

# Synthetic Cannabinoids

K2 | Spice | Synthetic Marijuana



## What Are They?

Synthetic cannabinoid products are herbs that have been sprayed with chemical additives to mimic the psychoactive effects of botanical marijuana, but are significantly more dangerous to the user.



With bright colored packaging resembling candy, these products are clearly being marketed to kids.



Use cannot be easily detected in urine or blood samples.



Synthetic cannabinoids look like plant materials or potpourri, leading people to believe that it is a "safe alternative" to marijuana.



Although the packages are marked "not for human consumption," and are marketed as legal and safe, these products are still being consumed/abused.



### Effects similar to using botanical marijuana

- Elevated mood
- Altered perception
- Drowsiness
- Impaired coordination
- Reddened eyes
- Increased appetite
- Nausea/vomiting
- Increased heart rate
- Increased/reduced anxiety
- Memory deficits
- Acute psychosis
- Fetal developmental effects



### Additional effects from synthetic use

- Agitation
- Violent behavior
- Suicidal thoughts
- Cognitive impairment
- Increased blood pressure
- Seizures
- Muscle spasms
- Low potassium
- Kidney damage
- Coma
- Death

## An Alarming Fact

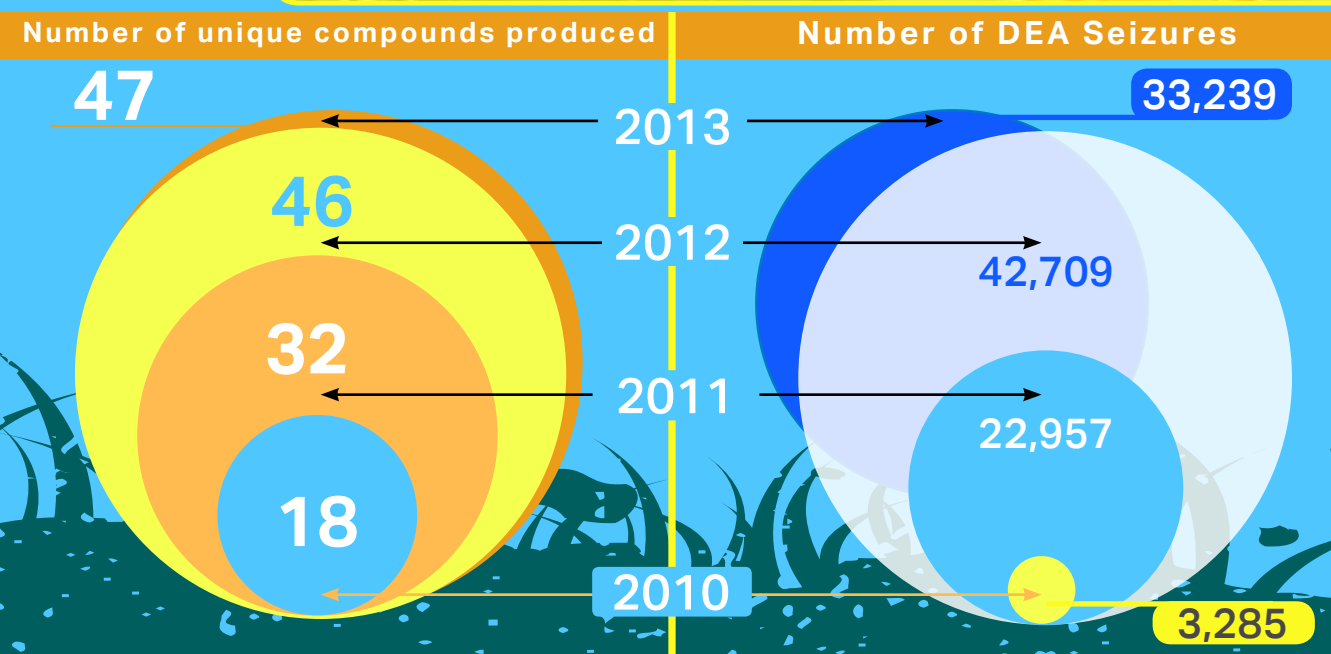


Synthetic cannabinoid use is a national problem.

This picture highlights some available products. The names, packages, and chemical compounds are constantly changing.



**Educate your community** on the dangers of using synthetic cannabinoids and connect with your local poison control centers to provide resource and referral help.



This infographic has been developed by the NIDA/SAMHSA-ATTC Blending Initiative [www.nattc.org](http://www.nattc.org)

U.S. DEA, Office of Diversion Control, NFLIS data, 2010-2013

Weaver et al., 2015

SAMHSA, 2014