

PART

OMB's Program Assessment Rating Tool

In 2002, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) developed a systematic assessment of government programs through the use of the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) process. The PART process assesses the effectiveness of programs and helps inform management actions, budget requests, and legislative proposals directed at achieving results. The PART evaluates programs in four areas: purpose, strategic planning, program management, and results and accountability.

The Department is using the results of these assessments in continuing efforts to improve programs and processes, and aid in the refinement of our long-term measurable performance goals. Throughout FY 2005, the Department utilized information from PART reviews to guide budget, legislative and administrative decisions, and achieve greater results from our programs. For instance, updates on all Departmental actions stemming from PART recommendations were incorporated into the Department's newly revised Quarterly Status Reporting system. This system provides the Department's leadership and each of its bureau components a mechanism to engage in dialogue regarding progress and status of PART recommendations. These actions demonstrate the Department's clear commitment to making programmatic improvements and holding managers accountable for the findings and outcomes of these critical assessments.

The Department continues to make improvements to its programs, which is reflected in the increase of average PART scores from 45 percent in FY 2002 to 70 percent in FY 2004. Additionally, ratings of "results not demonstrated" are declining - from 77.7 percent in FY 2002 to 16.6 percent in FY 2004 - with the Department making improvements to programs that had previously received such scores and continuing efforts to limit that rating in the future.

During FY 2005, the Department completed the fourth cycle of PART. Nine programs were reviewed with the resulting scores and assessments to be discussed in the FY 2007 President's Budget. To date, OMB has conducted PART reviews on 27 of the Department's programs, five of which have been reassessed, representing more than half of our annual budget authority. A total of 38 Department programs will be rated by the PART by the end of FY 2006.

The PART assessments have also led to the development of efficiency measures that track how programs make best use of resources - time, effort, and money – and capture improvements in program outcomes for a given level of resource use. To date, the Department has developed 38 efficiency measures spanning across each of the Department's strategic goals. In FY 2005, the Department provided OMB with a status report (Efficiency Measure Report) on all of its measures and noted some of the challenges in developing meaningful efficiency measures in the federal law enforcement area. The Department will continue improve, develop, and report effective and meaningful efficiency measures in the future.

Fiscal Year	2002	2003	2004	2005
Number of Assessments (Reassessments)	9 (0)	6 (4)	3 (1)	9 (0)
Average PART Score	45	63	70	To be determined*
Results Not Demonstrated Percentage	77.7%	26.6%	16.6%	To be determined*

*The FY 2005 PART assessments have already taken place; however, OMB will not release the Department's final scores for these assessments until the issuance of the FY 2007 President's Budget in February 2006.