

Denver's Study on Preventable Crimes

Requiring DNA for felony arrests can solve and prevent violent crimes. Waiting for conviction can cost lives and allows sexual predators to continue to rape victims.

Study completed by the Denver District Attorney's Office



The Denver District Attorney's Office examined the criminal activities of five individuals and has identified 47 violent crimes, including 3 murders and 18 sexual assaults that could have been prevented if DNA had been treated as fingerprints and taken at the time the individual was arrested on a felony. In each case, the offender had committed previously undetected violent crimes that could have been solved immediately through a DNA match. However, DNA was not required at arrest.



What crimes could have been prevented?

- **3 Murders**
- **18 Sexual Assaults**
- **1 Attempted Sexual Assault**
- **7 Kidnappings**
- **4 Robberies**
- **3 Felony Assault**
- **11 Burglaries (Home Invasions)**

Denver Preventable Crimes – Real-life stories that reveal the power of requiring DNA upon felony arrest - Missed opportunities to prevent crime.

Jacques Richardson was convicted of one murder/burglary and three sexual assault/felony assault/robbery/burglaries. If the state had required him to give a DNA sample during his felony menacing arrest on January 1, 1997, a DNA match could have been obtained with the DNA evidence recovered from his first sexual assault/felony assault/robbery/burglary committed on January 1, 1997. Two subsequent sexual assault/felony assault/robbery/burglaries and one subsequent murder/burglary could have been prevented.

Ned Pace was convicted of two sexual assault/murders and one sexual assault/kidnapping. If the state had required him to give a DNA sample during his felony arrest for sexual assault on a child on October 8, 1995, a DNA match could have been obtained with the DNA evidence recovered from his first sexual assault/murder. Two subsequent sexual assault/murders and one subsequent sexual assault/kidnapping could have been prevented.

Jesse Costillo was convicted of sexual assault/kidnapping, felony assault and sexual assault/kidnapping/robbery. If the state had required him to give a DNA sample during any of his six felony arrests from January 4, 1990 to December 18, 2001, a DNA match could have been obtained with the DNA evidence recovered from his first sexual assault committed on August 23, 2001. One subsequent sexual assault/kidnapping/robbery and one subsequent felony assault could have been prevented.

Theodor A. Castillo was convicted of eight sexual assault/burglaries. If the state had required him to give a DNA sample during his felony arrest for theft by receiving from April 30, 1985, a DNA match could have been obtained with the DNA evidence recovered from his first sexual assault/burglary committed on December 25, 1989. Seven subsequent sexual assault/burglaries could have been prevented.

Michael Lollis is charged with nine sexual assaults, six kidnappings, three robberies, two burglaries, and one attempted sexual assault. If the state had required him to give a DNA sample for his felony forgery arrest from February 17, 2004, a DNA match could have been obtained with the DNA evidence recovered from the first two sexual assaults he is charged with in Denver (the DNA from both cases was loaded into the DNA database on December 22, 2004). Five subsequent sexual assaults, five kidnappings, two robberies, one burglary, and one attempted sexual assault could have been prevented.