

# OUTCOMES OF APPLICATIONS FOR DISABILITY BENEFITS



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## 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 69 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 70–72 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 73 and 74). 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.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 69.**  
**Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2008**

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials <sup>a</sup>	Medical decisions				Award rate <sup>b</sup> (percent)	Allowance rate <sup>c</sup> (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical <sup>d</sup>	Awards	Subsequent denials <sup>e</sup>		
<i>All ages<sup>f</sup></i>									
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	938,407	1,886	671,900	61,550	37.6	43.8
1997	1,505,145	0	97,320	738,808	2,074	606,224	60,719	40.3	47.4
1998	1,520,538	0	95,990	701,331	3,831	656,567	62,819	43.2	50.5
1999	1,528,362	0	105,770	687,631	3,856	661,922	69,183	43.3	51.4
2000	1,612,878	0	156,447	688,986	3,818	690,508	73,119	42.8	52.4
2001	1,749,407	0	203,313	726,431	3,519	735,158	80,986	42.0	52.8
2002	1,958,790	3,063	278,217	808,378	3,572	776,488	89,072	39.7	51.6
2003	2,112,104	4,428	342,132	867,581	3,353	794,949	99,661	37.7	50.7
2004	2,245,536	8,131	431,054	899,603	3,221	801,873	101,654	35.8	50.0
2005	2,322,911	15,914	560,261	870,946	3,108	774,703	97,979	33.6	50.0
2006	2,419,039	41,854	637,973	881,960	2,945	759,738	94,569	32.0	49.1
2007	2,447,850	148,276	660,366	837,061	2,500	718,171	81,476	31.2	48.8
2008	2,537,438	328,941	650,934	809,350	1,911	676,432	69,870	30.6	47.9
<i>Under age 18</i>									
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	291,265	86	144,670	7,504	31.7	34.3
1997	334,975	0	10,906	195,730	69	121,439	6,831	36.3	39.6
1998	338,592	0	10,904	182,594	74	137,655	7,365	40.7	44.3
1999	345,076	0	11,897	182,289	69	142,700	8,121	41.4	45.3
2000	355,474	0	15,774	179,579	66	151,882	8,173	42.7	47.1
2001	375,950	0	18,708	182,107	61	166,262	8,812	44.2	49.0
2002	412,957	166	22,677	200,384	78	180,236	9,416	43.7	48.6
2003	438,572	208	25,776	214,456	65	188,064	10,003	42.9	48.0
2004	451,668	483	31,537	220,260	83	189,126	10,179	41.9	47.5
2005	445,100	1,131	46,751	209,559	101	177,327	10,231	39.9	47.2
2006	455,145	3,893	50,011	215,735	104	175,137	10,265	38.8	46.2
2007	458,454	14,038	53,237	208,065	102	173,125	9,887	39.0	46.8
2008	471,715	30,751	53,825	199,424	104	178,568	9,043	40.5	48.5

(Continued)

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 69.**  
**Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2008—Continued**

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials <sup>a</sup>	Medical decisions				Award rate <sup>b</sup> (percent)	Allowance rate <sup>c</sup> (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical <sup>d</sup>	Awards	Subsequent denials <sup>e</sup>		
<b>Aged 18–64</b>									
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	646,497	1,534	488,215	53,489	38.2	45.5
1997	1,135,602	0	78,303	541,988	1,456	461,006	52,849	40.6	48.6
1998	1,133,015	0	76,709	516,676	1,860	483,898	53,872	42.7	50.9
1999	1,133,858	0	83,685	504,017	1,389	484,875	59,892	42.8	51.9
2000	1,208,918	0	127,891	508,383	1,415	507,262	63,967	42.0	52.8
2001	1,323,001	0	167,603	543,378	1,413	539,338	71,269	40.8	52.8
2002	1,483,558	2,896	230,046	606,928	1,560	563,459	78,669	38.1	51.3
2003	1,615,400	4,214	287,669	652,335	1,753	580,595	88,834	36.0	50.6
2004	1,732,620	7,643	365,943	678,715	1,815	587,729	90,775	34.1	49.9
2005	1,804,002	14,777	470,955	660,856	1,911	568,356	87,147	31.8	49.7
2006	1,891,892	37,954	542,481	665,754	1,959	560,028	83,716	30.2	49.1
2007	1,916,688	134,221	559,480	628,627	1,638	521,636	71,086	29.3	48.5
2008	1,993,129	298,157	549,130	609,665	1,198	474,554	60,425	28.0	46.7

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

NOTES: Data are current through August 2009.

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 70.**  
**Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by age, year of application, and program,**  
**1992–2008**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)
<i>All ages <sup>b</sup></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	1,422,592	532,125	37.4	843,211	314,190	37.3	579,381	217,935	37.6
2000	1,456,431	554,432	38.1	845,774	320,683	37.9	610,657	233,749	38.3
2001	1,546,094	592,932	38.4	860,944	337,508	39.2	685,150	255,424	37.3
2002	1,680,573	616,501	36.7	904,251	344,833	38.1	776,322	271,668	35.0
2003	1,769,972	631,320	35.7	917,456	343,711	37.5	852,516	287,609	33.7
2004	1,814,482	639,585	35.2	917,579	342,192	37.3	896,903	297,393	33.2
2005	1,762,650	616,349	35.0	888,937	328,359	36.9	873,713	287,990	33.0
2006	1,781,066	602,322	33.8	894,456	316,937	35.4	886,610	285,385	32.2
2007	1,787,442	607,664	34.0	900,974	320,768	35.6	886,468	286,896	32.4
2008	1,886,378	655,402	34.7	963,392	351,122	36.4	922,986	304,280	33.0
<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	333,179	135,904	40.8	310,772	127,011	40.9	22,407	8,893	39.7
2000	339,700	143,488	42.2	316,325	133,675	42.3	23,375	9,813	42.0
2001	357,242	157,781	44.2	332,701	146,810	44.1	24,541	10,971	44.7
2002	390,280	170,519	43.7	363,007	158,369	43.6	27,273	12,150	44.5
2003	412,796	178,051	43.1	384,457	165,640	43.1	28,339	12,411	43.8
2004	420,131	180,180	42.9	391,024	167,412	42.8	29,107	12,768	43.9
2005	398,349	169,033	42.4	369,914	156,928	42.4	28,435	12,105	42.6
2006	405,134	166,092	41.0	376,681	154,486	41.0	28,453	11,606	40.8
2007	405,216	167,318	41.3	377,250	156,499	41.5	27,966	10,819	38.7
2008	417,882	177,328	42.4	392,296	167,828	42.8	25,586	9,500	37.1

(Continued)

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 70.**  
**Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by age, year of application, and program,**  
**1992–2008—Continued**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)
<i>Aged 18–64</i>									
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	1,050,173	361,925	34.5	503,041	162,487	32.3	547,132	199,438	36.5
2000	1,081,027	379,717	35.1	503,788	165,543	32.9	577,239	214,174	37.1
2001	1,155,398	405,803	35.1	505,146	171,400	33.9	650,252	234,403	36.0
2002	1,253,512	413,583	33.0	515,932	165,177	32.0	737,580	248,406	33.7
2003	1,327,731	427,173	32.2	515,627	163,726	31.8	812,104	263,447	32.4
2004	1,366,677	434,571	31.8	511,649	162,380	31.7	855,028	272,191	31.8
2005	1,333,047	418,474	31.4	501,512	156,015	31.1	831,535	262,459	31.6
2006	1,349,411	411,783	30.5	504,810	151,248	30.0	844,601	260,535	30.8
2007	1,357,168	417,007	30.7	512,723	154,650	30.2	844,445	262,357	31.1
2008	1,443,881	454,894	31.5	560,280	173,605	31.0	883,601	281,289	31.8

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

NOTES: Data are current through August 2009.

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.

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

**Table 71.**  
**Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by age, year of application, and program,**  
**1992–2008**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)
<i>All ages<sup>b</sup></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	65,352	13.6	249,224	32,510	13.0	231,369	32,842	14.2
1997	409,396	62,496	15.3	208,993	31,881	15.3	200,403	30,615	15.3
1998	390,212	61,264	15.7	203,132	31,818	15.7	187,080	29,446	15.7
1999	390,468	53,615	13.7	201,322	27,054	13.4	189,146	26,561	14.0
2000	394,662	52,629	13.3	197,882	25,712	13.0	196,780	26,917	13.7
2001	419,766	53,865	12.8	196,541	25,102	12.8	223,225	28,763	12.9
2002	472,269	56,809	12.0	209,695	25,555	12.2	262,574	31,254	11.9
2003	502,907	58,638	11.7	209,116	25,093	12.0	293,791	33,545	11.4
2004	503,680	56,253	11.2	200,185	23,442	11.7	303,495	32,811	10.8
2005	487,236	54,425	11.2	195,288	23,330	11.9	291,948	31,095	10.7
2006	498,326	55,269	11.1	199,663	23,462	11.8	298,663	31,807	10.6
2007	511,683	58,628	11.5	209,059	24,842	11.9	302,624	33,786	11.2
2008	507,518	48,831	9.6	214,954	22,154	10.3	292,564	26,677	9.1
<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	49,830	6,889	13.8	45,781	6,272	13.7	4,049	617	15.2
2000	49,350	7,238	14.7	45,330	6,653	14.7	4,020	585	14.6
2001	50,676	7,474	14.7	46,575	6,850	14.7	4,101	624	15.2
2002	57,688	8,131	14.1	52,949	7,370	13.9	4,739	761	16.1
2003	61,737	8,724	14.1	56,681	7,925	14.0	5,056	799	15.8
2004	60,382	8,157	13.5	55,394	7,456	13.5	4,988	701	14.1
2005	57,383	8,228	14.3	52,552	7,530	14.3	4,831	698	14.4
2006	60,742	8,684	14.3	55,704	7,944	14.3	5,038	740	14.7
2007	61,805	8,833	14.3	56,899	8,183	14.4	4,906	650	13.2
2008	60,511	8,218	13.6	56,349	7,749	13.8	4,162	469	11.3

(Continued)

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 71.**  
**Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by age, year of application, and program,**  
**1992–2008—Continued**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)
<i>Aged 18–64</i>									
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	54,194	13.4	178,404	22,457	12.6	224,905	31,737	14.1
1997	355,514	52,588	14.8	159,694	22,951	14.4	195,820	29,637	15.1
1998	337,411	51,757	15.3	154,436	23,051	14.9	182,975	28,706	15.7
1999	338,810	45,949	13.6	153,831	20,069	13.0	184,979	25,880	14.0
2000	343,707	44,723	13.0	151,099	18,487	12.2	192,608	26,236	13.6
2001	367,515	45,698	12.4	148,582	17,688	11.9	218,933	28,010	12.8
2002	412,619	47,773	11.6	155,025	17,457	11.3	257,594	30,316	11.8
2003	439,703	49,291	11.2	151,200	16,697	11.0	288,503	32,594	11.3
2004	442,103	47,567	10.8	143,824	15,620	10.9	298,279	31,947	10.7
2005	428,808	45,568	10.6	141,922	15,358	10.8	286,886	30,210	10.5
2006	436,664	46,014	10.5	143,274	15,139	10.6	293,390	30,875	10.5
2007	449,098	49,310	11.0	151,636	16,388	10.8	297,462	32,922	11.1
2008	446,333	40,128	9.0	158,178	14,142	8.9	288,155	25,986	9.0

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

NOTES: Data are current through August 2009.

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 72.**  
**Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by age, year of application, and program,**  
**1992–2008**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)
<i>All ages<sup>b</sup></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	271,977	159,167	58.5	128,712	64,430	50.1	143,265	94,737	66.1
1997	238,765	145,150	60.8	112,218	59,766	53.3	126,547	85,384	67.5
1998	224,761	137,432	61.1	107,693	58,028	53.9	117,068	79,404	67.8
1999	239,311	145,365	60.7	114,813	60,848	53.0	124,498	84,517	67.9
2000	260,705	156,566	60.1	123,948	64,520	52.1	136,757	92,046	67.3
2001	283,061	169,347	59.8	126,511	65,125	51.5	156,550	104,222	66.6
2002	317,990	192,250	60.5	133,589	68,808	51.5	184,401	123,442	66.9
2003	335,681	204,652	61.0	130,092	67,004	51.5	205,589	137,648	67.0
2004	334,197	207,689	62.1	122,597	64,217	52.4	211,600	143,472	67.8
2005	315,576	201,908	64.0	116,066	62,841	54.1	199,510	139,067	69.7
2006	298,923	196,716	65.8	108,519	60,881	56.1	190,404	135,835	71.3
2007	202,104	133,355	66.0	74,861	41,999	56.1	127,243	91,356	71.8
2008	65,652	42,069	64.1	26,050	13,672	52.5	39,602	28,397	71.7
<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	9,153	32.6	25,589	8,295	32.4	2,516	858	34.1
1997	19,549	7,300	37.3	17,723	6,594	37.2	1,826	706	38.7
1998	18,904	7,249	38.3	17,199	6,550	38.1	1,705	699	41.0
1999	21,333	8,028	37.6	19,380	7,235	37.3	1,953	793	40.6
2000	25,195	9,329	37.0	22,913	8,397	36.6	2,282	932	40.8
2001	26,830	9,819	36.6	24,488	8,877	36.3	2,342	942	40.2
2002	30,327	11,002	36.3	27,695	9,954	35.9	2,632	1,048	39.8
2003	31,337	11,292	36.0	28,524	10,172	35.7	2,813	1,120	39.8
2004	30,167	10,968	36.4	27,438	9,827	35.8	2,729	1,141	41.8
2005	27,546	10,297	37.4	25,022	9,207	36.8	2,524	1,090	43.2
2006	26,278	10,626	40.4	23,906	9,540	39.9	2,372	1,086	45.8
2007	16,859	6,861	40.7	15,338	6,192	40.4	1,521	669	44.0
2008	5,262	2,065	39.2	4,888	1,920	39.3	374	145	38.8

(Continued)

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 72.**  
**Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by age, year of application, and program,**  
**1992–2008—Continued**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)
<i>Aged 18–64</i>									
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	243,064	149,301	61.4	102,414	55,516	54.2	140,650	93,785	66.7
1997	218,255	137,054	62.8	93,599	52,430	56.0	124,656	84,624	67.9
1998	204,894	129,421	63.2	89,580	50,760	56.7	115,314	78,661	68.2
1999	217,372	136,893	63.0	94,868	53,201	56.1	122,504	83,692	68.3
2000	234,888	146,789	62.5	100,457	55,710	55.5	134,431	91,079	67.8
2001	255,641	159,106	62.2	101,477	55,857	55.0	154,164	103,249	67.0
2002	286,912	180,772	63.0	105,190	58,411	55.5	181,722	122,361	67.3
2003	303,752	192,965	63.5	101,041	56,489	55.9	202,711	136,476	67.3
2004	303,536	196,366	64.7	94,718	54,068	57.1	208,818	142,298	68.1
2005	287,772	191,461	66.5	90,818	53,506	58.9	196,954	137,955	70.0
2006	272,437	185,947	68.3	84,436	51,226	60.7	188,001	134,721	71.7
2007	185,082	126,405	68.3	59,384	35,737	60.2	125,698	90,668	72.1
2008	60,303	39,957	66.3	21,090	11,718	55.6	39,213	28,239	72.0

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

NOTES: Data are current through August 2009.

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 73.**  
**Percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by age, year of application, and reason for allowance, 1992–2008**

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings <sup>a</sup>	Under age 18 only		Aged 18 or older only		Other <sup>a,b</sup>
				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						
<b>All ages <sup>c</sup></b>								
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	733,450	100.0	35.9	1.8	3.3	4.4	17.4	37.2
1997	666,943	100.0	37.6	1.8	4.3	4.7	18.4	33.3
1998	719,386	100.0	38.2	1.9	4.8	4.2	20.0	30.9
1999	731,105	100.0	36.5	2.0	5.3	3.9	20.8	31.4
2000	763,627	100.0	35.0	1.9	6.1	4.2	21.4	31.4
2001	816,144	100.0	34.7	1.8	6.9	4.2	22.1	30.3
2002	865,560	100.0	33.0	1.7	7.9	3.7	21.6	32.2
2003	894,610	100.0	32.1	1.6	8.7	3.6	21.9	32.1
2004	903,527	100.0	31.3	1.5	9.3	3.6	22.5	31.9
2005	872,682	100.0	30.6	1.4	9.5	3.4	22.9	32.3
2006	854,307	100.0	30.4	1.3	10.1	3.4	22.6	32.3
2007	799,647	100.0	32.2	1.4	11.2	3.7	24.7	26.9
2008	746,302	100.0	35.9	1.5	12.4	4.5	28.9	16.7
<b>Under age 18</b>								
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	152,174	100.0	52.7	8.7	16.0	...	...	22.6
1997	128,270	100.0	55.8	9.2	22.1	...	...	12.9
1998	145,020	100.0	55.6	9.6	23.6	...	...	11.2
1999	150,821	100.0	53.1	9.7	25.8	...	...	11.4
2000	160,055	100.0	50.1	9.2	28.9	...	...	11.8
2001	175,074	100.0	48.2	8.2	32.4	...	...	11.2
2002	189,652	100.0	45.2	7.6	35.8	...	...	11.3
2003	198,067	100.0	43.5	7.4	39.3	...	...	9.8
2004	199,305	100.0	42.0	6.6	42.3	...	...	9.1
2005	187,558	100.0	39.9	6.5	44.2	...	...	9.4
2006	185,402	100.0	38.0	5.9	46.4	...	...	9.6
2007	183,012	100.0	37.5	5.9	48.9	...	...	7.7
2008	187,611	100.0	39.1	6.0	49.5	...	...	5.4

(Continued)

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 73.**

**Percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by age, year of application, and reason for allowance, 1992–2008—Continued**

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings <sup>a</sup>	Under age 18 only		Aged 18 or older only		Other <sup>a,b</sup>
				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						
<b>Aged 18–64</b>								
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	541,704	100.0	33.7	...	...	5.9	23.3	37.1
1997	513,855	100.0	34.5	...	...	6.1	22.6	36.9
1998	537,770	100.0	35.5	...	...	5.5	23.9	35.1
1999	544,767	100.0	33.9	...	...	5.2	25.0	35.8
2000	571,229	100.0	32.5	...	...	5.5	26.3	35.7
2001	610,607	100.0	32.3	...	...	5.5	27.7	34.5
2002	642,128	100.0	31.0	...	...	5.0	27.3	36.8
2003	669,429	100.0	29.9	...	...	4.8	28.0	37.4
2004	678,504	100.0	29.2	...	...	4.7	29.0	37.0
2005	655,503	100.0	29.2	...	...	4.6	29.5	36.8
2006	643,744	100.0	29.3	...	...	4.4	29.4	36.9
2007	592,722	100.0	31.7	...	...	5.0	32.7	30.5
2008	534,979	100.0	36.3	...	...	6.3	39.8	17.6

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

NOTES: Data are current through August 2009.

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 74.**  
**Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application,**  
**and reason for denial, 1992–2008**

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Impairment does not cause severe functional limitations <sup>a</sup>	Able to do usual past work <sup>b</sup>	Able to do other type of work <sup>b</sup>	Other <sup>c</sup>
	Number	Percent						
<b>All ages<sup>d</sup></b>								
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	940,293	100.0	6.4	20.6	5.8	12.1	22.9	32.2
1997	740,882	100.0	6.8	16.7	16.2	13.0	25.1	22.1
1998	705,162	100.0	6.9	15.0	18.3	14.7	25.4	19.9
1999	691,487	100.0	6.6	14.0	19.1	15.5	24.5	20.2
2000	692,804	100.0	6.5	13.3	18.7	15.8	24.2	21.5
2001	729,950	100.0	6.1	13.2	18.2	16.6	26.1	19.8
2002	811,950	100.0	5.7	13.0	18.2	17.0	26.5	19.6
2003	870,934	100.0	5.1	12.1	18.7	17.1	27.3	19.7
2004	902,824	100.0	4.8	11.3	18.7	16.8	27.7	20.8
2005	874,054	100.0	4.5	11.2	18.1	16.3	27.8	22.1
2006	884,905	100.0	4.4	11.4	18.5	16.1	27.7	21.9
2007	839,561	100.0	4.4	11.1	18.8	16.2	27.1	22.3
2008	811,261	100.0	4.3	10.7	18.9	16.4	27.0	22.9
<b>Under age 18</b>								
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	291,351	100.0	1.4	26.9	18.7	...	...	53.0
1997	195,799	100.0	1.6	19.1	61.4	...	...	18.0
1998	182,668	100.0	1.3	14.4	70.6	...	...	13.7
1999	182,358	100.0	1.1	13.3	72.4	...	...	13.2
2000	179,645	100.0	1.1	13.2	72.1	...	...	13.6
2001	182,168	100.0	1.1	14.0	73.0	...	...	11.9
2002	200,462	100.0	1.0	13.4	73.9	...	...	11.8
2003	214,521	100.0	0.9	12.3	75.9	...	...	10.9
2004	220,343	100.0	0.8	11.0	76.4	...	...	11.8
2005	209,660	100.0	0.9	11.0	75.5	...	...	12.6
2006	215,839	100.0	0.8	11.4	75.8	...	...	12.1
2007	208,167	100.0	0.8	11.4	76.0	...	...	11.8
2008	199,528	100.0	0.9	11.0	76.7	...	...	11.5

(Continued)

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 74.**  
**Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application,**  
**and reason for denial, 1992–2008—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 <sup>a</sup>	Able to do usual past work <sup>b</sup>	Able to do other type of work <sup>b</sup>	Other <sup>c</sup>
	Number	Percent						
<b>Aged 18–64</b>								
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	648,031	100.0	8.6	17.8	...	17.5	33.3	22.8
1997	543,444	100.0	8.8	15.8	...	17.7	34.2	23.6
1998	518,536	100.0	8.9	14.9	...	19.7	34.4	22.0
1999	505,406	100.0	8.7	14.1	...	21.0	33.5	22.7
2000	509,798	100.0	8.4	13.2	...	21.3	32.9	24.3
2001	544,791	100.0	7.8	12.8	...	22.1	35.0	22.3
2002	608,488	100.0	7.3	12.7	...	22.5	35.4	22.1
2003	654,088	100.0	6.5	11.9	...	22.7	36.4	22.5
2004	680,530	100.0	6.1	11.4	...	22.2	36.7	23.6
2005	662,767	100.0	5.7	11.2	...	21.4	36.7	25.0
2006	667,713	100.0	5.5	11.3	...	21.3	36.7	25.1
2007	630,265	100.0	5.6	11.0	...	21.6	36.1	25.7
2008	610,863	100.0	5.4	10.5	...	21.7	35.8	26.6

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

NOTES: Data are current through August 2009.

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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