

2013 NM-YRRS Results: Synthetic Marijuana Use

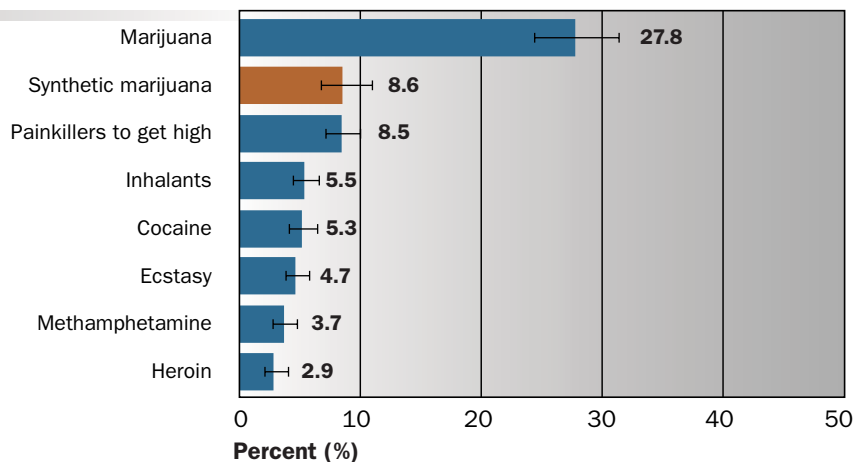
Questionnaire items about synthetic marijuana use among middle and high school students were included in the YRRS for the first time in 2013. Among New Mexico high school students, the prevalence of current (past 30 day) synthetic marijuana use was second only to the prevalence of marijuana use. Among middle school students, lifetime synthetic marijuana use had the third highest prevalence, after marijuana and inhalants.

Synthetic marijuana (marketed under the names K2, Spice, and others) contains dried plant material treated with chemical ad-

ditives designed to bind to and stimulate the same receptors in the brain as THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. Synthetic marijuana use is associated with adverse effects such as increased heart rate and blood pressure, anxiety, agitation, and acute kidney injury. Some of the active chemicals most frequently found in synthetic marijuana have been designated by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as Schedule I controlled substances, making it illegal to sell, buy, or possess them. However, manufacturers of these products have evaded some of these restrictions by substituting different chemicals in their drug formulas.

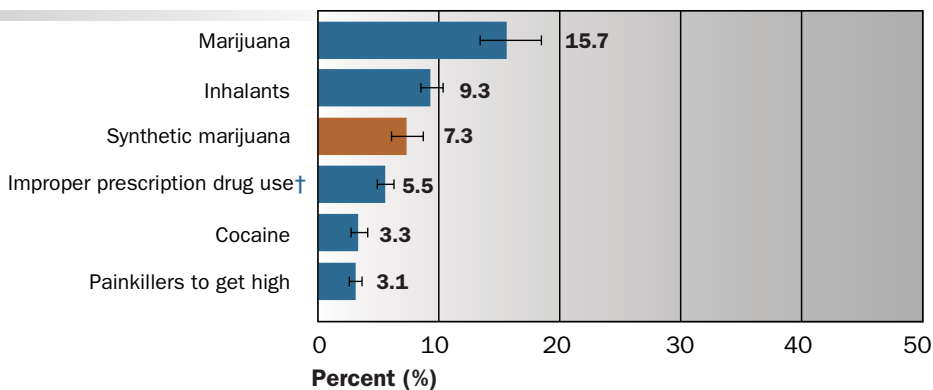
Current* Drug Use, Grades 9–12 ■ NM ■ 2013

* Use on at least one occasion in the past 30 days.



Lifetime Drug Use, Grades 6–8 ■ NM ■ 2013

† Used a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription.



For additional information on synthetic marijuana use, see:

- National Institute on Drug Abuse. DrugFacts: Spice (“Synthetic Marijuana”). 2012. Available at: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/spice-synthetic-marijuana>.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Acute Kidney Injury Associated with Synthetic Cannabinoid Use — Multiple States, 2012. MMWR 2013;62:93–98. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6206a1.htm>.

This newsletter was produced by the New Mexico Department of Health and the Public Education Department (NM PED), and the University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center. The NM YRRS receives support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in cooperation with the NM PED through Grant number 1U87PS004195-01. For more information about the YRRS, including methodology, comprehensive state level reports, county level reports, and more, see www.youthrisk.org or nmhealth.org/go/youth. To have an email added, changed or removed from the mailing list, contact YRRS@youthrisk.org.