
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 53 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 54–56 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 57 and 58). 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.
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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 53.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2002

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		
<i>All ages ^f</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	1,041,522	1,681	770,815	77,306	38.3	44.8
1995	1,845,212	0	103,335	995,374	1,343	683,662	61,498	37.1	42.8
1996	1,786,770	2,645	113,027	936,140	1,886	671,521	61,551	37.6	43.9
1997	1,505,145	3,015	97,320	736,519	2,072	605,492	60,727	40.3	47.4
1998	1,520,538	4,602	95,990	698,134	3,828	655,151	62,833	43.2	50.6
1999	1,528,217	8,079	105,819	683,597	4,001	662,302	64,419	43.6	51.4
2000	1,612,826	23,155	156,525	676,141	3,816	684,244	68,945	43.0	52.6
2001	1,748,974	85,113	205,290	692,196	3,134	695,069	68,172	41.8	52.3
2002	1,935,631	237,788	279,693	728,841	2,609	629,193	57,507	37.1	48.4
<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	311,142	147	194,650	7,702	36.7	39.4
1995	491,638	0	14,364	306,307	92	163,887	6,988	33.3	35.8
1996	457,057	197	13,532	291,085	86	144,653	7,504	31.7	34.3
1997	334,975	188	10,906	195,570	69	121,411	6,831	36.3	39.6
1998	338,592	314	10,904	182,345	74	137,590	7,365	40.7	44.3
1999	345,067	567	11,898	181,998	68	142,724	7,812	41.4	45.3
2000	355,477	1,984	15,775	178,217	64	151,475	7,962	42.9	47.2
2001	375,944	8,419	18,917	176,863	59	163,666	8,020	44.5	49.2
2002	408,260	24,395	22,893	183,769	52	169,152	7,999	44.1	49.1

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 53.

Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2002—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		
Aged 18–64									
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	730,012	1,529	575,346	69,435	38.8	46.8
1995	1,351,903	0	88,839	688,618	1,244	518,862	54,340	38.4	45.4
1996	1,277,604	2,444	87,869	644,414	1,534	487,853	53,490	38.3	45.6
1997	1,135,602	2,821	78,303	539,865	1,454	460,302	52,857	40.6	48.7
1998	1,133,015	4,282	76,709	513,732	1,858	482,548	53,886	42.8	51.0
1999	1,133,722	7,501	83,733	500,272	1,540	485,234	55,442	43.1	51.9
2000	1,208,866	21,151	127,968	496,900	1,417	501,414	60,016	42.2	53.0
2001	1,322,450	76,613	169,179	514,444	1,144	501,774	59,296	40.3	52.1
2002	1,464,892	213,043	230,840	544,165	782	427,429	48,633	34.1	46.6

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2003. Data for the hearing level or above are current through September 2003.

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 54.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by age, year of application,
and program, 1992–2002

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI 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 (percent)
<i>All ages ^b</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	1,422,398	531,498	37.4	843,031	312,871	37.1	579,367	218,627	37.7
2000	1,456,301	556,990	38.2	845,623	321,029	38.0	610,678	235,961	38.6
2001	1,543,548	593,569	38.5	878,572	341,520	38.9	664,976	252,049	37.9
2002	1,655,618	607,015	36.7	922,985	349,447	37.9	732,633	257,568	35.2
<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	333,169	135,117	40.6	310,763	126,253	40.6	22,406	8,864	39.6
2000	339,702	143,267	42.2	316,328	133,426	42.2	23,374	9,841	42.1
2001	357,010	157,464	44.1	333,824	147,551	44.2	23,186	9,913	42.8
2002	385,325	168,406	43.7	362,305	159,017	43.9	23,020	9,389	40.8

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 54.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by age, year of application,
and program, 1992–2002—Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI 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 (percent)
Aged 18–64									
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	1,049,989	362,246	34.5	502,870	162,036	32.2	547,119	200,210	36.6
2000	1,080,898	382,587	35.4	503,636	166,188	33.0	577,262	216,399	37.5
2001	1,153,153	406,698	35.3	521,841	174,697	33.5	631,312	232,001	36.7
2002	1,233,774	406,125	32.9	535,876	169,333	31.6	697,898	236,792	33.9

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2003.

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.

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Table 55.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by age, year of application,
and program, 1992–2002

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI 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 (percent)
<i>All ages ^b</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	65,357	13.6	249,224	32,511	13.0	231,369	32,846	14.2
1997	409,396	62,509	15.3	208,993	31,881	15.3	200,403	30,628	15.3
1998	390,212	61,279	15.7	203,132	31,819	15.7	187,080	29,460	15.7
1999	382,196	55,646	14.6	197,671	28,503	14.4	184,525	27,143	14.7
2000	382,757	53,194	13.9	192,285	26,459	13.8	190,472	26,735	14.0
2001	403,402	52,041	12.9	197,161	25,075	12.7	206,241	26,966	13.1
2002	393,638	39,937	10.1	187,438	20,025	10.7	206,200	19,912	9.7
<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	49,456	7,476	15.1	45,465	6,839	15.0	3,991	637	16.0
2000	48,361	7,514	15.5	44,462	6,951	15.6	3,899	563	14.4
2001	49,211	7,475	15.2	45,507	6,973	15.3	3,704	502	13.6
2002	48,697	6,512	13.4	45,412	6,100	13.4	3,285	412	12.5

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 55.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by age, year of application,
and program, 1992–2002—Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI 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 (percent)
Aged 18–64									
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	54,199	13.4	178,404	22,458	12.6	224,905	31,741	14.1
1997	355,514	52,601	14.8	159,694	22,951	14.4	195,820	29,650	15.1
1998	337,411	51,772	15.3	154,436	23,052	14.9	182,975	28,720	15.7
1999	330,830	47,265	14.3	150,460	20,866	13.9	180,370	26,399	14.6
2000	332,767	44,919	13.5	146,383	18,877	12.9	186,384	26,042	14.0
2001	352,675	43,843	12.4	150,368	17,551	11.7	202,307	26,292	13.0
2002	343,338	32,647	9.5	140,650	13,329	9.5	202,688	19,318	9.5

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2003.

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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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 56.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by age, year of application,
and program, 1992–2002

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI 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 (percent)
<i>All ages ^b</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	333,326	196,666	59.0	156,581	80,556	51.4	176,745	116,110	65.7
1995	300,958	170,638	56.7	145,570	70,360	48.3	155,388	100,278	64.5
1996	269,327	158,784	59.0	127,583	64,262	50.4	141,744	94,522	66.7
1997	235,716	144,413	61.3	110,852	59,444	53.6	124,864	84,969	68.0
1998	220,143	136,015	61.8	105,430	57,333	54.4	114,713	78,682	68.6
1999	223,424	139,577	62.5	107,237	58,587	54.6	116,187	80,990	69.7
2000	228,103	143,005	62.7	107,900	58,249	54.0	120,203	84,756	70.5
2001	186,360	117,631	63.1	86,124	46,075	53.5	100,236	71,556	71.4
2002	62,024	39,748	64.1	28,918	15,447	53.4	33,106	24,301	73.4
<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	13,217	34.1	34,869	11,855	34.0	3,882	1,362	35.1
1995	35,856	11,276	31.4	32,428	10,123	31.2	3,428	1,153	33.6
1996	27,908	9,136	32.7	25,411	8,279	32.6	2,497	857	34.3
1997	19,361	7,272	37.6	17,547	6,568	37.4	1,814	704	38.8
1998	18,590	7,184	38.6	16,915	6,491	38.4	1,675	693	41.4
1999	20,336	7,943	39.1	18,476	7,169	38.8	1,860	774	41.6
2000	22,594	8,656	38.3	20,557	7,789	37.9	2,037	867	42.6
2001	17,685	6,747	38.2	16,251	6,164	37.9	1,434	583	40.7
2002	5,670	2,233	39.4	5,256	2,060	39.2	414	173	41.8

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 56.

Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by age, year of application, and program, 1992–2002—Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI 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 (percent)
Aged 18–64									
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	294,438	183,364	62.3	121,581	68,621	56.4	172,857	114,743	66.4
1995	264,954	159,265	60.1	113,002	60,147	53.2	151,952	99,118	65.2
1996	240,615	148,935	61.9	101,466	55,364	54.6	139,149	93,571	67.2
1997	215,400	136,345	63.3	92,415	52,134	56.4	122,985	84,211	68.5
1998	200,596	128,070	63.8	87,607	50,125	57.2	112,989	77,945	69.0
1999	202,492	131,165	64.8	88,210	50,989	57.8	114,282	80,176	70.2
2000	204,940	133,924	65.3	86,822	50,075	57.7	118,118	83,849	71.0
2001	168,208	110,529	65.7	69,447	39,586	57.0	98,761	70,943	71.8
2002	56,072	37,290	66.5	23,401	13,179	56.3	32,671	24,111	73.8

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

NOTES: Data are current through September 2003.

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 57.
Percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by age, year of application,
and reason for allowance, 1992–2002

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings ^a	Under age 18 only		Aged 18 or older only		Other ^{a,b}
				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						
All ages ^c								
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	848,121	100.0	36.8	1.5	2.1	4.4	18.1	37.1
1995	745,160	100.0	35.8	1.6	2.5	4.3	18.6	37.2
1996	733,072	100.0	35.9	1.8	3.3	4.4	17.4	37.1
1997	666,219	100.0	37.6	1.8	4.3	4.7	18.4	33.3
1998	717,984	100.0	38.3	1.9	4.8	4.2	20.1	30.7
1999	726,721	100.0	36.8	2.0	5.3	4.0	20.9	31.0
2000	753,189	100.0	35.5	2.0	6.1	4.2	21.7	30.5
2001	763,241	100.0	35.7	1.8	7.2	4.3	22.5	28.4
2002	686,700	100.0	38.8	2.0	9.4	4.3	24.4	21.0
Under age 18								
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	202,352	100.0	45.6	6.5	8.6	...	...	39.3
1995	170,875	100.0	44.8	7.0	11.0	...	...	37.2
1996	152,157	100.0	52.7	8.7	16.0	...	...	22.6
1997	128,242	100.0	55.8	9.2	22.2	...	...	12.8
1998	144,955	100.0	55.6	9.6	23.6	...	...	11.1
1999	150,536	100.0	53.2	9.8	25.8	...	...	11.2
2000	159,437	100.0	50.3	9.2	29.0	...	...	11.4
2001	171,686	100.0	47.8	8.2	32.2	...	...	11.8
2002	177,151	100.0	45.9	7.8	36.6	...	...	9.7

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 57.

Percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by age, year of application, and reason for allowance, 1992–2002—Continued

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings ^a	Under age 18 only		Aged 18 or older only		Other ^{a,b}
				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						
Aged 18–64								
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	644,781	100.0	34.0	...	...	5.8	23.8	36.4
1995	573,202	100.0	33.2	...	...	5.6	24.1	37.2
1996	541,343	100.0	33.7	...	...	5.9	23.3	37.1
1997	513,159	100.0	34.5	...	...	6.1	22.6	36.8
1998	536,434	100.0	35.6	...	...	5.5	23.9	34.9
1999	540,676	100.0	34.1	...	...	5.3	25.2	35.4
2000	561,430	100.0	33.0	...	...	5.6	26.7	34.6
2001	561,070	100.0	33.7	...	...	5.8	28.6	31.8
2002	476,062	100.0	38.7	...	...	6.1	33.0	22.1

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2003. Data for the hearing level or above are current through September 2003.

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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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 58.
Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application,
and reason for denial, 1992–2002

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Impairment does not cause severe functional limitations ^a	Able to do usual past work ^b	Able to do other type of work ^b	Other ^c
	Number	Percent						
All ages ^d								
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	1,043,203	100.0	6.2	20.7	...	13.6	23.3	36.1
1995	996,717	100.0	6.2	19.7	...	12.4	22.4	39.2
1996	938,026	100.0	6.4	20.6	5.8	12.1	22.9	32.2
1997	738,591	100.0	6.9	16.7	16.3	13.0	25.1	22.1
1998	701,962	100.0	6.9	15.0	18.3	14.6	25.3	19.9
1999	687,598	100.0	6.7	14.0	19.2	15.5	24.4	20.2
2000	679,957	100.0	6.5	13.4	18.9	15.6	23.9	21.7
2001	695,330	100.0	6.1	12.8	17.9	15.5	24.1	23.7
2002	731,450	100.0	5.8	12.6	17.8	15.7	24.2	23.9
Under age 18								
1992	148,324	100.0	1.5	22.7	...	...	...	75.8
1993	240,803	100.0	1.3	21.8	...	...	...	76.9
1994	311,289	100.0	1.4	22.4	...	...	...	76.2
1995	306,399	100.0	1.3	21.8	...	...	...	76.9
1996	291,171	100.0	1.4	26.9	18.7	...	...	53.0
1997	195,639	100.0	1.6	19.1	61.3	...	...	18.0
1998	182,419	100.0	1.3	14.5	70.6	...	...	13.7
1999	182,066	100.0	1.1	13.3	72.4	...	...	13.2
2000	178,281	100.0	1.1	13.3	72.0	...	...	13.6
2001	176,922	100.0	1.1	13.8	70.2	...	...	14.9
2002	183,821	100.0	1.0	13.4	70.8	...	...	14.8

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 58.
Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application,
and reason for denial, 1992–2002—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 ^a	Able to do usual past work ^b	Able to do other type of work ^b	Other ^c
	Number	Percent						
Aged 18–64								
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	731,541	100.0	8.3	20.0	...	19.4	33.2	19.1
1995	689,862	100.0	8.4	18.8	...	17.9	32.4	22.5
1996	645,948	100.0	8.7	17.8	...	17.5	33.2	22.8
1997	541,319	100.0	8.8	15.8	...	17.7	34.2	23.5
1998	515,590	100.0	8.9	15.0	...	19.7	34.4	22.0
1999	501,812	100.0	8.7	14.1	...	21.0	33.5	22.8
2000	498,317	100.0	8.4	13.3	...	21.1	32.6	24.6
2001	515,588	100.0	7.8	12.4	...	20.8	32.4	26.6
2002	544,947	100.0	7.5	12.2	...	20.9	32.4	26.9

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2003. Data for the hearing level or above are current through September 2003.

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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