

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

SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA

- ✖ 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

PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA

- ✗ 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

PHYSIOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL

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

PHYSIOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL

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

CASE STUDY #2

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 Dysarrhythmia

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

MARIJUANA VERSUS SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA

✗ 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.

MARIJUANA VERSUS SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA

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

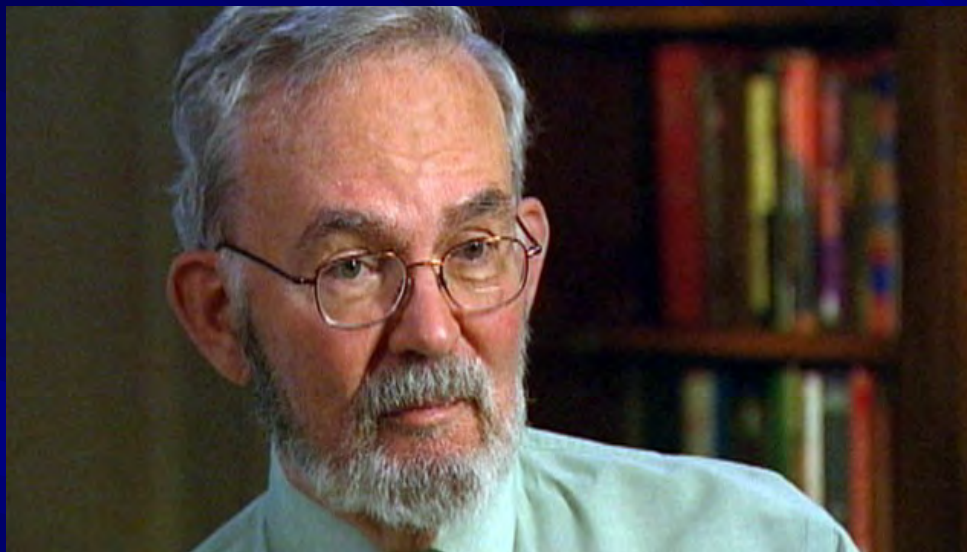


Good Intentions – Bad results

Dangerous side effects

Researcher publicly stated
that people who smoke
Synthetic Cannabinnoids
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



Beginning



Hidden

35



Hidden



Hidden





Seizures

39

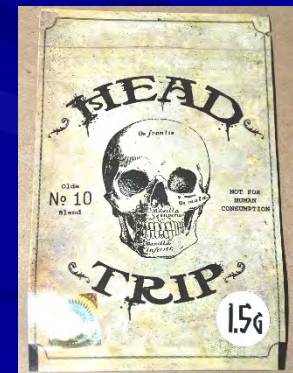
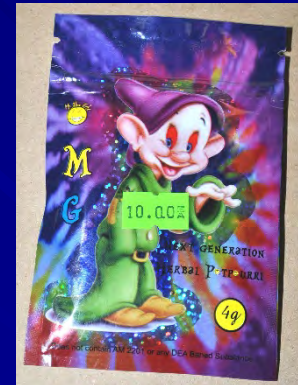
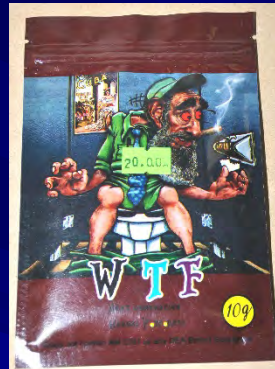






Today in Washington DC

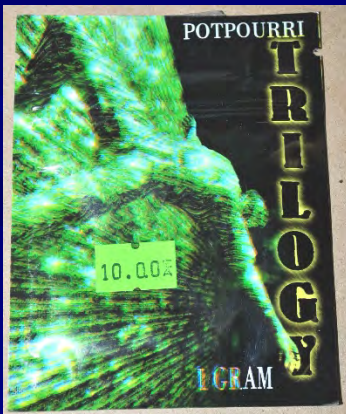
Brand of Synthetic Cannabimimoids



Today in Washington DC

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Brand of Synthetic Cannabinoids



Today in Washington DC

Brand of Synthetic Cannabinoids



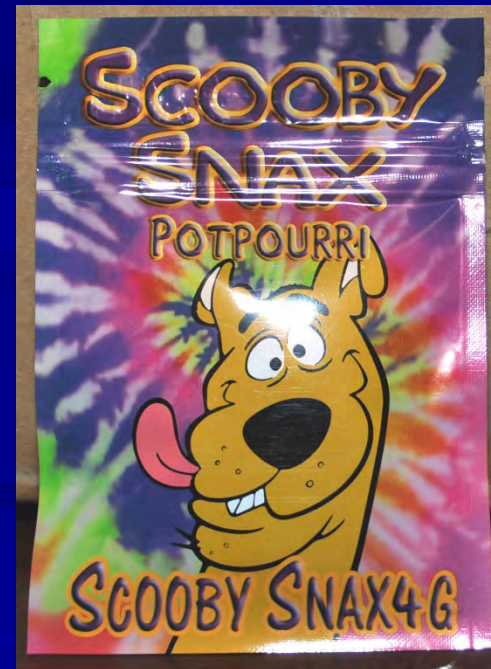
Today in Washington DC

Brand of Synthetic Marijuana

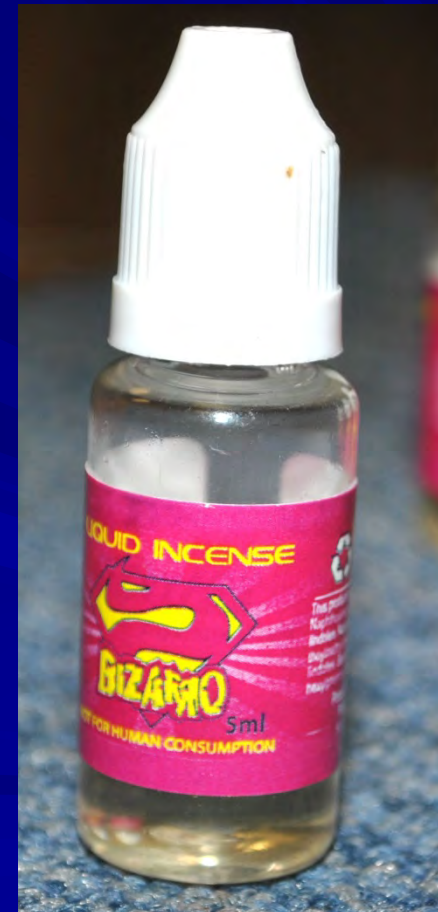


Today in Washington DC

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



Newest Trend Liquid



Disclaimers

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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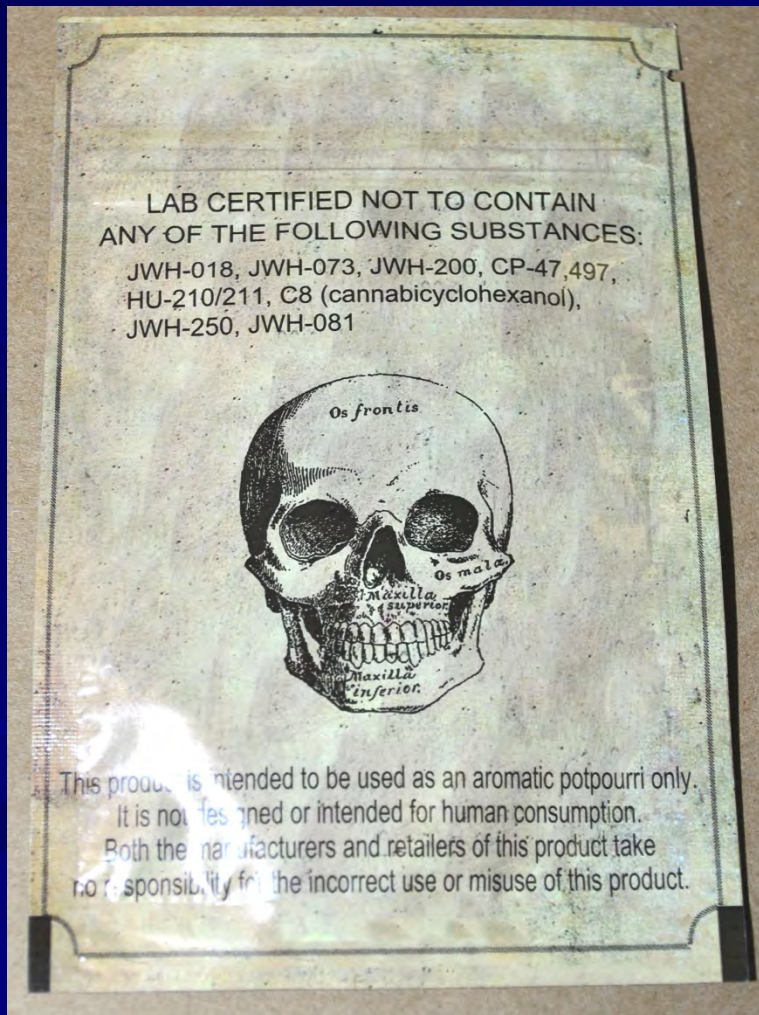
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Disclaimers



SYMPTOMS OF SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA USE

50

OVERALL SYMPTOMS

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

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

**Many of these symptoms may be life
threatening and may change suddenly.**

"Glazed"
expression,
red eyes

Psychosis

Inability to
Speak

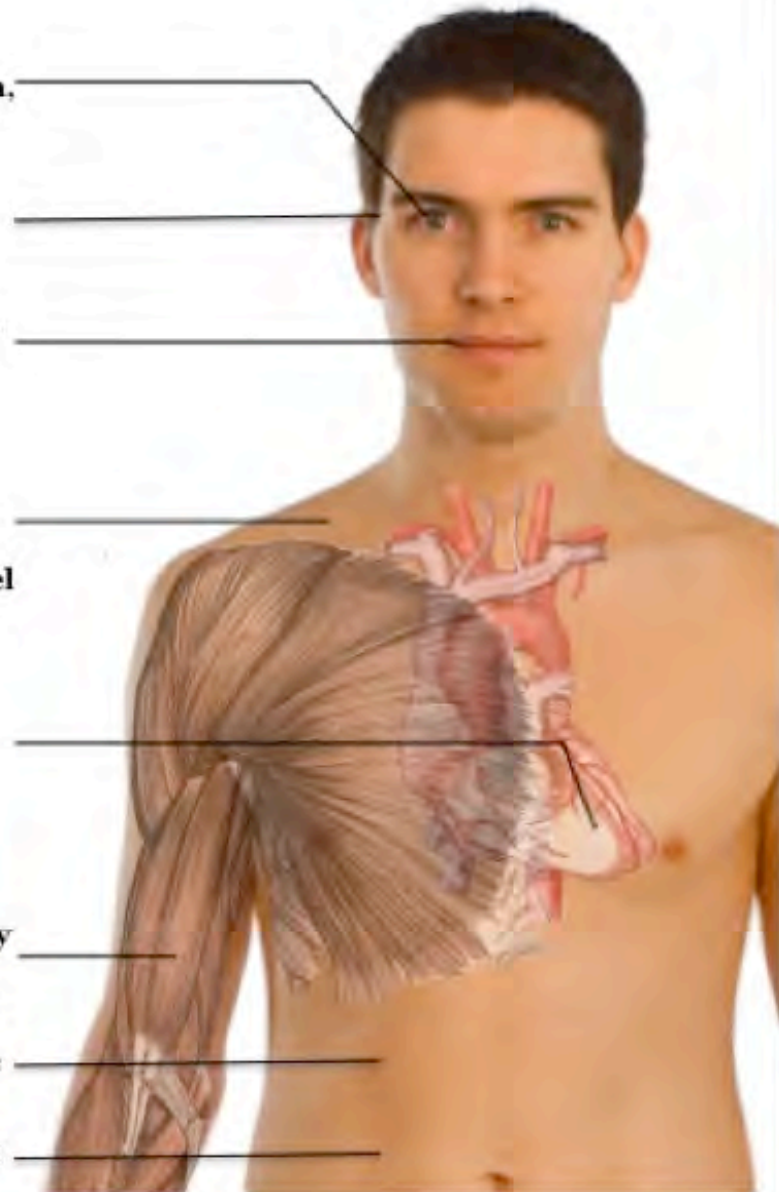
Body
Temperature
Fluctuation,
Inability to Feel
Pain, Seizures

Increased Blood
Pressure and
Heart Rate,
Heart Attack

Temporary
Paralysis,
Cramping

Kidney Failure

Vomiting





Synthetic Pot Leads to Teenager's Death (February 9, 2013)



Tiffany Ondracek · 338 videos

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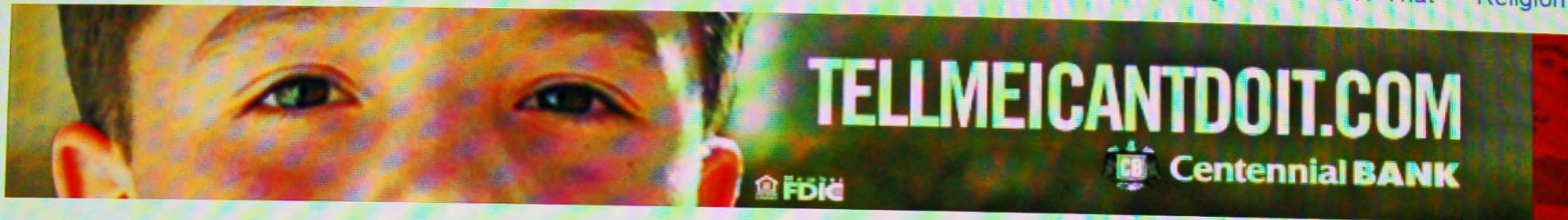
1,543

 5  2

Excited Delirium

PCP like effects

Precautions for Hospital and EMS personnel



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Cops help fire/ EMS to defend themselves

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Posted: Wednesday, June 11, 2014 7:33 pm | Updated: 7:36 pm, Wed Jun 11, 2014.

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."

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Synthetic Pot Was Factor In Weekend Assault, Arson, Police Say

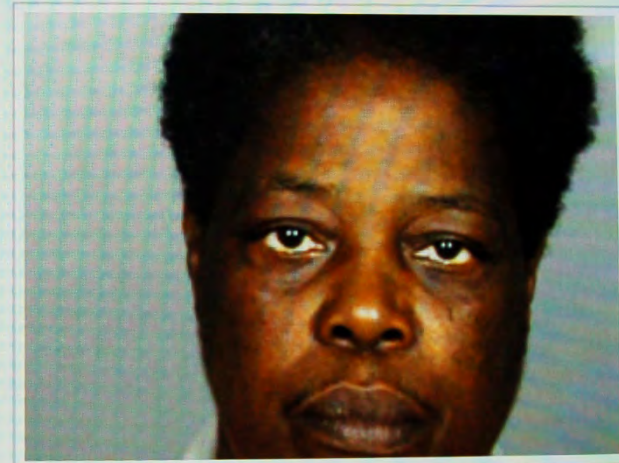
By: Paul J. Gately Email

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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



Linda Faye Cooper (Jail photo)

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KWTX News



View Inter



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)

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

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



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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
-

School Based Interventions CONSIDERATIONS

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**
-

PREVENTION and AWARENESS

- NSDUH reports a decline in substance use prevention messages – Increase access to resources and increase in-school psycho-educational events
-

PREVENTION and AWARENESS

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

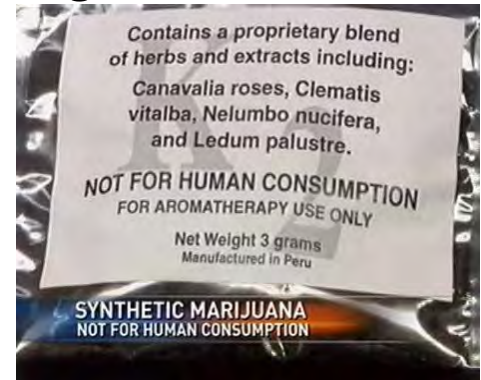
DC Prevention Center Wards 5 & 6

What is this in our Community?⁶⁸

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**.

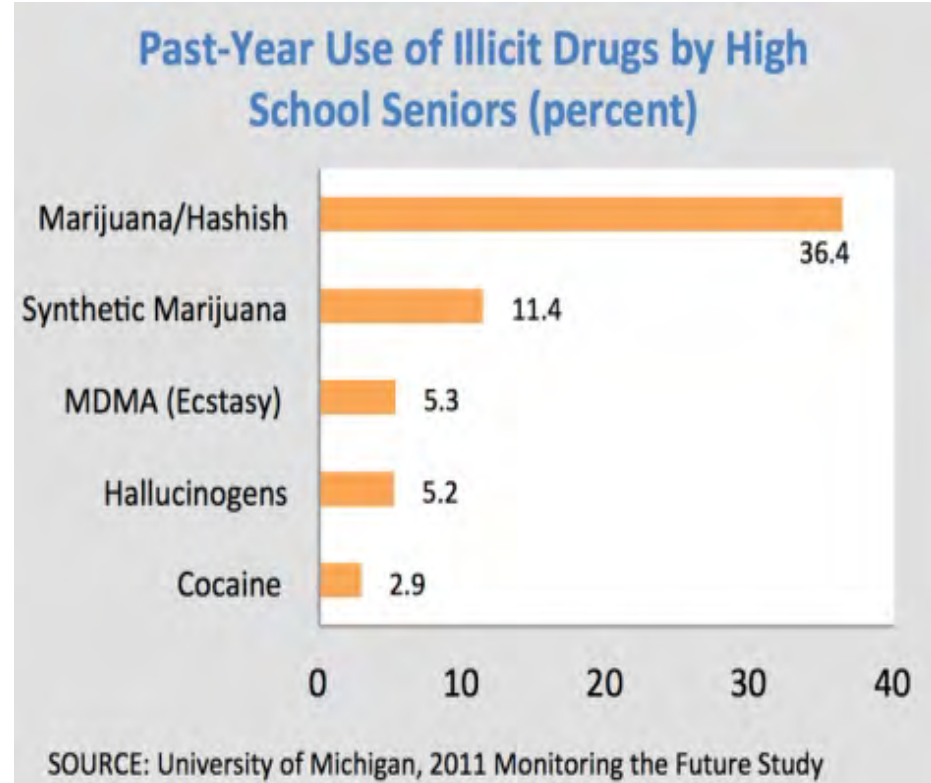


Teens and youth are told that K2 (Spice) is undetectable in generic drug tests, **BUT** scientists have already created a new drug test that is able to pick up strands of the drug, causing a **POSITIVE** reading result.



What is this in our Community?⁶⁹

- 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?⁷¹



Known Facts: What we know

- ❑ 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.

Known Facts: What we don't know

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.

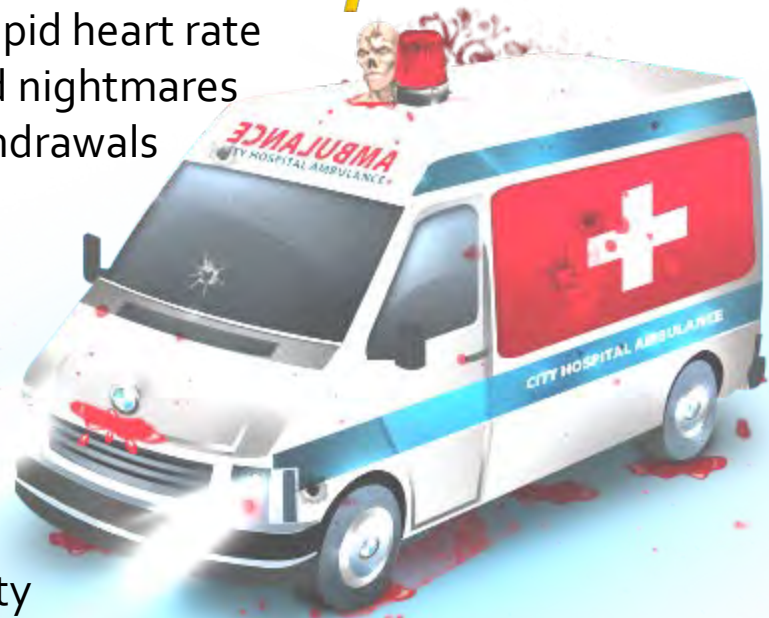
There are still unknown short-term and long-term effects of using synthetic marijuana.

KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS

74

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



DANGER: FAKE WEED + U = ZOMBIE



<http://www.K2zombiedc.com>

K2 ZOMBIE SURVIVAL GUIDE



PARENTS



GET THE FACTS



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HOME

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?

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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



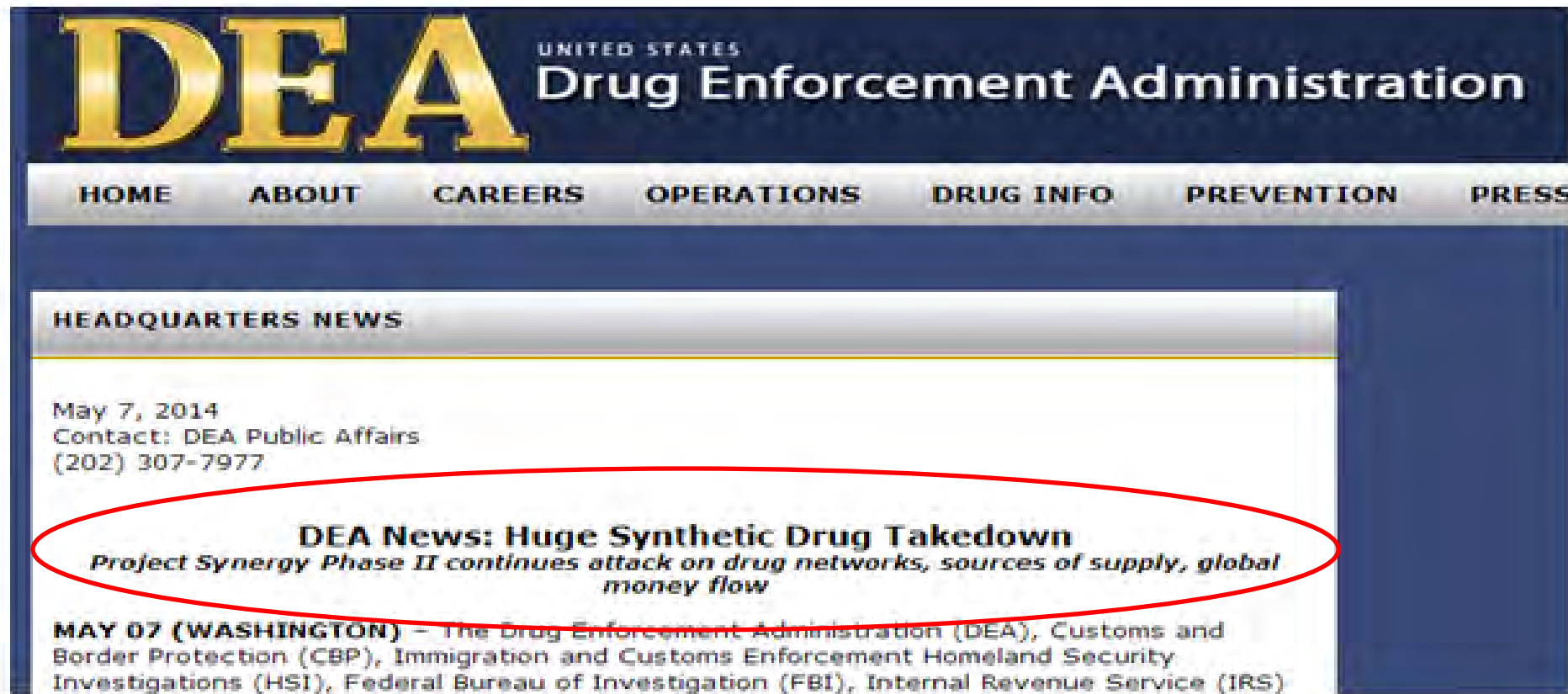
Synthetic Drugs Are Spreading

- *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



The image is a screenshot of the official website of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The header features the DEA logo in large, gold, 3D letters, followed by the text "UNITED STATES Drug Enforcement Administration" in white on a dark blue background. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: HOME, ABOUT, CAREERS, OPERATIONS, DRUG INFO, PREVENTION, and PRESS. The main content area is titled "HEADQUARTERS NEWS" and contains a news article dated May 7, 2014, with contact information for DEA Public Affairs. The article title, "DEA News: Huge Synthetic Drug Takedown", and its subtitle, "Project Synergy Phase II continues attack on drug networks, sources of supply, global money flow", are circled in red. The article text begins with "MAY 07 (WASHINGTON) - The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Internal Revenue Service (IRS)".

DEA UNITED STATES
Drug Enforcement Administration

HOME ABOUT CAREERS OPERATIONS DRUG INFO PREVENTION PRESS

HEADQUARTERS NEWS

May 7, 2014
Contact: DEA Public Affairs
(202) 307-7977

DEA News: Huge Synthetic Drug Takedown
Project Synergy Phase II continues attack on drug networks, sources of supply, global money flow

MAY 07 (WASHINGTON) - The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Synthetic Drugs are Illegal

Local Enforcement Efforts Are Increasing



The screenshot shows the D.C. Wire website. The header features three red stars and the text "D.C. Wire News and Notes on District Politics". Below the header are links for "About this Blog & the Writers", "On Twitter", and "RSS Feed". The main content area is titled "ABOUT THE WRITERS" and lists several authors: Tim Craig, Mike DeBonis, Darryl Fears, Hamil R. Harris, Ann Marimow, and Nikita Stewart. To the right of this list, a red oval highlights the article title "Drug war in D.C. takes aim at synthetic marijuana" and the byline "By Tim Craig". The article is dated "Posted at 04:25 PM ET, 11/29/2012". The text of the article discusses the D.C. Council committee's vote to strengthen city laws against synthetic forms of the drug, even as some states move to decriminalize marijuana. It also mentions a comprehensive crime bill approved by the Judiciary Committee, which classified substitute forms of marijuana like "KZ" and "Spice" as Schedule 1 narcotics, and reclassified Gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) as the "date-rape drug".

D.C. Wire
News and Notes on District Politics

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ABOUT THE WRITERS

- Tim Craig
- Mike DeBonis
- Darryl Fears
- Hamil R. Harris
- Ann Marimow
- Nikita Stewart

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Contact elected officials:

Posted at 04:25 PM ET, 11/29/2012

Drug war in D.C. takes aim at synthetic marijuana
By Tim Craig

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

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**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

