

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 60.**  
**Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program,**  
**1992–2004**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security 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,b</sup> (percent)
<i>All disabled beneficiaries</i>									
1999	398,181	61,143	15.4	210,354	34,724	16.5	187,827	26,419	14.1
2000	408,520	58,590	14.3	215,437	33,233	15.4	193,083	25,357	13.1
2001	435,135	58,417	13.4	222,255	32,590	14.7	212,880	25,827	12.1
2002	502,507	60,482	12.0	250,049	32,881	13.1	252,458	27,601	10.9
2003	532,676	59,727	11.2	251,825	31,705	12.6	280,851	28,022	10.0
2004	452,642	43,283	9.6	205,719	22,701	11.0	246,923	20,582	8.3
<i>Workers</i>									
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	403,211	59,978	14.9	206,134	33,373	16.2	197,077	26,605	13.5
1998	384,977	61,742	16.0	199,272	34,043	17.1	185,705	27,699	14.9
1999	385,406	57,808	15.0	203,693	33,192	16.3	181,713	24,616	13.5
2000	397,025	55,762	14.0	209,140	31,946	15.3	187,885	23,816	12.7
2001	423,960	55,822	13.2	216,158	31,420	14.5	207,802	24,402	11.7
2002	490,064	57,961	11.8	243,485	31,809	13.1	246,579	26,152	10.6
2003	519,936	57,594	11.1	246,009	30,792	12.5	273,927	26,802	9.8
2004	442,867	42,017	9.5	201,648	22,171	11.0	241,219	19,846	8.2
<i>Widow(er)s</i>									
1999	7,108	1,983	27.9	4,108	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	6,452	1,178	18.3	3,649	592	16.2	2,803	586	20.9
2004	4,769	685	14.4	2,472	335	13.6	2,297	350	15.2

(Continued)

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**Table 60.**

**Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program, 1992–2004—Continued**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security 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,b</sup> (percent)
<b>Adult children</b>									
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	4,983	996	20.0	2,238	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	6,288	955	15.2	2,167	321	14.8	4,121	634	15.4
2004	5,006	581	11.6	1,599	195	12.2	3,407	386	11.3

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2005.

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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