



Teaching Health Economics

Health Economics Research Centre

Nuffield Department of Population Health

Applied Methods of Cost-effectiveness Analysis in Health Care

This is a 3-day computer based residential course.

Who is the course aimed at?

The course is aimed at health economists and those health professionals with experience of health economics who wish to learn about recent methodological developments in cost-effectiveness analysis.

Course format:

The course is based on four modules consisting of a 1½ hour interactive presentation and a 1½ hour computer-based exercise.

- Module 1: Decision analysis and modelling
- Module 2: Analysis of health outcomes
- Module 3: Analysis of cost data
- Module 4: Reporting and presenting results

Course started: December 1999

Course held biannually in Oxford (July/Dec)

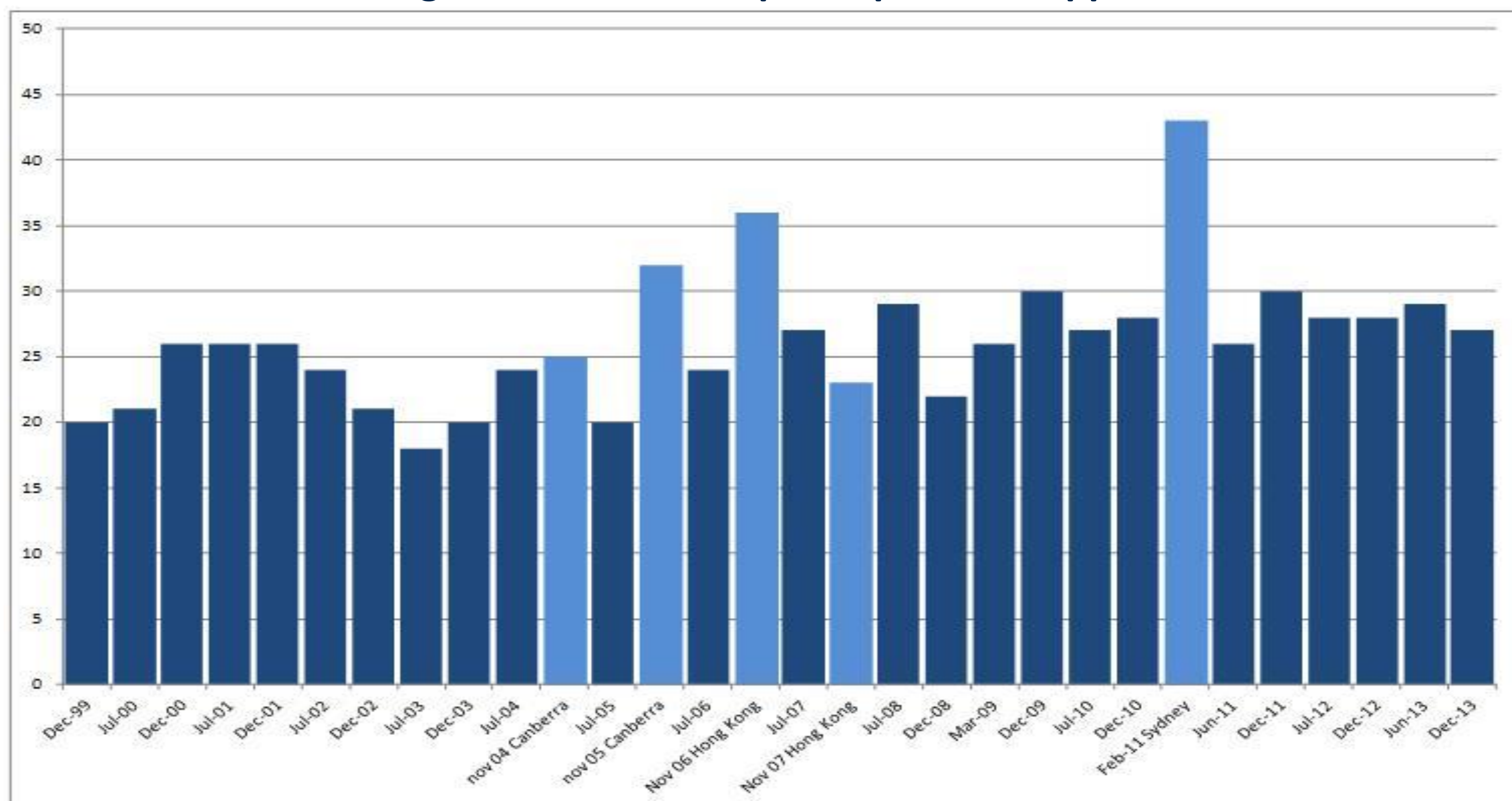
Internationally hosted:

- Canberra 2004
- Canberra 2005
- Hong Kong 2006
- Hong Kong 2007
- Sydney 2011

Figure 1: Applied course classroom



Figure 2: Number of participants on Applied Methods course



Total number of participants: 786

Introduction to Health Economic Evaluation

This is a one day non-residential course.

Who is the course aimed at?

Anyone involved in the healthcare sector or in health services who needs to be introduced to the language of economics and economic evaluation. It explains how economists evaluate the costs and benefits of health interventions, and how health economics is used by decision makers in the health services and in the pharmaceutical and medical technology industries.

Course format:

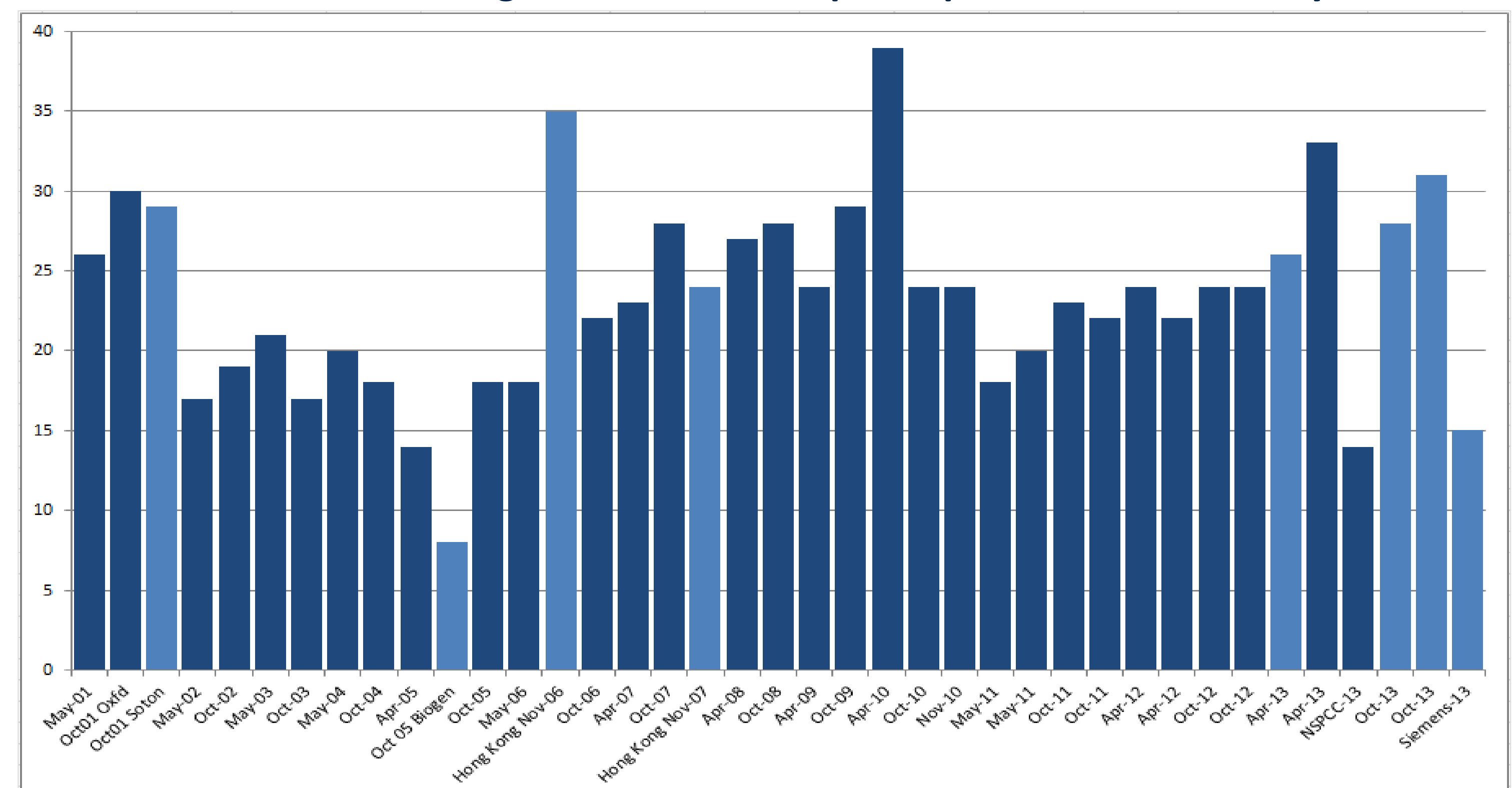
The course is divided into four sessions, each lasting approximately 1½ hours:

- Introduction to key health economic concepts: This session provides background statistics on the health care sector, introduces main economics concepts and health economic evaluation
- Measuring outcomes: This session introduces participants to economic thinking and techniques for evaluating health outcomes for use in economic evaluations (i.e. different measures of health status, techniques for valuing health states, multi-attribute utility scales, Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALY))
- Measuring costs: This session discusses the principles behind the measurement of costs and clarifies good practice in designing a cost study, analysis of cost data and presentation of costs results .
- Interpreting and using cost-effectiveness analysis in decision making: This session focuses on interpretation of cost effectiveness results and illustrates how cost-effectiveness analysis can be used in decision-making.

Course started: May 2001

Course held biannually up to 2011, now offered four times a year.

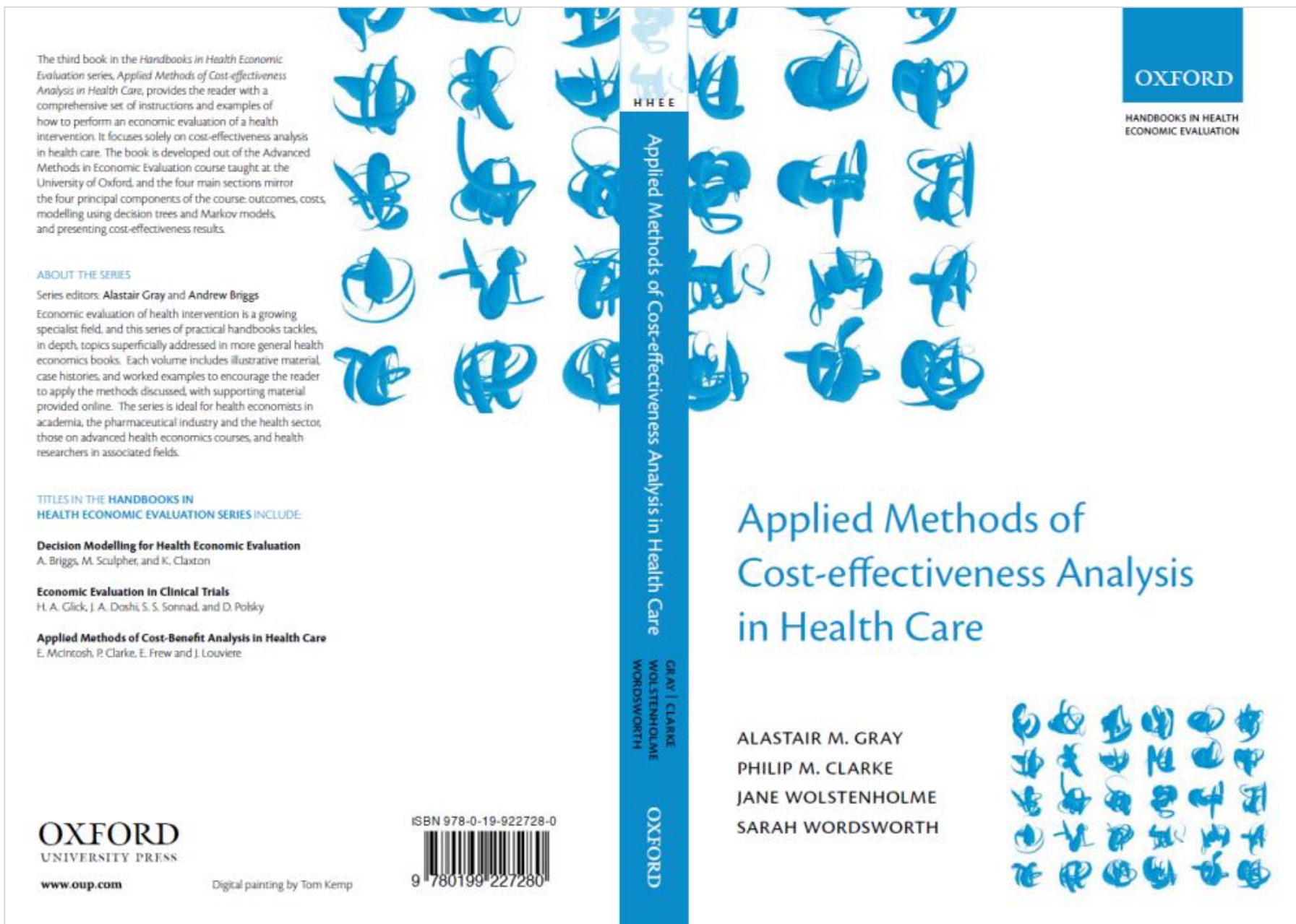
Figure 4: Number of participants on Introductory course



Total number of participants: 906

OUP series of handbooks in Health Economic Evaluation:

Figure 3: Applied Methods handbook



Feedback and comments on Applied Methods course:

- 'Facilities and course materials were really good'
- 'This course covers huge amount of information in a comprehensive way'.
- 'Worked examples are great'.
- 'Loved the course'

MSc Global Health – Health Economics Module

The Health Economics team has been actively involved in the teaching activities of the MSc in Global Health Science since its inception in academic year 2005-06.

Through a combination of engaging lectures, exercises, discussions and tutorials HERC staff:

- Provide an overview of the extent to which the health sector contributes to the overall economy;
- Discuss alternative models of health care delivery and financing and the associated trade-off between equity and efficiency objectives in providing health care services and setting priorities at national and local level;
- Introduce principles of economic appraisal with a focus on both theoretical and empirical methods of economic evaluation alongside randomised controlled trials

Despite the optional nature of the module, students' uptake has been high throughout the years, with a maximum attendance of 80% of the enrolled MSc students in the current academic year (2013-14).

Undergraduate Medical School

Members of HERC teach the session "Health economics and economic evaluation" to fifth year medical students within the course "Population Health 2: Public Health", which is part of their community rotation. The session is taught six times a year.

In the first half of the session health economics is introduced and different ways of financing healthcare and allocating resources are explored, and students gain an understanding of why governments intervene in the healthcare market. The second half introduces economic evaluation as a method for allocating healthcare resources and provides an overview of different types of economic evaluation, principles for undertaking economic evaluation and concludes with an example of a published evaluation.

MSc and DPhil student supervision

Figure 5: Number of DPhil/PhD students by year of completion

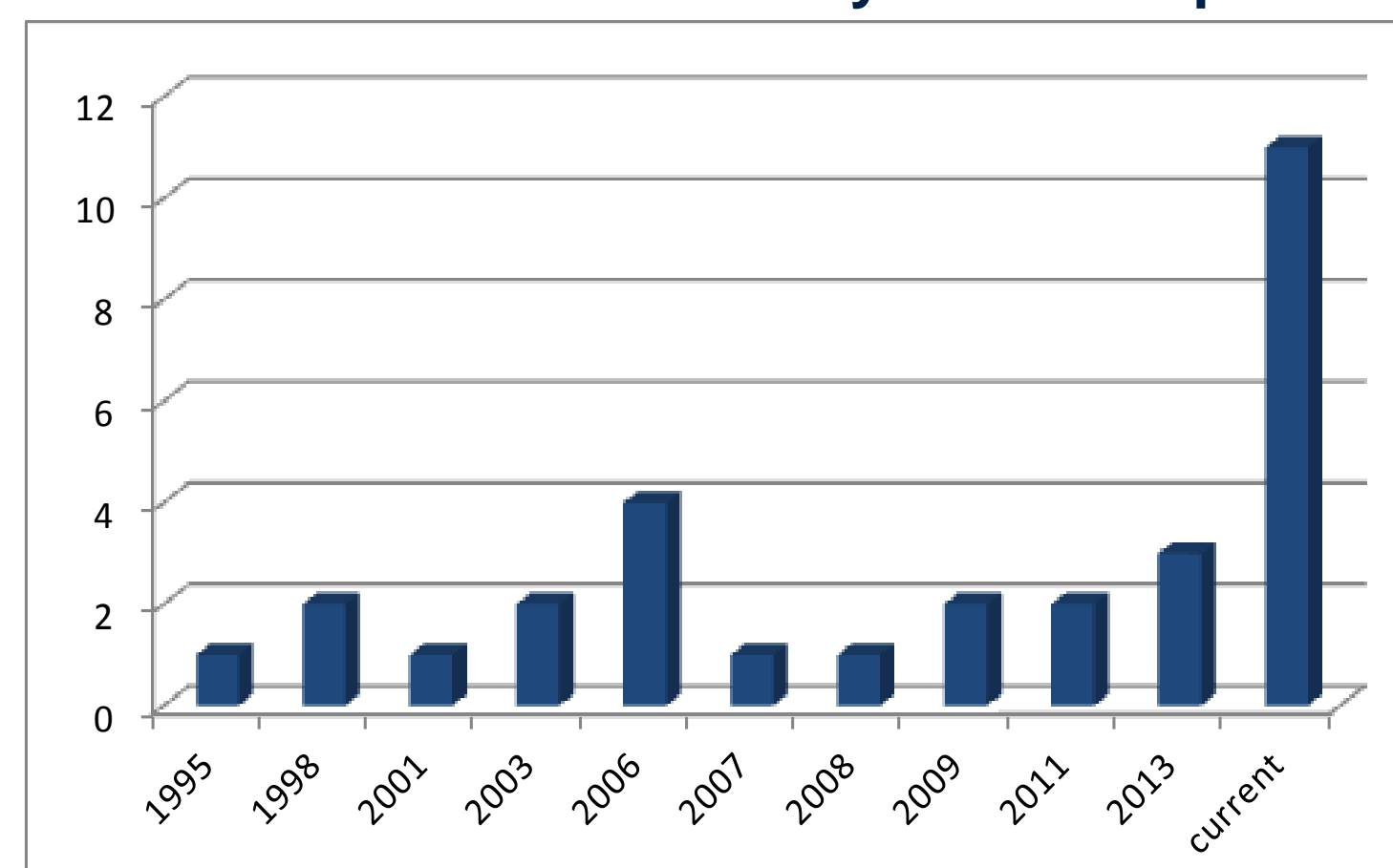


Figure 6: Number of MSc placement students by year of completion

