

Chicago's Study on Preventable Crimes

Requiring DNA for felony arrests can solve and prevent violent crimes. Waiting for conviction can cost lives.

Study completed by the City of Chicago, and presented to the State Legislature in 2005



60 violent crimes could have been prevented, including 53 murders and rapes

This study proves the public safety benefit of requiring DNA samples upon arrest for felony crimes. Most states require DNA collection upon felony conviction, but review of criminal history records shows that offenders typically have numerous felony arrests before a conviction is ever secured. The full potential of state DNA databases in solving and preventing crimes cannot be fully realized until state legislatures act to expand the DNA databases to require DNA collection for felony arrests.

Chicago's examination of the criminal activities of eight individuals identified 60 violent crimes, including 53 murders and rapes, that could have been prevented if DNA had been treated as "the fingerprint of the 21st century." 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?

- 22 murders – victims ranging from 24 to 44 years of age
- 30 rapes – victims ranging from 15 to 65 years of age
- Attempted rapes
- Aggravated kidnapping

The eight offenders in Chicago accumulated a total of 21 felony arrests before finally being identified in the violent crimes. Only seven of the prior felony arrests were for violent crimes – the remaining two-thirds of arrests were for non-violent felonies.

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

Andre Crawford was charged with eleven murders and one attempted murder/aggravated sexual assault.

If the state had required him to give a DNA sample during his felony arrest on March 6, 1993, a DNA match could have been obtained with the DNA evidence recovered from his first murder. **Ten murders could have been prevented. If Crawford's DNA had been taken on March 6, 1993 after he was arrested for attempted sexual abuse (felony), the subsequent 10 murders and one rape would not have happened.**



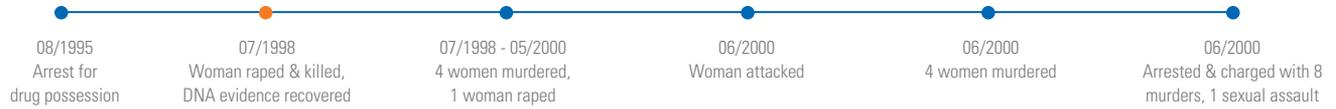
Brandon Harris was convicted of five aggravated criminal sexual assaults and one aggravated kidnapping/attempted rape.

If the state had required him to give a DNA sample during his felony arrest on August 25, 2000, a DNA match could have been obtained with the DNA evidence recovered from his first rape. **Four rapes and one attempted rape/armed robbery/aggravated kidnapping could have been prevented. Harris was convicted of 5 aggravated criminal sexual assaults and 1 attempted aggravated criminal sexual assault.**



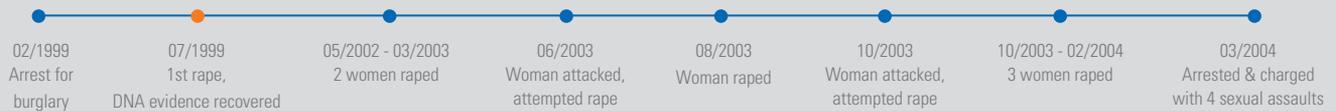
Geoffrey Griffin was charged with eight murders and one aggravated criminal sexual assault.

If the state had required him to give a DNA sample during his felony arrest on August 26, 1995, a DNA match could have been obtained with the DNA evidence recovered from his first rape. **Eight murders, one rape and one attempted rape could have been prevented. If Griffin's DNA had been taken on August 26, 1995 after he was arrested for possession of a controlled substance (felony), the subsequent eight murders, one rape and one attempted rape would not have happened.**



Mario Villa was charged with four rapes, linked by DNA to two other rapes and was a main suspect in an additional rape and two attempted rapes.

If the state had required him to give a DNA sample during his felony arrest on February 6, 1999, a DNA match could have been obtained with the DNA evidence recovered from his first rape. **Eight rapes or attempted rapes could have been prevented. If Villa's DNA had been taken in February 1999 after he was arrested for burglary (felony), the subsequent six rapes and attempted rapes would not have happened.**



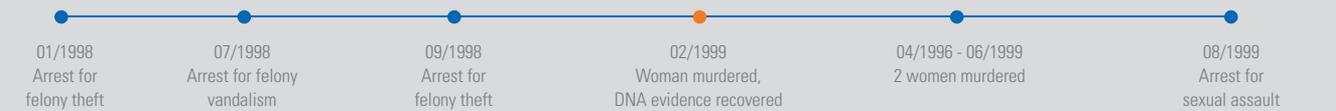
Bernard Middleton was charged with one murder and three aggravated criminal sexual assaults.

If the state had required him to give a DNA sample during either of his felony arrests in 1987 and 1993, a DNA match could have been obtained with the DNA evidence recovered from his first rape. One murder and two rapes could have been prevented. **If Middleton's DNA had been taken on Jan 17, 1987 after he was arrested for aggravated battery or on May 6, 1993 after he was arrested for felony theft, the subsequent murder and two rapes would not have happened. In May 2003, Middleton was charged with murder and 3 rapes.**



Ronald Macon was convicted of three murders and one criminal sexual assault.

If the state had required him to give a DNA sample his first felony arrest on January 13, 1998, a DNA match could have been obtained with the DNA evidence recovered from his first murder. Two subsequent murders and one criminal sexual assault would have been prevented. **In September 2003, Macon was sentenced to life in prison for 3 murders, and sentenced for 30 years for rape.**



Ronald Harris and Arto Jones were each charged with 13 aggravated criminal sexual assaults and 13 armed robberies.

If the state had required Ronald Harris to give a DNA sample during his felony arrest for possession of a stolen motor vehicle on July 15, 1994, a DNA match could have been obtained with the DNA evidence recovered from his first rape in June 2000. **Eleven rapes and robberies could have been prevented.**



Nolan Watson was charged with five counts of aggravated criminal sexual assault.

If the state had required him to give a DNA sample during his felony arrest in July 8, 1999, a DNA match could have been obtained with the DNA evidence recovered from his first rape. **The subsequent four rapes could have been prevented.**

