

Fact Or Fiction

The use of spice does not show up on drug tests

Fiction! With the growing popularity of this drug, there is a urine drug test that can detect the use of this drug

Smoking synthetic cannabis can be fatal even the first time

Fact! Severe side effects have been commonly reported. Medical issues have ranged from high heart rate and blood pressure to seizures, comas, and heart attacks for those as young as 16!

The use of synthetic cannabis is legal

Fiction! Since 2011 in the state of Colorado, the possession or use of synthetic cannabis can be tried as a misdemeanor or a felony.

References

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- Office of National Drug Control Policy, (n.d.). *Synthetic drugs (a.k.a. k2, spice, bath salts, etc.)*. Retrieved from website: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/ondcp-fact-sheets/synthetic-drugs-k2-spice-bath-salts>
- State of Colorado. (n.d.). *Synthetic marijuana - spice or k2 - in colorado*. Retrieved from <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheadname1=Content-Disposition&blobheadname2=Content-Type&blobheadvalue1=inline;filename='Synthetic+Marijuana+Factsheet.pdf'&blobheadvalue2=application/pdf&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1251901151608&ssbinary=true>

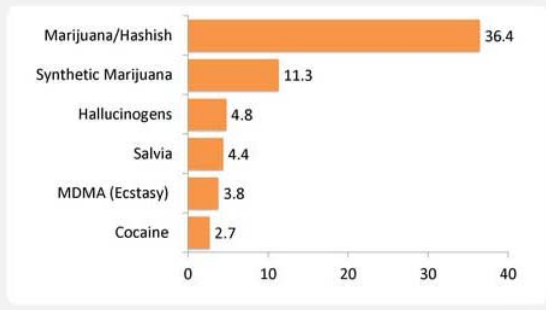


SPICE

Synthetic Cannabis/THC

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Past-Year Use of Illicit Drugs by High School Seniors (percent)



What Is It?

Synthetic cannabis also known as the common brand names of Spice or K2, is a plant like substance that is laced with a chemical that produces a similar psychoactive effect as the THC found in marijuana. This man-made substance has a similar make up to an amphetamine and most of all of the chemical ingredients are unlabeled and unknown. This is not currently regulated by the FDA and is labeled “not for human consumption” to keep this “legal high” under the rug from federal regulation. The use of this substance does not appear on standard THC drugs tests and has been known to be very easily accessible by those under the age of 18.

Why Do We Care?

This type of drug use is becoming increasingly more popular in the younger population and severe medical consequences are being seen more commonly. According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, in 2012 they concluded that one in nine high school aged kids had used synthetic THC in the last year. That ranks this drug the second most commonly used drug in this age group right below marijuana use, which is first. The chemicals that are in synthetic cannabis are unknown and unregulated, which can cause unpredictable health complications.

What Can Happen If I Smoke It?

Many severe side effects have been reported with the use of this drug. The most common are similar effects to amphetamines such as increased heart rate and blood pressure, chest pain, extreme paranoia, hallucinations, delusions, and violent behavior, which cause users to harm themselves or others. Extreme events like seizures, myocardial infarction (heart attack), coma, and the initiation of psychological illness such as schizophrenia, have been seen in those as young as 16 years of age.

What Can We Do To Stop It?

1. **Be smart!** Don't do a drug when you don't know what chemicals you are inhaling into your body. Be aware that this drug could be fatal, even with first time use.
2. **Be a good friend!** If you have a friend that uses synthetic THC, tell them of what dangers could happen and the effects it has on the body.
3. **Spread the word!** The use of this drug is becoming increasingly more popular in the younger population. If you see this drug use happening, don't hesitate to alert a school teacher, counselor, or security officer. Be an advocate for your school's safety.

“...similar effects to amphetamines such as increased heart rate and blood pressure, chest pain, extreme paranoia, hallucinations, delusions, and violent behavior...”

Do You Want More Information?

Do You Have More Questions?

- Call the CO HELP Line at 1-877-462-2911 or 303-389-1687.
- Hours: Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday - Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- For more information, visit www.cohelp.us.



OR

- Visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/ondcp-fact-sheets/synthetic-drugs-k2-spice-bath-salts>



Office of National Drug Control Policy