

Survey of Individuals Deprived of Liberty:

Caribbean 2016–2019

Suriname Country Report

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Prepared for the Inter-American Development
Bank by:

The Research Institute for Social Sciences (IMWO)
Anton de Kom University, Suriname

Researcher: Sabine de Vries, MSc.

Editors: Dana Michael King, Viviana Vélez-
Grajales, and Lina Marmolejo

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The University of the West Indies, Mona

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Abstract

This report presents the findings of the inmate survey, Suriname, which was conducted from November 2018. A total of 505 inmates from the adult prisons and police stations in Suriname were surveyed. The questionnaire used in the research was developed by the IDB and explored inmates' experiences before incarceration, as they were processed through the criminal justice system, while they served their sentences, and as they contemplated life after being released. The average age of the participants was 34.1 years and most had attained at least some secondary or higher education. Many respondents reported experiencing violence while in the criminal justice system. Close to half (41.8 percent) experienced physical force following arrest in order to compel testimony. A significant majority of respondents (70.5 percent) reported witnessing other inmates beaten in detention; by other inmates (79.8 percent), prison guards (49.2 percent) and police (21.9 percent). Nearly half of respondents (45.5 percent) indicated that they had been previously incarcerated. We recommend that the Government of Suriname increase efforts to strengthen internal reporting mechanisms, investigate acts of misconduct, and impose consequences for violence inside the prison. Further, we recommend that the government and prison administrators invest in rehabilitation and reintegration programs during and following incarceration to reduce recidivism rates, as well as exploring expansion of alternatives to incarceration, particularly for persons in pre-trial detention.

JEL Codes: H59, H76, K14, K42, N46

Keywords: criminal career, Caribbean, Suriname, incarcerated women, incarcerated men, crime prevention, prisoners, prisons, intrafamily violence, prison system



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Abbreviations

ABS	Algemeen Bureau voor de Statistiek
CELIV	Centro de Estudios Latino Americanos sobre Inseguridad y Violencia
HDI	Human Development Index
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
KPA	Suriname Correctional Officers Corps
KPS	Suriname Police Corps
MJP	Ministry of Justice and Police
PADF	Pan American Development Fund
RNR	Risk-Needs-Responsivity
SPCR	Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction
SRD	Surinamese Dollar
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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Special thanks go to the men and women who voluntarily gave their time and shared their experiences in order to provide us with the necessary information. This study is based on the testimony of these inmates and would not have been possible without them.

Executive Summary

Improving correctional management is of concern for Caribbean countries. Correctional systems in the region are facing significant challenges, including (IDB, 2018a):

- high prison population rates, oscillating between 145 and 379 per 100,000 inhabitants (the world average is 140 per 100,000 inhabitants);
- prison overcrowding (with official capacity estimated to be exceeded by more than 70.0 percent); and
- overuse of pretrial detention (across the region, the average percentage of inmates being held in detention pending trial is 40.0 percent of the total inmate population).

In this context, rehabilitation opportunities within the correctional system are notably scarce. This situation is exacerbated by ineffective criminal justice systems characterized by case processing delays and backlogs, insufficient alternatives to prison, excessive use of punitive policies (based on extended prison sentences), and inadequate personnel. In addition, a lack of official data useful to support evidence-based planning and programs for offenders' rehabilitation and reintegration worsens the challenges faced by the region's correctional systems. Further, there is clear underinvestment in the prison sector, both from the public sector and international cooperation funding. These conditions result in increased recidivism and minimal social prevention policies that negatively impact the efficiency of citizen security efforts.

Given this context, Caribbean countries are striving to reform their correctional systems, encouraging a policy shift from a merely punitive approach toward a smarter correctional strategy focused on innovative alternatives to incarceration, rehabilitation mechanisms, and reentry opportunities. To assist in this effort, in 2016, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved *Strengthening Data Generation for Correctional Management in the Caribbean* (RG-T2551; IDB, 2018a). The regional grant project has a two-fold objective:

1. to contribute to understanding the causes of the near collapse of the criminal justice systems in specific countries; and
2. to diagnose the steps needed to improve the management of correctional systems with a view to strengthening efficiency and rehabilitative capabilities.

Through the grant, the IDB financed inmate surveys and correctional system diagnostics in Jamaica, Suriname, Barbados, and Trinidad & Tobago.

This report presents 2018 survey data collected from a representative sample of the 1,411 people detained and incarcerated in Suriname in November 2018. The Surinamese prison system currently consists of three prisons, one House of Remand, and 30 police stations. One of the three prisons houses adult female convicted offenders (the Central Penitentiary) and one police station (Geyersvlijt) houses adult female suspects. The survey was conducted in all three penitentiaries, in the House of Remand, and in nine of the 30 police stations. This survey includes female suspects and inmates.

Sociodemographic Profile

- *Number surveyed.* For this survey, 505 inmates were interviewed, of which 6.0 percent were female (30) and 94.0 percent male (475). Though respondents ranged in age from 18 to 72 years old, 74.8 percent were between 18 and 39, and the mean age was 34.1 years.
- *Residence.* At time of arrest, a majority of respondents (57.6 percent) lived in Paramaribo, the capital of Suriname, 24.4 percent resided in Wanica District, and the remaining 18.0 percent lived in one of the other eight districts.
- *Family composition.* Prior to their arrest, 39.2 percent of the respondents lived with a partner and/or child(ren), 25.7 percent lived with parents or other guardians, and 19.8 percent lived alone. The remainder of the respondents lived with other relatives.
- *Age at parenthood.* More females (36.4 percent) than males (25.2 percent) became a parent for the first time at age 18 or younger, while fewer women (9.0 percent) became a mother for the first time at an age older than 25 years than men (24.8 percent).
- *Number of children.* Of all respondents, 70.1 percent had children. Of these, most (78.0 percent) had between one and three children, while 22.0 percent had four or more children. More men had only one child (34.0 percent) than women (27.3 percent). The percentage of female respondents with four (13.6 percent) or five (13.6 percent) children was almost twice as that of men (7.2 percent and 5.4 percent, respectively).
- *Education before arrest.* The average age that the respondents went to school for the last time was 17.8 years, with 59.6 percent last attending school at older than 16, 31.9 percent between 13 and 16 years, and 8.5 percent not going to school after age 12. Note that 22.2 percent of the inmates did not complete primary school, while 42.2 percent of the respondents never completed their secondary education. Not all dropped out of school; 15.2 percent completed technical vocational training and 9.5 percent did complete their secondary education.
- *Education before arrest by gender.* Far more male (23.2 percent) than female (6.7 percent) respondents dropped out of primary education. At the secondary school level, the dropout rate was relatively equal, with 43.3 percent of the female respondents and 42.1 percent of the male respondents not completing secondary school.
- *Work before arrest.* Of the respondents, 96.6 percent had worked at least one point in their life, while 78.4 percent worked in the month before their arrest. By age, 8.7 percent of the respondents started working for pay during primary school (<12 years), while 33.5 percent started working between 13 and 16 years old, and 52.5 percent started working at the legal age (16 years).
- *Type of work.* When asked what type of work they did, 21.6 percent did not answer. Of the respondents that did answer, the four most common professions before arrest were company employee (20.2 percent), self-employed (16.2 percent), construction or factory worker (11.1 percent), and miner (10.4 percent).
- *Work load.* Of those who worked before being arrested, 66.9 percent worked more than 40 hours a week.

- *Salary.* While 33.2 percent of the respondents earned SRD2,000^{1,2} (US\$266) or less per month and 35.9 percent earned between SRD2,001 and SRD4,000 (US\$266.80–US\$533.33), results also showed that 13.2 percent earned more than SRD10,000 (US\$1,333) a month.
- *Financial satisfaction.* Of the inmates who had worked in the month before they were arrested, 27.7 percent were very satisfied with their economic situation and that of their family one month before they got arrested for their offense and 38.4 percent were somewhat satisfied, while 32.8 percent were either not very satisfied or not satisfied at all.

Childhood and Life Story

- *Living situation.* 93.3 percent of the respondents lived with their mother when they were a child, of which the largest group (55.4 percent) lived with their mother until an age between 11-20 years old. Of the 6.7 percent that never lived with their mother, 58.8 percent lived with their grandmother, 8.8 percent with their aunt, 8.8 percent with their stepmother, and the rest with others.
- *Lived with father.* Of the 68.3 percent of the respondents that lived with their father, 17.7 percent lived with him until age 10, 49.9 percent until between 11 and 20 years old, 20.9 percent until between 21 and 30, and 8.1 percent still lived with their father when they were older than 30 years of age. Of the respondents that lived with their father, 69.6 percent stated that their mother lived with them as well.
- *Parental guidance.* Of all respondents, 16.8 percent left home before 15 years of age. The three most mentioned reasons were to apply for a job (18.8 percent), abandonment or parents' separation (15.3 percent), and family violence (11.8 percent).
- *Domestic violence.* Of the respondents, 30.1 percent said they had never been physically punished by their parent(s) or guardian, 12.9 percent said they were beaten "in some cases" (once or twice a year), and 56.2 percent were physically punished more often than that.
- *Violence against mother.* The majority (62.2 percent) of the respondents stated that no physical violence was used against their mother; however, 21.4 percent did witness such violence to some extent and 16.4 percent did not answer this question.
- *Gangs.* Of the respondents, 34.9 percent stated that there were gangs or criminal groups in the neighborhood where they lived as a minor (under 18 years).
- *Family members ever in prison.* Of the respondents, 61.8 percent had family members who had ever been in prison. The four most mentioned family members were cousins (31.7 percent), uncles (26.9 percent), (half-)siblings (22 percent), and fathers (10.9 percent).
- *Family members presently in prison.* Of the respondents, 22.2 percent stated that they had a family member currently in prison, 68.1 percent had no family in prison at the time of the survey, and 9.7 percent did not answer the question. Of the female respondents, 20.0 percent currently had a partner in prison compared with 3.2 percent of the men.

¹ The currency symbol for Surinamese dollars is Sr\$ or \$. Unless otherwise noted, \$ refers to Surinamese dollars throughout this report.

² In November 2018, the exchange rate was roughly Sr\$7.50 for US\$1.

- *Parental use of drugs and alcohol.* Of the respondents, 32.9 percent witnessed at least one of their parents drinking alcohol frequently when they were a child. Regarding parental drug use, 9.5 percent of the respondents' parents used drugs, while 88.1 percent never saw such a situation.
- *Personal use of drugs.* When asked about their own drug use, 55.6 percent said they had consumed marijuana at some point in their life. Concerning other types of drugs, ecstasy (9.9 percent) and cocaine (7.9 percent) were the most common.

Criminal Careers and Inmate's Profiles

- *Common types of crime.* The most common types of crime among the respondents in the Surinamese prison system were:
 - Robbery and aggravated robbery (29.1 percent)
 - Theft and aggravated theft (19.2 percent)
 - Drug possession or dealing (11.9 percent)
 - Assault (10.7 percent)
- *Type of crime by gender.* When survey responses were disaggregated by gender, drug possession or dealing was the most common type of crime among women (43.3 percent), followed by scam, misappropriation, fraud (16.7 percent), and manslaughter (13.3 percent). Among the men, the most common crimes were robbery and aggravated robbery (30.5 percent), theft and aggravated theft (20.0 percent), assault (10.9 percent), and sex crimes (10.3 percent).
- *Physical injury.* There was some kind of physical injury incurred by the victim during 29.3 percent of the crimes which were committed.
- *Alcohol or drug use during crime.* Of the inmates, 25.1 percent drank alcohol or used drugs within the six hours prior to committing the crime they were incarcerated for.
- *Weapon.* In 27.9 percent of the cases, the respondent carried a weapon at the time they committed the crime, while 70.3 percent said they did not and 1.8 percent did not answer this question.
- *Type of weapon.* Of the respondents who carried a weapon, 46.0 percent stated that they were carrying an unlicensed firearm, 30.7 percent had a knife, 8.0 percent had a licensed firearm, 7.3 percent had a machete, and 8.0 percent had another type of weapon.
- *Partner in crime.* In more than half of the cases (54.5 percent), there was someone else involved in the crime, while 43.8 percent of the respondents had no accomplice, and 1.7 percent did not answer the question or did not know the answer.
- *Recidivism.* 45.5 percent of the respondents were previously incarcerated for other crimes. More men (47.8 percent) than women (10.0 percent) had been incarcerated previously.
- *Recidivism.* Of the respondents who were previously arrested, 38.3 percent had been arrested only once before, while 23.0 percent had been arrested twice before their current arrest. As the number of previous arrests increased, the number of respondents decreased. Regarding expected recidivism, 89.3 percent of the inmates stated that they probably or most probably *would not* be arrested again compared to 7.4 percent who stated that they probably or most probably *would* get arrested again after release.
- *Juvenile detention.* Of all respondents, 12.5 percent had been in a juvenile detention center.

- *Owned a firearm.* Results showed that 41.4 percent of all respondents had a firearm at one time in their life. Other than those who first owned a gun at age 25 or older (20.4 percent), the most common age of first ownership was 18 (15.3 percent) followed by age 19 (11.0 percent). Remarkably, 5.8 percent owned their first firearm at age 12 or younger.
- *Origin of weapon.* The three most mentioned sources for acquiring guns were 'bought it' (31.1 percent), 'from a friend' (21.1 percent) and was 'a former member of law enforcement' (19.1 percent).
- *Caused injury or death.* 70.3 percent (n=147) of respondents who responded to the question about the origin of gun answered the question about whether they had injured or killed someone with a firearm, of which 24.5 percent admitted that they did at some point.

Legal Procedures and Criminal Process

- *Trial stage.* Of all respondents, at the time of their interview, 46.7 percent were arrestees (8.1 percent whose trial had yet to begin and 38.6 percent who were already on trial but not yet sentenced) and 51.3 percent were convicts. The group that answered "other" (1.8 percent) included those whose case was in appeal and they were awaiting the result.
- *Time between offense and arrest.* The largest group of inmates (18.4 percent) was arrested within an hour of the crime they were accused of committing, followed by 17.0 percent between three and 24 hours, 15.8 percent between one week and one month, and 15.2 percent between one day and one week.
- *Procedure.* Of all the respondents, 28.9 percent were shown a warrant for their arrest, 68.1 percent stated that the police had not shown them a warrant, and 3.0 percent did not answer this question. Of those shown a warrant, there is no information about whether that happened at the crime scene or at another location (home/work).
- *Taken to police station.* After being arrested, 89.5 percent of the respondents were taken to a police station. It is not clear where 7.5 percent were taken or why 3.0 percent did not want to answer this question.
- *Entitled to lawyer.* When asked if they were informed that they were entitled to a lawyer, 66.3 percent responded positively, 22.0 percent indicated that they were not informed and 11.7 percent did not answer the question. For 41.8 percent of the respondents, physical force was used to compel them to testify or change their statement.
- *Time in jail.* Half (44.8 percent) of the respondents spent more than one week in jail at the police station, 15.8 percent spent one night, 6.5 percent spent two nights, and 4.6 percent between three and seven nights.
- *Bribes.* Of the respondents, 8.3 percent said that someone had asked them for money or belongings. The results show that 5.7 percent of the sample stated that the police had asked them for money or belongings while 1.6 percent mentioned the prison staff.
- *Lawyer.* The majority of the respondents (59.2 percent) had seen only one lawyer since their arrest. More than half (52.3 percent) of the surveyed inmates had a private lawyer, while 24.2 percent had to make use of legal aid. Of note, roughly a quarter of the respondents (22.0 percent) did not have a lawyer at all.

- *Frequency of contact with lawyer.* Many (32.9 percent) of the respondents said they almost never saw their lawyer, 21.4 percent saw their lawyer once a month, and 7.7 percent saw them once a week.
- *Understanding.* When asked how much they understood about what was happening during their trial, 30.4 percent stated they understood quite a lot and 31.1 percent a lot. On the other hand, 38.6 percent understood little or very little about their own trial.
- *Contact with judge/magistrate.* Of the respondents, 23.0 percent had spoken to the judge or magistrate only once compared with 13.1 percent who had spoken to one of them twice and 12.9 percent who spoke to one of them three times. Notably, 9.1 percent of the respondents never spoke to the judge/magistrate at all. Of the respondents that spoke to the magistrate or judge, 43.8 percent stated that they felt that the judge or magistrate listened a lot or quite a lot to what they had to say, while 49.9 percent felt that little or very little of what they said was heard.
- *Quality of defense.* Of the respondents represented by a lawyer, 9.3 percent felt their lawyer defended them very well and 49.5 percent said their lawyer defended them well. On the other hand, 33.9 percent said their lawyer did little or very little. Looking at satisfaction with defense and type of lawyer, results show that the respondents with a private lawyer were more likely to feel that they were defended very well (11.7 percent) than respondents represented by legal aid (4.1 percent).
- *Sentencing.* The mean elapsed time between arrest and sentencing was 10.5 months. According to the Surinamese law, each arrestee must be summoned to court within 120 days, though a verdict may not be rendered within this timeframe. The findings show that 31.7 percent were convicted within the legal timeframe and 42 percent within five months to a year, but 26.0 percent waited more than a year to be convicted. The sentence of 29.6 percent of respondents was between 0 and 2 years, followed by 27.2 percent who received a sentence of between 2 and 4 years. Generally, the longer the sentence, the smaller the group that had to serve it, except those serving 10 or more years (12.5 percent).

Conditions in Prison

- *Overcrowding.* The results show that 28.7 percent of respondents were accommodated in cells which housed more persons than they were designed to accommodate.
- *Sleeping conditions.* Of the respondents, 66.9 percent said they had slept on a bed the night before the survey, while 15.4 percent slept on a mattress,³ 9.9 percent in a hammock, and 7.5 percent on the floor.
- *Sleeping conditions by type of facility.* When comparing the situation in the penitentiaries with that in the police stations, results showed that 15.7 percent of the respondents slept on the floor at police stations compared to 3.5 percent in prison. Note that in the prisons either a bed (72.0 percent) or a mattress (21.8 percent) was provided for the respondents, while in the police station cells, 56.6 percent were provided a bed and 2.4 percent a mattress.
- *Sleeping conditions by gender.* All of the women had a bed (96.7 percent) or a mattress (3.3 percent) to sleep on, while some of men had to sleep on the floor (8.0 percent) or in a hammock (10.5 percent).
- *Personal products provided by family included:*

³ One of the limitations of the questionnaire was that the response category “bed” did not exclude the response category “mattress” because some beds had a mattress.

- sheets (86.3 percent)
- towels (87.3 percent)
- shoes (85.9 percent)
- a bed and mattress (19.2 percent)

Only in exceptional cases (between 0.2 percent and 1.2 percent) does the government provide inmates with small personal hygiene products.

- *Shower.* Results showed that 56.4 percent of the respondents showered 15 or more times a week, or at least twice a day. The second largest group (39.0 percent) showered between eight and 14 times a week, or one to two times a day.
- *Toilets.* According to 54.6 percent of the respondents, the toilets were dirty or somewhat dirty, while 45.1 percent said they were somewhat to very clean.
- *Drinking water.* When asked if they had enough water to drink, 90.3 percent said yes; however, 58.4 percent stated that the quality of the drinking water was poor or very poor. Only 19.6 percent of the respondents said they had access to good or very good quality drinking water.
- *Food.* Of the three necessities—water, food, and medical care—the quality of the food was rated poor most frequently, with 31.1 percent rating the quality of the food poor and 47.1 percent very poor.
- *Medical care.* Results showed that 44.6 percent of the respondents got sick during their stay in prison or at the police station. Of those that got sick, 62.4 percent received medical care, 28.1 percent did not, and 9.5 percent did not answer this question. Of those that received medical care, 17.8 percent rated the quality of the care as good or very good compared to 43.2 percent who rated it as poor or very poor.
- *Timeframe for medical care.* Results showed that 46.6 percent of those who were sick received help from a doctor or nurse within an hour of it being reported, and 23.8 percent within 24 hours, but 3.8 percent had to wait more than 72 hours for medical assistance.
- *Medication.* Of the inmates that needed medication, 23.0 percent asked family members to bring it to them. However, 55.2 percent of the inmates stated that their medication was provided by the prison system.
- *Type of illness.* Of the respondents, 22.8 percent had a flu or other chest infection, 5.7 percent had stomach problems, 1.6 percent experienced depression and/or anxiety, 0.6 percent had tuberculosis, 0.2 percent had HIV/AIDS, and 19.2 percent had another kind of illness.
- *HIV/AIDS.* Of the respondents, 17.6 percent stated that they were tested for HIV/AIDS. An HIV/AIDS test is not compulsory when entering detention in Suriname.
- *Mobile phone, PC and internet, TV.* In detention, mandatory activities and recreational options are minimal. Watching television was the most common daily activity/hobby for many of the respondents, with 41.8 percent stating that they had access to a television. Although forbidden, access to a mobile phone was confirmed by 13.5 percent of the respondents, and 2.8 percent said they had access to a PC and the internet. Of the respondents, 55.0 percent stated that they never used a phone, while 12.3 percent talked on the phone daily.
- *Visits.* The biggest group of inmates (42.4 percent) received weekly family visits, 13.3 percent were visited every 15 days, and 12.3 percent once a month, while 14.3 percent never got a visitor. After the pretrial period, the frequency of the visits seemed to decrease.

- *Treatment of visitors.* Almost half (49.5 percent) of the inmates stated that their visitors were treated well or very well, while 19.4 percent stated the treatment was so-so, and 6.9 percent said the treatment was bad or very bad.
- *Visitors bringing in goods.* Sometimes visitors had to pay to bring in food (4.0 percent), to get other items through (4.4 percent), and to get forbidden goods in (4.0 percent).
- *Support from family.* Of the respondents, 94.9 percent said their family provided food and 90.8 percent said family provided clothes and shoes.
- *Sex.* Of the respondents, 2.0 percent said that they had been forced to have sexual intercourse against their will since their arrest, all of them male.
- *Contraception.* Of all the 30 female inmates interviewed, 6.7 percent used a form of contraception and none of those stated that they were forced to use it. Also, 3.3 percent stated that they had had a gynecological examination during their detention period.
- *Feeling safe in prison.* Of the respondents, 86.3 percent said they felt less safe than they did prior to incarceration, 4.8 percent said they felt safer, and 8.5 percent felt just as safe.
- *Feeling safe by gender.* Results showed that 20.0 percent of the women felt just as safe as before their incarceration compared to 7.8 percent of the men. Further, more men (87.2 percent) felt less safe in prison than women did (73.3 percent).
- *Belongings stolen.* 25.1 percent of all respondents stated that they had had personal belongings stolen while in detention. Looking at the safety of belongings within police stations compared to penitentiaries, 29.5 percent of the respondents in prison said possessions had been stolen compared to 16.9 percent of the respondents in the police stations.
- *Attacked or beaten.* Of the respondents, 15.8 percent stated that they had been attacked or beaten in the previous six months. The perpetrators of these attacks and beatings were predominantly other inmates (72.5 percent), but in 27.5 percent of the cases the perpetrators were prison guards and in 18.8 percent they were police officers.
- *Other inmates attacked or beaten.* Of the respondents, 70.5 percent stated that they had seen other inmates beaten in detention. The perpetrators were said to be other inmates (79.8 percent), prison guards (49.2 percent) and police (21.9 percent)
- *Alcohol and drugs.* Although officially prohibited, 18.4 percent of the respondents claimed that they had used alcohol and/or drugs during the past month in detention. Of the inmates interviewed, 43.8 percent claimed that they had seen other inmates using alcohol or drugs.
- *Type of drugs.* Of those who used drugs while incarcerated ($n = 93$), 82.8 percent smoked marijuana and 11.8 percent drank alcohol, by far more common than any of the other drugs used.
- *Source/origin of the drugs.* The drug provider was not revealed in 50.5 percent of the cases, but in most cases the drugs were believed to have been brought in by prison guards (25.1 percent) or police officers (15.8 percent), though some were brought in by relatives or visitors (6.5 percent).
- *Daily activities.* Apart from sleeping, bathing, and eating, inmates have a lot of spare time. Over the previous month, 50.3 percent of the respondents had participated in prison cleaning or maintenance work, 50.1 percent in sport activities, and 14.3 percent in educational activities. In general, most of the inmates (57.6 percent) reported sleep as part of their daily routine, while 47.1 percent practiced sports and other leisure activities during the day.

- *Guidance.* The results show that 33.1 percent of the respondents never received assistance from a psychologist and/or a social worker. Of those who received such services 26.3 percent said the service was good or very good compared with 21.0 percent who said it was poor or very poor.
- *Work inside prison.* Of those who worked within the prison in the previous month (n = 279), 74.9 percent had done prison maintenance, 15.4 percent learned a craft, and 9.7 percent did other types of work.
- *School in prison.* In Suriname there are limited possibilities to attend school while detained. Of all respondents, only 2.8 percent attended classes or school while in prison. Of these respondents, 57.1 percent found it very useful, 35.7 percent found it quite useful, and 7.1 percent found it not very useful.
- *Reasons for not attending school.* Of the group that did not attend school in prison, 89.3 percent said school was not an option or choice as no classes were available and 5.8 percent said they had no interest in studying.

Future

- *Neighborhood.* When asked if they would return to live in the same neighborhood as before their arrest, 64.4 percent of the inmates responded positively.
- *Work.* Of the respondents, 41.0 percent stated that they had a job waiting for them on release, while 20.2 percent said that they would apply for a job related to their trade. Many inmates (25.3 percent) expected to find it challenging to find a job.
- *Situation after release.* Notably, 62.6 percent of the inmates expected to be better off when released than before their arrest, while 16.8 percent expected the situation to be the same and 10.9 percent anticipated it would be worse.
- *Social network.* When asked if they were planning to go back and spend most of their time with the people they knew before they were incarcerated or if they would rather be around new people, 44.8 percent stated that they wanted to be around new people. A notable 43.0 percent stated that they wanted to be with the same people while 12.2 percent did not know and/or had no answer to this question.
- *Challenges.* When asked in which part of their life challenges were most likely to arise after release, 62.2 percent did not give an answer or did not know, 25.3 percent expected to find challenges with finding a job, 7.9 percent feared that their family would reject them, and 4.6 percent were worried about where they would live.
- *Negative possibilities.* Of the respondents, 5.9 percent said they were most likely to be attacked or hurt after their release, 5.7 percent said they were most likely to get sick or develop an addiction, 7.5 percent said it was possible that they would be arrested again, and 4.4 percent revealed that they were likely to be killed because of what they had done.
- *Guidance after release.* Of the respondents, 83.0 percent stated that they were not familiar with any government offices or agencies and 74.9 percent were not familiar with any civil society groups, such as churches, human rights organizations, or special groups that help ex-inmates find a home and/or a job during the first months after their release.

Introduction

Background and Justification

Improving correctional management (implementing correctional strategies, programs, or policies that can contribute to reducing crime) is of concern for Caribbean countries. Correctional systems in the region are facing significant challenges, including (IDB, 2018a):

- high prison population rates, oscillating between 145 and 379 per 100,000 inhabitants (the world average is 140 per 100,000 inhabitants);
- prison overcrowding (with official capacity estimated to be exceeded by more than 70.0 percent); and
- overuse of pretrial detention (across the region, the average percentage of inmates being held in detention pending trial is 40 percent of the total inmate population).

In this context, rehabilitation opportunities within the correctional system are notably scarce. This situation is exacerbated by ineffective criminal justice systems characterized by case processing delays and backlogs, insufficient alternatives to prison, excessive use of punitive policies (based on extended prison sentences), and inadequate personnel. In addition, a lack of official data useful to support evidence-based planning and programs for offenders' rehabilitation and reintegration worsens the challenges faced by the region's correctional systems. Further, there is clear underinvestment in the prison sector, both from the public sector and international cooperation funding. These conditions result in increased recidivism and minimal social prevention policies that negatively impact the efficiency of citizen security efforts.

Given this context, Caribbean countries are striving to reform their correctional systems, encouraging a policy shift from a merely punitive approach toward a smarter correctional strategy focused on innovative alternatives to incarceration, rehabilitation mechanisms, and reentry opportunities. To assist in this effort, in 2016, the IDB approved *Strengthening Data Generation for Correctional Management in the Caribbean* (RG-T2551; IDB, 2018a). The regional grant project has a two-fold objective:

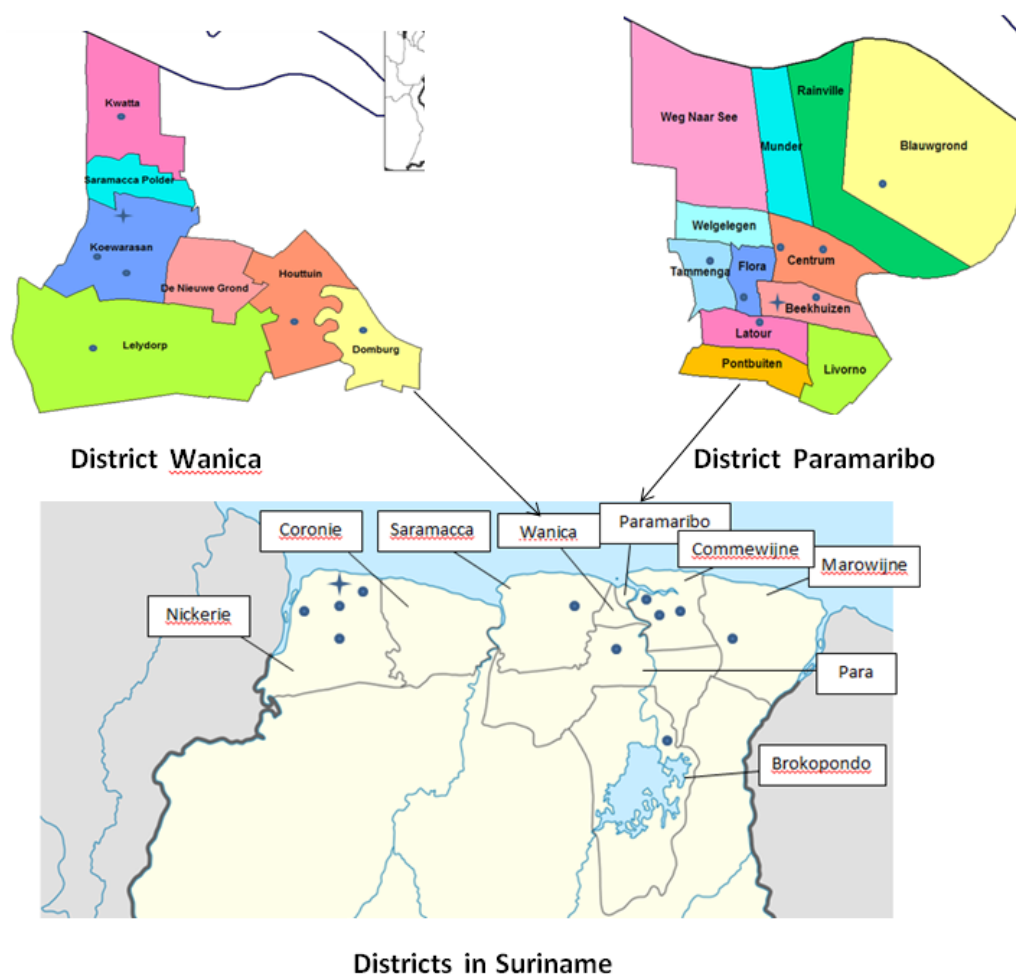
1. to contribute to understanding the causes of the near collapse of criminal justice systems of specific countries; and
2. to diagnose the steps needed to improve the management of correctional systems with a view to strengthening efficiency and rehabilitative capabilities.

Through the grant, the IDB financed inmate surveys and correctional system diagnostics in Jamaica, Suriname, Barbados, and Trinidad & Tobago.

Survey data from incarcerated people present a unique opportunity to gain an understanding of issues relevant to crime and security from the perspectives of people who have committed or have been accused of committing offences. They can provide a wealth of information, including why they committed offences, their backgrounds such as demographic information and family background, the conditions in prison and police stations, their experiences while in prison, the legal process, and a range of other issues. Such data can complement other more official sources of information, such as crime data, and offer useful insights that official data cannot provide.

This report presents 2018 survey data collected from a representative sample of the 1,411 people detained and incarcerated in Suriname in November 2018. The Surinamese prison system currently consists of three prisons, one House of Remand, and 30 police stations (see Figure 1). One of the three prisons houses adult female convicted offenders (the Central Penitentiary) and one police station (Geyersvlijt) houses adult female suspects. The survey was conducted in all three penitentiaries, in the House of Remand, and in nine of the 30 police stations. This survey includes female suspects and inmates.

Figure 1: Map of the Districts in Suriname and Locations of the Penitentiaries and Police Stations (2018)



Note: The dots indicate where the police cells are located in all districts and the stars indicate where the prisons are located.

Source: Author's elaboration based on https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Resorts_in_Paramaribo,_Suriname_-_20061227.png. Map of the resorts of the Paramaribo district in Suriname. Created by Rarelibra 22:50, 27 December 2006 (UTC). Wanica: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wanica_District#/media/File:Wanica_resorts.png Map of the resorts of the Wanica district in Suriname. Created by Rarelibra 22:51, 27 December 2006 (UTC)

In Suriname, detained and incarcerated people fall under the general jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice and Police (MJP).⁴ Depending on a series of factors, prisoners may fall under the specific jurisdiction of the MJP's Suriname Police Corps (KPS) or the Suriname Correctional Officers Corps (KPA). Table 1 gives an overview of the type of facility, the jurisdiction it falls under, what type of prisoners the facility is supposed to hold according to the law, and the actual legal status of the detainees that are housed currently.

Table 1: Overview of the Surinamese Prison System

Type of Facility	Jurisdiction	Abbr.	Status of Detainees	
			According to Law	Actual
Police station	Suriname Police Corps	KPS	Arrested	Arrested and convicted
Penitentiary	Correctional Officers' Corps	KPA	Convicted	Convicted
House of Remand	Correctional Officers' Corps	KPA	Arrested	Arrested and convicted

In accordance with the law,⁵ criminal suspects fall under the jurisdiction of the KPS from arrest until they are either convicted by a court or declared innocent. Once convicted and until release, prisoners fall under the specific jurisdiction of the KPA.⁶ The KPS houses arrestees at one of 30 police stations in Suriname. Convicted people are to be held in one of the three national penitentiaries managed by the KPA. Though managed by the KPA, the House of Remand is also meant to exclusively hold arrestees (as opposed to convicted prisoners).

The ratio of arrestees, convicts, and respondents in appeal is complex because of the following:

- Approximately 3.0 percent of the people held at police stations had been convicted. These people were mostly convicted of minor offenses and had spent a period in pretrial detention that was almost equivalent to the time the court sentenced them to serve. Since pretrial detention times are deducted from sentences, KPS officials may opt not to go through the bureaucratic procedure of transferring the convicted person to the KPA if the time remaining on their sentence is minimal (a few months maximum).

⁴ Among other duties, the MJP is "responsible for the enforcement of fundamental human rights and freedoms, social and legal assistance, policy on inmates, and domestic security and maintenance of public order. The MJP is also responsible for the housing of prisoners and preparing these individuals for their return to the community." See <http://justiceandpolice.gov.sr/over-ministerie/> accessed January 13, 2020.

⁵ According to the official police rules and regulations as stated in the Politie Handvest, KPS is tasked with ensuring the maintenance of public order and safety for the prevention of criminal offences and the protection of persons and goods; the investigation of criminal offences and the enforcement of legal provisions, the violation of which punishment is imposed. See 1971 WET van 17 April 1971, houdende regelen omtrent de politie in Suriname (Politie-handvest) (G.B.1971 no. 70). TITEL I TAAKOMSCHRIJVING DER POLITIE Artikel 5 ALGEMENE POLITIETAAK.

⁶ According to the official KPA rules and regulations, as found in the *Penitentiär Besluit*, correctional officers are responsible for detecting offenses among the prisoners, while treating them with humanity and refraining from any treatment that might induce sentiments of disrespect or generate feelings of hatred and revenge among the inmates. See STAATSBESLUIT van 10 April 1973 ter uitvoering van artikel 39 tweede lid van het Wetboek van Strafrecht (Penitentiär Besluit) (G.B. 1973 no. 54), gelijk het luidt na de daarin aangebrachte Wijzigingen bij G.B. 1975 no. 102, S.B. 1975 no. 2, S.B. 1979 no. 21, S.B. 1981 no. 63; and Penitentiär Besluit, Artikel 22: STRAFBARE FEITEN and Artikel 25: BEHANDELING GEDETINEERDEN.

- Though originally built to house arrestees and to solve overcrowding at police stations, the House of Remand is KPA-managed and also currently houses convicts. This situation evolved due to limited space and overcrowding at the three KPS penitentiaries (PADF, 2014, p. 61). Currently 34.5 percent of the inmates in the House of Remand are sentenced and thus, according to international standards, should not be housed there.

Table 2 gives an overview of the Surinamese prison system and of the distribution of respondents by their legal status at the time of this survey.

Table 2: Respondents' Judicial Status and Location (N=505; percent)

	Prison	House of Remand	Police Station
Trial has not begun	0.4	6.1	19.9
Going through trial	3.6	52.6	76.5
Sentenced	95.6	34.2	3.0
Other (incl. in appeal)	0.4	7.1	0.6

Methodology

To ensure the validity and reliability of the inmate survey, several procedures were followed. The methodology includes different aspects of the survey, from design to implementation. Especially during the data collection phase, the same steps were followed in all contributing countries. This section presents information about the population, the sampling procedure, the instrument/questionnaire, the remarks about the questionnaire, data collection and training, the fieldwork, the pre-test, data processing, and revising the report.

Population

The target population was inmates in Suriname, meaning all respondents for this research were either adult arrestees or adult convicts housed in a penitentiary, in the House of Remand, or at a police station. At the time of sampling, the total prison population in preventive detention or prison was 1,411 individuals, as shown in Appendix 1.

The inmate survey was conducted in the three penitentiaries, the House of Remand, and nine of the 30 police stations. The police stations were chosen in Paramaribo (the three largest) and Wanica (six), the two most highly populated districts of Suriname. Researchers decided to exclude police stations in the other districts because of their relatively low occupation levels and because all arrestees are brought to Paramaribo for trial.

Sampling Procedure

Data obtained from the Ministry of Justice and Police indicated that of the total prison population in September 2018, only 36 prisoners were female, of which 12 were sentenced and 24 on remand. The remaining 1,375 inmates were men, of which 740 were sentenced and 635 on remand. Table 3 gives an overview of the prison system population at the time the survey sample was drawn.

Table 3: Prison Population by Type of Facility (September 2018)

	Remanded			Sentenced & Appealing			Grand Total
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	
Prisons (incl. House of Remand)	215	4	219	730	12	742	961
Police stations	420	20	440	10	0	10	450
Total	635	24	659	740	12	752	1,411

Based on a 3.5 percent margin of error and 95.0 percent confidence level, a total sample of 505 (475 men and 30 women) was drawn. Given the size of the population, efforts were made to survey all women prisoners. However, 6 women prisoners opted not to participate. Further, two women who had yet to be sentenced in September 2018, when the sample was drawn, were sentenced by the time the survey was conducted. The sample of male inmates to be surveyed was drawn from the relevant listings provided by prison officials. This listing was used to select participants for interview by assigning each inmate on the remand and sentenced lists with a number and then using a random number generator for selection. The random sample of males was stratified and comprised both convicted and on remand prisoners. Table 4

gives an overview of the final sample at the time of survey conduct by gender, judicial status, and type of facility.

Table 4: Type of Facility, Judicial Status, and Gender: Final Survey Sample (October 2018) (n=495)

	Remanded			Sentenced			Grand Total
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	
Prisons (incl. House of Remand)	73	3	76	242	12	254	330
Police Stations	147	13	160	3	2	5	165
Total	220	16	236	245	14	259	495

Note: n=495 instead of the full sample of 505 inmates because 10 respondents answered that they did not know their judicial status.

A full list of remanded and sentenced inmates was obtained. The Research Institute for Social Sciences (IMWO) received permission to offer each respondent a small gift (a package containing toothpaste, soap, toilet paper, a soft drink, and a snack) after completion. Though this was not revealed to the inmates prior to their interview, news traveled fast, so this incentive could not be ignored as a motivation to participate. Inmates that were willing to participate but worked in the prison (i.e., they were employed at the prison as mechanics, gardeners, or cooks) were scheduled during their break or at the end of their shift. Inmates that worked outside the prison walls and were unable to leave their jobs did not participate.

Instrument

The inmate survey was conducted using a standard, stand-alone IDB questionnaire that was also applied in three other countries with regional grant resources: Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago. Separately, under IDB-financed loan operations, the IDB questionnaire was applied in The Bahamas and Guyana. Though the IDB questionnaire, which was administered using a tablet, was standard and fixed for comparability, minor adjustments were made after a pilot test. The test also allowed the interviewers to check the programming of the questionnaire for whether skips, filters, and translations were correct. It is notable that this was the first IMWO project where tablets were used to collect data. After modifying and adapting the survey instrument, it was translated into Dutch (the official language) and Sranan Tongo (a lingua franca).⁷ Whenever necessary, the enumerator switched to a language that was understandable for the respondent.

Questionnaire

The instrument designed specifically for the broad inmate study was used to collect the relevant data for Suriname. The questionnaire was adapted for use in Suriname. Data was collected with the permission of the Chief of Police and the Chief of Staff of the Penitentiary Officials through the Ministry of Justice and Police. Interviews took place in different spaces within the prisons and police stations. Each location had different facilities. Interviews with females only occurred in the female section of the Central Penitentiary

⁷ A lingua franca is a common language adopted between speakers whose native languages are different. For more about Sranan Tongo, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gcxgq9v26xE>.

and the Geyersvliet police station. Sometimes interviews were arranged in the common area of the penitentiary but at a distance far enough to maintain the privacy of each interview. Inmates were brought to the designated area by police or correctional officers in coordination with the supervisor. Every time an interview was finished, the next respondent was ready. If the location and management permitted it, some respondents were fetched in advance and waited to be interviewed. The goal was a smooth flow of interviews, but understaffing at both police stations and penitentiaries made it a challenge for the supervisors to coordinate. Sometimes the setting was such that the supervisors could oversee the area where the interviews were taking place. However, especially at the smaller police stations, it was challenging to guarantee the safety of the interviewers while at the same time creating enough space to ensure the confidentiality of the interview. Respondents were assured that their participation was voluntary and that they could end the interview at any time or refuse to answer any of the questions. Data was collected using electronic tablets with the survey2go software package.

Remarks About the Questionnaire

The final version of the questionnaire had 258 questions. The codebook was designed by the Centro de Estudios Latino Americanos sobre Inseguridad y Violencia (CELIV) at the Universidad Tres de Febrero, Argentina, led by Professor Marcelo Bergman. Correspondence with CELIV was through Mr. Fernando Gabriel Cafferata, who visited Suriname for detailed observation during fieldwork in September 2018. The software provider was Dobloo.⁸ The questionnaire was approved by the Ministry of Justice and Police of Suriname.

Training and Data Collection

Interviewer training took place between the October 15 and 17, 2018. Data collection followed right after and was completed on November 11, 2018.

Day one of the training consisted of a full day of studying the questionnaire and instructions for data collection at the IMWO office at Anton de Kom University of Suriname. The interviewers were trained according to the guidelines of CELIV partner Randy Seepersad from the University of the West Indies in Trinidad & Tobago. Day two consisted of a pre-test of the questionnaire for the interviewers at the Central Penitentiary and an evaluation of the pre-test. On the third day, the questionnaire was reviewed and remarks shared with the CELIV coordinator. A total of 11 interviewers and three field supervisors were trained. Since several police stations and penitentiaries were involved, a separate teach-in was held with the supervisors to prepare them for possible challenges in the field.

Non-response

At some locations police officers had to remove some inmate names from the list because it was too risky to let them participate due to aggressive behavior. The safety of the interviewers was guaranteed, but

⁸ See <https://www.dooblo.net/> for more information.

this also resulted in a list of willing arrestees and convicts, with the result that the non-response rate was very low.

Codebook

The codebook for the questionnaire was provided electronically by CELIV. The IMWO team checked the content of the codebook and made sure that the translations into Dutch corresponded with the English content. The codebook was designed, (pre-)coded, and programmed by CELIV and delivered online through Dobloo. This means that all skips, filters, and other special functions were set by CELIV. The IMWO uploaded the information provided by the interviewers and then checked the answers for irregularities and deviances before giving final approval.

Manuals

The manuals for the supervisors and interviewers were provided by CELIV partner Randy Seepersad, who joined the field visits during the pilot test of the questionnaire. The manuals were translated to Dutch.

Fieldwork Team

The selection of interviewers and supervisors started in an early phase. The criteria for participation were adjusted for this project because of the possible psychological effects on interviewers considering the target groups. After a teach-in, the interviewers were trained according to the guidelines of CELIV partner Randy Seepersad. A separate teach-in was held with the supervisors to prepare them for the possible challenges in the field.

Fieldwork Pre-test

In preparation for the data collection, several visits were conducted on-site: an orientation visit from CELIV, a preparatory visit with local Inspector of Police, and the pre-test with the entire team of interviewers and supervisors with CELIV partner Randy Seepersad. After the pre-test was completed, there was an interactive session about the challenges encountered, followed by clarification of ambiguities and a teach-out. The administrative team worked out schedules for interviews based on the availability of the interviewers and supervisors.

Data Processing, Cleaning, Analysis, and Reporting

After completing the interviews, the interviewers returned to the IMWO, where, under supervision of the researcher, all completed questionnaires were checked for irregularities and approved for upload to the database. The database was checked again by CELIV for irregularities and errors. After the data was approved, to analyze the data, frequency and cross tables were made in SPSS based on a format for the structure and variables provided by CELIV.

Limitations

The Measuring Instrument

Comparability is a practical tool for regional analysis, but it does have a downside. Not every country has the same prison system and therefore adjustments are necessary. Certain adjustments proposed by the

IMWO researcher were not accepted, which may influence the reliability and validity of the research results. During the process of preparing the measuring instrument, the IMWO commented on 100 of the 258 questions. In some cases, CELIV agreed with the IMWO but indicated that the questionnaire was fixed and thus technically incorrect questions (e.g., two questions in one) could not be changed. Also, though it is standard procedure to merge the “don’t know” and “don’t answer” (DK/DA) responses into one category and this was done consistently in the application of the survey instrument across the Caribbean, this resulted in a certain loss of information because they have different meanings. NA (not applicable) was included as a response category for certain questions⁹ because the question applied to the entire survey sample. In these instances, some inmates chose NA when they perhaps meant DK/DA. When this is the case, we have noted as such in the text. A final challenge concerns the programming of the software. Because of the programmed filters/skips, some results needed some adjustments in order to be processed.

Data Collection

During the fieldwork, the team encountered some situations that deviated from the suggested method to select respondents. The plan to work with a list provided by prison/police station staff at the specific prison or police station did not work. At some locations, police officers had to adjust the list for safety reasons, which resulted in a list of willing arrestees and convicts, making the non-response rate very low. This situation was beyond the control of the IMWO and had to be accepted.

Another limitation that occurred during the fieldwork concerned the language barrier. Some parts of some interviews were conducted in Sranan Tongo, which meant that part of an interview was “unregistered.” Depending on the situation, the enumerator would explain parts in Dutch or Sranan Tongo and switched the language on the tablet during the interview. Note that, although there were official translations, each translation might shift the accent of the question and might influence the results. Yet again, this was inevitable, for Suriname consists of different cultures and languages.

⁹ In the Inmate Survey Questionnaire, the following questions had an NA option while it applied to all respondents: Q8, Q45, Q122, Q139, Q144, Q178, Q184, Q199 and Q200.

Data and Findings

This chapter presents descriptive statistics in five subsections¹⁰:

1. Sociodemographic profile
2. Childhood and life story
3. Criminal careers and inmate profiles
4. Legal procedures and criminal process
5. Conditions in prison
6. Future

Sociodemographic Profile

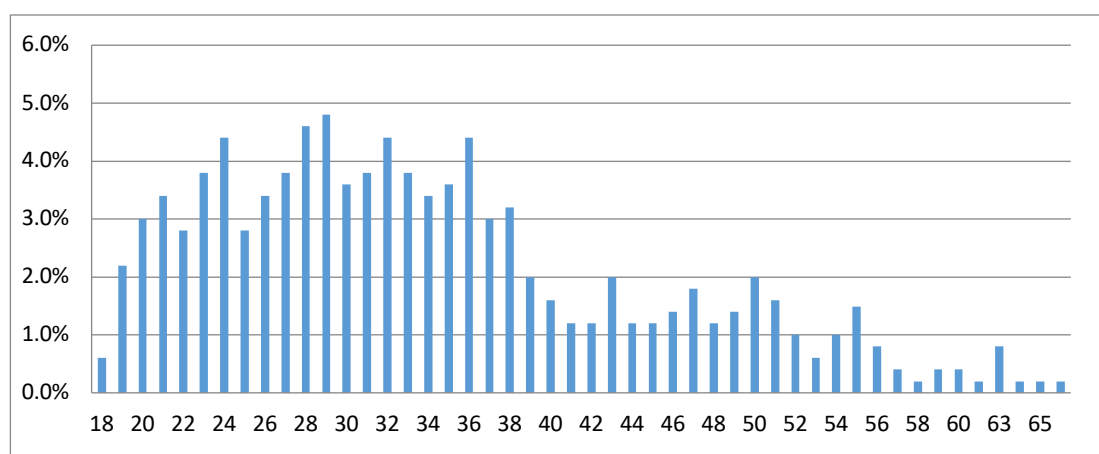
The sociodemographic profile section of the questionnaire describes the background information of the respondents before their incarceration. For a list of the questions related to this section, see Appendix 3.

Gender and Age

For this report 505 inmates were surveyed, of which 5.9 percent (30) were female and 94.1 percent (475) male. This ratio of male to female respondents was representative of the Surinamese prison population at the time of the survey.

The youngest respondent was 18 years old and the eldest 72, and the average age was 34.1 years. Figure 2 shows that the age of the respondents can be divided into two notable groups: younger and older than 40 years of age. There are three times as many 18–39-year-old inmates than 40+ inmates, with 74.8 percent of the respondents being between 18 and 39 years of age. Dividing the group at a younger age (the IDB requested data split at 25 years old), 77 percent of the inmate population was older than 25 years and 23 percent between 18 and 25 years.

Figure 2: Age of Respondents (N=505)



¹⁰ Note that when the DK/DA response choice is 0.0 percent, it is not included in the tables.

Residence

The question about the respondents' birthplaces was not representative of their origin because most of the respondents were born in a hospital in the capital, since the circumstances in the interior do not always support responsible childbirth.

At the time of their arrest, the largest group (57.6 percent) was living in the capital, Paramaribo, followed by 24.4 percent who resided in Wanica District. These percentages correspond with national demographics since these two districts have the largest population. The remaining 18.0 percent lived in one of the eight other districts. Table 5 gives an overview of the distribution of district of residence at time of arrest.

Table 5: District of Residence at Time of Arrest (N=505)

	N	%
Brokopondo	11	2.2
Commewijne	11	2.2
Marowijne	13	2.6
Nickerie	13	2.6
Para	22	4.4
Paramaribo	291	57.6
Saramacca	3	0.6
Sipaliwini	7	1.4
Wanica	123	24.4
Other	11	2.0
Total	505	100

Family Composition

Regarding family composition before their arrest¹¹, 39.2 percent of the respondents lived with their partner and/or children, 25.7 percent still lived with their parents or other guardians, and 11.7 percent lived alone. Figure 3 gives an overview of the people the respondents lived with before their arrest.

¹¹ Note that multiple answers were allowed for this question.

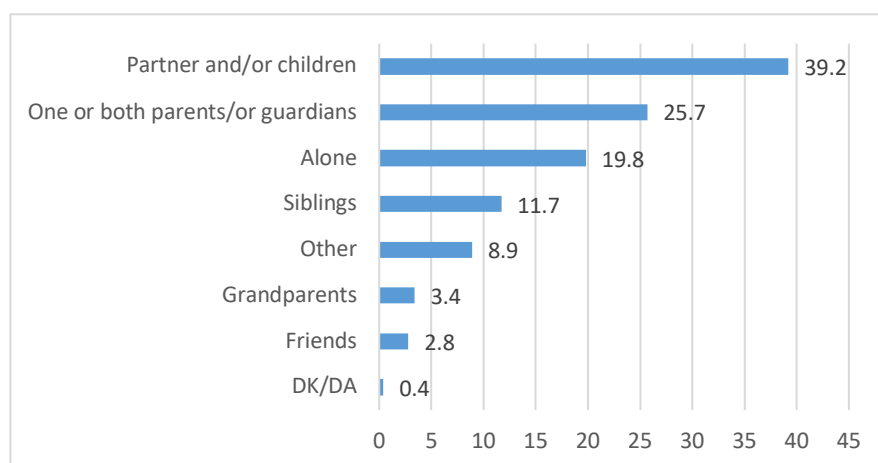
Figure 3: Lived with __ before Arrest (N=505; percent)

Table 6 gives an overview of inmate age at birth of first child. Results show that more females (36.4 percent) than males (25.2 percent) became a parent for the first time at age 18 or younger. On the other hand, fewer women (9.0 percent) than men (24.8 percent) became a parent for the first time at an age older than 25 years.

Table 6: Inmate Age at Birth of First Child by Gender (n=352; percent)

	Male	Female	Total
18 years of age or younger	25.2	36.4	25.9
Between 19 and 21 years of age	27.0	36.4	27.6
Between 22 and 25 years of age	23.0	18.2	22.7
Older than 25 years of age	24.8	9.0	23.9
Total	100	100	100

Of all respondents, 70.1 percent had children, or 354 respondents. Of the parents, most (78.0 percent) had one to three children, while 22.0 percent had four or more children. Looking at gender, more men had just one child (34.0 percent) than women (27.3 percent). Furthermore, more women respondents had four (13.6 percent) or five (13.6 percent) children than men (7.2 percent and 5.4 percent, respectively). Table 7 gives an overview of the inmates' number of children.

Table 7: Number of Children by Gender (percent)

	Male	Female	Total
	n=332	n=22	n=354
1	34.0	27.3	33.6
2	29.5	22.7	29.1
3	15.1	18.2	15.3
4	7.2	13.6	7.6
5	5.4	13.6	5.9
6	3.0	0.0	2.8
7	1.2	0.0	1.1
8	1.2	4.5	1.4
9	1.5	0.0	1.4
10	0.3	0.0	0.3
>10	1.5	0.0	1.5
Total	100	100	100

When asked whether the respondent currently had a partner that was in prison, 4.2 percent stated that they did, while 35 percent stated that they did not have a partner and 60.8 percent had a partner that was not in prison. When looking at gender differences, 20.0 percent of the female respondents responded had a partner that was currently in prison, while this was the case for only 3.2 percent of the men. Results also show that 35.2 percent of the men and 33.3 percent of the women stated that they did not have a partner. Table 8 gives an overview of the inmates' partner status.

Table 8: Current Partner in Prison (percent)

	Man	Woman	Total
	n=475	n=30	N=505
Yes	3.2	20.0	4.2
No	61.6	46.7	60.8
Don't have a partner	35.2	33.3	35.0
Total	100	100	100

Education

In Suriname, primary education is compulsory for all children between the ages of 7 and 12. The government is currently working to pass a law to change the age for compulsory education to 16 years of age. According to the last census and the most recent UNESCO data (2012), Suriname has a 93 percent literacy rate (Schalkwijk, 2016). Census data show that nearly one-third of the population received formal education in 2012 (Schalkwijk, 2016, p. 235) and that the number of educated people increased slightly between the 2004 and 2012 censuses. Even though this increase occurred at all educational levels, nearly two-thirds of the total population has only completed Junior Secondary Education.

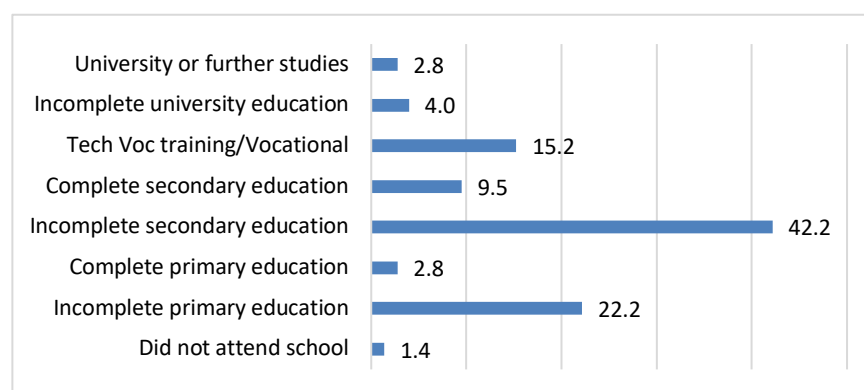
The average age that the respondents went to school for the last time was 17.8 years. Of all respondents, 59.6 percent last attended school when they were older than 16, while 31.9 percent were between 13 and 16 years, and 8.5 percent did not attend school after the age of 12. Table 9 illustrates this distribution.

Table 9: Age Last Attended School (n=480; percent)

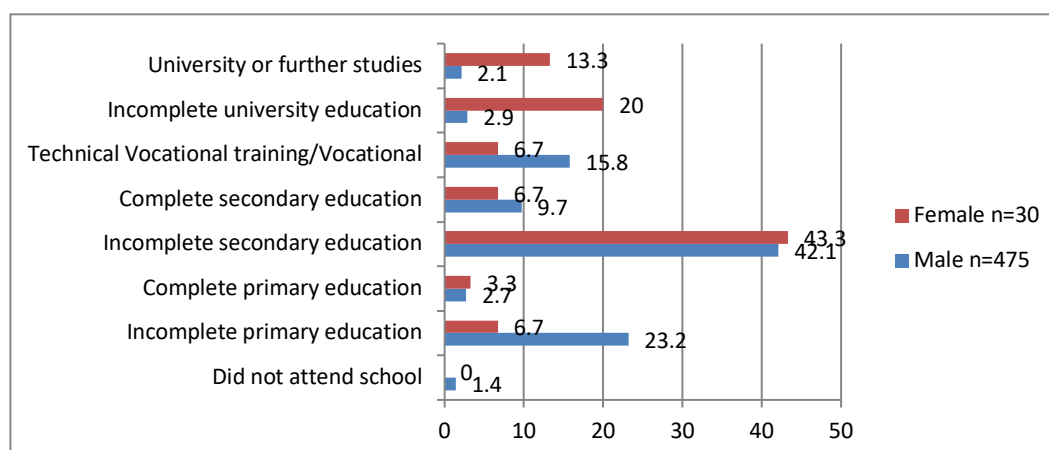
Between 1 and 12 years of age	8.5
Between 13 and 16 years of age	31.9
> 16 years of age	59.6
Total	100

Figure 4 gives an overview of the educational level of the respondents before their arrest. The largest group (42.2 percent) had started with Junior Secondary Education but had not finished it compared to national statistics that show that 67 percent of the population has completed Junior Secondary Education (Schalkwijk, 2016). Note that 22.2 percent of the inmates did not even complete primary school, which is a concern. Of the respondents, 15.2 percent had a background in technical vocational training and 9.5 percent had completed secondary education. Note that it is required to finish primary school in order to continue any other education.

Figure 4: Level of Education before Arrest (N=505; percent)



Looking at education by gender (Figure 5), there are notable differences in non-attendance, incomplete primary, and university. While 1.4 percent of the male respondents never went to school, all of the women had at least some schooling. At the other end, the percentage of females with a university level education (13.3 percent) is much higher than among the males (2.1 percent). It is notable that for both genders, the biggest group left school during their secondary education (43.3 percent of females and 42.1 percent of males). Furthermore, the percentage of males that left school at the primary level was very high (23.2 percent) compared to the females the left at that level (6.7 percent).

Figure 5: Educational Level by Gender (N=505; percent)

Work

According to the 2012 census, 64.5 percent (349,583 people) of the total population (541,638) was of working age (15–64 years), split roughly 50/50 between men (32.0 percent) and women (32.5 percent). In terms of age distribution, the highest number were 25 to 49 years of age. Of the total population, 60.0 percent were economically active, of which 53.8 percent were employed and 6.2 percent were unemployed. Of the economically active population, 52.8 percent were employed in the secondary sector, 40.8 percent in the tertiary sector, and 6.4 percent in the primary sector (IMWO and ILO, 2018, p. 6).

The average age of the inmates was 34.1 years, which falls within the economically active population. Survey results showed that 96.6 percent of the respondents had worked at least one point in their life and 78.4 percent worked in the month before their arrest. The reasons for not working for that 18.0 percent is unknown. Table 10 gives an overview of working before arrest.

Table 10: Working before Arrest (N=505; percent)

Yes	78.4
No	18.0
DK/DA	3.6
Total	100

Most of the respondents (52.5 percent) started working at an age above 16 years, but the results in table 11 show that 8.7 percent of the respondents said they started working for pay during primary school (younger than 12 years), while 33.5 percent started between 13 and 16 years old.

Table 11: Age When First Worked (n=505 percent)

Between 1 and 12 years of age	8.7
Between 13 and 16 years of age	33.5
> 16 years of age	52.5
DK/DA	5.3
Total	100

When asked what type of work they did, 21.6 percent of the respondents did not answer the question or this question was not applicable (NA) to them¹². Of the respondents that said they had worked, the four most common professions before arrest were company employee (20.2 percent), self-employed (16.2 percent), construction or factory worker (11.1 percent), and miner (10.4 percent). Table 12 gives an overview of the kinds of jobs the respondents had before they were arrested.

Table 12: Main Job before Arrest (n=396; percent)

Executive/manager	1.8
Professional*	2.0
Driver	2.5
Street vendor	2.5
Taxi driver	4.3
Other	5.8
Farmer/fisherman	6.6
Craftsman	7.8
Civil servant	8.8
Miner	10.4
Construction/factory worker	11.1
Self-employed	16.2
Company employee	20.2
Total	100

* Anyone with an academic education that was not a company employee or an executive.

Most of the respondents that were working before their arrest, namely 66.9 percent, worked more than 40 hours a week. Table 13 gives an overview of the hours the respondents worked per week.

¹² The response categories DK/DA and NA were merged.

Table 13: Working Hours a Week (n=396; percent)

Between 1 and 20 hours	6.1
Between 21 and 40 hours	17.7
More than 40 hours	66.9
DK	9.3
Total	100

Suriname's minimum hourly wage was defined by law in 2014 (Suriname, 2014) but was adjusted upward in June 2018.^{13,14} Soewarto Moestadja, the Minister of Labor, increased the minimum hourly wage to SRD¹⁵10.08 for shops (excluding neighborhood shops with fewer than four employees) and to SRD11.76 for employees of catering establishments with more than 12 employees and employees working at security companies; in all cases, it was a 37.0 percent increase. The intention of this measure was "to ensure some recovery of the purchasing power of the lower wage brackets" (see Waterkant and DAGonline articles referred to in footnotes 8 and 9).

Based on the minimum hourly wage of SRD10.08, the minimum monthly income for a 40-hour workweek is SRD1,612.80. Considering a loaf of bread costs SRD10 and a carton of milk SRD11, the monthly income of a minimum wage worker provides barely enough to cover monthly costs. Of the survey respondents, 33.2 percent earned between SRD1,000 and SRD2,000 per month and 35.9 percent earned between SRD2,000 and SRD4,000. Depending on the size of the family,¹⁶ SRD2,000–SRD4,000 per month would be sufficient to cover basic living expenses.

In Suriname, for 2016/17, the extreme poverty rate was estimated to be 1.7 percent of the population and the overall poverty rate at 26.2 percent. The poverty rate is different in various regions of the country. In the coastal regions, roughly one-quarter of the population was living in poverty, while in the interior the rate was almost one in every two households (47.9 percent) (see Table 5 in Sobrado, 2018).

At the household level, extreme poverty is very low, representing only 1.0 percent of households; however, 18.3 percent of households were classified as poor. Greater Paramaribo had the lowest poverty rate

¹³ <http://www.dna.sr/wetgeving/surinaamse-wetten/wetten-na-2005/wet-minimumloon-2019/> accessed on April 30, 2020.

"Suriname Minimum Hourly Wages Increased to SRD8.40 effective July 1, 2018 [Minimum Uurloon Suriname per 1 Juli Naar 8,40 SRD]." DAGonline. Accessed on April 4, 2019, from: <https://dagonline.nl/suriname/minimum-uurloon-suriname-per-1-juli-naar-840-srd/>

¹⁴ "Revision of the *Minimum Hourly Wages Act* in Suriname [Herziening Wet Minimum Uurloon in Suriname]." Waterkant. Accessed on April 4, 2019, from: <https://www.waterkant.net/suriname/2017/10/05/herziening-wet-minimum-uurloon-suriname/>.

¹⁵ Note that in Suriname, we do not use \$, but Surinamese Dollars, with the official abbreviation of SRD.

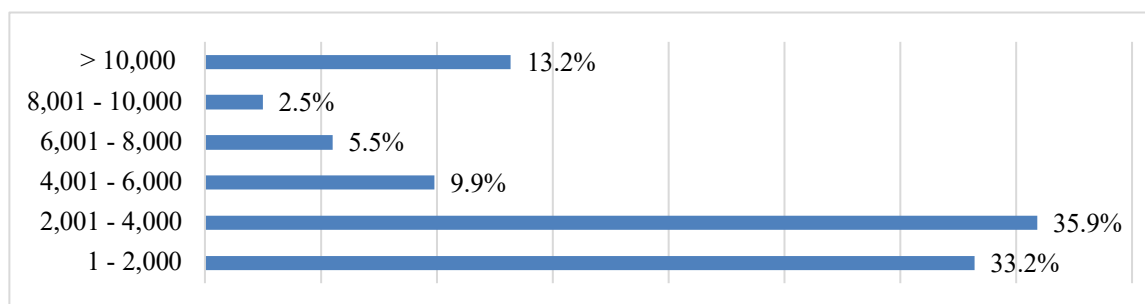
¹⁶ As expected, the size of households decreases as the wealth of a household increases. The average household size for the poorest quintile was 6.1 people, decreasing to 3.0 people for the richest quintile. Extreme/All Poor households averaged 7.5/5.9 people and the non-poor only 4.1 (see Table 7 in Sobrado, 2018, p. 18).

at 16.1 percent, increasing to 20.3 percent for the rest of the coastal region and reaching 33.6 percent of households in the interior (Sobrado, 2018).

Looking at a more international context, Suriname's Human Development Index (HDI)¹⁷ value was 0.720 for 2017, placing it at the 100th position of 189 countries and territories and putting it in the high human development category (UNDP, 2018). Between 2005 and 2017, Suriname's HDI value increased from 0.676 to 0.720, or 6.5 percent (UNDP, 2018). However, Suriname's 2017 HDI of 0.720 falls to 0.557, a loss of 22.6 percent, when the value is discounted for inequality in the distribution of the HDI dimension indices. The coefficient of human inequality for Suriname was 21.8 percent (UNDP, 2018).

Figure 6 illustrates that there is a large gap in the monthly incomes of respondents to the inmate survey. Two large groups at the bottom of the economical scale earned a bare minimum amount of money, while one group at the top earned much more. In percentages, 33.2 percent of the respondents earned \$2,000 (US\$266) or less per month and 35.9 percent earned between \$2,001 and \$4,000 (US\$266.80 and US\$533.33) per month, while 13.2 percent earned more than \$10,000 (US\$1,330) a month.¹⁸ Official research shows different total poverty line values for different regions in Suriname. In Greater Paramaribo, the line is \$733.10 compared to \$590.23 for the rest of the coastal region and \$533.27 for the interior (see Table 4 in Sobrado, 2018). Since households with consumption values¹⁹ below these lines are classified as overall poor or total poor (Sobrado, 2018), the inmates were not living in poverty before their arrest; however, this standard is debatable.

Figure 6: Monthly Income in Suriname Dollars (n=365)



Inmates who worked in the month before their arrest were asked how satisfied they were with their economic situation and that of their family one month before they got arrested. Of those that worked, 27.7 percent were very satisfied and 38.4 percent were somewhat satisfied, while 32.8 percent were either not very satisfied or not satisfied at all. Though 69.1 percent of the respondents had an income of

¹⁷ The HDI is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable, and having a decent standard of living. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions. Derived from <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> on October 29, 2019.

¹⁸ In November 2018, the exchange rate was roughly SRD7.50 for US\$1.

¹⁹ The poverty line is based on consumption.

less than \$4,000 per month, 66.1 percent were satisfied with their economic situation. This suggests that some of the people who earned less than \$4,000 were satisfied with their economic situation. Table 14 gives an overview of the inmates' satisfaction with their financial situation before their arrest.

Table 14: Satisfied with Economic Situation before their Arrest (n=396; percent)

Very satisfied	27.7
Somewhat satisfied	38.4
Not very satisfied	16.8
Not satisfied at all	16.0
DK/DA	1.0
Total	100

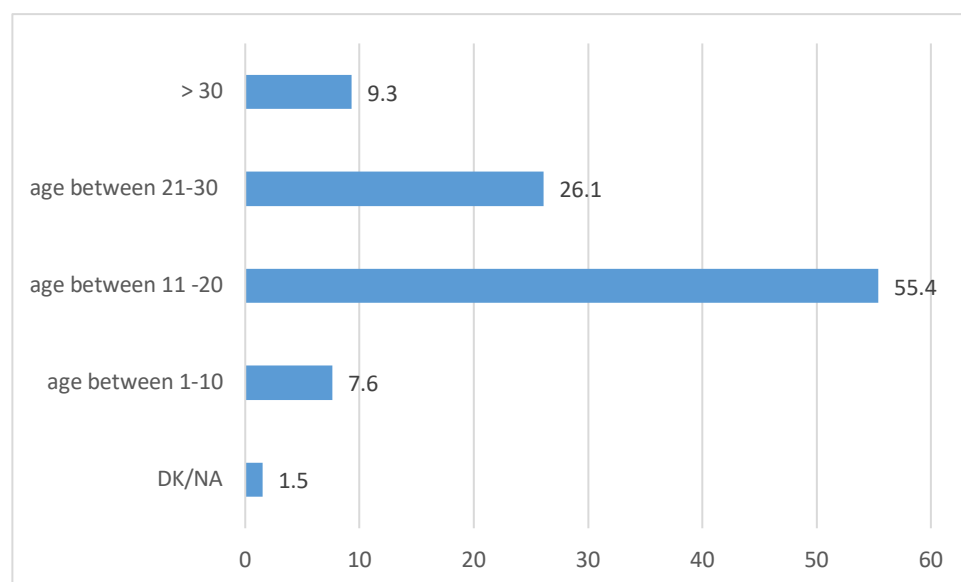
Childhood and Life Story

This section examines the childhoods and life histories of inmates. It looks at factors such as upbringing, household and neighborhood patterns, the presence of violence in respondents' communities, and alcohol and drug use. These factors provide insight into conditions that may predispose a person to a criminogenic lifestyle. It is important to stress that the presence of factors that may have predisposed inmates to a life of crime cannot be taken as definitive proof that these specific factors are what caused the criminal behavior. An assessment of causality would require a control group of non-offenders, which is not in the scope of the present study. However, the following examination of predisposing factors in childhood and adulthood is important because it gives insight into the developmental trajectories of inmates and suggests issues that must be considered when trying to understand why people may have become involved in crime.

Who They Lived with as a Child

When asked up to what age the respondent lived with their mother, the largest group (55.4 percent) lived with their mother until they were between 11 and 20 years old, 26.1 percent lived with her until between 21 and 30 years, 9.3 percent until they were older than 30 years, and the smallest group (7.6 percent) only until age 10 or younger. Figure 7 gives an overview of these age categories.

Figure 7: Lived with Mother until Age __ (n=471; percent)



Results show that 6.7 percent of the respondents never lived with their mother. Of this group, 58.8 percent lived with their grandmother, 8.8 percent with their aunt, 8.8 percent with their stepmother, and the rest with others. Table 15 gives an overview of the guardians other than the mother.

Table 15²⁰: Never Lived with Mother, Instead Lived with __ (n=34; percent)

Stepmother	8.8
Grandmother	58.8
Aunt	8.8
Sister	2.9
No adult female	2.9
Other	17.8
Total	100

Of the respondents 68.3 percent that lived with their father, 17.7 percent lived with him until age 10, 49.9 percent until between 11 and 20 years old, 20.9 percent until between 21 and 30, and 8.1 percent still lived with their father when they were older than 30 years of age. Table 16 shows of up to what age the respondents lived with their father.

²⁰ Note that DK/DA was not included in the table because it was 0.0 percent.

Table 16: Lived with Father (n=345; percent)

1- 10 years	17.7
11-20 years	49.9
21-30 years	20.9
> 30 years	8.1
DK/DA	3.5
Total	100

The group of respondents that lived with their father at some point in their lives was asked if their parents lived together during that period. Most respondents stated that their mother lived with them as well. Table 17 shows that 69.6 percent lived with both parents, while 23.5 percent stated that their mother did not live with them and 6.1% responded with “sometimes”.

Table 17: Lived with Both Parents (N=345; percent)

Yes	69.6
Sometimes (spontaneous)*	6.1
No	23.5
DK/DA	0.8
Total	100

*“Sometimes” was only recorded if the respondent offered it spontaneously.

Of all 505 respondents, 16.8 percent left home before 15 years of age. Of this 16.8%, the most common reason (18.8 percent) to leave home was to apply for a job, while for 15.3 percent, the reason was abandonment or parents’ separation. Other reasons (41.1 percent) were diverse, such as wanting more freedom, wanting independence, moving in with other family members, and attending school in the capital. Table 18 gives an overview of the reasons mentioned for leaving home before age 15.

Table 18: Main Reason to Leave Home before Age 15 (n=85; percent)

DK/DA	1.2
Sexual abuse	1.2
You were kicked out of the house	3.5
Death of parent(s)	7.1
Family violence	11.8
Abandonment or parents' separation	15.3
To apply for a job	18.8
Other	41.1
Total	100

Domestic Violence

When asked whether either of their parents or their guardian ever physically punished them, more than half of the respondents were physically punished as a child. Table 19 shows that 56.2% experienced physical punishment, while 30.1 percent of the respondents did not and 12.9 percent said they were beaten “in some cases” (once or twice a year).

Table 19: Physically Beaten as a Child (N=505; percent)

Yes	56.2
In some cases (1 or 2 times a year)	12.9
No	30.1
DK/DA	0.8
Total	100

Interestingly, this culture of physical punishment seems common in Caribbean countries. When asked whether it is necessary to physically punish a child to correct misbehavior, 67.0 percent of Caribbean respondents (65.0 percent of males and 68.0 percent of females) said yes (Sutton and Ruprah, 2017, p. 68). Based on data from the UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, Suriname has the highest rate of severe physical punishment among a group of Caribbean countries. The percentage of households with at least one child 2–14 years of age who was subjected to severe physical punishment in the previous year was 11.8 percent in Suriname (2010) compared with 4.4 percent in Trinidad & Tobago (2006), 5.7 percent in Jamaica (2011), 6.1 percent in Barbados (2012), and 6.0 percent in Guyana (2014) (Sutton and Ruprah, 2017, p. 69).

When asked whether their father or her partner ever beat their mother, the majority (62.2 percent) of the respondents stated that no physical violence was used against their mother; however, 21.4 percent did witness violence against their mother and 16.4 percent did not answer this question or did not know. Remarkably, in the Caribbean, people are more tolerant of violence against a woman if she is unfaithful. One in three Caribbean residents (39.0 percent of males and 30.0 percent of females) said they approve of or understand a woman being hit for this reason, and acceptance is highest in Suriname, at 46.3 percent (Sutton and Ruprah, 2017, p. 64). Considering this data, when the inmates were asked about physical violence against their mother, it would be reasonable to expect results higher than those shown in Table 20.

Table 20: Physical Violence against Mother of Inmate (N=505; percent)

Yes, he beat her	8.9
Yes, sometimes he beat her	12.5
No, he did not beat her	62.2
DK/DA	16.4
Total	100

Environment

According to Sutherlands' Differential Association Theory (Sutherland, 1947), when a person lives in an environment where crime is the norm, they are more likely to get involved in crime. The Differential Association Theory, which is considered by most sociologists to be the best formulation to date of a general theory of criminality, holds, in essence, that criminality is learned in interaction with others in a process of communication. Specifically, the hypothesis is that criminality is learned from observations of definitions favorable to law violation, the learning including both the techniques of committing crime and the "specific direction of motives, drives, rationalizations attitudes." The ratio between such definitions and others unfavorable to law violation determines whether or not a person becomes criminal (Cressey, 1954).

Being exposed to gangs, violence within the domestic environment, and family members in prison at a young age are examples of indicators for the Differential Association Theory. It is expected that among inmates, the percentages of exposure to these indicators will be high.

Gangs

There is not much information available about gangs in Suriname. Sutton and Ruprah (2017, p. 113) noted that "no data were provided or could be found on gangs in Suriname." Among respondents to Sutton and Ruprah's (2017) Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey across five Caribbean countries, 21.0 percent reported living in a neighborhood with a gang presence. The percentage was higher (28.0 percent) within the metropolitan areas of the five capital cities (Kingston, New Providence, Paramaribo, Port of Spain, and Bridgetown) (Sutton and Ruprah, 2017, p. 116).

Of all the respondents to the Suriname inmate survey, 34.9 percent stated that there were gangs or criminal groups in the neighborhood where they lived as a minor (under 18 years).

Family Members Ever in Prison

A number of research studies have examined the intergenerational transmission of criminal careers. Analysis of the longitudinal Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development (Farrington, Thornberry, and Krohn, 2006) found a relationship between adverse risk factors in childhood and adult antisocial personalities when aged 18 and 32, with the most predominant risk factor being a convicted parent. Similarly, Dellaire (2007) found that the more risk factors reported the more likely adult children of prisoners were to have a conviction. In addition, adult children of imprisoned mothers were more likely to be convicted than adult children of imprisoned fathers (Williams, Papadopoulou, and Booth, 2012).

For the Suriname inmate survey, responses to the question of whether one of their family members had ever been in prison showed that a lot of the inmates indeed had relatives in prison. Of the respondents, 61.8 percent had family members who had ever been in prison. When the entire sample was considered 10.3 percent had a father that had been incarcerated at some point. The three most mentioned family members in prison were cousins (31.7 percent), uncles (26.9 percent), and (half-)siblings (22 percent). Table 21 gives an overview of the respondents' family members that were ever imprisoned.

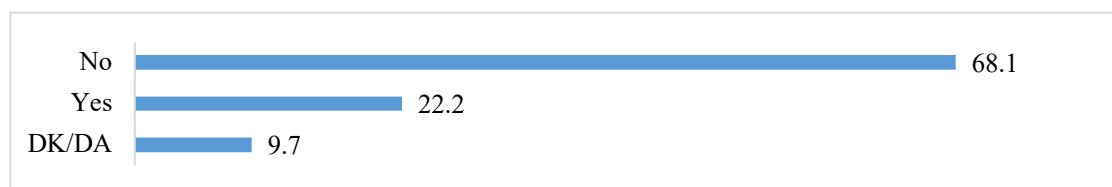
Table 21: Ever Imprisoned Family Members (n=505; percent)

Father	10.9
Mother	1.2
Uncle	26.9
Cousin	31.7
Sibling or half-sibling	22.0
Father's or mother's new partner	1.4
Other (spontaneous)*	1.2

*"Other" included responses provided that weren't on the list of options and were not registered in the questionnaire.

Family Members Presently in Prison

As noted earlier in this report, 20.0 percent of the female respondents currently had a partner in prison compared with 3.2 percent of the men. Overall, 22.2 percent of the respondents indicated that they currently had a family member in prison, while 68.1 percent had no family in prison at the time of the survey. Figure 8 illustrates the percentages of presently imprisoned family members.

Figure 8: Presently Imprisoned Family Members (N=505; percent)

When the entire sample was considered, the family member that is mentioned most by respondents were cousins (14.7 percent). Table 22 shows that furthermore (half-)siblings (4.8 percent) and uncles (3.0 percent) were mentioned. It was less common for respondents' children (0.8 percent) fathers (0.4 percent), and partner (0.8 percent) to currently be imprisoned.

Table 22: Currently Imprisoned Family Members (n=505; percent)

Cousin	14.7
Sibling or half-sibling	4.8
Uncle	3.0
Child(ren)	0.8
Father	0.4
Other (spontaneous)*	0.4
Partner	0.2
Mother	0.0

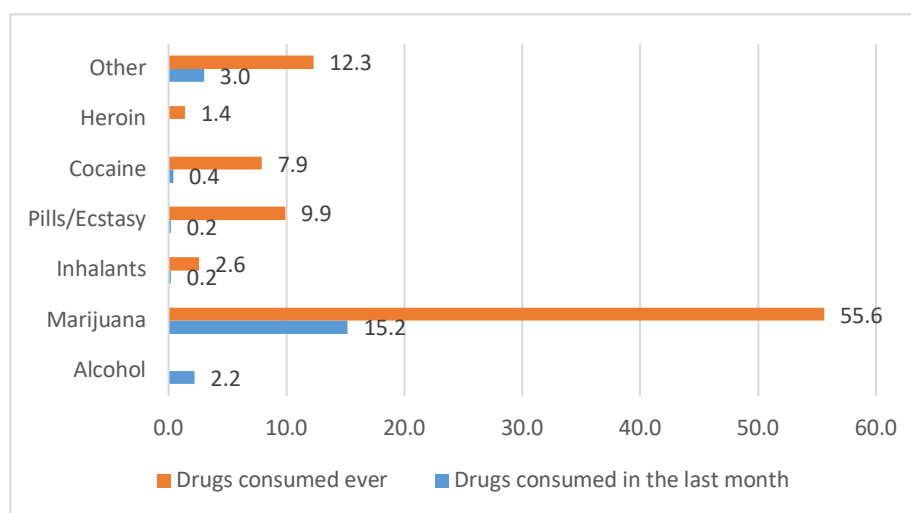
*"Other" included responses provided that weren't on the list of options and were not registered in the questionnaire.

Drugs

Inmates were asked about their parents' use of drugs and alcohol. Of the respondents, 32.9 percent indicated that when they were a child their parents or guardians drank alcohol frequently. Regarding parental drug use, 9.5 percent of the respondents' parents used drugs, while 88.1 percent of the respondents never saw their parents use drugs and 2.4 percent did not answer this question.

When inmates were asked about their own use of drugs in the past month²¹, 15.2% stated that they used Marijuana. There was a significant difference between the use of marijuana and other types of drugs: alcohol 2.2 percent, inhalants (0.2 percent), cocaine (0.4 percent) and pills/ecstasy (0.2 percent). Furthermore, inmates were also asked if they ever used drugs within their lifetime. Results show that more than half of the inmates (55.6 percent) had consumed marijuana at some point in their life. Of the other types of drugs, ecstasy (9.9 percent) and cocaine (7.9 percent) were the most widely used. Figure 9 gives an overview of the types of drugs that the respondents used in their life and the past month. Note that multiple responses were allowed.

Figure 9: Drugs Consumed (n=505)



Note that in question about 'last month' the option 'heroin' was not included and in the question about 'drugs ever taken' the option 'alcohol' was not included.

²¹ Note that the formulation of the question does not include whether the respondent was imprisoned for longer than one month (arrestees were also interviewed), which means that these drugs could also have been used before arrest/in outside world.

The age at which the respondents started using drugs differed by type of drug (Table 23). The results showed that cocaine, ecstasy, and heroin use did not start before age 10; however, some respondents started using inhalants or marijuana under age 10. The majority (77.3 percent) of marijuana users started during their adolescence (11–20 years). The average age of first use of drugs range from a low of 17.9 years for marijuana to 24.3 years for cocaine. Marijuana (n=278) was used by a far higher number of respondents than heroin (n=6) and inhalants (n=13), with use of ecstasy (n=47) and cocaine (n=39) falling in between.

Table 23: Age When Started Using Drug by Type (percent and years)²²

	Cocaine n=39	Inhalants n=13	Marijuana n=278	Ecstasy n=47	Heroin n=6	Other Drugs n=62
1–10 years	—	7.7	4.0	—	—	—
11–20 years	38.5	46.2	77.3	48.9	33.3	66.1
21–30 years	48.7	46.2	15.8	40.4	50.0	24.2
> 30 years	12.8	—	2.9	10.6	16.7	9.7
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Average Age	24.3	19.6	17.9	22.7	24.0	20.6

Criminal Careers and Inmates' Profiles

This section examines the crimes that inmates committed and looks at the specific characteristics of these crimes, including victims, place, weapon (firearms or other weapons), and intoxication. Inmates were first asked to indicate which crimes they had committed and were then asked to provide additional details. Inmates who committed drug-related offences, for example, were asked to specify the drugs involved, the value of the drugs in their possession, the reasons that they sold drugs, etc. People who committed murder, in contrast, were asked about the reason that they committed the crime, the weapon used, etc. For a list of the questions related to this section, see Appendix 3.

Types of Crime

According to the IMF (2018), Suriname is recovering from a deep recession in 2015–16. Positive signs include positive growth, single-digit inflation, and positive real interest rates. Further, the country's external situation has, on balance, improved. However, the economy continues to heavily depend on the mineral sector, and the country faces fiscal, monetary, and banking sector vulnerabilities. Also, central government debt has risen significantly. The fiscal situation could further deteriorate in 2019–20 as a result of the slow pace of reforms and increased public expenditures and is likely to be affected by the impacts of COVID-19. There is a notable link between a poor economy and property crimes. Social and economic disadvantage has been found to be strongly associated with crime, particularly the most serious offences including assault, robbery and homicide. The study of the social characteristics of offenders and victims can be extended into a critical examination of the role of place in influencing criminal activity. Research

²² The figures for inhalants and heroin should be interpreted with caution due to the low sample size.

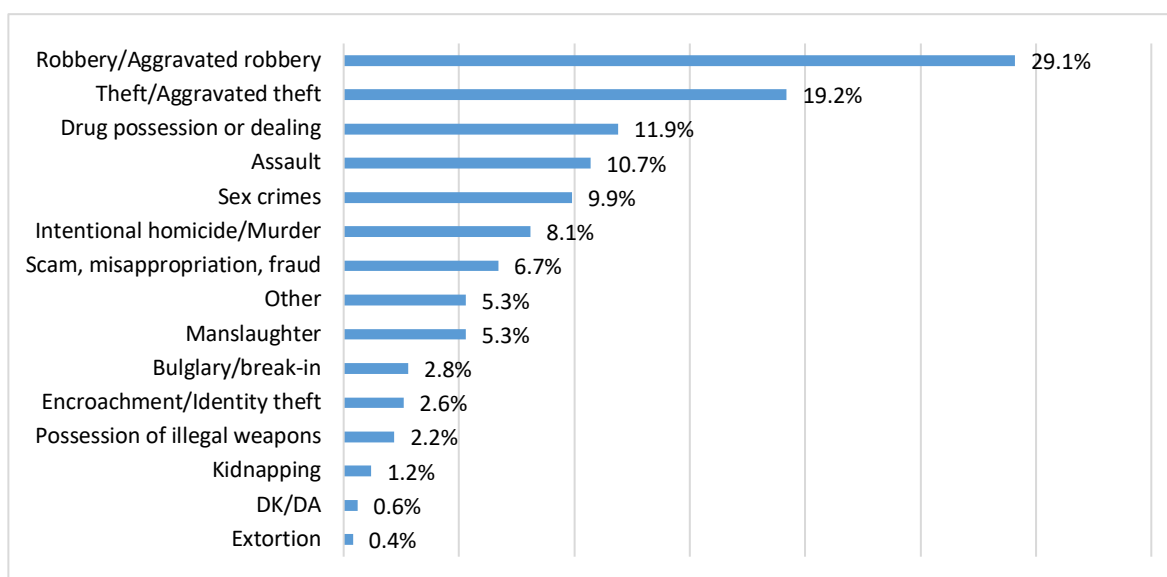
has been conducted on the social and economic factors contributing to the level and type of crime experienced in a community (Kitchen, 2015: 8). Seen the economic recession in Suriname, the crime rate and type of crimes respond accordingly.

The results of the inmate survey showed that the four most common types of crime among the respondents were:

1. Robbery and aggravated robbery (29.1 percent)
2. Theft and aggravated theft (19.2 percent)
3. Drug possession or dealing (11.9 percent)
4. Assault (10.7 percent)

Sex crimes followed at 9.9 percent. In the Caribbean, very few countries are effectively dealing with sexual crimes. Only Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago have legislation that explicitly criminalizes marital rape and only The Bahamas regulates sexual harassment (Sutton and Ruprah, 2017, p. 73). Figure 10 gives an overview of the different types of crimes committed by the respondents.

Figure 10: Type of Committed Crimes (N=505)



Looking at gender, the most common type of crime among women was drug possession or dealing (43.3 percent) followed by scam, misappropriation, fraud (16.7 percent), and manslaughter (13.3 per-

cent). Among the men, the most common crime was robbery and aggravated robbery (30.5 percent), followed by theft and aggravated theft (20.0 percent), assault (10.9 percent), and sex crimes (10.3 percent). Table 24 shows more details about the type of crime by gender. Note that multiple answers were allowed.

Table 24: Type of Crime by Gender (percent)

	Male	Female
	n=475	n=30
Intentional homicide/murder	8.0	10.0
Manslaughter	4.8	13.3
Kidnapping	1.3	0.0
Assault	10.9	6.7
Sex crimes	10.3	3.3
Robbery and aggravated robbery	30.5	6.7
Drug possession or dealing	9.9	43.3
Encroachment and identity theft	2.5	3.3
Possession of illegal weapons	2.3	0.0
Theft and aggravated theft	20.0	6.7
Scam, misappropriation, fraud	6.1	16.7
Extortion	0.4	0.0
Burglary and break-in	2.7	3.3
Other	5.5	3.3
DK/DA	0.6	0.0

Results also showed that there was some kind of physical injury to the victim during 29.3 percent of the crimes committed (Table 25).

Table 25: Victims Experienced Physical Injuries (N=505; percent)

Yes	29.3
No	67.9
DK/DA	2.8
Total	100

One in four (25.1 percent) perpetrators drank alcohol or used drugs in the six hours prior to committing the crime they were incarcerated for (Table 26).

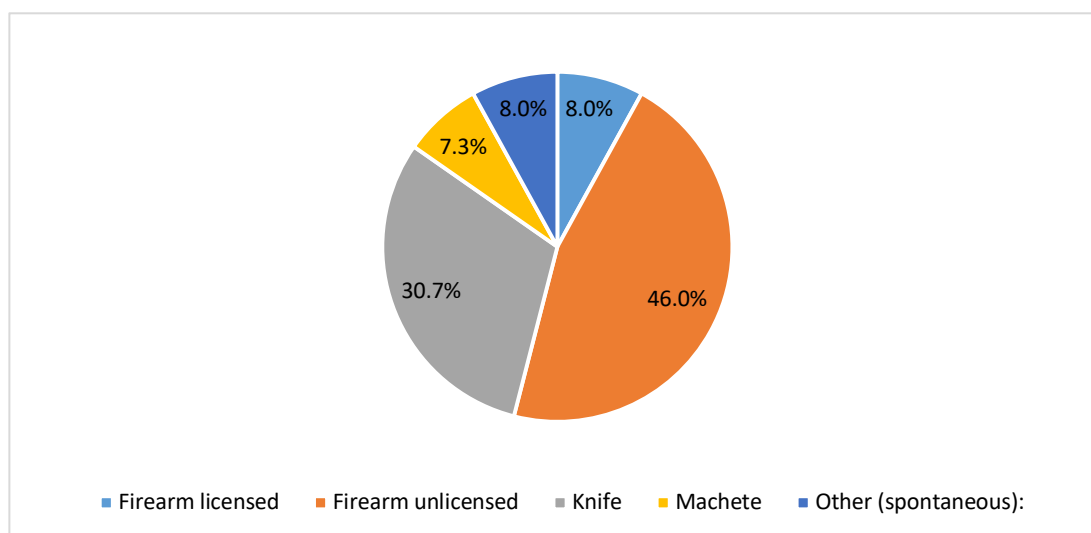
Table 26: Drank Alcohol or Used Drugs in the Six Hours Prior to the Crime (N=505; percent)

Yes	25.1
No	72.5
DK/DA	2.4
Total	100

Weapon

Results showed that 27.9 percent of the respondents were carrying a weapon when they committed the crime, while 70.3 percent said they were not and 1.8 percent did not answer this question. In response to the question about the type of weapon, 46.0 percent stated that they were carrying an unlicensed firearm, while almost one third (30.7 percent) had a knife. Less common were a licensed firearm (8.0 percent), a machete (7.3 percent) and 8.0 percent had other types of weapons. Figure 11 gives an overview of the type of weapons.

Figure 11: Type of Weapon (n= 137)



*“Other” included responses provided that were not on the list of options, such as such as scissors, a broken bottle, a hammer.

Partner in Crime

In more than half of the respondents’ (54.5 percent) cases, there was someone else involved²³ in the crime the respondent was charged with, while 43.8 percent had no partner, and 1.7 percent did not answer the question or did not know the answer to the question. Notably, there is essentially no difference by gender. Table 27 gives an overview of the proportion of males and females who indicated that other persons were involved when the crime was committed.

²³ Note that the formulation of the question—“*Without giving me any names, was anyone else involved in the crime you were charged with?*”—does not exclude multiple interpretations. For example, the respondent’s answer may concern the victim that was involved or a partner in crime.

Table 27: Partner in Crime by Gender (percent)

	Male	Female	Total
	n=475	n=30	N=505
Yes	54.5	53.3	54.5
No	43.6	46.7	43.8
DK/DA	1.9	0.0	1.7
Total	100	100	100

Recidivism

The recidivism rate among perpetrators of property crimes was 14.5 percent; however, remarkably, 49.3 percent of the respondents did not give a definite answer, either by not answering or not remembering. Table 28 shows the percentage of respondents that participated in a property crime prior to their current arrest.

Table 28: Participated in a Property Crime Prior to this Arrest (n=505; percent)

Yes	14.5
No	36.2
DK/DA	49.3
Total	100

Of the 505 respondents, almost half (45.5 percent) had been incarcerated before. More men (47.8 percent) had been incarcerated previously than women (10.0 percent). Table 29 gives an overview of the recidivism rates by gender.

Table 29: Recidivism by Gender (percent)

	Male	Female	Total
	n=475	n=30	N=505
Yes	47.8	10.0	45.5
No	52.0	90.0	54.3
DK/DA	0.2	0.0	0.2
Total	100	100	100

Of those previously arrested, 38.3 percent had been arrested only once before and 23.0 percent had been arrested twice before their current incarceration. Table 30 shows the number of times previously arrested.

Table 30: Times Previously Arrested (n=230; percent)

1	38.3
2	23.0
3	9.6
4	8.7
5	5.2
6	4.3
7	2.2
8	1.3
9	0.4
10	1.3
>12	4.2
DK/DA	1.5
Total	100

Results showed that 12.5 percent of the respondents had been detained in a juvenile detention center and that 13.1 percent of the males compared to 3.3 percent of the females were incarcerated as a minor. Table 31 shows juvenile detention by gender.

Table 31: Juvenile Detention by Gender (percent)

	Male	Female	Total
	n=475	n=30	N=505
Yes	13.1	3.3	12.5
No	86.7	96.7	87.3
DK/DA	0.2	0.0	0.2
Total	100	100	100

Firearms

According to OSAC (2018), criminals often carry firearms, including shotguns, which are the only firearms normally owned by civilians in Suriname. If victims resist, criminals will use their weapons.

Though Sutton and Ruprah (2017) found that in five of six Caribbean countries gun ownership was higher in metropolitan areas around the capital city than nationally, Suriname was the exception. Nationally, 19.4 percent of the population owned a gun, significantly higher than in Paramaribo (14.5 percent). This is not surprising given that hunting and having a gun for protection from wild animals is common in Suriname's rural interior. Ownership of long guns (mainly used for hunting) was more common in Suriname than in most of the other countries studied by Sutton and Ruprah (2017, p. 132).

Results of the inmate survey showed that 41.4 percent of the respondents owned a firearm at some point, while 58.6 percent claimed they did not. Other than those who first owned a gun at age 25 or older (20.4 percent), the most common age of first ownership was 18 (15.3 percent) followed by age 19

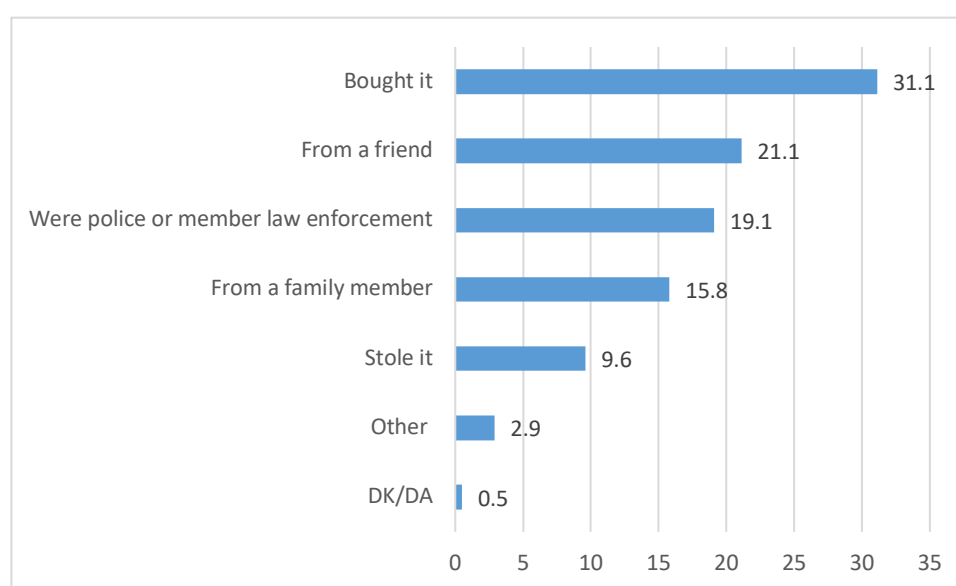
(11.0 percent). Remarkably, 5.8 percent owned their first firearm at age 12 or younger. Table 32 shows the ages at which respondents first owned a firearm.

Table 32: Age First Possessed a Firearm (n=209; percent)

≤12	5.8
13	2.4
14	3.3
15	5.7
16	8.6
17	6.7
18	15.3
19	11.0
20	9.6
21	3.3
22	2.9
23	1.9
24	1.9
>25	20.4
DK/DA	1.4
Total	100

Of those that disclosed the origin of the gun (n=209), the three most mentioned sources were bought it (31.1 percent), got it from a friend (21.1 percent), and was a former member of law enforcement 19.1 percent). Figure 12 gives an overview of the different sources of guns.

Figure 12: Origin of Gun (n=209)



Only 70.3 percent of respondents who responded to the question about the origin of gun answered the question about whether they had injured or killed someone with a firearm, of which 24.5 percent admitted that they did at some point (Table 33).

Table 33: Ever Injured or Killed someone with a Firearm (N=147; percent)

Yes	24.5
No	73.5
DK/DA	2.0
Total	100

A comparison between different types of crime and the use of a gun could not be assessed based on the questionnaire because respondents were sometimes incarcerated for more than one crime and the use of a firearm cannot be traced back and related to one of those crimes. Possessing a gun at some point does not imply that the weapon was used by the inmate in their current crime.

Legal Procedures and Criminal Process

This section examines the legal procedures that inmates must navigate from the stage of pretrial and trial until their incarceration and provides insights from “clients” of the legal system. As the users, inmates have experienced the functioning of the system and can have important insights into its strengths and weaknesses and may be able to offer suggestions for improvement. The insight that inmates provide can allow for an assessment of whether due process of law was upheld, how the judicial system operates, whether civil rights of offenders are protected, and other factors of relevance to the judicial process. (For a list of questions, see Appendix 3.)

Arrest Procedures and Treatment of Inmates

The following quote is from the *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices* for Suriname:

“Police apprehended individuals openly with warrants based on sufficient evidence and brought them before an independent judiciary. The law provides that inmates be brought before a judge within seven days to determine the legality of their arrest. Authorities promptly informed inmates of the charges against them. An assistant district attorney or a police inspector may authorize incommunicado detention. If additional time is needed to investigate the charge, a judge may extend the detention period for periods of 30 days, up to a total of 150 days. There is no bail system. Release pending trial is dependent on the type of crime committed and the judge handling the case. Inmates received prompt access to counsel of their choosing, but the prosecutor may prohibit access if the prosecutor believes access could harm the investigation. Legal counsel was provided at no charge for indigent inmates. Inmates were allowed weekly visits from family members” (U.S. Department of State, 2017).

Pretrial Detention

Suriname's Criminal Law (revised 2009) states that an arrestee should see a prosecutor within seven days and that pre-detention can be extended 30 days at a time (articles 48–50) to a 150-day maximum (article 66a.1).

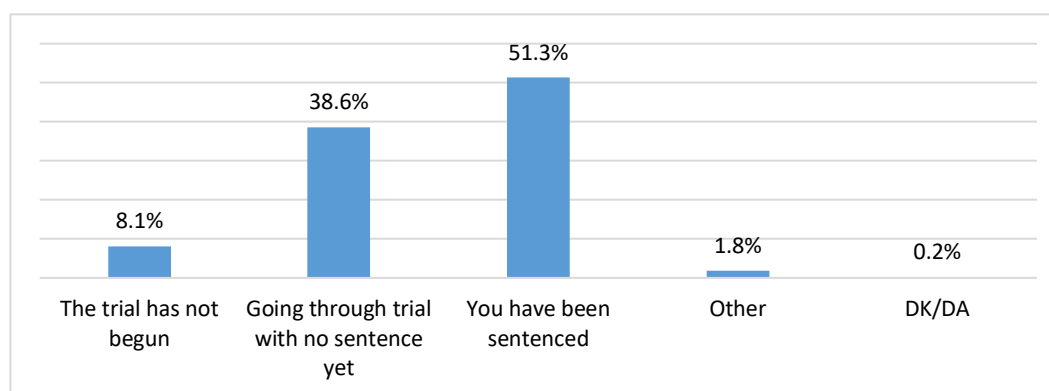
For respondents who were already sentenced, the mean time that elapsed between their arrest and sentencing was 10.5 months. According to Suriname's Criminal law, each arrestee must be summoned to court within 120 days though a verdict does not need to be rendered within this timeframe. Of the inmates that answered this question, the percentage convicted within the legal timeframe was 31.7 percent, with another 42 percent convicted within five months to a year. The results also show that 26.0 percent waited more than a year to be convicted.

In Suriname, the public prosecutor is responsible for implementing the judge's sentence, including a prison sentence, as regulated in Criminal Law articles 480–523. Regarding prison sentences, the responsibilities of the Ministry of Justice and Police are regulated in Criminal Law articles 10–45.

According to the 2013 *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Suriname* (U.S. Department of State, 2013), the most serious human rights problems were widespread government corruption and reports of press intimidation. Also, lengthy pretrial detention was a serious problem caused by an insufficient number of judges available to hear cases. While some progress was made in bringing criminal cases to trial, inmates often served the majority of, if not their entire, sentence before their trial was completed (U.S. Department of State, 2017).

Of all the respondents of the inmate survey, 46.7 percent were arrestees and 51.3 percent were convicts at the time of their interview. For the arrestees, a distinction is made between those whose trial has yet to begin (8.1 percent) and those already in the trial process but who were not yet sentenced (38.6 percent). The group that answered "other" included those whose case was in appeal and they were awaiting the result. Figure 13 shows the stage of criminal proceedings of the respondents.

Figure 13: Stage of Criminal Proceedings (N=505)



Looking at the time between the offense and the moment of arrest, the largest group of inmates (18.4 percent) was arrested within an hour of the crime they were accused of committing, followed by 17.0 percent who were arrested between three and 24 hours, 15.8 percent between one week and one month, and 15.2 percent between one day and one week (Table 34).

Table 34: Time Elapsed Between Committed Offense and Arrest (N=505; percent)

Less than 1 hour	18.4
Between 1 hour and 3 hours	9.5
Between 3 hours and 1 day	17.0
Between 1 day and a week	15.2
Between one week and 1 month	15.8
Between 1 and 6 months	11.9
Between 6 months and a year	3.2
More than a year	2.6
DK/DA	6.4
Total	100

Of all the respondents, 28.9 percent were shown a warrant for their arrest, 68.1 percent stated that the police did not shown them a warrant, and 3.0 percent did not answer this question.

After being arrested, 89.5 percent of the respondents were taken to a police station. It is not clear where 7.5 percent were taken or why 3.0 percent refused to answer this question.

When asked if they were informed that they were entitled to a lawyer, 22.0 percent were not informed and a notable 11.7 percent responded with 'don't know' to this question. Despite this, 66.3 percent were informed of this right (Table 35).

Table 35²⁴: Informed About Entitlement to a Lawyer (n= 505; percent)

Yes	66.3
No	22.0
DK/DA	11.7
Total	100

In response to the question of whether anyone had hit them or used physical force to compel them to testify or to change their statement while they were at the police station, 41.8 percent of the respondents said yes compared to 46.9 percent that stated they had experienced no physical violence; 11.3 percent did not answer this question (Table 36).

²⁴The question was presented to the entire population. For 10.5 percent the response NA was registered. The respondents may have interpreted that option as 'DK/DA' and therefore these two categories have been merged.

Table 36²⁵: Physical Violence Was Used to Influence Arrestee (n=505; percent)

Yes	41.8
No	46.9
DK/DA	11.3
Total	100

An analysis based on gender shows that a larger proportion of men (48.7 percent) endured physical violence than women (17.2 percent) (Table 37).

Table 37: Physical Violence Used to Influence Arrestee by Gender (percent)

	Male	Female
	n=423	n=29
Yes	48.7	17.2
No	50.4	82.8
DK/DA	0.9	0.0
Total	100	100

Table 38 gives an overview of the number of nights the respondents spent in detention, either at a prison or a jail at a police station. Most (44.8 percent) of the respondents spent more than one week in a jail at the police station, while 15.8 percent spent one night, 6.5 percent spent two nights, and 4.6 percent between three and seven nights. A remarkable 15.8 percent did not spend any night in jail; however, the question remains whether this group was brought straight to the penitentiary or if they were brought to another location.

Table 38²⁶: Nights Spent in Detention at a Prison or at the Police Station (n=505; percent)

Did not spend the night	15.8
1 night	15.8
2 nights	6.5
More than 3 nights and up to 1 week	4.6
More than 1 week	44.8
DK/DA	12.5
Total	100

Sutton and Ruprah (2017, p. 148), reporting on the 2014–15 LAPOP Survey, noted that an average of 7 percent of those surveyed had been asked to pay a bribe by a police officer. More specifically, Barbados

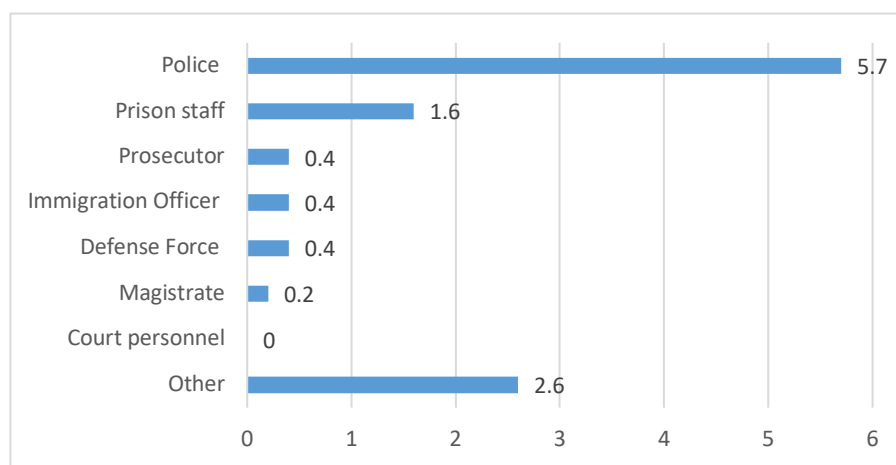
²⁵ The question was presented to the entire population. For 10.5 percent the response NA was registered. The respondents may have interpreted that option as 'DK/DA' and therefore these two categories have been merged.

²⁶ The question was presented to the entire population. For 10.5 percent the response NA was registered. The respondents may have interpreted that option as 'DK/DA' and therefore these two categories have been merged.

(1.0 percent) and Suriname (3.0 percent) were on the low end, while The Bahamas (11.0 percent) and Guyana (12.0 percent) had higher levels of corruption.

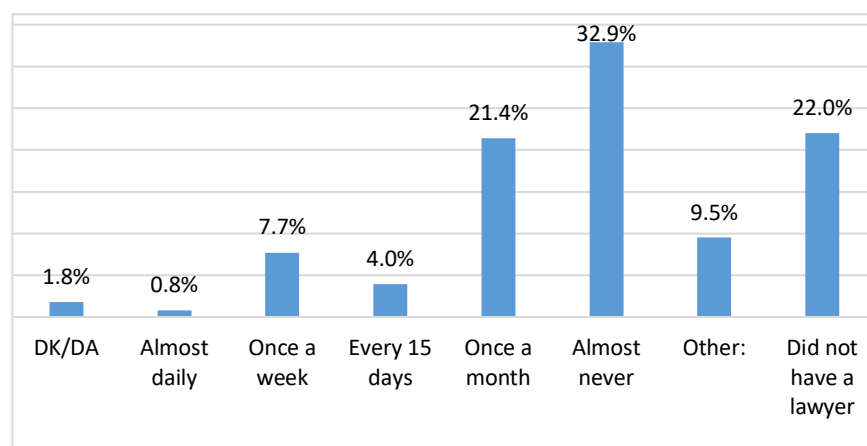
Along similar lines, in answer to the question about whether anyone had asked them for money or belongings, 5.7 percent stated that the police had asked them for money or belongings, 1.6 percent mentioned the prison staff, and 2.6 percent answered that it was some person other than the options provided and they were not asked to clarify (Figure 14). Altogether, 8.3 percent of respondents were asked for bribes.

Figure 14: Persons Who Asked for Money or Belongings (n=505, percent)



When asked about the frequency of visits with their lawyer, 22.0 percent of the respondents said they did not have a lawyer at all²⁷, 32.9 percent said they almost never saw their lawyer, and 21.4 percent saw their lawyer once a month (Figure 15).

²⁷ The number of respondents who answered that they had not seen a lawyer since their arrest was slightly different (23% in Figure 16) from the number that said they did not have a lawyer when asked about the frequency of visits (22% in Figure 15) and Table 43 about the type of lawyer (23.5%).

Figure 15: Frequency of Visits from a Lawyer (N=505)

Note: The number of respondents that said they did not have a lawyer when asked about the frequency of visits was slightly different from the number who answered that they had not seen a lawyer since their arrest (Figure 16).

Looking more closely at legal support, clearly private lawyers were more involved, visiting far more often than legal aid lawyers. Of the respondents with a private lawyer, 14.5 percent saw their lawyer once a week compared with only 1.7 percent of those represented by legal aid (Table 39). Results of table 45 also support the complaints of the economically less advantaged inmates regarding the dysfunctional service of legal aid.

Table 39: Type of Lawyer and Frequency of Visits (n=371; percent)²⁸

	Type of Lawyer		Total
	Legal Aid	Private	
Almost daily	0.0	1.6	1.1
Once a week	1.7	14.5	10.5
Every 15 days	3.5	6.2	5.4
Once a month	13.0	36.3	29.1
Almost never	64.3	30.5	41.0
Other	17.5	10.9	12.9
Total	100	100	100

When asked how much they understood about what was happening during their trial, 25.5 percent of the respondents stated they understood quite a lot and 26.2 percent a lot. On the other hand, 32.5 percent understood little or very little about their own trial. Table 40 shows how much respondents understood their own trial.

²⁸ Respondents who did not have an attorney were excluded from this computation.

Table 40: Understanding of Own Trial (N=425; percent)²⁹

Quite a lot	30.4
A lot	31.1
Little	26.6
Very little	12.0
Total	100

Almost one-third of the respondents (23.0 percent) had spoken to the judge or magistrate only once compared with 13.1 percent who had spoken to one of them twice and 12.9 percent who spoke to one of them three times. Notably, 9.1 percent of the respondents never spoke to the judge or magistrate at all. Table 41 show how many times inmates spoke with the judge or magistrate.

Table 41: Number of Times Spoken to Judge or Magistrate (n=505; percent)

0	9.1
1	23.0
2	13.1
3	12.9
4	8.5
5	5.7
6	2.6
7	1.6
>7	6.6
DK/DA	16.9
Total	100

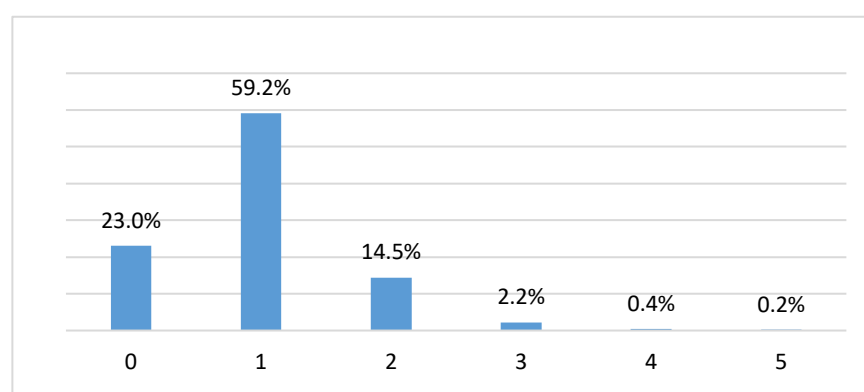
Speaking to the judge or magistrate does not necessarily mean that they listened. Of the respondents that spoke to the magistrate or judge, 43.8 percent stated that they felt that the judge or magistrate listened a lot (34.2 percent) or quite a lot (9.6 percent) to what they had to say, while 49.9 percent felt that little (30.2 percent) or very little (19.7 percent) of what they said was heard (Table 42).

²⁹ Persons whose trials had not as yet begun were excluded from this analysis.

Table 42: Magistrate Listened to You (n=407; percent)

Quite a lot	9.6
A lot	34.2
Little	30.2
Very little	19.7
DK/DA	6.3
Total	100

The majority of the respondents (59.2 percent) had seen only one lawyer since their arrest; however, 23.0 percent stated that they had not seen a lawyer since their arrest (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Number of Lawyers Seen Since Arrest (N=505)

Note: The number of respondents who answered that they had not seen a lawyer since their arrest was slightly different from the number that said they did not have a lawyer when asked about the frequency of visits (Figure 15).

More than half (52.3 percent) of the surveyed inmates had a private lawyer and 24.2 percent had to make use of legal aid, while 23.5 percent did not know whether their lawyer was private or a public defender or did not have a lawyer (Table 43).

Table 43: Main Lawyer a Public Defender or a Private Lawyer (N=505; percent)

Legal aid	24.2
Private lawyer	52.3
DK/DA	23.5
Total	100

Of the respondents represented by a lawyer, 9.2 percent felt their lawyer defended them very well and 49.0 percent said their lawyer defended them well. On the other hand, 33.8 percent said their lawyer did little or very little. Table 44 gives an overview of respondents' satisfaction with their lawyer.

Table 44: Lawyer Defended Me ____ (n=390; percent)

Very well	9.2
Well	49.0
Little	19.7
Very little	14.1
DK/DA	8.0
Total	100

Looking at satisfaction with defense and type of lawyer, results show that the respondents with a private lawyer were more likely to feel that they were defended very well (11.7 percent) than respondents represented by legal aid (4.1 percent). On the other hand, of the inmates represented by legal aid, 27.9 percent felt their lawyer did very little compared to 8.0 percent of those represented by a private lawyer who felt the same way. Table 45 illustrates this difference.

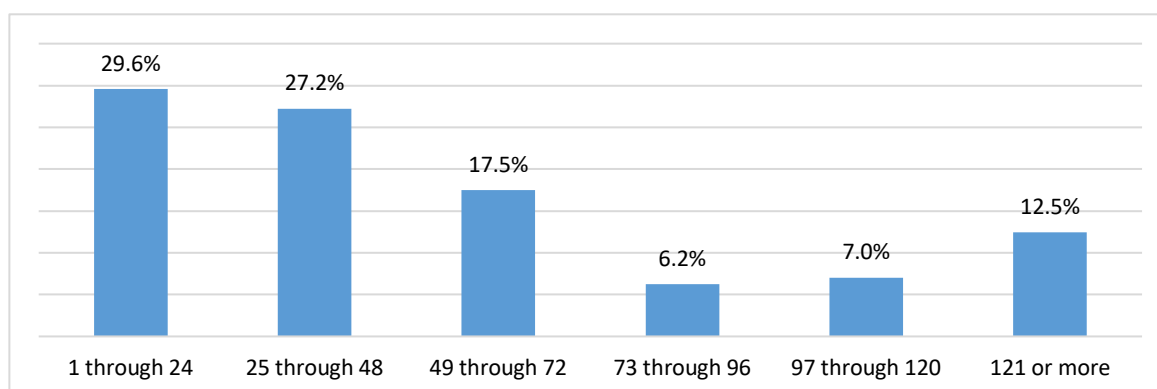
Table 45: Satisfaction with Defense by Type of Lawyer (n=386; percent)³⁰

	Main Lawyer		Total
	Legal Aid	Private	
Very well	4.1	11.7	9.3
Well	32.0	57.6	49.5
Little	25.4	17.0	19.7
Very little	27.9	8.0	14.2
DK/DA	10.6	5.7	7.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100

Note: The difference in number of respondents between Tables 44 and 45 is the four respondents that did not know what type of lawyer they had (private vs. public defender).

The largest group (29.6 percent) of respondents had to serve a sentence between 0 and 2 years, followed by 27.2 percent, who received a sentence between 2 and 4 years. Generally, the longer the sentence, the smaller the group that had to serve it, except those serving 10 or more years (12.5 percent). Figure 17 illustrates the length of sentences.

³⁰ n = 122 for legal aid and n = 264 for private attorneys.

Figure 17: Length of Sentence in Months (N=257)

Conditions in Prison

This section examines the living conditions of inmates in Suriname. Inmates provided a detailed picture of their lives in confinement, the living conditions in terms of sleeping space, eating services, access to healthcare, and to what extent the prisons offer effective education and work services. Questions attempted to assess the state of prison infrastructure, the effectiveness of prison staff, and the role that families can play in providing support for inmates. For a list of the questions related to this section, see Appendix 3.

The 2018 *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Suriname* showed that prison conditions generally met international standards but that there were numerous problems in Suriname's 26 detention centers. The government permitted monitoring visits by independent human rights observers (U.S. Department of State, 2018). Since the opening of the House of Remand in 2009, there is reduced overcrowding in Suriname's penitentiaries. Whenever a police station or penitentiary has reached its maximum capacity and new lawbreakers have had to be detained, they are brought to the House of Remand.

Inmates were not asked directly if they experienced overcrowding but were asked about the capacity of the cell they were in and the number of people that slept in it during the past week. This information was used to calculate occupation and possible overcrowding.

Inmates were asked to indicate the number of persons their cells were designed to accommodate and were also asked to indicate how many persons were actually accommodated in their cells. Based on this measure, 28.7 percent of inmates were accommodated in cells which contained more persons than they were designed to accommodate.

Concerning sleeping conditions, 66.9 percent of the inmates had slept on a bed the night before the survey, while 15.4 percent slept on a mattress, 9.9 percent in a hammock, and 7.5 percent on the floor (Table 46).

Table 46: Where Did You Sleep Last Night? (N=505; percent)

Bed*	66.9
Mattress	15.4
Hammock	9.9
Floor	7.5
Other	0.3
Total	100

* One of the limitations of the questionnaire was that the response category “bed” did not exclude the response category “mattress” because some beds had a mattress.

Comparing the situation in the penitentiaries with that in the police stations, results show that 15.7 percent of the respondents slept on the floor at the police stations, while 3.5 percent slept on the floor in prison. Sleeping on the floor does not always mean that there is no bed available. It might be that the inmate had not yet been transferred to the House of Remand due to administrative procedures or transportation problems. The reasons inmates sleep on the floor might also be linked to other factors such as:

- They were forced to sleep there by other inmates.
- There were beds but they were too filthy to sleep on (bugs and fleas).
- There were no beds at all. The cells in some police stations have no beds at all, just benches made of concrete.

Furthermore, the respondents in the prisons had either a bed (72.0 percent) or a mattress (21.8 percent) to sleep on, compared with 56.6 percent having a bed and 2.4 percent having a mattress at the police stations. Table 47 gives an overview of the location and sleeping conditions.

Table 47: Location and Sleeping Conditions (N=505; percent)³¹

	Prison	Police Station
Bed	72.0	56.6
Mattress	21.8	2.4
Hammock	2.4	25.3
Floor	3.5	15.7
Other	0.3	0.0
Total	100	100

A cross reference by gender shows that all women had a bed (96.7 percent) or a mattress (3.3 percent) to sleep on, while 8.0 percent of the men had to sleep on the ground and 10.5 percent slept in a hammock (Table 48).

³¹ n = 339 for prisons (which includes the House of Remand) and n = 166 for police stations.

Table 48: Sleeping Conditions by Gender (N=505; percent)³²

	Male	Female
Bed	65.1	96.7
Mattress	16.2	3.3
Hammock	10.5	0.0
Floor	8.0	0.0
Other	0.2	0.0
Total	100	100

A prison needs assessment (IDB, 2018b) showed that the conditions in the cells at the police stations were worse than those in the penitentiaries because of the small available space, bad hygiene, and lack of facilities, accommodation, and guidance. The following shows the living space for the penitentiaries in Suriname (IDB, 2018b).

- Central Penitentiary: 75.35 ft² per cell for 1 person
- House of Remand: 269.1 ft² per cell for 6 people
- Penitentiary Duisburg: 107.64 ft² per cell for 3 people
- Penitentiary Hazard: 107.64 ft² per cell for 3 people

The arrestees in the cells at the police stations had to make do with a much smaller space. The Mandela Rules (UNODC, 2015, Article 9) recommend one cell per detainee and, if not possible, detainees should be placed together based on a thought-out division.

The International Committee of the Red Cross recommends that cells be at least 5.4 m² (58.1 ft²); however, internationally, prison cells vary in size from 2 m² (21.5 ft²) in Guinea to 12 m² (129 ft²) in Switzerland (Deutinger, 2018).

The Mandela Rules do not give explicit dimensions for cells but state that,

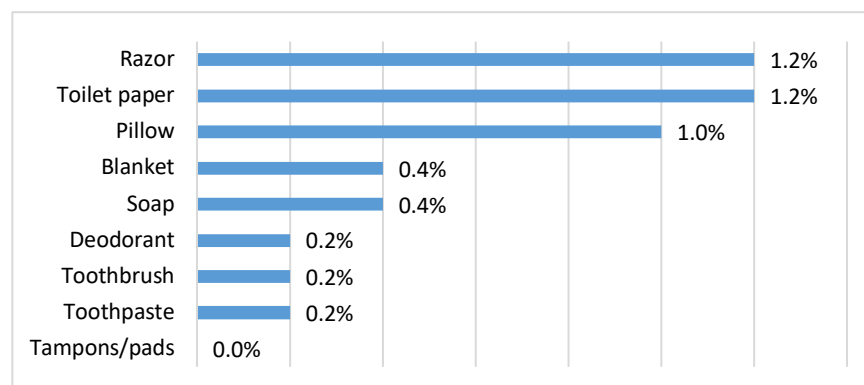
“Where sleeping accommodation is in individual cells or rooms, each prisoner shall occupy by night a cell or room by himself or herself. If for special reasons, such as temporary overcrowding, it becomes necessary for the central prison administration to make an exception to this rule, it is not desirable to have two prisoners in a cell or room” (UNODC, 2015, rule 12:1).

Of course the possibilities depend on each facility’s infrastructure. For example, the Central Penitentiary offers individual rooms, while the House of Remand only has cells for six people. In the prisons, the official maximum capacity of each cell is not exceeded.

³² n = 475 for males and n = 30 for females.

Results show that most of the respondents' personal possessions are provided by family, such as sheets (86.3 percent), towels (87.3 percent), and shoes (85.9 percent). The police station or penitentiary provided a bed and mattress for 61.2 percent of the respondents; however, family provided a bed and/or mattress for 19.2 percent of the respondents. Only in exceptional cases (between 0.2 percent and 1.2 percent) does the prison or police station provide small personal hygiene products (Figure 18).

Figure 18: Personal Hygiene Products Provided by Prison (N=505)



Because the climate is very hot and humid in Suriname, it is common to shower three times a day. This is a necessity more than a privilege. To maintain good personal hygiene, it is highly recommended that people shower at least twice a day. Results show that 56.4 percent of the respondents showered 15 or more times a week, or at least twice a day, and 39.0 percent showered between eight and 14 times a week, or 1 to 2 times a day (Table 49).

Table 49³³: Showers a Week (N=505; percent)

0–4 times	3.8
5–7 times	0.8
8–14 times	39.0
≥15 times	56.4
Total	100

The opinions about the toilets were divided. According to 54.6 percent of the respondents, the toilets were dirty or somewhat dirty, while 45.1 percent found them to be somewhat clean to very clean (Table 50).

³³ Note that DK/DA is not included in the table because it was zero.

Table 50: Hygiene of Toilets (N=505; percent)

Very clean	8.7
Somewhat clean	36.4
Somewhat dirty	17.6
Dirty	37.0
DK/DA	0.3
Total	100

When asked if they had enough water to drink, 90.3 percent of the inmates said they did; however, 58.4 percent stated that the quality of the drinking water was poor or very poor and only 19.6 percent of the inmates had access to good or very good quality drinking water (Table 51). When asked about the food, 31.1 percent of the respondents rated the quality as poor and 47.1 percent as very poor (Table 51).

When asked about their health, 44.6 percent stated that they got sick during their stay in prison or at the police station. Results also show that 62.4 percent of the inmates that got sick received medical care, 28.1 percent did not, and 9.5 percent did not give an answer to this question. Of the respondents that received medical care, 1.3 percent rated the quality of the care as very good, 16.5 percent as good, 33.7 percent as normal, 32.1 percent as poor, and 11.1 percent as very poor (Table 51). Of the three necessities—water, food, and medical care—the quality of the food was rated poorly most frequently.

Table 51: Quality of Drinking Water, Food, and Medical Care (percent)

	Drinking Water	Food	Medical Care
	N=505	N=505	N=315
Very good	4.2	0.2	1.3
Good	15.4	2.2	16.5
Normal	19.8	18.2	33.7
Poor	28.7	31.1	32.1
Very poor	29.7	47.1	11.1
DK/DA	2.2	1.2	5.4
Total	100	100	100

Illness

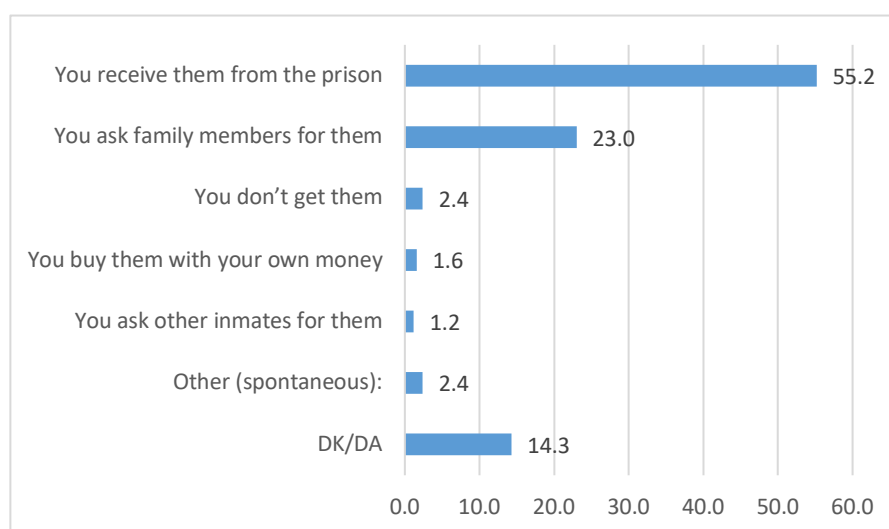
Of the respondents 44.6 (n = 225) percent indicated that they got sick while they were incarcerated. Respondents were then asked to indicate how long it took for them to receive help from a nurse or doctor when they were sick or in pain.³⁴ Results show that 46.6 percent of the respondents who got sick received help from a doctor or nurse within an hour of it being reported to the guards or the clinic and another 23.8 percent received help within 1 to 24 hours. However, 3.8 percent had to wait more than 72 hours for medical assistance (Table 52).

³⁴ 315 persons responded to this question.

Table 52: Time Before Medical Help Arrived (n=315; percent)

Within one hour	46.6
Within 1 to 24 hours	23.8
Within 24 to 72 hours	5.4
> 72 hours	3.8
DK/DA	20.4

When asked how they obtained medication which was needed 55.2 percent indicated that they got medications from the prison while 23 percent got their medications from family members (Figure 19).

Figure 19: How Respondents Obtain Medication (N=505)

Note: This question was asked of all respondents irrespective of whether they indicated they had become ill while incarcerated or needed medication

Of the respondents, 44.6 percent got sick during their stay in prison. The largest proportion of inmates who got sick were serving a sentence of 73 to 96 months (Table 53).

Table 53: Duration of Sentence and Sickness (N=256; percent)

Sentence	Sick in Prison		n
	Yes	No	
1–24 months	47.4	52.6	76
25–48 months	49.3	50.7	69
49–72 months	51.1	48.9	45
73–96 months	68.8	31.2	16
97–120 months	22.2	77.8	18
>120 months	59.4	40.6	32

When inmates were asked what type of illness they suffered, almost one fifth (22.8 percent) had a flu or other chest infection, 5.7 percent had stomach problems and 1.6 percent had depression or anxiety (Table 54). Of the inmates, 17.8 percent required hospital care and were taken to the hospital.

Table 54: Diseases among Inmates (n=505³⁵, percent)

	%
Flu or other chest infection	22.8
Stomach problems	5.7
Depression/anxiety	1.6
Tuberculosis	0.6
HIV/AIDS	0.2
Other	19.2

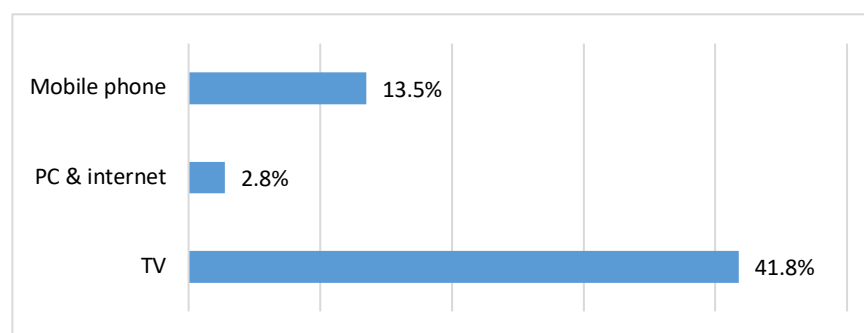
The results of another study (Bakboord, 2009) in two of the four prisons showed that 2.2 percent of the prison population was infected with HIV/AIDS. This report was shared with the Ministry of Health of Suriname but the results were accessible to the public until it was published on a United Nations website in 2014, six years after it was produced (Bearing Point, 2014; Radio MagicFM, n.d.).

When asked if any tests were performed to verify whether they had HIV/AIDS, 17.6 percent of all respondents stated that they were tested even though an HIV/AIDS test is not compulsory when entering the detention phase in Suriname.

Mobile Phone, PC and Internet, and TV

Inmates were asked whether they had access to a mobile phone, a PC with internet, or a TV (Figure 20). Because mandatory activities and recreational options are both minimal, watching television was the most common daily activity or hobby of many inmates. Of the respondents, 41.8 percent had access to a television, 2.8 percent had access to a PC with internet, and, although forbidden, 13.5 percent confirmed that they had access to a mobile phone.

³⁵ Note that multiple answers per respondent were allowed.

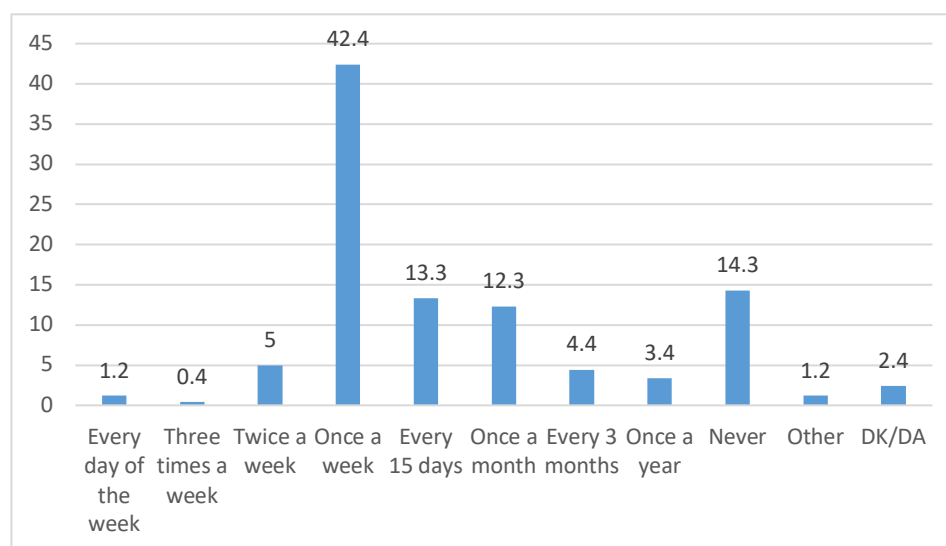
Figure 20: Access to Mobile Phone, PC and Internet, and TV (N=505)

Although it is prohibited, many prisoners seem to have a mobile phone (*Times of Suriname*, 2015), which they hide and only use when it is safe. Sometimes there is a thorough search and the phones are found. The presence of mobile phones is confirmed by the survey results, which show that 12.3 percent of the respondents spoke to their relatives every day. Since daily use of the phone provided by the prison/police station is not allowed, they must have been using an unofficial phone. Of note, 55.0 percent of the respondents stated that they never used a phone. Table 55 gives an overview of the frequency of phone use.

Table 55: Frequency of Talking on the Phone (N=505; percent)

Every day	12.3
Twice a week	7.3
Once a week	8.9
Every 15 days	4.8
Once a month	4.8
Every 6 months	1.2
Less than twice a year	1.8
Never	55.0
Other	3.4
DK/DA	0.6
Total	100

Keeping in touch with the outside world is important to the mental and social health of inmates. The biggest group of inmates (42.4 percent) received family visits weekly, while the next largest group (14.3 percent) were never visited. Figure 21 gives an overview of the frequency of visits.

Figure 21: Frequency of Family Visits (N=505; percent)

Looking at judicial status and frequency of visits shows that respondents who were currently on trial were visited weekly (57.4 percent) more than those who had already been sentenced (31.7 percent) and those who were on remand (41.5 percent). However, respondents who have been sentenced were more likely to get visited every 15 days (20.8 percent vs. 6.2 percent of those on trial and 2.4 percent of those on remand). Table 56 gives an overview of frequency of visits by judicial status.

Table 56: Frequency of Visits by Judicial Status (N=495; percent)³⁶

	Remand	On Trial	Sentenced
Every day of the week	2.4	1.0	1.2
Three times a week	2.4	0.0	0.4
Twice a week	7.3	8.2	1.5
Once a week	41.5	57.4	31.7
Every 15 days	0.0	6.2	20.8
Once a month	2.4	6.7	18.1
Every 3 months	0.0	1.0	6.9
Once a year	2.4	1.5	5.0
Never	34.1	12.8	12.7
Other	0.0	1.5	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

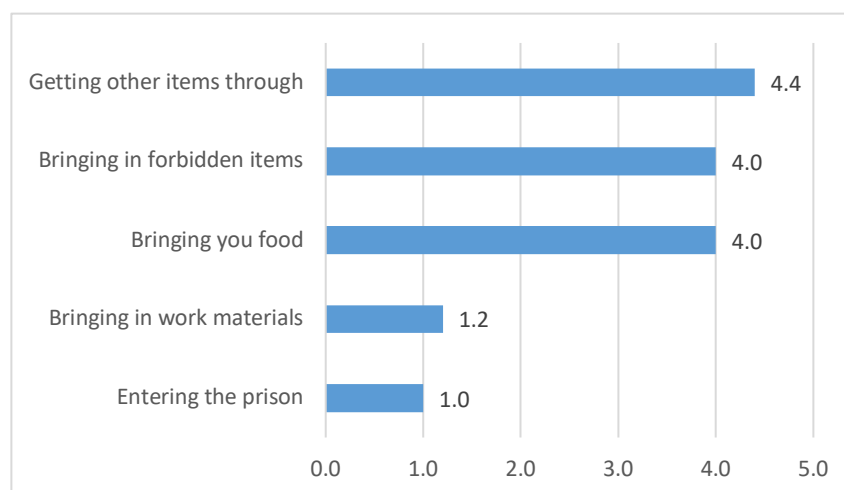
Generally inmates felt that their visitors were treated well (42.0 percent) or very well (7.5 percent), though some said they were treated badly (5.7 percent) or very badly (1.2 percent); one fifth (19.4 percent) of the respondents said the treatment of their visitors was so-so (Table 57).

³⁶ n = 41 for 'remand', n = 195 for 'on trial', and n = 259 for 'sentenced'.

Table 57: Treatment of Visitors (N=505; percent)

Very well	7.5
Well	42.0
So-so	19.4
Badly	5.7
Very badly	1.2
DK/DA	2.0
NA	22.2
Total	100

The results show that when relatives visit the inmates they normally do not have to pay for anything; however, it seems that there were some exceptional cases when visitors had to pay to get things brought in. Of the respondents, 4.0 percent said that their visitor had to pay to bring in food, 4.4 percent to get other items through, and 4.0 percent to get forbidden goods in. Figure 22 shows what visitors had to pay to bring in.

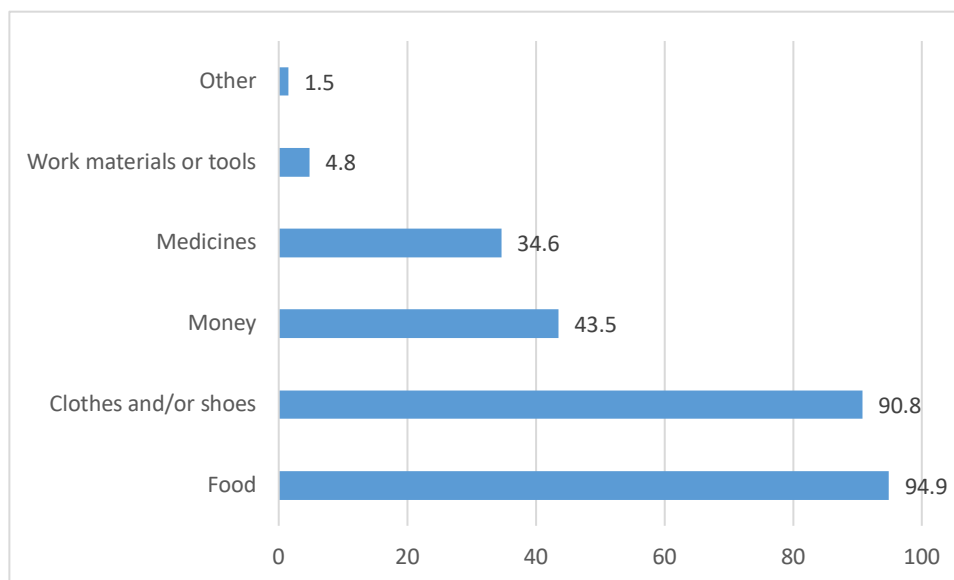
Figure 22: Visitors Had to Pay to ____ (N=505)

The devaluation of the Surinamese currency in 2015 (ECLAC 2016)³⁷ meant that the available budget was not sufficient to provide complete government support for the needs of the arrestees and detainees, which led to them depending on their families for support. Of the respondents, 94.9 percent said their

³⁷ In November 2015, after months of dwindling international reserves, the Central Bank of Suriname devalued the Surinamese dollar by 20.5%, and the exchange rate against the United States dollar rose from SRD 3.35 to SRD 4.03.

family provided food, 90.8 percent said family provided clothes and shoes, 43.5 percent received money, and 34.6 percent received medicines. Figure 23 shows what products are provided by families.

Figure 23: Support from Family (n= 393; multiple answers allowed)



Sexual Life of Inmates

A report called “Sexual Behavior and Zero Prevalence Study in Prisons in Suriname: Paramaribo and Nickerie” (Bakboord, 2009) was published in 2009 but was not available to the public until 2014 and still cannot be found on the internet (though there are references to it; for example, see Waterkant, 2014; Parbode, 2014). Of note, the Ministry of Health was the client for the study. According to this report, sex among prisoners does occur, so does rape among female prisoners.

In 2007–2009, a sexual behavior and zero prevalence survey was carried out in prisons in Suriname. The results showed that 2.2 percent (N=404) of the prisoners tested HIV positive; however, 42.4 percent of the prison population (N=701) did not want to or could not do the HIV test (Bakboord, 2018, p.25).

Although relationships between prisoners and between prisoners and staff are not allowed, there are still relationships and there is forced sex in Surinamese prisons (also, conjugal visits are prohibited in Suriname). In 2014, Deputy Director of Delinquent Care Paul Pinas admitted that forced sex occurs regularly in prisons in Suriname and, according to the report, sex was common among prisoners (Bakboord, 2009).³⁸

Criminal Laws and Correctional Systems Prison authorities should take all necessary measures, including adequate staffing, effective surveillance, and appropriate disciplinary measures, to protect prisoners from rape, sexual violence, and coercion (WHO, 1993: guideline 4). Furthermore, providing condoms and using

³⁸ Note that the Bakboord (2009) report was published in 2009 but was not accessible for the public until 2014.

other measures to decrease sexually transmitted diseases are necessary (WHO, UNODC, and UNAIDS, 2007).

Results from the inmate survey show that 2.0 percent of the respondents had been forced to have sexual intercourse against their will since their arrest, all of them are male (Table 58). In Suriname, conjugal visits are prohibited. It is interesting to note here that 9.1 percent of males and 6.7 percent of females indicated that they witnessed other inmates being forced to have sexual intercourse.

Table 58: Forced Sexual Intercourse since Arrest (N=505; percent)

	Male	Female	Total
Yes	2.1	0.0	2.0
No	96.6	100.0	96.8
DK/DA	1.3	0.0	1.2
Total	100	100	100

Contraception and Gynecology

Of the female inmates interviewed (all 30 incarcerated at the time of the survey), 6.7 percent used some form of contraception. However, none were forced to do so. Also, 3.3 percent of the female inmates stated that they had had a gynecological examination during their detention.³⁹ Table 59 gives an overview of the female population and gynecologic matters.

Table 59: Contraception and Gynecological Visits (n=30; percent)

	Used Contraception	Forced to Use Contraception	Received Gynaecological Examination
Yes	6.7	0.0	3.3
No	93.3	100.0	96.7
Total	100	100	100

Feeling Safe in Prison

When asked how safe they felt in the penitentiary or at the police station compared to how they felt in their home or the place where they lived before they were incarcerated, a large majority of the respondents (86.3 percent) felt less safe and only a small percentage (4.8 percent) felt safer (Table 60). Looking at sense of safety by gender, more women felt just as safe (20.0 percent) than men did (7.8 percent) and more men felt less safe (87.2 percent) than women did (73.3 percent) (Table 60).

³⁹ Based on the formulation of the question, it is not clear if the examinations took place at the prison or police station or if they were brought to the clinic during their detention period.

Table 60: Sense of Safety in Prison Compared to before Arrest (N=505; percent)

	Male	Female	Total
Safer	4.8	3.3	4.8
Just as safe	7.8	20.0	8.5
Less safe	87.2	73.3	86.3
DK/DA	0.2	3.4	0.4
Total	100	100	100

Considering safety of belongings, most respondents (74.7 percent) said that they had never had any personal belongings stolen. When comparing police stations to penitentiaries, results show that 29.5 percent of the respondents had had something stolen from them in prison compared to 16.9 percent in a police station. Table 61 gives an overview of personal belongings being stolen.

Table 61: Belongings Stolen by Location of Incarceration (N=505; percent)

	Prison	Police Station	Total
Yes	29.5	16.9	25.3
No	70.5	83.1	74.7
Total	100	100	100

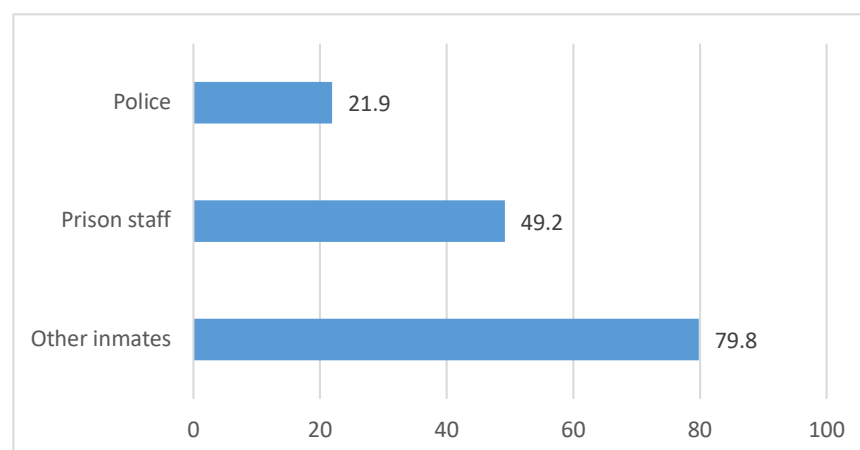
Expanding the research on feeling safe leads to the question about physical attacks in detention. Of the respondents, 15.8 percent stated that in the previous six months they had been attacked or beaten. Regarding the perpetrators, the biggest group seemed to be other inmates (72.5 percent), while 27.5 percent said the perpetrators were prison guards and 18.8 percent said it was police officers (Table 62). Note that multiple answers were allowed per respondent.

Table 62⁴⁰: Perpetrators of Attacks/Beatings (n=80; percent)

Other inmates	72.5
Prison guards	27.5
Police	18.8

Notably, 70.5 percent of the interviewees stated that they had seen other inmates beaten in detention. This contradiction in the numbers (70.5 percent has seen violence, but only 15.8 percent experienced it themselves) is a common problem within research on sensitive subjects, such as violence and sexual abuse. It does not mean that the data are incorrect; it is a reflection of the information that respondents are willing to share. When respondents referred to other inmates being beaten, 79.8 percent said the perpetrators were other inmates, 49.2 percent said prison guards, and 21.9 percent said police (Figure 24).

⁴⁰ Respondents were allowed to select more than one answer choice to this question and the other choices 'Suriname Defence Force', 'Immigration Officer' and 'DK/DA' were 0 percent.

Figure 24⁴¹: Perpetrators of Attacks on Other Inmates (N=356; percent)

Alcohol and Drugs

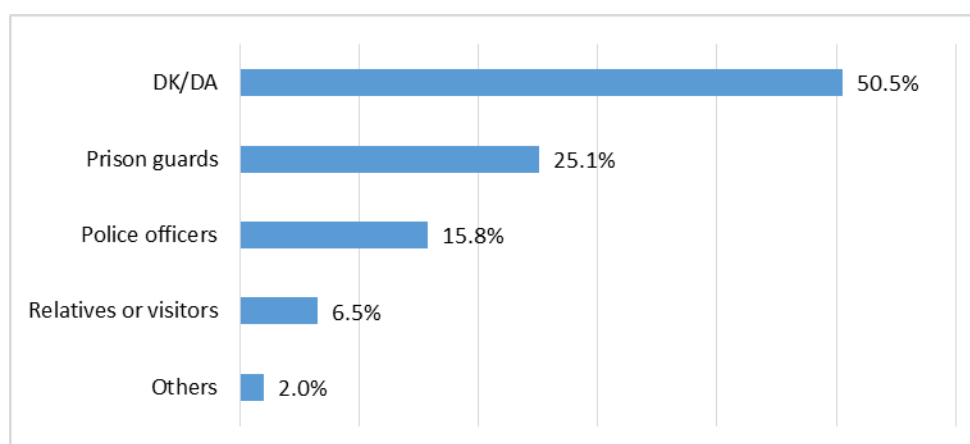
Although it is officially prohibited, respondents were asked about the use of alcohol and drugs inside the police stations and penitentiaries. Of the inmates interviewed, 18.4 percent claimed that they had used alcohol and/or drugs during the previous month and 43.8 percent claimed that they saw other inmates using alcohol or drugs. Regarding the type of drugs used inside, 82.8 percent of those that had used drugs smoked marijuana, by far more common than any of the other drugs used and 11.8 percent drank alcohol (Table 63). Note that multiple answers were allowed per respondent.

Table 63: Type of Drugs Used in Detention (n=93; percent)

Inhalants	1.1
Pills	1.1
Cocaine/Crack/Cocaine base paste	2.2
Alcohol	11.8
Other	16.1
Marijuana/Ganja	82.8
DK/DA	1.1

Half of the respondents did not reveal the origin of the drugs, either because they did not know or they did not want to reveal the provider. Otherwise, in most cases the drugs were believed to have been brought in by prison guards (25.1 percent) or police officers (15.8 percent), though some were brought in by relatives or visitors (6.5 percent) (Figure 25).

⁴¹ Note that multiple answers were allowed and that the answer categories: 'Defense Force', 'Immigration' and 'Other' were not included in the chart because the response was 0 percent.

Figure 25: Drugs Brought into Prison by ____ (N=505)

Looking at drug used by other inmates crossed with use in police stations versus penitentiaries, results show some differences as well as similarities. The results in table 64 show that marijuana was used more in penitentiaries (44.5 percent) than in police stations (30.7 percent). In contrast, alcohol is used to the same degree in penitentiaries (11.8 percent) and police stations (12.0 percent). Note that multiple answers were allowed.

Table 64: Drug Use by Other Inmates by Facility (percent)

	Penitentiary n=339	Police Station n=166	Total N=505
Alcohol	11.8	12.0	11.9
Marijuana/ganja	44.5	30.7	40.0
Inhalants	0.3	0.6	0.4
Cocaine/crack/cocaine base paste	2.4	1.8	2.2
Pills	8.3	3.0	6.5
Other	8.3	3.6	6.7
DK/DA	2.1	0.6	1.6

According to 22.4 percent of the respondents, access to drugs while in detention was very difficult compared to 8.9 percent who stated that it was very easy (Table 65).

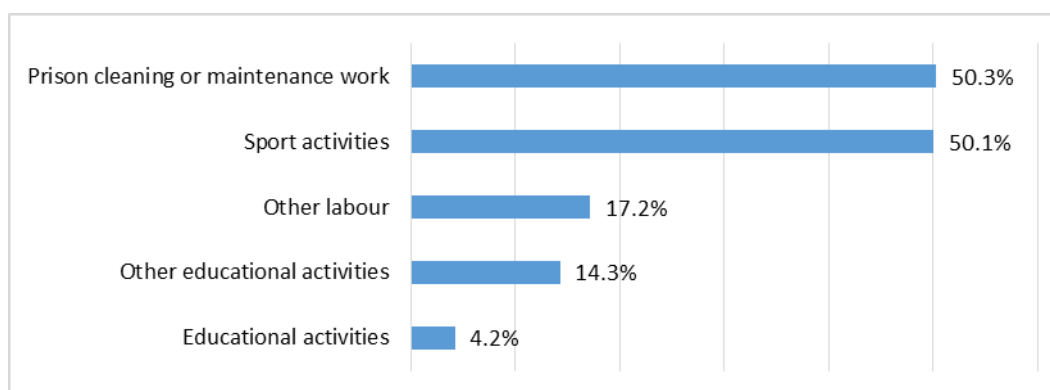
Table 65: Access to Drugs in Prison (N=505; percent)

DK/DA	29.5
Very easy	8.9
Easy	22.8
Difficult	16.4
Very difficult	22.4
Total	100

Daily Activities

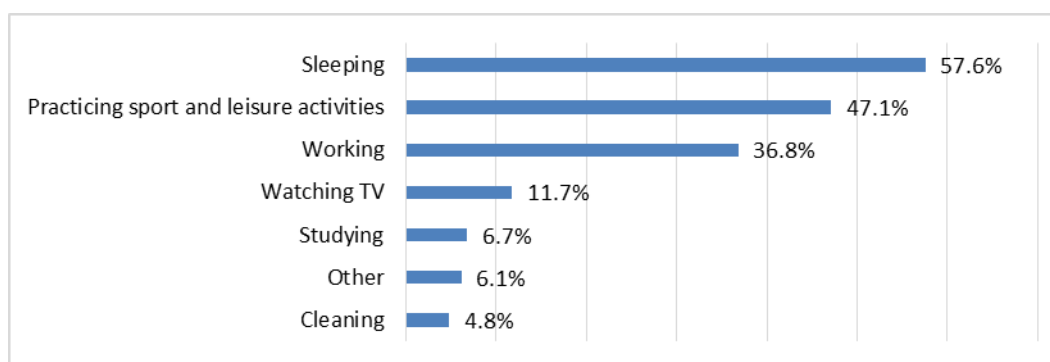
Apart from sleeping, showering, and eating, the inmates had a lot of spare time. Of the respondents, 50.3 percent had participated in prison cleaning or maintenance work over the previous month, 50.1 percent participated in sport activities, and 14.3 percent in educational activities (Figure 26) over the previous month.

Figure 26: Inmate Activities Inside Prison over the Previous Month (N=505)



When asked what they have spent their time doing in general since entering detention, 57.6 percent said they slept as part of their daily routine, 47.1 percent practiced sports and other leisure activities, and 36.8 percent worked (Figure 27).

Figure 27⁴²: How Spent Most Days in general while in Detention (N=505)



Guidance

Assistance for the psychological well-being and help with arranging family affairs at home while inside detention can offer a solution for many problems that inmates struggle with. One third (31.1 percent) of all respondents never received assistance from a psychologist and/or a social worker. Those who received

⁴² Multiple responses were allowed. Note that answer category DK/DA is not included because it was zero.

such care were asked to rate the quality of the care which was received. The results show that 26.3 percent said the service was good or very good compared with 21 percent who said it was poor or very poor (Table 66).

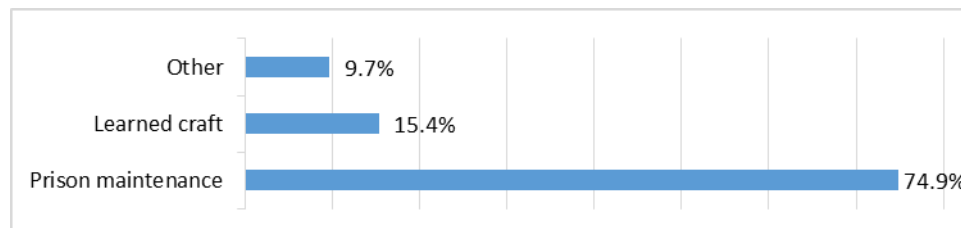
Table 66: Quality of Assistance from Psychologists and Social Workers (N=338; percent)⁴³

Very good	4.7
Good	21.6
Normal	18.9
Poor	13.6
Very poor	7.4
DK/DA	33.7
Total	100

Work in Prison

While in prison, the opportunity exists to work, but the possibilities of the type of work differ depending on the penitentiary. Of the 505 respondents, 55.4 percent stated that they performed work inside the penitentiary or police station. When asked what type of work they had done in the previous month, 74.9 percent of those who worked had done prison maintenance, 15.4 percent had learned a craft, and 9.7 percent did some other type of work (Figure 28).

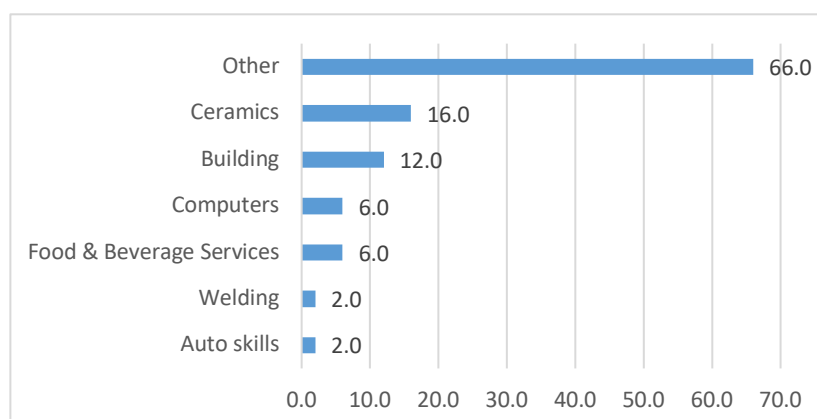
Figure 28⁴⁴: Type of Work Inmates Do in Prison (n=279)



Of the 9.9 percent that stated that they learned a trade in prison, 16.0 percent learned ceramics, 12.0 percent studied building, 6.0 percent developed computer skills, and 6.0 percent learned about food and beverages (Figure 29). A few examples of 'other' trades they learned were baking bread, sewing clothes, wood crafting and agriculture.

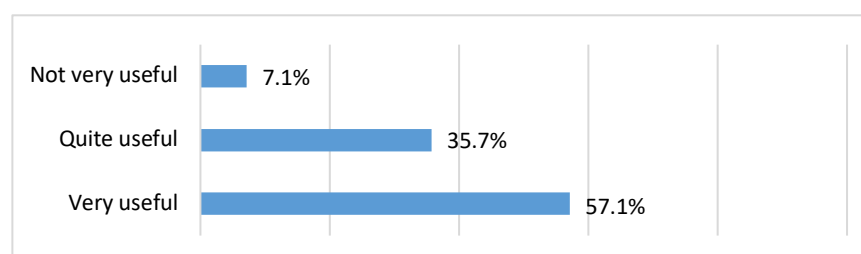
⁴³ Persons who never received services from a psychologist or social worker (n = 167) were removed from this computation.

⁴⁴ Note that answer category 'DK/DA' is not included because it was zero.

Figure 29⁴⁵: Trades Learned in Prison (n=50)

School in Prison

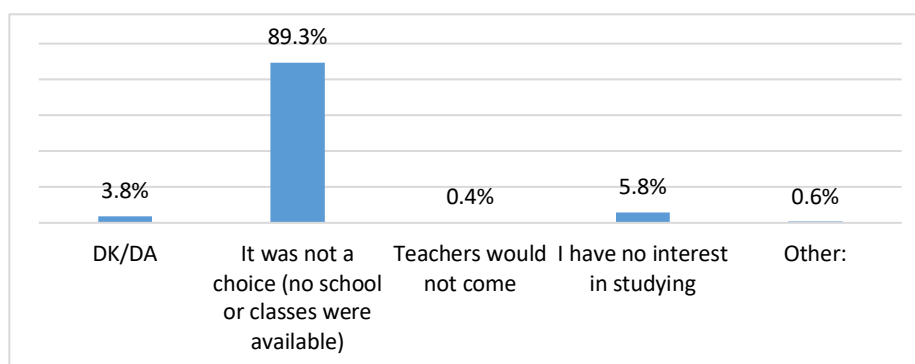
In Suriname there are limited opportunities to attend school while detained; however, a small group of 2.8 percent of the respondents attended classes or school while in prison. Of those inmates, 57.1 percent found it very useful compared to 7.1 percent who found it not very useful (Figure 30).

Figure 30⁴⁶: Usefulness of Study (n=14)

For the group of respondents that did not attend school, the reason for 89.3 percent of them was that school was not provided by the prison, while 5.8 percent had no interest in studying (Figure 31).

⁴⁵ Note that multiple answers were allowed and that the answer categories 'Electricity', 'Cosmetology' and 'DK/DA' were not included in the figure because they were 0 percent.

⁴⁶ Note that answer category 'DK/DA' and 'not useful at all' were not included in the chart because it was 0 percent.

Figure 31: Reasons Not to Attend School/Class (n=469)

Future

During their time in detention, there is sufficient time for inmates to think about their future. Each inmate has their own perspective about life after their release. For a list of the questions related to this section, see Appendix 3.

When asked if they would return to live in the same neighborhood as before their arrest, 64.4 percent responded positively. Regarding work, 41.0 percent of the respondents stated that they had a job waiting for them when they were released, while 20.2 percent said they would apply for a job related to their trade (Table 67).

Table 67: Where You Plan to Work on Release (N=505; percent)

I already have a job waiting for me	41.0
I'll apply for a job related to my trade	20.2
I'll look for a job among my acquaintances or relatives	3.0
I'll apply for any job	5.7
I haven't thought about it yet	11.3
I don't know and DK/DA ⁴⁷	18.8
Total	100

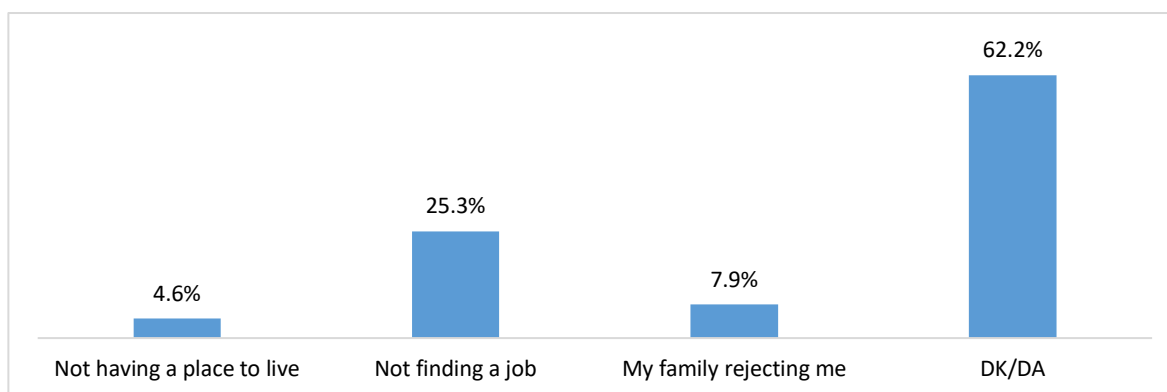
Regarding their situation after release, 62.6 percent expected to be better off than before their arrest, 16.8 percent expected their situation to remain the same, and 10.9 percent expected it to be worse.

When asked whether they were planning to spend most of their time with the people they knew before they were incarcerated or if they would rather be around new people, 44.8 percent stated that they wanted to be around new people while 43.0 percent said that they wanted to be with the same people. A notable 12.2 percent did not know or had no answer to this question.

⁴⁷ These two answer categories have been merged.

When asked in which part of their life challenges were most likely to arise after release, 62.2 percent did not give an answer or did not know, 25.3 percent expected to find challenges with finding a job, 7.9 percent feared that their family would reject them, and 4.6 percent were worried about where they would live (Figure 32).

Figure 32: Challenges after Release (N=505)



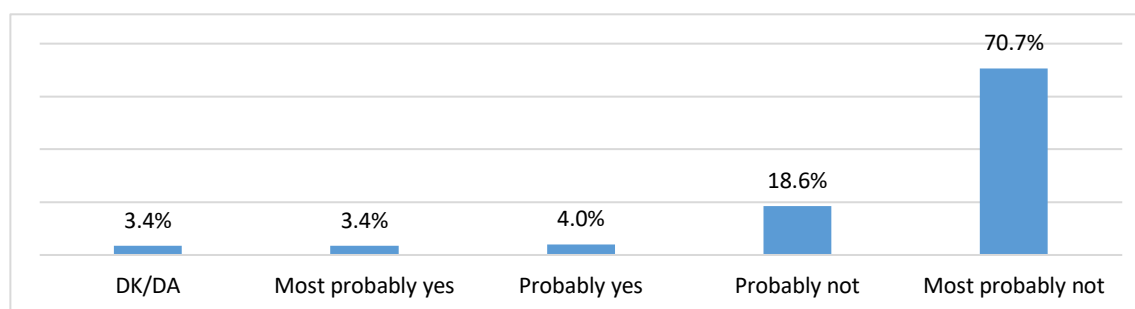
When asked what of a list of negative things was most likely to happen to them, the majority (76.5 percent) did not answer or did not know. However, 7.5 percent thought they would be arrested, 5.9 percent thought they would be attacked or hurt, 5.7 percent thought they would get sick or develop an addiction, and 4.4 percent revealed that they were most likely to be killed because of what they did (Table 68).

Table 68: Most Likely to Happen after Release (N=505; percent)

DK/DA	76.5
Being arrested again	7.5
Being attacked or hurt	5.9
Getting sick or developing an addiction	5.7
Being killed because of what I did	4.4
Total	100

Recidivism

Regarding the expected recidivism rate, most of the inmates stated that they would probably not (18.6 percent) or most probably not (70.7 percent) be arrested again, while 7.4 percent stated that they probably or most probably would get arrested again after release (Figure 33).

Figure 33: Expectation of Recidivism (n=505)

Guidance After Release

When the inmates were asked about government offices or agencies available to help people coming out of jail find a home and/or a job during the first months after their release, 83.0 percent were not familiar with such organizations while only 10.3 percent were. When asked about civil society groups, such as churches, human rights organizations, or special groups, that help people coming out of jail find a home and/or a job during the first months after their release, 74.9 percent were not familiar with such organizations while 17.0 percent were.

Recommendations

In light of the findings presented in this report, the following recommendations were formulated with the aim of improving conditions in the Surinamese prison system. Various areas of concern were identified based on the research results. Though solutions to the challenges are outside the scope of this study, the presented recommendations suggest possible actions based on the research results, international literature, and previous research in Suriname. The recommendations are categorized according to the dimensions of the inmate survey.

Sociodemographic Profile and Childhood and Life Story

While not all criminality is the product of childhood abuse, early adverse situations reduce the resilience of human biology and change people in very fundamental ways. Adverse childhood experiences,⁴⁸ such as witnessing physical abuse, being physically abused, and observing alcohol and drug abuse at a young age, have a significant, negative impact on a child's later life (Moore and Tatman, 2016).

Related literature shows general agreement that abuse, particularly in childhood, is a precursor to future offending. Early research on the link between victimization and involvement in criminal activity focused on the role of intergenerational transmission of violence. Safranoff and Tiravassi (2018) showed that growing up in a home where the mother was beaten by her partner ("indirect" violence) affects women's likelihood of criminal behavior in the future. They also noted that being a "direct" victim of abuse affects both men and women in relation to the possibility of becoming repeat offenders.

Research has pointed to the critical role of the family environment and the manner in which violence within the family can affect the learned behavior of children, fostering the belief that violence is an acceptable way to achieve goals. The use of violence is normalized, weakening inhibitions for carrying out aggressive acts and thus affecting self-restraint (Shahinfar, Kupersmidt, and Matza, 2001). Olweus (1979) suggested that these inhibitions are maintained into adulthood.

In addition, children witnessing violence places them at risk for a variety of social and psychological problems. Considering 56.2 percent of the inmates surveyed indicated that they were beaten as a child and 16.8 percent left home before the age of 15, 11.8 percent of them because of family violence, there is plenty of reason to invest in the fight against domestic violence.

Recommendation: Develop awareness campaigns to inform parents of the consequences for their children of corporal punishment, psychological abuse, and violent childrearing practices. Design social prevention and early-childhood intervention policies aimed at reducing violent behavior within the family. Implement programs providing individual and group counseling to strengthen non-violent communication

⁴⁸ The Adverse Childhood Experiences scale was created to measure how negative experiences affect children and their later adjustment. Scores have been linked to future violence, likelihood of incarceration, mental health issues, and a host of other future outcomes.

and strengthen family bonds, improve parental supervision and parental involvement with children, and cultivate positive childrearing practices.

Several interventions to combat domestic violence have been undertaken. For example, in 2013, a program called “Intervention Domestic Violence Religious Leaders” informed leaders from various religions about domestic violence (UN, 2016). In 2014, the Steering Group for Domestic Violence (including representatives from six ministries) and the Platform Approach to Domestic Violence (which consists of representatives from relevant NGOs) formulated the National Policy Plan Structural Approach to Domestic Violence 2014–2017 (UN, 2016, p. 6). In 2015, a training session called “Intervention Domestic Violence” was offered for artists, media, and public relations personnel from various ministries (UN, 2016).

Recommendation: Call upon the Steering Group for Domestic Violence to play an active role in minimizing domestic violence by evaluating current interventions, continuing successful interventions, and adding new interventions. Further research is necessary to determine which interventions are required.

In addition to exposure to domestic violence, 32.9 percent of the inmates indicated that their parents/guardians abused alcohol while 9.5 percent indicated that their parents/guardians used drugs. Another 22.2 percent had family members who were currently imprisoned.

All of these factors place individuals at considerable risk for offending, and evidence suggests that an accumulation of risk factors in an individual’s life is associated with a higher likelihood of involvement in criminal behavior (UNODC, 2018, p. 23). Early detection and intervention among those exposed to these risk factors could potentially reduce crime. Relevant research was conducted in 2014 and identified youth at risk in various neighborhoods (de Vries, 2016).

Recommendation: Develop and implement programs tailored to the needs of each identified neighborhood in collaboration with local community-based organizations.

Criminal Careers and Inmates’ Profile

In the context of primary and secondary crime prevention,⁴⁹ starting with the youth is essential for a thorough approach that starts at the root of the crime problem. Research has identified early interventions that can reduce risk factors, including “preschool education, family literacy, parenting information and support, training in reasoning and social skills, organizational change in schools, and reading schemes” (UNODC, 2018, p.9). Some of the collected data can be used to design a primary prevention policy for crime among youth in Suriname and build on recommendations from previous research. For example, de Vries (2016) suggests extending the age for compulsory education (keeping at-risk-youth in school), educating parents about non-violent communication and alternatives to corporal punishment, and combating

⁴⁹ Primary prevention is directed at modifying criminogenic conditions in the physical and social environment at large. Secondary prevention is directed at early identification and intervention in the lives of individuals or groups in criminogenic circumstances. Tertiary prevention is directed at prevention of recidivism. (Brantingham and Faust, 1976).

gangs in neighborhoods and supporting the battle against violence by providing sport and recreational facilities.

Almost half of the surveyed inmates were recidivists (45.5 percent). Of those respondents, 38.3 percent had been arrested once and 23.0 percent had been arrested twice before their current arrest. This indicates that investment needs to be made to improve tertiary crime prevention measures.

Recommendation: Develop rehabilitation programs, while intensifying, expanding, and professionalizing current options and collaborations.

The UNODC (2018, pp. 11 and 38) suggests that rehabilitation programs should include, among other things, training and school. Survey findings indicate that opportunities for participation in these types of rehabilitative activities inside the prison are scarce and participation in the few available programs is limited.

Slightly more than half of respondents (55.4 percent) stated that they performed work inside the penitentiary or police station; the vast majority (74.9 percent) doing prison maintenance that may not provide employable skills once having left prison. Of respondents that learned a trade, 16.0 percent learned ceramics, 12.0 percent studied building, 6.0 percent developed computer skills, and 6.0 percent learned about food and beverages. Furthermore, results show that only 2.8 percent attended classes or school while in prison. For 89.3 percent of those that did not attend, the reason was that school was not provided by the prison. Considering the Constitution of the Republic of Suriname states that every inmate has the right to education and that participation is obligatory,⁵⁰ access to school and training is very low. Though outside the scope of the survey or this report to assess the quality of existing rehabilitative programs, this is an area that requires further research.

Recommendation: Increase vocational training and opportunities for work experience. Accompany training and work opportunities with cognitive behavioral interventions. Literature on successful rehabilitation programs suggests the need for comprehensive strategies that improve employable skills, offer employment opportunities, and also target individual and behavioral change (e.g., substance abuse, soft skills, and mental health) (Apel, 2011; Taxman and Kras, 2016). Also, partnerships should be made with companies and the government for internships and temporary jobs for inmates as they transition back into society (PADF, 2014, pp. 94, 99).

In addition to work activities, funding should be provided to expand basic and secondary education programs. Survey findings suggest that many offenders are interested in participating in such programs but are unable to access them. In parallel, develop partnerships with the Ministry of Education and engage local colleges and universities to diversify and increase access to education inside prisons. Findings from extensive review of international literature suggest that offenders receiving educational programming

⁵⁰ Article 66 of the Penal Decision (Penitentiär Besluit) and article 32 WD of the *Delinquent Care Act* (Wet Delinquentenzorg).

during incarceration are less likely to recidivate than those who did not participate (Bozick, Steele, Davis, et al., 2018).

Personal guidance is another necessary element of supporting inmates. In the chapter on prison-based rehabilitation programs, the UNODC (2018, p. 20) handbook states that “the conditions of imprisonment and the prison regime are known to contribute to the institutionalization of offenders, which tends to hamper their ability to reintegrate into society upon release. Without effective programs to help offenders face these multiple challenges, the likelihood of their successful social reintegration is very poor.” Findings suggest that existing psychological support and guidance services are insufficient. A third of respondents (31.1 percent) reported never receiving assistance from a psychologist and/or a social worker (another third did not respond to the question). Of those who reported that they did receive such support, 21 percent rated those services as poor or very poor. At the time of the inmate survey, the prison system had seven social workers⁵¹ and several assistant social workers⁵² to support the 1,411 inmates. This is not sufficient for responsible guidance for rehabilitation.

Recommendation: Employ more psychologists, therapists, and social workers to support treatment and programming. Offer cognitive and behavioral change interventions (e.g. substance abuse, anger management, trauma, mental health, etc.). International research shows that programs based on cognitive-behavioral therapy are effective in reducing criminal behavior and recidivism of juvenile and adult offenders (Lipsey and Landenberg, 2005; Pearson, Lipton, Cleland and Yee, 2002; Wilson, Bouffard, and McKenzie, 2005).

The type of school and training offered should be adjusted to the needs of the inmate. It is proven that prison-based rehabilitation programs are most effective when they are based on a full diagnostic and individual assessment of the offender and their situation (UNODC, 2018, p. 20). The UNODC report also advises that such an assessment needs to occur as soon as possible after the offender’s admission to an institution and, if at all possible, serve as the basis for a comprehensive and individualized intervention plan. That way, programs can focus on the dynamic risk factors and other challenges faced by offenders in order to prepare them for their release and successful social reintegration. All programs must be designed in a culturally sensitive manner and address, as applicable, the gender-specific needs of women prisoners, as well as the special needs of certain other categories of prisoners (UNODC, 2018, p. 20).

Recommendation: Implement case management as described in the National Resocialization Plan (PADF, 2014, p. 111).

The National Resocialization Plan (PADF, 2014) offers specific recommendations regarding legislation, infrastructure, regime differentiation, education and training, psychosocial support, monitoring and evaluation, and aftercare. Actors from within the Surinamese prison system completed an extensive evaluation

⁵¹ Official letter (in response to a request) from the acting deputy director Forensic Care (dated September 17, 2019, reference number: FZ/568/2019).

⁵² Students in their last year of study of educational sciences function as assistants. In 2017, there were seven social workers employed in that department—still not enough for proper rehabilitation of inmates.

and proposed action points for this plan. These action points were processed and captured in resocialization work plans and monitoring and evaluation plans. The Central Penitentiary, Youth Reformatory, Penitentiary Duisburglaan, Penitentiary Hazard, and the House of Remand are all included in the National Resocialization Plan. Furthermore, the youth legislation, adult legislation, youth aftercare, and adult aftercare were reviewed and police and judiciary training proposed. The document also includes a budget to implement the plans (PADF, 2014, p. 118).

Recommendation: Consult recommendations from the National Resocialization Plan since it is based on experiences of experts from within the field.

Legal Procedures and Criminal Process

Considering almost a quarter of the respondents (22 percent) were not informed of their right to a lawyer, close to half (41.8 percent) experienced physical force in order to compel testimony, roughly a quarter (22 percent) did not have a lawyer at all, and over 38.6 percent had very little understanding of their own trial, several Surinamese judicial procedures need attention. These are violations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR; OHCHR, 1976), which states that everyone charged with a criminal offense should have access to legal assistance (article 14.3 (d)) and that measures should be taken so they understand their own trial (article 12.3 (b) and (f)). Suriname acceded to the United Nations as a member state on December 4, 1975, and ratified the ICCPR on December 28, 1976. With the accessions, Suriname has committed itself to respect the rights and obligations as stated in the treaties and, where necessary, to adjust national legislation in accordance with the treaty provisions (article 2.1). Suriname has ratified several treaties (Henrard, 2006, pp.139–44), such as the American Convention on Human Rights in 1987 and ICCPR in 1966.

The National Human Rights Report of the State of Suriname was formally adopted by the Human Rights Council of the United Nations during the 11th session in Geneva, Switzerland (May 2016). The recommendations with regard to the treatment of detainees have been adopted and Suriname has indicated that work will be done to make changes (Henrard, 2006, pp.73–96; Kooijmans, 2008, pp.187–210).

Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Suriname (U.S. Department of State, 2018, p. 4) note that police apprehended individuals openly with warrants based on sufficient evidence and brought them before an independent judiciary. The law provides that detainees be brought before a judge within seven days to determine the legality of their arrest. Courts generally met the seven-day deadline. Authorities promptly informed detainees of the charges against them. An assistant district attorney or a police inspector may authorize incommunicado detention. If additional time is needed to investigate the charge, a judge may extend the detention period in 30-day increments up to a total of 150 days (U.S. Department of State, 2018, p. 4).

The same report states that lengthy pretrial detention was a serious problem caused by an insufficient number of judges available to hear cases (U.S. Department of State, 2018, p. 4). While some progress was made in bringing criminal cases to trial, detainees often served the majority, if not all, of their sentences before their trial was completed (U.S. Department of State, 2018, p. 4).

Furthermore, a long judicial process is a common phenomenon in Suriname (U.S. Department of State, 2013, 2017, 2018). Due to the shortage of judges, many suspects have to wait a long period of time to be sentenced. According to the interim president of the Court of Justice, Suriname had only 19 of the 40 judges needed for the proper functioning of the judicial system.

As Suriname ratified the ICCPR, which states (article 9.3) “that anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release” (ICCPR, art 9.3), they are obliged to take action and they did. The government approved the appointment of seven new judges who were to be sworn in on January 2019. Despite the shortage of judges, the court has made significant progress in processing cases, including appeals (U.S. Department of State, 2018, p. 4).

However, legal assistance to indigent detainees continued to come under pressure as lawyers threatened to cease legal assistance because the government was not paying the bills. Further, cases concerning non-Dutch-speaking detainees continued to experience delays because interpreters suspended their services to the court due to a backlog in payments by the government. Cases requiring psychological or psychiatric evaluations were also repeatedly postponed as this group of experts also ceased court services during the year due to the government’s failure to pay them. There was no notable progress during the year to alleviate these problems (U.S. Department of State, 2018, p. 5).

Recommendation: Expand access to legal representation. Legal scholarship suggests that when defense attorneys are provided before a defendant’s first appearance, they can prevent clients from making incriminating statements (Ho, 2013). Lawyers can also help defendants better understand and navigate the court process and comprehend the implications of their choices (Chin and Holmes, 2002; Ellmann, Gunning, Shalleck, et al., 2004). Also, lawyers can improve clients’ capacity to assist in their own defenses (Kalhous and Meringolo, 2012) and can advocate for release on recognizance or manageable bail (Colbert, Paternoster, and Bushway, 2002). Thus, it is important to ensure sufficient funding to cover the salaries of attorneys providing counsel for indigent defendants, which could have a positive effect by attracting qualified and competent attorneys and increasing human resources to offer improved legal services. Funding would also allow legal counselors to provide representation at early stages of the pretrial process. In addition, it is important to provide a budget for interpreters, psychologists, and psychiatrists in order to reduce barriers to justice for non-Dutch-speaking detainees, and for vulnerable populations such as the mentally ill, women, and juveniles.

Recommendation: Adjust the legal framework to provide the justice system with the required judicial support. Which adjustments should be made and how they should be made are described in detail in the National Resocialization Plan (PADF, 2014, pp. 25–32, 60–64). The plan suggests interventions concerning the laws and regulations by aligning national laws and regulations with the Conventions on the Rights of the Child and the UN Committee on Standards and applying these guidelines to the process of rehabilitation and reintegration. The interventions relate to concrete applications, adjustments to the law, legislative changes, and new legislation regarding civil law and civil procedure, labor law, education, criminal law, and penal law (PADF, 2014).

Recommendation: Reduce the use of pretrial detention. This will both protect public safety and improve the integrity of the court processes. A strong body of literature shows that pretrial detention has negative consequences for the criminal process, the accused individual, and families. Pretrial detention increases the likelihood that a person will be convicted, sentenced to prison (Lowenkamp and VanNostrand, 2013), and receive a longer sentence (Heaton, 2017; Oleson, Lowenkamp, Cadigan, et al., 2016). In addition, pretrial detention has a criminogenic effect and does not deter defendants from engaging in future criminal activity. Rather, pretrial detainees have been found to be more likely to commit crime in the future (Heaton, 2017; Lowenkamp and VanNostrand, 2013). Strategies to address pretrial detention include using pretrial diversion practices, encouraging the presence of legal counsel and prosecutors at pretrial hearings to assist judges in determining appropriate release conditions, developing protocols and training for key judicial actors so that detention prior to trial is used as a measure of last resort, setting custody limits and putting mechanisms in place to adequately track periods of detention to prevent remand individuals being held in custody for excessive periods of time prior to trial, and releasing pretrial detainees after the time spent in custody has exceeded those limits.

Several conditions need to be met for prisoners that are being released early to ensure the detainee has a stable income, housing, and a positive social network. These arrangements must be made during the final phase of the detention period with professional guidance and need to be maintained for a period of time after release. Each prisoner's plan must include contact with family, dealing with finances, and discipline, among many other supports. Each detainee must commit to their own development; however, professional guidance is also needed from social workers and other organizations, such as the government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and the community (PADF, 2014, p. 94).

Recommendation: Provide social workers to assist prisoners eligible for early release to prepare and implement a plan for stable income, housing, and a positive social network following release.

Prison Conditions

The Mandela Rules (UNODC, 2015) intrinsically link achieving any prison system's ultimate objective—protecting society and reducing recidivism—to using the period of imprisonment to establish in prisoners the ability and will to lead law-abiding and self-supporting lives after their release (rules 4 and 91).

Suriname accepted the Mandela Rules and therefore committed to achieving this objective. The government permitted monitoring visits by independent human rights observers (U.S. Department of State, 2018, p. 3).

Recommendation: Continue the monitoring that is being done by independent human rights observers.

The fact that arrestees and convicts are housed in the same establishment, even if they are separated by cell blocks, is in contrast with ICCPR Article 10.2(a), which states that “accused persons shall, save in exceptional circumstances, be segregated from convicted persons and shall be subject to separate treatment appropriate to their status as non-convicted persons” (OHCHR, 1976).

The House of Remand, which holds convicts as well as arrestees, has some facilities for recreation and rehabilitation, but only convicted inmates are allowed to make use of them (34.5 percent of the population). This is in contrast with ICCPR Article 10.3, which states that “the penitentiary system shall comprise treatment of prisoners the essential aim of which shall be their reformation and social rehabilitation” (OHCHR, 1976).

Although inmates were satisfied with their physical living conditions, there was widespread agreement that the quality of the food was poor. Close to half of the inmates (47.1 percent) reported that the food was very poor and 31.1 percent reported it was poor. The Mandela Rules (Rule 22) state that “Every prisoner shall be provided by the prison administration at the usual hours with food of nutritional value adequate for health and strength, of wholesome quality and well prepared and served. Drinking water shall be available to every prisoner whenever he or she needs it” (UNODC, 2015). Further, research suggests that improved nutrition may result in better prisoner behavior and that recidivism rates may fall (Zoukis and Frazee-Walker, 2013).

Recommendation: Monitor and improve the quality of the food and drinking water. Strategic and collaborative partnerships with non-profit organizations and nutrition professionals or graduate students could be an important mechanism to develop effective nutrition education campaigns and workshops for both prison staff and inmates, potentially at little or no cost to the prison system.

When it comes to medical care, the inmates stated that, while access was often timely, the quality of the services was poor. A significant portion of respondents (43.2 percent) indicated that the quality of care was poor or very poor. This is in violation of Rule 24.12 of the Mandela Rules (UNODC, 2015), which states that, “The provision of health care for prisoners is a State responsibility. Prisoners should enjoy the same standards of health care that are available in the community and should have access to necessary health-care services free of charge without discrimination on the grounds of their legal status.”⁵³

Recommendation: Ensure measures are taken to guarantee good medical care. For example, review policies related to providing free health care services and medication to incarcerated individuals in a timely manner. The use of telemedicine has been found to reduce costs in providing health-related services (e.g., costs of transportation and staff supervision) and to improve care (Fox, Somes, and Waters, 2007).. Establishing a collaborative partnership with health authorities and medical students who could provide preventive care and address minor health issues could also be explored.

The victimization of offenders emerged as another area of concern. Beatings among inmates, the use of physical force by police and correctional officers, indications of sexual assaults (even though few were reported) and use of drugs and alcohol are negative indicators. The majority of inmates surveyed (86.3 %) reported feeling unsafe inside the prison walls and having seen other inmates being beaten was higher (70.5%). Studies have found a direct relationship between feelings of safety and levels of victimization within prisons (Wolff and Shi, 2009). Safety while incarcerated should be a right afforded to all prisoners.

⁵³ See: https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/GA-RESOLUTION/E_ebook.pdf. Accessed on 10th of April 2020.

Rule 1 of the Mandela Rules states that, “the safety and security of prisoners, staff, service providers, and visitors shall be ensured at all times” (UNODC, 2015). The fact that the majority of the inmates surveyed did not feel safe is worthy of attention.

Recommendation: Strengthen internal reporting mechanisms, investigate acts of misconduct, and impose consequences for violence inside the prison. Conduct research to provide a more nuanced picture of violence inside Surinamese prisons as well as avenues to improve safety. This type of information is necessary for prison administrators to create and promote a safe environment for inmates’ incarceration and rehabilitation (Liebling, 2004).

Although officially prohibited, respondents to the inmate survey indicated that they had used alcohol and/or drugs during the previous month in detention. In some cases the drugs were brought into the prison by prison guards or into the police cells by police officers. It is concerning that prison staff would be accused of contravening national and institutional laws.

Recommendation: Improve surveillance and provide more effective security to prevent a system in which prisoners are able to purchase illegal substances. In addition, prison authorities could revamp staff training, reinforce integrity measures, and strengthen disciplinary systems for misconduct committed by correctional staff.

Special attention needs to be paid to sanctions that are given during detention, the most rigid of which is isolation. There is no legislation in Suriname concerning this matter. Currently, a prisoner who is sanctioned with isolation by prison management is isolated in a small, dark room with only his underwear. This is inhumane and against Article 5 of the code of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. This matter needs urgent correction. Segregating people in prison from the general population has psychiatric, psychological, and physiological health problems than “regular” imprisonment (Smith, 2006). The lack of meaningful human contact, social interaction and imposed idleness and inactivity, intensifies the harsh and dehumanizing conditions of prisons and increase the prevalence of stress, anxiety, depression, anger, paranoia, self-harm, and suicidal thoughts (Haney, 2018). Furthermore it is not clear to prisoners which actions could lead to this sanction, which is against Article 9 of the same declaration. The procedure for executing sanctions during detention is not clear, which is against the fair trial principle. Legislation is necessary to adapt to the principle in Article 8 of the Declaration on Human Rights.

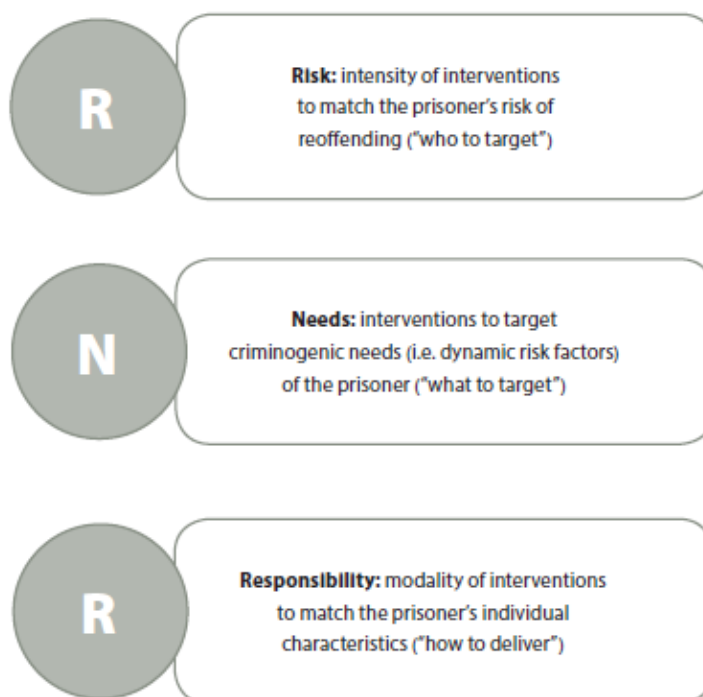
Recommendation: Reduce the use of isolation as a regular sanction. International research has shown that the practice of isolation on the grounds of security, safety or health is simply “not a good practice” (Coyle, 2002, p.73) and its use should be limited. Inform all inmates about their rights and obligations within the prison system using pamphlets (in the required languages) and information sessions. Implement necessary legislation to be able to fulfill obligations under the Declaration on Human Rights with respect to prisons.

Future

Preparation for reintegration should start at the moment of incarceration. The UNODC has done a lot of work to try to identify an empirical framework capable of supporting decisions concerning the treatment of offenders and their successful reintegration into the community. One example is the risk-needs-responsivity (RNR) framework, initially based on research to identify the risk factors associated with recidivism (see UNODC, 2018, Figure III).

Recommendation: Consider the RNR framework when setting up the case management system to improve the chances of reducing recidivism. This approach, which can help authorities better prepare individuals to transition to a life out of crime, has three key elements (Andrews and Bonta, 2010). Assess offenders' risks of recidivism (e.g., criminal history, prior offences, and age at first offense), target individual offenders' needs (e.g., substance abuse, antisocial personality, criminal thinking, and school and work status) through evidence-based programming, and deliver treatment in a way that maximizes the offender's ability to learn (Andrews and Bonta, 2010). In this way the prison system can ensure that incarcerated individuals receive appropriate services and can monitor their progress during incarceration and after release.

Figure 34: The Risk-Needs-Responsivity Framework



Source: UNODC (2018, p.23).

In line with the literature, the National Resocialization Plan states that case management should be in place and that reintegration plans should include contact with family, dealing with finances, and discipline, among many other supports. Each detainee must commit to their own development; however, professional guidance is also needed from social workers and other organizations, such as the government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and the community (PADF, 2014, p. 94).

Furthermore note that intervention strategies for the female population should address both direct and indirect forms of violence. In contrast, interventions to prevent future male criminal behavior should specifically focus on direct domestic violence (Safranoff and Tiravassi, 2018). Inmate survey results showed that in Suriname the recidivism rate for men was 47.8 percent compared with 10.0 percent for women.

Recommendation: Take gender into account when developing a recidivism policy. Of note, gender would be inherent in a case management system that matches prisoners' individual characteristics, as recommended above.

Of the respondents to the inmate survey, more than half said that they did not have a job waiting for them after release and finding a job was of concern. The more skills and diplomas a detainee obtains during detention, the greater the chance of employment.

Recommendation: In order to increase the possibility of reducing crime, educational and vocational opportunities should be expanded and created (PADF, 2014, pp. 83–86) and partnerships should be developed with companies and the government for internships and temporary jobs for inmates as they transition back into society (PADF, 2014, pp. 94, 99).

Aftercare

In addition to education and employment opportunities while in prison, another key aspect of successful rehabilitation and reintegration is access to reentry or pre-release services. Findings from the survey indicate that post-release support is minimal for prisoners. A majority of the respondents to the inmate survey stated that they were not familiar with any civil society groups (74.9 percent) or government offices or agencies (83 percent) that help ex-inmates find a home and/or a job in the first months after their release. On paper, there are several organizations that provide this type of support. The Ministry of Police and Justice has collaborated with the following organizations (PADF, 2014, p. 89) since 2014.

- The Suriname Psychiatric Center provides care to people with psychiatric and psychosocial problems and is the only psychiatric hospital in Suriname. The center offers a combination of clinical and ambulatory care and provides acute psychiatric care on call to the youth reformatory.
- De Stem Foundation is a rehabilitation center for drug addicts. In 2011, the Ministry of Justice and Police appointed De Stem to establish a forensic addiction department in prison.
- Victory Outreach Foundation is a Christian community that helps people in need. The Victory Outreach program is divided into phases that take one and a half to two years for the addicts to complete and be ready to return to society.

- Stichting Tabernacle Faith and Love is a Christian community whose vision is to reach Suriname and the rest of the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ through evangelization, mission, reading dissemination, meetings, television, and radio broadcasts.
- The Bureau for Alcohol and Drugs is a department of the Suriname Psychiatric Center and offers ambulatory assistance for people who have alcohol and drug addiction problems.
- The Forensic Mental Health Foundation works with the Surinamese Forensic Institute to support adults and minors who have come into contact with the law. They established a Forensic Treatment Center/outpatient clinic.

Recently two organizations have been added. The Double Positive Foundation provides information about preventing, treating, and caring for HIV and AIDS patients and their families. The Man Mit' Man Foundation's goal is to give advice on how to be a good parent and to provide role models for young men and guidance to families, especially fathers.

The question remains how many people these organizations can help compared with the number of prisoners that are being released.

Recommendation: Take an inventory of each of the organizations, their successes, and their challenges. Based on these results, provide specific help to increase their capacity and influence to deliver services in an effective and timely manner. Also, consider developing partnerships and collaboration between community organizations, other ministries, and the prison system to improve knowledge of, and access to, post-release and aftercare programs.

Results of the inmate survey showed that, though 11.3 percent of the inmates had not thought about their situation after release, 62.6 percent expected to be better off. When asked if they would likely be arrested again, 89.3 percent said probably not; however, since the recidivism rate is 45.5 percent, the reality is quite different. The low rate (2.8 percent) of convicts that learn a trade or study during their detention, together with their low educational level (40.4 percent stopped school at age 16 or younger), is worrying. Accompanied by the inmates' lack of knowledge about civil society groups or government offices or agencies that help people that are coming out of jail, there is an alarming need for a socialization program and aftercare for ex-detainees in Suriname.

Recommendations for the Bureau of Forensic Social Care (PADF, 2014, p. 96):

- Set up an Aftercare Office to provide care and services and cooperation.
- Coordinate, monitor, and safeguard actors.
- Compose an Aftercare Commission, consisting of a lawyer, a sociologist, social workers, etc.
- Motivate and make clients aware of changes, temptations, and responsibilities they will be confronted with when returning to society and ensure that they receive the appropriate training to avoid recidivism.
- Ensure placement opportunities at training institutions.
- Assist detainees in finding jobs (pre-employment, training) or resuming their profession so that a stable financial situation can be guaranteed.

- Ensure a social network that receives and supports the former prisoner during the reintegration process. For this, the bureau should maintain contact with families of prisoners during the detention period so that they can provide support on release.

Recommendation for other ministries (PADF, 2014, p. 98): Cooperate within their specific field.

Recommendations for the community (PADF, 2014, p. 98): To support the aftercare process, projects are needed that involve the community. Provide shelter/accommodation for former prisoners who do not have a home (e.g., transition house) and counseling and accommodation for specific groups (e.g., people with addictions). Set up drug and alcohol treatment programs, but also provide programs for a healthy lifestyle and diet. Organize awareness campaigns for better understanding and acceptance of this target group by all stakeholders (e.g., government, NGOs, and community-based organizations) and include success stories. Ensure victims are taken into account.

Recommendation: Last but by far not least, introduce a monitoring and evaluation system in the correction centers (PADF, 2014, p. 101) to:

- Use dynamic and statistical risk analysis instruments
- Determine the risks of recidivism and the needs of prisoners
- Develop prison classification methods
- Reduce risk through correction programs

Combining monitoring and evaluation with evidence-based practice is essential to implementing policy to improve the effectiveness of resocialization programs (PADF, 2014, p. 102).

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Appendix 1: Total Population of Persons Held in Preventive Detention and Prison in Suriname, September 2018

Prisons							
Facility	Remanded			Sentenced + Appellant			Grand Total
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	
DISTRICT Wanica							
Central Penitentiary (BOMA)	9	4	13	291	12	303	316
House of Remand	194	0	194	135	0	135	329
DISTRICT Nickerie							
Penitentiary Hazard	0	0	0	100	0	100	100
DISTRICT Paramaribo							
Penitentiary Duisburg	12	0	12	204	0	204	216
Total Prisons	215	4	219	730	12	742	961

Police Stations							
	Remanded			Sentenced			Grand Total
	Men	Woman	Total	Men	Woman	Total	
DISTRICT Paramaribo							
Nieuwe Haven	61	0	61	3	0	3	64
Keizerstraat	76	0	76	0	0	0	76
Geyersvlijt	45	20	65	0	0	0	65
Uitvlucht	24	0	24	0	0	0	24
Livorno	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latour	20	0	20	0	0	0	20
Flora	18	0	18	0	0	0	18
DISTRICT Wanica							
Kwatta	9	0	9	0	0	0	9
Santo Boma	16	0	16	1	0	1	17
Leiding	8	0	8	0	0	0	8
Lelydorp	21	0	21	3	0	3	24
Domburg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Houttuin	10	0	10	0	0	0	10
Santodorp	7	0	7	0	0	0	7
Nieuwe Grond	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DISTRICT Commewijne							
Mariënborg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meerzorg	18	0	18	0	0	0	18
Richelieu	20	0	20	1	0	1	21
DISTRICT Marowijne							
Moengo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Police Stations							
	Remanded			Sentenced			Grand Total
	Men	Woman	Total	Men	Woman	Total	
DISTRICT Nickerie							
Nieuw Nickerie	6	0	6	0	0	0	6
Paradise	10	0	10	0	0	0	10
Henar Polder	9	0	9	0	0	0	9
Waldeck	6	0	6	1	0	1	7
Corantijn Polder	7	0	7	0	0	0	7
Wageningen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DISTRICT Saramacca							
Groningen	5	0	5	0	0	0	5
Calcutta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DISTRICT Brokopondo							
Brokopondo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DISTRICT Para							
Rijsdijk	24	0	24	1	0	1	25
Paranam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zanderij	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DISTRICT Coronie							
Totness	0	0	0	0	0		0
Total Police Stations	420	20	440	10	0	10	450
Total Prisons	215	4	219	730	12	742	961
Grand Total	635	24	659	740	12	752	1,411

Source: Authors' elaboration.

Appendix 2: Inmate Survey Sample

Prison							
Facility	Remanded			Sentenced + Appealing			Grand Total
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	
DISTRICT Wanica							
Central Penitentiary (BOMA)	3	4	7	99	12	111	118
House of Remand	66		66	46		46	112
DISTRICT Nickerie							
Penitentiary Hazard				34			
DISTRICT Paramaribo							
Penitentiary Duisburg	4		4	70		70	74
Police Stations							
	Remanded			Sentenced			Grand Total
	Men	Woman	Total	Men	Woman	Total	
DISTRICT Paramaribo							
Nieuwe Haven	35		35	2		2	37
Keizerstraat	41		41			0	41
Geyersvlijt	24	20	44			0	44
Total	100	20	120	2	0	2	122
DISTRICT Wanica							
Kwatta	6		6				6
Santo Boma	10		10				10
Leiding	5		5				5
Lelydorp	14		14				14
Houttuin	6		6				6
Santodorp	4		4				4
Total	45		45				45
Total Prisons	73	4	77	249	12	261	338
Total Police Stations	145	20	165	2	0	2	167
Grand Total	218	24	242	251	12	263	505
Population	1,411						
Sample size with 3.5 ME and 95.0 CI	505						
Sample size with 5.0 ME and 95.0 CI	300						
ME 3.7 with 95.0 CI	469						

Appendix 3: Survey Questions Related to the Data and Findings Sections

Sociodemographic Profile

1	gender
2	age
4	children
6	age at first child
18	physical punishment by parents or guardian
19	whether their father or mother's partner ever beat their mother
20	if they left home before the age of 15
24	if adults they lived with drank alcohol frequently
25	if adults they lived with used drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, or other drugs
26	if family members had ever been in prison
31	involvement in gangs or criminal groups in the neighborhood where they lived as a minor
32	the level of education they reached before being arrested
35	if they ever worked
38	their main job
37	if they were working in the month before their arrest
42	the number of hours a week they worked
43	how much money they earned per month from their job
54a	whether they were satisfied with their economic situation
123/4	if they have ever consumed drugs and if so at what age they started using

Criminal Careers and Inmates' Profiles

56	type of crime
57	people who suffered physical injury
58	alcohol or drug use in the six hours prior to the crime
60	possession of a weapon
61	type of weapon
64	others involved in the crime they were charged with
69	participation in other crimes in the six months prior to their arrest
91	previous imprisonment for any other crime
93	times they had been arrested prior to this current arrest
96	juvenile detention centre
112	ever had a firearm
113	age use of first firearms
115	whether they have ever injured or killed anyone with a firearm

Legal Procedures and Criminal Process

193	stage of their criminal proceedings
195	time elapsed between committed offense and arrest
196	police showed a warrant in writing
197	taken to the police station after being arrested

198	informed at the police station that they are entitled to have a lawyer
199	hit by or use physical force against them at the police station
200	nights spend in jail at the police station
213a to h	others asked for their money or belongings
211	frequency lawyer visits
220	how much they understand of their trial
221	times they spoke directly to the judge or magistrate
222	how much they think the magistrate listened to them
224	about how many lawyers they had since their arrest
225	public defender or a private lawyer
226	satisfied about lawyer(s) defense
218	time elapsed between arrest and moment of sentence
219	years and months sentenced to serve (in months)

Conditions in Prison

126, 127	whether there is overcrowding
129	where they slept last night
130	who provides necessities for them (sheets, clothes, etc.)
131	whether the prison provides soap, toilet paper, etc.
132	the number of showers per week
133	the hygiene of the toilets
134	the amount of water to drink
135	the quality of water
136	the quality of food
137	the medical care provided by the prison
138, 139	the quality of medical care
140	how they obtain the medicines they need
141	if they ever got sick in prison
142	diseases they had
144	tests to verify HIV AIDS
145	taken to a hospital while in prison
147, 149, 152	access to TV, books, etc.
154	frequency of calls with family
155	frequency of family visits
157	type of treated by prison personnel
158, 160	pay for different goods/corruption
165 a,b	sexual relations in visits, inmates being forced to have sexual intercourse with other people
166	forced to get an injection or take any other contraception to avoid pregnancy
167	security in prison
168	stolen personal belongings in prison
170	been attacked or beaten
171	seen other inmates being beaten

174, 175	have you used alcohol and/or drugs in prison?
179	who brings more drugs to the prison
181 a,b,c,d	participation in activities inside the prison
181 ⁵⁴	quality of assistance given by psychologists and social workers
182	work inside the prison
184, 185	trades learned in prison
187	attended classes or school inside the prison
189	usefulness of studying in prison
190	reasons not to attend class or school in the prison
191	days spend in the prison

Future

233 a	decision to live in the same neighborhood as before your arrest
234	work plans
235	expectations after release compared to your situation before
237	spend most of your time with the people you knew before vs. new people
238, 239	possible fears of after leaving prison
243	likelihood of being arrested again
244	knowledge of government offices or agencies that help people coming out of jail
246	knowledge of civil society groups

⁵⁴ To facilitate comparison with application of the survey in other jurisdictions, the numbers of the questionnaire match those in the standard questionnaire and are not in numerical order. Also, please note that, in error, two questions in the questionnaire were numbered 181.