



## K2-Spice Calls on the Rise

You can buy it as easily as a pack of cigarettes in Nebraska and it is marketed as a “legal high.” It comes in several different names but is best known as K2 or Spice. It has been sold since 2006 as incense or potpourri and sells for around \$30 to \$40 per bag. This is comparable to the cost of marijuana but can be purchased on the internet or at local stores.

K2 is a mixture of herbal and spice plant products that is sprayed or coated with a strong psychotropic ingredient (JWH-018 and JWH-073 amongst others). The ingredients in K2 are neither natural nor safe. The man-made chemicals that are added to the herbal mix cause symptoms that are dangerous. Symptoms can include intense hallucinations, severe agitation or seizures, anxiety, increase in heart rate and blood pressure and vomiting.

Although some sellers claim that these products are intended for use as incense and not for human consumption, they are usually purchased as a legal substitute for marijuana and are typically smoked. Besides Spice and K2 other names include: Fake weed, K-2 Summit, Genie, and Zohai.

So far 15 states have banned the sale of K2 and Nebraska lawmakers are considering a ban on the sale of K2. In 2010, the Nebraska Regional Poison Center received 50 calls on K2.

Prevention is the best treatment for poisonings. The Nebraska Regional Poison Center offers tips on poison prevention as a free community service to the public. If you have questions or would like to set up an interview, contact the Nebraska Regional Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.