

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 59.**

**Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program, 1992–2005**

| Year                              | All decisions |            |  | Decisions on applications for Social Security only |            |  | Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI |            |  |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------|--|--|------------|--|--|------------|--|
|                                   | Total         | Allowances | Allowance rate <sup>a</sup><br>(percent) | Total  | Allowances | Allowance rate <sup>a</sup><br>(percent) | Total  | Allowances | Allowance rate <sup>a,b</sup><br>(percent) |
| <b>All disabled beneficiaries</b> |               |            |  |  |            |  |  |            |  |
| 1999                              | 1,160,658     | 459,999    | 39.6                                     | 649,849  | 313,676    | 48.3                                     | 510,809  | 146,323    | 28.6                                       |
| 2000                              | 1,228,209     | 501,946    | 40.9                                     | 688,194  | 340,331    | 49.5                                     | 540,015  | 161,615    | 29.9                                       |
| 2001                              | 1,342,902     | 560,106    | 41.7                                     | 742,860  | 379,872    | 51.1                                     | 600,042  | 180,234    | 30.0                                       |
| 2002                              | 1,485,009     | 576,919    | 38.8                                     | 795,050  | 386,247    | 48.6                                     | 689,959  | 190,672    | 27.6                                       |
| 2003                              | 1,567,846     | 585,868    | 37.4                                     | 804,830  | 384,055    | 47.7                                     | 763,016  | 201,813    | 26.4                                       |
| 2004                              | 1,633,620     | 597,008    | 36.5                                     | 801,613  | 383,111    | 47.8                                     | 832,007  | 213,897    | 25.7                                       |
| 2005                              | 1,512,777     | 548,246    | 36.2                                     | 733,271  | 350,638    | 47.8                                     | 779,506  | 197,608    | 25.4                                       |
| <b>Workers</b>                    |               |            |  |  |            |  |  |            |  |
| 1992                              | 1,179,119     | 436,715    | 37.0                                     | 558,741  | 248,385    | 44.5                                     | 620,378  | 188,330    | 30.4                                       |
| 1993                              | 1,244,187     | 421,560    | 33.9                                     | 571,464  | 240,839    | 42.1                                     | 672,723  | 180,721    | 26.9                                       |
| 1994                              | 1,252,852     | 390,785    | 31.2                                     | 591,408  | 233,059    | 39.4                                     | 661,444  | 157,726    | 23.8                                       |
| 1995                              | 1,177,761     | 367,293    | 31.2                                     | 569,963  | 223,457    | 39.2                                     | 607,798  | 143,836    | 23.7                                       |
| 1996                              | 1,196,830     | 384,167    | 32.1                                     | 593,992  | 237,474    | 40.0                                     | 602,838  | 146,693    | 24.3                                       |
| 1997                              | 1,057,799     | 357,880    | 33.8                                     | 551,896  | 228,793    | 41.5                                     | 505,903  | 129,087    | 25.5                                       |
| 1998                              | 1,041,364     | 374,376    | 36.0                                     | 550,775  | 238,989    | 43.4                                     | 490,589  | 135,387    | 27.6                                       |
| 1999                              | 1,065,294     | 397,335    | 37.3                                     | 578,751  | 259,910    | 44.9                                     | 486,543  | 137,425    | 28.2                                       |
| 2000                              | 1,131,135     | 436,605    | 38.6                                     | 615,373  | 284,388    | 46.2                                     | 515,762  | 152,217    | 29.5                                       |
| 2001                              | 1,246,256     | 494,907    | 39.7                                     | 670,564  | 324,189    | 48.3                                     | 575,692  | 170,718    | 29.7                                       |
| 2002                              | 1,381,018     | 508,659    | 36.8                                     | 718,564  | 327,949    | 45.6                                     | 662,454  | 180,710    | 27.3                                       |
| 2003                              | 1,459,704     | 516,756    | 35.4                                     | 728,038  | 325,430    | 44.7                                     | 731,666  | 191,326    | 26.1                                       |
| 2004                              | 1,524,126     | 528,976    | 34.7                                     | 728,511  | 326,783    | 44.9                                     | 795,615  | 202,193    | 25.4                                       |
| 2005                              | 1,410,230     | 485,810    | 34.4                                     | 665,723  | 299,190    | 44.9                                     | 744,507  | 186,620    | 25.1                                       |
| <b>Widow(er)s</b>                 |               |            |  |  |            |  |  |            |  |
| 1999                              | 38,882        | 24,933     | 64.1                                     | 29,602   | 21,291     | 71.9                                     | 9,280  | 3,642      | 39.2                                       |
| 2000                              | 38,737        | 25,781     | 66.6                                     | 29,879   | 21,997     | 73.6                                     | 8,858  | 3,784      | 42.7                                       |
| 2001                              | 38,894        | 26,242     | 67.5                                     | 30,284   | 22,458     | 74.2                                     | 8,610  | 3,784      | 43.9                                       |
| 2002                              | 39,785        | 26,588     | 66.8                                     | 31,067   | 22,815     | 73.4                                     | 8,718  | 3,773      | 43.3                                       |
| 2003                              | 39,827        | 26,054     | 65.4                                     | 30,372   | 22,274     | 73.3                                     | 9,455  | 3,780      | 40.0                                       |
| 2004                              | 39,696        | 25,798     | 65.0                                     | 28,860   | 21,525     | 74.6                                     | 10,836   | 4,273      | 39.4                                       |
| 2005                              | 36,785        | 23,685     | 64.4                                     | 26,724   | 19,824     | 74.2                                     | 10,061   | 3,861      | 38.4                                       |

(Continued)

**Table 59.**  
**Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program,**  
**1992–2005—Continued**

| Year                  | All decisions |            |                                       | Decisions on applications for Social Security only |            |                                       | Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI |            |   |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------|---|
|                       | Total         | Allowances | Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent) | Total  | Allowances | Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent) | Total  | Allowances | Allowance rate <sup>a,b</sup> (percent) |
| <b>Adult children</b> |               |            |                                       |  |            |                                       |  |            |   |
| 1999                  | 56,482        | 37,731     | 66.8                                  | 41,496   | 32,475     | 78.3                                  | 14,986   | 5,256      | 35.1                                    |
| 2000                  | 58,337        | 39,560     | 67.8                                  | 42,942   | 33,946     | 79.1                                  | 15,395   | 5,614      | 36.5                                    |
| 2001                  | 57,752        | 38,957     | 67.5                                  | 42,012   | 33,225     | 79.1                                  | 15,740   | 5,732      | 36.4                                    |
| 2002                  | 64,206        | 41,672     | 64.9                                  | 45,419   | 35,483     | 78.1                                  | 18,787   | 6,189      | 32.9                                    |
| 2003                  | 68,315        | 43,058     | 63.0                                  | 46,420   | 36,351     | 78.3                                  | 21,895   | 6,707      | 30.6                                    |
| 2004                  | 69,798        | 42,234     | 60.5                                  | 44,242   | 34,803     | 78.7                                  | 25,556   | 7,431      | 29.1                                    |
| 2005                  | 65,762        | 38,751     | 58.9                                  | 40,824   | 31,624     | 77.5                                  | 24,938   | 7,127      | 28.6                                    |

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Disability Research file, 100 percent data.

NOTES: Data are current through June 2006.

Because a number of applications remain pending for more recent years, the allowance rate will change over time.

Applications with a medical decision may be pending a final nonmedical decision or be subsequently denied for nonmedical reasons.

Data from 1992 to 1998 are available for disabled workers only.

SSI = Supplemental Security Income.

a. Rate determined by dividing medical allowances by all medical decisions for that year.

b. Rate for the Social Security portion only.

CONTACT: Clark Pickett (410) 965-9016 or di.asr@ssa.gov.