

NEWS FLUSH

...in the know while you go



MELROSE
SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PREVENTION COALITION

Synthetic Marijuana

Commonly known as K2 or Spice, is a mixture of plant material sprayed with synthetic psychoactive chemicals (cannabinoids). It often looks like potpourri and typically labeled “not for human consumption” even though it has been sold illegally in some gas station or mini-mart stores.



MYTH: *It's safer than hard drugs.*

FACT: K2 or Spice can have effects that are up to 100 times more potent than THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. Synthetics mimic physiological and psychoactive effects of THC, but are more intense, commonly resulting in medical and psychiatric emergencies. Each batch can be a completely different chemical makeup, resulting in “hot spots” or “bad batches” that can cause overdoses and has been linked to deaths in Colorado, Alabama, and California, among others.

MYTH: *It's legal weed.*

FACT: Don't be fooled— these are not legal alternatives to marijuana! In July 2012, President Obama signed the Synthetic Drug Abuse Prevention Act, making these types of drugs illegal under federal law. These substances are hallucinogens similar to LSD. And like LSD, they are controlled substances, which means they have no acceptable medical use and they cannot be prescribed.

MYTH: *There is no test for fake weed.*

FACT: False! Because synthetic cannabinoids are very potent to the brain even at very low doses, their compounds can be detected in saliva, blood, and urine!

The symptoms of synthetics are no joke...

Nausea
Short or depressed breathing
Chest pain
Vomiting
psychosis
Organ damage
Renal failure
overdose
agitation
Cognitive impairment
seizures
anxiety
Panic attacks
hallucinations
Extreme paranoia
Increased heart rate and blood pressure
Chest pain
convulsions
death
Suicidal ideation
Cardiac and respiratory arrest

Visit

teens.drugabuse.gov

for more info!

Want to see a particular topic discussed in next month's issue? Have a question about drugs or alcohol?

E-mail the Youth Action Team at

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