
Notes

The tables in this section provide data on the outcomes of applications for disability benefits. The data on applications are derived from the Social Security Administration's (SSA's) Disability Research File maintained by the Office of Disability Programs. Each year this file 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 60 shows the total number of applications filed in a year, the number denied for nonmedical reasons before a medical decision is made (*technical denials*), the number that are pending a final decision, 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 insufficient number of recent work credits.

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 decision-making 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 61–63 show the allowance rate for Social Security only and the Social Security portion of *concurrent applications* (which are claims for both Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability benefits). Each table shows a different level in the administrative decision-making process; that is, initial adjudicative, reconsideration, and hearing or higher level.

From October 1999 through March 2020, the proportion of claims awarded at each level of the process was affected by a Prototype Process that SSA 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 resulted in a decrease in the aggregate proportion of claims awarded at this step. SSA began phasing out the Prototype Process on January 1, 2019, and by March 31, 2020, the reconsideration step had been reinstated in all 10 test states.

This section also includes one table that shows the reason for medical allowance and one that shows the reason for medical denial (Tables 64 and 65). The reasons are derived from the sequential evaluation process used by decision makers. 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—

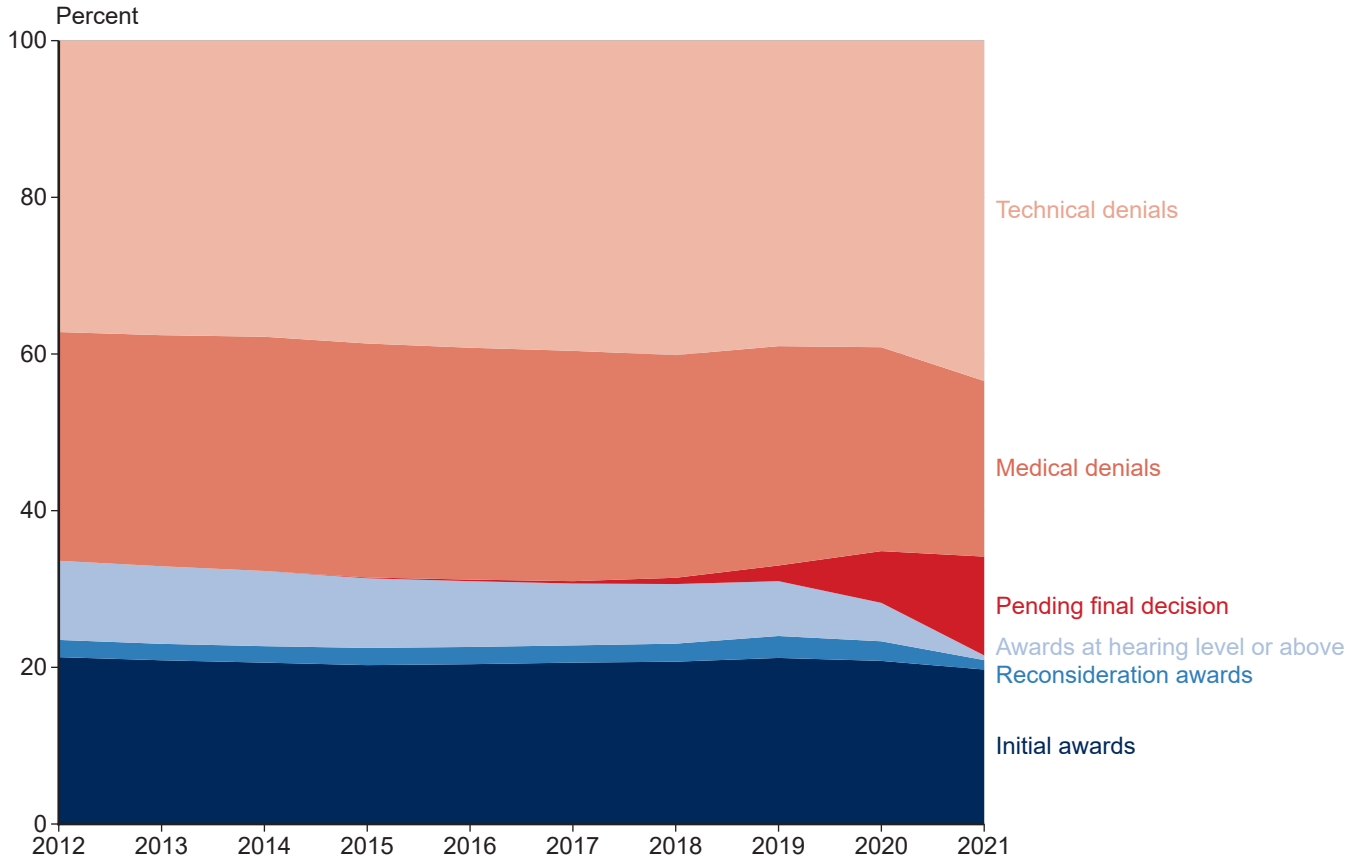
- has a listed impairment,
- has a severe impairment that is equal to a listed impairment,
- has a severe impairment when medical and vocational factors are considered, or
- had previously established entitlement to a disability benefit.

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
- has an impairment resulting from drug addiction or alcoholism, 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.

Chart 11.
Final outcome of disabled-worker applications, 2012–2021

The final award rate for disabled-worker applicants has varied over time, averaging 30 percent for claims filed from 2012 through 2021. The share of applicants awarded benefits at the initial claims level has ranged narrowly from 20 percent to 21 percent. The percentages of applicants awarded at the reconsideration and hearing levels have averaged 2 percent and 8 percent, respectively. Denied disability claims have averaged 67 percent.



SOURCE: Tables 60–63.

NOTE: Awards are calculated as medical allowances minus subsequent technical denials. Technical denials include both nonmedical decision technical denials and medical decisions that were subsequently denied for technical reasons.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 60.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2021

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials ^a	Medical decisions				Award rate ^d (percent)	Allowance rate ^e (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical ^b	Awards	Subsequent denials ^c		
<i>All disabled beneficiaries</i>									
1999	1,265,037	0	104,332	445,995	4,056	708,797	1,857	56.0	61.3
2000	1,364,323	0	136,054	456,467	3,817	766,047	1,938	56.1	62.6
2001	1,513,411	0	170,520	496,835	3,579	840,542	1,935	55.5	62.8
2002	1,715,710	0	231,067	580,430	4,067	898,047	2,099	52.3	60.7
2003	1,941,894	0	374,305	632,284	4,485	928,747	2,073	47.8	59.5
2004	2,262,119	0	615,672	677,811	5,634	961,376	1,626	42.5	58.5
2005	2,087,733	0	528,760	642,170	6,964	907,877	1,962	43.5	58.4
2006	2,164,394	0	611,199	653,256	7,270	890,752	1,917	41.2	57.5
2007	2,216,565	0	651,753	641,811	7,914	913,269	1,818	41.2	58.5
2008	2,358,629	0	717,133	660,762	9,023	969,935	1,776	41.1	59.2
2009	2,753,012	0	845,192	789,506	10,686	1,105,781	1,847	40.2	58.1
2010	2,981,615	0	978,627	861,506	19,094	1,120,313	2,075	37.6	56.0
2011	2,952,112	0	981,930	872,759	20,762	1,074,600	2,061	36.4	54.6
2012	2,955,946	0	1,024,469	867,276	23,847	1,038,076	2,278	35.1	53.9
2013	2,790,688	0	971,042	827,173	24,973	965,255	2,245	34.6	53.2
2014	2,687,365	0	936,820	804,035	27,025	917,203	2,282	34.1	52.5
2015	2,547,682	2,916	904,248	758,791	27,516	851,912	2,299	33.5	52.1
2016	2,430,102	3,911	875,652	715,998	27,361	805,195	1,985	33.2	52.1
2017	2,306,263	6,474	834,165	674,477	28,140	761,070	1,937	33.1	52.1
2018	2,226,343	17,624	811,182	630,861	29,773	734,825	2,078	33.3	52.7
2019	2,183,465	42,882	774,847	614,839	28,877	720,139	1,881	33.6	52.9
2020	1,999,612	128,426	713,878	526,008	28,778	600,986	1,536	32.1	52.1
2021	1,793,096	218,869	719,173	407,663	24,301	421,837	1,253	26.8	49.5

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 60.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2021—Continued

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials ^a	Medical decisions				Award rate ^d (percent)	Allowance rate ^e (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical ^b	Awards	Subsequent denials ^c		
Workers									
1992	1,310,004	0	130,885	481,439	5,725	689,111	2,844	52.6	58.8
1993	1,384,501	0	140,314	540,906	5,626	695,007	2,648	50.2	56.2
1994	1,383,092	0	130,240	573,158	5,506	671,791	2,397	48.6	53.9
1995	1,301,472	0	123,711	542,097	5,048	628,380	2,236	48.3	53.6
1996	1,313,818	0	116,988	537,482	5,011	652,221	2,116	49.6	54.8
1997	1,164,680	0	106,868	449,464	4,212	602,277	1,859	51.7	57.2
1998	1,138,101	0	96,718	421,953	4,205	613,181	2,044	53.9	59.2
1999	1,167,650	0	102,305	419,486	4,008	640,065	1,786	54.8	60.3
2000	1,265,188	0	133,947	430,581	3,782	695,007	1,871	54.9	61.7
2001	1,414,524	0	168,231	470,999	3,537	769,877	1,880	54.4	62.0
2002	1,609,480	0	228,455	550,985	4,011	823,981	2,048	51.2	59.9
2003	1,831,154	0	371,334	599,558	4,428	853,832	2,002	46.6	58.7
2004	2,145,629	0	611,647	643,040	5,582	883,784	1,576	41.2	57.8
2005	1,970,277	0	524,858	607,568	6,874	829,087	1,890	42.1	57.6
2006	2,040,682	0	606,435	613,407	7,164	811,818	1,858	39.8	56.8
2007	2,083,897	0	646,511	599,001	7,799	828,834	1,752	39.8	57.8
2008	2,217,126	0	711,536	616,715	8,892	878,274	1,709	39.6	58.4
2009	2,595,028	0	839,206	737,312	10,538	1,006,200	1,772	38.8	57.4
2010	2,809,479	0	968,148	804,279	18,493	1,016,551	2,008	36.2	55.3
2011	2,780,981	0	971,069	815,997	20,268	971,651	1,996	34.9	53.8
2012	2,776,221	0	1,009,057	810,909	22,757	931,342	2,156	33.5	52.8
2013	2,620,315	0	958,210	773,831	24,013	862,113	2,148	32.9	52.0
2014	2,523,715	0	924,720	754,776	25,980	816,038	2,201	32.3	51.2
2015	2,383,373	2,773	892,532	712,390	26,467	747,010	2,201	31.4	50.3
2016	2,275,573	3,760	864,652	673,193	26,370	705,727	1,871	31.1	50.3
2017	2,153,538	6,201	823,542	633,085	27,127	661,742	1,841	30.8	50.1
2018	2,068,395	16,886	799,400	588,421	28,616	633,124	1,948	30.9	50.7
2019	2,028,571	41,094	762,120	567,060	27,440	629,182	1,675	31.7	51.5
2020	1,870,390	124,288	703,179	486,705	27,144	527,697	1,377	30.2	50.7
2021	1,688,372	212,868	709,171	377,905	23,056	364,247	1,125	24.7	47.7

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 60.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2021—Continued

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials ^a	Medical decisions				Award rate ^d (percent)	Allowance rate ^e (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical ^b	Awards	Subsequent denials ^c		
Widow(er)s									
1999	40,053	0	1,173	9,718	17	29,108	37	72.7	75.0
2000	39,990	0	1,258	9,013	11	29,679	29	74.2	76.8
2001	40,227	0	1,344	8,738	13	30,113	19	74.9	77.5
2002	41,065	0	1,540	8,941	18	30,547	19	74.4	77.4
2003	41,243	0	1,645	9,553	24	29,977	44	72.7	75.9
2004	42,449	0	2,069	9,554	22	30,780	24	72.5	76.3
2005	41,409	0	1,892	9,253	26	30,215	23	73.0	76.6
2006	41,468	0	2,190	9,774	38	29,443	23	71.0	75.1
2007	40,781	0	2,211	8,975	28	29,540	27	72.4	76.7
2008	42,140	0	2,329	8,622	31	31,137	21	73.9	78.3
2009	44,059	0	2,551	8,943	43	32,502	20	73.8	78.4
2010	47,583	0	3,543	9,707	82	34,228	23	71.9	77.8
2011	47,030	0	3,498	9,835	74	33,589	34	71.4	77.2
2012	51,363	0	5,850	9,901	242	35,317	53	68.8	77.7
2013	49,596	0	5,109	9,991	261	34,192	43	68.9	77.0
2014	48,057	0	4,620	9,684	266	33,450	37	69.6	77.1
2015	45,845	34	4,466	8,849	289	32,170	37	70.2	77.9
2016	43,054	45	4,109	8,209	250	30,399	42	70.7	78.3
2017	41,000	65	3,840	7,768	284	29,011	32	70.9	78.3
2018	39,451	158	3,939	7,754	326	27,232	42	69.3	77.1
2019	39,429	438	4,435	9,230	449	24,808	69	63.6	72.0
2020	35,651	1,487	3,918	8,139	646	21,395	66	62.6	71.0
2021	29,543	2,184	3,677	6,500	509	16,623	50	60.8	70.4

(Continued)

Table 60.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2021—Continued

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials ^a	Medical decisions				Award rate ^d (percent)	Allowance rate ^e (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical ^b	Awards	Subsequent denials ^c		
Adult children									
1999	57,334	0	854	16,791	31	39,624	34	69.1	70.3
2000	59,145	0	849	16,873	24	41,361	38	69.9	71.1
2001	58,660	0	945	17,098	29	40,552	36	69.1	70.4
2002	65,165	0	1,072	20,504	38	43,519	32	66.8	68.0
2003	69,497	0	1,326	23,173	33	44,938	27	64.7	66.0
2004	74,041	0	1,956	25,217	30	46,812	26	63.2	65.0
2005	76,047	0	2,010	25,349	64	48,575	49	63.9	65.7
2006	82,244	0	2,574	30,075	68	49,491	36	60.2	62.2
2007	91,887	0	3,031	33,835	87	54,895	39	59.7	61.8
2008	99,363	0	3,268	35,425	100	60,524	46	60.9	63.0
2009	113,925	0	3,435	43,251	105	67,079	55	58.9	60.8
2010	124,553	0	6,936	47,520	519	69,534	44	55.8	59.2
2011	124,101	0	7,363	46,927	420	69,360	31	55.9	59.4
2012	128,362	0	9,562	46,466	848	71,417	69	55.6	60.2
2013	120,777	0	7,723	43,351	699	68,950	54	57.1	61.0
2014	115,593	0	7,480	39,575	779	67,715	44	58.6	62.7
2015	118,464	109	7,250	37,552	760	72,732	61	61.5	65.5
2016	111,475	106	6,891	34,596	741	69,069	72	62.0	66.2
2017	111,725	208	6,783	33,624	729	70,317	64	63.1	67.2
2018	118,497	580	7,843	34,686	831	74,469	88	63.2	67.7
2019	115,465	1,350	8,292	38,549	988	66,149	137	58.0	62.6
2020	93,571	2,651	6,781	31,164	988	51,894	93	57.1	61.8
2021	75,181	3,817	6,325	23,258	736	40,967	78	57.4	63.1

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2022. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2022.

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.

Data include decisions for Social Security–only applications and applications for both Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI); they do not include SSI-only applications.

Data from 1992 through 1998 are available for disabled workers only.

- a. Applications were denied for nonmedical reasons; therefore no decision was made on severity of impairment.
- b. Applications were denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that the applicant did not meet the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.
- c. Applications were denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that the 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.

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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 61.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program, 1992–2021

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security 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,b} (percent)
<i>All disabled beneficiaries</i>									
1999	1,160,792	458,854	39.5	649,980	313,152	48.2	510,812	145,702	28.5
2000	1,228,301	500,657	40.8	688,282	339,764	49.4	540,019	160,893	29.8
2001	1,342,915	558,741	41.6	742,869	379,266	51.1	600,046	179,475	29.9
2002	1,484,685	575,089	38.7	794,839	385,453	48.5	689,846	189,636	27.5
2003	1,567,607	583,758	37.2	804,688	383,225	47.6	762,919	200,533	26.3
2004	1,646,469	604,176	36.7	814,157	389,190	47.8	832,312	214,986	25.8
2005	1,559,003	575,310	36.9	763,377	370,449	48.5	795,626	204,861	25.7
2006	1,553,228	562,208	36.2	753,222	363,226	48.2	800,006	198,982	24.9
2007	1,564,868	583,058	37.3	757,294	377,352	49.8	807,574	205,706	25.5
2008	1,641,539	635,422	38.7	783,521	408,893	52.2	858,018	226,529	26.4
2009	1,907,857	734,410	38.5	922,365	480,888	52.1	985,492	253,522	25.7
2010	2,003,031	739,092	36.9	991,011	496,238	50.1	1,012,020	242,854	24.0
2011	1,970,235	703,312	35.7	988,039	478,747	48.5	982,196	224,565	22.9
2012	1,931,564	689,229	35.7	989,723	474,891	48.0	941,841	214,338	22.8
2013	1,819,725	643,387	35.4	966,560	450,223	46.6	853,165	193,164	22.6
2014	1,750,631	615,868	35.2	981,610	441,985	45.0	769,021	173,883	22.6
2015	1,643,494	583,099	35.5	941,396	424,134	45.1	702,098	158,965	22.6
2016	1,554,485	557,723	35.9	904,403	407,833	45.1	650,082	149,890	23.1
2017	1,472,147	538,621	36.6	855,271	393,649	46.0	616,876	144,972	23.5
2018	1,415,176	523,799	37.0	830,773	382,208	46.0	584,403	141,591	24.2
2019	1,408,200	514,190	36.5	809,951	367,249	45.3	598,249	146,941	24.6
2020	1,284,006	458,898	35.7	779,752	338,122	43.4	504,254	120,776	24.0
2021	1,060,770	390,536	36.8	676,756	293,491	43.4	384,014	97,045	25.3

(Continued)

Table 61.

Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program, 1992–2021—Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security 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,b} (percent)
Workers									
1992	1,179,119	436,715	37.0	558,741	248,385	44.5	620,378	188,330	30.4
1993	1,244,187	421,560	33.9	571,464	240,839	42.1	672,723	180,721	26.9
1994	1,252,852	390,785	31.2	591,408	233,059	39.4	661,444	157,726	23.8
1995	1,177,761	367,293	31.2	569,963	223,457	39.2	607,798	143,836	23.7
1996	1,196,830	384,167	32.1	593,992	237,474	40.0	602,838	146,693	24.3
1997	1,057,812	357,880	33.8	551,909	228,793	41.5	505,903	129,087	25.5
1998	1,041,383	374,376	35.9	550,794	238,989	43.4	490,589	135,387	27.6
1999	1,065,430	396,253	37.2	578,884	259,417	44.8	486,546	136,836	28.1
2000	1,131,273	435,416	38.5	615,507	283,906	46.1	515,766	151,510	29.4
2001	1,246,317	493,638	39.6	670,621	323,649	48.3	575,696	169,989	29.5
2002	1,381,065	507,031	36.7	718,611	327,294	45.5	662,454	179,737	27.1
2003	1,459,838	514,871	35.3	728,169	324,769	44.6	731,669	190,102	26.0
2004	1,534,004	532,860	34.7	738,167	329,980	44.7	795,837	202,880	25.5
2005	1,445,449	502,762	34.8	686,143	309,900	45.2	759,306	192,862	25.4
2006	1,434,280	489,529	34.1	675,523	303,051	44.9	758,757	186,478	24.6
2007	1,437,440	505,946	35.2	676,179	314,355	46.5	761,261	191,591	25.2
2008	1,505,630	552,705	36.7	697,893	340,958	48.9	807,737	211,747	26.2
2009	1,755,858	644,692	36.7	830,777	407,867	49.1	925,081	236,825	25.6
2010	1,841,372	645,070	35.0	894,519	419,068	46.8	946,853	226,002	23.9
2011	1,809,962	610,298	33.7	890,729	401,279	45.1	919,233	209,019	22.7
2012	1,767,240	592,522	33.5	887,359	393,415	44.3	879,881	199,107	22.6
2013	1,662,175	549,527	33.1	867,265	370,738	42.7	794,910	178,789	22.5
2014	1,599,070	523,233	32.7	883,012	362,924	41.1	716,058	160,309	22.4
2015	1,490,896	486,094	32.6	838,808	340,364	40.6	652,088	145,730	22.3
2016	1,410,954	465,661	33.0	806,744	328,423	40.7	604,210	137,238	22.7
2017	1,330,046	446,214	33.5	756,710	313,312	41.4	573,336	132,902	23.2
2018	1,269,005	429,219	33.8	726,838	300,051	41.3	542,167	129,168	23.8
2019	1,266,057	430,875	34.0	709,543	296,419	41.8	556,514	134,456	24.2
2020	1,165,593	390,592	33.5	694,081	279,202	40.2	471,512	111,390	23.6
2021	966,442	334,185	34.6	606,741	244,815	40.3	359,701	89,370	24.8

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 61.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program, 1992–2021—Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security 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,b} (percent)
Widow(er)s									
1999	38,880	24,898	64.0	29,600	21,272	71.9	9,280	3,626	39.1
2000	38,732	25,748	66.5	29,874	21,967	73.5	8,858	3,781	42.7
2001	38,883	26,206	67.4	30,273	22,436	74.1	8,610	3,770	43.8
2002	39,526	26,489	67.0	30,891	22,751	73.6	8,635	3,738	43.3
2003	39,598	25,960	65.6	30,216	22,213	73.5	9,382	3,747	39.9
2004	40,380	26,666	66.0	29,578	22,252	75.2	10,802	4,414	40.9
2005	39,517	26,265	66.5	29,201	22,023	75.4	10,316	4,242	41.1
2006	39,278	25,584	65.1	28,454	21,399	75.2	10,824	4,185	38.7
2007	38,570	25,546	66.2	27,586	21,181	76.8	10,984	4,365	39.7
2008	39,811	26,777	67.3	28,194	22,185	78.7	11,617	4,592	39.5
2009	41,508	27,815	67.0	28,929	22,797	78.8	12,579	5,018	39.9
2010	44,040	29,501	67.0	30,599	24,203	79.1	13,441	5,298	39.4
2011	43,532	28,700	65.9	30,393	23,803	78.3	13,139	4,897	37.3
2012	45,517	30,477	67.0	32,409	25,662	79.2	13,108	4,815	36.7
2013	44,490	29,538	66.4	31,760	25,014	78.8	12,730	4,524	35.5
2014	43,441	28,997	66.8	31,412	24,794	78.9	12,029	4,203	34.9
2015	41,381	28,184	68.1	30,286	24,238	80.0	11,095	3,946	35.6
2016	38,945	26,717	68.6	28,742	23,041	80.2	10,203	3,676	36.0
2017	37,161	25,749	69.3	27,679	22,373	80.8	9,482	3,376	35.6
2018	35,514	23,962	67.5	26,519	20,699	78.1	8,995	3,263	36.3
2019	34,994	21,136	60.4	26,009	17,773	68.3	8,985	3,363	37.4
2020	31,710	18,880	59.5	23,866	15,973	66.9	7,844	2,907	37.1
2021	25,770	16,078	62.4	20,206	13,897	68.8	5,564	2,181	39.2

(Continued)

Table 61.

Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program, 1992–2021—Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security 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,b} (percent)
Adult children									
1999	56,482	37,703	66.8	41,496	32,463	78.2	14,986	5,240	35.0
2000	58,296	39,493	67.7	42,901	33,891	79.0	15,395	5,602	36.4
2001	57,715	38,897	67.4	41,975	33,181	79.0	15,740	5,716	36.3
2002	64,094	41,569	64.9	45,337	35,408	78.1	18,757	6,161	32.8
2003	68,171	42,927	63.0	46,303	36,243	78.3	21,868	6,684	30.6
2004	72,085	44,650	61.9	46,412	36,958	79.6	25,673	7,692	30.0
2005	74,037	46,283	62.5	48,033	38,526	80.2	26,004	7,757	29.8
2006	79,670	47,095	59.1	49,245	38,776	78.7	30,425	8,319	27.3
2007	88,858	51,566	58.0	53,529	41,816	78.1	35,329	9,750	27.6
2008	96,098	55,940	58.2	57,434	45,750	79.7	38,664	10,190	26.4
2009	110,491	61,903	56.0	62,659	50,224	80.2	47,832	11,679	24.4
2010	117,619	64,521	54.9	65,893	52,967	80.4	51,726	11,554	22.3
2011	116,741	64,314	55.1	66,917	53,665	80.2	49,824	10,649	21.4
2012	118,807	66,230	55.7	69,955	55,814	79.8	48,852	10,416	21.3
2013	113,060	64,322	56.9	67,535	54,471	80.7	45,525	9,851	21.6
2014	108,120	63,638	58.9	67,186	54,267	80.8	40,934	9,371	22.9
2015	111,217	68,821	61.9	72,302	59,532	82.3	38,915	9,289	23.9
2016	104,586	65,345	62.5	68,917	56,369	81.8	35,669	8,976	25.2
2017	104,940	66,658	63.5	70,882	57,964	81.8	34,058	8,694	25.5
2018	110,657	70,618	63.8	77,416	61,458	79.4	33,241	9,160	27.6
2019	107,149	62,179	58.0	74,399	53,057	71.3	32,750	9,122	27.9
2020	86,703	49,426	57.0	61,805	42,947	69.5	24,898	6,479	26.0
2021	68,558	40,273	58.7	49,809	34,779	69.8	18,749	5,494	29.3

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2022.

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

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

Data from 1992 through 1998 are available for disabled workers only.

SSI = Supplemental Security Income.

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

b. Rate for the Social Security portion only.

CONTACT: statistics@ssa.gov.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 62.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program, 1992–2021

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security 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,b} (percent)
<i>All disabled beneficiaries</i>									
1999	397,127	58,602	14.8	209,682	33,223	15.8	187,445	25,379	13.5
2000	407,758	55,631	13.6	214,965	31,473	14.6	192,793	24,158	12.5
2001	434,185	55,494	12.8	221,720	30,807	13.9	212,465	24,687	11.6
2002	502,441	57,460	11.4	249,822	31,212	12.5	252,619	26,248	10.4
2003	542,986	57,868	10.7	258,354	30,344	11.7	284,632	27,524	9.7
2004	558,632	57,363	10.3	255,283	29,169	11.4	303,349	28,194	9.3
2005	514,277	51,732	10.1	231,252	26,556	11.5	283,025	25,176	8.9
2006	514,442	51,156	9.9	227,921	26,078	11.4	286,521	25,078	8.8
2007	519,254	57,038	11.0	224,454	29,822	13.3	294,800	27,216	9.2
2008	546,426	59,255	10.8	222,900	29,954	13.4	323,526	29,301	9.1
2009	644,224	64,080	9.9	264,493	33,212	12.6	379,731	30,868	8.1
2010	706,098	63,198	9.0	299,847	34,300	11.4	406,251	28,898	7.1
2011	724,461	65,171	9.0	314,358	36,364	11.6	410,103	28,807	7.0
2012	714,132	62,482	8.7	316,739	34,918	11.0	397,393	27,564	6.9
2013	682,342	56,597	8.3	316,232	32,175	10.2	366,110	24,422	6.7
2014	644,205	56,326	8.7	316,539	33,524	10.6	327,666	22,802	7.0
2015	572,115	54,527	9.5	291,087	32,989	11.3	281,028	21,538	7.7
2016	530,732	52,143	9.8	275,106	32,120	11.7	255,626	20,023	7.8
2017	485,839	48,608	10.0	250,582	30,100	12.0	235,257	18,508	7.9
2018	463,915	50,224	10.8	240,836	31,322	13.0	223,079	18,902	8.5
2019	459,919	60,709	13.2	237,577	38,058	16.0	222,342	22,651	10.2
2020	388,737	49,736	12.8	216,308	32,559	15.1	172,429	17,177	10.0
2021	166,667	21,955	13.2	100,620	15,578	15.5	66,047	6,377	9.7

(Continued)

Table 62.

Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program, 1992–2021—Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security 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,b} (percent)
Workers									
1992	419,798	53,881	12.8	190,594	25,352	13.3	229,204	28,529	12.4
1993	469,151	58,275	12.4	206,606	27,306	13.2	262,545	30,969	11.8
1994	489,731	62,757	12.8	226,013	31,468	13.9	263,718	31,289	11.9
1995	458,036	60,584	13.2	218,950	31,563	14.4	239,086	29,021	12.1
1996	464,582	65,466	14.1	226,333	33,596	14.8	238,249	31,870	13.4
1997	403,225	59,978	14.9	206,148	33,373	16.2	197,077	26,605	13.5
1998	384,997	61,742	16.0	199,292	34,043	17.1	185,705	27,699	14.9
1999	384,286	55,272	14.4	202,999	31,712	15.6	181,287	23,560	13.0
2000	396,216	52,794	13.3	208,638	30,189	14.5	187,578	22,605	12.1
2001	422,937	52,905	12.5	215,591	29,647	13.8	207,346	23,258	11.2
2002	489,974	54,974	11.2	243,259	30,157	12.4	246,715	24,817	10.1
2003	529,775	55,342	10.4	252,226	29,348	11.6	277,549	25,994	9.4
2004	545,180	54,527	10.0	249,568	28,202	11.3	295,612	26,325	8.9
2005	501,374	49,029	9.8	225,707	25,640	11.4	275,667	23,389	8.5
2006	500,913	48,406	9.7	222,465	25,256	11.4	278,448	23,150	8.3
2007	503,473	54,434	10.8	218,683	28,950	13.2	284,790	25,484	8.9
2008	527,774	56,838	10.8	216,971	29,111	13.4	310,803	27,727	8.9
2009	621,676	61,281	9.9	258,019	32,309	12.5	363,657	28,972	8.0
2010	681,806	60,435	8.9	293,218	33,392	11.4	388,588	27,043	7.0
2011	699,642	62,356	8.9	307,208	35,405	11.5	392,434	26,951	6.9
2012	688,205	59,760	8.7	309,055	33,982	11.0	379,150	25,778	6.8
2013	657,786	54,165	8.2	309,024	31,346	10.1	348,762	22,819	6.5
2014	621,980	53,989	8.7	309,651	32,727	10.6	312,329	21,262	6.8
2015	551,879	52,156	9.5	284,634	32,156	11.3	267,245	20,000	7.5
2016	512,151	49,948	9.8	268,935	31,327	11.6	243,216	18,621	7.7
2017	468,101	46,428	9.9	244,612	29,245	12.0	223,489	17,183	7.7
2018	445,942	47,723	10.7	234,022	30,151	12.9	211,920	17,572	8.3
2019	440,145	57,236	13.0	228,801	35,977	15.7	211,344	21,259	10.1
2020	373,826	47,270	12.6	209,429	31,116	14.9	164,397	16,154	9.8
2021	160,720	20,898	13.0	97,499	14,886	15.3	63,221	6,012	9.5

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 62.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program, 1992–2021—Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security 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,b} (percent)
Widow(er)s									
1999	7,125	1,962	27.5	4,114	895	21.8	3,011	1,067	35.4
2000	6,379	1,572	24.6	3,872	734	19.0	2,507	838	33.4
2001	6,212	1,582	25.5	3,865	728	18.8	2,347	854	36.4
2002	6,390	1,392	21.8	3,996	649	16.2	2,394	743	31.0
2003	6,665	1,378	20.7	3,832	637	16.6	2,833	741	26.2
2004	6,475	1,549	23.9	3,457	597	17.3	3,018	952	31.5
2005	6,105	1,381	22.6	3,329	561	16.9	2,776	820	29.5
2006	5,985	1,308	21.9	3,120	461	14.8	2,865	847	29.6
2007	5,948	1,144	19.2	2,887	462	16.0	3,061	682	22.3
2008	6,347	921	14.5	2,858	391	13.7	3,489	530	15.2
2009	6,988	1,077	15.4	3,044	446	14.7	3,944	631	16.0
2010	7,359	1,055	14.3	3,073	461	15.0	4,286	594	13.9
2011	7,861	1,133	14.4	3,373	505	15.0	4,488	628	14.0
2012	8,147	1,116	13.7	3,546	480	13.5	4,601	636	13.8
2013	8,101	1,029	12.7	3,485	457	13.1	4,616	572	12.4
2014	7,833	1,011	12.9	3,420	456	13.3	4,413	555	12.6
2015	6,923	982	14.2	3,032	425	14.0	3,891	557	14.3
2016	6,360	842	13.2	2,816	394	14.0	3,544	448	12.6
2017	5,761	805	14.0	2,548	397	15.6	3,213	408	12.7
2018	5,837	942	16.1	2,697	477	17.7	3,140	465	14.8
2019	6,485	1,474	22.7	3,422	908	26.5	3,063	566	18.5
2020	5,406	1,118	20.7	2,865	646	22.5	2,541	472	18.6
2021	1,912	437	22.9	1,124	291	25.9	788	146	18.5

(Continued)

Table 62.

Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program, 1992–2021—Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security 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,b} (percent)
Adult children									
1999	5,716	1,368	23.9	2,569	616	24.0	3,147	752	23.9
2000	5,163	1,265	24.5	2,455	550	22.4	2,708	715	26.4
2001	5,036	1,007	20.0	2,264	432	19.1	2,772	575	20.7
2002	6,077	1,094	18.0	2,567	406	15.8	3,510	688	19.6
2003	6,546	1,148	17.5	2,296	359	15.6	4,250	789	18.6
2004	6,977	1,287	18.4	2,258	370	16.4	4,719	917	19.4
2005	6,798	1,322	19.4	2,216	355	16.0	4,582	967	21.1
2006	7,544	1,442	19.1	2,336	361	15.5	5,208	1,081	20.8
2007	9,833	1,460	14.8	2,884	410	14.2	6,949	1,050	15.1
2008	12,305	1,496	12.2	3,071	452	14.7	9,234	1,044	11.3
2009	15,560	1,722	11.1	3,430	457	13.3	12,130	1,265	10.4
2010	16,933	1,708	10.1	3,556	447	12.6	13,377	1,261	9.4
2011	16,958	1,682	9.9	3,777	454	12.0	13,181	1,228	9.3
2012	17,780	1,606	9.0	4,138	456	11.0	13,642	1,150	8.4
2013	16,455	1,403	8.5	3,723	372	10.0	12,732	1,031	8.1
2014	14,392	1,326	9.2	3,468	341	9.8	10,924	985	9.0
2015	13,313	1,389	10.4	3,421	408	11.9	9,892	981	9.9
2016	12,221	1,353	11.1	3,355	399	11.9	8,866	954	10.8
2017	11,977	1,375	11.5	3,422	458	13.4	8,555	917	10.7
2018	12,136	1,559	12.8	4,117	694	16.9	8,019	865	10.8
2019	13,289	1,999	15.0	5,354	1,173	21.9	7,935	826	10.4
2020	9,505	1,348	14.2	4,014	797	19.9	5,491	551	10.0
2021	4,035	620	15.4	1,997	401	20.1	2,038	219	10.7

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2022.

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

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

Data from 1992 through 1998 are available for disabled workers only.

SSI = Supplemental Security Income.

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

b. Rate for the Social Security portion only.

CONTACT: statistics@ssa.gov.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 63.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program, 1992–2021

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security 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,b} (percent)
<i>All disabled beneficiaries</i>									
1999	265,058	193,198	72.9	144,847	114,207	78.8	120,211	78,991	65.7
2000	290,068	211,697	73.0	157,001	124,015	79.0	133,067	87,682	65.9
2001	313,839	228,242	72.7	164,710	130,576	79.3	149,129	97,666	65.5
2002	369,875	267,597	72.3	189,671	150,834	79.5	180,204	116,763	64.8
2003	401,747	289,194	72.0	197,765	157,566	79.7	203,982	131,628	64.5
2004	415,339	301,463	72.6	196,715	159,335	81.0	218,624	142,128	65.0
2005	384,341	282,797	73.6	178,312	145,587	81.6	206,029	137,210	66.6
2006	387,021	279,305	72.2	176,337	142,420	80.8	210,684	136,885	65.0
2007	387,412	274,991	71.0	169,876	136,134	80.1	217,536	138,857	63.8
2008	405,203	277,034	68.4	167,464	131,704	78.6	237,739	145,330	61.1
2009	482,363	309,138	64.1	200,296	150,200	75.0	282,067	158,938	56.3
2010	537,453	320,098	59.6	230,396	162,719	70.6	307,057	157,379	51.3
2011	554,186	308,178	55.6	241,140	160,277	66.5	313,046	147,901	47.2
2012	554,402	288,643	52.1	246,172	154,369	62.7	308,230	134,274	43.6
2013	538,185	267,516	49.7	250,222	148,199	59.2	287,963	119,317	41.4
2014	501,573	247,291	49.3	246,929	142,036	57.5	254,644	105,255	41.3
2015	432,994	216,585	50.0	221,129	128,456	58.1	211,865	88,129	41.6
2016	395,419	197,314	49.9	205,187	118,961	58.0	190,232	78,353	41.2
2017	353,240	175,778	49.8	182,444	106,108	58.2	170,796	69,670	40.8
2018	317,856	162,880	51.2	165,848	98,504	59.4	152,008	64,376	42.4
2019	267,764	147,121	54.9	141,498	88,971	62.9	126,266	58,150	46.1
2020	159,517	93,888	58.9	93,390	61,184	65.5	66,127	32,704	49.5
2021	18,203	10,599	58.2	12,308	7,826	63.6	5,895	2,773	47.0

(Continued)

Table 63.

Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program, 1992–2021—Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security 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,b} (percent)
Workers									
1992	275,863	201,359	73.0	131,624	105,371	80.1	144,239	95,988	66.5
1993	310,655	217,816	70.1	143,997	112,593	78.2	166,658	105,223	63.1
1994	323,607	220,645	68.2	156,458	119,338	76.3	167,149	101,307	60.6
1995	301,917	202,739	67.2	150,882	113,781	75.4	151,035	88,958	58.9
1996	306,245	204,704	66.8	157,790	116,292	73.7	148,455	88,412	59.6
1997	267,288	186,278	69.7	141,021	107,539	76.3	126,267	78,739	62.4
1998	251,486	179,107	71.2	134,883	104,763	77.7	116,603	74,344	63.8
1999	260,850	190,326	73.0	141,671	111,954	79.0	119,179	78,372	65.8
2000	285,620	208,668	73.1	153,649	121,651	79.2	131,971	87,017	65.9
2001	309,372	225,214	72.8	161,335	128,214	79.5	148,037	97,000	65.5
2002	364,659	264,024	72.4	185,830	148,078	79.7	178,829	115,946	64.8
2003	396,352	285,621	72.1	194,232	155,060	79.8	202,120	130,561	64.6
2004	410,160	297,973	72.6	193,481	156,966	81.1	216,679	141,007	65.1
2005	379,242	279,186	73.6	175,088	143,130	81.7	204,154	136,056	66.6
2006	381,766	275,741	72.2	173,088	140,092	80.9	208,678	135,649	65.0
2007	379,554	270,206	71.2	166,457	133,740	80.3	213,097	136,466	64.0
2008	393,931	270,440	68.7	163,640	128,949	78.8	230,291	141,491	61.4
2009	468,958	301,999	64.4	196,271	147,402	75.1	272,687	154,597	56.7
2010	523,027	313,054	59.9	226,172	159,933	70.7	296,855	153,121	51.6
2011	539,145	300,993	55.8	236,507	157,301	66.5	302,638	143,692	47.5
2012	537,777	281,216	52.3	241,101	151,289	62.7	296,676	129,927	43.8
2013	522,040	260,569	49.9	245,293	145,323	59.2	276,747	115,246	41.6
2014	487,452	241,017	49.4	242,307	139,342	57.5	245,145	101,675	41.5
2015	420,586	210,961	50.2	216,982	126,011	58.1	203,604	84,950	41.7
2016	384,080	191,989	50.0	201,278	116,637	57.9	182,802	75,352	41.2
2017	342,734	170,941	49.9	178,773	103,940	58.1	163,961	67,001	40.9
2018	308,156	158,130	51.3	162,183	96,282	59.4	145,973	61,848	42.4
2019	259,486	142,746	55.0	138,101	86,753	62.8	121,385	55,993	46.1
2020	155,013	91,212	58.8	91,360	59,767	65.4	63,653	31,445	49.4
2021	17,734	10,289	58.0	12,031	7,607	63.2	5,703	2,682	47.0

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 63.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program, 1992–2021—Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security 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,b} (percent)
Widow(er)s									
1999	3,027	2,285	75.5	2,325	1,794	77.2	702	491	69.9
2000	3,140	2,388	76.1	2,414	1,870	77.5	726	518	71.3
2001	3,046	2,344	77.0	2,391	1,862	77.9	655	482	73.6
2002	3,438	2,685	78.1	2,654	2,109	79.5	784	576	73.5
2003	3,525	2,683	76.1	2,438	1,914	78.5	1,087	769	70.7
2004	3,241	2,589	79.9	2,199	1,804	82.0	1,042	785	75.3
2005	3,187	2,592	81.3	2,166	1,814	83.7	1,021	778	76.2
2006	3,172	2,574	81.1	2,087	1,726	82.7	1,085	848	78.2
2007	3,642	2,877	79.0	1,960	1,601	81.7	1,682	1,276	75.9
2008	4,404	3,460	78.6	2,056	1,709	83.1	2,348	1,751	74.6
2009	4,775	3,630	76.0	2,126	1,742	81.9	2,649	1,888	71.3
2010	5,178	3,695	71.4	2,193	1,703	77.7	2,985	1,992	66.7
2011	5,439	3,790	69.7	2,379	1,776	74.7	3,060	2,014	65.8
2012	5,823	3,777	64.9	2,554	1,818	71.2	3,269	1,959	59.9
2013	5,958	3,668	61.6	2,559	1,748	68.3	3,399	1,920	56.5
2014	5,698	3,479	61.1	2,482	1,654	66.6	3,216	1,825	56.7
2015	4,884	3,041	62.3	2,146	1,475	68.7	2,738	1,566	57.2
2016	4,504	2,882	64.0	1,983	1,376	69.4	2,521	1,506	59.7
2017	4,041	2,489	61.6	1,756	1,183	67.4	2,285	1,306	57.2
2018	3,748	2,370	63.2	1,683	1,178	70.0	2,065	1,192	57.7
2019	3,335	2,267	68.0	1,646	1,202	73.0	1,689	1,065	63.1
2020	2,029	1,463	72.1	1,061	806	76.0	968	657	67.9
2021	200	158	79.0	145	123	84.8	55	35	63.6

(Continued)

Table 63.

Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program, 1992–2021—Continued

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security 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,b} (percent)
Adult children									
1999	1,181	587	49.7	851	459	53.9	330	128	38.8
2000	1,308	641	49.0	938	494	52.7	370	147	39.7
2001	1,421	684	48.1	984	500	50.8	437	184	42.1
2002	1,778	888	49.9	1,187	647	54.5	591	241	40.8
2003	1,870	890	47.6	1,095	592	54.1	775	298	38.5
2004	1,938	901	46.5	1,035	565	54.6	903	336	37.2
2005	1,912	1,019	53.3	1,058	643	60.8	854	376	44.0
2006	2,083	990	47.5	1,162	602	51.8	921	388	42.1
2007	4,216	1,908	45.3	1,459	793	54.4	2,757	1,115	40.4
2008	6,868	3,134	45.6	1,768	1,046	59.2	5,100	2,088	40.9
2009	8,630	3,509	40.7	1,899	1,056	55.6	6,731	2,453	36.4
2010	9,248	3,349	36.2	2,031	1,083	53.3	7,217	2,266	31.4
2011	9,602	3,395	35.4	2,254	1,200	53.2	7,348	2,195	29.9
2012	10,802	3,650	33.8	2,517	1,262	50.1	8,285	2,388	28.8
2013	10,187	3,279	32.2	2,370	1,128	47.6	7,817	2,151	27.5
2014	8,423	2,795	33.2	2,140	1,040	48.6	6,283	1,755	27.9
2015	7,524	2,583	34.3	2,001	970	48.5	5,523	1,613	29.2
2016	6,835	2,443	35.7	1,926	948	49.2	4,909	1,495	30.5
2017	6,465	2,348	36.3	1,915	985	51.4	4,550	1,363	30.0
2018	5,952	2,380	40.0	1,982	1,044	52.7	3,970	1,336	33.7
2019	4,943	2,108	42.6	1,751	1,016	58.0	3,192	1,092	34.2
2020	2,475	1,213	49.0	969	611	63.1	1,506	602	40.0
2021	269	152	56.5	132	96	72.7	137	56	40.9

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

NOTES: Data are current through July 2022.

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

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

Data from 1992 through 1998 are available for disabled workers only.

SSI = Supplemental Security Income.

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

b. Rate for the Social Security portion only.

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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 64.
Number and percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2021

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other ^a
	Number	Percent				
<i>All disabled beneficiaries</i>						
1999	708,797	100.0	33.0	5.9	26.9	34.2
2000	766,047	100.0	31.1	6.2	29.2	33.5
2001	840,542	100.0	30.0	6.1	30.1	33.9
2002	898,047	100.0	28.5	5.3	30.1	36.1
2003	928,747	100.0	27.1	5.1	31.1	36.7
2004	961,376	100.0	26.4	4.9	31.5	37.2
2005	907,877	100.0	26.5	4.7	32.0	36.8
2006	890,752	100.0	26.4	4.5	31.9	37.3
2007	913,269	100.0	26.1	4.6	32.7	36.6
2008	969,935	100.0	25.5	5.2	34.1	35.2
2009	1,105,781	100.0	24.3	5.2	35.7	34.8
2010	1,120,313	100.0	23.1	5.1	36.2	35.6
2011	1,074,600	100.0	22.4	5.0	37.5	35.0
2012	1,038,076	100.0	22.1	5.0	38.1	34.8
2013	965,255	100.0	22.4	4.7	37.1	35.7
2014	917,203	100.0	23.1	4.6	36.7	35.7
2015	851,912	100.0	24.4	4.5	36.1	35.1
2016	805,195	100.0	26.1	4.4	35.4	34.1
2017	761,070	100.0	27.7	4.4	34.6	33.4
2018	734,825	100.0	29.7	4.5	34.7	31.1
2019	720,139	100.0	33.8	4.5	38.3	23.4
2020	600,986	100.0	35.4	4.5	40.9	19.2
2021	421,837	100.0	43.4	4.4	43.7	8.4

(Continued)

Table 64.
Number and percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2021—Continued

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other ^a
	Number	Percent				
<i>Workers</i>						
1992	689,111	100.0	34.3	11.1	24.3	30.3
1993	695,007	100.0	34.3	8.7	23.6	33.4
1994	671,791	100.0	34.5	6.9	25.6	32.9
1995	628,380	100.0	34.5	6.7	26.8	31.9
1996	652,221	100.0	34.2	7.0	27.4	31.5
1997	602,277	100.0	35.0	7.5	26.4	31.1
1998	613,181	100.0	35.5	6.6	26.9	31.0
1999	640,065	100.0	33.6	6.3	28.3	31.9
2000	695,007	100.0	31.7	6.5	30.6	31.2
2001	769,877	100.0	30.5	6.4	31.3	31.8
2002	823,981	100.0	29.0	5.6	31.4	34.0
2003	853,832	100.0	27.5	5.3	32.5	34.8
2004	883,784	100.0	26.7	5.2	32.9	35.2
2005	829,087	100.0	27.0	4.9	33.6	34.5
2006	811,818	100.0	26.9	4.7	33.5	34.9
2007	828,834	100.0	26.5	4.9	34.6	34.0
2008	878,274	100.0	26.0	5.5	36.2	32.3
2009	1,006,200	100.0	24.8	5.5	37.8	31.9
2010	1,016,551	100.0	23.6	5.4	38.5	32.5
2011	971,651	100.0	22.9	5.3	40.1	31.7
2012	931,342	100.0	22.7	5.3	41.0	31.0
2013	862,113	100.0	23.2	5.1	40.1	31.7
2014	816,038	100.0	24.0	4.9	39.8	31.3
2015	747,010	100.0	25.6	4.9	39.7	29.9
2016	705,727	100.0	27.3	4.8	38.9	28.9
2017	661,742	100.0	29.1	4.8	38.3	27.8
2018	633,124	100.0	30.2	4.8	38.5	26.5
2019	629,182	100.0	31.5	4.7	40.5	23.3
2020	527,697	100.0	33.6	4.6	43.5	18.2
2021	364,247	100.0	42.9	4.7	48.1	4.3

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 64.
Number and percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2021—Continued

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other ^a
	Number	Percent				
<i>Widow(er)s</i>						
1999	29,108	100.0	14.9	2.5	24.6	58.0
2000	29,679	100.0	12.8	2.5	26.3	58.4
2001	30,113	100.0	12.3	2.6	27.0	58.1
2002	30,547	100.0	11.4	2.1	26.5	60.0
2003	29,977	100.0	10.8	2.2	26.1	60.9
2004	30,780	100.0	10.1	1.9	26.0	62.0
2005	30,215	100.0	9.7	1.7	25.5	63.1
2006	29,443	100.0	9.6	1.5	24.2	64.7
2007	29,540	100.0	9.1	1.6	24.3	64.9
2008	31,137	100.0	8.7	1.7	24.8	64.7
2009	32,502	100.0	8.1	1.9	26.0	63.9
2010	34,228	100.0	7.7	1.9	25.3	65.1
2011	33,589	100.0	7.8	1.7	25.3	65.3
2012	35,317	100.0	6.8	1.6	24.2	67.4
2013	34,192	100.0	6.2	1.6	23.0	69.2
2014	33,450	100.0	6.3	1.5	21.7	70.6
2015	32,170	100.0	6.6	1.3	21.2	70.9
2016	30,399	100.0	6.5	1.2	20.4	71.9
2017	29,011	100.0	7.0	1.2	20.2	71.6
2018	27,232	100.0	8.4	1.4	24.0	66.2
2019	24,808	100.0	16.2	2.8	50.2	30.8
2020	21,395	100.0	15.4	2.6	48.0	34.1
2021	16,623	100.0	15.0	1.6	37.6	45.7

(Continued)

Table 64.
Number and percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2021—Continued

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other ^a
	Number	Percent				
<i>Adult children</i>						
1999	39,624	100.0	35.9	3.2	7.4	53.5
2000	41,361	100.0	35.0	3.1	7.3	54.7
2001	40,552	100.0	33.0	3.0	8.0	56.0
2002	43,519	100.0	31.7	2.9	7.6	57.8
2003	44,938	100.0	31.0	2.7	8.2	58.2
2004	46,812	100.0	30.1	2.7	8.5	58.6
2005	48,575	100.0	28.5	2.5	8.3	60.7
2006	49,491	100.0	28.4	2.6	8.8	60.2
2007	54,895	100.0	28.3	2.6	9.0	60.1
2008	60,524	100.0	26.6	2.5	8.6	62.3
2009	67,079	100.0	24.8	2.5	8.8	63.9
2010	69,534	100.0	23.2	2.3	8.3	66.1
2011	69,360	100.0	21.9	2.3	7.9	67.9
2012	71,417	100.0	21.4	2.2	7.3	69.0
2013	68,950	100.0	21.0	2.0	7.0	70.0
2014	67,715	100.0	20.7	1.9	6.6	70.9
2015	72,732	100.0	19.7	1.7	5.9	72.7
2016	69,069	100.0	21.7	1.7	5.7	70.9
2017	70,317	100.0	23.0	1.8	5.5	69.6
2018	74,469	100.0	33.3	2.3	6.6	57.9
2019	66,149	100.0	61.9	3.9	12.1	22.1
2020	51,894	100.0	62.4	3.8	10.6	23.2
2021	40,967	100.0	59.3	3.2	7.8	29.7

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2022. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2022.

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 be subsequently denied for nonmedical reasons.

Data include decisions for Social Security–only applications and applications for both Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI); they do not include SSI-only claims.

Data from 1992 through 1998 are available for disabled workers only.

a. Includes applications for which the disability was previously established and those for which the basis for the determination is not available. The majority of applications for which the basis of determination is not available are cases allowed at or above the hearing level.

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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 65.
Number and percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial, 1992–2021

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Able to do usual past work	Able to do other type of work	Other ^a
	Number	Percent					
<i>All disabled beneficiaries</i>							
1999	450,051	100.0	10.2	17.8	28.3	30.8	12.9
2000	460,284	100.0	10.0	17.2	28.2	30.4	14.1
2001	500,414	100.0	9.2	16.7	28.0	31.1	14.9
2002	584,497	100.0	8.5	17.1	28.2	31.3	14.9
2003	636,769	100.0	7.5	17.7	28.2	31.8	14.9
2004	683,445	100.0	6.8	18.4	27.6	31.5	15.7
2005	649,134	100.0	6.5	19.2	26.7	31.4	16.3
2006	660,526	100.0	6.3	19.8	26.2	31.3	16.4
2007	649,725	100.0	6.3	20.4	26.3	30.9	16.0
2008	669,785	100.0	5.8	21.4	26.0	31.3	15.5
2009	800,192	100.0	4.6	22.5	25.4	32.3	15.1
2010	880,600	100.0	4.1	23.3	24.7	32.3	15.5
2011	893,521	100.0	3.9	23.8	20.4	33.6	18.3
2012	891,123	100.0	3.8	24.7	16.2	39.0	16.3
2013	852,146	100.0	4.0	24.9	15.1	42.4	13.5
2014	831,060	100.0	3.9	24.7	13.8	42.7	14.8
2015	786,307	100.0	4.1	24.3	11.7	43.1	16.8
2016	743,359	100.0	4.2	23.7	10.2	43.6	18.3
2017	702,617	100.0	4.2	23.9	9.1	43.8	19.0
2018	660,634	100.0	3.9	24.8	8.6	42.6	20.1
2019	643,716	100.0	3.7	24.6	8.2	43.4	20.1
2020	554,786	100.0	3.5	22.6	8.0	41.6	24.2
2021	431,964	100.0	3.1	20.8	7.9	38.4	29.9

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 65.
Number and percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial,
1992–2021—Continued

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Able to do usual past work	Able to do other type of work	Other ^a
	Number	Percent					
<i>Workers</i>							
1992	487,164	100.0	10.7	22.9	28.4	29.6	8.4
1993	546,532	100.0	10.4	22.7	27.6	29.8	9.5
1994	578,664	100.0	10.2	21.5	25.9	28.8	13.6
1995	547,145	100.0	10.6	20.8	25.4	29.4	13.8
1996	542,493	100.0	10.2	19.6	24.7	30.6	14.8
1997	453,676	100.0	10.6	18.5	25.7	30.5	14.6
1998	426,158	100.0	10.8	18.3	27.8	30.8	12.3
1999	423,494	100.0	10.6	17.4	29.3	30.1	12.6
2000	434,363	100.0	10.4	16.8	29.3	29.7	13.9
2001	474,536	100.0	9.5	16.4	29.0	30.4	14.7
2002	554,996	100.0	8.8	16.8	29.2	30.6	14.7
2003	603,986	100.0	7.7	17.4	29.2	31.0	14.6
2004	648,622	100.0	7.0	18.2	28.5	30.8	15.4
2005	614,442	100.0	6.7	19.0	27.7	30.6	16.0
2006	620,571	100.0	6.5	19.5	27.4	30.6	16.0
2007	606,800	100.0	6.6	20.1	27.7	30.0	15.6
2008	625,607	100.0	6.1	21.1	27.4	30.3	15.1
2009	747,850	100.0	4.9	22.3	26.8	31.2	14.7
2010	822,772	100.0	4.3	23.2	26.1	31.2	15.2
2011	836,265	100.0	4.1	23.6	21.4	32.6	18.2
2012	833,666	100.0	4.0	24.5	17.0	38.4	16.1
2013	797,844	100.0	4.2	24.7	15.9	42.0	13.2
2014	780,756	100.0	4.1	24.4	14.4	42.4	14.6
2015	738,857	100.0	4.3	24.0	12.2	42.8	16.6
2016	699,563	100.0	4.4	23.4	10.6	43.4	18.2
2017	660,212	100.0	4.4	23.5	9.5	43.7	18.9
2018	617,037	100.0	4.1	24.2	9.0	42.7	20.0
2019	594,500	100.0	3.9	23.7	8.7	43.7	20.0
2020	513,849	100.0	3.7	21.7	8.5	41.9	24.2
2021	400,961	100.0	3.2	19.8	8.3	38.6	30.1

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 65.
Number and percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial, 1992–2021—Continued

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Able to do usual past work	Able to do other type of work	Other ^a
	Number	Percent					
<i>Widow(er)s</i>							
1999	9,735	100.0	5.6	29.0	31.8	22.7	10.8
2000	9,024	100.0	5.3	29.0	31.4	22.3	12.1
2001	8,751	100.0	4.7	27.6	31.2	22.8	13.7
2002	8,959	100.0	4.8	25.5	32.9	23.9	13.0
2003	9,577	100.0	4.2	25.7	33.1	23.7	13.3
2004	9,576	100.0	3.6	26.5	32.2	23.0	14.7
2005	9,279	100.0	3.6	26.7	32.0	22.8	15.0
2006	9,812	100.0	3.8	25.7	31.6	23.1	15.9
2007	9,003	100.0	3.6	27.3	31.3	21.9	15.9
2008	8,653	100.0	3.3	27.8	30.8	21.9	16.2
2009	8,986	100.0	2.8	28.8	30.2	22.2	16.0
2010	9,789	100.0	2.7	29.3	27.9	24.0	16.0
2011	9,909	100.0	2.9	28.1	26.9	24.9	17.2
2012	10,143	100.0	2.3	28.8	23.4	28.4	17.0
2013	10,252	100.0	2.4	28.6	22.2	32.6	14.3
2014	9,950	100.0	2.3	27.5	21.4	33.1	15.6
2015	9,138	100.0	2.3	26.3	20.5	33.5	17.4
2016	8,459	100.0	2.3	26.1	17.3	35.0	19.2
2017	8,052	100.0	2.1	25.9	17.5	34.1	20.5
2018	8,080	100.0	2.1	26.9	15.0	33.9	22.2
2019	9,679	100.0	1.5	28.5	13.8	33.2	23.0
2020	8,785	100.0	1.5	24.5	13.7	32.5	27.7
2021	7,009	100.0	1.3	22.2	12.1	31.1	33.2

(Continued)

Table 65.
Number and percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial, 1992–2021—Continued

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Able to do usual past work	Able to do other type of work	Other ^a
	Number	Percent					
<i>Adult children</i>							
1999	16,822	100.0	3.1	22.7	0.7	53.3	20.2
2000	16,897	100.0	2.8	22.9	0.7	51.9	21.7
2001	17,127	100.0	2.5	21.3	0.9	52.9	22.3
2002	20,542	100.0	2.3	21.6	0.8	53.6	21.7
2003	23,206	100.0	2.0	21.8	0.7	53.6	21.9
2004	25,247	100.0	1.9	22.1	0.5	52.4	23.1
2005	25,413	100.0	1.8	21.3	0.4	52.8	23.8
2006	30,143	100.0	1.7	23.6	0.4	50.3	23.9
2007	33,922	100.0	1.6	24.0	0.3	49.9	24.2
2008	35,525	100.0	1.5	24.8	0.2	51.0	22.5
2009	43,356	100.0	1.2	23.4	0.1	53.5	21.8
2010	48,039	100.0	1.2	24.7	0.1	53.1	20.9
2011	47,347	100.0	1.0	26.2	(L)	52.6	20.1
2012	47,314	100.0	0.9	27.7	(L)	51.9	19.4
2013	44,050	100.0	0.9	28.1	(L)	52.2	18.8
2014	40,354	100.0	0.9	29.4	0.0	50.5	19.1
2015	38,312	100.0	0.8	30.0	(L)	49.4	19.7
2016	35,337	100.0	0.8	29.4	(L)	49.1	20.7
2017	34,353	100.0	0.8	31.2	(L)	47.6	20.4
2018	35,517	100.0	0.6	35.4	(L)	42.9	21.1
2019	39,537	100.0	0.5	37.7	0.0	41.2	20.6
2020	32,152	100.0	0.5	36.8	0.0	39.5	23.2
2021	23,994	100.0	0.5	37.3	0.0	36.7	25.6

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2022. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2022.

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 be subsequently denied for nonmedical reasons.

Data include decisions for Social Security–only applications and applications for both Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI); they do not include SSI-only claims.

Data from 1992 through 1998 are available for disabled workers only.

(L) = less than 0.05 percent.

a. Applicant has an impairment resulting from drug addiction or alcoholism, provided insufficient medical 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. Also includes cases denied at or above the hearing level for which the basis of determination is not available.

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