

News Release

December 6, 2004

RE: KBI announce DNA Milestone.

Last Thursday the KBI had its 100th "cold hit" this year by its DNA database. A 'cold hit' is where a DNA match identifies a person as a suspect in a crime by the use of the DNA databank. Last year, 2003, there were 26 such hits and only 11 in 2002. As the collection of criminal's DNA in the databank expands, the ability to solve cases in this manner also increases.

DNA profiles are developed at the KBI from two sources and it is helpful to understand the differences:

Casework/Forensic Samples: These are biological samples collected by investigators from crime scenes across Kansas. The evidence is then submitted to the KBI forensic laboratory and the DNA profile extracted. The KBI receives approximately 800 such samples each year, about half generate profiles.

Database/Offender Samples: These samples are taken from persons convicted in Kansas's courts of certain specified crimes. As of July 1, 2002, Kansas has required all convicted felons to provide biological samples to the KBI. Kansas was one of the original 9 states to work with the FBI in creating the database system and the COmbined Dna Indexing System (CODIS) which allows nationwide searching of each states' DNA database. Through federal grants from the National Institute of Justice, these samples were sent to approved private labs and their DNA profiles provided, after quality checks by the KBI Biology division. There are about 10,000 new offenders added each year.

The computer system continuously runs comparisons of these unidentified samples from crime scenes against the 41,000+ profiles in the data bank, thus supplying investigators with positive identification of otherwise unknown suspects. The hits can be identifying the sample either by matching one case to another case (which may have an identified suspect) or by matching the case to a known database felon. DNA also serves an important function in 'clearing' suspects, allowing investigators to better focus investigations.

Of the 100 hits this year, they have "solved" crimes from 10 different Kansas counties and, again thanks to CODIS, 6 different states. The KBI would like to acknowledge the National Institute of Justice for providing \$1,665,919 for the casework system and \$1,489,239 for the Database system.