
Notes

The tables in this section provide data on the outcomes of applications for disability benefits. The data on applications are derived from the Social Security Administration's (SSA's) Disability Research File maintained by the Office of Disability Programs. Each year this file 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 60 shows the total number of applications filed in a year, the number denied for nonmedical reasons before a medical decision is made (*technical denials*), the number that are pending a final decision, 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 insufficient number of recent work credits.

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 decision-making 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 61–63 show the allowance rate for Social Security only and the Social Security portion of *concurrent applications* (which are claims for both Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability benefits). Each table shows a different level in the administrative decision-making process; that is, initial adjudicative, reconsideration, and hearing or higher level.

Beginning with 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 the reason for medical denial (Tables 64 and 65). The reasons are derived from the sequential evaluation process used by decision makers. 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—

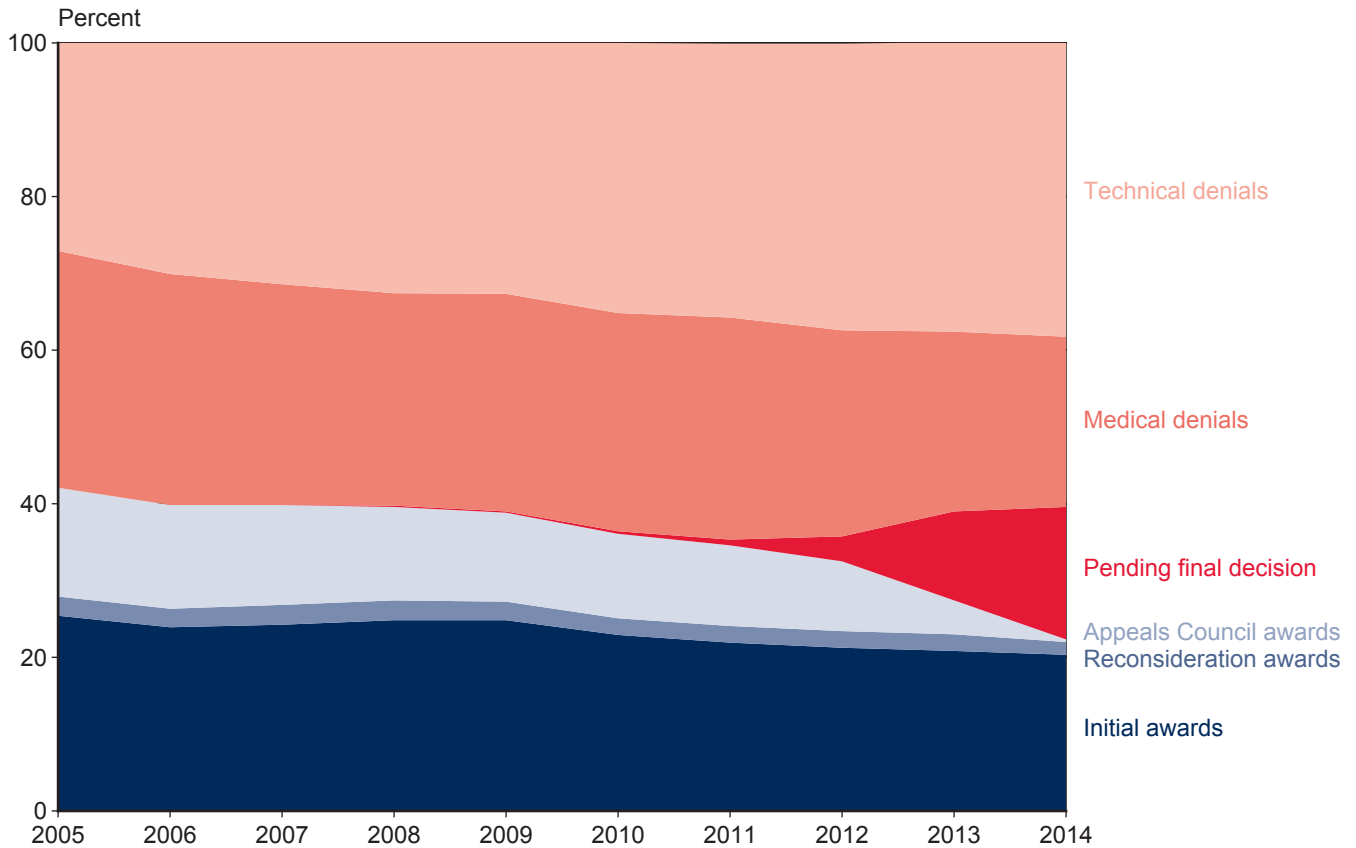
- has a listed impairment,
- has a severe impairment that is equal to a listed impairment,
- has a severe impairment when medical and vocational factors are considered, or
- had previously established entitlement to a disability benefit.

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
- has an impairment resulting from drug addiction or alcoholism, 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.

Chart 11.
Final outcome of disabled-worker applications, 2005–2014

The final award rate for disabled-worker applicants has varied over time, averaging 35 percent for claims filed from 2005 through 2014. The percentage of applicants awarded benefits at the initial claims level averaged 23 percent over the same period and ranged from a high of 25 percent to a low of 20 percent. The percentage of applicants awarded at the reconsideration and hearing levels are averaging 2 percent and 10 percent, respectively. Denied disability claims have averaged 61 percent.



SOURCE: Tables 60–63.

NOTES: Awards are calculated as medical allowances minus subsequent technical denials. Technical denials include both nonmedical decision technical denials and medical decisions that were subsequently denied for technical reasons.

The proportion of claims awarded at each level of the process is likely to change 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 is likely to result in a decrease in the overall proportion of claims awarded at this step.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 60.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2014

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials ^a	Medical decisions				Award rate ^d (percent)	Allowance rate ^e (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical ^b	Awards	Subsequent denials ^c		
<i>All disabled beneficiaries</i>									
1999	1,265,037	0	104,332	445,995	4,056	708,797	1,857	56.0	61.3
2000	1,364,323	0	136,054	456,467	3,817	766,047	1,938	56.1	62.6
2001	1,513,411	0	170,520	496,835	3,579	840,542	1,935	55.5	62.8
2002	1,715,710	0	231,067	580,430	4,067	898,047	2,099	52.3	60.7
2003	1,941,894	0	374,305	632,284	4,485	928,747	2,073	47.8	59.5
2004	2,262,119	0	615,672	677,811	5,634	961,376	1,626	42.5	58.5
2005	2,087,733	0	528,760	642,170	6,964	907,877	1,962	43.5	58.4
2006	2,164,394	0	611,211	653,391	7,271	890,604	1,917	41.1	57.5
2007	2,216,563	0	651,774	642,110	7,915	912,946	1,818	41.2	58.5
2008	2,358,629	2,993	717,174	658,370	9,025	969,288	1,779	41.1	59.3
2009	2,753,012	5,181	845,339	785,842	10,692	1,104,108	1,850	40.2	58.2
2010	2,981,613	9,047	978,790	856,171	19,134	1,116,395	2,076	37.6	56.2
2011	2,952,087	20,272	982,183	860,432	20,853	1,066,277	2,070	36.4	54.9
2012	2,955,922	92,432	1,024,628	802,302	24,123	1,010,144	2,293	35.3	55.1
2013	2,782,720	313,089	970,595	659,702	26,724	810,332	2,278	32.8	54.3
2014	2,636,563	441,621	934,825	590,143	27,537	640,347	2,090	29.2	51.1
<i>Workers</i>									
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	537,482	5,011	652,221	2,116	49.6	54.8
1997	1,164,680	0	106,868	449,464	4,212	602,277	1,859	51.7	57.2
1998	1,138,101	0	96,718	421,953	4,205	613,181	2,044	53.9	59.2
1999	1,167,650	0	102,305	419,486	4,008	640,065	1,786	54.8	60.3
2000	1,265,188	0	133,947	430,581	3,782	695,007	1,871	54.9	61.7
2001	1,414,524	0	168,231	470,999	3,537	769,877	1,880	54.4	62.0
2002	1,609,480	0	228,455	550,985	4,011	823,981	2,048	51.2	59.9
2003	1,831,154	0	371,334	599,558	4,428	853,832	2,002	46.6	58.7
2004	2,145,629	0	611,647	643,040	5,582	883,784	1,576	41.2	57.8
2005	1,970,277	0	524,858	607,568	6,874	829,087	1,890	42.1	57.6
2006	2,040,682	0	606,447	613,534	7,165	811,678	1,858	39.8	56.8
2007	2,083,895	0	646,532	599,283	7,800	828,528	1,752	39.8	57.8
2008	2,217,126	2,923	711,578	614,368	8,893	877,652	1,712	39.6	58.6
2009	2,595,028	5,045	839,348	733,711	10,544	1,004,605	1,775	38.8	57.5
2010	2,809,477	8,855	968,303	799,034	18,531	1,012,746	2,008	36.2	55.4
2011	2,780,977	19,836	971,313	803,911	20,358	963,555	2,004	34.9	54.0
2012	2,776,214	89,487	1,009,232	747,788	23,015	904,521	2,171	33.7	54.1
2013	2,616,427	303,782	957,854	611,935	25,721	714,952	2,183	30.9	53.0
2014	2,485,077	429,651	923,149	548,743	26,563	554,946	2,025	27.0	49.3

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 60.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2014—Continued

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials ^a	Medical decisions				Award rate ^d (percent)	Allowance rate ^e (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical ^b	Awards	Subsequent denials ^c		
Widow(er)s									
1999	40,053	0	1,173	9,718	17	29,108	37	72.7	75.0
2000	39,990	0	1,258	9,013	11	29,679	29	74.2	76.8
2001	40,227	0	1,344	8,738	13	30,113	19	74.9	77.5
2002	41,065	0	1,540	8,941	18	30,547	19	74.4	77.4
2003	41,243	0	1,645	9,553	24	29,977	44	72.7	75.9
2004	42,449	0	2,069	9,554	22	30,780	24	72.5	76.3
2005	41,409	0	1,892	9,253	26	30,215	23	73.0	76.6
2006	41,468	0	2,190	9,774	38	29,443	23	71.0	75.1
2007	40,781	0	2,211	8,979	28	29,536	27	72.4	76.7
2008	42,140	19	2,329	8,607	31	31,133	21	73.9	78.3
2009	44,059	34	2,551	8,923	43	32,488	20	73.8	78.4
2010	47,583	66	3,544	9,664	83	34,203	23	72.0	77.9
2011	47,011	129	3,500	9,758	74	33,516	34	71.5	77.4
2012	51,351	869	5,849	9,383	244	34,953	53	69.2	78.5
2013	48,915	3,236	5,097	8,700	276	31,563	43	69.1	78.0
2014	45,542	4,441	4,505	7,998	280	28,286	32	68.8	77.4
Adult children									
1999	57,334	0	854	16,791	31	39,624	34	69.1	70.3
2000	59,145	0	849	16,873	24	41,361	38	69.9	71.1
2001	58,660	0	945	17,098	29	40,552	36	69.1	70.4
2002	65,165	0	1,072	20,504	38	43,519	32	66.8	68.0
2003	69,497	0	1,326	23,173	33	44,938	27	64.7	66.0
2004	74,041	0	1,956	25,217	30	46,812	26	63.2	65.0
2005	76,047	0	2,010	25,349	64	48,575	49	63.9	65.7
2006	82,244	0	2,574	30,083	68	49,483	36	60.2	62.2
2007	91,887	0	3,031	33,848	87	54,882	39	59.7	61.8
2008	99,363	51	3,267	35,395	101	60,503	46	60.9	63.1
2009	113,925	102	3,440	43,208	105	67,015	55	58.9	60.8
2010	124,553	126	6,943	47,473	520	69,446	45	55.8	59.2
2011	124,099	307	7,370	46,763	421	69,206	32	55.9	59.5
2012	128,357	2,076	9,547	45,131	864	70,670	69	56.0	60.6
2013	117,378	6,071	7,644	39,067	727	63,817	52	57.3	61.6
2014	105,944	7,529	7,171	33,402	694	57,115	33	58.0	62.7

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2015. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2015.

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 through 1998 are available for disabled workers only.

- a. Applications were denied for nonmedical reasons; therefore no decision was made on severity of impairment.
- b. Applications were denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that the applicant did not meet the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.
- c. Applications were denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that the applicant met the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.
- d. Rate determined by dividing awards by all applications minus pending claims for that year.
- e. Rate determined by dividing medical allowances by all medical decisions for that year.

CONTACT: (410) 965-0090 or statistics@ssa.gov.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 61.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program,
1992–2014

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)
All disabled beneficiaries									
1999	1,160,792	458,854	39.5	649,980	313,152	48.2	510,812	145,702	28.5
2000	1,228,301	500,657	40.8	688,282	339,764	49.4	540,019	160,893	29.8
2001	1,342,915	558,741	41.6	742,869	379,266	51.1	600,046	179,475	29.9
2002	1,484,685	575,089	38.7	794,839	385,453	48.5	689,846	189,636	27.5
2003	1,567,607	583,758	37.2	804,688	383,225	47.6	762,919	200,533	26.3
2004	1,646,469	604,176	36.7	814,157	389,190	47.8	832,312	214,986	25.8
2005	1,559,003	575,310	36.9	763,377	370,449	48.5	795,626	204,861	25.7
2006	1,553,217	562,178	36.2	753,211	363,207	48.2	800,006	198,971	24.9
2007	1,564,846	583,002	37.3	757,271	377,321	49.8	807,575	205,681	25.5
2008	1,641,464	635,323	38.7	783,446	408,839	52.2	858,018	226,484	26.4
2009	1,907,668	734,139	38.5	922,176	480,716	52.1	985,492	253,423	25.7
2010	2,002,804	738,766	36.9	990,784	496,032	50.1	1,012,020	242,734	24.0
2011	1,969,875	702,827	35.7	987,689	478,426	48.4	982,186	224,401	22.8
2012	1,930,751	688,273	35.6	988,914	474,287	48.0	941,837	213,986	22.7
2013	1,810,523	635,977	35.1	958,491	444,032	46.3	852,032	191,945	22.5
2014	1,695,822	590,402	34.8	951,624	423,586	44.5	744,198	166,816	22.4
Workers									
1992	1,179,119	436,715	37.0	558,741	248,385	44.5	620,378	188,330	30.4
1993	1,244,187	421,560	33.9	571,464	240,839	42.1	672,723	180,721	26.9
1994	1,252,852	390,785	31.2	591,408	233,059	39.4	661,444	157,726	23.8
1995	1,177,761	367,293	31.2	569,963	223,457	39.2	607,798	143,836	23.7
1996	1,196,830	384,167	32.1	593,992	237,474	40.0	602,838	146,693	24.3
1997	1,057,812	357,880	33.8	551,909	228,793	41.5	505,903	129,087	25.5
1998	1,041,383	374,376	35.9	550,794	238,989	43.4	490,589	135,387	27.6
1999	1,065,430	396,253	37.2	578,884	259,417	44.8	486,546	136,836	28.1
2000	1,131,273	435,416	38.5	615,507	283,906	46.1	515,766	151,510	29.4
2001	1,246,317	493,638	39.6	670,621	323,649	48.3	575,696	169,989	29.5
2002	1,381,065	507,031	36.7	718,611	327,294	45.5	662,454	179,737	27.1
2003	1,459,838	514,871	35.3	728,169	324,769	44.6	731,669	190,102	26.0
2004	1,534,004	532,860	34.7	738,167	329,980	44.7	795,837	202,880	25.5
2005	1,445,449	502,762	34.8	686,143	309,900	45.2	759,306	192,862	25.4
2006	1,434,269	489,505	34.1	675,512	303,035	44.9	758,757	186,470	24.6
2007	1,437,418	505,900	35.2	676,156	314,326	46.5	761,262	191,574	25.2
2008	1,505,558	552,618	36.7	697,821	340,906	48.9	807,737	211,712	26.2
2009	1,755,678	644,456	36.7	830,597	407,707	49.1	925,081	236,749	25.6
2010	1,841,156	644,780	35.0	894,303	418,880	46.8	946,853	225,900	23.9
2011	1,809,642	609,881	33.7	890,408	401,008	45.0	919,234	208,873	22.7
2012	1,766,484	591,692	33.5	886,598	392,878	44.3	879,886	198,814	22.6
2013	1,657,089	545,815	32.9	862,782	367,918	42.6	794,307	177,897	22.4
2014	1,556,222	506,790	32.6	861,942	352,466	40.9	694,280	154,324	22.2

(Continued)

Table 61.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program,
1992–2014—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)
Widow(er)s									
1999	38,880	24,898	64.0	29,600	21,272	71.9	9,280	3,626	39.1
2000	38,732	25,748	66.5	29,874	21,967	73.5	8,858	3,781	42.7
2001	38,883	26,206	67.4	30,273	22,436	74.1	8,610	3,770	43.8
2002	39,526	26,489	67.0	30,891	22,751	73.6	8,635	3,738	43.3
2003	39,598	25,960	65.6	30,216	22,213	73.5	9,382	3,747	39.9
2004	40,380	26,666	66.0	29,578	22,252	75.2	10,802	4,414	40.9
2005	39,517	26,265	66.5	29,201	22,023	75.4	10,316	4,242	41.1
2006	39,278	25,584	65.1	28,454	21,399	75.2	10,824	4,185	38.7
2007	38,570	25,544	66.2	27,586	21,181	76.8	10,984	4,363	39.7
2008	39,811	26,775	67.3	28,194	22,185	78.7	11,617	4,590	39.5
2009	41,508	27,810	67.0	28,929	22,796	78.8	12,579	5,014	39.9
2010	44,039	29,497	67.0	30,598	24,201	79.1	13,441	5,296	39.4
2011	43,511	28,690	65.9	30,383	23,795	78.3	13,128	4,895	37.3
2012	45,492	30,455	66.9	32,393	25,650	79.2	13,099	4,805	36.7
2013	43,786	28,855	65.9	31,066	24,356	78.4	12,720	4,499	35.4
2014	40,988	27,358	66.7	29,494	23,366	79.2	11,494	3,992	34.7
Adult children									
1999	56,482	37,703	66.8	41,496	32,463	78.2	14,986	5,240	35.0
2000	58,296	39,493	67.7	42,901	33,891	79.0	15,395	5,602	36.4
2001	57,715	38,897	67.4	41,975	33,181	79.0	15,740	5,716	36.3
2002	64,094	41,569	64.9	45,337	35,408	78.1	18,757	6,161	32.8
2003	68,171	42,927	63.0	46,303	36,243	78.3	21,868	6,684	30.6
2004	72,085	44,650	61.9	46,412	36,958	79.6	25,673	7,692	30.0
2005	74,037	46,283	62.5	48,033	38,526	80.2	26,004	7,757	29.8
2006	79,670	47,089	59.1	49,245	38,773	78.7	30,425	8,316	27.3
2007	88,858	51,558	58.0	53,529	41,814	78.1	35,329	9,744	27.6
2008	96,095	55,930	58.2	57,431	45,748	79.7	38,664	10,182	26.3
2009	110,482	61,873	56.0	62,650	50,213	80.1	47,832	11,660	24.4
2010	117,609	64,489	54.8	65,883	52,951	80.4	51,726	11,538	22.3
2011	116,722	64,256	55.1	66,898	53,623	80.2	49,824	10,633	21.3
2012	118,775	66,126	55.7	69,923	55,759	79.7	48,852	10,367	21.2
2013	109,648	61,307	55.9	64,643	51,758	80.1	45,005	9,549	21.2
2014	98,612	56,254	57.0	60,188	47,754	79.3	38,424	8,500	22.1

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2015.

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.

Data from 1992 through 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: (410) 965-0090 or statistics@ssa.gov.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 62.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program,
1992–2014

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	397,127	58,602	14.8	209,682	33,223	15.8	187,445	25,379	13.5
2000	407,758	55,631	13.6	214,965	31,473	14.6	192,793	24,158	12.5
2001	434,185	55,494	12.8	221,720	30,807	13.9	212,465	24,687	11.6
2002	502,441	57,460	11.4	249,822	31,212	12.5	252,619	26,248	10.4
2003	542,986	57,868	10.7	258,354	30,344	11.7	284,632	27,524	9.7
2004	558,632	57,363	10.3	255,283	29,169	11.4	303,349	28,194	9.3
2005	514,277	51,732	10.1	231,252	26,556	11.5	283,025	25,176	8.9
2006	514,443	51,150	9.9	227,922	26,077	11.4	286,521	25,073	8.8
2007	519,255	57,028	11.0	224,454	29,822	13.3	294,801	27,206	9.2
2008	546,409	59,270	10.8	222,883	29,960	13.4	323,526	29,310	9.1
2009	644,200	64,091	9.9	264,469	33,225	12.6	379,731	30,866	8.1
2010	706,058	63,242	9.0	299,807	34,304	11.4	406,251	28,938	7.1
2011	724,404	65,354	9.0	314,313	36,387	11.6	410,091	28,967	7.1
2012	713,955	64,550	9.0	316,572	35,986	11.4	397,383	28,564	7.2
2013	677,721	59,163	8.7	313,441	33,875	10.8	364,280	25,288	6.9
2014	524,413	43,081	8.2	260,133	26,282	10.1	264,280	16,799	6.4
<i>Workers</i>									
1992	419,798	53,881	12.8	190,594	25,352	13.3	229,204	28,529	12.4
1993	469,151	58,275	12.4	206,606	27,306	13.2	262,545	30,969	11.8
1994	489,731	62,757	12.8	226,013	31,468	13.9	263,718	31,289	11.9
1995	458,036	60,584	13.2	218,950	31,563	14.4	239,086	29,021	12.1
1996	464,582	65,466	14.1	226,333	33,596	14.8	238,249	31,870	13.4
1997	403,225	59,978	14.9	206,148	33,373	16.2	197,077	26,605	13.5
1998	384,997	61,742	16.0	199,292	34,043	17.1	185,705	27,699	14.9
1999	384,286	55,272	14.4	202,999	31,712	15.6	181,287	23,560	13.0
2000	396,216	52,794	13.3	208,638	30,189	14.5	187,578	22,605	12.1
2001	422,937	52,905	12.5	215,591	29,647	13.8	207,346	23,258	11.2
2002	489,974	54,974	11.2	243,259	30,157	12.4	246,715	24,817	10.1
2003	529,775	55,342	10.4	252,226	29,348	11.6	277,549	25,994	9.4
2004	545,180	54,527	10.0	249,568	28,202	11.3	295,612	26,325	8.9
2005	501,374	49,029	9.8	225,707	25,640	11.4	275,667	23,389	8.5
2006	500,914	48,401	9.7	222,466	25,255	11.4	278,448	23,146	8.3
2007	503,474	54,428	10.8	218,683	28,949	13.2	284,791	25,479	8.9
2008	527,759	56,853	10.8	216,956	29,115	13.4	310,803	27,738	8.9
2009	621,655	61,308	9.9	257,998	32,324	12.5	363,657	28,984	8.0
2010	681,768	60,494	8.9	293,180	33,398	11.4	388,588	27,096	7.0
2011	699,607	62,552	8.9	307,173	35,433	11.5	392,434	27,119	6.9
2012	688,050	61,805	9.0	308,902	35,035	11.3	379,148	26,770	7.1
2013	653,862	56,773	8.7	306,542	33,036	10.8	347,320	23,737	6.8
2014	508,151	41,605	8.2	255,107	25,720	10.1	253,044	15,885	6.3

(Continued)

Table 62.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program,
1992–2014—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)
Widow(er)s									
1999	7,125	1,962	27.5	4,114	895	21.8	3,011	1,067	35.4
2000	6,379	1,572	24.6	3,872	734	19.0	2,507	838	33.4
2001	6,212	1,582	25.5	3,865	728	18.8	2,347	854	36.4
2002	6,390	1,392	21.8	3,996	649	16.2	2,394	743	31.0
2003	6,665	1,378	20.7	3,832	637	16.6	2,833	741	26.2
2004	6,475	1,549	23.9	3,457	597	17.3	3,018	952	31.5
2005	6,105	1,381	22.6	3,329	561	16.9	2,776	820	29.5
2006	5,985	1,308	21.9	3,120	461	14.8	2,865	847	29.6
2007	5,948	1,142	19.2	2,887	462	16.0	3,061	680	22.2
2008	6,347	923	14.5	2,858	393	13.8	3,489	530	15.2
2009	6,988	1,075	15.4	3,044	446	14.7	3,944	629	15.9
2010	7,359	1,052	14.3	3,073	462	15.0	4,286	590	13.8
2011	7,842	1,131	14.4	3,365	505	15.0	4,477	626	14.0
2012	8,132	1,134	13.9	3,539	490	13.8	4,593	644	14.0
2013	8,001	1,057	13.2	3,419	477	14.0	4,582	580	12.7
2014	5,888	710	12.1	2,503	336	13.4	3,385	374	11.0
Adult children									
1999	5,716	1,368	23.9	2,569	616	24.0	3,147	752	23.9
2000	5,163	1,265	24.5	2,455	550	22.4	2,708	715	26.4
2001	5,036	1,007	20.0	2,264	432	19.1	2,772	575	20.7
2002	6,077	1,094	18.0	2,567	406	15.8	3,510	688	19.6
2003	6,546	1,148	17.5	2,296	359	15.6	4,250	789	18.6
2004	6,977	1,287	18.4	2,258	370	16.4	4,719	917	19.4
2005	6,798	1,322	19.4	2,216	355	16.0	4,582	967	21.1
2006	7,544	1,441	19.1	2,336	361	15.5	5,208	1,080	20.7
2007	9,833	1,458	14.8	2,884	411	14.3	6,949	1,047	15.1
2008	12,303	1,494	12.1	3,069	452	14.7	9,234	1,042	11.3
2009	15,557	1,708	11.0	3,427	455	13.3	12,130	1,253	10.3
2010	16,931	1,696	10.0	3,554	444	12.5	13,377	1,252	9.4
2011	16,955	1,671	9.9	3,775	449	11.9	13,180	1,222	9.3
2012	17,773	1,611	9.1	4,131	461	11.2	13,642	1,150	8.4
2013	15,858	1,333	8.4	3,480	362	10.4	12,378	971	7.8
2014	10,374	766	7.4	2,523	226	9.0	7,851	540	6.9

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2015.

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 through 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: (410) 965-0090 or statistics@ssa.gov.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 63.

Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program, 1992–2014

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)
All disabled beneficiaries									
1999	265,058	193,198	72.9	144,847	114,207	78.8	120,211	78,991	65.7
2000	290,068	211,697	73.0	157,001	124,015	79.0	133,067	87,682	65.9
2001	313,839	228,242	72.7	164,710	130,576	79.3	149,129	97,666	65.5
2002	369,875	267,597	72.3	189,671	150,834	79.5	180,204	116,763	64.8
2003	401,747	289,194	72.0	197,765	157,566	79.7	203,982	131,628	64.5
2004	415,339	301,463	72.6	196,715	159,335	81.0	218,624	142,128	65.0
2005	384,341	282,797	73.6	178,312	145,587	81.6	206,029	137,210	66.6
2006	387,024	279,193	72.1	176,338	142,375	80.7	210,686	136,818	64.9
2007	387,403	274,734	70.9	169,869	136,023	80.1	217,534	138,711	63.8
2008	402,161	276,474	68.7	166,328	131,488	79.1	235,833	144,986	61.5
2009	477,114	307,728	64.5	198,377	149,612	75.4	278,737	158,116	56.7
2010	528,231	316,463	59.9	226,770	161,118	71.0	301,461	155,345	51.5
2011	533,437	300,166	56.3	232,831	156,697	67.3	300,606	143,469	47.7
2012	459,069	259,614	56.6	206,670	139,724	67.6	252,399	119,890	47.5
2013	215,388	117,470	54.5	104,028	66,973	64.4	111,360	50,497	45.3
2014	18,062	8,954	49.6	10,067	5,694	56.6	7,995	3,260	40.8
Workers									
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	204,704	66.8	157,790	116,292	73.7	148,455	88,412	59.6
1997	267,288	186,278	69.7	141,021	107,539	76.3	126,267	78,739	62.4
1998	251,486	179,107	71.2	134,883	104,763	77.7	116,603	74,344	63.8
1999	260,850	190,326	73.0	141,671	111,954	79.0	119,179	78,372	65.8
2000	285,620	208,668	73.1	153,649	121,651	79.2	131,971	87,017	65.9
2001	309,372	225,214	72.8	161,335	128,214	79.5	148,037	97,000	65.5
2002	364,659	264,024	72.4	185,830	148,078	79.7	178,829	115,946	64.8
2003	396,352	285,621	72.1	194,232	155,060	79.8	202,120	130,561	64.6
2004	410,160	297,973	72.6	193,481	156,966	81.1	216,679	141,007	65.1
2005	379,242	279,186	73.6	175,088	143,130	81.7	204,154	136,056	66.6
2006	381,769	275,630	72.2	173,089	140,048	80.9	208,680	135,582	65.0
2007	379,546	269,952	71.1	166,451	133,631	80.3	213,095	136,321	64.0
2008	390,962	269,893	69.0	162,528	128,738	79.2	228,434	141,155	61.8
2009	463,843	300,616	64.8	194,372	146,825	75.5	269,471	153,791	57.1
2010	513,997	309,480	60.2	222,588	158,352	71.1	291,409	151,128	51.9
2011	518,849	293,126	56.5	228,324	153,771	67.3	290,525	139,355	48.0
2012	445,463	253,195	56.8	202,431	137,006	67.7	243,032	116,189	47.8
2013	208,953	114,547	54.8	101,839	65,587	64.4	107,114	48,960	45.7
2014	17,369	8,576	49.4	9,703	5,413	55.8	7,666	3,163	41.3

(Continued)

Table 63.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program,
1992–2014—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)
Widow(er)s									
1999	3,027	2,285	75.5	2,325	1,794	77.2	702	491	69.9
2000	3,140	2,388	76.1	2,414	1,870	77.5	726	518	71.3
2001	3,046	2,344	77.0	2,391	1,862	77.9	655	482	73.6
2002	3,438	2,685	78.1	2,654	2,109	79.5	784	576	73.5
2003	3,525	2,683	76.1	2,438	1,914	78.5	1,087	769	70.7
2004	3,241	2,589	79.9	2,199	1,804	82.0	1,042	785	75.3
2005	3,187	2,592	81.3	2,166	1,814	83.7	1,021	778	76.2
2006	3,172	2,574	81.1	2,087	1,726	82.7	1,085	848	78.2
2007	3,642	2,877	79.0	1,960	1,601	81.7	1,682	1,276	75.9
2008	4,383	3,456	78.9	2,045	1,706	83.4	2,338	1,750	74.9
2009	4,741	3,623	76.4	2,118	1,740	82.2	2,623	1,883	71.8
2010	5,112	3,677	71.9	2,170	1,694	78.1	2,942	1,983	67.4
2011	5,290	3,729	70.5	2,318	1,748	75.4	2,972	1,981	66.7
2012	4,912	3,417	69.6	2,202	1,665	75.6	2,710	1,752	64.6
2013	2,544	1,694	66.6	1,226	906	73.9	1,318	788	59.8
2014	340	250	73.5	233	196	84.1	107	54	50.5
Adult children									
1999	1,181	587	49.7	851	459	53.9	330	128	38.8
2000	1,308	641	49.0	938	494	52.7	370	147	39.7
2001	1,421	684	48.1	984	500	50.8	437	184	42.1
2002	1,778	888	49.9	1,187	647	54.5	591	241	40.8
2003	1,870	890	47.6	1,095	592	54.1	775	298	38.5
2004	1,938	901	46.5	1,035	565	54.6	903	336	37.2
2005	1,912	1,019	53.3	1,058	643	60.8	854	376	44.0
2006	2,083	989	47.5	1,162	601	51.7	921	388	42.1
2007	4,215	1,905	45.2	1,458	791	54.3	2,757	1,114	40.4
2008	6,816	3,125	45.8	1,755	1,044	59.5	5,061	2,081	41.1
2009	8,530	3,489	40.9	1,887	1,047	55.5	6,643	2,442	36.8
2010	9,122	3,306	36.2	2,012	1,072	53.3	7,110	2,234	31.4
2011	9,298	3,311	35.6	2,189	1,178	53.8	7,109	2,133	30.0
2012	8,694	3,002	34.5	2,037	1,053	51.7	6,657	1,949	29.3
2013	3,891	1,229	31.6	963	480	49.8	2,928	749	25.6
2014	353	128	36.3	131	85	64.9	222	43	19.4

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

NOTES: Data are current through July 2015.

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 through 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: (410) 965-0090 or statistics@ssa.gov.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 64.
Number and percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2014

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other ^a
	Number	Percent				
All disabled beneficiaries						
1999	708,797	100.0	33.0	5.9	26.9	34.2
2000	766,047	100.0	31.1	6.2	29.2	33.5
2001	840,542	100.0	30.0	6.1	30.1	33.9
2002	898,047	100.0	28.5	5.3	30.1	36.1
2003	928,747	100.0	27.1	5.1	31.1	36.7
2004	961,376	100.0	26.4	4.9	31.5	37.2
2005	907,877	100.0	26.5	4.7	32.0	36.8
2006	890,604	100.0	26.4	4.5	31.9	37.3
2007	912,946	100.0	26.1	4.6	32.7	36.5
2008	969,288	100.0	25.5	5.2	34.2	35.1
2009	1,104,108	100.0	24.4	5.2	35.7	34.7
2010	1,116,395	100.0	23.2	5.1	36.4	35.4
2011	1,066,277	100.0	22.6	5.1	37.8	34.5
2012	1,010,144	100.0	22.7	5.1	39.2	33.0
2013	810,332	100.0	26.6	5.6	44.1	23.8
2014	640,347	100.0	31.8	6.2	49.3	12.7
Workers						
1992	689,111	100.0	34.3	11.1	24.3	30.3
1993	695,007	100.0	34.3	8.7	23.6	33.4
1994	671,791	100.0	34.5	6.9	25.6	32.9
1995	628,380	100.0	34.5	6.7	26.8	31.9
1996	652,221	100.0	34.2	7.0	27.4	31.5
1997	602,277	100.0	35.0	7.5	26.4	31.1
1998	613,181	100.0	35.5	6.6	26.9	31.0
1999	640,065	100.0	33.6	6.3	28.3	31.9
2000	695,007	100.0	31.7	6.5	30.6	31.2
2001	769,877	100.0	30.5	6.4	31.3	31.8
2002	823,981	100.0	29.0	5.6	31.4	34.0
2003	853,832	100.0	27.5	5.3	32.5	34.8
2004	883,784	100.0	26.7	5.2	32.9	35.2
2005	829,087	100.0	27.0	4.9	33.6	34.5
2006	811,678	100.0	26.9	4.8	33.5	34.9
2007	828,528	100.0	26.6	4.9	34.6	34.0
2008	877,652	100.0	26.0	5.5	36.3	32.2
2009	1,004,605	100.0	24.9	5.5	37.8	31.8
2010	1,012,746	100.0	23.7	5.4	38.7	32.2
2011	963,555	100.0	23.1	5.4	40.4	31.1
2012	904,521	100.0	23.4	5.5	42.2	28.9
2013	714,952	100.0	27.8	6.1	48.2	17.9
2014	554,946	100.0	34.0	6.9	55.1	4.0

(Continued)

Table 64.

Number and percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2014—Continued

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other ^a
	Number	Percent				
Widow(er)s						
1999	29,108	100.0	14.9	2.5	24.6	58.0
2000	29,679	100.0	12.8	2.5	26.3	58.4
2001	30,113	100.0	12.3	2.6	27.0	58.1
2002	30,547	100.0	11.4	2.1	26.5	60.0
2003	29,977	100.0	10.8	2.2	26.1	60.9
2004	30,780	100.0	10.1	1.9	26.0	62.0
2005	30,215	100.0	9.7	1.7	25.5	63.1
2006	29,443	100.0	9.6	1.5	24.2	64.7
2007	29,536	100.0	9.1	1.6	24.3	64.9
2008	31,133	100.0	8.7	1.7	24.8	64.7
2009	32,488	100.0	8.1	1.9	26.1	63.9
2010	34,203	100.0	7.7	1.9	25.3	65.1
2011	33,516	100.0	7.8	1.7	25.3	65.2
2012	34,953	100.0	6.9	1.6	24.5	67.1
2013	31,563	100.0	6.7	1.7	24.7	66.9
2014	28,286	100.0	6.9	1.6	23.5	68.0
Adult children						
1999	39,624	100.0	35.9	3.2	7.4	53.5
2000	41,361	100.0	35.0	3.1	7.3	54.7
2001	40,552	100.0	33.0	3.0	8.0	56.0
2002	43,519	100.0	31.7	2.9	7.6	57.8
2003	44,938	100.0	31.0	2.7	8.2	58.2
2004	46,812	100.0	30.1	2.7	8.5	58.6
2005	48,575	100.0	28.5	2.5	8.3	60.7
2006	49,483	100.0	28.4	2.6	8.8	60.2
2007	54,882	100.0	28.3	2.6	9.0	60.1
2008	60,503	100.0	26.6	2.5	8.6	62.2
2009	67,015	100.0	24.8	2.5	8.8	63.9
2010	69,446	100.0	23.2	2.3	8.3	66.1
2011	69,206	100.0	21.9	2.3	7.9	67.8
2012	70,670	100.0	21.6	2.3	7.4	68.7
2013	63,817	100.0	22.0	2.2	7.4	68.4
2014	57,115	100.0	22.1	2.0	6.6	69.2

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2015. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2015.

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 through 1998 are available for disabled workers only.

a. Includes applications for which the disability was previously established and those for which the basis for the determination is not available. The majority of applications for which the basis of determination is not available are cases allowed at or above the hearing level.

CONTACT: (410) 965-0090 or statistics@ssa.gov.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 65.

Number and percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial, 1992–2014

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					
<i>All disabled beneficiaries</i>							
1999	450,051	100.0	10.2	17.8	28.3	30.8	12.9
2000	460,284	100.0	10.0	17.2	28.2	30.4	14.1
2001	500,414	100.0	9.2	16.7	28.0	31.1	14.9
2002	584,497	100.0	8.5	17.1	28.2	31.3	14.9
2003	636,769	100.0	7.5	17.7	28.2	31.8	14.9
2004	683,445	100.0	6.8	18.4	27.6	31.5	15.7
2005	649,134	100.0	6.5	19.2	26.7	31.4	16.3
2006	660,662	100.0	6.3	19.8	26.2	31.3	16.4
2007	650,025	100.0	6.3	20.4	26.3	31.0	16.0
2008	667,395	100.0	5.8	21.4	25.9	31.3	15.6
2009	796,534	100.0	4.7	22.5	25.4	32.3	15.2
2010	875,305	100.0	4.1	23.4	24.7	32.3	15.6
2011	881,285	100.0	3.9	23.9	20.4	33.5	18.2
2012	826,425	100.0	4.0	25.1	16.0	38.1	16.8
2013	686,426	100.0	4.3	25.6	14.6	39.8	15.7
2014	617,680	100.0	4.5	25.0	13.6	39.4	17.4
<i>Workers</i>							
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	542,493	100.0	10.2	19.6	24.7	30.6	14.8
1997	453,676	100.0	10.6	18.5	25.7	30.5	14.6
1998	426,158	100.0	10.8	18.3	27.8	30.8	12.3
1999	423,494	100.0	10.6	17.4	29.3	30.1	12.6
2000	434,363	100.0	10.4	16.8	29.3	29.7	13.9
2001	474,536	100.0	9.5	16.4	29.0	30.4	14.7
2002	554,996	100.0	8.8	16.8	29.2	30.6	14.7
2003	603,986	100.0	7.7	17.4	29.2	31.0	14.6
2004	648,622	100.0	7.0	18.2	28.5	30.8	15.4
2005	614,442	100.0	6.7	19.0	27.7	30.6	16.0
2006	620,699	100.0	6.5	19.5	27.4	30.6	16.0
2007	607,083	100.0	6.6	20.1	27.7	30.0	15.6
2008	623,261	100.0	6.1	21.2	27.3	30.3	15.1
2009	744,255	100.0	4.9	22.4	26.8	31.2	14.8
2010	817,565	100.0	4.3	23.2	26.1	31.2	15.3
2011	824,269	100.0	4.1	23.7	21.5	32.6	18.1
2012	770,803	100.0	4.2	24.9	16.9	37.4	16.6
2013	637,656	100.0	4.6	25.4	15.4	39.2	15.4
2014	575,306	100.0	4.8	24.8	14.3	38.9	17.2

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 65.

Number and percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial, 1992–2014—Continued

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					
Widow(er)s							
1999	9,735	100.0	5.6	29.0	31.8	22.7	10.8
2000	9,024	100.0	5.3	29.0	31.4	22.3	12.1
2001	8,751	100.0	4.7	27.6	31.2	22.8	13.7
2002	8,959	100.0	4.8	25.5	32.9	23.9	13.0
2003	9,577	100.0	4.2	25.7	33.1	23.7	13.3
2004	9,576	100.0	3.6	26.5	32.2	23.0	14.7
2005	9,279	100.0	3.6	26.7	32.0	22.8	15.0
2006	9,812	100.0	3.8	25.7	31.6	23.1	15.9
2007	9,007	100.0	3.6	27.3	31.2	22.0	15.9
2008	8,638	100.0	3.3	27.8	30.8	21.9	16.2
2009	8,966	100.0	2.8	28.8	30.2	22.2	16.0
2010	9,747	100.0	2.7	29.4	27.9	24.0	16.0
2011	9,832	100.0	2.9	28.2	27.0	24.9	17.0
2012	9,627	100.0	2.4	29.1	23.2	27.9	17.4
2013	8,976	100.0	2.5	29.0	21.9	30.8	15.8
2014	8,278	100.0	2.7	26.6	21.4	31.5	17.9
Adult children							
1999	16,822	100.0	3.1	22.7	0.7	53.3	20.2
2000	16,897	100.0	2.8	22.9	0.7	51.9	21.7
2001	17,127	100.0	2.5	21.3	0.9	52.9	22.3
2002	20,542	100.0	2.3	21.6	0.8	53.6	21.7
2003	23,206	100.0	2.0	21.8	0.7	53.6	21.9
2004	25,247	100.0	1.9	22.1	0.5	52.4	23.1
2005	25,413	100.0	1.8	21.3	0.4	52.8	23.8
2006	30,151	100.0	1.7	23.7	0.4	50.3	23.9
2007	33,935	100.0	1.6	24.0	0.3	49.9	24.2
2008	35,496	100.0	1.5	24.8	0.2	51.0	22.5
2009	43,313	100.0	1.2	23.4	0.1	53.5	21.8
2010	47,993	100.0	1.2	24.7	0.1	53.1	20.9
2011	47,184	100.0	1.0	26.2	0.0	52.6	20.2
2012	45,995	100.0	0.9	27.8	0.0	51.5	19.7
2013	39,794	100.0	0.9	28.0	0.0	51.1	19.9
2014	34,096	100.0	1.0	29.2	0.0	49.1	20.8

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2015. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2015.

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 through 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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