

CJIS Division

The Criminal Justice Information Services Division manages critical systems that support law enforcement, public safety, and the justice process across Tennessee. Accuracy, reliability, and security are central to this mission, as the information maintained here informs countless decisions every day.

Though often unseen, this division's work ensures that agencies statewide have access to timely, trustworthy data when it matters most. Through careful stewardship and continuous improvement, this team strengthens the infrastructure that allows justice to function effectively.



The TBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division provides the systems and infrastructure that allow public safety efforts across the state to function effectively. By managing critical data and ensuring timely, accurate information sharing, the division supports law enforcement agencies at every level—often in ways the public never sees, but that are essential when it matters most.

From background checks to crime reporting to biometric identification, the division ensures that officers, investigators, and decision-makers have access to reliable information when it is needed. This work requires precision, consistency, and a commitment to maintaining systems that operate seamlessly around the clock.

Tennessee Instant Check System (TICS)

The Tennessee Instant Check System conducts federally and state-mandated background checks for firearm purchases, helping ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations. To complete these checks, personnel query multiple databases, including the Tennessee Criminal History Repository, the National Crime Information Center, the Interstate Identification Index, and the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

In 2025, the unit processed 510,329 transactions, a decrease of 5.3% year to year, reflecting the scale and consistency required to support lawful firearm transfers across the state.

Tennessee Incident-Based Reporting System (TIBRS)

The Tennessee Incident-Based Reporting System serves as the state's primary platform for collecting and analyzing crime data submitted by law enforcement agencies. The unit compiles, audits, and publishes this



data, ensuring it is accurate, complete, and accessible. This information supports informed decision-making at every level – from local agencies to state leadership -- and provides transparency to the public. To explore crime data by jurisdiction, visit crimeinsight.tbi.tn.gov.

Biometric Services Section

The Biometric Services Section plays a vital role in maintaining the integrity and accuracy of identification data. In 2025, the unit processed 598,144 fingerprint submissions, maintaining a high standard of data quality.

Fewer than one percent of submissions were returned due to missing or incomplete information, reflecting the division's emphasis on accuracy and accountability. Of these submissions, approximately 55% were associated with criminal arrests, while the remaining 45% supported employment and law enforcement applicant background checks.

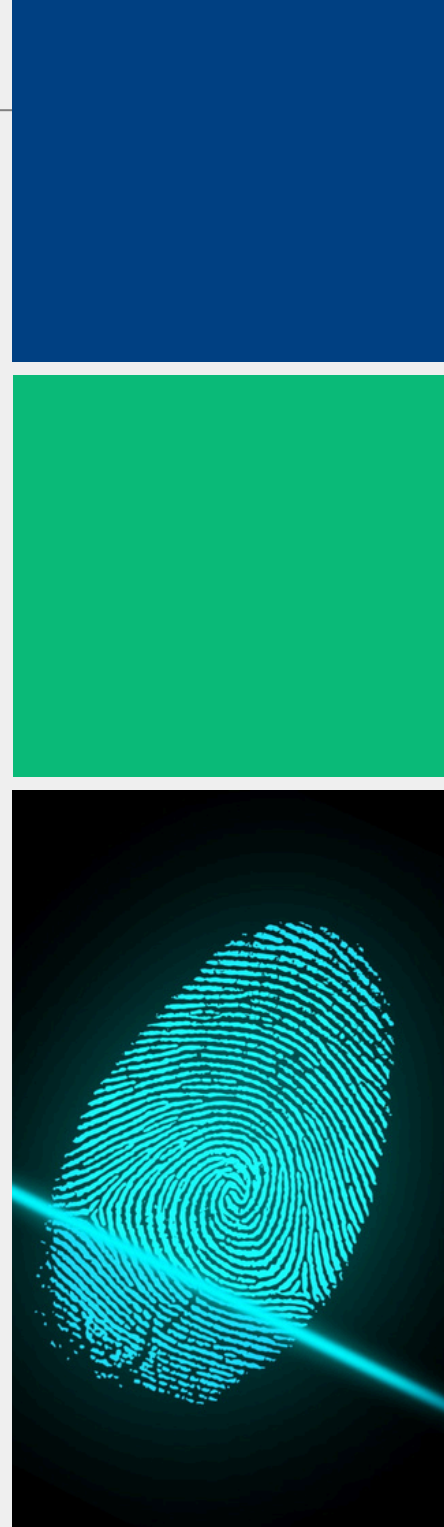
This work ensures that identification systems remain reliable and that records used in investigations and background checks are both complete and trustworthy.

TIES Operations Unit

Operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the TIES Operations Unit provides continuous support to agencies across Tennessee. The unit houses the Tennessee Crime Information Center and serves as the Bureau's after-hours emergency communications hub. In addition to managing emergency communications, personnel provide technical support for agencies connected to the TIES network and monitor system performance to ensure uninterrupted access to critical information.

Supporting Public Safety Through Information

While the work of the CJIS Division is largely unseen, its



impact is far-reaching. Every background check completed, every data point verified, and every system maintained contributes to a more informed and effective response to public safety challenges. By ensuring the right information is available at the right time, the division helps law enforcement agencies across Tennessee act with confidence, accuracy, and accountability.



“We are confidently stepping into the digital era, converting decades of archived court records and physical fingerprint cards into a digital format and linking these records to older arrests that previously lacked final dispositions. By digitizing these critical records, the division is enhancing accuracy, increasing efficiency, and equipping law enforcement and justice partners across Tennessee with faster, more comprehensive criminal history information to make informed decisions and better protect our communities.”

Yeselin Pendleton
TBI Assistant Director, CJIS Division

