



# **Tennessee** **Bureau of Investigation**

**Forensic Services Division 6<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Report**

**October 1, 2024**

**Pursuant to PC 249 of the 113<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

The following is the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's sixth quarterly progress report on the bureau's efforts to hire and train 50 Forensic Services Division employees and the average amount of time taken to perform forensic analysis on evidence in cases involving offenses under title 39, chapter 13, part 5.

**Hiring Status:**

50 positions were granted to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) Forensic Services Division and are distributed as follows:

**Jul-22**

**Commissioned**

	Nashville	Knoxville	Jackson	
Forensic Chemistry	2	2	2	
Toxicology	2	-	-	
Forensic Biology/DNA	3	2	3	
CODIS	-	-	3	
Firearms Identification	-	-	-	
Latent Print	-	-	-	
Microanalysis	-	-	-	
Forensic IT Manager	1	-	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>

**Jul-22**

**Noncommissioned**

	Nashville	Knoxville	Jackson	
Forensic Chemistry	-	-	-	
Toxicology	-	-	-	
Forensic Biology/DNA	1	1	1	
CODIS	-	-	1	
Firearms Identification	-	-	-	
Latent Print	-	-	-	
Microanalysis	-	-	-	
Evidence Receiving	-	-	-	
Administrative Assistant	-	1	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>

**Sep-22**

**Commissioned**

	Nashville	Knoxville	Jackson	
Forensic Chemistry	2	2	-	
Toxicology	1	1	1	
Forensic Biology/DNA	2	3	2	
CODIS	-	-	1	
Firearms Identification	2	-	2	
Latent Print	-	-	-	
Microanalysis	1	-	-	
Forensic IT Manager	-	-	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>

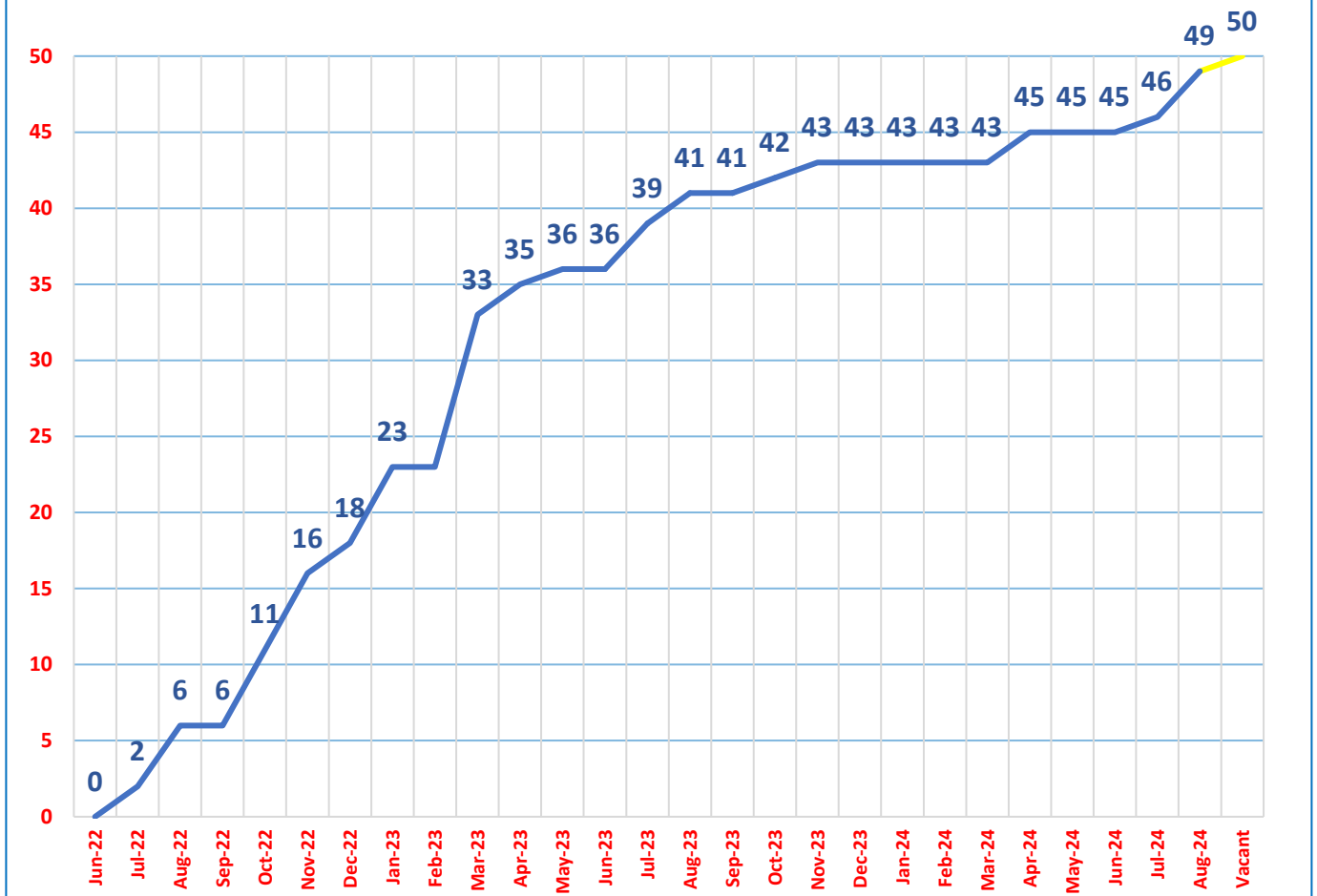
**Sep-22**

**Noncommissioned**

	Nashville	Knoxville	Jackson	
Forensic Chemistry	-	-	-	
Toxicology	1	-	-	
Forensic Biology/DNA	-	-	-	
CODIS	-	-	1	
Firearms Identification	1	-	-	
Latent Print	1	-	-	
Microanalysis	-	-	-	
Evidence Receiving	-	-	-	
Administrative Assistant*	-	-	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>

\* Reclassified to be Forensic Technician Supervisor for Jackson Lab

## TBI Crime Laboratory - Hiring Status- 50 Newly Created Positions



### Hiring Status through October 1, 2024:

- 49 positions have been filled.
- 1 position is vacant.
- Vacancy due to previously hired Forensic Technician promoting to Special Agent / Forensic Scientist.

	Lab	Unit	Position	Status	Estimated Training Completion
1	Jackson	CODIS	SA/FS Supervisor	Hired July 2022	Training Completed
2	Division	Administration	Forensic IT Manager	Hired July 2022	Training Completed
3	Nashville	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired August 2022	Training Completed
4	Nashville	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired August 2022	Training Completed
5	Nashville	Toxicology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired August 2022	Training Completed
6	Jackson	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired August 2022	Training Completed
7	Nashville	Toxicology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired October 2022	Training Completed
8	Nashville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired October 2022	November 2024
9	Nashville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired October 2022	Training Completed
10	Knoxville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired October 2022	Training Completed
11	Jackson	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired October 2022	Training Completed
12	Jackson	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired November 2022	Training Completed
13	Nashville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired November 2022	Training Completed
14	Knoxville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired November 2022	Training Completed
15	Jackson	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired November 2022	Training Completed
16	Jackson	CODIS	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired November 2022	Training Completed
17	Knoxville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired December 2022	October 2024
18	Nashville	Microanalysis	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired December 2022	January 2025
19	Nashville	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired January 2023	Training Completed
20	Nashville	Toxicology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired January 2023	April 2025
21	Nashville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired January 2023	Training Completed
22	Knoxville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired January 2023	Training Completed
23	Nashville	Firearms	Forensic Technician	Hired January 2023	Training Completed
24	Knoxville	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired March 2023	Training Completed
25	Nashville	Forensic Biology	Forensic Technician	Hired March 2023	Training Completed
26	Jackson	CODIS	Forensic Technician	Hired March 2023	Training Completed
27	Nashville	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired March 2023	Training Completed
28	Knoxville	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired March 2023	Training Completed
29	Jackson	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired March 2023	Training Completed
30	Knoxville	Toxicology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired March 2023	Training Completed
31	Jackson	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired March 2023	Training Completed
32	Nashville	Firearms	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired March 2023	April 2025
33	Jackson	Firearms	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired March 2023	July 2025
34	Knoxville	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired April 2023	Training Completed
35	Jackson	Toxicology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired April 2023	Training Completed
36	Knoxville	Forensic Biology	Forensic Technician	Hired May 2023	Training Completed
37	Jackson	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired July 2023	May 2025
38	Jackson	CODIS	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired July 2023	May 2025
39	Nashville	Firearms	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired July 2023	July 2025
40	Nashville	Latent Print	Forensic Technician	Hired August 2023	Training Completed
41	Jackson	Evidence	Forensic Technician Supervisor	Hired August 2023	Training Completed
42	Nashville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired October 2023	January 2025
43	Knoxville	Administration	Administrative Assistant	Hired November 2023	Training Completed
44	Jackson	CODIS	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired April 2024	October 2025
45	Jackson	CODIS	Forensic Technician	Hired April 2024	Training Completed
46	Knoxville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired July 2024	January 2026
47	Knoxville	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired August 2024	August 2025
48	Jackson	Firearms	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Hired August 2024	August 2026
49	Nashville	Toxicology	Forensic Technician	Hired August 2024	February 2025
50	Jackson	Forensic Biology	Forensic Technician	Vacant	Approx. 6 months after hire

Note: Vacancy due to previously hired Forensic Technician promoting to Special Agent / Forensic Scientist

## Testing Status:

The TBI performs Forensic Biology (Serology and DNA) testing for evidence related to title 39, chapter 13, part 5 (sexual offenses) at all three crime laboratory locations – Nashville, Knoxville, and Jackson. The TBI receives evidence from all law enforcement agencies statewide and provides testing free of charge. Metro Nashville Police Department (MNPD) operates its own laboratory to perform testing in cases investigated by MNPD. Any information regarding turnaround times for cases at the MNPD Crime Laboratory is not included in this report and must be supplied by the MNPD.

- Statewide (weighted average) in-house turnaround time for all combined sex offense requests peaked in August 2022 at 45.4 weeks.
- Statewide (weighted average) in-house turnaround time for cases containing only a sexual assault kit (SAK) from September 1-30, 2024, was 10.4 weeks.
- Statewide pending in-house request inventory for cases containing only a sexual assault kit (SAK) on October 1, 2024, was 217.
- Starting in October 2023, the TBI Crime Laboratory separated statistics for cases containing only a sexual assault kit (SAK) from cases containing a sexual assault kit (SAK) and additional items (such as clothing or bedding). Statewide (weighted average) in-house turnaround time for cases containing these additional items from September 1-30, 2024, was 17.7 weeks.
- Starting in October 2023, the TBI Crime Laboratory separated statistics for cases containing only a sexual assault kit (SAK) from cases containing a sexual assault kit (SAK) and additional items (such as clothing or bedding). Statewide request inventory for cases containing these additional items on October 1, 2024, was 175.
- Statewide combined turnaround time for all sex offense evidence (SAKs plus additional items) from September 1-30, 2024, was 13.0 weeks.
- Statewide combined request inventory for all sex offense evidence (SAKs plus additional items) on July 1, 2024, was 395.
- Forensic Biology testing of sex offense cases is labor intensive, and turnaround time for these cases is expected to improve as more employees are hired and trained.
- The TBI Crime Laboratories have 39 statewide positions dedicated to performing Forensic Biology casework. 31 employees (79.5%) have completed training. 8 employees (20.5%) are either in training or in the hiring process.

## Outsource testing:

### Project 1

- The TBI initially secured \$1,850,000 in federal grant funding for outsourced sexual assault kit (SAK) testing.
- The TBI entered into a contract with DNA Labs International (DLI) located in Deerfield Beach, Florida, to perform SAK testing at a rate of \$2,155 per SAK.
- Given the funding available and the contracted testing rate, a total of 858 SAKs may be outsource tested.
- 550 SAKs were delivered to DLI via TBI airplane on March 6, 2023.
- 308 SAKs were delivered to DLI via TBI airplane on July 6, 2023.
- Per terms of grant funding and DLI contract, the testing on the initial 858 kits must be (and was) completed by DLI by December 31, 2023.

- Additional federal grant funding was secured for outsourced testing. This additional federal grant funding was required to be spent by January 31, 2024. Given this time constraint, DNA Labs International (DLI) agreed to accept 50 additional kits at a rate of \$2,155 per kit. The total expenditure for these 50 additional kits will be \$107,750.
- 50 SAKs were shipped to DLI in December 2023, bringing the outsource total to 908 SAKs.
- The outsource lab only accepts sexual assault kits (SAKs). TBI is responsible for all testing on additional items such as clothing and bedding. Testing on these additional items is more labor intensive and time consuming than testing sexual assault kits (SAKs).
- The outsource lab performs SAK testing per TBI specifications. However, TBI remains responsible for case review and CODIS upload and match management.

## **Project 2**

- The TBI secured an additional \$413,719 in federal grant funding for outsourced sexual assault kit (SAK) testing.
- The TBI entered into a contract with DNA Labs International (DLI) located in Deerfield Beach, Florida, to perform SAK testing at a rate of \$2,155 per SAK.
- Given the funding available and the contracted testing rate, up to a total of 192 additional SAKs may be outsourced.
- 192 SAKs have been shipped to DLI.
- Per terms of the pending contract, the testing of up to 192 additional SAKs must be completed by DLI prior to September 30, 2024. All initial testing has been completed by the outsource laboratory; however, 98 cases await TBI review and are unreported.

## **Outsourced Testing Progress**

- From September 1-30, 2024, the statewide weighted-average turnaround time for outsourced cases was 27.4 weeks. This includes both outsourced testing and TBI review and reporting.
- 98 cases remain unreported in the outsourcing projects.

## **Future testing/turnaround:**

- The TBI is required to perform case review and CODIS upload and match management for all outsourced cases.
- As more cases are completed by the outsourced lab, added case review and CODIS responsibilities may negatively impact turnaround time and inventory of current in-house cases.
- The TBI is committed to improving service to all cases – including sex offense cases. Long term success in improving service will be a function of successes in hiring, training, and retaining TBI Forensic Division employees.

## **TBI Crime Lab In-House Combined Sex Offense Requests**

### **Nashville**

Forensic Biology - Sex Offense	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
Requests Received	46	42	31	24	46	25	33	36	34	39	36	73	31
Requests Completed	17	46	44	50	64	48	50	26	33	34	17	33	17
Requests Pending	267	268	255	221	203	183	104	124	125	124	119	143	153
Average Turnaround - Weeks	30.1	32.7	31.1	26.0	22.2	24.1	21.2	22.5	16.9	10.8	17.6	18.1	13.6

Forensic Biology - Sex Offense	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
Requests Received	34	26	33	34	31	21	22	34	39	28	24	31
Requests Completed	15	31	17	58	23	45	28	49	31	28	26	29
Requests Pending	171	169	188	165	176	154	103	83	80	84	84	87
Average Turnaround - Weeks	27.1	23.2	26.3	22.2	33.6	16.6	19.9	16.26	19.12	13.2	12.7	8.4

### **Knoxville**

Forensic Biology - Sex Offense	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
Requests Received	41	41	53	35	46	23	39	42	68	32	38	55	43
Requests Completed	29	58	49	33	37	48	31	31	9	30	25	26	42
Requests Pending	384	377	375	368	384	250	118	123	195	198	152	181	181
Average Turnaround - Weeks	45.5	43.0	37.8	39.7	42.9	34.5	36.5	24.9	29.1	18.9	15.7	22.9	18.5

Forensic Biology - Sex Offense	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
Requests Received	31	38	32	21	48	56	44	65	33	39	47	35
Requests Completed	20	31	21	39	20	152	23	29	26	46	49	55
Requests Pending	190	203	169	165	184	92	101	141	141	148	138	124
Average Turnaround - Weeks	16.1	20.8	22.0	25.3	23.4	16.9	11.2	10.3	14.1	13.0	12.0	14.4

### **Jackson**

Forensic Biology - Sex Offense	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
Requests Received	34	44	30	20	58	37	31	43	42	162	42	47	48
Requests Completed	32	63	25	19	35	24	35	38	32	22	31	19	34
Requests Pending	350	360	345	347	386	391	144	145	156	301	102	153	177
Average Turnaround - Weeks	49.2	42.4	44.3	43.8	38.7	42.2	40.1	39.1	26.9	20.1	21.8	17.8	12.6

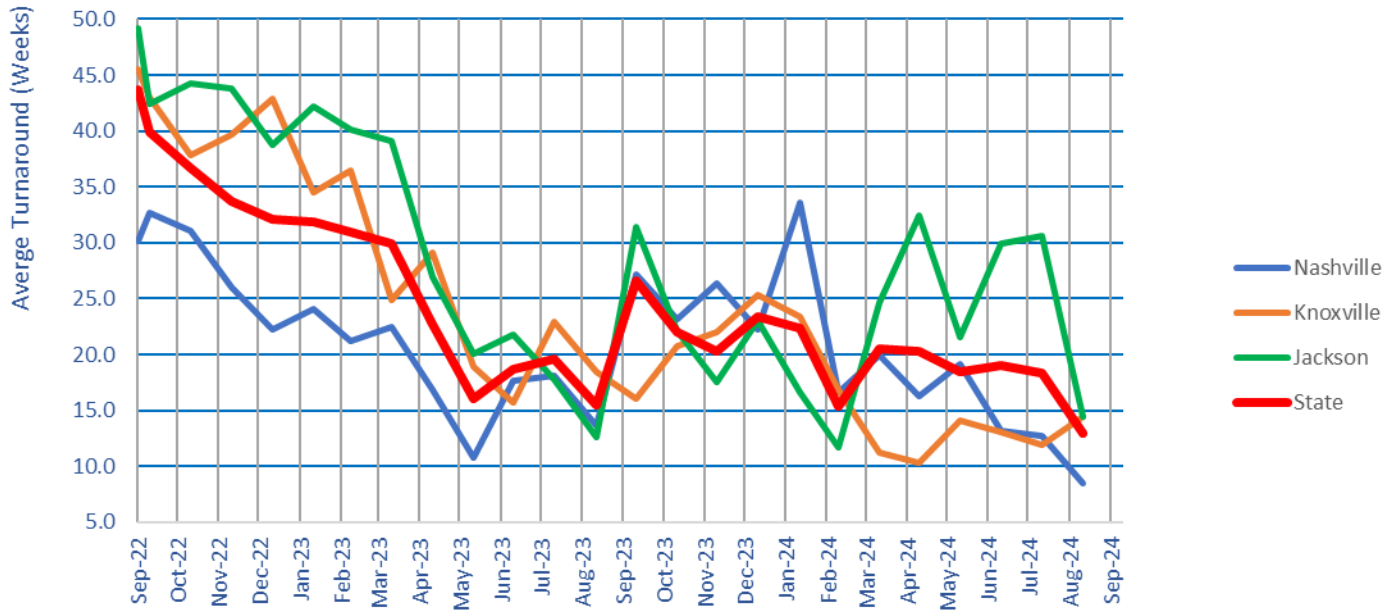
Forensic Biology - Sex Offense	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
Requests Received	54	53	35	40	37	39	81	32	30	39	40	47
Requests Completed	43	53	50	32	48	76	56	40	29	41	37	36
Requests Pending	198	195	189	210	177	148	190	155	145	172	152	184
Average Turnaround - Weeks	31.4	22.1	17.5	23.0	16.6	11.7	24.6	32.5	21.5	29.9	30.6	14.5

### **State**

Forensic Biology - Sex Offense	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
Requests Received	121	127	114	79	150	85	103	121	144	233	116	175	122
Requests Completed	78	167	118	102	136	120	116	95	74	86	73	78	93
Requests Pending	1,001	1,005	975	936	973	824	366	392	476	623	373	477	511
Average Turnaround - Weeks	43.7	39.9	36.7	33.7	32.1	31.9	31.0	29.9	22.7	16.0	18.7	19.6	15.4

Forensic Biology - Sex Offense	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
Requests Received	119	117	100	95	116	116	147	131	102	106	111	113
Requests Completed	78	115	88	129	91	275	107	118	86	115	112	120
Requests Pending	709	730	689	672	681	387	394	379	366	404	374	395
Average Turnaround - Weeks	26.6	22.0	20.3	23.4	22.4	15.3	20.5	20.3	18.4	19.1	18.3	13.0

**TBI Crime Lab In-House Combined Sex Offense Requests  
Average Turnaround (Weeks)**



**TBI Crime Lab In-House Combined Sex Offense Requests  
Inventory**

