
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 statistics in these tables are reported by year of filing and include decisions made through the conclusion of the administrative appeals process.

Table 60 shows the total number of applications filed in a year, the number that are pending a final decision, the number denied for nonmedical reasons before a medical decision is made (*technical denials*), 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. 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 level or above.

From October 1999 through March 2020, the proportion of claims awarded at each level of the process was affected by a prototype process that SSA 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 resulted in a decrease in the aggregate proportion of claims awarded at this step. SSA began phasing out the prototype process on January 1, 2019, and by March 31, 2020, the reconsideration step had been reinstated in all 10 test states.

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.

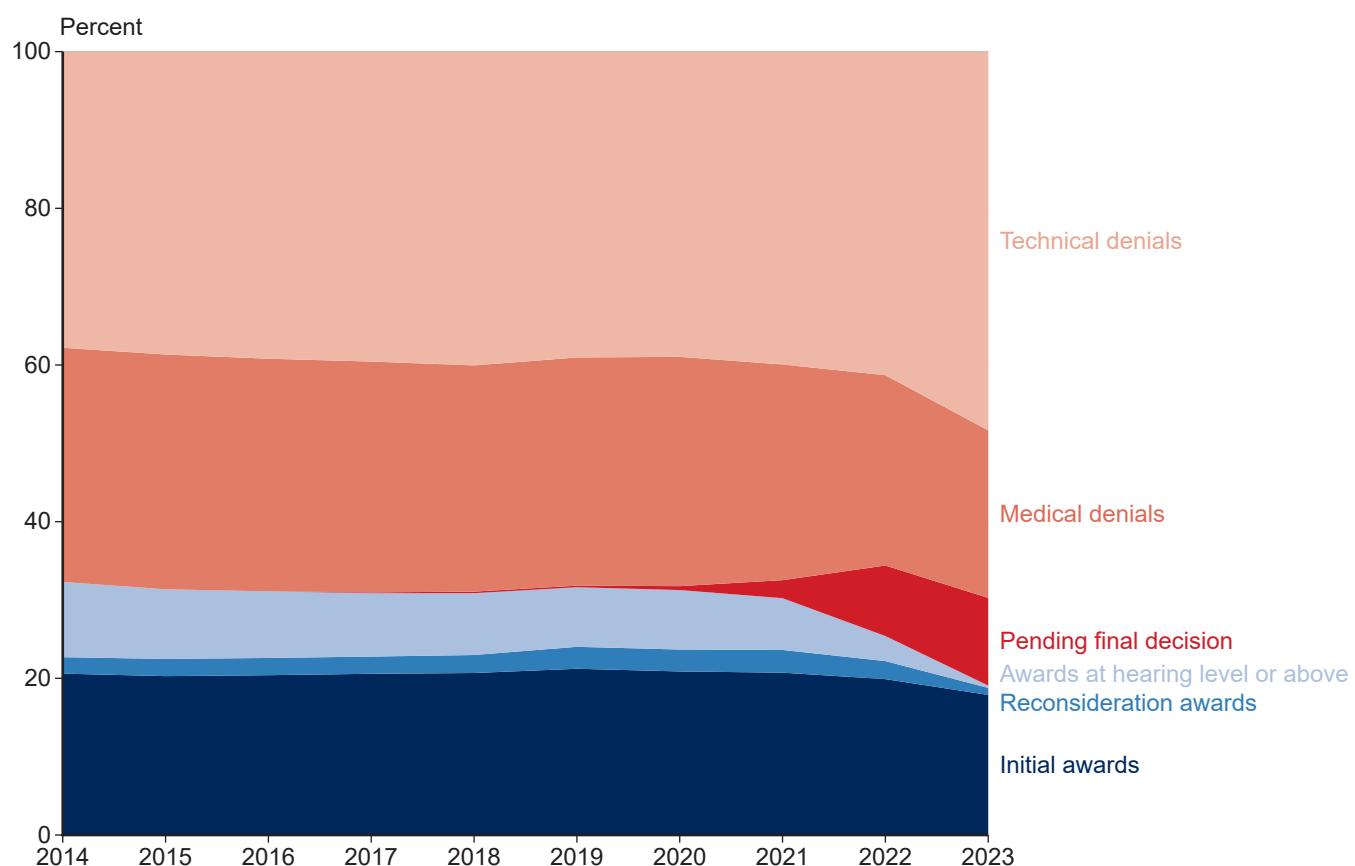
An applicant can be denied benefits if he or she—

- 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, or
- is able to perform another type of work.

Other denial reasons include impairment resulting from drug addiction or alcoholism, insufficient medical evidence, failure to cooperate, failure to follow prescribed treatment, not continuing development of the claim, and returns to substantial work before disability can be established.

Chart 11.**Final outcome of disabled-worker applications, 2014–2023**

The final award rate for disabled-worker applicants has varied over time, averaging 29 percent for claims filed from 2014 through 2023. The share of applicants awarded benefits at the initial claims level has ranged narrowly from 18 percent to 21 percent. The percentages of applicants awarded at the reconsideration and hearing levels have averaged 2 percent and 7 percent, respectively. Denied disability claims have averaged 68 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, 1992–2023

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	1,024,469	867,276	23,847	1,038,076	2,278	35.1	53.9		
2013	2,790,688	0	971,035	827,002	24,972	965,434	2,245	34.6	53.2		
2014	2,687,365	0	936,798	803,515	27,019	917,751	2,282	34.2	52.6		
2015	2,547,682	0	904,243	760,792	27,506	852,842	2,299	33.5	52.0		
2016	2,430,102	0	875,641	718,396	27,335	806,748	1,982	33.2	52.0		
2017	2,306,264	2,630	834,126	675,702	28,088	763,785	1,933	33.2	52.1		
2018	2,226,343	3,471	811,116	639,478	29,631	740,575	2,072	33.3	52.6		
2019	2,183,466	4,524	775,077	639,414	28,556	734,020	1,875	33.7	52.4		
2020	2,013,669	10,022	716,672	592,155	27,242	666,009	1,569	33.2	51.9		
2021	2,005,439	44,228	733,974	555,079	27,396	643,272	1,490	32.8	52.5		
2022	1,984,970	173,940	751,522	486,213	29,028	542,761	1,506	30.0	51.4		
2023	1,778,815	192,883	796,273	386,116	24,710	377,722	1,111	23.8	48.0		

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 60.

Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2023—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	1,009,057	810,909	22,757	931,342	2,156	33.5	52.8		
2013	2,620,315	0	958,204	773,665	24,012	862,286	2,148	32.9	52.0		
2014	2,523,715	0	924,698	754,270	25,974	816,572	2,201	32.4	51.2		
2015	2,383,373	0	892,529	714,281	26,457	747,905	2,201	31.4	50.3		
2016	2,275,573	0	864,640	675,495	26,347	707,221	1,870	31.1	50.3		
2017	2,153,539	2,502	823,504	634,253	27,077	664,364	1,839	30.9	50.2		
2018	2,068,395	3,293	799,337	596,747	28,482	638,592	1,944	30.9	50.6		
2019	2,028,572	4,309	762,349	590,822	27,140	642,281	1,671	31.7	51.0		
2020	1,880,698	9,611	705,767	550,404	25,644	587,870	1,402	31.4	50.6		
2021	1,878,309	42,751	722,999	517,310	25,790	568,145	1,314	31.0	51.2		
2022	1,862,573	168,412	740,435	451,756	27,306	473,337	1,327	27.9	49.8		
2023	1,672,675	186,886	784,997	357,410	23,500	318,887	995	21.5	45.6		

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 60.

Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2023—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				
<i>Widow(er)s</i>											
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	9,901	242	35,317	53	68.8	77.7		
2013	49,596	0	5,109	9,990	261	34,193	43	68.9	77.0		
2014	48,057	0	4,620	9,683	266	33,451	37	69.6	77.1		
2015	45,845	0	4,464	8,881	289	32,174	37	70.2	77.8		
2016	43,054	0	4,110	8,238	249	30,415	42	70.6	78.2		
2017	41,000	33	3,839	7,775	284	29,038	31	70.9	78.3		
2018	39,451	36	3,938	7,806	322	27,307	42	69.3	77.1		
2019	39,429	51	4,432	9,412	440	25,025	69	63.6	71.8		
2020	36,216	119	3,972	8,745	625	22,692	63	62.9	70.8		
2021	35,302	454	4,041	8,411	638	21,686	72	62.2	70.6		
2022	31,722	1,833	4,028	7,072	735	17,969	85	60.1	69.8		
2023	22,935	1,671	3,796	4,936	510	11,983	39	56.4	68.8		

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 60.

Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2023—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				
<i>Adult children</i>											
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	9,562	46,466	848	71,417	69	55.6	60.2		
2013	120,777	0	7,722	43,347	699	68,955	54	57.1	61.0		
2014	115,593	0	7,480	39,562	779	67,728	44	58.6	62.7		
2015	118,464	0	7,250	37,630	760	72,763	61	61.4	65.5		
2016	111,475	0	6,891	34,663	739	69,112	70	62.0	66.1		
2017	111,725	95	6,783	33,674	727	70,383	63	63.1	67.2		
2018	118,497	142	7,841	34,925	827	74,676	86	63.1	67.6		
2019	115,465	164	8,296	39,180	976	66,714	135	57.9	62.5		
2020	96,755	292	6,933	33,006	973	55,447	104	57.5	62.0		
2021	91,828	1,023	6,934	29,358	968	53,441	104	58.9	63.8		
2022	90,675	3,695	7,059	27,385	987	51,455	94	59.2	64.5		
2023	83,205	4,326	7,480	23,770	700	46,852	77	59.4	65.7		

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2024 for the initial and reconsideration levels and through July 2024 for the hearing level or above.

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, 1992–2023

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^{a,b} (percent)
All disabled beneficiaries									
1999	1,160,792	458,854	39.5	649,980	313,152	48.2	510,812	145,702	28.5
2000	1,228,301	500,657	40.8	688,282	339,764	49.4	540,019	160,893	29.8
2001	1,342,915	558,741	41.6	742,869	379,266	51.1	600,046	179,475	29.9
2002	1,484,685	575,089	38.7	794,839	385,453	48.5	689,846	189,636	27.5
2003	1,567,607	583,758	37.2	804,688	383,225	47.6	762,919	200,533	26.3
2004	1,646,469	604,176	36.7	814,157	389,190	47.8	832,312	214,986	25.8
2005	1,559,003	575,310	36.9	763,377	370,449	48.5	795,626	204,861	25.7
2006	1,553,228	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	1,931,564	689,229	35.7	989,723	474,891	48.0	941,841	214,338	22.8
2013	1,819,732	643,402	35.4	966,567	450,234	46.6	853,165	193,168	22.6
2014	1,750,650	615,913	35.2	981,629	442,014	45.0	769,021	173,899	22.6
2015	1,643,535	583,160	35.5	941,437	424,179	45.1	702,098	158,981	22.6
2016	1,554,547	557,815	35.9	904,465	407,890	45.1	650,082	149,925	23.1
2017	1,472,217	538,818	36.6	855,341	393,775	46.0	616,876	145,043	23.5
2018	1,415,325	524,128	37.0	830,923	382,427	46.0	584,402	141,701	24.2
2019	1,408,539	514,853	36.6	810,308	367,683	45.4	598,231	147,170	24.6
2020	1,297,180	465,745	35.9	787,368	343,188	43.6	509,812	122,557	24.0
2021	1,271,512	459,205	36.1	795,783	340,896	42.8	475,729	118,309	24.9
2022	1,229,755	437,411	35.6	762,372	322,198	42.3	467,383	115,213	24.7
2023	963,176	357,630	37.1	608,266	268,798	44.2	354,910	88,832	25.0

(Continued)

Table 61.

Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program, 1992–2023—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	1,767,240	592,522	33.5	887,359	393,415	44.3	879,881	199,107	22.6
2013	1,662,181	549,540	33.1	867,271	370,747	42.7	794,910	178,793	22.5
2014	1,599,089	523,276	32.7	883,031	362,952	41.1	716,058	160,324	22.4
2015	1,490,931	486,145	32.6	838,843	340,402	40.6	652,088	145,743	22.4
2016	1,411,012	465,746	33.0	806,802	328,476	40.7	604,210	137,270	22.7
2017	1,330,111	446,389	33.6	756,775	313,424	41.4	573,336	132,965	23.2
2018	1,269,143	429,502	33.8	726,977	300,238	41.3	542,166	129,264	23.8
2019	1,266,363	431,412	34.1	709,866	296,761	41.8	556,497	134,651	24.2
2020	1,175,098	394,543	33.6	698,772	281,709	40.3	476,326	112,834	23.7
2021	1,155,347	390,072	33.8	710,856	281,464	39.6	444,491	108,608	24.4
2022	1,118,633	371,836	33.2	682,942	266,689	39.1	435,691	105,147	24.1
2023	868,950	299,738	34.5	540,028	219,286	40.6	328,922	80,452	24.5

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 61.

Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program, 1992–2023—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)
<i>Widow(er)s</i>									
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	29,538	66.4	31,760	25,014	78.8	12,730	4,524	35.5
2014	43,441	28,997	66.8	31,412	24,794	78.9	12,029	4,203	34.9
2015	41,383	28,186	68.1	30,288	24,240	80.0	11,095	3,946	35.6
2016	38,946	26,718	68.6	28,743	23,041	80.2	10,203	3,677	36.0
2017	37,162	25,750	69.3	27,680	22,374	80.8	9,482	3,376	35.6
2018	35,517	23,966	67.5	26,522	20,701	78.1	8,995	3,265	36.3
2019	34,999	21,156	60.4	26,014	17,791	68.4	8,985	3,365	37.5
2020	32,250	19,297	59.8	24,289	16,343	67.3	7,961	2,954	37.1
2021	31,263	18,827	60.2	23,881	16,040	67.2	7,382	2,787	37.8
2022	27,651	16,295	58.9	20,664	13,639	66.0	6,987	2,656	38.0
2023	19,012	11,629	61.2	14,231	9,768	68.6	4,781	1,861	38.9

(Continued)

Table 61.

Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program, 1992–2023—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	118,807	66,230	55.7	69,955	55,814	79.8	48,852	10,416	21.3
2013	113,061	64,324	56.9	67,536	54,473	80.7	45,525	9,851	21.6
2014	108,120	63,640	58.9	67,186	54,268	80.8	40,934	9,372	22.9
2015	111,221	68,829	61.9	72,306	59,537	82.3	38,915	9,292	23.9
2016	104,589	65,351	62.5	68,920	56,373	81.8	35,669	8,978	25.2
2017	104,944	66,679	63.5	70,886	57,977	81.8	34,058	8,702	25.6
2018	110,665	70,660	63.9	77,424	61,488	79.4	33,241	9,172	27.6
2019	107,177	62,285	58.1	74,428	53,131	71.4	32,749	9,154	28.0
2020	89,832	51,905	57.8	64,307	45,136	70.2	25,525	6,769	26.5
2021	84,902	50,306	59.3	61,046	43,392	71.1	23,856	6,914	29.0
2022	83,471	49,280	59.0	58,766	41,870	71.2	24,705	7,410	30.0
2023	75,214	46,263	61.5	54,007	39,744	73.6	21,207	6,519	30.7

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2024.

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: statistics@ssa.gov.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 62.

Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program, 1992–2023

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^{a,b} (percent)
All disabled beneficiaries									
1999	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	62,482	8.7	316,739	34,918	11.0	397,393	27,564	6.9
2013	682,342	56,588	8.3	316,232	32,174	10.2	366,110	24,414	6.7
2014	644,204	56,315	8.7	316,538	33,518	10.6	327,666	22,797	7.0
2015	572,133	54,512	9.5	291,105	32,979	11.3	281,028	21,533	7.7
2016	530,759	52,099	9.8	275,133	32,105	11.7	255,626	19,994	7.8
2017	485,848	48,585	10.0	250,591	30,090	12.0	235,257	18,495	7.9
2018	463,946	50,276	10.8	240,868	31,355	13.0	223,078	18,921	8.5
2019	460,031	61,107	13.3	237,689	38,189	16.1	222,342	22,918	10.3
2020	423,344	54,491	12.9	233,601	35,152	15.0	189,743	19,339	10.2
2021	416,264	57,927	13.9	236,830	38,195	16.1	179,434	19,732	11.0
2022	316,818	45,633	14.4	179,947	30,070	16.7	136,871	15,563	11.4
2023	129,174	16,373	12.7	76,454	11,406	14.9	52,720	4,967	9.4

(Continued)

Table 62.

Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program, 1992–2023—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	59,760	8.7	309,055	33,982	11.0	379,150	25,778	6.8
2013	657,786	54,156	8.2	309,024	31,345	10.1	348,762	22,811	6.5
2014	621,979	53,977	8.7	309,650	32,721	10.6	312,329	21,256	6.8
2015	551,895	52,137	9.4	284,650	32,145	11.3	267,245	19,992	7.5
2016	512,175	49,903	9.7	268,959	31,312	11.6	243,216	18,591	7.6
2017	468,110	46,405	9.9	244,621	29,235	12.0	223,489	17,170	7.7
2018	445,967	47,753	10.7	234,048	30,172	12.9	211,919	17,581	8.3
2019	440,246	57,582	13.1	228,903	36,085	15.8	211,343	21,497	10.2
2020	406,808	51,747	12.7	226,043	33,577	14.9	180,765	18,170	10.1
2021	401,124	55,209	13.8	229,710	36,621	15.9	171,414	18,588	10.8
2022	305,009	43,292	14.2	174,730	28,738	16.4	130,279	14,554	11.2
2023	124,294	15,509	12.5	74,275	10,890	14.7	50,019	4,619	9.2

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 62.

Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program, 1992–2023—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)
<i>Widow(er)s</i>									
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	1,012	12.9	3,420	456	13.3	4,413	556	12.6
2015	6,923	981	14.2	3,032	424	14.0	3,891	557	14.3
2016	6,361	841	13.2	2,817	393	14.0	3,544	448	12.6
2017	5,761	803	13.9	2,548	396	15.5	3,213	407	12.7
2018	5,839	943	16.2	2,699	475	17.6	3,140	468	14.9
2019	6,485	1,484	22.9	3,422	913	26.7	3,063	571	18.6
2020	5,937	1,230	20.7	3,113	713	22.9	2,824	517	18.3
2021	5,417	1,228	22.7	2,983	751	25.2	2,434	477	19.6
2022	3,830	950	24.8	2,065	557	27.0	1,765	393	22.3
2023	1,326	283	21.3	749	179	23.9	577	104	18.0

(Continued)

Table 62.

Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program, 1992–2023—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	1,606	9.0	4,138	456	11.0	13,642	1,150	8.4
2013	16,455	1,403	8.5	3,723	372	10.0	12,732	1,031	8.1
2014	14,392	1,326	9.2	3,468	341	9.8	10,924	985	9.0
2015	13,315	1,394	10.5	3,423	410	12.0	9,892	984	9.9
2016	12,223	1,355	11.1	3,357	400	11.9	8,866	955	10.8
2017	11,977	1,377	11.5	3,422	459	13.4	8,555	918	10.7
2018	12,140	1,580	13.0	4,121	708	17.2	8,019	872	10.9
2019	13,300	2,041	15.3	5,364	1,191	22.2	7,936	850	10.7
2020	10,599	1,514	14.3	4,445	862	19.4	6,154	652	10.6
2021	9,723	1,490	15.3	4,137	823	19.9	5,586	667	11.9
2022	7,979	1,391	17.4	3,152	775	24.6	4,827	616	12.8
2023	3,554	581	16.3	1,430	337	23.6	2,124	244	11.5

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2024.

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.

From 1999 through 2020, a prototype process in 10 states (representing 20–25 percent of national disability claims) allowed initial denials to be appealed directly to the hearing level without 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.

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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 63.

Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program, 1992–2023

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^{a,b} (percent)
All disabled beneficiaries									
1999	265,058	193,198	72.9	144,847	114,207	78.8	120,211	78,991	65.7
2000	290,068	211,697	73.0	157,001	124,015	79.0	133,067	87,682	65.9
2001	313,839	228,242	72.7	164,710	130,576	79.3	149,129	97,666	65.5
2002	369,875	267,597	72.3	189,671	150,834	79.5	180,204	116,763	64.8
2003	401,747	289,194	72.0	197,765	157,566	79.7	203,982	131,628	64.5
2004	415,339	301,463	72.6	196,715	159,335	81.0	218,624	142,128	65.0
2005	384,341	282,797	73.6	178,312	145,587	81.6	206,029	137,210	66.6
2006	387,021	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	554,402	288,643	52.1	246,172	154,369	62.7	308,230	134,274	43.6
2013	538,196	267,689	49.7	250,224	148,293	59.3	287,972	119,396	41.5
2014	501,597	247,805	49.4	246,940	142,329	57.6	254,657	105,476	41.4
2015	435,995	217,469	49.9	222,688	128,940	57.9	213,307	88,529	41.5
2016	399,477	198,816	49.8	207,335	119,818	57.8	192,142	78,998	41.1
2017	357,322	178,315	49.9	184,348	107,484	58.3	172,974	70,831	40.9
2018	332,863	168,243	50.5	172,370	101,394	58.8	160,493	66,849	41.7
2019	308,130	159,935	51.9	158,938	95,846	60.3	149,192	64,089	43.0
2020	277,549	147,342	53.1	153,841	93,453	60.7	123,708	53,889	43.6
2021	222,034	127,630	57.5	130,125	84,548	65.0	91,909	43,082	46.9
2022	104,453	61,223	58.6	63,155	41,640	65.9	41,298	19,583	47.4
2023	9,576	4,830	50.4	6,326	3,617	57.2	3,250	1,213	37.3

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 63.

Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program, 1992–2023—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	537,777	281,216	52.3	241,101	151,289	62.7	296,676	129,927	43.8
2013	522,051	260,738	49.9	245,295	145,417	59.3	276,756	115,321	41.7
2014	487,476	241,520	49.5	242,318	139,633	57.6	245,158	101,887	41.6
2015	423,445	211,824	50.0	218,490	126,480	57.9	204,955	85,344	41.6
2016	387,978	193,442	49.9	203,364	117,468	57.8	184,614	75,974	41.2
2017	346,668	173,409	50.0	180,637	105,290	58.3	166,031	68,119	41.0
2018	322,589	163,281	50.6	168,491	99,081	58.8	154,098	64,200	41.7
2019	298,267	154,958	52.0	154,941	93,345	60.2	143,326	61,613	43.0
2020	269,303	142,982	53.1	150,360	91,213	60.7	118,943	51,769	43.5
2021	216,015	124,178	57.5	127,373	82,643	64.9	88,642	41,535	46.9
2022	101,659	59,536	58.6	61,887	40,717	65.8	39,772	18,819	47.3
2023	9,284	4,635	49.9	6,132	3,462	56.5	3,152	1,173	37.2

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 63.

Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program, 1992–2023—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)
<i>Widow(er)s</i>									
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	3,777	64.9	2,554	1,818	71.2	3,269	1,959	59.9
2013	5,958	3,669	61.6	2,559	1,748	68.3	3,399	1,921	56.5
2014	5,698	3,479	61.1	2,482	1,654	66.6	3,216	1,825	56.7
2015	4,919	3,044	61.9	2,169	1,477	68.1	2,750	1,567	57.0
2016	4,552	2,898	63.7	2,006	1,384	69.0	2,546	1,514	59.5
2017	4,075	2,516	61.7	1,775	1,197	67.4	2,300	1,319	57.3
2018	3,883	2,440	62.8	1,739	1,212	69.7	2,144	1,228	57.3
2019	3,749	2,454	65.5	1,828	1,285	70.3	1,921	1,169	60.9
2020	3,444	2,228	64.7	1,677	1,176	70.1	1,767	1,052	59.5
2021	2,508	1,703	67.9	1,331	994	74.7	1,177	709	60.2
2022	1,127	809	71.8	624	497	79.6	503	312	62.0
2023	145	110	75.9	113	96	85.0	32	14	43.8

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 63.

Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program, 1992–2023—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	3,650	33.8	2,517	1,262	50.1	8,285	2,388	28.8
2013	10,187	3,282	32.2	2,370	1,128	47.6	7,817	2,154	27.6
2014	8,423	2,806	33.3	2,140	1,042	48.7	6,283	1,764	28.1
2015	7,631	2,601	34.1	2,029	983	48.4	5,602	1,618	28.9
2016	6,947	2,476	35.6	1,965	966	49.2	4,982	1,510	30.3
2017	6,579	2,390	36.3	1,936	997	51.5	4,643	1,393	30.0
2018	6,391	2,522	39.5	2,140	1,101	51.4	4,251	1,421	33.4
2019	6,114	2,523	41.3	2,169	1,216	56.1	3,945	1,307	33.1
2020	4,802	2,132	44.4	1,804	1,064	59.0	2,998	1,068	35.6
2021	3,511	1,749	49.8	1,421	911	64.1	2,090	838	40.1
2022	1,667	878	52.7	644	426	66.1	1,023	452	44.2
2023	147	85	57.8	81	59	72.8	66	26	39.4

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

NOTES: Data are current through July 2024.

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.

From 1999 through 2020, a prototype process in 10 states (representing 20–25 percent of national disability claims) allowed initial denials to be appealed directly to the hearing level without 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.

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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 64.

Number and percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2023

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other ^a
	Number	Percent				
All disabled beneficiaries						
1999	708,797	100.0	33.0	5.9	26.9	34.2
2000	766,047	100.0	31.1	6.2	29.2	33.5
2001	840,542	100.0	30.0	6.1	30.1	33.9
2002	898,047	100.0	28.5	5.3	30.1	36.1
2003	928,747	100.0	27.1	5.1	31.1	36.7
2004	961,376	100.0	26.4	4.9	31.5	37.2
2005	907,877	100.0	26.5	4.7	32.0	36.8
2006	890,752	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	1,038,076	100.0	22.1	5.0	38.1	34.8
2013	965,434	100.0	22.4	4.7	37.1	35.8
2014	917,751	100.0	23.1	4.6	36.7	35.7
2015	852,842	100.0	24.3	4.5	36.0	35.2
2016	806,748	100.0	26.0	4.4	35.3	34.3
2017	763,785	100.0	27.6	4.4	34.5	33.6
2018	740,575	100.0	29.5	4.4	34.4	31.7
2019	734,020	100.0	33.1	4.4	37.5	24.9
2020	666,009	100.0	32.5	4.1	37.8	25.7
2021	643,272	100.0	32.9	3.7	38.7	24.6
2022	542,761	100.0	38.0	3.8	41.5	16.7
2023	377,722	100.0	46.8	3.7	40.5	9.0

(Continued)

Table 64.

Number and percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2023—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	931,342	100.0	22.7	5.3	41.0	31.0
2013	862,286	100.0	23.2	5.1	40.1	31.7
2014	816,572	100.0	24.0	4.9	39.8	31.3
2015	747,905	100.0	25.6	4.9	39.6	30.0
2016	707,221	100.0	27.3	4.8	38.9	29.1
2017	664,364	100.0	28.9	4.8	38.2	28.1
2018	638,592	100.0	30.0	4.8	38.1	27.1
2019	642,281	100.0	30.9	4.6	39.7	24.9
2020	587,870	100.0	30.5	4.2	40.0	25.3
2021	568,145	100.0	31.5	3.8	41.7	23.0
2022	473,337	100.0	36.8	4.0	45.3	13.9
2023	318,887	100.0	46.4	4.0	45.7	3.9

(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, 1992–2023—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	35,317	100.0	6.8	1.6	24.2	67.4
2013	34,193	100.0	6.2	1.6	23.0	69.2
2014	33,451	100.0	6.3	1.5	21.7	70.6
2015	32,174	100.0	6.6	1.3	21.2	70.9
2016	30,415	100.0	6.5	1.2	20.4	71.9
2017	29,038	100.0	7.0	1.2	20.2	71.6
2018	27,307	100.0	8.4	1.4	23.9	66.3
2019	25,025	100.0	16.1	2.8	49.8	31.4
2020	22,692	100.0	14.6	2.4	46.2	36.7
2021	21,686	100.0	13.5	1.6	38.0	46.9
2022	17,969	100.0	13.6	1.7	40.2	44.5
2023	11,983	100.0	14.8	1.7	37.0	46.6

(Continued)

Table 64.**Number and percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2023—Continued**

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other ^a
	Number	Percent				
Adult children						
1999	39,624	100.0	35.9	3.2	7.4	53.5
2000	41,361	100.0	35.0	3.1	7.3	54.7
2001	40,552	100.0	33.0	3.0	8.0	56.0
2002	43,519	100.0	31.7	2.9	7.6	57.8
2003	44,938	100.0	31.0	2.7	8.2	58.2
2004	46,812	100.0	30.1	2.7	8.5	58.6
2005	48,575	100.0	28.5	2.5	8.3	60.7
2006	49,491	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	71,417	100.0	21.4	2.2	7.3	69.0
2013	68,955	100.0	21.0	2.0	7.0	70.0
2014	67,728	100.0	20.7	1.9	6.6	70.9
2015	72,763	100.0	19.7	1.7	5.9	72.7
2016	69,112	100.0	21.7	1.7	5.7	71.0
2017	70,383	100.0	23.0	1.8	5.5	69.7
2018	74,676	100.0	33.2	2.3	6.6	58.0
2019	66,714	100.0	61.4	3.9	12.0	22.7
2020	55,447	100.0	60.6	3.7	10.4	25.4
2021	53,441	100.0	56.0	3.0	8.0	33.0
2022	51,455	100.0	57.8	2.7	7.3	32.2
2023	46,852	100.0	57.3	2.4	6.3	34.1

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2024 for the initial and reconsideration levels and through July 2024 for the hearing level or above.

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 applications.

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.

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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 65.

Number and percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial, 1992–2023

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Able to do usual past work	Able to do other type of work	Other ^a
	Number	Percent					
All disabled beneficiaries							
1999	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	891,123	100.0	3.8	24.7	16.2	39.0	16.3
2013	851,974	100.0	4.0	24.9	15.1	42.4	13.5
2014	830,534	100.0	3.9	24.7	13.8	42.7	14.8
2015	788,298	100.0	4.1	24.3	11.7	43.1	16.8
2016	745,731	100.0	4.2	23.7	10.2	43.7	18.3
2017	703,790	100.0	4.2	24.0	9.1	43.7	19.0
2018	669,109	100.0	3.9	24.8	8.6	42.7	20.0
2019	667,970	100.0	3.6	24.5	8.2	43.7	20.0
2020	619,397	100.0	3.2	22.4	8.1	42.7	23.6
2021	582,475	100.0	2.4	20.8	7.6	39.3	29.9
2022	515,241	100.0	1.6	21.5	6.6	34.9	35.3
2023	410,826	100.0	1.6	20.9	6.2	35.1	36.2

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 65.

Number and percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial, 1992–2023—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	833,666	100.0	4.0	24.5	17.0	38.4	16.1
2013	797,677	100.0	4.2	24.7	15.9	42.0	13.2
2014	780,244	100.0	4.1	24.5	14.4	42.4	14.6
2015	740,738	100.0	4.3	24.0	12.2	42.9	16.6
2016	701,842	100.0	4.4	23.4	10.6	43.5	18.1
2017	661,330	100.0	4.4	23.6	9.5	43.7	18.9
2018	625,229	100.0	4.1	24.2	9.0	42.8	19.9
2019	617,962	100.0	3.8	23.6	8.6	44.0	19.9
2020	576,048	100.0	3.4	21.5	8.4	43.0	23.6
2021	543,100	100.0	2.5	19.9	7.9	39.6	30.1
2022	479,062	100.0	1.7	20.3	6.9	35.1	35.9
2023	380,910	100.0	1.7	19.5	6.6	35.3	36.8

(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, 1992–2023—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	10,143	100.0	2.3	28.8	23.4	28.4	17.0
2013	10,251	100.0	2.4	28.6	22.2	32.6	14.3
2014	9,949	100.0	2.3	27.5	21.4	33.1	15.6
2015	9,170	100.0	2.3	26.2	20.6	33.6	17.3
2016	8,487	100.0	2.3	26.1	17.3	35.1	19.2
2017	8,059	100.0	2.1	25.9	17.5	34.0	20.5
2018	8,128	100.0	2.1	26.8	15.0	33.9	22.2
2019	9,852	100.0	1.5	28.4	13.8	33.4	22.8
2020	9,370	100.0	1.5	24.6	13.5	33.1	27.4
2021	9,049	100.0	1.0	23.1	12.3	31.0	32.6
2022	7,807	100.0	0.8	22.9	10.4	27.5	38.4
2023	5,446	100.0	0.6	22.5	9.0	27.2	40.8

(Continued)

Table 65.

Number and percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial, 1992–2023—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	47,314	100.0	0.9	27.7	(L)	51.9	19.4
2013	44,046	100.0	0.9	28.1	(L)	52.2	18.8
2014	40,341	100.0	0.9	29.4	0.0	50.5	19.1
2015	38,390	100.0	0.8	30.0	(L)	49.5	19.7
2016	35,402	100.0	0.8	29.4	(L)	49.1	20.6
2017	34,401	100.0	0.8	31.2	(L)	47.6	20.4
2018	35,752	100.0	0.6	35.4	(L)	43.0	21.0
2019	40,156	100.0	0.5	37.6	0.0	41.4	20.5
2020	33,979	100.0	0.5	36.8	0.0	39.9	22.8
2021	30,326	100.0	0.4	37.3	0.0	37.2	25.2
2022	28,372	100.0	0.2	40.1	0.0	34.0	25.7
2023	24,470	100.0	0.1	42.4	0.0	33.1	24.4

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2024 for the initial and reconsideration levels and through July 2024 for the hearing level or above.

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 applications.

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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