

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 61.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, 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 ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^{a,b} (percent)
<i>All disabled beneficiaries</i>									
1999	260,693	188,685	72.4	142,698	111,850	78.4	117,995	76,835	65.1
2000	282,310	202,917	71.9	153,119	119,387	78.0	129,191	83,530	64.7
2001	300,747	216,668	72.0	158,710	124,765	78.6	142,037	91,903	64.7
2002	324,727	238,713	73.5	170,201	136,992	80.5	154,526	101,721	65.8
2003	215,931	163,633	75.8	113,243	93,557	82.6	102,688	70,076	68.2
2004	45,435	37,422	82.4	25,986	23,013	88.6	19,449	14,409	74.1
<i>Workers</i>									
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	301,917	202,739	67.2	150,882	113,781	75.4	151,035	88,958	58.9
1996	306,245	204,612	66.8	157,790	116,256	73.7	148,455	88,356	59.5
1997	267,274	185,756	69.5	141,007	107,310	76.1	126,267	78,446	62.1
1998	249,106	178,765	71.8	133,808	104,596	78.2	115,298	74,169	64.3
1999	256,657	185,891	72.4	139,632	109,669	78.5	117,025	76,222	65.1
2000	278,054	199,986	71.9	149,888	117,099	78.1	128,166	82,887	64.7
2001	296,558	213,765	72.1	155,504	122,479	78.8	141,054	91,286	64.7
2002	320,311	235,585	73.5	166,832	134,509	80.6	153,479	101,076	65.9
2003	213,209	161,651	75.8	111,328	92,114	82.7	101,881	69,537	68.3
2004	44,869	36,961	82.4	25,599	22,687	88.6	19,270	14,274	74.1
<i>Widow(er)s</i>									
1999	2,920	2,224	76.2	2,253	1,740	77.2	667	484	72.6
2000	3,030	2,322	76.6	2,339	1,816	77.6	691	506	73.2
2001	2,901	2,267	78.1	2,295	1,811	78.9	606	456	75.2
2002	3,037	2,418	79.6	2,399	1,942	81.0	638	476	74.6
2003	1,965	1,573	80.1	1,425	1,156	81.1	540	417	77.2
2004	454	396	87.2	319	282	88.4	135	114	84.4

(Continued)

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Table 61.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, 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 ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^{a,b} (percent)
Adult children									
1999	1,116	570	51.1	813	441	54.2	303	129	42.6
2000	1,226	609	49.7	892	472	52.9	334	137	41.0
2001	1,288	636	49.4	911	475	52.1	377	161	42.7
2002	1,379	710	51.5	970	541	55.8	409	169	41.3
2003	757	409	54.0	490	287	58.6	267	122	45.7
2004	112	65	58.0	68	44	64.7	44	21	47.7

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

NOTES: Data are current through July 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.

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