

*A Current  
Educational  
Bulletin For  
Submitting Law  
Enforcement  
Agencies*

*A Closer Examination From The Benchtop ...*

# UNDER *the* SCOPE



MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL • CRIME LABORATORY

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To improve efficiency, please notify the lab if analysis of your evidence is no longer required.

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417-359-1560

**Troop E - Cape Girardeau**  
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APRIL 2015

VOLUME 14 • ISSUE 1

## Why Do We Have Two DNA Units?

The DNA units at the MSHP lab have been busy recently processing cases and profiling offenders. Our submitting agencies may not realize that there are two separate DNA units at the MSHP Crime Lab that handle the DNA workload: DNA Casework and CODIS. Even though both units have different responsibilities and requirements of our submitting agencies, the ultimate goal of solving crimes is the same.

CODIS, the COMbined DNA Index System, is a national DNA database controlled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. CODIS is used by both the CODIS Unit and DNA Casework to support law enforcement through investigative leads.

The CODIS Unit is responsible for generating profiles from offenders per State law. RSMo 650.055 requires the following individuals to provide a scientifically accepted biological sample for the purposes of DNA profiling analysis:

- Those who are found guilty of any felony offense or certain sexual misdemeanors
- Those seventeen years of age or older who are arrested for certain felonies, including burglary
- Those determined to be a sexually violent predator
- Those required to register as a sexual offender

Department of Corrections (DOC) personnel currently collect samples from

eligible individuals who are either incarcerated or on probation/parole. The arresting agency is responsible for collecting from qualified offenders upon arrest, while the registering agency collects from sex offenders. Once DOC or the Law Enforcement agencies submit those samples to the lab, the CODIS Unit generates profiles for entry into CODIS. Offender samples are used for investigative purposes and are not considered evidence.

The MSHP DNA Casework sections in Jefferson City, Cape Girardeau, and Springfield are responsible for processing crime scene evidence that agencies submit to the lab. Types of cases range from burglaries to homicides. The analyst's primary duties are stain identification and DNA typing of evidence from crime scenes, with subsequent comparison to known reference standards. If profiles generated from evidence meet the eligibility criteria for entry, they may be entered into CODIS for periodic searches against the database. Submitting agencies receive a written report upon case completion. DNA Casework criminalists routinely testify to exam results.

Even though both DNA units of the lab are independent of each other, they complement each other through CODIS. The database relies upon properly collected offender and casework reference standards. We appreciate the hard work that our submitting agencies are doing to keep the DNA system running efficiently and effectively.