The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (Namus)

Resources to resolve missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases

September 21, 2021









PRESENTER'S INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER

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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



Training and Outreach

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



Research

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



Technology

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



Investigative Support

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

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?



Sworn and civilian law enforcement personnel

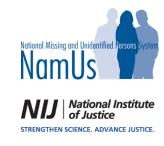
Who Uses NamUs?

Medical examiners, coroners, and allied forensic professionals

Family members of the missing and victim advocates

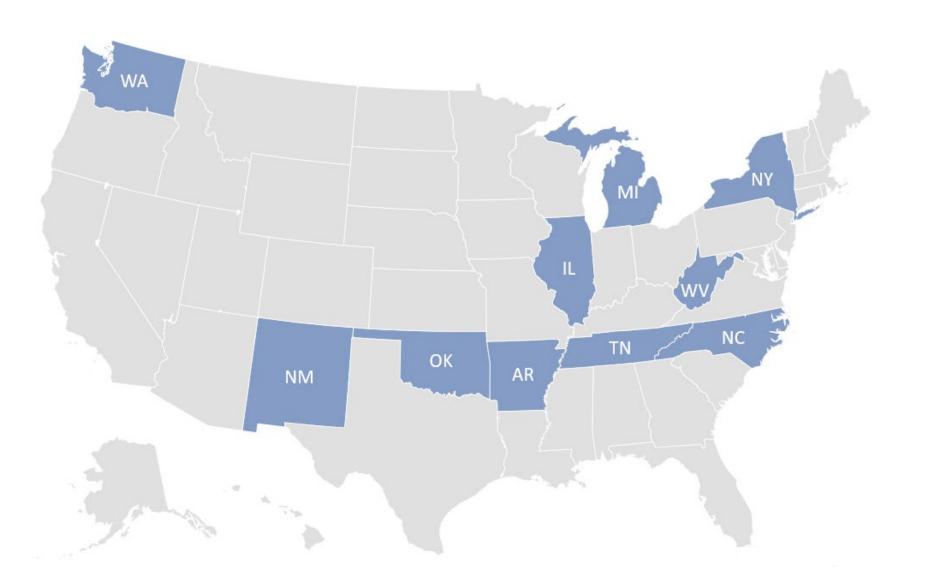
9,000+

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





STATES WITH LEGISLATION THAT INCLUDES NAMUS



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



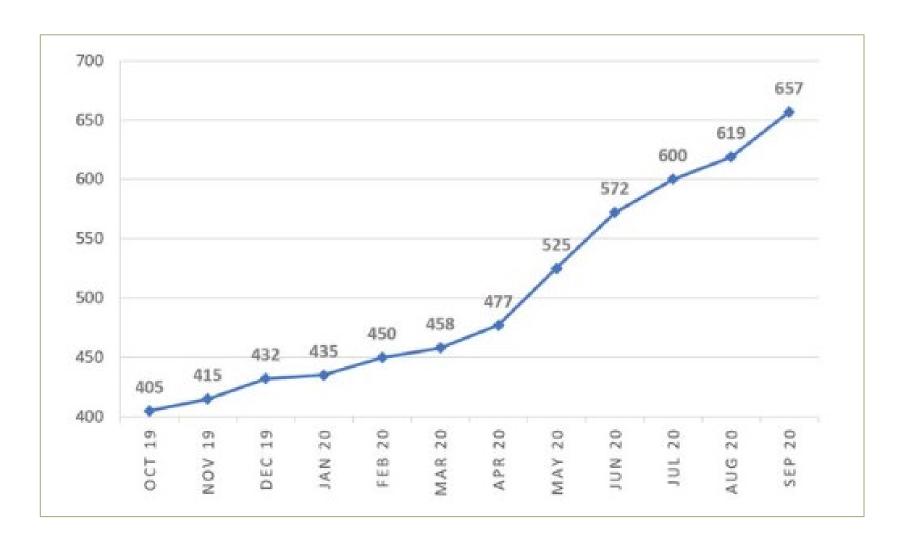
"WITHOUT DATA, THERE IS NO CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT A PROBLEM EXISTS."

Representative Ruth Buffalo

North Dakota House of Representatives, District 27

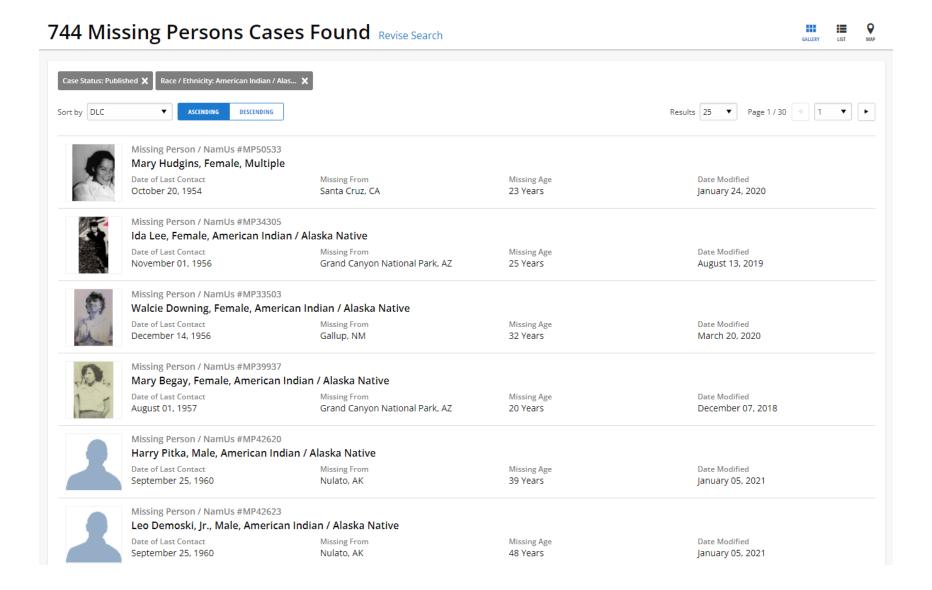
Testimony during the March 14, 2018
Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States hearing
on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

TREND IN AI/AN MISSING PERSON CASES PUBLISHED IN NAMUS, BY MONTH



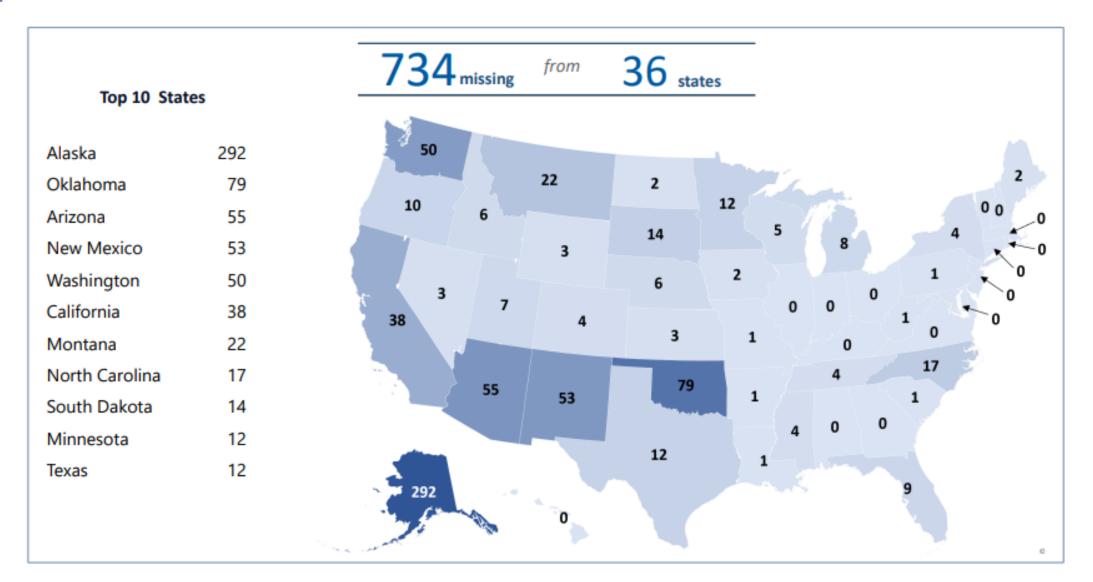


NAMUS AS A CENTRAL DATABASE FOR MISSING INDIGENOUS PERSON CASES



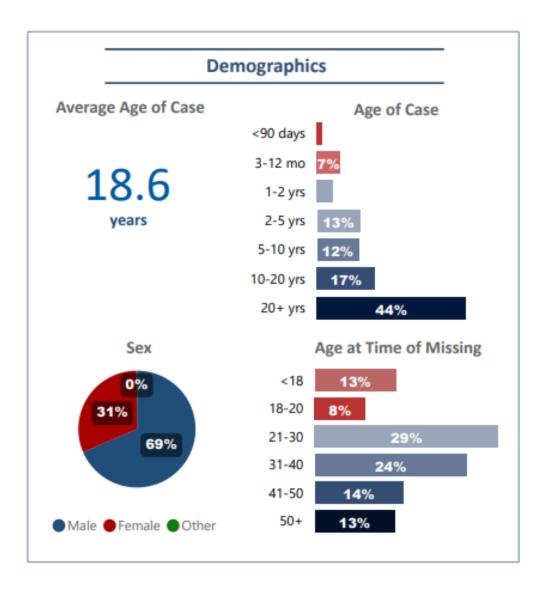


NAMUS AI/AN MISSING PERSON CASES, AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021



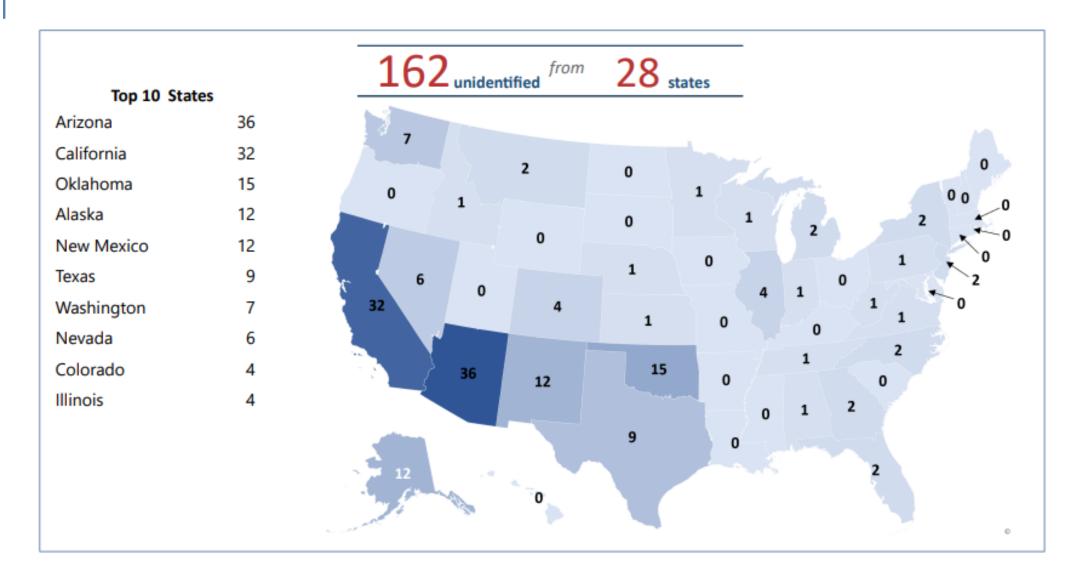


NAMUS AI/AN MISSING PERSON CASES, AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021

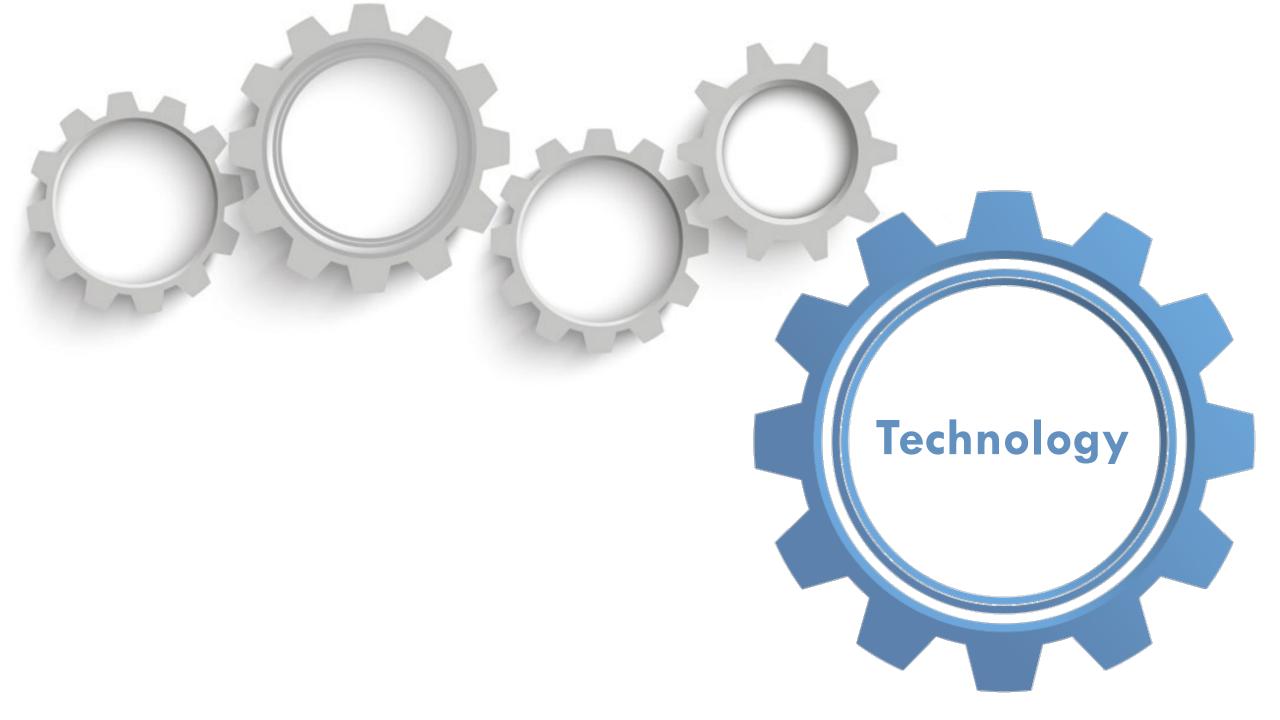




NAMUS AI/AN UNIDENTIFIED PERSON CASES, AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021







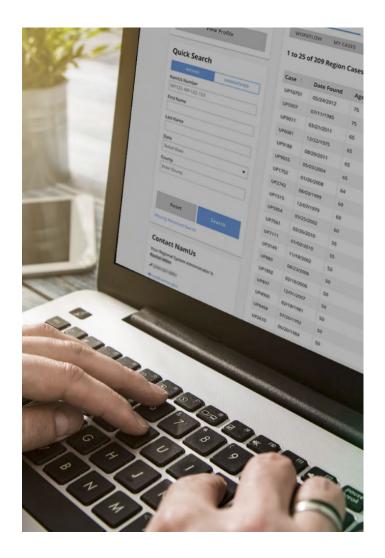




- NamUs 2.0 database is hosted in SecureCloud, which is an area within GovCloud for highlysecured applications
- The system is monitored 24/7 by the Office of Justice Programs Information Security team, as well as the NamUs Information Technology team
- Law enforcement, medical examiner, coroner and allied forensic professionals are vetted before access to secure data in NamUs is granted



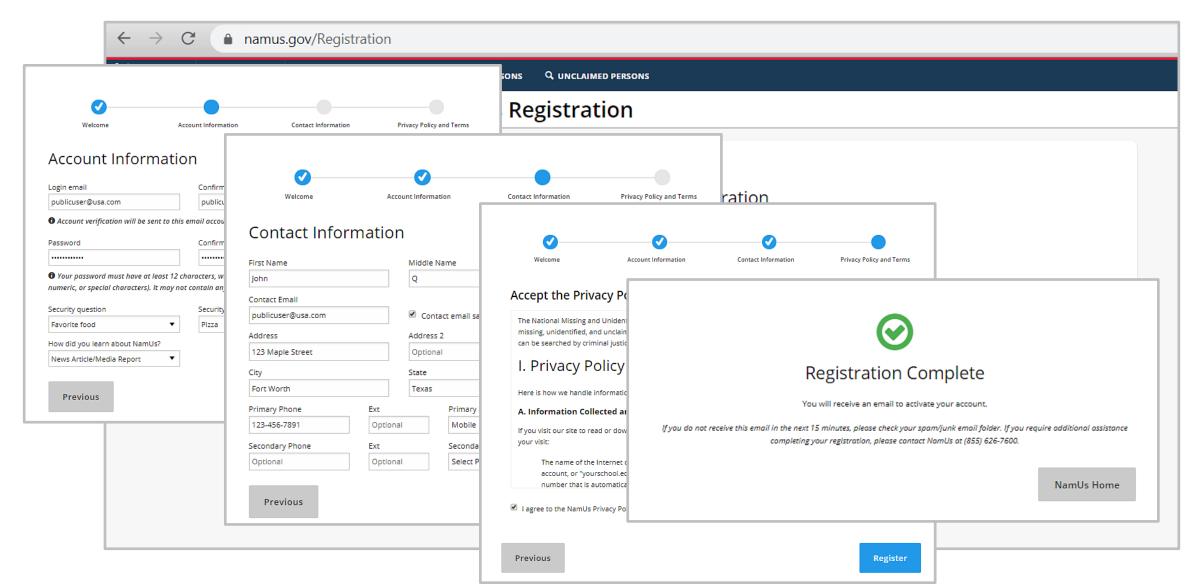
NAMUS TECHNOLOGY



- The NamUs 2.0 database is a central repository for storing, sharing, and comparing all missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person case information
- Case management, advanced searching, and automatic matching tools within the NamUs application expedite case associations and resolutions
- The NamUs database is searchable by anyone. However, sensitive case data are only accessible by appropriate, vetted professional users, which include medical examiners, coroners, law enforcement officers, and allied forensic professionals

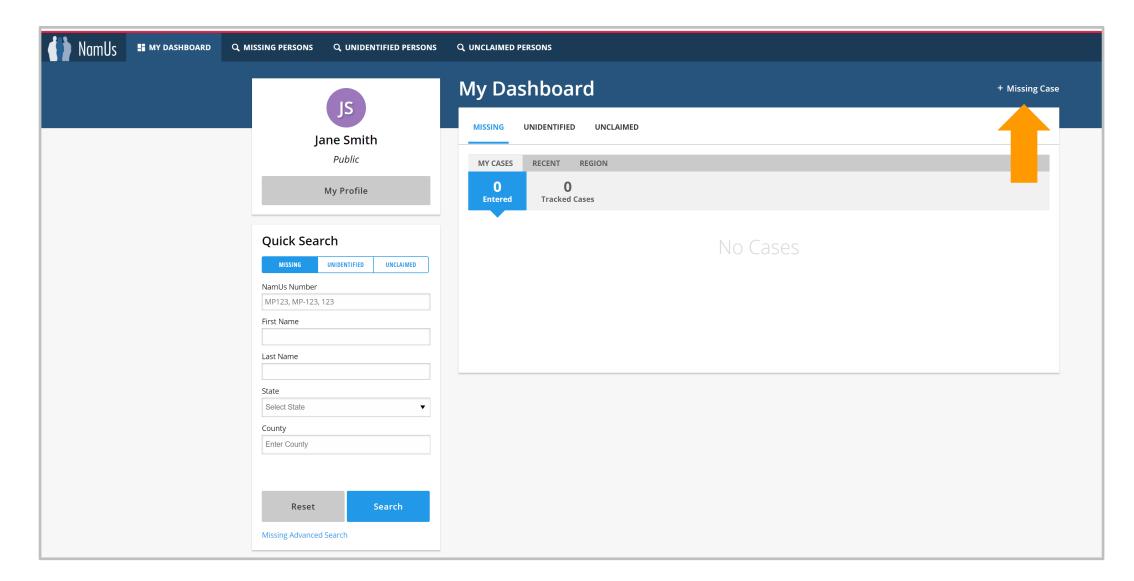


PUBLIC USER REGISTRATION





CENTRAL DASHBOARD FOR ALL ACCOUNT AND CASE TOOLS





+ MISSING CASE FROM DASHBOARD

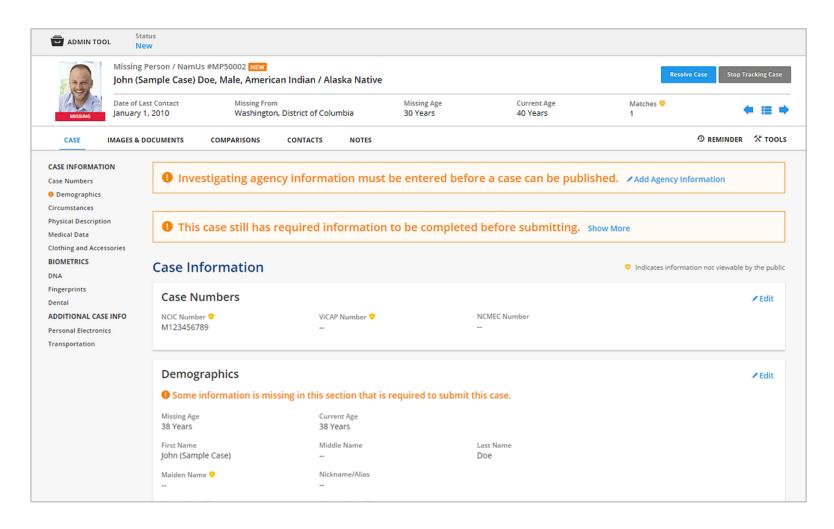
Create a Missing Persons Case				
What is your relationship to the missing person? Law Enforcement	v	Create and submit a Missing Persons case		
Demographics		Privacy Act Statement		
First Name	Middle Name Last Name Optional	 Begin Complete this form with all available information. 		
Date of Sirth MM/DD/YYY Sex		Create Click the 'Create Draft' button. You will be able to enter additional information on the following page.		
Race / Ethnicity (select all that apply) White / Caucasian Hispanic / Latino Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	Black / African American Asian Uncertain	Review After creating your draft, the following fields will be required to submit your case.		
American Indian / Alaska NativeCircumstances	Other	Relationship to missing person First Name Last Name Sex Race / Ethnicity		
Date of Last Contact MM/DD/YYY Last Known Location City	State ZIP Code	Date of Last Contact City State County Gircumstances of Disappearance		
County Select County ▼	Select State ▼	HeightWeightHair ColorEye Color		
Circumstances of Disappearance Describe the circumstances of disappearance		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.		
Physical Height (Feet/Inches) ft	Weight (lbs) lbs - lbs	You will be contacted by your NamUs RPS if additional information is needed.		
Hair Color Select Hair Color ▼ Eye Color Select Eye Color ▼				
Specify Each Eye Separately				
	Cancel Create Draft			

Short entry form to quickly create a new case draft for Missing Person





COMPLETE AND SUBMIT NEW CASE ENTRY



- System guides user to enter the minimum information needed to submit to NamUs
- On cases entered by family or a public user, NamUs staff verifies missing person status with the investigating agency and requests permission to publish



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		

+ Add Distinctive Physical Feature



Tattoo

Tattoo of a green, blue, and yellow Clothing and Accessories

+ Add 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 ALL KNOWN MEDICAL DATA

Mark this section as No Known Information	
ltem	
Other medical information	▼
Known allergy	
Skeletal information	
Known illness	defined categorie
Medical implant	, and the second
Medication	
Drug of abuse	
Prior surgery	
Organ absent	
Foreign object	
Medical condition/disorder	
iviedical collultion/disorder	





ENTER DENTIST INFORMATION & POTENTIAL FINGERPRINT SOURCE

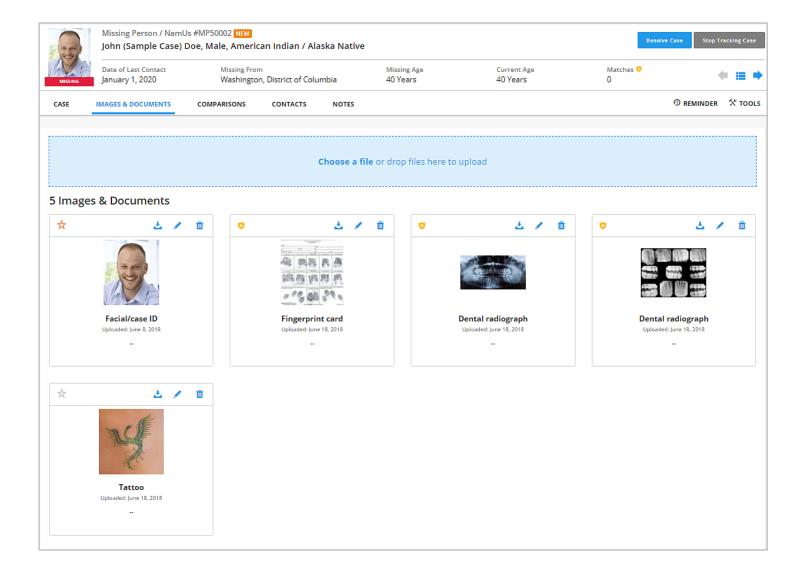
Edit Fingerprint Information

	Edit Dental Information	
Mark this section as No Known Information	Dentist Information	
	First Name	Last Name
What Best Describes the Availability of Fingerprints		
	Address	Address 2
Fingerprint Information is Available Elsewhere		
Fingerprint Information is Available for Entry	City	State ZIP Code
- Thige print mornidating Available for Entry		Select ▼
Comments	Phone	Email
Fingerprints were provided when MP obtained his		



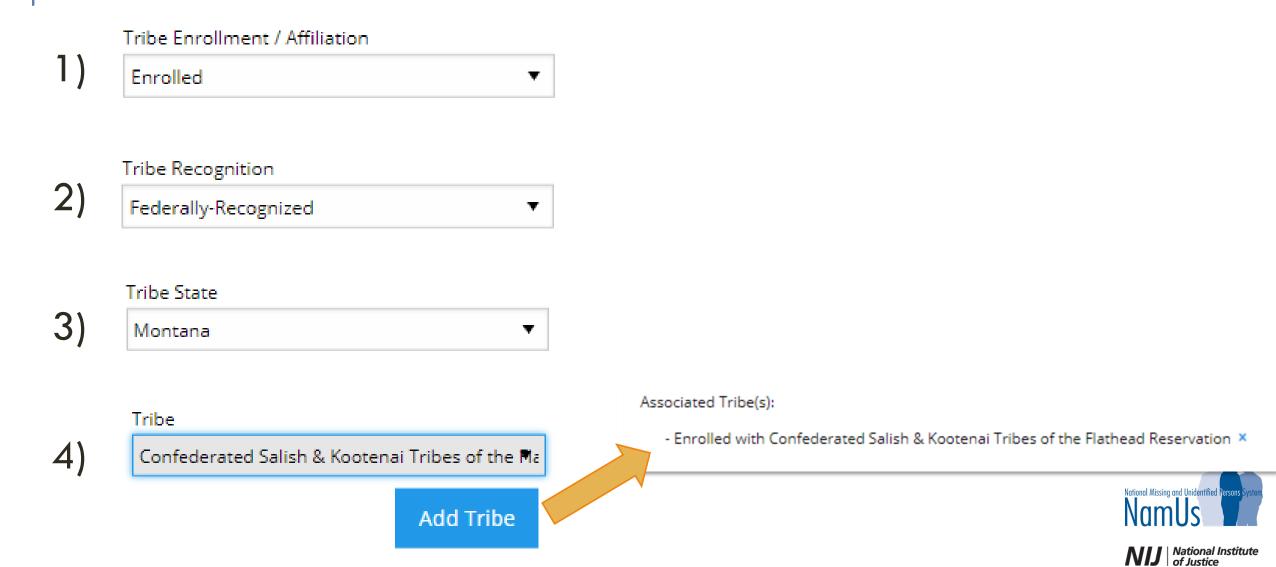


UPLOAD IMAGES & DOCUMENTS



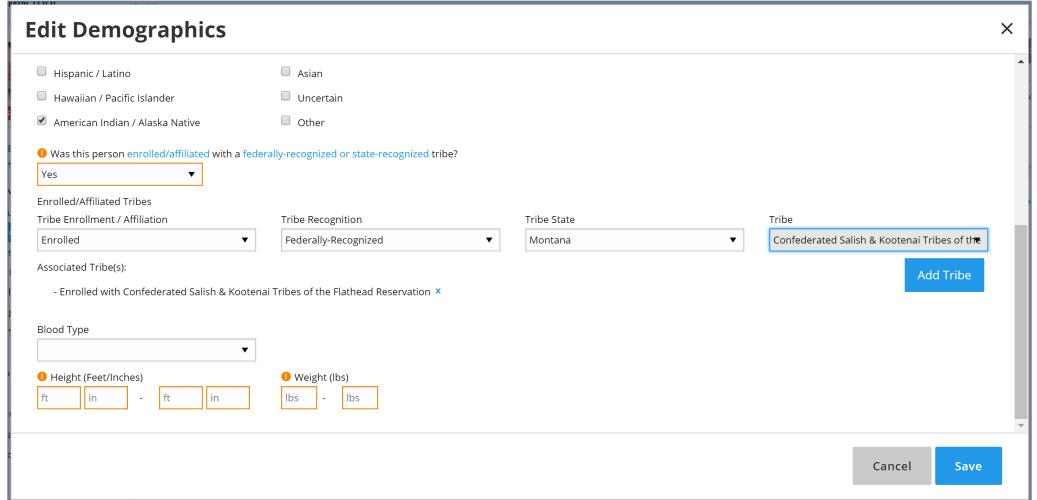
- Photographs
- X-rays
- Dental images and treatment records
- Fingerprint cards
- Tattoos
- Clothing

NEW DATA FIELDS IN NAMUS: TRIBAL ENROLLMENT/AFFILIATION



STRENGTHEN SCIENCE, ADVANCE JUSTICE

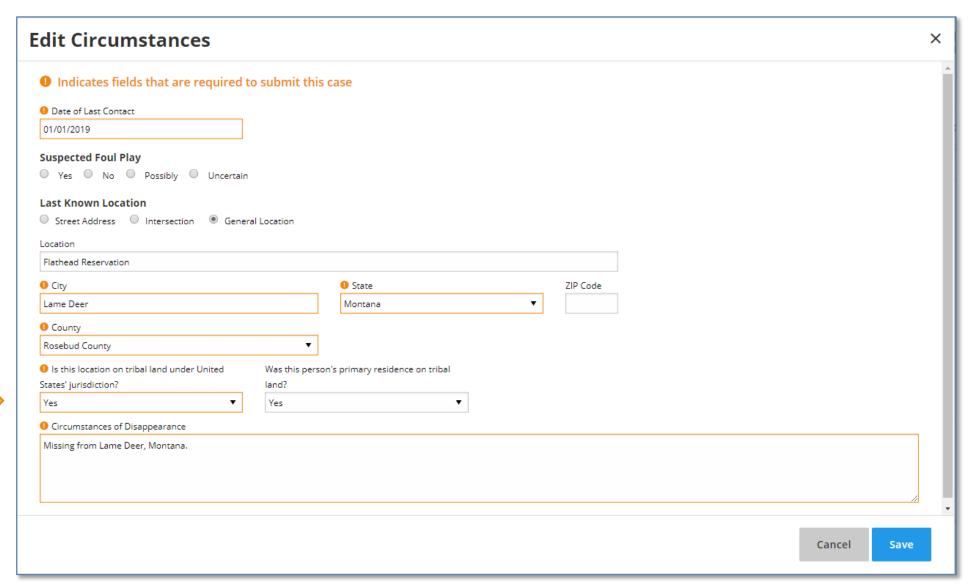
NEW DATA FIELDS IN NAMUS: TRIBAL ENROLLMENT/AFFILIATION





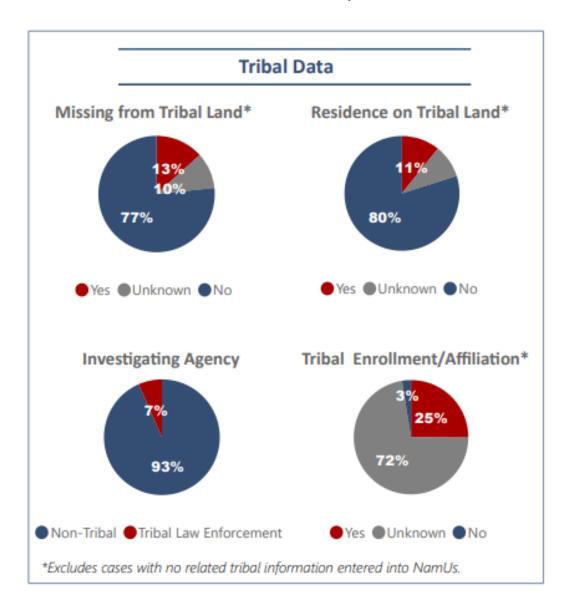


NEW DATA FIELDS IN NAMUS: MISSING FROM/RESIDES ON TRIBAL LAND



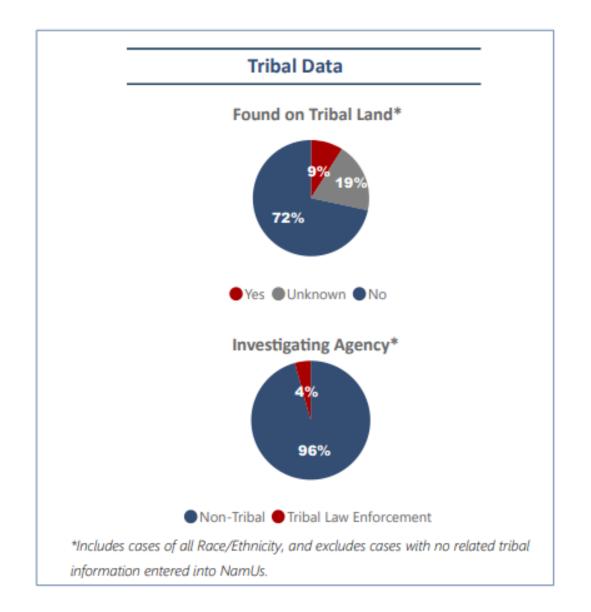


NAMUS AI/AN MISSING PERSON CASES, AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021





NAMUS AI/AN UNIDENTIFIED PERSON CASES, AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021





NAMUS SUPPORT OF MISSING INDIGENOUS PERSON CASES



NamUs Support for Missing Indigenous Person Cases

HOW NIJ AND ITS NAMUS PROGRAM SUPPORT TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND COMMUNITIES

NamUs is working to close data gaps related to missing indigenous persons, and to ensure that every tribal law enforcement agency knows about and can use the NamUs program to help resolve cases. The NamUs 2.0 database (accessible from www.NamUs.gov) allows tribes to collect better data on their missing persons, and provides a tool for sharing and comparing case information across jurisdictional boundaries.

Data fields specific to tribal cases in NamUs include:

- · A missing person's tribal enrollment or affiliation
- · Whether a missing person was last seen on tribal land
- · Whether a missing person's primary residence was on tribal land

Trend data of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) missing person cases that were **published** in NamUs as of the first of the month is provided below (for example, March 1st at 12:00 am). Please keep in mind that NamUs is an operational database. The data displayed below reflect a snapshot in time. These data do not show unpublished cases that have yet to be vetted by law enforcement for publication purposes, nor do they reflect the number of cases that have been resolved and archived since the last data collection draw. The NamUs database is not a historical database. Please keep these issues in mind when using them. Additional statistics regarding

To view more information about NamUs' support of missing indigenous person cases, or to download the most recent AI/AN case reports from NamUs, visit www.NamUs.gov





MISSING PERSONS CASE ENTRY

Detailed instructions for entering a missing person case can be found by clicking the LIBRARY/MULTIMEDIA tab at the top of the NamUs.gov website



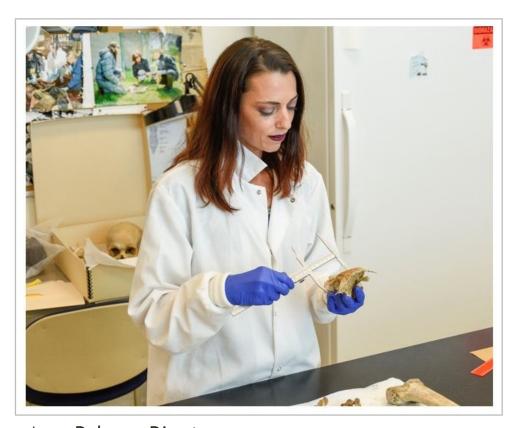
Free. Secure. Nationwide.

NamUs provides technology, forensic services, and investigative support to resolve missing person and unidentified remains cases.

Explore NamUs

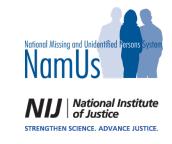


+ UNIDENTIFIED PERSON CASE ENTRY



- Records are typically entered and closed by Medical Examiner or Coroner NamUs users
- Law Enforcement may enter if an authorized designee of the Medical Examiner's or Coroner's Office

Anna Delaney, Director Forensic Anthropology Laboratory and Human Remains Repository New Jersey State Police





UNIDENTIFIED PERSON CASE DATA



Unidentified Person / NamUs #UP14737 Male, Asian

November 2, 2015

Location Found Atlantic City, New Jersey Estimated Age Range 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





UNIDENTIFIED PERSON CASE IMAGES

Images may be viewable to the public or restricted to professional users only



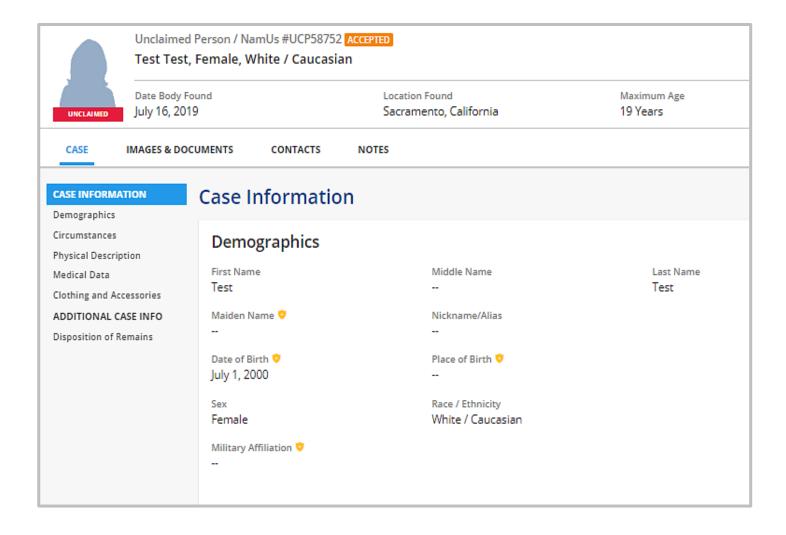








+ UNCLAIMED PERSON CASE ENTRY



- Instances where next of kin was unknown or could not be located at the time of death
- Can be entered by all professional NamUs users
- Unidentified Persons case entries, once identified, can be converted to an Unclaimed Person case if next of kin was not located



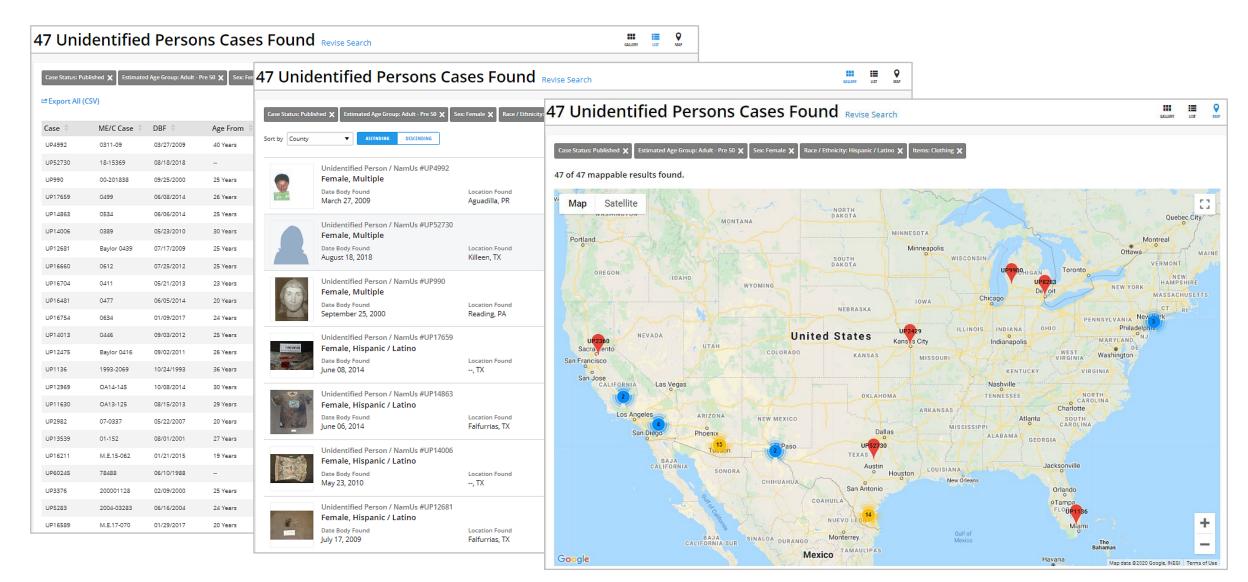
ADVANCED SEARCHING

		Circumstances
Distinctive Physical Features No Information Entered		Foul Play Indicated Yes No Possibly Uncertain or not provided
No Known Information	Clothing and Accessories	NamUs Case Created
Distinctive Physical Features	No Information Entered	Between ▼ Month ▼ Day ▼ Year ▼ - Month ▼ Day ▼ Year ▼
butterfly	Clothing and Accessories Description	Date of Last Contact
Searching For butterfly	ring	Between ▼ Month ▼ Day ▼ Year ▼ - Month ▼ Day ▼ Year ▼
Limit to Selected Fields	Searching For ring	Last Known Location
	Limit to Selected Fields	City
+ Add Keyword Search Item + Add Keyword Search Item		Enter City
7	Only Include Cases That Contain a Description for the Following: Select all	•
□ Accessories □ Clothin □ Footwear ☑ Jewelry		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.

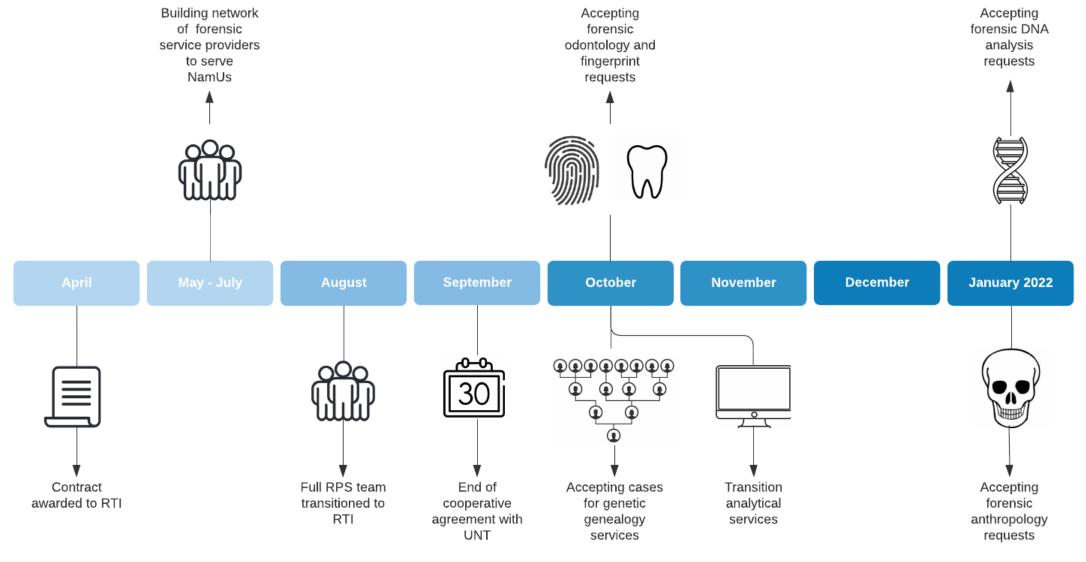


SEARCH RESULTS: LIST, GALLERY AND MAP VIEW





TRANSITION TIMELINE





STRENGTHEN SCIENCE. ADVANCE JUSTICE.



FREE DNA ANALYSIS

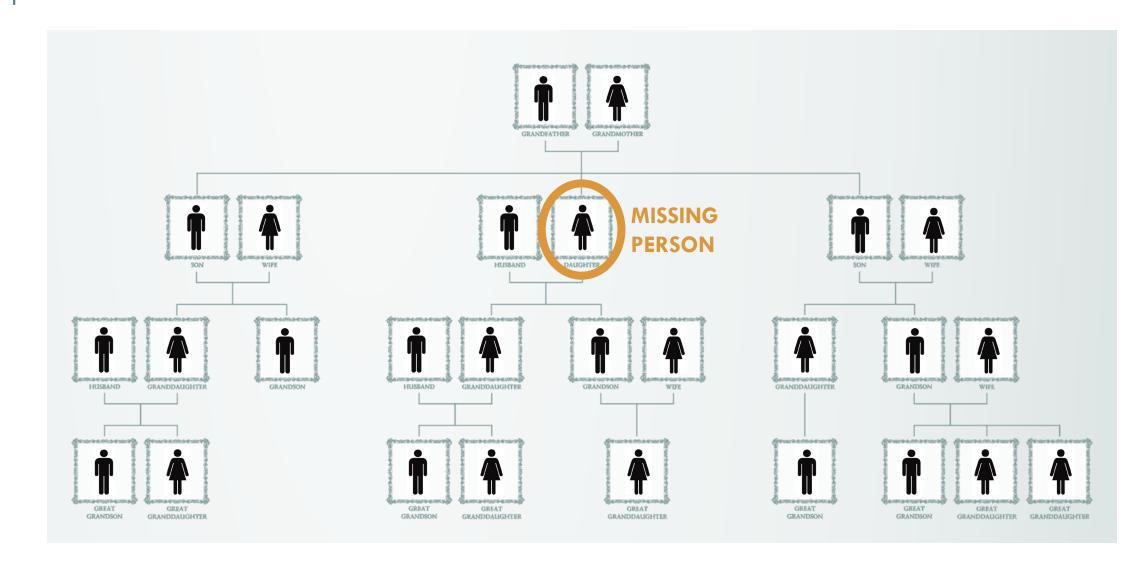
Through NamUs, the National Institute of Justice funds nuclear and mitochondrial DNA analysis for missing and unidentified person cases across the country.

All eligible profiles are uploaded to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) for comparison.



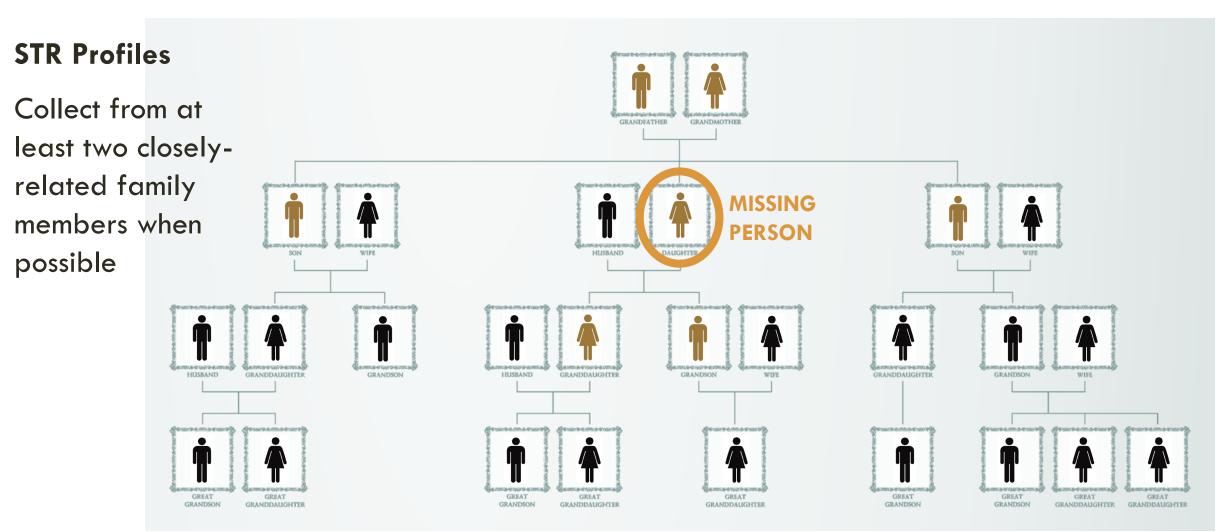


SELECTING FAMILY MEMBERS FOR DNA COLLECTIONS





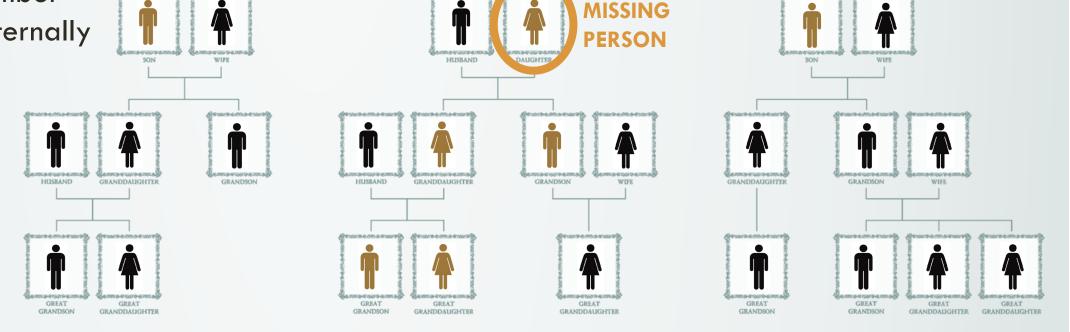
SELECTING FAMILY MEMBERS FOR DNA COLLECTIONS





SELECTING FAMILY MEMBERS FOR DNA COLLECTIONS

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) Collect from one family member who is maternally related. MISSING PERSON





DNA COLLECTIONS

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		ily Referen	•				
n structions: Comp lote: Sections 1 a ause a delay in pi	nd 3-9 are require						UNTCHI Case No
INVESTIGATIN							
Agency:				Agency	y Case No:		
Address:				NCIC N			
					s MP No:		
Contact Name:				Phone	No:		
Contact Email:				Fax No			
. COURTESY CO	LLECTING AGE	VCY Complete this	section if the collectin			above	
Agency:	2220111071021	TOT COMPLETE THE			Case No:		
Address:				Agency	, 2000 110.		
Address.							
Contact Name:				Phone	No:		
Contact Name: Contact Email:				Phone No: Fax No:			
B. EVIDENCE SU		unhanit and farm	-f d	1 47 110			
UNTCHI SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE		R INFORMATION			SAMP	LE COLLECTED BY
	Oral						
	Blood	Na	ame of Donor				Collector
	Other					Dat	e of Collection
la this reference	sample associated	d with another	a submitted to 11	итсииз Г	7vaa 1181		
is this reference	sample associated	u with another cas	se submitted to U	VICHI!	No Yes, UN	ICHI Case	e No:
I. CHAIN OF CU	STODY						
Delege - d b							
Released by:	Sign	ature	Printe	d Name		C	ate & Time Released
Shipped by:							
		Shipping Company				Tracking N	umber
Received by:							
	HI Use Only) Signature		Drinto	Printed Name		Date & Time Received	

- Kits for collecting family reference samples for DNA analysis are provided at no cost and contain swabs, gloves, and a postage-paid return envelope
- Consent forms and submission
 paperwork must be downloaded from
 www.namus.nij.ojp.gov/services/dna
 prior to collection
- Family members must sign a consent form prior to processing



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







Unidentified Human (Remains) Index

Convicted Offender Index

Forensic Index



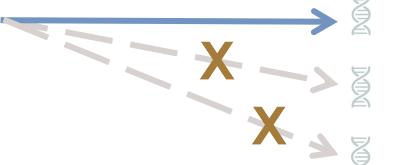




CODIS SEARCHING



Family Members of Missing Persons Index



Unidentified Human Index

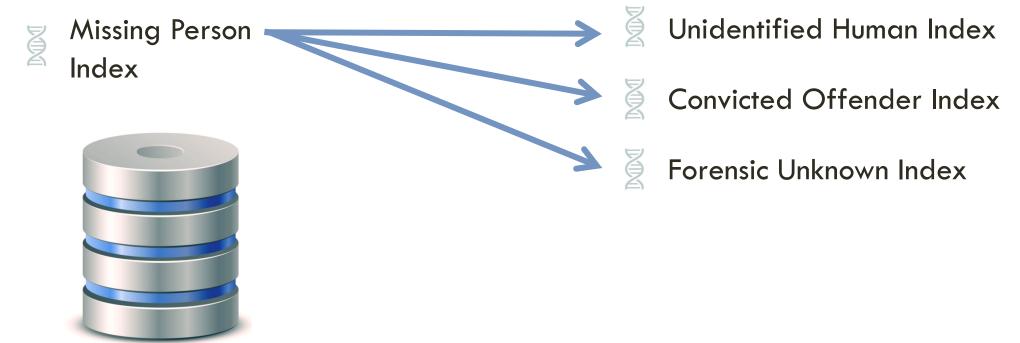
Convicted Offender Index

Forensic Unknown Index



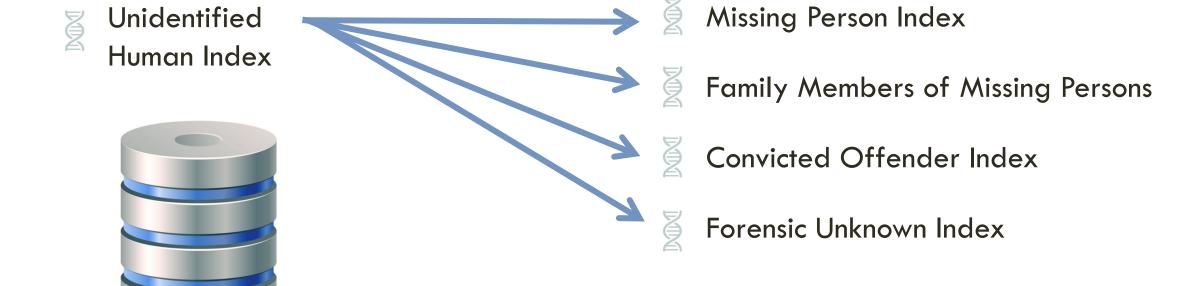
















FINGERPRINT SERVICES



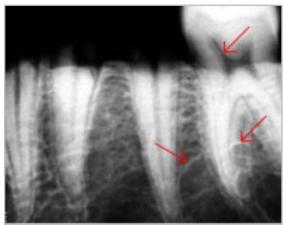
- Locating/acquiring fingerprint records
- Coding prints for NCIC and NamUs entry
- Facilitating fingerprint database searches
- Performing fingerprint comparisons





DENTAL RECORDS





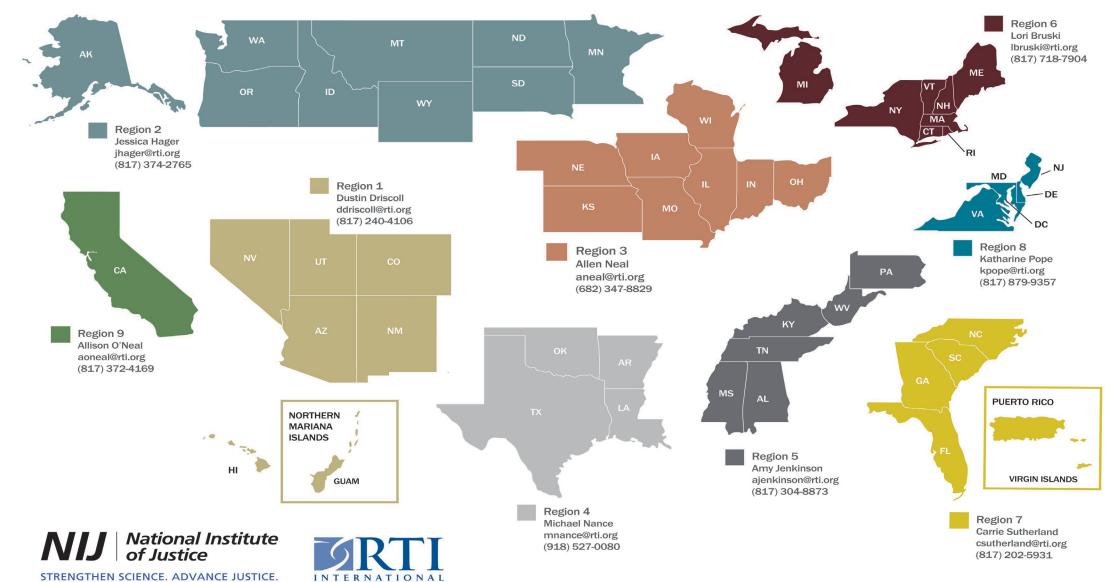
- Dental records provide an opportunity to make rapid, costeffective, detailed comparisons between individuals for inclusions or exclusions of potential matches
- Agencies can directly upload dental information for missing and unidentified person cases to NamUs







REGIONAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS





REGIONAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS

Support families and criminal justice agencies across the country by:

- Vetting, activating, and renewing all professional user registrations
- Vetting and publishing all case entries
- Providing investigative support and facilitating forensic services
- Providing online and classroom trainings
- Assisting with the coordination and implementation of missing person day events



NAMUS ANALYTICAL SERVICES

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





1974 CASE RESOLVED WITH DENTAL RECORDS

- 20 year old male, enrolled with Navajo
 Nation, went missing on 06/15/1974
- Entered into NamUs on 03/28/2016 by Air Force OSI

Unidentified Remains

- Found on 09/04/1982 in Lewis and Clark County, MT
- Entered into NamUs by the Coroner's Office
 in 2014







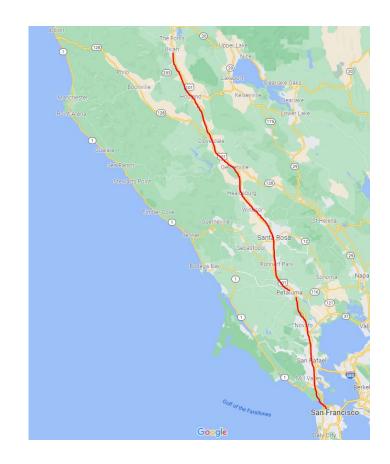
1971 CASE RESOLVED WITH DNA

- 16 year old Native American female, adopted from Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho to Ukiah, CA
- Family adopted several children throughout the United States and the closest sister lived in San Francisco
- Left to find her on September 1, 1971

Unidentified Remains

- Decedent was struck by a vehicle on US 101 on 09/10/1971 in Petaluma, CA
- Witnesses stated she was trying to cross the freeway to San Francisco to find her sister
- Fingerprints were taken with negative results
- Body was buried prior to DNA Analysis and exhumed on 04/27/2018

DNA confirmed identification in August 2018







FAMILY SEES POSTER OF UNIDENTIFIED DECEDENT, RESOLVES CASE

- On May 22, 1980, an unidentified deceased female was located in Hall County, GA
- She was thought to be a Native American female between the ages of 18 and 24
- Most unique, the young woman had an artificial right eye and numerous healed injuries to her skull







FAMILY SEES POSTER OF UNIDENTIFIED DECEDENT, RESOLVES CASE

- The missing person left for California but later told family she decided to go to Tennessee, and was never seen again
- Most unique was that the missing person had an artificial right eye and multiple healed injuries from a prior automobile accident
- There was no report to law enforcement, as family was unaware that she had died





THANK YOU!

Jessica Hager

Regional Program Specialist

National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)

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