



DNA Backlog Clearance Project

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Focus of update:

This newsletter is designed to provide regular updates pertaining to the DNA Backlog Clearance Project. The project has completed all testing, received reports from the external vendors and has completed all technical reviews. Additionally, the investigative follow-up is essentially complete. This edition will focus on the progress made thus far on the investigative stage of the project as well as the audit phase of the project.

CODIS Entries

CODIS entries to date	4,202**
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** These cases represent those where a profile was developed meeting CODIS guidelines and a CODIS entry has been completed.

Audit Process

The goal for the DNA Backlog Clearance Project was to analyze all sexual assault kits (SAKs) identified as having been untested for the Houston Police Department. The analysis of the SAKs initiated a review of all incident reports linked to the evidence. The review of all of the incident reports dated back to 1982. The investigators assigned to the Special Victims Division have completed the review and/or follow-up investigation of 8,491 cases.

Throughout the project, data collection was captured on the SAKs outsourced for testing. The data will be a tool used to provide an overview of the project and sexual assault investigations.

As the investigative follow-up has essentially come to an end, the review process to audit the data collection database has started. Data entry for the over 9,700 cases outsourced has occurred over the course of the past three (3) years. Periodic data audits have occurred throughout the process, but as the data entry is coming to a close, final review of the entire database is needed to ensure accuracy. Due to data entry still needing completion and the sheer size of the database, the audit process will be extensive. The data entry and auditing process is anticipated to take several months to complete. The next report issued by the Criminal Investigations Command will be the final report of the DNA Backlog Clearance Project and will include a comprehensive review of the program. Please note the final report is anticipated to be completed towards the latter part of 2016.

Investigative Follow-Up Case Assignment:

	Assigned	Completed
CODIS Matches ¹	1,227	1,196
CODIS Ineligibles / Negatives ²	5,122	5,103
CODIS Eligibles ³	2,327	2,192
Total to Date	8,676	8,491

Investigative Follow-Up Results:

	False Arrest	Arrest Confirmation	New Charges
Total to Date	0	152	73

Note: These figures refer exclusively to the City-funded portion of the DNA Backlog Clearance Project.

¹ DNA profile identified through DNA analysis, resulted from either a direct CODIS hit (individual) or linked to another case.

² Lab analysis provided no evidentiary leads. Testing complete.

³ Lab analysis has identified possible DNA evidence. Multiple outcomes possible, including entering unknown profile(s) into CODIS. Testing in-progress.

Support Staff

Jeff Grice, an honorably retired Senior Police Officer with Houston Police Department, has worked on the SAK Project from almost the beginning. Mr. Grice was first stationed with the Adult Sex Crimes Unit during the initial review of all reports identified as part of the backlog clearance project. He was responsible for supplementing reports with updated lab analysis information. During the next phase of the project, Mr. Grice was brought back with Special Victims Division with 8 other retired HPD classified employees to input data on the investigative status of the case once the lab analysis was complete. Part of the duties during this time was to review each case to ensure investigative follow-up had been completed. The administrative coordinators, as the retired personnel were titled, completed their assignments and their employment ceased in March of 2015. Recently, a need was identified for another large data set to be inputted but budget constraints allowed for only one (1) administrative coordinator. Mr. Grice was immediately identified for his excellent work history throughout the project, as he is very detail oriented and thorough in completing all tasks assigned to him.