



Tennessee **Bureau of Investigation**

**Forensic Services Division 4th Quarterly Report
Pursuant to PC 249 of the 113th General Assembly**

The following is the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation’s fourth 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

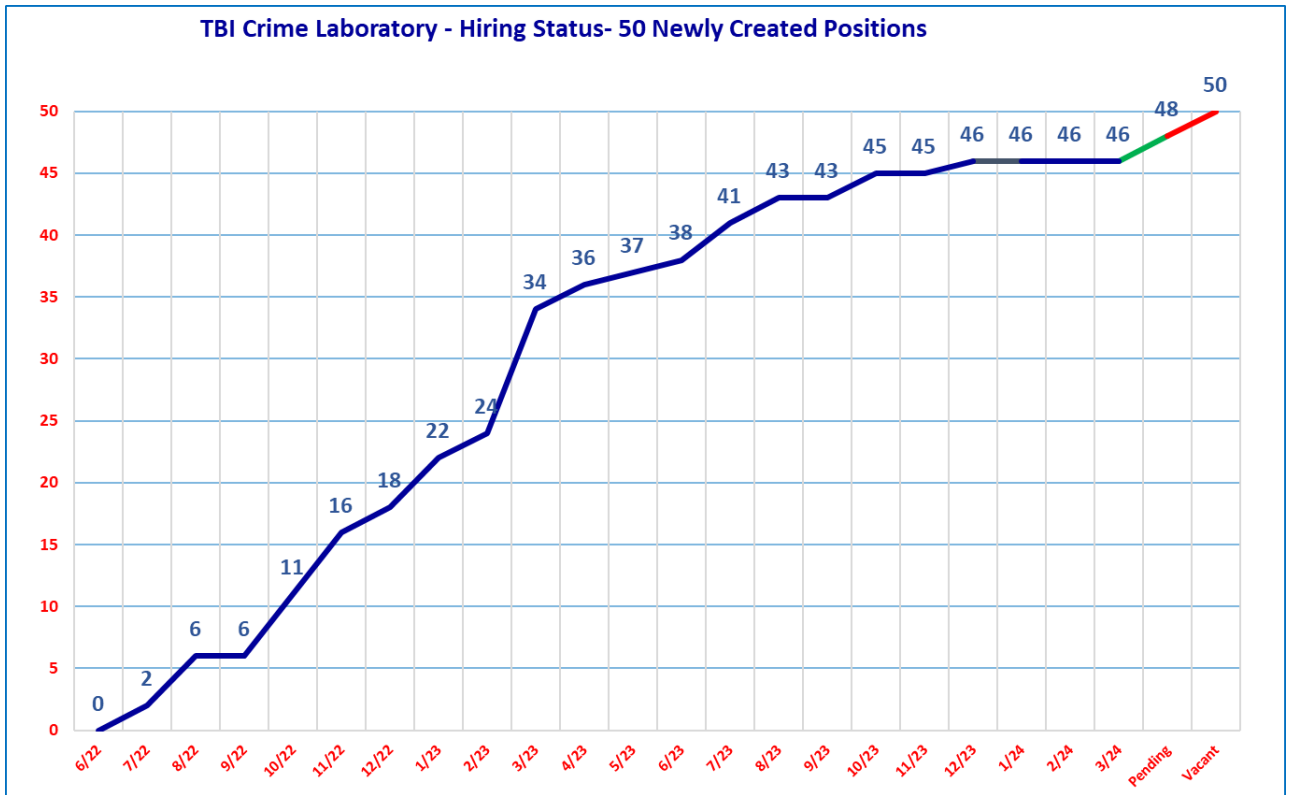
**Sep-22
Commissioned**

	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



Hiring Status through March 29, 2024:

- 46 positions have been filled.
- 2 positions are pending. These positions have been posted, applicants have been selected, and these prospective employees are in the hiring/background process.
- 2 positions are vacant.

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

- Statewide (weighted average) in-house turnaround time for all combined sex offense requests peaked in August 2022 at 45.4 weeks.
- Statewide (weighted average) in-house turnaround time for cases containing only a sexual assault kit (SAK) from March 1-29, 2024, was 12.9 weeks.
- Statewide pending in-house request inventory for cases containing only a sexual assault kit (SAK) on March 29, 2024, was 128.
- Starting in October 2023, the TBI Crime Laboratory separated statistics for cases containing only a sexual assault kit (SAK) from cases containing a sexual assault kit (SAK) and additional items (such as clothing or bedding). Statewide (weighted average) in-house turnaround time for cases containing these additional items from March 1-29, 2024, was 18.2 weeks.
- Starting in October 2023, the TBI Crime Laboratory separated statistics for cases containing only a sexual assault kit (SAK) from cases containing a sexual assault kit (SAK) and additional items (such as clothing or bedding). Statewide request inventory for cases containing these additional items on March 29, 2024, was 266.
- Statewide combined turnaround time for all sex offense evidence from March 1-29, 2024, was 15.4 weeks.
- Statewide combined request inventory for all sex offense evidence on March 29, 2024, was 394.
- Forensic Biology testing of sex offense cases is labor intensive, and turnaround time for these cases is expected to improve as more employees are hired and trained.
- The TBI Crime Laboratories have 39 statewide positions dedicated to performing Forensic Biology casework. 27 employees (69.2%) have completed training. 12 employees (30.8%) are either in training (10) or are in the hiring process (2).

Outsource testing:

Project 1

- The TBI initially 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.
- 308 SAKs were delivered to DLI via TBI airplane on July 6, 2023.
- Per terms of grant funding and DLI contract, the testing on the initial 858 kits must be (and was) completed by DLI by December 31, 2023.

- Additional federal grant funding was secured for outsourced testing. This additional federal grant funding was required to be spent by January 31, 2024. Given this time constraint, DNA Labs International (DLI) agreed to accept 50 additional kits at a rate of \$2,155 per kit. The total expenditure for these 50 additional kits will be \$107,750.
- 50 SAKs were shipped to DLI in December 2023, bringing the outsource total to 908 SAKs.
- The outsource lab only accepts sexual assault kits (SAKs). TBI is responsible for all testing on additional items such as clothing and bedding. Testing on these additional items is more labor intensive and time consuming than testing sexual assault kits (SAKs).
- The outsource lab performs SAK testing per TBI specifications. However, TBI remains responsible for case review and CODIS upload and match management.
- From March 1-29, 2024, the statewide weighted-average turnaround time for outsourced cases was 26.8 weeks. This includes both outsourced testing and TBI review and reporting.

Project 2

- The TBI has secured an additional \$413,719 in federal grant funding for outsourced sexual assault kit (SAK) testing.
- TBI is in the process of completing a second 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, up to a total of 192 additional SAKs may be outsourced.
- Per terms of the pending contract, the testing of up to 192 additional SAKs must be completed by DLI prior to September 30, 2024.

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.

TBI Crime Lab In-House Combined Sex Offense Requests

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
Requests Received	26	28	53	46	42	31	24	46	25	33	36
Requests Completed	18	20	19	17	46	44	50	64	48	50	26
Requests Pending	197	205	238	267	268	255	221	203	183	104	124
Average Turnaround - Weeks	30.3	27.7	28.2	30.1	32.7	31.1	26.0	22.2	24.1	21.2	22.5

Forensic Biology - Sex Offense	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24
Requests Received	34	39	36	73	31	34	26	33	34	31	21
Requests Completed	33	34	17	33	17	15	31	17	58	23	45
Requests Pending	125	124	119	143	153	171	169	188	165	176	154
Average Turnaround - Weeks	16.9	10.8	17.6	18.1	13.6	27.1	23.2	26.3	22.2	33.6	16.6

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
Requests Received	49	51	42	41	41	53	35	46	23	39	42
Requests Completed	21	20	48	29	58	49	33	37	48	31	31
Requests Pending	346	376	374	384	377	375	368	384	250	118	123
Average Turnaround - Weeks	38.1	45.5	45.9	45.5	43.0	37.8	39.7	42.9	34.5	36.5	24.9

Forensic Biology - Sex Offense	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24
Requests Received	68	32	38	55	43	31	38	32	21	48	56
Requests Completed	9	30	25	26	42	20	31	21	39	20	152
Requests Pending	195	198	152	181	181	190	203	169	165	184	92
Average Turnaround - Weeks	29.1	18.9	15.7	22.9	18.5	16.1	20.8	22.0	25.3	23.4	16.9

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
Requests Received	54	34	44	34	44	30	20	58	37	31	43
Requests Completed	30	3	94	32	63	25	19	35	24	35	38
Requests Pending	368	396	346	350	360	345	347	386	391	144	145
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

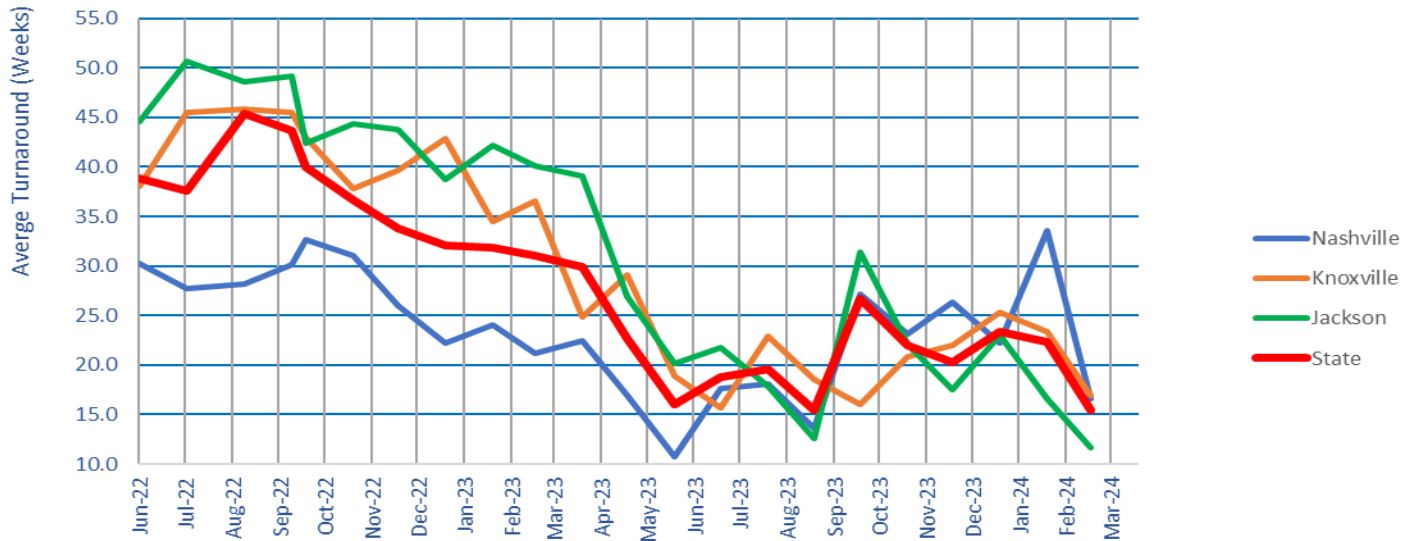
Forensic Biology - Sex Offense	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24
Requests Received	42	162	42	47	48	54	53	35	40	37	39
Requests Completed	32	22	31	19	34	43	53	50	32	48	76
Requests Pending	156	301	102	153	177	198	195	189	210	177	148
Average Turnaround - Weeks	26.9	20.1	21.8	17.8	12.6	31.4	22.1	17.5	23.0	16.6	11.7

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
Requests Received	129	113	139	121	127	114	79	150	85	103	121
Requests Completed	69	43	161	78	167	118	102	136	120	116	95
Requests Pending	911	977	958	1,001	1,005	975	936	973	824	366	392
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

Forensic Biology - Sex Offense	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24
Requests Received	144	233	116	175	122	119	117	100	95	116	116
Requests Completed	74	86	73	78	93	78	115	88	129	91	273
Requests Pending	476	623	373	477	511	559	567	546	540	537	394
Average Turnaround - Weeks	22.7	16.0	18.7	19.6	15.4	26.6	22.0	20.3	23.4	22.4	15.4

**TBI Crime Lab In-House Combined Sex Offense Requests
Average Turnaround (Weeks)**



**TBI Crime Lab In-House Combined Sex Offense Requests
Inventory**

