

Office of Aerospace Medicine

FAA Review Process, Policy Guidance, and Special Issuance

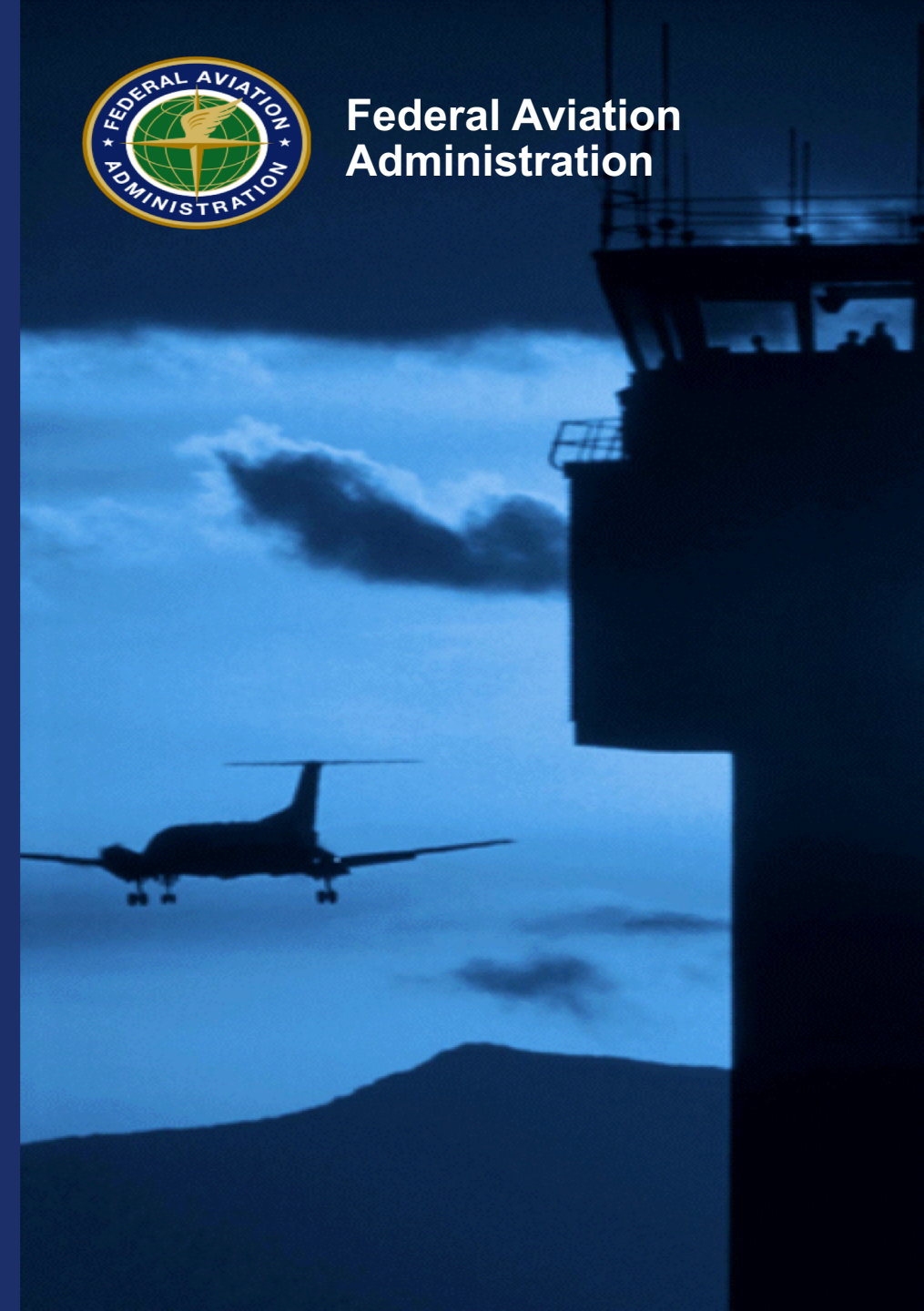
Presented to: Peer Pilot/Management HIMS Seminar
Knoxville, TN

By: Michael A. Berry, M.D., M.S.
FAA Federal Air Surgeon

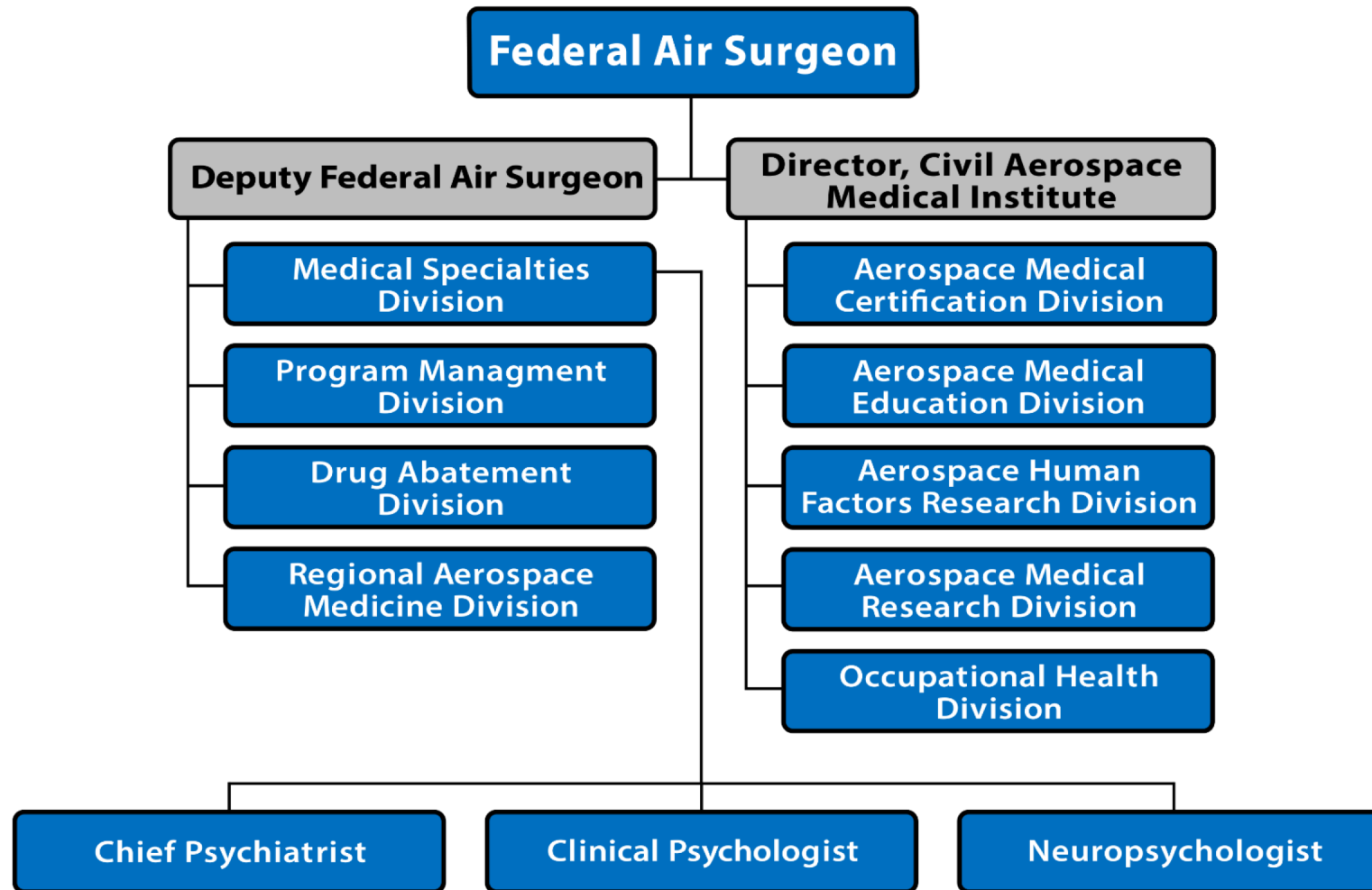
Date: April 9, 2019



Federal Aviation
Administration



Office of Aerospace Medicine





FAA Philosophy

In a pilot with a diagnosis of substance abuse or dependence, return him/her to flying, as long as it is safe to do so.













FAA Program

- **Diagnosis by an addiction trained professional (knowledgeable with the FARs)**



Title 14, CFR Part 67-Standards-Mental Dependence

No substance dependence, except where there is established clinical evidence, satisfactory to the Federal Air Surgeon, of recovery, including sustained total abstinence from the substance(s) for not less than the preceding 2 years.

Title 14, CFR Part 67-Standards-Mental Dependence (cont.)

Substance" includes: Alcohol; other sedatives and hypnotics; anxiolytics; opioids; central nervous system stimulants such as cocaine, amphetamines; hallucinogens; phencyclidine; cannabis; inhalants; and other psychoactive drugs and chemicals; and

Title 14, CFR Part 67-Standards-Mental Dependence (cont.)

Substance dependence" means a condition in which a person is dependent on a substance, other than tobacco or ordinary xanthine-containing beverages (e.g., caffeine), as evidenced by

- Increased tolerance, **OR**
- Manifestation of withdrawal symptoms, **OR**
- Impaired control of use, **OR**
- Continued use despite damage to physical health or impairment of social, personal, or occupational functioning.

Title 14, CFR Part 67-Standards-Mental Dependence (cont.)

Substance dependence" means a condition in which a person is dependent on a substance, other than tobacco or ordinary xanthine-containing beverages (e.g., caffeine), as evidenced by

- **Increased tolerance, OR**
- **Manifestation of withdrawal symptoms, OR**
- **Impaired control of use, OR**
- **Continued use despite damage to physical health or impairment of social, personal, or occupational functioning.**

Title 14, CFR Part 67-Standards-Mental

No substance abuse within the preceding 2 years defined as:

- **Use of a substance in a situation in which that use was physically hazardous, if there has been at any other time an instance of the use of a substance also in a situation in which that use was physically hazardous**
- **A verified positive drug test result acquired under an anti-drug program or internal program of the U.S. Department of Transportation**

Title 14, CFR Part 67-Standards-Mental

No substance abuse within the preceding 2 years defined as: (cont.)

- **Misuse of a substance that the Federal Air Surgeon, based on case history and appropriate, qualified medical judgment relating to the substance involved, finds**

Title 14, CFR Part 67-Standards-Mental

No substance abuse within the preceding 2 years defined as: (cont.)

- **Makes the person unable to safely perform the duties or exercise the privileges of the airman certificate applied for or held or**
- **May reasonably be expected, for the maximum duration of the airman medical certificate applied for or held, to make the person unable to perform**

DSM 5

Substance Use Disorders

A cluster of cognitive, behavioral, and physiological symptoms indicating continued use of the substance despite significant substance-related problems.

DSM 5

Alcohol Use Disorder

A problematic pattern of alcohol use leading to clinically significant impairment or distress as manifested by at least two of the following, occurring within a 12 month period.

DSM 5

Alcohol Use Disorder – Criteria (11)

1. Often taken in larger amounts and longer time than intended
2. Persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control use
3. Increased time obtaining, using, recovering
4. Craving to use
5. Use results in failure to fulfill obligations

DSM 5

Alcohol Use Disorder – Criteria (cont.)

6. Continued use despite problems
7. Social, occupational, recreational activities are given up
8. Recurrent use in physically hazardous situations
9. Use despite knowledge of alcohol caused physical or psychological problems
10. Tolerance
11. Withdrawal

DSM 5

Alcohol Use Disorder

Qualifiers:

Mild - 2 to 3 symptoms

Moderate - 4 to 5 symptoms

Severe - 6 or more symptoms



FAA Program

- **Diagnosis by an addiction trained professional**
- **Treatment (28 days, residential)**
- **Comprehensive continuing care (AA/NA, Aftercare)**
- **Monitoring long term**
- **Total abstinence is required**





Role of the AME Monitor

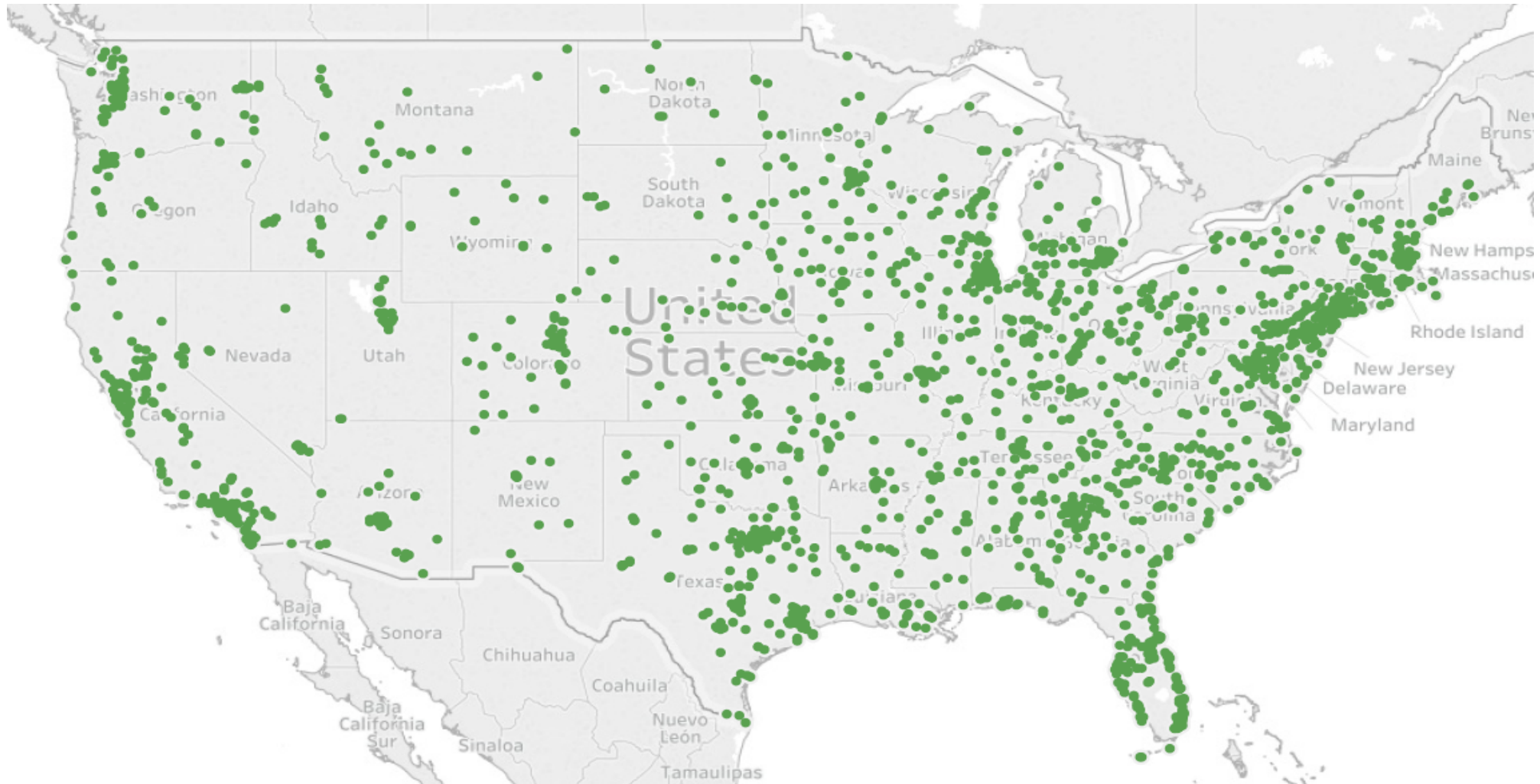
Evaluate the **quality** of an airman's Recovery Program and make a **recommendation** to the FAA regarding the Special Issuance of his or her FAA Medical Certificate.



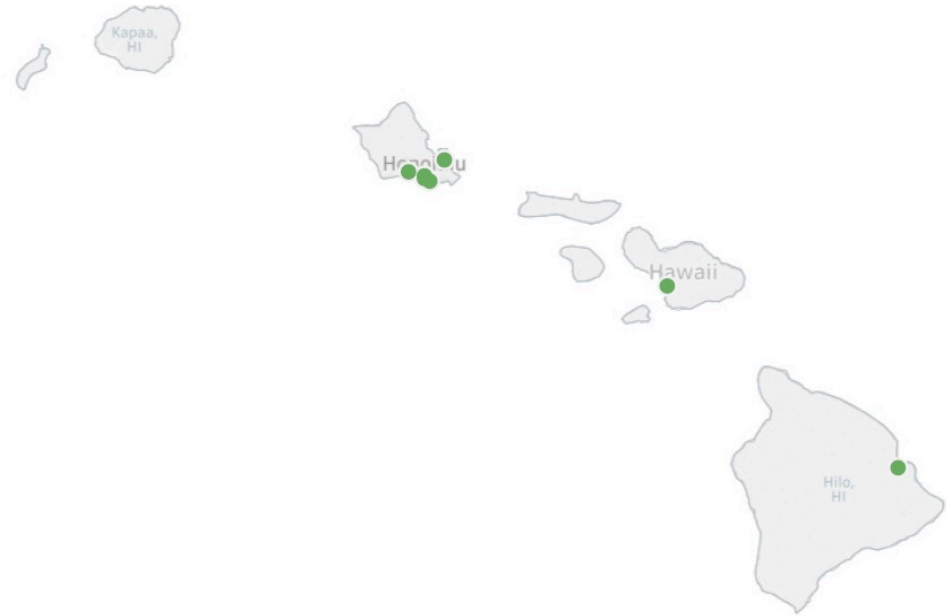
U.S. AMEs

Geographic Location

Total = 2,424



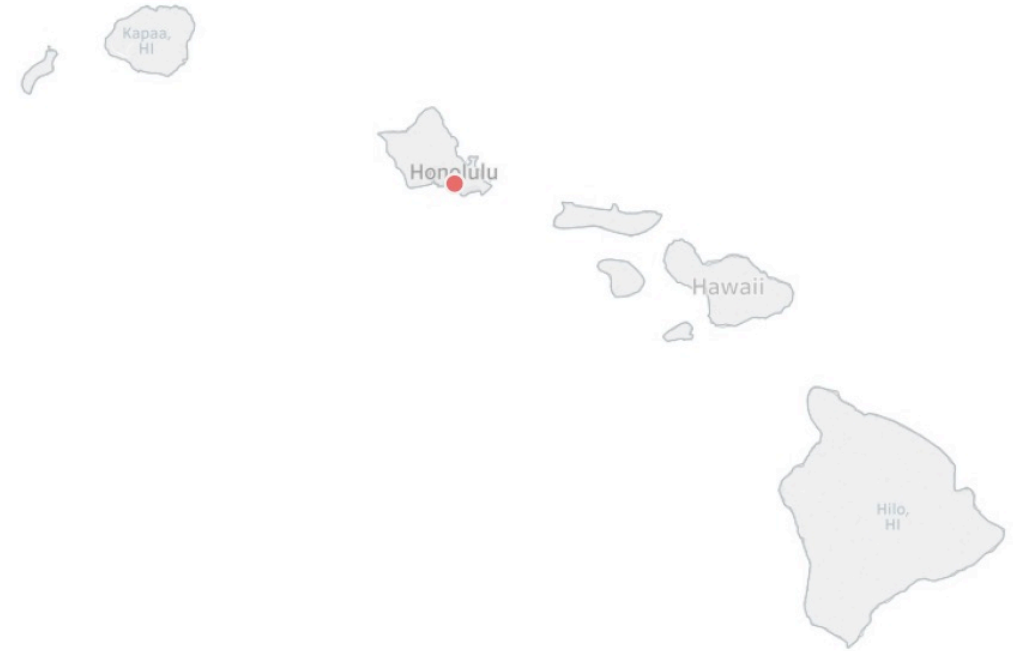
U.S. AMEs
Geographic Location
Total = 2,424



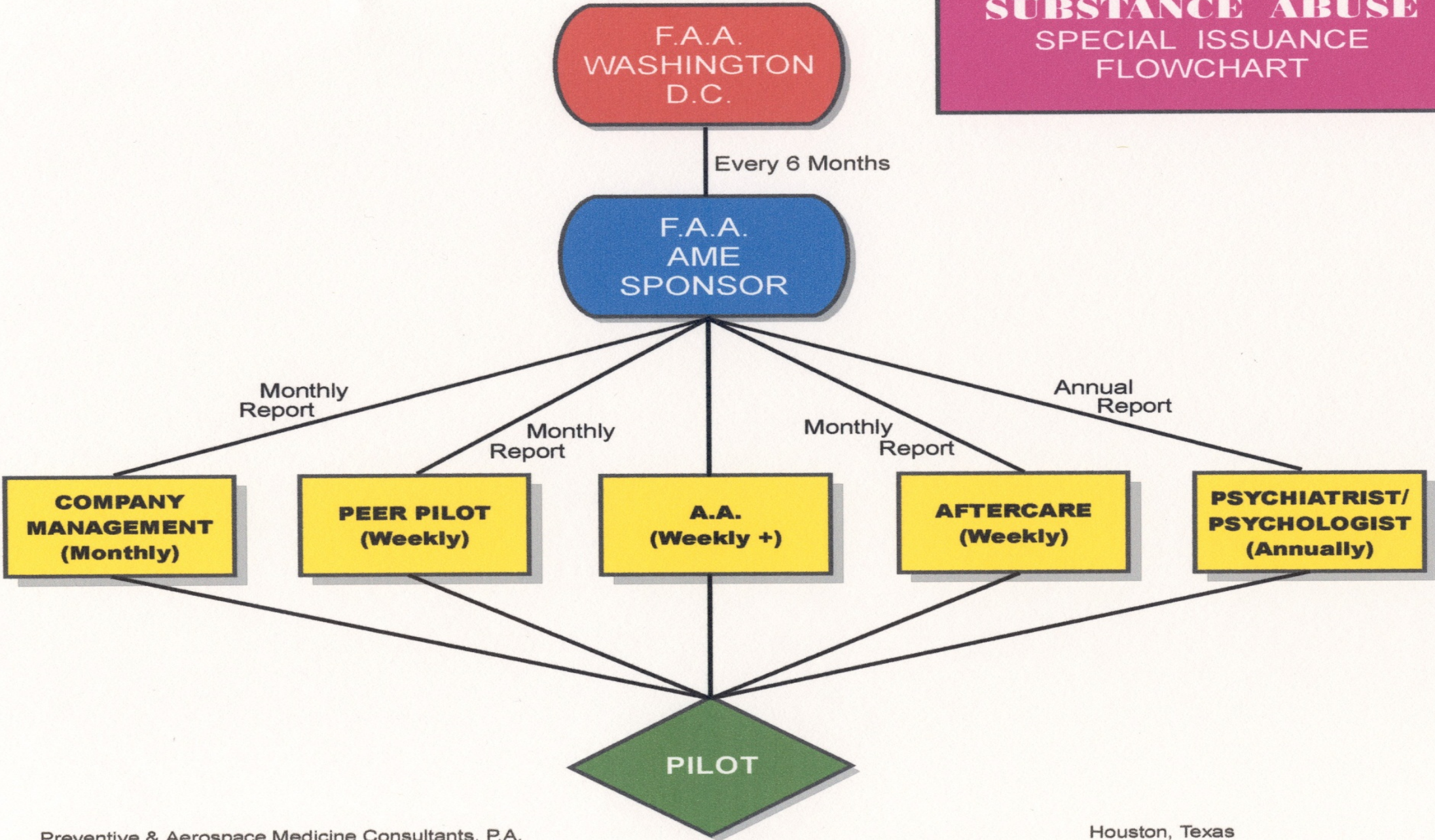
U.S. HIMS AMEs

Geographic Location

Total = 173



**SUBSTANCE ABUSE
SPECIAL ISSUANCE
FLOWCHART**



Aeromedical Certification Total Applications

(CY 2018)

387,345 Total applications received

Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	TOTAL
243,988	63,174	80,183	387,345

Aeromedical Certification Special Issuances

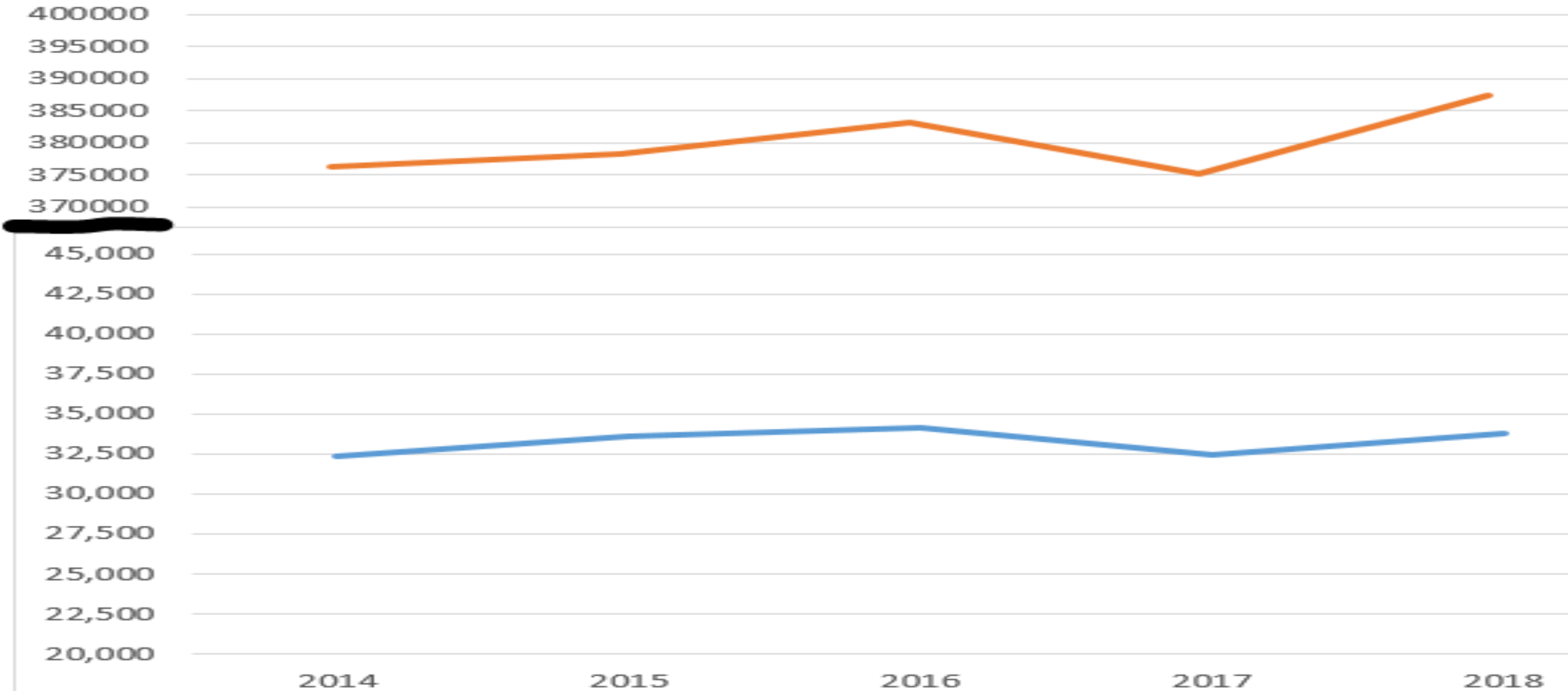
(CY 2018)

Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	TOTAL
20,284	5,989	7,538	33,811



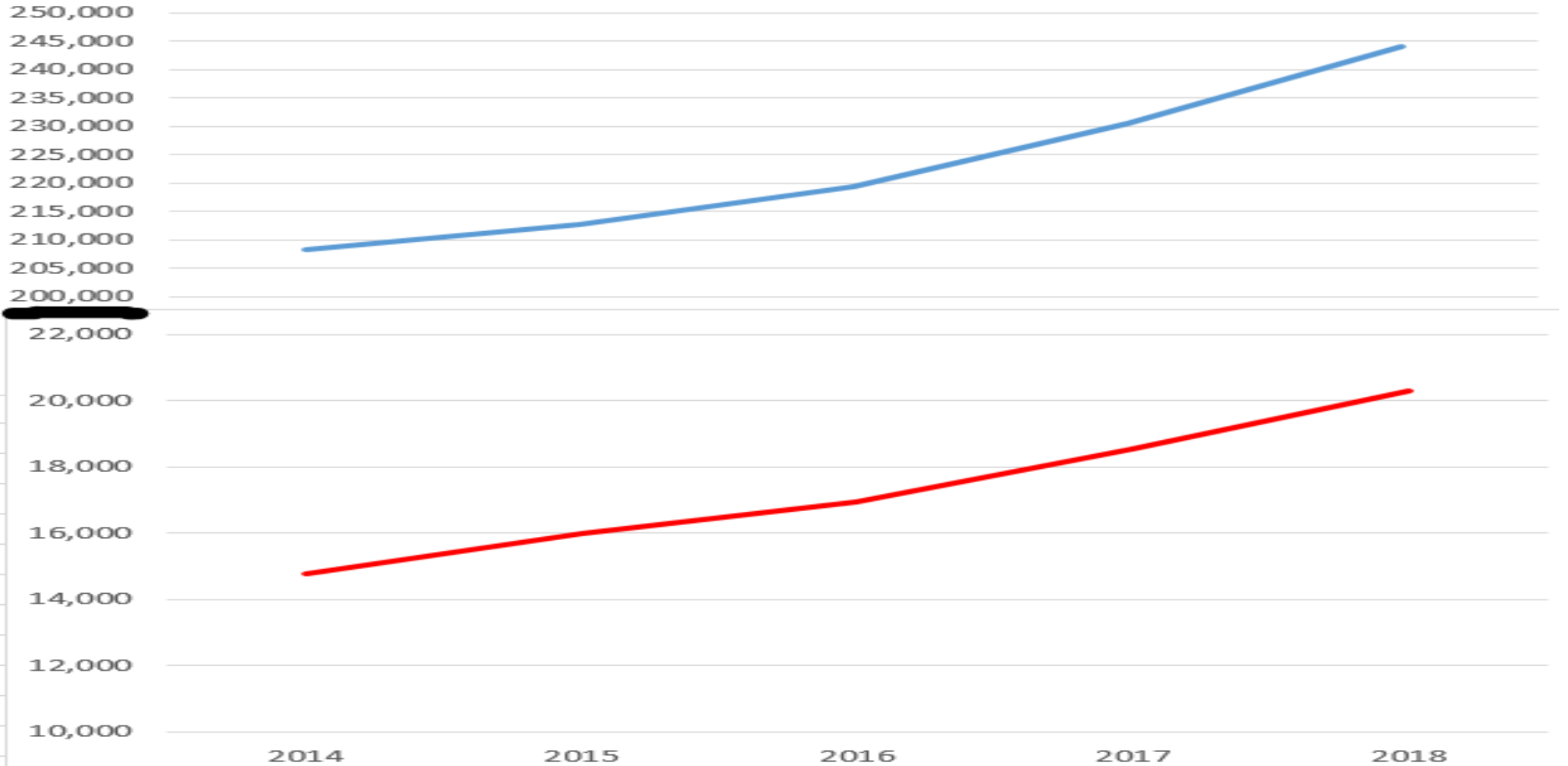
387,345 Applications in 2018

Total Applications vs SI by year



1st Class Certificate Applications

1st class Total Applications vs SI by year



Aeromedical Certification Special Issuances Substance Dependence

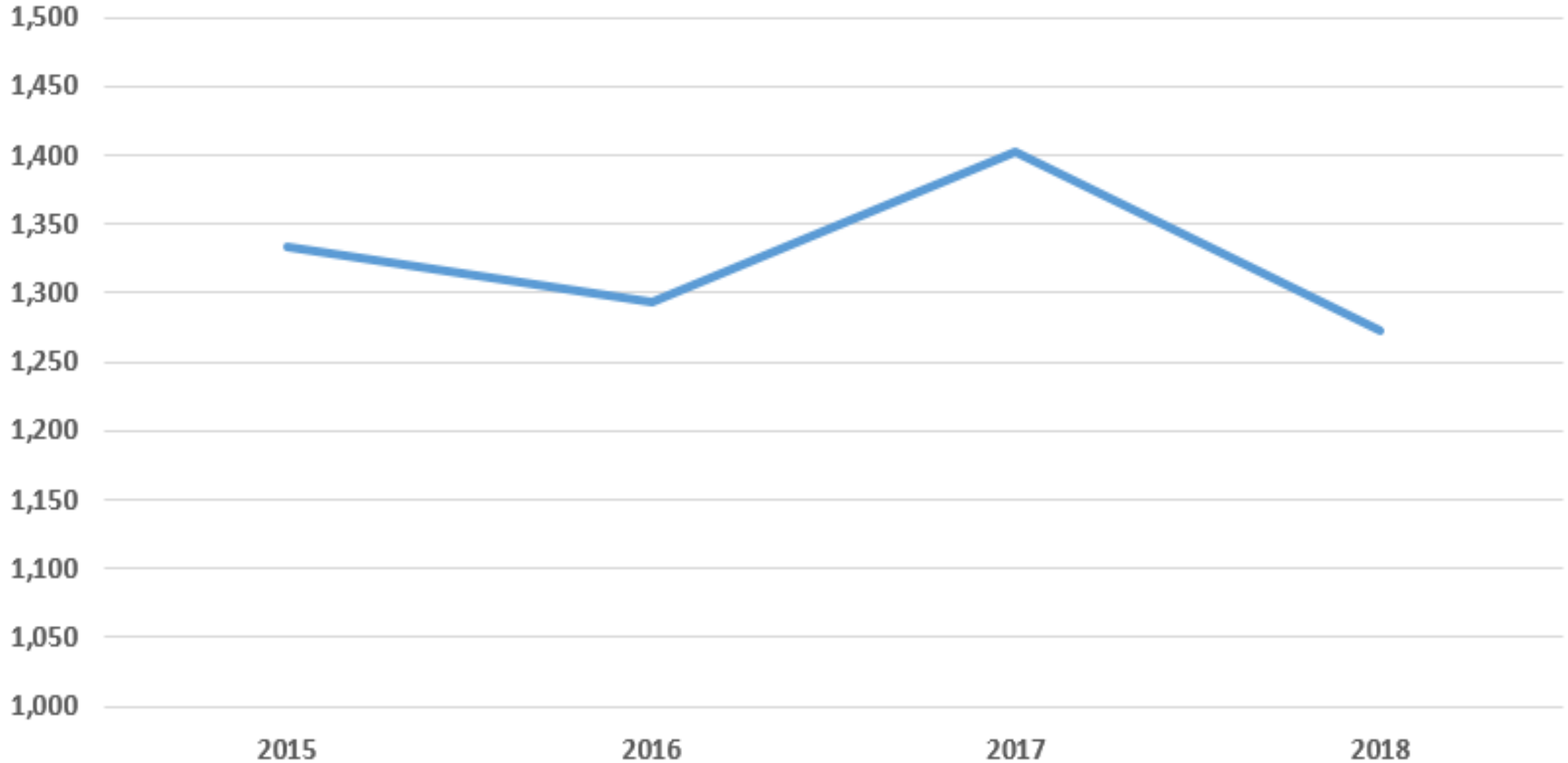
(CY 2018)

	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Total
Alcohol Abuse	151	73	130	354
Alcoholism	451	41	76	568
Drug Abuse	128	40	74	242
Drug Dependence	66	7	36	109
	796	161	316	1,273



1,273 Substance Use SIs in 2018

Substance Use Special Issuances — All Classes





Types of Evaluation

- Initial application and examination for an FAA Special Issuance Medical Certificate – **Washington, DC**
- Periodic monitoring examination for continuation of Special Issuance – **Oklahoma City**





FAA Review Process

- Examination and data arrives at FAA in Washington, DC
- Psychiatrist review and recommendation
- Completed evaluations reviewed by Chief Psychiatrist
- Review by Director Medical Specialties Division
- Completed cases forwarded to AMCD for Special Issuance of Medical Certificate



QUESTIONS ?



Federal Aviation
Administration