Police DNA databases grow in wake of Supreme Court ruling

The following is an excerpt.

Slowly, and largely under the radar, a growing number of local law enforcement agencies across the country have moved into what had previously been the domain of the F.B.I. and state crime labs — amassing their own DNA databases of potential suspects, some collected with the donors' knowledge, and some without it.

And that trend — coming at a time of heightened privacy concerns after recent revelations of secret federal surveillance of telephone calls and Internet traffic — is expected only to accelerate after the Supreme Court's recent decision upholding a Maryland statute allowing the authorities to collect DNA samples from those arrested for serious crimes.

Read the full story here: Police Agencies Are Assembling Records of DNA

Additional Resources:

• "Nabbing the bad guys with advanced technology: Who needs fingerprints when you have DNA?
"Genetic Literacy Project

— Read GLP founding director Jon Entine's analysis of the recent Supreme Court ruling that allowed authorities to collect DNA samples from people who have been arrested — but not yet convicted — for serious crimes.