

Millersville University

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A One-Day Needs Assessment of Those Being Held at Lancaster County Prison

by

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and

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Lancaster County Winter 2024 Prison Needs Assessment

Executive Summary

This needs assessment survey (see Appendix A) was distributed on January 24, 2024 to all who were held at Lancaster County Prison (LCP) that day, and collected the next day by staff of the Lancaster County Reentry Coalition. Participants completed the survey using pen and paper, and were provided an incentive (a bag of chips) upon survey completion and submission. All completed surveys were delivered to the Center for Public Scholarship & Social Change (CPSSC) at Millersville University for data entry and analysis. Participants were not asked to identify themselves by name or other unique identifiers (although some did voluntarily provide such information). Faculty and student research assistants at CPSSC coded the survey responses, entered the responses, created a dataset in both Excel and SPSS formats, and conducted descriptive and inferential statistical analyses.

In this report, we discuss the major findings, divided into six major sections. We present the findings in both written and visual formats. The six major sections are:

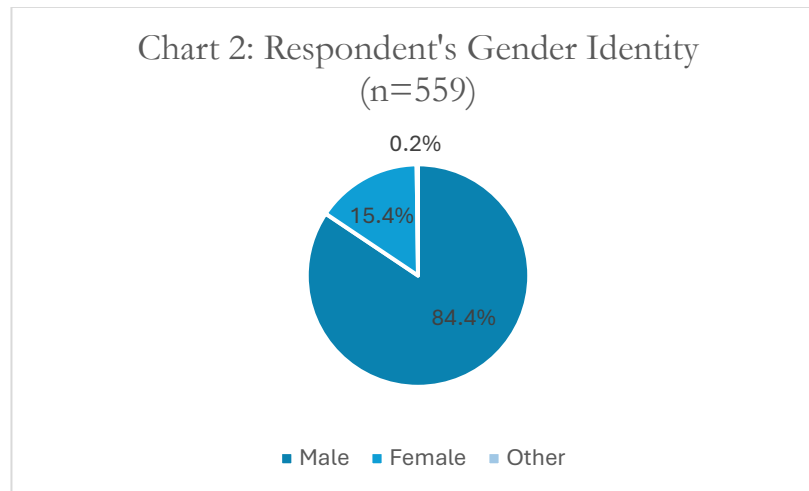
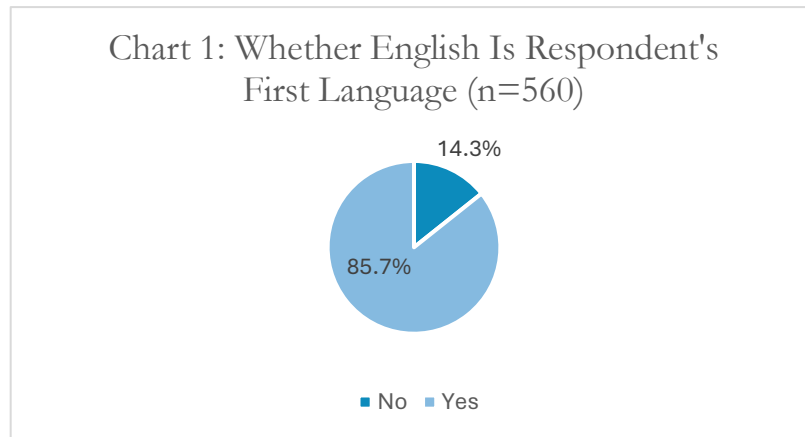
- respondents' demographics and background;
- respondents' incarceration status and history;
- respondents' expectations and concerns upon release from incarceration;
- respondents' needs and interest in receiving services;
- comparing groups of respondents and their needs;
- recommendations for improving data collection.

The overarching finding we emphasize is that survey respondents face multiple challenges and have high needs for services and support. While there are some differences between respondents of varying demographics and background (e.g., most clearly seen between those who were being incarcerated for the first time compared to those who had a prior history of incarceration), it is clear that across the board, survey respondents experienced many obstacles to reentry and needed much support and resources.

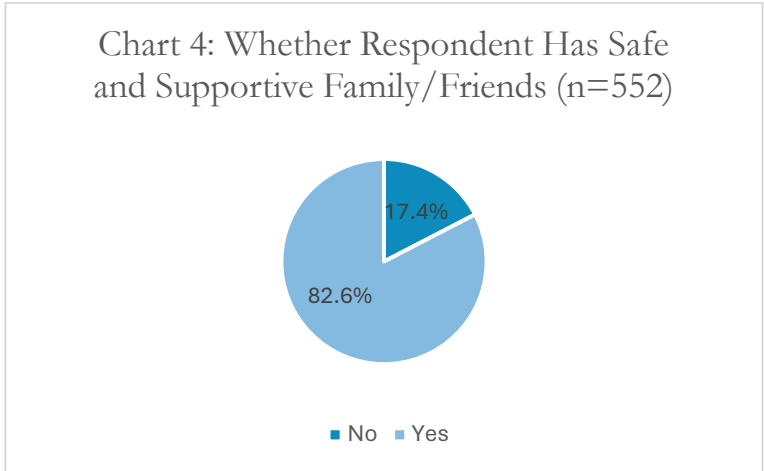
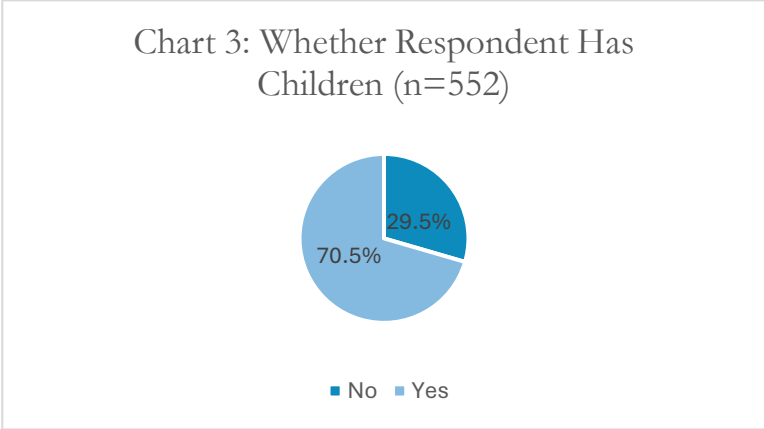
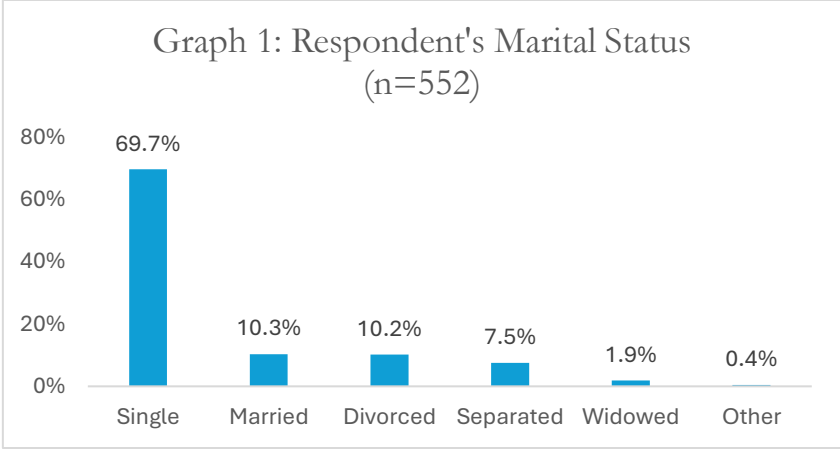
In particular, it is striking that what are considered the building blocks of daily existence are out of reach for many survey respondents, i.e., access to documentation and glasses/contacts. While larger challenges related to housing, employment, and transportation are clearly obstacles, possibly, survey respondents might be better able to tackle these challenges if they were not struggling with their vision or in need of their social security card. Alongside efforts to improve housing and unemployment opportunities for returning citizens, we strongly encourage county leaders and advocates to assist returning citizens in securing the items needed to move forward in daily living.

RESPONDENTS' DEMOGRAPHICS AND BACKGROUND

In this section, we focus on six aspects of respondents' demographics and background.¹ We begin with respondents' individual demographic characteristics. A large majority of respondents (85.7%) identified English as their first language, while a similar majority (84.4%) identified as male (see Charts 1 and 2 below).

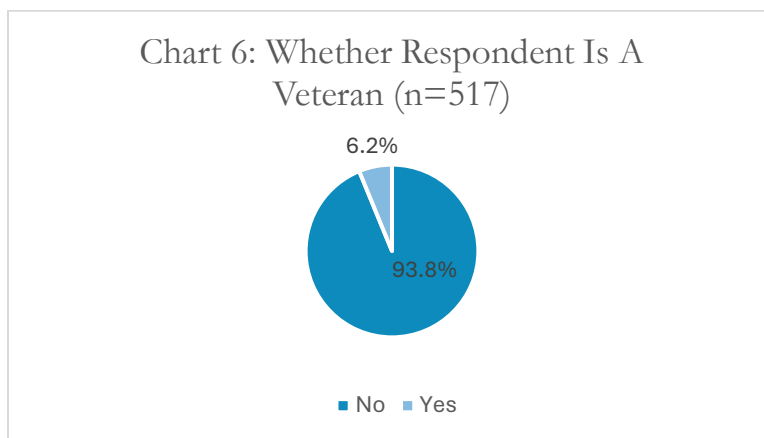
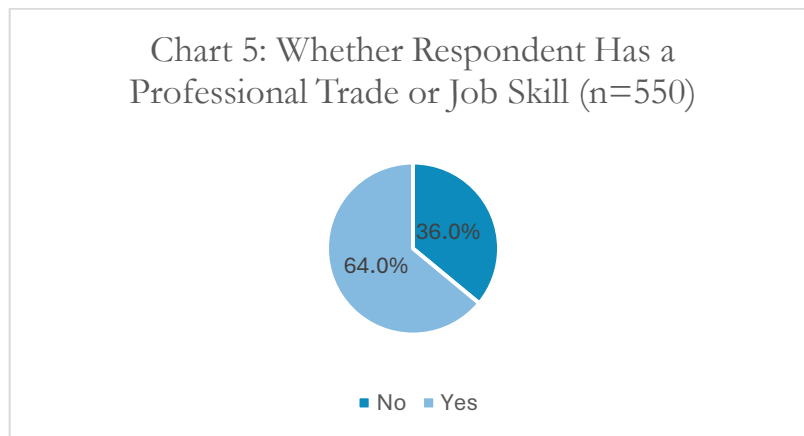
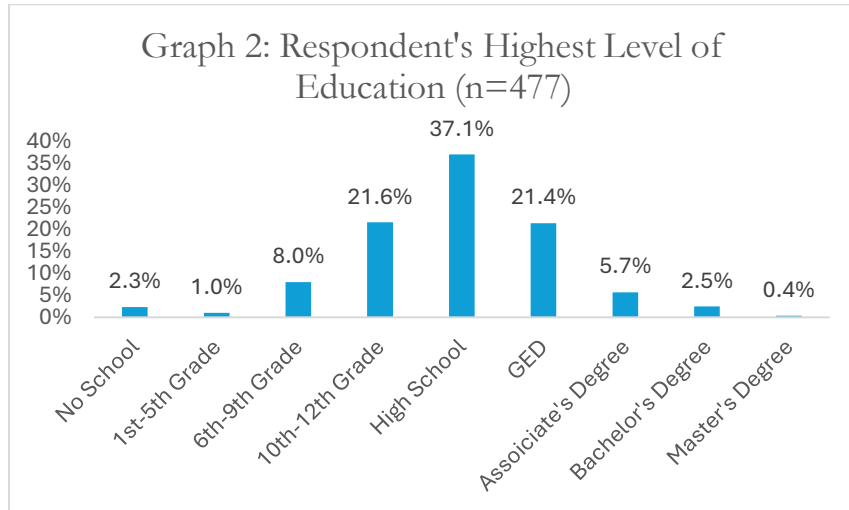


Second, in terms of family, a majority of respondents (69.7%) identified as being single. However, we note that respondents were not given the option to select “in a relationship” as an answer, and recommend that this option be included in future needs assessments. A similar majority of respondents (70.5%) said they had children, while a larger percentage (82.6%) said they had safe and supportive family/friends (see Graph 1 and Charts 3 and 4 on the next page).

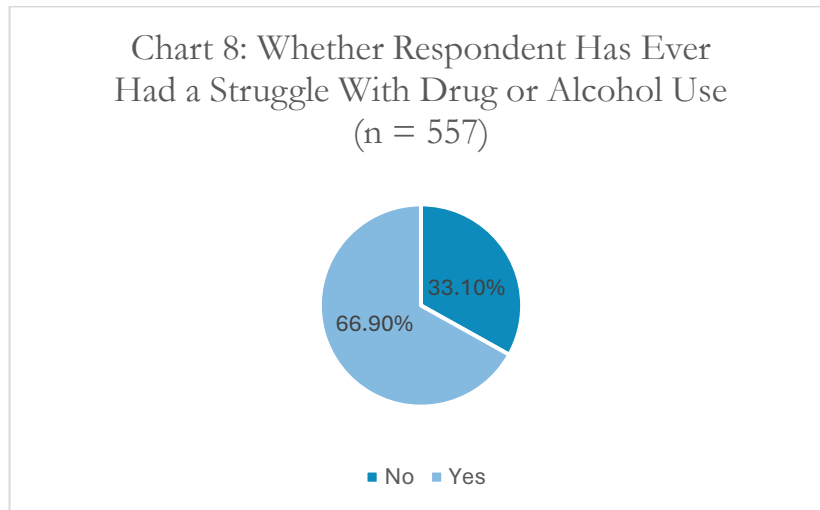
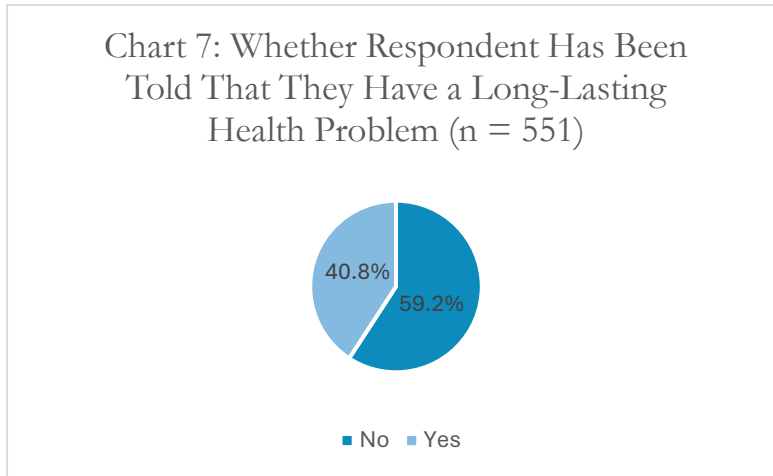


Third, we look at respondents' education and professional backgrounds. A majority (67.1%) earned at least a high school degree (including those who earned a GED). A similar majority

(64.0%) also said they possessed a professional trade or job skill. Finally, only a small percentage of respondents (6.2%) indicated that they are veterans (see Graph 2 and Charts 5 and 6 below).

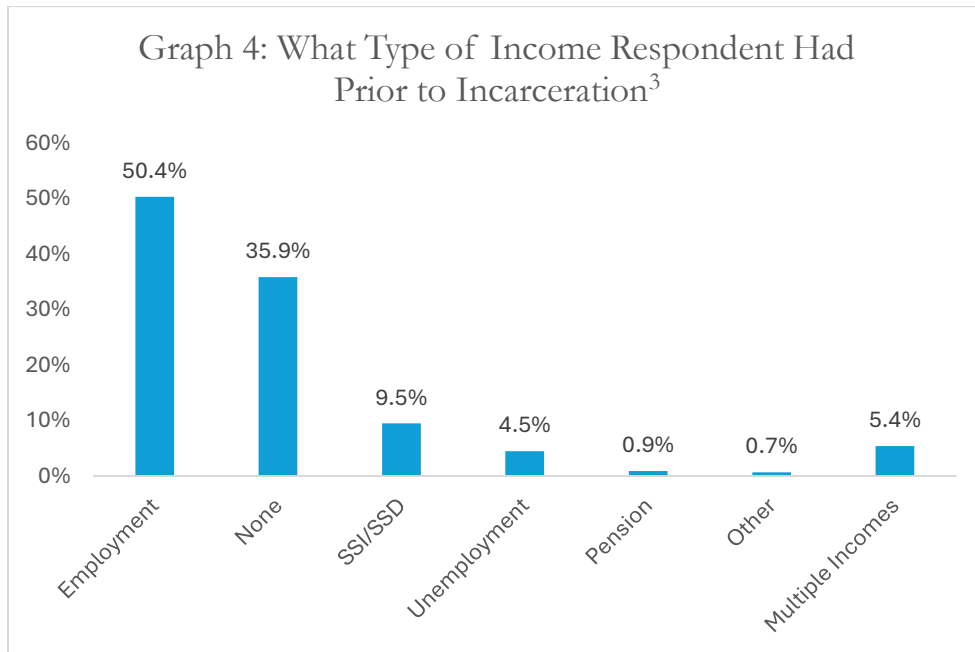
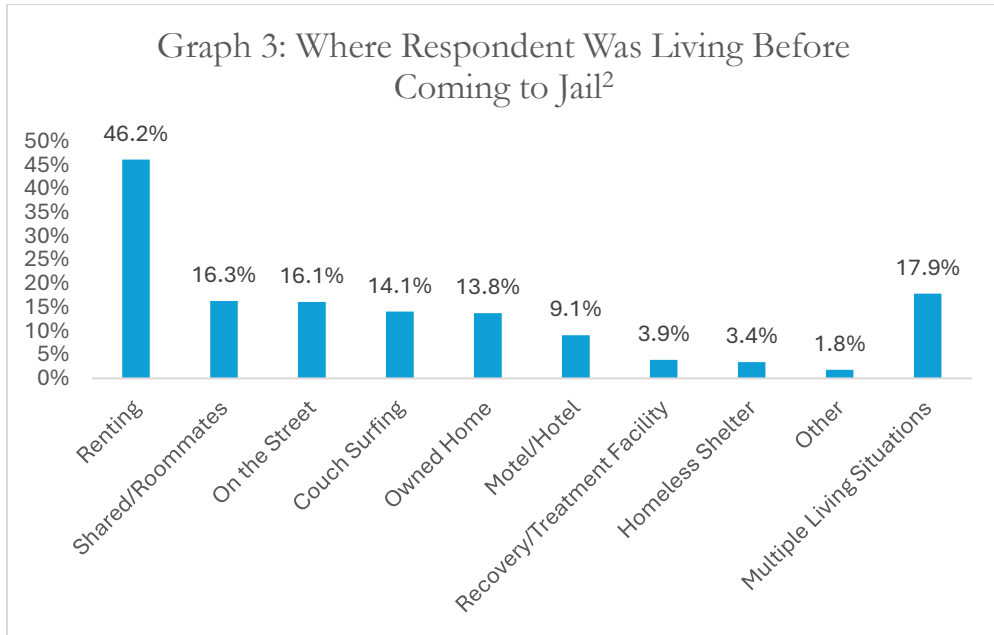


Fourth, respondents' health and wellness was a mixed picture – with a minority (40.80%) saying that they had been told that they have a long-lasting health problem. However, a majority of respondents (66.90%) said that they have had a struggle with drug or alcohol use at some point (see Charts 7 and 8 below).



The fifth dimension we examined focused on respondents' housing and employment statuses prior to incarceration, which showed a mixed picture as well. While a majority of respondents (59.0%) said that they were either renting (46.2%) or owned their own home (13.8%) prior to incarceration, there were quite substantial percentages of respondents who reported more precarious housing situations. Of note, 17.9% of respondents experienced multiple living situations before incarceration, indicating a lack of housing constancy as they moved between different housing situations. Similarly, with income, a majority of respondents (50.4%) indicated that they were employed prior to incarceration. However, as with housing, substantial percentages of

respondents reported more precarious income situations, notably with 35.9% saying they had no income prior to incarceration (see Graphs 3 and 4 below).



Sixth, and finally, in this section, we looked at respondents' access to important documentation and paperwork. For all four major forms of documentation, a majority indicated that they do have access (i.e., 66.9% can access their Social Security card, 56.9% can access a certified

copy of their birth certificate, 64.5% have a valid driver's license or a state issued form of identification, and for the respondents who are veterans, 59.6% of them have a copy of their DD214). However, as with housing and income, it is important to note the substantial percentages of respondents who were unable to access important documentation and paperwork (e.g., about one in three respondents, 33.1%, were unable to access their social security card) (see Charts 9, 10, 11, and 12 below and on the following page).

Chart 9: Whether Respondent Has Access To Their Social Security Card (n=550)

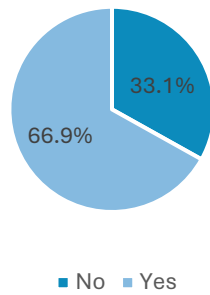
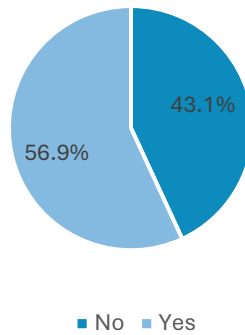
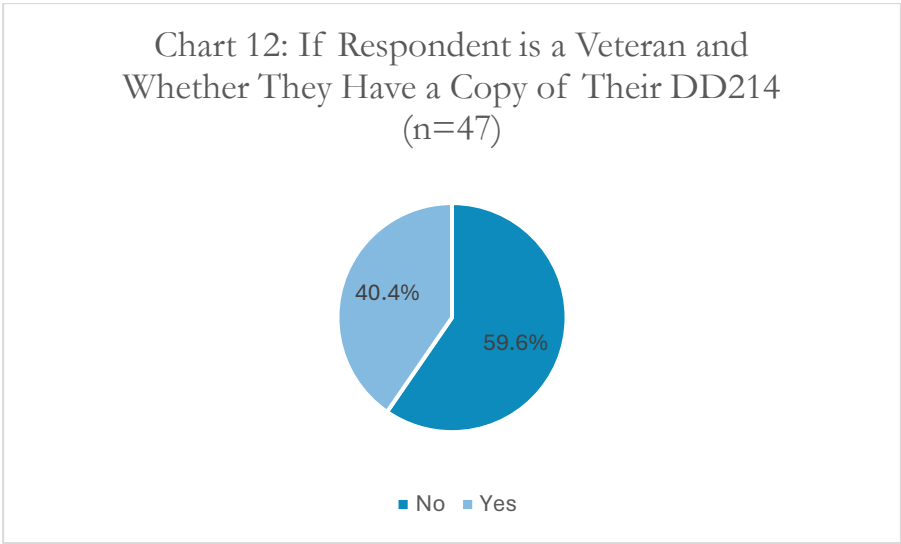
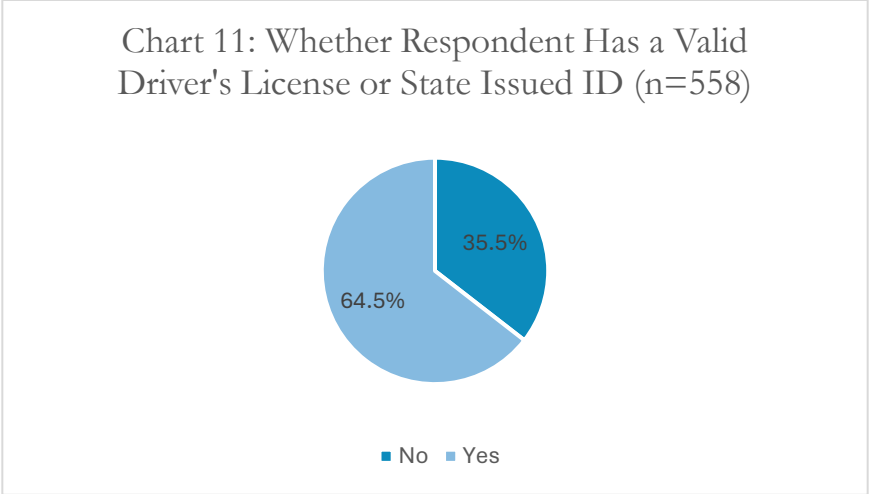


Chart 10: Whether Respondent Has Access to a Certified Copy of Their Birth Certificate (n=555)





RESPONDENTS' INCARCERATION STATUS AND HISTORY

Four questions in this survey asked respondents about their incarceration status and history. First, a large majority of respondents (81.0%) stated that this was not their first time being incarcerated. A majority (60.9%) also said that they had been incarcerated elsewhere other than Lancaster County Prison. The reasons respondents gave for their incarceration varied – with 40.6% saying they were incarcerated on new charges, 26.4% on probation violations, and 33.0% on both new charges and probation violations. In addition, only a small percentage of respondents (6.0%) said that they were currently employed through the work release program (see Graph 5 and Charts 13, 14, and 15 on the next two pages).

Chart 13: Whether This Is the Respondent's First Time Being Incarcerated (n=564)

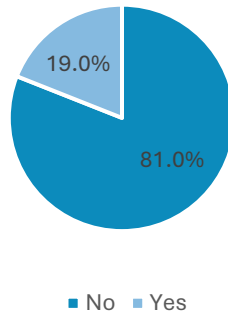
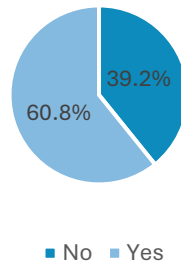


Chart 14: Whether Respondent Has Been Incarcerated Anywhere Else Other Than LCP (n=559)



Graph 5: Reason Respondent is Currently Incarcerated (n=534)

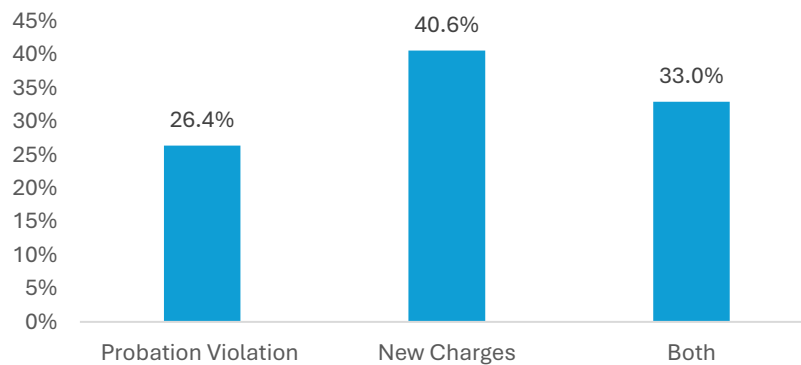
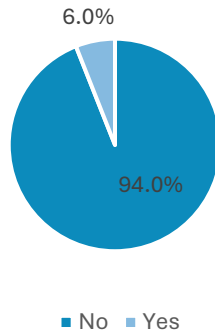


Chart 15: Whether Respondent Is Currently Employed Through the Work Release Program

(n=552)



RESPONDENTS' EXPECTATIONS AND CONCERNS UPON RELEASE FROM INCARCERATION

Several survey items asked respondents about their expectations and concerns upon release from incarceration. These items focused on two different dimensions: whether respondents know where they will obtain resources, as well as their fears and concerns. In terms of knowledge about resources, a majority of respondents said that they did not know whether four types of resources would be available to them. Specifically, 50.2% of respondents said they did not have weather appropriate clothing for release, 50.9% said they did not know whether they would have transportation, 56.9% said they did not have a job available to them after release, and 64.0% said they would not have income after release. Only a majority of respondents (58.70%) said they knew where to get food upon release (see Charts 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 below and on the next page).

Chart 16: Whether Respondent Has Weather Appropriate Clothing for Release (n = 553)

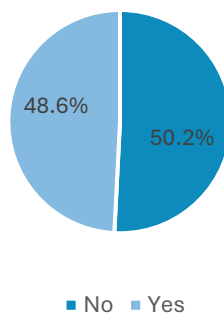


Chart 17: Whether Respondent Knows Where They Will Get Food When They Are Released (n=554)

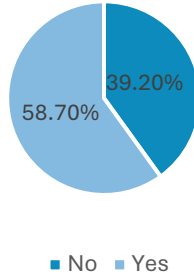


Chart 18: Whether Respondent Knows If They Will Have Transportation When They Are Released (n=553)

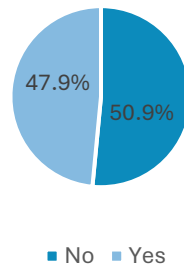


Chart 19: Whether Respondent Has a Job Available To Them After Release (n=532)

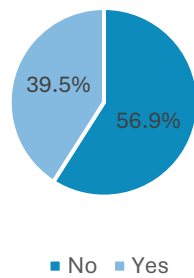
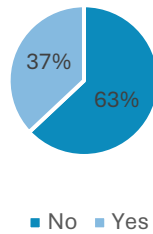
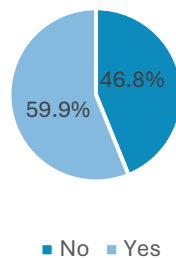


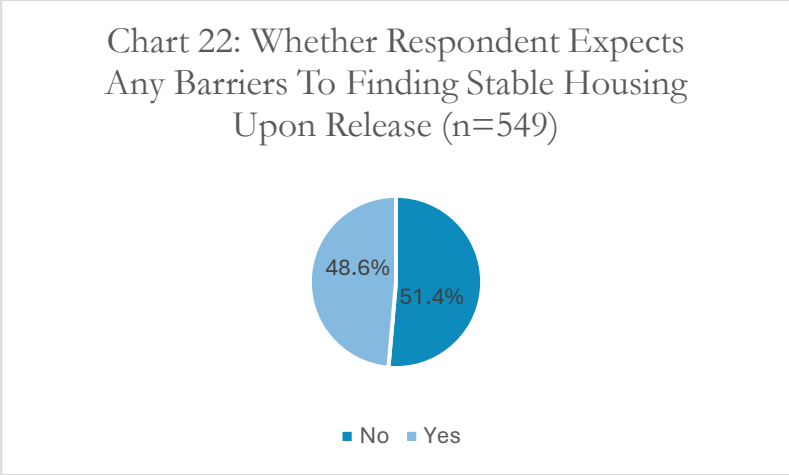
Chart 20: Whether Respondent Will Have Income Upon Release (n=527)



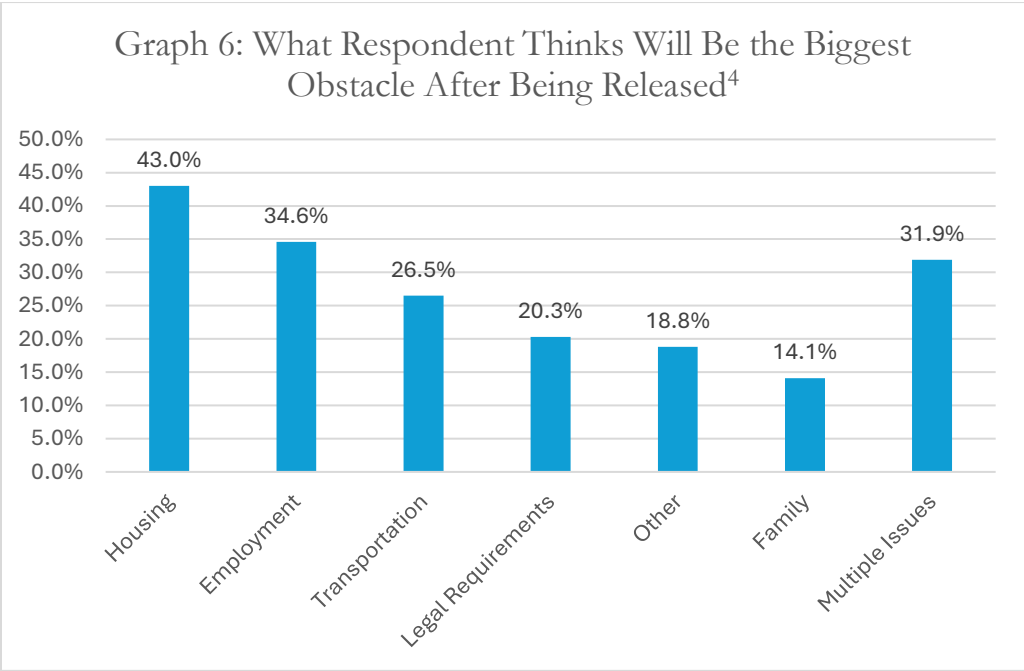
Respondents were also asked about their expectations and concerns. Two survey items focused on respondents' feelings about housing post-release. Interestingly, while a majority of respondents (59.9%) worried about having safe and stable housing, a slight majority (51.4%) also expected that they would not encounter barriers to locating safe and stable housing (see Charts 21 and 22 below and on the next page).

Chart 21: Whether Respondent Worries About Having Safe and Stable Housing When They Are Released (n=556)





An additional survey item also asked respondents to anticipate and identify, from a list of options, the biggest obstacle they expected to face after being released. Housing topped the list (43.0%), followed by employment (34.6%), transportation (26.5%), legal requirements (20.3%), other (18.8%), and family (14.1%). Although respondents were asked to select only one option, 31.9% of respondents identified several multiple obstacles (see Graph 6 below).



RESPONDENTS’ NEEDS AND INTERESTS IN SERVICES

The survey concluded by asking respondents seven questions about their needs and interests in obtaining a variety of services. There was a high level of interest in obtaining services and

assistance, as evidenced by the fact that a majority expressed interest on six of these survey items. 51.3% of respondents said they would be interested in connecting with someone with lived experience for support, and 74.1% said they would like to receive a list of resources. 67.5% indicated that they would like to meet with someone to help them find resources, while 59.7% said they would need assistance in applying for benefits. Additionally, 50.1% of respondents said they needed glasses/contacts. The only service in which a minority of respondents (45.7%) expressed interest is in substance use treatment services and/or recovery support. However, we note that 45.7% is still a substantial percentage of respondents who indicated interest (see Charts 23, 24, 25, 26, 26, 28, and 29 below and on the next two pages).

Chart 23: Whether Respondent Is Interested In Substance Use Treatment Services or Recovery Support (n=547)

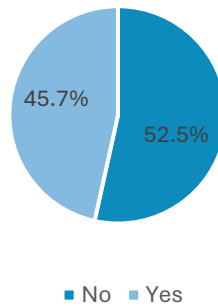


Chart 24: Whether Respondent Is Interested In Connecting With Someone With Lived Experience for Support (n=548)

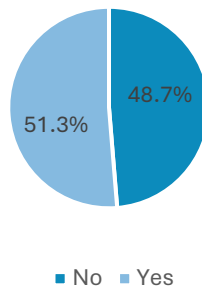


Chart 25: Whether There Is Anything Respondent Would Like to Do to Prepare for Life After Release (n=540)

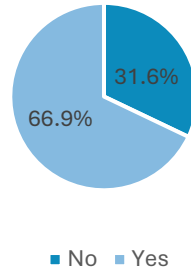


Chart 26: Whether Respondent Would Like a List of Available Resources (n=549)

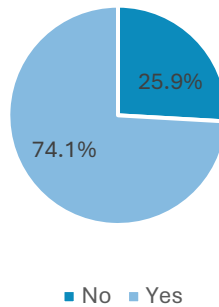


Chart 27: Whether Respondent Would Like to Meet With Someone To Help Them Find Resources (n=550)

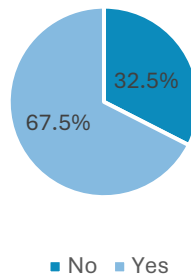


Chart 28: Whether Respondent Needs Glasses/Contacts (n = 551)

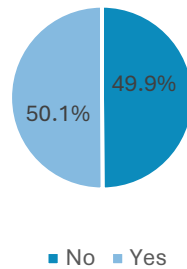
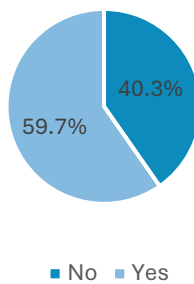


Chart 29: Whether Respondent Needs Assistance Applying for Benefits (n=546)



COMPARING RESPONDENT GROUPS AND THEIR DIFFERING NEEDS

In addition to summary statistics, we also compared several groups to see if their needs differed.⁵ We compared the following nine groups:

- respondents for whom English was their first language and respondents for whom it was not;
- men and women;
- those who had been incarcerated for the first time versus those who had been incarcerated before;
- respondents who were living on the street before incarceration versus those who were not;
- respondents who had stable housing before incarceration versus those who did not;
- respondents who had ever struggled with drug/alcohol versus those who had not;
- respondents who had a professional skill/trade versus those who had not;
- respondents who had completed high school versus those who had not;
- respondents who had children versus those who did not.

In the tables below, we provide only the statistically significant results.⁶ Additional data points (e.g., the chi-square statistics and the specific levels of significance) are available upon request from the corresponding author.

We begin by looking at language, where we see three major differences. Compared to respondents whose first language was English, respondents for whom English is not their first language were more likely to (see Table 1 below):

- not know where to get food upon release (50.0% to 38.0%)
- worry about safe and stable housing upon release (65.0% to 50.1%)
- do something to prepare for release (77.9% to 65.0%)

Table 1 Needs of Respondents for Whom English Was Their First Language Compared to Those For Whom English Was Not Their First Language (n=551)

		English is respondent's first language	
		No	Yes
Respondent knows where they will get food when released	No	40 (50.0%)	179 (38.0%)
	Yes	40 (50.0%)	292 (62.0%)
Respondent worries about having safe and stable housing when released	No	28 (35.0%)	236 (49.9%)
	Yes	52 (65.0%)	237 (50.1%)
Is there anything the respondent would like to do to prepare for release	No	17 (22.1%)	161 (35.0%)
	Yes	60 (77.9%)	299 (65.0%)

Turning to gender and gender identity, we compared men to women to assess whether their needs differed. As can be seen in Table 2 on the next page, women were more likely to:

- not have access to their social security card (51.2% to 30.1%);
- have a long-standing health problem (51.2% to 38.3%);
- have ever had a struggle with drug/alcohol abuse (78.8% to 64.5%);
- less likely to have a professional trade or job skill (47.0% to 34.1%);
- to be interested in substance use treatment or recovery support services (59.5% to 42.9%);
- to be interested in connecting with someone with lived experience for support (63.1% to 48.6%);
- to need glasses/contacts (66.7% compared to 47.0%).

Table 2 Needs of Male Respondents Compared to Female Respondents (n=545)

		Gender Identity	
		Male	Female
Respondent has access to their social security card	No	140 (30.1%)	41 (51.2%)
	Yes	325 (69.9%)	39 (48.8%)
Respondent has a long-lasting health problem	No	285 (61.7%)	40 (48.8%)
	Yes	177 (38.3%)	42 (51.2%)
Respondent has ever had a struggle with drug or alcohol abuse	No	165 (35.5%)	18 (21.2%)
	Yes	300 (64.5%)	67 (78.8%)
Respondent has a professional trade or job skill	No	157 (34.1%)	39 (47.0%)
	Yes	303 (65.9%)	44 (53.0%)
Respondent is interested in substance use treatment or recovery support	No	261 (57.1%)	34 (40.5%)
	Yes	196 (42.9%)	50 (59.5%)
Respondent is interested in connecting with someone with lived experience	No	235 (51.4%)	31 (36.9%)
	Yes	222 (48.6%)	53 (63.1%)
Respondent needs glasses/contacts	No	244 (53.0%)	28 (33.3%)
	Yes	216 (47.0%)	56 (66.7%)

Third, comparing those who had been previously incarcerated to those who were being incarcerated for the first time, those who have been previously incarcerated were more likely to (see Table 3 on the next page):

- not know where to get food when released (42.1% compared to 31.4%);
- not know if they will have transport after release (54.8% to 40.4%);
- not have access to a certified copy of their birth certificate (45.9% to 32.1%);
- be interested in substance use treatment or recovery support (48.1% to 35.9%);
- be interested in connecting with someone with lived experience (54.0% to 40.4%);
- be interested in receiving a list of available resources (76.8% to 63.5%);
- be interested in meeting with someone to help them find resources (69.8% to 58.1%);
- be interested in receiving assistance to apply for benefits (62.5% to 48.0%).

Table 3 Needs of Respondents Who Were Experiencing Incarceration for the First Time Compared to Those Who Had Previously Experienced Incarceration (n=552)

		First time incarcerated	
		No	Yes
Respondent knows where they will get food when released	No	188 (42.1%)	33 (31.4%)
	Yes	259 (57.9%)	72 (68.6%)
Respondent knows if they will have transportation after release	No	245 (54.8%)	42 (40.4%)
	Yes	202 (45.2%)	62 (59.6%)
Respondent has access to a certified copy of their birth certificate	No	205 (45.9%)	34 (32.1%)
	Yes	242 (54.1%)	72 (67.9%)
Respondent is interested in substance use treatment or recovery support	No	230 (51.9%)	66 (64.1%)
	Yes	213 (48.1%)	37 (35.9%)
Respondent is interested in connecting with someone with lived experience	No	204 (46.0%)	62 (59.6%)
	Yes	239 (54.0%)	42 (40.4%)
Respondent would like a list of available resources	No	103 (23.2%)	38 (36.5%)
	Yes	341 (76.8%)	66 (63.5%)
Respondent would like to meet with someone to help them find resources	No	134 (30.2%)	44 (41.9%)
	Yes	310 (69.8%)	61 (58.1%)
Respondent needs assistance applying for benefits	No	166 (37.5%)	53 (52.0%)
	Yes	277 (62.5%)	49 (48.0%)

Fourth, comparing those who had previously lived on the street before coming to jail compared to those who had not, those who previously lived on the street before coming to jail were more likely to (see Table 4 on the next two pages):

- not know where to get food when released (69.7% compared to 34.8%);
- worry about having safe and stable housing when released (88.5% to 45.8%);
- not know if they will have transport after released (80.9% to 47.1%);
- not have a valid driver’s license or state issued ID (56.7% to 31.4%);
- not have access to their social security card (51.1% to 29.6%);
- not have access to a certified copy of their birth certificate (70.5% to 37.7%);
- not have safe and supportive family/friends (34.1% to 14.4%);
- be interested in substance use treatment or recovery support (56.8% to 43.8%);

- be interested in connecting with someone with lived experience (73.6% to 47.1%);
- be interested in doing something to prepare for release (81.4% compared to 64.5%);
- be interested in receiving a list of available resources (87.4% compared to 72.1%);
- be interested in meeting with someone to help them find resources (87.5% to 63.8%);
- be interested in receiving assistance to apply for benefits (83.1% to 55.2%).

Table 4 Needs of Respondents Who Were Living on the Street Before Coming to Jail Compared to Those Who Were Not (n=549)

		Respondent was living on the street before coming to jail	
		No	Yes
Respondent knows where they will get food when released	No	160 (34.8%)	62 (69.7%)
	Yes	300 (65.2%)	27 (30.3%)
Respondent worries about having safe and stable housing when released	No	251 (54.2%)	10 (11.5%)
	Yes	212 (45.8%)	77 (88.5%)
Respondent knows if they will have transportation after release	No	216 (47.1%)	72 (80.9%)
	Yes	243 (52.9%)	17 (19.1%)
Respondent has a valid driver's license or state issued ID	No	145 (31.4%)	51 (56.7%)
	Yes	317 (68.6%)	39 (43.3%)
Respondent has access to their social security card	No	135 (29.6%)	45 (51.1%)
	Yes	321 (70.4%)	43 (48.9%)
Respondent has access to a certified copy of their birth certificate	No	174 (37.7%)	62 (70.5%)
	Yes	288 (62.3%)	26 (29.5%)
Respondent has safe and supportive family/friends	No	66 (14.4%)	30 (34.1%)
	Yes	393 (85.6%)	58 (65.9%)
Respondent is interested in substance use treatment or recovery support	No	258 (56.2%)	35 (43.2%)
	Yes	201 (43.8%)	46 (56.8%)
Respondent is interested in connecting with someone with lived experience	No	240 (52.9%)	23 (26.4%)
	Yes	214 (47.1%)	64 (73.6%)
Is there anything the respondent would like to do to prepare for release	No	159 (35.5%)	16 (18.6%)
	Yes	289 (64.5%)	70 (81.4%)

		Respondent was living on the street before coming to jail	
		No	Yes
Respondent would like a list of available resources	No	127 (27.9%)	11 (12.6%)
	Yes	329 (72.1%)	76 (87.4%)
Respondent would like to meet with someone to help them find resources	No	165 (36.2%)	11 (12.5%)
	Yes	291 (63.8%)	77 (87.5%)
Respondent needs assistance applying for benefits	No	202 (44.8%)	15 (16.9%)
	Yes	249 (55.2%)	74 (83.1%)

We further explored differences in living conditions by grouping those who had owned their own homes and/or were renting (had stable housing) and compared them with the other respondents (did not have stable housing). Using this measurement, 375 respondents had stable housing before coming to jail, while 184 respondents did not. Comparing those who had stable housing before coming to jail compared to those did not, those who did not have stable housing before coming to jail were more likely to (see Table 5 on the next two pages):

- not know where to get food when released (62.2% compared to 29.8%);
- worry about having safe and stable housing when released (77.7% to 40.4%);
- not know if they will have transport after release (58.9% to 24.3%);
- not have a valid driver's license or state issued ID (48.4% to 29.2%);
- not have access to their social security card (45.8% to 27.0%);
- not have access to a certified copy of their birth certificate (55.5% to 36.7%);
- not have safe and supportive family/friends (31.1% to 10.9%);
- be interested in substance use treatment or recovery support (58.6% to 39.6%);
- be interested in connecting with someone with lived experience (68.5% to 43.0%);
- be interested in doing something to prepare for release (78.1% compared to 61.8%);
- be interested in receiving a list of available resources (82.1% compared to 70.9%);
- be interested in meeting with someone to help them find resources (83.2% to 60.0%);
- be interested in receiving assistance to apply for benefits (73.9% to 52.2%).

Table 5 Needs of Respondents Who Had Stable Housing Before Coming to Jail Compared to Those Who Did Not (n=549)

		Whether respondent had stable housing before coming to jail	
		No	Yes
Respondent knows where they will get food when released	No	112 (62.2%)	110 (29.8%)
	Yes	68 (37.8%)	259 (70.2%)
Respondent worries about having safe and stable housing when released	No	40 (22.3%)	221 (59.6%)
	Yes	139 (77.7%)	150 (40.4%)
Respondent knows if they will have transportation after release	No	137 (75.7%)	151 (41.1%)
	Yes	44 (24.3%)	216 (58.9%)
Respondent has a valid driver's license or state issued ID	No	88 (48.4%)	108 (29.2%)
	Yes	94 (51.6%)	262 (70.8%)
Respondent has access to their social security card	No	81 (45.8%)	99 (27.0%)
	Yes	96 (54.2%)	268 (73.0%)
Respondent has access to a certified copy of their birth certificate	No	101 (55.5%)	135 (36.7%)
	Yes	81 (44.5%)	233 (63.3%)
Respondent has safe and supportive family/friends	No	56 (31.1%)	40 (10.9%)
	Yes	124 (68.9%)	327 (89.1%)
Respondent is interested in substance use treatment or recovery support	No	72 (41.4%)	221 (60.4%)
	Yes	102 (58.6%)	145 (39.6%)
Respondent is interested in connecting with someone with lived experience	No	56 (31.5%)	207 (57.0%)
	Yes	122 (68.5%)	156 (43.0%)
Is there anything the respondent would like to do to prepare for release	No	39 (21.9%)	136 (38.2%)
	Yes	139 (78.1%)	220 (61.8%)
Respondent would like a list of available resources	No	32 (17.9%)	106 (29.1%)
	Yes	147 (82.1%)	258 (70.9%)

		Whether Respondent Had Stable Housing Before Coming to Jail	
		No	Yes
Respondent would like to meet with someone to help them find resources	No	30 (16.8%)	146 (40.0%)
	Yes	149 (83.2%)	219 (60.0%)
Respondent needs assistance applying for benefits	No	47 (26.1%)	170 (47.2%)
	Yes	133 (73.9%)	190 (52.8%)

The sixth set of comparisons focused on those who had ever had an issue with drug/alcohol use compared to those who did not. Those who had ever had a struggle with drug/alcohol use were more likely to (see Table 6 on the next two pages):

- not know where to get food when released (47.1% compared to 27.1%);
- worry about having safe and stable housing when released (58.5% to 40.6%);
- not know if they will have transport after released (58.5% to 40.1%);
- not have a valid driver's license or state issued ID (38.9% to 28.6%);
- not have access to their social security card (38.1% to 23.6%);
- not have access to a certified copy of their birth certificate (47.8% to 33.3%);
- have a long-lasting health problem (47.4% to 27.6%);
- be interested in substance use treatment or recovery support (61.2% to 15.0%);
- be interested in connecting with someone with lived experience (63.5% to 26.8%);
- be interested in doing something to prepare for release (74.3% compared to 51.1%);
- be interested in receiving a list of available resources (80.8% compared to 59.6%);
- be interested in meeting with someone to help them find resources (75.8% to 50.0%);
- need glasses/contacts (54.0% to 42.5%);
- be interested in receiving assistance to apply for benefits (69.4% to 39.5%).

Table 6 Needs of Respondents Who Had Ever Struggled with a Drug/Alcohol Issue Compared to Those Who Had Not (n=546)

		Respondent has ever struggled with drug or alcohol use	
		No	Yes
Respondent knows where they will get food when released	No	49 (27.1%)	172 (47.1%)
	Yes	132 (72.9%)	193 (52.9%)
Respondent worries about having safe and stable housing when released	No	107 (59.4%)	153 (41.5%)
	Yes	73 (40.6%)	216 (58.5%)
Respondent knows if they will have transportation after release	No	73 (40.1%)	213 (58.5%)
	Yes	109 (59.5%)	151 (41.5%)
Respondent has a valid driver's license or state issued ID	No	52 (28.6%)	143 (38.9%)
	Yes	130 (71.4%)	225 (61.1%)
Respondent has access to their social security card	No	43 (23.6%)	138 (38.1%)
	Yes	139 (76.4%)	224 (61.9%)
Respondent has access to a certified copy of their birth certificate	No	61 (33.3%)	175 (47.8%)
	Yes	122 (66.7%)	191 (52.2%)
Respondent has a long-lasting health problem	No	131 (72.4%)	193 (52.6%)
	Yes	50 (27.6%)	174 (47.4%)
Respondent is interested in substance use treatment or recovery support	No	153 (85.0%)	140 (38.8%)
	Yes	27 (15.0%)	221 (61.2%)
Respondent is interested in connecting with someone with lived experience	No	131 (73.2%)	132 (36.5%)
	Yes	48 (26.8%)	230 (63.5%)
Is there anything the respondent would like to do to prepare for release	No	86 (48.9%)	92 (25.7%)
	Yes	90 (51.1%)	266 (74.3%)
Respondent would like a list of available resources	No	72 (40.2%)	70 (19.2%)
	Yes	107 (59.6%)	284 (80.8%)
Respondent would like to meet with someone to help them find resources	No	90 (50.0%)	88 (24.2%)
	Yes	90 (50.0%)	276 (75.8%)

		Respondent has ever struggled with drug or alcohol use	
		No	Yes
Respondent needs glasses/contacts	No	103 (57.5%)	168 (46.0%)
	Yes	76 (42.5%)	197 (54.0%)
Respondent needs assistance applying for benefits	No	107 (60.5%)	111 (30.6%)
	Yes	70 (39.5%)	252 (69.4%)

Comparing those who had a professional trade or job skill compared to those did not, those who did not have a trade or skill were more likely to (see Table 7 on the next page):

- not know where to get food when released (46.4% to 37.0%);
- worry about having safe and stable housing when released (58.5% to 49.1%);
- not know if they will have transport after release (61.2% to 47.2%);
- not have a valid driver's license or state issued ID (41.1% to 31.9%);
- not have access to their social security card (40.3% to 29.0%);
- not have access to a certified copy of their birth certificate (51.3% to 38.2%);
- not have safe and supportive family/friends (22.2% to 15.0%)

Table 7 Needs of Respondents Who Had a Professional Trade or Job Skill Compared to Those Who Did Not (n=540)

		Respondent has a professional trade or job skill	
		No	Yes
Respondent knows where they will get food when released	No	90 (46.4%)	128 (37.0%)
	Yes	104 (53.6%)	218 (63.0%)
Respondent worries about having safe and stable housing when released	No	81 (41.5%)	177 (50.9%)
	Yes	114 (58.5%)	171 (49.1%)
Respondent knows if they will have transportation after release	No	120 (61.2%)	163 (47.2%)
	Yes	76 (38.8%)	182 (52.8%)
Respondent has a valid driver's license or state issued ID	No	81 (41.1%)	111 (31.9%)
	Yes	116 (58.9%)	237 (68.1%)
Respondent has access to their social security card	No	79 (40.3%)	99 (29.0%)
	Yes	117 (59.7%)	242 (71.0%)
Respondent has access to a certified copy of their birth certificate	No	101 (51.3%)	132 (38.2%)
	Yes	96 (48.7%)	214 (61.8%)
Respondent has safe and supportive family/friends	No	43 (22.2%)	52 (15.0%)
	Yes	151 (77.8%)	295 (85.0%)

Interestingly, looking at education background, we did not see many differences. Comparing those who completed high school /earned a high school degree / earned a GED compared to those did not, those who did not have a high school degree/credentials were more likely to (see Table 8 on the next page):

- not have access to their social security card (40.4% to 30.4%).

Table 8 Needs of Respondents Who Had Completed A High School Degree Or Its Equivalent Compared to Those Who Had Not (n=465)

		Respondent has completed high school	
		No	Yes
Respondent has access to their social security card	No	63 (40.4%)	94 (30.4%)
	Yes	93 (59.6%)	215 (69.6%)

The last set of comparisons we conducted examined those who had children to those who did not. Those who had children are more likely to (see Table 9 below):

- have a long-lasting health problem (45.5% compared to 30.0%);
- to have safe and supportive family/friends (85.4% to 77.6%);
- be interested in receiving a list of available resources (76.6% to 67.1%);
- be interested in meeting with someone to help them find resources (70.5% to 59.4%);
- need glasses/contacts (53.7% to 41.4%).

Table 9 Needs of Respondents Who Had Children Compared to Those Who Did Not (n=541)

		Respondent has children	
		No	Yes
Respondent has a long-lasting health problem	No	112 (70.0%)	208 (54.6%)
	Yes	48 (30.0%)	173 (45.4%)
Respondent has safe and supportive family/friends	No	36 (22.4%)	56 (14.6%)
	Yes	125 (77.6%)	328 (85.4%)
Respondent would like a list of available resources	No	53 (32.9%)	89 (23.4%)
	Yes	108 (67.1%)	291 (76.6%)
Respondent would like to meet with someone to help them find resources	No	65 (40.6%)	113 (29.5%)
	Yes	95 (59.4%)	270 (70.5%)
Respondent needs glasses/contacts	No	95 (58.6%)	176 (46.3%)
	Yes	67 (41.4%)	204 (53.7%)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING DATA COLLECTION

We conclude this report by making the following recommendations to improve data collection.

- There needs to be a set of instructions requesting respondents to provide clear responses. If possible, the survey could be reformatted so that respondents could be asked to check boxes. Providing more space or demarcating the response options clearly might help provide clarity for respondents in noting down their responses.
- Question 25 proved confusing for some of the respondents. Some respondents selected both “10th-12th grade” and “high school” while others selected both “high school” and “GED.” We recommend that the response options for this question be revised, possibly on the order of:
 - did not earn a high school degree or GED
 - earned a high school degree
 - earned a GED
 - some college but did not earn a degree
 - earned an Associate’s degree
 - earned a Bachelor’s degree
 - earned a graduate degree
- As mentioned earlier in the report, the question on marital status needed to include a response option of “in a relationship.” In addition, there was no clear spacing between the responses of “single” and “married,” making it difficult for us to determine, in several cases, which option a respondent selected.
- Respondents were asked to select which obstacle they thought would be most challenging for them post-release. The instructions clearly asked respondents to select one response. However, many respondents selected multiple responses. Given that many respondents felt that they were unable to restrict their responses to just one, we might consider modifying the instructions such that respondents would select the top two responses.

NOTES

1. Our research team received 566 surveys in total from LCRC. However, in some cases, respondents did not fill in survey items, and in others, it was unclear which response they selected. Thus, for each survey item, the number of responses we could use differed. For each visual, we provide the number of viable responses, indicated with “n” in the title. For example, “n=560” means that we tallied 560 responses to that survey item.
2. The number of viable responses for each housing situation differed. For those indicating whether they owned their own home prior to incarceration, n=558. For those indicating multiple living situations prior to incarceration, n=560. For all other housing situations, n=559.
3. The number of viable responses for each income situation differed. For employment prior to incarceration, n=561. For ISSI/SSD prior to incarceration, n=559. For all other income situations (including multiple income situations), n=560.
4. The number of viable responses for each obstacle differed. For housing, family, other, and multiple as obstacles, n=554. For employment, legal, and transportation as obstacles, n=555.
5. We ran a series of chi-square tests comparing two groups against each other.
6. Statistically significant results are results that have a high chance of existing in the larger population, and are not due to chance. In this report, we used a statistical significance level of 0.05 and better. A significance level of 0.05 means that there are 5 in 100 chances that the differences we see exist in the larger population, and are not due to chance. Ideally, we would want the significance level to be as close to zero as possible, indicating that the chances that the results are due to chance are as low as possible.

APPENDIX A
LANCASTER COUNTY PRISON NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Lancaster County Reentry Coalition Survey of Needs January 2024

Disclaimer: These questions are to gather information on what you feel you need after incarceration. Your responses will help us as we work to provide what you feel you need to successfully reenter your communities. Completing this is not guarantee of services

Please circle your answers to the following questions.

1. Is English your first language?	Yes/No
2. How do you identify?	Male/Female/Other
3. Is this your first time being incarcerated?	Yes/No
4. Have you been incarcerated somewhere other than Lancaster County Prison?	Yes/No
5. Are you incarcerated for a:	Probation Violation / New Charges / Both
6. Do you have weather appropriate clothing for release?	Yes/No
7. Do you know where you will get food when you are released?	Yes/No
8. Are you worried about having safe and stable housing when you are released?	Yes/No
9. Do you know if you will have transportation when you are released?	Yes/No
10. Before you came to jail, where were you living (Circle all that apply) ?	
Renting Homeless Shelter Shared/Roommates Motel/Hotel Couch Surfing Owned Home Recovery House/Treatment Facility On The Street	
11. Do you expect any barriers to finding stable housing upon release?	Yes/No
12. Do you have a valid driver's license, or State issued ID?	Yes/No
13. Are you a Veteran?	Yes/No
14. If yes, do you have a copy of your DD214?	Yes/No
15. Do you have access to your Social Security Card?	Yes/No
16. Do you have access to a certified copy of your Birth Certificate?	Yes/No
17. What type of income did you have prior to incarceration? (Circle all that apply)	
Employment SSI/SSD Pension Unemployment None	
18. Will you have income upon release?	Yes/No
19. Have you ever been told that you have a long-lasting health problem (such as asthma, heart disease, diabetes, etc.)?	Yes/No
20. Have you ever had a struggle with drug or alcohol use?	Yes/No
21. Do you have a professional trade or job skill?	Yes/No

Lancaster County Reentry Coalition Survey of Needs January 2024

22. What is your highest level of education? **(Circle one)**

No School | 1st-5th Grade | 6th-9th Grade | 10th-12th Grade
High School | GED | Associate's degree | Bachelor's Degree | Master's Degree

23. Do you have a job available to you after release? Yes/No

24. Are you currently employed through the work release program? Yes/No

25. Marital Status: **(Circle one)**

Single/Married /Divorced /Separated /Widowed

26. Do you have children? Yes/No

27. Do you have safe and supportive family/friends? Yes/No

28. What are the biggest obstacles you believe you will face after being released? **(Circle one)**

Housing /Employment/Legal Requirements /Transportation /Family /Other

If you answer YES to any of the following questions, please place a service request on your tablet or at a kiosk.

29. Are you interested in substance use treatment services or recovery support? Yes/No

30. Are you interested in connecting with someone with lived experience for support? Yes/No

31. Is there anything you'd like to do to prepare for life after release? Yes/No

32. Would you like a list of available resources? Yes/No

33. Would you like to meet with someone to help you find resources? Yes/No

34. Do you need glasses/contacts? Yes/No

35. Will you need assistance applying for benefits? Yes/No

These will be picked up on 1/25 by the Lancaster County Reentry Coalition staff.