

# K2 Update - "Feds Ban Synthetic Marijuana"



[WWW.RECOVERYHAPPENS.COM](http://WWW.RECOVERYHAPPENS.COM)

Jon Daily, LCSW, CADAC II

916-276-0626

On May 13th, we did a story with Teo Torres from KCRA channel 3 news and emailed our subscribers regarding the new drug of abuse in our area, K2. K2 is a drug we have seen abused by many teens and young adults in our outpatient programs in Davis and Fair Oaks, Ca.

The allure of this drug for adolescent and young adult drug users was that it can be legally purchased in downtown Davis, Sacramento, or any large city across the country and via the internet. Access has been easy, though the cost was about the same as marijuana.

In addition, the allure was that this synthetic marijuana created an intoxication similar to marijuana, and it was undetectable when parents, probation, etc. were drug testing the user to determine if they were using drugs.

In the fall, we learned that toxicology labs such as Redwood Toxicology, had finally created a test that would detect the presence of k2. This proved to be very helpful for parents and programs who were working with teens, young adults and their families with drug problems.

Now, even better, the DEA has banned this drug, classified it as a Schedule 1 substance until further review, and pulled it off the shelves of smoke shops, gas stations, etc. This is a very helpful step for families and programs.

by [Mike Hughes](#)

Wed, Dec 01, 2010 3:11 pm

The DEA is taking synthetic pot seriously. In a statement released last week, the US Drug Enforcement Administration announced it will use its "emergency scheduling authority to temporarily control five chemicals ... used to make 'fake pot' products."

This means that in one month, the synthetic cannabinoids used in popular pot substitutes K2 and Spice will be considered Schedule I narcotics for the span of one year (the most restrictive category). During that year, the DEA will "further study whether these chemicals and products should be permanently controlled.

("K2" continued)

In Virginia, Sen. Mark Herring (D-33) is seeking legislation in the 2011 General Assembly that would ban the drug billed as synthetic marijuana, which carries the street name K2 or Spice. SB745, the bill would amend the state code for drug possession, sale or distribution to include K2. If the bill were passed and signed into law, it would make knowing possession of the drug a Class 1 misdemeanor. Those who sell or distribute K2 at less than one-half ounce also would be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor, while those people or stores who sell more than one-half ounce but less than five pounds would be guilty of a Class 5 felony. Anyone selling or distributing more than five pounds of synthetic pot would be guilty of a felony that carries a prison sentence between five and 30 years. Manufacturing the drug carries a penalty of five to 30 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

The bill also adds many forms of synthetic marijuana to the list of banned substances in Virginia.

"Right now about 10 states have made it criminal in one form or another and several others are beginning to take the same steps," Herring said. "It's time for Virginia to take similar action."

Since the drug only has been public and on the market for about a year, the Drug Enforcement Administration has not fully studied the drug. To remedy that, the agency announced Nov. 24 it was moving to emergency control of synthetic pot, using its authority to temporarily control the five chemicals being used to make K2.

"Except as authorized by law, this action will make possessing and selling these chemicals or the products that contain them illegal in the U.S. for at least one year while the DEA and the United States Department of Health and Human Services further study whether these chemicals and products should be permanently controlled," the DEA said in announcing the temporary action.

"Makers of these harmful products mislead their customers into thinking that 'fake pot' is a harmless alternative to illegal drugs, but that is not the case," DEA Acting Administrator Michele M. Leonhart stated Nov. 24. "Today's action will call further attention to the risks of ingesting unknown compounds and will hopefully take away any incentive to try these products."

Herring called the DEA's action an "important step" but noted it does not remove the need for state legislation.

**Learn about our outpatient programs for teens & young adults by visiting us at:**

[WWW.RECOVERYHAPPENS.COM](http://WWW.RECOVERYHAPPENS.COM)

*Outpatient Treatment  
for  
Adolescents & Young  
Adults with Substance  
Use Disorders*



**Recovery Happens Counseling Services**

*Programs in Fair Oaks & Davis*

*Clinically Directed by*

**Jon Daily, LCSW, CADC II**

**(916) 276-0626**

[WWW.RECOVERYHAPPENS.COM](http://WWW.RECOVERYHAPPENS.COM)

[info@recoveryhappens.com](mailto:info@recoveryhappens.com)

LCSW #les20952, CADC#a3819299

At Our Website:

[www.recoveryhappens.com](http://www.recoveryhappens.com)

- Info About Program Services
- Online Parent Education Classes
- Low Cost Digital Alcohol Breathalyzers and Home Drug Tests
- Books/Videos for Parents of Drug-Using Teens and Young Adults
- Newsletters for Parents & Professionals
- CEU's for Professionals

**Subscribe to our monthly newsletter  
on adolescent and young drug use issues, email:  
[info@recoveryhappens.com](mailto:info@recoveryhappens.com)**