

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 59.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2006

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 disabled beneficiaries									
1999	1,265,055	0	104,379	446,317	4,062	708,439	1,858	56.0	61.3
2000	1,364,396	2,966	136,119	456,698	3,828	762,846	1,939	56.0	62.5
2001	1,513,536	3,482	170,540	496,992	3,588	837,000	1,934	55.4	62.7
2002	1,716,221	5,689	231,067	580,474	4,076	892,816	2,099	52.2	60.6
2003	1,942,433	13,376	374,247	628,073	4,510	920,152	2,075	47.7	59.4
2004	2,262,548	58,399	616,424	656,755	5,741	923,579	1,650	41.9	58.3
2005	2,080,201	178,423	529,261	593,914	7,304	769,301	1,998	40.5	56.3
2006	2,140,112	310,770	610,681	591,977	7,655	617,054	1,975	33.7	50.9
Workers									
1992	1,310,004	0	130,885	481,439	5,725	689,111	2,844	52.6	58.8
1993	1,384,501	0	140,314	540,906	5,626	695,007	2,648	50.2	56.2
1994	1,383,092	0	130,240	573,158	5,506	671,791	2,397	48.6	53.9
1995	1,301,472	0	123,711	542,097	5,048	628,380	2,236	48.3	53.6
1996	1,313,818	0	116,988	537,482	5,011	652,221	2,116	49.6	54.8
1997	1,164,680	0	106,868	449,464	4,212	602,277	1,859	51.7	57.2
1998	1,138,101	0	96,719	422,017	4,207	613,114	2,044	53.9	59.2
1999	1,167,664	0	102,353	419,800	4,014	639,711	1,786	54.8	60.3
2000	1,265,214	2,849	134,013	430,889	3,793	691,798	1,872	54.8	61.6
2001	1,414,598	3,361	168,252	471,231	3,545	766,330	1,879	54.3	61.9
2002	1,609,612	5,489	228,456	550,906	4,020	818,693	2,048	51.0	59.8
2003	1,831,314	13,081	371,277	595,294	4,452	845,206	2,004	46.5	58.6
2004	2,145,775	57,749	612,388	621,311	5,688	847,040	1,599	40.6	57.6
2005	1,966,118	176,293	525,353	558,717	7,205	696,627	1,923	38.9	55.3
2006	2,026,017	306,932	605,998	551,554	7,547	552,068	1,918	32.1	49.9
Widow(er)s									
1999	40,055	0	1,173	9,719	17	29,109	37	72.7	75.0
2000	39,996	60	1,258	8,980	11	29,658	29	74.3	76.8
2001	40,238	62	1,344	8,694	13	30,106	19	74.9	77.6
2002	41,325	103	1,539	9,086	18	30,560	19	74.1	77.1
2003	41,473	158	1,645	9,631	24	29,971	44	72.5	75.7
2004	42,626	308	2,072	9,946	22	30,254	24	71.5	75.3
2005	40,776	1,128	1,897	9,762	29	27,936	24	70.5	74.1
2006	39,259	2,051	2,162	10,605	43	24,377	21	65.5	69.7

(Continued)

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Table 59.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2006—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		
Adult children									
1999	57,336	0	853	16,798	31	39,619	35	69.1	70.2
2000	59,186	57	848	16,829	24	41,390	38	70.0	71.1
2001	58,700	59	944	17,067	30	40,564	36	69.2	70.4
2002	65,284	97	1,072	20,482	38	43,563	32	66.8	68.0
2003	69,646	137	1,325	23,148	34	44,975	27	64.7	66.0
2004	74,147	342	1,964	25,498	31	46,285	27	62.7	64.5
2005	73,307	1,002	2,011	25,435	70	44,738	51	61.9	63.8
2006	74,836	1,787	2,521	29,818	65	40,609	36	55.6	57.7

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through August 2007. Data for the hearing level or above are current through September 2007.

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.

Data include decisions for Social Security–only applications and applications for both Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI); they do not include SSI-only applications.

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

- a. Applications were denied for nonmedical reasons; therefore 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 were denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that the applicant did not meet the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.
- e. Applications were denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that the applicant met the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.

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