

Report on the Progress of Administrating the DNA Database Program

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

Effective Date: **January 5, 2015**



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 backlog of DNA database samples. This consists of about 2500 samples; approximately 2000 of which were received in 2014.

Two new DNA analysts were qualified in July of 2014, but have focused on the backlog of DNA casework. However, the additional DNA casework staff has provided some assistance to the review and upload of samples to the DNA database. In addition, more casework processing leads to additional forensic unknown samples being uploaded to the DNA database and as a result, confirmation of database matches when they occur.

The DNA database has provided investigative information through thirty-nine matches (to include inter-state, intra-state, forensic-forensic and forensic-offender matches).

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

Funding has not been an issue due to the assistance of federal grants.

Prepared by Trisha Conti, Senior Forensic Chemist, *Interim* Biology Supervisor, Vermont Forensic Laboratory