

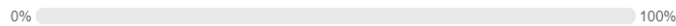
# NIST Forensic Science Service Provider Survey



*OMB Statement.*

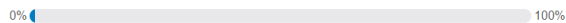
OMB Control #0693-0043  
Expiration Date: 03/31/2022  
NIST Generic Clearance for Usability Data Collections

A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with an information collection subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 unless the information collection has a currently valid OMB Control Number. The approved OMB Control Number for this information collection is 0693-0043. Without this approval, we could not conduct this survey/information collection. Public reporting for this information collection is estimated to be approximately 45 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. All responses to this information collection are voluntary. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) point of contact: Melissa Taylor, melissa.taylor@nist.gov.



Thank you for taking part in this survey. The survey comprises questions relating to laboratory management, DNA interpretation, cognitive bias, training and research, testimony and reporting practices, and stakeholder engagement opportunities. Data from this survey will provide insight to inform best practice recommendations for forensic DNA interpretation.

This survey should be completed by the **DNA laboratory's TECHNICAL LEADER or equivalent**. This is the individual who is responsible for the technical oversight of the DNA laboratory, which may include (but is not limited to) day-to-day quality assurance and accreditation compliance, design and implementation of methods development, verification of analytical instrumentation function, and validation of new technologies.





This survey is best taken on a computer rather than mobile device.

Your responses will be saved as you work through the survey. If you stop and wish to complete at a different time, you will need to use the same device in order to resume at the last saved point. Please complete the survey within two weeks of starting it or your response will be recorded as incomplete.



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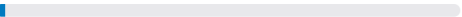
Q2.1. This survey should be completed by the laboratory's technical leader or equivalent.  
Are you a technical leader or equivalent?

Yes

No

Not sure



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If “no” or “not sure” are selected then it gives the option to end the survey or change response to “I am a technical leader or equivalent”.



Q2.3  
What type of crime laboratory or forensic science service provider (FSSP) do you represent?

Publicly-funded local crime laboratory (to include city or town)

Publicly-funded county crime laboratory

Publicly-funded state crime laboratory

Publicly-funded federal crime laboratory

Private laboratory

Consultant

Other (please specify)

Q2.4. What region is your organization located in?

New England (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)

Mid-Atlantic (NJ, NY, PA)

West North Central (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD)

East North Central (IL, IN, MI, OH, WI)

South Atlantic (DE, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, DC, WV)

East South Central (AL, KY, MS, TN)

West South Central (AR, LA, OK, TX)

Mountain (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY)

Pacific (AK, CA, HI, OR, WA)

Non-U.S. (please specify Country)

If "Non-U.S." is selected, then 2.5 is displayed



Q2.5. What continent is your laboratory in?

Asia

Europe

South America

Oceania (Australia, New Zealand)



Q2.6.

Who is (are) your primary customer(s)? (Select all that apply)

Law enforcement (local, county, state, federal)

Prosecutor

Defense attorney

Private client

Other (please specify)

Q2.7. What Forensic DNA services are you providing to your primary customer(s)? (Select all that apply)

Autosomal STR
Mitochondrial
Y-STR
Next Generation Sequencing
Mixture Interpretation
Probabilistic Genotyping
CODIS upload and search
Familial Searching
Forensic Genetic Genealogy
Paternity/parentage (criminal)
Paternity/parentage (non-criminal)
Phenotyping
Other (please specify)



Q2.8. Does your laboratory track the TYPE of DNA samples that you routinely analyze? (e.g., track whether a sample is liquid blood, saliva stains, dried semen stains, touch DNA, etc.)

Yes
No
Not sure
Not applicable



If yes to 2.8, 2.9 is displayed. If anything other than "yes", skips to 2.10.



Q2.9. What are the categories that your laboratory uses to track DNA samples? (Select all that apply)

Bodily fluid type

Case scenario

Crime type

Number of contributors

Template amount

Evidence item type (e.g., gun, clothing)

Other (please list)

Not applicable



Q2.10. How many DNA analysts does your FSSP employ?

For the purpose of this survey, a DNA analyst is defined as: an employee or contract employee, that successfully completed the laboratory's training requirements for casework sample analysis, passed a competency test, and has entered into a proficiency testing program according to these standards. This individual can conduct and/or direct the analysis of forensic samples, interpret data, reach conclusions, and generate reports.

This definition includes both persons who process the DNA samples and those who perform the statistical analysis and interpretation of the DNA results (for laboratories who separate these functions).

0

1-5

6-10

11-30

31-50

>50

Q2.11. In your laboratory, do the same analysts perform both the analytical/instrument processing and the interpretation of DNA results, or are these functions separated?

Analysts perform all aspects of the analysis and interpretation

These functions are separated

Combination of both

Other (please specify)

Q2.12. Does your laboratory or agency employ a human subjects officer (or similar)?

A human subjects officer (or similar) is a generally a person responsible for reviewing and approving (or seeking appropriate approvals for) human-subjects research in the laboratory/agency. They will likely coordinate and manage institutional review board (IRB) activities and other compliance activities.

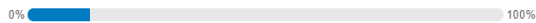
Yes
No
Don't know



Q3.1. How often does your laboratory perform the following tasks?

Note: Direct-to-DNA is a DNA casework approach in which serology is removed from the workflow as the initial screening of a Sexual Assault Kit sample, and instead, the initial screening is completed during the DNA quantification step to determine the level of male DNA among female DNA to inform downstream processing.

	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	Not applicable
Presumptive test for semen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Presumptive test for blood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Presumptive test for saliva	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Microscopic search for sperm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Confirmatory test for blood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Confirmatory test for saliva	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Y-STR typing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Direct-to-DNA approach	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>





Q3.2. At what point in the workflow is Y-STR typing incorporated (Select all that apply)

- At the biological screening stage
- After quantitation
- After initial autosomal STR results are obtained and evaluated.
- When specifically requested by the client.
- When specifically requested for court purposes.
- Other (please specify)

Q3.3. Which criteria are used to inform the incorporation of Y-STR typing? (Select all that apply)

- Based on screening results.
- Based on male DNA/ratio results.
- Based on autosomal STR results.
- If specifically requested by the client.
- If specifically requested for court purposes.
- Other (please specify)



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. The following questions relate to reporting and testimony.

Q4.1. How are your laboratory's reports formatted?

- Narrative (written explanations or paragraphs that describe evidence/items tested and the DNA results and opinions)
- Tabular (lists and tables of the evidence/items tested and the DNA results and opinions)
- Combination
- Not sure

Q4.2. How and why did you select that format? (Select all that apply)

Clarity

Brevity

Aesthetic

Simplicity

It has always been formatted that way

Not sure

Other (please specify)

Q4.3. How/why did you select the specific terminology language that you use in your reports? (Select all that apply)

Based on published research pertaining to effective communication

Based on best-practice recommendations from guidance bodies (e.g., ISFG, ISO, NAS, etc.)

Based on feedback from stakeholders (e.g., lawyers, investigators)

Based on internal research (e.g., in consultation with DNA analysts)

The language we use now is the language we've always used

Not sure

Other (please specify)

Q4.4. Is your DNA laboratory reporting a quantitative value only or a combination of quantitative and qualitative statements?

Quantitative only (Likelihood Ratio or other numerical value)

Qualitative only (verbal equivalent or written explanation)

Quantitative and qualitative

Not sure

Q4.5. Does your laboratory have a standard operating procedure for testimony (to include recommendations on how to testify to specific results)?

Yes

No

Not sure

Not applicable



Q4.6. Does your laboratory have a procedure to monitor testimony?

Yes
No
Not sure
Not applicable

Q4.7. How often do analysts within your laboratory:

	Never	Sometimes	About half the time	Most of the time	Always	Not applicable
Solicit (and receive) feedback from your customers specific to the comprehension of your reports?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attend a pre-trial conference with the prosecution?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attend a pre-trial conference with the defense?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Offer forensic reports as evidence exhibits in court? (rather than simply referring to them during testimony)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use visual aids during testimony?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Never	Sometimes	About half the time	Most of the time	Always	Not applicable

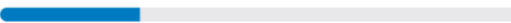


Q5.1. Which of the following terms does your laboratory regularly use as part of your quality management system? (Select all that apply)

- Analyst Error
- Conflict
- Deviation from protocol
- Disagreement
- Error
- Incident
- Instrument Error
- Lapse
- Mistake
  
- Non-conformity
- Quality Issue
- Slip
- Systematic Error
- Technological Error
- Unexpected finding
- Other (please specify)

Q5.2. How does your laboratory define "error", "disagreement", "conflict", or any other related terms that it regularly uses? Please include the term(s) and definition(s) here or write N/A.



0%  100%



Q5.3. If a disagreement were to occur during the review process, which of the following steps could be engaged? (Select all that apply)

Conversation between reviewer and analyst

Mediation by supervisor

Mediation by technical leader

Involve the quality manager

Re-amplification of sample by original analyst

Re-amplification of sample by second analyst

Independent re-interpretation by third party

Send to independent laboratory for complete re-analysis

Report the most conservative opinion

Report an inconclusive opinion

Report both opinions

Not reporting the case

No action

Other (please specify)

Q5.4. If any results or opinions are changed as a result of the review processes, how are the disagreement and action documented? (Select all that apply)

Report

Case file

Personnel file

Not documented

Other (please specify)

Review process would not change results or opinions

Q5.5. If any results or opinions are changed as a result of review processes, to whom are these disclosed to? (Select all that apply)

Quality Manager

Technical Leader

Prosecution

Defense

Client (if not prosecution or defense)

Law Enforcement

Other (please specify)

No one (it is not disclosed)

Review process would not change results or opinions

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Q5.6. If a change of result or opinion is disclosed, how is it disclosed? (Select all that apply)

Not disclosed

Phone call to client

Email to client

Within report

Within routinely disclosed case file

Within case file disclosed upon request

Upon request

Oral testimony

Pre-trial case conference with prosecution

Pre-trial case conference with defense

Other (please specify)



Q5.7 What type of risk assessment do you perform as part of your Quality Management System (QMS)?

Matrix-based (based on intersecting factors; for example, the likelihood that the risk event will occur, and the potential impact that the risk event could have)

Level-based (based on categories of risk tolerance, for example: acceptable level, tolerable level, and intolerable level)

Other (please specify)

Not applicable



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Q5.8 What factors do you consider in your risk assessment? (Select all that apply)

Frequency

Effect on reported opinion

Likelihood of occurrence

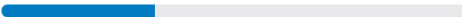
Likelihood of detection

Cost

Severity

Other (please specify)



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Q5.9. How do you monitor DNA analysts' abilities to perform complex tasks (excluding routine open proficiency testing), and how often?

	Monthly	Quarterly	Biannually	Yearly	Biennial	When required	Never	Not sure
In-house testing/research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal collaborative exercises	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inter-laboratory exchange	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Training exercises	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Blind proficiency tests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify or select "never")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q5.10. Does your laboratory use any sort of blinding during casework?

	Yes, formalized in SOPs	Yes, but not formalized in SOPs	No	Not sure
Sequential unmasking (task-relevant information presented in sequential order, for example evidence/item sample analyzed before reference sample)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Context manager (someone who filters task-relevant and task-irrelevant information and only passes on to the analyst that which is deemed to be task-relevant)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Blind technical review (reviewer does not know original analyst's interpretation opinion)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Blind reanalysis of samples (re-analyze samples without knowing original result)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Yes, formalized in SOPs	Yes, but not formalized in SOPs	No	Not sure
Blind review of Number-of-Contributors assessments (assess NoC without knowing original analyst's opinion)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Blind data review (review data without knowing original analyst's opinion)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Blind interpretation of Probabilistic Genotyping Software outputs (interpretation of PGS outputs without knowing original analyst's interpretation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Blind genotyping/EPG assessment (assessment of genotyping/EPG without knowing original analyst's assessment)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q5.11. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
The interpretation of DNA data can be influenced by the information given to the DNA analyst.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bias can still occur when using Probabilistic Genotyping Software.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The research community should conduct more studies about contextual bias in forensic biology before our laboratory will change or implement contextual information management policies.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
We already know enough about cognitive bias in forensic biology to start making policy changes in our laboratory.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cognitive bias can affect forensic biologists' interpretation of DNA data.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All forensic analysts should be aware of cognitive bias.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Q5.12. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
Cognitive bias is a bigger issue for analysts in other forensic disciplines than those in forensic biology.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knowing about the reference profile before examining a complex DNA mixture can affect how a DNA analyst interprets the mixture.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knowing about a confession before examining a complex DNA mixture can affect how a DNA analyst interprets the mixture.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
Knowing one DNA analyst's Number-of-Contributor determination can affect another DNA analyst's Number-of-Contributor determination.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Likelihood ratios prevent contextual bias in forensic biology.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Probabilistic Genotyping Software prevents bias in forensic biology.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>





Q6.1. Here, we are interested in your laboratory's data interpretation methods, with an emphasis on Probabilistic Genotyping Software (PGS). If your laboratory is not using PGS, please select "not applicable" where appropriate.

Q6.2. Which of the following statistical analysis methods does your laboratory use for autosomal DNA interpretation? (Select all that apply)

Combined Probability of Inclusion / Random Man Not Excluded

Likelihood Ratio

Random Match Probability

Other (please specify)

Q6.3. Has your laboratory implemented, or is it in the process of implementing, PGS?

Not using PGS and have no plans to

Not using PGS but may in the future

In the process of validating, but not using in casework

Validated and online

Validated, online, and in the process of validating an updated version



0%  100%

If "not using PGS and have no plans to" or "Not using PGS but may in the future" is selected, then 6.4 is displayed. All other selections will display 6.5



Q6.4. What tool(s) is your laboratory using to calculate a statistic for DNA opinions? (Select all that apply)

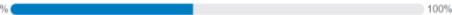
Spreadsheet

Manual

Not calculating a statistic

Other (please specify)



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Q6.5. Which PGS is your laboratory using or in the process of implementing? (Select all that apply)

STRmix (include version number)

TrueAllele (include version number)

EuroForMix (include version number)

MixCal6 (include version number)

LiRa (include version number)

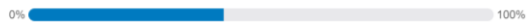
Other (please specify developer and version number)

Q6.6. Does (or will) your laboratory train ALL DNA casework analysts to use and report PGS data?

Yes

**No**

Not applicable



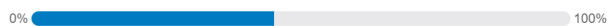
If "no", Q6.7 is shown. If "yes" or "not applicable", next question is 6.8.



Q6.7. Approximately what percentage of fully trained casework analysts are also trained to use and report PGS data?

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Please move slider to indicate the percentage of DNA analysts in your laboratory who are trained on PGS.





Q6.8. Does your laboratory routinely perform replicate amplifications?

Yes

No

Case/sample dependent (please describe)

Not applicable

Q6.9. Does your laboratory have a minimum amplification threshold based on quantification results? (Select all that apply)


No minimum threshold

Total amount of DNA

M:F ratio

Other (please specify)



0%  100%



Q6.10. An idea being discussed in the DNA community is to create a central repository of validation summaries that multiple laboratories could contribute data to and use. This repository could be accessible to all stakeholders/interested parties (including attorneys and researchers), or it could be password-protected and only available to other DNA laboratories (i.e., private).

Please read the following statements and select the one that best applies to your laboratory:

Our laboratory would use a central repository, regardless of who can access it.

Our laboratory would only use a central repository if it was private.

I do not know if our laboratory would use a central repository.

Our laboratory would not use a central repository.

Validation summaries are not applicable to our laboratory.

Q6.11. Please read the following statements and select the one that best applies to your laboratory:

Our laboratory would contribute data to a central repository, regardless of who can access it.

Our laboratory would contribute data to a central repository, but only if it was private.

I do not know if our laboratory would contribute data to a central repository.

Our laboratory would not contribute data to a central repository.

Validation summaries are not applicable to our laboratory.

Q6.12. Please comment on why your laboratory would or would not be able to contribute to or use such a repository.



Q6.13. Some laboratories use internally-collected DNA samples for their validation studies (e.g., from staff members). Collecting samples in this way may restrict sharing data outside of the laboratory due to privacy concerns.

Would your laboratory benefit from access to appropriately consented, externally-collected DNA samples to use in your validation studies?

We already obtain external DNA samples

We do not currently obtain external DNA samples but would benefit from such samples

No, we would not benefit

Not sure

Not applicable



0%  100%

Q6.14. Has your laboratory encountered any barriers to creating complex DNA mixture samples for your internal validation exercises? Please discuss or type "not applicable".



Q6.15. Does your laboratory print out electropherograms for the case file?

Yes

No

Not sure

Not applicable

Q6.16. Does your laboratory save electronic data for all PGS runs even if some runs are not used to render the final report conclusion (e.g., an alternate contributor number was evaluated and rejected)?

Yes, save all runs

No, do not save all runs

Not sure

Not applicable

Q6.17. Does your laboratory have a method in place (other than routine network back-ups) for tracking and maintaining the integrity of all saved electronic files related to PGS?

Yes

No

Not sure

Not applicable





The following questions relate to training.

Q7.1. To what level are DNA analysts within your laboratory trained? (Select all that apply)

To participate in an admissibility hearing

To explain case file content to stakeholders (separate from court testimony)

To perform relevant laboratory techniques

To minimum accreditation standards

Other (please specify)

To testify in court

Display logic. Whichever levels are selected in 7.1 are shown in 7.2.



Q7.2.

Please indicate all ways that performance is assessed for each task.

Note: Depending on the device that you are viewing this on, you may need to scroll across or down to see all options.

	Oral Exam	Written Exam	Moot Court	We do not assess performance on this task	Other
To explain case file content to stakeholders (separate from court testimony)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To minimum accreditation standards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To participate in an admissibility hearing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To perform relevant laboratory techniques	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To testify in court	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Oral Exam	Written Exam	Moot Court	We do not assess performance on this task	Other

Q7.3. Does your laboratory provide in-house training for DNA analysts?

Yes

No

No, but our laboratory does provide external training opportunities

Not sure



0%  100%

Display logic – if select “yes” for Q7.3 then Q7.4 is displayed. If not, then it skips to the next section on external training opportunities.



Q7.4. In choosing content for your laboratory's DNA analyst training program, did your laboratory follow recommendations from any of the following groups? (Select all that apply)

- International Society for Forensic Genetics (ISFG)
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- FBI Quality Assurance Standards (QAS)
- Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDM)
- The Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC)
- Other (please specify)
- Not sure
- None of the above

Q7.5 options are a carry forward from Q7.6. Whichever options are selected in 7.4 (excluding 'not sure' and 'none of the above') will be shown in Q7.5.

Q7.5. How adequate are the documents provided by the groups you selected previous guiding training?

	Extremely inadequate	Somewhat inadequate	Neither adequate nor inadequate	Somewhat adequate	Extremely adequate	Not sure	Not applicable
International Society for Forensic Genetics (ISFG)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
International Organization for Standardization (ISO)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
FBI Quality Assurance Standards (QAS)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDM)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q7.6. Please elaborate on your views of the adequacies (or not) of the training documents that your laboratory used to guide training.



0%  100%



Q7.7. How long does it usually take a DNA analyst to complete their training at your agency?

0-3 months

4-6 months

7-9 months

10-12 months

>12 months

Not sure

Q7.8. Would you like to see more national training efforts similar to programs offered by the National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC)?

Yes

No

Not sure

Do not know what the NFSTC offers

Q7.9. Who provides training and continuing education to DNA analysts at your agency?  
(Select all that apply)

Occasional trainers (e.g., external speakers or vendors)

Designated training coordinator (internal to agency)

Training team (internal to agency)

Other (please specify)

Not sure

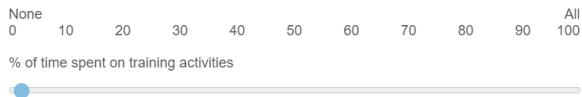
Not applicable



Q7.9. Options selected here are carried forward in Q.7.14



Q7.10. What percent of your **designated training coordinator's** time is dedicated to training activities?



Q7.11.

Excluding any designated training coordinator, approximately how many **Full Time Equivalent positions** in your **training team** are dedicated to supporting training and education?

For the purpose of this survey, a **Full Time Equivalent (FTE) position** is defined as equal to a 40 hour full-time working week. So, if you have two team members working as a training team to provide training and education, and each team member spends half of their time on training and education activities, you have 1 FTE team member dedicated to training and education activities.

< 0.5
0.5
1
1.5
2
2.5
3
3.5
4
4.5
5 +

Q7.12.

On average, how many times *per year* does an **occasional trainer** come to your agency to provide training to DNA analysts?

1 or 2 times
3-5 times
6-10 times
>10 times
Not sure
Not applicable

Q7.13. How were those who provide training and continuing education for DNA analysts in your agency selected for their role? (Select all that apply for each factor contributing to trainer selection)

	Opt in/ volunteer	Word of mouth/ recommendation	Relevant professional/ technical experience	Relevant training experience	Capacity/ availability	Best fitting role for the person within the agency	Not sure	Not applicable
Occasional trainers (e.g., external speakers or vendors)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designated training coordinator (internal to agency)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Training team (internal to agency)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q7.14. Have those who provide training and continuing education for DNA analysts in your agency completed any training on **how to train others**?

	Yes	No	Not sure	Not applicable
Occasional trainers (e.g., external speakers or vendors)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Designated training coordinator (internal to agency)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Training team (internal to agency)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



0% 100%





Q8.1. Does your agency provide a budget to offer DNA analysts training from outside your organization (e.g., to attend conferences, workshops, meetings, etc.)?

Yes

No

Not sure



If yes, Q8.2 is displayed. If no, skips to Q8.3.



Q8.2. How adequate is the budgeted amount (even if \$0)?

Extremely adequate

Somewhat adequate

Somewhat inadequate

Extremely inadequate

Not sure





Q8.3. Does your agency rely on external grants to provide DNA analysts training from outside your organization?

Yes

No

Not sure



If yes, Q8.4 is displayed.



Q8.4. Please specify the source(s) of the external grants that your agency relies on. (Select all that apply)

State Coverdell Funds

National Institute of Justice (NIJ) / Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) grants

Other (please specify)





Q8.5. What percentage of DNA analysts in your laboratory attend training external to your organization each year?

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

% of DNA analysts who attend external training each year



Q8.6. How is information from external training opportunities shared with others in your agency?

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never
Report to supervisor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Written summary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Presentation to colleagues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)				
<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Q8.7. Do DNA analysts at your agency have access to peer-reviewed publications (e.g., journals, conference proceedings)?

Yes

No

Not sure

Q8.8. How adequate is the budget to provide DNA analysts with access to peer-reviewed publications (even if \$0)?

Extremely adequate

Somewhat adequate

Somewhat inadequate

Extremely inadequate

Not sure

Q8.9. Does your agency run a "journal club" or similar for DNA analysts?

Note: a journal club is typically an informal meeting to discuss peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, or conference proceedings.

Yes

No

Not sure

Q8.10. Are there any incentives or requirements for DNA analysts in your agency to read peer-reviewed publications? (Select all that apply)

Yes - Accreditation

Yes - Promotion

Yes - Remuneration

No

Other (please specify)

Not sure

Not applicable



Q9.3. How important is communication between your laboratory and the stakeholders:

	Extremely important	Very important	Moderately important	Slightly important	Not at all important	Not applicable
When evidence/items are received by the laboratory for DNA processing?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
During the processing of evidence/items?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
When reporting results?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In preparing for trial (i.e., pre-trial)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
During the trial?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At the conclusion of a trial? (i.e., post-trial)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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Q9.4. How important is communication between your laboratory and stakeholders about the following types of information when evidence/items are **received by the laboratory** for DNA processing? Please rank in order of importance with 1 being the most important.

Note: click and drag each option to move into order of importance.

- Information about the number of items
- Information about probative items
- Information about the case scenario
- Information about case prioritization (rush, trial status, etc.)
- Information about the crime scene

Q9.5. How important is communication between your laboratory and stakeholders about the following types of information **during the processing of** DNA evidence? Please rank in order of importance with 1 being the most important.

Note: click and drag each option to move into order of importance.

- Information about additional items and/or rounds of DNA testing
- Information about CODIS eligibility
- Information about DNA standards

Q9.6. How important is communication between your laboratory and stakeholders about the following types of information **after the processing of DNA evidence**? Please rank in order of importance with 1 being the most important.

Note: click and drag each option to move into order of importance.

- Information about the trial
- Information about case discovery
- Information about pre-trial interviews
- Information about CODIS confirmation standards
- Information about pre-trial hearings



Q9.7. How satisfied are you with the communication between your laboratory and the stakeholders at each phase of the case?

	Extremely satisfied	Slightly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Slightly dissatisfied	Extremely dissatisfied	Not applicable
When evidence/items are received by the laboratory for DNA processing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
During the processing of evidence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
When reporting of results	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In preparing for trial (i.e., pre-trial)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
During the trial	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At the conclusion of a trial (i.e., post-trial)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Q9.8. What mechanisms are in place for stakeholders to access information from your laboratory? (Select all that apply)

- Phone
- Email
- Website
- Laboratory director
- DNA technical leader
- Case manager
- Report
- Site visit
- Other (please specify)

Q9.9. How important is it for your laboratory to communicate with stakeholders regarding quality incidents such as contamination, sample loss, analyst error, changed procedure, misconduct, or negligence?

- Extremely important
- Very important
- Moderately important
- Slightly important
- Not at all important
- Not applicable

Q9.10. How important is it for your laboratory to communicate with stakeholders regarding the following quality incidents? Please rank in order of importance with 1 being the most important.

Note: click and drag each option to move into order of importance.

- Negligence
- Changed procedure
- Contamination
- Sample loss
- Analyst error
- Misconduct



Q9.11. What resources would improve communication between your laboratory and the stakeholder? (Select all that apply)

- Glossary
- Training
- Technology solutions, software packages, RMS communication pathways/interfaces
- Web resources/how-to guides
- Informational bulletins
- Other (please specify)



0%  100%



Q10.1. If you wish to provide any feedback or additional comments about this survey, please use the box below or email [nikola.osborne@nist.gov](mailto:nikola.osborne@nist.gov)

Click next to complete the survey.



0%  100%



We thank you for your time spent taking this survey.  
Your response has been recorded.

0%  100%