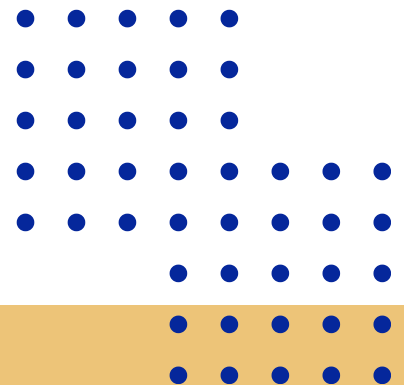




## TBI'S CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

*Applying unique and advanced investigative  
expertise to solve cases with care and compassion.*



# Never Giving Up

## USING CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY & STATE FUNDING, TBI CONTINUES TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON COLD CASES.

A TBI initiative that began two years ago has received additional funding and will continue to make an impact across the state.

The Bureau's bold initiative began in 2022 after the Governor's Office was approached with a proposal regarding specialized DNA testing involving unidentified human remains cases. They recognized the need, and partnered with TBI to provide one-time funding of \$100,000, later approved by the General Assembly to be used specifically for forensic genetic genealogy testing in TBI cold cases in which all other methods have been exhausted.



Fourteen cases involving unidentified individuals initially met the criteria for the initiative. Agents submitted a portion of the skeletal remains of each victim to Othram, Inc., a private lab based in Texas, to conduct DNA sequencing and extraction. As of December 2024, seven of those victims have been identified.

Six of the seven cases are being worked as homicides, and investigators are hoping to develop information and potential leads about the circumstances leading to each person's disappearance and death.

While we've seen measurable success, there is still a lot of work left to do. Currently, there are more than 100 cold cases in Tennessee that involve unidentified human remains.



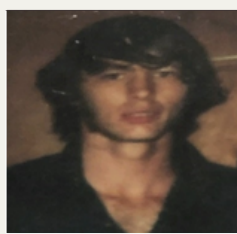
**FOR MORE  
DETAILS ON  
COLD CASES  
VISIT [TN.GOV/TBI](http://TN.GOV/TBI).**



Fortunately, TBI just received an additional \$100,000 as a result of U.S. Congressman Tim Burchett's 2024 Community Project Funding request through the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The federal funds will allow agents to expand the initiative, working with local agencies across the state to submit more cases involving unidentified individuals for forensic genetic genealogy testing, striving to give family members and loved ones closure.

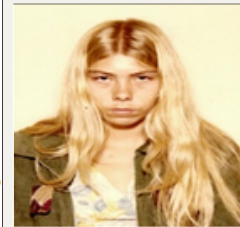


## 7 KEY CASES: A TIMELINE OF TBI'S UHR INITIATIVE



**Jerry  
Harrison**

Remains were found  
in Claiborne County  
in August 1986.  
**Identified in June  
2023.**  
Originally from Little  
Rock, Arkansas.



**Michelle  
Inman**

Remains were found  
in Cheatham County  
in March 1985.  
**Identified in July  
2023.**  
Living in Nashville,  
TN at the time of her  
disappearance.



**Linda Sue  
Karnes**

Remains were found  
in Cheatham County  
in October 1981.  
**Identified in August  
2023.**  
Grew up in  
Cunningham, TN



**Kenneth  
Thompson**

Remains were found  
in Cumberland  
County in August  
1993.  
**Identified in August  
2023.**  
Originally from  
Detroit, Michigan.



**James  
Nuchols**

Remains were found  
in Loudon County in  
September 1985.  
**Identified in  
September 2023.**  
He was from Blount  
County.



**Betty Lou  
Wisley**

Remains found in  
Roane County in  
August 1987.  
**Identified in October  
2023.**  
Lived in the Knox  
County area at the  
time of her death.



**Elbert Louis  
Brown**

Hit by a vehicle and  
killed in May 1993.  
**Positively Identified  
in March 2024.**  
Originally from York,  
South Carolina.

## TBI'S CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

In many ways, CID is the foundation upon which the TBI was built. Created as a resource for the district attorneys general and for law enforcement agencies across the state, this division provides expertise in a wide range of criminal investigations.

From public corruption, to homicide, to human trafficking, and fugitive apprehension, TBI's special agents conduct their case work with professionalism and integrity.

- **681** ACTIVE INVESTIGATIONS
- **383** MAJOR INVESTIGATIONS
- **695** ASSIST INVESTIGATIONS
- **179** INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATIONS
- **801** CLOSED CASES
- **249** ARRESTS



As of June 30, 2024, the Criminal Investigation Division had 681 active/open major investigations.

During the fiscal year, the division's agents conducted 383 major investigations, 695 assist investigations, and 179 intelligence investigations in support of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

In total, CID conducted criminal investigations, investigative assists, and intelligence gathering in 1,257 cases before concluding work in 801 cases.

Beginning in January of 2019, reporting of case statistics reflect major cases only, with reporting of other classifications broken out for more accurate reporting. During Fiscal Year 2023-2024, agents made 249 arrests. (At this time, many of them remained judicially active.)

In addition, agents either arrested or assisted in the arrest of fugitives and noncompliant sex offenders.

TBI’s Criminal Investigation division comprises several vital units, each with a distinct mission and impact.

## FIELD INVESTIGATION UNIT



Violent and white-collar crimes make up a large percentage of cases worked by field agents. District attorneys general across the state issue written requests that a special agent investigate a crime or allegation of a crime, especially those that require an independent examination such as an officer use of force. Other cases worked include embezzlement or theft of large sums of money from public entities or private businesses, bribery, violent sex crimes, child abuse, officer misconduct, and the deaths of jail inmates.

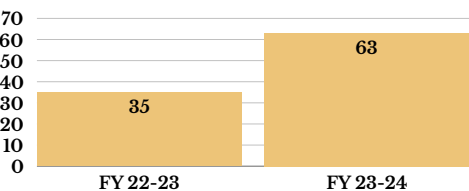
## HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



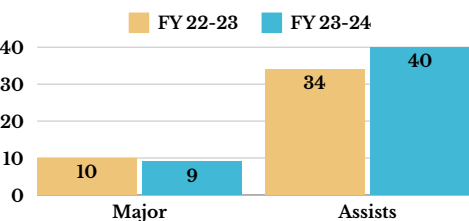
This unit investigates cases of adult and minor commercial sex and labor trafficking, and assists in efforts to prosecute those responsible and recover adults and juvenile victims.

The HTU also provides training to local law enforcement agencies in conducting human trafficking investigations, as well as providing education and awareness to the public regarding the recognition and appropriate response to possible human trafficking interactions or observations.

### TRAFFICKING ARRESTS



### CASES OPENED



[http://](http://www.ithastostop.com) **TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TN'S  
WORK TO ADDRESS HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING, VISIT  
WWW.ITHASTOSTOP.COM.**



## POLYGRAPH UNIT



TBI's certified polygraph examiners conduct criminal, specific-issue polygraph examinations at the request of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as requests received from the state's district attorneys general, along with pre-employment screenings of applicants for certain TBI positions.

To maintain the highest professional standards, the agency has prioritized maintaining the unit's national accreditation by instituting a thorough quality control review of each examination, ongoing training for each examiner, and an independent review of the unit's procedures to ensure compliance.

## VICTIM SERVICES UNIT



Victim Services ensures that TBI's mission is upheld by providing nonjudgmental social, informational, and practical support to all crime victims and survivors working with TBI.

TBI's victim services coordinators ensure victims, witnesses, and any family members involved in TBI cases know their rights, the investigative process, and the criminal justice process as required by federal and state law.

The Victim Services Unit also offers a myriad of supportive services such as education and support with forensic interviews and medical examinations, death notifications, and case updates.

## FIRE INVESTIGATIONS



TBI's special agents assigned to fire investigations respond to incidents involving fire across the state that are destructive to buildings and other properties, as well as those that result in fatalities. The Bureau works closely with local jurisdictions to determine the cause, origin, and circumstances of the fire. In conjunction with the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance, TBI supports efforts to organize educational and training programs within the state for local and federal agencies to further protect the safety of Tennesseans and their property.

In FY23-24, TBI responded to 375 cases, including 39 major fire investigations, and 336 investigative assists.

## ACCELERANT DETECTION K9S

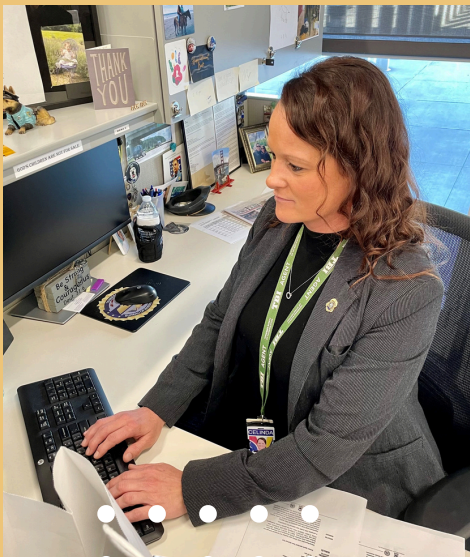


The TBI currently has four Accelerant Detection Canine (ADC) teams assigned across the state. These teams recertify annually through testing sponsored by the TBI's federal partners from the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to ensure that the ADC teams are performing at an acceptable level.

TBI ADC teams are often utilized when a fire investigation is believed to be criminal in nature, allowing for the timely discovery of trace amounts of ignitable liquids that could have been used to start or spread the growth of an intentionally set fire. TBI's ADC teams also lighten the demands on TBI's Microanalysis Unit by minimizing the number of samples collected from a fire scene in which the ADC did not detect the presence of an ignitable liquid.

# Whatever It Takes

## TOUGH CASES IN 2024 PROVED TBI SPECIAL AGENT CELINDA DAVIDSON IS IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME.



From an early age, Celinda Davidson knew she wanted to go into law enforcement.

Her grandfather was a constable for 30 years and instilled in her a desire to serve others. She was hired as a dispatcher right out of high school and would later become the first female deputy in her hometown. Celinda joined the TBI in 2016 as a CID special agent and quickly earned the respect of her co-workers and supervisors.

Her commitment to the job became even more apparent over the last year, partly due to her work on two complex cases. In January 2024, TBI was requested to investigate a violent homicide in Henderson County. Celinda was assigned as the case agent and began leading a joint investigation that involved TBI agents from various divisions and investigators from local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

As the case progressed, authorities determined those involved were members of two street gangs connected to a slew of violent crimes in West Tennessee. Countless hours were spent on the joint case, resulting in 10 spin-off cases in which TBI is assisting, 74 criminal charges related to first-degree murder, and 20 arrests.

In addition, Davidson was tasked with leading the investigation into the death of a 14-month-old child in June 2024. The child had been sexually assaulted and severely abused by her mother and her mother's boyfriend. As a result of the case and Agent Davidson's perseverance, both were arrested and charged in connection to the child's death.

Davidson says that the outcome of cases like this year's keep her focused, adding the best part of her job is getting to be a voice for those without one.