



# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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*“Courteous Vigilance”*

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY  
Governor

HESTON SILBERT  
Director

October 15, 2021

The Honorable Rusty Bowers  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Speaker Bowers:

Pursuant to FY22 budget provisions found in SB1823, Chapter 408 (General Appropriations Act) the Department of Public of Safety is required to submit quarterly reports to the Chairpersons of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees providing information on the \$600,000 onetime FY22 appropriation to purchase and deploy Rapid DNA instruments throughout Arizona.

Should you have any questions about the information in the attached report, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Heston Silbert, Colonel  
Director

Attachment

ARIZONA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

RAPID DNA QUARTERLY REPORT



October 15, 2021

# Arizona Department of Public Safety

## “Courteous Vigilance”

### Rapid DNA Quarterly Report

October 15, 2021

#### BACKGROUND

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The Arizona FY22 budget appropriated \$600,000 in onetime funding to the Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZDPS) to “purchase and deploy rapid DNA testing devices throughout this state” and, “subject to availability of monies and upon request of the county sheriff, to train law enforcement personnel on properly using the Rapid DNA testing devices”.

Once purchased and deployed, these new instruments will supplement an existing Rapid DNA program that the AZDPS has been operating since 2014.

Statute also requires the AZDPS to submit quarterly reports to the chairpersons of the Judiciary Committees in the Arizona House and Senate. These reports must include: 1) The number of rapid DNA tests performed by the Department and county sheriffs. 2) The number of criminal suspects identified or matched by rapid DNA testing to the combined DNA index system. 3) The total number and types of crimes identified or matched by rapid DNA testing.

Because the instruments funded with this appropriation are not yet operational or have yet to be purchased, AZDPS felt it would be beneficial to include data from the Rapid DNA program the Department has been administering since 2014 with Rapid DNA instruments located within AZDPS Crime Laboratories in Maricopa and Pima County.

## **Rapid DNA Instrument Deployment**

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The AZPDS hopes to purchase four Rapid DNA instruments with the one-time funding and distribute them around the state for greater access to law enforcement personnel. The Yuma County Sheriff's Office has agreed to take receipt of one of these instruments. Their department is currently working to renovate their site prior to receiving an instrument. The locations for the remaining new instrument sites are being identified and the Department hopes those locations will be finalized in the beginning of Quarter 2 of FY22.

## **Training of Rapid Operators**

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Once the new instruments have been deployed to their host agencies, AZDPS Crime Lab staff will administer Rapid DNA operator training to ensure the machines and samples are being used in a way that supports the integrity of the science and evidence.

Rapid DNA operator training, established by the AZDPS, is a weeklong course that provides training in basic biology and DNA, basic DNA interpretation, collection and preparation of samples for use on the rapid instrument, running the rapid instrument, using the standalone database associated with the Rapid DNA Law Enforcement Program, and court testimony training. To complete the course, trainees will be required to pass a written exam and complete a practical exam where they correctly walk through the steps of a sample collection, preparation, and run on the Rapid DNA instrument.

## **Utilization of AZDPS Rapid DNA Instruments**

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The following data represents Rapid DNA analysis performed exclusively with machines already owned by AZDPS and does not include data from the machines that will be purchased with the FY22 one-time funding.

Since the inception of the AZDPS Rapid DNA program in April 2014, 618 cases have been run on the two AZDPS instruments with 224 leads provided, translating to a success rate per case of 35.8%.

In Quarter 1 of FY22, 15 cases involving 22 DNA samples were processed through the Rapid DNA instruments already owned by AZDPS. These tests resulted in 10 out of 22 (46%) samples providing leads in 9 of the 15 (60%) cases. As Rapid DNA data from crime scenes is currently not allowed to be uploaded to the combined DNA index system, the number of criminal suspects identified or matched by Rapid DNA testing being reported comes from the standalone Arizona DNA index system. A breakdown of these cases and samples is included in the below table.

FY22 Q1 REPORTING – AZDPS RAPID DNA PROGRAM						
INSTRUMENT SITE	# OF CASES RUN	# OF CASES WITH LEADS	SUCCESS RATE	# OF SAMPLES RUN	# OF SAMPLES WITH LEADS	SUCCESS RATE
Maricopa County	4	4	100%	7	5	71%
Pima County	11	5	45%	15	5	33%
TOTAL	15	9	60%	22	10	46%

*\*\*All cases run during this period were property crimes\*\**