

External  
Factors that  
May Affect Goal  
Achievement

## External Factors that May Affect Goal Achievement

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A number of external factors could affect our ability to achieve our strategic goals and objectives. Obviously, the Department's ability to meet its goals could be significantly affected by more unpredictable events or emergencies that demand attention and skew priorities. They can also be affected by shifts in public attitudes towards crime and justice, by changing statutory responsibilities, technological advances, and a host of other elements.

These are summarized in the table that follows.





Foreign political movements, whether state-sponsored or the work of particular groups or individuals, may use terror to achieve their aims and target U.S. persons or interests at home or abroad.

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*Social-Demographic Factors*

The level of criminal activity is influenced by societal attitudes toward the use of illegal drugs and the abuse of alcohol.

The numbers of adolescents and young adults, now the most crime-prone segment of the population, are expected to grow rapidly over the next several years.

The United States is an increasingly multi-cultural and multi-racial society. The extent to which societal attitudes and practices reflect a continuing commitment to tolerance, diversity, and equality affects the scope and nature of our work.

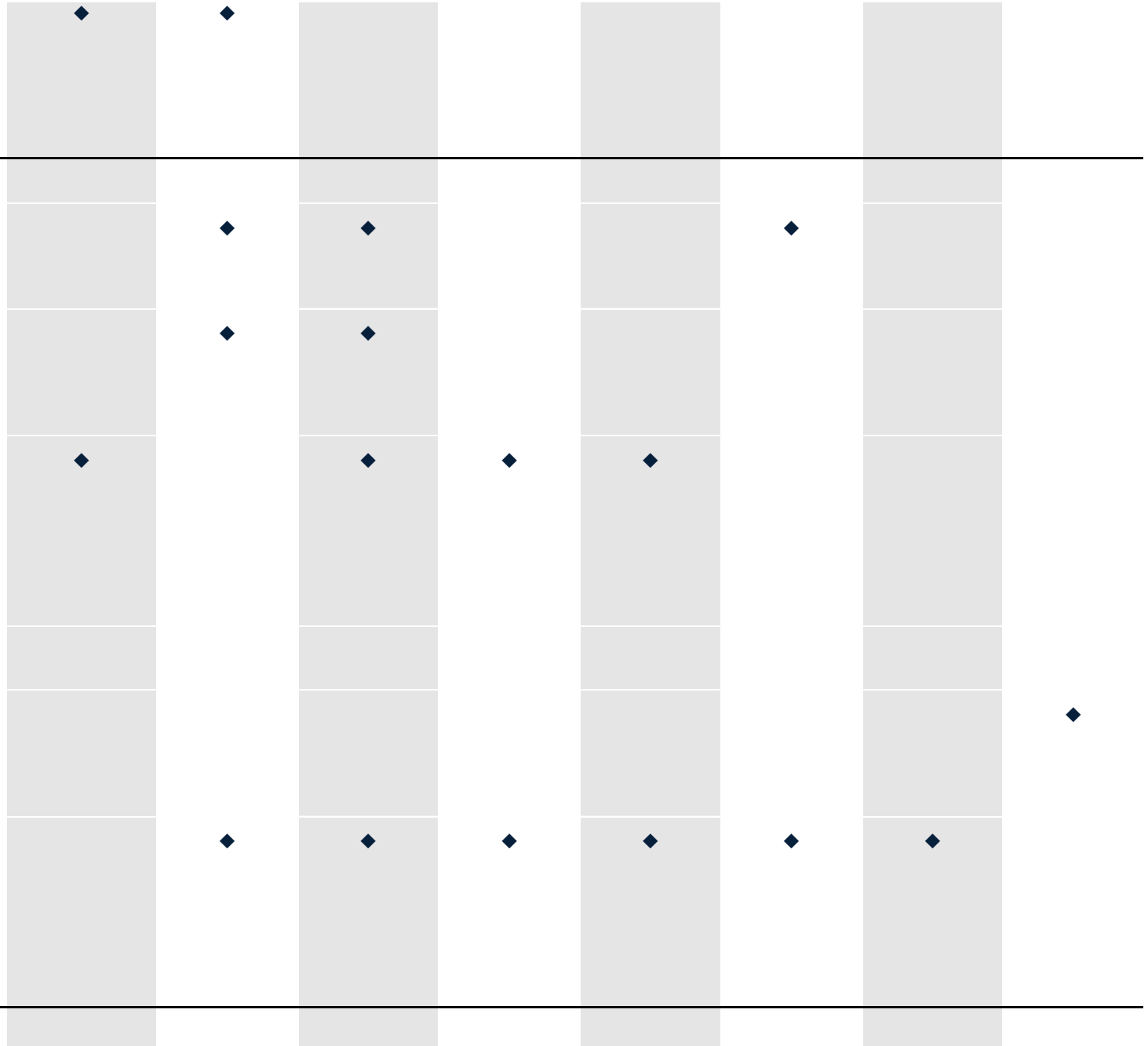
*Social-Demographic Factors (continued)*

Demographic and cultural changes make ensuring a diverse and representative the Department workforce a more challenging and essential task.

Achieving our goals depends on strong institutions - - families, schools, churches, neighborhood groups, and others - - that inspire trust, build community, promote civic and individual responsibility and help secure voluntary compliance with the rule of law.

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*The Unpredictable*



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The Department is required to respond to emergency or special situations - - whether a terrorist incident, sudden influx of persons seeking asylum, a computer attack, a high-profile court proceeding, a school shooting, or some other event that strains our time, attention and resources.

Changes in federal laws may affect our responsibilities and workload.

Much of the Department-s litigation caseload is defensive. The Department has little control over the number, size and complexity of the civil lawsuits it must defend.

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