



February 2023



NCIC NATIONAL CRIME
INFORMATION CENTER

OCM Query

Originating Agency Identifier Cross Match

The National Crime Information Center (NCIC) contains millions of person and property records accessed by law enforcement conducting online inquiries into the database. In certain investigative situations, an off-line search of the NCIC database could provide specific investigative leads. The Originating Agency Identifier (ORI) Cross Match (OCM) Query, a type of off-line search and a powerful investigative tool, was designed for use when a minimum of two incidents are believed to have been committed by the same individual. Its objective is to identify individuals or vehicles queried through NCIC near multiple crime scenes where no suspects have been developed by providing matching inquiries made by different law enforcement agencies on vehicles or persons within a specified timeframe and geographical area.

THE QUERY

REQUESTING

An OCM Query can only be conducted by the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division Investigative and Operational Assistance Group (IOAG).



IOAU@FBI.GOV

ENTERED PARAMETERS



TIMEFRAME

(limited to 5 days or 120 hours)



GEOGRAPHICAL AREA(S)

(limited to 15 locations)

RETURNED INFORMATION



**NAME AND
DATE OF BIRTH**



**LICENSE PLATE
NUMBER AND
STATE**

BACKGROUND

The OCM Query was born out of an intensive multiagency search for the Washington, DC sniper and has since been used across the country to provide leads in numerous cases. This query compares all NCIC activity from specified ORIs during an identified timeframe and returns inquiries in which the same person or vehicle information was inquired upon two or more times.

USE CASE

IDENTIFYING THE MILWAUKEE NORTH SIDE STRANGLER

Between 1986 and 2007, the Milwaukee North Side Strangler raped and strangled seven women in the city of Milwaukee, all of whom were linked by deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). In 2009, IOAG assisted in identifying the Milwaukee North Side Strangler through an OCM Query.

After seeing a news article, a member of IOAG reached out to the FBI Milwaukee Field Office (FO) to obtain dates and approximate times of the homicides. IOAG ran an OCM Query based on the information obtained from the FO. In the results, there were three names that had been queried on at least three dates that corresponded with the homicides. IOAG staff sent the results to the FBI Milwaukee FO.

Milwaukee Police Department had one of the three individuals as a suspect, along with many others. OCM results revealed that Walter Ellis was queried on three dates coinciding with the first six homicides. A warrant was issued for Mr. Ellis' home after he skipped out on a police interview and fled the city. DNA collected from his toothbrush linked him to the victims.

Walter Ellis was arrested, formally charged, and convicted of the seven homicides. He was later connected, through DNA evidence, to three additional homicides.

