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CODIS Cold Case

DNA sampling played a critical role in identifying a serial offender who committed multiple violent crimes. In Kuwait in 2010, the FBI collected DNA from a crime scene in matched DNA evidence from two earlier attacks; both attacked occurred in Norfolk, Virginia in 2008. The DNA evidence was helpful in linking the crimes together. The FBI was able to uncover the identity of the attacker, Amin Garcia, due to analyzing his fingerprints and cross matching with data in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), then .

DNA was collected during each crime investigation. After the first two attacks in 2008, DNA and fingerprints were collected but did not yield any matches in the CODIS at the time. In 2010, DNA was collected from a blood sample in Kuwait, and now with the extra information in the CODIS, was able to link the crime scenes together. This lead to Garcia’s arrest and later life sentencing in 2014.

This case shows that DNA samples collected can help in the future even if they are not eventful at the time. I believe DNA samples of people not convicted of a crime should still be collected into the CODIS; especially, if the person is a suspect. This is because it is statistically more likely to be arrested again, and the DNA evidence could help solve the future arrest. So to provide evidence for future trials, it makes sense to have the DNA stored.

Works Cited

Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2015, June 19). Investigator awarded for identifying violent serial offender. https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2015-biometric-identification-award