

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.
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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 69.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2007

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	1,612,826	0	156,525	690,333	3,823	693,252	68,893	43.0	52.3
2001	1,749,572	1,984	203,387	726,852	3,501	737,891	75,957	42.2	52.7
2002	1,959,039	2,893	278,291	811,834	3,567	779,828	82,626	39.9	51.4
2003	2,112,577	5,559	342,201	870,938	3,418	797,581	92,880	37.9	50.5
2004	2,246,392	13,433	431,182	900,863	3,281	800,886	96,747	35.9	49.8
2005	2,325,707	43,386	561,450	865,306	3,196	756,816	95,553	33.2	49.5
2006	2,421,141	168,214	638,636	850,664	2,667	679,019	81,941	30.1	47.1
2007	2,441,471	273,676	659,519	833,037	2,010	606,558	66,671	28.0	44.6
<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	355,477	0	15,775	179,678	64	151,998	7,962	42.8	47.1
2001	375,975	129	18,710	182,157	61	166,397	8,521	44.3	49.0
2002	412,972	176	22,678	200,556	79	180,398	9,085	43.7	48.6
2003	438,601	310	25,776	214,621	64	188,139	9,691	42.9	48.0
2004	451,735	964	31,539	220,096	83	189,106	9,947	42.0	47.5
2005	445,368	3,863	46,815	208,131	102	176,371	10,086	39.9	47.2
2006	455,246	16,293	50,041	208,932	99	169,929	9,952	38.7	46.3
2007	457,520	25,636	53,157	202,788	82	166,348	9,509	38.5	46.4

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 69.

Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2007—Continued

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials ^a	Medical decisions				Award rate ^b (percent)	Allowance rate ^c (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical ^d	Awards	Subsequent denials ^e		
Aged 18–64									
1992	1,451,417	0	117,675	593,455	1,451	656,374	82,462	45.2	55.4
1993	1,547,527	0	122,364	696,934	1,463	646,157	80,609	41.8	51.0
1994	1,482,503	0	106,181	729,927	1,529	575,431	69,435	38.8	46.9
1995	1,351,903	0	88,839	688,438	1,245	519,041	54,340	38.4	45.4
1996	1,277,604	0	87,869	646,497	1,534	488,215	53,489	38.2	45.5
1997	1,135,602	0	78,303	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	1,208,866	0	127,968	509,620	1,423	509,891	59,964	42.2	52.7
2001	1,323,142	1,853	167,675	543,743	1,398	541,934	66,539	41.0	52.7
2002	1,483,791	2,715	230,118	610,183	1,581	566,623	72,571	38.3	51.1
2003	1,615,844	5,246	287,736	655,513	1,825	583,135	82,389	36.2	50.3
2004	1,733,410	12,464	366,069	680,131	1,882	586,766	86,098	34.1	49.7
2005	1,806,529	39,513	472,080	656,636	2,006	551,435	84,859	31.2	49.1
2006	1,893,729	151,895	543,021	641,256	1,694	484,454	71,409	27.8	46.4
2007	1,911,125	247,981	558,547	629,865	1,168	416,896	56,668	25.1	42.9

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

NOTES: Data are current through August 2008.

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 70.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by age, year of application, and program, 1992–2007

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)
<i>All ages^b</i>									
1992	1,694,513	686,962	40.5	946,348	399,334	42.2	748,165	287,628	38.4
1993	1,907,731	687,630	36.0	1,106,624	409,102	37.0	801,107	278,528	34.8
1994	1,891,324	577,721	30.5	1,105,532	335,756	30.4	785,792	241,965	30.8
1995	1,741,877	507,742	29.1	1,037,201	291,168	28.1	704,676	216,574	30.7
1996	1,673,743	508,931	30.4	1,000,530	296,655	29.6	673,213	212,276	31.5
1997	1,407,825	459,297	32.6	820,527	260,354	31.7	587,298	198,943	33.9
1998	1,424,548	520,690	36.6	843,671	304,856	36.1	580,877	215,834	37.2
1999	1,422,398	531,498	37.4	843,031	312,871	37.1	579,367	218,627	37.7
2000	1,456,301	556,990	38.2	845,623	321,029	38.0	610,678	235,961	38.6
2001	1,546,185	595,925	38.5	860,922	338,218	39.3	685,263	257,707	37.6
2002	1,680,748	619,748	36.9	904,266	345,482	38.2	776,482	274,266	35.3
2003	1,770,376	635,241	35.9	917,511	344,751	37.6	852,865	290,490	34.1
2004	1,815,210	643,973	35.5	917,670	343,476	37.4	897,540	300,497	33.5
2005	1,764,257	622,318	35.3	888,608	329,954	37.1	875,649	292,364	33.4
2006	1,782,470	606,598	34.0	902,246	321,982	35.7	880,224	284,616	32.3
2007	1,781,866	605,291	34.0	906,097	323,410	35.7	875,769	281,881	32.2
<i>Under age 18</i>									
1992	360,117	194,494	54.0	329,316	176,929	53.7	30,801	17,565	57.0
1993	481,888	218,724	45.4	443,778	200,206	45.1	38,110	18,518	48.6
1994	513,641	177,660	34.6	475,233	164,436	34.6	38,408	13,224	34.4
1995	477,274	149,140	31.2	443,367	138,959	31.3	33,907	10,181	30.0
1996	443,525	133,375	30.1	413,379	124,846	30.2	30,146	8,529	28.3
1997	324,069	112,387	34.7	302,540	105,366	34.8	21,529	7,021	32.6
1998	327,688	129,729	39.6	306,164	121,371	39.6	21,524	8,358	38.8
1999	333,169	135,117	40.6	310,763	126,253	40.6	22,406	8,864	39.6
2000	339,702	143,267	42.2	316,328	133,426	42.2	23,374	9,841	42.1
2001	357,265	157,730	44.1	332,724	146,688	44.1	24,541	11,042	45.0
2002	390,294	170,542	43.7	363,020	158,263	43.6	27,274	12,279	45.0
2003	412,825	178,453	43.2	384,481	165,876	43.1	28,344	12,577	44.4
2004	420,196	180,657	43.0	391,086	167,717	42.9	29,110	12,940	44.5
2005	398,553	169,542	42.5	370,111	157,280	42.5	28,442	12,262	43.1
2006	405,200	166,664	41.1	378,436	156,259	41.3	26,764	10,405	38.9
2007	404,348	166,985	41.3	378,733	157,550	41.6	25,615	9,435	36.8

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 70.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by age, year of application, and program, 1992–2007—
Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for SSI only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate ^a (percent)
Aged 18–64									
1992	1,333,742	492,046	36.9	616,523	222,077	36.0	717,219	269,969	37.6
1993	1,425,163	468,477	32.9	662,298	208,554	31.5	762,865	259,923	34.1
1994	1,376,322	399,267	29.0	629,051	170,618	27.1	747,271	228,649	30.6
1995	1,263,064	357,732	28.3	592,390	151,417	25.6	670,674	206,315	30.8
1996	1,189,735	338,209	28.4	555,158	142,505	25.7	634,577	195,704	30.8
1997	1,057,299	324,213	30.7	498,637	139,003	27.9	558,662	185,210	33.2
1998	1,056,306	356,592	33.8	506,024	157,861	31.2	550,282	198,731	36.1
1999	1,049,989	362,246	34.5	502,870	162,036	32.2	547,119	200,210	36.6
2000	1,080,898	382,587	35.4	503,636	166,188	33.0	577,262	216,399	37.5
2001	1,155,467	408,901	35.4	505,101	172,232	34.1	650,366	236,669	36.4
2002	1,253,673	416,823	33.2	515,934	165,906	32.2	737,739	250,917	34.0
2003	1,328,108	430,707	32.4	515,659	164,504	31.9	812,449	266,203	32.8
2004	1,367,341	438,473	32.1	511,679	163,312	31.9	855,662	275,161	32.2
2005	1,334,449	423,953	31.8	500,985	157,232	31.4	833,464	266,721	32.0
2006	1,350,678	415,373	30.8	511,033	154,634	30.3	839,645	260,739	31.1
2007	1,352,507	414,990	30.7	516,600	156,443	30.3	835,907	258,547	30.9

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

NOTES: Data are current through August 2008.

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 71.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by age, year of application, and program, 1992–2007

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	382,757	53,132	13.9	192,285	26,455	13.8	190,472	26,677	14.0
2001	407,299	53,426	13.1	190,634	25,393	13.3	216,665	28,033	12.9
2002	458,317	56,028	12.2	203,464	25,777	12.7	254,853	30,251	11.9
2003	487,775	57,030	11.7	202,378	24,692	12.2	285,397	32,338	11.3
2004	487,526	54,042	11.1	193,247	22,662	11.7	294,279	31,380	10.7
2005	464,315	50,943	11.0	184,811	22,193	12.0	279,504	28,750	10.3
2006	474,823	49,748	10.5	192,779	21,493	11.1	282,044	28,255	10.0
2007	453,797	42,681	9.4	187,127	18,860	10.1	266,670	23,821	8.9
<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	54,545	7,836	14.4	50,062	7,222	14.4	4,483	614	13.7
2006	57,442	7,948	13.8	53,093	7,401	13.9	4,349	547	12.6
2007	55,169	7,433	13.5	51,321	7,026	13.7	3,848	407	10.6

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 71.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by age, year of application, and program, 1992–2007—
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	332,767	44,858	13.5	146,383	18,874	12.9	186,384	25,984	13.9
2001	356,236	45,031	12.6	143,740	17,759	12.4	212,496	27,272	12.8
2002	400,138	46,786	11.7	150,064	17,446	11.6	250,074	29,340	11.7
2003	426,628	47,919	11.2	146,276	16,465	11.3	280,352	31,454	11.2
2004	428,092	45,662	10.7	138,753	15,054	10.8	289,339	30,608	10.6
2005	408,760	42,453	10.4	134,012	14,544	10.9	274,748	27,909	10.2
2006	416,547	41,271	9.9	139,116	13,786	9.9	277,431	27,485	9.9
2007	397,958	34,798	8.7	135,400	11,614	8.6	262,558	23,184	8.8

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

NOTES: Data are current through August 2008.

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 72.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by age, year of application, and program, 1992–2007

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	251,328	152,023	60.5	119,614	62,610	52.3	131,714	89,413	67.9
2001	272,516	164,497	60.4	121,696	63,073	51.8	150,820	101,424	67.2
2002	309,249	186,678	60.4	129,780	66,852	51.5	179,469	119,826	66.8
2003	326,110	198,190	60.8	126,435	64,876	51.3	199,675	133,314	66.8
2004	320,709	199,618	62.2	117,766	61,675	52.4	202,943	137,943	68.0
2005	275,448	179,108	65.0	99,944	54,562	54.6	175,504	124,546	71.0
2006	161,129	104,614	64.9	60,159	32,598	54.2	100,970	72,016	71.3
2007	37,426	25,257	67.5	15,174	8,181	53.9	22,252	17,076	76.7
<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	24,579	9,180	37.3	22,358	8,264	37.0	2,221	916	41.2
2001	26,028	9,539	36.6	23,777	8,639	36.3	2,251	900	40.0
2002	29,525	10,629	36.0	27,005	9,656	35.8	2,520	973	38.6
2003	30,553	10,920	35.7	27,863	9,872	35.4	2,690	1,048	39.0
2004	29,088	10,563	36.3	26,490	9,496	35.8	2,598	1,067	41.1
2005	23,776	9,079	38.2	21,665	8,185	37.8	2,111	894	42.3
2006	13,163	5,269	40.0	12,123	4,839	39.9	1,040	430	41.3
2007	3,041	1,439	47.3	2,838	1,343	47.3	203	96	47.3

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 72.

**Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by age, year of application, and program, 1992–2007—
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	226,160	142,410	63.0	96,717	53,954	55.8	129,443	88,456	68.3
2001	245,922	154,541	62.8	97,398	54,049	55.5	148,524	100,492	67.7
2002	279,042	175,585	62.9	102,140	56,765	55.6	176,902	118,820	67.2
2003	295,011	186,898	63.4	98,092	54,684	55.7	196,919	132,214	67.1
2004	291,186	188,729	64.8	90,894	51,887	57.1	200,292	136,842	68.3
2005	251,462	169,888	67.6	78,105	46,263	59.2	173,357	123,625	71.3
2006	147,806	99,219	67.1	47,900	27,654	57.7	99,906	71,565	71.6
2007	34,330	23,776	69.3	12,298	6,812	55.4	22,032	16,964	77.0

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

NOTES: Data are current through August 2008.

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 73.
Percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by age, year of application, and reason for allowance, 1992–2007

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings ^a	Under age 18 only		Aged 18 or older only		Other ^{a,b}
				Medically equals level of severity of listings	Functionally equals level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	
	Number	Percent						
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	729,473	100.0	36.6	2.0	5.3	3.9	20.8	31.3
2000	762,145	100.0	35.1	1.9	6.1	4.2	21.4	31.3
2001	813,848	100.0	34.8	1.8	7.0	4.2	22.2	30.2
2002	862,454	100.0	33.1	1.7	7.9	3.7	21.6	32.0
2003	890,461	100.0	32.2	1.7	8.7	3.6	22.0	31.8
2004	897,633	100.0	31.5	1.5	9.4	3.6	22.6	31.4
2005	852,369	100.0	31.3	1.4	9.7	3.5	23.5	30.5
2006	760,960	100.0	33.9	1.4	11.3	3.7	25.2	24.5
2007	673,229	100.0	37.3	1.6	13.2	4.2	27.7	16.0
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	150,675	100.0	53.2	9.8	25.8	...	...	11.3
2000	159,960	100.0	50.1	9.2	28.9	...	...	11.7
2001	174,918	100.0	48.2	8.2	32.4	...	...	11.1
2002	189,483	100.0	45.2	7.6	35.9	...	...	11.2
2003	197,830	100.0	43.5	7.4	39.4	...	...	9.6
2004	199,053	100.0	42.1	6.6	42.4	...	...	9.0
2005	186,457	100.0	40.2	6.5	44.5	...	...	8.8
2006	179,881	100.0	39.1	6.1	47.7	...	...	7.0
2007	175,857	100.0	38.7	6.1	50.4	...	...	4.9

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 73.

Percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by age, year of application, and reason for allowance, 1992–2007—Continued

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings ^a	Under age 18 only		Aged 18 or older only		Other ^{a,b}
				Medically equals level of severity of listings	Functionally equals level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	
	Number	Percent						
Aged 18–64								
1992	738,836	100.0	33.3	...	...	9.7	23.9	33.2
1993	726,766	100.0	33.7	...	...	7.3	23.1	35.9
1994	644,866	100.0	34.0	...	...	5.8	23.8	36.4
1995	573,381	100.0	33.2	...	...	5.6	24.0	37.2
1996	541,704	100.0	33.7	...	...	5.9	23.3	37.1
1997	513,855	100.0	34.5	...	...	6.1	22.6	36.9
1998	537,770	100.0	35.5	...	...	5.5	23.9	35.1
1999	543,287	100.0	34.0	...	...	5.2	25.1	35.7
2000	569,855	100.0	32.6	...	...	5.5	26.3	35.6
2001	608,473	100.0	32.4	...	...	5.6	27.7	34.3
2002	639,194	100.0	31.1	...	...	5.0	27.4	36.6
2003	665,524	100.0	30.0	...	...	4.8	28.1	37.1
2004	672,864	100.0	29.5	...	...	4.8	29.2	36.5
2005	636,294	100.0	30.1	...	...	4.7	30.5	34.7
2006	555,863	100.0	33.7	...	...	5.1	33.7	27.5
2007	473,564	100.0	38.6	...	...	6.0	38.7	16.7

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

NOTES: Data are current through August 2008.

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 74.
Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application,
and reason for denial, 1992–2007

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	692,925	100.0	6.7	14.0	19.1	15.6	24.6	20.2
2000	694,156	100.0	6.4	13.3	18.7	15.8	24.2	21.5
2001	730,353	100.0	6.1	13.2	18.2	16.6	26.1	19.8
2002	815,401	100.0	5.7	12.9	18.2	17.0	26.6	19.6
2003	874,356	100.0	5.1	12.1	18.6	17.2	27.4	19.6
2004	904,144	100.0	4.8	11.3	18.6	16.8	27.7	20.7
2005	868,502	100.0	4.5	11.2	18.1	16.3	27.8	22.1
2006	853,331	100.0	4.4	11.4	18.5	16.0	27.2	22.7
2007	835,047	100.0	4.5	10.8	18.4	16.3	27.1	23.0
<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	182,494	100.0	1.1	13.3	72.4	...	...	13.2
2000	179,742	100.0	1.1	13.2	72.1	...	...	13.6
2001	182,218	100.0	1.1	14.0	73.0	...	...	11.9
2002	200,635	100.0	1.0	13.4	73.9	...	...	11.8
2003	214,685	100.0	0.9	12.3	75.9	...	...	10.9
2004	220,179	100.0	0.8	11.0	76.4	...	...	11.8
2005	208,233	100.0	0.9	11.0	75.4	...	...	12.7
2006	209,031	100.0	0.8	11.5	75.4	...	...	12.4
2007	202,870	100.0	0.9	11.4	75.8	...	...	12.0

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 74.
Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application,
and reason for denial, 1992–2007—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	506,702	100.0	8.7	14.1	...	21.0	33.6	22.7
2000	511,043	100.0	8.4	13.2	...	21.3	32.9	24.3
2001	545,141	100.0	7.8	12.8	...	22.1	35.0	22.4
2002	611,764	100.0	7.2	12.7	...	22.5	35.5	22.1
2003	657,338	100.0	6.5	11.9	...	22.7	36.4	22.4
2004	682,013	100.0	6.1	11.4	...	22.2	36.8	23.6
2005	658,642	100.0	5.7	11.2	...	21.4	36.7	25.1
2006	642,950	100.0	5.5	11.3	...	21.1	36.0	26.0
2007	631,033	100.0	5.6	10.6	...	21.5	35.9	26.4

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

NOTES: Data are current through August 2008.

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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