

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Idaho Strategic Plan 2024-2028



Pass-Through Grants and Research
Idaho State Police



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INTRODUCTION

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) (42 U.S.C. 3751 (a)) is the primary vehicle of federal criminal justice grant funding to states and local jurisdictions. JAG provides the critical funding necessary to support a wide range of program areas and is a critical part of the success of countless criminal justice programs in Idaho.

JAG funding is administered by the Pass-Through Grants and Research (PGR) Department of the Idaho State Police (ISP), the Governor appointed State Administering Agency (SAA) for Idaho. Each SAA is required to pass-through a predetermined percentage of the state JAG allocation to units of local government. Idaho's variable pass-through (VPT) percentage for federal fiscal year (FFY) 24 is 63%. State agencies, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, and Tribal governments, along with units of local government, are eligible for the remaining percentage of JAG funds.

PGR administrative duties include the following.

- Creating, updating, and releasing solicitations for new and continuation projects.
- Reviewing applications to ensure projects and expenditures are allowable.
- Issuing subgrantee award documents and special conditions.
- Reviewing, processing, and approving or disapproving programmatic, financial, and Federal Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) reports, along with draw requests and adjustments.
- Providing technical assistance.
- Monitoring subgrantees through site visits and desk reviews.
- Updating the PGR Grants Management System (GMS).
- Completing federal applications, reports (including Deaths in Custody), and Grant Award Modifications (GAM).
- Participating in required federal financial and other grant management related trainings.

While PGR is the SAA for JAG, funding decisions are determined by the Grant Review Council (Council), which was established under Idaho Executive Order 2011-11 and continued under 2020-20. The Council is a subcommittee of the Idaho Criminal Justice Commission (ICJC) and consists of 13 ICJC members and seven (7) non-ICJC members. Of the 20 Council members, eight (8) are from state agencies, while the remaining 13 represent local jurisdictions. Five (5) members are from law enforcement agencies, five (5) from prosecution or court agencies (including public defense), four (4) represent adult and juvenile corrections or community corrections, two (2) are from statewide victim services organizations, and four (4) are from other organizations (i.e., Idaho Office of Drug Policy and Idaho Association of Counties) and citizens at large (one of which represents tribal communities in Idaho). The ICJC is responsible for developing the Idaho Criminal Justice Commission Three-Year Strategic Plan, which includes priorities for JAG subgrantees. These priorities guide the Council's funding strategy and subgrant award decisions. The Strategic Plan, along with the strategic planning process, is further described in the "Idaho Criminal Justice Priorities" section.

NEEDS IDENTIFICATION AND DATA ANALYSIS

In 2024, the Idaho Statistical Analysis Center (ISAC), the research and data analysis team within PGR, was tasked with conducting a survey of criminal justice stakeholders. ISAC developed and administered the system-wide survey to solicit the opinions of front-line staff throughout Idaho's criminal justice system. Input was gathered from law enforcement officers, juvenile justice practitioners, corrections and court staff, victim service providers, victim-witness coordinators, prosecutors, public defenders, and elected officials. The following information is provided by ISAC through their analysis of the 2024 Idaho Justice System Stakeholder Survey, along with data from Idaho's Incident Based Reporting System (IIBRS) and other data from ISAC's research partners.

Major Criminal Justice Topics Identified through Surveys and Data Analysis

Two areas in particular (mental health and substance misuse, housing, and other services for crime victims) stand out as areas of high need in Idaho's justice system. Responses to the stakeholder survey were largely focused on these two issues, and available data from criminal justice agencies and other data sources supports the opinions of those respondents. A summary of the two areas is included here, followed by more detailed data from several data sets available to ISAC (including the stakeholder survey).

Mental Health and Substance Misuse

Stakeholders from all six sectors included in the survey (law enforcement, adult corrections, juvenile corrections, courts, victim services, and elected officials) largely agreed that more resources are needed to address the problems of mental health and substance misuse in their communities.¹ There was a high level of agreement among respondents that mental health and substance abuse are contributing to criminal activity and that early interventions in these areas could potentially work to reduce crime rates. Drug crime now constitutes a much larger share of the law enforcement workload, rising from 9% of all offenses reported to IIBRS in 2005 to nearly 25% in 2023. Further, while the offense rate for nearly every other type of crime decreased during that time, the drug offense rate increased 55%. Finally, the overdose death rate attributed to opioids increased 153% from 2012 to 2022, while the fentanyl overdose death rate increased a staggering 978%, or nearly 10-fold, in that same time.

Housing and Other Services for Crime Victims

Survey respondents in three sectors (law enforcement, adult corrections, and victim services) ranked items related to housing as a top-five need in their community. Specifically, nearly all respondents who work at victim service agencies ranked affordable housing (96%), transitional housing (96%), and emergency shelter (92%) as "high" or "moderate" needs for their client base. Those respondents explained that housing is an important resource for clients, especially those fleeing sexual and/or domestic violence in their current homes, and that without an adequate supply of housing options, clients may be forced to return to unsafe conditions due to their own lack of resources.

Other data suggests that there may not currently be enough capacity to meet the total need for victim services in Idaho. Traditionally, the IIBRS data has formed the basis of our understanding of the nature of crime and victimization in the state, but it may not be telling the whole story. When comparing crime data to performance data submitted by recipients of Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), STOP Violence Against Women (STOP), Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP), and/or Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) grant funding, ISAC found that while nearly three-quarters (72.5%) of victim service agency clients sought services due to experiencing sexual and/or domestic violence, victims of those crimes are substantially underrepresented in the IIBRS data. In 2022, four times more sexual assault victims received services funded by federal funding than reported the assault to law enforcement; for domestic violence victims, the number that received services in 2022 was five times higher than those that reported to law enforcement. Finally, ISAC found a close association between the total number of clients served at agencies receiving federal funding from 2017 to 2022 and the amount of funding awarded in those years, suggesting that the number of clients that receive victim services may be more dependent on the level of resources at the agencies providing those services and less on the underlying crime rate in the community. However, "services for crime victims" often scored low on the stakeholder survey's list of community needs relative to other items.

¹ Rodgers, K. & Strauss, T. (2024, October). *2024 Idaho Justice System Stakeholder Survey*. Retrieved from <https://isp.idaho.gov/pgr/isac/>.

2024 Idaho Justice System Stakeholder Survey

Despite some differences in the needs of the various criminal justice stakeholders specific to the sector they work within, some common themes emerged from the stakeholder survey responses. Overall, there was notable agreement across sectors when respondents were asked to identify the top three (3) public safety issues in their community. Specifically, four (4) of the top five (5) most commonly cited issues across stakeholder groups included crime related to mental illness (six sectors), illicit drug use (six sectors), fentanyl (five sectors), and domestic violence (three sectors). Additionally, when asked to rank the nine (9) JAG purpose areas from highest funding priority to lowest, elected officials ranked “mental health programs” and “drug treatment and enforcement programs” as the top two (2) purpose areas that should be a priority to receive JAG funding.

When asked to rank the needs of their agencies and their communities, stakeholders unsurprisingly identified resources that would address their most pressing public safety issues. Mental health treatment was ranked as the top community need by all six (6) sectors, with substance misuse treatment and co-occurring treatment following close behind. Housing items also ranked as high needs, often appearing in the top five (5) of each sector’s list of community resources. Intervention and treatment programs aimed at addressing domestic/dating violence typically scored in the “moderate” to “high” range, with respondents who work in victim services or in court settings (e.g., prosecutors, judges) rating this need higher than other sectors.

Regarding agency resource and training needs, items related to mental health, substance use, cognitive/developmental disabilities, and trauma-informed care topped the lists for adult and juvenile corrections stakeholders. Law enforcement respondents also rated these items high, but some other items such as active shooters, school safety, cybercrime, and interpreters or bilingual support staff were also mixed in at the top of their list.

Crime in Idaho and IIBRS Data

The ISP Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) publishes the annual *Crime in Idaho* report, a collection and analysis of Uniform Crime Reports submitted by city police departments, county sheriff’s offices, and ISP. The *Crime in Idaho* report details information on Group “A” offenses, which include murder, kidnapping, rape, arson, bribery, drug/narcotic violations, weapon law violations, and 45 other crimes. The current *Crime in Idaho* report, along with reports dating back to 1995, can be found on ISP’s website at <https://nibrs.isp.idaho.gov/CrimeinIdaho>. Violent crimes include murder, negligent manslaughter, kidnapping, rape, fondling, sodomy, sexual assault with an object, aggravated assault, simple assault, and intimidation. Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a violent crime against a spouse, common-law spouse, ex-spouse, or boy/girlfriend.

The State of Idaho is divided into six (6) ISP Districts. Table 1 shows each district, the number of 2023 Group “A” offenses for all counties in the district, the 2023 violent crime rates, and the number of new/continuation JAG projects operating in 2023 and 2024. The *Crime in Idaho 2023* report was released on July 1, 2024.

It is important to note that while Idaho typically experiences universal participation rates in IIBRS, which collects data for the annual *Crime* reports, in 2023 four (4) city agencies did not report data to IIBRS. However, the other 104 agencies that did report data cover 99.6% of Idaho’s population. Throughout this report, the populations living in non-reporting jurisdictions have been removed from all crime rate calculations.

Table 1. Crime Rates by District				
District	Group “A” Offenses*	Violent Crime**	2023 JAG Projects	2024 JAG Projects
1	39.7	9.1	1	7
2	34.8	6.9	0	1
3	36.9	9.6	5	9
4	37.0	10.8	2	3
5	40.4	10.2	0	1
6	30.0	7.8	3	5
Statewide	38.7	9.4	5	8

NOTE: Crime rates are per 1,000 residents living within the jurisdictions of reporting agencies. In 2022, 104 of 108 state and local law enforcement agencies reported full data to IIBRS, covering 99.6% of Idaho’s population. Districts are defined to be consistent with the reporting jurisdictions of ISP and the Idaho Transportation Department (see map on page 13).

*From the Crime in Idaho report, 2023.

**From the Crime in Idaho Data Dashboard. <https://isp.idaho.gov/pgr/cii-dashboard/>

The “Facts at a Glance” portion of the *Crime in Idaho 2023* report shows the increase or decrease in certain Idaho Statewide Crime Profiles from 2022 to 2023. Profiles include Group “A” offenses, crime rate, violent crime, crimes against persons, officers assaulted, hate crimes, crimes against society, and property crimes. Most profiles showed a decrease in crime from 2022, including the total crime rate. According to the Crime Clock, there is one crime against persons committed every 28.6 minutes, an aggravated assault committed every 2.5 hours, a non-consensual sex offense (excluding forcible rape) committed every 7.0 hours, and a rape committed every .7 hours.

There are several offenses categorized as crimes against persons that changed from 2022 to 2023: rape (down 11.1%), sodomy (up 1.5%), sexual assault with an object (down 0.5%), intimidation (down 9.0%), and kidnapping (up 6.1%). Of all reported rapes in 2023, 71.9% occurred in a residence. Information on the sex of victims shows 56.3% of crimes against persons were committed against female victims. Data also shows that violence against children decreased 2.4% from 2022 to 2023.

IIBRS and Grant Performance Measurement Data – Domestic Violence

In 2024, ISAC completed an assessment of the Nampa Family Justice Center’s (NFJC) JAG-funded projects that were active between October 2020 and September 2023, with a focus on the 12-month period from October 2021 to September 2022.^{2,3} NFJC uses JAG funding for multiple programs aimed at expanding services for vulnerable victims of crime (specifically children, elders, and Spanish speakers), many of whom have been impacted by domestic violence. The assessment revealed that NFJC has been successful in meeting the project’s objectives. The one-year client retention rate for participants was 76%, meaning that more than three-quarters of participants were staying engaged with the programs and getting a larger benefit from them than those who dropped out after just one session (client retention was identified by NFJC leadership as a key short- to medium-term outcome measure). For adult clients specifically, those participating in a group counseling program called Making Sense of Your Worth showed remarkable gains on measures of their overall self-worth (63% increase pre- to post-program). Finally, youth who attended Camp Hope Idaho in 2021 exhibited gains on the Children’s Hope Scale (10.4% increase) and the Resilience Scale (6.1%) that outpaced the national average that year (7.6% and 6.0%, respectively).

In addition to these JAG funded projects, PGR also manages the STOP and SASP grants, which address domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking in Idaho. As a result of the direct relevance of domestic violence

² The focus on a shorter window than the full grant period was due to a change in record management systems at NFJC. Data in the new system was not directly comparable to data from the old system.

³ Rodgers, K. & Strauss, T. (2024, January). *Serving vulnerable victims of crime: An assessment of the Nampa Family Justice Center’s Byrne JAG programs*. Retrieved from <https://isp.idaho.gov/pgr/isac/>.

and sexual assault to much of PGR's work, ISAC has released multiple resources analyzing trends in domestic violence and sexual assault in Idaho within the past year.

The 2024 ISAC research brief, *Intimate Partner Violence in Idaho, 2022*,⁴ notes that while the number of domestic violence victims known to law enforcement decreased 1% between 2016 and 2022, the number of victims seeking services from Idaho's federally funded victim service programs increased 80%, and the number of victims who sought services in 2022 was five times higher than the number known to law enforcement. This indicates that a large majority of domestic violence victims are not reporting those victimizations to law enforcement. Additionally, the rapid increase in demand for victim services since 2018 has put significant strain on Idaho's victim service agencies. In their 2022 annual performance measurement reports and in responses to ISAC's 2024 survey, the top three resource needs identified by victim service agencies were: (1) more resources for retaining/training staff and expanding services; (2) improving community awareness of the services they offer in order to reach more potential clients and recruit partners to help spread the word; and (3) more housing/shelter options for domestic violence victims and their families.

Although Idaho's victim service agencies are reporting increases in demand for services, law enforcement data tells a different story. In 2022, ISAC expanded their Crime in Idaho Data Dashboard to include law enforcement data on intimate partner violence.⁵ "Intimate partner violence" (IPV) is defined as any crime against persons (e.g., assaults, sexual assaults, kidnapping, murder, etc.) where the relationship between the victim and offender was "boy/girlfriend", "common-law spouse", "ex-relationship", "ex-spouse", "homosexual relationship", or "spouse". The data, pulled from IIBRS, shows that in 2023 Idaho's victimization rate for intimate partner violence was 2.85 victims per 1,000 residents, a 36% decrease and its lowest point since 2005 (the earliest year included in the dashboard) when the rate was 4.47. Most IPV incidents in 2023 were committed by the victim's boyfriend/girlfriend (45.2%) or current spouse (33.8%). Nearly three-quarters of victims were female (72.9%). The largest age group of IPV victims was 25-34 years old (31.1%), followed by 35-44 years old (28.4%) and 18-24 years old (16.7%). Nearly half (42.3%) of victims sustained minor injuries during these incidents, while 12.4% suffered more severe injuries (e.g., broken bones, severe lacerations, loss of consciousness).

In an analysis of offending patterns among domestic violence (DV) offenders in Idaho, ISAC found high recidivism rates for DV offenders⁶, as well as a significant amount of overlap with other crime types. First, nearly half (48%) of DV offenders had been arrested at least once before being arrested for their first DV crime. The most common types of prior arrests were other violent crimes (38% of those previously arrested), drug/alcohol crimes (32%), and property crimes (24%). Turning to recidivism rates, about 40% of DV offenders were re-arrested for a new crime within five (5) years of their first DV arrest. This includes 17% being arrested for a second DV crime and 11% being arrested for another type of violent crime. Overall, 70% of DV offenders had been charged with another type of crime besides DV at some point in their lives, with nearly half (47%) being charged with a drug- or alcohol-related crime. Additionally, while most DV offenders (69%) were only ever charged with one DV crime, the median number of total charges per person (including DV) was five (5). The results of this study indicate that DV offenders are typically not "specialists" (i.e., DV offenders tended to commit additional types of crimes other than DV), many have been involved in the justice system prior to their first DV arrest, and many more continue to be justice-involved after their first DV arrest.

Crime in Idaho, IIBRS and Grant Performance Measurement Data – Sexual Assaults

ISAC also produced a research brief and updated a page for sexual assault data to its Crime in Idaho Data Dashboard in 2024. The research brief, *Sexual Violence in Idaho, 2022*, indicates that both the rate of sexual assault victims known to law enforcement and the number of sexual assault victims seeking services from Idaho's federally funded grant programs rose between 2016 and 2022 (18% and 23%, respectively).⁷ Similar to the domestic violence findings noted above, ISAC found that the number of victims seeking services from victim service agencies was four (4) times higher

⁴ Idaho Statistical Analysis Center. (2024, May). *Intimate partner violence in Idaho, 2022*. Retrieved from <https://isp.idaho.gov/pgr/isac/>.

⁵ Idaho Statistical Analysis Center. (2023, July). *Crime in Idaho data dashboard*. [Data dashboard]. Retrieved from <https://isp.idaho.gov/pgr/cii-dashboard/>.

⁶ Idaho Statistical Analysis Center. (2022, August). *Offending patterns among domestic violence offenders in Idaho*. Retrieved from <https://isp.idaho.gov/pgr/isac/>.

⁷ Idaho Statistical Analysis Center. (2024, May). *Sexual violence in Idaho, 2022*. Retrieved from <https://isp.idaho.gov/pgr/isac/>.

than the number known to law enforcement, straining those agencies in similar ways and creating the same resource gaps as the recent spike in demand from domestic violence victims.

According to ISAC’s Crime in Idaho Data Dashboard, the rate of sexual assault victims known to law enforcement had been rising in recent years before dropping sharply in 2022 and 2023. In 2023, the victimization rate per 1,000 residents was 0.94, a decrease of 25% in comparison to the rate of 1.252 in 2021. This data, also taken from IIBRS, indicates that in 2023 sexual assault victims were overwhelmingly female (85.7%) and young (79.6% under age 25). Most sexual assault victims (81.4%) were victimized by someone they knew (friend or other known person, 43.3%; family member, 25.3%; intimate partner, 14.0%).

Crime in Idaho and IIBRS – Drug Trends

Each year JAG funds are awarded to combat drug trafficking, use, and abuse through enforcement, prevention, intervention, and treatment. Projects funded in 2024 include services for at-risk youth, as well as training and equipment for officers who encounter drugs and drug offenders. The data for “Drug/Alcohol Arrests” section of ISAC’s *Crime in Idaho Data Dashboard* is from IIBRS. According to Table 2, which shows the percentage of arrests with drug seizures by the type of drug seized, marijuana seizures remain the highest percentage of all drugs seized, though that percentage has fluctuated slightly over the previous decade. Methamphetamine-related arrests have trended higher, steadily increasing from 17.7% in 2014 to 28.7% in 2023, down from a peak of 31.7% in 2021. The share of heroin seizures had also saw a steady increase between 2014 (1.7%) to a high of 7.9% in 2020, before declining sharply to 0.7% in 2023. The drop in heroin-related arrests corresponded with a rise in arrests related to other narcotics, which rose from 4.3% of all drug arrests in 2021 to 8.8% in 2023.

Percent of Drug Arrest Seizures Each Year by Type of Drug Seized											
Drug Type Seized	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Marijuana	50.5	48.6	49.7	49.9	52.1	52.0	52.2	53.4	53.7	54.8	
Amphetamine/Methamphetamine	17.7	21.8	23.8	25.2	26.4	27.1	29.3	31.7	29.1	28.7	
Unknown Drug Type	8.1	7.8	7.4	9.4	8.0	7.6	8.3	7.6	6.8	5.9	
Other Narcotics (Codeine, Demerol, Dilaudid, Methadone, Fentanyl, etc.)	3.6	3.8	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.3	4.3	7.4	8.8	
Other Drugs (Antidepressants, Tranquilizers, etc.)	4.0	3.8	3.4	3.1	3.0	2.5	2.4	3.2	4.1	4.3	
Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, MDMA, DMT, Mescaline, Peyote, etc.)	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.4	3.2	
Cocaine	0.8	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.5	2.1	3.0	
Heroin	1.7	3.1	4.6	4.8	5.9	6.8	7.9	6.7	1.9	0.7	

Tables 3 and 4 show counties with the most change in marijuana and methamphetamine arrests in 2023 compared to the average number of arrests from 2014 - 2022. Marijuana arrests decreased in 19 of Idaho's 44 counties from 2022 to 2023, and methamphetamine arrests fell in 22 counties. However, the largest growth areas for both drugs occurred in rural counties which previously had low numbers of arrests.

Table 3

Marijuana Arrests		
County	2014 - 2022 Average	2023
ISP	1,398.6	1,263
Butte	1.4	16
Franklin	11.1	20
Lincoln	14.1	18
Power	15.1	55
Shoshone	47.4	96
Custer	2.0	8
Jefferson	23.8	34
Boise	32.4	57
Bear Lake	11.3	12
Latah	63.4	85
Kootenai	612.8	843

Table 4

Methamphetamine Arrests		
County	2014 - 2022 Average	2023
ISP	337.8	328
Power	8.4	31
Valley	6.0	10
Franklin	5.2	18
Gem	11.6	36
Blaine	12.4	17
Shoshone	31.8	83
Custer	0.9	2
Latah	15.9	38
Fremont	12.7	26

The most significant increase in marijuana arrests between the nine (9) year average and 2023 occurred in Butte County (700% increase), while the county with the largest increase in methamphetamine arrests was Power County (287.5%). Both counties are rural counties located in the eastern part of the state.

Tables 5 and 6 show the six (6) counties with the highest rate of marijuana and methamphetamine seizures per 1,000 population.

Table 5

Marijuana Seizures				
County	2023 Population	Seizures 2014 - 2022 Average	2023 Seizures	2023 Rate per 1,000 Population
Idaho	17,020	43.4	163	9.58
Payette	27,376	187.4	196	7.16
Boise	8,069	32.4	57	7.06
Power	8,078	15.1	55	6.81
Shoshone	14,285	47.4	96	6.72
Fremont	14,117	57.0	94	6.66
Statewide	1,956,774	6,567.6	7,186	3.67

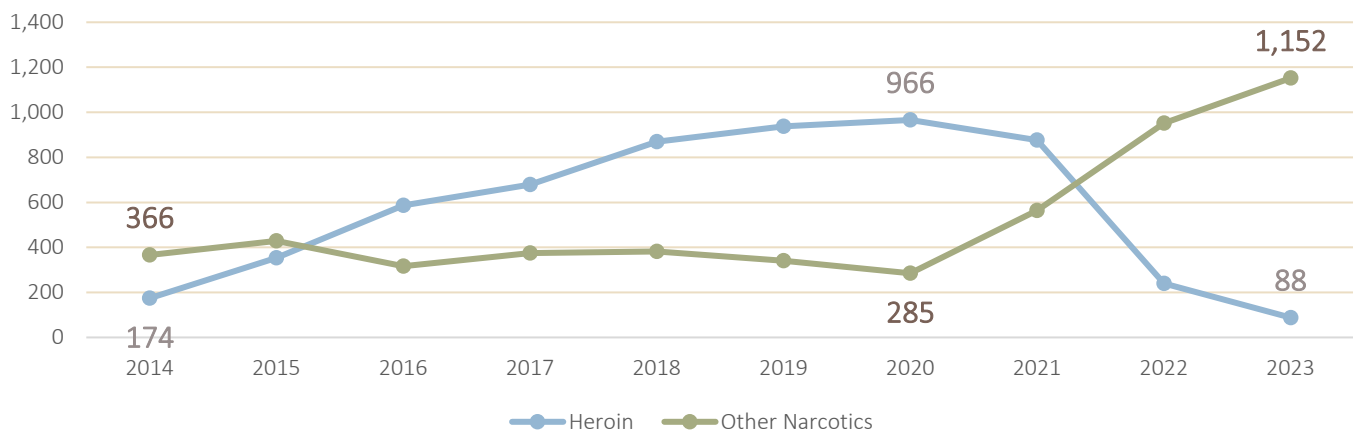
Table 6

Methamphetamine				
County	2023 Population	Seizures 2014 - 2022 Average	2023 Seizures	2023 Rate per 1,000 Population
Shoshone	14,285	31.8	83	5.81
Payette	27,376	107.4	111	4.05
Benewah	10,676	31.1	42	3.93
Power	8,078	8.4	31	3.84
Washington	11,240	25.6	35	3.11
Kootenai	187,221	308.2	563	3.01
Statewide	1,956,774	3,228.1	3,763	1.92

Another area of concern in Idaho is the increase in the abuse of narcotics. Since 2014, when law enforcement recorded 366 arrests related to narcotics other than heroin, the number of arrests involving the illegal use or distribution of these drugs remained relatively stable until 2021 when a sharp multi-year increase began. In 2023, there were 1,152 arrests related to these narcotics, the highest in that 10-year span and up from a low of 285 in 2020. It is important to note that this category includes fentanyl, although it is not possible to know the extent to which fentanyl is driving the increase as IIBRS does not track fentanyl in its own category like it does with heroin.

The trend in heroin arrests had been moving in the opposite direction until recent years. The number of heroin arrests rose steadily between 2014 (174 arrests) and 2020 (966 arrests), and heroin was briefly the third-most seized drug in Idaho (behind marijuana and meth/amphetamines). However, heroin arrests declined sharply after peaking in 2020, and in 2023 (88 arrests) were at their lowest level in 10 years and made up the smallest share of seized drugs that year (0.7% of drug arrests included a heroin seizure). While the relationship between seizure rates of heroin and other narcotics is not discernable from this data, it is clear that abuse of narcotics has become a notable problem in Idaho.

Arrests for Heroin and Other Narcotics
2014 - 2023



Statewide Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) Data on Substance Use and Misuse

Idaho’s Statewide Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW), coordinated by the Idaho Office of Drug Policy, is a state-level advisory group of researchers and data analysts who have an interest in or work with state-level data on substance use and behavioral health in Idaho. In 2024, ISAC built a public-facing data dashboard using administrative and survey data from SEOW. ISAC also published a companion technical report detailing an in-depth analysis of the data.⁸ Although the analysis revealed that the SEOW should consider modifying its list of key indicators, some important knowledge about the nature of substance use and misuse in Idaho was highlighted in the report.

As previously noted, Idaho’s drug overdose death rate has been rising steadily for at least a decade. In 2021, the opioid overdose death rate was 153% higher than in 2012 (5.5 deaths per 100,000 residents in 2012; 13.9 in 2021).⁹ Specifically, the fentanyl overdose death rate skyrocketed in that same time, jumping 978% between 2012 (0.9 deaths per 100,000 residents) and 2021 (9.7).

Data collected via large public health surveys administered by the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare indicate that opioid abuse is a problem in Idaho. In 2021, nearly 4% of Idaho adults took more opioids than they had been prescribed, while just over 1% used opioids that had not been prescribed. That same year, a larger percentage of Idaho high schoolers (14%) reported that they had misused prescription pain medication, well above the national

⁸ Both the dashboard and technical report are available at the ISAC website, <https://isp.idaho.gov/pgr/isac/>.

⁹ Rodgers, K. & Strauss, T. (2024, May). *Substance misuse in Idaho: Overview of data from the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup*. Retrieved from <https://isp.idaho.gov/pgr/isac/>.

average of 6%. Additionally, about 2% of Idahoans reported being diagnosed with opioid use disorder, and just under 2% reported having a pain reliever use disorder.

Although fewer Idahoans reported using marijuana in 2021 than the national average (15% and 19%, respectively), the perception of risk from marijuana use has fallen in recent years. In 2015, 51% of Idaho adults reported having a perception of high risk from marijuana use, but that number fell to 36% in 2021. However, the percentage of Idaho youth who reported having a perception of high risk from marijuana use increased slightly from 2017 (48%) to 2021 (50%), and fewer youth reported using marijuana in 2021 (14%; also, below the national average of 16%) compared to 2001 (18%).¹⁰

Methamphetamine usage in Idaho also appears to be trending down, despite the recent increase in methamphetamine-related arrests. In 2021, 9% of Idaho adults reported having ever used methamphetamine, down from 10% in 2019. Further, in 2021, just 1% of Idaho high school students reported having ever used methamphetamine, down from 7% in 2001 and below the 2021 national average of 2%.

¹⁰ It should be noted that as of June 2024, Idaho is one of three states where all products containing THC are illegal for both medical and recreational purposes. National Conference of State Legislatures. (2024, June). State medical cannabis laws. Retrieved from <https://www.ncsl.org/health/state-medical-cannabis-laws>.

IDAHO CRIMINAL JUSTICE PRIORITIES

Idaho Executive Order 2020-20 “Continuing the Idaho Criminal Justice Commission,” was signed December 21, 2020 and states, *“The Grant Review Council (“Council”) shall be established under the Commission and is charged with disbursing federal grant funding appropriated under provisions of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended; of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and other such federal grant programs as may come within the purview of the Idaho State Police with the overall mission of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Idaho.”*

The Idaho Criminal Justice Commission (ICJC) develops and adopts a three (3) year strategic plan, which is located at <https://icjc.idaho.gov/strategic-plan-purpose/>. The strategy identified by ICJC for the Council is to, “Develop funding strategies consistent with statewide strategic planning efforts of the Commission including the following priorities”.

- i) Collaborative
- ii) Evidence-based or best practice where possible enhances measurable outcomes:
 - a) The solution of crimes
 - b) Assistance to victims
 - c) Direct services to the community
- iii) Local data or strategies to collect local data if none are available
- iv) Sustainable
- v) Exit strategies

Each of these priorities can be tied to the nine (9) JAG purpose areas: law enforcement programs; prosecution and court programs; prevention and education programs; corrections and community corrections; drug treatment and enforcement programs; planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs; crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation); mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams; and implementation of state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives, including, but not limited to, mental health courts, drug courts, veterans courts, and extreme risk protection order programs.

Current JAG projects address many of the priorities listed above. One such project, Addressing the Needs of Vulnerable and Underserved Populations, epitomizes collaboration, as it’s located at the Nampa Family Justice Center (NFJC). This program provides services primarily to children, the elderly, and Hispanic/Latino populations (particularly those who are Spanish speaking only) and includes continued funding for a Bilingual Client Services Coordinator, a Bilingual Case Manager, and a Therapeutic Program Manager. The mission of the NFJC is to, “promote safety, self-sufficiency, hope and healing to those affected by abuse.” The NFJC houses community-based advocates and case managers, forensic interviewers, nurses, counselors, clergy, the Nampa Police Department Crimes Against Persons Detectives and Victim Witness Coordinators, Department of Health and Welfare Safety Assessors, Idaho Legal Aid Attorneys, St. Luke's CARES (Medial and Forensic Interviewers), Adult Protective Services, and the Family Justice Center Foundation of Idaho. They also have numerous offsite partners who meet with victims at the NFJC.

In the Project Design and Implementation section of the application Program Narrative, new JAG applicants are required to, “Identify if the proposed project is evidence-based, a best practice model, or if any objective research or evidence shows that the proposed project will be successful”. The link to [CrimeSolutions.gov](https://www.crimesolutions.gov) is provided, so applicants can find information on evidence-based programs in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services.

Several one year JAG projects awarded in 2024 address the solution of crimes: ISPFs Brasstrax NIBIN Terminal, Digital Forensic Equipment, and Drug Identification Equipment. Idaho State Police Forensic Services (ISPFs) received funding to purchase a second National Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) Terminal, which will be housed at ISP’s District Office in Coeur d’Alene. Currently Idaho has one NIBIN Terminal located at ISP Headquarters in Meridian. The addition of a second terminal will increase the number of Idaho law enforcement agencies participating in the program and help to decrease violent gun crimes in Idaho. Rathdrum Police Department received JAG funding for digital forensic and drug identification equipment. The digital forensic equipment will shield electronic devices from radio frequency

signals, keep them charged at all times, and stored securely until the appropriate legal steps can be taken. The drug identification equipment will analyze a wide range of substances without requiring contact from law enforcement officers or other criminal justice professionals. Officers will also be able to test substances in the field, providing clear identification. They can determine if there is a danger to the public and what is needed to mitigate that danger.

The STOP Violence Against Women Grant (funding decisions also made by the Council) focuses primarily on assistance to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, but there are a number of JAG projects, including Addressing the Needs of Vulnerable and Underserved Populations, that tackle similar issues. The Victim Outreach, Services, and Quality Improvement project awarded to SAFE Passage will provide minimal facts training to investigative partners, expand confidential court-based advocacy services, and expand healthy relationship curriculum and victim advocacy to individuals in the Kootenai County Jail and Juvenile Detention Center. The minimal facts technique allows law enforcement and forensic nurses to collect essential facts about a case, while avoiding in-depth interviews with underage victims. The Bonner County Prosecutor's Office was awarded JAG funding for a Victim Witness Coordinator project. This new position will provide information, support, and referrals to victims of crime in Bonner County, helping to minimize the strain on existing staff and improving services provided to victims. In addition to these JAG projects and the STOP grant, the Sexual Assault Services Program (also awarded by the Council) funds victim service organizations providing direct services to victims of sexual assault.

New JAG applicants are also required to provide information on the sustainability of their proposed projects in the Project Design and Implementation section of the application Program Narrative. They are asked to state, if applicable, "how project personnel and/or annual maintenance and license fees will be funded after the life of the grant." While sustainability is a goal shared by most subgrantees, locating funding sources to continue a project after the grant funded period has ended can be difficult. One such success story is the Breaking Chains Academy of Development (BCAD) Canyon County Youth Empowerment (CCYE) Project, which has received JAG funding to provide mentors for at-risk youth aged 14 to 18 since 2017. CCYE provides essential tools and resources, including education services and mentoring activities, to steer vulnerable individuals away from criminal and gang activities, facilitating a successful transition to adulthood. BCAD's application for 2024 JAG funding stated, "Demonstrating consistent success, it remains a testament to sustained operations and a commitment to future sustainability through community support, resources, and forthcoming grant opportunities. This resilience is made possible by a strong Board of Directors, effectively utilizing their community influence and resources. Over the past five years, the project has not only thrived but also expanded its positive impact on the community through new and continuous support. The establishment of fresh partnerships has not only contributed to its sustainability but has also facilitated growth. With newfound funding and partnerships, discussions have begun regarding the potential building or leasing of a larger facility, and the hiring of additional staff, poised to serve the community on an even greater scale."

BJA Areas of Emphasis

The BJA FY24 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program – State Solicitation states, "BJA recognizes that many state and local justice systems currently face challenging fiscal environments, and an important, cost-effective way to relieve those pressures is to share or leverage resources through cooperation among federal, state, and criminal justice agencies and community-based public safety partners." The BJA key areas of priority for 2024 are below and, "BJA encourages recipients of FY 2024 JAG funds to coordinate with federal criminal justice agencies and other stakeholders, including communities most impacted by crime and violence, in addressing these challenges."

- Prevention and Prosecution of Hate Crimes
- Election Security
- Enhancing Justice System Reform Strategies
- Advancing Equity and Support for Underserved Communities
- Violent Crime Reduction

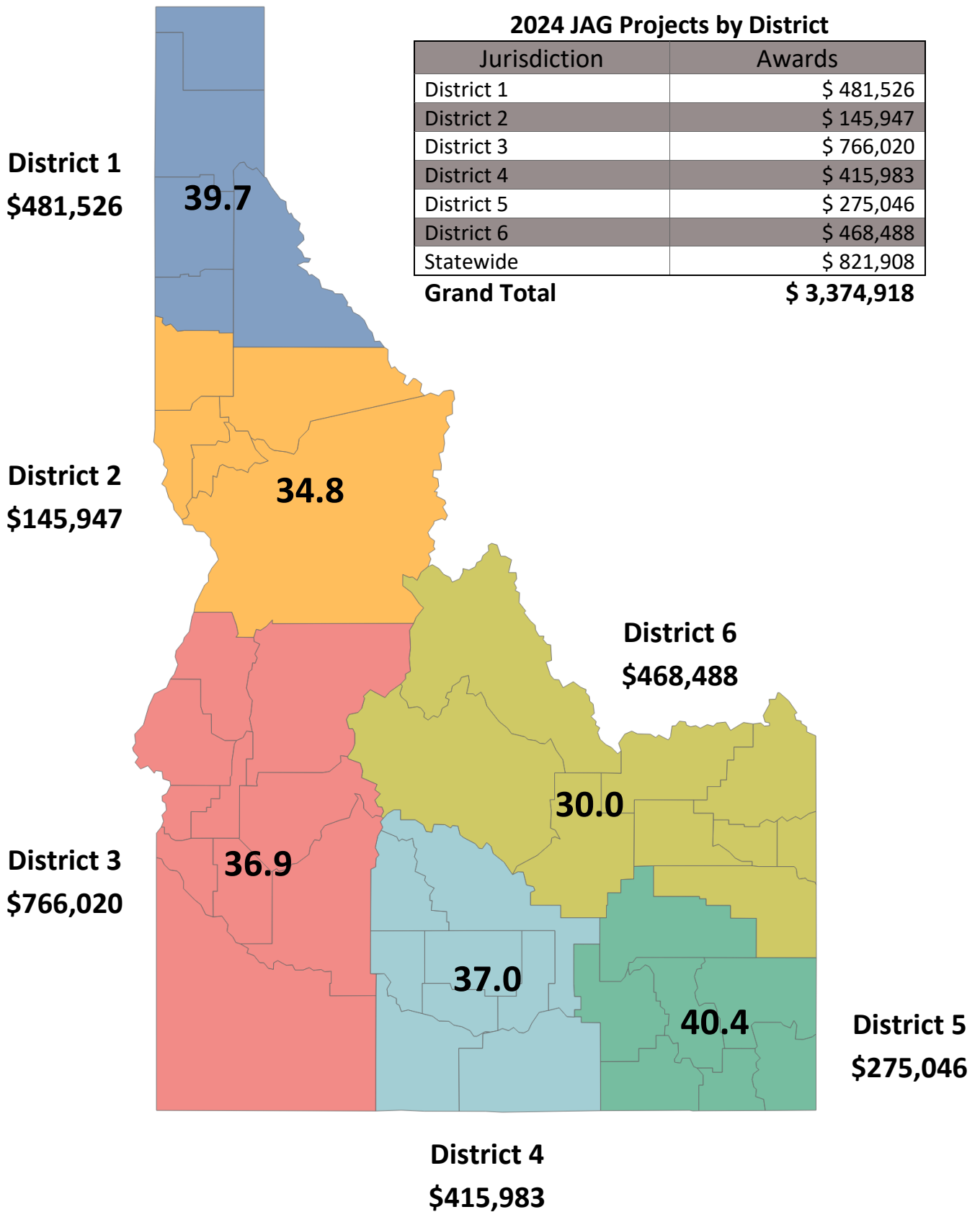
JAG ALLOCATION REPORT

The following tables and map show the distribution of JAG projects funded and/or operating in Idaho by JAG purpose area and district in 2024.

Purpose Area	Name	Award Amount
Corrections & Community Corrections	Domestic Violence Intervention for Indigent Offenders	\$51,920
	Total Corrections & Community Corrections	\$51,920
Crime Victim & Witness	2024 Services for Survivors in Southwest Idaho	\$72,349
Crime Victim & Witness	Addressing the Needs of Vulnerable Adults and Children	\$74,069
Crime Victim & Witness	Addressing the Needs of Vulnerable & Underserved Populations	\$138,172
Crime Victim & Witness	Bonneville County Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) Project	\$139,470
Crime Victim & Witness	Bonneville County SART Project	\$139,470
Crime Victim & Witness	Camp Hope America – Idaho Program	\$43,200
Crime Victim & Witness	Civil Legal Services for Victims of Crime	\$35,000
Crime Victim & Witness	Direct Service Support for NFJC Staff & Clients	\$130,453
Crime Victim & Witness	The Mahoney House Family Justice Center Strategic Planning	\$60,000
Crime Victim & Witness	Victim Outreach, Services, and Quality Improvement	\$63,955
	Total Crime Victim & Witness	\$896,138
Drug Treatment & Enforcement	Adult Substance Abuse Treatment	\$121,742
	Total Drug Treatment & Enforcement	\$121,742
Law Enforcement	Bear Lake County Emergency Communication Upgrade	\$275,046
Law Enforcement	Car Cameras to Improve Law Enforcement for the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office	\$242,321
Law Enforcement	Community Violence Intervention Plan	\$34,944
Law Enforcement	CopLink Continuing Expansion Project	\$60,000
Law Enforcement	Digital Evidence System	\$145,947
Law Enforcement	Digital Forensic Equipment	\$8,969
Law Enforcement	Drug Identification Equipment	\$30,882
Law Enforcement	Firearms 3-D Cartridge Case Imaging System	\$141,000
Law Enforcement	Idaho State Police Forensic Services Brasstrax NIBIN Terminal	\$216,874
Law Enforcement	JAG Solicitation CY 2024 – BWC and Car Camera Upgrade	\$195,485
Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement Training: Emerging Challenges	\$60,000
Law Enforcement	LCNET Enforcement Grant	\$94,604
Law Enforcement	Meeting Rising Challenges	\$81,200
Law Enforcement	Mobile ALPR Project	\$35,000
Law Enforcement	On Scene Scanning and Documentation	\$94,923
Law Enforcement	Tactical Medical Training Equipment	\$108,834
	Total Law Enforcement	\$1,826,029

Mental Health	Valley County Sheriff's Office Peer Support Program	\$31,530
Total Mental Health & Related LE and Corrections Programs		\$31,530
Planning, Evaluation, & Technology Improvement	Byrne Evaluation Unit	\$77,000
Planning, Evaluation, & Technology Improvement	ISAC JAG Assessment and Data Analysis	\$77,000
Total Planning, Evaluation, & Technology Improvement		\$154,000
Prevention & Education	Canyon County Youth Empowerment	\$102,947
Prevention & Education	Canyon County Youth Empowerment	\$138,300
Total Prevention & Education		\$241,247
Prosecution & Court	Victim Witness Coordinator	\$52,312
Total Prosecution & Court Programs		\$52,312

JAG Funding per District and Crime Rates per 1,000 Residents



CONCLUSION

Idaho, although primarily rural, faces many of the same criminal justice issues found in large, urban areas and must remain vigilant in its fight to combat and diminish these issues. In a time of continued economic challenges, the criminal justice community must look at new ways of solving crime and serving victims, so while evidence-based practices and programs are a high priority, innovation cannot be discounted. Collaboration, coordination, and communication are key to tackling such challenges, along with the other issues faced by the criminal justice community in Idaho. Without these efforts, Idaho's past and present JAG funded projects would not have been, or be, the successes they are today.