

# Drug Offenses, Seizures, and Arrests in Idaho: 1998 - 2006

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### Introduction

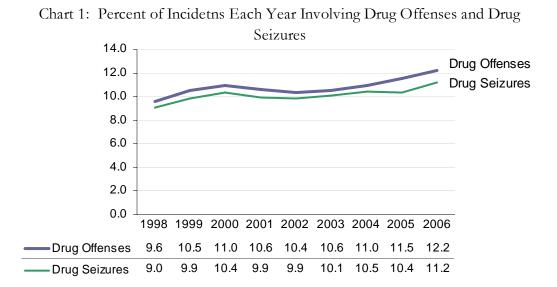
The information in this report is taken from Idaho's repository for the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The NIBRS Property, Arrest, and Offense tables were used for the following analysis. Based on the way NIBRS data is structured, the majority of the trend analysis comes from the offense table.

Except for slight decreases in 2001 and 2002, drug offenses have increased every year in Idaho since 1998. The percent of cases involving an offender suspected of being under the influence at the time of the crime has also increased from 1998 to 2006. The percentage of all arrests increased between 1998 and 2006 for drugs/drug equipment, DUI's, drunkenness, and arrests involving drug seizures. The following report describes these trends in detail. This report also addresses the type of drugs seized, the type of drug activity involved, and differences between arrestees based on drug activity and drug type. The report concludes with a comparison of Idaho counties by drug offenses, drug seizures, offender drug use during the crime, marijuana and methamphet-amine seizures, and drug arrest rates.

## Drug Offenses and Seizures

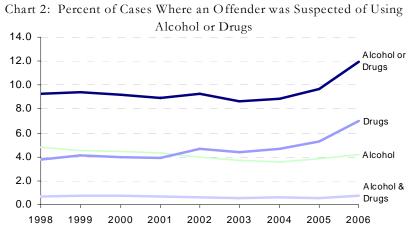
Drug offenses are the illegal use, possession, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, transportation or importation of: 1) controlled drug or narcotic substances, and 2) the devices or equipment used in preparing or using such drugs or narcotics. Drug Seizures are recorded in the NIBRS property table every time a drug offense occurs and drug/narcotics or equipment are seized. For every drug seizure, up to 3 types of drugs are recorded.

As Chart 1 displays, the percent of crime incidents involving drug offenses has increased from 9.6% in 1998 to 12.2% in 2006. 2001 and 2002 were the only years drug offenses decreased, although never reaching the low set in 1998. Between 1998 and 2006, approximately 94% of drug offenses involved a drug seizure. Trend analysis of drug seizures indicates it has a similar trend to drug offenses except in 2005. In 2005 drug seizures unexpectedly dropped while drug offenses increased. (It should be noted that in 2005, the reporting system and the structure of data was changed in Idaho, possibly affecting trend analysis).



#### **Offender Drug and Alcohol Use**

For every crime incident, the investigating officer is to report the offender's alcohol/drug use during the crime based on evidence at the crime scene, information from victims and witnesses, and arrestee confessions. Between 1998 and 2006, approximately 10% of criminal incidents involved an offender who was suspected of being under the influence at the time of the crime. However, the percentage of these cases has increased since 1998. An offender suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol increased from 9% in 1998 to 12% in 2006. The largest increase occurred between 2005 (10%) and 2006 (12%). However, such a large increase could be attributed to an increase in reporting such situations. Chart 2 indicates that although the suspected use of alcohol or drugs during a crime increased, the use of only alcohol actually decreased every year since 1998, a 12.5% decrease. On the other hand, the suspected use of only drugs increased during the same time period, an increase of 89%.



#### **Type of Drug Seized**

As Table 1 illustrates, Marijuana is the most common drug seized, averaging 65% of drug seizure cases between 1998 and 2006. Marijuana seizure rates dropped to their lowest rate of 60% in 2005 from its high of 69% in 1999. However, the percent of seizures involving Marijuana increased in 2006 to 65%. In contrast, methamphetamine seizures have decreased significantly in the last year. Methamphetamine seizures reached their highest rate in 2005 with 39% and then dropped to 32% in 2006. Another significant trend is the increase of drugs in the "other" category. However, it is

Tabl	Table 1: Percent of Drug Seizures Each Year by Type of Drug Seized										
								Drug			
	Marijuana	Meth	Cocaine	Halucinogen	Depressant	Other	Unknown	Seizures			
1998	67 %	30 %	3 %	1.4 %	1.8 %	2.1 %	2.8 %	5,319			
1999	69	28	3	1.5	1.3	2.5	3.2	5,309			
2000	68	30	3	0.9	1.2	3.0	3.2	5,693			
2001	66	32	2	1.0	1.1	3.6	3.3	5,508			
2002	64	34	2	1.1	1.2	3.8	2.7	5,854			
2003	62	38	2	1.2	1.2	4.7	2.9	6,191			
2004	62	38	2	1.2	1.0	5.1	3.4	6,454			
2005	60	39	2	1.1	1.0	4.6	3.1	6,194			
2006	65	32	2	1.2	1.0	5.8	2.8	6,613			

Cases are limited by drug seizures (not including drug equipment seizures).

\*Totals do not equal 100% because up to three drugs can be recorded for each seizure

unknown whether this increase of 2.1% to 5.8% is due to new drugs, "mixed drugs", or to increased reporting for this category.

### **Type of Drug Activity**

In NIBRS, up to three types of criminal activities can be recorded for each offense. For narcotic offenses, these criminal activities are possession, using, cultivating/manufacturing, buying, selling, operating/promoting/assisting, or transporting drugs.

As seen in Table 2, most drug offenses are for drug possession and drug use. This is not surprising since many of these cases come to law enforcement attention through traffic stops or the investigation of other crimes. In fact, 63% of drug possessions and 58% of drug use offenses occurred on a roadway. The third most common drug activity is selling, 7% of drug offenses between 1998 and 2006. Since law enforcement typically has to actively seek/investigate cases of drug manufacturing, operating, buying and selling, it appears law enforcement has largely focused on targeting drug dealers.

Table 2:	Table 2: Type of Criminal Activity Involving Drug Offenses*										
								Drug			
	Possess	Use	Sell	Manufacture	Transport	Buy	Operate	Offenses			
1998	82	15	7.3	2.4	1.4	1.5	0.2	5,565			
1999	82	18	5.7	2.4	1.0	1.0	0.1	5,576			
2000	84	15	7.3	2.1	1.2	1.1	0.1	5,957			
2001	81	16	6.8	1.8	1.1	0.9	0.1	5,845			
2002	80	20	7.8	2.2	1.1	1.3	0.1	6,145			
2003	77	23	7.2	1.6	1.0	1.0	0.2	6,460			
2004	77	24	7.4	1.4	1.1	0.7	0.1	6,716			
2005	79	14	7.7	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.1	6,893			
2006	84	15	8.5	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.1	7,174			
Average	81	18	7.3	1.8	1.1	1.0	0.1	56,331			

\*Totals do not equal 100% because up to three activities can be recorded for each offense \*excluding drug equipment offenses

Table 3 displays the type of drug and drug activity. Marijuana is the drug most likely to be in the possession of an offender (84%). In contrast, the offense of selling cocaine is more likely than the sale of marijuana (21% versus 4%). Indeed, the sale of marijuana is the least likely drug activity compared to all other drug types.

Table 3: Type of Drug Activity by Drug Type											
	Marijuana	Meth	Cocaine	Hallucinogens	Depressants	Other	Unknown				
Possess	84	77	70	75	70	71	74				
Use	18	15	13	15	14	21	22				
Sell	4	13	21	14	19	11	7				
Manufacture	2	2	1	2	2	2	4				
Transport	1	2	4	1	1	1	1				
Buy	1	1	2	1	3	5	2				
Operate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Total	34,424	17,863	1,333	630	626	2,126	1,620				

\*Totals do not equal 100% because up to three activities can be recorded for each offense

Table 4 compares the type of offense and the type of drug seized. Drugs are most likely to be seized as a result of a drug offense, 53,133 cases between 1998 and 2006. Marijuana is the most common drug associated with drug offenses (65%), violent crimes (59%), and property crimes (53%). Methamphetamine is more likely to be seized as a result of property offenses (48%) versus drug offenses (34%) or violent crimes (34%).

## Table 4: Percent of Drug Seizures by the Type of

Chine and Drug			Drug
	Violent	Property	Offenses
Marijuana	59 %	53 %	65 %
Methamphetamine	34	48	34
Cocaine	3	2	3
Hallucinogens	1	1	1
Depressants	2	1	1
Other	5	7	4
Unknown	3	4	3
Total Seizures	25,737	2,455	53,133

Cases are limited by drug seizures.

## **Drug Arrests**

Arrests are recorded in the NIBRS arrest table for all persons processed for arrest, citation, or served a summons. For every offense, multiple arrests can be recorded and one set of arrest data can clear multiple cases. In addition, only one offense is recorded as the arresting offense, even though the arrest may be for several offenses. Drug arrests are arrests for drug offenses, (i.e. possession of drug narcotics or equipment).

Approximately 90% of drug offenses between 1998 and 2006 resulted in an arrest. Chart 3 demonstrates the 9-year trend for arrests involving drug arrests or drug seizures. From 1998 to 2006, arrests involving drug arrests or drug seizures increased from 11.4% to 14.1%. The largest increase in the percent of arrests involving drug arrests or seizures occurred between 2005 and 2006, jumping from 12.3% to 14.1%.

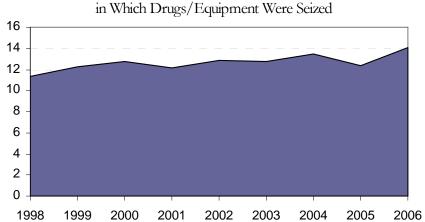


Chart 3: Percent of Arrests Involving Drug Violation Arrests or Arrests

Table 5 displays the percentage of all arrests that were for drug arrests and alcohol violations each year between 1998 and 2006. The percent of arrests since 1998 has increased for drugs/drug equipment arrests, DUI's, and arrest for drunkenness. Arrests for DUI's dramatically increased in

1999 from 13.9% to 14.5% of arrests. After slight fluxuations in the rate of DUI arrests since 2000, the percent of arrest for DUI's dramatically increased from 12.2% in 2005 to 14.8% in 2006. The percent of arrests for narcotics arrests followed a similar trend with a large increase in arrests from 2005 to 2006.

Table 5	5: Percer	nt of A <mark>rr</mark> ests I	Each Year					
		Equipment		Drug			Liquor	
	All Drug	g Violation	Narcotics	Arrests or			Law	Total
	Arrests	Arrest	Arrest	Seizures	DUI	Drunkenness	Violation	Arrests
1998	10.0 %	<b>3.3</b> %	7.9 %	11.4 %	13.9 %	0.2 %	8.7 %	79,128
1999	10.8	3.5	8.6	12.2	14.5	0.5	8.5	74,880
2000	11.1	3.8	8.9	12.7	13.3	0.5	7.9	77,114
2001	10.6	3.5	8.7	12.2	12.8	0.3	7.4	77,789
2002	10.7	3.1	9.4	12.9	13.3	0.3	7.0	75,618
2003	10.4	3.1	9.5	12.7	13.0	0.3	7.0	79,091
2004	11.0	3.3	10.1	13.5	12.8	0.2	7.3	79,194
2005	11.1	3.6	9.3	12.3	12.2	0.3	7.1	74,719
2006	11.2	3.6	10.9	14.1	14.8	0.3	7.9	77,117

### **Drug Arrestee Characteristics**

Table 6 shows the characteristics of arrestees who were arrested for a drug offense or who were involved in a case where drugs were seized. Between 1998 and 2006, the percentage of minorities arrested for drugs or drug seizures increased. Hispanics arrested for drugs or in cases of drug seizure increased from

8% to 11%. This in- Table 6: Characteristics of Drug Arrestees and those Arrested in Cases										
crease cannot be ex-		Where Drugs Were Seized								
plained by the increasing						All Drug or				
population of Hispanics	Year	% Juvenile	% Female	% Non-White	% Hispanic	Seizure Arrests				
in Idaho. The only	1998	19	21	2	8	7,951				
group of arrestees that	1999	17	22	2	8	8,090				
0 1	2000	16	22	2	7	8,571				
decreased was juveniles,	2001	17	23	3	8	8,259				
dropping from 19% in	2002	16	23	3	9	8,108				
1998 to 14% in 2006.	2003	14	24	3	11	8,205				
This also cannot be	2004	15	25	3	10	8,743				
	2005	14	26	3	11	8,268				
explained by juvenile	2006	14	24	3	11	8,671				
population rates decreas-	Average	16	23	3	9	74,866				
ing.										

Females are less likely to be arrested in cases involving marijuana seizures than they are for other drugs. For example, females are arrested in 20% of the cases involving marijuana but 30% of the cases involving meth and 33% of the cases involving depressants. Whites are least likely to be arrested for cocaine, 93%, than they are for other drugs like meth (97%) and hallucinogens (96%). The most notable difference in Table 7 is that Hispanics make up 32% of all arrestees arrested in cases involving cocaine seizures. This is extremely high when compared to their overall arrest rate of 12%.

Table 7: Perce	nt of Drug	g Type Sei	ized by A	rrestee Chara	icteristic			
								All
	Marijuana	Meth	Cocaine	Hallucinogen	Depressant	Other	Unknown	Arrestees
Sex								
Female	20 %	30 %	23 %	23 %	33 %	33 %	31 %	25 %
Male	80	70	77	77	67	67	69	75
Race								
White	95 %	97 %	93 %	96 %	97 %	96 %	96 %	95 %
Non-White	3	2	5	3	2	3	3	4
Unknown	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Ethnicity								
Hispanic	8 %	14 %	32 %	5 %	14 %	6 %	8 %	12 %
Not Hispanic	88	83	64	92	83	90	87	84
Unknown	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	4
Average Age	25.5	30.5	30.6	23.5	31.1	27.8	27.9	26.8
Total	41,403	20,300	1,641	803	648	2,258	2,038	694,650

Age is another characteristic that varies between the type of drug seized in arrest cases. As shown in Table 7, the oldest group of arrestees appears to be those arrested in cases involving seizures of depressants, averaging 31.1 years of age. The next two oldest arrest groups involved the seizure of methamphetamine, 30.5 average years, and cocaine 30.6 average years. The youngest arrest group was for hallucinogens, averaging an age of 23.5 years. However, as Chart 4 indicates, the average age of arrestees involved in different drug types has varied from year to year. Most significant is the dramatic increase in the last year in the age of arrestees involved in methamphetamine seizures. The average age of methamphetamine seizure arrests increased from 30.7 average years to 31.9 average years of age.

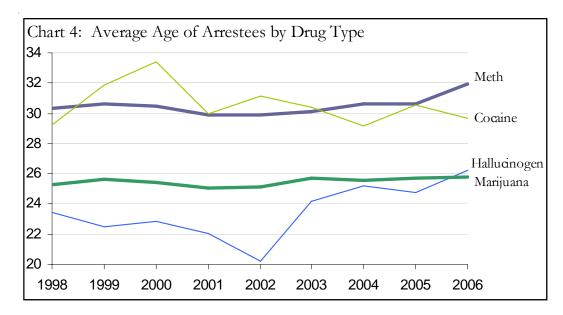


Chart 5 depicts another age related phenomenon between arrestees based on the drug type seized. Although marijuana is more common among all age groups involved in drug seizure cases, the percentage of cases decrease as arrestees get older until the age of 45. Also displayed in Chart 5 is that methamphetamine continues to be a larger percentage of each age group as the age increases, with the exception of the age 45 and older group.

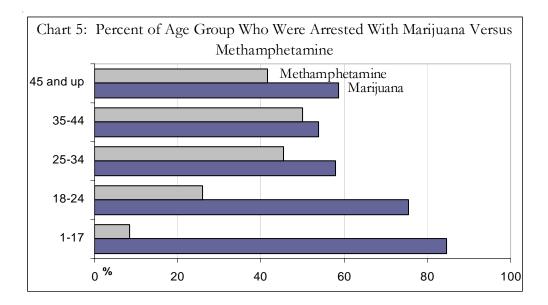


Table 8 lists the type of drug activity arrestees were involved with by their sex, race, ethnicity and age. Drug possession is the most common drug activity. Arrestees involved in drug possession cases were likely to be male (77%), white (96%), non-Hispanic (87%), and average 27 years of age. Arrestees linked to cases of transporting drugs were more likely than those involved in other drug activities to be Hispanic (27%). Females were disproportionately involved in operating (38%) and buying (31%) than they were for other drug activities. The oldest group of arrestees were involved in selling and transporting drugs (on average 29 years of age).

Table 8: Drug Activity and Arrestee Characteristics											
							Cultivate/				
	Possess	Use	Sell	Transport	Buy	Operate	Manufacture				
Sex											
Female	23 %	25 %	26 %	22 %	31 %	38 %	25 %				
Male	77	75	74	78	69	62	75				
Race											
White	96 %	96 %	96 %	97 %	96 %	98 %	97 %				
Non-White	3	3	3	2	3	2	1				
Unknown	2	1	1	1	2	0	2				
Ethnicity											
Hispanic	10 %	8 %	19 %	27 %	18 %	10 %	8 %				
Not Hispanic	87	89	77	69	77	89	88				
Unknown	4	3	5	3	5	1	5				
Average Age	26.8	25.8	28.7	28.6	28.2	27.3	32.1				
Total	51,403	12,362	4,014	776	556	81	1,127				

Cases limited by drug arrestees and those arrested in cases where drugs were seized

## Conclusion

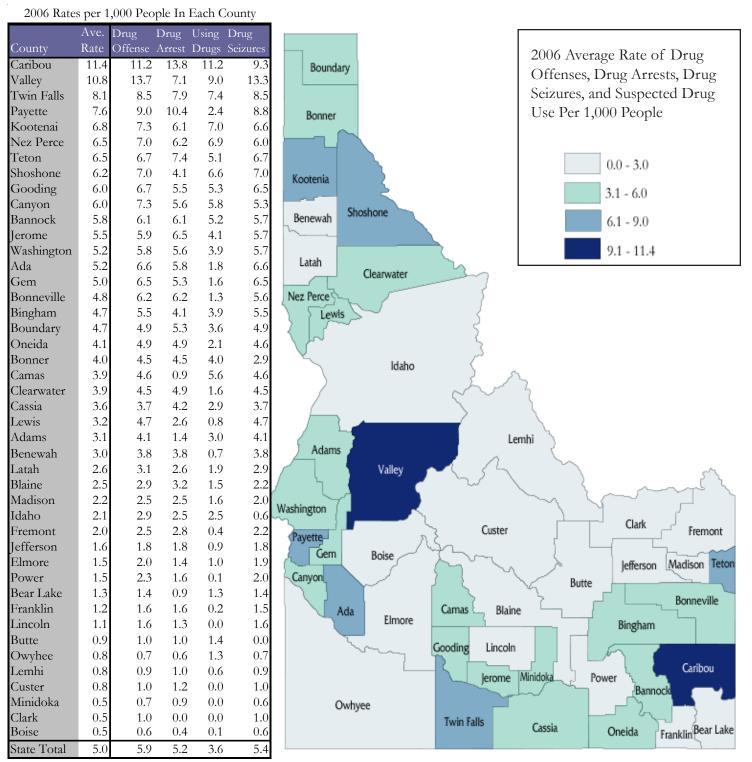
Except for slight decreases in 2001 and 2002, drug offenses have increased every year in Idaho since 1998. The percent of cases involving an offender suspected of being under the influence at the time of the crime has also increased from 1998 to 2006. Approximately 94% of drug offenses involve a drug seizure. In 65% of drug seizures, the seized drug is marijuana. Marijuana is the least likely drug to be linked with drug sale offenses and the most common drug associated with drug offenses, violent crimes, and property crimes. Methamphetamine seizures reached their peak in 2005. The majority of drug offenses occur on a roadway. About 90% of drug offenses resulted in an arrest. The percentage of all arrests increased between 1998 and 2006 for drugs/ drug equipment arrests, DUI's, and arrests for drunkenness. Arrests involving drug arrests or drug seizures increased from 11.4% in 1998 to 14.0% in 2006. The percentage of arrestees who were Hispanic or not Caucasian increased between 1998 and 2006. The percentage of arrestees who were juveniles decreased between 1998 and 2006. The percentage of arrestees involved in marijuana seizures decreased as they get older until the age of 45. Arrestees involved in drug possession cases were likely to be male, white, non-Hispanic, and average 27 years of age.

## **County to County Comparison**

The remaining charts compare drug rates by county. Chart 6 gives an overall comparison of county rates in 2006. Chart 7 illustrates the marijuana seizure rates by county and Chart 8 gives a picture of methamphetamine rates by county in 2006. The last table gives the number of drug arrests for each county for the previous 9 years. Also included in Table 9 are the drug arrest rates by county for 2005 and 2006.

An average rate of drug offenses, drug arrests, drug seizures and suspected drug use was calculated to get a better picture of drugs in Idaho. Caribou County has the highest overall rate of drug offenses, arrests, seizures and suspected drug use during a crime (11.4). In fact, Caribou County has a rate twice as high as the state average of 5 per 1,000 people. In 2006, Valley County had the highest rates of drug offenses and drug seizures in the state. Both Clark and Boise County consistently had the lowest rates in the state for drug offenses, drug arrests, drug seizures and offender drug use.

Chart 6: Average Rates of Drug Offenses, Drug Arrests, Drug Seizures, and Suspected Drug Use Per 1,000 Population: 2006



As Chart 7 indicates, marijuana seizures accounted for 100% of Clark and Lemhi County drug seizures. However, it should be noted that Lemhi County is a small county that had only 5 drug seizures in 2006. Marijuana accounted for 64% of all Idaho drug seizures. Only 6 counties had less than 50% of their drug seizures being for Marijuana. The largest concentration of marijuana drug seizures occurred in central and northern Idaho.

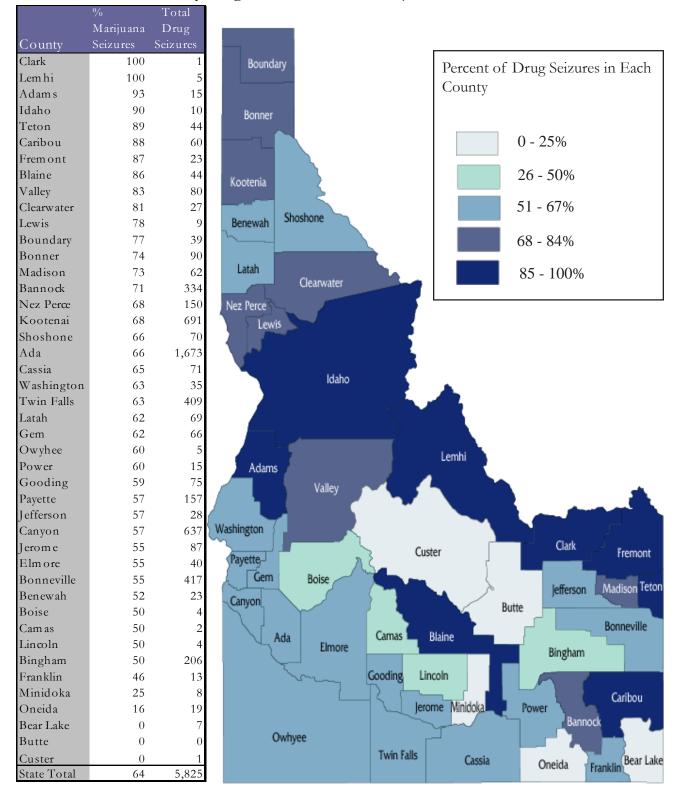




Chart 8 shows that Methamphetamine made up 33% of Idaho's drug seizures. In 2006, 13 Idaho counties had methamphetamine seizures higher than the average 33%. All of these counties are concentrated in southern and southwestern Idaho. Although Minidoka had the highest percentage of drug seizures involving methamphetamine, this amounted to only 5 out of 8 drug seizures. Six counties didn't have any methamphetamine seizures in 2006.

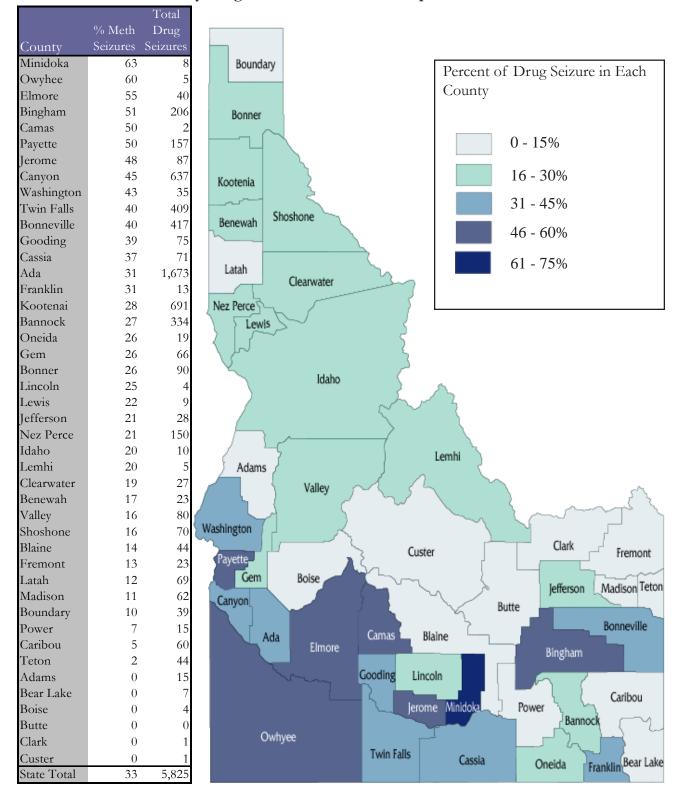


Chart 8: Percent of County Drug Seizures that are Methamphetamine Seizures

Table 9: Ar	rests fo:	r Drug/	'Narcoti	ics and I	Drug E	quipme	nt Viola	tions by	v Count	ty	
										Arrest	
			Tota	al Drug 1	Arrests (	1998 - 2	006)			Per 1	,000
County	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2005	2006
Ada	2,504	2,475	2,539	2,425	1,992	1,853	1,925	1,841	2,054	5.4	5.8
Adams	38	36	17	5	14	6	7	3	5	0.8	1.4
Bannock	354	452	604	568	584	541	595	523	492	48.6	6.1
Bear Lake	1	5	3	11	1	0	15	6	6	0.9	0.9
Benewah	85	86	101	91	69	86	87	38	36	4.1	3.8
Bingham	135	104	174	132	164	116	165	188	182	4.2	4.1
Blaine	108	108	120	109	102	108	100	74	70	3.4	3.2
Boise	25	31	35	69	41	14	40	20	3	2.8	0.4
Bonner	214	172	160	126	99	137	217	270	188	6.6	4.5
Bonneville	498	547	569	514	622	506	713	745	581	8.1	6.2
Boundary	56	46	45	81	89	79	79	116	58	10.9	5.3
Butte	8	6	11	4	5	0	9	2	3	0.7	1.0
Camas	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2.9	0.9
Canyon	497	592	545	710	705	712	863	936	954 101	5.8	5.6
Caribou	90	162	149	98 106	107	107	89	56	101	7.6	13.8
Cassia	61	81	69	106	115	112	164	112	91	5.1	4.2
Clark	0	3	1	0	0	10	4	3	0	3.2	0.0
Clearwater	15	30	32	38	28	26	60	39	42	4.5	4.9
Custer	12	7	6	2	10	11	6 79	0	5	0.0	1.2
Elmore	83	77 19	86	84	91 26	97 22	78	77 25	40	2.6	1.4
Franklin Frament	45 57	18 30	38 38	12 53	26 41	22 31	14 19	25 35	20 35	2.0 2.8	1.6 2.8
Fremont Gem	107	102	58 81	106	127	93	65	140	55 89	2.8 8.6	2.8 5.3
Gooding	36	41	24	30	27	93 22	43	34	89	2.3	5.5
Idaho	- 30 - 49	33	38	21	32	32	43 47	53	41	3.3	2.5
Jefferson	21	20	25	26	35	84		13	39	0.6	1.8
Jerome	97	103	81	118	129	154	98	78	130	3.9	6.5
Kootenai	629	568	625	622	680	792	793	711	805	5.7	6.1
Latah	95	90	138	101	121	106	82	119	93		2.6
Lemhi	*	*	*	*	*	*	19	18	8		1.0
Lewis	2	6	8	6	16	15	16	26	10	6.8	2.6
Lincoln	1	2	1	1	3	13	3	5	4	1.7	1.3
Madison	66	69	94	117	122	79	103	112	81	3.5	2.5
Minidoka	58	77	77	87	64	89	76	70	18	3.5	0.9
Nez Perce	181	245	230	281	216	185	227	198	241	5.3	6.2
Oneida	9	21	37	13	17	34	24	10	21	2.4	4.9
Owyhee	22	22	40	28	42	41	17	14	7	1.2	0.6
Payette	153	128	159	153	137	194	209	220	237	9.9	10.4
Power	42	15	40	43	17	24	20	41	13	5.3	1.6
Shoshone	92	168	215	102	76	71	107	37	55	2.8	4.1
Teton	14	3	10	4	1	20	21	34	57		7.4
Twin Falls	452	330	332	304	400	515	628	537	565	7.7	7.9
Valley	71	59	92	96	68	48	75	65	61	8.0	7.1
Washington	32	13	19	22	30	44	31	16	58	2.9	5.6
State Total * Lembi Count	7,116	7,183	7,708	7,519	7,265	7,229	7,962	7,663	7,682	5.4	5.2

\* Lemhi County did not report from 1998 through 2003.