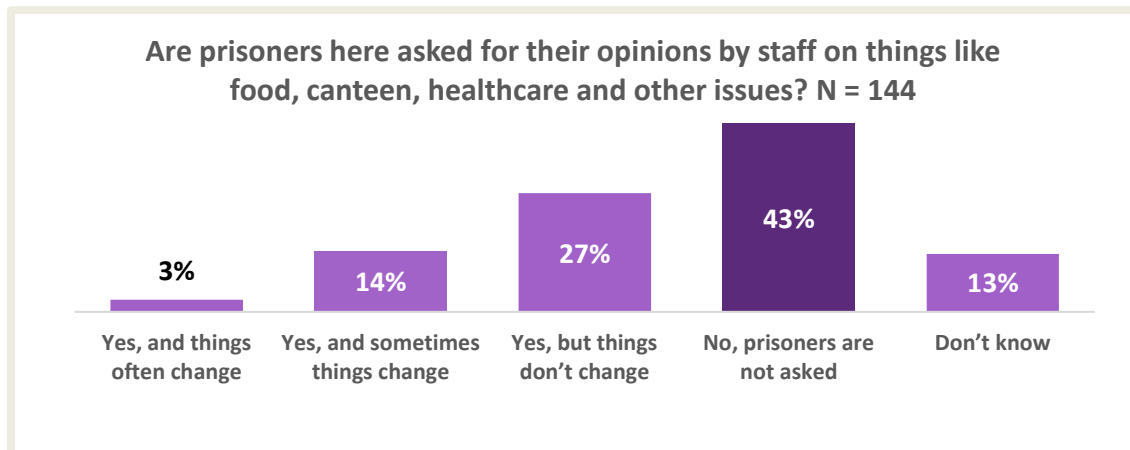


* Responses from those who said they have a personal officer

Those who said they had a personal officer were asked how helpful their personal officer was. Of those who responded, the majority (66%) responded positively, with 34% saying their personal officer was very helpful, and 32% saying they were quite helpful. 13% said that their personal officer was quite unhelpful or very unhelpful.

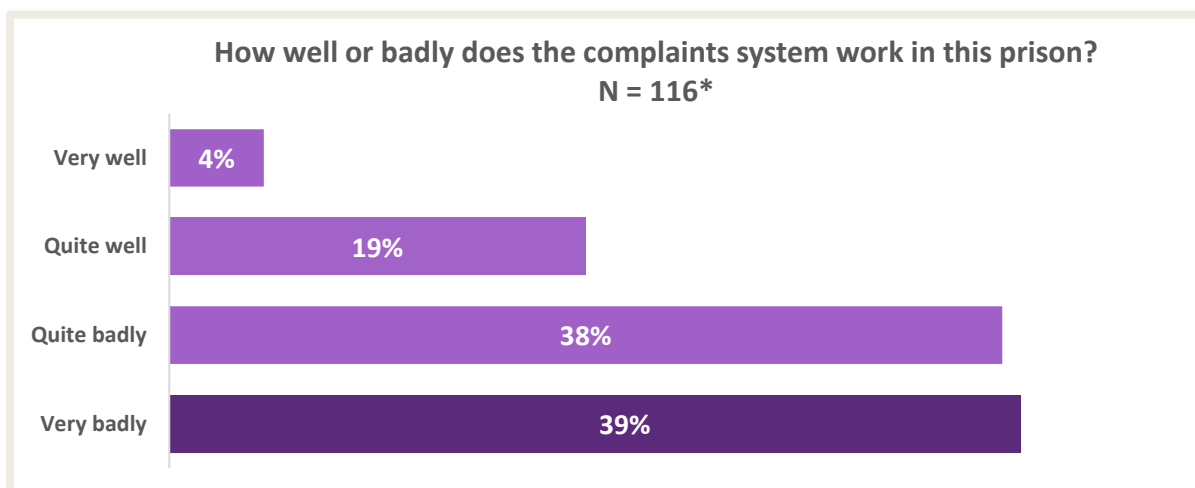
Consultation with prisoners

Most respondents felt that prisoners' opinions were not taken into account regarding things like food, canteen and healthcare. 43% said that prisoners were not asked about these issues, while 27% said that prisoners were asked but nothing changed as a result. Only 17% felt that things sometimes or often changed after prisoners were asked their opinions.



Complaints

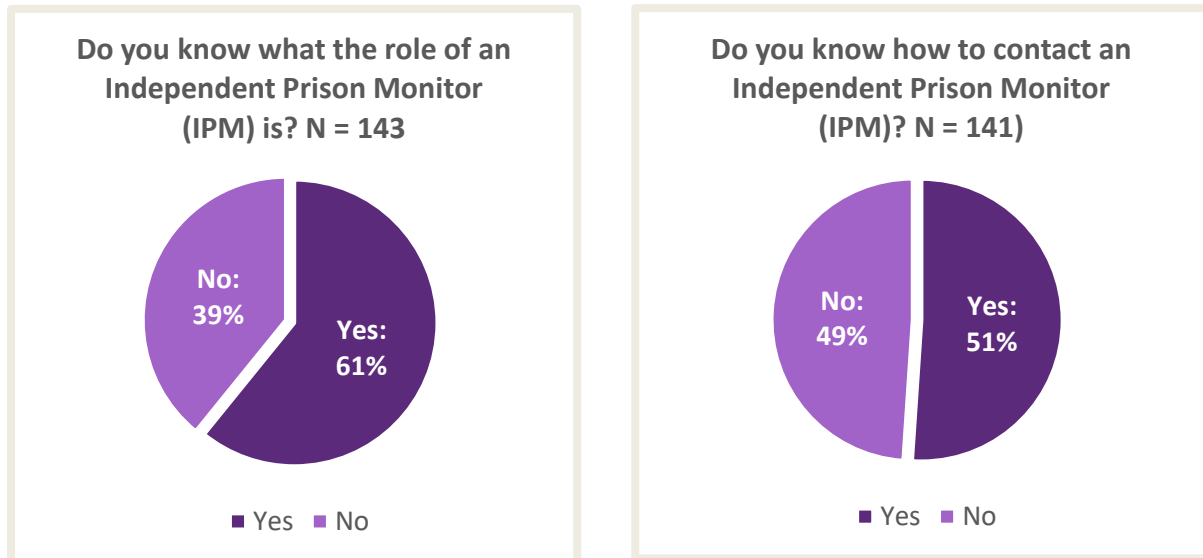
When asked how well or badly the complaints system worked in the prison, 19% of respondents said that they did not know. Excluding those who did not know or did not provide a valid response, the majority felt that the complaints system did not work well (77%). The most common response was that it worked very badly (39%), and the second most common was that it worked quite badly (38%). Only 23% felt that it worked well.



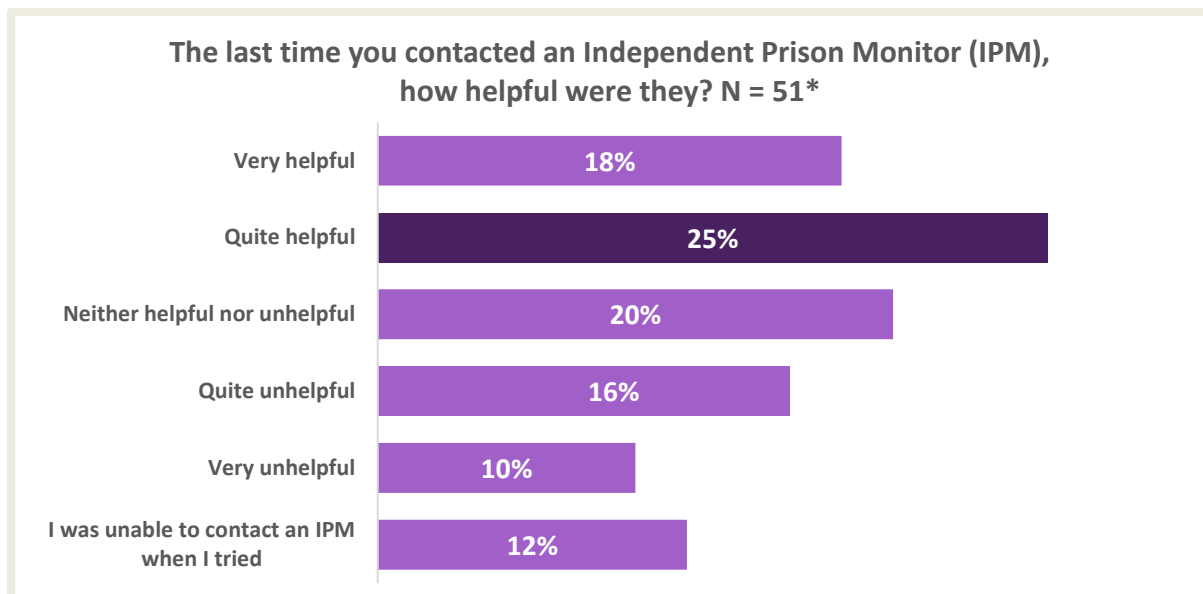
*Excludes "don't know" (19% of valid responses)

Engagement with Independent Prison Monitors (IPMs)

More than half of respondents (61%) said that they knew what the role of an independent prison monitor (IPM) was, and just over half 51% said they knew how to contact an IPM.



When asked about the last time they had contacted an IPM, most respondents (62%) said that they had never contacted an IPM. Of those who had contacted an IPM, less than half (43%) had found the experience helpful, and over a quarter (26%) had found it to be unhelpful. 12% said that they were unable to contact an IPM when they had tried to do so.

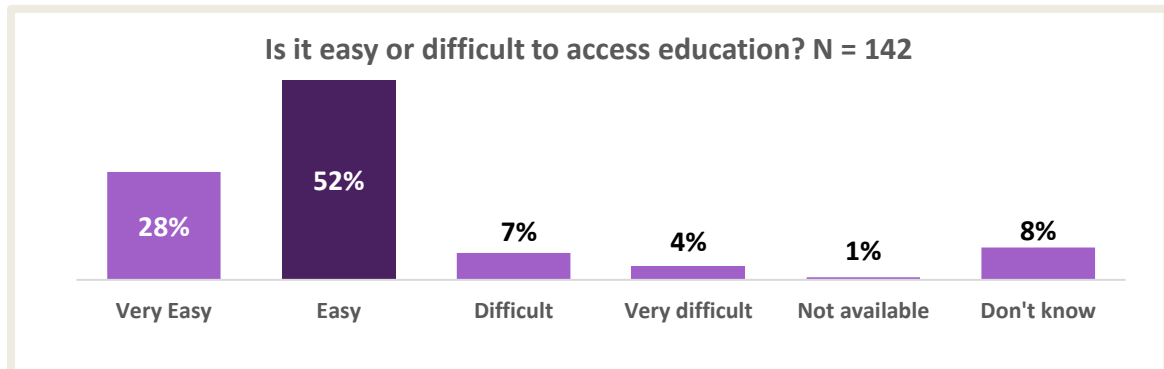


*Excludes those who said they had never tried to contact an IPM (62% of valid responses)

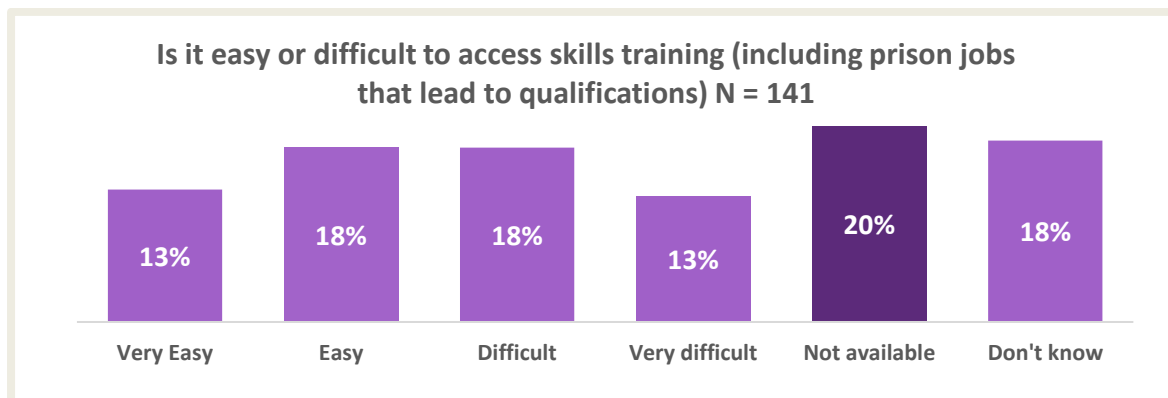
Standard 6: Purposeful Activity

Access to education, training and work

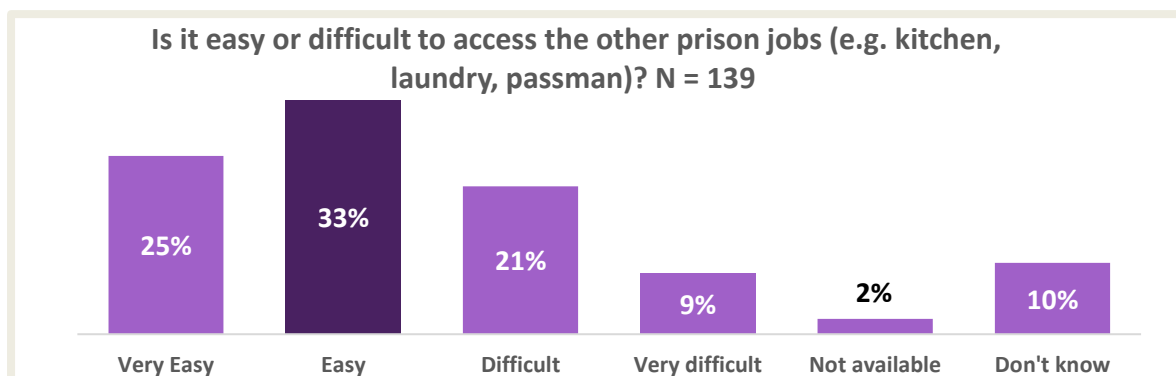
The majority of respondents (80%) said that it was very easy or easy to access education.



31% of respondents said that it is easy or very easy to access skills training, including prison jobs that lead to qualifications. A further 31% said that it was difficult or very difficult. The most common answer was that skills training was not available (20%), and 18% did not know how easy or difficult it was to access skills training.

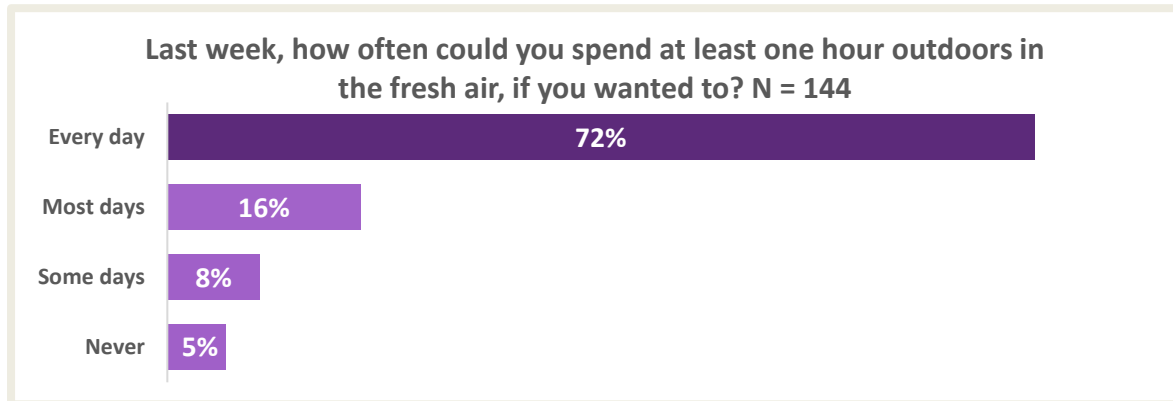


Just over half (58%) of respondents said that it was easy or very easy to access other prison jobs, such as kitchen, laundry or passman jobs. 32% said that it was difficult or very difficult, or that these jobs were not available. 10% did not know.

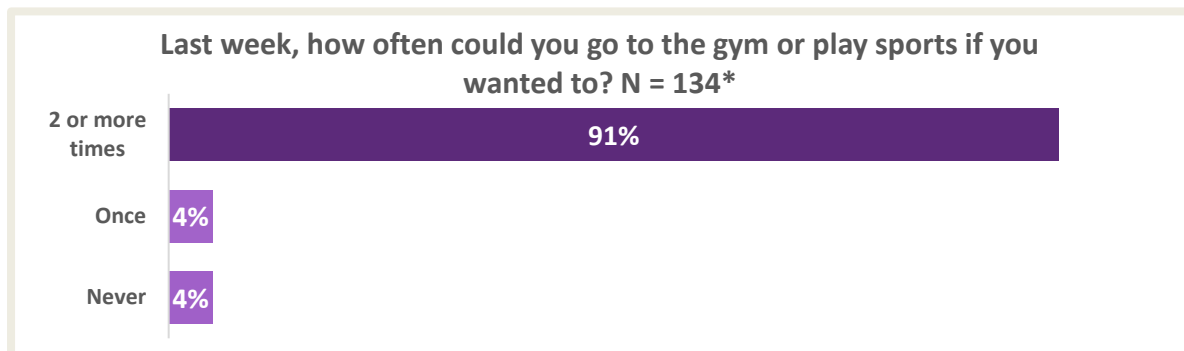


Fresh air, gym/sports and library access

The majority (72%) of respondents said that they were able to spend at least one hour outdoors in the fresh air every day if they wanted to during the previous week, with 16% saying that they could do so on most days. 12% said they could do so less than most days, including 5% who said they never could.

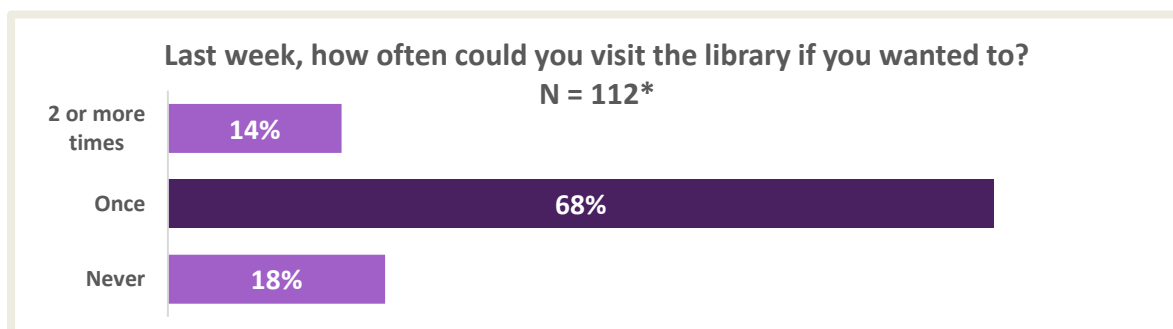


Excluding those who said they did not know (8% of respondents), 91% of respondents said that they were able to go to the gym or play sports two or more times in the last week, if they wanted to. 4% said that they were able to do so once in the last week, and 4% said they were not able to do so at all in the last week.



**Excludes "don't know" (8% of valid responses)*

Excluding those who said they did not know (22% of respondents), 82% of respondents said that they were able to go to the library at least once during the previous week. The remaining 18% said that they were not able to go at all during that time.

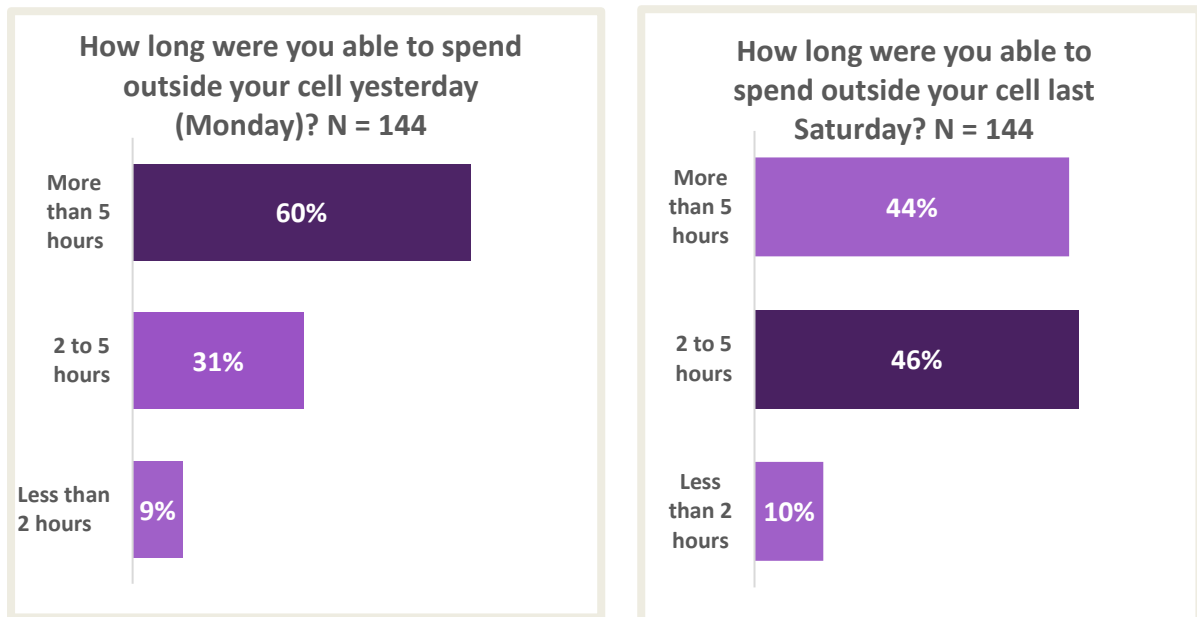


**Excludes "don't know" (22% of valid responses)*

Time out of cell

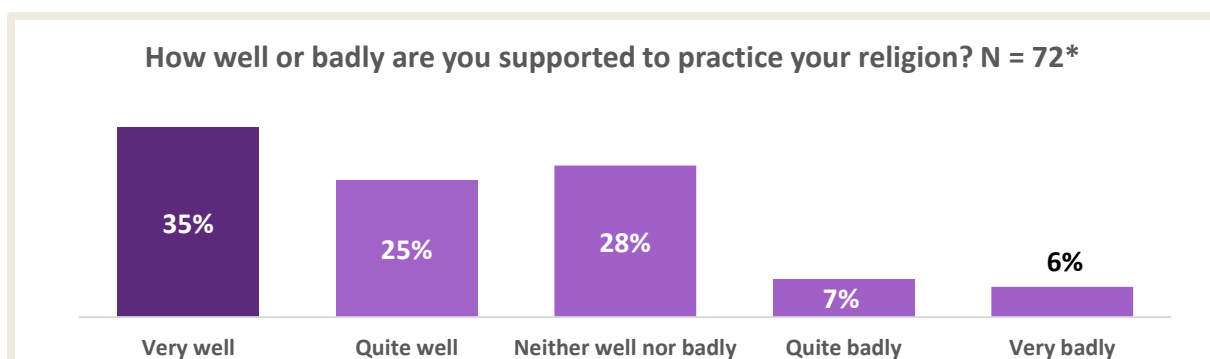
The majority of respondents (91%) said that they were able to spend at least two hours outside their cells the previous day (a Monday), including time spent at work, training or education. This includes 60% who said they were able to spend more than five hours outside their cells.

The majority of respondents (90%) also said that they were able to spend more than two hours outside their cells on the previous Saturday, including 44% who said they were able to spend more than five hours outside their cells.



Religious practice

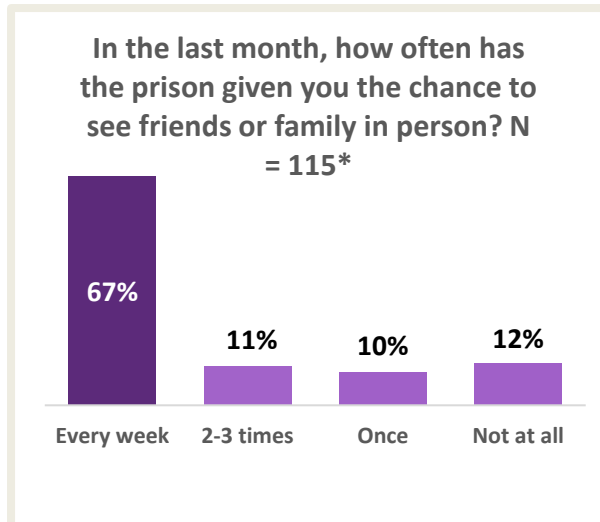
When asked about religious practice, 48% of respondents said that they did not practice a religion. Of the remaining 52% of respondents, the majority (60%) said that they were well or very well supported to practice their religion. 13% said that they were not well supported, with 7% saying they are quite badly supported, and 6% saying they are very badly supported to practice their religion.



*Excludes those who said they do not practice a religion (49% of valid responses)

Visits

17% of respondents said that they did not know how often they had been able to have in-person visits in the last month. Excluding those who did not know or did not provide a valid response, the majority (67%) said that they had the chance for a visit every week. 11% said that they could get 2-3 visits in the last month, 10% said that they could get one visit, and 12% said they could not get any visits.



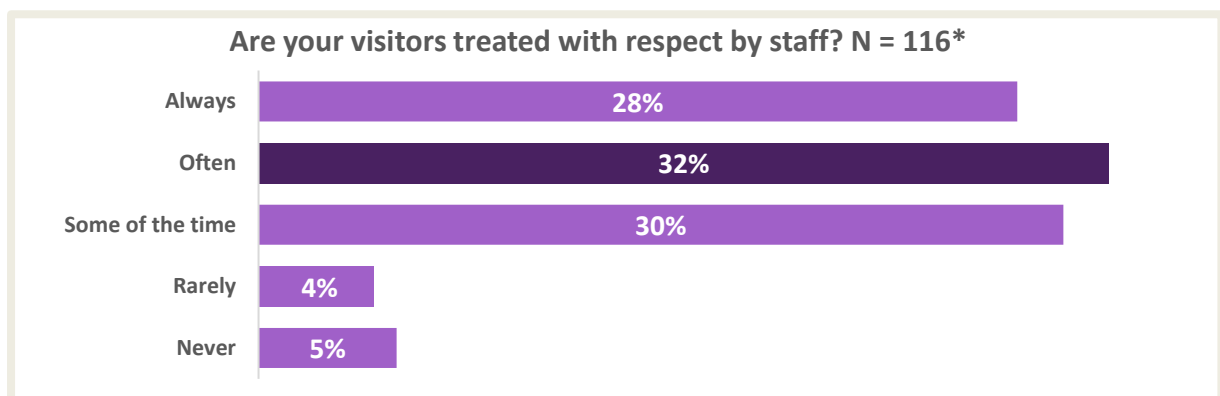
*Excludes "don't know" (17% of valid responses)



*Excludes "don't know" (37% of valid responses)

Over a third (36%) of respondents did not know how often they had been given the opportunity for visits via video call in the last month. Of those who did know, 60% said they had had opportunities for visits via video calling every week, 18% said they had had the chance two to three times in the last month, and 6% said they had had the chance once in the last month. 16% said they had not had the opportunity for video calls.

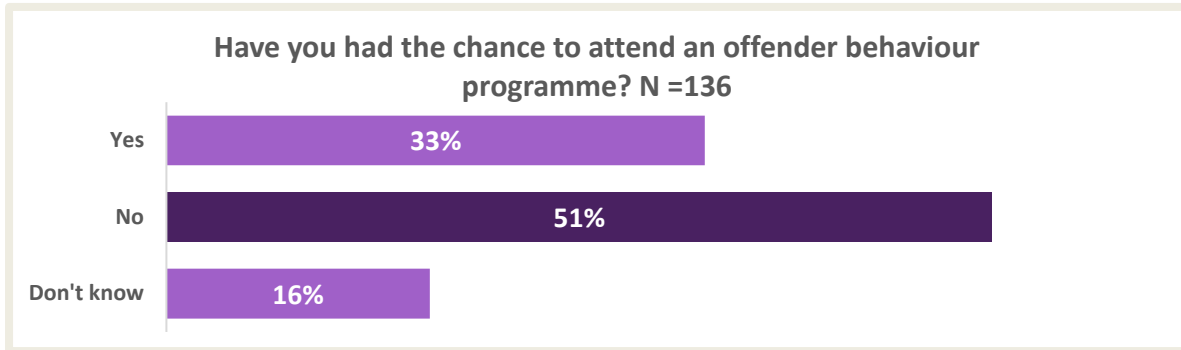
Of those who said that they did have in-person visits, the majority of respondents (60%) said that their visitors were treated with respect by prison staff either always (28%) or often (32%). 30% said that their visitors were treated with respect some of the time, and 9% said their visitors were rarely or never treated with respect.



*Excludes "not applicable - I don't have visitors" (19% of valid responses)

Progression and case management support

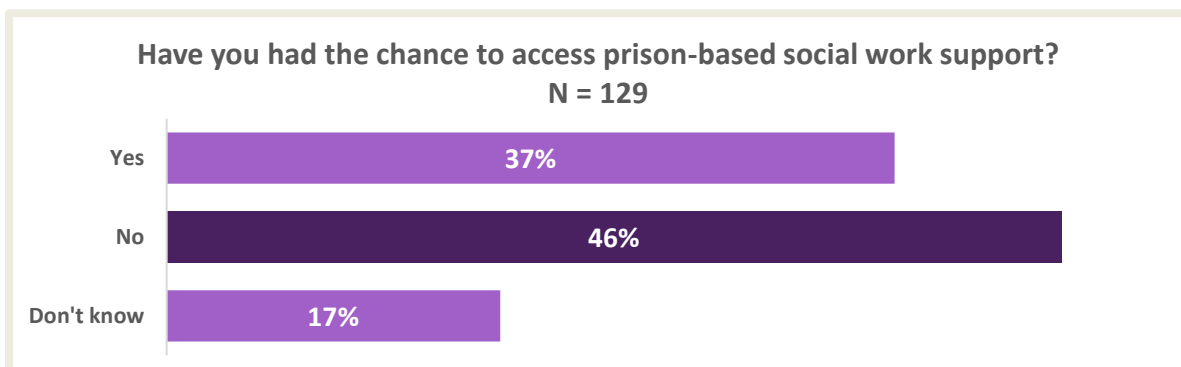
The majority of respondents (67%) either said they had not had the chance to attend an offender behaviour management programme, or they did not know. 33% said that they had had the chance to attend.



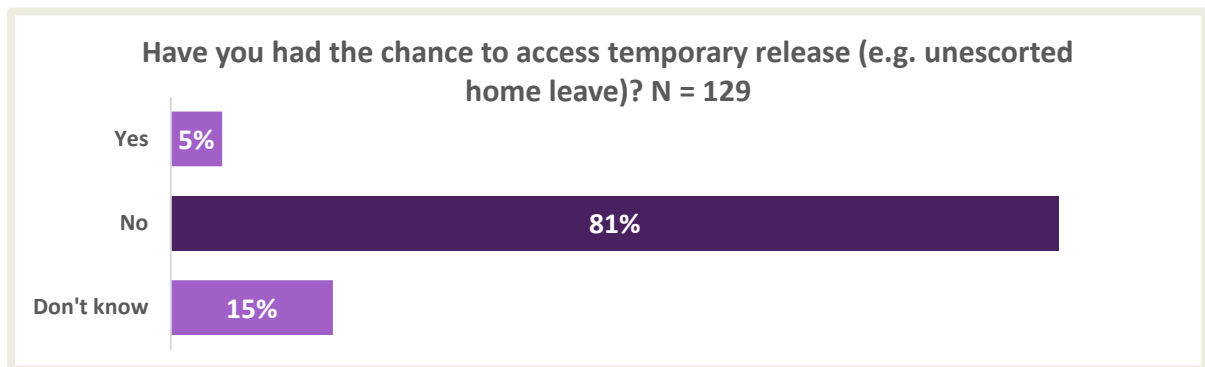
The majority of respondents (63%) either said they had not had the chance to access psychology support, or they did not know. 37% said that they had had the chance to attend.



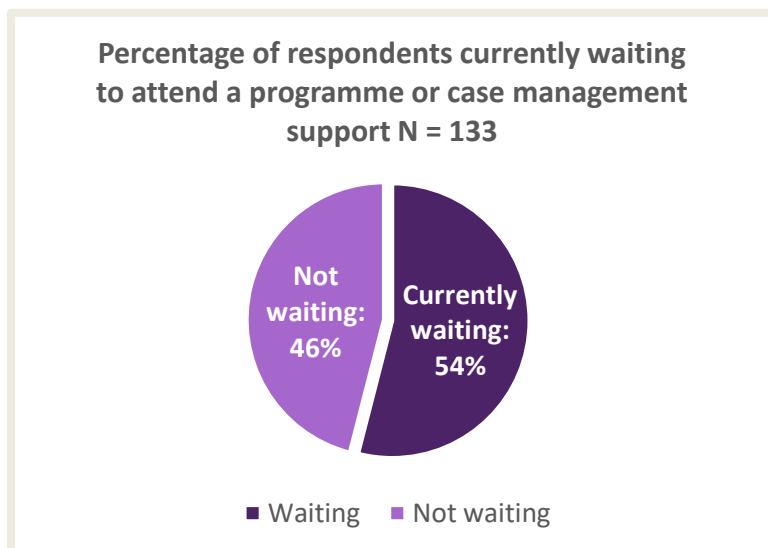
The majority of respondents (63%) either said they had not had the chance to access prison-based social work support, or they did not know. 37% said that they had had the chance to attend.



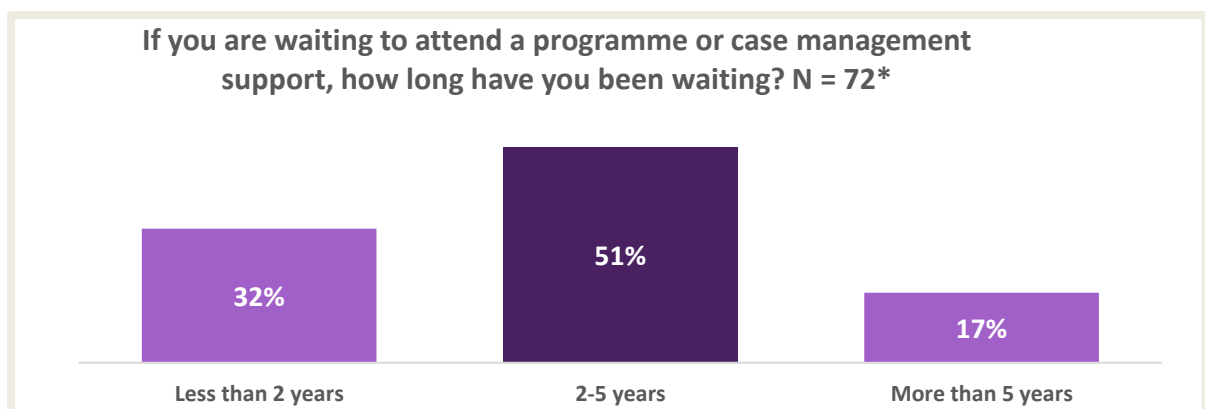
Only 5% of respondents said that they had had the chance to go on temporary release. 81% said that they had not had this opportunity, and 15% did not know.



Respondents were asked how long they had waited to attend programmes or case management support. Just over half (54%) of respondents said that they were currently waiting.



Of those who were waiting, the majority were waiting at least two years (68%). This includes 17% who said they were waiting more than five years. Around one third (32%) said they were waiting less than two years.

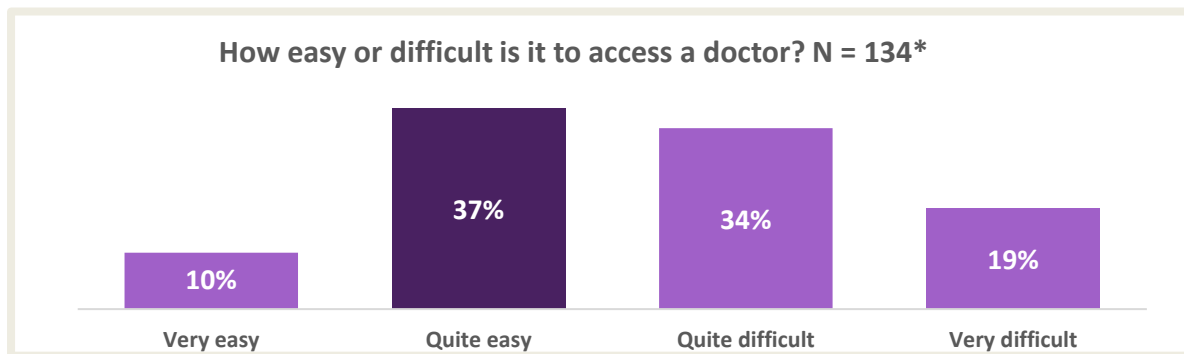


*Excludes "I'm not waiting for this" (46% of valid responses)

Standard 9: Health and Wellbeing

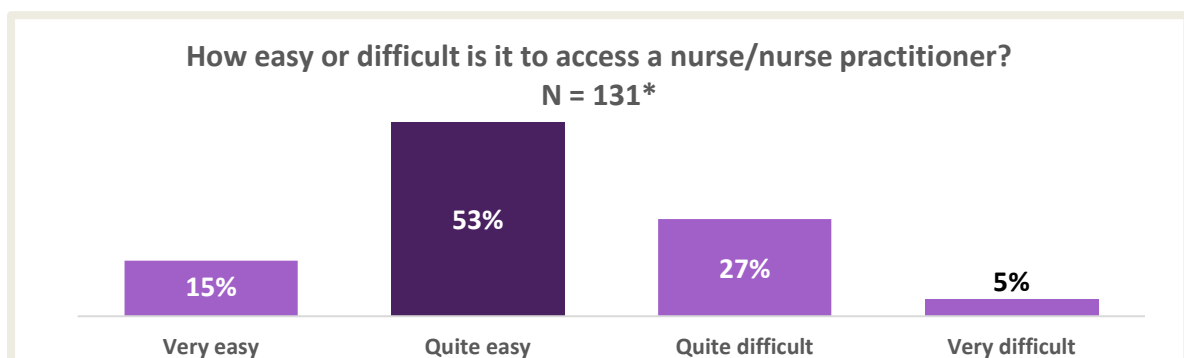
Access to health services

When asked about how easy it is to access the doctor, 5% of respondents said they did not know. Excluding these, the most common response was that it was quite easy (37%) to access a doctor. However, more than half (53%) of respondents said that it was difficult to access a doctor.



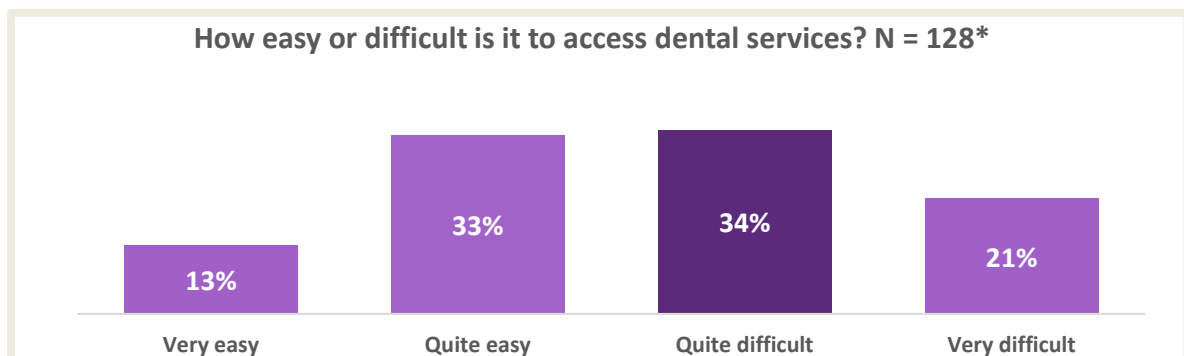
*Excludes "don't know" (5% of valid responses)

When asked how easy it is to access a nurse or nurse practitioner, 5% said they did not know. Excluding these responses, the majority (68%) said that it was either quite easy or very easy to access a nurse or nurse practitioner



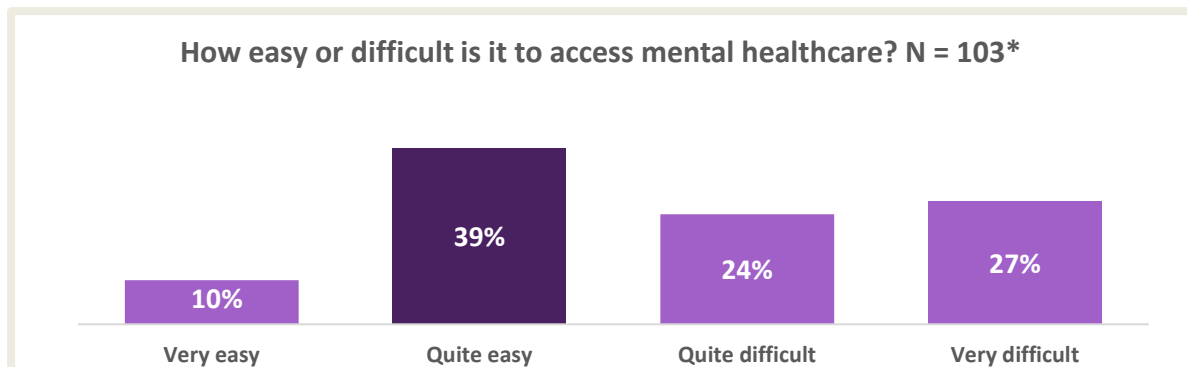
*Excludes "don't know" (5% of valid responses)

When asked how easy it is to access dental services, 6% said they did not know. Excluding these, the majority of respondents said that it was difficult to access dental services, with 34% saying it was quite difficult, and 21% saying it was very difficult.



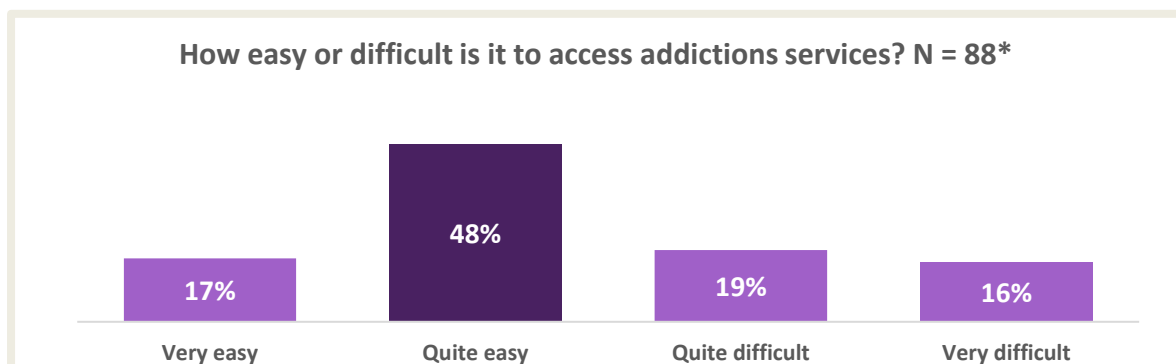
*Excludes "don't know" (6% of valid responses)

When asked how easy it is to access mental healthcare, 23% said they did not know. Excluding these, just over half of respondents (51% said that it was difficult to access mental healthcare (51%). However the most common response was that it was quite easy (39%).



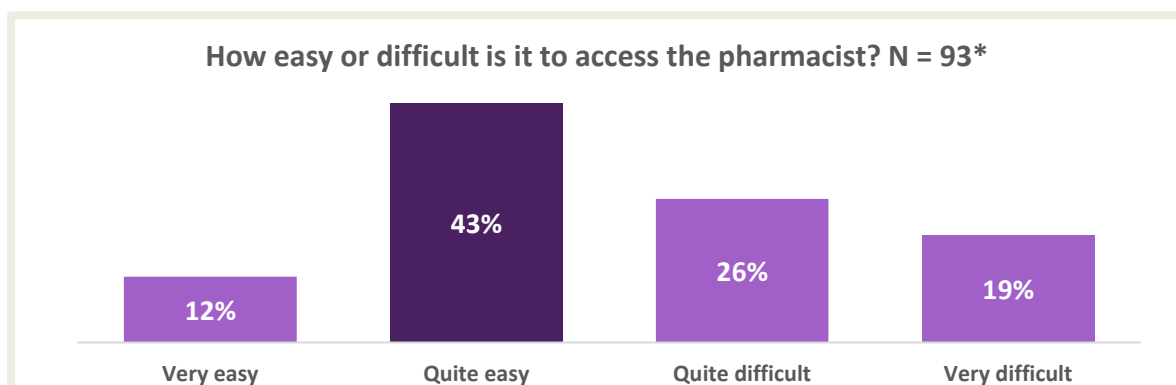
**Excludes "don't know" (23% of valid responses)*

When asked how easy it is to access addictions services, 32% of respondents said that they did not know. Of the remaining respondents who did give an opinion, the majority (65%) said that it was either very easy or quite easy.



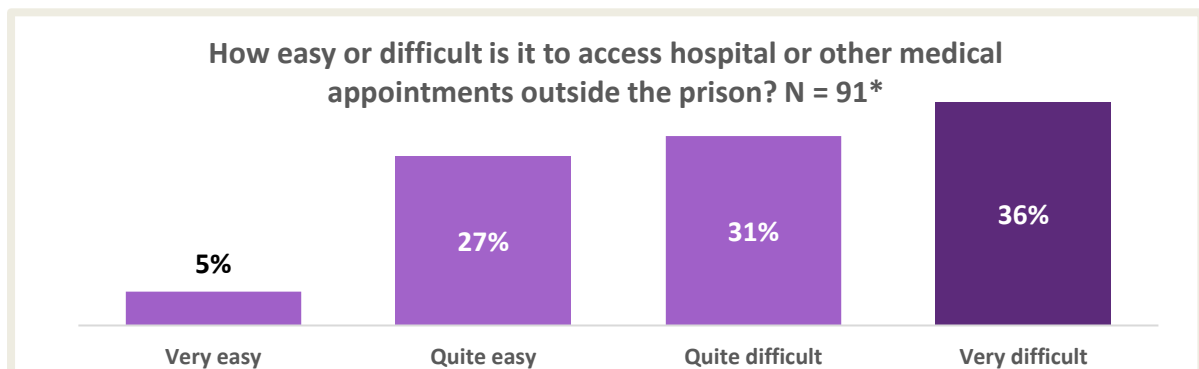
**Excludes "don't know" (32% of valid responses)*

When asked how easy it is to access a pharmacist, 30% of respondents said that they did not know. Of those who did offer an opinion, just over half (55%) said that it was either quite easy or very easy.



**Excludes "don't know" (30% of valid responses)*

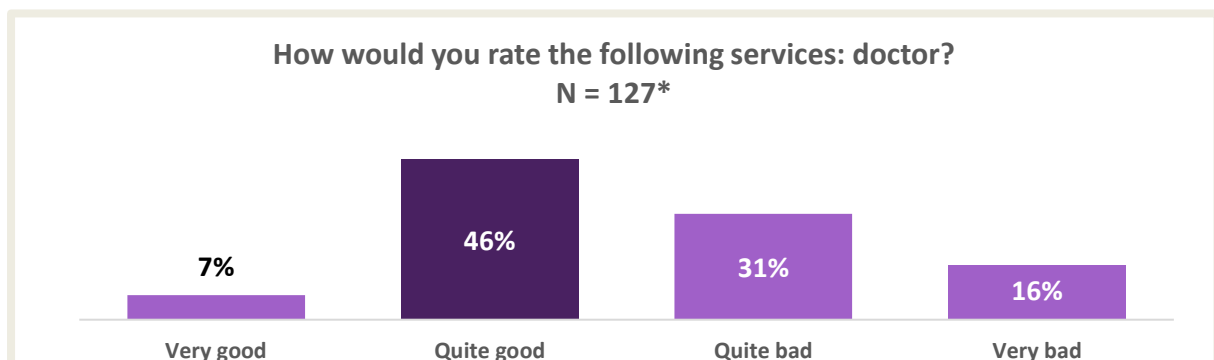
When asked how easy it is to access hospital or medical appointments outside the prison, 31% said they did not know. Excluding these, most respondents (67%) said that it was difficult. The most common response was that it was very difficult (36%).



*Excludes "don't know" (31% of valid responses)

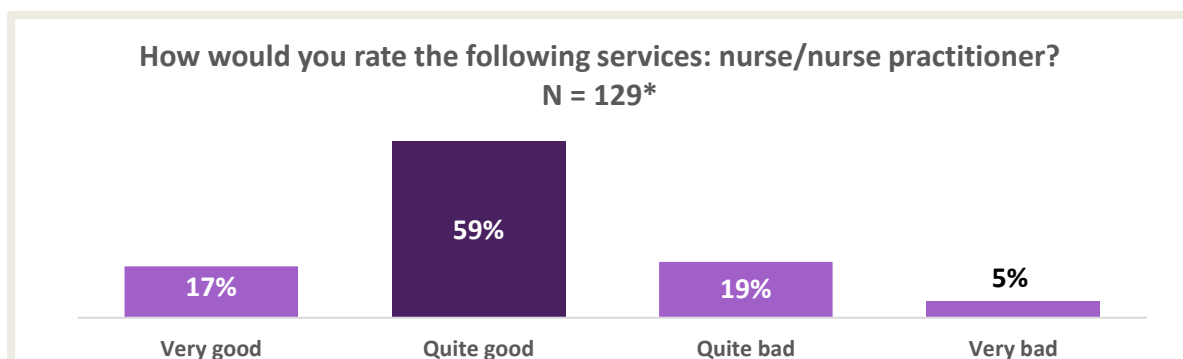
Quality of medical services

When asked about the quality of medical services given by the prison doctor(s), 10% of respondents said they did not know. Of the remaining 127 respondents, just over half (53%) said that the service was quite good or very good, with the most common response being quite good (46%).



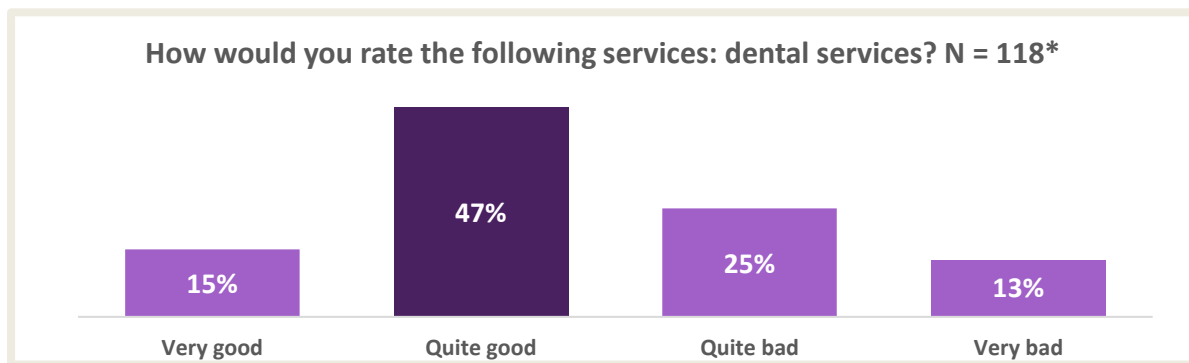
*Excludes "don't know" (10% of valid responses)

6% of respondents said they did not know about the quality of care provided by the nurses/nurse practitioners. Of the remaining 129 responses, 76% said their care was quite good or very good. The most common response was that it was quite good (59%).



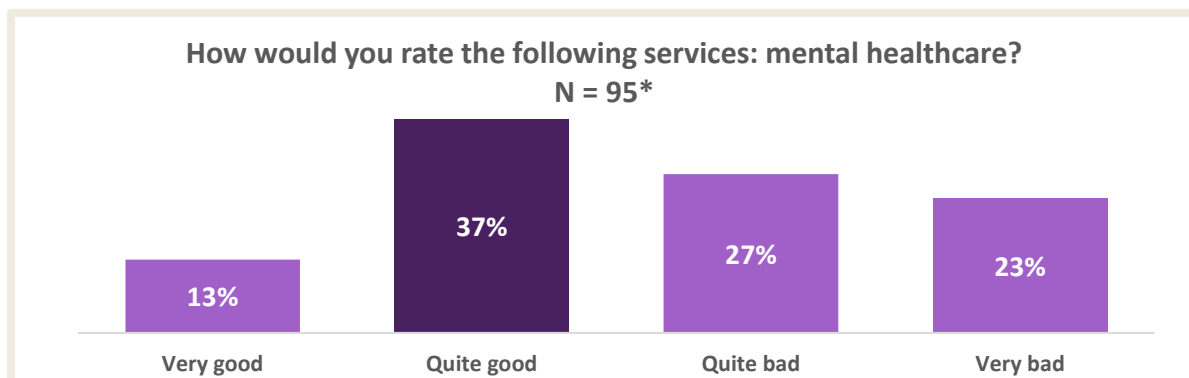
*Excludes "don't know" (6% of responses)

13% of respondents said they did not know about the quality of dental services. Of those who did offer an opinion, the majority (62%) rated the quality as quite good or very good, with almost half (47%) rating it as quite good.



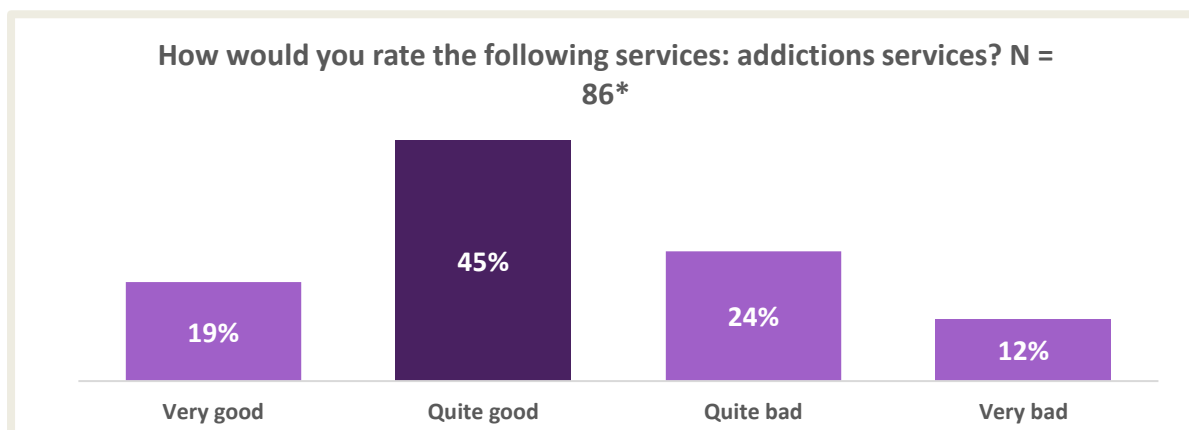
**Excludes "don't know" (13% of valid responses)*

25% of respondents said that they did not know about the quality of mental health care. Of those who did offer an opinion, half felt that the service was good quality, and half felt that it is of poor quality. The most common response was quite good (37%), however 27% rated it as quite bad, and 23% rated it as very bad.



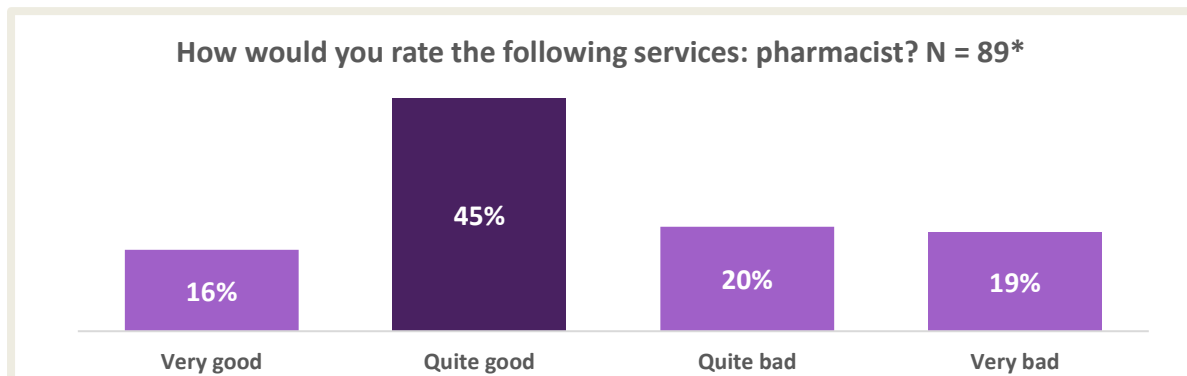
**Excludes "don't know" (25% of valid responses)*

Around one third of respondents (33%) said that they did not know about the quality of addictions services. Excluding these responses, the majority rated the quality of addictions services as quite good or very good (64%). The most common response was quite good (45%).



**Excludes "don't know" (33% of valid responses)*

Almost one third of respondents (29%) said that they did not know about the quality of pharmacist services. Of those who did offer an opinion, the majority said that the service was either quite good or very good (61%). The most common response was that it is quite good (45%).

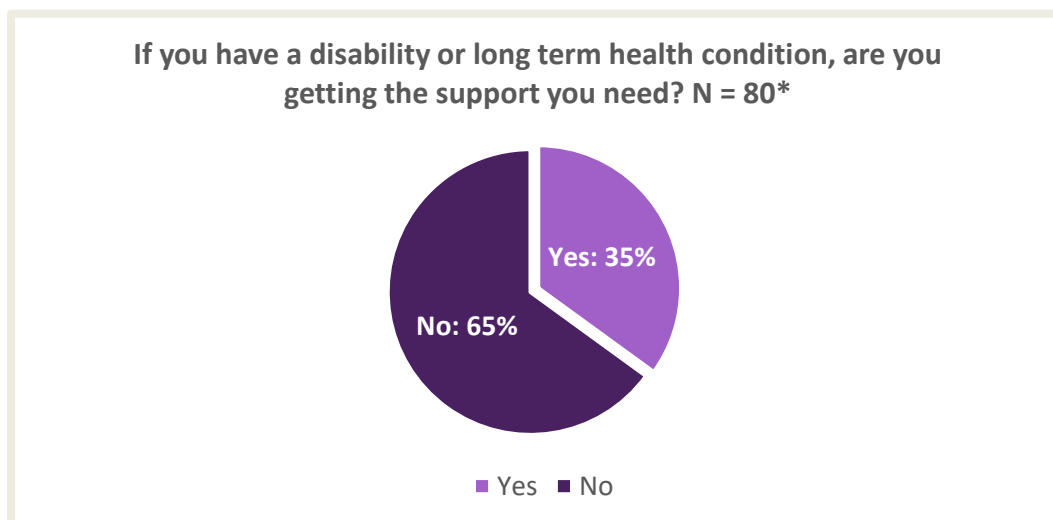


Excludes "don't know" (29% of valid responses)

Support for disabilities and long term health conditions

55% of participants said that they had a disability or long-term health condition, 41% said they did not, and 3% did not give a valid response.

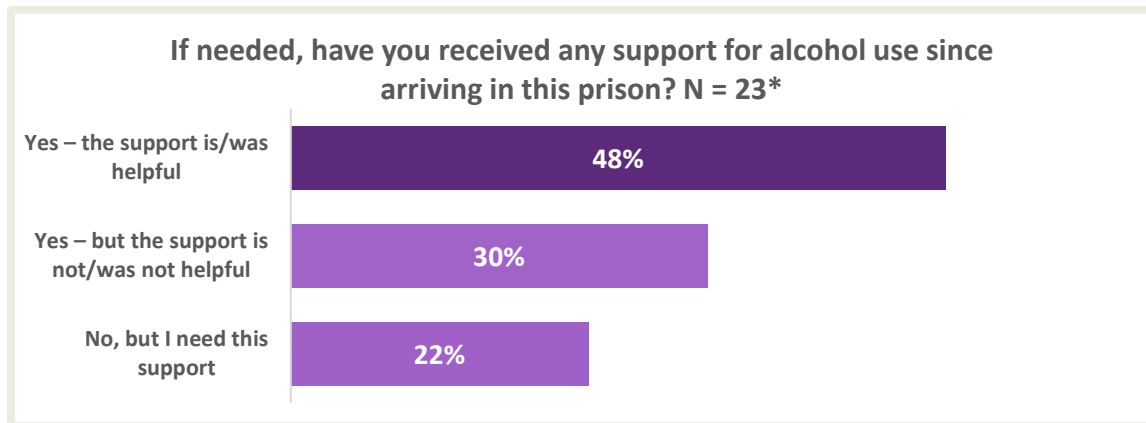
Of those who said they did have a disability or long-term health condition, most (65%) said that they were not getting the support that they need for this, while only 35% said that they do.



**Excludes "I do not have a disability/long-term health condition" (43% of valid responses)*

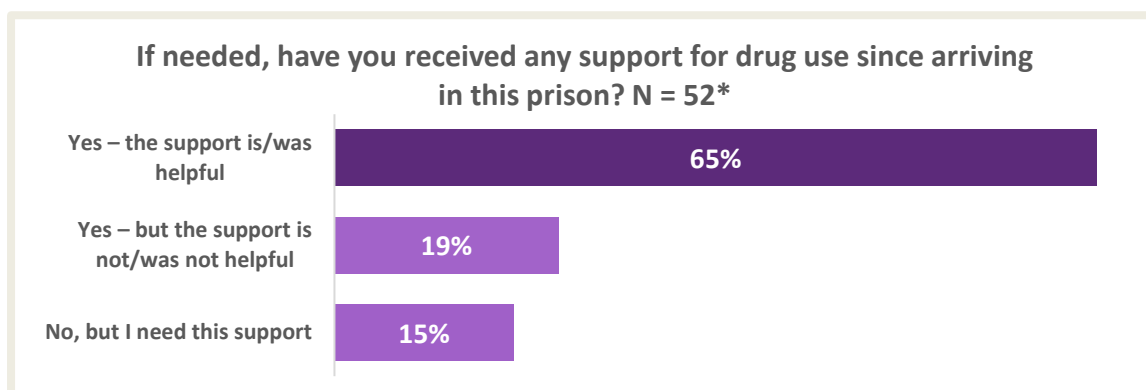
Support for issues relating to alcohol, drugs and mental health

A small proportion of respondents (16%) said that they have needed support for alcohol use since arriving in HMP Shotts. Of these, almost half (48%) said that the support was helpful, while 30% said that they have received support which had not helped, and 22% said that they needed support but had not received it.



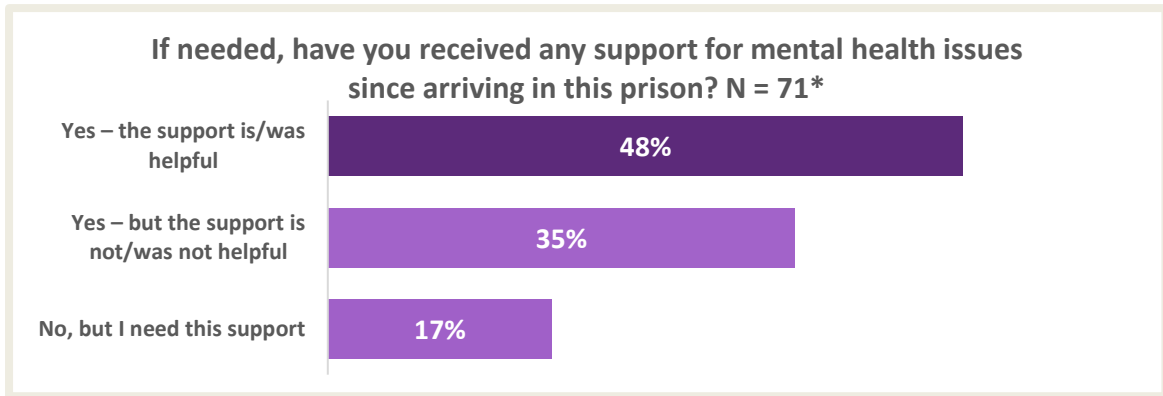
**Excluding “No – haven’t needed this support” (84% of valid responses)*

Just over a third of respondents (35%) said that they have needed support for drug use since arriving in HMP Shotts. Of these, the majority (65%) said that they have received support and it was helpful. 19% said that they received support but it did not help; and 15% said that they needed support but had not received it.



**Excluding “No – haven’t needed this support” (63% of valid responses)*

More than half of respondents (51%) indicated that they had needed support for mental health issues since arriving in HMP Shotts. Of these, almost half (48%) said that they had received support and it had been helpful. 35% said that they had received support but it has not helped; and 17% said that they needed support but had not received it.



**Excluding “No – haven’t needed this support” (49% of valid responses)*