
Notes

The tables in this section provide data on the outcomes of applications for SSI benefits based on blindness or disability. The data on applications are derived from the Social Security Administration's (SSA's) Disability Research File (DRF) maintained by the Office of Disability Programs. Each year the DRF is updated with information about applications for disability benefits that is then used to determine the outcome of those applications. The outcome data in these tables are reported by year of filing and include decisions made through the administrative appeals process.

Table 44 shows the total number of applications filed in a year, the number that are pending a final decision, the number denied for nonmedical reasons before a medical decision is made (technical denials), the outcome of applications for which a medical allowance or denial was made, and award and allowance rates. Applications for which a medical allowance or denial decision was made but which were subsequently denied for nonmedical reasons are shown under the medical decision header as subsequent denials. The most common nonmedical reason for denying a claim is excess income.

The allowance rate is calculated by dividing the number of medical allowances (including subsequent technical denials) by the total number of medical decisions made for a 1-year cohort. The award rate is a broader program measure that is calculated as the number of allowances minus subsequent denials divided by total applications (minus pending claims) filed for a given year.

Claims that remain pending after 6 years are probably the result of imperfect data rather than excessive delays in the decisionmaking process. It is highly probable that decisions have been rendered on most of the older claims. For more recent years, the award and allowance rates will change as decisions are made on pending claims.

Tables 45–47 show the allowance rate for SSI only and the SSI portion of concurrent (a claim for both Social Security and SSI disability benefits) applications, one for each level in the administrative decisionmaking process, that is, initial, reconsideration, and hearing or higher level.

Beginning with fiscal year 2000, the proportion of claims awarded at each level of the process changed as a result of the Prototype Process being tested in 10 states. Under this test, the reconsideration step of the appeals process was eliminated for applications filed October 1, 1999, or later. Elimination of the reconsideration level in these states results in a decrease in the aggregate proportion of claims awarded at this step.

This section also includes one table that shows the reason for medical allowance and one that shows reason for medical denial (Tables 48 and 49). The reasons are derived from the sequential evaluation process used by decisionmakers. SSA maintains a list of impairments that are considered disabling under its regulations. An applicant can be found to be disabled if he or she

- has a listed impairment,
- has a severe impairment that is equal to a listed impairment,
- has a severe impairment when medical and vocational factors are considered, or
- had previously established entitlement to a disability benefit.

An applicant can be denied benefits if he or she

- has an impairment that is not expected to last 12 months;
 - has an impairment that is not considered severe;
 - is able to perform his or her usual type of work;
 - is able to perform another type of work; or
 - provides insufficient medical evidence, fails to cooperate, fails to follow prescribed treatment, does not want to continue development of the claim, or returns to substantial work before disability can be established.
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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 44.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2004

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	938,464	1,886	671,843	61,550	37.6	43.8
1997	1,505,145	0	97,320	738,969	2,074	606,062	60,720	40.3	47.4
1998	1,520,538	2,198	95,990	699,409	3,830	656,289	62,822	43.2	50.6
1999	1,528,217	2,976	105,819	686,485	4,003	664,525	64,409	43.6	51.4
2000	1,612,826	5,241	156,525	686,473	3,823	691,858	68,906	43.0	52.4
2001	1,749,572	11,864	203,387	721,093	3,499	733,743	75,986	42.2	52.8
2002	1,959,039	43,587	278,291	789,981	3,527	760,967	82,686	39.7	51.5
2003	2,113,075	160,188	343,619	809,717	2,998	715,701	80,852	36.6	49.5
2004	2,220,308	270,992	432,600	821,370	2,298	625,809	67,239	32.1	45.7
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	291,268	86	144,667	7,504	31.7	34.3
1997	334,975	0	10,906	195,733	69	121,436	6,831	36.3	39.6
1998	338,592	169	10,904	182,437	74	137,643	7,365	40.7	44.3
1999	345,067	243	11,898	182,211	68	142,835	7,812	41.4	45.2
2000	355,477	420	15,775	179,324	64	151,932	7,962	42.8	47.1
2001	375,975	907	18,710	181,599	61	166,177	8,521	44.3	49.0
2002	412,972	4,033	22,678	197,871	77	179,228	9,085	43.8	48.8
2003	438,632	15,274	25,929	205,119	59	183,085	9,166	43.2	48.4
2004	446,841	26,790	31,688	202,042	71	177,313	8,937	42.2	48.0

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 44.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2004—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	646,551	1,534	488,161	53,489	38.2	45.5
1997	1,135,602	0	78,303	542,146	1,456	460,847	52,850	40.6	48.6
1998	1,133,015	2,026	76,709	514,914	1,859	483,632	53,875	42.8	51.0
1999	1,133,722	2,727	83,733	502,944	1,542	487,344	55,432	43.1	51.8
2000	1,208,866	4,817	127,968	506,117	1,423	508,564	59,977	42.2	52.8
2001	1,323,142	10,942	167,675	538,552	1,396	538,009	66,568	41.0	52.8
2002	1,483,791	39,510	230,118	591,037	1,544	548,951	72,631	38.0	51.2
2003	1,616,207	144,790	288,775	603,859	1,482	506,359	70,942	34.4	48.8
2004	1,712,073	243,992	366,883	618,788	1,003	423,736	57,671	28.9	43.7

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2005. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2005.

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.

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Table 45.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by age, year of application,
and program, 1992–2004

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)
<i>All ages ^b</i>									
1992	1,694,513	686,962	40.5	946,348	399,334	42.2	748,165	287,628	38.4
1993	1,907,731	687,630	36.0	1,106,624	409,102	37.0	801,107	278,528	34.8
1994	1,891,324	577,721	30.5	1,105,532	335,756	30.4	785,792	241,965	30.8
1995	1,741,877	507,742	29.1	1,037,201	291,168	28.1	704,676	216,574	30.7
1996	1,673,743	508,931	30.4	1,000,530	296,655	29.6	673,213	212,276	31.5
1997	1,407,825	459,297	32.6	820,527	260,354	31.7	587,298	198,943	33.9
1998	1,424,548	520,690	36.6	843,671	304,856	36.1	580,877	215,834	37.2
1999	1,422,398	531,498	37.4	843,031	312,871	37.1	579,367	218,627	37.7
2000	1,456,301	556,990	38.2	845,623	321,029	38.0	610,678	235,961	38.6
2001	1,546,185	595,925	38.5	860,922	338,218	39.3	685,263	257,707	37.6
2002	1,680,748	619,748	36.9	904,266	345,482	38.2	776,482	274,266	35.3
2003	1,769,338	633,354	35.8	926,968	347,421	37.5	842,370	285,933	33.9
2004	1,787,323	631,845	35.4	927,118	345,118	37.2	860,205	286,727	33.3
<i>Under age 18</i>									
1992	360,117	194,494	54.0	329,316	176,929	53.7	30,801	17,565	57.0
1993	481,888	218,724	45.4	443,778	200,206	45.1	38,110	18,518	48.6
1994	513,641	177,660	34.6	475,233	164,436	34.6	38,408	13,224	34.4
1995	477,274	149,140	31.2	443,367	138,959	31.3	33,907	10,181	30.0
1996	443,525	133,375	30.1	413,379	124,846	30.2	30,146	8,529	28.3
1997	324,069	112,387	34.7	302,540	105,366	34.8	21,529	7,021	32.6
1998	327,688	129,729	39.6	306,164	121,371	39.6	21,524	8,358	38.8
1999	333,169	135,117	40.6	310,763	126,253	40.6	22,406	8,864	39.6
2000	339,702	143,267	42.2	316,328	133,426	42.2	23,374	9,841	42.1
2001	357,265	157,730	44.1	332,724	146,688	44.1	24,541	11,042	45.0
2002	390,294	170,542	43.7	363,020	158,263	43.6	27,274	12,279	45.0
2003	412,690	178,249	43.2	385,946	166,958	43.3	26,744	11,291	42.2
2004	415,111	178,662	43.0	390,274	168,586	43.2	24,837	10,076	40.6

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 45.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by age, year of application,
and program, 1992–2004—Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)
Aged 18–64									
1992	1,333,742	492,046	36.9	616,523	222,077	36.0	717,219	269,969	37.6
1993	1,425,163	468,477	32.9	662,298	208,554	31.5	762,865	259,923	34.1
1994	1,376,322	399,267	29.0	629,051	170,618	27.1	747,271	228,649	30.6
1995	1,263,064	357,732	28.3	592,390	151,417	25.6	670,674	206,315	30.8
1996	1,189,735	338,209	28.4	555,158	142,505	25.7	634,577	195,704	30.8
1997	1,057,299	324,213	30.7	498,637	139,003	27.9	558,662	185,210	33.2
1998	1,056,306	356,592	33.8	506,024	157,861	31.2	550,282	198,731	36.1
1999	1,049,989	362,246	34.5	502,870	162,036	32.2	547,119	200,210	36.6
2000	1,080,898	382,587	35.4	503,636	166,188	33.0	577,262	216,399	37.5
2001	1,155,467	408,901	35.4	505,101	172,232	34.1	650,366	236,669	36.4
2002	1,253,673	416,823	33.2	515,934	165,906	32.2	737,739	250,917	34.0
2003	1,327,329	429,012	32.3	523,909	166,234	31.7	803,420	262,778	32.7
2004	1,344,847	428,371	31.9	522,582	164,485	31.5	822,265	263,886	32.1

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2005.

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

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

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

b. Includes applicants aged 65 or older.

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Table 46.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by age, year of application,
and program, 1992–2004

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)
<i>All ages ^b</i>									
1992	479,152	74,500	15.5	234,057	38,371	16.4	245,095	36,129	14.7
1993	557,384	75,559	13.6	280,174	38,663	13.8	277,210	36,896	13.3
1994	571,602	73,734	12.9	290,341	36,826	12.7	281,261	36,908	13.1
1995	522,987	66,780	12.8	275,013	33,432	12.2	247,974	33,348	13.4
1996	480,593	65,353	13.6	249,224	32,510	13.0	231,369	32,843	14.2
1997	409,396	62,498	15.3	208,993	31,881	15.3	200,403	30,617	15.3
1998	390,212	61,267	15.7	203,132	31,818	15.7	187,080	29,449	15.7
1999	382,196	55,630	14.6	197,671	28,500	14.4	184,525	27,130	14.7
2000	382,757	53,149	13.9	192,285	26,456	13.8	190,472	26,693	14.0
2001	407,299	53,460	13.1	190,634	25,396	13.3	216,665	28,064	13.0
2002	458,317	56,098	12.2	203,464	25,786	12.7	254,853	30,312	11.9
2003	483,020	55,830	11.6	204,770	24,487	12.0	278,250	31,343	11.3
2004	397,718	38,715	9.7	167,846	17,572	10.5	229,872	21,143	9.2
<i>Under age 18</i>									
1992	49,099	9,570	19.5	44,562	8,590	19.3	4,537	980	21.6
1993	75,816	11,440	15.1	69,176	10,355	15.0	6,640	1,085	16.3
1994	91,854	11,475	12.5	83,789	10,461	12.5	8,065	1,014	12.6
1995	86,651	10,459	12.1	79,397	9,625	12.1	7,254	834	11.5
1996	74,836	9,646	12.9	68,797	8,863	12.9	6,039	783	13.0
1997	51,365	8,583	16.7	47,131	7,883	16.7	4,234	700	16.5
1998	49,909	8,042	16.1	45,989	7,417	16.1	3,920	625	15.9
1999	49,456	7,476	15.1	45,465	6,839	15.0	3,991	637	16.0
2000	48,361	7,514	15.5	44,462	6,951	15.6	3,899	563	14.4
2001	49,495	7,649	15.5	45,567	7,069	15.5	3,928	580	14.8
2002	56,273	8,312	14.8	51,775	7,620	14.7	4,498	692	15.4
2003	59,279	8,337	14.1	54,842	7,734	14.1	4,437	603	13.6
2004	49,018	6,293	12.8	45,751	5,946	13.0	3,267	347	10.6

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 46.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by age, year of application,
and program, 1992–2004—Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)
Aged 18–64									
1992	429,944	64,891	15.1	189,409	29,744	15.7	240,535	35,147	14.6
1993	481,434	64,074	13.3	210,882	28,268	13.4	270,552	35,806	13.2
1994	479,439	62,150	13.0	206,253	26,260	12.7	273,186	35,890	13.1
1995	435,988	56,205	12.9	195,281	23,695	12.1	240,707	32,510	13.5
1996	403,309	54,195	13.4	178,404	22,457	12.6	224,905	31,738	14.1
1997	355,514	52,590	14.8	159,694	22,951	14.4	195,820	29,639	15.1
1998	337,411	51,760	15.3	154,436	23,051	14.9	182,975	28,709	15.7
1999	330,830	47,249	14.3	150,460	20,863	13.9	180,370	26,386	14.6
2000	332,767	44,874	13.5	146,383	18,874	12.9	186,384	26,000	13.9
2001	356,236	45,065	12.7	143,740	17,762	12.4	212,496	27,303	12.8
2002	400,138	46,856	11.7	150,064	17,455	11.6	250,074	29,401	11.8
2003	422,369	46,848	11.1	148,810	16,296	11.0	273,559	30,552	11.2
2004	347,794	31,973	9.2	121,433	11,363	9.4	226,361	20,610	9.1

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2005.

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

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

A revised process was introduced on October 1, 1999, in 10 states, under which initial denials could be appealed directly to the hearing level without a reconsideration.

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

b. Includes applicants aged 65 or older.

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Table 47.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by age, year of application,
and program, 1992–2004

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)
<i>All ages ^b</i>									
1992	280,751	189,656	67.6	128,789	79,307	61.6	151,962	110,349	72.6
1993	327,271	205,185	62.7	153,126	85,195	55.6	174,145	119,990	68.9
1994	333,329	196,756	59.0	156,584	80,594	51.5	176,745	116,162	65.7
1995	300,958	170,826	56.8	145,570	70,445	48.4	155,388	100,381	64.6
1996	271,976	159,109	58.5	128,712	64,405	50.0	143,264	94,704	66.1
1997	238,742	144,987	60.7	112,201	59,693	53.2	126,541	85,294	67.4
1998	222,560	137,154	61.6	106,678	57,889	54.3	115,882	79,265	68.4
1999	228,543	141,806	62.0	109,837	59,636	54.3	118,706	82,170	69.2
2000	246,066	150,625	61.2	117,141	61,968	52.9	128,925	88,657	68.8
2001	262,596	160,344	61.1	117,030	61,232	52.3	145,566	99,112	68.1
2002	268,640	167,807	62.5	111,943	59,188	52.9	156,697	108,619	69.3
2003	166,920	107,369	64.3	65,697	34,884	53.1	101,223	72,485	71.6
2004	32,489	22,488	69.2	13,068	7,145	54.7	19,421	15,343	79.0
<i>Under age 18</i>									
1992	19,988	7,729	38.7	17,979	6,890	38.3	2,009	839	41.8
1993	31,658	10,921	34.5	28,625	9,784	34.2	3,033	1,137	37.5
1994	38,751	13,222	34.1	34,869	11,860	34.0	3,882	1,362	35.1
1995	35,856	11,285	31.5	32,428	10,131	31.2	3,428	1,154	33.7
1996	28,105	9,150	32.6	25,589	8,292	32.4	2,516	858	34.1
1997	19,549	7,297	37.3	17,723	6,591	37.2	1,826	706	38.7
1998	18,735	7,237	38.6	17,049	6,541	38.4	1,686	696	41.3
1999	20,660	8,054	39.0	18,767	7,268	38.7	1,893	786	41.5
2000	24,158	9,113	37.7	21,975	8,204	37.3	2,183	909	41.6
2001	25,250	9,319	36.9	23,062	8,436	36.6	2,188	883	40.4
2002	25,685	9,459	36.8	23,464	8,570	36.5	2,221	889	40.0
2003	15,338	5,665	36.9	14,122	5,193	36.8	1,216	472	38.8
2004	2,826	1,295	45.8	2,635	1,205	45.7	191	90	47.1

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 47.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by age, year of application,
and program, 1992–2004—Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)
Aged 18–64									
1992	260,727	181,899	69.8	110,785	72,398	65.4	149,942	109,501	73.0
1993	295,551	194,215	65.7	124,445	75,368	60.6	171,106	118,847	69.5
1994	294,441	183,449	62.3	121,584	68,654	56.5	172,857	114,795	66.4
1995	264,954	159,444	60.2	113,002	60,224	53.3	151,952	99,220	65.3
1996	243,063	149,246	61.4	102,414	55,494	54.2	140,649	93,752	66.7
1997	218,232	136,894	62.7	93,582	52,360	56.0	124,650	84,534	67.8
1998	202,865	129,155	63.7	88,718	50,630	57.1	114,147	78,525	68.8
1999	207,282	133,281	64.3	90,515	51,937	57.4	116,767	81,344	69.7
2000	221,323	141,080	63.7	94,631	53,373	56.4	126,692	87,707	69.2
2001	236,793	150,611	63.6	93,460	52,414	56.1	143,333	98,197	68.5
2002	242,315	157,903	65.2	87,882	50,205	57.1	154,433	107,698	69.7
2003	151,200	101,441	67.1	51,232	29,462	57.5	99,968	71,979	72.0
2004	29,521	21,063	71.3	10,309	5,827	56.5	19,212	15,236	79.3

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

NOTES: Data are current through July 2005.

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

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

A revised process was introduced on October 1, 1999, in 10 states, under which initial denials could be appealed directly to the hearing level without a reconsideration.

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

b. Includes applicants aged 65 or older.

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Table 48.
Percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by age, year of application,
and reason for allowance, 1992–2004

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings ^a	Under age 18 only		Aged 18 or older only		Other ^{a,b}
				Medically equals level of severity of listings	Functionally equals level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	
	Number	Percent						
<i>All ages ^c</i>								
1992	951,118	100.0	36.6	1.5	1.3	7.5	18.6	34.4
1993	968,374	100.0	36.5	1.5	1.6	5.5	17.4	37.6
1994	848,211	100.0	36.8	1.5	2.1	4.4	18.1	37.1
1995	745,348	100.0	35.8	1.6	2.5	4.3	18.6	37.2
1996	733,393	100.0	35.9	1.8	3.3	4.4	17.4	37.2
1997	666,782	100.0	37.6	1.8	4.3	4.7	18.4	33.3
1998	719,111	100.0	38.2	1.9	4.8	4.2	20.1	30.8
1999	728,934	100.0	36.6	2.0	5.3	4.0	20.8	31.2
2000	760,764	100.0	35.1	1.9	6.1	4.2	21.4	31.2
2001	809,729	100.0	34.9	1.8	7.0	4.2	22.3	29.8
2002	843,653	100.0	33.9	1.7	8.1	3.8	22.1	30.5
2003	796,553	100.0	35.5	1.8	9.7	4.0	24.1	24.8
2004	693,048	100.0	38.7	1.8	11.9	4.3	26.9	16.4
<i>Under age 18</i>								
1992	211,793	100.0	48.3	6.9	5.9	...	...	38.9
1993	241,085	100.0	44.9	5.9	6.4	...	...	42.7
1994	202,357	100.0	45.6	6.5	8.6	...	...	39.3
1995	170,884	100.0	44.8	7.0	11.0	...	...	37.2
1996	152,171	100.0	52.7	8.7	16.0	...	...	22.6
1997	128,267	100.0	55.8	9.2	22.1	...	...	12.9
1998	145,008	100.0	55.6	9.6	23.6	...	...	11.2
1999	150,647	100.0	53.2	9.8	25.8	...	...	11.3
2000	159,894	100.0	50.2	9.2	28.9	...	...	11.7
2001	174,698	100.0	48.3	8.2	32.4	...	...	11.0
2002	188,313	100.0	45.5	7.7	36.1	...	...	10.7
2003	192,251	100.0	44.4	7.6	40.3	...	...	7.7
2004	186,250	100.0	43.3	6.8	44.1	...	...	5.7

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 48.

Percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by age, year of application, and reason for allowance, 1992–2004—Continued

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings ^a	Under age 18 only		Aged 18 or older only		Other ^{a,b}
				Medically equals level of severity of listings	Functionally equals level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	
	Number	Percent						
Aged 18–64								
1992	738,836	100.0	33.3	...	...	9.7	23.9	33.2
1993	726,766	100.0	33.7	...	...	7.3	23.1	35.9
1994	644,866	100.0	34.0	...	...	5.8	23.8	36.4
1995	573,381	100.0	33.2	...	...	5.6	24.0	37.2
1996	541,650	100.0	33.7	...	...	5.9	23.3	37.1
1997	513,697	100.0	34.5	...	...	6.1	22.6	36.9
1998	537,507	100.0	35.6	...	...	5.5	23.9	35.1
1999	542,776	100.0	34.0	...	...	5.3	25.1	35.6
2000	568,541	100.0	32.6	...	...	5.6	26.4	35.4
2001	604,577	100.0	32.6	...	...	5.6	27.9	33.9
2002	621,582	100.0	32.0	...	...	5.1	28.1	34.8
2003	577,301	100.0	34.1	...	...	5.5	31.9	28.5
2004	481,407	100.0	38.8	...	...	6.2	37.6	17.4

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2005. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2005.

Because a number of applications remain pending for more recent years, the numbers and percentages will change over time.

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

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

... = not applicable.

a. Includes all age groups.

b. Includes applications for which the disability was previously established and those for which the basis for the determination is not available. For final determinations made in or before August 1996 for applicants under age 18, also includes applications allowed because individual functional assessment showed impairment of comparable severity.

c. Includes applicants aged 65 or older.

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Table 49.
Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application,
and reason for denial, 1992–2004

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Impairment does not cause severe functional limitations ^a	Able to do usual past work ^b	Able to do other type of work ^b	Other ^c
	Number	Percent						
<i>All ages ^d</i>								
1992	743,395	100.0	7.3	22.1	...	17.5	26.3	26.9
1993	939,357	100.0	6.6	21.2	...	15.4	24.8	31.9
1994	1,043,113	100.0	6.2	20.7	...	13.6	23.3	36.1
1995	996,529	100.0	6.2	19.7	...	12.4	22.4	39.2
1996	940,350	100.0	6.4	20.6	5.8	12.1	22.9	32.2
1997	741,043	100.0	6.8	16.7	16.2	13.0	25.1	22.1
1998	703,239	100.0	6.9	15.0	18.3	14.6	25.3	19.9
1999	690,488	100.0	6.7	14.0	19.1	15.5	24.5	20.2
2000	690,296	100.0	6.4	13.3	18.7	15.8	24.2	21.5
2001	724,592	100.0	6.1	13.2	18.3	16.6	26.0	19.9
2002	793,508	100.0	5.7	13.0	18.4	16.8	26.2	19.9
2003	812,715	100.0	5.2	12.2	19.0	16.5	26.1	21.1
2004	823,668	100.0	5.0	11.2	18.5	16.2	26.2	22.9
<i>Under age 18</i>								
1992	148,324	100.0	1.5	22.7	...	...	...	75.8
1993	240,803	100.0	1.3	21.8	...	...	...	76.9
1994	311,284	100.0	1.4	22.4	...	...	...	76.2
1995	306,390	100.0	1.3	21.8	...	...	...	76.9
1996	291,354	100.0	1.4	26.9	18.7	...	...	53.0
1997	195,802	100.0	1.6	19.1	61.4	...	...	18.0
1998	182,511	100.0	1.3	14.5	70.6	...	...	13.7
1999	182,279	100.0	1.1	13.3	72.4	...	...	13.2
2000	179,388	100.0	1.1	13.2	72.1	...	...	13.6
2001	181,660	100.0	1.1	14.0	73.0	...	...	11.9
2002	197,948	100.0	1.0	13.5	73.7	...	...	11.8
2003	205,178	100.0	0.9	12.4	75.1	...	...	11.5
2004	202,113	100.0	0.9	11.1	75.5	...	...	12.6

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 49.
Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application,
and reason for denial, 1992–2004—Continued

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Impairment does not cause severe functional limitations ^a	Able to do usual past work ^b	Able to do other type of work ^b	Other ^c
	Number	Percent						
Aged 18–64								
1992	594,906	100.0	8.8	21.9	...	21.8	32.8	14.7
1993	698,397	100.0	8.4	21.0	...	20.7	33.4	16.4
1994	731,456	100.0	8.3	20.0	...	19.4	33.2	19.1
1995	689,683	100.0	8.4	18.8	...	17.9	32.4	22.5
1996	648,085	100.0	8.6	17.8	...	17.5	33.3	22.8
1997	543,602	100.0	8.8	15.8	...	17.7	34.2	23.6
1998	516,773	100.0	8.9	14.9	...	19.7	34.4	22.0
1999	504,486	100.0	8.7	14.1	...	21.0	33.5	22.7
2000	507,540	100.0	8.4	13.2	...	21.2	32.8	24.3
2001	539,948	100.0	7.8	12.8	...	22.1	34.9	22.5
2002	592,581	100.0	7.3	12.8	...	22.3	35.0	22.5
2003	605,341	100.0	6.6	12.0	...	22.0	35.1	24.3
2004	619,791	100.0	6.3	11.1	...	21.5	34.9	26.2

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2005. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2005.

Because a number of applications remain pending for more recent years, the numbers and percentages will change over time.

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

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

... = not applicable.

a. Used only for applicants under age 18. Category effective for final determinations made August 1996 or later.

b. Used only for applicants aged 18 or older.

c. Applicant provided insufficient evidence, failed to cooperate, failed to follow prescribed treatment, did not want to continue development of the claim, or returned to substantial work before disability could be established. For final determinations made August 1996 or before for applicants under age 18, also includes claims denied because individual functional assessment showed impairment not of comparable severity.

d. Includes applicants aged 65 or older.

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