

Research Brief

Intimate Partner Violence in Idaho, 2023

April 2025

KEY FINDINGS

Between 2016 and 2023



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
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs)

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 eight years. However, agencies that provide services to IPV victims have warned that the actual rate of IPV victimization is likely much higher than law enforcement data suggests. 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

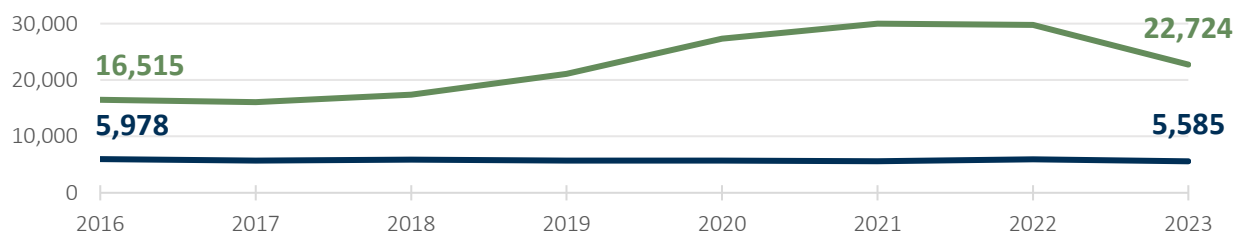
Idaho Incident-Based Reporting System

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 2023, 5,585 victims of IPV were known to law enforcement, a 7% decrease from 2016. The victimization rate was 3.0 victims per 1,000 Idaho residents, down 16% from 2016. IPV victims accounted for 31% of all victims of crimes against persons in 2023. 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 2023, these funds enabled victim service providers to serve 22,724 IPV victims, up 38% from 2016, but down 24% from 2022 (29,784). In 2023, the number of IPV victims who accessed services via programs funded with federal dollars was 4.1 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 more than four times higher than the number known to law enforcement in 2023.



Law Enforcement Data for Historically Underserved Populations

Hispanic/Latino Victims

Individuals who identify as Hispanic/Latino reported being victimized to law enforcement at a slightly lower rate than the general population in 2023, according to IIBRS data. The rate of reported intimate partner violence among Idaho’s Hispanic/Latino population was 2.89 per 1,000 Hispanic/Latino residents, compared to 2.96 overall. Further, while Hispanics/Latinos accounted for 13.3% of Idaho’s population in 2023, they accounted for 13.1% of IPV victims known to law enforcement. This signifies a break in the historical trend of Hispanic/Latino IPV victims being overrepresented in the law enforcement data (i.e., having a higher victimization rate than the general Idaho population). 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 2023, according to IIBRS data. The rate of reported intimate partner violence among Idaho’s American Indian/Alaska Native population was 1.12 per 1,000 American Indian/Alaska Native residents, compared to 2.96 overall. While American Indians/Alaska Natives accounted for 2.9% of Idaho’s population in 2023, they accounted for 1.1% 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 2024, the Idaho Statistical Analysis Center (ISAC; a component of PGR) surveyed victim service providers as part of a larger criminal justice system stakeholder survey.¹ Three of the most commonly cited needs by victim service agencies are discussed below.

Resources for Expanding Services in Rural Areas

About two-thirds (66%) 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. 43% of respondents said their agency’s staff can travel to provide services, and 25% said they can provide services via telehealth or another online platform. However, 40% still reported that at least some clients travel to them from other counties. Nine agencies that receive STOP funding noted in their 2023 annual reports that the need for additional services in rural areas was a “significant area of remaining need”, up from two in 2022.

“With our organization serving a rural area, there are additional barriers for survivors of violence without transportation. These clients are farther away from supportive services, increasing the difficulty of receiving needed services to escape violence.”

¹ Rodgers, K., & Strauss, T. (2024, October). 2024 Idaho justice system stakeholder survey. Retrieved from <https://isp.idaho.gov/pgr/isac/>

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Improved Awareness of Available Services

In their 2023 annual reports, 10 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 (up from five in 2022). Programs noted that a more collaborative approach that bridges the gap between victim service agencies, law enforcement, prosecution, and medical providers would increase victim safety, victim awareness of services that are available to them, and ultimately help improve criminal case processing and outcomes.

“Training and ongoing efforts to build strong coordinated community responses are critical to ensuring the needs of victims of crime are met. [Our agency] meets regularly with local law enforcement organizations, medical providers, education institutions, prosecutors, etc. to ensure that processes are running smoothly. [Our agency] sees a need for more activity from rural communities and court personnel to round out the needs of a coordinated community response.”

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 on the same page regarding how IPV is handled and encourage more victims to come forward rather than remaining in abusive relationships or homes.

“Our greatest need is continuing to get into the community being able to talk to everyone and let them know how we can help and what services we provide.”

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs)

IPV victims are often also victims of sexual violence (SV). According to IIBRS data, in 2023, 14% of SV victims were sexually assaulted by an intimate partner. As a result, many IPV victims also need to have access to services specific to any sexual violence they have experienced. In 2024, Idaho State Police Forensic Services announced that it had trained over 250 SANEs since 2017.² Despite this achievement, 85% of respondents to ISAC’s 2024 survey who work in victim service agencies said that access to SANE programs locally remains a “high” or “moderate” need. STOP and SASP recipients echoed that sentiment in their 2023 annual reports.

“An ongoing need in our area is the lack of SANE trained nurses at our local hospital. Once a year, the Idaho State Police offers a free training for local nurses and very few attend. There is a significant turnover at the hospital, especially nurses who take the training while working in the Emergency Department then transfer to other departments. Unfortunately, this has left victims and advocates waiting at the hospital for hours while staff tries to find a nurse who has taken the training or is familiar with the procedures for performing the rape kit. In addition, most of the smaller hospitals don't have trained staff to complete a rape forensic exam and many victims are sent to the hospital in Lewiston which can be up to 1.5 hours away.”

² Idaho State Police. (2024, October 29). *Idaho State Police announces milestone of 250 trained SANE nurses*. Retrieved from <https://isp.idaho.gov/idaho-state-police-announces-milestone-of-250-trained-sane-nurses/>

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Conclusion


Although law enforcement agencies recorded fewer IPV victims in 2023 than 2016, demand for services has skyrocketed in that time. Since 2019, the number of IPV victims receiving federally funded services has hovered between four and five times higher than the number known to law enforcement. This has put a strain on victim service agencies, with near unanimous agreement in the field that additional resources, especially in rural areas, are needed just to keep up with demand. At the same time, multiple agencies noted they believe not all victims have access to services or are aware of the services available to them. That is an issue that, if corrected, will likely increase demand beyond its current levels, putting even more strain on agencies to provide services to everyone who needs them.

Further, the decline in the amount of federal grant funds that are available to support the provision of direct services is already having an impact in Idaho. Although federal funding for victim services increased 87% between 2017 and 2021 to a high point of \$16 million, funding fell 13% in 2022 to \$13.9 million and fell another 6% in 2023 to \$13.2 million. Similarly, the number of IPV victims served by federally funded programs increased 87% between 2017 and 2021, but then fell 1% in 2022 and another 24% in 2023. This indicates that the increase in funding from 2017 to 2021 aided Idaho’s victim service agencies in ramping up their capacity to serve larger numbers of victims, but that capacity is now being scaled back as the amount of available grant funding decreases. 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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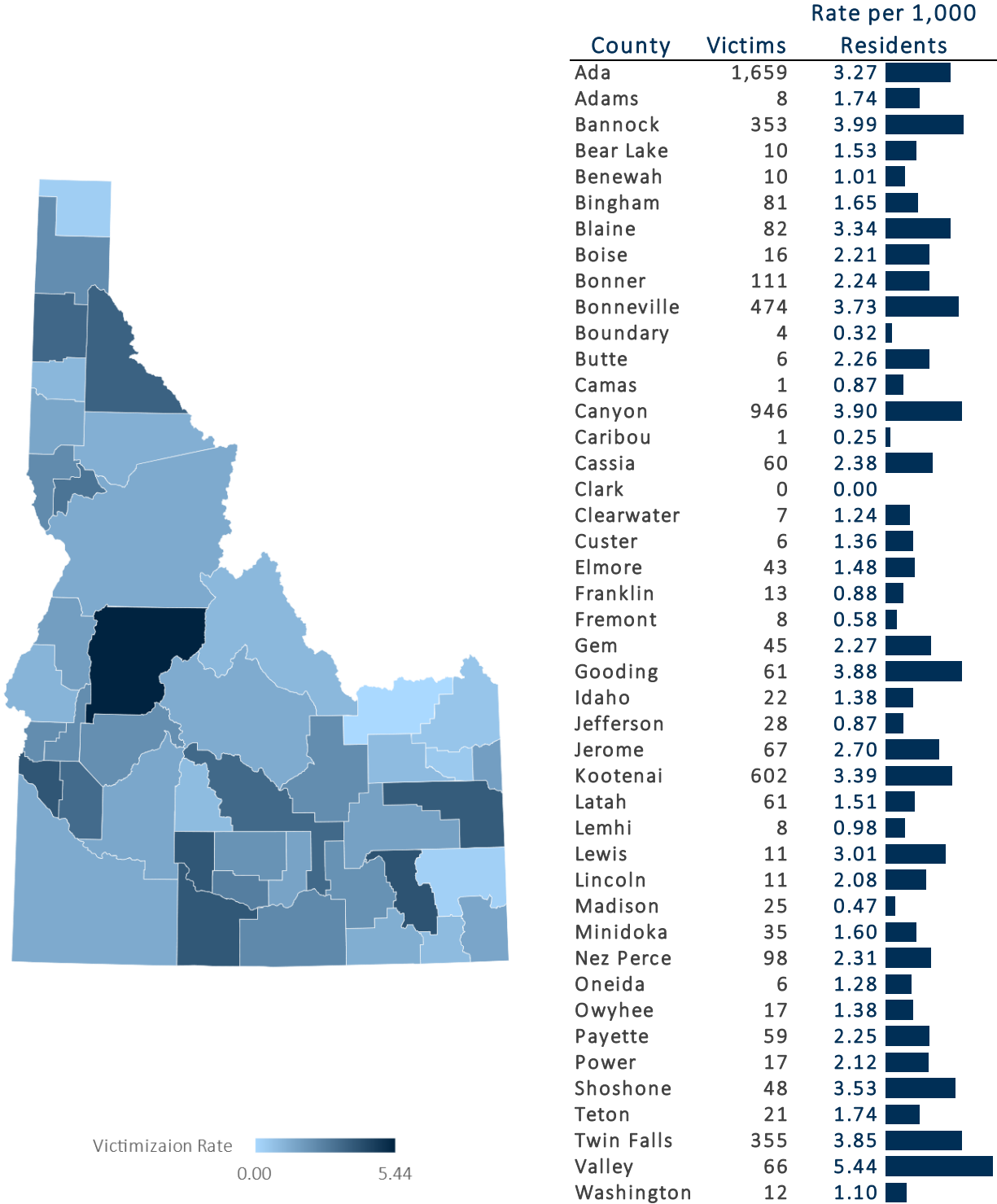
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Figure 2. Total Victims of Intimate Partner Violence Known to Law Enforcement, 2023

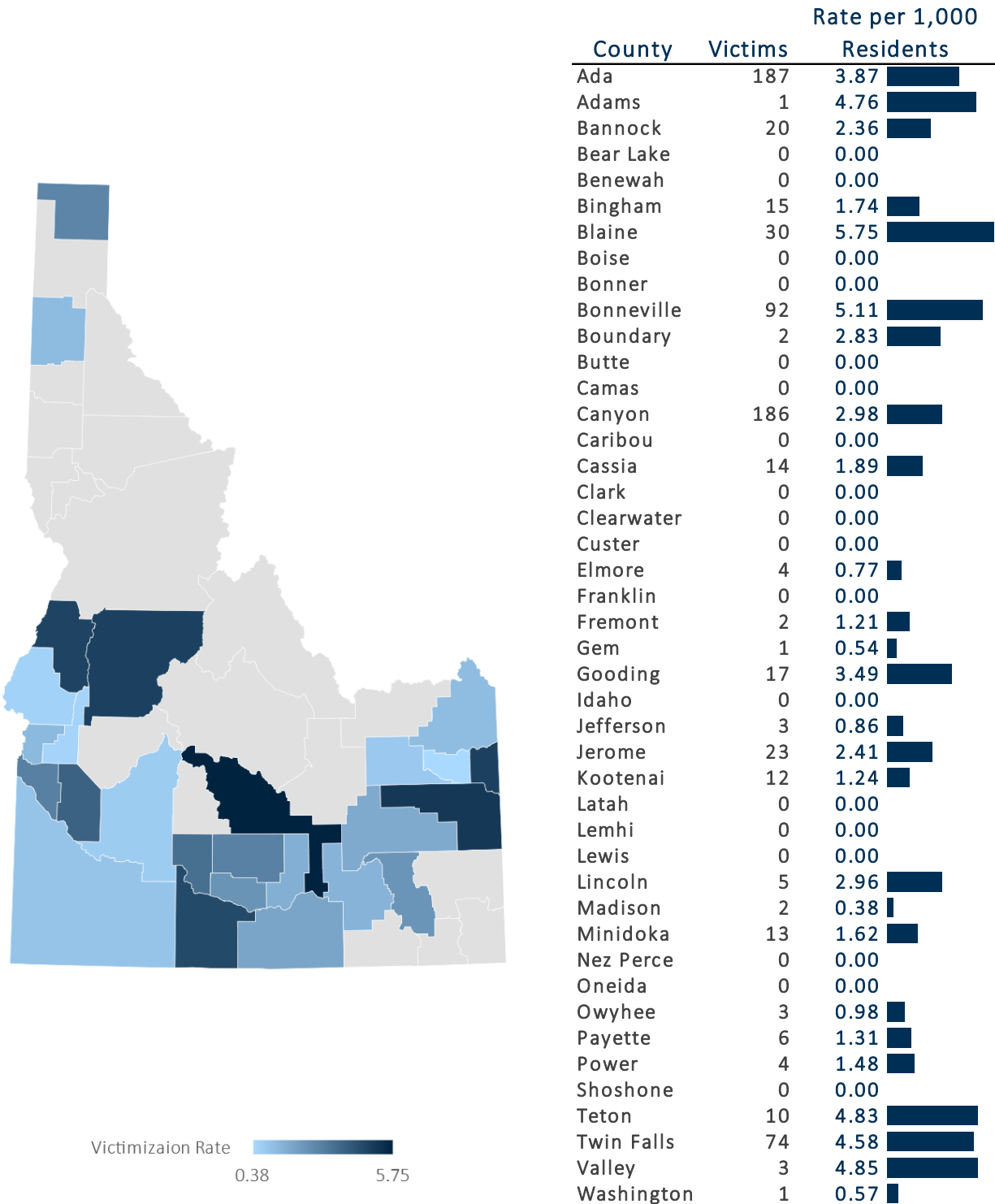


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Figure 3. Hispanic/Latino Victims of Intimate Partner Violence Known to Law Enforcement, 2023

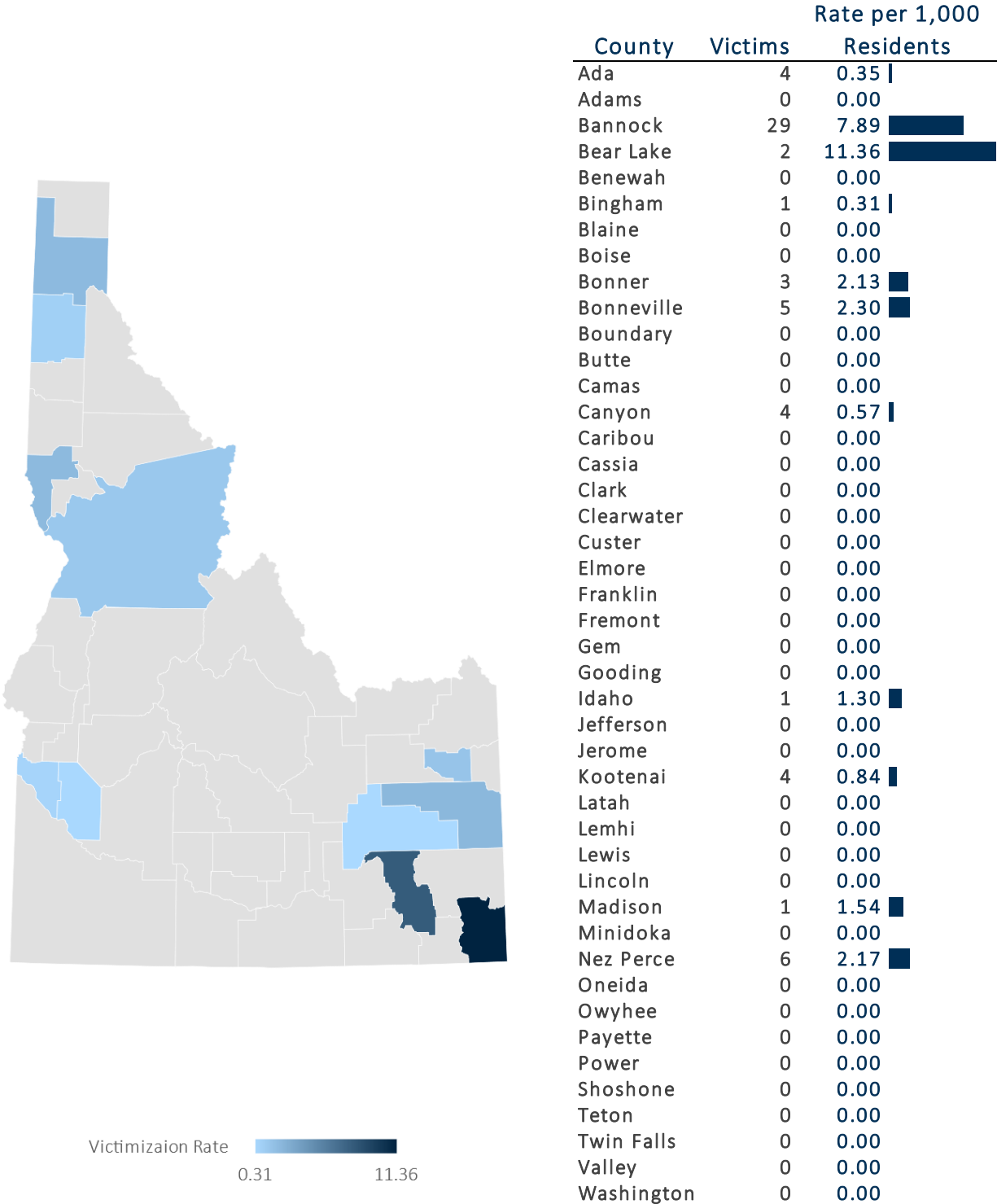


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Figure 4. American Indian/Alaska Native Victims of Intimate Partner Violence Known to Law Enforcement, 2023



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Figure 5. Total Victims of Intimate Partner Homicide Known to Law Enforcement, 2023

