

# Findings related to **housing and student life** from recent COVID-related surveys

May 15, 2020



**Office of the Chancellor**  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

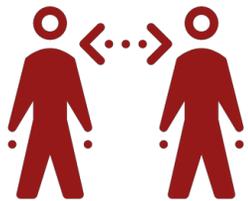
# Findings related to **housing and student life** from recent COVID-related surveys



More than half of our enrolled students are **currently living in Massachusetts**.



Students in on campus emergency housing are practicing **habits to control the spread** of the virus.



Most have found it relatively easy to practice **social distancing** in MIT residence halls.



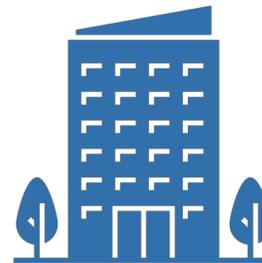
While most emergency **housing policies** are fine as is, residents request some be strengthened and some be relaxed.



60% indicate COVID-19 has **worsened their mental health** and wellbeing.



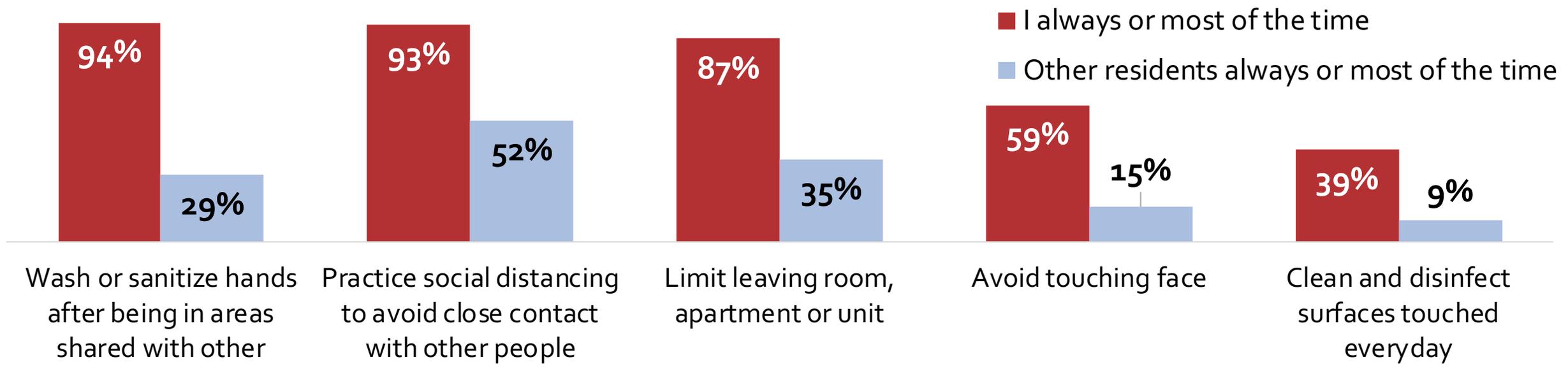
While most agree they feel part of the **community** at MIT, we need to foster a sense of belonging for students in any location.



Many **hope to live in campus housing** when classes resume this fall; **1 in 4 would consider staying where they are now** if MIT has online instruction and reduced campus operations.

April – May 2020 Housing Experience Survey: Invited 1571 students (1349 Grads & 222 Undergrads) on 4/25; 41% return: 54% of UG and 42% of grads responding.  
May 2020 Off Campus Survey: Invited ~7300 current and incoming grads & ~4,200 undergrads on 5/3; 57% return: 59% of UG and 56% of grads responding.

# Respondents are generally practicing habits to control spread of the virus...



Wash or sanitize hands after being in areas shared with other building residents or after returning from outside the building

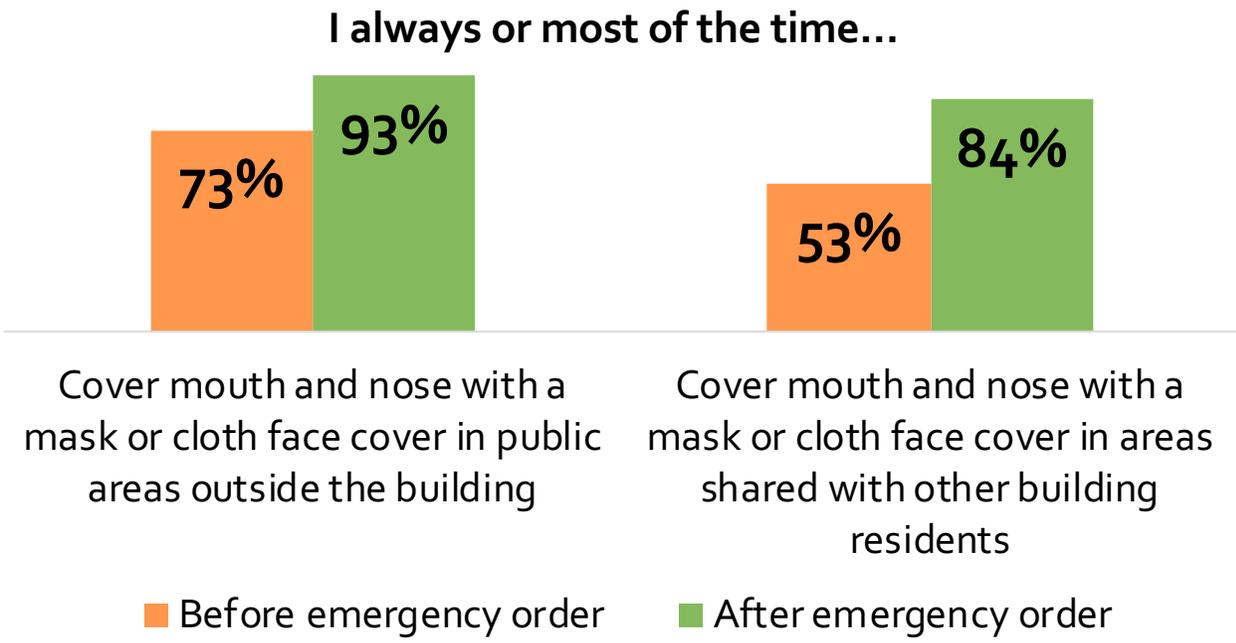
Practice social distancing to avoid close contact with other people

Limit leaving room, apartment or unit

Avoid touching face

Clean and disinfect surfaces touched everyday

**... with the Cambridge emergency order requiring face coverings be worn in all public places, businesses and common areas of residential buildings increasing use of face covers.**



Cover mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face cover in public areas outside the building

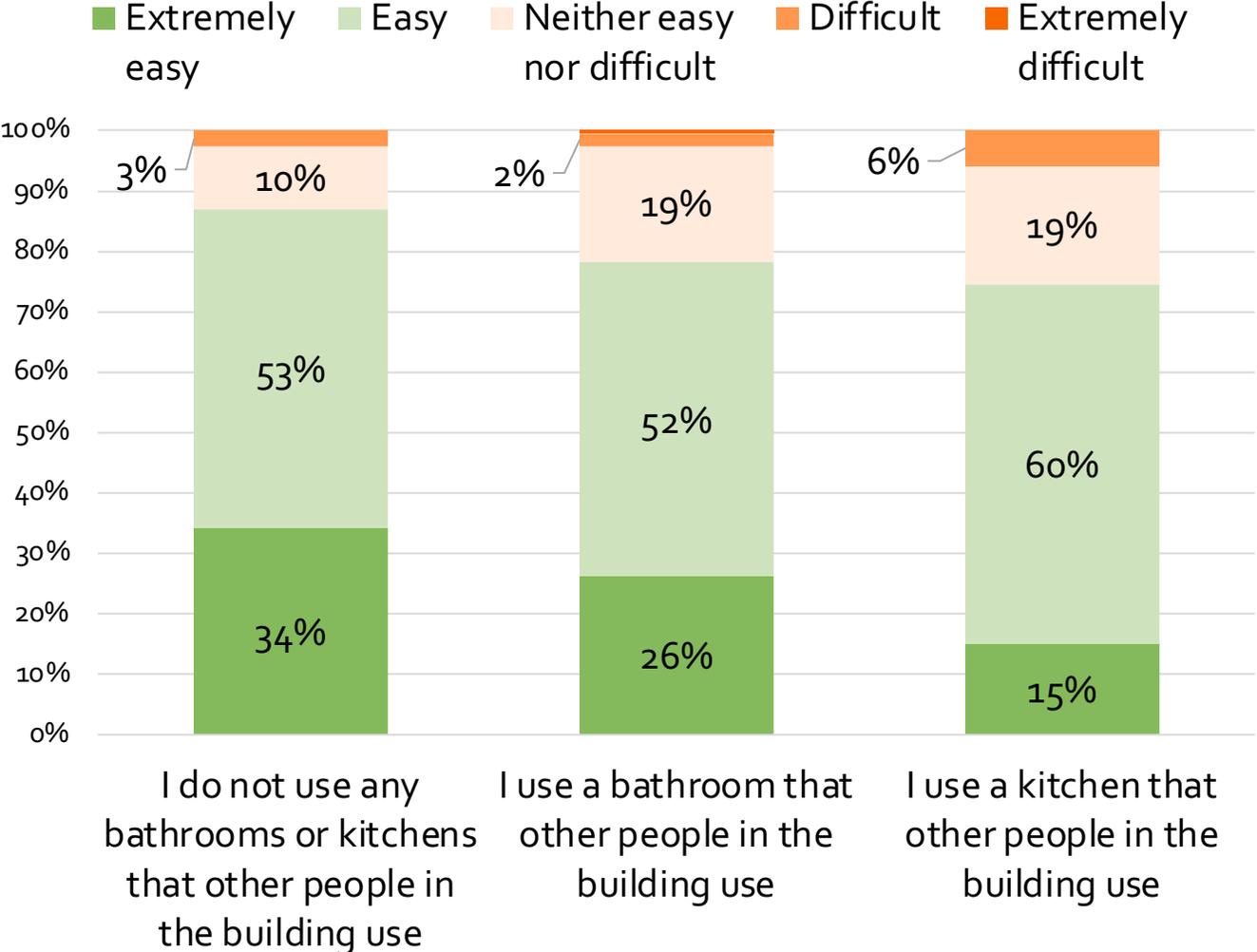
Cover mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face cover in areas shared with other building residents

Before emergency order      After emergency order

Source: April-May 2020 Housing Experience Survey

# Overall, most have found it relatively easy to practice social distancing in de-densified buildings, especially ones where residents do not need to share kitchens or bathrooms.

How easy or difficult is it for you to practice social distancing in the building you currently live in?



Themes for what **challenges** social distancing in residence halls, and what might make distancing **easier**:

1. Clearer guidelines about **elevator** use
2. Find ways to keep distance near **entrances and exits** and in hallways
3. Modify how residents **pickup** packages, mail, and deliveries
4. Provide **masks** to residents and staff
5. Manage how **laundry** areas are used
6. Manage how **bathrooms** and/or **kitchens** are shared
7. Ease access to **meals and groceries**

Source: April-May 2020 Housing Experience Survey

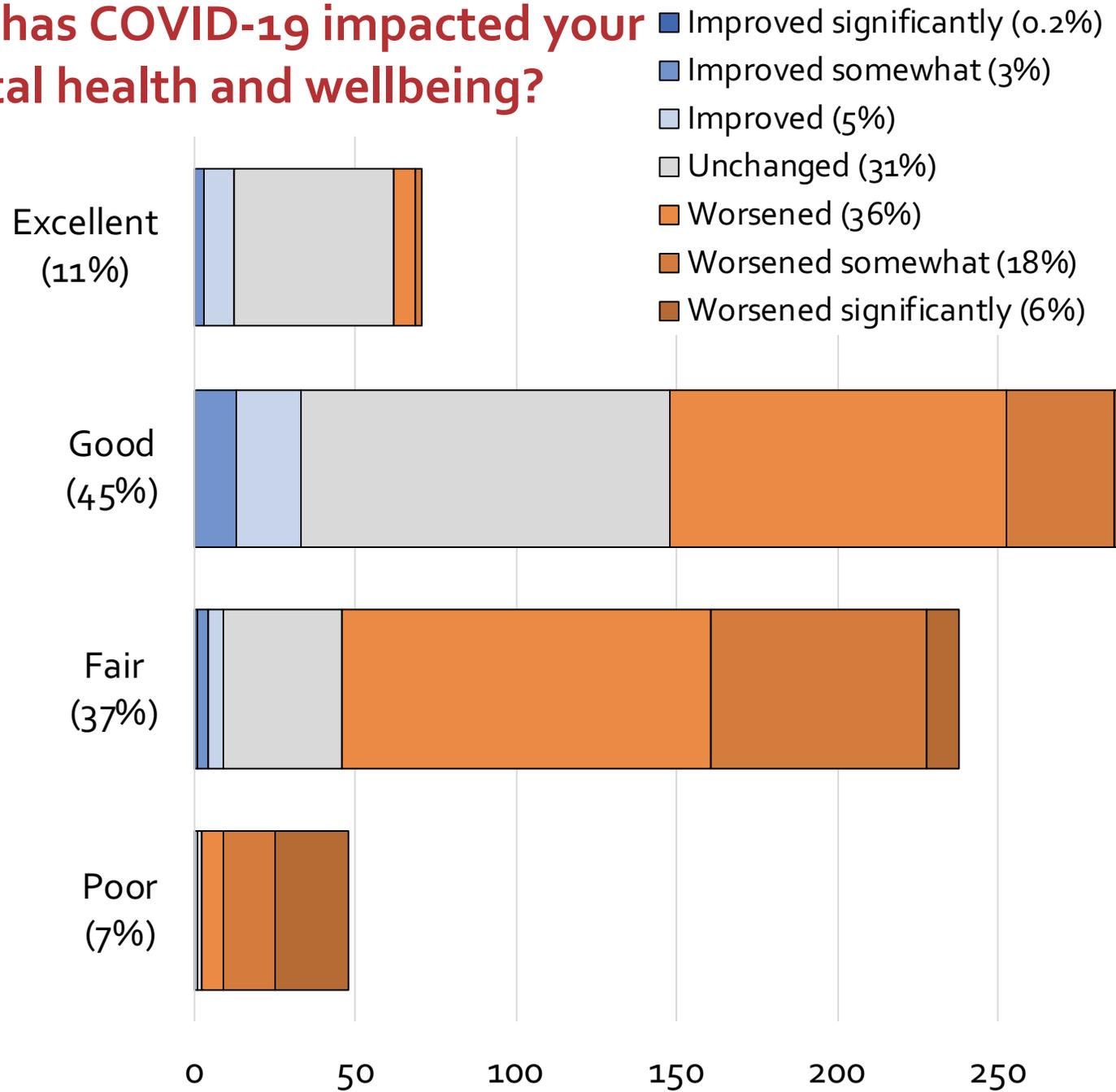
More than half of the respondents in on-campus emergency housing rated their **current overall mental and emotional health as Excellent or Good.**

Around **9%** said the situation has **improved their wellbeing**; about **30%** said it had not changed.

**60%** indicated COVID-19 has **worsened** their mental health and wellbeing.

## How has COVID-19 impacted your mental health and wellbeing?

How would you describe your overall mental and emotional health?

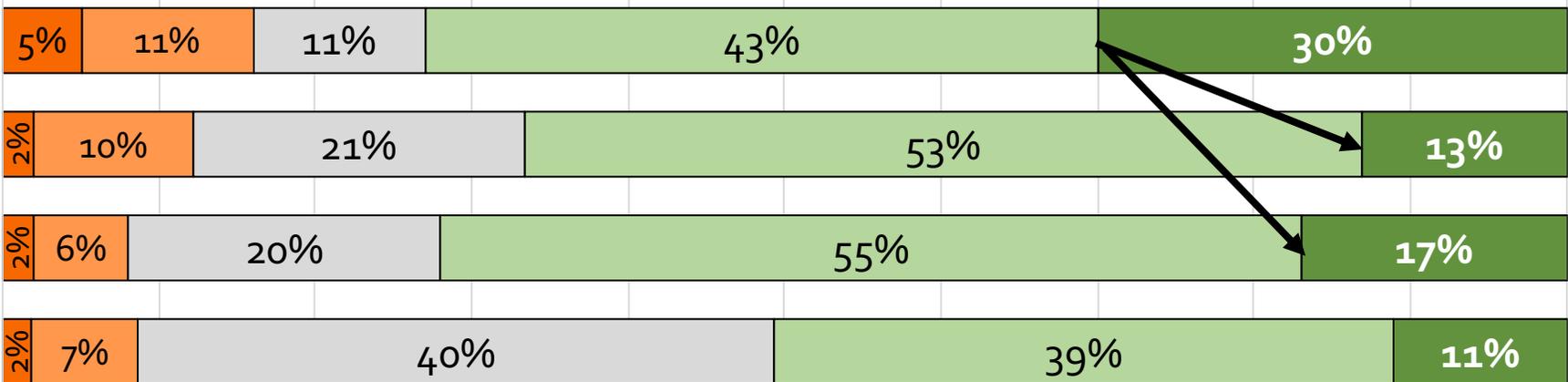


While most agree they feel part of the community at MIT, we need to foster a **sense of belonging and community** for current and incoming students working or studying in any location.

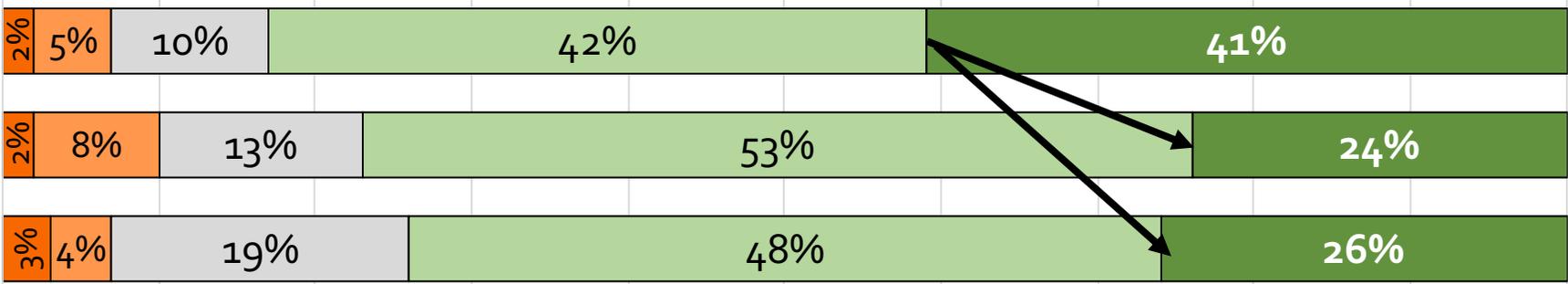
### I feel like part of the community at MIT.

■ Disagree strongly  
 ■ Disagree  
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
 ■ Agree  
 ■ Agree strongly

*Reference Data:  
2019 Grad Enrolled Student Survey*



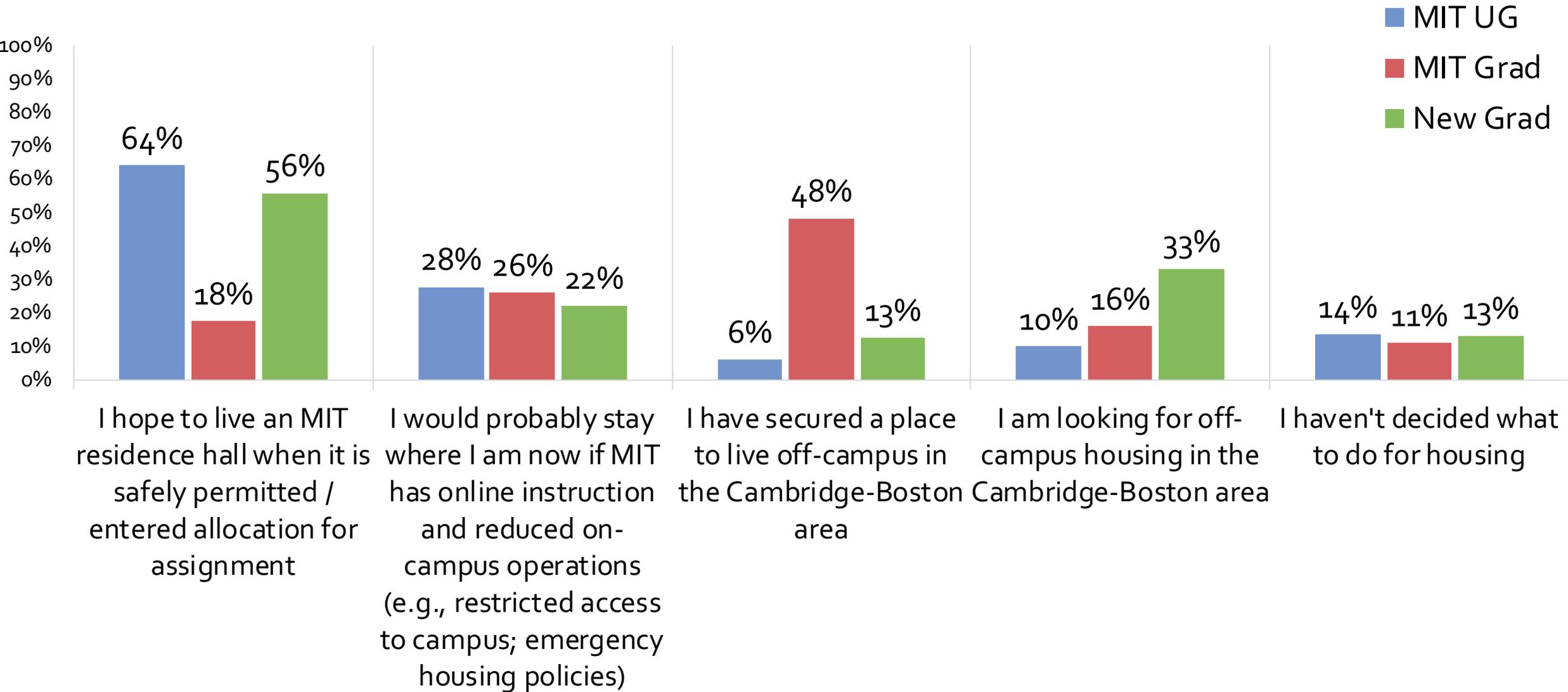
*Reference Data:  
2019 UG Enrolled Student Survey*



0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Sources: April-May 2020 Housing Experience Survey and May 2020 Off Campus Survey; 2019 Undergraduate Enrolled Student Survey; 2019 Graduate Enrolled Student Survey

**Respondents indicated which housing plans they were exploring for fall; many hope to live in campus housing. About 1 in 4 would consider *staying where they are now* if MIT has online instruction and reduced campus operations.**



Sources: May 2020 Off Campus Survey