

Benjamin Disreali once mused that “there are lies, damned lies, and statistics.”⁸⁴³ Here are some statistics as presented on the IRS web page:⁸⁴⁴

How to Interpret Criminal Investigation Data

Since actions on a specific investigation may cross fiscal years, the data shown in cases initiated may not always represent the same universe of cases shown in other actions within the same fiscal year.

	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Investigations Initiated	3,907	4,211	3,749
Prosecution Recommendations	2,720	2,837	2,785
Information / Indictments	2,319	2,323	2,547
Total Convictions	2,019	2,155	2,144
Total Sentenced*	2,020	2,123	1,957
Percent to Prison	81.7%	82%	80.9%

*Sentence includes confinement to federal prison, halfway house, home detention, or some combination thereof.

From this information, I derived the following for the 2006-2008 period:

1. Percent Information / Indictments to CI Recommendations to DOJ	86%
2. Percent of DOJ Declinations of CI Recommendations (the inverse of #1)	14%
3. Percent Convictions to Information / Indictments	88%
4. Percent of Resolutions without Convictions (the inverse of #2)	12%

⁸⁴³ This quote is sometimes attributed to Mark Twain.

⁸⁴⁴ <http://www.irs.gov/compliance/enforcement/article/0,,id=107484,00.html>. Similar and more detailed statistics are contained in the TIGTA Report 2008-10-133 (7/8/08), titled “Statistical Portrayal of the Criminal Investigation Division’s Enforcement Activities for Fiscal Years 2000 Through 2007.” See particularly Figures 25 and 26, at p. 31. Given the publication date, however, the 2008 statistics are not in the TIGTA Report, but the TIGTA Report contains data and statistics from pre 2006 years.