



### Why This Matters

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is responsible for identifying, detaining, and removing deportable aliens from the United States. In 2008, ICE implemented Secure Communities to enhance its ability to identify criminal aliens nationwide. The key component of Secure Communities is automated information sharing, between the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In October 2008, ICE began activation of Secure Communities in Harris County, Texas. As of December 28, 2011, it activated Secure Communities in 2,027 jurisdictions in 44 states and identified more than 692,000 criminal aliens.

### ICE Response

Our report had two recommendations that would improve ICE's overall management of Secure Communities. ICE concurred with the two recommendations and is taking action to implement the recommendations.

### For Further Information:

Contact our Office of Public Affairs at (202)254-4100, or email us at [DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@dhs.gov](mailto:DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@dhs.gov)

## Operations of ICE's Secure Communities (Revised)

### What We Determined

Under Secure Communities, ICE effectively identified criminal aliens, and in most cases ICE officers took enforcement actions according to ICE's enforcement policy. Secure Communities expanded ICE's ability to identify criminal aliens in areas not previously covered by its other programs. ICE was also able to identify criminal aliens earlier in the criminal justice process, some of whom it might not have otherwise identified. Secure Communities was implemented at little or no additional cost to local law enforcement jurisdictions. However, the results of the audit showed that:

- 1) ICE officers duplicated the research necessary to detain criminal aliens.
- 2) Officers did not always sufficiently document their actions related to individuals with identity matches.

### What We Recommend

We recommended that the ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations, Executive Associate Director:

- 1) Develop procedures to eliminate duplication in the identification process. If necessary, develop short-term and long-term procedures.
- 2) Develop procedures and system controls to ensure that officers complete all records for individuals identified through Secure Communities.