



National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

# NamUs

National Institute of Justice

## NamUs Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report

October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024



**U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
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Opinions or conclusions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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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 long-term missing and unclaimed person cases by providing technology, forensic services, and investigative support to criminal justice agencies. Since the inception of the NamUs program, 61,492 missing, unidentified, and unclaimed NamUs cases have been resolved. More than 11,300 of these identifications were indicated to have been made through DNA (Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) associations or direct DNA comparisons), forensic genetic genealogy, dental, fingerprint, anthropological, or radiograph comparisons. Because NamUs cases are publicly viewable, resolutions can also occur through assistance from the general public and families of the missing. In fact, over 50 cases have been resolved by NamUs through family recognition of their loved ones' photograph or images of their personal effects in the 2024 fiscal year.

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. NamUs program operations are managed by NIJ's Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences.

This annual report summarizes the NamUs program highlights from the 2024 government fiscal year (FY24; October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024). It details metrics collected and analyzed from case entries, forensic service requests (received and completed), workload of key program staff, and general programmatic updates.

## 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 the investigation of missing and unidentified persons 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 persons 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 system 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 from the missing person having been located, the unidentified decedent having been identified, or the next of kin having been located to claim the remains. However, cases can also be archived without these resolutions if the case is no longer active with a criminal justice entity. To protect the privacy of the individual and the family, 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 whose next of kin have not been located).

## A Federally Legislated Program

Billy's Law ([Public Law 117-327](#)), enacted in 2022, 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 persons case resolutions.
- Technical assistance for family members of missing persons.
- Training and assisting state and local service providers 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.

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 enacted legislative requirements regarding NamUs use; see "Applicable Legislation") and is intended to assist users in solving active cases. NamUs was not designed to track or report national or subnational statistics, trends, or 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 the Total Requirement for Unified Sample Tracking (TRUST) System, the NamUs program was able to facilitate 3,866 forensic and analytical services requests, which included fingerprint, odontology, anthropology, DNA processing, image analysis, and forensic genetic genealogy in FY24.

The NamUs program uses TRUST, an information management system, 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.

In FY24, the NamUs program established a formal collaboration with the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP) Unit and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) to expand its suite of investigative and forensic services. This partnership introduced facial recognition searching as a no-cost resource for the criminal justice community. Additionally, NamUs onboarded a forensic artist to provide specialized services, including image enhancement and facial sketches. These contributions significantly increased the number of publicly viewable images available through NamUs, further supporting investigative and case resolution efforts.

NamUs facilitated trainings for the criminal justice community at 86 events, reaching more than 36,000 attendees, and logged over 1.7 million website views.

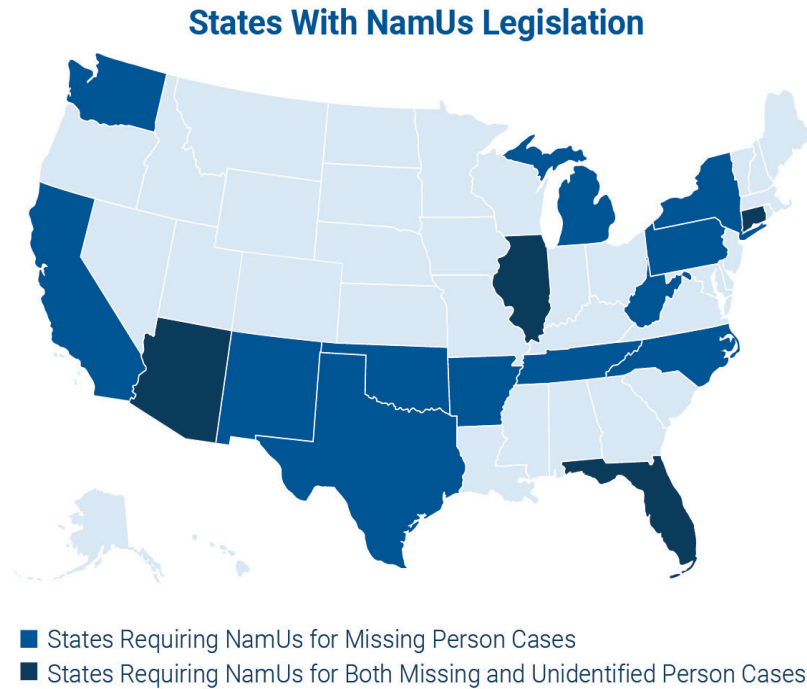
More than 11,900 new NamUs users were registered in FY24, bringing the total number of public users to 42,330 and professional users to 21,190.

A total of 20,726 new case entries were created in the database FY24, bringing the total number of cases in the database to 58,252. Also, more than 13,190 cases were archived, bringing the total number of archived cases to 61,492.

Since the successful transition of NamUs to a secure cloud environment, reported in the 2022 summary, the Office of the Chief Information Officer (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 FY24, 16 states had passed legislation that affected NamUs. This number continues to grow, as does support for federal legislation. Using official channels, OJP/NIJ provides subject matter technical 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 FY24, the NamUs program received \$6,397,414 in funding. A portion of the funding (18.2%) was allocated to the maintenance, operations, security management, and information technology (IT) helpdesk assistance to maintain and support 63,500+ NamUs users.

The remainder of the funds was allocated to manage the program, perform outreach and training activities for professional stakeholders and families of the missing, as well as provide forensic services, free of charge, to all states and territories.

### Database Information Technology Activities

From the total funding amount above, the program allocated \$1,166,604 to IT support, including NamUs database operations, maintenance and application security, and customer support through 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 — as well as database maintenance. IT support also includes ad-hoc tasks such as responding to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, NamUs data program calls, and infrastructure updates.

In FY24, the NamUs IT support desk processed 54 requests specifically related to technical issues, including password resets, system non-availability, and other IT issues.

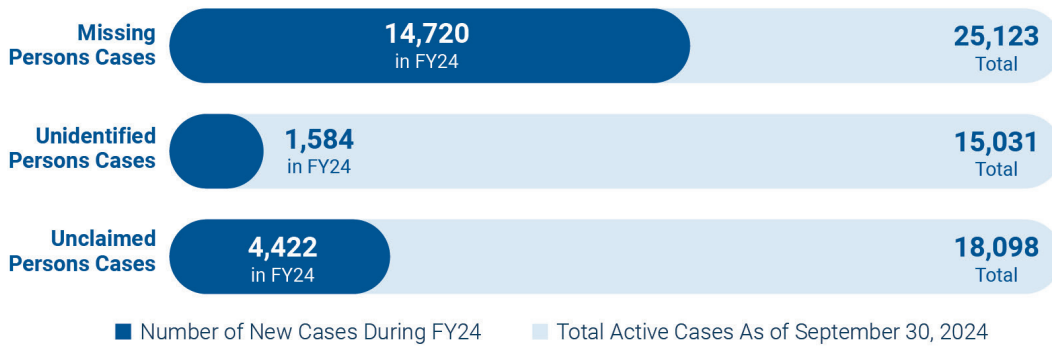
## Part 4: NamUs by the Numbers

### Database Statistics: Cases and Users

#### Case Creation:

- As of September 30, 2024, there were 58,252 active cases published in the NamUs database, of which, 25,123 were missing persons cases, 15,031 were unidentified persons cases, and 18,098 were unclaimed persons cases.
- During FY24, 20,726 cases were created in the NamUs database, of which, 14,720 were missing persons cases, 1,584 were unidentified persons cases, and 4,422 were unclaimed persons cases.

#### Cases Created from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024



**Tribal Case Creation:**

- During FY24, 342 American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) missing persons cases, 51 AI/AN unidentified persons cases, and 9 AI/AN unclaimed persons cases were created in the NamUs database. Additional metrics associated with tribal enrollment/affiliation and tribal lands are detailed in the graphic below.

**American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Cases Created from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024**

Missing Persons	Unidentified Persons	Unclaimed Persons
<b>342</b> FY24 Cases Created	<b>51</b> FY24 Cases Created	<b>9</b> FY24 Cases Created
<b>44%</b> Tribal Enrollment/ Affiliation	<b>35%</b> Found on Tribal Land	<b>11%</b> Found on Tribal Land
<b>21%</b> Primary Residence on Tribal Land	<b>N/A</b> Primary Residence on Tribal Land	<b>N/A</b> Primary Residence on Tribal Land
<b>28%</b> Missing From Tribal Land	<b>N/A</b> Missing From Tribal Land	<b>N/A</b> Missing From Tribal Land

**Case Resolution:**

- As of September 30, 2024, NamUs has assisted with the resolution of 48,475 missing persons cases, 7,404 unidentified persons cases, and 5,613 unclaimed persons cases.
- During FY24, NamUs assisted with the resolution of 11,661 missing persons cases, 776 unidentified persons cases, and 758 unclaimed persons cases.

**NamUs Assisted Cases With Resolution**



■ Number of Assisted Cases During FY24    ■ Total Active Assisted Cases As of September 30, 2024

**User Registration:**

- As of September 30, 2024, there were 63,531 registered users in NamUs. Of those, the majority are public users (66%). Of professional users, 85% are law enforcement, 11% are medical examiners/coroners, and <2% are forensic specialists.
- During FY24, 8,308 public users and 3,655 professional users registered for new accounts within the NamUs database.
- 90% of the missing person case entries were created by professional users, as opposed to members of the public. Since FY20 (when missing persons cases were first tracked), law enforcement has consistently entered 70% or more of missing persons cases.

**Total Registered Users – Fiscal Year 2024**



**New Registered Users – Fiscal Year 2024**



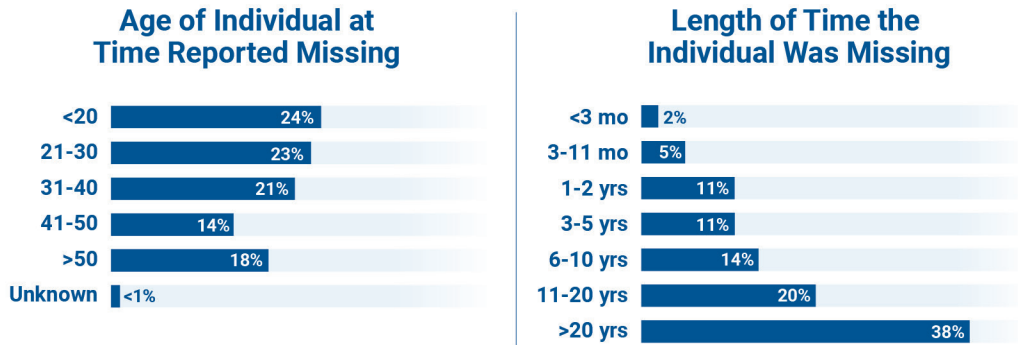
**Missing Persons Cases Entered By User Type – Fiscal Year 2024**



## What We've Learned From the Database

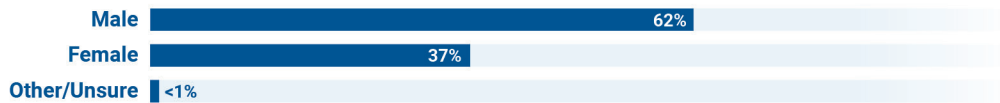
### Long-Term Juvenile and Adult Case Demographic

Young adults and juveniles constitute almost a quarter (23.9% or 6,004) of the missing persons cases in NamUs, while adults constitute the remaining 76.1% (19,119). Because NamUs primarily aids long-term missing persons cases, 93% (23,393) 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, 2024, are below.\*



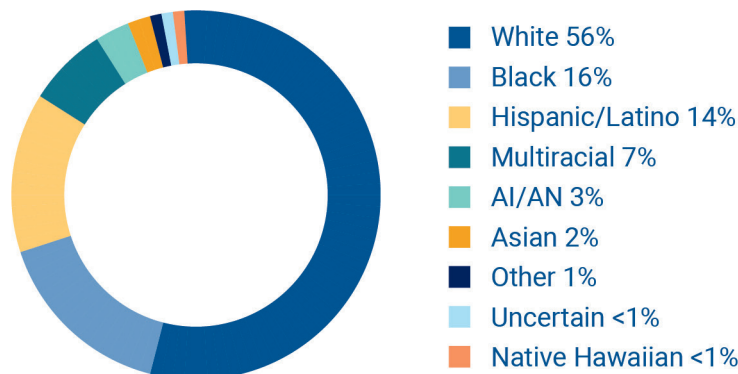
Note: The percentages in the graphic are rounded up to the nearest whole number.

### Biological Sex Listed for Missing Person



Note: NamUs provides unsure or other categories in the application for instances where an individual's biological sex is unknown, not provided, or otherwise biologically does not align with the standard biological male/female classification due to medical and/or genetic conditions (i.e., individuals with XXY Klinefelter syndrome, XYY syndrome, true hermaphroditism).

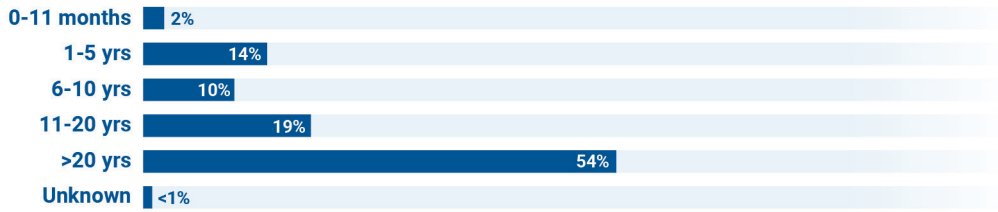
### Reported Race/Ethnicity of Missing Person



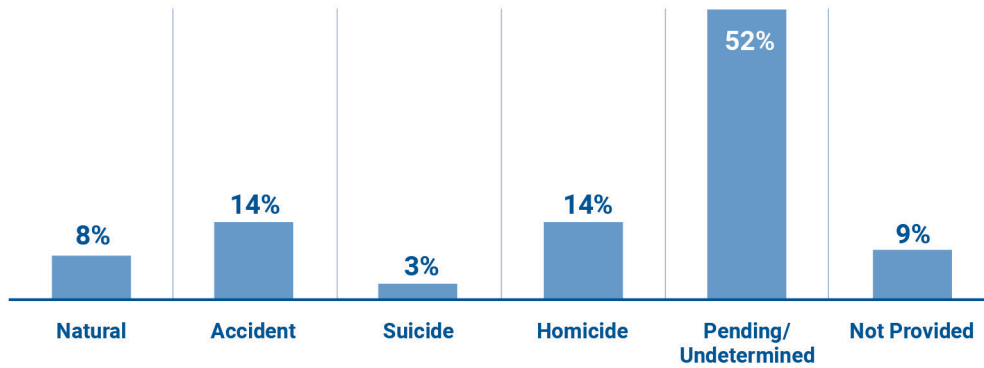
\* The NamUs database only contains information on individuals who have been voluntarily reported to NamUs as missing, unidentified, or unclaimed. It is not a source for statistics or information on all missing, unidentified, and/or unclaimed persons nationwide. Data fields to capture race, ethnicity, age, sex assigned at birth, and other demographic markers reflect the information entered into the NamUs database by the reporting party.

Unidentified persons cases who were estimated to be aged 20 or younger accounted for 7.4% (1,119) of active cases at the close of FY24. Approximately 97% (14,661) of all unidentified remains cases in the database had been active for one year or more. More than 61% (9,237) 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, 2024), are below.

### Length of Time Unidentified Remains Cases Have Been Active

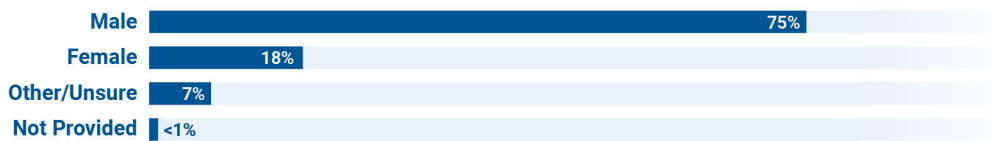


### Manner of Death for Unidentified Person



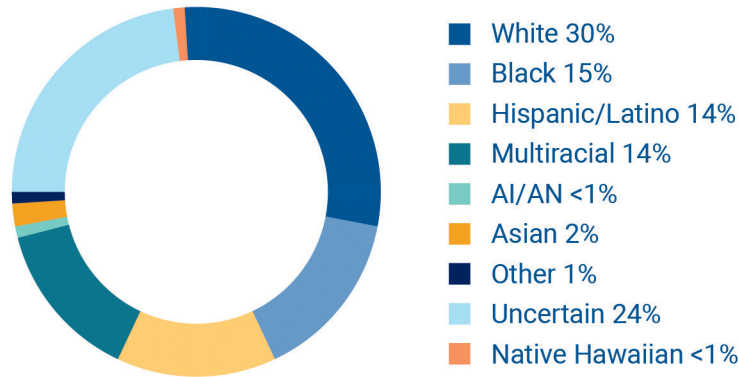
*Note: Once an individual’s identity is known, investigators typically review the person’s background such as medical history, mental health history, known risk factors, circumstances of disappearance, and more to determine a more reliable manner of death. A thorough review of the person’s background can trigger an update to the “Manner of Death” after all contextual information has been reviewed and considered. Source: National Institute of Justice. (2024). Death Investigation: A Guide for the Scene Investigator. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. NCJ 308955.*

### Biological Sex Estimated for Unidentified Person



*Note: NamUs provides unsure or other categories in the application for instances where an individual’s biological sex is unknown, not provided, or otherwise biologically does not align with the standard biological male/female classification due to medical and genetic conditions (i.e., individuals with XXY Klinefelter syndrome, XYY syndrome, true hermaphroditism). The percentages in the graphic are rounded up to the nearest whole number.*

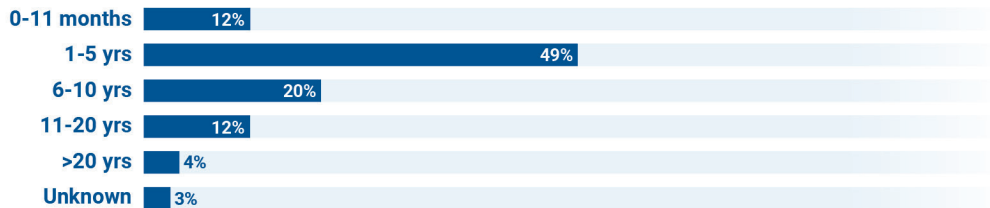
### Estimated Race/Ethnicity of Unidentified Person



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

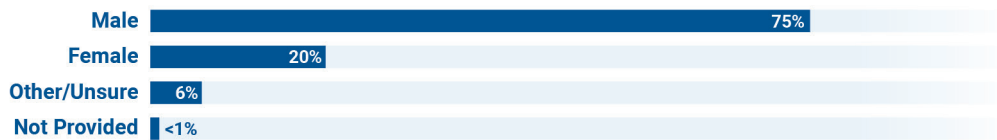
Similarly, 84% of all unclaimed persons cases in the database had been active for one year or more. Race/ethnicity and biological sex demographic data for active unclaimed persons cases as of September 30, 2024, are below.

### Length of Time Unclaimed Persons Cases Have Been Active



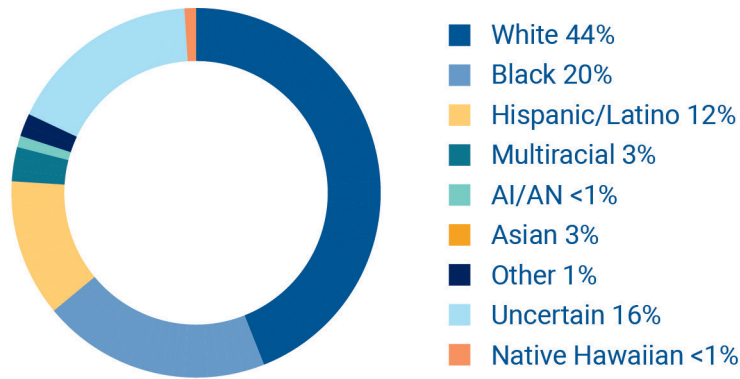
Note: The percentages in the graphic are rounded up to the nearest whole number.

### Biological Sex Reported for Unclaimed Person



Note: NamUs provides unsure or other categories in the application for instances where an individual's biological sex is unknown, not provided, or otherwise biologically does not align with the standard biological male/female classification due to medical and genetic conditions (i.e., individuals with XXY Klinefelter syndrome, XYY syndrome, true hermaphroditism). The percentages in the graphic are rounded up to the nearest whole number.

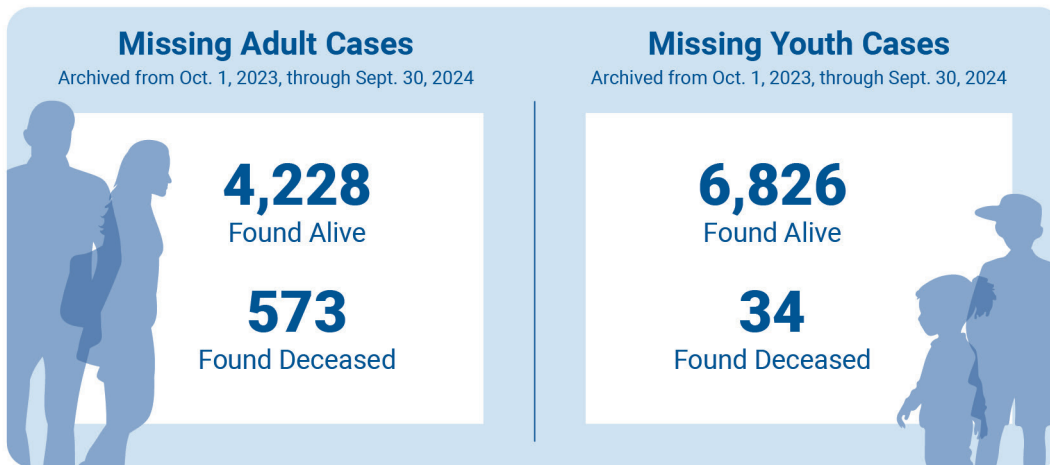
### Reported Race/Ethnicity of Unclaimed Person



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 FY24, approximately 88% of the missing adults and over 99% of the missing juveniles were found alive. These numbers represent the total of the cases archived during FY24 and are not limited to cases created and archived during FY24. Archived cases have been resolved or removed from public view based on a request from the investigating agency.

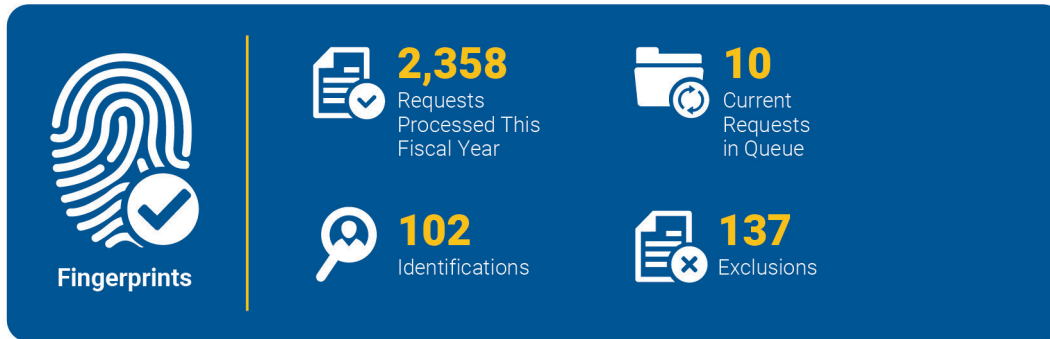


## Forensic Services and Investigative Support

NamUs forensic services include fingerprints, odontology, anthropology, traditional DNA testing, forensic image analysis, and forensic genetic genealogy. To help deliver these services, NamUs initiated collaborative partnerships and engaged with service providers across the nation, including two forensic odontologists, two private DNA laboratories, one state-level National DNA Index System (NDIS) participating laboratory, one forensic artist, and federal partners.

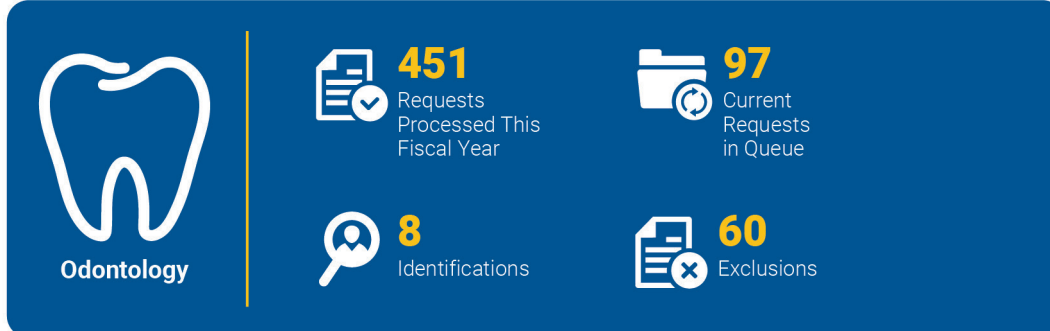
### Fingerprint Services

During FY24, 2,358 fingerprint requests were processed. This work yielded 102 identifications and 137 exclusions.



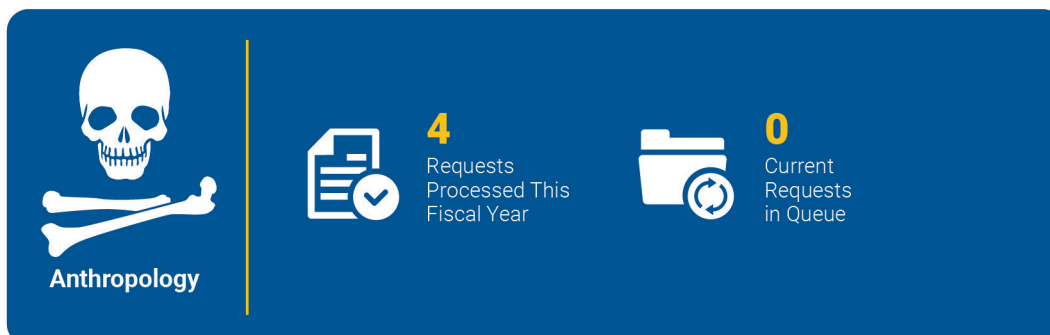
### Odontology Services

During FY24, 451 odontology requests were processed. This work yielded eight identifications and 60 exclusions.



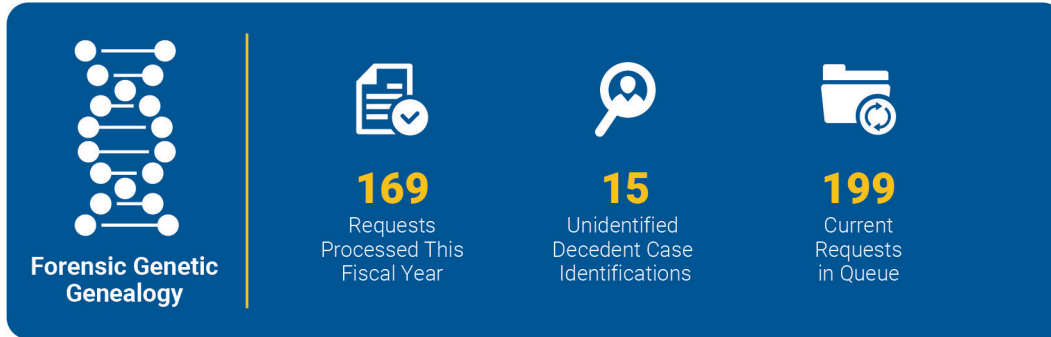
### Anthropology Services

During FY24, four anthropology requests were processed.



### Forensic Genetic Genealogy

During FY24, 169 forensic genetic genealogy (FGG) requests were approved for processing, while another 199 cases were in the queue due to resource constraints. In FY24, 15 cases generating investigative leads using FGG were confirmed with secondary methods.



### Traditional DNA

Traditional DNA processing includes the analysis of STR, Y-STR, and mitochondrial DNA markers, as well as review and uploading to the national DNA Database or 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. During FY24, 295 traditional DNA requests were processed. This work resulted in four exclusions, 17 identifications of missing and unidentified persons cases based on manual comparison, and 17 CODIS associations. NamUs staff also assisted law enforcement agencies with the collection of 170 family reference samples in FY24.


 Traditional DNA Requests	Annual Goal	Yearly Progress	Amount in Queue
Family Reference Samples	<b>110</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>553</b>
Direct Reference Samples	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>54</b>
Unidentified Remains Samples	<b>120</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>547</b>

Table 1: Types of DNA Analysis Defined

Type of DNA Analysis	Description
<b>Short tandem repeat (STR) analysis</b>	A method of DNA analysis that targets regions on the chromosome that contain multiple copies of a short DNA sequence in succession.
<b>Y-STR</b>	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.
<b>Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA)</b>	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 persons 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. During FY24, 261 analytical service requests were processed, resulting in four resolutions.



## Forensic Image Services

NamUs forensic image services include:

- Tattoo database searching
- Facial recognition searching
- Forensic art services

During FY24, 328 forensic image requests were processed. This work yielded three identifications. Additional images generated by forensic artist services increased the number of images made publicly available for searching. NamUs resolved over 50 cases through family recognition of their loved ones or their loved ones' personal effects in FY24.



## Case Management and Investigative Support

NamUs program staff assist professional and public users with case management. Each U.S. state and territory is served by a team of regional system administrators (RSAs). When a case is entered into NamUs, it is assigned to an RSA team based on the investigating agency's location. For each case in their region, the RSA 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, NamUs system administrators also vet professional users and set coverage areas and application permissions.

In April FY24, NamUs introduced the Cold Case Advisory (CCA) team, a multidisciplinary team (MDT) of subject matter experts (SMEs), consisting of former law enforcement, medicolegal death investigators, DNA specialists, analysts, and forensic scientists. This team provides investigative support to agencies by:

- Providing training and outreach to NamUs users.
- Coordinating and implementing "Missing Persons Day" events.
- Providing tailored technical assistance to support individual case needs.
- Acting as professional community liaisons with other federal agencies.
- Contacting investigating agencies for biometric/analytical enhancements.
- Triaging biometric/analytical requests from investigating agencies in conjunction with forensic service providers to ensure requests are met.
- Conducting comprehensive case reviews for investigating agencies upon request.

Program staff also handled nine FOIA requests for data from the NamUs database.

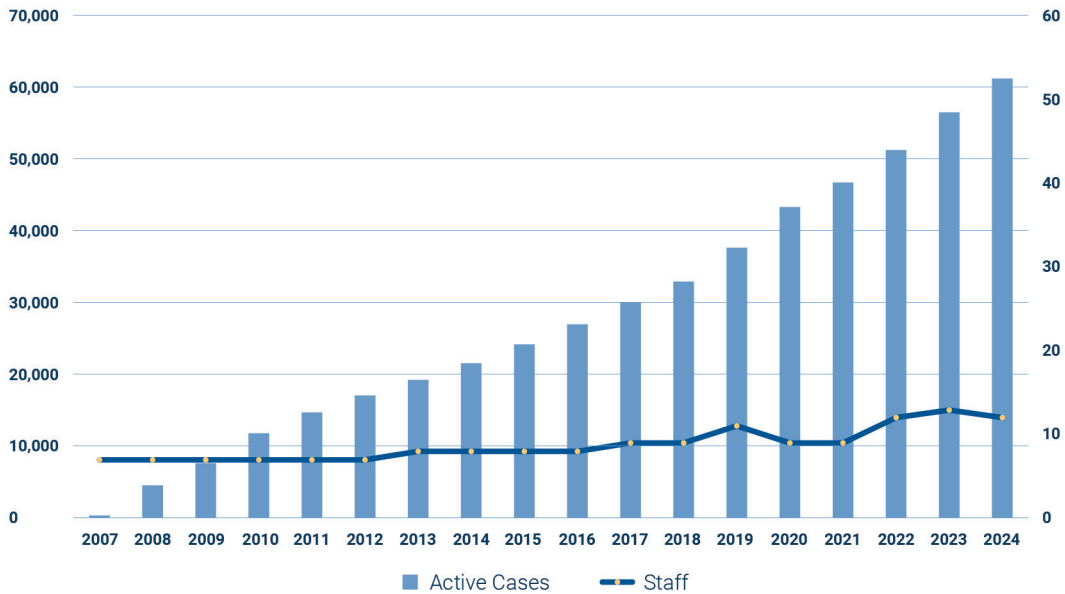
The table below reflects the full efforts of the MDT SMEs since deployment. Overall, this team was able to positively affect 409 cases in FY24. This includes updates to NamUs case records, collection of additional biometric records, and/or case archival.

Test Type	Completed Requests	In-Queue Requests	Cases Closed Through Outreach	Additional Biometrics Obtained/Updated	ID Assistance
CCA Review: Dentals	485	357	0	47	0
CCA Review: Prints	1116	105	63	233	32
CCA Review: Images	253	65	0	60	0
CCA Review: DNA	439	662	-	-	-
CCA Review: Post Resolution Case Review	782	340	-	-	-
CCA Review: Anthropology	84	21	-	-	-
CCA Review: Comprehensive Review	0	52	-	-	-
CCA Review: Report - LE	5	3	-	-	-
CCA Review: FGG	18	21	-	-	-
CCA Review: Report - ME/C	18	2	-	-	-
CCA Review: International	0	0	-	-	-
CCA Review: Analytical	0	0	-	-	-
MDT Reviews	0	0	-	-	-

*Note: Completed requests resulted in (A) direct technical assistance provided to a NamUs user with a question requiring subject matter expertise, (B) review of a forensic request to advance for triage, (C) an update to a NamUs case record, (D) collection of additional biometric records, and/or (E) case archival. "Cases Closed Through Outreach" are cases where the status was updated to "archived" following outreach efforts. During outreach for biometric updates, the agency confirmed that the case was previously resolved but had not yet been marked as such in the database. "Additional Biometrics Obtained/Updated" and "ID Assistance" reflect cases that have directly benefited from the MDT SME Team's activity and outreach. This does not capture the full extent of biometrics obtained and resolutions made through NamUs during the fiscal year, as it solely reflects MDT SME Team activities.*

Since 2009 (when both the missing and unidentified persons databases became operational within NamUs), the program has seen an extraordinary eightfold increase in the number of active cases being supported at any given time. The number of staff available to manage the caseload has remained virtually unchanged.

### Active Cases (All Databases) With Case Assistance Staffing Levels



### Outreach, Training, and Technical Assistance

The NamUs staff provide 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 FY24, the NamUs program participated in over 85 individual outreach, training, and technical assistance events, reaching more than 36,000 NamUs users. For a list of events, please visit the [NamUs Past Events webpage](#).

[NamUs.NIJ.OJP.gov](https://www.nam.us) received approximately 1.7 million website views from more than 969,000 unique users in FY24.

### 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 (CBP) 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 FY24, NamUs representatives attended one national summit.

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

#### ***Tribal Partnerships***

NamUs representatives participated in 28 tribally affiliated events in a continued effort to improve the response to missing or murdered indigenous persons cases. For a list of these events, please see the [tribal events](#) page on the NamUs website.

In FY24, NamUs continued the support of 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](#). This legislation calls for increased data collection and information sharing related to missing or murdered indigenous persons cases and education for tribal law enforcement about the resources available from NamUs.

#### ***Veterans Affairs***

In FY24, 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 and the need for data-sharing among organizations to identify individuals who qualify for veteran funeral benefits. The VA was unable to meet data sharing requirements with NamUs based on policies and procedures, concluding discussions surrounding a memorandum of understanding. The VA continues to have access to all NamUs’ public data.

#### ***Bureau of Justice Assistance***

In FY24, NamUs and the Office of Justice Programs’ 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 Human Remains program and NamUs forensic services.

#### ***Federal Bureau of Investigation***

In FY24, a NamUs/FBI liaison worked to ensure that data in NamUs, ViCAP, and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) are up to date and uniform.

In accordance with U.S. Statutes at Large 136 Stat. 4454 - Public Law No. 117-327 (Billy's Law), NamUs program staff initiated an assessment of the NamUs and NCIC systems architecture, governing statutes, policies, and procedures. This assessment (still in process) will help provide insight and determine the minimum requirements for the secure and automatic data transmission of missing and unidentified persons 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 that there are greater 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 entirety of this effort. Billy's Law requires the secure and automatic data transmission of these files, and manual entry is neither compliant nor realistic.

# 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 (DOJ) 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 the date and place of death.

### California

Although there is no legislation in California that mandates the use of 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 the use of 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 indicate that the disappearance was not voluntary.
- Disappeared under circumstances that indicate 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 a 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 (NCMEC). 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 report 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 the 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 into 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 [unidentified persons](#) information to NamUs and WEAPON for entry into all other appropriate law enforcement databases.

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\*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.