

Look inside for details! Congress agrees to add 26 synthetic drugs to Controlled Substances Act

 **THE PARTNERSHIP FOR A DRUG-FREE NEW JERSEY**
155 Millburn Avenue
Millburn, NJ 07041

FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 715
UNION,
NJ 07083

Recipient's Name
Street Address
Town, State Zip



Find Safe Rx Disposal Locations in the palm of your hand.

Download the **AMCC RxDrop** App Free!

 Available on the iPhone App Store  Google 

 Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey
in Cooperation with the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and the NJ Dept. of Human Services

UPDATE

**DRUGS
DON'T
WORK
IN NJ!**



Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey

Update No. 64

Fall 2012

Synthetic Marijuana (K2/Spice)

K2 or "spice" are terms used to describe a variety of products made of dried, shredded plant material laced with synthetic compounds.¹ The products are sold surreptitiously as herbal incense, although they are known to be used as a marijuana substitute.^{1,2} K2/spice is marketed under names such as Black Magic, Genie, Spice Diamond, and Spice Gold¹ and sold online, in convenience stores, and in "head" or smoke shops.^{1,3} Many are labeled as "Not for human consumption" and labeled as "safe" and "natural" alternatives.¹ The synthetic ingredients are identified as substances with chemical and/or pharmacologic similarities to marijuana, K2/spice users have reported feelings that are similar to those produced by marijuana and, in some reports, the feelings are even stronger than when using marijuana. Experiences include elevated mood,

relaxation, altered perception, psychotic effects such as extreme anxiety, paranoia, and hallucinations.¹

These "synthetic cannabinoids" make up large family of chemical structures functionally (biologically) similar to δ -9 THC, the primary psychoactive constituent of marijuana.⁴ To date, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reports that more than 100 synthetic cannabinoid substances have been synthesized and identified.²

Over the years, there have been increasing reports to poison control centers and emergency room visits of exposure from synthetic marijuana users. The American Association of Poison Control Centers reports the following statistics on human exposure to synthetic marijuana.⁵

Synthetic Marijuana Exposure Calls to Poison Control Centers, 2010 to May 31, 2012⁵

YEAR	Number of Calls
2010	2,906
2011	6,959
2012 as of May 31, 2012	2,883

These numbers reflect the closed human exposure calls to poison centers about exposures to synthetic marijuana (THC homologues) as of May 31, 2012. The numbers may change as cases are closed and additional information is received.¹⁵

(Continued on next page)



On March 1, 2012, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a final order to place five synthetic cannabinoids temporarily in Schedule 1 of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). Schedule 1 substances have been found to have a high potential for abuse with no known medical benefit. The new Schedule 1 substances 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



Over the years, there have been increasing reports to poison control centers and emergency room visits of exposure from synthetic marijuana users.

[cannabicyclohexanol; CP-47,497 C8 homologue].⁶ The final order makes it illegal to manufacture, distribute, possess, import, or export any of the listed substances.



The DEA continues to monitor and act to control dangerous synthetic drugs. On June 19, 2012, the DEA released a notice commending House and Senate negotiators for agreeing to add 26 substances to Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. The legislation would also create a new definition for “cannabimimetic agents” and would double the length of time a substance may be temporarily placed in Schedule I (from 18 to 36 months).²

One of the challenges for toxicology laboratories is that K2/spice products contain a variety of composition in the chemicals used in the mixtures. The rapidly changing composition of these products makes it challenging for the toxicology laboratory to assure that its assays target the metabolites of these ever-changing compounds.

Traditional assays for cannabinoids do not detect synthetic marijuana; however, specialized techniques have been developed to detect metabolites of synthetic cannabinoids in urine. Quantitation in urine appears to be better with the use of liquid chromatography and tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS-MS).³

REFERENCES:

1. Spice (Synthetic Marijuana). NIDA Drug Facts, April 2012. Available at: www.drugabuse.gov.
2. DEA NEWS: Congress Agrees to Add 26 Synthetic Drugs to Controlled Substances Act. Available at: www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/pressrel/pr061912p.html. Accessed June 20, 2012.
3. Baselt RC. Tetrahydrocannabinol. In: Baselt RC. Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man. 9th ed. Seal Beach, Calif: Biomedical Publications; 2011:1644.
4. American Association of Poison Control Centers. Synthetic Marijuana Data. Updated June 8, 2012.
5. Federal Register Volume 76, Number 40 (Tuesday, March 1, 2011), [Rules and Regulations], [pp 11075-11078], From the Federal Register Online via the Government Printing Office [www.gpo.gov], [FR Doc No: 2011-4428].
6. Baselt RC. Spice. In: Baselt RC. Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man. 9th ed. Seal Beach, Calif: Biomedical Publications; 2011:1565-1566.

About LabCorp

LabCorp is one of the nation’s leading independent laboratories, offering a comprehensive menu of drug-free workplace and employee wellness testing options.

www.LabCorpSolutions.com

Call 800-343-8974.

Notice: This article reflects the opinion of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey (PDFNJ). This information should not be construed as legal advice from the author or PDFNJ. Please consult your own attorney before making any legal decisions.

Congress Agrees to Add 26 Synthetic Drugs to Controlled Substances Act



WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Drug Enforcement Administration DEA today commended House and Senate negotiators for agreeing on legislation to control 26 synthetic drugs under the Controlled Substances Act. These drugs include those commonly found in products marketed as “K2” and “Spice.”

The addition of these chemicals to Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act will be included as part of S. 3187, the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act. Schedule I substances are those with a high potential for abuse; have no medical use in treatment in the United States; and lack an accepted safety for use of the drug.

In addition to scheduling the 26 drugs, the new law would double the length of time a substance may be temporarily placed in Schedule I (from 18 to 36 months). In addition to explicitly naming 26 substances, the legislation creates a new definition for “cannabimimetic agents,” creating criteria by which similar chemical compounds are controlled.

In recent years, a growing number of dangerous products have been introduced into the U.S. marketplace. Products labeled as “herbal incense” have become especially popular, especially among teens and young adults. These products consist of plant material laced with synthetic cannabinoids which, when smoked, mimic the delirious effects of THC, the psychoactive ingredient of marijuana. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, more than 100 such substances have been synthesized and identified to date. DEA has used its emergency scheduling authority to place in schedule I several of these harmful chemicals.

Newly developed drugs, particularly from the “2C family” (dimethoxyphenethylamines), are generally referred to as synthetic psychedelic/hallucinogens. 2C-E caused the recent death of a 19 year-old in Minnesota.

The substances added to Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act also include 9 different 2C chemicals, and 15 different synthetic cannabinanoids.

The American Association of Poison Control Centers reported that they received 6,959 calls related to synthetic marijuana in 2011, up from 2,906 in 2010.

