



In This Issue

- 2015 Hits
- Collection Tips
- What Happens To The DNA?
- A CODIS Success Story

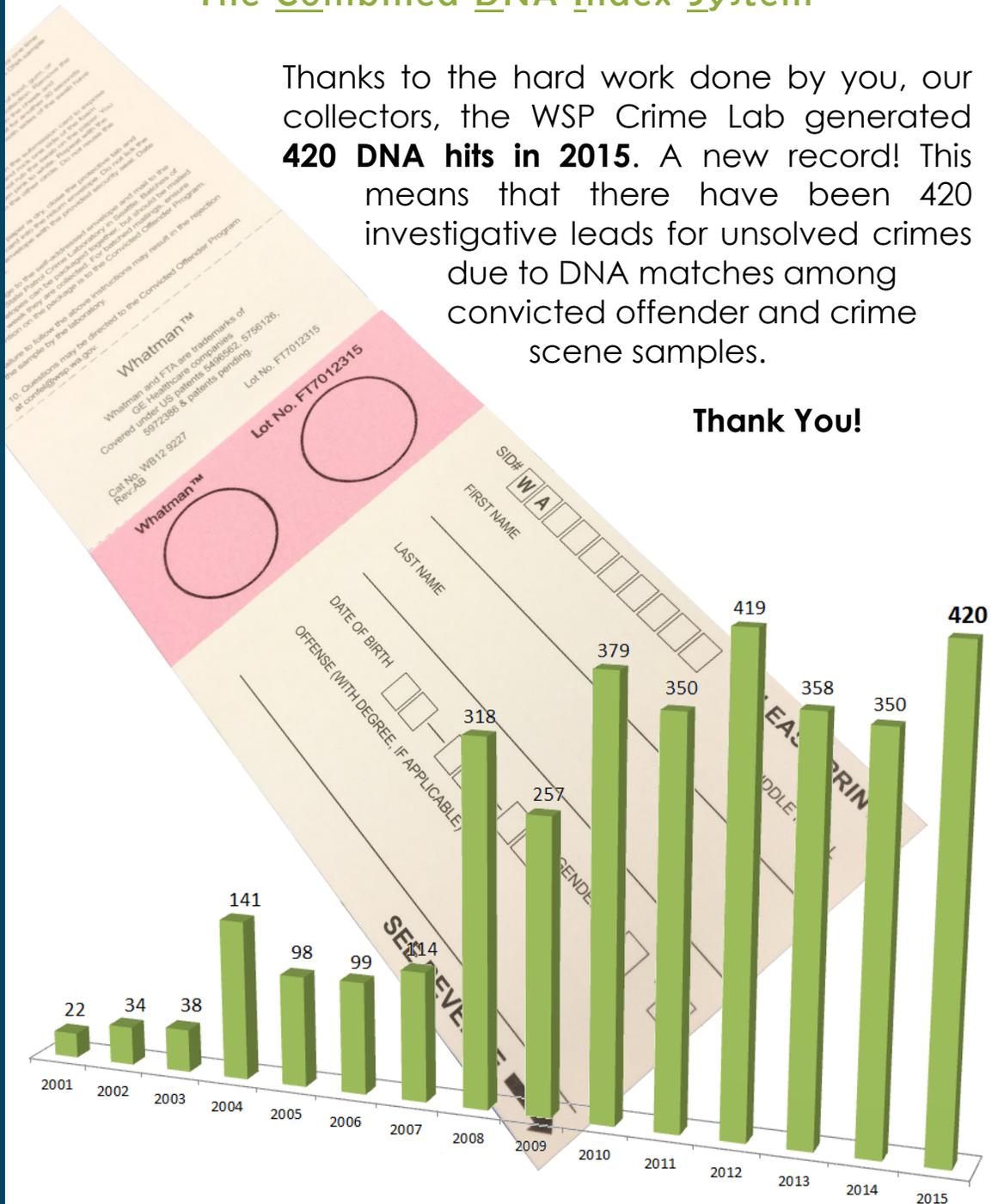
The Combined DNA Index System

Contact us to order more Convicted Offender DNA Kits, at no cost to your agency. If you already have gloves and cleaning materials for print ink (such as moist towelettes), we can omit those items from the kits.

confel@wsp.wa.gov
206-262-6152

Thanks to the hard work done by you, our collectors, the WSP Crime Lab generated **420 DNA hits in 2015**. A new record! This means that there have been 420 investigative leads for unsolved crimes due to DNA matches among convicted offender and crime scene samples.

Thank You!





Questions about taking a DNA sample?
Need some help with the submission card?
We are happy to provide training to collectors, either in person or by DVD .
Drop us a line!

confel@wsp.wa.gov

206-262-6152

Collection Tips



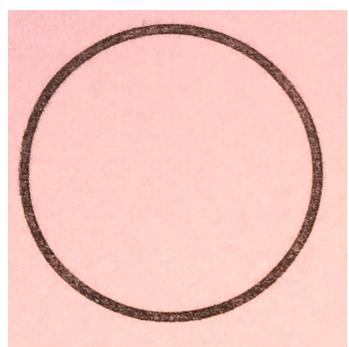
- The initials on the red security seal should belong to the collector, not the offender.
- The offense listed on the card must be a conviction, not an arrest charge.
- For convenience, samples can be sent together in a batch – but please send them within a week or two. The longer samples take to get to us, the less information we have to assist investigations.
- Please do not use Wite-Out® to make corrections on the submission card. Strike-out and initial any edits.
- We recommend DNA collection upon intake, not release. The offender will then likely be in custody in case a recollection is needed (because of weak DNA or bad prints).
- If possible, please return the manila envelopes (unmarked) that contain the kit components. We can reuse them!
- Please use the State ID (SID) on the submission card. Even juvenile offenders may have one. Check in WATCH (<https://fortress.wa.gov/wsp/watchcj/Home/Index>) or give us a call at 206-262-6020.



★ Good Sample
Much of the circle has changed from pink to white after pressing the swab on the paper



⊘ Poor Sample
The swab was rubbed instead of pressed on the paper



⊘ Poor Sample
No color change can be seen, meaning that there is little or no sample on the paper

What Happens to the DNA?

You may recall from school that DNA is a long molecule found in all living things. It provides the code for how organisms are built and is unique for each individual. We take advantage of this molecular “blueprint” by generating sixteen pairs of numbers from sixteen segments of DNA. (The DNA that the WSP CODIS Lab uses comes from cheek cells that are transferred by foam swab onto the submission card.) The result is a distinct profile that acts like a fingerprint, but *does not reveal any physical information about the person (other than male/female)*. It is this profile that all 50 states upload into the CODIS database, in hopes of a match. An example of a laboratory control profile looks like this:

DNA segment	Profile
D8S1179	13, 13
D21S11	30, 30
D7S820	10, 11
CSF1PO	10, 12
D3S1358	14, 15
TH01	8, 9.3
D13S317	11, 11
D16S539	11, 12
D2S1338	19, 23
D19S433	14, 15
vWA	17, 18
TPOX	8, 8
D18S51	15, 19
AMEL	X, X
D5S818	11, 11
FGA	23, 24



No need to collect duplicate samples – we prefer if you didn't! In addition to saving you time, it also saves the Crime Lab time and money.

There are two ways to check if we already have a sample for a convicted offender: look online for the DNA flags in WATCH (<https://fortress.wa.gov/wsp/watchcj/Home/Index>) or give us a call (206-262-6020, ask for the CODIS Lab) and we'll check for you!

Remember – we only need one sample per offender, not per conviction.

A CODIS Success Story



Carol Davidson

In 1986, Carol Davidson was last seen alive at a convenience store with an unidentified male prior to being discovered the following day by her daughter, naked and bound in her apartment, the victim of a brutal rape and homicide.

Evidence originally sent to the WSP Crime Laboratory by the Tacoma Police Department in the 1980s was too limited in nature to lead investigators to make an arrest in the case. In 2012, new technology was available that would allow for DNA analysis on trace samples, and the evidence was re-submitted with additional items to the laboratory in an attempt to generate new leads in the case.

Semen was identified on several items, and a partial male profile was uploaded into CODIS, **where it matched to a convicted offender**, Christopher Leon Smith, already incarcerated and serving 50 years to life for rape. Further testing in the case matched Smith to cigarette butts found inside Ms. Davidson's apartment. In 2014, Smith was sentenced to an additional 33 years in prison to be served after completion of his previous sentence.

The story of Carol Davidson's murder and the subsequent re-examination of evidence to produce a cold hit in CODIS was the subject of an hour long special featured in *On the Case with Paula Zahn*. The episode, "Blurred Truth", aired in 2015 on the Investigation Discovery Channel.

?? Did You Know ??

The Washington State Patrol CODIS Lab receives convicted offender DNA samples from over 100 agencies statewide.

The Lab receives about 1,000 samples every month.

There have been over 250,000 samples from Washington state entered into CODIS since the early 1990s.

