

Table 49.
Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application,
and reason for denial, 1992–2004

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Impairment does not cause severe functional limitations ^a	Able to do usual past work ^b	Able to do other type of work ^b	Other ^c
	Number	Percent						
<i>All ages ^d</i>								
1992	743,395	100.0	7.3	22.1	...	17.5	26.3	26.9
1993	939,357	100.0	6.6	21.2	...	15.4	24.8	31.9
1994	1,043,113	100.0	6.2	20.7	...	13.6	23.3	36.1
1995	996,529	100.0	6.2	19.7	...	12.4	22.4	39.2
1996	940,350	100.0	6.4	20.6	5.8	12.1	22.9	32.2
1997	741,043	100.0	6.8	16.7	16.2	13.0	25.1	22.1
1998	703,239	100.0	6.9	15.0	18.3	14.6	25.3	19.9
1999	690,488	100.0	6.7	14.0	19.1	15.5	24.5	20.2
2000	690,296	100.0	6.4	13.3	18.7	15.8	24.2	21.5
2001	724,592	100.0	6.1	13.2	18.3	16.6	26.0	19.9
2002	793,508	100.0	5.7	13.0	18.4	16.8	26.2	19.9
2003	812,715	100.0	5.2	12.2	19.0	16.5	26.1	21.1
2004	823,668	100.0	5.0	11.2	18.5	16.2	26.2	22.9
<i>Under age 18</i>								
1992	148,324	100.0	1.5	22.7	...	...	...	75.8
1993	240,803	100.0	1.3	21.8	...	...	...	76.9
1994	311,284	100.0	1.4	22.4	...	...	...	76.2
1995	306,390	100.0	1.3	21.8	...	...	...	76.9
1996	291,354	100.0	1.4	26.9	18.7	...	...	53.0
1997	195,802	100.0	1.6	19.1	61.4	...	...	18.0
1998	182,511	100.0	1.3	14.5	70.6	...	...	13.7
1999	182,279	100.0	1.1	13.3	72.4	...	...	13.2
2000	179,388	100.0	1.1	13.2	72.1	...	...	13.6
2001	181,660	100.0	1.1	14.0	73.0	...	...	11.9
2002	197,948	100.0	1.0	13.5	73.7	...	...	11.8
2003	205,178	100.0	0.9	12.4	75.1	...	...	11.5
2004	202,113	100.0	0.9	11.1	75.5	...	...	12.6

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 49.
Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application,
and reason for denial, 1992–2004—Continued

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Impairment does not cause severe functional limitations ^a	Able to do usual past work ^b	Able to do other type of work ^b	Other ^c
	Number	Percent						
Aged 18–64								
1992	594,906	100.0	8.8	21.9	...	21.8	32.8	14.7
1993	698,397	100.0	8.4	21.0	...	20.7	33.4	16.4
1994	731,456	100.0	8.3	20.0	...	19.4	33.2	19.1
1995	689,683	100.0	8.4	18.8	...	17.9	32.4	22.5
1996	648,085	100.0	8.6	17.8	...	17.5	33.3	22.8
1997	543,602	100.0	8.8	15.8	...	17.7	34.2	23.6
1998	516,773	100.0	8.9	14.9	...	19.7	34.4	22.0
1999	504,486	100.0	8.7	14.1	...	21.0	33.5	22.7
2000	507,540	100.0	8.4	13.2	...	21.2	32.8	24.3
2001	539,948	100.0	7.8	12.8	...	22.1	34.9	22.5
2002	592,581	100.0	7.3	12.8	...	22.3	35.0	22.5
2003	605,341	100.0	6.6	12.0	...	22.0	35.1	24.3
2004	619,791	100.0	6.3	11.1	...	21.5	34.9	26.2

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2005. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2005.

Because a number of applications remain pending for more recent years, the numbers and percentages will change over time.

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

Includes decisions for SSI-only applications and applications for both Social Security and SSI. Does not include Social Security-only applications.

... = not applicable.

a. Used only for applicants under age 18. Category effective for final determinations made August 1996 or later.

b. Used only for applicants aged 18 or older.

c. Applicant provided insufficient evidence, failed to cooperate, failed to follow prescribed treatment, did not want to continue development of the claim, or returned to substantial work before disability could be established. For final determinations made August 1996 or before for applicants under age 18, also includes claims denied because individual functional assessment showed impairment not of comparable severity.

d. Includes applicants aged 65 or older.

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