

Report Summary

Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General

July 2011



Objective

To (1) assess overpayments to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients living in Title XIX institutions and (2) determine the status of corrective actions the Social Security Administration (SSA) had taken to address recommendations in our June 2006 report, *Supplemental Security Income Overpayments to Recipients in Title XIX Institutions* (A-08-06-16024).

Background

Residence in a Title XIX institution can affect an SSI recipient's eligibility and/or payment amount. SSA conducts a monthly match with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to identify SSI recipients' admissions to nursing homes. However, to a large extent, SSA relies on recipients and representative payees to self-report residency in a Title XIX institution.

To view the full report, visit http://www.ssa.gov/oig/ADO_BEPDF/A-08-10-10138.pdf.

Follow-up: Supplemental Security Income Overpayments to Recipients in Title XIX Institutions (A-08-10-10138)

Our Findings

We are encouraged that SSA had taken steps to reduce and recover overpayments to SSI recipients living in Title XIX institutions. Specifically, SSA improved its overpayment recovery efforts; reduced the time it overpaid SSI recipients in Title XIX institutions; and made some improvement in processing D8 diary alerts timely. Despite SSA's efforts, since our 2006 review, the Agency had detected an additional \$191 million in overpayments to these recipients. These overpayments generally occurred because Title XIX institutions did not report SSI recipients' living arrangement changes to SSA, as required by law.

Although we noted improvements from our previous audit, field office personnel (FO) did not always process D8 diary alerts timely. We estimate that the resulting overpayments totaled approximately \$3.5 million.

Our Recommendations

We recommend that SSA:

1. Periodically monitor FOs' timeliness in processing D8 diary alerts and provide training and/or additional oversight to those offices that have difficulty processing these alerts timely.
2. Increase its frequency of communication with Title XIX institutions.
3. Determine the costs and benefits of implementing a Website where Title XIX institutions can report SSI recipient admissions.

SSA disagreed with all of our recommendations. Despite its disagreement with our recommendations, SSA proposed corrective actions to address each of our findings. We will monitor the Agency's progress in addressing its corrective actions and make further recommendation in future audits.