

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 58.
Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application,
and reason for denial, 1992–2002

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						
All ages ^d								
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	1,043,203	100.0	6.2	20.7	...	13.6	23.3	36.1
1995	996,717	100.0	6.2	19.7	...	12.4	22.4	39.2
1996	938,026	100.0	6.4	20.6	5.8	12.1	22.9	32.2
1997	738,591	100.0	6.9	16.7	16.3	13.0	25.1	22.1
1998	701,962	100.0	6.9	15.0	18.3	14.6	25.3	19.9
1999	687,598	100.0	6.7	14.0	19.2	15.5	24.4	20.2
2000	679,957	100.0	6.5	13.4	18.9	15.6	23.9	21.7
2001	695,330	100.0	6.1	12.8	17.9	15.5	24.1	23.7
2002	731,450	100.0	5.8	12.6	17.8	15.7	24.2	23.9
Under age 18								
1992	148,324	100.0	1.5	22.7	...	...	...	75.8
1993	240,803	100.0	1.3	21.8	...	...	...	76.9
1994	311,289	100.0	1.4	22.4	...	...	...	76.2
1995	306,399	100.0	1.3	21.8	...	...	...	76.9
1996	291,171	100.0	1.4	26.9	18.7	...	...	53.0
1997	195,639	100.0	1.6	19.1	61.3	...	...	18.0
1998	182,419	100.0	1.3	14.5	70.6	...	...	13.7
1999	182,066	100.0	1.1	13.3	72.4	...	...	13.2
2000	178,281	100.0	1.1	13.3	72.0	13.6
2001	176,922	100.0	1.1	13.8	70.2	14.9
2002	183,821	100.0	1.0	13.4	70.8	14.8

(Continued)

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Table 58.
Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application,
and reason for denial, 1992–2002—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	731,541	100.0	8.3	20.0	...	19.4	33.2	19.1
1995	689,862	100.0	8.4	18.8	...	17.9	32.4	22.5
1996	645,948	100.0	8.7	17.8	...	17.5	33.2	22.8
1997	541,319	100.0	8.8	15.8	...	17.7	34.2	23.5
1998	515,590	100.0	8.9	15.0	...	19.7	34.4	22.0
1999	501,812	100.0	8.7	14.1	...	21.0	33.5	22.8
2000	498,317	100.0	8.4	13.3	...	21.1	32.6	24.6
2001	515,588	100.0	7.8	12.4	...	20.8	32.4	26.6
2002	544,947	100.0	7.5	12.2	...	20.9	32.4	26.9

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

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2003. Data for the hearing level or above are current through September 2003.

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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