



The National DNA Database®

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ACPO Forensic Portfolio

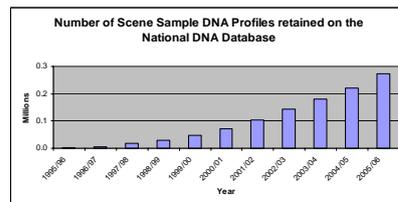
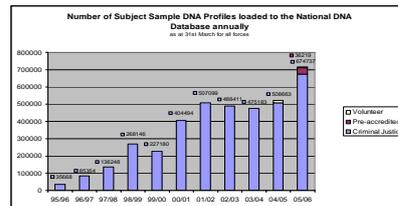
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The National DNA Database Records held



- The National DNA Database currently contains about 4.5 million sample profiles
- 60 000 CJ samples loaded per month
- 3 000 crime scene samples loaded per month
- 3 500 intelligence matches per month
- The largest DNA Database per head of population in the world





The National DNA Database 'Murder of Kim Newson'



- December 1995 - Stephen Hughes has DNA taken for a routine burglary
- March 2002 – Kim Newson, the pregnant neighbour of Hughes reported missing
- Stephen Hughes arrested for another burglary in Lincoln after Kim Newson discovered missing
- Hughes' house searched – Kim's birth certificate with Hughes' 'blood footprint'
- Victim's DNA in Hughes' house
- Hughes convicted of murder of Kim Newson – body dismembered



The National DNA Database 'Murder of Caroline Dickinson'



- July 1996 – Caroline Dickinson raped and murdered in France
- July 1998 – homeless man confesses but ruled out by DNA
- March 2001 - Francisco Montes arrested in Florida – breaking into woman's apartment
- March 2001 - US immigration officer visiting the UK links Caroline's murder to Montes after reading a newspaper article
- June 2004 – Montes convicted – DNA match



The National DNA Database Familial searching – ‘Shoe Rapist’



- James Lloyd – convicted July 2006
- Multiple rapes / sexual attacks between 1983 – 1986
- Rotherham South Yorkshire
- Investigation stalled using routine methods of investigation
- Caught through familial searching
- 42 possible relations identified – link via sister who had been convicted of drink driving
- Arrested and admitted 4 rapes and 3 attempted rapes
- Stiletto shoe ‘trophy’ found at place of work



Issues for the Future



- Victims and volunteers
- Disproportionality
- Retention of DNA samples
- Misinformation - ‘innocents’
- Lord Justice Sedley - ‘universal database’?
- New DNA Technology – validation
- Unprecedented media attention
- Nuffield Council and Human Genetics Commission



Public Confidence

- Public debate needed regarding developments in the National DNA Database
- Imperative that developments are:
 - Ethical
 - Proportionate
 - Bring offenders to justice
 - Incorporate the highest quality standards
- Public Confidence must be maintained



Public Confidence

- Consider the implications of:
 - Damilola Taylor
 - Load Failures
 - Operation Cube and LCN DNA
 - The Omagh bombing verdict



Summary



- The National DNA Database is an invaluable tool in detecting crime
- It is the largest Database per head of population in the World
- Debate regarding the future is timely
- The debate focuses on crime detection versus individual rights and freedoms
- Requirement to balance these competing demands
- **MUST NOT** forget the rights of victims