

A LANDSCAPE REPORT ON THE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES TO COLLECT AND PROCESS ARRESTEE AND CONVICTED OFFENDER DNA SAMPLES

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Recent research, legislative activities, practitioner discussion, and media reports have identified that the CODIS database is not as consistently populated with the DNA samples from arrestees and convicted offenders, often termed “lawfully owed DNA” samples, as was commonly assumed. This potentially leads to a limited use of the CODIS system, which may delay the identification of investigative leads, and may cause the failure to link serial offenders and cases together. This in turn, negatively impacts the safety of our communities. Although many jurisdictions have policies and standard operating procedures for the collection and testing of lawfully owed DNA samples in response to legislation, it is possible that gaps in design and overall disconnects in communication and data work flow, may result in the inability to effectively uphold the requests of the legislation.

The objective of this poster is to discuss a landscape study, conducted by the FTCoE, which seeks to (1) identify factors that may result in potential barriers related to the collection, testing, and uploading of these samples and (2) identify successful policies and highlight best practices related to collection, testing, and uploading of these samples. As part of this study, past and current lawfully owed DNA collection and testing policies from various state and local agencies, as well as proposed policy revisions that have been drafted by jurisdictions in response to previously identified issues, were assessed

It is anticipated that this work will bring much needed awareness to this issue and present best practices which can be implemented by jurisdictions, thereby creating a supportive platform for effective policy and practice.