

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 53.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2003

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		
All disabled beneficiaries									
1999	1,265,055	4,786	104,330	442,841	4,071	707,169	1,858	56.1	61.4
2000	1,364,396	10,251	136,072	452,851	3,842	759,440	1,940	56.1	62.6
2001	1,513,536	30,426	170,380	483,392	3,618	823,786	1,934	55.5	63.0
2002	1,706,759	132,080	230,895	537,073	4,239	800,338	2,134	50.8	59.8
2003	1,903,272	300,410	374,430	570,274	4,892	651,002	2,264	40.6	53.3
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	123,712	542,183	5,049	628,292	2,236	48.3	53.6
1996	1,313,818	0	116,990	537,721	5,012	651,979	2,116	49.6	54.7
1997	1,164,680	4,621	106,822	445,664	4,216	601,498	1,859	51.9	57.4
1998	1,138,101	3,210	96,677	419,503	4,214	612,452	2,045	54.0	59.3
1999	1,167,664	4,675	102,306	416,422	4,023	638,452	1,786	54.9	60.5
2000	1,265,214	10,074	133,967	427,066	3,807	688,427	1,873	54.8	61.7
2001	1,414,598	29,973	168,094	457,809	3,575	753,268	1,879	54.4	62.2
2002	1,602,789	130,257	228,297	507,742	4,180	730,230	2,083	49.6	59.0
2003	1,802,488	296,376	371,475	538,366	4,835	589,254	2,182	39.1	52.2
Widow(er)s									
1999	40,055	69	1,173	9,660	17	29,099	37	72.8	75.1
2000	39,996	99	1,257	8,967	11	29,633	29	74.3	76.8
2001	40,238	240	1,344	8,611	13	30,011	19	75.0	77.7
2002	40,580	1,036	1,535	9,068	20	28,902	19	73.1	76.1
2003	38,536	2,302	1,647	9,818	29	24,691	49	68.1	71.6

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 53.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2003—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	57,336	42	851	16,759	31	39,618	35	69.1	70.3
2000	59,186	78	848	16,818	24	41,380	38	70.0	71.1
2001	58,700	213	942	16,972	30	40,507	36	69.3	70.5
2002	63,390	787	1,063	20,263	39	41,206	32	65.8	67.0
2003	62,248	1,732	1,308	22,090	28	37,057	33	61.2	62.7

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2004. Data for the hearing level or above are current through August 2004.

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 to 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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