

GAO Highlights

Highlights of [GAO-24-106911](#), a report to congressional requesters

Why GAO Did This Study

In fiscal year 2023, the federal government awarded contracts to about 109,000 contractors with about \$760 billion in obligations. Contracting officers are generally required to ensure that prospective contractors are responsible and can successfully perform the work. Reviewing information in FAPIIS is required for contracts above a certain dollar threshold.

GAO was asked to review agencies' policies and processes pertaining to integrity data. This report: (1) describes the integrity information reported in FAPIIS; and examines (2) the extent to which there are data gaps in FAPIIS government-wide; and (3) the extent to which selected agencies' policies and processes ensure the quality of contractor integrity information.

GAO analyzed FAPIIS data reported from fiscal years 2019 through 2023 and compared them against other sources to check data quality. GAO analyzed documents and interviewed officials at DOD, DOE, GSA, HHS, and VA (agencies selected based on high contract obligations and number of integrity records), as well as at OMB, on integrity data quality policies and processes.

What GAO Recommends

GAO is making four recommendations, including that OMB reiterate integrity reporting requirements, and that DOD and GSA take steps to ensure their personnel have awareness of integrity reporting requirements. All of the agencies concurred with the recommendations. DOD and GSA identified specific steps to address the recommendations to them.

View [GAO-24-106911](#). For more information, contact Mona Sehgal at (202) 512-4841 or sehgal@gao.gov.

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FEDERAL CONTRACTORS

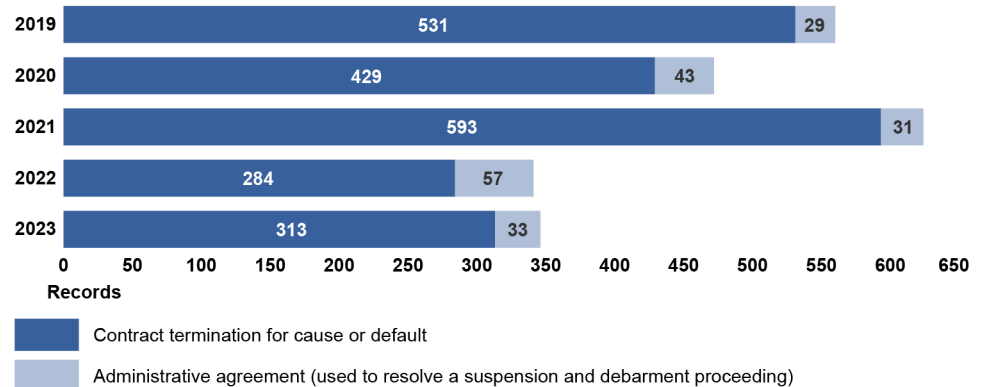
Actions Needed to Improve Quality of Performance and Integrity Data

What GAO Found

The Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) is a database that provides a "report card" on prospective contractors. FAPIIS data—referred to as integrity records—include information such as whether a contract was terminated due to the fault of the contractor. Agencies are responsible for reporting FAPIIS data in accordance with federal regulations.

Federal agencies reported 2,384 integrity records in FAPIIS for contractors from fiscal years 2019 through 2023. Ninety percent of those records were for contract terminations.

Selected Types of Government-wide Integrity Records, Fiscal Years 2019-2023
Fiscal Year



Source: GAO analysis of integrity data available in the System for Award Management. | GAO-24-106911

During the 5-year period, GAO identified government-wide reporting gaps. Specifically, 335 contract terminations and 52 administrative agreements were reported in other sources but not in FAPIIS. The reporting gaps merit a reiteration of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) guidance on actions that agencies can take to ensure the quality of integrity records.

Selected agencies varied in the extent to which their policies and processes ensured integrity data quality. For example:

- The Department of Defense (DOD) has processes to check terminations but had limited insight into why 166 records were not reported in FAPIIS.
- The General Services Administration (GSA) cited gaps in its guidance and limited awareness of reporting requirements among personnel as the causes for terminations not reported in FAPIIS.
- The Departments of Energy (DOE), Health and Human Services (HHS), and Veterans Affairs (VA) cited various reasons for not reporting terminations and have since addressed them.

The extent of overall FAPIIS underreporting government-wide and at GAO's selected agencies warrants additional action from OMB and some agencies. Ensuring awareness of these requirements among agencies' personnel will improve the quality of information to support award decisions.