



## **Background Briefing**

# **CIVIL RIGHTS**

**Robin R. Risko, Senior Fiscal Analyst**

**January 2011**

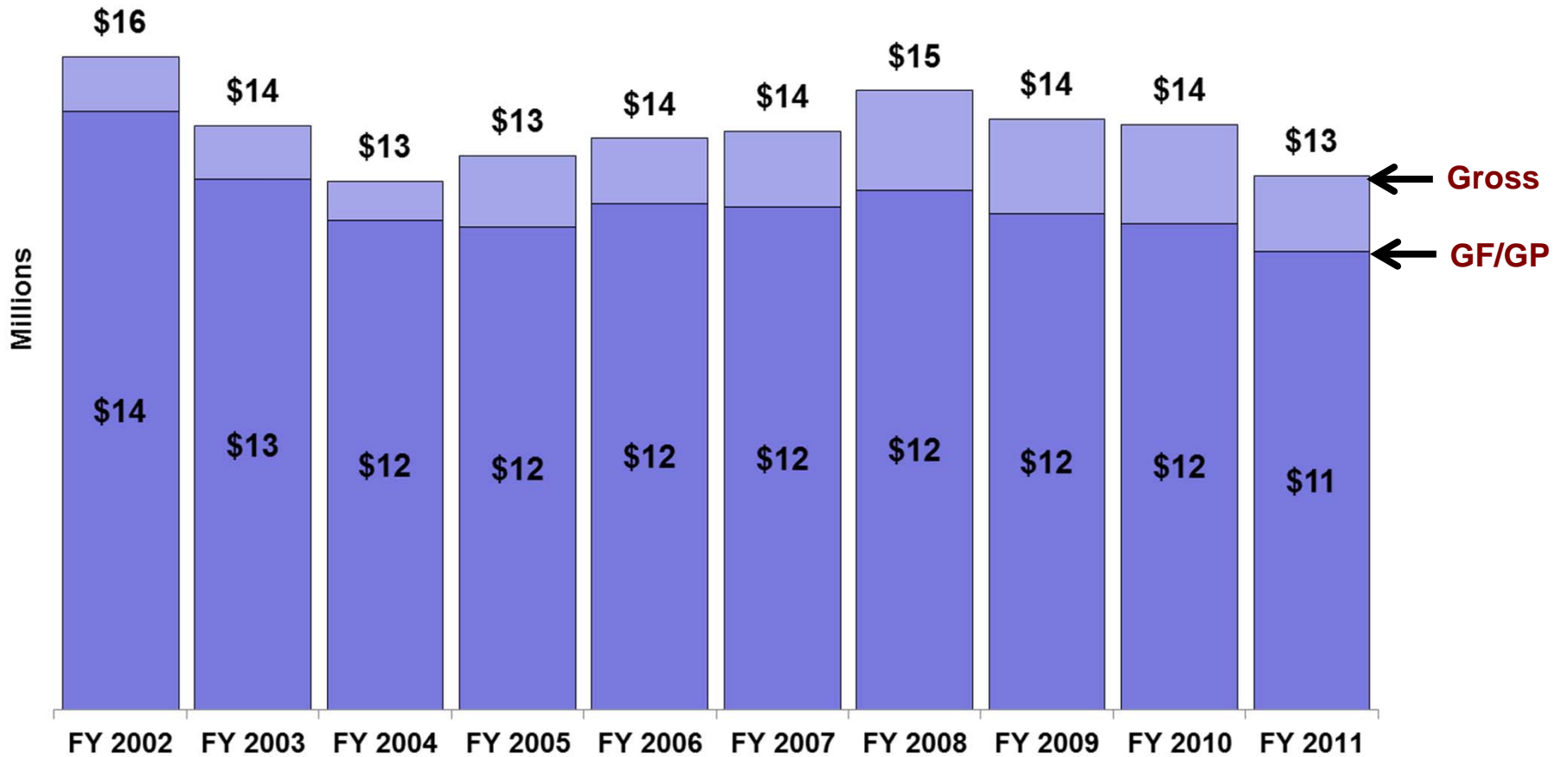
**The fiscal information in this background briefing is based on data through January 1, 2011.**

# Department of Civil Rights

- **The Michigan Civil Rights Commission was established in 1963 pursuant to Article I, Section 2 of the State Constitution to carry out guarantees against discrimination.**
- **Article V, Section 29 charges the Commission with investigating alleged discrimination against any person because of religion, race, color, or national origin.**
- **Public Acts 453 and 220 of 1976, the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act and the Handicappers' Civil Rights Act respectively, and subsequent amendments have added sex, age, marital status, height, weight, arrest record, and physical and mental disabilities to the original four protected categories.**
- **Department of Civil Rights was established in 1965 to serve as the administrative arm charged with implementing policies of the Commission and has investigative and enforcement authority**
- **Department's mission is to secure the full and equal enjoyment of civil rights in Michigan by eliminating discrimination, assuring equal protection, and effectively managing and embracing diversity**

# Civil Rights: Gross Appropriations

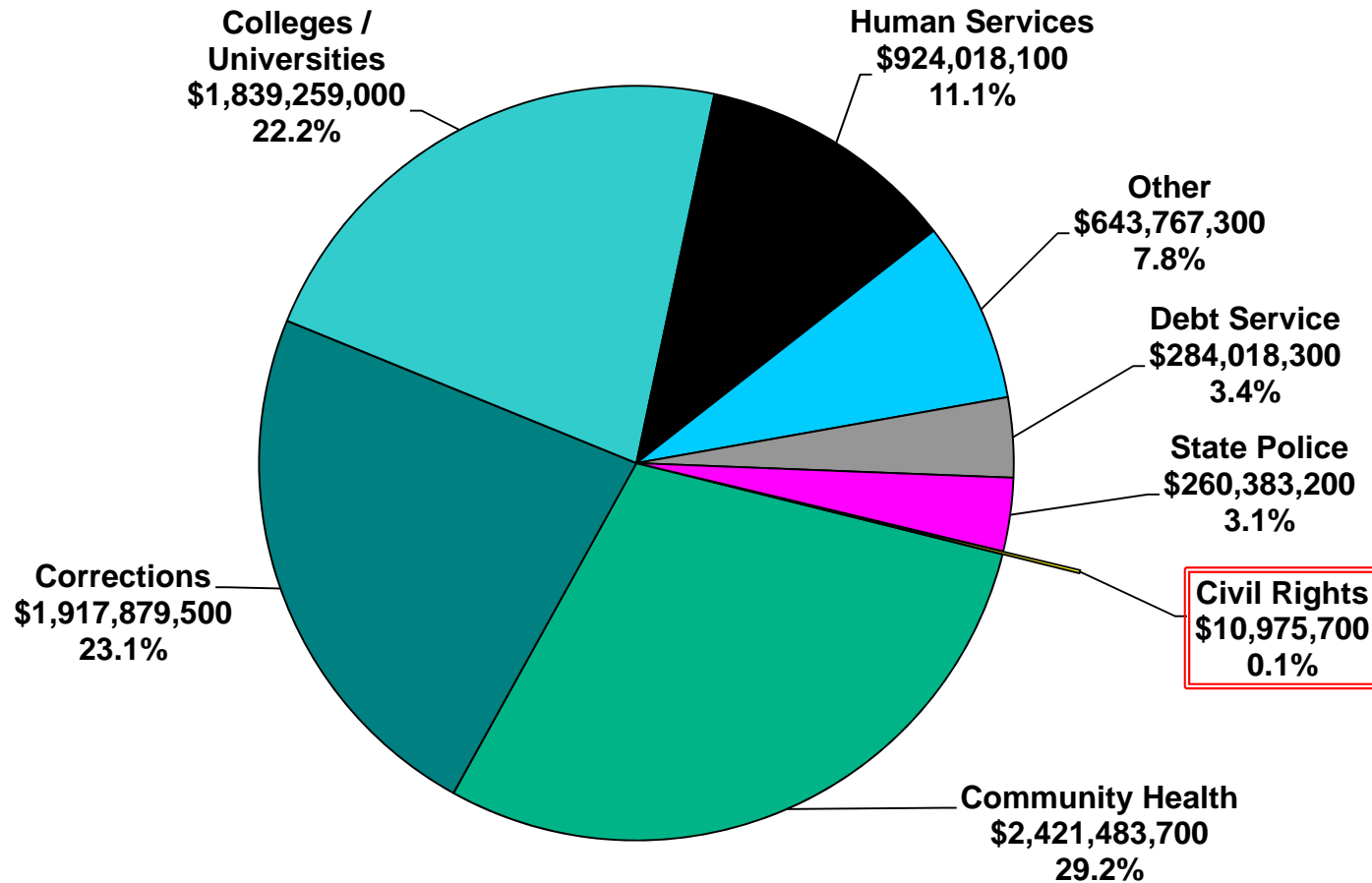
Spending increases are primarily due to inflation; decreases are due to budget reductions.



# Civil Rights Share of State GF/GP

Civil Rights makes up 0.13% of the total state GF/GP budget

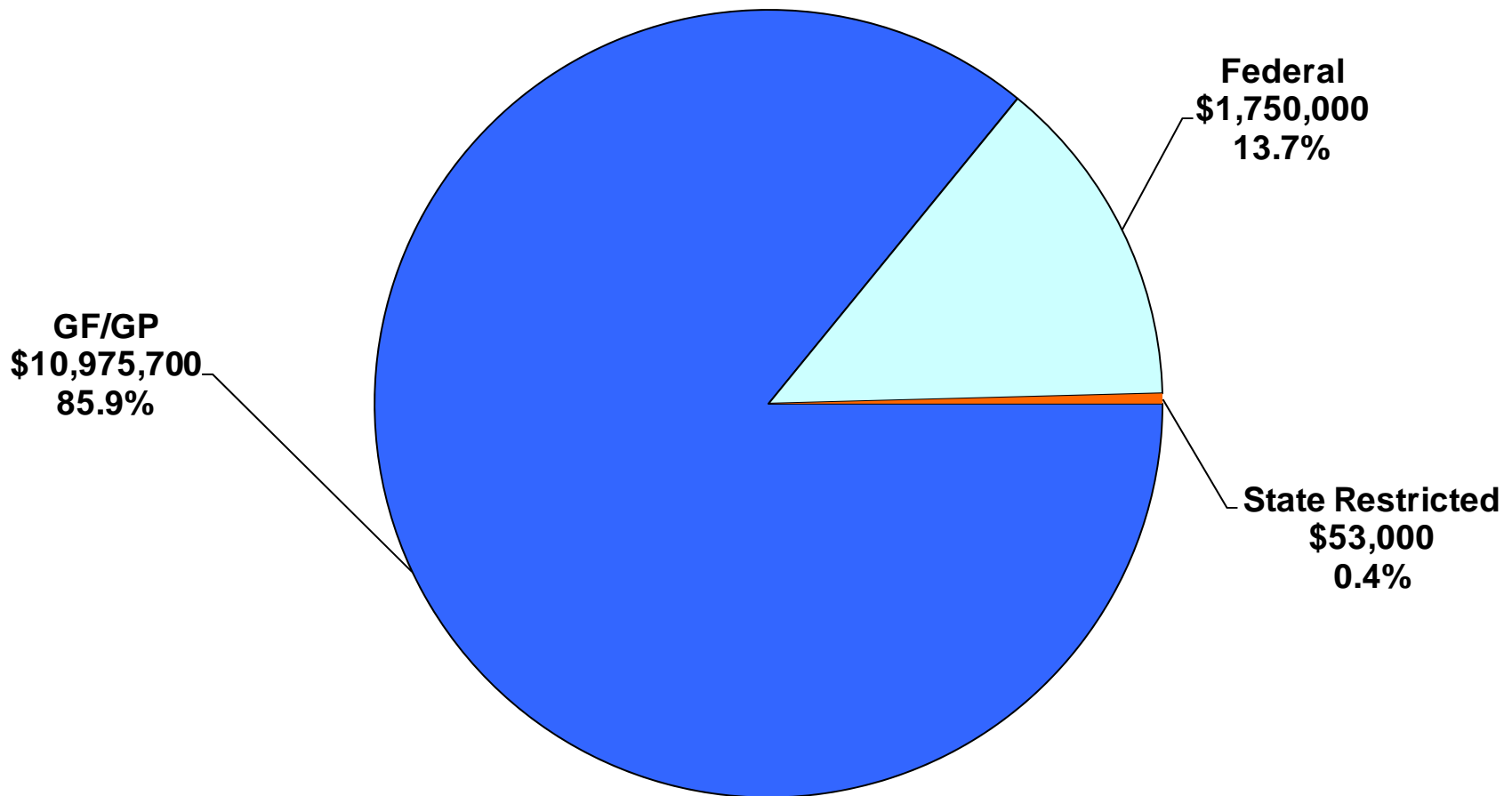
FY 2010-11 GF/GP Total = \$8,301,784,800



# **SOURCES OF FUNDING**

# Civil Rights Funding Sources

FY 2010-11 Civil Rights Budget = \$12,778,700



# **DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS**

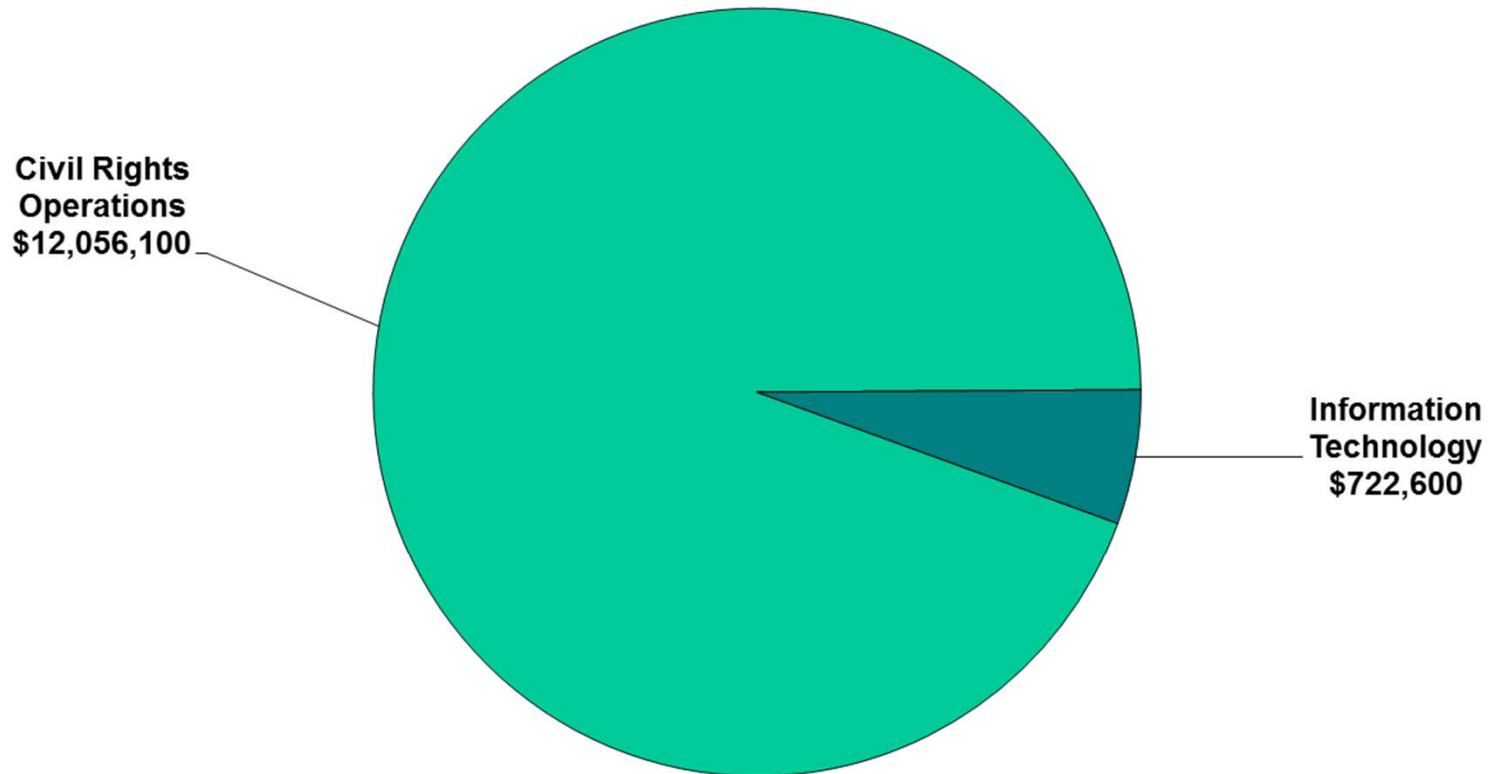
# Civil Rights Appropriations

- **Complaint Investigation and Enforcement:** investigates discrimination complaints and enforces civil rights laws
- **Outreach and Education:** collaborates with governmental units, community-based organizations, law enforcement, advocacy groups, educational institutions, and the private sector
- **Mediation:** alternative dispute resolution
- **Community Relations Division:** enhances communication, provides new options in service delivery, facilitates access to outreach and education, develops and maintains partnerships and initiatives
- **Contract Compliance Unit:** establishes standards and procedures for ensuring non-discrimination in the provision of programs, services, and funding
- **Office of Legal Affairs:** provides legal guidance and strategy on issues and cases, drafts charges for administrative hearings, litigates cases, writes amicus briefs on pending court cases, reviews pending legislation, designs and implements grants for fair housing program
- **Michigan Women's Commission:** works to improve the quality of life for women in the areas of employment, education, health, home, and community



# Civil Rights Appropriations

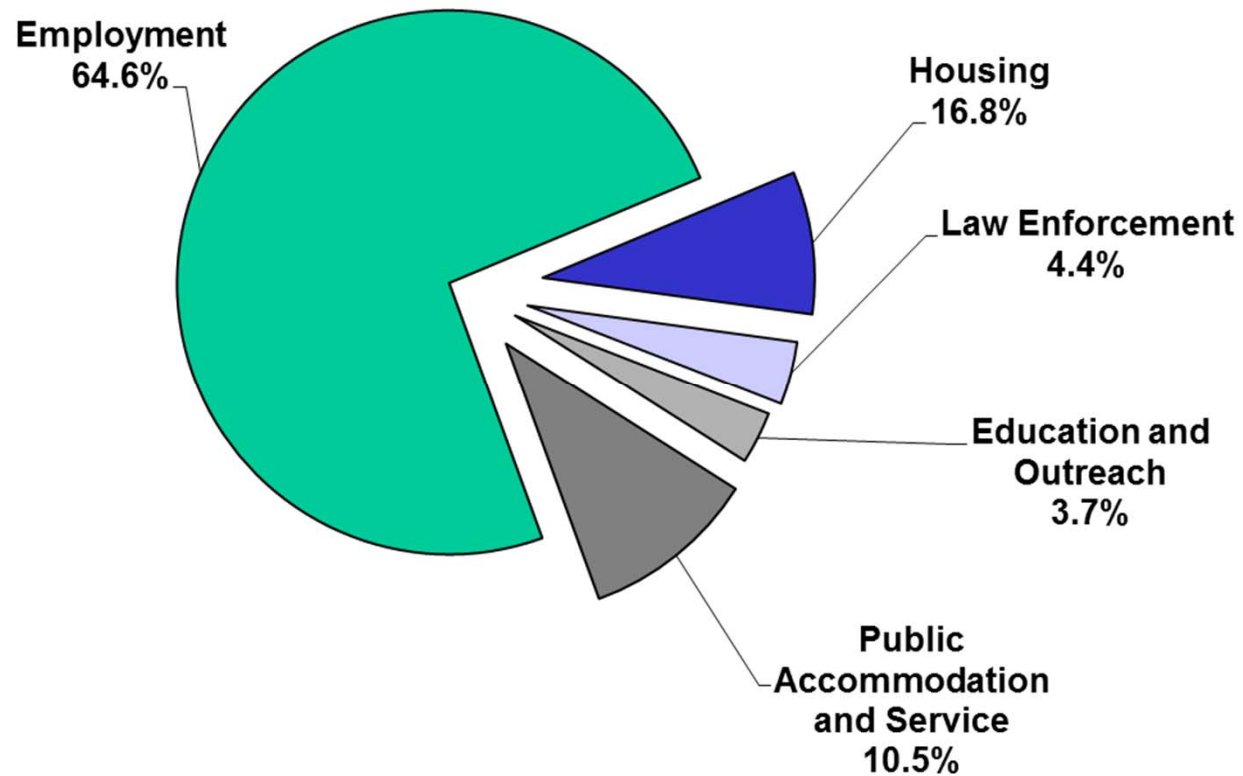
FY 2010-11 Civil Rights Budget = \$12,778,700



# **MAJOR BUDGET ISSUES**

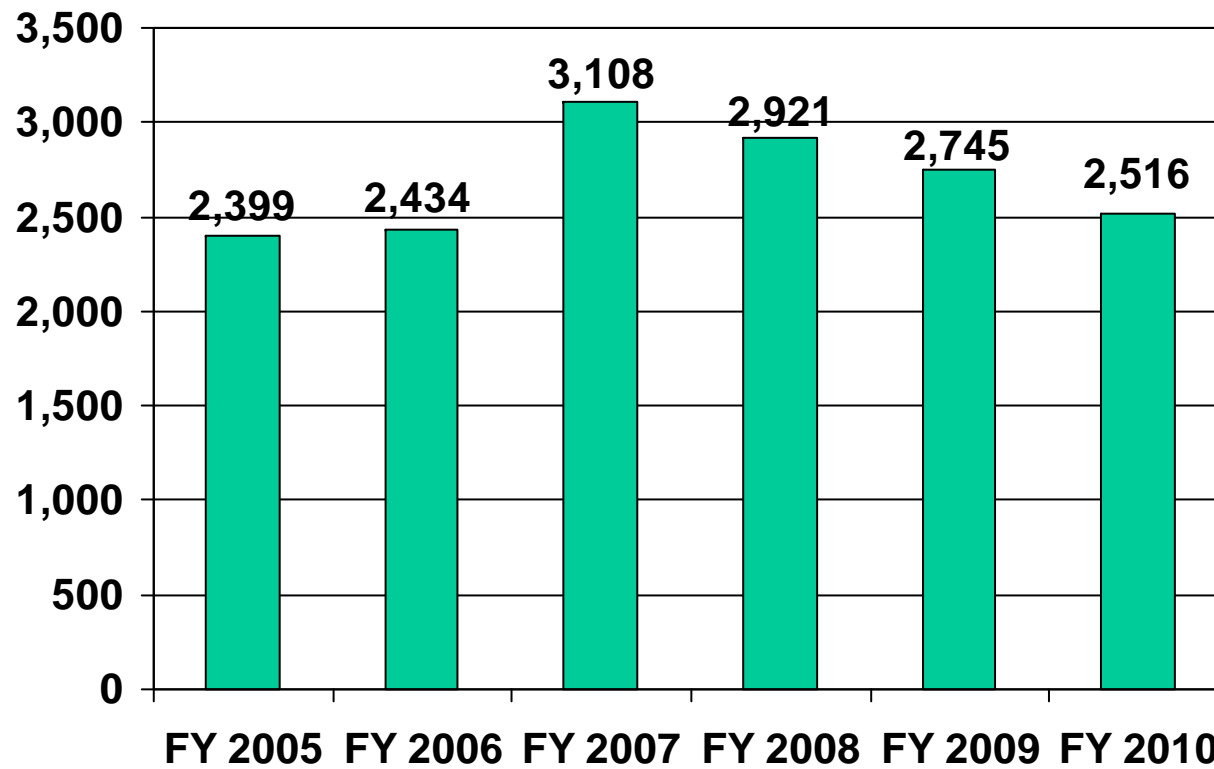
# Civil Rights

## FY 2010 Complaint Issue Contacts Recorded by Area of Discrimination



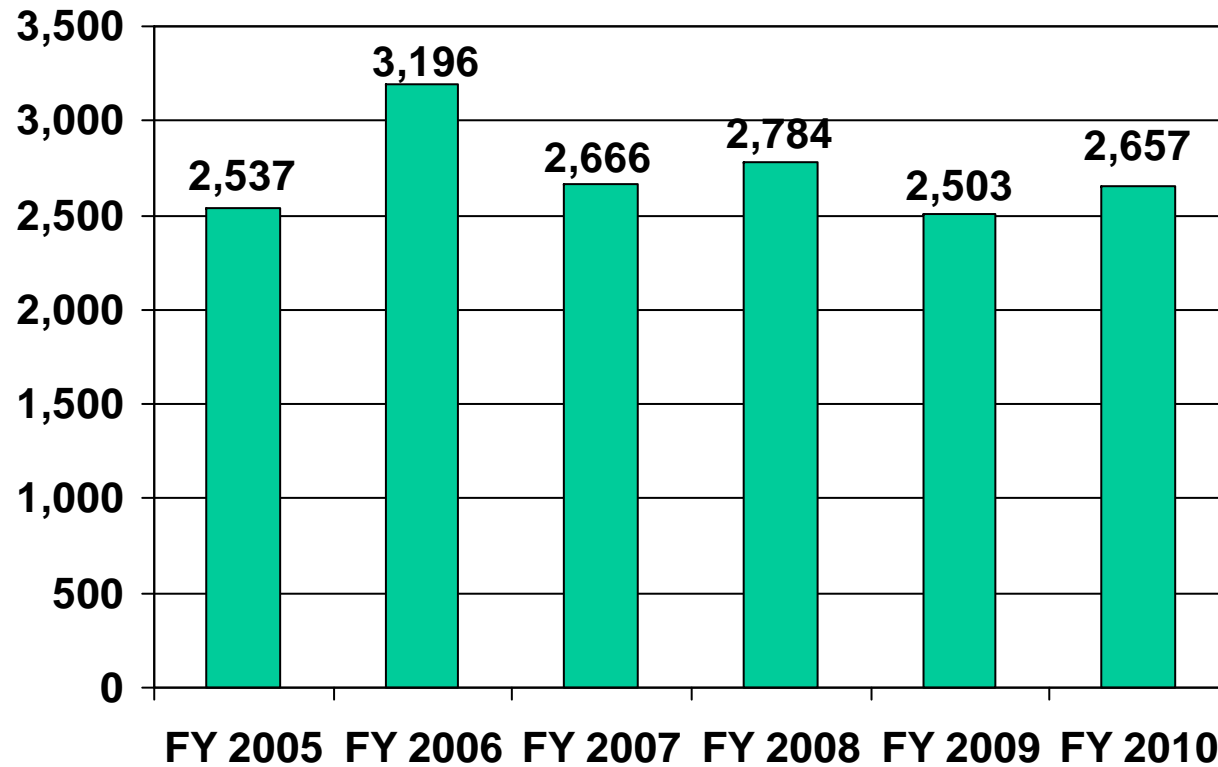
# Civil Rights

## Complaints Initiated by Fiscal Year



# Civil Rights

## Complaints Closed by Fiscal Year



**For more information about the  
Civil Rights budget, contact:**

**Robin R. Risko  
rrisko@house.mi.gov  
(517) 373-8080**