



National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

NamUs

National Institute of Justice

NamUs Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report

October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
810 Seventh St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20531

Nancy La Vigne, Ph.D.

Director, National Institute of Justice

This and other publications and products of the National Institute of Justice can be found at:

National Institute of Justice

Strengthen Science • Advance Justice

NIJ.ojp.gov

Office of Justice Programs

Building Solutions • Supporting Communities • Advancing Justice

OJP.gov

The National Institute of Justice is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. NIJ's mission is to advance scientific research, development, and evaluation to enhance the administration of justice and public safety.

The National Institute of Justice is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the Office for Victims of Crime; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking.

Opinions or conclusions expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Table of Contents

- Part 1: Executive Summary..... 1**
- Part 2: Program Fiscal Year Highlights3**
 - Applicable Legislation 4
- Part 3: Resource Allocation.....5**
 - Database Information Technology Activities 5
- Part 4: NamUs by the Numbers7**
 - Database Statistics: Cases and Users 7
 - What We’ve Learned From the Database 8
 - Long-Term Cases..... 8
 - Case Results..... 9
 - Forensic Services and Investigative Support..... 10
 - Fingerprint Services.....10
 - Odontology Services10
 - Forensic Genetic Genealogy.....10
 - Traditional DNA11

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Regional Program Specialists | 12 |
| Outreach, Training, and Technical Assistance | 13 |
| Analytical Services | 14 |
| Part 5: Special Initiatives | 15 |
| Partnerships and Collaborations With Federal Agencies | 15 |
| Customs and Border Protection | 15 |
| Tribal Partnerships | 15 |
| Veterans Affairs..... | 15 |
| Bureau of Justice Assistance | 15 |
| Public Partnerships and Collaborations | 16 |
| Tribal Initiatives | 16 |
| Persons of Color..... | 17 |
| Transgender Community | 17 |
| Unhoused/Housing Insecure Community | 17 |
| Appendix: Applicable Federal and State Legislation | 19 |
| Federal Law..... | 19 |
| State Laws | 19 |
| Arizona | 19 |
| Arkansas | 19 |
| Connecticut..... | 20 |
| Illinois..... | 20 |

Michigan..... 20

New Mexico 20

New York..... 21

North Carolina..... 21

Oklahoma..... 21

Pennsylvania 21

Tennessee 21

Texas 22

Washington..... 22

West Virginia 22

Part 1: Executive Summary

In 2003, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) began funding major efforts to maximize the use of DNA technology in our criminal justice system, including in the investigation of missing and unidentified person cases. By 2005, NIJ expanded its efforts with the “Identifying the Missing Summit,” where criminal justice practitioners, forensic scientists, policymakers, and victim advocates defined major challenges in investigating and solving missing and unidentified decedent cases.

As a result of that summit, the Deputy Attorney General created the National Missing Persons Task Force, which identified the need to improve access to information that would help solve missing and unidentified person cases. The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) was created to meet that need. The NamUs database comprises both active and archived missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons cases. The database encompasses millions of records and hosts more than 50,000 users across the United States and its territories. The quantity of active cases available to the users on the NamUs website fluctuates daily as new cases are entered and older cases are archived.

Archived Cases

Archived cases are NamUs cases removed from professional and public user view due to resolution resulting from the missing person having been located, the unidentified decedent having been identified, or next of kin having been located to claim remains. However, cases can also be archived without these resolutions if the case is no longer active with a criminal justice entity. Archived cases are not viewable or searchable.

The NamUs program has grown to include forensic and analytical services including fingerprint analysis, anthropology, forensic odontology, traditional DNA analysis, next of kin and proof-of-life searches, family reference DNA sample coordination, and assistance with tips and leads for NamUs professional users. Professional users include law enforcement personnel, medical examiners, coroners, death investigators, and other allied forensic professionals.

NamUs has grown in scope to include enhancements such as identifiers for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) cases, enhanced case mapping, and the offering of forensic genetic genealogy services. NamUs’ growth also includes a linked database for unclaimed persons cases (deceased individuals that have been positively identified but family has not been located).

NamUs supports long-term missing and unidentified human remains case investigations and provides a repository of these cases for professional users (e.g., law enforcement, medical examiners, coroners, and allied forensic professionals), families of missing loved ones, and the public.

NamUs' key objectives are to provide:

- Access to the NamUs database, which serves as a nationwide repository offering free, secure, easy-to-use, online technology to help expedite case associations and resolutions.
- Free-of-charge forensic services with the end goal of identifying unidentified human remains.
- Outreach, training, and technical support to help users identify, review, and enter missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons cases.
- Support to law enforcement, medical examiners, and coroners through case consultation, search access of the NamUs system for potential comparisons to a missing or unidentified person case, and support of criminal justice efforts to drive missing and unidentified person case resolutions.

The NamUs database is operated and maintained by NIJ through a contract managed by the Office of Justice Programs' Office of the Chief Information Officer, and NamUs program operations are managed by NIJ's Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences.

This annual report summarizes the NamUs program highlights that occurred during the 2022 government fiscal year (FY22; October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022). It details metrics collected and analyzed from activities ranging from case entries, forensic service requests received and completed, workload of key program staff, and general programmatic updates.

It is important to recognize that the use of NamUs by law enforcement agents, medical examiners, and coroners is not mandated by the federal government. The program is a voluntary entry system (although some states have made use of NamUs mandatory; see "Applicable Legislation") and is intended to assist users in solving active cases. NamUs was not designed to track or report trends in demographic data related to missing and unidentified persons.

Part 2: Program Fiscal Year Highlights

The NamUs program created and implemented a tracking system that streamlines all forensic services and analytical requests. This new tool, the Total Requirement for Unified Sample Tracking (TRUST) System, has facilitated the acceptance and processing of more than 2,700 forensic and analytical service requests. The majority of the requests were for traditional DNA (37%) and fingerprint (34%) services.

The NamUs program uses an information management system — the Total Requirement for Unified Sample Tracking (TRUST) — for sample tracking and management. TRUST, provided by Portland's Bureau of Technology Services and the Portland Police Bureau, controls and simplifies the handling of physical and digital evidence from the original request to triage, and from submission through to final disposition. TRUST enables users to submit queries, pull analytics, and create reports on requests, submissions, turn around time, and forensic service provider workloads, successes, and capacity.

The NamUs program established a formal collaboration with the FBI's Latent Print Unit to search all fingerprints through the Next Generation Identification System and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Automated Biometric Identification System. Also, forensic genetic genealogy was added to the NamUs suite of forensic services.

The NamUs program worked to establish subcontracts with accredited forensic laboratories providing traditional DNA services. No cases were submitted for analysis during this time period, but agencies were encouraged to submit requests to the TRUST system, allowing the NamUs program to capture the true need of the community. These data have shown that the greatest need of the community is for DNA analysis of unidentified human remains, which accounted for more than 53% of all traditional DNA requests.

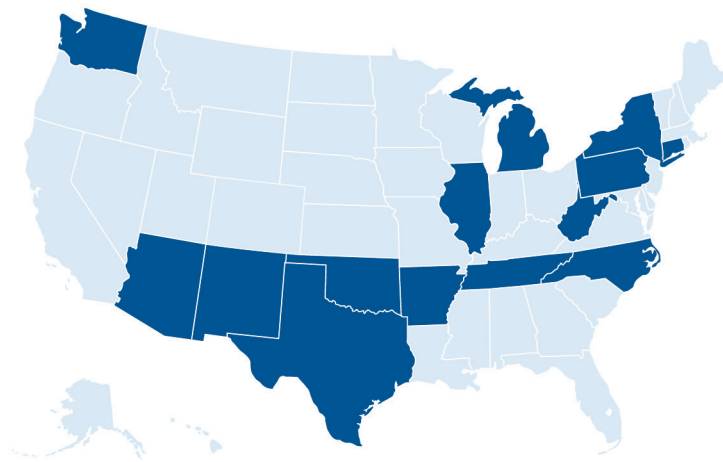
Since its onset, the NamUs program has included regional program specialists who assist professional and public users, perform outreach, and provide training and technical assistance throughout their assigned region. Each regional program specialist is assigned a region of the United States. During FY22, regions were realigned and new support staff were onboarded. A system and process project manager position was created, and three associate regional program specialists were added. The region realignment balanced the current workload among the regional program specialists.

NamUs transitioned to a secure cloud environment with no loss of functionality or security. Moving to a cloud environment provides NamUs with improved application stability and enhanced image storage. The system is now Disaster Recovery/Continuity of Operational Performance Certified and has a predefined procedure for how operations will continue to run in an emergency, including system failure or compromise.

Applicable Legislation

By the close of FY22, 13 states had passed legislation that has had an impact on NamUs. This number continues to grow, as does support for federal legislation. NamUs staff is available to discuss future or current enacted legislation to determine realistic methods by which compliance can be implemented. A list of the applicable legislation may be found in the **Appendix**.

States With Impactful Legislation



Part 3: Resource Allocation

In FY22, NamUs received \$5,758,201 in funding. A portion of the funding was allocated to the maintenance, operations, security management, and information technology (IT) help desk assistance to maintain and support 50,000+ NamUs users.

The remainder of the funds were allocated to manage the program, perform outreach and training activities for professional stakeholders and families of the missing, and provide forensic services, free of charge to all states and territories.

Database Information Technology Activities

From the total funding amount above, the program allocated \$945,794 to IT support, including NamUs database operations, maintenance and application security, and customer support including the help desk. IT activities include, but are not limited to, server patching, compilation and delivery of NamUs data extracts used for statistical analysis and reporting, and database maintenance. IT support also includes ad-hoc tasks such as Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request responses, NamUs data program calls, and infrastructure updates.

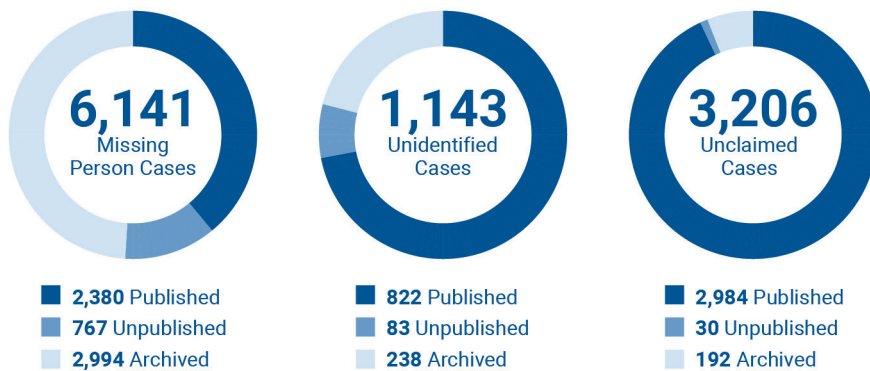
The NamUs IT support desk processed 106 requests specifically related to technical issues, including resetting passwords, system nonavailability, and other IT issues.

Part 4: NamUs by the Numbers

Database Statistics: Cases and Users

- As of September 30, 2022, there were 14,146 unidentified human remains cases, 22,018 missing persons cases, and 9,858 unclaimed persons cases published on NamUs.
- During FY22, 6,141 missing persons cases, 1,143 unidentified persons cases, and 3,206 unclaimed persons cases were created in the NamUs database. Depending on the lifecycle of the case, cases entered in FY22 may be published (i.e., available for searching), unpublished due to lack of qualifying information or by request of the submitting agency, or archived.

Cases Created From October 1, 2021 Through September 30, 2022



American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Cases Created From October 1, 2021 Through September 30, 2022*

| Missing Persons | Unidentified Persons | Unclaimed Persons |
|---|---|---|
| 258 FY22 Cases Created | 13 FY22 Cases Created | 4 FY22 Cases Created |
| 43% Tribal Enrollment/ Affiliation | 15% Found on Tribal Land | 0% Found on Tribal Land |
| 16% Primary Residence on Tribal Land | N/A Primary Residence on Tribal Land | N/A Primary Residence on Tribal Land |
| 26% Missing From Tribal Land | N/A Missing From Tribal Land | N/A Missing From Tribal Land |

*Includes cases in which AI/AN is selected singularly or in any combination in race/ethnicity within Missing or Unclaimed Person entries, and singularly or in combination with up to three other race/ethnicities selected within Unidentified Person entries.

- The majority of registered users are public users (84%).
- Of professional users, 89% are law enforcement, 9% are medical examiners/coroners, and 2% are forensic specialists.
- Over 70% of the missing person case entries are created by professional users, a trend remaining consistent since FY20.

System Registered Users – Fiscal Year 2022



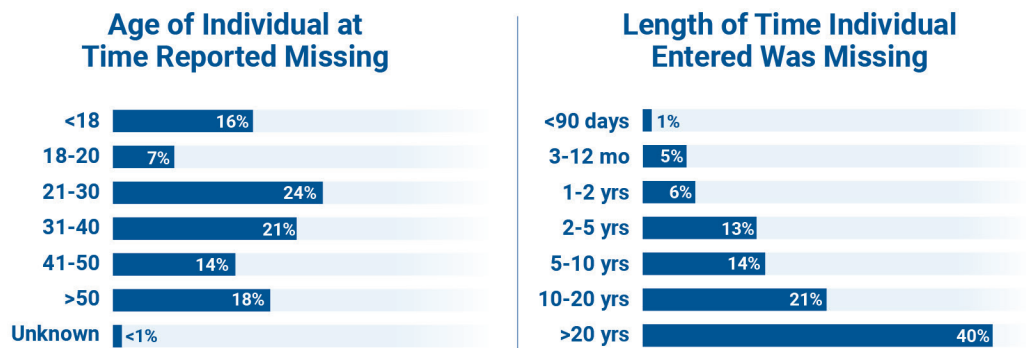
Missing Cases Entered By User Type – Fiscal Year 2022



What We’ve Learned From the Database

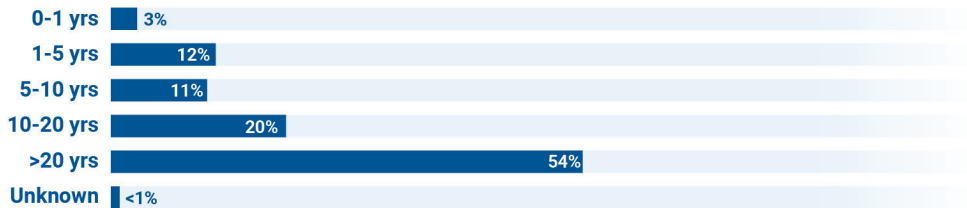
Long-Term Cases

Because NamUs primarily aids long-term missing persons cases, 94% of all missing persons cases in the database represent individuals missing for more than one year.



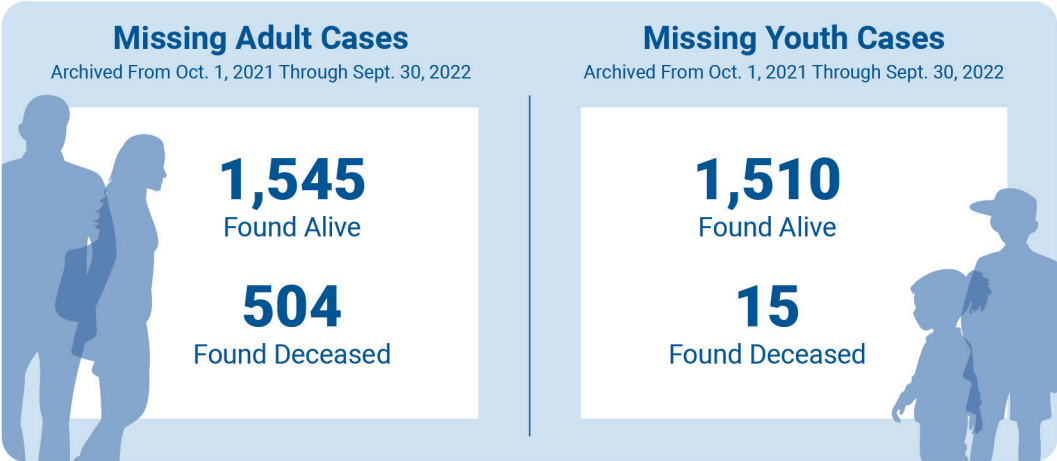
Similarly, for the unidentified remains cases, 97% of all cases in the database were older than one year.

Length of Time For Unidentified Remains Cases



Case Results

Of the missing persons cases archived during FY22, approximately 75% of the missing adults and 99% of the missing youth were found alive. These numbers represent the total of the cases archived during FY22 and are not limited to cases created and archived during FY22.



For additional information on the data contained in the database at the end of FY22, including demographics and tribally affiliated cases, and the unclaimed database, please see the [NamUs Case Statistics Report for September 2022](#).

Forensic Services and Investigative Support

NamUs forensic services included fingerprints, odontology, and forensic genetic genealogy. To aid in the delivery of these services, NamUs initiated collaborative partnerships with service providers across the nation, including two forensic odontologists, three private DNA laboratories, and three fingerprint specialists.

Fingerprint Services

During FY22, 949 fingerprint requests were processed, with an average turnaround time of five days. This work yielded 41 identifications and 51 exclusions.



Odontology Services

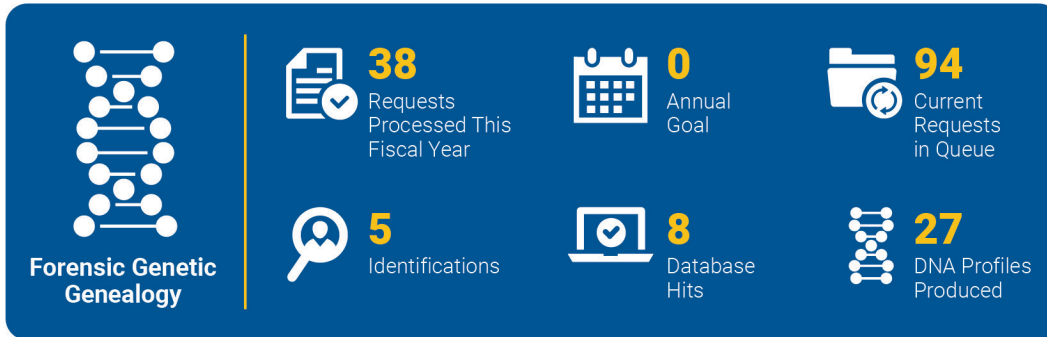
During FY22, 518 odontology requests were processed, with an average turnaround time of nine days. This work yielded one identification and 98 exclusions.



Forensic Genetic Genealogy

During FY22, NamUs received 132 case requests that were compliant with [DOJ's Interim Policy on Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Searching](#), a requirement for all such cases that NamUs supports. Of these samples, only 38 were processed due to resource constraints. Of the 38 cases that were processed:

- More than 70% (27) yielded a DNA profile by the end of this reporting period.
- Five identifications were made (with secondary confirmation).
- Eight database hits were realized (at the end of the reporting period, these eight were still pending full investigative genealogy to confirm identifications).



Traditional DNA

From 2020 to 2021, DNA processing was suspended as the NamUs Program moved to a new service provider. In January 2022, NamUs again began accepting requests for traditional DNA processing. More than 1,000 requests were received in FY22 for traditional DNA processing — including STR, Y-STR, or mitochondrial DNA analysis (see Table 1) — for unidentified human remains, family references, or direct references comparison. NamUs has worked to solidify partnerships with National DNA Index System (NDIS) participating laboratories to ensure all resulting DNA profiles and advanced pedigrees can be searched across all pertinent Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) indices. Due to the complexities of establishing services, the NamUs program did not complete any traditional DNA processing in FY22.

| | Traditional DNA Requests | Annual Goal | Yearly Progress | Amount In Queue |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| ••••• Family Reference Samples | | 400 | - | 446 |
| ••••• Direct Reference Samples | | 15 | - | 32 |
| ••••• Unidentified Remains Samples | | 25 | - | 548 |

Table 1: Types of DNA Analysis Defined

| Type of DNA Analysis | Description |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Short tandem repeat (STR) analysis | A method of DNA analysis that targets regions on the chromosome that contain multiple copies of a short DNA sequence in succession. |
| Y-STR | DNA typing in which STRs are analyzed on the Y, or male, chromosome. The sequencing of Y-STRs can link individuals descended from a common paternal ancestor. |
| Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) | The DNA found in the many mitochondria in each cell of a human body, except for red blood cells. The sequencing of mtDNA can link individuals descended from a common female ancestor. |

Regional Program Specialists

Regional Program Specialists are NamUs program staff who assist professional and public users, perform outreach, and provide training and technical assistance throughout their region. Every state and territory in the United States is assigned to a region served by a regional program specialist. When a case is entered into NamUs, it is assigned to a specialist based on the location of the investigating agency. Some regions have heavier caseloads than others. In those regions, the regional program specialist is supported by an associate regional program specialist.

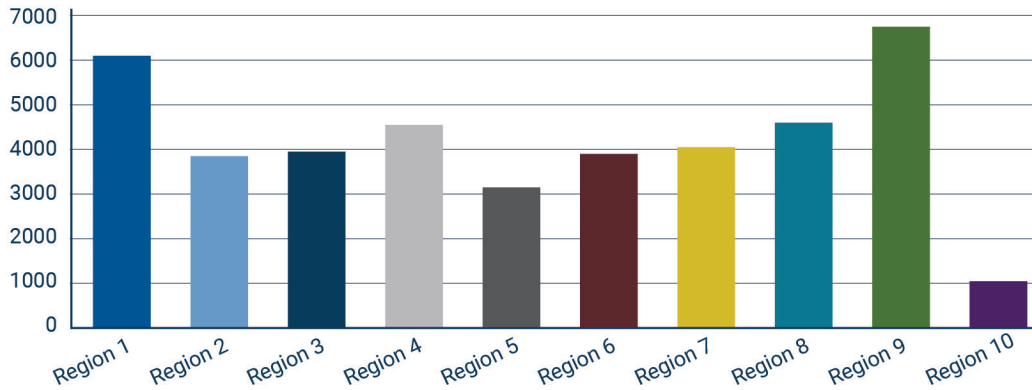
Some regions were created to have a lighter case load, as some specialists have additional responsibilities (e.g., program management or as a liaison with the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program, known as ViCAP).

For each case in their region, the specialist is responsible for:

- The initial review and acceptance of the case for publication.
- Ongoing communication with the investigating agencies and entering parties to ensure case completeness and accuracy.
- The vetting and publishing of any case updates or modifications.
- Review of all investigative tips and leads.
- Suggestions for case enhancement.
- Facilitating forensic and analytical services.

In addition to case management, the specialists also vet professional users, set coverage areas and application permissions, provide outreach and training to stakeholders, and assist with the coordination and implementation of missing person day events. Program staff also handled five FOIA requests for data from the NamUs database.

Case Distribution After Regional Realignment



Outreach, Training, and Technical Assistance

The NamUs regional program specialists conduct outreach, training, and technical assistance to professional NamUs users through national, state, and local events.

The NamUs program uses outreach booths at public events and professional conferences to connect with a wide range of users. During FY22, the NamUs program conducted over 63 individual outreach, training, and technical assistance events, reaching more than 6,300 NamUs users. For a list of previous events, please visit the [NamUs Past Events](#) webpage.

Attendees at Training Events by Profession



Analytical Services

NamUs analytical services continued to conduct searches for the following:

- Indication of life or death for a missing person.
- Family members/next of kin for death notifications of unclaimed persons.
- Family members for DNA familial reference sample collection.
- Media/newspaper articles for missing or unidentified persons cases.
- Potential comparisons between missing or unidentified persons cases within the NamUs system.

The NamUs analytical team has access to CLEAR online investigation software (only available to law enforcement agencies or agencies that support law enforcement activities, such as NamUs), Ancestry, the Intelius public records search engine, and Newspapers.com to assist with producing investigative leads for professional users.



Part 5: Special Initiatives

Partnerships and Collaborations With Federal Agencies

Customs and Border Protection

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has been legislatively mandated under the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019 to coordinate their Missing Migrant Program with NamUs. To address this legislation, Customs and Border Protection has formed a task force with more than 50 agents across the country. During FY22, NamUs representatives attended the first task force meeting to determine how to best incorporate NamUs case entry policies into the Missing Migrant Program's implementation plans.

NamUs also attended the International Committee of the Red Cross Binational Meeting held in Mexico City, Mexico. The goal of this two-day meeting was to support both Mexico and United States authorities in establishing coordinated international efforts to locate and identify missing migrants found across the U.S. southern border.

Collaborations between NamUs and Customs and Border Protection continue with discussions of system enhancements and resources to support the entry into NamUs of hundreds of unidentified human remains found along the southern border each year.

Tribal Partnerships

NamUs and the Albuquerque FBI Field Office met to ensure data accuracy of 170 missing American Indian/Alaska Native cases from New Mexico to include all Navajo Nation cases in other states (e.g., Arizona and Utah).

NamUs representatives also participated in the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California's Savanna's Act Consultation Sessions, joining law enforcement, government officials, and non-government officials seeking to improve the response to missing or murdered indigenous persons (MMIP) cases.

Veterans Affairs

In FY22, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Inspector General approached NamUs to discuss a report published on "Improvements Needed to Ensure Final Disposition of Unclaimed Veterans' Remains." The report alerted the VA of potential unclaimed persons data-sharing between the organizations to identify individuals who were veterans and qualify for veteran funeral benefits. The VA and NamUs met to discuss this effort.

Bureau of Justice Assistance

In FY22, NamUs and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Forensic Science Unit began meeting bi-weekly to discuss synergies and collaboration opportunities related to outreach, engagement, and case assistance. Because some unidentified human remains cases in NamUs may be victims of sexually motivated homicide, BJA's Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) grant resources have the potential to support forensic services. NamUs and SAKI staff communicate regularly to triage cases to ensure full support for case resolution.

Public Partnerships and Collaborations

Tribal Initiatives

NamUs supports tribal communities through participation in tribal-related events and trainings. In FY22 these included:

- Missing from Fort Apache Day
- Montana Missing Persons Day
- Arizona State Capitol Missing and MMIP Awareness Day
- 29th Annual Four Corners Indian Country Conference
- Tribal Justice, Safety, and Wellness Summit
- 17th Annual Government-to-Government Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation
- Next Steps Conference on Missing and Murdered Indigenous People
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women National Day of Awareness

During these events, NamUs staff provided an overview of the program to several working groups, including the Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition, Alaska MMIP Working Group, International Association of Chiefs of Police Indian Country Law Enforcement Section, and Oklahoma MMIP Chapter.

The Navajo Nation is the largest U.S. tribal nation, with 23 communities that account for over 47% of the total American Indian population. During FY22, the NamUs program had significant interaction with the Navajo Nation. NamUs staff hosted a training event and listening session with the Navajo Nation Police Department to discuss how NamUs and the tribal community can work together to solve missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons cases. The training had representation from six Navajo districts. Attendees included the Navajo Nation Police Department's criminal investigations director, criminal investigators, police sergeants, police officers, and law enforcement trainers.

To increase Navajo Nation case entries, NamUs regional program specialists continued to work with state agencies, such as the New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator (OMI), to utilize the NamUs database. OMI services the entire state of New Mexico, as well as the Navajo Nation.

NamUs continued to provide support to the Navajo Nation by attending a meeting focused on mapping systems, processes, and resources intended to solve missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons cases within their community.

Persons of Color

NamUs supported the Black and Missing Foundation's Hope Without Boundaries annual 5K run/walk at National Harbor in Maryland. This event is the largest fundraising event held by the Black and Missing Foundation to help bring awareness and exposure to the reported missing persons of color across the country. The goal of the event is to empower communities to take action to help find the missing and provide closure for families.

Transgender Community

NamUs representatives consulted with anthropologists from the University of New Hampshire, the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, and McGill University, along with their colleagues, to discuss gender-diverse decedents. The discussion highlighted challenges in identifying transgender, nonbinary, and intersex individuals in the NamUs database. The NamUs program will seek further collaboration with informed community members and medicolegal professionals to identify system and database enhancements that could assist in capturing the relevant information needed for missing person identification.

Unhoused/Housing Insecure Community

NamUs met with representatives from Miracle Messages, a nonprofit organization that helps connect families with missing persons who may be experiencing housing insecurities. Miracle Messages maintains a database of unhoused individuals that, in the future, could be cross-checked against NamUs published cases. NamUs will continue to assist Miracle Messages by ensuring that each regional program specialist is a liaison between those missing loved ones and an investigating agency, to potentially provide resolutions on active missing persons cases.

Appendix: Applicable Federal and State Legislation

Federal Law

[34 U.S.C. §§ 40501 through 40505](#) focus on the reporting of unidentified and missing persons. They include an authorization of grants for combating the problem of missing and unidentified persons, grant eligibility, use of funds, and reports to Congress on such matters.

These sections of the law have been amended and added to throughout the years. Recent updates include the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019 ([S.2174](#)), which requires that agencies receiving funding under this act are collecting and reporting information to the NamUs system regarding missing persons and unidentified remains.

This act also specifically requires that U.S. Customs and Border Protection share information on missing and unidentified persons, specifically with the NamUs system. Additionally, Savanna's Act ([S.227](#)) directs the U.S. Department of Justice to review, revise, and develop law enforcement and justice protocols to address missing or murdered Native Americans by focusing on education on the NamUs System and specifically on outreach to tribes regarding the ability to enter information through NamUs.

Recommendations were also made to congressional committees in the 2016 report "[Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains: Opportunities May Exist to Share Information More Efficiently](#)" prepared by the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Specifically, the Office recommended that the U.S. Department of Justice evaluate options for sharing information within the confines of its legal framework to allow for more efficient use of missing and unidentified persons information and to allow for the sharing of information between the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and NamUs.

State Laws

Arizona

Since 2021, Arizona [HB2098](#) has required that law enforcement submit pertinent case information to NamUs as well as the Arizona Crime Information Center and NCIC within two hours after receiving a report of a missing, kidnapped, or runaway child.

Arkansas

Since 2019, [Arkansas law](#) has required law enforcement to enter data into NamUs within 30 days including — if available — fingerprints, dental records, descriptions, radiology images, DNA,* medical data, and identifying data such as date and place of death.

Connecticut

Although there is no legislation in Connecticut that mandates using NamUs, officials put a statewide protocol in place to use NamUs: the [Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Policy for Handling Missing Persons Investigations](#). Per this policy, missing persons must be entered into NamUs within 30 days.

Illinois

[50 ILCS 722](#), also known as the Missing Persons Identification Act, was amended in 2021. Law enforcement must now submit details of missing persons to NamUs within 45 days.

Michigan

Since 2018, law enforcement must submit records to NamUs per [HB 4633](#). Specifically, law enforcement must report missing persons to NamUs, the Michigan Law Enforcement Information Network, NCIC, and, if the person is a child, Michigan's Missing Child Information Clearinghouse (MMCIC).

This reporting requirement applies if the person:

- Is disabled.
- Is a child.
- Is believed incapable of returning without assistance.
- Disappeared during a catastrophe or disaster.
- Disappeared under circumstances that indicated that the disappearance was not voluntary.
- Disappeared under circumstances that indicated that the person was in danger.

If a person has been missing for more than 30 days, law enforcement must also seek out and submit dental records of the missing person. Unidentified bodies must be entered into NamUs, NCIC, and, if the body is that of a child, MMCIC.

New Mexico

[2019 NM HB16](#), also known as the Mark Daniel Aguilar Information Sharing Requirement, requires the state's Department of Public Safety to share information with NamUs "as soon as is practicable." This includes all information in the New Mexico Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse, and all information the Department receives "pursuant to the Missing Persons Information and Reporting Act regarding the identification and location of missing and unidentified persons or human remains."

New York

New York Executive Law 837 and [S6739](#) (as amended by [A08942](#)) requires that a missing person be reported to NamUs within 30 days when such person may be at immediate risk of death or injury or is a match to a record maintained in the NamUs database and within 180 days in any other case. In addition, medical examiners and coroners must report unidentified remains to NamUs.

North Carolina

Under [NC 143B – §§ 1011 through 1015](#), upon receiving a missing person report, law enforcement must immediately make arrangements to enter data into the national missing persons file in accordance with criteria set forth by the FBI/NCIC, inform all on-duty law enforcement, and broadcast to all appropriate agencies to be on the lookout. If the report involves a child, they must also notify the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). Law enforcement must also enter information into NamUs if a person has been missing or unidentified for more than 30 days. This must include, if available, medical and dental records and DNA.*

Oklahoma

[Okla. Stat. tit. 74 § 151.3](#), also known as Francine’s Law, requires the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation to share missing and unidentified persons cases with NamUs, including fingerprints, dental reports, DNA information, radiology and medical information, date and place of death, and all other identifying information on unidentified persons, if it is available to them. Law enforcement must, within 30 days of a missing person’s report, submit a case to NamUs and any other database required. In addition, they must obtain biometric records of the missing person, including medical, dental, and imaging records when possible, and submit them to NamUs. They must also submit fingerprints and DNA,* if possible, as well as reporting to NamUs when a person previously reported missing has been found.

Pennsylvania

As of 2022, Pennsylvania House Bill 930 passed as [Act 4](#), which requires law enforcement agencies to deliver the DNA* of missing persons, missing children, or unidentified deceased persons to the Pennsylvania State Police for submission to NamUs.

Tennessee

As a result of [Tenn. Code 38-6-125](#), also known as the Help Find the Missing Act, since 2017 forensic centers must enter information on unidentified bodies into NamUs and submit records to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. This information must include, if available, fingerprints, dental records, descriptions, DNA,* and other identifying information such as date and place of death. Law enforcement must submit missing persons records, including dental records and x-rays, if available, to NamUs.

Texas

Texas passed [TX HB1419](#) in June 2021, also known as John and Joseph’s Law, which requires law enforcement to enter all available identifying features of an unidentified body into NamUs as well as entering all pertinent missing persons information into NamUs and NCIC, and if applicable, the Texas Missing Persons Clearinghouse and the Alzheimer’s Association Safe Return emergency response center.

Washington

As of June 2020, Cody’s Law ([Washington HB 2792 – 2019-20](#)) has been in effect, which requires that human remains still unidentified 30 days from discovery date be entered into NamUs by the county coroner or county medical examiner, along with all pertinent biometrics. The law also requires that the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs regularly transmit information contained within the statewide missing persons website to NamUs.

West Virginia

Under West Virginia’s [Missing Persons Act](#), enacted in 2019, law enforcement must submit missing persons information, if applicable, to NCIC, NCMEC, NamUs, CODIS, and the West Virginia Automated Police Network (WEAPON) in a timely manner. Medical examiners must promptly submit all available information to NamUs and WEAPON for entry into all other appropriate law enforcement databases.

* Although this legislation indicates that DNA should be entered into NamUs, it is not possible to enter a DNA profile into NamUs. DNA profiles should be uploaded into the FBI’s CODIS database at the appropriate state or local level.