

# Umthombo Youth Development Foundation



## Mission

1) address the shortages of healthcare professionals, esp those willing to work in rural areas 2) provide opportunities for rural youth (NEET) to qualify a HCP's



Learners from rural schools are selected and supported to study a health science degree

They are funded and mentored to increase their chances of qualifying as healthcare professionals

Dr Gavin MacGregor  
Director

# Why rural youth

1. Since they come from rural areas they are more likely to live and work in rural areas than their urban counterparts
2. They understand the language and culture of their patients
3. Many rural youth with potential exist, but need support to be successful

# Student catchment area



# About UYDF

- We support between 200 and 220 **health science students** a year
- Select between 45 to 55 students a year from 3 districts in KZN and EC
- Our main intervention, in addition to top-up financial support, is the provision of academic and social mentoring support
- Students can study at any SA public university offering their qualification (14)

# Selection Criteria

- Applicants must come from a rural area
- Must have been accepted for NSFAS financial support
- Must have obtained a place at an SA public university to study a health science qualification needed by the DoH
- Must be willing on graduation to work in a rural or underserved area
- Applicants are required to apply to university themselves

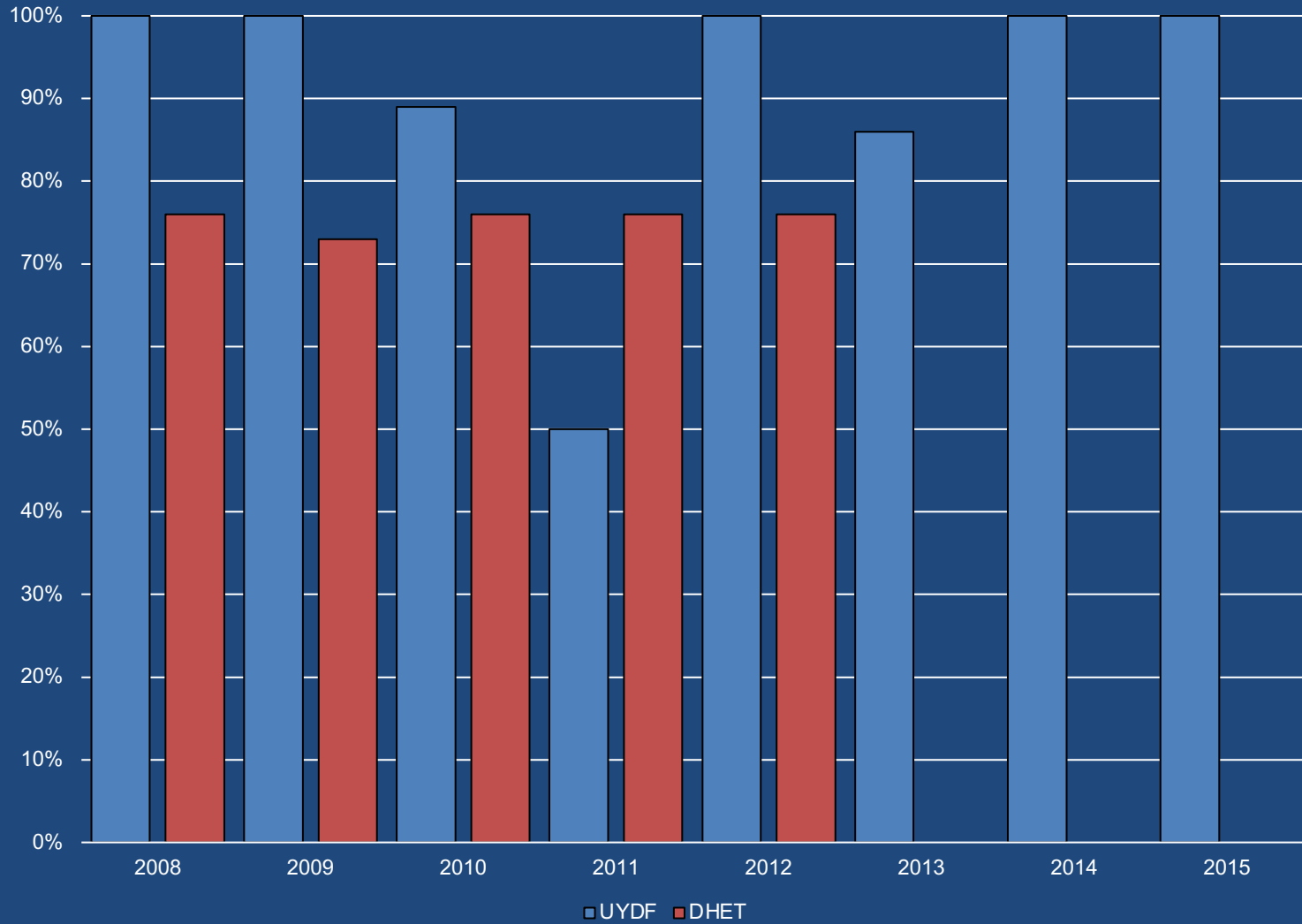
# Applicants

- The majority of applicants matriculate at Quintile 1 – 3 rural schools, have little exposure to technology, and have poor English language skills
- They struggle with adapting to the university environment, mainly the fast pace of the academic programme
- Thus, the need for our academic and social mentoring support

# Analysis

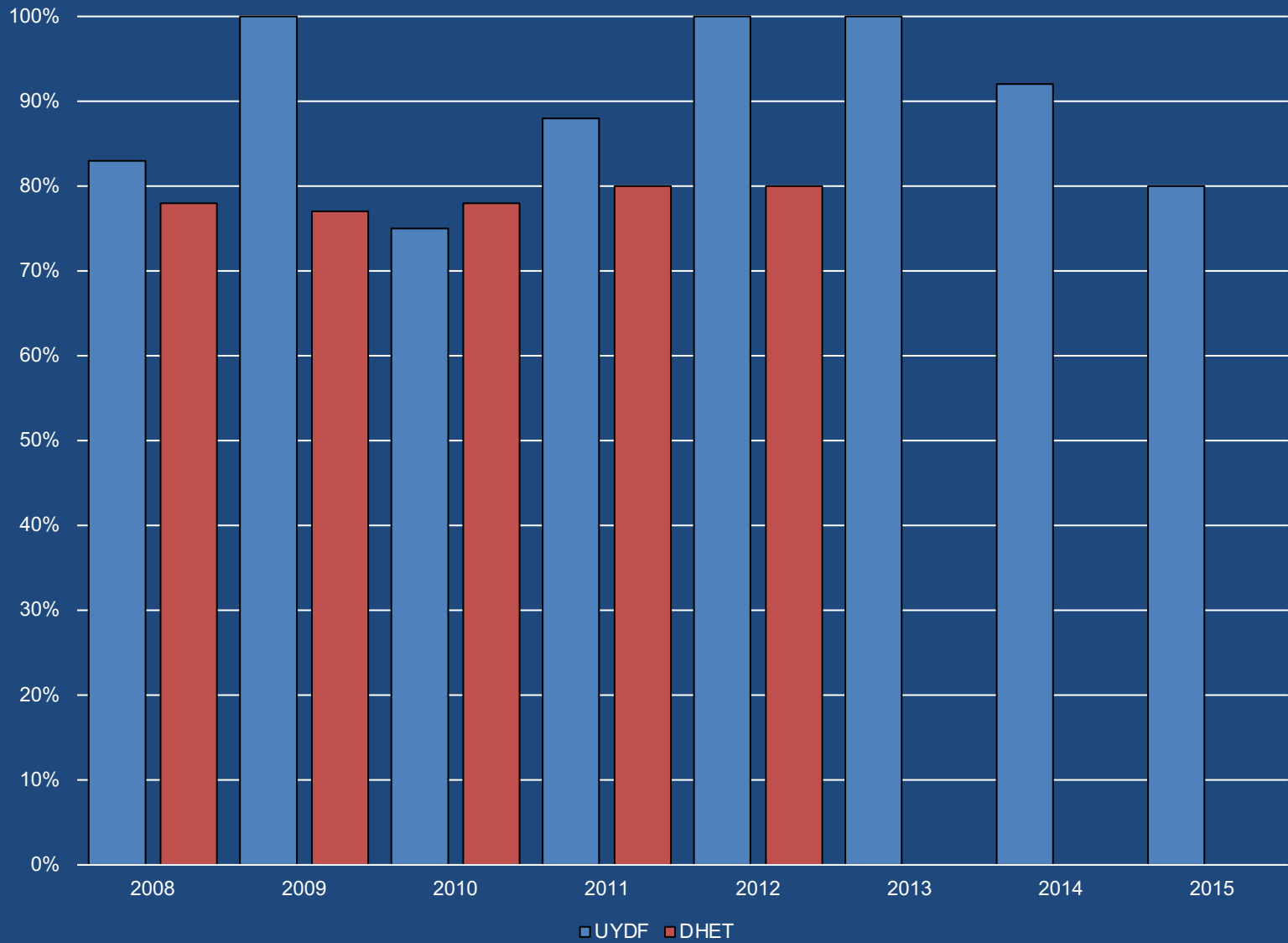
- UYDF graduate data covering 2008 to 2015 cohorts was compared with the DHET and CHE data regarding throughput and time to completion
- Time to completion was calculated by calculating the average across the 8 cohorts

## Throughput - 3-year degree

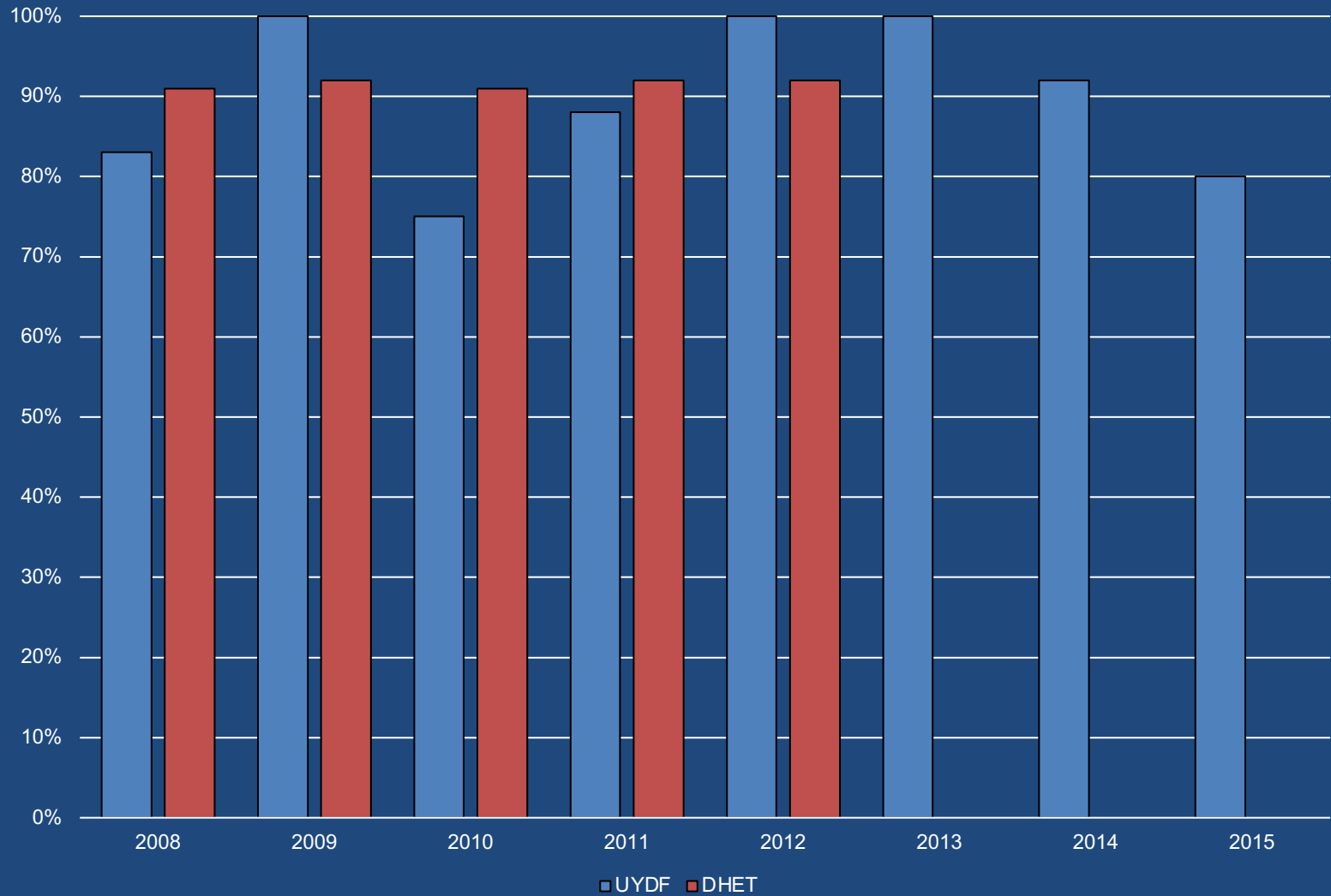




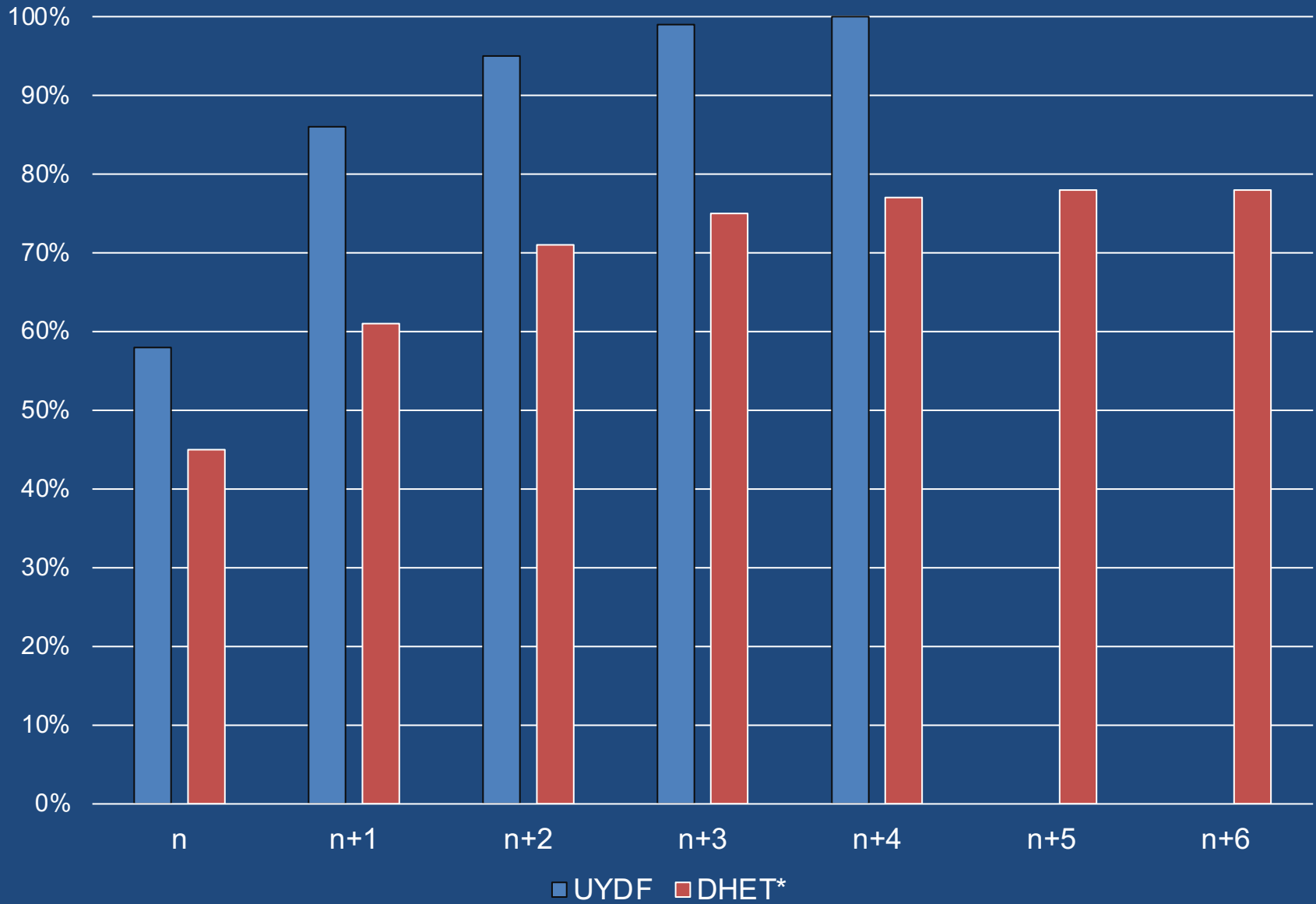
## Throughput - 4-year degrees



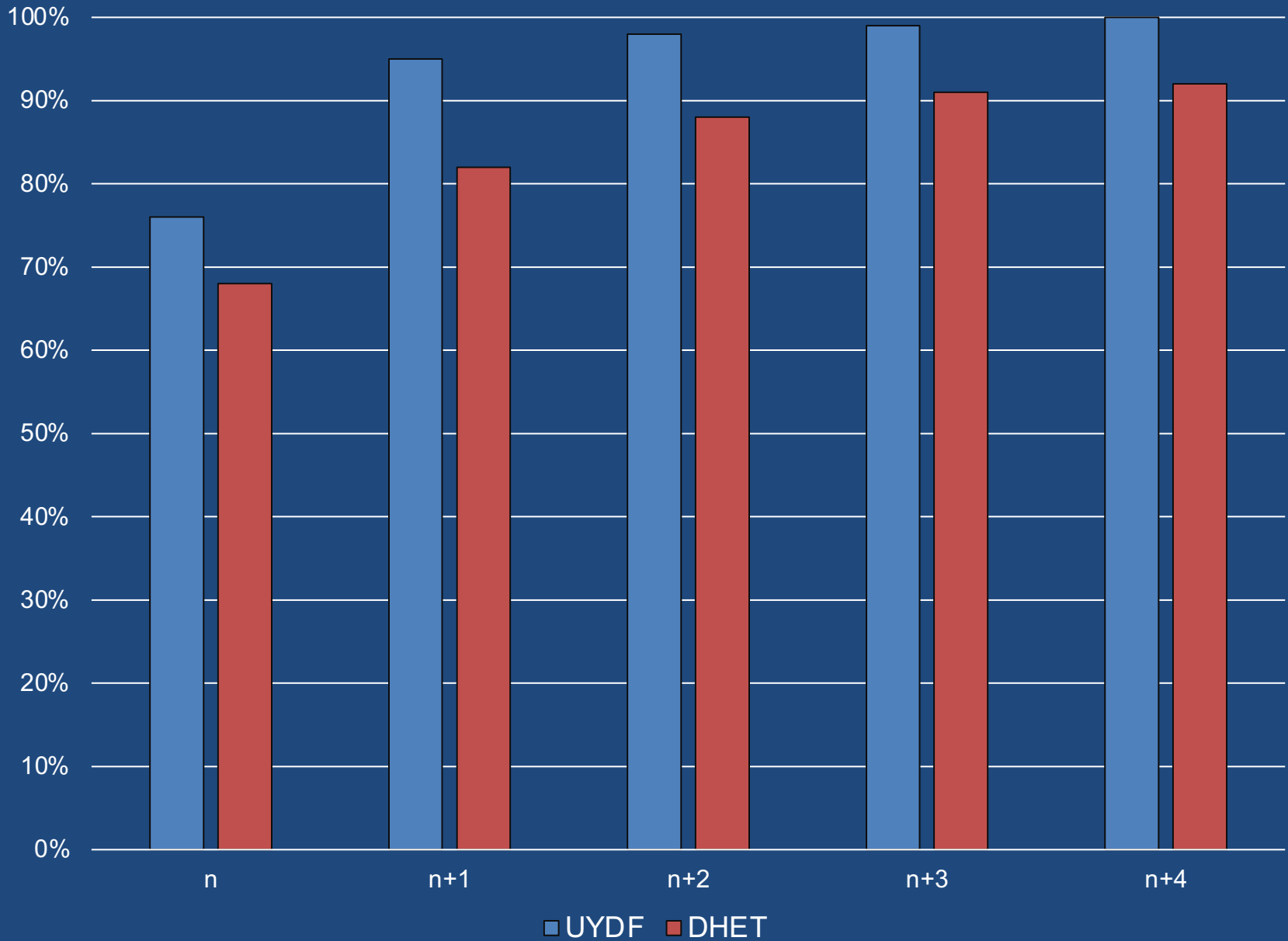
## Throughput - Medical degrees



## Time to Completion 4-year degrees



## Time to Completion - 6-year degrees



**96%**

**PROGRESSION  
RATE**



**193 STUDENTS**  
SUPPORTED TO STUDY HEALTH SCIENCE



**180 PASSED 93%**  
ALL SUBJECTS



**07 PROMOTED**  
CARRYING 1 FAILED SUBJECT

**21**

**NEW GRADUATES**



**591 GRADUATES**  
TO DATE



**54% FEMALE**  
GRADUATES TO DATE

**3 students completed Cum Laude & 1 Summa Cum Laude**



**TWELVE  
DOCTORS**



**ONE  
PHARMACIST**



**TWO  
PHYSIO-  
THERAPISTS**



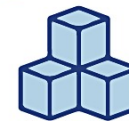
**TWO  
OPTOMETRISTS**



**ONE  
DIETICIAN**



**ONE  
DENTISTS**



**TWO  
OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPISTS**



# GRADUATES TOTAL 593



231

DOCTORS



11

DENTISTS

nineteen

OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPISTS

7



PSYCHOLOGISTS



44

NURSES

one

CLINICAL ASSOCIATE

39

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

ORTHOTICS & PROSTHETICS

2

6

SPEECH  
THERAPISTS

2

EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
RESCUE



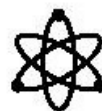
19

DIETITIANS



86

PHARMACISTS



BIOMEDICAL  
TECHNOLOGISTS

19

11

DENTAL  
THERAPISTS

43



RADIOGRAPHERS

18



AUDIOLOGISTS

14

SOCIAL  
WORKERS

20



OPTOMETRISTS

one

NUTRITIONIST  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



# Intervention

- 1. Comprehensive financial support** -Top-up NSFAS support – books, food & accommodation & cover other costs
- 2. Academic & Social Mentoring Support** – includes annual work exposure & Student Lifeskills Workshops
- 3. The mentoring support is compulsory,** starts in Feb-Nov, and entails a monthly face-to-face visit between the student and the mentor



# Critical points

- We set the bar high – expecting students to achieve 65% in all assessments including exams.
- The responsibility lies with the student to address their challenges, by accessing university resources. The mentor helps them develop a plan & holds them accountable to implement it and review it.
- The mentor **does not tutor**

# Local mentors

1. We have 11 local mentors, situated across 14 different campuses
2. Some are university lecturers, graduates, young professionals
3. Their role is to hold students accountable to make the necessary changes needed to succeed – they are **not** tutors
4. They cover academic, social, and financial issues and complete a standardised report on each student – submitted to the Student Coordinator



## Umthombo Youth Development Foundation: Student Mentoring Report Form 2024

**Student name:**

**University:** SMU

**Date:** 21/01/2021

**Course of study:** MBCHB

**Level of Study:** 5

**Type of visit:** Monthly Progress meeting

**Special:**

**Academic progress:**

How is the student progressing (give a full picture on how the student is progressing)

Student reports to have had some challenges with Pharmacology. She struggles to remember some of the concepts that she studies but remembers everything from the recordings. She is now going to focus on recordings to study.

**Provide evidence of academic progress (Tests, Exams, Assignments, Presentations, Clinical assessments)**

Course	Assessment	Result	Mentor's Comments (your advice to the student)
Paediatric block	Block exam	62%	Good
Chemical Pathology	Test 1	63%	Good
Community Health	Test 1	78%	Excellent
Pharmacology	Test 1	53%	Needs work. See above

**Based on the above student's performance, is there any intervention required? If yes, please specify the kind of intervention required:**

➤ Pharmacology needs more focus \_\_\_\_\_

Based on the performance of the student and discussions with the mentor, what will the student do differently to improve the situation?

**Student Action Plan:**

**Mentor's** comments on the action plan, is the plan **SMART**

She is going to use recordings to study and consult a tutor for assistance with Pharmacology.

I am happy that the student has developed a logical action plan. I will monitor her progress since the change.

**General social issues:**  
adjustment/adaptation/  
settling in on campus/  
health/family issues/life  
skills/ behaviour change

She is feeling overwhelmed by the academics at this point, but I assured her that she got this and can rise even higher.

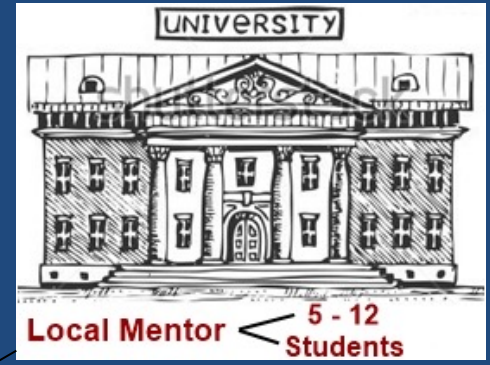
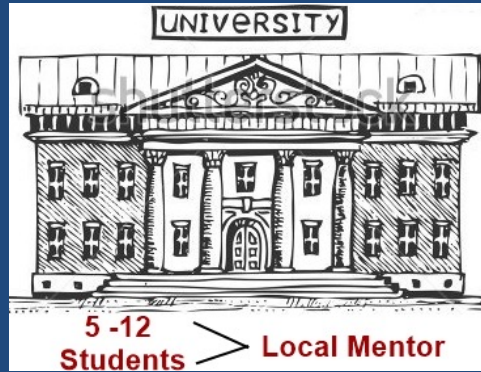
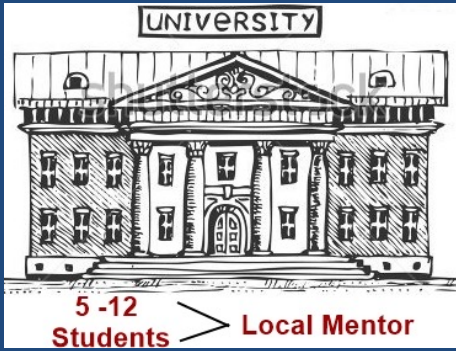
**Mentor's overall comments**  
on academic progress of the  
student and any other  
additional information

Overall the student is doing well, but she needs to work harder to meet the 65% target

Report compiled by: **Ntando**

Signature:

Date: **24/04/2024**



Student Coordinator



# Provision of on campus Mentoring



# Conclusions: Throughput

- 3-year degrees: UYDF rural students outperformed the national data across all 6 cohorts
- 4-year degrees: UYDF rural students outperformed the national data across 5 of the 6 cohorts
- Medical degree: UYDF rural students outperformed the national data in 3 of the 6 cohorts

# Conclusions: Time to Completion

- 4-year degrees: UYDF rural students outperformed the national data across all 5 cohorts
- Medical degree: UYDF rural students outperformed the national data across all 5 cohorts
- The UYDF students did have good matric results, but the financial & academic and social mentoring support assisted them
- **Reference:** <https://doi.org/10.7196/AJHPE.2024.v16i2.1140>

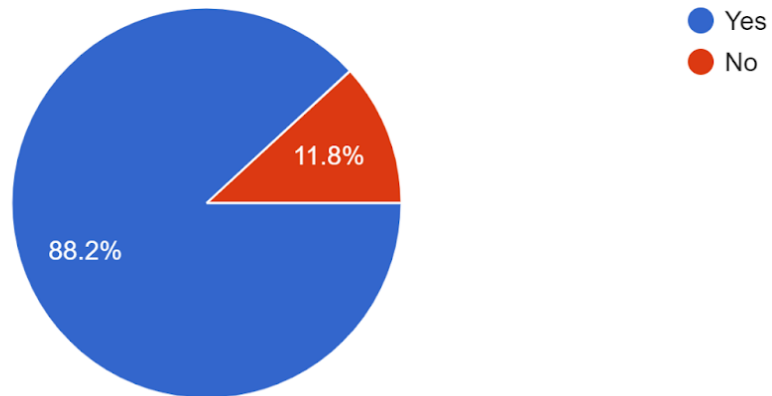


# Thank you, comments, questions



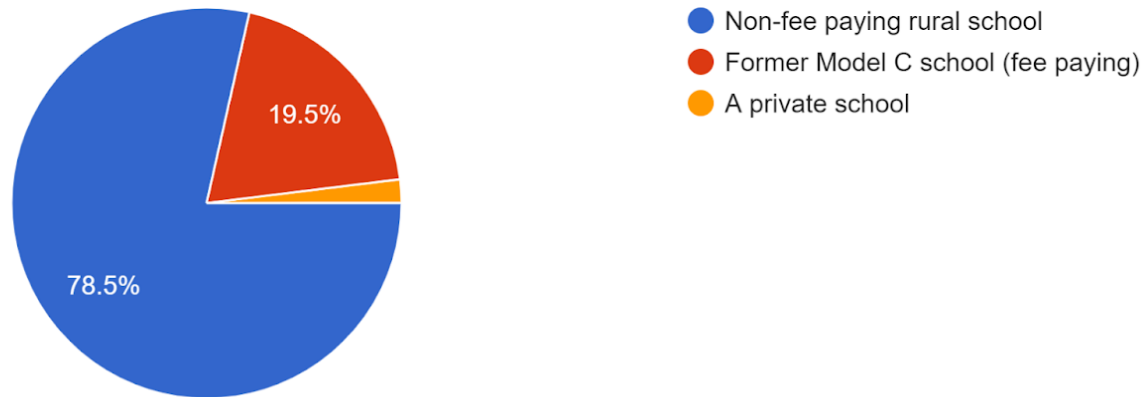
## Secondary schooling: did you attend a local school in your district?

203 responses

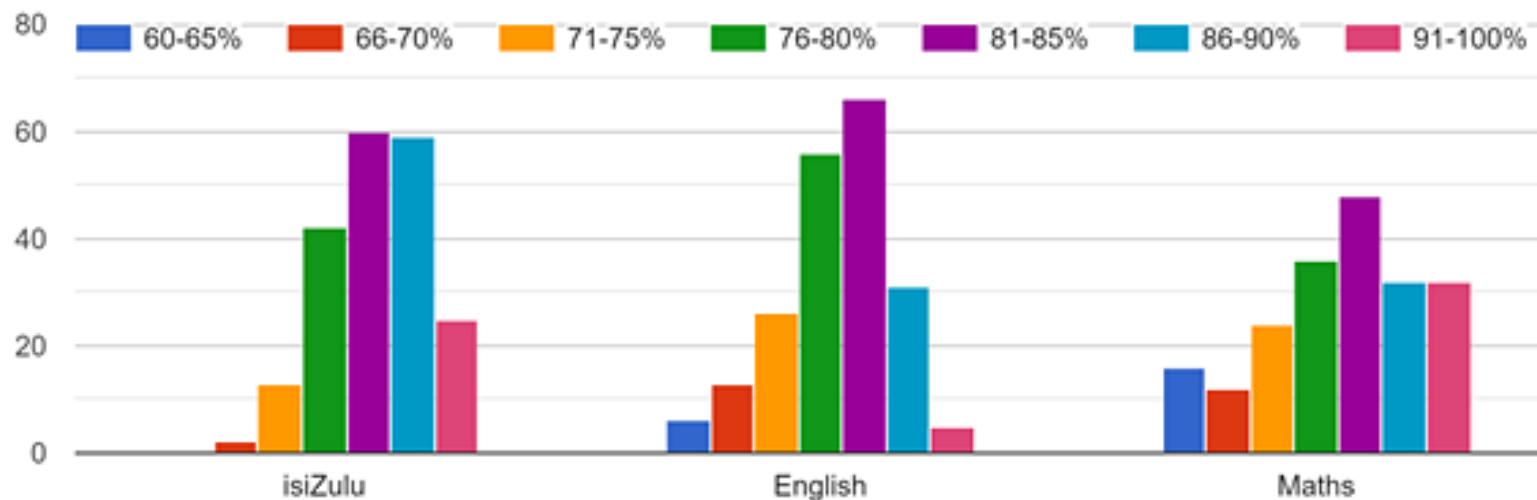


## What type of secondary school was it?

205 responses



## Your Matric Results



80%

60%

40%

20%

Physical science

Life sciences

Life orientation

