

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Department of Employee Trust Funds  
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**CORRESPONDENCE MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 24, 2011  
**TO:** Teachers Retirement Board  
Wisconsin Retirement Board  
**FROM:** Diane Poole, Director  
Disability Programs Bureau  
Division of Insurance Services  
**SUBJECT:** January - March 2011 Quarterly Disability Annuity Statistics


**This memo is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.**

Attached is the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) *Disability Benefit Annuity Statistical Report* for January through March 2011. The report provides quarterly data on: number of annuities started, options selected, gender, determination, age, and disability type.

**TRENDS**

The trends, when compared to the same quarter over the past five years, are as follows:

- The number of new disability annuities is lower. The Teachers Retirement Board (TR) had 7 under its jurisdiction, compared to an average of 9; the Wisconsin Retirement Board (WR) had 29 under its jurisdiction, compared to an average of 36.8.
- The most-selected annuity options under TR and WR jurisdiction were "100% Continued to Named Survivor (Joint Survivor) with 180 Payments Guaranteed."
- For TR Board, females continue to be the predominant user of the § 40.63 Disability Retirement Annuity benefit. For WR Board, females are a slightly higher user.
- The majority of TR and WR applications are approved with less than 1% being denied.
- The predominant age group for both TR Board and WR Board annuities is 51-55.
- The prevalent disability types for TR Board annuities for this quarter in the last five years are: mental illness, cancer and multiple medical. For WR Board annuities, the prevalent disability types are: orthopedic, neurology, and cancer.

Reviewed and approved by Lisa Ellinger, Administrator, Division of Insurance Services.  
  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date 6/3/11

Board	Mtg Date	Item #
WR	6.23.11	1
TR	6.23.11	4B

## **PRIORITIES**

The top priority for the Disability Programs Bureau is to approve disability benefits as quickly as possible, so individuals are not without income. Approving a disability benefit requires extensive follow-up with the applicant, employer, and health care providers. An application can take up to a year to process because of this inherent dependency on outside sources to provide documentation. The second priority is to maintain existing disability accounts. This requires obtaining the necessary medical and income information, which again requires extensive communication with outside sources.

We would appreciate any feedback that you may offer for improving this report. Please contact me at (608) 266-5387 or [diane.poole@etf.state.wi.us](mailto:diane.poole@etf.state.wi.us) if you have comments or questions.

I will be available at the meeting should you have any questions.

Attachment: Disability Benefit Annuity Statistical Report

**STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYEE TRUST FUNDS**

**WISCONSIN RETIREMENT SYSTEM (WRS)  
DISABILITY BENEFIT ANNUITY STATISTICAL REPORT  
JANUARY - MARCH 2011**

This report provides a summary of disability information for the Board's review. Department staff have reviewed and made the following recommendations on initial disability applications submitted by participants. Staff review individual participant applications on an ongoing basis to determine if disability benefits can continue. If you have questions or would like additional information regarding disability benefits, please contact Diane Poole at (608) 266-5387 or [diane.poole@etf.state.wi.us](mailto:diane.poole@etf.state.wi.us).

The following key describes the type of disability determinations made by ETF staff:

**Approved** – Disability applications that meet the service, medical and employer criteria required under Wis. Stat. § 40.63 (1) and (4), are approved and processed for benefit payments.

**Cancelled** – Disability applications that are incomplete within one year after the Department receives the disability application are cancelled. Applications are considered incomplete if the Department has not received the required medical certification and/or employer statement.

**Deemed Approved** – Disability applications are deemed approved if the applicant meets the service requirement and the Department receives a valid disability application and one *Medical Report* certifying the applicant's disability prior to the applicant's death. The employer is also required to submit an Employer Statement.

**Denial** – Disability applications are denied if the applicant does not meet all of the statutory requirements (service, medical and employer statement).

**Denial Rescinded: Approved** – Disability applications that were initially denied because the applicant did not meet the statutory requirements. The denial has since been overturned and the application approved due to receipt of additional information or as determined by the appropriate Board.

**Termed** – Disability applications that were initially approved and benefit payments made may be terminated if the Department receives information from a physician certifying that the individual no longer meets the medical definition for a disability or the individual does not comply with requests for medical or financial information.

**Termed Rescinded: Approved** – Disability applications that were initially approved, but the annual medical recertification was completed indicating that the individual was no longer disabled or the individual did not comply with medical or financial requests. The termination may be rescinded upon receipt of a certifying medical report, financial information, or based on an appeal determination.

**Withdrawn/Void/Invalid** – Disability applications are withdrawn at the request of the applicant. This occurs most often when an applicant returns to active employment and no longer meets the statutory requirements for a disability benefit.

**§ 40.63 Waiver** – Disability application is submitted and there is a Long-Term Disability Insurance (LTDI) election form that waives all rights to benefits under Wisconsin statutes § 40.63 for a WRS disability retirement benefit.

<b>WRS DISABILITY BENEFITS</b>				
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
<b>Disability Estimates Requested</b>	60	42	78	180
<b>Disability Estimates Completed</b>	59	35	87	181
<b>Disability Annuities Started (on payroll)</b>				
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
<b>Teachers Retirement Board § 40.63</b>	5	1	1	7
<b>Wisconsin Retirement Board § 40.63</b>	9	6	14	29
<b>§ 40.65 Duty Disability (WR Board)</b>	1	0	1	2
<b>Total Annuities Started</b>	15	7	16	38

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**WISCONSIN RETIREMENT SYSTEM (WRS)  
DISABILITY BENEFIT ANNUITY STATISTICAL REPORT  
JANUARY - MARCH 2011**

<b>TEACHERS BOARD DISABILITY ANNUITIES STARTED BY OPTION SELECTED</b>				
<b>Option</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Total</b>
100% Continued to Named Survivor (Joint Survivor) with 180 Payments Guaranteed	1	0	0	1
Life Annuity with 60 Payments Guaranteed For Annuitant's Life Only	1	0	0	1
Life Annuity with 180 Payments Guaranteed	1	1	0	2
75% Continued to Named Survivor (Joint Survivor)	0	0	1	1
100% Continued to Named Survivor (Joint Survivor)	0	0	0	0
75% Continued to Annuitant or Named Survivor (Joint Survivor) Upon Death of Either	1	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

<b>TEACHERS BOARD DISABILITY ANNUITIES STARTED BY GENDER</b>					
<b>§ 40.63 Disability Benefits by Gender</b>	<b>% Pop.*</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Females	68%	3	1	1	71%
Males	32%	2	0	0	29%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Active and inactive Teacher's Retirement Board population as of 12/31/10 for 2011

**TEACHERS BOARD DISABILITY STATISTICS FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED**

<b>TEACHERS BOARD DISABILITY APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY DETERMINATION</b>				
<b>Type of Determination</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Approved	1	3	5	9
Cancelled	0	0	1	1
Deemed Approved	0	0	0	0
Denial	0	0	0	0
Denial Rescinded: Approved	0	0	0	0
Termed	0	0	0	0
Termed Rescinded: Approved	0	0	0	0
Void/Withdrawn/Invalid	0	0	0	0
§ 40.63 Waiver	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>

<b>TEACHERS BOARD DISABILITY APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY AGE</b>				
<b>§ 40.63 Disability Benefits by Age</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Total</b>
20-25	0	0	0	0
26-30	0	0	0	0
31-35	0	0	0	0
36-40	0	0	0	0
41-45	0	0	2	2
46-50	0	1	0	1
51-55	0	1	3	4
56-60	1	1	0	2
61-65	0	0	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>

**STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYEE TRUST FUNDS**

**WISCONSIN RETIREMENT SYSTEM (WRS)  
DISABILITY BENEFIT ANNUITY STATISTICAL REPORT  
JANUARY - MARCH 2011**

<b>TEACHERS BOARD DISABILITY APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY DISABILITY TYPE</b>				
<b>Disability Type</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Brain Injury	0	0	0	0
Cancer	0	0	2	2
Cardiovascular	0	0	0	0
Chronic Fatigue	0	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	0	0	0
Eye Disorders	0	0	0	0
Gastro/Intestinal	0	0	0	0
Hearing Disorder	0	0	0	0
Mental Illness	0	2	1	3
Multiple Medical Problems	0	0	1	1
Multiple Sclerosis	0	0	0	0
Muscle/Tissue	0	0	0	0
Nephrology	0	0	0	0
Neurology	1	0	1	2
Orthopedic	0	1	1	2
Other	0	0	0	0
Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD)	0	0	0	0
Respiratory	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>

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**WISCONSIN RETIREMENT SYSTEM (WRS)  
DISABILITY BENEFIT ANNUITY STATISTICAL REPORT  
JANUARY - MARCH 2011**

<b>WI RETIREMENT BOARD DISABILITY ANNUITIES STARTED BY OPTION SELECTED</b>				
<b>Option</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Total</b>
100% Continued to Named Survivor (Joint Survivor) with 180 Payments Guaranteed	4	2	6	12
Life Annuity with 60 Payments Guaranteed For Annuitant's Life Only	0	1	0	1
Life Annuity with 180 Payments Guaranteed	0	1	6	7
75% Continued to Named Survivor (Joint Survivor)	3	2	2	7
100% Continued to Named Survivor (Joint Survivor)	1	0	0	1
75% Continued to Annuitant or Named Survivor (Joint Survivor) Upon Death of Either	1	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>29</b>

<b>WI RETIREMENT BOARD DISABILITY ANNUITIES STARTED BY GENDER</b>					
<b>§ 40.63 Disability Benefits by Gender</b>	<b>% Pop.*</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Females	62%	5	6	8	66%
Males	38%	4	0	6	34%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Active and inactive WR population as of 12/31/2010 for 2011

**WI RETIREMENT BOARD DISABILITY STATISTICS FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED**

<b>WI RETIREMENT BOARD DISABILITY APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY DETERMINATION</b>				
<b>Type of Determination</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Approved	9	10	11	30
Cancelled	0	0	2	2
Deemed Approved	0	0	0	0
Denial	0	1	0	1
Denial Rescinded: Approved	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Termed	0	0	0	0
Term. Rescinded: Approved	0	0	0	0
Void/Withdrawn/Invalid	0	0	0	0
§. 40.63 Waiver	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>33</b>

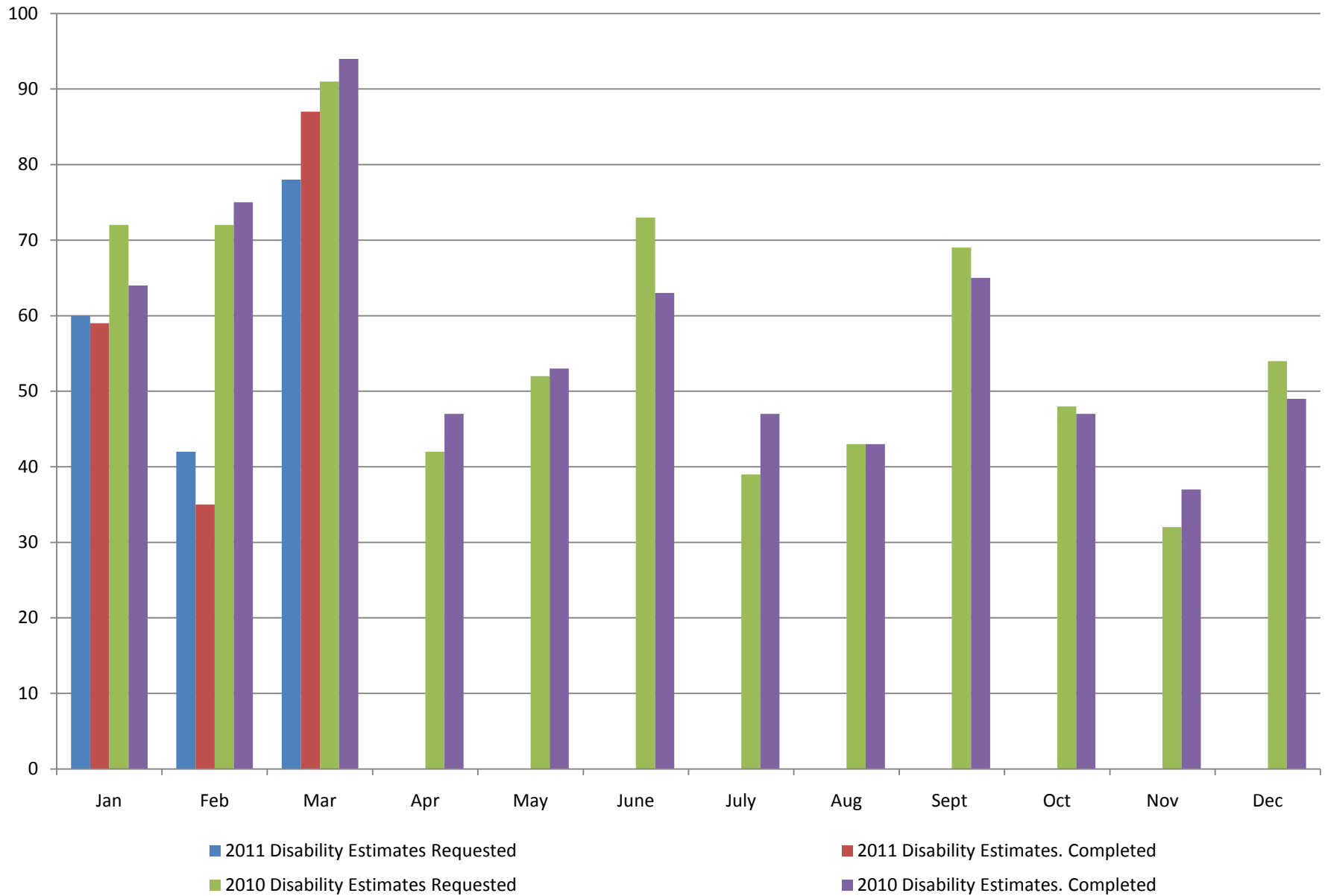
<b>WI RETIREMENT BOARD DISABILITY APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY AGE</b>				
<b>§ 40.63 Disability Benefits by Age</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Total</b>
20-25	0	0	0	0
26-30	0	0	0	0
31-35	0	0	0	0
36-40	0	1	0	1
41-45	1	1	0	2
46-50	0	2	0	2
51-55	3	3	10	16
56-60	1	2	3	6
61-65	4	2	0	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>33</b>

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DISABILITY BENEFIT ANNUITY STATISTICAL REPORT  
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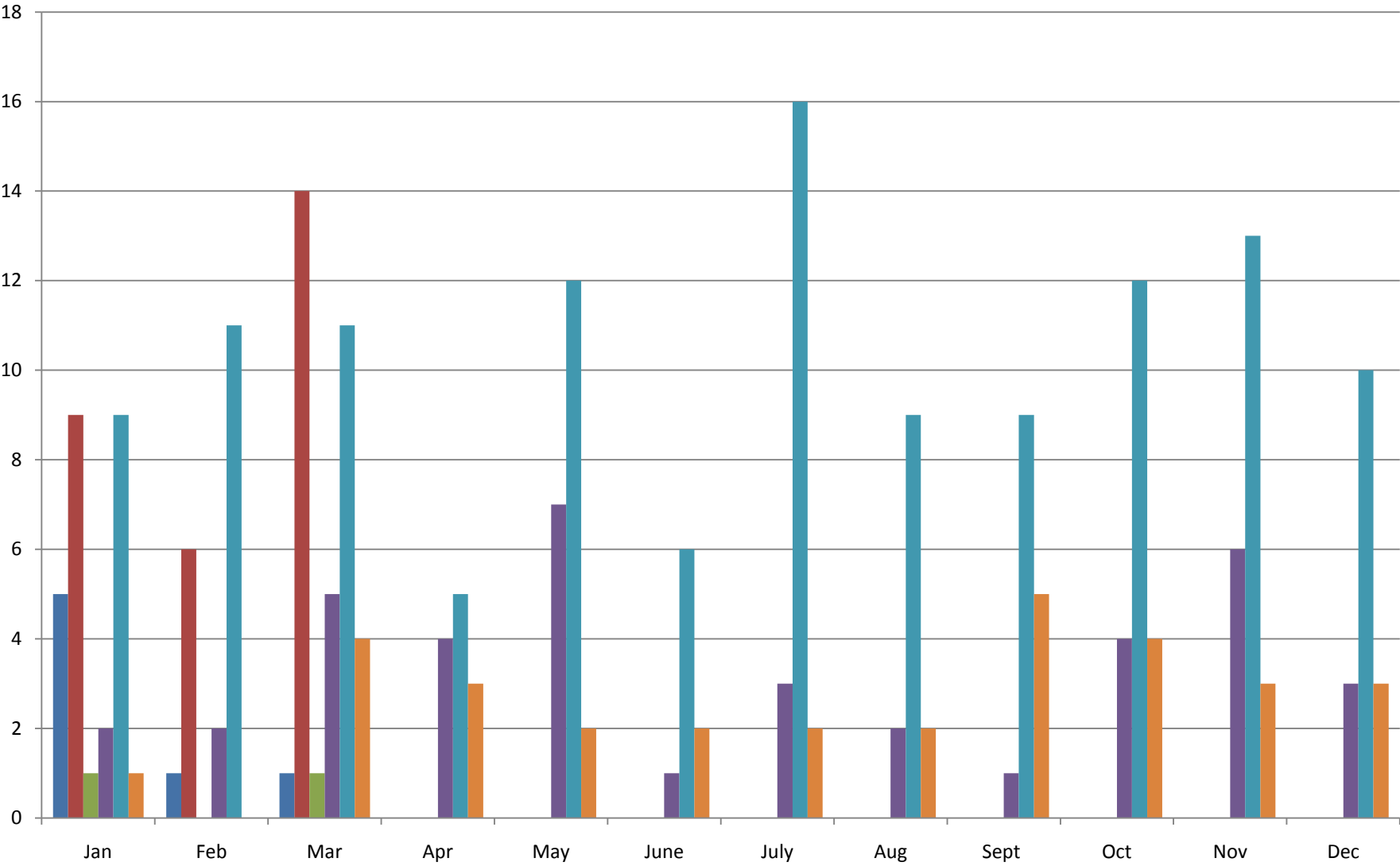
<b>WI RETIREMENT BOARD DISABILITY DETERMINATIONS</b>				
<b>Disability Type</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Brain Injury	0	0	0	0
Cancer	0	1	2	3
Cardiovascular	0	1	0	1
Chemical Dependency	0	0	0	0
Diabetes	1	0	0	1
Eye Disorders	0	0	0	0
Gastro/Intestinal	0	0	0	0
Hearing Disorders	0	0	0	0
Mental Illness	0	1	3	4
Multiple Medical Problems	2	1	0	3
Multiple Sclerosis	1	1	1	3
Muscle/Tissue	0	0	1	1
Nephrology	0	0	2	2
Neurology	2	2	1	5
Orthopedic	2	4	2	8
Other	0	0	1	1
Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD)	0	0	0	0
Respiratory	1	0	0	1
Unknown	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>33</b>

## 2011 v. 2010 Disability Estimates Requested & Completed





# Disability Annuities Started 2011 v. 2010



■ 2011 Teachers Retirement Board § 40.63     
 ■ 2011 Wisconsin Retirement Board § 40.63     
 ■ 2011 § 40.65 Duty Disability  
■ 2010 Teachers Retirement Board § 40.63     
 ■ 2010 Wisconsin Retirement Board § 40.63     
 ■ 2010 § 40.65 Duty Disability