



Understanding why students don't submit assignments

Alison Loddick – Learning Development Tutor

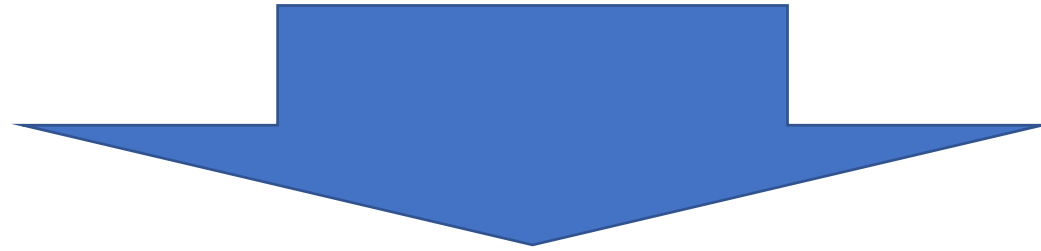
Sam King – Learning Development Tutor

Tim Curtis – Programme Leader, Integrated Foundation Year

Deepak Bhachu – Senior Lecturer, Integrated Foundation Year

Two research projects created new research

- LD – Understanding the BAME attainment gap and non-submission
- Foundation students – Tracking BAME student attainment gap

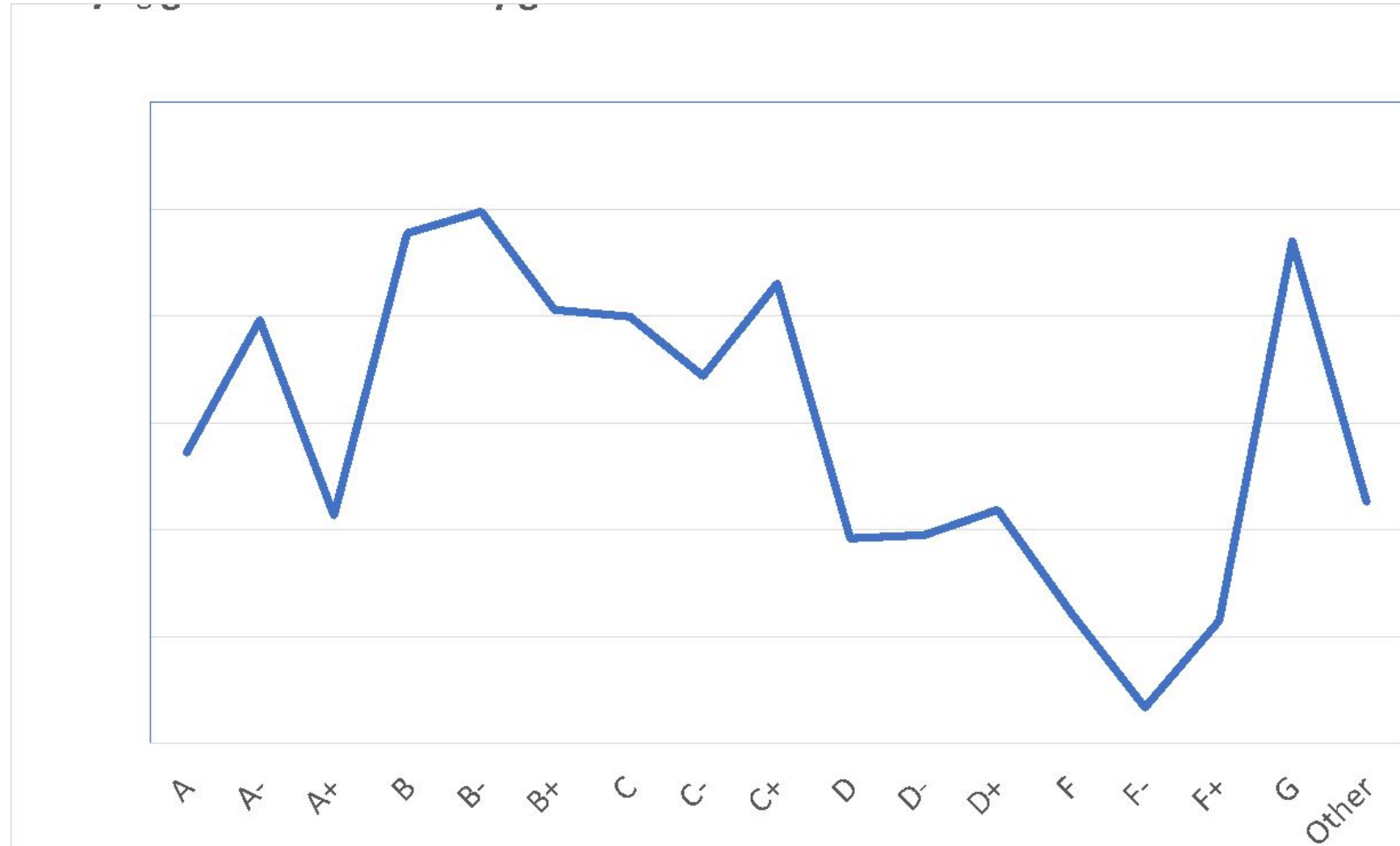


We combined forces

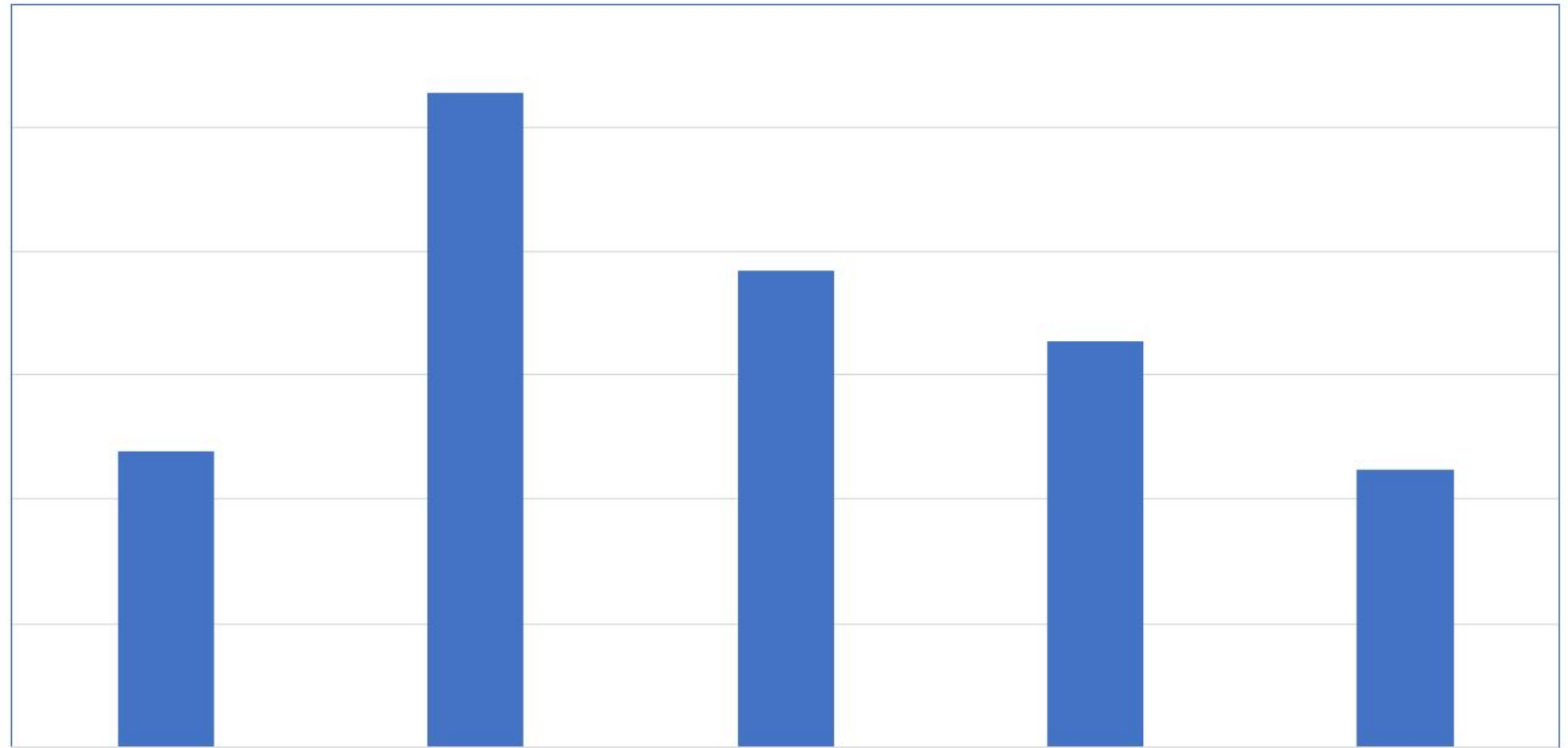
BAME attainment gap IMD

		In IMD below 5, poorest students' grades					
A-B grades		Population				Fails	
95	29%	White	132	24%	11	15%	
146	45%	Black	334	61%	53	72%	
69	21%	Asian	43	8%	3	4%	
14	4%	Other	35	6%	7	9%	
324		544				74	
		In IMD 8-10, the most privileged students					
A-B grades		Population				Fails	
56	75%	White	130	70%	20	77%	
12	16%	Black	28	15%	1	4%	
6	8%	Asian	21	11%	5	19%	
1	1%	Other	6	3%	0	0%	
75		185				26	

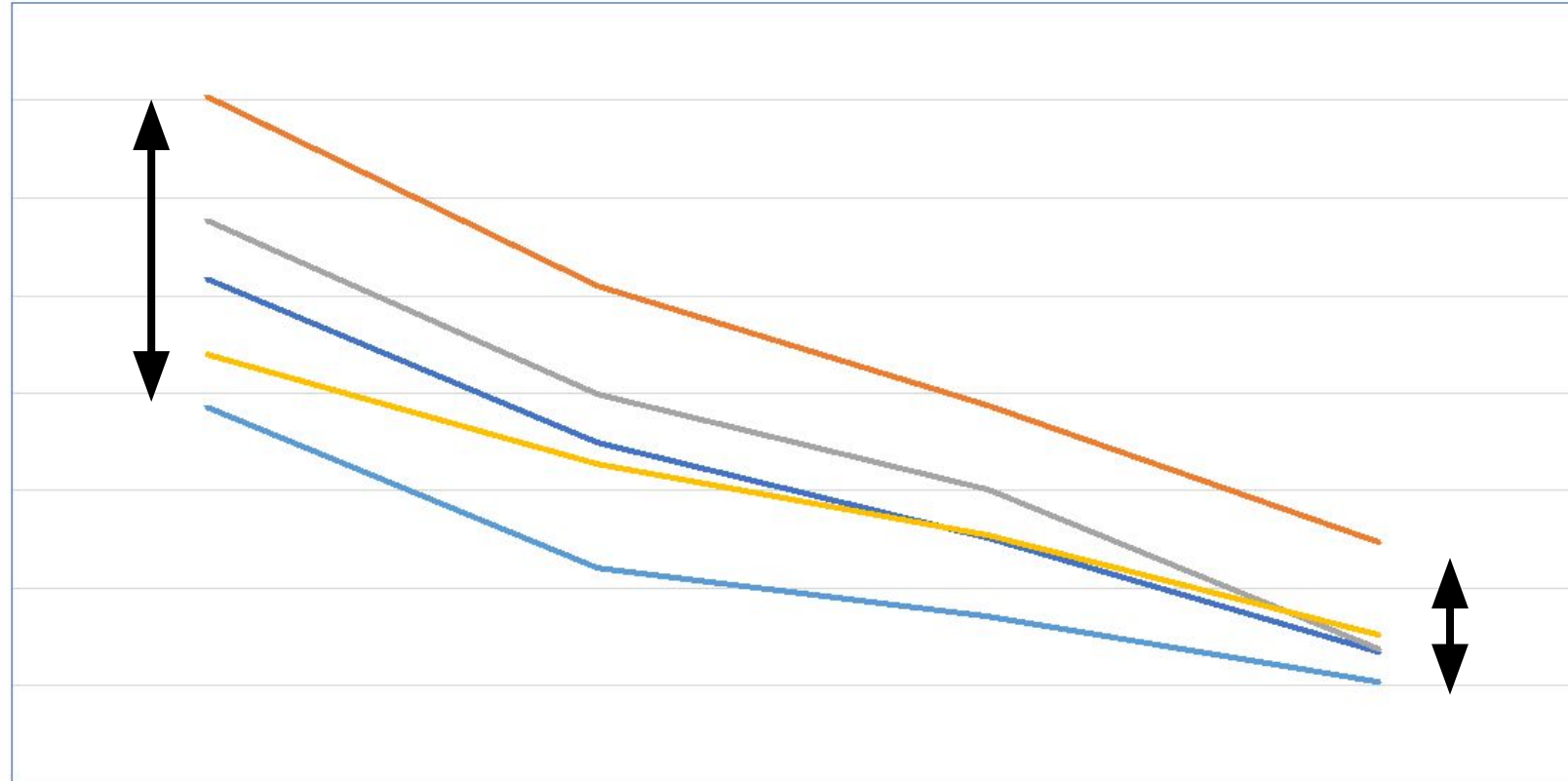
Nearly 10 % of assignments were G Grades (non-submission) including exams – 2015/16- 18/19



More than half of black students have not submitted at least one assignment

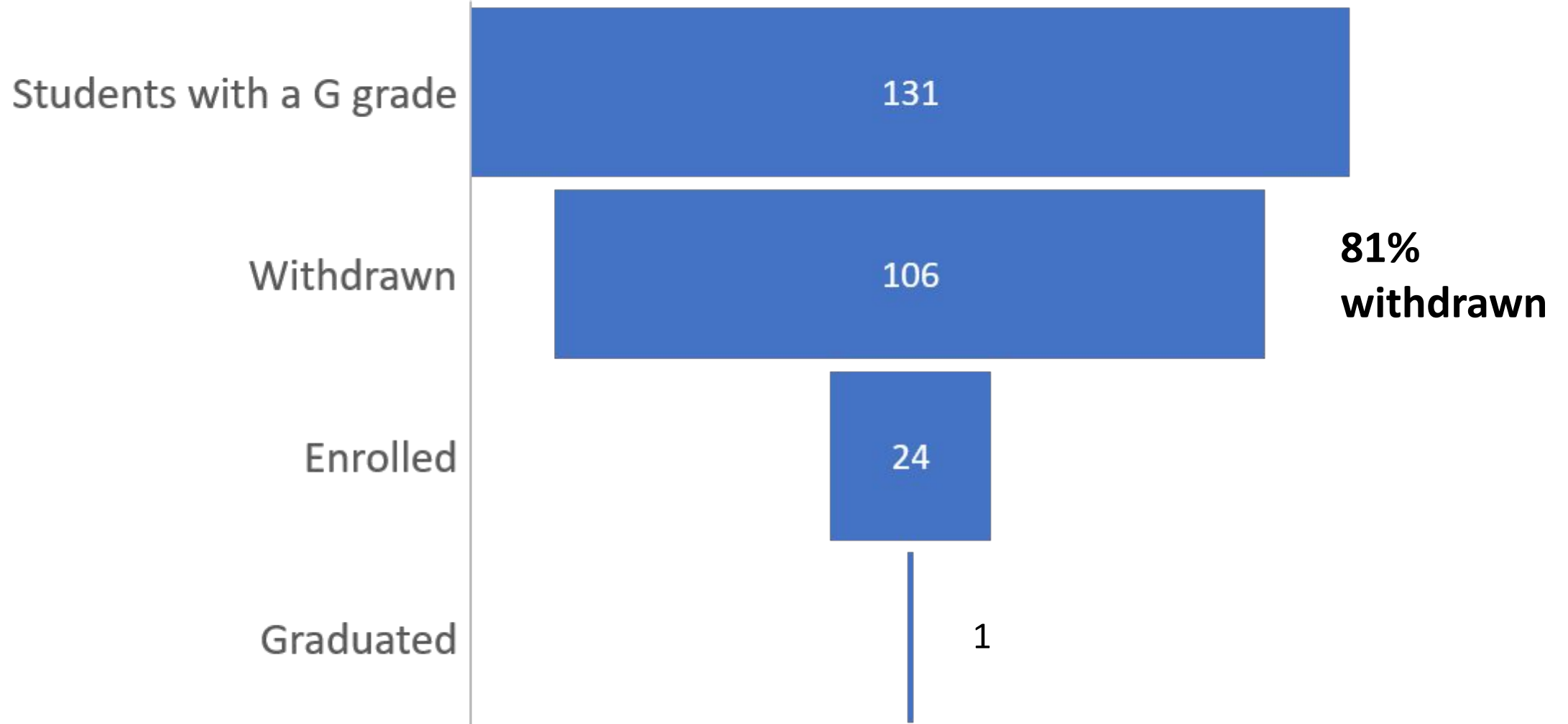


students with a G grade reduce by level of study.
There is a larger ethnicity gap of G Grades at level 3



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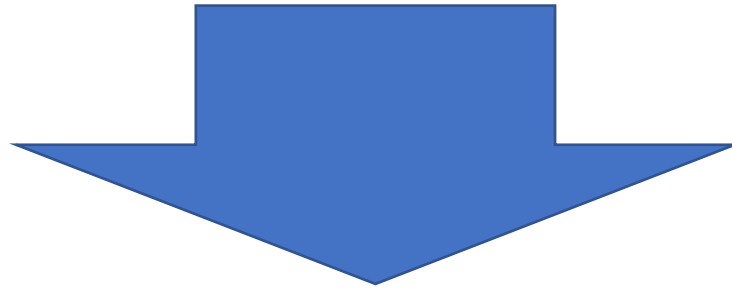
Foundation module statistics 2018/19



First Method



- Interview Foundation students who had not submitted assignment
- Student interviewers



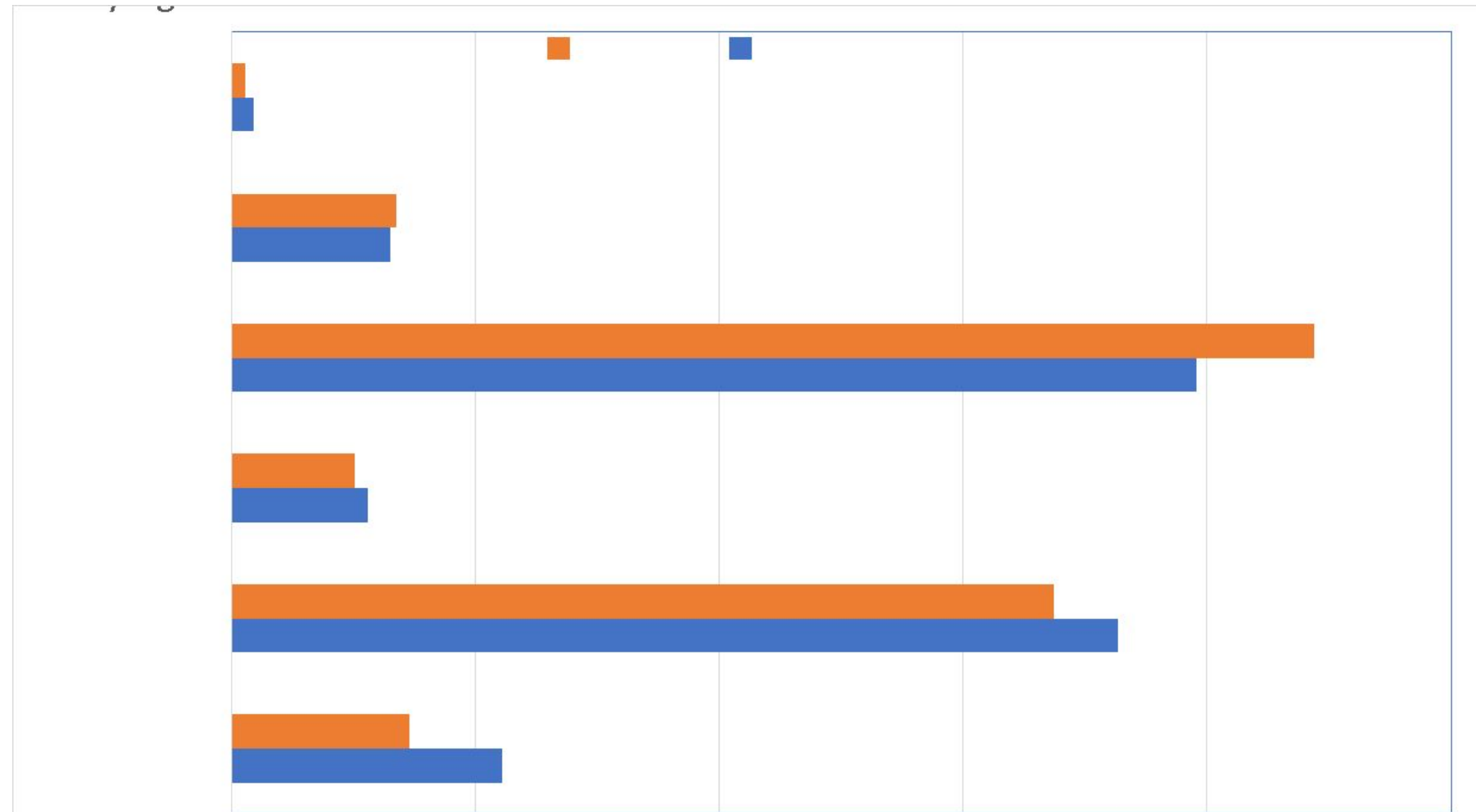
One student interview from 63 invitations + a blanket invitation across all current students who had completed a Foundation year (n=500)

Second attempt

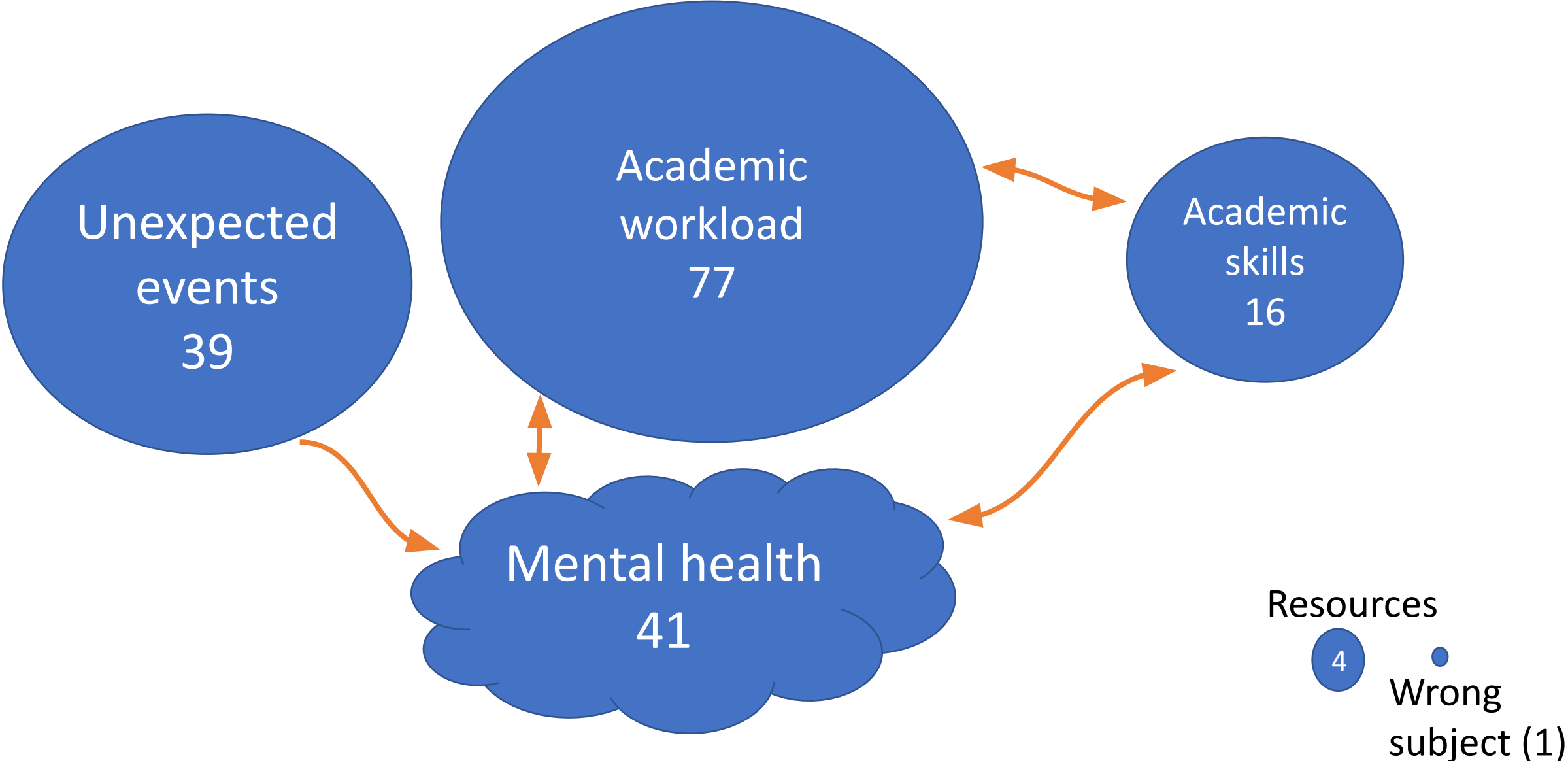


- A qualitative survey was sent out to current undergraduate students who had a non-submission
- Over 3,000 students were sent a survey
- 178 responses (5.5%)

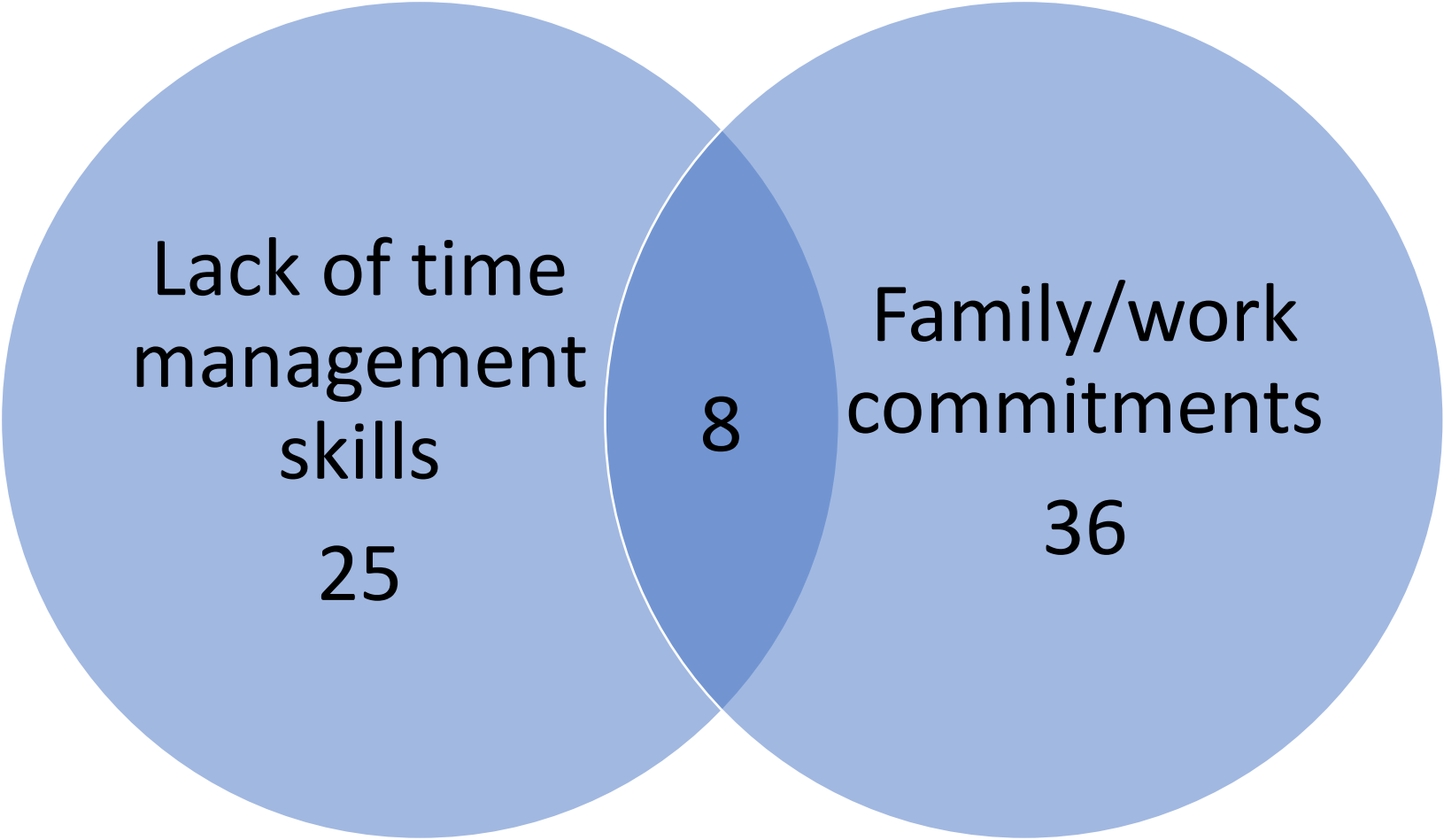
The survey was representative of the non-submission students in terms of ethnicity



Why couldn't you meet the first deadline?



Academic workload (77)



34 students self-reported mental health issues. Of those we believe 1 had a diagnosis.

Two deadlines at once , or was not able to complete it to high standard by due date due to stress

because of mental health, tutors not being good at teaching so in turn, not knowing what to do

My mental health was in a bad place and I struggled with life and then also connection problems (WiFi related)

I have been struggling with my mental health meaning I couldn't submit my assignments on time.

Academic skills (16)

Student taking
responsibility

Lack of knowledge
Didn't understand brief

9

Student moving
responsibility to tutor

Poor teaching
Lack of support

7

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



Did Black students have
differing reasons to White
students?

Comparing ethnicities – although limited numbers. White students are more likely to have an unexpected event and Black students other time commitments

Reason for non-submission	White Student		Black Students	
	No of comments	%	No of comments	%
Unexpected events	27	31.76	7	12.73
Academic workload - Time management	15	17.65	11	20.00
Academic workload - Other commitments	16	18.82	18	32.73
Mental Health	20	23.53	14	25.45
Academic skills	5	5.88	3	5.45
Resources	2	2.35	2	3.64
Total	85		55	

Although small numbers, White students tended to have more health problems and Bereavements than Black students

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	

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Although small numbers, Black students tend to have more responsibilities outside of studies than White students

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This is just the start...



- We want to interview students to understand these factors in depth
- We have 63 students who said they would participate in future research
- However, our experience is very few of these will commit to interview

Question

How have you gone about recruiting students for interviews?

Any questions?



Summary

- Any questions?

- If you would like to contact us, please email

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