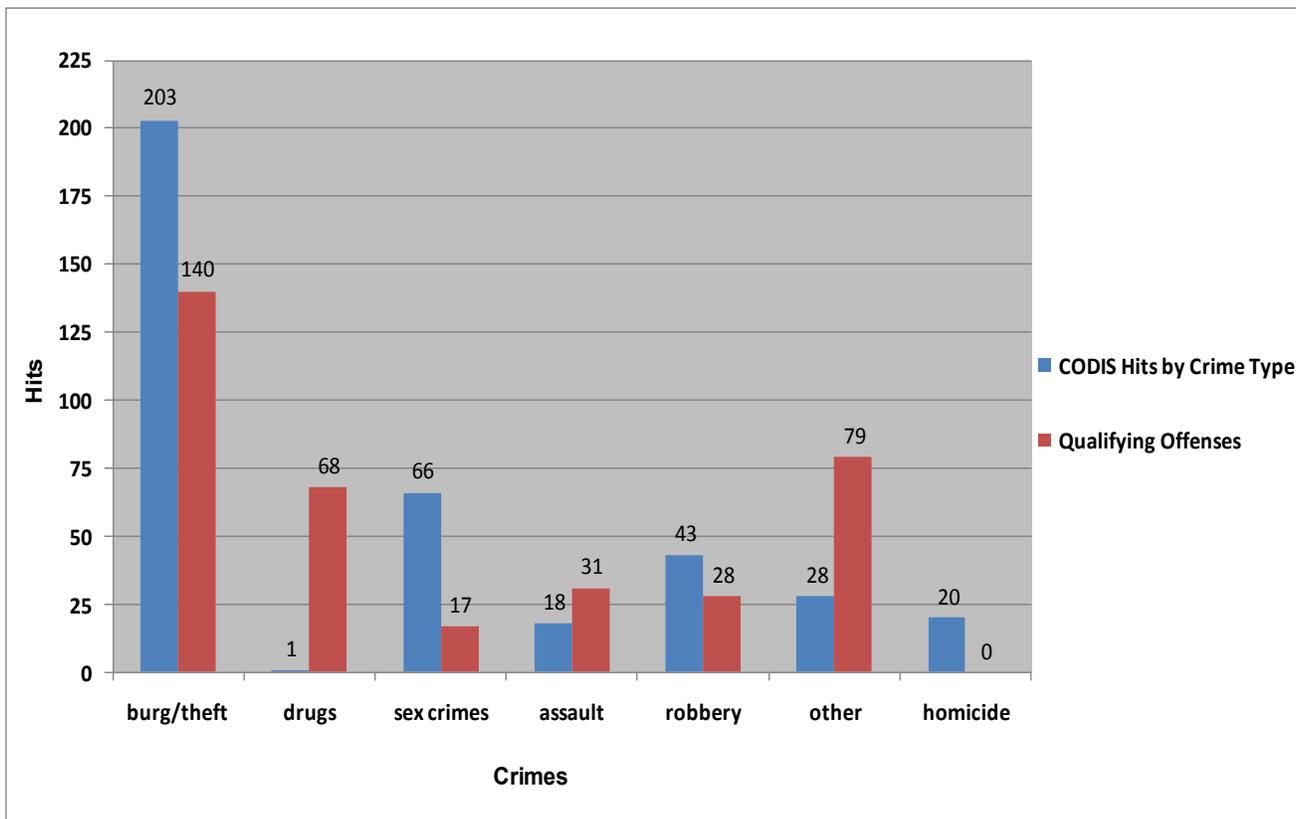


The Combined DNA Index System Newsletter

March 2011

2010 CODIS Hit Summary

2010 was a great year for CODIS hits. We had a total of 379 hits for the year; an average of 32 hits per month! This is a 52% increase from 2009 when the lab averaged only 21 hits per month. A summary of the hits by crime category and by qualifying offense is depicted below. In 2010, 39% of CODIS hits were in serious cases (homicides, rapes, robbery, and assaults), while 79% of CODIS hits were to a convicted offender in the database for typically less violent crimes such as drug possession or burglary. This shows the value of collecting DNA from those convicted of less severe, mostly non-violent crimes.

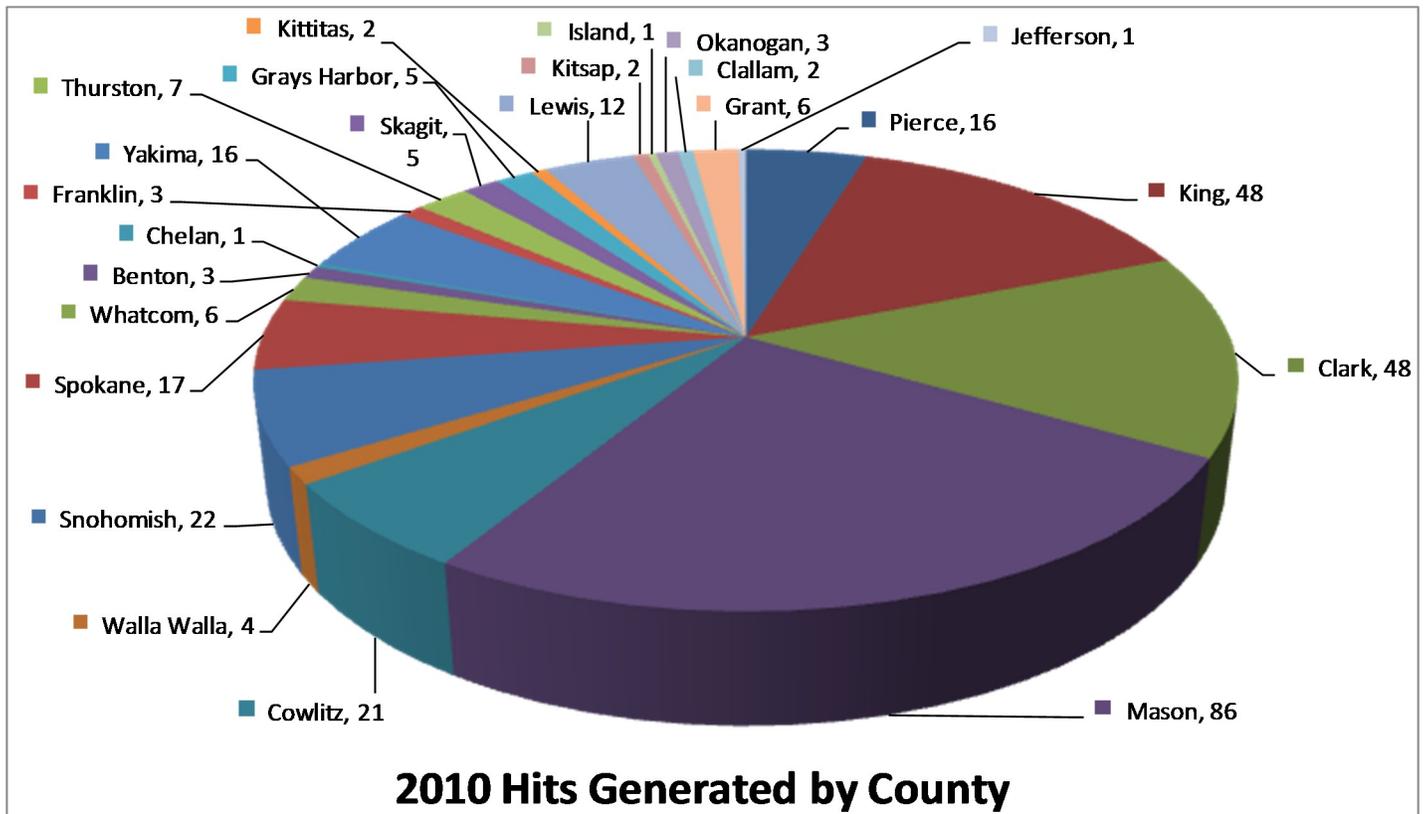


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- Give Us Your Feedback
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- CODIS Hits by County
- Collector Training
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- WATCH
- Special Order Kits

You Make a Difference

Every convicted offender submission is important to our laboratory, the criminal justice system, and the community. Because of your dedication in collecting these samples, we are able to type and upload offender profiles to not only the state level of CODIS, but the national level as well, yielding hits in-state and across the country. The chart below shows hits by submitting county. Some counties have larger collecting agencies than others, so the potential for hits is greater (e.g. Washington Corrections Center in Mason County). Every hit and submission is important, so keep up the good work when collecting convicted offender samples. The next hit may be from your county!



Reminder: New WATCH Address

What is WATCH? This is a *free* tool for criminal justice agencies that allows the collector to learn if a DNA sample has already been collected from an offender and submitted to the CODIS Laboratory. This information, along with other pertinent details, can be found on the individual's criminal history record in WATCH.

The WATCH address was updated in 2010 to the following:
<http://watchcj.wsp.wa.gov/>

To set up an account and complete an application, use the "Forms" link on the left side of the WATCH homepage.

WATCH
WASHINGTON ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY

LOGIN

Account:

User Name:

Password:

By logging into this web site I agree to use information received in accordance with RCW 10.97.050 regarding dissemination and usage of criminal history. I understand that all information obtained from WATCHCJ will be subject to annual audits from the Washington State Patrol and a failure to comply with RCW 10.97.050 will subject my agency to various sanctions. These sanctions may include the termination of WATCHCJ services to my agency.

WATCH Login Page

We Want to Hear from You!

CODIS would love to hear from you, our agencies.

- Are there any topics you'd like us to feature in future newsletters?
- Any pressing questions you'd like us to answer?
- Would you like to learn about CODIS and what happens with the samples you submit once they arrive at our lab?

If so, please feel free to email your suggestions to confel@wsp.wa.gov. If you have a question regarding kits, sample collection, or a topic that needs immediate attention from our staff, please call or email us directly. Our contact information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

How Our Office Assistant Can Help You

Our Office Assistant, Marianne, recently married and can now be reached at Marianne.Patton@wsp.wa.gov or (206) 262-6152. If you currently do not have access to WATCH, contact Marianne to see if a DNA sample needs to be collected from the offender. This will help reduce the number of duplicate submissions to our lab, save on the cost of kits, and save you, the collector, the time and effort involved with collection.

Marianne is also the main person to contact for kit requests including the special order kits now available (see article at the right).



Marianne applies barcode labels with unique laboratory numbers to the convicted offender samples submitted to our laboratory.

DNA Collector Training Still Available

The CODIS Laboratory is continuing to offer collector training to agencies interested in learning about CODIS, in addition to details of the convicted offender DNA collection process. This hour-long training is a great opportunity for both existing and new employees. Please contact our lab to schedule your training today!

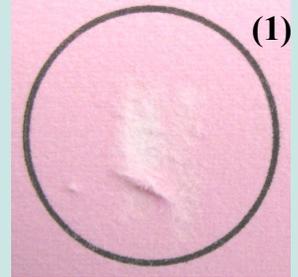
Also, as a reminder, if your agency has new DNA collectors, please ensure they view the 10-minute DNA collection DVD. If your agency never received a copy or you need a new DVD, please contact the CODIS lab at confel@wsp.wa.gov or call (206) 262-6020.

Special Order Kits

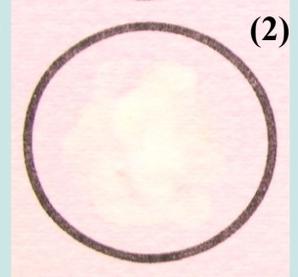
The CODIS lab is offering to create DNA collection kits that are specific to your agency's needs. Special order kits will include kits without gloves, without moist towelettes, or both. If your agency has a special request, please note this detail when submitting your kit request to Marianne at her email address. To allow sufficient time to assemble these kits, please place your order two weeks in advance. Special order kits have the potential to save money and reduce waste — a win-win situation!

Important Collection Tips

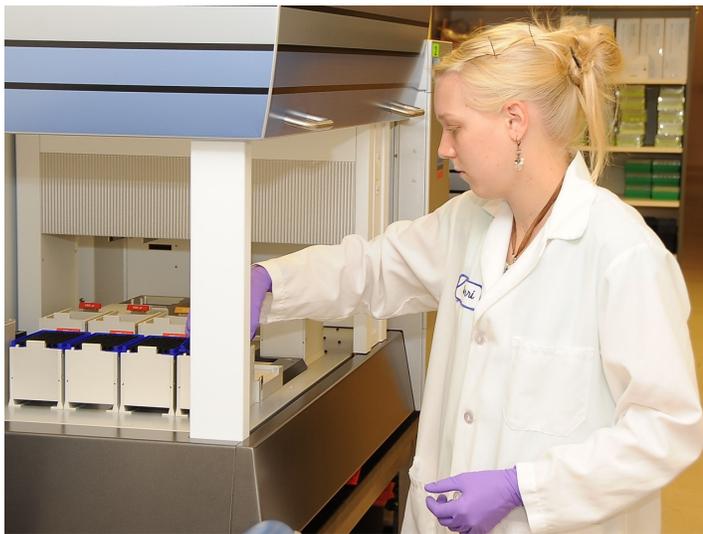
- Specify “felony” (e.g. Felony DUI) on the submission card for the following offenses:
 - DV Court Order Violation
 - Bail Jumping
 - Violation of a No Contact Order
 - DUI
- Always indicate the offense degree, as lesser degrees are not always qualifying offenses. For example, while Theft 1 and 2 are covered, Theft 3 does not qualify. Another example is Assault 4, which only qualifies if the conviction is for Assault 4 With Sexual Motivation.
- Do not rub the DNA collection paper with the foam paddle, as tearing can occur (see example 1 on right). To ensure DNA is transferred properly please remember to rock the foam paddle back and forth on the pink collection paper. Good DNA collection is indicated by a color change of the collection paper from pink to white, with at least 75% of the circle experiencing a color change. See example 2 for how the paper should appear after collection.
- The collector should initial the red security seal, not the offender.
- If available, feel free to use campus mail when submitting DNA samples to save on the cost of postage.



(1)



(2)



Sherri uses a robot to type convicted offender samples, a method that allows analysts to process 76 samples at a time.

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