

Data Capacity

All ATF critical information systems are being certified in compliance with the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002. Data captured for performance measurement are considered to be reasonably accurate. We continually evaluate the validity of our performance measures and refine verification procedures for performance data.

Management Challenges

The General Accounting Office and the Office of Inspector General have cited the need for ATF to improve performance measures to better determine progress in denying criminals access to firearms. ATF has proposed a model for measuring the Bureau's contribution to the decrease in violent firearms crime. ATF's new measures compare violent firearms crime reductions in metropolitan areas with a substantial ATF presence to other similar areas without the same levels of participation. The Bureau also tracks firearms crime trends in high-crime cities and firearms dealer compliance with Federal laws and regulations.

In the early stages of the deployment of the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative, ATF received a thorough review from the Department of the Treasury, Office of Inspector General concerning a variety of areas associated with this initiative including administrative matters, information technology, and field deployment of agents and inspectors. The Inspector General's recommendations concerning field deployment have resulted in a variety of steps to improve performance measurement and gauge the success of the youth crime gun program; they include use of the youth crime gun analysis data to measure changes as they occur in the incidence of possession among youth and juveniles, continued active support for research of firearms violence, and partnerships with academic experts in this field that go beyond the production of crime gun analyses.