

Lesson 23 Study Guide: National Forensic Debate

15. The numbers of repeat offenses is one reason people support felon DNA databases. Collecting samples from offenders convicted of all felonies could help insure their DNA profiles are in the Database before they commit their first violent act. There is a 67% recidivism rate among convicted sex offenders and the average number of sexual assaults per offender is 8-13. As it turns out felons are often opportunistic and commit more than one type of crime. 52% of the offenders linked to sexual assaults and homicides by DNA database matches had a prior conviction of what type of crime?

- (A) burglary
- (B) assault & battery
- (C) kidnapping
- (D) sex offenses against children
- (E) white collar crimes

16. In the national debate about the use of forensic DNA analysis and the building of DNA databases (such as an all felon database vs. an all arrestee database of a general public database) there are two competing views. One view holds that DNA testing and the building of databases is a matter of public safety: DNA solves crimes; only criminals should fear DNA testing or databases. The opposing view holds that:

- (A) there are privacy concerns, maintaining that DNA information is different where there is significant potential for abuse
- (B) misused DNA evidence has obviously exonerated guilty people citing the OJ Simpson trial, no one is looking for the criminal of that crime
- (C) that the PCR approach to DNA testing is not accurate or reliable
- (D) DNA databases will be far too costly to maintain or use

17. Considering the National debate on DNA forensic databases which of the following is not an issue?

- (A) constitutionality of taking DNA samples from arrestees and suspects
- (B) practical/financial considerations of expanding DNA databanks
- (C) what happens to the sample after profiling?
- (D) post-conviction DNA testing. >150 exonerated-August 2004
- (E) accuracy of the DNA testing protocols

18. DNA databases are controversial because:

- (A) because of the conflict between public safety and civil liberties**
- (B) they have not proven useful to solving crimes**
- (C) they use crime genes to evaluate unsuspected criminals from the public**
- (D) they have been too expensive or computationally too difficult to manage on a large scale**

19. What are the odds of two people's DNA matching one another given the nationally used 13 CODIS core of STR loci used by state and federal forensics experts?

- (A) over 1 in a billion**
- (B) 1 in 3 million**
- (C) 1 in 700,000**
- (D) 1 in 7,000**
- (E) less than 1 in 90**

20. The numbers of repeat offenses is one reason people support felon DNA databases. Collecting samples from offenders convicted of all felonies could help insure their DNA profiles are in the Database before they commit their first violent act. There is a 67% recidivism rate among convicted sex offenders and the average number of sexual assaults per offender is 8-13. As it turns out felons are often opportunistic and commit more than one type of crime. 52% of the offenders linked to sexual assaults and homicides by DNA database matches had a prior conviction of what type of crime?

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21. Why would analyzing the DNA of burglars reduce the violent crime rate, theoretically?

- (A) DNA testing would prove that criminals are genetically predisposed to crime**
- (B) 50% of non-violent criminals go on to commit violent crimes, analysis would make proving guilt and making arrests easier**
- (C) it wouldn't**
- (D) no answer listed is correct**

22. Taking people's DNA is controversial. Why should we expand forensic DNA databases?

- (A) more hits - approximately half all violent criminals have non-violent prior convictions, if only violent offenders are collected, the likelihood of a hit (rape/homicide case) is reduced by ~ 85%.**
- (B) exclude more people who could not be the source of the DNA profile**
- (C) protect public safety**
- (D) all of these reasons**

23. The world's highest rape rate of all countries that publish such data is:

- (A) Japan**
- (B) Canada**
- (C) The United States**
- (D) England**
- (E) Italy**

24. An American woman is X times more likely to be raped than to die in a car crash:

- (A) two**
- (B) five**
- (C) ten**
- (D) the same**

25. X % of rape victims are females under the age of 18:

- (A) 12%**
- (B) 28%**
- (C) 37%**
- (D) 61%**

26. One out of every X women currently in college has been raped:

- (A) 5**
- (B) 15**
- (C) 27**
- (D) 170**

27. Approximately 28% of rape victims are raped by their husbands, and X % by an acquaintance:

- (A) 5%
- (B) 25%
- (C) 35%
- (D) 55%

28. (STR) technology is used to evaluate specific regions (loci) within nuclear DNA. Variability in STR regions can be used to distinguish one DNA profile from another. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) uses a standard set of 13 specific STR regions for CODIS. CODIS is a software program that operates local, state, and national databases of DNA profiles from convicted offenders, unsolved crime scene evidence, and missing persons. The odds that two individuals will have the same 13-loci DNA profile is extremely unlikely. STR stands for:

- (A) Standard Temperature Reactions
- (B) Statewide Tracking Reliabilities
- (C) Short Tandem Repeats
- (D) Starwars Tracking Reactions
- (E) Standard Training Recognition

29. Given DNA-based forensic techniques, standard fingerprint analysis is now obsolete.

- (A) True, PCR analysis is so sensitive and accurate that standard fingerprints are no longer collected at crime scenes
- (B) False, standard fingerprint and other latent print analysis are routine as part of crime scene investigations.
- (C) Fingerprint analysis is only conducted with local police
- (D) In all fifty states, fingerprint analysis is now considered unreliable evidence not admissible in court
- (E) Only in Texas is fingerprint analysis is now considered obsolete