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27,000 Invalid SSNs were used to Acquire NC Driver's Licenses

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The Office of the State Auditor released a strategic review of the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles today. The purpose of this review was to identify any invalid social security numbers (SSNs) used to acquire North Carolina Drivers' Licenses. This review found that out of the 8.1 million SSNs provided to DMV, just under 27,000 were invalid. This number does not include the 1.7 million driver's licenses in the DMV database that do not contain SSNs.

"The hole we discovered was that DMV did not review previously issued licenses. That hole presents a potential threat to homeland security and exacerbates the problem of identity theft," State Auditor Leslie Merritt said.

The invalid SSNs were discovered by cross checking the DMV database with the Social Security Administration's (SSA) ranges of validly issued SSNs and the SSA's file of deceased individuals.

This review is the fifth strategic review released by the Auditor and contains the most serious findings. One strategic review of the NC Department of Justice resulted in over \$20,000 in state pension funds being repaid while other strategic reviews found state employees using invalid SSNs: 9 employees at NC Central University, 7 employees at UNC Hospitals and one employee at NC State University. Some of these employees possessed valid NC Driver's Licenses based on these invalid SSNs.

"A driver's license is like a master key that can grant broad access by unlocking multiple doors," said State Auditor Leslie Merritt. "It is absolutely imperative to spend the resources to get a reliable database going forward and clean-up all licenses that have been improperly issued," Merritt continued.

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