

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 56.**  
**Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program, 1992–2003**

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>All disabled beneficiaries</b>									
1999	259,057	187,885	72.5	141,940	111,443	78.5	117,117	76,442	65.3
2000	277,685	200,843	72.3	151,007	118,345	78.4	126,678	82,498	65.1
2001	281,835	207,197	73.5	150,307	120,145	79.9	131,528	87,052	66.2
2002	228,652	172,493	75.4	123,185	100,985	82.0	105,467	71,508	67.8
2003	58,130	45,946	79.0	33,836	28,878	85.3	24,294	17,068	70.3
<b>Workers</b>									
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	301,916	202,651	67.1	150,881	113,746	75.4	151,035	88,905	58.9
1996	306,243	204,462	66.8	157,788	116,190	73.6	148,455	88,272	59.5
1997	262,704	185,499	70.6	139,052	107,191	77.1	123,652	78,308	63.3
1998	248,298	178,379	71.8	133,420	104,389	78.2	114,878	73,990	64.4
1999	255,032	185,095	72.6	138,883	109,266	78.7	116,149	75,829	65.3
2000	273,463	197,932	72.4	147,801	116,072	78.5	125,662	81,860	65.1
2001	277,899	204,418	73.6	147,270	117,944	80.1	130,629	86,474	66.2
2002	225,526	170,250	75.5	120,747	99,181	82.1	104,779	71,069	67.8
2003	57,348	45,332	79.0	33,234	28,400	85.5	24,114	16,932	70.2
<b>Widow(er)s</b>									
1999	2,909	2,220	76.3	2,244	1,736	77.4	665	484	72.8
2000	3,007	2,307	76.7	2,321	1,805	77.8	686	502	73.2
2001	2,762	2,189	79.3	2,195	1,756	80.0	567	433	76.4
2002	2,217	1,785	80.5	1,788	1,457	81.5	429	328	76.5
2003	610	521	85.4	477	407	85.3	133	114	85.7
<b>Adult children</b>									
1999	1,116	570	51.1	813	441	54.2	303	129	42.6
2000	1,215	604	49.7	885	468	52.9	330	136	41.2
2001	1,174	590	50.3	842	445	52.9	332	145	43.7
2002	909	458	50.4	650	347	53.4	259	111	42.9
2003	172	93	54.1	125	71	56.8	47	22	46.8

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

NOTES: Data are current through August 2004.

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.

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