

DRUG WATCH ALERT



K2

(Imitation Marijuana)

There is a new emerging drug called "K2", also known as "Spice", "Genie" or "Zohai". K2, a mixture of herb and spices (marketed as incense) is sprayed with a synthetic compound similar to THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. It is being misused and smoke to obtain a high. Currently K2 is *legal*, available and in demand here in Minnesota and teens are able to purchase this drug at local tobacco shops. Although it is legal, the military has banned the possession of K2; and the federal Drug Enforcement Agency has classified it as a "drug or chemical of concern".

K2 looks and works a lot like marijuana; however it has more dangerous side effects. In reports these side effects have been ranging in severity, some of which have sent teens to the hospital. Some common side effects include; heart palpitations and malfunctions, vomiting, panic attacks, agitation, generous or violent behavior, paranoia, hallucinations, psychotic episodes, and loss of consciousness.

K2 also has a pungent odor when smoked, similar to marijuana, so you will likely smell it on your teens clothes or belongings.

Many teens in treatment and elsewhere have started smoking this drug as a



Package of K2 that contains herbs and spices sprayed with chemicals similar to THC found in marijuana.

substitute to marijuana. Despite its legality, this is still a mood-altering substance and is not allowed in our program and is considered a drug relapse. The use of this drug is especially hard to catch as the effects do not last long and we are not yet able to test for it in a urine analysis (UA). In order to catch the use of this drug, we all need to be on the same page. Therefore, if you suspect your child is using this drug, or know your child is using go to the [MN Treatment page](#) at www.chi-parentnetwork.org to find resources in our area.

We have provided pictures of various packages of K2, please be aware there are many different variations of this drug.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this or any other drug contact the CHI at (651)385-3307 or email us at info@chi-goodhue.org.



Healthy Kids!

Healthy Families!

Healthy Communities!