



DNA



RESOURCE



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The September 2007 DNA Resource Report is listed below, along with a summary. .

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Investigations and prosecutions aided by DNA evidence include:

- California – a cold hit identified a suspect in a copper wire burglary;
- Connecticut – a cold hit brought charges in a 1990 rape; and an arrest in a 1999 rape;
- Georgia – a cold hit brought an indictment in a 2001 rape (on database for burglary);
- Illinois – a cold hits brought charges in a 1982 murderer, and a 2002 rape;
- Missouri – a cold hit brought charges in a 1990 rape;
- Kentucky – a cold hit resulted in two guilty pleas from a serial rapist (1990's cases, charges pending in other cases);
- Louisiana – a cold hit with Maryland brought a conviction in a 1996 rape;
- New Mexico – a cold hit on the DNA database brought an arrest in a murder case;
- New York – a cold hit to Ohio's DNA database produced a guilty plea in a 2000 rape case (on database for robbery);
- Virginia – a man recently identified by DNA as a serial rapist has been linked to another rape (1997 crime).

POLICY AND FUNDING ISSUES:

Expansion – Washington State's Governor is recommending an expansion to the state's DNA database laws.

Funding – Denver's Integrated Cold Case Program receives \$1.5 million to continue;

Backlogs – California has eliminated its backlog that was as high as 400,000 at one point.

OTHER FORENSIC DNA ISSUES: A convicted serial killer in Georgia is seeking a new trial and access to post conviction DNA testing, and a Texas inmate has been cleared by DNA for one of his convictions. Texas exonerees are calling for an Innocence Commission.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS: In England, a leading appeals judge has called a universal DNA database; and police will be reviewing 4,000 cases from the 1990's for new DNA leads. Also in England, police failure to submit an offender's sample resulted in a several preventable rapes.

- In Australia, a DNA match identified a suspect in a 2002 rape.
- England – cold hits on the DNA database link several criminals to burglary crimes (including two teenagers); the database also linked two 1975 murders to the same perpetrator

NEWS ARTICLES:

1. "Convicted 'stocking strangler' argues." Associated Press, September 19, 2007.

In Georgia, the man convicted of being the 'stocking strangler' who terrorized an upscale neighborhood in Georgia. in the late 1970s, is seeking a new trial and some of the case may

hinge on DNA evidence. The “stocking strangler” is suspected of killing and raping 7 women, plus an additional two victims were raped but survived the attack. The victims ranged in age from 59 to 89. However, the man has recently been linked to a 1975 case from New York through a cold hit on the DNA database. Authorities in Syracuse have not charged him with a crime, and they are still deciding what course of action to take since he is currently on death row.

2. “Child in youth’s body.” Newcastle Journal, September 1, 2007.
In England, DNA has linked a 16 year old boy to a break-in. The boy attacked a teenage girl and stole her cell phone, but the girl quickly identified him as her attacker. He was arrested and then released on bail and three weeks later was caught climbing through a window in someone’s home. Blood from the scuffle that ensued was used to positively link him to the crime through DNA analysis. He was sentenced to five years for the two crimes.
3. “Georgetown man pleads guilty to rape.” Lexington Herald, September 1, 2007.
In Kentucky, a cold hit on the DNA database has led to a guilty plea for two rapes from 1993. He was first included on the database after a 2003 sex abuse conviction. The prosecution is requesting a 70 year sentence, and the judge may also consider a life sentence. He has also been linked by the DNA database to several attacks in two other counties – in one county he has pled guilty to charges, and in the other county the charges are pending for several cases dating to 1996.
4. “Prison inmate charged with 1982 killing.” UPI Top Stories, August 31, 2007.
In Illinois, a cold hit on the DNA database helped to charge a prison inmate with raping and strangling a Southern Illinois University student in 1982. The 23-year-old student was found naked in her apartment with the phone cord cut. The man has an extensive criminal record, and the perpetrator was a student at the same time as the victim. He has been behind bars since 1983 in Pennsylvania and Illinois.
5. “Lucknow to have India’s first DNA bank.” Times of India, September 2, 2007.
In India, the first human DNA bank in the country’s history will be located in Lucknow. The facility will not be research or forensic specific like many databases in the world. The purpose of the databank is to allow the public to register for the sake of establishing a “solid identity.” The database will contain a wealth of personal information including a person’s genetic identity. DNA will be stored for 50 years and it will cost Rs 1,500 for storing 4 drops of blood. The bank will also store other information about a person including a photograph, fingerprints, handwriting sample, etc.
6. “Burglar snared by blood traces.” Newsquest Media Group, September 3, 2007.
In England, DNA helped to identify a man who burgled an office and broke into a parked van. The man cut himself on a piece of glass from a broken window and police collected the blood for DNA analysis. Investigators found some of the stolen items at his place of residence.
7. “Burglar left trace of DNA.” Leicester Mercury, September 3, 2007.
In England, a house burglar who left his DNA at the scene of the crime has been jailed for two years. The 36-year-old admitted to forcing entry into a property this year. The man broke into a garden shed and used the homeowner’s tools to pry open the primary residence. The victim had left for a few hours only to return and find thousands of dollars in damages. The

perpetrator's blood from a door jam where he forced entry to the house linked him to the crime.

8. "Wrongly convicted man calls for FBI suspicion." Associated Press, September 5, 2007.
In California, defense lawyers have suggested that the federal government should investigate an FBI agent for making up evidence that helped convict a man of a rape and robbery for which he was later exonerated by DNA testing. In April, a federal civil jury in Los Angeles found the former sheriff's detective guilty of making up evidence that supported the 1988 criminal conviction. The detective is now an FBI intelligence analyst focused on homeland security. The wrongly accused man spent nearly 12 years in several state prisons until he was exonerated by DNA evidence in 2000.
9. "Drug addict burglar sent to prison." Bristol Evening Post, September 5, 2007.
In England, DNA helped to convict a prolific burglar whose crime spree helped to feed his cocaine addiction. The man pleaded guilty to six burglaries and asked for three more to be taken into consideration. At one crime scene, he left in a stolen car after burglarizing the home. The car was recovered several weeks later, and a rucksack containing a drugs pipe was found in the car, which had his DNA on it.
10. "DNA evidence snares suspect in 1990 rape." Connecticut Post, September 6, 2007.
In Connecticut, a man identified through a cold hit on the DNA database is awaiting trial for the 1990 kidnapping and rape. After the man threatened the victim and raped her, she managed to flag down a passing car. The State Police Forensic Lab made a positive match with genetic profiles collected at the hospital during a post-rape examination.
11. "Must debate issue." Lincolnshire Echo, September 7, 2007.
In England, a leading Appeal Court judges said that the DNA of every citizen should be held on the national database. He said the current system, where DNA profiles are only taken from criminal suspects and crime scenes, was "indefensible". The Lord Justice objects to the inclusion of a disproportionate number of people from ethnic minority groups and said many criminals get away with their crimes because their profiles are not on the system. Now the Lincolnshire Police Chief Constable has joined the debate. The constable, who chairs the board, which oversees the Home Office-regulated DNA database, said there were huge logistical problems in trying to get samples from everyone. He noted that the cost would be rather prohibitive, but also argued that there would be a significant impact on the ability to solve crime.
12. "DNA leads to arrest in rape case." September 9, 2007.
In Australia, DNA evidence has led to the arrest of a man charged with raping a woman five years ago. The 31-year-old rape victim did not know the man who allegedly sneaked into her bed late at night in 2002. Police matched a man's DNA from blood on the woman's shirt and arrested a man in Brisbane on Friday.
13. "Former inmates seek commission." Fort Worth Star-Telegram, September 9, 2007.
In Texas, eight exonerated ex-convicts told their stories at the Texas Wesleyan Law School. The plural presence was meant to prove that wrongful convictions are not isolated incidents, and they are lobbying for an Innocence Commission to review inmates' cases when DNA, or other modern forensics, can shed better light on the crime. Other states have similar commissions and since Texas is one of the largest prison systems, they believe it makes sense to ensure guilt, especially in the case of strong sentences like capitol punishment. The bill to establish a commission failed in the last legislative session.

14. "DNA database's backlog eliminated." San Francisco Chronicle, September 11, 2007.
In California, the state has entered 295,000 DNA samples into its database since July, officials said, eliminating a backlog that once numbered nearly 400,000. The number of people eligible to be entered into the system has more than tripled since voters passed Proposition 69 in 2004. The initiative required that all convicted felons submit a DNA sample, creating a huge backlog. The database will grow in 2009, when the proposition mandates that all adults arrested for a felony enter their DNA into the system.
15. "Governor wants DNA on file for sex offenders." Seattle Times, September 11, 2007.
In Washington, prompted by the July kidnapping and slaying of a 12-year-old from Tacoma, Gov. Christine Gregoire is recommending changes to how the state tracks convicted sex offenders, including requiring all to have DNA on file with police. Gregoire made the recommendations Monday on a preliminary report by a Sex Offender Task Force created to look into the girl's death and the man accused of her slaying. Typically, police consider Level 1 offenders a low priority and, although the state law requires them to register their address with police, violations aren't always followed up on. "If we had a DNA sample of the predator on file from another 1990 incident we may have been able somewhere at some point along the way here to have arrested him and prevented his latest crimes," Gregoire said. "I believe our laws have already closed those gaps, but we need to be diligent and make sure there are no exceptions." Gregoire is considering holding a special legislative session to come up with better ways to deal with such offenders.
16. "Man indicted in teacher rape case." Macon Telegraph, September 12, 2007.
In Georgia, a cold hit on the DNA database has resulted in an indictment for an inmate suspected of raping a teacher in 2001. The 23-year-old was indicted on charges of rape, aggravated sodomy, and aggravated assault. The perpetrator has been incarcerated since 2006, when he was returned to prison for violating probation on a burglary charge. He has also now been indicted in another rape occurring two months prior to the teacher's.
19. "DNA tests on 4,000 sex cases." Evening Standard, September 10, 2007.
In London, four thousand more unsolved sex attacks are to be reviewed using new DNA techniques. The new tests will be reviewed using new DNA techniques, the Home Office announced. The new tests will be used on samples taken during investigations into rape and serious sexual assault cases dating back as far as twenty-four years. Until recently, these samples did not have any usable DNA, but investigators believe that new technologies might yield usable results on unsolved case between 1991 and 1996.
18. "Dallas prosecutors say DNA clears man." Associated Press, September 17, 2007.
In Texas, a man convicted of several crimes has been cleared of a 1982 rape conviction due to DNA testing, and could eventually be exonerated after 25 years in prison. The man has finished serving his time for several older sex crimes, but remains in prison on two counts. The 1982 rape of which his he has been cleared occurred on the same day as the other case, and police have always maintained that the same man committed the crimes. He will need to be cleared of both charges if he is to be released. The man pleaded guilty to eight sex-crime charges and was found guilty of three others in the early 1980s
19. "DNA leads to arrest of rape suspect." Associated Press, September 18, 2007.
In Connecticut, a DNA match has led to the arrest of a suspect in the rape of a mentally retarded woman eight years ago. The 43-year-old suspect was arrested after DNA matched him to the 1999 break-in and sexual assault of the woman in her Stratford home. Police said

that last December they received notice from the state Forensic Science Laboratory that a match had been made between the Stratford man's DNA and that of evidence taken from the victim in 1999.

20. "Lab links suspect's DNA." Richmond Times Dispatch, September 14, 2007.
In Virginia, a suspected serial rapist's DNA has been further linked to an additional attack in 1997 at a Waynesboro motel. City officials are not commenting on whether the link will lead to charges, as the investigation is ongoing with cases already filed on the other serial victims. The state forensic analysts are thoroughly examining the evidence to ensure direct links to the crime. DNA warrants are helping investigators connect the dots since the man has no previous criminal history.
21. "Suspect arrested in '02 rape case." Daily Herald, August 29, 2007.
In Illinois, a cold hit to a Mexican national has resulted in three felony charges stemming from a 2002 sexual assault. A match occurred in 2006, but by that time the man had already been deported. However, he was recently arrested again on an obstruction warrant in Illinois.
22. "DNA blunders by police." Daily Mail, September 19, 2007.
In England, a serial rapist was let free to assault two 15-year-old girls because although policed collected his DNA sample for a "peeping tom" offense, they failed to run it against the database. Over a period of six years, the man attacked 11 victims, aged 12-27. After the first four years he was arrested, but then released. Over the next two years the man raped the two girls and attacked several more after breaking into their homes. The man's DNA sample was collected for the peeping incident in 2002, but was not sent for analysis until 2006.
23. "DNA hit nabs copper thief." September 19, 2007.
In California, a cold hit on the DNA database links a man to a \$10,000 copper-theft case from 2006. In December 2006, deputies in San Bernardino County conducted a commercial burglary investigation at a radio relay site. The radio site was heavily damaged, and crooks made off with about \$10,000 in equipment and copper wiring. DNA found at the crime scene was entered into the database and was linked to a 26-year-old man who was not previously suspected. Investigators are still looking for possible accomplices.
24. "DNA links suspect to slaying." Albuquerque Tribune, September 24, 2007.
In New Mexico, a cold hit on the DNA database led to the arrest of a man on suspicion of her murder. The victim went missing while walking her dog, and was later found dead in the Rio Grande. Crime scene evidence included a shoestring and a folding knife, both of which contained DNA evidence. The 29-year-old suspect had previously pled guilty twice to drug related charges in the 1990s and to burglary in 2000, when he served 18 months on probation..
26. "DNA evidence links to murders." PA News, September 25, 2007.
In England, forensic experts made an extraordinary connection between two 1975 murders that were not previously linked when the DNA database indicated that the same man is responsible for killing a Playboy bunny and a schoolgirl. The attacks occurred six months apart on opposite ends of London. Police do not have a named suspect, but connecting the attacks opens new investigative leads.
27. "National DNA database leads to rape conviction." Associated Press, September 26, 2007.
In New York, a cold hit with Ohio's DNA database brought a guilty plea in a 2000 robbery and rape case. The 48-year-old Ohio prison inmate pleaded guilty to first-degree rape as his

trial was about to start. The man was linked to the rape after submitting a sample to the database for an Ohio jewelry store robbery in 2000.

28. "DNA evidence in 1990 rape linked." Kansas City Star, September 26, 2007.
In Missouri, a cold hit on the DNA database led Jackson County prosecutors filed a rape case against a 32-year-old man for first-degree robbery and forcible rape in a 1990 attack. The man spent nearly half his life in prison for another attack but was due to be released for serving his sentence in another year. Cold case officers used semen from the scene of the crime to match the convict who has been in prison since July 1991 for rape, armed criminal action, and three counts of stealing.
29. "First N.O. rape case prosecuted with DNA." New Orleans Media, September 24, 2007.
In Louisiana, a cold hit on with Maryland's DNA database has resulted in guilty verdict for a 1996 rape. The previously unsolved case was the first instance in which the DNA database was used in prosecuting an Orleans Parish Court case according the Orleans Parish District Attorney. The CODIS administrator found a match with DNA taken from the suspect after his carjacking conviction in Maryland.
30. "Justice department awards \$1.5m." US Federal News, September 25, 2007.
The US Department of Justice's Office Justice Programs has awarded \$1.5 million to Denver to continue its Integrated Cold Case program, an interdisciplinary effort that uses DNA technology to solve criminal cases. In 2005, the Denver Police Department Crime Laboratory and Denver District Attorney's office were selected by the Department of Justice as one of five sites to study the impact of DNA technology on high volume crimes like burglary. Since then, the city has analyzed 500 burglaries or other high-volume property crimes using DNA and studied the impact that DNA science had on the filing of these cases.