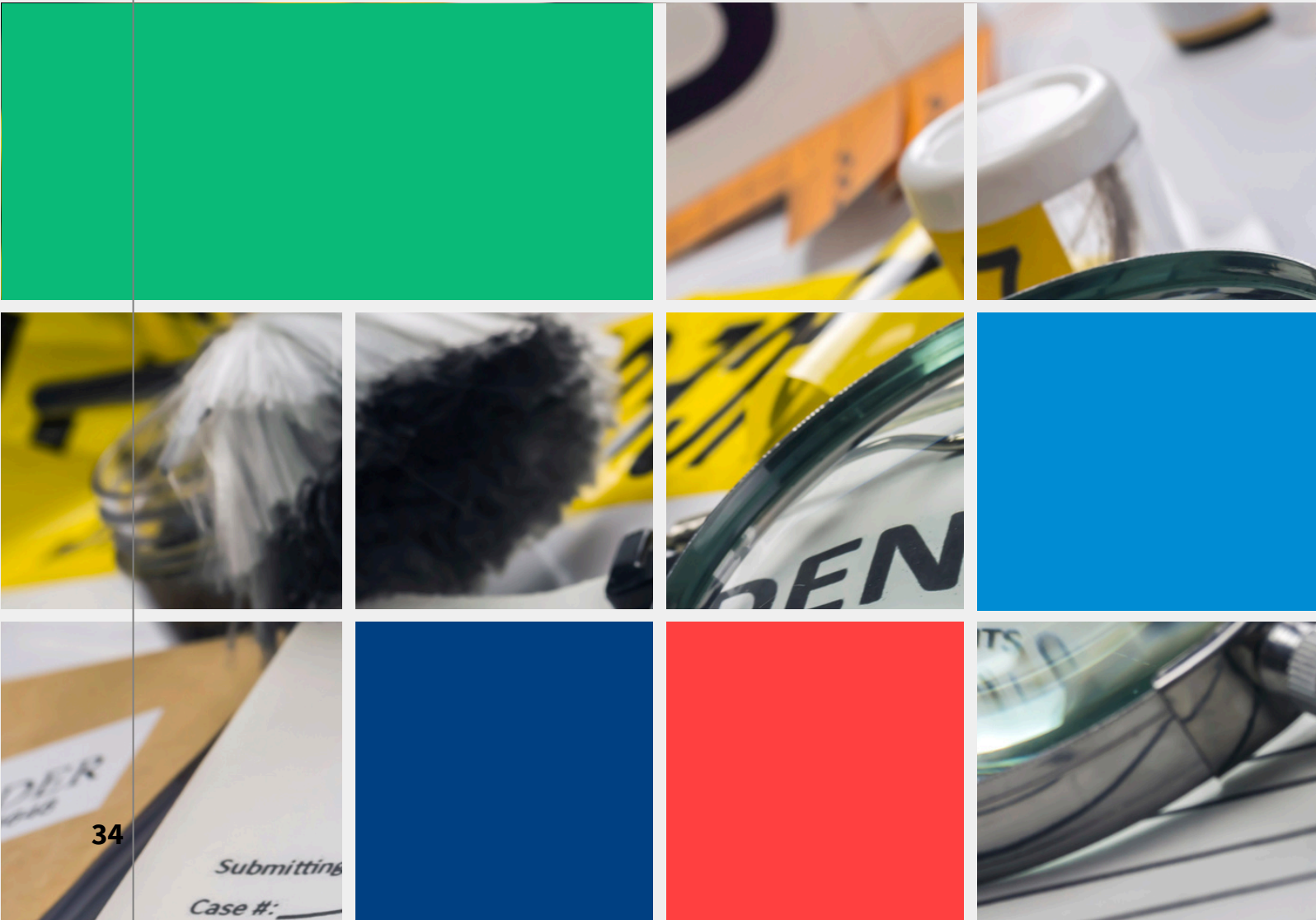


# Forensic Services Division

The Forensic Services Division provides the scientific foundation that supports the pursuit of justice. Through careful analysis, objectivity, and adherence to rigorous standards, forensic scientists ensure evidence is examined accurately and responsibly.

Much of this work takes place behind laboratory doors, long before results are presented in court. Precision, patience, and preparation define this division's daily efforts, allowing investigators and prosecutors to rely on sound science when decisions carry lasting consequences.



In 2025, TBI's Forensic Services Division continued to build on recent investments in staffing, training, and operational efficiency, resulting in measurable progress in both turnaround times and overall case backlogs. These improvements reflect a sustained focus on strengthening service to law enforcement partners and, ultimately, to the victims and communities they serve.

One of the most significant areas of progress remains the division's response to sexual assault cases. In August 2022, the statewide average in-house turnaround time for sex offense requests reached 45.4 weeks. By June 1, 2024, that average had been reduced to 11.7 weeks for cases involving only a sexual assault kit. As of June 1, 2025, the average stands at 11.5 weeks. During that same period, the number of pending in-house requests for sexual assault testing decreased from 393 to 371.

Across all disciplines, the division continues to see meaningful gains. As of June 1, 2024, there were 10,814 pending requests for laboratory testing. By June 1, 2025, that number had decreased to 7,032 in critical areas, a 34.97% reduction in backlog within one year. In Forensic Chemistry, which processes drug evidence, pending statewide requests dropped from 6,435 to 2,231. Average turnaround time in that discipline improved from 18.4 weeks to 6.3 weeks.

While progress continues, further reductions in turnaround times and backlogs will depend on sustained investments in staffing and training—ensuring the division remains prepared to meet the demands of increasingly complex casework.

## **Scientific Expertise & Statewide Service**

The Forensic Services Division provides comprehensive evidence analysis for every law enforcement agency and medical examiner in Tennessee. This work requires a high level of expertise and precision, supported by a team of forensic scientists who hold advanced



scientific degrees and complete extensive training in forensic analysis and crime scene investigation. The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation operates a centralized laboratory in Nashville serving all 95 counties, along with regional laboratories in Jackson and Knoxville. Across these facilities, specialized units examine biological, chemical, and physical evidence—delivering scientifically sound results that investigators and prosecutors rely on when decisions carry lasting consequences.

## Violent Crime Response Teams

In addition to laboratory analysis, the Forensic Services Division provides direct support at crime scenes through its Violent Crime Response Teams. These teams are equipped with specialized vehicles and advanced forensic tools, allowing them to assist with the documentation, preservation, and collection of evidence in complex and high-stakes situations. In 2025, these teams were deployed 23 times across Tennessee, contributing a total of 945.4 on-scene hours. This included 22 responses to crime scenes or requests for technical assistance, accounting for 903.4 hours, and one response to a law enforcement use-of-force incident, totaling 42 hours.

Through both laboratory analysis and field response, the Forensic Services Division ensures that critical evidence is handled with care, precision, and professionalism, supporting the pursuit of truth when it matters most.



# 2025 Case Requests

Forensic Discipline	Jackson	Nashville	Knoxville	Total
Drug Chemistry	3,015	8,760	7,491	<b>19,266</b>
Toxicology - Alcohol	2,584	11,113	5,895	<b>19,592</b>
Toxicology - Drug	1,094	3,571	2,566	<b>7,231</b>
Forensic Biology	850	1,207	1,135	<b>3,192</b>
Firearms & Toolmark Identification	178	365		<b>543</b>
Microanalysis		534		<b>534</b>
Latent Prints		1,552		<b>1,552</b>