

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FACT SHEET

POSTCONVICTION TESTING OF DNA EVIDENCE

The Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence Program funds projects that assist states and units of local government with postconviction DNA testing in cases of violent felony offenses where actual innocence might be demonstrated. This supports the Department of Justice's mission "to ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans." While successful exonerations to correct injustice are notable program outcomes, the careful review, consideration, and closing of cases subjected to postconviction DNA testing that do not ultimately demonstrate innocence also work to advance the public's interest that justice has been fairly applied.

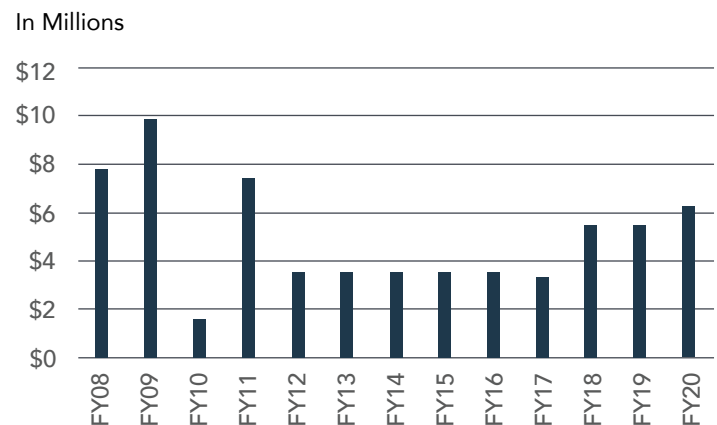
Program Goals

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence Program aims to assist in the:

1. Identification of potential postconviction DNA testing cases.
2. Review of appropriate postconviction cases to identify those in which DNA testing could prove the actual innocence of a person convicted of a violent felony offense as defined by state law.
3. Location of biological evidence associated with such postconviction cases.
4. Performance of DNA analysis of appropriate biological evidence.

Program Funding & Awards

Appropriated Funds



Program Accomplishments

- 94 total funded awards.
- \$64,678,592 total funding amount.
- Though exonerations are not the sole measure of program success, 54 exonerations have resulted from this program.
- More than 90,000 cases reviewed.
- More than 250 profiles uploaded into CODIS.
- More than 50 CODIS hits.
- Some of the latest exonerations:
 - Jack Sagin released from a California prison after more than 33 years in custody.
 - Kerry Robinson was freed and exonerated on January 10, 2020, after 18 years in a Georgia prison.

ABOUT BJA

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) helps to make American communities safer by strengthening the nation's criminal justice system. BJA's grants, training and technical assistance, and policy development services provide government jurisdictions (state, local, tribal, and territorial) and public and private organizations with the cutting edge tools and best practices they need to support law enforcement, reduce violent and drug-related crime, and combat victimization.

To learn more about BJA, visit <https://bja.ojp.gov>, or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/DOJBJA) and Twitter ([@DOJBJA](https://twitter.com/DOJBJA)). BJA is part of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.