

*West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities*



Behavioral Health is Essential to Health

Prevention Works



Treatment is Effective

People Recover



Improving the quality of life for West Virginians with behavioral health needs

K2
SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA

Presented by:

Funded by:

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K2 NATIONALLY

- America's poison centers first received calls about "synthetic marijuana" in late 2009
- 2,960 calls in 2010
- 6,955 calls in 2011
- 80% of these calls placed from ER, compared to 20% regularly

K2 ISSUES IN WV

- West Virginia Poison Center
 - 36 human exposure calls received in 2010
 - 77 human exposure calls received in 2011
 - West Virginia Poison Center has reported an increase in K2 exposure calls in 2011 used in combination with other drugs since 2010
 - House Bill 2505 banned the sale of synthetic cannabinoids in June 2011
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WHAT'S THE APPEAL

- ◆ It produces a high similar to that of marijuana
- ◆ It doesn't contain tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive chemical in marijuana
- ◆ K2 contains synthetic chemicals, known as JWH-018 and JWH-073, that mimic THC by acting on the cannabinoid receptors in the brain
- ◆ It binds with the CB1 receptor and produces a euphoric effect or high in humans
- ◆ JWH-018 binds with CB1 receptors at a rate four times greater than THC (natural or synthetic)
- ◆ The common marijuana drug tests are calibrated to detect THC and THC metabolites, not the synthetics used in Spice or K2

K2 FACTS

- Chemicals were developed in lab for research for pain in cancer patients-much like medicinal marijuana
 - Recipe was destroyed because of adverse effects in lab animals
 - Not tested on humans, affects are not fully known
 - Chemist in China and Korea started using these chemicals for k2
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K2 FACTS

- Marketed as incense
- K2 is typically sold in small, silvery plastic bags of dried leaves and marketed as incense that can be smoked
- Resembles potpourri (usually sprayed on lemon grass or other herbs/plant material)
- Marketed toward youth

HOW IS IT MADE?

- A Mixture of herbs and spices
- Typically sprayed with a synthetic chemical such as: e HU-210, HU-211, JWH-018, and JWH-073.
- The chemicals are known to stay in the human body for a long time.
- The long term effects of the chemicals are unknown.

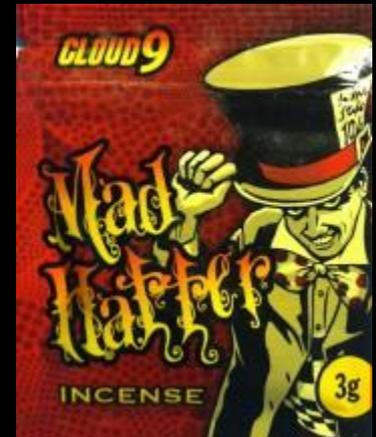
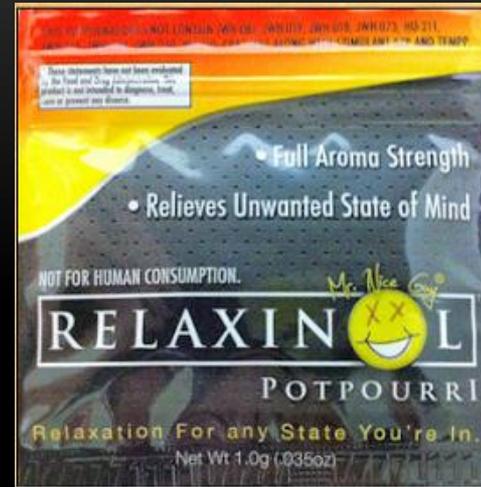
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Courtesy: DEA



HOW IS IT USED?

- Smoked in joints
- Smoked in pipes
- Mixed in tea



SLANG OR STREET NAMES

- Spice
- K2
- Genie
- Yucatan
- Fire
- Sense
- Smoke
- Black Mamba
- Fake Weed
- Designer drugs
- Skunk
- Bliss
- Bombay Blue
- Zohai



WHERE IS IT SOLD?

- Online
 - “Head Shops”
 - Gas Stations/Convenience Stores
 - Various Retail Outlets
 - Tobacco Outlets
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- According to the DEA, “Manufacturers of this product are not regulated and are often unknown since these products are purchased via the Internet whether wholesale or retail. Several websites that sell the product are based in China.”



PRICE

- Price of product:
- \$30 to \$40 per 3 gram packet.

Price on Community:

- DUIs with fatalities
- Suicides
- Drug abused to evade drug screenings



AFFECTS

- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Anxiety
- Paranoia
- Rapid Heart Beat
- Increased Blood Pressure
- Loss of Consciousness
- Paranoid Behavior
- Intense Hallucinations
- Agitation
- Seizures



Was Demi
smoking
K2 when
she
collapsed?



WORKS CITED

- DEA.gov/Drug Enforcement Agency
- aapcc.org/American Association of Poison Control Centers
- Wtae.com
- <http://k2spicediamond.com/> (this is an internet store)
- <http://stopthedrugwar.org>
- <http://k3spice.blogspot.com/> (this is an internet store)
- CADCA Webinar – Designer Drugs: The New Frontier
- <http://www.entertainmentwise.com/news/70245/Demi-Moore-Has-Hit-Rock-Bottom>
- <http://www.fox59.com/news/wxin-lafayette-spice-ban-081810,0,5699301.story>