

SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS (K2/SPICE)

UNPREDICTABLE DANGER

K2/SPICE IS **NOT** MARIJUANA

It's often called *synthetic marijuana* or *fake weed* because some of its chemicals are like those in marijuana. The effects can be unpredictable and in some cases, severe or even life-threatening.



Shredded, dried plant material

+



Man-made chemicals

=



A "natural" drug?
Not even close.

YOU **NEVER KNOW** WHAT YOU'RE GETTING WITH SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS

177

different synthetic cannabinoids were reported in 2014¹

- ✗ The amount and type of chemicals in each batch varies
- ✗ Manufacturers are constantly changing chemicals to dodge laws

HEALTH EFFECTS OF K2/SPICE ARE UNPREDICTABLE

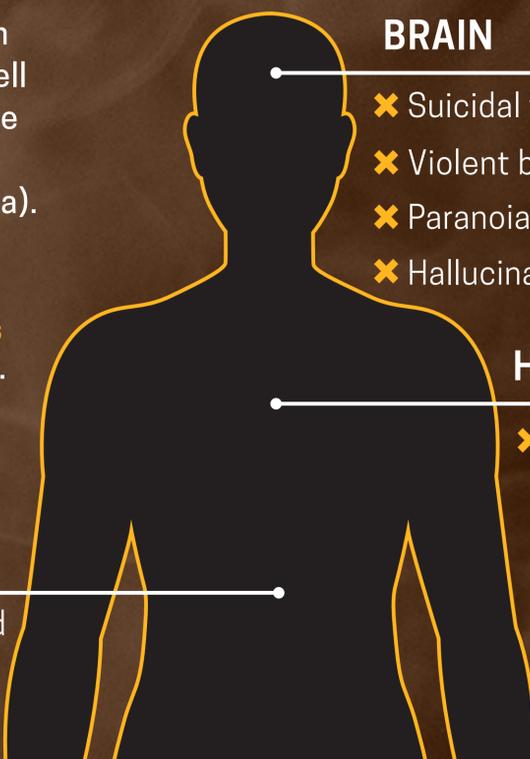
These drugs can act on many different brain cell receptors, including the receptors that bind to THC (found in marijuana).

They produce **unpredictable effects** that can be dangerous.



STOMACH

- ✗ Nausea and vomiting



BRAIN

- ✗ Suicidal thoughts
- ✗ Violent behavior
- ✗ Paranoia
- ✗ Hallucinations



HEART

- ✗ Rapid heart rate



SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS USE CAN BE HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH

POISON
Help
1-800-222-1222



2,695

calls to poison control centers for harmful exposure from these drugs in 2016²

28,531

ER visits in 2011 were linked to synthetic cannabinoids³



30% of these visits involved females, and **70%** involved males³

78%

of ER visits were among adolescents and young adults ages 12-29³

¹United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2015. unodc.org/documents/wdr2015/WDR15_ATS_NPS.pdf

²The American Association of Poison Control Centers, 2016. <http://www.aapcc.org/alerts/synthetic-cannabinoids/>

³Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2014. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/SR-1378/SR-1378.pdf>



For more information, visit:
drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/synthetic-cannabinoids