



FORENSIC DNA LABORATORIES

Since 1994, the Marshall University Forensic Science Center (MUFSC) has strived to use the latest technologies to assist the criminal justice system in the pursuit of truth and justice. Nowhere is this commitment more apparent than in MUFSC's state-of-the-art Forensic DNA Laboratories.

MUFSC's primary function is to act as the Combined DNA Indexing System (CODIS) Laboratory for the state of West Virginia. CODIS is a database of convicted offenders in West Virginia. When an individual is convicted of certain felonies, his or her saliva is collected and sent to MUFSC for analysis. The resulting profile is uploaded into CODIS by the West Virginia State Police.

This process, as part of a larger FBI initiative to develop the National DNA Index System (NDIS), allows investigators to compare unknown DNA found at a crime scene to the DNA profiles of known offenders within the database. CODIS has allowed law enforcement to address high levels of recidivism and has aided in over 197,400 investigations since its inception (FBI CODIS-NDIS Statistics, March 2013).



FORENSIC SCIENCE

In addition to CODIS analysis, MUFSC also provides its Forensic Relationship Testing services to the criminal justice community. Our accredited laboratory can perform complex analysis to address a number of relationship questions including paternity, maternity, and siblingship. These tests routinely aid investigators in solving homicide and sexual assault cases.



The increased reliance on DNA to prosecute criminal cases has resulted in substantial backlogs of DNA evidence. MUFSC is assisting numerous state and local agencies reduce these backlogs by performing Forensic DNA Analysis.

MUFSC provides critical DNA Analysis services including:

- CODIS analysis
- Property crimes
- Relationship testing
- Sexual assault kits
- Scientific research

Our Forensic DNA Laboratory employs only qualified DNA Analysts who adhere to the strictest quality control standards. MUFSC is accredited by ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB), as an ISO/IEC 17025 compliant testing and databasing laboratory, which recognizes our compliance with federally mandated Quality Assurance Standards for the analysis of DNA-STR by capillary electrophoresis.