

Don't Be Fooled. Despite Its Name, Synthetic Marijuana is Nothing Like Marijuana



Dangerous chemicals sprayed onto crushed leaves are being sold as “synthetic marijuana.”

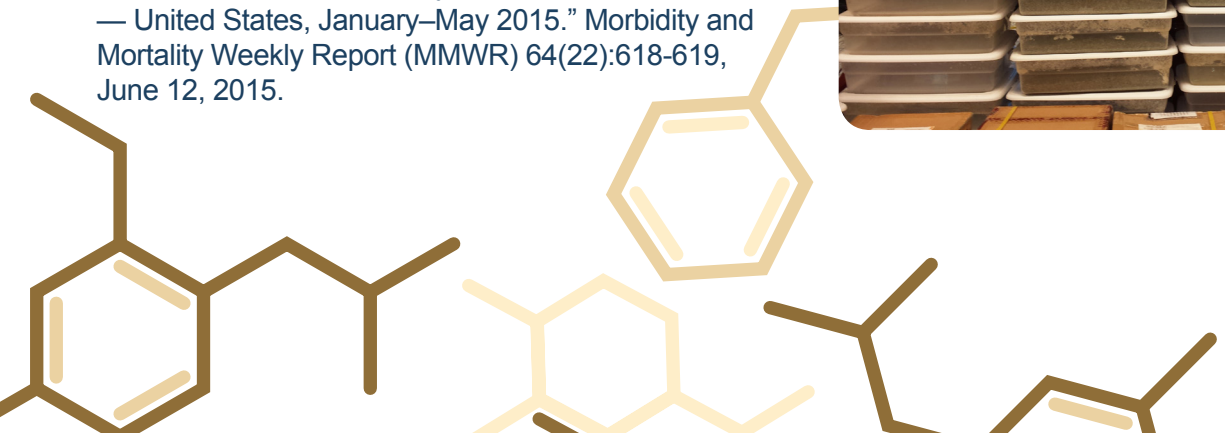


Do not be fooled: synthetic marijuana is not marijuana. These drugs are **dangerous**.

People can spray anything on a plant and give it a name that sounds safe like synthetic marijuana, spice, or herbal incense. Yes, these chemicals can get you high. Unlike marijuana, they can also make your heart race and leave you vomiting, brain damaged, or dead. Calls to U.S. poison control centers about synthetic marijuana poisoning tripled from 2014 to 2015. The federal government has repeatedly banned dangerous chemicals labeled “synthetic marijuana.” Drug-makers kept the name and replaced the banned chemicals with even more dangerous drugs.

Synthetic marijuana – you never know what you’ll get, but it won’t be marijuana.

R. Law, J. Schier, C. Martin, A. Chang, and A. Wolkin. “Notes from the Field: Increase in Reported Adverse Health Effects Related to Synthetic Cannabinoid Use — United States, January–May 2015.” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* 64(22):618-619, June 12, 2015.



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration supports the Preventing Prescription Abuse in the Workplace Technical Assistance Center. For more information, contact PAW-TA@PIRE.org. To join the PAW Listserv, visit <http://paw.dsgonline.com>, or simply scan the QR Code to the right.



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