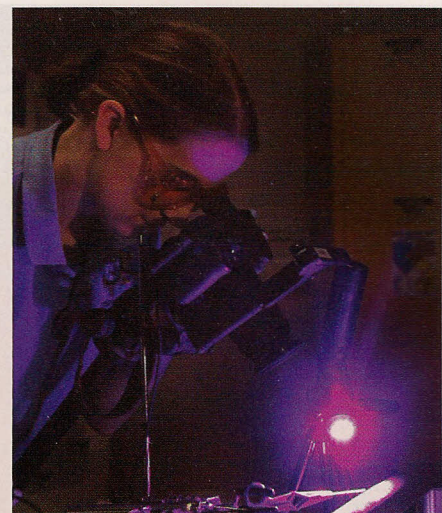
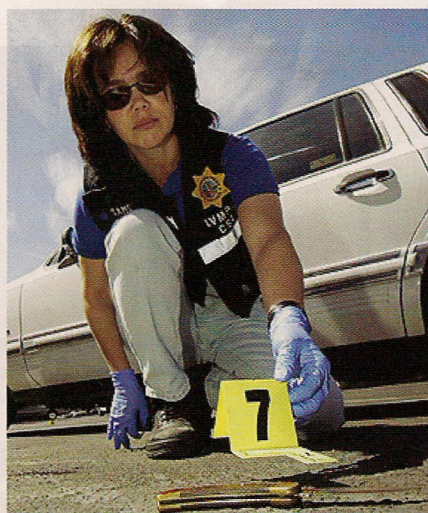
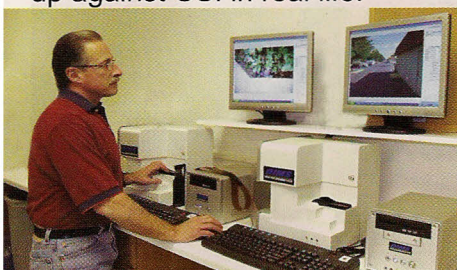


Television has done wonders for forensics, but it has also handed out a lot of misconceptions. In the chart and photos here, you can see how CSI on TV stacks up against CSI in real life.



Topic	CSI on CBS	CSI in Real Life
City	Las Vegas	Las Vegas
Staff	10	55
Dress Code	J. Crew or Calvin Klein	Golf shirts & cargo pants/jeans
Carry Guns	Yes	Yes
Communal Locker Rooms	Yes	Are you kidding? No.
Conduct Interrogations	Yes	No
Make Arrests	Yes	No; they're not cops
Lab Budget	Unlimited	Very Limited
Equipment Wish List	No	Yes
Shifts	2	3
Caseload	2 per week	~450 per year
Time to Match a Fingerprint	3-5 minutes	Depends; fingerprint analyst must confirm AFIS matches; not very quickly
Time to Match DNA	5 minutes	Depends on priority of case and backlog; days to weeks
ME's Office On Site	Yes	No
Time to Solve Crimes	44 minutes plus commercials	Weeks, months, years; some never get solved
Time to Process a Crime Scene	3-6 minutes	20 minutes to a couple days
Everything Done in-house	Yes	Tox and chemistry often sent to outside firms
Case Backlog	No	Yes
Work Crime Scenes With The Lights Off	Yes	No
Illumination in the Lab	Lights Off	Lights On
Work all Crime Scenes With Little Flashlights	Yes	No
Employee Appearance	GQ or Vogue	Like your workplace; people come in all shapes and sizes
Majority of Cases	Murder	Robbery

Special thanks to Lt. Chris Jones of the Las Vegas Metro Police Department