



DRUG INVESTIGATION DIVISION

The Drug Investigation Division (DID) investigates, gathers evidence, and assists in the prosecution of criminal offenses involving controlled substances, narcotics, and other drugs. The DID contributes in a myriad of ways to the law enforcement community. Special Agents initiate and investigate self-generated cases, targeting significant violators, drug distribution organizations, as well as mid to high-level offenders in the drug macrocosm.

Additionally, agents provide support to the drug enforcement community, including technical assistance, legal assistance, and personnel support to other agencies at the state, local, and federal levels. Effective utilization of law enforcement resources and specialized technology requires cooperation and the DID leads to foster relationships with various police departments, sheriff's offices, and judicial district drug task forces throughout the state. In that effort, DID agents strengthen ties in collaboration with federal agencies to execute drug enforcement responsibilities, including the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security Investigations, the United States Postal Investigative Service, and Tennessee's U.S. Attorney's offices.

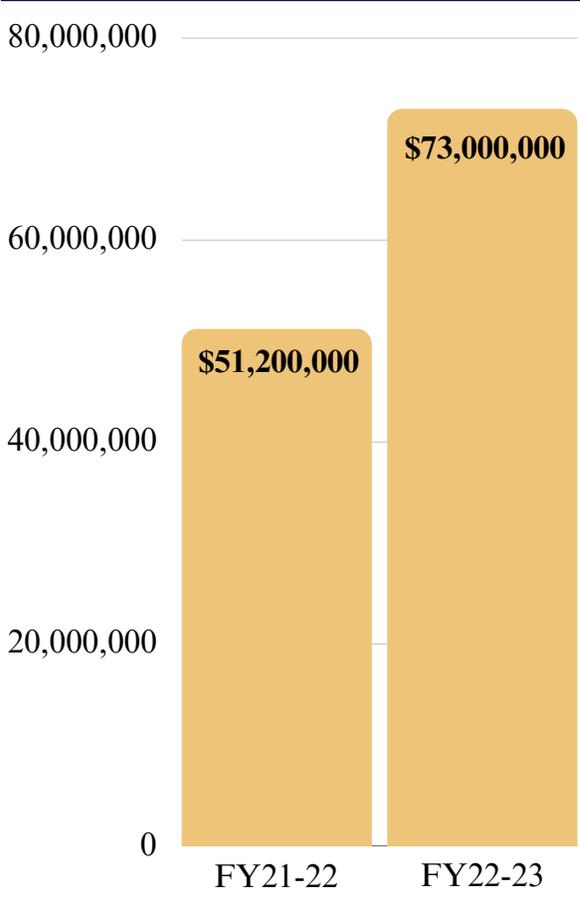
The Division's commitment to the TBI's leadership in the Tennessee law enforcement community is evidenced by its ongoing efforts to stay at the forefront of investigative policy trends, including ongoing efforts to combat and reduce overdose deaths, and drug-related violence through targeted enforcement and strategic policy initiatives. The commitment is also evident in the Division's progress in ensuring that traditional drug enforcement programs like TBI's Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force, the Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (AHIDTA), and the Governor's Task Force on Marijuana Eradication (GTFME) remain current and viable. For more information about TBI's Drug Investigation Division, please visit www.tn.gov/tbi/divisions/drug-investigation-division.html.

“Through relentless pursuit and unwavering dedication, the Drug Investigation Division strives to dismantle drug trafficking networks and combat the devastating consequences of drug overdoses. As we work towards reducing the harm caused by illicit drugs, we aim to address the violence often associated with them. Together, we are committed to safeguarding Tennessee communities, protecting the vulnerable, and bringing those responsible to justice.”

Darryl Richardson, Assistant Director



DRUG TASK FORCE ILLICIT DRUG SEIZURES



FY 2021-2022 PAST CHALLENGES

- Adapting to evolving dangerous drug trends, and the violence associated with these drugs
- Signing on local law enforcement officers as TBI Task Force Agents to serve as a force multiplier to address the wide availability of dangerous illicit drugs, and to reduce overdose deaths, by increasing the volume and complexity of narcotic investigations
- Mitigate the deadly threat, exposure, and response of first responders to poisons like fentanyl through specialized training, personal protective equipment, presumptive field testing, incident response, and analyzing all available intelligence

FY 2022-2023 PRESENT WORK

- Reduce the availability of apex dangerous drugs like fentanyl and methamphetamine while combating the diversion of other drugs of abuse to help prevent overdose injuries and deaths
- Working with other agencies and the General Assembly to address Xylazine, also known as "tranq," due to its increasing presence in fentanyl and other illicit drugs and its resistance to naloxone
- Provide advanced and specialized training, technology, and equipment for drug agents, judicial drug task force agents, and local law enforcement across the state

FY 2023-2024 FUTURE OBJECTIVES

- Work with the Governor's Administration and the General Assembly to establish additional intelligence analyst and special agent positions to further combat the growth of fentanyl and to disrupt drug cartel activities within Tennessee
- Provide training to DID Special Agents and Task Force Agents in specific drug-related tactics as well as career development opportunities
- Develop improvement strategies to quickly identify and mitigate overdose deaths caused by powerful illicit fentanyl and its analogs and to also combat the presence of methamphetamine and other emerging novel substances that devastate Tennessee communities

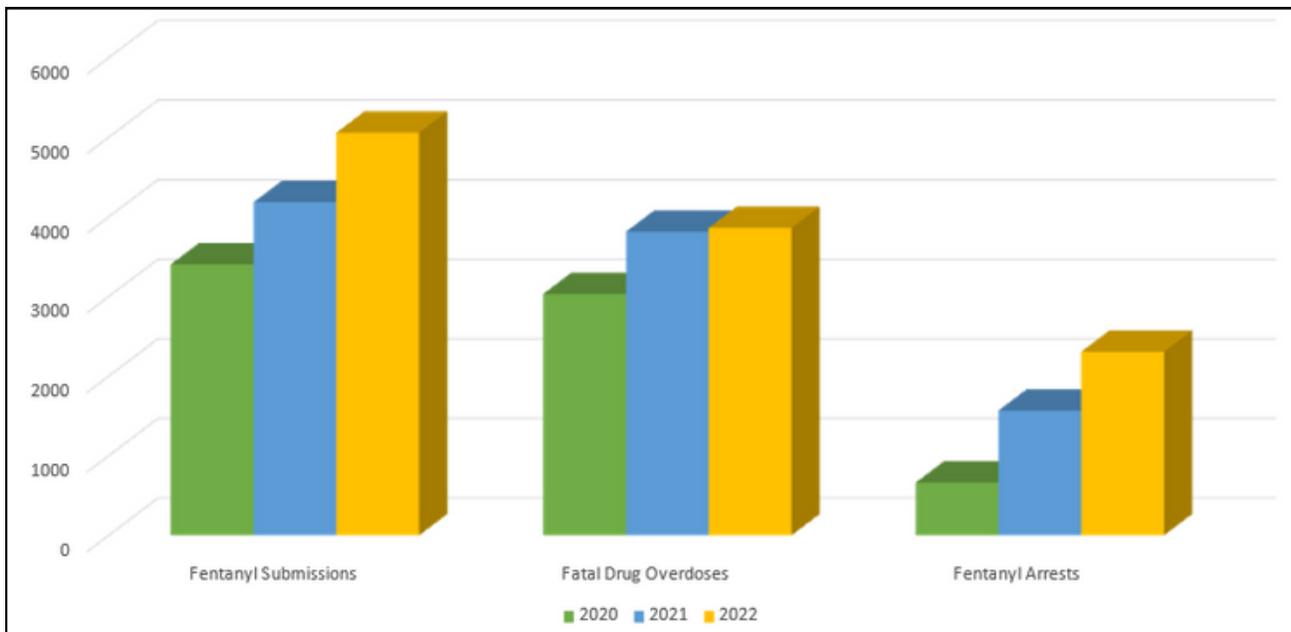


The DID had 732 active cases as of June 30, 2023. The Division opened approximately 301 cases and closed 367 during the fiscal year. From July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, special agents assigned to the Drug Investigation Division arrested a total of 911 drug offenders and obtained 460 convictions on drug-related charges, with many cases still pending adjudication.

The top five drugs seized by TBI special agents during the current fiscal year were:

DRUG TYPE	UOM	AMOUNT
Marijuana	Pounds	1,854.26
	Dosage Units	155
Methamphetamine	Kilograms	414.48
	Dosage Units	508.16
Fentanyl	Kilograms	140.05
	Dosage Units	612,624.99
Cocaine	Kilograms	103.15
Synthetic Cannabinoids	Kilograms	16.8
	Dosage units	425

FENTANYL-SPECIFIC DATA



According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, fentanyl drug poisoning is the leading cause of death for Americans, aged 18 – 45. As seen above, each fiscal year as fentanyl submissions to the TBI Forensic Laboratory rise, so do fatal drug overdoses, as well as TBI DID fentanyl-related arrests.

VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION

Drugs and violent crime go hand in hand, which is why addressing both is a top priority for the DID. Drugs and violent crime are related in multiple ways. Most directly, it is a crime to use, possess, manufacture, or distribute drugs classified as having a potential for abuse. Fentanyl, cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine are drugs that have the most abuse potential. Drugs are also related to crime through the effects they have on the user's behavior and by generating violence and other illegal activity.

Drug traffickers earn their living violating federal and state drug laws, and the associated violence with drug trafficking can be traced to competition for drug markets, competition for customers, disputes among traffickers, and disputes between traffickers and customers. Many involved in the illicit drug trade are more prone to violence and violent crime. The proliferation of the possession of lethal weapons by younger individuals who have access to more drugs while seeking higher profits has also likely made drug violence more deadly.

DID participates and/or supports numerous federal and state law enforcement agencies as well as non-law enforcement efforts to address the rising issue of drug and violent crimes. DID personnel work steadfastly to identify, target, and dismantle all drug trafficking organizations, especially those with a propensity for violence or death.

In 2022, DID began tracking incidents of violent crime. Nearly 100% of DID drug cases were found to have a confirmed connection to a violent crime and over 30% of those cases have verified gang connections. As a result of DID investigations, special agents were able to prevent the commission of dozens of violent crimes ranging in severity from assault to homicide.

DANGEROUS DRUGS TASK FORCE



The Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force (TDDTF) utilizes a multidiscipline and multijurisdictional approach to combat the impact of highly hazardous illicit manufactured, converted, milled, or distributed controlled substances in the State of Tennessee. The TDDTF umbrella also covers the Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (TADEC) and its associated activities.

All the TDDTF's programs operate with federal or state grants that are leveraged with state-allotted seed funding. The TDDTF Executive Board and advisory members are made up of federal, state, and local representatives from a wide array of disciplines (enforcement, treatment, prevention, harm reduction, judicial, community coalitions, corrections, and medical) which meet quarterly. The Mission of the Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force is to reduce the availability and illegal use of harmful scheduled drugs, including methamphetamine, marijuana, prescription drug diversion, heroin, cocaine, fentanyl, and others, by educating the public about the dangers of all scheduled drugs; by increasing public safety through supplying equipment, training, intelligence, and investigative tools to assist law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities in strategically identifying, targeting, and prosecuting drug offenders; by networking with law enforcement agencies, regulatory agencies, healthcare providers, treatment providers, and local drug coalitions; and by protecting the public and the drug endangered children of Tennessee from the harmful effects of manufacturing, distribution, and illegal use of scheduled drugs. The motto of the Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force continues to be "Protect, Enforce, and Educate."

The TDDTF oversees a myriad of programs beneficial to the law enforcement community:

Illicit Hazardous Environment Investigations

- The clandestine lab program still serves as an integral part of the program and has grown to include any drug that can be manufactured, converted, extracted, or milled domestically, including level A hazardous material responses (e.g., fentanyl, LSD, PCP). The TDDTF provides on-scene safety equipment, crime scene processing supplies, and personal protective equipment on all response trucks and trailers stationed throughout TN.
- Since 1999, over 16,000 clan labs have been seized in the State of Tennessee. The TDDTF has provided on-scene support and reporting assistance for most of these labs.
- In fiscal year 2022-2023, the TDDTF incident responders assisted LEA with processing 14 clandestine drug labs and one outdoor marijuana grow. Requiring the proper disposal of 13,179 pounds of hazardous waste used in the manufacturing/growing process.
- Two events required the direct launch of DEA hazardous waste contractors to the scenes:
 1. A CBD extraction to THC conversion lab in Lawrenceburg that also included a DMT extraction lab generated 12,570 pounds of waste that required three days' work for safe removal.
 2. A large-scale meth lab in Shelby County also required a DEA contractor to respond and dispose of 420 pounds of hazardous waste.

Drug Investigation Information and Integration System (DI3)

- DI3 collects, analyzes, and provides the opportunity for all law enforcement to share and retrieve drug information and intelligence.

- DI3 includes clan lab reporting that transfers reports to DEA’s El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), quarantine reporting for meth-contaminated properties, pseudoephedrine sales tracking, overdose and naloxone utilization reporting for law enforcement, the Tennessee Drug Offender Registry, GIS mapping, phone number analysis, and criminal associate connections.
- For the fiscal year, DI3 had a total of 6,591 web usage instances by 2,150 active users.
- Overdose and naloxone use reports to the system have increased from 59 reports by seven agencies in the first full year of data capture (2016) to 5,116 overdoses reported by 131 agencies and 2,235 instances of naloxone administered in FY 2022-2023.

Governor’s Task Force for Marijuana Eradication (GTFME)

- The increase in the inconsistency in Federal and State laws regarding Cannabis (hemp and marijuana) across the nation and misperceptions over harm, regulatory, and enforcement responsibilities has created a conundrum.
- This significant increase in potency and wide availability of THC products has contributed to a major increase in seizures in schools as well as more than 100 nonfatal overdoses.
- Presumptive field testing by TDDTF personnel of these products was completed 249 times for numerous law enforcement agencies across the state.
- Seizures from the 2023 GTFME season are noted in the table below. This data was a significant increase over the 2022 season, which operates from January to September each year.
- As drug trends change, TBI’s DID must change and adapt with them. To keep the program viable, the GTFME began focusing not only on domestically grown marijuana last year, but also on packages containing illicit marijuana shipped through a variety of carriers from other states. The results have been astonishing. (See case statistics below.)

DRUG TYPE	UOM	WEIGHT
COCAINE	POUNDS	8.83
CRACK COCAINE	GRAMS	1.2
CULTIVATED MARIJUANA	PLANTS	13,193
FENTANYL	POUNDS	27.13
FENTANYL	PILLS	1000
HEROIN	OUNCES	3.5
HYDROCODONE	PILLS	18
KETAMINE	GRAMS	0.9
LSD	PILLS	1200
MDMA	PILLS	333
MDMA	GRAMS	2
METHAMPHETAMINE	POUNDS	55.6
OXYCODONE	GRAMS	29.2
PROCESSED MARIJUANA	POUNDS	2,826
PSILOCYBIN	POUNDS	54.2
PSILOCYBIN	PILLS	2450
STEROID OIL	POUNDS	57
STEROID POWDER	POUNDS	20
THC CONCENTRATES	GRAMS	1297
THC EDIBLES	POUNDS	30.14
THC EDIBLES	PACKS	377
THC OIL/WAX	GRAMS	28
THC PRE-ROLLED JOINTS	PACKS	1,316
THC VAPE CARTRIDGES	POUNDS	63.08
THC VAPE CARTRIDGES	CARTS	7,250
THC VAPE PENS	PENS	52
THC VAPE PENS	GRAMS	6118.5
XANAX	PILLS	22
XANAX	MILLIGRAMS	2220

ARREST TOTAL: 78
CASH TOTAL: \$964,698
PLOTS: 148
SEARCH WARRANTS: 31
PARCEL INTERDICTION & CONTROLLED DELIVERIES: 36
TRAFFIC STOPS: 13
FIREARMS: 73
Drug Tips/Intel Reports: 32 At least 1 turned into a plot report
Referrals from Dept Agriculture: 8 At least 2 turned into potential prosecutions, 1 became plot report
Data change from 2022 to 2023:
PLANTS ↑ 127%
PROCESSED MJ ↑ 342%
ARRESTS ↑ 152%

Drug Evidence Incineration Program (DEIP)

- The TBI/TDDTF has four large EPA/TDEC approved large batch, zero emissions incinerators placed in Jackson, Nashville, Chattanooga, and Knoxville.
- Throughout the fiscal year, 43 agencies were served, destroying 8,743.14 pounds of drug evidence.
- Since its inception, the program has helped safely dispose of over 20,792.8 pounds of adjudicated drug evidence, saving local LEAs thousands of dollars in destruction expenses and protecting the environment from hazardous emissions.

Household Pharmaceutical Takeback Program (PTB)

- Because the most common method of diversion of prescription medication is the availability from the medicine cabinets of family and friends, the TBI/TDDTF partnered with the TN Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to implement the PTB Program in 2016.
- Over 400 law enforcement agencies in each of the 95 counties in the state participate in PTB.
- From July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, 66,330 pounds of unwanted pharmaceuticals were collected and destroyed from 241 LEAs during six events.
- Since the program's inception to include TDDTF and TDEC data, over 700,792 pounds of unused and unwanted medications have been destroyed and are no longer a danger for diversion.

Presumptive Field Testing and Technology Program

- As the landscape of illicit drug investigations has evolved over the years to include many synthetic, highly potent substances. The need to identify unknown substances to protect LE responders, citizens, and children, assist emergency medical personnel in treating patients, and provide evidence to ensure the successful prosecution of drug violation cases has increased dramatically.
- During the fiscal year, there were 3,460 unknown substances tested by six TacticID® instruments (38), four LightLab® CBD and THC testing devices (305), and nine MX908® high-pressure mass spectrometry machines (3,117).
- The TDDTF has also deployed two Viken backscatter x-ray devices that were utilized 10 times in the fiscal year
- The TDDTF purchased, provided training on the use, and deployed into the field each of these devices to TDDTF response personnel and/or law enforcement partners.

Investigative Overtime Reimbursement

- A sizeable portion of the grants awarded to the TBI/TDDTF by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, and funding provided by the DEA for GTFME are budgeted to offer reimbursement for local law enforcement agencies that

pay their sworn officers OT investigating methamphetamine, marijuana, and opioid crimes.

- For FY 2022-2023, 43 agencies participated in the overtime reimbursement program with \$410,102.97 reimbursed for overtime paid to officers from the COPS grants.

Training and Educational Events

- During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the TDDTF provided the following training courses and sessions:

Course	Audience	Attendees	Sessions
Drug Trends, DEC, & HWC	Police Academy Classes	384	4
Annual Training	GTFME partners (LE & Military)	32	1 – 40-hour course
Drug Related Death Investigations`	State and Local LE	91	3 - 32-hour <u>POST-certified</u> courses
Clandestine Lab & Level A Certification	State and Local LE	49	2 – 40-hour <u>POST-certified</u> classes
Clandestine Lab Annual Recertification	Local LE partners	178	8 - 1-day <u>POST-certified</u> sessions
Drug Endangered Children*	LE and community partners	1,535	27 (some sessions were held jointly with HWC)
Handle with Care Program**	School & Public Safety Personnel	2,313	80 (Some sessions were held jointly with DEC)
Other Educational Programs and Presentations by TDDTF Personnel	LE and community partners	3,229	37

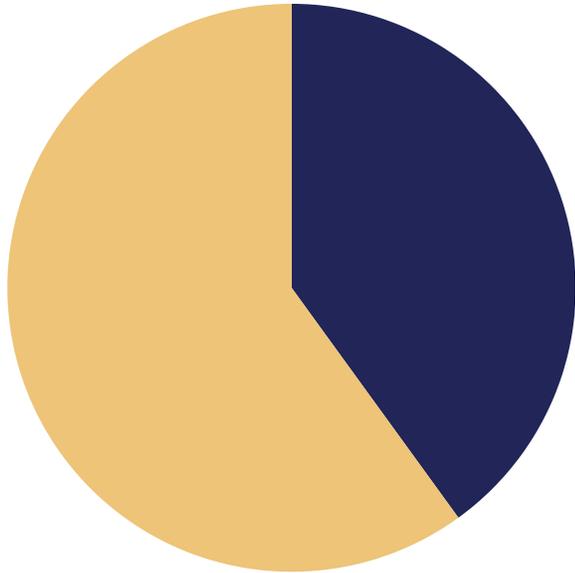
Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (TADEC)



- TADEC is comprised of federal, local, and state agencies that share a mission to “Serve, protect, and defend all children endangered by illegal drug use in Tennessee.”
- TADEC provides training to build local partnerships for the betterment of Tennessee’s most vulnerable population, its children.
- Twelve DEC County coalitions continued building partnerships with local stakeholders, impacting children by distributing more than 80,000 informational items, 995 Timbi Talks Addiction kits to children, managing 1,151 drug-endangered children allegations, and referring 2,199 juveniles and 1,817 adults to treatment and mental health services.

For more information about TBI’s Drug Investigation Division, please visit www.tn.gov/tbi/divisions/drug-investigation-division.html.

FY 2022-2023 EXPENDITURES & FUNDING



OPERATIONS

\$6,558,226

SALARIES

\$9,830,629

TOTAL: \$16,388,855



In this fiscal year, TBI has worked with district attorneys general in East Tennessee on a new joint effort, known as the 313 Initiative, focused on disrupting the drug trafficking pipeline between Detroit, Michigan, and East Tennessee. The effort has led to significant arrests in recent months, along with key illicit drug seizures. Visit **TBINewsroom.com** to learn more.

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