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# The Dangers of Synthetic Drugs



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# Synthetic Drugs

## “Synthetic Cannabinoids”

### What Are Synthetic Drugs?

Synthetic drugs, specifically synthetic cannabinoids, are a mixture of herbs, incense, and/or spices that are sprayed with mind-altering chemicals. These drugs can produce hallucinogenic effects. Even though some people call synthetic cannabinoids “fake weed,” **these drugs are not a form of marijuana at all.**



The active ingredients in these drugs are synthetic chemicals that are very dangerous to the brain and other parts of the body. Because synthetic drugs are not regulated, they are not tested for safety, and users don't know what they are putting into their bodies. These drugs are easily accessible and their marketing is aimed at youth and young adults.

### Dangers

- |                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Overdose            | Loss of Consciousness      |
| Brain Damage        | High Anxiety/Panic Attacks |
| Severe Paranoia     | Psychosis                  |
| Hallucination       | Nausea and Vomiting        |
| Acute Kidney Injury | High Blood Pressure        |
| Convulsions         | Seizures                   |
| Heart Attack        | Stroke                     |

### Some Street Names Include:

- Scooby Snax
- Spice
- Bizarro
- VA Pack
- K2
- WTF



# The Law

Synthetic cannabinoids are illegal in the District of Columbia.

**A person can be arrested and prosecuted for manufacturing, distributing, or possessing synthetic cannabinoids.**

Pretrial Services, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, and other community supervision agencies in the District of Columbia now test for synthetic cannabinoids. Positive testing may impact a child's job, parole, probation, or government benefits.

## If You Need Help

If your child ingests synthetic cannabinoids and stops breathing, collapses, or has a seizure, **dial 9-1-1 immediately.**

In non-emergency situations, you can get free, confidential medical advice 24 hours a day by calling the **National Capital Poison Center** at 800-222-1222

For addiction resources, contact the **Department of Behavioral Health 24/7 Help Line** at 888-793-4376

If you believe a business is selling synthetic drugs, contact the **Metropolitan Police Department Anonymous Tip Line** at 202-727-9099 | 202-299-5555 or text 50411

For more info visit:  
[www.drugfreeyouth.com](http://www.drugfreeyouth.com)  
[www.k2zombiedc.com](http://www.k2zombiedc.com)

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