

## Survey Instrument for OTA Survey of State and Local Crime Laboratories

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As part of this assessment, OTA surveyed all State and local crime laboratories identified in the 1988 U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation *Directory of Crime Laboratories Representing Local, State and Federal Systems* (see ch. 6).

The following is a reproduction of the survey questionnaire.

## SURVEY OF STATE AND LOCAL CRIME LABORATORIES

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Survey by the **Biological Applications Program**  
**Office of Technology Assessment**  
 U.S. Congress  
 Washington, D.C. 20510-8025

**Please Respond by March 13, 1989**

The Office of Technology Assessment is conducting a survey of U.S. state and local crime laboratories as part of an assessment of **Forensic Uses of Genetic Tests**. Please read each question and mark the space below the question that corresponds to your answer. After each answer continue with the next question unless there is an instruction to skip to a particular question or section. **Only aggregate data will be presented** in the report, so **individual information will not be identified with any particular facility**. Please call Margaret Anderson if you have any questions (202)228-6695.

### SECTION 1: GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Do you believe DNA typing is:
  - very important to develop for advancing the mission of this crime laboratory? \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
  - somewhat important, but only an additional technology in an array of existing technologies? \_\_\_\_\_ (2)
  - not very important to the mission of this crime laboratory? \_\_\_\_\_ (3)
  
2. What is the total number of non-clerical staff members in your facility? \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. **What** is your crime laboratory's annual budget? \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. **What role, if any, do you see for the FBI in DNA testing? (Please check all that apply)**
  - research (methods development and evaluation) \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
  - training \_\_\_\_\_ (2)
  - casework for state and local labs \_\_\_\_\_ (3)
  - maintenance of centralized DNA data files \_\_\_\_\_ (4)
  - reference library \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
  - define standards \_\_\_\_\_ (6)
  - certify laboratory personnel \_\_\_\_\_ (7)
  - provide proficiency samples for quality assurance \_\_\_\_\_ (8)
  - other, what? \_\_\_\_\_ (9)
  
5. Do you believe that **DNA testing results should be incorporated into a database (e.g., local, state, or national) so that they can be exchanged among law enforcement agencies?**
  - yes \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
  - no \_\_\_\_\_ (2) SKIP to Q 7

6. What types of data files would be most useful? (Please rank from 1 = most useful to 4 = least useful. Ignore our code numbers such as (I), (2))

- population data \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
- crime scene evidence from cases in which  
a subject hasn't been identified \_\_\_\_\_ (2)
- known offender files \_\_\_\_\_ (3)
- missing persons/unidentified deceased \_\_\_\_\_ (4)

7. What do you see as the most important issues involving DNA testing?

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8. Have you plans for utilizing or do you currently utilize forensic DNA testing? (Please check all that apply)

- yes, presently contracting \_\_\_\_\_ (1) Please answer SECTION III
- yes, DNA tests on site \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Please answer SECTION IV
- yes, have plans for on-site  
DNA testing \_\_\_\_\_ (3) Please answer SECTION II
- no, we do not currently use \_\_\_\_\_ (4) Please answer SECTION II

**SECTION 11: NOT CURRENTLY CONDUCTING DNA TESTING**

9. If you are not currently conducting DNA testing either on-site or contracting, do you have plans or funding to contract for DNA testing:

- in the next 12 months? \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
- in the next 24 months? \_\_\_\_\_ (2)

10. Do you have provisions to contract out DNA testing if necessary in the future?

- yes, we will contract as necessary \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
- no, we do not intend to contract \_\_\_\_\_ (2)
- yes, we have provisions, but cost  
may prevent us from contracting \_\_\_\_\_ (3)

**IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY CONDUCTING DNA TESTS OR CONTRACTING FOR THEM, THIS COMPLETES YOUR SURVEY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**

**SECTION III: CONTRACTING FOR DNA TESTING**

11. If you are not conducting DNA analysis on-site, have you submitted budget provisions to do so that have not yet been approved?

yes \_\_\_\_\_ (1)                      If yes, how much? \_\_\_\_\_ (3)  
no \_\_\_\_\_ (2)

12. Which facilities have you contracted with? Please list all facilities and the number of specific cases for each facility. Include any test or trial samples as well.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. When you send specimens out to private laboratories, do you conduct a pre-screening test on them beforehand?

yes \_\_\_\_\_ (1)  
no \_\_\_\_\_ (2)

14. Based on the types of crimes that you would or are currently using DNA testing on, how many samples do you anticipate sending out annually in the future?

\_\_\_\_\_

15. Do you intend to restrict or institute a formal protocol to determine the type of crimes that DNA testing can be used on?

yes \_\_\_\_\_ (1)  
no \_\_\_\_\_ (2)  
If yes, what type and/or criteria? \_\_\_\_\_ (3)

\_\_\_\_\_

**IF IN ADDITION TO CONTRACTING, YOU ARE CONDUCTING ON-SITE DNA TESTING, PLEASE ANSWER SECTION IV. IF NOT, THIS COMPLETES YOUR SURVEY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**

**SECTION IV: ON-SITE**

16. How many non-clerical staff members are there in the section performing DNA testing?

\_\_\_\_\_

17. What is the annual budget in the section performing DNA testing?

\_\_\_\_\_

18. If you are conducting DNA testing on-site, have you or do you anticipate an increase in professional staff positions to coordinate or to conduct DNA analysis?

yes \_\_\_\_\_ (1)  
no \_\_\_\_\_ (2)

19. Will positions handling DNA samples require extra training above and beyond the existing academic and work experience of these personnel?

yes \_\_\_\_\_ (1)  
no \_\_\_\_\_ (2)  
If yes, what? \_\_\_\_\_ (3)

20. Please rank the following factors for relative importance in your decision to pursue DNA typing on-site. (Use 1 = most important to 4 = least important. Ignore our code numbers such as (1), (2))

cost of contracting out \_\_\_\_\_ (1)  
wanted the shortest turnaround time for samples \_\_\_\_\_ (2)  
control of evidence is important \_\_\_\_\_ (3)  
it's important that we have state-of-the-art technology \_\_\_\_\_ (4)

21. Are any non-criminal justice agencies in your state currently using the crime laboratory for other purposes (e.g., paternity, child support enforcement, missing persons)?

yes \_\_\_\_\_ (1)  
no \_\_\_\_\_ (2)  
If yes, please name the type of agency and purpose: \_\_\_\_\_ (3)  
\_\_\_\_\_

22. Are you creating or contributing to any **DNA testing data files at this time?**

**yes** \_\_\_\_\_ (1)  
**no** \_\_\_\_\_ (2) **SKIP to Q 25**  
If yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_ (3)  
\_\_\_\_\_

23. If yes, will these files be maintained and regulated:

at the local level \_\_\_\_\_ (1)  
at the state level \_\_\_\_\_ (2)  
at the national level \_\_\_\_\_ (3)

24. How do you plan to store DNA testing material not specifically assigned to an ongoing investigation? After completing this question, SKIP to Q 26.

DNA samples \_\_\_\_\_ (1)  
gels \_\_\_\_\_ (2)  
autoradiographs \_\_\_\_\_ (3)  
electronically captured prints \_\_\_\_\_ (4)  
other (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_ (5)  
\_\_\_\_\_

25. [f you are not creating files, do you have plans to computerize the results of DNA testing, and what stage have those plans reached? (Please check all that apply)

still preliminary \_\_\_\_\_ (1)

hardware in place \_\_\_\_\_ (2)

software in place \_\_\_\_\_ (3)

other (Please explain) \_\_\_\_\_ (4)

26. Do you currently have an NRC license for use of radioactive markers? If not, are you applying for one?

yes \_\_\_\_\_ (1)

no \_\_\_\_\_ (2)

applying for a license \_\_\_\_\_ (3)

27. Do you intend to restrict or institute a formal protocol to determine the type of crimes that DNA testing can be used on?

yes \_\_\_\_\_ (1)

no \_\_\_\_\_ (2)

If yes, what type and/or criteria? \_\_\_\_\_ (3)

\_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.