

Report Summary

Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General

July 2012



Objective

Our objective was to identify disability cases with similar scores that, depending on the location of the disability determination services processing the case, may or may not have been identified as a Quick Disability Determination (QDD) case.

Background

In 2006, Social Security Administration (SSA) conducted a QDD pilot in the Boston Region. Between October 2007 and February 2008, SSA implemented the QDD initiative to expedite the most serious disability cases early in the disability process. The QDD designation identifies certain cases that have a high degree of probability that (1) the individual is disabled, and (2) medical evidence is readily available so that the DDS can process the case quickly.

To view the full report, visit <http://oig.ssa.gov/audits-and-investigations/audit-reports/A-15-11-11175>

The Social Security Administration's Selection Process for Quick Disability Determinations (A-15-11-11175)

Our Findings

Based on our analysis of May 2010 and September 2011 disability cases, we determined the following.

1. The Agency identified and processed more cases as QDD in September 2011 than May 2010. Specifically, in May 2010, SSA identified 8,946¹ out of 245,382 initial disability cases (or 3.6 percent) as QDD, whereas, in September 2011, SSA identified 15,270 out of 285,981 cases (or 5.3 percent) as QDD. Furthermore, SSA processed a majority of the May 2010 QDD cases within 20 days.
2. In May 2010 and September 2011 there were 3,692 and 9,176 disability cases not selected for QDD processing that had higher or exactly equal scores of cases identified as QDD, respectively.

Our Recommendations

We recommend SSA continue efforts to monitor and enhance the PM to meet the objectives of the QDD program.

SSA agreed with our recommendation.