

SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS

A mind-altering marijuana alternative created in a lab.

ABOUT SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS

- Marketed as “Legal Highs, and believed to be more dangerous than the real thing.
- Although these products are often marketed as “safe” alternatives to marijuana, they may affect the brain much more powerfully than marijuana
- Their effects can be unpredictable and severe
- The products on the market represent a constantly changing combination of Synthetic Cannabinoid compounds

ABUSE

Products are smoked in joints or pipes, but some users make it into a tea. They are also sold as liquids to be vaporized and inhaled in e-cigarettes and other devices (liquid incense), or may be baked into foods, such as brownies. Easy access, non-detectability by standard drug tests, and the misperception that Synthetic Cannabinoid products are “natural” and therefore harmless, have all likely contributed to their popularity. Athletes, adolescents, soldiers, parolees, and employees subject to drug-testing in safety-sensitive environments often take the drug because they think it allows them to get high without having to worry about failing their mandatory drug tests.

EFFECTS

Synthetic Cannabinoids begin having an impact within minutes, depending on the route of administration. The duration of the high and the onset of effects also depends on the route of administration, and can last one to eight hours. Synthetic Cannabinoids bind to the same receptors in the brain as THC, so they can have an effect similar to THC. However, some Synthetic Cannabinoids are 100 times stronger than THC. Because the chemical composition of many Synthetic Cannabinoid products is unknown and may change from batch to batch, these products are likely to contain substances that cause dramatically different effects than the user might expect. Symptoms include high blood pressure, blurred vision, heart attack, vomiting, seizures, hallucinations, severe anxiety and paranoia, addiction and death.

REASONS TO ADD TO YOUR DRUG PANEL

- According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, there were approximately 28,531 emergency room visits involving synthetic cannabinoids in 2011, two and a half times more than in 2010.
- In 2012, Synthetic Cannabinoids were the second-most abused drug in US high schools, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.
- US poison control centers experienced a 229% increase in the number of calls related to Synthetic Cannabinoid use in 2015 compared to 2014, prompting concern from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- The NFL and NFL Players Association has added synthetic marijuana to the list of banned substances within its 2016 drug policy, according to a joint announcement by the League and Union.

TRADE NAMES

K2
Spice
Black Mamba
Genie
Zohai



SLANG / STREET TERMS

Synthetic Marijuana
Fake/Legal Weed
Herbal Incense
Potpourri
Spice
Kush
Rasta Spice
Fake Bake
Joe



Psychemedics Corporation is the world's leading hair drug testing company. Psychemedics' patented hair analysis technology is trusted by Fortune 500 companies, police forces, courts, schools, and parents all over the world.