

NamUs Fact Sheet

October 31, 2017



- The development of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) met the nation's need for a secure, free, nationwide centralized repository and resource center for information related to missing persons, unidentified persons, and unclaimed decedents.
- NamUs can be found online at www.namus.gov.
- The U.S. Department of Justice announced the launch of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons (NamUs) initiative in July 2007.
- NamUs was developed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the research, development and evaluation bureau of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP).
- The NamUs databases are searchable by anyone, however, sensitive case data is restricted and can be viewed only by medical examiners, coroners, law enforcement officers, personnel from missing person clearinghouses and allied forensic specialists.
- NamUs was developed with the help of experts from all areas of missing and unidentified person case management and investigation, including victim advocates and family members of missing persons.
- Nationwide, **4,400** unidentified remains are found every year and over **1,000** of these remain unidentified after one year. Holistically, there may be upwards of **40,000** human remains nationally that continue to go unidentified.
- Nationwide, there are as many as **85,000** active missing person cases at any given time.
- As of October 31, 2017, **31,417** total missing person cases have been reported to NamUs. **13,729** cases have been resolved (**1,801** with direct assistance from NamUs) and **13,627** cases are active in the NamUs Missing Person database.
- As of October 31, 2017, **15,275** total unidentified person cases have been reported to NamUs. **3,058** cases have been resolved (**1,271** with direct assistance from NamUs) and **11,639** cases are active in the NamUs Unidentified Person database.
- Unidentified remains cases are entered by medical examiners, coroners or their authorized registered users.
- Information regarding missing person cases can be submitted to NamUs by law enforcement professionals, missing person clearinghouses and the general public; source verification may occur prior to publication.
- Anyone can access the NamUs system to search or track cases, print missing persons posters, find resources and even map out travel routes in an effort to locate a missing person.
- Regional System Administrators monitor and validate new case information to protect sensitive information, prevent fraud and improve case management.
- NamUs automatically cross-searches the missing persons database against the unidentified person database and provides side-by-side comparisons of possible matches.
- NamUs, through a cooperative agreement with NIJ, was developed by the National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC) and the University of Central Florida's National Center for Forensic Science.
- Since 2011, NamUs has been managed and administered by the UNT Health Science Center, with oversight by the NIJ, through a cooperative agreement (award numbers 2011-MU-BX-K063 and 2016-MU-BX-K007).



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