

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 64.**  
**Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial, 1992–2006**

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Able to do usual past work	Able to do other type of work	Other <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percent					
<i>All disabled beneficiaries</i>							
1999	450,379	100.0	10.2	17.8	28.3	30.9	12.7
2000	460,526	100.0	10.1	17.2	28.3	30.4	14.0
2001	500,580	100.0	9.2	16.7	28.1	31.2	14.8
2002	584,550	100.0	8.5	17.1	28.3	31.3	14.8
2003	632,583	100.0	7.5	17.7	28.3	31.7	14.9
2004	662,496	100.0	6.9	18.5	27.4	31.2	16.0
2005	601,218	100.0	6.8	19.1	26.4	30.6	17.2
2006	599,632	100.0	6.6	19.2	26.2	30.7	17.3
<i>Workers</i>							
1992	487,164	100.0	10.7	22.9	28.4	29.6	8.4
1993	546,532	100.0	10.4	22.7	27.6	29.8	9.5
1994	578,664	100.0	10.2	21.5	25.9	28.8	13.6
1995	547,145	100.0	10.6	20.8	25.4	29.4	13.8
1996	542,493	100.0	10.2	19.6	24.7	30.6	14.8
1997	453,676	100.0	10.6	18.5	25.7	30.5	14.6
1998	426,224	100.0	10.8	18.3	27.8	30.8	12.2
1999	423,814	100.0	10.6	17.4	29.3	30.1	12.5
2000	434,682	100.0	10.4	16.7	29.3	29.8	13.7
2001	474,776	100.0	9.6	16.3	29.0	30.5	14.6
2002	554,926	100.0	8.8	16.8	29.2	30.7	14.6
2003	599,746	100.0	7.8	17.4	29.3	31.0	14.6
2004	626,999	100.0	7.2	18.2	28.5	30.5	15.7
2005	565,922	100.0	7.0	18.8	27.5	29.7	16.9
2006	559,101	100.0	7.0	18.9	27.4	29.7	17.0
<i>Widow(ers)</i>							
1999	9,736	100.0	5.6	29.1	31.8	22.7	10.8
2000	8,991	100.0	5.2	29.0	31.4	22.4	12.0
2001	8,707	100.0	4.6	27.6	31.1	22.9	13.6
2002	9,104	100.0	4.7	26.2	32.4	23.7	13.0
2003	9,655	100.0	4.2	26.5	32.7	23.3	13.3
2004	9,968	100.0	3.6	26.5	32.1	23.4	14.4
2005	9,791	100.0	3.6	26.0	32.2	23.7	14.6
2006	10,648	100.0	4.1	24.3	31.8	24.6	15.2

(Continued)

**Table 64.**  
**Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial,**  
**1992–2006—Continued**

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Able to do usual past work	Able to do other type of work	Other <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percent					
<i>Adult children</i>							
1999	16,829	100.0	3.1	22.7	0.7	53.3	20.1
2000	16,853	100.0	2.9	22.9	0.7	51.9	21.7
2001	17,097	100.0	2.5	21.3	0.9	52.9	22.3
2002	20,520	100.0	2.3	21.6	0.8	53.5	21.7
2003	23,182	100.0	2.0	21.8	0.7	53.6	21.9
2004	25,529	100.0	1.9	22.0	0.5	52.4	23.1
2005	25,505	100.0	1.9	20.9	0.4	53.1	23.7
2006	29,883	100.0	1.8	23.2	0.4	50.7	23.9

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 numbers and percentages will change over time.

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

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 claims.

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

- a. Applicant has an impairment resulting from drug addiction or alcoholism, provided insufficient medical 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. Also includes cases denied at or above the hearing level for which the basis of determination is not available.

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