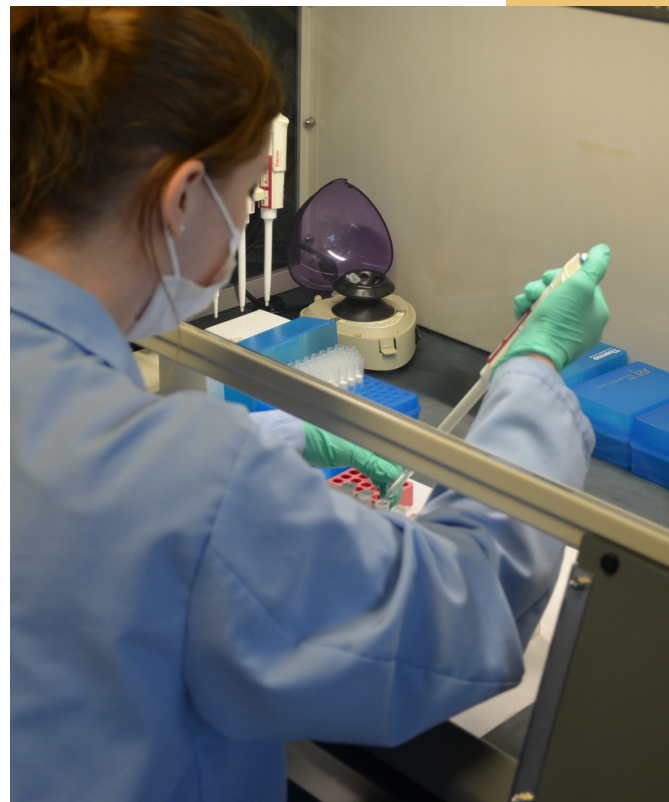


# FORENSIC SERVICES DIVISION

Forensic Science, the application of science to the law, has emerged as a major force in the attempts of the criminal justice system to control crime and to ensure a high quality of justice. The Special Agent/Forensic Scientists who work within TBI's Forensic Services Division (Crime Laboratory System) possess a wide array of analytical skills and direct their expertise to problems of reconstructing criminal acts, identifying and comparing physical and biological evidence, linking offenders with their victims and exonerating falsely accused persons. The Forensic Services Division provides forensic science services to any law enforcement agency or medical examiner in our state (T.C.A.§38-6-103).

A Forensic Scientist must be skilled in applying the principles and techniques of the physical and natural sciences to the analysis of the many types of evidence that may be recovered during criminal investigations. However, in doing this, the scientist must also be aware of the demands and constraints that are imposed by the judicial system. The procedures and techniques that are utilized in the crime laboratory must rest on a firm scientific foundation and satisfy the criteria of admissibility established by the courts. Because of this range of requirements, all TBI Forensic Scientists are commissioned by the Director as Special Agents; have earned a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in chemistry or a closely related scientific field; and have completed extensive training related to forensic science and crime scene investigation.



“Forensic Services employees possess a myriad of analytical skills to apply towards the reconstruction of criminal acts and the identification and comparison of evidence. Their extensive training and experience are crucial to linking offenders with their victims and exonerating falsely accused persons.”

**Mike Lyttle, Assistant Director**



## FY 2021-2022 PAST CHALLENGES

- Creating needed Forensic Scientist positions to accommodate the workload of statewide evidence submissions
- Mitigating challenges with cases and turnaround times due to newly hired scientists requiring up to two years of training
- Acquiring critically-needed funding for new equipment and maintenance of current tools and technology

## FY 2022-2023 PRESENT WORK

- Completing hiring and ongoing training of 50 new TBI Forensic Services employees
- Maintaining the highest quality of casework
- Embracing technological advancements in instrumentation, methodology, data analysis, and reporting to improve testing, efficiency, and customer service

## FY 2023-2024 FUTURE OBJECTIVES

- Further improving turnaround time and reducing case backlog
- Maintaining the highest quality of case work
- Embracing technological advancements in instrumentation, methodology, data analysis, and reporting to improve testing, efficiency, and customer service

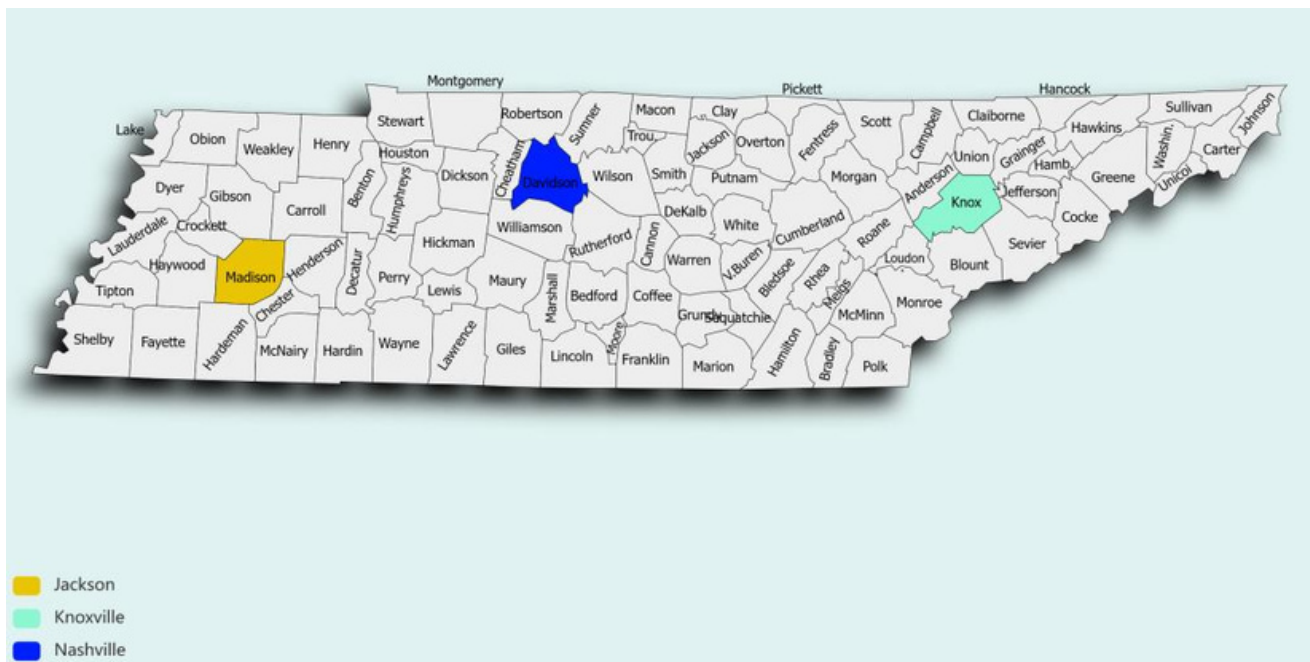


The Forensic Services Division has achieved ISO 17025 Accreditation administered by the ANSI (American National Standards Institute) National Accreditation Board (ANAB), the highest level available, in all Forensic Testing disciplines, Crime Scene Processing, and Breath Alcohol Calibration. With this high level of accreditation, the Forensic Services Division is recognized as being effective and better equipped to withstand the scrutiny brought to bear on Forensic Science.

Accreditation is part of a laboratory's quality assurance program which, when combined with proficiency testing, continuing education, and other efforts, helps TBI's crime laboratories to provide better overall service to Tennessee's law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system. One objective of TBI in obtaining accreditation of its crime laboratories was to offer the citizens of Tennessee and the users of TBI's laboratory services a form of proof that the TBI's forensic laboratories meet established standards.

For more information about our lab accreditations, please visit [www.tn.gov/tbi/who-we-are/accreditation.html](http://www.tn.gov/tbi/who-we-are/accreditation.html).

TBI has a central laboratory that serves all 95 counties, located in Nashville and two regional laboratories in Jackson and Knoxville. Specialized units of these laboratories provide forensic analysis of biological, chemical, and physical evidence.





# LAB ANALYSIS REQUESTS



During the Fiscal Year 2022–2023, the laboratory testing units of Forensic Services Division received 57,443 requests for analysis from law enforcement agencies and medical examiners across the state.

The laboratory testing units completed 56,279 requests for analysis in FY 2021-2022.

For FY 2022-2023, the laboratory testing units completed 58,915 requests.

# VIOLENT CRIME RESPONSE TEAM

The TBI's Forensic Services Division has become increasingly involved in the investigation of violent crime scenes and scenes of law enforcement use of force. The value of physical evidence is recognized to be of paramount importance in crimes against persons. Toward that end, TBI has three specially designed crime scene vehicles equipped with the most advanced forensic equipment and materials available. These crime scene vehicles are regionally located in Memphis, Nashville, and Knoxville and are being used by the TBI to assist in processing Violent Crime Scenes and Scenes of Law Enforcement Use of Force.

During Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023, the TBI's Violent Crime Response Teams in Nashville, Knoxville, and Memphis/Jackson were called to locate, document, and collect evidence a total of 20 times across the state, representing 602 on-scene man hours. This includes responding to crime scenes or providing technical assistance 19 times, for a total of 572 man hours, and responding to law enforcement use-of-force scenes one time for a total of 30 man hours.



# REQUESTS BY FORENSIC DISCIPLINE

Forensic Discipline	Nashville Lab	Knoxville Lab	Jackson Lab
Forensic Chemistry	10,899	10,691	3,376
Breath Alcohol	10,949	4,832	1,915
Toxicology	3,423	2,444	788
Forensic Biology	1,026	952	954
Firearms	577	-	138
Microanalysis	519	-	-
Latent Fingerprints	1,598	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,981</b>	<b>18,919</b>	<b>7,207</b>

NOTE: Blank spaces indicate units not presently available in Knoxville and Jackson. Evidence submitted by agencies needing those types of analyses is worked in the Nashville Crime Laboratory.

For more information about the wide range of analyses within various laboratory disciplines, please visit [www.tn.gov/tbi/divisions/forensic-services-division.html](http://www.tn.gov/tbi/divisions/forensic-services-division.html).

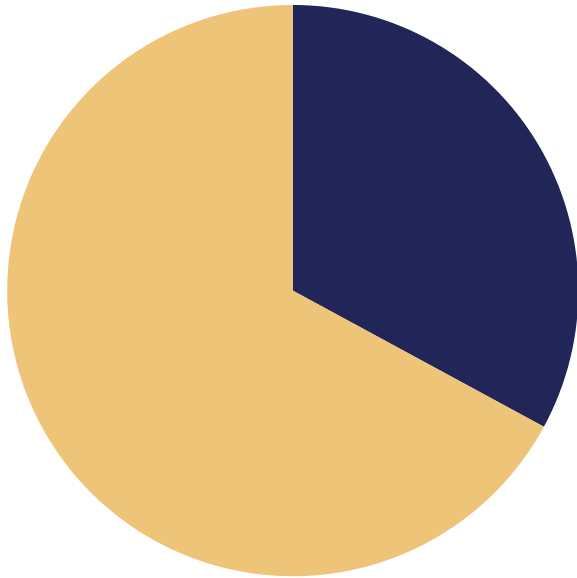
# REQUESTS COMPLETED

Forensic Discipline	Nashville Lab	Knoxville Lab	Jackson Lab
Forensic Chemistry	11,480	11,530	3,492
Breath Alcohol	10,399	4,673	1,978
Toxicology	3,626	1,726	1,387
Forensic Biology	858	900	818
Firearms	793	-	147
Microanalysis	487	-	-
Latent Fingerprints	1,475	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,981</b>	<b>18,829</b>	<b>7,822</b>

NOTE: Blank spaces indicate units not presently available in Knoxville and Jackson. Evidence submitted by agencies needing those types of analyses is worked in the Nashville Crime Laboratory.

For more information about the wide range of analyses within various laboratory disciplines, please visit [www.tn.gov/tbi/divisions/forensic-services-division.html](http://www.tn.gov/tbi/divisions/forensic-services-division.html).

# FY 2022-2023 EXPENDITURES & FUNDING



## OPERATIONS

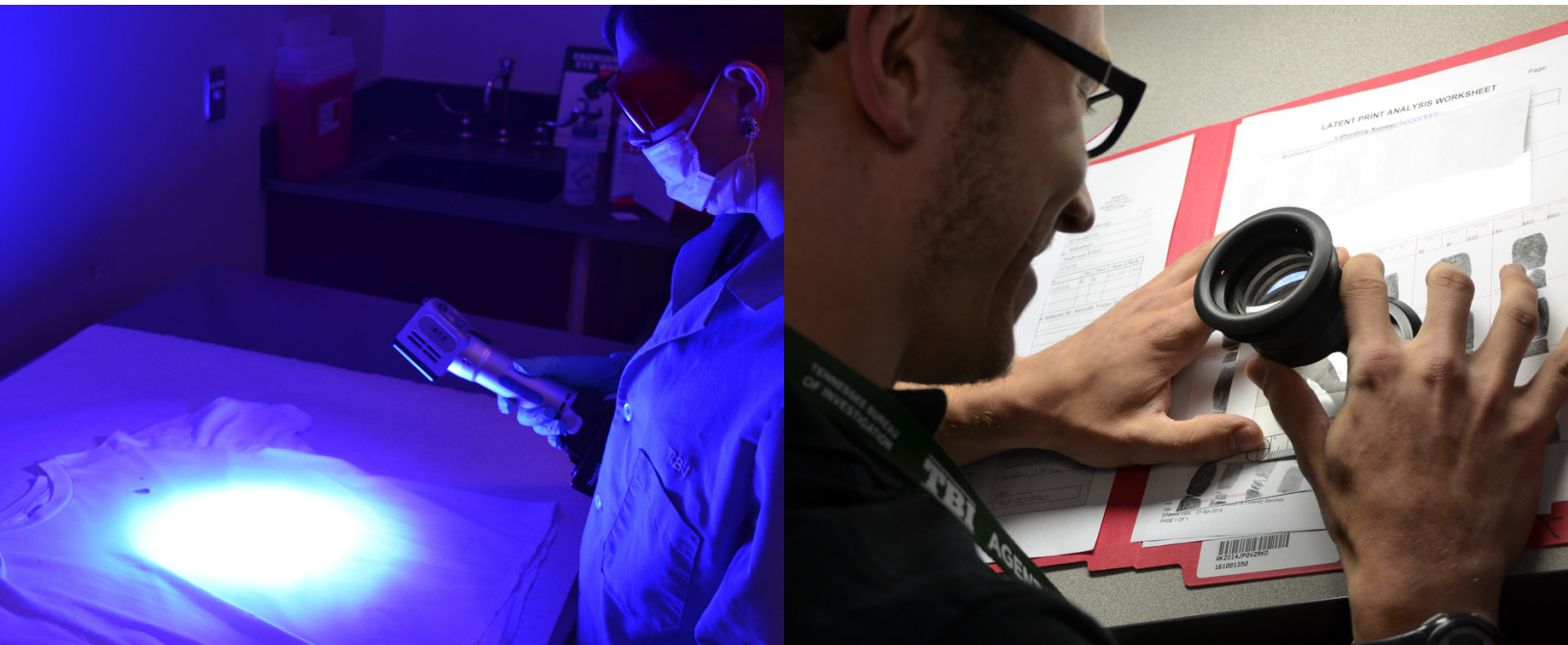
**\$8,718,802**

## SALARIES

**\$17,775,654**

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**TOTAL: \$26,494,456**



For more information about the wide range of analyses within various laboratory disciplines, please visit [www.tn.gov/tbi/divisions/forensic-services-division.html](http://www.tn.gov/tbi/divisions/forensic-services-division.html).