

# Idaho's Drug Arrests

& Crime Trends

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## Idaho's Drug Arrests and Methamphetamine Trends

In recent years, Idaho has experienced an exponential increase in drug/narcotics and drug equipment violations and resulting arrests. In the year 2000, most drug offenses showed an increase in the number of incidents for possession and distribution of drugs and a slight decrease in number offenders using drugs while committing the offense or violation.

The crime information presented in this report is based on the Crime in Idaho 2000, published by the Bureau of Criminal Identification of the Idaho State Police and the 2001 clandestine methamphetamine lab seizures information provided by the Idaho State Police, Investigations.

### Incidents of Crime and Drug Arrests

After four consecutive years of crime rate decreases, 2000 incidents record an overall crime rate increase of 4.2%.

The rate for crimes against persons increased 4.4%, closely followed by 4.2% increase in rates of crime against society and 3.0% rate increase for overall rates of crime against property.

The 2000 crime figures indicate that aggravated assault and robbery were up more than 5%, while murder and forcible rape have declined. Despite that murder and rape experienced decreases, aggregated violent crime was reported at 3.2% higher than in 1999.

Type of Crime or Arrest	Crime Rates (per 1,000 Population)					Percent Change 1999/2000
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	
Aggravated Assault	2.20	2.00	2.30	1.93	2.05	6.2%
Murder	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.01	-50.0%
Rape	0.25	0.29	0.31	0.34	0.30	-11.8%
Robbery	0.20	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.20	5.3%
Larceny	28.70	27.60	25.70	21.80	22.35	2.5%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1.90	2.00	1.80	1.50	1.59	6.0%
Burglary	6.90	7.30	6.70	5.90	5.38	-8.8%
Total Violent Crime	2.66	2.57	2.81	2.48	2.56	3.2%
Domestic Violence	3.00	3.20	3.00	2.86	2.99	4.5%
Drug Equipment	3.40	3.80	3.80	3.84	4.27	11.2%
Drug/Narcotic Violations	3.80	4.50	4.50	4.40	4.60	4.4%
Total Drug Arrest Rate	5.20	5.70	5.85	5.93	6.15	3.7%
Juvenile Drug Arrest	8.46	8.38	8.62	8.12	9.62	18.5%
Law Enforcement Officers	1.81	1.89	1.87	1.89	1.90	0.5%

The overall crime incidence in the year 2000 represented a modest change in trends. Certain types of crime against property indicated mixed trends; such as the motor vehicle theft, fraud, and arson which were significantly higher. Burglary rates declined by 8.8%.

Drug arrests also increased by 3.7%. There were 615 drug arrests for every 100,000 people compared to 593 drug arrests per 100,000 people, during 1999.

In the year 2000, 11,336 drug offenses were reported in the State of Idaho, representing an increase of 1.1%. Total number of arrests, including drug/narcotics and drug equipment violations, increased 4.8% from 7,767 in 1999 to 8,145 in 2000. Similarly, arrests for drug/narcotic offenses were 5,381, an increase of 2.5% over the prior year.

The following information describes the type of criminal activity reported for the 5,381 drug/narcotic arrestees at the time of the arrest:

- Ⓜ 74.7% Possessing
- Ⓜ 13.2% Using/Consuming
- Ⓜ 8.7% Buying/Selling
- Ⓜ 2.2% Cultivating/Manufacturing
- Ⓜ 1.2% Transporting/Importing

## **Highlights**

*In the year 2000...*

**5,381**  
**Drug/Narcotic Arrests**

**2,804**  
**Drug Equipment Arrests**

**Overall Drug**  
**Arrests Increased by 4.8%**

**Adult Female**  
**Arrests**  
**Increased 8.9%**

**Adult Male**  
**Arrests**  
**Increased 7.8%**

**Juvenile Female**  
**Arrests**  
**Increased 2.8%**

**Juvenile Male**  
**Arrests**  
**Decreased 5.3%**

Note: Drug offenses are the violation of laws prohibiting the production, distribution, and/or use of certain controlled substances as well as drug equipment violations.

The reported drug offenses resulted in 6,918 adult and 1,266 juvenile arrests. Since an arrest can be linked to multiple offenses, it is estimated that 65% of all drug related arrests made in 2000 were specifically drug related while the other 35% of drug arrests had multiple violations. These multiple violations include several arrest charges, ranging from aggravated assault and other violent crimes, to property crime and other crimes against society.

The use and consumption of drugs in 2000 decreased by 2.7%; however, possession/purchasing increased 1.7% and drug distribution also increased by approximately 1.4%.

◆ *Adult Female*

Adult female drug arrests experienced a two-year consecutive increase of more than 8.0% and cumulative increase of 37% since 1997.

◆ *Adult Male*

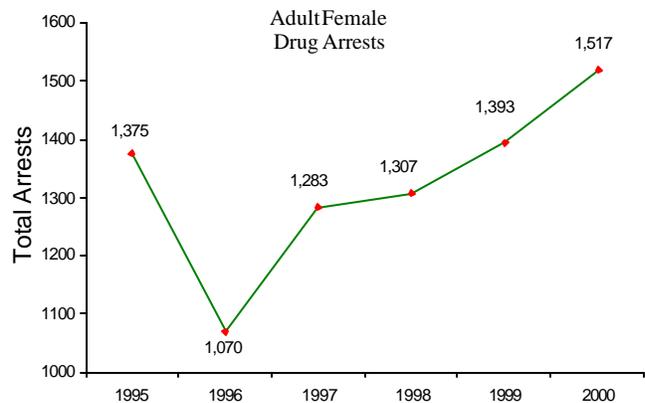
Total drug arrests for adult males increased by 6.8% from 1999.

◆ *Juvenile Arrests*

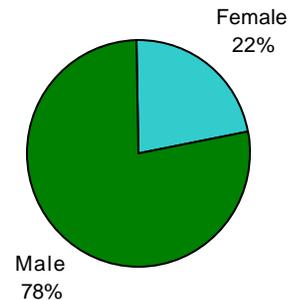
Juvenile female drug arrests have slowly increased over the years, while juvenile male drug arrests declined 5.3% from 1999.

◆ *Gender*

The ratio between juvenile and adult arrestees' gender is approximately the same. For practical purposes it can be inferred that for every four drug arrests, three correspond to males and one to females.

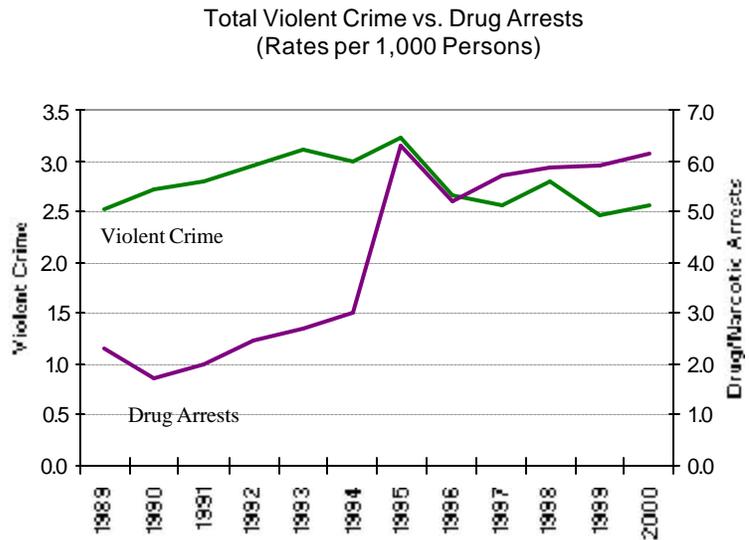


Drug Arrests by Gender  
Year 2000



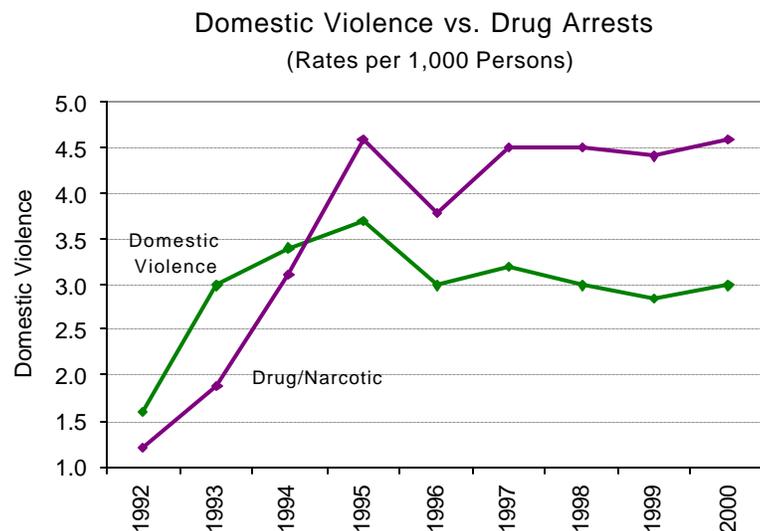
## Drug Arrests

Total drug arrests rates have shown to have a delayed effect and a significant correlation in reducing violent crime. As indicated in the graph to the right, violent crime decreases when drug arrests increase and vice versa. When drug arrests decrease there is a delayed tendency for violent crime to increase. If this observation is found to be accurate, in the year 2001 violent crime will bounce back to higher rates while the rates for drug arrests will go down.



Violent crime is the best known indicator that inversely correlates to drug arrests. However, some types of crime or combination of crimes, such as incidents of domestic violence (which are usually conformed from simple assault, aggravated assault, and sexual assault in all its forms, etc.), also have an inverse correlation with drugs arrests. The following chart depicts rates of domestic violence and drug arrests; which demonstrate a similar trend to the violent crime vs. drug arrests.

After the rate of domestic violence intercepts the rate of drug/narcotic arrests, both trends level off. As the chart indicates, 1995 drug/narcotic arrests were up, domestic violence incidents were down in



1996. In 1996 arrest rate for drug/narcotics was down while the corresponding rate of domestic violence was up and so forth during subsequent years.

Empirical forecasting indicates that if the relationship between rates of domestic violence and drug/narcotic arrest rates continue; future increases of drug/narcotic arrest rates will relate to a stable or decreased rate of domestic violence.

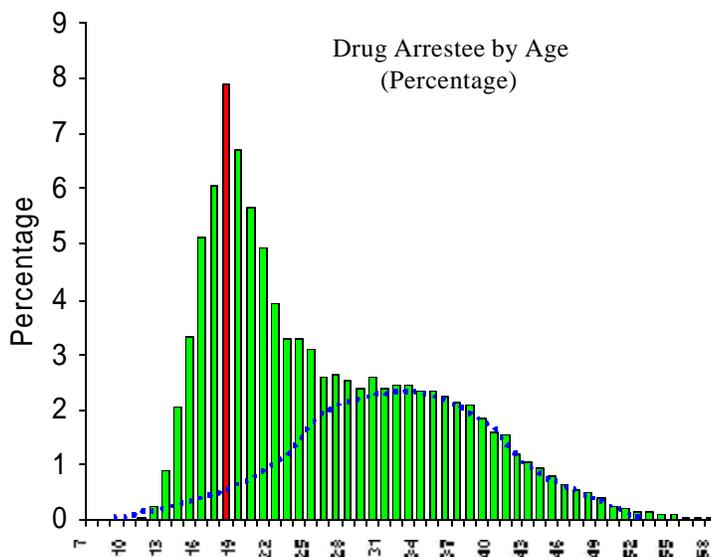
## Drug Arrestee Demographics

Age is one of the most assumed demographic characteristic of a drug user. For research purposes, the closest indicator of the age parameter will be considered equivalent to the age of arrestees for drug violations. Since drug arrestees may not be drug users, they are, however the best available link between the two groups.

Historic drug arrest information, from the Idaho State Police UCR/NIBRS (Uniform Crime Reporting/National Incident Based Reporting System) data repository, was pooled together to portray the demographic characteristics of drug arrestees. By grouping data over a period of seven years, it is possible to establish a mechanism to control the presence of outlying information, i.e. data relatively distant or remote from the center or middle (The American Heritage Dictionary). This data provides representation of several demographic characteristics and the potential influence that those identifiers may exert in the criminal justice system.

### Age

The median age of the typical drug arrestee is 23 years while the average is 26.1 years. The median age is indicative of the shift in the age of the drug arrestees; specifically, more than 50% of drug arrestees are under age 23. The age range for drug arrestees fluctuates between 7 to 98 years, but the majority of drug arrests fall within the age group 16-21, as represented by the age chart. The highest impacted age groups are the ages 18 and 19 respectively which yielded approximately 15% of all drug arrests.



Age 13 appears to be the inflection age-point at which the accelerated increases begin. Theoretically, by minimizing the exposure to drugs to the younger ages, one would expect that total offenses (interpreted as drug users) would reduce as well as the resulting number of drug related arrests.

### Race and Ethnicity

Approximately 97% of the population arrested for drug violation were white while the combination of all other races accounted for 3%. By ethnicity, 7% of arrestees were Hispanics, 90% were non-Hispanic, and 3% were of unknown ethnic origin.

## Disposition of Juvenile Arrestees

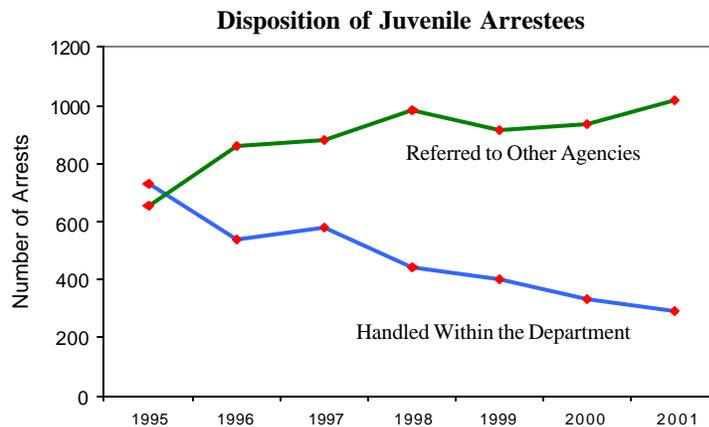
Over the years, law enforcement agencies have shown a consistent tendency in how they process juvenile arrestees for drug violations. Juveniles arrested for drug violations are increasingly more likely to be referred to court or other intervention or diversion programs than be handled and released within the arresting authorities.

The chart below indicates the increasing tendency to forward juveniles to other law enforcement agencies, which in turn, decreases the number of cases handled within the arresting authority. This trend goes in-line with the national trend for disposition of juvenile arrestees (Crime and Justice Atlas 2001, Department of Justice).

According to UCR definitions, when an adult commits an offense, law enforcement agencies usually take the adult into custody or they may be released for a later court appearance. When a juvenile commits an offense, law enforcement may take the juvenile into custody or detention center based on the seriousness of the crime or refer the juvenile to intervention or diversion programs such as:

- ◆ Specialized branch of the juvenile court (drug court, family intervention after arrest, etc.);
- ◆ Probation Departments;
- ◆ Other law enforcement agencies (for example, the Idaho State Police refers detainees to other agencies' detention centers);
- ◆ Health and Welfare, etc.

Another option on handling arrested juveniles is to issue a warning and/or release them to a parent, relative or guardian, etc.



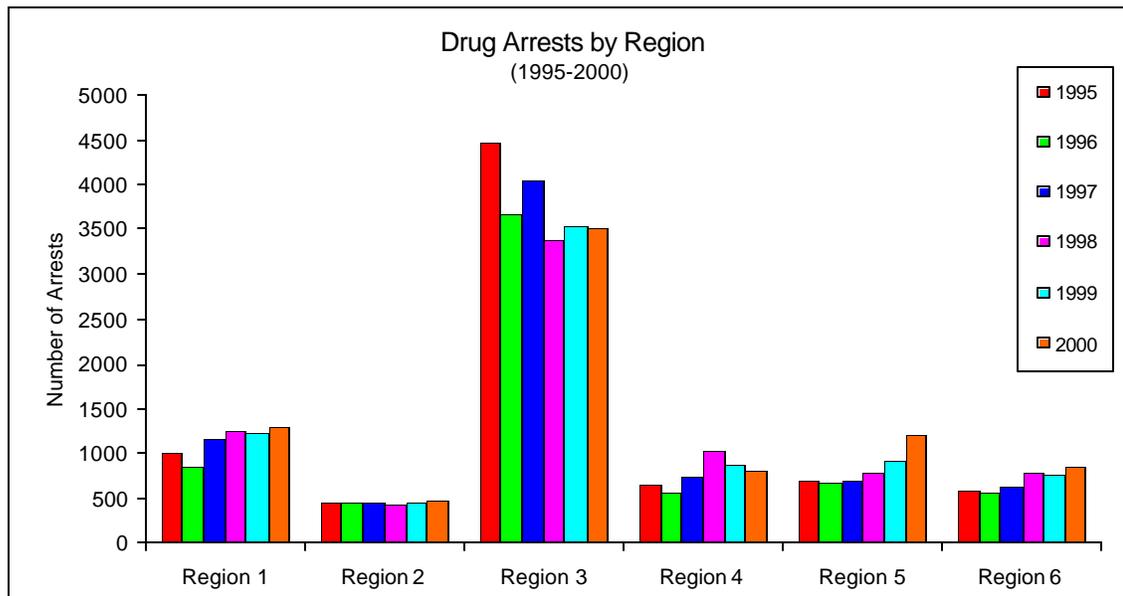
## Regional Drug/Narcotics Arrests

During the past five years, rural counties experienced an exceptionally high incidence of drug offenses and consequently higher number of drug related arrests.

When the counties are grouped by geographical regions, historical drug arrest trends present higher increases in four of the five more rural regions of the state.

Historically, Region 3 has had the greatest number of arrests for drug violations. However, during 1995 to 1998, Region 3 recorded an uncharacteristic decrease in arrests. In Region 2, figures reflect a balanced drug arrest trend over the years, while Region 4 reflects an increasing number of drug arrests from 1995 to 1998. After 1998, the number of drug related arrests in this region has slightly declined. In Regions 1, 5, and 6, the arrests for drug violations have increased year after year, reflecting a well defined rising trend.

This interregional trend for Regions 1, 5, and 6 may be interpreted as the result of deployment of more law enforcement resources and/or as the result of the expansion of drug activity into the northern and southeastern counties of the state.



## County Drug/Narcotic Arrests

Counties with major road infrastructure generally experience more drug offenses and drug arrests than areas where road access is limited. Data indicates that roads connecting to contiguous states are more susceptible to be classified as higher risk areas for drug offenses and drug trafficking. As roads and state boundaries play an important part in the drug issue, population is another determinant factor to take into consideration. Counties or cities with higher population density experience larger amount of drug offenses.

The top five counties with the most drug arrests in 2000 in descending order, were:

County	Drug Arrests	Arrests Rates per 1,000 persons
Ada	2,523	8.4
Kootenai	622	5.7
Bannock	605	8.0
Bonneville	569	6.9
Twin Falls	305	4.7

## Arrest Rates

County rates are the result of weighting the total number of drug arrests by the county's population. As indicated by the table on page 13, in the year 2000, 21 counties experienced arrest rate increases while arrest rates declined in 19 counties. Two rural counties, Camas and Lemhi, did not have information available to calculate their arrest rates.

The counties most drastically impacted by arrests rates were Teton County with a rate increase of 217% over the prior year and Power County with 197% in the same period. Other counties like Franklin, Owyhee, Oneida, Bingham, Lewis, Valley, and Latah also recorded significantly higher rate increases.

## Drug Seizures in 2000

### Three Primary Drugs:

#### ◆ *Marijuana*

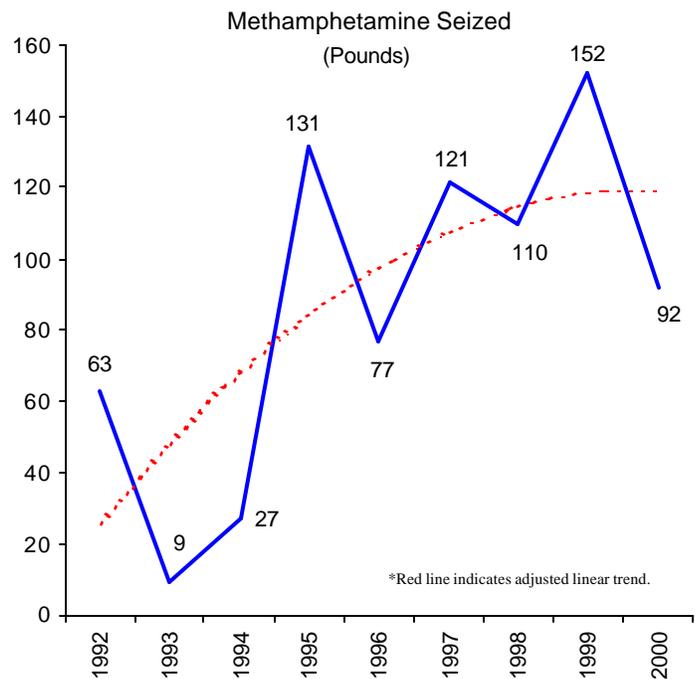
Total marijuana seized amounted to 1,159.3 pounds or 1.5% higher than in 1999. Marijuana is still the preferred drug of choice among drug users since approximately 91% of all drugs seized (by weight) was marijuana.

#### ◆ *Methamphetamine*

Approximately 92 pounds of methamphetamine were seized, representing 39.6% less methamphetamine than the 152 pounds seized in 1999.

#### ◆ *Cocaine*

Approximately 11.2 pounds of cocaine were seized; up 55% from 7.2 pounds seized in 1999.



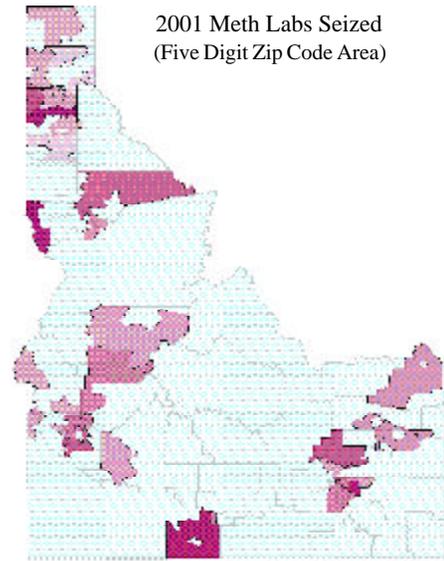
## Statewide Methamphetamine Lab Seizures in 2001

After six years of consecutive increases, total methamphetamine lab seizures at the statewide level declined 21%, from 186 meth labs seized in 2000 to 147 in 2001.

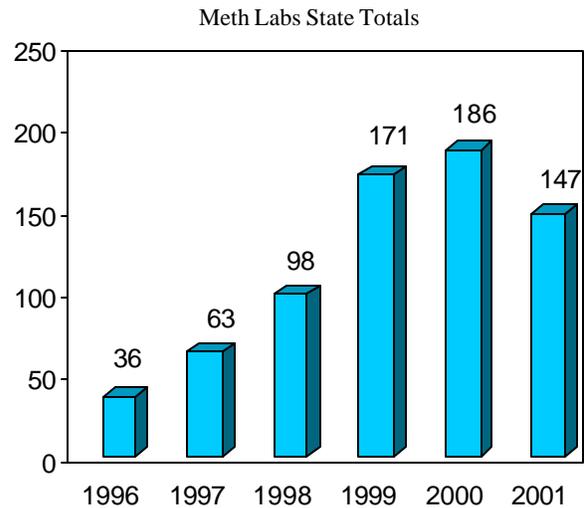
The regional trend of meth lab seizures experienced slight changes for Regions 2 and 3. Region 2, in percent terms, was the most active in seizing meth labs this last year. Region 3 had a mixed increase; for the first time meth lab seizures made by the Bandit Task Force were documented and added to the Idaho State Police numbers, therefore the expectation for seizing more labs increased. However, Region 3, based on the Idaho State Police numbers alone, experienced a 41% decrease as compared to the year 2000.

At the county level, Nez Perce County showed the highest percent increase in meth lab seizures from one meth lab in 1999 to three in 2000 and 13 in 2001. In terms of percentage, these numbers reflect more than 300% increase in one year.

The following table demonstrates the number of methamphetamine labs seized by region and by county in the year 2001. The regional maps that follow provide an overview of the historical meth lab activity by region.



(Latah County also had meth lab activity at county level).



Region 1		Region 2		Region 3		Region 4		Region 5		Region 6	
County	# Labs	County	# Labs	County	# Labs	County	# Labs	County	# Labs	County	# Labs
Benewah	4	Clearwater	2	Ada	22	Twin Falls	4	Bannock	22	Bonneville	2
Bonner	7	Latah	4	Boise	2			Bingham	5	Fremont	1
Boundary	2	Lewis	1	Canyon	3					Jefferson	2
Kootenai	40	Nez Perce	13	Elmore	1						
Shoshone	4			Gem	1						
				Owyhee	1						
				Valley	3						
				Washington	1						
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>

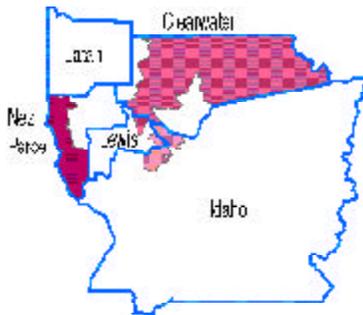
The table shows only counties reporting methamphetamine lab seizures activity in 2001.

## Region 1

In North Idaho, methamphetamine has been present for a long time and law enforcement has actively pursued its eradication by aggressively combating the manufacturing sites. In the years 1999 and 2000, this region seized 92 and 90 meth labs. In 2001, the number of labs seized decreased by 36.6%, down to 57 from 90. All counties of Region 1 reported methamphetamine lab seizure activities; Kootenai County alone had 40 of the 57 meth labs seized, Bonner County had seven, Benewah and Shoshone Counties had four each and Boundary County had two. The Region 1 map shows the most affected areas at the zip code level (whenever zip codes were available). Darker colors indicate the higher the numbers of meth labs seized.



## Region 2

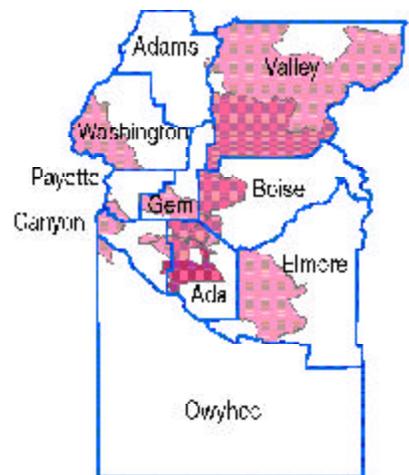


In 2001, Region 2 seized almost twice as many meth labs as they did in 2000 and recorded the highest percentage increase of meth lab seizures ever. Nez Perce County had only one meth lab in 1999, three meth labs in 2000 and 13 in 2001. Latah County had four meth labs, Clearwater two, Lewis one, and none for Idaho County. The map for Region 2 does not show any meth labs for Latah County because no zip codes were available. A zip code is a polygon that may cross county boundaries, that is the reason Idaho County showed some activity that corresponded to Lewis County.

## Region 3

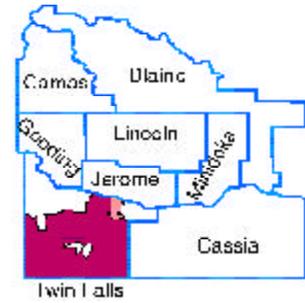
In 2001, Region 3 seized 34 meth labs for a 17.2% increase over 2000. This region houses the Bandit Task Force which seized a total of 17 meth labs and the other 17 corresponded to the Idaho State Police. For the first time in 2001, the Bandit Task Force began reporting meth lab seizures in combination with the Idaho State Police. Therefore, making adjustments for the inclusion of the meth labs seized by the Bandit Task Force, the normal trend would indicate a decrease of 41% from the meth labs seized by Idaho State Police alone.

Ada County had 22 of the 34 meth labs seized, down 6 from 2000. Canyon and Valley Counties followed each with three meth lab seized, the rest of the counties in this region showed smaller meth activity.

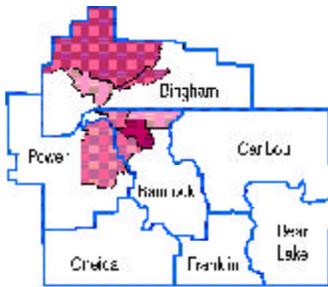


## Region 4

The concentration of methamphetamine activity, as reflected by the number of labs seized in the year 2001, is located in the southwest part of Region 4. Historically, within this region, Twin Falls County has been the area with the most meth labs seized. Four meth labs were found in the colored areas of the county. The other counties of Region 4, did not report any meth lab activity during this period.



In Region 4, the overall trend indicates that total methamphetamine labs seized in 2001 decreased by 33.3% from the year 2000.

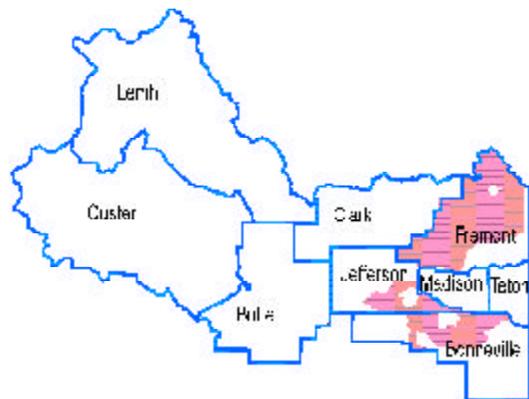


## Region 5

Bannock and Bingham Counties in Region 5 had all of the meth labs seized in 2001. The concentration of meth labs seized are represented in the map to the left at the zip code level. In Region 5, the annual meth labs seized decreased by 30.8%.

## Region 6

In the years 1998 and 1999, Region 6 seized four methamphetamine labs. In 2000, nine meth labs were seized, representing an increase of more than 100%. In 2001, Region 6 seized five meth labs; two in Bonneville and Jefferson Counties and one in Fremont County. This number represents a 44% decrease from the year 2000 for the entire region.



## Drug/Narcotic and Drug Equipment Arrests

County	Region	FIPS*	Total Drug Arrests (1996 to 2000)					Arrest Rates X 1000 Population		Arrest Rate Change 1999/2000	Rate Change Indicator
			1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1999	2000		
Ada	3	001	2701	2924	2509	2457	2523	8.7	8.4	-3.3%	(-)
Adams	3	003	36	18	38	36	17	9.5	4.9	-48.6%	(-)
Bannock	5	005	300	262	360	452	605	6.0	8.0	32.6%	+
Bear Lake	5	007	1	5	1	5	3	0.8	0.5	-38.6%	(-)
Benewah	1	009	41	44	85	86	100	9.5	10.9	14.9%	+
Bingham	5	011	141	166	136	104	174	2.5	4.2	68.9%	+
Blaine	4	013	118	110	108	108	119	6.2	6.3	0.5%	+
Boise	3	015		54	25	31	35	5.8	5.2	-10.1%	(-)
Bonner	1	017	96	155	215	172	160	4.8	4.3	-8.9%	(-)
Bonneville	6	019	412	451	506	547	569	6.7	6.9	2.8%	+
Boundary	1	021	50	52	57	46	45	4.6	4.6	-1.1%	(-)
Butte	6	023	3		8		10	0.0	3.4		+
Camas	4	025	1	1	1						No Data
Canyon	3	027	288	348	138	286	242	2.3	1.8	-19.9%	(-)
Caribou	5	029	56	72	90	162	149	22.3	20.4	-8.4%	(-)
Cassia	4	031	32	66	63	78	68	3.6	3.2	-12.2%	(-)
Clark	6	033	1	3		3	1	3.3	1.0	-70.2%	(-)
Clearwater	2	035	30	26	15	30	32	3.2	3.6	11.8%	+
Custer	6	037	4	9	8	7	6	1.7	1.4	-19.3%	(-)
Elmore	3	039	125	63	83	77	86	3.0	3.0	-1.7%	(-)
Franklin	5	041	28	26	47	18	38	1.6	3.4	111.5%	+
Fremont	6	043	24	23	57	30	38	2.5	3.2	27.4%	+
Gem	3	045	106	124	107	112	81	7.4	5.3	-27.9%	(-)
Gooding	4	047	21	28	36	41	24	3.0	1.7	-43.2%	(-)
Idaho	2	049	47	48	51	33	38	2.2	2.4	11.6%	+
Jefferson	6	051	16	20	21	20	25	1.0	1.3	30.2%	+
Jerome	4	053	59	83	97	103	81	5.7	4.4	-22.4%	(-)
Kootenai	1	055	528	583	629	565	622	5.4	5.7	6.2%	+
Latah	2	057	92	74	97	90	138	2.8	4.0	42.7%	+
Lemhi	6	059									No Data
Lewis	2	061	1	10	2	5	8	1.3	2.1	68.4%	+
Lincoln	4	063			1	2	1	0.5	0.2	-52.5%	(-)
Madison	6	065	50	36	63	69	94	2.8	3.4	23.0%	+
Minidoka	4	067	32	44	58	77	76	3.8	3.8	-0.8%	(-)
Nez Perce	2	069	196	213	181	245	230	6.6	6.1	-7.4%	(-)
Oneida	5	071	14	7	9	21	37	5.2	9.0	73.5%	+
Owyhee	3	073	20	20	22	22	40	2.1	3.8	77.8%	+
Payette	3	075	115	191	174	142	166	6.8	8.1	18.4%	+
Power	5	077	19	26	42	15	40	1.8	5.3	197.3%	+
Shoshone	1	079	107	107	91	168	185	12.3	13.4	9.2%	+
Teton	6	081	1	16	14	3	10	0.5	1.7	217.2%	+
Twin Falls	4	083	207	311	459	331	305	5.3	4.7	-9.7%	(-)
Valley	3	085	115	112	74	60	91	7.6	11.9	55.8%	+
Washington	3	087	25	38	29	13	18	1.3	1.8	42.9%	+

Drug Arrests include the combination of arrests for drug offenses and drug equipment violations.

\* FIPS: Federal Information Processing Standards.