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## 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.

Beginning with 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 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—

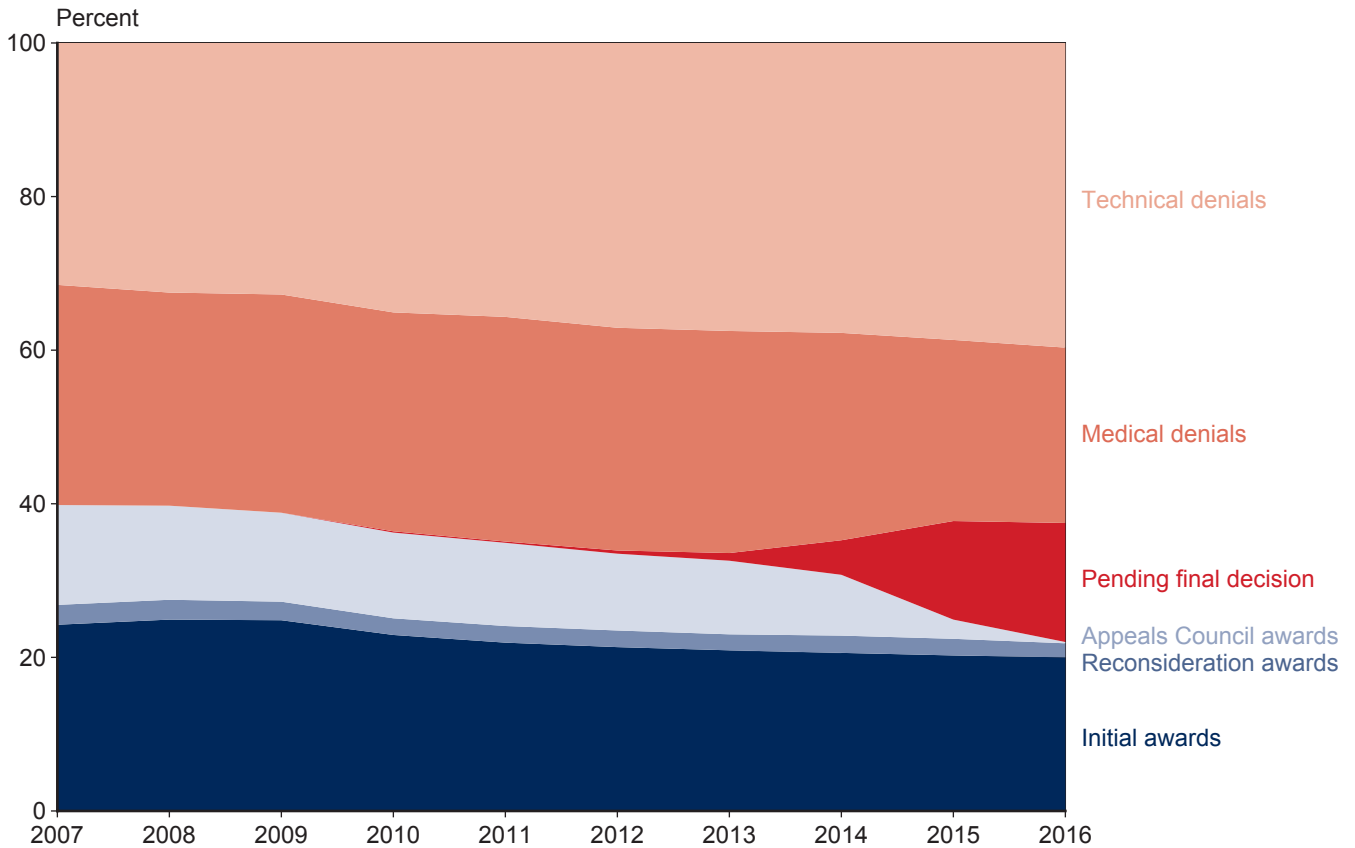
- has a listed impairment,
- has a severe impairment that is equal to a listed impairment,
- has a severe impairment when medical and vocational factors are considered, or
- had previously established entitlement to a disability benefit.

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, 2007–2016**

The final award rate for disabled-worker applicants has varied over time, averaging 33 percent for claims filed from 2007 through 2016. The percentage of applicants awarded benefits at the initial claims level averaged 22 percent over the same period and ranged from a high of 25 percent to a low of 20 percent. The percentage of applicants awarded at the reconsideration and hearing levels are averaging 2 percent and 9 percent, respectively. Denied disability claims have averaged 63 percent.



SOURCE: Tables 60–63.

NOTES: 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.

The proportion of claims awarded at each level of the process is likely to change 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 is likely to result in a decrease in the overall proportion of claims awarded at this step.

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 60.**  
**Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2016**

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials <sup>a</sup>	Medical decisions				Award rate <sup>d</sup> (percent)	Allowance rate <sup>e</sup> (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical <sup>b</sup>	Awards	Subsequent denials <sup>c</sup>		
<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	2,216,564	0	651,753	641,810	7,914	913,269	1,818	41.2	58.5
2008	2,358,629	0	717,145	660,859	9,023	969,826	1,776	41.1	59.2
2009	2,753,012	0	845,259	789,845	10,689	1,105,371	1,848	40.2	58.0
2010	2,981,613	4,806	978,670	857,534	19,103	1,119,424	2,076	37.6	56.1
2011	2,952,087	6,790	981,984	867,920	20,786	1,072,543	2,064	36.4	54.7
2012	2,955,922	11,815	1,024,570	860,311	23,895	1,033,049	2,282	35.1	53.9
2013	2,790,681	27,919	971,172	809,205	25,097	955,039	2,249	34.6	53.4
2014	2,687,341	117,826	936,765	728,771	27,514	874,170	2,295	34.0	53.7
2015	2,539,462	312,783	903,970	602,165	29,557	688,683	2,304	30.9	52.2
2016	2,385,219	357,407	871,707	547,768	27,613	578,780	1,944	28.5	50.2
<i>Workers</i>									
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	2,083,896	0	646,511	599,000	7,799	828,834	1,752	39.8	57.8
2008	2,217,126	0	711,547	616,798	8,892	878,180	1,709	39.6	58.4
2009	2,595,028	0	839,269	737,623	10,541	1,005,822	1,773	38.8	57.4
2010	2,809,477	4,690	968,187	800,392	18,502	1,015,698	2,008	36.2	55.4
2011	2,780,977	6,642	971,121	811,265	20,292	969,659	1,998	35.0	53.9
2012	2,776,214	11,541	1,009,155	804,066	22,802	926,490	2,160	33.5	52.9
2013	2,620,314	27,094	958,333	756,376	24,131	852,228	2,152	32.9	52.3
2014	2,523,711	114,216	924,683	681,728	26,455	774,416	2,213	32.1	52.3
2015	2,379,753	303,847	892,363	560,836	28,443	592,056	2,208	28.5	50.2
2016	2,242,686	347,571	861,173	511,166	26,650	494,273	1,853	26.1	48.0

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 60.

Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2016—Continued

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials <sup>a</sup>	Medical decisions				Award rate <sup>d</sup> (percent)	Allowance rate <sup>e</sup> (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical <sup>b</sup>	Awards	Subsequent denials <sup>c</sup>		
<b>Widow(er)s</b>									
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	8,623	31	31,136	21	73.9	78.3
2009	44,059	0	2,551	8,948	43	32,497	20	73.8	78.3
2010	47,583	42	3,543	9,674	82	34,219	23	72.0	77.8
2011	47,011	43	3,499	9,791	74	33,570	34	71.5	77.3
2012	51,351	94	5,847	9,857	242	35,258	53	68.8	77.8
2013	49,596	260	5,113	9,845	262	34,073	43	69.1	77.1
2014	48,048	1,210	4,619	9,066	273	32,843	37	70.1	77.9
2015	45,113	3,272	4,457	7,570	315	29,462	37	70.4	78.9
2016	40,888	3,657	3,982	6,920	273	26,014	42	69.9	78.4

(Continued)

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 60.**  
**Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2016—Continued**

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials <sup>a</sup>	Medical decisions				Award rate <sup>d</sup> (percent)	Allowance rate <sup>e</sup> (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical <sup>b</sup>	Awards	Subsequent denials <sup>c</sup>		
<b>Adult children</b>									
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	3,269	35,438	100	60,510	46	60.9	63.0
2009	113,925	0	3,439	43,274	105	67,052	55	58.9	60.7
2010	124,553	74	6,940	47,468	519	69,507	45	55.8	59.2
2011	124,099	105	7,364	46,864	420	69,314	32	55.9	59.5
2012	128,357	180	9,568	46,388	851	71,301	69	55.6	60.2
2013	120,771	565	7,726	42,984	704	68,738	54	57.2	61.2
2014	115,582	2,400	7,463	37,977	786	66,911	45	59.1	63.3
2015	114,596	5,664	7,150	33,759	799	67,165	59	61.7	66.0
2016	101,645	6,179	6,552	29,682	690	58,493	49	61.3	65.8

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2017. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2017.

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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**Table 61.**  
**Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program,**  
**1992–2016**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a,b</sup> (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	1,564,867	583,058	37.3	757,293	377,352	49.8	807,574	205,706	25.5
2008	1,641,527	635,391	38.7	783,509	408,880	52.2	858,018	226,511	26.4
2009	1,907,790	734,296	38.5	922,298	480,820	52.1	985,492	253,476	25.7
2010	2,002,942	738,967	36.9	990,922	496,158	50.1	1,012,020	242,809	24.0
2011	1,970,109	703,160	35.7	987,925	478,650	48.5	982,184	224,510	22.9
2012	1,931,352	688,978	35.7	989,519	474,730	48.0	941,833	214,248	22.7
2013	1,819,367	642,939	35.3	966,205	449,916	46.6	853,162	193,023	22.6
2014	1,749,906	614,889	35.1	980,890	441,328	45.0	769,016	173,561	22.6
2015	1,634,184	575,522	35.2	933,333	417,709	44.8	700,851	157,813	22.5
2016	1,508,910	533,759	35.4	877,179	389,878	44.4	631,731	143,881	22.8
<i>Workers</i>									
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	1,437,439	505,946	35.2	676,178	314,355	46.5	761,261	191,591	25.2
2008	1,505,619	552,684	36.7	697,882	340,947	48.9	807,737	211,737	26.2
2009	1,755,795	644,601	36.7	830,714	407,806	49.1	925,081	236,795	25.6
2010	1,841,290	644,958	35.0	894,437	418,995	46.8	946,853	225,963	23.9
2011	1,809,866	610,168	33.7	890,633	401,202	45.0	919,233	208,966	22.7
2012	1,767,057	592,320	33.5	887,175	393,287	44.3	879,882	199,033	22.6
2013	1,661,839	549,139	33.0	866,930	370,471	42.7	794,909	178,668	22.5
2014	1,598,397	522,371	32.7	882,335	362,329	41.1	716,062	160,042	22.4
2015	1,486,199	482,675	32.5	834,931	337,821	40.5	651,268	144,854	22.2
2016	1,377,097	450,955	32.7	788,797	318,758	40.4	588,300	132,197	22.5

(Continued)

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 61.**  
**Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program,**  
**1992–2016—Continued**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a,b</sup> (percent)
<b>Widow(er)s</b>									
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	26,776	67.3	28,194	22,185	78.7	11,617	4,591	39.5
2009	41,508	27,812	67.0	28,929	22,797	78.8	12,579	5,015	39.9
2010	44,040	29,501	67.0	30,599	24,203	79.1	13,441	5,298	39.4
2011	43,512	28,695	65.9	30,384	23,798	78.3	13,128	4,897	37.3
2012	45,502	30,476	67.0	32,403	25,662	79.2	13,099	4,814	36.8
2013	44,484	29,525	66.4	31,754	25,004	78.7	12,730	4,521	35.5
2014	43,424	28,976	66.7	31,399	24,777	78.9	12,025	4,199	34.9
2015	40,635	27,525	67.7	29,543	23,593	79.9	11,092	3,932	35.4
2016	36,862	25,200	68.4	27,014	21,688	80.3	9,848	3,512	35.7
<b>Adult children</b>									
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	96,097	55,931	58.2	57,433	45,748	79.7	38,664	10,183	26.3
2009	110,487	61,883	56.0	62,655	50,217	80.1	47,832	11,666	24.4
2010	117,612	64,508	54.8	65,886	52,960	80.4	51,726	11,548	22.3
2011	116,731	64,297	55.1	66,908	53,650	80.2	49,823	10,647	21.4
2012	118,793	66,182	55.7	69,941	55,781	79.8	48,852	10,401	21.3
2013	113,044	64,275	56.9	67,521	54,441	80.6	45,523	9,834	21.6
2014	108,085	63,542	58.8	67,156	54,222	80.7	40,929	9,320	22.8
2015	107,350	65,322	60.8	68,859	56,295	81.8	38,491	9,027	23.5
2016	94,951	57,604	60.7	61,368	49,432	80.6	33,583	8,172	24.3

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2017.

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.

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**Table 62.**  
**Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program,**  
**1992–2016**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a,b</sup> (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	59,258	10.8	222,900	29,958	13.4	323,526	29,300	9.1
2009	644,222	64,080	9.9	264,491	33,218	12.6	379,731	30,862	8.1
2010	706,069	63,196	9.0	299,818	34,294	11.4	406,251	28,902	7.1
2011	724,422	65,205	9.0	314,331	36,366	11.6	410,091	28,839	7.0
2012	714,075	62,595	8.8	316,690	34,966	11.0	397,385	27,629	7.0
2013	682,244	57,115	8.4	316,137	32,381	10.2	366,107	24,734	6.8
2014	644,031	58,166	9.0	316,370	34,516	10.9	327,661	23,650	7.2
2015	564,563	55,572	9.8	286,532	33,793	11.8	278,031	21,779	7.8
2016	445,260	41,139	9.2	233,205	26,062	11.2	212,055	15,077	7.1
<i>Workers</i>									
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	56,841	10.8	216,971	29,113	13.4	310,803	27,728	8.9
2009	621,675	61,284	9.9	258,018	32,315	12.5	363,657	28,969	8.0
2010	681,779	60,438	8.9	293,191	33,386	11.4	388,588	27,052	7.0
2011	699,624	62,397	8.9	307,190	35,407	11.5	392,434	26,990	6.9
2012	688,161	59,885	8.7	309,011	34,034	11.0	379,150	25,851	6.8
2013	657,695	54,687	8.3	308,934	31,555	10.2	348,761	23,132	6.6
2014	621,829	55,801	9.0	309,498	33,694	10.9	312,331	22,107	7.1
2015	545,041	53,265	9.8	280,423	32,959	11.8	264,618	20,306	7.7
2016	431,221	39,609	9.2	228,555	25,470	11.1	202,666	14,139	7.0

(Continued)



## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 62.**  
**Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program,**  
**1992–2016—Continued**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a,b</sup> (percent)
<b>Widow(er)s</b>									
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	922	14.5	2,858	392	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	463	15.1	4,286	592	13.8
2011	7,843	1,132	14.4	3,366	505	15.0	4,477	627	14.0
2012	8,134	1,113	13.7	3,541	477	13.5	4,593	636	13.8
2013	8,100	1,035	12.8	3,484	457	13.1	4,616	578	12.5
2014	7,827	1,044	13.3	3,417	475	13.9	4,410	569	12.9
2015	6,809	999	14.7	2,939	445	15.1	3,870	554	14.3
2016	5,005	667	13.3	2,167	311	14.4	2,838	356	12.5
<b>Adult children</b>									
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	1,495	12.1	3,071	453	14.8	9,234	1,042	11.3
2009	15,559	1,719	11.0	3,429	457	13.3	12,130	1,262	10.4
2010	16,931	1,703	10.1	3,554	445	12.5	13,377	1,258	9.4
2011	16,955	1,676	9.9	3,775	454	12.0	13,180	1,222	9.3
2012	17,780	1,597	9.0	4,138	455	11.0	13,642	1,142	8.4
2013	16,449	1,393	8.5	3,719	369	9.9	12,730	1,024	8.0
2014	14,375	1,321	9.2	3,455	347	10.0	10,920	974	8.9
2015	12,713	1,308	10.3	3,170	389	12.3	9,543	919	9.6
2016	9,034	863	9.6	2,483	281	11.3	6,551	582	8.9

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2017.

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 63.**  
**Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program,**  
**1992–2016**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a,b</sup> (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	405,196	276,953	68.4	167,460	131,677	78.6	237,736	145,276	61.1
2009	482,354	308,843	64.0	200,289	150,075	74.9	282,065	158,768	56.3
2010	532,593	319,337	60.0	228,445	162,385	71.1	304,148	156,952	51.6
2011	547,263	306,242	56.0	238,228	159,390	66.9	309,035	146,852	47.5
2012	542,279	283,758	52.3	240,623	151,911	63.1	301,656	131,847	43.7
2013	509,396	257,234	50.5	236,895	142,840	60.3	272,501	114,394	42.0
2014	380,158	203,410	53.5	190,430	118,121	62.0	189,728	85,289	45.0
2015	113,368	59,893	52.8	60,953	36,608	60.1	52,415	23,285	44.4
2016	12,535	5,826	46.5	7,639	3,995	52.3	4,896	1,831	37.4
<i>Workers</i>									
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	393,926	270,364	68.6	163,638	128,924	78.8	230,288	141,440	61.4
2009	468,949	301,710	64.3	196,264	147,278	75.0	272,685	154,432	56.6
2010	518,284	312,310	60.3	224,249	159,605	71.2	294,035	152,705	51.9
2011	532,387	299,092	56.2	233,647	156,431	67.0	298,740	142,661	47.8
2012	525,945	276,445	52.6	235,636	148,869	63.2	290,309	127,576	43.9
2013	494,089	250,554	50.7	232,191	140,055	60.3	261,898	110,499	42.2
2014	369,723	198,457	53.7	186,887	115,915	62.0	182,836	82,542	45.1
2015	110,161	58,324	52.9	59,740	35,809	59.9	50,421	22,515	44.7
2016	12,076	5,562	46.1	7,371	3,785	51.3	4,705	1,777	37.8

(Continued)

## Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 63.**  
**Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program,**  
**1992–2016—Continued**

Year	All decisions			Decisions on applications for Social Security only			Decisions on applications for both Social Security and SSI		
	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a</sup> (percent)	Total	Allowances	Allowance rate <sup>a,b</sup> (percent)
<b>Widow(er)s</b>									
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	4,403	3,459	78.6	2,055	1,708	83.1	2,348	1,751	74.6
2009	4,775	3,628	76.0	2,126	1,742	81.9	2,649	1,886	71.2
2010	5,134	3,686	71.8	2,177	1,699	78.0	2,957	1,987	67.2
2011	5,377	3,777	70.2	2,353	1,767	75.1	3,024	2,010	66.5
2012	5,715	3,722	65.1	2,512	1,797	71.5	3,203	1,925	60.1
2013	5,691	3,556	62.5	2,458	1,699	69.1	3,233	1,857	57.4
2014	4,443	2,860	64.4	1,974	1,403	71.1	2,469	1,457	59.0
2015	1,440	975	67.7	703	541	77.0	737	434	58.9
2016	242	189	78.1	183	162	88.5	59	27	45.8
<b>Adult children</b>									
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	6,867	3,130	45.6	1,767	1,045	59.1	5,100	2,085	40.9
2009	8,630	3,505	40.6	1,899	1,055	55.6	6,731	2,450	36.4
2010	9,175	3,341	36.4	2,019	1,081	53.5	7,156	2,260	31.6
2011	9,499	3,373	35.5	2,228	1,192	53.5	7,271	2,181	30.0
2012	10,619	3,591	33.8	2,475	1,245	50.3	8,144	2,346	28.8
2013	9,616	3,124	32.5	2,246	1,086	48.4	7,370	2,038	27.7
2014	5,992	2,093	34.9	1,569	803	51.2	4,423	1,290	29.2
2015	1,767	594	33.6	510	258	50.6	1,257	336	26.7
2016	217	75	34.6	85	48	56.5	132	27	20.5

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

NOTES: Data are current through July 2017.

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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**Table 64.**

**Number and percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2016**

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other <sup>a</sup>
	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	969,826	100.0	25.5	5.2	34.2	35.2
2009	1,105,371	100.0	24.3	5.2	35.7	34.8
2010	1,119,424	100.0	23.1	5.1	36.3	35.5
2011	1,072,543	100.0	22.4	5.0	37.6	34.9
2012	1,033,049	100.0	22.2	5.0	38.3	34.5
2013	955,039	100.0	22.6	4.8	37.5	35.1
2014	874,170	100.0	24.2	4.8	38.5	32.5
2015	688,683	100.0	30.0	5.5	44.5	20.1
2016	578,780	100.0	34.8	5.8	46.2	13.1
<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	878,180	100.0	26.0	5.5	36.2	32.3
2009	1,005,822	100.0	24.8	5.5	37.8	31.9
2010	1,015,698	100.0	23.6	5.4	38.6	32.4
2011	969,659	100.0	23.0	5.3	40.2	31.5
2012	926,490	100.0	22.8	5.3	41.2	30.6
2013	852,228	100.0	23.4	5.1	40.6	30.9
2014	774,416	100.0	25.3	5.2	41.9	27.6
2015	592,056	100.0	32.2	6.1	49.9	11.8
2016	494,273	100.0	37.8	6.5	52.3	3.4

(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, 1992–2016—Continued**

Year	Total		Meets level of severity of listings	Equals level of severity of listings	Medical and vocational factors considered	Other <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percent				
<b>Widow(er)s</b>						
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	31,136	100.0	8.7	1.7	24.8	64.7
2009	32,497	100.0	8.1	1.9	26.0	63.9
2010	34,219	100.0	7.7	1.9	25.3	65.1
2011	33,570	100.0	7.8	1.7	25.3	65.3
2012	35,258	100.0	6.8	1.6	24.3	67.4
2013	34,073	100.0	6.2	1.6	23.1	69.1
2014	32,843	100.0	6.4	1.5	22.1	70.1
2015	29,462	100.0	7.1	1.4	23.0	68.4
2016	26,014	100.0	7.2	1.4	22.2	69.3
<b>Adult children</b>						
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	60,510	100.0	26.6	2.5	8.6	62.2
2009	67,052	100.0	24.8	2.5	8.8	63.9
2010	69,507	100.0	23.2	2.3	8.3	66.1
2011	69,314	100.0	21.9	2.3	7.9	67.9
2012	71,301	100.0	21.5	2.2	7.3	69.0
2013	68,738	100.0	21.0	2.0	7.1	69.9
2014	66,911	100.0	20.9	1.9	6.6	70.5
2015	67,165	100.0	20.7	1.8	6.1	71.4
2016	58,493	100.0	22.5	1.7	5.7	70.1

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2017. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2017.

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, 1992–2016

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 <sup>a</sup>
	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	649,724	100.0	6.3	20.4	26.3	30.9	16.0
2008	669,882	100.0	5.8	21.4	26.0	31.3	15.5
2009	800,534	100.0	4.6	22.5	25.4	32.4	15.1
2010	876,637	100.0	4.1	23.4	24.7	32.3	15.6
2011	888,706	100.0	3.9	23.9	20.4	33.6	18.3
2012	884,206	100.0	3.8	24.8	16.2	38.9	16.3
2013	834,302	100.0	4.0	25.0	15.1	42.1	13.7
2014	756,285	100.0	4.1	25.1	13.6	41.4	15.7
2015	631,722	100.0	4.5	25.1	11.5	40.5	18.4
2016	575,381	100.0	4.8	24.1	10.6	41.1	19.5
<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	606,799	100.0	6.6	20.1	27.7	30.0	15.6
2008	625,690	100.0	6.1	21.1	27.4	30.3	15.1
2009	748,164	100.0	4.9	22.3	26.8	31.2	14.7
2010	818,894	100.0	4.3	23.2	26.1	31.2	15.3
2011	831,557	100.0	4.1	23.7	21.4	32.6	18.2
2012	826,868	100.0	4.0	24.5	17.0	38.3	16.1
2013	780,507	100.0	4.2	24.8	15.8	41.7	13.4
2014	708,183	100.0	4.3	24.9	14.2	41.0	15.5
2015	589,279	100.0	4.8	24.8	12.1	40.1	18.3
2016	537,816	100.0	5.0	23.8	11.1	40.8	19.3

(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, 1992–2016—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 <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percent					
<b>Widow(er)s</b>							
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	8,654	100.0	3.3	27.8	30.8	21.9	16.2
2009	8,991	100.0	2.8	28.8	30.2	22.2	15.9
2010	9,756	100.0	2.7	29.4	27.9	23.9	16.0
2011	9,865	100.0	2.9	28.2	27.0	24.8	17.1
2012	10,099	100.0	2.4	28.8	23.5	28.4	17.0
2013	10,107	100.0	2.4	28.7	22.1	32.4	14.4
2014	9,339	100.0	2.4	27.9	21.4	32.2	16.2
2015	7,885	100.0	2.4	26.5	20.4	32.2	18.5
2016	7,193	100.0	2.6	25.3	18.1	34.2	19.8
<b>Adult children</b>							
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	35,538	100.0	1.5	24.8	0.2	51.0	22.5
2009	43,379	100.0	1.2	23.4	0.1	53.5	21.8
2010	47,987	100.0	1.2	24.7	0.1	53.1	20.9
2011	47,284	100.0	1.0	26.2	0.0	52.6	20.2
2012	47,239	100.0	0.9	27.7	0.0	51.9	19.4
2013	43,688	100.0	0.9	28.1	0.0	52.1	18.9
2014	38,763	100.0	0.9	29.3	0.0	50.1	19.6
2015	34,558	100.0	0.9	29.8	0.0	48.5	20.8
2016	30,372	100.0	0.9	28.8	0.0	48.0	22.3

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2017. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2017.

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. 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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