



The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) provides funding to help defray the costs associated with postconviction DNA testing for violent felony offenses (as defined by state law) in which actual innocence might be demonstrated. These costs include (but are not limited to) reviewing cases, locating biological evidence, hiring additional personnel, purchasing testing supplies, conducting DNA analysis, and funding overtime of program personnel.

The objectives of the Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence program include identifying potential cases for postconviction DNA testing, reviewing appropriate postconviction cases to identify those where DNA testing might prove innocence, locating biological evidence, performing DNA analysis of appropriate biological evidence, reviewing DNA test results, and reporting the results of DNA testing.



>50,000
NEW CASES REVIEWED

The number of cases that previously had not had any part of a review completed



101
COMBINED DNA INDEX SYSTEM (CODIS) HITS

Number of CODIS hits resulting from postconviction DNA testing and analysis



64
EXONERATIONS

Successful exonerations resulting from postconviction DNA testing and analysis

Process Toward Exoneration



This is a high-level overview of the basic steps in the exoneration process that are supported by this program. Within each of these steps are many hours of time devoted to various legal and investigative activities, such as interviewing witnesses, filing motions and legal hearings, that are imperative to the exoneration process.

Grantee Organization	Number of Successful Exonerations
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services	7
Virginia Department of Forensic Science	7
North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts	5
State of North Carolina	5

While exonerations that support postconviction claims are a notable outcome and objective of the program, the careful review, consideration, and closing of cases subjected to postconviction DNA testing that refute postconviction claims are also important objectives of the program.