



UNDERSTANDING WHY STUDENTS DON'T SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS

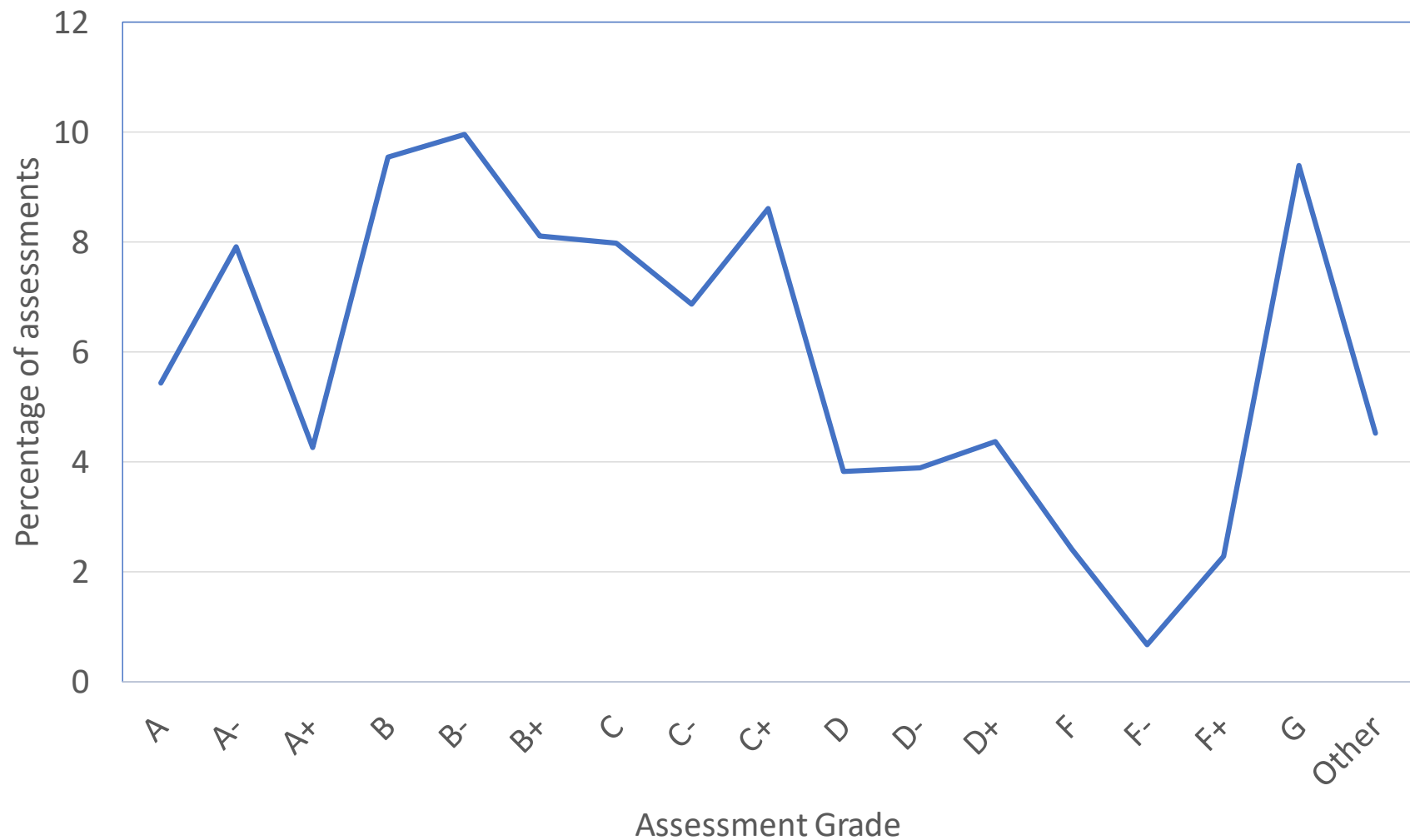
ALISON LODDICK – LEARNING DEVELOPMENT
TUTOR

SAM KING – LEARNING DEVELOPMENT TUTOR

TIM CURTIS – PROGRAMME LEADER, INTEGRATED
FOUNDATION YEAR

Nearly 10 % of assignments were G grades (non-submission) including exams – 2015/16- 18/19

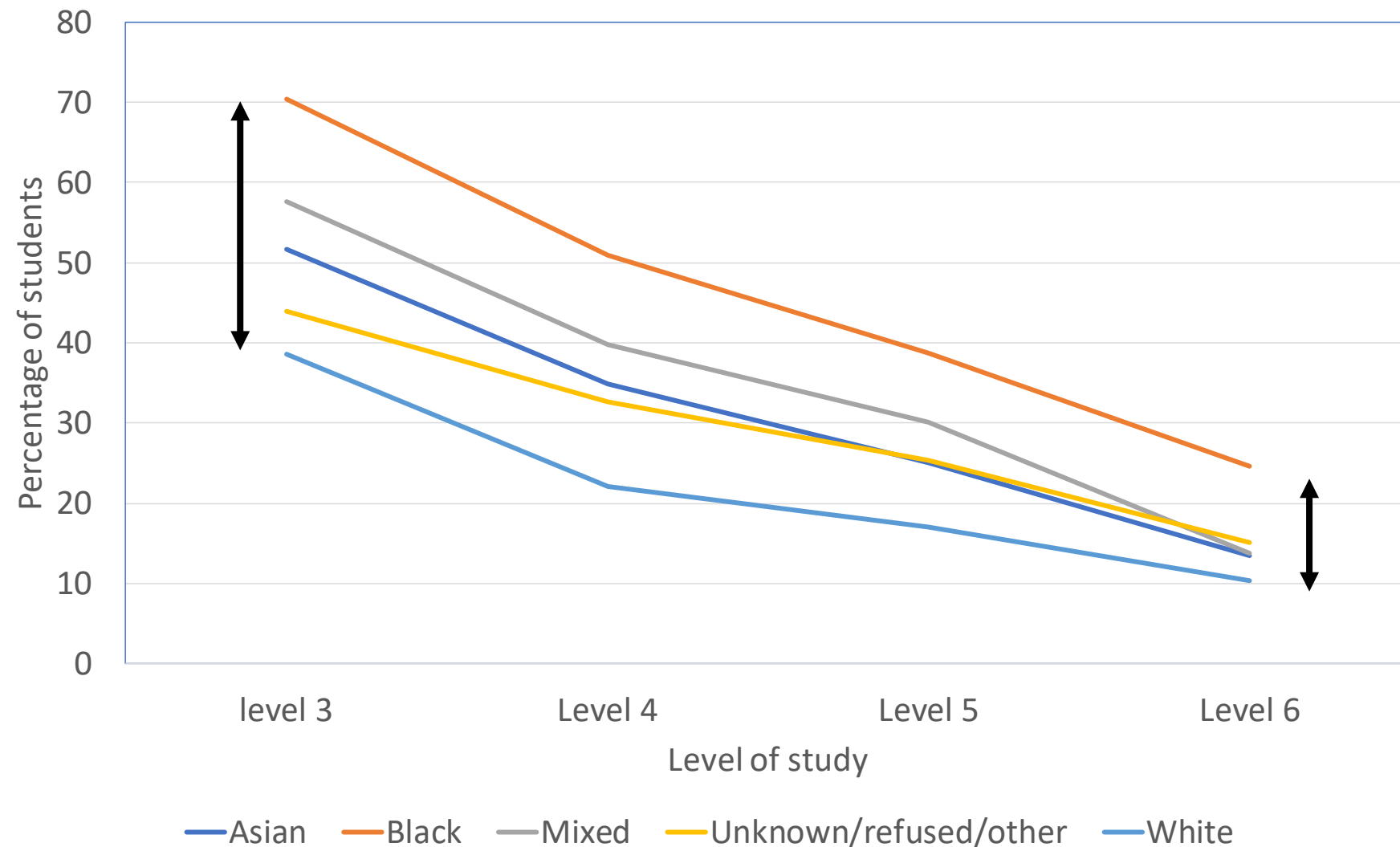
Percentage of assessment by grade - 2015/16 - 2018/19



The proportion of students with a G grade reduces by level of study.

There is a larger ethnicity gap at level 3 than at level 6.

Proportion of students with a G grade in a level of study by ethnicity



METHOD



Survey

- An open-ended survey was sent out to undergraduate students who had a non-submission in 21/22
- Over 3,000 students were sent a survey
- 178 responses (5.5%)
- Of these, 39 students were either foundation or first-year students

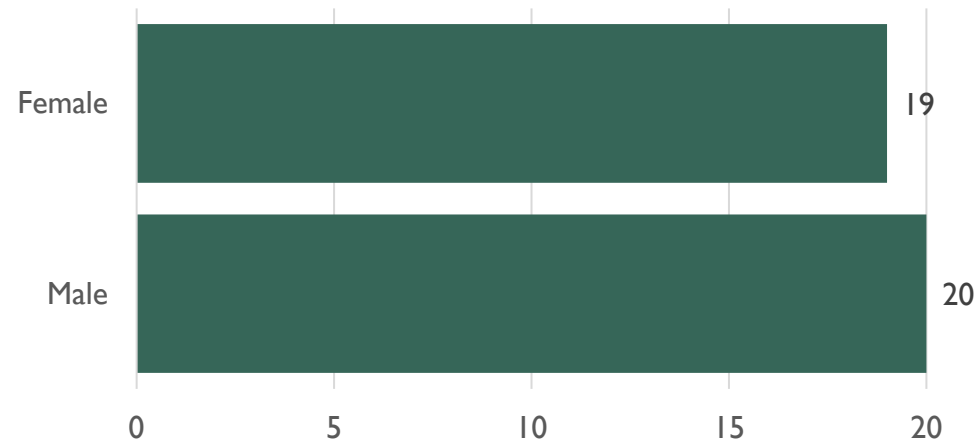
Interviews

- 4 foundation students were interviewed to provide greater depth of insight

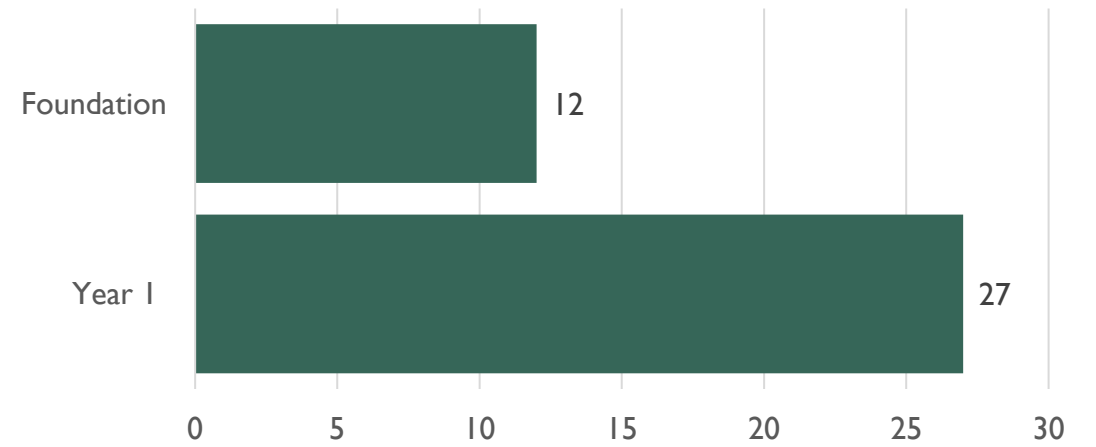


DEMOGRAPHIC

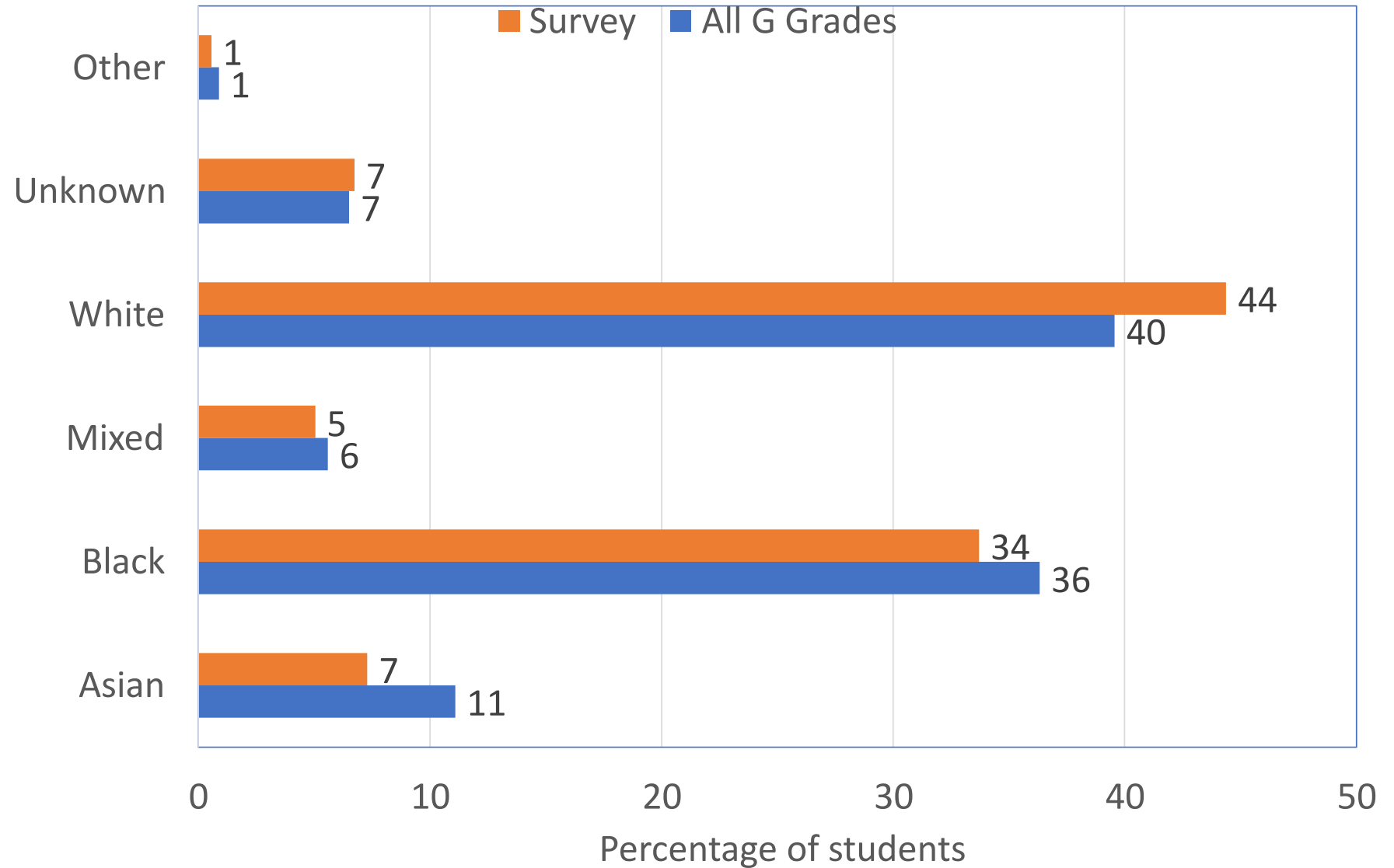
Gender



Year of study

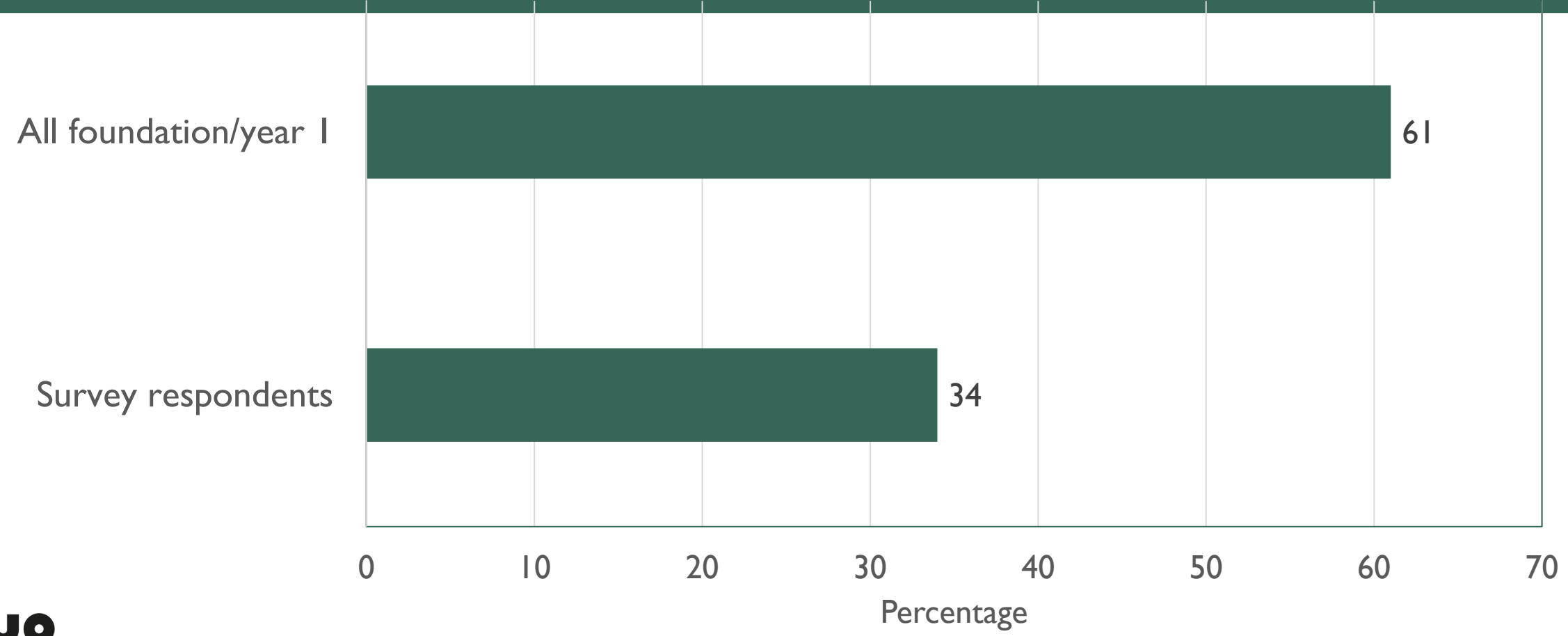


The survey was representative of the non-submission students in terms of ethnicity





THOSE ANSWERING THE SURVEY WERE LESS LIKELY TO WITHDRAW FROM THEIR STUDIES

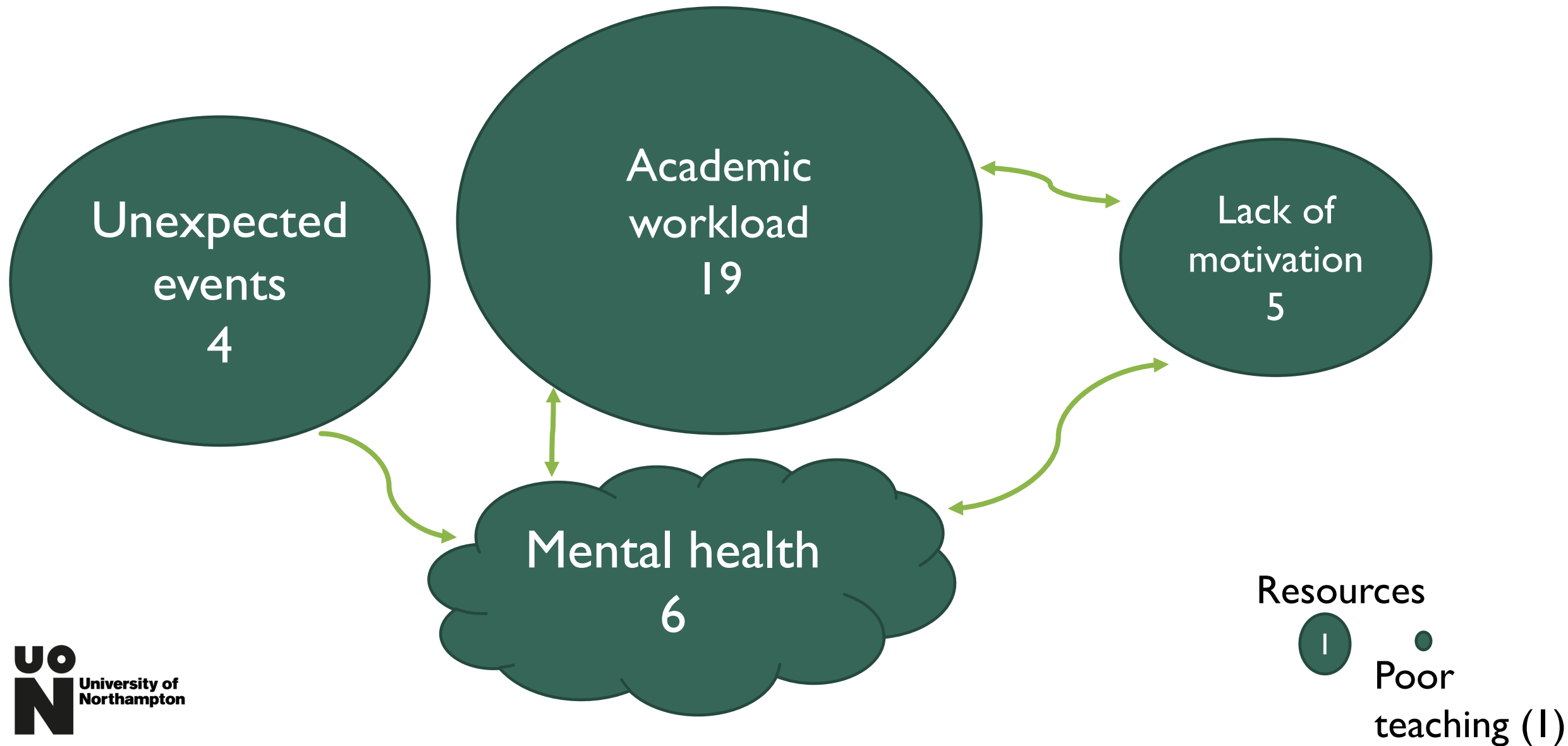




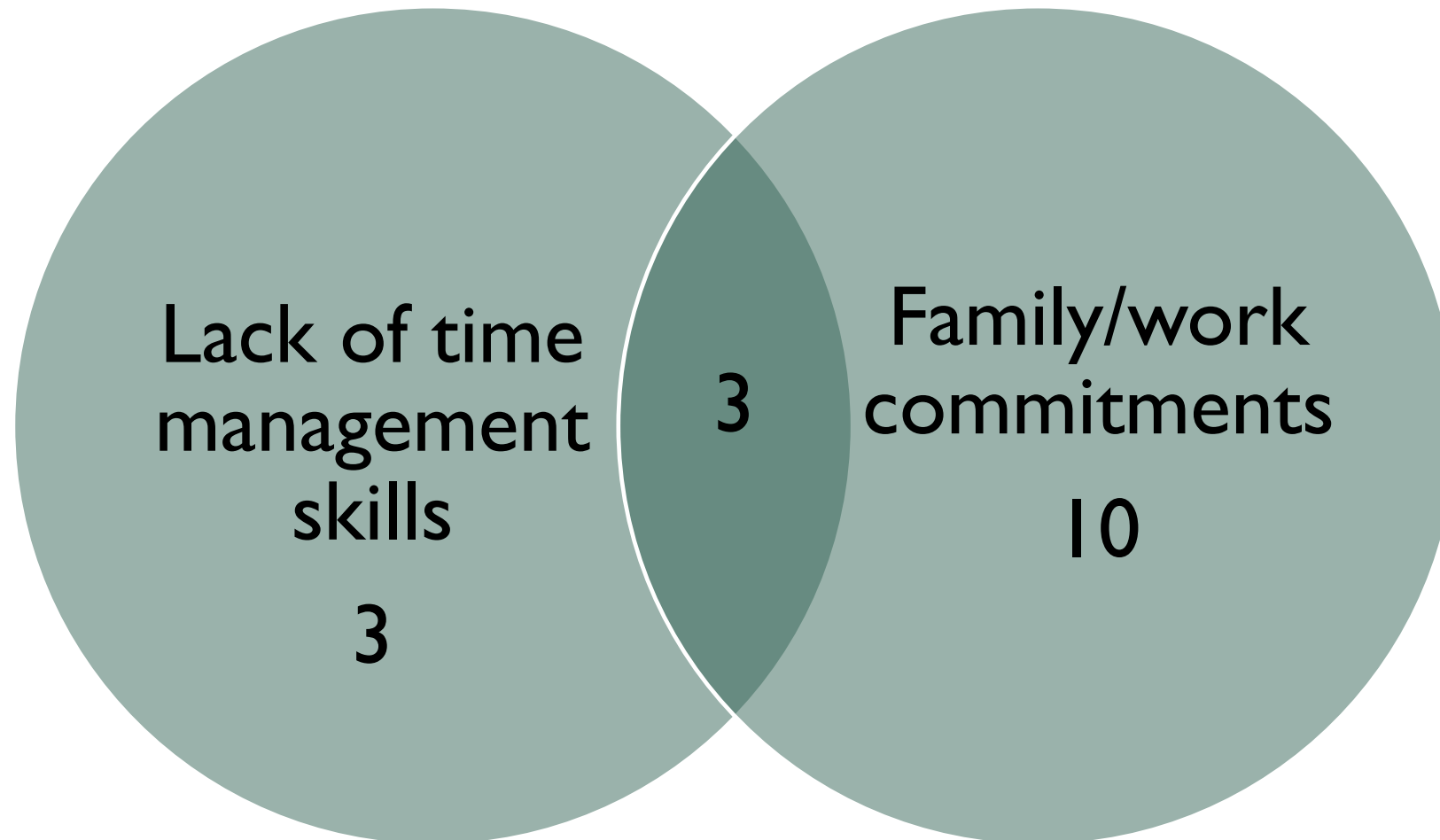
Please could you tell us why
you couldn't meet the deadline
for your assignment
submission?



Why couldn't you meet the first deadline?



ACADEMIC WORKLOAD (19)



WHAT THE STUDENTS SAID:

“I tried catching up and I nearly caught but I just felt unmotivated and I didn’t have any friends to ask questions and I felt like I couldn’t go to class if I was behind.”

“It was my fault completely, but i forgot that the deadline was on that day as i was focussing on other things going on in my life.”

“Due to work and family issues I didn’t have enough time to complete it by the deadline and didn’t want to ask for extension as I believed and tried my hardest to complete it by the dead line.”



6 STUDENTS SELF-REPORTED MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.

- No details all just stated mental health had not been good or mental health was an issue
- Unknown is diagnosed mental health or students struggling for a short period

HOW ARE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS DIFFERENT?

	Foundation/year 1		Years 2,3,4 other		Significance between year groups p value
	No. of references	%	No.of references	%	
Unexpected events	4	11.1	36	22.2	0.14
Academic workload - Time management, workload	6	16.7	26	17.1	0.95
Time constraint from other commitments	13	36.1	31	19.6	0.03
Mental Health	6	16.7	35	22.2	0.47
lack of motivation	5	13.9	3	2.5	0.001
Lack of content knowledge		0.0	11	10.1	0
Resources	1	2.8	3	1.9	0.74
Lecturer problem	1	2.8	6	3.8	0.77
wrong course					
Total	36		158		

GEM DIFFERENCES

	Black students	White students
Caring	1	3
Lack of planning		1
Workload	1	1
work	2	2
Mental Health	3	3
Other responsibilities	2	
Health		1
Unaware of deadline	2	
no response	2	
lack of motivation	4	
event	4	
Technology	1	
Total no. of students	22	11

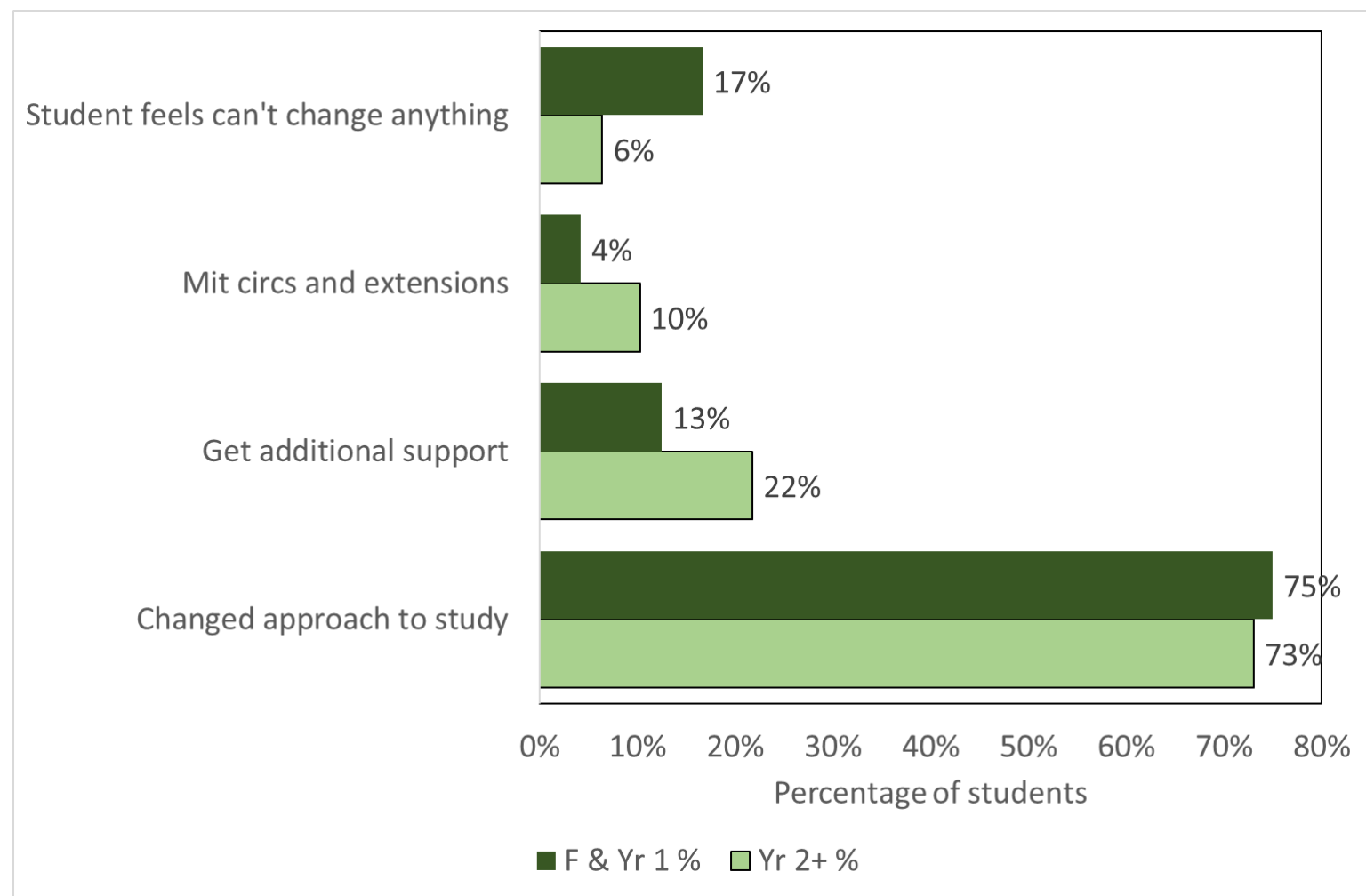
GEM DIFFERENCES ALL UNDERGRADUATE

Reason for non-submission	White Student		Black Students	
	No of comments	%	No of comments	%
Workload	7	8.43	5	9.43
Lack of time	3	3.61	3	5.66
Unaware of deadline	3	3.61	2	3.77
Lack of planning	2	2.41	1	1.89
Lack of knowledge	3	3.61	1	1.89
Poor teaching		0.00	1	1.89
Lack of support	2	2.41		
Too uncomfortable to ask for help			1	1.89
Work/life balance	1	1.20		
Caring	9	10.84	10	18.87
Other responsibilities	2	2.41	4	7.55
Work	4	4.82	4	7.55
Bereavement	8	9.64	2	3.77
Health	18	21.69	3	5.66
Pregnancy	1	1.20	2	3.77
Mental Health	19	22.89	10	18.87
Low energy/motivation	1	1.20	4	7.55
No study space	1	1.20		
Technology	1	1.20	2	3.77
Total	83		53	

What have you been able to do
to enable yourself to meet
subsequent deadlines?



WHAT HAVE STUDENTS DONE TO HELP THEMSELVES?



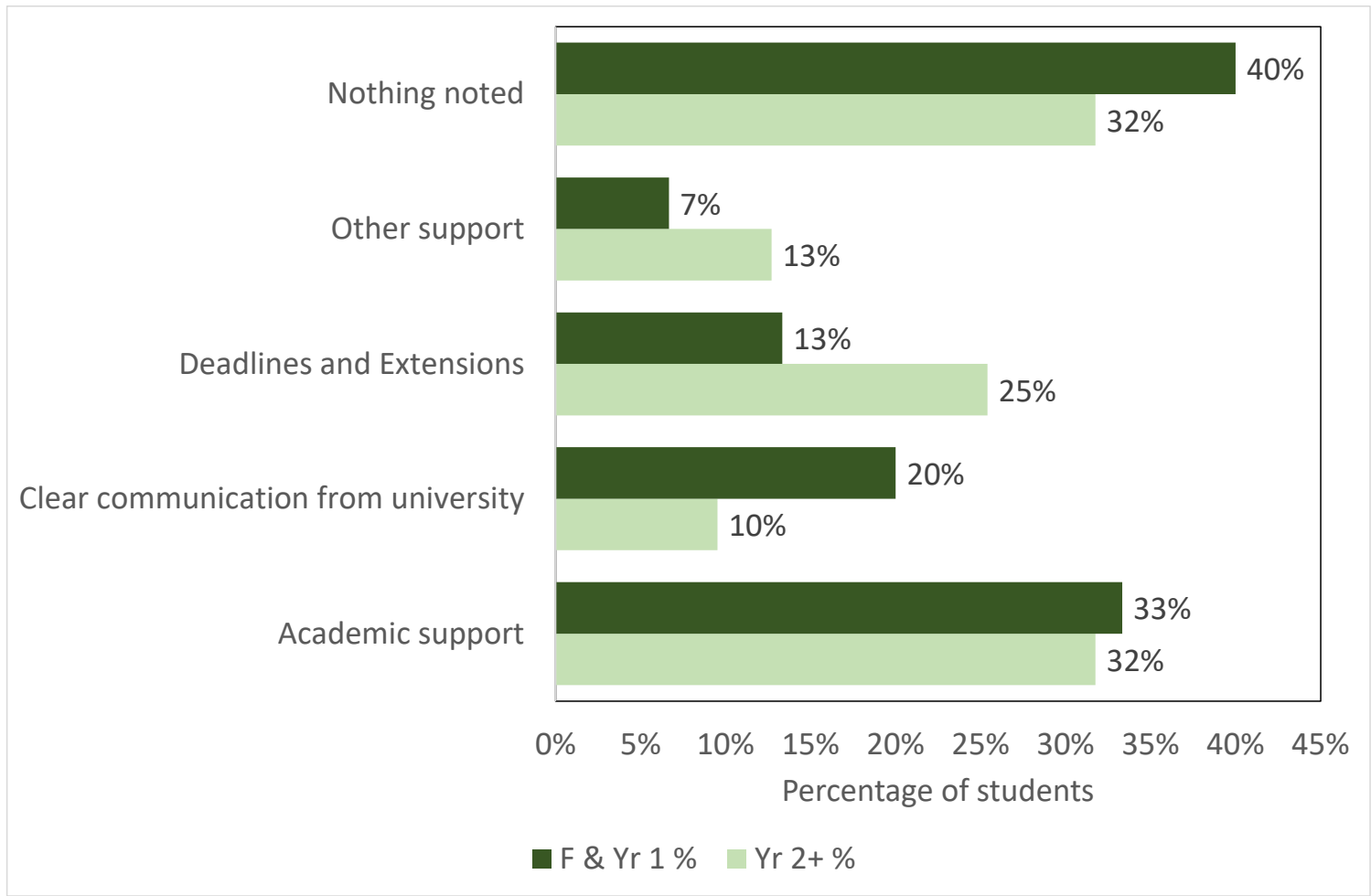
N=
4
5
1
8
3
17
18
57



Is there any additional help that would help you to meet your deadlines?



WHAT HELP WOULD THE STUDENTS LIKE FROM UNIVERSITY?



N=
6
20
1
8
2
16
3
6
5
20

ATTEMPT AT FURTHER INSIGHTS

- We interviewed four foundation students to understand the circumstances further

FACTORS FROM INTERVIEWS

In support of survey:

- Time management
- Paid work commitments
- Prioritising social life/interests over grades
- Students were happy with the teaching support and lecturers – but wanted staff to reach out to them

In addition:

- Multiple assessments with similar deadlines
- Students not wanting to submit substandard work
- Settling at uni can be a problem leading to lack of motivation

THIS IS JUST THE START...



- We want to develop interventions where we can have an effect – time management and academic support
- Is there a debate about how much time students should have available to study and how clear is university communication about this?

ANY
QUESTIONS?



CONTACT US

- If you would like to contact us, please email

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