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NIST 1036 Database Change Notification Letter

September 8, 2017

The Texas DPS Crime Laboratory system, as well as many other crime laboratories across the country, use the National Institute of Standards and Technologies (NIST) 1036 database for calculating match statistics in support of criminal investigations and other types of human identification applications. This NIST 1036 database has been used by the Texas DPS Crime Laboratory system since February 24, 2016.

On July 25, 2017, NIST gave a presentation titled "Lessons learned from the characterization of a large set of population samples: identifying and addressing discordance" at the Forensic Science Error Management International Forensics Symposium. The presentation and datasets are available on STRbase at <http://strbase.nist.gov/NISTpop.htm>. The presentation details changes made to the NIST 1036 database.

Additionally, the Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory Service received a bulletin from the Federal Bureau of Investigation on July 27, 2017 regarding NIST revised population data.

After receiving the notifications, DNA profiles were evaluated using the statistical tools currently in use with both the previous and revised versions of the NIST database. The results indicated the impact of the NIST database changes to be negligible.

Two thousand seven hundred thirty-one cases (2,731) are estimated to have statistics reported that were calculated using the NIST 1036 database since February 24, 2016. A list of these cases is attached.

The NIST database is a dataset used in the calculation of statistics to assist the trier of fact in applying appropriate weight to an association. Because the database corrections are minor, the statistics will not change significantly; there should be no impact on DNA profile interpretation and no impact on the inclusion or exclusion of victims or defendants in any result.

If you have any further questions regarding this notification or the details of the evaluation conducted, please contact your local crime laboratory.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Brady W Mills'.

Brady W Mills
Assistant Division Director
Law Enforcement Support
Crime Laboratory Service