The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) fills an overwhelming need for a central repository for information related to missing and unidentified person cases. NamUs consists of databases that are searchable by law enforcement, medical examiners, coroners and the general public, allowing them to share information and work together across all boundaries to more effectively solve cases.

The Unidentified Persons Database records are entered by medical examiners and coroners and allow searches based on a number of variables, such as date, geography and physical characteristics.

The Missing Persons Database provides a national online repository to enhance the reporting, investigation and resolution of missing person cases. New cases can be added by anyone, including the general public; however, all cases are verified with law enforcement prior to publication in NamUs.

The Unclaimed Persons Database allows medical examiners and coroners to publicize information about deceased persons who have been identified by name, but for whom no next of kin has been identified or located to claim the body.

Search, Match, Solve. The NamUs databases are fully integrated to allow simultaneous searching of records to identify potential associations and solve cases.

NamUs was launched in 2007 as a result of the National Institute of Justice’s “Identifying the Missing” summit, which assembled members of the criminal justice community, key policymakers, victim advocates, and family members of missing persons from across the country. Out of that summit came a charge to the U.S. Department of Justice to identify every available tool — and create others — to solve missing and unidentified person cases.