



Tennessee **Bureau of Investigation**

Forensic Services Division 2nd Quarterly Report
Pursuant to PC 249 of the 113th General Assembly

The following is the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation’s second quarterly progress report on the bureau’s efforts to hire and train 50 Forensic Services Division employees and the average amount of time taken to perform forensic analysis on evidence in cases involving offenses under title 39, chapter 13, part 5.

Hiring Status:

50 positions were granted to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) Forensic Services Division and are distributed as follows:

Jul-22

Commissioned

	Nashville	Knoxville	Jackson	
Forensic Chemistry	2	2	2	
Toxicology	2	-	-	
Forensic Biology/DNA	3	2	3	
CODIS	-	-	3	
Firearms Identification	-	-	-	
Latent Print	-	-	-	
Microanalysis	-	-	-	
Forensic IT Manager	1	-	-	
Total	8	4	8	20

Jul-22

Noncommissioned

	Nashville	Knoxville	Jackson	
Forensic Chemistry	-	-	-	
Toxicology	-	-	-	
Forensic Biology/DNA	1	1	1	
CODIS	-	-	1	
Firearms Identification	-	-	-	
Latent Print	-	-	-	
Microanalysis	-	-	-	
Evidence Receiving	-	-	-	
Administrative Assistant	-	1	-	
Total	1	2	2	5

Sep-22

Commissioned

	Nashville	Knoxville	Jackson	
Forensic Chemistry	2	2	1	
Toxicology	1	1	1	
Forensic Biology/DNA	2	3	2	
CODIS	-	-	1	
Firearms Identification	2	-	1	
Latent Print	-	-	-	
Microanalysis	1	-	-	
Forensic IT Manager	-	-	-	
Total	8	6	6	20

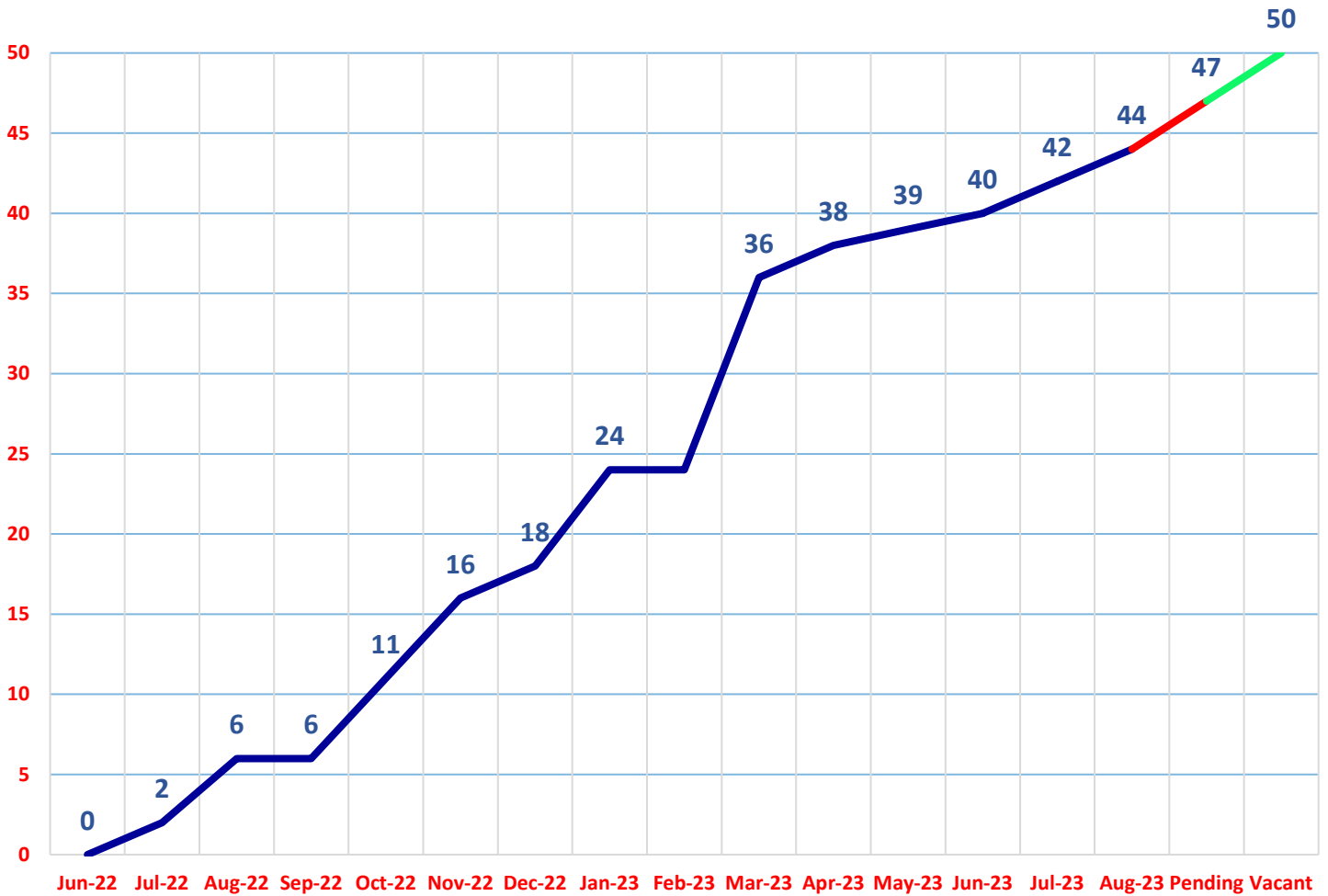
Sep-22

Noncommissioned

	Nashville	Knoxville	Jackson	
Forensic Chemistry	-	-	-	
Toxicology	1	-	-	
Forensic Biology/DNA	-	-	-	
CODIS	-	-	1	
Firearms Identification	1	-	-	
Latent Print	1	-	-	
Microanalysis	-	-	-	
Evidence Receiving	-	-	-	
Administrative Assistant*	-	-	1	
Total	3	0	2	5

* Reclassified to be Forensic Technician Supervisor for Jackson Lab

TBI Crime Laboratory - Hiring Status- 50 Newly Created Positions



Hiring Status through September 25, 2023:

- 44 positions have been filled.
- 3 positions are pending. These positions have been posted and applicants have been selected. All three pending positions are current TBI Forensic Division full time or temporary employees. As such, their training time will be abbreviated.
- 3 positions are vacant.

	Lab	Unit	Position	Hire Date	Estimated Training Completion
1	Jackson	CODIS	SA/FS Supervisor	July 2022	Training Completed
2	Division	Administration	Forensic IT Manager	July 2022	Training Completed
3	Nashville	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	August 2022	Training Completed
4	Nashville	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	August 2022	Training Completed
5	Nashville	Toxicology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	August 2022	November 2023
6	Jackson	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	August 2022	Completed
7	Nashville	Toxicology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	October 2022	September 2024
8	Nashville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	October 2022	March 2024
9	Nashville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	October 2022	Training Completed
10	Knoxville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	October 2022	Training Completed
11	Jackson	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	October 2022	May 2024
12	Jackson	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	November 2022	August 2024
13	Nashville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	November 2022	Training Completed
14	Knoxville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	November 2022	March 2024
15	Jackson	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	November 2022	May 2024
16	Jackson	CODIS	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	November 2022	May 2024
17	Knoxville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	December 2022	April 2024
18	Nashville	Microanalysis	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	December 2022	Completed – Additional Pending
19	Nashville	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	January 2023	October 2023
20	Nashville	Toxicology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	January 2023	Completed – Additional Pending
21	Nashville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	January 2023	October 2023
22	Knoxville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	January 2023	February 2025
23	Nashville	Toxicology	Forensic Technician	January 2023	July 2023
24	Nashville	Firearms	Forensic Technician	January 2023	October 2023
25	Knoxville	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	March 2023	Training Completed
26	Jackson	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	March 2023	December 2023
27	Nashville	Forensic Biology	Forensic Technician	March 2023	October 2023
28	Jackson	Forensic Biology	Forensic Technician	March 2023	November 2023
29	Jackson	CODIS	Forensic Technician	March 2023	October 2023
30	Nashville	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	March 2023	January 2024
31	Knoxville	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	March 2023	December 2023
32	Jackson	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	March 2023	December 2023
33	Knoxville	Toxicology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	March 2023	April 2024
34	Jackson	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	March 2023	May 2024
35	Nashville	Firearms	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	March 2023	April 2025
36	Jackson	Firearms	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	March 2023	July 2025
37	Knoxville	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	April 2023	February 2024
38	Jackson	Toxicology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	April 2023	Completed – Additional Pending
39	Knoxville	Forensic Biology	Forensic Technician	May 2023	November 2023
40	Jackson	CODIS	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	June 2023	January 2025
41	Jackson	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	July 2023	January 2025
42	Nashville	Firearms	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	July 2023	July 2025
43	Nashville	Latent Print	Forensic Technician	August 2023	November 2023
44	Jackson	Evidence	Forensic Technician Supervisor	August 2023	December 2023
45	Knoxville	Administration	Administrative Assistant	Pending	Approx. 2 Months After Hire
46	Nashville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Pending	October 2024
47	Knoxville	Forensic Biology	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Pending	Approx. 4 Months After Hire
48	Knoxville	Forensic Chemistry	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Vacant	Approx. 12 Months After Hire
49	Jackson	CODIS	Special Agent / Forensic Scientist	Vacant	Approx. 18 Months After Hire
50	Jackson	CODIS	Forensic Technician	Vacant	Approx. 6 Months After Hire

Testing Status:

The TBI performs Forensic Biology (Serology and DNA) testing for evidence related to title 39, chapter 13, part 5 (sexual offenses) at all three crime laboratory locations – Nashville, Knoxville, and Jackson. The TBI receives evidence from all law enforcement agencies statewide and provides testing free of charge. Metro Nashville Police Department (MNPDP) operates its own laboratory to perform testing in cases investigated by MNPDP. Any information regarding turnaround times for cases at the MNPDP Crime Laboratory is not included in this report and must be supplied by the MNPDP. Twelve-month statistics regarding submissions, completions, inventory, and turnaround times are as follows (From June 2022 through August 2023):

Nashville

Forensic Biology - Sex Offense	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Requests Received	26	28	53	46	42	31	24	46	25	33	36	34	39	36	73
Requests Completed	18	20	19	17	46	44	50	64	48	50	26	33	34	17	33
Requests Pending	197	205	238	267	268	255	221	203	183	104	124	125	124	119	143
Average Turnaround - Weeks	30.3	27.7	28.2	30.1	32.7	31.1	26	22.2	24.1	21.2	22.5	16.9	10.8	17.6	18.1

Knoxville

Forensic Biology - Sex Offense	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Requests Received	49	51	42	41	41	53	35	46	23	39	42	68	32	38	55
Requests Completed	21	20	48	29	58	49	33	37	48	31	31	9	30	25	26
Requests Pending	346	376	374	384	377	375	368	384	250	118	123	195	198	152	181
Average Turnaround - Weeks	38.1	45.5	45.9	45.5	43	37.8	39.7	42.9	34.5	36.5	24.9	29.1	18.9	15.7	22.9

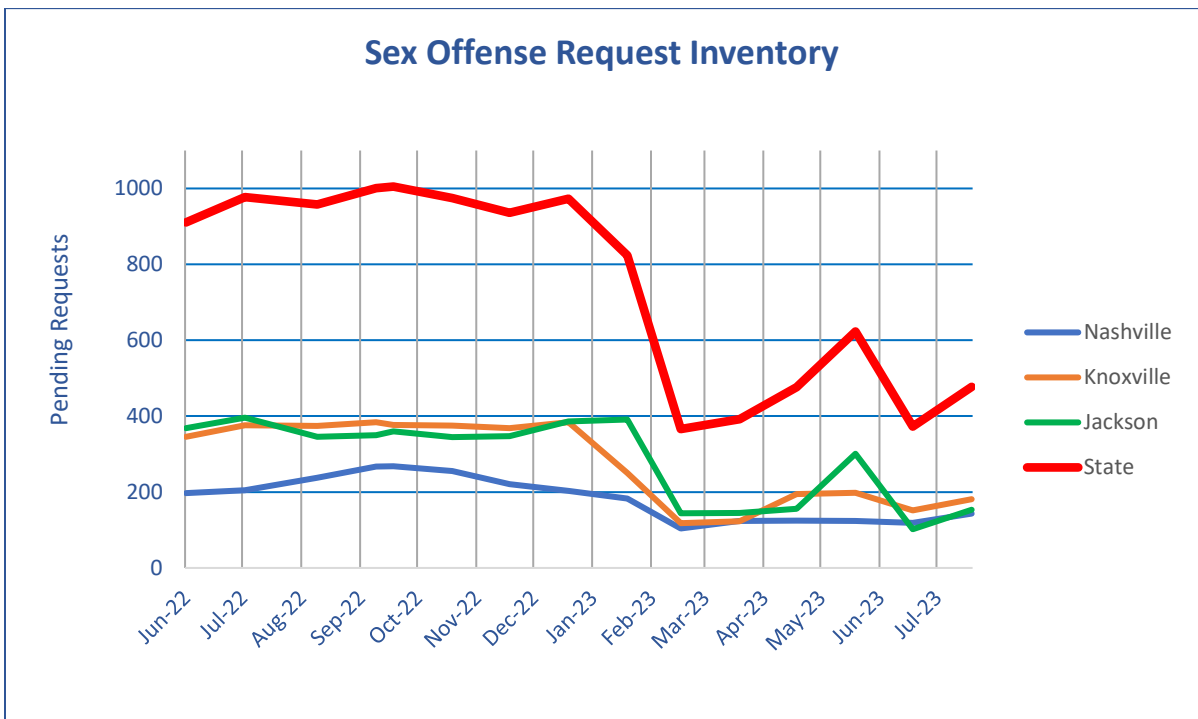
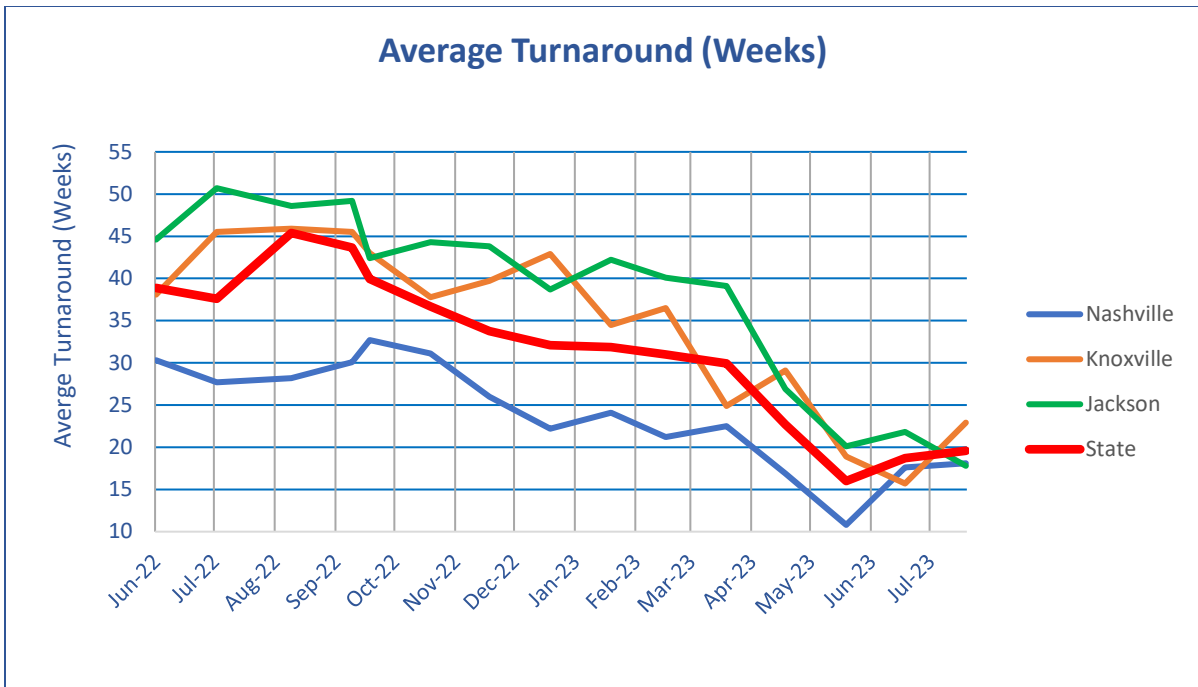
Jackson

Forensic Biology - Sex Offense	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Requests Received	54	34	44	34	44	30	20	58	37	31	43	42	162	42	47
Requests Completed	30	3	94	32	63	25	19	35	24	35	38	32	22	31	19
Requests Pending	368	396	346	350	360	345	347	386	391	144	145	156	301	102	153
Average Turnaround - Weeks	44.6	50.7	48.6	49.2	42.4	44.3	43.8	38.7	42.2	40.1	39.1	26.9	20.1	21.8	17.8

State

Forensic Biology - Sex Offense	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Requests Received	129	113	139	121	127	114	79	150	85	103	121	144	233	116	175
Requests Completed	69	43	161	78	167	118	102	136	120	116	95	74	86	73	78
Requests Pending	911	977	958	1,001	1,005	975	936	973	824	366	392	476	623	373	477
Average Turnaround - Weeks	38.9	37.6	45.4	43.7	39.9	36.7	33.7	32.1	31.9	31.0	29.9	22.7	16.0	18.7	19.6

- Statewide (weighted average) in-house turnaround time peaked in August 2022 at 45.4 weeks.
- Statewide (weighted average) in-house turnaround time for August 2023 was 19.6 weeks.
- Statewide pending in-house request inventory has dropped from a 12-month high of 1,005 to 477 (excluding outsourced cases).
- Forensic Biology testing of sex offense cases are labor intensive, and turnaround time for these cases are expected to improve as more employees are hired and trained.
- The TBI Crime Laboratories have 39 statewide positions dedicated to performing Forensic Biology casework. 23 employees (59.0%) have completed training. 16 employees (41.0%) are either in training (11) or are in the hiring process (5).



Outsource testing:

- The TBI secured \$1,850,000 in federal grant funding for outsourced sexual assault kit (SAK) testing.
- The TBI entered into a contract with DNA Labs International (DLI) located in Deerfield Beach, Florida, to perform SAK testing at a rate of \$2,155 per SAK.
- Given the funding available and the contracted testing rate, a total of 858 SAKs may be outsource tested.
- 550 SAKs were delivered to DLI via TBI airplane on March 6, 2023.
- The remaining 308 SAKs were delivered to DLI via TBI airplane on July 6, 2023.

- The outsource lab performs SAK testing per TBI specifications. However, TBI remains responsible for case review and CODIS upload and match management.
- Per terms of grant funding and DLI contract, all outsourced testing must be completed by December 31, 2023.

Future testing/turnaround:

- The TBI is required to perform case review and CODIS upload and match management for all outsourced cases.
- As more cases are completed by the outsourced lab, added case review and CODIS responsibilities may negatively impact turnaround time and inventory of current in-house cases.
- The TBI is committed to improving service to all cases – including sex offense cases. Long term success in improving service will be a function of successes in hiring, training, and retaining TBI Forensic Division employees.