

# Forensic Science

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## The Organization of The Crime Laboratory!

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# Crime Laboratories in the United States

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- ❑ Currently, there are approximately 320 public crime laboratories.
- ❑ These laboratories operate at the state, local and federal levels.
- ❑ The 320 current laboratories illustrates a three-fold increase from 1966.



# Crime Labs

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- Can be attached to the following
  - A) Police
  - B) District Attorney's Office
  - C) Medical Examiners or Coroner
  - D) Universities
  - E) Independent Agencies



# The Supreme Court and Crime Laboratories

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The Courts decision in the 1960's were responsible for the police placing greater emphasis on securing scientifically evaluated evidence.

The requirement to advise criminal suspects of their constitutional rights and their right to immediate access to consul has

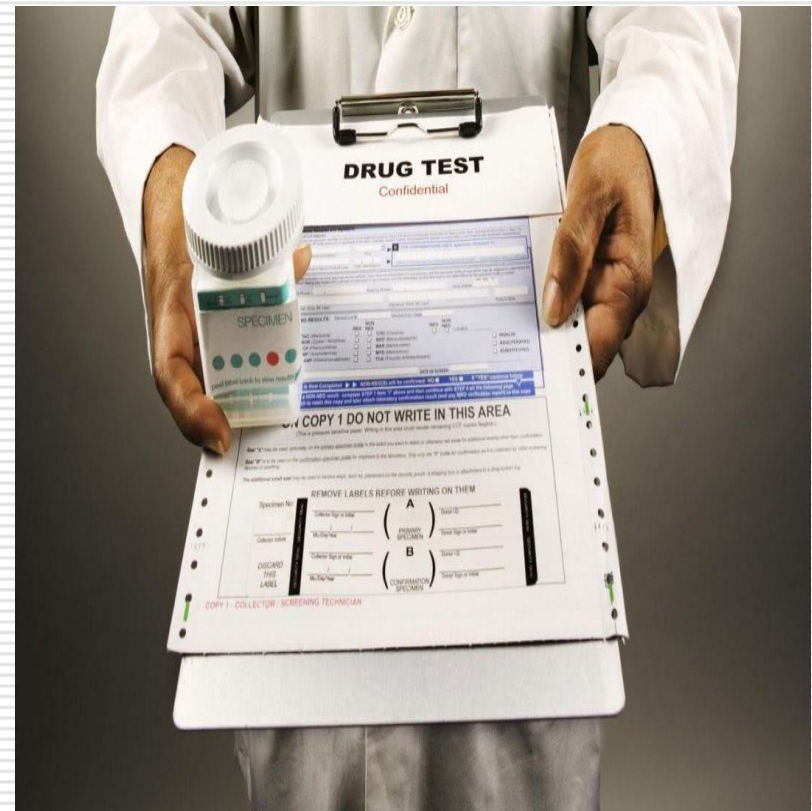
virtually eliminated the confession as an investigative tool.

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# Crime Labs

- ❑ Coinciding with changing judicial requirements has been a staggering increase in crime rates in the United States.
- ❑ Only a small amount of Police investigations actually require the use of a Forensic Scientist.
- ❑ The one important exception...Drug related arrests.
- ❑ ALL illicit drug seizures must be sent to a Forensic laboratory to confirm the chemical analysis before the case can appear in court!



# Since The Mid 1960's

- ❑ Drug abuse has accelerated to nearly uncontrollable levels and has resulted in crime laboratories being inundated with drug samples.
- ❑ The demand for increase numbers of Forensic Laboratories is mostly due to drug analysis.



# DNA Profiling

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- Since 1990, DNA technology has progressed to the point where traces of blood, semen, saliva and other biological fluids can be tested, analyzed which produces individual identification.
- DNA analysis is the general perceived conception about what goes on in Forensic Labs. However, DNA cases are still vastly outnumbered by drug cases.



## 4 Major Crime Laboratories

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- ❑ **The FBI (Department of Justice)**- the largest Forensic Laboratory in the World.
- ❑ **The DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency)**- responsible for the analysis of drugs seized in violation of federal law regulating the production, sale and transportation of drugs.
- ❑ **The ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives)**- responsible for analyzing alcoholic beverages and documents related to tax law enforcement, and examination of bombs and weapons under the Gun Control Act of 1968.
- ❑ **The U.S. Postal Inspection Service**-maintains laboratories concerned with criminal investigation related to the postal service.





# Service

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- ❑ **Most state governments maintain a crime laboratory to serve state and local enforcement agencies that do not have access to laboratories.**
  - ❑ **More and more states are offering a comprehensive state-wide system of regional and satellite laboratories. These facilities operate under the direction of a central facility and provides forensic services statewide.**
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# Thank You For Your Attention

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Please remember to review the Plan of The Week for Homework Assignment Due Dates

Questions or Comments?

