

AUGUST 2009 DNA RESOURCE REPORT

NEWS ARTICLES

1. "DNA can prevent crime." Miami Herald, June 29, 2009.
In Florida, the governor signed Senate Bill 2276 into law. The bill expands over a 10-year period, the state's DNA database to include the collection of DNA for offenders arrested for, or charged with, a felony. Two forward-thinking state legislators championed the bill, each of who served many years as law enforcement officers. Florida joins 20 others progressive states that will prevent crimes from occurring as a result of adopting laws that require a DNA sample at the time of a felony arrest. Across the country, similar legislation is known as "Katie's law."
2. "Ohio senate passes bill expanding DNA testing." Associated Press, June 24, 2009.
In Ohio, the Ohio Senate has approved a bill that would expand DNA testing for convicted felons seeking to prove their innocence. The bill is partially a response to a Columbus Dispatch investigation that found police and courts routinely discard evidence after trials prosecutors and judges often dismiss inmate applications for DNA testing without a stated reason. The bill would also require anyone arrested for a felony offense starting in July 2011 to submit to DNA testing.
3. "Pennsylvania prisoners seeking exoneration via DNA may get help." Pittsburgh Tribune Review, June 29, 2009.
Pennsylvania's Senate-commissioned Committee on Wrongful Convictions is due to release a report by summer's end that could recommend changes in state law, possibly making it easier for convicts to get DNA testing. Some prosecutors oppose such a change, fearing it would flood the system with frivolous requests.
4. "Rapist jailed for 1985 attack." Lancashire Evening Post, June 27, 2009.
In England, a 42-year-old man was sentenced to more than 24 years after he pounced on a 31-year-old woman who he forced into an alleyway, subjecting her to a "vicious" attack, Thames Valley police said. The "dangerous predator", who had already served nine years for raping three women in 1993, was able to evade justice after his fourth offence because police did not have the capacity to make a DNA match. But a crime review team set up 18 months ago was able to secure his conviction after it took another look at the case."
5. "Beer can DNA links Pa. man." Associated Press, June 24, 2009.
In Pennsylvania, State police say they used DNA found on a discarded beer can to link a man to an arson that caused \$200,000 damage to an unoccupied house in southwestern Pennsylvania. A 58-year-old man is jailed on charges filed by a state police fire marshal. The East Huntingdon fire chief called in the fire marshal after the March 21 blaze because witnesses saw an apparently intoxicated man stumbling near the house and then away from it shortly before the fire. Authorities found a beer can the man dropped and later learned the suspect had been to the house a couple days earlier, asking about who owned it. Police say crime lab tests linked their suspect to DNA on the beer can.
6. "DNA traps rapist 18 years on." Hull Daily Mail, June 24, 2009.
In England, a rapist has been caught after 18 years following advances in DNA technology. The 45-year-old man raped a woman in 1991, but got away with his crime for 18 years. Then, in 2006, he was arrested for assault, although no charges were brought, and police took a sample of his DNA. When the rape case was reopened last year, detectives discovered the suspect's DNA was a match to evidence at the rape scene. A jury at Hull Crown Court took an hour to find him guilty of rape and he is now behind bars awaiting sentence. The perpetrator raped his 22-year-old victim after meeting her at the nightclub in Hull, when he offered her a lift home.
7. "Sex attacker gets six years." Western Daily Press, July 4, 2009.
In England, a rapist has been jailed after DNA linked him to several crimes. The 30-year-old went on a rampage last winter, and has now pleaded guilty to four charges of sexual assault. The investigators explained how the police linked Jackson, who had no previous convictions, to the assaults. He said:

"The defendant had left his DNA on the underwear of the second victim and then transferred her DNA on to the underwear of the fourth."

8. "DNA TEST POINTS TO INMATE IN TEEN'S RAPE." *Merced Sun-Star*, July 2, 2009.
9. "DNA evidence leads to charge after rape." *Birmingham News*, June 30, 2009.
In Alabama, DNA evidence taken in a 2008 attack led authorities to a 19-year-old Birmingham man who was on probation from a theft of property conviction. Court records show he pleaded guilty in 2008 to theft of property, for which he received a three-year suspended sentence and two years probation..
10. "Robber's DNA links him to rape of woman." *Daytona News-Journal*, June 30, 2009.
In Florida, a 2007 rape of a deaf-mute woman has been solved after the DNA of an 18-year-old man - whose DNA was obtained earlier this year after an armed robbery - matched the evidence. Investigators were notified that DNA taken from the suspect earlier this year after police said he robbed a man outside of a bar in January was identical to the evidence on the rape.
11. "DNA test results solve 1989 cold case." *St. Paul Pioneer*, July 10, 2009.
In Minnesota, a man picked up a homeless man 20 years ago, took him to his St. Paul house, bought him pizza and beer, and offered him help. That night, the homeless man stabbed him to death. "He was the best person that I ever met. He treated me like he knew me all my life. Then I go and do all that," the perpetrator said before he was sentenced to 27 years and one month in prison for the 1989 slaying.. DNA evidence linked the suspect to the victim's killing. It was the first DNA match in a cold case for St. Paul police. The perpetrator pleaded guilty in April, after acknowledging the prosecution likely had enough evidence to convict him. The man was on the database for a 1989 Ohio murder.
12. "DNA said to implicate mobster." *UPI Quirks in the News*, July 10, 2009.
In New York, FBI investigators said DNA evidence recovered from a hat led to the arrest of an alleged mobster for a 1977 slaying. Investigators said the DNA of their 63-year-old suspect, an alleged member of the Genovese crime family, matched hair strands found in the hat, which was found near a gunned-down mobster in New York. The FBI first demanded a DNA sample from the suspect in 1996, but the alleged mobster chose to live on the run for 11 years instead of submit to a test. He was eventually caught window browsing in San Francisco.
13. "DNA match leads to arrest in rape." *Seattle Times*, July 9, 2009.
In Washington, a DNA match has led to the arrest of a man in the rape of a 13-year-old. Snohomish County deputies arrested the 40-year-old Tuesday at his apartment in the 16800 block of Sixth Avenue West -- the same place he lived at the time of the rape. His residence is close to the apartment where the victim was assaulted, according to the sheriff's office. On Dec. 22, 2002, the victim was having a slumber party when a man entered her apartment and assaulted her in her bedroom. The two 13-year-old guests slept through the attack and were unharmed. The suspect threatened the victim, telling her he would shoot everyone in the apartment if she didn't comply with his demands. The man was booked into the Snohomish County Jail Tuesday for investigation of first-degree rape and first-degree burglary.
14. "DNA identifies suspect in 1990 rape." *Sun Herald*, July 9, 2009.
In Missouri, Pascagoula police used DNA analysis to identify a suspect, now in custody, in a May 30, 1990 rape. Investigators said the victim was assaulted at her apartment, but police officers were unable to identify a suspect and the case grew cold. The investigation was re-launched in December 2008, and DNA evidence collected in a rape kit was checked again at the state Crime Lab for a possible match.. The suspect is now charged with one count each of rape and burglary, and is being held on a \$2 million bond.
15. "Rapist snared by CSI." *Daily Record*, July 20, 2009.
In Scotland, a rapist was caught after his victim scratched his face to try to garner a DNA sample. The 89-year-old woman told police that she had been watching CSI and she scratched his face so that they

would have a DNA sample from under her fingernails. The perpetrator's DNA was on the national database after a drinking and driving offense in 2005 and a match was found from samples taken from the widow's fingernails. The rapist tricked his way into the old woman's house by pretending to be a police officer, but he will now be deported back to Angola on false passport and rape charges.

16. "Homicide charges dismissed." Canadian Press, July 27, 2009.
In Wisconsin, a decades-old homicide charge was dismissed against a man who spent nearly two-dozen years in prison. The 44-year-old man was convicted in the 1984 slaying of a 63-year-old Milwaukee woman, whose naked body was found in an alley near her home. The man maintained his innocence despite prosecutors that claimed his teeth matched bite marks on the victim. DNA tests on saliva, however, proved no match to the accused man. This is the 12th person whose sentence has been overturned after the Wisconsin Innocence Project intervened.
17. "Utah forensic lab braces for budget cut." Associated Press, July 26, 2009.
In Utah, the Bureau of Forensic Services is bracing for the results of a 15 percent budget cut that took effect July 1st. The team of 15 to 20 scientists at the lab analyzes about 15,000 items a year in thousands of cases; the lab director says that about one third of the lab's cases exonerate people. The lab has already had to cut locations, and lab proponents are worried that this will delay turn-around time on criminal cases. The lab director said that he is hoping to get federal funds that would help fill some of the lab's budget holes.
18. "Banking up evidence Tennessee using DNA." Sunday Gazette-Mail, July 26, 2009.
In Tennessee, a home invader raped a girl and set fire to the house to cover the crime, killing a young boy who was also sleeping in the house. For nearly a decade the crime went unsolved, but a state law adopted in 1998 requiring convicted felons to give DNA samples after conviction recently provided a match. The match took longer because of the conviction requirement, and although the perpetrator was arrested for rape in 2004, it wasn't until 2007 that he was convicted and DNA tested against the CODIS database. The DNA check yielded that match to samples from the home invasion, and burning death of the two children.
19. "Push for DNA test for all arrest." Philadelphia Daily News, July 23, 2009.
In Pennsylvania, the Sepich family teamed up with John Walsh, from "America's Most Wanted", to advocate for arrestee DNA testing in a bill before the House Judiciary committee. The Sepich's daughter was raped and murdered in New Mexico in 2003, and the family advocate for DNA testing laws around the country, usually called Katie's Law, after their late daughter. DNA samples are already taken for people convicted of felonies, but doing so upon arrest would save time and possibly thousands of dollars in each criminal investigation.
20. "Trapped by 1 drop of sweat." The Sun, July 22, 2009.
In England, a heroine addict and conman preyed on elderly woman by posing as a water board official to trick his way into dozens of homes stealing money for drugs. The 42-year-old man was caught after one of his elderly victims told cops that he was sweating heavily during the robbery and a drop of his sweat hit the wheelchair. DNA was recovered from the sweat droplet and matched against his profile from a long list of other offenses. He was jailed for eight years after admitting to the burglary.
21. "DNA test policy an 'abuse of power'." Canberra Times, May 25, 2009
In Australia, federal police have renewed a "back capture" program to collect DNA samples from convicted offenders, as allowed under the Crimes (Forensic Procedures) Act. The law applied retroactively and police have been going through lists of the most serious offenders in an effort to get their samples into the database. The Civil Liberties Australia chief executive officer calls the collection "bullying."
22. "DA, sheriff see good in growing DNA database." Woodward News, May 25, 2009.
In Oklahoma, Gov. Brad Henry has signed into law a measure aimed at helping law enforcement solve cold cases of violent crimes. Senate Bill 1102 will expand the list of crimes to include misdemeanors for which convicted criminals must submit DNA samples to a database kept by the Oklahoma State

Bureau of Investigation. The District Attorney said that he thought the measure would help solve crimes and identify criminals.

23. "Bill requires DNA tests in felony arrests." Associated Press, May 21, 2009.
In Colorado, the Governor is expected to sign a bill requiring DNA samples from all felony suspects at the time of their arrest, a change from a requirement that only those convicted of felonies submit DNA samples. Nationwide, thousands of cases have been solved with DNA from convicted felons that is entered into a database then compared with DNA collected at a crime scene.
24. "Con charged with sex assault on student." Connecticut Post (Bridgeport), May 23, 2009
In Connecticut, a man on the DNA database due to a prior conviction for assault and larceny has been connected to the sex assault of a teenage boy. The man had been hanging around near the city high school, telling boys he was recruiting players for a youth baseball team, when this youth was lured into his vehicle. A DNA sample was collected during an exam at the hospital and linked to the felon.
25. "Bloodstain ties robbery suspect." Daily Yomiuri, May 23, 2009.
In Japan, a bloodstain on the sports shoes of a robbery suspect was found to have come from a taxi driver who was stabbed in the neck by a passenger in January. DNA detected on a cigarette butt found near the scene of the murder-robbery of another taxi driver was linked to the attacks. They DNA match has allowed police to connect both attacks to a single profile, and therefore, a single perpetrator.
26. "DNA evidence links suspect to homicide." Buffalo News, May 21, 2009.
In New York, nearly 34 years to the day after the young woman was fatally shot in her family's home, police said a recent analysis of DNA evidence at the murder scene led to the arrest of a suspect. A cold case squad reviewed the investigation and reopened the 1975 case after a call from family members prompted them to notice physical evidence that had been untested. Investigators requested voluntary DNA samples from original suspects in the case, and one of the profiles positively matched physical evidence from the crime scene. The case can now be closed.
27. "Killer linked to slaying." New Orleans Times, May 21, 2009.
In Louisiana, a suspect was convicted in the murder of an Orleans Parish deputy during a botched bank robbery in 2004. During the investigation, federal investigators learned the man may have also been the shooter in a 1974 murder. New Orleans police "miraculously" still had a ski mask from the 1974 crime, and a hair found on the mask was matched to the suspect. A jury is considering a possible death sentence. The man has convictions in Jefferson and Orleans parishes dating to 1974 for simple burglary, being a felon with a firearm and armed robbery.
28. "Tories target sexual offenders." Winnipeg Free Press, June 2, 2009
In Canada, the government is introducing legislation to require more sex criminals to be added to Canada's sexual offender registry and provide a DNA sample to the nation's database. The Treasury Board President said the changes would close loopholes so police will have wider access to the registry to investigate sex crimes plus keep better track of known offenders when they travel outside the country.
29. "Police to collect DNA of criminals." Korea Times, May 27, 2009
In South Korea, police could collect the DNA samples of convicted felons starting as early as next year. The Ministry of Justice said that it would push through a bill on the collection and management of genetic information of convicted criminals and suspects in 11 crime categories. The bill would be sent to the National Assembly for approval. Among the crime categories subject to the monitoring of DNA are murder, robbery, rape, rape, arson, drug use and sexual crimes against minors. Human rights groups, however, have spoken out against the policy, criticizing it for its potential to violate basic human rights.
30. "DNA robots speed up crime fighting." Australian Associated Press, June 2, 2009
In Australia, robots are taking over for humans to fast track DNA profiling as police review cold cases. Six robots, which can each do the work of three people, are expected to cut the waiting time for court

cases and reduce the current backlog of testing. The police say that they will reduce the risk of human error or contamination, and they will be able to process 62,000 samples a year instead of the current 28,000. The robots have not yet been used to solve a crime, but they will go into action on live cases at the end of the month.

31. "DNA solves crime after 12 years." Sunday Star Times, May 31, 2009
In New Zealand, a perpetrator has been jailed for an attempted robbery 12 years ago because of DNA taken in a recent and unrelated case. It is one of the oldest cases in New Zealand to be solved using DNA evidence, and police say that as the criminal database expands, they predict potentially thousands of cases are waiting to be solved by DNA technology. The government is currently working to push through legislation to expand collection and use of DNA samples. The man attacked the owner and her husband with a hammer while trying to rob their store, but they managed to fight him off. They took his hammer, which was later used to match his DNA profile to the crime.
32. "No DNA tests of rapists ." The Nation (Pakistan), May 29, 2009.
In Pakistan, a Full Bench of the Supreme Court directed the Punjab Government to review the policy of conducting DNA tests of persons accused of rape as it was facilitating them to escape the noose of law. Justices appear to have some concern that DNA results exonerating persons accused of rape are being fabricated for payment from the accused.
33. " DNA test sends rapist to prison." Times Union, May 29, 2009
In New York, DNA evidence led investigators to the perpetrator in a knifepoint rape. The woman was dragged into a city park in October of 2006 and sexually assaulted, but samples allowed police to find a match in the database as the result of unrelated prior convictions. The rapist had two prior drug convictions, and was caught having sex with a 13-year-old girl when he was 19. The victim did not know her attacker so police had no leads without the DNA.
34. "DNA samples, driver's license among anti-crime." Edmond Sun, June 6, 2009.
In Oklahoma, anti-crime legislation was approved that would require more than 30,000 violent criminals to provide a DNA sample for a state database. Another bill in the senate expands existing law requiring individuals convicted of certain misdemeanors to provide DNA samples. Advocates are calling the bill Julia's Law in memory of a slain University ballet student whose murder was linked with a man previously incarcerated on unrelated charges. DNA was already required from convicted felons, and the new samples will only be taken on conviction.
35. "Veteran LA police detective charged with murder." AP Alert- Nevada, June 9, 2009.
In California, the review of a 1986 murder case has resulted in charges against a member of the Los Angeles Police Department. The police officer was reconsidered as a suspect after DNA evidence indicated the murderer was a woman. She is accused of killing her ex-boyfriend's wife. She was not a suspect at the time of the murder because detectives believed that two robbers who had attacked another woman in the victim's neighborhood were to blame for the death.
36. "Law & Order." Arizona Daily Star, June 6, 2009
In Arizona, two University or Arizona area sexual assaults were connected and solved by DNA evidence. The first incident occurred in 2005, a man broke into a woman's home and raped her. Police did not solve the crime, but they did collect DNA evidence for the database. Another assault occurred in 2007, and DNA from that scene matched evidence from the first crime. Finally, the perpetrator was convicted of narcotic drug and marijuana violations and sentenced to a term with the Arizona Department of Corrections. Automatic inmate sampling linked him to the sexual assaults.
37. "DNA on cigs nails robber." Mirror, June 6, 2009.
In England, detectives tracked a convenience store burglar because he was spotted smoking outside the store before his crime. He made the mistake of dropping the cigarette butt, and investigators were able to find him within days due to his 30 previous convictions. Once discovered, he admitted two robberies and a burglary. He will be jailed for four years at Plymouth Crown Court.

38. "Inmate Sentenced for Madison Rape." Wisconsin State Journal, June 13, 2009.
In Wisconsin, a prison inmate was sentenced to 16 years in prison for a 1997 rape. The perpetrator has been in prison since April 2005 on child rape convictions, and a routine search on the national database linked him to the 1997 rape of a woman who was attacked while walking downtown. The prison inmate, who has a history of mental illness, was convicted of first-degree sexual assault and will not begin his sentence until after the sentence he is currently serving.
39. "DNA links man to two rapes." Baltimore Sun, June 12, 2009.
In Maryland, a case has been solved as the result of newly expanded Maryland law that took effect allowing law enforcement to collect samples from individuals arrested for attempting to commit violent offenses. Previously, authorities could only collect DNA post-conviction, and the Governor said that this case serves to illustrate the positive ramifications of arrestee DNA testing. A 32-year-old man was arrested for sexually assaulting two young girls, but now faces additional charges after investigators linked the suspect to several previous attacks on teenagers.
40. "DNA traps serial rapist." Evening Standard, June 17, 2009.
In England, DNA evidence identified a man who committed a string of rapes 15 years ago. In each case, the man confronted and threatened women with violence while he forced them to perform sex acts. The police investigation was carried out at the time, but did not yield any results. The perpetrator was not identified until November 2007 when he provided a DNA sample while being arrested for unrelated criminal damage charges. Further forensic work showed DNA matches to each of the three crime scenes.
41. "DNA evidence leads to charge." Tulsa World, June 19, 2009.
In Oklahoma, a man has been charged with a 2005 sexual assault after a match on the state database. The victim reported that she had been at a party, where she was "taken advantage of." The post-crime rape examination yielded DNA results that were entered into the database. The man sentenced in April of 2009 for felony offenses of unauthorized use of a vehicle, possession of a controlled drug and possessing a firearm as a felon, and a match was subsequently made on the database.
42. "Thug traced by DNA two years after." Nottingham Evening Post, June 16, 2009.
In England, police had no record of the 23-year-old who savagely attacked several men in an alleyway. One of the men was so severely beaten that he suffered permanent brain damage. The sickening assault was never linked to anyone, because the attack appeared random. Almost two years later, police arrested a man on a minor offense and were shocked to discover that his DNA matched forensic evidence collected from the first attack. Police are still searching for the other men involved.