

CRIME IN NEBRASKA

PRELIMINARY 2007 REPORT - For Release July 14, 2008

5% DECREASE IN CRIME IN 2007

The number of crimes reported to Nebraska law enforcement agencies decreased 5 percent in 2007 compared to 2006. There were 59,958 crimes reported during January through December of 2007, compared to 63,099 reported during the same period of 2006, a decrease of 3,141 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 six percent. There were 5,264 violent crimes reported in 2007 compared to 4,979 reported in 2006, an increase of 285 crimes. Property crimes (Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson) decreased 6 percent. There were 54,694 property crimes reported in 2007 compared to 58,120 reported in 2006, a decrease of 3,426 crimes.

Crime decreased 4 percent in Omaha and 3 percent in Lincoln. Cities of 5,000 to 99,999 population had a 6 percent decrease; cities under 5,000 population had a 10 percent decrease; and county areas reported a 6 percent decrease. Crimes occurring on State property decreased 11 percent from 2006.

Crime Index Offenses, 2006 - 2007

<i>Crime Index Offenses</i>	<i>Number of Crime Index Offenses</i>		
	2006	2007	% Change
Violent Crimes	4,979	5,264	+ 6
Murder - Manslaughter	53	66	+25
Forcible Rape	567	513	-10
Robbery	1,128	1,102	- 2
Aggravated Assault	3,231	3,583	+11
Property Crimes	58,120	54,694	- 6
Burglary	9,135	8,815	- 4
Larceny-Theft	43,786	40,628	- 7
Motor Vehicle Theft	5,039	5,093	+1
Arson	160	158	- 1
Total	63,099	59,958	- 5

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

DAVE HEINEMAN
GOVERNOR

(402) 471-2194

MICHAEL E. BEHM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Percent Change - Crime Index Offenses
January thru December, 2006 - 2007 by Population Groups ***

<i>Population Group</i>		<i>Murder, Man-slaughter</i>	<i>Forcible Rape</i>	<i>Robbery</i>	<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	<i>Burglary</i>	<i>Larceny Theft</i>	<i>Motor Vehicle Theft</i>	<i>Arson</i>	<i>Total</i>
250,000 & Over	2006	33	187	848	1,437	3,172	15,172	3,443	NA	24,292
	2007	42	189	818	1,529	3,345	13,876	3,436	NA	23,235
	% Change	+27	+1	-4	+6	+5	-9	0	-	-4
100,000 to 249,999	2006	5	112	162	989	1,922	9,884	431	7	13,512
	2007	6	113	173	1,033	1,904	9,428	423	2	13,082
	% Change	+20	+1	+9	+4	-1	-5	-2	-71	-3
5,000 to 99,999	2006	5	195	90	487	2,261	12,232	700	104	16,074
	2007	8	134	83	602	1,909	11,509	702	89	15,036
	% Change	+38	-31	-8	+24	-16	-6	0	-14	-6
Under 5,000	2006	0	19	2	49	190	1,131	65	13	1,469
	2007	1	20	2	32	222	966	72	14	1,329
	% Change	+100	+5	0	-35	+17	-15	+11	+8	-10
Counties	2006	10	53	25	260	1,518	4,991	393	36	7,286
	2007	9	56	26	379	1,377	4,508	454	53	6,862
	% Change	-11	+5	+4	+46	-9	-10	+16	+47	-6
State Property	2006	0	1	1	9	72	376	7	0	466
	2007	0	1	0	8	58	341	6	0	414
	% Change	0	0	-100	-11	-19	-9	-14	0	-11
TOTAL	2006	53	567	1,128	3,231	9,135	43,786	5,039	160	63,099
	2007	66	513	1,102	3,583	8,815	40,628	5,093	158	59,958
	% Change	+25	-10	-2	+11	-4	-7	+1	-1	-5

* Estimates are used for law enforcement agencies that did not report a complete 12 months during either year. Agencies that did not report during either year are excluded from the trend analysis.

Total Arrests Decrease 3%

The total number of persons arrested in Nebraska during 2007 decreased from 92,851 in 2006 to 90,484 in 2007, a decrease of 2,367 arrests. The top five categories in terms of the number of arrests made for specific crimes were: Driving under the Influence (13,280 arrests), Liquor Law Violations (12,135), Drug Abuse Violations (10,295), Simple Assault (9,128), and Larceny-Theft (8,242). The total number of adult arrests (age 18 and over) decreased 3% from 76,973 in 2006 to 74,984 in 2007. Adult arrests accounted for 83% of the total arrests made statewide. The total number of juvenile arrests decreased 2%, from 15,883 in 2006 to 15,500 in 2007.

Total Arrest Trends, 2006 - 2007 *

<i>Offense</i>	<i>Under 18 Years of Age</i>			<i>18 Years of Age and Over</i>			<i>Total All Ages</i>		
	2006	2007	Percent Change	2006	2007	Percent Change	2006	2007	Percent Change
Murder - Manslaughter	3	5	+67	42	44	+ 5	45	49	+ 9
Death by Negligence	0	2	--	16	14	-13	16	16	0
Forcible Rape	17	22	+29	141	127	-10	158	149	- 6
Robbery	59	78	+32	263	220	-16	322	298	- 7
Aggravated Assault	112	145	+29	1,017	1,150	+13	1,129	1,295	+15
Burglary	383	291	-24	649	611	- 6	1,032	902	-13
Larceny-Theft	2,838	2,964	+ 4	4,995	5,278	+ 6	7,833	8,242	+ 5
Motor Vehicle Theft	116	108	- 7	244	304	+25	360	412	+14
Arson	74	57	-23	39	48	+23	113	105	- 7
Simple Assault	2,007	1,928	- 4	7,207	7,200	0	9,214	9,128	- 1
Forgery and Counterfeiting	27	24	-11	558	537	- 4	585	561	- 4
Fraud	76	101	+33	1,728	1,752	+ 1	1,804	1,853	+ 3
Embezzlement	6	16	+167	73	88	+21	79	104	+32
Stolen Property Offenses	195	179	- 8	898	722	-20	1,093	901	-18
Vandalism	1,178	1,163	- 1	1,939	1,731	-11	3,117	2,894	- 7
Weapons Violations	160	197	+23	979	902	- 8	1,139	1,099	- 4
Prostitution/Commercial. Vice	1	1	0	235	181	-23	236	182	-23
Sex Offenses	111	132	+19	534	500	- 6	645	632	- 2
Drug Abuse Violations	1,141	1,170	+ 3	9,402	9,125	- 3	10,543	10,295	- 2
Gambling	0	0	0	18	11	-39	18	11	-39
Offenses Ag. Family/Children	42	61	+45	1,647	1,593	- 3	1,689	1,654	- 2
Driving Under the Influence	336	282	-16	13,072	12,998	- 1	13,408	13,280	- 1
Liquor Law Violations	2,705	2,485	- 8	10,012	9,650	- 4	12,717	12,135	- 5
Disorderly Conduct	961	945	- 2	3,320	3,487	+ 5	4,281	4,432	+ 4
All Other Offenses	2,469	2,296	- 7	17,940	16,711	- 7	20,409	19,007	- 7
Curfew / Loitering	450	416	- 8				450	416	- 8
Runaways	416	432	+ 4				416	432	+ 4
Total	15,883	15,500	- 2	76,973	74,984	- 3	92,851	90,484	- 3

* Only agencies that submitted reports during both years are used for the trend analysis. The actual numbers reported statewide will differ from the totals shown

above.

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, 100 agencies submitted at least one quarterly report during 2007 with 95 of those agencies reporting all four quarters.

During 2007, there were a total of 86 incidents reported involving crimes motivated by hate. This is a 76% increase above the 49 reported in 2006. The types of bias motivation are provided below.

Type of Bias	Number	Percent
Racial	52	60.5
White	8	
Black	37	
American Indian	1	
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	
Multi-Racial	2	
Ethnicity / National Origin	10	11.6
Hispanic	4	
Other Ethnicity	6	
Religious	10	11.6
Jewish	6	
Islamic	3	
Other Religion	1	
Sexual	14	16.3
Male Homosexual	11	
Female Homosexual	1	
Homosexual	2	
Total	86	100.0

The general location where the hate crimes occurred and the type of crime committed are provided below. The majority of incidents occurred in a public area, commercial establishment, or school/college. 51% of the hate crimes were carried out through a direct confrontation with the victim and 49% were directed towards the property of the victim.

Location	Number	Percent
Commercial	14	16.3
Public Area (Street, Park, etc.)	22	25.6
Residence	23	26.7
School/College	11	12.8
Jail	1	1.2
Church	1	1.2
Other	14	16.3
Total	86	100.0

Type of Crime	Number	Percent
Aggravated Assault	2	2.3
Simple Assault	28	32.6
Intimidation	14	16.3
Arson	2	2.3
Robbery	2	2.3
Burglary / Larceny Theft	3	3.5
Trespassing	2	2.3
Destruction of Property	31	36.0
Embezzlement, Forgery	2	2.3
Total	86	100.0

PLEASE NOTE: 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 population groups.