



# Legal Does NOT Mean Safe

## **KNOW THE FACTS**

About Spice, K2 & other Synthetic Drugs

*The names may sound harmless but the effects can be devastating. These products are not regulated by any government agency. Just because they are legal to purchase does not make them a safe alternative to marijuana or other illegal substances.*

### **What is Spice, K2 and Other Synthetic Drugs?**

Synthetic Drugs are a mixture of herbs and chemical compounds. The synthetic chemical compounds are comparable to illegal substances. They may be referred to as legal pot, incense or herbal smoking incense. Their legal status may give a false impression of safety.

### **What are the side effects or symptoms of Synthetic Drugs?**

Even though the chemical compounds are designed to mimic the 'high' of marijuana, the effects of Spice, K2 and other synthetic drugs are very different and much more severe. Users may experience:

**Rapid Heart Rate**

**Rapid Pulse**

**Seizures**

**Hallucinations**

**Nausea**

**Vomiting**

**Suicidal Thoughts**

**Paranoia**

**Aggression & Uncontrollable Rage**

**Agitation**

**Addiction**

**Severe Depression**

While the 'high' for synthetic drug use may last no more than 15-20 minutes, users can experience the chronic side effects for weeks.

### **What can I do?**

Talk to children, teenagers and young adults who may be at risk or who you suspect may be using Spice. Explain the toxic effects and potentially deadly consequences of using synthetic drug products.

Visit local stores and ask if they sell Spice, K2 or other synthetic drugs. If they do, speak to the owner about the devastating effects of the products. Ask the store owner to show their community support by not selling these products. If your local store continues to sell Spice and other similar products, consider spending your money somewhere that is more community and safety-oriented.

*From the Alabama Department of Public Health:*

**At least two suicides and 56 Emergency Room visits are linked to Spice.**

**Victims include three children between 6-12 years old and 15 teens.**

*From the American Association of Poison Control Centers:*

**303 calls were received in 2010 about Spice. Calls jumped to 5,000 between January & August 2011.**



***ANYONE can purchase Spice, K2 and similar products.***

***Help us create a safer county by getting these products out of our local stores.***