



## **Synthetic Marijuana Fact Sheet**

### **What is synthetic marijuana?**

It is a mixture of herbs and spices applied with a synthetic chemical compound (psychotropic drug JWH- 018 and JWH-073) similar to THC, the active ingredient in marijuana.

### **What are other names for it?**

Fake weed, spice, K-2 spice, K-2 summit, Genie, Zohai

### **What does it do?**

It creates a distinct high, very euphoric, and almost mimics the high of marijuana.

### **What are the symptoms?**

- Hallucinations (can be intense)
- Severe agitation
- Vomiting
- Elevated heart rate (tachycardia—in the range of 110-150 beats/minute)
- Elevated blood pressure (in the 140-160/100-110 range)
- Tremors and seizures (central nervous system)
- Anxiety
- Numbness and tingling
- Agitation
- Pale appearance

### **Is it harmful?**

It is dangerous and addictive. JWH 018 and its cousins have a chemical structure shared with known cancer-causing agents. These agents bind much more tightly to the body's cannabinoid receptors than THC does. An Indianola teenager recently committed suicide after using K2.

### **How much does it cost?**

It sells for approximately \$30-40 per three gram bag, which is comparable in cost to marijuana.

### **What if I have concerns about someone smoking “Spice” or other similar products?**

- Take individual to the emergency room or the nearest hospital
- Call the Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center toll-free hotline at 1-800-222-1222

*Sources:* National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse, St. Louis, MO, WebMD Health News, [www.spicesales.com](http://www.spicesales.com), Saint Louis University (2010, March 3). Toxicologist warning to parents: Look for signs of K2—‘fake marijuana’. *ScienceDaily*, Drugfree Marion County.