

Do granted rehabilitation benefits have effect on later disability after vocational rehabilitation?

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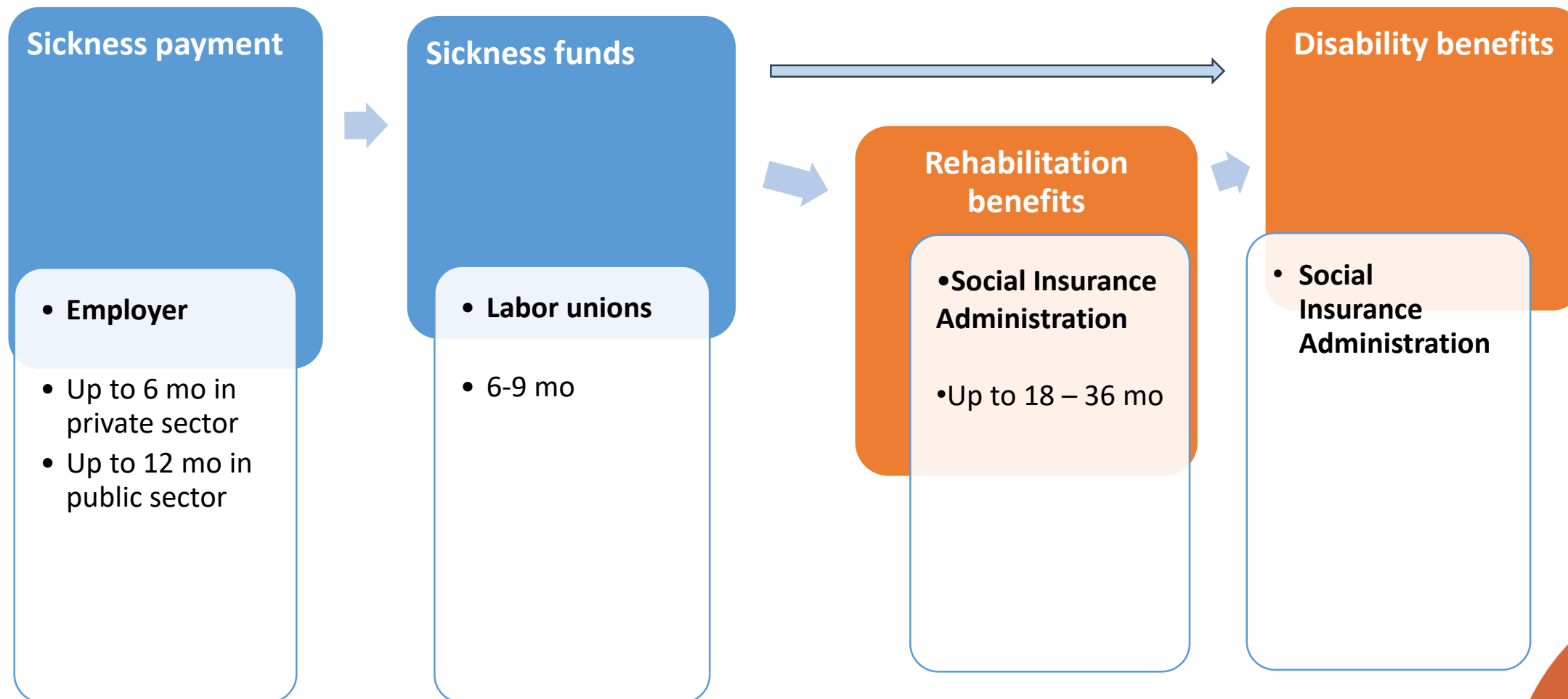
¹VIRK rehabilitation fund. , Iceland; ²Social Insurance Administration, Iceland

†Died 15 May 2018

Background

- VIRK-Vocational rehabilitation fund- provides nationwide vocational rehabilitation (VR) services in Iceland
- Current presentation is a part of a study on the effect of vocational rehabilitation on the prevalence of disability in Iceland in collaboration between Virk and Social Insurance Administration

Sickness payments and benefits in Iceland



- Number of people granted disability benefits (DB) in Iceland is increasing
- It is previously known that there is high rate of subsequent disability among those granted rehabilitation benefits, but it is not known if this applies to those attending vocational rehabilitation
- The effect of receiving DB on the risk of permanent disability has been debated

Aim

- The aim of this study is to examine if granted rehabilitation benefits are a risk factor for later disability among participants in vocational rehabilitation

Methods

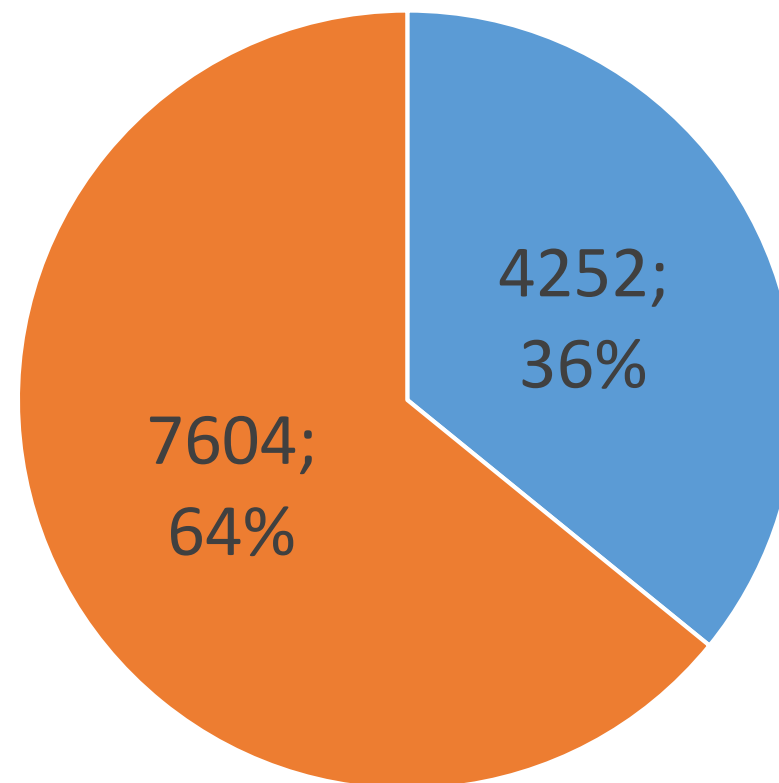
Study group

- All those attending VR at VIRK between January 2010 and April 2017 and had not been assigned full disability before admission were included in the study
- The registry of the Social Insurance Administration was checked in October 2017 for status regarding
 - Granted rehabilitation benefits
 - Full disability

- Data collected from Virk's database
 - Age
 - Sex
 - Time absent from work on admission if available
- Data collected from the registry of the Social Insurance Administration in October 2017
 - Disability status
 - Rehabilitation benefits status

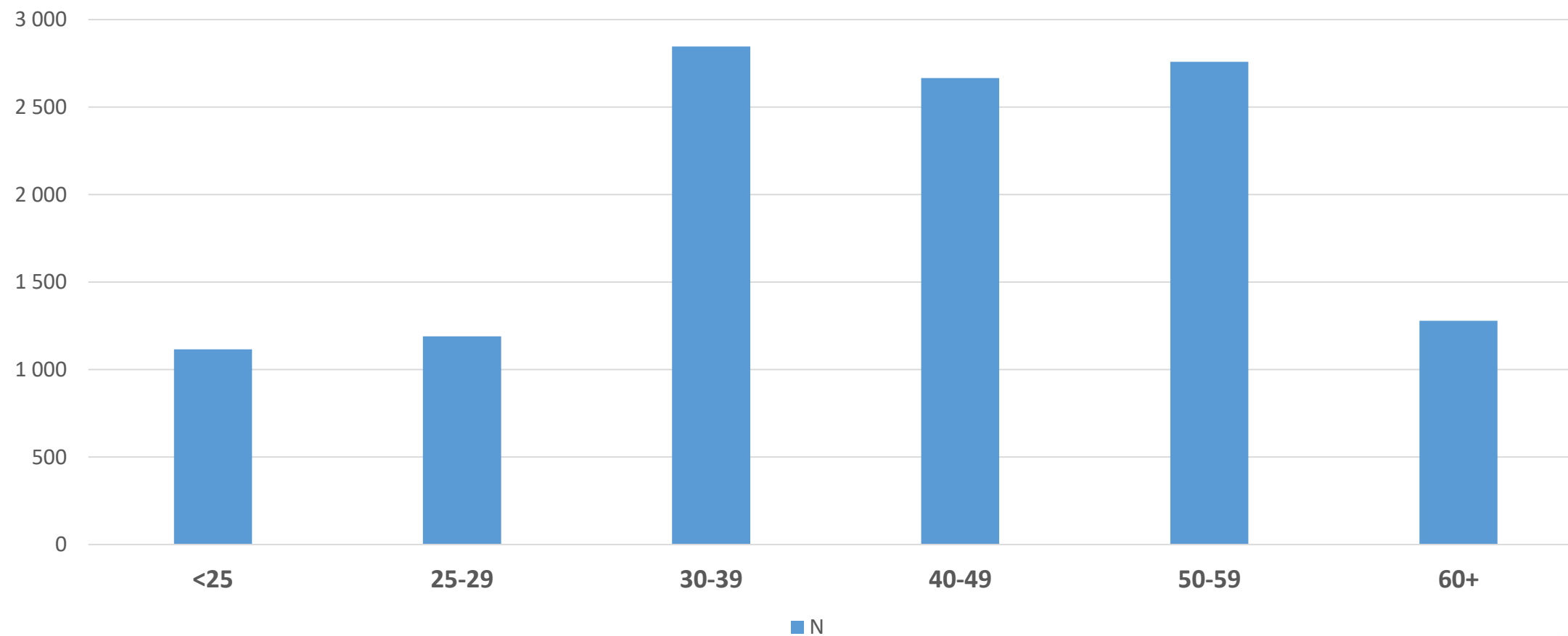
Results

Total number of referrals to Virk
January 1st 2010 – April 2017 was
11.856



■ Male ■ Female

Age distribution



VR at Virk declined	3389	29%
Still active VR	1835	15%
Drop-out from VR	1343	11%
<u>Discharged from VR</u>	<u>5289</u>	<u>45%</u>
Total	11856	

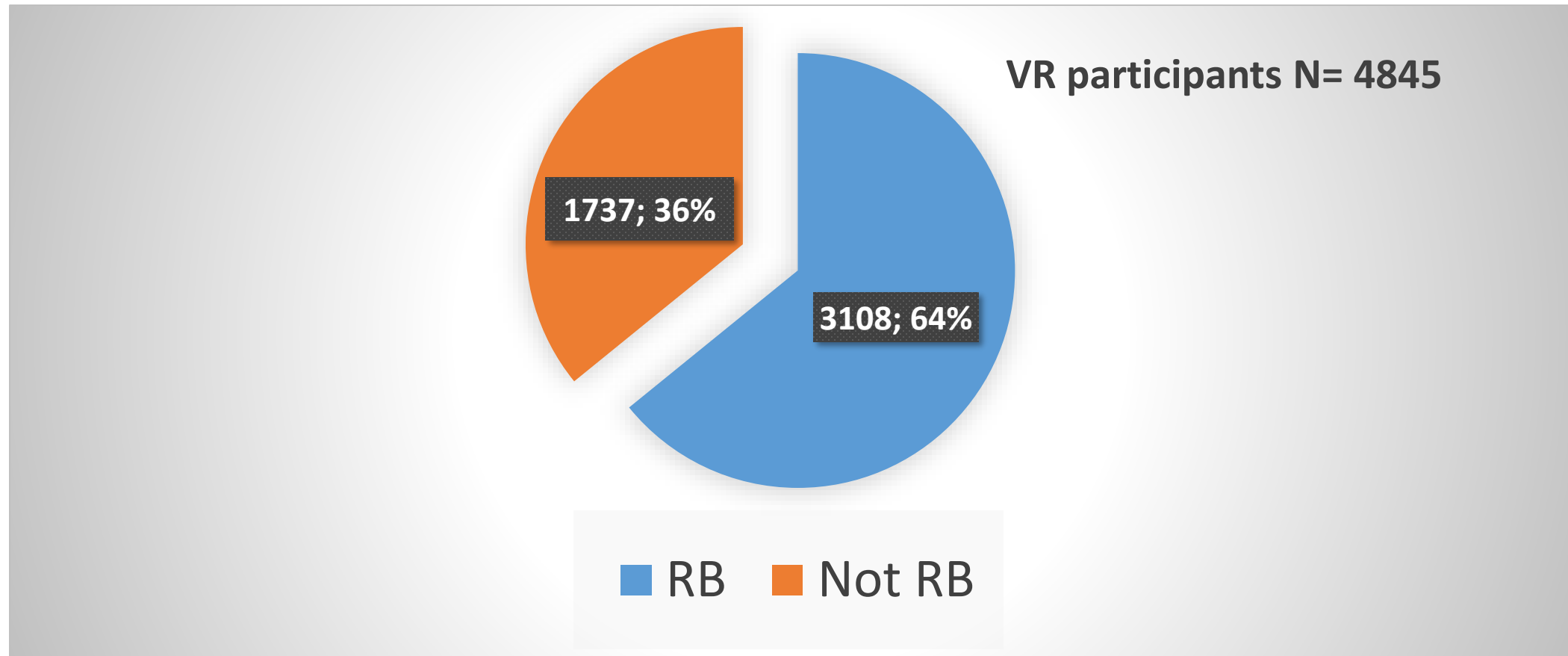
Participants

- Of 5289 discharged from Virk 444 had already been granted disability on admission to VR
- **4.845** had completed VR at Virk between January 2010 and April 2017 and had not been granted disability before admission
- Data on time not at work on admission to VR was available for 3.542 participants

Social Insurance Administration registry in October 2017

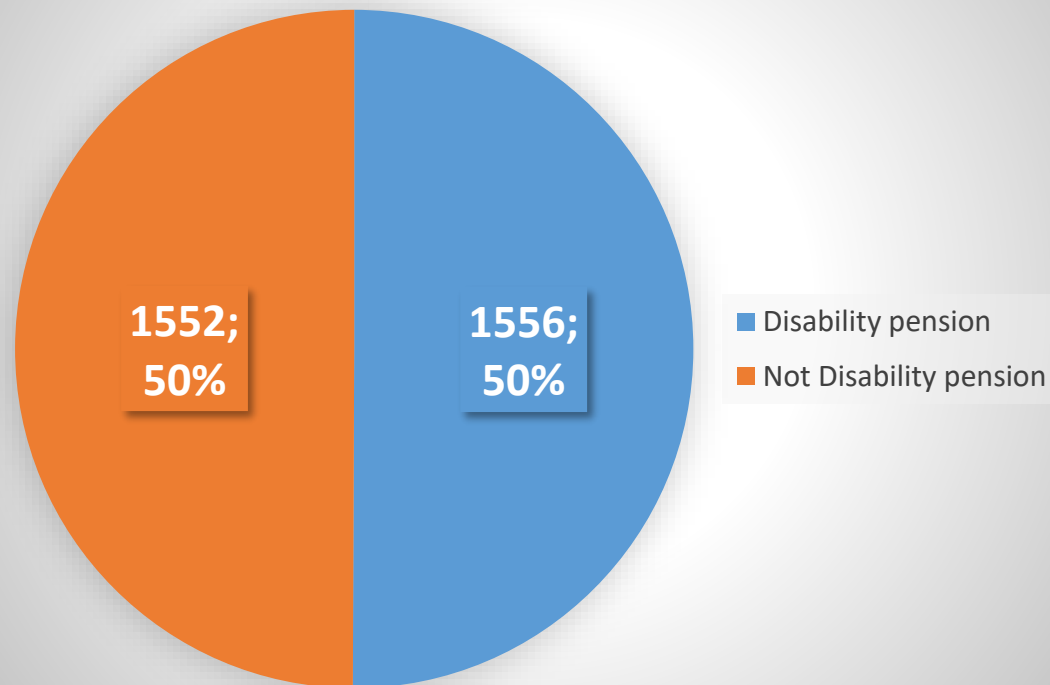
- 3,108 had been assigned RB (64,1%)
 - Of those 50% had also been assigned disability pension
 - 43% of the men and 53% of the women, average age 47 years
- 1,737 had not been assigned RB (35,8%)
 - Of those 18% had been assigned disability pension
 - 15% of the men and 20% of the women, average age 55 years

Percentage of those receiving Rehabilitation benefits

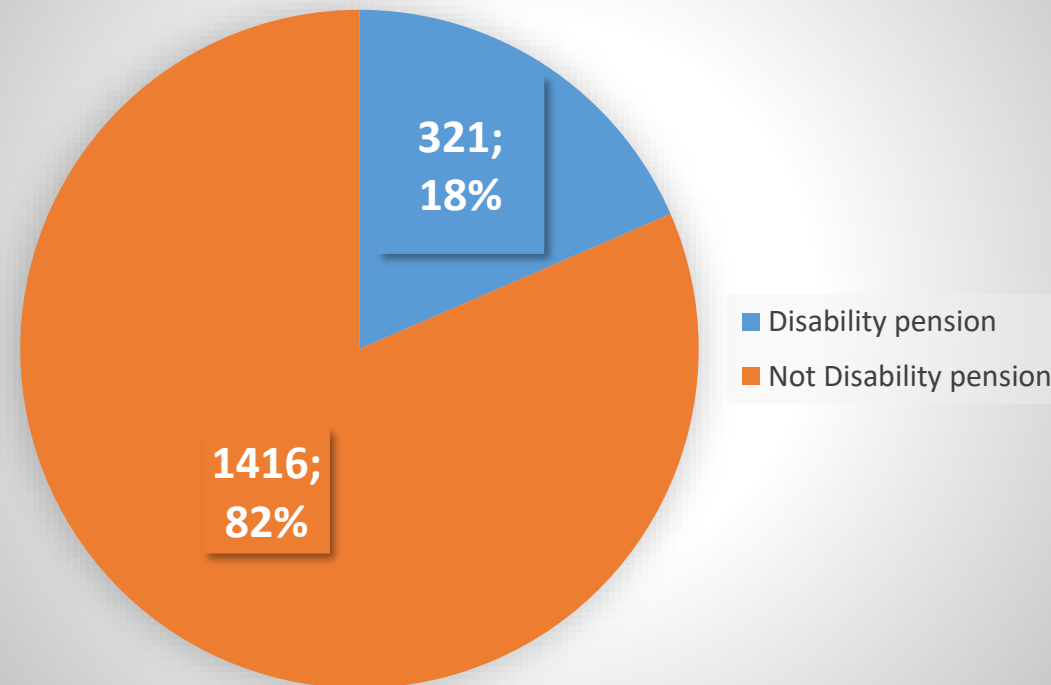


Disability and Rehabilitation Benefits

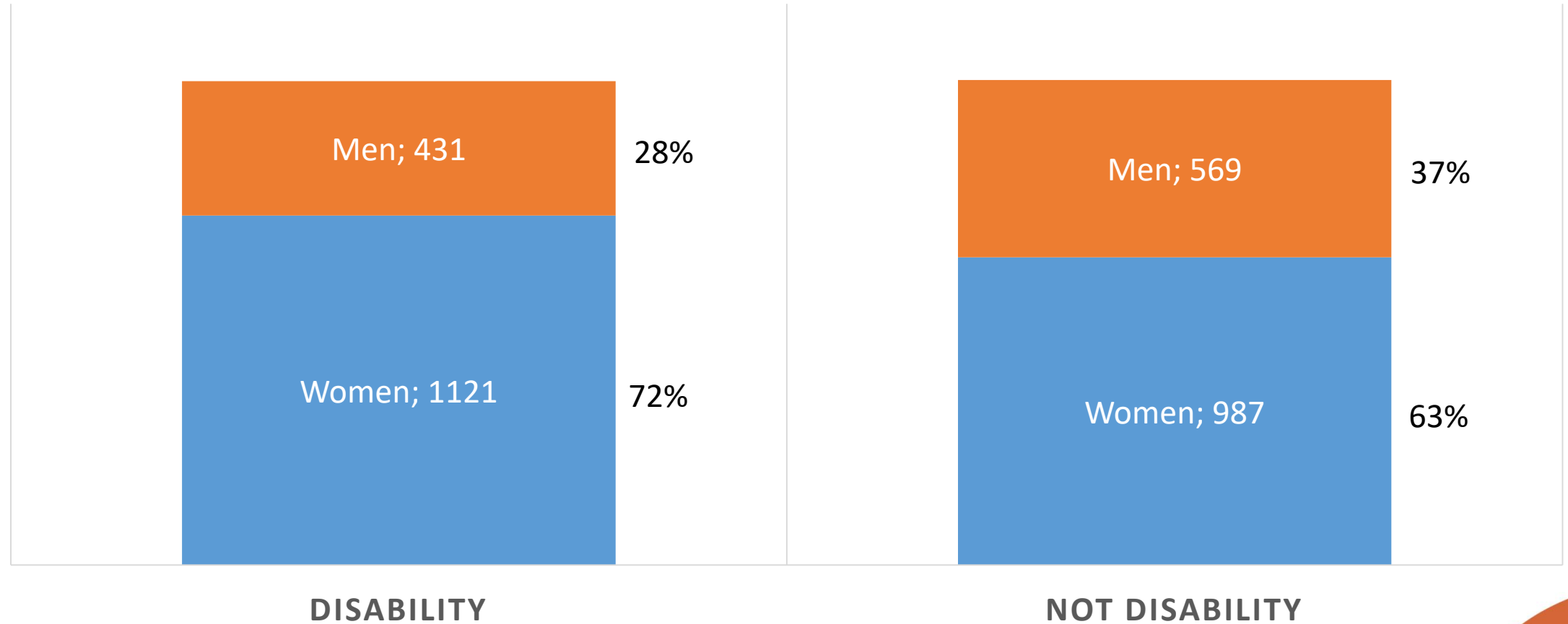
Receiving RB N= 3108



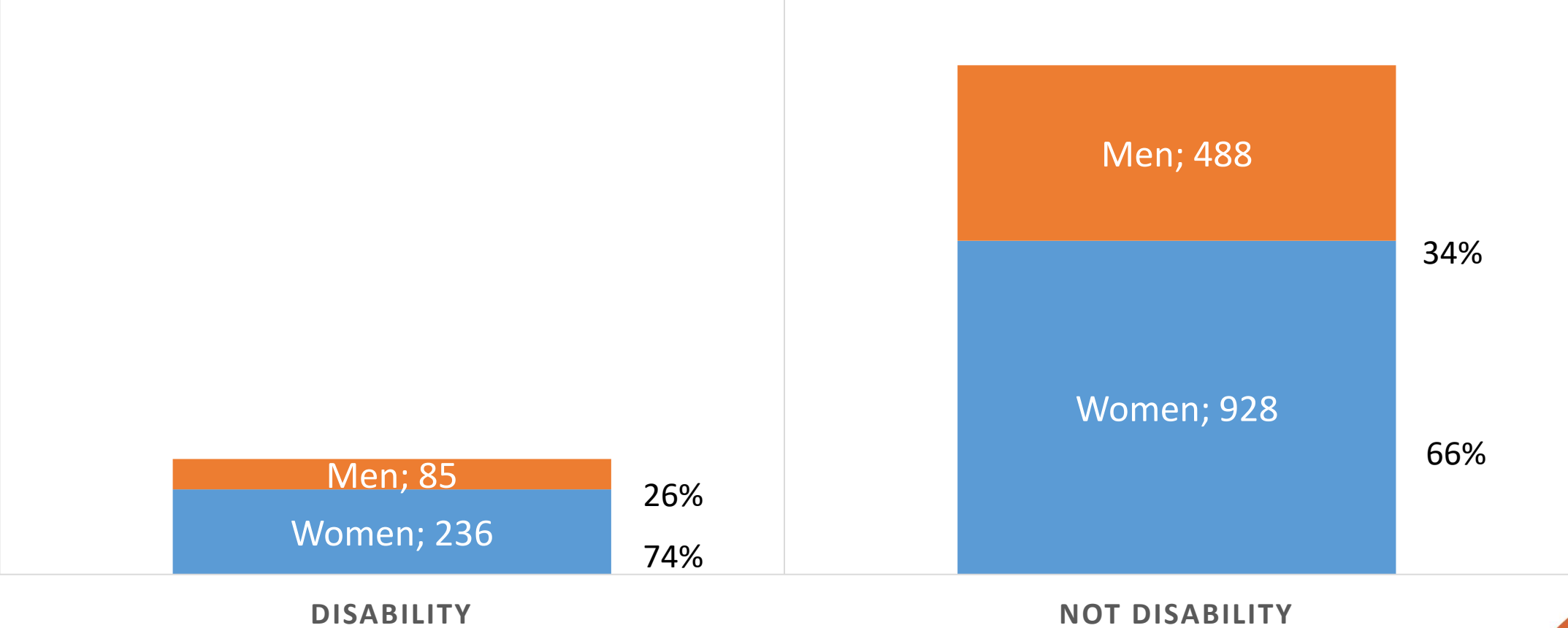
Not receiving RB N= 1737



Receiving RB

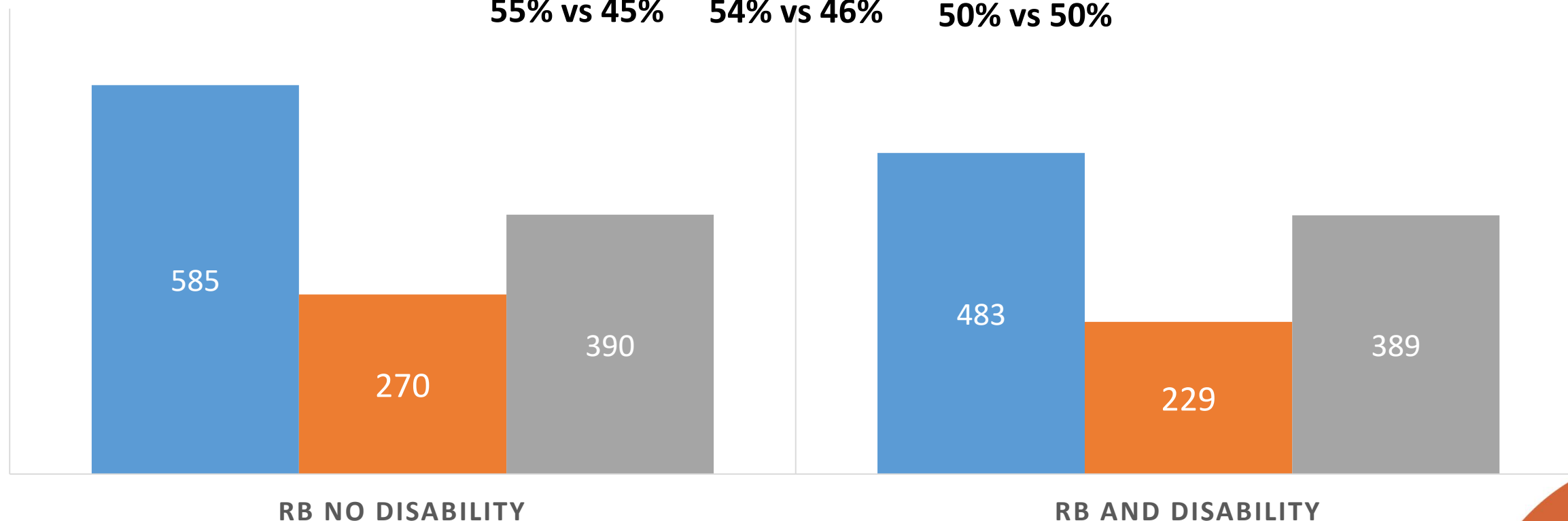


Not receiving RB



TIME OUT OF WORK ON ADMISSION AND THE NUMBER OF DISABILITY CASES AMONG RB RECEIVERS (N= 3542)

■ 0-6 mo ■ 6-12 mo ■ \geq 12 mo
55% vs 45% **54% vs 46%** **50% vs 50%**



Conclusions

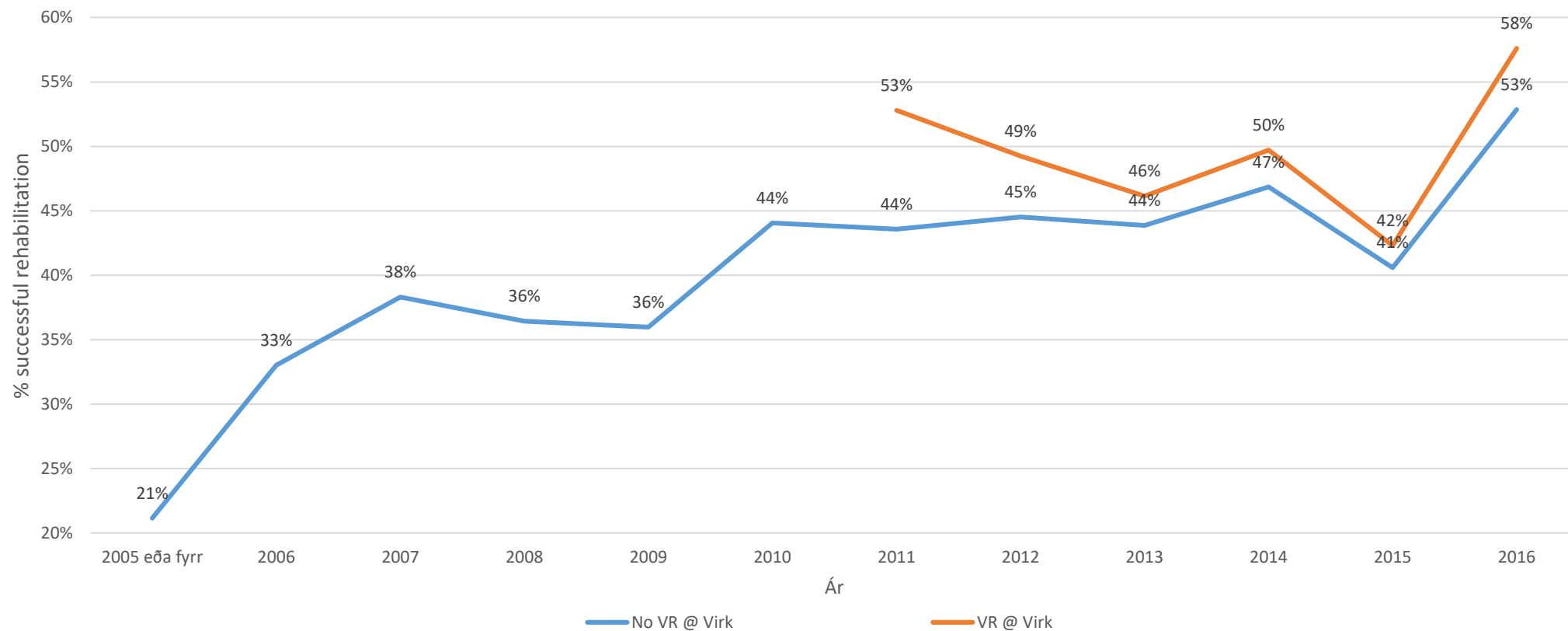
- Being assigned rehabilitation benefits is a risk factor for disability in a population that participated in VR at Virk.
- This holds true even if controlled for time absent from work.
- Whether this reflects the effect of socioeconomic status on the prognosis of rehabilitation or even some disadvantages of the RB system should be studied further.
- Vocational rehabilitation should if possible aim at return to work before employee needs to seek RB



Dedicated to
Guðrún Ragnheiður Jónsdóttir
02.02.1960 – 15.05.2018

Thank you

Receiving RB without being assigned disability at follow up



Tíðnitafla: Fjöldi einstaklinga eftir fjölda mánaða á ehl

