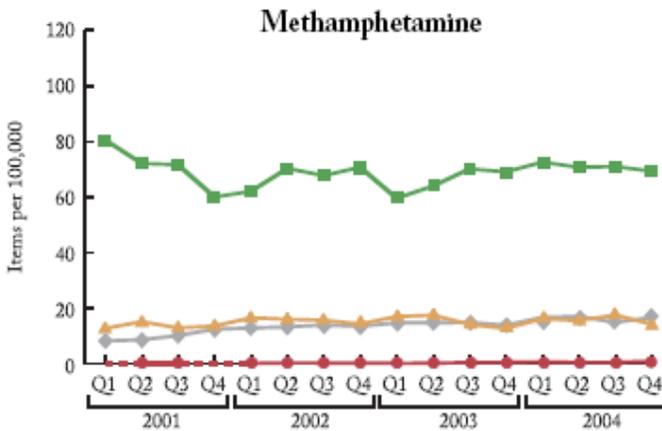


Methamphetamine

Consumption

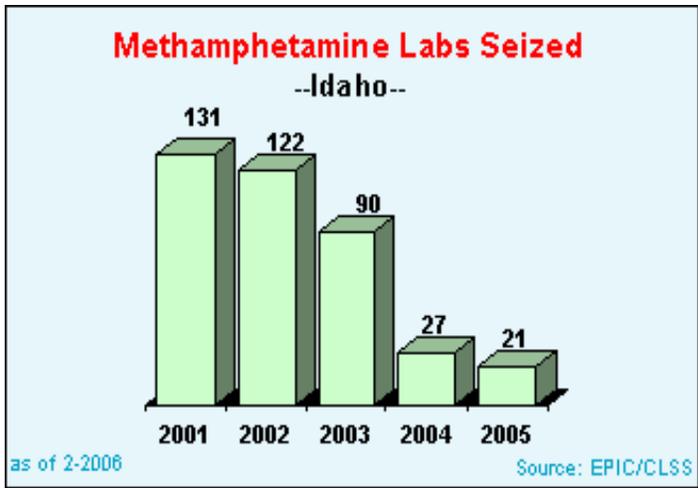
Methamphetamine is the most popular drug in the U.S. to be used in combination with other drugs (35%) such as ephedrine, MDMA, cannabis, or cocaine²⁵.

In 2004, the western U.S. reported 69 methamphetamine cases per 100,000 drug cases while the rest of the U.S. reported from nearly zero to 17 cases per 100,000²⁵.



*A dashed line implies unstable estimates due to small sample sizes.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), methamphetamine is one of the most widely abused drugs in Idaho. Idaho, however, has seen a dramatic decline in methamphetamine labs. The DEA credits this decrease to stricter sentencing of violators, as well as increased drug manufacturing in Mexico and California²⁶.



Consequences

Education

- Methamphetamine can increase the sex drive of users, and thus their exposure to unsafe sex practices. Increased risk of HIV and Hepatitis B and C transmission are likely results of methamphetamine abuse, particularly in individuals who inject the drug and share injection equipment³⁰.
- Abuse of methamphetamine has a toxic effect on the brain. Long term use can result in symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease³⁰.
- High doses can cause convulsions and raise body temperature to lethal levels³⁰.

Arrests

- Idaho State Police report that methamphetamine represents the second largest category of drug arrests[†] (32%). Marijuana is the only drug responsible for more arrests in Idaho (54%)³¹.
- In Idaho, 70% of methamphetamine arrestees, since 1998, are male (83% non-Hispanic). The average age of arrestees is 30.2 years old³².
- Methamphetamine arrests in Idaho have been declining since their peak in 2003³².
- In a 2005 exit survey of offenders as they were released from prison, the Idaho Department of Correction found that 52% said that methamphetamine was the primary reason that contributed to their arrest and incarceration³³.
- A 2005 Idaho State Police survey found that 83% of the female inmates surveyed had previously used an illicit drug. Of that group, 91.4% reported using methamphetamine³⁴.

Consumption

Student Prevalence

Idaho school students are much less likely to perceive that methamphetamines are “fairly/very easy” to get than their national counterparts (30.3% of Idaho high school seniors compared to 55.4% nationally)²⁷.

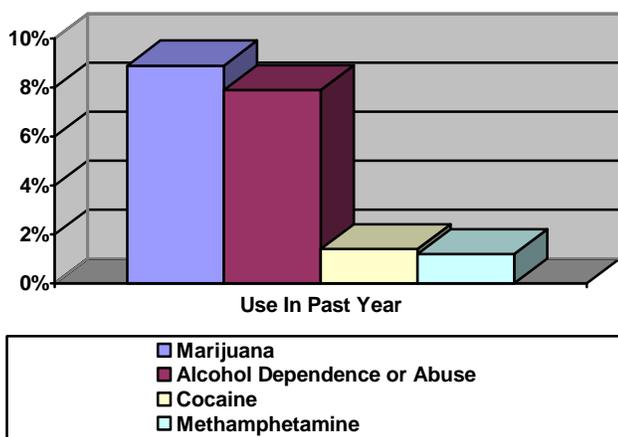
The percent of Idaho students (9-12th grade) who have tried methamphetamine at least once is less than the national average (5.3% versus 6.2% nationally)²⁸.

While the lifetime prevalence of methamphetamine use has been on a general decline, since 1996, among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders it has slightly increased among 6th graders²⁷.

Adult Prevalence[‡]

The percent of Idahoans who have tried, at least once, methamphetamine is higher than that for the U.S. (8.7% Idaho vs. 5.7% U.S.). However, current methamphetamine use is much less than other substances commonly abused in Idaho²⁹. Marijuana continues to have the highest past year use in Idaho.

Methamphetamine, Alcohol and Other Illicit Drug Use in Idaho: % of Population 12 or Older, 2002-04²⁹



Consequences

Treatment

- National best practices recommend specific methamphetamine treatment that is longer, and more intensive than treatment required for other substances. However, currently Idaho has only limited methamphetamine specific treatment services. Consequently in Idaho, methamphetamine treatment, with the exception of ancillary services*, is not significantly longer, more intensive[§], or more expensive per client when compared to non-methamphetamine treatment. Under the present system, roughly 23% of individuals successfully complete methamphetamine treatment (by comparison, 32% of those in treatment for alcohol, 29% for marijuana, and 20% for “other” drugs complete treatment successfully)³⁵.
- Among Idaho adults in treatment, methamphetamine ranked second (30%) behind alcohol as the primary drug of abuse in 2005. This marked the first drop of the adult population in methamphetamine treatment since 1997. For Idaho youth in treatment, methamphetamine (13%) is behind marijuana (48%), and alcohol (33%) as the primary drug of abuse³⁶.

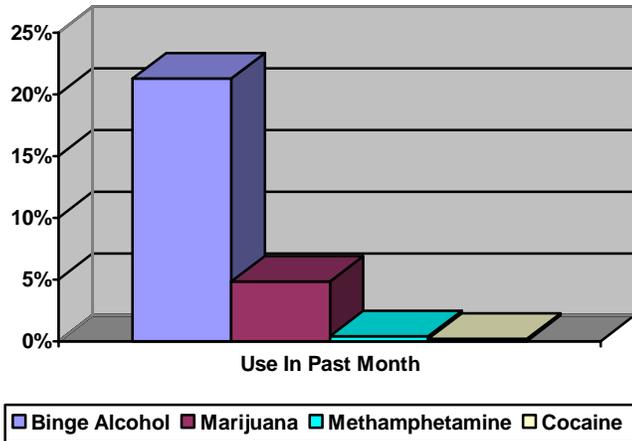
Social and Economic Costs

- Anecdotal reports from Child Welfare Services in Idaho suggest increasing numbers of methamphetamine-related foster care placements. However available data³⁷ is unable to confirm this, revealing only a sporadic relationship between methamphetamine arrests and foster care placements.
- The average cleanup cost of a methamphetamine lab in Idaho is about \$9,000 per site³⁸. Expenses for direct lab cleanup resulted in an estimated cost of \$189,000 to Idaho in 2005³⁹.

Consumption

Past month use of methamphetamine is lower than both the use of marijuana and binge alcohol drinking in Idaho²⁹.

Methamphetamine, Alcohol and Other Illicit Drug Use in Idaho: % of Population 12 or Older, 2002-04²⁹



Consequences

- For FY 2006, methamphetamine treatment in Idaho cost \$4.8 million (roughly 41% of client treatment costs)³⁵.
- Methamphetamine was the primary drug of choice for about 50% of Idaho Drug Court participants, accounting for the bulk of the Drug Court's approximate \$2 million in direct service expenditures for 2005³⁵.

Primary Drug of Choice among Drug Court Participants, 2005

