



## **Background Briefing**

# **CIVIL RIGHTS**

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

**December 2011**

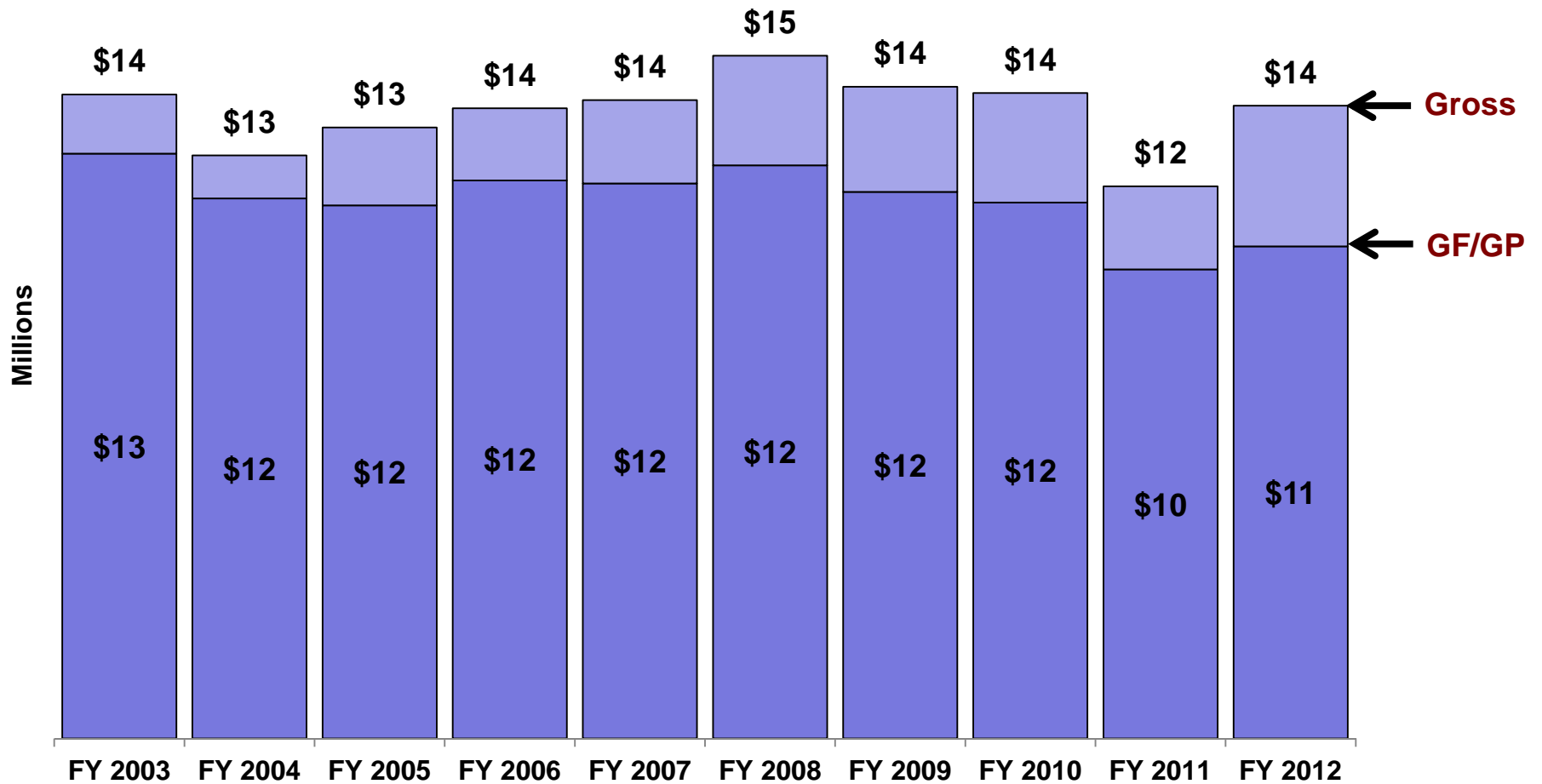
**The fiscal information in this background briefing is based on data through December 31, 2011.**

# 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

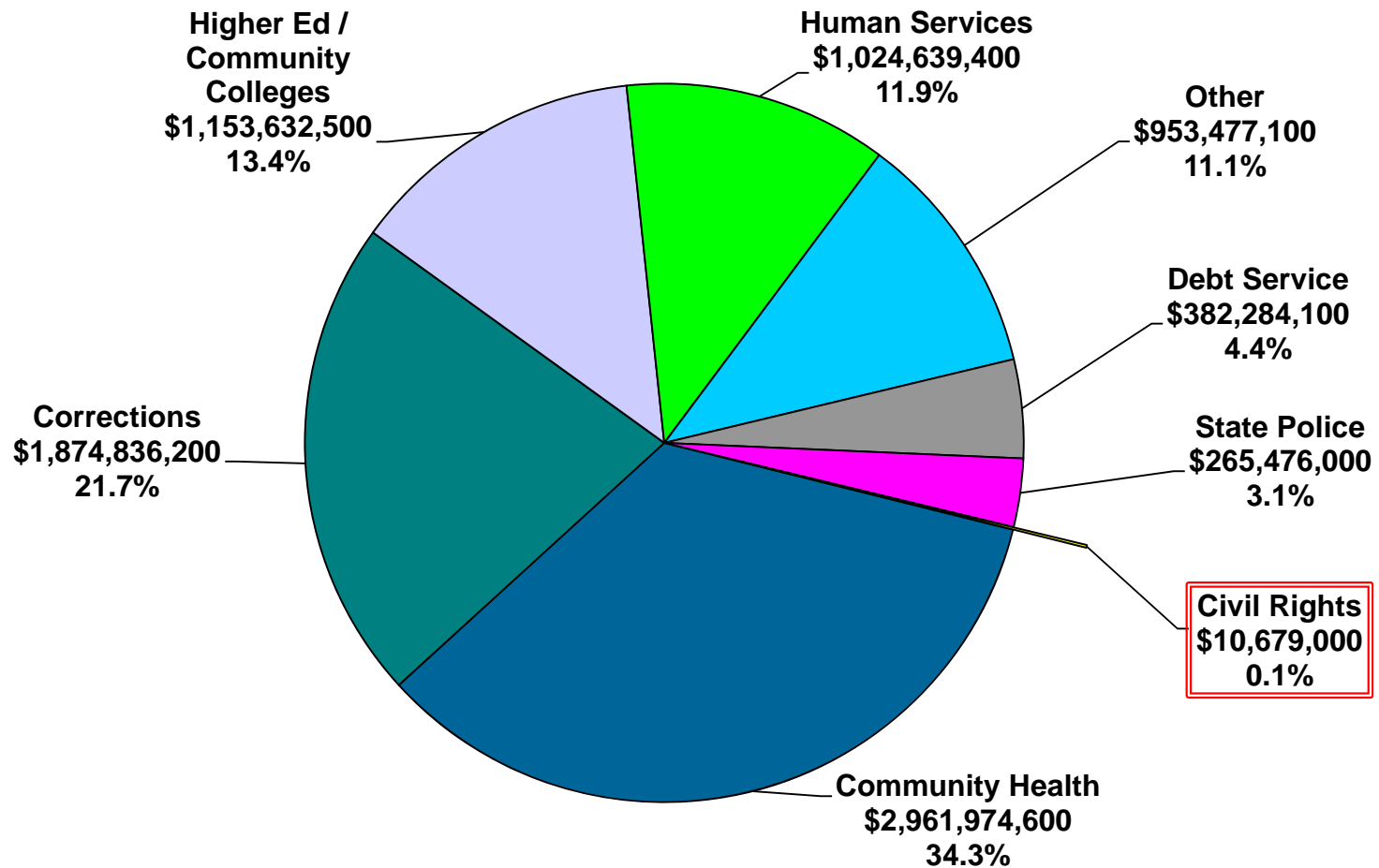
Spending increases are primarily due to inflation; decreases are due to budget reductions.



# Civil Rights Share of State GF/GP

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

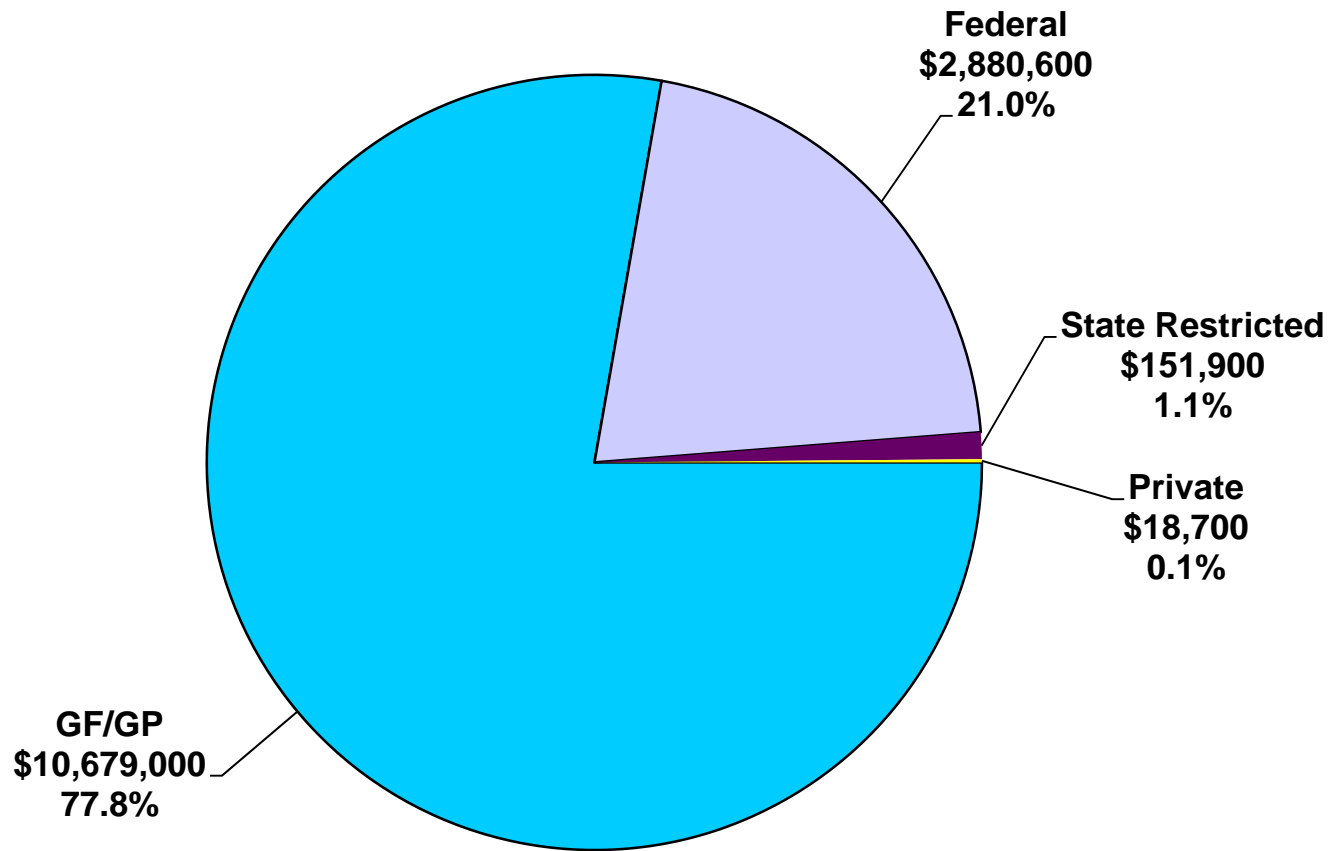
FY 2011-12 GF/GP Total = \$8,626,998,900



# **SOURCES OF FUNDING**

# Civil Rights Funding Sources

FY 2011-12 Civil Rights Budget = \$13,730,200



# **DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS**

# Civil Rights Appropriations

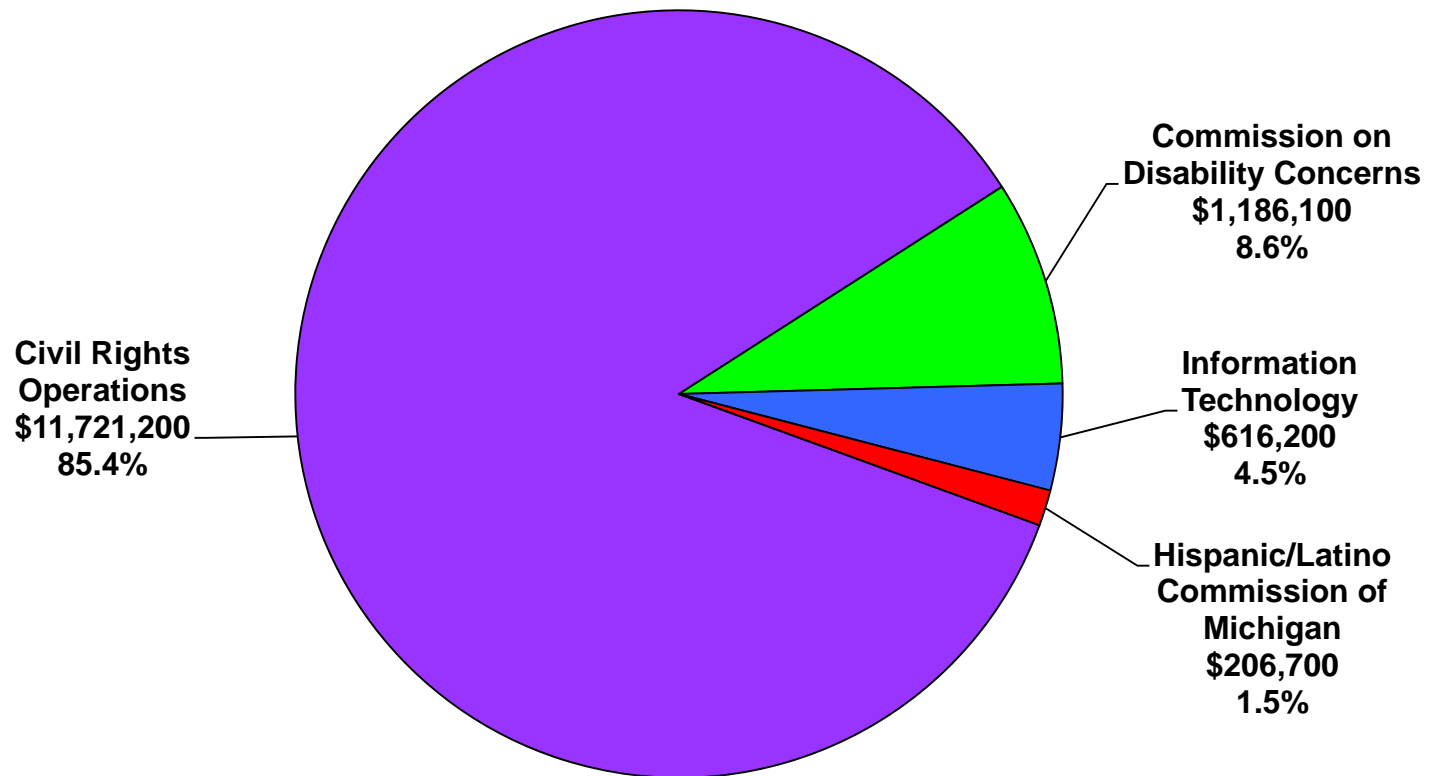
- **Complaint Investigation and Enforcement:** investigates discrimination complaints and enforces civil rights laws
- **Outreach and Education:** collaborates with governmental units, community-based organizations, law enforcement, advocacy groups, educational institutions, and the private sector
- **Mediation:** alternative dispute resolution
- **Community Relations:** enhances communication, provides new options in service delivery, facilitates access to outreach and education, designs, effectuates, and maintains partnerships and initiatives
- **Contract Review/Compliance:** 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

# Civil Rights Appropriations

- **Michigan Women's Commission:** works to improve the quality of life for women in the areas of employment, education, health, home, and community
- **Commission on Disability Concerns:** advocates on behalf of people with disabilities; includes the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing which provides technical support, information, and assistance to ensure programs and services are accessible
- **Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan:** promotes the diverse interests of Hispanics in order to enhance their abilities and improve their quality of life

# Civil Rights Appropriations

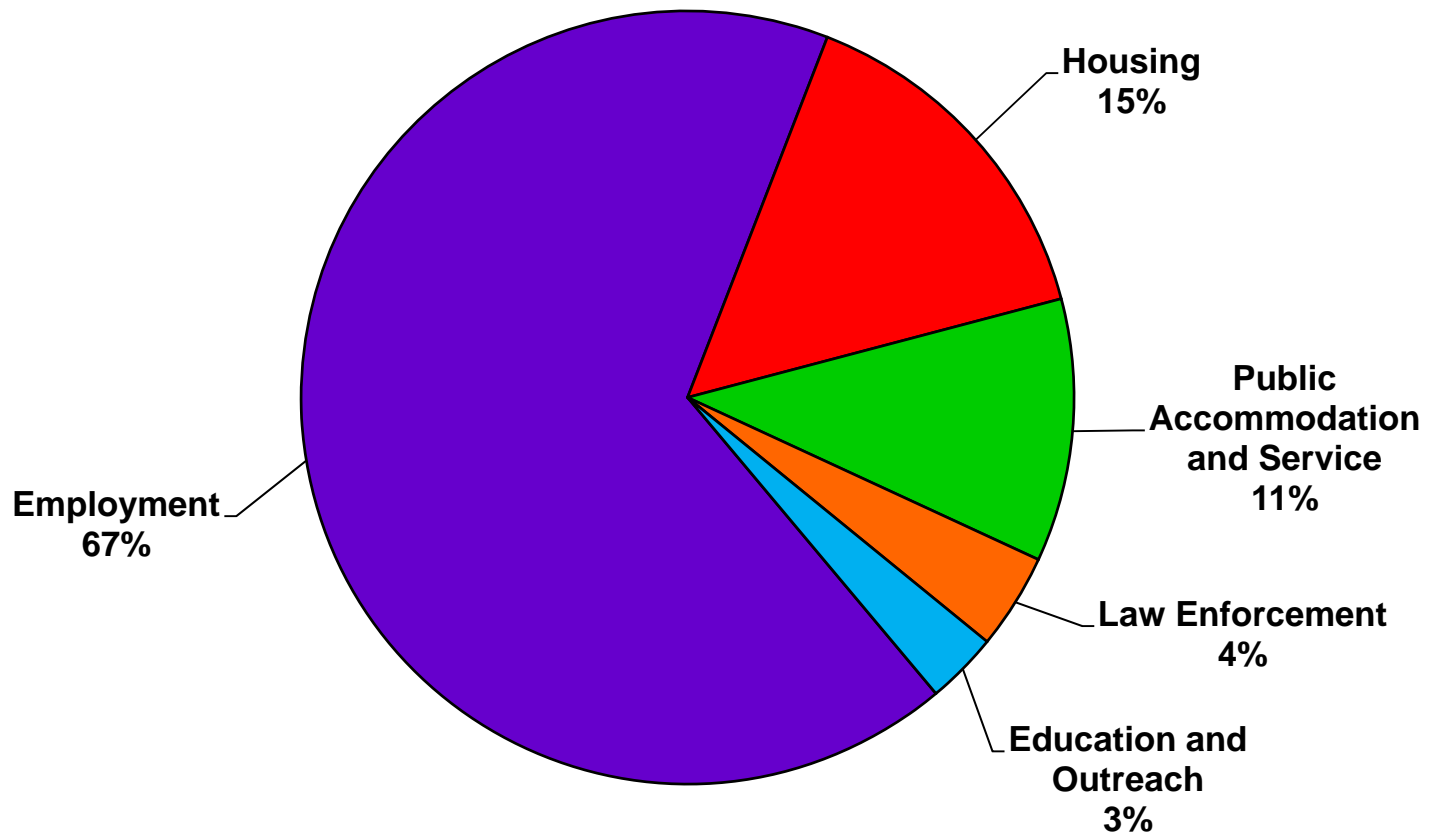
FY 2011-12 Civil Rights Budget = \$13,730,200



# **MAJOR BUDGET ISSUES**

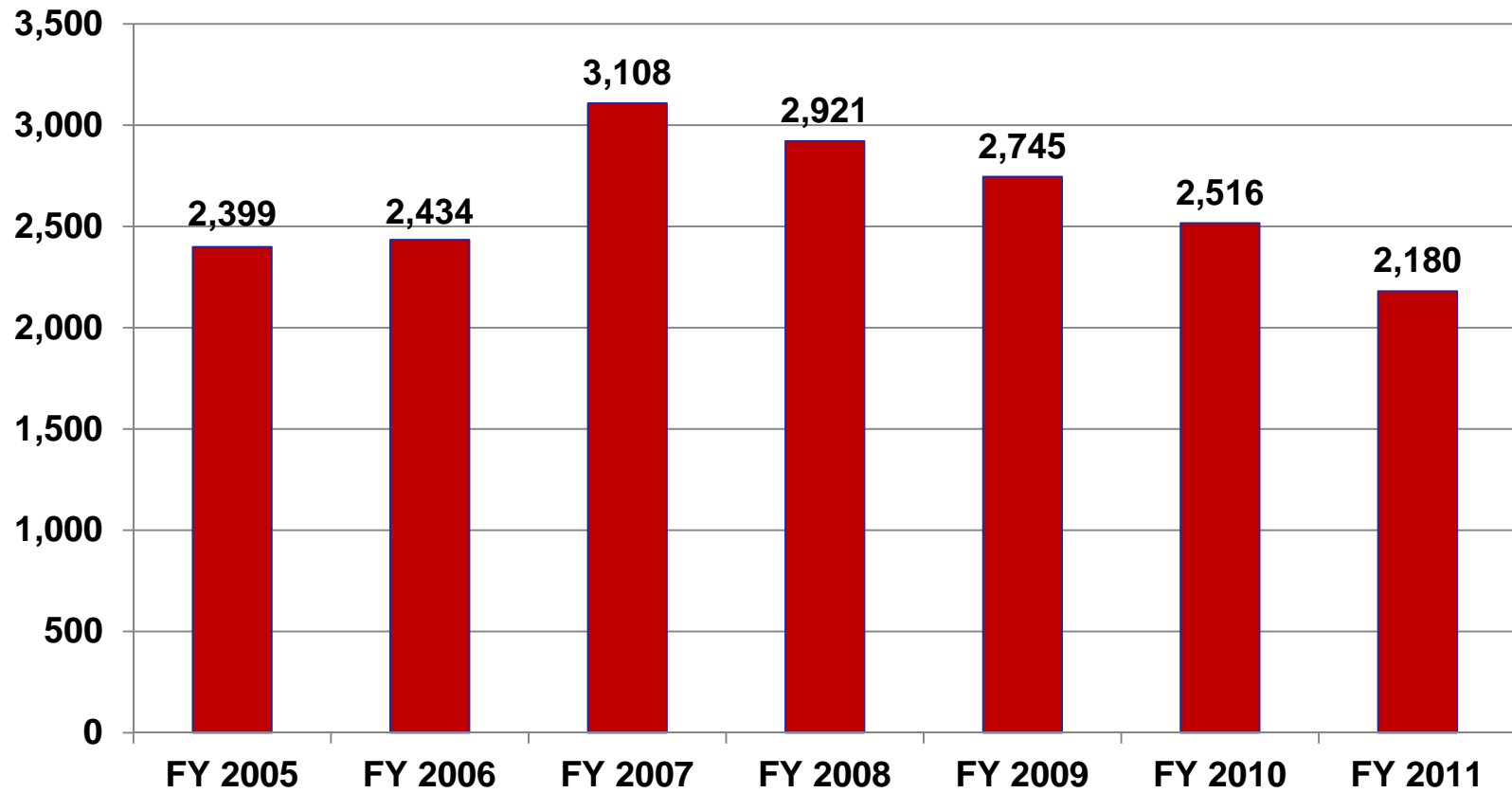
# Civil Rights

## FY 2011 Complaint Issue Contacts Recorded by Area of Discrimination



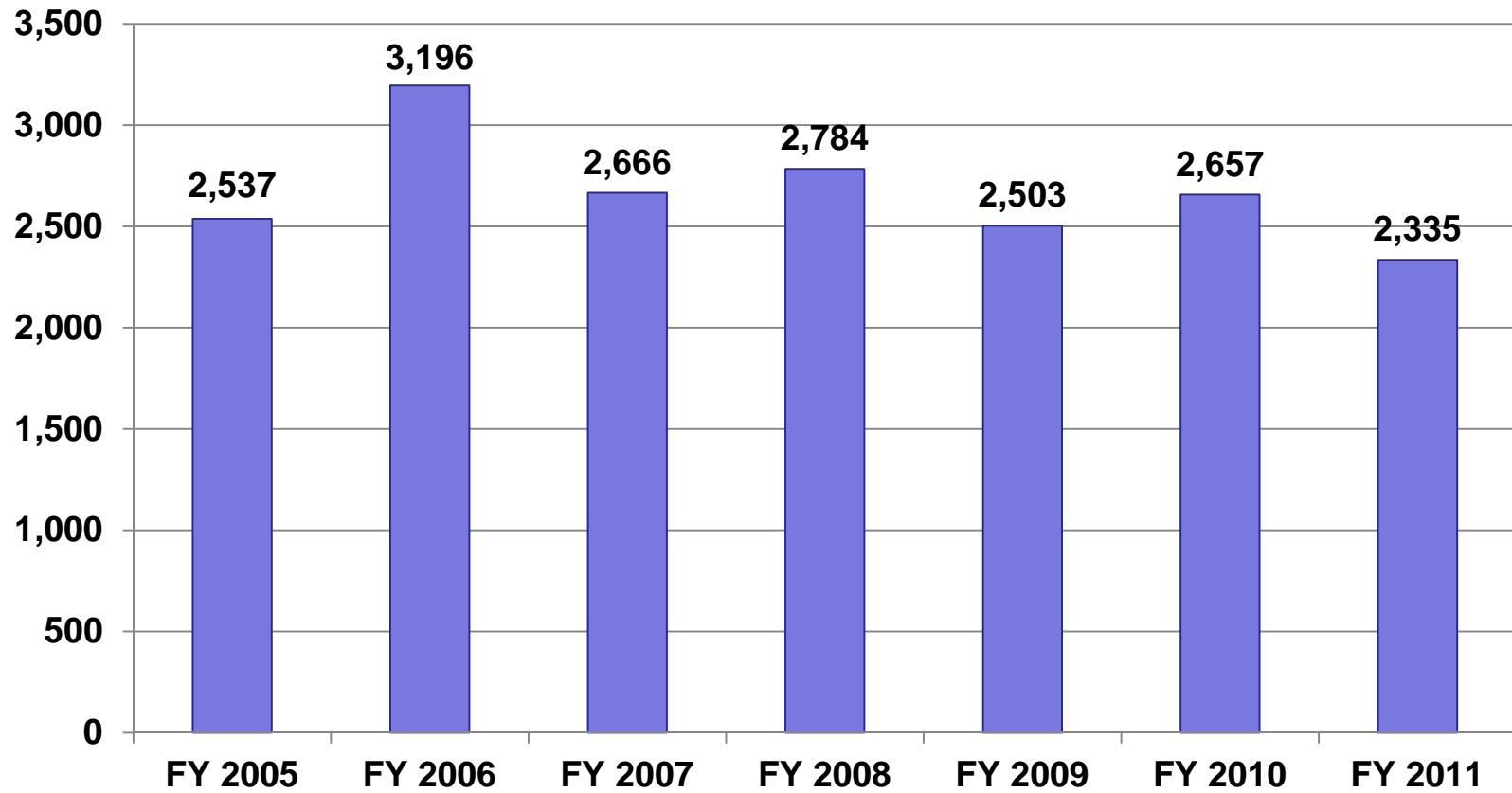
# Civil Rights

## Complaints Initiated by Fiscal Year



# Civil Rights

## Complaints Closed by Fiscal Year



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

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