

IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE
ABUSING K2, CONTACT A GATEWAY
TREATMENT CENTER NEAR YOU.

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24-hour Helpline
877-505-HOPE (4673)
RecoverGateway.org



Real Answers for Lasting Recovery

Sources:

"DEA bans K2, other 'fake pot' products", USA Today,
Donna Leinwand, Information accessed 12/1/10,
http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2010-11-24-k2-ban-dea_N.htm

Reuters, 7/29/10 Synthetic, legal pot sending smokers to ER.

Jointogether.org 8/27/10 ER Visits for Synthetic Marijuana on the Rise.

5/28/10 Kalamazoo Gazette.

3/4/10 Fake Pot Panic, Newsweek.

K2-0713

Get the Facts on:

K2



Real Answers for Lasting Recovery

K2

Also known as: *Incense, herbal smoking blend, bag of spice, spice, Fake Weed, Pot-pourri, Mr. Smiley, Genie, Zohai*

WHAT IS IT?

An herb-and-chemical blend sold legally in the U.S. as incense that produces a marijuana like high when smoked. It is often referred to as a synthetic form of marijuana.

K2 can be produced using chemical compounds called JWH-018 or JWH-073, that were developed in the 1990's. These compounds are structured similar to THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, and can be legally acquired and sprayed onto varying mixtures of dried herbs, flowers and tobacco leaves. K2 is most widely known to produce mellow and euphoric feelings for users.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS?

It can be hard to tell if someone has been using K2. Signs and symptoms of using the substance are similar to that of using marijuana. If someone shows several of the following warning signs, they may be using K2.

KNOW THE SIGNS

- Seeming dizzy and having trouble walking
- Having red, bloodshot eyes and smelly hair and clothes
- Having a hard time remembering things that just happened
- Acting silly for no apparent reason

YOUR BRAIN

K2 interacts with brain receptors in a way that is said to be similar to marijuana, which means it affects the nerve cells in the part of the brain where memories are formed. Unlike marijuana, not much is known about the chemical makeup of K2.

LONG TERM EFFECTS

It is unknown what the damaging long term effects of K2 are. Minimal testing has been done on mice and virtually no human testing has been done.

IT'S NOT WHAT IT MAY SEEM

K2 is an unregulated mixture of items. Although the effects of the active ingredient in K2 should produce a mellow and euphoric state, recent reports state that use of K2 has been shown to produce anxiety, rapid heart rate, dangerously high blood pressure and vomiting to severe paranoia and hallucinations. The user is not mellow, but sometimes delirious and in an anxious or agitated state.

KNOW THE LAW

The U.S. House voted in December 2011 to ban more than 30 synthetic drugs, including K2. The Synthetic Drug Control Act makes it illegal to manufacture or dispense K2.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT K2

- Although K2 is marketed as synthetic marijuana, it's effects can be up to **ten times more intense than marijuana**.
- **An explosion of the use of K2 seems to have started in early 2010.** The increased number of emergency room visits related to the substance, has sparked the most recent attention of the media.
- According to Fake Pot Panic, an article in Newsweek in March 2010, **there may be a contaminant in a K2 mixture** being sold throughout the Midwestern U. S. that is causing the uncharacteristic effects and visits to emergency rooms.