



WINTER 2015


# TRENDS OF TEEN SPICE USE

REGION 1, TEXAS

PREVENTION RESOURCE CENTER, REGION 1 TEXAS

MANAGED CARE CENTER FOR ADDICTIVE/OTHER DISORDERS, INC

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## The PRC, Region 1

### Who We Are

The Prevention Resource Center (PRC) is a service of Managed Care Center for Addictive/Other Disorders, Inc. We serve the 41 counties of the Texas Panhandle and South Plains Region.

We serve as the central data collection repository and substance abuse prevention training liaison for Public Health Region 1, funded by a grant from the Department of State Health Services.

Our duties are to identify local community, county, and regional data resources that will provide and share data to enhance and maximize data collection and support the central data collection repository efforts.

### Our Mission

The purpose of the Prevention Resource Center is to support activities that enhance and improve substance abuse prevention services across Region 1 of the State of Texas. The Resource Center serves as a central repository for data collected throughout Region 1 that will be used to develop a Regional Needs Assessment.

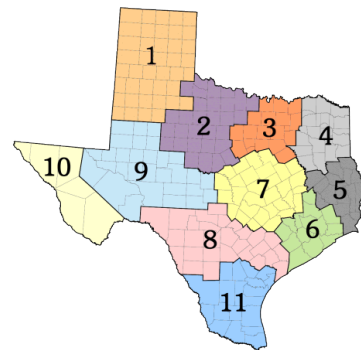
Our specific goals are:

- To provide current, relevant, and community-wide data on substance abuse trends
- To enhance the ability of our communities to more effectively respond to changes in substance abuse trends
- To influence data driven changes in the standards and attitudes within our communities

### Our Region

We serve the following counties in West Texas:

- Armstrong, Bailey, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Cochran, Collingsworth, Crosby, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Donley, Floyd, Garza, Gray, Hale, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hockley, Hutchinson, King, Lamb, Lipscomb, Lubbock, Lynn, Moore, Motley, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, Terry, Wheeler, & Yoakum.



### How We Serve our Community

We serve our communities by providing alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) data to schools, colleges and universities, or other community agencies. This is done through **Information Dissemination** which provides awareness and knowledge of alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse, and issues and trends through the data collected by the central data repository.

Our **Community-Based Process** aids the community to more effectively provide "TIPS" (Treatment, Intervention and Prevention Services) for ATOD problems through community mobilization, collaboration, coalition building, networking and community empowerment efforts.

Through **Environmental and Social Policy**, we aim to reduce the incidence and prevalence of ATOD in the general population by establishing and/or changing written and unwritten standards, codes and attitudes within the community. This strategy also aims to combat substance abuse and related harms with concerted, community-based and comprehensive efforts to change norms, behaviors, systems and context that contribute to substance abuse problems in our communities.

## Tobacco Strategies

Our Tobacco Specialist works with tobacco retailers to understand and comply with Texas laws concerning the sale and display of tobacco products. The Prevention Resource Center provides education to tobacco retailers and the media concerning tobacco laws and the harmful effects of tobacco.

## Community Cooperation

The Prevention Resource Center collaborates with other agencies by sharing data about substance abuse issues, trends, planning, training and other activities within our region and state. The Prevention Center coordinates with regional coalitions and supports their prevention efforts.

## Jackie J. Johnson, CPS

Program Director

15 February 2015

## Prevention Resource Center, Region 1

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## Introduction

The nation's teenage drug problem is far from disappearing. New drugs, like synthetic marijuana, continue to appear in our market. Synthetic drugs like these are particularly dangerous, because they have unknown, untested, and ever-changing ingredients that can be unusually powerful leading to severe consequences. Users really don't know what they are getting and they may be in for a dangerous surprise.

Over 120 people overdosed on synthetic cannabinoids between May 1-5, 2014 in Dallas and Austin<sup>1</sup>. On May 2, 2014 over 40 people in Dallas overdosed on synthetic cannabinoids in a 23 hour period<sup>2</sup>. During this five day stretch, many of the victims were treated at Baylor Medical Center for similar symptoms of psychosis, altered mental status, and abnormal behavior.

Although manufacturers are constantly changing the formulas in order to stay ahead of regulation, most all synthetic cannabinoids are banned in larger metropolitan areas in West Texas. Still, these kinds of drugs continue to be available to adolescents in the region who are using them in order to get high—although we do not yet know to what extent this is happening in our region.

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## What is Spice?

“Spice” refers to a wide variety of mixtures that produce experiences similar to marijuana but are sold as safer or legal alternatives to cannabis. Spice, and products like this, contain dried, shredded plant material infused with chemicals that are responsible for the psychoactive effects. It is primarily smoked like marijuana either by rolling it in cigarette papers or using a pipe. However, it can be ingested as an infusion via inhalation using a vaporizer.

Spice products often claim that they contain “natural” psychoactive material taken from a variety of plants. While Spice products do contain dried plant material, chemical analyses show that the active ingredients are synthetic cannabinoid compounds.

The first synthetic cannabinoids were created over 40 years ago as potential pharmaceutical agents for pain management and other ailments. However, they were first incorporated as drugs of abuse in 2004 although toxicologists did not identify their presence in samples taken from drug abusers seen in emergency departments until 2008. There are three main strains of synthetic cannabinoids: JHW-018, CP47, 497, and HU-210.

Common names for synthetic cannabis are Spice, K2, Kronic, Legal, Blaze, Red X Dawn, Genie, and Zohai although Spice or K2 are the most prevalent. Generally, Spice is sold as herbal incense or automobile freshener. These products are sold online, in gas stations, convenience stores, smoke shops, and head shops or wherever adolescents are the primary customer base.

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<sup>1</sup> Mohny

<sup>2</sup> Caba

In 2011, 11.4% of American 12<sup>th</sup> grade students self-reported using synthetic cannabis within the last year<sup>3</sup> compared to less than 10% for all other illicit drugs, such as Adderall. Incidentally, this was the first time questions concerning synthetic cannabinoids were included on the Monitoring the Future survey, which reported 14,900 participants.

## The Difference between Spice and Marijuana

The main difference between Spice and marijuana is that Spice is synthetic and marijuana is a natural plant product. Other difference includes:

- Unlike marijuana, Spice is odorless when smoked
- The high associated with Spice is typically 30 minutes long, considerably shorter than with pot
- Spice is far more potent than cannabis
- Spice is far more likely to induce psychotic symptoms
- Spice effectively alleviates symptoms of withdrawal in pot addicts

So far, there have been few scientific studies of Spice's effects on the human brain, but the cannabinoid compounds found in Spice products do act on the same cell receptors as THC, the primary psychoactive component of marijuana. Some of the compounds found in Spice, however, bind more strongly to those receptors, which could lead to a much more powerful and unpredictable effect. Because the chemical composition of many products sold as Spice is unknown, it is likely that some varieties also contain substances that could cause dramatically different effects than the user might expect.

In terms of potency, synthetic cannabinoids are more potent than marijuana. Specifically, the three major strains of Spice are greater degrees of potency:

- JHW-018 is 4x greater
- CP47, 497 is 10x greater
- HU-210 is 100x greater

Although there are three major strains, the Environmental Science and Research NZ Ltd identified as many as eleven distinct synthetic cannabinoids in 2011 that were used by people in New Zealand to get high<sup>4</sup>.

## Common Misperceptions Regarding Spice

Users of Spice are often confused about certain aspects of synthetic cannabinoids. For instance, many users believe that it is a legal way to get high or that it will not produce a positive result on a drug test. Here are some of the most common misperceptions:

- That it is legal to buy
- That it will not produce a positive result in a drug test
- That it has fewer negative effects than marijuana

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<sup>3</sup> CESAR Fax Vol. 21, Issue 5

<sup>4</sup> Environmental Science and Research NZ Ltd

- That it is safer than marijuana

As previously stated, labels on Spice products often claim that they contain "natural" psycho-active material taken from a variety of plants. Spice products often do contain dried plant material, but chemical analyses show that their active ingredients are synthetic cannabinoid compounds.

## Health Effects of Spice

Spice is relatively new to the drug market and little is known about long-term effects of Spice consumption. Even common side effects are poorly documented. There is a strong correlation between marijuana use and psychosis in adolescents<sup>5</sup> and an early study showed that 70% of adolescents who never displayed symptoms of psychosis, developed symptoms of psychosis within eight days of taking synthetic cannabinoids<sup>6</sup>. However, only 30% developed psychosis that persisted beyond a 5-month follow-up.

Negative side effects reported from using synthetic cannabinoids include:

- Dizziness
- Paranoia
- Anger outburst
- Hallucinations
- Sweating
- Panic
- Inability to relax
- Collapsing
- Vomiting
- Headaches
- Chest pains
- Passing out
- Nausea
- Delusions
- Difficulty breathing

The most common reported negative side effect is dizziness and nausea (27%), followed by panic (18%) and headaches (15%).

## Incidence of Exposure to Spice

From January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2014, the Texas Poison Center Network reports 2,815 exposures to Spice in Texas. During this time, 1,277 (45.4%) occurred to people under the age of 20. Also, 2,165 (76.9%) occurred to males<sup>7</sup>. Reasons for exposure are varied:

- Abuse/Misuse 2,404 (85.4%)
- Unintentional 139 (4.9%)
- Suspected Attempted Suicide 100 (3.6%)
- Adverse Drug Reaction 25 (0.9%)
- Unknown 147 (5.2%)

How people are exposed to spice varies but it is predominately through inhalation (2,023 – 71.9%) or some combination including inhalation (ex. inhalation + Ingestion 253 – 9%) followed by ingestion (422 – 15%). This is understandable as the most common means to abuse synthetic cannabinoids is by smoking or vaping.

Most often, people report this exposure to occur in their own home (1,961 – 69.7%) or in a public area like a park (110 – 3.9%) although over 20% occur in unknown or unreported locations (566 – 20.1%). Only 60 (2.1%) exposures were reported at schools during this five year period. Still, it is likely that exposures overall are underreported as only 70 (2.5%) exposures were reported to occur at someone

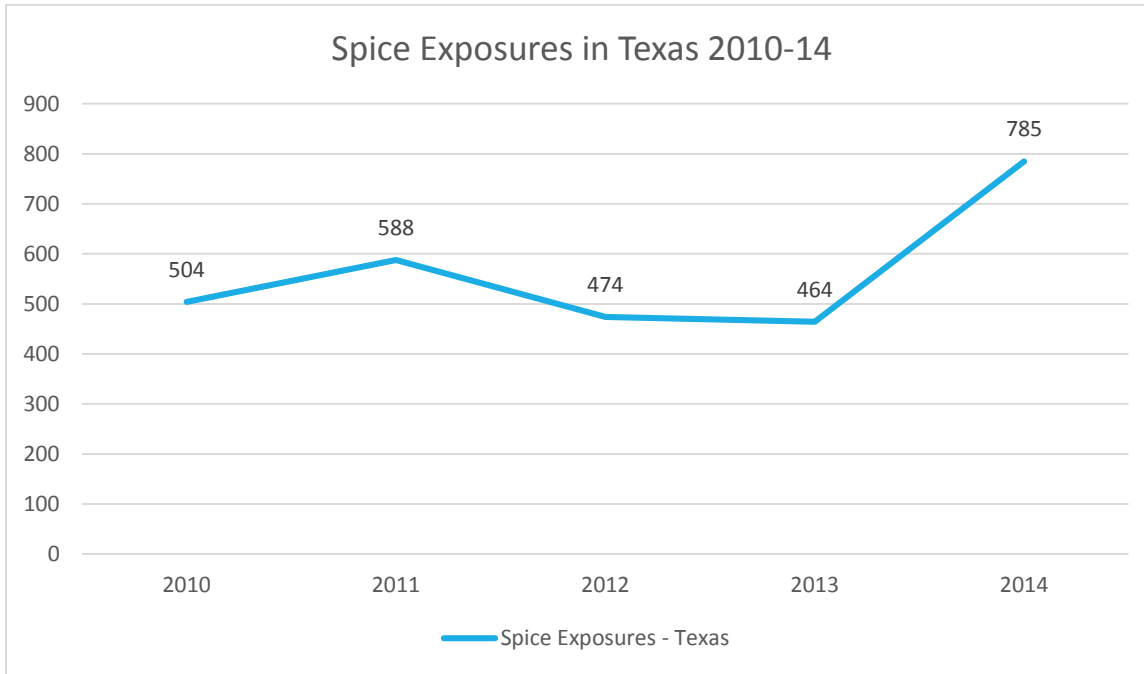
<sup>5</sup> Pierre, p.51

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, p.56

<sup>7</sup> Texas Poison Center Network, Retrieved February 2, 2015.

else’s residence and only 5 (0.2%) were reported to occur in the workplace. Interestingly, reports of synthetic cannabinoid exposure is up sharply in 2014 (785) from 2013 (464).

Figure 1: Spice Exposures in Texas 2010-14, Texas Poison Center Network<sup>8</sup>



Overall, 115 exposures to synthetic cannabinoids were reported in our region from 2010-14 which is only 4% of the total reported exposures. This seems low as compared to reports from local emergency room workers<sup>9</sup>. Further research is needed.

Table 1: Regional Incidence of Spice Exposure by County 2010-14

Reported Regional Spice Exposures 2010-14					
Armstrong	0	Garza	1	Moore	5
Bailey	1	Gray	9	Motley	0
Briscoe	0	Hale	8	Ochiltree	11
Carson	0	Hall	0	Oldham	0
Castro	1	Hansford	0	Parmer	2
Childress	3	Hartley	1	Potter	27
Cochran	0	Hemphill	1	Randall	5
Collingsworth	1	Hockley	3	Roberts	0
Crosby	0	Hutchinson	3	Sherman	0
Dallam	0	King	0	Swisher	0
Deaf Smith	2	Lamb	1	Terry	0
Dickens	0	Lipscomb	0	Wheeler	1
Donley	0	Lubbock	26	Yoakum	0
Floyd	1	Lynn	2	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115</b>

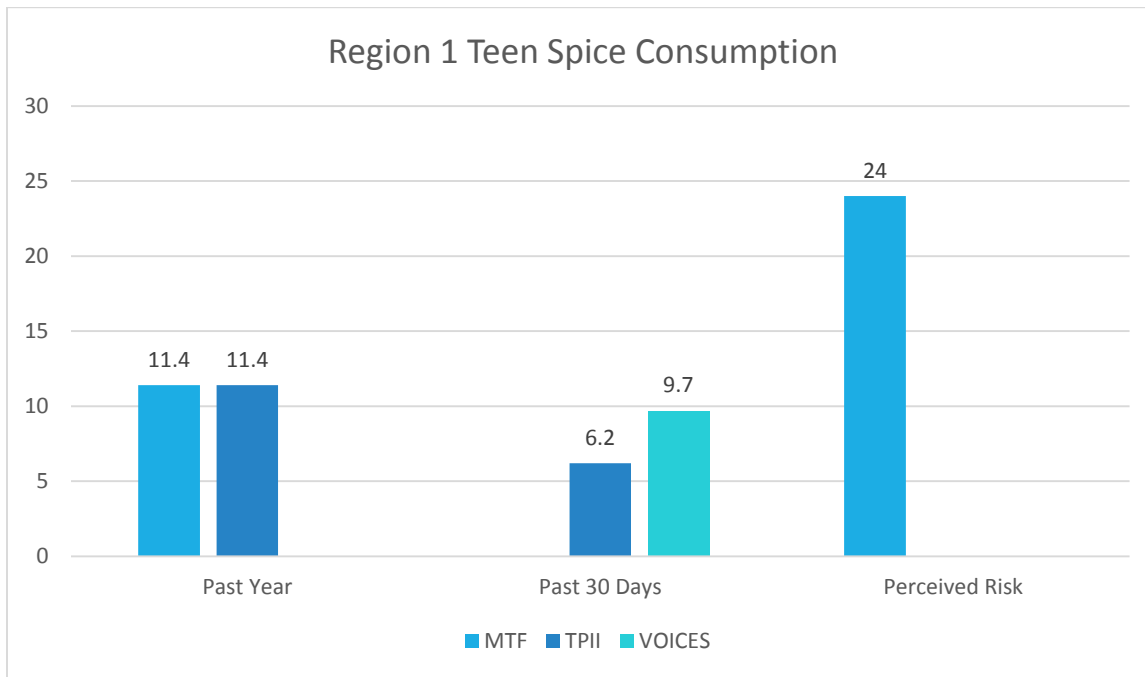
<sup>8</sup> Source: Texas Poison Center Network, Retrieved February 2, 2015.

<sup>9</sup> Some Lubbock Emergency Room workers report 3-5 overdoses per week. More research is needed.

## Regional Teen Spice Consumption

We have little data concerning how regional teens are abusing/misusing synthetic cannabinoids. Some school districts in our region seem reluctant to allow students to self-report on the subject. Still, we do have some regional information collected primarily from work conducted by Impact Futures in Amarillo and VOICES of Lubbock, a coalition funded by The Texas Department of Human Services (DSHS).

Figure 2: Regional Teen Spice Consumption<sup>10</sup>



Although there is little data concerning adolescents and synthetic cannabinoids even at a national level, the TPII data (11.4%) is consistent with the national average from Monitoring the Future (MTF) data (11.4%). We do have a significant difference between the TPII and VOICES findings on Past 30 Days Use (6.2% vs. 9.7%) but the TPII data is also down from last year:

Past Year Amarillo (TPII)<sup>11</sup>

- 2012: 15.8%
- 2013: 11.4%
- Difference: -4.4%

Past 30 Days Amarillo (TPII)

- 2012: 10.5%
- 2013: 6.2%
- Difference: -4.3%

One major issue of concern is the idea that only 24% of teens nationwide perceive synthetic cannabinoids as harmful. To compare in our region, 90.3% of adolescents perceive cigarettes and 79.5% of regional adolescents perceive binge drinking as harmful<sup>12</sup>. Many synthetic cannabinoids are explicitly marketed to children and youth with names such as “Scooby Snax” with cartoon characters on the

<sup>10</sup> Sources: Monitoring the Future 2012, Texas Prevention Impact Index 2013, and VOICES Lubbock, Local Survey 2014.

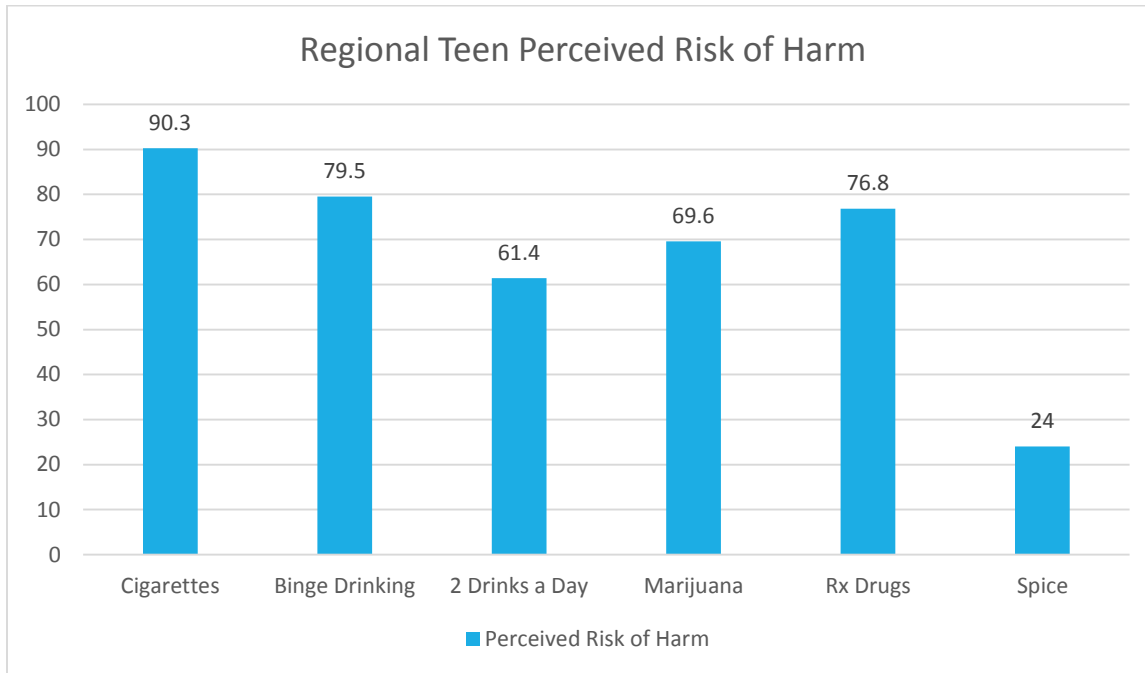
<sup>11</sup> Texas Prevention Impact Index 2013.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid



packaging. Also, a common street name for synthetic cannabinoids like K2 and spice is “Legal” or “Legal herb”. It is possible that these conditions may lead to adolescents failing to perceive the danger in these products. More research is needed.

Figure 3: Comparison of Regional Adolescent Perceived Risk of Harm<sup>13</sup>



## Regional Legislation Targeting Spice

After talking to many groups of concerned people in Region 1, it became apparent that many people are confused about spice and other synthetic cannabinoids. Many folks reported believing that spice is legal or that it was as safe as, or safer than, marijuana. Many people expressed dismay at the seemingly lack of police intervention or the lack of prosecution. After all, the most common street name for synthetic cannabinoids like spice and K2 in our region is “legal” or “legal herb”.

### The Survey

In order to better understand what is happening to keep synthetic cannabinoids out of our region, 85 law enforcement officers, probation and parole officers, and prevention specialists within the 41 counties of Region 1 were randomly selected and invited to participate. Of those invited, 18 chose to participate by completing the survey (Appendix A).

In addition, eight law enforcement officers were interviewed over one week concerning spice and how local law enforcement was dealing with spice and other synthetic cannabinoids. Those who chose to participate included a DEA agent, three narcotic officers from regional municipal police departments, and narcotic officers from four different sheriff departments.

<sup>13</sup> Sources: Texas Prevention Impact Index 2013 and Monitoring The Future 2012

Some significant findings include:

- 100% of respondents believe that synthetic cannabinoids are either very, highly, or extremely dangerous
- Perceptions are divided as to the legality of spice in their community (50% yes, 50% no)
- 38% of Law Enforcement Officers specifically name the prosecutor or prosecutor's office as being the problem for enforcing laws against synthetic cannabinoids
- 63% of Law Enforcement Officers specifically cite lack of testing or testing expense as the problem for enforcing laws against synthetic cannabinoids
- 71% of regional Prevention Specialists believe that synthetic cannabinoids are legal in their community
- 88% of Law Enforcement Officers believe that synthetic cannabinoids are illegal in their community

## Is Spice Legal?

On Tuesday, March 1, 2011, DEA published a final order in the Federal Register temporarily placing five synthetic cannabinoids into Schedule I of the CSA. The order became effective on March 1, 2011. This means that these five iterations of synthetic cannabinoids is illegal to possess and abuse.

This action is based on a finding by the Administrator that the placement of these synthetic cannabinoids into Schedule I of the CSA is necessary to avoid an imminent hazard to the public safety. As a result of this order, the full effect of the CSA and its implementing regulations including criminal, civil and administrative penalties, sanctions, and regulatory controls of Schedule I substances will be imposed on the manufacture, distribution, possession, importation, and exportation of these synthetic cannabinoids.<sup>14</sup>

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**63% of Law Enforcement Officers specifically cite lack of testing or testing expense as the problem for enforcing laws against synthetic cannabinoids**

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Texas House Bill 2118 and Senate Bill 331, effective September 1, 2011 added the chemicals used in K2 to the Texas Controlled Substances Act designating these substances as Schedule 1 drugs. This is the most restrictive category on the Texas Schedules of Controlled Substances and is reserved for unsafe, highly abused substances with no accepted medical use. These five chemicals, JWH-018, JWH-073, JWH-200, CP-47,497, and cannabicyclohexanol that are found in K2 were placed on the Schedule.

On July 10, 2012 President Barack Obama signed the Synthetic Drug Abuse Prevention Act of 2012 into law. This bans the same chemical compounds found in synthetic marijuana and makes the manufacture, sale, distribution and/or possession a federal offense as well.

Still, this approach is limited by the ability of law enforcement to keep up with the various iterations of these synthetic cannabinoids. Manufacturers of these products just make similar versions with similar but different chemical footprints in order to keep ahead of law enforcement and legislation efforts to ban them. Also, tests to identify these compounds are expensive to invent and implement.

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<sup>14</sup> DEA 2011, p. 62.

Interestingly, 50% of survey respondents believe that synthetic cannabinoids are legal to possess in their community, although 88% of law enforcement officers responded that it is not legal in their communities. 71% of regional prevention specialists believe that spice is legal even though it is not.

Many law enforcement officers did express frustration that although it is illegal, District Attorney or prosecutor officers often would not prosecute offenses due to the ambiguity of Texas statutes concerning synthetic cannabinoids or due to the unreliable results of what testing that is available to them. Several officers suggested that local law enforcement officers need to better communicate with the prosecutor's office in order to understand how the statutes are to be interpreted in their city or county.

## What Are We Doing About Spice?

Regional law enforcement officials are trying to prosecute sellers of synthetic cannabinoids in order to stop these drugs from being sold. Many law enforcement officers express frustration over the lack of testing or the ambiguity of Texas laws that contribute to very few convictions of distributing these drugs. Still, Randall County was the first in Texas to get a felony conviction for selling synthetic cannabinoids in a smoke shop<sup>15</sup>.

Of course it is not just up to law enforcement to stop the selling of synthetic cannabinoids. Everyone and anyone in a community can make a difference if they choose to act.

## Labeling Requirements

The City of Lubbock and Lubbock County District Attorney's Office are working together to bring an end to synthetic marijuana in Lubbock shops by focusing on how they label their products in addition to enforcing the laws against selling a Schedule 1 drug.

On June 6, 2014 the Lubbock County District Attorney's Office hand delivered letters to 53 businesses informing them about the new policies the City would be enforcing (see Appendix B). The letter specifically said that labeling synthetic marijuana with "not for human consumption" did not comply with state and federal labeling requirements because these products were "consumer commodities".

So far this strategy has worked to remove synthetic cannabinoids from the stores selling it in Lubbock and law enforcement officials have confiscated several pounds. However, no one in Lubbock County has yet to be prosecuted under this strategy.

## WASP

Warriors Against Synthetic Pot (WASP) is an organization dedicated to the eradication of synthetic cannabinoids. Ultimately, they are working to stop the selling and using of these drugs by influencing legislation to increase the legal consequences of pushing these products.

WASP is active at both the local and state levels. In Lubbock, they pushed the Lubbock City Council to action, protested the sales of synthetic pot in front of stores known to sell it, and aided Lubbock police in finding those places that are selling. They have also gone to the Texas State Capitol building and

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<sup>15</sup> Amarillo-Globe News, 4 September 2013

contacted local State Representatives concerning synthetic cannabinoids and they have testified before the Texas Senate Criminal Justice Committee as to the devastating effects of these drugs.

Although this organization originated in Lubbock, another chapter has started in Plainview and other chapters are planned state-wide.

### Impact Futures

Impact Futures is a drug-free community coalition serving the Amarillo and Canyon areas. Their mission is to provide awareness of substance abuse prevention, intervention and treatment services in the Texas Panhandle. They provide opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with interested members who wish to respond to opportunities requiring a community coalition. Their vision is to ensure a healthier community by building assets, strengthening Protective Factors and reducing Risk Factors in the community.

Members of Impact Futures include representatives of youth and adults, parents, businesses, media, schools, youth and adult-serving organizations, law enforcement, faith-based community, civic and volunteer, healthcare, local government and other non-profit organizations. Together, members provide services and programs that educate people about the dangers of synthetic cannabinoids (and other drugs) in order to prevent the selling and consumption of these substances.

### VOICES of Lubbock

Lubbock Counties VOICES Community Coalition is funded by the Texas Department of State Health Services, established for the purpose of assisting the community in developing policies, procedures and activities to prevent youth from using alcohol, marijuana, prescription drugs and other drugs.

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**71% of regional  
Prevention Specialists  
believe that spice is legal  
even though it is not**

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Their mission is to empower communities to create positive changes in attitudes, behaviors and policies to prevent and reduce at-risk behavior in youth with a unified focus on alcohol, marijuana and prescription drug prevention. Recently, they have focused on preventing synthetic cannabinoid abuse as well.

### UMC's NEIDS

University Medical Center's Nurses Educating on Illegal Drugs & Synthetics (NEIDS) is an outreach group of registered nurses that believe synthetic marijuana and other illegal drugs kill and harm too many people. Their mission is to provide education to the public on the health risks and hazards of the use of synthetic marijuana and other harmful drugs.

These medical professionals hope to accomplish their mission by using public service announcements, focused educational offerings to school age children, point of care education, and working with local coalitions against synthetic marijuana. They support new or revised legislation of local and state laws to halt the sale, distribution, and the manufacturing of these synthetic compounds and illegal drugs.

Although a new organization, members of NEIDS are committed to their mission and have recently testified before the Texas Senate Criminal Justice Committee as to the devastating effects of synthetic cannabinoids.

## Conclusion

From what little regional data we do have, it looks like teen Past Year consumption of synthetic cannabinoids is down 4.4% and Past Month use is down 4.3% from last year. Still, 11.4% of Amarillo-area students report using synthetic cannabinoids like spice and K2 in the past year. This is the same as the national average.

More people from regional communities are beginning to focus on enforcement and prevention efforts in order to eradicate these dangerous compounds from their neighborhoods. Organizations like WASP and NEILS are influencing Texas legislation with the purpose to stiffen penalties for breaking existing laws. Law enforcement agencies in Lubbock are adding laws concerning labeling requirements to confiscate spice and fine shop owners who continue to sell synthetic cannabinoids even though it is already illegal but hard to test. Coalitions like Impact Futures and VOICES work to educate students about the dangers of use and prevent these dangerous compounds from being sold to adolescents on our region. Consider joining one of these groups to change your community.

We need to educate all people in our region about the laws prohibiting these dangerous compounds and help communities to enforce the laws already in existence and convince law-makers that new laws may be needed to stop the spread of spice and K2. 100% of all respondents to our survey believe that it is dangerous. However, only 24% of teens nationwide perceive it as harmful. We need to change that.

## Key Findings

- State-wide, exposures to synthetic cannabinoids have sharply increased in 2014
- Only 24% of teens nationwide perceive synthetic cannabinoids as harmful
- 100% of regional survey respondents of law enforcement and prevention specialists believe that synthetic cannabinoids are either very, highly, or extremely dangerous
- 63% of regional Law Enforcement Officers specifically cite lack of testing or testing expense as the problem for enforcing laws against synthetic cannabinoids
- 71% of regional Prevention Specialists believe that spice is legal even though it is not
- Synthetic cannabinoid use among regional teens is down 4.4% this year

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## Appendix A: The Survey of Spice Legislation and Enforcement

**1. In your view, how dangerous is synthetic pot to your community? Why?**

**2. Is synthetic pot legal to possess in your community?**

Yes

No

Other (please specify)

**3. What laws have your community instituted in order to prohibit people from using synthetic pot?**

**4. How does your community enforce these laws?**

**5. What problems do your community encounter when attempting to enforce these laws?**

**6. What do you think needs to be done about synthetic pot?**

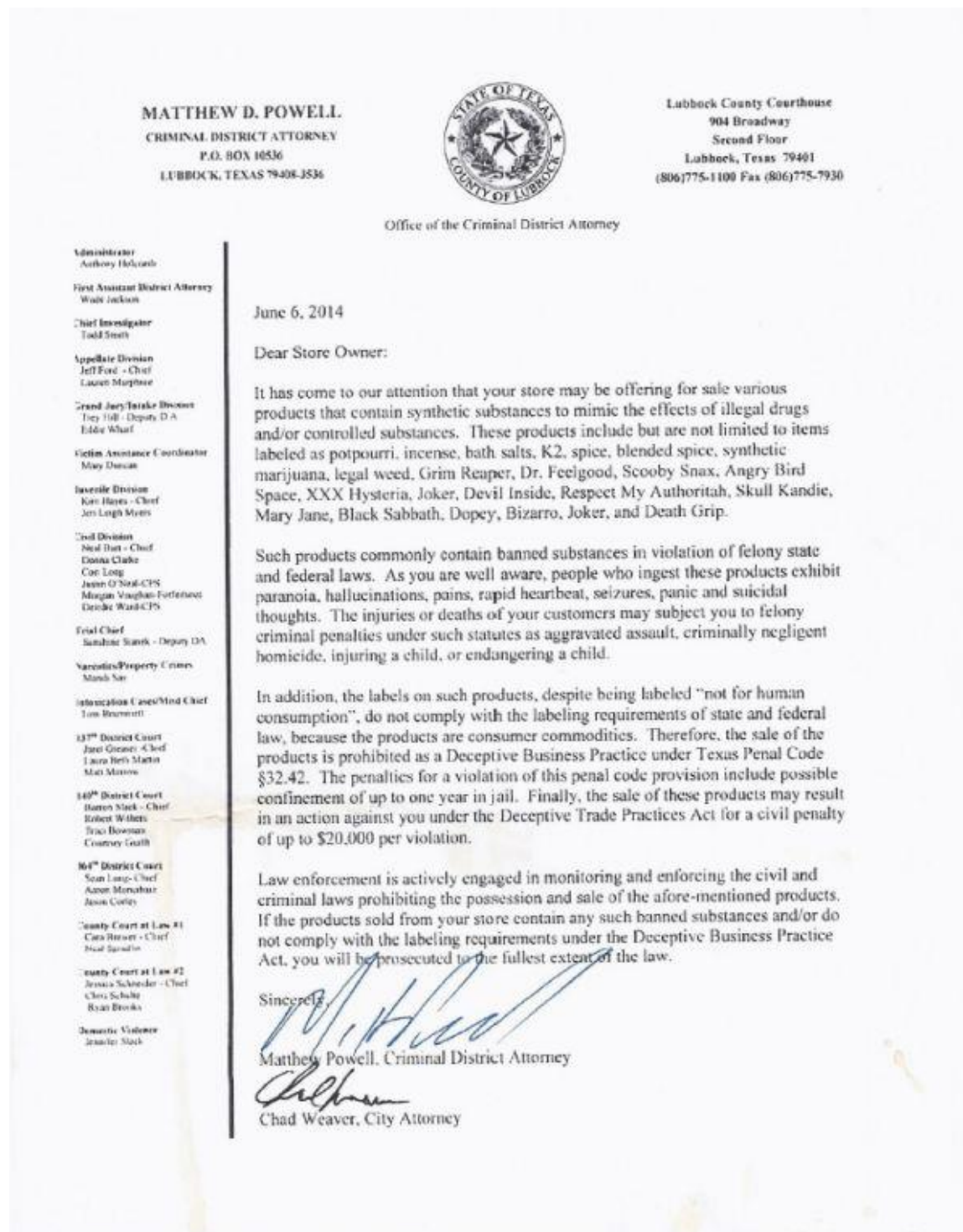
**7. What are some of the names for synthetic pot that you have heard?**

**8. In what county do you work?**

**9. What is your profession?**



# Appendix B: Letter to Sellers of Spice in Lubbock, TX



# Appendix C: Infographic—Region 1 Synthetic Pot Consumption

## SYNTHETIC POT

### Regional Adolescents are More Likely to Use than National Average

### The Problem

On May 2, 2014, more than 30 people in Dallas, TX overdosed on synthetic pot.

Between May 1 to May 5, 2014, 120 people in Dallas and Austin, TX overdosed on synthetic pot.

Makers of synthetic pot can switch up the chemicals they use to slip past ordinances.

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### 2010 Emergency Room Visits due to Synthetic Cannabinoids by Age

Age Group	Percentage	Count
12 - 17	44%	3790
18 - 20	22%	1881
21 - 24	24%	2022
25 - 29	10%	873

### More Info

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### 2013 Synthetic Pot Use in Region 1, Texas

Area	Past Year (%)	Past 30 Days (%)
National	11.3	6
Amarillo	17.9	12.3
Lubbock	6	9.7

### Synthetic Pot Use

Regional adolescents are more likely to use synthetic substances than the national average (11.3 % vs. 17.9%).

12.3% of Amarillo-area and 9.7% of Lubbock-area adolescents reported using synthetic substances at least once in the last 30 days.

Little data exists concerning how regional adolescents use synthetic substances.

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### Prevention Resource Center, Region 1

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