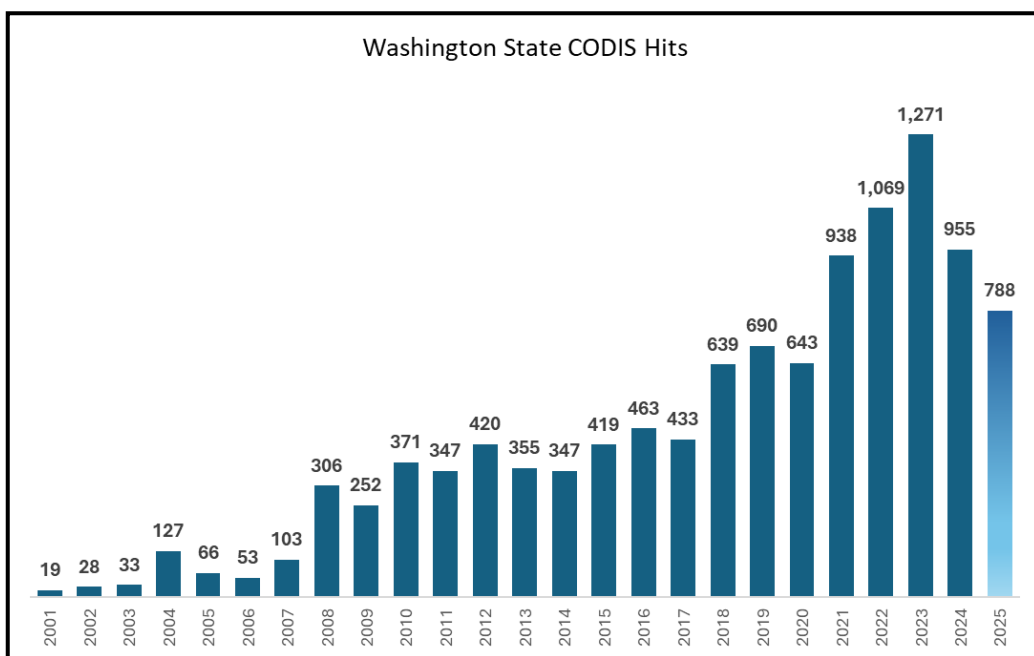


CODIS Newsletter

2025 Hits

On behalf of everyone at the CODIS laboratory we want to extend our thanks to each of our collecting agencies that take the time to submit offender DNA samples. Doing so adds to the many hits that are shown below. Thank you!

Washington State CODIS Hits



CODIS hits as of October 13th, 2025 (11,135)

Virtual Training

The CODIS laboratory has recently implemented periodic training for DNA collection. These training sessions are held virtually via Teams, with upcoming dates and times announced through email to our agency contact list. While an RSVP is not required, we would appreciate the heads up of how many people to expect. We also offer certificates of completion for the participants that are interested. If you or your agency would like to have a personal date and time scheduled, please let us know and we would be more than happy to set that up. For more information about these training sessions or to add your email to our mailing list, please call or email us anytime.

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Contact Info

confel@wsp.wa.gov

206-262-6069

2203 Airport Way S, Suite 250
Seattle, WA 98134

Offender Duplicate Samples

Within the last couple of years our lab has seen a rise in the number of duplicate samples submitted. In 2024, there were a total of 739 duplicates. Each of our offender DNA kits are assembled in-house and cost the laboratory about \$5.12. Our staff spends quite a bit of time putting each kit together and even more time going through and accessioning each sample received. To minimize this duplication please see below.

Contact Laboratory

Call or email to inquire if a sample was already submitted (see bottom right for contact options). Our collectors could save themselves some time and have one less offender to collect a sample from.



WATCH

Another way to determine if an individual has already submitted a DNA sample is to check Washington Access to Criminal History (WATCH). Only offenders with a state ID number (SID) can be searched in WATCH. If there is a Y in the DNA Taken field (see below) that means the CODIS laboratory has received a sample and it is in queue to be tested. If you are interested in gaining free access to WATCH follow the instructions to the right. Please call or email us should you have any questions on this process.

PERSON INFORMATION							
SEX M	RACE B	HEIGHT 5'10"	WEIGHT 180	EYES BRO	HAIR BRN	PLACE OF BIRTH XX	CITIZENSHIP XX
OTHER NAMES USED		OTHER DATES OF BIRTH USED		SOC SEC NUMBER		MISC NUMBER	
DNA TAKEN: Y DNA TYPED: N							

RCW 43.43.754 (4)

"If the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory already has a DNA sample from an individual for a qualifying offense, a subsequent submission is **not required** to be submitted."

Tip

Send all offender DNA samples as soon as possible, please do not wait weeks or months. This will help keep our database current with keeping track of who has already submitted a sample.

Free access to WATCH

Go to <https://watchcj.wsp.wa.gov/>

Click Forms in the top banner

Click on WATCH-CJ Account Application Packet and follow the instructions

Fax the completed application to (360) 534-2073

Contact Us

confel@wsp.wa.gov

206-262-6069

What qualifies for DNA collection?

The following offenses are the most common written on submission cards that **DO NOT** qualify for DNA collection:

- ✖ Assault 4
- ✖ Protection Order Violation

Per [RCW 43.43.754](#) all felony offenses qualify for DNA collection so long as the offender was **convicted in Washington state** (Sex and Kidnapping Offender Registrations are the exception). The following misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors also qualify:

- ✓ Assault 4 DV
- ✓ Assault 4 Sex Motive
- ✓ Failure to Register
- ✓ Harassment
- ✓ Patronizing a Prostitute
- ✓ Stalking
- ✓ Indecent Exposure
- ✓ Custodial Sexual Misconduct 2
- ✓ Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes
- ✓ Sexual Misconduct with a Minor 2
- ✓ Violation of a **Sexual Assault** Protection Order

FYI

If we receive samples that do not have a qualifying offense they will be rejected and cannot be added to our database.

Deceased Offenders

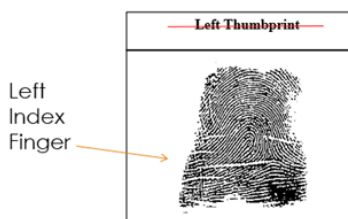
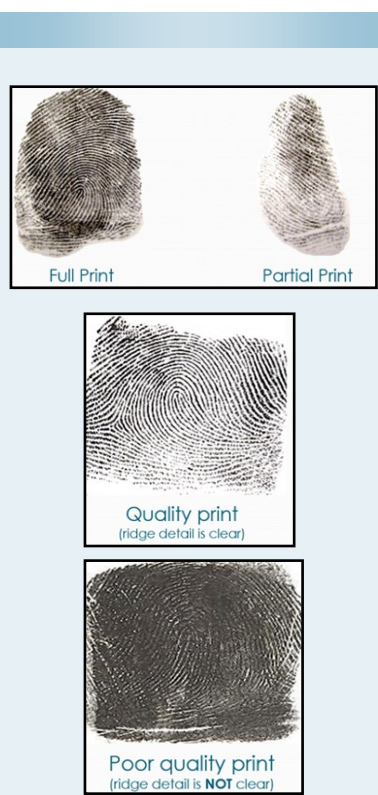
DNA samples may be collected for deceased offenders and submitted to the CODIS laboratory so long as the sample is lawfully obtained and they were convicted of a qualifying offense pursuant to RCW 43.43.754.

Fingerprints

One of the sections on the submission card is to include the offender's thumbprints. Please remember to complete this portion in the designated section as this provides an additional form of identification for the offender. We ask that only black ink be used when taking prints.

There have been instances where the collector will tear off the print tab, please **DO NOT** do this. It is easy for the torn off piece to be omitted when sending the sample to the laboratory.

If a thumbprint is not able to be provided use the next available finger and make note of which was used.

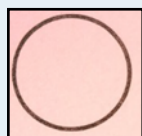


Washington State Patrol Convicted Offender Card

Do not expose pink collection paper at this time.
FOLD FLAP ALONG PERFORATED LINE
DO NOT TEAR OFF THIS FLAP.

1. Verify the offender's identity with a government- or jail-issued ID. Verify the State ID (SID), name, date of birth, and qualifying conviction.
2. Complete the information on the front and back of this card before collecting the DNA sample. Please print neatly with a pen, and specify the agency name rather than using abbreviations. Mistakes should be crossed out and initialed. Do not use white-out.
3. Collect the offender's thumbprints using an ink pad (a moist towelette is provided for ink removal.)

Left Thumbprint	Right Thumbprint



Weak sample with no visible color change.



Bad sample with paper rips that can cause contamination during testing.



Good sample with clear color change and no lifted paper.

What does a good sample look like?

One of the main issues our laboratory staff sees when accessioning offender DNA samples is damaged FTA paper or a lack of sample. A good sample will show a clear color change from pink to white indicating the presence of DNA. Additionally, we strongly encourage all collectors to gently rock the foam swab from side to side to ensure smooth transfer. Rubbing the swab causes rips and lifted FTA paper. This can lead to possible contamination during testing. See the pictures to the left for examples of bad DNA samples and what we want the samples to look like.

Offenders Living Out-of-State

There have been instances where an offender is convicted of a qualifying offense in Washington and are required to submit a DNA sample but they no longer reside in the state. If so, the CODIS laboratory is willing to mail an offender DNA kit upon request. Please note that the sample **MUST** be provided on our state specific submission card, we cannot accept DNA samples otherwise. The representing agency in Washington is asked to coordinate with the out of state Law Enforcement Agency that is willing to take the sample. Once this has been confirmed, provide the mailing address and contact to the CODIS laboratory staff via email. For additional questions regarding this process please reach out to us anytime.



CODIS Success Story

On March 31st, 2025, 66-year-old Gheorghe Sandru was attacked from behind as he was exiting his vehicle. Mr. Sandru was subsequently stabbed in the chest once and unfortunately died at the scene. The suspect fled into a getaway car that had two additional passengers. Cameras in the surrounding area tracked the car from Marysville to Everett. During autopsy, the medical examiner collected DNA samples from the victim's hands and wrists and submitted them to the Marysville Crime Laboratory for analysis. A component of the DNA profile generated from the right hand swabs hit to a 27-year-old offender who had submitted a DNA sample to the CODIS laboratory in 2018 for Possession of a Controlled Substance. Because of this investigative lead, law enforcement made an arrest on July 2nd, with the suspect charged with first and second degree murder and is now awaiting trial.



Photo courtesy of Komo News

[Marysville murder suspects arrested months after deadly stabbing](#)

