

# **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

## **2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **PURSUANT TO NEB. REV. STAT. 50-1403**

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# Nebraska State Legislature

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## A message from Senator Tony Vargas, Chair of the Legislature's Planning Committee, 2020-2021

The Legislature's Planning Committee plays a critical role in both the Nebraska Unicameral and, more broadly, in our state government's efforts to plan and prepare for the success and wellbeing of future generations. The Planning Committee works with the University of Nebraska-Omaha's Center for Public Affairs Research (CPAR), which compiles and presents data about demographics and the workforce to the Committee. The Committee uses that data to set priorities and then makes recommendations to the Legislature for legislation that aligns with those goals.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank Dr. Josie Schafer, Director of CPAR at UNO, for her thoughtful and thorough work, as well as Dr. John Bartle, for his work with the Committee over the years. Thanks are also in order for Dr. Schafer's and Dr. Bartle's staff and students, as well as the other professors and researchers who have worked with the Committee. Finally, I would like to express personal thanks to my fellow committee members and their staff for their engagement throughout the year and support of the committee's work.

This year, the Legislative Planning Committee established five priority topics of the committee. These topics include rural development, retaining and attracting 18-34 year olds, workforce training, restoring a healthy balance to our rainy day fund, and improving K-12 outcomes. The Committee and CPAR also worked together to create a dashboard to evaluate the extent to which all passed bills from the 2019-2020 legislative session align with the four strategic priority topics of the committee and to identify priority areas where there has not been successful legislation. Both the data provided to the committee and the legislative dashboard provide senators with valuable information as we discuss and debate fiscal and economic policies and designate the Planning Committee's priority bill. Here are our committee recommendations:

1. Meet with committee chairs at the beginning of the session to review the Legislative Planning Committee priorities and 2020 progress and areas of growth.
2. Track and align introduced 2021 legislation to the Legislative Planning Committee priorities.
3. Educate new senators regarding Legislative Planning Committee & CPAR resources and data.
4. Communicate progress and emerging data/research trends with external partners and media.

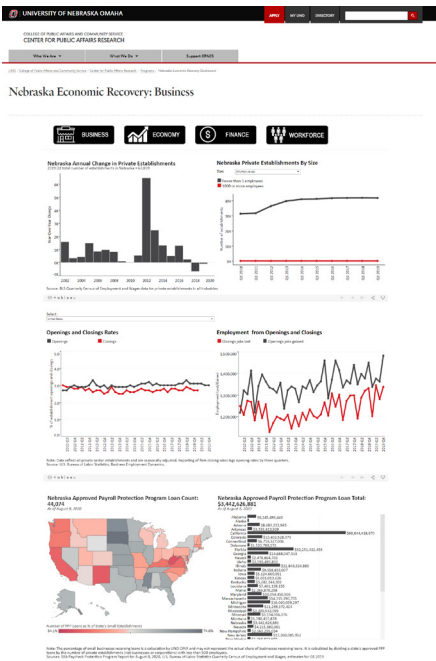
It is my hope that the information in this report will encourage evolving and dynamic policy ideas that will serve Nebraskans for generations to come.

Sincerely,

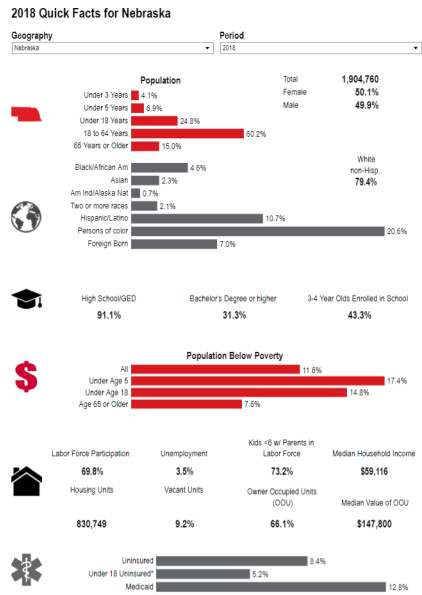
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Vargas'.

Senator Tony Vargas, District 7

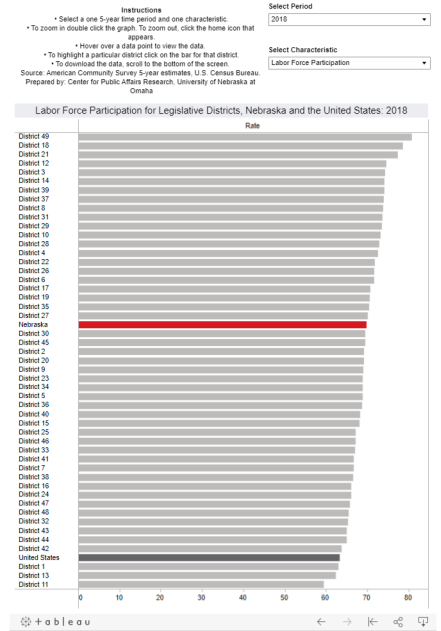
## Nebraska Economic Recovery Dashboard



## Nebraska Legislative Districts by the Numbers Dashboard

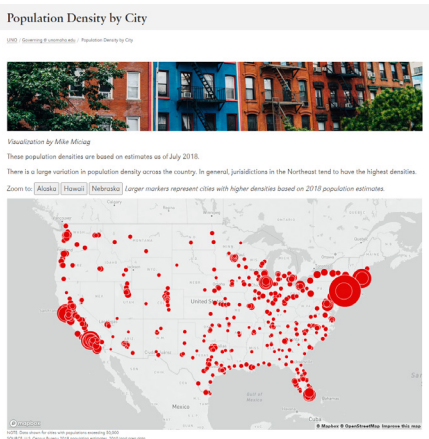


## Comparing Nebraska Legislative Districts by the Numbers Dashboard



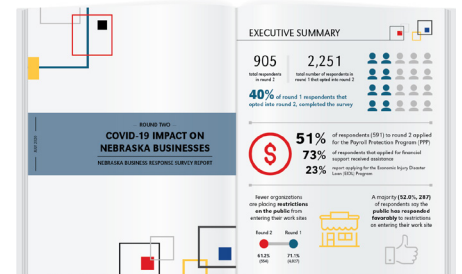
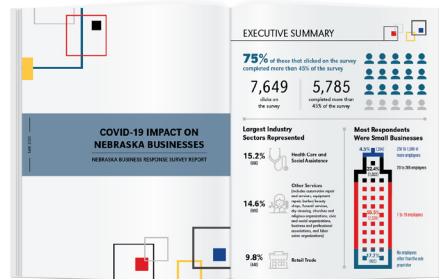
[cpar.unomaha.edu/policy](http://cpar.unomaha.edu/policy)

## Governing Website



[governing.unomaha.edu](http://governing.unomaha.edu)

## COVID-19 Impact on Nebraska Businesses Survey Reports



[cpar.unomaha.edu/nebraskabythenumbers](http://cpar.unomaha.edu/nebraskabythenumbers)



**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 July 8, 2020

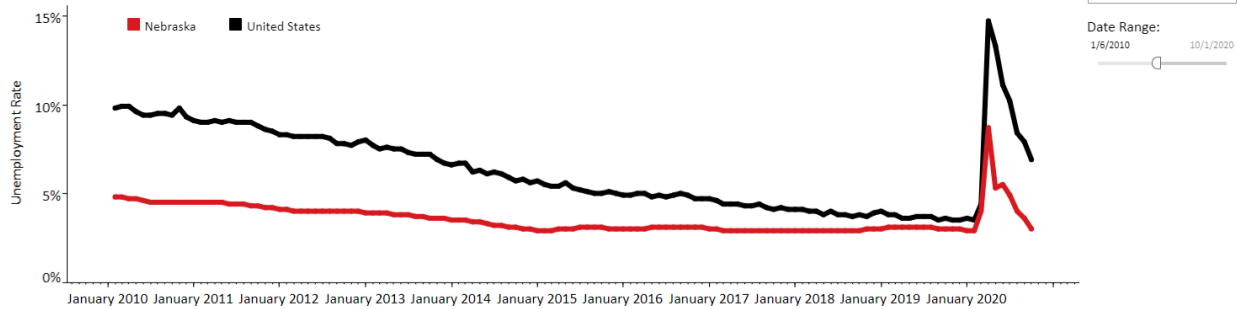
**Contact:** Josie Gatti Schafer, Ph.D.  
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**ONLINE DATA DASHBOARD SHOWS COVID-19 IMPACT ON LOCAL ECONOMY AND WORKERS**

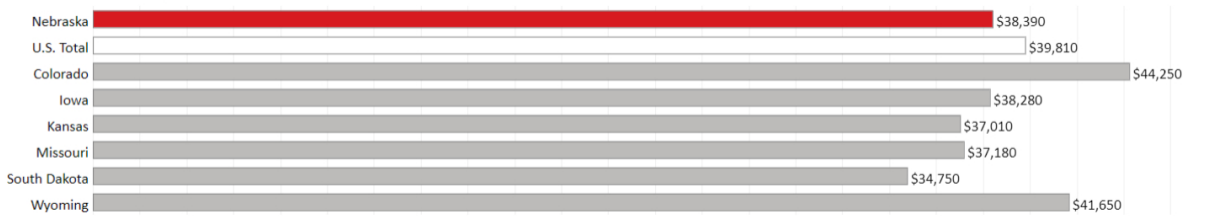
OMAHA, NE – The new Nebraska Economic Recovery Dashboard is a cutting-edge tool that provides data visualizations and key insights on the state’s economic health through the COVID-19 pandemic and into recovery. The dashboard includes data indicators in four major areas: business, economy, finance, and workforce.



**Nebraska October 2020 Unemployment Rate: 3.0%**



**State Median Wages**



NOTE: Estimates are for nonfarm wage and salary workers and do not include tips and overtime pay.  
 SOURCE: May 2019 Occupational Employment Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

More than 20 dynamic data visualizations are available on the dashboard, with options to view comparisons with other states, regionally, and nationally, including:

- Share of jobs at high risk of unemployment due to COVID-19 by state
- Unemployment claims, weekly and over time
- Business opening and closing rates
- Loan count and dollar amounts from the Payroll Protection Program by state

The dashboard is a joint project of the Planning Committee of the Nebraska State Legislature and the UNO Center for Public Affairs Research (CPAR). Senator Tony Vargas, Chair of the Planning Committee, stated, “CPAR continues to be an invaluable resource and partner for the Committee, the Nebraska Legislature, and the state at large. We are living in unprecedented times, and it is critical that policymakers and public health leaders have as much information about COVID-19’s effects on our state and local economies as possible to enable us to make informed decisions and educate our communities and the public.”

The Legislature’s Planning Committee is tasked with studying shifting demographic trends to inform the Legislature’s long-term policy making decisions. CPAR is a unit in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Its mission is the collection and wide dissemination of public affairs data to facilitate an evidence-based approach to governance in Nebraska.

Data on the dashboard is compiled from a range of trusted sources that were vetted for accuracy, consistency, and comprehensiveness to ensure that indicators are available for all areas of the state. Data will be updated regularly to provide timely, ongoing information during the evolving pandemic. The dashboard can be accessed at [cpar.unomaha.edu/policy](http://cpar.unomaha.edu/policy). All data is freely available for public, journalistic, and other uses with proper attribution.



**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 September 21, 2020

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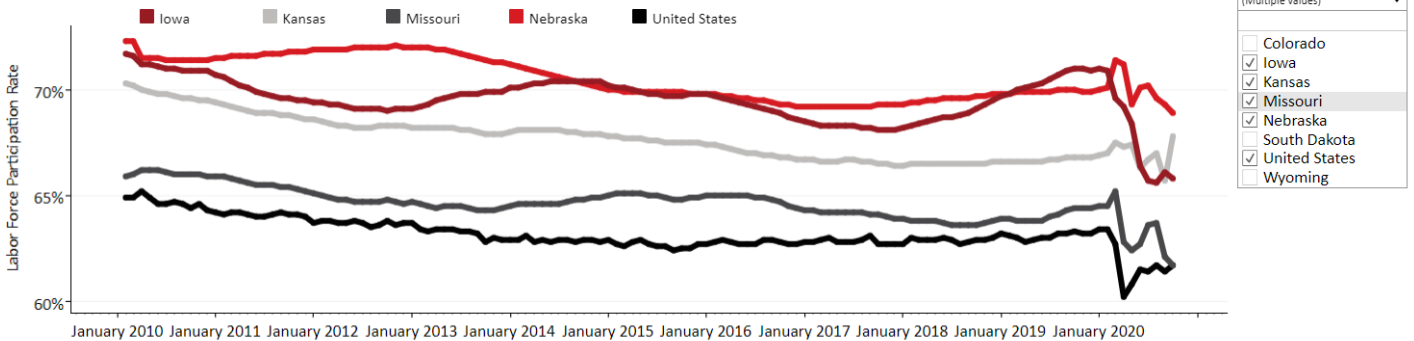
**NEBRASKA ECONOMY WEATHERING COVID-19 BETTER THAN MOST NEIGHBOR STATES**

OMAHA, NE – Nebraska may be faring slightly better than neighboring states in weathering the economic recession according to data on the Nebraska Economic Recovery Dashboard, a joint project of the UNO Center for Public Affairs Research and the Planning Committee of the Nebraska State Legislature. “CPAR’s Nebraska Economic Recovery Dashboard is incredibly useful to policymakers as we evaluate the many external factors that affect our state’s economy. We are learning now that while it may seem that Nebraska may be faring better than some of our neighbor states, we still have work to do to ensure ‘the good life’ is attainable for all Nebraskans,” cautions Senator Tony Vargas, chair of the Planning Committee.

Weekly employment numbers for Nebraska dropped drastically in April of this year with 53,016 fewer jobs than the previous month. However, employment declined in Nebraska by a smaller percent between March and April than in every neighboring state, according to recently updated dashboard data.

**Figure One: While Nebraska’s Labor Force Participation rate dropped in April and May of 2020 several neighbor states have seen greater decreases**

**Nebraska October 2020 Labor Force Participation: 68.9%**

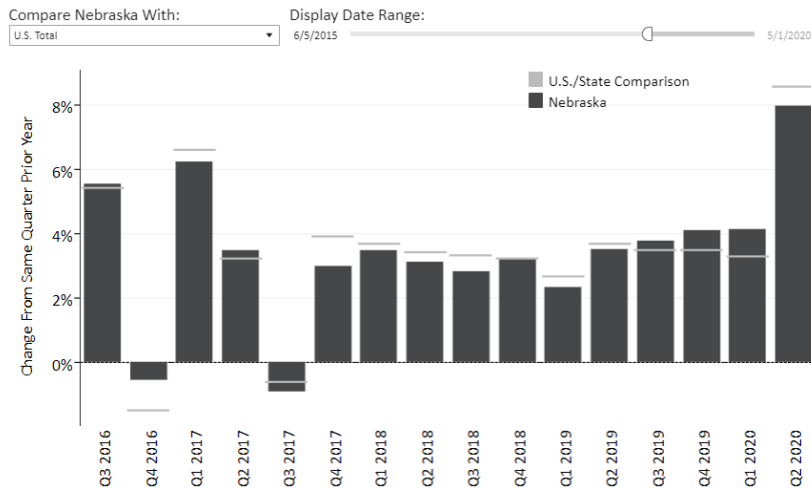


Source: BLS seasonally-adjusted employment data

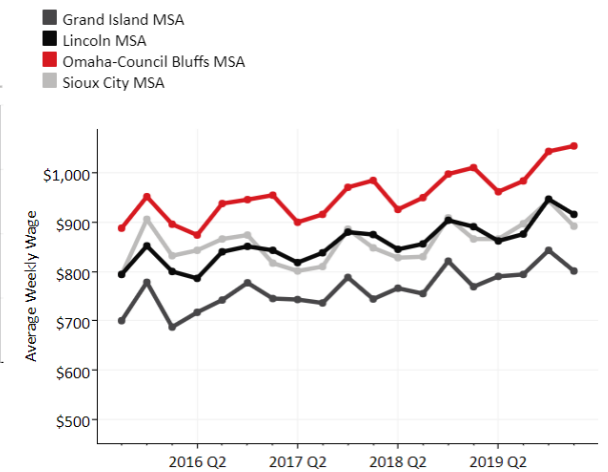
Nebraska also made some economic gains in the lead-up to the pandemic. Wage growth in Nebraska trailed some neighboring states in prior years, but there has been steady growth in all four quarters of 2019. Josie Schafer, director of the UNO Center for Public Affairs Research said, “The hope would be that Nebraska rebounds and continues on the upward trajectory that it was on.”

**Figure Two: Every quarter of 2019 had wage growth compared to the same quarter of 2018**

**Nebraska Average Weekly Wages: Year-Over-Year Growth**



**Metro Area Average Weekly Wages**

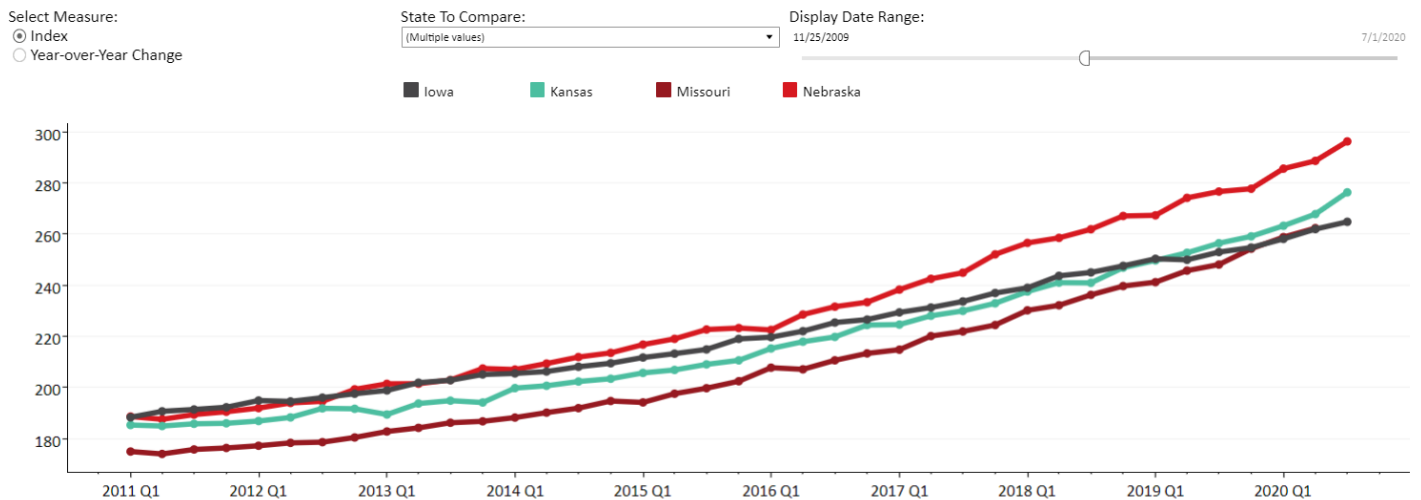


Estimates cover all industries and establishment sizes. SOURCE: BLS Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, non-seasonally adjusted data

While pre-recession wage growth may have put Nebraska residents in a good position heading into the pandemic, Nebraska’s home prices have also risen consistently since 2011. The dashboard includes the House Price Index from the Federal Housing Finance Agency, measured quarterly from 2000 to present for the United States, Nebraska, and its neighboring states. The index has increased faster in Nebraska than in Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri over the past ten years.

**Figure Three: Nebraska’s Housing Prices have risen faster than several neighbor states and have continued to rise through the pandemic**

**Quarterly House Price Index (Purchase-Only)**



NOTE: House price index values are based on sales price data and are seasonally adjusted  
SOURCE: Federal Housing Finance Agency

The Nebraska Economic Recovery Dashboard compiles data from multiple sources for Nebraska and surrounding states. Data is updated regularly to provide timely, ongoing information during the evolving pandemic. The dashboard can be accessed at [cpar.unomaha.edu/policy](http://cpar.unomaha.edu/policy). All data is freely available for public, journalistic, and other uses with proper attribution.





**NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 November 10, 2020

**FEDERAL STIMULUS DOLLARS HELPED STABILIZE THE NEBRASKA ECONOMY**

OMAHA, NE – The Nebraska Economic Recovery Dashboard, a joint project of the Planning Committee of the Nebraska State Legislature and the UNO Center for Public Affairs Research (CPAR), shows that federal COVID relief dollars helped to stabilize the Nebraska economy.

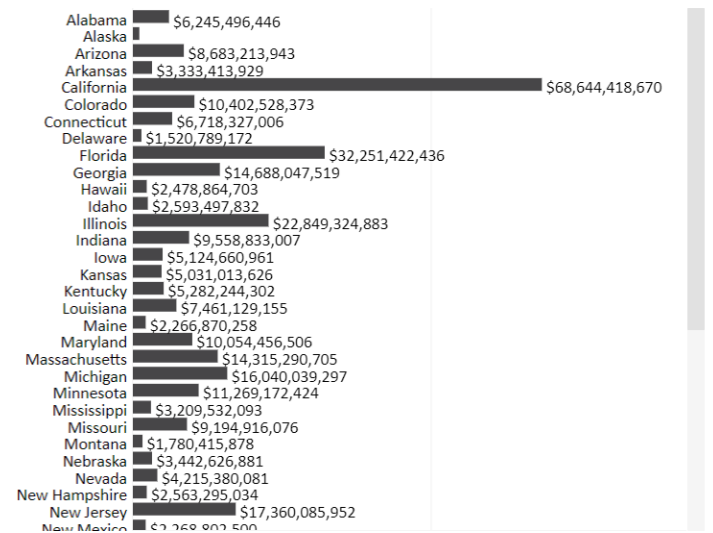
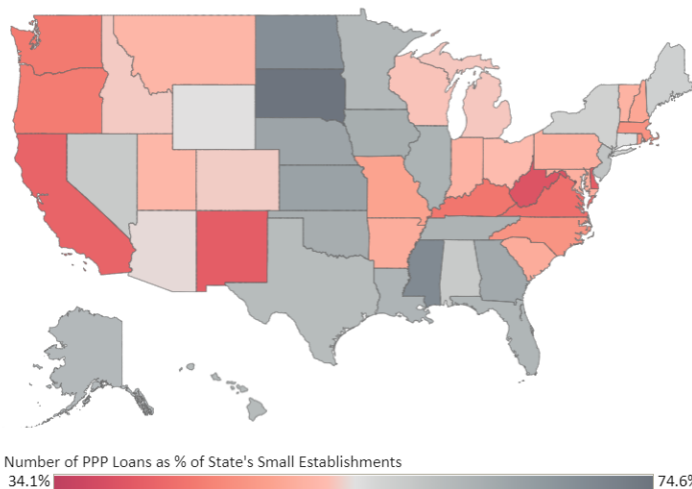
Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government offered a range of stimulus programs to bolster the economy, including direct cash payments to individuals and families, pandemic emergency unemployment assistance, and the Paycheck Protection Program for businesses.

Close to 65% of eligible small businesses in Nebraska received Paycheck Protection loans, resulting in an injection of more than \$3 billion in federal relief dollars into the Nebraska economy. For comparison, 63% of eligible businesses received loans in Iowa, 49% in Missouri, and 65% in Kansas. While the funds helped to keep unemployment low in Nebraska compared to other states, there was still a dramatic spike in unemployment numbers that has not returned to pre-COVID levels locally or nationally.

**Figure 1: Nebraska share of Payroll Protection Loans Is Higher than Many Other States Share of Payroll Protection Program Loans as a % of State’s Small Establishments**

**Nebraska Approved Payroll Protection Program Loan Count:**  
**44,074**  
*As of August 8, 2020*

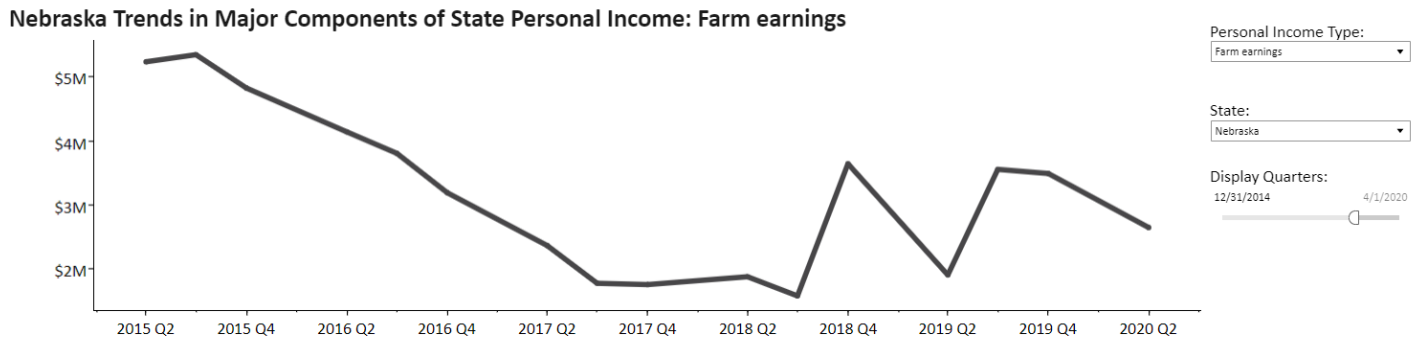
**Nebraska Approved Payroll Protection Program Loan Total:**  
**\$3,442,626,881**  
*As of August 8, 2020*



Note: The percentage of small businesses receiving loans is a calculation by UNO CPAR and may not represent the actual share of businesses receiving loans. It is calculated by dividing a state's approved PPP loans by the number of private establishments (not businesses or corporations) with less than 500 employees.  
 Sources: SBA Paycheck Protection Program Report for August 8, 2020, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, estimates for Q1 2019. The Payroll Protection Program closed August 8, 2020; SBA is no longer accepting PPP applications.

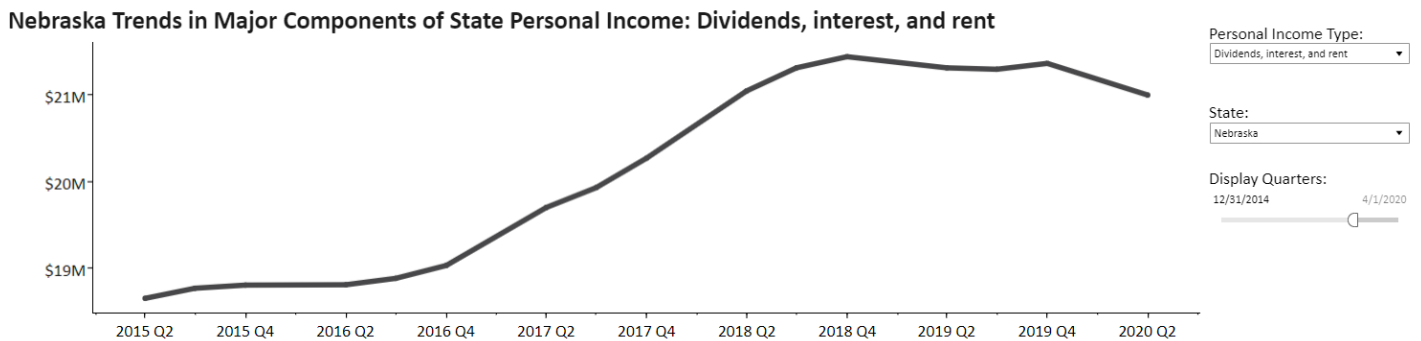
Those who did go on unemployment were offered expanded assistance from the CARES Act for a few months. When looking at data on income trends, the impact of these dollars becomes clear. Using data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the dashboard shows that total personal income increased in the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2020. However, overall earnings showed a downward trend, as did farm earnings and income received from dividends, interest, and rent. The driver of the increase in personal income was a category called current transfer receipts, which captures two of the federal stimulus programs: direct cash payments to individuals and unemployment benefits.

**Figure Two: Farm Earnings as a Component of State Personal Income are down in Quarter 2 of 2020**



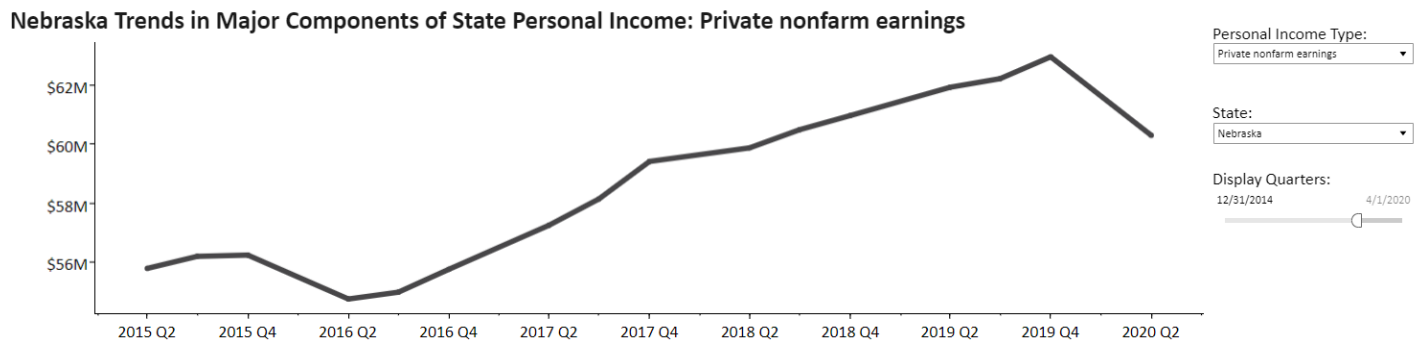
Data is seasonally adjusted at annual rates. Dollar estimates shown in current dollars, not adjusted for inflation.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

**Figure Three: Dividends, Interest and Rent as a Component of Personal Income are Down in Quarter 2 of 2020**



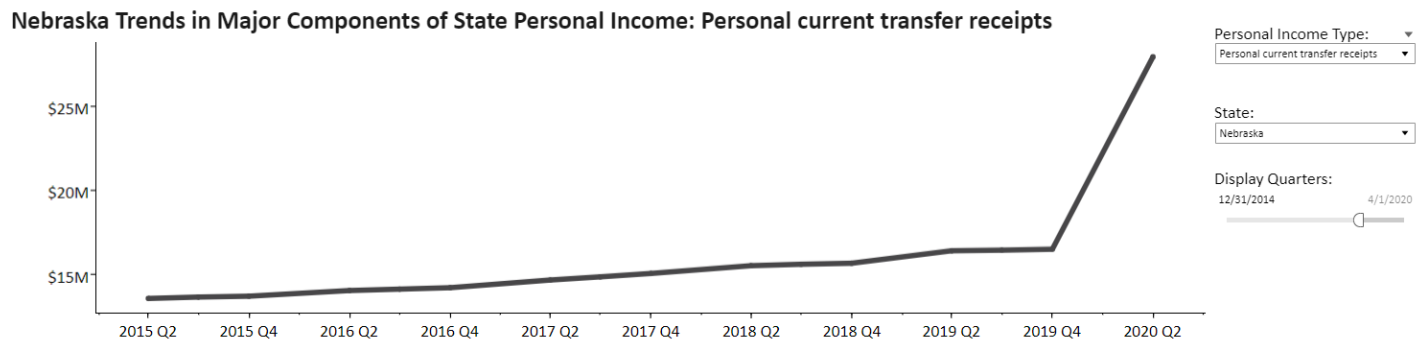
Data is seasonally adjusted at annual rates. Dollar estimates shown in current dollars, not adjusted for inflation.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

**Figure Four: Private Nonfarm Earnings as a Component of Personal Incomes are Down in Quarter 2 of 2020**



Data is seasonally adjusted at annual rates. Dollar estimates shown in current dollars, not adjusted for inflation.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

**Figure Five: Personal Current Transfer Receipts is the only Component of State Personal Income that Rose in Q2 of 2020**



Data is seasonally adjusted at annual rates. Dollar estimates shown in current dollars, not adjusted for inflation.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

According to Josie Schafer, Director at CPAR, “It is clear that stimulus funds had the intended stabilizing effect on the Nebraska economy.” However, as the pandemic continues and current stimulus discussions at the federal level of government stall, the future of the Nebraska economy is uncertain.

Senator Tony Vargas, who is the Chair of the Legislature’s Planning Committee, which works collaboratively with Dr. Schafer and CPAR, agrees. “We continue to experience a rise in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. It is critical that we take proactive steps to support businesses and working families as we prepare for a second wave of impact to our economy.”

The dashboard can be accessed at [cpar.unomaha.edu/policy](http://cpar.unomaha.edu/policy). All data is freely available for public, journalistic, and other uses with proper attribution.

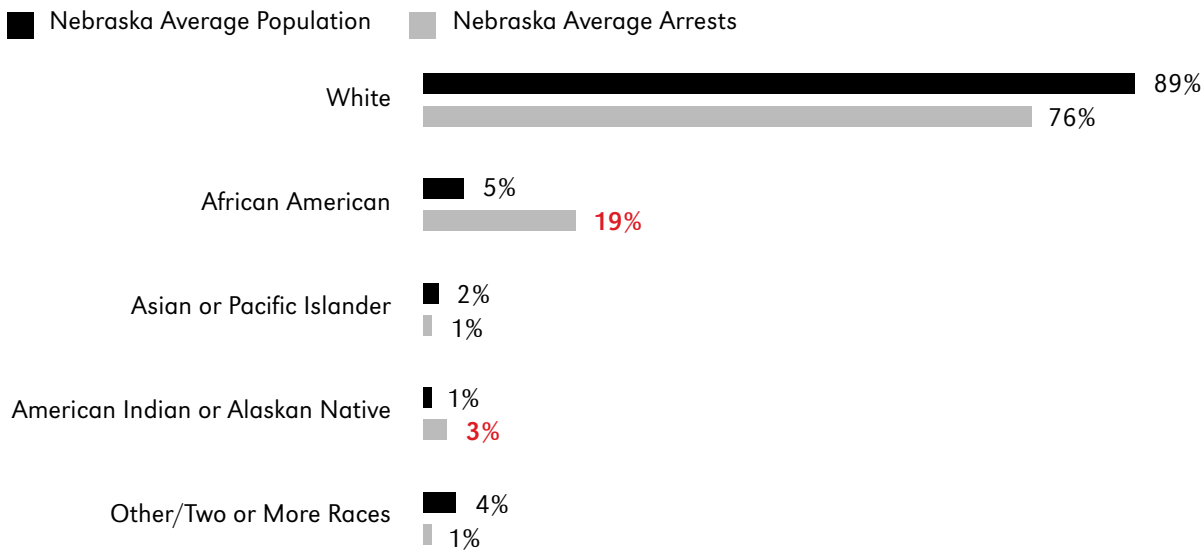
## What are racial and ethnic disparities (RED)?

RED refers to racial and ethnic differences in contacts and experiences with the criminal and juvenile justice systems.<sup>1,2</sup> Measuring the extent to which RED exist in the justice system is a first step toward identifying the ways to improve upon how well the system upholds the principle of equal treatment under the law.<sup>3</sup> Prior research shows that RED are prevalent across multiple points of contact with the juvenile justice system in Nebraska.<sup>1,3</sup> There is also a large body of evidence demonstrating RED in the adult criminal justice system nationwide.<sup>4</sup> The purpose of this brief is to describe what the data show regarding racial disparities in the state of Nebraska and what is yet to be understood.

## Are there racial disparities in arrests in Nebraska?

Relative to the racial makeup of the state population, there is significant disparity in the racial composition of the arrests in each year from 2014 to 2019.<sup>5,6</sup> Inequity for African Americans is the largest contributor to the overall disparity. As shown in Figure 1, from 2014 to 2019, African Americans made up approximately 5% of the state population but accounted for 17.45–20.82% of arrests. American Indians/Alaskan Natives were also overrepresented in arrests (3.23–3.59%) relative to their portion the population (approximately 1%). Whites and Asians/Pacific Islanders are underrepresented in all six years.

**Figure 1: 6-year (2014-2019) Average Arrests by Nebraska Population**



\*Red data labels indicate a group is significantly overrepresented

<sup>1</sup> *Voices for Children of Nebraska (2017a).*

<sup>2</sup> *This phenomenon has also been termed “Disproportionate Minority Contact” (DMC).*

<sup>3</sup> *Voices for Children of Nebraska (2017b).*

<sup>4</sup> *The Sentencing Project (2018).*

<sup>5</sup> *Arrest data for 2014-2016 were retrieved from the Nebraska Crime Commission at [https://www.nebraska.gov/crime\\_commission/arrest/arrest.cgi](https://www.nebraska.gov/crime_commission/arrest/arrest.cgi); Arrest data for 2017-2019 (including county-level data) were retrieved from the Nebraska Crime Commission at <https://crimestats.ne.gov/public>.*

<sup>6</sup> *All population demographics were retrieved from the U.S. Census Bureau 5-year estimates derived from the American Community Survey at <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=nebraska&tid=ACSDP1Y2019.DP05&hidePreview=false>.*

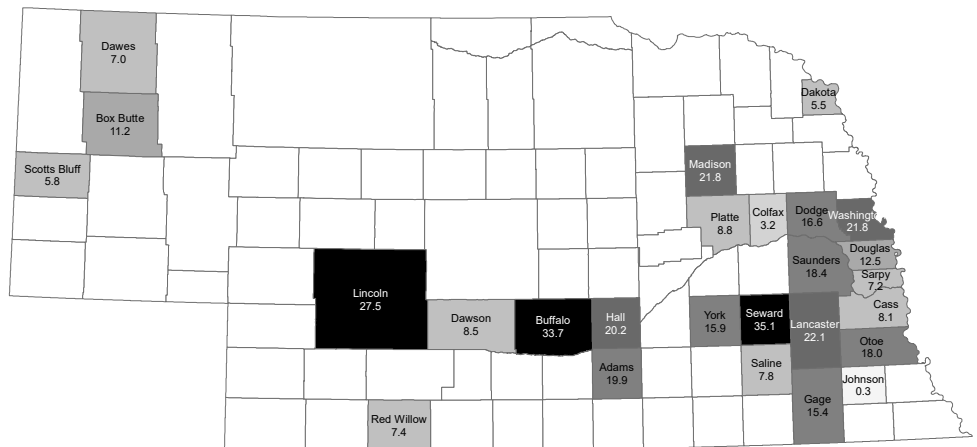
## Do racial disparities in arrests vary across counties?

Although there are stark statewide racial disparities in arrests, a more nuanced picture emerges when examining the percentage of the population of each racial group that has been arrested within each county, as shown in the map below. Darker shading in this map indicates a higher percentage of the African American population has been arrested.<sup>6</sup> County maps for other racial groups are included in the Appendix. From these maps it is apparent that African Americans and American Indians/Alaska Natives tend to experience greater contact with law enforcement in terms of arrest than do Whites and Asians/Pacific Islanders.

## Are there racial disparities in incarceration in Nebraska?

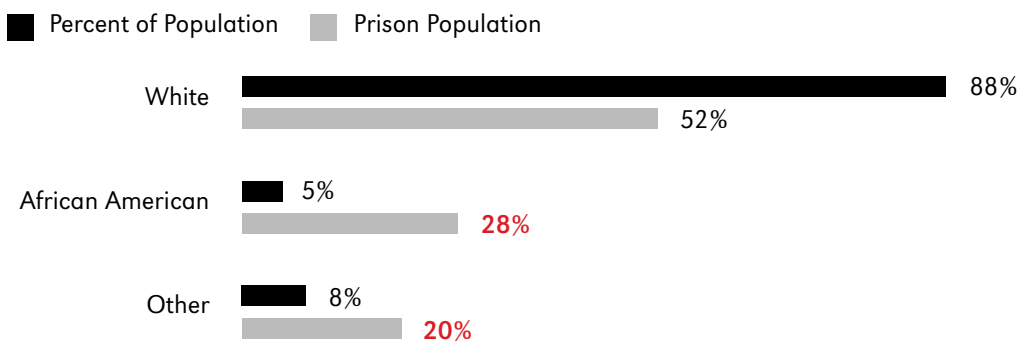
Incarceration data reveal an even greater degree of racial inequity than the arrest data.<sup>7</sup> These data include all those incarcerated in state or federal correctional facilities on December 31, 2018. As with arrests, Whites are significantly underrepresented in the incarcerated population in Nebraska, making up 87.49% of the general population but only 52.39% of the incarcerated population. African Americans are significantly overrepresented, comprising 4.77% of the general population but 27.74% of the incarcerated population.

**Figure 2: Percent of African American Population in County That Have Been Arrested, Nebraska, 2019**



Counties with no data listed have suppressed data due to low counts.

**Figure 3: Persons in State and Federal Correctional Facilities in Nebraska for 2018**



\*Red data labels indicate a group is significantly overrepresented

<sup>6</sup> All population demographics were retrieved from the U.S. Census Bureau 5-year estimates derived from the American Community Survey at <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=nebraska&tid=ACSDP1Y2019.DP05&hidePreview=false>.  
<sup>7</sup> Incarceration data were retrieved from a report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (Carson, 2020). Due to data limitations, all racial categories other than White and African American were collapsed into an "Other" category.

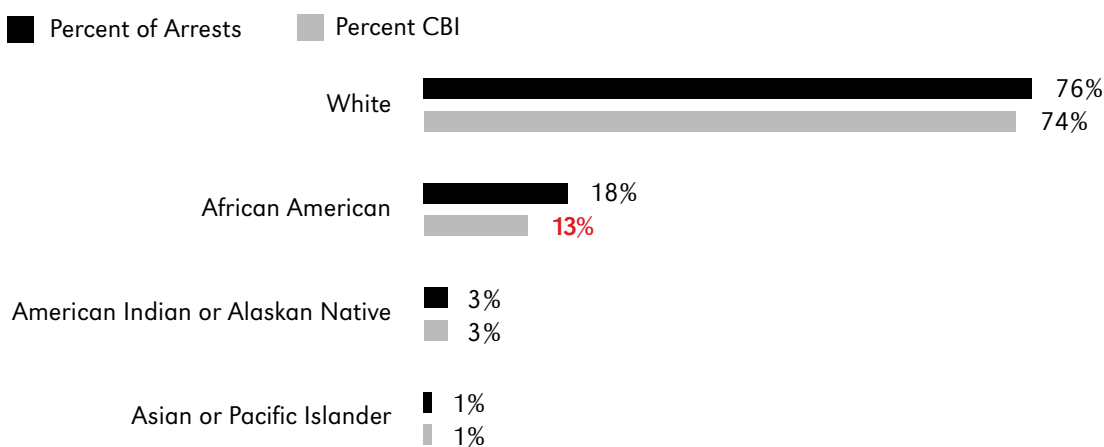
In addition to arrests and incarceration, there are several additional contact points between persons and the criminal justice system, as can be seen in Figure 7. We do not have data to explore RED at all of these contact points but we will explore three additional contacts.

## Are there racial disparities in participation in community corrections in Nebraska?

Generally, the purpose of community-based correctional programs is “to divert target offenders from incarceration and reduce recidivism.”<sup>8</sup> In Nebraska, the Community Corrections Division (CCD) of the Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice reports data for offenders served by probation, parole and the Department of Corrections. Examining racial disparities in participation in community corrections programs gives some insight into whether an offender’s race is related to the likelihood they will be diverted into these programs and may inform the CCD’s mission to “promote equity and fairness within Nebraska’s criminal justice system.”<sup>9</sup>

The 2014-2016 data reported by the CCD show that there are disparities in the racial makeup of those involved in three community corrections programs for which data were reviewed. First, Community Based Intervention (CBI) is the classification for high-risk probationers who receive intensive

**Figure 4: 3-year Average (2014-2016) Community Based Interventions by Arrests**



\*Red data labels indicates a group is significantly underrepresented

supervision and a wide range of services.<sup>10,11</sup> There were racial disparities in CBI relative to the racial makeup of persons arrested within the same year. However, these disparities differ across racial groups and across the three years. One consistent finding over time is that African Americans are significantly underrepresented relative to their composition in arrests.

Community Based Resources is a probation classification for low-risk probationers who “require fewer resources to manage and supervise within the community.”<sup>12</sup> Figure 5 shows that the percentage of those classified under CBR was proportionate to those arrested for Whites, but was significantly different for all other racial groups. African Americans, American Indians/Alaska Natives, and those who fall under other/two or more races are underrepresented, and Asians are overrepresented.

<sup>8</sup> Fisher and Holman (2017, p. 4).

<sup>9</sup> Fisher and Holman (2017, p. 3).

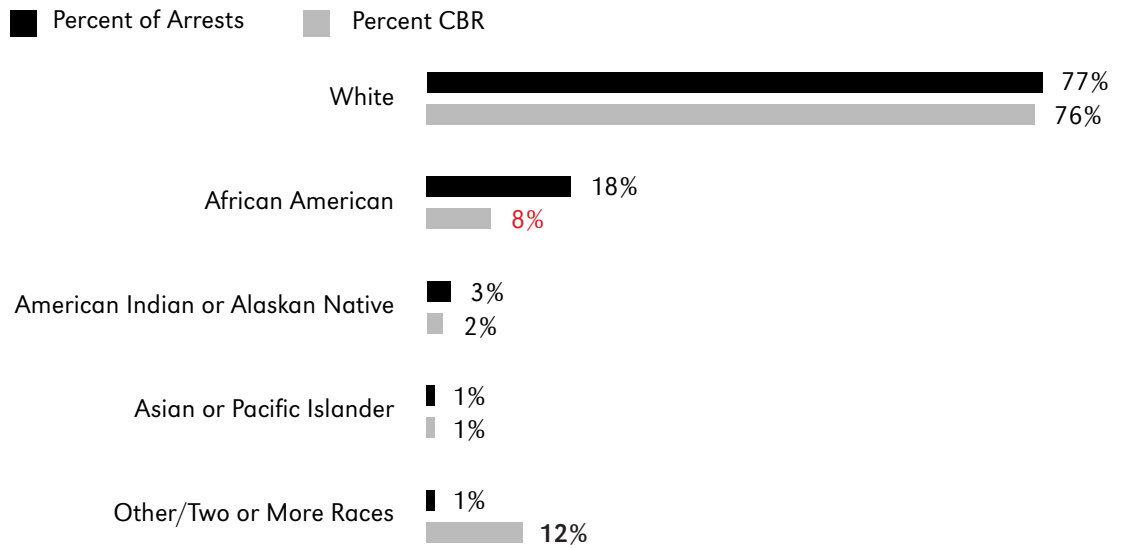
<sup>10</sup> Fisher and Holman (2017, p. 9).

<sup>11</sup> Probationers may be assigned to CBI if they are identified as high risk using a validated assessment tool or if they committed a domestic violence or sex offense. (Fisher & Holman, p. 9).<sup>13</sup> Fisher and Holman (2017, p. 30).

<sup>12</sup> Fisher and Holman (2017, p. 11).

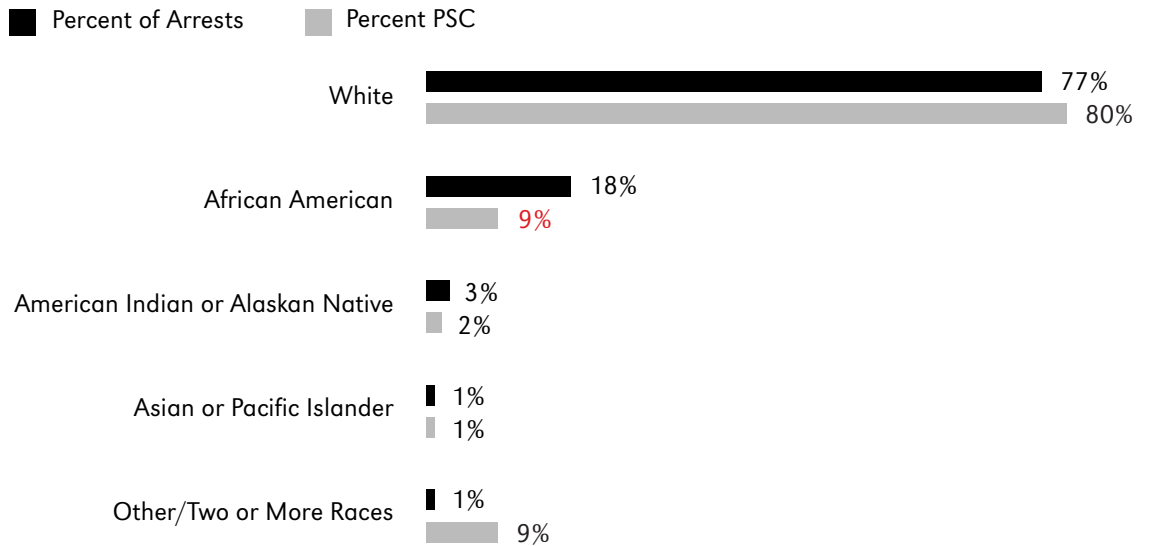
Finally, problem-solving courts (PSCs) are court programs that aim to “accommodate offenders with specific needs and problems that were not or could not be adequately addressed in traditional courts.”<sup>13</sup> PSCs tend to focus on therapeutic treatment and positive outcomes and involve more hands-on involvement by judges.<sup>13</sup> In Nebraska there are drug, DUI, mental health, veterans’, and re-entry courts, among others. As shown in Figure 6, relative to the racial makeup of those arrested, Whites, Asians/Pacific Islanders, and American Indians/Alaska Natives were proportionately represented in PSCs, but African Americans were significantly underrepresented and those who fall in the Other/Two or More Races category were significantly overrepresented.

**Figure 5: 3-year Average (2014-2017) Community Based Resources by Arrests**



\*Red data label indicates a group is significantly underrepresented

**Figure 6: 3-Year Average (2014-2017) Participation in Problem-Solving Courts**



\*Red data labels indicate a group is significantly underrepresented

<sup>13</sup> Fisher and Holman (2017, p. 30).

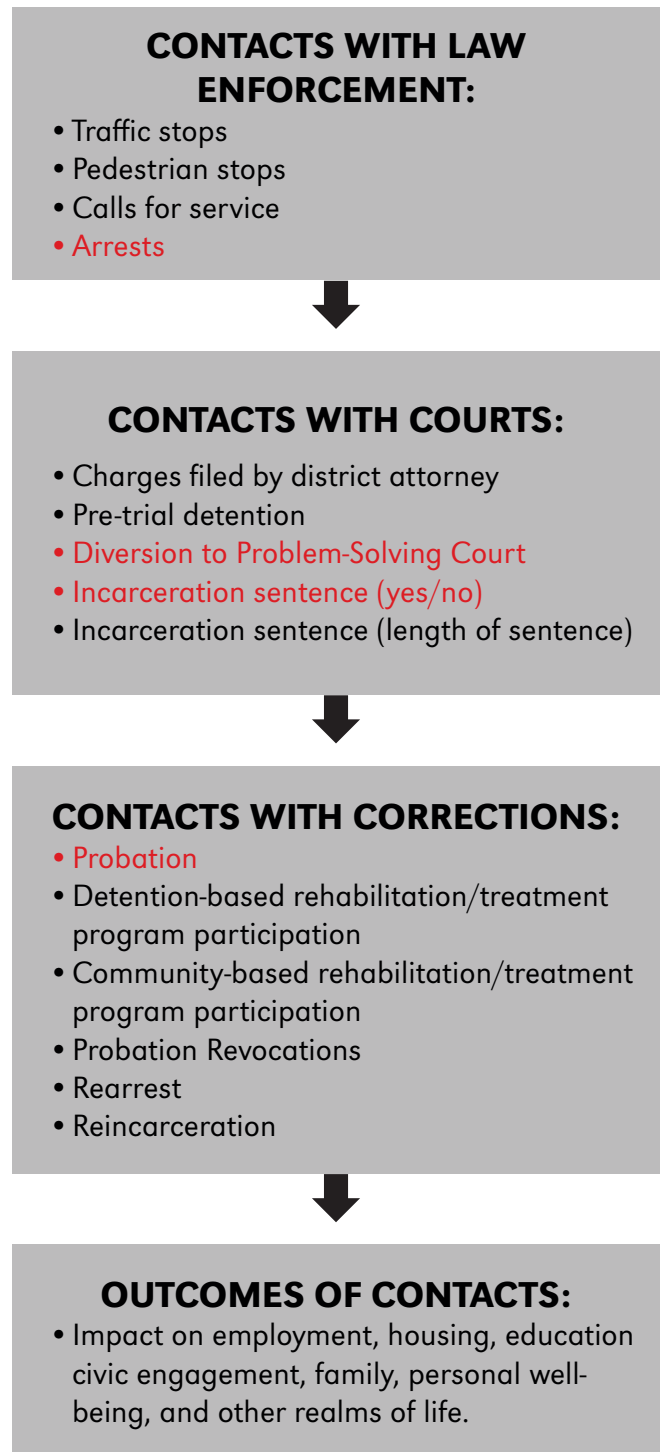
## Conclusions, Limitations, and Unanswered Questions

The data show that there are significant racial disparities, relative to the state population in terms of arrest and incarceration – in which African Americans are overrepresented, and Whites are underrepresented – and in terms of CBI, CBR, and PSC involvement relative to the arrestee population – in which African Americans are underrepresented and Whites are overrepresented. Disparities with the population also exist in terms of contact with the justice system experienced by other racial groups. Unfortunately, we were not able to evaluate the presence of ethnic disparities (i.e., Latino/Hispanic vs. non-Latino/Hispanic) with the available data.

Given that the data show racial inequity across multiple points of contact with the criminal justice system, future research on RED should not be limited to one point of contact (e.g., contact with law enforcement) but instead should examine RED system-wide. Figure 7 displays the general process by which cases flow through the criminal justice system. Future research should aim to acquire and analyze data on the points of contact for which data are not presented here. Such an endeavor would be easiest to facilitate if there were a centralized and standardized source of criminal justice data in the state of Nebraska.

Along with estimating ethnic disparities and evaluating RED at additional contact points, future research should aim to identify the sources of RED in Nebraska. In other words, the question of why these disparities exist remains to be answered. For example, one potential cause of RED is that implicit bias affects how criminal justice system actors perceive people differently, depending on their race, and in turn, affects their decision-making.<sup>1</sup> Other potential sources of RED include sentencing guidelines, use of cash bail, and inadequate funding for indigent defense.<sup>4</sup> Understanding the extent of RED and the source, is a first step to policy solutions that address RED.<sup>4</sup>

## Figure 7: Criminal Justice System Process\*



\*The points of contact for which data are analyzed in this brief are red.

<sup>1</sup> *Voices for Children of Nebraska (2017a).*

<sup>4</sup> *The Sentencing Project (2018).*



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## APPENDICES

### Table 1. Arrests by Nebraska Population

	White	African American	Asian or Pacific Islander	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Other/Two or more races
Nebraska Population 2014 (%)	88.28	4.71	2.12	0.95	3.93
Arrests 2014 (%)	78.24	17.45	0.64	3.23	0.44
Standardized Residual	<b>-26.76</b>	<b>147.02</b>	<b>-25.58</b>	<b>58.34</b>	<b>-44.07</b>
Nebraska Population 2015 (%)	88.18	4.77	2.17	0.92	3.96
Arrests 2015 (%)	76.73	17.82	0.74	3.40	1.32
Standardized Residual	<b>-26.76</b>	<b>146.67</b>	<b>-23.92</b>	<b>63.80</b>	<b>-32.66</b>
Nebraska Population 2016 (%)	87.82	4.71	2.24	0.83	4.39
Arrests 2016 (%)	76.10	18.99	0.72	3.59	0.60
Standardized Residual	<b>-31.13</b>	<b>163.63</b>	<b>-25.31</b>	<b>75.37</b>	<b>-45.03</b>
Nebraska Population 2017 (%)	90.60	5.21	2.65	1.53	-
Arrests 2017 (%)	76.08	19.67	0.79	3.46	-
Standardized Residual	<b>-37.46</b>	<b>155.26</b>	<b>-28.07</b>	<b>38.19</b>	-
Nebraska Population 2018 (%)	90.44	5.28	2.74	1.54	-
Arrests 2018 (%)	76.17	19.47	0.84	3.51	-
Standardized Residual	<b>-37.46</b>	<b>154.23</b>	<b>-28.64</b>	<b>39.72</b>	-
Nebraska Population 2019 (%)	90.29	5.34	2.82	1.55	-
Arrests 2019 (%)	75.06	20.82	0.83	3.29	-
Standardized Residual	<b>-41.19</b>	<b>172.13</b>	<b>-30.39</b>	<b>35.85</b>	-

Notes: Negative values of the standardized residual indicate a group is underrepresented; positive values indicate a group is overrepresented. Bolded standardized residuals indicate  $p \leq .001$ ; "Other/Two or more races" was not a category in 2017–2019 arrest data.

2014:  $X^2 = 28329.08$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $p = .000$ ;

2015:  $X^2 = 28120.32$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $p = .000$ ;

2016:  $X^2 = 36093.64$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p = .000$ ;

2017:  $X^2 = 27752.53$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p = .000$ ;

2018:  $X^2 = 27589.52$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p = .000$ ;

2019:  $X^2 = 33533.72$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p = .000$ .

**Table 2. Persons in State and Federal Correctional Facilities in Nebraska by Nebraska Population**

	White	African American	Other
Nebraska Population 2018 (%)	87.49	4.77	7.74
Prison Population December 31, 2018 (%)	52.39	27.74	19.87
Standardized Residual	<b>2807.69</b>	<b>1506.82</b>	<b>1070.38</b>

Notes: Negative values of the standardized residual indicate a group is underrepresented; positive values indicate a group is overrepresented. Bolded standardized residuals indicate  $p \leq .001$ . "Other" category includes Hispanic, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Other, and Unknown.

$X^2 = 7887.98$ ,  $df = 2$ ,  $p = .000$

**Table 3. Community Based Intervention by Arrests**

	White	African American	Asian or Pacific Islander	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Other/Two or more races
Arrests 2014 (%)	78.24	17.45	0.64	3.23	0.44
CBI FY 14-15 (%)	73.37	12.31	0.74	3.24	10.34
Standardized Residual	<b>-3.33</b>	<b>-7.42</b>	0.79	0.02	<b>89.62</b>
Arrests 2015 (%)	76.73	17.82	0.74	3.40	1.32
CBI FY 15-16 (%)	74.27	12.37	0.86	2.75	9.75
Standardized Residual	-1.74	<b>-7.97</b>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>-2.17</b>	<b>45.36</b>
Arrests 2016 (%)	76.10	18.99	0.72	3.59	0.60
CBI FY 16-17 (%)	73.14	13.53	1.10	3.19	9.04
Standardized Residual	<b>3.00</b>	<b>-5.75</b>	<b>3.55</b>	-0.27	<b>73.41</b>

Notes: Negative values of the standardized residual indicate a group is underrepresented; positive values indicate a group is overrepresented. Bolded standardized residuals indicate  $p \leq .001$ .

2014:  $X^2 = 8098.81$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $p = .000$ ;

2015:  $X^2 = 2129.58$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $p = .000$ ;

2016:  $X^2 = 5443.27$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $p = .000$ .

**Table 4. Community Based Resources by Arrests**

	White	African American	Asian or Pacific Islander	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Other/Two or more races
Arrests 2014 (%)	78.24	17.45	0.64	3.23	0.44
CBR FY 14-15 (%)	76.76	8.04	1.10	1.91	12.20
Standardized Residual	-1.59	<b>-21.39</b>	<b>5.50</b>	<b>-6.99</b>	<b>167.39</b>
Arrests 2015 (%)	76.73	17.82	0.74	3.40	1.32
CBR FY 15-16 (%)	76.73	8.42	1.13	1.88	11.85
Standardized Residual	0.00	<b>-20.62</b>	<b>4.28</b>	<b>-7.63</b>	<b>84.88</b>
Arrests 2016 (%)	76.10	18.99	0.72	3.59	0.60
CBR FY 16-17 (%)	75.74	8.81	1.51	2.21	11.73
Standardized Residual	-0.37	<b>-21.14</b>	<b>8.45</b>	<b>-6.63</b>	<b>130.23</b>

Notes: Negative values of the standardized residual indicate a group is underrepresented; positive values indicate a group is overrepresented. Bolded standardized residuals indicate  $p \leq .001$ .

2014:  $X^2 = 28558.44$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $p = .000$ ;

2015:  $X^2 = 7706.50$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $p = .000$ ;

2016:  $X^2 = 17522.77$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $p = .000$ .

**Table 5. Participation in Problem-Solving Courts by Arrests**

	White	African American	Asian or Pacific Islander	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Other/Two or more races
Arrests 2014 (%)	78.24	17.45	0.64	3.23	0.44
PSC FY 14-15 (%)	79.45	9.05	0.64	2.13	8.73
Standardized Residual	0.42	<b>-6.16</b>	0.01	-1.87	<b>38.09</b>
Arrests 2015 (%)	76.73	17.82	0.74	3.40	1.32
PSC FY 15-16 (%)	79.73	9.27	0.68	1.83	8.49
Standardized Residual	1.10	<b>-6.52</b>	-0.22	<b>-2.73</b>	<b>20.12</b>
Arrests 2016 (%)	76.10	18.99	0.72	3.59	0.60
PSC FY 16-17 (%)	80.35	8.25	0.56	2.50	8.34
Standardized Residual	1.60	<b>-8.09</b>	-0.63	-1.89	<b>32.89</b>

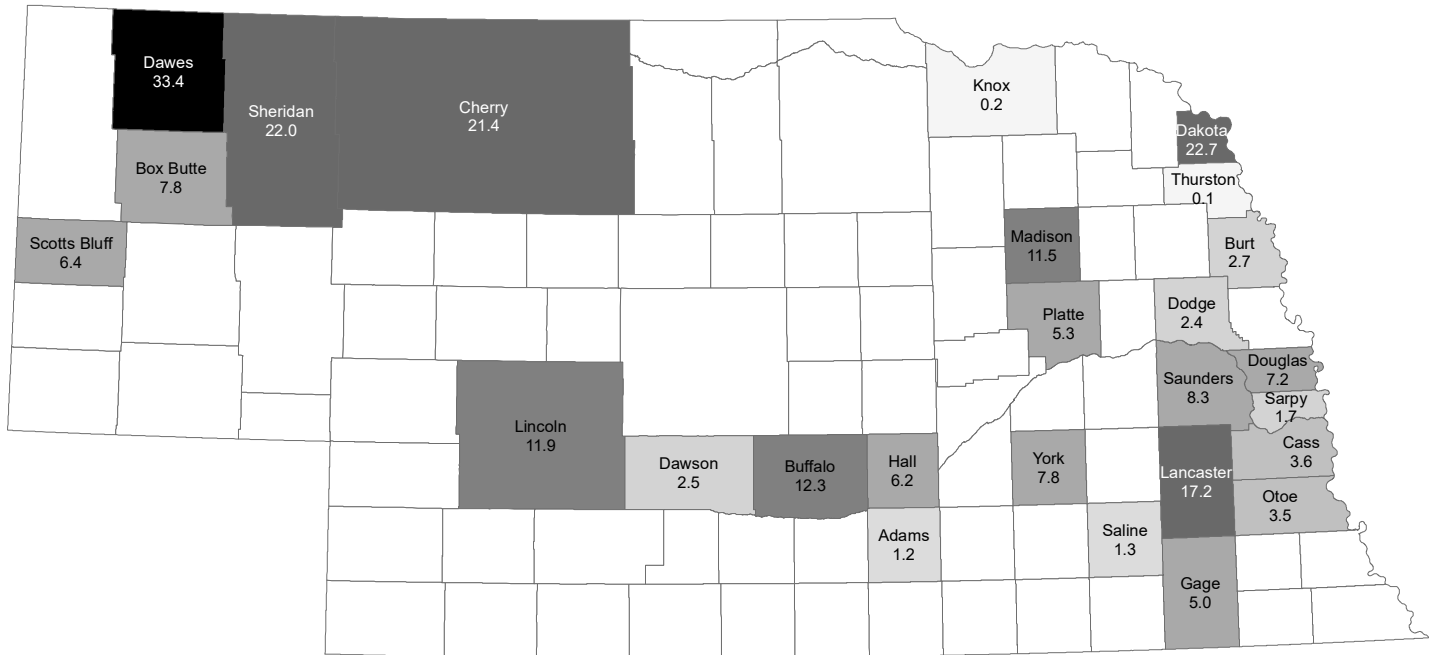
Notes: Negative values of the standardized residual indicate a group is underrepresented; positive values indicate a group is overrepresented. Bolded standardized residuals indicate  $p \leq .001$ .

2014:  $X^2 = 1492.76$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $p = .000$ ;

2015:  $X^2 = 455.97$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $p = .000$ ;

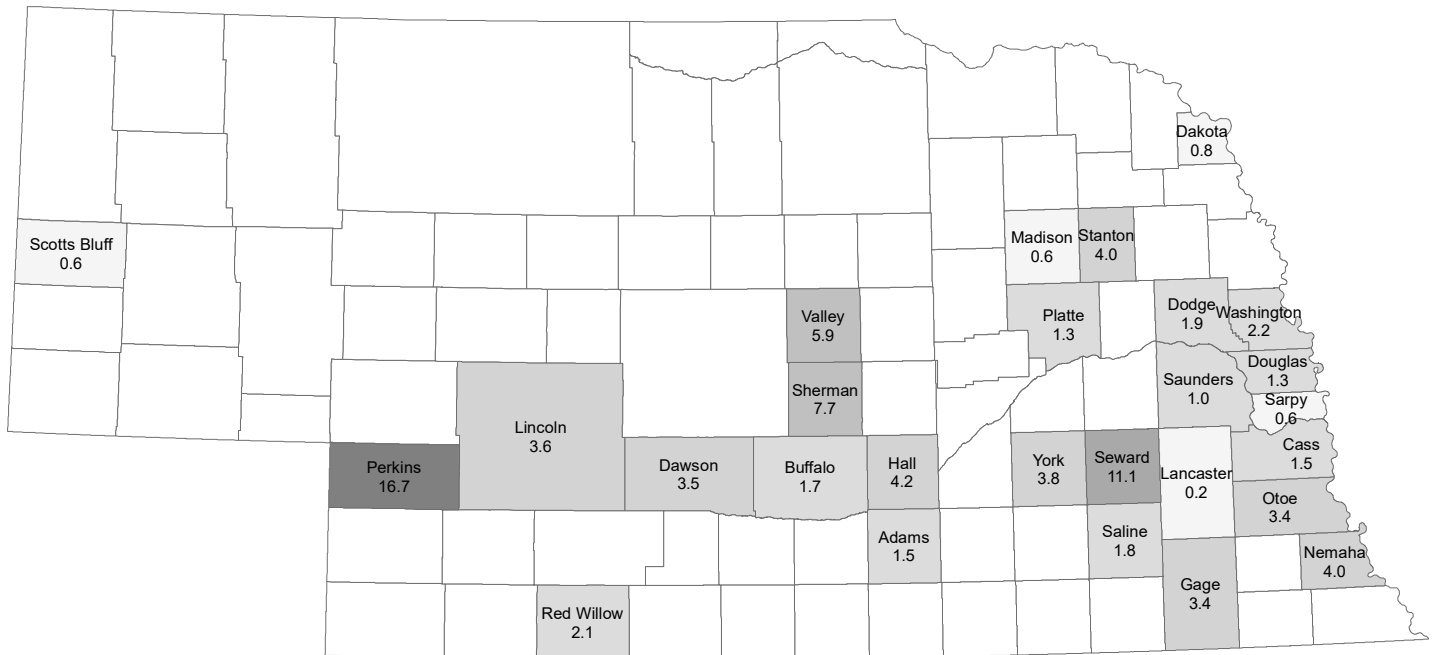
2016:  $X^2 = 1151.83$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $p = .000$ .

# Map 1: Percent of American Indian Population in County That Have Been Arrested, Nebraska, 2019



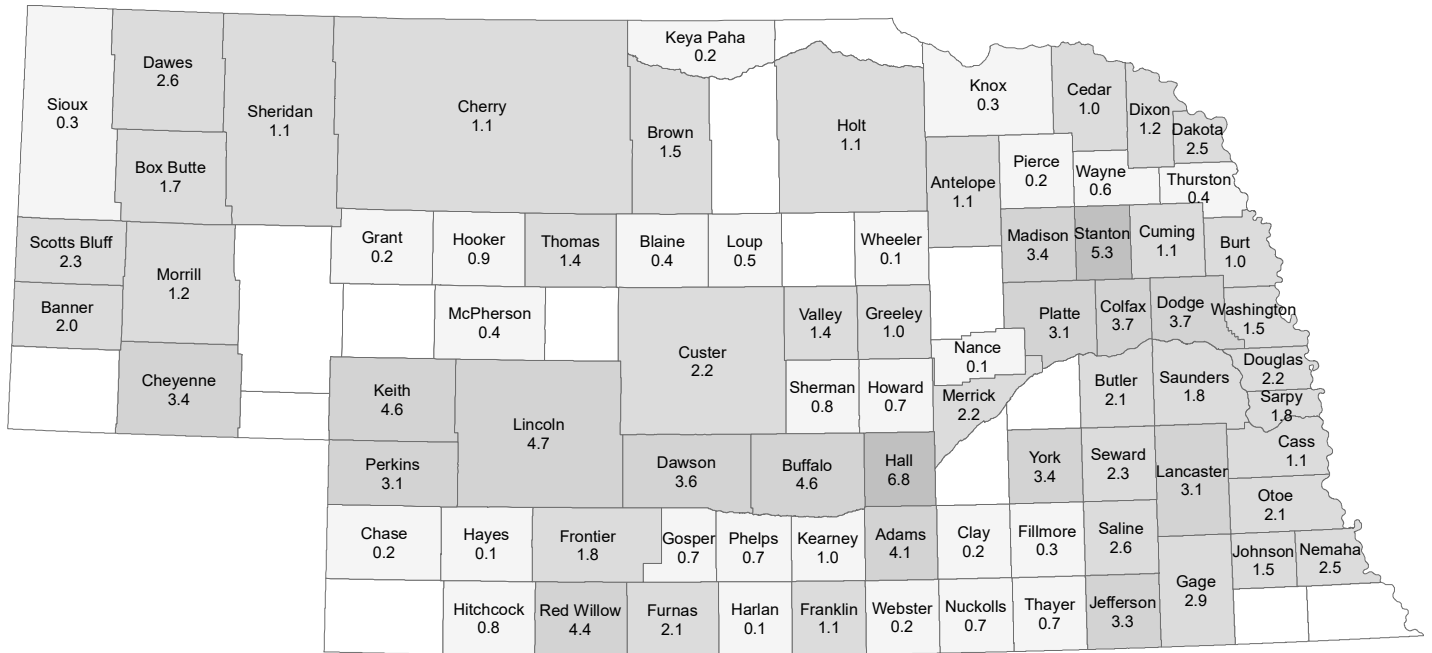
Counties with no data listed have suppressed data due to low counts.

# Map 2: Percent of Asian Population in County That Have Been Arrested, Nebraska, 2019



Counties with no data listed have suppressed data due to low counts.

# Map 3: Percent of White Population in County That Have Been Arrested, Nebraska, 2019



Counties with no data listed have suppressed data due to low counts.

## **BY THE NUMBERS: EARLY CHILDHOOD IN NEBRASKA**

***Updated December 2020***

### **The Need for High-Quality Early Care and Education**

- Early childhood is regarded as the period of time in a young child's life from birth through age 8. The brain is developing more rapidly during these early years of life than at any other time.<sup>1</sup>
- Parents are children's first teachers, but most young children are not with their parents for many hours of the day. In Nebraska, more than 76% of children under age 6 live in homes where all adults work, which is higher than the national average of 68%.<sup>2</sup>
- Ninety-one percent of counties in Nebraska with child care facilities do not have enough available slots to meet the current demand.<sup>3</sup>
- Eleven counties in Nebraska have no licensed child care facilities.<sup>3</sup>
- Seventy percent of mothers with infants and toddlers are in the labor force in Nebraska.<sup>4</sup>
- Teacher turnover is as high as 26% in some early care and education settings.<sup>5</sup>
- Thirty-seven percent of children in Nebraska age 5 and younger are considered at-risk of failure in school (57,486 children).<sup>6</sup>

### **Nebraskans' Views on Early Care and Education<sup>7</sup>**

- The vast majority of Nebraskans express support for early care and education.
- In overwhelming numbers, residents say that high-quality care and education is not available or affordable for all families in Nebraska.
- More than two-thirds (68%) of Nebraskans say that early care and education has a significant impact on the long-term success of children.
- Only 10% of residents strongly believe that most young children are prepared to be successful in school when they start Kindergarten.
- Just 1% of residents say all children birth to age 5 in Nebraska receive high-quality early care and education.
- Few Nebraskans (11%) strongly agree that high-quality early care and education is available to every family in the state. Even fewer (6%) believe it is affordable.
- A substantial majority of Nebraskans (67%) believe the state should make early care and education a higher priority than it is today.
- More than half (51%) of the state's residents say the state should provide early care and education for all children from low-income families who choose to use it.

### **Status and Compensation of the Early Childhood Workforce**

- Nearly half of Nebraskans (48%) believe that teachers and caregivers are paid too little.<sup>7</sup>
- Who is caring for children and how they are doing it matter greatly. The safety, relationships, and interactions between young children and their parents, caregivers, and teachers are the most important elements of a high-quality experience.<sup>8</sup>

- In 2015, the median annual salary pay for early childhood professionals is \$25,980 for those providing in-home early care and education, \$18,706 for center-based teachers, \$36,000 for PreKindergarten teachers, and \$41,000 for Kindergarten-Grade 3 teachers.<sup>9</sup>
- The median annual pay for center-based teachers is half that of school-based PreKindergarten teachers, even though the age and developmental needs of children being served are the same.<sup>9</sup>
- The median annual pay for center-based teachers falls below the poverty line by almost \$1,400 for a family of three.<sup>9</sup>
- More than 11% of home-based providers have a second job and nearly 20% of center-based teachers, public PreK teachers, and K-3 teachers report holding a second job.<sup>9</sup>
- Nearly 30% of home-based providers and 20% of center-based teachers depend on some type of public assistance.<sup>9</sup>
- More than 13% of home-based and center-based child care providers report that their own school-aged children qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.<sup>9</sup>

### **Return on Investment**

- Ensuring all families and children have equitable access to affordable high-quality care is key not only to the healthy growth and development of Nebraska’s children but to the economic vitality and prosperity of the state.<sup>10</sup>
- Nebraska’s lack of sufficient child care is a burden on working parents, employers, and state revenues, resulting in “nearly \$745 million annually in direct losses”.<sup>11</sup>
- A dollar spent for high-quality early care and education yields an average return of \$4; in circumstances where children are extremely vulnerable, the return can be as high as \$13.<sup>12</sup>
- This return includes money saved on special education, health care, social services, and the criminal justice systems, as well as money earned from greater educational attainment, increased earnings, and improved productivity.<sup>12</sup>

### **COVID-19 Impact on Early Care and Education Providers<sup>13</sup>**

- One in 4 providers has seen their income reduced by over 50%.
- Almost all providers have experienced decreased enrollment, with greater enrollment reductions for center-based providers.
- In the event of illness resulting from COVID-19, less than 1 in 4 providers has paid sick leave.
- Most providers are experiencing symptoms of stress, such as changes in sleep, difficulty concentrating, social isolation, and anxiety about the future.
- The majority of providers (51%) reported that without financial assistance they will likely close if the pandemic continues or worsens.
- Most providers (87%) would apply for financial assistance, if offered. Less than 1% say they would not seek additional financial assistance.
- The majority of providers (59%) reported using the temporary child care subsidy rule allowing providers to bill when enrolled children are absent.

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In the 2018-2019 meetings of the Planning Committee of the Nebraska State Legislature, five priority topics were identified.

- Rainy Day Fund
- Rural Development
- Retain and Attract 18-to-34-Year-Olds
- Workforce Training
- Improve K-12 Education Outcomes

In recent meetings, we evaluated the extent to which all passed bills from the 2019-2020 session of the Unicameral align with the four substantive priority topics of the committee.

Working with the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Center for Public Affairs Research (UNO CPAR) a dashboard identifying all bills and their process through the legislature was created. The dashboard can be accessed at [cpar.unomaha.edu/legbills](http://cpar.unomaha.edu/legbills). An initial 1,232 bills were introduced. Of those introduced, 263 bills passed the legislature and were approved by the governor. Another three bills were passed by the legislature and vetoed by the governor.

Each of the 266 bills that passed the legislature were reviewed by two individuals at UNO CPAR to identify if the bill related to one or more of the priority topics. In addition, a survey was sent to each of the senators asking them to evaluate if the bills aligned with the priority topics identified by UNO CPAR and to identify additional bills related to each priority topic.

Here we review and highlight some of the bills that are conclusively aligned with the priority topics of the planning committee.



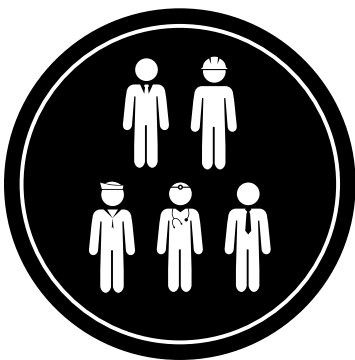
### **Rural Development**

- LB992, introduced by Senator Friesen, provides for a series of measures to increase and enhance broadband services throughout Nebraska.
- A previous bill introduced by Senator Williams is now funded through LB773, providing grants to develop housing for Nebraska's workforce in rural communities across Nebraska.
- Nine other bills that align with rural development were identified.
- In addition, LB1107 includes economic development incentives for rural areas.



## Retain and Attract 18-34-Year-Olds

- LB160, introduced by Senator Quick, revises a previous economic development bill to allow early childhood care and education program providers the ability to participate in local government economic development programs.
- LB1050, introduced by Senator Vargas, appropriates funds for the Nebraska Opportunity Grants program, the only state-funded, need-based program for low-income students to attend public or private postsecondary institutions.
- Only two additional bills received consensus from senator respondents as aligning with this priority topic.



## Workforce Training

- LB1160, introduced by Senator Matt Hansen, provides support for the planning and development of the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System which will allow the State to track and evaluate workforce development efforts and the employment outcomes of those educated in Nebraska.
- The Nebraska Careers Scholarship Act, introduced on behalf of Governor Ricketts, provides post-secondary students pursuing careers that fill a gap in the Nebraska workforce with scholarship funds.
- Few other bills from the session were identified as directly related to workforce training.



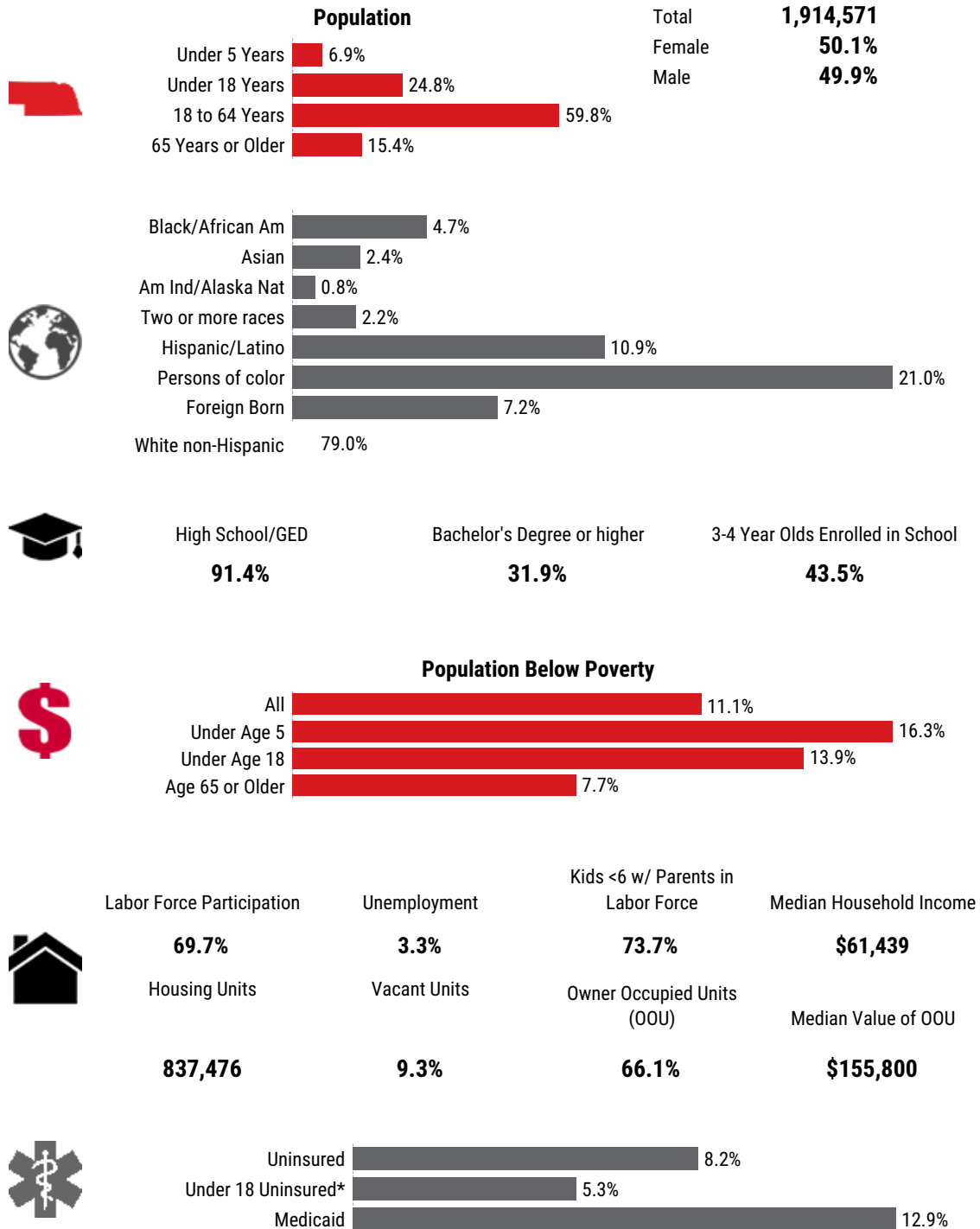
## Improve K-12 Education Outcomes

- LB965, introduced by Senator McDonnell, provides for the teaching of American Sign Language in schools and post-secondary educational institutions, and establishes a language assessment program for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and LB619, introduced by Senator Kolowski, prohibits denial of coverage for mental health services delivered in a school.
- While these bill and some others categorized in this topic impact the school environment, few bills were identified as directly related to improving K -12 education outcomes.

## 2019 Quick Facts for Nebraska

**Geography**  
Nebraska

**Period**  
2019



\* Changed to Under 19 Uninsured beginning in 2017.



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