Launch Event
Secondary analysis of data collected over a 20 year period by HM Inspectorate of Prisons

23rd February 2022
4-5 pm

UKRI Economic and Social Research Council

HM Inspectorate of Prisons

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Welcome

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Welcome

1. Welcome
2. Address from HMCIP Charlie Taylor
3. Introduction to the Project
4. Building the Foundations
5. Project Outcomes
6. The Survey
7. The Data's Potential
8. Questions and Remarks

HMCIP Charlie Taylor

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Introduction to HM Inspectorate of Prisons

About the Inspectorate

- Publish approximately 80 reports a year.
- Thematic reviews:
  - Reading thematic (ongoing)
  - Black prisoners thematic (ongoing)
  - Neurodiversity in the criminal justice system (published)
  - What happens to prisoners in a pandemic? (published)

Recent findings and themes

- Recovery from Covid-19
- Length of tenure, quality and pipeline for prison leaders
- Levels of violence
- Women's Prisons

Analysing 20 years of prisoners' surveys

Importance of our data

1. We listen to the experiences and perceptions of the detainee
2. Helps us ask the right questions on inspections
3. Informs our inspection findings
4. Evidence-driven advice

Using our surveys to inform inspections
Safety

From our Prisoner Survey:

Do you feel unsafe now?

Styal: **19%**

Foston Hall: **30%** - statistically significantly **higher** that other women's local prisons

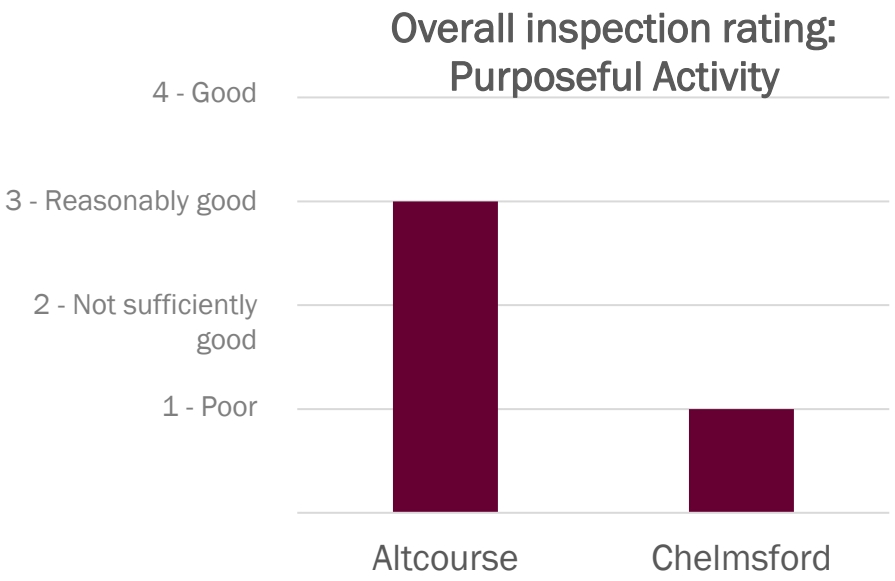
Using our surveys to inform inspections
Purposeful Activity

From our Prisoner Survey:

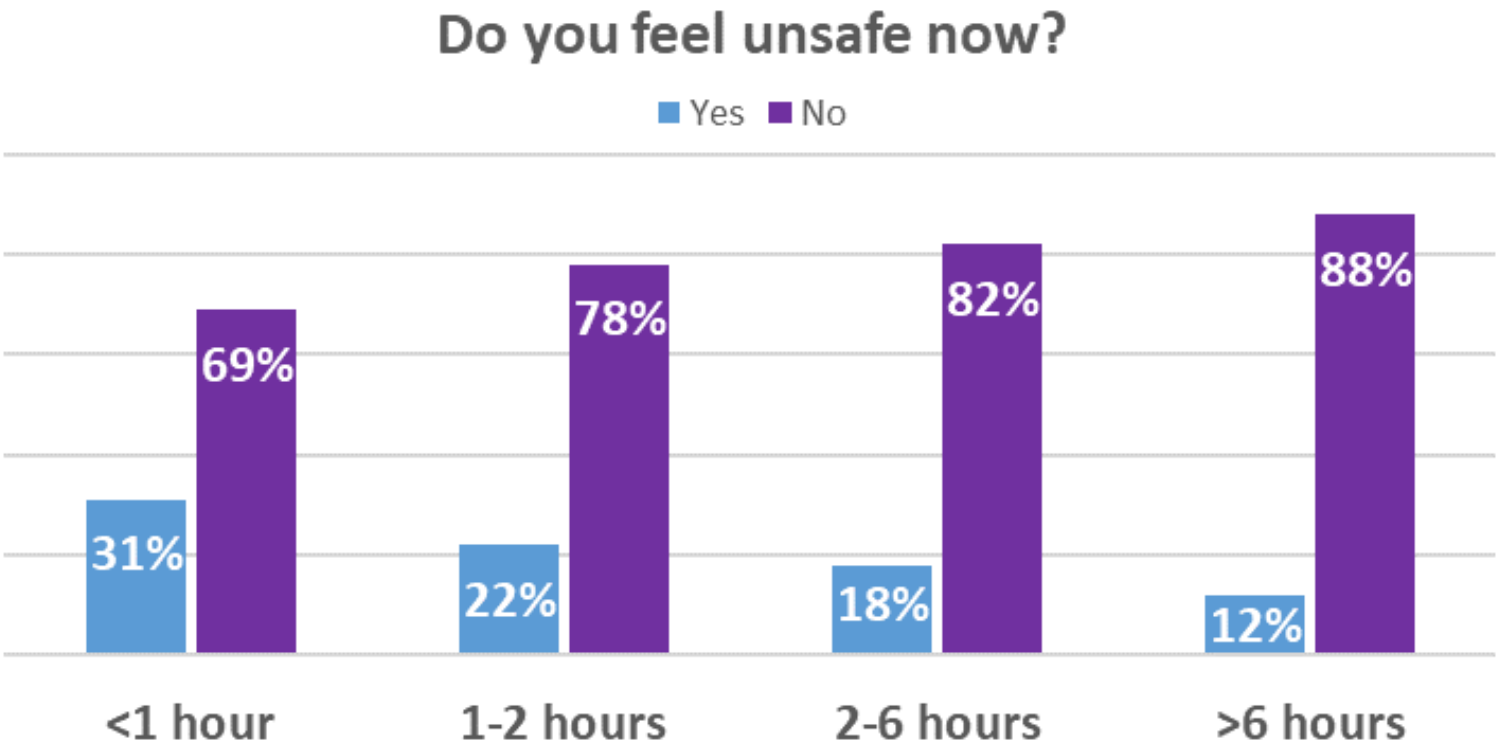
Do you usually spend LESS than 2 hrs out of your cell on a typical Saturday and Sunday?

Altcourse: **53%** - statistically significantly **lower** that other men's local prisons

Chelmsford: **82%**



Prisoners feel safer the more time they spend out of their rooms



What we will get from the project

1. Understanding more about prisoners and how their experiences of prison differ according to their characteristics, sentences, operational and policy changes, etc

2. Inform the work of practitioners and policy makers

3. Make our data more accessible to other researchers

HM INSPECTORATE
OF PRISONS

Project Overview

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An Introduction to the Project…

- **20 years** of HMIP prison inspections and surveys
- Historic survey data from at least **100,000 respondents**
- More than **10 million** analysable responses
- Collected from every **prison** and **Young Offender Institution** in England and Wales

An Introduction to the Project…

- Identify prisoners' **self-reported characteristics** (incl. age, gender, ethnicity) and **experiences** with regard to key elements of their treatment and conditions
- Inform and open up wider conversations about
  - **Prison safety**
  - **Purposeful activities**
  - **Reoffending**
- Insight into the impact of **organisational** and **policy changes** over the past 20 years
- Contribute to promoting and enabling **data access** for future research

An Introduction to the Project…

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- Summary of **key aims**
  - ***Identify*** prisoners' self-reported characteristics and experiences of imprisonment with regard to key elements of their treatment and conditions
  - ***Understand*** how these perceptions differ according to prisoners' characteristics and circumstances, sentence type, and changes in the external environment
  - ***Use*** this knowledge to inform the work of practitioners and policy makers
  - ***Produce*** data maps for all types of detention that have been surveyed (male and female prisons, juvenile custody, military and immigration detention)
  - ***Prepare*** aspects of the database for use by other academic researchers, teachers and policy makers

Feasibility Study

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Building the Foundations…

- The Feasibility Study
  - Initial exploration of prisoner survey responses over the last 20 years
  - Conducted February – June 2020
  - In partnership between RHUL and HMIP

- Set out to…
  - Establish the **extent** of the survey data held**,**
  - The **ethical** and **practical** problems involved in accessing and using it and
  - Included undertaking the initial **pilot study**.

Building the Foundations…

- Methods
  - **Focus groups** with currently serving prisoners (prior to the Covid-19 lockdown)
  - Solicitation of the advice and support of **key actors,** such as Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service and the Ministry of Justice's Data First team
- Database
  - Surveys conducted in **adult prisons** and **Young Offender Institutions**
- Research Questions
  - **Management** of the data
  - Governance and **ethics**
  - **Investigation** of prisoner experiences of interactions with prison staff

Building the Foundations…

- **Outcomes**: Three peer-reviewed **academic papers** co-authored by RHUL and HMIP
  - Quinn, A., Denney, D., Hardwick, N., Jalil, R. and Meek, R. (2020) The **feasibility** and challenge of using administrative data: a case study of historical prisoner surveys, International Journal of Social Research Methodology.
  - Quinn, A., Shaw, C., Hardwick, N., Meek, R., Moore, C., Ranns, H. and Sahni, S. (2020) Prisoner interpretations and **expectations** for the governance of survey data. Criminal Justice Ethics 39: 3, 163-182.
  - Quinn, A. Hardwick, N. and Meek, R. (2021) With age comes respect? And for whom exactly? A quantitative examination of prisoner **experiences** of respect elicited through HM Inspectorate of Prisons survey responses. The Howard Journal of Crime and Justice 60: 2, pages 251-272.

Building the Foundations…

- **Impact**:
  - Evidence of the project's **relevance,** its **feasibility,** and the original **contribution** that it promises to the areas of prison research, survey methodologies and open data derived from administrative and operational datasets

Project Outcomes

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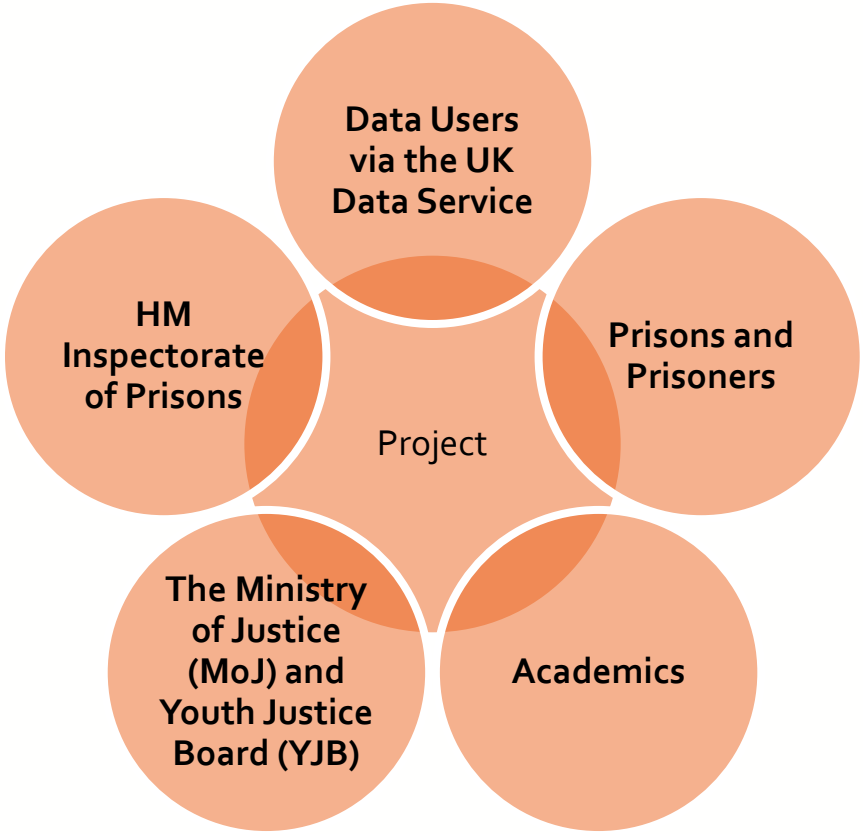
Project Outcomes…

Generating Policy Impact…

- Research questions, future papers and practitioner guides
- Impact on policy and practice

Advancing Knowledge…

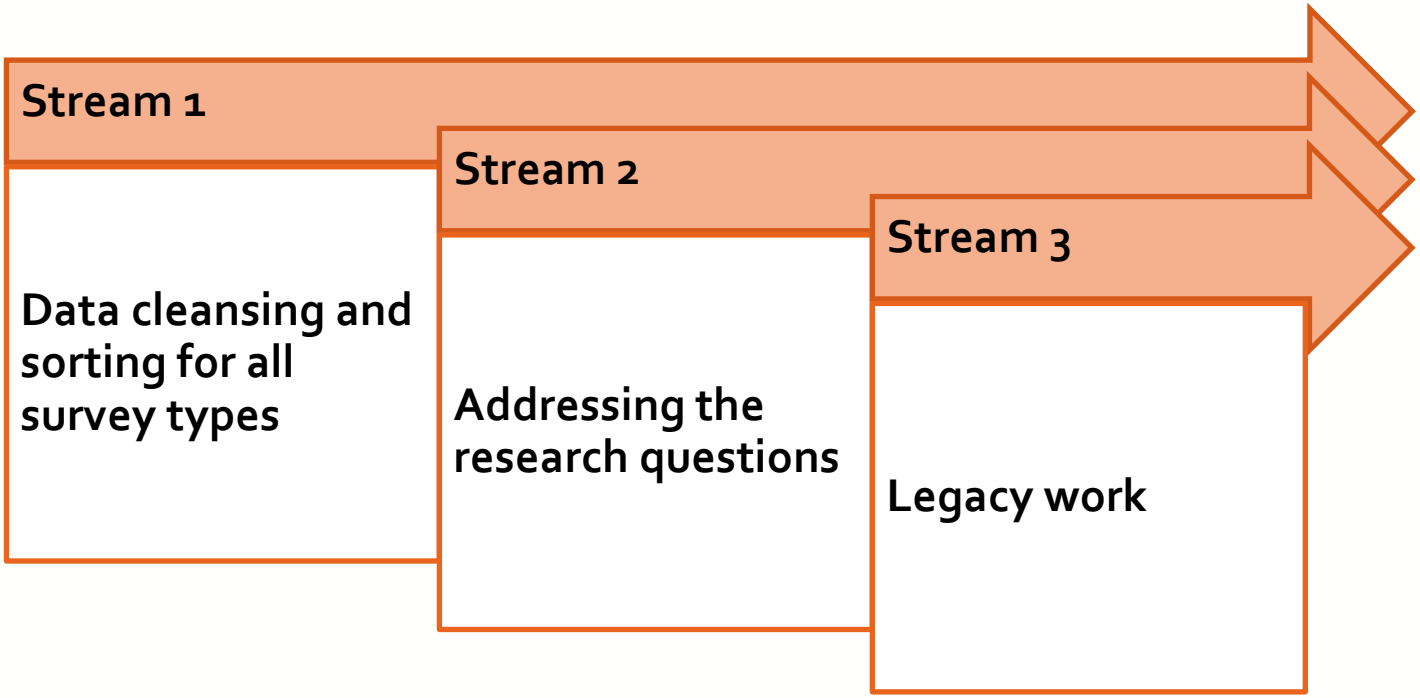
- Accessible data for future research
- User manual for guidance



Project Outcomes…

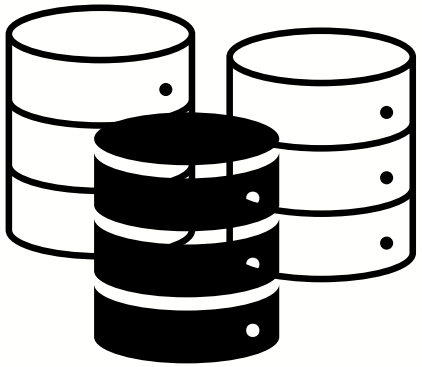
Generating policy impact and advancing knowledge…

- 3 distinct but overlapping streams to the work



Advancing Knowledge…

- **Accessible data** for future research
  - Generation of a **database** for use by other academic researchers, teachers and policy makers
  - Deposition of the data with the **UK Data Service**
  - Creation of accompanying **technical reports** and **user guidance**



Advancing Knowledge…

- **User manual** for guidance
  - To explain
    - The **format** and quantity of the survey data held,
    - The **consistency** of specific questions within the last 20 years and
    - Any **caveats** which need to be considered in the analysis.
  - Clear instructions about where the data can be accessed and explanations about ethics and informed consent

The Survey

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The Detainee Survey…

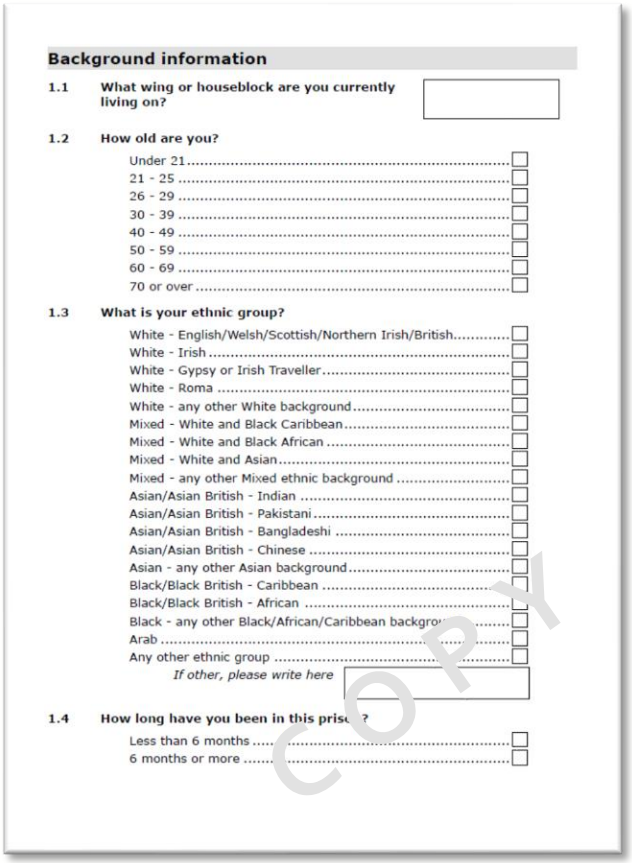
- Surveyed **institutions**: prisons, Young Offender Institutions, Secure Training Centres, Immigration Removal Centres, and Military Detention Centres
- Survey is handed out to a **representative sample** of the prison population; sample size is calculated to ensure that findings reflect the experience of the entire establishment population
- Survey **can** be conducted in form of an **interview** if participants are not able to read or write, or if there are language barriers
- Overall **response rate** between 75% and 85%

The Detainee Survey…

- Questions follow the **detainee's journey** and seek to ascertain the **detainee's perspective** on how they are treated
- **Themes:**

The Detainee Survey…

- **Current survey version (men):** 20 pages, 20 thematic sections, 115 questions



Background information

1.1 What wing or houseblock are you currently living on?

1.2 How old are you?

- Under 21
- 21 - 25
- 26 - 29
- 30 - 39
- 40 - 49
- 50 - 59
- 60 - 69
- 70 or over

1.3 What is your ethnic group?

- White - English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
- White - Irish
- White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- White - Roma
- White - any other White background
- Mixed - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed - White and Black African
- Mixed - White and Asian
- Mixed - any other Mixed ethnic background
- Asian/Asian British - Indian
- Asian/Asian British - Pakistani
- Asian/Asian British - Bangladeshi
- Asian/Asian British - Chinese
- Asian - any other Asian background
- Black/Black British - Caribbean
- Black/Black British - African
- Black - any other Black/African/Caribbean backgro
- Arab
- Any other ethnic group

If other, please write here

1.4 How long have you been in this pris ?

- Less than 6 months
- 6 months or more

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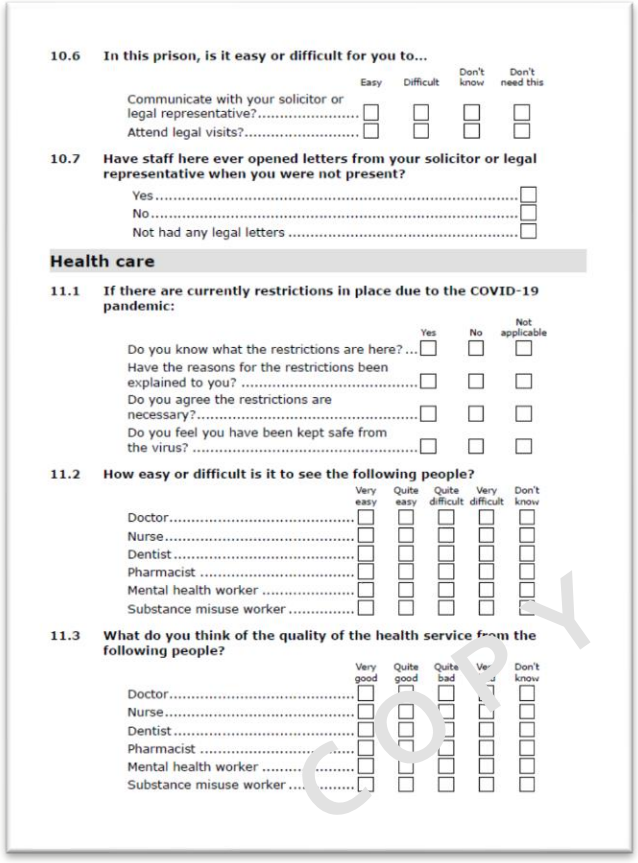

10.6 In this prison, is it easy or difficult for you to…

	Easy	Difficult	Don't know	Don't need this
Communicate with your solicitor or legal representative?				
Attend legal visits?				

10.7 Have staff here ever opened letters from your solicitor or legal representative when you were not present?

- Yes
- No
- Not had any legal letters

Health care

11.1 If there are currently restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

	Yes	No	Not applicable
Do you know what the restrictions are here?			
Have the reasons for the restrictions been explained to you?			
Do you agree the restrictions are necessary?			
Do you feel you have been kept safe from the virus?			

11.2 How easy or difficult is it to see the following people?

	Very easy	Quite easy	Quite difficult	Very difficult	Don't know
Doctor					
Nurse					
Dentist					
Pharmacist					
Mental health worker					
Substance misuse worker					

11.3 What do you think of the quality of the health service from the following people?

	Very good	Quite good	Quite bad	Ver	Don't know
Doctor					
Nurse					
Dentist					
Pharmacist					
Mental health worker					
Substance misuse worker					

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The Detainee Survey…

- **Data allow for**
  - Comparing detainees' experiences in the **inspected establishment** to the experiences of detainees in **similar establishments,**
  - Comparing **current experiences** of detainees in the inspected establishment to those reported in **previous inspections** in the same establishments, and
  - Conducting **sub-group analyses** to compare characteristics and experiences of different populations (age, gender, ethnicity, functional type, etc.)

The Data and its Potential

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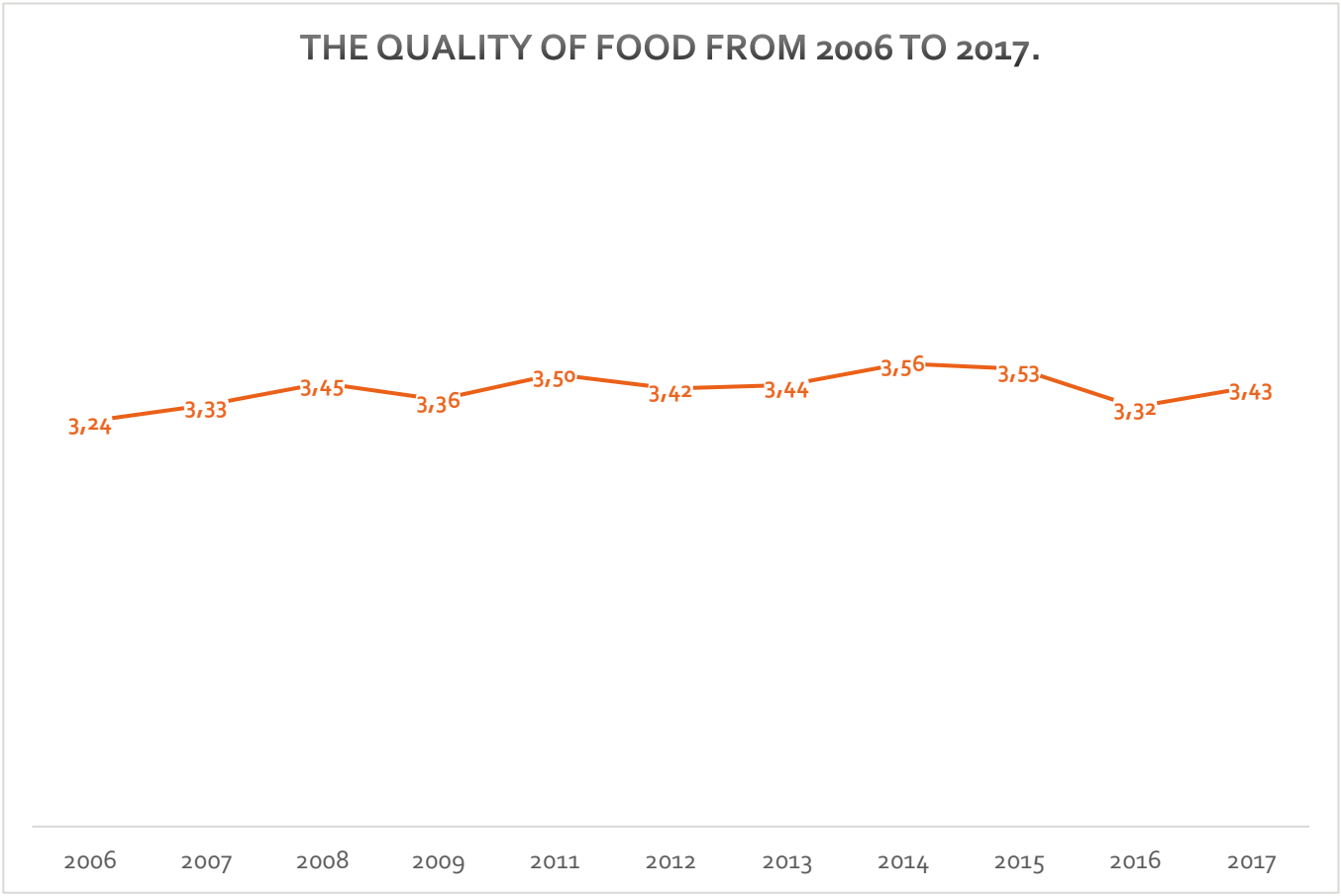
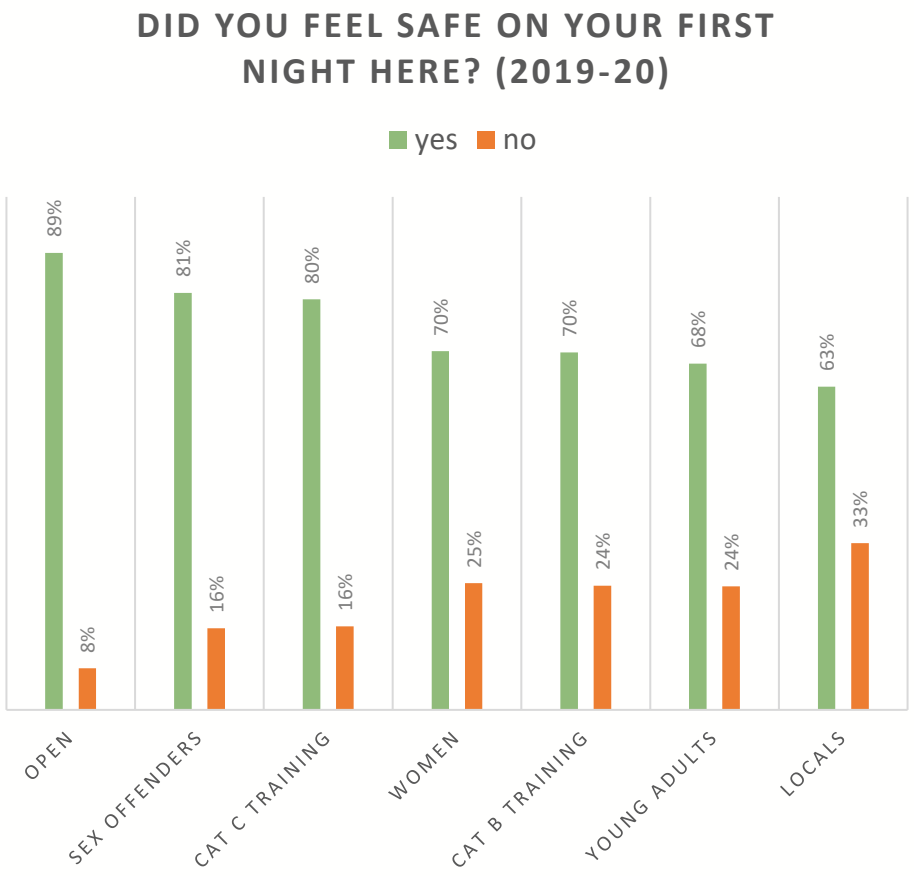
The Data and its Potential…

- **Example:** Over time…



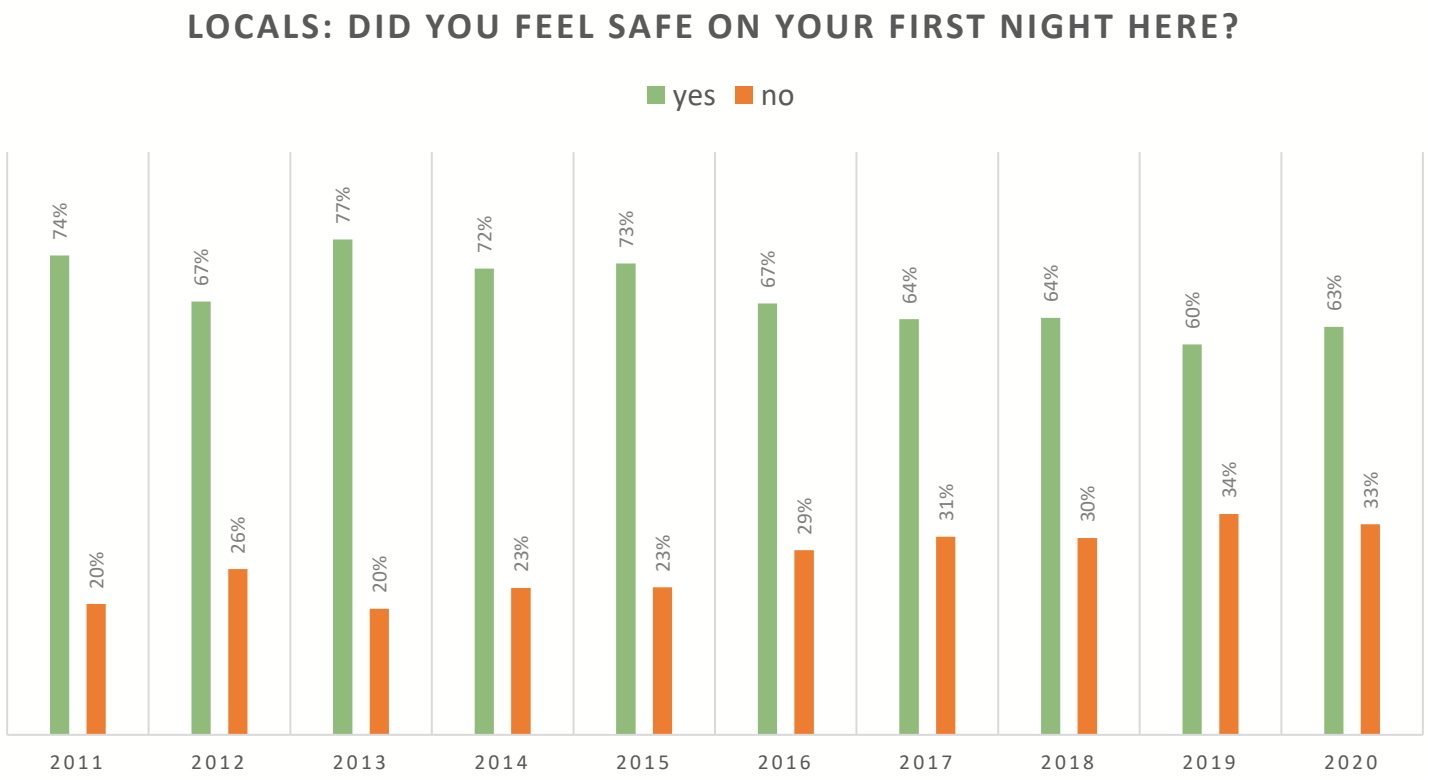
The Data and its Potential…

- **Example:** …by prison functional type.



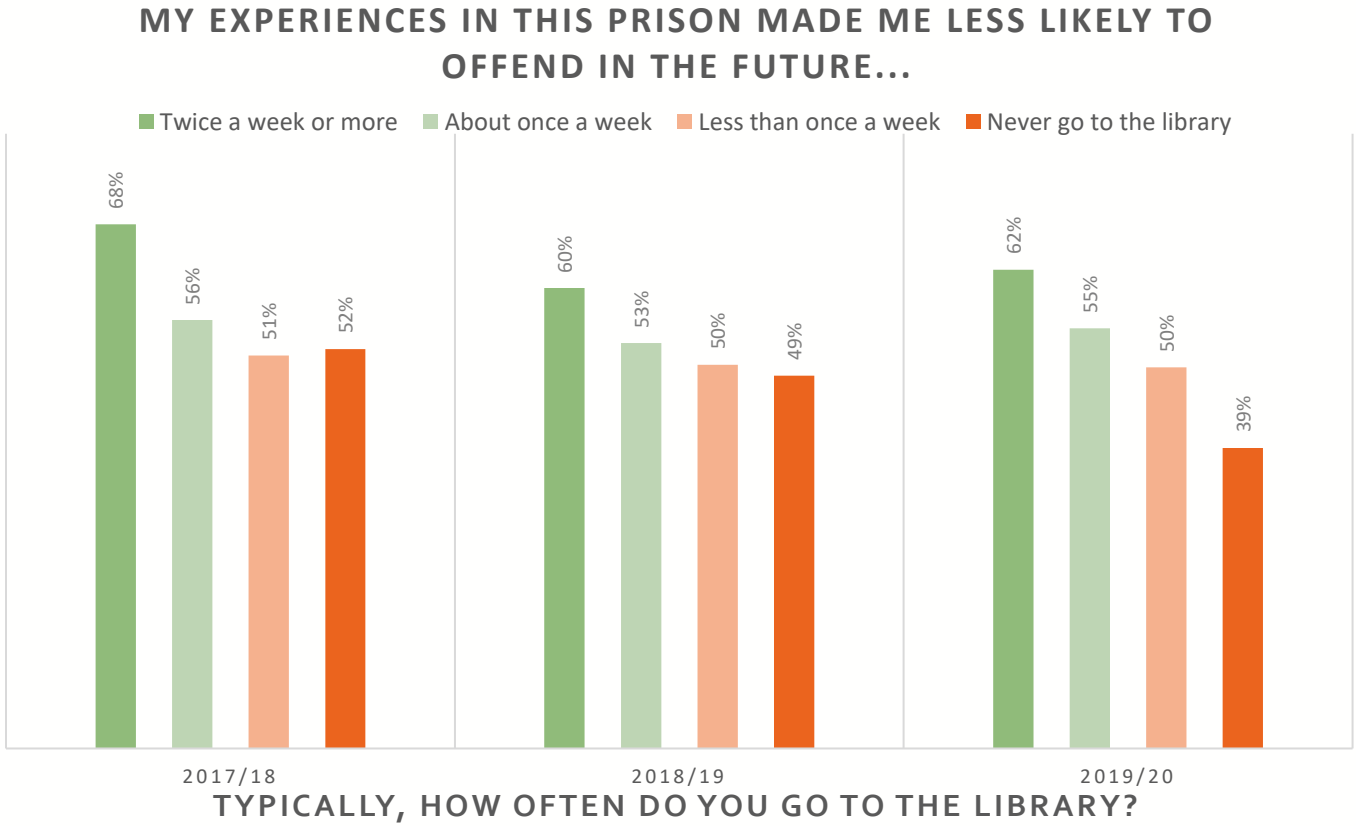
The Data and its Potential…

- **Example:** …by prison functional type and over time



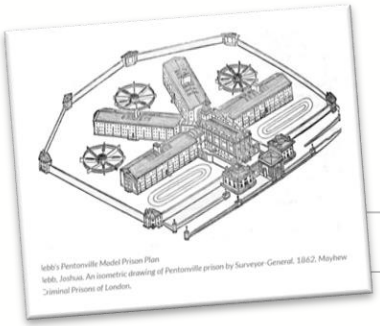
The Data and its Potential…

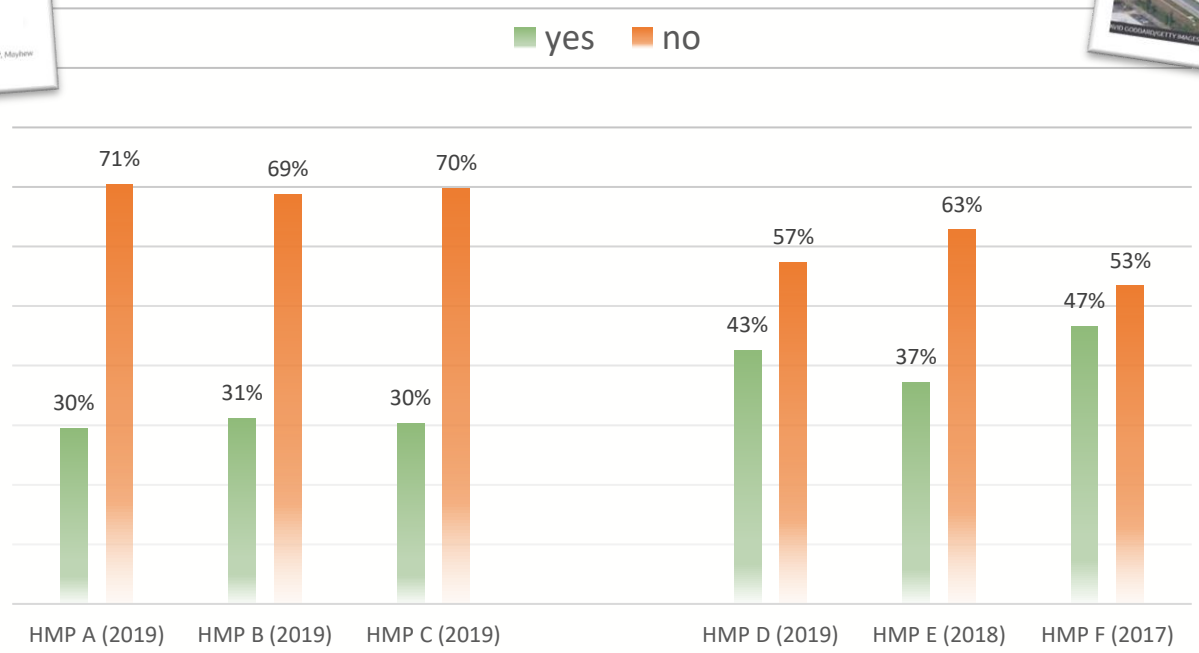
- **Example:** Prisoners who report that their experiences in prison made them less likely to **offend** in the future are those who report visiting the **library** most regularly.



The Data and its Potential…

- **Example:** Prison design and staff-prisoner relationships.

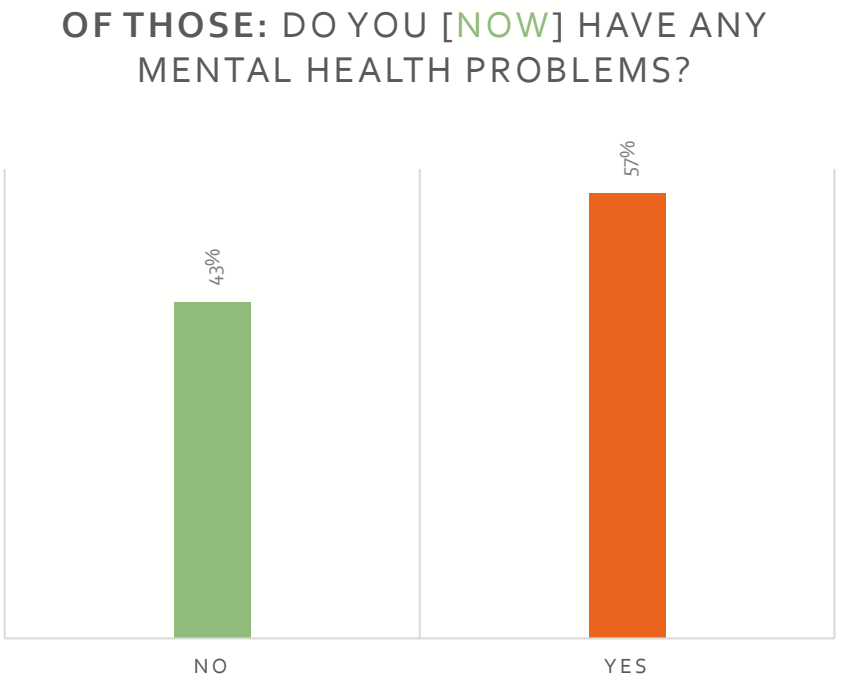




The Data and its Potential…

- **Example:** Women and Mental Health (2019-20)

35% of women **did not** report any **mental health** problems when they **first** arrived.



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