

Seminole Prevention Coalition
Strengthening Seminole County's Future

Seminole County Legislative Delegation Meeting
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Synthetic Drugs - Overview and Issues in Seminole County

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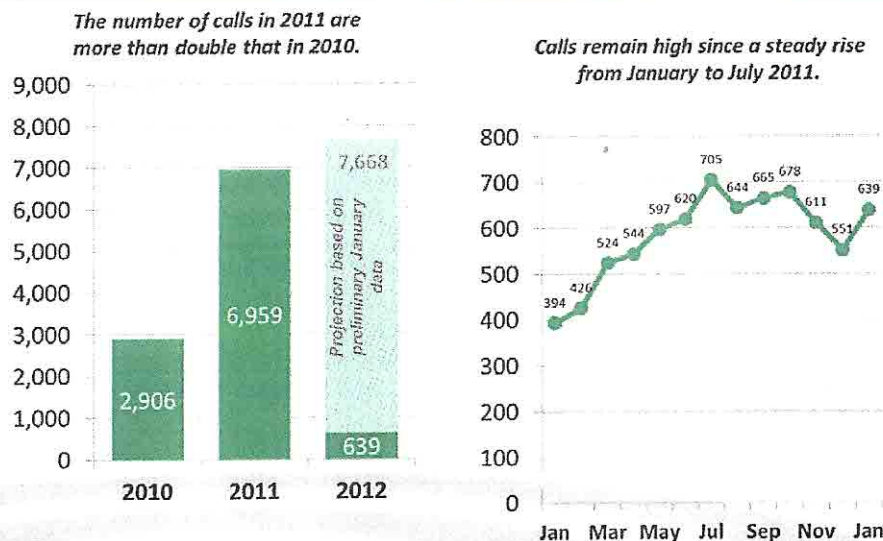
Synthetic Drugs (a.k.a. K2, Spice, Bath Salts, etc.)

Overview and History

- Synthetic marijuana (often known as "K2" or "Spice") and bath salts products are often sold in legal retail outlets as "herbal incense" and "plant food," respectively, and labeled "not for human consumption" to mask their intended purpose and avoid FDA regulatory oversight of the manufacturing process.
- Synthetic marijuana consists of plant material that has been laced with substances (synthetic cannabinoids) that users claim mimics $\Delta 9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive active ingredient in marijuana, and are marketed toward young people as a "legal" high.
- Use of synthetic marijuana is alarmingly high. According to data from the 2011 Monitoring the Future survey of youth drug-use trends, 11.4 percent of 12th graders used Spice or K2 in the past year, making it the second most commonly used illicit drug among seniors.
- Bath Salts contain manmade chemicals related to amphetamines that often consist of methylenedioxypropylvalerone (MDPV), mephedrone, and methylone, also known as substituted cathinones.
- "Bath salt" stimulant products are sold in powder form in small plastic or foil packages of 200 and 500 milligrams under various brand names. Mephedrone is a fine white, off-white, or slightly yellow-colored powder. It can also be found in tablet and capsule form. MDPV is a fine white or off-white powder. **Methods of abuse** "Bath salts" are usually ingested by sniffing/snorting. They can also be taken orally, smoked, or put into a solution and injected into veins.
- The Administration has been working over the past 24 months with Federal, Congressional, State, local, and non-governmental partners to put policies and legislation in place to combat this threat, and to educate people about the tremendous health risk posed by these substances.

A Rapidly Emerging Threat

Calls Received by Poison Control Centers for Human Exposure to Synthetic Marijuana, 2010 to January 2012



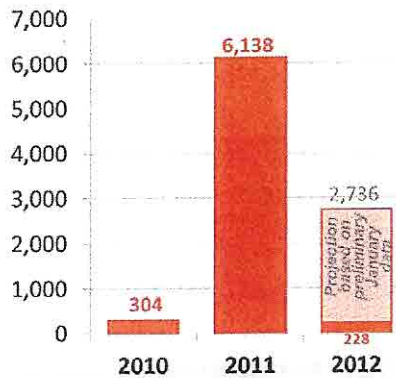
Source: American Association of Poison Control Centers, *Synthetic Marijuana Data*, Updated February 8, 2012 (Preliminary data)

- Synthetic cannabinoids in herbal incense products were first detected in the United States in November 2008, by the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) forensic laboratory. These products were first encountered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
- According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, 2,906 calls relating to human exposure to synthetic marijuana were received in 2010. Twice that number (6,959) were received in 2011, and 639 had been received as of January 2012.

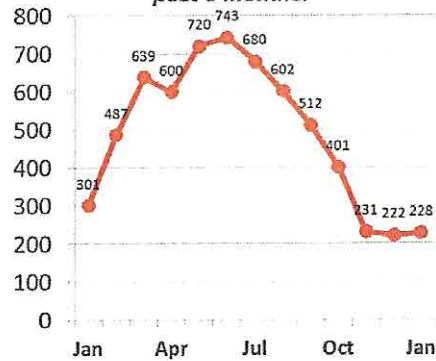
Synthetic Drugs (Continued)

Calls To Poison Control Centers for Human Exposure to Bath Salts, 2010 to January 2012

The number of calls closed in 2011 are over 20 times that in 2010.



In early 2011, calls closed in each month* spiked through June, then gradually declined and is level in the past 3 months.



*Numbers may change as cases are closed and additional information is received.

Source: American Association of Poison Control Centers, Bath Salts Data, Updated February 8, 2012 (Preliminary data).

- According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, the number of calls related to Bath Salt exposure received by poison control centers across the country increased by more than 20 times in 2011 alone, up from 304 in 2010 to 6,138.

Risk to the Public Health

- Health warnings have been issued by numerous State and local public health authorities and poison control centers describing the adverse health effects associated with the use of synthetic cannabinoids, substituted cathinones, and their related products.
- The effects of synthetic marijuana include agitation, extreme nervousness, nausea, vomiting, tachycardia (fast, racing heartbeat), elevated blood pressure, tremors and seizures, hallucinations, and dilated pupils.
- Similar to the adverse effects of cocaine, LSD and methamphetamine, Bath Salt use is associated with increased heart rate and blood pressure, extreme paranoia, hallucinations, and violent behavior, which causes users to harm themselves or others.