

Idaho's Drug and Violent

Crime Trends

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IDAHO'S DRUG AND VIOLENT CRIME TRENDS

In general, Idaho and many other states in the country recorded decreases in violent and non-violent crime during the late 1990's. Several explanations of these phenomena have been proposed, including expansion of community policing, tougher criminal laws, an increased number of offenders incarcerated, *et cetera*. Logical reasoning suggests that there is a reason to believe all of these factors may have played some role in reducing crime. There is, however, a lack of scientific evidence to support a definitive explanation.

Crime and Arrests

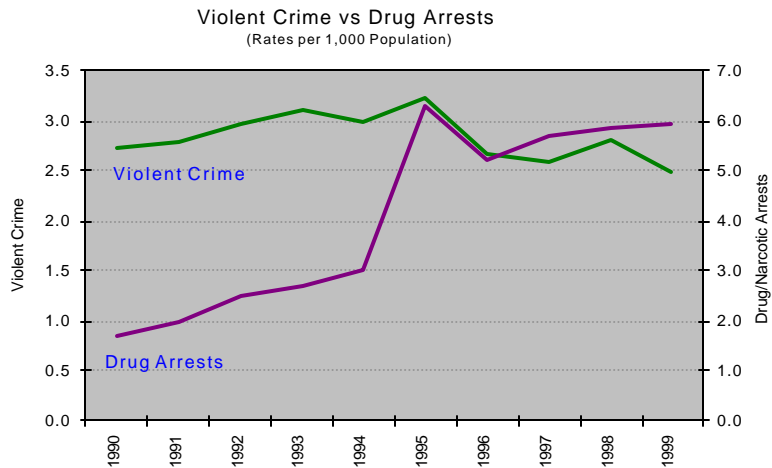
The overall crime rate in Idaho fell for the fourth consecutive year; total violent crime rates decreased by 12%, aggravated assault, murder, robbery, larceny motor vehicle theft, burglary, and domestic violence, all experienced significant declines. Forcible rape was the only violent crime that had a significant increase (10%) between 1998 and 1999. While the incidence of all crimes generally has fallen during the past four years, it must be noted that drug/narcotic offenses and drug equipment offenses have not concurrently

Type of Crime or Arrest	Crime Rates (per 1,000 Population)					Percent Change 1998/1999
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Aggravated Assault	2.70	2.20	2.00	2.30	1.93	-16%
Murder	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.02	-31%
Rape	0.29	0.25	0.29	0.31	0.34	10%
Robbery	0.23	0.20	0.19	0.21	0.19	-10%
Larceny	31.20	28.70	27.60	25.70	21.80	-15%
Motor Vehicle Theft	2.50	1.90	2.00	1.80	1.50	-17%
Burglary	7.70	6.90	7.30	6.70	5.90	-12%
Total Violent Crime	3.23	2.66	2.57	2.81	2.48	-12%
Domestic Violence	3.70	3.00	3.20	3.00	2.86	-5%
Drug Equipment	4.00	3.40	3.80	3.80	3.84	1%
Drug/Narcotic Violations	4.60	3.80	4.50	4.50	4.40	-2%
Juvenile Arrest	144.30	147.30	136.60	134.00	119.30	-11%
Total Drug Arrest Rate	6.30	5.20	5.70	5.85	5.93	1%
Juvenile Drug Arrest	8.55	8.46	8.38	8.62	8.12	-6%
Law Enforcement Officers	1.77	1.81	1.89	1.87	1.89	6%

dropped by the same or similar degree of magnitude. Research indicates drug abuse is a major driver in the commission of crime, somewhat complicating our ability to determine if this two-directional trend will lead to future increases or decreases in Idaho's overall crime rate. Societal demographics, population fluctuations and the relative strength of our economy may provide more reliable predictors of future crime rates in Idaho.

Drug Arrests

Total drug arrests rates have been shown to have a delayed effect and a remarkable correlation with the reduction of violent crime, as shown 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.



5,542

Drug Offenses

Overall Drug

Arrests Increased by 3.2%

73.0% of Offenses are for Possession of Illegal Drugs

In 1999 there were 5,542 drug offenses reported in the state of Idaho, which represents an increase of less than 1% from 1998. Drug offenses are the violation of laws prohibiting the production, distribution, and/or use of certain controlled substances. Total number of arrests, including drug/narcotics and drug equipment violations increased 3.2% from 7,196 in 1998 to 7,425 in 1999, while arrests for drug/narcotic offenses were 5,166, an increase of 2% over the prior year. The following indicates the type of criminal activity reported in the 5,542 drug/narcotic offenses:

Adult Female Arrests

Increased 8.2%

- ⇒ 73.0% Possessing
- ⇒ 15.9% Using/Consuming
- ⇒ 7.3% Buying/Selling
- ⇒ 2.7% Cultivating/Manufacturing
- ⇒ 1.1% Transporting/Importing

The reported offenses resulted in 4,345 adult and 821 juvenile arrests (there can be more than one offense per arrest) for drug/narcotic violations. The use and consumption of drugs in 1999 resulted in an increase in drug incidents of about 1.8% over 1998. In other terms, this increase represented 150 more statewide drug arrests made in 1999 than in 1998.

Adult female arrests experienced an increase of 8.2% from 1998 to 1999, following a prior 16.4% increase from 1997 to 1998, while juvenile female arrests decreased 4.7% . In general, the combination juvenile male/female total drug arrests decreased by 16.2% from 1998 to 1999; a new eight year low.

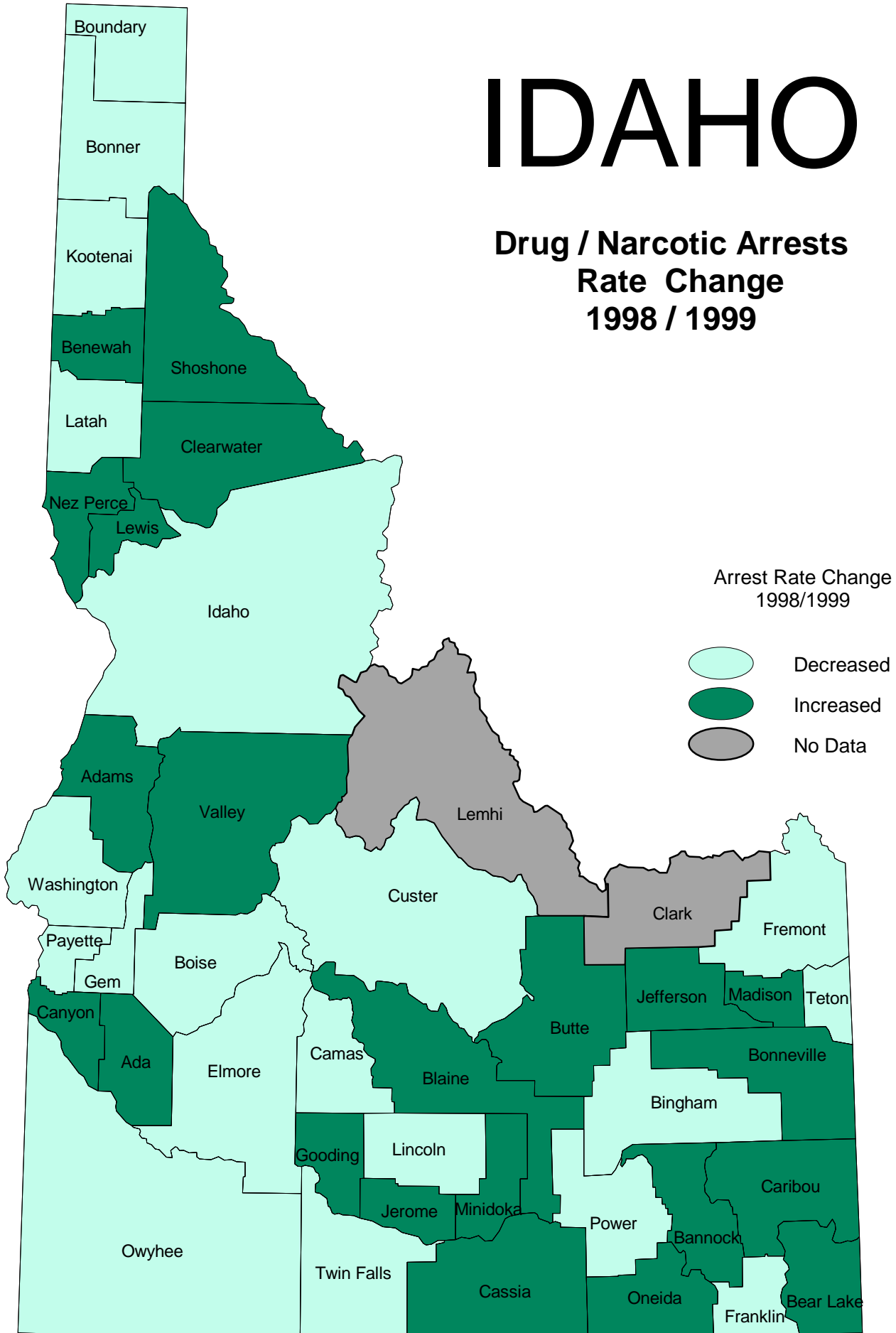
County Drug/Narcotic Arrests and Offenses

Drug arrests and total drug/narcotic offenses are known to have a strong correlation with one another. Data indicates that more populous counties with a major highway or interstate connecting to contiguous states still experience slightly higher relative rates of drug and narcotic offense arrests than their less populous counterparts. Approximately 85% of all arrests for drug/narcotics and drug equipment violations were made by local law enforcement agencies. Comparative drug arrest rates at the county level were compiled and are represented in the map (page 4) followed by a tabular representation of arrest rates, percent of rate change from 1998 to 1999, and descending drug arrest rates and ranking (page 5). The ranking indicates the number of places a particular county moved up or down from 1998 to 1999 in comparison to all other counties in the state.

County ranking is important when evaluating the significance of the drug problem and/or police activity. Caribou county has been ranked number one for two consecutive years with the highest per capita arrest rates in the state. Ada county ranked number 10 in 1998, up 2 ranks to be reclassified as number 8 in 1999; this movement means that the particular county effectuated more per capita drug arrests than during the prior year. Some other relatively large counties, like Bannock county, moved up 13 ranks from number 20 in 1998 to number 7 in 1999, denoting that the number of drug arrests per capita increased significantly. In Twin Falls county, drug arrest rates dropped by 35%, reclassifying this county from number 7 in 1998 to number 19 in 1999. Overall state drug arrest rates increased by less than 1%. State rate is the indicator of all drug arrests made in Idaho, and is derived by combining arrest data for all state and local law enforcement agencies. In 1999 Idaho's ranking among all counties moved from 14 to 13.

IDAHO

Drug / Narcotic Arrests Rate Change 1998 / 1999



Drug/Narcotic Arrests, Offenses and County Ranking

County	Drug Narcotic Arrest Rates			Drug Narcotic Incident Rates			County Ranking			
	Year		Percent Change 1998/1999	Year		Percent Change 1998/1999	County	Arrest Rates 1999	New Rank 1999	Moved up/down in ranks
	1999	1998		1999	1998					
Ada	4.44	4.40	1%	5.30	5.61	-6%	Lemhi*	---	---	---
Adams	6.87	6.34	8%	6.07	5.28	15%	Caribou	18.42	1	0
Bannock	4.49	3.49	29%	4.17	3.92	6%	Shoshone	8.06	2	7
Bear Lake	0.76	0.15	396%	0.46	0.15	198%	Benewah	7.50	3	-1
Benewah	7.50	7.37	2%	5.18	7.04	-26%	Adams	6.87	4	-1
Bingham	1.42	2.01	-29%	1.47	1.67	-12%	Valley	5.73	5	0
Blaine	4.39	3.78	16%	4.96	3.26	52%	Payette	4.65	6	-2
Boise	3.77	4.10	-8%	3.01	3.32	-9%	Bannock	4.49	7	13
Bonner	3.02	4.16	-27%	3.30	4.22	-22%	Ada	4.44	8	2
Bonneville	4.30	4.26	1%	4.78	4.34	10%	Blaine	4.39	9	8
Boundary	4.21	5.30	-21%	3.51	4.79	-27%	Bonneville	4.30	10	1
Butte	1.99	1.32	51%	1.33	1.32	1%	Jerome	4.25	11	5
Camas	0.00	1.19	-100%	0.00	1.19	-100%	Boundary	4.21	12	-6
Canyon	3.22	2.67	20%	3.52	3.46	2%	State of Idaho	4.13	13	1
Caribou	18.42	11.21	64%	13.89	7.16	94%	Kootenai	4.03	14	-6
Cassia	2.69	2.25	19%	2.87	2.49	16%	Oneida	3.94	15	24
Clark	3.29	0.00	0%	3.29	2.25	46%	Boise	3.77	16	-1
Clearwater	1.71	1.07	60%	1.60	1.18	36%	Gem	3.70	17	-5
Custer	1.22	1.22	0%	1.22	0.98	25%	Nez Perce	3.39	18	6
Elmore	2.26	2.60	-13%	2.54	2.56	-1%	Twin Falls	3.33	19	-12
Franklin	0.88	3.60	-76%	1.23	2.97	-58%	Clark	3.29	20	24
Fremont	1.60	2.93	-46%	2.27	3.10	-27%	Canyon	3.22	21	1
Gem	3.70	4.18	-11%	4.09	4.24	-4%	Bonner	3.02	22	-9
Gooding	2.55	1.68	51%	2.33	1.83	27%	Cassia	2.69	23	3
Idaho	1.66	2.13	-22%	2.26	0.00		Minidoka	2.66	24	6
Jefferson	0.70	0.67	5%	0.80	0.56	42%	Gooding	2.55	25	8
Jerome	4.25	3.84	11%	3.53	3.17	11%	Elmore	2.26	26	-3
Kootenai	4.03	4.99	-19%	4.41	4.59	-4%	Madison	2.22	27	1
Latah	1.60	1.84	-13%	2.00	1.96	2%	Butte	1.99	28	7
Lemhi*	---	---	---	---	---	---	Clearwater	1.71	29	9
Lewis	1.52	0.25	508%	1.27	0.50	153%	Idaho	1.66	30	-3
Lincoln	0.00	0.26	-100%	0.00	0.26	-100%	Latah	1.60	31	0
Madison	2.22	2.07	7%	1.45	1.67	-13%	Fremont	1.60	32	-11
Minidoka	2.66	1.93	38%	3.11	2.47	26%	Lewis	1.52	33	9
Nez Perce	3.39	2.52	34%	4.31	3.69	17%	Bingham	1.42	34	-5
Oneida	3.94	0.74	429%	4.92	1.24	297%	Custer	1.22	35	1
Owyhee	1.06	1.76	-40%	1.06	2.15	-51%	Power	1.19	36	-17
Payette	4.65	5.72	-19%	4.75	5.87	-19%	Owyhee	1.06	37	-5
Power	1.19	3.57	-67%	1.55	2.50	-38%	Franklin	0.88	38	-20
Shoshone	8.06	4.62	75%	8.13	5.19	57%	Washington	0.78	39	-5
Teton	0.53	2.37	-78%	0.70	1.46	-52%	Bear Lake	0.76	40	3
Twin Falls	3.33	5.13	-35%	3.38	5.66	-40%	Jefferson	0.70	41	-1
Valley	5.73	5.49	4%	6.11	6.37	-4%	Teton	0.53	42	-17
Washington	0.78	1.57	-50%	1.36	2.06	-34%	Camas	0.00	43	-6
State of Idaho	4.13	4.11	0.5%	4.43	4.5	-1.6%	Lincoln	0.00	44	-3

*No information available.

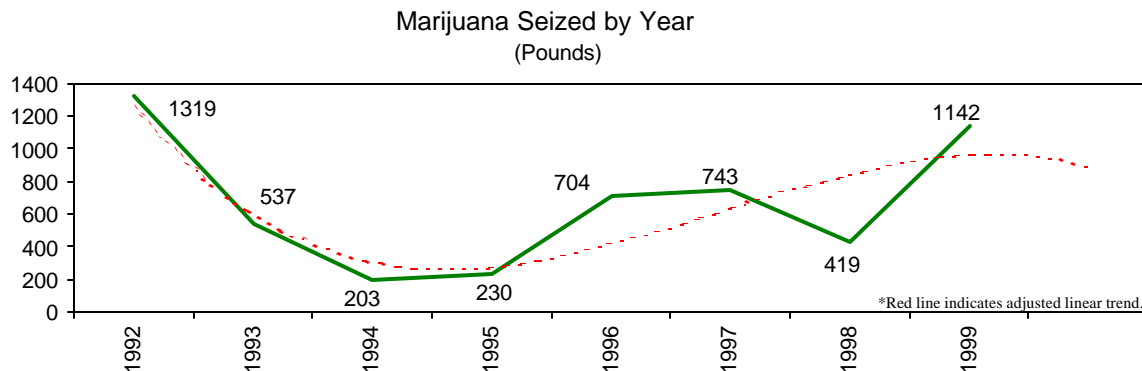
Idaho State Police Drug/Narcotic Arrests

In 1999, the Idaho State Police (ISP) made 15% of the total drug/narcotic and drug equipment arrests compared to all other local law enforcement agencies in the state, an approximate 3% increase over 1998. ISP made 13% more drug arrests in 1999 than in 1998. There were declines in the number of arrests and arrest rates within regions. Region 2 experienced the greatest decline in number of arrests and arrest rates, while Region 3 doubled the number of arrests made in 1998.

Idaho State Police Drug / Narcotics						
Region	Total Arrests			Arrest Rates (per 10,000 People)		
	1998	1999	Percent Change 1998/1999	Arrest Rate 1998	Arrest Rate 1999	Percent Change 1998/1999
Region 1	133	127	-5%	7.85	7.32	-7%
Region 2	52	30	-42%	5.31	3.07	-42%
Region 3	108	221	105%	2.19	4.36	99%
Region 4	145	105	-28%	9.22	6.62	-28%
Region 5	77	123	60%	5.01	7.95	59%
Region 6	83	68	-18%	5.23	4.25	-19%
Total ISP	598	674	13%	4.86	5.38	11%

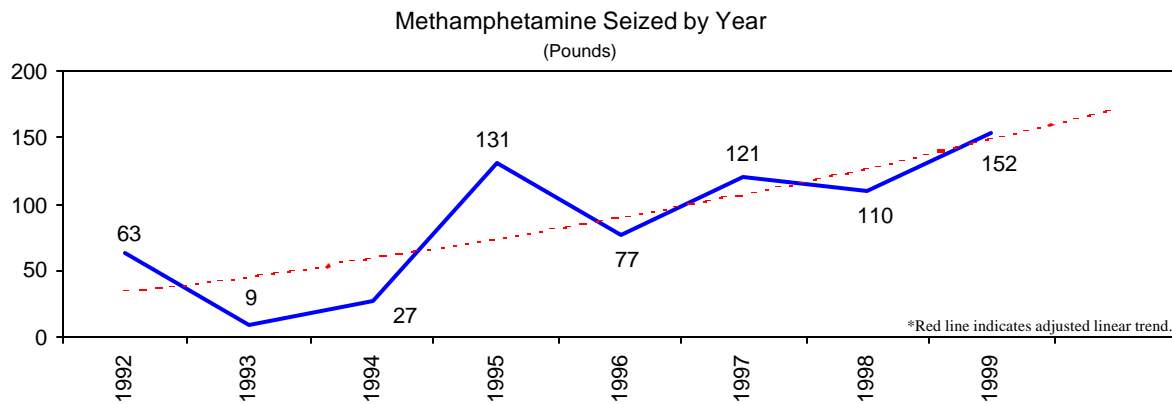
Drug Seizures

During the past eight years drug seizures have alternately dropped and risen, making accurate predictions somewhat difficult. Marijuana, which accounted for 87% of all drugs seized during 1999, is clearly a preferred drug among users. It is our anticipation that 800 to 900 pounds of this drug will be seized during the year 2000.



Methamphetamines are one of the most dangerous illegal drugs in the market today. In 1999, about 152 pounds of these drugs were seized, representing 12% of all drugs seized in Idaho. In the year 2000, it is also expected that greater quantities of this drug will be seized in comparison to 1999.

Using eight years of compiled data as basis for projections, local and state agencies might be seizing 170 to 200 pounds of methamphetamine in 2000. Other drugs, such as cocaine and crack, have a smaller market size in Idaho; therefore, the combined and estimated seized amounts for these two drugs will be in the 10 to 15 pound range in 2000, representing about 1% of total drugs seized.



Clandestine Methamphetamine Lab Seizures

Clandestine methamphetamine lab seizures have skyrocketed during the last decade. Since 1994, the number of labs seized by the Idaho State Police (ISP) has increased by a factor of 62, which equates to a tenfold annual increase. By using polynomial adjustments for total annual lab seizures, ISP may be seizing several hundred clandestine laboratory operations annually by the year 2002. As previously noted, the quantity of methamphetamine seized on the streets has not risen by the same degree as have lab seizures. Despite its upward linear trend, however, availability of this drug is estimated to be on the rise.

The table below indicates the number of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories seized by county/region in the year 2000, graphically represented by the annexed Clandestine Methamphetamine Lab Seizures map. This provides a clear idea of where the Idaho State Police and local law enforcement agencies are deploying resources to combat these illegal operations.

Region 1		Region 2		Region 3		Region 4		Region 5		Region 6	
County	# Labs	County	# Labs	County	# Labs	County	# Labs	County	# Labs	County	# Labs
Kootenai	54	Clearwater	4	Ada	18	Twin Falls	4	Bannock	36	Bonneville	6
Shoshone	16	Latah	4	Canyon	6	Blaine	1	Bingham	1	Jefferson	2
Bonner	15	Nez Perce	3	Boise	1	Minidoka	1	Franklin	1	Madison	1
Benewah	3	Idaho	1	Elmore	1			Power	1		
Boundary	2	Lewis	1	Gem	1						
				Owyhee	1						
				Valley	1						
Total	90	Total	13	Total	29	Total	6	Total	39	Total	9

*Counties without methamphetamine lab seizures are not shown.

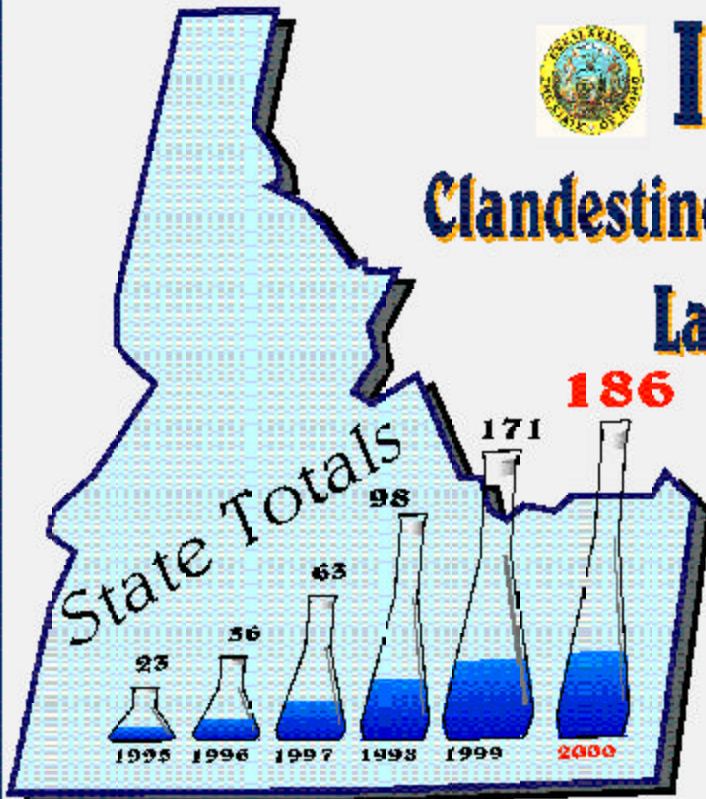


Idaho



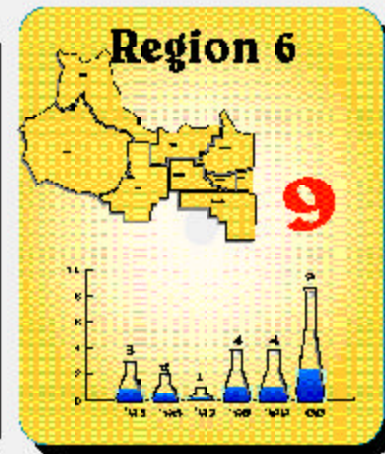
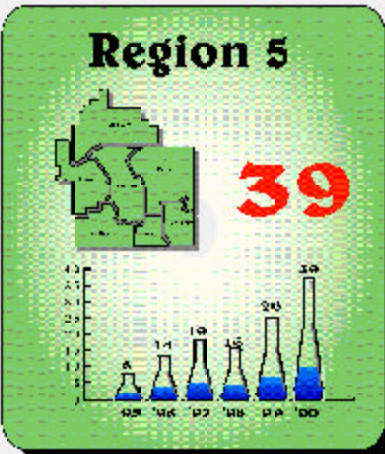
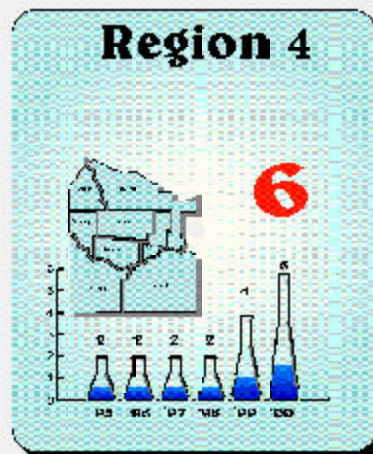
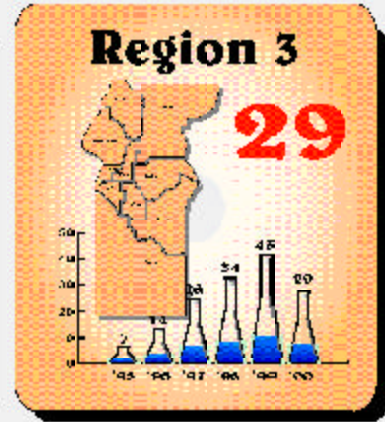
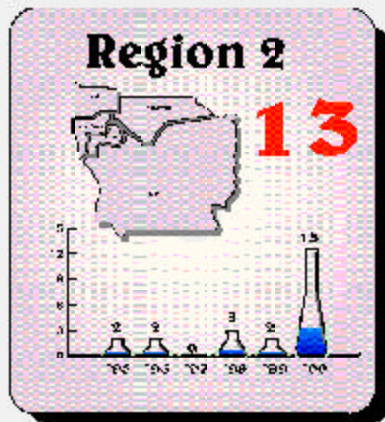
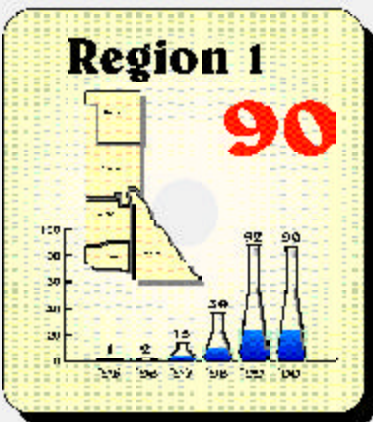
Clandestine Methamphetamine Lab Seizures

by Region
(1995-2000)



2000 Total up 9%
from previous year

*Idaho State Police Investigations
&
Idaho Statistical Analysis Center*



The methamphetamine lab seizures above are those in which the Idaho State Police have participated.