

# **Are academic or financial challenges still a barrier for student to study effectively**

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# Scope and Objective

- This paper examined trends and reasons of module cancellation during the course of a semester/academic year and the implications thereof on the completion of studies in the period 2005-2013.
- Focusing on academic and financial reasons for cancellation

# Population & Aspects Investigated



- Unisa undergraduate students studying for their Bachelors degree, Diploma and Certificate
- Module load and cancellation
- Impact of cancellation on time to complete studies
- disaggregation by college, gender, race, age, student status, employment status, assignments submission and success rates after cancellation



# Sources of Data

- Extraction of provisional data
- Information from institutional documents
- Local and international literature



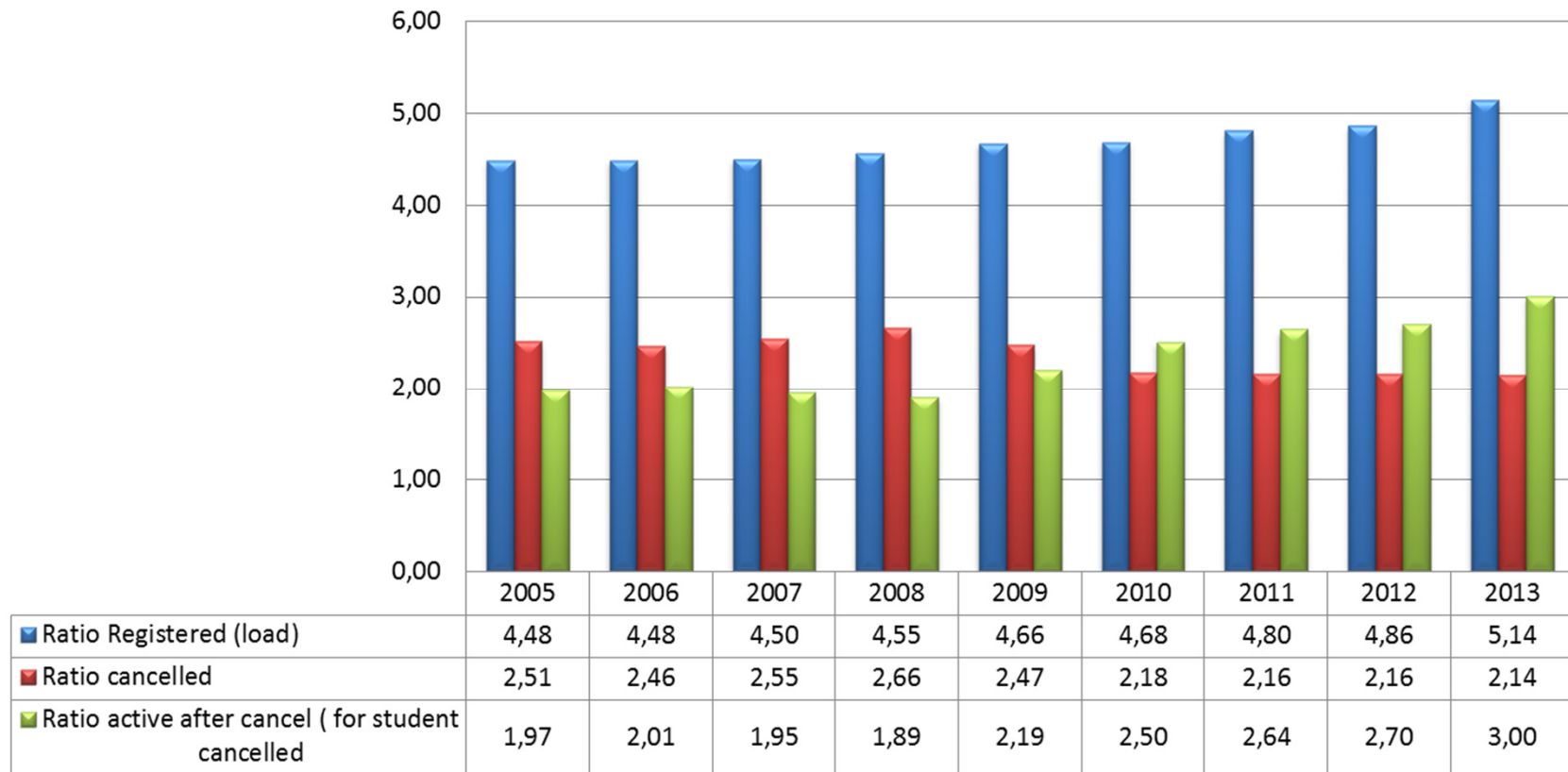
# Conceptual & Theoretical Framework

- Conceptualisation of the analysis is intended to contribute towards one of the institutional strategic goals which seek to “*establish service-oriented, technology-enhanced learner support to increase retention and throughput.*” (2015 strategic Plan: Agenda for Transformation)

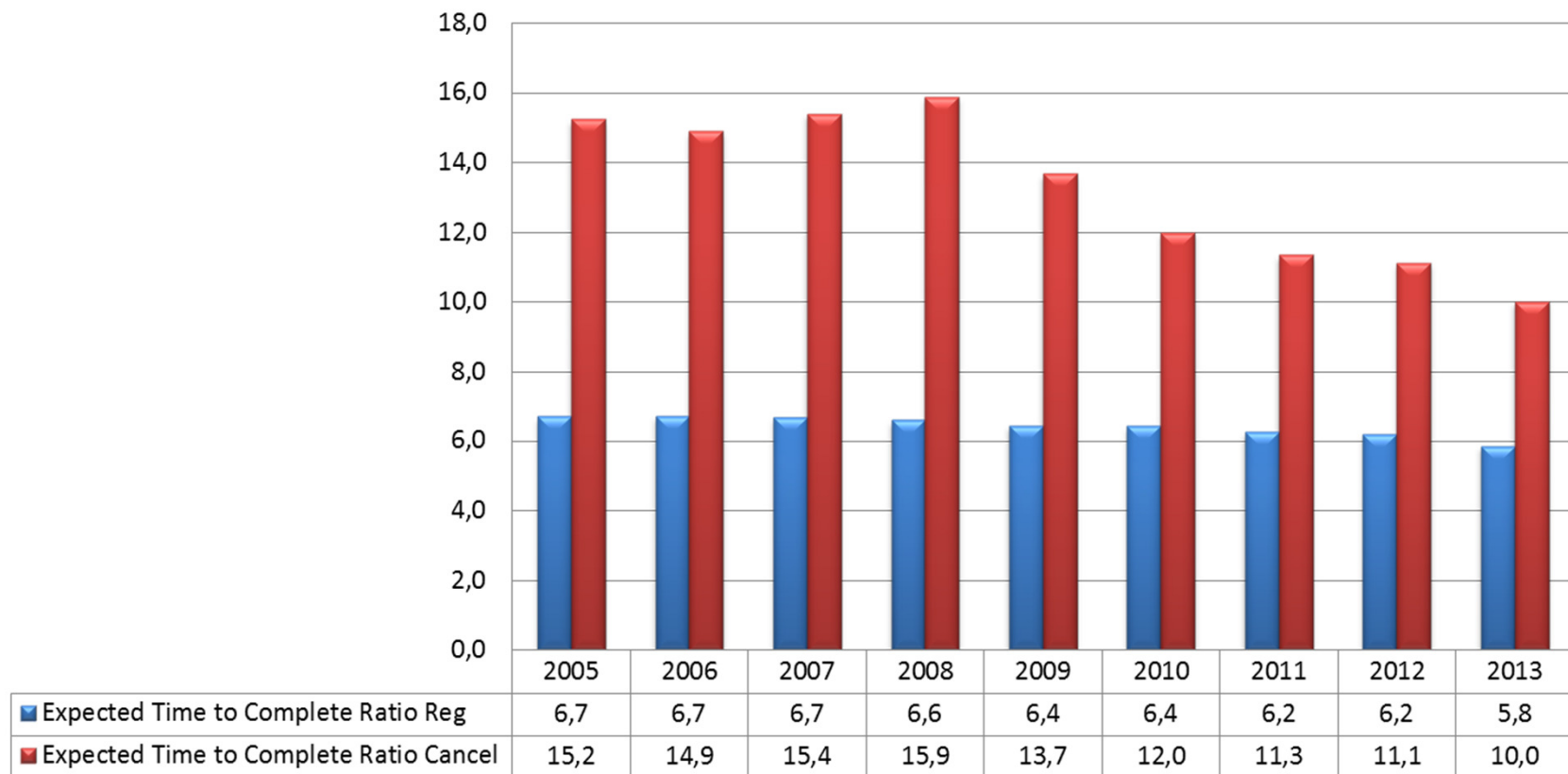
# Conceptual & Theoretical Framework

- Theoretically appealing concepts on student success – concept of academic and social integration (holistic approach). (*Tinto and Pauser, 2006, Moving From Theory to Action: Building a Model of Institutional Action for Student Success.*)
- Institutional throughput and Success – the capacity of the institution throughput and level completion of studies (*Tinto & Pusser, 2006*)

# Ratio of Cancelled Modules



# Expected Time of Completion





## Factors related to academic cancellation

- Not being able to cope with learning in an ODL environment
- Perceived difficulty of the module
- Not coping with assignments
- Poor study methods/skills
- Poor time management skills
- Insufficient reading and/writing skills

## Factors related to academic cancellation cont.

- No or limited ICT skills and impact on learning
- Insufficient language and/numerical skills

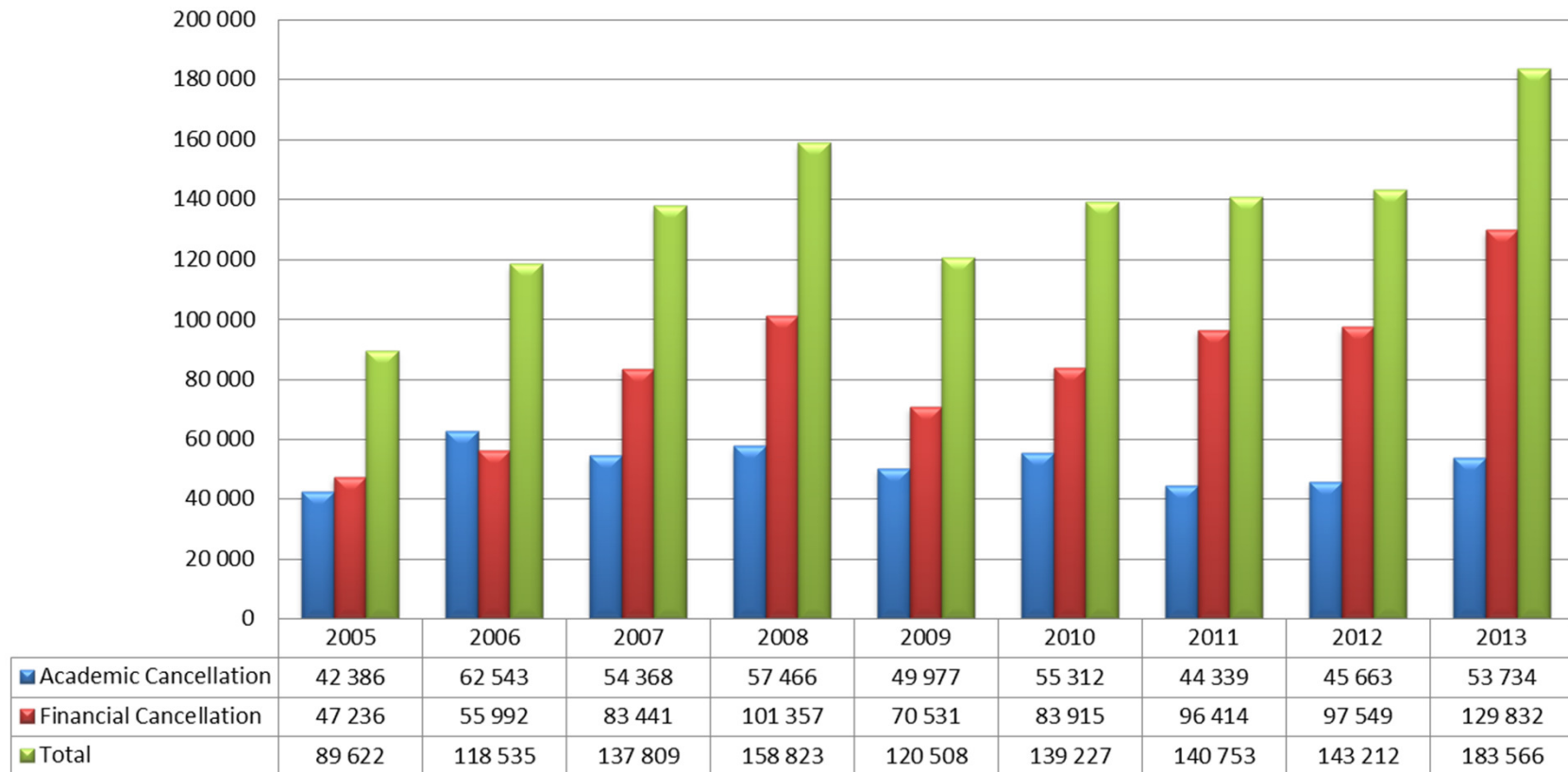
*Source: Tladi LS, Class of 2010 Drop-out Survey Results*



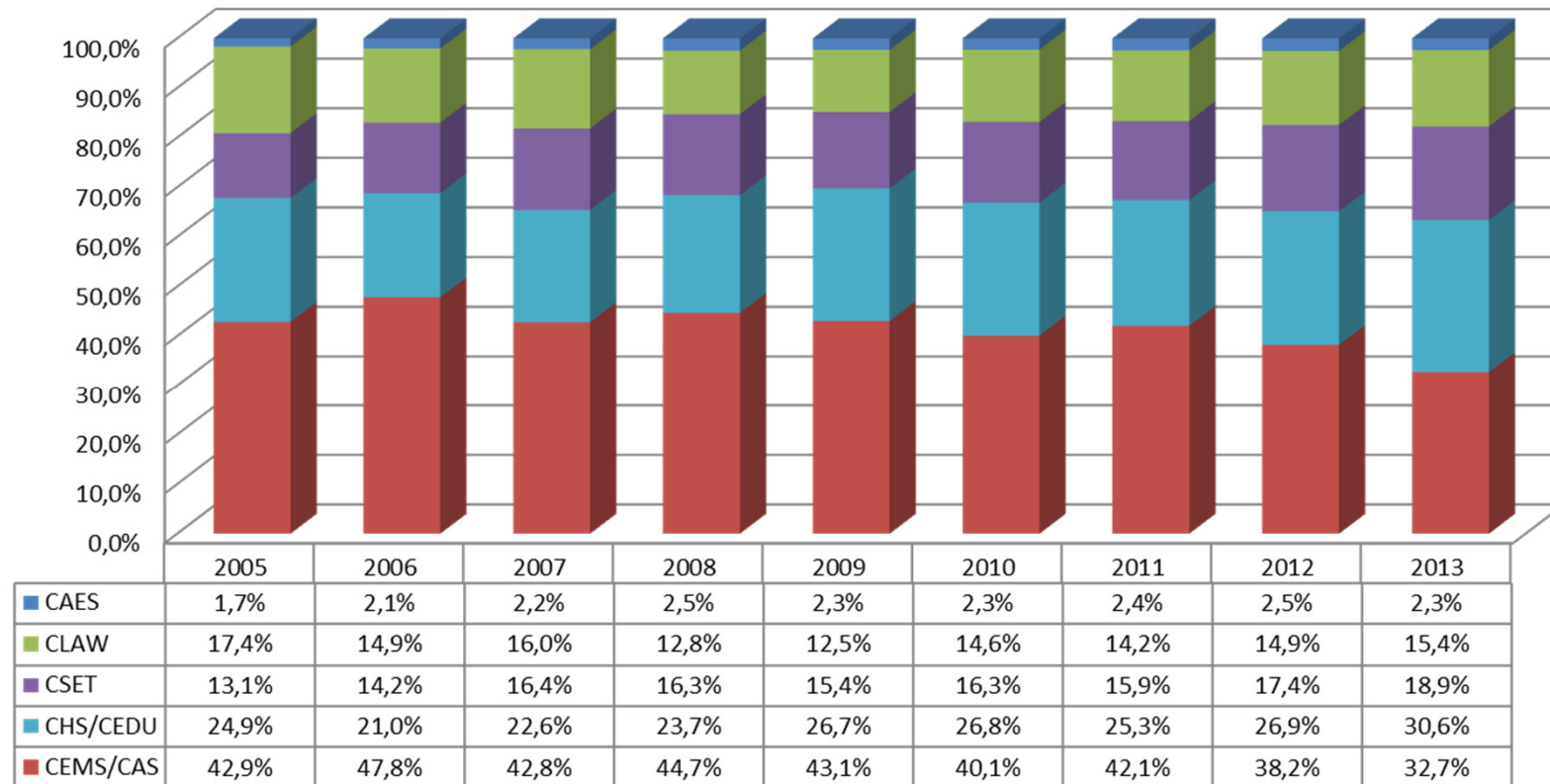
## Factors relation to Financial Cancellation

- Being unable to pay for studies/fees
- Unaffordable prescribed books
- Unsuccessful financial aid application
- Insufficient financial aid
- Technicalities surrounding financial aid
- No financial support from family & relatives
- Encountering unexpected expenses

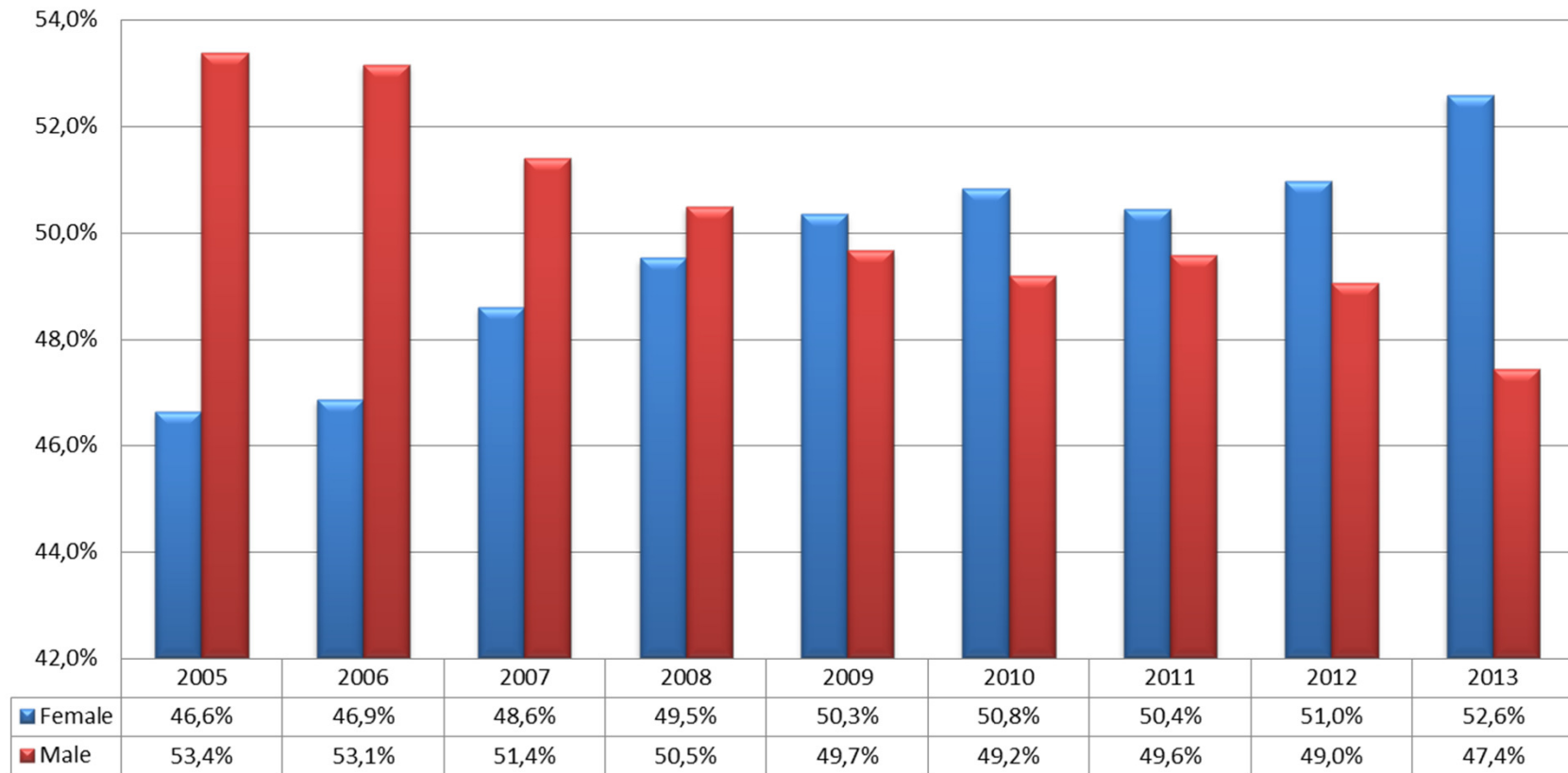
# Academic and Financial Cancellations



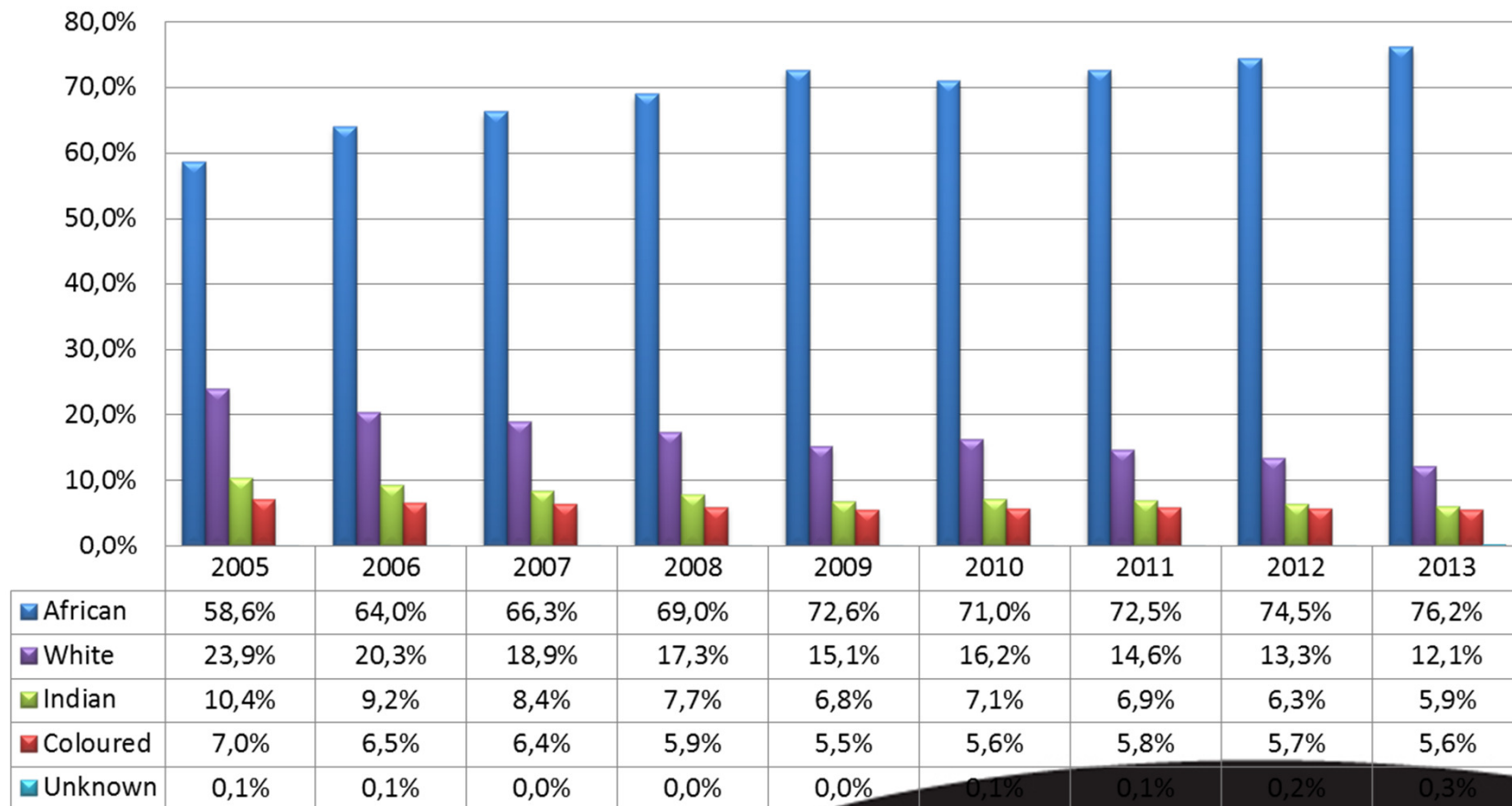
# Module Cancellation due to financial Reasons



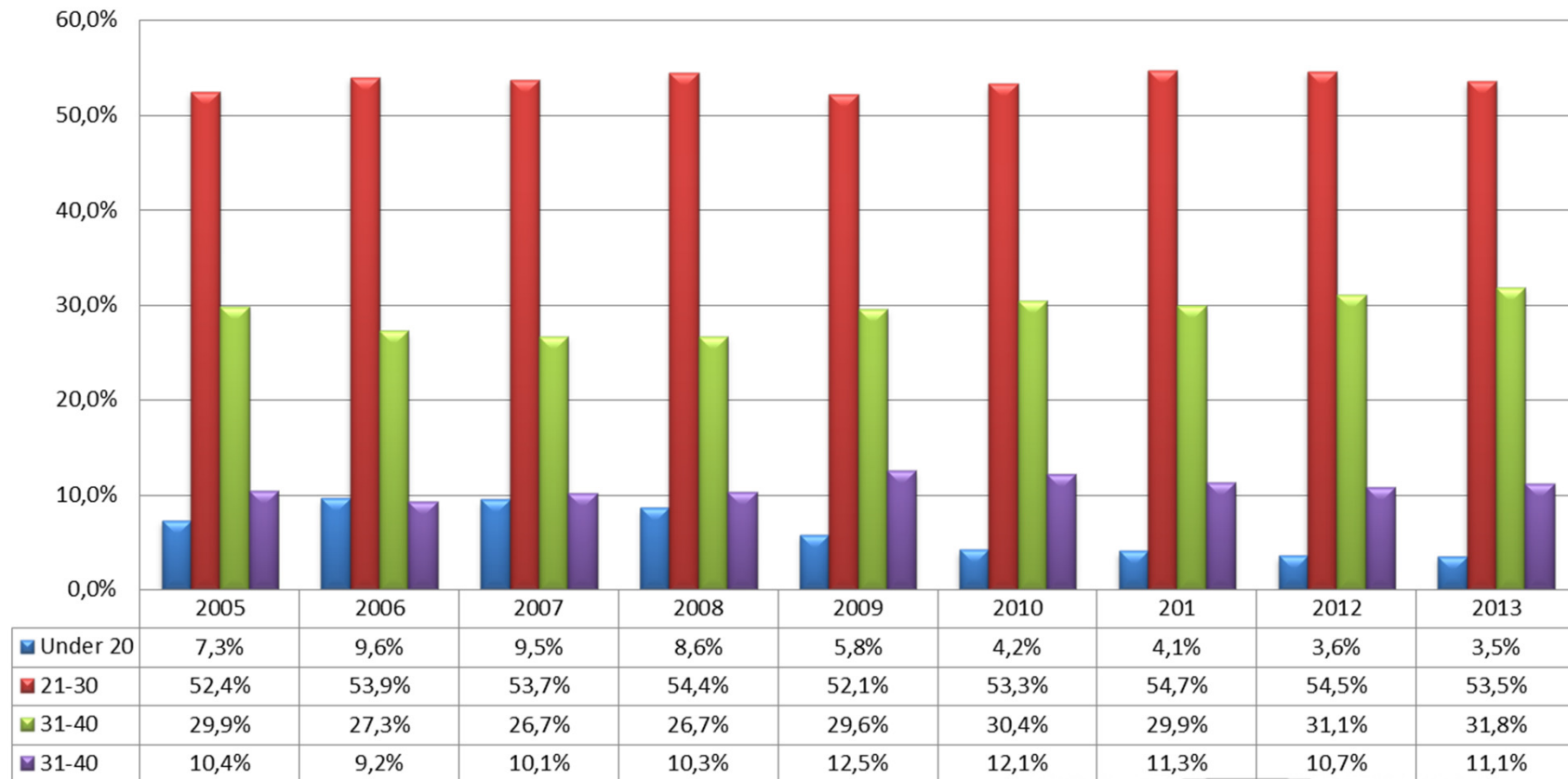
# Module Cancellation by Gender



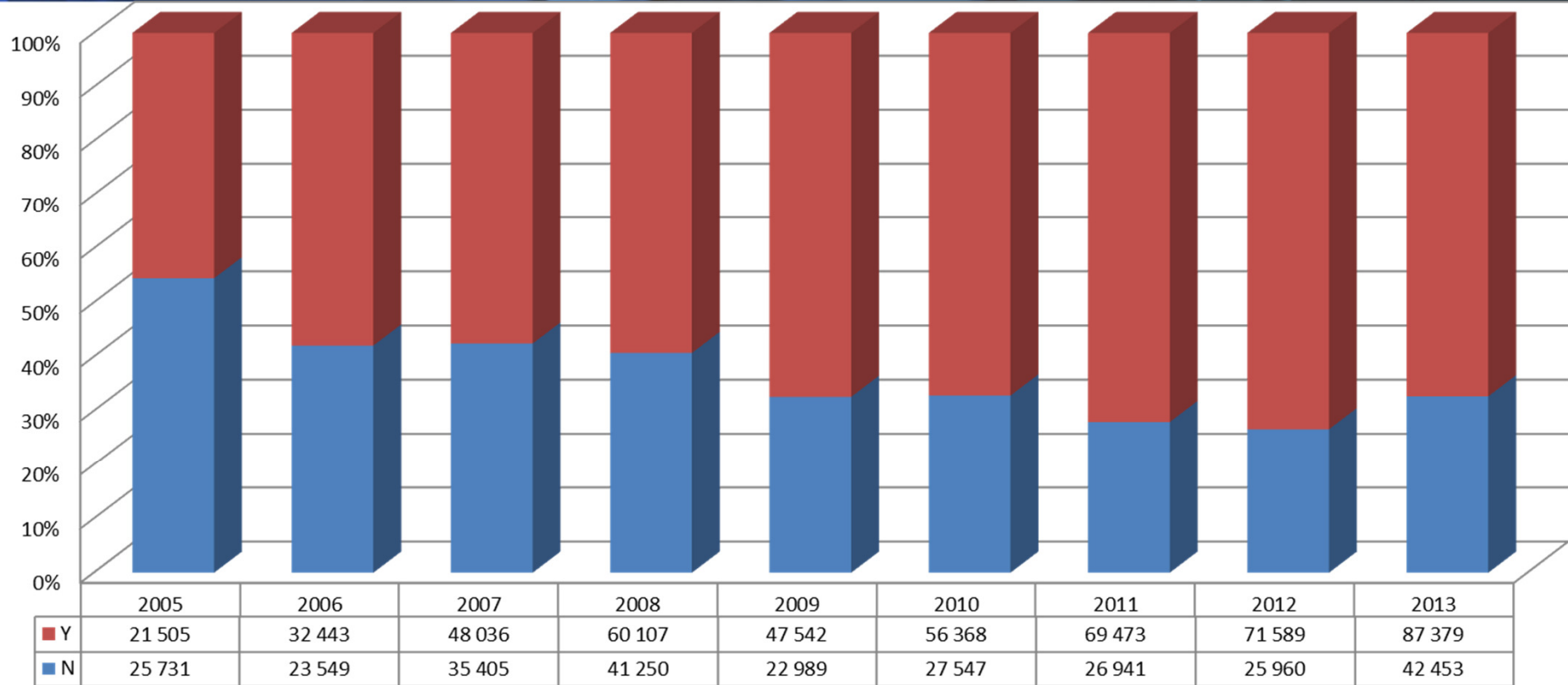
# Module cancellation by race



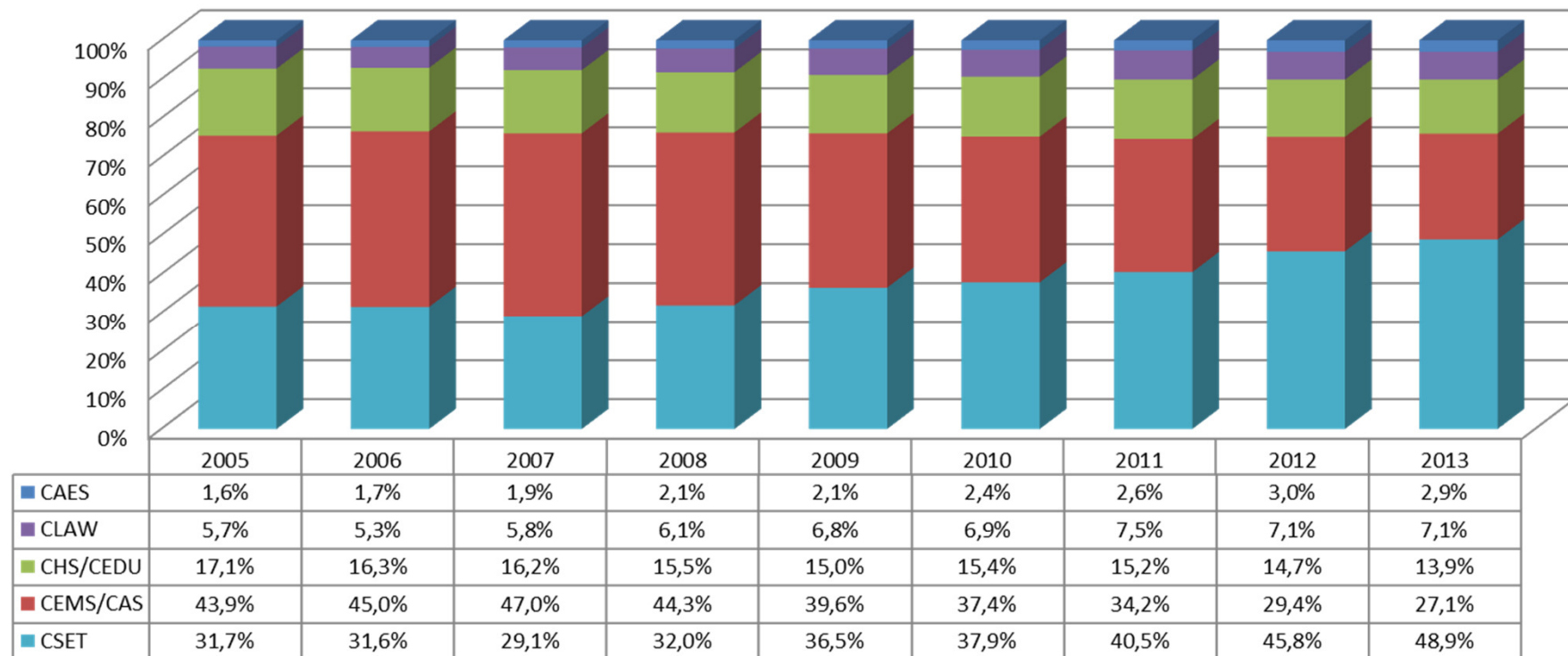
# Module Cancellation by Age



# Assignment activity of cancelled module



# Module Success by college



# Summary and Conclusion

The analysis tells the following:

- Financial reasons for cancellations supersede academic reasons
- Financial cancellations are institution-based and therefore unavoidable.
- More male cancellations 2005-2008 vs. more and increasing female cancellations 2009-2013

# Summary and Conclusion

- Completed assignments prior to module cancellation increased from 21 505 (2005) to 87 379 (2013).

# Recommendations

- Identifying other alternatives for financial assistance
- Considering less stringent tuition payment methods
- Considering more affordable alternatives for prescribed textbooks
- Assisting students with acquiring these textbooks (Adapted from: *Tladi LS, Class of 2010 Drop-out Survey Results*)

In conclusion:

- Conducting a comprehensive analysis to probe further and identifying interventions.
- Regrouping of stakeholders (including students) and deliberate on the way forward.



# Thank you

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