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FORENSIC GENETICS AND DTC GENOMICS: FRIEND OR FOE?

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Consumer genomics databases reached the scale of millions of individuals. Recently, law enforcement investigators have started to exploit some of these databases to find distant familial relatives. I will present several technical strategies in which law enforcement agencies can leverage genetic tools and internet registries to identify major parts of the US population. However, these enhanced capabilities create for the first time a massive genetic surveillance that can be exploited by bad actors. As such, they already affects the consumer genomics community trust and might create risk for intelligence assets of the US down the road. I will present practical suggestions to mitigate these risks and reconcile the two opposite societal values of genetic privacy and fighting criminals.

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