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The DNA Backlog: How Did We Get Here?

Oprah recently claimed the DNA backlog is law enforcement's dirty little secret, noting that if Baltimore PD had just paid \$500.00 to have a rape kit processed, an 1987 sexual homicide would have been solved. This workshop will recognize various barriers to realizing the potential of DNA evidence, and ways of overcoming these barriers.

At the conclusion of the session, participants will be able to:

- Understand the evolution of DNA and the current status of DNA in the United States
- Understand why most rape kits have sat in crime laboratories and police property rooms untouched.
- Identify CODIS, local, state and national databases
- Discuss the importance of DNA in the Sexual Assault Investigation and the safety of the community