New York City Police Department

Biotracks Program

Hon. Raymond W. Kelly

Police Commissioner

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Deputy Chief Denis McCarthy
C.O., Forensic Investigations Division

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Acting Director, NYPD Police Laboratory

Sgt. Joe Blozis & Crim. Lisa Faber
Biotracks Coordinators

Officers
What is Biotracks?

• Pilot program funded by NIJ
• Initiated by W. Mark Dale
• Focused on no-suspect burglaries
• Designed to leverage technology of the DNA Databank in order to identify recidivists & reduce crime
Establishing the Team

- NYPD Laboratory
- OCME Dept of Forensic Biology
- Contract Laboratories
- District Attorney’s Office
- Precinct Commanders
- Evidence Collection Teams
Evidence Collection Teams

- Trained in recognition & collection of possible biological evidence
- Instructed to swab any contact surfaces and prints of no value
- Submitted up to 4 most probative items
- Took elimination swab from complainant if possible
Geographical Scope
How *Biotracks* Works

- Queens North ECT
- Queens South ECT

NYPD Laboratory

- Vendor A
- Vendor B

Case files

OCME Dept. of Forensic Biology

How Biotracks Works
Preliminary Data

Sept 2003 – July 2004:

• ECTs collected possible biological evidence from 311 scenes
• NYPD submitted 537 items of evidence to contract labs
537 total items

Types of Items Submitted

- Touch: 277
- Clothing: 92
- Possible Blood: 72
- Bottles & Cans: 60
- Cigarette Butts: 19
- Other: 17

Types of Items Submitted
158 CODIS-eligible profiles yielded:

- 51 case-to-offender matches to 37 offenders
- 28 cases matched at least one other case
- 32% of CODIS-eligible profiles matched a convicted offender
Case-to-Offender Patterns

Of the 37 known offenders:

• 1 offender matched to 5 burglaries
• 3 offenders matched to 3 burglaries each
• 4 offenders matched to 2 burglaries each
Offender Pattern – Robert Medina

Scarf
Possible blood
Pocket knife
Hair from scarf
Insoles of shoes

5 burglaries within 7 days!
Arrest Data

Of the 37 convicted offenders:

- 24 arrested for 37 offenses
- 3 wanted & 5 awaiting charges
- 5 previously arrested for that crime

Arrest Data
Hit Notifications

OCME Dept. of Forensic Biology
DNA match letter

NYPD Laboratory
Match letter & hit notification memo

Chief of Detectives
Queens Detective Borough
Detective Squad
Queens District Attorney
Arrest Follow-up Memo

Case Detective
within 14 days

Queens Detective Bureau

Chief of Detectives

NYPD Laboratory

Arrest Follow-up Memo
Recidivism - Prior Convictions

35 offenders
(80% convicted for violent felonies, 1 for homicide, 1 for 4 sex offenses)
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- New York State DNA Databank
- Bureau of Justice Statistics
- NYS Division of Criminal Justices Services
- NYPD Office of Management Analysis and Planning