

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PRISON SURVEY REPORT

(VOLUME 2)

Socio-economic Characteristics of Prisoners and Impact of Imprisonment In Nigeria



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Socio-economic Characteristics of Prisoners and Impact of Imprisonment In Nigeria

SUMMARY



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The research focused on assessing the socio-economic characteristics of prisoners and their families, and the impact of imprisonment on the prisoner, prisoners' family and the prison service. This is aimed at providing some information that will help identify strategies for effectively addressing problems of prisoners, ex-prisoners, the prison service and the criminal justice system in general. In addition, it will help us understand what specific factors to address to help reduce the likelihood of offending behavior, reduce level of distress on prisoners' families, and facilitate reintegration.

Assessing the impact of imprisonment presents a key challenge as many of the factors to consider are often not able to be quantified or there is lack of available or accurate data to arrive at such quantification. Therefore this Report cannot claim to have exhaustively identified or attempted to identify the comprehensive cost or impact of imprisonment. It has only identified some factors that exemplify the impact of imprisonment on the prisoners (including remand prisoners/prisoners in pre-trial detention), on their families, and on the prison service

The findings indicate the following:

There is a strong Nexus between Poverty and Imprisonment: Most of the prisoners are poor, with low education and employment status and they earned little prior to their incarceration.

The survey findings indicate that prisoners found in prisons are more likely to have little or no education and poor employment level. Most of them were from poor backgrounds as reflected in the level of education and type/status of employment of their parents.

Table 9: Highest Level of Formal Education among Respondents

Highest level of education	PRISONS		
	Enugu Maximum	Kano Central	Ikoyi
No formal education	140(10.61%)	213(18.13%)	171(10.47%)

Primary school	345(26.14%)	234(19.91%)	350(21.42%)
Junior Secondary	235(17.80%)	154(13.11%)	209(12.79%)
Senior Secondary	465(35.23%)	317(26.98%)	624(38.19%)
Tertiary education	111(8.41%)	85(7.23%)	244(14.94%)
Others	24(1.82%)	172(14.64%)	36(2.20%)
Total	1320(100%)	1175(100%)	1634(100%)

Source: Prisoners' Self Report Questionnaires (SRQ) March 2017.

The data indicate that prior to their prison custody, 1.17% earn less than 1000 naira (2.9 USD)¹ a month. 6.68% earn 5,000 naira (14.3 USD) or less per month. 16.67% earn 10,000 naira (28.57 USD) or less per month. 76.36% earn 50,000 naira (142.86 USD) or less per month. 14.4% earn between 50,001 naira and 100,000 naira (above 142.86 USD to 285.7 USD) per month, 7.57% earn between 100,001 naira to 500,000 naira (i.e. between above 285.7 USD to 1428.57 USD) per month. 1.07% earns above 500,000 naira and 1,000,000 naira (i.e. above 1428.57 USD to 2,857 USD) and 0.6% earns more than 2,857 per month. Thus only about 23.64% earn above 50,000 naira (142.86 USD) per month prior to their prison custody.

Table 11: Average Monthly Income of Respondents

Average Monthly Income (Naira)	Frequency	Percent
<1000	33	1.17
1,000-5,000	155	5.51
5,001-10,000	281	9.99
10,001-50,000	1679	59.69
50,001-100,000	405	14.40
100,001-500,000	213	7.57
500,001-1,000,000	30	1.07

¹ Calculated at 350 naira per 1 USD

>1,000,000	17	0.60
Total	2813	100.00

Source: Prisoners' Self Report Questionnaires (SRQ) March 2017.

The socio-economic impact of excessive use of prison custody affects the prisoners, their families and the prison service

A considerable number of them are breadwinners prior to their incarceration. A very high number of the prisoners are single especially in Enugu prison (70%). For Ikoyi and Kano Central prison slightly above 50% were single while slightly above 40% were married. This has implications on their spouses for those married and for the singles on the prospects of future marriage and child birth especially on the female prisoners. Majority of them were either self-employed or salary workers thus more vulnerable to the impact of loss earnings due to their incarceration and disruption of education for those who were students. The majority of respondents in Enugu Maximum and Kano Central prisons were self-employed before incarceration constituting about 64 percent and 65 percent respectively. While 43 percent of the respondents in Ikoyi prisons were self-employed at the time of data collection as high as 48 percent were salaried workers. About 12 percent of the respondents in Enugu, 7 percent in Kano and 3 percent in Ikoyi were students. Less than 1 percent of the sampled inmates in the three prisons were retired.

Table 8: Respondents by whether Breadwinner Prior to Incarceration

WHETHER INMATE WAS THE BREAD WINNER	PRISONS					
	Enugu Maximum		Kano Central		Ikoyi	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
YES	565	46.69	594	60.80	1058	76.06
NO	645	53.31	383	39.20	333	23.94

Total	1210	100.00	977	100.00	1391	100.00
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Source: Prisoners' Self Report Questionnaires (SRQ) March 2017.

Table 10: Employment Status of Respondents

Employment Status	PRISONS		
	Enugu Maximum	Kano Central	Ikoyi
Wage/salaried worker	190(15.27%)	145(13.39%)	628(48.31%)
Self-employed	793(63.75%)	705(65.10%)	553(42.54%)
Student	146(11.74%)	76(7.02%)	41(3.15%)
Out of work	12(0.96%)	3(0.28%)	39(3.00%)
Retired	2(0.16%)	2(0.18%)	3(0.23%)
Unable to work	13(1.05%)	13(1.20%)	11(0.85%)
Others	88(7.07%)	139(12.83%)	25(1.92%)
Total	1244(100%)	1083(100%)	1300(100%)

Table 12: Respondents' Marital Status Prior to Incarceration

PRISONS						
Marital Status	Enugu Maximum		Kano Central		Ikoyi	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Single	941	71.61	652	53.97	874	53.36
Married	335	25.50	523	43.29	667	40.72
Widowed	13	0.99	12	0.99	28	1.71
Divorced	4	0.30	16	1.32	11	0.67
Separated	21	1.60	5	0.41	58	3.54
Total	1314	100.00	1208	100.00	1638	100.00

Source: Prisoners' Self Report Questionnaires (SRQ) March 2017.

Prisoners' families are also affected by the imprisonment of their family members. For example in 2016, the total number of prison officially documented visits for two prisons in 2016 is 73,085 (43,075 for Enugu Prison and 30,010 for Ikoyi Prison). For 2017, the figure is 19,567 visits for Ikoyi Prison and for Enugu prison the total is 28,253 visits as at August 2017. Thus for both prisons the total as at August 2017 is 47,820 visits.

Table 13: Number of Visit Recorded from January 2016 to August 2017

Month	Enugu Maximum		Ikoyi	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
January	5,815	3,632	2397	2302
February	3,465	3,441	2434	2297
March	3,387	3,470	2308	2272
April	3,354	3,523	2311	2289
May	3,438	3,459	2402	1988
June	3,375	3,541	2298	2034
July	3,427	3,536	2345	2101
August	3,237	3,651	2377	2267
September	3,753	-	2354	2172
October	3,985	-	1997	
November	3,671	-	2389	
December	4,168	-	2382	
Total	43,075	28,253	30010	21739

Source: Prisons Records September 2017

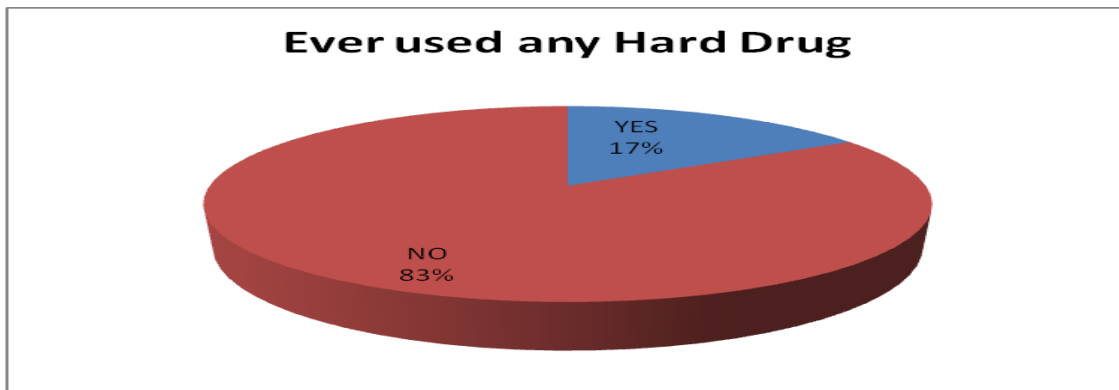
The number of visits the prisoners' families undertake to prison has economic, social, psychological and physical cost to them. These include the risk and cost of travelling to and fro the prison as well as cost of the money and other items that they have to bring to the prison on each of these visits, and the costs of activities foregone to enable them visit the prison. There are also costs of having their breadwinner incarcerated and the impact of this on their standard of living. This excludes other costs not assessed in the survey such as the cost of hiring a lawyer.

There are also costs to the prison service both in terms of administration, logistics, security and staff time. For example the impact of prison staff time - this affects those directly processing for the arms squad, gate, records, welfare officer, chief warden, etc. When one considers the impact of other factors such as number of prisoners reporting sick and number of prisoners to be transported to court Monday to Friday every week, it thus gives a glimpse to the magnitude of the volume of work and the pressure on the human and material resources of the prison service.

High number of the prisoners reported sick and there is evidence of substance use both prior and during incarceration.

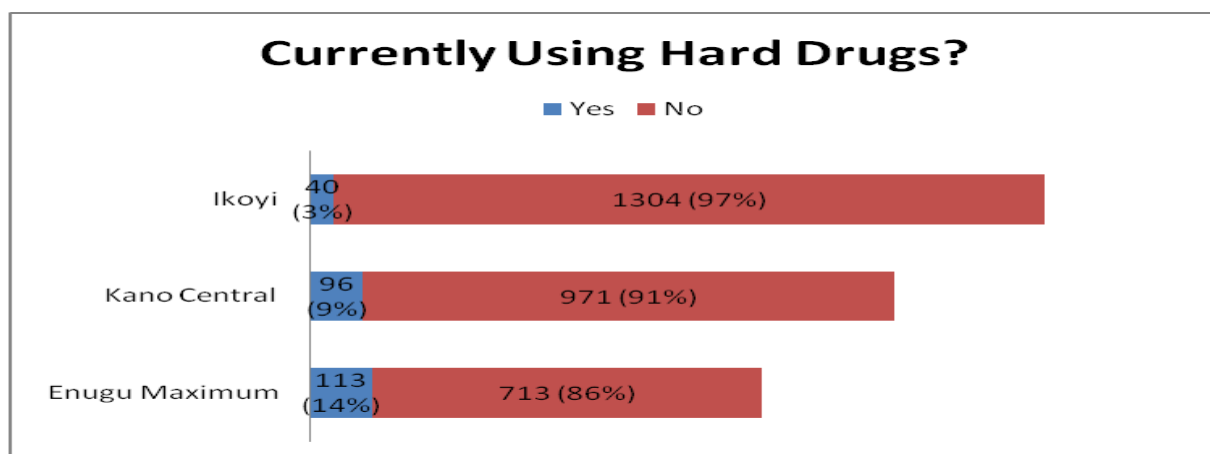
About 17% of the respondents reported that they had used hard drugs prior to their prison custody. Some of them admitted that they were still using hard drugs in prison representing 3%, 9% and 14% in Ikoyi, Kano Central and Enugu prisons respectively. When asked about the type of drugs used, the majority (85%) reported that indicated that they used Marijuana (Cannabis).

Figure 1: Ever-used any Hard Drug



Source: Prisoners' Self Report Questionnaires (SRQ) March 2017

Figure 2: Currently Using Hard Drugs by Prisons



Source: Prisoners' Self Report Questionnaires (SRQ) March 2017

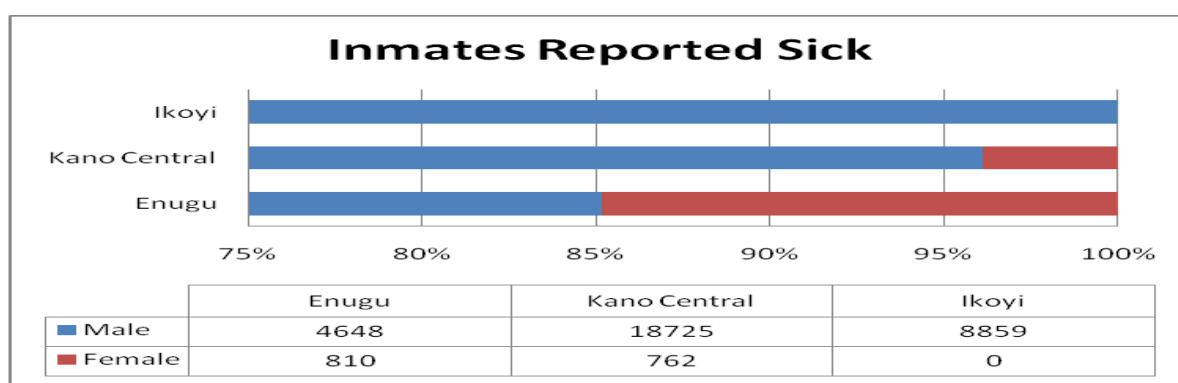
Table 4: Types of Hard Drugs Currently used by Inmates

Hard Drugs Currently used	PRISONS		
	Enugu Maximum	Kano Central	Ikoyi
Marijuana	91(85.05%)	42(49.41%)	21(53.85%)
Heroin/Morphine	2(1.87%)	3(3.53%)	1(2.56%)
Amphetamine/Kwaya	0(0.0%)	3(3.53%)	0(0.0%)
Glue	1(0.93%)	0(0.0%)	2(5.13%)
Cocaine	1(0.93%)	1(1.18%)	1(2.56%)
Tramadol/Fuel	5(4.67%)	10(11.76%)	3(7.69%)
Rafanol	2(1.87%)	7(8.24%)	4(10.26%)
Goskolo	0(0.0%)	1(1.18%)	1(2.56%)
Others	5(4.67%)	18(21.18%)	6(15.38%)
Total	107(100%)	85(100%)	39(100%)

Source: Prisoners' Self Report Questionnaires (SRQ) March 2017

The prison records show that a high number of the inmates report sick. Between January 2016 and August 2017, 5458 (4648 males and 810 females), 19, 487 (18,725 males and 752 females), and 8,859 males clinic visits were recorded for Enugu, Kano Central and Ikoyi prisons were recorded. Kano Central prison has more sick inmates, followed by Ikoyi prison while Enugu prison has the least. This report further shows that on the average, 9 inmates reported sick daily in Enugu prison while 32 and 15 inmates fall sick daily in Kano central and Ikoyi prisons respectively.

Figure 29: Inmates Reported Sick at the Clinic from January 2016 to August 2017 (Number of Hospital Visits).



Source: Prisons Records (September 2017)

The number of prisoners that reported sick in 2016 were 364, 1056 and 1451 prisoners in Enugu, Kano Central and Ikoyi prisons thus with the exception of Enugu half or more than half of the total prison population reported sick. The records also show that all the three prisons had few health workers. This include one doctor each and 2-3 nurses in each of the prisons. In one of the prisons (Ikoyi prison) there was no Lab Scientists and no pharmacist.

Table 5: Healthcare issues for inmates

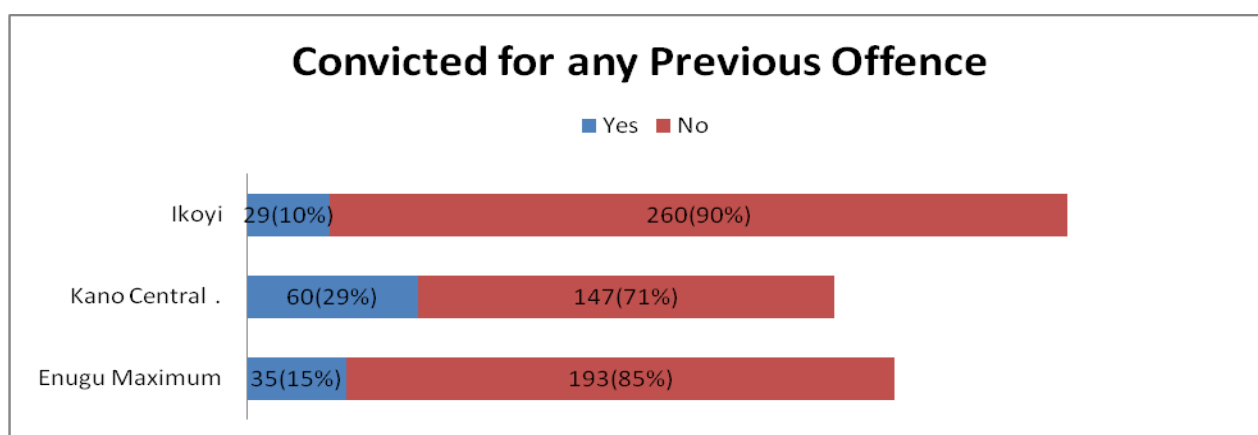
Healthcare for inmates	PRISON			Total
	Enugu Maximum	Kano Central	Ikoyi	
Clinic in the prison	Yes	Yes	Yes	
No. of inmates that reported sick in 2016	364	1056	1451	2871
Diseases for inmates are screened on admission	-Physical condition -psychological disorders -HIV/AIDS -Tuberculosis	-HIV/AIDS -Tuberculosis -Pregnancy test for women	-HIV/AIDS -Tuberculosis	
How often inmates are screened after admission	When symptoms appear	Once a year	-	
Number of health workers available in prison	17	9	12	

Source: Prisons Records March 2017

Most of the prisoners reported no history of previous conviction and many indicated that they did not commit the offences which they were charged or sentenced for.

Some of the prisoners reported that they have been in prison custody before. Of those that reported history of previous incarceration a high number of them reported that they stayed one year or less. Of those that indicated that they had previous incarceration, 74.8%, 89.8%, and 92.16% in Enugu, Kano and Ikoyi prisons respectively reported that the duration of their previous incarceration were one year or less. The huge number that indicated that they had no previous convictions and the high number of those that spent one year or less in custody makes a case for the need to rethink the degree at which we use pre-trial detention especially for those with no history of previous offending or/and imprisonment.

Figure 3: On whether Respondents were convicted for any Previous Offence



Source: Prisoners' Self Report Questionnaires (SRQ) March 2017

Table 2: Duration of Incarceration for Previous Conflict with the Law

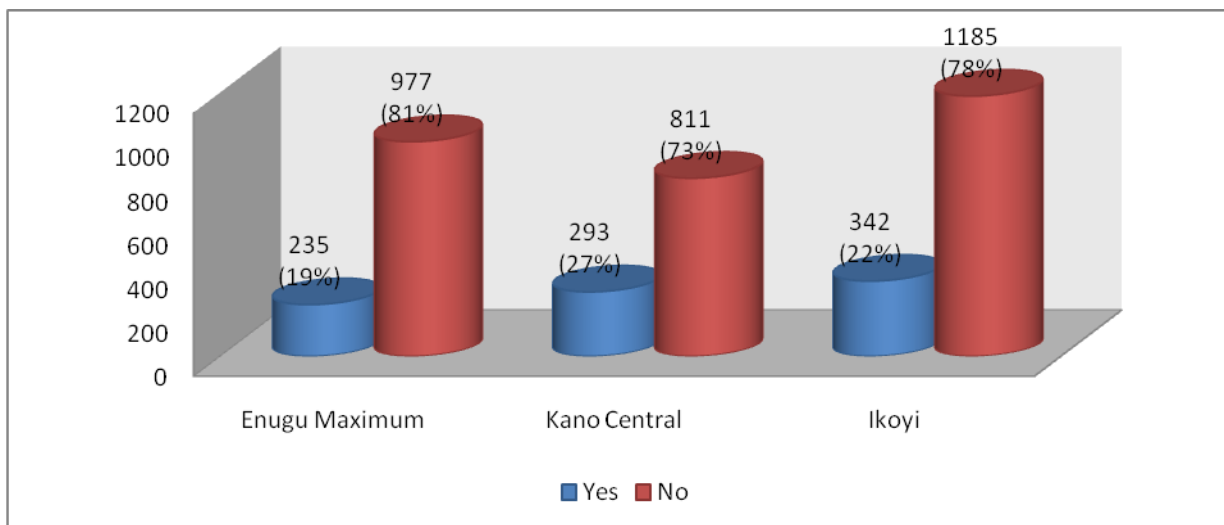
Duration of Previous Incarceration	PRISONS		
	Enugu Maximum	Kano Central	Ikoyi
< 1yr	61(48.03%)	35(71.43%)	45(88.24%)
>1yr	34(26.77%)	9(18.37%)	2(3.92%)
2-5yrs	21(16.54%)	3(6.12%)	3(5.88%)
>5-10yrs	9(7.09%)	2(4.08%)	1(1.96%)
> 10yrs	2(1.57%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)

Total	127(100%)	49(100%)	51(100%)
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Source: Prisoners' Self Report Questionnaires (SRQ) March 2017

Between 19% and 27% of the respondents in each of the prisons reported that they committed the offences they were charged or sentenced for, while a much higher proportion indicated that they did not commit the offence. In Ikoyi prison, about 90 percent of the respondents reported that they had not been convicted for any previous offence while those that claimed they had not been convicted before in Enugu and Kano Central are about 85% and 71% respectively. While one needs to be cautious in the weight to place on these figures given that there are biometrics data capturing of offender/prisoners, it is still worth noting that about 10% to 29% of the inmates indicated that they have been convicted of previous offence. Of those that reported that they committed the offence some of the reasons that made them commit the offence includes the following: anger, economic factors, peer influence, influence of drugs, mental illness/'spiritual attack', etc.

Figure 4: Whether Respondent Committed the Offence for which s/he is currently in Prison



Source: Prisoners' Self Report Questionnaires (SRQ) March 2017

Most of the prisoners in prison custody are resident in the State where the prison is located in. There were also some foreign nationals in 2 out of the 3 prisons surveyed.

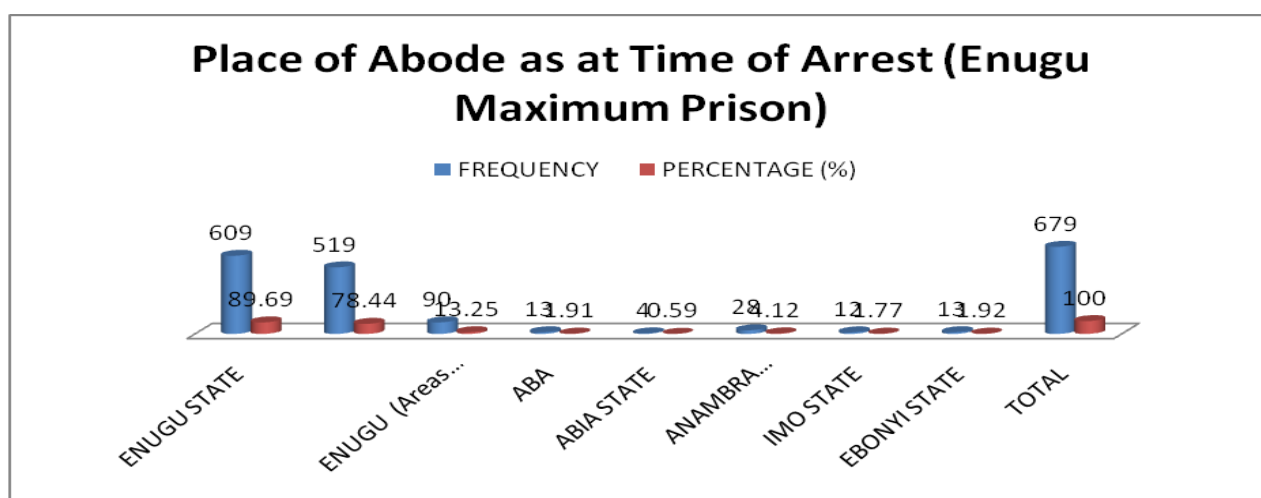
The findings indicated that of those that responded to this questionnaire in Enugu prison 89.7% were living in Enugu state at the time of their arrest. Of this number 78.4% were arrested in Enugu Metropolis while 90 inmates representing 13.3% were arrested from areas outside Enugu Metropolis (Ngwo, Nsukka, 9th Mile Corner, Enugu-Ezike and Agbani). In the case of Kano central prison, 96.8% were arrested in Kano state). 90.4% of these arrested in the metropolis 3.21% arrested in other areas outside the metropolis. The remaining 3.2% were arrested in Kaduna state. For Ikoyi prison all the detainees in this prison reported that they were arrested in Lagos state. 83.2% of these reported that they were arrested in the Lagos metropolis while 16.78% were arrested at other areas outside Lagos.

Table 1: Distribution of Prisoners based on Nationality

Country	Enugu Maximum	Kano Central	Ikoyi	Total
Benin Republic	-	-	35 (53.85)	35 (41.7)
Cameroonian	-	1 (5.26)	2 (3.08)	3 (3.6)
Congolese	-	-	1 (1.54)	1(1.2)
Ghanaian	-	1 (5.26)	10 (15.36)	11 (13.1)
Indian	-	-	1 (1.54)	1(1.2)
Niger Republic	-	17 (78.95)	5 (7.69)	22 (26.2)
Pakistani	-	-	1 (1.54)	1 (1.2)
Philippines	-	-	2 (3.08)	2 (2.4)
Senegalese	-	-	1 (1.54)	1(1.2)
Sierra Leonean	-	-	2 (3.05)	2 (2.4)
Togolese	-	-	5 (7.69)	5 (6.0)
Total	0	19 (22.6)	65 (77.4)	84 (100)

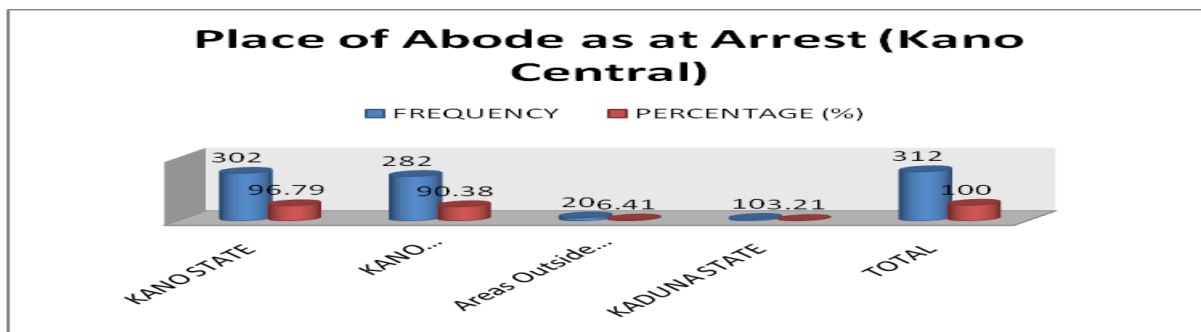
Source: Prisoners' Self Report Questionnaires (SRQ) March 2017

Figure 5: Place of Residence at the point of arrest (Enugu Prison)



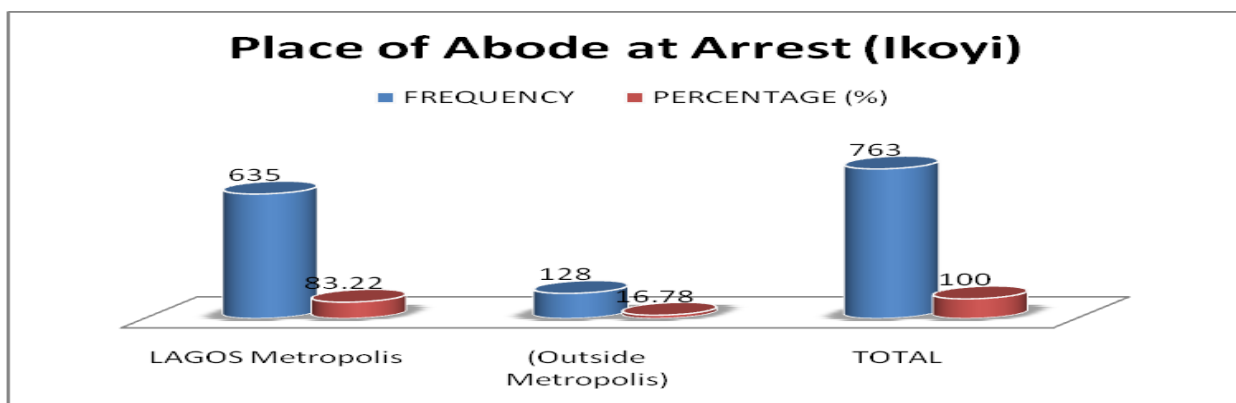
Source: Prisoners' Self Report Questionnaires (SRQ) March 2017.

Figure 6: Place of Residence at the point of arrest (Kano Central Prison)



Source: Prisoners' Self Report Questionnaires (SRQ) March 2017

Figure 7: Place of Residence at the point of arrest (Ikoyi prison)



Source: Prisoners' Self Report Questionnaires (SRQ) March 2017

This makes a case for greater involvement and support by the State government and Local government to prisoners and ex-prisoners. The argument that Prison is in the Exclusive Legislative List in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Amended) does not suffice.

There was also the presence of foreign nationals in Kano Central and Ikoyi prisons. 84 prisoners (19 in Kano Central Prison) and (65 in Ikoyi Prison) that responded to the self-report questionnaire reported that they were non-Nigerians.

Recommendations:

The following were the recommendations made:

(i). Development of the framework and indicators for measuring the full cost and impact of imprisonment:

There is an urgent need to develop framework and clear indicators for assessing and understanding the (true) cost of imprisonment (including the cost of excessive use of pre-trial detention) both terms of the direct and in-direct costs as well as it impacts on the prisoners, ex-prisoners, their families, the primary and secondary victims, the prison officers, other criminal justice, agencies, the community, the State and the country as a whole. This needs to be comprehensive enough to capture both the legal, psychological, social and economic costs and impact of imprisonment. It should also capture both quantitative and qualitative indicators. This hopefully should provide key policy makers and practitioners a clear understanding of the dangerous mix of poverty and overuse of prison custody especially for pre-trial detainees, minor offenders, juveniles, drug users and mentally ill persons in conflict with the law.

It is also hoped that such an understanding will promote an effective intervention that is based on utilization of prison custody as a last resort and that aims at preventing offending and re-offending behavior through prison and community based approaches. Thus, this will further enhance security, stability and development in the country.

(ii). Poverty and Imprisonment Nexus should be addressed:

The evidence show that many of the prisoners are poor and from poor family backgrounds. This nexus need to be addressed through progressive programmes that tackle the root causes of imprisonment – addressing the social and economic inequities focusing on education, creating jobs and positive social values. These should form the target of macro and micro economic and social policies.

(iii). Imprisonment should be used as a last Resort:

Less of imprisonment should be used especially in pre-trial detention, for minor offences, first offenders, juveniles, drug users and mentally ill persons. For these, attempts should be made to apply non-custodial measures. The Administration of Criminal Justice Act and the Administration of Criminal Justice Laws of many of the States that have enacted this makes provision for the implementation of non-custodial measures. This needs to be fully implemented, promoted and supported.

(iv). Implementation of Effective Prison and Community Based Rehabilitation Programmes:

Every prisoner whether on pre-trial detention or sentence will someday be back in the society (except if he/she dies in prison). To this effect more emphasis should be given on promoting prison and community based rehabilitation programmes. This is more so needed given that evidence show that most of the prisoners are poor with little education and poor employment status as well as poor economic status of their parents. Special programmes should also be put in place for prisoners' and ex-prisoners' families.

(v). Mental and Public Health Issues of prisoners need to be addressed:

This is necessary given the number of those that report sick on a daily/weekly basis and the number of those that indicated history of use of substance prior to their incarceration and during their incarceration.