

PROGRAM UPDATE ON THE FBI LABORATORY'S CODIS AND NDIS PROGRAMS

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The FBI Laboratory manages a national DNA information system that includes the National DNA Index System (NDIS) at the top level and the CODIS program, providing overall program support, including developing and distributing software, to this national effort. CODIS began as a pilot project in 1990, serving fourteen state and local DNA laboratories. The DNA Identification Act of 1994, included in the 1994 Violent Crime Control Act, formally authorized the FBI to establish the national DNA index system for law enforcement purposes. Today, there are 84 participating NDIS laboratories representing 32 states and two Federal agencies, the FBI Laboratory and the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory. There are currently 375,836 convicted offender and 19,053 forensic profiles at NDIS.

The FBI is also involved in long-range planning to incorporate new hardware and software technologies that will help the FBI meet its goals for the program. To support the growth of NDIS, new software search algorithms are being developed. Efforts have been initiated that will permit CODIS to operate on the new Microsoft Windows 2000 platform. Another development effort is underway to support the newer software browser capabilities. This will then support the plan of a new Web-based version of CODIS designed to use the FBI's criminal justice wide area network. Therefore, criminal justice laboratories will be able to quickly update information, participate in online training, and access the system with a Web browser, thereby reducing their investment for new computer hardware and software.