

## Agency Review: Prosecuting Attorneys Institute

**Agency Purposes:** The Prosecuting Attorneys Institute (Institute) is responsible for providing prosecuting attorneys and their staffs general and specialized training programs, professional publications, legal research, technical assistance, and information on current developments and changes in the law and the administration of criminal justice.

### What Did PERD Find?

- The Institute provides general training sessions to prosecuting attorneys and their staffs twice a year as statutorily required.

**Table 1**  
**Prosecuting Attorneys Institute**  
**Counties in Attendance at General Training Programs**  
**Summer 2022 through Summer 2024**

Training Date	Number of Counties Represented	Number of Prosecuting Attorneys and Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys in Attendance
Summer 2022	46	130
Winter 2022	43	135
Summer 2023	43	168
Winter 2023	44	113
Summer 2024	46	131

Source: PERD analysis of Prosecuting Attorney information.

### Recommendations:

*The Prosecuting Attorneys Institute should consider tracking data on the number of requests made, the types of assistance its staff provides, and the amount of time involved in responding to requests.*

*The Prosecuting Attorneys Institute should consider improving the user-friendliness and transparency of its website by incorporating more of the identified website elements.*

- The Institute provides specialized training sessions on topics including child abuse and sexual assault for those who aid prosecuting attorneys, including law enforcement personnel, child protective workers, and social workers.
- The Institute provides prosecuting attorneys and their staffs with legal publications and legal research.
- The Institute annually distributes materials on changes to criminal law and the criminal justice system resulting from legislative actions, and court rulings from both the U.S. Supreme Court and the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.
- The Institute's website is moderately user-friendly and needs more improvement to enhance transparency.