
Note

The tables in this section provide data on the outcomes of applications for disability benefits. The data on applications are derived from the Social Security Administration's (SSA's) Disability Research File maintained by the Office of Disability Programs. Each year this file 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 58 shows the total number of applications filed in a year, the number denied for nonmedical reasons before a medical decision is made (*technical denials*), the number that are pending a final decision, 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 insufficient number of recent work credits.

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 59–61 show the allowance rate for Social Security only and the Social Security portion of *concurrent applications* (which are claims for both Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability benefits). Each table shows a different level in the administrative decisionmaking process, that is, initial adjudicative, reconsideration, and hearing or higher level.

Beginning with 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 the reason for medical denial (Tables 62 and 63). 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

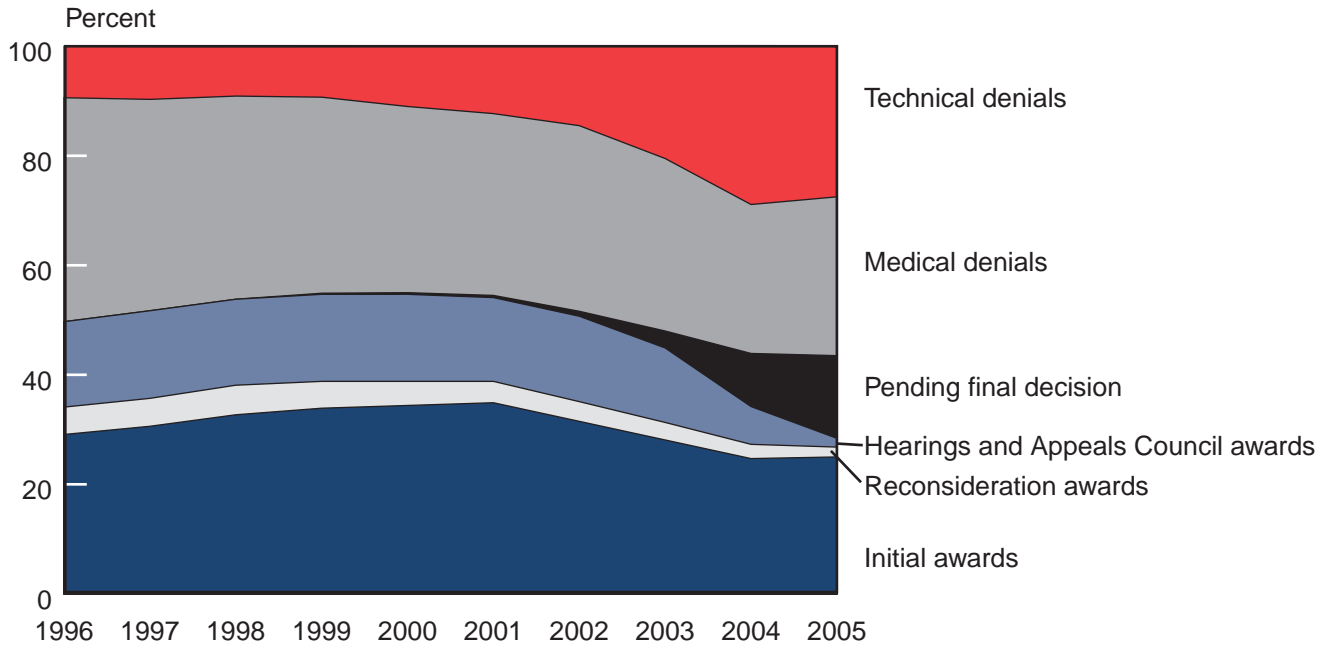
- has a listed impairment,
- has a severe impairment that is equal to a listed impairment,
- has a severe impairment when medical and vocational factors are considered, or
- had previously established entitlement to a disability benefit.

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
 - has an impairment resulting from drug addiction or alcoholism, 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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Chart 11.
Final outcome of disabled-worker applications, 1996–2005

The final award rate for disabled-worker applicants has varied over time, averaging nearly 48 percent for claims filed from 1996 through 2005. The percentage of applicants awarded benefits at the initial claims level averaged 31 percent over the same period and ranged from a high of about 35 percent to a low of 25 percent. The percentage of applicants awarded at the reconsideration and hearing levels are relatively constant, averaging 4 percent and 13 percent, respectively. Denied disability claims have averaged about 49 percent.



SOURCE: Tables 58–63.

NOTES: Awards are calculated as medical allowances minus subsequent technical denials. Technical denials include both nonmedical decision technical denials and medical decisions that were subsequently denied for technical reasons.

The proportion of claims awarded at each level of the process is likely to change 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 is likely to result in a decrease in the overall proportion of claims awarded at this step.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 58.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by 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 disabled beneficiaries									
1999	1,265,055	2,491	104,344	444,004	4,068	708,290	1,858	56.1	61.4
2000	1,364,396	3,787	136,106	456,284	3,838	762,442	1,939	56.0	62.5
2001	1,513,536	5,783	170,513	495,793	3,593	835,920	1,934	55.4	62.7
2002	1,716,221	14,207	230,953	575,886	4,087	888,988	2,100	52.2	60.7
2003	1,942,433	57,222	373,965	608,730	4,552	895,883	2,081	47.5	59.5
2004	2,252,229	209,319	615,924	616,901	5,902	802,501	1,682	39.3	56.4
2005	2,044,971	295,700	528,636	597,286	7,456	613,873	2,020	35.1	50.5
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	106,881	449,841	4,213	601,886	1,859	51.7	57.2
1998	1,138,101	0	96,737	422,096	4,213	613,010	2,045	53.9	59.2
1999	1,167,664	2,400	102,320	417,574	4,020	639,564	1,786	54.9	60.4
2000	1,265,214	3,662	134,000	430,477	3,803	691,400	1,872	54.8	61.6
2001	1,414,598	5,644	168,225	470,044	3,550	765,256	1,879	54.3	61.9
2002	1,609,612	13,884	228,346	546,393	4,030	814,910	2,049	51.1	59.8
2003	1,831,314	56,336	370,999	576,258	4,493	821,218	2,010	46.3	58.7
2004	2,138,679	206,834	611,911	581,625	5,849	730,832	1,628	37.8	55.6
2005	1,938,525	291,953	524,797	562,612	7,366	549,848	1,949	33.4	49.3
Widow(er)s									
1999	40,055	52	1,173	9,668	17	29,108	37	72.8	75.1
2000	39,996	67	1,258	8,978	11	29,653	29	74.3	76.8
2001	40,238	73	1,344	8,688	13	30,101	19	74.9	77.6
2002	41,325	167	1,537	9,050	19	30,533	19	74.2	77.1
2003	41,473	458	1,643	9,509	25	29,794	44	72.6	75.9
2004	41,774	1,341	2,068	10,066	23	28,251	25	69.9	73.8
2005	38,679	2,033	1,882	10,040	29	24,669	26	67.3	71.1

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 58.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by 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		
Adult children									
1999	57,336	39	851	16,762	31	39,618	35	69.1	70.3
2000	59,186	58	848	16,829	24	41,389	38	70.0	71.1
2001	58,700	66	944	17,061	30	40,563	36	69.2	70.4
2002	65,284	156	1,070	20,443	38	43,545	32	66.9	68.1
2003	69,646	428	1,323	22,963	34	44,871	27	64.8	66.2
2004	71,776	1,144	1,945	25,210	30	43,418	29	61.5	63.3
2005	67,767	1,714	1,957	24,634	61	39,356	45	59.6	61.5

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.

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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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 ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^{a,b} (percent)
All disabled beneficiaries									
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
Workers									
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
Widow(er)s									
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 ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^{a,b} (percent)
<i>Adult children</i>									
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.

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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 60.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration 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 ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^{a,b} (percent)
All disabled beneficiaries									
1999	398,185	61,143	15.4	210,358	34,724	16.5	187,827	26,419	14.1
2000	408,526	58,590	14.3	215,443	33,233	15.4	193,083	25,357	13.1
2001	435,157	58,417	13.4	222,277	32,590	14.7	212,880	25,827	12.1
2002	502,584	60,482	12.0	250,126	32,881	13.1	252,458	27,601	10.9
2003	542,435	60,471	11.1	258,287	31,725	12.3	284,148	28,746	10.1
2004	547,366	57,278	10.5	246,721	29,590	12.0	300,645	27,688	9.2
2005	407,315	36,446	8.9	182,034	19,137	10.5	225,281	17,309	7.7
Workers									
1992	419,798	53,881	12.8	190,594	25,352	13.3	229,204	28,529	12.4
1993	469,151	58,275	12.4	206,606	27,306	13.2	262,545	30,969	11.8
1994	489,731	62,757	12.8	226,013	31,468	13.9	263,718	31,289	11.9
1995	458,036	60,584	13.2	218,950	31,563	14.4	239,086	29,021	12.1
1996	464,582	65,466	14.1	226,333	33,596	14.8	238,249	31,870	13.4
1997	403,212	59,978	14.9	206,135	33,373	16.2	197,077	26,605	13.5
1998	384,978	61,742	16.0	199,273	34,043	17.1	185,705	27,699	14.9
1999	385,409	57,808	15.0	203,696	33,192	16.3	181,713	24,616	13.5
2000	397,031	55,762	14.0	209,146	31,946	15.3	187,885	23,816	12.7
2001	423,981	55,822	13.2	216,179	31,420	14.5	207,802	24,402	11.7
2002	490,141	57,961	11.8	243,562	31,809	13.1	246,579	26,152	10.6
2003	529,278	57,885	10.9	252,179	30,711	12.2	277,099	27,174	9.8
2004	534,437	55,241	10.3	241,326	28,772	11.9	293,111	26,469	9.0
2005	398,183	35,250	8.9	178,207	18,612	10.4	219,976	16,638	7.6
Widow(er)s									
1999	7,109	1,983	27.9	4,109	917	22.3	3,000	1,066	35.5
2000	6,353	1,574	24.8	3,854	738	19.1	2,499	836	33.5
2001	6,192	1,599	25.8	3,859	741	19.2	2,333	858	36.8
2002	6,415	1,435	22.4	4,014	667	16.6	2,401	768	32.0
2003	6,661	1,443	21.7	3,834	660	17.2	2,827	783	27.7
2004	6,230	1,133	18.2	3,261	515	15.8	2,969	618	20.8
2005	4,466	612	13.7	2,355	319	13.5	2,111	293	13.9

(Continued)

Table 60.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration 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 ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^{a,b} (percent)
Adult children									
1999	5,667	1,352	23.9	2,553	615	24.1	3,114	737	23.7
2000	5,142	1,254	24.4	2,443	549	22.5	2,699	705	26.1
2001	4,984	996	20.0	2,239	429	19.2	2,745	567	20.7
2002	6,028	1,086	18.0	2,550	405	15.9	3,478	681	19.6
2003	6,496	1,143	17.6	2,274	354	15.6	4,222	789	18.7
2004	6,699	904	13.5	2,134	303	14.2	4,565	601	13.2
2005	4,666	584	12.5	1,472	206	14.0	3,194	378	11.8

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.

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.

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.

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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 61.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, 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 ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^{a,b} (percent)
All disabled beneficiaries									
1999	261,346	189,006	72.3	143,002	112,016	78.3	118,344	76,990	65.1
2000	284,133	203,844	71.7	153,962	119,823	77.8	130,171	84,021	64.5
2001	306,406	219,331	71.6	161,117	126,039	78.2	145,289	93,292	64.2
2002	353,183	253,687	71.8	182,603	144,294	79.0	170,580	109,393	64.1
2003	341,932	251,625	73.6	172,624	139,964	81.1	169,308	111,661	66.0
2004	195,317	149,897	76.7	99,567	83,807	84.2	95,750	66,090	69.0
2005	37,326	31,201	83.6	21,260	18,998	89.4	16,066	12,203	76.0
Workers									
1992	275,863	201,359	73.0	131,624	105,371	80.1	144,239	95,988	66.5
1993	310,655	217,816	70.1	143,997	112,593	78.2	166,658	105,223	63.1
1994	323,607	220,645	68.2	156,458	119,338	76.3	167,149	101,307	60.6
1995	301,917	202,739	67.2	150,882	113,781	75.4	151,035	88,958	58.9
1996	306,245	204,704	66.8	157,790	116,292	73.7	148,455	88,412	59.6
1997	267,275	185,887	69.5	141,008	107,367	76.1	126,267	78,520	62.2
1998	251,467	178,935	71.2	134,864	104,678	77.6	116,603	74,257	63.7
1999	257,301	186,207	72.4	139,930	109,831	78.5	117,371	76,376	65.1
2000	279,860	200,904	71.8	150,720	117,529	78.0	129,140	83,375	64.6
2001	302,156	216,406	71.6	157,867	123,739	78.4	144,289	92,667	64.2
2002	348,368	250,339	71.9	178,958	141,657	79.2	169,410	108,682	64.2
2003	337,564	248,587	73.6	169,635	137,765	81.2	167,929	110,822	66.0
2004	192,969	148,243	76.8	98,050	82,655	84.3	94,919	65,588	69.1
2005	36,777	30,737	83.6	20,842	18,633	89.4	15,935	12,104	76.0
Widow(er)s									
1999	2,926	2,229	76.2	2,258	1,744	77.2	668	485	72.6
2000	3,038	2,327	76.6	2,345	1,821	77.7	693	506	73.0
2001	2,929	2,279	77.8	2,318	1,820	78.5	611	459	75.1
2002	3,222	2,529	78.5	2,545	2,029	79.7	677	500	73.9
2003	2,962	2,341	79.0	2,116	1,712	80.9	846	629	74.3
2004	1,666	1,345	80.7	1,150	951	82.7	516	394	76.4
2005	444	398	89.6	342	313	91.5	102	85	83.3

(Continued)

Table 61.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, 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 ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^{a,b} (percent)
Adult children									
1999	1,119	570	50.9	814	441	54.2	305	129	42.3
2000	1,235	613	49.6	897	473	52.7	338	140	41.4
2001	1,321	646	48.9	932	480	51.5	389	166	42.7
2002	1,593	819	51.4	1,100	608	55.3	493	211	42.8
2003	1,406	697	49.6	873	487	55.8	533	210	39.4
2004	682	309	45.3	367	201	54.8	315	108	34.3
2005	105	66	62.9	76	52	68.4	29	14	48.3

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

NOTES: Data are current through August 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.

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.

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.

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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 62.

Percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2005

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other ^a
	Number	Percent				
All disabled beneficiaries						
1999	708,290	100.0	33.0	5.9	27.0	34.1
2000	762,442	100.0	31.3	6.2	29.4	33.1
2001	835,920	100.0	30.1	6.1	30.2	33.5
2002	888,988	100.0	28.8	5.4	30.4	35.4
2003	895,883	100.0	28.1	5.3	32.2	34.4
2004	802,501	100.0	31.4	5.9	37.5	25.1
2005	613,873	100.0	37.5	6.5	43.6	12.5
Workers						
1992	689,111	100.0	34.3	11.1	24.3	30.3
1993	695,007	100.0	34.3	8.7	23.6	33.4
1994	671,791	100.0	34.5	6.9	25.6	32.9
1995	628,380	100.0	34.5	6.7	26.8	31.9
1996	652,221	100.0	34.2	7.0	27.4	31.5
1997	601,886	100.0	35.0	7.5	26.4	31.0
1998	613,010	100.0	35.5	6.6	27.0	30.9
1999	639,564	100.0	33.6	6.3	28.3	31.8
2000	691,400	100.0	31.9	6.6	30.8	30.8
2001	765,256	100.0	30.7	6.4	31.6	31.3
2002	814,910	100.0	29.3	5.7	31.8	33.2
2003	821,218	100.0	28.6	5.5	33.8	32.1
2004	730,832	100.0	32.2	6.2	39.6	22.0
2005	549,848	100.0	39.0	6.9	46.7	7.4
Widow(er)s						
1999	29,108	100.0	14.9	2.5	24.6	58.0
2000	29,653	100.0	12.8	2.5	26.3	58.4
2001	30,101	100.0	12.3	2.6	27.0	58.1
2002	30,533	100.0	11.5	2.1	26.6	59.8
2003	29,794	100.0	10.9	2.2	26.4	60.5
2004	28,251	100.0	10.9	2.1	28.2	58.8
2005	24,669	100.0	11.4	1.9	28.8	57.9

(Continued)

Table 62.
Percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2005—Continued

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other ^a
	Number	Percent				
<i>Adult children</i>						
1999	39,618	100.0	35.9	3.2	7.4	53.5
2000	41,389	100.0	35.0	3.1	7.3	54.7
2001	40,563	100.0	33.0	3.0	8.0	56.0
2002	43,545	100.0	31.8	2.9	7.6	57.7
2003	44,871	100.0	31.1	2.7	8.2	58.0
2004	43,418	100.0	32.1	2.9	9.1	55.9
2005	39,356	100.0	32.9	2.9	9.2	55.0

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 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. Includes applications for which the disability was previously established and those for which the basis for the determination is not available. The majority of applications for which the basis of determination is not available are cases allowed at or above the hearing level.

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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 63.

Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial, 1992–2005

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 ^a
	Number	Percent					
<i>All disabled beneficiaries</i>							
1999	448,072	100.0	10.3	17.8	28.3	30.8	12.8
2000	460,122	100.0	10.1	17.2	28.3	30.4	14.0
2001	499,386	100.0	9.2	16.7	28.1	31.1	14.8
2002	579,973	100.0	8.5	17.1	28.2	31.3	14.8
2003	613,282	100.0	7.6	17.7	28.1	31.4	15.2
2004	622,803	100.0	7.1	18.4	27.3	30.6	16.6
2005	604,742	100.0	6.9	18.2	27.1	31.1	16.7
<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	454,054	100.0	10.6	18.5	25.7	30.5	14.6
1998	426,309	100.0	10.8	18.3	27.8	30.9	12.2
1999	421,594	100.0	10.6	17.4	29.3	30.1	12.5
2000	434,280	100.0	10.4	16.7	29.3	29.8	13.7
2001	473,594	100.0	9.6	16.3	29.0	30.5	14.6
2002	550,423	100.0	8.8	16.8	29.2	30.6	14.6
2003	580,751	100.0	7.9	17.4	29.1	30.6	14.9
2004	587,474	100.0	7.4	18.1	28.3	29.8	16.4
2005	569,978	100.0	7.2	18.0	28.2	30.2	16.4
<i>Widow(er)s</i>							
1999	9,685	100.0	5.6	29.1	31.8	22.7	10.8
2000	8,989	100.0	5.3	29.0	31.4	22.3	12.0
2001	8,701	100.0	4.6	27.6	31.1	22.9	13.6
2002	9,069	100.0	4.7	26.2	32.4	23.7	13.0
2003	9,534	100.0	4.2	26.5	32.7	23.3	13.4
2004	10,089	100.0	3.6	25.8	32.2	24.0	14.3
2005	10,069	100.0	3.8	24.7	32.8	24.3	14.4

(Continued)

Table 63.
Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial,
1992–2005—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 ^a
	Number	Percent					
<i>Adult children</i>							
1999	16,793	100.0	3.1	22.7	0.7	53.3	20.2
2000	16,853	100.0	2.9	22.9	0.7	51.9	21.7
2001	17,091	100.0	2.5	21.3	0.9	52.9	22.3
2002	20,481	100.0	2.3	21.6	0.8	53.6	21.7
2003	22,997	100.0	2.0	21.8	0.7	53.5	22.0
2004	25,240	100.0	2.0	21.7	0.5	52.6	23.1
2005	24,695	100.0	2.0	21.0	0.4	52.9	23.8

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 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.

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