

## **THE USE OF DNA DATABASE OF BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE FROM SEXUAL ASSAULTS IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS: A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE IN BRAZIL**

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DNA databases may play a crucial role in many kinds of criminal investigations. In sexual assaults, DNA databases of biological evidence may play an essential role in investigations and in the identification of the perpetrators. Particularly, in countries where there is no legislation regarding DNA databases from suspects or convicted individuals, DNA databases of biological evidence from sexual assaults and rapes may prove decisive in criminal investigations. In Brazil, until 2012 and 2013 there was no legislation regarding DNA databases from suspects or convicted individuals. Due to the lack of legislation concerning this subject and the need for solving crimes related to sexual assaults, the Forensic DNA Research Institute of Federal District Civil Police, in Brasília, created in 1998 the first DNA database of biological evidence from sexual assaults and rapes in Brazil to aid criminal investigations. The aim of this study is to demonstrate the successful experience of the Forensic DNA Research Institute of Federal District Civil Police, in Brasília, Brazil, in aiding criminal investigations in solving crimes and in identifying perpetrators using this kind of DNA database. Forensic scientists using a DNA database of biological evidence from sexual assaults working together with Federal District Civil Police authorities and investigators found 70 serial rapists who had attacked 196 women in Brasília, Brazil, until July, 2014.