

BORDER-CONTROL SUCCESS FOUND HARD TO GAUGE

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Despite pouring billions of dollars into a campaign to cut illegal immigration over the last four years, the federal government has no way of knowing whether its measures are working, a General Accounting Office report says. In the first of a series of reports mandated by a 1996 immigration reform law, the GAO determined that the Immigration and Naturalization Service "has made progress" in implementing parts of its 1994 **border-control** strategy.

But the office, which audits government programs for Congress, said it could not tell whether the agency was achieving its main aim of actually reducing the flow of illegal immigrants across the U.S.-Mexican border. The overall results of the INS strategy were thus "inconclusive," the GAO said. It recommended that the attorney general, whose department includes the INS, develop a plan to comprehensively and systematically evaluate the campaign.

Notes

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