
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—

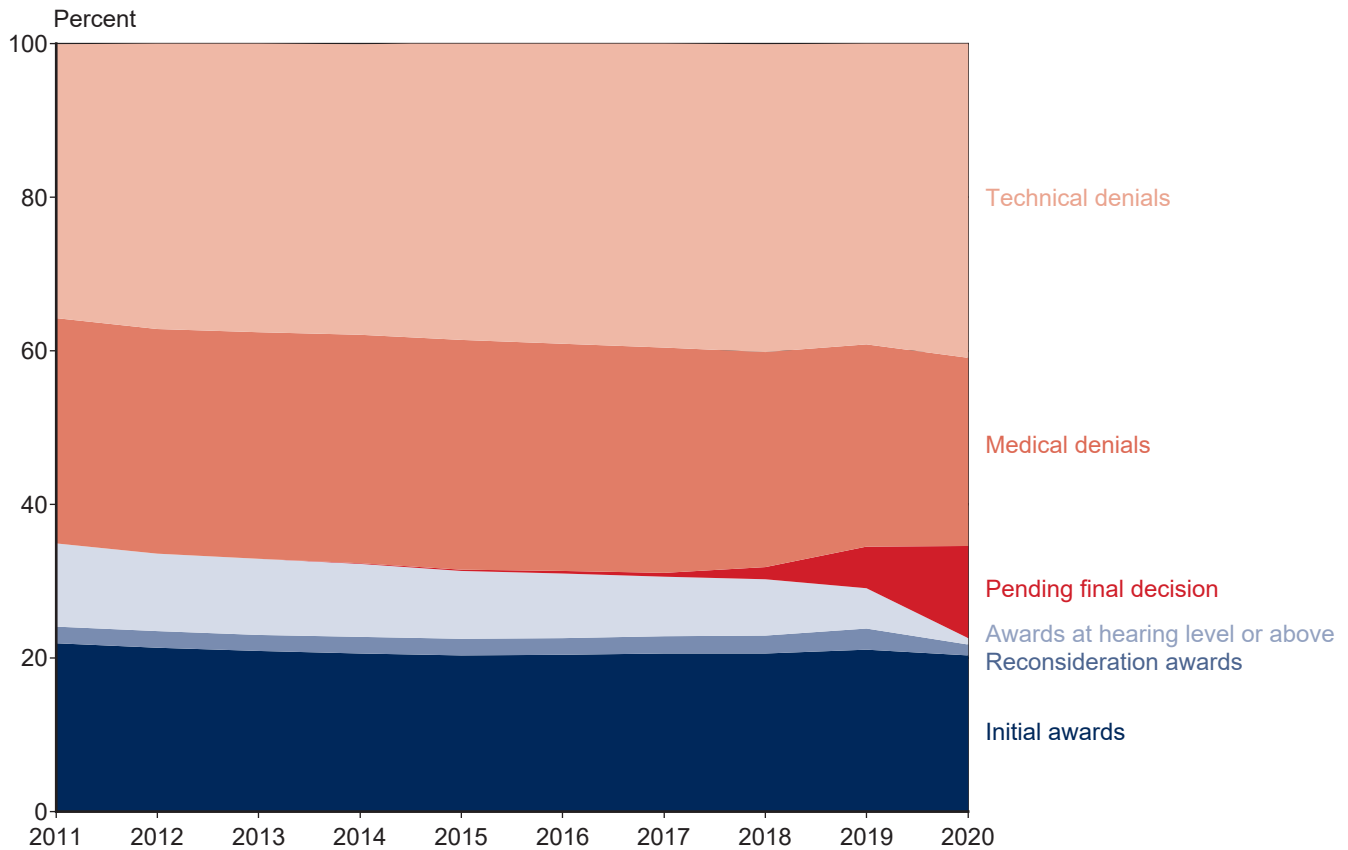
- has a listed impairment,
- has a severe impairment that is equal to a listed impairment,
- has a severe impairment when medical and vocational factors are considered, or
- had previously established entitlement to a disability benefit.

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, 2011–2020

The final award rate for disabled-worker applicants has varied over time, averaging 31 percent for claims filed from 2011 through 2020. The percentage of applicants awarded benefits at the initial claims level averaged 21 percent over the same period and ranged from a high of 22 percent to a low of 20 percent. The percentages of applicants awarded at the reconsideration and hearing levels have averaged 2 percent and 8 percent, respectively. Denied disability claims have averaged 67 percent. Denied disability claims have averaged 67 percent.



SOURCE: Tables 60–63.

NOTE: 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.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 60.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2020

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	611,199	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	845,192	789,506	10,686	1,105,781	1,847	40.2	58.1
2010	2,981,615	0	978,627	861,506	19,094	1,120,313	2,075	37.6	56.0
2011	2,952,112	0	981,930	872,759	20,762	1,074,600	2,061	36.4	54.6
2012	2,955,946	0	1,024,477	867,393	23,848	1,037,950	2,278	35.1	53.9
2013	2,790,688	0	971,052	827,416	24,976	964,999	2,245	34.6	53.2
2014	2,687,365	3,820	936,811	800,691	27,033	916,728	2,282	34.2	52.6
2015	2,547,682	4,030	904,263	758,670	27,523	850,895	2,301	33.5	52.0
2016	2,430,101	5,941	875,683	715,441	27,386	803,663	1,987	33.2	52.0
2017	2,306,263	10,626	834,214	672,761	28,181	758,542	1,939	33.0	52.0
2018	2,226,343	35,665	811,115	621,105	29,975	726,398	2,085	33.2	52.8
2019	2,174,707	113,268	774,327	578,744	30,252	676,175	1,941	32.8	52.7
2020	1,882,440	218,510	707,021	468,290	26,321	460,891	1,407	27.7	48.3

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 60.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2020—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		
Workers									
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	839,206	737,312	10,538	1,006,200	1,772	38.8	57.4
2010	2,809,479	0	968,148	804,279	18,493	1,016,551	2,008	36.2	55.3
2011	2,780,981	0	971,069	815,997	20,268	971,651	1,996	34.9	53.8
2012	2,776,221	0	1,009,064	811,022	22,758	931,221	2,156	33.5	52.8
2013	2,620,315	0	958,220	774,066	24,016	861,865	2,148	32.9	52.0
2014	2,523,715	3,692	924,713	751,546	25,988	815,575	2,201	32.4	51.3
2015	2,383,373	3,869	892,546	712,270	26,474	746,011	2,203	31.4	50.3
2016	2,275,572	5,730	864,686	672,644	26,395	704,244	1,873	31.0	50.3
2017	2,153,538	10,177	823,589	631,439	27,166	659,325	1,842	30.8	50.1
2018	2,068,395	33,995	799,348	579,085	28,808	625,204	1,955	30.7	50.8
2019	2,023,278	108,882	761,716	532,680	28,782	589,484	1,734	30.8	51.3
2020	1,765,548	211,834	696,784	433,225	24,996	397,443	1,266	25.6	46.5

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 60.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2020—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	8,975	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	8,943	43	32,502	20	73.8	78.4
2010	47,583	0	3,543	9,707	82	34,228	23	71.9	77.8
2011	47,030	0	3,498	9,835	74	33,589	34	71.4	77.2
2012	51,363	0	5,850	9,902	242	35,316	53	68.8	77.7
2013	49,596	0	5,109	9,994	261	34,189	43	68.9	76.9
2014	48,057	37	4,620	9,650	266	33,447	37	69.7	77.2
2015	45,845	37	4,466	8,852	289	32,164	37	70.2	77.9
2016	43,054	65	4,108	8,205	250	30,384	42	70.7	78.3
2017	41,000	104	3,842	7,759	284	28,979	32	70.9	78.3
2018	39,451	345	3,938	7,689	331	27,106	42	69.3	77.2
2019	38,943	1,286	4,418	8,929	470	23,769	71	63.1	71.7
2020	32,247	2,485	3,723	7,389	576	18,017	57	60.5	69.4

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 60.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2020—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		
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	30,075	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	3,435	43,251	105	67,079	55	58.9	60.8
2010	124,553	0	6,936	47,520	519	69,534	44	55.8	59.2
2011	124,101	0	7,363	46,927	420	69,360	31	55.9	59.4
2012	128,362	0	9,563	46,469	848	71,413	69	55.6	60.2
2013	120,777	0	7,723	43,356	699	68,945	54	57.1	61.0
2014	115,593	91	7,478	39,495	779	67,706	44	58.6	62.7
2015	118,464	124	7,251	37,548	760	72,720	61	61.5	65.5
2016	111,475	146	6,889	34,592	741	69,035	72	62.0	66.2
2017	111,725	345	6,783	33,563	731	70,238	65	63.1	67.2
2018	118,497	1,325	7,829	34,331	836	74,088	88	63.2	67.8
2019	112,486	3,100	8,193	37,135	1,000	62,922	136	57.5	62.3
2020	84,645	4,191	6,514	27,676	749	45,431	84	56.5	61.6

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2021. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2021.

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.

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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 61.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program,
1992–2020

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	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	1,907,857	734,410	38.5	922,365	480,888	52.1	985,492	253,522	25.7
2010	2,003,031	739,092	36.9	991,011	496,238	50.1	1,012,020	242,854	24.0
2011	1,970,235	703,312	35.7	988,039	478,747	48.5	982,196	224,565	22.9
2012	1,931,557	689,218	35.7	989,716	474,882	48.0	941,841	214,336	22.8
2013	1,819,719	643,369	35.4	966,554	450,208	46.6	853,165	193,161	22.6
2014	1,750,591	615,839	35.2	981,570	441,967	45.0	769,021	173,872	22.6
2015	1,643,473	583,047	35.5	941,375	424,102	45.1	702,098	158,945	22.6
2016	1,554,438	557,629	35.9	904,357	407,775	45.1	650,081	149,854	23.1
2017	1,472,052	538,415	36.6	855,174	393,527	46.0	616,878	144,888	23.5
2018	1,414,966	523,444	37.0	830,561	381,988	46.0	584,405	141,456	24.2
2019	1,398,974	508,794	36.4	803,806	362,929	45.2	595,168	145,865	24.5
2020	1,166,897	420,818	36.1	716,401	312,151	43.6	450,496	108,667	24.1

(Continued)

Table 61.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program,
1992–2020—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)
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	1,434,280	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	1,755,858	644,692	36.7	830,777	407,867	49.1	925,081	236,825	25.6
2010	1,841,372	645,070	35.0	894,519	419,068	46.8	946,853	226,002	23.9
2011	1,809,962	610,298	33.7	890,729	401,279	45.1	919,233	209,019	22.7
2012	1,767,234	592,513	33.5	887,353	393,408	44.3	879,881	199,105	22.6
2013	1,662,169	549,511	33.1	867,259	370,725	42.7	794,910	178,786	22.5
2014	1,599,032	523,207	32.7	882,974	362,909	41.1	716,058	160,298	22.4
2015	1,490,877	486,047	32.6	838,789	340,333	40.6	652,088	145,714	22.3
2016	1,410,909	465,577	33.0	806,700	328,371	40.7	604,209	137,206	22.7
2017	1,329,957	446,023	33.5	756,619	313,195	41.4	573,338	132,828	23.2
2018	1,268,805	428,901	33.8	726,636	299,855	41.3	542,169	129,046	23.8
2019	1,260,249	428,248	34.0	706,302	294,637	41.7	553,947	133,611	24.1
2020	1,060,557	358,994	33.8	638,554	258,530	40.5	422,003	100,464	23.8

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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 61.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program,
1992–2020—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	25,546	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	27,815	67.0	28,929	22,797	78.8	12,579	5,018	39.9
2010	44,040	29,501	67.0	30,599	24,203	79.1	13,441	5,298	39.4
2011	43,532	28,700	65.9	30,393	23,803	78.3	13,139	4,897	37.3
2012	45,517	30,477	67.0	32,409	25,662	79.2	13,108	4,815	36.7
2013	44,490	29,537	66.4	31,760	25,013	78.8	12,730	4,524	35.5
2014	43,441	28,996	66.7	31,412	24,793	78.9	12,029	4,203	34.9
2015	41,381	28,184	68.1	30,286	24,238	80.0	11,095	3,946	35.6
2016	38,945	26,716	68.6	28,742	23,040	80.2	10,203	3,676	36.0
2017	37,159	25,748	69.3	27,677	22,372	80.8	9,482	3,376	35.6
2018	35,511	23,957	67.5	26,516	20,698	78.1	8,995	3,259	36.2
2019	34,509	20,727	60.1	25,577	17,380	68.0	8,932	3,347	37.5
2020	28,451	17,236	60.6	21,757	14,724	67.7	6,694	2,512	37.5

(Continued)

Table 61.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program,
1992–2020—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	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	110,491	61,903	56.0	62,659	50,224	80.2	47,832	11,679	24.4
2010	117,619	64,521	54.9	65,893	52,967	80.4	51,726	11,554	22.3
2011	116,741	64,314	55.1	66,917	53,665	80.2	49,824	10,649	21.4
2012	118,806	66,228	55.7	69,954	55,812	79.8	48,852	10,416	21.3
2013	113,060	64,321	56.9	67,535	54,470	80.7	45,525	9,851	21.6
2014	108,118	63,636	58.9	67,184	54,265	80.8	40,934	9,371	22.9
2015	111,215	68,816	61.9	72,300	59,531	82.3	38,915	9,285	23.9
2016	104,584	65,336	62.5	68,915	56,364	81.8	35,669	8,972	25.2
2017	104,936	66,644	63.5	70,878	57,960	81.8	34,058	8,684	25.5
2018	110,650	70,586	63.8	77,409	61,435	79.4	33,241	9,151	27.5
2019	104,216	59,819	57.4	71,927	50,912	70.8	32,289	8,907	27.6
2020	77,889	44,588	57.2	56,090	38,897	69.3	21,799	5,691	26.1

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2021.

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,
1992–2020

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	514,442	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	64,080	9.9	264,493	33,212	12.6	379,731	30,868	8.1
2010	706,098	63,198	9.0	299,847	34,300	11.4	406,251	28,898	7.1
2011	724,461	65,171	9.0	314,358	36,364	11.6	410,103	28,807	7.0
2012	714,132	62,490	8.8	316,739	34,921	11.0	397,393	27,569	6.9
2013	682,344	56,606	8.3	316,234	32,179	10.2	366,110	24,427	6.7
2014	644,179	56,333	8.7	316,513	33,524	10.6	327,666	22,809	7.0
2015	572,113	54,536	9.5	291,085	32,988	11.3	281,028	21,548	7.7
2016	530,721	52,165	9.8	275,095	32,113	11.7	255,626	20,052	7.8
2017	485,826	48,613	10.0	250,569	30,060	12.0	235,257	18,553	7.9
2018	463,845	50,628	10.9	240,767	31,561	13.1	223,078	19,067	8.5
2019	442,202	58,871	13.3	229,553	37,200	16.2	212,649	21,671	10.2
2020	229,195	25,500	11.1	130,351	17,186	13.2	98,844	8,314	8.4

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 62.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program,
1992–2020—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)
Workers									
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	61,281	9.9	258,019	32,309	12.5	363,657	28,972	8.0
2010	681,806	60,435	8.9	293,218	33,392	11.4	388,588	27,043	7.0
2011	699,642	62,356	8.9	307,208	35,405	11.5	392,434	26,951	6.9
2012	688,205	59,769	8.7	309,055	33,985	11.0	379,150	25,784	6.8
2013	657,788	54,174	8.2	309,026	31,350	10.1	348,762	22,824	6.5
2014	621,956	53,996	8.7	309,627	32,727	10.6	312,329	21,269	6.8
2015	551,877	52,165	9.5	284,632	32,156	11.3	267,245	20,009	7.5
2016	512,141	49,968	9.8	268,925	31,320	11.6	243,216	18,648	7.7
2017	468,089	46,438	9.9	244,600	29,207	11.9	223,489	17,231	7.7
2018	445,878	48,119	10.8	233,959	30,393	13.0	211,919	17,726	8.4
2019	423,685	55,610	13.1	221,267	35,223	15.9	202,418	20,387	10.1
2020	220,643	24,245	11.0	126,166	16,390	13.0	94,477	7,855	8.3

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 62.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program,
1992–2020—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	1,144	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	461	15.0	4,286	594	13.9
2011	7,861	1,133	14.4	3,373	505	15.0	4,488	628	14.0
2012	8,147	1,116	13.7	3,546	480	13.5	4,601	636	13.8
2013	8,101	1,029	12.7	3,485	457	13.1	4,616	572	12.4
2014	7,833	1,011	12.9	3,420	456	13.3	4,413	555	12.6
2015	6,923	981	14.2	3,032	425	14.0	3,891	556	14.3
2016	6,360	844	13.3	2,816	395	14.0	3,544	449	12.7
2017	5,761	801	13.9	2,548	394	15.5	3,213	407	12.7
2018	5,834	942	16.1	2,694	474	17.6	3,140	468	14.9
2019	6,182	1,412	22.8	3,286	868	26.4	2,896	544	18.8
2020	2,929	533	18.2	1,618	325	20.1	1,311	208	15.9

(Continued)

Table 62.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program,
1992–2020—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	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	1,722	11.1	3,430	457	13.3	12,130	1,265	10.4
2010	16,933	1,708	10.1	3,556	447	12.6	13,377	1,261	9.4
2011	16,958	1,682	9.9	3,777	454	12.0	13,181	1,228	9.3
2012	17,780	1,605	9.0	4,138	456	11.0	13,642	1,149	8.4
2013	16,455	1,403	8.5	3,723	372	10.0	12,732	1,031	8.1
2014	14,390	1,326	9.2	3,466	341	9.8	10,924	985	9.0
2015	13,313	1,390	10.4	3,421	407	11.9	9,892	983	9.9
2016	12,220	1,353	11.1	3,354	398	11.9	8,866	955	10.8
2017	11,976	1,374	11.5	3,421	459	13.4	8,555	915	10.7
2018	12,133	1,567	12.9	4,114	694	16.9	8,019	873	10.9
2019	12,335	1,849	15.0	5,000	1,109	22.2	7,335	740	10.1
2020	5,623	722	12.8	2,567	471	18.3	3,056	251	8.2

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2021.

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,
1992–2020

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	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	482,363	309,138	64.1	200,296	150,200	75.0	282,067	158,938	56.3
2010	537,453	320,098	59.6	230,396	162,719	70.6	307,057	157,379	51.3
2011	554,186	308,178	55.6	241,140	160,277	66.5	313,046	147,901	47.2
2012	554,391	288,520	52.0	246,169	154,306	62.7	308,222	134,214	43.5
2013	538,174	267,269	49.7	250,220	148,051	59.2	287,954	119,218	41.4
2014	497,669	246,838	49.6	244,946	141,794	57.9	252,723	105,044	41.6
2015	431,830	215,613	49.9	220,549	127,959	58.0	211,281	87,654	41.5
2016	393,293	195,856	49.8	204,123	118,180	57.9	189,170	77,676	41.1
2017	348,860	173,453	49.7	180,366	104,907	58.2	168,494	68,546	40.7
2018	298,840	154,411	51.7	156,792	93,816	59.8	142,048	60,595	42.7
2019	193,961	110,451	56.9	105,833	68,103	64.3	88,128	42,348	48.1
2020	27,729	15,980	57.6	17,506	11,106	63.4	10,223	4,874	47.7

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 63.

Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program, 1992–2020—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)
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	381,766	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	468,958	301,999	64.4	196,271	147,402	75.1	272,687	154,597	56.7
2010	523,027	313,054	59.9	226,172	159,933	70.7	296,855	153,121	51.6
2011	539,145	300,993	55.8	236,507	157,301	66.5	302,638	143,692	47.5
2012	537,766	281,095	52.3	241,098	151,227	62.7	296,668	129,868	43.8
2013	522,029	260,328	49.9	245,291	145,178	59.2	276,738	115,150	41.6
2014	483,679	240,573	49.7	240,362	139,102	57.9	243,317	101,471	41.7
2015	419,440	210,002	50.1	216,405	125,517	58.0	203,035	84,485	41.6
2016	382,018	190,572	49.9	200,238	115,872	57.9	181,780	74,700	41.1
2017	338,535	168,706	49.8	176,749	102,767	58.1	161,786	65,939	40.8
2018	290,091	150,139	51.8	153,484	91,796	59.8	136,607	58,343	42.7
2019	188,381	107,360	57.0	103,493	66,505	64.3	84,888	40,855	48.1
2020	26,947	15,470	57.4	17,077	10,768	63.1	9,870	4,702	47.6

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 63.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program,
1992–2020—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	4,404	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	5,178	3,695	71.4	2,193	1,703	77.7	2,985	1,992	66.7
2011	5,439	3,790	69.7	2,379	1,776	74.7	3,060	2,014	65.8
2012	5,823	3,776	64.8	2,554	1,817	71.1	3,269	1,959	59.9
2013	5,958	3,666	61.5	2,559	1,746	68.2	3,399	1,920	56.5
2014	5,661	3,477	61.4	2,468	1,654	67.0	3,193	1,823	57.1
2015	4,881	3,036	62.2	2,144	1,473	68.7	2,737	1,563	57.1
2016	4,483	2,866	63.9	1,968	1,365	69.4	2,515	1,501	59.7
2017	4,001	2,462	61.5	1,736	1,175	67.7	2,265	1,287	56.8
2018	3,549	2,249	63.4	1,585	1,126	71.0	1,964	1,123	57.2
2019	2,399	1,701	70.9	1,227	940	76.6	1,172	761	64.9
2020	376	305	81.1	245	214	87.3	131	91	69.5

(Continued)

Table 63.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program,
1992–2020—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	1,181	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	3,349	36.2	2,031	1,083	53.3	7,217	2,266	31.4
2011	9,602	3,395	35.4	2,254	1,200	53.2	7,348	2,195	29.9
2012	10,802	3,649	33.8	2,517	1,262	50.1	8,285	2,387	28.8
2013	10,187	3,275	32.1	2,370	1,127	47.6	7,817	2,148	27.5
2014	8,329	2,788	33.5	2,116	1,038	49.1	6,213	1,750	28.2
2015	7,509	2,575	34.3	2,000	969	48.5	5,509	1,606	29.2
2016	6,792	2,418	35.6	1,917	943	49.2	4,875	1,475	30.3
2017	6,324	2,285	36.1	1,881	965	51.3	4,443	1,320	29.7
2018	5,200	2,023	38.9	1,723	894	51.9	3,477	1,129	32.5
2019	3,181	1,390	43.7	1,113	658	59.1	2,068	732	35.4
2020	406	205	50.5	184	124	67.4	222	81	36.5

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

NOTES: Data are current through July 2021.

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, 1992–2020

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other ^a
	Number	Percent				
<i>All disabled beneficiaries</i>						
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	1,105,781	100.0	24.3	5.2	35.7	34.8
2010	1,120,313	100.0	23.1	5.1	36.2	35.6
2011	1,074,600	100.0	22.4	5.0	37.5	35.0
2012	1,037,950	100.0	22.1	5.0	38.1	34.8
2013	964,999	100.0	22.4	4.7	37.1	35.7
2014	916,728	100.0	23.1	4.6	36.7	35.6
2015	850,895	100.0	24.4	4.5	36.1	35.0
2016	803,663	100.0	26.1	4.4	35.5	34.0
2017	758,542	100.0	27.7	4.4	34.7	33.1
2018	726,398	100.0	30.1	4.5	35.1	30.3
2019	676,175	100.0	35.6	4.8	40.3	19.4
2020	460,891	100.0	42.6	5.2	44.7	7.5

(Continued)

Table 64.

Number and percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2020—Continued

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other ^a
	Number	Percent				
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	811,818	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	1,006,200	100.0	24.8	5.5	37.8	31.9
2010	1,016,551	100.0	23.6	5.4	38.5	32.5
2011	971,651	100.0	22.9	5.3	40.1	31.7
2012	931,221	100.0	22.7	5.3	41.0	30.9
2013	861,865	100.0	23.2	5.1	40.1	31.7
2014	815,575	100.0	24.0	4.9	39.8	31.3
2015	746,011	100.0	25.6	4.9	39.7	29.8
2016	704,244	100.0	27.4	4.8	39.0	28.8
2017	659,325	100.0	29.2	4.8	38.5	27.6
2018	625,204	100.0	30.6	4.9	38.9	25.6
2019	589,484	100.0	33.4	4.9	42.8	18.9
2020	397,443	100.0	41.2	5.5	48.4	4.9

(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, 1992–2020—Continued

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other ^a
	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	32,502	100.0	8.1	1.9	26.0	63.9
2010	34,228	100.0	7.7	1.9	25.3	65.1
2011	33,589	100.0	7.8	1.7	25.3	65.3
2012	35,316	100.0	6.8	1.6	24.2	67.4
2013	34,189	100.0	6.2	1.6	23.0	69.2
2014	33,447	100.0	6.3	1.5	21.7	70.6
2015	32,164	100.0	6.6	1.3	21.2	70.9
2016	30,384	100.0	6.5	1.2	20.4	71.9
2017	28,979	100.0	7.0	1.2	20.2	71.6
2018	27,106	100.0	8.4	1.4	24.1	66.1
2019	23,769	100.0	16.8	2.9	51.7	28.6
2020	18,017	100.0	16.8	2.7	49.3	31.2

(Continued)

Table 64.

Number and percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2020—Continued

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other ^a
	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	67,079	100.0	24.8	2.5	8.8	63.9
2010	69,534	100.0	23.2	2.3	8.3	66.1
2011	69,360	100.0	21.9	2.3	7.9	67.9
2012	71,413	100.0	21.4	2.2	7.3	69.0
2013	68,945	100.0	21.0	2.0	7.0	70.0
2014	67,706	100.0	20.7	1.9	6.6	70.9
2015	72,720	100.0	19.7	1.7	5.9	72.7
2016	69,035	100.0	21.7	1.7	5.7	70.9
2017	70,238	100.0	23.1	1.8	5.5	69.6
2018	74,088	100.0	33.4	2.3	6.6	57.7
2019	62,922	100.0	63.2	4.0	12.3	20.5
2020	45,431	100.0	64.5	3.8	10.5	21.2

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2021. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2021.

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, 1992–2020

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	660,526	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	800,192	100.0	4.6	22.5	25.4	32.3	15.1
2010	880,600	100.0	4.1	23.3	24.7	32.3	15.5
2011	893,521	100.0	3.9	23.8	20.4	33.6	18.3
2012	891,241	100.0	3.8	24.7	16.2	39.0	16.3
2013	852,392	100.0	4.0	24.9	15.1	42.4	13.5
2014	827,724	100.0	4.0	24.8	13.8	42.6	14.9
2015	786,193	100.0	4.1	24.3	11.7	43.1	16.8
2016	742,827	100.0	4.2	23.7	10.2	43.6	18.3
2017	700,942	100.0	4.2	23.9	9.1	43.7	19.0
2018	651,080	100.0	3.9	24.8	8.6	42.4	20.2
2019	608,996	100.0	3.8	24.7	8.2	42.6	20.7
2020	494,611	100.0	3.9	22.2	8.7	41.4	23.9

(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, 1992–2020—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					
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	542,493	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	747,850	100.0	4.9	22.3	26.8	31.2	14.7
2010	822,772	100.0	4.3	23.2	26.1	31.2	15.2
2011	836,265	100.0	4.1	23.6	21.4	32.6	18.2
2012	833,780	100.0	4.0	24.5	17.0	38.4	16.1
2013	798,082	100.0	4.1	24.7	15.9	42.0	13.2
2014	777,534	100.0	4.1	24.5	14.4	42.3	14.7
2015	738,744	100.0	4.3	24.0	12.2	42.8	16.6
2016	699,039	100.0	4.4	23.4	10.6	43.4	18.2
2017	658,605	100.0	4.4	23.5	9.5	43.6	18.9
2018	607,893	100.0	4.1	24.2	9.0	42.5	20.1
2019	561,462	100.0	4.0	23.8	8.7	42.9	20.6
2020	458,221	100.0	4.2	21.2	9.1	41.6	23.9

(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, 1992–2020—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					
<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	8,986	100.0	2.8	28.8	30.2	22.2	16.0
2010	9,789	100.0	2.7	29.3	27.9	24.0	16.0
2011	9,909	100.0	2.9	28.1	26.9	24.9	17.2
2012	10,144	100.0	2.3	28.8	23.5	28.4	17.0
2013	10,255	100.0	2.4	28.6	22.2	32.6	14.3
2014	9,916	100.0	2.3	27.6	21.5	33.0	15.7
2015	9,141	100.0	2.3	26.3	20.5	33.5	17.4
2016	8,455	100.0	2.3	26.2	17.3	35.0	19.2
2017	8,043	100.0	2.1	25.9	17.5	34.1	20.5
2018	8,020	100.0	2.1	26.9	15.0	33.8	22.3
2019	9,399	100.0	1.5	28.2	13.9	32.9	23.5
2020	7,965	100.0	1.7	23.6	14.0	32.9	27.8

(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, 1992–2020—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					
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	30,143	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	43,356	100.0	1.2	23.4	0.1	53.5	21.8
2010	48,039	100.0	1.2	24.7	0.1	53.1	20.9
2011	47,347	100.0	1.0	26.2	(L)	52.6	20.1
2012	47,317	100.0	0.9	27.7	(L)	51.9	19.4
2013	44,055	100.0	0.9	28.1	(L)	52.2	18.8
2014	40,274	100.0	0.9	29.4	0.0	50.5	19.2
2015	38,308	100.0	0.8	30.0	(L)	49.4	19.7
2016	35,333	100.0	0.8	29.3	(L)	49.1	20.7
2017	34,294	100.0	0.8	31.2	(L)	47.6	20.4
2018	35,167	100.0	0.6	35.4	(L)	42.8	21.2
2019	38,135	100.0	0.5	37.7	0.0	41.0	20.8
2020	28,425	100.0	0.6	37.3	0.0	39.4	22.7

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2021. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2021.

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.

(L) = less than 0.05 percent.

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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