

Synthetic Drugs

Parents:

Synthetic marijuana is NOT a safe alternative to marijuana.

Overview

Synthetic drugs, often sold by the names Posh, K2 or “Spice” are a mixture of herbs and spices that are typically sprayed with a synthetic compound chemically similar to THC, the psychoactive ingredients in marijuana. The chemical compounds typically include HU-210, HU-211, JWH-018, and JWH-073. Synthetic drugs are commonly purchased in convenience stores, head shops, tobacco shops, various retail outlets, and **over the internet**. They are often marketed as incense or “fake weed.” **Purchasing over the Internet can be dangerous because it is not usually known where the products come from or what amount of chemical is on the organic material.**

SYNTHETIC DRUGS ARE BEING SOLD IN CONVENIENCE STORES IN ROANE COUNTY. District Attorney General Russell Johnson and the Drug Task Force are working together with the Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition to get these substances off the shelves. A letter is being hand delivered to stores in Roane County to let them know that Drug Task Force agents and local law enforcement agencies are monitoring the sale of these drugs within our jurisdiction for the safety of the public, especially our youth, teenagers and young adults.

Many, if not most, of these synthetic drugs being sold do not have the actual “ingredients” on their packaging. Some list false ingredients and fail to include the synthetic compounds. Some even attempt to disclaim that they are NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. It is our belief that this is to act as a deterrent for law enforcement as well as an attempt to avoid prosecution.

What does it look like?

Synthetic marijuana is typically sold in small, silvery plastic bags of dried leaves and marketed as incense that can be smoked. It is said to resemble potpourri. It may also be sold in small containers that resemble lip gloss.



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What is its origin?

Manufacturers of this product are not regulated and are often unknown since these products are purchased via the Internet whether wholesale or retail. Several websites that sell the product are based in China. Some products may contain an herb called damiana, which is native to Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

What are common street names?

K2, Posh, Mr. Smiley, Bliss, Black Mamba, Bombay Blue, Fake Weed, Genie, Spice, Zohai

How is it abused?

K2 products are usually smoked in joints or pipes, but some users make it into a tea.

What is its effect on the mind?

Psychological effects are similar to those of marijuana and include paranoia, panic attacks, and giddiness.

What is its effect on the body?

Physiological effects of synthetic marijuana include increased heart rate and increase of blood pressure. It appears to be stored in the body for long periods of time, and therefore the long-term effects on humans are not fully known.

What is its legal status in the United States?

On Tuesday, March 1, 2011, DEA published a final order in the Federal Register temporarily placing five synthetic cannabinoids into Schedule I of the CSA. The order became effective on March 1, 2011. The substances placed into Schedule I are 1-pentyl-3-(1-naphthoyl) indole (JWH-018), 1-butyl-3-(1-naphthoyl) indole (JWH-073), 1-[2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole (JWH-200), 5-(1,1-dimethylheptyl)-2-[(1R,3S)-3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-phenol (CP-47,497), and 5-(1,1-dimethyloctyl)-2-[(1R,3S)-3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-phenol (cannabicyclohexanol; CP-47,497 C8 homologue). This action is based on a finding by the Administrator that the placement of these synthetic cannabinoids into Schedule I of the CSA is necessary to avoid an imminent hazard to the public safety. As a result of this order, the full effect of the CSA and its implementing regulations including criminal, civil and administrative penalties, sanctions, and regulatory controls of Schedule I substances will be imposed on the manufacture, distribution, possession, importation, and exportation of these synthetic cannabinoids.

Parents: Synthetic marijuana can cause death.

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Examples of deaths caused by the use of synthetic marijuana:

ESPN News

In October 2011 a South Carolina coroner said chemicals used in synthetic marijuana contributed to the death of Anderson (S.C.) University basketball player Lamar Jack.

Jack, 19, collapsed during a preseason workout Sept. 30. He died at AnMed Hospital in Anderson four days later.

Anderson County coroner Greg Shore said Jack died after ingesting the chemical JWH-018, which is used to make synthetic marijuana. Jack's death was caused by acute drug toxicity, which led to multiple organ failure, Shore said.

"This drug certainly triggered this young athlete's death and that is tragic," Shore said.

Obituary:

Brandon Rice- Artificial marijuana blamed in death of youth, 14, Saturday, October 29, 2011

A Westmoreland County teenager who had been hospitalized since smoking synthetic marijuana in June died Thursday morning.

Brandon Rice, 14, of East Huntingdon, was taken to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC about June 13, after he told his parents he smoked a type of synthetic marijuana called K2, said his aunt, Kristen Rice.

Synthetic Marijuana Blamed for Teen's Death

(CBS)They call it "synthetic marijuana," but experts say it may be more dangerous than the real thing.

How dangerous? A 19-year-old Aurora, Ill. man who got behind the wheel after smoking crashed his car into a house. He died. Max Dobner called his brother in a panic minutes before the wreck saying he had smoked a legal marijuana product sold as "potpourri," a CBS affiliate reported in July.



www.roaneantidrug.org

For more information visit www.dea.gov.