
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—

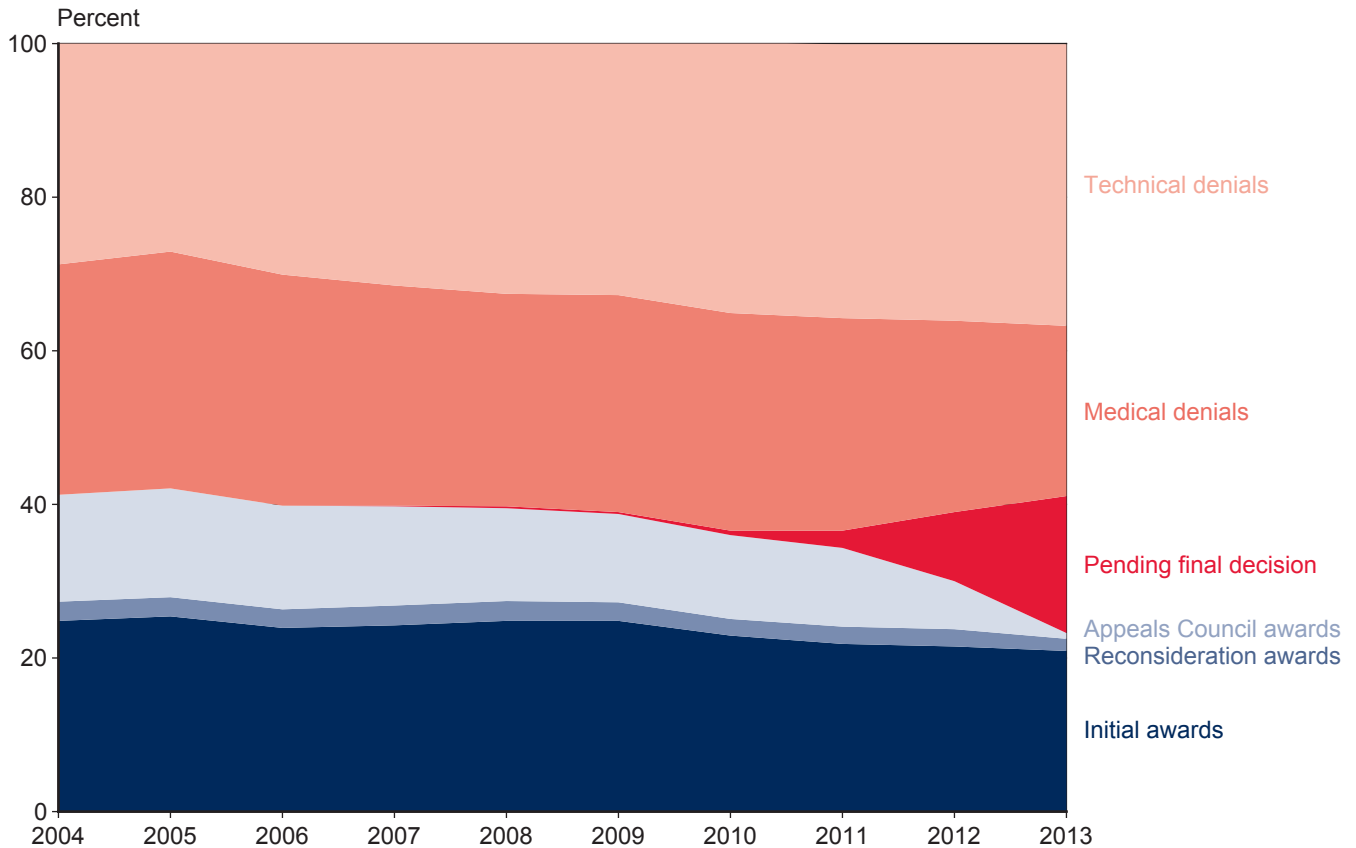
- has a listed impairment,
- has a severe impairment that is equal to a listed impairment,
- has a severe impairment when medical and vocational factors are considered, or
- had previously established entitlement to a disability benefit.

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, 2004–2013

The final award rate for disabled-worker applicants has varied over time, averaging 36 percent for claims filed from 2004 through 2013. The percentage of applicants awarded benefits at the initial claims level averaged 24 percent over the same period and ranged from a high of 25 percent to a low of 21 percent. The percentage of applicants awarded at the reconsideration and hearing levels are averaging 2 percent and 11 percent, respectively. Denied disability claims have averaged 61 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, 1992–2013

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	528,799	642,261	6,964	907,744	1,965	43.5	58.4
2006	2,164,393	0	611,238	653,612	7,276	890,350	1,917	41.1	57.5
2007	2,216,564	1,847	651,804	640,652	7,916	912,526	1,819	41.2	58.6
2008	2,358,630	3,940	717,216	658,133	9,028	968,529	1,784	41.1	59.3
2009	2,753,014	7,879	845,411	784,743	10,700	1,102,427	1,854	40.2	58.2
2010	2,981,613	17,204	978,922	851,373	19,181	1,112,846	2,087	37.5	56.2
2011	2,952,088	66,124	982,311	823,595	20,954	1,057,026	2,078	36.6	55.7
2012	2,885,480	251,699	964,712	730,700	23,846	912,350	2,173	34.6	54.9
2013	2,689,842	469,470	912,785	607,055	24,823	673,712	1,997	30.3	51.8
<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	524,896	607,655	6,874	828,960	1,892	42.1	57.6
2006	2,040,681	0	606,474	613,743	7,170	811,436	1,858	39.8	56.8
2007	2,083,896	1,812	646,563	597,845	7,801	828,122	1,753	39.8	57.9
2008	2,217,127	3,855	711,621	614,115	8,896	876,923	1,717	39.6	58.6
2009	2,595,028	7,681	839,414	732,619	10,551	1,002,984	1,779	38.8	57.5
2010	2,809,477	16,825	968,434	794,318	18,578	1,009,305	2,017	36.1	55.5
2011	2,780,977	64,420	971,451	767,973	20,455	954,666	2,012	35.1	54.9
2012	2,720,755	244,446	955,231	678,387	23,110	817,490	2,091	33.0	54.0
2013	2,539,900	455,855	905,098	561,996	24,226	590,774	1,951	28.3	50.4

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 60.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2013—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	9,254	26	30,214	23	73.0	76.6
2006	41,468	0	2,190	9,776	38	29,441	23	71.0	75.1
2007	40,781	12	2,211	8,970	28	29,533	27	72.4	76.7
2008	42,140	24	2,329	8,612	31	31,123	21	73.9	78.3
2009	44,060	49	2,552	8,923	43	32,473	20	73.8	78.4
2010	47,583	123	3,545	9,644	83	34,163	25	72.0	77.9
2011	47,011	417	3,498	9,566	75	33,421	34	71.7	77.7
2012	46,767	2,294	3,380	9,134	95	31,832	32	71.6	77.6
2013	44,054	4,539	2,989	8,584	103	27,817	22	70.4	76.3
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	2,011	25,352	64	48,570	50	63.9	65.7
2006	82,244	0	2,574	30,093	68	49,473	36	60.2	62.2
2007	91,887	23	3,030	33,837	87	54,871	39	59.7	61.8
2008	99,363	61	3,266	35,406	101	60,483	46	60.9	63.1
2009	113,926	149	3,445	43,201	106	66,970	55	58.9	60.8
2010	124,553	256	6,943	47,411	520	69,378	45	55.8	59.2
2011	124,100	1,287	7,362	46,056	424	68,939	32	56.1	59.8
2012	117,958	4,959	6,101	43,179	641	63,028	50	55.8	59.0
2013	105,888	9,076	4,698	36,475	494	55,121	24	56.9	59.9

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2014. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2014.

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,
1992–2013

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)
All disabled beneficiaries									
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	1,558,964	575,265	36.9	763,338	370,420	48.5	795,626	204,845	25.7
2006	1,553,190	562,130	36.2	753,184	363,182	48.2	800,006	198,948	24.9
2007	1,564,788	582,936	37.3	757,213	377,281	49.8	807,575	205,655	25.5
2008	1,641,415	635,227	38.7	783,397	408,783	52.2	858,018	226,444	26.4
2009	1,907,582	733,981	38.5	922,088	480,619	52.1	985,494	253,362	25.7
2010	2,002,623	738,462	36.9	990,600	495,848	50.1	1,012,023	242,614	24.0
2011	1,969,473	702,292	35.7	987,287	478,094	48.4	982,186	224,198	22.8
2012	1,919,301	675,949	35.2	976,187	462,221	47.3	943,114	213,728	22.7
2013	1,770,826	614,747	34.7	934,025	426,613	45.7	836,801	188,134	22.5
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	1,445,411	502,719	34.8	686,105	309,872	45.2	759,306	192,847	25.4
2006	1,434,242	489,464	34.1	675,485	303,013	44.9	758,757	186,451	24.6
2007	1,437,363	505,844	35.2	676,101	314,289	46.5	761,262	191,555	25.2
2008	1,505,510	552,537	36.7	697,773	340,855	48.8	807,737	211,682	26.2
2009	1,755,597	644,322	36.7	830,516	407,624	49.1	925,081	236,698	25.6
2010	1,840,982	644,511	35.0	894,126	418,714	46.8	946,856	225,797	23.8
2011	1,809,258	609,383	33.7	890,024	400,695	45.0	919,234	208,688	22.7
2012	1,764,142	587,830	33.3	882,935	389,105	44.1	881,207	198,725	22.6
2013	1,628,792	533,994	32.8	848,217	359,517	42.4	780,575	174,477	22.4

(Continued)

Table 61.
Medical decisions at the initial adjudicative level, by year of application and program,
1992–2013—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	26,264	66.5	29,201	22,023	75.4	10,316	4,241	41.1
2006	39,278	25,583	65.1	28,454	21,398	75.2	10,824	4,185	38.7
2007	38,570	25,542	66.2	27,586	21,181	76.8	10,984	4,361	39.7
2008	39,811	26,770	67.2	28,194	22,183	78.7	11,617	4,587	39.5
2009	41,508	27,804	67.0	28,928	22,791	78.8	12,580	5,013	39.8
2010	44,038	29,492	67.0	30,597	24,199	79.1	13,441	5,293	39.4
2011	43,511	28,681	65.9	30,383	23,794	78.3	13,128	4,887	37.2
2012	43,377	28,509	65.7	30,170	23,686	78.5	13,207	4,823	36.5
2013	41,044	26,705	65.1	28,589	22,307	78.0	12,455	4,398	35.3
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	74,036	46,282	62.5	48,032	38,525	80.2	26,004	7,757	29.8
2006	79,670	47,083	59.1	49,245	38,771	78.7	30,425	8,312	27.3
2007	88,855	51,550	58.0	53,526	41,811	78.1	35,329	9,739	27.6
2008	96,094	55,920	58.2	57,430	45,745	79.7	38,664	10,175	26.3
2009	110,477	61,855	56.0	62,644	50,204	80.1	47,833	11,651	24.4
2010	117,603	64,459	54.8	65,877	52,935	80.4	51,726	11,524	22.3
2011	116,704	64,228	55.0	66,880	53,605	80.2	49,824	10,623	21.3
2012	111,782	59,610	53.3	63,082	49,430	78.4	48,700	10,180	20.9
2013	100,990	54,048	53.5	57,219	44,789	78.3	43,771	9,259	21.2

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2014.

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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Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 62.

Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program, 1992–2013

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	514,276	51,729	10.1	231,251	26,555	11.5	283,025	25,174	8.9
2006	514,442	51,151	9.9	227,921	26,081	11.4	286,521	25,070	8.7
2007	519,237	57,033	11.0	224,437	29,823	13.3	294,800	27,210	9.2
2008	546,405	59,273	10.8	222,879	29,961	13.4	323,526	29,312	9.1
2009	644,192	64,114	10.0	264,460	33,227	12.6	379,732	30,887	8.1
2010	706,047	63,351	9.0	299,796	34,331	11.5	406,251	29,020	7.1
2011	724,346	66,670	9.2	314,257	36,949	11.8	410,089	29,721	7.2
2012	711,099	63,010	8.9	313,970	35,300	11.2	397,129	27,710	7.0
2013	567,774	42,752	7.5	262,770	24,672	9.4	305,004	18,080	5.9
<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	49,028	9.8	225,707	25,639	11.4	275,667	23,389	8.5
2006	500,913	48,406	9.7	222,465	25,260	11.4	278,448	23,146	8.3
2007	503,458	54,434	10.8	218,668	28,950	13.2	284,790	25,484	8.9
2008	527,756	56,857	10.8	216,953	29,117	13.4	310,803	27,740	8.9
2009	621,647	61,336	9.9	257,990	32,328	12.5	363,657	29,008	8.0
2010	681,757	60,609	8.9	293,169	33,427	11.4	388,588	27,182	7.0
2011	699,554	63,869	9.1	307,122	35,998	11.7	392,432	27,871	7.1
2012	686,470	60,462	8.8	307,040	34,454	11.2	379,430	26,008	6.9
2013	549,405	41,105	7.5	257,658	24,110	9.4	291,747	16,995	5.8

(Continued)

Table 62.
Medical decisions at the reconsideration level, by year of application and program,
1992–2013—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	1,307	21.8	3,120	461	14.8	2,865	846	29.5
2007	5,948	1,142	19.2	2,887	462	16.0	3,061	680	22.2
2008	6,347	924	14.6	2,858	394	13.8	3,489	530	15.2
2009	6,989	1,075	15.4	3,044	446	14.7	3,945	629	15.9
2010	7,359	1,052	14.3	3,073	462	15.0	4,286	590	13.8
2011	7,842	1,131	14.4	3,365	504	15.0	4,477	627	14.0
2012	7,778	1,071	13.8	3,262	434	13.3	4,516	637	14.1
2013	6,252	750	12.0	2,563	313	12.2	3,689	437	11.8
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	6,797	1,320	19.4	2,215	355	16.0	4,582	965	21.1
2006	7,544	1,438	19.1	2,336	360	15.4	5,208	1,078	20.7
2007	9,831	1,457	14.8	2,882	411	14.3	6,949	1,046	15.1
2008	12,302	1,492	12.1	3,068	450	14.7	9,234	1,042	11.3
2009	15,556	1,703	10.9	3,426	453	13.2	12,130	1,250	10.3
2010	16,931	1,690	10.0	3,554	442	12.4	13,377	1,248	9.3
2011	16,950	1,670	9.9	3,770	447	11.9	13,180	1,223	9.3
2012	16,851	1,477	8.8	3,668	412	11.2	13,183	1,065	8.1
2013	12,117	897	7.4	2,549	249	9.8	9,568	648	6.8

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

NOTES: Data are current through June 2014.

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: (410) 965-0090 or 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,
1992–2013

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	384,338	282,715	73.6	178,311	145,547	81.6	206,027	137,168	66.6
2006	387,006	278,986	72.1	176,329	142,272	80.7	210,677	136,714	64.9
2007	385,535	274,376	71.2	169,172	135,881	80.3	216,363	138,495	64.0
2008	401,196	275,813	68.7	165,991	131,209	79.0	235,205	144,604	61.5
2009	474,345	306,186	64.5	197,393	148,986	75.5	276,952	157,200	56.8
2010	519,839	313,120	60.2	223,771	159,745	71.4	296,068	153,375	51.8
2011	485,943	290,142	59.7	215,159	152,124	70.7	270,784	138,018	51.0
2012	293,713	175,564	59.8	136,448	96,396	70.6	157,265	79,168	50.3
2013	32,508	18,210	56.0	17,181	11,365	66.1	15,327	6,845	44.7
<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	379,240	279,105	73.6	175,088	143,091	81.7	204,152	136,014	66.6
2006	381,751	275,424	72.1	173,080	139,946	80.9	208,671	135,478	64.9
2007	377,714	269,597	71.4	165,771	133,491	80.5	211,943	136,106	64.2
2008	390,013	269,246	69.0	162,199	128,466	79.2	227,814	140,780	61.8
2009	461,137	299,105	64.9	193,403	146,210	75.6	267,734	152,895	57.1
2010	505,785	306,202	60.5	219,627	156,994	71.5	286,158	149,208	52.1
2011	472,629	283,426	60.0	210,937	149,281	70.8	261,692	134,145	51.3
2012	285,074	171,289	60.1	133,656	94,515	70.7	151,418	76,774	50.7
2013	31,387	17,626	56.2	16,686	11,002	65.9	14,701	6,624	45.1

(Continued)

Table 63.
Medical decisions at the hearing level or above, by year of application and program,
1992–2013—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	3,629	2,876	79.3	1,952	1,601	82.0	1,677	1,275	76.0
2008	4,377	3,450	78.8	2,041	1,702	83.4	2,336	1,748	74.8
2009	4,726	3,614	76.5	2,113	1,737	82.2	2,613	1,877	71.8
2010	5,055	3,644	72.1	2,152	1,684	78.3	2,903	1,960	67.5
2011	4,996	3,643	72.9	2,202	1,715	77.9	2,794	1,928	69.0
2012	3,141	2,284	72.7	1,473	1,171	79.5	1,668	1,113	66.7
2013	520	384	73.8	319	265	83.1	201	119	59.2
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	1,911	1,018	53.3	1,057	642	60.7	854	376	44.0
2006	2,083	988	47.4	1,162	600	51.6	921	388	42.1
2007	4,192	1,903	45.4	1,449	789	54.5	2,743	1,114	40.6
2008	6,806	3,117	45.8	1,751	1,041	59.5	5,055	2,076	41.1
2009	8,482	3,467	40.9	1,877	1,039	55.4	6,605	2,428	36.8
2010	8,999	3,274	36.4	1,992	1,067	53.6	7,007	2,207	31.5
2011	8,318	3,073	36.9	2,020	1,128	55.8	6,298	1,945	30.9
2012	5,498	1,991	36.2	1,319	710	53.8	4,179	1,281	30.7
2013	601	200	33.3	176	98	55.7	425	102	24.0

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

NOTES: Data are current through July 2014.

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: (410) 965-0090 or statistics@ssa.gov.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 64.
Number and percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2013

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	907,744	100.0	26.5	4.7	32.0	36.8
2006	890,350	100.0	26.4	4.5	31.9	37.2
2007	912,526	100.0	26.1	4.6	32.8	36.5
2008	968,529	100.0	25.5	5.2	34.2	35.1
2009	1,102,427	100.0	24.4	5.2	35.8	34.6
2010	1,112,846	100.0	23.2	5.1	36.5	35.1
2011	1,057,026	100.0	22.8	5.1	38.2	34.0
2012	912,350	100.0	25.0	5.6	43.2	26.2
2013	673,712	100.0	31.1	6.4	50.6	11.9
<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	828,960	100.0	27.0	4.9	33.6	34.5
2006	811,436	100.0	26.9	4.8	33.5	34.8
2007	828,122	100.0	26.6	4.9	34.6	33.9
2008	876,923	100.0	26.0	5.5	36.3	32.2
2009	1,002,984	100.0	24.9	5.5	37.9	31.7
2010	1,009,305	100.0	23.8	5.4	38.8	32.0
2011	954,666	100.0	23.3	5.4	40.8	30.4
2012	817,490	100.0	25.8	6.0	46.5	21.6
2013	590,774	100.0	32.8	7.0	55.7	4.4

(Continued)

Table 64.

Number and percentage distribution of final medical allowances, by year of application and reason for allowance, 1992–2013—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	30,214	100.0	9.7	1.7	25.5	63.1
2006	29,441	100.0	9.6	1.5	24.2	64.7
2007	29,533	100.0	9.1	1.6	24.3	64.9
2008	31,123	100.0	8.7	1.7	24.9	64.7
2009	32,473	100.0	8.1	1.9	26.1	63.9
2010	34,163	100.0	7.7	1.9	25.4	65.0
2011	33,421	100.0	7.8	1.7	25.4	65.1
2012	31,832	100.0	7.5	1.7	26.5	64.3
2013	27,817	100.0	7.3	1.9	26.5	64.3
<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	48,570	100.0	28.5	2.5	8.3	60.7
2006	49,473	100.0	28.4	2.6	8.8	60.2
2007	54,871	100.0	28.3	2.6	9.0	60.1
2008	60,483	100.0	26.6	2.5	8.6	62.2
2009	66,970	100.0	24.9	2.5	8.8	63.9
2010	69,378	100.0	23.3	2.3	8.3	66.1
2011	68,939	100.0	22.0	2.3	7.9	67.7
2012	63,028	100.0	23.7	2.5	8.0	65.8
2013	55,121	100.0	24.1	2.4	7.8	65.7

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2014. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2014.

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.

CONTACT: (410) 965-0090 or statistics@ssa.gov.

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 65.

Number and percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial, 1992–2013

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	649,225	100.0	6.5	19.2	26.7	31.4	16.3
2006	660,888	100.0	6.3	19.8	26.2	31.4	16.4
2007	648,568	100.0	6.3	20.4	26.3	30.9	16.1
2008	667,161	100.0	5.8	21.4	25.9	31.2	15.6
2009	795,443	100.0	4.7	22.5	25.4	32.3	15.2
2010	870,554	100.0	4.1	23.4	24.6	32.2	15.6
2011	844,549	100.0	4.0	24.2	20.5	33.5	17.7
2012	754,546	100.0	4.2	25.3	16.1	37.4	17.2
2013	631,878	100.0	4.5	25.2	14.9	39.1	16.3
<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	614,529	100.0	6.7	19.0	27.7	30.6	16.0
2006	620,913	100.0	6.5	19.5	27.4	30.6	16.0
2007	605,646	100.0	6.6	20.1	27.7	30.0	15.6
2008	623,011	100.0	6.1	21.2	27.3	30.3	15.1
2009	743,170	100.0	4.9	22.4	26.8	31.1	14.8
2010	812,896	100.0	4.3	23.3	26.1	31.1	15.3
2011	788,428	100.0	4.2	24.1	21.6	32.5	17.6
2012	701,497	100.0	4.4	25.1	17.0	36.6	17.0
2013	586,222	100.0	4.8	25.0	15.8	38.5	16.0

(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, 1992–2013—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					
Widow(er)s							
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	9,280	100.0	3.6	26.7	32.0	22.8	15.0
2006	9,814	100.0	3.8	25.7	31.6	23.1	15.9
2007	8,998	100.0	3.6	27.3	31.2	21.9	15.9
2008	8,643	100.0	3.4	27.8	30.8	21.9	16.2
2009	8,966	100.0	2.8	28.8	30.2	22.2	16.0
2010	9,727	100.0	2.7	29.4	27.9	24.0	16.0
2011	9,641	100.0	2.9	28.5	27.0	24.9	16.8
2012	9,229	100.0	2.5	29.3	23.3	27.7	17.3
2013	8,687	100.0	2.5	28.2	22.1	30.7	16.4
Adult children							
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	25,416	100.0	1.8	21.3	0.4	52.8	23.8
2006	30,161	100.0	1.7	23.6	0.4	50.3	23.9
2007	33,924	100.0	1.6	24.0	0.3	49.9	24.2
2008	35,507	100.0	1.5	24.8	0.2	51.0	22.6
2009	43,307	100.0	1.2	23.4	0.1	53.5	21.8
2010	47,931	100.0	1.2	24.7	0.1	53.1	20.9
2011	46,480	100.0	1.0	26.2	0.0	52.4	20.3
2012	43,820	100.0	1.0	27.7	0.0	51.0	20.3
2013	36,969	100.0	0.9	27.8	0.0	50.4	20.9

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2014. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2014.

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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