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## 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—

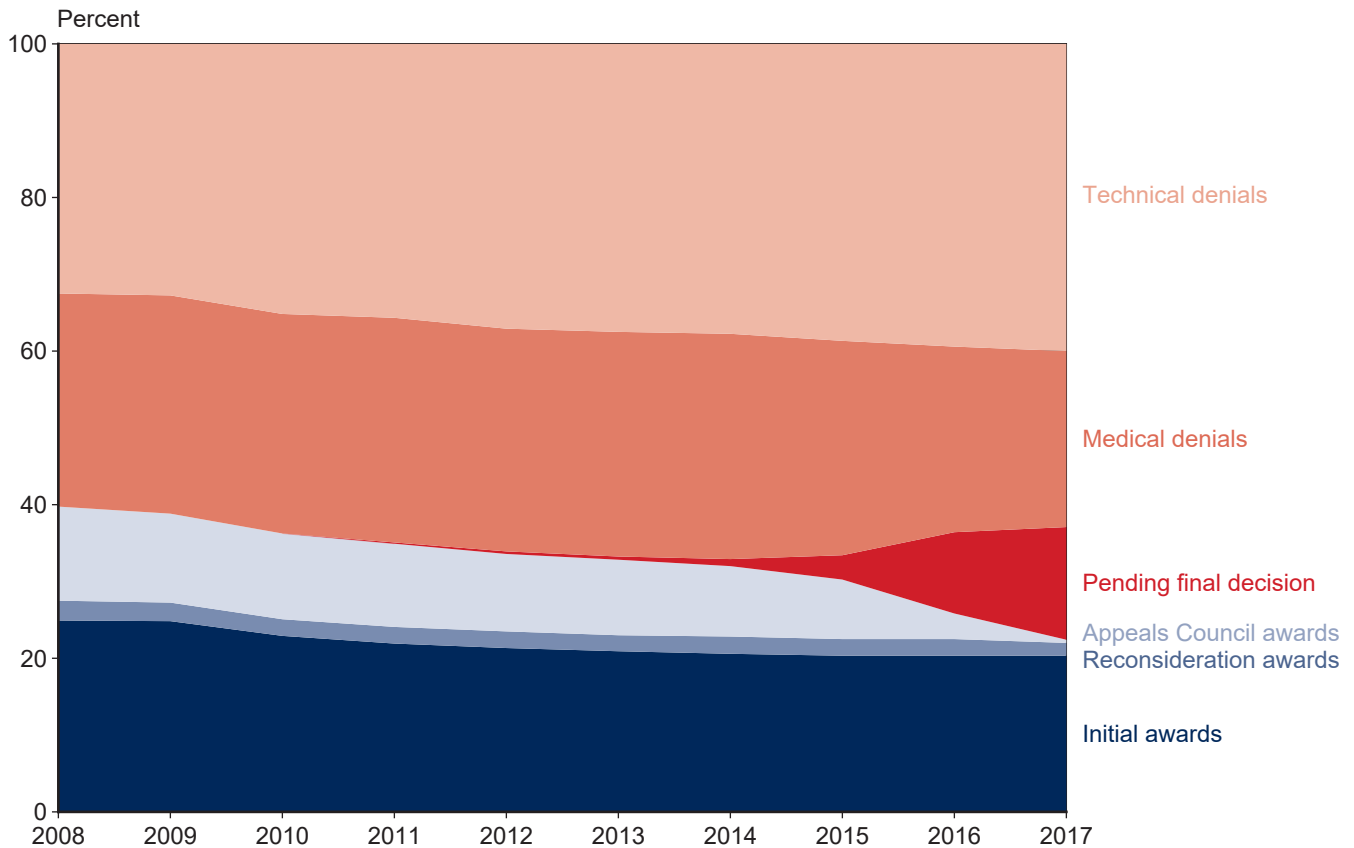
- has a listed impairment,
- has a severe impairment that is equal to a listed impairment,
- has a severe impairment when medical and vocational factors are considered, or
- had previously established entitlement to a disability benefit.

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, 2008–2017**

The final award rate for disabled-worker applicants has varied over time, averaging 33 percent for claims filed from 2008 through 2017. The percentage of applicants awarded benefits at the initial claims level averaged 22 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 9 percent, respectively. Denied disability claims have averaged 64 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, 1992–2017**

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials <sup>a</sup>	Medical decisions				Award rate <sup>d</sup> (percent)	Allowance rate <sup>e</sup> (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical <sup>b</sup>	Awards	Subsequent denials <sup>c</sup>		
<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	611,199	653,256	7,270	890,752	1,917	41.2	57.5
2007	2,216,565	0	651,753	641,811	7,914	913,269	1,818	41.2	58.5
2008	2,358,629	0	717,133	660,762	9,023	969,935	1,776	41.1	59.2
2009	2,753,012	0	845,213	789,600	10,688	1,105,663	1,848	40.2	58.1
2010	2,981,613	0	978,657	861,857	19,097	1,119,927	2,075	37.6	56.0
2011	2,952,087	5,450	981,943	868,153	20,774	1,073,705	2,062	36.4	54.8
2012	2,955,922	7,618	1,024,501	861,885	23,864	1,035,772	2,282	35.1	54.0
2013	2,790,680	12,103	971,096	820,040	25,035	960,161	2,245	34.6	53.2
2014	2,687,338	23,908	936,915	789,043	27,165	908,021	2,286	34.1	52.7
2015	2,547,661	79,755	904,240	710,383	27,935	823,035	2,313	33.3	52.8
2016	2,422,539	248,982	875,089	589,373	29,145	677,870	2,080	31.2	52.4
2017	2,258,949	320,565	829,717	520,862	28,175	557,804	1,826	28.8	50.5
<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	606,435	613,407	7,164	811,818	1,858	39.8	56.8
2007	2,083,897	0	646,511	599,001	7,799	828,834	1,752	39.8	57.8
2008	2,217,126	0	711,536	616,715	8,892	878,274	1,709	39.6	58.4
2009	2,595,028	0	839,226	737,401	10,540	1,006,088	1,773	38.8	57.4
2010	2,809,477	0	968,175	804,621	18,496	1,016,177	2,008	36.2	55.3
2011	2,780,977	5,332	971,079	811,500	20,280	970,789	1,997	35.0	53.9
2012	2,776,214	7,439	1,009,093	805,631	22,774	929,117	2,160	33.6	52.9
2013	2,620,313	11,779	958,261	766,893	24,071	857,161	2,148	32.9	52.1
2014	2,523,708	23,263	924,812	740,177	26,118	807,133	2,205	32.3	51.4
2015	2,383,369	77,139	892,544	665,509	26,872	719,092	2,213	31.2	51.0
2016	2,272,123	241,523	864,226	550,880	28,110	585,414	1,970	28.8	50.4
2017	2,117,725	311,214	819,677	485,748	27,239	472,091	1,756	26.1	48.0

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 60.**  
**Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2017—Continued**

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials <sup>a</sup>	Medical decisions				Award rate <sup>d</sup> (percent)	Allowance rate <sup>e</sup> (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical <sup>b</sup>	Awards	Subsequent denials <sup>c</sup>		
<b>Widow(er)s</b>									
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	8,975	28	29,540	27	72.4	76.7
2008	42,140	0	2,329	8,622	31	31,137	21	73.9	78.3
2009	44,059	0	2,551	8,944	43	32,501	20	73.8	78.3
2010	47,583	0	3,543	9,710	82	34,225	23	71.9	77.8
2011	47,011	34	3,499	9,789	74	33,581	34	71.5	77.3
2012	51,351	57	5,847	9,861	242	35,291	53	68.8	77.8
2013	49,596	104	5,112	9,928	261	34,148	43	69.0	77.0
2014	48,048	206	4,622	9,563	268	33,352	37	69.7	77.3
2015	45,839	809	4,470	8,430	294	31,799	37	70.6	78.5
2016	42,363	2,649	4,086	7,201	272	28,110	45	70.8	79.0
2017	38,889	3,349	3,719	6,422	292	25,081	26	70.6	78.9

(Continued)

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 60.**  
**Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2017—Continued**

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials <sup>a</sup>	Medical decisions				Award rate <sup>d</sup> (percent)	Allowance rate <sup>e</sup> (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical <sup>b</sup>	Awards	Subsequent denials <sup>c</sup>		
<b>Adult children</b>									
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	30,075	68	49,491	36	60.2	62.2
2007	91,887	0	3,031	33,835	87	54,895	39	59.7	61.8
2008	99,363	0	3,268	35,425	100	60,524	46	60.9	63.0
2009	113,925	0	3,436	43,255	105	67,074	55	58.9	60.8
2010	124,553	0	6,939	47,526	519	69,525	44	55.8	59.2
2011	124,099	84	7,365	46,864	420	69,335	31	55.9	59.5
2012	128,357	122	9,561	46,393	848	71,364	69	55.7	60.2
2013	120,771	220	7,723	43,219	703	68,852	54	57.1	61.1
2014	115,582	439	7,481	39,303	779	67,536	44	58.7	62.8
2015	118,453	1,807	7,226	36,444	769	72,144	63	61.8	66.0
2016	108,053	4,810	6,777	31,292	763	64,346	65	62.3	66.8
2017	102,335	6,002	6,321	28,692	644	60,632	44	62.9	67.4

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2018. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2018.

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.

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

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

**Table 61.**  
**Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program,**  
**1992–2017**

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)
<i>All disabled beneficiaries</i>									
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	1,553,228	562,208	36.2	753,222	363,226	48.2	800,006	198,982	24.9
2007	1,564,868	583,058	37.3	757,294	377,352	49.8	807,574	205,706	25.5
2008	1,641,539	635,422	38.7	783,521	408,893	52.2	858,018	226,529	26.4
2009	1,907,836	734,377	38.5	922,344	480,869	52.1	985,492	253,508	25.7
2010	2,003,002	739,033	36.9	990,982	496,197	50.1	1,012,020	242,836	24.0
2011	1,970,158	703,235	35.7	987,974	478,703	48.5	982,184	224,532	22.9
2012	1,931,430	689,089	35.7	989,598	474,797	48.0	941,832	214,292	22.8
2013	1,819,547	643,187	35.3	966,385	450,077	46.6	853,162	193,110	22.6
2014	1,750,343	615,370	35.2	981,331	441,660	45.0	769,012	173,710	22.6
2015	1,642,927	582,135	35.4	940,830	423,495	45.0	702,097	158,640	22.6
2016	1,546,268	550,971	35.6	897,544	402,306	44.8	648,724	148,665	22.9
2017	1,424,640	514,906	36.1	826,746	376,048	45.5	597,894	138,858	23.2
<i>Workers</i>									
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	1,434,280	489,529	34.1	675,523	303,051	44.9	758,757	186,478	24.6
2007	1,437,440	505,946	35.2	676,179	314,355	46.5	761,261	191,591	25.2
2008	1,505,630	552,705	36.7	697,893	340,958	48.9	807,737	211,747	26.2
2009	1,755,838	644,664	36.7	830,757	407,850	49.1	925,081	236,814	25.6
2010	1,841,345	645,015	35.0	894,492	419,030	46.8	946,853	225,985	23.9
2011	1,809,913	610,233	33.7	890,680	401,247	45.0	919,233	208,986	22.7
2012	1,767,127	592,401	33.5	887,246	393,336	44.3	879,881	199,065	22.6
2013	1,662,010	549,354	33.1	867,101	370,614	42.7	794,909	178,740	22.5
2014	1,598,818	522,801	32.7	882,760	362,635	41.1	716,058	160,166	22.4
2015	1,490,369	485,206	32.6	838,277	339,763	40.5	652,092	145,443	22.3
2016	1,406,797	462,449	32.9	803,458	326,131	40.6	603,339	136,318	22.6
2017	1,293,640	430,877	33.3	737,016	303,165	41.1	556,624	127,712	22.9

(Continued)

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 61.**  
**Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program,**  
**1992–2017—Continued**

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>Widow(er)s</b>									
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	25,546	66.2	27,586	21,181	76.8	10,984	4,365	39.7
2008	39,811	26,777	67.3	28,194	22,185	78.7	11,617	4,592	39.5
2009	41,508	27,814	67.0	28,929	22,797	78.8	12,579	5,017	39.9
2010	44,040	29,501	67.0	30,599	24,203	79.1	13,441	5,298	39.4
2011	43,512	28,698	66.0	30,384	23,801	78.3	13,128	4,897	37.3
2012	45,502	30,476	67.0	32,403	25,662	79.2	13,099	4,814	36.8
2013	44,487	29,531	66.4	31,757	25,008	78.7	12,730	4,523	35.5
2014	43,429	28,989	66.8	31,404	24,787	78.9	12,025	4,202	34.9
2015	41,367	28,169	68.1	30,274	24,228	80.0	11,093	3,941	35.5
2016	38,261	26,100	68.2	28,080	22,450	80.0	10,181	3,650	35.9
2017	35,129	24,322	69.2	26,002	21,103	81.2	9,127	3,219	35.3

(Continued)

**Table 61.**  
**Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program,**  
**1992–2017—Continued**

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>Adult children</b>									
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	47,095	59.1	49,245	38,776	78.7	30,425	8,319	27.3
2007	88,858	51,566	58.0	53,529	41,816	78.1	35,329	9,750	27.6
2008	96,098	55,940	58.2	57,434	45,750	79.7	38,664	10,190	26.4
2009	110,490	61,899	56.0	62,658	50,222	80.2	47,832	11,677	24.4
2010	117,617	64,517	54.9	65,891	52,964	80.4	51,726	11,553	22.3
2011	116,733	64,304	55.1	66,910	53,655	80.2	49,823	10,649	21.4
2012	118,801	66,212	55.7	69,949	55,799	79.8	48,852	10,413	21.3
2013	113,050	64,302	56.9	67,527	54,455	80.6	45,523	9,847	21.6
2014	108,096	63,580	58.8	67,167	54,238	80.8	40,929	9,342	22.8
2015	111,191	68,760	61.8	72,279	59,504	82.3	38,912	9,256	23.8
2016	101,210	62,422	61.7	66,006	53,725	81.4	35,204	8,697	24.7
2017	95,871	59,707	62.3	63,728	51,780	81.3	32,143	7,927	24.7

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2018.

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](mailto:statistics@ssa.gov).



## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 62.**  
**Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program,**  
**1992–2017**

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)
<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	514,442	51,156	9.9	227,921	26,078	11.4	286,521	25,078	8.8
2007	519,254	57,038	11.0	224,454	29,822	13.3	294,800	27,216	9.2
2008	546,426	59,255	10.8	222,900	29,954	13.4	323,526	29,301	9.1
2009	644,224	64,087	9.9	264,493	33,217	12.6	379,731	30,870	8.1
2010	706,098	63,201	9.0	299,847	34,300	11.4	406,251	28,901	7.1
2011	724,423	65,188	9.0	314,332	36,367	11.6	410,091	28,821	7.0
2012	714,079	62,532	8.8	316,694	34,938	11.0	397,385	27,594	6.9
2013	682,276	56,712	8.3	316,168	32,196	10.2	366,108	24,516	6.7
2014	644,137	56,651	8.8	316,477	33,626	10.6	327,660	23,025	7.0
2015	571,979	55,595	9.7	290,958	33,525	11.5	281,021	22,070	7.9
2016	525,007	52,434	10.0	271,852	32,474	11.9	253,155	19,960	7.9
2017	398,812	36,950	9.3	207,789	23,421	11.3	191,023	13,529	7.1
<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	500,913	48,406	9.7	222,465	25,256	11.4	278,448	23,150	8.3
2007	503,473	54,434	10.8	218,683	28,950	13.2	284,790	25,484	8.9
2008	527,774	56,838	10.8	216,971	29,111	13.4	310,803	27,727	8.9
2009	621,676	61,289	9.9	258,019	32,314	12.5	363,657	28,975	8.0
2010	681,806	60,438	8.9	293,218	33,391	11.4	388,588	27,047	7.0
2011	699,625	62,378	8.9	307,191	35,410	11.5	392,434	26,968	6.9
2012	688,165	59,816	8.7	309,015	34,002	11.0	379,150	25,814	6.8
2013	657,724	54,292	8.3	308,963	31,372	10.2	348,761	22,920	6.6
2014	621,924	54,316	8.7	309,595	32,827	10.6	312,329	21,489	6.9
2015	551,757	53,211	9.6	284,516	32,683	11.5	267,241	20,528	7.7
2016	507,190	50,341	9.9	266,036	31,725	11.9	241,154	18,616	7.7
2017	385,548	35,502	9.2	203,408	22,844	11.2	182,140	12,658	6.9

(Continued)

**Table 62.**  
**Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program,**  
**1992–2017—Continued**

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>Widow(er)s</b>									
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	1,144	19.2	2,887	462	16.0	3,061	682	22.3
2008	6,347	921	14.5	2,858	391	13.7	3,489	530	15.2
2009	6,988	1,077	15.4	3,044	446	14.7	3,944	631	16.0
2010	7,359	1,055	14.3	3,073	462	15.0	4,286	593	13.8
2011	7,843	1,132	14.4	3,366	504	15.0	4,477	628	14.0
2012	8,134	1,114	13.7	3,541	479	13.5	4,593	635	13.8
2013	8,101	1,026	12.7	3,485	454	13.0	4,616	572	12.4
2014	7,829	1,021	13.0	3,419	462	13.5	4,410	559	12.7
2015	6,919	997	14.4	3,030	435	14.4	3,889	562	14.5
2016	6,242	830	13.3	2,734	383	14.0	3,508	447	12.7
2017	4,430	568	12.8	1,920	279	14.5	2,510	289	11.5

(Continued)

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 62.**  
**Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program,**  
**1992–2017—Continued**

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>Adult children</b>									
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	1,442	19.1	2,336	361	15.5	5,208	1,081	20.8
2007	9,833	1,460	14.8	2,884	410	14.2	6,949	1,050	15.1
2008	12,305	1,496	12.2	3,071	452	14.7	9,234	1,044	11.3
2009	15,560	1,721	11.1	3,430	457	13.3	12,130	1,264	10.4
2010	16,933	1,708	10.1	3,556	447	12.6	13,377	1,261	9.4
2011	16,955	1,678	9.9	3,775	453	12.0	13,180	1,225	9.3
2012	17,780	1,602	9.0	4,138	457	11.0	13,642	1,145	8.4
2013	16,451	1,394	8.5	3,720	370	9.9	12,731	1,024	8.0
2014	14,384	1,314	9.1	3,463	337	9.7	10,921	977	8.9
2015	13,303	1,387	10.4	3,412	407	11.9	9,891	980	9.9
2016	11,575	1,263	10.9	3,082	366	11.9	8,493	897	10.6
2017	8,834	880	10.0	2,461	298	12.1	6,373	582	9.1

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2018.

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](mailto:statistics@ssa.gov).

**Table 63.**  
**Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program,**  
**1992–2017**

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)
<i>All disabled beneficiaries</i>									
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	387,021	279,305	72.2	176,337	142,420	80.8	210,684	136,885	65.0
2007	387,412	274,991	71.0	169,876	136,134	80.1	217,536	138,857	63.8
2008	405,203	277,034	68.4	167,464	131,704	78.6	237,739	145,330	61.1
2009	482,355	309,047	64.1	200,291	150,163	75.0	282,064	158,884	56.3
2010	537,441	319,768	59.5	230,392	162,578	70.6	307,049	157,190	51.2
2011	548,633	307,344	56.0	238,793	159,877	67.0	309,840	147,467	47.6
2012	546,625	286,433	52.4	242,599	153,216	63.2	304,026	133,217	43.8
2013	525,788	262,507	49.9	244,075	145,575	59.6	281,713	116,932	41.5
2014	476,796	238,286	50.0	234,874	137,270	58.4	241,922	101,016	41.8
2015	353,649	187,618	53.1	183,423	112,570	61.4	170,226	75,048	44.1
2016	143,447	76,545	53.4	78,700	47,837	60.8	64,747	28,708	44.3
2017	15,896	7,774	48.9	9,830	5,501	56.0	6,066	2,273	37.5
<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	204,704	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	381,766	275,741	72.2	173,088	140,092	80.9	208,678	135,649	65.0
2007	379,554	270,206	71.2	166,457	133,740	80.3	213,097	136,466	64.0
2008	393,931	270,440	68.7	163,640	128,949	78.8	230,291	141,491	61.4
2009	468,950	301,908	64.4	196,266	147,365	75.1	272,684	154,543	56.7
2010	523,016	312,732	59.8	226,169	159,795	70.7	296,847	152,937	51.5
2011	533,730	300,175	56.2	234,202	156,908	67.0	299,528	143,267	47.8
2012	530,189	279,060	52.6	237,590	150,160	63.2	292,599	128,900	44.1
2013	509,965	255,663	50.1	239,246	142,731	59.7	270,719	112,932	41.7
2014	463,346	232,221	50.1	230,471	134,651	58.4	232,875	97,570	41.9
2015	343,745	182,888	53.2	180,030	110,446	61.3	163,715	72,442	44.2
2016	139,703	74,594	53.4	77,264	46,855	60.6	62,439	27,739	44.4
2017	15,355	7,468	48.6	9,521	5,269	55.3	5,834	2,199	37.7

(Continued)

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 63.**

**Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program, 1992–2017—Continued**

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>Widow(er)s</b>									
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	4,404	3,460	78.6	2,056	1,709	83.1	2,348	1,751	74.6
2009	4,775	3,630	76.0	2,126	1,742	81.9	2,649	1,888	71.3
2010	5,177	3,692	71.3	2,192	1,701	77.6	2,985	1,991	66.7
2011	5,386	3,785	70.3	2,359	1,774	75.2	3,027	2,011	66.4
2012	5,755	3,754	65.2	2,526	1,804	71.4	3,229	1,950	60.4
2013	5,855	3,634	62.1	2,521	1,735	68.8	3,334	1,899	57.0
2014	5,475	3,379	61.7	2,382	1,616	67.8	3,093	1,763	57.0
2015	4,079	2,670	65.5	1,823	1,331	73.0	2,256	1,339	59.4
2016	1,751	1,225	70.0	898	693	77.2	853	532	62.4
2017	278	217	78.1	193	171	88.6	85	46	54.1

(Continued)

**Table 63.**  
**Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program,**  
**1992–2017—Continued**

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>Adult children</b>									
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	990	47.5	1,162	602	51.8	921	388	42.1
2007	4,216	1,908	45.3	1,459	793	54.4	2,757	1,115	40.4
2008	6,868	3,134	45.6	1,768	1,046	59.2	5,100	2,088	40.9
2009	8,630	3,509	40.7	1,899	1,056	55.6	6,731	2,453	36.4
2010	9,248	3,344	36.2	2,031	1,082	53.3	7,217	2,262	31.3
2011	9,517	3,384	35.6	2,232	1,195	53.5	7,285	2,189	30.0
2012	10,681	3,619	33.9	2,483	1,252	50.4	8,198	2,367	28.9
2013	9,968	3,210	32.2	2,308	1,109	48.1	7,660	2,101	27.4
2014	7,975	2,686	33.7	2,021	1,003	49.6	5,954	1,683	28.3
2015	5,825	2,060	35.4	1,570	793	50.5	4,255	1,267	29.8
2016	1,993	726	36.4	538	289	53.7	1,455	437	30.0
2017	263	89	33.8	116	61	52.6	147	28	19.0

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

NOTES: Data are current through July 2018.

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](mailto: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, 1992–2017**

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percent				
<b>All disabled beneficiaries</b>						
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	890,752	100.0	26.4	4.5	31.9	37.3
2007	913,269	100.0	26.1	4.6	32.7	36.6
2008	969,935	100.0	25.5	5.2	34.1	35.2
2009	1,105,663	100.0	24.3	5.2	35.7	34.8
2010	1,119,927	100.0	23.1	5.1	36.3	35.6
2011	1,073,705	100.0	22.4	5.0	37.6	35.0
2012	1,035,772	100.0	22.1	5.0	38.2	34.7
2013	960,161	100.0	22.5	4.8	37.3	35.4
2014	908,021	100.0	23.3	4.6	37.1	35.0
2015	823,035	100.0	25.2	4.6	37.3	32.8
2016	677,870	100.0	30.7	5.2	41.8	22.3
2017	557,804	100.0	35.9	5.6	43.9	14.6
<b>Workers</b>						
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	811,818	100.0	26.9	4.7	33.5	34.9
2007	828,834	100.0	26.5	4.9	34.6	34.0
2008	878,274	100.0	26.0	5.5	36.2	32.3
2009	1,006,088	100.0	24.8	5.5	37.8	31.9
2010	1,016,177	100.0	23.6	5.4	38.5	32.5
2011	970,789	100.0	23.0	5.3	40.1	31.6
2012	929,117	100.0	22.8	5.3	41.1	30.8
2013	857,161	100.0	23.3	5.1	40.3	31.3
2014	807,133	100.0	24.2	5.0	40.2	30.5
2015	719,092	100.0	26.6	5.0	41.2	27.2
2016	585,414	100.0	32.8	5.8	46.8	14.7
2017	472,091	100.0	39.2	6.3	50.1	4.4

(Continued)

**Table 64.**

**Number and percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2017—Continued**

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percent				
<i>Widow(er)s</i>						
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	29,540	100.0	9.1	1.6	24.3	64.9
2008	31,137	100.0	8.7	1.7	24.8	64.7
2009	32,501	100.0	8.1	1.9	26.0	63.9
2010	34,225	100.0	7.7	1.9	25.3	65.1
2011	33,581	100.0	7.8	1.7	25.3	65.3
2012	35,291	100.0	6.8	1.6	24.2	67.4
2013	34,148	100.0	6.2	1.6	23.0	69.2
2014	33,352	100.0	6.3	1.5	21.7	70.5
2015	31,799	100.0	6.7	1.3	21.5	70.6
2016	28,110	100.0	6.9	1.3	21.8	70.0
2017	25,081	100.0	7.5	1.3	20.8	70.4

(Continued)



## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 64.**

**Number and percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2017—Continued**

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percent				
<i>Adult children</i>						
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	49,491	100.0	28.4	2.6	8.8	60.2
2007	54,895	100.0	28.3	2.6	9.0	60.1
2008	60,524	100.0	26.6	2.5	8.6	62.3
2009	67,074	100.0	24.8	2.5	8.8	63.9
2010	69,525	100.0	23.2	2.3	8.3	66.1
2011	69,335	100.0	21.9	2.3	7.9	67.9
2012	71,364	100.0	21.4	2.2	7.3	69.0
2013	68,852	100.0	21.0	2.0	7.0	69.9
2014	67,536	100.0	20.7	1.9	6.6	70.8
2015	72,144	100.0	19.8	1.7	5.9	72.5
2016	64,346	100.0	22.0	1.7	5.8	70.5
2017	60,632	100.0	22.1	1.7	5.0	71.1

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2018. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2018.

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](mailto: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, 1992–2017

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 <sup>a</sup>
	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	660,526	100.0	6.3	19.8	26.2	31.3	16.4
2007	649,725	100.0	6.3	20.4	26.3	30.9	16.0
2008	669,785	100.0	5.8	21.4	26.0	31.3	15.5
2009	800,288	100.0	4.6	22.5	25.4	32.3	15.1
2010	880,954	100.0	4.1	23.3	24.7	32.3	15.5
2011	888,927	100.0	3.9	23.9	20.4	33.6	18.3
2012	885,749	100.0	3.8	24.8	16.2	39.0	16.3
2013	845,075	100.0	4.0	25.0	15.1	42.3	13.6
2014	816,208	100.0	4.0	24.8	13.8	42.4	15.0
2015	738,318	100.0	4.3	24.6	11.6	42.3	17.2
2016	618,518	100.0	4.6	24.2	10.2	41.4	19.6
2017	549,037	100.0	4.7	24.2	9.4	40.8	20.9
<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	620,571	100.0	6.5	19.5	27.4	30.6	16.0
2007	606,800	100.0	6.6	20.1	27.7	30.0	15.6
2008	625,607	100.0	6.1	21.1	27.4	30.3	15.1
2009	747,941	100.0	4.9	22.3	26.8	31.2	14.7
2010	823,117	100.0	4.3	23.2	26.1	31.2	15.2
2011	831,780	100.0	4.1	23.7	21.4	32.6	18.2
2012	828,405	100.0	4.0	24.5	17.0	38.4	16.1
2013	790,964	100.0	4.2	24.8	15.9	41.9	13.3
2014	766,295	100.0	4.2	24.5	14.4	42.1	14.8
2015	692,381	100.0	4.5	24.3	12.2	42.1	17.1
2016	578,990	100.0	4.8	23.9	10.7	41.1	19.5
2017	512,987	100.0	5.0	23.8	9.9	40.6	20.8

(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, 1992–2017—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 <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percent					
<i>Widow(er)s</i>							
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	9,003	100.0	3.6	27.3	31.3	21.9	15.9
2008	8,653	100.0	3.3	27.8	30.8	21.9	16.2
2009	8,987	100.0	2.8	28.8	30.2	22.2	16.0
2010	9,792	100.0	2.7	29.4	28.0	24.0	16.0
2011	9,863	100.0	2.9	28.2	27.0	24.9	17.1
2012	10,103	100.0	2.4	28.8	23.5	28.4	16.9
2013	10,189	100.0	2.4	28.6	22.2	32.4	14.4
2014	9,831	100.0	2.3	27.5	21.5	32.9	15.8
2015	8,724	100.0	2.3	26.5	20.6	33.0	17.6
2016	7,473	100.0	2.5	26.0	17.8	34.0	19.8
2017	6,714	100.0	2.4	25.4	17.4	33.1	21.8

(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, 1992–2017—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 <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percent					
<i>Adult children</i>							
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	30,143	100.0	1.7	23.6	0.4	50.3	23.9
2007	33,922	100.0	1.6	24.0	0.3	49.9	24.2
2008	35,525	100.0	1.5	24.8	0.2	51.0	22.5
2009	43,360	100.0	1.2	23.4	0.1	53.5	21.8
2010	48,045	100.0	1.2	24.7	0.1	53.1	20.9
2011	47,284	100.0	1.0	26.2	0.0	52.6	20.2
2012	47,241	100.0	0.9	27.7	0.0	51.9	19.4
2013	43,922	100.0	0.9	28.1	0.0	52.2	18.8
2014	40,082	100.0	0.9	29.4	0.0	50.5	19.2
2015	37,213	100.0	0.9	30.0	0.0	49.1	20.1
2016	32,055	100.0	0.9	28.8	0.0	48.3	21.9
2017	29,336	100.0	0.9	30.3	0.0	46.6	22.2

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2018. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2018.

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.

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