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# Crime Commission Update



<http://www.ncc.ne.gov>

Dave Heineman, Governor

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

June-August, 2006

## CRIME DECREASES 3% IN 2005

Michael Behm, Executive Director of the Nebraska Crime Commission, has announced that Nebraska experienced a 3% decrease in the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies during 2005 compared to 2004. Behm indicated there were 63,669 crimes reported during 2005 compared to 65,579 reported in 2004. 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 the Crime Index used to measure crime statewide.

In the violent crime category, Nebraska experienced a 6% decrease with 4,951 violent crimes reported during 2005 compared to 5,271 reported in 2004. Murder, Manslaughter increased 5% (from 41 to 43 offenses). Forcible Rape decreased 5% (from 597 to 566 offenses). Robbery decreased 9% (from 1,128 to 1,031 offenses) and Aggravated Assault decreased 6% (from 3,505 reported in 2004 to 3,311 reported in 2005).

In terms of property crime, a 3% decrease occurred with 58,717 offenses reported in 2005 compared to 60,305 reported in 2004. Burglary decreased 5% (from 9,518 reported in 2004 to 9,032 in 2005). Larceny-Theft decreased 3% (from 45,276 to 43,918). Motor Vehicle Theft increased 9% (from 5,186 to 5,486) and Arson decreased 14% (from 325 in 2004 to 281 in 2005).

"The overall decrease in crime mirrors what is happening nationwide," said Behm. "In contrast to 2004, Nebraska has seen an overall decrease in violent crime while nationwide, there has been an increase."

Crime in Omaha decreased 3% (from 25,294 offenses reported in 2004 to 24,521 offenses in 2005). Lincoln experienced a 2% decrease (from 14,384 to 14,088). Cities of 5,000 to 99,999 in population saw a 2% decrease (from 16,641 to 16,258). Cities under 5,000 population had a 4% decrease (from 1,534 in 2004 to 1,475 in 2005). County areas reported a 5% decrease (from 7,228 to 6,864). Crime occurring on State Property decreased 7% (from 498 to 463).

The numbers of persons arrested in Nebraska during 2005 increased 2% from 2004. In 2005, there were 96,814 arrests compared to 94,572, an increase of 2,242 arrests.

The top five categories in terms of number of arrests made during 2005 include: Driving under the Influence (14,528 arrests); Liquor Law Violations (12,782 arrests); Drug Abuse Violations (11,297 arrests); Simple Assault (9,520 arrests), and Larceny-Theft (8,394 arrests).

Adult arrests (involving persons age 18 and over) increased 2%, from 79,703 arrests in 2004 to 81,512 arrests in 2005. Adult arrests accounted for 84% of the total arrests made statewide. Significant increases were seen in Driving under the Influence (from 13,829 to 14,227), Drug Abuse Violations (from 9,758 to 10,134), and Aggravated Assault (from 904 to 1,152). Decreases were seen in Larceny-Theft (from 5,689 to 5,488) and Disorderly Conduct (from 3,708 to 3,568).

Juvenile arrests increased 3%, from 14,869 in 2004 to 15,302 in 2005. Increases were seen in Simple Assault (from 1,692 to 1,961), Liquor Law Violations (from 2,178 to 2,462) and Curfew (from 391 to 509). Decreases were seen in Larceny-Theft (from 3,044 to 2,906) and Driving under the Influence (from 347 to 301).

“The increase in juvenile arrests is the first increase since 1998. While this is discouraging, it is important to emphasize the number of juveniles arrested is approximately 6,000 less than the number reported in 1998,” stated Behm.

Hate crime statistics were also released. During 2005, there were 44 incidents reported involving crimes motivated by hate. This is a 13% increase from 39 in 2004. Racial bias accounted for 43% of the total hate crimes, while Religious bias accounted for 23%. Ethnic bias accounted for 16% and Sexual bias accounted for 14%. Of the hate crimes reported, 36% involved vandalism and 34% involved intimidation.

The complete *2005 Preliminary Report* is available at the Crime Commission’s website at [www.ncc.state.ne.us](http://www.ncc.state.ne.us).

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## **DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

On August 21, 2006, The Crime Commission released our 2005 Preliminary Report on Crime in Nebraska. Our state has experienced a 3% decrease in the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies. In the violent crime category, Nebraska experienced a 6% decrease, which is good news.

Following our news release, I was asked what caused these decreases. I choose to commend the citizens of Nebraska for their involvement in their communities and our law enforcement officers. We are truly fortunate to have some of the nation's finest law enforcement professionals working here in Nebraska.

Summer is always a busy time at the Crime Commission, with grants being reviewed and awarded. In addition, with two of our staff members out on sick and maternity leave, the office staff has worked very hard to ensure our timelines are fully met.

On August 31, Grants Division Chief, Nancy Steeves and I will meet in Lincoln with the drug task force 'ad hoc' committee. This will be the fourth meeting conducted in 2006 with task force representatives to discuss strategies. I want to thank all of the task force members, prosecutors, and the U.S. Attorney's office for their valuable assistance in past meetings.

Crime Commission staff offered administrative assistant, Sarah Schoen and her husband, Ryan congratulations on the birth of their daughter, Carleigh Alice on August 10.

Finally, please keep Barb McCreight of our office in your thoughts while she is away on sick leave.

-Michael Behm  
Executive Director

## **WILLIAM MULDOON IS NEW TRAINING CENTER DIRECTOR**

Effective August 7, William Muldoon started his tenure as the Director of the Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island. Mr. Muldoon began his law enforcement career in 1978 with the Omaha Police Department. His various duties during his service in Omaha included patrol, accident investigation, sergeant, detective sergeant, department spokesman, lieutenant, and background investigations.

Following his retirement from the Omaha Police Department in 2003, Muldoon was hired as the Nebraska City Chief of Police. He has been a guest instructor at the Law Enforcement Training Center for the last twelve years. Mr. Muldoon has a degree from Bellevue University and is married with two daughters attending college. We welcome Mr. Muldoon to the Training Center.

## **COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL UPDATE**

The Community Corrections Council, in collaboration with Probation Administration, has been working on the implementation of five Day and Evening Reporting Center sites (DERC) and the Fee for Service Voucher Treatment Program.

The Council was appropriated \$1,250,000 for the development and implementation of DERC. Although all centers are not in their permanent locations, services and programs are being provided at all sites. Probation Administration has indicated good support and involvement from local communities. DERC is available to all probationers, but is case managed and comes under the direction of the Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision program (SSAS).

The SSAS program is also up and running and has about 25 participants. SSAS officers received four weeks of training in February and Probation is currently making plans to train four SSAS officers as trainers in order to perpetuate the training as the program expands.

The Fee for Service Voucher Treatment Program is providing vouchers for evaluation and treatment for probation and parole offenders with a felony drug offense. Currently, there are 420 registered providers. To date, 420 vouchers have been provided for evaluations and 77 vouchers have been provided for treatment. The demand for vouchers is increasing each month as more providers are trained. Probation is collecting data to determine how to most beneficially expand the program. The 05/06 appropriation of \$1,168,968 was carried over and the 06/07 appropriation is \$2,161,878 for the Fee for Service Voucher Treatment Program.

During the 2006 Legislative Session, the Council also was appropriated \$2,000,000 for Specialized Courts. Currently, Specialized Courts exist in eight of the twelve Judicial Districts. One district has a court in the planning stages, and there are three districts that have no specialized court. Scott Carlson, the Specialized Courts Coordinator, will develop a plan, standards, and a budget. Funds will primarily be utilized for personnel.

## **NDOR ELECTRONIC ACCIDENT REPORT READY**

The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) has completed its web-based electronic accident report, which is ready for use by law enforcement agencies. Officers can now fill out a report on the computer and submit it to NDOR electronically. If this system is used, it is no longer necessary to submit a paper report.

Before using the electronic accident report, a law enforcement agency must designate one member of its staff as an administrator for the system. That person will set up the remaining accounts for all users in their agency. The system will accommodate those agencies that prefer to have a supervisor approve a report before submitting it to NDOR. The system will also allow an investigator to approve his/her own accident reports if a supervisor's approval is not required. The agency's administrator will make that determination for each user account created.

To find out more information about the electronic accident system, call Bob Grant in Highway Safety at NDOR at (402) 479-4645 or e-mail him at [bgrant@dor.state.ne.us](mailto:bgrant@dor.state.ne.us).

## **FORENSICS WORKSHOP SPONSORED BY CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY**

"Forensics in Healthcare: Suspicious Injury and Death Investigation and Managing Evidence in Healthcare and other Settings" is the title of a 2-day workshop sponsored by Creighton University. The conference will be held on November 2 and 3 at the Forte Conference Center in Downtown Omaha.

The keynote speaker will be Robert K. Ressler, founder and former director of the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program. Ressler, considered the world's leading authority on violence in contemporary society, will help us understand violent and extreme criminal behavior.

Law enforcement, attorneys, emergency response personnel, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, advocates, and those interested in forensics are encouraged to attend.

A series of forensic experts will share forensic scenarios with clinical applications for assessment and specialized documentation. In addition, specific skill sets will be addressed such as forensic photography as well as the many facets of a criminal investigation that occur in a healthcare setting highlighting the responsibilities of all healthcare professionals.

Registrations can be made online at <http://cme/creighton/edu>. For more information, contact Joyce Bunger, Creighton University School of Nursing, 402-280-2029, or e-mail [jbunger@creighton.edu](mailto:jbunger@creighton.edu).

## **GOVERNOR HEINEMAN AND STATE PATROL SEEK HELP IN SOLVING MISSING PERSONS CASES**

Governor Dave Heineman today joined with the Nebraska State Patrol in promoting the state's Missing Persons Clearinghouse, an Internet Web site dedicated to helping Nebraskans find missing friends and family members.

"Finding someone who has gone missing is a complex and multifaceted process," Governor Heineman said. "Investigators know that the more information that can be gathered on a missing person, the greater the chance for their recovery. Putting a face with a name is one of the most valuable tools we have when it comes to these kinds of cases, which can range from a criminal investigation into the abduction of a child by a stranger or family member, to an investigation into the whereabouts of a runaway, and the Missing Persons Clearinghouse is a resource that provides Nebraskans with a way to help in the search."

The Legislature established the Nebraska Missing Persons Clearinghouse with the passage of LB 111, known as Jason's Law, during the 2005 legislative session, which was introduced by Senator Patrick Bourne of Omaha. The law was created on behalf of the family of Jason Jolkowski of Omaha. Jason was 19 years old when he disappeared from the front of his home on June 13, 2001. The listing with his picture and descriptive information were among the first adult information posted on the site when it was launched last December. His case remains active.

As the state's law enforcement agency, the Nebraska State Patrol serves as the central repository for information on missing children and adults and as a result of Jason's Law, created and maintained a Web site, which lists approximately 350 people at any given time.

The site has received nearly 7,800 hits since it's creation. More than 2,900 individuals have been listed as newly missing since the start of the year. Nineteen individuals have been recovered, and more than 2,500 of the missing person reports have been canceled.

Col. Bryan Tuma, Superintendent of the State Patrol, said, "Information is the key ingredient when it comes to missing persons cases. We need the public to partner with families and law enforcement to find Nebraska's missing, and the Nebraska State Patrol is dedicated to providing the public with access to as much information as possible to help accomplish that goal."

There are currently 143 photos accompanying the 379 persons listed as missing on the Clearinghouse Web site. Families are encouraged to include a current picture and as much detailed information as possible when providing missing person reports to law enforcement agencies.

Law enforcement agencies, parents, and relatives of the missing are encouraged to contact the Missing Persons Clearinghouse toll-free at (877) 441-LOST (5678), or 402-479-4986 to add or update a listing. The Nebraska Missing Persons Clearinghouse is available online at <http://www/nsp.state.ne.us/missingpersons/index.cfm>.

## **POLICE TRAFFIC STOPS**

The Bureau of Justice Statistics has released *Characteristics of Drivers Stopped by Police*, a 12-page report. The report includes the following findings: In 2002, an estimated 8.7 percent of drivers age 16 or older were stopped by police. Men were more likely than women to be pulled over by police, and young drivers were more likely than older drivers to be stopped. White drivers were more likely than black and Hispanic drivers to be stopped for speeding, but blacks and Hispanics were more likely to receive a ticket. Among young male drivers subjected to traffic stops, 11 percent were physically searched or had their vehicles searched. Blacks (22 percent) and Hispanics (17 percent) were searched at higher rates than whites (8 percent). Of the estimated 329,000 drivers who were searched and arrested during a traffic stop, police found evidence of criminal wrongdoing in approximately 20 percent of the cases. The report (NCJ-211471) is available on the Internet at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs).

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

Summer afternoon - summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.

- Henry James

## **MEETINGS**

### **September**

- The Police Standards Advisory Council will meet on September 20, at 9:00 a.m. at the Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island.
- The Community Corrections Council will meet on September 22, at 9:00 a.m. at the Cornhusker Marriot in Lincoln.

### **October**

- The Police Standards Advisory Council will meet on October 18, at 9:00 a.m. at the Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island.
- The Crime Commission will meet on October 27, at 9:30 a.m. at the State Office Building in Lincoln.