presentations part two

the real deal on SYNTHETIC DRUGS

a symposium presented by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council’s Substance Abuse Treatment and Mental Health Services Integration Taskforce
presentations (part two)

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Geoffrey Mount Varner, MD, MPH

SYNTHETIC DRUGS IN THE COMMUNITY – THE REAL DEAL
Today’s discussion will center around the psychoactive substance, synthetic marijuana, also known as: K2, Spice, Genie, Solar Flare, Fire n’Ice, Skunk, Moon Rocks, fake weed,
Physiology

- Adrenergic or increased sympathomimetic state
  - Increase in epinephrine and norepinephrine hormones (fight or flight)
    - Increase in blood pressure (normal 120/60)
    - Increase in heart rate (normal 70 – 80)
PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF MARIJUANA:

- Increase heart rate, blood pressure and breathing rate
- Red Eyes
- Dry Mouth
- Increased Appetite ("the munchies")
- Slow reaction time
PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF MARIJUANA

- Distorted sense of time
- Paranoia
- Magical or “random” thinking
- Short term memory loss
- Anxiety and depression
- Feeling of Relaxation
Users mistakenly anticipate effects similar to marijuana:
- Blood Pressure 240/120 (stroke level)
- Heart Rate 140 – 150s
- Nausea and Vomiting
- Acute Agitation
- Acute Psychosis
- Seizures
MARIJUANA – INCREASED ADRENERGIC RESPONSE

- Increase Heart Rate (90 – 110)
- Increase Blood Pressure (150/70)
- “Feeling Strange”

SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA – GREATER INCREASE IN ADRENERGIC RESPONSE

- Increase Heart Rate (140 – 160)
- Increase Blood Pressure above (240/130) Stroke Range
- Grand Mal Seizures

PHYSIOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL
MARIJUANA

- Short Term Memory loss
- Anxiety /Depression
- Paranoia
- Relaxation

SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA

- Complete memory loss
- Acute Agitation
- Acute Psychosis
- Analgesic
**MARIJUANA**

- Increase HR (90 – 100)
- Increase BP (150/70)
- “Feeling Strange”
- Short Term Memory loss
- Anxiety /Depression
- Paranoia

**SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA**

- Heart Rate (140 – 150)
- BP (240s/130s)
- Grand Mal Seizures
- Complete memory loss
- Acute Agitation
- Acute Psychosis
CASE STUDIES
CASE STUDY #1

12:01a HPI: 18yo male presents by EMS with parents present and reporting patient has been really “slow to respond and is not acting funny”. No significant past medical history.

12:05a PE: vitals 97.8/101/181/75/14 Psych – A/O x 3; drowsy, slow to respond but pleasant
CASE STUDY #1

12: 10a Progress Note: Pt. placed in a room, undressed, labs drawn

2:00am Progress Note – pt observed for several hours. Pt. completely cooperative and clinically stable. Pt. admits to Marijuana and Utox supports.

2:30a Pt. discharged home in stable condition (2.5 hours after arrival pt DC home)
CASE STUDY #2

HPI 9:54a: 26 yo male with no significant past medical history presents in police custody with EMS stating pt says “I am god and people and the police are trying to kill me”. Police state, “we found the patient in the middle of the road trying to direct traffic.....” Patients sister was at the scene and confirms patient does not have any psychiatric history.
CASE STUDY #2

- 9:56a PE: vitals 98.8/180/247/123/18
- Psych – A/O x 2; restless and slightly agitated
- Remaining PE normal
10:10a Progress Note: patient became acutely psychotic while being escorted to his room. Patient stated, “I am god.. why are you trying to kill me” and began to undress and then suddenly grabbed the nurse by the neck. 3 police officers, 4 security guards, 2 nurses and a tech attempted to restrain and place the patient in 4 point restraints.
CASE STUDY #2

10:45a Progress Note:

- Patient was resuscitated without success and pronounced dead at 10:40a.
  - Remember the hyper-adrenergic response and analgesia 98.8/180/247/123/18
  - Pt was dead in less than 40 minutes
- Autopsy showed Acute Myocardial Infarction and Cardiac Dysarrythmia
CASE STUDY #3

1:00pm HPI 31yo presents by EMS acutely agitated and restrained by EMS and police. EMS states, “patient was smoking K2 and then suddenly started to yell and scream and became crazy”. No significant past medical history.
CASE STUDY #3

PE: 100.2/ 138/ 225/128/ 18
General: combative and extremely diaphoretic
Psych – pt not A/O to person, place or time

1:30p Progress Note: pt kicking, spitting and screaming, 4 security guards and 2 nurses had to transfer to bed who was then placed in 4 point restraints, IVF NS Liter bolus, Versed for sedation and one to one observation.
CASE STUDY #3

2:59p – pt is resting, 98.9/94/190/78/14

4:15p – pt is requesting water. 2 points removed.

6:00p – pt completely out of restraints, pleasant and cooperative
CASE STUDY #3

- 7:30p – 98.9/76/120/61/12 pt discharged home in stable condition
Pt was discharged home 6.5 hours after arrival
Patients are dangerous and unpredictable. Often the chemical composition of many of the synthetic marijuana's are unknown and/or enhanced, therefore the effects are often dramatically different and at times fatal.
Take home: Protect and do not trust anyone under the influence of synthetic marijuana. He or she is not the same person. They can and will hurt, harm or kill you while acutely intoxicated.
THANK YOU
Synthetic Cannabinoids

Narcotics and Special Investigations Division
Metropolitan Police Department

Commander Melvin Scott
Street Names

- Spice
- K2
- Fake weed
- Synthetic marijuana

Misconception
Good Intentions – Bad results

Dangerous side effects

Researcher publicly stated that people who smoke Synthetic Cannabinoids are, “CRAZY”.
Brief History

John William Huffman – Retired Research Chemist – Clemson University.

JWH-018, JWH-19, JWH-073, JWH-081, etc.,…..approx. 400 SC
Huffman subsequently learns that “Imitation Marijuana” drugs based on his chemicals had surfaced in Europe since 2006, not long after he published a paper describing how to make the compounds.

- 2008 Germany prohibits JWH-018, but finds that new seizures contained different compounds.

- 2008 Synthetic Marijuana products are noticed in the United States

- First popular brands “Spice” and “K2”
Who is selling Synthetics?

- Convenience Stores
- Gas Stations
- Food Carry-outs
- Head Shops
- Independent Phone Stores
Today in Washington DC

Synthetic Cannabinoids are sold in different weight packets: 1g, 1.5g, 3g, 3.5g, 4g, 10g, 11g and 15g and jars of 1g and 3 grams.

Prices vary from vendor to vendor, but 4 grams usually sell for $10 - $15 and 10g sell for $20-$40.
At the beginning of enforcement in Washington DC
Hidden
Hidden
Hidden
Seizures
Today in Washington DC

Brand of Synthetic Cannabinoids
Today in Washington DC

Brand of Synthetic Cannabinoids
Today in Washington DC

Brand of Synthetic Cannabinoids
Today in Washington DC

Brand of Synthetic Marijuana
Today in Washington DC

- The NSID has seized 79 different brands of Synthetic Cannabinoids.
- The most popular brands are “Bizarro” and Scooby Snax”.
Newest Trend
Liquid
Disclaimers

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**CAUTION**

FOR FRAGRANCE PURPOSES ONLY.
NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND PETS.
NEVER LEAVE BURNING INCENSE UNATTENDED
AND MAKE SURE ALL ASHES FALL IN ASHTRAYS
OR BURNERS

SMOKE INHALATION MAY CAUSE
LIGHT-HEADEDNESS AND BE HARMFUL
TO YOUR HEALTH

BURN IN A WELL-VENTILATED AREA

TESTED AND CERTIFIED BY:
TOXICOLOGY ASSOCIATED INC
DOES NOT CONTAIN

JWH-018, JWH-073, JWH-133, JWH-200, JWH-210,
HU-210, HU-211, Cp47, 497 2, WIN 55, 212-2

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**TRILOGY**

Diesel Brand Products
Our Products made to Enjoy
the smell of our
special blend of the best Potpourri
market.

ATTENTION TO CUSTOMERS:

THIS Product is LAB certified to not contain any
ingredients that are prohibiled in the state of sale.

ALL COPYRIGHTS ARE REGISTERED AND RESERVED
TO TANUS DISTRIBUTORS LLC.

NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

WWW.HERBALANDINCENSE.COM
Disclaimers

LAB CERTIFIED NOT TO CONTAIN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SUBSTANCES:
JWH-018, JWH-073, JWH-200, CP-47,497, HU-210/211, C8 (cannabicyclohexanol), JWH-250, JWH-081

This product is intended to be used as an aromatic potpourri only. It is not designed or intended for human consumption. Both the manufacturers and retailers of this product take no responsibility for the incorrect use or misuse of this product.

Ingredients: Damiana

And a proprietary formula of ingredients that potentiate the natural properties of this herb. Damiana is famous for its aphrodisiac properties. K3 releases a pleasant aroma when burned.

FOR AROMATHERAPY ONLY
(Not for Human Consumption)

www.k3incense.com

Proudly Made in the USA
Symptoms of Synthetic Marijuana Use

OVERALL SYMPTOMS

- Increased Agitation
- Paranoid Delusions
- Depression
- Hallucinations
- Exaggerated Thoughts of Suicide
- Feeling of Impending Doom
- Panic Attacks
- Heart Attacks

"Glazed" expression, red eyes

Psychosis

Inability to Speak

Body
Temperature Fluctuation, Inability to Feel Pain, Seizures

Increased Blood Pressure and Heart Rate, Heart Attack

Temporary Paralysis, Cramping

Kidney Failure

Vomiting

Please Call 911 IMMEDIATELY if you suspect someone has used Synthetic Marijuana!

Many of these symptoms may be life threatening an may change suddenly.

Graphic by To The Maximus Foundation. Please use with attribution.
Synthetic Pot Leads to Teenager's Death (February 9, 2013)
Excited Delirium

PCP like effects

Precautions for Hospital and EMS personnel
Cops help fire/EMS to defend themselves


By HOMER MARQUEZ Herald News Editor |
0 comments

The effects of synthetic marijuana can be very unpredictable, mostly due to the unknown chemicals and dosage in each package of “legal weed.”
Synthetic Pot Was Factor In Weekend Assault, Arson, Police Say

By: Paul J. Gately Email

WACO (July 7, 2014) The synthetic marijuana product known as K-2 was a factor in a weekend incident in which a Waco woman was arrested after her teenage children were threatened with a knife and scissors and a fire was set in the living room of the family’s home.

Linda Faye Cooper, 58, was jailed Monday in lieu of bonds totaling $300,000, charged with two counts of aggravated assault and one count of arson, online jail records showed.

Waco police were sent at around 3:20 a.m. Sunday to a residence in the 4700 block of Fort Avenue after a caller reported a disturbance involving a woman and her two teenage children. Waco police Sgt. W. Patrick
Seizures by NSID

Since March 2013 NSID has seized over 191 kilos of synthetic cannabinoids.

That equates to 19,100 – 10gram bags or 54,571 – 3.5 gram bags.

191 kilos would wholesale at $1,337,000 and retail $3,820,000.

102 seizures have been made from 61 different locations.
Arrest Locations

- Aida’s Electronics – 209 Florida Ave NW
- Bladensburg Market Dollar – 1109 Bladensburg Rd NE
- Dollar Plus Market – 1303 Good Hope Rd SE
- Congress Heights Groceries – 3109-C MLK Ave SE
- Benning Market & Dollar Plus – 2001 Benning Rd NE
- Good Hope Dollar Store – 1429 Good Hope Rd SE
- BP Gas Station – 306 R.I Ave SW
- Exxon Gas Station - #! Florida Ave NE

- MLK Mini Mart – 3333 MLK Ave SE
- Exxon Gas Station – 1020 Michigan Ave NE
- Crown Gas Station – 3011 MLK Ave SE
- Wow Market – 6226 Georgia Ave NW
- BP Gas Station – 1396 Florida Ave NE
- J&F Market 1245 5th St NW
- Mobil Gas Station – 814 Bladensburg Rd NE
- Fish Market 3400 14th St NW
### Additional Seizure Locations (No Arrests)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3600 Georgia Ave NW</td>
<td>700 Kennedy St NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5500 Central Ave SE</td>
<td>600 Kennedy St NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3800 Georgia Ave NW</td>
<td>5400 5th St NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 T St NW</td>
<td>1800 West Virginia Ave NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3500 East Capitol St NE</td>
<td>1200 Mt Olivet Rd NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3700 Minnesota Ave NE</td>
<td>2300 4th St NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2900 MLK Jr Ave SE</td>
<td>1100 Mt Olivet Rd NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3800 Minnesota Ave SE</td>
<td>4000 Gault Pl NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500 15th St SE</td>
<td>200 Upshur St NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800 Rhode Island Ave NE</td>
<td>2100 Alabama Ave SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500 7th St NW</td>
<td>5000 Benning Rd NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400 Howard Rd SE</td>
<td>2400 MLK Jr Ave SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1100 eastern Ave NE</td>
<td>100 Rhode Island Ave NW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional Seizures

- 1900 11th Street NW
- 200 Dix St NE
- 1900 Bladensburg Rd NE
- 2800 Naylor Rd SE
- 3400 14th St NW
- 4100 Hunt Pl NE
The Impact of Synthetic Drug Use – DC Public Schools
WHO WE ARE

ENROLLMENT

- DCPS is home to 46,500 students
- 6,450 of those are Special Education students

MENTAL HEALTH STAFFING

- 160 School Social Workers
- 85 School Psychologists
- 43 DBH School Mental Health Providers (Specialists, Social Workers, LPCs, Psychologists)
School Based Interventions
Considerations

Rationale
- 20% of students who need MH – 70-80% of those receive services in schools
- Referrals – 96% in-school vs 13% in the community
- Treatment adherence

Treatment in Schools
- Improves truancy rates
- 2009 CSAT data- school attendance improves treatment outcomes
- Impact on costs
Non-clinic setting

- Drug Testing
- Data

Training

- CRAFFT-yes
- GAIN SS-September 2014
- Motivational Enhancement Therapy/Cognitive Behavioral Therapy 5 Sessions-Cannabis Youth Treatment
- Theater Troupe
School Based Interventions

ADVANTAGES

SERVICES BETTER ACCESSED IN THE SCHOOLS:

- ACCESS AND ADHERENCE
- LOW ATTRITION RATES

SCHOOL BASED RESOURCES

- DCPS exceed the NOMS recommendations for provider: student ratios
- School nurses/School based clinics
NSDUH reports a decline in substance use prevention messages – Increase access to resources and increase in-school psycho-educational events
Providers who do not implement Theater Troupe will employ alternative Prevention supports-
- Natural High
- Parents-the Anti-Drug
- SAMHSA recommended literature
DCPS continues to strengthen existing supports – DC Department of Behavioral Health, Community Based Providers- and continues to develop new partnership opportunities to best serve the students in our care.
DANGER:
FAKE WEED + U = ZOMBIE

K2/ZOMBIE DC

DON'T RISK IT
GET THE FACTS
www.K2ZombieDC.com

DC Prevention Center Wards 5 & 6
K2 (Spice) is a synthetic form of marijuana. It is classified as a Schedule I substance -- a category that includes heroin -- which means it is unsafe, abused, and does not offer any medical benefit. It is made from harsh chemicals that mimic the ingredients in marijuana and the label says K2/Spice is not for human consumption.

Teens and youth are told that K2 (Spice) is undetectable in generic drug tests, BUT scientists have already created a new drug test that is able to pick up strands of the drug, causing a POSITIVE reading result.
Marketed as “safe,” legal alternatives to marijuana and sold under many names—these products contain dried, shredded plant material and chemical additives that are responsible for their psychoactive (mind-altering) effects.

11.4% of 12th graders - one in nine - reported using synthetic marijuana in the past year.
Also Known As

These products may be sold under other names and distributors may change the names of the products or the packaging of the products. The labels may not list all if any ingredients.

- Spice
- Blaze
- Red X
- Dawn
- Aloha
- Black Mamba
- Skunk
- Zohai
- Cloud Nine
- Serenity Now
- Demon
- King Krypto
- Spike 99
- Super Nova
- Mojo
- Jamaican Breeze
- Mr. Nice Guy
- Space Truckin
- K2 KUSH
Which of these are you familiar with?
The ingredients in synthetic marijuana were created for experiments in animals.

Users experience hangovers and strong feelings of withdrawal, much different than marijuana users who do not regularly experience either.

Users report increased heart rate and blood pressure for days, even weeks, after use.

Using synthetic marijuana is the equivalent to putting unknown chemicals directly into your body.

There are still unknown short-term and long-term effects of using synthetic marijuana.
Synthetic marijuana is not regulated, so there is no way of knowing how much of the drug and its chemicals you are putting into your body each time you partake.

There are still unknown short-term and long-term effects of using synthetic marijuana.
**Adverse Effects/Risks**

- Anxiety and Increased/rapid heart rate
- Distorted perception and nightmares
- Hangovers & Strong withdrawals
- Nausea, vomiting
- Sadness and depression
- Restlessness, agitation
- Tremors and seizures
- Mood swings
- Increased risk for cancer
- Memory loss
- Paranoia, extreme anxiety
- Psychotic episodes and hallucinations
- Decreased brain function and/or damage
http://www.K2zombiedc.com

Fake weed, also known as K2, Spice or synthetic marijuana is a new drug. Many teens, like you and your friends, may think that fake weed is okay to use because it is cheap and is...
Questions? Comments?

Follow us at:
@DrugFreeYouthDC
@K2ZombieDC
PROTECTING YOUR BUSINESS

Synthetic Drug Regulations & Your Bottom Line

The Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA)

Eric Rogers—Administrator; Business Licensing

Vincent Parker—Manager; Office of Business Compliance
Who is DCRA?

Regulatory authority for commercial activity in the District

- Certificates of Occupancy
- Building permits
- Professional Licenses
- Business Licenses
What are Synthetic Drugs?

- *Synthetic Cannabinoids*- Most Prevalent

- Harmful Chemicals Applied to Plant Material

- Marketed as Herbal Incense, Potpourri, etc.

- Inhaled, Effects Similar to PCP
Synthetics Labeling Concern

• Consumer Protection Violation

• False Impression of Safety

• Highly Variable Dosage and Quality

• Marketed to Kids
Examples of Synthetic Packaging
Synthetic Drugs Are Spreading

- Packets
- Jars
- E-cigarettes

Products regularly found in gas stations, convenience stores, grocery stores, delis, etc.
Synthetic Drugs are Illegal

Federal Enforcement Efforts Are Increasing
Drug war in D.C. takes aim at synthetic marijuana

Even as some states move to lessen penalties or decriminalize the possession of marijuana, a D.C. Council committee voted Thursday to strengthen city laws against synthetic forms of the drug.

Under a comprehensive crime bill approved by the Judiciary Committee, members voted to classify substitute forms of marijuana such as "KZ" and "Spice" as Schedule 1 narcotics, which are subject to more stringent criminal penalties. The committee also reclassified Gamma-hydroxybutyric acid – commonly known as GHB or the "date-rape drug"
Synthetic Drugs are **Illegal In DC**

- DC Council Made Synthetic Drugs Illegal effective January 14, 2013
- Recently, the DC Department of Health added Synthetic Drugs to Schedule 1
DCRA’s Role in Enforcement

(Emergency Regulations- Chapter 9 DCMR 17)

Products prohibited based on packaging, labeling, known use, pricing, type of product:
Don’t Lose Your Business

• Possession,
• Selling,
• Offering for Sale, or
• Allowing the Sale of Synthetic Drugs

= Suspension or Revocation of a Business License

*Store owners responsible for actions of all employees*
Protect Your Business

Contact DCRA to determine legality of products for sale or to report illegal sales of products at other businesses.

DCRA.RIGHTCHOICE@dc.gov
MAKE THE
RIGHT
CHOICE
SAY NO TO
Synthetic Drugs & Drug Paraphernalia