

Report on the Progress of Administrating the DNA Database Program

In compliance with provision of Title 20, chapter 113, section 1946

Effective Date: January 3, 2014



**Vermont Department of Public Safety
Vermont Forensic Laboratory**

The commissioner of public safety shall report annually no later than January 15 to the senate and house committees on judiciary regarding the administration of the DNA data bank, any backlogs in processing samples, and staffing and funding issues related to any backlog. (Added 2005, No. 83, § 10, eff. June 28, 2005.)

The DNA data bank currently has a small backlog of DNA database samples. This consists of about 1000 samples of approximately 1800 received in 2013.

Staffing levels did not allow rapid processing, review and upload of as many samples as usual in the database unit due to family medical leave of a key staff member. The untimely death of another DNA staff member has slowed training of new staff and review of database data. It is anticipated that this situation will resolve when new staff is fully trained and the vacant position is filled.

Despite these setbacks, the DNA database has provided investigative information through nine inter-state matches and approximately twenty intra-state matches. This is reduced somewhat from the past two years, most likely due to the reduced number of no-suspect cases entered due to a casework staff vacancies and training.

The laboratory has taken advantage of an analyst in training to validate a newer multiplex typing system that is approved for use by the FBI as the expansion of the core CODIS loci are reviewed. This new system better meets the needs of the large national database size.

Funding has not been an issue.

Prepared by M. Schwartz