

maintenance, and expansion of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) for the purpose of carrying out this Act [enacting this section].”

§ 40505. Reporting on National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) Program

Not later than 18 months after December 31, 2020, and every year thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress regarding—

- (1) the number of unidentified person cases processed;
- (2) CODIS associations and identifications;
- (3) the number of anthropology cases processed;
- (4) the number of suspected border crossing cases and associations made;
- (5) the number of trials supported with expert testimony;
- (6) the number of students trained and professions of those students; and
- (7) the turnaround time and backlog.

(Pub. L. 116–277, § 4, Dec. 31, 2020, 134 Stat. 3370.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019, and not as part of Jennifer’s Law which comprises this chapter.

§ 40506. Authorization of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

(a) In general

The Attorney General,¹ shall maintain the “National Missing and Unidentified Persons System” or “NamUs”, consistent with the following:

- (1) The NamUs shall be a national information clearinghouse and resource center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases across the United States administered by the National Institute of Justice and managed through an agreement with an eligible entity.
- (2) The NamUs shall coordinate or provide—
 - (A) online database technology which serves as a national information clearinghouse to help expedite case associations and resolutions;
 - (B) various free-of-charge forensic services to aid in the identification of missing persons and unidentified remains;
 - (C) investigative support for criminal justice efforts to help missing and unidentified person case resolutions;
 - (D) technical assistance for family members of missing persons;
 - (E) assistance and training by coordinating State and local service providers in order to support individuals and families impacted by the loss or disappearance of a loved one; and
 - (F) training and outreach from NamUs subject matter experts, including assistance with planning and facilitating Missing Person Day events across the country.

¹ So in original. The comma probably should not appear.

(b) Permissible use of funds

(1) In general

The permissible use of funds awarded under this section for the implementation and maintenance of the agreement created in subparagraph (a)(1) include the use of funds—

- (A) to hire additional personnel to provide case support and perform other core NamUs functions;
- (B) to develop new technologies to facilitate timely data entry into the relevant data bases;
- (C) to conduct contracting activities relevant to core NamUs services;
- (D) to provide forensic analyses to support the identification of missing and unidentified persons, to include, but not limited to DNA typing, forensic odontology, fingerprint examination, and forensic anthropology;
- (E) to train State, local, and Tribal law enforcement personnel and forensic medicine service providers to use NamUs resources and best practices for the investigation of missing and unidentified person cases;
- (F) to assist States in providing information to the NCIC database, the NamUs database, or any future database system for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases;
- (G) to report to law enforcement authorities in the jurisdiction in which the remains were found information on every deceased, unidentified person, regardless of age;
- (H) to participate in Missing Person Days and other events to directly support family members of the missing with NamUs case entries and DNA collections;
- (I) to provide assistance and training by coordinating State and local service providers in order to support individuals and families;
- (J) to conduct data analytics and research projects for the purpose of enhancing knowledge, best practices, and training related to missing and unidentified person cases, as well as developing NamUs system enhancements;
- (K) to create and maintain a secure, online, nationwide critical incident response tool for professionals that will connect law enforcement, medico-legal and emergency management professionals, as well as victims and families during a critical incident; and
- (L) for other purposes consistent with the goals of this section.

(c) Amendments to the Crime Control Act of 1990 to require reports of missing children to NamUs

(1), (2) Omitted

(3) Effective date

The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to reports made before, on, or after December 27, 2022.

(Pub. L. 117–327, § 2, Dec. 27, 2022, 136 Stat. 4454.)