

Screening Branch Overview



IPO FDNS Division

Screening Branch Overview

Heather Greaves, IRS

IPO FDNS Division

July 2019

Presented by IRS Jocylin E. Hill

FDNS Screening Branch

- Intelligence Functions:
 - Conduct enhanced vetting on National Security referrals
 - Research and deconflict Controlled Application Review and Resolution Program (CARRP) cases
 - Research and respond to Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) filings
 - Review intelligence traffic for EB-5 nexus and trend analysis to determine current and emerging threats
 - Research and write intelligence products
 - Author and validate EB-5 intelligence collection requirements

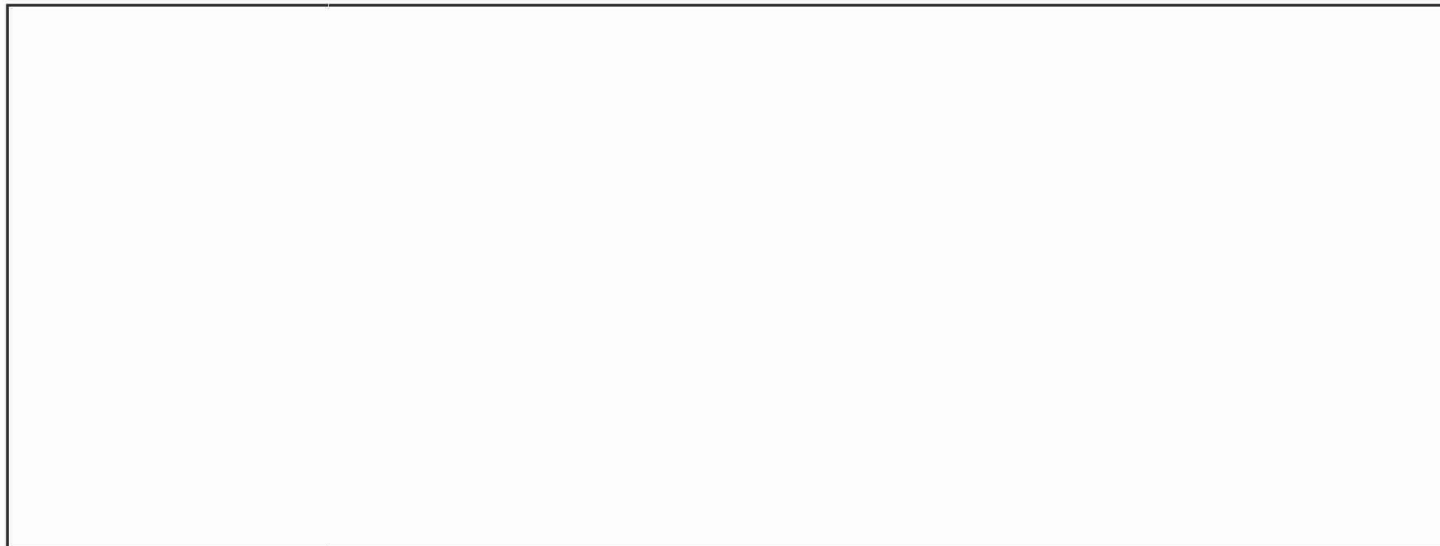
FDNS Screening Branch

- Intelligence Functions (Continued)
 - Review, coordinate and clear intell products from Intelligence Community (IC) partners
 - Conduct ad hoc intell research and respond to RFIs from senior leaders, Congress, IC agencies, and other agencies
 - Provide classified and unclassified intell briefings to senior leaders, the IC, GAO, etc.
 - Participate in IC interagency working groups
 - Conduct analyst-to-analyst exchange
 - Adhoc Functions

National Security Referrals

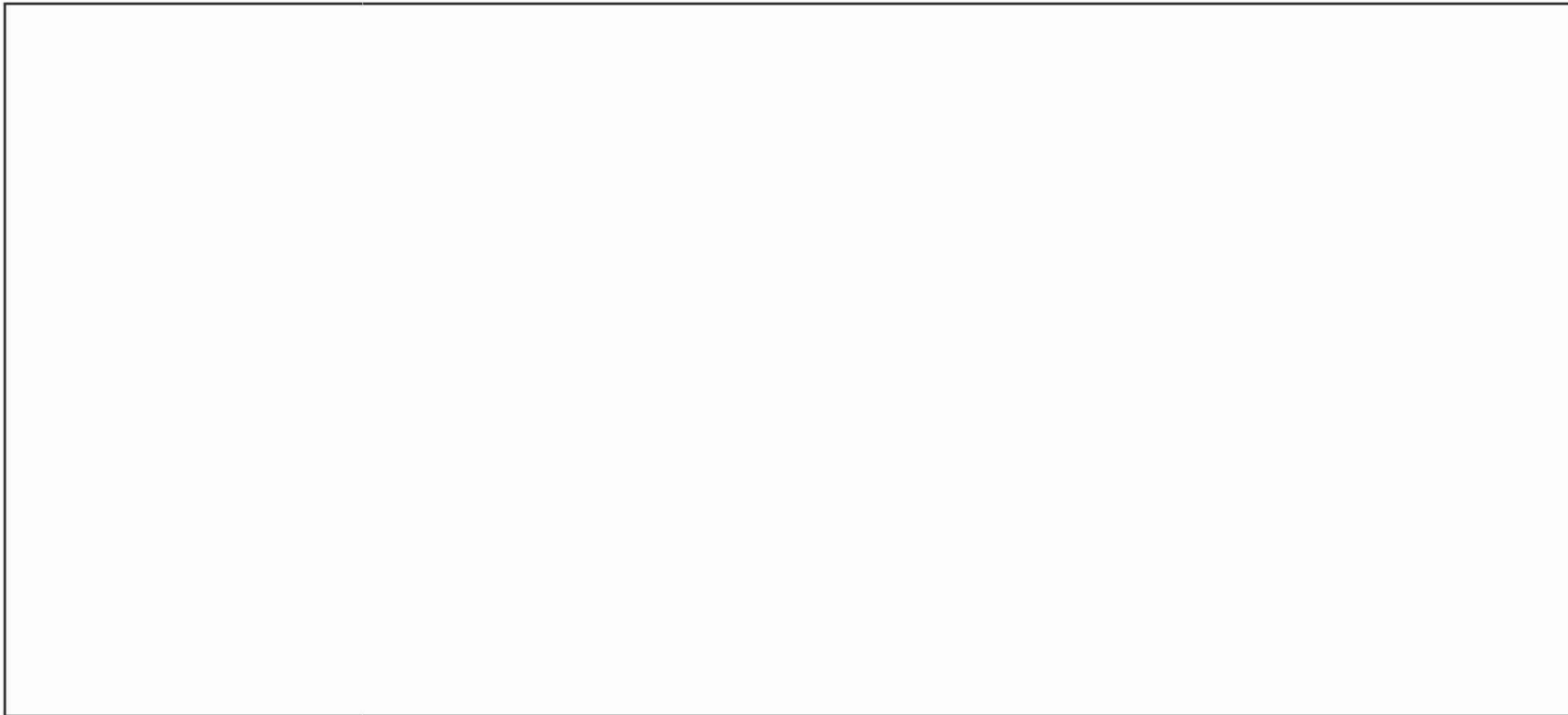
- What needs to be referred?

(b)(7)(E)



National Security Referrals

(b)(7)(E)



The Control Review and Resolution Process (CARRP): IPO FDNS Screening Branch vs The Field

- **IPO Screening Branch has the following:**
 - **Designated SCIF**
 - **Enhanced Vetting Process**
 - **Unique Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)**
 - **Counterintelligence**
 - **FINCEN and Social Media Access**
 - **Critical Foreign Language Skills**
 - **Target Area Expertise**

Committee of Foreign Investments in the United States (CFIUS)

- **What is CFIUS**
- **Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act (FIRRMA)**
- **What role does USCIS play in the CFIUS review process?**

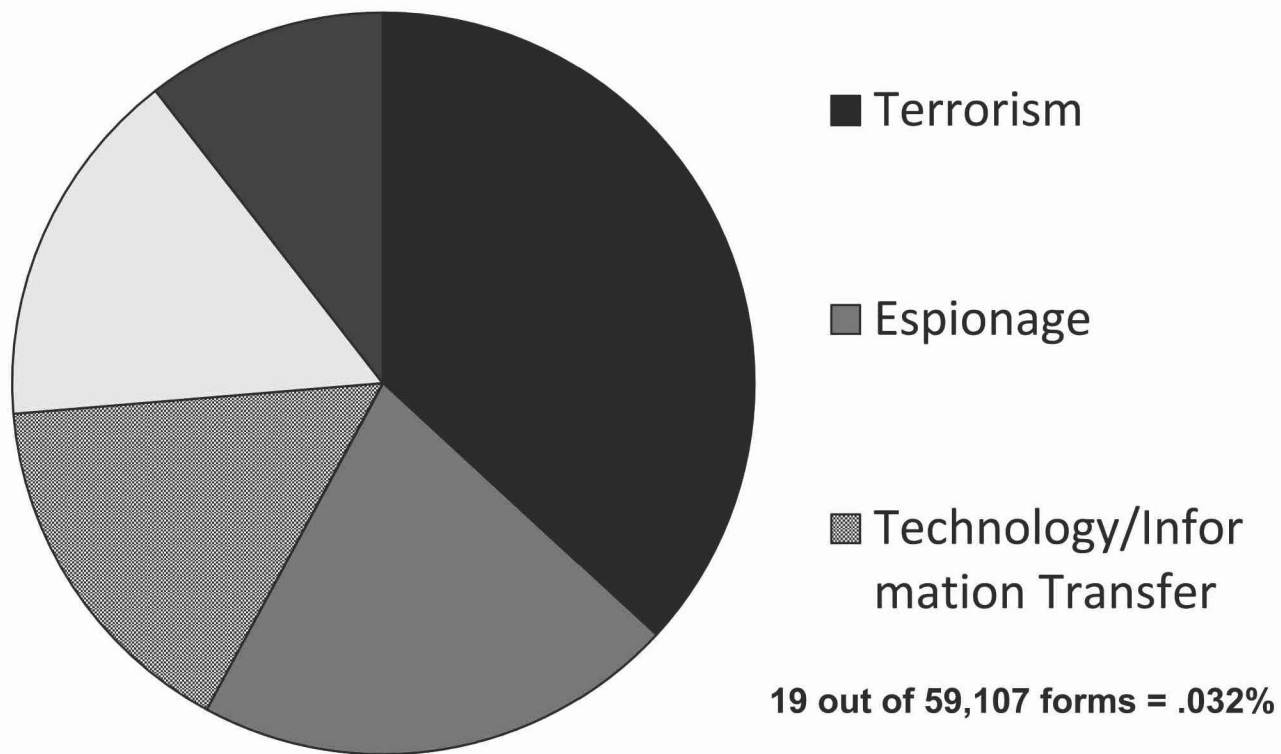
Annual Assessments

- 2016 National Security Assessment
- 2017 Fraud Types and Trends Assessment

NS Concerns within the Immigrant Investor (EB-5) Program

- EB-5 program is not a substantial gateway for individuals with NS Concerns to seek to obtain immigration benefits.
- The majority of NS Concerns recorded in FDNS-DS were related to criminal activity rather than to NS Concerns. Criminal activity perpetuated by Regional Centers and their principals remains the primary threat to the Immigrant Investor Program.
 - IPO has taken step to eliminate the issue of false NS entries by instituting a training program for IPO personnel on NS indicators.
- EB-5 forms in use during the scope of this study were missing some essential information fields for identification and vetting of potential NS issues.
 - Since completion of this assessment, USCIS has updated the EB-5 forms which now provide all necessary information.
- The Investor Program Office (IPO), created in 2013, enabled qualitative advancement of National Security vetting by the FDNS Staff.

19 Confirmed NS Concerns

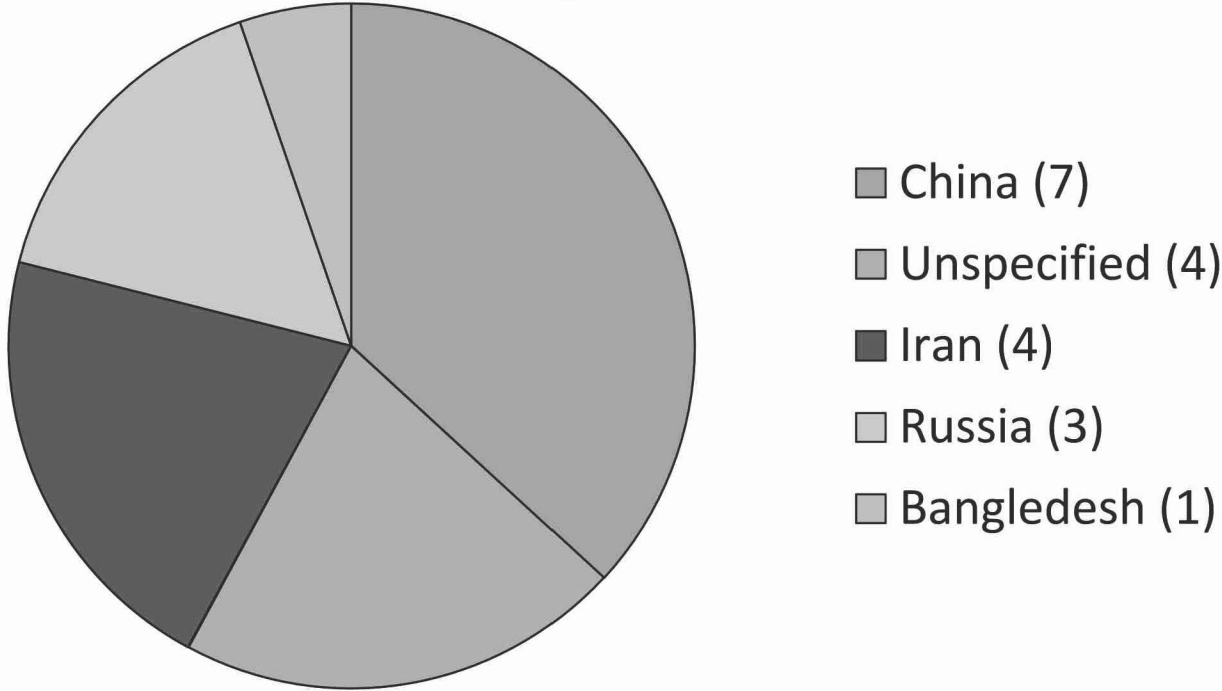


Country of Origin for I-526 Investors

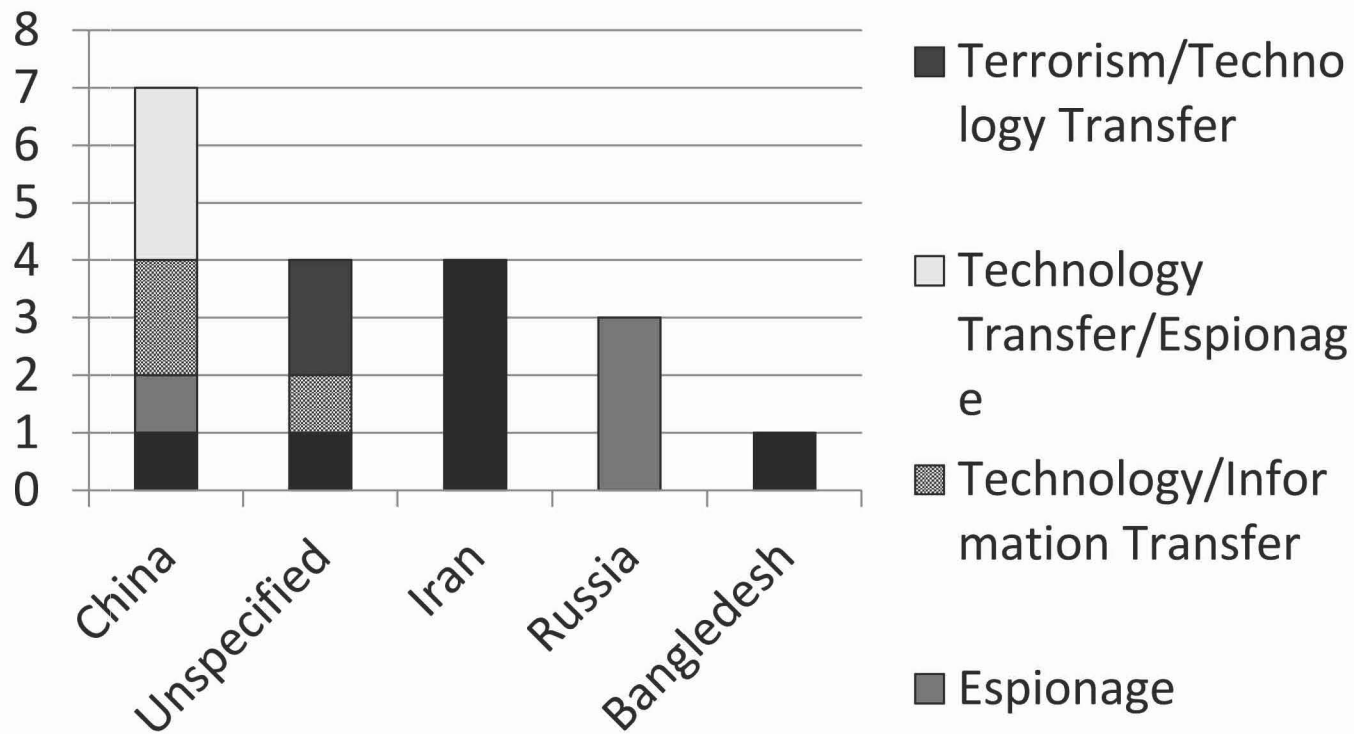
Top 8 Countries of Origin	Investor Petitions by Percentage January 2011 - Dec 2015
All Countries (Total Petitions)	100% (47,927)
China*	84% (40,334)
South Korea	1.52% (729)
Vietnam	1.49% (715)
India	1.36% (652)
Taiwan	1.12% (536)
Iran*	1.02% (487)
Brazil	0.83% (397)
Mexico	0.82% (392)

* Indicates a country that has originated at least one NS Concern

19 Confirmed NS Concern Country of Origin CY 2011-2015



NS Concern Type by Country CY 2011-2015

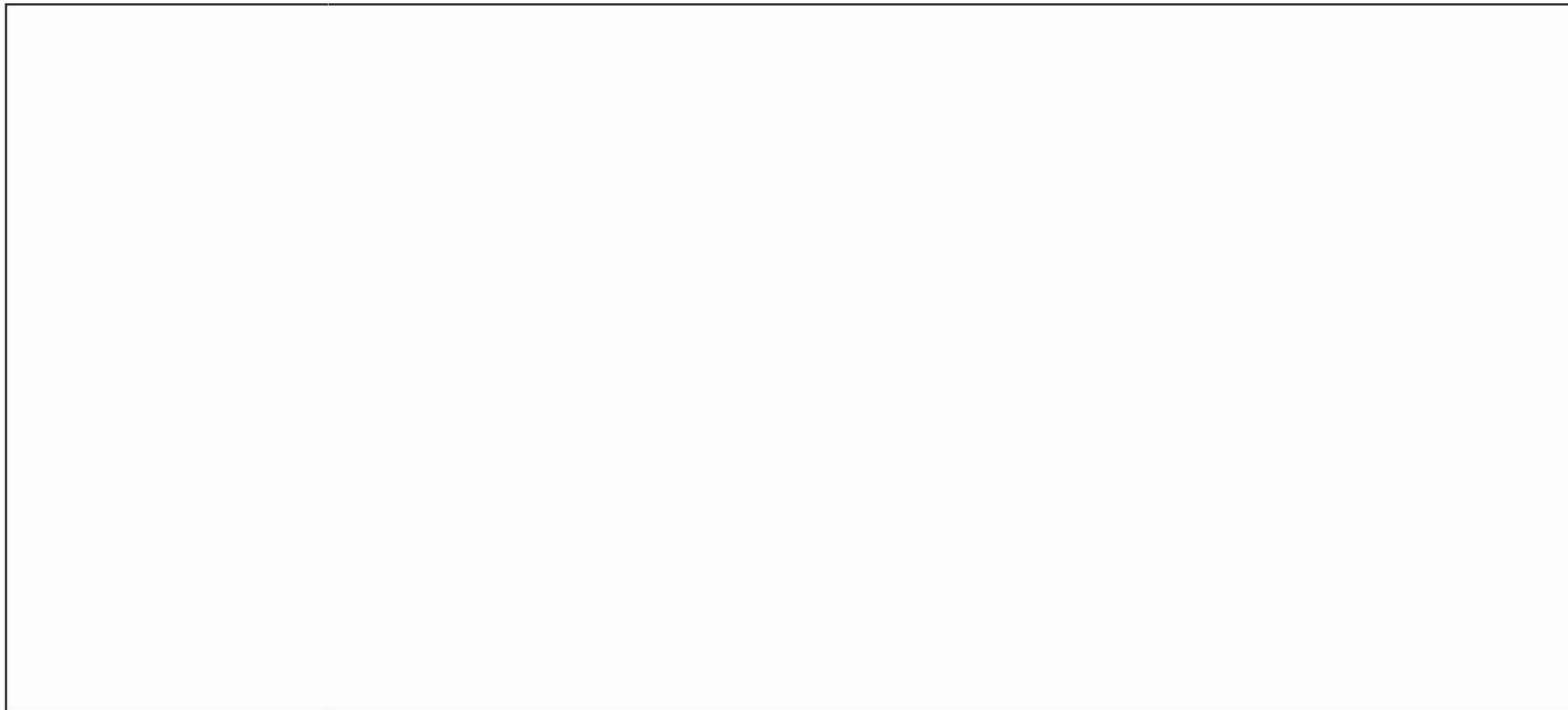


Process Improvements Since 2013

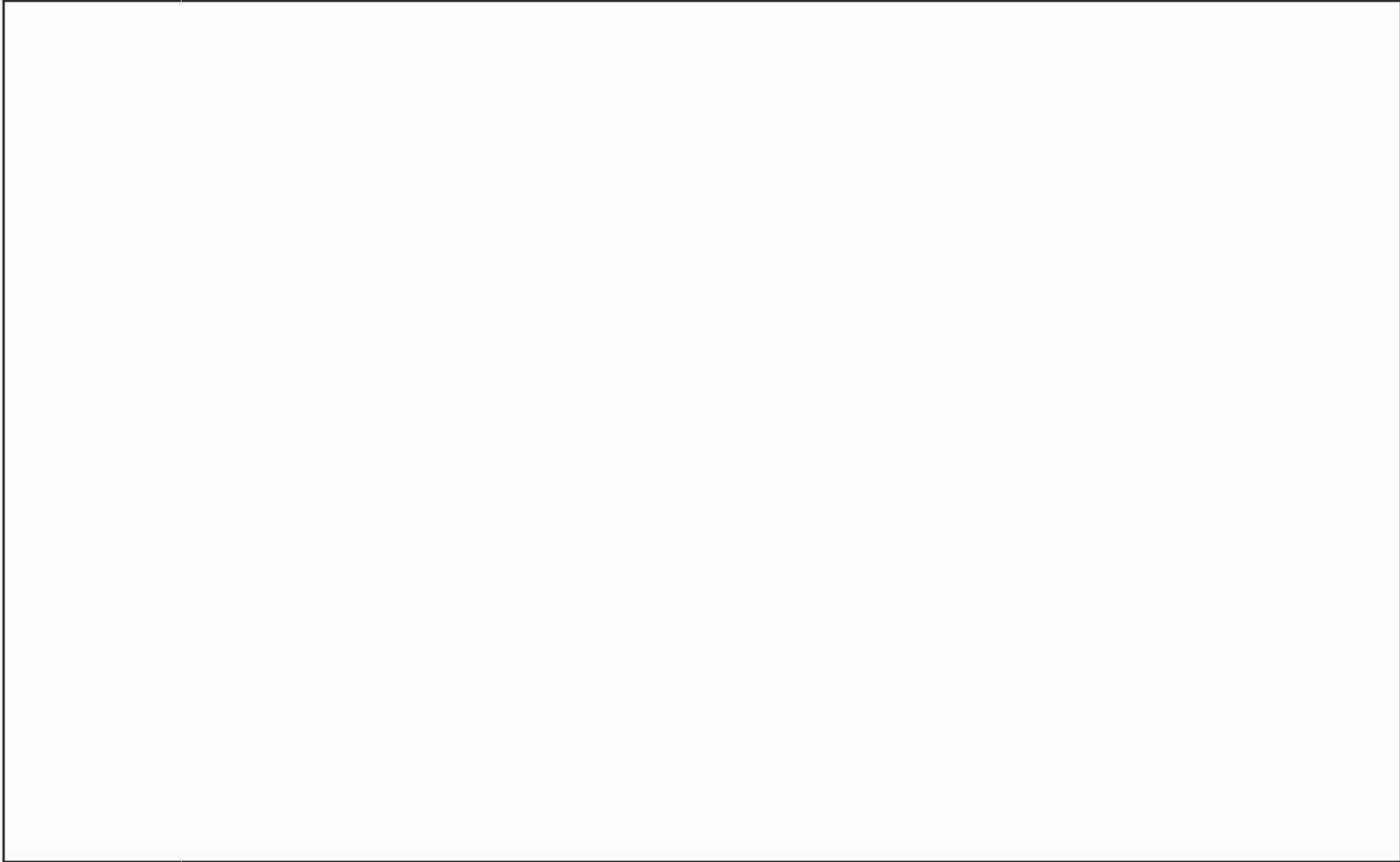
<i>NS Concerns for Regional Centers: 68 Total</i>			<i>NS Concerns for Individuals: 51 Total</i>	
	2011 -2012	2013-2015	2011 -2012	2013-2015
Confirmed	2	2	2	13
Not Confirmed	0	0	3	5
Unresolved	3	0	4	6
Resolved	61	0	17	1
Total	66	2	26	25

- California Service Center entered 88 NS Concerns into FDNS-DS between 2011-2012. Of these, 78 were resolved as criminal activity, cases of mistaken identity, or linked to addresses which had been entered into FDNS-DS as NS Concerns but were never actually a genuine NS Concern.
- The 2013-2015 increase in Confirmed NS Concerns for individuals can be attributed to:
 - Increase in # of filings
 - Better training of adjudications staff; BOLOS, initial and refresher training
 - Improved vetting process; trained/cleared intelligence staff and SCIF
- There were no regional centers designated as NS concerns in 2016

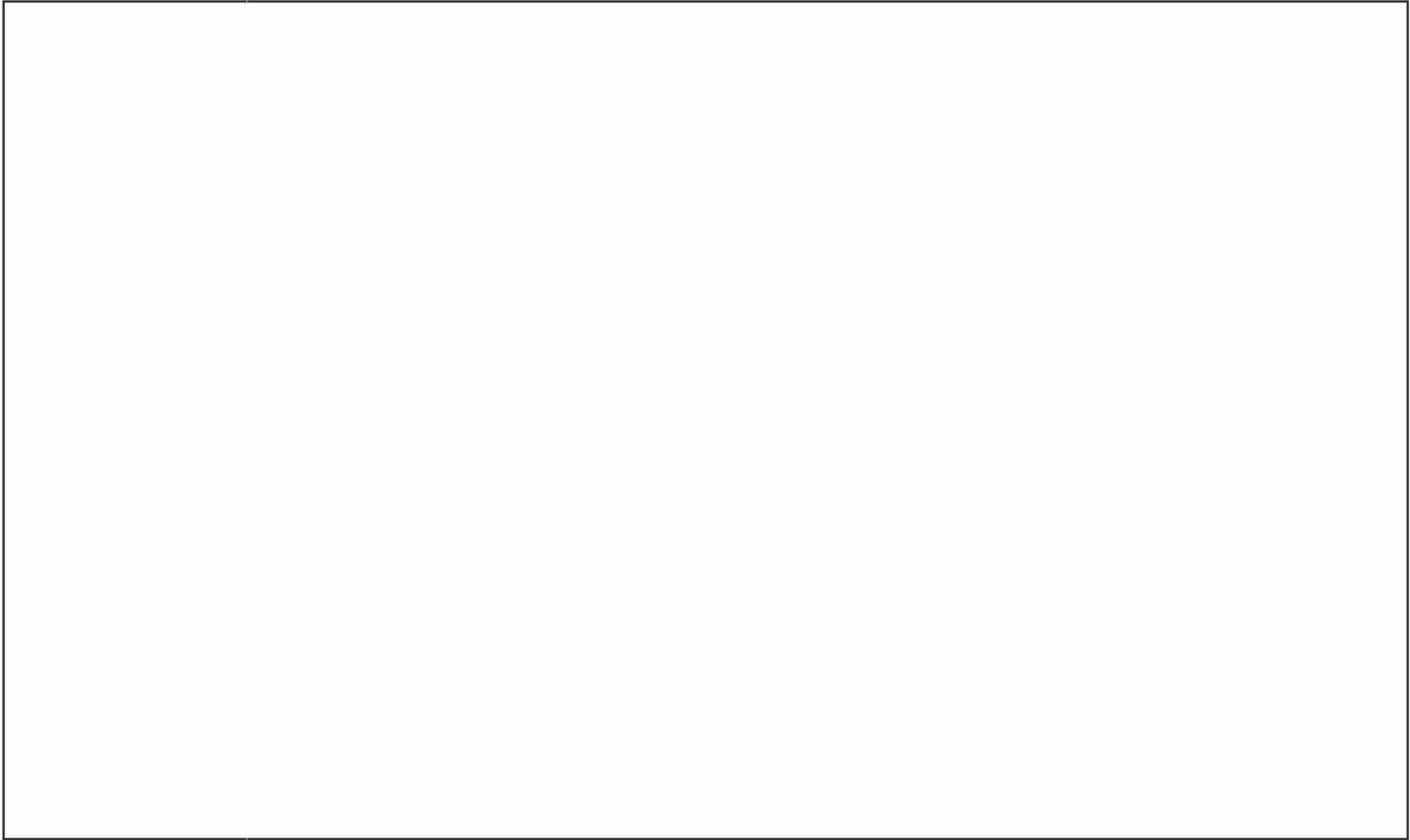
(b)(5) (b)(7)(E)



(b)(5) (b)(7)(E)



(b)(5) (b)(7)(E)



QUESTIONS?