

Drug Related Arrests: 1998 - 2004

Produced by the Statistical
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Introduction

Information used in this report is taken from the Idaho National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) state repository housed within Idaho State Police. Drug arrest data includes all offenders who were in possession of either drugs or drug equipment. NIBRS Property, Arrest, and Offense tables were used for the following analysis.

Since 1998, the total number of individuals arrested for all crimes has stayed relatively the same, only increasing by 0.7%. Over the same time period, the number of individuals arrested for alcohol violations (Driving While Under the Influence, Liquor Law Violations, or Drunkenness) decreased by 9.9%. The proportion of individuals arrested while in possession of illegal drugs or drug equipment, however, has increased from 11.2% to 12.7% (Table 1). This report addresses the types of drugs arrestees were in possession of, and any commonalities or differences between individuals in possession of drugs or drug equipment at the time of arrest.

Table 1. Total Arrests Versus Percent of Individuals Arrested With Drugs

Year	Total Arrests	Total Arrested With Drugs	% Arrested With Drugs	Total Alcohol Violations	% of Total Arrests
1998	77,412	8,698	11.2	17,882	23.1
1999	72,430	8,823	12.2	17,433	24.1
2000	74,974	9,442	12.6	16,656	22.2
2001	75,177	9,127	12.1	15,823	21.0
2002	73,964	9,151	12.4	15,486	20.9
2003	77,520	9,557	12.3	15,951	20.6
2004	77,996	9,910	12.7	16,109	20.7

Marijuana

From 1998 to 2004, nearly 60% of all drug related arrests involved marijuana. The overall proportion, however, has steadily decreased. As Chart 1 indicates, arrestees with marijuana went from 60.7% of total drug related arrests in 1998 to 54.2% in 2004. The vast majority of marijuana arrests involved possession (89.33%) of the drug. Use or consumption of marijuana was involved in 22.85% of marijuana related arrests. A small minority of arrests (10.47%) involved buying, cultivating, distributing, or transporting marijuana (Table 2).

- The average age of arrestees in possession of marijuana was 25.1 with 61.5% under age 24. Depending on the year, between 19.0% to 23.0% were juvenile.
- The vast majority of arrestees were male (80%), 94.7% were white, and 7.7% were of Hispanic ethnicity.

Chart 1. Percent of Drug Related Arrests Associated With Marijuana, Meth, Cocaine or Other Drugs

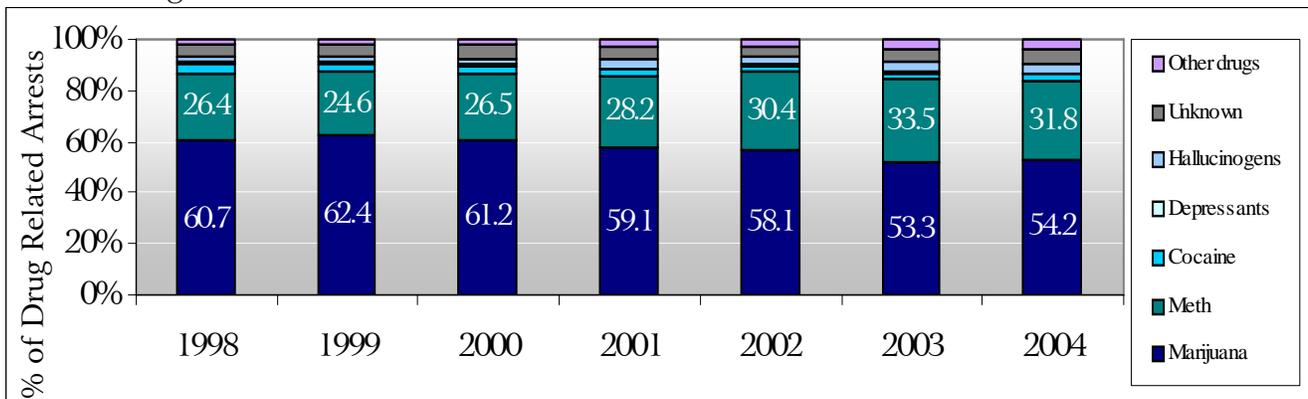


Table 2. Types of Criminal Activity Involved with Marijuana, Methamphetamine and Cocaine Arrests: 1998 - 2004

Type of Criminal Activity	Marijuana		Meth		Cocaine	
	Total Arrests	% of Arrests*	Total Arrests	% of Arrests*	Total Arrests	% of Arrests*
Buying/receiving	247	0.76	244	1.57	40	2.98
Cultivate/manufacture	715	2.19	698	4.50	50	3.72
Distribute/selling	1,884	5.77	2,467	15.90	422	31.40
Operating/promoting	104	0.32	58	0.37	2	0.15
Possess/conceal	29,163	89.25	13,023	83.91	1,045	77.75
Transport/transmitting	470	1.44	489	3.15	112	8.33
Using/consuming	7,492	22.93	2,978	19.19	205	15.25

* Column does not equal 100% as each arrest can contain more than one type of criminal activity

Methamphetamine

The second largest category of drugs in possession of arrestees was methamphetamine (meth). The percentage of individuals arrested with meth in proportion to other drugs has increased since 1998 from 26.4% to 31.8% (Chart 1). More meth arrestees were involved in acts of distribution or selling than marijuana arrestees (2,467 compared to 1,884). Although a smaller number of individuals arrested were involved with meth than marijuana, a fairly equal proportion of meth versus marijuana arrests involved activities of buying, cultivating, and transporting drugs.

Those arrested while in possession of meth do not match the profile of those in possession of marijuana.

- Only 4.2% were juveniles and only one third (33.1%) were under 24.
- Only 70.0% were male (versus 80.0% of marijuana arrestees).
- A slightly higher percentage were white (97.2% compared to 94.7%) and nearly twice as many were Hispanic (13.8% compared to 7.7% of marijuana related arrests).

Cocaine/Crack

The third largest drug category was cocaine or crack. The percentage of arrestees in possession of cocaine has steadily declined since 1998, from 3.3% to 2.2% of arrestees in possession of the drug (Chart 2).

The type of criminal activity involving individuals arrested with cocaine was much different from that for either marijuana or meth. For example, nearly one-third (31.4%) were involved in distribution or selling of the drug. A smaller proportion were involved in using/consuming or possession/concealment of cocaine in comparison to either marijuana or meth.

Chart 2. Percent of Individuals Arrested With Cocaine/Crack

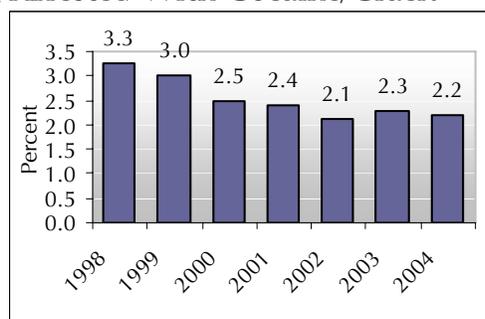


Table 3. Age and Sex of Arrestee By Drug Type

Type of Drug	% Juvenile	% Under 24	% Female
Marijuana	20.1%	61.5%	20.1%
Meth	4.2%	33.1%	29.8%
Crack/cocaine	5.0%	35.3%	22.4%
Depressant	4.5%	36.8%	32.8%
Hallucinogen	22.3%	71.3%	23.6%
Other drugs	19.4%	46.1%	33.8%

The average age of cocaine users follows more closely with meth than marijuana. Looking at the profile of arrestees in possession of cocaine at the time of arrest, only 4.9% were juvenile and close to one-third (35.3%) were under 24.

The statistics were slightly different when looking at the percentage in possession of cocaine who were female, white and Hispanic.

- A higher proportion of individuals arrested with cocaine were female than were arrested with marijuana (22.4% compared with 20.1%). However, more meth arrestees were female (29.8%) than either crack/cocaine or marijuana arrestees (Table 2).
- Individuals in possession of cocaine had a smaller proportion who were white in comparison to possessors of other drug types.
- One-third (33.3%) of the individuals in possession of cocaine were of Hispanic ethnicity, a much higher proportion than individuals in possession of other drug types.

Table 4. Race and Ethnicity of Arrestee By Drug Type

	Marijuana	Meth	Crack/ Cocaine	Depressant	Hallucinogen	Other Drugs
% White	96.0	97.2	93.7	96.5	97.0	96.5
% African American	1.1	0.9	2.7	1.1	0.6	1.2
% Native American	1.4	0.8	1.7	1.1	1.1	1.4
% Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.2	0.1	0	0.8	0.2
% Unknown	1.2	0.9	1.9	1.3	0.5	0.7
Ethnicity:						
% Hispanic	7.7	13.9	33.3	14.9	5.1	5.7

Overall Differences in Drug Type by Age, Sex, Race and Ethnicity

The following section of this report further discusses differences in type of drugs possessed and type of criminal drug activity (distribution, manufacturing, transporting, etc.) involved in the offense, by comparing arrestee age, sex, race and ethnicity.

Drug Type By Age of Offender

Individuals arrested while in possession of a drug or drug equipment were on average 26.7 years old (median age 23.0). As shown in Chart 3, arrestees had different mean ages depending on the type of drug involved.

- The mean age for possessors of hallucinogens (age 22.9) and marijuana (age 25.2) was younger than for all other drugs. Individuals arrested with depressants, cocaine/crack, and methamphetamine were five years older on average than marijuana arrestees, and eight years older than hallucinogen arrestees.
- 61.5% of arrestees possessing marijuana and 71.3% of arrestees possessing hallucinogens were under age 24.

Chart 3. Comparative Differences of Drug Type By Mean Age of Arrestee

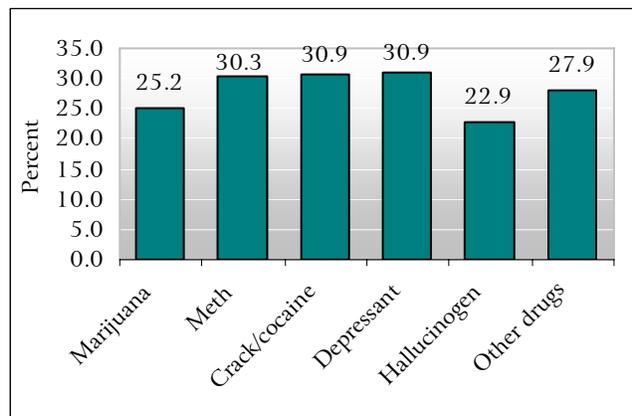


Chart 4 gives the breakdown of marijuana versus methamphetamine arrests by age. In the 33 to 40 age category there were nearly the same number of individuals arrested with marijuana as with meth. The chart also depicts how popular marijuana was among younger arrestees versus older.

The percentage of drug violation arrestees under the age of 18 has decreased since 1998 from 19.8% to 14.6% (Chart 5). Overall, juveniles are more likely to be in possession of marijuana, hallucinogens or "other drugs" rather than meth, cocaine/crack or depressants (including barbiturates, heroin, opium, morphine, or "other depressants").

The age of drug offenders also differed by the type of criminal activity involved. Chart 6 shows that individuals who were cultivating drugs were around four years older than individuals involved in other criminal activities, averaging 30.4 years old. Also, less than half (40.8%) of individuals involved in cultivating drugs were under 24, and only 8.1% were juvenile.

Those involved in operating/assisting drug activity, and/or using drugs were younger than individuals involved in other drug related criminal activities. Over 60% of the individuals involved in using and/or possession were over 24.

Chart 4. Marijuana Versus Methamphetamine By Age Group

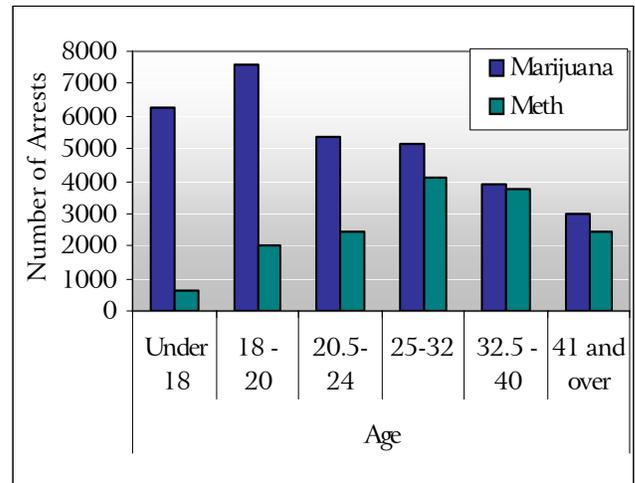


Chart 5. Percent of Drug Violation Arrests Under 18: 1998 - 2004

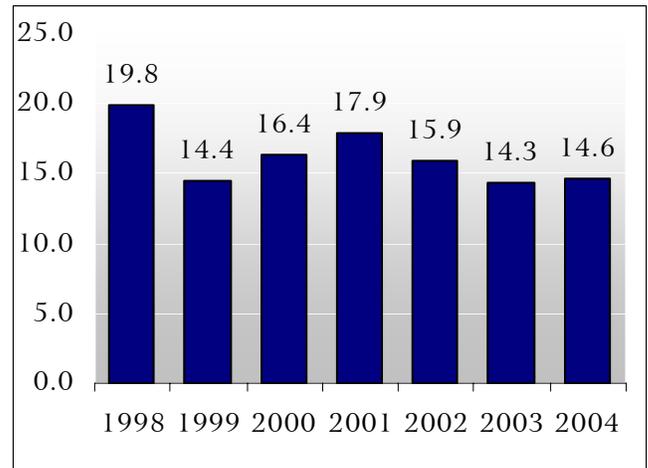
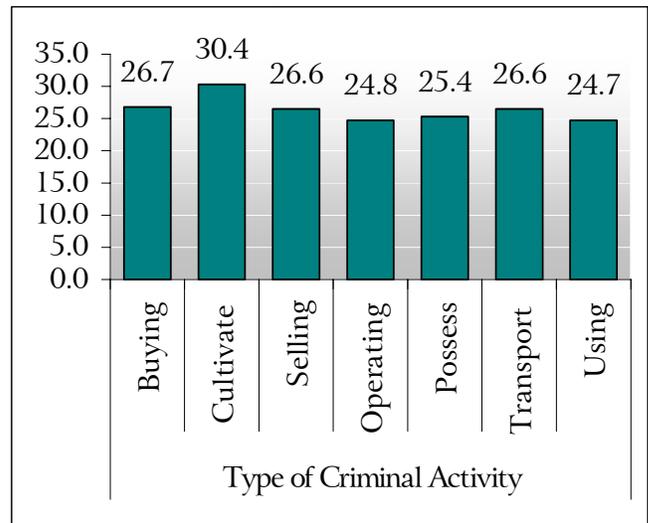


Chart 6. Average Age of Arrestee by Type of Criminal Activity

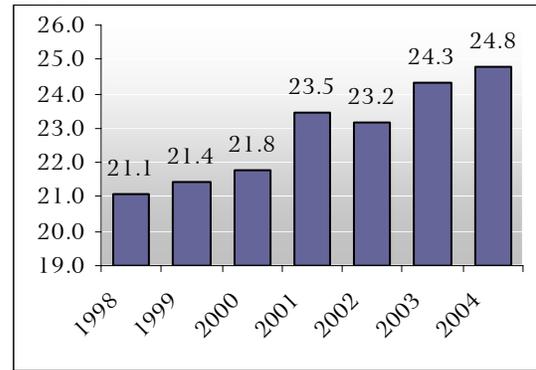


Drug Type by Sex of Arrestee

The overall proportion of drug related arrests involving females increased from 21.1% in 1998 to 24.8% in 2004 (Chart 7). Depressants, “other drugs,” and methamphetamine had a higher proportion of female arrestees than marijuana, cocaine/crack, or hallucinogens (Table 3).

Looking at the type of criminal activity arrestees were involved in, individuals who were operating or buying drugs had a higher percentage that were female (32.5% and 32.0%) in comparison to other activities. Those who were transporting drugs were least likely to be female (21.9%)

Chart 7. Percent of Drug Violation Arrestees Who Were Female: 1998-2004



Differences by Race/Ethnicity of Offender

The vast majority (96.3%) of all illegal drugs were possessed by white arrestees. A higher racial mix existed among arrestees involved with crack/cocaine and “other drugs” (Table 4). Methamphetamine, depressants and hallucinogen arrestees had the highest overall proportion who were white (97.2% and 97.0%).

One-third of arrestees linked with cocaine/crack were Hispanic (Table 4). The drug with the second largest proportion of Hispanic arrestees was depressants (14.9%) followed by Meth (13.9%). A lower overall proportion of Hispanic arrestees were in possession of marijuana (7.7%), hallucinogens (5.1%) and other drugs 5.7%).

By type of criminal activity, those involved with cultivating drugs were more likely to be white than other groups (Table 4.) Arrestees who were buying drugs were slightly less likely than those involved in cultivating, selling, possession or other criminal activities to be white.

Arrestees who were transporting drugs were more likely than those involved in other criminal activities to be Hispanic (35.1%). Selling and buying drugs were also disproportionately Hispanic. Fewer Hispanics were involved in cultivation or using drugs in comparison with other types of criminal drug activities.

Table 5. Criminal Activity by the Age and Sex of Arrestee

Criminal Activity	% Juvenile	% Under 24	% Female
Buying	17.7	51.2	32.0
Cultivate	8.1	40.8	26.2
Selling	17.2	56.1	26.1
Operating	18.5	59.8	32.5
Possess	19.3	60.6	23.1
Transport	9.4	55.4	21.9
Using	22.8	64.0	25.2

Table 6. Race and Ethnicity of Arrestee by Criminal Activity

	Buying	Cultivate	Selling	Operating	Possess	Transport	Using
% White	95.5	97.4	96.3	96.2	96.3	96.9	96.5
% African American	0.4	0.6	1.5	2.5	1.1	0.9	0.9
% Native American	1.7	0.6	0.7	0	1.3	0.5	1.6
% Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.1	0.4	0	0.1	0.2	0.2
% Unknown	2.1	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.5	0.8
Ethnicity:							
% Hispanic	18.5	7.2	21.0	8.9	9.4	35.1	7.8

Conclusion

The information presented in this report indicates that arrests for drug related offenses have increased over the last seven years, while arrests for alcohol violations have decreased. The most popular drugs in possession of arrestees between 1998 to 2004 were marijuana (66.8%) followed by methamphetamine (31.8%). The proportion of arrestees in possession of methamphetamine has increased since 1998, while the proportion of arrestees in possession of marijuana has decreased.

More individuals were arrested for selling meth than the combined selling of marijuana or cocaine. However, individuals involved with cocaine were more likely to sell the drug than individuals involved with either marijuana or meth (31.4% compared to 5.8% and 15.9%). Individuals involved with cocaine were more likely to be possessing or selling the drug than they were to be using it. Arrestees linked with marijuana or meth were most likely to be in possession or using the drug, rather than selling.

Individuals arrested in possession of marijuana and hallucinogens were about five years younger than those in possession of methamphetamine, crack/cocaine, and depressants. In fact, 71.3% of arrestees involved with hallucinogens and 61.5% of arrestees involved with marijuana were under age 24, whereas only about one-third of the individuals involved with meth, crack/cocaine, or depressants were under age 24.

A smaller proportion of juveniles had arrests related to cultivating or transporting drugs. More juveniles were involved in use or possession than other types of criminal activities. Individuals involved in cultivation were older on average than those involved in other criminal activities, with 59.28% over age 24.

The percentage of drug violation arrestees who are female has increased since 1998. Females were represented most among individuals buying and/or assisting with drug buys (32.5%).

County By County Comparison

The remaining charts compare drug and alcohol arrests by county. The charts are followed by a table giving the county by county breakdown of drug related arrests from 1998 to 2004 and the percent change. The table also shows whether drug arrests have increased or decreased between 2003 to 2004 for each county.

Out of all 44 of Idaho's counties, Ada and Canyon alone account for about one-third (35.78%) of all drug arrests in 2004. However, Ada and Canyon Counties also house 35.2% of the population, therefore, the number of drug arrests is fairly consistent with the population. Counties with a disproportionate number of drug arrests considering their population base include: Caribou, Benewah, Payette, and Twin Falls (all had arrest rates of over 10 per 1,000 in 2004). Counties with the lowest numbers of drug arrests per thousand residents include Clark, Jefferson, Power and Adams (all had arrest rates of less than 3 per 1,000 in 2004).

Chart 8 displays the average rate of drug arrests per county from 1998 to 2004. The average rate of drug arrests per county is also listed on Table 7 (page 11), however the table only includes rates for 2003 to 2004 and the percent change for these two years. The table also lists the total number of arrests related to possession of drugs or drug equipment by county between 1998 and 2004.

Charts 9 and 10 give the percentage of arrests per county related to marijuana (Chart 9) and then meth (Chart 10). It is apparent from these two charts that Idaho's southern counties have a higher proportion of arrests related to methamphetamine than other counties in Idaho, while central Idaho has a higher proportion of drug arrests related to marijuana.

Chart 8 displays the average rate of drug arrests per 1,000 population from 1998 through 2004. Counties with the highest rates of drug arrests in comparison to the size of the population included Caribou, Valley, Benewah, Shoshone and Bannock Counties. The counties with the least number of average year to year drug arrests per 1,000 population included Camas, Lemhi*, Bear Lake, Lincoln, and Jefferson.

Chart 8. Average Rate of Drug Arrests Per 1,000 Population: 1998 - 2004

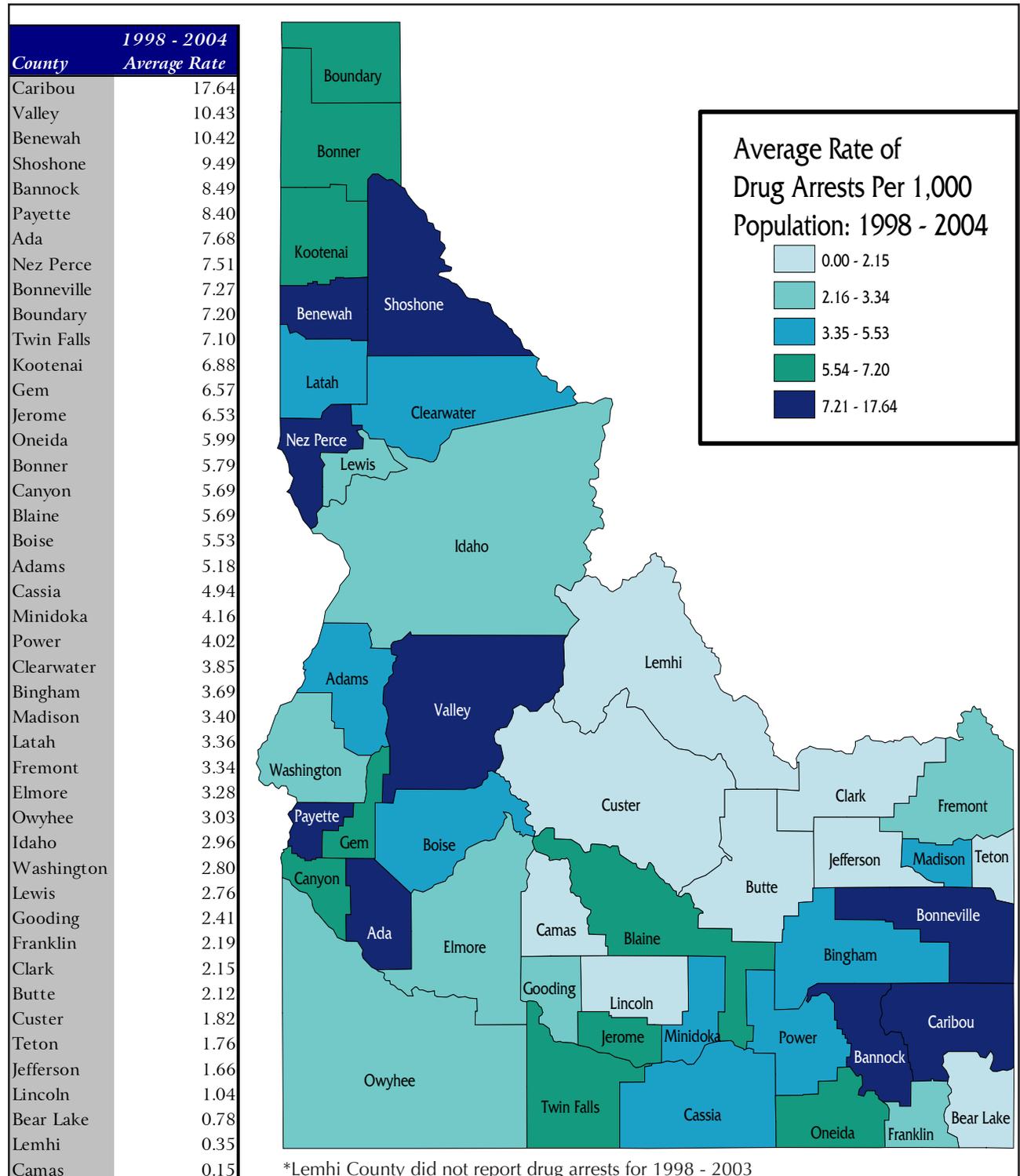


Chart 9 depicts the percentage of drug arrests by county in 2004 that were marijuana related. This helps explain the county resources marijuana consumes versus other drugs. For Adams, Custer, Lemhi, Lewis and Jefferson, marijuana accounted for over 80% of all drug related arrests. For Camas and Clark counties, marijuana possession by arrestees was not significant. Only 7 counties had less than 50% of their drug related arrests linked with marijuana.

Chart 9. Percentage of County Drug Arrests Related to Marijuana: 2004

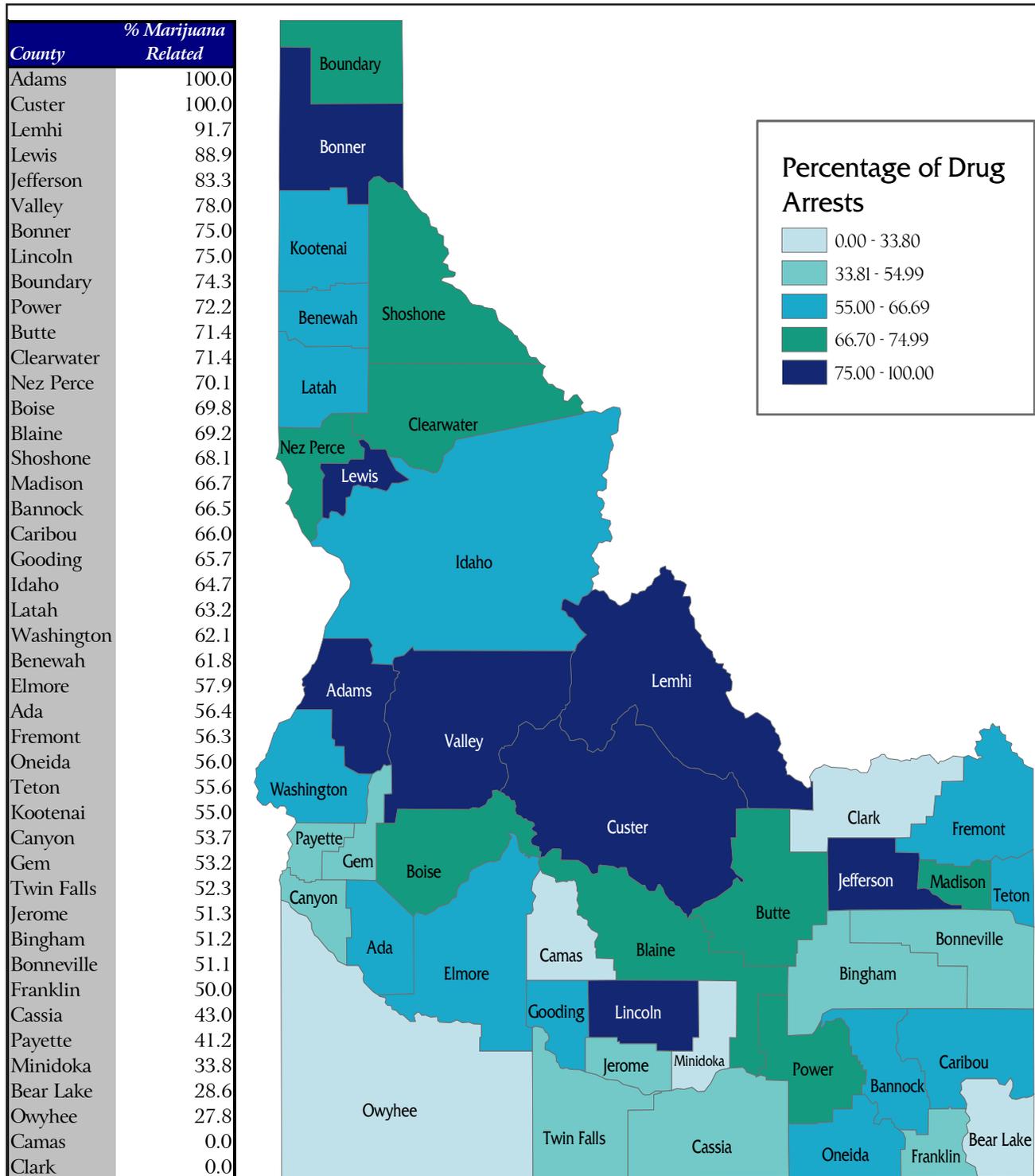


Chart 10 displays the percentage of county drug arrests that were related to methamphetamine in 2004. Counties with the greatest amount of their individual resources going towards meth included Owyhee, Bear Lake, Minidoka, Cassia, and Franklin. All five of these counties had at least 50% of their drug related arrests linked with methamphetamine. Five additional counties had 0 arrestees in possession of meth (Adams, Camas, Clark, Custer and Jefferson).

Chart 10. Percentage of County Drug Arrests Related to Methamphetamine: 2004

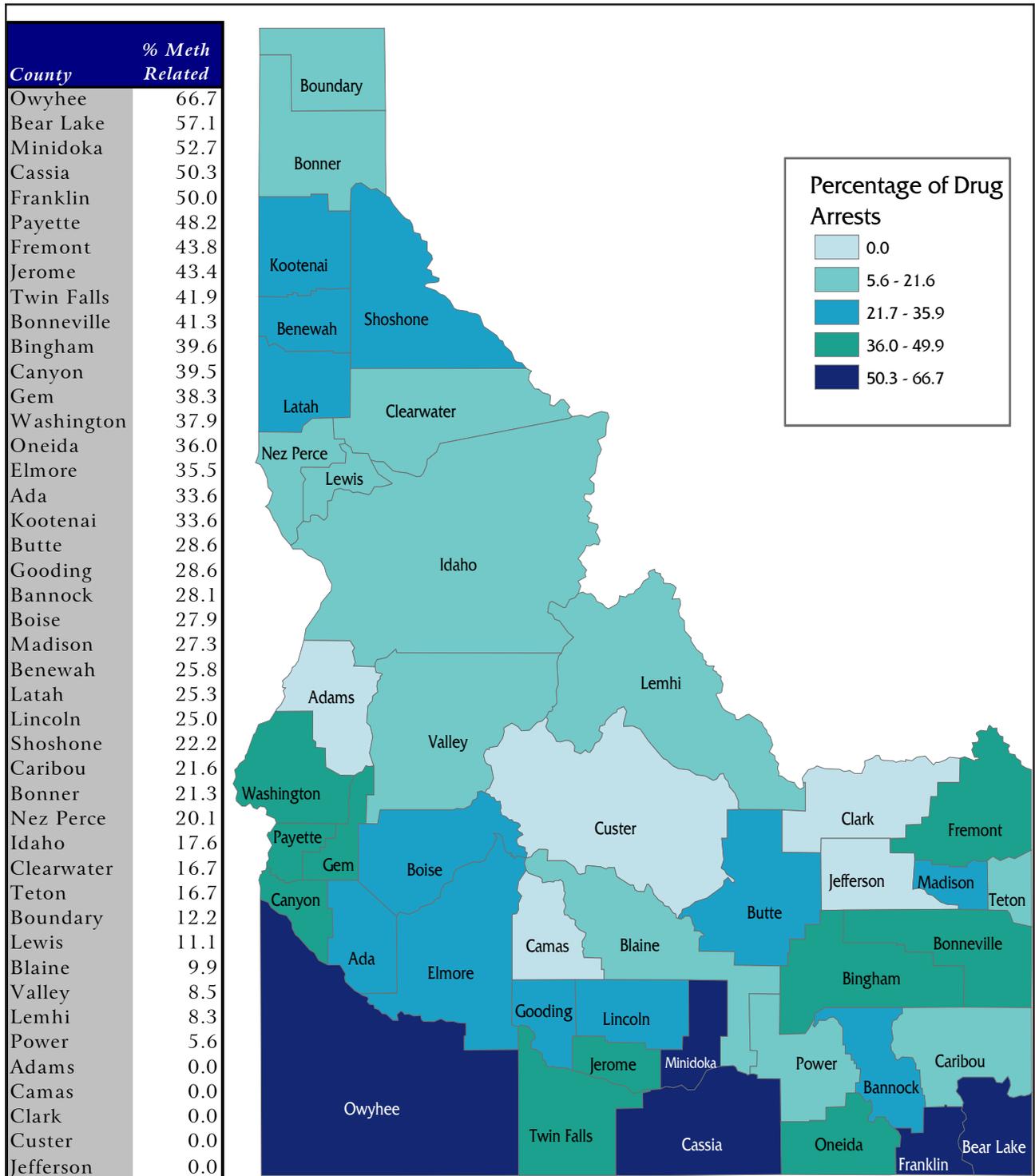


Table 7. Arrests Related to Possession of Drug/Narcotics or Equipment Violations by County

County	Total Drug Arrests (1998 to 2004)							Arrest Rate per 1,000		Rate Change	Rate Change
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003/2004	Indicator
Ada	2525	2509	2577	2475	2194	2106	2179	6.47	6.55	1.28	(+)
Adams	40	36	17	5	15	6	8	1.73	2.32	34.03	(+)
Bannock	454	545	725	685	693	644	745	8.53	9.85	15.41	(+)
Bear Lake	1	5	3	11	1	0	14	0.00	2.21		(+)
Benewah	90	89	105	95	74	103	105	11.40	11.72	2.75	(+)
Bingham	141	114	192	152	186	135	170	3.15	3.93	25.05	(+)
Blaine	111	110	131	100	115	108	105	5.21	4.98	-4.49	(-)
Boise	25	31	35	72	43	15	43	2.07	5.84	181.76	(+)
Bonner	242	226	221	197	157	200	280	5.10	7.02	37.63	(+)
Bonneville	523	590	624	538	665	584	779	6.69	8.69	29.80	(+)
Boundary	58	47	46	85	95	83	89	8.16	8.56	4.92	(+)
Butte	8	6	11	4	5	0	9	0.00	3.17		(+)
Camas	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	No change
Canyon	623	684	652	833	834	900	1064	5.94	6.73	13.33	(+)
Caribou	102	173	165	107	124	131	98	18.21	13.59	-25.39	(-)
Cassia	63	85	80	110	117	114	173	5.29	8.09	52.78	(+)
Clark	0	3	1	0	0	10	0	11.00	0.00	-100.00	(-)
Clearwater	16	30	32	38	29	27	61	3.20	7.27	127.41	(+)
Custer	12	7	6	2	10	11	6	2.67	1.46	-45.40	(-)
Elmore	88	82	90	89	103	119	92	4.14	3.19	-23.05	(-)
Franklin	46	18	38	12	26	22	14	1.85	1.15	-37.93	(-)
Fremont	57	36	37	54	45	31	19	2.55	1.55	-39.15	(-)
Gem	110	104	82	110	133	101	67	6.40	4.20	-34.41	(-)
Gooding	39	42	26	34	31	23	44	1.61	3.07	91.08	(+)
Idaho	55	52	46	26	39	44	59	2.84	3.78	33.01	(+)
Jefferson	23	20	26	29	37	85	9	4.20	0.43	-89.70	(-)
Jerome	101	105	89	131	151	171	101	9.04	5.24	-42.03	(-)
Kootenai	695	673	729	720	767	913	913	7.76	7.46	-3.87	(-)
Latah	97	100	146	112	139	126	103	3.60	2.93	-18.68	(-)
Lemhi	*	*	*	*	*	*	19	0.00	2.43		(+)
Lewis	2	6	8	9	17	16	14	4.27	3.73	-12.64	(-)
Lincoln	1	2	1	1	3	18	5	4.18	1.16	-72.38	(-)
Madison	77	74	97	118	125	84	104	2.83	3.38	19.56	(+)
Minidoka	61	78	81	107	69	99	79	5.12	4.11	-19.77	(-)
Nez Perce	255	295	301	341	254	258	263	6.84	6.95	1.61	(+)
Oneida	9	21	38	13	17	48	27	11.63	6.52	-43.94	(-)
Owyhee	26	22	41	30	43	47	20	4.23	1.82	-57.04	(-)
Payette	179	148	173	161	140	203	225	9.45	10.42	10.27	(+)
Power	42	15	40	45	18	30	22	4.08	2.94	-27.89	(-)
Shoshone	96	174	236	111	81	80	115	6.39	8.97	40.26	(+)
Teton	14	4	13	4	2	21	22	2.98	3.03	1.87	(+)
Twin Falls	493	340	371	352	435	574	687	8.56	10.11	18.14	(+)
Valley	76	68	103	100	81	57	79	7.34	9.91	34.98	(+)
Washington	32	13	20	22	31	45	33	4.50	3.28	-27.04	(-)
Total*	8698	8823	9442	9127	9151	9557	9910	6.99	7.11	1.76	(+)

*Lemhi County did not report during years 1998 through 2003