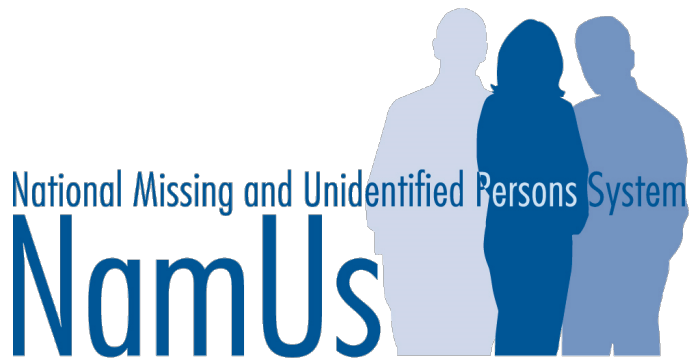


The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)

MN MMIR Advisory Council Meeting

November 8, 2023



PRESENTER'S INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER

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Regional Program Specialist

National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)

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Cell: 817-374-2765

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THE NATION'S SILENT MASS DISASTER

The sheer volume of missing and unidentified person cases poses one of the greatest challenges to agencies tasked with resolving these important cases.

Over 600,000 individuals go missing in the United States every year. Fortunately, many missing children and adults are found quickly, alive and well. However, tens of thousands of individuals remain missing for more than one year – what many agencies consider “cold cases.”

It is estimated that 4,400 unidentified bodies are recovered each year, with approximately 1,000 of those bodies remaining unidentified after one year.

600,000

Individuals go missing every year

4,400

Unidentified bodies are recovered each year



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE RESPONSE TO THE NATION'S SILENT MASS DISASTER

NamUs = PEOPLE + INFORMATION + TECHNOLOGY + FORENSIC SCIENCE



Forensic Services

Free services include forensic odontology, fingerprint examination, forensic anthropology, and DNA analyses through a network of partner organizations



Technology

The NamUs database fills the nation's need for a unified, free, secure database for unidentified remains and missing persons.



Training and Outreach

Subject matter experts provide free training and perform direct outreach to families of the missing.



Investigative Support

Seasoned staff consult on cases and support criminal justice efforts to drive resolution.



Research

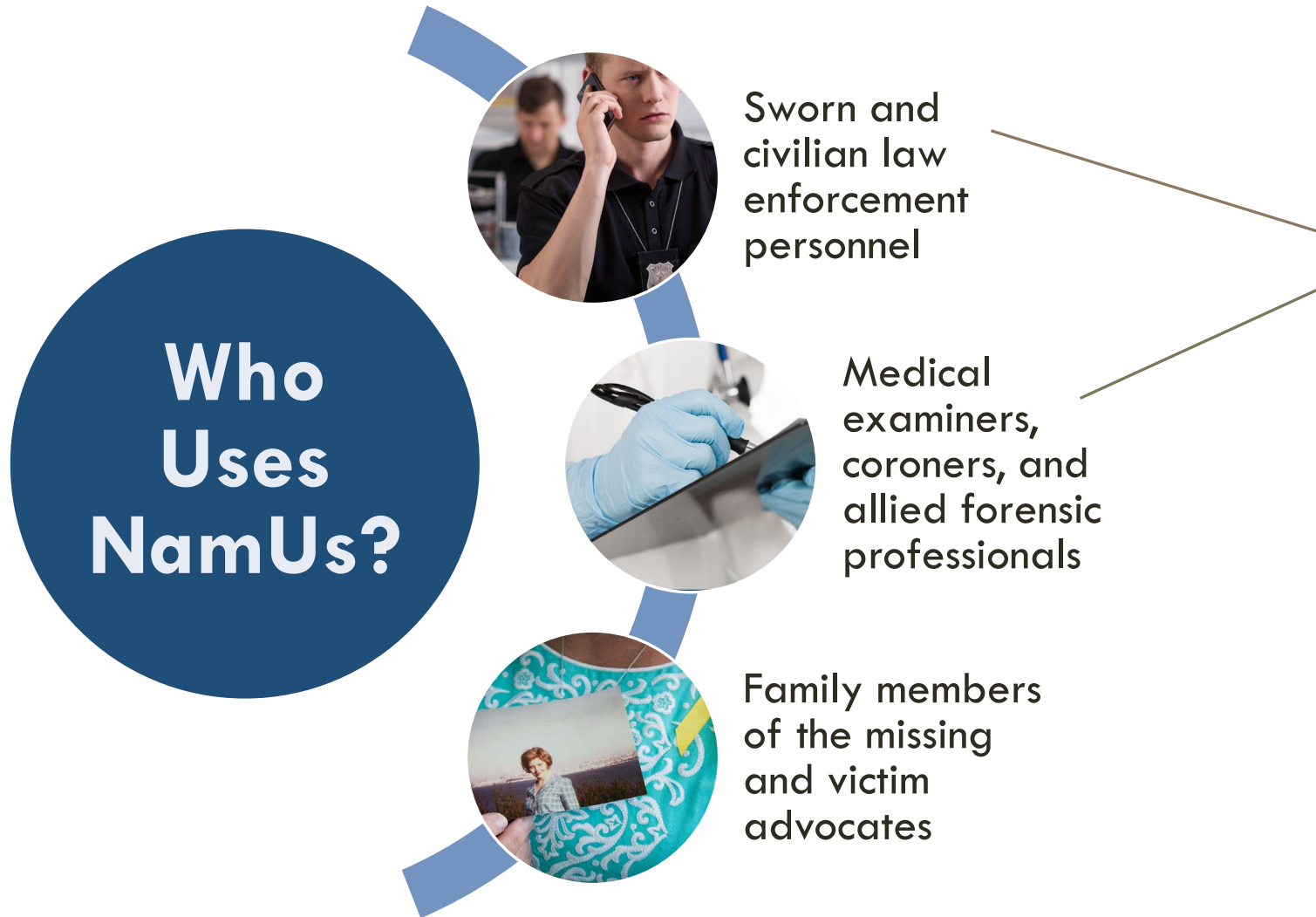
NamUs researchers recommend system improvements and provide information to better respond to missing and unidentified person cases.

CORE SERVICES

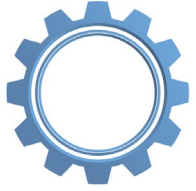


The NamUs program combines technology, forensic services, investigative support, and research to support the resolution of missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases. **All NamUs services are free of charge.**

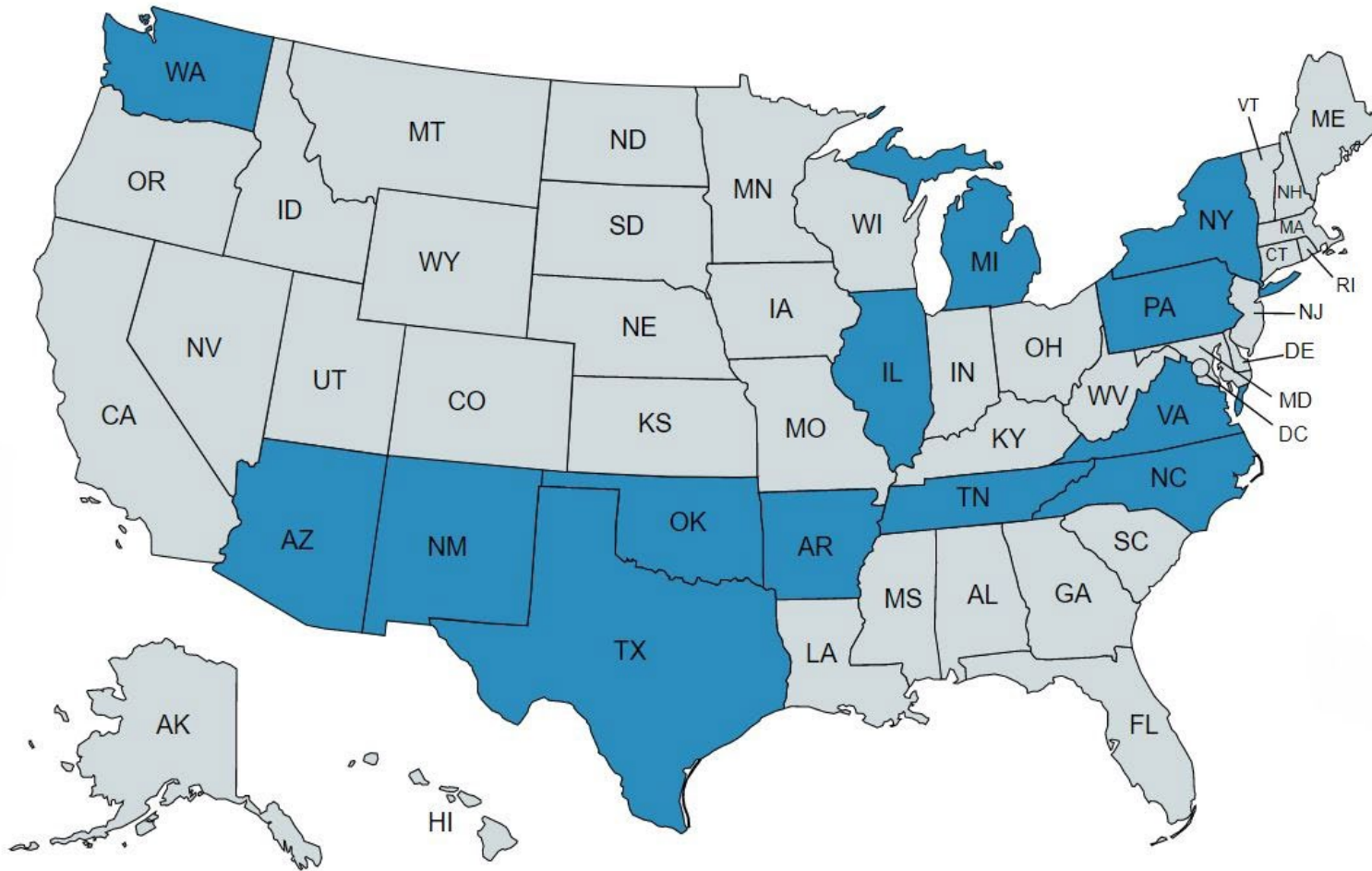
WHO USES NAMUS?



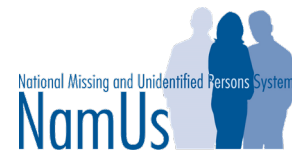
9,000+
Professional
users enter, search,
compare, and
authorize publication of
case information in
NamUs.



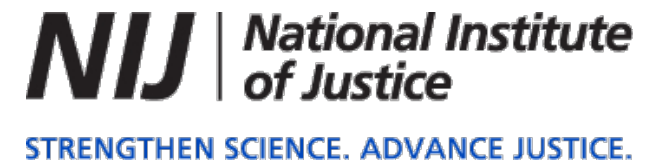
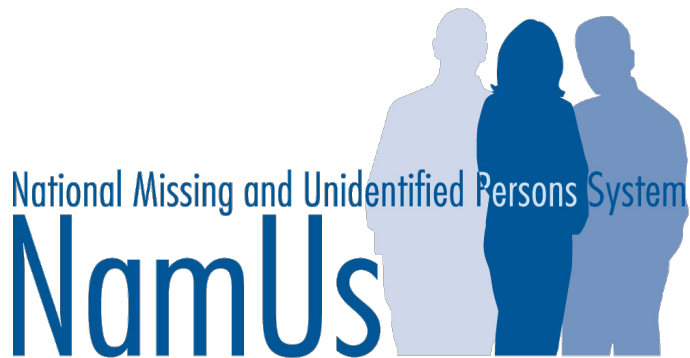
STATES WITH LEGISLATION THAT INCLUDES NAMUS



Thirteen states have passed legislation mandating the use of NamUs for missing and/or unidentified persons cases



NAMUS TECHNOLOGY



NAMUS DATABASES



Dashboard

MISSING UNIDENTIFIED UNCLAIMED

U.S. citizen missing within the U.S.

U.S. citizen missing outside of the U.S. (point of exit used)

Foreign citizens confirmed to last be within the U.S.

No body found homicides/Presumed deceased (lost at sea)

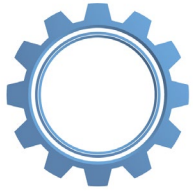
Unidentified human remains

Single bone/tissue (partial remains)

Unidentified Living (UPL)

Identified remains where NOK has not been located to claim remains

Case	DLC	Date Mod...	Last Name	First Name	Missi...	City	State ...	Sex ...
MP83990	08/03/2021	09/07/2021	Harman	Timothy	39 Ye...	Abingdon	VA	Male
MP84031	09/02/2021	09/07/2021	Chandrabhata	Ganesh	61 Ye...	Great Falls	VA	Male
MP84027	07/05/2020	09/07/2021	Orton	Shannon	36 Ye...	Hobart	IN	Female



PUBLIC USER REGISTRATION

← → ↻ namus.gov/Registration

PERSONS UNCLAIMED PERSONS

Registration

Welcome Account Information Contact Information Privacy Policy and Terms

Account Information

Login email: publicuser@usa.com Confirm: publicuser@usa.com

Account verification will be sent to this email account.

Password: Confirm:

Your password must have at least 12 characters, with numeric, or special characters. It may not contain any of the following characters: !@#\$%^&*~`|}{~`|}{

Security question: Favorite food Security answer: Pizza

How did you learn about NamUs? News Article/Media Report

Previous

Contact Information

Welcome Account Information Contact Information Privacy Policy and Terms

First Name: John Middle Name: Q

Contact Email: publicuser@usa.com Contact email selected:

Address: 123 Maple Street Address 2: Optional

City: Fort Worth State: Texas

Primary Phone: 123-456-7891 Ext: Optional Primary Phone Type: Mobile

Secondary Phone: Optional Ext: Optional Secondary Phone Type: Select Phone Type

Previous

Accept the Privacy Policy

Welcome Account Information Contact Information Privacy Policy and Terms

The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) is a national database of missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons. NamUs is a public website and the information contained therein can be searched by criminal justice agencies.

I. Privacy Policy

Here is how we handle information:

A. Information Collected and Used

If you visit our site to read or download information, we collect the following information about you:


- The name of the Internet domain from which you accessed our website, account, or "yourschool.edu"
- The IP address of the computer from which you accessed our website, account, or "yourschool.edu"
- The number of times you visited our website, account, or "yourschool.edu"
- The number of times you accessed our website, account, or "yourschool.edu"
- The number of times you accessed our website, account, or "yourschool.edu"

I agree to the NamUs Privacy Policy and Terms of Use.

Previous

Registration Complete

Welcome Account Information Contact Information Privacy Policy and Terms



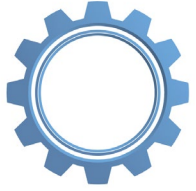
Registration Complete

You will receive an email to activate your account.

If you do not receive this email in the next 15 minutes, please check your spam/junk email folder. If you require additional assistance completing your registration, please contact NamUs at (855) 626-7600.

NamUs Home

Previous Register



CENTRAL DASHBOARD FOR ALL ACCOUNT AND CASE TOOLS

The screenshot displays the 'My Dashboard' interface for a user named Jane Smith. The top navigation bar includes the NamUs logo and menu items for 'MY DASHBOARD', 'MISSING PERSONS', 'UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS', and 'UNCLAIMED PERSONS'. The user's profile is shown on the left, including a 'My Profile' button. Below the profile is a 'Quick Search' section with filters for 'MISSING', 'UNIDENTIFIED', and 'UNCLAIMED'. The search fields include 'NamUs Number' (with the example 'MP123, MP-123, 123'), 'First Name', 'Last Name', 'State' (a dropdown menu), and 'County' (with the placeholder 'Enter County'). 'Reset' and 'Search' buttons are at the bottom of the search section, along with a link to 'Missing Advanced Search'. The main dashboard area is titled 'My Dashboard' and features a '+ Missing Case' button. It has three tabs: 'MISSING', 'UNIDENTIFIED', and 'UNCLAIMED'. Under the 'MISSING' tab, there are sub-tabs for 'MY CASES', 'RECENT', and 'REGION'. The 'MY CASES' sub-tab shows '0 Entered' cases, while 'RECENT' and 'REGION' show '0 Tracked Cases'. The main content area displays 'No Cases'. An orange arrow points to the '+ Missing Case' button.

MISSING PERSONS CASE ENTRY

- **Minimum Requirements:**
 - First and last name
 - Demographics
 - Circumstances and location of disappearance
 - Physical Descriptors
 - Investigating agency information
- **Enhancements:**
 - Photographs
 - Biometrics
 - Physical descriptors
 - Clothing descriptions
 - Medical data
 - Vehicular information

Create a Missing Persons Case

What is your relationship to the missing person?

Demographics

First Name Middle Name Last Name

Date of Birth

Sex

White / Caucasian Black / African American
 Hispanic / Latino Asian
 Hawaiian / Pacific Islander Uncertain
 American Indian / Alaska Native Other

Circumstances

Date of Last Contact

Last Known Location
City State ZIP Code
County

Circumstances of Disappearance

Physical

Height (Feet/Inches) -
Weight (lbs) -

Hair Color

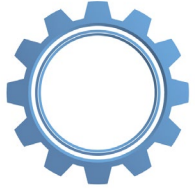
Eye Color

Create and submit a Missing Persons case

[Privacy Act Statement](#)

1. Begin
Complete this form with all available information.
2. Create
Click the 'Create Draft' button. You will be able to enter additional information on the following page.
3. Review
After creating your draft, the following fields will be required to submit your case.
 - Relationship to missing person
 - First Name
 - Last Name
 - Sex
 - Race / Ethnicity
 - Date of Last Contact
 - City
 - State
 - County
 - Circumstances of Disappearance
 - Height
 - Weight
 - Hair Color
 - Eye Color
4. After Submission
A Regional Program Specialist (RPS) will review your case(s) for accuracy and completeness. All cases will be verified with the appropriate investigating agencies prior to publication in NamUs.

You will be contacted by your NamUs RPS if additional information is needed.

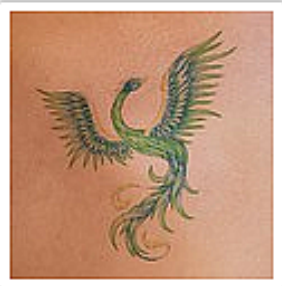


ENTER DETAILED PHYSICAL & CLOTHING DESCRIPTIONS

Distinctive Physical Features

Item	Description
Artificial body part/aid	Webbed toes
Scar/mark	Large raspberry colored birth mark on left shoulder
Tattoo	Tattoo of a green, blue, and yellow

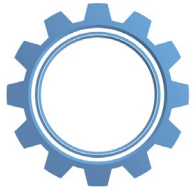
[+ Add Distinctive Physical Feature](#)



Clothing and Accessories

Item	Description
Accessories	Camouflage canvas backpack
Clothing	Last seen wearing blue jeans and a red shirt.
Jewelry	Gold colored ring with initials JD

[+ Add Clothing and Accessories](#)



ADD ALL KNOWN MEDICAL DATA

Add Medical

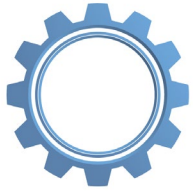
Mark this section as No Known Information

Item

Other medical information ▼

- Known allergy
- Skeletal information
- Known illness
- Medical implant
- Medication
- Drug of abuse
- Prior surgery
- Organ absent
- Foreign object
- Medical condition/disorder
- Other medical information

defined categories.



ENTER DENTIST INFORMATION & POTENTIAL FINGERPRINT SOURCE

Edit Fingerprint Information

Mark this section as **No Known Information**

What Best Describes the Availability of Fingerprints

- Fingerprint Information is Available Elsewhere
- Fingerprint Information is Available for Entry

Comments

Fingerprints were provided when MP obtained his

Edit Dental Information

Dentist Information

First Name

Last Name

Address

Address 2

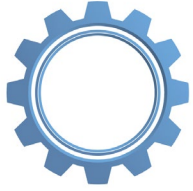
City

State

ZIP Code

Phone

Email



UPLOAD IMAGES & DOCUMENTS

Missing Person / NamUs #MP50002 **NEW**
John (Sample Case) Doe, Male, American Indian / Alaska Native

Resolve Case Stop Tracking Case

MEISSING


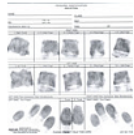
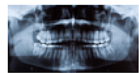
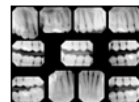

Date of Last Contact: January 1, 2020
Missing From: Washington, District of Columbia
Missing Age: 40 Years
Current Age: 40 Years
Matches: 0

CASE **IMAGES & DOCUMENTS** COMPARISONS CONTACTS NOTES

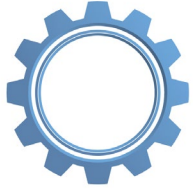
REMINDER TOOLS

Choose a file or drop files here to upload


5 Images & Documents

- 
Facial/case ID
Uploaded: June 8, 2018
- 
Fingerprint card
Uploaded: June 18, 2018
- 
Dental radiograph
Uploaded: June 18, 2018
- 
Dental radiograph
Uploaded: June 18, 2018
- 
Tattoo
Uploaded: June 18, 2018

- Photographs
- X-rays
- Dental images and treatment records
- Fingerprint cards
- Tattoos
- Clothing

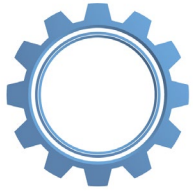


UNIDENTIFIED PERSON CASE DATA

 UNIDENTIFIED	Unidentified Person / NamUs #UP14737		
	Male, Asian		
Date Body Found	Location Found	Estimated Age Range	
November 2, 2015	Atlantic City, New Jersey	45-65 Years	

Case entry mirrors entry for missing persons and includes:

- Case Numbers
- Demographics
- Circumstances and Location
- Physical Description
- Medical Data
- Clothing and Accessories
- BIOMETRICS
 - DNA
 - Fingerprints
 - Dental
- ADDITIONAL CASE INFO
 - Autopsy Facility
 - Disposition of Remains



ADVANCED SEARCHING

Distinctive Physical Features

No Information Entered

No Known Information

Distinctive Physical Features

butterfly

Searching For butterfly

[Limit to Selected Fields](#)

[+ Add Keyword Search Item](#)

Clothing and Accessories

No Information Entered

Clothing and Accessories Description

ring

Searching For ring

[Limit to Selected Fields](#)

[+ Add Keyword Search Item](#)

Only Include Cases That Contain a Description for the Following:

[Select all](#) [Clear all](#)

Accessories Clothing Jewelry Footwear

Circumstances

Foul Play Indicated

Yes No Possibly Uncertain or not provided

NamUs Case Created

Between [Month] [Day] [Year] - [Month] [Day] [Year]

Date of Last Contact

Between [Month] [Day] [Year] - [Month] [Day] [Year]

Last Known Location

City

Enter City

State

Texas X Louisiana X Mississippi X

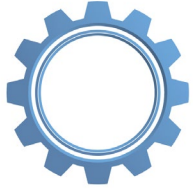
County

Enter County

Circumstances Description

Circumstances of Disappearance and Notes

Advanced searches can be constructed to locate cases in specific areas, or to match unique physical descriptors, such as scars, marks, tattoos, clothing, jewelry, etc.



SEARCH RESULTS: LIST, GALLERY AND MAP VIEW

47 Unidentified Persons Cases Found [Revise Search](#)

[GALLERY](#) [LIST](#) [MAP](#)

[Export All \(CSV\)](#)

Case	ME/C Case	DBF	Age From
UP4992	0311-09	03/27/2009	40 Years
UP52730	18-15369	08/18/2018	--
UP990	00-201838	09/25/2000	25 Years
UP17659	0499	06/08/2014	26 Years
UP14863	0534	06/06/2014	25 Years
UP14006	0389	05/23/2010	30 Years
UP12681	Baylor 0439	07/17/2009	25 Years
UP16660	0612	07/25/2012	25 Years
UP16704	0411	05/21/2013	23 Years
UP16481	0477	06/05/2014	20 Years
UP16754	0634	01/09/2017	24 Years
UP14013	0446	09/03/2012	25 Years
UP12475	Baylor 0416	09/02/2011	26 Years
UP1136	1993-2069	10/24/1993	36 Years
UP12969	OA14-145	10/08/2014	30 Years
UP11630	OA13-125	08/15/2013	29 Years
UP2982	07-0397	05/22/2007	20 Years
UP13539	01-152	08/01/2001	27 Years
UP16211	M.E.15-062	01/21/2015	19 Years
UP60245	78488	06/10/1988	--
UP3376	200001128	02/09/2000	25 Years
UP5283	2004-03283	06/16/2004	24 Years
UP16589	M.E.17-070	01/29/2017	20 Years

47 Unidentified Persons Cases Found [Revise Search](#)

Case Status: Published X Estimated Age Group: Adult - Pre 50 X Sex: Female X Race / Ethnicity: --

Sort by: County

- Unidentified Person / NamUs #UP4992
Female, Multiple
Date Body Found: March 27, 2009
Location Found: Aguadilla, PR
- Unidentified Person / NamUs #UP52730
Female, Multiple
Date Body Found: August 18, 2018
Location Found: Killeen, TX
- Unidentified Person / NamUs #UP990
Female, Multiple
Date Body Found: September 25, 2000
Location Found: Reading, PA
- Unidentified Person / NamUs #UP17659
Female, Hispanic / Latino
Date Body Found: June 08, 2014
Location Found: --, TX
- Unidentified Person / NamUs #UP14863
Female, Hispanic / Latino
Date Body Found: June 06, 2014
Location Found: Falfurrias, TX
- Unidentified Person / NamUs #UP14006
Female, Hispanic / Latino
Date Body Found: May 23, 2010
Location Found: --, TX
- Unidentified Person / NamUs #UP12681
Female, Hispanic / Latino
Date Body Found: July 17, 2009
Location Found: Falfurrias, TX

47 Unidentified Persons Cases Found [Revise Search](#)

Case Status: Published X Estimated Age Group: Adult - Pre 50 X Sex: Female X Race / Ethnicity: Hispanic / Latino X Items: Clothing X

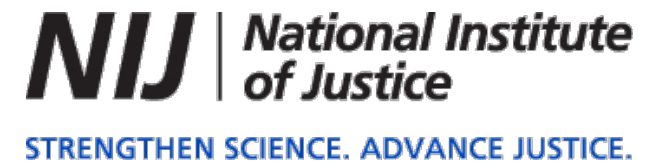
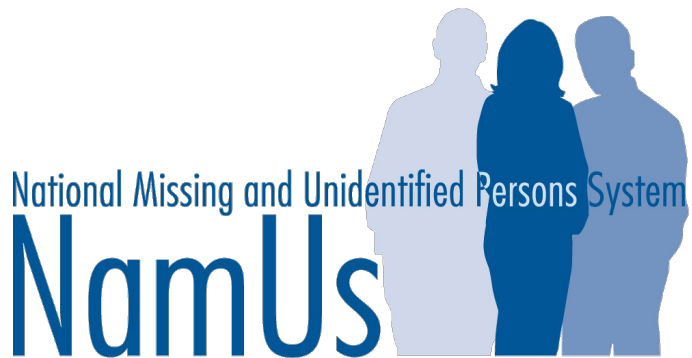
47 of 47 mappable results found.

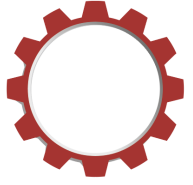
Map Satellite

United States

Map data ©2020 Google, INEGI | Terms of Use

NAMUS SERVICES



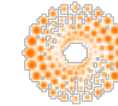


INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT

NamUs Analytical Services utilize criminal justice and public data sources and advanced search techniques to provide criminal justice agencies with:

- Searches for indication of life or death
- Locating Next of Kin (NOK) for death notifications
- Locating family members for DNA collection
- Media/newspaper articles
- Advanced searches of the NamUs database to locate potential comparisons
- Open sources searches

CLEAR



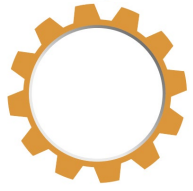
THOMSON REUTERS



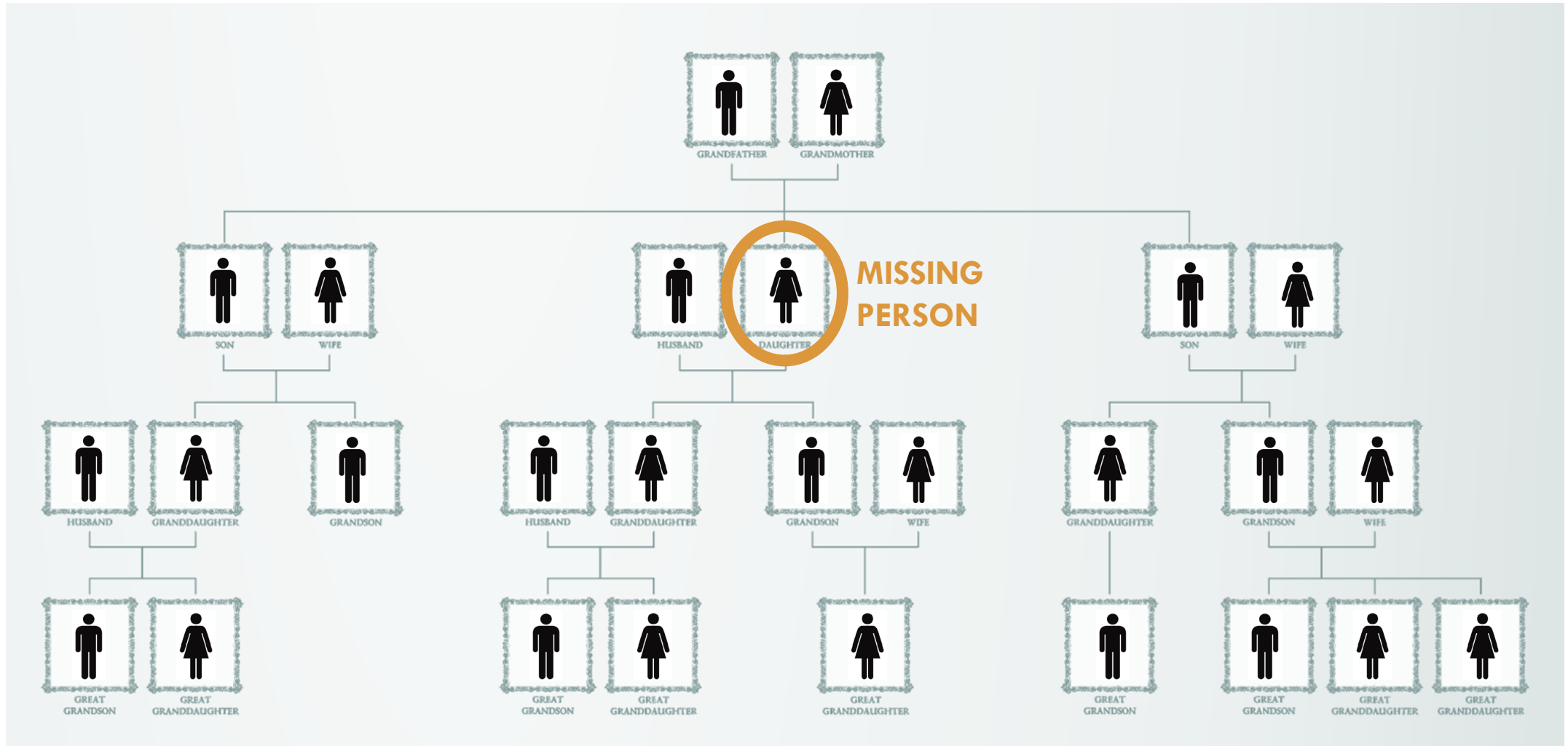


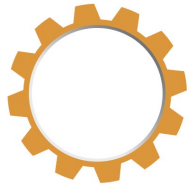
FORENSIC DNA TYPING AND CODIS SEARCHING

- Collecting requests and analyzing community needs pertaining to nuclear DNA testing, including Y-STR analysis, and mitochondrial DNA analysis for missing and unidentified person cases including:
 - Family reference samples
 - Direct reference samples
 - Unidentified human remains samples



SELECTING FAMILY MEMBERS FOR DNA COLLECTIONS

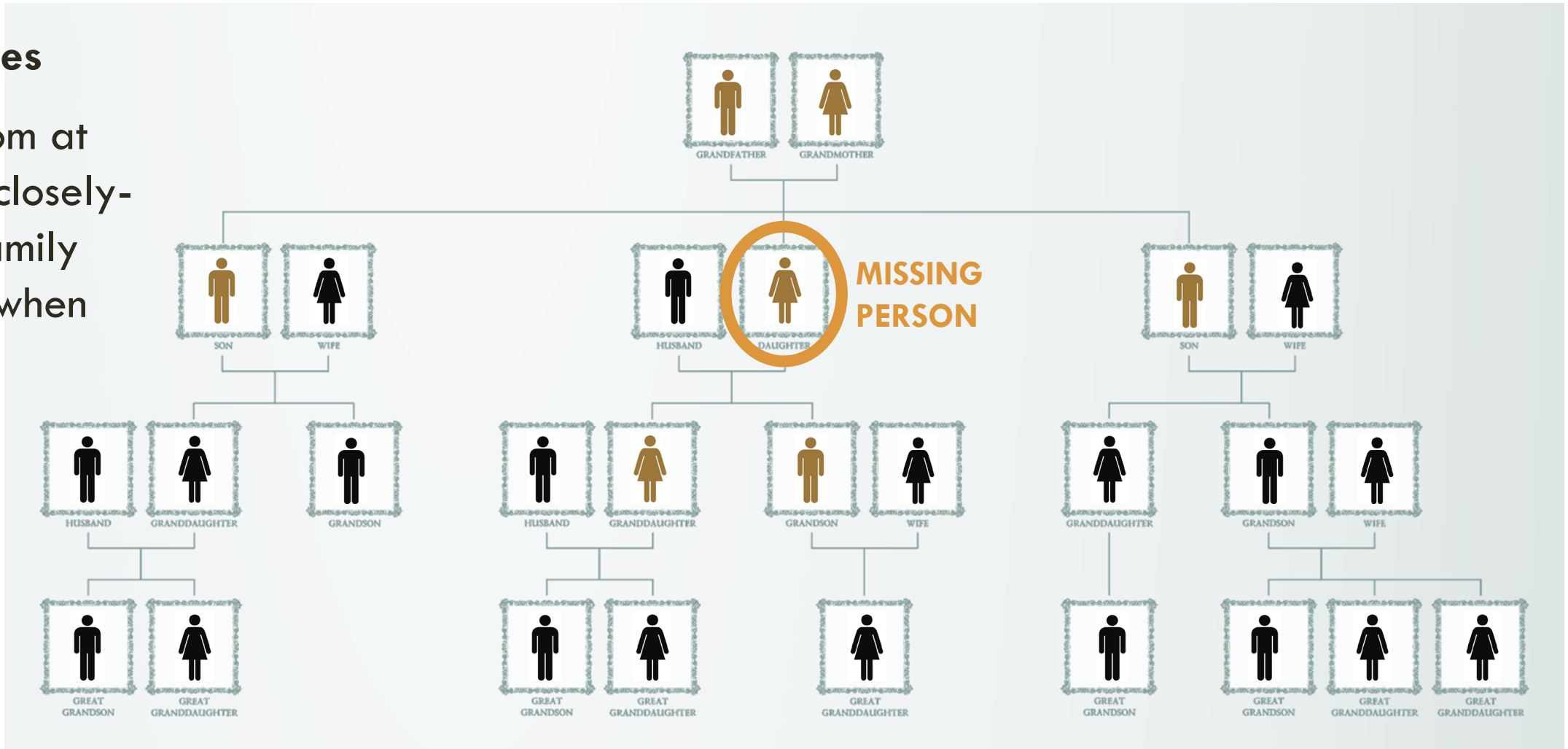


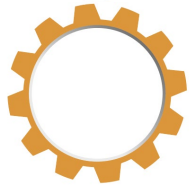


SELECTING FAMILY MEMBERS FOR DNA COLLECTIONS

STR Profiles

Collect from at least two closely-related family members when possible

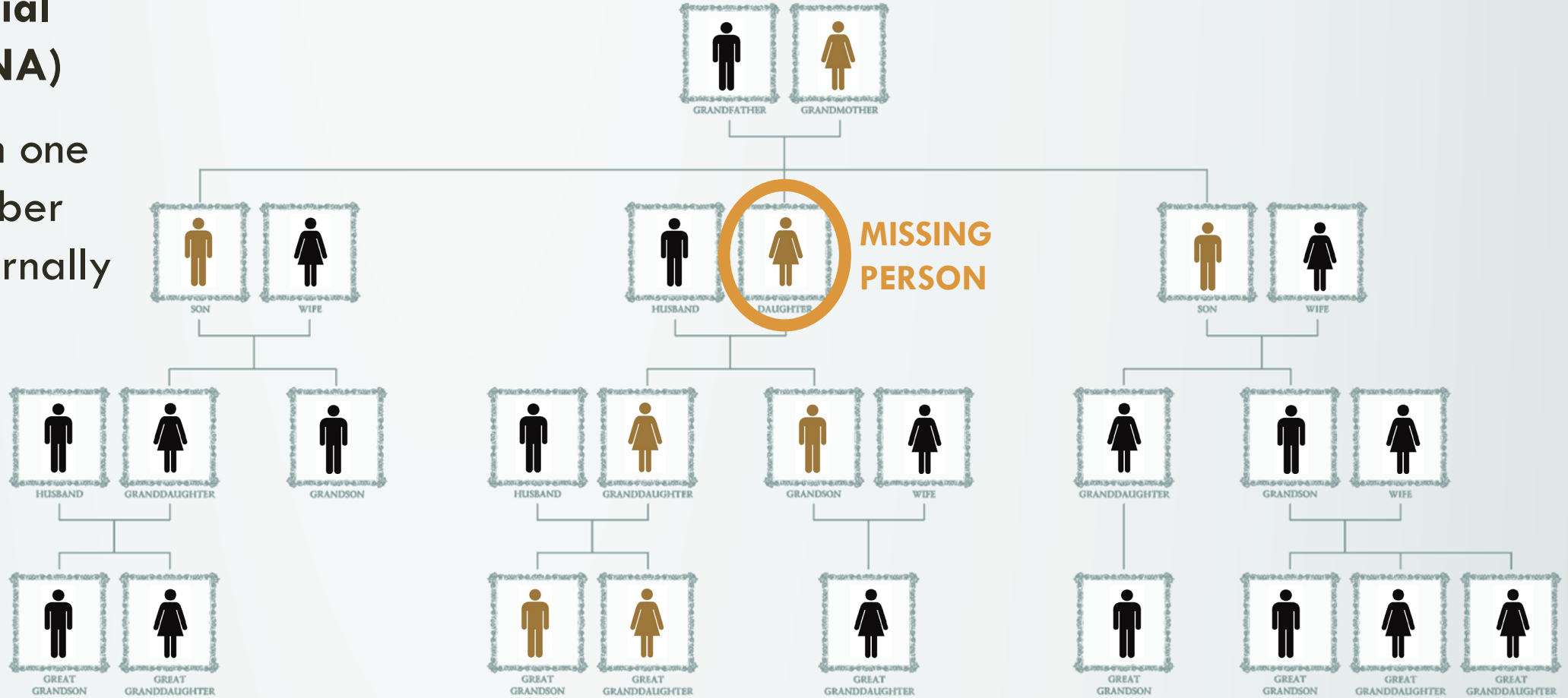


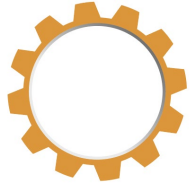


SELECTING FAMILY MEMBERS FOR DNA COLLECTIONS

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA)

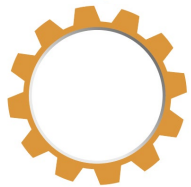
Collect from one family member who is maternally related.





DNA COLLECTIONS

- Consent forms and FAQ related to DNA submissions and analyses can be found at <https://namus.nij.ojp.gov/services/dna>
- Family members must sign a consent form prior to processing
- Support courtesy DNA collections



CODIS INDICES

Profiles uploaded to CODIS are organized into indices which can – and cannot – be searched against one another in specific ways.

Most Commonly Used CODIS Indices



Missing Person Index



Relatives of Missing Persons Index



Pedigree Tree Index



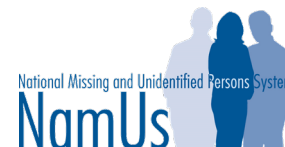
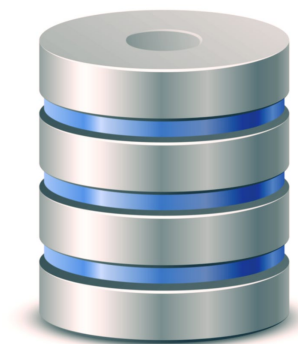
Unidentified Human (Remains) Index

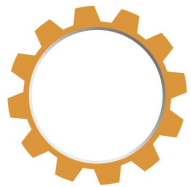


Convicted Offender Index

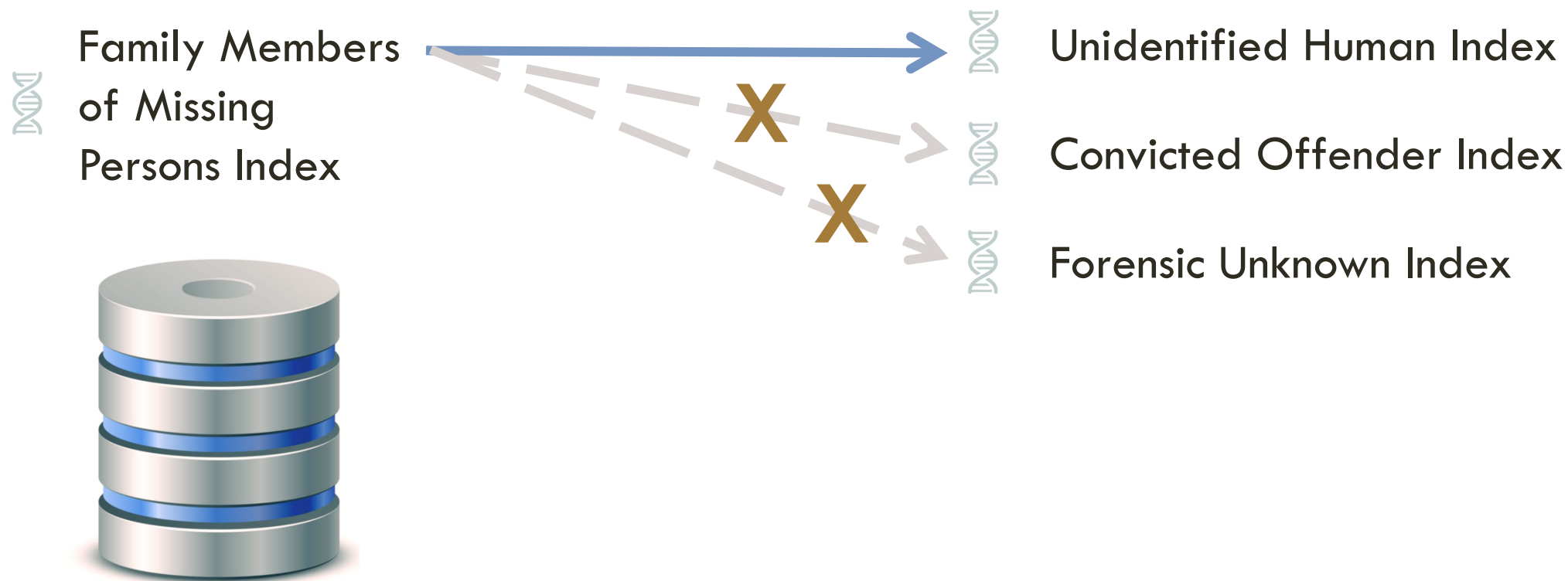


Forensic Index





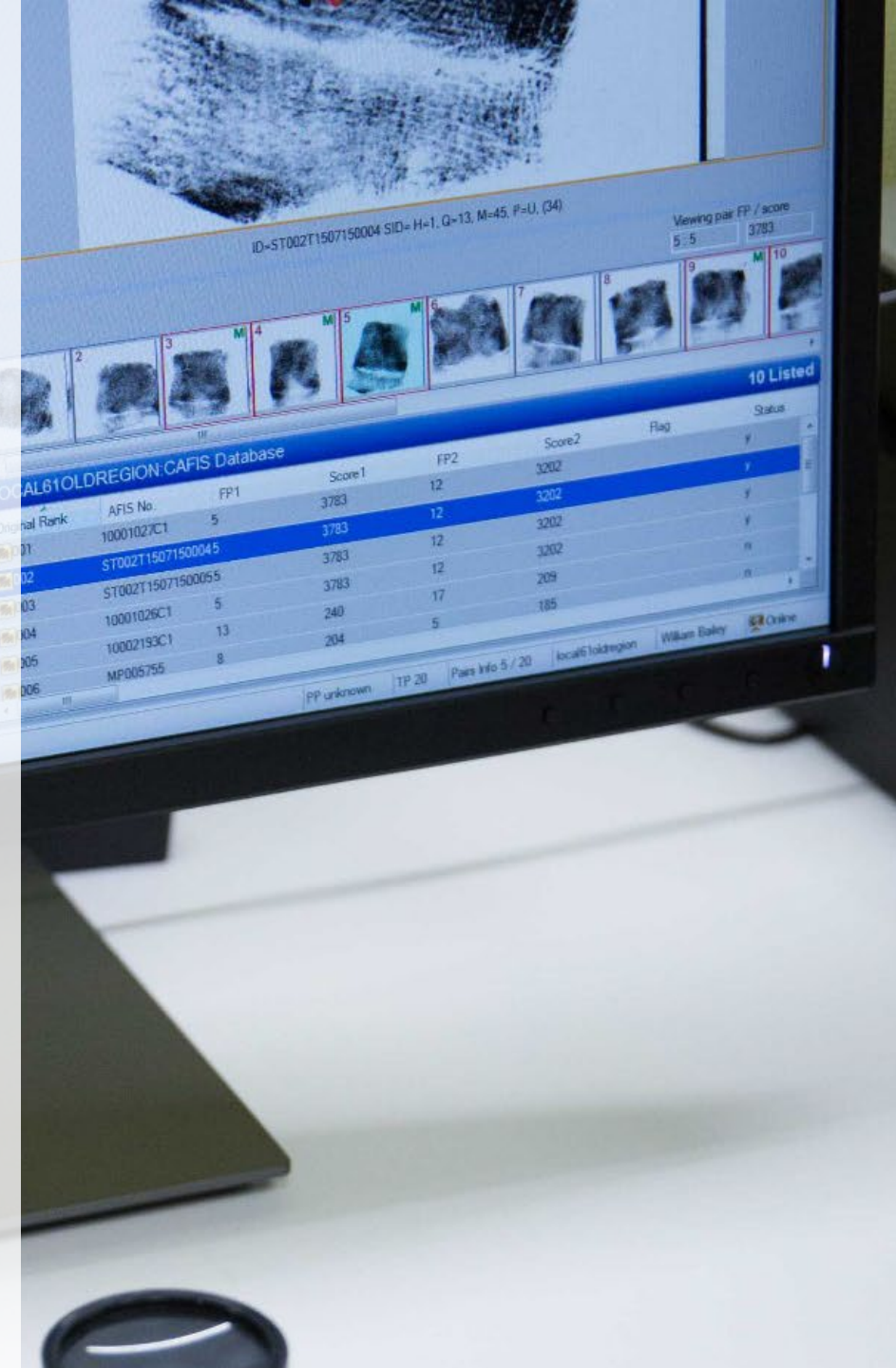
CODIS SEARCHING





FINGERPRINT SERVICES

- Locating/acquiring fingerprint records
- Digitizing and uploading to an internal Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)
- Coding prints for NCIC and NamUs entry
- Submitted to the FBI's Latent Print Unit for searching in NGI and IDENT
- Performing manual fingerprint comparisons





FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY SERVICES

- Obtaining dental records from national Military Record Repository
- Coding dentals for NCIC and NamUs entry
- Performing dental comparisons between missing and unidentified persons





FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY SERVICES

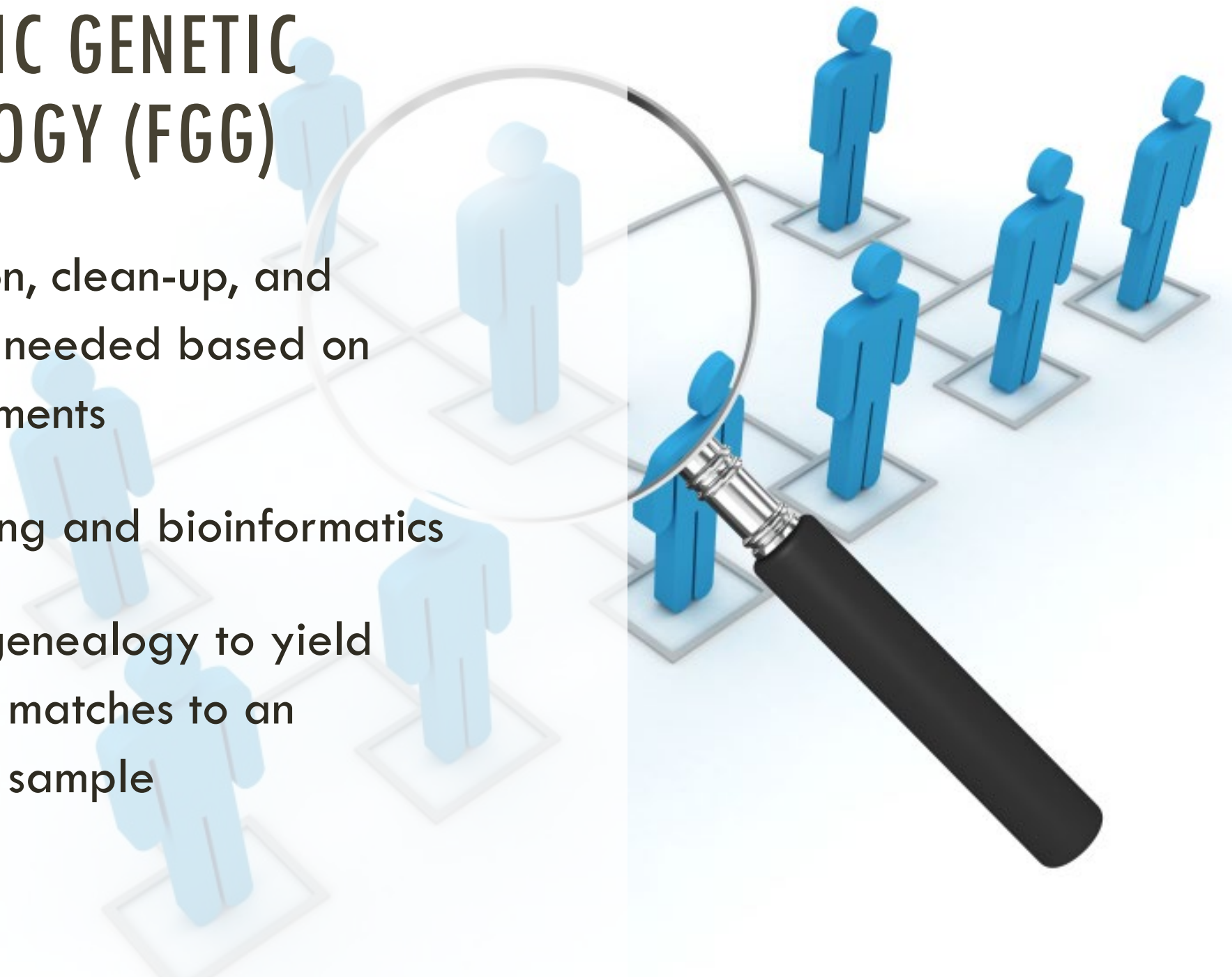
- Distinguishing historical/archaeological remains from modern remains
- Development of biological profiles – such as sex, ancestry, stature, and age – to aid searches for possible matches
- Identifications of skeletal remains based on comparisons of medical and radiographic information
- Trauma analysis to contribute to cause and manner of death determinations



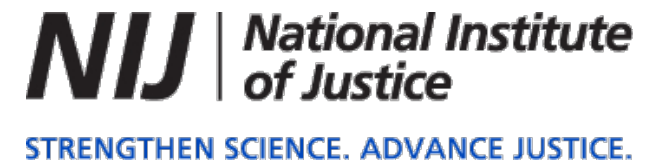
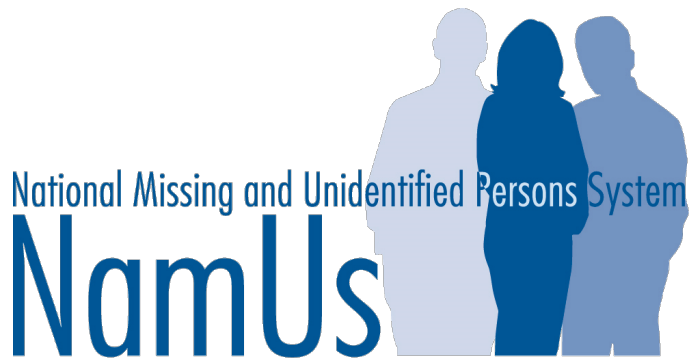


FORENSIC GENETIC GENEALOGY (FGG)

- DNA extraction, clean-up, and enrichment as needed based on quality assessments
- DNA sequencing and bioinformatics
- Investigative genealogy to yield useful related matches to an unknown DNA sample



NAMUS TRIBAL INITIATIVES



SAVANNAH'S ACT

- (1) to clarify the responsibilities of Federal, State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies with respect to responding to cases of missing and murdered Indians;
- (2) to increase coordination and communication among Federal, State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies, including medical examiner and coroner offices;
- (3) to empower Tribal governments with the resources and information necessary to effectively respond to cases of missing and murdered Indians; and
- (4) to increase the collection of data related to missing and murdered Indian men and women and the sharing of information among Federal, State, and Tribal officials responsible for responding to and investigating cases of missing and murdered Indians.

134 STAT. 760

PUBLIC LAW 116–165—OCT. 10, 2020

Public Law 116–165 116th Congress

An Act

Oct. 10, 2020
[S. 227]

To direct the Attorney General to review, revise, and develop law enforcement and justice protocols appropriate to address missing and murdered Indians, and for other purposes.

Savanna's Act.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

25 USC 5701
note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as “Savanna’s Act”.

25 USC 5701.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

Intergovern-
mental relations.

(1) to clarify the responsibilities of Federal, State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies with respect to responding to cases of missing or murdered Indians;

Coordination.

(2) to increase coordination and communication among Federal, State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies, including medical examiner and coroner offices;

Data.

(3) to empower Tribal governments with the resources and information necessary to effectively respond to cases of missing or murdered Indians; and

(4) to increase the collection of data related to missing or murdered Indian men, women, and children, regardless of where they reside, and the sharing of information among Federal, State, and Tribal officials responsible for responding to and investigating cases of missing or murdered Indians.

TRIBAL DATA FIELDS IN NAMUS: TRIBAL ENROLLMENT/AFFILIATION

Edit Demographics

Hispanic / Latino Asian
 Hawaiian / Pacific Islander Uncertain
 American Indian / Alaska Native Other

i Was this person [enrolled/affiliated](#) with a [federally-recognized or state-recognized](#) tribe?
Yes

Enrolled/Affiliated Tribes

Tribe Enrollment / Affiliation	Tribe Recognition	Tribe State	Tribe
Enrolled	Federally-Recognized	Montana	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

Associated Tribe(s):
- Enrolled with Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation **x**

Blood Type

i Height (Feet/Inches) **i** Weight (lbs)

ft	in	-	ft	in	lbs	-	lbs
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Cancel Save



TRIBAL DATA FIELDS IN NAMUS: MISSING FROM/RESIDES ON TRIBAL LAND

Edit Circumstances

Indicates fields that are required to submit this case

Date of Last Contact
01/01/2019

Suspected Foul Play
 Yes No Possibly Uncertain

Last Known Location
 Street Address Intersection General Location

Location
Flathead Reservation

City **State** **ZIP Code**

County

Is this location on tribal land under United States' jurisdiction? **Was this person's primary residence on tribal land?**

Circumstances of Disappearance
Missing from Lame Deer, Montana.

Cancel Save



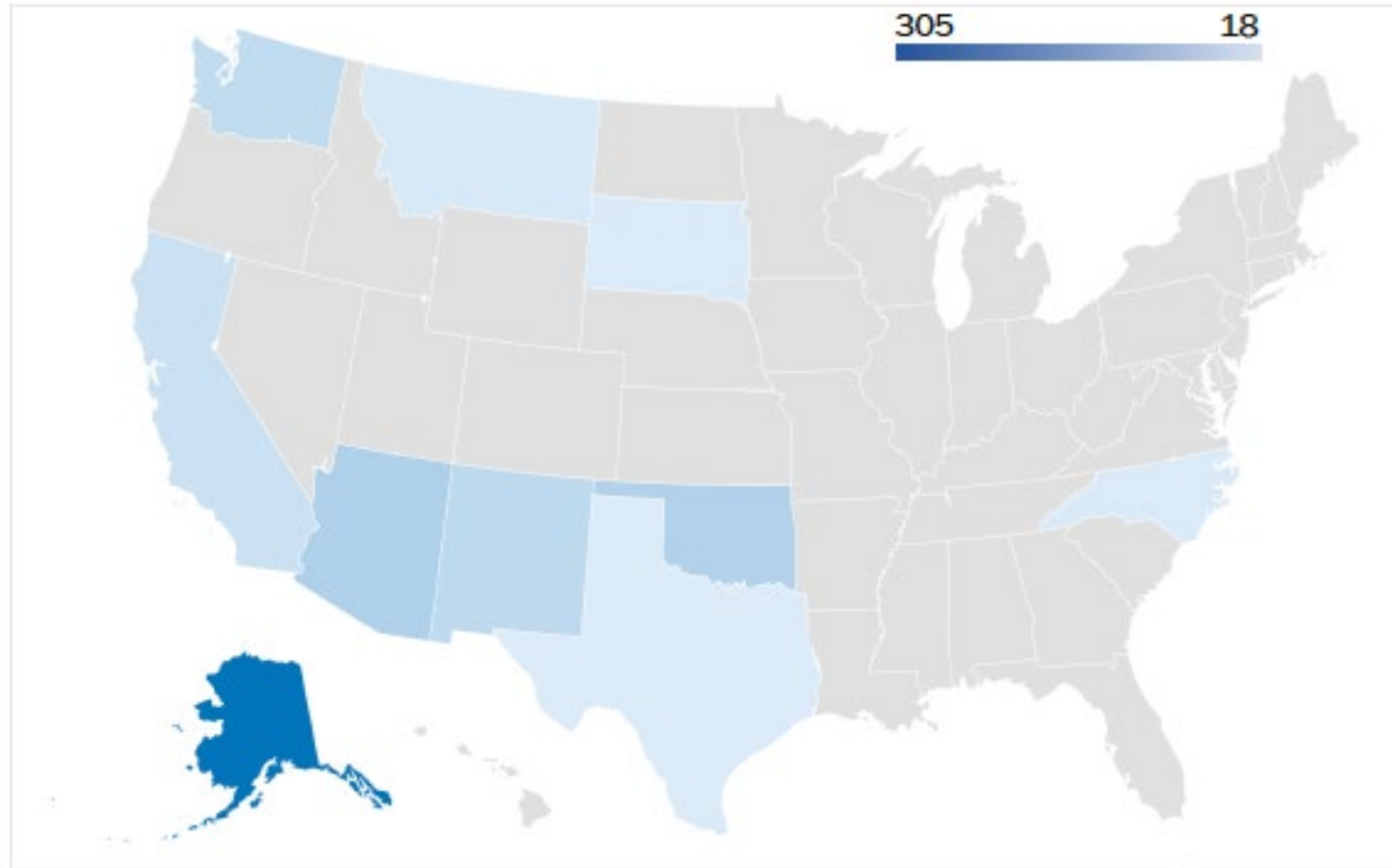
TRIBAL STATISTICS

Active MP Cases with AI/AN ethnicity, tribal enrollment, missing from tribal land, or primary residence on tribal land

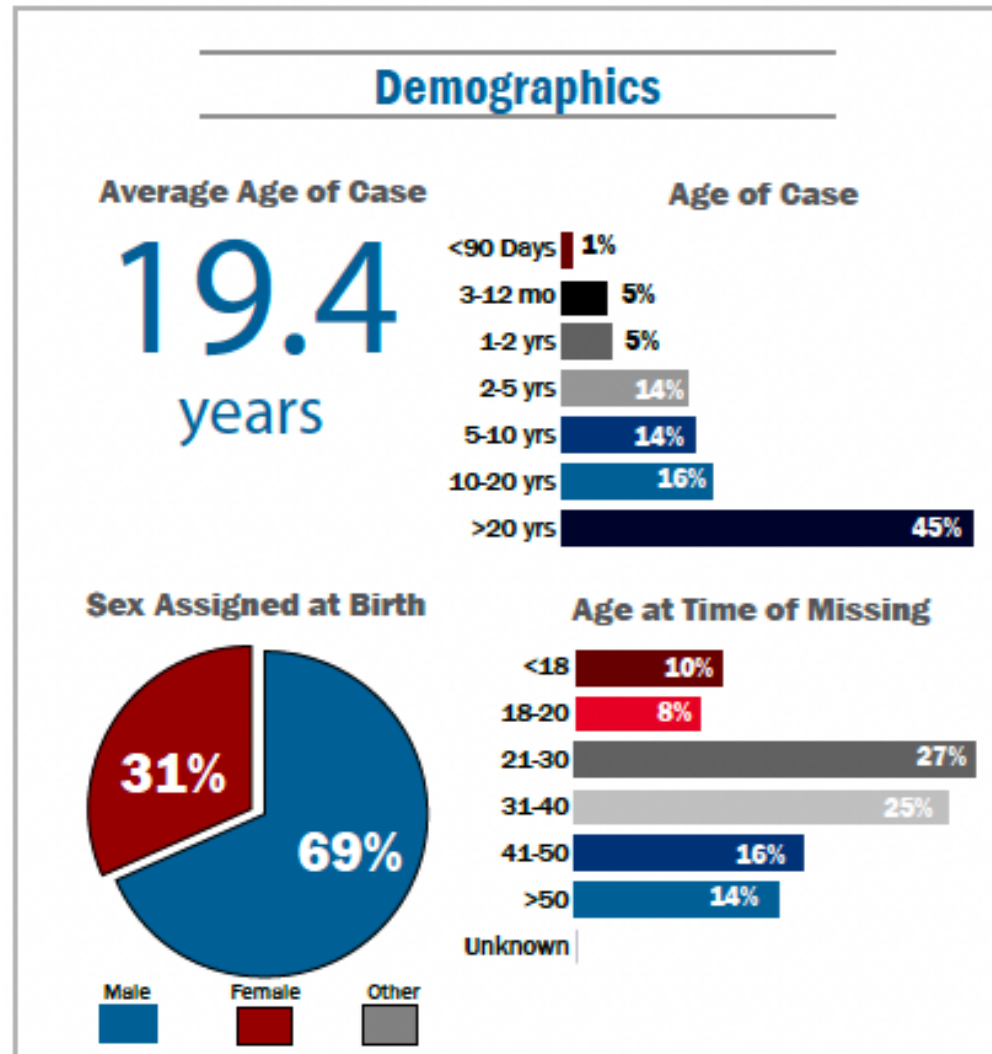
Top 10 States

Alaska	305
Arizona	84
Oklahoma	80
New Mexico	62
Washington	57
California	43
Montana	23
North Carolina	20
South Dakota	20
Texas	18

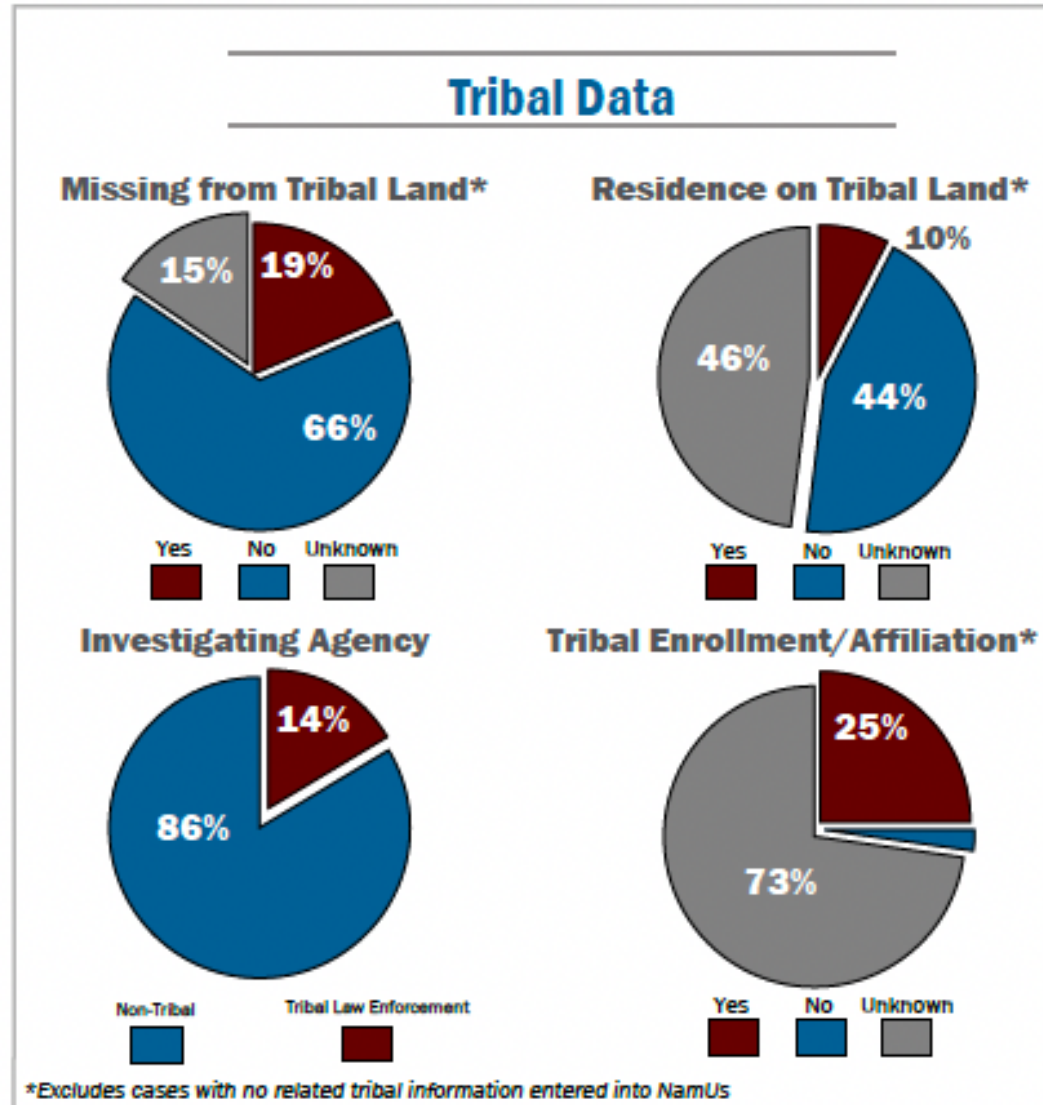
Total Missing Person AI/AN Cases by State
(as of June 2023)



NAMUS AI/AN MISSING PERSON CASES, AS OF JUNE 2023



NAMUS AI/AN MISSING PERSON CASES, AS OF JUNE 2023



EXAMPLE OF DATA SHARING FOR TRIBAL CASES ACROSS DATABASES

- NamUs is working with the FBI to cross reference all records of missing persons AI/AN cases noted in NCIC, the FBI's Missing Native Americans list, and NamUs to ensure completeness and concordance of records

ARIZONA

FBI releases names of 170 missing Indigenous people in New Mexico and on the Navajo Nation



[Arlyssa D. Becenti](#)

Arizona Republic

Published 3:09 p.m. MT July 26, 2022

[View Comments](#)



The FBI in New Mexico released [the names of 170 missing Indigenous people](#) in an attempt to locate them and to encourage families to report their missing loved ones.

The list, along with some photos, includes members of the Navajo Nation and New Mexico Pueblo tribes. The oldest case is that of Walcie Downing, who has been missing since Dec. 14, 1956. There was no picture with her name, although an online search turns up a black-and-white picture of her, smiling.



Crowd of people at the day of awareness event for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People in Window Rock in 2021. *Shondiin Silversmith/The Republic*

EXECUTIVE ORDER 13898

- signed November 26, 2019, formed the Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) – also known as **Operation Lady Justice**.
 - ❖ Consultations with tribal governments on the scope and nature of issues regarding missing and murdered AI/AN persons.
 - ❖ Develop protocols and procedures for unsolved missing & murdered persons in American Indian and Alaska Native communities, including sharing of data among various jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies and better use of existing criminal databases, such as NamUs



PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Justice Department Boosts Efforts to Solve American Indian and Alaska Native Missing Person and Unidentified Remains Cases [🔗](#)

National Missing and Unidentified Persons System Will Ensure Cases Are Current and Complete

WASHINGTON – The Department of Justice today announced a commitment of \$800,000 to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, or NamUs, specifically to increase the program’s capacity to provide outreach, investigative support and forensic services to cases involving American Indians and Alaska Natives. The investment is in response to recommendations from the federal Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives, known as Operation Lady Justice. It also supports the [executive order](#) issued by President Biden on November 15 “to reduce violence against Native American people, and to ensure swift and effective Federal action that responds to the problem of missing or murdered indigenous people.”

“Our research tells us that American Indians and Alaska Natives experience violence at rates well above those of many other groups, a disparity that is sadly reflected in reports of missing and unidentified Native Americans,” said Jennifer Scherer, Acting Director of the National Institute of Justice, the division of the Justice Department’s Office of Justice Programs that manages NamUs. “We look forward to using these new resources to bolster NamUs and help investigators solve these difficult cases and bring answers to families.”