

## **PRESERVING THE TRUTH: NIST/NIJ TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE PRESERVATION**

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The proper long-term storage and preservation of biological evidence has become increasingly newsworthy as states throughout the US enact legislation allowing post-conviction DNA testing of evidence. Recent headlines have highlighted significant problems with the storage of potentially exculpatory biological evidence in property and evidence storage units across the country. To address these issues, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has provided funding for the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Law Enforcement Standards Office (OLES) to lead a technical working group charged with examining current policies, procedures, and practices in biological evidence storage. The primary objective of the working group is to establish best practices, based in science, to reduce the premature destruction and degradation of biological evidence, thus ensuring its availability for future analysis. This presentation will provide an overview of *Technical Working Group on the Preservation of Biological Evidence* activities to date and preliminary recommendations.