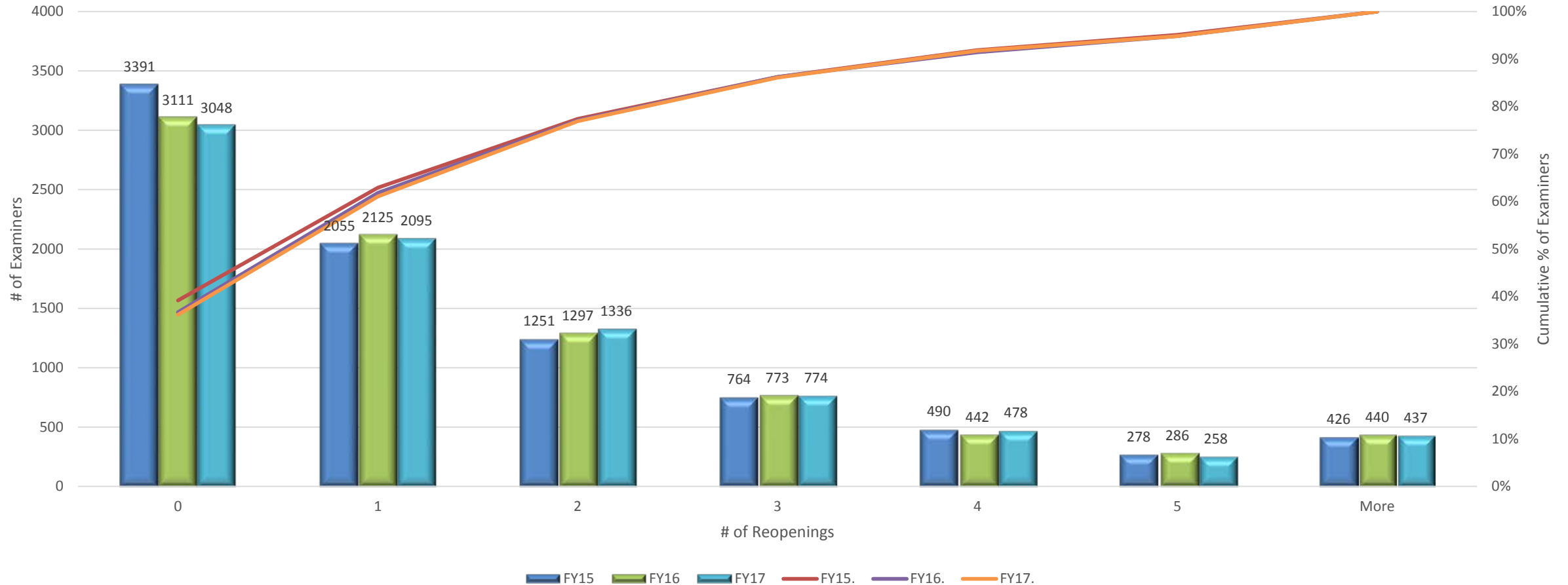


Distribution of Number of Re-openings

Includes re-open after appeal brief, re-open/allow after pre-appeal conference, and re-open after final rejection



Reopens: This chart shows the number of examiners having a particular number of re-openings (e.g., re-open after an appeal brief, re-open or allow after pre-appeal, re-open after final). In other words, in FY17, 2095 examiners had 1 re-opening. Also, the cumulative x-axis on the right shows, for example, that about 77% of examiners had 1 or fewer re-openings in FY17, as depicted by the orange line.

USPTO uses this type of information to identify areas to investigate further through a root-cause analysis. Such an analysis will assess whether the instances of re-openings are warranted (such as due to a change in the law resulting from a new court decision) or whether the examiner needs additional training or resources to be more efficient.