

# NamUs Fact Sheet

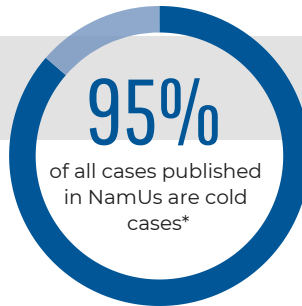
The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) is a national information clearinghouse and resource center for all missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases throughout the United States.



Funded and administered by the National Institute of Justice, and managed through a cooperative agreement with the University of North Texas (UNT) Health Science Center's UNT Center for Human Identification (UNTCHI), all NamUs resources are provided at **no cost**. The suite of no-cost NamUs resources includes technology, forensic services, investigative support, and victim services, as well as local, regional, and online training programs.



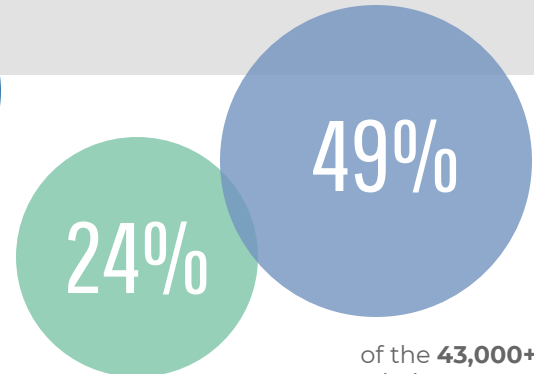
## Technology



The NamUs 2.0 Database:

- Is accessible by all -- including family members of the missing -- with sensitive criminal justice data accessible only to vetted professional users
- Is a secure, online repository of missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person case information
- Allows users to share, search, and compare case information across jurisdictional boundaries
- Includes automatic and user-defined advanced searching to locate investigative leads and resolve cases
- Serves as a case management tool for local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as medical examiners, coroners, and other allied forensic professionals

\*95% of all published cases in NamUs involve persons missing one year or more, or unidentified remains cases that been unsolved for more than one year -- what many agencies deem "cold cases".



## Tribal Data Fields

NamUs includes data fields to help tribal leaders and communities better capture and collect information on American Indian and Alaska Native missing persons:

- Who went missing from tribal land
- Enrolled or affiliated with a tribe
- With a primary residence on tribal land

Detailed tribal reports are made available by NamUs monthly, and can be downloaded from [www.NamUsInfo.org/mip](http://www.NamUsInfo.org/mip).

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**NamUs.gov**



THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER at FORT WORTH



# Free Services Provided by NamUs

## Forensic Services



### DNA Analysis and Searching

With NIJ funding through NamUs, UNTCHI develops nuclear and mitochondrial DNA profiles from unidentified decedents, family members of the missing, and direct references from missing persons, and uploads all eligible profiles to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) for searching.

### Fingerprint Examination

The NamUs Fingerprint Unit acquires, scans, classifies, uploads, analyzes, and compares fingerprint information for missing and unidentified persons.

### Forensic Odontology

NamUs forensic odontologists scan, code, and upload dental information to NamUs, as well as perform dental comparisons between missing and unidentified persons.

### Anthropology

With NIJ funding through NamUs, UNTCHI laboratories develop biological profiles from skeletal remains to aid in searches, identify and document trauma to support cause and manner of death determinations, and identify remains through the evaluation and comparison of medical records.

## Research and Analytics



NamUs research projects have contributed to the body of knowledge related to missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person case investigations, as well as supported system enhancements. Data analytics allows NamUs to provide publicly-accessible monthly updates on case data.

## Victim Services



### Mental Health Referrals

NamUs victim services staff provide referrals to support groups and mental health care services, such as culturally-competent trauma-informed therapies.

### Peer-To-Peer Support Network

Through the MEND (Mentoring, Encouraging, Networking and Discussion) Program, peer mentors who have experiential knowledge offer support to families impacted by the death or disappearance of a loved one.

### Family Reunification Program

Assistance is provided to families faced with the overwhelming task of bringing a loved one home after identification, to include financial support to defray cost of exhumations, transportation, and final disposition.

## Investigative Support



### Regional Program Specialists

Regional Program Specialists provide technical assistance to families and investigative support to agencies by vetting and enhancing case data, facilitating the collection and analysis of biometric data, providing training, and locating/dispositioning tips and leads.

### Analytical Services

NamUs Analysts provide investigative support to locate indication of life for persons reported missing to NamUs, disposition leads, and locate family members to facilitate voluntary DNA collections and next of kin death notifications.

To learn more about NamUs, visit  
**[www.NamUs.gov](http://www.NamUs.gov)**

The NamUs program is a U.S. Department of Justice asset funded and administered through the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). NIJ is one of two science agencies housed within the Office of Justice Programs. NamUs is managed through a cooperative agreement with the UNT Health Science Center's UNT Center for Human Identification (award number 2016-MU-BX-K007). The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.

