



Background Briefing

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Perry Zielak, Fiscal Analyst

December 2015

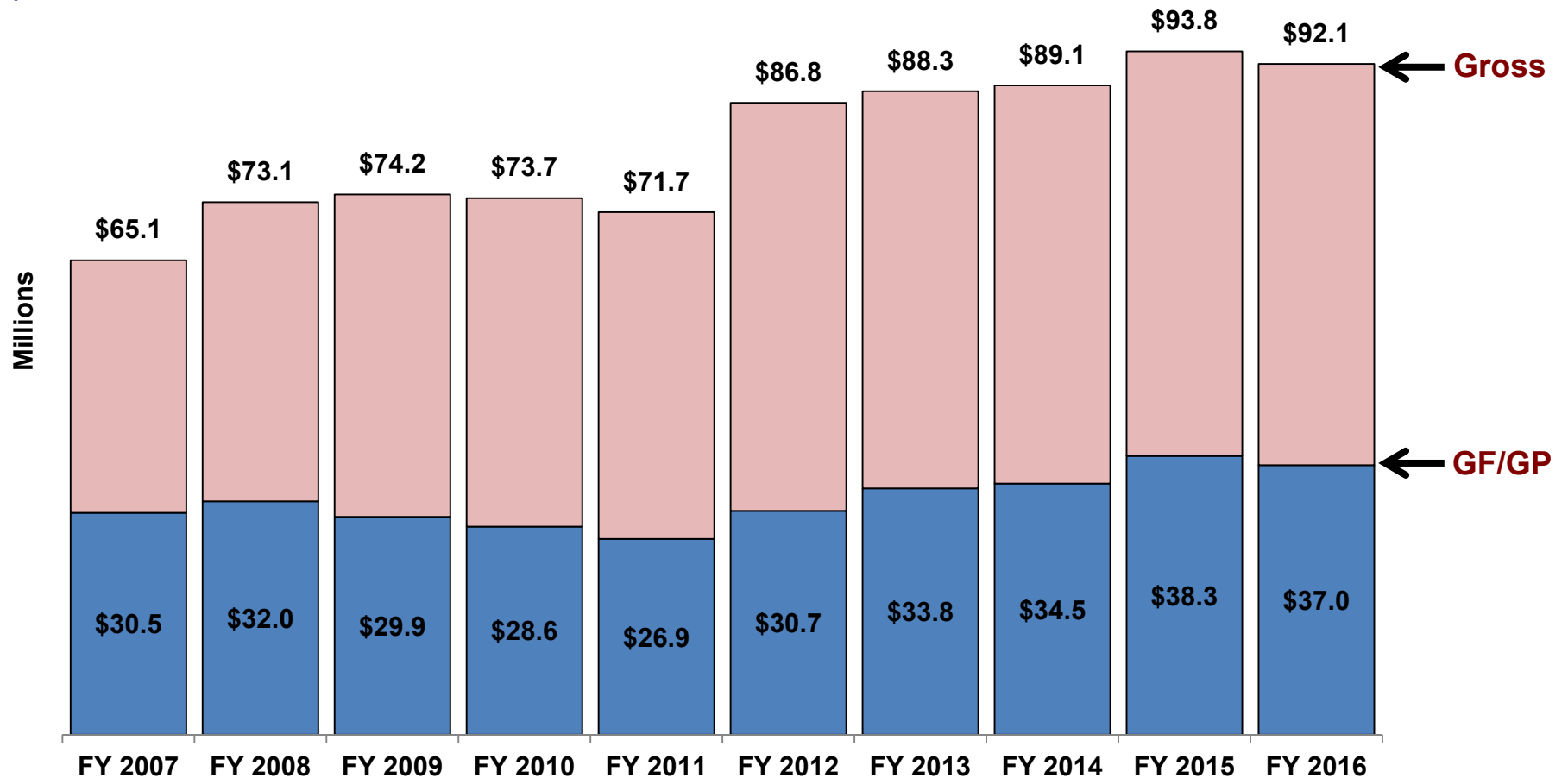
Department of Attorney General

- The Attorney General's powers are prescribed by the Constitution and further delineated by statute and case law.

- The Attorney General:
 - Serves as legal counsel for state departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and their officers.
 - Defends the state in court.
 - Serves as the chief law enforcement officer of the state.
 - Brings actions and intervenes in cases on the state's behalf.
 - Issues legal opinions that have the force of law until reversed by legislative or judicial action.

Attorney General: Gross Appropriations

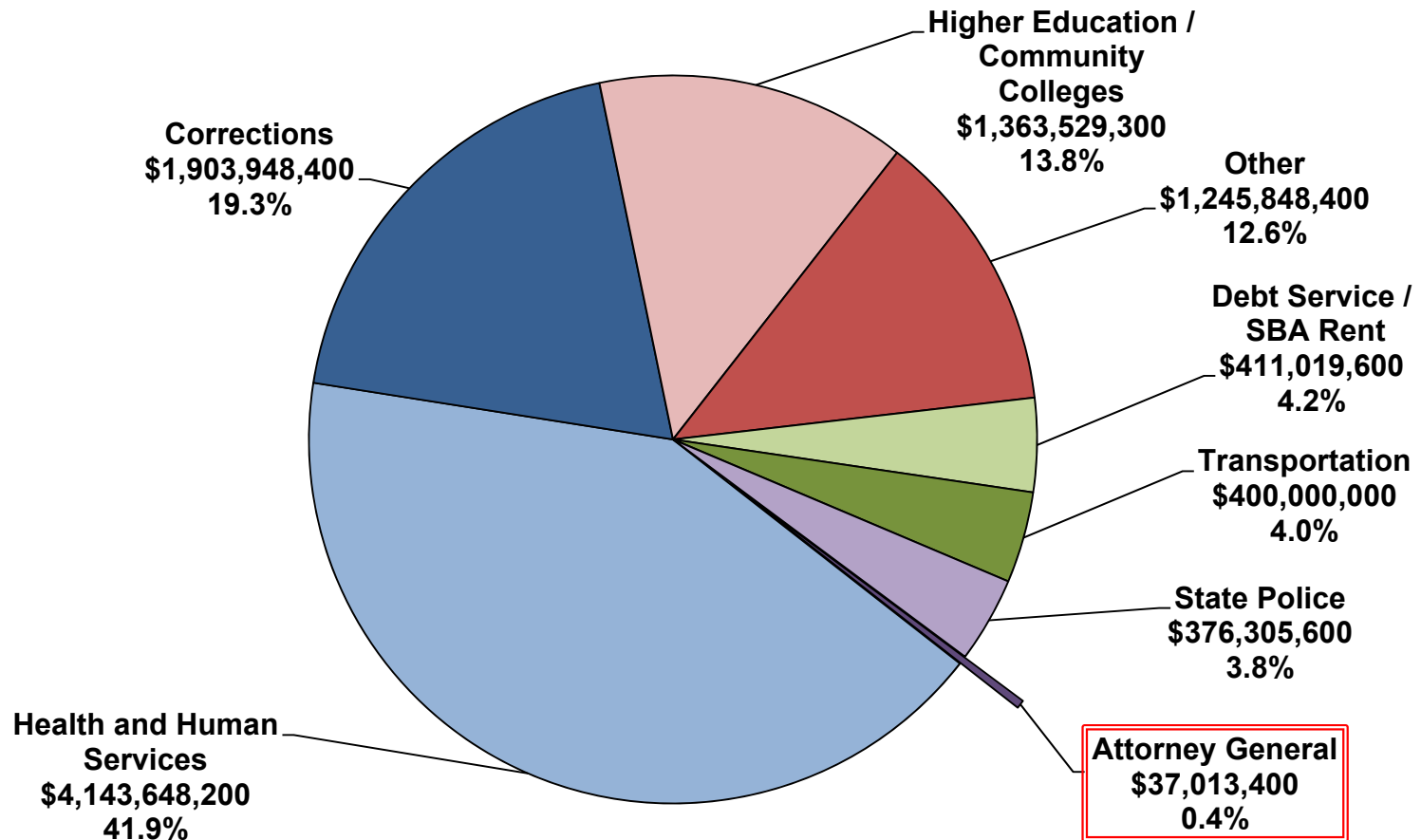
Spending increases have been primarily due to economic adjustments, while decreases have been due to budget reductions. Increase in **FY 2012** was due primarily to the pre-funding of retiree health care and the inclusion of funds awarded to the state under the joint state-federal foreclosure settlement. Increase in **FY 2015** was due primarily to the one-time appropriation for sexual assault prosecutions.



Attorney General Share of State GF/GP

Attorney General makes up 0.4% of the total state GF/GP budget

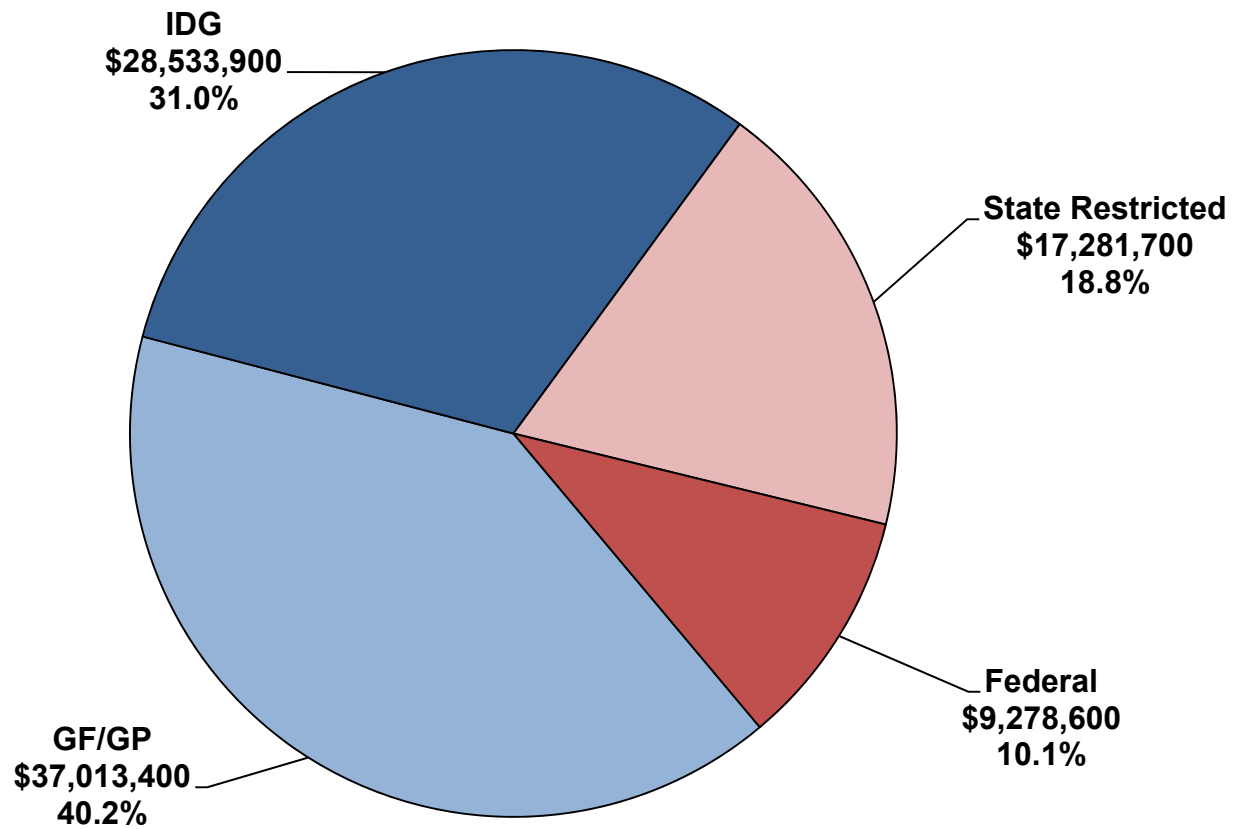
FY 2015-16 GF/GP Total = \$9,881,312,900



SOURCES OF FUNDING

Attorney General Funding Sources

FY 2015-16 Attorney General Budget = \$92,107,600



APPROPRIATION AREAS

Attorney General Appropriations

- **Department Operations (\$81.5 million, 475.5 FTEs)**
 - Personnel and operational costs associated with executive administration and providing legal advice and representation for state departments. Funded primarily through interdepartmental grants and restricted fund sources from the departments and programs benefiting from the services.

- **Child Support Division (\$3.4 million, 25.0 FTEs)**
 - Personnel and operational costs associated with child support enforcement activities. Supported primarily from federal funds.

- **Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council (\$2.3 million, 12.0 FTEs)**
 - Supported primarily through GF/GP funds.

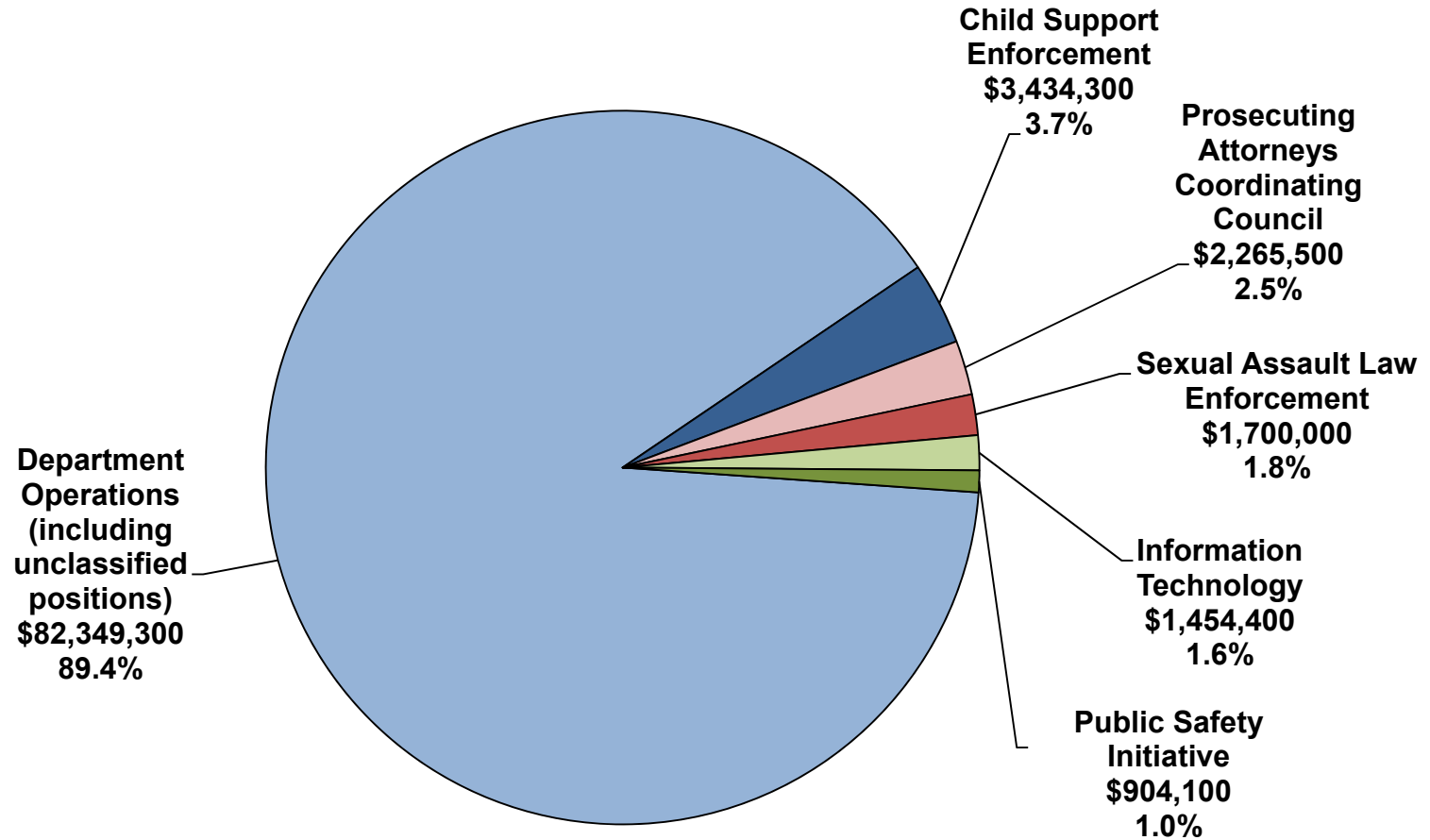
- **Information Technology (\$1.5 million)**
 - IT-related services and projects that support department activities; administered by the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget.

- **Public Safety Initiative (\$904,100, 1.0 FTE)**
 - Prosecutorial assistance for selected high-crime areas.

- **Sexual Assault Law Enforcement (\$1.7 million, 5.0 FTEs)**
 - Funding to reduce the backlog of sexual assault kits in communities statewide, except Wayne County, and to assist with investigations and prosecutions that may result.

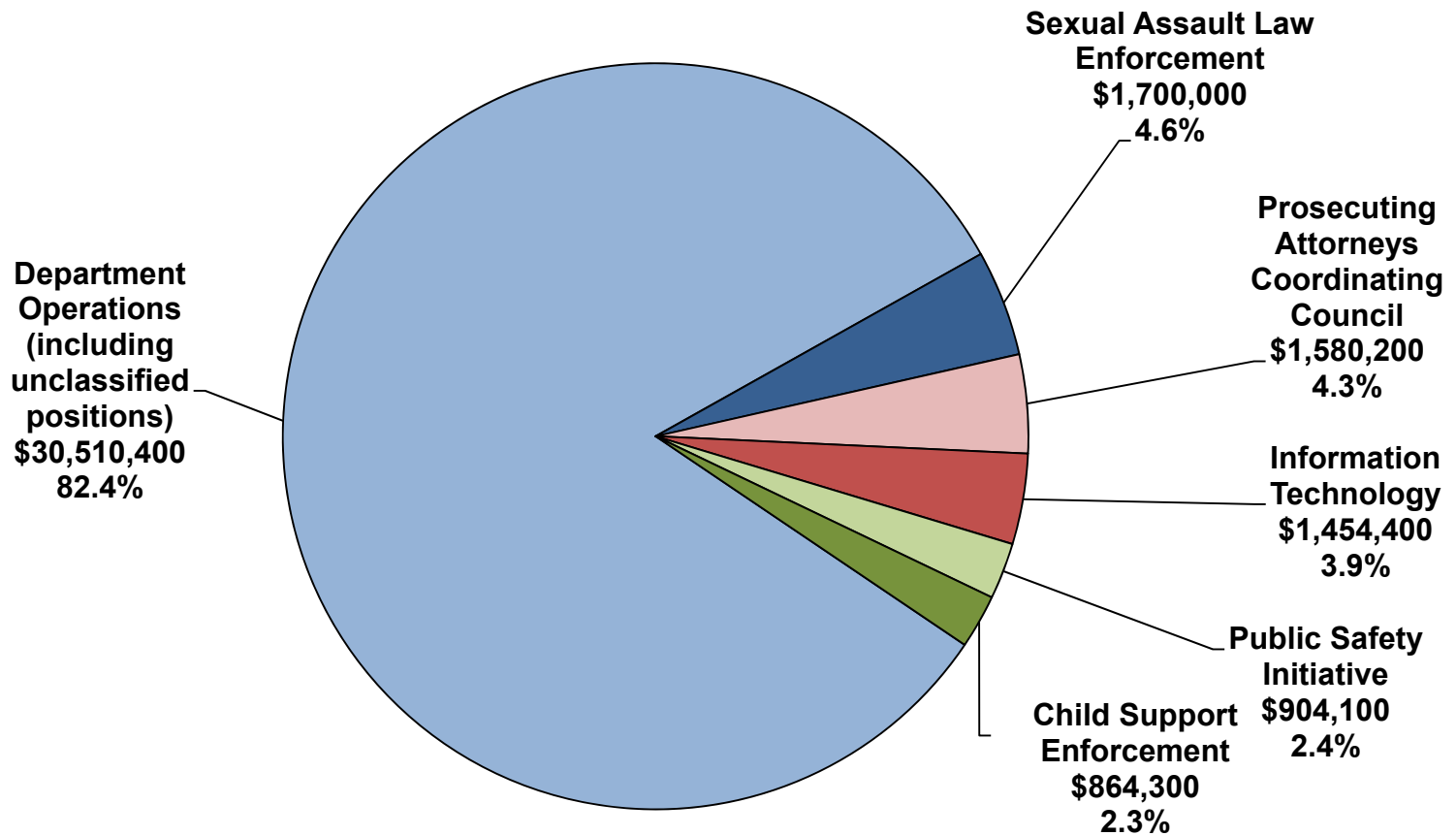
Attorney General Appropriations

FY 2015-16 Attorney General Budget = \$92,107,600



Attorney General Appropriations

FY 2015-16 Attorney General GF/GP Budget = \$37,013,400



MAJOR BUDGET TOPICS

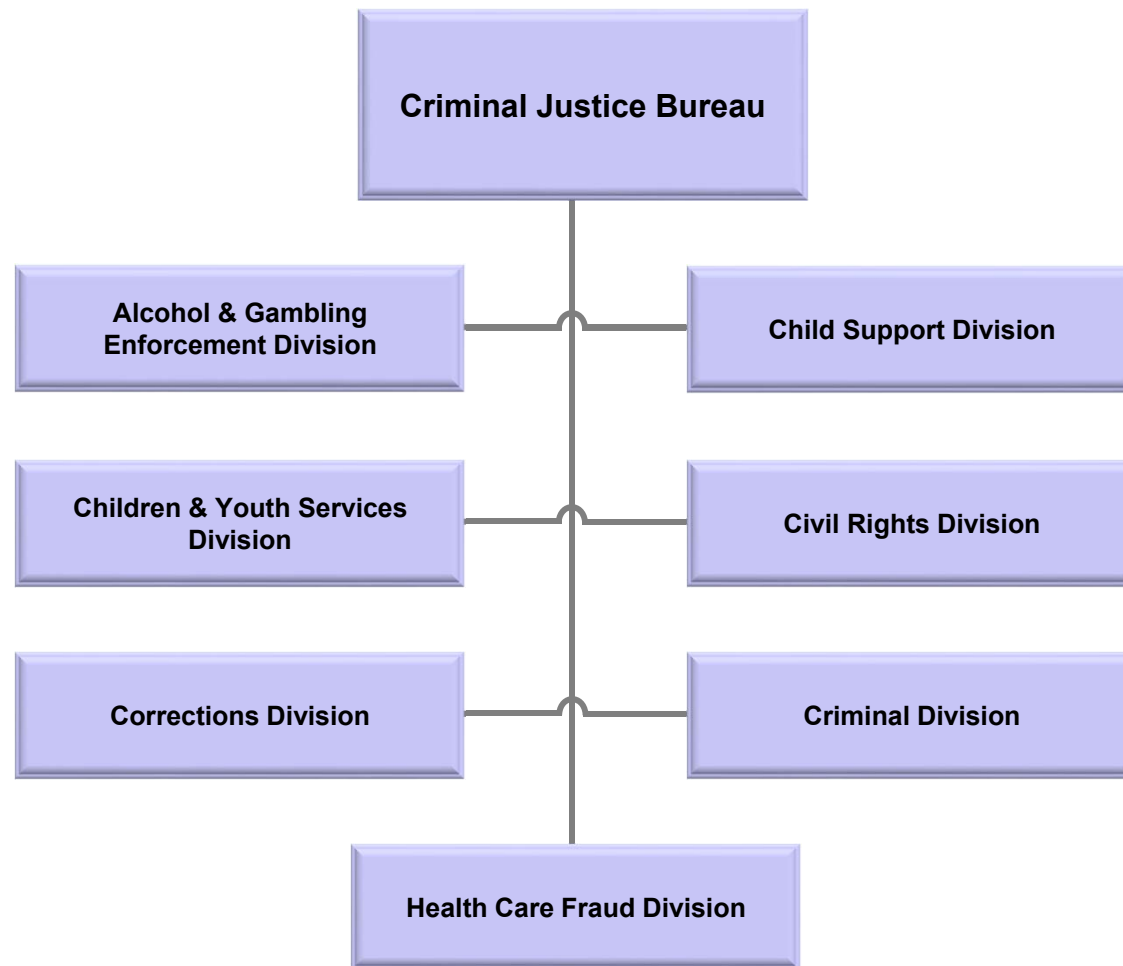
Sexual Assault Kits Testing & Prosecutions

- August 2009: Approximately 11,300 sexual assault kits are discovered upon the closure of the Detroit Crime Laboratory.
- FY 2012-13: \$4.0 million appropriated from the Lawsuit Settlement Proceeds Fund to the State Forensic Laboratory Fund to test 8,000 sexual assault kits.
- FY 2014-15: \$3.0 million in one-time funding for prosecutions resulting from testing of sexual assault kits discovered in the Detroit Crime Laboratory, working with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.
- FY 2015-16: \$1.7 million for testing of kits statewide, except Wayne County, and to assist with investigations and prosecutions that may result.

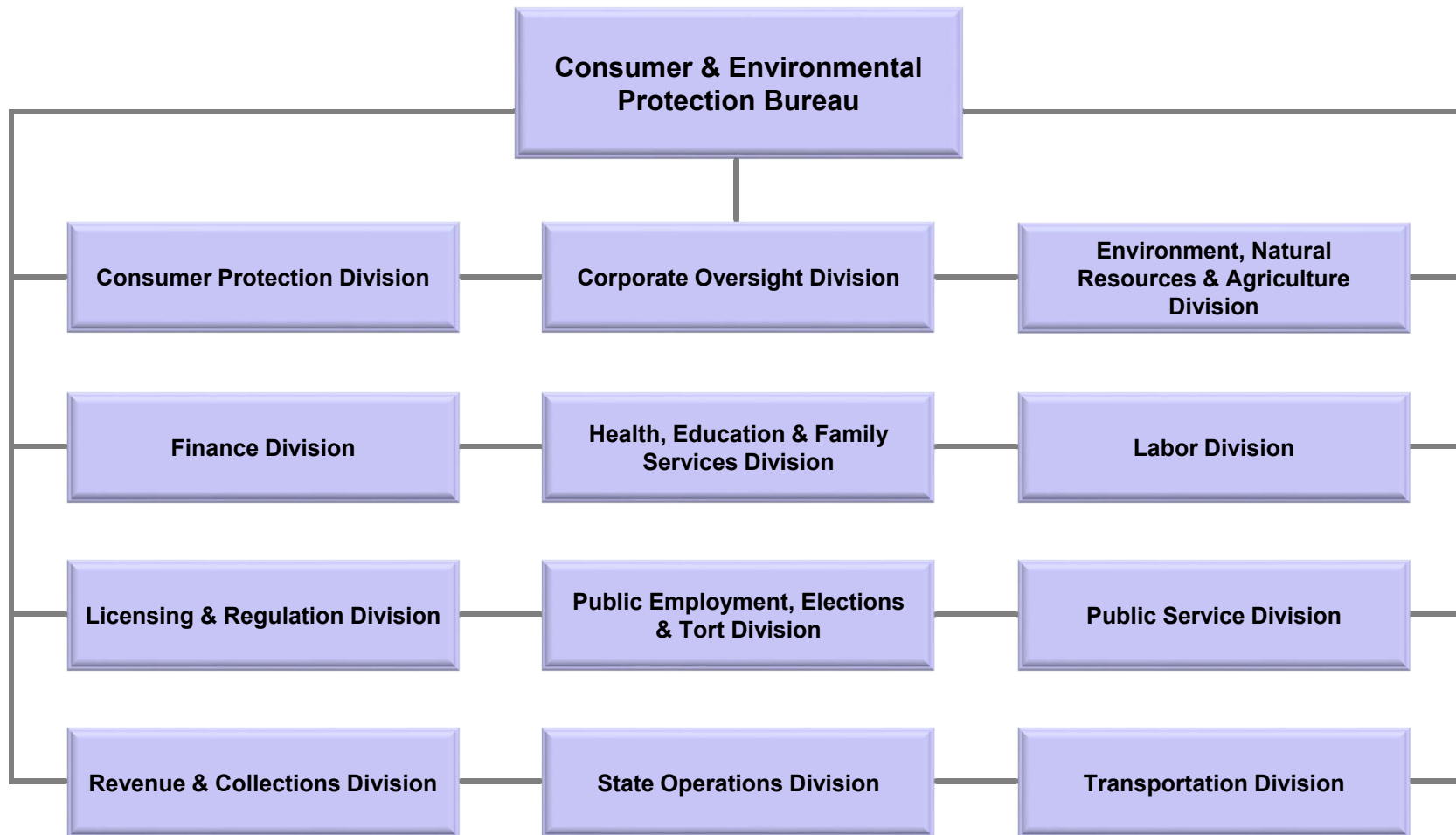
Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council

- Autonomous agency responsible for ensuring a uniform system of conduct, duty, and procedure among prosecutors
- Publishes legal documents, manuals, and other materials on criminal prosecution and practices
- Provides prosecutors with updates on legislation and court procedure changes
- Provides research assistance
- Administers grant-funded services
- Coordinates statewide prosecution activities and office automation
- Provides continuing professional education

Attorney General Department Divisions



Attorney General Department Divisions



**For more information about the
Attorney General budget, contact:**

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