

Pattern Evidence Under Review

Criminal Justice

How scientific review bodies have rated the main comparison disciplines.

The 2009 NAS and 2016 PCAST reviews rated these very differently.

Discipline	Reviewed as	Note
DNA, single source	Well validated	Interpretation still matters
Fingerprints	Validated, error rate known	Conclusion is an opinion
Firearms toolmarks	Limited validation	Contested by reviewers
Bite marks	Not validated	Widely and strongly criticised
Hair microscopy	Not reliable alone	Tied to wrongful convictions
Shoe and tyre marks	Class features useful	Individualisation contested

Educational reference. These review findings are influential but not universally accepted; courts differ on what they admit.