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DNA

21ST CENTURY

CRIME FIGHTING TOOL



THE FORENSIC SCIENCE SERVICE®

KEY DNA FACTS

- The National DNA Database®, established in 1995, is an important tool in the fight against crime and fear of crime.
- There are now 2 million DNA profiles from samples of people on the database – 405,000 samples were loaded in 2002/03.
- There are currently 180,000 DNA profiles from samples at crime scenes on the database – 57,000 samples were loaded in 2002/03.
- There is a 40% chance that a crime scene sample will be matched immediately with an individual's profile on the database. In a typical month matches are found linking suspects to 15 murders, 31 rapes and 770 motor vehicle crimes.
- DNA evidence is a powerful aid to crime investigation and detection. Last year there were around 21,000 detections in crimes where DNA evidence was available, a 132% increase since 2000.
- In crimes where a DNA profile has been obtained, the rate of crimes detected increases to 37% from the overall average of 24%.



Hazel Blears, Police Minister:

“DNA evidence has transformed the fight against crime. Our national database is proving an invaluable intelligence tool and has already helped detect thousands of repeat criminals. It allows police to speed up detections, make earlier arrests, results in more convictions and helps to solve old crimes. This Government is committed to increasing the use of DNA evidence. We have invested £182 million in expanding the database and provisions in the Criminal Justice Bill will allow officers to take DNA samples at the point of arrest, rather than at the point of charge.

“There are many well-known examples where DNA has led to the arrests of serious criminals but it also helps police tackle more common crimes, such as burglary or vehicle crime. And by identifying and detecting prolific offenders through their DNA evidence, police can significantly reduce crime in our communities.

David Coleman, ACPO Spokesman on DNA and Chief Constable of Derbyshire Constabulary:

“The importance of forensic science in the fight against crime has increased enormously in recent years. DNA has proved to be the most significant advance in the use of forensic science in the fight against crime since the introduction of fingerprints.

“The extension of powers to retain DNA samples on police databases, and the ability to check those samples against DNA left at the crime scene, is an important provision which enhances the police's ability to prevent and detect crime. We hope to continue deterring more criminals from committing further offences with the use of this technology.”

Dave Werrett, Chief Executive of the Forensic Science Service®:

"As custodians of the National DNA Database, the Forensic Science Service (FSS®) has a key role in supporting the Government's initiative to expand the database and make DNA an even more effective tool for investigating and detecting crime.

The FSS has been at the heart of the development of the National DNA Database and is committed to its ongoing development.

For example, new hardware and software systems are allowing us to provide police forces with more speedy match reports. There is also improved co-ordination between the FSS and police forces over the DNA profiling of offenders through a link between the National DNA Database and the Police National Computer."



CASE STUDIES:

The database plays a vital role in solving old crimes. In 80% of matches, the database linked the suspect with a different crime in addition to the crime for which they were arrested. A number of people arrested for minor offences, such as shoplifting, have been linked through their DNA to unsolved serious crimes, such as rape and murder.

John Wood was arrested for stealing £10 of groceries in 2001 and turned out to be responsible for an unsolved sex attack on two young girls in 1988.

A routine DNA sample taken by Kent Constabulary from the sex attack matched a crime stain on the National DNA Database.

Wood's two young victims, aged nine and eleven, had been subjected an hour-long attack in their Canterbury home.

Wood pleaded guilty to rape and indecent assault and was sentenced to 15 years.



Roy Tutill went missing after hitching a lift home from school in Surrey in April 1968. Three days later the 14 year old's body was found in woodland near Leatherhead. He had been sexually assaulted and strangled.

In 1999 Brian Lunn Field from Solihull, West Midlands was stopped by police on a drink-driving offence. A routine DNA sample was fed into the National DNA Database, which gave a match against a profile obtained

from frozen semen stain sample from 1968, thanks to advances in DNA profiling in 1996.

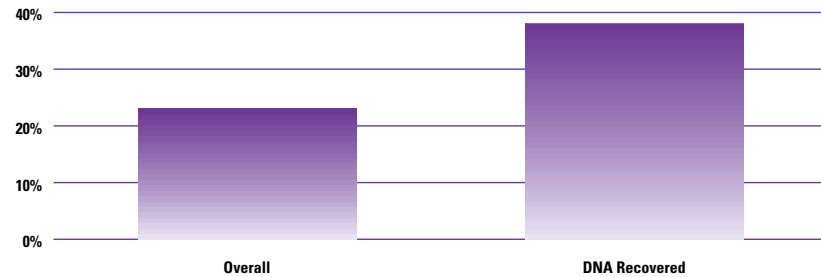
Lunn Field pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey in November 2001 and was sentenced to life imprisonment.



DNA has a considerable investigative impact, enhancing the chances of detecting crime. The rate of detection of all recorded crime is around 24%

per year. However, when DNA is available from a crime scene this rises to 37%.

Detection Rate for all crimes



The DNA database plays a key role in volume property crimes. While the annual detection rate for domestic burglary is around 14%, when DNA is successfully recovered from a crime scene this rises to 48%.

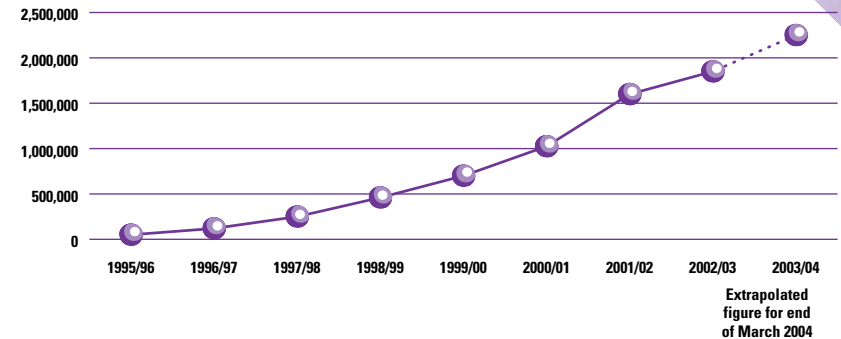
80% of detected burglaries result in charges, 88% of these resulted in a conviction.

Domestic Burglary Detection Rates



Cumulative count of number of individuals who have their DNA profile represented or The National DNA Database

Crime scene and offender sampling has expanded enormously over the course of the DNA expansion programme (April 2000 to date). There are now 2 million CJ sample profiles in total on the database and approximately 180,000 crime scene sample profiles.



The number of suspects 'matched' to a crime scene has also increased. There are more than 3,000 matches a month found between the profiles of individuals and those from

scenes of crime. As the number of CJ samples on the database increases so will the chances of identifying the individual whose DNA was found at a scene of crime.

Number of Scene to Suspect Matches per Year

