

# TSA Myth Busters: Biometrics

## ✘ Myths

### **TSA saves images captured by the biometrics technology.**

False. TSA does not store the images captured by the facial recognition technology we are testing with U.S. Customs and Border Protection except for a limited period of time for testing and evaluation purposes.

### **TSA uses facial recognition technology to profile and deport travelers.**

False. TSA is testing biometrics technology at the airport to develop requirements to automate the identify verification process for all passengers.

### **Facial recognition technology has a high rate of false matching and I may be misidentified as a criminal.**

False. TSA is currently testing CBP's biometric matching system, which continues to be refined using a number of tools to minimize false matches. Tools include using diverse training sets and matching against a limited set of faces based on flight, cruise, or border crossings data. Testing showed .03% resulted in an incorrect match, with more than 99% resulting in positive matches. Passengers who do not have a positive match will go through the standard ID verification process.

### **I'm required to be processed by the biometrics technology tested at an airport checkpoint.**

False. Participation in the testing of biometrics technology is voluntary. Passengers may notify a TSA officer if they do not wish to participate and will go through the standard ID verification process.

### **TSA uses facial recognition technology to perform airport surveillance on passengers.**

False. TSA does not use facial recognition technology to surveil passengers.

## ✔ Facts

### **TSA is exploring the use of biometrics for identity verification.**

TSA is evaluating the operational and security impacts of using passengers' biometrics to verify their identities. Using biometrics will modernize aviation passenger identity verification over the coming years.

### **TSA is working with CBP on sharing biometric capabilities.**

TSA has partnered with CBP to explore how TSA can leverage the facial matching system, called Traveler Verification System, that CBP developed for its congressionally mandated biometric entry and exit program.

### **TSA is testing facial recognition and fingerprint technology, and plans to test iris scans.**

While TSA is currently evaluating facial matching as the primary means of identity verification, we are constantly exploring ways to develop technologies that enhance security measures and improve the passenger experience.

### **TSA protects all data collected during testing of biometrics technology.**

TSA is committed to protecting passenger privacy and secures all personal data collected as part of our biometric efforts. All capabilities we test adhere to DHS and TSA cybersecurity requirements.

### **Biometrics technology will improve the ID verification step for passengers and TSA officers.**

TSA hopes that biometrics technology will result in improved accuracy and speed of identity verification, while making the passenger experience faster and more seamless.

