

Crime Commission Update



<http://www.nol.org/home/crimecom/>

Dave Heineman, Governor

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

September/October, 2005

CRIME DECREASES 5% IN 2004

The number of crimes reported to Nebraska law enforcement agencies decreased 5 percent in 2004 compared to 2003. There were 65,823 crimes reported during January through December of 2004, compared to 69,344 reported during the same period of 2003, a decrease of 3,521 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 5 percent. There were 5,302 violent crimes reported in 2004 compared to 5,032 reported in 2003, an increase of 270 crimes. Property crimes (Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson) decreased 6 percent. There were 60,521 property crimes reported in 2004 compared to 64,312 reported in 2003, a decrease of 3,791 crimes.

Crime decreased 8 percent in Omaha and 2 percent in Lincoln. Cities of 5,000 to 99,999 population had a 4 percent decrease; cities under 5,000 population had a 10 percent decrease; and county areas reported a 5 percent decrease. Crimes occurring on State property increased 11 percent from 2003.

Crime Index Offenses, 2003 - 2004

Crime Index Offenses	Number of Crime Index Offenses		
	2003	2004	% Change
<i>Violent Crimes</i>	5,032	5,302	+5
Murder - Manslaughter	55	41	-25
Forcible Rape	495	597	+21
Robbery	1,156	1,128	-2
Aggravated Assault	3,326	3,536	+6
<i>Property Crimes</i>	64,312	60,521	-6
Burglary	9,881	9,534	-4
Larceny-Theft	47,962	45,456	-5
Motor Vehicle Theft	6,070	5,206	-14
Arson	399	325	-19
TOTAL	69,344	65,823	-5

Total Arrests Increase 1%

The total number of persons arrested in Nebraska during 2004 increased from 93,475 in 2003 to 94,112 in 2004, an increase of 637 arrests. The top five categories in terms of the number of arrests made for specific crimes were: Driving Under the Influence (14,093 arrests), Liquor Law Violations (12,355), Drug Abuse Violations (10,809), Simple Assault (9,217), and Larceny-Theft (8,717). The total number of adult arrests (age 18 and over) increased 1% from 78,272 in 2003 to 79,244 in 2004. Adult arrests accounted for 84% of the total arrests made statewide. The total number of juvenile arrests decreased 2% from 15,204 in 2003 to 14,868 in 2004.

A REVIEW OF HATE CRIMES IN NEBRASKA

With the passage of Legislative Bill 90 in 1997, commonly referred to as the Hate Crime Bill, the Crime Commission developed a system for reporting hate crimes. Law enforcement agencies voluntarily submit quarterly reports to the Commission on the number of hate crime incidents. If a hate crime has been committed, they report the type of crime committed, a general description of the location, and the type of bias motivation. Of the 170 law enforcement agencies asked to participate in hate crime reporting, 110 agencies submitted at least one quarterly report during 2004 with 86 of those agencies reporting all four quarters.

During 2004, there were a total of 39 incidents reported involving crimes motivated by hate. This is a 44% increase above the 27 reported in 2003. The types of bias motivation are provided below.

Type of Bias	Number	Percent
Racial	18	46.2
White	2	
Black	10	
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	
Multi-Racial	2	
Ethnicity/National Origin	10	25.6
Hispanic	5	
Other Ethnicity	5	
Religious	4	10.3
Jewish	2	
Anti-Islamic	2	
Sexual	7	17.9
Male Homosexual	4	
Female Homosexual	1	
Homosexual	2	
Total	39	100.0

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

During July 2005, the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice released the Uniform Crime Report for 2004. Nebraska experienced a five percent decrease in the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies during 2004, compared to 2003.

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 to measure crime statewide. Since 1928, the FBI has collected data on reported crimes.

The current Nebraska Crime Commission was established in 1967, as the Governor's Crime Control Commission. The name was changed to the current name in 1969. One of our responsibilities is to collect, develop and maintain statistical information. However, there is much more to the Crime Commission.

A total of nineteen members make up the Crime Commission who meet quarterly and are appointed by the Governor for six year terms. These members meet to review the activities of its committees, take final action in awarding grant funds and provide recommendations to staff activities.

We also have standing committees which convene to discuss: Crime Victims Reparations; Education, Research and Planning; Grant Review; Statute Review; and Data Processing. There also are advisory groups representing: Coalition for Juvenile Justice; County Attorney Standards; Criminal Justice Information Systems; and Police Standards Advisory Council.

In addition, the Jail Standards Division and the Law Enforcement Training Center are within the purview of the Crime Commission. The Commission also provides administrative support to the Community Corrections Council, which is directed by Linda Krutz. The chairperson of the Council is Senator Kermit Brashear.

Finally, all of these functions exist to better serve criminal and juvenile justice programs statewide.

– Michael Behm, Director

LB 361 - DNA SAMPLES

As a reminder, LB 361, passed by the 2005 Nebraska Legislature contains these provisions regarding the use of DNA samples for law enforcement purposes.

- No DNA sample shall be obtained from any person for any law enforcement purpose in connection with the investigation of a crime without probable cause, a court order, or voluntary consent. Any DNA sample obtained in violation of these conditions is not admissible in any proceedings.
- A person shall be notified in writing by the law enforcement agency immediately upon the determination that he or she has not been implicated by his or her DNA sample in the commission of the particular crime for which the sample was obtained.
- If the person has not been implicated, his or her DNA sample and all identifying information pertaining to the person shall be delivered to the person within ten days. The law enforcement agency shall purge all records and identifiable information pertaining to the person.

LB 361 is now in effect. For the complete text of the provisions regarding DNA samples, see Section 22 of LB 361.

IDENTIFY SCAM

Here's a new twist scammers are using to commit identity theft: the jury duty scam. Here's how it works:

The scammer calls claiming to work for the local court and claims you've failed to report for jury duty. He tells you that a warrant has been issued for your arrest. The victim will often rightly claim they never received the jury duty notification. The scammer then asks the victim for confidential information for "verification" purposes. Specifically, the scammer asks for the victim's Social Security number, birth date, and sometimes even for credit card numbers and other private information – exactly what the scammer needs to commit identity theft.

So far, this jury duty scam has been reported in Michigan, Ohio, Texas, Arizona, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Oregon and Washington State. It's easy to see why this works. The victim is clearly caught off guard, and is understandably upset at the prospect of a warrant being issued for his or her arrest. So, the victim is much less likely to be vigilant about protecting their confidential information.

Best protection: Never give out your Social Security number, credit card numbers or other personal confidential information when you receive a telephone call.

TOP TWELVE NEBRASKA CITIES

According to the 2004 population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, here are the twelve most populous cities in Nebraska:

Rank	Nebraska	July 1, 2000	July 1, 2004	Percentage Change
1	Omaha	392,009	409,416	4.4%
2	Lincoln	226,445	236,146	4.3%
3	Bellevue	44,545	47,347	6.3%
4	Grand Island	43,069	44,287	2.8%
5	Kearney	27,491	28,640	4.2%
6	Fremont	25,260	25,272	0.0%
7	Norfolk	23,488	24,072	2.5%
8	North Platte	23,943	23,944	0.0%
9	Hastings	24,063	23,404	-2.7%
10	Columbus	21,074	20,881	-0.9%
11	Papillion	17,862	19,497	9.2%
12	Scottsbluff	14,880	14,767	-0.8%

Douglas County (482,112), Lancaster County (261,545), and Sarpy County (135,973) have a total population of 879,630. The total population of the other 90 counties in Nebraska is 867,584.

Less than one person per square mile lives in Arthur, McPherson, Sioux, Blaine, Grant and Thomas Counties. Lancaster County has 312 people per square mile and Douglas County has 1,457.

THOUGHT(S) FOR THE DAY

“Tell me, and I forget. Teach me, and I may remember.
Involve me and I learn.”

– Benjamin Franklin

“This is the greatest concentration of talent and genius in this house
except for those times when Thomas Jefferson ate alone.”

– John Kennedy, speaking at a White
House dinner for Nobel Prize winners

CRIMINAL JUSTICE VIDEO LIBRARY

The following videos have been added to the library and are available for loan.

HIDDEN TRAPS AND SECRET COMPARTMENTS (DVD)

16 Minutes Color Street Cop: 2005 AD

This video provides tips to street officers on hidden compartments which may hold contraband or weapons. Among the compartments shown are those in vehicles (inside air bags, car seats, and cleanup kits in trunks), hair spray containers, and furniture traps (chest of drawers and dressers). This is an excellent video for refresher or basic training.

TROOPER SAVED BY PASSENGER SIDE APPROACH (DVD)

38 Minutes Color In the Line of Duty: 2005 AD

A Utah trooper who stopped a car for speeding on the highway used the passenger side approach. While he was standing on the passenger side talking to the motorist, a commercial truck side-swiped the driver's side of the vehicle. The incident is captured on the trooper's in-car video camera. If the trooper would have used the conventional means of approach, he would have been killed. The advantages of a passenger side approach are discussed and the trooper involved in the incident is interviewed. A short segment at the end of the program discusses a research study that examined how officers react to lethal force.

METHAMPHETAMINES: THE HARD FACTS (DVD)

25 Minutes Color Human Relations Media: 2003 SH-COL-AD

This video concisely provides the key facts about methamphetamines, including physical and psychological effects of the drug. Although designed for a teenage audience, the information in the program is valuable for any age group. Included are interviews with meth users, long term effects, myths, and how meth is manufactured and ingested. A study guide is available.

KEEP OFF THE GRASS: THE HIDDEN DANGERS OF MARIJUANA USE (DVD)

25 Minutes Color Human Relations Media; 2003 JH-SH

Designed for a teenage audience, this program discusses the misconceptions concerning marijuana use. Marijuana is not "safe" to use because it is organic, in fact it is a dangerous and addictive drug. Perhaps the biggest danger is that marijuana is a gateway drug, leading to the use of more addictive drugs. Interviews with current and ex-users of the drug are interspersed with basic information about the long term effects of marijuana use. A study guide is available.

STEVE LAMKEN SELECTED AS GRAND ISLAND'S POLICE CHIEF

Steve Lamken, the Director of the Law Enforcement Training Center, has been selected by Mayor Jay Vavricek to be Grand Island's new police chief. If approved by the City Council, Mr. Lamken will begin his duties on October 17.

Mr. Lamken has been Director of the Training Center since 1996. Prior to that, he served as Kearney Police Chief from 1987-1996, Ogallala Police Chief from 1984-1987, and as an officer with the Lincoln Police Department from 1973 to 1984.

During his time as Training Center Director, Mr. Lamken oversaw a major renovation of the Training Center facility and a transition to a tuition-based enrollment system.

We would like to thank Steve Lamken for his service with the Training Center and wish him well in his new capacity as Police Chief.

NEBRASKA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

**In Cooperation With
RID Training Presents**

Identifying & Dealing with Drug Impaired Inmates

November 15, 2005, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

FREE TUITION

Course will be held at NLETC and is open to
Corrections Officers Only.

Dorm rooms are available for \$15 per person double occupancy
by calling the Training Center.

Detailed information on.....

- ' Recognizing and Evaluating Drug Impairment
- ' Short and Long Term Effects
- ' Paraphernalia
- ' Trends
- ' Psychophysical Testing
- ' Eye Examinations
- ' Documenting Signs and Symptoms
- ' Legal and Illegal Chemicals
- ' Addiction and More.

Course registration forms are available by calling the Training Center or at www.nletc.state.ne.us. Contact Tim Branstiter at 308-385-6030 ext. 307 for more information.

