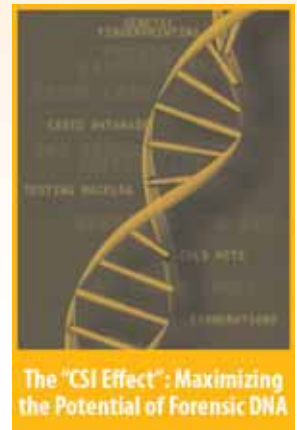


The CSI Effect: Maximizing the Potential of Forensic DNA

**Washington, DC
June 25, 2009**

National Center for Victims of Crime
Regional DNA Trainings

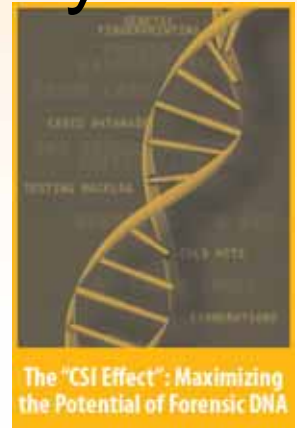


National Center for Victims of Crime

Mission: To forge a national commitment to help victims of crime rebuild their lives.

We are dedicated to serving individuals, families, and communities harmed by crime.

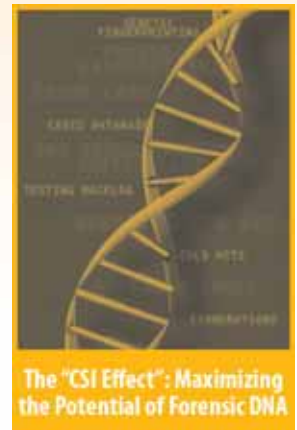
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What We Do

- Direct Victim Services (1-800-FYI-CALL, gethelp@ncvc.org)
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Public Policy
- Public Awareness and Education
- Attorney Referrals
- Reports and Studies

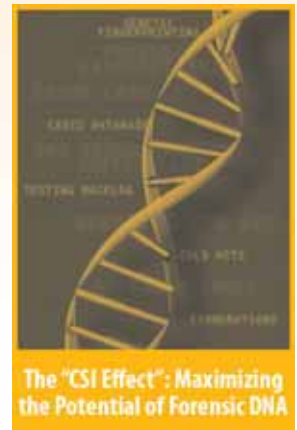
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National Center's Work on DNA

- Education and Advocacy on Capitol Hill
- Survey of the victim services field
- Focus Group on DNA training needs
- Educational materials
 - brochure for victims
 - FAQ for service providers
 - tip sheet for law enforcement
- Training Seminars

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Survey of DNA Knowledge, Beliefs, Questions, and Concerns

- Over 750 respondents, mostly victim advocates
- 77% said DNA relevant to their daily work
- 61% had a case with DNA evidence in the past 2 years
- Most common types of cases with DNA evidence were sexual assault, child sexual abuse, and homicide

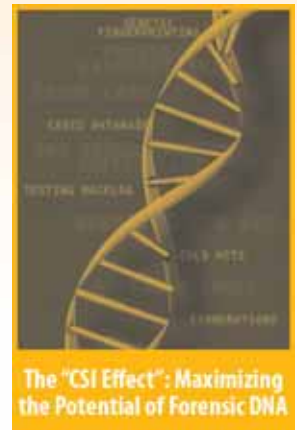
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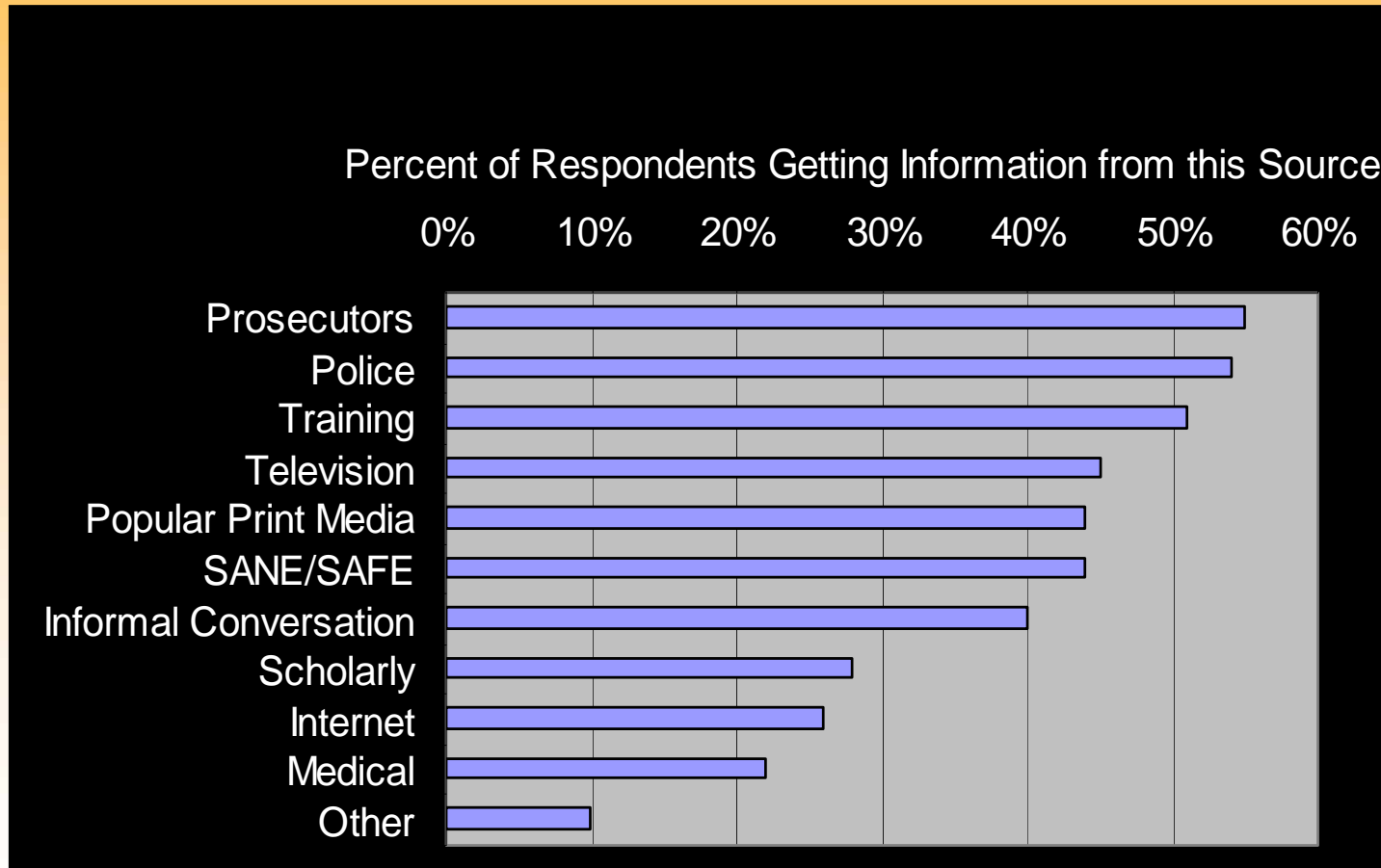
Misconceptions

- 70% believed that victims' DNA profiles are stored in state databases
- 72% believed a DNA profile can show a person's race, and:
 - 54% believe HIV status is revealed
 - 37% believe hair color is revealed
 - 27% believe height is revealed

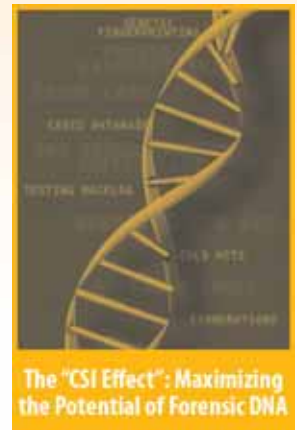
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Sources of Information on DNA



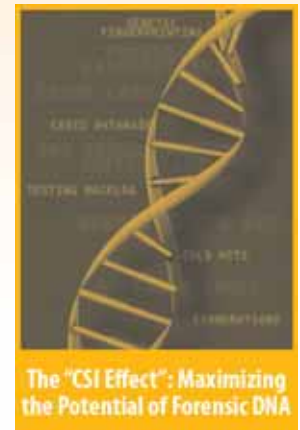
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Informing Victims About DNA

- 88% of respondents had no written information to give to victims about DNA
- 37% weren't sure they could adequately explain the process of DNA collection & testing to victims
- 25% were not able to answer all the victim's questions in their most recent case

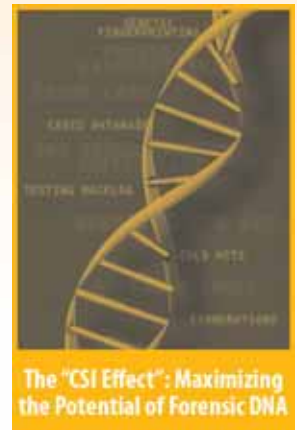
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Top Concerns About DNA

- Underutilization of DNA evidence (50%)
- Inadequate collection & storage (49%)
- Evidence backlogs (48%)
- Victim Privacy (42%)
- Lab errors (30%)
- Less than 20% were concerned about: misuse of DNA info, racial profiling, documentation of a medical condition, expungement, and post-conviction testing

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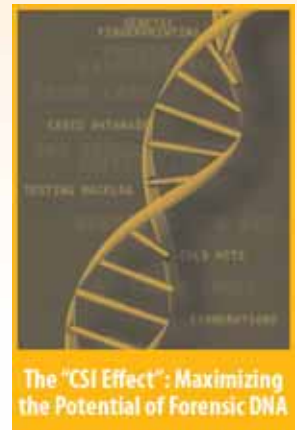


Need for More Training

- 85% said there is a need for more training on DNA
- 81% said they would attend a free or low-cost seminar in their area

“The more I learn about DNA, the better I can serve the community.”

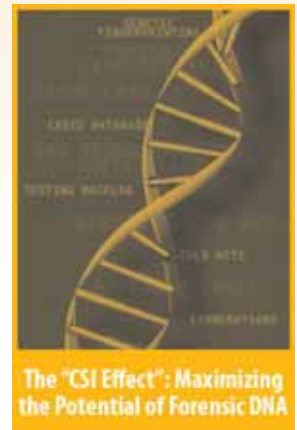
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Focus Group

- Law enforcement, prosecutors, system-based and community-based victim advocates, SANEs
- Confirmed need for more training
- Want a continuous up-to-date source of info (Web, person to call, receive e-updates)

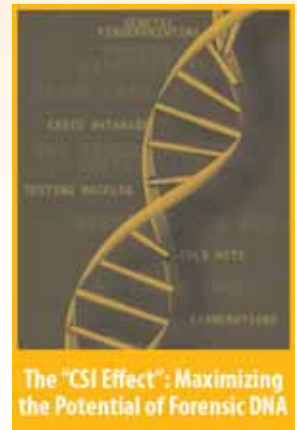
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Resource for the Field

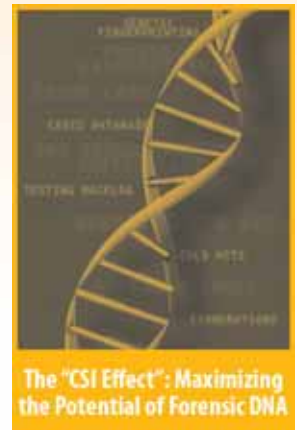
- *DNA Answers*
- Listserv, phone, and e-mail support on DNA-related issues
- DNAanswers@ncvc.org
- 1-800-FYI-CALL
- Ilse Knecht, iknecht@ncvc.org

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Dream Team

National Center for Victims of Crime
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Contact Us

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