

P.O. Box 370808
Decatur, Georgia 30037-0808

Vernon M. Keenan

Director

OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2015-04 July 22, 2015 FBI DNA Database

This Operations Bulletin is to update prosecutors about a situation widely reported in the news media involving errors in the FBI DNA database published in 1999 and 2001 that can be used for calculation of DNA profile frequency estimates. The FBI has provided updated data correcting the errors in the database used for frequency estimates of DNA profiles. This database is not the same DNA database as the CODIS database used for linking DNA profiles obtained from evidence to offenders or other unsolved crimes.

As part of our accreditation standard, the GBI Crime Lab is required to notify you of this issue and communicate our assessment of the impact on our laboratory reports. The GBI Crime Lab has completed an evaluation of the impact these errors within the FBI DNA database may have had on casework we have completed. The finding of this evaluation is that there should be minimal to no impact on DNA analyses conducted at the GBI Crime Lab because the databases in question are not routinely used by the GBI Crime Lab.

In the vast majority of cases involving DNA analysis, the GBI Crime Lab utilizes an internally developed DNA database for the calculation of the DNA profile frequencies included in the official reports. DNA parentage analyses are the only type of DNA analysis conducted at the GBI Crime Lab that utilized the FBI DNA database. The GBI Crime Lab has not identified any cases which would have been impacted by these FBI database errors. For any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact a Forensic Biology manager at 404-244-2500 or GBIDOFSBioManagersHQ@gbi.ga.gov.

Respectfully,

George Herrin, Jr., Ph.D.

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Deputy Director

GBI Division of Forensic Sciences