Forensic DNA Databases: A Global Update

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Nearly all Countries have DNA capacity -

- Countries performing DNA profiling
- Countries not performing DNA profiling
- Countries whose profiling status is unknown
DNA Capacity is not enough:

Offender DNA databases is the key component to realize the crime fighting potential of a DNA program
Mature Databases – They solve crime

**United Kingdom**
- Over 5 million offender samples
- Over 60% hit rates
- 1,700 hits per week

**United States**
- Over 8 million offender samples
- Over 40% hit rates
- Over 116,000 cases aided

**China**
- Over 5 Million offender samples in just a few years
- Aggressive goal to stop all crime in China
DNA databases solves crime!

Example

- 5,000 stranger rapes occur in the United Kingdom with no evidence except for DNA at crime scene
  - 60% UK hit rate means that 3,000 of these cases can be solved with one simple DNA test.

- 5,000 Stranger rapes occur in non-database country with no evidence except for DNA at crime scene
  - No offender database means that none of the cases can be solved.
Offender DNA databases

Produces benefits beyond solving crimes

- Helps to prevent more crime: The Trigueiro serial murder case from Puerto Alegre - Consider if Brazil would have had a database.

- Helps to exonerate the innocent: Innocence Project in U.S. has exonerated 255 individuals using DNA.

- Cost/benefit: Spend less money solving more crime
Who has implemented offender databases so far?

- 32 countries have **IMPLEMENTED** offender databases to date
  - Estimated 25 million offender samples worldwide
- Many more in the near future
  - Possible to have 100 million worldwide samples within 5 years

Australia
Austria
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Canada
China
Croatia
Cyprus
Denmark
Estonia
France
Germany
Hong Kong
Hungary
Israel
Latvia
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Portugal
Slovakia
Singapore
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Taiwan
United Arab Emirates
UK
USA
Where is Brazil with DNA Program?

- Established DNA capability in most States
- Implement National software system
- Establish offender DNA database
If Brazil wants a DNA database, what’s next?

An offender DNA database cannot exist without legislation.
Decisions to create offender DNA databases are controlled by top Government officials and legislative entities.

They will consider issues such as convicted vs. arrestee
The World is Positioning for Explosive Growth of Offender DNA Database Programs

2000 ~ 6% of the world’s population has passed and implemented offender DNA database legislation/policy (United States and United Kingdom)

2010 ~ 30% of the world’s population has passed and implemented offender DNA database legislation/policy

Largest countries added between 2000 and 2010: China, Germany, France and Spain

2015 ~ 60% of the world’s population will have passed and implemented offender DNA database legislation/policy.

Largest countries with offender DNA database Legislation/Policy positioned to be passed and implemented by 2015: India, Brazil, Russia, and many Asian countries
Identifying and Tracking the Progression Towards DNA Offender Databases

- GTH to launch the DNA International “World Map” site
  Fall 2010

- Identifies which countries:
  - Have achieved offender DNA databases
  - Are moving towards offender DNA databases

- Comprehensive data for each country on:
  - Legislation
  - Type of offender databases
  - Annual reports
  - Media
  - Technical and lab capacity issues
Arrestee policy

• Most countries have arrestee testing

• Nearly all countries will be requiring profile and sample expungement if not convicted.

• Recent European Union Court case promotes expungement for arrestees

Prüm

• Implementation of European DNA interoperability us in Europe focus
United States

Legislative focus on changing laws from convicted offenders to arrestees

- Until recently the United States focused just on convicted offenders
- In 2004 only 3 states collected DNA from arrested criminals
- Today, 23 states collected DNA from arrested criminals
- Laws allow for profile destruction if not convicted – Compare to the United Kingdom law.
- President Obama announces support of arrestee testing. New federal legislation to promote arrestee testing in the states

http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid70069263001?bclid=69917219001&bctid=70456124001
Thank You

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