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

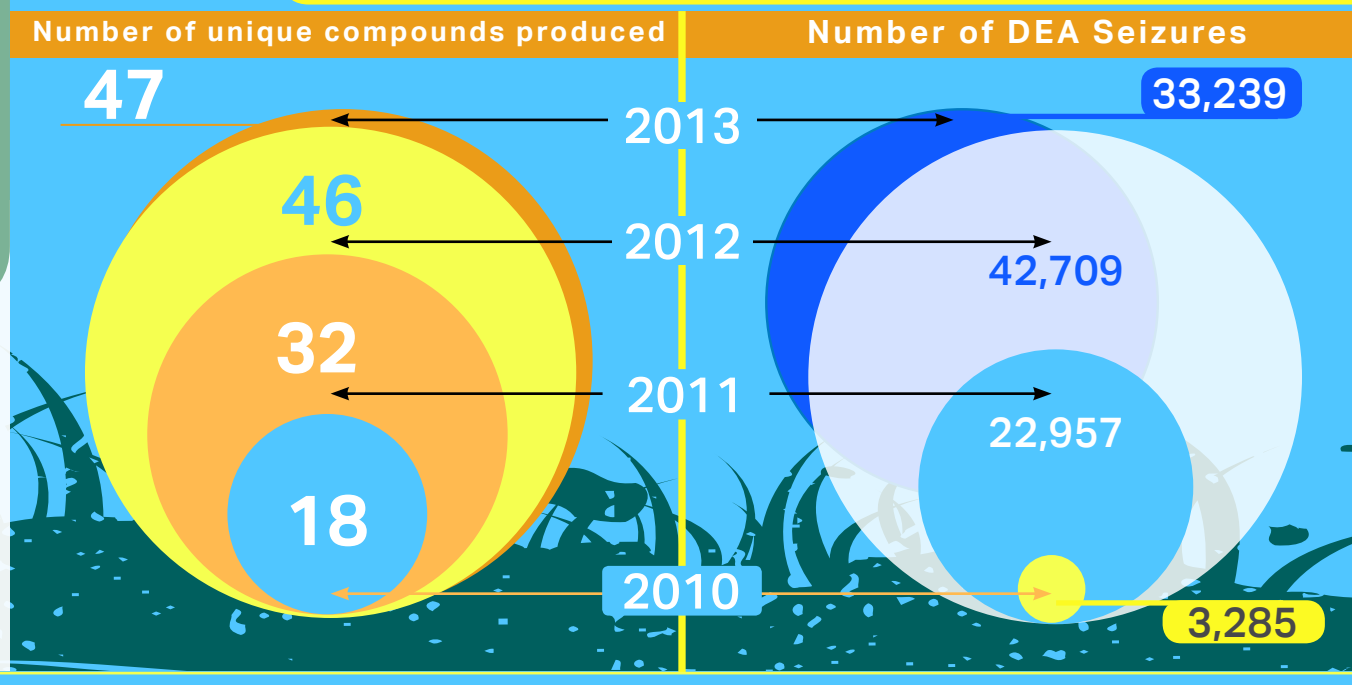
- Agitation
- Violent behavior
- Suicidal thoughts
- Cognitive impairment
- Increased blood pressure
- Seizures
- Muscle spasms
- Low potassium
- Kidney damage
- Coma
- Death

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.

Synthetic cannabinoid use is a national problem.

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.

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

blending initiative NIDA•SAMHSA

Sources

U.S. DEA, Office of Diversion Control, NFLIS data, 2010-2013

Weaver et al., 2015

SAMHSA, 2014

For more information, visit: http://1.usa.gov/1Ff3mod | http://bit.ly/1c549wa | http://bit.ly/1RFW0Q3