

Assessing Federal Drug Programs



Information Brief

April, 2005

The Program Assessment Rating Tool and the Federal Drug Control Budget

Overview

The Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) was developed and is used by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as a tool for assessing federal program performance and assisting in budget allocation decisions. According to the 2005 National Drug Control Strategy, PART was “central to [federal drug control] budget decision making” for the Administration’s proposed drug budget for FY 2006. This information brief provides background about PART and reviews its use in shaping the FY 2006 federal drug control budget.

Background

PART is a method for assessing program performance and assesses four areas: program purpose and design; strategic planning; management; and results. PART produces four qualitative ratings—ineffective, adequate, moderately effective, and effective. A rating of adequate or better is generally considered a passing grade. These qualitative ratings are based on numeric scores calculated by applying certain weights to each of the four areas assessed under PART. The adequate rating reflects a numeric score ranging from 50-69; moderately effective, from 70-84; and effective, from 85-100. An ineffective rating reflects a score of 49 or less.

A program may also be rated as results not demonstrated when it lacks agreed-upon performance measures or baselines and performance data. This particular rating does not mean that the program is effective or ineffective, just that it lacks the necessary metrics to measure performance. In fact, a program could have a numeric score of adequate or better, but be rated results not demonstrated if it does not possess

the necessary metrics to track performance results. Finally, according to the OMB, a low PART score does not, in and of itself, signify whether a program needs more or less funding.

PART and Federal Drug Control Programs

Not all federal drug control programs are subject to a PART review. According to the 2005 National Drug Control Strategy, about 45 percent of the drug control budget was assessed in the President’s FY 2005 budget. That estimate reached 50 percent—half of the \$12.4 billion drug budget—with the Administration’s FY 2006 request.

Using current OMB PART information, we identified 15 federal drug control programs that were subject to a PART review. We also identified another 10 drug programs facing significant budget changes in FY 2006 to see if they were subject to a PART review. In total, 25 drug programs were reviewed. For those 15 programs that were subject to a PART review, our analysis shows:

- Only one drug control program is rated moderately effective (the Substance Abuse Prevention PRNS). It is proposed to be cut in FY 2006.
- Five programs are rated adequate. Four will increase and one will be cut (the Weed and Seed program) in FY 2006.
- Two programs are rated ineffective. One will be eliminated (Safe and Drug Free Schools) and the other’s funding is unaffected (Substance Abuse Block Grant).

Seven programs were rated as results could not be demonstrated:

Quick Facts

- The national drug office reports that **50 percent** of the drug control budget has been **assessed by PART**.
- **Fifteen** of the 25 federal drug control programs identified in this brief were assessed by **PART**.
- **Not one drug control program** is rated **effective**.
- Only **one drug program** is rated **moderately effective**.
- **Five drug programs** are rated **adequate**.
- **Two** federal drug control programs are rated as **ineffective**—one of these programs (the Substance Abuse Block Grant) represents 14 percent of the entire federal drug control budget and no change is requested for it in FY 2006.
- **Seven drug programs** were rated as **results not demonstrated**.
- **Three of four drug programs** proposed for **elimination** were **not reviewed**.

PART and the Federal Drug Control Budget

- Three will have their funding cut. The largest proposed cut occurs in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program. Other cuts are proposed for state and local law enforcement technology transfer programs, and the counternarcotics technology research and development program.
- Four other programs with results not demonstrated will receive funding increases. The largest increase is for Homeland Security's drug interdiction program, followed by the Drug Courts program, and the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program. Funding for the National Anti-Drug Media Campaign increases slightly over last year's enacted level.

Changes are also proposed for 10 drug control programs that were not subject to a PART review:

- Three programs will end under the proposed FY 2006 budget: the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws, Justice Assistance Grants, and the National Drug Intelligence Center, which receives funding for an orderly shutdown in FY 2006.
- Three programs will have their funding reduced: the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, the Methamphetamine Enforcement and Clean-Up, and the Defense Department's Counternarcotics Central Transfer Account, which mainly funds its drug interdiction activities.
- Four programs will receive increases in funding: the Safe and Drug Free Schools National Program, the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, the Regional Information Sharing System, and the Andean Counterdrug Initiative.

Conclusion

OMB PART ratings can inform decision-making related to resource allocation and program management. In fact, performance assessment is integral to the nation's success in reducing drug use and its damaging consequences. Based on the available evidence, it is unclear

how PART ratings factored into the Administration's proposed drug control budget for FY 2006—in fact, the evidence does not indicate that PART was central to shaping the federal drug control budget.

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Program Assessment Rating Tool's (PART) Use and Selected Drug Control Programs: FY 2006

\$ in millions

Program Title	Status/ Rating	2005 Enacted	2006 Request	\$ Change
Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (see note)	Not Conducted	\$626	\$0	(\$626)
Safe and Drug Free Schools State Grants	Ineffective	\$437	\$0	(\$437)
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)	Not Demonstrated*	\$227	\$100	(\$127)
Methamphetamine Enforcement and Clean Up	Not Conducted	\$52	\$20	(\$32)
National Drug Intelligence Center	Not Conducted	\$39	\$17	(\$22)
Substance Abuse Prevention PRNS	Moderately Effective	\$199	\$185	(\$14)
Counternarcotics Central Transfer Account	Not Conducted	\$907	\$896	(\$11)
CTAC Counterdrug Research & Development	Not Demonstrated*	\$18	\$10	(\$8)
Prescription Drug Monitoring Program	Not Conducted	\$10	\$5	(\$5)
CTAC Technology Transfer Program	Not Demonstrated*	\$24	\$20	(\$4)
National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws	Not Conducted	\$1	\$0	(\$1)
Weed and Seed	Adequate	\$61	\$60	(\$1)
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant	Ineffective	\$1,775	\$1,775	\$0
Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign	Not Demonstrated*	\$119	\$120	\$1
Drug-Free Communities Support Program	Adequate	\$79	\$80	\$1
Regional Information Sharing System	Not Conducted	\$40	\$45	\$6
Int'l Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Programs in the Western Hemisphere	Adequate	\$45	\$51	\$6
Andean Counterdrug Initiative	Not Conducted	\$725	\$735	\$10
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment	Not Demonstrated*	\$25	\$44	\$19
Substance Abuse Treatment PRNS	Adequate	\$422	\$448	\$26
Drug Courts	Not Demonstrated*	\$39	\$70	\$31
Drug Enforcement Administration	Adequate	\$2,208	\$2,269	\$61
Safe and Drug Free Schools -- Nat'l Programs	Not Conducted	\$156	\$233	\$77
Org. Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force	Not Conducted	\$554	\$662	\$108
Homeland Security Drug Interdiction	Not Demonstrated*	\$985	\$1,114	\$129

*Not Demonstrated = Results Not Demonstrated.

Note: This grant is the successor grant to the original Byrne Drug Grant, which is no longer scored in the drug control budget, but whose resources are available to support law enforcement drug control activities.



14501 Cervantes Ave., Darnestown, MD 20874

(301) 977-3600

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