

CRIME IN NEBRASKA

PRELIMINARY 2003 REPORT - For Release July 23, 2004

5% DECREASE IN CRIME IN 2003

The number of crimes reported to Nebraska law enforcement agencies decreased 5 percent in 2003 compared to 2002. There were 68,845 crimes reported during January through December of 2003, compared to 72,676 reported during the same period of 2002, a decrease of 3,831 crimes. These numbers include only the crimes of Murder-Manslaughter, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson which serve as the *Crime Index* used to measure crime statewide. Violent crimes (Murder-Manslaughter, Forcible Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault) decreased 8 percent. There were 4,995 violent crimes reported in 2003 compared to 5,440 reported in 2002, a decrease of 445 crimes. Property crimes (Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson) decreased 5 percent. There were 63,850 property crimes reported in 2003 compared to 67,236 reported in 2002, a decrease of 3,386 crimes.

Crime decreased 6 percent in Omaha and 3 percent in Lincoln. Cities of 5,000 to 99,999 population had a 6 percent decrease; cities under 5,000 population had a 5 percent increase; and county areas reported an 8 percent decrease. Crimes occurring on State property decreased 16 percent from 2002.

Crime Index Offenses, 2002 - 2003

<i>Crime Index Offenses</i>	<i>Number of Crime Index Offenses</i>		
	2002	2003	% Change
Violent Crimes	5,440	4,995	- 8
Murder - Manslaughter	48	55	+15
Forcible Rape	465	489	+ 5
Robbery	1,352	1,154	-15
Aggravated Assault	3,575	3,297	- 8
Property Crimes	67,236	63,850	- 5
Burglary	10,033	9,807	- 2
Larceny-Theft	50,427	47,619	- 6
Motor Vehicle Theft	6,287	6,021	- 4
Arson	489	403	-18
Total	72,676	68,845	- 5

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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**Percent Change - Crime Index Offenses
January thru December, 2002 - 2003 by Population Groups**

<i>Population Group</i>		<i>Murder, Man-slaughter</i>	<i>Forcible Rape</i>	<i>Robbery</i>	<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	<i>Burglary</i>	<i>Larceny Theft</i>	<i>Motor Vehicle Theft</i>	<i>Arson</i>	<i>Total</i>
250,000 & Over	2002	26	173	998	1,632	3,220	18,490	4,242	268	29,049
	2003	35	179	896	1,517	3,449	16,869	4,194	210	27,349
	% Change	+35	+3	-10	-7	+7	-9	-1	-22	-6
100,000 to 249,999	2002	6	98	179	992	2,014	11,190	526	26	15,031
	2003	5	94	153	862	1,959	11,049	479	9	14,610
	% Change	-17	-4	-15	-13	-3	-1	-9	-65	-3
5,000 to 99,999	2002	9	132	122	490	2,534	13,768	857	117	18,029
	2003	7	133	74	485	2,247	13,146	762	91	16,949
	% Change	-22	+1	-39	-1	-11	-5	-11	-22	-6
Under 5,000	2002	0	8	10	68	290	1,370	59	15	1,820
	2003	0	18	2	81	263	1,438	91	17	1,910
	% Change	0	+125	-80	+19	-9	+5	+54	+13	+5
Counties	2002	7	53	41	392	1,867	5,197	595	61	8,213
	2003	8	63	29	340	1,780	4,795	493	76	7,584
	% Change	+14	+19	-29	-13	-5	-8	-17	+25	-8
State Property	2002	0	1	2	1	108	412	8	2	534
	2003	0	2	0	12	109	322	2	0	447
	% Change	0	+100	-100	+1100	+1	-22	-75	-100	-16
TOTAL	2002	48	465	1,352	3,575	10,033	50,427	6,287	489	72,676
	2003	55	489	1,154	3,297	9,807	47,619	6,021	403	68,845
	% Change	+15	+5	-15	-8	-2	-6	-4	-18	-5

TOTAL ARRESTS DECREASE 4%

The total number of persons arrested in Nebraska during 2003 decreased from 94,726 in 2002 to 90,664 in 2003, a decrease of 4,062 arrests. The top five categories in terms of the number of arrests made for specific crimes were: Driving under the Influence (13,415 arrests), Liquor Law Violations (12,799), Drug Abuse Violations (9,906), Simple Assault (8,862), and Larceny-Theft (7,812). The total number of adult arrests (age 18 and over) decreased 3% from 78,436 in 2002 to 75,859 in 2003. Adult arrests accounted for 84% of the total arrests made statewide. The total number of juvenile arrests decreased 9%, from 16,290 in 2002 to 14,805 in 2003.

Total Arrest Trends, 2002 - 2003

<i>Offense</i>	<i>Under 18 Years of Age</i>			<i>18 Years of Age and Over</i>			<i>Total All Ages</i>		
	2002	2003	Percent Change	2002	2003	Percent Change	2002	2003	Percent Change
Murder - Manslaughter	4	4	0	38	52	+37	42	56	+33
Death by Negligence	2	2	0	20	17	-15	22	19	-14
Forcible Rape	13	11	-15	140	134	-4	153	145	-5
Robbery	85	51	-40	248	227	-8	333	278	-17
Aggravated Assault	101	109	+8	731	745	+2	832	854	+3
Burglary	337	380	+13	633	608	-4	970	988	+2
Larceny-Theft	3,581	2,816	-21	5,513	4,996	-9	9,094	7,812	-14
Motor Vehicle Theft	235	162	-31	264	279	+6	499	441	-12
Arson	82	81	-1	37	35	-5	119	116	-3
Simple Assault	1,642	1,674	+2	7,759	7,188	-7	9,401	8,862	-6
Forgery and Counterfeiting	57	36	-37	778	742	-5	835	778	-7
Fraud	103	65	-37	1,811	1,870	+3	1,914	1,935	+1
Embezzlement	7	7	0	134	113	-16	141	120	-15
Stolen Property Offenses	256	180	-30	928	884	-5	1,184	1,064	-10
Vandalism	1,047	1,165	+11	1,786	1,698	-5	2,833	2,863	+1
Weapons Violations	127	153	+20	961	872	-9	1,088	1,025	-6
Prostitution/Commercial. Vice	1	7	+600	406	486	+20	407	493	+21
Sex Offenses	113	112	-1	482	499	+4	595	611	+3
Drug Abuse Violations	1,262	1,085	-14	10,588	8,821	-17	11,850	9,906	-16
Gambling	1	0	-100	14	22	+57	15	22	+47
Offenses Ag. Family/Children	28	30	+7	1,552	1,434	-8	1,580	1,464	-7
Driving Under the Influence	391	371	-5	12,724	13,044	+3	13,115	13,415	+2
Liquor Law Violations	2,881	2,514	-13	10,625	10,285	-3	13,506	12,799	-5
Disorderly Conduct	842	805	-4	3,369	3,395	+1	4,211	4,200	0
All Other Offenses	2,379	2,327	-2	16,895	17,413	+3	19,274	19,740	+2
Curfew / Loitering	459	406	-12				459	406	-12
Runaways	254	252	-1				254	252	-1
Total	16,290	14,805	-9	78,436	75,859	-3	94,726	90,664	-4

A REVIEW OF HATE CRIMES IN NEBRASKA

With the passage of Legislative Bill 90 in 1997, commonly referred to as the Hate Crime Bill, the Crime Commission developed a system for reporting hate crimes. Law enforcement agencies voluntarily submit quarterly reports to the Commission on the number of hate crime incidents. If a hate crime has been committed, they report the type of crime committed, a general description of the location, and the type of bias motivation. Of the 162 law enforcement agencies asked to participate in hate crime reporting, 106 agencies submitted at least one quarterly report during 2003 with 78 of those agencies reporting all four quarters.

During 2003, there were a total of 27 incidents reported involving crimes motivated by hate. This is a 51% decrease from the 55 reported in 2002. The types of bias motivation are provided below.

Type of Bias	Number	Percent
Racial	13	48.1
White	2	
Black	6	
American Indian	1	
Multi-Racial	4	
Ethnicity / National Origin	7	25.9
Hispanic	2	
Other Ethnicity	5	
Religious	5	18.5
Jewish	2	
Anti-Islamic	3	
Sexual	2	7.4
Male Homosexual	2	
Total	27	100.0

The general location where the hate crimes occurred and the type of crime committed are provided below. The majority of incidents occurred at a residence or in a public area. The majority of hate crimes (44%) are carried out through a direct confrontation with the victim while 56% are directed towards the property of the victim.

Location	Number	Percent
Church	6	22.2
Commercial	1	3.7
Public Area (Street, Park, etc.)	5	18.5
Residence	9	33.3
School	1	3.7
Other	5	18.5
Total	27	100.0

Type of Crime	Number	Percent
Aggravated Assault	2	7.4
Simple Assault	4	14.8
Intimidation	6	22.2
Arson	1	3.7
Vandalism	13	48.1
Larceny-Theft	1	3.7
Total	27	100.0

(Some incidents involved multiple crimes being committed.)

PLEASE NOTE: Caution should be used when comparing the percent changes presented within this report. A slight shift in the volume of crimes or arrests may result in a large percent change for some offenses, arrests, and population groups. Final figures for 2003 will be published in the annual report "Crime in Nebraska - 2003."