

## [\\_GA-Cumming Home](#)

<http://www.hometowntimes.com/cumminghome/news50000/government/meth-abuse-costs-georgia-13-billion-yearly.shtml>

### **Meth Abuse Costs Georgia \$1.3 Billion Yearly**

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In response to Georgia's growing meth problem, Attorney General Thurbert Baker is working with the private sector to establish the Georgia Meth Project, a large-scale prevention program aimed at reducing meth use.

#### **Meth Use**

- Methamphetamine continued a five-year trend as Atlanta's fastest growing drug problem, and there has also been a corresponding increase in the availability of Meth.
- Lifetime Meth use by Georgia 12th grade males is 68% above the national average at 9.4%
- Georgia ranks #6 for per capita, past year Meth use for those 12 to 17 years old at a rate of 1.3%
- Georgia ranks #3 for total number of Meth users between 12 and 17 at an estimated 10,000 past year users

#### **Meth Crime**

- In 2005, 1,422 individuals entered Georgia prisons for a Meth offense and an additional 800 entered with prior Meth convictions
- The average sentence for those newly incarcerated was 5.5 years
- The average cost per year for these individuals was \$15,740
- Georgia ranks #8 in the U.S. for per capita identity theft (There are no statistics available to track the specific allocation of Meth-related identity theft incidents)
- The number of people entering Georgia prisons for Meth doubled between 2001 and 2005
- 32% of federal drug offenses in Georgia involved methamphetamine, a total of 147 (with crack cocaine totaling 142), according to the Office of National Drug Control Policy

#### **Meth Treatment**

- According to the most recent U.S. Department of Health and Human Services treatment admissions information that includes Georgia data, 5,250 individuals entered treatment for Meth abuse in 2005
- 51% of those admitted for Meth treatment in Georgia were under 25
- 60% of those entering treatment for Meth in Georgia were women

[See press release](#)

To view the full results of the RAND study, please visit <http://www.methproject.org>

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