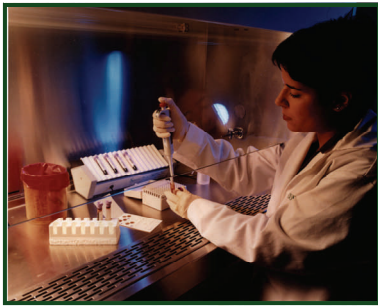




Forensic DNA Laboratories

A Tradition of Service

Since 1994, the Marshall University Forensic Science Center (MUFSC) has strived to use the latest technologies to assist law enforcement in



the pursuit of justice. Nowhere is this commitment more clear than in MUFSC's state-of-the-art forensic DNA laboratories. Nationally-recognized for qual-

ity, MUFSC is accredited by Forensic Quality Services-International as ISO/IEC 17025 compliant. MUFSC's primary function is to act as the Combined DNA Indexing System (CODIS) Laboratory for the state of West Virginia. But, MUFSC provides other critical services including: analyzing casework, using DNA to investigate property crimes, performing paternity testing, and conducting innovative research.

MUFSC and CODIS

CODIS is a database of convicted offenders in West Virginia. When an individual is convicted of certain felonies, his/her blood is extracted 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 77,000 investigations since its inception (FBI CODIS-NDIS Statistics, Oct. 2008).

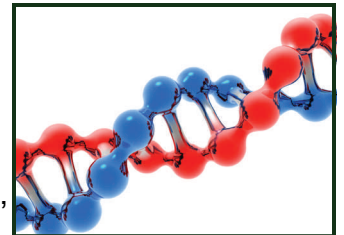


Forensic Casework

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 analysis on forensic casework. In performing this vital service, MUFSC adheres to the strictest quality control standards and hires only qualified DNA analysts and technicians. MUFSC's casework program has assisted in countless criminal investigations across the country.

Property Crimes Initiative

According to the FBI, property crimes cost the U.S. approximately \$17 billion in 2007. Unfortunately, due to limited laboratory resources, DNA is seldom used to investigate these types of crimes. Forensic scientists are forced to prioritize violent offenses, leaving many property crimes unsolved. In order to address this trend, MUFSC has partnered with law enforcement agencies across three states to provide DNA analysis of property crimes evidence. Using DNA to prosecute property criminals has the potential to greatly reduce recidivism.



Forensic Parentage Services

In addition to providing parentage testing for private clients, MUFSC also provides its services to law enforcement for forensic purposes. MUFSC's AABB accredited relationship testing laboratory can perform complex analysis to address a number of parentage questions, including paternity, maternity, and siblingship. These tests routinely aid investigators in solving homicide and sexual assault cases.