

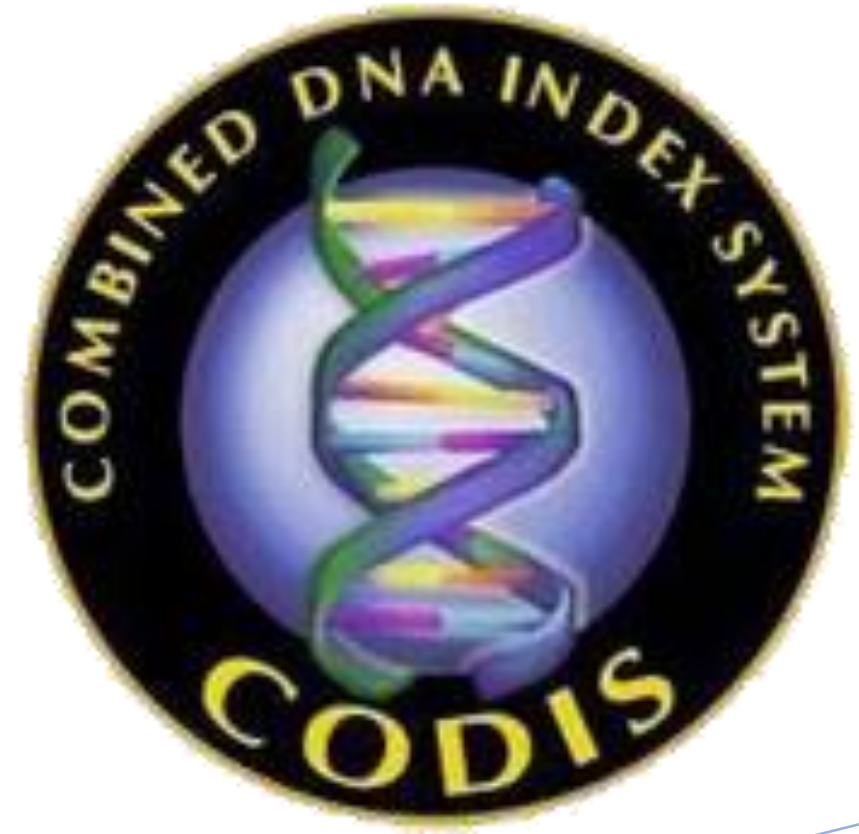


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*NATIONAL DNA
DATABASE
(CODIS & NDIS)*

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DNA DATABASE?

- CODIS is a DNA Index System and acts as the FBI's program to support lower-level criminal justice DNA databases and to provide them with software needed to operate this system.
- It is used as a cross-reference for DNA samples acquired from crime scenes or the suspects themselves. The DNA being tested is searched against the state database of DNA specimens belonging to convicted offenders and arrestees.
- This index system is crucial in aiding criminal justice departments with convicting criminals with solid evidence.



Source: <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/dna-fingerprint-act-of-2005-expungement-policy/codis-and-ndis-fact-sheet>

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WITH THE DATABASE

While the convenience of having a vast amount of citizens in a centralized database is enticing, it has led to a share of problems of the years. The first has to do with the actual method of sampling the DNA. In a now famous study, researchers "sent the exact same DNA mixtures to 17 different experts...and the 17 forensic scientists arrived at remarkably different results" (Dror). Without absolute certainty in our ability to read the DNA samples, comparing the results to a list of nearly all US citizens would be unethical. False imprisonment/accusations could destroy someone's life, and if we know we make these mistake all the time, we should be wary using the database.

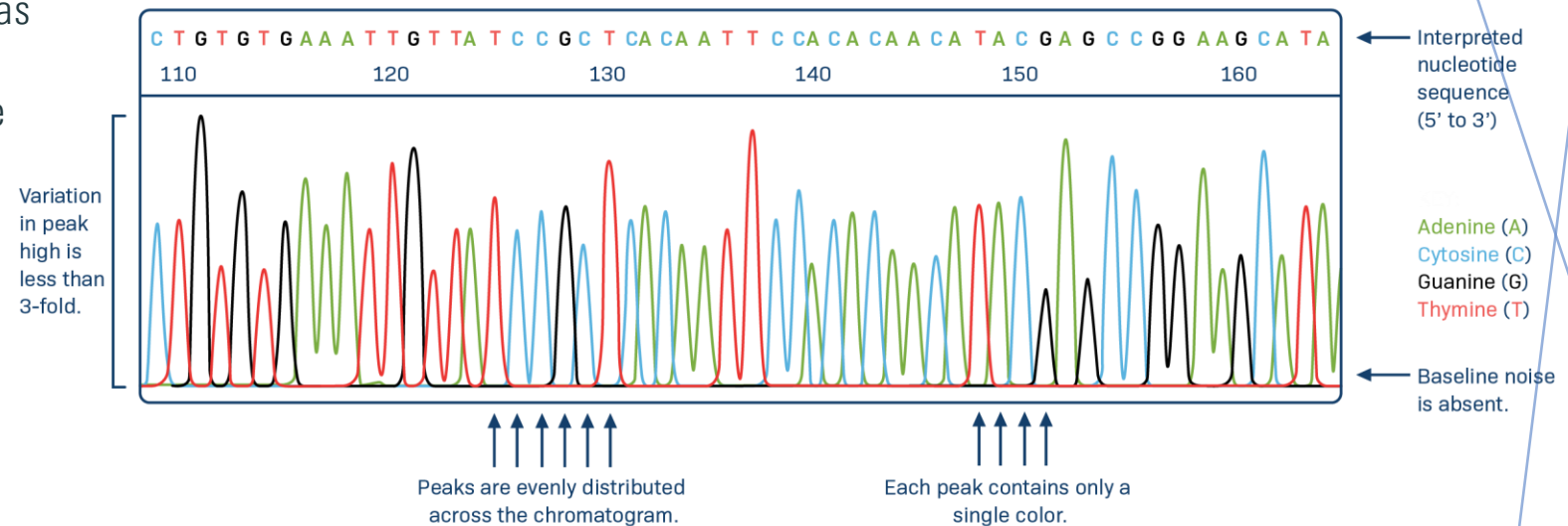


Image: <https://www.labxchange.org/library/items/lb:LabXchange:22c08d85.html:1>

RESULTS OF CODIS

- According to the FBI, the CODIS database "has aided over 545,000 investigations since its inception in 1998," drastically helping investigators. One famous example is the murder of a six-year-old girl in 1977 that was able to be solved in 2000. Comparing old DNA evidence to the database allowed investigators to arrest a 57-year-old sex-offender that was a match to the DNA.
- The case of the Boston Strangler had remained unsolved since 1964 and the presumed suspect, Albert DeSalvo, was stabbed to death in 1973, leaving the Boston Police Department at a standstill. Using the original specimen collected from one of the crime scenes and a DNA sample from the suspect's nephew, they were able to get a match. Boston Authorities proceeded to exhume DeSalvo's body to obtain a specimen for testing and immediately got a hit, which proved he was, in fact, the Boston Strangler of the early 1960s.

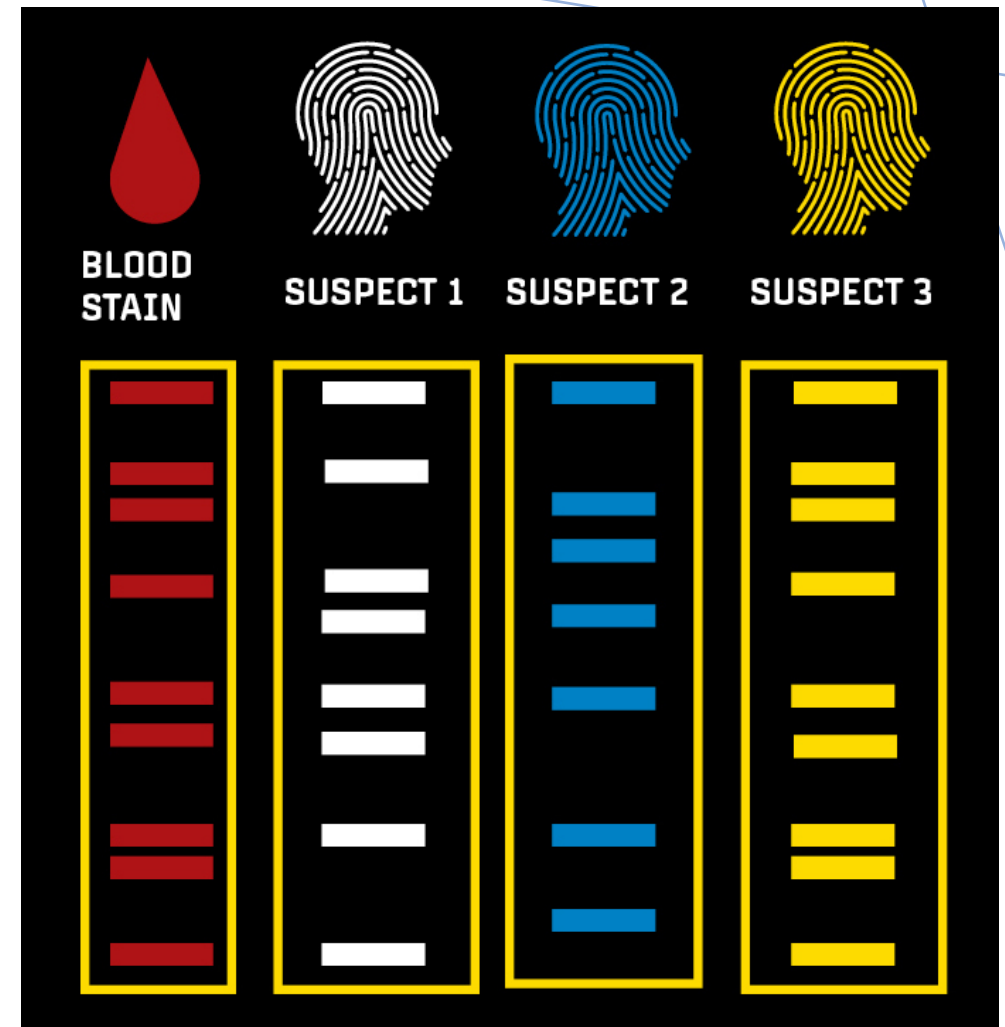


Image: <https://www.hudsonalpha.org/forensics-and-dna-how-genetics-can-help-solve-crimes/>

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