

(D) ~411 crimelabs @ various levels

(E) 4 major US crime labs that investigate crimes beyond jurisdictional boundaries of state & local forces

(1) FBI (dept. of justice)

(2) DEA (dept. of justice) - drug enforcement agency

(3) ATF (dept. of justice) - alcohol, tobacco, & firearms

(4) US Postal Inspection Service

(F) Services offered

(1) Basic

(a) physical science unit

(b) biology unit

(c) firearms unit

(d) document examination unit

(e) photography unit

(2) Optional

(a) toxicology

(b) latent fingerprint unit

(c) polygraph unit

(d) voiceprint analysis unit

(e) crime scene investigation unit

4. Functions of a forensic scientist

(A) analyzing physical evidence

(1) determining admissibility

* (a) Frye vs U.S - in order to be admitted as evidence at trial, the questioned procedure, technique, or principles must be "generally accepted" by the relevant scientific community.

* (b) The Federal Rules of Evidence - Rule 702 - a person is qualified as an expert if 1. testimony is based upon sufficient facts & data 2. testimony is the product of reliable methods, & 3. expert has applied those reliable methods to the evidence

* (c) Daubert v. merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc
The trial judge is tasked with ensuring that an expert's testimony is valid & relevant

(B) judging scientific evidence

Kumho * (1) Kumho Tire Co, LTD v. Carmichael - the "gate keeper" role of the judge applies not only to scientific testimony but to all expert testimony

(C) Providing Expert Testimony