

## **EMERGING TRENDS**

### **Synthetic Marijuana**

#### **August 2012**

#### **WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW**

- Synthetic marijuana is a man-made drug that is particularly popular with young people. The synthetic liquid compounds are often applied to dried leaves and plants to give a natural appearance, similar to marijuana.
- The substances are often marketed as an inexpensive way to get a marijuana-like high or legal alternative to marijuana.
- Synthetic marijuana has been sold under brand names such as: K2, Spice, Incense, fake weed, Yucatan Fire, Skunk, Moon Rocks, Tribal Warrior, Fire and Ice, Aroma, Earth impact, Mr. Smiley, Mr. Nice Guy, Zohai, Eclipse, Black Mamba, Red X Dawn, Blaze, Dream, Blonde, Pink, Citron, Summit and various other names.
- Synthetic marijuana is often packaged in foil packets that can be marked as home incense, or herbal smoking blends. Packaging often has claims that the contents are safe and natural and not easily detected in standard drug tests. Other times packages will be labeled as “not for human consumption.”
- Synthetic marijuana is generally smoked and is extremely dangerous due to the manner the chemicals bind to the receptors in the brain, particularly to the adolescent and young adult with a developing brain.
- Effects of use can range from irregularities in blood pressure, agitation, irritability, nausea/vomiting, confusion, drowsiness, headache, electrolyte abnormalities, seizures, anxiety, paranoia, aggressive behavior, loss of consciousness addiction, kidney failure, hypertension and even death.
- These products are sold online and in drug paraphernalia stores, gas stations, convenience stores, and other similar retail establishments.
- Recent New York State Department of Health (DOH) regulations ban the manufacture, distribution, sale and possession of these substances. For more information on the new regulations, please visit the [DOH website](#).
- Talk to your teen about alcohol and drug abuse and new designer drugs. Discuss the risks of all drugs including abusing prescription and over-the counter drugs.

#### **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

- If someone is having difficulty breathing or any of the above possible reactions, call 911.
- If you suspect someone has used synthetic marijuana, contact the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.
- If you have information about the illegal distribution of bath salts or synthetic drugs, call 1-888-99SALTS or report the activity on the [DOH website](#).

***New brochures and fact sheets are available to download, print and distribute***

[www.oasas.ny.gov/stoprxmisuse/](http://www.oasas.ny.gov/stoprxmisuse/)

[www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/harm\\_reduction/opioidprevention/index.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/harm_reduction/opioidprevention/index.htm)

**New York State HOPEline**

Toll-Free, Anonymous and Confidential / 24 hours a day, 365 days a year



**1-877-8-HOPENY**

Find Help for 1-877-846-7369  
Alcoholism, Drug Abuse, Problem Gambling