

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



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CRIME LABORATORY

5800 Guadalupe

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Austin, TX 78752

Voice 512-424-2105 Fax 512-424-2869

CrimeLabRecords@dps.texas.gov



COMMISSION
STEVEN P. MACH, CHAIRMAN
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JASON K. PULLIAM
RANDY WATSON

June 20, 2018

Via email to erin.murphy@nyu.edu

Ms. Erin Murphy
NYU School of Law
40 Washington Square South, Ste. 419
New York, NY 10012

Re: Request for offender and arrestee demographics pertaining to the Texas SDIS database

The Texas Department of Public Safety Austin Regional Crime Laboratory received your above reference request for public information via email on June 14, 2018. A copy of your request is enclosed for reference.

The information the Department located in response to your request is provided below:

As of June 19, 2018:

Offenders* Total	845,322
Female Offenders	121,434
Asian	3,361
African American	254,366
Caucasian	309,010
Hispanic	276,245
Native American	138
Other	2,173
Arrestee* Total	73,631
Female Arrestees	18,721
Asian	497
African American	12,903
Caucasian	33,486
Hispanic	24,202
Native American	24
Other	358

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Please note, there may be differences between the combined total based on race/ethnic group and the offender/arrestee total provided due to differences between the SDIS database and the local CODIS Laboratory Information Management System for samples which have not yet been uploaded.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please submit them in writing via facsimile to (512) 424-2869, via email to crimelabrecords@dps.texas.gov, or via mail or in person at our Austin offices located at 5800 Guadalupe Street.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Howard, Laboratory Records Program Specialist
Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory

Howard, Jennifer

Subject:

RE: Other

-----Original Message-----

From: erin.murphy@nyu.edu <erin.murphy@nyu.edu>

Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2018 6:16 PM

To: OGC Webmaster <OGC.Webmaster@dps.texas.gov>

Subject: Other

Salutation: MS

First Name: Erin

Last Name: Murphy

Company: NYU School of Law

E-Mail: erin.murphy@nyu.edu

Mailing Address line1: 40 Washington Square South, Suite 419 Mailing Address line2:

City: New York

State: NY

Zip: 10012

Phone: 2129986672

Fax: 2129954341

How would you prefer to be contacted? Email

Description of Request Information: Pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act, §6252-17a et seq., I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records that provide the demographic characteristics of your state level (SDIS) DNA database. Specifically, I am seeking a snapshot in time of: 1) the total number of DNA profiles held in the convicted offender and arrested offender databases; 2) the percentage or number of those profiles that belong to females versus males; 3) the percentage or number of those profiles that fall within specific racial and ethnic categories, in terms of the major racial/ethnic groups (e.g., Caucasian/White, African-American/Black, Hispanic, Asian, etc.). I do not seek any personally identifying or individualized information; I only want an aggregate statistic. I also recognize that the composition of the database may change day-to-day, which is why I ask only for a recent snapshot at any moment in time (ideally within the last year). Finally, I prefer to receive the information according to the categories described (convicted offender and arrestee) but will accept data that combines those groups.

If there are any fees for searching or providing these records, then I request a waiver of all fees for this request since the disclosure of the information I seek is not primarily in my commercial interest and is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government, making the disclosure a matter of public interest.

Should you deny my request, or any part of the request, please state in writing the basis for the denial, including the exact statutory citation authorizing the denial.

I will contact your office to discuss when I may expect fulfillment of my request, and payment of any statutorily prescribed fees. If you have any questions in the interim, you may contact me at 212-998-6672 or erin.murphy@nyu.edu.

Thank you.