

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 43.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2005

| Year | Total | Pending final decision | Technical denials ^a | Medical decisions | | | | Award rate ^b (percent) | Allowance rate ^c (percent) |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | | | | Denials | | Allowances | | | |
| | | | | Medical | Subsequent nonmedical ^d | Awards | Subsequent denials ^e | | |
| All ages ^f | | | | | | | | | |
| 1992 | 1,828,951 | 0 | 134,438 | 741,839 | 1,556 | 860,875 | 90,243 | 47.1 | 56.1 |
| 1993 | 2,048,945 | 0 | 141,214 | 937,757 | 1,600 | 878,932 | 89,442 | 42.9 | 50.8 |
| 1994 | 2,014,499 | 0 | 123,175 | 1,041,432 | 1,681 | 770,905 | 77,306 | 38.3 | 44.8 |
| 1995 | 1,845,212 | 0 | 103,335 | 995,185 | 1,344 | 683,850 | 61,498 | 37.1 | 42.8 |
| 1996 | 1,786,770 | 0 | 113,027 | 938,407 | 1,886 | 671,900 | 61,550 | 37.6 | 43.8 |
| 1997 | 1,505,145 | 0 | 97,320 | 738,863 | 2,074 | 606,169 | 60,719 | 40.3 | 47.4 |
| 1998 | 1,520,538 | 0 | 95,990 | 701,449 | 3,831 | 656,447 | 62,821 | 43.2 | 50.5 |
| 1999 | 1,528,217 | 2,297 | 105,819 | 686,835 | 4,003 | 664,858 | 64,405 | 43.6 | 51.4 |
| 2000 | 1,612,826 | 3,413 | 156,525 | 687,445 | 3,823 | 692,721 | 68,899 | 43.0 | 52.4 |
| 2001 | 1,749,572 | 5,673 | 203,387 | 724,598 | 3,501 | 736,448 | 75,965 | 42.2 | 52.7 |
| 2002 | 1,959,039 | 14,210 | 278,291 | 805,381 | 3,558 | 774,948 | 82,651 | 39.8 | 51.5 |
| 2003 | 2,112,577 | 56,360 | 342,201 | 845,048 | 3,401 | 772,626 | 92,941 | 37.6 | 50.5 |
| 2004 | 2,247,178 | 181,230 | 433,290 | 838,357 | 2,853 | 709,249 | 82,199 | 34.3 | 48.5 |
| 2005 | 2,298,723 | 252,015 | 564,039 | 817,108 | 2,153 | 598,668 | 64,740 | 29.3 | 44.7 |
| Under age 18 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1992 | 376,812 | 0 | 16,695 | 148,221 | 103 | 204,083 | 7,710 | 54.2 | 58.8 |
| 1993 | 500,676 | 0 | 18,788 | 240,668 | 135 | 232,344 | 8,741 | 46.4 | 50.0 |
| 1994 | 530,538 | 0 | 16,897 | 311,137 | 147 | 194,655 | 7,702 | 36.7 | 39.4 |
| 1995 | 491,638 | 0 | 14,364 | 306,298 | 92 | 163,896 | 6,988 | 33.3 | 35.8 |
| 1996 | 457,057 | 0 | 13,532 | 291,265 | 86 | 144,670 | 7,504 | 31.7 | 34.3 |
| 1997 | 334,975 | 0 | 10,906 | 195,731 | 69 | 121,438 | 6,831 | 36.3 | 39.6 |
| 1998 | 338,592 | 0 | 10,904 | 182,599 | 74 | 137,650 | 7,365 | 40.7 | 44.3 |
| 1999 | 345,067 | 188 | 11,898 | 182,246 | 68 | 142,855 | 7,812 | 41.4 | 45.2 |
| 2000 | 355,477 | 290 | 15,775 | 179,412 | 64 | 151,974 | 7,962 | 42.8 | 47.1 |
| 2001 | 375,975 | 405 | 18,710 | 181,951 | 61 | 166,327 | 8,521 | 44.3 | 49.0 |
| 2002 | 412,972 | 1,098 | 22,678 | 199,916 | 78 | 180,117 | 9,085 | 43.7 | 48.6 |
| 2003 | 438,601 | 5,030 | 25,776 | 211,408 | 64 | 186,632 | 9,691 | 43.0 | 48.1 |
| 2004 | 451,806 | 16,781 | 31,735 | 210,081 | 76 | 183,698 | 9,435 | 42.2 | 47.9 |
| 2005 | 440,724 | 24,189 | 47,115 | 194,526 | 85 | 165,905 | 8,904 | 39.8 | 47.3 |

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 43.

Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2005—Continued

| Year | Total | Pending final decision | Technical denials ^a | Medical decisions | | | | Award rate ^b (percent) | Allowance rate ^c (percent) |
|-------------------|-----------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | | | | Denials | | Allowances | | | |
| | | | | Medical | Subsequent nonmedical ^d | Awards | Subsequent denials ^e | | |
| Aged 18–64 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1992 | 1,451,417 | 0 | 117,675 | 593,455 | 1,451 | 656,374 | 82,462 | 45.2 | 55.4 |
| 1993 | 1,547,527 | 0 | 122,364 | 696,934 | 1,463 | 646,157 | 80,609 | 41.8 | 51.0 |
| 1994 | 1,482,503 | 0 | 106,181 | 729,927 | 1,529 | 575,431 | 69,435 | 38.8 | 46.9 |
| 1995 | 1,351,903 | 0 | 88,839 | 688,438 | 1,245 | 519,041 | 54,340 | 38.4 | 45.4 |
| 1996 | 1,277,604 | 0 | 87,869 | 646,497 | 1,534 | 488,215 | 53,489 | 38.2 | 45.5 |
| 1997 | 1,135,602 | 0 | 78,303 | 542,042 | 1,456 | 460,952 | 52,849 | 40.6 | 48.6 |
| 1998 | 1,133,015 | 0 | 76,709 | 516,789 | 1,860 | 483,783 | 53,874 | 42.7 | 50.9 |
| 1999 | 1,133,722 | 2,105 | 83,733 | 503,257 | 1,542 | 487,657 | 55,428 | 43.1 | 51.8 |
| 2000 | 1,208,866 | 3,121 | 127,968 | 507,000 | 1,423 | 509,384 | 59,970 | 42.2 | 52.8 |
| 2001 | 1,323,142 | 5,259 | 167,675 | 541,702 | 1,398 | 540,561 | 66,547 | 41.0 | 52.8 |
| 2002 | 1,483,791 | 13,099 | 230,118 | 604,378 | 1,574 | 562,026 | 72,596 | 38.2 | 51.2 |
| 2003 | 1,615,844 | 51,285 | 287,736 | 632,857 | 1,809 | 559,707 | 82,450 | 35.8 | 50.3 |
| 2004 | 1,734,012 | 164,347 | 367,793 | 627,695 | 1,531 | 500,524 | 72,122 | 31.9 | 47.6 |
| 2005 | 1,783,959 | 227,697 | 474,028 | 622,142 | 1,084 | 403,683 | 55,325 | 25.9 | 42.4 |

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2006. Data for the hearing level or above are current through August 2006.

Because a number of applications remain pending for more recent years, the award and allowance rates will change over time. Cases can be pending at the initial or appellate levels and can include either medical or technical issues.

Includes decisions for SSI-only applications and applications for both Social Security and SSI. Does not include Social Security-only applications.

- a. Applications denied for nonmedical reasons so no decision was made on severity of impairment.
- b. Rate determined by dividing awards by all applications minus pending claims for that year.
- c. Rate determined by dividing medical allowances by all medical decisions for that year.
- d. Applications denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that applicant did not meet the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.
- e. Applications denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that applicant met the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.
- f. Includes applicants aged 65 or older.

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