INTRODUCTION
The Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) of 2009 and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) have provided state Medicaid programs with significant federal dollars to help support eligibility system upgrades and improvements that streamline and simplify the eligibility process for families applying for public health care coverage (Medicaid and CHIP). The federal government has given states limited access to query federal agency data through the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Department of Labor (DOL) to assist in the data verification components of the application process.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE
Our objective is to evaluate the impact of using federal data matches to streamline the documentation requirements for citizenship, identity, and income in one southern state.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS
The number of Medicaid applications denied due to “failure to verify” slightly increased after implementation of a SSA data match to verify applicant citizenship and identity.

Table: Medicaid Application Average Processing Days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicaid Application Type</th>
<th>Pre-SSA Identity/Citizenship Data Match</th>
<th>Post-SSA Identity/Citizenship Data Match</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Medicaid</td>
<td>24.73 days</td>
<td>23.85 days</td>
<td>-3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newborn Medicaid</td>
<td>42.1 days</td>
<td>24.9 days</td>
<td>-41.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Differences in Income Reporting by Quarter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Data Sources</th>
<th>2010-Q2</th>
<th>2010-Q4</th>
<th>2011-Q1</th>
<th>2011-Q2</th>
<th>2011-Q3</th>
<th>2011-Q4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid only, DOL</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both have income populated (inc. 0)</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>92.3%</td>
<td>92.3%</td>
<td>90.3%</td>
<td>96.3%</td>
<td>96.3%</td>
<td>90.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONCLUSIONS
This suggests that the applicant’s citizenship and identity verification are not the primary cause for eligibility to be denied under failure to verify. The more likely reason may be due to the state’s inability to verify income. However, using DOL data to verify income may not be very effective for enrollees in family Medicaid, who have incomes below the ACA Medicaid expansion population.

IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE
States that choose not to expand their Medicaid programs in response to the ACA may not see as much benefit from electronic income verification with DOL as states that do expand.

 PRIMARY FUNDING SOURCE
Georgia Department of Community Health and Funding from the CHIPRA Cycle II Grants from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

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