

## Program History

In 1991, the Missouri Legislature enacted Section 650.050 RSMo establishing the DNA profiling system. Under this statute, only certain violent and sexual crimes qualified for DNA collection. Today, DNA collection is required from individuals found guilty of a felony or any offense under Chapter 566, registered sex offenders and sexually violent predators, as well as those 17 years of age and older who are arrested for offenses under Chapters 565, 566, 567, 568, 573, and burglary in the first degree and in the second degree (Sections 569.160 and 569.170).

- 1994:** First offender collections and Missouri database searches occur.
- 1996:** Legislation modified to include retroactive collection of convicted offenders.
- 1999:** Missouri joins the National DNA Index System for interstate searches.
- 2005:** Senate Bill 1000 expands the law to include all felony convictions, sexual misdemeanors, and some out-of-state cases.
- 2006:** Database expands from 27,000 to 200,000 offender profiles.
- 2009:** House Bills 152 and 62 expand the database by requiring collection for certain arrestees and sex offenders.
- 2021:** The Missouri database contains 396,000 offender profiles.

For more information about the CODIS Unit and other units in the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Laboratory, please visit the website (select Divisions):

<https://statepatrol.dps.mo.gov>

**For employment opportunities, visit:**

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# Offender DNA Profiling



## The Sample

The Department of Corrections Division of Adult Institutions, Division of Probation and Parole, county and city jails, and individuals with arrest authority are responsible for identifying which offenders' DNA sample requires collection. The Missouri State Highway Patrol provides collection supplies to the collecting agencies. Blood or saliva samples are collected and mailed to the laboratory for testing.

## DNA Profiling

DNA is the genetic information found in cells. It acts as the body's instructions, determining body type and appearance. Every person has unique DNA, except for identical siblings, such as twins or triplets. After evaluating the sample for database eligibility, analysts take a small portion of the offender's sample for testing. The polymerase chain reaction is used to make millions of copies of

the DNA at specific areas and then a profile is developed. A DNA profile is a visual representation of the offender's DNA at specific areas known to vary greatly between individuals.

## CODIS

The Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) is a database for DNA profiles which allows them to be searched and compared against one another. CODIS is maintained and regulated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is divided into three levels: local (LDIS), state (SDIS), and national (NDIS). Each level has an offender and forensic, or crime-related, index. Individual laboratories enter and compare profiles in their local DNA index system, and these profiles can be compiled into the system for each state. Profiles from all states are compared within the NDIS. By law, the Missouri State Highway Patrol is the central repository for Missouri offender DNA samples and administrator of the Missouri CODIS Program.

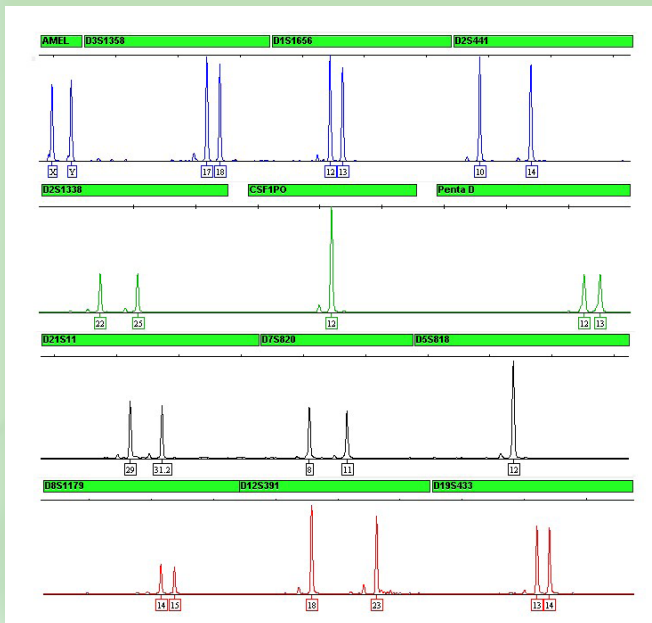
device. The offender's profile is entered into CODIS without personally identifying information and assigned a unique identifier, which is anonymous. The name associated with a profile is only provided to law enforcement agencies searching CODIS when it is legally acceptable.

If an offender's profile match a profile in the forensic index, the laboratories involved are notified of a possible association. The offender's profile will be reanalyzed for profile confirmation. CODIS database samples are not considered evidence. Therefore, when CODIS reveals a possible association, the casework laboratory requests a reference standard from the suspect for direct comparisons to the DNA profile from the evidence.

## Expungement Provisions

The expansion of the DNA profiling system regarding DNA collection of qualified arrested individuals includes a provision for the expungement of the arrestee's DNA record. If the warrant is refused by the prosecutor, charges are withdrawn, case is dismissed, no probable cause is found, or the defendant is found not guilty, the MSHP Crime Laboratory must be notified. The CODIS Unit will expunge the record and destroy the DNA sample, barring any other qualifying offenses being present.

## Example of a DNA profile:



## Using CODIS

The forensic index contains DNA profiles from evidence found at crime scenes, such as blood, semen, or saliva. A match can link an offender to a crime scene. Matches between several crime scenes can indicate a serial criminal. CODIS also contains DNA profiles obtained from missing persons, the biological relatives of missing persons, and unidentified persons and remains. Entering these types of DNA profiles provides investigators with a powerful tool in the identification of missing and unidentified persons.

## Verification & Privacy

At collection, an attempt will be made to verify the offender's identity using government-issued photo identification or fingerprint-based identification using a LiveScan

## Benefits Of DNA Profiling

DNA profiling is a powerful tool used by law enforcement to help solve crimes. As more offender profiles are entered into CODIS, investigators have an increased chance of finding a match between evidence and a known offender. These investigative leads can identify new suspects and confirm or exonerate existing ones. In the event of a mass disaster, such as a plane crash or tornado, CODIS may also be used to identify the victims.