



*Meth Destroys* is a yearlong methamphetamine education campaign organized by the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference and funded by a grant from the Governor's Office. It will include outreach efforts by the District Attorneys to Tennessee's 95 counties in schools, businesses, and community and state organizations. All *Meth Destroys* campaign materials feature images and stories of Tennessee meth users. While *Meth Destroys* lives, families and communities, together we can help make Tennessee meth-free. For more information about *Meth Destroys*, visit [www.methfreetn.org](http://www.methfreetn.org).

### ***Meth Destroys Lives***

- “You try it once and that’s all it takes.”  
*-Inmate, White County, TN, addict for 10 years*
- “It kills your soul, and once your soul’s gone, what do you have?”  
*-Middle Tennessee meth addict and inmate*
- After two years on meth, users have depleted 25 percent, or 40 years’ worth, of dopamine, the chemical needed to feel happiness and enjoyment. The average adult only loses 7 percent every 10 years.  
*-National Institute on Drug Abuse*
- As many as 90 percent of meth addicts will return to the drug. Appropriate treatment takes at least 12 months.  
*-Governor’s Task Force on Methamphetamine Abuse, 2004*
- 5.6 percent of high school students in Tennessee reported having tried meth.  
*-2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*
- More than 12.3 million Americans (approximately 5.2 percent of the population) have tried methamphetamine, and 1.5 million are regular users.  
*-2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health*

### ***Meth Destroys Families***

- “My children saw me beat their mother and shoot guns at her. All I wanted to do was more meth.”  
*-Recovering addict, Putnam County, TN*
- 40 percent of child welfare officials surveyed report that methamphetamine has led to an increase in the number of children removed from homes.  
*-National Association of Counties survey polling 500 sheriffs’ departments in 45 states*

- “It makes you so cold and ruthless. I love my children with all my heart, but at the time I never thought about them.”

*-Recovering addict, Putnam County, TN*

### ***Meth Destroys Communities***

- “Here in this small town, it’s a little small town, but it’s got a big drug problem and the main thing is meth.”

*-Inmate, White County, TN, addict for 10 years*

- Labs have been found in homes, apartments, motel rooms and other locations in virtually every county in the state.

*-Governor’s Task Force on Methamphetamine Abuse, 2004*

- The toxic waste generated from methamphetamine production poses significant risks to public health and safety. For every pound of methamphetamine produced, five to eight pounds of toxic waste is generated. Labs can be assembled almost anywhere – in hotel rooms, apartments, cars, trailers, abandoned buildings, and outdoors.

*-Federal Drug Enforcement Administration*

- In 2004, 17,033 methamphetamine labs were seized nationwide, compared with 7,438 in 1999. This represents an increase of 129 percent.

*-Federal Drug Enforcement Administration, Boston Globe Editorial, July 15, 2005*

### **Background**

The Governor’s Task Force on Methamphetamine Abuse issued a report on Sept. 1, 2004, that included recommendations for fighting the increasing meth problem in Tennessee. One of the seven recommendations was “to educate communities about the dangers of methamphetamine abuse.”

In response to the report, the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference (TNDAGC) has been issued a grant to implement a statewide public information, education and awareness campaign concerning the dangers of meth use.