Bureau of Justice Assistance
Forensics Unit Programs

FORENSICS TTA PROGRAM

Forensic Genetic Genealogy (FGG) Fact Sheet

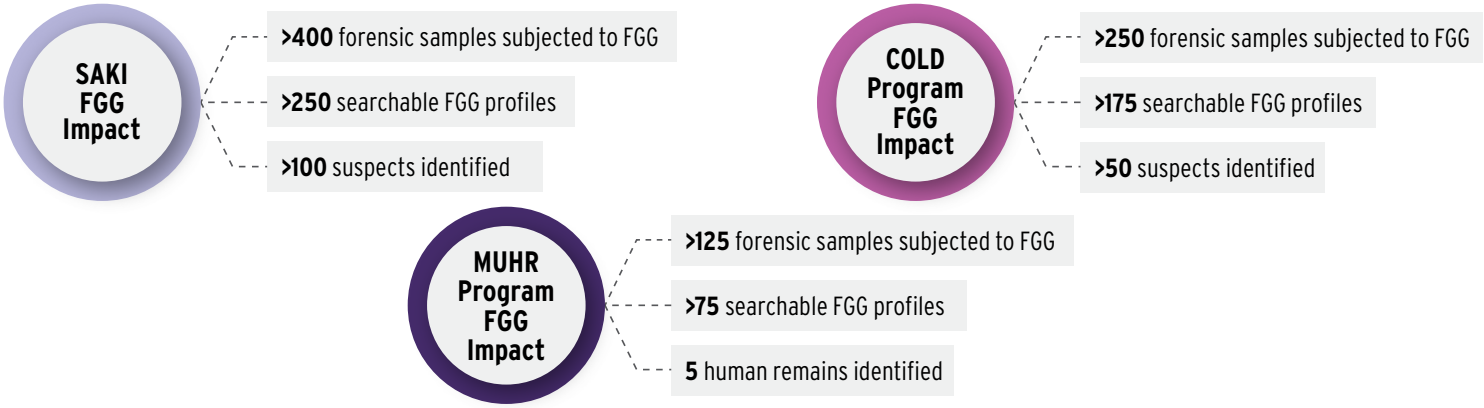
BJA recognizes that FGG can be a powerful investigative tool for resolving violent crimes. By combining traditional genealogy research methods with forensic DNA analysis, law enforcement, medical examiners/coroners, and other criminal justice professionals can develop investigative leads that may assist in identifying an unknown perpetrator or an unidentified victim of a violent crime.

BJA Forensics Unit Programs that Support the Application of FGG to Violent Crime Investigation

- National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI)
- Missing and Unidentified Human Remains (MUHR) Program
- Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants (Coverdell) Program
- Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence (Postconviction) Program
- Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA (COLD) Program

On average, more than 70% of awards under the BJA Forensics Programs include funding to support grantees' use of FGG, with more than $20 million invested in FGG efforts since 2022.

For more information on these funding opportunities, please visit https://bja.ojp.gov/topics/forensic-sciences.



Training and Technical Assistance (TTA)

The Forensics TTA Program and the SAKI TTA Program, both led by RTI International, support grantees in applying FGG to violent cold case investigations, including for the identification of victims of suspected homicide. Both programs support the areas of case identification and selection, considerations when choosing a forensic laboratory vendor, investigative genealogy (i.e., treebuilding), reference testing, confirmation testing, and prosecutorial considerations. For more information on Forensics TTA and SAKI TTA, please visit https://forensicstta.org and https://sakitta.org.

Recommended FGG Resources

SAKI TTA FGG Training: This virtual module teaches jurisdictions best practices and approaches to common challenges, so they may improve the use of FGG in their investigative workflows. To access this module enter your SAKI TTA account log-in information, or to create a free account, fill out this online form.

SAKI TTA FGG Laboratory Considerations and Technology Limitations: This brief provides guidance on evidence submission and considerations when choosing an FGG laboratory vendor.

U.S. Dept. of Justice Interim Policy – Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Searching: This policy provides information related to applying FGG to criminal investigations. *All BJA grantees using federal funding to support FGG must adhere to requirements in this policy.*

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