Synthetic Cannabinoids
K2 | Spice | Synthetic Marijuana

**What Are They?**
Synthetic cannabinoid products are herbs that have been sprayed with chemical additives to mimic the psychoactive effects of botanical marijuana, but are significantly more dangerous to the user.

- With bright colored packaging resembling candy, these products are clearly being marketed to kids.
- Use cannot be easily detected in urine or blood samples.
- Synthetic cannabinoids look like plant materials or potpourri, leading people to believe that it is a "safe alternative" to marijuana.
- Although the packages are marked "not for human consumption," and are marketed as legal and safe, these products are still being consumed/abused.

**Effects similar to using botanical marijuana**
- Elevated mood
- Altered perception
- Drowsiness
- Impaired coordination
- Reddened eyes
- Increased appetite
- Nausea/vomiting
- Increased heart rate
- Increased/reduced anxiety
- Memory deficits
- Acute psychosis
- Fetal developmental effects

**Additional effects from synthetic use**
- Agitation
- Violent behavior
- Suicidal thoughts
- Cognitive impairment
- Increased blood pressure
- Seizures
- Muscle spasms
- Low potassium
- Kidney damage
- Coma
- Death

**An Alarming Fact**
1,900 people sought help from poison control centers for adverse reactions to synthetic cannabinoids during the first 4 months of 2015. This is **FOUR TIMES** the number of calls received in ALL of 2014.

This picture highlights some available products. The names, packages, and chemical compounds are constantly changing.

**Educate your community** on the dangers of using synthetic cannabinoids and connect with your local poison control centers to provide resource and referral help.

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This infographic has been developed by the NIDA/SAMHSA-ATTC Blending Initiative
www.natts.org

U.S. DEA, Office of Diversion Control, NELIS data, 2010-2013
Weaver et al., 2015
SAMHSA, 2014

**Number of unique compounds produced**
- 47 in 2010
- 32 in 2011
- 46 in 2012
- 47 in 2013

**Number of DEA Seizures**
- 3,285 in 2010
- 22,957 in 2011
- 42,709 in 2012
- 33,239 in 2013