

Crime In Nebraska (2017)

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NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Service.

**COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

CRIME IN NEBRASKA REPORT (2017)

Issued by:

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Nebraska Crime Commission)

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PLEASE NOTE: Take caution when drawing conclusions from the information presented in this report. A slight shift in the volume of crimes or arrests may result in significant percentage changes for some offenses, arrests, or population groups.

STATEWIDE CRIME SUMMARY

The number of crimes reported to Nebraska law enforcement agencies in 2017 increased 2.7%. There were 49,055 crimes reported in 2017, compared to 47,762 crimes reported during the same period in 2016, resulting in an increase of 1,293 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 8.6% in 2017. There were 5,675 violent crimes reported in 2017, compared to 5,224 reported in 2016, resulting in an increase of 451 violent crimes. Two of the violent crime index offenses – Robbery and Aggravated Assault – saw moderate increases, while Murder-Manslaughter saw slight decreases. A significant rise in the number of Forcible Rapes reported in 2017, up 29.7%, is the main reason for the overall increase in the violent crime index.

Property crimes (Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson) increased 2.0% in 2017. There were 43,380 property crimes reported in 2017, compared to 42,538 reported in 2016, resulting in an increase of 842 property crimes. Burglary and Larceny both saw minor increases, while Arson saw a slight decrease. Motor Vehicle Theft saw the greatest increase of any property offense, up 11.4% from 2016.

Crime Index Offenses, 2016 – 2017

	2016	2017	% CHANGE
VIOLENT CRIMES	5,224	5,675	+8.6%
Murder-Manslaughter	51	44	-13.7%
Forcible Rape*	812	1,053	+29.7%
Robbery	940	953	+1.4%
Aggravated Assault	3,421	3,625	+6.0%
PROPERTY CRIMES	42,538	43,380	+2.0%
Burglary	6,287	6,311	+0.4%
Larceny-Theft	31,357	31,649	+0.9%
Motor Vehicle Theft	4,663	5,194	+11.4%
Arson	231	226	-2.2%
COMBINED TOTAL	47,762	49,055	+2.7%

*Part of the increase is due to the broadened definition of forcible rape required by the FBI.

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POPULATION GROUPS

The following population groups saw changes in their 2017 crime rates:

- Populations of 400,000 and over increased 5.2% overall (violent +14.9% / property +3.7%)
- Populations of 100,000 to 399,999 increased 2.1% overall (violent +5.6% / property +1.7%)
- Populations of 5,000 to 99,999 increased 1.9% overall (violent +5.7% / property +1.5%)
- Populations of 4,999 and under decreased 4.2% overall (violent +3.3% / property -5.1%)
- County areas decreased 1.7% overall (violent -5.7% / property -1.2%)
- State properties decreased 2.2% overall (violent -25.0% / property -0.4%)

Crime Index Offenses by Population Group, 2016 – 2017

POPULATION GROUP		YEAR	Murder – Manslaughter	Forcible Rape	Robbery	Agg. Assault	Violent (Total)	Burglary	Larceny - Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson	Property (Total)	Grand Total
POLICE DEPARTMENTS	400,000 & OVER	2016	29	245	610	1,647	2,531	2,111	11,571	3,125	68	16,875	19,406
		2017	31	410	625	1,843	2,909	2,088	11,849	3,500	62	17,499	20,408
		% CHANGE	+6.9%	+67.3%	+2.5%	+11.9%	+14.9%	-1.1%	+2.4%	+12.0%	-8.8%	+3.7%	+5.2%
	399,999 TO 100,000	2016	11	222	191	583	1,007	1,261	7,117	352	80	8,810	9,817
		2017	0	258	192	613	1,063	1,268	7,246	389	56	8,959	10,022
		% CHANGE	-100%	+16.2%	+0.5%	+5.1%	+5.6%	+0.6%	+1.8%	+10.5%	-30.0%	+1.7%	+2.1%
	99,999 TO 5,000	2016	4	211	103	614	932	1,685	8,794	670	56	11,205	12,137
		2017	8	238	99	640	985	1,672	8,861	778	67	11,378	12,363
		% CHANGE	+100%	+12.8%	-3.9%	+4.2%	+5.7%	-0.8%	+0.8%	+16.1%	+19.6%	+1.5%	+1.9%
	5,000 & UNDER	2016	1	17	6	98	122	183	725	68	5	981	1,103
		2017	0	31	5	90	126	184	693	54	0	931	1,057
		% CHANGE	-100%	+82.4%	-16.7%	-8.2%	+3.3%	+0.5%	-4.4%	-20.6%	-100%	-5.1%	-4.2%
OTHER	COUNTY AREAS	2016	6	102	29	475	612	1,039	2,916	442	21	4,418	5,030
		2017	5	107	30	435	577	1,090	2,767	468	40	4,365	4,942
		% CHANGE	-16.7%	+4.9%	+3.4%	-8.4%	-5.7%	+4.9%	-5.1%	+5.9%	+90.5%	-1.2%	-1.7%
	STATE PROPERTY	2016	0	15	1	4	20	8	234	6	1	249	269
		2017	0	9	2	4	15	9	233	5	1	248	263
		% CHANGE	N/A	-40.0%	+100%	+0.0%	-25.0%	+12.5%	-0.4%	-16.7%	+0.0%	-0.4%	-2.2%
TOTAL	2016	51	812	940	3,421	5,224	6,287	31,357	4,663	231	42,538	47,762	
	2017	44	1,053	953	3,625	5,675	6,311	31,649	5,194	226	43,380	49,055	
	% CHANGE	-13.7%	+29.7%	+1.4%	+6.0%	+8.6%	+0.4%	+0.9%	+11.4%	-2.2%	+2.0%	+2.7%	

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ARRESTS

There were 70,909 arrests made in 2017, compared to 71,088 in 2016, resulting in an overall decrease of 0.3%. The five categories with the highest number of arrests in 2017 were: Drug Abuse Violations (13,495); Simple Assault (8,375); Larceny (8,353); Driving Under the Influence (6,877); and Liquor Law Violations (4,811).

The number of adult arrests (age 18 and over) in 2017 was 61,512, compared to 62,056 in 2016, resulting in a decrease of 0.9%. The number of juvenile arrests (age 17 and under) in 2017 was 9,397, compared to 9,032 in 2016, an increase of 4.0%.

Total Arrests in Nebraska, 2016 – 2017

	ADULT ARRESTS			JUVENILE ARRESTS			ALL ARRESTS		
	2016	2017	% CHANGE	2016	2017	% CHANGE	2016	2017	% CHANGE
Murder-Manslaughter	35	36	+2.9%	5	3	-40.0%	40	39	-2.5%
Forcible Rape	201	210	+4.5%	57	46	-19.3%	258	256	-0.8%
Robbery	248	274	+10.5%	54	102	+88.9%	302	376	+24.5%
Aggravated Assault	1,372	1,432	+4.4%	70	91	+30.0%	1,442	1,523	+5.6%
Burglary	501	513	+2.4%	109	152	+39.4%	610	665	+9.0%
Larceny	6,994	6,237	-10.8%	2,153	2,116	-1.7%	9,147	8,353	-8.7%
Motor Vehicle Theft	309	280	-9.4%	117	152	+29.9%	426	432	+1.4%
Simple Assault	7,054	6,819	-3.3%	1,390	1,556	+11.9%	8,444	8,375	-0.8%
Arson	30	43	+43.3%	27	23	-14.8%	57	66	+15.8%
Forgery and Counterfeiting	275	327	+18.9%	7	8	+14.3%	282	335	+18.8%
Fraud	1,340	1,230	-8.2%	78	97	+24.4%	1,418	1,327	-6.4%
Embezzlement	85	63	-25.9%	15	8	-46.7%	100	71	-29.0%
Stolen Property Offenses	570	639	+12.1%	89	109	+22.5%	659	748	+13.5%
Vandalism	1,579	1,737	+10.0%	673	611	-9.2%	2,252	2,348	+4.3%
Weapons	1,042	1,007	-3.4%	94	103	+9.6%	1,136	1,110	-2.3%
Prostitution	131	90	-31.3%	0	2	N/A	131	92	-29.8%
Sex Offenses	372	355	-4.6%	100	84	-16.0%	472	439	-7.0%
Drug Abuse Violations	11,072	12,031	+8.7%	1,346	1,464	+8.8%	12,418	13,495	+8.7%
Offense Against Family and Children	1,256	1,255	-0.1%	27	141	+422.2%	1,283	1,396	+8.8%
Driving Under the Influence	7,312	6,801	-7.0%	114	76	-33.3%	7,426	6,877	-7.4%
Liquor Law Violations	4,498	4,098	-8.9%	719	713	-0.8%	5,217	4,811	-7.8%
Disorderly Conduct	2,316	2,292	-1.0%	435	416	-4.4%	2,751	2,708	-1.6%
Vagrancy	14	15	+7.1%	0	0	N/A	14	15	+7.1%
All Other Offenses (except traffic)	13,450	13,728	+2.1%	1,353	1,324	-2.1%	14,803	15,052	+1.7%
TOTAL	62,056	61,512	-0.9%	9,032	9,397	+4.0%	71,088	70,909	-0.3%

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A REVIEW OF HATE CRIMES

With the passage of Legislative Bill 90 in 1997, commonly referred to as the Hate Crime Bill, the Nebraska Crime Commission (NCC) developed a system to report hate crimes. The FBI has defined a hate crime as a “criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender’s bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.” Nebraska law enforcement agencies voluntarily submit quarterly reports to the NCC which document the details of hate crimes that have been committed within the jurisdictions of those reporting agencies. Some of the details documented include: the type of crime committed, a general description of the location in which it occurred, and the type of bias or motivation of the offender.

There were 46 incidents reported from 9 agencies statewide that involved crimes motivated by hate or bias in 2017, compared to 26 incidents reported from 17 agencies in 2016, resulting in an overall increase of 76.9%.

Types of Bias/Motivations in Hate Crimes, 2016 – 2017

	2016	2017	% CHANGE
RACIAL	14	33	+135.7%
Anti-White	3	9	+200.0%
Anti-Black or African American	10	17	+70.0%
Anti-Asian	1	0	-100.0%
Anti-Multiple Races / Groups	0	7	N/A
ETHNICITY / NATIONAL ORIGIN	5	2	-60.0%
Anti-Hispanic or Latino	3	0	-100.0%
Anti-Arab	1	0	-100.0%
Anti-Other Race / Ethnicity / Ancestry	1	2	+100.0%
RELIGIOUS	5	6	+20.0%
Anti-Jewish	1	5	+400.0%
Anti-Catholic	0	0	N/A
Anti-Islamic (Muslim)	2	0	-100.0%
Anti-Protestant	0	1	N/A
Anti-Other Religion	2	0	-100.0%
SEXUAL	2	4	+100.0%
Anti-Gay (Male)	0	3	N/A
Anti-Lesbian (Female)	1	0	-100.0%
Anti-L.G.B.T. (Mixed Group)	1	1	+0.0%
DISABILITY	0	1	N/A
Anti-Physical Disability	0	0	N/A
Anti-Mental Disability	0	1	N/A
TOTAL	26	46	+76.9%

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A REVIEW OF HATE CRIMES

The general locations where hate crimes occurred in 2016-2017 are provided in the table below:

Location of Hate Crimes in Nebraska, 2016 – 2017

	2016	2017	% CHANGE
Religious Location (church, synagogue, mosque, etc.)	1	3	+200.0%
Commercial (bar, restaurant, store, etc.)	6	9	+50.0%
Public Area (street, park, etc.)	9	12	+33.3%
Residence	2	12	+500.0%
School / College	0	4	N/A
Other	8	6	-25.0%
TOTAL	26	46	+76.9%

The types of offenses used in hate crimes in 2016-2017 are provided in the table below:

Types of Offenses Used in Hate Crimes in Nebraska, 2016 – 2017

	2016	2017	% CHANGE
CRIMES AGAINST PEOPLE	19	9	-52.6%
Kidnapping	1	0	-100.0%
Aggravated Assault	2	1	-50.0%
Simple Assault	12	5	-58.3%
Intimidation	3	3	+0.0%
Robbery	1	0	-100.0%
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY	7	37	+428.6%
Burglary	0	3	N/A
Larceny / Theft	0	2	N/A
Destruction of Property	7	27	+285.7%
Other	0	5	N/A
TOTAL	26	46	+76.9%

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