From Fingerprints to DNA: Biometric Data Collection in U.S. Immigrant Communities and Beyond

BY THE NUMBERS:

- The federal government and all 50 states collect DNA, primarily through the criminal justice system.

- Since 2009, at least 21 states and the federal government have been collecting DNA from any adult arrested for (not just convicted of) a crime and 28 states collect DNA from juvenile offenders.

- In 2009, nearly 1.7 million DNA samples were processed in the U.S.

- As of December 2011, the National DNA Index contained over 10.7 million offender profiles, many of which belong to immigrants.

- All 50 states, the federal government and the District of Columbia collect and share DNA records through the FBI’s federal system called CODIS, a large centrally-managed database that links DNA profiles taken from federal, state, and territorial DNA collection programs.

- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) may also begin collecting DNA from others who interact with the agency. New rules promulgated by the Attorney General in 2009 require DHS to collect DNA from any non-United States person it detains. DHS estimates this could affect up to 1 million people per year, including juveniles.

- DHS collects approximately 300,000 fingerprints per day from non-U.S. citizens crossing U.S. borders.

- The FBI’s Integrated Automated Fingerprint System (IAFIS) and DHS’s Automated biometric Identification System (IDENT) each hold 100+ million records.

- IAFIS supports over 18,000 law-enforcement agencies at the state, local, tribal, federal, and international level.

For more information on biometric data collection, read the full report: From Fingerprints to DNA: Biometric Data Collection in U.S. Immigrant Communities and Beyond.