

Safe kids 😊 Healthy kids 😊 Happy kids

Synthetic Drugs – Parents Be Aware

Synthetic drugs are the latest drug threat for young people. They are also called designer drugs. Gas stations, convenience stores and tobacco shops might sell these drugs. Kids can also find them at head shops and on the Internet.

The synthetic drug label states it is not for human consumption. The U.S. DEA warns, “These drugs are an imminent threat to public safety”. No one knows exactly what is in each drug. In fact, the chemists change the ingredients often to make a new compound that is not illegal by law.

In the past 2 years, hospital emergency rooms treated increased numbers of synthetic drug issues. From 2010 to 2011, calls to poison control

centers increased 4 times. Calls related to bath salts, one class of these drugs, increased 20 times.

People of all ages use these drugs. However, 60% of users are people age 25 and younger. Synthetic marijuana is now the second most abused illicit drug among high school seniors.

Why is it so popular? Until recently, these drugs were a legal substance. Because they are cheap and easy to produce, teens can afford these drugs. Athletes and employees use them because

they do not appear positive on a standard urine drug screen.

Doctors have trouble treating youth with these symptoms when they do not know the cause. **If parents observe unusual behavior in their kids, they now must consider synthetic drugs.**

 For more information: <http://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/communities/syntheticdrugs.html>

The Two Main Classes of Synthetic Drugs are Cannabinoids and Cathinones.

Cannabinoids:

- Mimic marijuana.
- Contain dried plants and chemicals.
- Are smoked, mixed with marijuana or prepared in a drink.
- May contain harmful heavy metal products.

The street names are K2, Genie, Moonrocks, Yucatan Fire, Spice and fake weed. Effects include agitation, extreme nervousness, nausea and vomiting, fast heart rate and increased blood pressure. Other effects are tremors, seizures, paranoia and hallucinations.

Cathinones, also called Bath Salts:

- Mimic cocaine, meth, ecstasy and LSD.
- Are stimulants.
- May be addictive.
- Can be snorted, smoked and ingested.

Street names include Ivory Wave, Purple Wave, Vanilla Sky, Bliss, Smiles and Bolivian Bath. Effects include severe hallucinations, agitation and paranoia. Other effects include palpitations, chest pain, increased blood pressure, fast heart rate and suicide.

Brought to you by Parent Help Line and St. John's Children's Hospital



Call the Parent Help Line. Help is just a phone call away.
1-217-544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week
www.parenthelpline.org

