

## Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024

August 2025

### KEY FINDINGS

#### 20-Year Offense Trend

38%

**Increase in drug offense rate**  
(alcohol offense rate decreased  
by 55%)

3%

**Increase in number of  
person/property crime  
offenders under the influence  
of drugs/alcohol**

#### 20-Year Arrest Trend

3%

**Increase in drug arrest rate**  
(alcohol arrest rate decreased  
by 55%)

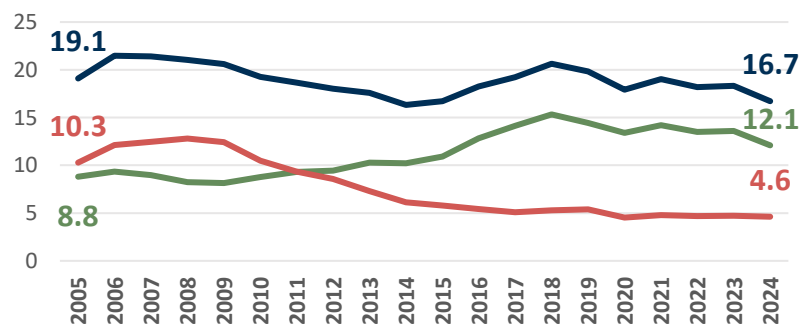
In 2024, the overall crime rate in Idaho, as measured by offenses reported to the Idaho Incident-Based Reporting System (IIBRS), was at its lowest in at least 20 years. The overall offense rate in 2024 was 49.6 offenses per 1,000 residents (compared to 97.4 in 2005, a 49% decrease and the lowest in that span). However, the rate of society crimes, which includes drug offenses, increased 33% in the same period. Additionally, drug offenses accounted for nearly a quarter (24%) of all offenses reported in 2024, compared to 9% in 2005. This research brief takes a closer look at substance-related crime in Idaho during the 20-year period between 2005 and 2024.

### 20-Year Offense Trend

#### Drug and Alcohol Offense Rates

Between 2005 and 2024, the total rate of drug and alcohol offenses decreased by 12% (from 19.1 offenses per 1,000 residents in 2005 to 16.7 in 2024; see Figure 1), remaining relatively stable compared to the overall crime trends noted above. However, this stability is due to diverging trends in drug offenses (drug/narcotic violations, drug equipment violations) versus alcohol offenses (driving under the influence, or DUI<sup>1</sup>; drunkenness; liquor law violations). The drug offense rate increased 38% between 2005 and 2024 (from 8.8 to 12.1), while the alcohol offense rate decreased 55% (from 10.3 to 4.6).

**Figure 1. The total drug and alcohol offense rate per 1,000 residents decreased 12.4% between 2005 and 2024 due to a 38% increase in the drug offense rate occurring simultaneously with a 55% decrease in the alcohol offense rate.**



<sup>1</sup> DUI is considered an alcohol offense for the purposes of this report. IIBRS does not distinguish between alcohol and drug DUI incidents. About 9% of DUI incidents between 2005 and 2024 were also linked to a drug seizure.

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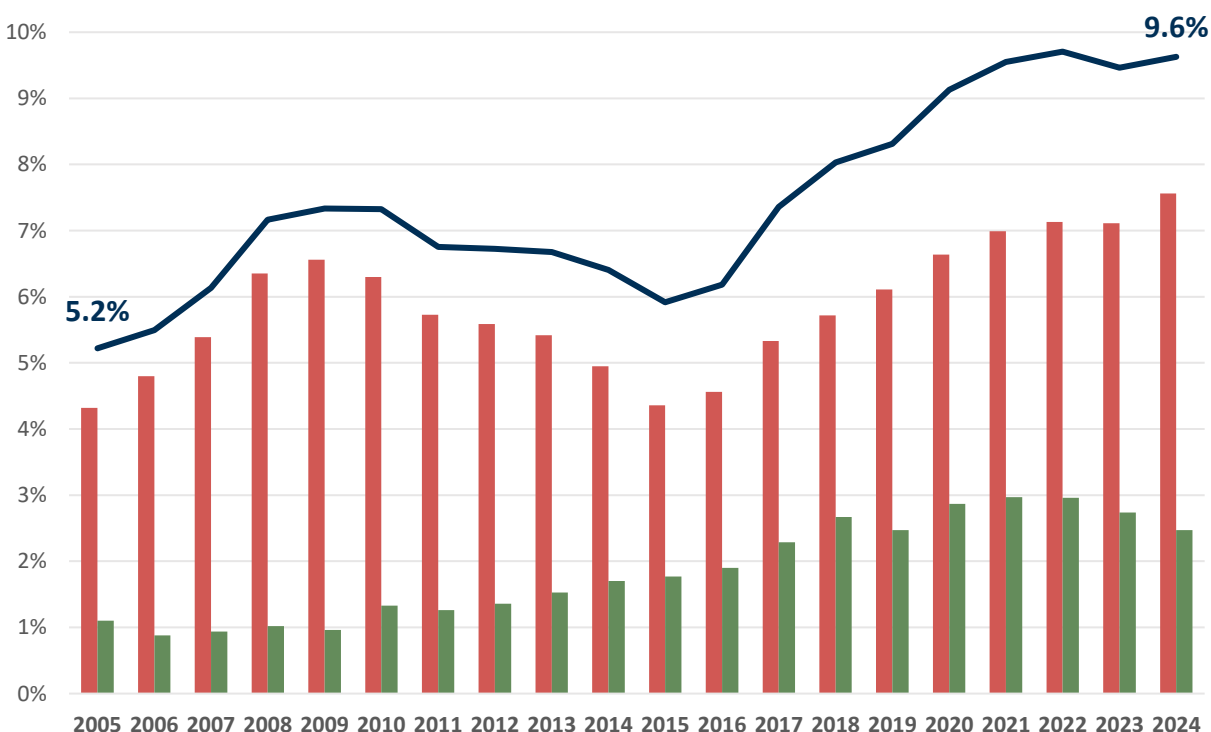
## Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024

August 2025

### Drug and Alcohol use During Person and Property Offenses

The use of drugs and/or alcohol during the commission of person and property crimes increased 3% between 2005 and 2024. In 2024, 4,361 person/property crime offenders were suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, which was about 10% of all person/property crime offenders (compared to about 5% in 2005; see Figure 2). Alcohol use during the commission of person and property crimes remains more common than drug use. In 2024, 7.6% of offenders were suspected of being under the influence of alcohol (up from 4.3% in 2005), compared to 2.5% of offenders suspected of drug use (up from 1.1% in 2005).<sup>2</sup>

**Figure 2. The share of total person/property crime offenders under the influence of drugs/alcohol increased from about 5% in 2005 to about 10% in 2024. The share under the influence of drugs increased 1.4 percentage points (from 1.1% to 2.5%) while the share under the influence of alcohol increased 3.3 percentage points (from 4.3% to 7.6%).**



Substance use is also far more common during the commission of person crimes than property crimes. In 2024, 19.4% of person crime offenders were suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, compared to just 4% of property crime offenders (see Figure 3 on page 3). The percentage of person crime offenders using drugs or alcohol rose faster than that of property crime offenders between 2005 and 2024. The proportion of person crime offenders suspected of being under the influence increased 3.9 percentage points, compared to a 1.9 percentage point increase for property crime offenders.

<sup>2</sup> IIBRS allows for the possibility that an offender may be suspected of being under the influence of both alcohol and drugs during the commission of a crime. Therefore, the sum of the two categories may be higher than the total percentages reported here.

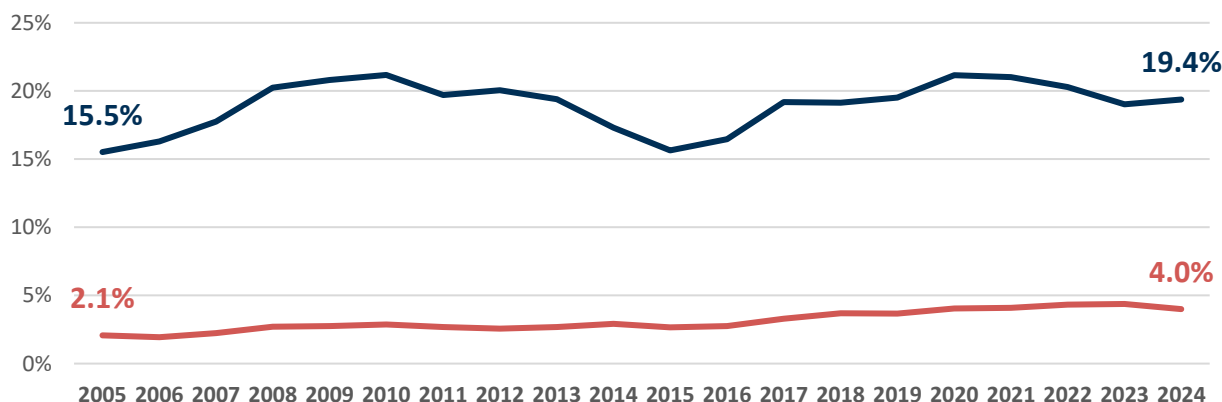
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## Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024

August 2025

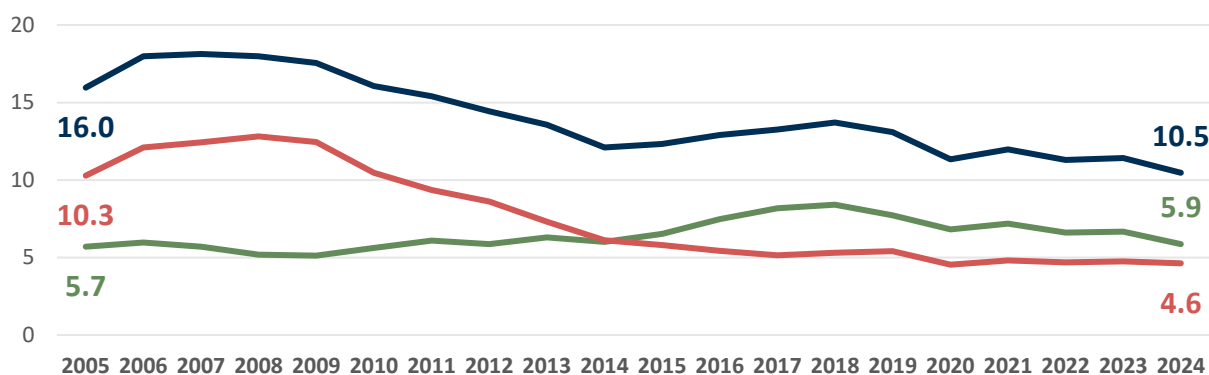
**Figure 3.** The share of **person crime offenders** under the influence of drugs or alcohol was substantially and consistently higher than the share of **property crime offenders** under the influence of drugs or alcohol.



## Drug and Alcohol Arrest Rates<sup>3</sup>

The total drug and alcohol arrest rate<sup>4</sup> decreased from 16 arrests per 1,000 residents in 2005 to 10.5 in 2024 (a 34% decrease; see Figure 4). However, like the offense rates noted previously, rates for drug arrests increased by 3% (from 5.7 in 2005 to 5.9 in 2024) while alcohol arrests decreased by 55% (from 10.3 in 2005 to 4.6 in 2024). In 2015, the alcohol arrest rate (5.8) fell below the drug arrest rate (6.5) for the first time since at least 2005, and that remained the case through 2024.

**Figure 4.** The **total drug and alcohol arrest rate** per 1,000 residents decreased 34% between 2005 and 2024. The **drug arrest rate** increased 3% while the **alcohol arrest rate** decreased 55%.



<sup>3</sup> This section focuses on state-level trends. For 2024 arrest rates at the county level, see pages 9 – 22.

<sup>4</sup> In this section, a drug or alcohol arrest is defined as an arrest for one of the offenses listed on page 1 as recorded in the IIBRS Arrestee Segment. While the IIBRS Offense Segment allows for up to 10 offenses to be recorded per criminal incident, only one arrest offense per arrestee can be recorded. Although some offenders may be arrested for other crimes (e.g., person or property crimes) who also committed a drug or alcohol offense, this definition focuses on offenders who were arrested due primarily to the drug or alcohol offense.

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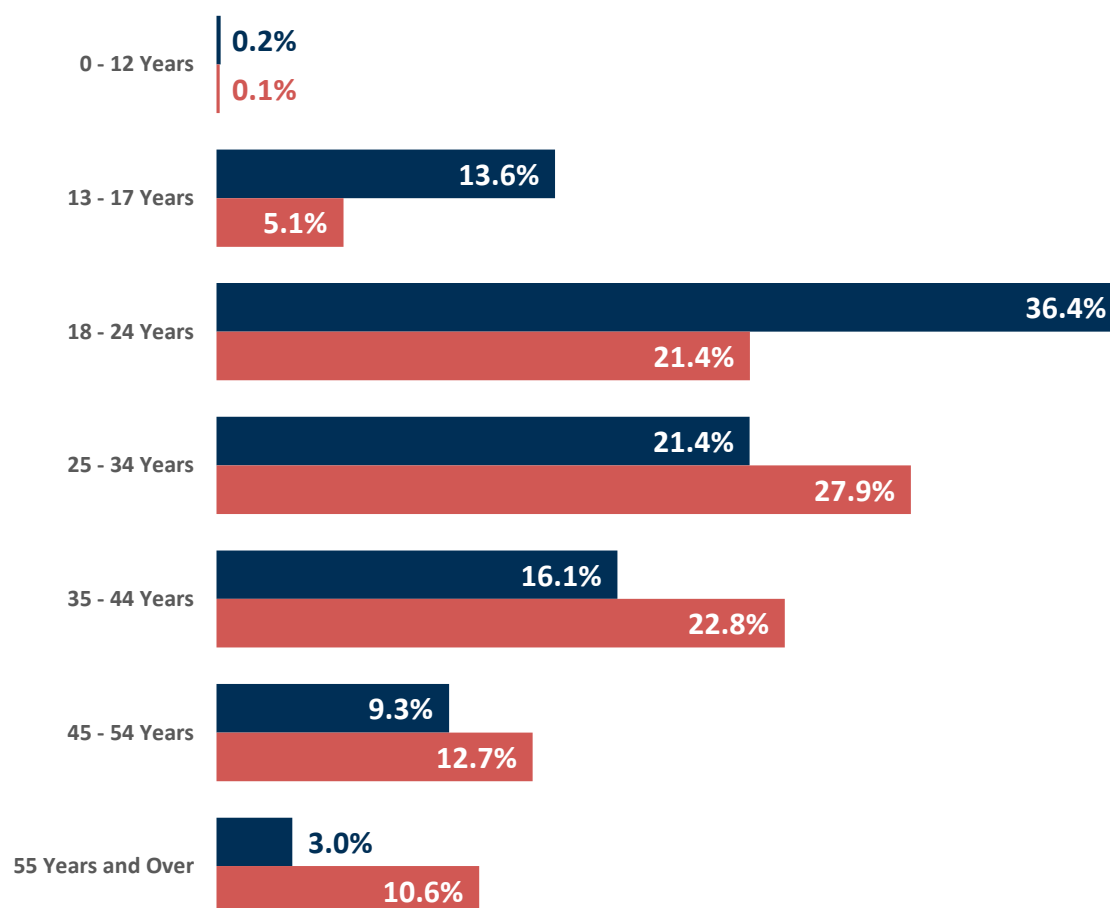
## Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024

August 2025

### Arrestee Demographics

The age of the average drug/alcohol arrestee shifted between 2005 and 2024. In 2005, the average age of arrestees was 27 years. In 2024, that number was 33.8. As seen in Figure 5, the percentage of arrestees aged 24 and under decreased (the largest decrease was in the 18 – 24 age group, 15 percentage points), while the percentage of arrestees aged 25 and over increased (the largest increase was in the 55+ age group, nearly 8 percentage points).

**Figure 5. The age of drug/alcohol arrestees shifted between 2005 and 2024. In 2005, the 18 – 24 age group accounted for the most arrestees. In 2024, the largest category was the 25 – 34 age group.**



Figures 6 and 7 illustrate shifts in the gender and race/ethnicity of drug and alcohol arrestees. The percentage of drug/alcohol arrestees that were female increased between 2005 and 2024. In 2005, about 24% of arrestees were female, compared to about 29% in 2024 (see Figure 6 on page 5). Similarly, the percentage of arrestees that were white and non-Hispanic decreased from 82% to 68%, while most other race/ethnicity categories saw their percentages rise (see Figure 7 on page 5).

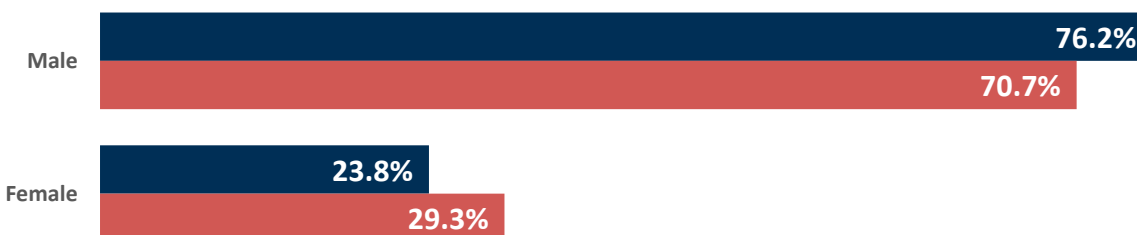
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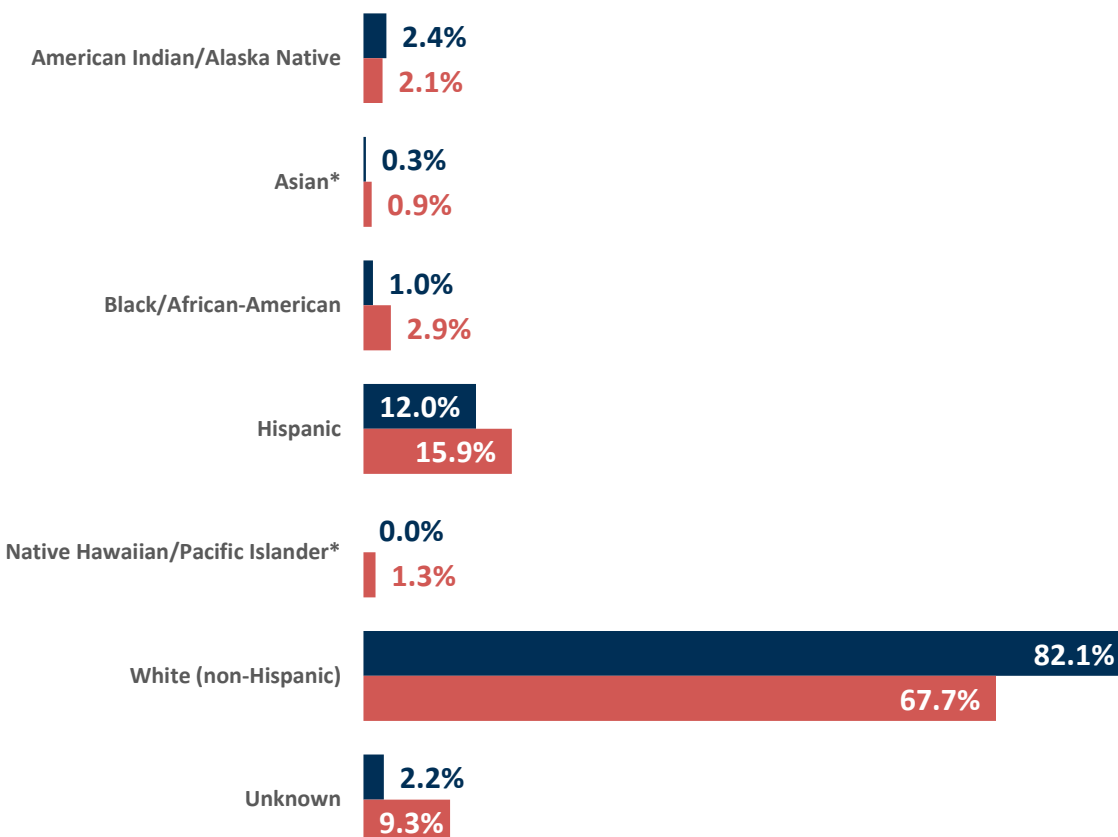
## Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024

August 2025

*Figure 6. The percentage of drug/alcohol arrestees that were female increased 3 percentage points from 24% in 2005 to 29% in 2024.*



*Figure 7. The distribution of drug/alcohol arrestee race and ethnicity changed slightly between 2005 and 2024. The largest shift was a 14-point decrease in the percentage of arrestees that were White and non-Hispanic (82% of arrestees in 2005, compared to 68% in 2024).*



\* Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander was not added to NIBRS until 2013. Before 2013, arrestees that fell into this race/ethnicity category were categorized as Asian.

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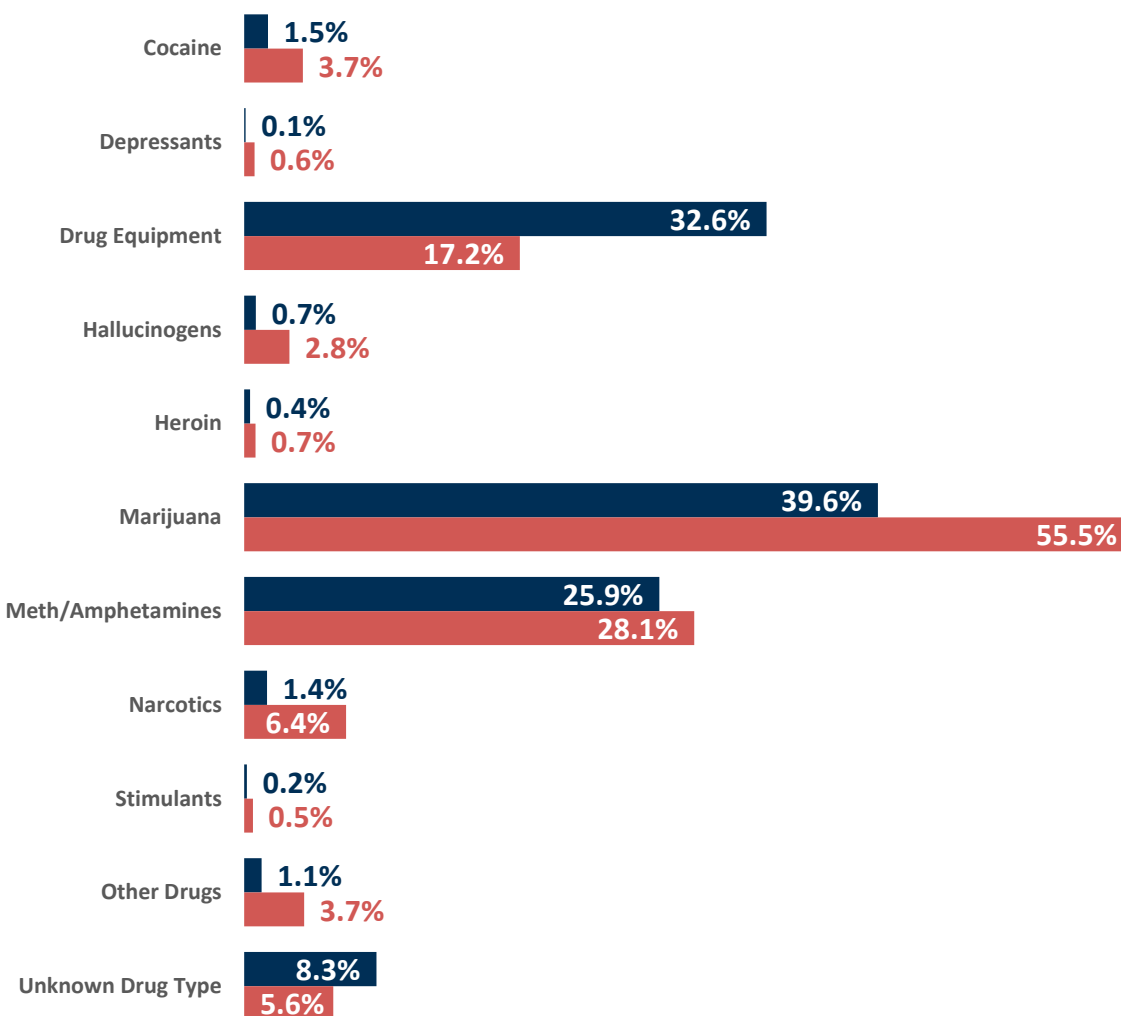
## Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024

August 2025

### Drugs Seized During Drug Arrests<sup>5</sup>

Marijuana remained the most seized drug during drug arrests, as the percentage of arrests where marijuana was seized increased nearly 16 percentage points, from 40% in 2005 to 55.5% in 2024 (see Figure 8). The percentage of arrests that included a meth/amphetamine seizure increased by about two percentage points from 2005 to 2024, the percentage of arrests that included narcotics (e.g., fentanyl, other opioids) increased five percentage points, and there was about a 2-point increase for cocaine and hallucinogens.

**Figure 8. The percentage of drug arrests that included a marijuana seizure increased about 15 percentage points between 2005 (40%) and 2024 (55.5%). Other drugs like meth/amphetamines, narcotics, cocaine, and hallucinogens saw less pronounced increases.**



<sup>5</sup> Up to three drug seizures can be recorded per arrest. If more than three types were seized, the two drugs with the largest seizure amounts are recorded, and the third is listed as “more than three types”. Here, “more than three types” is included in the “unknown drug type” category.

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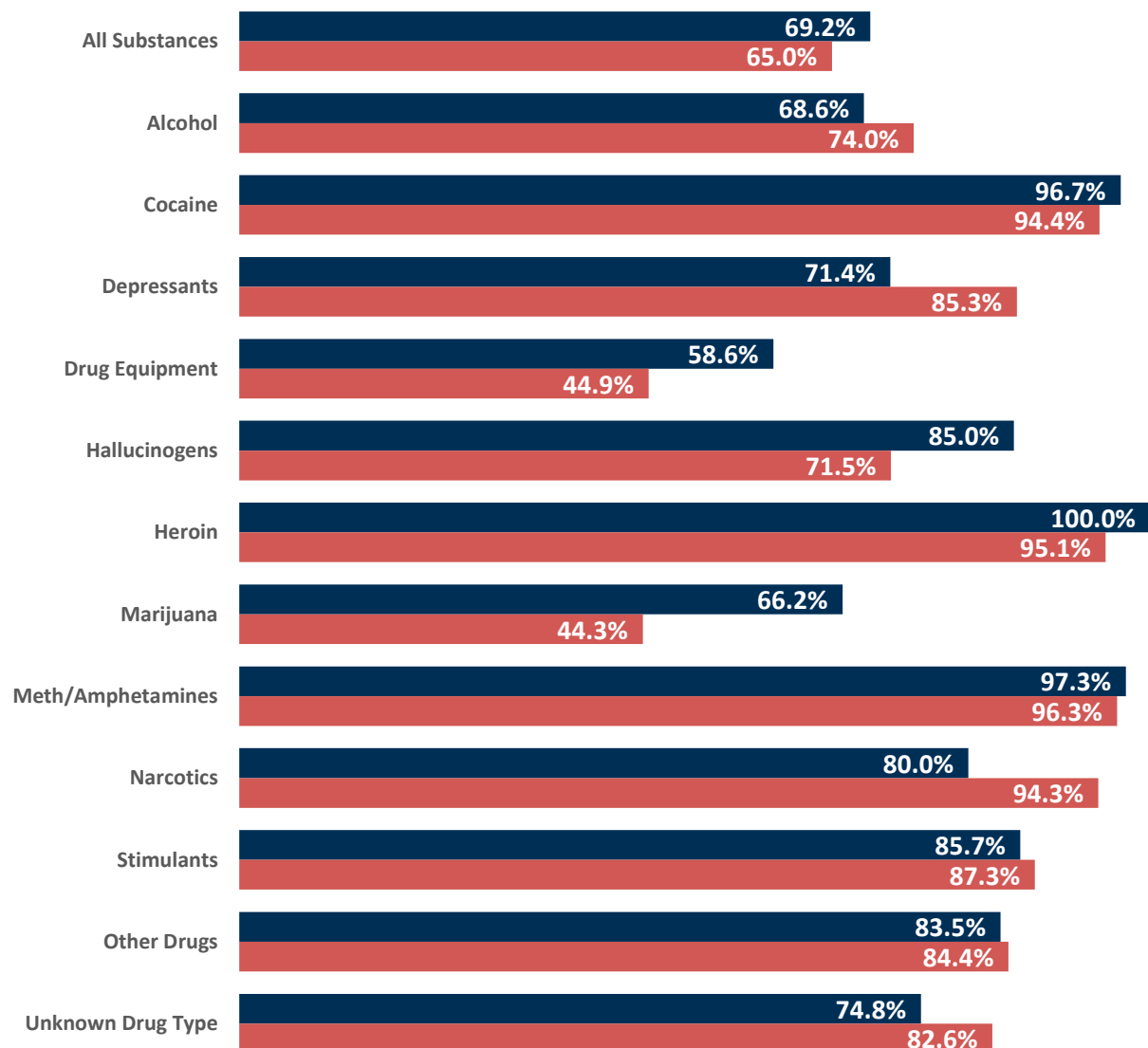
## Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024

August 2025

### Arrest Type

Slightly less than two-thirds (65%) of drug and alcohol arrestees were subject to a physical arrest in 2024 (meaning they were taken to jail, as opposed to being cited and released), but that number varies widely by type of substance (see Figure 9). The lowest physical arrest rates in 2024 were for drug equipment violations (45%) and arrests where marijuana was seized (44%); substances with the highest rates were meth/amphetamines (96%) and heroin (95%). Compared to 2005, physical arrest rates in 2024 increased for some substances (narcotics and depressants saw the largest increases), while decreasing for others (marijuana, hallucinogens, and drug equipment saw the largest decreases).

**Figure 9. The percentage of drug/alcohol arrestees that were subject to a physical arrest decreased between 2005 (69% of all arrestees) and 2024 (65%), but the physical arrest rate varies by type of substance.**



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## Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024

August 2025

### Conclusion

Although Idaho's overall crime rate has been declining for two decades, the rate of drug and alcohol related crimes has not seen a similar decrease; in fact, in 2024 the total drug/alcohol offense rate was 12% lower than it was in 2005, compared to the 49% decrease in the overall crime rate. The difference in trends was driven by an increase in the drug offense rate (up 38%) that occurred at the same time that alcohol offenses were decreasing (down 55%). Similarly, while the overall drug/alcohol arrest rate fell 34% between 2005 and 2024, the drug arrest rate rose 3% in that time. Further, the drug arrest rate rose to a high point in 2018 before declining back to near 2005 levels in 2024, while the alcohol arrest rate continued to decline during the full 20-year period.


In addition to drug-related crime becoming more prevalent than alcohol-related crime, the nature of that crime and the demographics of arrestees has also changed. Use of both drugs and alcohol during the commission of person and/or property crimes increased to nearly 10% of those offenders being suspected of using drugs and/or alcohol (compared to 5% in 2005). The average age of drug/alcohol arrestees was nearly seven years higher in 2024 than 2005, and the percentage of arrestees who were women and non-White increased over those 20 years. Regarding specific substances, marijuana continues to be the most seized drug during drug arrests (55.5% in 2024), but other substances such as meth/amphetamines, narcotics, cocaine, and heroin have become more common. The substance seized also appears to influence the type of arrest. Less than half (44%) of arrestees that had marijuana seized from them were subject to a physical arrest (i.e., booked into jail, as opposed to being cited and released) in 2024. For every other substance (excluding drug equipment), the percentage arrested and taken to jail ranged between 71% (hallucinogens) and 96% (meth/amphetamines) in 2024.

Finally, responding to these incidents has become a significant part of law enforcement's job in recent years. Drug and alcohol offenses comprised nearly a quarter (24%) of all offenses law enforcement responded to in 2024 (up from 9% in 2005). The statewide drop in alcohol offenses is encouraging, but the corresponding rise in drug offenses is something that state and local law enforcement should continue to watch closely. Additional localized data is available in the 2024 arrest rate maps on pages 9 – 22 of this brief and on the Crime in Idaho Data Dashboard (available on the Idaho Statistical Analysis Center's website). The data in these two resources should be used to identify and monitor potential areas of concern at both the state and local levels and guide strategic planning around community responses to this type of crime.

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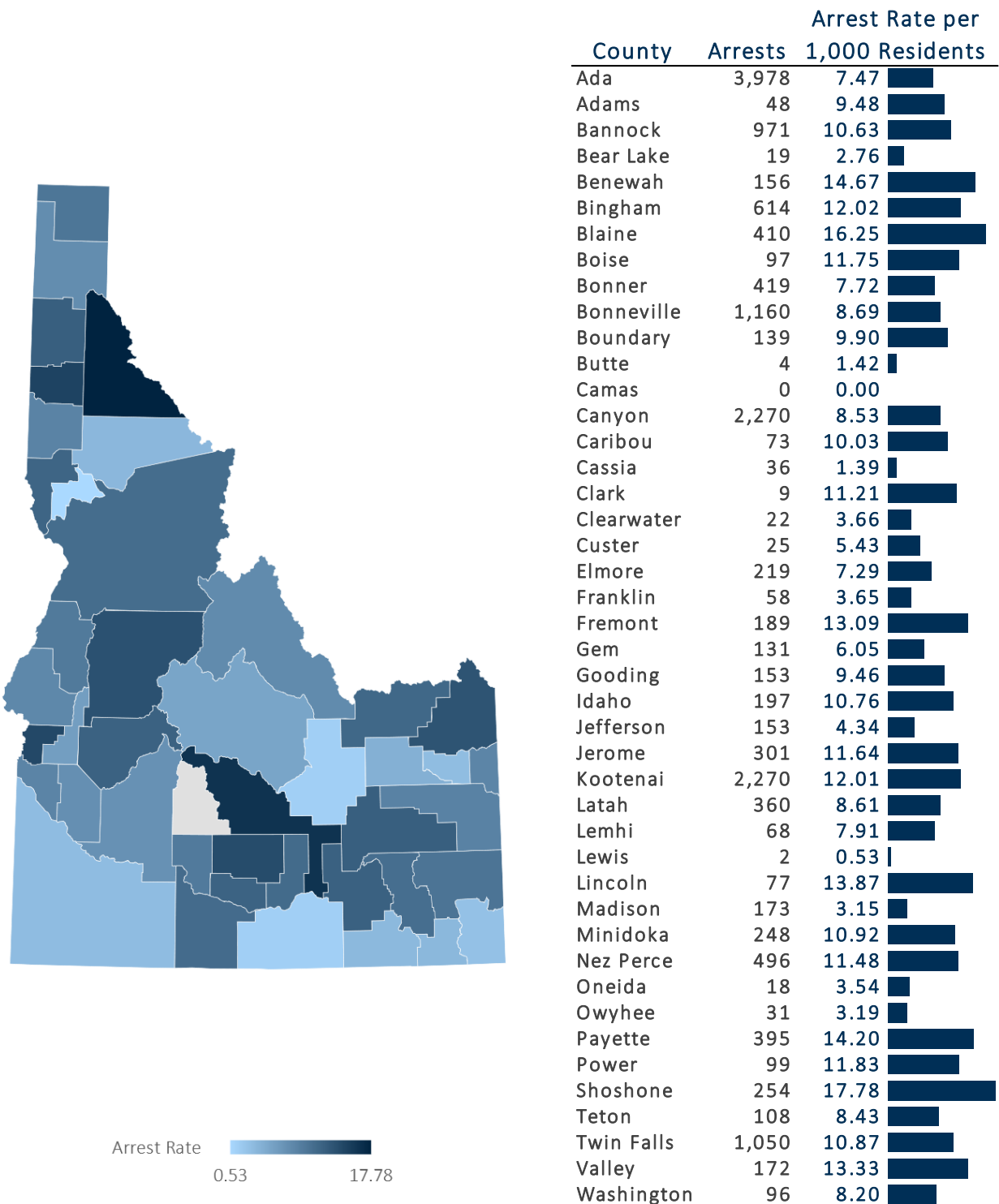
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*Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024*

*August 2025*

*Figure 10. 2024 County Arrest Rates – All Substances*



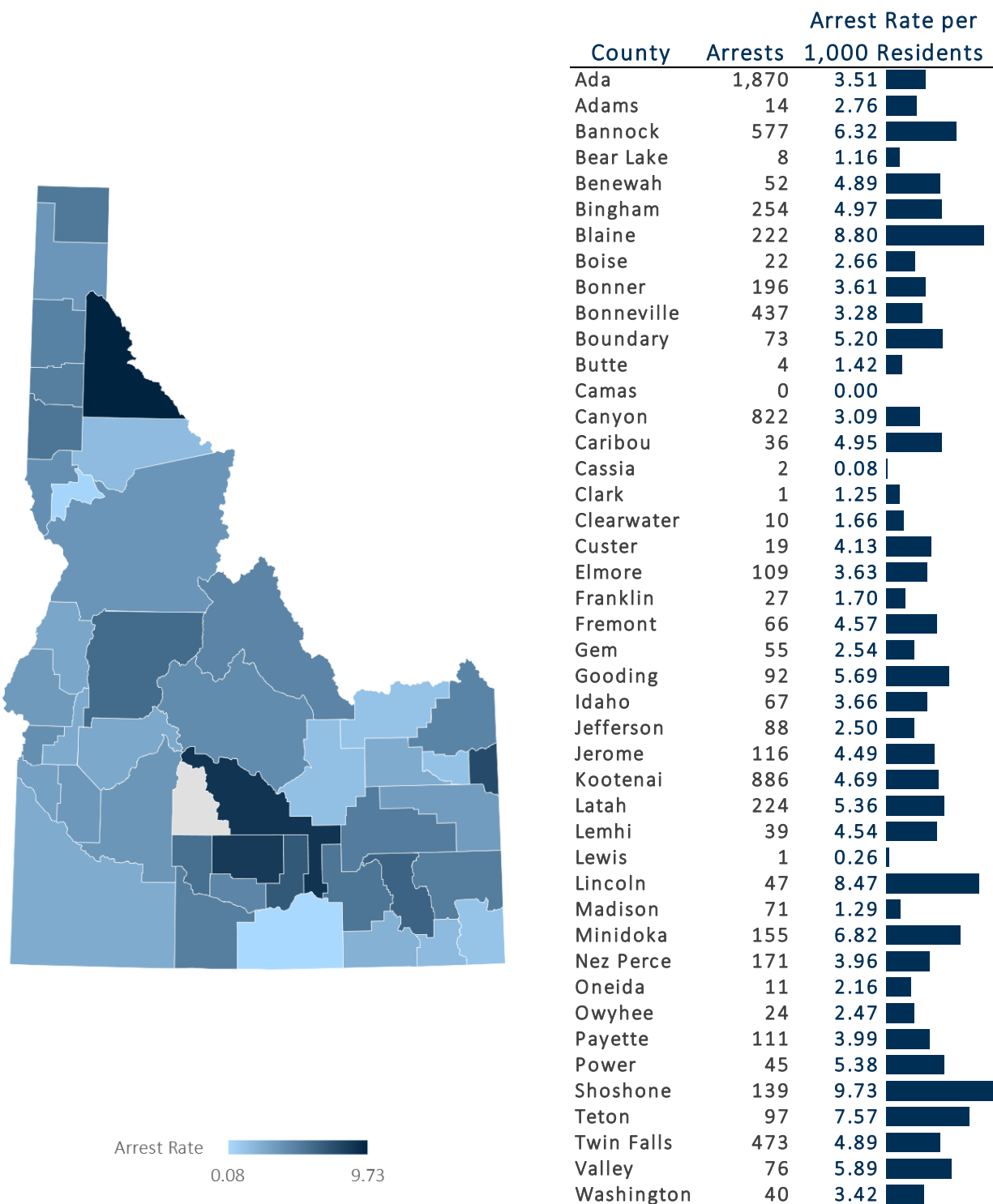
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**Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024**

**August 2025**

**Figure 11. 2024 County Arrest Rates – Alcohol**



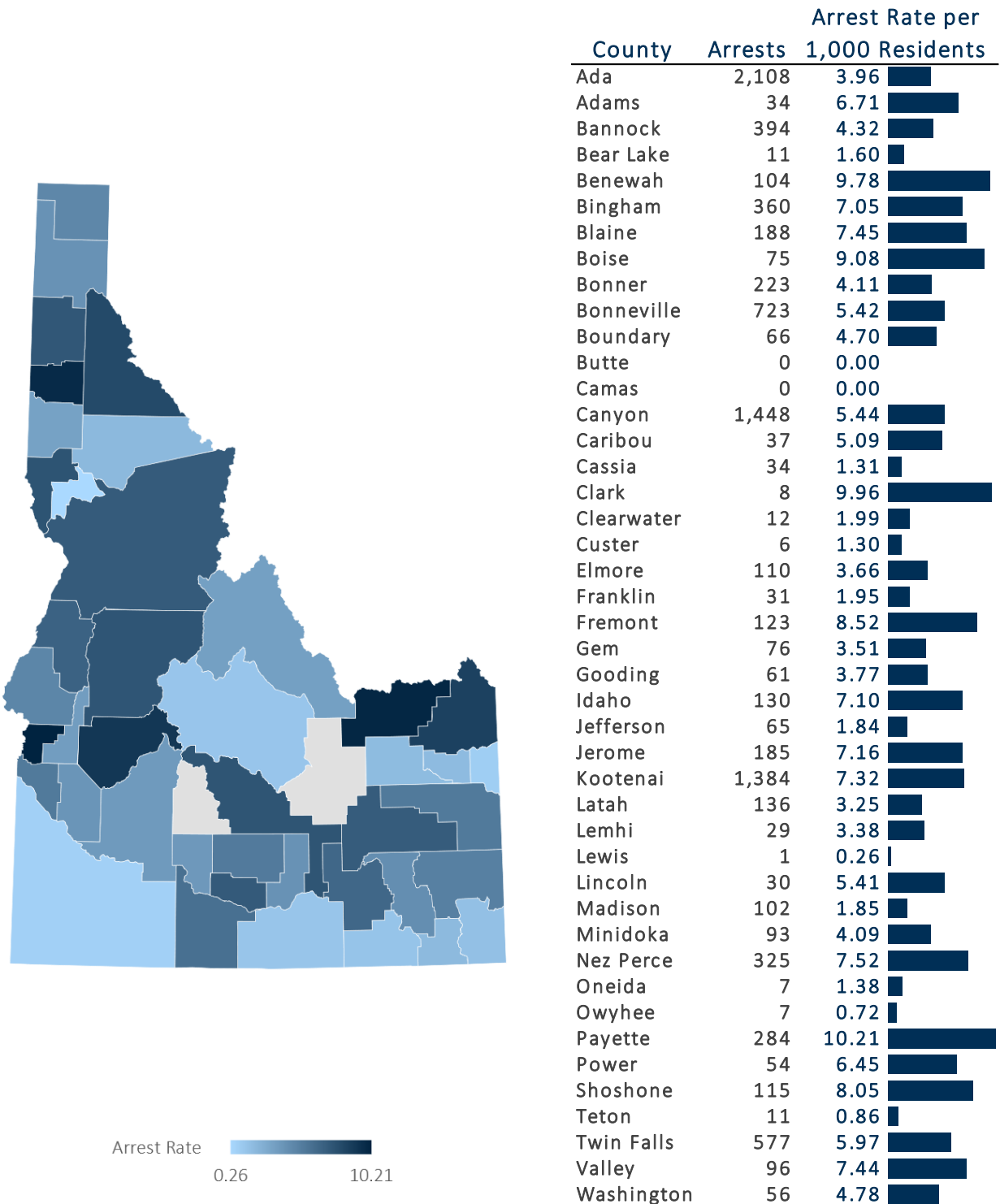
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*Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024*

*August 2025*

**Figure 12. 2024 County Arrest Rates – All Drugs**



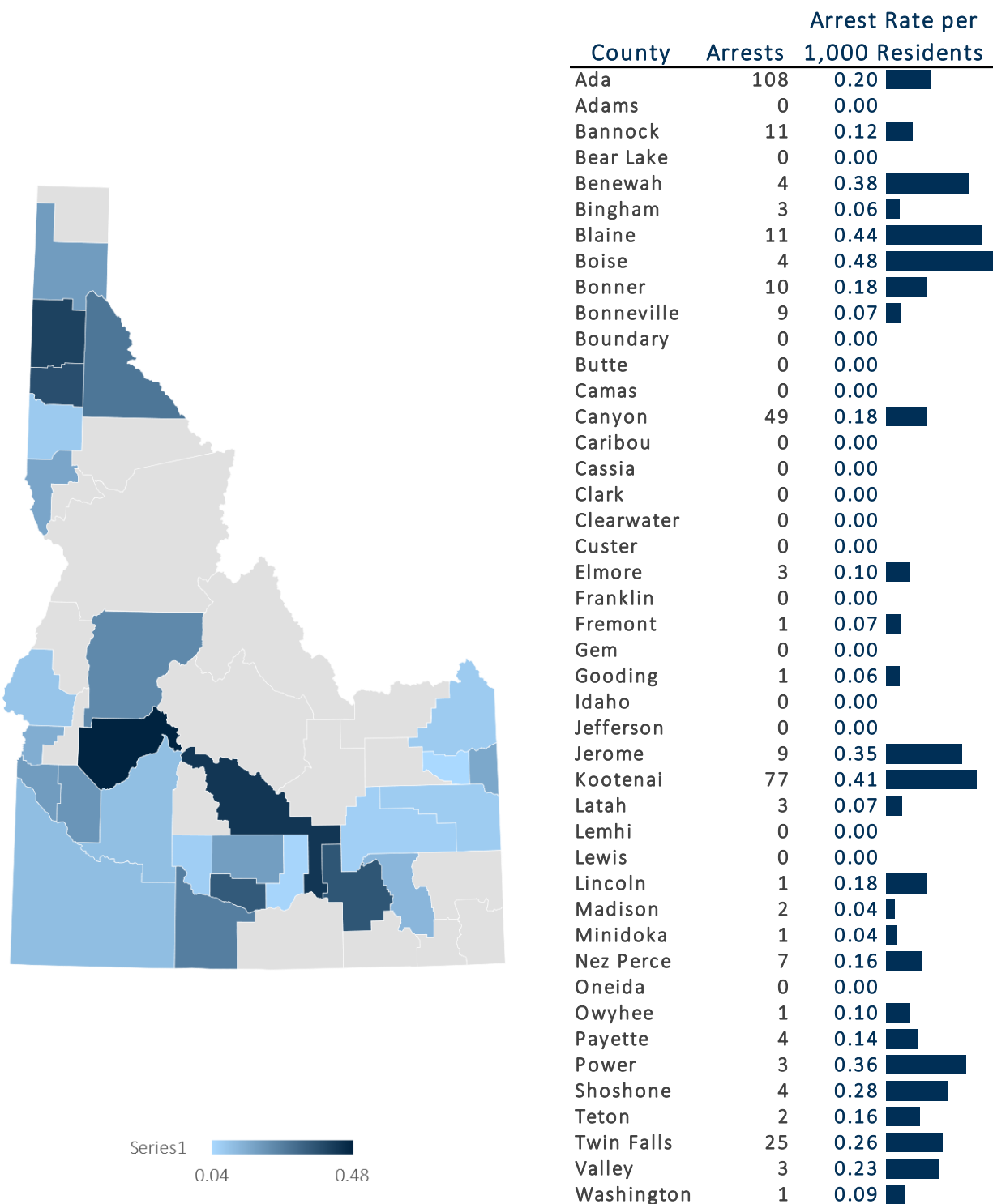
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*Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024*

*August 2025*

*Figure 13. 2024 County Arrest Rates – Cocaine*



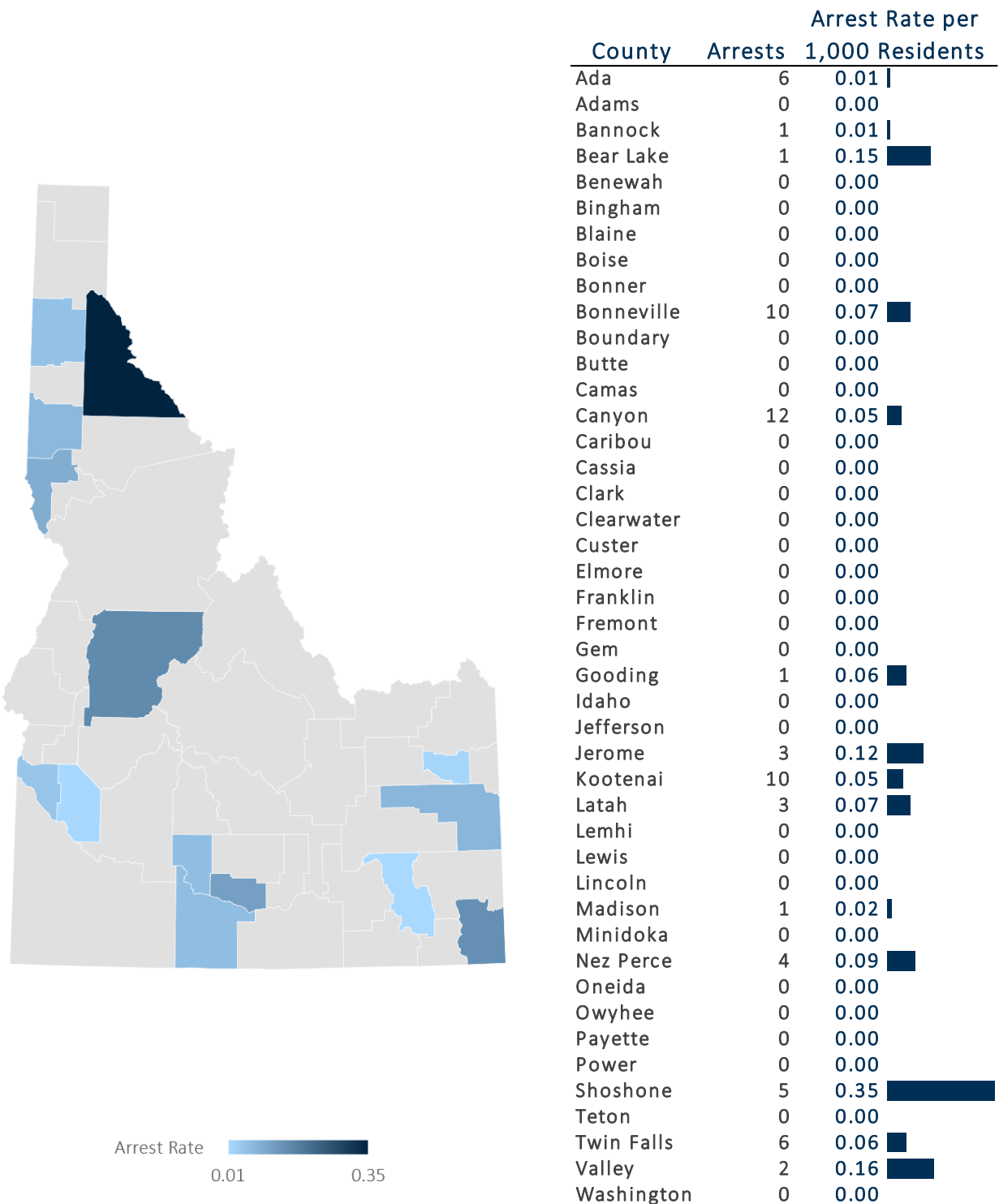
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*August 2025*

**Figure 14. 2024 County Arrest Rates – Depressants**



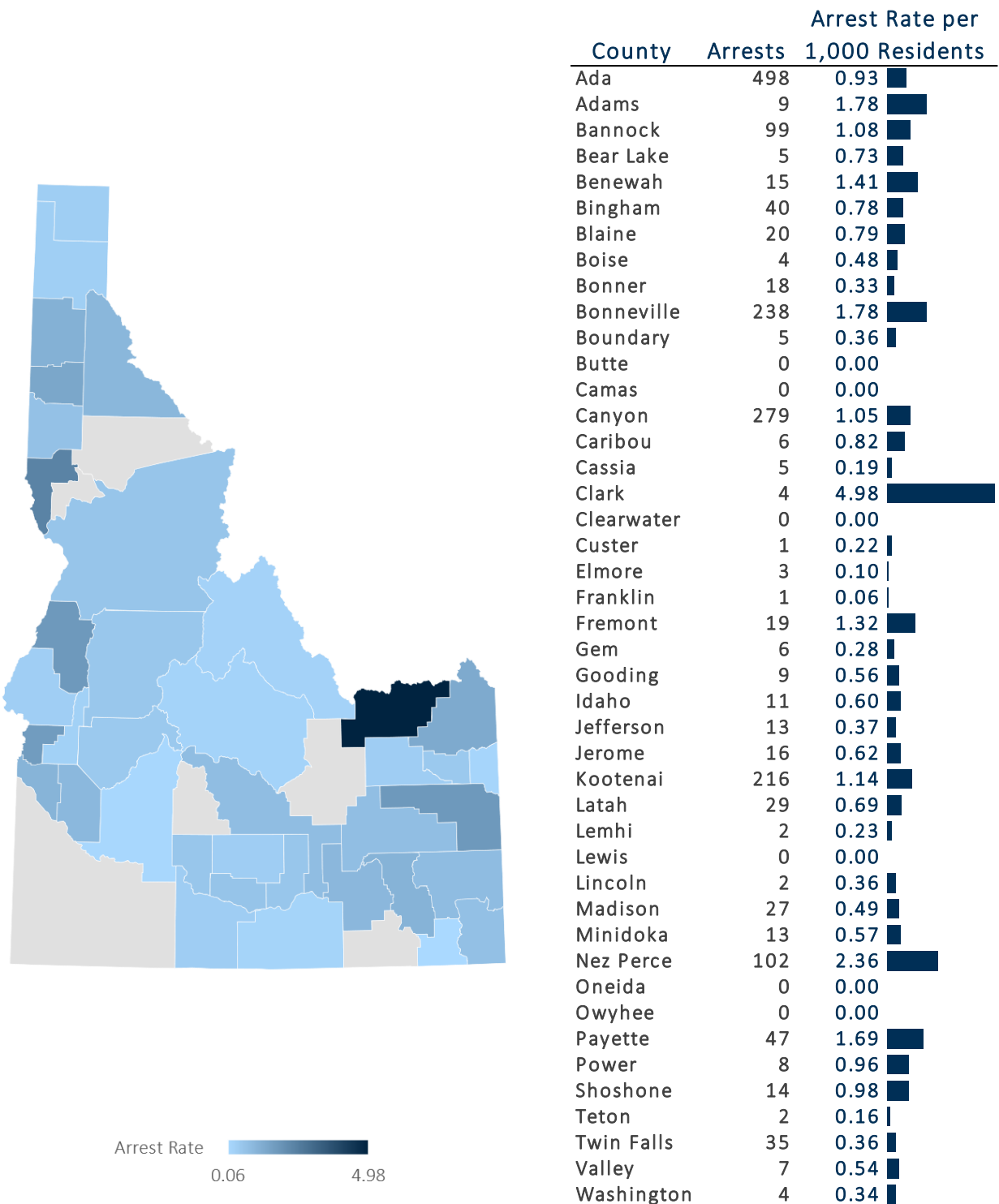
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*Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024*

*August 2025*

**Figure 15. 2024 County Arrest Rates – Drug Equipment**

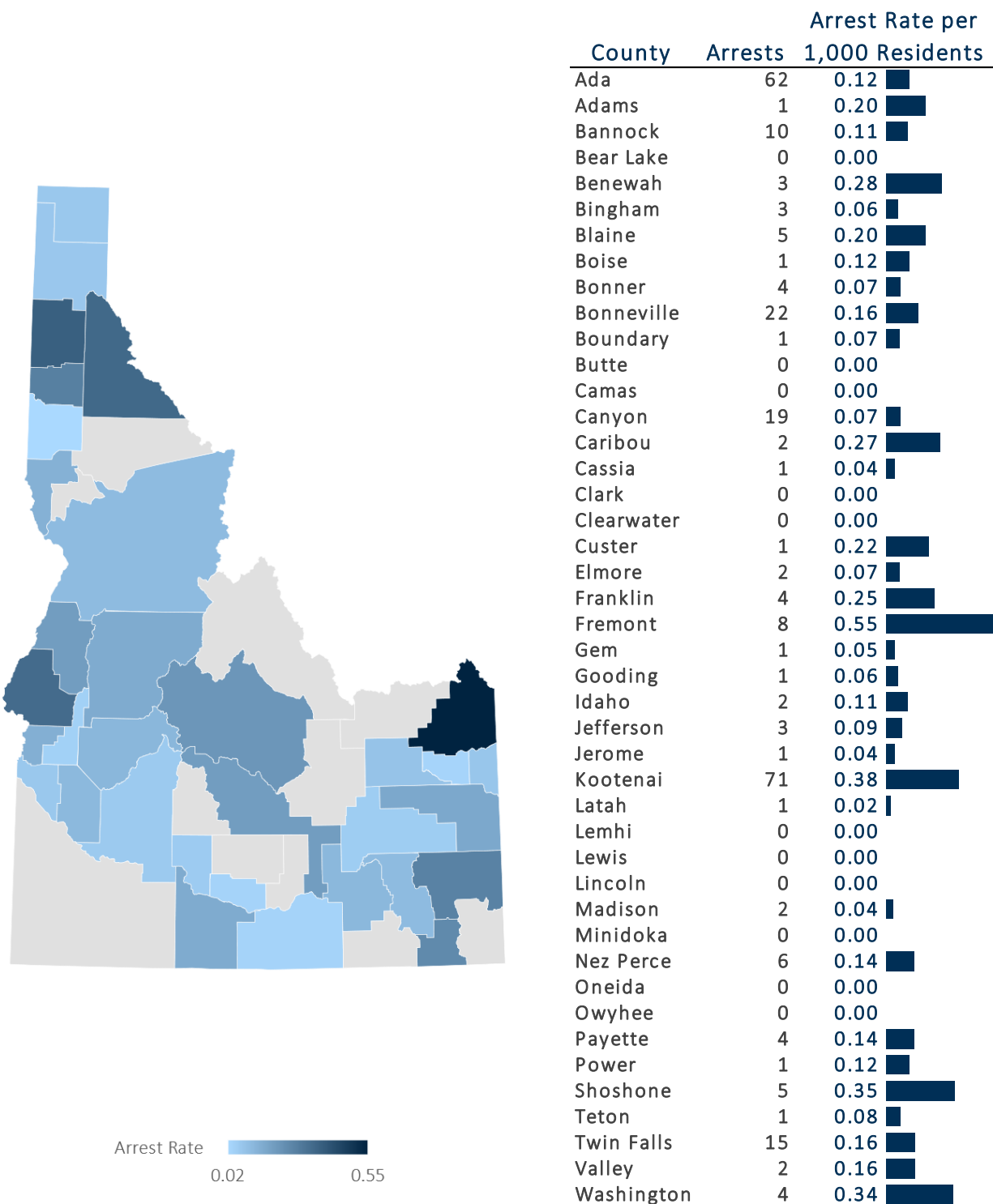


# Research Brief

## Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024

August 2025

Figure 16. 2024 County Arrest Rates – Hallucinogens



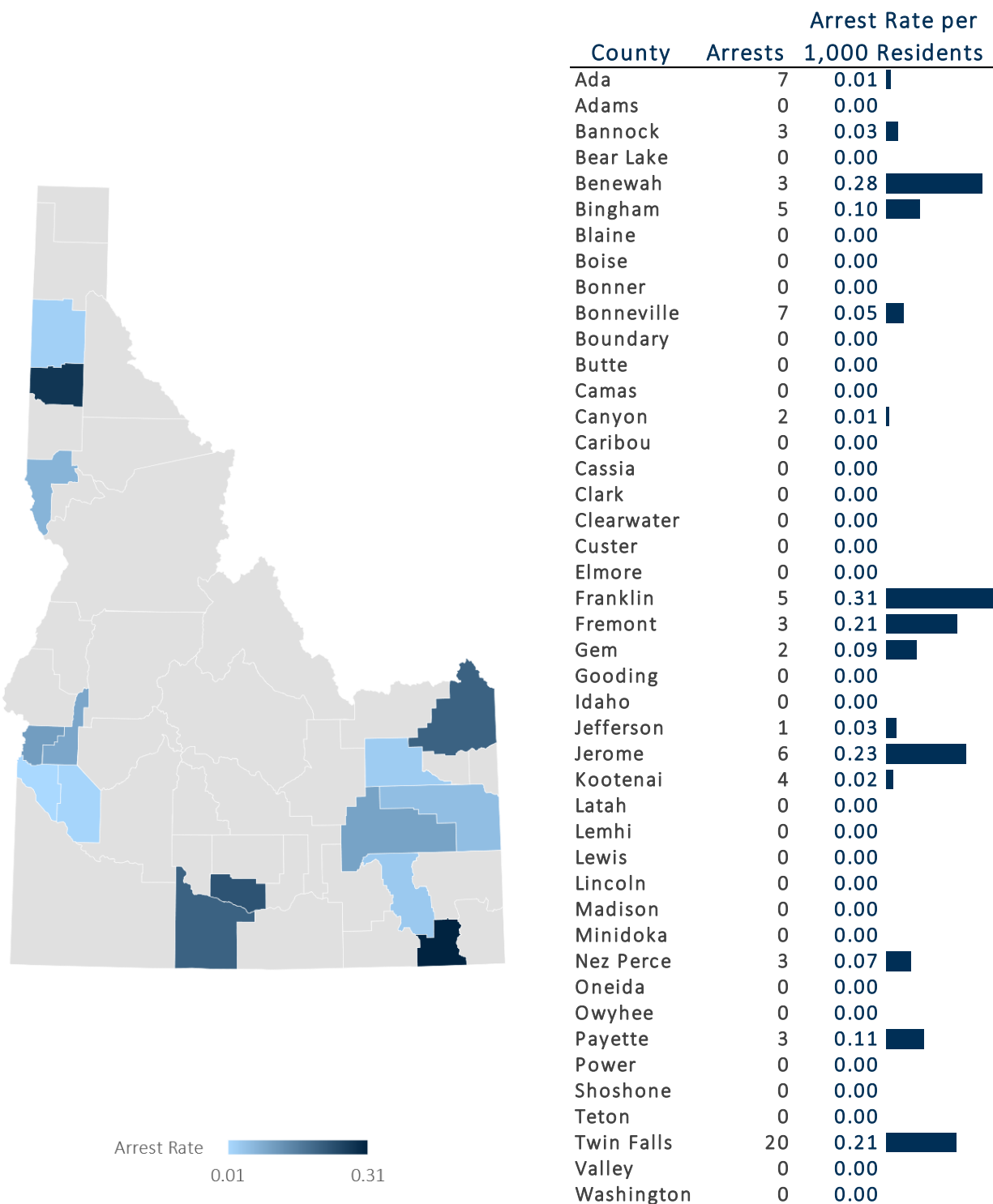
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*Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024*

*August 2025*

*Figure 17. 2024 County Arrest Rates – Heroin*





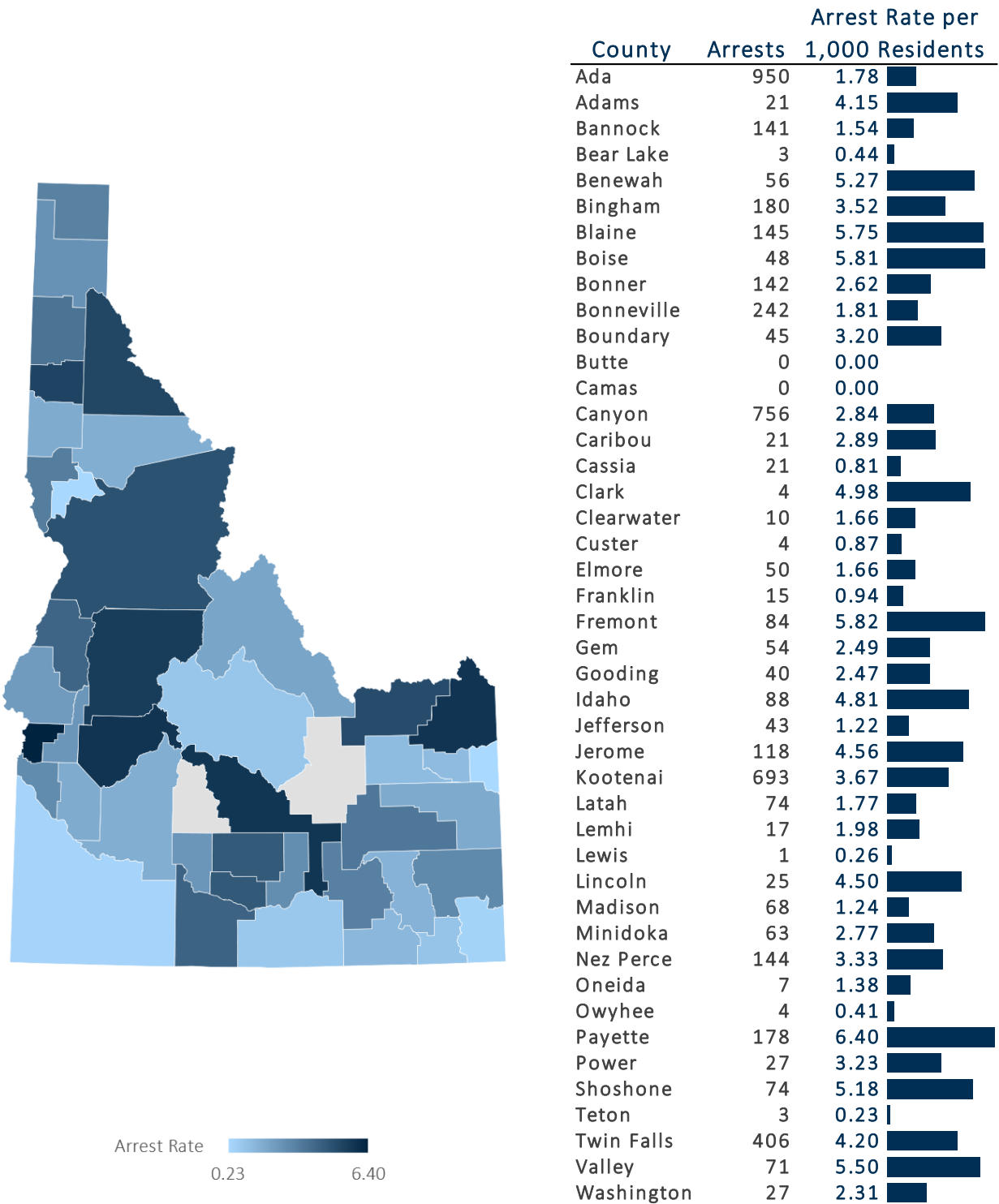
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**Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024**

**August 2025**

**Figure 18. 2024 County Arrest Rates – Marijuana**

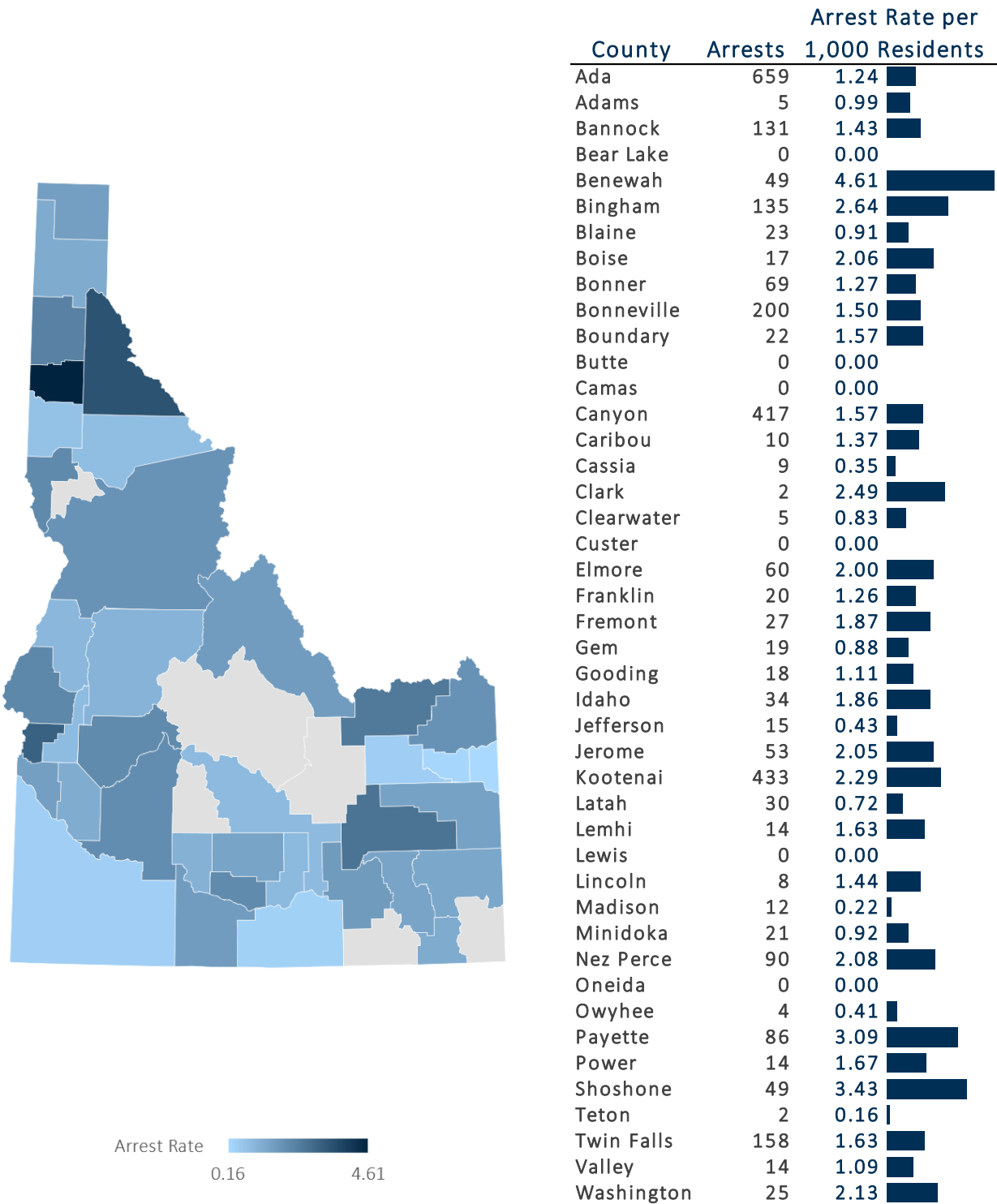


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## Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024

August 2025

Figure 19. 2024 County Arrest Rates – Meth/Amphetamines



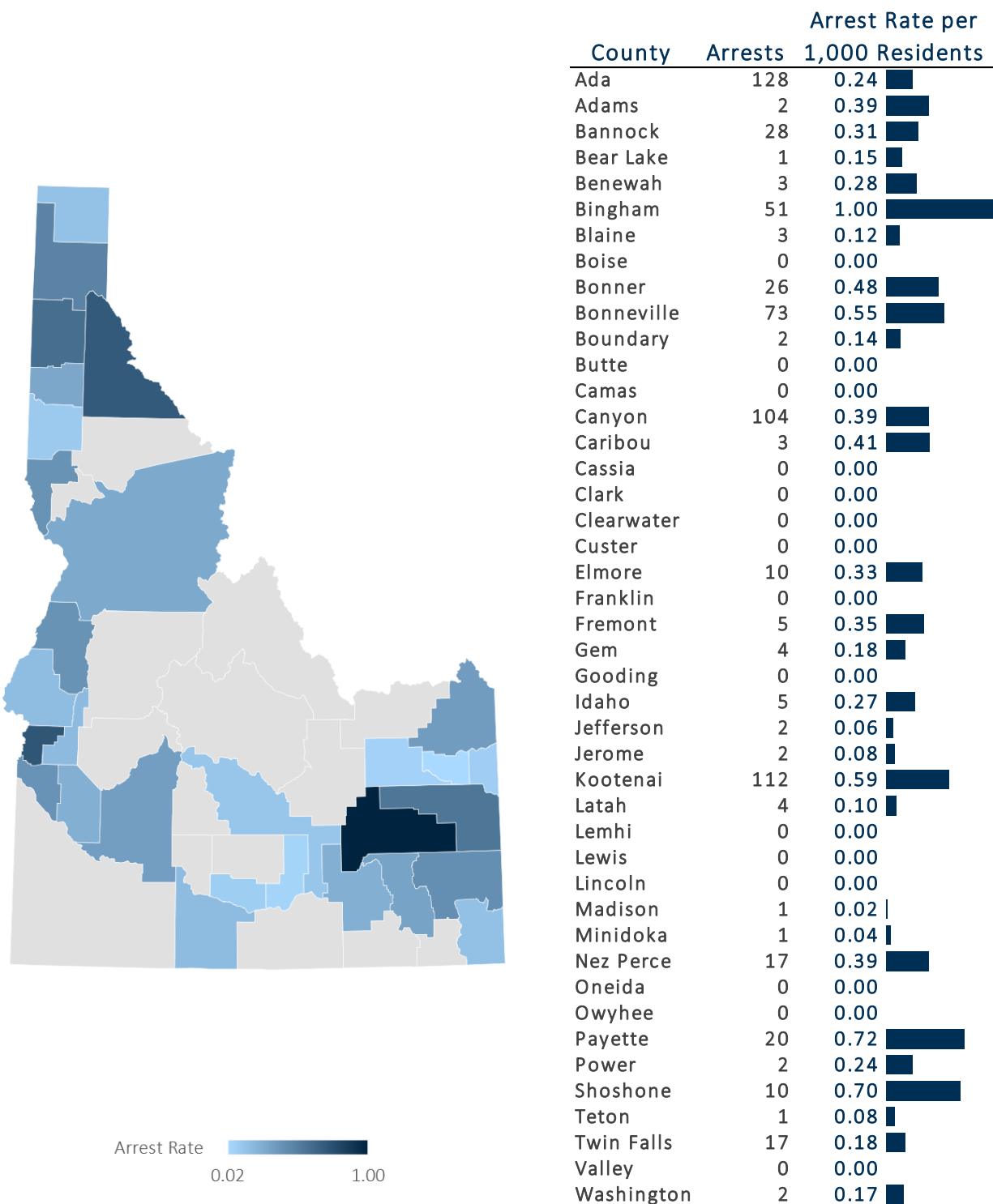
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**Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024**

**August 2025**

**Figure 20. 2024 County Arrest Rates – Narcotics**



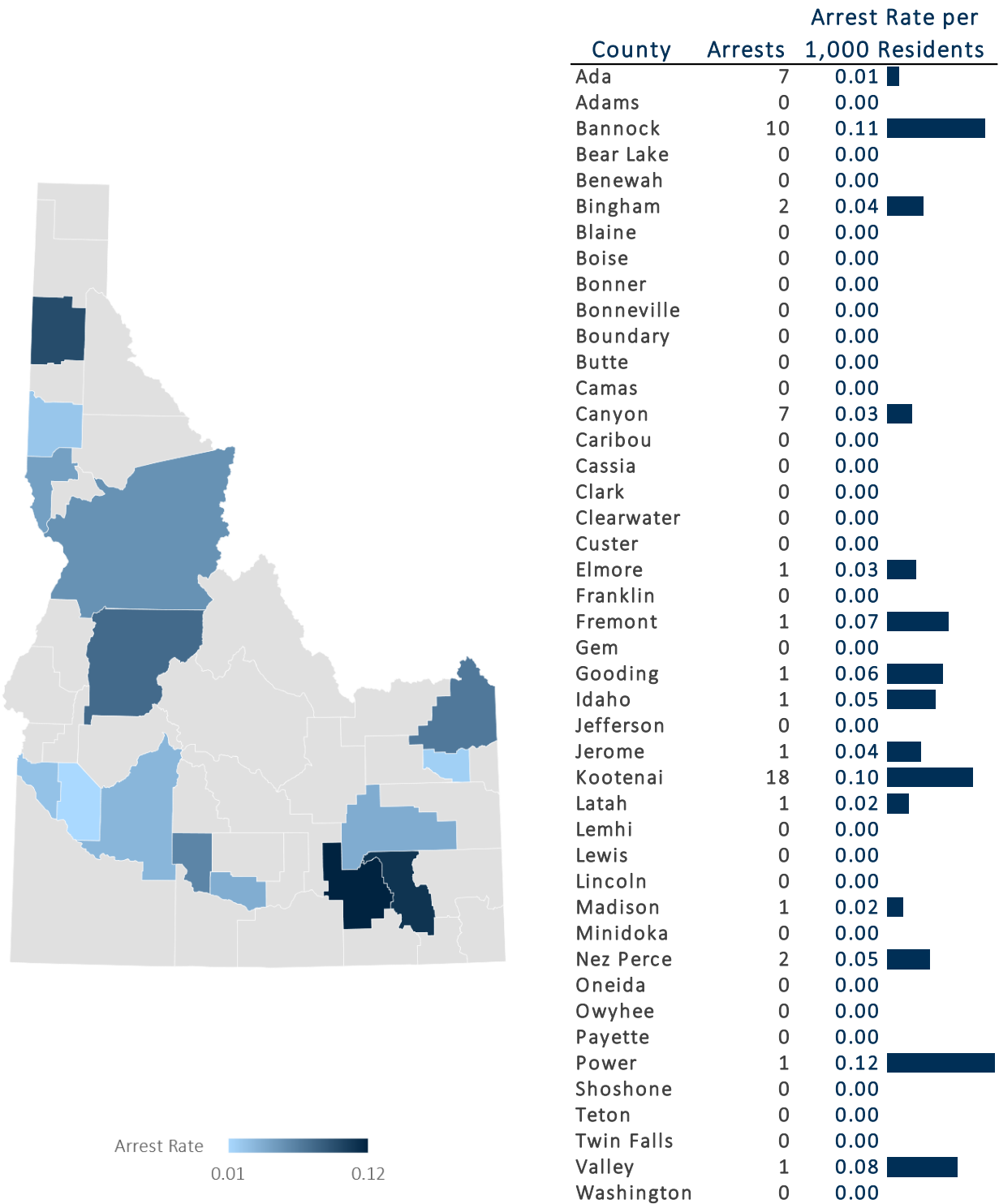
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*Drug & Alcohol Related Crime Trends, 2005-2024*

*August 2025*

*Figure 21. 2024 County Arrest Rates – Stimulants*



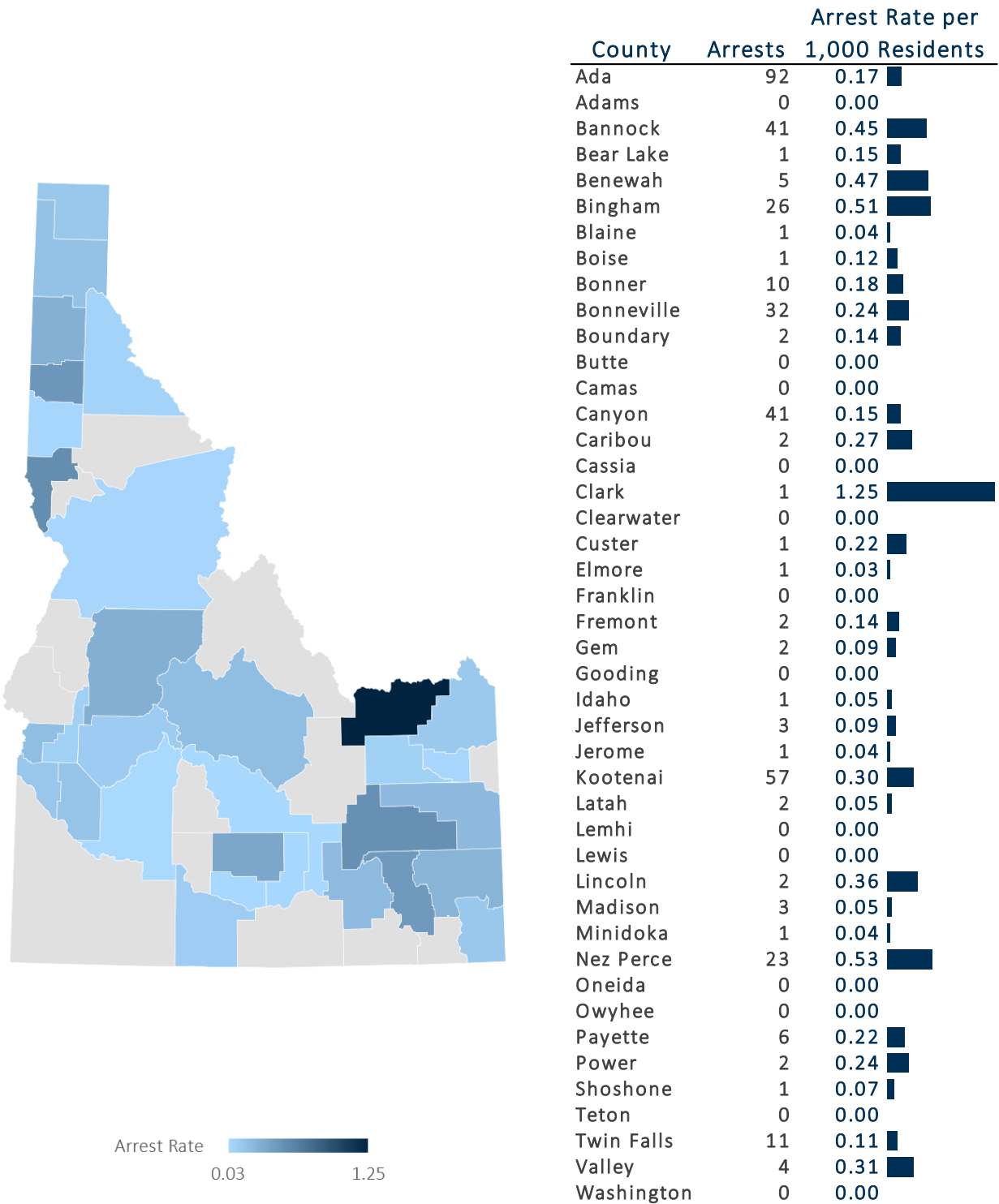
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*August 2025*

**Figure 22. 2024 County Arrest Rates – Other Drugs**



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*August 2025*

**Figure 23. 2024 County Arrest Rates – Unknown Drug Type**

