

**The sale or possession  
of synthetic drugs  
is illegal in the  
District of Columbia.**

Mayor Muriel Bowser took quick  
action to combat the use and  
sale of synthetic drugs and worked  
with the DC Council to increase  
the penalties for any business  
found to be selling synthetic drugs.

This gives police and regulatory  
officials more power to shut down  
bad acting businesses  
for illegal activity.

**If you see a store selling  
synthetic drugs,  
please call  
311 immediately.**

**Drug addiction  
is a disease that  
can be treated.**

**Treatment is effective.  
Recovery is possible.**

If you are struggling with synthetic drugs,  
any other drug, or alcohol, there is help.

**YOU CAN CALL**

The Department of Behavioral Health  
Access Helpline at

**1-888-793-4357**

Anytime day or night, seven days a week

**VISIT**

The Assessment and Referral Center (The ARC)  
For Same-Day Service

Arrive 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

70 N Street, NE Washington, DC 20002

Telephone: (202) 727-8473

**For addiction treatment  
Mental health counseling  
Detoxification if needed  
Recovery support**

**FOR A MEDICAL EMERGENCY,  
CALL 911**



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR



**SYNTHETIC  
DRUGS CAN  
BE DEADLY**

To learn more about the harmful  
effects of synthetic drugs, go to  
[K2ZombieDC.com/Adults](http://K2ZombieDC.com/Adults)  
or visit us on social media





## NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

Synthetic drugs are potent hallucinogens made with harmful inorganic chemicals. Synthetic drugs do not refer to a single substance, but to multiple combinations of chemicals that may be even more toxic when taken together. These mind-altering chemicals are constantly evolving and active ingredients are changing. No two packages of synthetic drugs are the same, even if they are in the same packaging or have the same name or brand; your mind and body will not react in the same way. The packaging does not tell the user what chemicals are in it or the side effects.

Synthetic drugs can look like marijuana but also come in a pill, liquid, or powder. When it is manufactured to look like marijuana, it is a mixture of dried, shredded plant material and usually sold in small plastic packages or glass jars with different brand names such as K2, Scooby Snax, Bizzaro, Spice, Mr. Nice Guy, or Red Dawn.

Even the manufacturers, distributors, and retail sellers are aware of the dangers of synthetic drugs. Synthetic drug packets sold are often labeled "Not for Human Consumption" in hopes of avoiding criminal prosecution.

## THE TRUTH BEHIND THE SMOKE SCREEN.

Although the long term effects of synthetic drugs on the body and mental health are not yet known, the immediate effects it can have on your family, job, and life could be long-lasting.

Synthetic drug use is hard on relationships, friendships, and family. The deceptive behaviors and out-of-character behaviors can cause loved ones to feel worried, confused, and scared.

As is the case with many other types of substance abuse addiction, use of synthetic drugs can cause lasting damage to your family and relationships and contribute to separation and divorce.

In addition, synthetic drugs use can have a socioeconomic impact. Users may resort to stealing money from their friends and family, or selling items from their homes to get the money needed to continue to buy drugs. Furthermore, synthetic drug use can set adults up for a difficult future as their performance at work fails to the point of receiving penalties or being terminated.



DRUGS  
SYNTHETIC

## SYNTHETIC DRUGS ARE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, DAMAGE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, AND CAN CAUSE LIFE-THREATENING REACTIONS.

Some symptoms of synthetic drugs are memory loss, psychotic episodes, blackouts, brain damage, rapid heartbeat, hallucinations and paranoia. Other side effects of these drugs may include seizures, suicidal behavior, erratic and violent behavior, and even death.

Synthetic drugs are manufactured substances intended to mimic the effects of illegal drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, ecstasy, and methamphetamine. Some names of synthetic drugs are K2/Spice, bath salts, molly, flakka, etc.

