

STATE OF NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

(Nebraska Crime Commission)

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1% INCREASE IN CRIMES REPORTED IN NEBRASKA

LINCOLN – Mike Behm, Executive Director of the Nebraska Crime Commission, announced today that Nebraska experienced a 1% increase in the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies during 2012 compared to 2011. Behm indicated there were 53,911 crimes reported during 2012 compared to 53,317 reported in 2011. 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 measuring crime statewide.

In the violent crime category, Nebraska experienced a 4% increase with 4,587 violent crimes reported during 2012 compared to 4,420 reported in 2011. Murder, Manslaughter decreased 22% (from 67 to 52 offenses). Forcible Rape decreased 1% (from 671 to 664). Robbery increased 14% (from 987 to 1,120) and Aggravated Assault increased 2% (from 2,695 reported in 2011 to 2,751 reported in 2012).

“The number of robberies reported in 2012 was the highest number reported since 2009, reversing the trend of the previous two years” said Behm.

In terms of property crime, a 1% increase occurred with 49,324 offenses reported in 2012 compared to 48,899 reported in 2011. Burglary had an increase of 2% (from 8,201 reported in 2011 to 8,326 in 2012). Larceny-Theft increased 1% (from 36,506 to 36,716). Motor Vehicle Theft increased 2% (from 3,977 to 4,051) and Arson increased 7% (from 215 in 2011 to 231 in 2011).

“Nebraska continues to differ from the national trend for property crimes. The FBI reported a 1% decrease in property crimes overall with only Motor Vehicle Theft showing an increase. Nebraska saw increases in all property crimes,” said Behm.

Crime in Omaha increased 3% (from 21,161 offenses reported in 2011 to 21,736 offenses in 2012). Lincoln experienced a 1% increase (from 11,180 to 11,247). Cities of 5,000 to 99,999 in population remained virtually the same (from 13,507 to 13,505). Cities under 5,000 population also remained virtually unchanged (from 1,091 to 1,093 in 2012). County areas reported a slight decrease (from 5,969 to 5,945). Crime occurring on State Property decreased 6% (from 409 to 385).

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The number of persons arrested in Nebraska during 2012 decreased 4% from 2011. In 2012 there were 78,637 arrests compared to 81,474, a decrease of 2,837 arrests.

The top five categories in terms of number of arrests made during 2012 include: Driving under the Influence (10,718 arrests); Drug Abuse Violations (10,518 arrests); Liquor Law Violations (8,925 arrests); Larceny-Theft (9,642 arrests); and Simple Assault (7,903 arrests).

Adult arrests (involving persons age 18 and over) decreased 3 percent, from 68,488 arrests in 2011 to 66,438 arrests in 2012. Adult arrests accounted for 84% of the total arrests made statewide.

Juvenile arrests decreased 6%, from 12,986 in 2011 to 12,199 in 2012. Decreases were seen in 15 of the 28 arrest categories.

Behm said “Significant decreases were seen in arrests for Driving under the Influence for both juveniles and adults while arrests for Drug Abuse Violations increased for both adults and juveniles.”

Hate crime statistics were also released. During 2012 there were 30 incidents reported involving crimes motivated by hate. This is a 23% decrease from the 39 reported in 2011. Racial bias accounted for 56.7% of the total hate crimes. Ethnic bias accounted for 16.7%, Religious Bias accounted for 20% and Sexual bias accounted for 6.7%. Of the hate crimes reported, 26.7% involved intimidation and 40% involved destruction of property.

**The complete 2012 Report is available at the Crime Commission’s Internet site at www.ncc.state.ne.us
Offense and arrest queries are also available at http://www.ncc.ne.gov/statistics/data_search/arrest.htm**

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