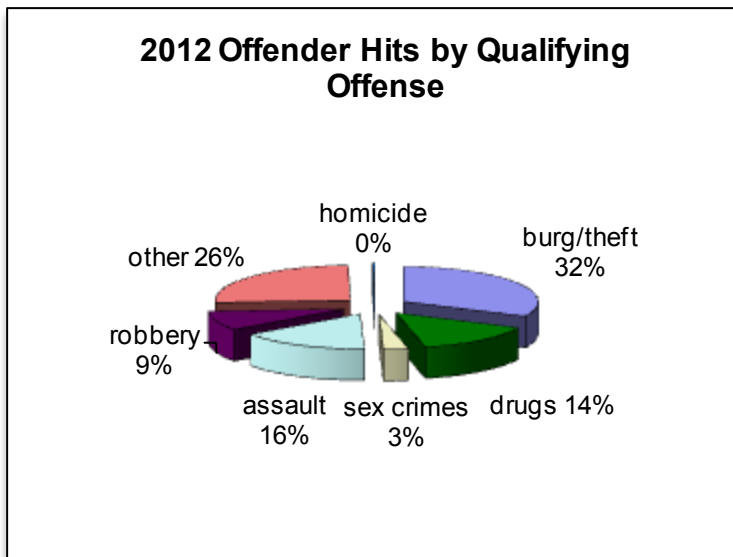


Combined DNA Index System Newsletter

Record Hits in 2012!

Washington State had a record 419 CODIS hits in 2012, an average of about 35 per month. This is up from 350 hits (29 per month) in 2011. Each of these hits results from a DNA match between a convicted offender and a crime scene sample (or between crime scene samples) and provides an investigative lead. It's these hits that make the Convicted Offender Program so important to people affected by crime. Thanks to the hundreds of collectors across the state who help make the program so successful!

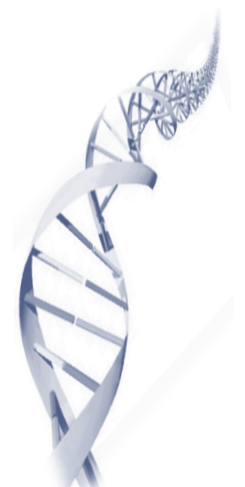


Approximately 43% of 2012 hits occurred in serious cases, like homicides, rapes, robberies, and assaults. As the pie chart above illustrates, 72% of these hits came from offenders in the database for relatively “minor” crimes like drug possession or theft. This goes to show that every offender sample you collect is important!

Training Opportunities Available

The CODIS Laboratory offers limited collector training to our agencies. A one hour training session covers: basics about CODIS, the CODIS laboratory, and the ins and outs of sample collection. It's a great way to fulfill continuing education requirements! Please contact us for more information: confel@wsp.wa.gov

January 2013



Inside this issue:

- CODIS Success Stories 2
- Access to WATCH 2
- Special Order Kits 3
- Collection Tips 3



**Marianne labeling
DNA samples**

CODIS Success Stories

Back in 1999, a Snohomish County high school freshman was raped and \$1 was stolen from her wallet while walking home from her bus stop. The perpetrator's DNA profile was developed from evidence collected within hours of the attack, but investigators didn't know who the profile belonged to. In order to keep the statute of limitations from expiring, prosecutors charged "Individual A", the person whose profile was found on the evidence, with the crimes.


The identity of "Individual A" was a mystery until Daniel Nathan Peltier's DNA profile was entered into the CODIS database in North Dakota, where he had been convicted of sexually assaulting an 11 year old girl. Without CODIS, Peltier may never have been identified. He pled guilty to rape, robbery, and assault in July 2012 and was sentenced to 31 years in jail.

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20120829/NEWS01/708299866/0/SEARCH>

CODIS was also instrumental in identifying a suspect in a 2007 Lewis County child molestation case, where an 8 year old girl was forced into a public restroom at knifepoint and molested. Like the case above, a DNA profile was found on evidence from the crime scene, but the suspect could not be identified. Then, in May 2012, this profile hit to a recently entered convicted offender profile. Reginald L. Juntunen had been convicted of second degree theft in 2010, but his convicted offender DNA sample had just been received by the CODIS Lab earlier in 2012. A plea agreement in the 2007 Lewis County case requires Juntunen to serve 25 years to life.

<http://www.lewiscountysirens.com/?p=16039>

These examples show just how powerful a tool the CODIS database can be for law enforcement. Your diligence in collecting DNA samples from every qualifying offender and submitting them in a timely manner makes a real difference!



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.

Have You Signed Up for WATCH Yet?

WATCH is a *free* service available to criminal justice agencies. Collectors can quickly and easily access an offender's criminal history to find:

- Whether a DNA sample has been collected already (via the "DNA Taken" line)
- The State ID number, which is very important to write on each sample submitted to the lab

Signing up is easy! Visit:

<http://watchcj.wsp.wa.gov/>

Special Order Kits

As always, the CODIS Lab provides DNA collection kits to all our collecting agencies free of charge. We appreciate having about two weeks' notice in order to allow sufficient time to assemble your kits.

We are also still able to offer DNA collection kits that are specific to your agency's needs. Standard kits each contain a DNA collection card, foam swab, self-addressed envelope, security seal, moist towelette, and gloves. If your agency does not need gloves and/or moist towelettes, special order kits can be made without these components. Just let us know when you place your order!



Washington State Patrol CODIS Lab
2203 Airport Way S
Suite 250
Seattle, WA 98134

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E-mail: confel@wsp.wa.gov

Collection Tips

- Be sure to fill out both sides of the DNA collection card; the sample cannot be accepted unless the offender and collector information are complete.
- We have seen more samples coming in recently that have good pink-to-white color change, but do not have enough DNA to generate a DNA profile. This happens when the swab is wet with saliva, but has not been rubbed between the offender's cheek and gumline for long enough. It takes about 30 seconds of rubbing to ensure good transfer of cheek cells to the swab.
- Always indicate the offense degree, as lesser degrees are often not 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.
- Specify "felony" on the collection card for the following offenses:

- DV Court Order Violation	- Bail Jumping
- Violation of a No Contact Order	- DUI
- Please collect samples as early in an offender's sentence as possible and send these samples in within a month of collection.

