

CRIME IN NEBRASKA (2020)

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NEBRASKA

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**COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

CRIME IN NEBRASKA (2020)

Issued by:

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

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PLEASE NOTE: Some agencies were excluded from these trends due to incomplete reporting over the two-year period. 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/or population groups.

STATEWIDE CRIME SUMMARY

The number of crimes reported to Nebraska law enforcement agencies in 2020 decreased 15.9%. There were 37,623 crimes reported in 2020, compared to 44,732 crimes reported during the same period in 2019, resulting in a decrease of 7,109 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 3.3% in 2020. There were 5,523 violent crimes reported in 2020, compared to 5,712 reported in 2019, resulting in a decrease of 189 violent crimes.

Property crimes (Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson) decreased 17.7% in 2020. There were 32,100 property crimes reported in 2020, compared to 39,020 reported in 2019, resulting in a decrease of 6,920 property crimes.

Crime Index Offenses, 2019 – 2020

	2019	2020	CHANGE
VIOLENT CRIMES	5,712	5,523	-3.3%
Criminal Homicide	51	77	+50.9%
Forcible Rape	1,235	981	-20.5%
Robbery	794	679	-14.4%
Aggravated Assault	3,632	3,786	+4.2%
PROPERTY CRIMES	39,020	32,100	-17.7%
Burglary	4,658	3,861	-17.1%
Larceny-Theft	29,308	23,531	-19.7%
Motor Vehicle Theft	4,917	4,569	-7.1%
Arson	137	139	+1.4%
COMBINED TOTAL	44,732	37,623	-15.9%

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POPULATION GROUPS

The following population groups saw changes in their 2019 crime rates:

- Populations of 400,000 and over decreased 8.7% overall (violent +5.1% / property -11.1%)
- Populations of 399,999 to 100,000 decreased 33.5% overall (violent -30.4% / property -33.9%)
- Populations of 99,999 to 5,000 decreased 7.1% overall (violent +3.8% / property -8.4%)
- Populations of 4,999 and under decreased 17.1% overall (violent -16.3% / property -17.2%)
- County areas decreased 10.1% overall (violent +19% / property -13.8%)
- State properties decreased 55% overall (violent -23% / property -56.9%)

Crime Index Offenses by Population Group, 2019 – 2020

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 AND OVER	2019	25	379	519	1,962	2,885	1,684	12,307	3,153	0	17,144	20,029
		2020	38	351	464	2,180	3,033	1,521	10,697	3,029	0	15,247	18,280
		CHANGE	+52%	-7.4%	-10.6%	+11.1%	+5.1%	-9.7%	-13.1%	-3.9%	0%	-11.1%	-8.7%
	399,999 TO 100,000	2019	5	323	166	621	1,115	988	6,566	454	43	8,051	9,166
		2020	8	160	100	508	776	646	4,290	337	50	5,323	6,099
		CHANGE	+60%	-50.5%	-38.8%	-18.2%	-30.4%	-34.6%	-34.7%	-25.8%	+16.3%	-33.9%	-33.5%
	99,999 TO 5,000	2019	9	310	80	569	968	1,015	6,335	707	62	8,119	9,087
		2020	15	287	84	619	1,005	976	5,700	705	55	7,436	8,441
		CHANGE	+11.1%	-7.4%	+5%	+8.8%	+3.8%	-3.8%	-10%	-0.3%	-11.3%	-8.4%	-7.1%
	4,999 AND UNDER	2019	1	33	0	89	123	119	702	50	6	877	1,000
		2020	1	30	2	70	103	119	542	61	4	726	829
		CHANGE	0%	-9.1%	+200%	-21.3%	-16.3%	0%	-22.8%	+22%	-33.3%	-17.2%	-17.1%
OTHER	COUNTY AREAS	2019	5	123	17	255	400	582	2,092	384	12	3070	3,470
		2020	9	114	19	334	476	503	1,777	344	21	2,645	3,121
		CHANGE	+80%	-7.3%	+11.8%	+30.9%	+19%	-13.6%	-15.1%	-10.4%	75%	-13.8%	-10.1%
	STATE AREAS	2019	1	5	0	7	13	5	196	5	10	216	229
		2020	0	7	0	3	10	4	87	0	2	93	103
		CHANGE	-100%	+40%	0%	-57.1%	-23%	-20%	-55.6%	-500%	-80%	-56.9%	-55%

TOTAL	2019	46	1,173	782	3,503	5,504	4,393	28,198	4,753	133	37,477	42,981
	2020	71	949	669	3,714	5,403	3,769	23,093	4,476	132	31,470	36,873
	CHANGE	+54.3%	-19.1%	-14.4%	+6.0%	-1.8%	-14.2%	-18.1%	-5.8%	-0.75%	-16.0%	-14.2%

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ARRESTS

There were 52,206 arrests made in 2020, compared to 66,593 in 2019, resulting in an overall decrease of 21.5%. The five categories with the highest number of arrests in 2020 were: Drug Abuse Violations (9,030); Simple Assault (7,500); Larceny (5,545); Driving Under the Influence (5,341); and Offense Against Family and Children (5,341).

The number of adult arrests (age 18 and over) in 2020 was 45,763, compared to 57,886 in 2019, resulting in a decrease of 20.9%. The number of juvenile arrests (age 17 and under) in 2020 was 6,443, compared to 8,653 in 2019, a decrease of 25.5%.

Total Arrests in Nebraska, 2019 – 2020

	ADULT ARRESTS			JUVENILE ARRESTS			ALL ARRESTS		
	2019	2020	CHANGE	2019	2020	CHANGE	2019	2020	CHANGE
Murder-Manslaughter	33	52	+53.1%	2	4	+100%	35	56	55.9%
Manslaughter by Negligence	1	3	+200%	0	0	N/A	1	3	+200%
Forcible Rape	214	206	-3.7%	53	41	-22.6%	267	247	-7.5%
Robbery	237	216	-8.9%	130	95	-26.9%	367	311	-15.3%
Aggravated Assault	1,586	1,426	-10.1%	63	75	+19%	1,649	1,501	-8.9%
Burglary	417	335	-19.7%	96	103	+7.2%	513	438	-14.6%
Larceny	5,870	4,584	-21.9%	1,597	961	-39.8%	7,467	5,545	-25.7%
Motor Vehicle Theft	288	254	-11.8%	183	144	-21.3%	471	398	-15.5%
Simple Assault	7,125	6,352	-10.8%	1,661	1,148	-30.9%	8,786	7,500	-14.6%
Arson	45	52	+15.6%	25	21	-16%	70	73	+4.3%
Forgery and Counterfeiting	287	214	-25.4%	2	5	+150%	289	219	-24.2%
Fraud	1,177	759	-35.5%	75	65	-13.34%	1,252	824	-34.1%
Embezzlement	62	25	-59.7%	8	11	+37.5%	70	36	-48.6%
Stolen Property Offenses	597	492	-17.6%	131	109	-16.8%	728	601	-17.4%

Vandalism	1,606	1,461	-9.0%	645	496	-23.1%	2,251	1,957	13.1%
Weapons	1,020	955	-6.4%	120	94	-21.7%	1,140	1,049	-7.9%
Prostitution	97	35	-63.9%	0	0	N/A	97	35	-53.9%
Sex Offenses	337	264	-21.7%	71	48	-32.4%	408	312	-23.5%
Drug Abuse Violations	11,065	8,155	-26.3%	1,173	875	-25.4%	12,238	9,030	-26.2%
Offense Against Family and Children	1,209	894	-26.1%	189	284	+50.2%	6,425	5,341	-16.9%
Driving Under the Influence	6,362	5,263	-17.2%	63	78	+23.8%	6,425	5,341	-16.9%
Liquor Law Violations	2,701	2,026	-24.9%	576	489	-15.1%	3,277	2,515	-23.3%
Disorderly Conduct	2,093	2,036	-2.7%	420	194	-53.8%	2,513	2,230	-11.3%
Vagrancy	12	13	+8.3%	0	0	N/A	12	13	+8.3%
All Other Offenses (except traffic)	13,447	9,697	-27.9%	1,370	1,103	-19.5%	14,817	10,800	-27.1%
TOTAL	57,886	45,763	-20.9%	8,653	6,443	-25.5%	66,593	52,206	-21.5%

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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.

In 2020, 140 law enforcement agencies participated in submitting hate crime data to the Crime Commission (90 all 12 months, 50 partial months). In total, there were 60 incidents reported by 17 agencies statewide that involved crimes motivated by hate or bias. In comparison, 2019 had 138 agencies participate in submitting hate crime data, reporting a total of 44 incidents from 21 agencies statewide, resulting in an overall increase of 36.4%.

Types of Bias/Motivations in Hate Crimes, 2019 – 2020

	2019	2020
RACIAL	29	30
Anti-White	16	14
Anti-Black or African American	10	15
Anti-American Indian/Alaska Native	2	0
Anti-Asian	0	1
Anti-Multiple Races / Groups	1	0
ETHNICITY / NATIONAL ORIGIN	6	7
Anti-Hispanic or Latino	5	6
Anti-Other Race / Ethnicity / Ancestry	1	1
RELIGIOUS	3	13
Anti-Jewish	0	11
Anti-Catholic	1	0
Anti-Islamic (Muslim)	2	2
Anti-Protestant	0	0
Anti-Other Religion	0	0
SEX/GENDER	4	9
Anti-Gay (Male)	1	6
Anti-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (Mixed Group)	2	3

Anti-Bisexual	1	0
DISABILITY	2	1
Anti-Physical Disability	0	0
Anti-Mental Disability	2	1
TOTAL	44	60

. **Bias motivation, location and offense counts will not match as one incident may contain more than one victim and offense.

A REVIEW OF HATE CRIMES

The general locations where hate crimes occurred in 2019-2020 are provided in the table below:

Location of Hate Crimes in Nebraska, 2019 – 2020

	2019	2020
Government/Public Building and other	3	3
Commercial (bar, restaurant, store, etc.)	9	13
Public Area (street, park, etc.)	8	13
Residence/Home	14	16
School / College	6	5
Other	4	0
TOTAL	44	50

**Bias motivation, location and offense counts will not match as one incident may contain more than one victim and offense.

The types of offenses used in hate crimes in 2019-2020 are provided in the table below:

Types of Offenses Used in Hate Crimes in Nebraska, 2019 – 2020

	2019	2020
CRIMES AGAINST PEOPLE	27	26
Kidnapping	1	0
Rape	0	1
Aggravated Assault	3	10
Simple Assault	14	7
Intimidation	9	8
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY	16	27
Burglary	1	0
Larceny-Theft	3	3
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	1
Fraud Offenses	0	0
Destruction / Damage / Vandalism of Property	8	20
Arson	0	0
Other	4	3
TOTAL	43	53

**Bias motivation, location and offense counts will not match as one incident may contain more than one victim and offense.