

NamUs Grant Award and Abstract

Recipient: University of North Texas Health Science Center

Award Number: 2011-MU-BX-K063

Award Amount: \$2,700,000

NamUs (NamUs.gov) is a national centralized repository and resource center for missing persons and unidentified decedent records. NamUs is a free online system (in English and Spanish) that can be searched by medical examiners, coroners, law enforcement officials and the general public from all over the country in hopes of resolving these cases. When a new missing persons or unidentified decedent case is entered into NamUs, the system automatically performs cross-matching comparisons between the databases, searching for matches or similarities between cases.

Since October 2011, the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) has partnered with the National Institute of Justice to manage and administer NamUs. UNTHSC is a leading provider of scientific and technical support to agencies throughout the United States. When forensic DNA and anthropological analyses are required on a NamUs case and are not available through a qualified local or State laboratory, UNTHSC's Laboratory for Forensic Anthropology or UNTHSC's Laboratory for Molecular Identification — one of only a few in the nation that integrates STR, Y-STR and mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analyses and directly enters those profiles into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) — are available to provide these at no cost.

Key UNTHSC personnel that support NamUs include eight Regional System Administrators, nationally recognized for their work in missing and unidentified persons investigations; an analyst dedicated to facilitating advanced analytical resources through the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program; two part-time forensic odontologists; and one full-time fingerprint examiner.