

Synthetic THC: “Spice”

What is it? Who is using it? What do we do about it?



What is "Spice"?



What is “Spice”?

- “Spice” looks and feels like marijuana
- “Spice” may smell like incense or potpourri and can be flavored (ex. strawberry, blueberry, etc.)
- “Spice” may be smoked in paper, pipes, bongs, water pipes, and other paraphernalia

Spice, K2, Black Mamba

- Herbal and synthetic mix
- Synthetic cannabinoid 5 to 15 times as potent as THC
- Undetectable by drug tests
- Similar effects as marijuana



Also Known As:

- Spice Gold
- Spice Diamond
- Yucatan Fire
- K3
- Happy Shaman Herbs
- Zohai
- Skunk
- Solar Flare
- K2 Summit
- Genie
- PEP Spice
- Fire n Ice
- Red Magic



Chemical Make-up

- “Spice” contains synthetic cannabinoids which act on the body in a similar ways to cannabinoids naturally found in cannabis, such as THC
- Synthetic cannabinoids, including cannabicyclohexanol, JWH-018, JWH-073, and HU-210, are used in an attempt to avoid the laws which make cannabis illegal, making synthetic cannabis a designer drug
- Each package of spice contains 0.2% up to 3% of the chemical product (inconsistency is very dangerous)

More about Spice...

- The synthetic chemicals mimic THC by acting on the cannabinoid receptors in the brain
- Sold in headshops or on internet as incense for \$10 - \$50 per gram
 - Example websites:
 - www.topk2.com
 - www.k3incense.com
- Produced in China and Korea
- Rolled up in joints or inhaled from pipes



\$49.99

5 Stars out of 5 Potency Rating

- Most Potent 50 State Legal Herbal Incense
- Helps Relaxation with a Feeling of Freedom

More Info >> **Try it Now >>**

Side Effects

Flu like symptoms...

- Pale skin
- Vomiting
- Anxiety
- Severe agitation
- Loss of consciousness
- Seizures
- Elevated heart rate
- Respiratory failure



▪ Possible Health Risk

- Hallucinations, delusions, severe agitation, elevated heart rate and blood pressure, vomiting, tremors, and seizures
- In the most severe cases users have blacked out for several hours, had feelings of cardiac arrest, and/or recorded feelings of psychosis
- Some of symptoms such as increased agitation, elevated blood pressure, and heart rates severely increase in “Spice” as compared to the side-effects of marijuana

K2... According to DEA

- It is a “drug of concern” says spokesman David Ausiello. “We are in early stages of trying to figure out how potent it is.”
- Effects of smoking K2 are similar to marijuana because the herbs are laced w “synthetic marijuana”
- People who use it report a high lasting from 30 min to 2 hours
- Takes a long time for the chemicals to clear out of body, so long term effects are not fully known

Spice

- Since the start of 2010, the American Association of Poison Control Centers has received nearly **2,000 reports** of people who became ill after smoking K2, compared to about a dozen in 2009. Poison control officials described some of the symptoms as "life-threatening."

Accessibility of “Spice”



- “Spice” can be sold under various brand names/products
- “Spice” can be found online, in magazines, smoke shops, head shops (e.x. Trails), at some convenience stores, swap marts, and gas stations
- “Spice” is marketed as an incense or potpourri, but the products are usually smoked by users
- In stores, “Spice” cost about \$10/gram, but cost less if bought in bulk (\$24.95/4.5 grams)
- “Spice” cost is about equivalent to the cost of marijuana
- Online sales can be bought in bulk, from 1 gram to 100 grams and up

Is “Spice” Legal?



- Currently it is legal in Arizona
- Synthetic cannabis products have been made illegal in many European countries, but remain legal under federal law in the USA and Canada. Several US states have made it illegal under state law (Alabama, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey and New York)

Is “Spice” Legal?



- “Spice” escapes “illegalization” by selling it as an incense and by labeling it “not for human consumption”. That phrase usually comes with a smile, a wink, and a nod
- “Spice” is not detected by current drug test
- “Spice” is banned by all branches of the military

HOLD ON...

Things are constantly changing
in regards to Spice/K2...

DEA Moves to Emergency Control Synthetic Marijuana


Agency Will Study Whether To Permanently Control Five Substances

- **NOV 24 -- WASHINGTON, D.C. –** The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is using its emergency scheduling authority to **temporarily control five chemicals (JWH-018, JWH-073, JWH-200, CP-47,497, and cannabicyclohexanol)** used to make “fake pot” products. Except as authorized by law, this action will make **possessing and selling these chemicals or the products that contain them illegal in the U.S. for at least one year** while the DEA and the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) further study whether these chemicals and products should be permanently controlled.

Action to take place in next 30 days

Current Efforts

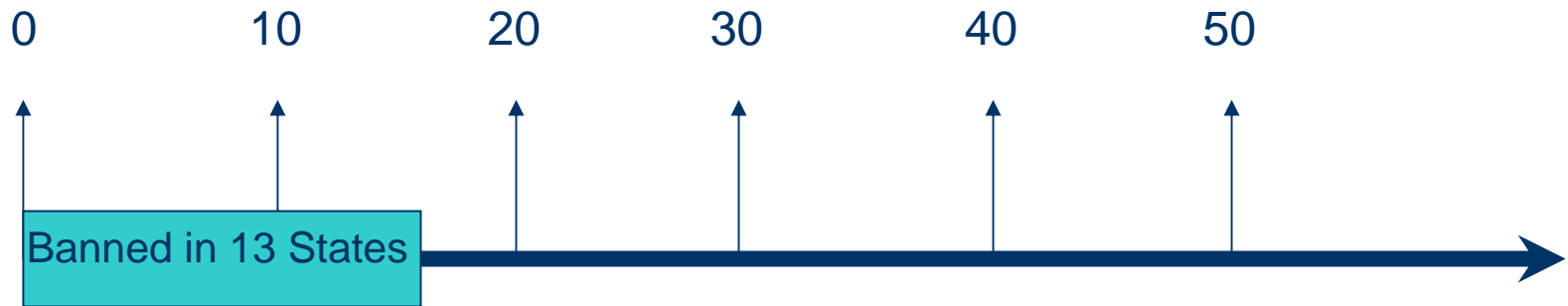
“How are we and others handling it currently?”



Local Efforts

- Tempe Union High School District
- Mesa Public Schools
- State Legislators

Legality of K2 Herbal Incense Spice in the United States



- Temporary emergency ban in 2 states
- Municipal restrictions in 5 states
- Legislation passed in 2 states, awaiting effective date
- Legislation proposed in 4 states
- Remains unregulated in various states including Arizona

Nationwide and Beyond

- **Spice first illegal in March 2010**
- **Illinois and Michigan banned all synthetic cannabinoid in July and October**
- **Sen. Orrin Hatch asks DEA to ban Spice – Nov. 10, 2010**
- **Banned in most European countries – Early 2010**
- **Illegal in Military**

What are the police seeing?

- Schools
 - Use and consequences
- Community

Action Planning

“What are we going to do?”



Student Discipline

- The recommendation is for this product to be treated as drugs for school policy.
- Consequences:
 - Distribution, share, use or possession = Long-Term Suspension
 - Sale = Expulsion
- Individual school districts will have to address this question based on their own policies

What do we need to do in our Schools?

- Education
 - Governing Board
 - Parents
 - Students
- Change the methods we use to look for students under the influence. (Admin Training)
- Make minor changes to policy language
- Work to change legislation to make these products illegal

Education

- Governing Board Meeting Study Session
- Parent Meetings: Meetings throughout the District over the next month
- Parent notification: through email and letters home
- East Valley Task Force

Summary of “Spice”

- “Spice” is a synthetic cannabis with the look, feel, cost, and effects of marijuana
- “Spice” is easy to get
- “Spice” is illegal in several countries and states.
- “Spice” can have a tremendous affect on one’s health

Grieving Family Sends Anti-K2 Message

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6xIYZII_iM

An eye opening read...

- Wall Street Journal – October 30, 2010
- “In Quest for ‘Legal High,’ Chemists Outfox Law”
 - Article about other legal, synthetic drugs that are one or two molecules away from being illegal drugs
- <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704763904575550200845267526.html#printMode>
- www.WSJ.com

Next Steps

- Now that you know about spice... what can we all do?

Thanks for Taking ACTION!

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Thanks for Taking ACTION!

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