

# Silence & Punishment Survey Results

The Silence & Punishment survey explored the TCD community's knowledge of Irish prisons and their attitudes to prison as a form of punishment.

We asked our survey respondents (n = 1,302) to estimate various characteristics of the Irish prison population. The following is a snapshot of the Irish prison population as of March 2019.

As of March 2019, there are **4,002** people in custody in Irish prisons.

Of these, **4.4%** of prisoners are women.



**14.1%** of prisoners are under the age of 25.

**14.4%** of prisoners are over 50, the age that an individual is regarded as an older person in prison.

**54.4%** of prisoners are serving sentences for non-violent offences.

Most prisoners are currently serving sentences of between **1 and 3 years.**

The basic cost of housing a prisoner in an Irish prison for one year:

**€68,635**

The approximate cost of a Community Service Order for one year:

**€2,500**

**58%**

of our respondents did not know that prisoners wear their own clothes in prison.

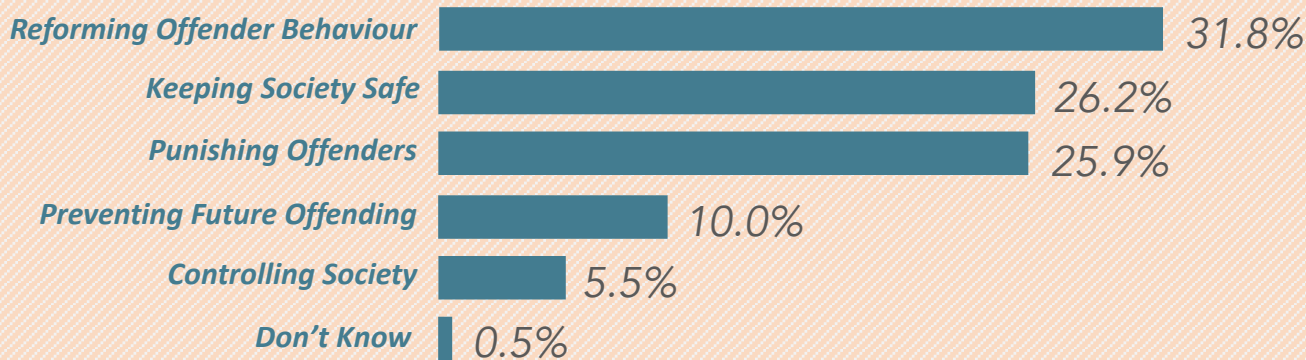
**52%**

(approx.) of prisoners have left school before their Junior Certificate exams.

**85%**

of our respondents did not know that the majority of prisoners eat meals in their cells.

We asked respondents to identify what they felt was the main purpose of prison (% frequency):



Our respondents were asked their opinion on various statements regarding the use of imprisonment:

58.0%

AGREED that a person who has repeatedly committed criminal offences can change if offered the right support.



70.1%

AGREED that some of the money that we are spending on housing prisoners should be shifted to strengthening community based programs like probation and parole.



79.2%

AGREED that mentally ill offenders should receive treatment in mental health facilities instead of being sent to prison.



63.3%

AGREED that offenders with a drug addiction should receive treatment in drug recovery programmes instead of being sent to prison.



56.0%

AGREED with the statement that most people come out of prison worse than they go in.



80.3%

DISAGREED with the statement increasing the number of people in prison will reduce crime.

