

2015

Adult Justice in Nebraska 2015

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Recommended Citation

Nebraska Center for Justice Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha; Ellison, Jared; and Spohn, Ryan E., "Adult Justice in Nebraska 2015" (2015). *Reports*. 99.

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Nebraska Center for Justice Research

Adult Justice in Nebraska

2015



UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

The Nebraska Center for Justice Research was established in 2014 with a mission to develop and sustain research capacity internal to the State of Nebraska. Our hope is to assist the Legislature in research, evaluation, and policymaking to reduce recidivism, promote the use of evidence-based practices, and improve public safety. The primary purpose of this report is to provide an overview of recent trends in Nebraska’s adult criminal justice system.

Most of the data in this report is presented statewide as well as separated into Nebraska’s twelve judicial districts. Nebraska’s two most metropolitan counties are represented by District 4 (Douglas County) and District 3 (Lancaster County). The classification of the remainder of the state’s 93 counties can be found in the table on page 4. Please contact NCJR for any questions regarding county-level estimates of the data included in this report.

This report compares criminal justice data across Nebraska from 2010 to 2014. Although more recent data is available for some aspects of the criminal justice system, the most recent complete and comprehensive system-wide data was available for these years, which we adopt to maintain consistency and reliability.

The report is organized according to the stages of the process of the criminal justice system:

- Environmental context provides an overview of the population and demographic trends in Nebraska
- System context provides an overview of law enforcement employment
- Arrests provides an overview of violent and property crime arrests by districts and compares arrests in Nebraska to neighboring states
- Offenses provides an overview of crimes reported or known to the police and includes information on the percent of crimes cleared by arrest
- County court provides an overview of the distribution of the county court caseload by district
- District court provides an overview of the distribution of the district court caseload
- Corrections provides data on admissions and correctional populations by factors such as gender, age, race, and correctional institution

Our hope is that this report serves as a reference guide for providing a clearer understanding of recent trends in crime and criminal justice activities in the state of Nebraska. This report was made possible by the financial support provided to the Nebraska Center for Justice Research by LB 907. Our goal is to provide similar reports annually to track Nebraska’s crime and justice trends. Questions, suggestions, and comments should be directed to Dr. Ryan Spohn, Director, at rspohn@unomaha.edu. Thank you for your hard work in sustaining and improving criminal justice in Nebraska.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT	4
SYSTEM CONTEXT	6
OFFENSES	8
ARRESTS	10
COUNTY COURT	14
DISTRICT COURT	15
CORRECTIONS	16

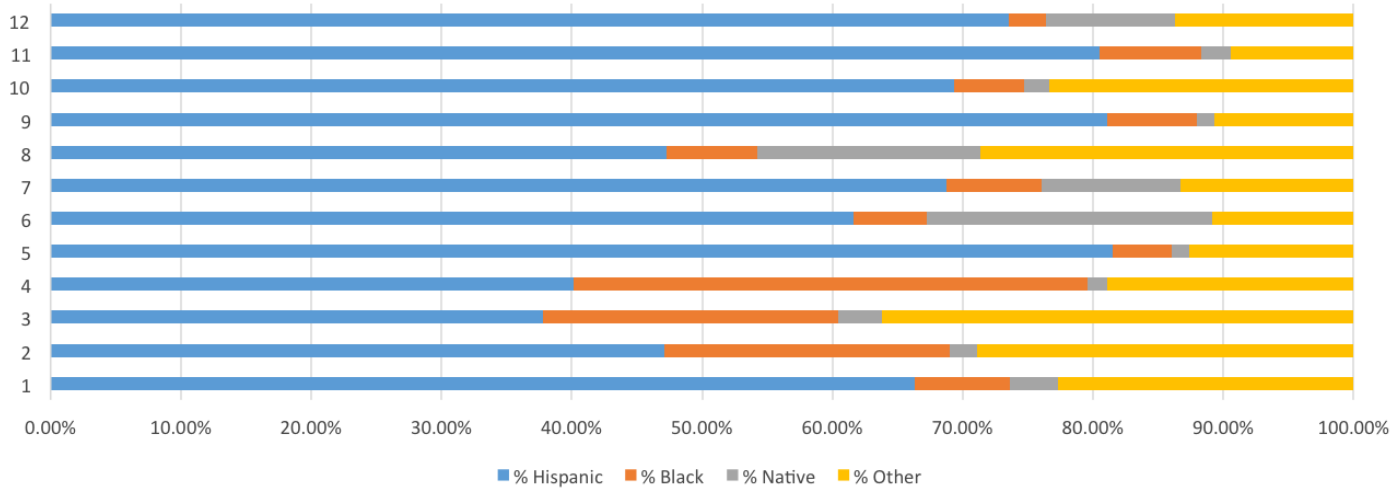
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University of Nebraska at Omaha



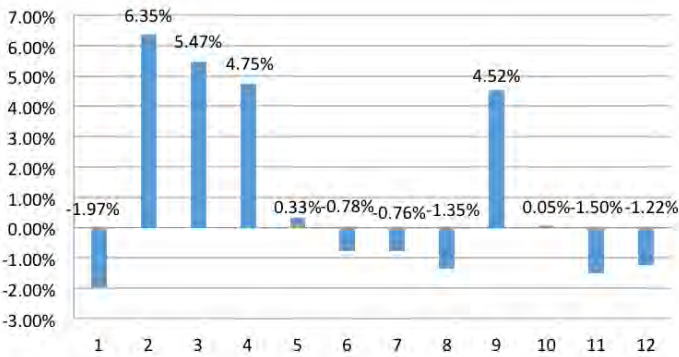
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Judicial District	Counties	Pop. Est. (2014)	% Non-White (2014)	% HS Grad or Higher (2014)	Median Household Income (2014)	% in Poverty (2014)	% Civilian Labor Force Unemployed (2014)
1	Clay, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Pawnee, Richardson, Saline, Thayer	88,015	8.42	89.87	\$44,476	12.60	3.35
2	Cass, Otoe, Sarpy	213,514	17.53	93.83	\$56,981	7.67	3.57
3	Lancaster	301,795	18.67	93.40	\$51,916	14.90	2.90
4	Douglas	543,244	30.25	89.30	\$47,636	14.70	3.70
5	Boone, Butler, Colfax, Hamilton, Merrick, Nance, Platt, Polk, Saunders, Seward, York	134,500	11.16	89.85	\$54,345	9.96	3.05
6	Burt, Cedar, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Thurston, Washington	105,786	19.77	87.80	\$49,870	14.20	4.13
7	Antelope, Cuming, Knox, Madison, Pierce, Stanton, Wayne	81,783	11.90	91.13	\$48,657	11.96	2.84
8	Blaine, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Holt, Howard, Keya Paha, Loup, Rock, Sherman, Valley, Wheeler	54,103	3.74	92.50	\$46,797	12.94	3.10
9	Buffalo, Hall	109,716	23.17	87.80	\$48,083	14.00	3.25
10	Adams, Franklin, Harlan, Kearney, Phelps, Webster	57,514	9.23	91.48	\$49,181	10.48	2.98
11	Arthur, Chase, Dawson, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Gosper, Hayes, Hitchcock, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Perkins, Red Willow, Thomas	104,167	14.65	91.66	\$47,986	11.37	3.13
12	Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux	87,366	17.71	91.06	\$45,540	14.47	2.95
	State of Nebraska	1,881,503	18.80	90.50	\$52,400	12.90	3.29

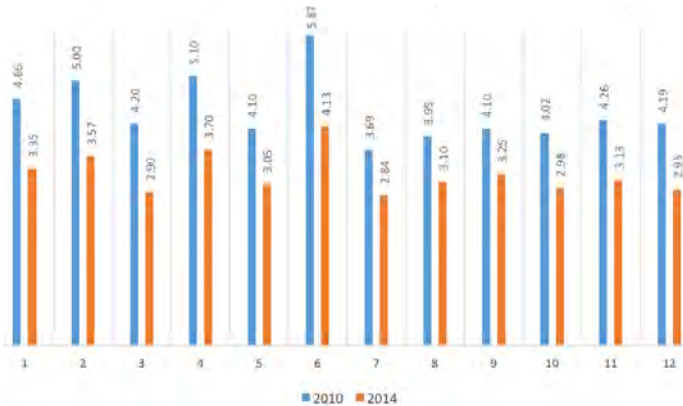
Racial and Ethnic Breakdown of Non-White Population by District



Percent Difference District Population (2010-2014)



Percent Unemployed (2010 vs. 2014)



Notable Findings:

1. Lancaster County (District 3) and Douglas County (District 4) account for nearly half (45%) of the Nebraska state population
2. District 2 boasts the highest median income and the lowest percent of individuals in poverty
3. Resident population grew in more urban districts (e.g., District 3), but fell in rural districts (District 1); Only Districts 2, 3, 4, and 9 experienced increases in population from 2010-2014
4. Percent unemployed fell in all 12 judicial districts from 2010 to 2014; in 2014, all districts had a lower percentage of unemployed individuals than the U.S. average (i.e., 6.2%)
5. By far, Hispanics represent the majority of the non-white residents in Nebraska

Notes:

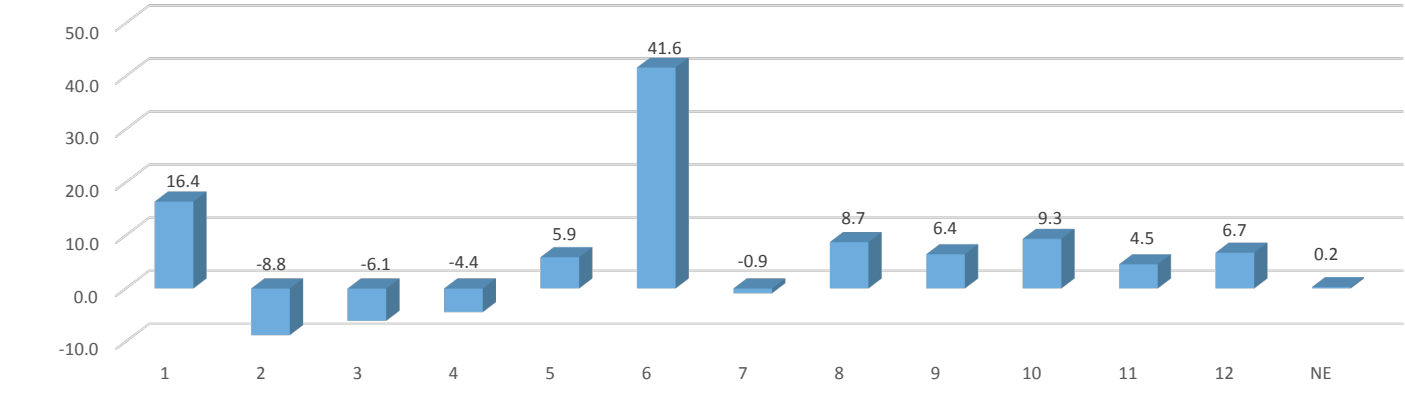
1. Estimates of district population drawn from Annual Estimates of the Resident Population (2010; 2014), United States Bureau of the Census
2. Demographic and income estimates derived from American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates (2010; 2014)
3. Percent unemployed calculated by dividing the number of civilians in the labor force by the number of individuals unemployed



Judicial District	Full-Time Sworn Male Officers (2014)	Full-Time Sworn Female Officers (2014)	Full-Time Sworn Officers (2014)	Full-Time Civilian Male Employees (2014)	Full-Time Civilian Female Employees (2014)	Officers per 1000 Population (2010)	Officers per 1000 Population (2014)
1	136	10	146	25	41	1.43	1.66
2	338	54	392	28	70	2.01	1.84
3	368	66	434	4	14	1.53	1.44
4	783	163	946	80	39	1.82	1.74
5	184	21	205	56	59	1.44	1.52
6	161	9	170	21	33	1.13	1.61
7	119	2	121	26	44	1.49	1.48
8	70	4	74	22	25	1.26	1.37
9	183	15	198	7	21	1.70	1.80
10	98	7	105	26	32	1.67	1.83
11	191	17	208	37	68	1.91	2.00
12	164	11	175	32	29	1.88	2.00
Nebraska State Patrol	420	27	447	86	155	-	-
State of Nebraska	3215	406	3621	450	630	1.92	1.92

Judicial District	% Total Officers Male	% Total Officers Female	Difference in Male Officers (2010-2014)	Difference in Female Officers (2010-2014)
1	93.15	6.85	21	-3
2	86.22	13.78	-10	-2
3	84.79	15.21	-10	6
4	82.77	17.23	3	-2
5	89.76	10.24	1	11
6	94.71	5.29	43	6
7	98.35	1.65	2	-4
8	94.59	5.41	6	-1
9	92.42	7.58	19	1
10	93.33	6.67	11	-2
11	91.83	8.17	7	-1
12	93.71	6.29	9	0
Nebraska State Patrol	93.96	6.04	-30	2
State of Nebraska	88.79	11.21	72	11

Percent Increase/Decrease in Number of Officers per 1000 Population



- Notable Findings:
- 1. In 2014, Districts 11 and 12 had the highest number of officers per 1,000 residents
 - 2. Districts 6 and 1 experienced the highest increases in the number of officers per 1,000 residents when comparing 2010 to 2014
 - 3. District 4 boasts a significantly higher percentage of female officers than other districts
 - 4. The number of female officers grew by 11 from 2010 to 2014 in District 5; this was the most significant increase of female officers across the twelve districts

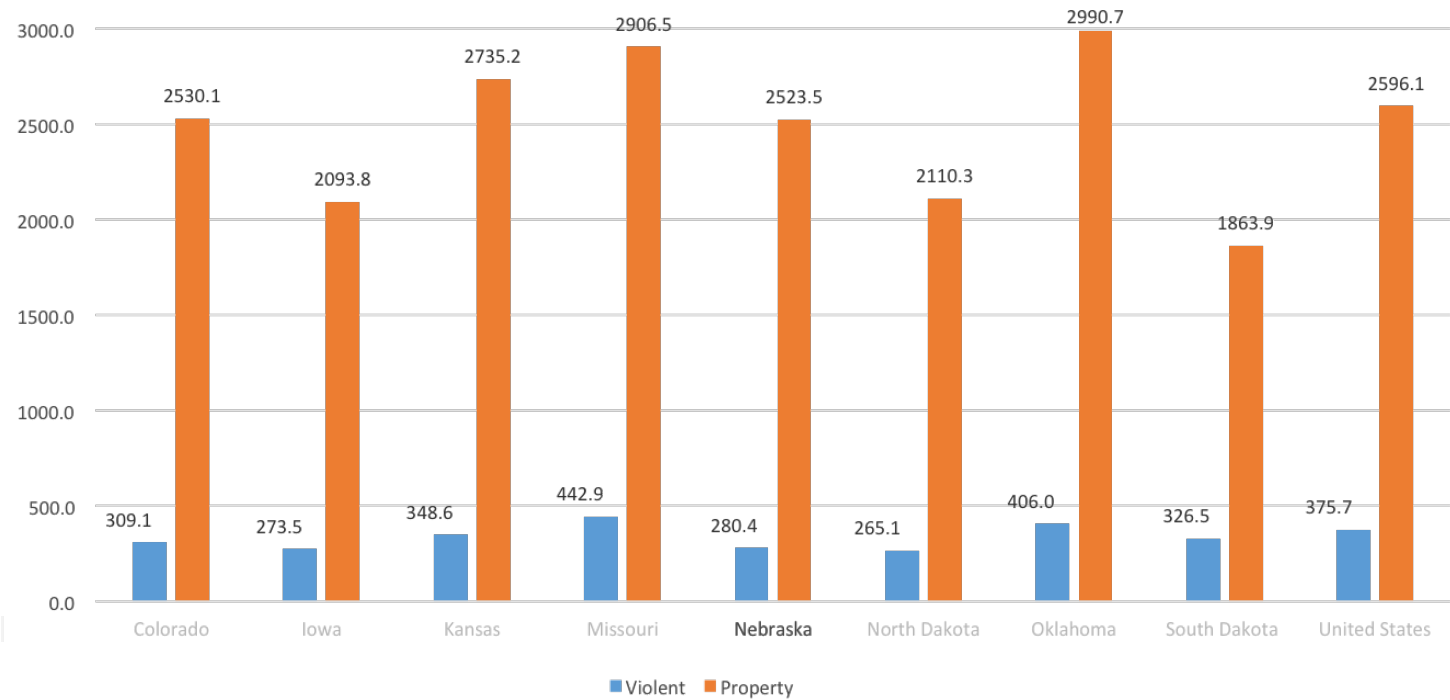
- Notes:
- 1. Law enforcement numbers drawn from the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice—Law Enforcement Employment in Nebraska Series
 - 2. Rates calculated using population estimates drawn from the Annual Estimates of the Residents Population (2010 & 2014), United States Bureau of the Census



Reported Offenses (2010-2014)

Judicial District	2010				2014				% Change 2010-2014	
	Violent Offenses	Violent Rate per 1000	Property Offenses	Property Rate per 1000	Violent Offenses	Violent Rate per 1000	Property Offenses	Property Rate per 1000	Violent Offenses	Property Offenses
1	89	.99	1234	13.74	163	1.85	1077	12.24	83.15	-12.72
2	150	.75	3266	16.27	158	.74	2844	13.32	5.33	-12.92
3	1290	4.51	10812	37.79	948	3.14	9599	31.81	-26.51	-11.22
4	2423	4.67	18803	36.26	2612	4.81	20520	37.77	7.80	9.13
5	114	.85	1428	10.65	71	.53	1381	10.27	-37.72	-3.29
6	104	.98	1562	14.65	120	1.13	1669	15.78	15.38	6.85
7	72	.87	1083	13.14	64	.78	888	10.86	-11.11	-18.01
8	38	.69	265	4.83	36	.67	220	4.07	-5.26	-16.98
9	250	2.38	3685	35.10	231	2.11	3326	30.31	-7.60	-9.74
10	58	1.01	1184	20.60	87	1.51	1336	23.23	50.00	12.84
11	148	1.40	2300	21.75	152	1.46	2077	19.94	2.70	-9.70
12	119	1.35	1826	20.65	146	1.67	1491	17.07	22.69	-18.35
NE	4855	2.65	47448	25.93	4788	2.54	46428	24.68	-1.38	-2.15

Offense Rate per 100,000 Residents (2014)



Judicial District	% Violent Offenses Cleared by Arrest	% Property Offenses Cleared by Arrest
1	55.21	23.21
2	43.67	19.27
3	48.00	23.41
4	58.19	19.83
5	70.42	20.42
6	55.83	28.94
7	62.50	30.18
8	69.44	32.27
9	69.26	27.33
10	51.72	22.83
11	74.34	28.17
12	56.85	19.85
NE	55.21	23.21

- Notable Findings:
- 1. Overall, the number of reported offenses dropped across the state of Nebraska from 2010 to 2014
 - 2. District 1 experienced the most significant increase in violent offenses (83%); District 5 experienced the most significant decrease in violent offenses (-37%)
 - 3. Property offenses fell in 9 of 12 districts from 2010-2014
 - 4. Nebraska had the third lowest rate of violent offenses and the fourth lowest rate of property offenses compared to other Midwest states
 - 5. District 5 achieved the highest percentage of violent offenses cleared by arrest; District 8 achieved the highest percentage of property offenses cleared by arrest

- Notes:
- 1. Offense data are based on crimes reported or known to law enforcement. Violent crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault. Property crimes include burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson
 - 2. Interstate comparison of offenses drawn from the Uniform Crime Report
 - 3. All other offense data drawn from the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice—Crime in Nebraska Series
 - 4. Rates calculated using Annual Estimates of the Resident Population (2010; 2014), United States Bureau of the Census
 - 5. Offenses for which an arrest was made are considered offenses that have been cleared by arrest



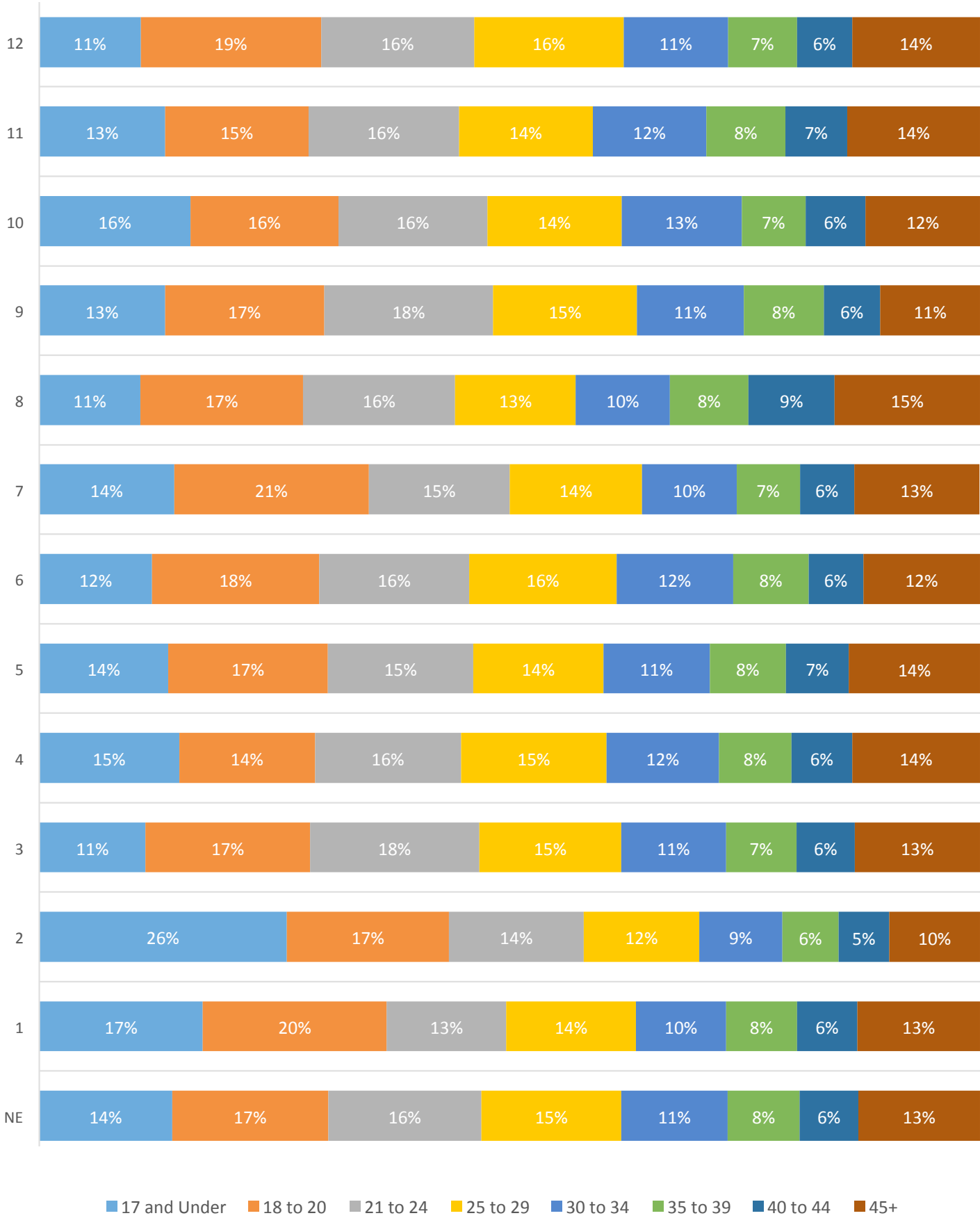
Adult Arrests (2010-2014)

Judicial District	2010						2014					
	Violent Arrests	Violent Arrest Rate per 1000	Property Arrests	Property Arrest Rate per 1000	Total Arrests	Total Arrest Rate per 1000	Violent Arrests	Violent Arrest Rate per 1000	Property Arrests	Property Arrest Rate per 1000	Total Arrests	Total Arrest Rate per 1000
1	36	.51	156	2.23	1898	27.13	38	.55	209	3.05	1800	26.28
2	48	.35	531	3.83	4752	34.27	52	.34	414	2.69	3469	22.51
3	364	1.69	971	4.52	15819	73.56	456	1.96	2120	9.13	15884	68.44
4	770	2.06	2795	7.48	22153	59.30	775	1.93	2685	6.68	17701	44.03
5	46	.46	144	1.45	3026	30.45	37	.37	249	2.47	3274	32.48
6	47	.60	305	3.90	2807	35.87	102	1.30	434	5.53	3233	41.22
7	26	.42	174	2.80	2002	32.25	35	.56	231	3.73	2170	35.00
8	14	.33	31	.73	818	19.34	15	.36	52	1.25	856	20.52
9	311	4.09	674	8.87	6685	87.93	298	3.65	735	8.99	6570	80.38
10	29	.66	132	3.01	1610	36.75	24	.55	250	5.68	1547	35.16
11	77	.97	349	4.40	4965	62.59	108	1.38	441	5.62	4419	56.32
12	74	1.10	388	5.76	3540	52.57	77	1.15	264	3.94	3131	46.75
NE	1842	1.37	6650	4.94	70075	52.07	2017	1.43	8084	5.74	64054	45.40

% Increase/Decrease in Arrests (2010-2014)

Judicial District	Violent Arrests	Property Arrests	Total Arrests
1	5.56	33.97	-5.16
2	8.33	-22.03	-27.00
3	25.27	118.33	.41
4	.65	-3.94	-20.10
5	-19.57	72.92	8.20
6	117.02	42.30	15.18
7	34.62	32.76	8.39
8	7.14	67.74	4.65
9	-4.18	9.05	-1.72
10	-17.24	89.39	-3.91
11	40.26	26.36	-11.00
12	4.05	-31.96	-11.55
NE	9.50	21.56	-8.59

Distribution of Arrests by Age Group and District (2014)



Demographic Trends in Arrests (2014)

Judicial District	Total Arrests	Total Arrest Rate per 1000	Rate of Male Arrest per 1000 Male Adults (≥age 18)	Rate of Female Arrest per 1000 Female Adults (≥age 18)	Percent Arrests Under Age 18	Percent Arrests Age 18 to 24	Rate of 18 to 24 Arrest per 1000 Adults Age 18 to 24	Rate of White Arrest per 1000 Whites	Rate of Black Arrest per 1000 Blacks
1	1800	26.28	37.59	15.10	17.39	32.26	94.67	24.34	123.20
2	3469	22.51	32.87	12.52	26.30	31.57	80.12	20.64	84.22
3	15884	68.44	101.20	35.95	11.29	35.50	140.41	51.82	308.34
4	17701	44.03	64.66	24.61	14.87	29.96	114.68	28.96	126.49
5	3274	32.48	48.93	16.19	13.71	32.45	109.09	27.60	170.60
6	3233	41.22	59.13	24.15	11.98	33.73	142.73	32.93	193.88
7	2170	35.00	50.67	19.72	14.33	35.69	101.97	27.20	197.56
8	856	20.52	31.60	9.81	10.74	33.47	97.01	15.03	92.72
9	6570	80.38	116.34	45.49	13.36	34.89	192.69	67.42	237.92
10	1547	35.16	52.15	18.67	16.06	31.58	109.73	31.43	302.82
11	4419	56.32	83.18	30.17	13.37	31.23	202.57	49.11	172.50
12	3131	46.75	69.55	25.52	10.77	35.48	156.58	36.45	144.93
NE	70075	52.07	66.79	24.78	14.11	32.90	127.42	35.01	152.20

Notable Findings:

1. In 2014, Districts 9, 3, and 4 had the highest rates of violent arrests, respectively; District 9, in particular, had a rate of violent arrests well above other districts
2. The number of property arrests more than doubled from in District 3 from 2010-2014; the majority of this increase was due to growth in larceny arrests over this time period
3. Violent arrests doubled in District 6 from 2010 to 2014
4. Nebraska had a lower rate of violent arrests but a higher rate of property arrests compared to the national average in 2014
5. District 3 and District 10 had the highest rates of African American arrests in 2014
6. There were significant racial disparities in arrest across all judicial districts in 2014; District 3 and District 10 were the most notable in this regard
7. About 26% of arrestees in District 2 are 17 years of age or younger; this percentage is higher than any other district for this age group

Notes:

1. An arrest is counted each time a person is taken into custody or issues a citation or summons. While an individual may be charged with multiple crimes at the time of arrest, only one arrest is counted. An arrest is counted for the most serious charge at the time of arrest.
2. Violent arrests include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault. Property arrest include burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson.
3. Interstate comparison of arrests drawn from the Uniform Crime Report
4. All other arrest data drawn from the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice—Crime in Nebraska Series
5. Rates calculated using Annual Estimates of the Resident Population (2010; 2014) and 2014 demographic and housing estimates derived from the American Community Survey (2010-2014), United States Bureau of the Census

COUNTY COURT

DISTRICT COURT

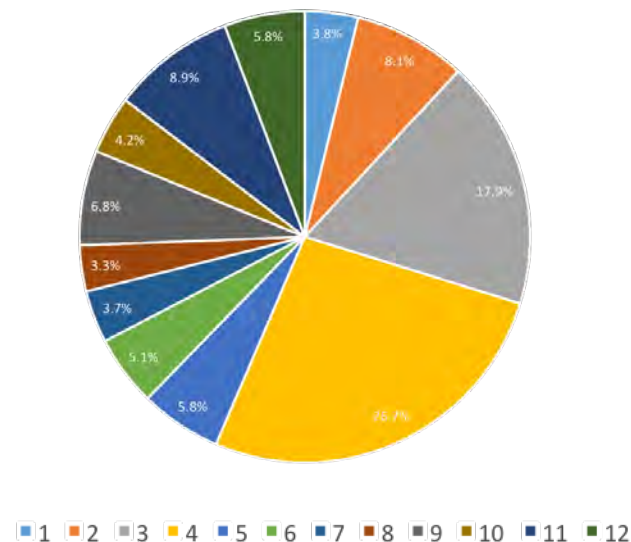
County Court Caseload (2014)

Judicial District	Number criminal cases	% of Criminal Caseload: Misdemeanors	% of Criminal Caseload: Felonies	Number civil cases	Total Caseload	% of Total Caseload: Criminal	% of Total Caseload: Civil	% of State County Court Caseload by District
1	3135	84.72	15.28	3154	13203	23.74	23.89	3.82
2	10992	90.85	9.15	6565	27968	39.30	23.47	8.09
3	22530	89.05	10.95	15103	61812	36.45	24.43	17.87
4	29956	86.70	13.30	25756	92251	32.47	27.92	26.67
5	5415	82.42	17.58	5578	20228	26.77	27.58	5.85
6	5744	84.68	15.32	3959	17498	32.83	22.63	5.06
7	3510	85.41	14.59	2623	12963	27.08	20.23	3.75
8	2340	86.62	13.38	2051	11385	20.55	18.01	3.29
9	6987	82.58	17.42	7512	23509	29.72	31.95	6.80
10	3260	82.27	17.73	3920	14379	22.67	27.26	4.16
11	7608	82.68	17.32	6280	30665	24.81	20.48	8.87
12	5208	84.10	15.90	4652	19978	26.07	23.29	5.78
NE	115735	86.38	13.62	87153	345839	30.85	25.20	100.00

Notable Findings:

1. District 3 and 4 account for nearly 50 percent of the County and District court caseload
2. The percent of criminal cases in criminal courts is highest in District 2
3. Domestic relations cases account for the majority of district court caseloads
4. Districts 7, 9 and 11 handle a greater percentage of criminal cases than respective district courts

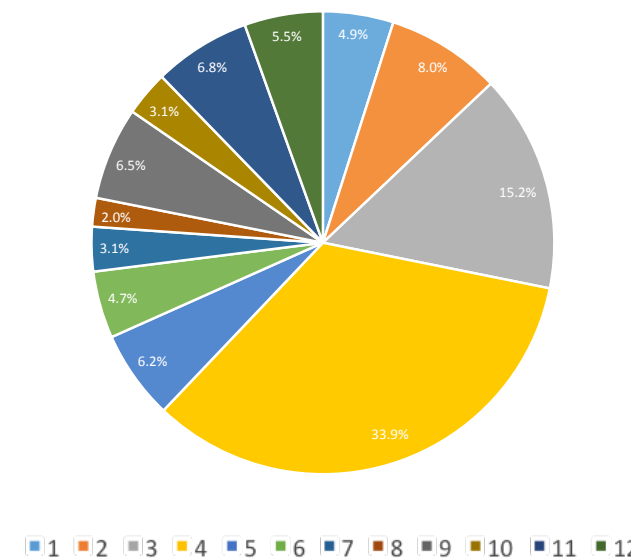
% of State County Court Caseload by District



District Court Caseload (2014)

Judicial District	Number criminal cases	Number of Regular Civil Cases	Number of Domestic Relations Cases	Number of Appellate Cases	Total Caseload	% of Total Caseload: Criminal	% of Total Caseload: Civil	% of Total Caseload: Domestic Relations	% of Total Caseload: Appellate Action
1	358	313	1225	33	1929	18.56	16.23	63.50	1.71
2	678	472	1945	43	3138	21.61	15.04	61.98	1.37
3	1708	902	3255	100	5965	28.63	15.12	54.57	1.68
4	3433	2087	7655	119	13294	25.82	15.70	57.58	0.90
5	677	322	1417	21	2437	27.78	13.21	58.15	0.86
6	492	275	1050	18	1835	26.81	14.99	57.22	0.98
7	413	159	638	9	1219	33.88	13.04	52.34	0.74
8	166	188	422	8	784	21.17	23.98	53.83	1.02
9	878	285	1349	25	2537	34.61	11.23	53.17	0.99
10	330	170	712	20	1232	26.79	13.80	57.79	1.62
11	860	370	1413	15	2658	32.36	13.92	53.16	0.56
12	459	512	1135	40	2146	21.39	23.86	52.89	1.86
NE	10452	6055	22216	451	39174	26.68	15.46	56.71	1.15

% of State District Court Caseload



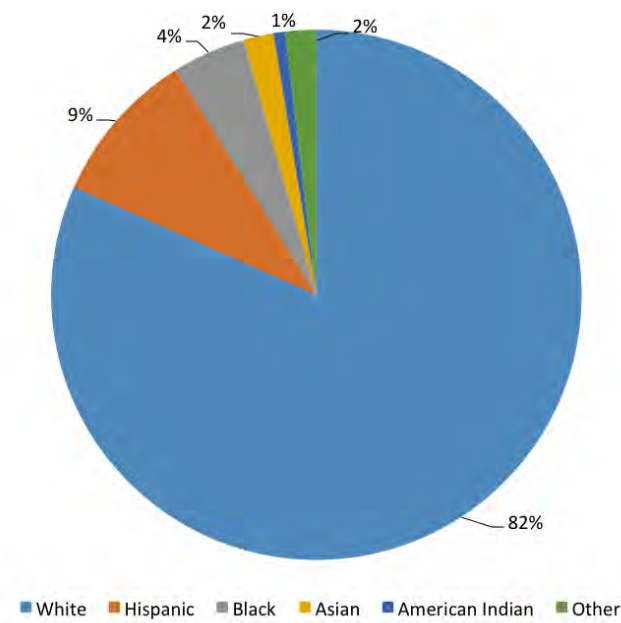
Notes:

1. County courts handle misdemeanor cases, traffic and municipal ordinance violations, preliminary hearing in felony cases, and civil cases involving \$52,000 or less (Nebraska Judicial Branch)
2. County Court caseloads drawn from the County Court Annual Caseload Report, Nebraska Judicial Branch
3. District courts hear all felony criminal cases, equity cases, and civil cases involving more than \$52,000. These courts also function as appellate courts in deciding appeals from county court (Nebraska Judicial Branch)
4. District court caseloads drawn from the District Court Annual Caseload Report, Nebraska Judicial Branch

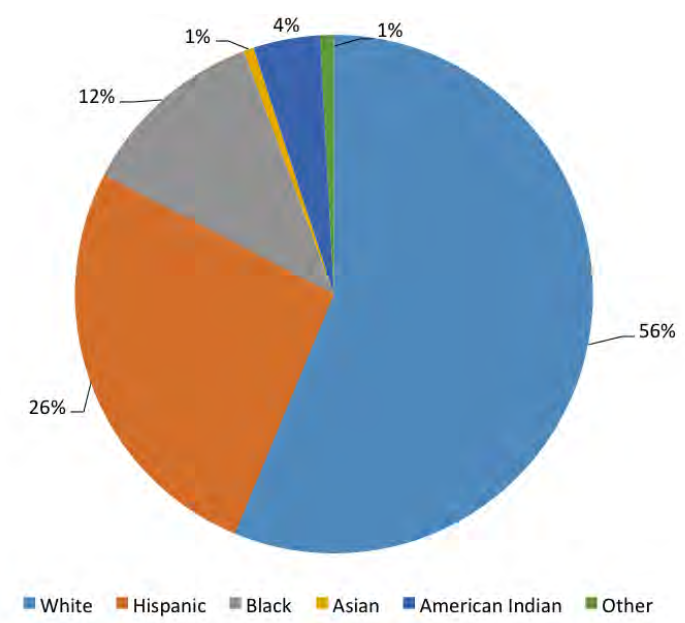


CORRECTIONS

Racial Composition of Nebraska



Racial Composition of Inmate Population



Most Serious Offense of Male and Female New Admissions (2014)

Offense Category	Male Inmates		Female Inmates	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Drugs	415	19.4	137	38.5
Assault	319	14.9	30	8.4
Theft	263	12.3	74	20.8
Motor Vehicle	261	12.2	31	8.7
Sex Offenses	194	9.1	2	0.6
Weapons	193	9.0	9	2.5
Burglary	183	8.6	14	3.9
Robbery	97	4.5	7	2.0
Other	80	3.7	18	5.1
Fraud	66	3.1	32	9.0
Homicide	32	1.5	2	0.6
Restraint	12	0.6	0	0.0
Arson	10	0.5	0	0.0
Morals	10	0.5	0	0.0
Total New Admissions	2135	100.0	356	100.0

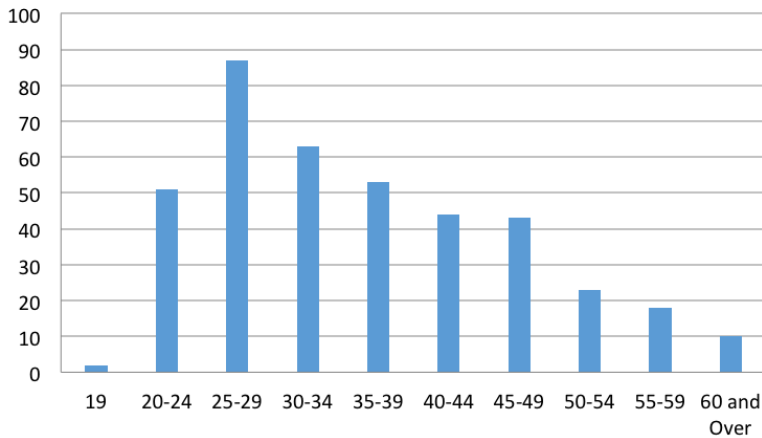
Adult Inmate Population by Age Group and Gender (2014)

Age	Male Inmates		Female Inmates	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
17	6	.1	0	0.0
18	15	.3	0	0.0
19	30	.6	2	.5
20-24	641	13.6	51	12.9
25-29	806	17.1	87	22.1
30-34	734	15.5	63	16.0
35-39	656	13.9	53	13.5
40-44	532	11.3	44	11.2
45-49	414	8.8	43	10.9
50-54	391	8.3	23	5.8
55-59	253	5.4	18	4.6
60 and Over	247	5.2	10	2.5

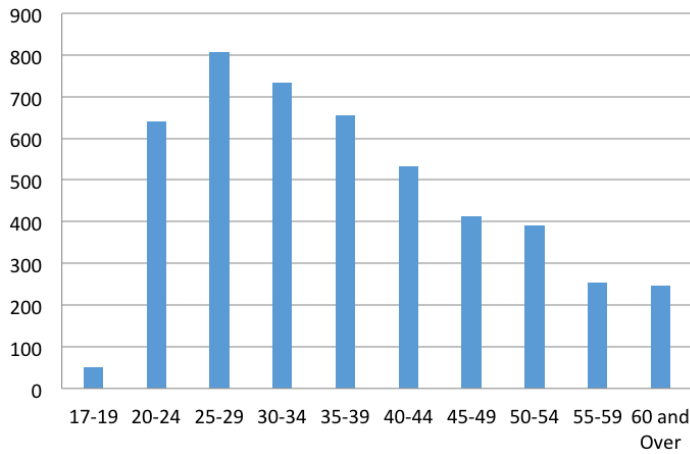
Rate of Incarceration (2014)

	Rate of Incarceration per 100,000 Citizens (Nebraska)	Rate of Incarceration per 100,000 Citizens (U.S.)	Percent Difference Rate of Incarceration (NE vs. U.S.)
White	192	257	-28.95
Hispanic	776	1042	-29.26
Black	730	857	-16.01
Other	355	553	-43.61

Female Inmates by Age Group



Male Inmates by Age Group



Adult Inmate Population by Commitment Region and Gender (2014)

Region	Male Inmates		Female Inmates	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Metro Omaha	1878	39.7	140	35.5
Metro Lincoln	881	18.6	85	21.6
Southeast	425	9.0	29	7.4
Northeast	533	11.3	54	13.7
South Central	679	14.4	57	14.5
North Central	51	1.1	7	1.8
Panhandle	241	5.1	18	4.6
Out-of-State	16	.3	4	1.0
Not Available	21	.4	0	0.0

Average Monthly Population and Capacity (2010-2014)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average % Growth	Design Capacity (2014)	% Design Capacity (2014)
Facility								
Nebraska State Penitentiary	1108	1155	1226	1261	1311	4.30%	718	182.59%
Lincoln Correctional Center	486	490	491	499	496	0.51%	308	161.04%
Diagnostic & Evaluation Unit	358	375	440	484	438	5.64%	160	273.75%
Omaha Correctional Center	656	605	559	584	747	4.25%	396	188.64%
Community Corrections	528	524	516	531	515	-0.60%	290	177.59%
Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility	91	90	74	66	71	-5.53%	68	104.41%
Nebraska Center for Women	265	281	265	242	291	2.98%	275	105.82%
Tecumseh State Correctional Institution	925	943	936	955	1002	2.04%	960	104.38%
Work Ethic Camp	126	166	168	137	154	6.73%	100	154.00%
Nebraska Corrections Total	4543	4629	4675	4759	5025	2.57%	3275	153.44%

Notable Findings:

- 1. Of the facilities in the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS), the Diagnosis & Evaluation Unit is the most crowded
- 2. All facilities are at or over their intended rated capacity
- 3. The inmate population grew over 2.5% each year from 2010 to 2014
- 4. Although Hispanics and blacks comprise 9 and 4 percent of the Nebraska population, they comprise 26 and 12 percent of the prison population, respectively
- 5. Racial and ethnic disparity in the rate of incarceration is considerable, but rates of incarceration in Nebraska are still well below the national average
- 6. The most common commitment offenses for both men and women were drug-related offenses
- 7. The majority of prison inmates come from the Omaha and Lincoln metro, respectively
- 8. Most of male and female inmates in NDCS are age 25-29

Notes:

- 1. National estimates (2014 ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates & U.S. Department of Justice, Prisoners in 2014), Nebraska Estimates (2014 ACS, 2014 Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Annual Report)



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