



# NamUs

## Forensic Odontology

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## What is Forensic Odontology?

Forensic odontology is the application of dental evidence to determine personal identification. An increasingly evolving science, dental evidence can sometimes be the sole identifier when remains have been burned, are skeletonized, or are otherwise unidentifiable by fingerprints or DNA.

Teeth are strong enough to defy decomposition in even the most extreme circumstances, and each person has a unique dental pattern, defined through a combination of genetics, life events, and any dental work performed during their lifetimes.

Law enforcement, medical examiners, and coroners often rely on dental records to establish legal, verifiable identifications of missing and unidentified persons. Dental records provide an opportunity to make rapid, cost-effective, definitive comparisons between individuals for inclusions or exclusions of potential matches. The use of forensic odontology can provide the critical key to identification.

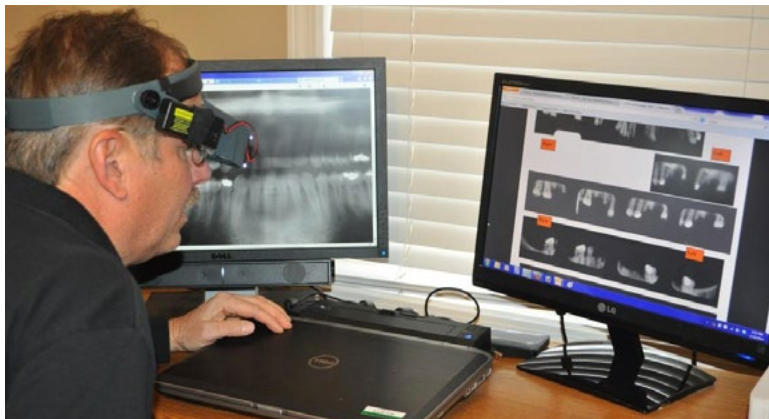




# 1,500+

Missing and unidentified person cases in NamUs have been resolved using dental records.

Through a collaboration with the National Personnel Records Center, NamUs also assists with the acquisition of dental records for current and former military servicemen and servicewomen.



## **NamUs Forensic Odontology Unit**

NamUs resources and services are force multipliers that assist law enforcement agencies and medical examiner/coroner offices in the resolution of missing and unidentified persons cases.

NamUs forensic odontologists provide their decades of expertise at no cost to law enforcement or medicolegal offices. Agencies can upload dental information for missing and unidentified person cases directly to the NamUs database, which is a secure, central repository for case information. All dental information uploaded to NamUs is available for 24/7 professional comparisons.

### **NamUs forensic odontologists also:**

- Digitally scan, code, and upload dental information to NamUs cases on behalf of the investigating agencies.
- Complete dental worksheets that allow agencies to upload accurate and complete dental information to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).
- Assist with the acquisition of dental records, including records for past and present military personnel.

## Submitting Dental Records to NamUs

For the most accurate and complete dental information to be uploaded to NamUs, dental radiographs and written treatment records should be submitted.

Upon request, NamUs provides pre-paid shipping labels to submit dental information for processing, and all records will be returned to the submitting agency after upload.

### DENTAL RECORDS SHOULD BE SHIPPED TO:

NamUs Odontology Unit  
UNT Center for Human Identification  
3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard  
Fort Worth, TX 76107



High-resolution images can also be transmitted to NamUs Forensic Odontologists using a secure file transfer link that can be requested via email at **Rachel.Gonzalez@unthsc.edu**.

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## Questions?

Contact the NamUs Forensic Odontology Unit

Toll-Free at **855-626-7600**

Email at **NamUs@unthsc.edu**

*\*For the security of sensitive information, please do not include any medical/dental records, personally identifiable information (ex. SSN or DOB), or other criminal justice sensitive information in an unencrypted email.*



## About NamUs

The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) is a program of the National Institute of Justice, managed through a cooperative agreement with the UNT Health Science Center (UNTHSC). Operated within the UNT Center for Human Identification at UNTHSC, NamUs brings people, information, forensic science and technology together to resolve missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases throughout the United States. For more information, visit [www.NamUs.gov](http://www.NamUs.gov).



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The NamUs program is funded through the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice Award No. 2016-MU-BX-K007. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.