

DNA BACKLOG REDUCTION PROGRAMS OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

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The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research arm of the U.S. Department of Justice and provides funding to support the forensic community in the areas of research and development, implementation of standard and innovative methodologies, and enhancement of forensic laboratory facilities. Recognizing the need for DNA databases to be populated with profiles from both offenders and from crime scene evidence, NIJ provides assistance to State and local crime labs for the purpose of addressing DNA backlogs. The objective of the Convicted Offender DNA Backlog Reduction Program is to rapidly accelerate the analysis of convicted offender samples in order to provide CODIS-compatible data for all 13-core STR loci for DNA databases. The No Suspect Casework DNA Backlog Reduction Program provides funding for identification, processing, and analysis of no- suspect cases (i.e., cases where law enforcement has not developed a suspect, or cases in which a suspect has been eliminated through testing or other investigative means). This presentation will focus on these and other NIJ programs that are of benefit to the forensic DNA community.