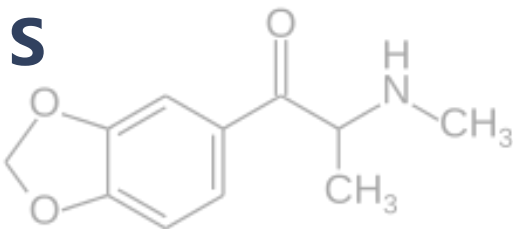




# SYNTHETICS

(C11H13NO3)



cannabinoids: black magic, demon, fire, genie, K2, ninja, paradise, redX dawn, spice, skunk, yucatan.<sup>4</sup>  
cathinones: bliss, blue silk, cloud nine, pure ivory, purple wave, stardust, vanilla sky, white lightening<sup>4</sup>


Also known as New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), synthetics are commonly referred to as “designer drugs”; these drugs are manufactured to look and mimic the effects of illegal drugs with the intent of avoiding the classification of illegal in standard drug tests.<sup>1</sup>

## WHAT IS IT?


### how it works<sup>1,2</sup>

Synthetics are typically divided into two categories: cannabinoids and cathinones. Synthetic drugs are often untested and new, so most users are unaware of what they are putting in their bodies. Due to this, it is uncertain how each drug will affect a person.


### COMMON EFFECTS<sup>6</sup>



| AGITATION | ALTERED TIME PERCEPTION | HEADACHE |



| NAUSEA OR VOMITING |



| HYPERTENSION | GENERAL WEAKNESS |

### 2 TYPES:



**Cannabinoids**  
are commonly applied to plant materials or suspended in an oil and designed to be smoked or used in e-cigarettes.<sup>1</sup>



**Cathinones**  
are usually crystal or powder substances consumed in powder, tablet, or capsule form.<sup>1</sup>



**Did you know?** when a synthetic drug is made illegal, the manufacturers simply **change** the **molecular structure** of the drug to stay one step ahead of the law.<sup>7, 8</sup>

### FALSE ADVERTISING

Synthetic cannabinoid products are often labeled “not for human consumption.” The labels include claims that the products contain natural materials, but only part of those products are natural; the rest are made in laboratories.<sup>3</sup>

## OKLAHOMA

- The rate of overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids was more than 11 times higher in 2019 than in 2013.<sup>10\*</sup>
- Synthetic drugs are the 2<sup>nd</sup> most frequently used illegal drug among high school seniors. This figure continues to decline, as the perceived risk increases, however.<sup>9</sup>
- In Oklahoma, overdose deaths from prescription opioids are decreasing; *however*, synthetic opioid overdoses continue to remain stable.<sup>7,10</sup>

Last Updated: June 2021. \*Chemical compound represents MDMA or Mephedrone. <sup>1</sup>Drug Enforcement Agency. (2020). *National Drug Threat Assessment*. Washington DC: US department of Justice. Retrieved from [https://dea.gov/sites/default/files/2021-02-21%202020%20National%20Drug%20Threat%20Assessment\\_WEB.pdf](https://dea.gov/sites/default/files/2021-02-21%202020%20National%20Drug%20Threat%20Assessment_WEB.pdf). <sup>2</sup>NSW Health. (2021). Synthetic Drugs. Retrieved from <https://yourroom.health.nsw.gov.au/a-z-of-drugs/pages/synthetics.aspx>. <sup>3</sup>NIDA. (2018). Synthetic Cannabinoids (K2/Spice) Drug Facts. Retrieved from <https://drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/synthetic-cannabinoids-k2spice>. <sup>4</sup>Drug Enforcement Agency. (2020). *Drugs of Abuse: A DEA Resource Guide*, Washington DC: US Department of Justice. Retrieved from [https://dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/drugs%20of%20abuse%202020-web%20Version-508%20compliant-4-24-20\\_0.pdf](https://dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/drugs%20of%20abuse%202020-web%20Version-508%20compliant-4-24-20_0.pdf). <sup>5</sup>NSW Health. (2021). Synthetic Drugs. Retrieved from <https://yourroom.health.nsw.gov.au/a-z-of-drugs/pages/synthetics.aspx>. <sup>6</sup>Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics. (2020). *Oklahoma Drug Threat Assessment*. [Online]. Retrieved from <https://www.obndd.ok.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/26/637395998284770000>. <sup>7</sup>Landmark Recovery. (2020). The Rise of Synthetic Drugs in Oklahoma. [Online]. Retrieved from <https://landmarkrecovery.com/synthetic-drugs-oklahoma>. <sup>8</sup>Falsetti, J. (2019). Synthetic drugs: deadly, legal concoctions trending upwards in Oklahoma. *Fox 25*. Retrieved from <https://okcfox.com/news/local/synthetic-drugs-deadly-legal-concoctions-trending-upwards-in-oklahoma>. <sup>9</sup>NIDA. (2015). Monitoring the Future Survey, Overview of Findings 2015. Retrieved from <https://archives.drugabuse.gov/monitoring-future-survey-overview-findings-2015#GN1>. <sup>10</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). Synthetic Opioid Overdose Data. [Online]. Retrieved from <https://cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/synthetic/index.html>. <sup>10\*</sup>reflects the national statistic, not just Oklahoma.