

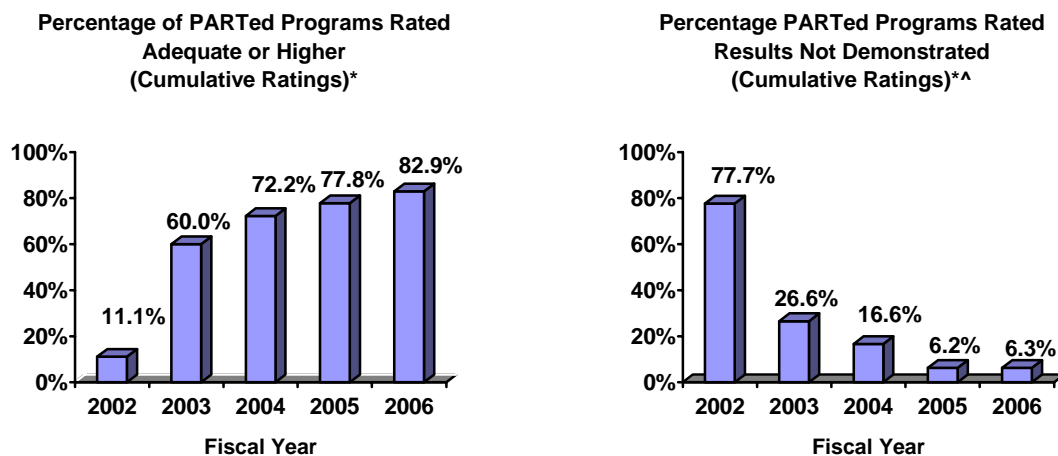
PART

OMB's Program Assessment Rating Tool

In 2002, the OMB implemented an analytic assessment of federal programs through the use of the 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 these 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 refining its long-term measurable performance goals. Throughout FY 2007, 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 82.9 percent in FY 2006. At the same time, ratings of "Results not Demonstrated (RND)" have declined from 77.7 percent in FY 2002 to 6.3 percent in FY 2006. The Department continues to make improvements to programs that received such scores and continue its efforts to limit ratings of RND in the future. Although no new programs were rated as RND in FY 2006, the calculation to determine the overall percentage of programs rated RND is based on the budget authority of PARTed programs; therefore, there was a slight increase compared to FY 2005 as resources shifted.



*The FY 2007 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 2009 President's Budget in February 2008.

^The data for this chart are calculated using the Annual Budget authority (dollars) for each program rated RND divided by total Annual Budget authority for all PARTed programs for each individual fiscal year.

During FY 2007, the Department began the second five-year cycle of PART assessments (FY 2007-2011) with the review of four programs. Ratings for these four assessments will be discussed in the FY 2009 President's Budget. To date, OMB has assessed 39 of the Department's programs, six of which have been reassessed, representing 100 percent of the Department's non-administrative/enabling annual budget authority.

