

CRIME IN NEBRASKA

PRELIMINARY 2008 REPORT - For Release July 15, 2009

7% DECREASE IN CRIME IN 2008

The number of crimes reported to Nebraska law enforcement agencies decreased 7 percent in 2008 compared to 2007. There were 54,669 crimes reported during January through December of 2008, compared to 58,633 reported during the same period of 2007, a decrease of 3,964 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 three percent. There were 5,307 violent crimes reported in 2008 compared to 5,146 reported in 2007, an increase of 161 crimes. Property crimes (Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson) decreased 8 percent. There were 49,362 property crimes reported in 2008 compared to 53,487 reported in 2007, a decrease of 4,125 crimes.

Crime decreased 8 percent in Omaha and 12 percent in Lincoln. Cities of 5,000 to 99,999 population had a 1 percent increase; cities under 5,000 population had a 14 percent decrease; and county areas reported a 6 percent decrease. Crimes occurring on State property decreased 7 percent from 2007.

Crime Index Offenses, 2007 - 2008

<i>Crime Index Offenses</i>	<i>Number of Crime Index Offenses</i>		
	2007	2008	% Change
Violent Crimes	5,146	5,307	+ 3
Murder - Manslaughter	64	67	+5
Forcible Rape	516	553	+ 7
Robbery	1,105	1,287	+16
Aggravated Assault	3,461	3,400	- 2
Property Crimes	53,487	49,362	- 8
Burglary	8,641	8,313	- 4
Larceny-Theft	39,621	36,829	- 7
Motor Vehicle Theft	5,070	4,100	-19
Arson	155	120	-23
Total	58,633	54,669	- 7

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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**Percent Change - Crime Index Offenses
January thru December, 2007 - 2008 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>
400,000 & Over	2007	42	189	818	1,529	3,345	13,876	3,436	NA	23,235
	2008	44	180	949	1,475	3,175	12,892	2,725	NA	21,440
	% Change	+10	- 5	+16	- 4	- 5	- 7	-21	-	- 8
250,000 to 399,999	2007	6	112	173	1,033	1,904	9,428	423	2	13,081
	2008	4	113	213	952	1,569	8,251	348	1	11,451
	% Change	-33	+ 1	+23	- 8	-18	-12	-18	-50	-12
5,000 to 99,999	2007	6	136	84	468	1,724	10,453	664	87	13,622
	2008	12	178	88	545	1,920	10,319	580	81	13,723
	% Change	+100	+31	+ 5	+16	+11	- 1	-13	- 7	+ 1
Under 5,000	2007	1	20	3	48	235	990	77	12	1,386
	2008	0	28	4	60	218	833	43	10	1,196
	% Change	-100	+40	+33	+25	- 7	-16	-44	-17	-14
Counties	2007	9	58	27	375	1,375	4,532	464	54	6,894
	2008	7	53	30	360	1,378	4,214	401	28	6,471
	% Change	-22	- 9	+ 11	- 4	0	- 7	-14	-48	- 6
State Property	2007	0	1	0	8	58	342	6	0	416
	2008	0	1	3	8	53	320	3	0	388
	% Change	0	0	--	0	- 9	- 6	-50	0	- 7
TOTAL	2007	64	516	1,105	3,461	8,641	39,621	5,070	155	58,633
	2008	67	553	1,287	3,400	8,313	36,829	4,100	120	54,669
	% Change	+ 5	+ 7	+16	- 2	- 4	- 7	-19	-23	- 7

* 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 Increase 1%

The total number of persons arrested in Nebraska during 2008 increased from 90,081 in 2007 to 90,612 in 2008, an increase of 531 arrests. The top five categories in terms of the number of arrests made for specific crimes were: Driving under the Influence (13,952 arrests), Liquor Law Violations (12,943), Drug Abuse Violations (10,541), Simple Assault (9,260), and Larceny-Theft (8,300). The total number of adult arrests (age 18 and over) increased less than 1% from 74,774 in 2007 to 75,001 in 2008. Adult arrests accounted for 83% of the total arrests made statewide. The total number of juvenile arrests increased 2%, from 15,307 in 2007 to 15,611 in 2008.

Total Arrest Trends, 2007 - 2008 *

<i>Offense</i>	<i>Under 18 Years of Age</i>			<i>18 Years of Age and Over</i>			<i>Total All Ages</i>		
	2007	2008	Percent Change	2007	2008	Percent Change	2007	2008	Percent Change
Murder - Manslaughter	4	5	+25	43	39	- 9	47	44	- 6
Death by Negligence	2	0	-100	14	7	-50	16	7	-56
Forcible Rape	21	18	-14	128	131	+ 2	149	149	0
Robbery	78	75	- 4	218	323	+48	296	398	+35
Aggravated Assault	151	150	- 1	1,150	1,241	+ 8	1,301	1,391	+ 7
Burglary	291	341	+17	627	593	- 5	981	934	+ 2
Larceny-Theft	2,950	3,083	+ 5	5,260	5,217	- 1	8,210	8,300	+ 1
Motor Vehicle Theft	107	130	+22	311	255	-18	418	385	- 8
Arson	57	50	-12	46	32	-30	103	82	-20
Simple Assault	1,914	1,986	+ 4	7,151	7,274	+ 2	9,065	9,260	+ 2
Forgery and Counterfeiting	24	19	-21	530	442	-17	554	461	-17
Fraud	101	92	- 9	1,740	1,611	- 7	1,841	1,703	- 8
Embezzlement	16	17	+ 6	89	96	+ 8	105	113	+ 8
Stolen Property Offenses	174	210	+21	716	625	-13	890	835	- 6
Vandalism	1,086	1,040	- 4	1,700	1,690	- 1	2,786	2,730	- 2
Weapons Violations	193	199	+ 3	891	918	+ 3	1,084	1,117	+ 3
Prostitution/Commercial. Vice	1	1	0	181	211	+17	182	212	+17
Sex Offenses	130	124	- 5	496	476	- 4	626	600	- 4
Drug Abuse Violations	1,179	1,182	0	9,144	9,359	+ 2	10,323	10,541	+ 2
Gambling	0	1	--	11	18	+64	11	19	+73
Offenses Ag. Family/Children	61	45	-26	1,575	1,513	- 4	1,636	1,558	- 5
Driving Under the Influence	287	283	- 1	13,032	13,669	+ 5	13,319	13,952	+ 5
Liquor Law Violations	2,459	2,476	- 1	9,624	10,467	+ 9	12,083	12,943	+ 7
Disorderly Conduct	933	930	0	3,332	3,434	+ 3	4,265	4,364	+ 2
All Other Offenses	2,248	2,223	- 1	16,765	15,360	- 8	19,010	17,583	- 8
Curfew / Loitering	405	485	+20				405	485	+20
Runaways	435	446	+ 3				435	446	+ 3
Total	15,307	15,611	+ 2	74,774	75,001	0	90,081	90,612	+ 1

* 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 167 law enforcement agencies asked to participate in hate crime reporting, 98 agencies submitted at least one quarterly report during 2008 with 85 of those agencies reporting all four quarters.

During 2008, there were a total of 98 incidents reported involving crimes motivated by hate. This is a 14% increase above the 86 reported in 2007. The types of bias motivation are provided below.

Type of Bias	Number	Percent
Racial	61	62.2
White	13	
Black	41	
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	
Multi-Racial	6	
Ethnicity / National Origin	12	12.2
Hispanic	6	
Other Ethnicity	6	
Religious	11	11.2
Jewish	6	
Other Religion	5	
Sexual	14	14.3
Male Homosexual	8	
Female Homosexual	2	
Homosexual	4	
Total	98	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	13	13.3
Public Area (Street, Park, etc.)	17	17.3
Residence	27	27.6
School/College	15	15.3
Jail	2	2.0
Church	6	6.1
Other	18	18.4
Total	98	100.0

Type of Crime	Number	Percent
Aggravated Assault	7	7.1
Simple Assault	33	33.7
Intimidation	20	20.4
Robbery	2	2.0
Destruction of Property	36	36.7
Total	98	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.