



The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors

"Excellence Through Leadership in Forensic Science Management"

A STATEMENT BY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTORS

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TOPIC: Eliminate DNA Backlogs by Building Public Crime Lab Capacity

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"CODIS access must remain with accredited public crime labs."

ASCLD is an association of approximately 550 crime laboratory directors and forensic science managers that represent over 250 local, state, federal, and private crime laboratories in the United States. Membership also includes directors from thirty international laboratories as well as national and international academic affiliates.

ASCLD issues guidelines to those outside our community for the positions we support in order to ensure the integrity and value of the forensic science profession.

Public crime laboratories support local, county, and state law enforcement agencies by providing quality, reliable, and objective forensic science testing. Substantial, consistent, and flexible funding is critical to building the capacity necessary to meet caseload demands within existing public crime laboratory operations.

Adequate and sustainable increases in funding for public crime laboratories will:

1. Increase laboratory capacity to meet and manage the demand for DNA testing;
2. Prevent future backlogs from resurfacing; and
3. Fund technology to facilitate data review and interpretation for uploading DNA profiles to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS).

ASCLD recommends the uploading of DNA profiles into the CODIS system **only by accredited public crime laboratories**. This policy preserves the integrity of the national DNA databank system. The mandatory use of procedures that safeguard the confidential DNA profile data ensures public confidence in the security of the system.

The responsible elimination of backlogs achieved through capacity building while maintaining the integrity of CODIS must become, and remain, a national priority.