



NamUs for Medical Examiners and Coroners

The nation's only centralized federal program that provides forensic, investigative, and analytical services to resolve all long-term missing and unidentified decedent cases.

Medicolegal Challenges in Missing, Unclaimed, and Unidentified Persons Cases

One of the greatest challenges to the medicolegal community is the sheer volume of missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons cases in the United States. Compounding this problem are the limited resources agencies have access to, the difficulty of case coordination with other agencies, and cross-referencing records across agencies and jurisdictions.

A Comprehensive Solution

The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) provides a unified and secure database for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons records. Administered by NIJ, it streamlines communication and data-sharing among criminal justice agencies by allowing users to search, crossmatch, and share case records and biometric information. By improving access to information and searching capabilities, NamUs facilitates quicker identifications and reunifications.

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 person cases in NamUs, and four states require agencies to enter both missing and unidentified persons in the database.

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.

Free Resources to Support Case Investigations and Analysis

NamUs and its partners offer the following services for medical examiners and coroners:

- DNA testing.
- Odontology.
- Fingerprint analysis.
- Investigative genetic genealogy.
- Anthropological analysis and support.



DNA



Odontology



Fingerprints

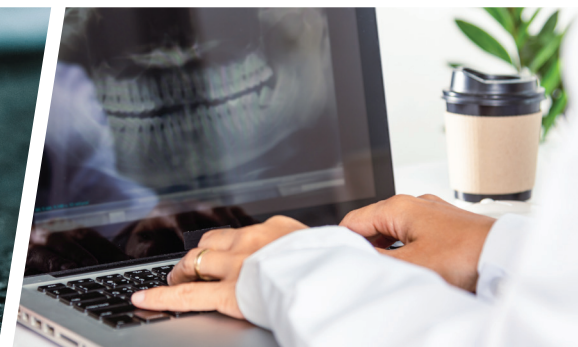


Investigative
Genetic Genealogy



Anthropology





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 other 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.
- Coordinates “Missing Persons Days.”
- Provides technical assistance for cases.
- Contacts investigating agencies for biometric information.

Training and Outreach

NamUs staff provide 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

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

NamUs.gov/Registration

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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