

Criminal Investigation Division

TBI's Criminal Investigation Division represents the Bureau's commitment to pursuing truth when circumstances are complex and stakes are high. Agents in this division are often called upon during the most challenging moments, when clarity is needed, facts must be established, and confidence in the investigative process is essential.

Much of this work happens quietly and methodically. Through experience, collaboration, and preparation, this team's dedication ensures investigations are conducted with integrity and professionalism, especially when it matters most for victims, families, and communities.



The TBI's Criminal Investigation Division stands at the center of the agency's mission – providing investigative expertise, independence, and support when cases are complex, sensitive, or require a higher level of coordination. Since its founding, the division has served as a trusted resource for district attorneys general and law enforcement agencies across Tennessee.

From homicide and public corruption to human trafficking and fugitive apprehension, special agents approach each case with professionalism, integrity, and a commitment to uncovering the truth. Much of this work begins at the request of prosecutors or partner agencies and often involves cases where objectivity and experience are critical.

In 2025, the division opened 779 major cases and closed 721, with 680 active major cases at year's end. Agents also provided 712 investigative assists and produced 165 intelligence reports in support of local, state, and federal partners. During that time, the division made 235 arrests, with many cases remaining active within the judicial process.

Field Investigation Unit

The Field Investigation Unit represents the core of the division's work, handling a wide range of complex criminal investigations across the state. These cases often involve violent crime, public corruption, officer-involved incidents, and significant financial crimes.

Agents are frequently called upon to conduct independent investigations at the request of district attorneys general, particularly in matters requiring objectivity and specialized expertise. Their work includes cases involving violent offenses, child abuse, officer misconduct, inmate deaths, and large-scale financial crimes affecting both public institutions and private businesses.

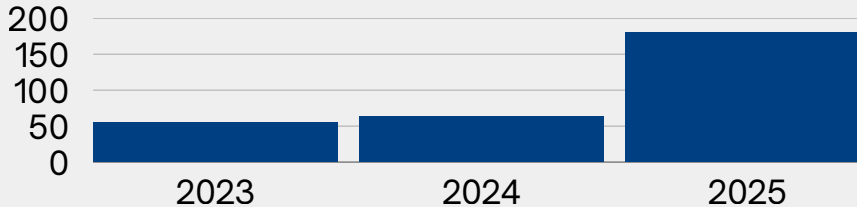


Human Trafficking Unit

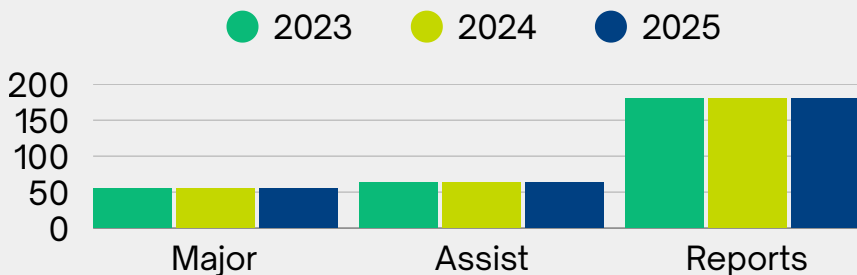
The Human Trafficking Unit investigates cases involving both adult and minor victims of commercial sex and labor trafficking. In addition to pursuing those responsible, the unit works to identify and recover victims, connecting them with appropriate resources and support.

The unit also provides training to law enforcement agencies and raises public awareness to help communities recognize and respond to trafficking. These efforts reflect a broader commitment to addressing both the criminal and human impact of trafficking across Tennessee. To learn more, visit www.ITHasToStop.com.

TBI Trafficking Arrests



TBI Trafficking Cases Opened



Polygraph Unit

The Polygraph Unit provides certified examination services in support of criminal investigations across local, state, and federal jurisdictions, as well as pre-employment screenings for select TBI positions.

To maintain the highest professional standards, the unit emphasizes rigorous quality control, ongoing examiner training, and independent review processes. These measures ensure examinations are conducted with consistency, accuracy, and accountability.

Victim Services Unit

The Victim Services Unit plays a critical role in ensuring that the Bureau's work remains centered on those most impacted by crime. Coordinators provide nonjudgmental support to victims, witnesses, and family members throughout the investigative and criminal justice process.

This support includes helping individuals understand their rights, preparing them for forensic interviews and medical examinations, assisting with death notifications, and providing case updates. Through these efforts, the unit helps ensure victims are treated with dignity, respect, and care.

Fire Investigations

Special agents assigned to fire investigations respond to incidents involving destructive fires, including those resulting in fatalities. Working closely with local jurisdictions, agents determine the origin, cause, and circumstances of fires, particularly when criminal activity is suspected.

In partnership with the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance, the division also supports training and educational efforts aimed at improving fire investigation capabilities and preventing future incidents.

Accelerant Detection Canine Teams

The division maintains four Accelerant Detection Canine (ADC) teams strategically located across the state.



These teams are trained to detect trace amounts of ignitable liquids and are often deployed when a fire is believed to be intentionally set.

Certified annually through testing conducted in partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, these teams enhance investigative efficiency by helping identify critical evidence and reducing unnecessary laboratory testing. Their work allows investigators to move more quickly and accurately in determining the cause of a fire.

