



DNA



RESOURCE



Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs provides services to Applied Biosystems. As part of this representation, the firm generates weekly reports on state and federal legislation and news articles. Applied Biosystems has authorized Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs to make these reports publicly available through this website. The information presented in these reports does not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of Applied Biosystems or Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs.

The January 2008 DNA Resource Report is listed below, along with a summary.

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

COLD HITS BRING:

- Arkansas – Charges for two murders (on database for theft).
- California – Arrest in 1991 double homicide, identification of a 2007 rapist (on database for sexual assault), and a high school vandal.
- Colorado – Identification of 1992 rapist (on database for kidnapping and rape).
- Florida – Identification of 1990 rapist (on database for stealing and resisting arrest).
- Maryland – Identification of 1999 rapist (on database for burglary).
- Minnesota – Identification of a 1993 rapist.
- Missouri – Identification of two rapists (on database for burglary and tampering).
- Nevada – Sentencing for 1997 rape and murder (on database for robbery).
- New Jersey – Identification of serial rapist to two more cases (1993 cases).
- New Mexico – Charges in a 2007 sexual assault case.
- New York – Guilty plea in stabbing (on database for burglary) and identification of a rapist in 1994 case (on database for drug sale) and 2001 case (evidence gathered from ski mask and condom).
- North Carolina – Solved a 1997 rape (on database for robbery).
- Ohio – Death sentence for stabbing (on database for aggravated robbery) and identification of a single rapist in two cases (on database for juvenile offense).
- Texas – Charges in 1994 attempted murder case.
- Vermont – Conviction in the 1991 murder of Patty Scoville case (on database for aggravated assault).
- Washington – Guilty plea for rape (on Nevada database for possession of meth and stolen car); two rapes are linked together by DNA.
- Wisconsin – Identification of a 1998 rapist (match with Illinois); charges in 1990 sexual assault and murder.

OTHER DNA CASES OF NOTE:

- Burglar identified from discarded chicken bones (Missouri)
- Blood on a window identified a burglar who stole from child's piggy bank (Wisconsin)

POLICY AND FUNDING ISSUES:

Expansion – South Dakota has passed legislation for all felony arrests – it is pending the Governor's signature. 20 other states have introduced arrestee testing bills which are in various stages of consideration. Of note, bills in South Carolina and Michigan have passed the first chamber. In two other states – Maryland and Connecticut – the Governor proposed the legislation. New York's Governor wants DNA testing of all convicted criminals (including misdemeanants), and the New York City Mayor has called for all arrestee testing. Illinois will be implementing a new requirement for DNA samples from homicide victims.

Funding – A bill to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog grants has been introduced in Congress. Washington State received funding for DNA Stranger Rape Program (30 day turnaround required). Cold case squads are being reduced or eliminated nationwide due to funding cuts.

Backlog – A Nevada county pleaded for donations to reduce their DNA backlog in the wake of a hunt for a serial rapist.

LEGAL ISSUES: The California Court of Appeals upholds a retroactive requirement to require DNA from registered sex offenders, regardless of conviction date.

OTHER FORENSIC DNA ISSUES:

- DNA evidence exonerates wrongfully convicted inmates in Texas, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Montana, and Louisiana. Another man has now been implicated in the Indiana case
- Virginia will not provide unsolicited notification to inmates in cases where old DNA evidence has been located.
- Ohio's post conviction DNA testing program is criticized as being ignored.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS: The UK is soliciting public comment on its DNA database. Malaysia is considering database legislation, and Ireland is drafting legislation to allow international sharing of its database. An Australian state solved 300 cold cases in the last year with DNA.

- Australia – A cold hit led to a guilty plea for a 1997 rape.
- Canada – a cold hit led to a 1994 murder conviction.
- Germany – DNA from a piece of salami identifies serial burglar.
- Japan – DNA evidence identifies a suspected serial rapist (up to 50 rapes).
- United Kingdom – DNA collected from dentures identifies burglar; a cold hit identifies rapist in 1994 case; cold hits identify two rapists (both on database for motoring charges); DNA identifies a persistent burglar (from discarded bottles and cigarettes).

NEWS ARTICLES:

1. "Database will hold homicide victim data." Chicago Tribune. December 31, 2007.
In Illinois, a new law taking effect in June requires blood samples of all homicide victims to be entered into the state's growing DNA database. Authorities hope the measure will help solve cold cases. If effective, the law may be expanded to include victims of other causes, including car accidents, suicides and heart attacks. A similar law was passed by Louisiana several years ago and has been instrumental in clearing cold cases.
2. "A Maryland rape suspect was arrested in Louisiana." Daily Record. December 28, 2007.
In Maryland, a match in the DNA database linked a man to the 1999 rape of a woman. The man was in prison on a burglary conviction when his DNA was collected and matched to the rape. Police say the man entered the woman's home, raped her and shocked her with a cattle prod. The man is now in custody after first being mistakenly released back in November.
3. "DNA inquiry led to rape suspect 13 years after attack." Daily Post. December 14, 2007.
In Liverpool, United Kingdom, police matched a DNA sample from a 13-year-old rape case to a man with previous rape charges using the national DNA database. In 1994, the man allegedly raped the 38-year-old victim after conversing with her at a bar for many hours. The woman reported the rape immediately and submitted samples that were then entered into the database. The sample was retrieved from a storage freezer as part of Operation Advance.

4. "Lawyers say DNA testing clears another Dallas County inmate." AP Alert. January 3, 2008.
In Dallas, Texas, DNA evidence and the efforts of the Innocence Project freed a man who was given a life sentence in 1981 for raping a woman. He has served more than 26 years in prison, making him the longest-serving inmate in Texas to be freed by DNA evidence.
5. "Supreme Court upholds death sentence in elderly woman's slaying." AP Alert. January 3, 2008.
In Columbus, Ohio, DNA evidence leads to a death sentence for the stabbing murder of an 86-year-old woman in 2000. The murder remained unsolved for four years before a match was made in the DNA database in 2004. The killer was serving a sentence in a Florida prison for aggravated robbery when the match was made. The Supreme Court recently upheld the death sentence.
6. "Suspected rapist pleads not guilty." San Mateo County Times. January 3, 2008.
In Redwood City, California, DNA evidence from a rape late last year was matched using the state's DNA database to a man who was on file from a previous conviction of sexual assault. The man is now on trial and is pleading not guilty to the multiple charges involved in the crime. He allegedly held a knife to the woman's throat, tied her up, duct-taped her face, and then raped her.
7. "Chicken bones traced to burglary suspect." The Times. January 6, 2008.
In Kansas City, Missouri, DNA evidence left on chicken bones at a burglary scene have now been matched with a man who was already serving time in a Kansas jail on an unrelated crime using the national DNA database. Investigators at the scene found chewed-up chicken scattered around the residence - leftovers authorities believe were stolen from a refrigerator at the earlier burglary. The suspect had stolen firearms from several different residences. He has 16 prior felony convictions for second-degree burglary, stealing, tampering, receiving stolen property, automobile theft and resisting arrest.
8. "DNA evidence links man to stabbing deaths of mother and toddler." San Jose Mercury News. January 5, 2008.
In San Jose, California, the state DNA database matched blood collected at the murder scene of a mother and her two-year-old son with a man suspected of being their killer. In 1991, the mother and son were stabbed to death in their apartment. Sixteen years later, their alleged attacker is now facing double homicide charges. He was not a suspect back in 1991, police said, or ever on anyone's investigative radar. The victim's boyfriend was a suspect for a while, but the DNA did not match him.
9. "Snared by false teeth." St Helens Reporter. January 4, 2008.
In the United Kingdom, DNA evidence from dentures left at the crime scene identified a burglar who broke into a woman's home wielding a metal bar. Four false teeth were found on the stairs of one of the burglarized residences, and matched to the suspect. The man pled guilty to burglarizing not only that home, but also another home on the same evening.
10. "Man in Japan accused of at least 50 rapes." Agence France Presse. January 7, 2008.
In Tokyo, Japan, DNA evidence led to the arrest of a man who is suspected of at least 50 sexual assaults and 300 thefts. The man was first arrested for allegedly breaking into a home and stealing cash. DNA evidence then connected him to a 2001 rape and made him a suspect in many other crimes.
11. "DNA helps jail rapist." Gold Coast Bulletin. January 8, 2008.

In Australia, a DNA match made on the national database linked a man who was in custody on another matter to a 10-year-old rape case. The victim was raped at knife point in 1997. The man claimed he had no memory of the night but pleaded guilty because of the DNA evidence against him

12. "Man pleads guilty to brutal rape in Dogtown." St. Louis Post-Dispatch. January 8, 2008.
In Missouri, a cold hit leads to a guilty plea in the rape and baseball bat beating of a woman in her home in 2002. The man was arrested in 2005 when DNA collected at the crime scene matched a sample he had submitted to the statewide database for second-degree burglary and attempted burglary convictions. A drifter found near the crime scene confessed to the attack but was released after his DNA did not match semen found at the scene. He also has been convicted of tampering with a motor vehicle and fraudulent use of a credit device.
13. "Busted in '94 rape." Daily News. January 7, 2008.
In New York, a cold hit on the statewide database led to an arrest for a 1994 rape and burglary. Before the suspect was released on parole after serving time for a drug sale, he was required to submit a DNA sample to the database. His sample matched the 1994 rape of a woman who had solicited his help to carry an artificial Christmas tree into her apartment. A "John Doe" warrant had been filed in 2003 in order to toll the statute of limitations in this case until a match was made on the database.
14. "Man charged in piggy bank burglary." Charleston Gazette. January 5, 2008.
In Sheboygan, Wisconsin, DNA evidence identified a man who snuck into a toddler's bedroom and stole \$20 from the two-year-old's piggy bank. DNA from blood found on a window blind where the burglar had forced his way into the home matched the suspect who is now going to trial for the felony burglary.
15. "Monster rapist gets 69 years for '01 attack." New York Daily News. January 9, 2008.
In Brooklyn, New York, DNA evidence collected from the victim's breast led to the sentencing of a man for raping a woman at knifepoint in front of her son. A DNA match made through the DNA database identified the attacker from the 2001 attack. The man wore a ski mask and a condom, and was otherwise unidentifiable by either the victim or her son.
16. "DNA Database 'key tool' in fight against crime." PA News. January 9, 2008.
In the United Kingdom, the Government is seeking the public's view on whether keeping DNA profiles of victims and suspects who are not charged or are later cleared is justified in the fight against crime. The results will be added to a report to the Government on the forensic use of DNA. Last year the Home Office described the National DNA Database as a "key intelligence tool" which on average, provided the police with around 3,000 matches each month for a range of offences. Police in England and Wales can take a DNA sample from anyone arrested or detained on suspicion of offences from serious crimes to begging or poaching.
17. "DNA evidence leads to closing of a cold case in Missouri City." Houston Chronicle. January 3, 2008.
In Texas, a cold hit solved a 1994 attempted murder of a Missouri City veterinary clinic receptionist. DNA collected from the crime scene thirteen years ago was matched with a former Arizona prison guard's DNA sample that was collected in 2002 when he served time for armed robbery charges. The man pled guilty and was sentenced to 47 years for attempted murder. It wasn't until 2003 that Utah prison authorities routinely took a DNA sample from the man, after he was sent there to serve his Arizona sentence. Local police said Utah's backlog in uploading samples to the federal DNA database meant Missouri City detectives did not receive word of a match until September 2005.

18. "DNA sample links West side man to rape." Albuquerque Journal. January 10, 2008.
In New Mexico, a cold hit led to the charging of a man for four counts of criminal sexual penetration. DNA collected from a condom at the crime scene of a rape in August 2007 was run through the DNA database, identifying the attacker. The man was already in custody on unrelated charges when the DNA match was made; he has an extensive history of criminal charges including kidnapping, several aggravated batteries, intimidation of a witness, child abuse, abandonment of a child, and assault to commit a violent felony.
19. "Ex-inmate in US freed by DNA tests after 23 years to get millions." AP Alert. January 10, 2008.
In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, an inmate on death row for murder and rape charges was exonerated by DNA tests after spending 23 years in prison. The DNA test showed that the DNA found under the victim's fingernails, on her undergarments, and in a pair of gloves, belonged to someone else. The now freed man has been awarded a multi-million dollar settlement.
20. "Inquiry announced into police DNA database." Birmingham Post. January 10, 2008.
In the United Kingdom, a Black Country Minister has announced an inquiry into the national police DNA database. The inquiry focuses on the way DNA records are archived to fight crime. The inquiry's conclusions, to be published this spring, will feed into the commission's report to the Government on forensic use of DNA. The system is accused of disproportionately targeting ethnic minorities and retaining details of too many innocent people.
21. "How DNA evidence helped convict a killer." Hamilton Spectator. January 10, 2008.
In Canada, a 2004 stabbing death has been solved by a match in the National DNA Data Bank. DNA collected at the crime scene including skin cells from under the victim's fingernails, tissue on the exterior of a condom and a strand of long, black hair, matched an already convicted offender who is a well-known sex trade worker. The killer was tried and convicted of second-degree murder. Investigations aided by Canada's DNA database include Murder 528, Sexual assault 1,143, Attempted murder 210, Armed robbery 946, Break and enters 4,798, Assault 564, Other 153.
22. "NSW: 300 cold case crimes solved." Australian Associated Press. January 11, 2008.
In Australia, DNA testing has helped police solve 300 cold cases in NSW. Testing of 2,400 prison inmates in the last financial year has led to 300 convictions by matching their DNA with material collected at crime scenes.
23. "O'Malley proposes expansion of DNA sampling to fight crime." AP Alert. January 10, 2008.
In Maryland, Governor Martin O'Malley is proposing expanding the state's DNA Database by requiring samples to be taken from people arrested for violent crimes and burglary, instead of only requiring samples from convicted felons. "It will be a huge help to increasing the reservoir of information that law enforcement will have to solve these cases and to make Maryland one of the safest states in the union," O'Malley said. The expansion would cost about \$1.7 million for extra personnel and equipment, O'Malley said. O'Malley also announced that the state has eliminated a backlog of untested and uncollected DNA samples from convicted felons. The backlog had grown to more than 24,000 by the end of last year.
24. "Man charged in 1998 rape." Capital Times. January 10, 2008.
DNA identified an inmate at an Illinois correctional center as the attacker in a 1998 rape in Madison, Wisconsin. After ten years, the man was charged with second-degree sexual assault, kidnapping, and felony theft. DNA was collected from the crime scene and matched with the inmate in November 2006. He was serving a five year term for aggravated battery and was scheduled to be released in January 2008.

25. "Man admits 2005 rape in KC." Kansas City Star. January 10, 2008.
In Missouri the state DNA database matched a DNA sample from a 2005 rape at knifepoint in Kansas City with a former Missouri inmate whose DNA sample was submitted to the database for a tampering conviction. The crime scene DNA was found on a condom left near the location of the attack.
26. "Gardai to share DNA evidence." Sunday Times. January 6, 2008.
In the Ireland, draft legislation allowing DNA samples taken from Irish people to be shared with other European police forces is being discussed. The proposal is contained in draft legislation which will come before the Dail in the coming months. The legislation proposes that DNA samples be taken from suspects arrested or convicted for a serious crime. It will also allow gardai to contact people listed on the sex offenders' register and demand that they provide DNA samples. The idea is to bring Ireland into line with other EU states that have agreed to allow foreign police forces to access their DNA databases.
27. "Suspect arrested in rapes near UA." Akron Beach Journal. January 12, 2008.
In Ohio, DNA evidence collected at two rape scenes were added to the Ohio DNA database and matched with a man who had previously submitted a sample from a juvenile offense. The man, a gas company employee, was charged with two counts each of rape, aggravated burglary, aggravated robbery, felonious assault, and kidnapping. The man is also a suspect in a third attack. He was questioned extensively during the course of the investigation, but police did not have enough evidence to make an arrest until the database match.
28. "Man arrested for slayings of 2 women in Hot Springs area." AP-Alert. January 12, 2008.
In Hot Springs, Arkansas, a match made on the DNA database led to criminal charges in the killing of two women in Hot Springs. The two women were murdered on separate occasions, but both were strangled. DNA taken from both crime scenes matched DNA taken from the man when he was arrested on an unrelated theft charge. He was being held for theft by receiving in connection with a stolen recreational vehicle when he was allegedly linked with the killings.
29. "Man falsely imprisoned on rape charge settles with state." AP-Alert. January 12, 2008.
In Billings, Montana, DNA exonerates a man of rape charges after he spent more than 15 years in prison. The man was convicted in 1987 of raping a child in Billings and a judge sentenced him to 40 years in prison. The man has now received a \$3.5 million settlement for the false imprisonment.
30. "Spitzer: More troopers in cities, more criminals in DNA database." AP Alert. January 11, 2008.
In Albany, New York, Governor Eliot Spitzer is pushing to register more convicts in the state's DNA database. Spitzer's legislation requires all convicted criminals to submit DNA samples to the state's database. He also wants to create a commission to review cases of potential wrongful convictions, where DNA evidence played a critical role. The Senate's Republican majority has pushed to include more criminals, while the Assembly's Democratic majority has sought to limit including low-level offenses. A backlog of DNA samples awaiting analysis has been reduced from nearly 50,000 a year ago. The backlog was created when more crimes were added to the law that determines who must submit samples. The backlog is about 20,000 and testing should be up to date by March.
31. "Panel: Convicted felons will not be notified of DNA hits." AP Alert. January 12, 2008.
In Virginia, a state review panel decided that felons convicted before DNA testing was widely in use will not be notified when biological evidence is found in old case files. The policy was approved last week by a 6-5 vote of the state Forensic Science Board. The vote sparked a strong response from dissenting members and advocates of post conviction DNA testing. The Virginia Department of Forensic Science has searched 530,079 paper files dating from 1973 to 1988. The department has

found 2,215 files that contain crime-scene biological material and include a suspect's name. Five men wrongly convicted of rape have been cleared with evidence from the old files.

32. "LA convict released after DNA proves him innocent of 1982 rape." AP Alert. January 16, 2008. In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, DNA evidence exonerates a man in a rape case after he served 26 years in prison. The victim had identified the man as her attacker; however, DNA evidence has now implicated another man.
33. "DNA on bedsheet links inmate to 1990 rape of elderly Casselberry woman." The Orlando Sentinel. January 17, 2008.
In Florida, DNA collected from the bed sheets of a 1990 rape crime scene matched an inmate who has been in prison since 1999 for stealing and resisting arrest. The man allegedly broke into the home of an 85-year-old woman and raped and beat her in her bed. He is now being held without bail and faces charges of assault and sexual assault with a weapon. The victim, who lived alone, required 20 stitches to her head after the attack. Some of her facial bones were broken, and she developed a blood clot to her brain that had to be surgically removed. The case was dormant until the victim's son requested a review in 2006. The review found both the DNA evidence and the match on the database.
34. "Pre-2004 sex crime ex-cons must give DNA." San Francisco Chronicle. January 17, 2008.
In California, a state appeals court ruled that people convicted of indecent exposure and other misdemeanor sex crimes must submit DNA samples to the state even if their crimes occurred before 2004. The ruling upheld Proposition 69, approved by voters in November 2004, which requires anyone registered with police as a sex offender, regardless of the date of the offence, to submit a DNA sample.
35. "DNA leads to arrest in connection with 2006 school vandalism." Alameda Times-Star. January 16, 2008.
In Vallejo, California, DNA identified a 16-year-old boy who allegedly burglarized and vandalized a Vallejo high school. DNA was collected from a bloodied glove left at the school during the vandalism and submitted to the state's DNA database. A recent arrest on unrelated charges identified the vandal. He now faces charges of burglary, felony vandalism, and cruelty to animals related with the vandalism. The boy and an unknown number of additional vandals destroyed several computers, televisions and other school property, police said. They also killed animals that were maintained by the school as mascots for special education students.
36. "Tearful prostitute tells jury of rape ordeal in park." Derby Evening Telegraph. January 16, 2008.
In the United Kingdom, a cold hit on the DNA database identified a rapist who attacked a prostitute in a park. The man's DNA sample was collected in a motoring matter and matched DNA samples found on the victim's body. The man now faces rape charges. He admits to consensual intercourse but claims he had an alibi for the time of the attack. However his alibi has already fallen apart.
37. "Police ID suspect in 1993 Mears Park rape." St Paul Pioneer Press. January 16, 2008.
In St. Paul, Minnesota, DNA identified a man who raped a 14-year-old runaway sleeping on a bench in St. Paul's Mears Park in 1993. The man's DNA sample was collected for a previous conviction and matched with a DNA sample collected from semen found on the victim. The suspect would have been 15 at the time of the attack.
38. "Congressional budget includes earmark to keep Washington's Sexual Assault DNA program moving forward." Biotech Week. January 23, 2008.

The Omnibus Appropriations bill signed by the President on December 26, 2007 included a \$961,000 earmark for the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) to continue the important DNA Stranger Rape Program. The program utilizes a private laboratory to analyze DNA evidence from rape cases in 30 days or less.

39. "Plea deal resolved brutal '02 murder." Forth Worth Star-Telegram. January 19, 2008.
In Vancouver, Washington, a DNA match through the state database led to a conviction for the raping a blind woman. DNA samples taken from the crime scene matched those of an inmate serving time in Nevada for possession of methamphetamine and a stolen car.
40. "Man charged in Seattle waterfront rape now accused of 2nd attack." AP-Alert. January 18, 2008.
In Seattle, Washington, DNA connects a man already facing charges for rape with a second rape. Once the man's DNA was collected for one rape, it was matched to DNA collected from the second rape. He is pleading not guilty.
41. "DNA led to 'nasty' burglar." Birmingham Mail. January 18, 2008.
In the United Kingdom, DNA collected from two burglary crime scenes identifies a persistent burglar. In one burglary, the man left behind a bottle that he had taken a drink from, leaving behind saliva. In a second burglary, he left behind a cigarette butt which also contained traces of his DNA.
42. "Cold case solved." High Point Enterprise. January 18, 2008.
In High Point, North Carolina, DNA evidence solves a 1997 rape. DNA evidence from a rape kit and the victim's undergarments were matched with a sample of a man in prison since 1998 for an unrelated armed robbery and aggravated assault. He pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree rape, two counts of second-degree kidnapping, and one count of second-degree burglary.
43. "Bogus mini cab driver jailed for 1989 rape." PA News. January 18, 2008.
In the United Kingdom, a DNA hit identified a man who posed as a cab driver and raped a woman in 1989. The man's DNA was submitted to the database when he was recently stopped for motoring charges, linking him to the nearly 20-year-old crime.
44. "Man convicted in 1991 slaying of woman in Stowe." AP Alert. January 17, 2008.
In White River Junction, Vermont, the statewide DNA database solves the 1991 murder of Patty Scoville who disappeared after going for a bicycle ride. DNA collected from the Patty's body was matched to a man who had been convicted of aggravated assault in 1996. The DNA test was matched in 2005, and the man has now been sentenced for the murder. Patty's parents lobbied to get Vermont's DNA database expanded, which eventually led to the DNA match in their daughter's case.
45. "Forensic DNA databank soon." New Straits Times. January 21, 2008.
In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the Police and Chemistry Departments are working closely to set up the National Forensic DNA Databank of Malaysia. The project is waiting funding and the passage of a new law that will allow the collection of samples. The Identification of DNA bill is currently being drafted. The proposal would allow for collection from suspects and for convictions, and would also have a missing persons index.
46. "Murder victim's mother applauds South Dakota State Legislator for introduction of Katie's Law." PR Newswire Europe. January 21, 2008.
In South Dakota, Senator Jay Duenwald and Representative Rover Hunt introduced Katie's Law, a bill that expands the state's DNA database by requiring samples to be taken from arrestees.

47. "Suspect in slaying arrested." San Antonio Express. January 20, 2008.
In San Antonio, Texas, DNA evidence identified the killer in a shooting death in August. The man carjacked a woman's vehicle and then attempted to rob a man who he then shot. Police were able to collect a DNA sample of the killer from the car that was found shortly after. That sample was then matched with a man who had submitted a DNA sample to police after serving time for previous charges. The man has now been charged with capital murder.
48. "Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2008 Introduced." US Federal News. January 17, 2007.
Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY), House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers (D-MI), and House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Lamar Smith (R-TX) today introduced "The Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2008" (H.R. 5057), legislation that would extend an important federal DNA backlog processing program through FY 2014.
49. "DNA evidence frees Colorado man who has been jailed since 1999 on life term for murder." AP DataStream. January 23, 2008.
In Fort Collins, Colorado, DNA evidence exonerates a man convicted of murder who has been serving time on a life sentence for nearly a decade. The man had been sentenced in the 1999 killing of a 37-year-old woman whose body was found near his home, but new tests showed that someone else's DNA was found on her clothing.
50. "Murder victim's mother applauds Maryland Governor and State Legislators for Introduction of Katie's Law." PR Newswire Europe. January 24, 2008.
In Annapolis, Maryland, Governor O'Malley, Delegate Kramer, and sixteen other cosponsors are supporting the implementation of Katie's Law – a bill that expands the state's DNA database to include arrestees.
51. "Sterling prison inmate charged with 1992 rape in Denver." AP-Alert. January 23, 2008.
In Denver, Colorado, a DNA match on the statewide DNA database identified the attacker in a 1992 rape. The attacker followed the victim home from a shopping center and then sexually assaulted her in her apartment. DNA from the crime scene matched that of a man who was serving time for a 1993 kidnapping and rape case. Police reviewed the case as part of the Denver Cold Case Project.
52. "U.S. cold case squads fight for life, funding." USA Today.
Cold case squads around the country are being cut back or eliminated as police departments face tightening budgets and shifting law enforcement priorities. Federal funding for cold case squads dropped by 40% in 2007, falling to \$8.5 million from \$14.2 million in 2005, according to the National Institute of Justice. Andy Rosenzweig, a former lieutenant in the New York Police Department, said about 60% of all murders go unsolved. Without full-time cold case squads, that leaves thousands of murders unsolved each year nationwide.
53. "Police arrest new suspect in 1984 killing after DNA match." AP Alert. January 25, 2008.
In Terre Haute, Indiana DNA evidence exonerates one man and implicates another man in the 1984 murder of a woman. DNA analysis of blood found on a nylon stocking at the murder scene was matched to a man in Kentucky, while another man was released after serving nearly 25 years in prison for the murder.
54. "Guilty plea in rapes." The Star-Ledger. January 25, 2008.
In New Jersey, the national DNA database linked a serial rapist to two additional attacks in 1993. The man pled guilty to the rape charges and is now serving 20 years in prison. DNA evidence has also linked the man to nine of 21 unsolved assaults in Maryland where he was known as the "Silver Spring Rapist."

55. "Ohio DNA testing program for inmates deeply flawed; police routinely discard evidence." AP DataStream. January 28, 2008.
Ohio's DNA testing program for inmates is under criticism for police discarding evidence after trials and court-ordered tests never got done. Judges also ignore requests for DNA testing and nearly a third of the denials examined by The Columbus Dispatch failed to cite a specific reason, as required by state law. Gov. Ted Strickland is calling for an overhaul that would speed up the review process, open up testing to more inmates and establish statewide standards for preserving evidence.
56. "Man sentenced in '97 killing." Las Vegas Review-Journal. January 23, 2008.
In Nevada, a DNA match led to the sentencing of a man for a 1997 rape and killing. In 2002, the man was convicted of robbing two women and sentenced to 12-36 months. Authorities took a DNA sample when he was released from prison in 2004 and entered it into a DNA database. His DNA matched semen samples taken from the 1997 rape and killing.
57. "Ex-convict gets 23 to life for NY murder and burglary." AP-Alert. January 28, 2008.
In New York, a DNA match led to a guilty plea and 23-year sentence in the 2005 stabbing murder of a woman. The killer was already in jail without bail on a burglary charge when his DNA sample in the statewide database was linked with the murder.
58. "Man charged with reckless homicide from 1990 Milwaukee death." AP Alert. January 28, 2008.
In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a DNA match on the statewide database led the charging of a 1990 sexual assault and murder. In 2006 a semen sample found on the victim was run through the DNA database. The sample matched a man who was serving time for sexual assault.
59. "Maryland House committee takes up 'more flexible' DNA sampling measure." Daily Record. January 25, 2008.
In Maryland, Delegate Benjamin E. Kramer sought to distinguish his DNA-sampling-upon-arrest legislation from the governor's expected similar bill, calling his proposal "more flexible" for the state's tight budget constraints. This bill simply authorizes the superintendent of state police to expand the DNA database to sample from felony arrests, as opposed to requiring samples of all arrested felonies be collected.
60. "DNA links Bristol man to 1996 Manchester rape." AP-Alert. January 31, 2008.
In Berlin, Germany, police identified a robbery suspect after matching his DNA sample from the database to DNA found on a piece of salami spat out at a crime scene. He has now been charged with a total of 19 break-ins after other links were found.