

STATE OF NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

(Nebraska Crime Commission)

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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5% DECREASE IN CRIMES REPORTED IN NEBRASKA

LINCOLN - Mike Behm, Executive Director of the Nebraska Crime Commission, announced today that Nebraska experienced a 5% decrease in the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies during 2007 compared to 2006. Behm indicated there were 59,958 crimes reported during 2007 compared to 63,099 reported in 2006. 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 used to measure crime statewide.

In the violent crime category, Nebraska experienced a 6% increase with 5,264 violent crimes reported during 2007 compared to 4,979 reported in 2006. Murder, Manslaughter increased 25% (from 53 to 66 offenses). Forcible Rape decreased 10% (from 567 to 513). Robbery decreased 2% (from 1,128 to 1,102) and Aggravated Assault increased 11% (from 3,231 reported in 2006 to 3,583 reported in 2007).

“The trend in violent crimes in Nebraska differs significantly from the nationwide trend. The FBI recently reported that violent crimes nationwide decreased 1.4% with all of the violent crime categories showing decreases. The only violent crime to show a decrease in Nebraska was Robbery” said Behm.

In terms of property crime, a 6% decrease occurred with 54,694 offenses reported in 2007 compared to 58,120 reported in 2006. Burglary decreased 4% (from 9,135 reported in 2006 to 8,815 in 2007). Larceny-Theft decreased 7% (from 43,786 to 40,628). Motor Vehicle Theft increased 1% (from 5,039 to 5,093) and Arson increased 1% (from 160 in 2006 to 158 in 2007).

“The decrease in property crimes mirrored the nationwide decrease with the only exception being Motor Vehicle Theft which had a slight increase in Nebraska” said Behm.

Crime in Omaha decreased 4% (from 24,292 offenses reported in 2006 to 23,235 offenses in 2007). Lincoln experienced a 3% decrease (from 13,512 to 13,082). Cities of 5,000 to 99,999 in population saw a 6% decrease (from 16,074 to 15,036). Cities under 5,000 population had a 10% decrease (from 1,469 to 1,329 in 2007). County areas reported a 6% decrease (from 7,286 to 6,862). Crime occurring on State Property decreased 11% (from 466 to 414).

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The number of persons arrested in Nebraska during 2007 decreased 3% from 2006. In 2007 there were 90,484 arrests compared to 92,851, a decrease of 2,367 arrests.

The top five categories in terms of number of arrests made during 2007 include: Driving under the Influence (13,280 arrests); Liquor Law Violations (12,135 arrests); Drug Abuse Violations (10,295 arrests); Simple Assault (9,128 arrests), and Larceny-Theft (8,242 arrests).

Adult arrests (involving persons age 18 and over) decreased 3%, from 76,973 arrests in 2006 to 74,984 arrests in 2007. Adult arrests accounted for 83% of the total arrests made statewide.

Juvenile arrests decreased 2%, from 15,883 in 2006 to 15,500 in 2007. Decreases were seen in Burglary (from 383 to 291), Arson (from 74 to 57), Driving Under the Influence (from 336 to 282), Liquor Law Violations (from 2,705 to 2,485) and Simple Assault (from 2,007 to 1,928).

Behm said "It was encouraging to see the total number of juvenile arrests decrease especially for alcohol related arrests but it was disturbing to see the number of juvenile arrests for violent crimes increase 32% from 191 in 2006 to 250 in 2007."

Hate crime statistics were also released. During 2007 there were 86 incidents reported involving crimes motivated by hate. This is a 76% increase from the 49 reported in 2006. Racial bias accounted for 61% of the total hate crimes while Sexual bias accounted for 16%. Religious and ethnic bias both accounted for 12%. Of the hate crimes reported, 36% involved destruction of property and 33% involved simple assault.

The complete 2007 Preliminary Report is available at the Crime Commission's Internet site at www.ncc.state.ne.us

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