



Idaho Drug and Alcohol Related Offenses and Arrests: 2006-2010

Idaho Statistical Analysis Center
Planning, Grants, and Research
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Executive Summary

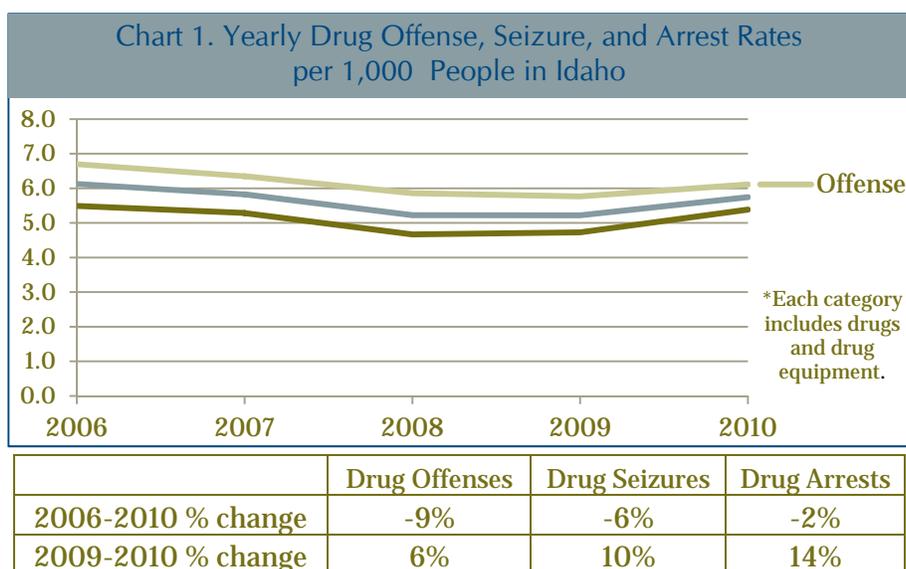
The “Idaho Drug and Alcohol Related Offenses and Arrests: 2006-2010” report is an annual update performed by the Idaho Statistical Analysis Center. The yearly trend analysis utilizes law enforcement reported data from Idaho’s repository for the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

- While drug offense, seizure, and arrest rates have decreased since 2006, the percentage of criminal cases involving drugs has actually increased.
- The percentage of crimes involving drug offenses, drug seizures, and suspected drug use by an offender during the commission of a crime has increased since 2007.
- The percentage of arrests for drug offenses has increased since 2009, and the proportion of arrests for alcohol violations increased from 2004 to 2009, with a slight decrease in 2010.
- Analysis indicates that methamphetamine use has declined while the illegal use of prescription drugs has increased. Methamphetamine seizures have decreased 55% since 2005. The number of cases involving the seizure of drugs in pill form that are commonly available by prescription increased 148% since 2005, with a 33% increase in 2010. The sale and purchase of possible prescription drugs increased 50% from 2006 through 2010.
- Females and juveniles were most likely to be arrested for liquor law violations versus other types of alcohol or drug related crimes.
- Females were more likely to be arrested in cases involving methamphetamines and prescription drugs than they were for other drugs.
- “Non-white” offenders were most likely to be arrested for marijuana and “White” offenders were most likely to be arrested for methamphetamines than other drugs.
- Hispanics were arrested for cocaine and methamphetamine at rates much higher than their overall arrest rate. Non-Hispanics were most likely to be arrested in connection to prescription drugs and marijuana compared to their overall arrest rate.
- Methamphetamine arrestees were much older (32.9 years on average) than marijuana arrestees (average 26.2 years). Further, juveniles were most likely to be arrested for prescription drugs (18.6%) and least likely to be arrested in connection to methamphetamine (1.7%).

Introduction

This report is the newest version of the drug trends analysis performed yearly by the Idaho Statistical Analysis Center. The information is taken from Idaho's repository for the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The NIBRS property, arrest, and offense tables were used for the following analysis. As in years past, this document contains a description of the latest trends in drug offenses and arrests, alcohol arrests, and drug seizures. Further, detailed information from the years 2006 through 2010 is provided on the types of drugs seized, offender and arrestee characteristics, offender drug and alcohol use, and type of drug activity.

As displayed in Chart 1, drug offense, seizure, and arrest rates decreased or remained the same every year from 2006 to 2009. In 2010, drug offense, seizure, and arrests rates increased 7-14% but remained below their respective 2006 rates. Drug arrest rates increased the most in 2010 by 14%, while drug offense rates increased only 6%.



Considering that overall crime rates have steadily decreased since 2003, it is not surprising that drug offenses, seizures, and arrests rates have also declined. Therefore, trend analysis should also look at the proportion of crimes involving drugs offenses, seizures, and arrests. Table 1 displays the percentage of crimes involving drugs. The information in Table 1 supports the findings of the 2009 National Survey on

Table 1. Percent of Cases Each Year

	2006 %	2007 %	2008 %	2009 %	2010 %
Drug Seizures	11.1	11.4	12.1	12.5	12.7
Drug Equipment Seizures	7.1	7.1	6.7	6.8	8.0
Drug/Narcotic Seizures	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.6	9.8
Drug Offenses	12.2	12.0	12.0	12.4	13.5
Drug Equipment Violations	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.9	8.7
Drug/Narcotic Violations	12.2	12.0	12.0	12.4	13.5
Total Incidents	80,575	78,996	73,914	71,997	70,583

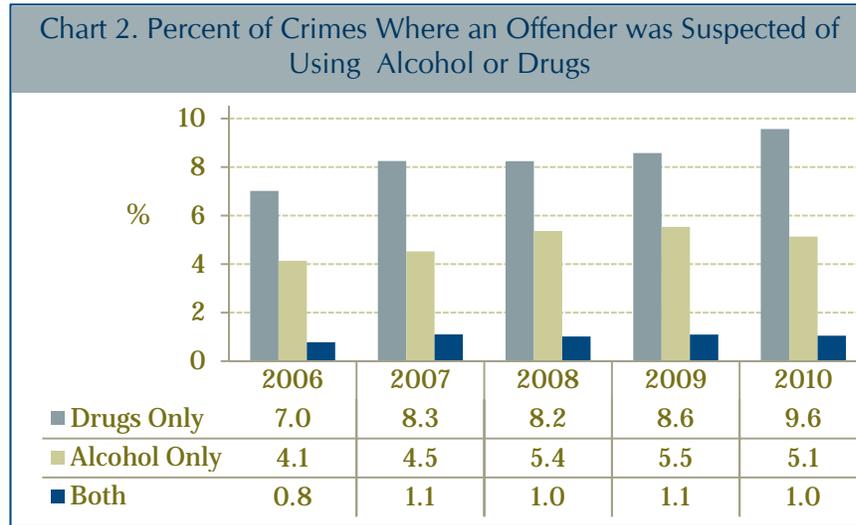
Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) which found that illicit drug use had reached its highest level in 8 years (www.drugabuse.gov). The percentage of criminal cases involving drugs actually increased or remained about the same each year since 2007. After declining in 2006, the percentage of crimes involving drug offenses increased from 12.0% in 2007 to 13.5% in 2010. The proportion of crimes involving a drug seizure increased from 11.1% in 2006 to 12.7% in 2010.

In comparison to increases in the proportion of drug offenses or seizures, the percentage of arrests for drugs decreased or remained about the same since 2006 until dramatically increasing from 10.5% in 2009 to 12.2% in 2010. A decrease in the proportion of arrests for alcohol violations, like D.U.I's and liquor law violations occurred between 2009 and 2010, after yearly increases since 2004. However, the 15.0% of arrests for DUI's in 2010 is still higher than the proportion of arrests in the 10 years before 2008.

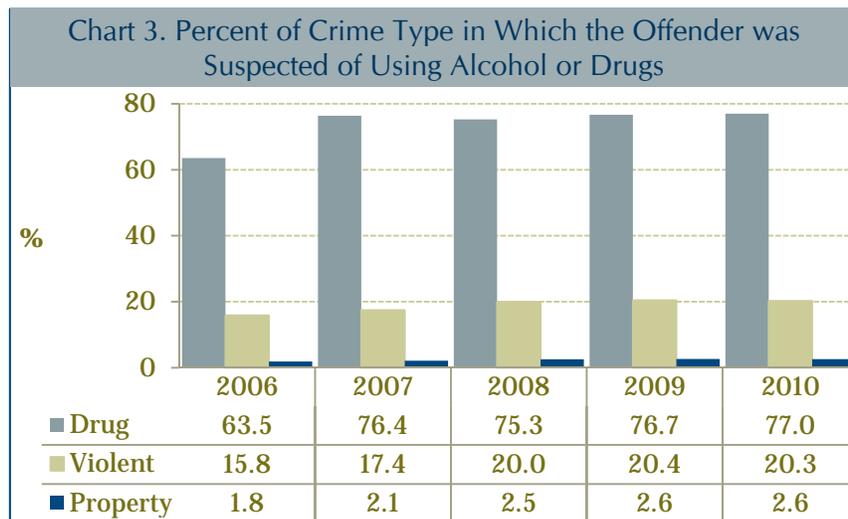
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
	%	%	%	%	%
Drug Arrests	11.2	10.8	10.4	10.5	12.2
Drug Equipment Arrests	3.6	3.2	2.8	2.7	2.9
Drug/Narcotics Arrests	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.8	9.3
DUI	14.7	14.7	15.9	16.3	15.0
Drunkenness	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4
Liquor Law Violation	7.8	8.2	8.9	8.6	7.2
Total Arrests	77,504	79,412	76,619	75,674	71,745

Drug or Alcohol Use

The percentage of crimes in which a suspect was under the influence of drugs or alcohol has also increased each year (see Chart 2). Suspected drug use by an offender during the commission of a crime had the largest percent increase of 36.0% from 2006 to 2010. A major factor in the increase in alcohol or drug use during a crime is the increase in the percentage of crimes that are for drug offenses, but this is not the only factor.



As Chart 3 shows, each year had an increase in the percentage of violent, property, and drug crimes in which an offender was under the influence of drugs or alcohol. It is unknown if this trend is due to increased record keeping of offenders who were under the influence or if offenders are now more likely to be using drugs and alcohol just before or during a crime.



Drug Type & Seizure

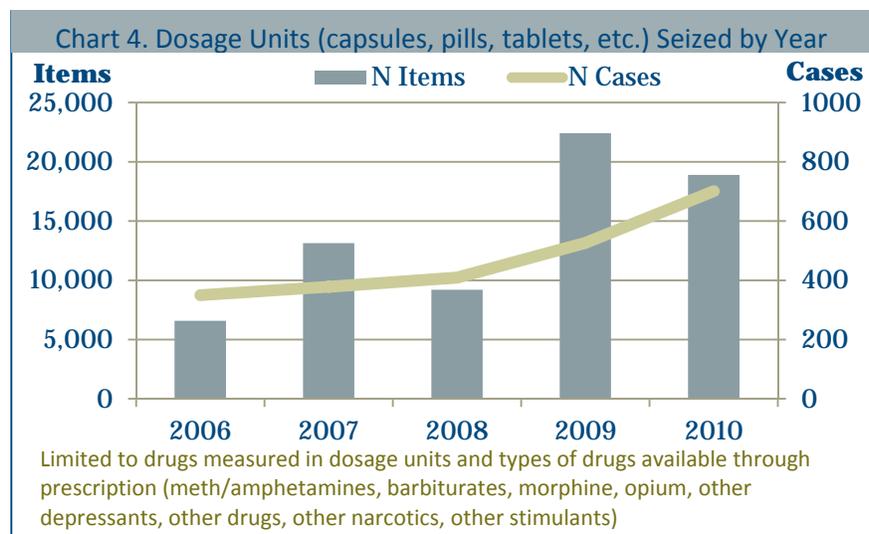
Marijuana was the most common drug seized, followed by methamphetamines. As Table 3 illustrates, marijuana was seized in 59.0% - 66.7% of drug seizure cases. Methamphetamine seizures decreased since reaching a high of 30.0% in 2005 and have dropped to a low of 17.7%, a 55.0% decrease. The decrease in methamphetamine seizures is likely a reflection of the decrease in methamphetamine use. The National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) (available at www.cdc.gov) shows that teen use of methamphetamine in Idaho decreased 52.0% from 2007 to 2009. While methamphetamine use has decreased, additional information suggests that non-medical use of prescription drugs has increased substantially.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
	%	%	%	%	%
Marijuana	59.0	65.6	66.7	65.3	64.1
Methamphetamines	28.9	21.6	18.5	18.2	17.7
Other	3.0	3.0	3.5	0.0	5.5
Other Narcotics	2.8	3.0	3.5	4.7	5.1
Unknown	2.6	2.7	2.2	2.5	3.3
Hallucinogens	1.1	1.5	2.2	1.6	1.8
Cocaine	2.0	2.0	2.4	2.3	1.4
Opiates	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.1
Drug Seizures	7,413	7,184	6,555	6,875	7,722

Cases are limited by drug seizures (not including drug equipment seizures).

The National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) (available at www.cdc.gov) showed that 20.2% of the nation’s high school students had taken prescription drugs without a doctor’s prescription. In addition, the Office of National Drug Control Policy has designated prescription drug abuse as the nation’s fastest growing drug problem. Prescription drugs are not identified in IBR data, but an estimate of prescription drug seizures can be made by identifying drug types that are available through a prescription and are measured by “dosage unit.”

The number of pills (doses) seized by law enforcement increased 143% in 2009 from 9,204 units in 2008 to 22,409 units in 2009. The number decreased 16% in 2010 to 18,910 units. The number of seizure cases increased from 2006 to 2010. Seizure cases involving possible prescription pills in Idaho increased 29% from 2008 to 2009 and an additional 33% in 2010.



Drug Activity

Table 4: Type of Drug Activity by Year

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
	%	%	%	%	%
Possess/Use	90.8	92.0	89.3	86.8	88.6
Buy/Sell	10.5	8.1	11.0	14.5	13.0
Cultivate/Manufacture	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.9	1.5
Transport	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.3
Operating/Promoting	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2
Drug/Narcotic Violations	7,249	7,155	6,738	6,904	7,442

Up to three drug activities can be recorded per offense.

NIBRS allows up to three types of criminal activities to be recorded for each offense. For narcotic offenses, these criminal activities are possession, using, cultivating/manufacturing, buying, selling, operating, or transporting drugs. As seen in Table 4, an average 89.5% of drug offenses involved possession or use of drugs for 2006 through 2010. The sale or purchase of drugs increased in recent years to 14.5% of drug offenses in 2009 and 13.0% in 2010.

Table 5 displays the type of drug seized and drug activity from 2006 through 2010. Drug possession or use is the most common drug offense for all drug types. However, marijuana is most likely to be seized in cases of drug possession or use (93.0%). For seizures of methamphetamine, 83.1% involved possession/use while 20.0% involved buying/selling.

Table 5: percent of drug seizures by drug activity: 2006-2010

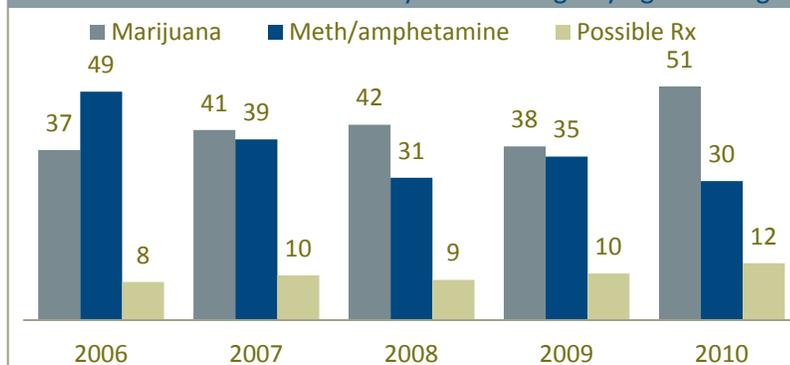
	Marijuana	Methamphetamine	Possible prescription*	Cocaine	Other Non-prescription	Unknown
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Possess /Use	93.0	83.1	87.2	61.1	75.9	92.3
Buy /Sell	7.5	20.0	16.9	40.3	26.7	12.0
Transport	1.0	1.9	1.3	2.8	1.9	2.2
Cultivate/ Manufacture	1.5	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.4
N cases	22,744	7,357	2,364	714	2,050	955

Limited to drugs measured in dosage units and types of drugs available through prescription (meth/amphetamines, barbiturates, morphine, opium, other depressants, other drugs, other narcotics, other stimulants).

Chart 5 shows the percentage of buy/sell drug cases each year by the drug type seized. In 2006, 49.5% of buying/selling cases involved methamphetamines. After 2006, the sale or purchase of methamphetamines declined from 39.1% in 2007 to 30.1% in 2010. During the same time period, the buying and selling of

marijuana increased from 36.8% to 50.6%. Chart 5 also indicates that the sale and purchase of possible prescription drugs increased from a low of 8.2% of drug sales/purchases in 2006 to a high of 12.2% in 2010.

Chart 5. Percent of Cases each year Involving Buying or Selling



Offender & Arrestee Characteristics

Table 6 shows the characteristics of drug related arrestees. The most common characteristics of arrestees in drug related cases were: adult, male, white, non-Hispanic. The characteristics of drug related arrestees remained relatively similar from 2006 through 2010. For unknown reasons, the percentage of juveniles arrested for drugs spiked in 2007 from 13.9% to 16.2% and then dropped to 14.6% in 2008. The proportion of females as drug related arrestees increased in 2010 to 25.3% compared to their prior percentages of 23.5% to 23.9%.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Average
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Juvenile	13.9	16.2	14.6	14.1	14.6	14.7
Female	23.9	23.9	23.5	23.9	25.3	24.1
Non-White	3.7	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.7	3.5
Hispanic	10.8	10.2	10.6	10.7	10.8	10.6
Total	9,683	9,637	8,805	8,871	9,650	9,329

Includes all drug arrests in addition to arrests involving one offender in a drug offense or drug seizure case.

In 2010, females were most likely to be arrested for liquor law violations compared to other alcohol or drug related crimes (see Table 7). Almost a third, 28.5%, of liquor law arrestees were female, compared to 25.5% of drug arrestees. Juveniles were also most likely to be arrested for liquor law violations, 25.1%, compared to other alcohol or drug related arrests.

	Drug or alcohol use*	Drug Arrestee	DUI Arrest	Liquor Law Arrestee	Drunkenness Arrestee
	%	%	%	%	%
Juvenile	8.4	14.5	1.2	25.1	5.2
Female	21.9	25.5	26.2	28.5	18.4
Non-White	4.7	3.5	3.9	4.2	7.9
Hispanic	-	11.1	12.3	12.6	14.8
Total	8,300	8,765	10,772	5,209	305

*Limited to cases involving one offender. "-" is not available

Table 8 displays arrestee characteristics by the type of drug seized in 2006 through 2010. Females are more likely to be arrested in cases involving methamphetamines and prescription drugs than they are for other drugs. Females are arrested in 21.1% of the cases involving marijuana but 33.7% of the cases involving methamphetamine and 35.9% of the cases involving possible prescription drugs. "Non-whites" offenders were most likely to be arrested for marijuana and "White" offenders were most likely to be arrested for methamphetamines. Perhaps the greatest differences shown in Table 8 are the differences in age and ethnicity. Hispanics accounted for 28.3% of cocaine arrestees and 16.8% of methamphetamine arrestees but

only 13.0% of all arrestees. Non-Hispanics were most likely to be arrested in connection to prescription drugs (88.8%) and marijuana (85.4%) compared to their overall arrest rate of 82.4%. The largest differences in age are between methamphetamine arrestees (32.9 years on average) and marijuana arrestees (average 26.2 years). Further, juveniles were most likely to be arrested for prescription drugs (18.6%) and least likely to be arrested in connection to methamphetamine (1.7%).

Table 8: Arrestee Characteristic by Drug Type Seized: 2006-2010

	Marijuana %	Meth %	Cocaine %	Other non Rx %	Prescription (estimated) %	Unknown %	All Arrestees %
Sex							
Female	21.1	33.7	19.5	24.6	35.9	31.0	26.3
Male	78.9	66.3	80.4	75.3	64.1	69.0	73.7
Race							
White	92.6	95.4	89.5	92.2	92.9	94.1	92.4
Non-White	3.8	1.5	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.1
Unknown	3.6	3.1	6.9	4.7	3.8	2.6	4.5
Ethnicity							
Hispanic	8.9	16.8	28.3	14.3	6.3	8.5	13.0
Not Hispanic	85.4	80.7	68.4	82.6	88.8	86.2	82.4
Unknown	5.6	2.6	3.3	3.1	4.9	5.3	4.6
Age							
Average Age	26.2	32.9	29.5	28.2	28.3	29.5	27.6
Juvenile	15.0	1.7	3.8	11.0	18.6	9.9	20.3
Total	23,989	7,143	735	2,020	2,204	917	381,264

Includes all drug arrests in addition to cases involving one offender in drug offense or seizure cases.