

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 58.**  
**Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2004**

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>All disabled beneficiaries</b>									
1999	1,265,055	3,145	104,340	443,674	4,069	707,969	1,858	56.1	61.4
2000	1,364,396	5,608	136,101	455,393	3,840	761,514	1,940	56.0	62.5
2001	1,513,536	11,461	170,479	492,804	3,601	833,257	1,934	55.5	62.8
2002	1,716,221	42,716	230,816	562,460	4,115	874,011	2,103	52.2	60.8
2003	1,931,283	174,286	374,032	575,613	4,730	800,509	2,113	45.6	58.1
2004	2,159,406	325,846	554,375	611,751	6,442	658,918	2,074	35.9	51.8
<b>Workers</b>									
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	537,574	5,011	652,129	2,116	49.6	54.8
1997	1,164,680	0	106,882	449,970	4,214	601,755	1,859	51.7	57.2
1998	1,138,101	2,399	96,683	419,923	4,213	612,838	2,045	54.0	59.3
1999	1,167,664	3,045	102,316	417,248	4,021	639,248	1,786	54.9	60.4
2000	1,265,214	5,465	133,996	429,594	3,805	690,481	1,873	54.8	61.6
2001	1,414,598	11,261	168,191	467,094	3,558	762,615	1,879	54.3	62.0
2002	1,609,612	41,992	228,212	533,145	4,058	800,153	2,052	51.0	60.0
2003	1,823,199	172,000	371,059	543,097	4,670	730,333	2,040	44.2	57.3
2004	2,053,014	321,756	550,498	577,102	6,385	595,262	2,011	34.4	50.7
<b>Widow(er)s</b>									
1999	40,055	58	1,173	9,667	17	29,103	37	72.8	75.1
2000	39,996	76	1,257	8,975	11	29,648	29	74.3	76.8
2001	40,238	101	1,344	8,672	13	30,089	19	75.0	77.6
2002	41,325	351	1,537	8,977	19	30,422	19	74.2	77.2
2003	40,760	1,272	1,646	9,681	25	28,091	45	71.1	74.4
2004	39,695	2,252	1,984	10,297	31	25,097	34	67.0	70.9

(Continued)

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**Table 58.**  
**Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2004—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>Adult children</b>									
1999	57,336	42	851	16,759	31	39,618	35	69.1	70.3
2000	59,186	67	848	16,824	24	41,385	38	70.0	71.1
2001	58,700	99	944	17,038	30	40,553	36	69.2	70.4
2002	65,284	373	1,067	20,338	38	43,436	32	66.9	68.1
2003	67,324	1,014	1,327	22,835	35	42,085	28	63.5	64.8
2004	66,697	1,838	1,893	24,352	26	38,559	29	59.5	61.3

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2005. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2005.

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 to 1998 are available for disabled workers only.

- a. Applications were denied for nonmedical reasons; therefore 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 were denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that the applicant did not meet the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.
- e. Applications were denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that the applicant met the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.

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