

OUTCOMES OF APPLICATIONS FOR DISABILITY BENEFITS



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 69 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 70–72 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 73 and 74). 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.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 69.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2011

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	738,808	2,074	606,224	60,719	40.3	47.4
1998	1,520,538	0	95,990	701,331	3,831	656,567	62,819	43.2	50.5
1999	1,528,217	0	105,819	688,922	4,003	665,071	64,402	43.5	51.3
2000	1,612,878	0	156,447	687,969	3,841	691,505	73,116	42.9	52.5
2001	1,749,407	0	203,313	725,442	3,542	736,126	80,984	42.1	52.8
2002	1,958,790	0	278,217	810,525	3,583	777,403	89,062	39.7	51.6
2003	2,112,104	0	342,132	870,644	3,365	796,312	99,651	37.7	50.6
2004	2,245,536	0	431,054	905,046	3,225	804,576	101,635	35.8	49.9
2005	2,322,911	606	560,261	881,206	3,115	779,770	97,953	33.6	49.8
2006	2,419,039	1,622	637,973	907,862	2,958	774,109	94,515	32.0	48.8
2007	2,438,121	5,120	657,445	918,154	2,832	762,927	91,643	31.4	48.1
2008	2,540,093	14,951	649,096	942,342	2,714	834,632	96,358	33.1	49.6
2009	2,858,139	53,864	688,521	1,077,159	2,694	919,554	116,347	32.8	49.0
2010	2,894,929	175,890	675,804	1,088,538	2,440	845,023	107,234	31.1	46.6
2011	2,781,124	440,696	616,078	975,154	2,047	668,823	78,326	28.6	43.3
<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	182,594	74	137,655	7,365	40.7	44.3
1999	345,067	0	11,898	182,426	68	142,863	7,812	41.4	45.2
2000	355,474	0	15,774	179,549	66	151,912	8,173	42.7	47.1
2001	375,950	0	18,708	182,089	61	166,280	8,812	44.2	49.0
2002	412,957	0	22,677	200,522	78	180,264	9,416	43.7	48.6
2003	438,572	0	25,776	214,609	65	188,119	10,003	42.9	48.0
2004	451,668	0	31,537	220,653	83	189,216	10,179	41.9	47.5
2005	445,100	23	46,751	210,458	101	177,536	10,231	39.9	47.1
2006	455,145	93	50,011	218,650	104	176,022	10,265	38.7	46.0
2007	457,405	260	53,081	218,914	119	175,136	9,895	38.3	45.8
2008	472,553	924	53,736	220,705	142	187,597	9,449	39.8	47.2
2009	539,818	4,399	57,847	254,830	134	211,241	11,367	39.5	46.6
2010	540,203	15,132	57,432	256,693	113	200,083	10,750	38.1	45.1
2011	524,198	38,907	54,889	236,912	98	183,798	9,594	37.9	44.9

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 69.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2011—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		
<i>Aged 18–64</i>									
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	516,676	1,860	483,898	53,872	42.7	50.9
1999	1,133,722	0	83,733	505,160	1,542	487,862	55,425	43.0	51.7
2000	1,208,918	0	127,891	507,396	1,438	508,229	63,964	42.0	52.9
2001	1,323,001	0	167,603	542,407	1,436	540,288	71,267	40.8	52.9
2002	1,483,558	0	230,046	608,936	1,571	564,346	78,659	38.0	51.3
2003	1,615,400	0	287,669	655,239	1,765	581,903	88,824	36.0	50.5
2004	1,732,620	0	365,943	683,763	1,819	590,339	90,756	34.1	49.8
2005	1,804,002	583	470,955	670,212	1,917	573,214	87,121	31.8	49.6
2006	1,891,892	1,529	542,481	688,736	1,972	573,512	83,662	30.3	48.8
2007	1,908,581	4,860	557,111	679,353	1,947	584,003	81,307	30.7	49.4
2008	1,995,482	14,025	547,859	701,161	1,975	643,940	86,522	32.5	51.0
2009	2,242,960	49,460	580,565	800,915	2,018	705,361	104,641	32.2	50.2
2010	2,280,064	160,737	568,371	810,455	1,892	642,429	96,180	30.3	47.6
2011	2,182,578	401,731	511,544	716,120	1,581	483,098	68,504	27.1	43.5

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2012. Data for the hearing level or above are current through October 2012.

Because a number of applications remain pending for more recent years, the numbers and percentages 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: (410) 965-0090 or statistics@ssa.gov.

Table 70.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by age, year of application, and program,
1992–2011

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	1,456,431	554,432	38.1	845,774	320,683	37.9	610,657	233,749	38.3
2001	1,546,094	592,932	38.4	860,944	337,508	39.2	685,150	255,424	37.3
2002	1,680,573	616,501	36.7	904,251	344,833	38.1	776,322	271,668	35.0
2003	1,769,972	631,320	35.7	917,456	343,711	37.5	852,516	287,609	33.7
2004	1,814,482	639,585	35.2	917,579	342,192	37.3	896,903	297,393	33.2
2005	1,762,650	616,349	35.0	888,937	328,359	36.9	873,713	287,990	33.0
2006	1,781,066	602,322	33.8	894,456	316,937	35.4	886,610	285,385	32.2
2007	1,780,676	582,229	32.7	889,279	305,775	34.4	891,397	276,454	31.0
2008	1,890,997	636,468	33.7	947,071	332,823	35.1	943,926	303,645	32.2
2009	2,169,618	719,044	33.1	1,095,552	378,419	34.5	1,074,066	340,625	31.7
2010	2,219,069	695,343	31.3	1,120,502	366,846	32.7	1,098,567	328,497	29.9
2011	2,164,918	652,287	30.1	1,111,418	350,855	31.6	1,053,500	301,432	28.6
<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	339,700	143,488	42.2	316,325	133,675	42.3	23,375	9,813	42.0
2001	357,242	157,781	44.2	332,701	146,810	44.1	24,541	10,971	44.7
2002	390,280	170,519	43.7	363,007	158,369	43.6	27,273	12,150	44.5
2003	412,796	178,051	43.1	384,457	165,640	43.1	28,339	12,411	43.8
2004	420,131	180,180	42.9	391,024	167,412	42.8	29,107	12,768	43.9
2005	398,349	169,033	42.4	369,914	156,928	42.4	28,435	12,105	42.6
2006	405,134	166,092	41.0	376,681	154,486	41.0	28,453	11,606	40.8
2007	404,324	164,500	40.7	374,495	152,314	40.7	29,829	12,186	40.9
2008	418,817	174,936	41.8	388,313	162,193	41.8	30,504	12,743	41.8
2009	481,971	198,403	41.2	446,904	183,948	41.2	35,067	14,455	41.2
2010	482,769	190,819	39.5	448,564	178,041	39.7	34,205	12,778	37.4
2011	469,300	183,002	39.0	438,086	172,338	39.3	31,214	10,664	34.2

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 70.

Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by age, year of application, and program, 1992–2011—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	1,081,027	379,717	35.1	503,788	165,543	32.9	577,239	214,174	37.1
2001	1,155,398	405,803	35.1	505,146	171,400	33.9	650,252	234,403	36.0
2002	1,253,512	413,583	33.0	515,932	165,177	32.0	737,580	248,406	33.7
2003	1,327,731	427,173	32.2	515,627	163,726	31.8	812,104	263,447	32.4
2004	1,366,677	434,571	31.8	511,649	162,380	31.7	855,028	272,191	31.8
2005	1,333,047	418,474	31.4	501,512	156,015	31.1	831,535	262,459	31.6
2006	1,349,411	411,783	30.5	504,810	151,248	30.0	844,601	260,535	30.8
2007	1,351,470	413,771	30.6	503,679	149,772	29.7	847,791	263,999	31.1
2008	1,447,623	458,274	31.7	547,684	167,662	30.6	899,939	290,612	32.3
2009	1,662,395	517,545	31.1	636,810	191,630	30.1	1,025,585	325,915	31.8
2010	1,711,639	501,887	29.3	661,506	186,457	28.2	1,050,133	315,430	30.0
2011	1,670,915	467,221	28.0	663,391	176,691	26.6	1,007,524	290,530	28.8

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2012.

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.

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 reconsideration level, by age, year of application, and program,
1992–2011

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	61,264	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	394,662	52,402	13.3	197,882	25,633	13.0	196,780	26,769	13.6
2001	419,766	53,611	12.8	196,541	25,001	12.7	223,225	28,610	12.8
2002	472,269	56,444	12.0	209,695	25,435	12.1	262,574	31,009	11.8
2003	502,907	58,162	11.6	209,116	24,920	11.9	293,791	33,242	11.3
2004	503,680	55,593	11.0	200,185	23,211	11.6	303,495	32,382	10.7
2005	487,236	53,650	11.0	195,288	23,061	11.8	291,948	30,589	10.5
2006	498,326	54,821	11.0	199,663	23,337	11.7	298,663	31,484	10.5
2007	513,013	58,726	11.4	206,399	24,532	11.9	306,614	34,194	11.2
2008	570,374	65,827	11.5	234,444	28,117	12.0	335,930	37,710	11.2
2009	670,502	71,488	10.7	280,394	30,832	11.0	390,108	40,656	10.4
2010	709,897	67,753	9.5	297,735	29,605	9.9	412,162	38,148	9.3
2011	635,446	52,404	8.2	272,812	23,458	8.6	362,634	28,946	8.0
<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	49,350	7,232	14.7	45,330	6,650	14.7	4,020	582	14.5
2001	50,676	7,463	14.7	46,575	6,841	14.7	4,101	622	15.2
2002	57,688	8,120	14.1	52,949	7,361	13.9	4,739	759	16.0
2003	61,737	8,698	14.1	56,681	7,901	13.9	5,056	797	15.8
2004	60,382	8,122	13.5	55,394	7,424	13.4	4,988	698	14.0
2005	57,383	8,192	14.3	52,552	7,496	14.3	4,831	696	14.4
2006	60,742	8,673	14.3	55,704	7,931	14.2	5,038	742	14.7
2007	62,301	8,742	14.0	56,931	7,976	14.0	5,370	766	14.3
2008	68,493	9,918	14.5	62,718	9,054	14.4	5,775	864	15.0
2009	82,529	11,033	13.4	75,677	10,036	13.3	6,852	997	14.6
2010	84,651	10,736	12.7	77,880	9,896	12.7	6,771	840	12.4
2011	75,585	8,593	11.4	70,031	7,999	11.4	5,554	594	10.7

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 71.

**Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by age, year of application, and program,
1992–2011—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	51,757	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	343,707	44,502	12.9	151,099	18,411	12.2	192,608	26,091	13.5
2001	367,515	45,455	12.4	148,582	17,596	11.8	218,933	27,859	12.7
2002	412,619	47,420	11.5	155,025	17,347	11.2	257,594	30,073	11.7
2003	439,703	48,842	11.1	151,200	16,549	10.9	288,503	32,293	11.2
2004	442,103	46,942	10.6	143,824	15,421	10.7	298,279	31,521	10.6
2005	428,808	44,829	10.5	141,922	15,123	10.7	286,886	29,706	10.4
2006	436,664	45,577	10.4	143,274	15,027	10.5	293,390	30,550	10.4
2007	449,903	49,800	11.1	148,909	16,386	11.0	300,994	33,414	11.1
2008	501,120	55,767	11.1	171,239	18,933	11.1	329,881	36,834	11.2
2009	587,281	60,332	10.3	204,295	20,688	10.1	382,986	39,644	10.4
2010	624,589	56,910	9.1	219,469	19,611	8.9	405,120	37,299	9.2
2011	559,313	43,740	7.8	202,472	15,398	7.6	356,841	28,342	7.9

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2012.

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.

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: (410) 965-0090 or statistics@ssa.gov.

Table 72.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by age, year of application, and program,
1992–2011

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	238,765	145,150	60.8	112,218	59,766	53.3	126,547	85,384	67.5
1998	224,761	137,432	61.1	107,693	58,028	53.9	117,068	79,404	67.8
1999	231,530	142,355	61.5	111,215	59,903	53.9	120,315	82,452	68.5
2000	260,933	157,787	60.5	124,028	65,071	52.5	136,905	92,716	67.7
2001	283,318	170,567	60.2	126,615	65,611	51.8	156,703	104,956	67.0
2002	321,418	193,520	60.2	134,930	69,256	51.3	186,488	124,264	66.6
2003	340,587	206,481	60.6	131,931	67,623	51.3	208,656	138,858	66.5
2004	342,998	211,033	61.5	125,635	65,307	52.0	217,363	145,726	67.0
2005	331,671	207,724	62.6	122,258	64,938	53.1	209,413	142,786	68.2
2006	339,614	211,481	62.3	124,579	66,139	53.1	215,035	145,342	67.6
2007	345,615	213,615	61.8	127,612	67,905	53.2	218,003	145,710	66.8
2008	377,557	228,695	60.6	143,318	74,533	52.0	234,239	154,162	65.8
2009	415,364	245,369	59.1	160,559	80,818	50.3	254,805	164,551	64.6
2010	333,211	189,161	56.8	127,756	60,557	47.4	205,455	128,604	62.6
2011	81,011	42,458	52.4	32,870	13,555	41.2	48,141	28,903	60.0
<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	7,249	38.3	17,199	6,550	38.1	1,705	699	41.0
1999	20,903	8,082	38.7	18,986	7,293	38.4	1,917	789	41.2
2000	25,201	9,365	37.2	22,916	8,426	36.8	2,285	939	41.1
2001	26,841	9,848	36.7	24,497	8,899	36.3	2,344	949	40.5
2002	30,504	11,041	36.2	27,854	9,987	35.9	2,650	1,054	39.8
2003	31,571	11,373	36.0	28,731	10,243	35.7	2,840	1,130	39.8
2004	30,687	11,093	36.1	27,902	9,941	35.6	2,785	1,152	41.4
2005	28,690	10,542	36.7	26,044	9,421	36.2	2,646	1,121	42.4
2006	30,089	11,522	38.3	27,370	10,348	37.8	2,719	1,174	43.2
2007	30,664	11,789	38.4	27,702	10,502	37.9	2,962	1,287	43.5
2008	33,017	12,192	36.9	29,880	10,855	36.3	3,137	1,337	42.6
2009	37,932	13,172	34.7	34,473	11,768	34.1	3,459	1,404	40.6
2010	28,334	9,278	32.7	25,927	8,412	32.4	2,407	866	36.0
2011	6,477	1,797	27.7	6,005	1,659	27.6	472	138	29.2

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 72.

**Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by age, year of application, and program,
1992–2011—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	218,255	137,054	62.8	93,599	52,430	56.0	124,656	84,624	67.9
1998	204,894	129,421	63.2	89,580	50,760	56.7	115,314	78,661	68.2
1999	210,020	133,802	63.7	91,668	52,179	56.9	118,352	81,623	69.0
2000	235,110	147,974	62.9	100,534	56,232	55.9	134,576	91,742	68.2
2001	255,887	160,297	62.6	101,572	56,321	55.4	154,315	103,976	67.4
2002	290,161	182,002	62.7	106,370	58,825	55.3	183,791	123,177	67.0
2003	308,417	194,712	63.1	102,667	57,036	55.6	205,750	137,676	66.9
2004	311,811	199,582	64.0	97,288	55,042	56.6	214,523	144,540	67.4
2005	302,717	197,032	65.1	95,983	55,389	57.7	206,734	141,643	68.5
2006	309,310	199,814	64.6	97,027	55,675	57.4	212,283	144,139	67.9
2007	314,749	201,739	64.1	99,736	57,327	57.5	215,013	144,412	67.2
2008	344,378	216,421	62.8	113,304	63,605	56.1	231,074	152,816	66.1
2009	377,282	232,125	61.5	125,971	68,992	54.8	251,311	163,133	64.9
2010	304,737	179,812	59.0	101,721	52,089	51.2	203,016	127,723	62.9
2011	74,492	40,641	54.6	26,837	11,883	44.3	47,655	28,758	60.3

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

NOTES: Data are current through October 2012.

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.

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: (410) 965-0090 or statistics@ssa.gov.

Table 73.
Percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by age, year of application, and reason for allowance, 1992–2011

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	666,943	100.0	37.6	1.8	4.3	4.7	18.4	33.3
1998	719,386	100.0	38.2	1.9	4.8	4.2	20.0	30.9
1999	731,105	100.0	36.5	2.0	5.3	3.9	20.8	31.4
2000	764,621	100.0	35.0	1.9	6.1	4.2	21.3	31.5
2001	817,110	100.0	34.6	1.8	6.9	4.2	22.1	30.4
2002	866,465	100.0	33.0	1.7	7.8	3.7	21.6	32.2
2003	895,963	100.0	32.0	1.6	8.7	3.6	21.8	32.2
2004	906,211	100.0	31.2	1.5	9.3	3.6	22.4	32.1
2005	877,723	100.0	30.4	1.4	9.5	3.4	22.7	32.6
2006	868,624	100.0	29.9	1.3	9.9	3.3	22.3	33.4
2007	854,570	100.0	30.2	1.3	10.5	3.5	23.3	31.3
2008	930,990	100.0	29.7	1.2	10.1	3.8	24.6	30.5
2009	1,035,901	100.0	29.1	1.2	10.6	3.9	26.1	29.2
2010	952,257	100.0	29.5	1.3	11.4	4.1	27.7	26.0
2011	747,149	100.0	34.7	1.6	13.6	4.8	32.5	12.9
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	128,270	100.0	55.8	9.2	22.1	...	...	12.9
1998	145,020	100.0	55.6	9.6	23.6	...	...	11.2
1999	150,821	100.0	53.1	9.7	25.8	...	...	11.4
2000	160,085	100.0	50.1	9.2	28.9	...	...	11.8
2001	175,092	100.0	48.2	8.2	32.4	...	...	11.2
2002	189,680	100.0	45.2	7.6	35.8	...	...	11.3
2003	198,122	100.0	43.5	7.4	39.3	...	...	9.8
2004	199,395	100.0	42.0	6.6	42.3	...	...	9.1
2005	187,767	100.0	39.9	6.5	44.2	...	...	9.5
2006	186,287	100.0	37.9	5.9	46.2	...	...	10.1
2007	185,031	100.0	37.1	5.8	48.4	...	...	8.7
2008	197,046	100.0	37.7	5.8	47.8	...	...	8.6
2009	222,608	100.0	37.1	5.6	49.1	...	...	8.2
2010	210,833	100.0	36.3	5.7	51.6	...	...	6.4
2011	193,392	100.0	38.6	6.1	52.6	...	...	2.7

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 73.
Percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by age, year of application, and reason for allowance, 1992–2011—Continued

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	
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	513,855	100.0	34.5	...	...	6.1	22.6	36.9
1998	537,770	100.0	35.5	...	...	5.5	23.9	35.1
1999	544,767	100.0	33.9	...	...	5.2	25.0	35.8
2000	572,193	100.0	32.4	...	...	5.5	26.2	35.8
2001	611,555	100.0	32.3	...	...	5.5	27.6	34.6
2002	643,005	100.0	30.9	...	...	5.0	27.2	36.9
2003	670,727	100.0	29.8	...	...	4.8	27.9	37.5
2004	681,095	100.0	29.1	...	...	4.7	28.9	37.3
2005	660,335	100.0	28.9	...	...	4.5	29.3	37.2
2006	657,174	100.0	28.7	...	...	4.4	28.8	38.2
2007	665,310	100.0	28.4	...	...	4.5	29.4	37.7
2008	730,462	100.0	27.6	...	...	4.9	31.0	36.6
2009	810,002	100.0	26.9	...	...	5.0	33.0	35.1
2010	738,609	100.0	27.7	...	...	5.3	35.4	31.7
2011	551,602	100.0	33.4	...	...	6.4	43.8	16.4

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2012. Data for the hearing level or above are current through October 2012.

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: (410) 965-0090 or statistics@ssa.gov.

Table 74.
Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application, and reason for denial, 1992–2011

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	740,882	100.0	6.8	16.7	16.2	13.0	25.1	22.1
1998	705,162	100.0	6.9	15.0	18.3	14.7	25.4	19.9
1999	691,487	100.0	6.6	14.0	19.1	15.5	24.5	20.2
2000	691,810	100.0	6.5	13.3	18.7	15.8	24.2	21.5
2001	728,984	100.0	6.1	13.2	18.2	16.6	26.1	19.8
2002	814,108	100.0	5.7	13.0	18.2	17.0	26.6	19.6
2003	874,009	100.0	5.1	12.1	18.6	17.2	27.4	19.6
2004	908,271	100.0	4.8	11.3	18.6	16.9	27.8	20.7
2005	884,321	100.0	4.5	11.1	18.0	16.4	28.1	21.9
2006	910,820	100.0	4.3	11.3	18.2	16.4	28.2	21.5
2007	920,986	100.0	4.3	10.8	18.2	16.4	27.7	22.6
2008	945,056	100.0	4.0	10.4	18.1	16.7	28.5	22.3
2009	1,079,853	100.0	3.3	10.4	18.5	16.6	29.5	21.6
2010	1,090,978	100.0	3.0	10.8	18.5	15.8	29.5	22.4
2011	977,201	100.0	3.2	10.8	19.1	12.9	31.6	22.4
<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	182,668	100.0	1.3	14.4	70.6	...	...	13.7
1999	182,358	100.0	1.1	13.3	72.4	...	...	13.2
2000	179,615	100.0	1.1	13.2	72.1	...	...	13.6
2001	182,150	100.0	1.1	14.0	73.0	...	...	11.9
2002	200,600	100.0	1.0	13.4	73.9	...	...	11.8
2003	214,674	100.0	0.9	12.3	75.9	...	...	10.9
2004	220,736	100.0	0.8	10.9	76.5	...	...	11.8
2005	210,559	100.0	0.9	11.0	75.6	...	...	12.6
2006	218,754	100.0	0.8	11.4	75.9	...	...	12.0
2007	219,033	100.0	0.9	11.3	76.5	...	...	11.4
2008	220,847	100.0	0.9	10.7	77.6	...	...	10.8
2009	254,964	100.0	0.8	10.1	78.4	...	...	10.7
2010	256,806	100.0	0.7	10.2	78.5	...	...	10.5
2011	237,010	100.0	0.8	10.7	78.7	...	...	9.8

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 74.

Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application, and reason for denial, 1992–2011—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	543,444	100.0	8.8	15.8	...	17.7	34.2	23.6
1998	518,536	100.0	8.9	14.9	...	19.7	34.4	22.0
1999	505,406	100.0	8.7	14.1	...	21.0	33.5	22.7
2000	508,834	100.0	8.4	13.2	...	21.3	32.8	24.3
2001	543,843	100.0	7.8	12.8	...	22.1	35.0	22.3
2002	610,507	100.0	7.3	12.7	...	22.5	35.4	22.1
2003	657,004	100.0	6.5	11.9	...	22.7	36.4	22.4
2004	685,582	100.0	6.0	11.4	...	22.3	36.8	23.5
2005	672,129	100.0	5.6	11.1	...	21.5	36.9	24.8
2006	690,708	100.0	5.4	11.3	...	21.5	37.2	24.5
2007	681,300	100.0	5.5	10.9	...	22.1	37.4	24.0
2008	703,136	100.0	5.1	10.5	...	22.4	38.3	23.6
2009	802,933	100.0	4.2	10.8	...	22.3	39.7	23.0
2010	812,347	100.0	3.8	11.3	...	21.1	39.6	24.2
2011	717,701	100.0	4.1	11.2	...	17.5	43.0	24.2

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2012. Data for the hearing level or above are current through October 2012.

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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