

Mixture Interpretation Questions

Homework for Monday Night

Name (*leave blank if you want to be anonymous*): _____ Email address: _____

Interpretation Guidelines

What would you like to see in national guidelines on how to perform DNA mixture interpretation and statistical analysis?

How does your lab handle reference samples during interpretation of evidence? Do you try to solve the mixture entirely without looking at either victim or suspect profiles?

What kind of pre-case assessment do you perform when approaching a case where a possible mixture is involved?

Does your lab attempt statistics on a minor component? If so, what types of statistics are used?

Do you have a decision point whereby you consider a mixture too complicated and do not try to solve it? How do you know when to stop in terms of mixture interpretation?

Are composite profiles acceptable – e.g., high injection for minor component and low injection for major component allele identification?

How do you report mixture statistics in court?

Would a flowchart for mixture interpretation be helpful?

Validation and Training

For your lab validation studies of a new STR kit or instrument, how many mixtures should be evaluated? How do you decide on what combination of alleles to include in such a study?

What kind of training materials would be beneficial to help your laboratory more effectively solve mixtures?

Suggestions for training staff to have more analyst consistency within your lab:

Other Topics

What percentage of time is spent in a case trying to deduce the mixture components?

Have you seen performance differences between various STR typing kits that would impact mixture interpretation?

Is your lab using Y-STRs to help with mixtures?

What kinds of software features would be valuable to aid mixture interpretation?

What are the biggest obstacles you face in your lab in terms of mixture interpretation?