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## 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 68 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 69–71 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 72 and 73). 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 68.**  
**Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2006**

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials <sup>a</sup>	Medical decisions				Award rate <sup>b</sup> (percent)	Allowance rate <sup>c</sup> (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical <sup>d</sup>	Awards	Subsequent denials <sup>e</sup>		
<i>All ages <sup>f</sup></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	738,808	2,074	606,224	60,719	40.3	47.4
1998	1,520,538	0	95,990	701,365	3,831	656,533	62,819	43.2	50.5
1999	1,528,217	0	105,819	688,965	4,003	665,028	64,402	43.5	51.3
2000	1,612,826	2,616	156,525	687,841	3,823	693,126	68,895	43.0	52.4
2001	1,749,572	3,288	203,387	725,850	3,501	737,589	75,957	42.2	52.7
2002	1,959,039	5,325	278,291	810,309	3,565	778,916	82,633	39.9	51.4
2003	2,112,577	12,669	342,201	866,732	3,418	794,665	92,892	37.8	50.5
2004	2,246,392	53,315	431,182	880,643	3,276	781,207	96,769	35.6	49.8
2005	2,326,784	157,289	561,837	829,128	2,802	693,728	82,000	32.0	48.3
2006	2,377,892	269,835	629,968	823,790	2,092	586,857	65,350	27.8	44.1
<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	195,730	69	121,439	6,831	36.3	39.6
1998	338,592	0	10,904	182,596	74	137,653	7,365	40.7	44.3
1999	345,067	0	11,898	182,427	68	142,862	7,812	41.4	45.2
2000	355,477	244	15,775	179,441	64	151,991	7,962	42.8	47.1
2001	375,975	226	18,710	182,070	61	166,387	8,521	44.3	49.0
2002	412,972	355	22,678	200,411	79	180,364	9,085	43.7	48.6
2003	438,601	826	25,776	214,243	64	188,001	9,691	42.9	48.0
2004	451,735	4,657	31,539	217,626	83	187,883	9,947	42.0	47.6
2005	445,449	14,711	46,839	201,557	97	172,584	9,661	40.1	47.5
2006	453,836	26,289	49,933	203,421	85	164,711	9,397	38.5	46.1

(Continued)

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 68.**

**Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2006—Continued**

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials <sup>a</sup>	Medical decisions				Award rate <sup>b</sup> (percent)	Allowance rate <sup>c</sup> (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical <sup>d</sup>	Awards	Subsequent denials <sup>e</sup>		
<b>Aged 18–64</b>									
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	541,988	1,456	461,006	52,849	40.6	48.6
1998	1,133,015	0	76,709	516,708	1,860	483,866	53,872	42.7	50.9
1999	1,133,722	0	83,733	505,202	1,542	487,820	55,425	43.0	51.7
2000	1,208,866	2,370	127,968	507,367	1,423	509,772	59,966	42.3	52.8
2001	1,323,142	3,054	167,675	542,834	1,398	541,642	66,539	41.0	52.8
2002	1,483,791	4,964	230,118	608,806	1,580	565,745	72,578	38.3	51.1
2003	1,615,844	11,834	287,736	651,689	1,825	580,359	82,401	36.2	50.4
2004	1,733,410	48,641	366,069	662,389	1,877	568,314	86,120	33.7	49.6
2005	1,807,363	142,542	472,425	627,023	1,620	492,012	71,741	29.6	47.3
2006	1,851,839	243,474	534,414	619,896	1,122	397,573	55,360	24.7	42.2

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through August 2007. Data for the hearing level or above are current through September 2007.

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.

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**Table 69.**  
**Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by age, year of application, and program, 1992–2006**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)
<i>All ages <sup>b</sup></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	1,815,210	643,973	35.5	917,670	343,476	37.4	897,540	300,497	33.5
2005	1,764,880	620,290	35.1	895,411	332,941	37.2	869,469	287,349	33.0
2006	1,747,803	590,520	33.8	893,847	319,005	35.7	853,956	271,515	31.8
<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	420,196	180,657	43.0	391,086	167,717	42.9	29,110	12,940	44.5
2005	398,607	169,455	42.5	371,773	158,534	42.6	26,834	10,921	40.7
2006	403,883	165,825	41.1	379,307	156,779	41.3	24,576	9,046	36.8

(Continued)

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 69.**  
**Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by age, year of application, and program, 1992–2006—**  
**Continued**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)
<b>Aged 18–64</b>									
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	1,367,341	438,473	32.1	511,679	163,312	31.9	855,662	275,161	32.2
2005	1,334,874	421,850	31.6	506,191	159,015	31.4	828,683	262,835	31.7
2006	1,317,326	400,069	30.4	501,927	151,262	30.1	815,399	248,807	30.5

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

NOTES: Data are current through August 2007.

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.

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**Table 70.**  
**Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by age, year of application, and program, 1992–2006**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)
<i>All ages <sup>b</sup></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	61,264	15.7	203,132	31,818	15.7	187,080	29,446	15.7
1999	382,196	55,620	14.6	197,671	28,498	14.4	184,525	27,122	14.7
2000	382,757	53,134	13.9	192,285	26,455	13.8	190,472	26,679	14.0
2001	407,299	53,426	13.1	190,634	25,393	13.3	216,665	28,033	12.9
2002	458,317	56,036	12.2	203,464	25,778	12.7	254,853	30,258	11.9
2003	487,775	57,043	11.7	202,378	24,693	12.2	285,397	32,350	11.3
2004	487,526	54,071	11.1	193,247	22,662	11.7	294,279	31,409	10.7
2005	460,770	50,867	11.0	185,786	21,954	11.8	274,984	28,913	10.5
2006	420,258	36,875	8.8	172,984	16,727	9.7	247,274	20,148	8.1
<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	58,298	7,833	13.4	53,622	7,261	13.5	4,676	572	12.2
2005	54,260	7,712	14.2	50,078	7,161	14.3	4,182	551	13.2
2006	52,724	6,901	13.1	49,150	6,504	13.2	3,574	397	11.1

(Continued)

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 70.**  
**Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by age, year of application, and program, 1992–2006—**  
**Continued**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)
<b>Aged 18–64</b>									
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	51,757	15.3	154,436	23,051	14.9	182,975	28,706	15.7
1999	330,830	47,239	14.3	150,460	20,861	13.9	180,370	26,378	14.6
2000	332,767	44,860	13.5	146,383	18,874	12.9	186,384	25,986	13.9
2001	356,236	45,031	12.6	143,740	17,759	12.4	212,496	27,272	12.8
2002	400,138	46,794	11.7	150,064	17,447	11.6	250,074	29,347	11.7
2003	426,628	47,932	11.2	146,276	16,466	11.3	280,352	31,466	11.2
2004	428,092	45,691	10.7	138,753	15,054	10.8	289,339	30,637	10.6
2005	405,519	42,525	10.5	134,986	14,383	10.7	270,533	28,142	10.4
2006	366,798	29,492	8.0	123,338	9,948	8.1	243,460	19,544	8.0

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

NOTES: Data are current through August 2007.

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.

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**Table 71.**  
**Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by age, year of application, and program, 1992–2006**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)
<i>All ages<sup>b</sup></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	238,765	145,150	60.8	112,218	59,766	53.3	126,547	85,384	67.5
1998	224,761	137,398	61.1	107,693	58,008	53.9	117,068	79,390	67.8
1999	231,530	142,312	61.5	111,215	59,882	53.8	120,315	82,430	68.5
2000	248,710	151,897	61.1	118,462	62,550	52.8	130,248	89,347	68.6
2001	271,212	164,195	60.5	121,092	62,935	52.0	150,120	101,260	67.5
2002	306,808	185,765	60.5	128,740	66,503	51.7	178,068	119,262	67.0
2003	318,986	195,273	61.2	123,528	63,739	51.6	195,458	131,534	67.3
2004	280,772	179,932	64.1	102,511	54,796	53.5	178,261	125,136	70.2
2005	156,191	104,571	67.0	57,599	31,922	55.4	98,592	72,649	73.7
2006	35,944	24,812	69.0	14,339	7,912	55.2	21,605	16,900	78.2
<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	7,300	37.3	17,723	6,594	37.2	1,826	706	38.7
1998	18,904	7,247	38.3	17,199	6,548	38.1	1,705	699	41.0
1999	20,903	8,081	38.7	18,986	7,292	38.4	1,917	789	41.2
2000	24,335	9,173	37.7	22,137	8,257	37.3	2,198	916	41.7
2001	25,931	9,529	36.7	23,685	8,629	36.4	2,246	900	40.1
2002	29,346	10,595	36.1	26,840	9,625	35.9	2,506	970	38.7
2003	30,037	10,782	35.9	27,397	9,754	35.6	2,640	1,028	38.9
2004	25,394	9,340	36.8	23,175	8,399	36.2	2,219	941	42.4
2005	12,797	5,078	39.7	11,791	4,653	39.5	1,006	425	42.2
2006	2,877	1,382	48.0	2,688	1,290	48.0	189	92	48.7

(Continued)



## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 71.**

**Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by age, year of application, and program, 1992–2006—*Continued***

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)
<b><i>Aged 18–64</i></b>									
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	218,255	137,054	62.8	93,599	52,430	56.0	124,656	84,624	67.9
1998	204,894	129,389	63.1	89,580	50,742	56.6	115,314	78,647	68.2
1999	210,020	133,760	63.7	91,668	52,159	56.9	118,352	81,601	68.9
2000	223,788	142,291	63.6	95,788	53,901	56.3	128,000	88,390	69.1
2001	244,721	154,249	63.0	96,892	53,921	55.7	147,829	100,328	67.9
2002	276,784	174,706	63.1	101,268	56,447	55.7	175,516	118,259	67.4
2003	288,409	184,121	63.8	95,656	53,667	56.1	192,753	130,454	67.7
2004	254,956	170,270	66.8	78,967	46,109	58.4	175,989	124,161	70.6
2005	143,221	99,378	69.4	45,665	27,180	59.5	97,556	72,198	74.0
2006	32,996	23,372	70.8	11,595	6,579	56.7	21,401	16,793	78.5

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

NOTES: Data are current through September 2007.

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 72.

Percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by age, year of application, and reason for allowance, 1992–2006

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings <sup>a</sup>	Under age 18 only		Aged 18 or older only		Other <sup>a,b</sup>
				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						
<i>All ages<sup>c</sup></i>								
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	666,943	100.0	37.6	1.8	4.3	4.7	18.4	33.3
1998	719,352	100.0	38.2	1.9	4.8	4.2	20.0	30.8
1999	729,430	100.0	36.6	2.0	5.3	3.9	20.8	31.3
2000	762,021	100.0	35.1	1.9	6.1	4.2	21.4	31.3
2001	813,546	100.0	34.8	1.8	7.0	4.2	22.2	30.1
2002	861,549	100.0	33.2	1.7	7.9	3.7	21.7	31.9
2003	887,557	100.0	32.3	1.7	8.8	3.6	22.0	31.6
2004	877,976	100.0	32.2	1.5	9.6	3.7	23.1	29.9
2005	775,728	100.0	34.2	1.6	10.7	3.8	25.3	24.5
2006	652,207	100.0	38.3	1.7	13.0	4.1	26.9	16.0
<i>Under age 18</i>								
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	128,270	100.0	55.8	9.2	22.1	...	...	12.9
1998	145,018	100.0	55.6	9.6	23.6	...	...	11.2
1999	150,674	100.0	53.2	9.8	25.8	...	...	11.3
2000	159,953	100.0	50.1	9.2	28.9	...	...	11.7
2001	174,908	100.0	48.2	8.2	32.4	...	...	11.1
2002	189,449	100.0	45.2	7.6	35.9	...	...	11.2
2003	197,692	100.0	43.6	7.4	39.4	...	...	9.6
2004	197,830	100.0	42.3	6.7	42.6	...	...	8.4
2005	182,245	100.0	41.0	6.6	45.4	...	...	6.9
2006	174,108	100.0	40.0	6.2	48.8	...	...	5.0

(Continued)

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 72.**

**Percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by age, year of application, and reason for allowance, 1992–2006—Continued**

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings <sup>a</sup>	Under age 18 only		Aged 18 or older only		Other <sup>a,b</sup>
				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						
<b>Aged 18–64</b>								
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	513,855	100.0	34.5	...	...	6.1	22.6	36.9
1998	537,738	100.0	35.6	...	...	5.5	23.9	35.1
1999	543,245	100.0	34.0	...	...	5.3	25.1	35.7
2000	569,738	100.0	32.6	...	...	5.5	26.3	35.6
2001	608,181	100.0	32.4	...	...	5.6	27.7	34.3
2002	638,323	100.0	31.1	...	...	5.0	27.4	36.5
2003	662,760	100.0	30.1	...	...	4.8	28.2	36.8
2004	654,434	100.0	30.3	...	...	4.9	30.1	34.7
2005	563,753	100.0	33.7	...	...	5.2	33.7	27.4
2006	452,933	100.0	39.7	...	...	5.9	37.8	16.6

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through August 2007. Data for the hearing level or above are current through September 2007.

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.

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**Table 73.**  
**Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application,**  
**and reason for denial, 1992–2006**

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Impairment does not cause severe functional limitations <sup>a</sup>	Able to do usual past work <sup>b</sup>	Able to do other type of work <sup>b</sup>	Other <sup>c</sup>
	Number	Percent						
<i>All ages <sup>d</sup></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	740,882	100.0	6.8	16.7	16.2	13.0	25.1	22.1
1998	705,196	100.0	6.9	15.0	18.3	14.7	25.4	19.9
1999	692,968	100.0	6.7	14.0	19.1	15.6	24.6	20.2
2000	691,664	100.0	6.4	13.3	18.7	15.8	24.2	21.5
2001	729,351	100.0	6.1	13.2	18.2	16.6	26.1	19.8
2002	813,874	100.0	5.7	12.9	18.2	17.0	26.6	19.6
2003	870,150	100.0	5.1	12.1	18.7	17.1	27.3	19.7
2004	883,919	100.0	4.8	11.4	18.8	16.7	27.3	21.0
2005	831,930	100.0	4.6	11.2	18.2	16.0	27.1	22.9
2006	825,882	100.0	4.4	11.2	18.5	15.8	26.9	23.2
<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	195,799	100.0	1.6	19.1	61.4	...	...	18.0
1998	182,670	100.0	1.3	14.4	70.6	...	...	13.7
1999	182,495	100.0	1.1	13.3	72.4	...	...	13.2
2000	179,505	100.0	1.1	13.2	72.1	...	...	13.6
2001	182,131	100.0	1.1	14.0	73.0	...	...	11.9
2002	200,490	100.0	1.0	13.4	73.9	...	...	11.8
2003	214,307	100.0	0.9	12.3	75.9	...	...	10.9
2004	217,709	100.0	0.8	11.0	76.3	...	...	11.9
2005	201,654	100.0	0.9	11.1	75.1	...	...	13.0
2006	203,506	100.0	0.8	11.5	75.3	...	...	12.4

(Continued)

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 73.**

**Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application, and reason for denial, 1992–2006—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 <sup>a</sup>	Able to do usual past work <sup>b</sup>	Able to do other type of work <sup>b</sup>	Other <sup>c</sup>
	Number	Percent						
<i>Aged 18–64</i>								
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	543,444	100.0	8.8	15.8	...	17.7	34.2	23.6
1998	518,568	100.0	8.9	14.9	...	19.7	34.4	22.0
1999	506,744	100.0	8.7	14.1	...	21.0	33.6	22.7
2000	508,790	100.0	8.4	13.2	...	21.3	32.9	24.3
2001	544,232	100.0	7.8	12.8	...	22.1	35.0	22.4
2002	610,386	100.0	7.3	12.7	...	22.5	35.4	22.1
2003	653,514	100.0	6.5	11.9	...	22.7	36.4	22.5
2004	664,266	100.0	6.1	11.4	...	22.1	36.4	24.0
2005	628,643	100.0	5.8	11.2	...	21.1	35.9	26.0
2006	621,018	100.0	5.6	11.0	...	20.9	35.7	26.7

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through August 2007. Data for the hearing level or above are current through September 2007.

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.

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