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16. Abstract This study provides comprehensive data reflecting pertinent denial rates with respect to the medical and general attributes of those airmen denied medical certification in calendar years 1973 and 1974. The study provides such descriptive epidemiologic data as age, sex, occupation, class of certificate applied for, total flying time, and cause-specific annual denial rates for medically disqualified applicants. In calendar years 1973 and 1974, 13,455 airmen were denied medical certification for various medical and/or administrative reasons. The active airman population (758,243) as of December 31, 1973, was used as the population base for rate computation as it is the midpoint for the denied applicant group. The annual denial rate based on airman applicants was 8.9 per 1,000 airmen. By class of certificate applied for, the annual denial rate per 1,000 applicants was 4.5 for first class, 7.1 for second class, and 11.2 for third class. As anticipated, general aviation and new applicants contributed greatly to total denials. Eighty-three percent of all denied applicants indicated nonaeronautical occupations. Fifty-three percent indicated less than 40 hours total flying time. The most significant causes for denial (regardless of class applied for) were cardiovascular, the miscellaneous pathology category, neuropsychiatric, and, at a substantially lower level, eye pathology. These four categories are involved in 90 percent of all denials.					
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# CHARACTERISTICS OF MEDICALLY DISQUALIFIED AIRMAN APPLICANTS IN CALENDAR YEARS 1973 AND 1974

## I. Introduction

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and its predecessor, the Civil Aeronautics Administration, have been charged with the responsibility for medical certification of all United States and some international civil airmen since 1927. Except for glider and balloon pilots, each airman must hold a current, corresponding class of medical certificate for performing the duties of any pilot certificate he may possess. Federal Aviation Regulations stipulate that a first-class physical examination must be performed at 6-month intervals for duties requiring an air transport pilot rating; a second-class physical examination must be performed annually for duties requiring commercial pilot ratings, an air traffic control tower operator rating, etc.; and, a third-class physical examination must be performed at 2-year intervals for duties requiring a private pilot rating. Different medical standards apply to the different categories of medical certification.

Medical certification criteria will continue to change as a result of the evolution of aviation medicine and increased efforts in the area of aeromedical research. These changes are sometimes brought about by a study such as this.

Previous studies<sup>1,2</sup> that provided descriptive data concerning airmen who were denied medical certification have proved to be of great value. Numerous questions have been answered for the FAA and the aviation community concerning these airmen. However, more comprehensive data reflecting pertinent denial rates with respect to the medical and general attributes of those airmen denied medical certification have been needed for program monitoring with respect to workload information, aeromedical standards, appeal system appraisal, research direction, and risk determinations by the aviation

community. Of course, the primary purpose of these efforts continues to be the promotion and enhancement of aviation safety through medical program data analysis.

This study provides descriptive epidemiologic data, such as age, sex, occupation, and cause-specific rates for denied airman applicants. A study providing this type of data is planned every 2 years to monitor any changes in the epidemiologic findings concerning airmen denied medical certification.

## II. Methods and Source

The Aeromedical Certification Branch of the Civil Aeromedical Institute is the central screening facility and repository within the FAA for the collection, processing, adjudication, investigation, and analyses of medical data generated by the aeromedical certification and related regulatory programs.

The Aeromedical Certification Branch's computerized medical records provide historical data both for daily screening of document input and for statistical/research purposes. The "active master tape file" contains the most recent record within the past 3 years of an airman's medical application for certification. The tape file includes applications issued, pending, or denied and abbreviated records of significant pathology cases retained indefinitely for further medical reference in the event an inactive airman decides to again exercise his flying privilege.

The denial data were obtained from the active master tape files as of July 1, 1974, for calendar year (CY) 1973 applicants and July 1, 1975, for CY 1974 applicants. The 6-month time lapse was allowed to assure that final certification action had been taken in the majority of cases. The data were summed for the 2 calendar years to provide a larger group for comparison with the active airman population.

A medically certified airman is considered "active" for a maximum of 24 calendar months following his most recent FAA medical examination; i.e., regardless of the class of medical certificate issued, it is valid for third-class purposes for a period of time up to 24 calendar months unless otherwise limited or recalled by the FAA.

The active airman population as of December 31, 1973, was used as the population base for rate computation. This population was used since it is the midpoint for the denied applicant group.

Data from the most recent medical record were selected and extracted from the active master tape file for construction of the various frequency tables presented in this study.

Data presented are descriptive in nature, and appropriate population comparisons are made via conventional statistical methodology where compatible data exists and statistical treatment would be meaningful.

Annual rates were computed to provide data more useful for answering the many questions received concerning airmen denied medical certification. In CY 1973 and 1974, 13,455 airmen were denied medical certification for various medical and/or administrative reasons; i.e., failure to provide additional medical information. The frequency tables that follow were compiled based on data extracted from these airmen's medical records and comparable data extracted from the active airman population as of December 31, 1973. The active population at that time totaled 758,243 airmen.

A copy of the application for medical certification is provided for reference to block numbers cited in the following discussion.

Age of denied airmen was computed to last birthday as of the date of the physical examination. Age of the active population airmen was computed to last birthday as of December 31, 1973. Date of birth is provided by the airman in block 3 of the medical application form, and computer edits assure a reasonable month, day, and year.

Class of certificate applied for is determined from information supplied by the applicant in blocks 9A and 9B (Class of Medical Certificate Applied For and Type of Airmen Certificate(s) Held) of the application.

In many areas, accuracy of data is contingent upon the completeness and accuracy of information supplied by the airman applicant. Other data are coded by Aeromedical Certification Branch personnel. Some human error is recognized but is not considered significant enough to seriously bias the data provided in this study.

Some first-class airmen will have applied for medical certification four times during the 2-year period, some second-class airmen will have applied twice, and third-class airmen will have applied once. However, rate data are provided for the number of applicants versus the number of applications, except for a portion of Table 1. The active master tape file provides applicant data because it contains only the most recent examination of an airman. Both the denial data and the population data are maintained on the active master tape file.

Previous examination data were determined by whether the applicant entered a date in block 20 of the application form and a "match" was made to a previous examination on the active master tape file. If the applicant indicates a previous FAA examination has been performed, a notification will be received by medical review personnel if the previous examination cannot be located on the active master file with the same control data information (last name, first initial, date of birth, and sex). This action helps to assure accuracy of the control data by providing manual review of the medical record.

Occupation is coded from information furnished by the applicant in block 10 of the application form. Only aeronautical occupations are coded for input to the automated system. If the item is left blank by the applicant and cannot be determined from other information provided on the examination, the occupation is entered as "nonaeronautical".

The cause for denial was determined by the presence of an alpha prefix to a specific pathology code. The prefix and code are assigned by medical review clerks in the Aeromedical Certification Branch. Internal computer edits assure logical assignment of such prefixes and pathology codes. These edits are applied when initial file maintenance to an airman's record is made and again at the end of each month to eliminate discrepancies in pathology and denial data on the active master tape file. Data presented in

AA-

**MEDICAL CERTIFICATE CLASS AND STUDENT PILOT CERTIFICATE**

THIS CERTIFIES THAT (Full name and address)

DATE OF BIRTH	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	HAIR	EYES	SEX
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has met the medical standards prescribed in Part 67, Federal Aviation Regulations for this class of Medical Certificate.

**LIMITATIONS**

DATE OF EXAMINATION EXAMINER'S SERIAL NO.

EXAMINER SIGNATURE

EXAMINER TYPED NAME

AIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

WHEN ISSUED AS A MEDICAL-STUDENT PILOT CERTIFICATE, the holder has met standards prescribed in Part 61, FAR's for such certificate, and is prohibited from carrying passengers.

TOTAL PILOT TIME		16. TO DATE		17. LAST 6 MOS.		18. HAS AN FAA AIRMAN MEDICAL CERTIFICATE EVER BEEN DENIED, SUSPENDED, OR REVOKED		19. HAVE YOU, AS A PILOT, HAD AN AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT WITHIN THE PAST 2 YEARS		20. DATE OF LAST FAA PHYSICAL EXAM (If none, state so)	
CIVIL						YES	DATE	YES	DATE		
MILITARY						NO		NO			

21. MEDICAL HISTORY - HAVE YOU EVER HAD OR HAVE YOU NOW ANY OF THE FOLLOWING: (For each "yes" checked, describe condition in REMARKS)

Yes	No	Condition	Yes	No	Condition	Yes	No	Condition	Yes	No	Condition
		a. Frequent or severe headaches			g. Heart trouble			m. Nervous trouble of any sort			s. Medical rejection from or for military service
		b. Dizziness or fainting spells			h. High or low blood pressure			n. Any drug or narcotic habit			t. Rejection for life insurance
		c. Unconsciousness for any reason			i. Stomach trouble			o. Excessive drinking habit			u. Admission to hospital
		d. Eye trouble except glasses			j. Kidney stone or blood in urine			p. Attempted suicide			v. Record of traffic convictions
		e. Hay Fever			k. Sugar or albumin in urine			q. Motion sickness requiring drugs			w. Record of other convictions
		f. Asthma			l. Epilepsy or fits			r. Military medical discharge			x. Other illnesses

REMARKS (If no changes since last report, so state)

FOR FAA USE REVIEW ACTION CODES

22. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ISSUED A STATEMENT OF DEMONSTRATED ABILITY (WAIVER)

NO

YES (Give defects and waiver no.)

PHYSICAL DEFECTS NOTED ON STATEMENT OF DEMONSTRATED ABILITY (WAIVER)

WAIVER SERIAL NO.

23. MEDICAL TREATMENT WITHIN PAST 5 YEARS

DATE	NAME AND ADDRESS OF PHYSICIAN CONSULTED	REASON

24. APPLICANT'S DECLARATION

I hereby certify that all statements and answers provided by me in this examination form are complete and true to the best of my knowledge, and I agree that they are to be considered part of the basis for issuance of any F-1A certificate to me. I have also read and understand the Privacy Act statement that accompanies this form.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT (In ink)

DATE

FIGURE 1a. FAA Form 8500-8 (front)—Application for Medical Certification.

REPORT OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION																					
NOR- MAL	CHECK EACH ITEM IN APPROPRIATE COLUMN (Enter NE if not evaluated)										AB- NOR- MAL	NOTES: Describe every abnormality in detail, enter applicable item number before each comment. Use additional sheets if necessary and attach to this form.									
	25. Head, face, neck and scalp																				
	26. Nose																				
	27. Sinuses																				
	28. Mouth and throat																				
	29. Ears, general (Internal and external canals) (Auditory acuity under item 49)																				
	30. Drums (Perforation)																				
	31. Eyes, general (Visual acuity under items 50 & 51)																				
	32. Ophthalmoscopic																				
	33. Pupils (Equality and reaction)																				
	34. Ocular motility (Associated parallel movement, nystagmus)																				
	35. Lungs and chest (Including breasts)																				
	36. Heart (Thrust, size, rhythm, sounds)																				
	37. Vascular system																				
	38. Abdomen and viscera (Including hernia)																				
	39. Anus and rectum (Hemorrhoids, fistula, prostate)																				
	40. Endocrine system																				
	41. G-U system																				
	42. Upper and lower extremities (Strength, range of motion)																				
	43. Spine, other musculoskeletal																				
	44. Identifying body marks, scars, tattoos																				
	45. Skin and lymphatics																				
	46. Neurologic (Tendon reflexes, equilibrium, senses, coordination, etc.)																				
	47. Psychiatric (Specify any personality deviation)																				
	48. General systemic														FOR FAA USE - PATHOLOGY CODE NOS.						
49. HEARING		RIGHT EAR				LEFT EAR				50. DISTANT VISION (Standard test types only)				51. NEAR VISION (Use linear values)							
WHISPERED VOICE		FT.				FT.				RIGHT EYE		20/		CORRECTED TO 20/		20/		CORRECTED TO 20/			
STANDING SIDEWAYS										LEFT EYE		20/		CORRECTED TO 20/		20/		CORRECTED TO 20/			
DISTANT EAR CLOSED		500 1000 2000 4000				500 1000 2000 4000				BOTH EYES		20/		CORRECTED TO 20/		20/		CORRECTED TO 20/			
Audiometer (Decibel Loss)																					
52. INTRAOCULAR TENSION (Tonometry required for Air Traffic Control Specialist)										53. COLOR VISION (Test used, number of plates missed)											
TACTILE		RIGHT EYE				LEFT EYE															
TONOMETRIC																					
54. FIELD OF VISION										55. HETEROPHORIA DIOPTERS (Not required for Class Three)											
RIGHT EYE		LEFT EYE				DISTANCE				ESOPHORIA				EXOPHORIA				RIGHT H.		LEFT H.	
56. BLOOD PRESSURE										57. PULSE (Wrist)											
RECUMBENT, MM MERCURY		SYSTOLIC				DIASTOLIC				RESTING				AFTER EXERCISE				2 MINUTES AFTER EXERCISE			
58. URINALYSIS					59. ECG (Date)					60. OTHER TESTS											
ALBUMIN		SUGAR																			
61. COMMENTS ON HISTORY AND FINDINGS; RECOMMENDATIONS (Attach all consultation reports, ECGs, X-rays, etc. to this report before mailing)												FOR FAA USE									
												CODED									
												PUNCHED									
												VERIFIED									
62. APPLICANT'S NAME										63. DISQUALIFYING DEFECTS (List by item no.)											
HAS BEEN ISSUED <input type="checkbox"/> MED. CERTIF. <input type="checkbox"/> MED. AND STUDENT PILOT CERTIF. <input type="checkbox"/> NO CERTIF. ISSUED FURTHER EVALUATION REQUIRED <input type="checkbox"/> HAS BEEN DENIED - LETTER OF DENIAL ISSUED (Copy attached)																					
64. MEDICAL EXAMINER'S DECLARATION										I hereby certify that I personally examined the applicant named on this medical examination report, and that this report with any attachment embodies my findings completely and correctly.											
DATE OF EXAMINATION					AVIATION MEDICAL EXAMINER'S NAME AND ADDRESS (Type or print)					AVIATION MEDICAL EXAMINER'S SIGNATURE											

FIGURE 1b. FAA Form 8500-8 (back)—Report of Medical Examination.



TABLE 3. CY 1973 and 1974 denied applicants by age, class of medical certificate applied for, and whether a previous examination was recorded.

Age Group*	First Class		Second Class		Second Class ATC - CIV/FAA		Second Class ATC-Military		Second Class Engineer/ Navigator		Second Class Commercial Pilot/ATC		Second Class Pvt. or Stu. Pilot/ATC		Third Class Private		Third Class Student		Total		
																			Yes	Percent	No
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No			
Less than 20	3	9	16	44	2	7	-	3	-	-	10	2	3	-	7	4	29	378	60	0.4	445
20-24	16	16	97	127	48	178	32	3	-	-	31	6	28	8	102	24	121	706	595	4.4	1,242
25-29	26	21	193	140	79	239	15	11	-	-	21	-	11	4	123	23	91	530	487	3.6	687
30-34	41	4	143	80	50	45	7	1	-	-	15	1	10	-	155	32	91	424	629	4.7	590
35-39	56	9	210	70	77	14	14	-	1	-	19	1	15	-	301	63	127	422	858	6.4	596
40-44	68	8	233	89	85	12	6	1	4	-	20	3	8	3	499	101	124	398	1,037	7.7	598
45-49	76	9	240	78	61	6	3	-	10	-	62	7	26	1	545	142	104	321	1,371	10.3	592
50-54	169	11	369	95	85	15	1	-	4	-	18	3	15	-	413	93	52	197	892	6.6	350
55-59	128	4	229	49	33	14	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	249	37	38	75	423	3.1	198
60-64	29	3	99	11	5	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	112	22	18	37	181	1.4	62
65-69	4	-	47	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	8	9	107	0.8	20	0.1
70 and older	1	-	18	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	617	94	1,894	789	525	541	78	19	26	-	196	23	127	20	2,651	557	906	4,392	7,020		6,435
Percent***	86.8	13.2	44.7	18.6	12.4	12.8	1.8	0.5	0.6	-	4.6	0.5	3.0	0.5	31.2	6.6	10.6	51.6		52.2	47.8

\*Airman's age as of the date of examination to last birthday.

\*\*The date, if any, in Block 20, FAA Form 8500-8, indicates whether a previous examination was recorded.

\*\*\*Percentages provided are within the three major class applied for categories (first, second, third).

This relationship was expected because the first- and second-class categories are normally associated with professional pilots who have been previously medically appraised by the FAA, whereas new pilots are more likely to make application for third-class medical certification.

This relationship is further substantiated, as previously discussed, in that 34 percent of all third-class, 9 percent of all second-class, and 1 percent of all first-class examinations performed in 1973 and 1974 were "new applications".

#### D. Occupations of Denied Airmen.

The majority of denied airmen are not occupationally connected with aviation (see Table 4). Eighty-three percent of all denied airman

applicants indicated nonaeronautical occupations on their application. These applicants yield an annual denial rate of 8.8 per 1,000 applicants. The largest denial percentage of applicants occupationally connected to aviation was the 11 percent among air traffic controllers (ATCs), which also includes flight service station (FSS) specialists. The ATC category also experienced the highest overall annual denial rate (21.3 per 1,000 applicants). Of the occupationally connected airmen, self-employed commercial pilots had the second highest rate, flight navigators the third, aircraft mechanics the fourth, and airline pilots the fifth, with annual denial rates of 7.4, 6.7, 5.5, and 4.4 per 1,000

TABLE 4. CY 1973 and 1974 denied applicants by occupation and class of medical certificate applied for.\*

Occupation	First Class	Second Class	Second Class ATC-CIV/FAA	Second Class ATC-Military	Second Class Engineer/ Navigator	Second Class Commercial Pilot/ATC	Second Class Pvt. or Stu. Pilot/ATC	Third Class Private	Third Class Student	Total Denied Airmen	Total Active Airmen**	Annual Rate per 1,000 Applicants
Pilot, First-Class Airlines Only	325	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	325	36,938	4.4
Flight Engineer	2	11	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	34	4,137	4.1
Flight Navigator/ Radio Operator	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	224	6.7
Pilot, First-Class Non-Airlines	105	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	107	13,260	4.0
Commercial Pilot, Self-Employed	-	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	3,424	7.4
Commercial Pilot, Not Self-Employed	-	78	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	79	11,133	3.5
Aero Application	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	2,673	4.3
Air Traffic Controller***	-	-	1,063	96	-	218	147	-	-	1,524	35,799	21.3
Flight Instructor	8	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	6,949	2.7
Aircraft Mechanic	2	25	-	-	-	-	-	18	10	55	5,005	5.5
Non-Aeronautical or Not Given	269	2,464	3	1	2	1	-	3,189	5,288	11,217	638,701	8.8
TOTAL	711	2,683	1,066	97	26	219	147	3,208	5,298	13,455	758,243	8.9
Percent	5.3	19.9	7.9	0.7	0.2	1.6	1.1	23.9	39.4	100.0		

\*Blocks 9A and B, FAA Form 8500-8, determine class applied for.

\*\*As of December 31, 1973.

\*\*\*Flight Service Station Specialists are included in this category.

applicants respectively. Only 2.4 percent of the total denials were in the airline pilot occupation category. All the other occupation categories combined represented less than 3 percent of total denials.

These findings are consistent with previous experience as to denial data by occupation. However, the percentage of total ATC denials has increased by almost 4 percent since the 1971 study. The annual denial rate for ATCs is more than twice the total denial rate. Implementation of the FSS Program in early 1974, increased recruitment of ATC and FSS applicants, and effects of the second-career program no doubt contributed to this denial rate increase.

#### E. Total Flying Time of Denied Airmen.

Flying time data further emphasize the contribution of new applicants to total denials. Table 5 shows total civilian flying time as recorded by the applicant on his denied application for medical certification. Fifty-three percent of the denied airmen indicated less than 40 hours total flying time (the number of hours required for a private pilot's license). Thirty-three percent of these airmen indicated no flying time. Of course, some of these airmen indicating no hours flown, as many as 1,163, are strictly air traffic controllers (see Table 3). However, if the 1,163 controller denials are subtracted, the remainder still indicates that new pilot applicants are the major contributor to total denials. The "less than 40 hours flying time" category still equals 44.5 percent when the "air traffic controller only" figure is subtracted.

TABLE 5. CY 1973 and 1974 denied applicants by total recorded flying time.

Total Flying Time* (Hours)	Number Denied	Percent Of Total
0	4,445	33.0
1 - 10	1,667	12.4
11 - 20	625	4.6
21 - 40	412	3.1
Subtotal	7,149	53.1
41 - 99	881	6.6
100 - 299	1,681	12.5
300 - 499	746	5.6
500 - 1,000	961	7.1
More than 1,000	2,037	15.1
Subtotal	6,306	46.9
TOTAL	13,455	100.0

\*The total civilian flying time recorded in Block 16, FAA Form 8500-8, determines total flying time.

The next largest percentage of denials occurs at the "more than 1,000 hours" interval (15.1 percent) followed by the "100-299 hours" interval (12.5 percent).

#### F. Medical Characteristics of Denied Airmen.

Tables 6 and 7 provide annual cause-specific denial data, per 10,000 applicants, by class of medical certificate applied for and by sex. In Table 6, one can observe an increasing denial rate for third-class over second-class and for second-class over first-class. This is also true for the cause-specific rates except in the eye; ear, nose, throat, and mouth; and bones and joints categories where the second-class rates are larger than the first- and third-class rates. The most significant cause for denial (regardless of class applied for) are cardiovascular (with an annual denial rate of 30.4 per 10,000 applicants); the miscellaneous category, which includes endocrinopathies, general systemic conditions, use of disqualifying medications, and administrative denials for failure to provide additional medical information (with an annual denial rate of 27.4 per 10,000 applicants); and neuropsychiatric (with an annual denial rate of 16.4 per 10,000 applicants). Eye and abdominal pathology are next in importance at substantially lower rates. These findings are essentially the same as the findings of the study of 1971 applicants.

Administrative denials for failure to provide additional medical information represent a large portion of the denials in the miscellaneous pathology category. Of the 4,156 denials in this category, 1,933 or 46.5 percent were for failure to provide additional medical information. Also, 55 percent of the females and 46 percent of the males denied in the miscellaneous pathology category were denied for failure to provide additional information.

As shown in Table 7, cause for denial by sex indicates that males were most frequently denied for cardiovascular reasons, second for miscellaneous causes, and third for neuropsychiatric reasons. Females, however, were most often denied for miscellaneous causes (almost 40 percent) followed by neuropsychiatric reasons, eye pathology, and cardiovascular reasons. These findings differ slightly from those in the study of 1971 applicants in that eye pathology rated third in this study as compared to fourth (be-

TABLE 6. Cause for denial of CY 1973 and 1974 denied applicants by pathology series and class of medical certificate applied for.

Pathology Series	First Class		Second Class		Third Class		Total	
	Cause For Denial*	Annual Rate per 10,000 Applicants	Cause for Denial*	Annual Rate per 10,000 Applicants	Cause for Denial*	Annual Rate per 10,000 Applicants	Cause for Denial*	Annual Rate per 10,000 Applicants
Eye	29	1.8	474	7.9	405	5.3	908	6.0
Ear, Nose, Throat, and Mouth	26	1.7	147	2.5	101	1.3	274	1.8
Respiratory	9	0.6	44	0.7	65	0.9	118	0.8
Cardiovascular	320	20.3	1,254	21.0	3,035	39.9	4,609	30.4
Abdominal	32	2.0	226	3.8	299	3.9	557	3.7
Neuropsychiatric	153	9.7	1,018	17.0	1,310	17.2	2,481	16.4
Bones and Joints	21	1.3	70	1.2	72	0.9	163	1.1
Muscles	2	0.1	13	0.2	13	0.2	28	0.2
Miscellaneous (Disqualifying Medication, Endocrinopathies, etc.)	184	11.7	1,154	19.3	2,818	37.0	4,156	27.4
TOTAL	776	49.3	4,400	73.6	8,118	106.6	13,294	87.7

\*Refers to distinct pathological conditions cited as cause for denial. Data does not represent airman applicants; however, most are denied for a single cause. Some applicants are denied for administrative reasons, e.g., failure to provide required ancillary or history data, may not have a specific pathology code assigned.

TABLE 7. CY 1973 and 1974 denied applicants by pathology series and sex.

Pathology Series	Male*		Female*	
	Cause For Denial**	Annual Rate per 10,000 Applicants	Cause For Denial**	Annual Rate per 10,000 Applicants
Eye	776	5.4	132	18.3
Ear, Nose, Throat, and Mouth	258	1.8	16	2.2
Respiratory	112	0.8	6	0.8
Cardiovascular	4,490	31.1	119	16.5
Abdominal	533	3.7	24	3.3
Neuropsychiatric	2,328	16.1	153	21.2
Bones and Joints	160	1.1	3	0.4
Muscles	27	0.2	1	0.1
Miscellaneous (Disqualifying Medication, Endocrinopathies, etc.)	3,871	26.8	285	39.5
TOTAL	12,555	86.9	739	102.5

\*Active airman population by sex (male--722,209, female--36,034) as of December 31, 1973.

\*\*Refers to distinct pathological conditions cited as cause for denial. Does not represent airman applicants; however, most are denied for a single cause.

hind cardiovascular reasons) in the earlier study for the female denied applicants. However, for all denied applicants, four pathology categories (cardiovascular, miscellaneous, neuropsychiatric, eye) account for more than 90 percent of all denials and an annual cause-specific rate of 80 per 10,000 applicants.

The female population also experienced a higher overall denial rate (102.5 per 10,000 applicants) than did the male population (86.9 per 10,000 applicants). If the "failure to provide additional information" data were deleted, the denial rates per 10,000 applicants would be comparable (74.6 for males and 80.6 for females).

#### IV. Summary

This study of CY 1973 and 1974 applicants has updated earlier data and provided more comprehensive data reflecting pertinent denial rates with respect to the medical and general attributes of those airmen denied FAA medical certification. A similar study is planned every 2 years to monitor any changes in the epidemiologic findings concerning denied airman applicants.

As of December 31, 1973 (the midpoint for the denied applicant group), there were 758,243 active certified airmen. In CY 1973 and 1974, 13,455 airman applicants were denied medical certification, resulting in an overall denial rate of 8.9 per 1,000 applicants. By class of certificate applied for, the denial rate was 4.5, 7.1, and 11.2 per 1,000 applicants for first-, second-, and third-class respectively.

As expected, the mean age of the denied airmen group was higher (by 4 years) than the mean age of the active airman population group but was consistent with previous findings. Age-specific denial rates for the younger age intervals (less than 20-29) were higher than for the 30-44 age intervals. This can be attributed to new applicants not having been previously screened by the FAA. At the 45-49 age interval the denial rates start upward, with the highest overall rate at the 70+ interval.

As anticipated, general aviation (third-class) applicants and new applicants contributed greatly to total denials, reflecting again that new applicants are being screened for the first time. Almost half (48 percent) of all denied applicants indicated no previous FAA medical application had been made. Eighty-three percent of all denied applicants indicated nonaeronautical occupations on their application. Of the professional categories, the air traffic controller group had the highest denial rate with 21.3 per 1,000 applicants. Airline pilots were fourth highest of the occupationally connected airmen with a rate of 4.4 per 1,000 applicants.

Total flying time data also substantiated the contribution of new applicants to total denials with 53 percent of the denied applicants indicating less than 40 hours total flying time and 33 percent indicating no flying time.

For denials by pathology, an increasing overall denial rate for third-class over second-class and for second-class over first-class was observed. This was also true for cause-specific denial rates except that second-class rates were highest in the eye; ear, nose, throat, and mouth; and bones and joints categories. The most significant causes for denial (regardless of class applied for) were cardiovascular, miscellaneous pathology, neuropsychiatric, and, at a substantially lower level, eye pathology. These four categories are involved in 90 percent of all denials.

Cardiovascular causes resulted in the highest denial rate for males, while the miscellaneous pathology category provided the highest denial rate for females (55 percent of the "miscellaneous" female denials were for failure to provide additional medical information).

Epidemiologic findings were consistent with expectations and previous findings on denied airmen. Only ATC denials have increased significantly. This increase was probably due to the implementation of the FSS Program, heavy recruitment of applicants, and effects of the second-career program. For female applicants, eye pathology was the third highest cause-specific denial rate and cardiovascular reasons was fourth highest. In the 1971 study the opposite cause-specific relationship existed for female applicants.

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