



National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

NamUs



National Institute of Justice

NamUs Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report

October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023

**U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
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Washington, DC 20531**

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Part 1: Executive Summary

The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) is the nation's only centralized federal program that provides forensic, investigative, and analytical services to resolve long-term missing and unidentified decedent cases. NamUs provides a unified and secure database for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons records, allowing for searching, cross-matching, and sharing of case records. It is NamUs' mission to identify unknown human decedent cases and resolve missing and unclaimed person cases by providing technology, forensic services, and investigative support to criminal justice agencies. Since inception of the NamUs program, 46,666 missing, unidentified, and unclaimed NamUs cases have been resolved and more than 10,300 of these identifications indicated they were made via DNA (CODIS associations or direct DNA comparisons), forensic genetic genealogy, dental, fingerprint, anthropological, or radiograph comparisons. By allowing limited access to the public, NamUs resolved over 50 unidentified human decedent cases through family recognition of their loved ones or their loved ones' personal effects within this fiscal year.

Program History

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. NamUs was created to meet that need. The NamUs database is comprised of 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 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. NamUs supports all long-term missing and unidentified human remains case investigations for juveniles and adults 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.

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 provides forensic and analytical services to the criminal justice community to assist in identifying missing and unidentified remains cases, 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, forensic genetic genealogy services, and tattoo database searching. NamUs' growth also includes a linked database for unclaimed persons cases (deceased individuals who have been positively identified but next of kin have not been located).

A Federally Legislated Program

Billy's Law ([Public Law 117-327](#)) federally legislates NamUs to provide:

- Online database technology, which serves as a national repository to help expedite case associations and resolutions.
- Free-of-charge forensic services to aid in the identification of missing persons and unidentified human remains.
- Investigative support for criminal justice efforts to help missing and unidentified person case resolutions.
- Technical assistance for family members of missing persons.
- Assistance and training by coordinating state and local service providers in order to support individuals and families impacted by the loss or disappearance of a loved one.
- Training and outreach from NamUs subject matter experts, including assistance with planning and facilitating Missing Person Day events across the country.

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 (OCIO). NamUs program operations are managed by the NIJ's Office of Investigative Forensic Sciences.

This annual report summarizes the NamUs program highlights from the 2023 government fiscal year (FY23; October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023). It details metrics collected and analyzed 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 a growing number of states have made legislative requirements with regard to NamUs use; 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 streamlined all forensic services and analytical requests in FY22. Using this tool, the Total Requirement for Unified Sample Tracking (TRUST) System, the NamUs program was able to facilitate 3,264 forensic and analytical services requests, which included fingerprint, odontology, anthropology, DNA processing, and forensic genetic genealogy.

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 — from submission through to final disposition. TRUST enables users to submit queries, pull analytics, and create reports on requests, submissions, turnaround time, and forensic service provider workloads, successes, and capacity.

The NamUs program established a formal collaboration with the FBI's Latent Print Unit to add tattoo database searching to its list of available investigative and forensic services offered at no cost to the criminal justice community.

The NamUs program established services with accredited forensic laboratories providing traditional DNA testing (including STR, Y-STR, and mitochondrial DNA analysis) and CODIS access in April of 2023. In the remaining six months of FY23, NamUs facilitated the processing of 440 traditional DNA samples, which included family references, unidentified human remains, and direct reference samples.

NamUs facilitated trainings for the criminal justice community at over 90 events, reaching over 17,000 attendees and logged over 1.6 million website views.

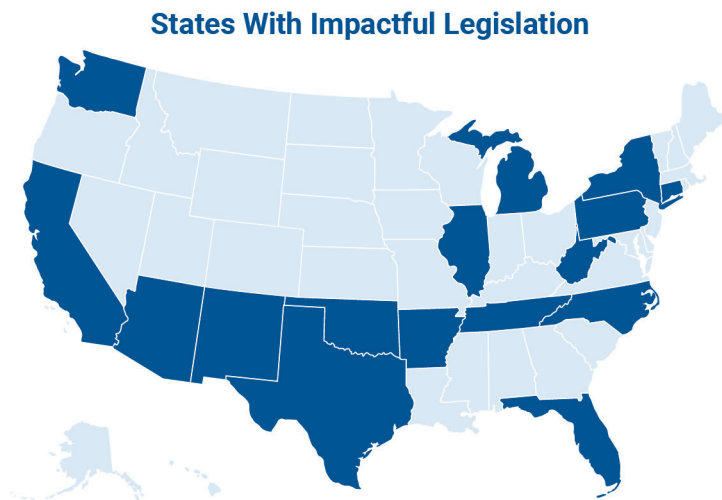
More than 11,900 new NamUs users were registered in the fiscal year, bringing the total number of public users to more than 33,930 and professional users to more than 17,820.

A total of 12,604 new case entries were created in the database this fiscal year, bringing the total number of cases in the database to 54,221. Over 5,300 cases were archived this fiscal year, bringing the total number of archived cases to 46,666.

Since the successful transition of NamUs to a secure cloud environment, reported in the 2022 summary, the OCIO implemented a major update to the hosting infrastructure to remediate potential security vulnerabilities in the older operating system. OCIO successfully executed an annual disaster recovery/continuity of operational performance validation exercise and completed a full audit of operational and security controls supporting the OCIO renewal of the system's authority to operate for three more years.

Applicable Legislation

By the close of FY23, 16 states had passed legislation that affected NamUs. This number continues to grow, as does support for federal legislation. Using official channels, OJP/NIJ are willing to provide subject matter expertise to inform state, local, or federal policy leaders regarding the NamUs program. A list of the applicable legislation may be found in the **Appendix**.



Part 3: Resource Allocation

In FY23, NamUs received \$5,551,882 in funding. A portion of the funding was allocated to the maintenance, operations, security management, and information technology (IT) helpdesk 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 \$1,110, 012 to IT support, including NamUs database operations, maintenance and application security, and customer support — including the helpdesk. 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 gathering data for Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request responses, NamUs data program calls, and infrastructure updates.

The NamUs IT support desk processed 97 requests specifically related to technical issues, including resetting passwords, system non-availability, and other IT issues.

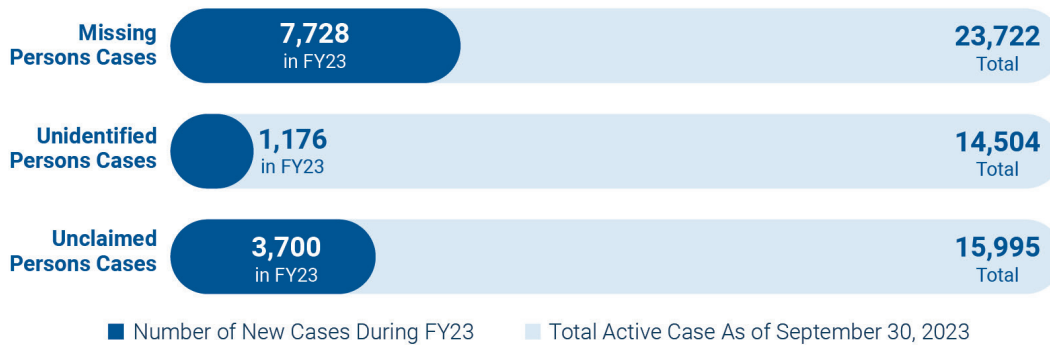
Part 4: NamUs by the Numbers

Database Statistics: Cases and Users

Case Creation:

- As of September 30, 2023, there were 54,221 active cases published in the NamUs database, of which 14,504 were unidentified human remains cases, 23,722 were missing persons cases, and 15,995 were unclaimed persons cases.
- During FY23, 12,604 cases were created in the NamUs database, of which 7,728 were missing persons cases, 1,176 were unidentified persons cases, and 3,700 were unclaimed persons. Published cases are viewable to the public and unpublished cases have yet to be made viewable for any number of reasons. Archived cases have been resolved or removed from public view based on a request from the investigating agency.

Cases Created From October 1, 2022 Through September 30, 2023



Tribal Case Creation:

- During FY23, 255 American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) missing persons cases, 36 AI/AN unidentified persons cases, and 11 AI/AN unclaimed persons cases were created in the NamUs database. Additional metrics associated with tribal enrollment/affiliation and tribal lands related to these cases are detailed in the graphic below.

American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Cases Created From October 1, 2022 Through September 30, 2023*

Missing Persons	Unidentified Persons	Unclaimed Persons
255 FY23 Cases Created	36 FY23 Cases Created	11 FY23 Cases Created
44% Tribal Enrollment/Affiliation	25% Found on Tribal Land	9% Found on Tribal Land
23% 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.*

Case Resolution:

- As of September 30, 2023, NamUs has assisted with the resolution of 35,665 missing persons cases, 6,381 unidentified persons cases, and 3,761 unclaimed persons cases since its inception.
- During FY23, NamUs assisted with the resolution of 4,021 missing persons cases, 670 unidentified persons cases, and 612 unclaimed persons cases.

NamUs Assisted Cases with Resolution



■ Number of Cases Assisted During FY23 ■ Total Cases Assisted As of September 30, 2023

User Registration:

- As of September 30, 2023, there were 51,806 registered users in NamUs. Of those, the majority are public users (65%).
- Of professional users, 89% are law enforcement, 8% are medical examiners/coroners, and 2% are forensic specialists.
- During FY23, 7,560 public users and 4,341 professional users registered for new accounts within the NamUs database.
- Seventy-nine percent of the FY23 missing person case entries were created by professional users as opposed to members of the public. Since FY20 (when it was first tracked), law enforcement has consistently entered 70% or more of missing persons cases.

Total Registered Users – Fiscal Year 2023



New Registered Users – Fiscal Year 2023



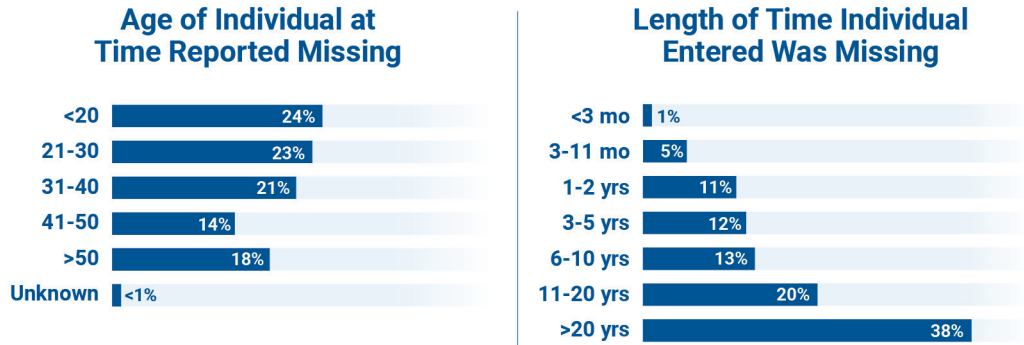
Missing Persons Cases Entered By User Type – Fiscal Year 2023



What We've Learned From the Database

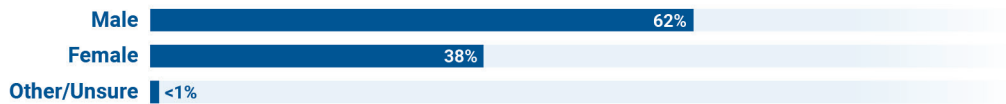
Long-Term Juvenile and Adult Case Demographic

Young adults and juveniles constitute almost a quarter of the missing persons database in NamUs (23.7%), while adults constitute the remaining 76.3%. 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. Race/ethnicity and biological sex demographic data for active missing persons cases as of September 30, 2023, are below.

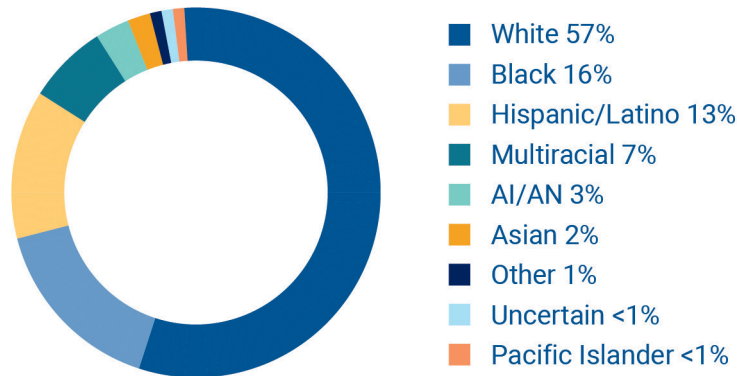


Note: The percentages in the graphic are rounded up to the nearest whole number.

Biological Sex Listed for Missing Person

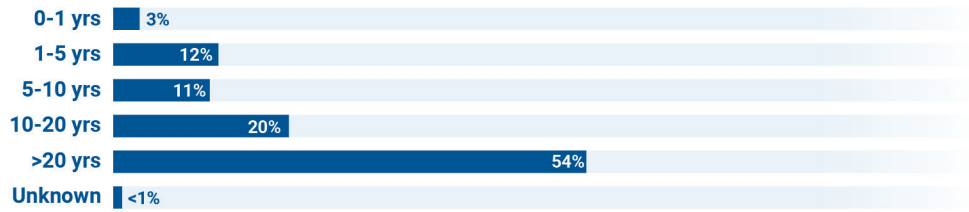


Reported Race/Ethnicity of Missing Person

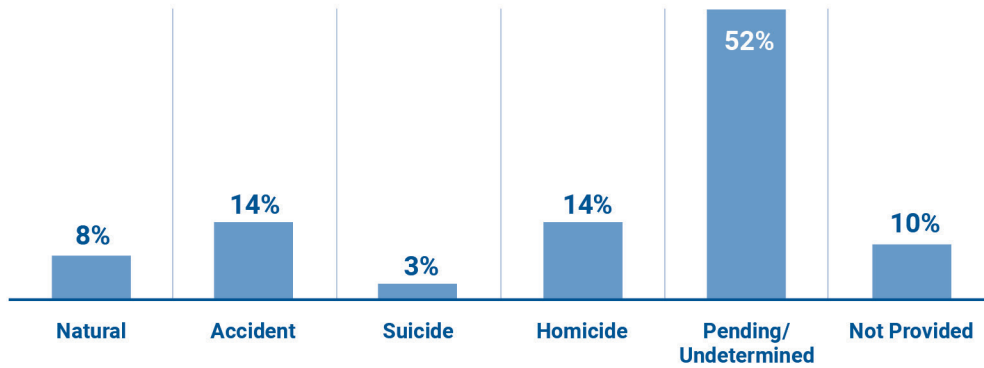


A total of 1,362 active unidentified person cases who were estimated to be 20 years old or under were in the NamUs database at the close of FY23. Similarly, 97% of all unidentified remains cases in the database were older than one year. More than 61% of NamUs unidentified persons cases, list the manner of death as pending, undetermined, or unknown. This field is often updated once the individual's identity is known. Manner of death as well as race/ethnicity and biological sex demographic data for active unidentified persons cases as of September 30, 2023, are below.

Length of Time for Unidentified Remains Cases

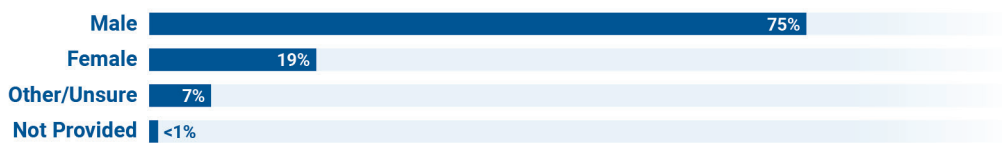


Manner of Death for Unidentified Person



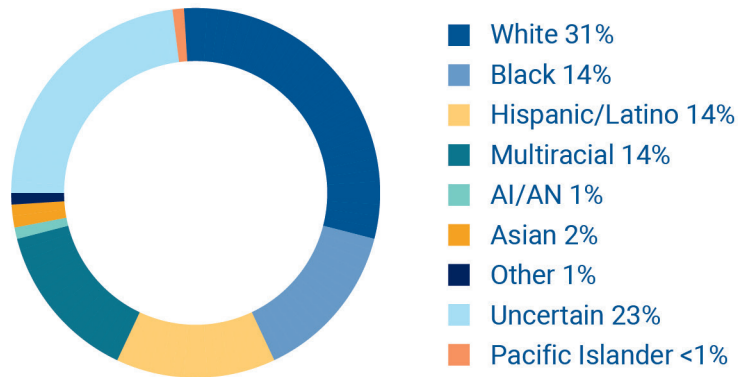
Note: It is common practice to amend the Manner of Death from Pending, Not Provided, or Undetermined after identification. In addition, the percentages in the graphic are rounded up to the nearest whole number.

Biological Sex Estimated for Unidentified Person



Note: The percentages in the graphic are rounded up to the nearest whole number.

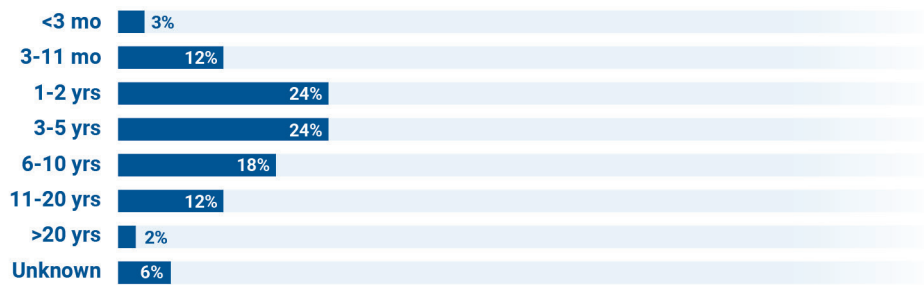
Estimated Race/Ethnicity of Unidentified Person



Note: The percentages in the graphic are rounded up to the nearest whole number.

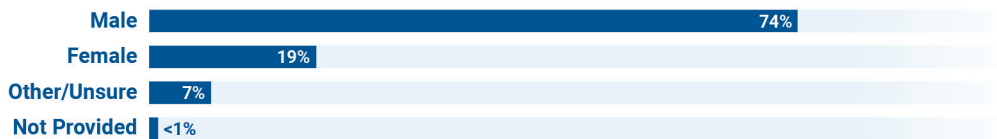
Similarly, 85% of all unclaimed persons cases in the database were older than one year. Race/ethnicity and biological sex demographic data for active unclaimed persons cases as of September 30, 2023, are below.

Age of Case



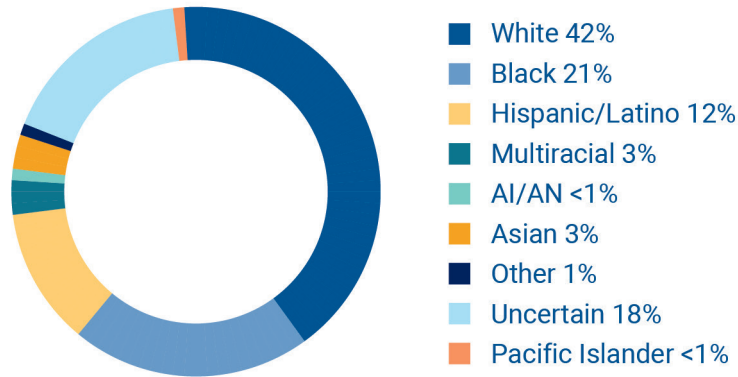
Note: The percentages in the graphic are rounded up to the nearest whole number.

Biological Sex Reported for Unclaimed Person



Note: The percentages in the graphic are rounded up to the nearest whole number.

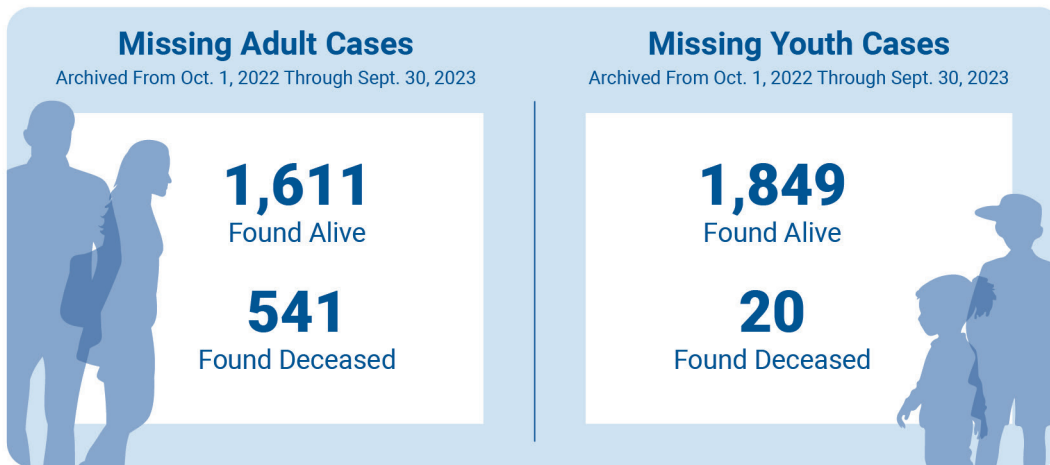
Reported Race/Ethnicity of Unclaimed Person



Note: The percentages in the graphic are rounded up to the nearest whole number.

Missing Person Case Results

Of the missing persons cases archived during FY23, approximately 75% of the missing adults and 99% of the missing juveniles were found alive. These numbers represent the total of the cases archived during FY23 and are not limited to cases created and archived during FY23. Archived cases have been resolved or removed from public view based on a request from the investigating agency.

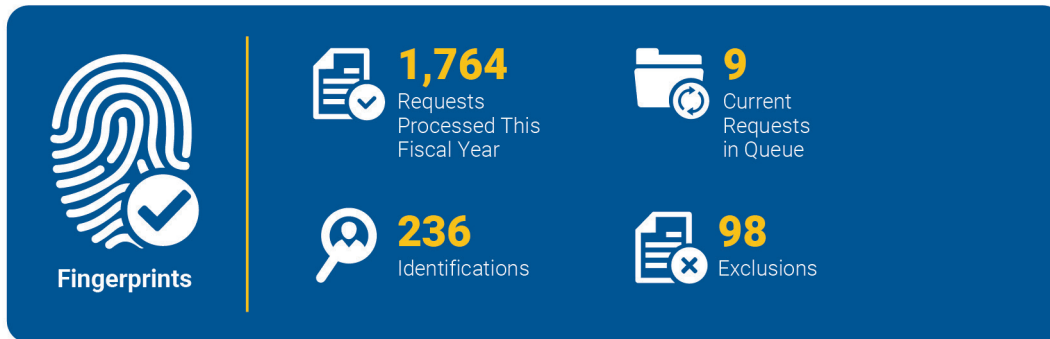


Forensic Services and Investigative Support

NamUs forensic services include fingerprints, odontology, anthropology, traditional DNA testing, and forensic genetic genealogy. To help deliver these services, NamUs initiated collaborative partnerships with service providers across the nation, including two forensic odontologists, two private DNA laboratories, one state-level NDIS participating laboratory, and federal partners. These are established, trusted, and scientifically proven pathways.

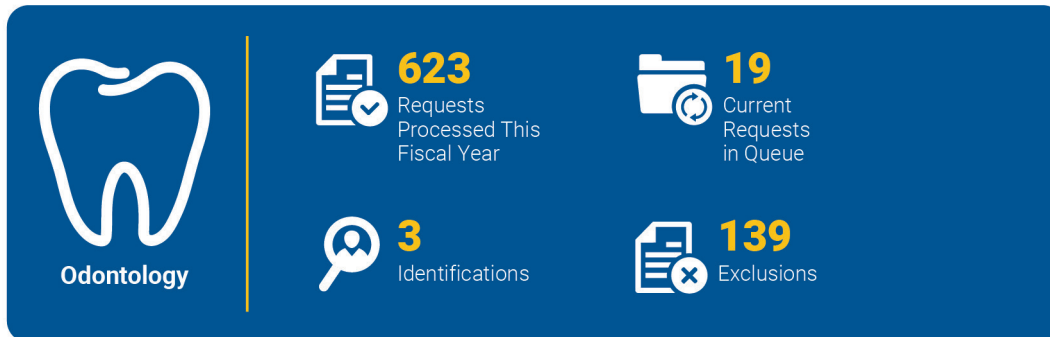
Fingerprint Services

During FY23, 1,764 fingerprint requests were processed. This work yielded 236 identifications and 98 exclusions.



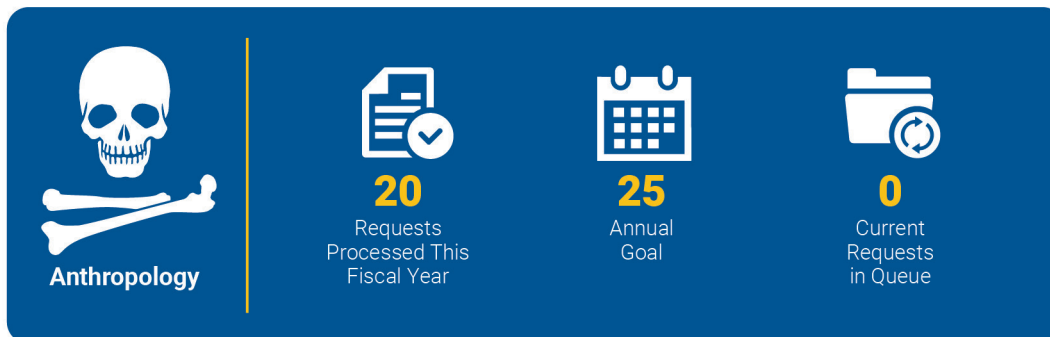
Odontology Services

During FY23, 623 odontology requests were processed. This work yielded three identifications and 139 exclusions.



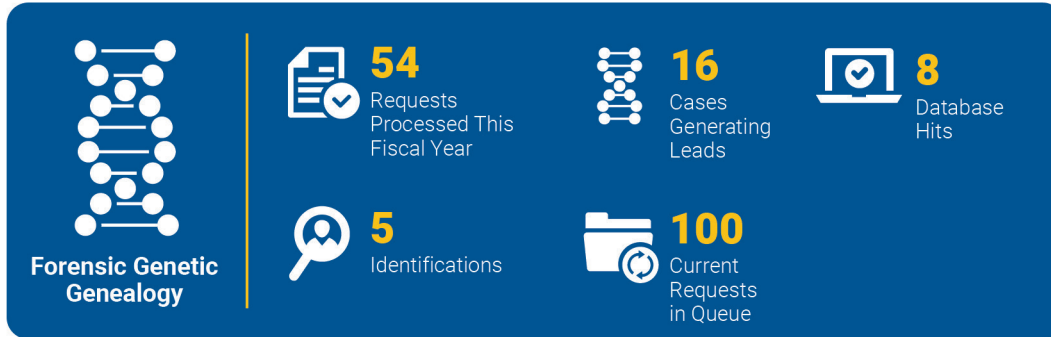
Anthropology Services

During FY23, 20 anthropology requests were processed.



Forensic Genetic Genealogy

During FY23, 54 forensic genetic genealogy (FGG) requests were approved for processing while another 100 cases were in queue owing to resource constraints. In FY23, 16 cases generating investigative leads using FGG were confirmed with secondary methods or still awaited confirmation of identification.



Traditional DNA

In April 2023, NamUs reinstated traditional DNA processing, which includes the analysis of STR, Y-STR, and mitochondrial DNA markers (see Table 1) as well as review and uploading to the national DNA Database or Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). NamUs has solidified partnerships with National DNA Index System (NDIS) participating laboratories to ensure all resulting DNA profiles and advanced pedigrees can be searched across all pertinent CODIS indices. This work resulted in one exclusion, six identifications based on manual comparison, and no CODIS hits.

	Traditional DNA Requests	Annual Goal	Yearly Progress	Amount In Queue
..... Family Reference Samples		400	400	494
..... Direct Reference Samples		15	15	49
..... Unidentified Remains Samples		25	25	717

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 short tandem repeats (STR) are analyzed on the Y, or male, chromosome. The sequencing of Y-STRs can link individuals descended from a common male ancestor.
Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA)	DNA analysis of mitochondria, found in each cell (except red blood cells). The sequencing of mtDNA can link individuals descended from a common female ancestor.

Analytical Services

NamUs analytical services conducted 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 person cases.
- Potential comparisons among 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), Ancestry, the Intelius public records search engine, and Newspapers.com to help produce investigative leads.



Additionally, 97 cases were processed for tattoo database searches, resulting in four case resolutions.

Regional Program Specialists

Regional Program Specialists are NamUs program staff who assist professional and public users, vet case information and obtain permission to publish cases from investigating agencies of ownership, vet professional users, perform outreach, provide training and technical assistance throughout their regions, facilitate forensic and analytical service requests, and communicate received tips and leads to investigating agencies. Every U.S. state and territory is served by a regional program specialist. When a case is entered into NamUs, it is assigned to a specialist based on the investigating agency's location. 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).

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

- Initially reviewing and accepting the case for publication.
- Communicating with the investigating agencies and entering parties to ensure case completeness and accuracy.
- Vetting and publishing any case updates or modifications.

- Reviewing all investigative tips and leads.
- Suggesting case enhancements.
- 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.

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 FY23, the NamUs program conducted over 90 individual outreach, training, and technical assistance events, reaching more than 17,869 NamUs users. For a list of events, please visit the [NamUs Past Events](#) webpage.

NamUs.org received over 1.6 million website views, while the NamUs database received more than 760,000 unique database visits in FY23.

Attendees at Training Events by Profession



Part 5: Special Initiatives

Partnerships and Collaborations With Federal Agencies

Customs and Border Protection

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency has been legislatively mandated under the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019 to coordinate their Missing Migrant Program with NamUs. The agency has formed a task force with more than 50 agents across the country. During FY23, NamUs representatives attended one national and two regional task force summits.

Collaboration between NamUs and Customs and Border Patrol continues with a memorandum of understanding drafted to formalize this partnership.

Tribal Partnerships

NamUs representatives participated in 24 tribally affiliated events in a continued effort to improve the response to missing or murdered indigenous persons (MMIP) cases. For a list of these events, please visit the [NamUs Tribal Events](#) webpage.

In FY23, NamUs onboarded a tribal liaison and an associate tribal program specialist, both members of the Navajo Nation. These measures were, in part, a response to Savanna's Act, which calls for increased data collection and information sharing related to missing and murdered indigenous persons cases, as well as education for tribal law enforcement about the resources available from NamUs.

Veterans Affairs

In FY23, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Inspector General continued discussions with NamUs regarding the "Improvements Needed to Ensure Final Disposition of Unclaimed Veterans' Remains" report. The report alerted the VA to potential unclaimed veterans' remains and the need for data-sharing among organizations to identify individuals who qualify for veteran funeral benefits. The VA and NamUs met to discuss this effort. A memorandum of understanding has been drafted to formalize this partnership.

Bureau of Justice Assistance

In FY23, NamUs and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Forensic Science Unit continued 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 and support case resolution. Additionally, NamUs staff work with BJA to ensure that federal resources are optimized, given the potential overlap between the Missing and Unidentified Persons Program (MUHR) and NamUs forensic services.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In FY23, NamUs and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) formalized a memorandum of understanding. This partnership will improve effective and efficient use of NamUs and FBI resources to combat violent crime, including improved information sharing to resolve missing and unidentified persons cases. A NamUs/FBI liaison is working to ensure that data in NamUs, the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP), and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) are up to date and uniform. If the data are inconsistent, the liaison will contact the entering agency to resolve the inconsistencies. As needed, the liaison may enter data into ViCAP and NamUs with the express permission of the submitting agency. Such data include, but are not limited to, case identification numbers, law enforcement circumstances,

forensic services performed, and case resolution notes in support of victimology assessments.

In accordance with Statute at Large 136 Stat. 4454 - [Public Law No. 117-327](#) (Billy's Law), the NamUs program staff completed an assessment of the NamUs and NCIC systems architecture, governing statutes, policies, and procedures. This assessment (still in process) will help to gain insight and determine the minimum requirements for the secure and automatic data transmission of missing and unidentified person records entered in the NCIC database. Automatic data transmission is the only mechanism for information sharing that minimizes inefficiencies and duplicative efforts while reducing the risks of data-mapping errors associated with the manual exchange of sensitive information.

NamUs estimates there are more than 70,000 cases in NCIC that qualify for transmission to NamUs. However, there is an undetermined amount of overlap between NCIC and NamUs cases. An agency-agnostic assessment of these cases and the associated technologies is required to understand the whole undertaking. Because Billy's Law requires the secure and automatic data transmission of these files and manual entry is neither compliant nor realistic, NamUs recommends a systematic technology evaluation of NamUs and NCIC to determine the level of effort and resources required to adapt both databases.

Underserved and At-Risk Communities Served

NamUs staff continue to work with other underserved and at-risk communities including, but not limited to, persons of color, transgender individuals, and the unhoused/housing insecure community.

Appendix: Applicable Federal and State Legislation

Federal Law

[34 U.S.C. §§ 40501 through 40505](#) focuses on the reporting of unidentified and missing persons. It includes authorization of grants for combating the problem of missing and unidentified persons. It also outlines grant eligibility, use of funds, and reports to Congress.

This section of the law has been amended and added to throughout the years. Recent updates include the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019 ([S.2174](#)), which requires agencies receiving funding under this act to report missing persons and unidentified remains information to NamUs.

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

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 (GAO). Specifically, GAO recommended DOJ evaluate options for sharing information within the confines of its legal framework to use missing and unidentified persons information more efficiently and share information between the 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 of receiving a report about a missing, kidnapped, or runaway child.

Arkansas

Since 2019, Arkansas [HB1881](#) 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.

California

Although there is no legislation in California that mandates using NamUs, [Bill AB 34](#) requires that the state's Violent Crime Information Center make accessible to NamUs specific information that is authorized for dissemination and contained in law enforcement reports regarding missing or unidentified persons.

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.

Florida

[CS/SB 1332](#) amends [s.937.021, F.S.](#), to require law enforcement to transmit a report of a missing child or adult to NamUs within two hours of receipt. It prohibits the removal of a missing child or adult entry from the NamUs database solely based on the age of the missing individual and requires, at minimum, a monthly review of each NamUs case to determine if it should continue to be maintained in the database.

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 as a result of [HB 4633](#). Specifically, law enforcement must report missing persons to NamUs, the Michigan Law Enforcement Information Network, and the NCIC. If the person is a child information must also be submitted to 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. Unidentified bodies must be entered into NamUs, NCIC, and MMCIC (for children).

New Mexico

[2019 NM HB16](#), also known as the Mark Daniel Aguilar Information Sharing Requirement, requires the New Mexico 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](#)) require that missing persons 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 alerts to all appropriate agencies. If the report involves a child, they must also notify the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. 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. 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 missing person has been found.

Pennsylvania

As of 2022, Pennsylvania House Bill 930, passed as [Act 4](#), 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 House Bill [TX HB1419](#) in June 2021, also known as John and Joseph’s Law. It 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, into 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 after 30 days be entered in NamUs by the county coroner or county medical examiner, along with all pertinent biometrics. This 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 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.