



NamUs for Law Enforcement

The nation's only centralized federal program that provides free forensic, investigative, and analytical services for investigative agencies.

Challenges for Law Enforcement

Solving missing and unidentified persons cases is a key challenge for law enforcement agencies in the United States. Databases containing these case records can be difficult to locate and access, making investigations and analysis complex and time-consuming. Missing and unidentified persons cases often cross jurisdictional boundaries, further complicating investigations.

A Comprehensive Solution

The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) connects law enforcement with tools and resources to resolve long-term missing persons cases, including state-of-the-art technology to securely store, share, and compare case information with other criminal justice professionals.

Administered by NIJ, NamUs provides a unified and secure database for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons records, allowing for searching, cross matching, and sharing of case records.



As of 2024, NamUs contains **58,252 case records** available to investigative agencies.

NamUs relies on voluntary entry of case information from law enforcement, family members, and medical examiners. Currently, 16 states require law enforcement agencies to enter missing persons cases in NamUs, and four states require agencies to enter both missing and unidentified persons in the database.

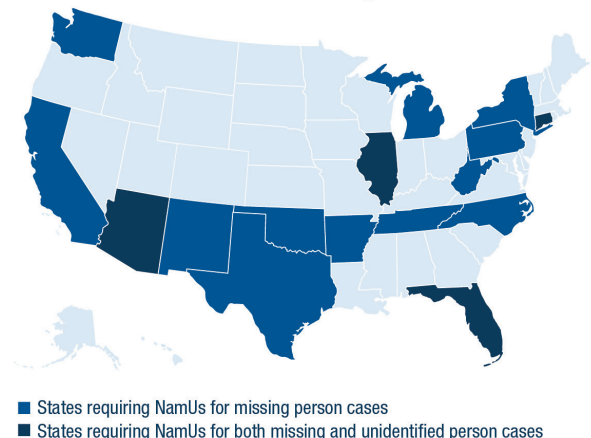
National Institute of Justice | [NIJ.ojp.gov](https://nij.ojp.gov)

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September 2025 NCJ 310742

The cases entered into NamUs do not necessarily reflect all missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons cases across the United States or in any one state or jurisdiction.

States With NamUs Legislation



Free Services for Investigating Agencies

Agencies need knowledge of and resources for DNA collection and testing, anthropology, odontology, and other forensic fields to resolve cases. That requires a full team—including forensic scientists and intelligence analysts—to help with complex cases.

NamUs provides this key investigative assistance for forensic analysis, assisting with biometric collection and providing other forms of analytical support.

When a person is missing, NamUs tracks the biometric information until a case is resolved. This gives law enforcement a place to start when unidentified remains are found. NamUs also provides access to Consolidated Lead Evaluation and Reporting

NamUs
National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

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(CLEAR) investigation software through NamUs analytical staff, which is only available to investigative agencies for searching millions of public records.

Cold Case Advisory Teams

Missing persons cold cases deserve the same urgency and attention as more recent investigations. People who go missing or become unidentifiable may be victims of violent crimes, and finding those responsible can assist in both resolving past crimes and preventing future ones. In some cases, those found responsible for one crime tend to be responsible for multiple crimes.

Agencies can engage the NamUs Cold Case Advisory Team. Consisting of multidisciplinary subject matter experts in law enforcement, medicolegal death investigations, DNA analysis, and forensics, this team:

- Conducts comprehensive case reviews.
- Acts as a community liaison with other agencies.
- Triage biometric and analytical requests.
- Provides training to law enforcement.
- Coordinates “Missing Persons Days.”
- Provides technical assistance for cases.
- Contacts investigating agencies for biometric information.

Training and Outreach

NamUs provides outreach, training, and technical assistance to professional NamUs users. Free training and outreach services include:

- Database instruction.
- Customized online or in-person training.
- Presentations at local, state, and national training conferences.
- Assistance with “Missing Persons Days” coordination.

Become a Professional User

Law enforcement practitioners can register to become NamUs professional users, gaining access to this national database and critical support resources.

NamUs.gov/Registration

The more cases that are entered into NamUs from our users, the higher the likelihood of finding missing persons and resolving cases.

namus.nij.ojp.gov

Who is NIJ? The National Institute of Justice is the research, evaluation, and technology agency of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Want to learn more?

Review these [FAQs](#) and [User Guides](#), or [submit an inquiry](#).

namus.nij.ojp.gov/contact



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