

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FACT SHEET

PROSECUTING COLD CASES USING DNA

Program Summary

Designed to aid prosecutors, the Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA Program provides funding to support agencies in the resolution of violent cold case crimes.

Program Objectives

- Prosecution of cold cases involving violent crime where suspects have been identified through DNA evidence.
- Decrease in the number of unresolved violent cold case crimes awaiting prosecution.

Program Funding & Awards

Award year	# of Awards	Total Amount
FY 2019	2	\$970,239
FY 2020	10	\$4,700,000
FY 2021	13	\$6,955,000
FY 2022	15	\$7,500,000
FY 2023	15	\$7,998,000

Program Accomplishments

- Multiple suspect profiles uploaded to Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS/AFIS).
- 78 suspects who were initially unknown, are now identified.
- 19 cases have resulted in convictions.
- 30 suspects were identified via forensic genetic genealogy work.
- 46 cases have been charged and/or indicted.
- 78 cold cases have been resolved/closed.

Program Requirements

- A prosecutorial body must be a fully engaged project partner.
- Suspects' DNA profiles have already been generated (can be known or unknown suspects).
- Utilization of Forensic Genetic Genealogy must follow the "DOJ Interim Policy Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Searching."

Additional Information

- BJA Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA Program Web Page: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/prosecuting-cold-cases-using-dna/overview>
- Subscribe for more information about BJA funding, programs, and resources here: <https://bja.ojp.gov/subscribe>
- For more resources and program information, please see BJA's Forensics Training and Technical Assistance webpage: <https://www.forensicstta.org/>

ABOUT BJA

BJA helps America's state, local, and tribal jurisdictions reduce and prevent crime, lower recidivism, and promote a fair and safe criminal justice system. BJA provides a wide range of resources—including grants, funding, and training and technical assistance—to law enforcement, courts and corrections agencies, treatment providers, reentry practitioners, justice information sharing professionals, and community-based partners to address chronic and emerging criminal justice challenges nationwide. To learn more about BJA, visit bja.ojp.gov or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/DOJBJA) and X (@DOJBJA). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

NCJ 308786

