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## **STATEWIDE CRIME STATISTICS RELEASED Overall Crime Rate Down**

BISMARCK – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem today released North Dakota’s crime statistics for 2007, which show the overall crime rate decreased by 4.9% from 2006. The report is compiled from information reported by local law enforcement agencies across the state.

Crime index offenses decreased by 4.3%, with 12,531 offenses reported by local law enforcement, compared to 13,099 reported in 2006. Crime index offenses include the violent crimes of murder/non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and several property crimes. Violent crimes comprise just 7.1% of the total index crimes reported. The number of violent crimes reported in 2007 increased by 9.5 percent from 2006, to 885. Reports of rape increased by 3.6%, from 195 in 2006 to 202 in 2007.

There were sixteen murders in 2007, compared to 9 murders reported in 2006. Thirteen victims were killed by someone known to them and seven of the victims died as a result of domestic violence. Twelve of the victims were adults.

“The overall crime rate in North Dakota continues to decline. That is good news. The state will continue its status as one of the nation’s safest states, and that is further good news,” said Stenehjem. “As with all of these statistics, however, there are areas of concern. Chief among them is continuing the increase in aggravated assaults in the state, a trend which started in 1999 and continued into 2007,” he continued.

The state also tracks and reports drug and alcohol offenses, which are not crime index offenses. The number of arrests for all alcohol related offenses has remained steady, accounting for approximately for 40% of total arrests in North Dakota. While DUI arrests declined across almost every age group, that decline was offset by a 5.4% increase in arrests of drivers age 25-29 and 2.1% increase of drivers age 22.

One-fourth of all adults arrested in 2007 (24.9%) were arrested for DUI.

Property crime accounted for 92.9% of crime index offenses reported. The number of property crimes decreased by 5.2 percent in 2007, with 11,646 reported compared to 12,291 in 2006. Juveniles were arrested for 43.7% of the property crimes. Motor vehicle thefts decreased by 10.1%, with 878 reported in 2007 compared to 977 in 2006. More than \$10 million dollars worth of property was reported stolen in 2007.

Juveniles accounted for approximately 21 percent of total arrests and 40.4 percent of crime index offense arrests.

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## NORTH DAKOTA CRIME SUMMARY, 2007

- Crime index offenses include: murder/non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft.
- In 2007, 12,531 crime index offenses were reported by local law enforcement agencies. This is a decrease of 4.3 percent from the total of 13,099 reported in 2006.
- The total number of reported violent index crimes (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) was 885. This represents an increase of 9.5 percent from the total of 808 reported in 2006. In 2005, 690 violent index crimes were reported.
- Violent crime accounted for 7.1 percent of total index crimes reported in 2007.
- Aggravated assaults increased by 12.6 percent, with 599 arrests in 2007 compared to 532 in 2006. In 2005, 444 aggravated assaults were reported. Firearms, knives and other dangerous weapons were used in 42.7% of aggravated assaults.
- Collectively, property crimes (burglary, larceny/theft and motor vehicle theft) decreased by 5.2 percent from 12,291 reported in 2006 to 11,646 reported in 2007.
- Property crime accounted for 92.9 percent of total crime index offenses reported in 2007.
- The 8,672 larceny/theft offenses reported in 2007 accounted for 69.2 percent of total index crimes. Larceny/theft includes crimes such as shoplifting, thefts from motor vehicles, theft of motor vehicle parts, bicycle thefts, and purse-snatching, where no force, violence or fraud occurs. It does not include theft of motor vehicles, which is a separate category.
- More than \$10.7 million worth of property was reported stolen in 2007, with 36.9 percent of that amount reported as recovered by law enforcement officials.
- North Dakota law enforcement agencies reported 30,780 arrests in 2007. A total of 32,343 arrests was reported in 2006.
- In 2007, juvenile arrests accounted for 21.7 percent of the total arrests, compared to 20.7 in 2006. Juvenile arrests were 40.4 percent of the total arrests of crime index offenses up from 37.6 in 2006.
- The number of reported arrests in 2007 for DUI decreased to 6,085 from 6,488 reported in 2006. Adults accounted for 6,019 of DUI arrests and 24,104 of the total number of arrests. One-quarter of adults arrested in 2007 (24.9%) were arrested for DUI.
- Arrests for drug offenses increased 3.0 percent from a 2006 total of 2,256 to 2,323 in 2007.