

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FACT SHEET

POSTCONVICTION TESTING OF DNA EVIDENCE

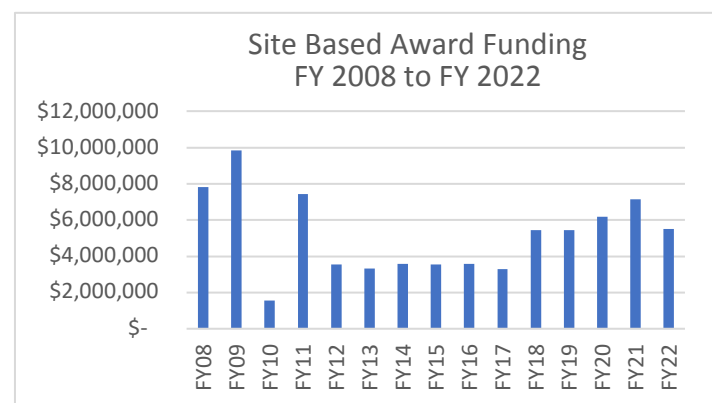
The Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence Program funds projects that assist states and units of local government with postconviction DNA testing in cases of violent felony offenses where actual innocence might be demonstrated. This supports the Department of Justice's mission "to ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans." While successful exonerations to correct injustice are notable program outcomes, the careful review, consideration, and closing of cases subjected to postconviction DNA testing that do not ultimately demonstrate innocence also work to advance the public's interest that justice has been fairly applied.

Program Goals

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence Program aims to assist in:

1. Identifying potential postconviction DNA testing cases.
2. Reviewing appropriate postconviction cases to identify those in which DNA testing could prove the actual innocence of a person convicted of a violent felony offense as defined by state law.
3. Locating biological evidence associated with such postconviction cases.
4. Performing DNA analysis of appropriate biological evidence, and reporting and reviewing the DNA test results.

Program Funding and Awards



Program Accomplishments

- 117 total funded awards.
- \$77,338,116 total funding amount.
- More than 170,000 cases reviewed.
- More than 300 profiles uploaded into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS).
- More than 100 CODIS hits.
- Though exonerations are not the sole measure of program success, 59 exonerations have resulted from this program.



- One of the latest exonerations:
 - In 2007 [Terance Calhoun](#) was convicted of sexual assault of two victims. After serving 15 years in prison, Mr. Calhoun was exonerated from Wayne County, Michigan.

Additional Information

- BJA Program Web Page: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/postconviction-testing-dna-evidence/overview>
- National Registry of Exonerations: <http://www.law.umich.edu/special/exoneration/Pages/about.aspx>

ABOUT BJA

BJA helps America's state, local, and tribal jurisdictions reduce and prevent crime, lower recidivism, and promote a fair and safe criminal justice system. BJA provides a wide range of resources—including grants, funding, and training and technical assistance—to law enforcement, courts and corrections agencies, treatment providers, reentry practitioners, justice information sharing professionals, and community-based partners to address chronic and emerging criminal justice challenges nationwide. To learn more about BJA, visit bja.ojp.gov or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/DOJBJA) and Twitter (@DOJBJA). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.