

Report of the 2005 Students with Children Survey



Written for the Student Parent Policy Committee

by Beth Sullivan, Senior Associate for Advocacy & Policy,
and Kaden Milkovich, 2005-6 Policy Intern, Center for the Education of Women.

The authors are grateful to Louise August, CEW Research Specialist, for her
technical assistance with the survey software.

November 2006

Executive Summary

The Students with Children Survey was fielded at the end of 2005 in order to estimate the number of UM students with children and collect information about those parents' child care needs. This survey represents the best method to date for counting the number of student parents on Ann Arbor's campus. We encourage readers to share this report with other administrators in their areas in order to educate the campus about student parent demographics and key child care issues they face.

The web-based survey was sent to 14,573 students – all graduate and professional students as well as those undergraduate students who claimed dependents on their financial aid forms. A total of 3,336 or 23% responded. Key findings include:

- Eighteen percent indicated that they had, or were expecting, children.
- Among student respondents with children, 55% are male/45% are female.
Among student respondents without children, 42% are male/58% are female.
- Forty-four percent of student parent respondents are working toward a doctoral degree, 27% toward a professional degree, 23% toward a master's and 4% toward a bachelor's.
- Nearly one-fourth (24%) of women student parents report having no other adult living in their home (e.g., spouse, partner or relative) to help in raising their child(ren).
- Only a small percentage of student parents work full-time in addition to attending school (18% of men, 9% of women). Of those reporting that their spouse/partner works for pay outside the home;
 - 19% had a spouse/partner who worked less than 20 hours/week
 - 20% had a spouse/partner who worked between 20 – 29 hours/week
 - 6% had a spouse/partner who worked 30 – 39 hours, and
 - 29% had a spouse/partner who worked 40+ hours/week.
- Nearly 20% of student parents reported that their spouse/partner also attends school, more than half of whom at the University of Michigan.
- In terms of current child care arrangements, 40% of parents use unpaid care provided by themselves, their spouses/partners, families or friends, 18% use licensed care at non-UM centers, and just 5% use a UM child care center.
- Fifty-two percent of parents reported being happy with their current type of child care arrangement, 15% would prefer to enroll their child(ren) in a UM center, and 10% would prefer to have themselves, their spouses/partners, families or friends provide unpaid care to their child(ren).
- Top factors that prevent student parents from using their preferred form of child care:
 - A friend/relative/neighbor is not available to provide care
 - UM child care subsidy is insufficient
 - The student has not applied for a UM child care subsidy or tuition grant
 - Preferred care is too expensive
 - Space is not available to enroll the student's child(ren)

To learn more about University and community resources available to student parents, see www.studentswithchildren.umich.edu.

Introduction

The Students with Children Survey was fielded between November 17, 2005 and January 4, 2006 to develop an estimate of the number of UM students with children and to collect information about those parents' child care needs. The Committee on Student Parent Issues (COSPI) designed the survey, which was implemented by the Center for the Education of Women (CEW) using funding provided by the Office of the Provost. This survey was the second to be fielded in two years by COSPI. It provides policy makers and program administrators with useful data for designing services and educating the campus about student parent demographics and some key child care issues they face.

Historically, estimates of the number of students with parenting responsibilities have been difficult to develop because the University does not systematically collect parental status information. While data is available on the number of students who apply for child care subsidies, this number offers an incomplete picture of the total number of students with children because these subsidies are only available to parents choosing licensed care. Similarly, the number of students who purchase health insurance coverage for their dependents does not reflect the total number of student parents because unknown numbers of students are covered by the policies of their spouse/partners or by their non-UM employers.

In the winter of 2006, the Student Parent Policy Committee (SPPC) took up the work initially begun by COSPI, whose three-year term had ended. Under the direction of CEW Associate Director for Advocacy, Susan Kaufmann, this new committee examines policies that may affect the success of student parents. Lester Monts, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, commissioned the SPPC.

Survey Methodology

Researchers emailed the link to the web-based survey to all graduate and professional students enrolled in the Fall 2005 term, as well as to the 158 enrolled undergraduate students who claimed dependents on their financial aid forms. Graduate and professional students who were not enrolled but had registered within the past two years and not yet completed their degrees were also sent the email. In addition, researchers sent the email to doctoral candidates who were not currently enrolled but had registered at some time within the past ten years and not yet completed their Ph.D.s. This sampling strategy was intended to reach students who might still be in the process of finishing their degrees, but were not currently enrolled. The total number of potential survey respondents was 14,573. Respondents did not always answer every question, so respondent totals vary across the tables presented in this report.

Survey Results

Response rate, gender, parental status and current degree level of study:

Of the 14,573 students who received the 2005 survey, 3,336 or 23% responded. Survey administrators believe the drop in response rate compared to last year (33%) may be due to student parents who chose not to participate in the survey for a second consecutive year.

Of the 3,336 total respondents, 595 or 18% indicated that they had children under 19 years of age, had children 19 or older with special needs, or were expecting to adopt, foster or bear a

child within the next twelve months. In the 2004 survey, 24% of respondents reported having children.¹

The question of respondent gender was new to the 2005 survey. Fifty-five percent of student respondents with children are male, 45% are female. Forty-two percent of student respondents without children are male, 58% are female. Eighteen respondents chose not to provide their gender information. One of these individuals reported having children. Based on recommendations by the Provost’s task force in support of transgender persons, any future CEW surveys will include a “transgender” category for this question.

Students who indicated they had a child were asked additional questions such as the level of the degree they were pursuing, field of study, the employment and/or UM student status of their spouse/partner, number and birthdates of their children, location of residence, and current and preferred child care arrangements. See Appendix A for the email invitation sent to potential respondents and the survey instrument.

Table 1. All respondents by parental status, current degree and gender

Parental Status	Current Degree	Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
No				
	Undergraduate	0	1	1 (<1%)
	Masters	299	453	752 (23%)
	Professional	339	459	798 (24%)
	Doctoral	494	629	1123 (34%)
	Certificate	5	20	25 (<1%)
	No degree	8	6	14 (<1%)
	Total	1145 (35%)	1568 (47%)	2713 (82%)
Yes				
	Undergraduate	4	22	26 (<1%)
	Masters	63	74	137 (4%)
	Professional	122	38	160 (5%)
	Certificate	5	3	8 (<1%)
	Doctoral	131	129	260 (8%)
	No degree	0	4	4 (<1%)
	Total	325 (10%)	270 (8%)	595 (18%)
Grand total			3308 (100%)	

Degree level and field of study:

Forty-four percent of student parent respondents are working toward a doctoral degree, 27% toward a professional degree, 23% toward a master’s and 4% toward a bachelor’s degree. This is in comparison to the Fall 2005 distribution of all students on the Ann Arbor campus, 12% of

¹ In response to comments from survey respondents in 2004, the 2005 survey raised the threshold for “children” from 18 years of age to 19 years.

whom are pursuing a doctoral degree, 9% are pursuing a professional degree, 15% a master's, and 64% a bachelor's degree.

Researchers also asked respondents to identify their field of study.² Twenty-four percent of parent respondents are enrolled in the Business School, three-quarters of these students being men. Twenty percent of parents are enrolled in programs offered under the auspices of LS&A/Rackham, a slight majority being women. Twelve percent are enrolled in Engineering, with men representing three-quarters of them. These school percentages are similar to those from last year's survey.

In order to develop an approximate percentage of each school's enrollment held by student parents, CEW researchers compared the number of student parent respondents by field of study to that of the Fall 2005 enrollment counts for professional and graduate students. (Undergraduate students were not included in this calculation because they represented less than 1% of respondents.) Table 2 shows that parents responding to this survey came primarily from the following seven schools: Business, Education, Information, LS&A, Nursing, Public Health, and Social Work.

Table 2. Parents by school, by gender

(Students enrolled in more than one school could select more than one.)

School	Gender		Total Number of Parent Respondents	Parent Respondents as % of School's Grad/Prof. Enrollment
	Male	Female		
Arch. & Urban Planning	6	6	12	3%
Art & Design	0	1	1	4%
Business	120	28	148	7%
Dentistry	11	5	16	3%
Education	13	35	48	14%
Engineering	56	16	72	3%
School of Information	6	12	18	6%
Kinesiology	0	1	1	3%
Law	18	6	24	2%
LS&A	52	75	127	7%
Medicine	14	6	20	1%
Music	5	3	8	3%
Natural Resources	4	3	7	3%

² Surveyors used the phrase "field of study" instead of "school or college" because many graduate students receive a Rackham degree from a non-Rackham college (e.g., a Ph.D. in engineering).

School	Male	Female	Total Number of Parent Respondents	Parent Respondents as % of School's Grad/Prof. Enrollment
Nursing	2	35	37	17%
Pharmacy	2	5	7	3%
Public Health	18	27	45	5%
Public Policy	2	2	4	3%
Social Work	6	21	27	5%
Total	335 (54%)	287 (46%)	622 (100%)	4%

Parent's residential location by degree level:

The distribution of student parents across residential locations is quite similar to data from last year's survey, despite the Fall 2005 movement of senior level undergraduates into sections of what was formerly known as North Campus Family Housing. Forty-two percent of student parents live in the following three areas: North Campus, the West side of Ann Arbor, or locations up to 30 minutes east of Ann Arbor (e.g., Ypsilanti, Belleville). More than half of this 42% are doctoral students. Of the 14% of student parents living in Detroit or its surrounding suburbs, the majority are master's or professional degree students. Graph 1 on the following page displays data from all residential locations.

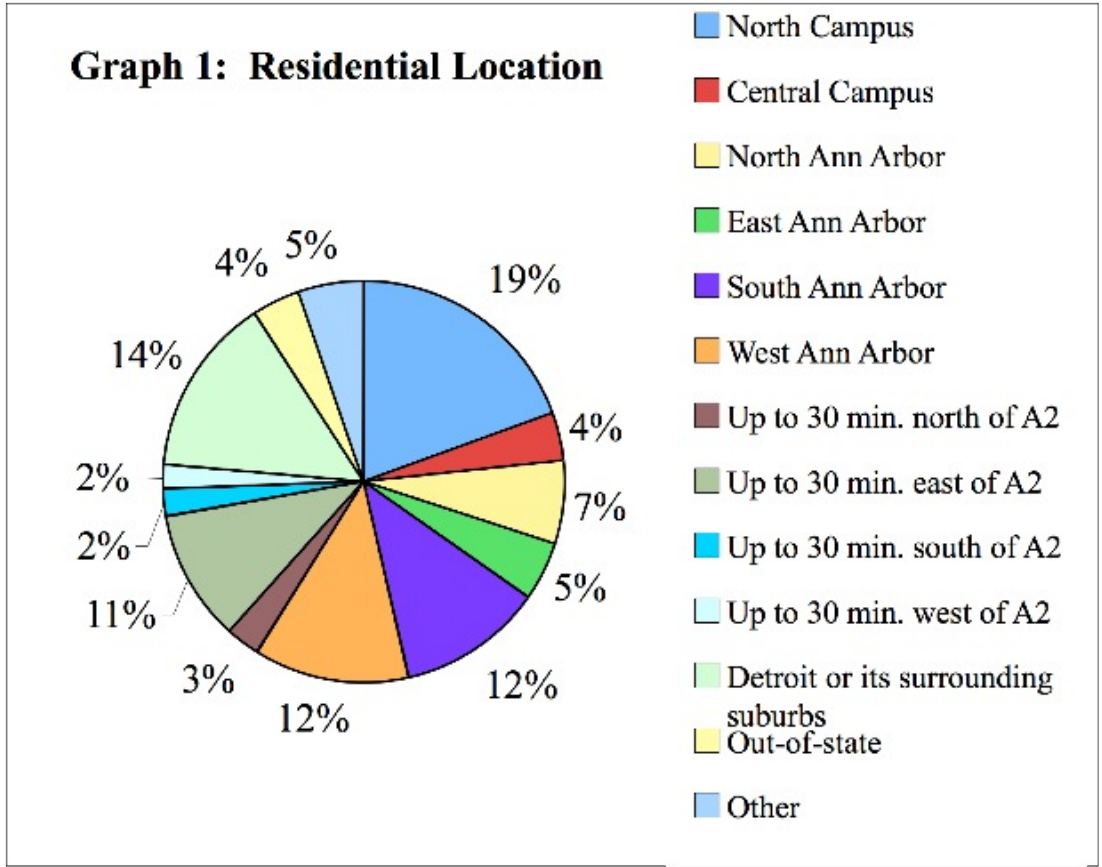
Number and age of children:

Fifty-five percent of parent respondents have one child, 32% have two children, 10% have three children and 3% have four or more children. There were no significant differences in the number of children reported by male versus female students.

As delineated in Table 3, 50% of student parent respondents have children in the age groups typically requiring child care (birth to 2.5 years), while another 11% will soon need child care after giving birth or adopting/fostering a child.

Table 3. Age groups of children

Age Group	Number of Children
Birth/adoption expected in 2006	100 (11%)
Between 0 – 12 months	124 (13%)
Between 12 months and 2.5 years (Toddler)	165 (18%)
Between 2.5 & 5 years (Pre-School)	178 (19%)
Elementary School	221 (24%)
Middle/High School	150 (16%)
Total	938 (100%)



Adult help in raising children:

In the 2005 survey, the authors asked the question: “Is there another adult living in your home who helps you raise your child(ren)?” Researchers substituted this question for the marital status question used on last year’s survey because our intention was to assess the degree to which student parents have day-to-day assistance in parenting, including the help of live-in parents or other caregivers.

Of those student parents who report having no adult living with them who helps to raise their child(ren):

- Women outnumber men three to one. Nearly one-fourth (24%) of women report having no adult help.
- Six percent of men report having no adult help.
- Eighty students (62 women/18 men) are without the help of another adult in their home. These 80 students represent 13% of the 597 student parent respondents to this question.

The Student Parent Policy Committee was particularly interested in knowing whether student parents with children under five years of age have another adult in the home to assist in parenting. Of the 424 parents with at least one child under the age of five, 8% have no other adult in the home to assist the parent. Many of these families have older siblings.

The survey asked student parents with adults helping them to raise their children to describe whether the adult was a relative, spouse/partner or non-relative. Ninety-seven percent of respondents reported that their spouse/partner was the adult who assisted them. This percentage varied little between male and female respondents.

Work for pay outside the home:

When asked the question “does your spouse/partner work for pay outside the home?” 27% of 596 respondents answered “no.” Men are more likely than women to have a spouse/partner who does not work for pay outside of the home as well as more likely than women to have a spouse/partner who worked 40 or more hours/week outside the home.

Of those reporting that their spouse/partner works for pay outside the home:

- Nineteen percent indicated their spouse/partner works between 1-19 hours/week.
- Twenty percent work between 20-29 hours.
- Six percent work between 30-39 hours.
- Twenty-nine percent work 40 or more hours/week.

In response to suggestions from survey respondents in 2004, this year’s survey asked if the student worked for pay outside the home.

- Eighteen percent of male student parents work full-time, men’s rate being twice as high as women’s.
- Sixteen percent of male student parents work no hours for pay.
- Eleven percent of female student parents work no hours for pay.

Student status of spouse/partner:

Nearly 20% of 501 student parent respondents reported that their spouse/partner was attending school. Forty-five percent of the 95 spouses/partners in school are enrolled at the University of Michigan.

Current child care arrangements used:

The survey asked about the primary type or types of child care arrangements used by student parents to care for their child(ren). “Primary” was defined as the child care arrangement where the child(ren) spends the most hours during a typical week, Monday through Friday. Parents with children in different types of arrangements could report more than one type of arrangement.

- Forty percent of parents use unpaid care provided by themselves, their spouses/partners, families or friends. In last year’s survey, this figure was 58%.
- Eighteen percent of 2005 survey respondents use licensed care at non-UM centers, compared to 22% last year.
- Only 5% reported using a UM child care center, compared to 7% last year.

The Student Parent Policy Committee was interested in knowing whether any of the cases in which a child cares for him/her self as well as other siblings involved young children. Analysis of the birth date information for these cases shows that only teenage children are placed in charge of the care of younger children.

Table 4. Current child care arrangement(s) used

Type of Care	2005 Respondents	2004 Respondents
Child cares for self	47 (7%)	74 (8%) – categories were merged in '04
Child cares for self and other children	21 (3%)	
Unpaid care by parent, spouse/partner, family, friends	263 (40%)	512 (58%)
Paid care in parent's home	33 (5%)	57 (6%)
Paid, unlicensed care in someone else's home	22 (3%)	38 (4%)
Paid, licensed in someone else's home	44 (7%)	74 (8%)
Paid, licensed at a UM child care center	32 (5%)	59 (7%)
Paid, licensed at non UM child care center	117 (18%)	193 (22%)
Paid care at a before/after school program	53 (8%)	72 (8%)
Other form of child care not listed	24 (4%)	38 (4%)
Total	656 (100%)	891 (100%)

Parents' preferred child care arrangements, the advantages of those arrangements, and the factors that prevent parents from using them:

The survey then asked "If you could choose a different primary child care arrangement for any of your children, what would you prefer to arrange?" Respondents could choose more than one type of preferred child care if they had children in different types of care.

- Fifty-two percent of parents are happy with the current type of care arrangement they use, compared to 74% last year.
- Fifteen percent would prefer to enroll their child(ren) in a UM center, a figure comparable to last year.
- Ten percent would prefer to have themselves, their spouses/partners, families or friends provide unpaid care, also comparable to last year's figure.
- Nine percent would prefer paid care in their own home, a figure three times as high as last year.

Table 5. Preferred child care arrangement if parent could choose a different arrangement (Parents with children in different types of arrangements could report more than one type of arrangement.)

Preferred Arrangement	Respondents
Happy w/current arrangement	355 (52%)
Happy w/current for one, but not all children	19 (3%)
Child(ren) care for self only	4 (<1%)
Child(ren) care for self & younger siblings	1 (0%)
Unpaid care by parent, spouse/partner, family, friends	69 (10%)
Paid care in parent's home	60 (9%)
Paid, unlicensed care in someone else's home	6 (1%)
Paid, licensed care in someone else's home	19 (3%)

Preferred Arrangement	Respondents
Paid, licensed at UM child care center	101 (15%)
Paid, licensed care at non UM child care center	19 (3%)
Paid care at before/after school program	20 (3%)
Other form of paid or unpaid care not listed	9 (<1%)
Total	682 (100%)

Parents who indicated that they would prefer to have their child(ren) in a different child care arrangement were asked to identify the expected advantages of their preferred arrangement. Respondents could choose up to three reasons. Although this question was not asked in 2004, general comments from that survey described expectations similar to those of 2005 respondents. While there is a fairly even distribution of responses across the categories shown in the table below, the top four reasons cited as an expected advantage in choosing an alternative care arrangement include:

- Lower cost
- More convenient location
- Better quality of care
- Greater safety/hygiene

Table 6. For those parents who preferred a different arrangement, the expected advantages of that arrangement

Reasons	Respondents
Better quality of care	57 (10%)
Greater safety and or standards of hygiene	52 (9%)
Program has more educational focus	28 (5%)
Greater cultural sensitivity to the needs of my child(ren)	38 (7%)
Offers exposure to a group of culturally diverse children	47 (8%)
Greater opportunity for social interaction	3 (1%)
Would provide better care for my special needs child(ren)	36 (6%)
Child is more comfortable and familiar w/provider/setting	29 (5%)
Provider would be licensed so I'd be eligible for UM subsidy	35 (6%)
At a UM center, I may be eligible for a tuition grant	41 (7%)
Care provider would charge a lower fee	69 (12%)
Location would be more convenient to work and home	62 (11%)
Greater flexibility scheduling care outside of 8am-5pm hours	37 (7%)
Would offer part-time child care	26 (5%)
Total	560 (100%)

Another new question asked in the 2005 survey had to do with the factors that prevent student parents from using their preferred form of child care arrangement. Respondents could choose up to three. The top five reasons cited as preventing students from using their preferred form of child care accounted for nearly 60% of respondent answers. They were:

- A friend/relative/neighbor is not available to provide care
- UM child care subsidy is insufficient
- The student has not applied for a UM child care subsidy or tuition grant
- Preferred care is too expensive
- Space is not available to enroll the student's child(ren)

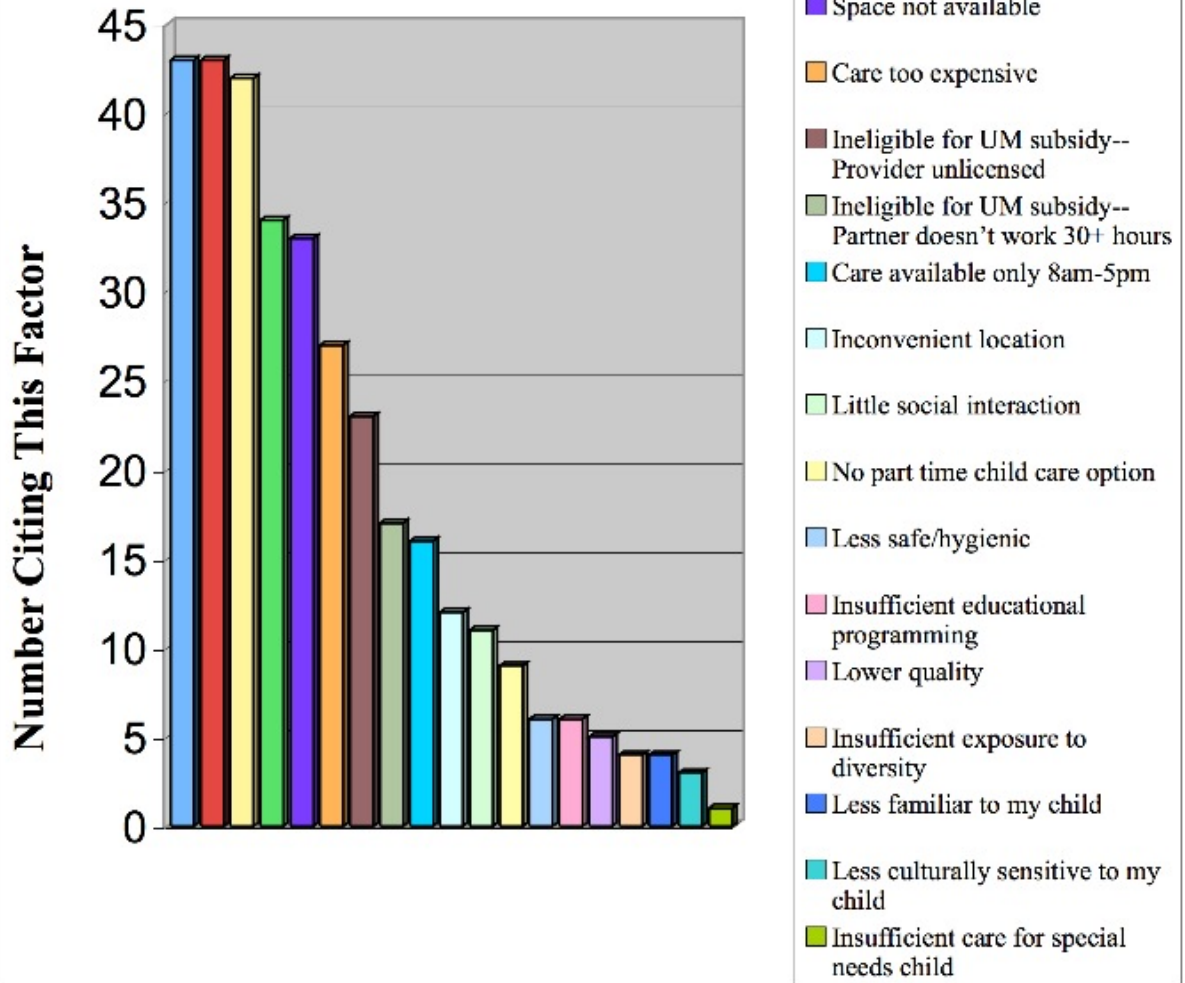
Graph 2 on the following page displays all results from this survey question.

For More Information

Readers who have questions or comments regarding the survey may contact Beth Sullivan at bsulliva@umich.edu or 998-7225. If you would like to discuss policy issues that affect the academic success of student parents at the University of Michigan, you may contact Susan Kaufmann, Chair of the Student Parent Policy Committee, at kaufmann@umich.edu or 998-7250.

To learn more about resources available to student parents, through the University as well as the broader community, see www.studentswithchildren.umich.edu. The Committee on Student Parent Issues created this website using funding from the Office of the Provost. It contains links to resources ranging from financial subsidies for child care, to parenting support, housing and health insurance. The Work/Life Resource Center administers the website as part of the broad array of family support services it offers. To share any comments or questions you have about the website, or to learn more about WLRC services, call 936-8677.

Graph 2: Factors Preventing Use of Preferred Child Care



Note: Respondents could choose up to three factors.

**Appendix A:
Email Invitation Sent to Potential Respondents and Survey Instrument**

Final Text for Email Message that Introduces the Fall 2005 Students with Children Survey

Subject heading: Please Take Brief Survey Funded by UM Provost's Office

Below is the URL link for an anonymous, three-question survey. Because the University cannot ask questions about a student's dependents as part of the admission or enrollment process, this survey is the best method to date for counting the number of students with children so that services for them can be improved.

IF YOU ARE NOT A PARENT, please answer this survey anyway. Your participation is very important to this study.

IF YOU INDICATE YOU ARE A PARENT, you will be asked between 10 – 15 brief additional questions, depending on your answers. These quick multiple choice questions will ask about your child care use and preferences, as well as some general demographic questions.

IF YOU RESPONDED TO THIS SURVEY LAST FALL, **please respond again to this one**. We are trying to get a high response rate to the 2005 survey.

This survey is voluntary and can be accessed and completed without revealing your identity. It was originally designed by the Committee on Student Parent Issues and is funded by the Office of the Provost.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Beth Sullivan at the UM Center for the Education of Women by emailing SWC_survey_replies@umich.edu or calling 998-7225.

Thank you for taking a minute to help out by going now to
<http://www.cew.umich.edu/cew-bin/rws3.pl?FORM=2005-SWC>

(If you have problems connecting to this hyperlink, try cutting and pasting the full web address into your web browser.)

Survey Instrument

1. What is your gender?

Male
Female

2. What degree are you currently working toward? *If you are currently working toward more than one degree, you may check more than one degree level.*

Undergraduate degree (e.g., B.A., B.S.)
Masters degree (e.g., M.A., M.S.)
Professional degree (e.g., J.D., M.B.A, M.S.W., M.D.)
Doctoral degree (Ph.D.)
Certificate program
Non degree seeking student

3. Are any of the following statements true:

- * As a parent or guardian, I am currently responsible for the care (full or part-time) of a child(ren) under the age of 19.
- * As a parent or guardian, I am currently responsible for the care (full or part-time) of a child(ren) 19 years or older with special needs.
- * I (or my spouse/partner) am currently pregnant with a child(ren).
- * I expect to adopt or foster a child(ren) within the next 12 months.

Yes
No

If No ↓

(Survey ends with the following closure statement)

Thank you for responding to the Students with Children Survey. Please share the Students with Children website address with anyone you know who is a UM student parent. The website provides easy access to information about child care, financial assistance, health insurance, social support and much more.

<http://www.studentswithchildren.umich.edu/>

If Yes ↓

You have identified yourself as having (or anticipating) parenting responsibilities.

If this is correct, please press the NEXT button to answer the remaining questions in the survey. (They are brief and mostly multiple choice so they shouldn't take more than 5 minutes.)

If this is incorrect, please use the BACK button below to return to the prior page and change your response.

Thanks!

BACK

NEXT

4. Please identify your school or college. (Rackham students: Please select the school or college in which your field of study lies.) *If you are currently working toward more than one degree, you may check more than one school/college.*

Architecture & Urban Planning
Art and Design
Business
Dentistry
Education
Engineering
Information
Kinesiology
Law
Literature, Science and the Arts
Medicine
Music
Natural Resources & Environment
Nursing
Pharmacy
Public Health
Public Policy
Social Work

- 5a. Is there another adult living in your home who helps you raise your child(ren)?

Yes

No

5b. Please describe this other adult living in your home who helps you raise your child(ren).

Relative other than spouse/partner (for example, grandparent, sibling or cousin)
Spouse/Domestic Partner
Boyfriend/Girlfriend, or other non-related adult (for example, housemate)

6a. Is your spouse/partner also a student?

Yes, spouse/partner is a UM student (Ann Arbor, Flint or Dearborn).
Yes, spouse/partner is a student, but not at UM.
No, spouse/partner is not a student anywhere.

6b. How many hours does your spouse/partner work for pay? ? *Please include teaching or research assistant positions, as well as any other positions within or outside the University for which your spouse/partner receives pay.*

Zero hours - my spouse/partner does not work for pay.
1-9 hours/week.
10-19 hours/week.
20 -29 hours/week.
30-39 hours/week.
40-49 hours/week.
50-59 hours/week.
60 or more hours/week.

6c. Do you work for pay? *Please include teaching or research assistant positions, as well as any other positions within or outside the University for which you receive pay.*

Zero hours - I do not work for pay.
1-9 hours/week.
10-19 hours/week.
20 -29 hours/week.
30-39 hours/week.
40-49 hours/week.
50-59 hours/week.
60 or more hours/week.

7. As a parent or guardian, how many children do you currently have responsibility to care for, either full or part-time? *Please count children under 19, children 19 and older if they have special needs, as well as any children who will be born/adopted/fostered into your family in the next 12 months.*

Choice of numbers 1-8, and ninth choice of "More than eight"

8. Please provide the birth month and year for each child counted in the previous question. If you (or your spouse/partner) are currently pregnant, please provide the month and year when the child(ren) is expected to be born.

First child: MM/YYYY
Second child: MM/YYYY
Third child: MM/YYYY
Fourth child: MM/YYYY

Fifth child: MM/YYYY
Sixth child: MM/YYYY
Seventh child: MM/YYYY
Eighth child: MM/YYYY

Please provide the birth month and year for children not listed above.

Text box

9. How many of your children currently live with you? (Some or all of the time.)

Choice of numbers 1-8, and "More than eight"

10. So we can better serve students living in different areas, please identify the approximate location of your residence:

UM North Campus
UM Central Campus (this includes the Medical Campus)
North side of City of Ann Arbor
East side of City of Ann Arbor
South side of City of Ann Arbor
West side of City of Ann Arbor
Town/City up to 30 minutes north of Ann Arbor (e.g. Whitmore Lake, Pinkney, Brighton)
Town/City up to 30 minutes east of Ann Arbor (e.g. Ypsilanti, Belleville)
Town/City up to 30 minutes south of Ann Arbor (e.g. Saline, Milan)
Town/City up to 30 minutes west of Ann Arbor (e.g. Dexter, Chelsea)
Detroit or its surrounding suburbs
Other. *Please fill in the name of the town/city in the text box provided.*

11. What is the primary* child care arrangement you use? If you have more than one child and their primary child care arrangements differ, you may choose more than one option.

* By “primary” we mean the child care arrangement where your child(ren) spends the most hours during a typical week, Monday through Friday.

Older child cares for him/herself only
Older child cares for him/herself and also for younger sibling(s)
Unpaid care by me, my spouse/partner, family, and/or friends
Paid care in my home (e.g., paid friend, paid relative, or other paid care giver)
Paid, but unlicensed care in someone else’s home
Paid and licensed care in someone else’s home
Paid and licensed care at a UM child care center
Paid and licensed care at a non-UM child care center
Paid care at a before/after-school program
Other forms of paid or unpaid care. <i>Please explain in the text box provided.</i> _____

12. Do you use summer camp programs as a form of child care during any of the summer months?

Yes
No

13. If you could choose a different primary* child care arrangement for any of your children, what would you prefer to arrange? If you have more than one child and their primary child care arrangements differ, you may choose more than one option.

* By “primary” we mean the child care arrangement where your child(ren) spends the most hours during a typical week, Monday through Friday.

Happy with current arrangements for my child/all of my children.
Happy with current arrangements for 1 or more of my children, but not all of them.
Would prefer older child cares for him/herself only
Would prefer older child cares for him/herself and also for younger sibling(s)
Would prefer unpaid care by me, my spouse/partner, family, and/or friends
Would prefer paid care in my home (e.g., paid friend, paid relative, or other paid care giver)
Would prefer paid, but unlicensed care in someone else’s home
Would prefer paid and licensed care in someone else’s home
Would prefer paid and licensed care at a UM child care center
Would prefer paid and licensed care at a non-UM child care center
Would prefer paid care at a before/after-school program
Would prefer other forms of paid or unpaid care. *Please explain in the text box provided.*_____

(If student chose any answer above other than “Happy with current arrangements for my child/all of my children” they were forwarded to question 13a.)

13a. You indicated that you would prefer a different primary care arrangement for one or more of your children. What would be the advantages of this arrangement? You may choose up to three reasons below.

Better quality of care
Greater safety and/or standards of hygiene
Program has more educational focus
Greater cultural sensitivity to the needs of my child(ren)
Offers exposure to a culturally diverse group of children
Greater opportunity for social interaction
Would provide better care for my special needs child
My child(ren) would be more familiar and therefore comfortable with this provider or setting
Provider would be licensed so I’d be eligible for a UM child care subsidy
At a UM center I may be eligible for a tuition grant
Care provider would charge a lower fee
Location would be more convenient to work and/or home
Greater flexibility in the scheduling of care outside of 8am-5pm hours
Would offer part-time child care
Other. *Please explain in the text box provided.*_____

13b. What prevents you from using your preferred child care arrangement? You may choose up to three reasons below.

<p>A space for my child(ren) is not available</p> <p>A relative, friend, or neighbor is not available to provide care</p> <p>Would offer lower quality of care</p> <p>Might be less safe and/or less hygienic</p> <p>Would be lacking in educational programming</p> <p>Would be less culturally sensitive to the needs of my child(ren)</p> <p>Would not offer exposure to a culturally diverse group of children</p> <p>My child(ren) would have less opportunity for social interaction</p> <p>Would not provide adequate care for my special needs child</p> <p>My child(ren) would be less familiar and therefore less comfortable with this provider or setting</p> <p>UM child care subsidy is insufficient</p> <p>I am ineligible for UM child care subsidy because provider is unlicensed</p> <p>I am ineligible for UM child care subsidy because non-student spouse/partner does not work enough hours per week</p> <p>I have not applied for a UM child care subsidy or tuition grant</p> <p>Location would be less convenient to work and/or home</p> <p>Would offer less flexibility in scheduling of care outside of 8am-5pm hours</p> <p>Would not offer part-time child care</p> <p>Other. Please explain in the text box provided. _____</p>
--

14. Is there anything else you would like us to know about your situation as a student parent?

Text box

Submit

Reset

(Closing message)

Thank you for completing this survey! Your responses will help inform UM decision makers as they continue to improve upon the services available to students with children. To learn more about what Michigan currently offers, check out the Students with Children website at

<http://www.studentswithchildren.umich.edu/>

If you would like to receive occasional emails about financial aid for child care, programs tailored to students with children, and social events, please click on the appropriate button below and we will add you to one of the following email groups:

[Rackhamgradparents](#) -- For students enrolled in the Rackham School of Graduate Studies

[UMstudentparents](#) -- For students enrolled in undergraduate, professional or graduate programs not affiliated with Rackham

Please note: These U of M email groups are moderated by Jayne London in the Rackham Office of Graduate Student Life. The lists will not be sold or used for purposes other than to share information helpful to students with children. Adding your name to one of these lists will not connect your identity to the responses given on the survey you just submitted. If you have questions about the lists, please email Jayne London at (jplondon@umich.edu).

Thanks again for taking the time to complete this survey.