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### Background

- UC San Diego's Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) program aims to recruit students interested in public health & healthcare careers
- Evaluation requested by BSPH Leadership and Education Committee to assist in future recruitment
- 2022-23 BSPH Honors Practicum cohort conducted a survey of current BSPH majors

#### Study Objectives:

- Identify pathways and reasons for enrolling in the BSPH program
- Understand the career goals of current BSPH students
- Assess BSPH student retention

### Methods

- Anonymous mixed-methods Qualtrics questionnaire sent to all BSPH majors and promoted by faculty members and classroom visits by practicum students in Fall 2022
- Quantitative analysis performed using EpiInfo7.1
- Qualitative data coded thematically using Word and Excel

### Results

#### Quantitative results:

- 37% response rate
- 1/3 admitted directly, 1/3 transfer students, 1/3 changed from other majors (primarily biology at 60%)
- 95% plan to remain in the major
- 60% hope to become health professionals, 24% want public health careers, remainder undecided
- 82% are considering an advanced degree, with 34% aiming for MPH, 6% for Ph.D., 20% for MD or DDS degree, and 32% for other health professional degrees

#### Qualitative themes:

- More internship/employment opportunities needed
- Lack of diversity through faculty
- Students appreciate being able to choose a concentration & flexible major requirements, dislike working in teams

### Conclusions

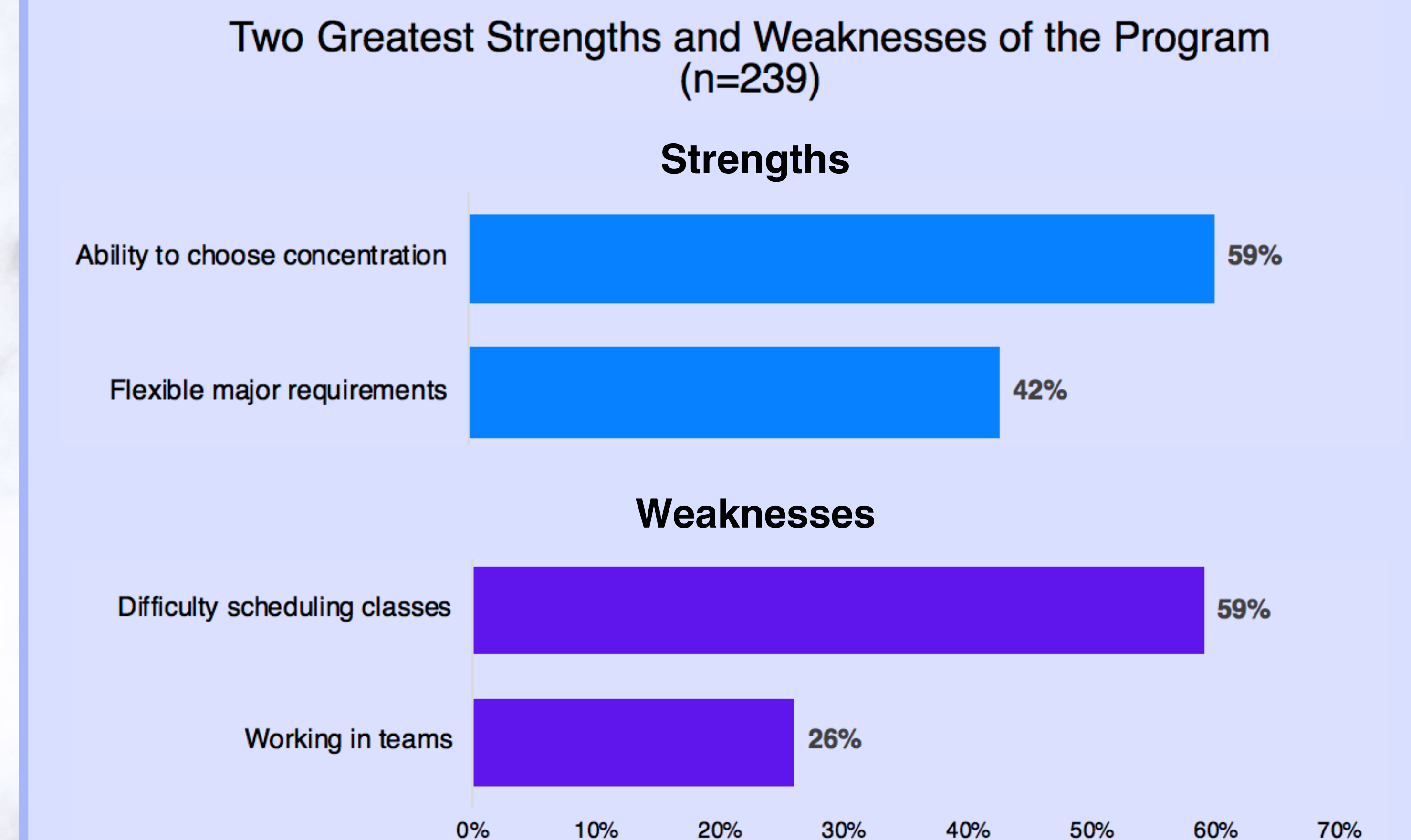
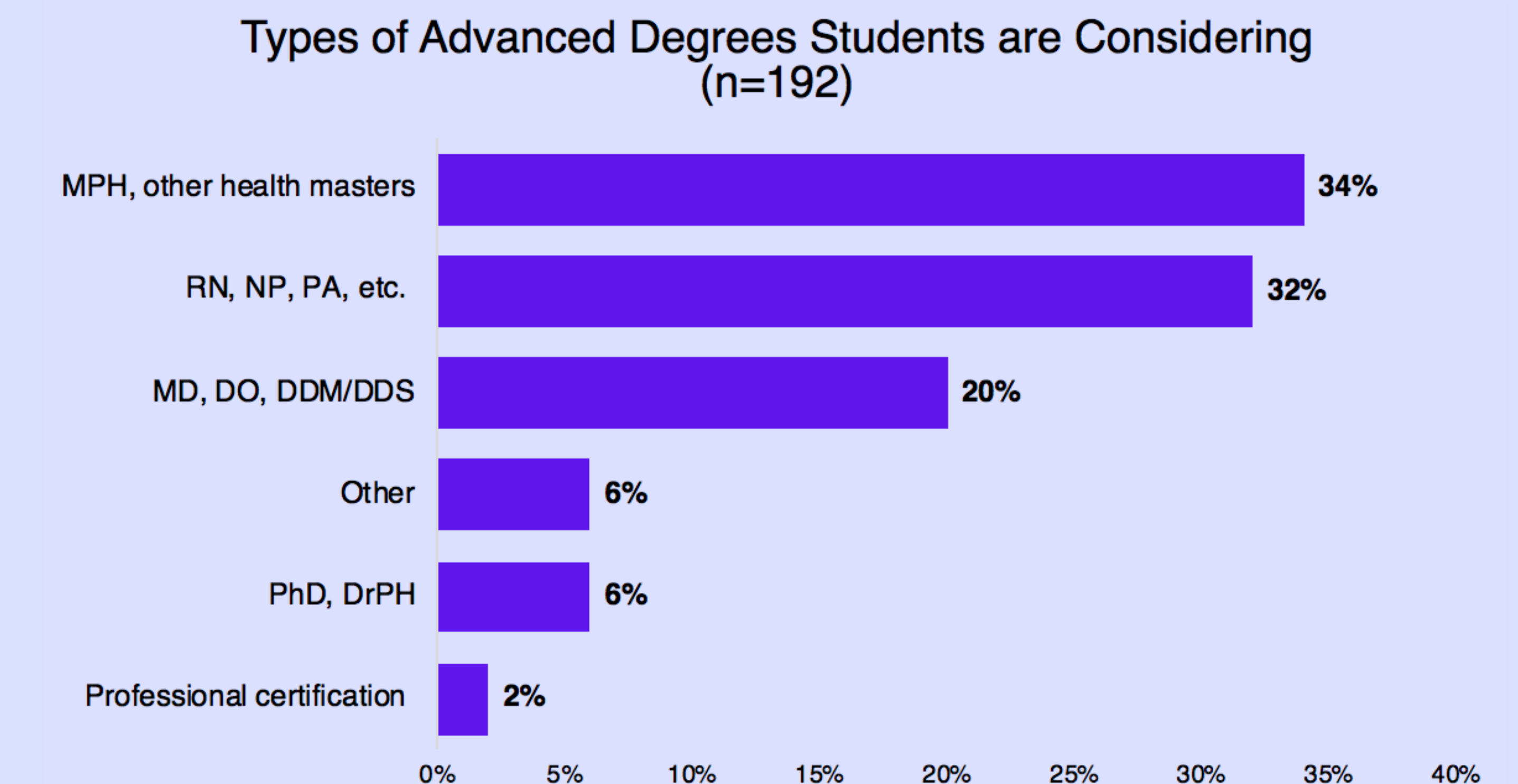
- BSPH program has high retention
- Most BSPH majors hope to become health practitioners rather than pursuing public health careers.
- Concentration specificity and requirements draw students to the BSPH
- Efforts are needed to improve scheduling of classes and provide positive teamwork experiences.

The majority of BSPH majors hope to become health professionals instead of pursuing careers in public health



Students are satisfied with the major, but there is room for improvement

### Figures



### Qualitative findings

"I wish that [we] had more faculty and staff so that mentorships and research assistantships were not so hard to access"



"Switching to Public Health has been a great decision... professors I have met in my public health courses care about their students and the overall field"

