

DRAFT LAW ENFORCEMENT SURVEY ON DNA ISSUES

(VERSION JUNE 2, 2006)

I. - General Information about your Agency

The purpose of this section is to gain an understanding of the characteristics of your agency. This information will assist in determining whether certain characteristics shared among similar law enforcement agencies impact needs regarding DNA work.

1. Provide the name of your agency, contact person and address (street, city, state, zip code) of your headquarters or primary location. _____

2. Provide some details about the structure of your agency:

Agency Structure	Total
Number of facilities that permanently house personnel	
Number of other types of locations (please specify):	
Service population of agency jurisdiction	
Population of jurisdiction	

3. Please provide a few characteristics on your *actual* agency staffing:

Actual Agency Staff (excluding correctional personnel)	Total
Number of Sworn Personnel (including supervisors)	
Number of Non Sworn Personnel (including supervisors)	
Number of Sworn Investigative Staff	
Number of Non-Sworn Investigative Staff	

4. Please provide a few characteristics on total agency workload:

Agency Workload (January 1 through December 31, 2005)	Total
Number of Dispatched Calls for Service	
Number of Incident/Offense Reports	
Number of Total Reported Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Arrests	
Number of Field Interviews/Stop Contacts	

5. Approximately what percent of your homicide and rape cases involve DNA evidence from January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005?

- a. 0%
- b. 1 – 25%
- c. 26 – 50%
- d. 51- 75%
- e. 76 – 100%

II. Training:

6. Aside from the training provided at the academy, does your agency provide any training in the collection of DNA evidence?

- a. No (Skip to Question 9)
- b. Yes

7. If yes, what group of personnel in your agency has been trained *and* what percentage of each group have been trained?

	Have been trained Yes/No	Percentage trained %
a. Patrol	_____	_____ %
b. Detectives	_____	_____ %
c. Special units	_____	_____ %
d. Other (specify) _____	_____	_____ %

8. What is the source of funding for the training in your agency? Circle all that apply.

- a. Departmental resources
- b. Local Government
- c. State Government
- d. Federal Government

9. Do you believe your agency needs DNA related training? Circle one response.

- a. More training is needed
- b. Less training is needed
- c. Current level of training is sufficient
- d. No training is needed

10. What types of training do specialized law enforcement units in your agency need in terms of DNA related-work?

- ___ Identification of possible biological evidence
- ___ Evidence collection techniques
- ___ Evidence submission limitations (understanding probative value)
- ___ Evidence submission protocols
- ___ Understanding of analysis results
- ___ Other (please briefly explain) _____
- _____
- _____

11. Is there a need for cross training police and prosecutors in your jurisdiction?

- a. No
- b. Yes

12. Is there a need for cross training police and crime lab staff in your jurisdiction?

- a. No
- b. Yes

III. Funding/Resource Issues:

13. Does your agency receive any funding through DNA grants **[insert proper term]**?

- a. No (*Skip to Question 16*)
 - b. Yes
 - 1b. How much funding does your agency receive? _____
 - 2b. What benefits does your agency receive? _____
-

14. What is the name of the DNA grant(s) that funds your agency?

- **Get checklist from Lisa**

15. How is DNA money being used by your agency?

- a. Overtime for officers working on DNA cases
- b. Purchasing equipment
- c. Training
- d. Other _____.

16. Based on the experience of your agency, what resources is law enforcement lacking in terms of DNA related-work?

- a. Cold case unit staffing
- b. Resources for overtime
- c. Reserve capacity
- d. Training for patrol/first responders on precautions to take to avoid contamination
- e. Training in chain of custody

17. How is DNA analysis funded in your jurisdiction? Please insert the approximate percentage of cost:

- a. Our agency _____ %
- b. Local crime labs _____ %
- c. Other local entity _____ %
- d. State _____ %
- e. Federal _____ %
- f. Other _____ % (specify) _____

IV. Collaboration issues:

To what extent does your agency agree with the following statements? *Use the following response categories: SA= Strongly agree, A= Agree, N= Neither agree nor disagree, D= Disagree, SD= Strongly disagree*

		SA	A	N	D	SD
18.	Our agency and <u>crime lab personnel</u> collaborate effectively on cases involving DNA collection.	SA	A	N	D	SD
19.	Our agency and <u>prosecutorial staff</u> collaborate effectively on cases involving DNA collection.	SA	A	N	D	SD
20.	Overall, our agency is satisfied with the way <u>crime lab personnel</u> handle our cases involving DNA collection.	SA	A	N	D	SD
21.	Overall, our agency is satisfied with the way <u>prosecutorial staff</u> handle our cases involving DNA collection.	SA	A	N	D	SD
22.	Our agency is satisfied with the way public DNA labs conduct the basic processes of DNA analysis.	SA	A	N	D	SD
23.	There is a formal protocol for working with <u>prosecutors</u> on DNA evidentiary issues.	SA	A	N	D	SD
24.	There is a formal protocol for working with <u>crime labs</u> on DNA evidentiary issues.	SA	A	N	D	SD
25.	Prosecutors notify our agency when they decide not to prosecute cases involving DNA.	SA	A	N	D	SD
26.	Crime labs notify the police when they do not or are not able to test specimens.	SA	A	N	D	SD
27.	Our agency regularly communicates the results of DNA analysis promptly to the victims of these cases.	SA	A	N	D	SD
28.	Our agency maintains frequent contact with victim advocates.	SA	A	N	D	SD

29. What are the key best practices in the collaboration between police and prosecutors on DNA evidentiary issues in your jurisdiction?

- a. Extensive collaboration between police and prosecutors from the outset of the investigation
- b. Careful supervision of police investigators and prosecutors by experienced supervisors
- c. Use of an interagency work group to solve communication problems
- d. Regular interaction between police and prosecutors involves two-way information sharing
- e. Regular interaction between police and prosecutors involves shared decision-making on difficult cases
- f. Use of technology to enhance collaboration
- g. Development of written protocols to enhance collaboration
- h. Joint training for police investigators and prosecutors
- i. Other (please briefly explain) _____

30. What are the key challenges and barriers to working with prosecutors on DNA evidentiary issues in your jurisdiction?

- a. Lack of a common language
- b. History of poor relations
- c. Absence of careful supervision of police investigators and prosecutors by experienced supervisors
- d. Interagency rivalry
- e. Differing educational backgrounds of police investigators and prosecutors
- f. Differing views on usefulness of DNA evidence
- g. Other (please briefly explain) _____

31. What are the key best practices in the collaboration between police and DNA labs in your jurisdiction?

- a. Extensive collaboration between police and lab personnel from the outset of the investigation
- b. Careful supervision of police investigators and lab personnel by experienced supervisors
- c. Use of an interagency work group to solve communication problems
- d. Regular interaction between police and lab personnel involves two-way information sharing
- e. Regular interaction between police and lab personnel involves shared decision-making on difficult cases
- f. Use of technology to enhance collaboration
- g. Development of written protocols to enhance collaboration
- h. Joint training for police investigators and lab personnel
- i. Other (please briefly explain) _____

32. What are the key challenges and barriers to working with DNA labs in your jurisdiction?

- a. Lack of a common language
- b. History of poor relations
- c. Absence of careful supervision of police investigators and lab personnel by experienced supervisors
- d. Inter-organizational rivalry
- e. Differing educational backgrounds of police investigators and lab personnel
- f. Backlog problems
- g. Different levels of understanding of DNA technology
- h. Lack of lab accreditation
- i. Lab errors (e.g., false positive/negative reporting)
- j. Other (please briefly explain) _____

V. Buy-in from law enforcement:

Rate the extent of agreement separately for the majority opinion for patrol officers and detectives from your agency for the following statements.
SA= Strongly agree, **A=** Agree, **N=** Neither agree nor disagree, **D=** Disagree, **SD=** Strongly disagree

33. DNA is a useful tool for identifying suspects in homicide and rape cases.
(Most patrol officers in our agency): SA ___ ; A ___ ; N ___ ; D ___ ; SD ___
(Most detectives in our agency): SA ___ ; A ___ ; N ___ ; D ___ ; SD ___

34. DNA is a useful tool for closing homicide and rape cases.
(Most patrol officers in our agency): SA ___ ; A ___ ; N ___ ; D ___ ; SD ___
(Most detectives in our agency): SA ___ ; A ___ ; N ___ ; D ___ ; SD ___

35. DNA is a useful tool for prosecuting suspects in homicide and rape cases.
(Most patrol officers in our agency): SA ___ ; A ___ ; N ___ ; D ___ ; SD ___
(Most detectives in our agency): SA ___ ; A ___ ; N ___ ; D ___ ; SD ___

36. Law enforcement understands the benefits of DNA evidence in homicide and rape cases.
(Most patrol officers): SA ___ ; A ___ ; N ___ ; D ___ ; SD ___
(Most detectives): SA ___ ; A ___ ; N ___ ; D ___ ; SD ___

37. DNA testing is an accurate scientific process in homicide and rape cases.
(Most patrol officers in our agency): SA ___ ; A ___ ; N ___ ; D ___ ; SD ___
(Most detectives in our agency): SA ___ ; A ___ ; N ___ ; D ___ ; SD ___

38. DNA testing results will influence a cop's view of suspects in homicide and rape cases.
(Most patrol officers in our agency): SA ___ ; A ___ ; N ___ ; D ___ ; SD ___
(Most detectives in our agency): SA ___ ; A ___ ; N ___ ; D ___ ; SD ___

39. DNA evidence has changed police work in homicide and rape cases.
(Most patrol officers in our agency): SA ___ ; A ___ ; N ___ ; D ___ ; SD ___
(Most detectives in our agency): SA ___ ; A ___ ; N ___ ; D ___ ; SD ___

40. For what percentage of cases is the collection of DNA relevant to closing a case?
a. 81-100 %
b. 61-80 %
c. 41-60 %
d. 21-40%
e. 20 % or less

41. Please describe success stories with DNA evidence in your jurisdiction.

42. Are you aware of any arrests by your agency that have resulted directly from DNA testing in the past year?

- a. No
- b. Yes (If Yes, about how many _____)

43. What types of crimes typically involve the collection of DNA evidence in your jurisdiction?

- a. Homicides
- b. Sexual assaults
- c. Robberies
- d. Other crimes (specify) _____

VI. The process of DNA collection:

44. Regardless of whether or not your state has any applicable state statutes, has your jurisdiction established written procedures for the collection, preservation, and retention of biological crime scene evidence?

Yes No Unsure

45. What factors influence whether your agency will collect DNA evidence? (Check all that apply)

- a. Seriousness of crime
- b. Lack of other strong supporting evidence in addition to DNA evidence
- c. Presence of strong supporting evidence in addition to DNA evidence
- d. Media attention surrounding case
- e. Political pressure
- f. Necessary financial resources exist to collect DNA
- g. Necessary personnel exist to collect DNA
- h. Strong interest exists among one or more investigators
- i. Other (please briefly explain) _____

46. What factors influence whether your agency will submit DNA evidence to a crime lab? (Check all that apply)

- a. Seriousness of crime
- b. Lack of other strong supporting evidence in addition to DNA evidence
- c. Presence of strong supporting evidence in addition to DNA evidence
- d. Media attention surrounding case
- e. Political pressure
- f. Necessary financial resources exist to test DNA
- g. Necessary personnel exist to test DNA
- h. Strong interest exists among one or more investigators
- i. Other (please briefly explain) _____

47. What problems does your agency have in collecting DNA evidence?

- Identification of possible biological evidence
 - Evidence collection techniques
 - Evidence submission limitations (understanding probative value)
 - Evidence submission protocols
 - Other (please briefly explain) _____
-
-

48. Is there a backlog in the labs your agency uses to test your DNA evidence?

- a. No
- b. Yes

49. After sending evidence to a public lab, what is the average length of time it takes to receive DNA results?

- Less than a week
- 8-14 days
- 15-30 days
- 1-2 months
- 2-3 months
- 4-5 months
- 5-6 months
- More than 6 months

50. After sending evidence to a private lab, what is the average length of time it takes to receive DNA results?

- Less than a week
- 8-14 days
- 15-30 days
- 1-2 months
- 2-3 months
- 4-5 months
- 5-6 months
- More than 6 months

51. What factors, in your experience, influence the time it takes to process DNA evidence and please indicate the time allocated (*in days*) for each factor.

- | | Allocated Time |
|--|----------------|
| 1. High profile | _____ |
| 2. Availability of financial resources
(e.g., sending to state lab vs. private lab) | _____ |
| 3. Type of crime | _____ |
| 4. Need of lab to outsource sample | _____ |
| 5. Statute of limitation | _____ |
| 6. Other (please specify) | _____ |
| 7. Other (please specify) | _____ |

52. Does your agency have a specified DNA/cold-case unit?

- a. No (*Skip to Question 55*)
- b. Yes

53. If yes, how many are assigned to it?

- a. 1
- b. 2-3
- c. 4-5
- d. 6-10
- e. 11 or more

54. Does your agency follow-up on cold hits from DNA evidence?

- a. Never
- b. Sometimes
- c. Frequently
- d. Always

55. What factors facilitate follow-up in cold case hits from DNA evidence? (Check all that apply)

- a. Strong supporting evidence exists in addition to DNA evidence
- b. Media attention surrounding case
- c. Political pressure
- d. Necessary financial resources exist to work on case
- e. Necessary available personnel exist to work on case
- f. Strong interest exist among one or more investigators
- g. Type of crime
- h. Other (please briefly explain) _____

56. What factors inhibit or increase difficulty of following-up in cold case hits from DNA evidence?
(Check all that apply)

- a. Lack of strong supporting evidence that exists in addition to DNA evidence
- b. Media attention surrounding case
- c. Political pressure
- d. Lack of financial resources to work on case
- e. Lack of available personnel to work on case
- f. Lack of interest among investigators
- g. Type of crime
- h. Other (please briefly explain) _____

57. What resources does your agency need to be able to adequately respond to cold case hits?
(Check all that apply)

- a. Increase in the number of available personnel
- b. Increase in grant funding for overtime
- c. Training in how to respond to cold case hits
- d. Increase in financial resources
- e. Increase in the number of trained personnel
- f. Development of a cold case unit within your agency
- g. Other _____
