



# *TBI ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022*



Tennessee Bureau of Investigation



**BILL LEE**  
Governor

**TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

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**DAVID B. RAUSCH**  
Director

October 12, 2022

Honorable Members of the  
Tennessee General Assembly

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Annual Report for the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. As you will see, our agency continues to work to streamline operations to increase efficiency and effectiveness, while maintaining the standard of services you and the public have come to expect. With the outstanding support of resources provided by Governor Lee and the General Assembly we have been able to improve and increase services to local, state, and federal agencies we assist. By reading this report, I believe you will gain a better understanding of the TBI as an organization, along with our accomplishments and the importance of our employees' daily work in making the agency an essential part of Tennessee's judicial system.

Fiscal Year 2021-2022 was a successful one for the Bureau. In addition to a high number of criminal and drug cases resulting in arrests and convictions, the Bureau continued its bold work to investigate cases of human trafficking in Tennessee, in addition to training hundreds of law enforcement officers across the state about this unique kind of crime. We initiated the Silver Alert system and have seen great success in the safe recovery of seniors and vulnerable adults who have been reported missing. Additionally, our agency continued the ongoing effort among state agencies to alert the public about the risks surrounding the abuse of illicit drugs.

The TBI remains committed to providing the most advanced investigative and forensic services, while staying focused on the basics of fighting crime. The Bureau continues to provide assistance to the Tennessee District Attorneys General and works closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement partners. Our agency takes great pride in the fact we have evolved over the years into a highly respected law enforcement organization with highly trained, dedicated, professional employees who remain committed to excellence and public service.

When the Bureau was founded, now more than 60 years ago, the citizens of our state charged TBI with a great responsibility. With your continued support and assistance, we will vigorously pursue the ultimate goal summed up in our mission statement to ensure "that guilt shall not escape nor innocence suffer."

Sincerely,

Director  
David Rausch



INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED SINCE 1994

# Introduction

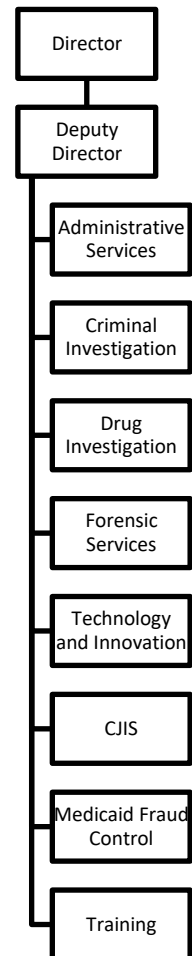
The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation has a rich tradition of protecting and serving the people of Tennessee.

Our organization traces its roots to March of 1951, when the state established the Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Identification (TBCI) within the Department of Safety. In 1980, the organization became an independent agency known as the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

The TBI is accountable to the District Attorneys General and to the Judiciary for its performance of services and to the Executive and Legislative branches for support functions. Under state law, the TBI may investigate any criminal violation upon the request of the District Attorney General for that judicial district. The TBI has original jurisdiction over several crimes, including narcotics laws, fugitive investigations, public corruption, official misconduct, Medicaid provider fraud and abuse, human trafficking, and domestic terrorism. Additionally, the TBI assists local law enforcement agencies in joint investigations.

TBI has also been designated to coordinate the gathering, analysis, and dissemination of state and local criminal justice statistics and provides that data to the Governor, General Assembly, all law enforcement agencies, and the public. The TBI also maintains the computer information network for law enforcement in the state and conducts classes for the users of the network.

The TBI stays at the forefront of new technologies to advance criminal investigations while working to improve communication among other state and



local law enforcement agencies to provide more sensitive and accurate scientific examinations of evidence.

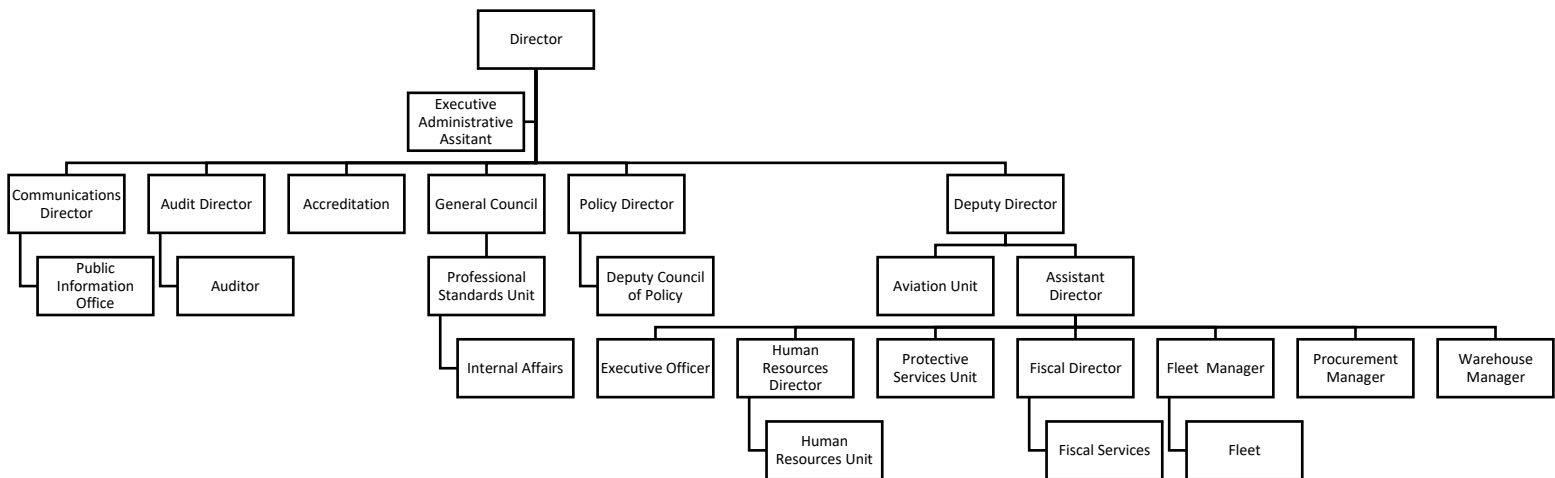
In June 2018, Governor Bill Haslam appointed David B. Rausch to serve as the 9<sup>th</sup> Director of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. Director Rausch was re-appointed by Governor Bill Lee in June 2022.

Director David B. Rausch was born in Louisville, Kentucky. He earned his Bachelor of in Political Science in 1986 and his Master of Science in Justice Administration in 2001, both from the University of Louisville. He was enlisted and served in the United States Army Military Police Corps from 1986 to 1990, where he attained the rank of Sergeant. He served for 25 years in the Knoxville Police Department, from 1993 to 2018, and served his last 7 years as Chief of Police. He also served on the department's Special Operations Squad (SWAT Team) for 10 years from 1997 to 2007.

# AT – A – Glance

- During Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022, the Tennessee Instant Check System processed 621,165 total firearm transactions.
- During the most recent fiscal year, TBI's Public Information Office responded to several thousand media inquiries and issued 232 news releases.
- TBI's Most Wanted program led to the captures of **22** dangerous fugitives in Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022, bringing the total to **494** since the inception of the program.
- Since the inception of the AMBER Alert program in Tennessee, there have been 147 activations, including 6 in Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022.
- TBI's drug task forces seized over \$51.2 million dollars of illicit drugs in Fiscal Year 2021-2022
- Agents in the Criminal Investigation Division made 259 arrests. They also assisted in the arrests of fugitives and noncompliant sex offenders.
- Human Trafficking Intelligence Analysts processed 1,268 tips in Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022, 621 of which involved minors.
- During Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022, Forensic Scientists at TBI completed 56,279 requests for analysis.
- TBI's Training Division conducted more than 3,000 hours of training with more than 7,000 law enforcement professionals.

# Administrative Services



The **Administrative Services Division** is responsible for providing technical and administrative support to all areas of the Bureau. This includes public information, human resources, auditing, fleet/procurement, fiscal services, accreditation and professional standards.

The Administrative Services Division is responsible for providing technical and administrative support to all areas of the Bureau. This includes Public Information, Human Resources, Auditing, Fleet/Procurement, Fiscal Services, Accreditation, Protective Services, and Professional Standards.

The offices of Internal Audit, Accreditation, Legal, and Public Information report directly to the Director of the Bureau. The Aviation Unit is under the direct supervision of the Deputy Director. Other areas of the Administrative Division, such as Human Resources, Fiscal Services, Protective Services, Fleet/Procurement, and the office of the Executive Officer are supervised by the Assistant Director of Administrative Services.

## *Internal Audit*

The mission of the Internal Audit office is to provide independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve the Bureau's operations. It helps the TBI accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.

The scope of work of the internal audit office is to help ensure:

- Risks are appropriately identified and managed.
- Significant financial, managerial, and operational information is accurate, reliable, and timely.
- Employees' actions comply with policies, standards, procedures, and applicable laws and regulations.
- Resources are acquired economically, used efficiently, and adequately protected.
- Programs, plans, and objectives are achieved.
- Quality and continuous improvement are fostered in the organization's control process.
- Significant legislative or regulatory issues affecting the organization are recognized and addressed appropriately.

## *Accreditation*

TBI has been internationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since November 19, 1994. The Accreditation Manager's responsibilities and support from the Administrative Services Division help to ensure that the Bureau maintains compliance with CALEA accreditation standards including representation of the Bureau during periodic re-accreditation inspections. The Bureau was successfully reaccredited in 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2019. The next CALEA onsite will be August of 2023.

TBI received accreditation from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (TLEA) in 2016 and 2020. The next TLEA reaccreditation will be in 2024.



# Public Information Office

The Public Information Office is the central point for communication between the TBI and the general public. In addition to a wide variety of community relations functions, the office handles daily media and public inquiries the Bureau receives about criminal investigations, policies and procedures, programs, legislation, personnel issues, data, statistics and budget.

In Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the Public Information Office received several thousand media inquiries, which included local Tennessee newspapers, television and radio stations, as well as national and international media outlets. In turn, the agency's spokespersons formulated responses for those inquiries on the Bureau's behalf. The office is also responsible for the coordination of press conferences and manages media staging in the field during a variety of TBI-related incidents. The Public Information Office develops and produces news releases to a large database of media contacts across the state. The office issued a total of 232 news releases in Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Currently, the agency has a Public Information Officer assigned to TBI's West and Upper East regions, along with a Senior Public Information Officer and Communication Director who handle duties in the Middle and East region from TBI Headquarters in Nashville. The Communications Director reports directly to the TBI Director.

The Public Information Office also oversees internal communications efforts and issues a quarterly agency-wide newsletter. In addition, the office oversees the agency's social media efforts. As of the end of Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the TBI currently had more than 137,000 followers on Twitter, and more than 207,000 Facebook "Likes." The Public Information Office also assists with daily website updates and development, graphics for TBI publications, and the production of all outside promotional materials related to the Bureau. The agency's PIOs also train internal and external law enforcement partners on media relations and social media.

# Professional Standards

The Professional Standards Unit (PSU) is responsible for the TBI's legal functions. It is made up of a General Counsel, Deputy General Counsel, three staff attorneys, and an Executive Administrative Assistant 1. General Counsel reports directly to the TBI Director. The Deputy General Counsel and the Executive Administrative Assistant 1 report to the General Counsel. All three staff attorneys report to the Deputy General Counsel.

## **LEGAL**

The primary responsibility of the attorneys and staff of the PSU is to provide legal counsel to all Divisions and units within the TBI on any legal issues that arise from TBI activities. In Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the PSU met its objectives by providing counsel to agents and employees in the field, working with the State Attorney General's office in representing the TBI and TBI employees in ongoing litigation, establishing and implementing contracts, responding to requests and demands for Bureau records, and advising on and processing employment decisions made by Bureau management.

The PSU works closely with the Training Division in providing legal training both inside and outside the TBI. During Fiscal Year 2021-2022, PSU attorneys provided legal instruction at the TBI Special Agent Academy and at the TBI State Academy, as well as for TBI employees across the state. Additionally, legal personnel conducted several classes for the benefit of outside agencies.

## **PUBLIC RECORDS**

PSU has an attorney who is designated as TBI's public records' coordinator. That attorney responds to all public records' requests that are directed to the Bureau.

## INTERNAL AFFAIRS

PSU provides legal counsel to the Protective Services SAC who investigate allegations of misconduct by TBI employees. During Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the PSU reviewed seven (7) internal affairs investigations. The outcome of the seven (7) investigations is as follows: three (3) were classified as unfounded, one (1) was classified as proper conduct/exonerated, and three (3) were classified as founded. The three (3) founded outcomes resulted in one resignation, one two day suspension, with the remaining one resulting in a three-day suspension without pay plus additional training for each employee involved.

## *Policy*

The mission of the Policy team is to review and track legislation that impacts the Bureau, to represent the Director before legislative committees as required, and to provide updates to Bureau personnel on new and revised legislation impacting operations.

## *Aviation Unit*

The Aviation Unit consists of an Assistant Special ASAC), who serves as the unit manager as well as a full-time mission pilot, three additional full-time flight crew members and two contract pilots. The ASAC reports directly to the Deputy Director. These agents operate TBI's Cessna 182 Skylane and Pilatus PC-12NG aircraft as necessary in support of TBI investigations and the Agent in Charge (needs of other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. The Bureau Aircraft are used for officer safety overwatch flights, intelligence gathering, and the transportation of critical personnel in support of law enforcement operations.

Since taking possession of the Pilatus PC-12NG aircraft, the aviation unit has proven to be beneficial to the citizens of the State of Tennessee. During Fiscal Year 2021-2022, TBI aircraft flew 141 missions totaling 430.6 flight hours. Of the 141 missions, the Aviation Unit assisted in 3 Amber Alerts/Endangered Child Alerts, 10 Manhunts, 1 Blue Alert, 2 Officer Involved Shootings, 3 Silver Alerts, 2 Natural Disasters and 4 flights assisting in FBI surveillance. In August 2021, the TBI Aviation Unit was called to locate a carjacking suspect in the New Market area after a multi-day manhunt. The suspect was located by TBI Aviation Unit and assisted ground teams to take the suspect into custody. In January 2022, the Aviation Unit was called for surveillance and officer safety overwatch regarding the location and arrest of the suspect accused of killing a Law Enforcement Officer.

## *Assistant Director*

The Assistant Director oversees the offices of the Executive Officer, Fiscal Services, Human Resources, Protective Services, Facility Management and Leasing, Procurement, Fleet, and the warehouse, which includes Property and Supply.



# Executive Officer

The Executive Officer serves as the Director of Special Programs/Projects, who conducts research, creation and implementation of supplemental programs and projects for the Bureau. Through routine assessment of agency work culture, work processes and through collaborative efforts, the Director of Special Programs/Projects implements projects and/or programs for the enhancement and expansion of Bureau services to employees and external customers. A few of the programs in current operation are Alternative Workplace Solutions (AWS), TBI Public Affairs Unit, TBI Suggestions, TBI Awards program, OneBureau, TBI Naloxone exchange program with TN Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (MHSAS), TBI Victims Services Coordinator and TBI Peer Support services. Other duties include management of requested project management services for agency-related campaigns and the maintenance of additional supplemental projects. These projects encompass diversity efforts in the workforce and assistance with technology improvements to preserve agency efficacy.

# Human Resources

The Human Resources Office provides guidance and strategies to align TBI personnel, processes, and organizational structure with the Bureau mission. Management consultation services are provided in the areas of recruitment, onboarding, employee relations, leave and attendance, performance management, classification, compensation, organizational effectiveness, and workforce development.

The unit also provides technical support for the processing of payroll, benefits, worker's compensation, and other transactions for employees. The unit is responsible for compliance with the Family Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Amended Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI and IX, as well as, the Rules of the Tennessee Department of Human Resources.

The Human Resources Unit develops, implements, monitors, and recommends strategic improvements for the Bureau's annual Affirmative Action Plan. In addition, this Unit assists in the development and implementation of new processes and initiatives established in Tennessee state government.

A survey conducted by the Human Resources Unit determined that 93 percent of all TBI employees have some post-secondary education.

The survey further indicated that 25 employees had earned an Associate's Degree, 370 employees hold a Bachelor's Degree (only), 136 employees hold a Master's Degree, 11 employees hold a Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.), 11 employees earned a Ph.D., and 2 have Post-Doctorate

Education Level	
2-Year College Degree	25
Bachelors Level Degree	370
Doctorate (Academic)	11
Doctorate (Professional)	11
High School Graduate or Equivalent	31
Masters Level Degree	136
Not Indicated	11
Post-Doctorate	2
Some College	23
Some Graduate School	16
Technical School	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>638</b>

education. The following chart to the right presents the data.

## *Protective Services Unit*

Currently, there is one Special Agent-in-Charge, one Administrative Assistant, one Sergeant, and 13 police officer positions within this section. Two officers are stationed in Jackson, TN and two officers are stationed in Knoxville, TN. The remaining positions are situated at the Headquarters facility located in Nashville, TN.

The officers are responsible for the physical security of the facilities, personnel and all guests at the facilities. The officers logged 13,526 daily activity events during this time frame. Some of these events include 114 calls received on the TN Arson Hotline, 3,148 duty officer calls that warranted documentation, and 153 case reports that required further investigation by sister units or other law enforcement agencies. The officers also signed in 1,830 visitors to our Headquarters facility during the fiscal year.

Additional duties include conducting all background investigations for both full-time and temporary employees, interns, contract personnel, vendors, certain Tennessee Education Lottery employees, and all Governor Appointments. In fiscal year 2021-2022, the officers conducted a total of 333 background investigations. The SAC also manages all personal complaints and internal affairs investigations for the Bureau.

## *Fiscal Services*

The Fiscal Services Unit is a support unit for the TBI. As such, it has a vast array of responsibilities all of which are designed to ensure that each division within the Bureau is provided the resources and support necessary to function.

Specific examples of the services provided by this unit include the following:

- Preparing the Bureau's annual budget
- Monitoring expenditures and revenue collection
- Processing accounts receivable and payable transactions
- Maintaining all federal and interdepartmental grants
- Reviewing the fiscal effect of proposed legislation to the Bureau
- Serving as a liaison to the legislature and other state and federal accounting units

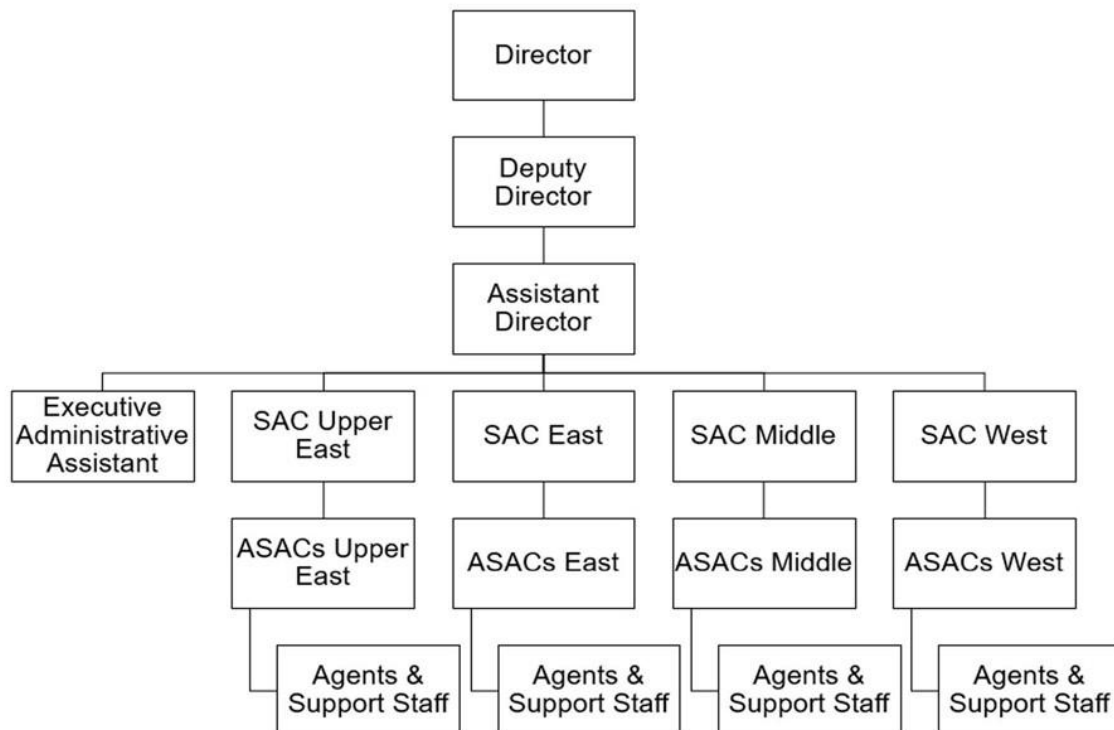
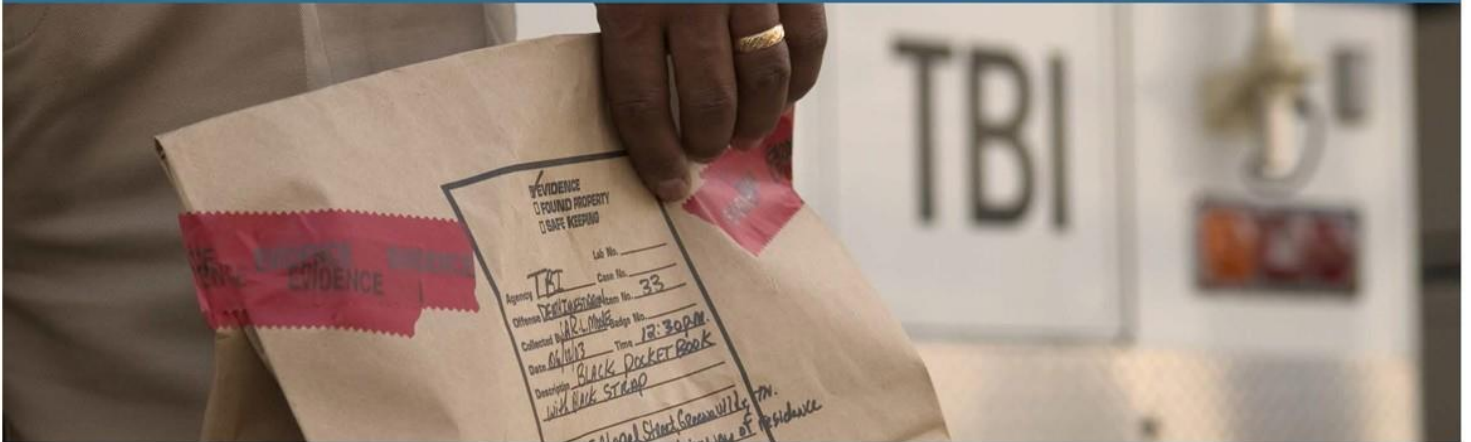
# *Fleet, Procurement, & Warehouse Operations*

- Purchasing of all goods and services necessary for TBI to function
- Managing all TBI vehicles and transportation equipment
- Warehouse Operations
- Conducting an annual inventory on all TBI state-tagged equipment

**Tennessee Bureau of Investigation  
Expenditure by Account  
Fiscal Year 2021-2022**

	ASD	CID	CJIS	DID	FSD	MFCD	TID	Training	Total
Salaries	4,296,070	7,796,743	2,928,140	5,391,906	9,767,889	4,220,495	4,306,794	801,228	39,509,324
Longevity	226,907	328,900	133,938	308,966	507,110	230,467	179,681	40,147	1,956,115
Overtime	97,591	543,321	167,611	806,262	359,607	21,238	195,449	12,342	2,203,420
Benefits	1,845,517	3,484,766	1,347,662	2,699,165	4,553,457	1,912,075	1,884,100	277,750	18,004,491
Total	6,466,085	12,153,729	4,577,351	9,206,298	15,188,062	6,384,275	6,566,024	1,131,527	61,673,351
Travel	171,327	188,112	29,757	213,976	140,816	85,743	54,640	135,945	1,020,315
Printing	0	240	0	11,792	383	614	0	0	13,030
Utilities	950	4,521	55	15,249	29,652	0	0	0	50,427
Communication	234,498	12,582	12,814	42,254	29,262	282	18,088	0	349,779
Maint.	114,502	11,626	0	8,460	604,722	1,995	1,355	0	742,659
Prof. Non-State	294,100	157,881	3,714,937	666,580	869,470	55,063	111,778	19,319	5,889,129
Supplies	323,213	282,064	51,882	393,041	2,606,380	76,372	72,222	585,071	4,390,244
Rental	51,283	7,211	0	25,645	8,870	325	51	10,825	104,211
Motor Vehicle	696,313	29,867	169	36,640	6,659	5,964	5,438	11,223	792,273
Awards	4,402	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,402
Grants and Subs	35,963	96,087	12,500	1,229,747	0	0	0	0	1,374,297
Unclassified	3,729	72,287	0	855,197	0	2,380	605	400	934,598
Equipment	465,149	111,551	0	595,508	787,225	5,580	1,116,010	-	3,081,024
Training	85,071	71,662	7,823	135,589	114,648	39,413	33,226	130,762	618,194
Data Processing	112,050	201,827	3,312,090	128,153	259,546	100,846	2,025,665	44,194	6,184,371
Prof. State	6,094,231	4,307,646	1,214,896	1,129,170	302,520	692,946	769,742	82,955	14,594,106
Total	8,686,782	5,555,164	8,356,924	5,487,000	5,760,153	1,067,523	4,208,821	1,020,693	40,143,059
Grand Total	15,152,866	17,708,894	12,934,275	14,693,299	20,948,215	6,956,077	9,511,620	2,152,220	101,816,410
State Funds	15,053,181	17,011,319	(8,573,438)	11,093,693	17,576,772	1,087,685	10,179,586	2,069,022	65,497,819
Federal Funds	217	697,574	47,058	3,103,382	2,099,147	6,313,821	24,938	46,899	12,333,037
Other Funds	99,468	0	21,460,655	496,223	1,272,295	50,292	570,321	36,299	23,985,553
Total Funds	15,152,866	17,708,894	12,934,275	14,693,299	20,948,215	7,451,797	10,774,845	2,152,220	101,816,410

# Criminal Investigation



The **Criminal Investigation Division** was created as a resource for the District Attorneys General and law enforcement agencies across the state to provide expertise in criminal investigations. The Division is also responsible for investigating public corruption, human trafficking, and criminal official misconduct.

The Criminal Investigation Division (CID) is made up of four regional field investigative units: West Tennessee, Middle Tennessee, East Tennessee, and Upper East Tennessee. A Special Agent in Charge (SAC) who reports to the Assistant Director of CID heads each regional field investigation unit. The Middle Tennessee Field SAC and the West Tennessee Field SAC are supported by three Assistant Special Agents in Charge (ASAC), while Upper East and East each have four Assistant Special Agents in Charge. Upper East and East have a fourth ASAC due to their additional responsibilities of supervising the Human Trafficking and Polygraph Units.

The Criminal Investigation Division was created as a resource for the District Attorneys General and law enforcement agencies across the state to provide expertise in criminal investigations. The division is also responsible for investigating public corruption, fugitive apprehension and criminal official misconduct. The Bureau is a professional and dedicated law enforcement agency capable of responding to complex and difficult investigations. Recognizing that the image and perception of the Bureau rests on each employee, TBI emphasizes professionalism and continual training for all its employees.

As of June 30, 2022, the Criminal Investigation Division had 843 active/open major investigations. During the fiscal year, the division's agents conducted 388 major investigations, 674 assist investigations and 262 intelligence investigations in support of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. In total, CID conducted criminal investigations, investigative assists and intelligence gathering in 1,324 cases before concluding work in 869 cases. Beginning in January of 2019, reporting of case statistics reflect major cases only, with reporting of other classifications broken out for more accurate reporting. During Fiscal Year 2021-2022, agents made 259 arrests. (At this time, many of them remaining judicially active.) In addition, agents either arrested or assisted in the arrest of fugitives and noncompliant sex offenders.

## *Statutory Responsibilities*

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) has the authority to investigate any criminal violation upon the request of the District Attorney General for the judicial district where the offense occurred pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, §38-6-102(a). Absent a District Attorney's request, the TBI may exercise its original jurisdiction on a number of issues, pursuant to TCA §38-6-102(b). Among the areas on which TBI may exercise its jurisdiction include: investigating fugitives from justice; offenses involving corruption of or misconduct by a public official; employees or prospective employees of the Bureau or Department of Safety; fraudulent conduct involving Social Security Administration Title II and Title XVI disability programs; organized crime activities; victimization of children by means of a computer or other electronic device; human trafficking; and arson. TCA §38-6-102(b)(2) further permits TBI to investigate allegations of felonious conduct resulting in serious bodily injury to a state inmate where the alleged perpetrator is an official, employee or trustee if the district attorney refuses to make such a request for investigation and to investigate fraud or corruption in the area of paroles. TCA §38-6-112 permits the State Attorney General to request TBI to investigate matters regarding the removal of public officials, unlawful restraint of trade and discrimination, securities fraud, and violations of the Consumer Protection Act. TBI has also been

given the authority to investigate domestic terrorism pursuant to TCA §38-6-102(e)(1), and Bureau investigators have the authority to make traffic stops in an emergency, where the safety of the public is in jeopardy. Investigators of the Bureau also are permitted, pursuant to TCA §17-5-301, to assist the Court of the Judiciary when investigating the conduct of judges.

The Criminal Investigation Division's primary goal is to provide the most professional and comprehensive investigations possible by employing state-of-the-art equipment and methods in each of the areas previously outlined. Currently, to accomplish each of the statutory responsibilities outlined, the CID is staffed with 140 employees statewide, including all supervisors, criminal investigators, and support staff.



# *Field Investigation Unit*

The Field Investigation Unit is divided geographically into four regions. Each region is headed by a Special Agent in Charge (SAC) who supervises three or four Assistant Special Agents in Charge (ASAC), 18 to 20 agents including those assigned to fire investigations, 1 to 3 Administrative Assistants, and 1 Intelligence Analyst. Generally, each judicial district has one to three field agents and/or investigators assigned to that district. From July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, the Polygraph unit performed 223 polygraph examinations, with most of these exams being performed at the request of local law enforcement officials.

Violent and white-collar crimes make up a large percentage of cases worked by the Field Investigation Unit. District Attorneys General across the state issue written requests that a Special Agent investigates a crime or allegation of a crime, especially those that require an independent examination such as an officer use of force. Last year, the Field Investigation Unit opened 74 death investigations and closed 68. Many times, the homicide cases involving missing persons, are considered cold cases or are cases where human remains are found but are unidentified. Other cases worked include the embezzlement or theft of large sums of money from public entities or private business, bribery, violent sex crimes, child abuse, officer misconduct and the death of jail inmates.

## **UPPER EAST TENNESSEE**

The Upper East Tennessee Field Unit office is in Knoxville with a satellite office in Johnson City, this region is made up of 21 counties and 8 judicial districts. One Special Agent in Charge and three Assistant Special Agents in Charge supervise 26 employees. Those employees include: two Administrative Assistants, one Intelligence Analyst, 17 Special Agents assigned to conduct criminal investigations in field territories and six Special Agent Fire Investigators assigned to fire /explosive investigations, including one who is an Accelerant Detection Canine Handler.

The Upper East SAC also supervises the Polygraph Unit. The Polygraph Unit was created in December of 2019. While polygraph agents were previously supervised regionally, the unit is now formalized and supervised by technical expertise. As of August 20, 2020, the unit has a staff level of six positions. The positions are as follows; one Assistant Special Agent in Charge and five Special Agents that are Polygraph Examiners.

## **EAST TENNESSEE**

The East Tennessee Field Unit office is in Chattanooga with a satellite office located in Cookeville, this



region is made up of 25 counties and seven judicial districts. One Special Agent in Charge and three Assistant Special Agents in Charge supervise 21 employees. Those employees include: One Administrative Assistant, one Intelligence Analyst, one Special Agent Accelerant Detection Canine Handler, six Special Agent Fire Investigators and 15 Special Agents assigned to conduct criminal investigations in field territories.

The East SAC also supervises the State Human Trafficking Unit. The Human Trafficking Unit consists of one Assistant Special Agent in Charge, four Special Agents and one Human Trafficking Grant Coordinator.

## **MIDDLE TENNESSEE**

The Middle Tennessee Field Unit office is in Nashville, this region is made up of 28 counties and nine judicial districts. One Special Agent in Charge and three Assistant Special Agents in Charge supervise 29 employees. Those employees include: 19 Special Agents assigned to conduct criminal investigations in field territories, six Special Agent Fire Investigators assigned to conduct fire/explosive investigations, one Administrative Assistant, one Intelligence Analyst and two Victim Services Coordinators.

The Middle SAC also supervises the Victim Services Program, the program has two Victim Services Coordinators. In the spring of 2015, the TBI Victim Services Program was launched with the purpose to identify and to establish meaningful relationships with victims and witnesses of TBI investigations with respect, care, and empathy. The Bureau is committed to ensuring that victims and their families are provided with information required by state law and referred to community resources and other services as necessary. The mission of this program is to uphold the latter portion of the Bureau's mission statement, "That Guilt Shall Not Escape nor Innocence Suffer."

The Victim Services Coordinators are primarily responsible for obtaining victim and/or witness information, referral or services based on a "needs" assessment, providing education about the criminal justice process and investigation methods, providing case updates to victim and/or victims' families, providing feedback to supervision regarding challenges and concerns related to victim advocacy; communicating the objectives of the victim services program to peers, non-governmental organizations and other law enforcement partners. The Victim Services Coordinators report to the Special Agent in Charge of the Field Investigation Unit in Middle Tennessee.

During the Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the Victim Services Coordinators received 85 referrals and made 137 contacts with victims and witnesses of TBI cases. There are currently 132 open cases in the Victim Services System database. The Victim Services Coordinators have contacts in all counties across Tennessee that can provide resources to victims/witnesses of active investigations. Currently, the Victim Services Coordinators have completed more than 322.25 hours in training, and meetings in Middle, West, East and Upper East Tennessee.

Lastly, other duties of the Victim Services Coordinators include planning victim services related programs, coordinating meetings with potential community resource stakeholders, and community outreach.

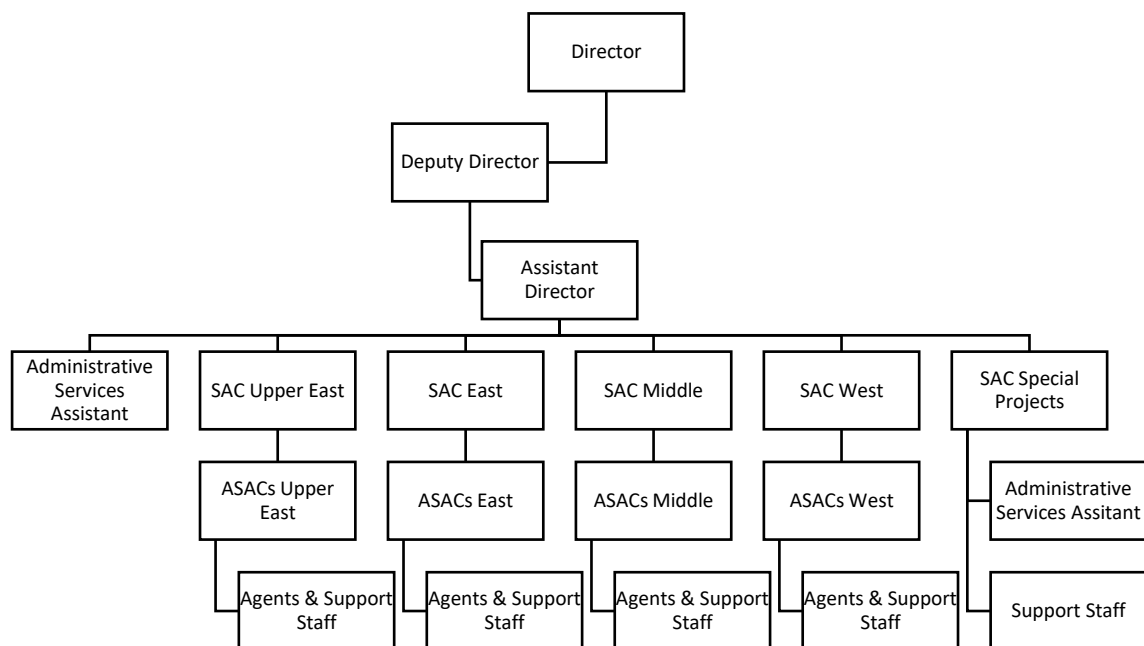
## WEST TENNESSEE

The West Tennessee Field Unit is in Jackson with a satellite office in Memphis, this region is made up of 21 counties and seven judicial districts. One Special Agent in Charge and three Assistant Special Agents in Charge supervise 28 employees. Those employees include: three Administrative Assistants, one Intelligence Analyst, 17 Special Agents assigned to conduct criminal investigations in field territories, and seven Special Agent Fire Investigators assigned to conduct fire/explosive investigations.

# *TBI Overdose & Violent Crime Task Force*

With the support and funding provided by Tennessee Governor Bill Lee and the Tennessee General Assembly, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation has created the TBI Overdose and Violent Crime Task Force. This effort provided a cost increase of \$500,000, recurring, to stand up and maintain the Overdose Death and Violent Crime Task Forces across the state. This funding allows TBI to train, equip, and pay overtime to the participating local officers. These task forces are mutually beneficial to TBI, the officers, and their respective agencies. TBI provides elite training and equipment to the officers that they otherwise would not have available to them. The parent agencies agree to allow TBI to utilize their officers on an as-needed basis for at least a year and in return the agency receives a well-seasoned and equipped investigator. The task force model allows TBI to utilize local law enforcement officers as a force multiplier to combat two major issues facing our state: overdose deaths and violent crime. Currently, TBI has 28 officers participating in our regional Overdose Death Task Forces and 22 officers participating in our regional Violent Crime Task Forces. These officers come from a variety of different local law enforcement agencies across the state.

# Drug Investigation



The **Drug Investigation Division** was created by Public Chapter 1069 during the 1998 session of the Tennessee General Assembly in response to legislative findings that a large percentage of crime in Tennessee was drug-related. The DID has been operating as a separate and coequal division of the TBI since September 1, 1998.

Tennessee Code Annotated §38-6-202 states the mission of the DID is to “investigate, gather evidence and assist in the prosecution of criminal offenses involving controlled substances, narcotics, and other drugs,” and that to fulfill this mission the Division “shall have original jurisdiction over the investigation of all drugs.”

The DID, like the TBI as a whole, plays many roles in the law enforcement community. TBI Special Agents assigned to the Division initiate and investigate their own cases, targeting significant violators, drug distribution organizations, and mid to high-level offenders. In addition, the Division’s agents provide support to the drug enforcement community, including technical assistance, legal assistance, and personnel support to other agencies from the local to the federal level. Finally, recognizing that effective utilization of law enforcement resources requires cooperation, the DID strives to maintain the Bureau’s close relationship with the various police departments, sheriff’s offices, and judicial district drug task forces throughout the state. The Division continues to emphasize strengthening ties between its investigative efforts and those of federal agencies with drug enforcement responsibilities, including the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security Investigations, 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 and policy trends, including ongoing efforts to combat clandestine methamphetamine manufacturing and trafficking through enforcement and policy initiatives. The commitment is also evident in the progress in the Division’s effort to address illegal diversion of prescription drugs such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, and benzodiazepines, battling the current state and national opioid crisis, and ensuring that traditional drug enforcement programs like the Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (AHIDTA) and the Governor’s Task Force on Marijuana Eradication (GTFME) stay current and viable.

The DID is headed by an Assistant Director who reports to the TBI Director and Deputy Director. Four regional Special Agents in Charge (SAC) report to the Assistant Director and are stationed in the four regional offices in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville, and Memphis, and one SAC is assigned to Special Projects. Reporting to each regional Special Agent in Charge are two Assistant Special Agents in Charge in the west and upper east regions, and three ASAC’s in the middle and east regions, who are the frontline supervisors of the Special Agents assigned to the respective regions. The Division also consists of two Intelligence Analysts, one who provides investigative support across the state to Special Agents, the other provides support to the Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force (TDDTF), and a Criminal Justice Information Specialist who maintains the statewide Drug Offender Registry.

## *Organization & Caseload*

The DID had 822 active cases as of June 30, 2022. The Division opened approximately 312 cases and closed 331 cases during the fiscal year. From July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, Special Agents assigned to the Drug Investigation Division arrested a total of 814 drug offenders and obtained 381 convictions on drug related charges. Agents of the Division seized or purchased 1,380.28 grams of crack cocaine; 61,860.11 grams of powder cocaine; 4,140.78 pounds of bulk marijuana; 535 marijuana plants; and 318,026.79 grams of methamphetamine and 1 methamphetamine lab. Also seized were 1,316.0 dosage units and 72 grams of Ecstasy, 55,703.04 dosage units and 35,665.44 grams of Fentanyl, 10,255.94 grams of Heroin and 4,266.15 grams and 140 dosage units of Heroin laced with Fentanyl, 531 dosage units of LSD, 43 dosage units and 1,228.1 grams of MDMA, 472.78 grams of mushrooms, 19,121.7 dosage units and 8,051.4 grams of prescription drugs, and 89.2 grams and 117.5 dosage units of other drugs.

TBI's share of currency seized totaled approximately \$179,639.61 all of which constituted either proceeds of drug trafficking or funds used to facilitate drug trafficking.

## **Personnel Allocation**

As of June 30, 2022, there are 54 DID Special Agents statewide. Most DID agents are assigned an area of responsibility generally encompassing several counties or an entire Judicial District. This arrangement makes the most of the current staffing levels. Each of the 95 counties in the state has a specific and identified contact within the DID. Currently, one DID agent position primarily focuses on illegal gang related drug activities in west Tennessee.

Drug cases that focus on mid to upper-level targets are labor intensive. Methamphetamine labs typically are time-consuming requiring certified agents or officers due to safety regulations. Electronic surveillance requires monitoring and ground teams. Prescription drug cases usually involve paper trails that cannot be concluded in a single day or week.

In addition, agents are assigned to a number of task force initiatives, to include Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (AHIDTA), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), United States Postal Service (USPS), Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms Violent Crime Units (ATF), and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) task forces located throughout Tennessee. This is separate from the responsibilities on the Governor's Task Force for Marijuana Eradication. It is not uncommon for DID to be called upon to assist the TBI's Criminal Investigation Division. These requests are for a number of tasks involving technical assistance, undercover assignments, human trafficking operations, law enforcement involved shootings, homicides, and a variety of other crimes.

Of the total 54 drug agent positions, 6 are dedicated to drug diversion investigations. These agents' primary responsibility is to combat prescription drug diversion and are stationed throughout the state. Their investigative statistics have been included in the prescription drugs section of this report.

## **Continuing Emphasis on Conspiracy Investigations**

One strategy that has been used to increase the effectiveness of the present number of TBI drug agents has been to direct more operations toward mid-level and major criminal organizations that are involved in multi-jurisdictional drug trafficking activities. These investigations, while time-consuming and complex, generally maximize returns of high-level convictions and assets seized per agent/hour.

Conspiracy investigations allow an organization to be dismantled from top to bottom, preventing the organization from growing again. In addition, long-term documentation of drug dealing activity for a conspiracy charge allows the ultimate criminal penalties to reflect the full culpability of the members of the organization, not simply the amount of drugs they had on them when arrested. To enhance TBI's efforts on this front, electronic surveillance resources have been expanded across the state. This has already proven to be successful with the dismantling of multiple drug organizations.

## **Community Impact Investigations**

Another strategy DID employs is referred to as community impact investigations. These are lower-level target investigations that are conducted due to geographical and resource necessity. In communities that are more rural and do not have the resources to conduct long-term investigations, DID provides the assistance to rid them of multiple offenders. These operations commonly result in high numbers of arrests, and lower-level offenses. It also allows the TBI to make the public aware that, big or small, drug trafficking of any nature will be pursued.

# Prescription Drugs

Seizures of prescription drugs continue due to an aggressive pursuit of drug diversion leads by Division investigators. This trend will continue as the Division directs its resources to meet both the new and the old component of this drug threat. The aforementioned six agent positions focusing on prescription drug diversion is evidence of this direction.

During the fiscal year, 19,121.7 dosage units and 8,051.4 grams of prescription drugs were seized during investigations involving the DID, which included: 10,284.5 dosage units and 1,165.6 grams of alprazolam; 15 dosage units of Dilaudid; 556 dosage units of hydrocodone; 23.5 dosage units of methadone; 1.2 dosage units of ketamine; 114 dosage units and 1 gram of morphine; 811.0 dosage units and 6,863.8 grams of other RX drugs; 7,186.5 dosage units and 21 grams of oxycodone; 110.0 dosage units of OxyContin; and 20.0 dosage unit of valium were seized.

While we continue to make progress reducing prescription drugs, illicit opioid drug use continues to spawn the proliferation of heroin/fentanyl. Individuals seeking prescription drugs like Hydrocodone have found that heroin is cheaper and more accessible on the street. The increase of heroin abuse has created an epidemic rate increase of overdoses and deaths. Law enforcement is also witnessing, with heroin, an increase in the presence of Fentanyl (a powerful synthetic opiate analgesic similar to but more potent than morphine), and its analogs. Fentanyl is sold as heroin and heroin is also being laced with it. Law enforcement has also seen instances of methamphetamine and cocaine being laced with Fentanyl/Heroin. All are an extremely dangerous recipe for overdose and death. Law enforcement and lab personnel are being subjected to coming in contact with pure and high levels of Fentanyl which can result in an immediate overdose. In response to this threat, the TBI has issued its agents Narcan dispensers for emergency use to assist in the lifesaving efforts of personnel and public. Narcan is an opiate antagonist that acts by blocking the effects of opiate drugs and reversing the event of an overdose. The increased number of heroin related incidents have required the TBI to take a proactive position in combating this problem. TBI DID personnel are regularly called upon to participate in multi-disciplined working groups to address the current threat of opiate and fentanyl issues and drug related legislative efforts.

With the attention and efforts law enforcement has given to the prescription drug problem, another phenomenon has occurred: the introduction of counterfeit pills. Law enforcement across Tennessee has seen "fake pills" manufactured to look like prescription medications (i.e., Percocet, Hydrocodone, Xanax) through the use of pill presses. These counterfeits are compiled of various concoctions and are not what they appear to be. The most serious of which are pills containing Fentanyl. Unfortunately, this has created another outbreak of drug overdoses. The DID is aggressively pursuing this trend. This has also resulted in TBI developing drug evidence handling policies in an effort for safety.

## **Creation of Drug Overdose Death Task Forces**

The TBI has created drug overdose death task forces across the state. Currently, using Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (AHIDTA) funding a task force has been developed in upper east Tennessee operating out of Sullivan County, and one operating in Davidson County. Efforts continue to man these task forces in other areas of the state utilizing funds provided by the General Assembly. The goal of these task forces is to prevent drug overdoses, and work drug overdose death investigations in order to get to the source of the drugs. Over the last year these task force initiatives comprised of local resources and DID personnel across the state worked on 434 drug overdose cases.

Through investigative tactics agents are developing the sources of supply, which commonly prevents more overdoses. Additionally, the investigative efforts are leading to murder charges on the cases associated with a death.

### **Clandestine Drug Networks**

Drug trafficking involving the use of the Darkweb continues to grow. The Darkweb is any network that operates clandestinely and hides the identity of its users. Networks to purchase a variety of drugs, components to make counterfeit drugs (fake prescription pills), and items such as pill presses capable of producing thousands of counterfeit pills an hour are developing nationwide at an alarming rate. Computer and "tech savvy" criminals utilize the Darkweb to purchase these items from certain websites that provide anonymity and availability. Items purchased from the Darkweb are usually purchased with some form of cryptocurrency, such as Bitcoin. Bitcoin is exchanged electronically with the exchange method being designed to thwart law enforcement's ability to track proceeds from one destination to another. By utilizing "tumbling services" to launder money used to purchase drugs from the Darkweb, it makes it very difficult for law enforcement to link customers with sources of supply in traditional ways. The system is designed to conceal the identity and location of the persons using it. Often, customers who purchase illegal items from the Darkweb do not know from whom they are purchasing or from where the items purchased actually came from. These investigations are becoming more prevalent in Tennessee and require extensive manpower and technical resources.

# TN Dangerous Drugs Task Force

The Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force (TDDTF) utilizes a multidiscipline and multijurisdictional team approach to combat the illicit manufacture and distribution of all controlled substances in the State of Tennessee. The TBI serves as the fiduciary and oversight agency for the TDDTF providing a Special Agent in Charge (Director), an Assistant Special Agent in Charge, and additional support staff. The TDDTF's programs operate with federal grants and some state allotted funding. The TDDTF Executive Board and advisory members are made up of federal, state, and local representatives from a wide array of disciplines which meet on a quarterly basis.

The TBI Director and one of the three United States Attorneys in Tennessee serve as the co-chairs of the Executive Board. Other board members and participants include the other two TN U.S. Attorneys, three TN District Attorneys General, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Commissioner, the Health Commissioner, Children's Services Commissioner, three police chiefs, three county sheriffs, the Safety and Homeland Security Commissioner, Tennessee National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, the Administrative Office of the Courts, three regional judicial drug task force directors, TN Department of Environment and Conservation, the Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (TADEC), and other representatives from corrections, treatment, and prevention all contribute to guide the activities of the TDDTF.

The motto of the TDDTF is to "Protect, Enforce, and Educate." To that end, the TDDTF oversees all activities in the programs outlined below.





## **Clandestine Laboratory Investigations**

Investigating and properly disposing of the hazardous evidence from the domestic production of methamphetamine was the first state-wide problem addressed in 1999 when the Southeast TN Meth Task Force was formed by a coalition of law enforcement agencies (LEA). This regional meth task force increased to state-wide coverage, transitioned operations under the TBI umbrella, and expanded its scope into the TDDTF as it operates today. The clandestine lab program still serves as an integral part of the program and has grown to include any synthetic drug that can be converted or manufactured 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 strategically throughout the State of 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 2021-2022, the TDDTF response drivers assisted LEA with processing 18 clandestine drug labs and two indoor marijuana grows. Each of these responses required the proper disposal of the materials and chemicals used in the manufacturing/growing process. The destruction of this hazardous evidence is facilitated by the Authorized Central Storage (ACS) program of which the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) provides operational oversight and partial funding. During the fiscal year, about 300 pounds of hazardous drug lab waste was disposed of following state and federal regulations through the ACS program.

The training, education, legislative, and enforcement efforts of the members of the TDDTF have paid off in reducing the domestic production of methamphetamine. However, the saturated local markets for meth, users' addiction to the drug, and those willing to sell meth have not followed suit. Many former meth cooks and distributors are now selling Mexican Drug Trafficking Organization (MDTO) meth to existing and new "customers." This high potency, imported meth has saturated many communities, thus increasing the availability and lowering the price to very affordable levels. For these reasons, meth abuse continues to rise, and there are also more poly-drug abusers who prefer the high of mixing opioids with meth.

## **Governor's Task Force for Marijuana Eradication (GTFME)**

The increase in the inconsistency in hemp and marijuana laws across the nation and misperceptions over enforcement and responsibilities under Tennessee state laws has created a conundrum for Law Enforcement. The TDDTF manages the GTFME program with funds provided by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and primary support from the TBI, Tennessee Highway Patrol, and the Tennessee National Guard. In this role, the TDDTF has provided a great deal of training (see section below) regarding the current cannabis laws and how they impact public safety and TN communities. The goals of the program are to seek out and eradicate domestically grown marijuana, deter marijuana production through enforcement of existing laws, the seizure and forfeiture of assets obtained through drug nexuses, the prosecution of individuals and groups involved in illicit marijuana cultivating, utilization of DI<sup>3</sup> and other intelligence sources to generate and share criminal intelligence, and providing the latest technology to streamline investigations that disrupt illegal grow operations. The GTFME season operates from late spring through September

each year; however, preparation, training, active investigations, and prosecutions continue year-round.

The 2021 GTFME season successfully eradicated 17,732 plants in 417 plots and seized nearly 2,726 pounds of processed marijuana and 160 pounds of THC wax with a value of over \$50 million. There were 23 arrests across the state. In addition, the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) Interdiction Plus Unit provided support through efforts to reduce the transportation of illicit marijuana products through Tennessee resulting in the seizure of two kilos of fentanyl, 20 arrests for various felony drug offenses and weapons charges, and three missing children recovered. There were 144 presumptive tests completed in the field on seized cannabis products to determine the legality, based on THC content, of the plant material, processed marijuana, and over-the-counter products as well as those growers who were in violation of Tennessee's hemp law and Department of Agriculture regulations.

### **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 for utilization that provides reimbursement for local LEA that pay overtime to their sworn officers investigating methamphetamine, marijuana, and/or opioid crimes. To have the greatest impact on communities, these investigations require significant time and resource investment. This investment can be overwhelming for local budgets, so the TDDTF provides overtime payback to agencies. This reimbursement requires the agencies to sign memoranda of understanding that outline the rules related to the use of the funds; which includes the type of investigations the funds can be utilized for, the hours available per officer and per agency, and the requirement for the time to be submitted for reimbursement only after the officer has been paid by their agency.

### **Incident Response Vehicles, Equipment, and Responders**

To provide the quickest possible response to the various incidents for which the TDDTF provides support, specially equipped response trucks and trailers are deployed in various geographic regions in anticipation of calls for service. These seven response trucks are manned by contract employees that make themselves available for call-out through the TDDTF dispatch phone line 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These critical personnel are trained and utilized to support local LE in a variety of ways. During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, they assisted with 18 clan lab responses, documented, packaged, and transported hazardous waste from those labs, and placed the waste in one of thirteen ACS containers. They responded 18 times to fentanyl or other drug crime scenes to provide PPE and processing supplies for LEO. Presumptive testing was provided 51 times for unknown drugs/substances using 1064 laser, mass spectrometry, or THC testing devices. The GTFME program was supported by these personnel for 43 days; they supported interdiction efforts for 16 days; and they assisted with training for 139 days during the fiscal year. In addition, the response drivers supported the adjudicated Drug Evidence Incineration Program (DEIP) – 22 days, the Household Pharmaceutical Takeback Program (PTB) – 320 workdays, and community outreach efforts – 19 events.

## Training and Educational Events

Providing training and educational events for citizens, public safety, community coalitions, and others is an essential component of the TDDTF mission. The subjects of these training sessions include drug endangered children, drug trends, utilization of the Drug Investigation and Information Integration System (DI<sup>3</sup>), overdose reporting, fentanyl safety, clandestine lab certification training, level A hazardous material certification training, ACS training, safe drug disposal, human trafficking and drug crimes, and a variety of other pertinent drug subjects. During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the TDDTF provided the following training courses and sessions:

Course	Audience	# in Attendance	Sessions
Drug Trends and Drug Endangered Children	Police Academy Classes	426	4
Annual Training	GTFME partners (LE)	144	2 (4 days and online)
Drug Related Death Investigations	State and Local LE	78	3 (1 seminar, 2 4-day POST certified courses)
Clandestine Lab & Level A Certification	State and Local LE	50	2 (5-day POST certified classes)
Clandestine Lab Annual Recertification	Local LE partners	217	8 (1-day POST certified sessions)
National Drug Endangered Children Conference	LE and community partners	400	5-day conference host

In addition to the information in the table above, two POST-certified online courses were updated; meth awareness and fentanyl safety. These were created by TDDTF personnel in conjunction with TBI's Training office and launched on TBI Learn (a virtual training portal), which is also available to law enforcement and community coalition personnel throughout the state.

## **Drug Investigation Information and Integration System (DI<sup>3</sup>)**

DI<sup>3</sup> collects, analyzes, and provides the opportunity for all law enforcement to share and retrieve drug information and intelligence. DI<sup>3</sup> 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, DI<sup>3</sup> had a total of 57,896 web usage instances.

In 2015, The TDDTF began an overdose reporting pilot program (fatal and non-fatal) in DI<sup>3</sup> with the goal of sharing information with the Drug Enforcement Administration's El Paso Intelligence Center. That year, six overdoses were reported in DI<sup>3</sup>. 2016, which was the first full calendar year that overdoses were reported into the system, had 59 reports entered into the system by seven agencies. Since that time, reporting has become mandatory for those agencies receiving TDDTF resources and naloxone through community coalition supplies. For fiscal year 2021-2022, the number of entries into the system has grown to 6,145 reported by 120 law enforcement agencies. Of the 6,145 overdoses reported, naloxone was administered to the victim in 1,915. New functions and content are continuously being developed for DI<sup>3</sup> to maintain information and connections with state and federal partners.

## **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 TDDTF partnered with the TN Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to implement the PTB Program in 2016. TDEC was instrumental in purchasing and placing the secure permanent PTB collection boxes in over 400 law enforcement agencies in each of the 95 counties in the state. TDEC also provided the initial supply of fiber barrels that facilitated the transport of PTB contents for destruction by a federally licensed incineration company. This program utilizes the TDDTF contracted responders and existing response trucks and trailers to deliver empty fiber barrels and collect the full barrels for destruction from LEA approximately every other month. From July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, 62,886 pounds of unwanted pharmaceuticals were collected and destroyed from 202 LEAs. Since its inception, the PTB Program has collected and destroyed over 634,000 pounds of unused and unwanted medications that are no longer a danger for diversion.

## **Drug Evidence Incineration Program (DEIP)**

The TDDTF has purchased four large batch, zero emissions incinerators for the DEIP and place them in Jackson, Nashville, Chattanooga, and Knoxville. In December of 2019, the TDDTF provided its first incineration of adjudicated drug evidence. Drug evidence occupies a great deal of space in evidence vaults and is costly to properly destroy by LEAs. The TDDTF provides the DEIP as a service to law enforcement to help alleviate overcrowding, and the potential for diversion of drugs from evidence rooms. Once a case has been adjudicated through the court system, the evidence is eligible for the program. Each burn is limited to 500 pounds. Throughout fiscal year, the TDDTF served 49 agencies, destroying 4,517 pounds of drug evidence. In total, the program has helped safely dispose of over 12,217 pounds of adjudicated drug evidence, saving local LEAs

thousands of dollars in destruction expenses and protecting the environment from hazardous emissions.

### **Portable Analysis and Technology Services**

As the landscape of illegal drug investigations has evolved over the years with the legalization of hemp farming, the reduction in meth labs, increased MDTO meth trafficking, the decrease of dispensed opioid prescriptions, the increase in the importation of illicit fentanyl, and the rise in overdoses, the mission of the TDDTF has evolved to address each of these challenges. The need to identify unknown substances to protect LE responders, citizens, and children, to assist emergency medical personnel in treating patients, and to provide evidence to ensure successful prosecution of drug violation cases has increased dramatically in recent years. During the fiscal year, there were nearly 2,500 unknown substances tested by six TacticID® instruments, four LightLab® CBD and THC testing devices, and six MX908® high-pressure mass spectrometry machines that were purchased, training on their use provided, and deployed into the field to both TDDTF response personnel and law enforcement partners. While the primary use for these instruments is for drug identification, the TacticID and MX908 devices also identify chemical, biological, and explosive substances, which can initiate a level A hazardous material response by the TDDTF.

### **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.” During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the National Drug Endangered Children Conference was held in Nashville in August of 2021. Over 400 attendees that work within the law enforcement, child services, treatment, medical, and prevention communities from all over the country attended the 4-day conference. Plans to finalize the spending of the 2018 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention grant obtained by TADEC were made, and a new grant was awarded from the Tennessee Department of Human Services. For the fiscal year, specific training on Drug Endangered Children occurred in 46 sessions reaching 1,879 people. On April 27, 2022, more than 20 counties participated in DEC Awareness Day with several proclamations for the day being signed by local officials. In June of 2022, 550 school resource officers were trained at their annual conference regarding how they can positively impact DEC. The seven DEC county coalitions continued building partnerships with local stakeholders, impacting children by distributing *Timbi Talks about Addiction* packets to elementary children, and implementing the *Handle with Care* program to ensure DCS, schools, and law enforcement are communicating for the benefit of children involved in incidents requiring a LE or Division of Child Services response. During the fiscal year, the TADEC Coordinator continued to work with the DEC response teams to build resiliency, serve as a member of the National DEC Advisory Board, and participated in regular calls, meetings, and training to support grant requirements and to build local partnerships for the betterment of Tennessee’s most vulnerable population, its children.



# Investigative Programs

In addition to its general enforcement responsibilities, the Division has a leadership role in several programs that are integral to Tennessee's drug enforcement community.

## **Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (AHIDTA)**

Established in 1998, the Appalachia HIDTA counties, within the four states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, have historically comprised one of the most predominant marijuana production and trafficking areas in the United States. The HIDTA program, which is a federally funded through the Office of National Drug Control Policy, provides necessary support to investigative task forces and initiatives operating in its designated area. The Appalachia HIDTA has cultivated cooperative and effective working relationships among U.S. Attorney's Offices, federal agencies, state agencies, and the National Guard to achieve common goals for disrupting and dismantling drug trafficking organizations and effectively reducing the demand for drugs.

The Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (AHIDTA) is currently comprised of 94 counties in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Tennessee is comprised of 31 designated AHIDTA counties. AHIDTA is located within relatively easy driving distance to several major metropolitan areas within the Eastern, Southern, and Midwest United States. Vast public lands combined with a temperate climate, have historically made this region a major area for the cultivation and distribution of outdoor cultivated marijuana. High unemployment rates, low median household income, and loss of blue-collar jobs are socioeconomic factors that contribute to illicit drug use and distribution in the AHIDTA region.

Threat assessments reveal that AHIDTA faces a poly-drug threat. Crystal methamphetamine (ICE), fentanyl, heroin, diverted pharmaceutical drugs, and cocaine distributed by Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO) based in regional hubs such as Atlanta, Columbus, OH, and along the Southwest border continue to pose a significant threat to the AHIDTA region.

In recent years, methamphetamine, heroin, the diversion and abuse of prescription drugs, particularly opioid-based pharmaceuticals, and alternative forms of synthetic opiates have established themselves as a sizeable threat to the area. The Appalachia HIDTA states rank among the list of top states in the nation for prescriptions per capita and corresponding overdose deaths from prescription drugs, heroin, and other forms of opiates plague the region, particularly in West Virginia. Cocaine continues to make a resurgence during the last three reporting periods. There have been 8 DTOs in Tennessee identified by AHIDTA task forces, 4 of which were classified as violent. These DTOs were responsible for the distribution and trafficking of ice, marijuana, cocaine, fentanyl, oxycodone, and heroin. Through their investigative efforts, these task forces were responsible for 163 event and 736 target deconflictions.

During the fiscal year period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, Appalachia HIDTA task forces operating within the state of Tennessee were responsible for the seizure of drugs valued at more than \$51.2 million on the illicit drug market, not including pharmaceutical drugs. These same task forces seized more than \$4.0 million in U.S currency and other assets, to include vehicles and real property.

### **Middle Tennessee HIDTA Task Force**

At the direction of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the Appalachia HIDTA was required to form regional task forces in the states of the Appalachia HIDTA. As a result of this requirement, the TBI was designated as the lead agency in forming a Middle Tennessee Task Force (MTTF). This task force is in the counties of Middle Tennessee as identified by the Appalachia HIDTA. These counties take in three Tennessee judicial districts. These districts include Fentress County in the 8th Judicial District, Jackson County in the 15th Judicial District, and Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and Cumberland counties in the 13th Judicial District. At present, the MTTF is made up of TBI Special Agents and officers from local law enforcement agencies. During the Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the MTTF opened 58 investigations, disrupted/ dismantled three drug trafficking organizations. A total of 160 people were arrested. Seven vehicles, 56 firearms, and more than \$548,722.54 in currency and other assets were seized by the task force.

### **Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (GCHIDTA)**

The Gulf Coast HIDTA encompasses designated counties/parishes across the six states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

In August 2010, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) designated Shelby County to be included in the Gulf Coast HIDTA. The Gulf Coast HIDTA funds four law enforcement initiatives in Shelby County; the Shelby County HIDTA Drug Task Force led by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Shelby County Multi-Agency Gang Unit led by the Memphis Police Department, Memphis Case Advocacy Program led by the United States Attorney's Office, and Border Enforcement Security Task Force led by United States Homeland Security Investigations. TBI DID has one Special Agent Criminal Investigator assigned full-time to the Border Enforcement Security Task Force.

TBI's DID is also a member of the Gulf Coast HIDTA State Board of Directors for Tennessee and looks forward to continued successes from this task force.

# Overdose Deaths & Drug Related Violent Crime

Many violent and property crimes are committed as a result of drug trafficking and drug use/abuse. In January 2022, DID began collecting violent crime related incidents as it applies specifically to DID special agents' investigations. For the eight-month period of January through August 2022, DID special agents have had an impact on 189 violent crime incidents by identifying 157 instances where the perpetrators had a connection to or with other violent crimes. Special agents were also able to disrupt 32 other violent crimes that were being planned by the subjects of the investigation. The breakdown is as follows:

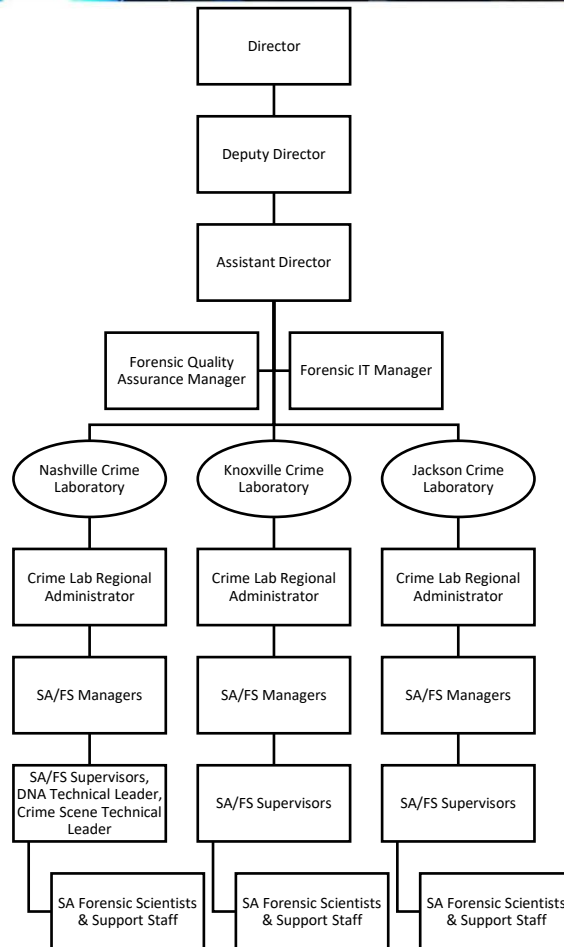
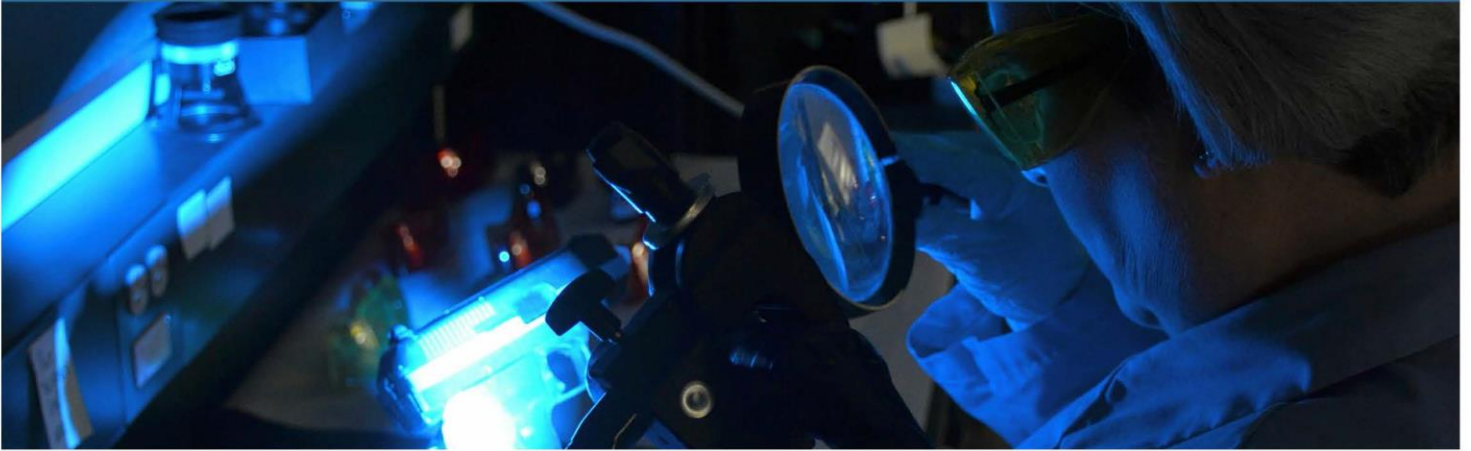
Drug Investigation Division Violent Crime January – August 2022			
Violent Crime Disruptions		Violent Crime Nexus	
Assault	1	Assault	3
Aggravated Assault	1	Aggravated Assault	9
Especially Aggravated Assault		Especially Aggravated Assault	2
Aggravated Burglary		Aggravated Burglary	3
Especially Aggravated Burglary		Especially Aggravated Burglary	1
Carjacking		Carjacking	
Cartel Activity	6	Cartel Activity	12
Child Abuse	1	Child Abuse	3
Aggravated Child Abuse	1	Aggravated Child Abuse	6
Felony Evading		Felony Evading	3
Gang Activity	8	Gang Activity	58
Kidnapping		Kidnapping	4
Aggravated Kidnapping		Aggravated Kidnapping	1
Murder (Non-OD)	3	Murder (Non-OD)	4
Attempted Murder (Non-OD)		Attempted Murder (Non-OD)	2
Prior Violent Arrest	11	Prior Violent Arrest	39
Reckless Endangerment	1	Reckless Endangerment	1
Robbery		Robbery	
Aggravated Robbery		Aggravated Robbery	1
Especially Aggravated Robbery		Especially Aggravated Robbery	3
Sexual Offenses		Sexual Offenses	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>



The CDC has not yet released 2021 data for Tennessee overdoses.

Many violent and property crimes are committed as a result of drug trafficking and drug use/abuse. Monitoring trends and data through TIBRS submissions is a critical element for DID to assess the assignment of personnel and resources needed for TBI's drug enforcement efforts. Methamphetamine, fentanyl, marijuana, and heroin are the top four drugs submitted to the TBI Crime Labs, so their data was utilized to show change over the past six fiscal years in crimes committed involving those illicit substances. All those drugs show significant increases in their connection to violent crimes with heroin increasing at the highest rate. Although marijuana's growth over time is smaller and is trending down in the all crimes category, it is involved in the highest total number of crimes. The crime increases for meth, heroin, and fentanyl follow similar trend lines as the increase in TBI crime lab submissions for these three drugs. This also holds true for the trend line for marijuana crime lab submissions and its involvement in crime. If the data for all four drugs are combined, the violent crimes involving meth, heroin, fentanyl, and marijuana have nearly doubled in the past six fiscal years. Due to the reduction in marijuana in all crimes, this increase is smaller when all four drugs are combined, and the change is calculated for all crimes. The data were collected as all crimes and violent crimes only. The "all crimes" category includes drug, equipment, property, non-violent, and violent crimes, which can be broken down into but is not limited to the crimes of weapons violations, theft, fraud, burglary, kidnapping, aggravated and simple assault, rape, and murder.

# Forensic Services



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.

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. §8-6-103, 38-7-110, 5510-410).

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. During the Fiscal Year 2021–2022, the laboratory testing units of Forensic Services Division received 61,674 requests for analysis from law enforcement agencies and medical examiners across the state. During the Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the laboratory testing units of the Forensic Services Division completed 56,279 requests for analysis.

## Accreditation



The Forensic Services Division is comprised of a central laboratory in Nashville and two regional laboratories in Jackson and Knoxville. Specialized units of these laboratories provide forensic analysis of biological, chemical, and physical evidence. 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 efficient, 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.



# Nashville Crime Laboratory

TBI's Nashville Crime Laboratory serves all 95 counties in the state and performs a wide range of analyses within the following units:

## **EVIDENCE RECEIVING UNIT**

The Evidence Receiving Unit receives, inventories, distributes, and stores all evidence submitted to the laboratory.

## **DRUG CHEMISTRY UNIT**

The Drug Chemistry Unit analyzes any substance seized in violation of laws regulating the sale, manufacture, distribution and use of abusive type drugs.

## **TOXICOLOGY UNIT**

The Toxicology Unit conducts analysis of blood and other body fluids for alcohol, drug, or poisons, in conjunction with persons arrested for traffic charges (DUI) and a wide variety of other crimes.

## **BREATH ALCOHOL UNIT**

The Breath Alcohol Unit administers and maintains Tennessee's breath alcohol testing program. Scientists assigned to this unit certify and calibrate evidentiary breath alcohol instruments throughout the state. The staff is responsible for training law enforcement personnel as operators on the instruments.

## **LATENT PRINT EXAMINATION UNIT**

The Latent Print Examination Unit provides analysis of physical evidence for invisible fingerprints and/or palm prints and comparison of latent prints developed with the known impressions of suspects.

TBI's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) is located in this unit, allowing latent lifts of unidentified latent fingerprints obtained from crime scenes or developed on evidence submitted to the laboratory to be searched against the database of fingerprint records maintained by TBI.

In addition, the latent print unit has the capability of submitting unidentified latent prints from major crime scenes to the FBI for a fingerprint database search.

## **FIREARMS IDENTIFICATION UNIT**

The Firearms Identification Unit's principal function is to determine if a bullet, cartridge case, or other ammunition component was fired from a particular weapon.

The science of firearms identification extends beyond the comparison of bullets and cartridge cases to include knowledge of the operation of all types of weapons, toolmark examination, the restoration of obliterated serial numbers on weapons and other evidence, the detection and characterization of gunpowder residues on garments, and the estimation of muzzle-to-garment distance.

The Firearms Identification Unit also houses the National Integrated Ballistics Identification Network (NIBIN), allowing individual characteristics from evidence cartridge cases or test cartridge cases

from submitted weapons to be searched against an ever-growing database and connect crimes that otherwise might never have been associated.

## **MICROANALYSIS UNIT**

The Microanalysis Unit examines and compares the following types of evidence:

- Fire Debris Analysis – Debris from fire scenes and other evidence related to a suspected arson are submitted to the laboratory to determine the presence of an ignitable liquid. This includes the products of refined oil and other flammable products such as alcohol.
- Gunshot Residue Analysis – The presence of gunshot primer residue from a fired weapon can be determined on subject hands and on crime related objects such as the subject's clothing and vehicle(s).
- Impression Evidence Comparisons – Shoe and tire impressions recovered from crime scenes can be compared to subject shoes and tires. In addition, a tire tread and shoe database can be used to determine tire and shoe make and models from impressions left at a crime scene.
- Paint Analysis and Comparisons – Paint evidence recovered from any object on which a paint transfer has occurred during the commission of a crime can be compared to known paint samples. A vehicle paint database is also available to provide a list of possible vehicle makes and models from paint evidence left at the scene of hit and run accidents.
- Glass Analysis and Comparisons – Glass recovered from a crime scene can be compared to glass recovered from objects associated with a subject such as clothing and tools. Order of breakage and glass fracture analysis is also performed.
- Fiber Comparisons – Individual fibers as well as fabric and carpet are characterized and compared to corresponding materials recovered from a subject or his/her environment.
- Other services provided by the Microanalysis Unit include comparisons, fracture match analysis, heavy metals analysis, unknown substance determinations and tape comparisons.

Other services provided by the Microanalysis Unit include physical comparisons, fracture match analysis, heavy metal analysis, unknown substance determinations and tape comparisons.

## **FORENSIC BIOLOGY UNIT**

The Forensic Biology Unit performs identification and characterization of blood and other body fluids – liquid or dried, animal or human – present in a form to suggest a relation to the offense or persons involved in a crime. This unit also performs STR-DNA Profiling, the capability to identify specific individuals by comparing biological samples left at a crime scene or from the body of a victim. This unit also performs Y-STR DNA testing, allowing them to separate and identify small amounts of male DNA from the presence of large quantities of female DNA. Advances in DNA technology represent one of the most significant forensic breakthroughs of the century by allowing the identification of a murderer or rapist based on trace amounts of biological evidence left at the crime scene.

## **CODIS UNIT**

T.C.A. §40-35-321 required the TBI to establish a DNA database for convicted offenders that now includes individuals on the sexual offender registry. In 2007, an amendment added a DNA database for individuals arrested for violent felonies. These databases were established nationally by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to enable crime laboratories to exchange DNA profiles for unknown forensic samples, convicted offender, and arrestees. The Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) assists agencies in developing investigative leads by enabling evidentiary DNA profiles to be searched against the database of convicted offenders and arrestees. Through Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the TBI has received 292,045 convicted offender samples and 226,569 arrestee samples.

During this Fiscal Year, a total of 9,736 specimens from convicted offenders and 14,745 specimens from arrestees were received for submission to the CODIS database. In February 2002, TBI began submitting samples to the national CODIS database. After accounting for expunged samples, 272,248 offender profiles and 149,692 arrestee profiles have been uploaded to the national database to date. A total of 7,074 investigations have been aided throughout the state and nation since 2002 through the use of this database, including 266 this year.

## *Knoxville Crime Laboratory*

The Knoxville Laboratory conducts tests on evidence submitted by East Tennessee law enforcement agencies including:

- Drug Chemistry
- Toxicology
- Breath Alcohol
- Serology/DNA

## *Jackson Crime Laboratory*

During Fiscal Year 2021-22 the TBI moved crime laboratory operations from the Memphis Laboratory to the newly constructed Jackson Laboratory facility. The Jackson Laboratory conducts forensic analysis on evidence submitted by West Tennessee law enforcement agencies including:

- Drug Chemistry
- Toxicology
- Breath Alcohol
- Serology/DNA
- Firearms Identification

## *Violent Crime Response Team*

The TBI's Forensic Services Division has become increasingly involved in the investigation of Violent Crimes 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 2021 – 2022, the TBI's Violent Crime Response Teams' in Nashville, Knoxville, and Memphis/Jackson were called to locate, document, and collect evidence a total of 31 times across the state, representing 1,672 on-scene man hours. This includes responding to crime scenes or providing technical assistance 24 times, for a total of 1,253 man hours and responding to law enforcement use-of-force scenes 7 times for a total of 419 man hours



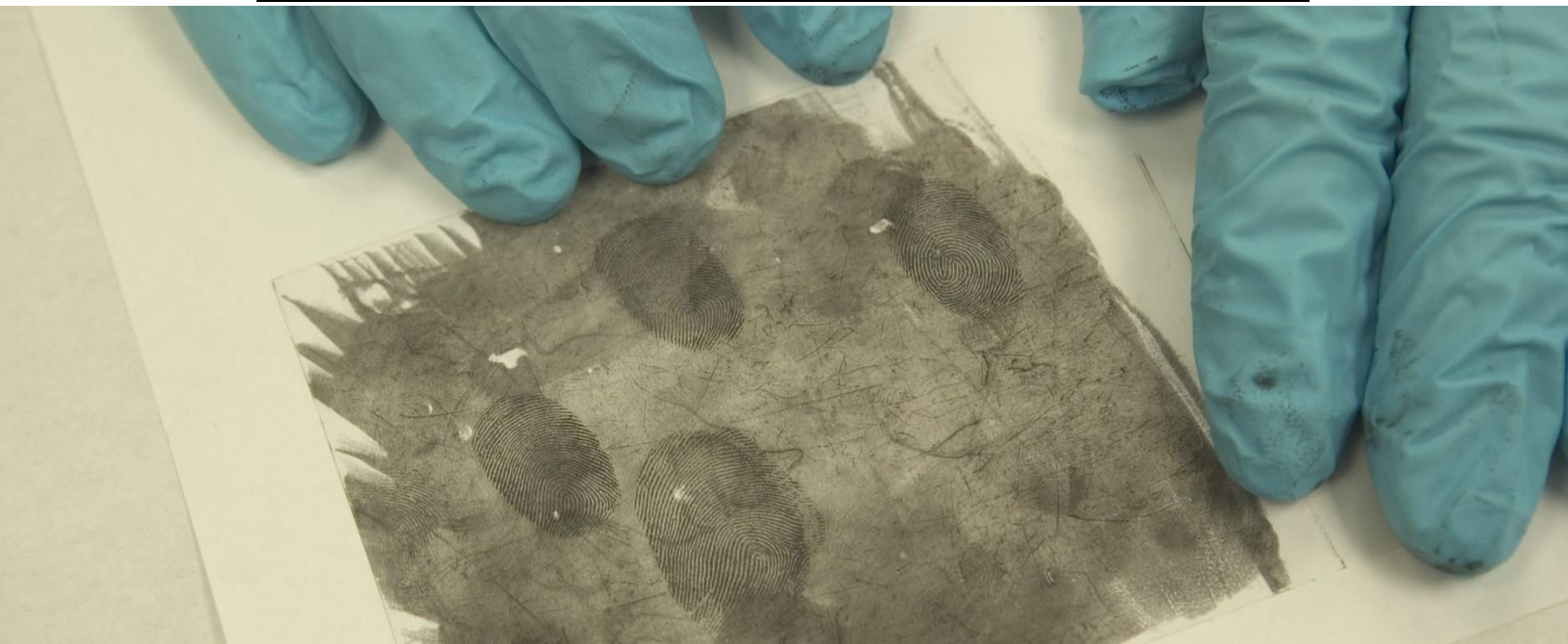
**CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS**

TOTAL NUMBER OF REQUESTS RECEIVED:

	Nashville Lab	Knoxville Lab	West TN Lab
Drug Identification	12,217	11,628	3,820
Toxicology- Alcohol	10,708	4,768	2,317
Toxicology- Drug Testing	4,406	3,025	1,110
Forensic Biology	1,056	876	734
Firearms Identification	849	-	150
Microanalysis	506	-	-
Latent Fingerprints	1,571	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,313</b>	<b>20,297</b>	<b>8,131</b>

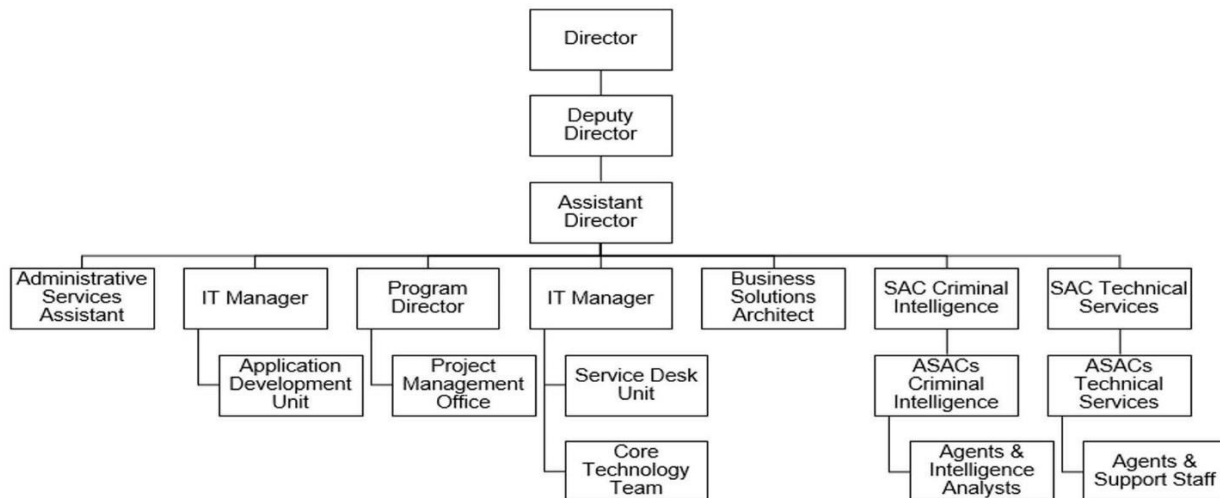
TOTAL NUMBER OF REQUESTS COMPLETED:

	Nashville Lab	Knoxville Lab	West TN Lab
Drug Identification	10,896	8,898	4,003
Toxicology- Alcohol	10,569	4,774	2,499
Toxicology- Drug Testing	3,604	3,222	571
Forensic Biology	932	719	538
Firearms Identification	901	-	103
Microanalysis	430	-	-
Latent Fingerprints	1,594	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,926</b>	<b>17,613</b>	<b>7,714</b>





# Technology & Innovation



The TBI's **Technology and Innovation Division** (TID) encompasses a wide variety of complex systems serving the Bureau, local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies, and the public. Staff in this Division also contribute to efforts to locate wanted fugitives and missing children, process digital evidence, and support the implementation of technology across the Bureau.

The Technology and Innovation Division was created in September of 2019 as a concentration point for the many ways technology can be used to perform and enhance TBI's public safety mission. TID is made up of the Information Systems Unit, the Criminal Intelligence Unit, and the Technical Services Unit. TID members maintain the business systems that sustain TBI's modern workforce, conduct complex investigations and analysis, and support the Tennessee law enforcement community with the latest in intelligence - and digital evidence-gathering tools. These units keep TBI personnel and their law enforcement partners connected, situationally aware, and fully equipped to work the digital crime scenes of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## *Information Systems Unit*

ISU is the TBI's information technology hub, with responsibility for running TBI's data center and business technology, managing critical communications and facilitating the creation, deployment, and maintenance of systems for all of the Bureau's components and many external customers. ISU makes sure that TBI personnel can work effectively whenever and wherever their duties require.

During the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year, the priority of ISU has been accelerating digital transformation across TBI divisions and responsibilities. ISU personnel have worked with stakeholders from every corner of the Bureau to identify opportunities for modernization, collaboration, and increased efficiency. ISU has continued to support increased remote work over the course of this fiscal year and has begun to enrich hybrid work support as a permanent part of the agency's posture beyond the pandemic.

### **CORE TECHNOLOGY TEAM**

The Core Team is responsible for translating business requirements and/or legislative mandates into viable systems and design strategies with emphasis on adaptability, scalability, availability and recoverability including defining opportunities for integration, the selection of tools to facilitate the integration, specification of data to be shared, as well as defining the appropriate interfaces. The Team's primary goal is to review and implement emerging developments, technologies, and standards with the intent of improving the Bureau's quality of service and operational efficiency.

The Core Team conducts a continuous review of existing and new industry programs/projects considering current Bureau technology standards, policies, and future technology plans with regards to improving TBI's operational platform. This process includes the evaluation and selection of appropriate hardware, operating system software, and monitoring applications. The team also provides consulting and guidance regarding proposed programs, projects and/or initiatives by developing and implementing the accepted technology strategy, as well as oversees the research and development of said projects, including system testing, information system security, and maintenance.

The Core Team is made up of one (1) IT Manager and two (2) System Administrators. These employees are responsible for the maintenance, support, and security for TBI's IT infrastructure. This includes monitoring, patching, and maintenance for 293 physical and virtual servers, as well as Disaster Recovery equipment, back-up systems, and storage arrays for all the Bureau's data. The Core Team also deploys and upgrades new servers and operating systems. In addition, the Core Team is responsible for researching and implementing

new technologies and IT standards with the intent of improving the Bureau's quality of service and operational efficiency. The Team maintains a 99.9% industry standard uptime service level and provides 24/7 on-call support.

## **APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM**

The Application Development Team is comprised of three (3) software developers, a database administrator and an IT Manager. This team provides support of TBI's internal software systems, including maintenance of current systems, development of new applications, and coordination with vendors on support of custom-written software. Systems supported include the State of Tennessee public Sex Offender Registry (SOR) website, the Investigation+Evidence System (I+E) case management system, TnCop, CRMS/Fusion System, and the Tennessee Computerized Criminal History (CCH), along with many others.

The Project Management team is made up of two (3) Project Managers and works to manage all projects involving information technology at TBI. While the majority of their projects originate within the Technology and Innovation Division, these individuals work across all areas of TBI to provide assistance with any project management functions to promote the agency mission.

## **SERVICE DESK TEAM**

The Service Desk Team is made up of five (5) Business Technical Support staff. They provide support (deployment, replacement, upgrades, and recycling of equipment) for hardware, software, and phone systems used by all TBI staff. This hardware includes 1062 desktops/laptops, along with desk phones, cell phones, cellular MiFi devices, and Air cards for over 650 employees. The Service Desk also provides basic-level support for numerous software applications, and technical support for eight (8) Team's Conference Room devices and 16 Microsoft Surface Hubs. In addition, they are responsible for fulfilling requests for new hardware, software, and phones, as well as administering the onboarding and offboarding of user accounts. The Service Desk also maintains a 24/7 on-call rotation for afterhours support.

## **NETWORK TEAM**

The Network Team is made up of one (1) Network Lead and one (1) Network Associate. Together they support the network infrastructure services for TBI Headquarters and remote offices. This includes maintenance and upgrades for all CISCO networking equipment; troubleshooting; managing Access Control Lists for network devices and users to ensure access to internal resources; monitoring network and firewall traffic; and investigating suspicious network activity. The Network Team also supports outside vendor and law enforcement agencies' access and connection to the TBI. This includes NLETS, NCIC, and AFIS. The Team also provides 24/7 on-call support.

# *Criminal Intelligence Unit*

The Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU) is responsible for the collection, collation, analysis, and dissemination of information related to criminal activity throughout the state.

The unit concentrates its efforts in the areas of: the Tennessee Sex Offender Registry, Human Trafficking, Missing Children, AMBER/Endangered Child Alerts, Silver Alerts, Gang Intelligence, Fugitive Investigations, Criminal Case Support, Support of Federal Task Forces, Social Media Analysis, Tennessee Homeland Online Records (THOR), Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FINCEN), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VICAP), National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NAMUS), Threats Against Law Enforcement/Military, BLUE Alerts, El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), School Violence, and assistance to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA).

This statewide unit is currently staffed with 3 Special Agents, 17 Intelligence Analysts, 1 SOR temporary employee and is supervised by 1 Special Agent in Charge and 2 Assistant Special Agents in Charge. This unit is housed within the Tennessee Fusion Center located at TBI Headquarters. The Tennessee Fusion Center is a partnership between the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security and additionally houses personnel from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Tennessee Department of Correction.

In Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's Criminal Intelligence Unit processed 31,192 Requests for Information (RFI). Of these requests: 5 originated from other Fusion Centers in the National Network of Fusion Centers, 68 requests originated from federal agencies, and 31,119 requests originated from state and local law enforcement agencies. CIU received 8,679 tips and leads. These tips were cataloged, verified, and, when appropriate, forwarded to law enforcement for follow up. There were 19 situational awareness products published and CIU Analysts produced 6,782 case support and tactical intelligence products.

## TENNESSEE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

The Tennessee Sex Offender Registry (SOR) section of the Criminal Intelligence Unit consists of six (6) Intelligence Analysts and one (1) SOR temporary employee. The SOR analysts are on-call 24/7 to assist with AMBER Alerts, Missing/Endangered Children, Silver Alerts, and other crisis events across the state.

The Tennessee Sex Offender Registry (SOR) began as a result of the enactment of federal laws that required states to create and maintain individual sex offender registries. Tennessee's SOR was implemented in January 1995 as mandated by Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) 40-39-101, which is now TCA 40-39-201. TBI headquarters is the central repository for original sex offender registration documents and TBI is responsible for creating and maintaining a connection to the Sex Offender Registration, Verification, and Tracking System for all law enforcement agencies which register sex offenders. The TBI SOR unit serves and assists Tennessee law enforcement agencies including sheriff's offices, police departments, the Tennessee Department of Correction, as well as out-of-state agencies. The TBI SOR unit not only oversees the state sex offender database, but provides training and support to registering agencies, ensures accuracy of sex offender classifications and registrations, manages federal grant projects, issues SOR notifications to the public and law enforcement, conducts file audits, removes deceased offenders from the registry, and reviews sex offender terminations. Employees audit files for completeness and request necessary court documents in order for TBI SOR attorneys to determine an offender's classification.

Tennessee currently registers offenders who have plead to or are found guilty of certain offenses (TCA 40-39-201) or equivalent offenses from other jurisdictions, no matter the date of conviction, plea, or expiration of sentence. Offenders who do not meet Tennessee's criteria, but are required to register in other states, may also be required to register under certain circumstances. Sex offenders are registered by local law enforcement or the Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC), The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) is responsible for the registry website and for maintaining the original registration documents. There are 342 registering agencies in the State of Tennessee.

All registered offenders, with the exception of juveniles, can be found on the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation public access sex offender website. As of June 30, 2022, there are 26,106 adult sex offenders registered in Tennessee. There are currently 597 juvenile offenders who are not listed on the public TBI website. The TBI has provided law enforcement with approximately 231 certified copies of files for the purpose of prosecution during the fiscal year 2021-2022. The TBI received 747 termination requests from offenders since July 1, 2021, and 158 of those offenders were granted termination for the registry. There were 547 deceased offenders removed from the registry. SOR monitors the TBISORMGR email account to receive/send SOR related information. During this fiscal year, 11,815 TBISORMGR emails have been processed by the SOR intelligence analysts.

Through funding from federal SORNA grants, TBI developed an improved SOR database that launched in August 2018. Federal grants are utilized to enhance the Tennessee Sex Offender Registry and ensure that the Tennessee SOR is in compliance with the recommendations set by the Department of Justice - Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking (SMART) guidelines, to improve the TBI public website, fund overtime and equipment,

to assist with the digitization of paper files, develop education resources and on-line SOR training courses for the public and the SOR registering agencies.

In 2016, SOR launched and continues to utilize the Mobile Sex Offender Registry Application for registering agencies. This allows registering agencies to update sex offender information while working in the field. The mobile application allows registering agencies to enter information that is directly uploaded to the registry and into NCIC.

The SOR unit provides SOR new-user training, annual training for current SOR users, and training to new law enforcement officers. During this fiscal year, TBI provided new user training to 96 new users, SOR training to 460 new law enforcement officers at the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy, and 27 TBI Special Agents.

In 2017, TBI was awarded a federal grant to improve SOR training throughout the state. SOR developed three on-line courses that are available to law enforcement. The first course, SOR 101, provides an overview of the Tennessee Sex Offender Registry. To date, 701 law enforcement personnel have completed the SOR 101. The 2nd course, SOR New User Training, provides in-depth training for those who are responsible for registering offenders. There have been 155 users complete the SOR new user training. The final on-line class, SOR Compliance Operations gives SOR agencies information and tools for conducting sex offender compliance operations. A total of 224 users have completed the SOR Compliance Operation on-line training.

TBI analysts assist with SOR compliance operations across the state. The SOR compliance checks are joint operations with multiple law enforcement agencies including TBI, registering agencies, and the U.S. Marshals Service. TBI analysts create intelligence packets on each registered offender for the operations which contains a copy of the most recent SOR registration form, criminal record/warrant check, and DL information. During the compliance checks, law enforcement will make contact with each registered sex offender and verify their offender information, including residence, vehicles, employment, and compliance with any offender restrictions (i.e. children present, computers/internet, and firearms) when applicable. If a registered sex offender is found in violation of SOR rules, warrants are obtained by the registering agency. During this fiscal year, four local agencies completed compliance operations that resulted in law enforcement making contact with 145 offenders to verify compliance and 14 arrest.

The SOR unit has one analyst assigned to oversee the absconder project. The goal is to provide strategic planning and operational oversight for state and local law enforcement efforts to locate, arrest, and reduce the population of 672 at-large non-compliant sex offenders classified as absconders on the Tennessee Sex Offender Registry. The SOR unit partners with the TBI Public Information Office and local law enforcement in the Fugitive Friday campaign to feature SOR absconders. During this fiscal period, TBI featured 7 absconders on social media, enabling citizens to report information that led to 4 arrests of non-compliant sex offenders.

Convicted sex offenders in Tennessee are required to register annually or quarterly depending on the offense and pay an annual administrative cost between \$150-\$200. Up until April 2, 2020, TBI received \$50 per offender from registering agencies. In April 2020, a new law was passed which

states the \$50 administration fee will be collected by the state treasury. If the registering agency has determined the sex offender is indigent, a fee waiver must be submitted to TBI to verify they were unable to pay the administrative fee. The registering agencies are responsible for collecting the annual administration fee or submit the Fee Waiver Form if applicable. During the fiscal year, TBI has received 2,698 fee waivers.

## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING ANALYSIS**

The Human Trafficking (HT) Unit is part of the Criminal Investigation Division. The Criminal Intelligence Unit utilizes 2 Intelligence Analysts to support the HT program statewide. In fiscal year 2021-2022, the CIU HT Analysts processed 1,268 human sex trafficking tips; 621 of those tips involved minors. There were 546 HT referrals received from Department of Children's Services involving minors. HT Analysts received an additional 722 tips from other sources that were reviewed and forwarded to HT agents for investigation.

## **TENNESSEE MISSING PERSON UNIT**

The Tennessee Missing Person Unit (formerly the Missing Children Clearinghouse) of CIU is responsible for assisting law enforcement agencies with missing children and vulnerable missing adults. The unit has expanded during this fiscal period, the missing person unit now has four intelligence analysts. The Holly Bobo Act and Silver Alert were passed into law in 2021 which expands TBI's responsibilities and authorizes TBI to issue endangered missing alerts for individuals over the age of 18 who meet the specified criteria. The unit now oversees several alerts including Amber Alerts, Endangered Child Alerts, and Silver Alerts. The unit is also responsible for TBI missing person website additions, and monthly bulletins for missing children and the Silver Alert program that are distributed to local and state partners.

- **TENNESSEE MISSING CHILDREN CLEARINGHOUSE**

TBI is mandated to act as the clearinghouse for missing children for the State of Tennessee and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). TBI is responsible for distributing a uniform missing child report to all law enforcement agencies and the legislature once per month. By virtue of TCA 38-6-116(b)(3) and 38-6-117, the TBI is also responsible for establishing, maintaining, and managing a file of "Missing Children", for collecting any available relevant data concerning the missing children, and for disseminating the information to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Tennessee averages approximately 600 missing children per month who are entered into NCIC by local law enforcement agencies. CIU has one Intelligence Analyst who serves as the Missing Children's Clearinghouse Manager for the state.

- **AMBER ALERT / ENDANGERED CHILD ALERT**

The CIU Missing Children's Clearinghouse Manager/Intelligence Analyst coordinates Tennessee's statewide Child Abduction AMBER Alert Plan. All CIU Intelligence Analysts serve on an on-call

rotation (24 hours a day) to facilitate the rapid activation of AMBER Alerts, Endangered Child Alerts and provide support on the TBI command post as needed for crisis events across the state.

Upon the issuance of an AMBER Alert, TBI utilizes the media, social media, National Weather Service, automated cell phone notifications through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) highway signs, and the Tennessee Lottery to provide information rapidly to the general public. In 2021, the Holly Bobo Act extended the Endangered Child Alert program to include individuals who are under the age of 21. To date, there have been 2 Endangered Child Alerts issued in accordance with the Holly Bobo Act, 6 AMBER Alert activations, 33 Endangered Child Alerts, and 50 children added to the TBI website. This unit provides training to law enforcement officers at the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy four times a year, as well as throughout the year to local agencies upon request. The unit has provided training to over 384 law enforcement officers and 261 non-commissioned citizens across the state.

- **SILVER ALERT PROGRAM**

In May 2021, the Silver Alert Bill (TCA 38-6-121) was passed into law. The Silver Alert Bill replaced the Care Alert program. TBI was designated to oversee the program, implement statewide protocols and provide training for law enforcement agencies. As a result of the bill, CIU received two additional intelligence analyst positions that were filled during the fiscal year. TBI utilizes the media and social media to quickly notify the public for assistance in locating vulnerable, missing adults who meet the criteria set forth in the Silver Alert Bill.

Since June 2021, CIU has issued 122 Silver Alerts across the state. Out of those 122 Alerts, 110 individuals have been recovered safely, 14 of which were located out of the state of Tennessee, and 12 were located deceased. Silver Alerts have been issued in 42 of Tennessee's counties.

This unit provides training to law enforcement officers at the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy four times a year, as well as throughout the year to local agencies upon request. The unit has provided training on the Silver Alert program to over 300 commissioned law enforcement officers throughout the state of Tennessee, as well as 70 non-commissioned citizens.

In addition to providing training to law enforcement agencies, CIU has also partnered with other state agencies and nonprofit organizations, such as Alzheimer's Tennessee and The Arc Tennessee, to raise awareness of the Silver Alert Program and TN Care Kits.



## **GANG INTELLIGENCE**

There are Intelligence Analysts who are assigned to gather information and criminal intelligence concerning gangs in Tennessee. They meet, train, and speak with gang units and task forces across the state on a regular basis. Monthly meetings are coordinated by TBI and are held in several locations across the state. Quarterly, these participants attend a statewide gang intelligence meeting that is held at TBI headquarters, bringing investigators from throughout the state together to collaborate and share information.

## **FUGITIVE INVESTIGATIONS**

The Criminal Intelligence Unit is also responsible for the administration of the TBI's Most Wanted Fugitive Program. To date, the unit has been directly responsible for the capture of 494 of Tennessee's most dangerous fugitives. In fiscal year 2021-2022, there were 22 Most Wanted Fugitives apprehended.

The Most Wanted Fugitive Program strives to ensure at least two fugitives are listed from each of the 3 grand divisions of Tennessee. Intelligence Analysts and the TBI Public Information Office utilize media contacts for exposure of these cases and include a reward of up to \$2,500 for information leading to the capture of a fugitive listed on the Most Wanted list. The TBI has an active online and social media presence that is also utilized for this program. Wanted bulletins are prepared by the unit and disseminated to law enforcement officers and the public. TBI agents are assigned to all Most Wanted Fugitive cases. This allows TBI to better facilitate the exchange of intelligence and information, ensuring that all pertinent leads are being followed up on, and also allowing us to pay rewards out as needed. Most Wanted Fugitive cases can be TBI originated or in support of local law enforcement investigations.

In addition to the Most Wanted Fugitive Program, the Criminal Intelligence Unit also assists the other divisions of the TBI with intelligence support of their fugitive investigations. CIU also supports the U.S. Marshals Joint Fugitive Task Force in Nashville, TN. This task force was responsible for the clearance of 494 criminal warrants for fiscal year 2021-2022.

## **CRIMINAL CASE SUPPORT**

Intelligence Analysts assigned to this section support the criminal investigations of law enforcement officers at Federal, State, and Local law enforcement agencies through the analysis of intelligence, conducting of database queries, and the production of case support and tactical intelligence products. In fiscal year 2021-2022 CIU analysts produced 19 situational awareness intelligence products and 6,782 case support and tactical intelligence products in direct support of criminal investigations being conducted in our state.

## **FEDERAL TASK FORCES**

There are currently 3 Special Agents (4 positions allotted) assigned to the Gangs, Fugitives, and Criminal Case Support section of the Criminal Intelligence Unit. These agents serve as Task Force Officers (TFO's) assigned to the following Federal task forces: 2 Special Agents are assigned to the Federal Bureau of Investigation; 1 to the Joint Terrorism Task Force in Knoxville, TN, and 1 to the Joint Terrorism Task Force in Memphis, TN. A third agent has been selected and will be assigned to the Joint Terrorism Task Force in Nashville, TN this coming spring. Finally, 1 Special Agent is assigned to the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force in Nashville, TN. These agents serve as a conduit to their various agencies and facilitate the exchange of information and intelligence.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

The Gangs, Fugitives, and Criminal Case Support section contains several Intelligence Analysts trained to conduct social media analysis and investigation. These analysts provide criminal case support and real time intelligence updates during TBI special operations, sex offender round ups, human trafficking operations, missing children investigations, fugitive investigations, and any other type of investigation upon request. This support is provided to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

## **TBI HOMELAND ONLINE RECORDS (THOR)**

The Criminal Intelligence Unit serves as administrator of THOR (TBI Homeland Online Records). THOR is a joint venture between the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security that fosters information sharing for all law enforcement personnel in Tennessee. THOR is an online database that contains information regarding incidents, arrests, gang data, and suspicious activity carried out within the borders of Tennessee, as well as driver's licenses, sex offender records, TNCOP, and TN Department of Corrections records. THOR gives users the ability to query this information across all participating agencies throughout Tennessee. THOR is mobile device capable and designed to improve officer safety with information that can be obtained anytime and anywhere via a mobile device (cell phone, tablet, etc.). THOR is the enhanced replacement for the Consolidated Records Management Systems (CRMS). This system serves as the backbone to our new law enforcement intelligence database, THOR+ powered by CopLink X and through our partnership with the Tennessee Department of Safety, is available to every sworn law enforcement officer in Tennessee free of charge.

## **FINCEN/INTERPOL/VICAP/NAMUS**

The Criminal Intelligence Unit serves as the coordinator for the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FINCEN) in the State of Tennessee. FINCEN is an organization established by the U.S. Department of Treasury and is responsible for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of intelligence regarding financial crimes. In fiscal year 2021-2022, TBI processed 138 FINCEN requests.

The Criminal Intelligence Unit is also the coordinator for the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) in the State of Tennessee. This organization promotes mutual assistance and cooperation between police agencies all over the world. All Tennessee INTERPOL inquiries are routed through TBI. In Fiscal Year 2021-2022, TBI processed 66 INTERPOL requests.

The Criminal Intelligence Unit continues to work with the FBI's National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime (NCAVC). Law enforcement agencies within the state submit reports to TBI to be forwarded to the NCAVC. These reports are then uploaded to the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VICAP) for analysis. TBI is the designated liaison between local agencies and the FBI for violent crime information.

The Criminal Intelligence Unit serves as the coordinator for the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NAMUS) for TBI. CIU verifies that all submittals are properly formatted and all necessary information is available for entry into the NAMUS database. CIU ensures all applicable TBI cases are entered into the database in compliance with state law. CIU also assists other federal, state, and local agencies with NAMUS inquiries and case support on cold-case homicide and missing persons investigations.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT/MILITARY/BLUE ALERTS**

The Criminal Intelligence Unit has a law enforcement/military threats coordinator. CIU is responsible for the collection and dissemination of intelligence related to threats made against law enforcement officers, law enforcement agencies, and service members/military installations. CIU also coordinates intelligence in partnership with various federal, state, and local agencies when dignitaries visit our state.

The Criminal Intelligence Unit is responsible for the issuance of BLUE Alerts. BLUE Alerts are activated only when a Tennessee law enforcement officer has been killed or seriously injured, and the subject is still at large. Intelligence Analysts serve on an on-call rotation to facilitate the activation of these alerts 24 hours a day. These programs utilize the media, National Weather Service radios, automated cell phone notifications, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) highway signs to provide information to the general public. All of these mediums along with social media are updated by various Intelligence Analysts assigned to the activation after the decision to activate the alert has been made.

## **EL PASO INTELLIGENCE CENTER (EPIC)**

The Criminal Intelligence Unit serves as the Tennessee coordinator for the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC). One of the primary goals of EPIC is to coordinate intelligence sharing between federal and non-federal agencies, associated with narcotics and fugitives.

## **SCHOOL VIOLENCE HOTLINE**

The TBI, with the assistance of the Department of Education, established a toll-free School Violence Hotline for the receipt of information relating to potential violent acts. The School Violence Hotline is answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Information received over the hotline related to potential violent acts that are in violation of state law is forwarded immediately to the appropriate law enforcement agency and designated school contact person.

## **THREATS TO LIFE/ TARGETED VIOLENCE**

This past fiscal year, the Criminal Intelligence Unit began cataloging and tracking reports received related to Targeted Violence and/or Threats To Life. In Fiscal Year 2021-2022 the Criminal Intelligence Unit received, processed, analyzed, and distributed 35 of these reports to our investigative partners for follow-up.

## **TENNESSEE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (TEMA) LIAISON**

Employees assigned to the Criminal Intelligence Unit serve as TBI's Emergency Services Coordinators (ESC), which is TBI's designated liaison to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA). This duty requires the attendance of monthly meetings held at TEMA. Additionally, this requires attendance at the annual TEMA ESC Conference, along with a substantial commitment to complete numerous training courses related to incident management. Also, per TBI policy and CALEA standards, ESCs are required to attend and participate in at least one designated training exercise per calendar year. ESCs are responsible for coordinating the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's roles during the activation of the Governor's Escape Plan and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency's (TEMA) Unusual Occurrence and/or Emergency Mobilization Plans. Finally, ESC's are charged with conducting an annual review of all TBI-TEMA related policies and procedures, as well as our Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

## *Cybercrime and Digital Evidence Unit*

The Cybercrime and Digital Evidence Unit (CDEU) conducts specialized technical investigations and enhances the investigations of all TBI Units and other law enforcement agencies through advanced capabilities. CDEU agents conduct proactive investigations into a range of online harms, including internet crimes against children, threats to life communicated online, financially motivated Cybercrime, and computer intrusions. CDEU is also tasked with deploying and gathering evidence from advanced

technologies in support of TBI Special Agents and the Tennessee law enforcement community, including digital forensic analysis and communications and geolocation evidence-gathering involving Ambers Alerts, Fugitives, Silver Alerts, and historical Cellular and network analysis. CDEU agents also support operations with mobile command, specialty vehicles, and radio communications assistance. In addition, CDEU agents are also in charge of TBI's Electronics Detection K9.

The Cybercrime and Digital Evidence Unit was formerly known as the Technical Services Unit (TSU) prior to May 2022. TSU was created within the TBI Criminal Investigation Division in December 2004, bringing together a range of technical and investigative disciplines from across the Bureau into one chain of command. In October 2019, TSU became part of the Technology and Innovation Division. In May 2022, TSU was renamed Cybercrime and Digital Evidence Unit due to a renewed focus on Cybercrime investigations, Internet Crimes Against Children, and Digital Evidence. At the same time, it was restructured into four different squads; Cybercrime Investigations Squad, Digital Forensics Squad, Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Squad, and Operational Technologies Squad to create a narrower set of programmatic responsibilities for the different teams.

A growing percentage of the total evidence available in any criminal case exists in the digital world, moving across a wide range of devices and services. CDEU ensures that TBI agents and other law enforcement officers from federal, state and local agencies can collect and understand as much of that evidence as possible. CDEU currently stands at 1 Special Agent in Charge, 4 Assistant Special Agents in Charge, 13 Special Agents (one being a Fire Investigator), 1 Electronics Detection Canine (K9), 1 Intelligence Analyst, 1 Heavy Equipment Operator, and 1 Systems Administrator.

## **ONLINE INVESTIGATIONS: THREATS TO LIFE & ONLINE INVESTIGATIONS**

CDEU has always been responsible for investigating threats to life communicated through technical means. The unit utilizes a mature set of tools, techniques, and workflows around this critical discipline. These investigations might involve social media postings, cellular communications, or digital forums where individuals indicate their intent to harm themselves or others. Because of the technical nature of the investigations, the assigned Agents need to possess sophisticated training in order to exchange legal demands with service providers, analyze proceeds, and identify and locate the individual(s) behind the threat(s). CDEU works closely with other TBI units and the rest of the law enforcement community to gather intelligence and mitigate the threat once the originating individual has been identified. During fiscal year 2021, CDEU Agents investigated 60 threats-to-life cases.

## **INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN (ICAC) INVESTIGATIONS**

CDEU houses the TBI's response to the growing threat of online child victimization. CDEU Special Agents are members of the FBI Child Exploitation Task Force and TBI's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. A number of CDEU Special Agents were assigned full-time to these task forces throughout Fiscal Year 2021.

During Fiscal Year 2021, these agents processed 1095 CyberTips from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), compared to 847 CyberTips for the fiscal year 2020, an increase of 29.29%. Of the 1095 leads received, 1040 involved possession, manufacture, or distribution of child sexual abuse material (CSAM), 3 trafficking, 17 involved the molestation of a minor, 33 involved the

online enticement of children for sexual acts, 2 involved unsolicited obscenity directed to a child.

## **CYBER CRIMES INVESTIGATIONS**

CDEU also houses the TBI's response to Cyber Crimes for the entire state of Tennessee. CDEU Special Agents are members of a Joint Cyber-Crime Task Force (JCCTF) with the FBI in Nashville. CDEU Cyber Agents also work closely with the United States Secret Service (USSS) and the Department of Homeland Security (HSI).

CDEU's Cyber Crime investigations function has continued to grow more sophisticated, focusing on high-level computer intrusion threats and complex international financially motivated organized crime investigations. Such threats frequently cross both national and international boundaries, requiring partnerships with private industry experts and other governmental and law enforcement agencies to combat the growing trend of computer-based crimes.

In addition, TBI's Cyber investigations function has been called upon a number of times to respond to potentially criminal behavior associated with state information technology infrastructure and programs. Other current investigations involve Business Email Compromises, Ransomware, Money Mule Networks, Tech Support and Romance scams, and Election Law Violations. Primary responsibility in this area currently falls on one agent for the entire state, with support from management and other specialists as necessary.

## **ELECTRONICS DETECTION CANINE (K9)**

In August 2020 TBI acquired an Electronics Detections Canine and trained one CDEU agent to become the K9 handler. After extensive training, during Fiscal Year 2021 CDEU deployed the Electronics Detection K9 and handler 9 times in support of ICAC, homicide, countersurveillance sweep, and kidnapping investigations

## **TECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS AND SUPPORT**

### Communications Intelligence

CDEU Agents often provide specialized assistance on an emergency basis when TBI responds to a major critical incident, like an AMBER Alert, Endangered Child Alert (ECA), fugitive investigations, homicide, or kidnapping. CDEU agents work to develop actionable intelligence from all available forms of digital evidence, from mobile device location records to information in the possession of online service providers and social media platforms like Facebook and Apple.

In addition, TBI agents analyze communications records developed during investigations and provide expert testimony in court. For example, one specialty that is in increasing demand from prosecutors and investigators is the provision of maps and testimony about the location of mobile devices like cell phones during crimes.

During fiscal 2021 CDEU Agents generated 145 cellular mapping analysis and device location for TBI, Federal, State and Local Agencies, compare to 66 for the fiscal year 2020, an increase of 125.76%.

### Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR)

Tennessee Code Annotated §40-6-303(12) gives TBI the responsibility to support electronic surveillance statewide by establishing certification standards administered by TBI and requiring that application for communications intercepts be made by a TBI Special Agent in all but five of the largest counties in the state. The CDEU administers this capability, providing training, guidance, and technical support for any law enforcement agency wishing to pursue electronic surveillance investigations involving Pen Registers and Title III intercepts. During fiscal year 2021 CDEU personnel provisioned a range of court-authorized communications surveillances in furtherance of ongoing investigations.

### Technical Surveillance

CDEU Special Agents are responsible for selecting and servicing TBI's inventory of technical surveillance equipment, ensuring that criminal and drug investigators are able to gather and preserve evidence covertly and effectively during undercover operations.

CDEU oversees the construction and maintenance of most of the covert video systems utilized by CID and DID and administers the video server system that stores the evidence and allows secure remote access.

### Radio System and Tactical Communications

TBI is also responsible for maintenance of TBI's radio and emergency communications systems, working with other local, state, and federal agencies to ensure secure and stable communications and communications interoperability in support of emergency preparedness.

CDEU personnel also support infrastructure that allows investigators to effectively and covertly record evidentiary phone calls. CDEU personnel are also supporting several initiatives to improve situational awareness and effectiveness during high-risk operations.

### Command Post & Specialty Vehicles

CDEU is responsible for maintaining and deploying TBI's Mobile Command Posts (CP) and certain other Special Purpose Vehicles. A well-equipped mobile command center allows TBI to build a presence with logistical and analytical support for investigations anywhere in the state. The CP is deployed on a regular basis to support activities ranging from sex offender registry operations and search warrant executions to massive manhunts, natural disasters, and response to civil unrest. During fiscal year 2021 the Command Posts was deployed on 10 different occasions. Other specialty vehicles such as search warrant trailer, restroom trailer, and heavy equipment were deployed a total of 15 times.

### Training & Community Outreach

Today's technology presents investigators with new obstacles every day and we are constantly training to ensure that we can deploy as many lawfully available solutions as possible to overcome

those obstacles and protect the people of Tennessee. Effective utilization of those solutions often requires specialized training and interactive support.

During the fiscal year 2021, CDEU provided specialized training in a range of settings for both TBI personnel and members of the Tennessee law enforcement community. In addition, CDEU personnel conducted presentations involving Cyber Crime, ICAC and Internet Safety to civic groups and multiple private industry organizations.

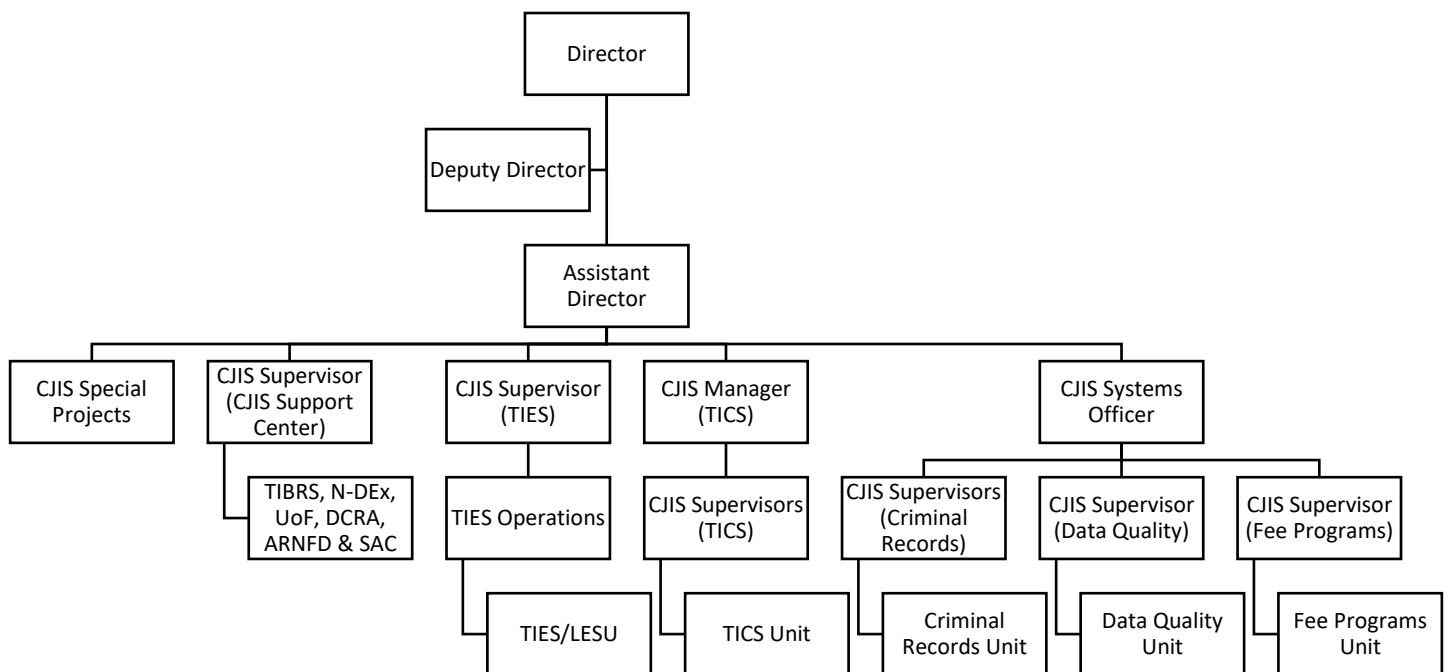
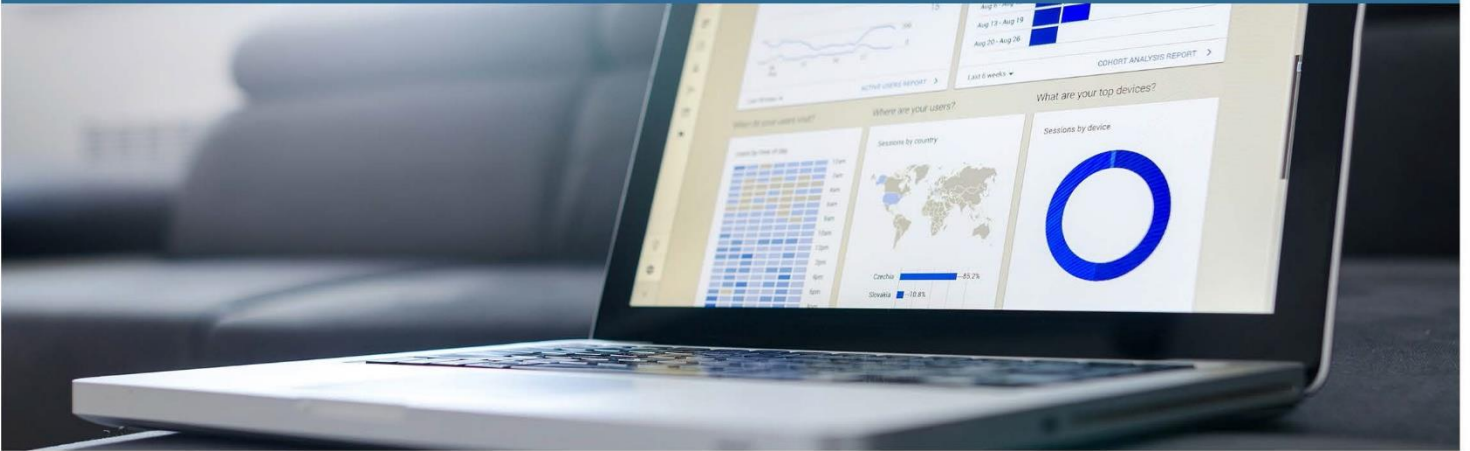
## **DIGITAL FORENSICS**

TBI's digital forensics function is housed within CDEU. One ASAC and seven Special Agents assigned to digital forensics are responsible for preserving and analyzing digital evidence from computer systems and mobile devices seized during investigations. They also perform enhancements of audio and video files as well as infotainment systems. Three of these agents are assigned to regional offices in Knoxville and Jackson to provide CDEU with a regional presence.

During Fiscal Year 2021-2022, CDEU digital forensics personnel received 739 cases consisting of approximately 1,138 individual items of digital evidence. This represents a 36% increase in number of cases over the previous fiscal year. On average, 27% of the cases worked by TBI digital forensic examiners are from TBI cases; the other 73% of cases are worked for other federal, state, and local agencies. The total number of cases consisted of; 607 mobile device examinations, 77 computer forensic examinations, and the rest ranged from technical assists, audio/video enhancements, infotainment examinations, and cases involving TBI electronic storage detection canine, Zeus. During this time period; 33% of total cases were drug investigations, 29% were death investigations, 13% involve some form of child exploitation or sexual offense against a child, 10% involve theft/fraud or robbery, with the remainder varying among other offenses.



# CJIS



The **Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division** provides support for local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies, including the different divisions within TBI. Support comes in the form of a wide variety of complex systems such as the state repository of criminal history records and the system for background checks, including background checks for potential gun purchasers.

The CJIS Division provides support and service for local, state and federal criminal justice agencies, including the different divisions within TBI. Support comes in the form of a wide variety of complex systems such as the state repository of criminal history records and the system for background checks, including mandated background checks for potential gun purchasers, teachers, and medical licensure.

The CJIS Division of TBI is responsible for requiring the development, maintenance, and distribution of certain information relating to crime, criminals, and criminal activities for the benefit of all state and local criminal justice agencies in Tennessee. Additionally, CJIS requirements mandate the division to perform fingerprint-based background checks for several areas of employment including, but not limited to, school personnel, health related employees, and those persons who assist vulnerable populations such as persons with developmental and physical disabilities. The CJIS Division is also responsible for performing name-based checks for the approval of sales and pawn redemptions for all firearm transactions in Tennessee pursuant to the Federal Brady Act. In addition, the division also performs in-state, name-based records checks from inquiries submitted by the public.

The CJIS Division also houses the Tennessee Crime Information Center (TCIC), which acts as a communications hub during normal business hours and assumes emergency communications responsibilities within the TBI after hours, on weekends and holidays. The TCIC provides services twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week.

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SERVICES (CJIS) SUPPORT CENTER**

The CJIS Support Center encompasses the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS), the state's Statistical Analysis Center, the National Data Exchange System (N-DEX) and the personnel tasked to work within those programs including one CJIS Supervisor and eight CJIS Support Specialists. While CJIS Support Specialists are located in other areas of the Bureau, those working in the CJIS Support Center include four auditors, two trainers (one vacant), one providing data support, including data processing and data quality, one for data analysis and one specialist whose primary responsibility is the publishing of data.

The CJIS Support Center also collects data for additional programs such as Law Enforcement Related Deaths (LERD) data collection. This program includes data collection for Use of Force incidents, (UoF), Arrest Related Non-Forcible Deaths (ARNFD), and Deaths in Custody Reporting Act (DCRA). The CJIS Support Center is also responsible for managing Tennessee's participation in the National Data Exchange System (N-DEX). The N-DEX system provides law enforcement officers with immediate access to criminal justice records from tens of thousands of agencies across the nation. Users can view multiple types of reports including, but not limited to, incident and arrest reports, booking and incarceration reports, pre-trial investigations, and probation and parole records. The N-DEX collaboration function, which allows users to invite authorized members from other qualified agencies, enables users to team up with other investigators to quickly and securely share images, videos, charts, graphs, notes, case reports, etc. Visualization tools depict associations between people, places, things, and events on charts or maps. With the subscription and notification feature, investigators receive notifications if other users are searching for the same criteria or if a new record related to one of their investigations enters the system.

N-DEx is capable of providing a snapshot of an encountered person, including available criminal records, associations, identifiers, and photographs. A search of N-DEx will return results that include any related information found within the nationwide system. The Person Entity View gathers information from all of these records and presents it in an easy-to-read format, allowing a law enforcement officer to quickly view all related reports and narratives as a single document. A search of an address will alert the officer if past interactions with the criminal justice community have occurred.

As of June 30, 2021, Tennessee has recruited 1,950 active users from multiple agencies, including some federal agencies, throughout the state to participate in the N-DEx system. Initially implemented by the FBI, NIBRS (National Incident Based Reporting System) improved the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement. Tennessee's crime reporting model, deemed "TIBRS", captures details on each single crime incident, including information on victims, known offenders, victim to offender relationships, arrestees and property involved in each offense reported within the incident.

In addition, each incident can contain up to ten offenses, allowing for even more detailed reporting. TIBRS goes much deeper because of its ability to provide circumstances of a crime such as location, time of day, and any arrest or clearance that occurred subsequent to the investigation. The Uniform Crime Reporting Summary Program, once used by Tennessee, reported only an aggregate monthly tally of crimes. These included ten offenses plus an additional twenty offenses, which collected only arrest data. TIBRS data currently collects information on fifty-four offenses and an additional ten offenses containing arrestee data only.

The FBI has made nationwide implementation of NIBRS a top priority because the program provides statistics that are more useful. Proper use of this information promotes better planning, informed policing and more informed policy-making decisions.

To increase participation, the UCR Program collaborated with the Bureau of Justice Statistics to transition the UCR Summary Program to a NIBRS-only data collection by January 1, 2021. The vision for NIBRS is to become the law enforcement community standard for collecting crime data, which will help law enforcement and communities around the country use resources more strategically and effectively.

At the request of the FBI, the CJIS Division has committed one person to act as a liaison during the UCR to NIBRS transition. The CJIS liaison continued to assist other states in 2021, including Alabama, Mississippi, Washington, Oregon, and Nevada via phone calls, emails, and Teams meetings. Although all *states* are now transitioned to NIBRS, there are thousands of *agencies* that have yet to begin collecting and submitting incident-based data. They are working toward NIBRS certification with the liaison providing them much-needed guidance. CJIS TIBRS Trainers also provide a host of training, including Introduction to Data Collection and RAC Orientation, both of which are required for new RACs (Reporting Agency Coordinators). These classes provide insight to TIBRS and the state reporting software, both of which incorporate federal and state statutes and reporting requirements. All TIBRS classes are eight hours long, with the exception of RAC Orientation/Crimelnsight (four hours). Other training classes available through the CJIS Support Center and provided at no cost to agencies, include TnCOP, the no-cost reporting software, TIBRS Overview and Report Writing classes for officers. Classes are taught regionally in Harriman, Jackson,

Nashville, and Sevierville. They also provide TBI Agents classes and a TIBRS Review class for the seasoned TIBRS personnel. They held the 2021 Annual TIBRS Conference in September, the 25th Anniversary of TIBRS.

The CJIS Support Center is also responsible for annual publications such as 'Crime in Tennessee,' 'Crime on Campus,' 'School Crime Report,' 'Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA),' 'Hate Crime,' 'Law Enforcement-Related Deaths (LERD),' 'Domestic Violence' and the TBI's Annual Report.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT UNIT/TCIC/TIES OPERATIONS**

The National Crime Information Center, or NCIC, accessible by virtually every law enforcement and criminal justice agency in the nation, and considered the lifeline of law enforcement, is a clearinghouse of crime data available twenty-four hours a day, three hundred and sixty five days per year. It helps law enforcement and criminal justice agency personnel apprehend fugitives, locate missing persons, recover stolen property, and identify terrorists. It also assists law enforcement officers in performing their duties more safely and provides information necessary to protect the public.

Launched in 1967, NCIC began with 5 files and 356,784 records. The database currently consists of 22 files. There are seven property files containing records of stolen articles, boats, guns, license plates, parts, securities, and vehicles. There are 14 persons files, including: Supervised Release; National Sex Offender Registry; Foreign Fugitive; Immigration Violator; Missing Person; Protection Order; Unidentified Person; Protective Interest; Gang; Known or Appropriately Suspected Terrorist; Wanted Person; Identity Theft; Violent Person; and National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Denied Transaction. The system also contains images that can be associated with NCIC records to help agencies identify people and property items. The Interstate Identification Index, which contains automated criminal history record information, is accessible through the same network as NCIC.

Tennessee's Information Enforcement System (TIES), housed in the Law Enforcement Support Unit of the CJIS Division, operates under the same guidelines as those fashioned by the FBI. The TIES Operation Unit, available twenty-four hours a day, seven days per week, also houses the Tennessee Crime Information Center (TCIC) and assumes emergency communications responsibilities within the TBI after hours and on weekends. In addition to the emergency communications responsibilities, TIES Operations personnel are responsible for providing technical support for local, state, and federal agencies with connectivity to the TIES network and monitoring the performance of that same network.

In order to ensure all users follow standard operating procedures and reinforce system security and system use, LESU maintains TIES trainers to teach various classes to law enforcement and criminal justice agency employees. Classes include a Basic Certification class, the annual TIES conference, TIES Review class and a TAC Orientation class held six times per year. The TIES training staff is also available to present at local agencies during in-service or other requested times.

During the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, TIES trainers were responsible for the training of 345 students during twenty two Basic Certification on-site classes. In addition 148 students used the remote in-house option for Basic Certification.

There were six TAC Orientation classes held with 93 participants. The TIES User Group conference held in March had 361 participants.

Between July, 2021 to October, 21, 87 participants used remote learning to obtain their TAC training for 2021. In 2022, 50 participants attended the TIES Review class to obtain their TAC training.

NCIC users must follow a number of rules in order to ensure the privacy and integrity of the data. In order to do this, each agency must validate its records, including undergoing a periodic audit by

LESU's NCIC auditors. During the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, the auditors completed 93 audits, thus ensuring the data quality and integrity of the system.

## TENNESSEE INSTANT CHECK SYSTEM

The National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), established for Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs), mandates information to be supplied immediately on whether the transfer of a firearm would be in violation of Section 922 (g) or (n) of Title 18, United States Code, or state law.

NICS, a national system, checks available records on persons disqualified from receiving firearms. The FBI, through a cooperative effort with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and local and state law enforcement, developed the system. The NICS is a computerized background check system designed to respond instantly on most background check inquiries so the FFLs (Federal Firearms Licensees) receive an almost immediate response.

The Tennessee Instant Check System (TICS) began operation on November 1, 1998. The requirements of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (18 U.S.C. 922(t) were incorporated into the Tennessee gun transfer statute with an amendment to T.C.A. § 39-17-1316. This amendment required TBI to establish and maintain a background check system that meets or exceeds the requirements established by the Brady Act for continuing recipient background checks on all firearms transactions except those specifically excluded by law. To meet these requirements, TICS accesses all databases in the reference chart below when processing the required TICS/NICS background check of any person seeking to purchase a firearm from a licensed firearm dealer or to redeem a firearm from pawn from a licensed firearm dealer. In TICS, 78.5% of all firearm transactions processed in less than five minutes.

During July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, period staff in TICS processed 621,165 total transactions with 605,980 (or 97.5%) being approved. 15,185 of the remaining transactions resulted in a denial. Personnel in the TICS Unit also Identified 876 fugitive from justice (wanted persons), resulting in apprehension of the fugitive. The unit also identified 390 stolen firearms during the transaction process, verified later by law enforcement and subsequently returned to the owners.

Database	Description
<b>TCHR (Tennessee Criminal History Repository)</b>	This file is maintained by the TBI and is supported by arrest fingerprint cards. Persons who are convicted felons cannot legally possess a firearm.
<b>NCIC (National Crime Information Center)</b>	This database maintains files on wanted persons, protection orders, deported felons, U.S. Secret Service Protective (persons who may pose a threat to the President and/or others afforded protection by the U.S. Secret Service), foreign fugitives, SENTRY File (persons currently under supervision of the Federal Bureau of Prisons), Convicted Person on Supervised Release File and the Convicted Sexual Offend-
<b>III (Interstate Identification Index)</b>	This is the national repository for criminal history record information.

<p><b>NICS (National Instant Check System)</b></p>	<p>The federal instant background check system maintained by the FBI. It houses databases on Denied Persons, Illegal/Unlawful Aliens, Controlled Substance Abusers, Dishonorable Discharges, Citizenship renunciants and Mental Defectives/Commitments.</p>
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**BIOMETRIC SERVICES SECTION**

TBI serves as the state repository for fingerprint-based criminal records information in the state of Tennessee. The Biometrics Services Center (BSC) is responsible for the processing and maintenance of all information related to the repository, as well as for several associated legislatively mandated duties and programs. These duties include the processing of all criminal law enforcement applicant and civil applicant fingerprint information, and other associated records functions including the processing of final court dispositions, applications for pre-trial and judicial diversions, court orders for expungement of criminal records, and other matters of clerical maintenance of information in the records repository. The BSC utilizes the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) to process each submission of fingerprint information to determine the identification of an individual using fingerprint characteristics to build the criminal record in the repository. The Biometrics Services Center includes the Data Quality Unit, the Criminal Records Unit, and the Fee Programs Unit.

**DATA QUALITY UNIT**

The Data Quality Unit received 567,440 fingerprint submissions during Fiscal Year 2021-2022, a decrease of 2% compared to the 581,071 submissions received during 2020-2021. Less than 1% of the fingerprint submissions received have missing, inaccurate or incomplete descriptor, arrest data, or otherwise considered unclassifiable. Fingerprints reject back to the contributor if unclassifiable or rejected due to missing or incomplete data. Criminal arrest fingerprints made up 54% (308,579) of the submissions received, compared to 295,278 received during the previous Fiscal Year, an increase of 4.5%. Fee and Law Enforcement Applicant fingerprints accounted for the remaining 46% (258,861) of the fingerprint submissions received, compared to 285,793 during the previous Fiscal Year, a 9% decrease

**CRIMINAL RECORDS UNIT**

The Criminal Records Unit expunges criminal history information upon receipt of an order, signed by a judge, from the court. The FBI, upon receipt of processed Tennessee records, removes those charges from the federal criminal history records maintained in the federal repository. The Criminal Records Unit successfully processed 92,397 expungement orders, many containing multiple charges, received by the courts during the pertinent time period and the unit processed 16,459 diversion applications.

The Criminal Records Unit also enters final court disposition information into the state repository. Disposition information, sent to TBI by law enforcement agencies, court clerks from the ninety-five

counties, and municipal courts, provides information relative to the outcome of the judicial process for each arrest. The Criminal Records Unit received 741,493 dispositions during the Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022. 555,586 dispositions were processed and 53,159 dispositions were rejected due to missing information or the inability to link the disposition to an arrest.

## **FEE PROGRAMS UNIT**

The Fee Programs Unit provides criminal background information to the public, upon receipt of a proper request and associated fee. The Tennessee Open Records Information Services (TORIS) background checks are “name-based” checks only and do not involve the submission of fingerprints. The information provided to the requestor is Tennessee criminal history information only. During Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the unit processed 308,771 TORIS checks resulting in an increase of 20% (60,232) from the prior Fiscal Year. The Fee Programs Unit also processes fingerprint-based background checks through the Tennessee Applicant Processing Services system or TAPS system. TAPS background checks are nationwide and only applicable entities mandated by the Tennessee Legislature are qualified to fingerprint applicants through the TAPS system. Some examples of applicant types include healthcare workers, teachers, unarmed guards, childcare employees, and those seeking to obtain a handgun carry permit. The Fee Programs Unit processed 243,120 applicants comprising an 11% decline (-27,668) with the reported applicant type associated during the Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

## **STATE OF TENNESSEE FBI CJIS SYSTEMS OFFICER (CSO)**

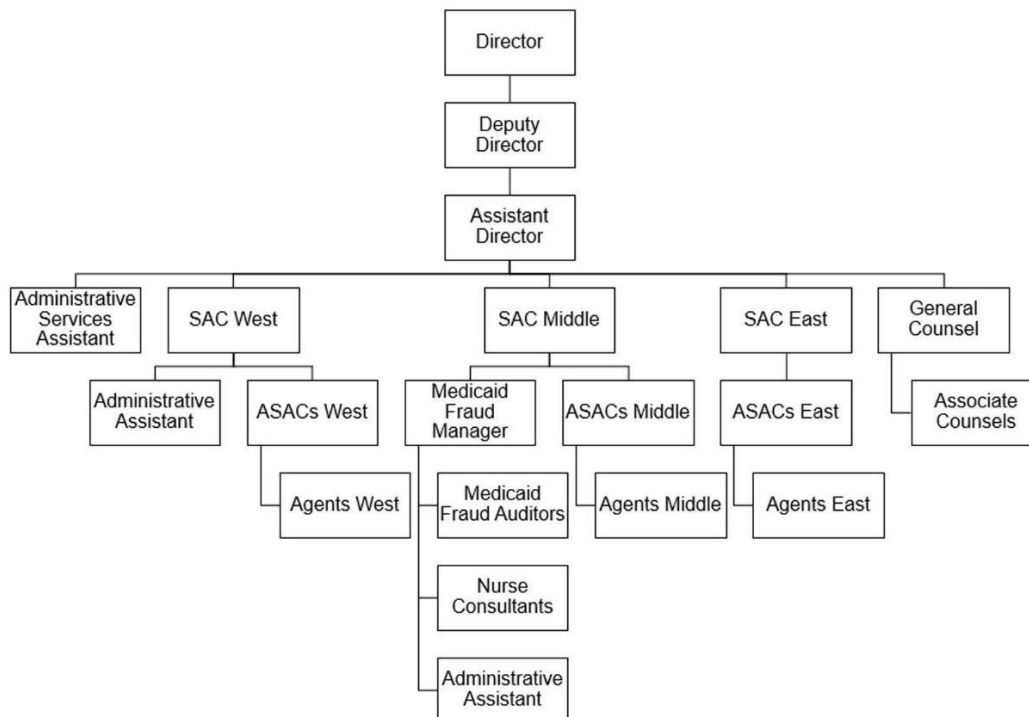
The CJIS Systems Officer (CSO) monitors system use, enforces system discipline, and ensures users follow proper CJIS operating procedures. The CSO is also a member of the CJIS Advisory Policy Board (APB). The CSO is a member of the CJIS Advisory Policy Board (APB). The CJIS Systems Officer serves as a liaison for NLETS, the Southern Working Group, and the N-dex taskforce, a research and analysis network whose primary goal is to collect, share and analyze innovative and timely knowledge, information, best practices, services and solutions for justice information sharing.

## **CJIS SPECIAL PROJECTS**

The CJIS Division uses the services of a CJIS employee who acts as a quality control consultant and oversees special projects, which are chosen specifically by the Assistant Director. Projects requested prior to the end of the fiscal year include the improvements in the collection and dissemination of metrics for each unit in the CJIS division, an overhaul of the TIES billing procedure and a review of the audit system for background checks for non-criminal justice entities. Projects completed during the fiscal year include the coordination of a partnership with Harvard University regarding a recidivism study and assistance to the CJIS Support Center in several of their new responsibilities.



# Medicaid Fraud Control



The authority of the **Medicaid Fraud Control Division**, as established by Code of Federal Regulation and State Statute, is to investigate and prosecute Medicaid provider fraud cases, as well as patient abuse and neglect and financial exploitation cases, that occur in nursing homes and "board and care" facilities.

The Medicaid Fraud Control Division (MFCD) is currently staffed with 56 employees comprised of supervisors, agents, auditors, nurse consultants, and administrative staff. The Division is divided into three regions: Middle, West, and East and is headquartered in Nashville with regional offices in Johnson City, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Columbia, Jackson, and Memphis.

The authority of the MFCD, as established by Code of Federal Regulation and State Statute, is to investigate and prosecute Medicaid provider fraud cases as well as patient abuse and neglect and financial exploitation cases that occur in nursing homes and "board and care" facilities. The MFCD, along with its counterparts in 50 other states the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands, investigates and assists in the prosecution of some of the largest and most complex Medicaid provider fraud cases. In addition, the MFCD also aids in the recovery of Medicaid (TennCare) program dollars taken by fraudulent means. The MFCD recognized nationally as the Tennessee Medicaid Fraud Control Unit is a member of the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units (NAMFCU). Being a member of NAMFCU is vital to the current and future success of the MFCD as well as the other member states and territories due to the nationally ever-expanding areas of provider fraud against the government.

The MFCD primarily refers fraud cases for federal prosecution to the United States Attorneys' offices in Tennessee's three federal districts, while abuse cases are prosecuted under state law by the District Attorney Generals in that region. The MFCD, which is required to be re-certified annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS OIG), receives reimbursement of 75% of its costs from the federal government. While the total state and federal expenditures for the MFCD for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 were approximately \$8.1 million with the cost to the state being approximately \$2.0 million, the MFCD was able to take advantage of those operating expenditures and assist in the identification of over \$167.5 million of fraud.

## *Medicaid (TennCare) Provider Fraud*

During July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 reporting period, the MFCD opened 54 fraud cases and closed 73. Fraud investigations typically focus on health care providers who obtain improper payments for services rendered (or not rendered) to TennCare recipients. Various fraudulent schemes commonly encountered include billing for services not provided, billing for more hours than are in a day, kickbacks, falsifying credentials and billing twice for the same service. During this reporting period, the MFCD had 14 indictments, 19 convictions and \$3.8 million in criminal recoveries for various fraud cases investigated.

The Division has also seen an increasing number of civil cases, which fall under the Tennessee Medicaid False Claims Act, originally passed in 1993 and codified at Tenn. Code Ann. § 71-5-181, *et seq.* Each false claim can result in a civil penalty of not less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and not more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), plus up to three (3) times the amount of damages that the state sustains. During this reporting period, the MFCD assisted in 9 civil settlements which resulted in approximately \$160.9 million in recoveries.

## *Patient Abuse*

Patient abuse and neglect and financial exploitation investigations are an important area of MFCD jurisdiction that continues to grow as evidenced by our aging and vulnerable population and increased number of referrals. During this reporting period, the MFCD received and reviewed 4,322 referrals. The MFCD opened 34 cases of alleged patient abuse and referred 2,124 abuse referrals to other agencies, including the Tennessee Department of Health, which is responsible for the state Abuse Registry. The remainder of the referrals lacked the necessary elements for criminal investigation and were referred back to the referring agency for appropriate action. The MFCD obtained 12 indictments on abuse related cases and 10 convictions during this reporting period.

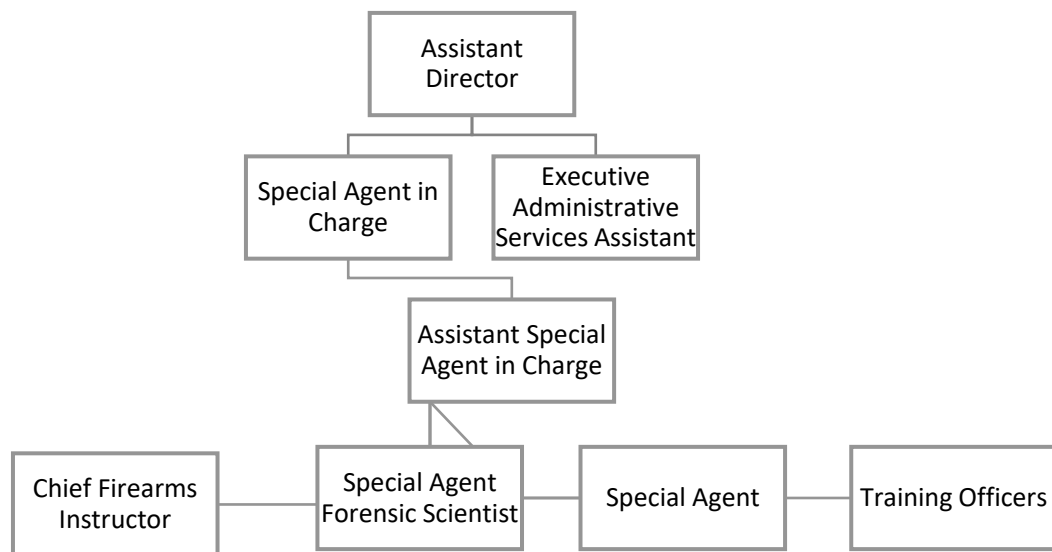
## *Global Cases*

The MFCD is the lead state agency for the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units (NAMFCU) "global cases," which have historically been the most financially productive segment of the MFCD cases involving violations of state and/or federal law. The MFCD also works very closely with the Medicaid Fraud and Integrity Division of the Tennessee Attorney General's Office on these cases. Medicaid fraud global settlements (and investigations) typically arise in connection with a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation against a Medicare provider.

When investigating these Medicare cases, the federal government often turns to the state MFCUs, which take the lead role in investigating and negotiating the Medicaid portion of the cases. Additionally, each state has the authority to exclude a convicted provider from its health care programs, and defense attorneys are unlikely to settle the case without the involvement of the affected states. DOJ typically contacts NAMFCU about an emerging case or a potential settlement, and NAMFCU appoints an investigative or settlement team, as warranted. Members of the Tennessee MFCD have participated on NAMFCU global teams and are currently appointed to investigative and settlement teams.

During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the MFCD participated in 5 global settlements, with approximately \$2.8 million in federal and state dollars recovered. These monies are included in the total funds MFCD identified.

# Training



Recognizing that the image and perception of the Bureau rests on each employee, TBI emphasizes the continuing and latest training and professionalism of all employees. Therefore, the mission of the **Training Division** is to provide oversight, guidance, and inspire through excellence in training and research.

The mission of the TBI Training Division is to equip and provide effective and evidence-based training to TBI employees and law enforcement personnel across the state. The Training Division consists of 10 positions to include commissioned and non-commissioned personnel with a wide range of specialized experience that enables all personnel to contribute to the development and administration of training courses for law enforcement across the state. The Division provides ongoing training opportunities to employees across the organization as well as specialized academies to local city and county law enforcement at little or no cost to their departments.

## *Training Efforts*

In September 2021, the Training Division's annual TBI City and County Investigation School successfully graduated 25 law enforcement officers from two weeks of intense training in conducting investigations. The TBI Director's Academy, which focuses on pre-supervisory leadership training to TBI employees, was successful with its eighth graduating class of 18 employees in August of 2021. The TBI State Academy provides advanced training courses in leadership, constitutional law, communications intelligence, financial investigations, human trafficking, crime scene investigation, and undercover investigations. In October 2021, 24 investigators from across the state completed four weeks of intensive training and graduated from the 8th annual TBI State Academy. The Training Division works closely with the TBI Human Resources Unit with providing support in recruitment and retention efforts that reflect our commitment to building a diverse workforce representative of the communities we serve. In 2021, over 7,000 individuals received training at TBI that included more than 3,000 hours.



## **FIREARMS PROGRAM**

TBI's Firearms Program and Chief Firearms Instructor are housed within the TBI's Training Division. The mission of our Firearms Training Program is to develop and deliver a comprehensive and consistent firearms training curriculum that provides new agent trainees, current special agents, and uniform officers the skills needed to safely and effectively use firearms in the performance of their duties. Our experienced firearms training instructors assigned to the Training Division also offer certification and recertification training to all TBI firearms instructors who provide training to agents in the field and in support of our commitment to local and state law enforcement partners. Last year TBI Firearms Instructors trained over 700 law enforcement, conducted 55 days of firearms training, and 440 total hours of Officer Safety training in weapons and tactics. The Firearms program also trains current agents in close quarter battle (CQB) regularly to include simunitions training to gain realistic experiences in training. The Firearms Program also trains on the TI Trainer, which is a simulated training program that allows real world use of force experiences and allows the agent to learn de-escalation and less lethal tactics. This training is also offered to outside agencies as well as local law enforcement.

## **TBI LEARN**

Since its inception in 2013, over 28,000 Tennessee law enforcement officers have accessed TBI's online learning platform to receive free training in human trafficking, the state's sex offender registry, absconders, emergency vehicle operations, methamphetamine awareness, social media investigations, CALEA, and Crime Laboratory ANLAB accreditation. In addition, users have access to tutorials in crime scene processing, sex offender registration, CQC, and respirator usage, along with pocket guides focused on fentanyl and the state's sex offender registry. In addition, TBI Learn tracks employee compliance with OSHA, state, and federal training requirements and employee annual mandatory training. Through the TBI Learn platform employees have access to leadership development courses.

## **CLOSE QUARTER CONFLICT CONTROL (CQC)**

Throughout the Bureau there are approximately 12 Agents that, as an additional duty, serve as regional instructors for the Training Division's Close Quarter Conflict Control (CQC) program. CQC instructors teach all aspects of use-of-force conflict resolution, outside of the sighted use of firearms. As a group, they have well over 150 years of experience in various martial arts and defensive tactics systems including, but not limited to, Krav Maga, Strategic Self Defense Grappling, Greco-Roman Wrestling, Pressure Point Control Tactics, Wado - Ryu Karate, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and various eclectic martial arts. Among the plethora of skills taught by these instructors are handcuffing, weapon retention, less-lethal force options, de-escalation techniques, situational awareness and self-defense. All Agents in the Bureau will annually receive two to four hours of CQC training from these instructors. Newly hired Agents receive 40 hours of CQC training in the Agent's Academy. Over the years, CQC instructors have taught other local and state agencies in and outside of the field of law enforcement.

## **EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS COURSE (EVOC)**

The Training Division's Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) is a 40-hour program that instructs newly hired special agents on how to properly and safely operate Bureau-issued emergency vehicles. The course is comprised of eight hours of classroom instruction and 32 hours of a practical driving course, including nighttime training. Subject areas and practical exercises include vehicle dynamics, liability, and pursuit management of emergency and non-emergency vehicles. Each agent who attends must pass both the written exam and the precision EVO course in a specified time frame.

## **VOLUNTEER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation offers an unpaid internship opportunity for full-time students who are interested in law enforcement careers and are pursuing an undergraduate, graduate or post-graduate degree from an accredited college or university. The program provides an exciting insider's view of TBI operations and gives the student an opportunity to explore career opportunities within the Bureau. This program is housed within the Training Division. Internship opportunities are available at TBI Headquarters in Nashville, as well as TBI field office locations across the state.

# Glossary

ACIST: Automated Criminal Intelligence System of Tennessee  
ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act  
AFIS: Automated Fingerprint Identification System  
AIMS: Automated Information Management System  
APU: Applicant Processing Unit  
ASAC: Assistant Special Agent in Charge  
ASCLD/LAB: American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board  
BSC: Biometric Services Center  
CALEA: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.  
CCH: Tennessee Criminal History File  
CID: Criminal Investigation Division  
CIU: Criminal Intelligence Unit  
CJIS: Criminal Justice Information System  
CRU: Criminal Records Unit  
CSC: CJIS Support Center  
DEA: Drug Enforcement Administration  
DID: Drug Investigation Division  
DUI: Driving Under the Influence  
EEO: Equal Employment Opportunity  
EPIC: El Paso Intelligence Center  
FBI: Federal Bureau of Investigation  
FinCEN: Financial Crimes Enforcement Network  
FLIR: Forward Looking Infrared System  
GTFME: Governor's Task Force on Marijuana Eradication  
HCFA: Health Care Finance Administration  
HIDTA: High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area  
IASIU: Internal Association of Special Investigation Units  
LAN: Local Area Network  
LEIC: Law Enforcement Information Coordinator  
LIMS: Laboratory Information Management System  
MFCU: Medicaid Fraud Control Unit  
NAMFCU: National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units  
NCAVC: National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crimes  
NCIC: National Crime Information Center

NLETS: National Law Enforcement Telecommunications Systems  
OIR: Office of Information Resources  
ONDCP: Office of National Drug Control Policy  
POC: Point of Contact  
POS: Point of Sale  
RISS: Regional Information Sharing System  
ROCIC: Regional Organized Crime Information Center  
SAC: Special Agent in Charge  
STOP: Tennessee Orders of Protection File  
TABC: Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission  
TAPS: Tennessee Applicant Processing Services  
TBCI: Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Identification  
TBI: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation  
TCA: Tennessee Code Annotated  
TCIC: Tennessee Crime Information Center  
TCIS: Tennessee Crime Information System  
THP: Tennessee Highway Patrol  
THUMP: Tennessee Homicide, Unidentified Bodies and Missing Persons File  
TIBRS: Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System  
TICS: Tennessee Instant Check System  
TIES: Tennessee Information Enforcement System  
TnCOP: Tennessee Crime Online Portal  
TNG: Tennessee National Guard  
TORIS: Tennessee Open Records Information Services  
TRAP: Tennessee Repository for the Apprehension of Persons  
UCR: Uniform Crime Reporting  
VICAP: Violent Criminal Apprehension Program







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