

ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST 1000 DATABASE HITS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POINT OF ARREST DNA COLLECTION

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In November 2002, the Virginia Division of Forensic Science reached the 1000 hit mark with its DNA Database, which has been operational since July 1, 1989. A compilation of statistical data and case information maintained on these hits over 14 years provides useful information related to the nature and type of criminal cases assisted and prior qualifying convictions. Data will be presented supporting the inclusion of all felons and the impact of application of the technology to property and non-violent as well as violent crimes. Factors contributing to the type and rate of hits will be presented.

In January 1, 2003, DNA samples from persons arrested for violent felonies and certain property crimes, after a finding by a magistrate or a grand jury of probable cause to issue an arrest warrant or indictment, began to be collected in Virginia. The implementation of this program, from sample collection to destruction, in compliance with the provisions of the law will be discussed as well as the implications of state v. federal law.