



# Drug Alert Watch

## Use of Synthetic Cannabinoid Products by Teens and Young Adults Increasing

U . S . D E P A R T M E N T O F J U S T I C E

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***Law enforcement officials in many areas of the country are reporting increasing use of synthetic cannabinoid products by teens and young adults as these products are widely available. Often hyped as a legal alternative to marijuana, individuals subject to scheduled or random drug screening tests allegedly also have used synthetic cannabinoid products to avoid a positive test for cannabis and the resulting consequences. Many synthetic cannabinoid users also abuse marijuana.***

Synthetic cannabinoid products typically include olive-colored herbs, combination of herbs, or plant materials enhanced with a delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) synthetic analog. When smoked, synthetic cannabinoid products mimic the hallucinogenic effects of marijuana. However, they have many adverse effects, including panic attacks, agitation, tachycardia (in the range of 110 to 150 beats per minute), elevated blood pressure (in the 140-160/100-110 range), anxiety, pallor, numbness and tingling, vomiting (which can be severe and may require sedation), hallucinations (which can be intense), and, in some cases, tremors, and seizures. Users report effects last between 30 minutes and 2 hours. Common brand names for synthetic cannabinoids include K2, Spice, Spice Gold, Spice Diamond, Yucatan Fire, Solar Flare, K2 Summit, Genie, PEP Spice, and Fire n' Ice.

Synthetic cannabinoid products are produced primarily internationally, but also produced domestically. Synthetic cannabinoid products are generally sold on Internet websites; however, they are becoming increasingly available at "headshops" and similar locations. The products often are marketed as "natural herbal incense" and include warnings that they "are not for human consumption."

*This SENTRY Watch is based upon source materials that have not been validated and/or researched by NDIC. It is intended to serve as an immediate alert to law enforcement and public health officials of potential substance abuse problems.*

If you would like to report an emerging drug issue in your area or have questions or comments about SENTRY, please e-mail us at [NDIC.Sentry@usdoj.gov](mailto:NDIC.Sentry@usdoj.gov) or visit us at [www.justice.gov/ndic/sentry](http://www.justice.gov/ndic/sentry)