

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 63.

Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial, 1992–2004

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Able to do usual past work	Able to do other type of work	Other ^a
	Number	Percent					
All disabled beneficiaries							
1999	447,743	100.0	10.3	17.8	28.3	30.8	12.8
2000	459,233	100.0	10.1	17.2	28.3	30.4	14.0
2001	496,405	100.0	9.3	16.7	28.0	31.0	14.9
2002	566,575	100.0	8.6	17.2	28.1	31.0	15.1
2003	580,343	100.0	7.8	17.7	27.9	30.9	15.7
2004	618,193	100.0	7.3	17.7	27.8	30.9	16.4
Workers							
1992	487,164	100.0	10.7	22.9	28.4	29.6	8.4
1993	546,532	100.0	10.4	22.7	27.6	29.8	9.5
1994	578,664	100.0	10.2	21.5	25.9	28.8	13.6
1995	547,145	100.0	10.6	20.8	25.4	29.4	13.8
1996	542,585	100.0	10.2	19.6	24.7	30.6	14.8
1997	454,184	100.0	10.6	18.5	25.7	30.5	14.7
1998	424,136	100.0	10.8	18.3	27.8	30.8	12.2
1999	421,269	100.0	10.7	17.4	29.3	30.1	12.5
2000	433,399	100.0	10.5	16.7	29.3	29.7	13.7
2001	470,652	100.0	9.6	16.4	29.0	30.4	14.6
2002	537,203	100.0	8.9	16.9	29.1	30.2	14.9
2003	547,767	100.0	8.1	17.4	29.0	30.0	15.5
2004	583,487	100.0	7.5	17.4	28.8	30.1	16.1
Widow(er)s							
1999	9,684	100.0	5.6	29.1	31.8	22.7	10.8
2000	8,986	100.0	5.3	29.0	31.4	22.4	12.0
2001	8,685	100.0	4.7	27.6	31.2	22.9	13.7
2002	8,996	100.0	4.8	26.2	32.4	23.6	13.1
2003	9,706	100.0	4.3	25.8	32.9	23.7	13.3
2004	10,328	100.0	3.9	24.9	32.6	24.4	14.3
Adult children							
1999	16,790	100.0	3.1	22.7	0.7	53.3	20.2
2000	16,848	100.0	2.9	22.9	0.7	51.9	21.7
2001	17,068	100.0	2.5	21.3	0.9	52.9	22.3
2002	20,376	100.0	2.3	21.6	0.8	53.5	21.8
2003	22,870	100.0	2.0	21.7	0.7	53.7	21.9
2004	24,378	100.0	2.1	21.6	0.5	52.3	23.5

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 numbers and percentages will change over time.

Applications with a medical decision may be pending a final nonmedical decision or be subsequently denied for nonmedical reasons.

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 claims.

Data from 1992 to 1998 are available for disabled workers only.

a. Applicant has an impairment resulting from drug addiction or alcoholism, provided insufficient medical 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. Also includes cases denied at or above the hearing level for which the basis of determination is not available.

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