

# **Graduate Student Life Survey Summary Report**

**MIT GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL**

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## **Introduction**

The Graduate Student Life Survey was conducted from October 23 through October 31, 2002. This web-based survey was administered for the purpose of soliciting feedback from the MIT graduate student population regarding a large and diverse set of questions. The survey results are intended to provide a set of statistics that will allow for more informed decision-making at MIT and a stronger basis for advocacy on behalf of the graduate student population. This document is a presentation of the results and analysis of the Graduate Student Life Survey\*.

### **Verification of Sample Set & Demographics**

The value of conclusions drawn from this survey is dependent upon how well the survey respondents describe the graduate student population as a whole. 2,609 students participated in this survey, a response rate of 44.0% of those invited (5,924 students were invited out of the 6,139 student graduate population – Special and Nonresident students were omitted). In order to verify the statistical relevance of this sample set, the demographics of the respondents must be compared to the demographic profile of MIT graduate students as a whole. Some basic comparisons by gender, ethnicity, school, degree program and housing location are given below. These metrics show the sample set to be representative of the overall population to a good degree.

### **Removal of Ambiguities**

Many of the questions asked in this survey are closely related, so cross-validating the survey results was necessary in order to avoid ambiguities and invalid responses. The following example illustrates this:

Question 19: Do you have any dependants?

Question 20: How many dependants do you have?

The only responses for question 20 that are valid and non-ambiguous are those responses coming from students who answered “Yes” to question 19. Any other response to question 19 (“No”, or blank) would remove the response to question 20 from consideration. In some cases two (or more) questions were crosschecked with each other. Two significant examples of this are given below:

#### Checking spouse/partner status

Q3.4: Does your spouse or partner (if you have one) have a job/source of support?

Q6: Do you have a spouse or partner?

#### Checking housing location

Q26: Do you live on campus or off campus?

Q37: If you live on campus, what is your monthly rent?

Only those students who answered “Yes” or “No” to Q3.4 and answered “Yes” to Q6 were reported as having a spouse/partner, and only those who answered “Don’t have a spouse or partner” to Q3.4 and “No” to Q6 were reported as single. Similarly, only those students who answered “Off campus” to Q26 and left a blank reply to Q37 were reported to be off campus respondents, and only those who answered “On campus” to Q26 and did answer Q37 were reported to be on campus respondents.

*\*A small portion of the survey dealt with specific rent restructuring issues and is not presented here. The results of the rent restructuring questions have been reported in a separate document, which can be obtained by contacting the MIT Graduate Student Council.*

## Comparison of Survey and Institute Demographics

Gender			
<u>Survey</u>		<u>Institute</u>	
Male:	69.1%	Male:	71.4%
Female:	30.9%	Female:	28.6%
Ethnicity			
<u>Survey</u>		<u>Institute</u>	
African American (Non-Hispanic):	1.1%	African American (Non-Hispanic):	1.6%
Asian Amer / Pacific Islander:	9.9%	Asian Amer / Pacific Islander:	10.7%
Chicano or Mexican American:	0.8%	Chicano or Mexican American:	0.7%
International, not US or Perm Res:	37.6%	International, not US or Perm Res:	37.2%
Native Amer or Alaskan Native:	0.1%	Native Amer or Alaskan Native:	0.1%
Other Hispanic American:	0.6%	Other Hispanic American:	0.8%
Puerto Rican:	0.5%	Puerto Rican:	0.6%
Race / Ethnicity Unknown:	8.7%	Race / Ethnicity Unknown:	11.0%
White (Non-Hispanic):	40.7%	White (Non-Hispanic):	37.4%
School			
<u>Survey</u>		<u>Institute</u>	
Architecture and Planning	7.4%	Architecture and Planning	9.2%
Engineering	50.9%	Engineering	45.5%
Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences	4.3%	Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences	5.8%
Science	20.3%	Science	17.8%
Sloan School of Management	13.7%	Sloan School of Management	16.0%
Health Sciences & Technology	3.3%	Health Sciences & Technology	5.6%
Housing Location			
<u>Survey</u>		<u>Institute</u>	
Ashdown + Green	5.5%	Ashdown + Green	6.7%
Eastgate	4.9%	Eastgate	3.3%
Edgerton	4.7%	Edgerton	3.2%
Sidney-Pacific	11.7%	Sidney-Pacific	11.7%
Tang	7.9%	Tang	6.8%
Warehouse	2.1%	Warehouse	2.0%
Westgate	5.4%	Westgate	3.5%
Non-MIT owned off-campus	53.3%	Non MIT-owned Off-campus	56.7%
MIT-owned off-campus	4.5%	MIT owned off-campus	5.9%

Note: All statistics regarding the gender, ethnicity and school demographics presented throughout this report were obtained by data merged directly using respondents' MIT certificates, rather than by asking respondents for the information through a survey question.

Institute demographics were obtained from the Institutional Research division of the Office of the Provost (gender, ethnicity and school statistics) and the Housing Office (housing statistics).

## Additional Demographic Information

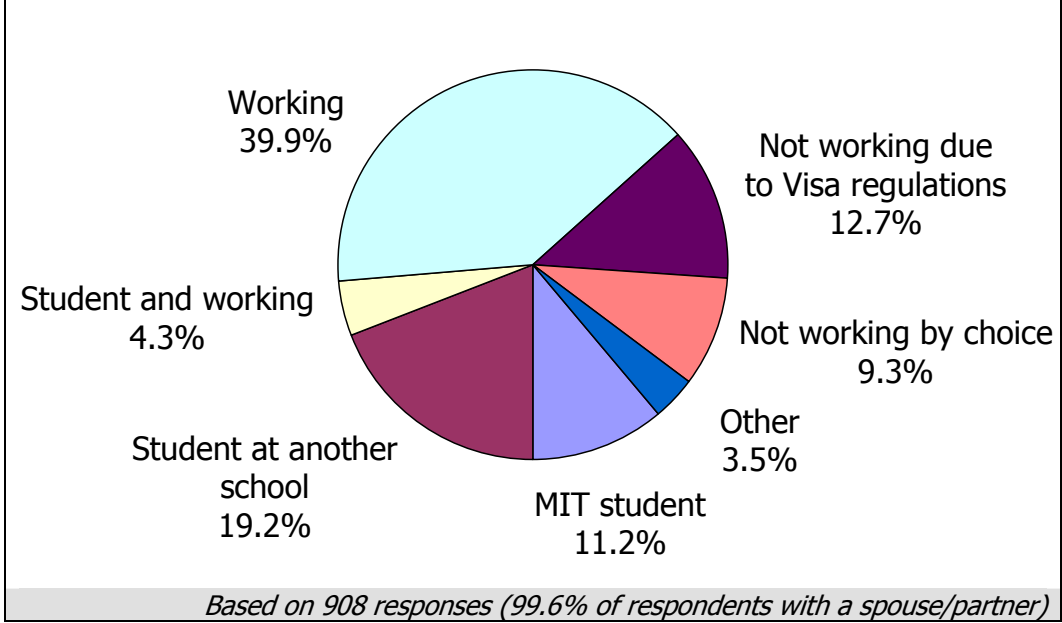
1. Final degree objective for all respondents	
Doctoral (Ph.D. or Sc.D.)	68.0%
Masters (M.S., M.Eng., M.Arch., M.C.P., M.B.A.)	29.0%
Other	3.0%
<i>Based on 2,597 responses (99.5% of all respondents)</i>	

2. Housing location of all respondents (by citizenship)	
<i>U.S. Citizens</i>	
On campus	30.2%
Off campus	69.8%
<i>Based on 1,440 citizen responses (94.9% of respondents who are citizens of the U.S.)</i>	
<i>International</i>	
On campus	60.5%
Off campus	39.5%
<i>Based on 902 international responses (92.3% of international respondents)</i>	
<i>Permanent resident</i>	
On campus	35.4%
Off campus	64.6%
<i>Based on 96 permanent resident responses (92.3% of perm. res. Respondents)</i>	

### Spouse/partner and dependants demography

3. Number of respondents with a spouse or partner	
Have spouse / partner	38.4%
Single	61.6%
<i>Based on 2,374 responses (91.0% of all respondents)</i>	

**4. Status of spouse or partner for those respondents who have one**



**5. Number and housing location of respondents with dependants**

Have dependant(s) and live on campus	3.8%
Have dependant(s) and live off campus	3.4%
No dependants	92.8%

*Based on 2,528 responses (96.9% of all respondents)*

**6. Gender of respondents with dependants**

Female	13.3%
Male	86.7%

*Based on 180 responses (98.9% of respondents with dependants)*

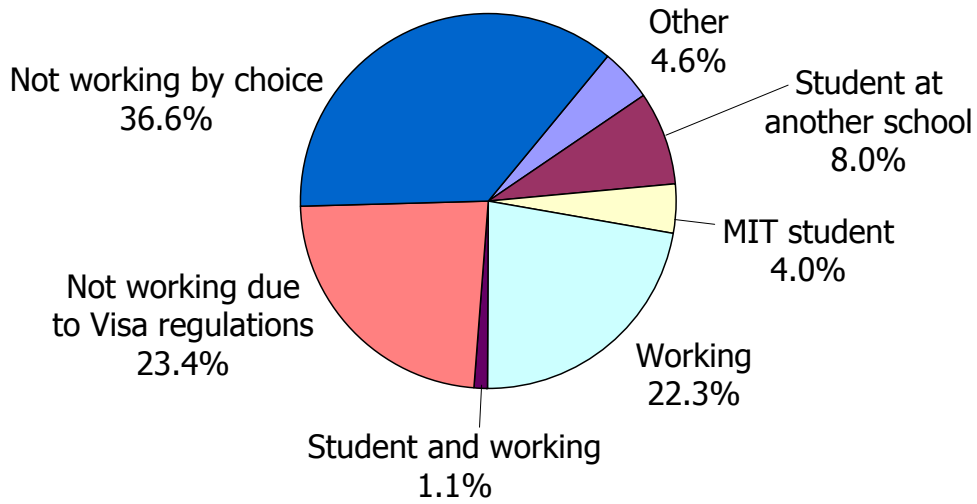


**7. Spouse / partner status for respondents with dependants**

Have souse or partner	98.9%
Single parent	1.1%

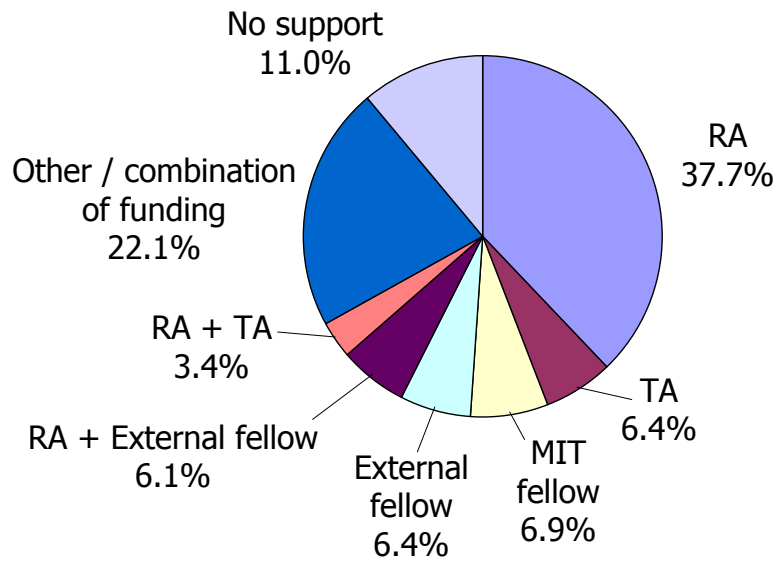
*Based on 177 responses (97.3% of respondents with dependants)*

*Breakdown of working/school status of spouses/partners of those respondents with dependants who have one:*



# Funding and Income

## 8. Source(s) of funding for all respondents



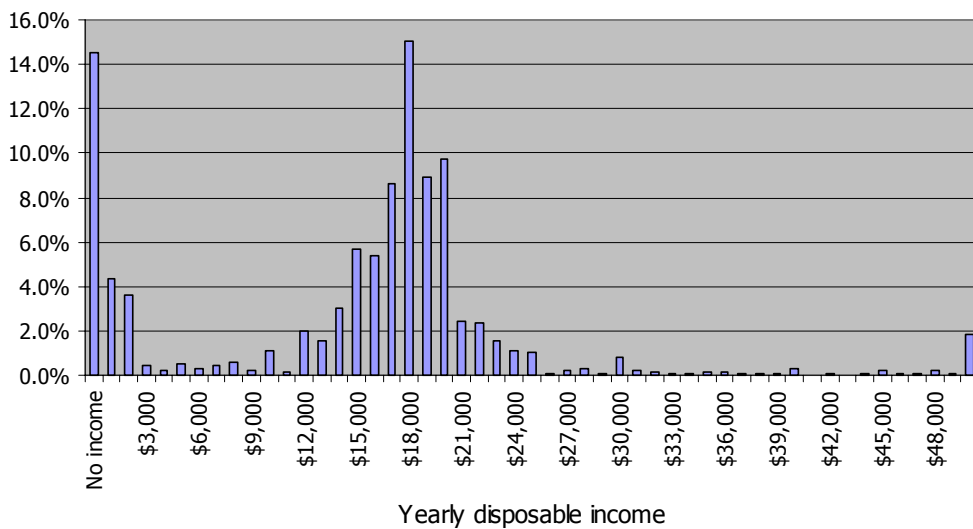
Based on 2,517 responses (96.5% of all respondents)

## 9. Number of respondents who have to pay their own tuition and fees

Respondents who have to pay their own tuition 13.0%  
Based on 2,595 responses (99.5% of all respondents)

Respondents who have to pay MIT fees themselves 87.3%  
Based on 2,581 responses (98.9% of all respondents)

## 10. Disposable income (defined as income after paying taxes and tuition) of all respondents



Based on 2,576 responses (98.7% of all respondents)

Mean of distribution (with cap at \$50,000) = \$14,766  
Median of distribution = \$17,000

11. Analysis of disposable income by demographic group			
<p><i>Define disposable income brackets as:</i>  <i>Bracket A – yearly disposable income of \$10k or below</i>  <i>Bracket B – yearly disposable income above \$10k and below \$25k</i>  <i>Bracket C – yearly disposable income of \$25k or above</i></p>			
Demographic Group	Disposable Income Bracket		
	A	B	C
All Grad Students	26.3 %	67.6 %	6.1 %
U.S. Citizens	23.6 %	69.8 %	6.7 %
Int'l / Perm. Res.	30.0 %	64.8 %	5.2 %
Male	25.8 %	67.1 %	7.1 %
Female	27.3 %	68.9 %	3.8 %
Architecture	50.8 %	44.4 %	4.8 %
Engineering	19.9 %	73.8 %	6.3 %
Humanities	14.5 %	73.6 %	11.8 %
HST	24.4 %	72.1 %	3.5 %
Science	7.3 %	91.8 %	1.0 %
Sloan	69.0 %	18.5 %	12.5 %
<p><i>Based on 2,568 responses (98.4% of all respondents) or more for each breakdown</i></p>			

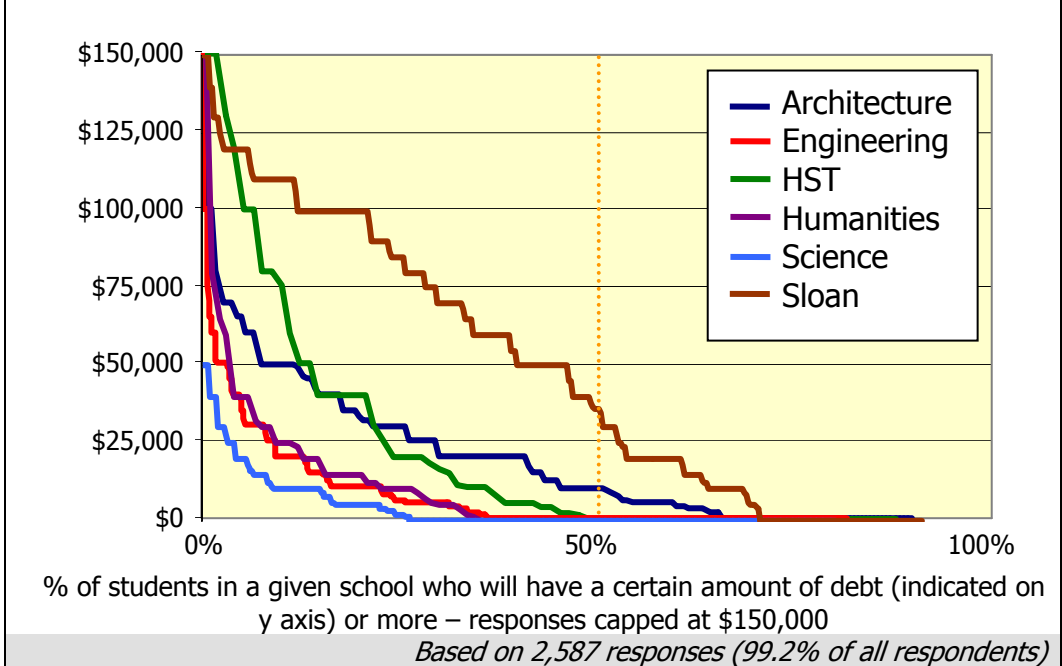
12. Number of RA/TA respondents in various disposable income brackets	
Disposable income bracket A	17.9%
Disposable income bracket B	80.4%
Disposable income bracket C	1.8%
<p><i>Based on 1,182 responses (99.0 % of respondents having RA, TA, or RA+TA funding)</i></p>	

## Ability to Meet Expenses

13. Number of respondents whose expenses exceed their income (by demographic)	
All graduate students	53.6%
<i>Based on 2,593 responses (99.4% of all respondents)</i>	
Disposable income bracket A	77.9%
Disposable income bracket B	45.9%
Disposable income bracket C	35.4%
<i>Based on 2,569 responses (98.5% of all respondents)</i>	
On-campus	48.0%
Off-campus	57.8%
<i>Based on 1,015 on-campus responses (99.6% of respondents living on campus) and 1,420 off-campus responses (99.6% of respondents living off campus)</i>	
Single	47.8%
Spouse / partner	60.9%
<i>Based on 1,456 single responses (99.6% of single respondents) and 911 spouse/partner responses (99.9% of respondents with a spouse or partner)</i>	
Respondents with dependant(s)	74.2%
<i>Based on 182 responses (100.0% of respondents with dependant(s))</i>	
Male	53.0%
Female	54.7%
<i>Based on 2,585 responses (99.1% of all respondents)</i>	
U.S. citizen	53.3%
International or permanent resident	53.9%
<i>Based on 2,585 responses (99.1% of all respondents)</i>	

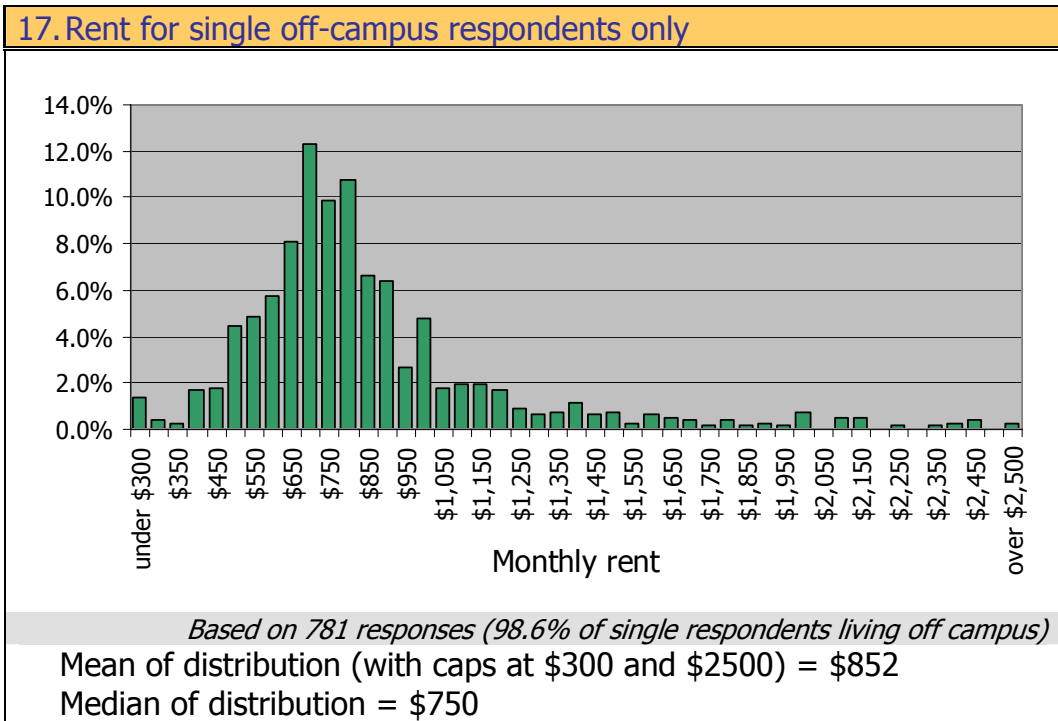
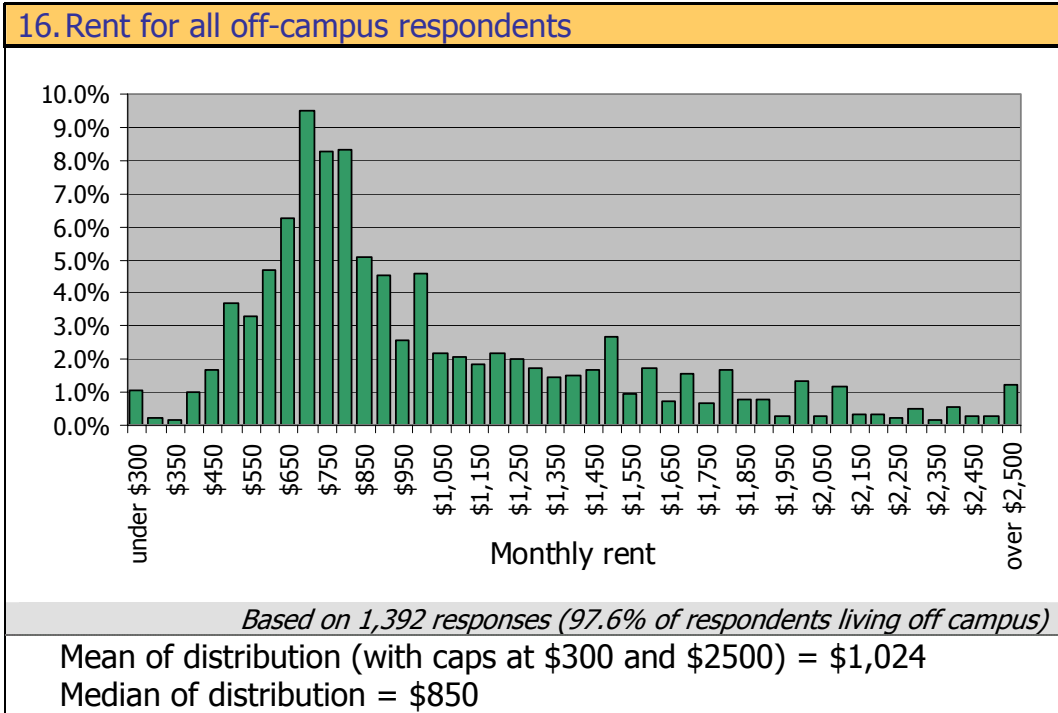
14. Primary method used to resolve gap between expenses and income	
Loans / credit card debt	39.5%
Savings account / trust fund / stocks	31.8%
Gifts from relatives, etc.	22.7%
Other	5.9%
<i>Based on 1,382 responses (99.5 % of respondents whose expenses exceed income)</i>	

### 15. Expected debt at the end of graduate studies (by school)

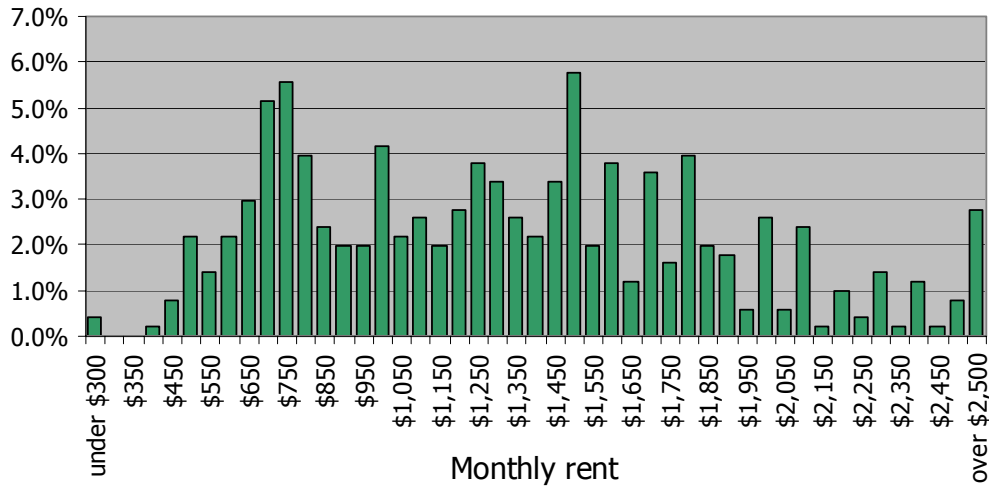


# Housing

## Rents



### 18. Rent for off-campus respondents with a spouse or partner only

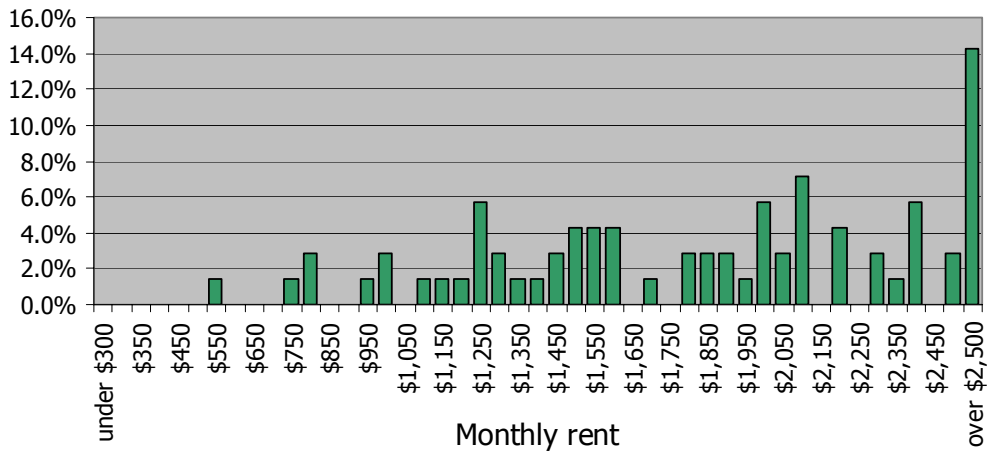


Based on 504 responses (95.8% of off campus respondents with spouse/partner)

Mean of distribution (with caps at \$300 and \$2500) = \$1,325

Median of distribution = \$1,300

### 19. Rent for off-campus respondents with dependants



Based on 70 responses (87.5% of off campus respondents with dependant(s))

Mean of distribution (with caps at \$300 and \$2500) = \$1,814

Median of distribution = \$1,900

## Housing Preferences

20. Housing location preference (by demographic)	
<i>All off campus respondents</i>	
On campus in particular room types or residences	45.9%
Anywhere on campus	5.1%
Off campus	49.0%
<i>Based on 1,405 responses (98.5% of respondents living off campus)</i>	
<i>Single off campus respondents</i>	
On campus in particular room types or residences	46.2%
Anywhere on campus	3.1%
Off campus	50.7%
<i>Based on 783 responses (98.9% of single respondents living off campus)</i>	
<i>Off campus respondents with a spouse or partner</i>	
On campus in particular room types or residences	43.5%
Anywhere on campus	8.1%
Off campus	48.4%
<i>Based on 517 responses (98.3% of off campus respondents with spouse/partner)</i>	
<i>Off campus respondents with dependant(s)</i>	
On campus in particular room types or residences	41.6%
Anywhere on campus	14.3%
Off campus	44.2%
<i>Based on 77 responses (96.3% of off campus respondents with dependant(s))</i>	

21. Number of respondents who would seriously consider living somewhere on campus (by demographic)	
All off campus respondents	71.4%
<i>Based on 1,408 responses (98.7% of respondents living off campus)</i>	
Single off campus respondents	73.9%
<i>Based on 786 responses (99.2% of single respondents living off campus)</i>	
Off campus respondents with a spouse or partner	66.7%
<i>Based on 514 responses (97.7% of off campus respondents with spouse/partner)</i>	
Off campus respondents with dependant(s)	64.0%
<i>Based on 75 responses (93.8% of off campus respondents with dependant(s))</i>	

22. Number of single respondents with no dependants who would seriously consider living in an on campus room with a roommate	
Would consider living on campus with a roommate	16.3%
<i>Based on 1,381 responses (96.7% of single respondents with no dependants)</i>	



23. Ranking of top 5 room amenities by respondents					
Amenity	Ranking				
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Single occupancy	55.7%	9.9%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Square foot per person	13.0%	17.0%	12.9%	13.8%	12.3%
Summer residency allowed	9.5%	10.1%	8.2%	9.1%	10.8%
Bathroom (per capita)	5.2%	23.6%	19.2%	13.9%	8.9%
Kitchen (per capita)	4.7%	13.9%	21.3%	15.8%	10.2%
Noise between rooms	3.3%	7.2%	9.6%	11.4%	11.5%
Air conditioning	2.3%	5.3%	9.1%	11.2%	11.3%
Fully Furnished Room	2.3%	4.9%	5.3%	6.8%	5.7%
View	1.1%	1.8%	2.3%	3.2%	9.1%
Squatters rights	0.9%	2.1%	2.6%	3.0%	3.8%
Upkeep / cleaning by staff	0.9%	2.6%	4.1%	4.0%	4.8%
Dishwasher	0.9%	1.1%	1.2%	3.0%	5.6%
Carpeting	0.4%	0.6%	0.8%	1.5%	2.6%

*Based on 2,426 responses (93.0% of all respondents) or more for each ranking*

24. Ranking of top 5 building and community amenities by respondents

Amenity	Ranking				
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Proximity to campus	19.8%	12.5%	10.3%	8.9%	9.1%
Lack of pests	13.1%	8.8%	6.4%	5.6%	4.6%
Age of building / upkeep	12.6%	8.2%	6.0%	6.9%	7.8%
Parking	7.9%	8.2%	7.1%	5.3%	4.4%
Gym	7.7%	7.2%	6.2%	6.3%	6.1%
Safety of area near building	7.6%	7.8%	7.4%	7.4%	7.0%
Common area (game room, tv room, lounges)	5.4%	3.1%	3.5%	3.1%	5.5%
Wireless / network speed	5.0%	6.9%	9.3%	8.4%	8.5%
Laundry machines per capita	4.9%	9.2%	11.5%	10.3%	8.8%
Street noise / pollution	3.9%	5.4%	6.3%	6.7%	6.1%
Proximity to ATM / grocery	2.4%	7.5%	7.3%	8.9%	9.0%
Social programming	2.0%	2.6%	1.7%	2.0%	2.6%
No house tax	2.0%	1.9%	1.0%	1.7%	1.8%
Shuttle / Saferide availability	1.7%	2.4%	3.1%	3.9%	5.7%
Storage space	1.0%	2.7%	4.5%	5.4%	4.5%
Computers per capita	0.9%	1.0%	1.6%	1.5%	0.8%
Outdoor common area	0.7%	1.5%	2.1%	2.6%	2.1%
Entertainment facilities	0.6%	1.5%	2.0%	2.6%	2.7%
Desk services	0.6%	1.2%	1.6%	1.4%	2.1%
Housemaster	0.3%	0.5%	0.9%	0.9%	0.6%

*Based on 2,384 responses (91.4% of all respondents) or more for each ranking*

## Housing Assignment Process

25. Number of off campus respondents who participated in on campus housing lottery	
Participated in housing lottery	32.9%
<i>Based on 1,409 responses (98.8% of all off campus respondents)</i>	
<i>Breakdown of off campus respondents who participated in lottery by current graduate year</i>	
1 <sup>st</sup> year	39.4%
2 <sup>nd</sup> year	30.0%
3 <sup>rd</sup> year	14.7%
4 <sup>th</sup> year or older	15.9%

26. Number of off campus housing lottery participants whose decision to move off campus was affected by lateness of housing lottery	
Decision to move off-campus affected by lateness of lottery	69.1%
<i>Based on 460 responses (99.1% of off campus + lottery participant respondents)</i>	

## Other

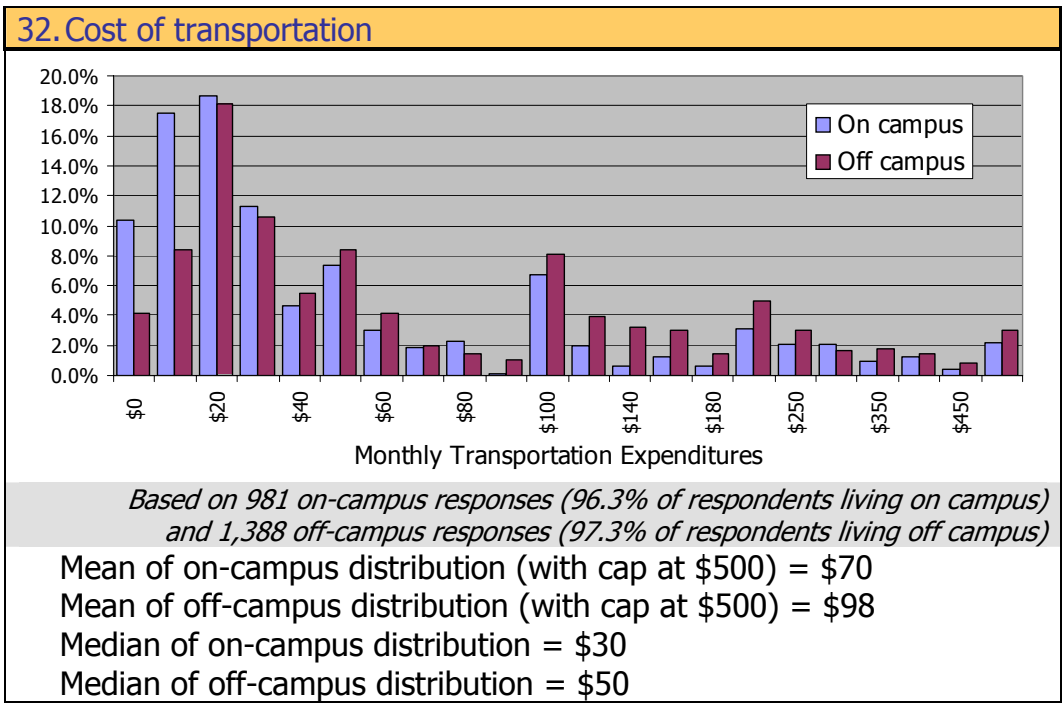
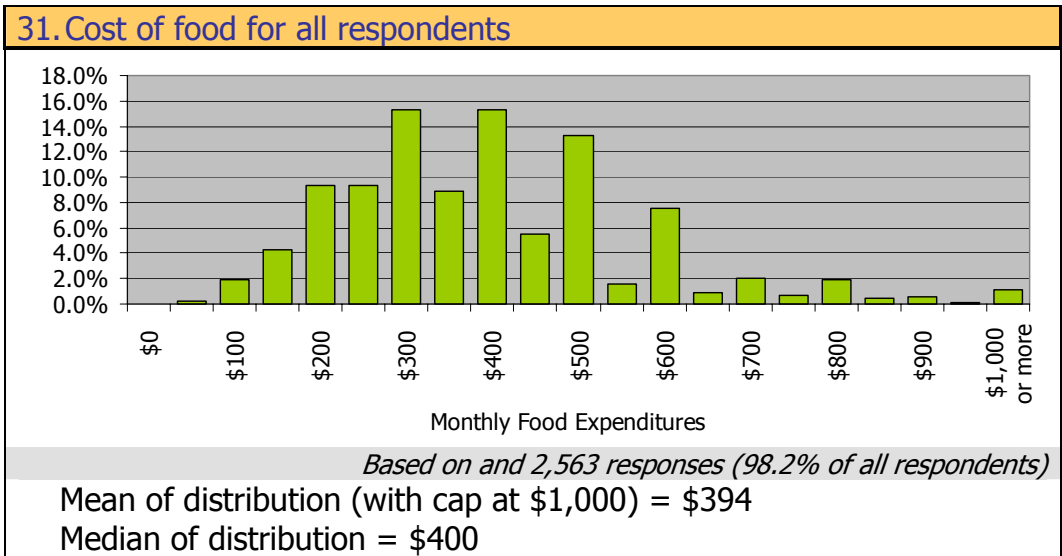
27. Number of off campus respondents whose apartments do not heat to 60 °F in winter	
<i>MIT owned apartments</i>	
Apartment does not heat to 60 °F	71.6%
Sufficient heat in apartment	6.4%
Have not been in apartment in winter yet	22.0%
<i>Based on 109 responses (99.1% of respondents living off campus, MIT owned)</i>	
<i>Non-MIT owned apartments</i>	
Apartment does not heat to 60 °F	80.3%
Sufficient heat in apartment	3.1%
Have not been in apartment in winter yet	16.6%
<i>Based on 1,282 responses (99.4% of respondents living off campus, non MIT)</i>	

28. Number of respondents in off campus housing not owned by MIT who have had legal dispute(s) with their landlords	
Have had legal dispute(s) with landlord	2.7%
<i>Based on 1,281 responses (99.3% of respondents living off campus, non MIT)</i>	

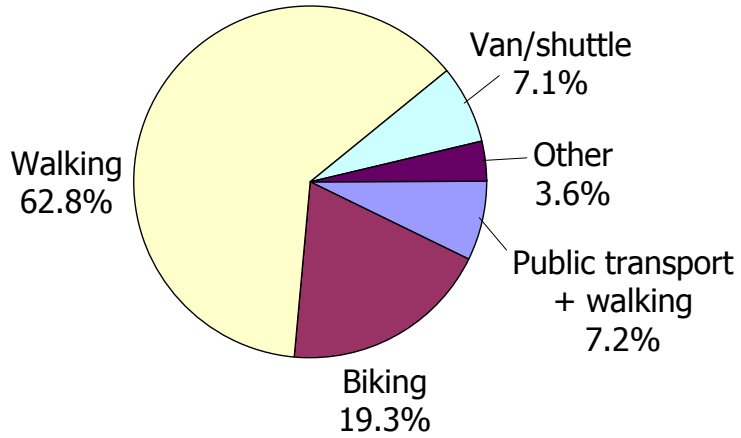
29. Number of respondents who have moved in the past 12 months	
Currently live on campus and have moved in past 12 months	55.8%
Currently live off campus and have moved in past 12 months	68.0%
<i>Based on 1,009 on campus responses (99.0 % of respondents living on campus) and 1,420 off campus responses (99.6 % of respondents living off campus)</i>	

30. Primary motivation for moving	
<i>Respondents who now live on campus and moved in past 12 months</i>	
Relocation to MIT to start school	49.2%
Lease ended and could not be renewed	12.9%
Lower expenses	12.3%
Wanted to be closer to campus	5.9%
Roommate situation changed	3.5%
Wanted community life advantages of living on campus	3.2%
Family considerations	3.2%
Other	9.9%
<i>Based on 666 responses (97.1% of on-campus respondents who have moved)</i>	
<i>Respondents who now live off campus and moved in past 12 months</i>	
Relocation to MIT to start school	30.7%
Didn't receive/expect to receive on campus housing	12.2%
Lower expenses	11.1%
Roommate situation changed	10.9%
Wanted to move off campus	7.8%
Family considerations	7.1%
Wanted to be closer to campus	5.1%
Lease ended and could not be renewed	5.0%
Bought a home	3.7%
Other	6.5%
<i>Based on 786 responses (99.1% of off-campus respondents who have moved)</i>	

# Food and Transportation

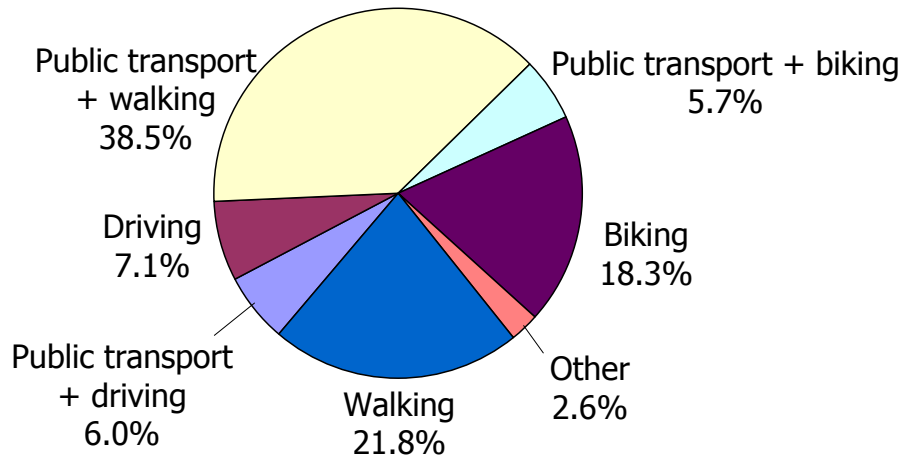


**33. Form of transportation utilized by on campus respondents**



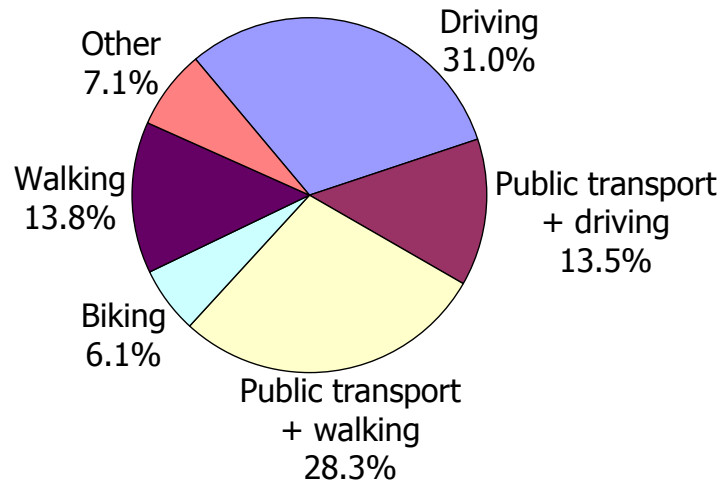
*Based on 989 responses (97.1% of respondents living on campus)*

**34. Form of transportation utilized by off campus respondents**



*Based on 1,396 responses (97.9% of respondents living off campus)*

**35. Form of transportation utilized by spouses or partners of respondents**



*Based on 896 responses (98.2% of respondents with a spouse/partner)*

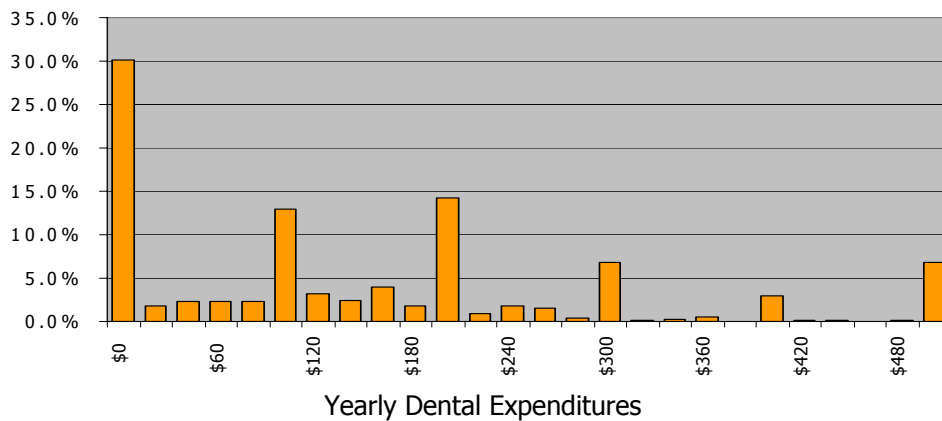
**36. Use of Saferide by off campus respondents**

Saferide does not go to residence	49.5%
Don't know if Saferide goes to residence	27.0%
Can take Saferide but choose not to	15.5%
Can and do take Saferide	8.0%

*Based on 1,409 responses (98.8% of respondents living off campus)*

# Dental

## 37. Cost of dental services for all respondents



*Based on and 2,441 responses (93.6% of all respondents)*

Mean of distribution (with cap at \$500) = \$146

Median of distribution = \$100

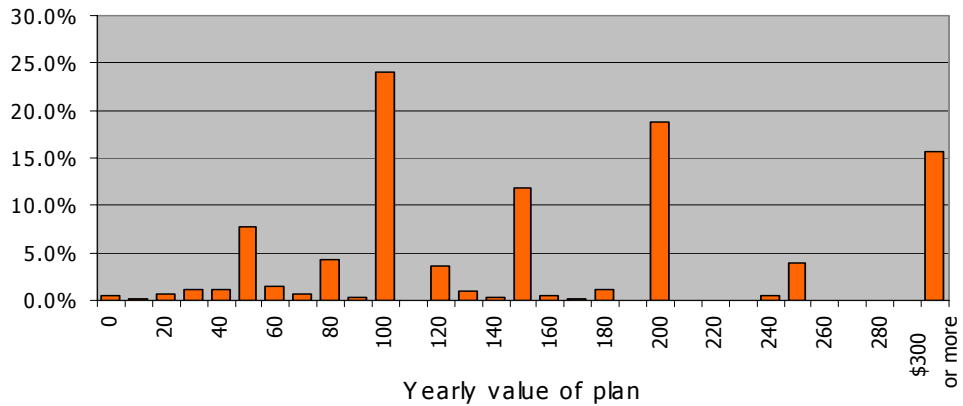
## 38. Number of respondents who are interested in purchasing some sort of dental insurance

All respondents	74.2%
<i>Based on 2,543 responses (97.5% of all respondents)</i>	
Single respondents	75.3%
<i>Based on 1,427 responses (97.6% of single respondents)</i>	
Respondents with a spouse or partner	72.0%
<i>Based on 895 responses (98.1% of respondents with spouse/partner)</i>	



### 39. Value placed on a non-mandatory dental insurance plan with a given set of services and features:

cleanings and regular oral examinations  
twice-a-year fluoride treatment (as needed)  
oral hygiene instruction and follow-up  
radiographs (X-rays) as needed for services provided by the plan  
routine silver fillings (amalgams) and tooth-colored fillings (composites)  
emergency treatment for relief of pain  
emergency temporary fillings  
student dentists  
multiple visits required (pre-treatment oral exam, one service per visit)  
off-campus travel required



*Based on 1,728 responses (91.6% of respondents interested in a dental plan)*

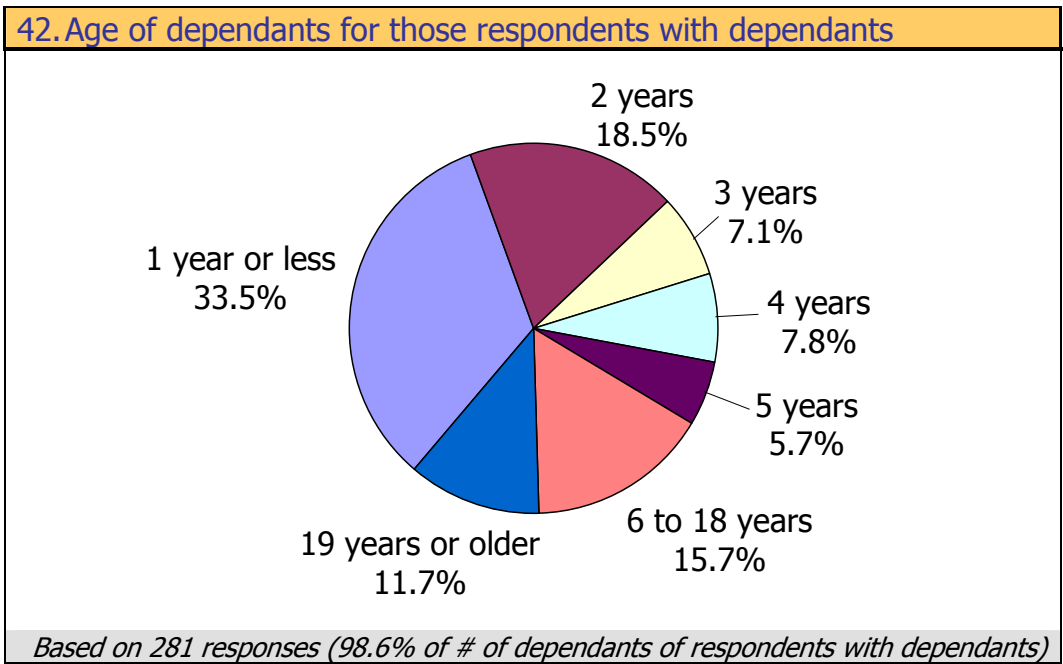
Mean of distribution (with cap at \$300) = \$157

Median of distribution = \$150

# Childcare

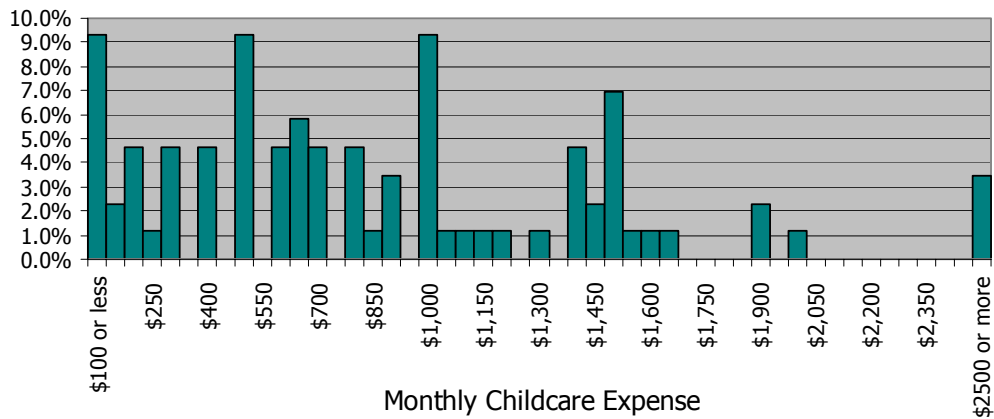
40. Number of dependants for those respondents with dependants	
1 dependant	57.2%
2 dependants	30.6%
3 dependants	10.0%
4 or more dependants	2.2%
<i>Based on 180 responses (98.9 % of respondents with dependants)</i>	

41. Where do the dependants live?	
Dependant lives with respondent	96.4%
Dependant does not live with respondent	3.6%
<i>Based on 276 responses (96.8% of # of dependants of respondents with dependants)</i>	



43. Forms of childcare used (number given is the percentage of respondents with dependants who use the listed form of childcare)	
No daycare utilized	23.1%
Babysitter	18.7%
All-day daycare	17.0%
Extended family member	14.8%
Part-time daycare	13.7%
Other	9.3%
<i>Based on 145 responses (79.7% of respondents with dependants)</i>	

#### 44. Amount spent on childcare



*Based on 86 responses (83.5% of respondents who use some form of daycare)*

Mean of distribution (with caps at \$100 and \$2500) = \$855

Median of distribution = \$700

#### 45. Use of MIT Technology Children Center childcare service by respondents with dependants

Have applied for childcare services through T.C.C.	21.7%
----------------------------------------------------	-------

Have never applied for childcare service through T.C.C.	78.3%
---------------------------------------------------------	-------

*Based on 175 responses (96.2% of respondents with dependants)*

##### *Breakdown of status of those who did apply for MIT childcare service:*

On waitlist for a spot in T.C.C.	42.1%
----------------------------------	-------

Received spot in T.C.C. but chose to use some other service	26.3%
-------------------------------------------------------------	-------

Currently using MIT childcare	15.8%
-------------------------------	-------

Denied a spot in T.C.C.	15.8%
-------------------------	-------

## Allocation of Institute Monies

46. Form of Institute subsidy or funding respondents value most		
<i>Column A: Form of subsidy/funding respondents believe to be most beneficial to graduate student population as a whole</i>		
<i>Column B: Form of subsidy/funding most personally beneficial to respondents</i>		
	A	B
Stipend increase	47.9%	52.4%
Housing subsidy for students living off-campus/Rent decrease for on campus	20.4%	18.8%
Building more graduate residences	8.5%	0.7%
Subsidize dental insurance	5.9%	7.8%
Reduce health insurance costs	4.3%	3.0%
Building more family graduate residences	3.7%	1.7%
Student life (more money for activities)	1.9%	0.7%
Graduate residence renovations	1.5%	1.0%
Increase health insurance benefits	1.1%	0.5%
Stipend increase for students with dependants	1.1%	1.7%
Subsidized/free child care	1.0%	1.1%
Stipend increase for married students	0.9%	4.7%
Subsidized/free cable internet for off-campus students	0.7%	3.2%
Parking subsidy	0.6%	1.8%
Other	0.6%	0.8%
<i>Column A based on 2,470 responses (94.7% of all respondents)</i>		
<i>Column B based on 2,477 responses (94.9% of all respondents)</i>		

## MIT Cost of Living

47. Impact of cost of living on willingness to pursue graduate studies at MIT	
<i>(Knowing what you know now about the cost of living at MIT, which of the following would you do?)</i>	
<i>All respondents</i>	
Would still come to MIT	85.7%
Would choose another graduate school	11.1%
Would not go to graduate school	0.7%
Other	2.5%
<i>Based on 2,481 responses (95.1% of respondents)</i>	
<i>Single respondents</i>	
Would still come to MIT	87.9%
Would choose another graduate school	8.9%
Would not go to graduate school	0.6%
Other	2.6%
<i>Based on 1,412 responses (96.6% of single respondents)</i>	
<i>Respondents with a spouse or partner</i>	
Would still come to MIT	82.8%
Would choose another graduate school	14.8%
Would not go to graduate school	0.8%
Other	1.6%
<i>Based on 858 responses (94.1% of respondents with spouse/partner)</i>	
<i>Respondents with dependant(s)</i>	
Would still come to MIT	78.4%
Would choose another graduate school	19.2%
Would not go to graduate school	1.2%
Other	1.2%
<i>Based on 167 responses (91.8% of respondents with dependant(s))</i>	

# Appendix A: Questions asked on 2002 Graduate Student Life Survey

## 1. What is your ultimate degree objective at MIT?

Masters of Engineering (MENG)  
 Master of Science  
 Master in Architecture  
 Master of City Planning (MCP)  
 Master of Business Administration (MBA)  
 Engineer (Eng)  
 Doctoral (Phd or ScD)  
 Medical Doctor (Joint w/ Harvard Med. School)  
 Other [*Fill In*]

## 2. How many more years do you expect to remain at MIT?

1 year	5 years
2 years	6 years
3 years	7 years
4 years	8+ years

## INCOME / EXPENSES

### 3. Rounded to the nearest \$1000, what is your income after taking out taxes (and after taking out tuition, if you pay for it)?

No income	\$17,000	\$34,000
\$1,000	\$18,000	\$35,000
\$2,000	\$19,000	\$36,000
\$3,000	\$20,000	\$37,000
\$4,000	\$21,000	\$38,000
\$5,000	\$22,000	\$39,000
\$6,000	\$23,000	\$40,000
\$7,000	\$24,000	\$41,000
\$8,000	\$25,000	\$42,000
\$9,000	\$26,000	\$43,000
\$10,000	\$27,000	\$44,000
\$11,000	\$28,000	\$45,000
\$12,000	\$29,000	\$46,000
\$13,000	\$30,000	\$47,000
\$14,000	\$31,000	\$48,000
\$15,000	\$32,000	\$49,000
\$16,000	\$33,000	\$50,000 or more

### 3.1. Is MIT tuition paid for you (i.e. through TA, RA, fellowship, company/country support, etc.)?

Yes  
 No

### 3.2. Do you have any of the following sources of support? [please answer yes or no to each of the following]

#### a. Research Assistantship

Yes  
 No

#### b. Teaching Assistantship

Yes  
 No

**c. MIT Fellowship**

Yes  
No

**d. Outside Fellowship**

Yes  
No

**3.3. Do you have a job/source of support outside of an RA/TA/Fellowship?**

Yes  
No

**3.4. Does your spouse or partner (if you have one) have a job/source of support?**

Yes  
No  
Don't have a spouse or partner

**3.5. Do your expenses exceed your income?**

Yes  
No

**3.6. If so, what is the primary method you use to resolve the gap between your expenses and your income?**

Loans/credit card debt  
Savings account/trust funds/stocks  
Gifts from relatives/etc.  
Other [Fill In]

**3.7. Rounded to the nearest \$1000, how much debt do you expect to have incurred due to your entire graduate education (if any, not including undergraduate debts)?**

[Fill In]

**4. Do you pay MIT fees (insurance/Student Life Fee/etc) out of the income reported above?**

Yes  
No

**5. Please write any comments you may have regarding your income below:**

[Fill in]

**SPOUSE / PARTNER**

**6. Do you have a spouse or partner?**

Yes  
No [If No, skip questions 7-8 and go to question 9]

**7. Which of the following best describes your spouse or partner?**

An MIT student  
A student at another school  
A student and working  
Working  
Not working (due to Visa regulations)  
Not working (by choice, perhaps to act as stay-at-home parent)  
None of the above

## TRANSPORTATION

### 8. What is your spouse or partner's primary mode of transportation?

Driving alone  
 Combined driving / public transportation  
 Combined public transportation / walking  
 Combined public transportation / biking  
 Carpooling  
 Taxi  
 Biking  
 Walking  
 Van / shuttle

### 9. What is your primary mode of transportation to and from campus?

Driving alone  
 Combined driving / public transportation  
 Combined public transportation / walking  
 Combined public transportation / biking  
 Carpooling  
 Taxi  
 Biking  
 Walking  
 Van / shuttle

### 10. How much do you (and your spouse or partner, if you have one) spend monthly on transportation expenses? (car bills, T, parking, bike, etc.)?

\$0	\$80	\$200
\$10	\$90	\$250
\$20	\$100	\$300
\$30	\$120	\$350
\$40	\$140	\$400
\$50	\$160	\$450
\$60	\$180	\$500 or more
\$70		

### 11. Please write any comments you may have regarding transportation and its associated costs below:

[Fill in]

## OTHER EXPENSES

### 12. How much do you spend on food monthly (including both groceries and eating out)?

\$0	\$350	\$700
\$50	\$400	\$750
\$100	\$450	\$800
\$150	\$500	\$850
\$200	\$550	\$900
\$250	\$600	\$950
\$300	\$650	\$1000 or more

### 13. What other major expenses (not including housing or medical/dental insurance) do you have and how much do they cost annually?

1. Expense: [Fill in]      Cost per year \$ [Fill in]  
 2. Expense: [Fill in]      Cost per year \$ [Fill in]



**MEDICAL / DENTAL**

*\* NOTE – Results from questions 14.1 through 14.4 were not included in this report because question 14.1 was worded incorrectly. It is unclear if respondents interpreted “MIT’s health insurance plan” to mean the standard plan or the extended medical plan.*

**14.1. Are you enrolled in MIT’s health insurance plan?**

Yes  
No

**14.2. If so, do you have any expenses not covered by MIT insurance?**

Yes  
No

**14.3 How much monthly?**

\$ [Fill in]

**14.4. If not, what are your average monthly medical/insurance bills?**

\$ [Fill in]

**15. How much do you spend annually on dental expenses?**

\$0	180	360
\$20	200	380
\$40	220	400
\$60	240	420
\$80	260	440
\$100	280	460
\$120	300	480
\$140	320	500
160	340	

**16. Would you be interested in purchasing some sort of dental insurance?**

Yes  
No

**17. If so, how much would you value a non-mandatory dental insurance plan with the following services and features: [please read description and fill in amount at end]**

cleanings and regular oral examinations  
twice-a-year fluoride treatment (as needed)  
oral hygiene instruction and follow-up  
radiographs (X-rays) as needed for services provided by the plan  
routine silver fillings (amalgams) and tooth-colored fillings (composites)  
emergency treatment for relief of pain  
emergency temporary fillings  
student dentists  
multiple visits required (pre-treatment oral exam, one service per visit)  
off-campus travel required

**I value this plan at \$ [Fill in] year**

**18. Please write any comments you may have regarding medical/dental care and their associated costs below:**

[Fill in]

## CHILDCARE

**19. Do you have any dependants (defined here as anybody you claim as a dependant on your taxes)?**

Yes

No [If No, skip questions 20-24 and go to [Question 25](#)]

**20. How many dependants do you have?**

1

4

2

5

3

6 or more

**a. Please fill in their age and whether or not they live with you for each of your dependants [leave excess rows blank] - There are 5 rows and each row allows the respondent to answer the following questions:**

**How old are they?**

**Do they live with you?**

1 year or less

7

13

Yes

2

8

14

No

3

9

15

4

10

16

5

11

17

6

12

18

19 or older

**21. What types (if any) of childcare do you utilize, and what is the total cost to you per month for each type? [for each “yes” answer, please fill in the associated cost, if any]**

**Utilize?**

**Cost per moth**

All day daycare

Yes / No

[Fill in]

Part-time daycare

Yes / No

[Fill in]

Live-in nanny

Yes / No

[Fill in]

Extended family member

Yes / No

[Fill in]

Babysitter

Yes / No

[Fill in]

Other (please specify)

Yes / No

[Fill in]

**22. Have you ever applied for childcare services from the MIT TCC (Technology Children’s Center)?**

Yes

No

**23. If so, did you get a spot?**

Yes, and I am currently using MIT childcare

Yes, but I chose to use another form of daycare

No, I am on the waiting list

No

**24. Please write any comments you may have regarding childcare, its availability, and its associated costs below:**

[Fill in]

## HOUSING

**25. Have you moved in the last 12 months?**

Yes

No

**25.1. If so, what was the primary reason for moving [pick one, not all are necessarily relevant to you]?**

- Lower expenses (rent, utilities, transportation costs)
- Roommate situation changed
- Wanted something closer to campus
- Lease ended and could not be renewed
- Relocation to MIT to start school
- Bought a home
- Wanted to move off-campus
- Didn't receive / expect to receive housing through the lottery
- Wanted the community life advantages of living on-campus
- Family considerations (i.e., got married / moved in with partner, had child, etc.)
- Other (please specify): *[Fill in]*

**26. Do you live on campus or off campus?**

- On campus **[If On Campus, skip questions 27-36 and go to [Question 37](#)]**
- Off campus

**27. Is your apartment MIT-owned?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

**28. Can you and do you take Saferide to your neighborhood? [please pick one]**

- I can and I do take Saferide
- I can take Saferide but I choose not to
- I cannot take Saferide to my neighborhood
- I don't know

**29. What is your zip code?**

*[Fill in]*

**\* NOTE – Results from question 30 were not included in this report because the option of zero roommates was not provided (thus making the answers ambiguous)**

**30. How many (if any) roommates do you have (not including dependants or your spouse/partner)?**

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| 1 | 6          |
| 2 | 7          |
| 3 | 8          |
| 4 | 9          |
| 5 | 10 or more |

**31. Have you ever been involved in a legal dispute with your landlord while at MIT?**

- Yes
- No

**32. Does your current apartment heat to at least 60 degrees Fahrenheit (15.6 degrees Celsius) in the winter?**

- Yes
- No
- Have not been in apartment in winter yet

**33. How much is your monthly rent/mortgage payment + utilities? Please include only your portion of the expenses if you share with roommates.**

Under \$300	\$1050	\$1800
\$350	\$1100	\$1850
\$400	\$1150	\$1900
\$450	\$1200	\$1950
\$500	\$1250	\$2000
\$550	\$1300	\$2050
\$600	\$1350	\$2100
\$650	\$1400	\$2150
\$700	\$1450	\$2200
\$750	\$1500	\$2250
\$800	\$1550	\$2300
\$850	\$1600	\$2350
\$900	\$1650	\$2400
\$950	\$1700	\$2450
\$1000	\$1750	\$2500 or more
<b>Please specify amount if over \$2500 / month</b>		
[Fill in]		

*\* NOTE – Results from questions 13.1 and 13.2 were not included in this report because it is not possible to determine if rent changes are due to moving from one apartment type to another, from on campus to off campus, etc., making it difficult to draw any worthwhile conclusions from the data*

**33.1. Has your rent + utilities changed in the last 12 months?**

Increase
Decreased
No change

**33.2. If so, by how much per month?**

[Fill in]
-----------

**34.1. Did you participate in the on-campus housing lottery this year?**

Yes
No

**34.2: If so, was your decision to move off-campus affected by when you received the results of this lottery?**

Yes
No

**35. Would you prefer to live on-campus than off-campus?**

Yes, but only in certain room types/residences
Yes
No

**If not, why?**

[Fill in]
-----------

**36. Would you ever seriously consider living on campus?**

Yes
No

**\* NOTE – Results from question 37 were used to determine which dorm on campus respondents live in.**

<b>37. If you live on-campus, what is your monthly rent (not including any house tax you may be charged)?</b>		
\$446	512	893
450	520	956
472	576	977
483	667	1029
494	675	1083
495	755	1103
499	830	1227
501	840	

<b>38. If you are single and have no dependants living with you, do you currently live in or would you seriously consider living in an on-campus room with a roommate (i.e. an Ashdown double or Sidney-Pacific quad)?</b>
Yes
No
Not single or have dependants living with me

**AMENITIES**

<b>39. Please rank the top 5 room amenities that are most important to you.</b>	
Square foot per person	Carpeting
Single occupancy	Noise between rooms
Bathroom (per capita)	Squatters rights
Upkeep / cleaning by staff	Summer residency allowed
Kitchen (per capita)	Dishwasher
Air conditioning	View
Fully Furnished Room	

<b>40. Please rank the top 5 building and community amenities that are most important to you.</b>	
Common area (game room, tv room, lounges)	Parking
Age of building/Upkeep	Outdoor common area
Movies/Entertainment facilities	Laundry machines per capita
Gym	Street noise/pollution
Social programming	Storage space
No house tax (~\$5 to \$10 per month)	Wireless access/network speed
Lack of pests	Proximity to campus
Computers per capita	Safety of area near building
Desk services	Proximity to ATM or grocery store
Housemaster	Ability to get to campus via Saferide or shuttle

**OTHER SERVICES**

<b>41. If the administration had money to give to graduate students, in which way would it benefit YOU PERSONALLY the most? [please pick one of the following]</b>	
Stipend increase	Stipend increase for married students
Housing subsidy for students living off-campus/Rent decrease for on campus	Stipend increase for students with dependants
Increase health insurance benefits	Subsidized/free child care
Reduce health insurance costs	Graduate residence renovations
Subsidize dental insurance	Student life (more money for activities)
Parking subsidy	Building more graduate residences
Subsidized/free cable internet for off-campus students	Building more family graduate residences
	Other (please specify)

**42. If the administration had money to give to graduate students, in which way would it benefit the GRADUATE POPULATION the most? [please pick one of the following]**

- |                                                                            |                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Stipend increase                                                           | Stipend increase for married students         |
| Housing subsidy for students living off-campus/Rent decrease for on campus | Stipend increase for students with dependants |
| Increase health insurance benefits                                         | Subsidized/free child care                    |
| Reduce health insurance costs                                              | Graduate residence renovations                |
| Subsidize dental insurance                                                 | Student life (more money for activities)      |
| Parking subsidy                                                            | Building more graduate residences             |
| Subsidized/free cable internet for off-campus students                     | Building more family graduate residences      |
|                                                                            | Other (please specify)                        |

**43. Knowing what you know now about the cost of living at MIT, would you have: [please pick one]**

- |                                          |
|------------------------------------------|
| Still come to MIT for graduate school    |
| Chosen another graduate school to attend |
| Not gone to graduate school              |
| Other (please specify)                   |

**44. Please write any comments you may have regarding the cost of living at MIT**

*[Fill in]*