



Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

July 27, 2018 – 5:00 P.M. (CDT)

2017 CRIME REPORT, STATE CRIME RATE REFLECT NEW FEDERAL STANDARD

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Crime Commission released the agency’s annual crime report for 2017. The annual report shows a 2.7% increase in the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies in 2017. This increase in crime is due in part to a broadened definition of forcible rape required by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI).

49,055 crimes were reported in 2017 compared to 47,762 in 2016. 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.

Crime Commission Executive Director Darrell Fisher stated that, “While the crime rate in Nebraska increased overall due to a couple of factors, two areas saw notable decreases. Murder-Manslaughter decreased by 13.7% and Arson decreased by 2.2%.”

5,675 violent crimes (murder-manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) were reported in 2017, an 8.6% increase in this category. Forcible Rape increased 29.7%, but this increase is due in part to the broadened definition required by the FBI. Aggravated Assault increased by 6.0% and Robbery increased by 1.4%.

49,055 property crimes (burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson) were reported in 2017, a 2.0% increase for the category overall. Motor Vehicle Theft increased 11.4%, Larceny increased 0.9%, and Burglary increased by 0.4%, while Arson decreased by 2.2%.

In 2017, crimes in Omaha and Lincoln increased 5.2% and 2.1% respectively. In cities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 99,999, crime increased 1.9%, while cities with less than 5,000 residents saw crimes decrease 4.2%. In areas governed by counties (outside of municipalities), crime decreased 1.7%; additionally, crimes occurring on State Property decreased by 2.2%.

In total, 70,909 arrests were made in 2017, a 0.3% decrease from 2016. Juvenile arrests increased 4.0% and adult arrests decreased 0.9%. 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).

Fisher said, “Changes were seen in several of the main arrest categories. Specifically, arrests for Driving Under the Influence and Liquor Law Violations decreased by 7.4% and 7.8% respectively; while arrests for Drug Abuse Violations increased 8.7%. The greatest increase for a single offense was the number of arrests for Robbery, which increased 24.5%, while the largest decrease was the number of arrests for Prostitution, which decreased 29.8%.”

Hate crime statistics were also released. In 2017, 46 reported incidents involving crimes motivated by hate or bias were reported, compared to 26 in 2016. Racial bias accounted for 71.7% of the total hate crimes. Ethnic bias accounted for 4.3%, Religious bias accounted for 13.0%, Sexual bias accounted for 8.7%, and Disability bias accounted for 2.2%. Of the hate crimes reported, 19.6% involved crimes against persons, while the remaining 80.4% involved crimes against property.

Offense data are based upon crimes reported or known to law enforcement, an arrest is counted each time a person is taken into custody or issued a citation or summons. These statistics do not represent convictions.

The complete 2017 data is available at the Crime Commission’s website at <http://www.nebraska.gov/>. Offense and arrest queries are also available at <https://ncc.nebraska.gov/arrest-and-offense-data>.