

# Undergraduate medical students' attrition rates at Maseno University School of Medicine

Review of the attrition rates of the MBChB program

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# Background

- Entry into medical schools is highly competitive<sup>1</sup>,
- Consistent entry criteria being academic qualification<sup>2</sup>.
- Training program is considered to be very demanding<sup>2</sup>.
- Even so, they report lower attrition rates than other programs in university.
- MBChB attrition rates vary globally from as low as 3.8% to as high as 26%.
- Some studies report as high as 40%
- Attrition in private universities in Kenya at 37% <sup>4</sup>

1. *Higher Education Statistics Agency 2023*

2. *Tamimi, 2023*

3. *MacGregor 2007*

4. *Njoroge 2016*

# Attrition has several effects

- On the affected student
- On the reputation of the institution
- On the economy
  
- MUSOM
- New medical school ( graduated six cohorts)
- Needs to understand its attrition rates and student perceptions about it to make an attempt to reduce them

# Research Methodology

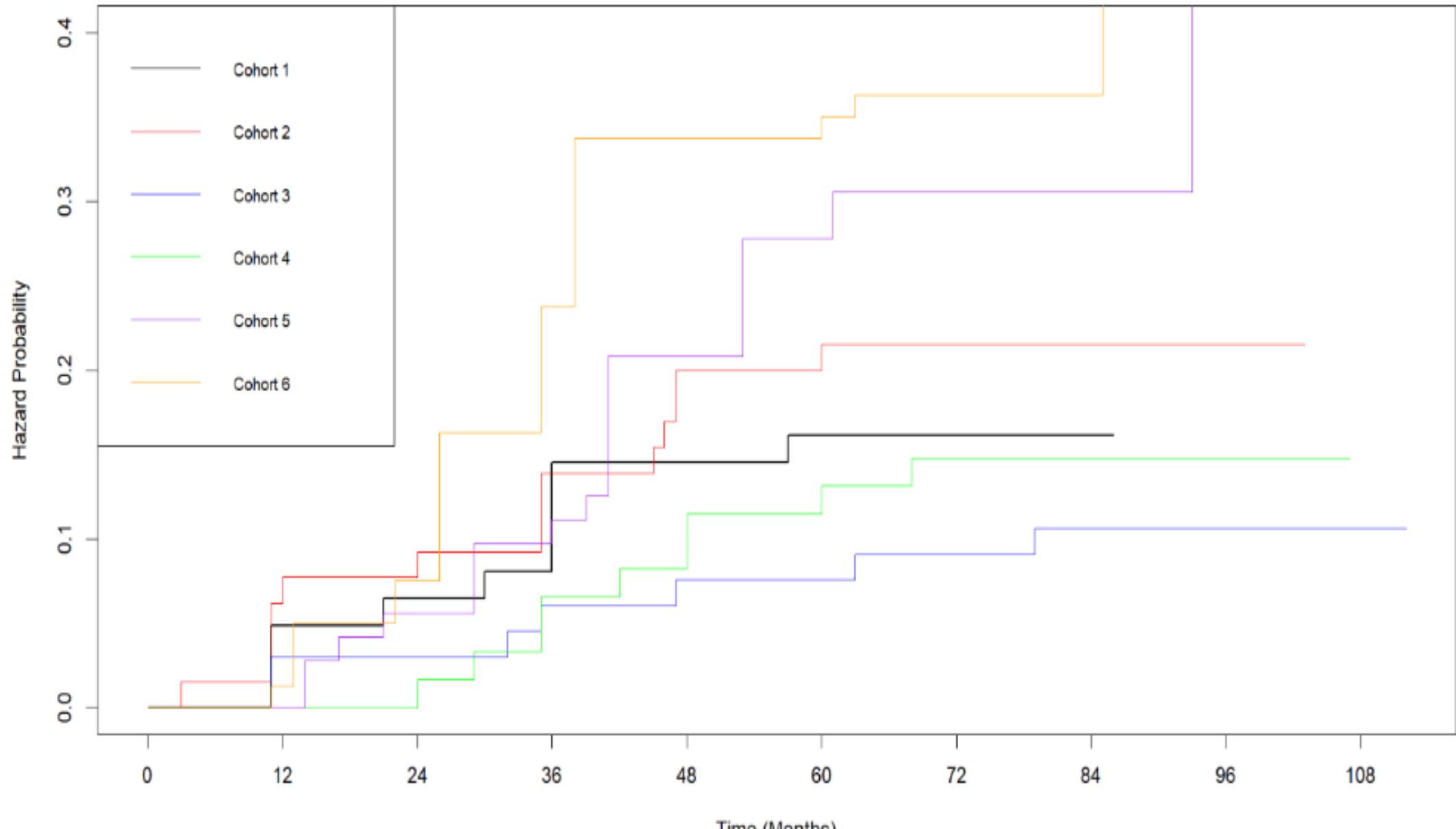
- Ethical approval sought and received from the JOOTRH ERC
- Study conducted in Feb-March 2024
- Retrospective review of student data for all six graduated cohorts (2018-2023)
- Prospective analysis of perceptions of continuing students ( yr 4,5 and 6) of six- year program.
- For prospective students, the study conducted student led focused group discussions
- FGD sessions were recorded on an Dolby On app, available for Android and I Phones, non was over 1 hr

# Results (1)- Quantitative retrospective review

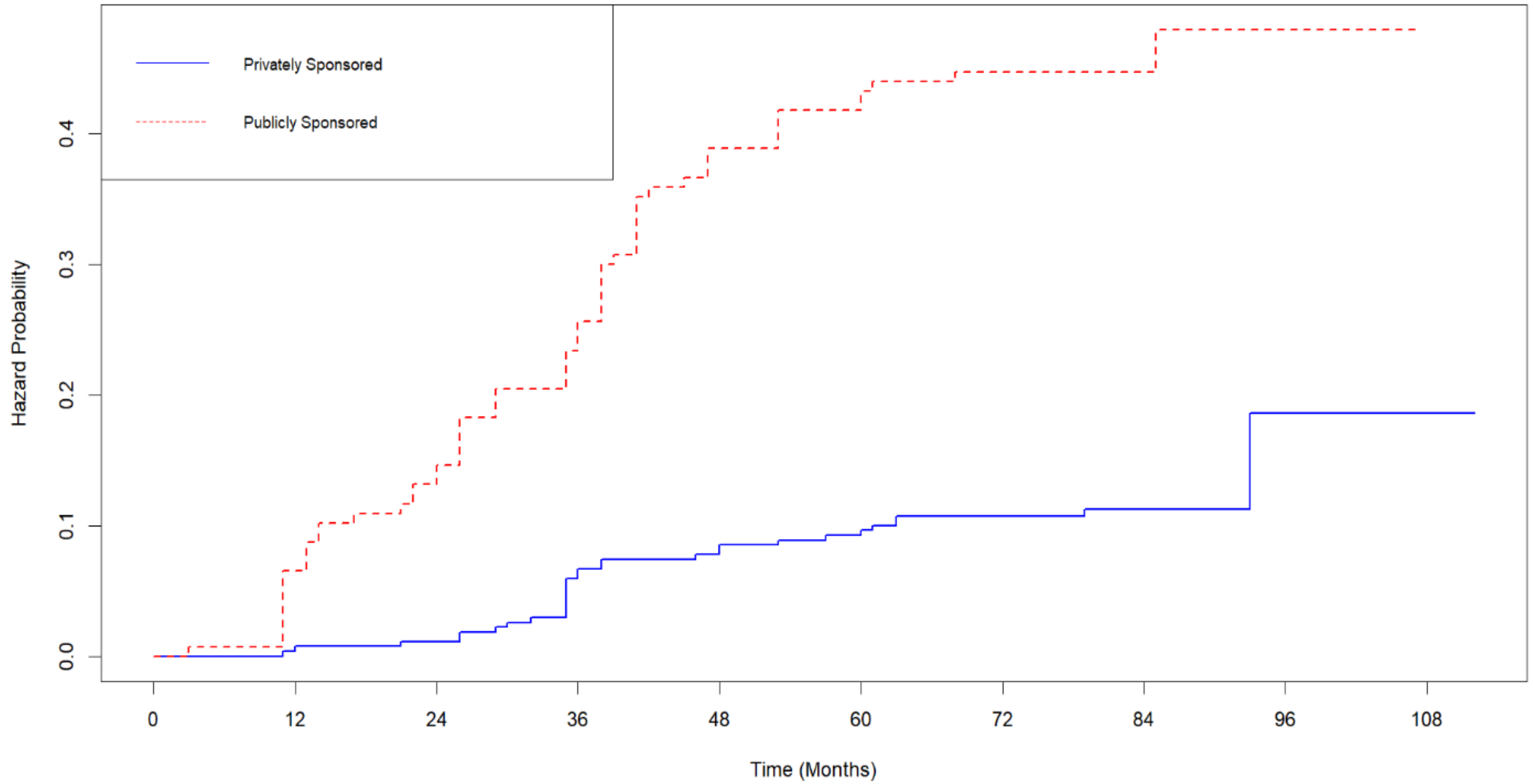
- 407 student records reviewed for 6 cohorts
- 270 (66.3%)- direct entry program, 137 (33.7%) in the self-sponsored program.
- 103 students had not completed the program over 112 months (9 years, 4 months), giving attrition rate of 25.4% for the program

Min.	1st Qu.	Median	Mean	3rd Qu.	Max.
3.00	74.00	79.00	70.83	84.00	112.00

# STUDENT ATTRITION CURVES



Attrition Curves by SSP



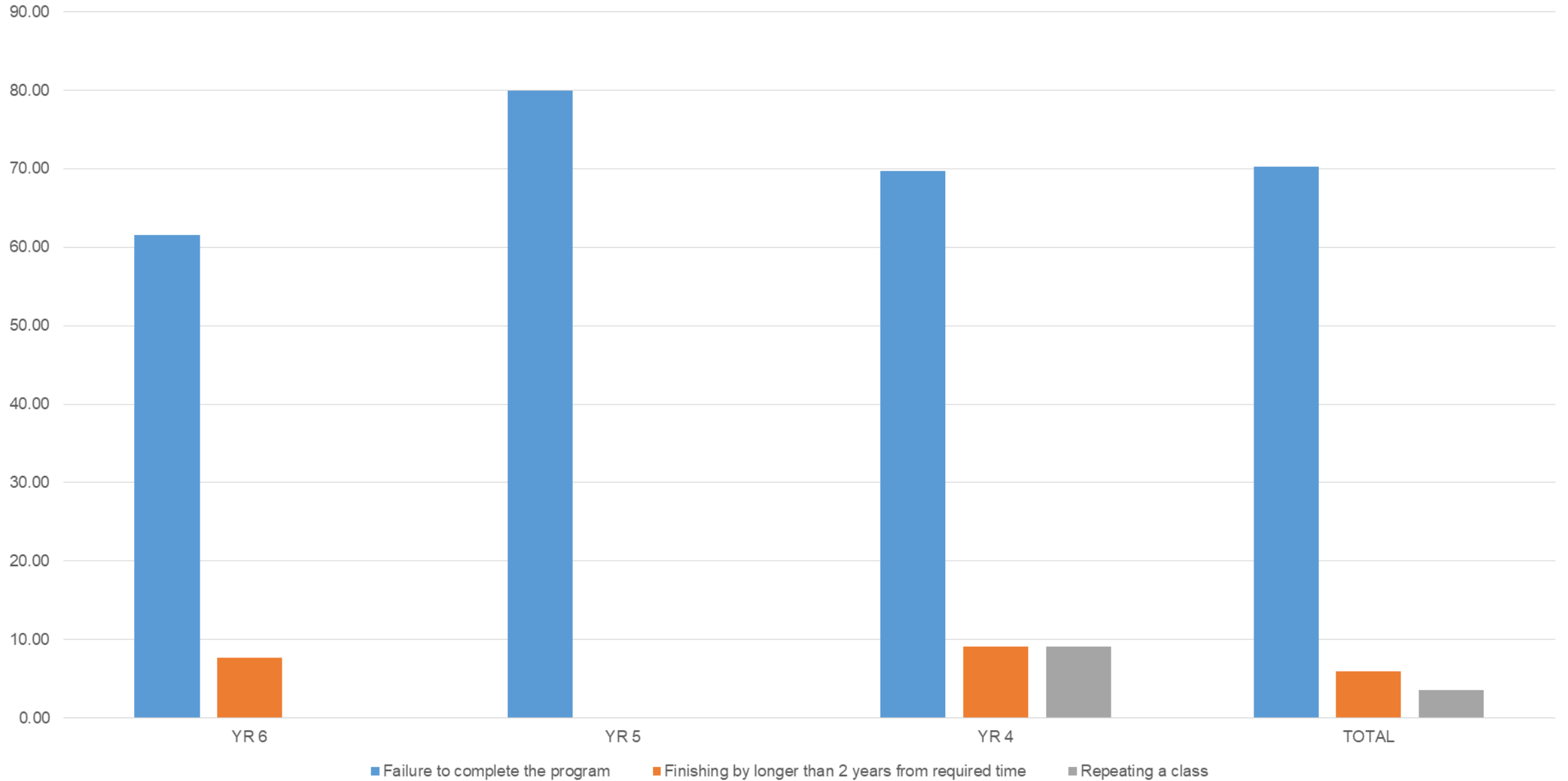


# Qualitative – FGD on student perspectives

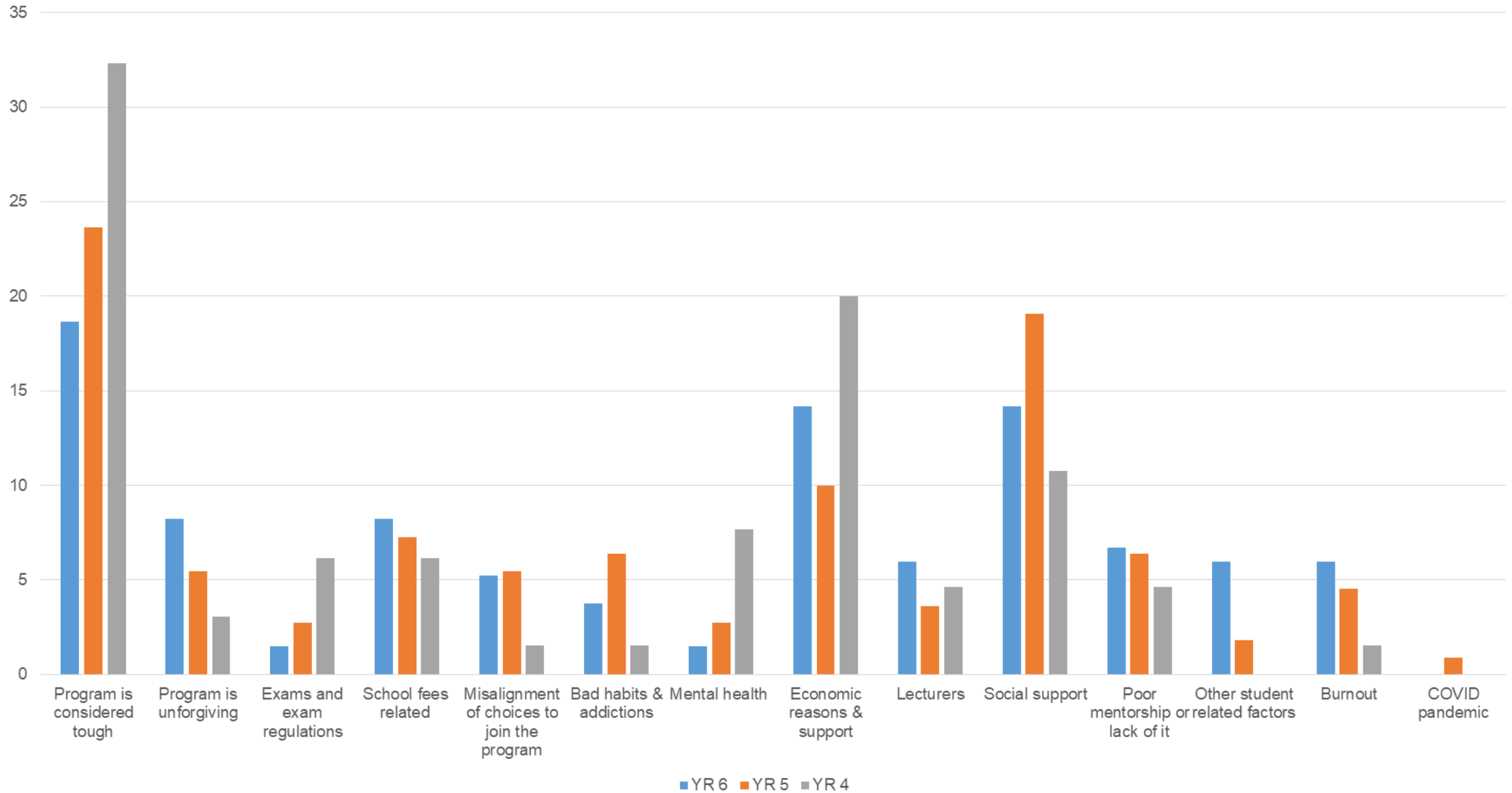
- 5 FGD in each cohort of ongoing students
- 86 out of 154 students participated (55.8% response rate)
- Voluntary, no participant identifiers during the recordings.
- Dolby On
- Attempts to use transcribing apps failed due to use of Swahili language, colloquial and slang in the recordings. Resorted to manual transcription

MIN	MAX	MEAN	MEDIAN	STD-P
3	12	5.7	5	2.23

# Understanding of attrition (%) for each class

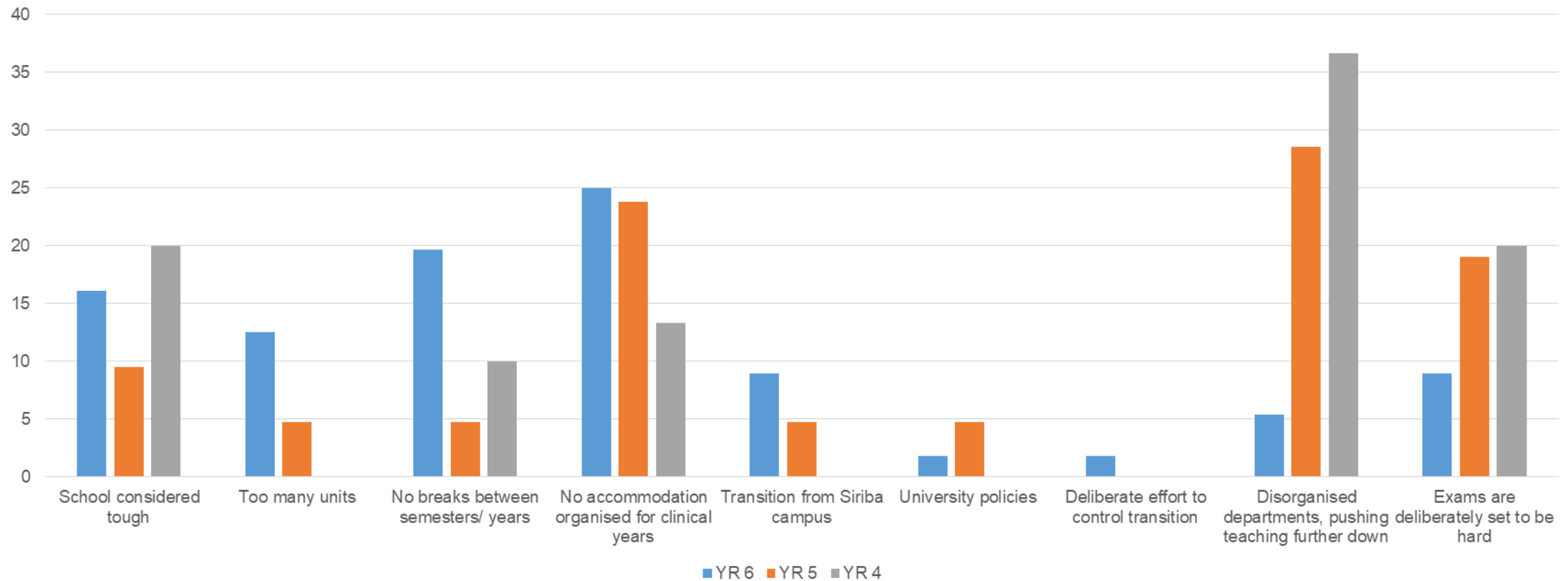


Causes of attrition in medical schools (%)

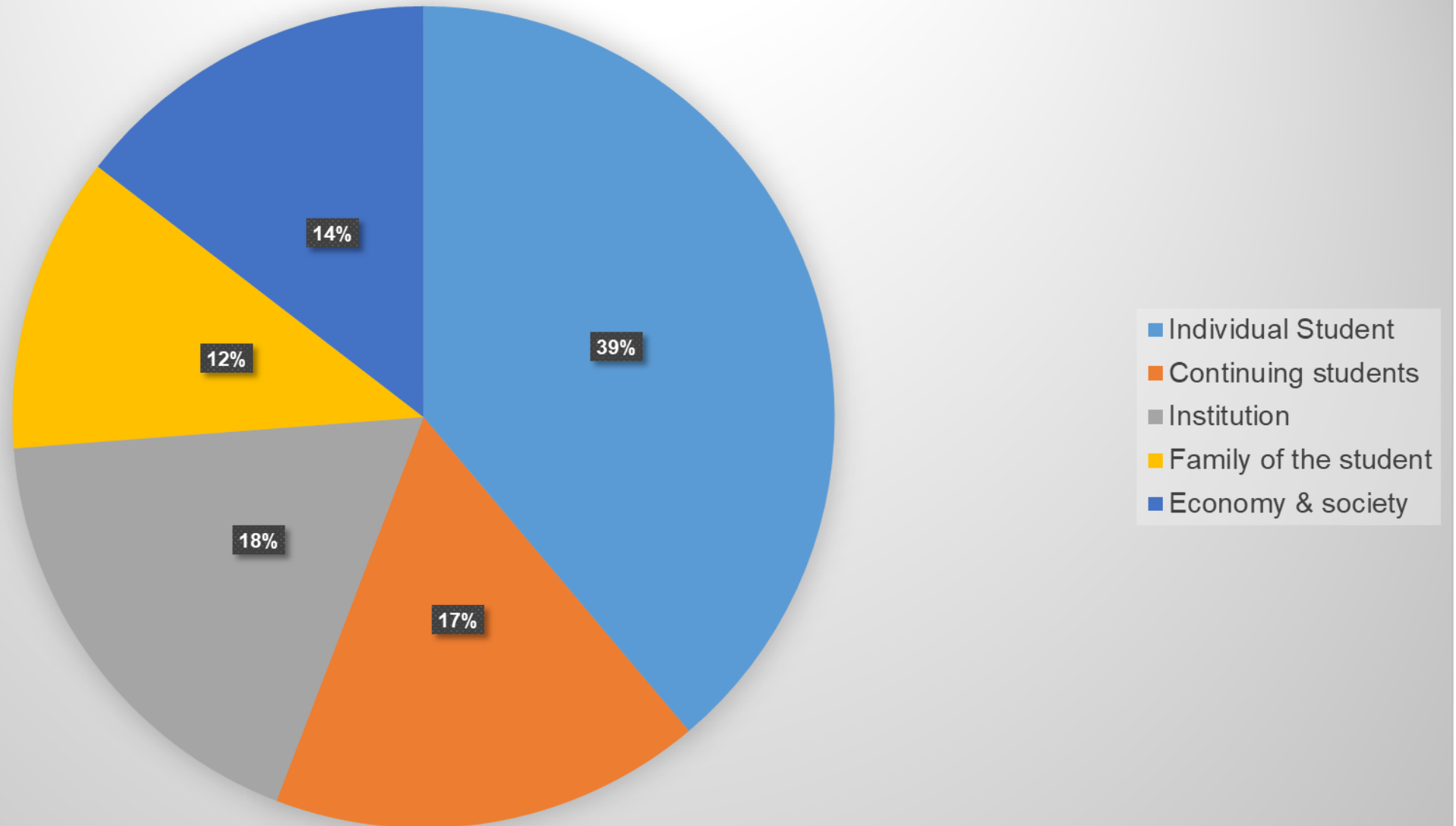


# Causes Specific to MUSOM

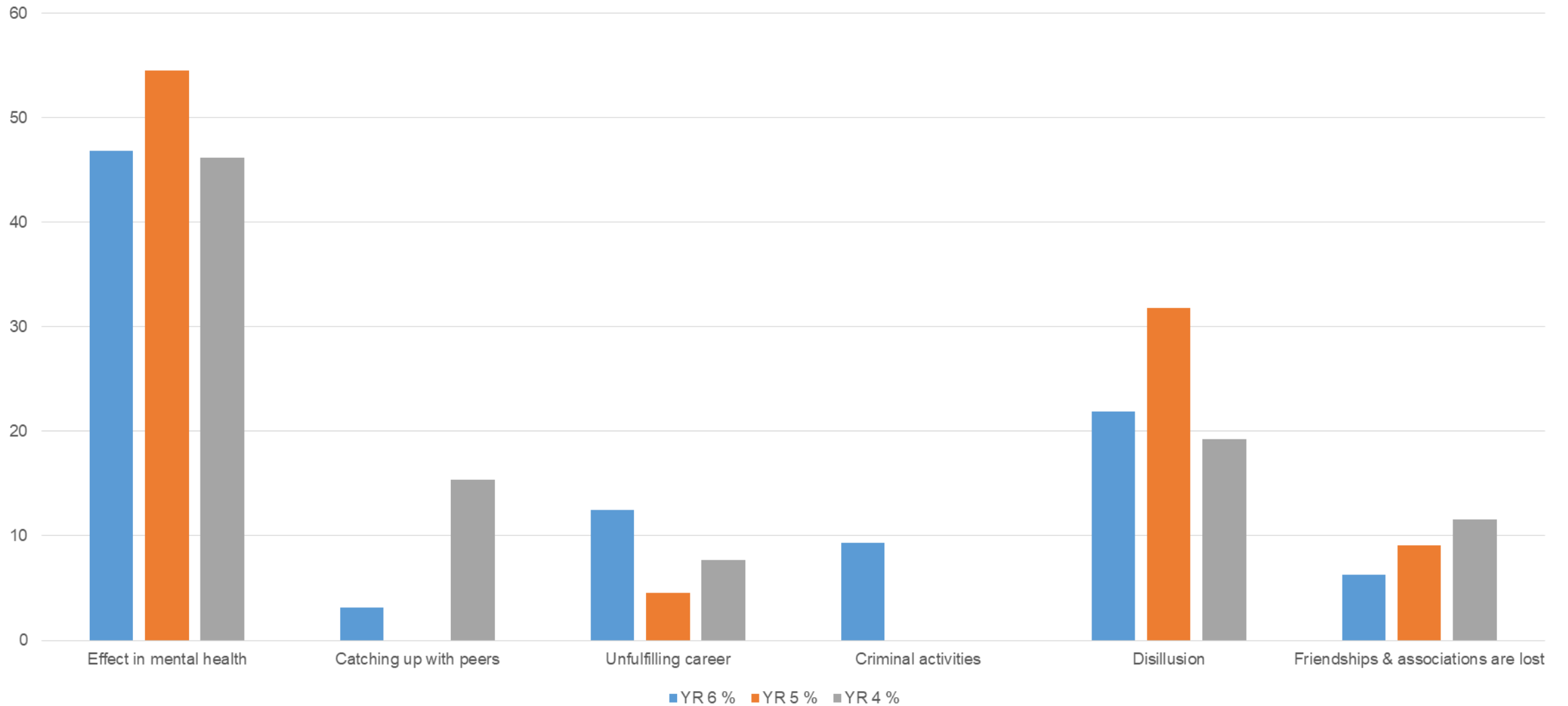
Causes of attrition specific to Maseno University School of Medicine



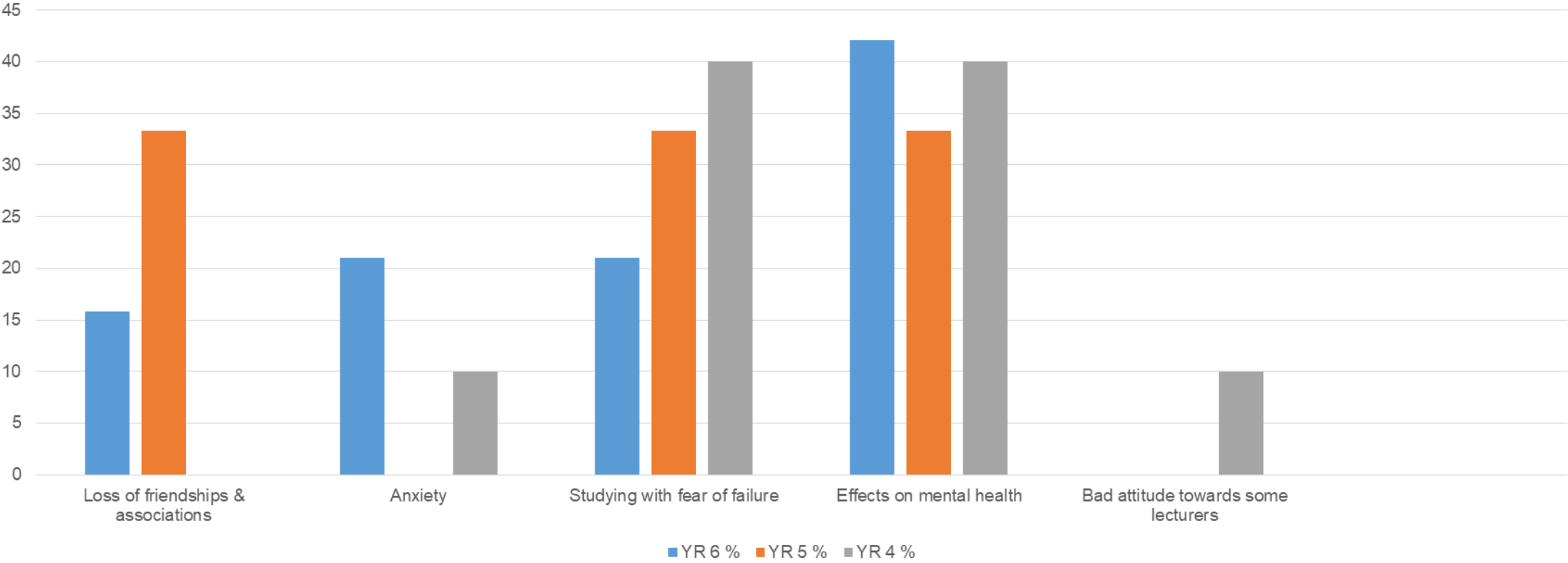
## Who is affected by student attrition



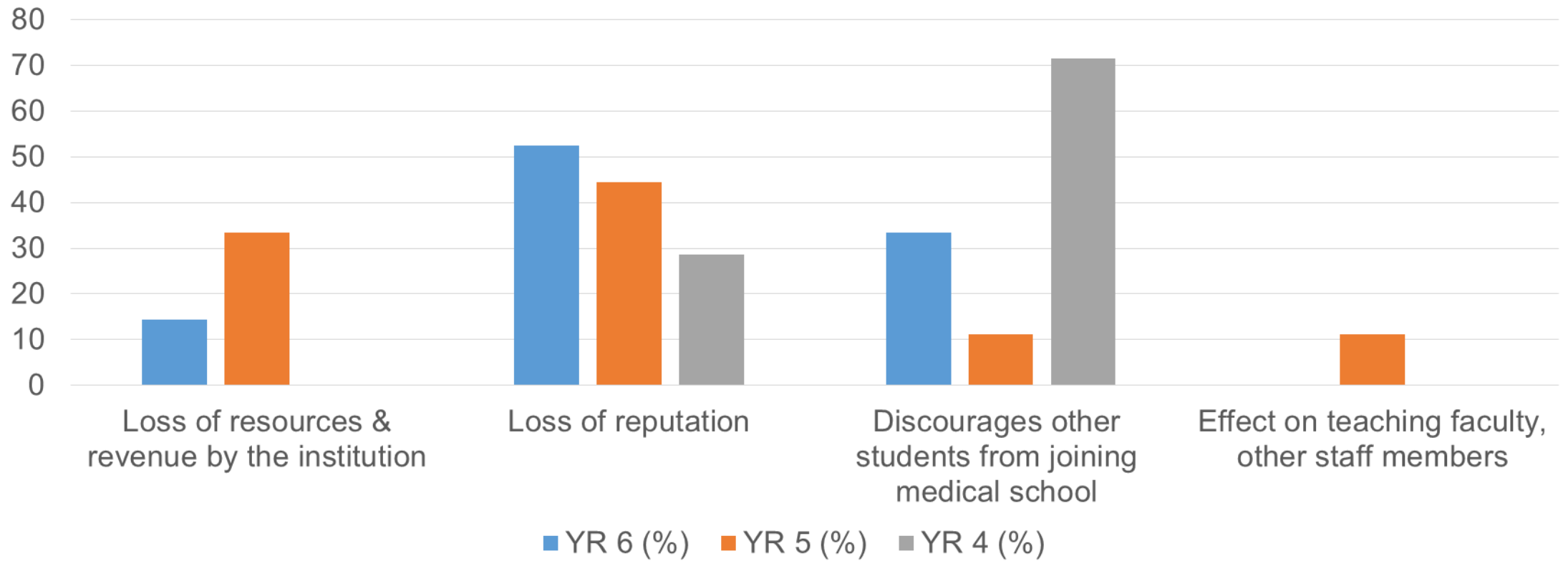
# Effects of attrition on the affected student (%)



# Effects of attrition on continuing students (%)

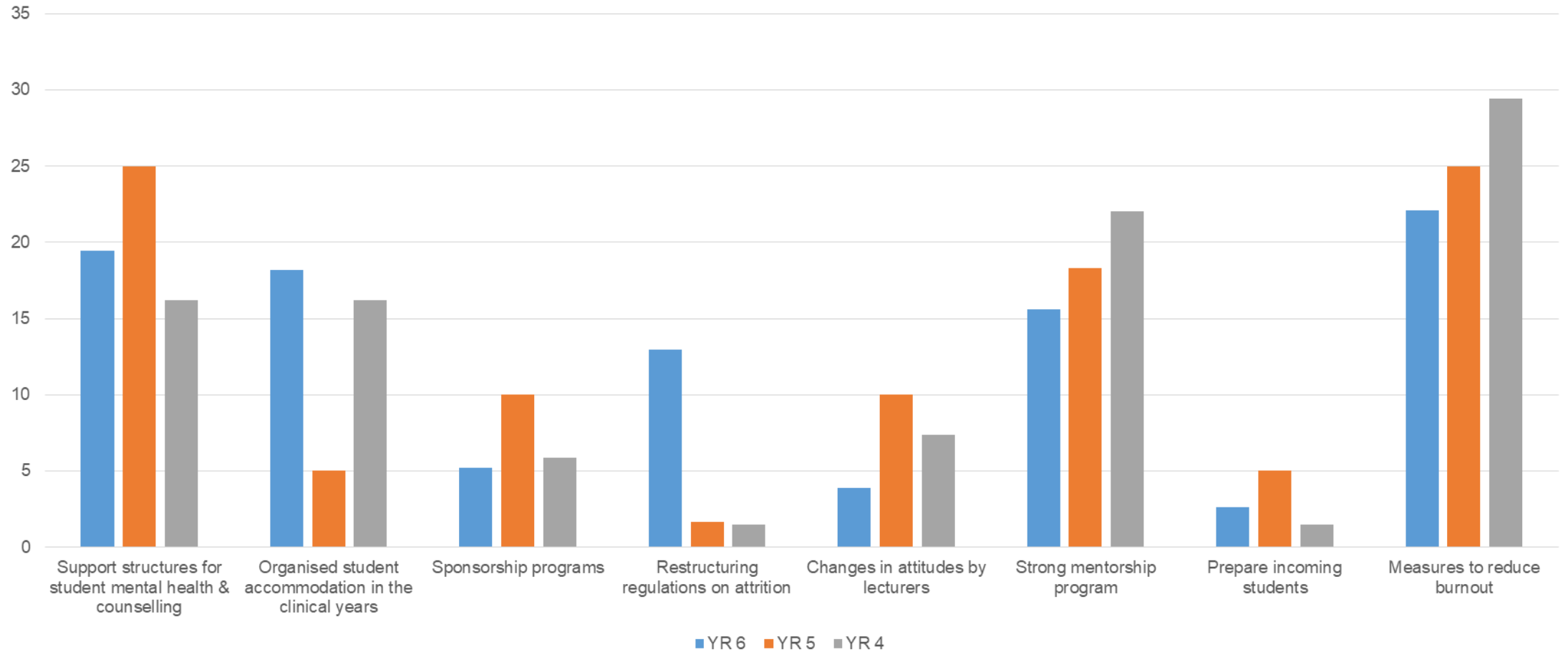


## Effects of attrition on MUSOM





# Measures to reduce student attrition



# Discussion

- Attrition rates at MUSOM at 25% are comparative to those in other schools of medicine in LMIC countries, but much higher than those in developed countries <sup>3</sup>
- The global average attrition rate is at approx. 12.5% <sup>3</sup>
- But of concern to MUSOM should be the statistically significant rise
- The rate is still lower than that reported locally for other courses in Kenyan University at 37% <sup>2</sup>
- We did not find any other comparative study on direct entry and self-sponsored students
- The MUSOM students' perception of the causes is similar to those cited by other studies, but Maseno has the unique cause of student accommodation that has not been cited by previous studies <sup>3,4</sup>
- Mentorship comes out strongly

*2- Njoroge 2016*

*4- Nguyen 2022*

*3- Anand, 2020*

# Discussion (2)

- Causes of attrition are well similar to other studies, but effects of attrition on the affected student in medical schools are poorly addressed, globally
- MUSOM has unique causes that need addressing
- The mentorship program at MUSOM may not be adequately addressing the students' needs.

# Recommendations

1. MUSOM reviews and takes measures to address the rising attrition rates, even though it is still lower than in other university courses
1. MUSOM is considered a tougher medical school. This perception may need to be addressed
1. Comparative studies in other medical schools in Kenya may yield a better review both for MUSOM and for the programs in the country.

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3. Anand, Arulsamy. (2018). Attrition Rate and Reasons for Attrition in Medicals Schools Worldwide- An Analysis. TEXILA INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES. 3. 1-6. 10.21522/TIJBMS.2016.03.01.Art001.
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