

Match of Connecticut Death Information Against Social Security Records

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Office of Audit Report Summary

Objective

To determine whether individuals listed as deceased by the Connecticut State Vital Records Office (CSVRO) were listed in Social Security Administration (SSA) records as deceased.

Background

To identify and prevent payments after death, section 205(r) of the *Social Security Act* requires that SSA establish a program under which States can voluntarily contract with the Agency to provide death data to match against its records.

We obtained from the CSVRO a data file of more than 1 million individuals who had a date of death from Calendar Years (CY) 1979 through 2014.

We validated the Social Security numbers, names, or dates of birth of about 900,000 records. We matched these validated records to SSA's records to identify deceased individuals who were receiving SSA benefit payments; listed as representative payees; and non-beneficiaries with unrecorded deaths on SSA's records.

Findings

CSVRO death information was not always on SSA's records. As a result, SSA issued about \$1.9 million in benefits after death to 21 individuals who died in Connecticut from CYs 1979 through 2014. In addition, we identified three deceased individuals listed as representative payees who were issued \$173,690 in payments after death.

Conclusion

Although we identified a small number of deceased individuals to whom SSA issued payments, the cases we identified represent an opportunity for SSA to reduce payments after death and improve the completeness of its death information.

SSA suspended or terminated benefits, replaced deceased representative payees, and added death information to its records for some of the unrecorded deaths we brought to its attention. In addition, the Agency or our Office of Investigations continued to review the other outstanding death cases. Therefore, we made no recommendations for further corrective action.