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.

Table 69.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2013

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials [a]	Medical decisions: Denials: Medical	Medical decisions: Denials: Subsequent nonmedical [b]	Medical decisions: Allowances: Awards	Medical decisions: Allowances: Subsequent denials [c]	Award rate [d] (percent)	Allowance rate [e] (percent)
					All ages [f]				
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	870,639	3,365	796,317	99,651	37.7	50.6
2004	2,245,536	0	431,054	905,005	3,225	804,617	101,635	35.8	49.9
2005	2,322,911	0	560,261	881,675	3,115	779,907	97,953	33.6	49.8
2006	2,419,039	0	637,973	909,019	2,958	774,574	94,515	32.0	48.8
2007	2,438,121	1,626	657,445	920,086	2,832	764,489	91,643	31.4	48.1
2008	2,540,093	3,792	649,096	949,419	2,714	838,714	96,358	33.1	49.5
2009	2,858,139	7,536	688,521	1,113,622	2,709	929,485	116,266	32.6	48.4
2010	2,893,276	17,421	679,520	1,181,803	2,674	898,887	112,971	31.3	46.1
2011	2,797,305	68,255	619,542	1,151,979	2,778	849,774	104,977	31.1	45.3
2012	2,679,719	246,328	551,927	1,040,102	2,398	748,913	90,051	30.8	44.6
2013	2,370,134	431,721	436,536	859,258	1,502	575,296	65,821	29.7	42.7
					Under age 18				
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	220,652	83	189,217	10,179	41.9	47.5
2005	445,100	0	46,751	210,476	101	177,541	10,231	39.9	47.1
2006	455,145	0	50,011	218,717	104	176,048	10,265	38.7	46.0
2007	457,405	64	53,081	219,044	119	175,202	9,895	38.3	45.8
2008	472,553	183	53,736	221,271	142	187,772	9,449	39.8	47.1
2009	539,818	372	57,847	258,369	134	211,730	11,366	39.2	46.3
2010	540,097	1,004	58,352	267,101	120	203,021	10,499	37.7	44.4
2011	526,805	5,181	55,680	260,451	123	195,337	10,033	37.4	44.1
2012	510,632	19,711	52,647	242,997	98	185,423	9,756	37.8	44.5
2013	456,198	34,788	44,295	207,257	64	160,687	9,107	38.1	45.0

(Continued)

Table 69.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2013—*Continued*

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials [a]	Medical decisions: Denials: Medical	Medical decisions: Denials: Subsequent nonmedical [b]	Medical decisions: Allowances: Awards	Medical decisions: Allowances: Subsequent denials [c]	Award rate [d] (percent)	Allowance rate [e] (percent)
					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	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	655,234	1,765	581,908	88,824	36.0	50.5
2004	1,732,620	0	365,943	683,723	1,819	590,379	90,756	34.1	49.8
2005	1,804,002	0	470,955	670,663	1,917	573,346	87,121	31.8	49.5
2006	1,891,892	0	542,481	689,826	1,972	573,951	83,662	30.3	48.7
2007	1,908,581	1,562	557,111	681,155	1,947	585,499	81,307	30.7	49.4
2008	1,995,482	3,607	547,859	707,672	1,975	647,847	86,522	32.5	50.9
2009	2,242,960	7,163	580,565	833,836	2,033	714,802	104,561	32.0	49.5
2010	2,278,662	16,415	571,202	893,357	2,115	693,377	102,196	30.6	47.0
2011	2,196,343	63,071	514,359	869,387	2,278	652,528	94,720	30.6	46.2
2012	2,098,657	226,599	451,733	776,529	2,013	561,705	80,078	30.0	45.2
2013	1,847,624	396,907	349,041	630,733	1,182	413,234	56,527	28.5	42.6

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2014. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2014.

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. Applications denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that applicant did not meet the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.

c. Applications denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that applicant met the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.

d. Rate determined by dividing awards by all applications minus pending claims for that year.

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

f. Includes applicants aged 65 or older.

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Table 70.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by age, year of application, and program, 1992–2013

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)
					All ages [b]				
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	2,213,756	694,168	31.4	1,109,791	361,154	32.5	1,103,965	333,014	30.2
2011	2,177,763	658,464	30.2	1,101,503	343,871	31.2	1,076,260	314,593	29.2
2012	2,127,759	642,298	30.2	1,096,937	344,077	31.4	1,030,822	298,221	28.9
2013	1,933,420	583,627	30.2	1,015,960	319,602	31.5	917,460	264,025	28.8
					Under age 18				
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	481,745	190,100	39.5	446,165	176,200	39.5	35,580	13,900	39.1
2011	471,125	183,203	38.9	436,510	170,213	39.0	34,615	12,990	37.5
2012	457,981	179,128	39.1	426,197	167,685	39.3	31,784	11,443	36.0
2013	411,874	162,398	39.4	385,272	153,211	39.8	26,602	9,187	34.5

(Continued)

Table 70.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by age, year of application, and program, 1992–2013—*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	1,707,460	501,488	29.4	653,083	182,656	28.0	1,054,377	318,832	30.2
2011	1,681,984	473,246	28.1	654,730	171,854	26.2	1,027,254	301,392	29.3
2012	1,646,895	461,277	28.0	661,675	174,700	26.4	985,220	286,577	29.1
2013	1,498,434	419,732	28.0	621,278	165,105	26.6	877,156	254,627	29.0

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2014.

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, 1992–2013

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)
					All ages [b]				
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	58,160	11.6	209,116	24,920	11.9	293,791	33,240	11.3
2004	503,680	55,577	11.0	200,185	23,206	11.6	303,495	32,371	10.7
2005	487,236	53,615	11.0	195,288	23,050	11.8	291,948	30,565	10.5
2006	498,326	54,760	11.0	199,663	23,326	11.7	298,663	31,434	10.5
2007	513,013	58,613	11.4	206,399	24,493	11.9	306,614	34,120	11.1
2008	570,374	65,676	11.5	234,444	28,086	12.0	335,930	37,590	11.2
2009	670,502	71,135	10.6	280,394	30,740	11.0	390,108	40,395	10.4
2010	712,027	68,132	9.6	295,969	29,426	9.9	416,058	38,706	9.3
2011	726,028	68,067	9.4	306,412	29,381	9.6	419,616	38,686	9.2
2012	712,616	65,483	9.2	307,298	28,637	9.3	405,318	36,846	9.1
2013	563,006	44,561	7.9	247,439	20,076	8.1	315,567	24,485	7.8
					Under age 18				
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	8,191	14.3	52,552	7,495	14.3	4,831	696	14.4
2006	60,742	8,671	14.3	55,704	7,930	14.2	5,038	741	14.7
2007	62,301	8,735	14.0	56,931	7,970	14.0	5,370	765	14.2
2008	68,493	9,910	14.5	62,718	9,048	14.4	5,775	862	14.9
2009	82,529	11,025	13.4	75,677	10,028	13.3	6,852	997	14.6
2010	84,992	10,932	12.9	77,911	9,987	12.8	7,081	945	13.3
2011	85,004	10,603	12.5	77,977	9,733	12.5	7,027	870	12.4
2012	82,044	9,739	11.9	75,703	8,999	11.9	6,341	740	11.7
2013	62,260	6,832	11.0	57,798	6,405	11.1	4,462	427	9.6

(Continued)

Table 71.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by age, year of application, and program, 1992–2013—*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	48,840	11.1	151,200	16,549	10.9	288,503	32,291	11.2
2004	442,103	46,926	10.6	143,824	15,416	10.7	298,279	31,510	10.6
2005	428,808	44,795	10.4	141,922	15,113	10.6	286,886	29,682	10.3
2006	436,664	45,518	10.4	143,274	15,017	10.5	293,390	30,501	10.4
2007	449,903	49,694	11.0	148,909	16,353	11.0	300,994	33,341	11.1
2008	501,120	55,624	11.1	171,239	18,908	11.0	329,881	36,716	11.1
2009	587,281	59,987	10.2	204,295	20,604	10.1	382,986	39,383	10.3
2010	626,370	57,097	9.1	217,664	19,345	8.9	408,706	37,752	9.2
2011	640,437	57,387	9.0	228,099	19,580	8.6	412,338	37,807	9.2
2012	630,072	55,662	8.8	231,346	19,575	8.5	398,726	36,087	9.1
2013	500,406	37,675	7.5	189,448	13,626	7.2	310,958	24,049	7.7

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2014.

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, 1992–2013

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)
					All ages [b]				
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	340,589	206,488	60.6	131,931	67,627	51.3	208,658	138,861	66.5
2004	343,014	211,090	61.5	125,640	65,327	52.0	217,374	145,763	67.1
2005	332,312	207,896	62.6	122,475	65,002	53.1	209,837	142,894	68.1
2006	341,297	212,007	62.1	125,148	66,303	53.0	216,149	145,704	67.4
2007	349,224	215,290	61.6	128,926	68,454	53.1	220,298	146,836	66.7
2008	388,867	232,928	59.9	147,743	76,032	51.5	241,124	156,896	65.1
2009	462,058	255,572	55.3	179,683	84,608	47.1	282,375	170,964	60.5
2010	493,628	249,558	50.6	190,788	80,754	42.3	302,840	168,804	55.7
2011	458,472	228,220	49.8	180,390	74,516	41.3	278,082	153,704	55.3
2012	272,684	131,183	48.1	108,809	42,485	39.0	163,875	88,698	54.1
2013	34,325	12,929	37.7	14,732	4,055	27.5	19,593	8,874	45.3
					Under age 18				
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	11,094	36.2	27,902	9,942	35.6	2,785	1,152	41.4
2005	28,714	10,548	36.7	26,065	9,427	36.2	2,649	1,121	42.3
2006	30,184	11,550	38.3	27,450	10,371	37.8	2,734	1,179	43.1
2007	30,867	11,862	38.4	27,873	10,556	37.9	2,994	1,306	43.6
2008	33,766	12,375	36.6	30,558	11,020	36.1	3,208	1,355	42.2
2009	41,968	13,668	32.6	38,134	12,224	32.1	3,834	1,444	37.7
2010	42,589	12,488	29.3	38,708	11,212	29.0	3,881	1,276	32.9
2011	39,028	11,564	29.6	35,594	10,346	29.1	3,434	1,218	35.5
2012	22,956	6,312	27.5	21,049	5,715	27.2	1,907	597	31.3
2013	2,758	564	20.4	2,577	510	19.8	181	54	29.8

(Continued)

Table 72.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by age, year of application, and program, 1992–2013—*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	308,419	194,719	63.1	102,667	57,040	55.6	205,752	137,679	66.9
2004	311,827	199,638	64.0	97,293	55,061	56.6	214,534	144,577	67.4
2005	303,334	197,198	65.0	96,179	55,447	57.6	207,155	141,751	68.4
2006	310,898	200,312	64.4	97,516	55,816	57.2	213,382	144,496	67.7
2007	318,155	203,341	63.9	100,879	57,822	57.3	217,276	145,519	67.0
2008	354,939	220,471	62.1	117,051	64,939	55.5	237,888	155,532	65.4
2009	419,936	241,831	57.6	141,431	72,325	51.1	278,505	169,506	60.9
2010	450,871	236,988	52.6	151,948	69,474	45.7	298,923	167,514	56.0
2011	419,341	216,615	51.7	144,718	64,137	44.3	274,623	152,478	55.5
2012	249,655	124,844	50.0	87,712	36,750	41.9	161,943	88,094	54.4
2013	31,542	12,354	39.2	12,138	3,539	29.2	19,404	8,815	45.4

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

NOTES: Data are current through July 2014.

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, 1992–2013

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	895,968	100.0	32.0	1.6	8.7	3.6	21.8	32.2
2004	906,252	100.0	31.2	1.5	9.3	3.6	22.4	32.1
2005	877,860	100.0	30.4	1.4	9.5	3.4	22.7	32.7
2006	869,089	100.0	29.9	1.3	9.9	3.3	22.3	33.4
2007	856,132	100.0	30.2	1.3	10.5	3.5	23.2	31.4
2008	935,072	100.0	29.5	1.2	10.1	3.8	24.5	30.8
2009	1,045,751	100.0	28.8	1.2	10.5	3.9	25.8	29.9
2010	1,011,858	100.0	27.9	1.2	10.7	3.9	26.1	30.2
2011	954,751	100.0	27.9	1.3	10.8	3.9	26.9	29.3
2012	838,964	100.0	30.3	1.5	12.1	4.3	30.1	21.6
2013	641,117	100.0	36.3	1.8	14.0	4.8	33.8	9.4
				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	199,396	100.0	42.0	6.6	42.3	. . .	. . .	9.1
2005	187,772	100.0	39.9	6.5	44.2	. . .	. . .	9.5
2006	186,313	100.0	37.9	5.9	46.2	. . .	. . .	10.1
2007	185,097	100.0	37.1	5.8	48.4	. . .	. . .	8.7
2008	197,221	100.0	37.7	5.8	47.8	. . .	. . .	8.7
2009	223,096	100.0	37.0	5.6	49.0	. . .	. . .	8.4
2010	213,520	100.0	35.8	5.6	50.9	. . .	. . .	7.6
2011	205,370	100.0	36.8	5.8	50.3	. . .	. . .	7.1
2012	195,179	100.0	37.3	6.5	51.8	. . .	. . .	4.4
2013	169,794	100.0	39.4	6.6	52.7	. . .	. . .	1.3

(Continued)

Table 73.
Percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by age, year of application, and reason for allowance, 1992–2013—*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	670,732	100.0	29.8	. . .	. . .	4.8	27.9	37.5
2004	681,135	100.0	29.1	. . .	. . .	4.7	28.9	37.3
2005	660,467	100.0	28.9	. . .	. . .	4.5	29.3	37.2
2006	657,613	100.0	28.7	. . .	. . .	4.4	28.7	38.2
2007	666,806	100.0	28.4	. . .	. . .	4.5	29.3	37.9
2008	734,369	100.0	27.4	. . .	. . .	4.8	30.8	36.9
2009	819,363	100.0	26.6	. . .	. . .	5.0	32.6	35.8
2010	795,573	100.0	25.8	. . .	. . .	4.9	33.0	36.3
2011	747,248	100.0	25.5	. . .	. . .	5.0	34.1	35.4
2012	641,783	100.0	28.3	. . .	. . .	5.7	39.1	26.9
2013	469,761	100.0	35.3	. . .	. . .	6.5	45.8	12.3

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2014. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2014.

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, 1992–2013

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						
				All ages [d]				
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	874,004	100.0	5.1	12.1	18.6	17.2	27.4	19.6
2004	908,230	100.0	4.8	11.3	18.6	16.9	27.8	20.7
2005	884,790	100.0	4.5	11.1	18.0	16.4	28.1	21.9
2006	911,977	100.0	4.3	11.3	18.2	16.4	28.3	21.5
2007	922,918	100.0	4.3	10.8	18.2	16.4	27.7	22.6
2008	952,133	100.0	4.0	10.3	18.0	16.8	28.7	22.2
2009	1,116,331	100.0	3.3	10.3	18.2	16.9	30.2	21.1
2010	1,184,477	100.0	2.9	10.6	17.8	16.4	30.9	21.3
2011	1,154,757	100.0	2.9	10.5	17.9	13.2	33.3	22.2
2012	1,042,500	100.0	3.0	10.2	18.6	9.3	36.8	22.2
2013	860,760	100.0	3.1	10.1	19.1	7.5	37.3	22.9
				Under age 18				
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	220,735	100.0	0.8	10.9	76.5	. . .	. . .	11.8
2005	210,577	100.0	0.9	11.0	75.6	. . .	. . .	12.6
2006	218,821	100.0	0.8	11.3	75.9	. . .	. . .	12.0
2007	219,163	100.0	0.9	11.3	76.5	. . .	. . .	11.4
2008	221,413	100.0	0.9	10.7	77.6	. . .	. . .	10.8
2009	258,503	100.0	0.8	10.0	78.6	. . .	. . .	10.6
2010	267,221	100.0	0.7	10.1	79.0	. . .	. . .	10.2
2011	260,574	100.0	0.7	10.5	79.5	. . .	. . .	9.3
2012	243,095	100.0	0.7	10.6	79.6	. . .	. . .	9.1
2013	207,321	100.0	0.7	10.5	79.5	. . .	. . .	9.4

(Continued)

Table 74.
Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application, and reason for denial, 1992–2013—*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	656,999	100.0	6.5	11.9	. . .	22.7	36.4	22.4
2004	685,542	100.0	6.0	11.4	. . .	22.3	36.8	23.5
2005	672,580	100.0	5.6	11.1	. . .	21.5	36.9	24.7
2006	691,798	100.0	5.4	11.3	. . .	21.6	37.2	24.5
2007	683,102	100.0	5.5	10.9	. . .	22.1	37.5	24.0
2008	709,647	100.0	5.1	10.5	. . .	22.5	38.4	23.5
2009	835,869	100.0	4.2	10.6	. . .	22.5	40.3	22.4
2010	895,472	100.0	3.7	11.0	. . .	21.7	40.9	22.7
2011	871,665	100.0	3.6	10.7	. . .	17.5	44.1	24.1
2012	778,542	100.0	3.7	10.4	. . .	12.4	49.3	24.2
2013	631,915	100.0	4.0	10.3	. . .	10.2	50.8	24.7

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2014. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2014.

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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