
Notes

The tables in this section provide data on the outcomes of applications for SSI benefits based on blindness or disability. The data on applications are derived from the Social Security Administration's (SSA's) Disability Research File (DRF) maintained by the Office of Disability Programs. Each year the DRF 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 43 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 excess income.

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 decisionmaking 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 44–46 show the allowance rate for SSI only and the SSI portion of concurrent (a claim for both Social Security and SSI disability benefits) applications, one for each level in the administrative decisionmaking process, that is, initial, reconsideration, and hearing or higher level.

Beginning with fiscal year 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 reason for medical denial (Tables 47 and 48). The reasons are derived from the sequential evaluation process used by decisionmakers. 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
 - 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.
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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 43.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2005

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials ^a	Medical decisions				Award rate ^b (percent)	Allowance rate ^c (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical ^d	Awards	Subsequent denials ^e		
<i>All ages ^f</i>									
1992	1,828,951	0	134,438	741,839	1,556	860,875	90,243	47.1	56.1
1993	2,048,945	0	141,214	937,757	1,600	878,932	89,442	42.9	50.8
1994	2,014,499	0	123,175	1,041,432	1,681	770,905	77,306	38.3	44.8
1995	1,845,212	0	103,335	995,185	1,344	683,850	61,498	37.1	42.8
1996	1,786,770	0	113,027	938,407	1,886	671,900	61,550	37.6	43.8
1997	1,505,145	0	97,320	738,863	2,074	606,169	60,719	40.3	47.4
1998	1,520,538	0	95,990	701,449	3,831	656,447	62,821	43.2	50.5
1999	1,528,217	2,297	105,819	686,835	4,003	664,858	64,405	43.6	51.4
2000	1,612,826	3,413	156,525	687,445	3,823	692,721	68,899	43.0	52.4
2001	1,749,572	5,673	203,387	724,598	3,501	736,448	75,965	42.2	52.7
2002	1,959,039	14,210	278,291	805,381	3,558	774,948	82,651	39.8	51.5
2003	2,112,577	56,360	342,201	845,048	3,401	772,626	92,941	37.6	50.5
2004	2,247,178	181,230	433,290	838,357	2,853	709,249	82,199	34.3	48.5
2005	2,298,723	252,015	564,039	817,108	2,153	598,668	64,740	29.3	44.7
<i>Under age 18</i>									
1992	376,812	0	16,695	148,221	103	204,083	7,710	54.2	58.8
1993	500,676	0	18,788	240,668	135	232,344	8,741	46.4	50.0
1994	530,538	0	16,897	311,137	147	194,655	7,702	36.7	39.4
1995	491,638	0	14,364	306,298	92	163,896	6,988	33.3	35.8
1996	457,057	0	13,532	291,265	86	144,670	7,504	31.7	34.3
1997	334,975	0	10,906	195,731	69	121,438	6,831	36.3	39.6
1998	338,592	0	10,904	182,599	74	137,650	7,365	40.7	44.3
1999	345,067	188	11,898	182,246	68	142,855	7,812	41.4	45.2
2000	355,477	290	15,775	179,412	64	151,974	7,962	42.8	47.1
2001	375,975	405	18,710	181,951	61	166,327	8,521	44.3	49.0
2002	412,972	1,098	22,678	199,916	78	180,117	9,085	43.7	48.6
2003	438,601	5,030	25,776	211,408	64	186,632	9,691	43.0	48.1
2004	451,806	16,781	31,735	210,081	76	183,698	9,435	42.2	47.9
2005	440,724	24,189	47,115	194,526	85	165,905	8,904	39.8	47.3

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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 43.

Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2005—Continued

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials ^a	Medical decisions				Award rate ^b (percent)	Allowance rate ^c (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical ^d	Awards	Subsequent denials ^e		
Aged 18–64									
1992	1,451,417	0	117,675	593,455	1,451	656,374	82,462	45.2	55.4
1993	1,547,527	0	122,364	696,934	1,463	646,157	80,609	41.8	51.0
1994	1,482,503	0	106,181	729,927	1,529	575,431	69,435	38.8	46.9
1995	1,351,903	0	88,839	688,438	1,245	519,041	54,340	38.4	45.4
1996	1,277,604	0	87,869	646,497	1,534	488,215	53,489	38.2	45.5
1997	1,135,602	0	78,303	542,042	1,456	460,952	52,849	40.6	48.6
1998	1,133,015	0	76,709	516,789	1,860	483,783	53,874	42.7	50.9
1999	1,133,722	2,105	83,733	503,257	1,542	487,657	55,428	43.1	51.8
2000	1,208,866	3,121	127,968	507,000	1,423	509,384	59,970	42.2	52.8
2001	1,323,142	5,259	167,675	541,702	1,398	540,561	66,547	41.0	52.8
2002	1,483,791	13,099	230,118	604,378	1,574	562,026	72,596	38.2	51.2
2003	1,615,844	51,285	287,736	632,857	1,809	559,707	82,450	35.8	50.3
2004	1,734,012	164,347	367,793	627,695	1,531	500,524	72,122	31.9	47.6
2005	1,783,959	227,697	474,028	622,142	1,084	403,683	55,325	25.9	42.4

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2006. Data for the hearing level or above are current through August 2006.

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.

Includes decisions for SSI-only applications and applications for both Social Security and SSI. Does not include Social Security-only applications.

- a. Applications denied for nonmedical reasons so no decision was made on severity of impairment.
- b. Rate determined by dividing awards by all applications minus pending claims for that year.
- c. Rate determined by dividing medical allowances by all medical decisions for that year.
- d. Applications denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that applicant did not meet the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.
- e. Applications denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that applicant met the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.
- f. Includes applicants aged 65 or older.

CONTACT: Clark Pickett (410) 965-9016 or ssi.asr@ssa.gov.

Table 44.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by age, year of application,
and program, 1992–2005

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI 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 (percent)
<i>All ages ^b</i>									
1992	1,694,513	686,962	40.5	946,348	399,334	42.2	748,165	287,628	38.4
1993	1,907,731	687,630	36.0	1,106,624	409,102	37.0	801,107	278,528	34.8
1994	1,891,324	577,721	30.5	1,105,532	335,756	30.4	785,792	241,965	30.8
1995	1,741,877	507,742	29.1	1,037,201	291,168	28.1	704,676	216,574	30.7
1996	1,673,743	508,931	30.4	1,000,530	296,655	29.6	673,213	212,276	31.5
1997	1,407,825	459,297	32.6	820,527	260,354	31.7	587,298	198,943	33.9
1998	1,424,548	520,690	36.6	843,671	304,856	36.1	580,877	215,834	37.2
1999	1,422,398	531,498	37.4	843,031	312,871	37.1	579,367	218,627	37.7
2000	1,456,301	556,990	38.2	845,623	321,029	38.0	610,678	235,961	38.6
2001	1,546,185	595,925	38.5	860,922	338,218	39.3	685,263	257,707	37.6
2002	1,680,748	619,748	36.9	904,266	345,482	38.2	776,482	274,266	35.3
2003	1,770,376	635,241	35.9	917,511	344,751	37.6	852,865	290,490	34.1
2004	1,813,786	641,328	35.4	928,738	346,083	37.3	885,048	295,245	33.4
2005	1,734,403	607,630	35.0	900,302	331,048	36.8	834,101	276,582	33.2
<i>Under age 18</i>									
1992	360,117	194,494	54.0	329,316	176,929	53.7	30,801	17,565	57.0
1993	481,888	218,724	45.4	443,778	200,206	45.1	38,110	18,518	48.6
1994	513,641	177,660	34.6	475,233	164,436	34.6	38,408	13,224	34.4
1995	477,274	149,140	31.2	443,367	138,959	31.3	33,907	10,181	30.0
1996	443,525	133,375	30.1	413,379	124,846	30.2	30,146	8,529	28.3
1997	324,069	112,387	34.7	302,540	105,366	34.8	21,529	7,021	32.6
1998	327,688	129,729	39.6	306,164	121,371	39.6	21,524	8,358	38.8
1999	333,169	135,117	40.6	310,763	126,253	40.6	22,406	8,864	39.6
2000	339,702	143,267	42.2	316,328	133,426	42.2	23,374	9,841	42.1
2001	357,265	157,730	44.1	332,724	146,688	44.1	24,541	11,042	45.0
2002	390,294	170,542	43.7	363,020	158,263	43.6	27,274	12,279	45.0
2003	412,825	178,453	43.2	384,481	165,876	43.1	28,344	12,577	44.4
2004	420,066	180,386	42.9	392,531	168,705	43.0	27,535	11,681	42.4
2005	393,575	167,416	42.5	369,372	158,031	42.8	24,203	9,385	38.8

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 44.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by age, year of application,
and program, 1992–2005—Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI 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 (percent)
Aged 18–64									
1992	1,333,742	492,046	36.9	616,523	222,077	36.0	717,219	269,969	37.6
1993	1,425,163	468,477	32.9	662,298	208,554	31.5	762,865	259,923	34.1
1994	1,376,322	399,267	29.0	629,051	170,618	27.1	747,271	228,649	30.6
1995	1,263,064	357,732	28.3	592,390	151,417	25.6	670,674	206,315	30.8
1996	1,189,735	338,209	28.4	555,158	142,505	25.7	634,577	195,704	30.8
1997	1,057,299	324,213	30.7	498,637	139,003	27.9	558,662	185,210	33.2
1998	1,056,306	356,592	33.8	506,024	157,861	31.2	550,282	198,731	36.1
1999	1,049,989	362,246	34.5	502,870	162,036	32.2	547,119	200,210	36.6
2000	1,080,898	382,587	35.4	503,636	166,188	33.0	577,262	216,399	37.5
2001	1,155,467	408,901	35.4	505,101	172,232	34.1	650,366	236,669	36.4
2002	1,253,673	416,823	33.2	515,934	165,906	32.2	737,739	250,917	34.0
2003	1,328,108	430,707	32.4	515,659	164,504	31.9	812,449	266,203	32.8
2004	1,366,122	436,077	31.9	521,576	165,119	31.7	844,546	270,958	32.1
2005	1,309,684	411,265	31.4	513,828	157,787	30.7	795,856	253,478	31.8

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2006.

Because a number of applications remain pending for more recent years, the award and allowance rates will change over time.

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

a. Rate determined by dividing medical allowances by all medical decisions for that year.

b. Includes applicants aged 65 or older.

CONTACT: Clark Pickett (410) 965-9016 or ssi.asr@ssa.gov.

Table 45.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by age, year of application,
and program, 1992–2005

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI 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 (percent)
<i>All ages ^b</i>									
1992	479,152	74,500	15.5	234,057	38,371	16.4	245,095	36,129	14.7
1993	557,384	75,559	13.6	280,174	38,663	13.8	277,210	36,896	13.3
1994	571,602	73,734	12.9	290,341	36,826	12.7	281,261	36,908	13.1
1995	522,987	66,780	12.8	275,013	33,432	12.2	247,974	33,348	13.4
1996	480,593	65,352	13.6	249,224	32,510	13.0	231,369	32,842	14.2
1997	409,396	62,496	15.3	208,993	31,881	15.3	200,403	30,615	15.3
1998	390,212	61,266	15.7	203,132	31,818	15.7	187,080	29,448	15.7
1999	382,196	55,625	14.6	197,671	28,499	14.4	184,525	27,126	14.7
2000	382,757	53,139	13.9	192,285	26,455	13.8	190,472	26,684	14.0
2001	407,299	53,434	13.1	190,634	25,393	13.3	216,665	28,041	12.9
2002	458,317	56,059	12.2	203,464	25,783	12.7	254,853	30,276	11.9
2003	487,775	57,108	11.7	202,378	24,699	12.2	285,397	32,409	11.4
2004	482,806	52,648	10.9	196,653	22,571	11.5	286,153	30,077	10.5
2005	377,342	35,713	9.5	161,020	16,752	10.4	216,322	18,961	8.8
<i>Under age 18</i>									
1992	49,099	9,570	19.5	44,562	8,590	19.3	4,537	980	21.6
1993	75,816	11,440	15.1	69,176	10,355	15.0	6,640	1,085	16.3
1994	91,854	11,475	12.5	83,789	10,461	12.5	8,065	1,014	12.6
1995	86,651	10,459	12.1	79,397	9,625	12.1	7,254	834	11.5
1996	74,836	9,646	12.9	68,797	8,863	12.9	6,039	783	13.0
1997	51,365	8,583	16.7	47,131	7,883	16.7	4,234	700	16.5
1998	49,909	8,042	16.1	45,989	7,417	16.1	3,920	625	15.9
1999	49,456	7,476	15.1	45,465	6,839	15.0	3,991	637	16.0
2000	48,361	7,513	15.5	44,462	6,950	15.6	3,899	563	14.4
2001	49,495	7,649	15.5	45,567	7,069	15.5	3,928	580	14.8
2002	56,273	8,312	14.8	51,775	7,620	14.7	4,498	692	15.4
2003	59,715	8,457	14.2	54,939	7,763	14.1	4,776	694	14.5
2004	57,984	7,786	13.4	53,638	7,287	13.6	4,346	499	11.5
2005	45,803	6,301	13.8	42,625	5,920	13.9	3,178	381	12.0

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 45.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by age, year of application,
and program, 1992–2005—Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI 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 (percent)
Aged 18–64									
1992	429,944	64,891	15.1	189,409	29,744	15.7	240,535	35,147	14.6
1993	481,434	64,074	13.3	210,882	28,268	13.4	270,552	35,806	13.2
1994	479,439	62,150	13.0	206,253	26,260	12.7	273,186	35,890	13.1
1995	435,988	56,205	12.9	195,281	23,695	12.1	240,707	32,510	13.5
1996	403,309	54,194	13.4	178,404	22,457	12.6	224,905	31,737	14.1
1997	355,514	52,588	14.8	159,694	22,951	14.4	195,820	29,637	15.1
1998	337,411	51,759	15.3	154,436	23,051	14.9	182,975	28,708	15.7
1999	330,830	47,244	14.3	150,460	20,862	13.9	180,370	26,382	14.6
2000	332,767	44,865	13.5	146,383	18,874	12.9	186,384	25,991	13.9
2001	356,236	45,039	12.6	143,740	17,759	12.4	212,496	27,280	12.8
2002	400,138	46,817	11.7	150,064	17,452	11.6	250,074	29,365	11.7
2003	426,628	47,997	11.3	146,276	16,472	11.3	280,352	31,525	11.2
2004	423,706	44,332	10.5	142,158	14,953	10.5	281,548	29,379	10.4
2005	330,689	28,831	8.7	117,786	10,459	8.9	212,903	18,372	8.6

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2006.

Because a number of applications remain pending for more recent years, the award and allowance rates will change over time.

Applications with a medical decision may be pending a final nonmedical decision or 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.

a. Rate determined by dividing medical allowances by all medical decisions for that year.

b. Includes applicants aged 65 or older.

CONTACT: Clark Pickett (410) 965-9016 or ssi.asr@ssa.gov.

Table 46.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by age, year of application,
and program, 1992–2005

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI 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 (percent)
<i>All ages ^b</i>									
1992	280,751	189,656	67.6	128,789	79,307	61.6	151,962	110,349	72.6
1993	327,271	205,185	62.7	153,126	85,195	55.6	174,145	119,990	68.9
1994	333,329	196,756	59.0	156,584	80,594	51.5	176,745	116,162	65.7
1995	300,958	170,826	56.8	145,570	70,445	48.4	155,388	100,381	64.6
1996	271,977	159,167	58.5	128,712	64,430	50.1	143,265	94,737	66.1
1997	238,744	145,095	60.8	112,201	59,737	53.2	126,543	85,358	67.5
1998	224,759	137,312	61.1	107,693	57,970	53.8	117,066	79,342	67.8
1999	229,227	142,140	62.0	110,192	59,799	54.3	119,035	82,341	69.2
2000	247,904	151,491	61.1	118,077	62,359	52.8	129,827	89,132	68.7
2001	268,813	163,054	60.7	119,948	62,406	52.0	148,865	100,648	67.6
2002	298,063	181,792	61.0	124,856	64,828	51.9	173,207	116,964	67.5
2003	275,372	173,218	62.9	105,746	55,477	52.5	169,626	117,741	69.4
2004	148,293	97,472	65.7	55,178	29,637	53.7	93,115	67,835	72.9
2005	29,072	20,065	69.0	12,136	6,423	52.9	16,936	13,642	80.6
<i>Under age 18</i>									
1992	19,988	7,729	38.7	17,979	6,890	38.3	2,009	839	41.8
1993	31,658	10,921	34.5	28,625	9,784	34.2	3,033	1,137	37.5
1994	38,751	13,222	34.1	34,869	11,860	34.0	3,882	1,362	35.1
1995	35,856	11,285	31.5	32,428	10,131	31.2	3,428	1,154	33.7
1996	28,105	9,153	32.6	25,589	8,295	32.4	2,516	858	34.1
1997	19,549	7,299	37.3	17,723	6,593	37.2	1,826	706	38.7
1998	18,904	7,244	38.3	17,199	6,546	38.1	1,705	698	40.9
1999	20,715	8,074	39.0	18,816	7,285	38.7	1,899	789	41.5
2000	24,289	9,156	37.7	22,096	8,242	37.3	2,193	914	41.7
2001	25,752	9,469	36.8	23,524	8,573	36.4	2,228	896	40.2
2002	28,621	10,348	36.2	26,180	9,396	35.9	2,441	952	39.0
2003	25,853	9,413	36.4	23,626	8,513	36.0	2,227	900	40.4
2004	13,075	4,961	37.9	12,077	4,533	37.5	998	428	42.9
2005	2,272	1,092	48.1	2,113	1,014	48.0	159	78	49.1

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 46.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by age, year of application,
and program, 1992–2005—Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI 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 (percent)
Aged 18–64									
1992	260,727	181,899	69.8	110,785	72,398	65.4	149,942	109,501	73.0
1993	295,551	194,215	65.7	124,445	75,368	60.6	171,106	118,847	69.5
1994	294,441	183,449	62.3	121,584	68,654	56.5	172,857	114,795	66.4
1995	264,954	159,444	60.2	113,002	60,224	53.3	151,952	99,220	65.3
1996	243,064	149,301	61.4	102,414	55,516	54.2	140,650	93,785	66.7
1997	218,234	137,000	62.8	93,582	52,402	56.0	124,652	84,598	67.9
1998	204,892	129,306	63.1	89,580	50,706	56.6	115,312	78,600	68.2
1999	207,909	133,595	64.3	90,819	52,083	57.3	117,090	81,512	69.6
2000	223,028	141,902	63.6	95,444	53,725	56.3	127,584	88,177	69.1
2001	242,502	153,168	63.2	95,910	53,448	55.7	146,592	99,720	68.0
2002	268,771	170,982	63.6	98,051	55,003	56.1	170,720	115,979	67.9
2003	249,014	163,453	65.6	81,676	46,662	57.1	167,338	116,791	69.8
2004	134,887	92,237	68.4	42,804	24,858	58.1	92,083	67,379	73.2
2005	26,727	18,912	70.8	9,965	5,363	53.8	16,762	13,549	80.8

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

NOTES: Data are current through August 2006.

Because a number of applications remain pending for more recent years, the award and allowance rates will change over time.

Applications with a medical decision may be pending a final nonmedical decision or 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.

a. Rate determined by dividing medical allowances by all medical decisions for that year.

b. Includes applicants aged 65 or older.

CONTACT: Clark Pickett (410) 965-9016 or ssi.asr@ssa.gov.

Table 47.
Percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by age, year of application,
and reason for allowance, 1992–2005

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings ^a	Under age 18 only		Aged 18 or older only		Other ^{a,b}
	Number	Percent		Medically equals level of severity of listings	Functionally equals level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	
All ages ^c								
1992	951,118	100.0	36.6	1.5	1.3	7.5	18.6	34.4
1993	968,374	100.0	36.5	1.5	1.6	5.5	17.4	37.6
1994	848,211	100.0	36.8	1.5	2.1	4.4	18.1	37.1
1995	745,348	100.0	35.8	1.6	2.5	4.3	18.6	37.2
1996	733,450	100.0	35.9	1.8	3.3	4.4	17.4	37.2
1997	666,888	100.0	37.6	1.8	4.3	4.7	18.4	33.3
1998	719,268	100.0	38.2	1.9	4.8	4.2	20.1	30.8
1999	729,263	100.0	36.6	2.0	5.3	4.0	20.8	31.2
2000	761,620	100.0	35.1	1.9	6.1	4.2	21.4	31.3
2001	812,413	100.0	34.8	1.8	7.0	4.2	22.2	30.0
2002	857,599	100.0	33.3	1.7	7.9	3.7	21.8	31.6
2003	865,567	100.0	33.1	1.7	9.0	3.7	22.6	29.9
2004	791,448	100.0	35.1	1.6	10.6	4.0	25.1	23.6
2005	663,408	100.0	37.5	1.8	12.1	4.1	26.7	17.8
Under age 18								
1992	211,793	100.0	48.3	6.9	5.9	...	...	38.9
1993	241,085	100.0	44.9	5.9	6.4	...	...	42.7
1994	202,357	100.0	45.6	6.5	8.6	...	...	39.3
1995	170,884	100.0	44.8	7.0	11.0	...	...	37.2
1996	152,174	100.0	52.7	8.7	16.0	...	...	22.6
1997	128,269	100.0	55.8	9.2	22.1	...	...	12.9
1998	145,015	100.0	55.6	9.6	23.6	...	...	11.2
1999	150,667	100.0	53.2	9.8	25.8	...	...	11.3
2000	159,936	100.0	50.2	9.2	28.9	...	...	11.7
2001	174,848	100.0	48.3	8.2	32.4	...	...	11.1
2002	189,202	100.0	45.3	7.7	35.9	...	...	11.1
2003	196,323	100.0	43.9	7.5	39.7	...	...	9.0
2004	193,133	100.0	42.8	6.8	43.4	...	...	7.0
2005	174,809	100.0	41.0	6.7	46.1	...	...	6.2

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 47.

Percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by age, year of application, and reason for allowance, 1992–2005—Continued

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings ^a	Under age 18 only		Aged 18 or older only		Other ^{a,b}
				Medically equals level of severity of listings	Functionally equals level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	
	Number	Percent						
Aged 18–64								
1992	738,836	100.0	33.3	...	...	9.7	23.9	33.2
1993	726,766	100.0	33.7	...	...	7.3	23.1	35.9
1994	644,866	100.0	34.0	...	...	5.8	23.8	36.4
1995	573,381	100.0	33.2	...	...	5.6	24.0	37.2
1996	541,704	100.0	33.7	...	...	5.9	23.3	37.1
1997	513,801	100.0	34.5	...	...	6.1	22.6	36.9
1998	537,657	100.0	35.6	...	...	5.5	23.9	35.1
1999	543,085	100.0	34.0	...	...	5.3	25.1	35.6
2000	569,354	100.0	32.6	...	...	5.6	26.4	35.5
2001	607,108	100.0	32.5	...	...	5.6	27.8	34.2
2002	634,622	100.0	31.3	...	...	5.0	27.6	36.1
2003	642,157	100.0	31.1	...	...	5.0	29.1	34.8
2004	572,646	100.0	33.9	...	...	5.5	33.6	27.0
2005	459,008	100.0	38.5	...	...	5.9	37.4	18.1

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2006. Data for the hearing level or above are current through August 2006.

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 subsequently denied for nonmedical reasons.

Includes decisions for SSI-only applications and applications for both Social Security and SSI. Does not include Social Security-only applications.

... = not applicable.

a. Includes all age groups.

b. Includes applications for which the disability was previously established and those for which the basis for the determination is not available. For final determinations made in or before August 1996 for applicants under age 18, also includes applications allowed because individual functional assessment showed impairment of comparable severity.

c. Includes applicants aged 65 or older.

CONTACT: Clark Pickett (410) 965-9016 or ssi.asr@ssa.gov.

Table 48.
Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application,
and reason for denial, 1992–2005

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Impairment does not cause severe functional limitations ^a	Able to do usual past work ^b	Able to do other type of work ^b	Other ^c
	Number	Percent						
<i>All ages ^d</i>								
1992	743,395	100.0	7.3	22.1	...	17.5	26.3	26.9
1993	939,357	100.0	6.6	21.2	...	15.4	24.8	31.9
1994	1,043,113	100.0	6.2	20.7	...	13.6	23.3	36.1
1995	996,529	100.0	6.2	19.7	...	12.4	22.4	39.2
1996	940,293	100.0	6.4	20.6	5.8	12.1	22.9	32.2
1997	740,937	100.0	6.8	16.7	16.2	13.0	25.1	22.1
1998	705,280	100.0	6.9	15.0	18.3	14.7	25.4	19.9
1999	690,838	100.0	6.7	14.0	19.1	15.5	24.5	20.2
2000	691,268	100.0	6.4	13.3	18.7	15.8	24.2	21.5
2001	728,099	100.0	6.1	13.2	18.3	16.6	26.1	19.8
2002	808,939	100.0	5.7	13.0	18.3	16.9	26.5	19.7
2003	848,449	100.0	5.1	12.2	18.9	16.9	26.9	20.0
2004	841,210	100.0	4.8	11.3	18.9	16.2	26.4	22.4
2005	819,261	100.0	4.7	10.8	17.7	15.8	26.6	24.3
<i>Under age 18</i>								
1992	148,324	100.0	1.5	22.7	...	...	...	75.8
1993	240,803	100.0	1.3	21.8	...	...	...	76.9
1994	311,284	100.0	1.4	22.4	...	...	...	76.2
1995	306,390	100.0	1.3	21.8	...	...	...	76.9
1996	291,351	100.0	1.4	26.9	18.7	...	...	53.0
1997	195,800	100.0	1.6	19.1	61.4	...	...	18.0
1998	182,673	100.0	1.3	14.4	70.6	...	...	13.7
1999	182,314	100.0	1.1	13.3	72.4	...	...	13.2
2000	179,476	100.0	1.1	13.2	72.1	...	...	13.6
2001	182,012	100.0	1.1	14.0	73.0	...	...	11.9
2002	199,994	100.0	1.0	13.4	73.9	...	...	11.8
2003	211,472	100.0	0.9	12.3	75.7	...	...	11.0
2004	210,157	100.0	0.8	11.1	75.7	...	...	12.4
2005	194,611	100.0	0.9	11.0	74.4	...	...	13.6

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 48.

Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application, and reason for denial, 1992–2005—Continued

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Impairment does not cause severe functional limitations ^a	Able to do usual past work ^b	Able to do other type of work ^b	Other ^c
	Number	Percent						
Aged 18–64								
1992	594,906	100.0	8.8	21.9	...	21.8	32.8	14.7
1993	698,397	100.0	8.4	21.0	...	20.7	33.4	16.4
1994	731,456	100.0	8.3	20.0	...	19.4	33.2	19.1
1995	689,683	100.0	8.4	18.8	...	17.9	32.4	22.5
1996	648,031	100.0	8.6	17.8	...	17.5	33.3	22.8
1997	543,498	100.0	8.8	15.8	...	17.7	34.2	23.6
1998	518,649	100.0	8.9	14.9	...	19.7	34.4	22.0
1999	504,799	100.0	8.7	14.1	...	21.0	33.5	22.7
2000	508,423	100.0	8.4	13.2	...	21.2	32.9	24.3
2001	543,100	100.0	7.8	12.8	...	22.1	34.9	22.4
2002	605,952	100.0	7.3	12.7	...	22.5	35.3	22.2
2003	634,666	100.0	6.6	12.0	...	22.5	36.0	22.9
2004	629,226	100.0	6.2	11.4	...	21.5	35.2	25.7
2005	623,226	100.0	5.9	10.7	...	20.8	35.0	27.6

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2006. Data for the hearing level or above are current through August 2006.

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 subsequently denied for nonmedical reasons.

Includes decisions for SSI-only applications and applications for both Social Security and SSI. Does not include Social Security-only applications.

... = not applicable.

a. Used only for applicants under age 18. Category effective for final determinations made August 1996 or later.

b. Used only for applicants aged 18 or older.

c. Applicant provided insufficient 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. For final determinations made August 1996 or before for applicants under age 18, also includes claims denied because individual functional assessment showed impairment not of comparable severity.

d. Includes applicants aged 65 or older.

CONTACT: Clark Pickett (410) 965-9016 or ssi.asr@ssa.gov.