

# CRIME IN NEBRASKA 2009

For Release July 15, 2010

## 4% DECREASE IN CRIME IN 2009

The number of crimes reported to Nebraska law enforcement agencies decreased 4 percent in 2009 compared to 2008. There were 53,105 crimes reported during January through December of 2009, compared to 55,573 reported during the same period of 2008, a decrease of 2,468 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) decreased ten percent. There were 4,890 violent crimes reported in 2009 compared to 5,440 reported in 2008, a decrease of 3,021 crimes. Property crimes (Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson) decreased 4 percent. There were 48,215 property crimes reported in 2009 compared to 50,133 reported in 2008, a decrease of 1,918 crimes.

Crime decreased 4 percent in Omaha and 2 percent in Lincoln. Cities of 5,000 to 99,999 population had a 5 percent decrease; cities under 5,000 population had a 4 percent decrease; and county areas reported an 8 percent decrease. Crimes occurring on State property decreased 29 percent from 2008.

### Crime Index Offenses, 2008 - 2009

<i>Crime Index Offenses</i>	<i>Number of Crime Index Offenses</i>		
	2008	2009	% Change
<b>Violent Crimes</b>	<b>5,440</b>	<b>4,890</b>	<b>-10</b>
Murder - Manslaughter	65	39	-40
Forcible Rape	558	575	+ 3
Robbery	1,287	1,212	- 6
Aggravated Assault	3,530	3,064	-13
<b>Property Crimes</b>	<b>50,133</b>	<b>48,215</b>	<b>- 4</b>
Burglary	8,375	8,346	0
Larceny-Theft	37,535	36,312	- 3
Motor Vehicle Theft	4,103	3,407	-17
Arson	120	150	+25
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,573</b>	<b>53,105</b>	<b>- 4</b>

### NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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**Percent Change - Crime Index Offenses  
January thru December, 2008 - 2009 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	2008	44	180	949	1,475	3,175	12,892	2,725	NA	21,440
	2009	30	192	892	1,249	3,228	12,938	2,125	(130)	20,654
	% Change	-32	+7	-6	-15	+2	0	-22	-	-4
250,000 to 399,999	2008	4	113	213	952	1,573	8,251	348	1	11,455
	2009	3	126	197	838	1,618	8,094	294	2	11,172
	% Change	-25	+12	-8	-12	+3	-2	-16	+100	-2
5,000 to 99,999	2008	10	183	86	680	2,032	11,019	596	78	14,684
	2009	5	172	97	522	1,902	10,585	596	101	13,980
	% Change	-50	-6	+13	-23	-6	-4	0	+29	-5
Under 5,000	2008	1	23	6	60	195	912	40	13	1,250
	2009	1	20	2	54	222	837	53	5	1,194
	% Change	0	-13	-67	-10	+14	-8	+33	-62	-4
Counties	2008	6	57	30	355	1,347	4,141	391	28	6,355
	2009	0	65	24	394	1,356	3,609	338	42	5,828
	% Change	-100	+14	-20	+11	+1	-13	-14	+50	-8
State Property	2008	0	2	3	8	53	320	3	0	389
	2009	0	0	0	7	20	249	1	0	277
	% Change	0	-100	-100	-13	-62	-22	-67	0	-29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>3,530</b>	<b>8,375</b>	<b>37,535</b>	<b>4,103</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>55,573</b>
	<b>2009</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>1,212</b>	<b>3,064</b>	<b>8,346</b>	<b>36,312</b>	<b>3,407</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>53,105</b>
	<b>% Change</b>	<b>-40</b>	<b>+3</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>+25</b>	<b>-4</b>

\* 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 4%**

The total number of persons arrested in Nebraska during 2009 decreased from 89,653 in 2008 to 86,234 in 2009, a decrease of 3,419 arrests. The top five categories in terms of the number of arrests made for specific crimes were: Driving under the Influence (13,336 arrests), Liquor Law Violations (11,435), Drug Abuse Violations (9,942), Simple Assault (9,142), and Larceny-Theft (8,917). The total number of adult arrests (age 18 and over) decreased 4% from 74,134 in 2008 to 71,472 in 2009. Adult arrests accounted for 83% of the total arrests made statewide. The total number of juvenile arrests decreased 5%, from 15,519 in 2008 to 14,762 in 2009.

**Total Arrest Trends, 2008 - 2009 \***

<i>Offense</i>	<i>Under 18 Years of Age</i>			<i>18 Years of Age and Over</i>			<i>Total All Ages</i>		
	2008	2009	Percent Change	2008	2009	Percent Change	2008	2009	Percent Change
Murder - Manslaughter	5	4	-20	37	31	-16	42	35	-17
Death by Negligence	0	0	0	7	6	-14	7	6	-14
Forcible Rape	18	20	+11	131	140	+7	149	160	+7
Robbery	75	103	+37	321	277	-14	396	380	-4
Aggravated Assault	149	146	-2	1,230	1,250	+2	1,379	1,396	+1
Burglary	333	301	-10	577	601	+4	910	902	-1
Larceny-Theft	3,077	3,221	+5	5,209	5,696	+9	8,286	8,917	+8
Motor Vehicle Theft	132	117	-11	252	237	-6	384	354	-8
Arson	50	59	+18	32	41	-1	82	100	0
Simple Assault	1,978	2,020	+2	7,187	7,122	+28	9,165	9,142	+22
Forgery and Counterfeiting	19	9	-53	444	424	-5	463	433	-6
Fraud	92	87	-5	1,577	1,454	-8	1,669	1,541	-8
Embezzlement	17	12	-29	96	95	-1	113	107	-5
Stolen Property Offenses	208	150	-28	623	595	-4	831	745	-10
Vandalism	1,039	1,173	+13	1,690	1,757	+4	2,729	2,930	+7
Weapons Violations	199	132	-34	914	780	-15	1,113	912	-18
Prostitution/Commercial. Vice	1	2	+100	211	178	-16	212	180	-15
Sex Offenses	124	104	-16	478	517	+8	602	621	+3
Drug Abuse Violations	1,164	1,131	-3	9,262	8,811	-5	10,426	9,942	-5
Gambling	1	0	-100	18	13	-28	19	13	-32
Offenses Ag. Family/Children	45	35	-22	1,507	1,451	-4	1,552	1,486	-4
Driving Under the Influence	281	226	-20	13,455	13,110	-3	13,736	13,336	-3
Liquor Law Violations	2,437	1,986	-19	10,375	9,449	-9	12,812	11,435	-11
Disorderly Conduct	930	791	-15	3,413	3,228	-5	4,343	4,019	-7
Vagrancy / Loitering	0	0	0	33	25	-24	33	25	-24
All Other Offenses	2,217	2,186	-1	15,055	14,184	-6	17,272	16,370	-5
Curfew / Loitering (Juveniles Only)	483	296	-39				483	296	-39
Runaways (Juveniles Only)	445	451	+1				445	451	+1
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,519</b>	<b>14,762</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>74,134</b>	<b>71,472</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>89,653</b>	<b>86,234</b>	<b>-4</b>

\* 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 165 law enforcement agencies asked to participate in hate crime reporting, 93 agencies submitted at least one quarterly report during 2009 with 84 of those agencies reporting all four quarters.

During 2009, there were a total of 79 incidents reported involving crimes motivated by hate. This is a 19% decrease from the 98 reported in 2008. The types of bias motivation are provided below.

Type of Bias	Number	Percent
<b>Racial</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>60.8</b>
White	8	
Black	33	
American Indian	2	
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	
Multi-Racial	2	
<b>Ethnicity / National Origin</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10.1</b>
Hispanic	7	
Other Ethnicity	1	
<b>Religious</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12.7</b>
Jewish	7	
Islamic	1	
Other Religion	2	
<b>Sexual</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12.7</b>
Male Homosexual	4	
Homosexual	5	
Heterosexual	1	
<b>Disability</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Mental Disability	1	
Physical Disability	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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. 53% of the hate crimes were carried out through a direct confrontation with the victim and 47% were directed towards the property of the victim.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Commercial (Bar, Restaurant, Store)	15	19.0
Public Area (Street, Park, etc.)	22	27.8
Residence	29	36.7
School/College	6	7.6
Jail	3	3.8
Church	2	2.5
Other	2	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Type of Crime</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Aggravated Assault	5	6.3
Simple Assault	27	34.2
Intimidation	9	11.4
Robbery	1	1.3
Burglary / Theft	2	2.5
Destruction of Property	34	43.0
Trespassing	1	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*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.*