The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT) is the DHS-wide repository for comparing, storing, and sharing biometric information, such as fingerprints, face images, and iris scans. IDENT is the largest biometric repository in the U.S. government, with more than 325 *million identities* stored in its database. IDENT includes both foreign nationals and U.S. citizens, and criminal and non-criminal data.

Does your law enforcement agency have access to all the fingerprint records available from the federal government? If you can't find a match, consider expanding your search to DHS' repository.

Since most law enforcement agencies already search the FBI's Next Generation Identification (NGI) system, they can take a few additional steps to receive DHS fingerprint records. No new connection needs to be established. Law enforcement agencies can easily leverage IDENT's fingerprint records to identify or verify an individual's identity – tapping into a whole new population they may have never searched before – to aid in criminal investigations.

NEW: Latent Print Searches

In 2025, DHS expanded the ability for state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement to search latent fingerprints against IDENT. Latent prints are partial fingerprint impressions that are unintentionally left on surfaces or objects at crime scenes and terrorism incidents.

Texas Latent Pilot

Beginning in 2016, the Texas Department of Public Safety began participating in a pilot project to test the ability of DHS to directly exchange information with state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement entities. The project allowed Texas law enforcement agencies to automatically search IDENT for potential matches to latent fingerprints. Prior to this project, the state could only submit searches manually, which was time intensive.

This initiative has resulted in several success stories. Since the beginning of the pilot, Texas has matched 50 latent prints to DHS data, helping solve criminal cases ranging from homicides, sexual assault, robbery, fraud, arson, drug offenses, and organized criminal activity.

Ten-print Response

OBIM continues to offer law enforcement agencies the ability to receive a 10-fingerprint response from IDENT. As of 2024, only 17 states have elected to take advantage of this 10-print response, which is available via IDENT's interoperability with the FBI's NGI.

IDENT Response Sample for a 10-print

A basic IDENT response informs the submitter if there is a match against a search of IDENT's holdings. When there is a match, the result will include the below data for the last five shareable encounters DHS IDENT has on record.

- Fingerprint identification number
- Encounter identification
- Biographic information
- Digital facial photograph

How to Gain Access

All law enforcement agencies are eligible to receive latent print and 10-print responses from IDENT.

To begin, coordinate with your State FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Systems Officer to establish the ability to receive a response from DHS IDENT.

For more information, please contact OBIMStakeholderEngagement@hq.dhs.gov.