



FORENSIC UPDATE



Raleigh Lab



Western Lab



Triad Lab

From the Crime Lab Director



In this edition of the Forensic Update, you will find information regarding the CODIS database, CODIS hits, the State Crime Lab Law Enforcement Portal for CODIS hits, CODIS hit follow-up, and upcoming lunch-and-learn training opportunities regarding CODIS hits.

Should you have any questions, concerns or feedback, please contact me via email at athompson@ncdoj.gov, by office line at (919) 582-8761 or by cell at (919) 532-6976.

Amanda Thompson, Director

What is CODIS?

The Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) is a national DNA Database administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation that allows DNA profiles from evidence samples to be compared to each other and to known DNA profiles to generate possible investigative leads in a case.

There are three levels of CODIS:

- National DNA Index System (NDIS) - maintained by the FBI
- State DNA Index System (SDIS) - maintained by the State Crime Lab in Raleigh
- Local DNA Index System (LDIS) - maintained by the State Crime Lab Western Lab and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Lab



DNA Profiles and CODIS Samples

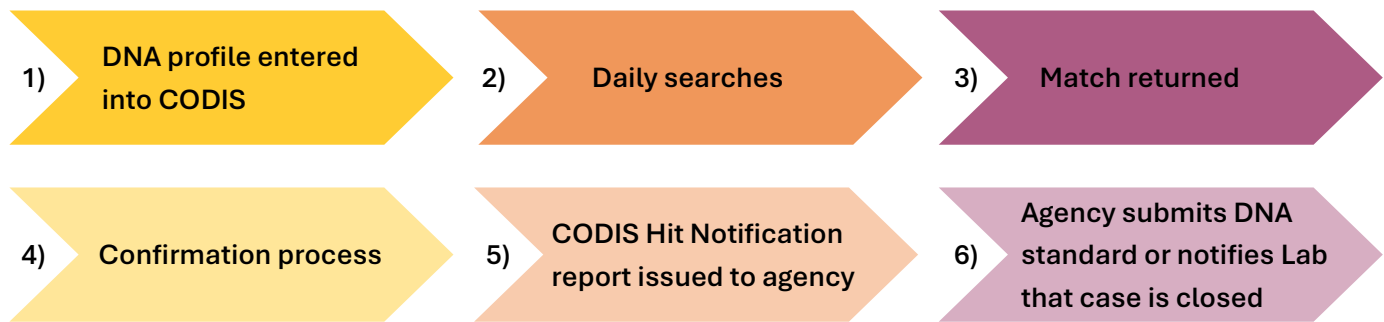
There are various categories of samples that are searched in CODIS. These include:

- Convicted offenders and arrestees
- Forensic Samples
- Missing persons (reference samples)
- Relatives of missing persons
- Unidentified human remains

» As of April 2025, there are over 21 million DNA profiles routinely searched in the national database.

» North Carolina's CODIS database is comprised of over 400,000 DNA profiles.

CODIS Hit Workflow



CODIS Searches

Once a profile has been entered into CODIS, it remains indefinitely. Searches are performed automatically at the SDIS and NDIS levels daily. CODIS hits may occur immediately after upload or even decades later. The hit occurring is reliant on both profiles—the forensic unknown sample and the offender sample—being in the database. New samples are added to the database daily.

The CODIS State Administrator, housed in the Raleigh Forensic Biology Section, evaluates any matches returned from CODIS on a daily basis.



CODIS Hit Notification Reports from the Crime Lab

When a law enforcement agency receives a hit in a case they submitted to the Crime Lab, the Forensic Biology Section issues a “Notification of CODIS Hit” report to the investigating officer of the case through the Crime Lab’s Forensic Advantage (FA) system. The Chief of Police or Sheriff, as well as the District Attorney, also receive a copy of this report via FA.

Information provided in a CODIS hit may be used as an investigative lead in the case. State law requires any agency that receives an actionable CODIS hit to provide electronic notice to the State Crime Lab detailing any arrest or conviction made in connection with the hit within 15 days (N.C.G.S. 15A-266.8).

Types of CODIS Hits

A CODIS hit is a match that has been confirmed and aides in an investigation. These hits include:

- Offender Hit—unknown DNA profile matches a known DNA profile from a convicted offender
- Arrestee Hit—unknown DNA profile matches a known DNA profile from an arrestee
- Investigative Information—both cases are solved, and the hit is case-to-case
- Forensic Hit—an unsolved case-to-case hit to a solved or unsolved case

Law Enforcement CODIS Hit Portal



On May 7, 2025, a letter from the NC Department of Justice and the State Crime Laboratory was emailed to all law enforcement agencies requesting your assistance. We need all agencies to provide a designee's name and contact information in order to gain access to the Law Enforcement CODIS Hit Portal, created by the State Crime Lab.

If your agency has active CODIS hits that require resolution, they are located on this list and require follow-up by the law enforcement agency.

To access the portal, please email your agency's designee to Forensic Scientist Manager Tim Baize at tbaize@ncdoj.gov, or CODIS State Administrator Amanda Overman at aoverman@ncdoj.gov.



Outsourced DNA Cases

Should your law enforcement agency choose to privately outsource a case for DNA analysis, please be aware that only private vendors who have been audited by the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory can have profiles developed and reviewed by the Lab or uploaded into CODIS.

At this time, the State Crime Lab has audited the following private vendors:

- Bode Technology



Upcoming Lunch and Learn Opportunity



The Crime Lab will be hosting two virtual lunch and learn opportunities to learn more about CODIS, the CODIS Hit follow-up process and the Crime Lab's new Law Enforcement CODIS Hit Portal.

Please join us for one of the following sessions:

- Thursday, July 10th at 2:00 pm
- Tuesday, July 29th at 10:00 am

Register for the lunch and learn by scanning the QR code below.

