



Criminalistics Section - 2012

A5 **Katie's Law: A Threefold Increase in Database Samples Impacts a Team of Five**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the effects of implementing an All Arrestee law/bill based on the state of Colorado's legislative rules and guidelines.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by giving other labs an insight into the Colorado Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) Database procedures and how the increased numbers of samples are processed.

Colorado is one of several states to implement an All Arrestee law/bill. The collection and use of DNA by Law Enforcement agencies has been a useful tool in solving and preventing crime. This bill was implemented to help prevent a significant number of violent crimes and to help assist in developing leads that may solve cold cases in the State of Colorado.

As a result of the new law, buccal samples are collected along with fingerprints at the time of booking for an adult arrested for a felony in the state of Colorado. Samples are submitted to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, entered into the laboratory information management system, and held until the individual is charged with a felony. Once the individual has been charged, the sample is processed; a profile is developed and uploaded into CODIS.

The CBI Database has experienced no negative impact to the backlog status despite a threefold increase in the number of sample submissions. This has been accomplished with minimal changes to the Database Unit. No changes were made to the current instrumentation which consists of two semiautomated punches, a laboratory information management system, a robot for extraction, six thermal cyclers, and two genetic analyzers. The staff increased by four when the bill went into place which included the addition of one DNA analyst to help process the samples, one database technician to enter the samples, and two crime data specialists to research the samples for charges and process expungement requests. Before the bill went into effect, the Database Unit consisted of two DNA analysts, one CODIS administrator/analyst, and two technicians. This presentation will outline the system employed by the CBI Database laboratory in more detail.

Some of the challenges that the Database Unit had to overcome were interpretation of the bill, where to store the increased number of samples, how CBI would be notified when the charges are filed and a docket number is assigned, integration of data using the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC), and handling of expungement procedures.

Analysis efficiency will be further improved with the implementation of an expert system and a twenty-four capillary genetic analyzer in the near future. Overall efficiency in the future may be increased by working with agencies to update criminal history information and automate the charge information.

Database or Databank, All Arrestee, Katie's Law