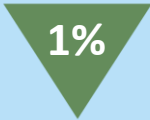


Intimate Partner Violence in Idaho, 2022

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KEY FINDINGS

Since 2016...



Decrease in number of IPV victims known to law enforcement



Increase in number of IPV victims who received grant-funded services

Victim Service Agency Needs

- Resources for expanding services in rural areas
- Improved awareness of available services
- Housing/shelter for victims

According to data collected from state and local law enforcement agencies, the rate of intimate partner violence (IPV) victimization has declined slightly over the last seven years. However, agencies that provide services to IPV victims have been warning that victimization is actually increasing. This research brief examines recent trends in IPV victimization, as well as the needs of non-profit agencies that provide services to IPV victims.

Measures of Victimization

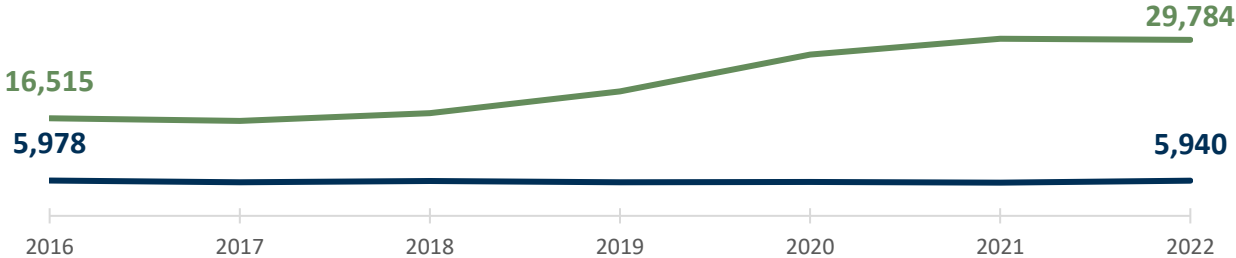
Idaho Incident-Based Reporting System

State and local law enforcement agencies report data on criminal incidents to the Idaho Incident-Based Reporting System (IIBRS), housed at the Idaho State Police. In 2022, 5,940 victims of IPV were known to law enforcement, a 1% decrease since 2016. The victimization rate was 3.2 victims per 1,000 Idaho residents, down 9% from 2016. IPV victims accounted for 31% of all victims of crimes against persons in 2022. See Figure 2 for county-level victimization rate information.

Grant-Funded Victim Services

The State of Idaho manages multiple federal grant programs that provide funding to agencies serving victims of crime. These programs include the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance, STOP Violence Against Women Act (STOP), and Sexual Assault Services Formula Program (SASP) federal grants. In 2022, these funds enabled victim service providers to serve 29,784 IPV victims, up 80% from 2016. In 2022, the number of IPV victims who accessed services via programs funded with federal dollars was five times higher than the number of IPV victims known to law enforcement (up from 2.8 times higher in 2016).

Figure 1. The number of intimate partner violence victims who received grant-funded services was five times higher than the number known to law enforcement in 2022.



Law Enforcement Data for Historically Underserved Populations

Hispanic/Latino Victims

Individuals who identify as Hispanic/Latino reported being victimized to law enforcement at higher rates than the general population in 2022, according to IIBRS data. The rate of reported intimate partner violence among Idaho’s Hispanic/Latino population was 3.36 per 1,000 Hispanic/Latino residents, compared to 3.20 overall. While Hispanics/Latinos accounted for 13.0% of Idaho’s population in 2022, they accounted for 13.8% of IPV victims known to law enforcement. Hispanic/Latino victims tended to be concentrated in southern Idaho, where they make up a larger share of the overall population due to their significant presence in the agricultural labor force (see Figure 3).

American Indian/Alaska Native Victims

Individuals who identify as American Indian/Alaska Native reported being victimized to law enforcement at lower rates than the general population in 2022, according to IIBRS data. The rate of reported intimate partner violence among Idaho’s American Indian/Alaska Native population was 1.87 per 1,000 American Indian/Alaska Native residents, compared to 3.20 overall. While American Indians/Alaska Natives accounted for 2.8% of Idaho’s population in 2022, they accounted for 1.9% of IPV victims known to law enforcement. American Indian/Alaska Native victims tended to be concentrated in the northern and eastern regions of the state, which are where four of the five reservations in Idaho are located (see Figure 4).

Victim Service Agency Needs

Victim service agencies are regularly provided opportunities to communicate agency needs to the Pass-Through Grants and Research (PGR) Department of the Idaho State Police, which serves as the State Administering Agency (SAA) for the STOP and SASP grants. Additionally, in 2019, the Idaho Statistical Analysis Center (ISAC; a component of PGR) surveyed victim service providers as part of a larger criminal justice system needs assessment.¹ Three of the most commonly cited needs by victim service agencies are discussed below.

Resources for Expanding Services in Rural Areas

62% of respondents to ISAC’s survey who work in victim service agencies indicated that their agency serves clients from a county outside where the agency is located, with 45% saying their clients come to them and only 33% saying their staff can travel to meet their clients. Two agencies that receive STOP funding noted in their 2022 annual reports that the need for additional services in rural areas was a “significant area of remaining need”.

“Our community has a few resources but not as many as bigger cities and counties have. We are in need of more specific counselors on the subject of sexual assault and domestic violence. The waiting list for our counseling center is long and it is hard for our victims to get help without waiting a long time.”

¹ Strauss, T., Swerin, D., & Kifer, M.M. (2020, May). *Idaho criminal justice needs assessment: A survey of criminal justice practitioners and community leaders*. Retrieved from <https://isp.idaho.gov/pgr/sac/library/>

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Improved Awareness of Available Services

In their 2022 annual reports, five agencies that receive STOP and/or SASP funding reported that there needs to be an improvement in community awareness of services available to IPV victims. Programs noted that both officer training and strengthening the relationship between victim services and law enforcement would increase victim safety, victim awareness of services that are available to them, and ultimately criminal case processing and outcomes.

“Another area of need is officer training. Our officers are responding to a large variety of calls and handling larger caseloads which I believe is leading to the officers forgetting to utilize the VWC [victim-witness coordinator] as a resource at the time of the initial incident.”

Others saw this issue as one that could be corrected through better outreach to the community as a whole. There is a sense that because intimate partner violence has not historically been a topic that is routinely discussed in public forums in some communities, starting to have those discussions could both improve public knowledge about the services that are available to victims, as well as getting all of the relevant justice system stakeholders (law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and victim service agencies) on the same page regarding how IPV is handled and encourage more victims to come forward rather than remaining in abusive relationships or homes.

“There needs to be more education/outreach. Many victims do not know the services available to them. Educating through advertising, through flyers, and events may be able to help with that issue.”

Housing/Shelter for IPV Victims

Idaho’s population growth in recent years has put a strain on all residents, and that strain is magnified for victims of IPV. 97% of respondents to ISAC’s 2019 survey who work in victim service agencies said that housing/shelter for victims was a “moderate” or “high” need. STOP and SASP recipients echoed that sentiment in their 2022 annual reports.

“Available and affordable housing in our community remains a challenge for survivors needing to leave an abusive household. Victims who want to leave are choosing to stay due to the overwhelming fear of securing long-term housing with limited financial resources.”

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Conclusion

Although law enforcement agencies recorded fewer IPV victims in 2022 than 2016, demand for services nearly doubled during that same time. This has put a strain on victim service agencies, with near unanimous agreement in the field that additional resources, including victim housing/shelter, are needed just to keep up with demand. At the same time, multiple agencies noted they believe not all victims are aware of the services available to them. That is an issue that, if corrected, will likely increase demand beyond its current levels, in turn putting even more strain on agencies to provide services to everyone who needs them. Further, the resource scarcity issue will only become more pronounced as federal funding levels for direct service provision decline (2022 was the first year to see a decline in grant funding disbursed since ISAC began tracking grant funding for direct victim services in 2016, mostly due to a \$2.4 million drop in disbursed VOCA funds). The administrators of these funds (including, but not limited to, the state SAAs for VOCA, STOP, and SASP) should be aware of these issues and work to allocate resources as efficiently as possible to ensure that all Idahoans have access to effective services when they need them.

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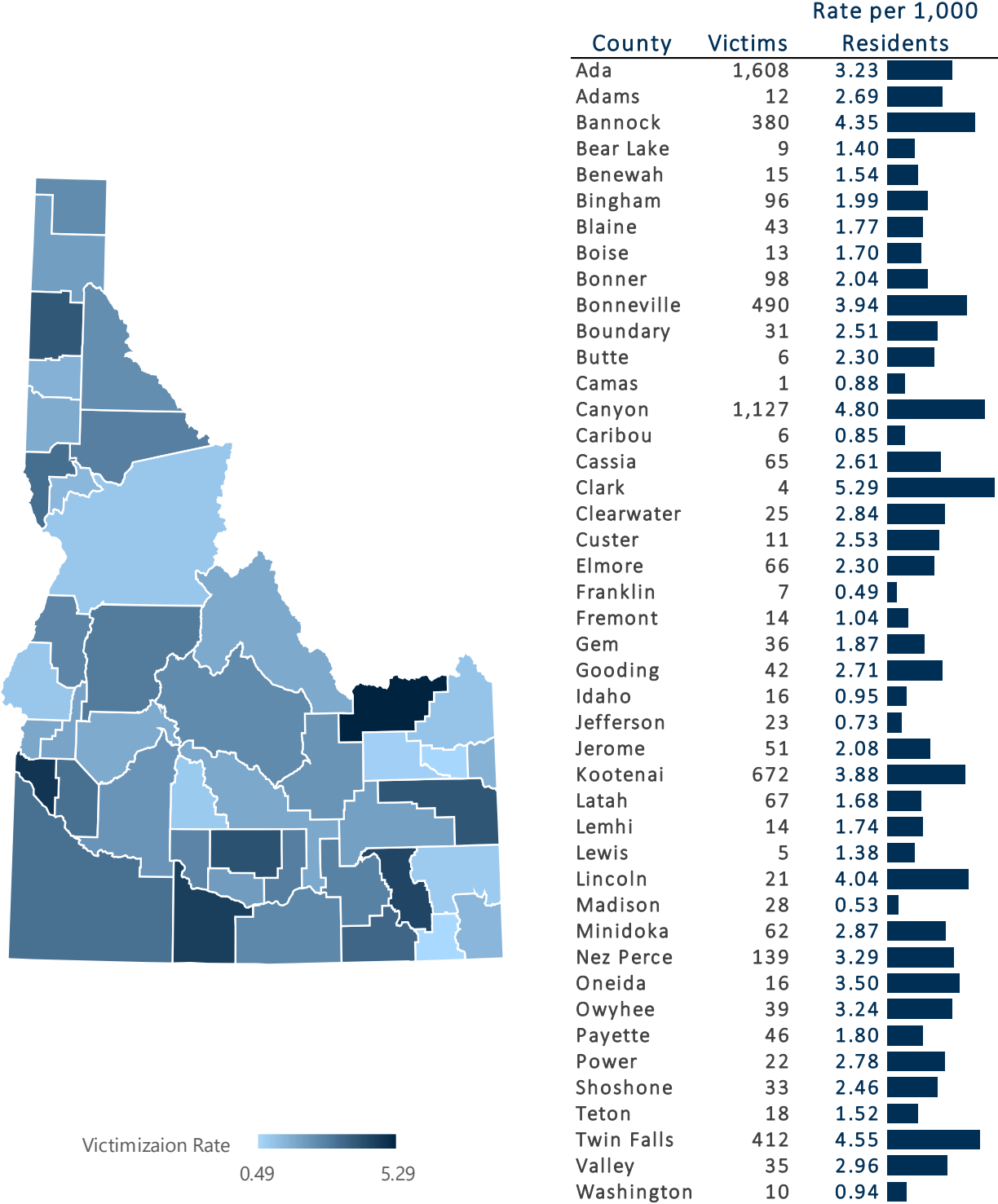
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Figure 2. Total Victims of Intimate Partner Violence Known to Law Enforcement, 2022

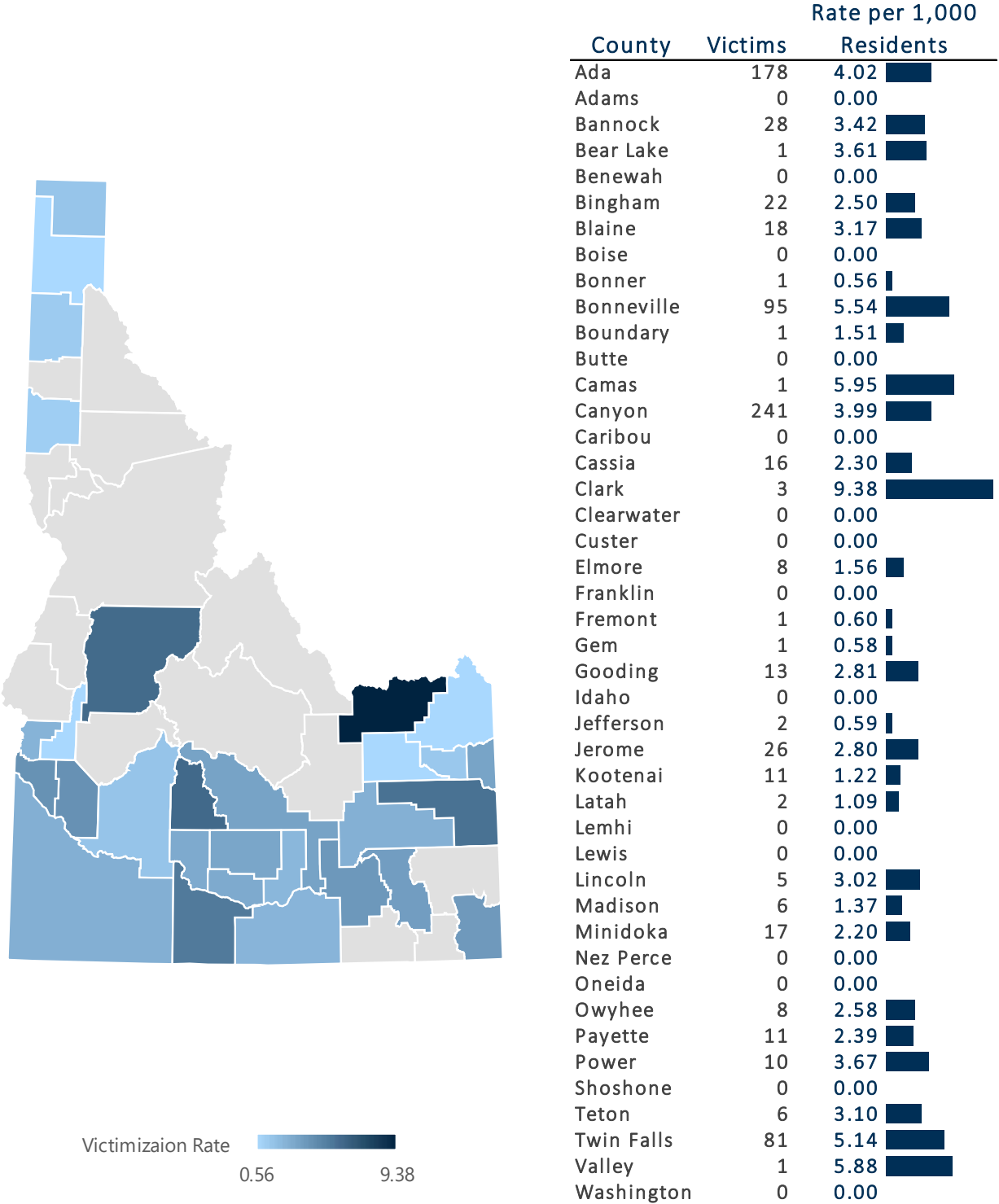


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Figure 3. Hispanic/Latino Victims of Intimate Partner Violence Known to Law Enforcement, 2022

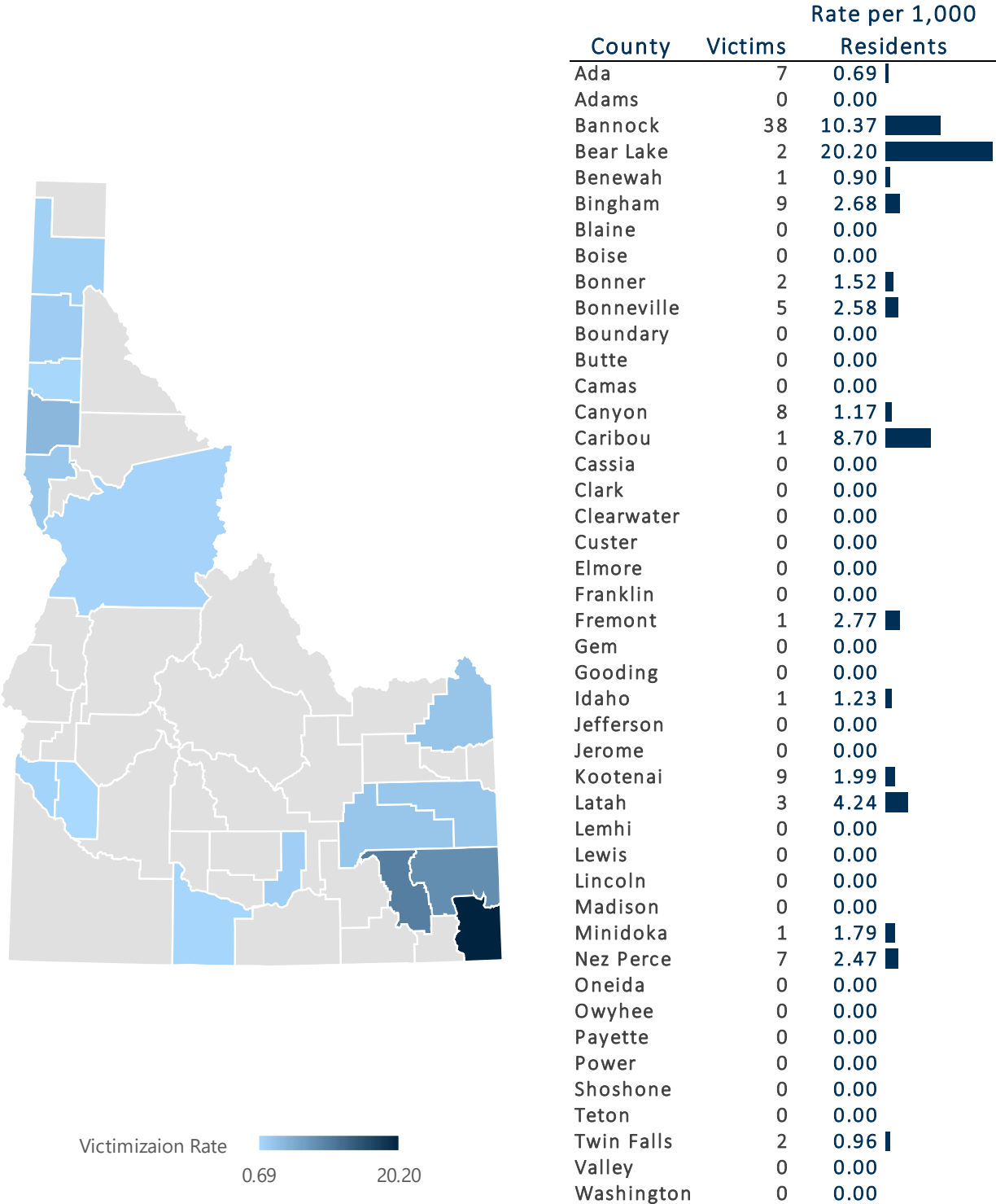


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Figure 4. American Indian/Alaska Native Victims of Intimate Partner Violence Known to Law Enforcement, 2022



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Figure 5. Total Victims of Intimate Partner Homicide Known to Law Enforcement, 2022

