

# ***FACTORS INFLUENCING COSTS OF EXPANSION TO ARRESTEE DNA DATABASES***

## **1. SIZE OF ARRESTEE POPULATION**

This figure should not be a simple accounting of arrests made in a year, but should also consider the figure of convicted felons currently tested in a year, plus those arrestees who already have a DNA sample on file

ADDITIONAL SAMPLE SIZE = NUMBER OF ARRESTEES (reduced by) ANNUAL CONVICTED FELON TESTING SIZE (reduced by) NUMBER OF ARRESTEES ALREADY ON DATABASE

- NUMBER OF ARRESTEES: Varies by state. Most states do not have an accurate figures but rely on UCR figures (which may be inflated as they typically include misdemeanors)
- ANNUAL CONVICTED FELON TESTING SIZE: Varies by state but most labs should have a good estimate. May vary by laws regarding collection point (upon sentencing vs. prior to release).
- NUMBER OF ARRESTEES ALREADY ON DATABASE: Indiana reported 34% of DOC offenders had prior commitments. Colorado estimated 25% of persons arrested will already have a sample on file.

## **2. FIXED COSTS**

There are a variety of fixed costs associated with arrestee DNA analysis which will remain the same year after year. These are costs associated with the costs of the kit, postage, analysis, personnel, etc. Below you will find data from three states with detailed fiscal notes in 2009 for arrestee DNA database proposals. Indiana also included a per sample cost for maintenance service. This table excludes personnel, in favor of discussing personnel as a separate matter below.

<b>Fixed costs</b>	<b>Missouri</b>	<b>Indiana (in-house / outsource)</b>	<b>Colorado</b>
COLLECTION KIT		\$5 / \$18.25*	\$5.15
ANALYSIS	\$31.20	\$19.00 / \$29.00	
MAINTENANCE		\$2.00 / \$0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$31.20</b>	<b>\$26 / \$47.25</b>	<b>unclear</b>

\*figure includes cost of kit plus mandated use of contracted vendor for collection

It is important to note that the National Institute of Justice administers a grant which pays the estimated cost for offender / arrestee analysis **at a fixed rate of \$35 per sample**. Labs may apply for **an additional \$5** if they outsource the samples to a vendor lab, due to the additional technical review that is required of outsourced samples.

**Personnel** costs can vary broadly from lab to lab, depending on various efficiencies a lab may (or may not) have in place. Salaries for personnel can also have broad ranges. Given this understanding, below are a few examples of estimated personnel needs from 2009 arrestee proposal fiscal notes.

- Colorado estimated it would need a DNA Analyst, DNA Technician, Clerks, but provided no breakdown on exact numbers of either personnel needed or of salaries.

- Missouri estimated it would need one additional clerk at a salary of \$26,000
- Florida estimated 6 new analysts would be needed in the near-term, plus in the long-term an additional Supervisor, 6 analysts, and 4 technicians would be needed.

These personnel estimates are for incoming samples only. States with automatic expungement requirements will necessarily add additional staff costs due to the heavy administrative burden. Indiana estimated it would need a new clerk paid at 25,000 for every 6,000 expungements.

### 3. NON-RECURRING COSTS

Laboratories also may face significant one-time costs associated with capacity increase needed to accommodate arrestee DNA sampling. These costs are typically capital expenses of purchases for robotics, larger genetic analyzers, and information technology systems. They can add substantially to the cost of expansion.

Upgraded **genetic analysis machines** that can handle greater quantities of DNA samples per cycle (thus producing economies of scale in analysis) can cost \$200,000 and above, per machine. **Robotics** can also be expensive, particularly as they often must be customized to fit a particular lab's space.

Many labs have already invested in offender **sample management systems**, but those that have not will need to make such a purchase before embarking on arrestee expansion.

Importantly, states also need to establish a system that allows local law enforcement to check for **duplicates** so that an arrestee's DNA sample is not collected (and analyzed) twice. These systems also vary greatly depending on a state's existing IT systems and the program envisioned by the lab. For example, the New Mexico system included bringing internet service to a few rural counties in order to allow jails to access a secure online database that tracks DNA sample collection; in Florida, start-up costs include installation of AFIS at all jails (AFIS software has been modified to include a field to track DNA sample collection). Below are a few examples from 2009 fiscal notes:

- Colorado -- \$75,000
- Missouri --\$5,000
- Florida – \$1 million

Additionally, many states will need to provide training to collection points as new arrestee laws are implemented. Some states may be able to accomplish this through closed circuit televised trainings or DVDs, and others may need in-person

Lastly, **space** limitations can see some fiscal notes inflated with figures that include costs for a new laboratory.