

# The COmbined Dna Index System Newsletter

APRIL 2009

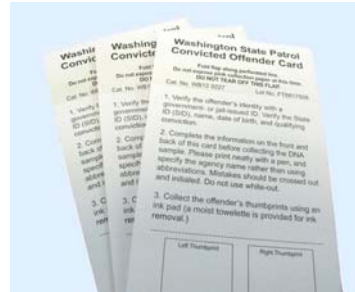
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*“All great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom; justice; honor; duty; mercy; hope”*  
~Winston Churchill

## New DNA Collection Kits

In February the CODIS Laboratory unveiled the new all-in-one DNA collection cards and began the switch over to new DNA collection kits. A huge thank you to all of our collection agencies for their patience and cooperation during the transition. We have been getting positive feedback regarding the new collection card and hope it has helped streamline the collection process.



made by collectors. As contents may settle during shipping it may be necessary to dig for the DVD near the bottom of the box of kits.

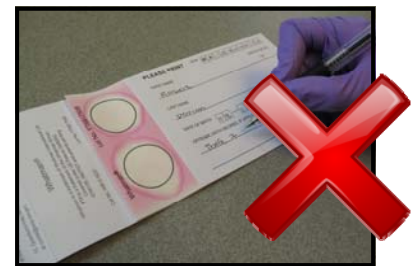
important that the DNA collection paper is not exposed to anything except the foam swab.



We strongly encourage agencies to watch the training DVD included with each first box of new kits. The DVD includes step-by-step instruction for DNA collection with the new kits, and highlights common mistakes

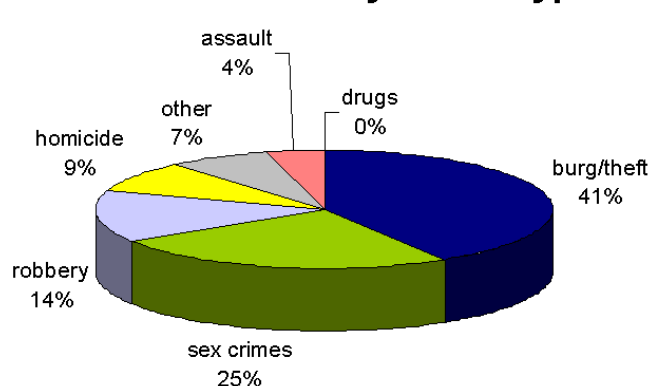
### Important reminder:

When filling out the offender's information please remember to **fold back the front flap** along the perforation. This protects the DNA collection paper from potential contamination. It is very



## What a Great Year!

2008 CODIS Hits by Crime Type



Thanks in large part to your hard work the CODIS Laboratory had **318** database hits in 2008! Your diligence in collecting offender samples has helped provide numerous investigative leads. The chart on the left indicates the types of criminal investigations that were aided as a result of these hits.

CODIS is an invaluable crime-fighting tool and you are a direct part of that - thank you!



CODIS scientist Robert Dorion analyzes a DNA profile

DNA samples in queue for storage



# Deferred Disposition Programs

For agencies who have offenders on deferred disposition programs, please do not collect a sample unless the offender fails to complete the program and is found guilty. This requirement is to ensure compliance with RCW 43.43.754, which only allows for DNA collection from individuals **convicted** of a qualifying offense and sex and kidnapping registrants. Individuals who successfully complete a deferred disposition program do not have a conviction recorded and therefore do not qualify for DNA sample collection. Questions regarding this policy can be sent to the CODIS Laboratory Manager, Jean Johnston, at [jean.johnston@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:jean.johnston@wsp.wa.gov).

## Q & A

### What is the correct offense abbreviation for sex and kidnapping offender registrants?

For offenders required to register under R.C.W. 9A.44.130 (sex and kidnapping offenders), the correct offense abbreviation to list on the DNA collection card is **"SOR"**. Please do not list previous out-of-state convictions. For sex and kidnapping registrants from out of state who do not yet have a WA SID, please use the FBI number.

### Do I need to list the degree of an offense on the submission card?

Yes! Always include any applicable degree when listing an offense. There are a handful of offenses that only qualify for DNA sampling when the conviction is for a specific degree. Some examples of common offenses that only qualify at the listed degrees:

- Theft 1 & 2
- Possession of Stolen Property 1 & 2
- Malicious Mischief 1 & 2
- Criminal Impersonation 1

### When a DNA sample recollection is requested do I also need to include new thumbprints?

**Yes.** When a CODIS scientist requests a DNA sample be recollected, all the original offender and collector information should be included on the DNA collection card, including the offender's thumbprints.

### What is the most common mistake seen with submitted submission cards?

With the switch over to the new DNA collection kits we've received a number of samples missing the collector information on the back of the card. Please make sure to **fill out the back side** of the DNA collection card with your agency and collector information. We cannot accept samples missing this important information.

## Duplicate Sample Submissions

The CODIS Laboratory continues to receive duplicate samples. This is a drain on time and supplies for both collecting agencies and the CODIS Lab. Please do take the time to check an individual's criminal history record to see if a DNA sample has already been collected. If the "DNA Taken" field is set to "Y" in WATCH, then do **not** submit another sample.

If you do not have access to criminal history records you can request access via:

<https://WATCHcj.wsp.wa.gov>