



Crime Lab News

Volume 1, Issue 2

Summer 2017

Laboratory News

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory! See page two for more details of our last four decades.



Upcoming Training Opportunities

ASCL is creating outreach and on-going training opportunities for Law Enforcement Agencies and Court Officials. This training will take you through a few case scenarios to emphasize our current capabilities, best samples for testing, how to package evidence, and understanding the results.

October 19, 2017,

10:00am-2:30pm

(45 minute lunch break on your own)

Henderson State University
Arkadelphia, AR

December 7, 2017,

8:00am-12:00pm

(tours given afterwards)

Arkansas State Crime Lab
Little Rock, AR

Registration link located on the last page of newsletter.

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iResults User Tips

- Users must be authorized by their agency’s administration or command staff.
- Authorization must be in writing (letter, PDF or email) and must contain the user’s name and email address, as well as the name and title/rank of the person granting the authorization.
- Users must have a working email address.
- Users must work for the agency for which they want an account.
- Accounts only work for the users’ agency and are not transferable to another agency.
- Accounts remain active until the agency requests that they be canceled. Agencies are responsible for the security of their reports.
- When setting up your account, passwords must contain fewer than 10 characters, or you will lock yourself out, requiring a reset.
- The best way to search for a report is by the ASCL case number.
- When searching for a case by name, it’s best to use only the last name. If it doesn’t show up under the “suspect” try the “victim” box.
- All data used for searches must exactly match the information on the submission sheets used at the time of intake in evidence receiving.
- When searching by “date range”, limit the range to about three months at a time.
- There are several types of requests (Req #) that generate an automatic email notification, but where no reports are actually generated. The most common are: ME Tox, DNA w/ No Report, DNA – ME, Tox Stat, Sero – Act 1168 & Sero – Safer.

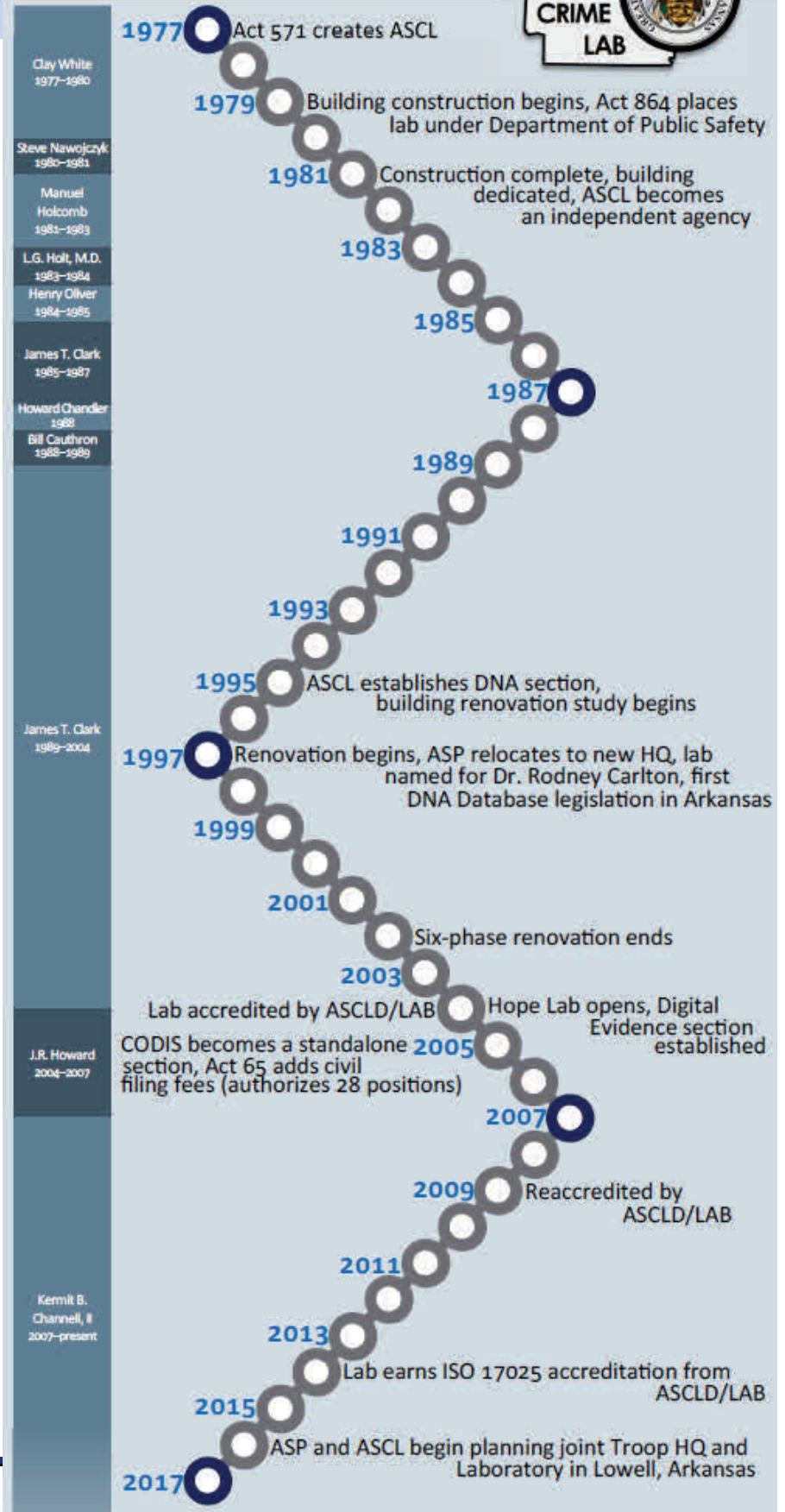
Celebrating 40 Years

The Arkansas State Crime Laboratory recently celebrated its 40-year anniversary serving the criminal justice system in Arkansas. Over the past 40 years the crime lab has provided forensic services to all law enforcement agencies, both state and federal, across 75 counties. The requests for services from law enforcement agencies and coroners has steadily increased, from approximately 10,000 cases in 1984 to over 30,000 cases in 2016. To meet the demand for forensic services, the laboratory has implemented state-of-the-art technology and hired additional personnel.

Also during this celebration, the laboratory recognized the 20-year anniversary of Arkansas's first DNA database legislation. Starting in 1997, the state began collecting DNA samples from individuals convicted of violent offenses. Currently, "Juli's Law" allows the collection of DNA samples from any individual that is arrested on any felony offense. This important forensic program (CODIS) has developed leads and associated individuals to criminal acts across the state and nation. In 2015 and 2016 alone, the crime laboratory produced over 1,300 CODIS Hits!

None of this would be possible without the dedicated staff at the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory who take pride in all the important work they do.

Four Decades of ASCL History



Celebrating 20 Years of CODIS

CODIS is the FBI's Combined DNA Index System. It is a database made up of DNA profiles contributed by federal, state, and local participating forensic laboratories. The Arkansas State CODIS Database consists of DNA profiles from:

- crime scene evidence,
- suspect known samples,
- deceased knowns,
- convicted offenders,
- arrestees, and
- missing persons' family reference samples

Arkansas's first database law was passed in 1997.

Since then, the database has grown—not only in the number of profiles, but also the types of profiles searched to provide investigative leads to Law Enforcement.

The CODIS section works closely with the DNA section, and many of the evidentiary profiles developed by the DNA casework section are searched within the Arkansas database against other cases and the profiles of convicted offenders. Many of the samples are also searched against the National Database on a weekly basis.

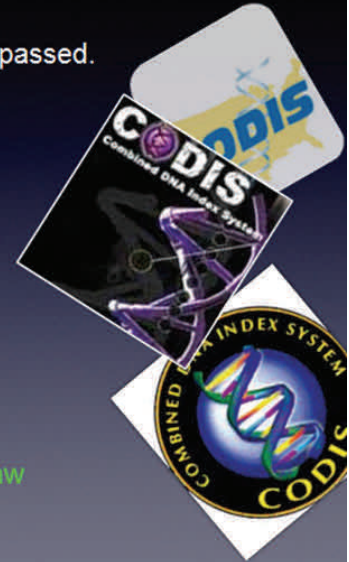
As of June 2017, there were 195,452 samples in the Arkansas Database and 16,313,165 samples in the National Database. Here's a look at the types of samples in each database:

	Arkansas	National
Offenders	161,248	12,792,940
Arrestees	22,849	2,741,371
Forensic Samples	11,355	778,854
Total	195,452	16,313,165

The Arkansas Database includes 5,204 suspect known samples and 16,997 deceased known samples. Additionally, the Arkansas Database includes 216 samples from family members of missing persons. These samples make up 91 pedigree trees for missing persons in the state of Arkansas.

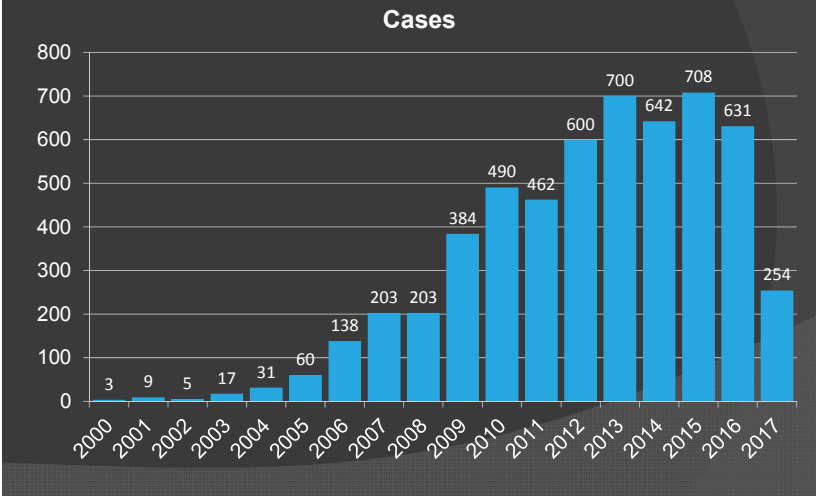
History of CODIS in Arkansas

- In 1997, the first Convicted offender law was passed. Collected samples from all violent offenders.
- In 2001, we added burglary to the offenses
- In 2003, we became an all felon state
- In 2007, an all arrestee bill was introduced
- In 2009, Juli's law was passed
- In 2011, rape was added to Juli's law
- In 2015, ALL FELONIES added to Arrestee law



Celebrating 20 Years of CODIS

Number of CODIS Hits per Year



The number of CODIS Hits at the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory has drastically increased over the last 10 years.

A CODIS Hit is a match in the database between two (or more) DNA profiles. This could be:

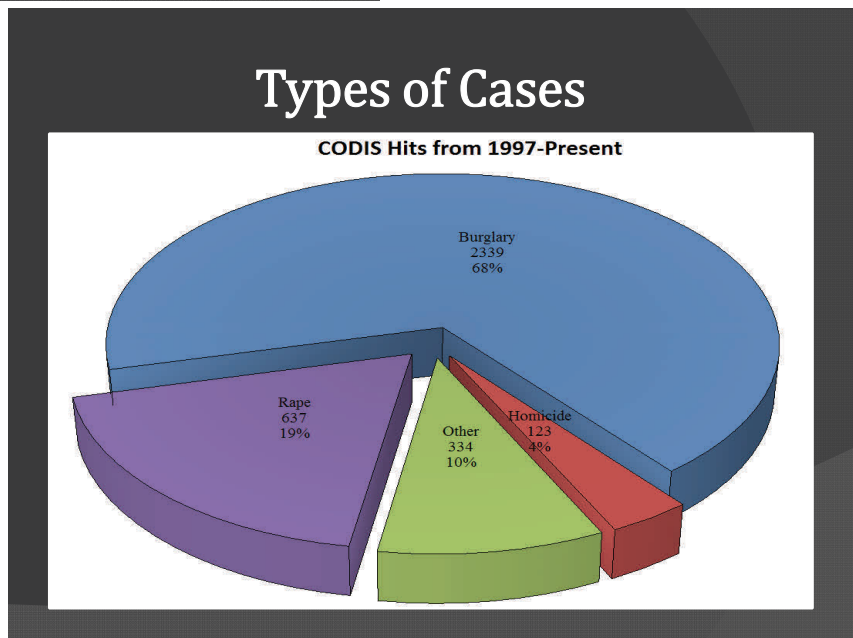
- offender to case evidence,
- arrestee to case evidence, or
- case evidence to case evidence

All fifty states, two federal labs, and twenty-seven foreign countries participate in CODIS.

For detailed statistics on the success of this program, please see the link below.

<https://www.fbi.gov/services/laboratory/biometric-analysis/codis/ndis-statistics>

Types of Cases



Staffing Updates

Since the publication of our Spring 2017 newsletter, we have hired seven new employees:

- VaKeyia Dulaney, Serologist—Physical Evidence
- Parker Pearson, Serologist—Physical Evidence
- Jonathan Kordsmeier, DNA Analyst
- Alexa Harrod, DNA Analyst
- Melody Case, Evidence Technician—Evidence Receiving
- Candice Foscue—Forensic Chemistry
- Ann Johnson—Forensic Chemistry

Case Management Guidelines

Latent Prints

- **BREAKING AND ENTERING/BURGLARY**
The Arkansas State Crime Laboratory limits the number of submitted items/lifts to ten per case. An additional ten items/lifts may be submitted if, after testing, it is determined that more items should be examined.
- **FIRED CARTRIDGE CASINGS**
Fired cartridge casings will not routinely be processed.
- **FOOTWEAR**
The Arkansas State Crime Laboratory will not conduct footwear analysis on burglary and property crimes, except in special circumstances.

Remember: These are general guidelines.
Call us if you have specific case needs!

Firearms

- Cases in which the submitted evidence consists primarily of cartridge cases without an appropriate firearm for comparison will be examined for entry into the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) only. Comparison examination will only be conducted for the purposes of confirming a NIBIN Lead, testimony in court, or if a firearm is recovered at a later date.



The Safety Scoop



This quarter's topic regards the submission of sharp objects for Controlled Substance Analysis

- ✓ Chemists will typically only test a sharp exhibit of paraphernalia (e.g., syringe, razor blade, broken glass) when it qualifies as one of the following:
 - the only item in the case,
 - supports probable cause, or
 - can substantiate the highest charge.
- ✓ When submitting a sharp object, please make sure it is packaged in a puncture-proof container, or Evidence Receiving will require the agency to repackage the item(s). Also, the packaging should clearly indicate the presence of hazardous contents.
- ✓ Further precautions taken to render the evidence safe can include, but are not limited to:
 - removing the syringe's needle tip from the plastic body, or
 - emptying the contents of the syringe into a sealed vial thereby eliminating the need to submit the syringe at all.
- ✓ **Remember – Safety is a Choice You Make.**

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Mission



To provide the highest quality scientific services to the criminal justice community and the State of Arkansas. This is accomplished through a team of skilled and dedicated employees utilized scientific equipment and appropriate validated methodologies. The laboratory strives to provide these services in a timeframe amenable to our customers.

Ensuring a safer Arkansas by providing the Criminal Justice System quality results within thirty days of submission.

Vision



Clear Communication: Communicate often, promptly, professionally and in person when appropriate

Quality: Excellence, getting it right the first time, consistent performance, continuous improvement, taking pride in one's work

Professional Development: Growing and engaging employees through training, mentoring, and providing leadership opportunities

Safety: Providing a safe work environment and educating employees on safety practices

Accountability: Holding oneself and others responsible for productive and ethical behavior.

Teamwork: Having a common vision, ensuring cohesiveness, assisting one another, supporting other sections, putting others interests first and making decisions based on what is best for the laboratory

Our Goals for 2017

- Embrace high expectations
- Encourage employee engagement
- Provide training and outreach to our customers
- Promote efficiency
- Pursue continuous improvements and a proactive mindset

ASCL Feedback and Further Training Opportunities

The Arkansas State Crime Laboratory Performance Survey is located on the Law Enforcement page (iResults) of the ASCL website. We welcome your feedback so that we can continue to improve and meet your needs.

Your feedback from previous training opportunities

"The chief from DNA provided some insight into their processes that will assist me in my collection practices... I think the explanation on why certain items are not processed for DNA was informative and worth going to the class."

Register for our next upcoming training opportunities at:

<https://goo.gl/yR9DDR>

Please contact Cindy Moran regarding any questions at:

cindy.moran@crimelab.arkansas.gov or 501-683-6190

