



Synthetic Cannabinoids



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Common Slang Terms:

K2

Spice

Black Mamba

Blaze

Mr. Happy

Atomic Bomb

Baby J

Black Ice

Cloud 9

Dank

Exodus

Extreme

Express

Gold Spice

GUCI

Jungle

King

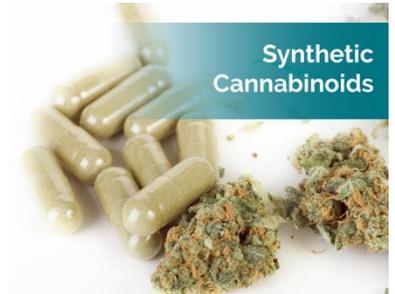
Kush

Pulse

Scooby

What is it?

- Human-made mind-altering chemicals that can be sprayed or dried on shredded plant material so they can be smoked or sold as liquids to be vaporized and inhaled with e-cigarettes or other devices (See Page 2 for visuals)
- Can be addictive
- Cannabinoids are similar to chemicals found in a marijuana plant which is why they are often mistaken
 - However, synthetic cannabinoids are not safe. These products are toxic resulting in possible medical attention or life threatening situations
- Synthetic cannabinoids are part of a group of drugs called New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)
 - NPS are unregulated mind-altering substances that are newly available on the market and are intended to produce the same effects as illegal drugs
- Synthetic Cannabinoids are sold in colorful foil packages and plastic bottles to attract consumers
 - Brands include: K2, Spice, Joker, Black Mamba, Kush, and Kronic



Sources: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (April 2018) and [DrugAbuse.gov](#) (February 2018)

Health Effects:

- Rapid Heart Rate
- Nausea and Vomiting
- Violent Behavior
- Paranoia or Anxiety
- Hallucinations or Delusions
- Suicidal Thoughts

Source: [National Institutes of Health](#)

Overdose:

- Synthetic Cannabinoid Overdose Related Symptoms:
 - Impaired memory
 - Muscle Spasms, Seizures, Tremors
 - Agitation, combativeness
 - Irritability and Physical Aggression
 - Stupor, Unconsciousness

Sources: [WebMD](#) and [American Addiction Center](#)

- The rise in synthetic cannabinoid use and increasing number of compound varieties, pose a challenge to doctors who are trying to identify treat overdose victims. Doctors and academic scholars at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and University of Maryland’s Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) are searching for more ways to expand drug testing in order to detect the presence of synthetic cannabinoids and fentanyl in the future. **Source:** [The Baltimore Sun August 21, 2018](#)

Recent Incidents:

- The week of July 16, 2018, there were more than 160 heroin overdoses in Philadelphia, PA. Of those overdoses, 10 were fatal. This overdose incident is specifically linked to the stamp “Santa Muerte” which, may have been contaminated with a mix of fentanyl and a toxic synthetic cannabinoid, 5-fluor-ADB. **Source:** [Philly.com July 26, 2018](#)
- Drugged driving has become increasingly deadly in New Jersey. The use of opioids and marijuana are the top drugs linked to this impaired driving issue. The Center for Disease Control says more than 64,000 people died from overdoses in 2016, 20,000 from synthetic opioids. In 2016, 103 tested positive for drugs in New Jersey, 49 of those drivers tested positive for cannabinoids and died. **Source:** [NBC New York August 9, 2018](#)
- On August 15, 2018, 76 people we believed to have overdosed on a form of K2, or synthetic cannabinoid, in New Haven, Connecticut. There were no reported deaths in the 95 total cases reported. **Source:** [CNN August 16, 2018](#)
- As of August 20, 2018, Illinois is working to pass a new law, which will broaden the criteria whereas manufacturers of synthetic cannabinoids may be charged with a Class 3 felony, while those charged with simple possession could face a Class 4 felony. **Source:** [WTTW August 20, 2018](#)
- Pennsylvania prisons have seen a 4% increase in assaults during the first half of 2018, due to the increased presence of K2, a synthetic cannabinoid. Safety gear, training, scanners, and drug-sniffing dogs are being implemented at some facilities. This trend has also been reported in Florida prisons. **Source:** [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette August 22, 2018](#)
- Over the past month, Varner Supermax Prison in Arkansas reported five inmates who suffered fatal overdoses due to synthetic cannabinoids, continuing the trend throughout the United States in prisons. **Source:** [Vice September 7, 2018](#)
- On September 8, 2018, five men overdosed on synthetic cannabinoids on the corner of Broadway and Myrtle Ave in Brooklyn, New York. Police later seized about a thousand packets of K2 and made more than 80 arrests. In May of 2018, more than 100 people overdosed on K2 in the span of one weekend at the same intersection. **Source:** [New York 1 September 9, 2018](#)

Types:



Shredded or plant material



Liquid



Oil