

## Fact Sheet

### **Indications & Physical Effects**

- ◆ Dizziness
- ◆ High blood pressure
- ◆ Red eyes/dilated pupils
- ◆ Nausea
- ◆ Vomiting
- ◆ Seizures
- ◆ Paranoia
- ◆ Anxiety
- ◆ Depression
- ◆ Nose bleeds
- ◆ Chest pains

### **Drug Identifiers**

- ◆ Marked as bath salts or air fresheners “Not for human consumption”

### **Long Term Health Risks**

- ◆ Breathing problems
- ◆ Cognitive impairment
- ◆ Psychosis

### **Recommendations**

- ◆ Contact police and emergency services via 9-1-1.
- ◆ Wear vinyl or non-latex gloves when handling possible synthetic drugs and throw the gloves away after use.
- ◆ Thoroughly wash hands after removing gloves and before eating, drinking, or smoking to prevent potential ingestion of drug particles.

### **Reporting**

Report all incidents of overdose or exposure to NJ Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222.

## Public Awareness: Synthetic Drugs

Since April 2015, there have been approximately 400 overdoses involving synthetics along East Coast between Alabama to New York. The current brand associated with this outbreak of overdoses is “K2” (pictured below). This is a popular brand that is available both online and at local convenient stores. Lab analysis is pending to determine the cause of the overdoses.

In New Jersey, it is illegal to possess, sell, offer to sell, or manufacture synthetic drugs. Between April 15th and April 19th, there have been approximately 25 non-fatal overdoses in the area of Newark Penn Station in Newark, NJ.



The photo above shows the popular synthetic drug brand called K2. The current batch of K2 has been associated with approximately 400 non-fatal overdoses along the East Coast during the month of April.

Synthetic drugs have become popular among drug users due to the availability of these drugs through the Internet and over the counter at convenience stores, smoke shops, and gas stations. Synthetic drugs are chemically designed to imitate the effects of drugs such as LSD, methamphetamines, and Ecstasy. The most common

The Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA) has launched a statewide awareness campaign, “Addiction Does Not Discriminate” to help fight drug abuse by showing that no one is immune to the deadly drug problem. This program provides New Jersey residents with information on preventing abuse, recognizing those at risk, and finding treatment. Please go to <http://www.knowaddiction.nj.gov/>



forms of synthetic drugs are in powder, crystal, liquid, or leafy green vegetation. This diverse appearance allows distributors to package the drugs as bath salts or herbal air fresheners marked “not for human consumption.” The most common ingredient in these drugs are versions of cathinone, which can have severe mental and physical effects on users.



The photo above shows different synthetic drug products marketed as “not for human consumption.” The multiple distribution platforms allows to circumvent US drug scheduling standards.