WHAT IS IT?

• Unsafe, often poisonous, “high,” also known as synthetic marijuana
• An unknown mixture of herbs, sprayed with dangerous chemicals meant to mimic THC
• Sold for $12–15 as incense, potpourri or fake weed
• “Spice” brand name has become the catchall term for this type of drug
• Smoked in joints or pipes; can be made into tea
• Effects sought by abusers: cannabis-like mild euphoria, pain relief
• Easily accessible at head shops, tobacco stores, retail outlets and online
• Promoted as legal despite DEA, State and Federal bans

PREVALENCE

• One in nine 12th graders in America used spice in the last year
• Second most frequently used illegal drug among high school seniors, after marijuana
• Poison control calls doubled in 2011, rising in 2012
• Often undetected in most tests: popular with groups subjected to random drug testing

DANGERS

• Psychological: delusions, paranoia, panic attacks, short-term psychotic episodes, hallucinations
• Physiological: seizures, agitation, profuse sweating, increased heart rate and blood pressure, vomiting
• Rapid onset 3–5 minutes. Duration: 1 to 8+ hours
• Perceived safer than marijuana; long-term effects unknown

what about BATH SALTS?

• “Bath salts” are similar to spice in that they have unknown ingredients and are illegal yet still widely available at gas stations, retail outlets and online
• Inhaled, smoked or injected
• Effects sought by abusers are cocaine or meth-like: euphoria, energy, focus
• Dangers include: strong hallucinations, suicidal/homicidal feelings, acute paranoia, short-term psychosis, seizures, rapid heart rate

For more resources on synthetic and other drugs, visit venturacountylimits.org/otherdrugs