



# **Tennessee** **Bureau of Investigation**

**Forensic Services Division Quarterly Report**  
**Pursuant to PC 249 of the 113<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

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

**Hiring Status:**

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

**Jul-22**

**Commissioned**

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

**Jul-22**

**Noncommissioned**

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

**Sep-22**

**Commissioned**

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

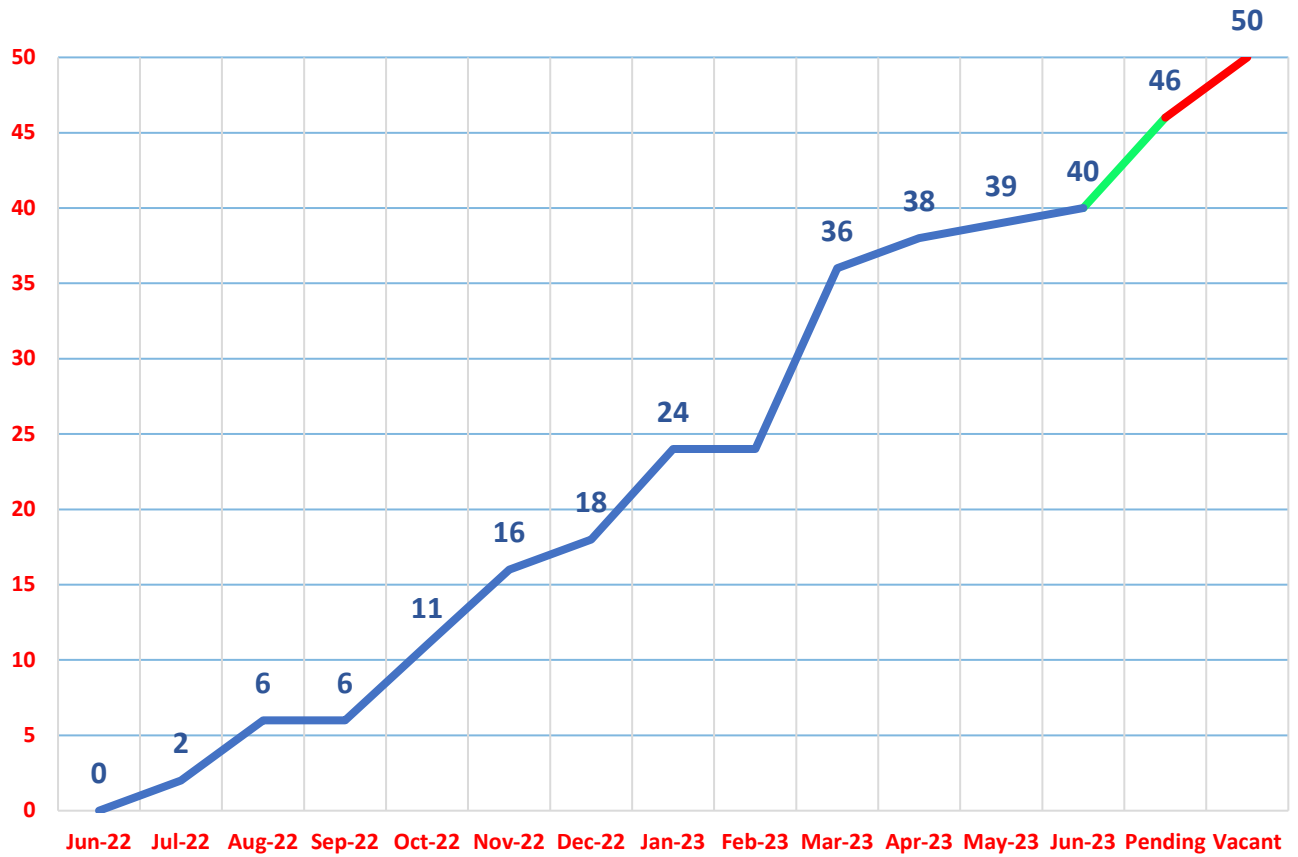
**Sep-22**

**Noncommissioned**

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

\* Reclassified to be Forensic Technician Supervisor for Jackson Lab

### TBI Crime Laboratory - Hiring Status- 50 Newly Created Positions



#### Hiring Status through June 27, 2023:

- 40 positions have been filled.
- 6 positions are pending. These positions have been posted and applicants have been selected. These positions will be filled pending the outcome of the background check process.
- 4 positions are vacant.

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

## Testing Status:

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

### Nashville

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

### Knoxville

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

### Jackson

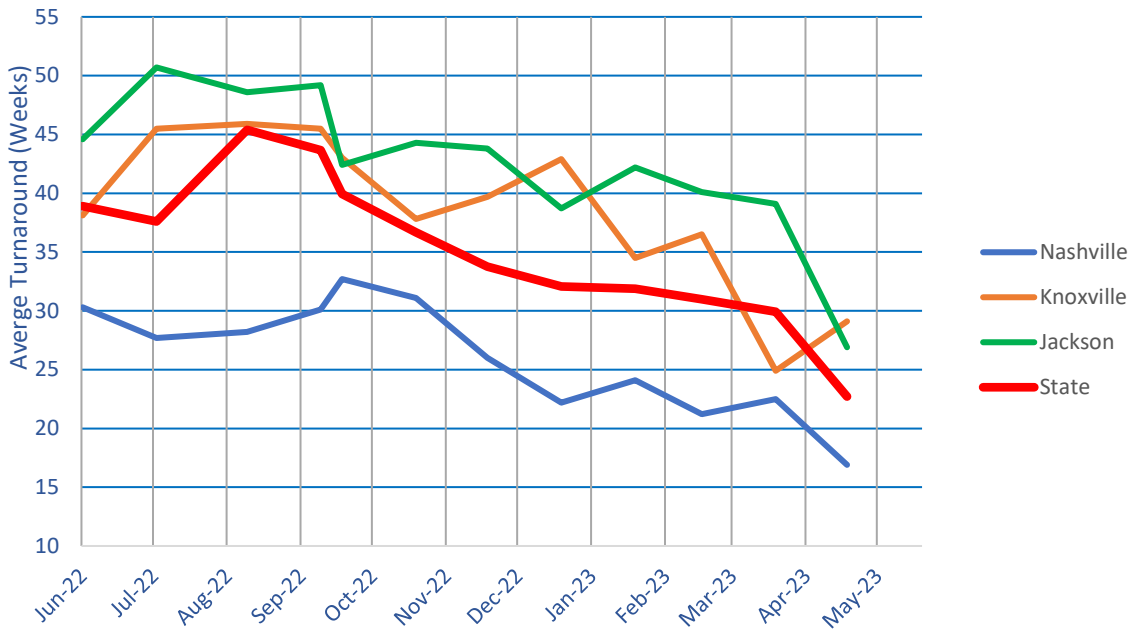
Forensic Biology - Sex Offense	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23
Requests Received	54	34	44	34	44	30	20	58	37	31	43	42
Requests Completed	30	3	94	32	63	25	19	35	24	35	38	32
Requests Pending	368	396	346	350	360	345	347	386	391	144	145	156
Average Turnaround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

### Statewide

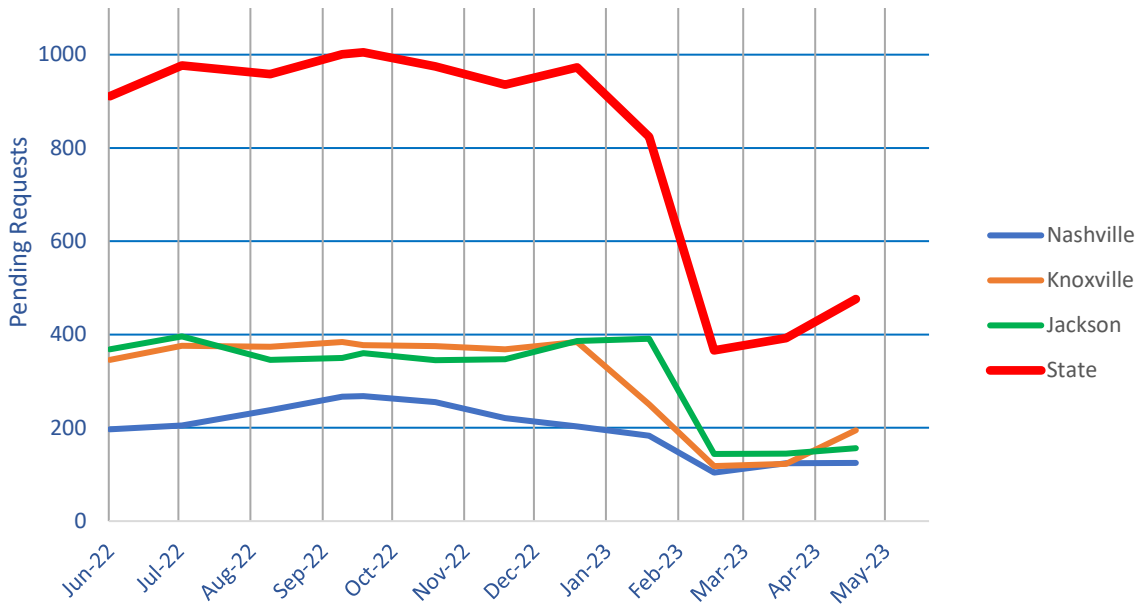
Forensic Biology - Sex Offense	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23
Requests Received	129	113	139	121	127	114	79	150	85	103	121	144
Requests Completed	69	43	161	78	167	118	102	136	120	116	95	74
Requests Pending	911	977	958	1,001	1,005	975	936	973	824	366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

- Statewide (weighted average) turnaround time peaked in August 2022 at 45.4 weeks.
- Statewide (weighted average) turnaround time for May 2023 was 22.7 weeks – cut in half since August 2022.
- Statewide pending request inventory has dropped from a 12-month high of 1,005 to 476 (excluding outsourced cases).
- Forensic Biology testing of sex offense cases are labor intensive, and turnaround time for these cases are expected to improve as more employees are hired and trained.
- The TBI Crime Laboratories have 39 statewide positions dedicated to performing Forensic Biology casework. 20 employees (51.3%) have completed training. 19 employees (48.7%) are either in training (14) or are in the hiring process (5).

### Average Turnaround (Weeks)



### Sex Offense Request Inventory



**Outsource testing:**

- The TBI secured \$1,850,000 in federal grant funding for outsourced sexual assault kit (SAK) testing.
- The TBI entered into a contract with DNA Labs International (DLI) located in Deerfield Beach, Florida, to perform SAK testing at a rate of \$2,155 per SAK.
- Given the funding available and the contracted testing rate, a total of 858 SAKs may be outsource tested.
- 550 SAKs were delivered to DLI via TBI airplane on March 6, 2023.
- The remaining 308 SAKs are scheduled to be delivered to DLI via TBI airplane on July 6, 2023.
- The first 550 SAKs are scheduled to be returned to TBI and delivered back to Tennessee via TBI airplane on July 6, 2023.
- The outsource lab performs SAK testing per TBI specifications. However, TBI remains responsible for case review and CODIS upload and match management.
- Per terms of grant funding and DLI contract, all outsourced testing must be completed by December 31, 2023.