



# CODIS

The FBI Laboratory's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) began as a pilot software project in 1990 serving 14 state and local laboratories. The DNA Identification Act of 1994 formalized the FBI's authority to establish a National DNA Index System (NDIS) for law enforcement purposes. Today, over 170 public law enforcement laboratories participate in NDIS across the United States. Internationally, more than 40 law enforcement laboratories in over 25 countries use the CODIS software for their own database initiatives.



## Crime

CODIS generates investigative leads in cases where biological evidence is recovered from the crime scene. Matches made among profiles in the Forensic Index can link crime scenes together; possibly identifying serial offenders. Based upon a match, police from multiple jurisdictions can coordinate their respective investigations and share the leads they developed independently. Matches made between the Forensic and Offender Indexes provide investigators with the identity of a suspected perpetrator(s). Since names and other personally identifiable information are not stored at NDIS, qualified DNA analysts in the laboratories sharing matching profiles contact each other to confirm the candidate match.



### Convicted Offender

contains profiles of individuals convicted of crimes.

### Forensic

contains DNA profiles developed from crime scene evidence, such as semen stains or blood.

### Arrestees

contains profiles of arrested persons (if state law permits the collection of arrestee samples).

### Missing Persons

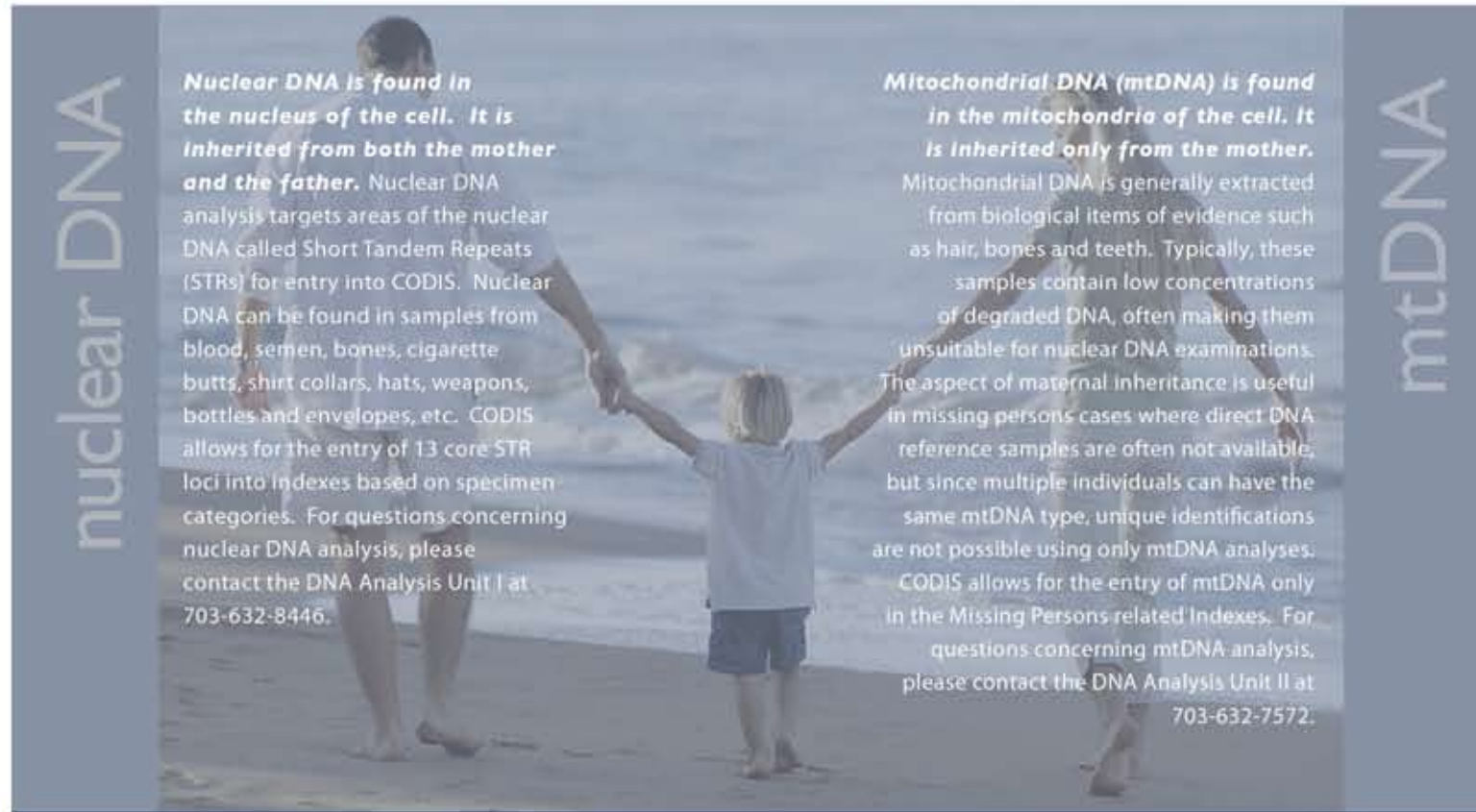
contains DNA reference profiles from missing persons.

### Unidentified Human Remains

contains DNA profiles developed from unidentified human remains.

### Biological Relatives of Missing Persons

contains DNA profiles voluntarily contributed from relatives of missing persons.



nuclear DNA

**Nuclear DNA is found in the nucleus of the cell. It is inherited from both the mother and the father.** Nuclear DNA analysis targets areas of the nuclear DNA called Short Tandem Repeats (STRs) for entry into CODIS. Nuclear DNA can be found in samples from blood, semen, bones, cigarette butts, shirt collars, hats, weapons, bottles and envelopes, etc. CODIS allows for the entry of 13 core STR loci into indexes based on specimen categories. For questions concerning nuclear DNA analysis, please contact the DNA Analysis Unit I at 703-632-8446.

**Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is found in the mitochondria of the cell. It is inherited only from the mother.** Mitochondrial DNA is generally extracted from biological items of evidence such as hair, bones and teeth. Typically, these samples contain low concentrations of degraded DNA, often making them unsuitable for nuclear DNA examinations. The aspect of maternal inheritance is useful in missing persons cases where direct DNA reference samples are often not available, but since multiple individuals can have the same mtDNA type, unique identifications are not possible using only mtDNA analyses. CODIS allows for the entry of mtDNA only in the Missing Persons related Indexes. For questions concerning mtDNA analysis, please contact the DNA Analysis Unit II at 703-632-7572.

mtDNA

## Missing Persons



In 2000, the FBI Laboratory began developing the National Missing Person DNA Database (NMPDD) program for the identification of missing and unidentified persons.

Both mtDNA and STR profiles can be entered into the missing persons indexes of CODIS. Efforts to enhance kinship analysis for missing persons data is a top priority of the CODIS Program. Once fully implemented, the enhancements will provide investigators with a powerful tool in the identification of missing and unidentified persons on a national level. For questions concerning missing persons cases, please contact the DNA Analysis Unit I (Nuclear DNA) at 703-632-8446, or the DNA Analysis Unit II (mtDNA) at 703-632-7572.

### NMPDD uses 3 Indexes in NDIS



to enter DNA profiles that can be searched against each other

Unidentified Human Remains

Missing Persons

Biological Relatives of Missing Persons