

CRIME IN NEBRASKA

PRELIMINARY 2004 REPORT - For Release July 26, 2005

5% DECREASE IN CRIME IN 2004

The number of crimes reported to Nebraska law enforcement agencies decreased 5 percent in 2004 compared to 2003. There were 65,823 crimes reported during January through December of 2004, compared to 69,344 reported during the same period of 2003, a decrease of 3,521 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) increased 5 percent. There were 5,302 violent crimes reported in 2004 compared to 5,032 reported in 2003, an increase of 270 crimes. Property crimes (Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson) decreased 6 percent. There were 60,521 property crimes reported in 2004 compared to 64,312 reported in 2003, a decrease of 3,791 crimes.

Crime decreased 8 percent in Omaha and 2 percent in Lincoln. Cities of 5,000 to 99,999 population had a 4 percent decrease; cities under 5,000 population had a 10 percent decrease; and county areas reported a 5 percent decrease. Crimes occurring on State property increased 11 percent from 2003.

Crime Index Offenses, 2003 - 2004

<i>Crime Index Offenses</i>	<i>Number of Crime Index Offenses</i>		
	2003	2004	% Change
Violent Crimes	5,032	5,302	+5
Murder - Manslaughter	55	41	-25
Forcible Rape	495	597	+21
Robbery	1,156	1,128	- 2
Aggravated Assault	3,326	3,536	+6
Property Crimes	64,312	60,521	- 6
Burglary	9,881	9,534	- 4
Larceny-Theft	47,962	45,456	- 5
Motor Vehicle Theft	6,070	5,206	-14
Arson	399	325	-19
Total	69,344	65,823	- 5

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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**Percent Change - Crime Index Offenses
January thru December, 2003 - 2004 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	2003	35	179	896	1,517	3,449	16,869	4,194	210	27,349
	2004	20	187	824	1,577	3,641	15,490	3,405	150	25,294
	% Change	-43	+4	-8	+4	+6	-8	-19	-29	-8
100,000 to 249,999	2003	5	94	153	862	1,959	11,049	479	9	14,610
	2004	6	128	192	905	1,895	10,814	424	20	14,384
	% Change	+20	+36	+25	+5	-3	-2	-11	+122	-2
5,000 to 99,999	2003	7	140	75	503	2,297	13,433	806	91	17,352
	2004	7	167	79	523	2,142	12,862	758	103	16,641
	% Change	0	+19	+5	+4	-7	-4	-6	+13	-4
Under 5,000	2003	0	17	3	89	272	1,451	92	16	1,940
	2004	0	20	3	85	192	1,339	99	9	1,747
	% Change	0	+18	0	-4	-29	-8	+8	-44	-10
Counties	2003	8	63	29	343	1,795	4,838	497	73	7,646
	2004	8	91	27	444	1,553	4,580	514	42	7,259
	% Change	0	+44	-7	+29	-13	-5	+3	-42	-5
State Property	2003	0	2	0	12	109	322	2	0	447
	2004	0	4	3	2	111	371	6	1	498
	% Change	0	+100	--	-83	+2	+15	+200	--	+11
TOTAL	2003	55	495	1,156	3,326	9,881	47,962	6,070	399	69,344
	2004	41	597	1,128	3,536	9,534	45,456	5,206	325	65,823
	% Change	-25	+21	-2	+6	-4	-5	-14	-19	-5

Total Arrests Increase 1%

The total number of persons arrested in Nebraska during 2004 increased from 93,475 in 2003 to 94,112 in 2004, an increase of 637 arrests. The top five categories in terms of the number of arrests made for specific crimes were: Driving under the Influence (14,093 arrests), Liquor Law Violations (12,355), Drug Abuse Violations (10,809), Simple Assault (9,217), and Larceny-Theft (8,717). The total number of adult arrests (age 18 and over) increased 1% from 78,272 in 2003 to 79,244 in 2004. Adult arrests accounted for 84% of the total arrests made statewide. The total number of juvenile arrests decreased 2%, from 15,204 in 2003 to 14,868 in 2004.

Total Arrest Trends, 2003 - 2004

Offense	Under 18 Years of Age			18 Years of Age and Over			Total All Ages		
	2003	2004	Percent Change	2003	2004	Percent Change	2003	2004	Percent Change
Murder - Manslaughter	4	4	0	52	32	-38	56	36	-36
Death by Negligence	2	3	+50	18	12	-33	20	15	-25
Forcible Rape	12	16	+33	145	177	+22	157	193	+23
Robbery	51	69	+35	228	248	+9	279	317	+14
Aggravated Assault	110	132	+20	761	897	+18	871	1,029	+18
Burglary	390	342	-12	630	663	+5	1,020	1,005	-1
Larceny-Theft	2,881	3,044	+6	5,280	5,673	+7	8,161	8,717	+7
Motor Vehicle Theft	165	140	-15	289	254	-12	454	394	-13
Arson	82	73	-11	34	39	+15	116	112	-3
Simple Assault	1,746	1,692	-3	7,545	7,525	0	9,291	9,217	-1
Forgery and Counterfeiting	37	34	-8	796	693	-13	833	727	-13
Fraud	68	67	-1	1,935	1,740	-10	2,003	1,807	-10
Embezzlement	7	4	-43	113	88	-22	120	92	-23
Stolen Property Offenses	187	169	-10	923	876	-5	1,110	1,045	-6
Vandalism	1,198	1,117	-7	1,781	1,652	-7	2,979	2,769	-7
Weapons Violations	157	181	+15	888	906	+2	1,045	1,087	+4
Prostitution/Commercial. Vice	7	3	-57	487	313	-36	494	316	-36
Sex Offenses	114	111	-3	521	504	-3	635	615	-3
Drug Abuse Violations	1,112	1,150	+3	9,041	9,659	+7	10,153	10,809	+6
Gambling	0	2	--	22	24	+9	22	26	+18
Offenses Ag. Family/Children	30	28	-7	1,485	1,639	+10	1,515	1,667	+10
Driving Under the Influence	376	347	-8	13,286	13,746	+3	13,662	14,093	+3
Liquor Law Violations	2,556	2,177	-15	10,560	10,178	-4	13,116	12,355	-6
Disorderly Conduct	820	881	+7	3,708	3,568	-4	4,528	4,449	-2
All Other Offenses	2,393	2,368	-1	17,744	18,138	+2	20,137	20,506	+2
Curfew / Loitering	444	391	-12				444	391	-12
Runaways	254	323	+27				254	323	+27
Total	15,204	14,868	-2	78,272	79,244	+1	93,475	94,112	+1

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 170 law enforcement agencies asked to participate in hate crime reporting, 110 agencies submitted at least one quarterly report during 2004 with 86 of those agencies reporting all four quarters.

During 2004, there were a total of 39 incidents reported involving crimes motivated by hate. This is a 44% increase above the 27 reported in 2003. The types of bias motivation are provided below.

Type of Bias	Number	Percent
Racial	18	46.2
White	2	
Black	10	
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	
Multi-Racial	2	
Ethnicity / National Origin	10	25.6
Hispanic	5	
Other Ethnicity	5	
Religious	4	10.3
Jewish	2	
Anti-Islamic	2	
Sexual	7	17.9
Male Homosexual	4	
Female Homosexual	1	
Homosexual	2	
Total	39	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
Commercial	6	15.4
Public Area (Street, Park, etc.)	13	33.3
Residence	12	30.8
School/College	5	12.8
Other	3	7.7
Total	39	100.0

Type of Crime	Number	Percent
Aggravated Assault	2	5.1
Simple Assault	14	35.9
Intimidation	9	23.1
Vandalism	13	33.3
Burglary	1	2.6
Total	39	100.0

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 2004 will be published in the annual report "Crime in Nebraska - 2004."