

Strategic Goal: To ensure the integrity of social security programs, with zero tolerance for fraud and abuse

This goal addresses SSA’s responsibility, from both a service and business perspective, to pay benefits accurately and otherwise be a good steward of the money entrusted to its care. This responsibility entails establishing and maintaining a record of an individual’s earnings for use in determining entitlement to benefits and payment amounts; making accurate eligibility and entitlement decisions; detecting overpayments; deterring, identifying, and combating applicant and beneficiary fraud; reducing debt; and

ensuring that we carry out our operations efficiently.

The FY 2002 budget includes an estimated \$1.7 billion for the full range of activities that SSA, including the OIG, undertakes to ensure the integrity of records and payments and protect the taxpayer’s investment in the trust funds and general funds. The following table displays FY 2002 workloads processed in support of this strategic goal.

Workloads	Dollars (Millions)	Output Measures (thousands)
Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs)	\$ 632	1,288
SSI Non-Disability Redeterminations	\$ 360	2,255
Annual Earnings Items Processed	\$ 173	272,600
Representative Payee Actions	\$ 167	6,882
Overpayment Actions	\$ 271	4,267
OIG Activities	\$ 75	N/A
Other Postentitlement Workloads ¹	\$ 63	N/A
Total	\$ 1.741	N/A

The charts on the following pages provide baseline information, definitions and data sources for each output measure. For this FY 2002 APP,

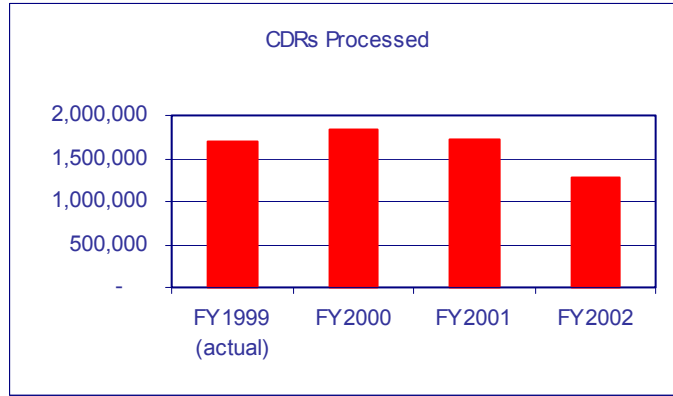
FY 2000 measures reflect actual workloads processed and FY 2001 measures reflect outputs based on actual FY 2001 appropriations.

¹ Includes Annual Reports of Earnings and School Attendance Reports.

Output Measure: Periodic Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs)

FY 2002: 1,288,000

Baseline:	FY 2001	FY 2000 Actual	FY 1999 Actual
	1,729,000	1,836,510	1,703,414



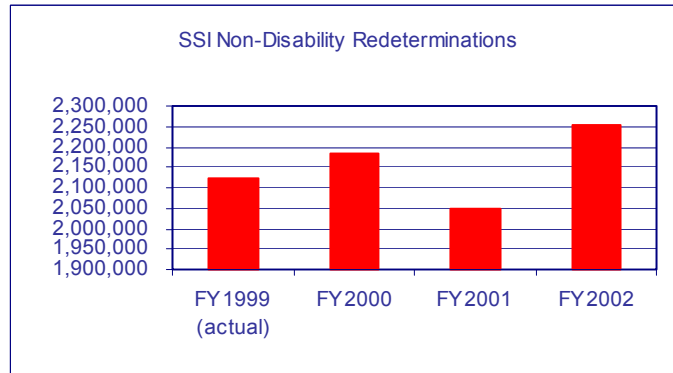
Definition: Count combines periodic reviews and other CDR's processed by the DDSs, plus mailers not requiring medical reviews.

Data Source: National DDS System; SSR, MBR, CDR Control File

Output Measure: SSI Non-Disability Redeterminations

FY 2002: 2,255,000

Baseline:	FY 2001	FY 2000 Actual	FY 1999 Actual
	2,050,000	2,182,027	2,122,279



Definition: All actions involving the redetermination of eligibility of SSI beneficiaries resulting from diary actions (scheduled) and initiated as a result of events reported by beneficiaries.

Data Source: OFPO

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Output Measure: Annual Earnings Items Processed

FY 2002: 272,600,000

Baseline: FY 2001 FY 2000 Actual FY 1999 Actual
 270,200,000 277,145,696 249,867,974



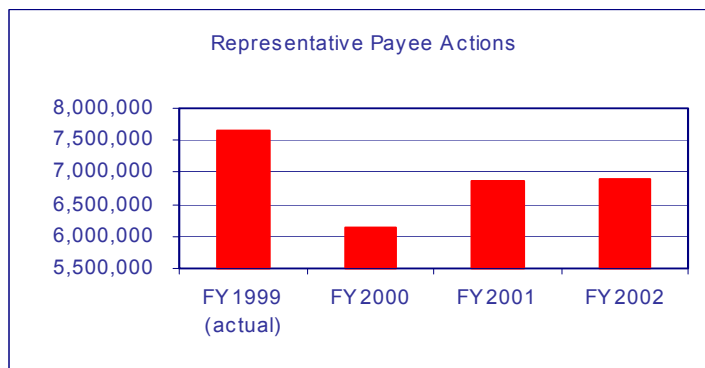
Definition: Annual earnings items reflect the total number of paper annual wage items processed through the balancing operation plus the total number of magnetic media and self-employment items posted in a fiscal year.

Data Source: IWMS/DOWR cells 188 and 189, OCRO

Output Measure: Representative Payee Actions

FY 2002: 6,882,000

Baseline: FY 2001 FY 2000 Actual FY 1999 Actual
 6,858,000 6,151,264 7,644,563

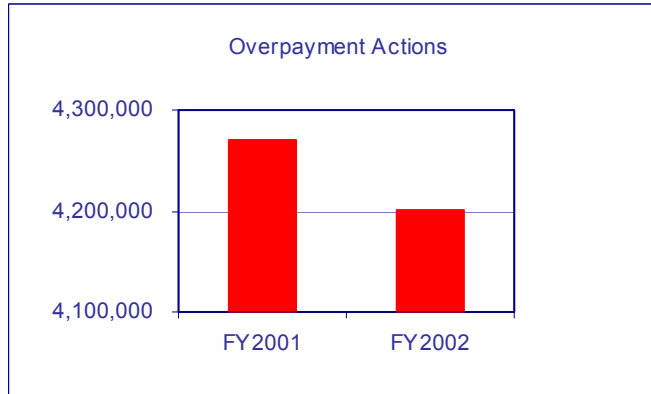


Definition: All actions involving change of payee notices and development and periodic accountability procedures for determining proper use of funds by representative payees. Excludes representative payee related to the filing of initial claims.

Data Source: IWMS/DOWR cells 19972, 55972, 71052, 72952, PCACS, OCRO 092

Output Measure: Overpayment Actions

FY 2002:	4,267,000		
Baseline:	FY 2001	FY 2000	FY 1999
	4,270,000	N/A	N/A



Definition: RSDI and SSI overpayment actions, i.e., establishment, investigation, follow-up, collection, notices, refunds, waiver actions, and closeout.

Data Source: RSDI: Report of OP Actions and the DOWS
SSI : DOWR and the DOWS

The following Objectives support this Strategic Goal:

- ❖ Beginning 2001 and through 2005, maintain at 99.8 percent the accuracy based on non-medical factors of eligibility of OASDI payment outlays,
- ❖ By 2005, raise to 96 percent the accuracy based on non-medical factors of eligibility of SSI disabled and aged payment outlays,
- ❖ Become current with DI and SSI CDR requirements by 2000 and 2002 respectively and remain current thereafter,
- ❖ Maintain timeliness and improve accuracy and efficiency in posting earnings data to Agency records. Specifically by 2005:
 - Increase to 70 percent the number of employee reports (W-2s) filed electronically,
- ❖ Through 2005, maintain a level of outstanding debt that is either in a repayment agreement, under appeal, or newly detected,
- ❖ Aggressively deter, identify, and resolve fraud.

Strategic Objective: Beginning 2001 and through 2005, maintain at 99.8 percent the accuracy based on non-medical factors of eligibility of OASDI payment outlays.

Context

Quality has always been a priority for SSA. Paying benefits accurately is a critical component of world-class service--that is, making sure that the right people get the right payment. From the stewardship perspective, SSA's annual program outlays are so large that even small percentages of payment error can mean millions of dollars paid incorrectly.

This new objective combines payment accuracy based on non-medical factors of eligibility for OASI and DI claims. Objectives and indicators for medical decisional accuracy and SSN accuracy are now located in the Customer-Responsive World-Class Service goal.

FY 2002 Performance Indicators and Goals

The OASDI payment outlay rates, which reflect the accuracy of payments to OASDI beneficiaries currently on the rolls, are one of the most comprehensive measures of SSA performance under this objective. For internal management purposes, SSA also uses a variety of lower-level measures of payment quality, both at the national and local level, that help us to pinpoint error-prone areas for corrective action.

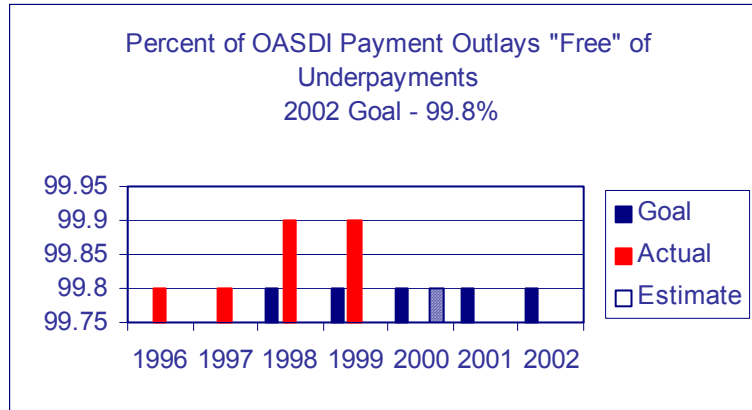
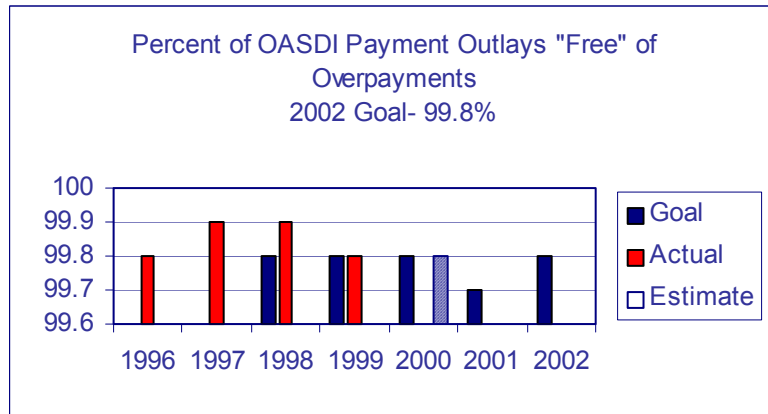
Beginning FY 2001, we replaced the prior performance indicator "Dollar accuracy of OASI payment outlays" with a new indicator. The scope of the new indicator includes the non-medical accuracy of DI payments.

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Indicator: Percent of OASDI payment outlays "free" of overpayments and underpayments (based on non-medical factors of eligibility)

FY 2002 Goal: 99.8% without overpayments
99.8% without underpayments

Baseline Data:	FY 2001 APP Goal	FY 2000 Estimate	FY 1999 Actual
Overpayments:	99.7%	99.8%	99.8%
Underpayments:	99.8%	99.8%	99.9%



Definition: Stewardship accuracy is divided into accuracy for payment dollars without overpayment and accuracy for payment dollars without underpayment dollars. The overpayment accuracy is computed by subtracting the overpayment dollars paid for the FY from the dollars paid and dividing the remainder by the dollars paid [(dollars paid – o/p dollars)/dollars paid]. This error rate is subtracted from 100% to attain the accuracy rate. Similarly, the underpayment accuracy is computed by subtracting the underpayment dollars paid for the FY from the dollars paid and dividing the remainder by the dollars paid [dollars paid – u/p dollars)/dollars paid]. This error rate is subtracted from 100% to attain the accuracy rate. Prior to FY 2001, the accuracy of only OASI outlays was included. Effective FY 2001, the non-medical accuracy of DI outlays is added to the measure.

Data Source: OASI Stewardship Report

OASDI Payment Accuracy

Means and Strategies

The major causes of OASDI payment error are inaccurate earnings postings and manual computations of benefit rates. As part of our quality emphasis, we are taking measures to increase interviewer attention to gaps in claimants' earnings patterns. With the

service and automation improvements described throughout this plan, most notably Title II Systems Redesign and the various initiatives that support our objective to maintain accuracy and timeliness in posting earnings, SSA is confident that we will be able to maintain current accuracy levels.

Strategic Objective: **By 2005, raise to 96 percent the accuracy based on non-medical factors of eligibility of SSI disabled and aged payment outlays**

Context

This objective now focuses on payment accuracy based on non-medical factors of eligibility for SSI disabled and aged claims. Objectives and indicators for medical decisional accuracy and SSN accuracy are now located in the Customer-Responsive World-Class Service goal.

FY 2002 Performance Indicators and Goals

The SSI payment outlay rates, which reflect the accuracy of payments to SSI aged and disabled beneficiaries currently on the rolls, are one of the most comprehensive measures of SSA

performance under this objective. For internal management purposes, SSA also uses a variety of lower-level measures of payment quality, both at the national and local level, that help us to pinpoint error-prone areas for corrective action.

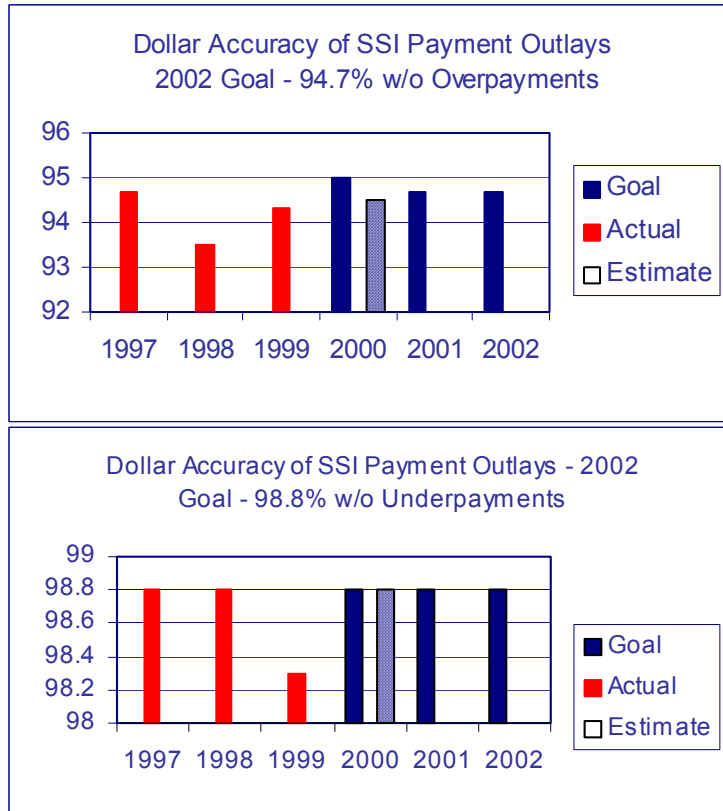
Long range and annual targets for accuracy of SSI payment outlays were recently revised in light of actual performance in FY 1999 and FY 2000 and the resources needed to meet performance commitments. The revised goals reflect our continuing commitment to effectively use redeterminations and other methods available to improve SSI accuracy.

Performance Goals, Means and Strategies

Indicator: Percent of SSI payment outlays “free” of overpayments and underpayments (based on non-medical factors of eligibility)

FY 2002 Goal: 94.7% without overpayments
98.8% without underpayments

Baseline Data:	FY 2001 APP Goal	FY 2000 Estimate	FY 1999 Actual
Overpayments:	94.7%	94.5%	94.3%
Underpayments:	98.8%	98.8%	98.3%



SSI Payment Accuracy

Definition: The SSI payment accuracy rate is determined by an annual review of a statistically valid sample of the beneficiary rolls. Separate rates are determined for the accuracy of payments with overpayment dollars and the accuracy of payments with underpayment dollars. The rates are computed by dividing the dollars overpaid or dollars underpaid by the total dollars paid for the fiscal year. This percentage is subtracted from 100 percent to attain the accuracy rate. The current measurement system captures only the accuracy of the non-medical aspects of eligibility for SSI payment outlays.

Data Source: SSI Stewardship

Means and Strategies

Over the past 10 years, the accuracy of SSI payment outlays has ranged between 96.6 and 93.5 percent. These rates compare favorably to the accuracy levels achieved in other income maintenance programs. For example, the former Aid for Families with Dependent Children program encountered payment accuracy rates between 93.2 and 95 percent in the last few years, and the Food Stamp program's FY 1996 accuracy rate was slightly above 92 percent.

Still, in a program the size of SSI, a small percentage of error translates into large dollar amounts. For example, in FY 1996, the 5.5 percent overpayment error rate was equivalent to approximately \$1.6 billion. Consequently, SSA has committed to improving the SSI payment accuracy rate to 96 percent by FY 2005, equating to substantial reductions in overpayment errors below the FY 1996 level. We will make substantial use of more effective payment accuracy tools in the SSI program—such as conducting more nonmedical redeterminations of eligibility. We also are committed to finding ways to make even more effective use of base resources to improve SSI accuracy.

The key initiative (KI) on Title XVI Payment Accuracy provides strategies to prevent, detect and resolve overpayments and is described in detail in Appendix V of this document. In addition, SSA has developed a long-term comprehensive plan that includes the following activities:

- ❖ Computer matching with the INS and with Federal and State agencies that provide cash and service benefits,
- ❖ Creation of a diary alert database to monitor alerts from external computer matching,
- ❖ Project to increase detection of persons ineligible for SSI because they are prisoners,
- ❖ Online access to databases at the OCSE/NDNH and individual States (SASRO),
- ❖ Increased management focus on quality and adherence to POMS,
- ❖ Review of the frequency of redeterminations to determine if a 3-year cycle would be more effective than the current 6-year cycle,
- ❖ Improved automation of SSI processes to reduce payment errors and better implement debt resolution.

These program integrity initiatives are projected to be cost-effective in returning program savings. In FY 2002, we intend to move as far as we can with this plan.

Other Key Initiatives that support this objective are:

- ❖ **Combating Fraud**
- ❖ **Continuing Disability Review Process Enhancements**
- ❖ **Earnings Improvement Program**
- ❖ **Information Exchange**
- ❖ **Service to the Non-English Speaking (NES) and Limited English Proficient (LEP) Public**
- ❖ **SSI PE Modernization**

Performance Goals, Means and Strategies

Strategic Objective: **To become current with DI and SSI CDR requirements by 2000 and 2002 respectively and remain current thereafter**

Context

CDRs are one of the most effective mechanisms SSA has for determining whether OASDI and SSI disability beneficiaries have medically improved and no longer meet the statutory definition of disability, and therefore

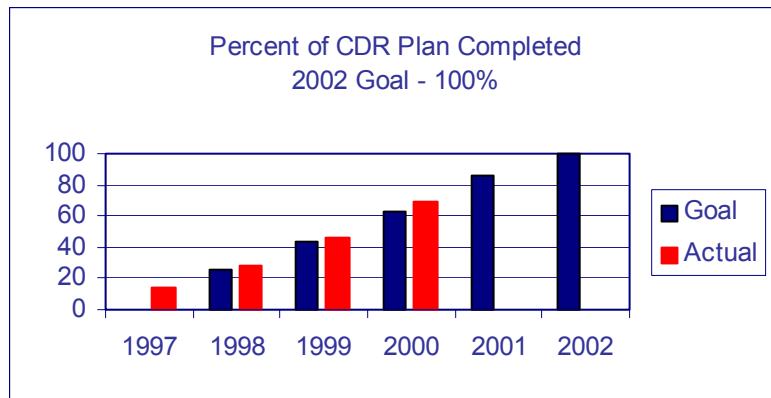
should be terminated from the rolls. This objective contributes to the attainment of the overall outcome of accurate payments, articulated in the first objective under this goal.

FY 2002 Performance Indicators and Goals

Indicator: **Percent of multi-year CDR plan completed through FY 2002**

FY 2002 Goal: 100%

Baseline data:	FY 2001 APP Goal	FY 2000 Actual	FY 1999 Actual
	86%	68.8%	45.9%



CDRs

Definition: To achieve this goal in FY 2002, SSA must conduct 1.3 million CDRs. This measure is derived by dividing the cumulative number of CDRs SSA processed from FY1996, the first year of the CDR multi-year plan, through the current fiscal year, by the total number of CDRs SSA has committed to processing through 2002 according to its most recent multi-year CDR plan.

Data Source: National DDS System; SSR, MBR, CDR Control File

The following performance indicator is newly established for FY 2002.

Indicator: Percent of CDRs completed when due and selectable (ongoing indicator beyond 2002)

FY 2002 Goal: N/A

Definition: CDR's completed when due" is defined as: all CDRs due and selectable will be initiated and, on average, completed with the processing timeframes (6 months from the selection date for mailers, 12 months for full medical reviews, or 18 months for mailers which become full medical reviews.

Data Source: Disability management information (Measurement tool, TBD) and methodology

Means and Strategies

Congress has provided authority for an increase in discretionary spending caps for FYs 1996-2002 to fund the cost of processing CDRs. SSA developed a 7-year plan to ensure that we are current on DI CDRs by the end of FY 2000 and on SSI CDRs by the end of FY 2002. SSA's CDR plan is an important element of its strategy to improve management of the SSI program. Consistent with that plan, SSA expects to process 1,288,000 CDRs, including 554,000 SSI-only CDRs, in FY 2002. Actuarial estimates of the OASDI and Federal SSI program savings resulting from CDRs conducted in FYs 1996-2002 amount to approximately \$3.3 billion and \$3.6 billion, respectively, over this 7-year period.

After completion of the 7-year plan in FY 2002, all CDRs due and selectable will be initiated and, on average, completed within the processing time timeframes (6 months from the selection date for mailers, 12 months for full medical reviews, or 18 months for mailers which become full medical reviews.)

To make the CDR process more effective and efficient, SSA is implementing various innovations. These include:

Improved identification and selection: This effort improves our ability to accurately and consistently identify factors that indicate medical improvement and predict when, during the life of a case, these factors occur. It has the potential to generate substantial program and administrative savings by enabling SSA to define more precisely when and how frequently to conduct CDRs for various beneficiary groups.

Workflow enhancements: This effort consists of process improvements, management information, and systems changes needed to enhance the CDR process and ensure its efficiency throughout and after the CDR 7-year plan.

The Key Initiative, Continuing Disability Review Process Enhancements, supports achievement of this objective.

CDRs

Performance Goals, Means and Strategies

Strategic Objective:

Maintain timeliness and improve accuracy and efficiency in posting earnings data to Agency's records. Specifically by 2005:
❖ **Increase to 70 percent, the number of employee reports (W-2s) filed electronically**

Context

Because SSA's earnings file is the basis for eligibility and payment decisions in the OASI and DI programs, having

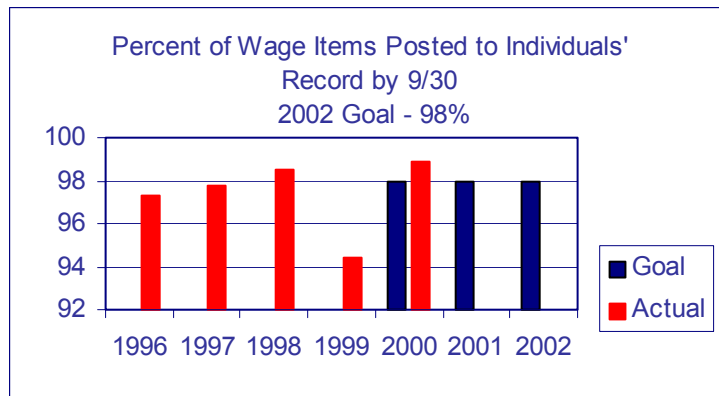
accurate and up-to-date records of earnings is important to overall payment accuracy.

FY 2002 Performance Indicators and Goals

Indicator: Percent of wage items posted to individuals' records by September 30

FY 2002 Goal: 98%

Baseline Data: FY 2001 APP Goal FY 2000 Actual FY 1999 Actual
 98% 98.9% 94.4%



Definition: The computation of this rate is the number of wage items posted by the end of September divided by the number of wage items posted by the end of the processing year (mid-January).

NOTE: Tracking throughout the year is based on the SSA Actuary's estimates of potential receipts, compared to actual items processed by the posting system. The actual performance reported in the FY 2000 Accountability and Performance Report is based on the updated actuarial estimates compared to the actual items processed. Once all known earnings reports have been received, performance is recalculated based on actual data. For this reason, the actual FY 2000 performance for this measure has now been updated based on the recalculation using actual data.

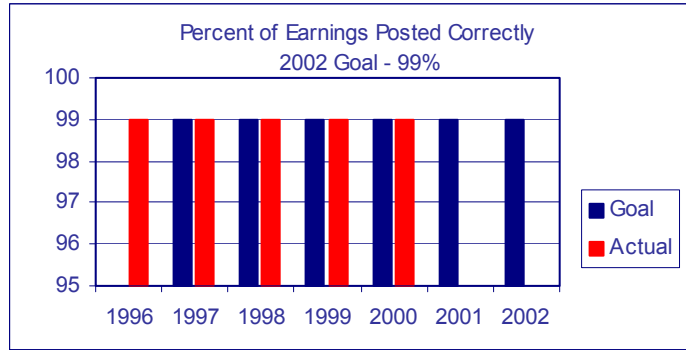
Data Source: Earnings Posted Overall Cross Total/Year to Date System (EPOXY)

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Indicator: Percent of earnings posted correctly

FY 2002 Goal: 99%

Baseline Data: FY 2001 APP Goal 99% FY 2000 Actual 99% FY1999 Actual 99%



Definition: This rate represents the percent of earnings that SSA is able to post to individuals' records based on a match to a valid name/SSN. In addition, it reflects the results of a quality assurance review of the accuracy of earnings posted. The computation of this rate is the total earnings processed correctly to individuals' earnings records for a tax year divided by the total earnings reported to SSA for that tax year.

Data Source: Earnings Posted Overall Cross Total/Year to Date System (EPOXY) and a quality assurance review of the accuracy of posting received reports

Performance Goals, Means and Strategies

The following performance indicator is newly established under SSA's new Strategic Plan and is in effect for

FY 2002. It is also in the Revised Final FY 2001 Performance Plan.

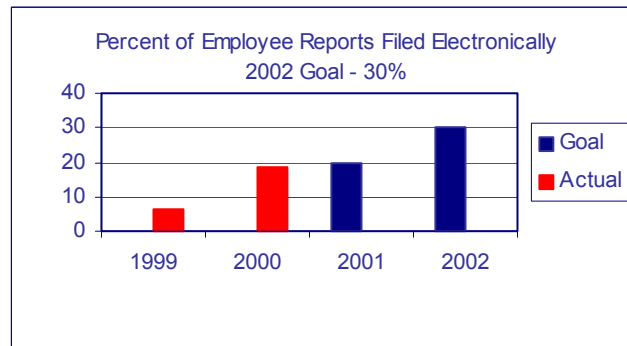
Indicator: Percent of employee reports (W-2s) filed electronically

FY 2002 Goal: 30%

Baseline Data: FY 2001 APP Goal
20%

FY 2000 Actual
18.4%

FY 1999 Actual
6.6%



Definition: The computation of this rate is the number of W-2s filed electronically and processed to completion for a tax year divided by the total number of W-2s for that tax year processed to completion by the end of the processing year (mid-January).

Data Source: Earnings Management Information Operational Data Store (EMODS) reports

Means and Strategies

SSA has made many improvements in the earnings process and has achieved excellent timeliness and accuracy in wage postings. A few problems remain, however, most significantly in the volume of wage reports posted to the Earnings Suspense File because SSA is unable to match the report to a valid name/SSN. SSA has developed a 5-year plan that will move the Agency toward more accurate earnings records, improved earnings products and services for employers, and a reduced Earnings Suspense File.

We have also formulated plans to improve the way earnings are established, corrected and adjusted. We are developing a more convenient way for wage data to be accessed by employers and employees, and improved coordination between SSA data files that contain information about employers, employees, and the wages associated with each. The plan provides the infrastructure support to prepare SSA's earnings systems to accommodate more electronic business.

SSA gives employers the option to transmit wage reports to us

electronically using a personal computer or high-speed data transmission lines. We received over 45 million W-2 forms electronically for Tax Year 1999. We will continue to pursue a number of avenues to increase employers' participation in our electronic filing efforts. We will continue our efforts to develop promotional materials, attend payroll and other conferences, and write articles for appropriate trade publications. We will make additional on-site visits to large payroll companies to get them to report electronically through dedicated lines. Our regional Employer Services Liaison Officers will continue their visits to employers promoting electronic filing. SSA has enhanced its technical support and systems reliability by establishing redundancy systems to assure no

downtime in the system. Our online technical instructions and systems functionality are improved and will support our efforts to increase the percentage of electronic filing.

An Internet capability to receive wage reports became available to the employer community in January 2001.

Additionally, a PKI approach using the GSA-Sponsored Access Certificates for Electronics Services program is scheduled to be tested in pilot in 2001.

The following are the Key Initiatives through which SSA will achieve this strategic objective:

- ❖ **Earnings Process Improvements**
- ❖ **Expand Electronic Wage Reporting**

Strategic Objective: Through 2005, maintain a level of outstanding debt that is either in a repayment agreement, under appeal, or newly detected.

Context

While SSA’s objective in managing the OASDI and SSI programs is to achieve the highest accuracy rate possible, it is inevitable that some debt will be created. Our stewardship responsibilities require that we recover as much of this debt as possible.

This new objective replaces the objective to increase debt collections by an established percent.

FY 2002 Performance Indicators and Goals

The software for this objective has been developed. Validation of the software is in process. Upon completion of the validation, we will begin collecting the baseline data. The indicators and initial annual goals will be finalized by January 2002.

Indicator: Outstanding OASDI debt in a repayment agreement, under appeal, or newly detected

FY 2002 Goal: TBD – pending development of a baseline

Definition: Through 2005, maintain a level of outstanding debt that is either in a repayment agreement, under appeal or newly detected.

Data Source: Data are extracted from the Recovery of Overpayments, Accounting and Reporting (ROAR) system and the Master Beneficiary Record (MBR). Data also may be extracted from the Recovery and Collection of Overpayment Process (RECOOP).

Indicator: Outstanding SSI debt in a repayment agreement, under appeal, or newly detected

FY 2002 Goal: TBD – pending development of a baseline

Definition: Through 2005, maintain a level of outstanding debt that is either in a repayment agreement, under appeal or newly detected.

Data Source: Data are extracted from the Supplemental Security Record (SSR). Data also may be extracted from the Recovery and Collection of Overpayment Process (RECOOP).

Strategic Objective: Aggressively deter, identify, and resolve fraud.

Context

In any benefits program, there is potential for deliberate acts of deception. In a broad sense, virtually all Agency efforts encompassed by SSA’s program integrity goal constitute elements of SSA’s strategy to combat fraud. While we have not found widespread fraud in our programs, any level of fraud is a source of concern. As we fulfill our role as stewards of the public trust, this targeted objective underscores SSA’s commitment to remain vigilant in our efforts to combat fraud.

FY 2002 Performance Indicators and Goals

Because it is extremely difficult to project the universe of fraud, we are unable to directly measure the desired outcomes—detection of all existing fraud and reduction in fraud overall. Consequently, the indicators for this objective focus on the outputs of our efforts to achieve improvements in deterring, identifying and resolving fraud. For example, our measure for the number of investigations conducted tracks cases closed in a year rather than cases opened; this is a better indicator of the effectiveness of our investigations.

Indicator: Number of investigations conducted (i.e., closed)

FY 2002 Goal: 8,000

Baseline Data:	FY 2001 APP Goal	FY 2000 Actual	FY 1999 Actual
	8,000	8,051	7,308



Definition: Investigations result from allegations that have sufficient information or potential risk to warrant further review or action by a criminal investigator. Investigations are counted as “conducted” when all OIG actions have been completed, i.e., the investigator has presented the facts of the case to a prosecutor or has determined that further action is not warranted due to lack of investigative leads.

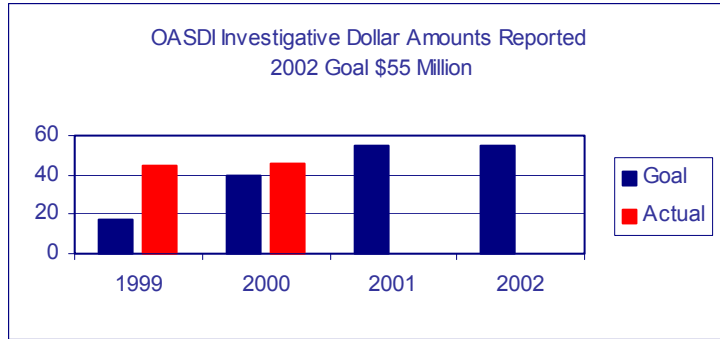
Data Source: Allegation and Case Investigative System (ACIS)

Performance Goals, Means and Strategies

Indicator: OASDI dollar amounts reported from investigative activities

FY 2002 Goal: \$55 million

Baseline Data: FY 2001 APP Goal \$55M FY 2000 Actual \$46M FY 1999 Actual \$45M



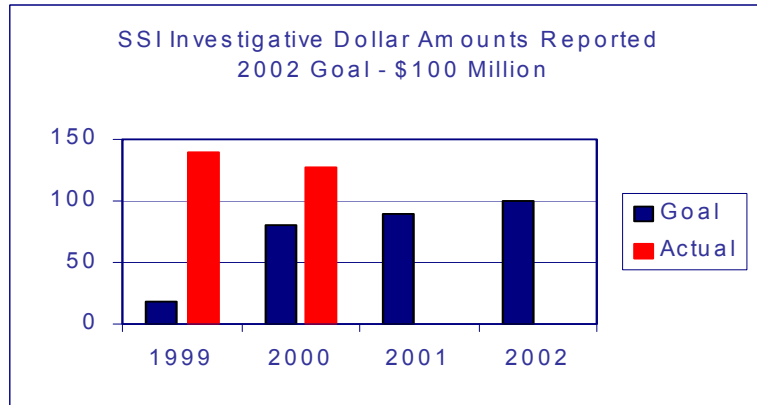
Definition: OASDI dollars from penalties, assessments, savings, recoveries and restitutions related to investigative activities, that are reported by OIG field divisions and included in the OIG semi-annual reports. Beginning in FY 1999, dollar amounts reported are segregated by program.

Data Source: Allegation and Case Investigative System (ACIS)

Indicator: SSI dollar amounts reported from investigative activities

FY 2002 Goal: \$100 million

Baseline Data: FY 2001 APP Goal \$90M FY 2000 Actual \$128 M FY 1999 Actual \$140M



Definition: SSI dollars from penalties, assessments, savings, recoveries and restitutions related to investigative activities, that are reported by OIG field divisions and included in the OIG semi-annual reports. Beginning in FY 1999, dollar amounts reported are segregated by program.

Data Source: Allegation and Case Investigative System (ACIS)

Deter, Identify and Resolve Fraud

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Indicator: Number of criminal convictions

FY 2002 Goal: 2,500

Baseline Data: FY 2001 APP Goal 2,500 FY 2000 Actual 2,604 FY 1999 Actual 3,139



Definition: Number of criminal convictions as related to SSA/OIG investigative activities. This measure includes more than convictions in a court of law.

Data Source: Allegation and Case Investigative System (ACIS)

Means and Strategies

SSA has been engaged in an aggressive program to deter, detect, investigate and prosecute fraud. To carry out this effort, SSA and the OIG have cooperated in developing a comprehensive anti-fraud plan, and SSA has established a National Anti-Fraud Committee, comprising joint SSA and OIG executive leadership, to oversee the entire effort.

In recent years, the OIG has steadily increased its investigative resources for combating fraud. As a result, the return on investment in terms of actual recent performance has exceeded our targets. For example, the actual OASDI and SSI dollars reported from investigative activities far exceeded our goals for FY 2000. Much of this success was due to investigative projects such as the Cooperative Disability Investigations (CDI) teams. The CDI teams accounted for \$2.8 million in 1998, \$23 million in 1999, and \$40 million in 2000. The

FY 2002 budget includes funding for 385 workyears dedicated to OIG investigative activities, approximately the same resources funded in FY 2001. However, as experienced investigators retire, new agents need to be trained before they become productive; this will continue to impact our performance in FY 2002.

A greater portion of OIG investigative resources will be directed toward operations focused on SSI fraud. The anti-fraud plan includes activities to address the following areas of vulnerability:

- ❖ Payments to people who are fleeing to avoid prosecution, are fleeing to avoid custody or confinement after conviction, or are violating conditions of probation or parole.

- ❖ Collaboration with third parties to fraudulently obtain disability benefits; and
- ❖ Fraudulent claims of U.S. residency in order to receive benefits;

The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, Public Law 106-069 includes provisions that authorize SSA to impose administrative sanctions in the form of periods of ineligibility for an individual who furnishes information that is material to eligibility or payment amount that the individual knew, or should have known was inaccurate.

The anti-fraud plan, including those efforts that address fraud in the SSI program, is being carried out through a single, integrated Key Initiative, Combating Fraud.

Crosscutting Areas with Other Agencies

SSA has established numerous standing data exchange relationships with other agencies to ensure the accuracy of payments under the Social Security programs. Our major partners in program management activities include the following:

Department of the Treasury--SSA provides earnings data on which Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) and Self-Employment Contributions Act (SECA) taxes are due. SSA and Treasury also exchange data regarding enforcement, SSI income, and the Continuous Work History Sample. Treasury provides SSA with debt-collection services through the Treasury Offset Program.

SSA receives reports of self-employment income from IRS. IRS assigns employer

identification numbers (EIN), used by SSA in earnings processing; SSA assigns statistical codes to the EIN applications, which allows them to be used by SSA for policy research activities and by IRS for improving tax administration. SSA uses IRS data for enforcement matching.

The Secret Service assists SSA in check loss/fraud investigations.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) -- SSA and HCFA exchange data regarding Medicaid eligibility. HCFA provides data to SSA on nursing homes admissions. The Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) provides data to SSA on wages, unemployment compensation and new hires.

Department of Labor (DOL) -- SSA uses information regarding workers' compensation to ensure the accuracy of disability benefit payments. SSA provides earnings data to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which they use in calculating the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). The CPI-W, in turn, is used to annually adjust benefits for beneficiaries of Social Security and other programs.

Department of Defense (DOD) -- SSA and DOD exchange data regarding military retirement.

Department of Education (ED) -- ED and SSA exchange data regarding student loans.

Department of Justice -- Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) notifies SSA of deportations so that program

benefits can be suspended as appropriate. Bureau of Prisons provides information to SSA regarding incarcerated felons to help SSA ensure payment accuracy. U.S. Attorneys prosecute Social Security fraud and handle SSA civil suits for recovery of debts. The Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements program provides non-citizen immigration status which SSA can use to determine benefit eligibility.

Department of State -- Foreign Service posts perform validation activities relating to Social Security beneficiaries living abroad.

Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) -- SSA and VA exchange data regarding veterans' benefits.

Federal Court System -- The Federal courts handle recovery of court-ordered restitutions.

Office of Personnel Management (OPM) -- SSA and OPM exchange data regarding civil service retirement.

Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) -- SSA maintains earnings files on which RRB benefits are based; the Social Security and Medicare trust funds are parties to a financial interchange with the Railroad Retirement Fund.