

# **Spice Basics Fact Sheet**

Promoting Positive Change in Rhode Island Communities

Spice or synthetic marijuana\* is branded and sold as an inexpensive & legal alternative to marijuana. It is becoming a popular drug among young people.

#### How is Spice Most Commonly Used:

#### Smoked:

- hand rolled cigarettes
- mixed with tobacco
- mixed with marijuana
- water pipes (bongs)

### **Consumed Orally:**

granules dissolved in herbal infusions or teas

# Some Other Names for Spice:

- K2
- Kush
- Fake Weed
- Chronic
- Skunk
- Madd Hatter
- Stud
- Matix
- Incense
- Potpourri

## Common Health Concerns Associated with Spice or Synthetic Marijuana Use:

- Anxiety
- Paranoia
- Agitation
- Nausea

- Hallucinations
- Increased heart rate
- Increased blood pressure
- Redness of eyes

- Dry mouth
- Nightmares
- Sleep disruption
- Vomiting

#### Common Misconception of Spice or Synthetic Marijuana Use:

- All natural
- Safe alternative to marijuana
- No side effects

- Cannot be detected by drug tests
- Herbal remedy

\*Spice or synthetic marijuana refers to a variety of dried and shredded plant materials with an assortment of psychoactive (mind altering) chemical additives which include active cannabinoid (psychoactive, mindaltering) compounds.

Spice can be purchased, inexpensively (\$7.00-\$20.00), at head shops, gas stations, convenience stores and the internet.

Content Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)