

Services Administration, the Director, Bureau of Health Professions, the Director, Division of Nursing, and staff reports. The council will also meet in breakout groups to discuss current issues related to nurse education and practice.

The meeting will be closed to the public on April 28, 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for review of grant applications for Nursing Education Opportunities for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds. The closing is in accordance with the provisions set forth in section 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., and the Determination by the Associate Administrator for Policy Coordination, Health Resources and Services Administration, pursuant to Public Law 92-463.

Anyone wishing to obtain a roster of members, minutes of meetings, or other relevant information should write or contact R. Margaret Truax, Executive Secretary, National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice, Parklawn Building, Room 9-35, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857, Telephone (301) 443-5786.

Agenda Items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Dated: March 3, 1995.

**Jackie E. Baum,**

*Advisory Committee Management Officer,  
HRSA.*

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## Social Security Administration

### Privacy Act of 1974; Report of New Routine Use

**AGENCY:** Social Security Administration (SSA), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** New Routine Use.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(4) and (11)), we are issuing public notice of our intent to establish a new routine use applicable to the system of records entitled Master Files of Social Security Number (SSN) Holders and SSN Applications, HHS/SSA/OSR, 09-60-0058. Under agreement with participating States, the proposed routine use will allow SSA to disclose Social Security numbers assigned to newborn children to the State in which the births are registered.

We invite public comment on this publication.

**DATES:** We filed a report of a new routine use with the Chairman, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight of the House of Representatives, the Chairman, Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget on February 28, 1995. The

routine use will become effective as proposed, without further notice, on April 18, 1995, unless we receive comments on or before that date which would warrant preventing the routine use from taking effect.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested individuals may comment on this publication by writing to the SSA Privacy Officer, Social Security Administration, Room 3-A-6 Operations Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235. (FAX number: 410/966-0869). All comments received will be available for public inspection at that address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas E. Price, Social Insurance Specialist, Confidentiality and Disclosure Branch, Office of Disclosure Policy, Social Security Administration, 3-A-6 Operations Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235, telephone 410-965-6011.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Discussion of Proposed Routine Use

More than four million children are born each year in the United States. The Social Security Administration (SSA) has encouraged application for, and assignment of, Social Security account numbers (SSN) to children at birth since 1989. To that end, SSA's Enumeration at Birth (EAB) program allows parents of newborn infants in most States to request an SSN as part of the State's birth registration process. When the EAB program is not used, parents can apply for a child's SSN for income tax purposes at a local SSA field office. State bureaus of vital statistics (BVS) accumulate the birth registration information received from hospitals and periodically send SSA an electronic file with the data needed to assign SSNs to the individuals in the file. SSA processes the file, assigns the SSNs, and sends an SSN card for each newborn to the child's parents.

Under the EAB program, SSA does not send the child's SSN to the State BVS unless the parents have agreed. Seven States now ask for parental consent to allow the child's SSN to become part of the birth record.

The proposed routine use would permit SSA to send the SSNs of newborns, and as a one time disclosure, the SSNs of children born since December 31, 1990, to the State BVS in which a birth is recorded without having to secure parental consent. The SSN would become part of the confidential portion of the birth record. Parents would also be given the option of requesting that their child's SSN not be included in the birth record.

States could use these SSNs as the primary identifying numbers in administering public health and income maintenance programs and in statistical research and evaluation projects. Public health program uses of the SSNs would include, but are not limited to, establishing public immunization registries, ensuring complete birth record registration by matching vital records with neonatal test results, conducting studies of factors contributing to infant mortality by linking birth and death records, and evaluating the efficacy of intervention programs such as the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program, "Healthy Start" or other health maintenance programs. Income maintenance program purposes for which the States could use the SSNs include verifying the identity of applicants for services to families and children.

In all research and statistical studies involving record linkages with other data bases, the SSNs provided under this routine use would serve as the primary matching key, but would not be released for public use. Once the records are linked and a data set created, the personal identifying information (including SSNs) is usually removed. The resulting data set is used for aggregate analysis. Personal identifiers are retained in the data set only when they are determined to be necessary to the outcome of the study by an Institutional Review Board (IRB). Internal IRBs review all proposals for health research on human subjects in institutions conducting such research. IRBs also examine proposed protocols of investigations to determine if any unwarranted harm to individuals would result from the use of identifying data.

One benefit of the proposed new routine use is the potential value of the SSN to statewide Childhood Immunization Registries. Ensuring that all children complete the recommended series of immunizations (14 to 15 doses of vaccines by the second birthday) is the main goal of immunization programs. Although approximately 95% of all children in the United States begin the recommended series of immunizations, only about half complete the series by two years of age, a critical period for childhood disease prevention.

Statewide immunization information systems are a partial response to the problem of incomplete immunizations. Evaluating the immunization status of individuals is difficult because roughly 40% of children receive their immunizations from two or more providers and many parents do not

maintain accurate records. In a joint effort, State and Federal agencies are working together to create, in each State, a statewide childhood immunization registry which contains, for each individual, not the details of the immunization history, but the location of the immunization information system that contains the history.

In such a system, immunization details would be maintained locally by providers themselves in their own data systems. Subject to applicable privacy safeguards and requirements, including the consent of parents or guardians when legally required, a statewide record system would provide a means for exchanging immunization information between providers when (and only when) necessary, transferring immunization histories when individuals move from one State to another, and assessing the immunization status of the State and nation. Using the SSN as the primary identifying record number would facilitate the process and lower the cost of creating and operating a national network of coordinated statewide immunization registries. To ensure that the registries contain a complete census of preschool children for the purposes described in the routine use proposal, SSA will, on a one time, retroactive basis, provide the participating States' BVSs with the SSNs of children born after December 31, 1990.

SSA discloses information from its systems of records to certain entities that use the information for a purpose that is compatible with the purpose for which SSA collects it. Such disclosures may include providing an individual's correct SSN to an entity which has either no record of the individual's SSN or an incorrect one, or verifying only the fact that an entity has an individual's correct SSN. In the case of State BVSs, SSA would provide the correct SSN or verify correct SSNs under the proposed routine use.

The proposed routine use will read as follows:

To State vital records and statistics agencies, the SSNs of newborn children for administering public health and income maintenance programs, including conducting statistical studies and evaluation projects.

We are not publishing in its entirety the notice of the system of records to which we are adding the new routine use statement. A notice of that system, the Master Files of Social Security Number (SSN) Holders and SSN Applications, HHS/SSA/OSR, 09-60-0058, was last published in the **Federal Register** at 60 FR 2144, January 6, 1995.

## II. Compatibility of Proposed Routine Use

We are proposing the changes discussed above in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a(a)(7), (b)(3), and (e)(11)) and our disclosure regulation (20 CFR 401.310).

As discussed above, the Privacy Act permits us to disclose information about individuals without their consent for a routine use, i.e., for a purpose that is compatible with the purpose for which we collected the information. Consistent with the Privacy Act, under 20 CFR 401.310 we may disclose information under a routine use for administering our programs, for income or health maintenance programs of other agencies, and for epidemiological and similar research. SSA assigns SSNs to children as personal identifiers for efficient administration of the Social Security Act (Act), based in part on section 205(c)(2)(B)(i)(IV) of the Act, which authorizes SSA to take affirmative measures to assure that SSNs are assigned to below school age children at the request of their parents or guardians, and for helping detect and deter the illegal conduct described in section 208(a)(7) of the Act. States have authority under their own laws to create and maintain State registries of births. They have a compelling interest in protecting the integrity of their birth registries and in preventing birth certificate fraud. The internal use by States of SSNs for identification purposes, efficient administration of health and income maintenance programs, and statistical studies is compatible with the purposes for which SSA assigns and maintains SSNs and, thus, meets the criteria for the establishment of a routine use under the Privacy Act and the regulation.

## III. Effect of the Proposal on Individual Rights

As discussed above, the proposed new routine use will permit SSA to send the SSNs of newborns to State BVSs in which the births are recorded. The SSN would thus become part of the confidential portion of the birth record and would be available only for State use in health and income maintenance administration and research. It would not appear on the public portion of the record, the birth certificate. Strict protection of the confidentiality of the SSN by the State is required by Federal law. SSA will follow all statutory and regulatory requirements for disclosure. Agreements between SSA and the States will govern access to the SSNs and will incorporate the required statutory and regulatory safeguards. In addition, the

agreements will include a provision that requires States to notify parents that they may request that their child's SSN be removed from the birth record. Thus, we do not anticipate that the proposed disclosure to the States will have any adverse effect on the privacy or other rights of individuals.

Dated: February 28, 1995.

**Shirley S. Chater,**

*Commissioner of Social Security.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

### Office of Administration

[Docket No. N-95-3897]

### Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection to OMB

**AGENCY:** Office of Administration, HUD.  
**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed information collection requirement described below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments must be received on or before April 10, 1995. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and should be sent to: Joseph F. Lackey, Jr., OMB Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kay F. Weaver, Reports Management Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, Southwest, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 708-0050. This is not a toll-free number. Copies of the proposed forms and other available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Ms. Weaver.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department has submitted the proposal for the collection of information, as described below, to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

The Notice lists the following information: (1) the title of the information collection proposal; (2) the office of the agency to collect the information; (3) the description of the need for the information and its