

STATE OF NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

(Nebraska Crime Commission)

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FOR RELEASE:

July 3rd, 2017

7:00 a.m. Central Time

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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2.0% INCREASE IN CRIMES REPORTED IN NEBRASKA

LINCOLN – Darrell Fisher, Executive Director of the Nebraska Crime Commission, announced today that Nebraska experienced a 2.0% increase in the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies during 2016 compared to 2015. Fisher indicated there were 47,560 crimes reported during 2016 compared to 46,632 reported in 2015. These numbers include only the offenses of Murder-Manslaughter, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson which serve as the basis for measuring crime statewide.

“Over the past reported year, Nebraska crime fell in two categories,” Fisher said. “This includes a 21.5% decrease in Murder-Manslaughter and a 5.7% decrease in Robbery. These numbers are parallel to FBI reports that show crimes are also decreasing nationwide.”

Nebraska experienced 5,193 violent crimes in 2016 for an 8.4% increase overall in this category. Forcible Rape increased by 21.7% (from 658 to 801). Part of the increase is due to the broadened definition required by the FBI.

Robbery decreased by 5.7% (from 991 to 935), and Aggravated Assault increased by 10.7% (from 3,077 to 3,406) in 2016.

Property crimes in Nebraska increased by 1.3% overall with 42,367 offenses reported in 2016. Larceny-Theft decreased by 0.6% (from 31,416 to 31,224). Motor Vehicle Theft increased by 19.0% (from 3,908 to 4,650) and Arson decreased by 18.9% (from 281 in 2015 to 228 in 2016).

Crimes in Omaha increased 3.9% and crimes in Lincoln decreased by 3.4% in 2016. Crimes occurring on State Property increased by 20.8% (from 284 to 343).

Crimes in cities of 5,000 to 99,999 in population increased 3.7% (from 11,540 to 11,970). Crime in cities with under 5,000 occupants increased 4.1% (from 1056 to 1099 in 2016) and County areas reported an increase of 0.1% (from 4,922 to 4,925).

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The number of persons arrested in 2016 increased 1.1% from 2015. In 2016, there were 71,478 arrests compared to 70,706 in 2015. During the same time period, juvenile arrests decreased by 7.2% and adult arrests increased 2.5%.

The top five categories in the number of arrests made for specific crimes were: Driving under the Influence (7,425 arrests), Drug Abuse Violations (12,415), Liquor Law Violations (5,217), Larceny-Theft (9,138), and Simple Assault (8,439).

Fisher said, “Changes were seen in several of the main arrest categories. Driving Under the Influence arrests decreased by 9.5% and Liquor Law Violations decreased by 9.0%. While Drug Abuse Violation showed very minor change, there was a 2.4% decrease in the number of arrests for Murder.”

Hate crime statistics were also released. During 2016, there were 26 incidents reported involving crimes motivated by hate, compared to 19 reported in 2015. Racial bias accounted for 53.8% of the total hate crimes. Ethnic bias accounted for 19.2%, Religious Bias accounted for 19.2% and Sexual bias accounted for 7.6%. Of the hate crimes reported, 11.5% involved intimidation and 26.9% involved destruction of property.

**The complete 2016 data is available at the Crime Commission’s website at www.ncc.ne.gov
Offense and arrest queries are also available at <https://ncc.nebraska.gov/arrest-and-offense-data>**

If you have any questions, please call Lydia Daniel, Program Manager for the State of Nebraska Crime Commission at 402-471-3982.