DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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DHET THROUGHPUT STUDIES

THROUGHPUT: DHET METHODOLOGY

- Records are extracted from the HEMIS database for the base year data and filtered to only render the first-time entering undergraduate students. This includes students enrolled for three and four year undergraduate programmes. Only South African citizens are tracked, all the records containing non-valid South African National Identity numbers are removed from the dataset. The South African Identity number is used to track the progress of students.

- The data for the base year consist of data fields for race, gender, field of study, graduation status, qualification type and the South African Identity number. Subsequent years do not need all these fields and only includes graduation status, qualification type and South African Identity number. It is assumed that the other fields remain the same throughout the study.

THROUGHPUT: DHET METHODOLOGY

- The second level of data cleaning is eliminating duplicate South African Identity numbers. The records are evaluated according to the following logic;

- The graduation status reflects a finish within the logical period of three years or four years depending upon the qualification type, not earlier. An earlier finish indicates a non-first-time entering student that was wrongfully enrolled as a first-time entering student and the record is removed from the tracking process.

- Where there are multiple fields of study, one is selected by choice should both records seem legitimate.

THROUGHPUT: DHET METHODOLOGY

- The third level of data cleaning looks at the multiple graduation status. Records are cleaned by removing the graduations after the first graduation status. This is to eliminate multiple graduation counts and false dropout counts.

- The dataset is now ready for the calculations to be done. The calculations are done for all qualification types combined (three and four year qualifications) first and then it is done for the three and four year qualifications separately.

- Dropouts are calculated by counting all the blank fields from one year in the table. Blank fields represent no student record and are regarded as a dropout. The total number of graduates in prior years have to be subtracted from this total to get the final dropout number. The difference between the sum of dropouts + graduates will be students who are still studying.

THROUGHPUT: DHET METHODOLOGY

- If a student drops out from one university and enters another institution then the student is <u>not</u> treated as a dropout. A student who changes courses is not treated as a dropout and a student who dropouts and returns at a later stage is accounted for in the study, and is not counted as a dropout.

- During 2003 to 2005 the public higher education landscape underwent a transformation with the merger of a number of institutions taking place. During this process the number of public higher education institutions decreased to 23. At this time there were instances where course codes and entrance categories were changed and South African Identity numbers were not useable. In this study these records were taken out of the equation.

TABLES AND GRAPHS FROM THE STUDY

Table 2: National total % dropout and graduates for 3 to 6 year undergraduate qualifications

NATIONAL TOTAL: 3 & 4 Year Quals								
Intake year	DROPOUTS (%)							
(Year 1)	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
2000	31.5	36.9	41.3	44.3	45.5	46.7	47.3	47.0	47.1
2001	29.6	38.4	41.8	44.4	47.0	48.0	47.8	47.9	47.3
2002	30.9	37.7	39.7	44.3	46.2	46.5	46.6	45.8	45.4
2003	26.4	34.8	39.1	42.9	44.3	44.5	43.7	43.2	42.9
2004	26.9	35.3	38.7	41.7	42.7	42.3	42.1	41.9	41.0
2005	25.1	33.4	35.6	37.9	38.5	38.8	38.7	37.8	38.3
2006	27.5	34.0	35.6	37.4	38.0	38.4	37.6	38.2	
2007	26.3	32.1	33.3	35.7	36.6	36.3	37.1		
2008	24.5	30.1	31.4	33.6	34.0	35.1	Data not available		

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Table 2: National total % dropout and graduates for 3 to 6 year undergraduate qualifications

Intake year	GRADUATES (%)							
(Year 1)	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
2000	14.9	27.6	35.1	39.6	42.1	43.7	44.9	45.9
2001	14.8	27.4	34.6	39.2	41.5	43.1	44.3	45.4
2002	16.2	28.8	36.8	41.1	43.4	45.0	46.2	47.2
2003	15.3	29.8	37.9	42.5	45.0	46.7	48.0	49.1
2004	15.3	30.0	38.7	43.5	46.2	48.1	49.4	50.7
2005	15.4	31.2	40.7	46.0	49.0	50.9	52.5	53.9
2006	15.1	31.1	40.4	45.9	49.0	51.1	53.0	
2007	14.3	30.4	40.4	46.1	49.8	52.3		
2008	14.4	31.5	42.0	48.4	52.1	Data not available		

Table 6: National total % dropout and graduates for 3 year diplomas

NATIONAL TOTAL: CONTACT + DISTANCE									
Intake year	DROPOUTS (%)								
(Year 1)	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
2000	42.2	49.3	53.3	56.1	57.4	58.7	58.7	58.0	58.0
2001	43.1	54.1	56.4	58.1	61.5	62.0	61.4	61.4	60.5
2002	44.9	50.4	50.0	56.6	57.9	57.8	57.8	56.6	55.9
2003	33.5	43.9	49.0	53.1	53.9	53.8	52.4	51.5	51.0
2004	35.0	45.9	48.2	51.8	52.5	51.4	51.0	50.3	49.1
2005	33.4	43.4	44.3	46.9	47.0	46.7	46.1	45.0	45.3
2006	35.6	43.9	44.2	46.3	46.6	46.6	45.6	45.9	
2007	33.6	40.9	40.7	43.7	44.3	43.8	44.1		
2008	31.6	38.5	39.2	42.1	42.4	43.0	Data not available		

Table 6: National total % dropout and graduates for 3 year diplomas

Intake year (Year 1)	GRADUATES (%)							
	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
2000	12.2	20.2	25.4	28.2	30.3	31.8	33.0	34.1
2001	12.0	19.1	23.1	26.2	28.0	29.5	30.6	31.6
2002	15.4	22.0	27.4	30.3	32.2	33.7	34.9	36.1
2003	15.5	24.8	30.6	33.8	35.9	37.4	39.0	40.2
2004	15.0	24.4	30.8	34.6	37.0	38.9	40.4	41.7
2005	15.3	25.9	33.3	37.7	40.6	42.6	44.4	45.9
2006	15.3	26.0	33.2	37.7	40.6	42.8	44.6	
2007	14.9	25.6	33.4	38.2	41.6	44.3		
2008	13.7	25.4	33.8	39.3	43.1	Data not available		

Table 22: National total % dropout and graduates for 3 year degrees

NATIONAL TOTAL: CONTACT + DISTANCE									
Intake year (Year 1)	DROPOUTS (%)								
	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
2000	24.5	27.5	32.0	35.2	37.0	38.2	39.4	39.6	39.9
2001	21.0	28.5	33.4	36.8	39.0	40.8	41.3	41.3	41.3
2002	23.5	31.3	35.8	39.1	41.5	42.5	42.9	42.5	42.5
2003	22.5	29.9	34.4	38.3	40.4	41.1	40.8	40.7	40.9
2004	22.3	29.4	33.9	36.9	38.3	38.5	38.6	38.8	38.2
2005	20.7	28.0	31.1	33.1	33.9	34.8	35.2	34.5	35.2
2006	23.0	28.6	31.4	33.0	34.0	34.8	34.3	35.2	
2007	22.6	27.5	29.8	32.0	33.4	33.3	34.7		
2008	20.7	25.8	28.0	29.8	30.2	31.9	Data not available		

Table 22: National total % dropout and graduates for 3 year degrees

Intake year	GRADUATES (%)							
(Year 1)	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
2000	19.2	33.9	42.7	47.1	49.7	51.2	52.4	53.4
2001	19.4	32.6	40.9	45.2	47.6	49.2	50.5	51.4
2002	19.3	32.5	40.8	44.8	47.2	48.6	49.7	50.6
2003	18.9	32.9	41.0	45.3	47.7	49.3	50.6	51.6
2004	19.7	33.7	42.4	46.7	49.3	51.0	52.3	53.5
2005	21.9	37.1	46.2	50.7	53.5	55.1	56.5	57.6
2006	20.3	35.1	44.4	49.1	51.9	54.0	55.8	
2007	19.2	34.0	43.9	49.0	52.5	54.7		
2008	20.5	36.1	46.2	51.9	55.3	Data not available		

Table 38: National total % dropout and graduates for undergraduate degrees with a minimum duration of 4 years or more (Contact and Distance)

NATIONAL TOTAL: CONTACT + DISTANCE									
Intake year	DROPOUTS (%)								
(Year 1)	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
2000	22.5	28.4	33.5	36.5	36.8	38.0	38.6	38.2	38.3
2001	21.7	28.9	32.4	35.2	37.1	38.1	37.7	37.7	36.9
2002	18.9	26.5	29.3	32.9	34.7	34.8	34.6	33.9	33.6
2003	20.6	27.3	30.2	33.2	34.6	34.6	33.9	33.8	33.3
2004	18.1	23.8	27.2	29.4	30.5	30.3	30.1	30.1	29.4
2005	17.0	23.8	27.0	29.3	30.1	30.8	31.0	30.2	30.8
2006	19.6	24.2	26.6	27.8	28.5	28.6	28.0	28.5	
2007	19.2	23.3	25.2	27.0	27.6	27.3	27.8		
2008	16.6	20.2	21.7	23.1	23.2	24.3	Data not available		

Table 38: National total % dropout and graduates for undergraduate degrees with a minimum duration of 4 years or more (Contact and Distance)

Intake year (Year 1)	GRADUATES (%)							
	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
2000		31.3	41.2	48.5	51.6	53.4	54.7	55.8
2001		30.6	41.3	48.6	51.8	53.6	55.0	56.1
2002		32.9	44.9	52.0	55.2	57.2	58.6	59.6
2003		32.0	44.3	51.9	55.3	57.2	58.6	59.7
2004		32.9	46.9	55.5	59.4	61.5	62.8	64.0
2005		31.4	45.2	53.2	57.0	59.0	60.8	62.2
2006		33.0	47.0	55.9	60.0	62.3	64.3	
2007		32.6	47.0	55.8	60.2	63.0		
2008		35.5	50.9	60.4	65.0	Data not available		

NATIONAL DROPOUT AND THROUGHPUT RATES FOR SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS AND FIELDS OF STUDY

Dropout and throughput rates for the MBChB qualification, for the Bachelor of Education qualification, 3 and 4 year engineering qualifications, 3 and 4 year Life and Physical Science qualifications, qualifications in the field of Business studies, the field of education, qualifications in humanities fields other than education and dropout and throughput rate for the major fields of study in science engineering and technology were also undertaken for this publication.

NATIONAL DROPOUT AND THROUGHPUT RATES FOR SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS AND FIELDS OF STUDY

In order to do these type of cohort studies the DHET has to extract data by qualification name and create a new table in the database. It must therefore be realised that if a qualification name is incorrectly reported then those students are excluded.
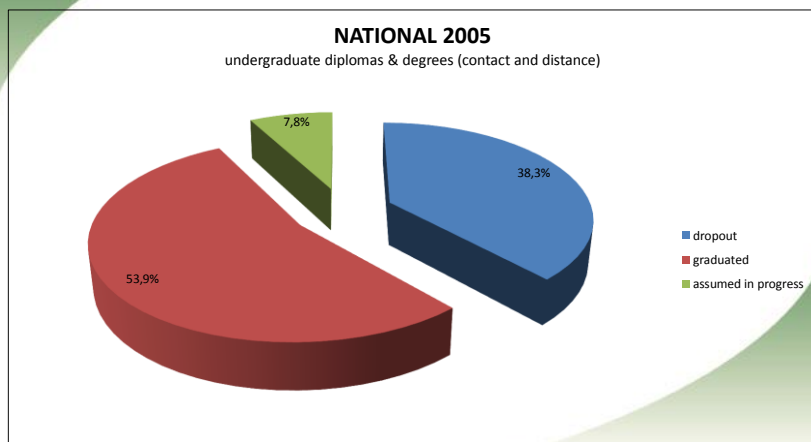
The dropout and throughput rates for students with disabilities and for NSFAS students will be included in the next publication and the data for this study is being obtained from NSFAS.

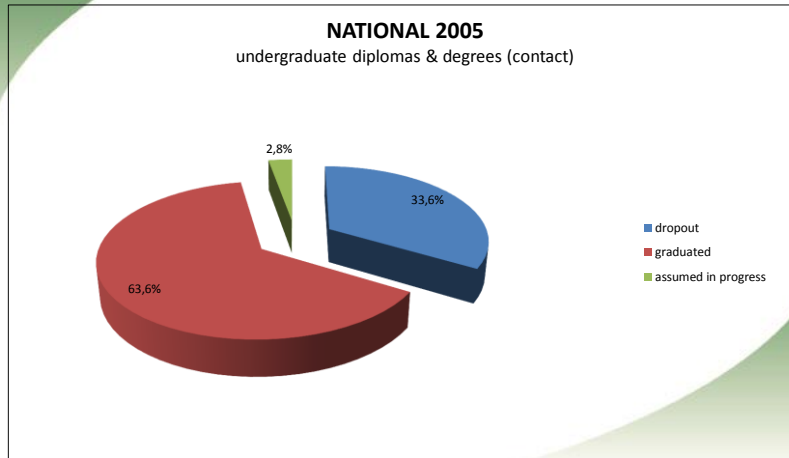**Figure 2: Dropout and Throughput for the 2005 first time entering cohort**

NATIONAL 2005
undergraduate diplomas & degrees (contact and distance)

- dropout — 38,3%
- graduated — 53,9%
- assumed in progress — 7,8%

Figure 3: Dropout and Throughput for the 2005 first time entering cohort (contact)

NATIONAL 2005
undergraduate diplomas & degrees (contact)

2,8%
33,6%
63,6%

- dropout
- graduated
- assumed in progress

Figure 4: Dropout and Throughput for the 2005 first time entering cohort (distance)

NATIONAL 2005
undergraduate diplomas & degrees (distance)

10,8%
14,8%
74,4%
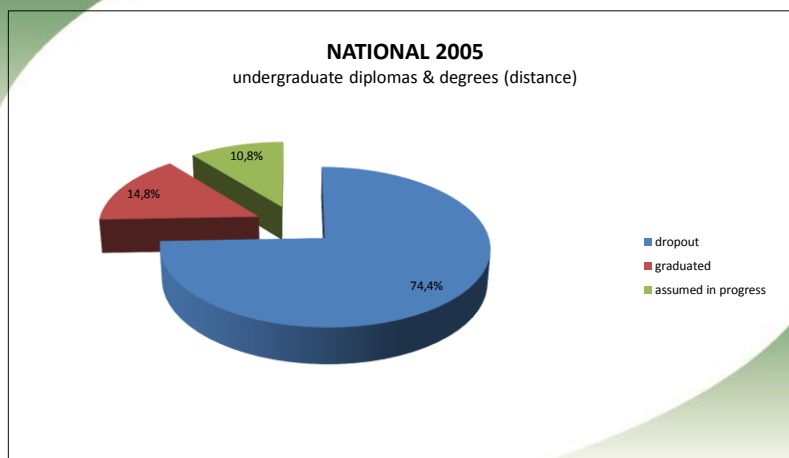
- dropout
- graduated
- assumed in progress

Figure 5: Dropouts by race and qualification type from 2000 to 2008

	2000	2008	2000	2008	2000	2008
	3 year diplomas		3 year degrees		4 year degrees	
African	42,3%	32,1%	28,6%	23,7%	25,7%	20,3%
Coloured	43,0%	32,1%	27,4%	25,9%	23,4%	16,5%
Indian	41,1%	30,1%	20,2%	19,7%	14,9%	10,7%
White	41,4%	28,5%	21,5%	15,1%	18,9%	10,6%
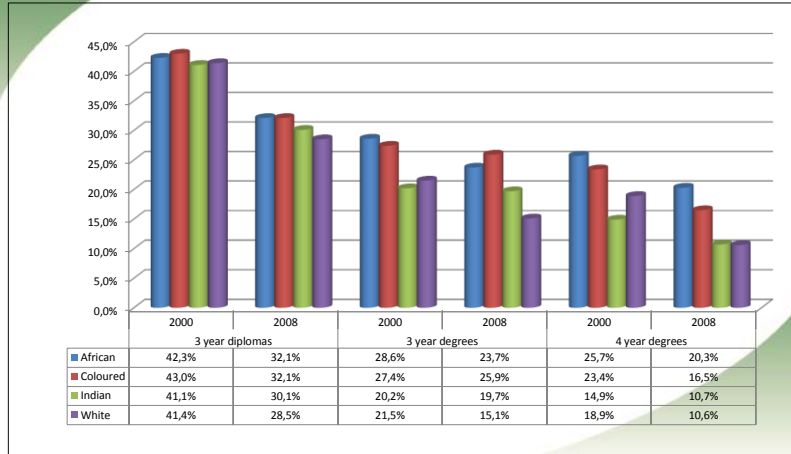
Figure 6: Dropouts by race, gender and qualification type from 2000 to 2008

	3 year diplomas				3 year degrees				4 year degrees			
	2000		2008		2000		2008		2000		2008	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
African	40.1%	44.7%	33.0%	30.9%	27.8%	29.6%	22.2%	25.7%	24.2%	27.4%	20.1%	20.4%
Coloured	38.0%	47.7%	30.9%	31.4%	26.3%	29.3%	25.1%	27.3%	20.1%	28.2%	15.6%	18.6%
Indian	35.6%	45.0%	27.3%	32.1%	20.8%	19.2%	18.1%	22.0%	13.9%	16.2%	10.1%	11.6%
White	36.4%	44.9%	27.9%	28.9%	20.4%	23.0%	14.1%	16.2%	18.5%	19.3%	10.6%	10.6%

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU