

Drug and Poison Information Center (DPIC) DrugScope

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K2 Incense

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Overview

K2 is a blend of herbs and spices. Varieties include Blonde, Citron, Summit, Sex, Pink and Standard. It has the appearance of potpourri, and is marketed as incense. It is sprayed with a compound containing synthetic chemicals including JWH-018, JWH-073 and HU-210. When smoked, these chemicals act on the cannabinoid receptors in the brain, mimicking THC (marijuana).

Effects

Like marijuana, K2 causes physical symptoms such as increased heart rate and loss of consciousness. Psychiatric symptoms such as paranoia, hallucinations, schizophrenia and psychotic episodes have also been reported. Small doses of K2 have been reported to cause highs comparable to large doses of marijuana, but effects are generally less pleasurable.

Availability

K2 is easily accessible in the US, and may be ordered from either domestic or overseas distributors. It is rumored to be manufactured in China and India. It can be found readily online, in convenient stores and tobacco shops and can be purchased by minors. Currently "Spice" is illegal in Kansas; other states are looking to ban it as well.

Other Names:

Spice, Fake Pot, Genie, Supernova, Spirit, Zohai, Yukaton, Fire, Skunk, Sence, Blaze, Pep-pourri, Red X Dawn.

Special Points of Interest

Cost averages \$10 per gram
HU-210 is 100-800 times more potent than natural THC and is a Schedule 1 substance in the US
JWH-018 and JWH 073 are produced in China but unregulated in the US
Legally available for purchase in U.S. by anyone, including minors
It is unlikely to produce a positive for THC on routine urine drug screens.



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Benzylpiperazine (BZP)

Robyn E. Davis MSN, RN, CSPI

Background

1st synthesized in 1944 as a possible anti-parasitic, but never made it to the market.

Legal in some countries: New Zealand, Canada, Australia

“Legal Alternative” to MDMA

Synthetic (man-made) drug

Can be manufactured in the home, much like MDMA therefore no guarantee of ingredients or strengths.

The Down and Dirty

- Club Drug (other’s include MDMA, GHB, Ketamine)
- Schedule I substance (no medical use)

Hallucinations

- Amphetamine-like effects: decrease appetite, dilated pupils, increase blood pressure (systolic) and heart rate, respiratory rates, and seizures.
- 10-20 times *less* potent than amphetamines or MDMA
- Often contains hallucinogen TFMPP
- Doses range from 70-150 mg
- Effects last 6-8 hours
- Peak Plasma is 75 minutes
- Elimination 1/2 life is 5.5 hours
- Can produce hangover effects and tolerance issues
- Metabolites detectable in urine but needs to be looked for specifically . Plasma detection up to 30 hours.

TRENDS

The National Forensic Laboratory Information Systems identified in its 2009 mid-year report that BZP accounted for 33% of identified club drugs which is up from 14.68% in 2008

BZP seizures have increased substantially in the last 6 years. 1st appeared between June 2007-January 2008 in northern Ohio counties

Debuted in Cincinnati in early 2009, with increasing availability and use



SLANG TERMS

A2
Party Pills
Frenzy
Legal E
XXX
Nemesis

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Mephedrone: *This stuff is legal!*

Jerry Wiesenhahn RPH, CSPI

What is Mephedrone:

Mephedrone is a synthetic (laboratory-made) stimulant in the amphetamine and cathinone class. It is similar to other cathinone compounds found in the khat plant of eastern Africa (which is illegal in the US). Currently it is legally available through the internet and in head shops (marketed as plant food). It is sold as capsules, tablets, or white powder that users may snort, swallow, or inject

Why it's abused:

Mephedrone has enactogen properties and is abused for its ability to cause increased alertness, euphoria, excitement, feeling of stimulation, urge to talk, and openness. Users report it seems to combine positive aspects of cocaine, MDMA, and amphetamines with less negative effects (crashing, fatigue, etc.)

Other Names	
4-Methylmethcathinone	4-Methephedrone
Meph	Drone
MCAT	Bubbles
Meow Meow	Miaow Miaow

Adverse Effects	
Nose Bleeds	Nose Burns
Hallucinations	Nausea and Vomiting
Circulatory Problems	Rashes
Anxiety	Paranoia
Delusions	Poor Concentration
Short-Term Memory problems	Increased heart rate
Abnormal heart beats	Depression
Increased sweating	Dilated pupils
Blue lips and/or fingers	Inability to normally open mouth (trismus)

A survey conducted by the National Addiction Centre in the UK revealed the following rates of reported adverse effects from mephedrone users:

Headache	51%
Heart Palpitations	43%
Nausea	27%
Cold or Blue Fingers	15%

Other Considerations:

There is very little clinical research on the effects of mephedrone. Almost no studies exist in animals, let alone humans. We have no real data on the potential neurologic effects of this drug at this time, and anecdotal evidence of addiction is just starting to emerge. Several deaths in Sweden and the UK have been associated with mephedrone use, but no clear evidence exists. The potential risks of use of this drug are enormous.

References: http://www.erowid.org/experiences/subs/exp_4Methylmethcathinone.shtml
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