



# ENDING THE NATIONAL RAPE KIT BACKLOG

Funded by the Office of Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., the **Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Elimination Grant Program** addresses a women's and human rights issue that has been overlooked for decades.



Testing backlogged rape kits helps identify suspects, convict perpetrators, prevent future offenses, exonerate the innocent, and bring long-awaited justice to survivors.

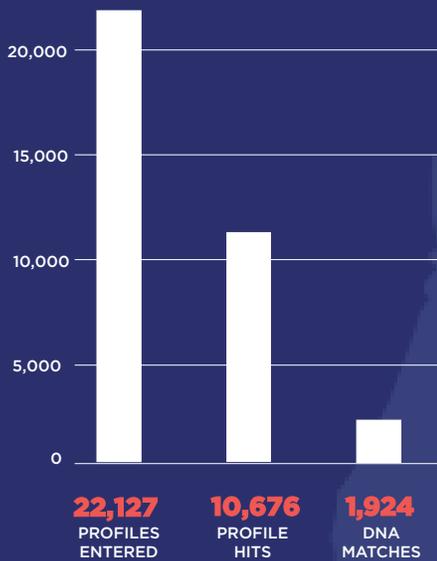


**STATES FUNDED:** Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.

No city or state that reported a backlog was turned away. Each jurisdiction that applied for funding is receiving it through either the Manhattan District Attorney's Office or through the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

## ARRESTS & PROSECUTIONS





**"CODIS" HITS:** Of the **22,127 DNA profiles** newly entered into CODIS\* using Manhattan DA's Office grants, there have been **10,676 CODIS hits** to date. Of the total hits to date, **1,924**, or approximately **18%**, match DNA from other sexual assault cases, indicating that many of these profiles are from serial rapists.

**4,945 hits** identified an unknown assailant, meaning a previously unidentified forensic sample hit to a known offender sample.

**3,712 hits** were "confirmatory," meaning DNA testing confirmed the identity of a convicted perpetrator or a suspect named by a law enforcement agency during an investigation prior to DNA testing.

\*CODIS = A national DNA databank used to solve crimes.

## NOTABLE CASES

**Florida Department of Law Enforcement:** Frederick Marshall, 50, was scheduled to be released from prison after serving time for a 2009 felony motor vehicle conviction. Just before his release, a previously untested rape kit connected Marshall's DNA to three unsolved sexual assaults committed between 2008 and 2009. In each case, Marshall offered a woman a ride, then kidnapped and raped her at gun point in Jacksonville. Charges have been filed; the case is open and pending.

**Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department:** In January 2018, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department arrested Reno resident Arthur Sewall, 51, after a previously untested sexual assault kit connected him to the May 1997 murder and sexual assault of a woman in Las Vegas. Sewall is charged with murder and sexual assault, both with a deadly weapon.

**Maricopa County Attorney's Office (Arizona):** In December 2017, DNA from a previously untested rape kit led to the indictment of Michael Paladino, 28, for a 2005 sexual assault. Further investigation connected Paladino to five other sexual assault cases between 2003 and 2006, including many where the victims were minors at the time of the assault. Paladino was sentenced to 5.25 years in prison and lifetime supervised probation. He must also register as a sex offender.

## THE NYC MODEL

- ★ In the late 1990s, there were roughly **17,000 untested rape kits** in New York City, representing thousands of unsolved cases, and thousands of victims waiting for justice.
- ★ The **Sex Crimes Unit at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office** and City of New York led an initiative to test every rape kit in the City's custody.
- ★ Clearing the backlog enabled the Office to file **49 indictments** based on DNA cold case hits. Combined, those offenders are now serving more than 900 years in jail.