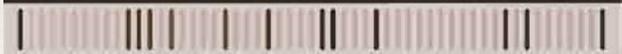


Improving Forensic Science Improves Justice

**Maddy deLone
Executive Director**

**National Commission on Forensic Science
Washington, DC
April 10, 2017**

INNOCENCE PROJECT



OUR MISSION

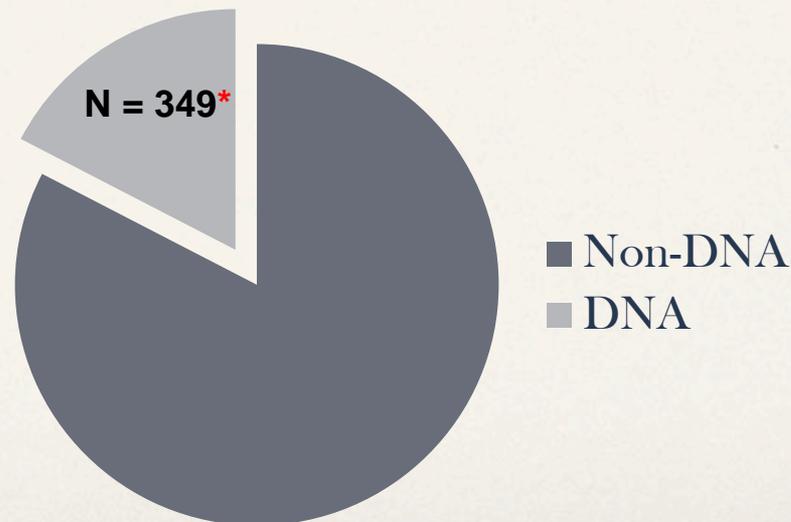
The Innocence Project's mission is to free the staggering number of innocent people who remain incarcerated, and to bring reform to the system responsible for their unjust imprisonment.

National Registry of Exonerations

The National Registry
of
EXONERATIONS

2,008 Post-conviction
exonerations

NRE Exonerations



DNA Exonerations

349 Post-conviction
DNA exonerations

in **37** states

20 



who were sentenced to death

37 Pled guilty

Person who actually committed
the crime identified: **149**

Additional violent crimes by the person
who actually committed the crime: **147**

DNA Exonerations

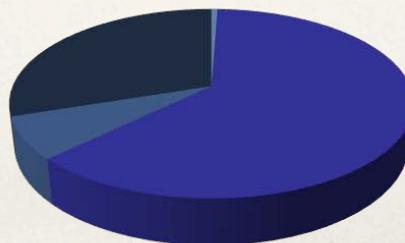
14 Average number of
years served

On average, in at **26.5** and

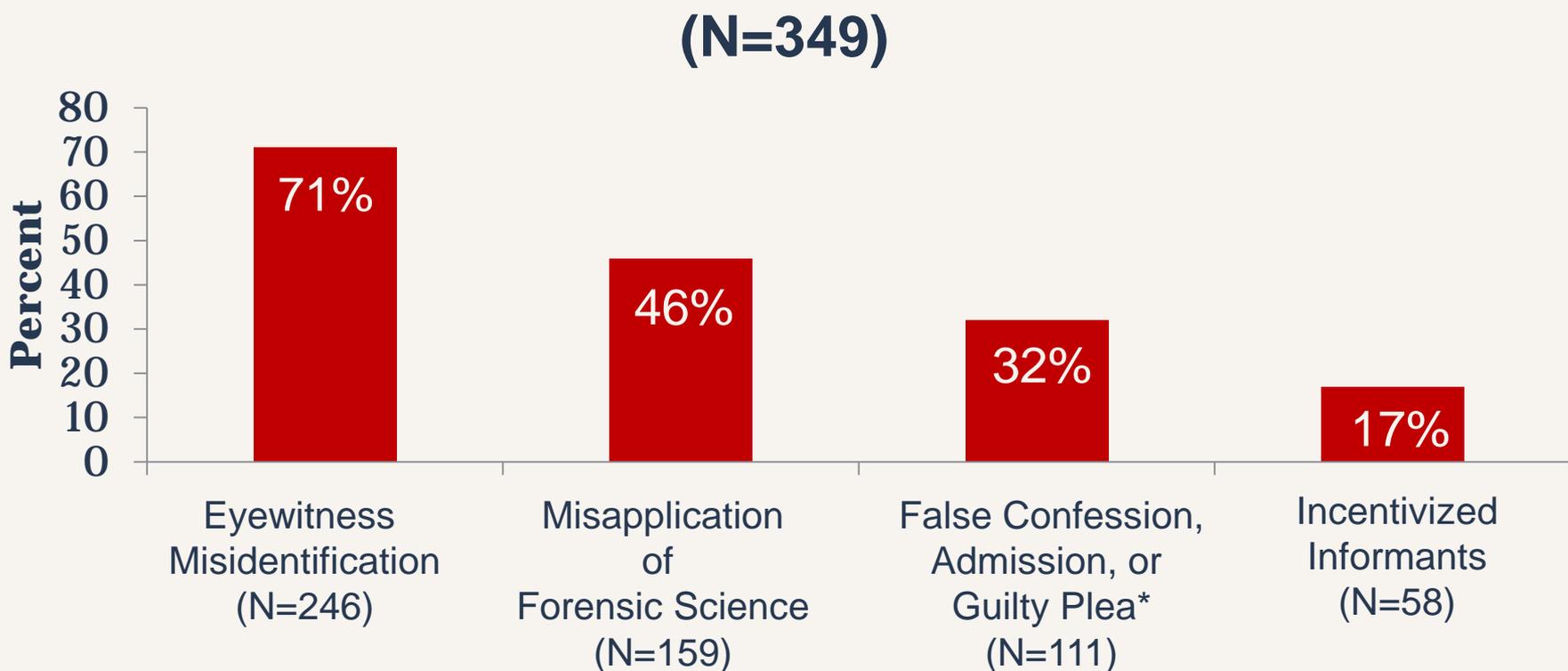
out at **42** years of age

Exonerees by Race

- Asian (1%)
- Black (62%)
- Hispanic (7%)
- White (30%)



Contributors to Wrongful Convictions

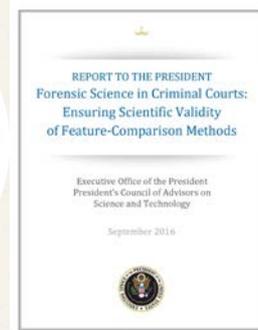
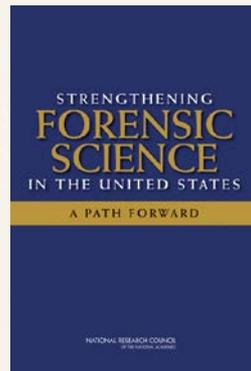


Improving Forensic Science

- Science and Standards
 - Validity and reliability of a discipline
- Testimony
 - Translation of the science to police, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, and juries
- Address Errors When Mistakes Occur
 - Advancing justice

Progress to Date

Congress
commissions
NAS study



2005

2009

2013

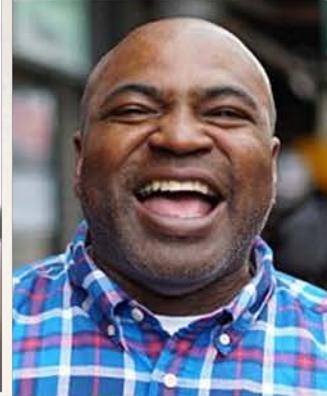
2017

Contributions of NCFS: Progress to Date

- **Multidisciplinary Forum for Discussion and Interaction**
- **Science and Standards**
 - Technical merit evaluation; foundational validity
 - Post-Doctoral Translational Research
- **Testimony**
 - “Scientific certainty,” inconsistent terminology
 - Documentation, case record, report contents
- **Address Error**
 - Root cause analysis
 - Code of professional responsibility
 - Discovery

Moving Forward: Important Next Steps

- **Renew NCFS**
- **Invest in Science**
 - NIST Technical Merit Evaluations
 - Federal Forensic Science Research Strategy
 - Foundational research and development of methods
 - Implementation research
 - Cognitive bias
 - Forensic science support grants
 - Standards based on research: NIST OSAC
- **Improve Testimony**
- **Address Error**
 - Continue federal grant programs to identify the innocent
 - Duty to Correct and Notify
 - Ensure access to post-conviction review where the understanding of the use of a forensic discipline has evolved



INNOCENCE PROJECT