

The DDR staff would like to thank all the volunteers that helped with this years Red Ribbon Week presentations at 12 local schools!



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SYNTHETIC DRUGS...AUTHENTIC DANGER

Synthetic drugs are the cause of growing numbers of injuries and deaths, particularly in young people across the country. Though the drugs' packaging states the products are not intended for human consumption, their design, labeling and marketing clearly allude to the products being smoked and inhaled as a drug. One reason that synthetic drugs are extremely dangerous is that buyers don't know what chemicals they are ingesting.



According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, calls nationwide indicate a dramatic rise in synthetic drug abuse. Marketed as a "legal high" these drugs gained popularity quickly. They also were said to be undetectable on drug tests, which is not true. The harmful effects from these products were first reported in the U.S. in 2009. Since then, the drugs have spread throughout the country. Poison centers received over 7,794 calls about exposures in 2015 alone (aapcc, 2016). Poison center experts – as well as many federal, state, and local government officials – have called synthetic drug use a risk to the public's health and a hazard to public safety.

These synthetic drugs can be extremely dangerous and addictive. Health effects from the drug can be life-threatening and can include:

- Severe agitation and anxiety
- Fast, racing heartbeat and higher blood pressure
- Nausea and vomiting
- Muscle spasms, seizures, and tremors
- Intense hallucinations and psychotic episodes
- Suicidal and other harmful thoughts and/or actions
- Death

Reference: <http://www.aapcc.org/alerts/synthetic-cannabinoids/>

Products are not intended for Human Consumption



The term "bath salts" refers to an emerging family of drugs containing one or more synthetic chemicals related to cathinone, an amphetamine-like stimulant. Reports of severe intoxication and **dangerous** health effects associated with use of bath salts have made these drugs a serious and growing public health and safety issue. Users frequently describe the high as "horrible" and report seeing demons, monsters, foreign soldiers or aliens. Some have symptoms for 2-3 days. Some require long term psychiatric care because their symptoms don't improve.



"Spice" refers to a wide variety of herbal mixtures that produce experiences similar to marijuana (cannabis) and that are marketed as "safe," legal alternatives to that drug. Sold under many names, including K2, fake weed, Yucatan Fire, Skunk, Moon Rocks, and others — and labeled "not for human consumption" — these products contain dried, shredded plant material and chemical additives that are responsible for their psychoactive (mind-altering) effects. Users experience rapid heart rate, agitation, anxiety, nausea, paranoia, confusion, inability to move, stamina loss, hallucinations, high blood pressure, severe headaches, blackouts and blurred vision.



Smiles, known as 2C-I, is a synthetic drug which has been linked to deaths and self-inflicted wounds by its users. Usually a white powder substance, sold in capsules or packets, or dissolved into liquid. Can be ingested or inhaled. Liquid blotter paper is dissolved in mouth. Unpredictable mental effects; leaves user out of touch with reality for 4-12 hrs. Warning signs: Aggressive, organ failure, extreme hallucinations and seizures.



Molly is a "pure" form of Ecstasy. It looks like a white powder, and is stored in capsules or pill form. It may be yellowish in color and have licorice smell. It can be ingested or snorted. Effects occur within 45 minutes and include lowering of inhibitions and affects your sense of reality. Warning signs: psychological effects, hallucinations, heart trouble, organ failure. Death from Molly occurs frequently by overdose or suicide because of the psychological effects. Users experience sweating, insomnia, teeth grinding, false sense of calm, and hypothermia. Using over time leads to addiction, overdose, ongoing depression, and brain damage. It can lead to death by dehydration, asphyxiation, organ failure or suicide.