



ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAMS
Ventura County Health Care Agency

trend report "SPICE"



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

Similar products:

- K2
- CALIFORNIA POTPOURRI
- BUZZ
- FLYING BUDDAH
- OBLIVION

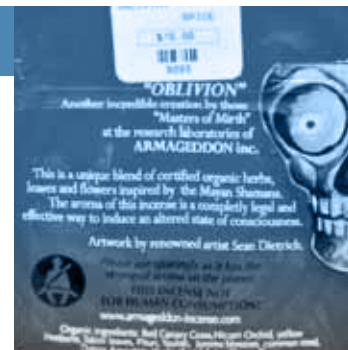


PREVALENCE

- **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**



Labeled
"Not for
human
consumption"

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