

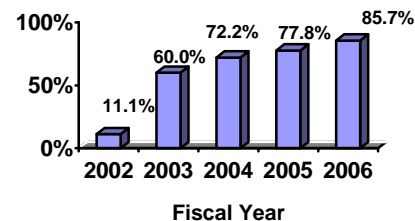
THE PROGRAM ASSESSMENT RATING TOOL (PART)

Beginning in 2002, the Administration implemented an analytic assessment of federal programs through the use of the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART). This management tool examines and identifies the effectiveness of programs and helps inform management actions, budget requests, and legislative proposals. The PART also serves as a means to show improvements over time, as well as evaluate programs in the following four areas: purpose and design, strategic planning, program management, and results and accountability.

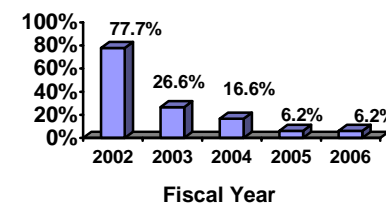
The Department uses the results of these assessments to continue its efforts of improving programs and processes and aid in the refinement of our long-term measurable performance goals. Throughout FY 2006, components reported the current status of follow-up actions stemming from the PART process through the Department's Quarterly Status Reporting (QSR) system. In addition to providing routine, reliable financial and performance information, the QSR provides the components a chance to engage leadership in a dialogue regarding the progress and status of PART follow-up actions. These actions demonstrate the Department's clear commitment to making programmatic improvements and holding managers accountable for the long-term outcomes of these 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 73 percent in FY 2006. Similarly, respectable ratings of Adequate, Moderately Effective, and Effective have increased from 11.1 percent in FY 2002 to 85.7 percent in FY 2006. At the same time, ratings of "Results not Demonstrated" have declined – from 77.7 percent in FY 2002 to 6.2 percent in FY 2006 – with the Department making improvements to programs that had previously received such scores and continuing its efforts to limit that rating in the future.

Percentage of PARTed Programs Rated Adequate or Higher (Cumulative Ratings)



Percentage PARTed Programs Rated Results Not Demonstrated (Cumulative Ratings)^



^The data for this chart are calculated using the Annual Budget authority (dollars) for each program rated Results not Demonstrated divided by total Annual Budget authority for all PARTed programs for each individual fiscal year. FY 2006 data for the percentage of programs rated results not demonstrated is an estimate, final data is pending.

During FY 2006, the Department completed the fifth and final round of PART assessments in the initial five-year cycle (FYs 2002-2006). Eight programs were reviewed for the first time and one program underwent a re-assessment. To date, OMB has assessed 35 of the Department's programs, six of which have been reassessed, representing approximately 100 percent of the Department's non-administrative/enabling annual budget authority.