



# NEBRASKA TRENDS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE

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Juvenile Justice  
Institute

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This report illustrates recent trends in Nebraska's Juvenile Justice System.

The report focuses on five regions in the state: Northern, Eastern, Southeast, Central, and Western. Twelve counties represent each of the five regions. The twelve counties represent the most populous counties from each of these regions.

While the data source for most of the smaller discussions and displays of data are illustrated with its chart or table, the large tables on most pages combine information from multiple sources such as FBI Uniform Crime Reports, Census data, the Department of Correctional Services, the Nebraska Crime Commission, and others. If specific information for the data sources is needed, please contact us using the contact information on the back cover.

The report follows the stages of the process within the criminal justice system:

- The environmental context page provides the reader with data on population information in the counties, such as household income, divorce, and racial composition.
- The second page focuses on the system context by looking at law enforcement data and a chart that shows differences between the juvenile justice system and the adult criminal justice system.
- The next page examines reported juvenile offenses by comparing reported violent and property offenses.
- The report then looks at juvenile arrest data, and how the percentage has changed between 2002 and 2007.
- The final two pages layout the different types of dispositions a juvenile can receive.

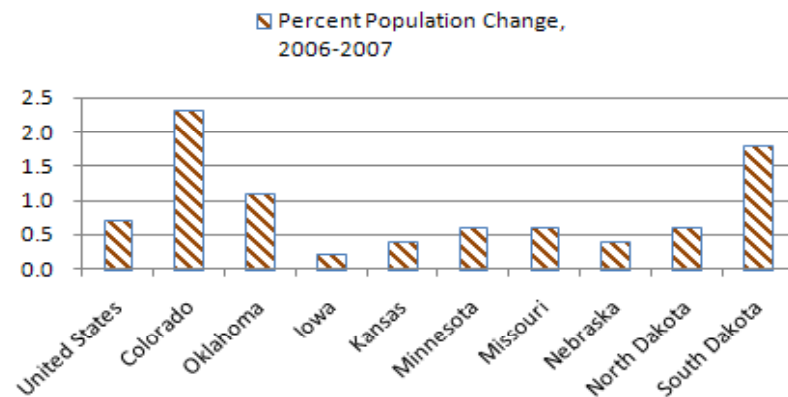
Hopefully by taking the reader step-by-step through the processing of the juvenile justice system, they are given a clearer understanding of the data that shows us where Nebraska is in terms of juvenile crime. It is our hope that this report will be used as a reference guide when questioning certain aspects of the state of juvenile justice in Nebraska.

UNO's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice thanks Dr. Jack Lewis for his financial support of this report.

# Environmental Context

State Region	County	Population Estimate (2006)	% 6 to 18 Year Olds (2006)	Percent Nonwhite (2006)	Median Household Income (2004)	% All Ages in Poverty (2004)	Civilian Labor Unemp. Rate (2006)	Divorces per 1000 (2007)
Northern	Dodge	36,171	16.8	2.4	\$40,241	9.7	3.4	3.1
	Holt	10,610	18.0	1.0	\$35,139	11.6	2.7	2.9
	Madison	497	17.7	1.6	\$35,869	11.5	2.4	3.5
Eastern	Douglas	492,003	18.5	16.6	\$47,193	11.1	3.4	3.5
	Sarpy	142,637	20.2	8.0	\$60,782	5.4	2.8	3.5
Southeast	Lancaster	267,135	16.2	8.9	\$46,560	9.6	2.8	3.4
Central	Hall	55,555	19.0	3.6	\$40,018	12.2	3.1	4.1
	Buffalo	43,954	16.8	2.7	\$41,036	10.6	2.2	3.8
	Adams	33,185	16.9	4.6	\$38,732	10.1	2.9	3.4
Western	Scotts Bluff	36,546	17.8	4.3	\$33,995	14.5	3.3	5.0
	Lincoln	35,865	17.8	2.8	\$41,103	10.5	2.8	4.3
	Red Willow	10,865	17.3	1.7	\$35,646	10.4	2.7	4.9
<b>Nebraska Total</b>		<b>1,758,671</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>\$37,143</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>

- The 0.6 percent population growth rate between 2006 and 2007 was the largest Nebraska has experienced in 10 years
- The minority population is estimated to represent more than 25 percent of the under 5 population and more than 15 percent of the state's 2007 total population
- The White non-Hispanic or majority population grew in only 10 of Nebraska's 93 counties between 2000 and 2007 while the minority population grew in all but two Nebraska counties



Source: FBI's Uniform Crime Report

Source: Drozd & Deichert, 2007 Nebraska Population Report

# System Context

State Region	County	Population Covered (2007)	Full-Time Sworn Male Officers (2007)	Full-Time Sworn Female Officers (2007)	Full-Time Civilian Male Employees (2007)	Full-Time Civilian Female Employees (2007)	Officers per 1000 Population
Northern	Dodge	36,104	53	4	2	14	1.8
	Holt	10,489	12	0	0	2	1.4
	Madison	35,299	54	1	3	20	1.7
Eastern	Douglas	494,542	742	164	82	152	2.4
	Sarpy	145,419	236	42	24	65	2.0
Southeast	Lancaster	269,187	358	56	29	92	2.2
Central	Hall	55,748	98	6	1	16	2.2
	Buffalo	44,132	71	8	10	20	1.7
	Adams	33,486	50	4	1	15	1.7
Western	Scotts Bluff	35,677	66	3	2	14	2.0
	Lincoln	35,972	64	1	12	33	1.9
	Red Willow	10,788	19	1	0	6	1.8
<b>Nebraska Total</b>		<b>1,738,931</b>	<b>3041</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>2</b>

- **2007 Nebraska Sworn Personnel**
- 3,408 full-time sworn officers with 159 vacant positions.
  - 904 officers employed full-time in sheriffs' departments.
  - 1,978 officers employed full-time in police departments.
  - 526 officers employed full-time in State Agencies.
- 1.9 full-time sworn officers per 1,000 population (based upon a population estimate of 1,774,571).
- 188 part-time sworn officers with 5 vacant positions.
- **2006 Nebraska Sworn Personnel**
- 3,483 full-time sworn officers with 103 vacant positions.
  - 956 officers employed full-time in sheriffs' departments.
  - 2,004 officers employed full-time in police departments.
  - 523 officers employed full-time in State Agencies.
- 2.0 full-time sworn officers per 1,000 population (based upon a population estimate of 1,768,331).
- 150 part-time sworn officers with 6 vacant positions.

Source: Nebraska Law Enforcement Personnel 2007, Nebraska Crime Commission

## System Differences

	Juvenile System	Adult system
Process	Goal: rehabilitate the juvenile and prevent future delinquent acts	Goal: deter future crime by the offender and others as well as punish offender
	No right to a jury trial	Constitutional right to a jury
	Judge makes final determination as to the outcome of the case	Depending on the case, judge or jury decides the case
Terminology	Delinquent act	Crime
	Custody	Arrest
	Petition	Information
	Adjudication	Trial
	Disposition	Sentencing
	Detention	Incarceration

Source: Pfeffer, Juvenile Court Delinquent Handbook, 2005

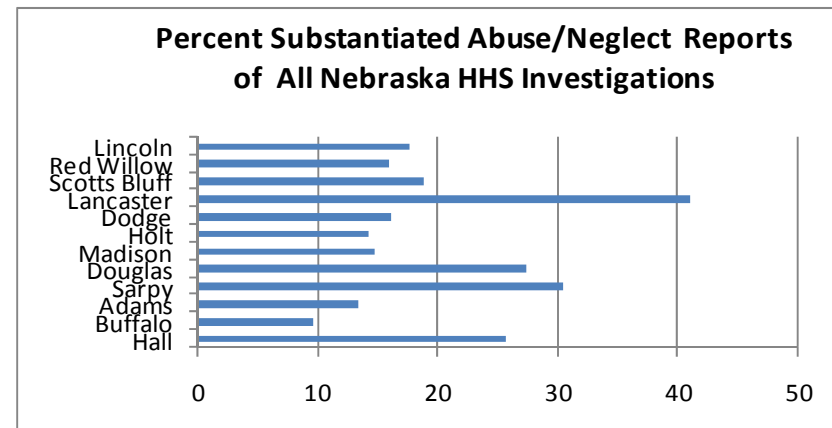
# Reported Offenses

State Region	County	Population (2007)	Offenses (2002)	Offenses (2007)	% Change (2002-2007)	Violent Offenses per 1,000	Property Offenses per 1,000	% Violent Offenses Cleared by	% Property Offenses Cleared by Arrest
Northern	Dodge	36,104	1300	962	-26.0	1.4	25.2	41.2	12.0
	Madison	35,299	1610	797	-50.5	1.1	21.5	41.0	24.9
	Holt	10,489	137	37	-73.0	0.1	3.4	100.0	27.8
Eastern	Douglas	495,320	30962	25020	-19.2	5.6	44.9	51.5	24.1
	Sarpy	145,419	3294	3053	-7.3	0.6	20.3	51.1	21.3
Southeast	Lancaster	269,187	15573	13497	-13.3	5	45.1	57.7	21.5
Central	Hall	55,748	3233	2487	-23.1	2.5	42.1	72.1	21.6
	Buffalo	44,132	1658	1271	-23.3	2.1	26.7	78.5	20.1
	Adams	33,486	1679	1035	-38.4	1.8	29.1	38.3	12.9
Western	Scotts Bluff	36,449	1327	1321	-0.5	2.4	33.8	54.5	16.1
	Lincoln	35,972	1774	923	-48.0	2.3	23.4	87.7	22.8
	Red Willow	10,788	305	304	-0.3	0.8	27.3	66.7	25.1
<b>Nebraska Total</b>		<b>1,718,795</b>	<b>72,222</b>	<b>58,687</b>	<b>-18.7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>54.9</b>	<b>21.7</b>

“Over fifteen years of research and advocacy efforts have resulted in several policy changes to provide better services to our youth in the Juvenile Justice system in Nebraska...several planning initiative and study reports have evolved but have not yet yielded the legislative and programmatic transformation needed in behavioral health care for Nebraska’s youth...” (). These are some of the efforts since 2002:

- January 2002: Herz & Poland Study of Mental Health Needs of Juvenile Offenders – Identified need for a coordinated response for juvenile offenders, continuum of services, standard process for assessing needs, funding that follows the child, system evaluation, training, and the development of effective services
- October 2002: Nebraska receives NEBHANDS Grant to help build the capacity of small faith and community-based organizations to participate in systems of care for mental health and substance abuse.
- October 2004: LB 1083-Nebraska’s Behavioral Health Reform Bill –Mandated closure of the Hastings and Norfolk Regional Centers, returning all adults housed in those facilities to community based programs. Established a community-based philosophy for both adults and children but emphasized the attention to adults. Created the Behavioral Health Oversight Commission to ensure full implementation of the proposal
- 2007: LB 542-Children’s Behavioral Health Task Force – Led by the Chair of the Behavioral Health Oversight Commission, the Task Force is charged with developing a plan by November, 2007 for a statewide integrated system of care for children’s mental health

Source: Fowler, A.B., Koebnick, D., Lewis, S.A., Moore, K.B., & Smith, B (2007). “Spare Some Change: An Account of the Nebraska Juvenile Justice and Children’s Behavioral Health Care Systems”. *Voices for Children*. [www.voicesforchildren.com](http://www.voicesforchildren.com).



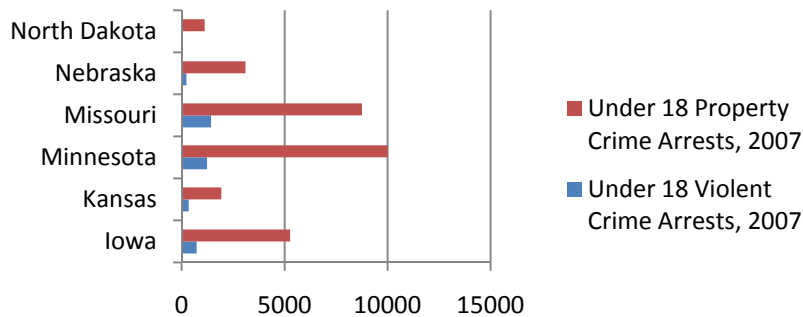
Source: HHS, Nebraska Child Abuse or Neglect Annual Report, 2007

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Source: Nebraska HHS website, 2008

# Juvenile Arrests

State Region	County	Population (2007)	% Change 2002-2007 (All Arrests)	% Violent Arrests	% Property Arrests	% DUI Arrests	% Liquor Law Violations Arrests	Total Arrests (All Offense Types)	Male to Female Arrest Ratio	White to Nonwhite Arrest Ratio
Northern	Dodge	36,104	0.0	0.0	14.1	2	27.9	290	1.6	23.1
	Madison	35,299	-24.3	0.0	20.7	1	16.9	521	2.4	8.1
	Holt	10,489	-66.1	0.0	0.0	13	28.2	39	1.6	38.0
Eastern	Douglas	495,320	-8.3	3.0	33.9	2	11.0	4,429	2.0	1.6
	Sarpy	145,419	32.3	0.7	21.3	1	13.4	1,529	2.0	5.4
Southeast	Lancaster	269,187	-2.7	1.7	19.0	2	9.7	3,224	2.3	3.3
Central	Hall	55,748	10.4	1.3	25.3	3	23.6	478	2.4	20.7
	Buffalo	44,132	23.7	1.4	13.7	1	14.3	553	2.1	16.6
	Adams	33,486	-13.2	0.0	15.5	2	29.6	277	2.0	20.3
Western	Scotts Bluff	36,449	22.3	1.4	13.6	2	23.4	581	2.0	8.1
	Lincoln	35,972	-36.6	0.8	13.3	0	16.8	368	2.3	32.5
	Red Willow	10,788	-16.3	0.7	18.7	1	12.9	139	2.6	138.0
<b>Nebraska Total</b>		<b>1,718,795</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>15,645</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>



Source: FBI's Uniform Crime Report, 2007

	Runaway Arrests, 2007	Curfew Arrests, 2007
Adams	0	0
Buffalo	87	3
Dodge	32	0
Douglas	0	0
Hall	0	11
Holt	1	0
Lancaster	0	0
Lincoln	0	14
Madison	8	37
Red Willow	14	17
Sarpy	45	159
Scotts Bluff	13	21
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>262</b>

Source: Nebraska Crime Commission website

# Juvenile Dispositions

## Probation - Total Juveniles Sentenced and Supervised

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Sentenced	3,982	3,607	3,512	3,701	3,773	3,385	3,397
Total Supervised	6,392	6,288	5,830	5,885	6,121	5,857	5,665

Source: Nebraska Probation Office.

## Juvenile Probation Trends

Years	Total Discharges		Satisfactory Completion		Total Probation Revocations		Other	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1999	3,700	100%	2,531	68%	395	11%	774	21%
2000	3,865	100%	2,665	69%	363	9%	837	22%
2001	3,561	100%	2,340	66%	408	11%	813	23%
2002	3,535	100%	2,464	70%	373	11%	698	20%
2003	3,695	100%	2,486	67%	439	12%	770	21%
2004	3,625	100%	2,548	70%	386	11%	691	19%
2005	3,346	100%	2,286	68%	336	10%	724	22%

Source: Nebraska Probation Office.

## Statewide Average Daily Population (ADP) in Secure Detention

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Detention ADP	168	222	209	199	217	249	221

Source: Nebraska Crime Commission.

# Juvenile Dispositions

## Office of Juvenile Services Placement by Type State of Nebraska

Type of Placement	% of Total (2001)	% of Total (2002)	% of Total (2003)	% of Total (2004)	% of Total (2005)	% of Total (2006)
In Home	30.1	28.8	28.3	26.8	30.6	40.6
Runaway	1.6	1.8	0.7	1.9	1.9	3.6
Independent Living	0.7	0.9	1.2	1	1	2.2
Out-of-Home	67.6	68.4	79.9	70.4	66.5	53.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Nebraska Juvenile Correctional; Facilities Master Plan Update and HHS Office of Juvenile Services.

### Office Of Juvenile Services-HHS/OJS Statewide Placement by Type-October 2006

Type of Placement	# of Placements	% of Total
In Home	601	40.6
Runaway	54	3.6
Independent Living	32	2.2
Out-of-Home Total	795	53.6
<b>Total Placements</b>	<b>1,482</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Out-of-Home Category</b>		
1. Adopt/Foster/Emergency	187	
2. Group Home/Treatment	236	
3. Detention/Jail	63	
4. Mental Health/Other	17	
5. Residential Treatment	112	
6. YRTC's	180	
<b>Total Out-of-Home</b>	<b>795</b>	

Source: Nebraska Office of Juvenile Services, 2006.

For any questions or concerns regarding anything in this report,  
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