

Bureau of Justice Assistance Forensics Unit Programs

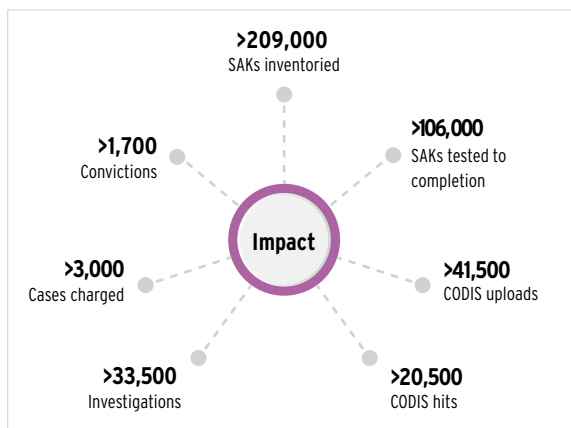
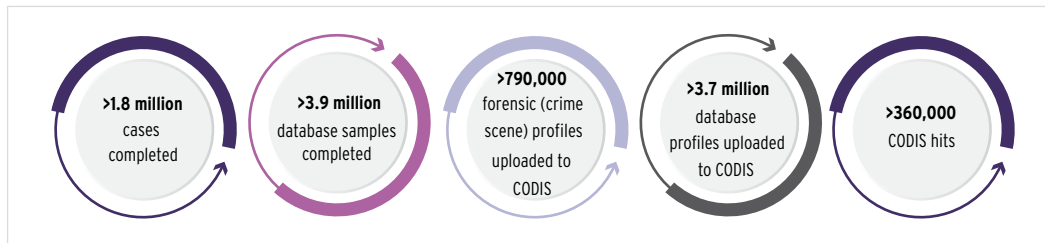


The **Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)** seeks to strengthen America's communities by supporting state, local, and tribal jurisdictions to overcome challenges faced by the criminal justice system. In alignment with this mission, BJA provides federal funding through the following forensic science programs to combat violent crime, resolve cases, lower recidivism, increase public safety, and enhance justice.

DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program

The **CEBR Program** provides federal funding for publicly funded accredited forensic DNA laboratories to process, and increase capacity to process, eligible samples for entry into the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). The goal of this program is to increase the capacity of publicly funded forensic DNA and DNA database laboratories to process more DNA samples, thereby helping reduce the number of forensic DNA and DNA database samples awaiting analysis.

To learn more about the **CEBR Program** and potential funding opportunities, please visit [DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction \(CEBR\) Program](#).



National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) Program

The **SAKI Program** provides resources and support to criminal justice agencies in their efforts to improve their jurisdictional response to violent crimes, particularly those involving sexual violence. SAKI aims to reduce sexual assault and violent crimes, hold violent offenders accountable, and deliver support and justice for victims through an examination of violent cold case crimes and the factors that contributed to significant backlogs of unsubmitted and partially tested sexual assault kits (SAKs).

To learn more about the **SAKI Program** and potential funding opportunities, please visit [National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative \(SAKI\) Program](#).

Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants (Coverdell) Program

The **Coverdell Program** provides federal funding for state and local government units to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner/coroner (ME/C) services. This program helps reduce the backlog of forensic evidence analysis requests awaiting processing, build capacity of forensic laboratories and ME/C offices, and make training more accessible for forensic science and ME/C professionals.

To learn more about the **Coverdell Program** and potential funding opportunities, please visit [Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants \(Coverdell\) Program](#).

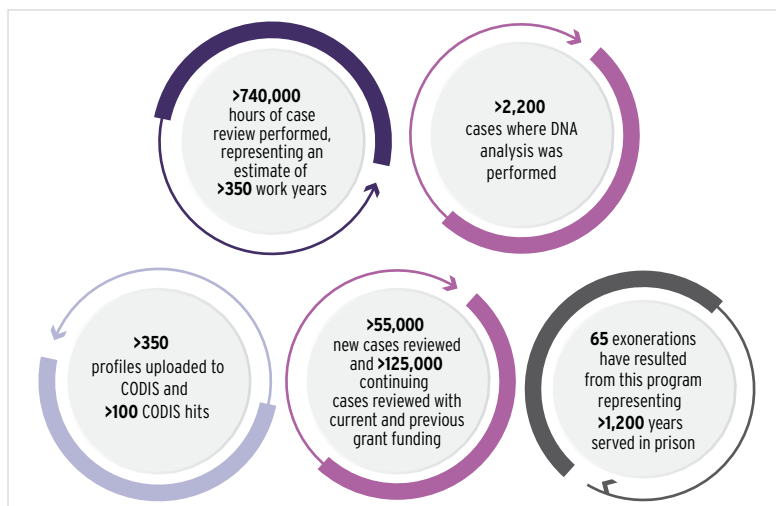
From FY2011-FY2023, Coverdell Program funds were used to:

- ☒ **Analyze >2 million** backlogged cases resulting in **>450** agencies decreasing their backlogged cases
- ☒ **Support >170,000** hours of training for forensic personnel, **>15,500** hours of training for medical examiners/coroners, and **>6,500** hours of training for pathologists
- ☒ **Help >400** agencies improve their timeliness in case analysis
- ☒ **Enable >40** agencies obtain initial accreditation between FY2017-FY2023
- ☒ **Help >150** forensic personnel complete certification between FY2021-FY2023
- ☒ **Identify** the presence of controlled substances in **>85%** of seized drug cases tested between FY2021-FY2023

Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence (Postconviction) Program

The **Postconviction Program** provides federal funding for state and local government units to defray the costs associated with postconviction DNA testing in cases of violent felony offenses (as defined by state law) in which actual innocence might be demonstrated. This program helps grantees identify potential postconviction DNA testing cases, conduct case reviews, locate case-associated biological evidence, perform DNA analysis, and report DNA test results.

To learn more about the **Postconviction Program** and potential funding opportunities, please visit [Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence \(Postconviction\) Program](#).



Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA (COLD) Program

Since 2019, COLD Program funds were used to:

- ✓ **Identify >175** suspects who were previously unknown, including >50 identifications as a result of Forensic Genetic Genealogy
- ✓ **Prosecute >45** cases that have resulted in convictions
- ✓ **Charge or indict >100** cases
- ✓ **Resolve/close >150** cold cases

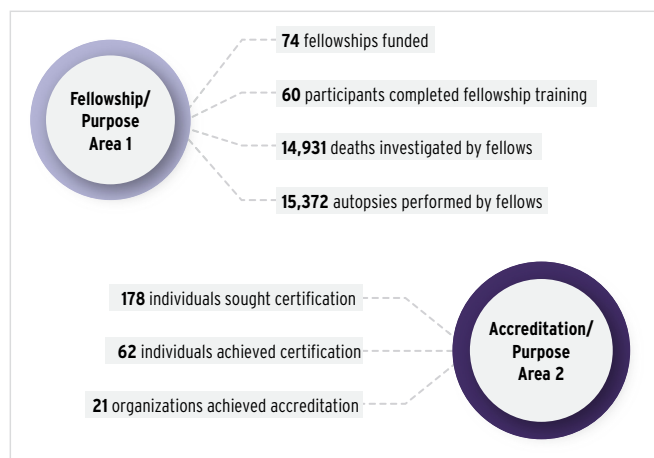
The **COLD Program** supports prosecutors in the investigation and prosecution of violent cold case crimes where a DNA profile from a suspect is already developed. This initiative aims to enhance public safety, hold violent offenders accountable, and further case resolution for victims and their families. Law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies may use federal funding for investigative and prosecutorial activities, as well as crime and forensic analysis that could increase the rate of successful prosecutions and/or other appropriate resolution of cases.

To learn more about the **Cold Program** and potential funding opportunities, please visit [Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA \(COLD\) Program](#).

Strengthening the Medical Examiner-Coroner (ME/C) System Program

The **ME/C Program** provides federal funding to help address medicolegal death investigation (MDI) workforce needs to increase the number of practicing board-certified forensic pathologists and to support ME/C offices' needs to implement and follow quality standards and performance criteria in an effort to provide a consistent and equitable application of MDI services.

To learn more about the **ME/C Program** and potential funding opportunities, please visit [Strengthening the Medical Examiner-Coroner \(ME/C\) System Program](#).



Since its inception in 2022, MUHR Program funds were used to:

- ✓ **Make >800** identifications
 - ✓ >240 identifications were made using fingerprints
 - ✓ >300 identifications were made using traditional DNA analysis
- ✓ **Repatriate >500** cases to relatives or next of kin

Missing and Unidentified Human Remains (MUHR) Program

The **MUHR Program** provides federal funding to eligible entities so they can improve reporting, transportation, forensic testing, and identification of missing persons and unidentified human remains in the United States. The program fills a gap in the national field by providing federal resources directly to state and local jurisdictions. As a result, jurisdictions become more self-sufficient in reducing their backlog of missing persons and unidentified human remains cases.

To learn more about the **MUHR Program** and potential funding opportunities, please visit [Missing and Unidentified Human Remains \(MUHR\) Program](#).