

OUTCOMES OF APPLICATIONS FOR DISABILITY BENEFITS



Notes

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 59 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 decision-making 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 60–62 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 decision-making 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 63 and 64). The reasons are derived from the sequential evaluation process used by decision makers. 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

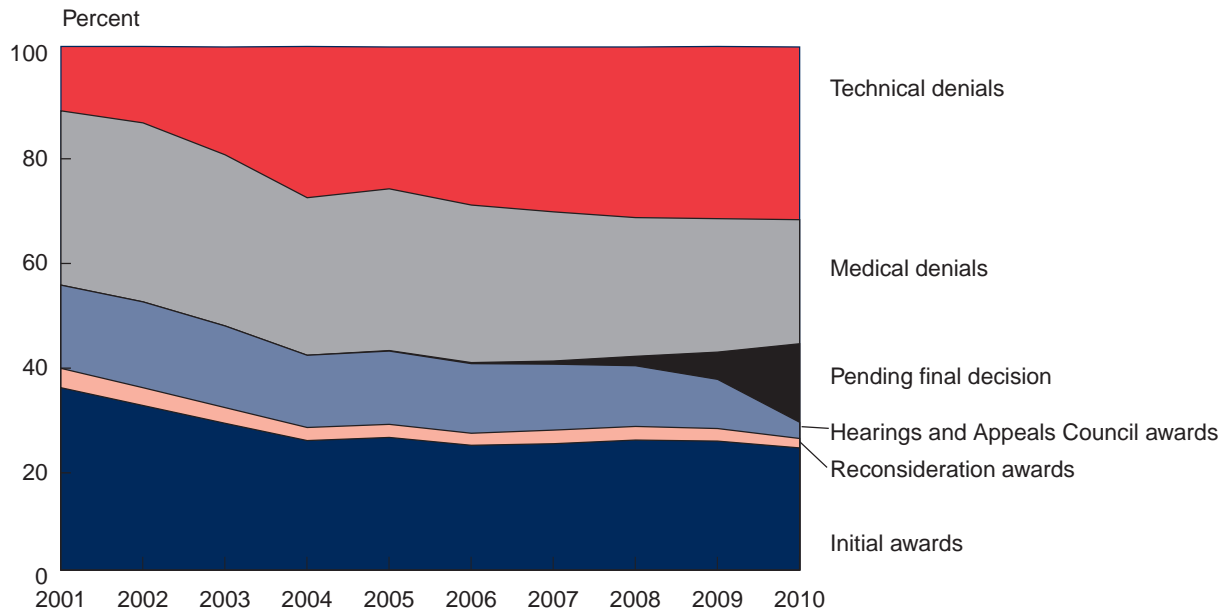
- has a listed impairment,
- has a severe impairment that is equal to a listed impairment,
- has a severe impairment when medical and vocational factors are considered, or
- had previously established entitlement to a disability benefit.

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, 2001–2010

The final award rate for disabled-worker applicants has varied over time, averaging nearly 45 percent for claims filed from 2001 through 2010. The percentage of applicants awarded benefits at the initial claims level averaged 28 percent over the same period and ranged from a high of 37 percent to a low of 26 percent. The percentage of applicants awarded at the reconsideration and hearing levels are averaging 3 percent and 13 percent, respectively. Denied disability claims have averaged nearly 53 percent.



SOURCE: Tables 59–64.

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 59.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2010

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials ^a	Medical decisions				Award rate ^d (percent)	Allowance rate ^e (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical ^b	Awards	Subsequent denials ^c		
All disabled beneficiaries									
1999	1,265,037	0	104,332	445,995	4,056	708,797	1,857	56.0	61.3
2000	1,364,323	0	136,054	456,467	3,817	766,047	1,938	56.1	62.6
2001	1,513,411	0	170,520	496,835	3,579	840,542	1,935	55.5	62.8
2002	1,716,044	0	231,067	580,676	4,067	898,135	2,099	52.3	60.7
2003	1,942,210	0	374,309	632,566	4,485	928,777	2,073	47.8	59.4
2004	2,262,363	688	616,823	680,631	5,680	956,896	1,645	42.3	58.3
2005	2,087,956	1,702	529,691	644,912	7,023	902,638	1,990	43.3	58.2
2006	2,164,544	4,376	612,209	655,741	7,343	882,927	1,948	40.9	57.2
2007	2,216,709	12,716	652,754	637,628	7,995	903,774	1,842	41.0	58.4
2008	2,358,740	41,271	717,875	631,870	9,101	956,810	1,813	41.3	60.0
2009	2,744,469	138,426	845,236	710,283	10,942	1,037,685	1,897	39.8	59.1
2010	2,838,485	413,530	878,497	688,348	12,418	843,735	1,957	34.8	54.8
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	96,718	421,953	4,205	613,181	2,044	53.9	59.2
1999	1,167,650	0	102,305	419,486	4,008	640,065	1,786	54.8	60.3
2000	1,265,188	0	133,947	430,581	3,782	695,007	1,871	54.9	61.7
2001	1,414,524	0	168,231	470,999	3,537	769,877	1,880	54.4	62.0
2002	1,609,492	0	228,455	551,002	4,011	823,976	2,048	51.2	59.9
2003	1,831,162	0	371,336	599,609	4,428	853,787	2,002	46.6	58.7
2004	2,145,633	684	612,783	644,957	5,627	879,988	1,594	41.0	57.6
2005	1,970,278	1,690	525,774	609,481	6,929	824,488	1,916	41.9	57.4
2006	2,040,683	4,331	607,428	615,128	7,235	804,673	1,888	39.5	56.5
2007	2,083,899	12,473	647,502	594,442	7,879	819,828	1,775	39.6	57.8
2008	2,217,129	40,138	712,283	588,305	8,964	865,693	1,746	39.8	59.3
2009	2,589,706	134,318	839,291	660,472	10,790	943,015	1,820	38.4	58.5
2010	2,683,465	402,106	872,378	637,301	12,263	757,513	1,904	33.2	54.0
Widow(er)s									
1999	40,053	0	1,173	9,718	17	29,108	37	72.7	75.0
2000	39,990	0	1,258	9,013	11	29,679	29	74.2	76.8
2001	40,227	0	1,344	8,738	13	30,113	19	74.9	77.5
2002	41,316	0	1,540	9,133	18	30,606	19	74.1	77.0
2003	41,467	0	1,646	9,737	24	30,016	44	72.4	75.6
2004	42,615	3	2,073	10,023	22	30,470	24	71.5	75.3
2005	41,572	6	1,896	9,679	27	29,940	24	72.0	75.6
2006	41,577	20	2,195	10,110	38	29,191	23	70.2	74.3
2007	40,879	86	2,212	9,135	29	29,390	27	72.0	76.3
2008	42,200	284	2,329	8,555	34	30,977	21	73.9	78.3
2009	43,550	1,022	2,547	8,660	44	31,256	21	73.5	78.3
2010	44,356	3,572	2,637	8,920	41	29,165	21	71.5	76.6

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 59.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2010—Continued

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials ^a	Medical decisions				Award rate ^d (percent)	Allowance rate ^e (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical ^b	Awards	Subsequent denials ^c		
Adult children									
1999	57,334	0	854	16,791	31	39,624	34	69.1	70.3
2000	59,145	0	849	16,873	24	41,361	38	69.9	71.1
2001	58,660	0	945	17,098	29	40,552	36	69.1	70.4
2002	65,236	0	1,072	20,541	38	43,553	32	66.8	68.0
2003	69,581	0	1,327	23,220	33	44,974	27	64.6	66.0
2004	74,115	1	1,967	25,651	31	46,438	27	62.7	64.4
2005	76,106	6	2,021	25,752	67	48,210	50	63.4	65.2
2006	82,284	25	2,586	30,503	70	49,063	37	59.6	61.7
2007	91,931	157	3,040	34,051	87	54,556	40	59.4	61.6
2008	99,411	849	3,263	35,010	103	60,140	46	61.0	63.2
2009	111,213	3,086	3,398	41,151	108	63,414	56	58.6	60.6
2010	110,664	7,852	3,482	42,127	114	57,057	32	55.5	57.5

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2011. Data for the hearing level or above are current through October 2011.

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 through 1998 are available for disabled workers only.

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

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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 60.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program, 1992–2010

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	1,160,792	458,854	39.5	649,980	313,152	48.2	510,812	145,702	28.5
2000	1,228,301	500,657	40.8	688,282	339,764	49.4	540,019	160,893	29.8
2001	1,342,915	558,741	41.6	742,869	379,266	51.1	600,046	179,475	29.9
2002	1,485,020	575,179	38.7	795,055	385,515	48.5	689,965	189,664	27.5
2003	1,567,920	583,830	37.2	804,898	383,281	47.6	763,022	200,549	26.3
2004	1,645,554	602,185	36.6	813,141	388,017	47.7	832,413	214,168	25.7
2005	1,558,292	573,379	36.8	762,570	369,376	48.4	795,722	204,003	25.6
2006	1,552,338	560,044	36.1	752,276	362,063	48.1	800,062	197,981	24.7
2007	1,563,932	580,943	37.1	756,296	376,151	49.7	807,636	204,792	25.4
2008	1,640,718	633,751	38.6	782,646	407,886	52.1	858,072	225,865	26.3
2009	1,898,487	725,923	38.2	914,481	474,152	51.8	984,006	251,771	25.6
2010	1,957,275	710,732	36.3	962,214	474,634	49.3	995,061	236,098	23.7
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	1,057,812	357,880	33.8	551,909	228,793	41.5	505,903	129,087	25.5
1998	1,041,383	374,376	35.9	550,794	238,989	43.4	490,589	135,387	27.6
1999	1,065,430	396,253	37.2	578,884	259,417	44.8	486,546	136,836	28.1
2000	1,131,273	435,416	38.5	615,507	283,906	46.1	515,766	151,510	29.4
2001	1,246,317	493,638	39.6	670,621	323,649	48.3	575,696	169,989	29.5
2002	1,381,078	507,038	36.7	718,618	327,298	45.5	662,460	179,740	27.1
2003	1,459,845	514,873	35.3	728,174	324,771	44.6	731,671	190,102	26.0
2004	1,532,864	531,112	34.6	737,023	328,863	44.6	795,841	202,249	25.4
2005	1,444,531	501,089	34.7	685,217	308,900	45.1	759,314	192,189	25.3
2006	1,433,258	487,671	34.0	674,497	301,954	44.8	758,761	185,717	24.5
2007	1,436,380	504,098	35.1	675,111	313,217	46.4	761,269	190,881	25.1
2008	1,504,713	551,194	36.6	696,973	340,000	48.8	807,740	211,194	26.1
2009	1,749,719	639,317	36.5	825,782	403,941	48.9	923,937	235,376	25.5
2010	1,808,472	628,149	34.7	876,565	407,935	46.5	931,907	220,214	23.6
Widow(er)s									
1999	38,880	24,898	64.0	29,600	21,272	71.9	9,280	3,626	39.1
2000	38,732	25,748	66.5	29,874	21,967	73.5	8,858	3,781	42.7
2001	38,883	26,206	67.4	30,273	22,436	74.1	8,610	3,770	43.8
2002	39,777	26,541	66.7	31,059	22,787	73.4	8,718	3,754	43.1
2003	39,821	25,997	65.3	30,366	22,240	73.2	9,455	3,757	39.7
2004	40,542	26,590	65.6	29,686	22,236	74.9	10,856	4,354	40.1
2005	39,676	26,179	66.0	29,308	22,009	75.1	10,368	4,170	40.2
2006	39,382	25,491	64.7	28,524	21,381	75.0	10,858	4,110	37.9
2007	38,667	25,487	65.9	27,657	21,175	76.6	11,010	4,312	39.2
2008	39,871	26,735	67.1	28,230	22,170	78.5	11,641	4,565	39.2
2009	40,995	27,225	66.4	28,423	22,272	78.4	12,572	4,953	39.4
2010	41,703	27,247	65.3	28,483	22,190	77.9	13,220	5,057	38.3

(Continued)

Table 60.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program,
1992–2010—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	56,482	37,703	66.8	41,496	32,463	78.2	14,986	5,240	35.0
2000	58,296	39,493	67.7	42,901	33,891	79.0	15,395	5,602	36.4
2001	57,715	38,897	67.4	41,975	33,181	79.0	15,740	5,716	36.3
2002	64,165	41,600	64.8	45,378	35,430	78.1	18,787	6,170	32.8
2003	68,254	42,960	62.9	46,358	36,270	78.2	21,896	6,690	30.6
2004	72,148	44,483	61.7	46,432	36,918	79.5	25,716	7,565	29.4
2005	74,085	46,111	62.2	48,045	38,467	80.1	26,040	7,644	29.4
2006	79,698	46,882	58.8	49,255	38,728	78.6	30,443	8,154	26.8
2007	88,885	51,358	57.8	53,528	41,759	78.0	35,357	9,599	27.1
2008	96,134	55,822	58.1	57,443	45,716	79.6	38,691	10,106	26.1
2009	107,773	59,381	55.1	60,276	47,939	79.5	47,497	11,442	24.1
2010	107,100	55,336	51.7	57,166	44,509	77.9	49,934	10,827	21.7

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2011.

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 through 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 reconsideration level, by year of application and program,
1992–2010

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	397,127	58,602	14.8	209,682	33,223	15.8	187,445	25,379	13.5
2000	407,758	55,631	13.6	214,965	31,473	14.6	192,793	24,158	12.5
2001	434,185	55,494	12.8	221,720	30,807	13.9	212,465	24,687	11.6
2002	502,525	57,464	11.4	249,874	31,214	12.5	252,651	26,250	10.4
2003	543,039	57,869	10.7	258,386	30,345	11.7	284,653	27,524	9.7
2004	558,610	56,525	10.1	255,247	28,936	11.3	303,363	27,589	9.1
2005	514,276	50,994	9.9	231,227	26,327	11.4	283,049	24,667	8.7
2006	514,388	50,351	9.8	227,860	25,849	11.3	286,528	24,502	8.6
2007	519,185	56,655	10.9	224,374	29,696	13.2	294,811	26,959	9.1
2008	546,362	60,315	11.0	222,823	30,412	13.6	323,539	29,903	9.2
2009	639,361	64,391	10.1	261,874	33,391	12.8	377,487	31,000	8.2
2010	614,683	49,971	8.1	262,746	27,626	10.5	351,937	22,345	6.3
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	403,225	59,978	14.9	206,148	33,373	16.2	197,077	26,605	13.5
1998	384,997	61,742	16.0	199,292	34,043	17.1	185,705	27,699	14.9
1999	384,286	55,272	14.4	202,999	31,712	15.6	181,287	23,560	13.0
2000	396,216	52,794	13.3	208,638	30,189	14.5	187,578	22,605	12.1
2001	422,937	52,905	12.5	215,591	29,647	13.8	207,346	23,258	11.2
2002	489,976	54,974	11.2	243,261	30,157	12.4	246,715	24,817	10.1
2003	529,777	55,339	10.4	252,228	29,348	11.6	277,549	25,991	9.4
2004	545,127	54,078	9.9	249,516	28,027	11.2	295,611	26,051	8.8
2005	501,337	48,622	9.7	225,663	25,467	11.3	275,674	23,155	8.4
2006	500,842	47,926	9.6	222,396	25,067	11.3	278,446	22,859	8.2
2007	503,382	54,170	10.8	218,588	28,842	13.2	284,794	25,328	8.9
2008	527,698	57,933	11.0	216,893	29,569	13.6	310,805	28,364	9.1
2009	617,485	61,873	10.0	255,665	32,556	12.7	361,820	29,317	8.1
2010	595,287	48,171	8.1	257,459	26,992	10.5	337,828	21,179	6.3
Widow(er)s									
1999	7,125	1,962	27.5	4,114	895	21.8	3,011	1,067	35.4
2000	6,379	1,572	24.6	3,872	734	19.0	2,507	838	33.4
2001	6,212	1,582	25.5	3,865	728	18.8	2,347	854	36.4
2002	6,461	1,394	21.6	4,041	650	16.1	2,420	744	30.7
2003	6,707	1,379	20.6	3,857	637	16.5	2,850	742	26.0
2004	6,497	1,351	20.8	3,472	566	16.3	3,025	785	26.0
2005	6,140	1,225	20.0	3,351	527	15.7	2,789	698	25.0
2006	6,002	1,172	19.5	3,128	437	14.0	2,874	735	25.6
2007	5,973	1,101	18.4	2,906	456	15.7	3,067	645	21.0
2008	6,358	921	14.5	2,863	394	13.8	3,495	527	15.1
2009	6,926	999	14.4	3,012	424	14.1	3,914	575	14.7
2010	6,305	779	12.4	2,617	344	13.1	3,688	435	11.8

(Continued)

Table 61.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program,
1992–2010—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	5,716	1,368	23.9	2,569	616	24.0	3,147	752	23.9
2000	5,163	1,265	24.5	2,455	550	22.4	2,708	715	26.4
2001	5,036	1,007	20.0	2,264	432	19.1	2,772	575	20.7
2002	6,088	1,096	18.0	2,572	407	15.8	3,516	689	19.6
2003	6,555	1,151	17.6	2,301	360	15.6	4,254	791	18.6
2004	6,986	1,096	15.7	2,259	343	15.2	4,727	753	15.9
2005	6,799	1,147	16.9	2,213	333	15.0	4,586	814	17.7
2006	7,544	1,253	16.6	2,336	345	14.8	5,208	908	17.4
2007	9,830	1,384	14.1	2,880	398	13.8	6,950	986	14.2
2008	12,306	1,461	11.9	3,067	449	14.6	9,239	1,012	11.0
2009	14,950	1,519	10.2	3,197	411	12.9	11,753	1,108	9.4
2010	13,091	1,021	7.8	2,670	290	10.9	10,421	731	7.0

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2011.

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 through 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.

CONTACT: (410) 965-0090 or statistics@ssa.gov.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 62.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program,
1992–2010

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	265,058	193,198	72.9	144,847	114,207	78.8	120,211	78,991	65.7
2000	290,068	211,697	73.0	157,001	124,015	79.0	133,067	87,682	65.9
2001	313,839	228,242	72.7	164,710	130,576	79.3	149,129	97,666	65.5
2002	369,911	267,591	72.3	189,699	150,833	79.5	180,212	116,758	64.8
2003	401,769	289,151	72.0	197,777	157,542	79.7	203,992	131,609	64.5
2004	414,652	299,831	72.3	196,401	158,690	80.8	218,251	141,141	64.7
2005	382,656	280,255	73.2	177,643	144,524	81.4	205,013	135,731	66.2
2006	382,640	274,480	71.7	174,672	140,502	80.4	207,968	133,978	64.4
2007	374,494	268,018	71.6	165,337	133,375	80.7	209,157	134,643	64.4
2008	362,506	264,557	73.0	153,741	126,985	82.6	208,765	137,572	65.9
2009	339,841	249,268	73.3	151,130	125,281	82.9	188,711	123,987	65.7
2010	111,650	84,989	76.1	58,046	49,350	85.0	53,604	35,639	66.5
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	267,288	186,278	69.7	141,021	107,539	76.3	126,267	78,739	62.4
1998	251,486	179,107	71.2	134,883	104,763	77.7	116,603	74,344	63.8
1999	260,850	190,326	73.0	141,671	111,954	79.0	119,179	78,372	65.8
2000	285,620	208,668	73.1	153,649	121,651	79.2	131,971	87,017	65.9
2001	309,372	225,214	72.8	161,335	128,214	79.5	148,037	97,000	65.5
2002	364,660	264,012	72.4	185,831	148,072	79.7	178,829	115,940	64.8
2003	396,356	285,577	72.1	194,233	155,035	79.8	202,123	130,542	64.6
2004	409,469	296,392	72.4	193,164	156,341	80.9	216,305	140,051	64.7
2005	377,550	276,693	73.3	174,416	142,093	81.5	203,134	134,600	66.3
2006	377,419	270,964	71.8	171,449	138,194	80.6	205,970	132,770	64.5
2007	366,864	263,335	71.8	162,006	131,026	80.9	204,858	132,309	64.6
2008	352,379	258,312	73.3	150,242	124,348	82.8	202,137	133,964	66.3
2009	330,656	243,645	73.7	148,126	122,999	83.0	182,530	120,646	66.1
2010	108,820	83,097	76.4	56,927	48,441	85.1	51,893	34,656	66.8
Widow(er)s									
1999	3,027	2,285	75.5	2,325	1,794	77.2	702	491	69.9
2000	3,140	2,388	76.1	2,414	1,870	77.5	726	518	71.3
2001	3,046	2,344	77.0	2,391	1,862	77.9	655	482	73.6
2002	3,471	2,690	77.5	2,679	2,113	78.9	792	577	72.9
2003	3,540	2,684	75.8	2,447	1,915	78.3	1,093	769	70.4
2004	3,244	2,553	78.7	2,202	1,788	81.2	1,042	765	73.4
2005	3,198	2,560	80.1	2,174	1,798	82.7	1,024	762	74.4
2006	3,163	2,551	80.7	2,081	1,715	82.4	1,082	836	77.3
2007	3,564	2,829	79.4	1,919	1,579	82.3	1,645	1,250	76.0
2008	4,109	3,342	81.3	1,933	1,657	85.7	2,176	1,685	77.4
2009	3,711	3,053	82.3	1,752	1,531	87.4	1,959	1,522	77.7
2010	1,343	1,160	86.4	693	634	91.5	650	526	80.9

(Continued)

Table 62.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program,
1992–2010—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	1,181	587	49.7	851	459	53.9	330	128	38.8
2000	1,308	641	49.0	938	494	52.7	370	147	39.7
2001	1,421	684	48.1	984	500	50.8	437	184	42.1
2002	1,780	889	49.9	1,189	648	54.5	591	241	40.8
2003	1,873	890	47.5	1,097	592	54.0	776	298	38.4
2004	1,939	886	45.7	1,035	561	54.2	904	325	36.0
2005	1,908	1,002	52.5	1,053	633	60.1	855	369	43.2
2006	2,058	965	46.9	1,142	593	51.9	916	372	40.6
2007	4,066	1,854	45.6	1,412	770	54.5	2,654	1,084	40.8
2008	6,018	2,903	48.2	1,566	980	62.6	4,452	1,923	43.2
2009	5,474	2,570	46.9	1,252	751	60.0	4,222	1,819	43.1
2010	1,487	732	49.2	426	275	64.6	1,061	457	43.1

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

NOTES: Data are current through October 2011.

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 through 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.

CONTACT: (410) 965-0090 or statistics@ssa.gov.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 63.

Number and percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2010

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	708,797	100.0	33.0	5.9	26.9	34.2
2000	766,047	100.0	31.1	6.2	29.2	33.5
2001	840,542	100.0	30.0	6.1	30.1	33.9
2002	898,135	100.0	28.5	5.3	30.1	36.1
2003	928,777	100.0	27.1	5.1	31.1	36.7
2004	956,896	100.0	26.5	5.0	31.6	36.9
2005	902,638	100.0	26.7	4.7	32.2	36.5
2006	882,927	100.0	26.6	4.6	32.1	36.7
2007	903,774	100.0	26.4	4.7	33.1	35.9
2008	956,810	100.0	25.8	5.2	34.6	34.3
2009	1,037,685	100.0	25.8	5.5	37.8	30.8
2010	843,735	100.0	29.8	6.5	46.1	17.5
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	602,277	100.0	35.0	7.5	26.4	31.1
1998	613,181	100.0	35.5	6.6	26.9	31.0
1999	640,065	100.0	33.6	6.3	28.3	31.9
2000	695,007	100.0	31.7	6.5	30.6	31.2
2001	769,877	100.0	30.5	6.4	31.3	31.8
2002	823,976	100.0	29.0	5.6	31.4	34.0
2003	853,787	100.0	27.5	5.3	32.5	34.8
2004	879,988	100.0	26.8	5.2	33.0	35.0
2005	824,488	100.0	27.2	4.9	33.8	34.1
2006	804,673	100.0	27.1	4.8	33.8	34.3
2007	819,828	100.0	26.8	4.9	35.0	33.3
2008	865,693	100.0	26.4	5.6	36.8	31.3
2009	943,015	100.0	26.4	5.9	40.1	27.6
2010	757,513	100.0	30.9	7.0	49.6	12.6
Widow(er)s						
1999	29,108	100.0	14.9	2.5	24.6	58.0
2000	29,679	100.0	12.8	2.5	26.3	58.4
2001	30,113	100.0	12.3	2.6	27.0	58.1
2002	30,606	100.0	11.4	2.1	26.6	59.9
2003	30,016	100.0	10.8	2.2	26.2	60.8
2004	30,470	100.0	10.2	1.9	26.4	61.5
2005	29,940	100.0	9.9	1.7	25.8	62.7
2006	29,191	100.0	9.7	1.5	24.4	64.4
2007	29,390	100.0	9.2	1.6	24.5	64.7
2008	30,977	100.0	8.7	1.7	25.0	64.5
2009	31,256	100.0	8.4	1.9	26.9	62.7
2010	29,165	100.0	8.8	2.1	28.3	60.8

(Continued)

Table 63.
Number and percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2010—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	39,624	100.0	35.9	3.2	7.4	53.5
2000	41,361	100.0	35.0	3.1	7.3	54.7
2001	40,552	100.0	33.0	3.0	8.0	56.0
2002	43,553	100.0	31.8	2.9	7.6	57.7
2003	44,974	100.0	31.0	2.7	8.2	58.1
2004	46,438	100.0	30.4	2.8	8.6	58.2
2005	48,210	100.0	28.8	2.5	8.4	60.3
2006	49,063	100.0	28.6	2.6	8.9	59.8
2007	54,556	100.0	28.5	2.6	9.1	59.9
2008	60,140	100.0	26.8	2.6	8.7	62.0
2009	63,414	100.0	25.9	2.6	9.1	62.4
2010	57,057	100.0	26.8	2.7	9.2	61.3

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2011. Data for the hearing level or above are current through October 2011.

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 through 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.

CONTACT: (410) 965-0090 or statistics@ssa.gov.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 64.

Number and percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial, 1992–2010

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	450,051	100.0	10.2	17.8	28.3	30.8	12.9
2000	460,284	100.0	10.0	17.2	28.2	30.4	14.1
2001	500,414	100.0	9.2	16.7	28.0	31.1	14.9
2002	584,743	100.0	8.5	17.1	28.2	31.3	14.9
2003	637,051	100.0	7.5	17.7	28.2	31.7	14.9
2004	686,311	100.0	6.8	18.4	27.6	31.6	15.6
2005	651,935	100.0	6.5	19.1	26.7	31.5	16.2
2006	663,084	100.0	6.3	19.8	26.2	31.4	16.3
2007	645,623	100.0	6.3	20.4	26.3	30.9	16.1
2008	640,971	100.0	5.9	21.6	25.8	30.7	16.0
2009	721,225	100.0	4.9	22.8	25.1	31.1	16.1
2010	700,766	100.0	4.6	23.6	24.3	30.1	17.4
<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	426,158	100.0	10.8	18.3	27.8	30.8	12.3
1999	423,494	100.0	10.6	17.4	29.3	30.1	12.6
2000	434,363	100.0	10.4	16.8	29.3	29.7	13.9
2001	474,536	100.0	9.5	16.4	29.0	30.4	14.7
2002	555,013	100.0	8.8	16.8	29.2	30.6	14.7
2003	604,037	100.0	7.7	17.4	29.2	31.0	14.6
2004	650,584	100.0	7.0	18.1	28.6	30.9	15.4
2005	616,410	100.0	6.7	18.9	27.7	30.7	16.0
2006	622,363	100.0	6.5	19.5	27.4	30.6	16.0
2007	602,321	100.0	6.7	20.1	27.7	29.9	15.7
2008	597,269	100.0	6.2	21.3	27.2	29.6	15.6
2009	671,262	100.0	5.2	22.7	26.5	29.9	15.8
2010	649,564	100.0	4.9	23.4	25.8	28.8	17.1
<i>Widow(er)s</i>							
1999	9,735	100.0	5.6	29.0	31.8	22.7	10.8
2000	9,024	100.0	5.3	29.0	31.4	22.3	12.1
2001	8,751	100.0	4.7	27.6	31.2	22.8	13.7
2002	9,151	100.0	4.7	26.2	32.4	23.7	13.0
2003	9,761	100.0	4.2	26.5	32.7	23.4	13.3
2004	10,045	100.0	3.5	26.6	32.1	23.4	14.4
2005	9,706	100.0	3.5	26.8	32.0	23.1	14.7
2006	10,148	100.0	3.7	25.8	31.3	23.4	15.7
2007	9,164	100.0	3.7	27.5	31.0	21.9	15.8
2008	8,589	100.0	3.4	27.9	30.6	21.8	16.3
2009	8,704	100.0	2.9	29.1	30.0	21.7	16.4
2010	8,961	100.0	2.9	28.7	28.0	23.7	16.7

(Continued)

Table 64.
Number and percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial, 1992–2010—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					
Adult children							
1999	16,822	100.0	3.1	22.7	0.7	53.3	20.2
2000	16,897	100.0	2.8	22.9	0.7	51.9	21.7
2001	17,127	100.0	2.5	21.3	0.9	52.9	22.3
2002	20,579	100.0	2.3	21.6	0.8	53.6	21.7
2003	23,253	100.0	2.0	21.8	0.7	53.6	21.9
2004	25,682	100.0	1.9	22.1	0.5	52.5	23.0
2005	25,819	100.0	1.8	21.1	0.4	53.1	23.6
2006	30,573	100.0	1.7	23.5	0.4	50.6	23.8
2007	34,138	100.0	1.6	23.9	0.3	50.0	24.2
2008	35,113	100.0	1.5	24.8	0.2	50.8	22.7
2009	41,259	100.0	1.2	23.4	0.1	52.9	22.3
2010	42,241	100.0	1.3	24.5	0.1	51.4	22.6

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2011. Data for the hearing level or above are current through October 2011.

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 through 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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