Denver’s DNA Burglary Program

Mitch Morrissey - Denver District Attorney
Denver’s DNA Burglary Project
Focus: Property Crimes

• Different level and depth of training required.

• Develop and maintain good communication between police districts, the crime lab and the DA’s office.

• In the 2 year study there are 510 cases in the project and 204 cases filed with the DA’s office.
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• 95 habitual burglars have been arrested and prosecuted because of the project.
• 97 “John Doe” cases have been filed tolling the statute of limitations.
• 36 “John Doe” cases have been converted to named cases.
Denver’s DNA Burglary Program

- DNA evidence increased the prosecution rate by 8 times.
- DNA evidence resulted in a 10-fold increase in average sentence time for these offenders (13.9 years with DNA compare to 1.4 years in traditionally investigated cases).
Denver’s DNA Burglary Program

• Reduced home burglaries in Denver by 26%.
• Savings over 2 years of $25.6 million in property loss and 150 hours of time for each police officer.
• Return on investment on every dollar spent a return of $63.
Denver’s DNA Burglary Program

- After the Federal funds ran out the city continued the program.
- In 2008 filed 145 DNA based property crime cases and prosecuted an additional 53 habitual offenders.
- Additional 11 percent reduction in home burglaries.