

# Drug Investigation Division

The Drug Investigation Division works to protect Tennesseans from the evolving threats posed by illegal drugs and the criminal networks behind them. This work requires persistence, adaptability, and a deep understanding of how drug activity impacts public safety and community well-being.

Behind every enforcement action is extensive planning, coordination, and intelligence-driven work. Agents in this division operate across jurisdictions and alongside partner agencies to disrupt trafficking, reduce harm, and hold offenders accountable – often in ways the public never sees, but always with service at the forefront.



The TBI's Drug Investigation Division works to protect communities across the state by targeting the individuals and organizations responsible for the distribution of illegal drugs. Through proactive, intelligence-driven investigations, special agents focus on significant offenders, drug trafficking organizations, and mid- to high-level distributors – working to disrupt the networks that drive drug-related crime and violence.

These investigations require persistence, coordination, and a deep understanding of evolving drug trends. Agents gather evidence, build cases, and support the successful prosecution of those involved in illegal drug activity, helping hold offenders accountable and reduce the impact of illicit substances on Tennessee communities.

## **Strengthening Enforcement Through Partnership**

In addition to leading independent investigations, the Drug Investigation Division plays a critical role in supporting the broader law enforcement community. Agents provide technical expertise, legal guidance, and operational resources to partner agencies at the local, state, and federal levels – ensuring a coordinated and effective response to complex drug-related threats.

The division maintains strong working relationships with federal partners, including the Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security Investigations, and the United States Postal Inspection Service, as well as Tennessee's United States Attorney's Offices. These partnerships enhance the Bureau's ability to identify, investigate, and dismantle large-scale drug trafficking networks operating across jurisdictions.

## **Drug Activity & Violent Crime**

Drug activity and violent crime are often closely



connected, making the disruption of both a central focus of the division's work. The use, possession, manufacture, and distribution of controlled substances – including fentanyl, cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine – remain violations of both state and federal law. Beyond these offenses, illegal drug activity frequently contributes to additional criminal behavior, driven by profit, addiction, and conflict within illicit markets.

Violence associated with drug trafficking often stems from competition for territory, control of supply, and disputes among those involved in the drug trade. In recent years, these dynamics have become increasingly complex, with greater access to dangerous substances and weapons contributing to more serious outcomes.

In response, the division works to identify and disrupt drug trafficking organizations – particularly those linked to violence – through targeted investigations and coordinated enforcement efforts. These efforts are supported by partnerships with law enforcement agencies and community-based initiatives focused on reducing both drug activity and its broader impact on public safety.

## **Responding to Evolving Threats**

As drug trends continue to evolve, the Drug Investigation Division remains focused on adapting its strategies to meet emerging challenges. This includes ongoing efforts to combat overdose deaths and reduce drug-related violence through targeted enforcement and strategic initiatives.

Much of this work takes place beyond public view – but its impact is reflected in safer communities, stronger partnerships, and a more coordinated response to one of the most persistent public safety challenges facing the state.

## Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force

The Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force operates under the guiding principle: Protect, Enforce, and Educate. Through a multidisciplinary and multijurisdictional approach, the task force addresses the production, distribution, and abuse of highly hazardous illicit substances across Tennessee.

By combining enforcement efforts, investigative collaboration, and community education, the task force works to reduce the impact of dangerous drugs on public safety and community well-being. These efforts reflect a broader commitment to addressing not only the supply of illicit substances, but also the conditions that allow them to take hold.

To learn more about the Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force, visit [tn.gov/tddtf](http://tn.gov/tddtf).

TBI Drug Investigation Division Top 5 Drugs Seized	
Marijuana	3,122 Pounds
Methamphetamine	463.9 Kilograms
Cocaine	274.2 Kilograms
Fentanyl	88.5 Kilograms
Prescription Drugs	53,355 Dosage Units