



## DNA: Improving Public Safety

Between 2007 and 2014, over 24,000 unanalyzed backlogged DNA samples taken from convicted offenders were eliminated. The coordinated efforts of the Maryland State Police and the Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services to eliminate the backlog helped remove over 100 felons from Maryland streets. Additionally, in 2008, Maryland became the 13th state in the nation to expand its Statewide DNA Database and require DNA collection upon charge for certain violent offenses and burglaries with the goal of earlier identification of crucial DNA hits, leading to more crimes solved and more crimes prevented. GOCCP tracks each of these DNA hits to determine that arrests are being made and cases are being closed.

### Statewide DNA Database Milestones

- 1994** – Maryland enacted legislation establishing its Statewide DNA Database and requiring all convicted sex offenders to supply a DNA sample.
- 1998** – The first CODIS hit in Maryland linked two unsolved Prince George’s County cases.
- 1999** - The Maryland General Assembly expanded the DNA database to include DNA samples from individuals convicted of murder, robbery, robbery with a deadly weapon, 1st degree assault, and certain attempted crimes.
- 2000** – The first NDIS hit from Maryland was made between an unsolved 1998 Anne Arundel County sexual assault case and an Illinois offender.
- 2002** – The Maryland Legislature expanded the DNA database to include all convicted felons and misdemeanor crimes of 4th degree burglary, or breaking and entering a vehicle.
- 2006** – The 500th DNA hit in Maryland was reported.
- January 2008** – The Maryland State Police, Forensics Sciences Division, eliminated the more than 24,000 sample backlog.
- July 2008** – The 1,000th DNA hit was reported.
- January 2009** – Maryland’s DNA database was expanded to include individuals arrested and charged with Crimes of Violence, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree burglary, and any attempts of those crimes.
- May 2010** – Baltimore City’s 100<sup>th</sup> DNA database arrest
- June 2010** – Maryland’s 250<sup>th</sup> DNA database arrest
- January 2011** – The 2,000<sup>th</sup> DNA hit was reported
- January 2011** – The 100<sup>th</sup> charged/arrestee DNA hit was reported
- June 2011** – Maryland’s 50<sup>th</sup> DNA charged/arrestee offender arrest
- September 2011** – Maryland’s 400<sup>th</sup> DNA database arrest
- October 2011** – Maryland’s 200<sup>th</sup> DNA database conviction
- September 2012** – Maryland’s 500<sup>th</sup> DNA database arrest
- May 2013** – Maryland’s 300<sup>th</sup> DNA database conviction
- December 2013** – Maryland’s 600<sup>th</sup> DNA database arrest
- March 2014** - Maryland’s 100<sup>th</sup> DNA charged/arrestee offender arrest

### The Innocence Project: Using DNA to Exonerate the Innocent

The Maryland chapter of the Innocence Project was initiated in 2002 by the Office of the Public Defender. The program investigates claims of innocence from convicted offenders to determine if further forensic DNA testing can prove their innocence.

With assistance from GOCCP funding, this program has expanded in 2013 to include collaboration the Baltimore Police Department and the Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office, and the University of Baltimore law clinic. The program helps expedite the processing of requests for post conviction DNA testing by defendants who may have been wrongfully convicted of violent crimes and DNA evidence could exonerate them.

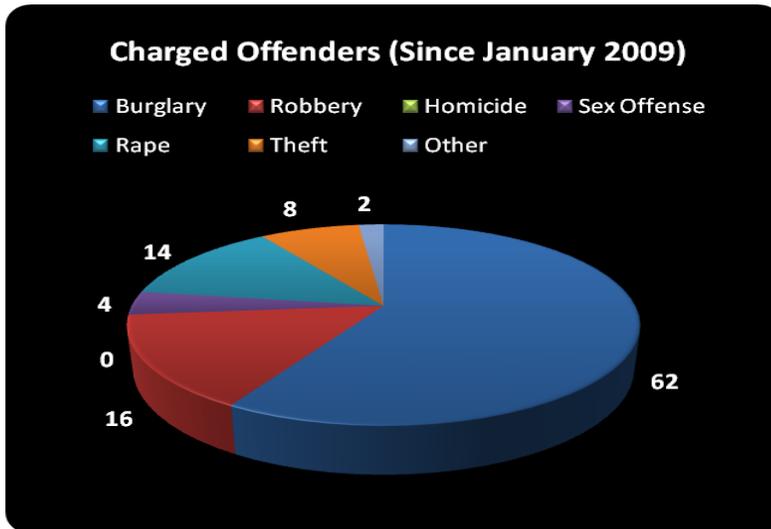
Since 2002 13 new trials have been obtained to re-examine the DNA evidence. Twelve of these cases involved a conviction for murder or rape.



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### Maryland's Charged/Arrestee Offender DNA Database

Since January 2009, there have been 103 arrests throughout Maryland for a variety of crimes that have resulted from the arrestee/charged offender samples.



### SUCCESS STORIES

- A Baltimore County man was arrested, convicted of 1<sup>st</sup> degree rape, and sentenced to life in prison in October 2010 due to DNA evidence originally collected in February 2009, when this man was arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting his 7 and 8 year old female cousins back in 2008. The DNA evidence collected from this arrest matched the DNA collected at the scene of a 2004 rape of a 13 year old girl at a bus stop as well as a another 2000 rape of a 14 year old girl. The 42 year old man became the first person arrested and convicted in Baltimore under the DNA Arrestee Collection Law. This man was a career offender with an extensive list of drug and robbery arrests.
- A Weymouth, Massachusetts man was arrested and convicted of rape and sentenced to 18-25 years in November 2012 due to DNA evidence originally collected a Maryland homicide charge in March 2010. This collected DNA was sent to the Massachusetts State Police and was linked to DNA taken from a October 1995 rape of a 17 year old girl in a Church rectory. The 43 year old man had an extensive criminal background and is currently serving life in prison in Maryland for a brutal rape. This case resulted in the first out of state conviction as a result of Maryland's DNA arrestee law.

### DNA Statistics

#### Convicted Offender (since March 2007)

- 1,604 hits
- 540 arrests
- 328 convictions
- 128 active investigations
- 1,156 cases closed

#### Charged Offender (since January 2009)

- 383 hits
- 106 arrests
- 69 convictions
- 46 active investigations
- 218 cases closed