



**Georgia's Methamphetamine Problem
February 16, 2009**

Host:

A new study paints a grim picture of methamphetamine use across the state.

In the first ever report of its kind, the RAND Corporation estimates meth use in 2005 cost the nation upwards of 23 billion dollars --- with Georgia among the hardest-hit states:

Jim Langford:

In northwest Georgia Meth abuse has come on very strong over the past 10 years or so, and increasingly so in a number of counties across north and northwest Georgia.

Host:

That was Jim Langford, Executive Director of the Georgia Meth Project.

He estimates the drug costs the state around 1.3 billion dollars every year:

Jim Langford:

“...incarceration and unemployment.”

“Well you break it down into several different areas. One would be crime and criminal justice programs....foster care...treatment of meth addicts and hospital care...and then lost productivity in the workforce due to absenteeism, and incarceration and unemployment.”

Host:

Georgia has spent millions in recent years incarcerating people for Meth-related crimes, but the number of addicts continues to rise.

The state ranks third in the country for the number of meth users between 12 and 17 years old.