



News Alert

Northeast Community Challenge Coalition

K2: A New Drug Causing Concern

A growing number of teenagers and young adults are now experimenting with a synthetic drug called K2; also called Spice, Serenity Now and Zohai. The substance is a chemical combination of a mix of dried herbs and spices sprayed with a synthetic compound similar to THC (main ingredient in marijuana). K2 and similar substances are marketed as herbal incense and sold online and in smoke shops across the country. **But just because K2 is legal, does NOT mean it's safe.** Aside from the initial high that users seek from this drug, the side effects also include: rapid heart rate, elevated blood pressure, agitation, anxiety, vomiting, respiratory issues and hallucinations.



Health and drug officials say the danger in using such products comes from the unregulated nature in which they are made. A DEA official calls the use of this product “playing Russian roulette” due to the fact that they are not made in controlled environments (CNN). Kansas has been the first state so far to ban the synthetic marijuana, and many other states are considering the same legislation.

To help youth avoid this new drug, we encourage parents to talk to their children and be aware of the dangers it may cause.

Source: Researchers Warn About Dangers of Synthetic Marijuana, Mar. 2010. Live Science: Fake Weed, Real Drug: K2 Causing Hallucinations in Teens, Mar. 2010

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