

In The Know

A monthly newsletter to keep you current and In The Know on topics related to the Prevention of Substance Abuse

Steuben Council on Addictions

A program of Substance Free Living

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Governor Cuomo Announces Aggressive New Statewide Enforcement Actions to Combat the Illegal Sale of K2

Press Release—July 14, 2016

www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-aggressive-new-statewide-enforcement-actions-combat-illegal-sale-k2

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced a new series of aggressive enforcement actions to combat the illegal sale of K2 and other synthetic drugs. The Governor announced the State Department of Health's Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, in partnership with the New York State Police, will step up enforcement efforts in communities across the state to crack down on the illegal sale of K2. Additionally, the Governor will require that the State Liquor Authority and New York State Gaming Commission increase their oversight and enforcement efforts to revoke a store owner's liquor and lottery licenses if they are found to be illegally peddling K2.

"The evolution of synthetic drugs is an alarming public health risk – but we are on the front lines of the battle," Governor Cuomo said. "The state will continue to identify emerging compounds that put users in danger and aggressively chase down sellers of these toxic substances."

Beginning this week, the state will step up enforcement efforts and increase state police presence to ensure that businesses fully comply with all applicable New York State laws, including the 2015 emergency regulations banning the manufacture, sale, and distribution of synthetic drugs. New York will vigorously pursue all available civil, criminal, and administrative remedies against any business or business owner found to be manufacturing, possessing for sale or selling illegal synthetic drugs.

In 2012, Governor Cuomo expanded the list of prohibited drugs and chemicals to include dozens more substances that are now used to make synthetic drugs, to ensure that distributors can no longer skirt the law by simply modifying the drug's ingredients. In addition, the regulations allowed for the first time an owner of an establishment and/or an employee selling synthetic drugs to be charged with possession of an illicit substance.

In 2015, the Governor built on this progress by adding two additional classes of compounds to the banned substances list, which potentially included hundreds of different hazardous chemicals. They were unanimously approved by the

Public Health and Health Planning Council. Last year Governor Cuomo also announced two new public service announcements to educate and inform New Yorkers about the dangers of synthetic drugs.

Under current law, an owner of an establishment, as well as any other person possessing, distributing, selling or offering prohibited synthetic drugs for sale, will face a fine up to \$500 and/or up to 15 days in jail. Civil penalties include a fine up to \$2,000 per violation.

Synthetic cannabinoids are marketed as legal and typically consist of plant material coated by chemicals, which are supposed to mimic THC, the active chemical compound in marijuana. The drugs are marketed as incense, herbal mixtures, or potpourri in order to mask their true purpose. Street names for substances include Spice, K2, Green Giant, Smacked, Wicked X, AK-47, Geeked Up, Ninja, Caution, Red Giant, and Keisha Kole.

New York State Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker said, "The recent resurgence of synthetic marijuana is a public health crisis. I applaud Governor Cuomo for taking decisive action to stop the sales of synthetic marijuana to ensure that more New Yorkers are not harmed by this dangerous substance."

State Police Superintendent George P. Beach II said, "By strengthening enforcement against the distribution of synthetic cannabinoids, Governor Cuomo is leading the fight against the threat of modern drugs. Synthetic marijuana is an illegal and dangerous substance that plagues our community. These actions will help us crack down on the epidemic and keep New Yorkers safe."

New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez said, "These man-made substances are extremely dangerous and can be deadly. Sellers of these poisons must be stopped. We have raised awareness across the state about the dangers of these drugs, but today, with these actions, sellers of synthetics will now be held accountable. They will lose their lottery or liquor license if found selling these poisons for human consumption. Today's action ensures that illegal sales of synthetics are stopped, so that more New Yorkers are saved from the dire consequences of these substances."

Do you or someone you care about need help because of Drugs, Alcohol or Gambling call:

1-877-8HOPENY (1-877-846-7369)

24 hours a day, 7 days a week * Free & confidential information and referrals.

The Council Corner

Steuben Council would like to extend a huge thank you to the gentlemen of the Weider House for being willing to be a part of our speakers bureau this past school year. Each school year we extend an invitation to the residents of the Weider House (also a part of Catholic Charities of Steuben) to join us in our travels to schools and centers around Steuben County and ask them to share a portion of their life story with students. The goal of this program is to use the information we provide and coincide that with people who have experienced addiction and are working in recovery to shed a "real life" light onto the subject of substance abuse. This school year six speakers joined us on eleven occasions and reached out to almost 750 students across Steuben with their messages. We look forward to continuing this project and if you are interested in learning more, please contact Stacey at (607) 776-6441 ext. 205 for more information.

The Mirage in Las Vegas was home to the largest CADCA Mid-Year Training Institute in the non-profit's history. Over 2,000 coalition members from around the world convened to build their capacity to address one of our nation's biggest public health challenges—substance abuse.

Two Staff Members, Norman McCumiskey, Program Coordinator and Colleen Banik, Assistant Program Coordinator and three Coalition Volunteer Members, Rick McInroy, Mark Recktenwald and Sarah Robbins from the Steuben Prevention Coalition attended the 2016 CADCA Mid-year Training Conference. It was an outstanding week of intensive learning opportunities especially designed to help us and the coalition bring about effective change aimed at developing comprehensive, evidence-based strategies to create community-level changes in our communities .

"Addiction doesn't start with prescription drug abuse or heroin use. It starts with alcohol, tobacco and/or marijuana," said Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Michael Botticelli.

What a great experience and an incredible motivational and learning opportunity for all involved in Coalition work.



Steuben County Underage Party & Drug Information Tip Line

Anyone with information relating to underage drinking such as parties, underage sales, etc. or information relating to illegal drugs, such as sales, dealers, or other suspicious activities are encouraged to use the tip line.

The tip line will be monitored seven days a week, 24 hours a day.
All calls are anonymous.

Do your part to help make our communities safe for everyone!

1-844-378-4847



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Jennifer Beaty—Haverling*

Steuben Council on Addictions is a program of Substance Free Living, which is a service priority for Catholic Charities of Steuben. In The Know is a regular monthly update about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs to help in the prevention of substance use and abuse. For more information please contact Stacey O'Dell, Prevention Educator at sodell@dor.org.



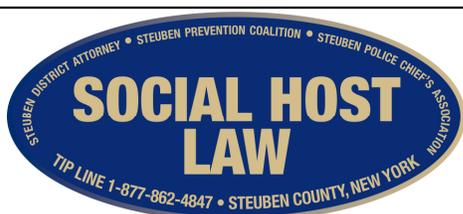
Synthetics—What You Should Know

- Synthetics, also called synthetic cannabinoids or “synthetic marijuana,” are extremely dangerous and addictive.
- These substances can be life-threatening and can cause intense hallucinations and psychotic episodes. Individuals may have suicidal thoughts and can hurt, maim or even kill themselves or others while under the influence of these man-made substances.
- Effects of use can range from irregularities in blood pressure, agitation, irritability, nausea/vomiting, confusion, drowsiness, headache, electrolyte abnormalities, seizures, anxiety, paranoia, aggressive behavior, loss of consciousness, addiction, kidney failure, hypertension and even death.
- Synthetics are man-made drugs that can be particularly popular among young people. Those who are homeless or who suffer from mental illness may be at increased risk for use of synthetics.
- Synthetic liquid compounds are applied to dried leaves and plants to give a natural appearance, similar to marijuana. These plants, however, have nothing to do with marijuana. For that reason the name “synthetic marijuana” is very misleading and may lead users to believe that these drugs are less harmful than they are.
- The substances are often marketed as an inexpensive way to get a marijuana-like high or as a “legal” alternative to marijuana, however, in New York State it is unlawful to sell, possess, or manufacture these substances.
- Synthetics have been sold under brand names such as K2, Spice, Green Giant, Geeked Up, Caution, Smacked, Wicked X, AK-47, Herbal Incense, Fake Weed, Yucatan Fire, Skunk, Moon Rocks, Fire, Aroma, Earth impact, Mr. Smiley, Mr. NiceGuy, Zohai, Black Mamba, Dream and other names.
- Synthetics are often packaged in foil packets that can be marked as home incense, or herbal smoking blends. Packaging often has claims that the contents are safe and natural and not easily detected in standard drug tests. However, there is nothing natural about the psychoactive chemicals applied to these plant materials
- Other times packages will be labeled as “not for human consumption.”
- Synthetics are generally smoked and are extremely dangerous due to the manner in which the chemicals bind to the receptors in the brain, particularly in the adolescent and young adult developing brain.
- These products are sold on-line and in drug paraphernalia stores, bodegas, gas stations, convenience stores, and other similar retail establishments.
- It is illegal in New York State to possess, sell, offer to sell, or to manufacture synthetic cannabinoids.

[Public Health Law Section 225, Title 10, Part 9.]

If someone is having difficulty breathing or exhibiting life-threatening symptoms after using synthetics, call 911. If you suspect someone has used synthetic marijuana, contact the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.

If you have information about the illegal distribution of these synthetic drugs or bath salts, call the NYS Governor’s Synthetics Hotline: 1-888-99-SALTS. Reports can be made anonymously.



Prohibiting the consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs by minors on private premises in Steuben County.

- 1st Offense a violation**—\$250 fine & up to 15 days in jail
 - 2nd Offense a misdemeanor**—\$500 fine & up to 60 days in jail
 - 3rd / subsequent offenses misdemeanor**—\$1,000 fine & up to 1 year in jail
- For every offense completion of a court-approved alcohol and drug awareness program is required.

It is NEVER legal for any adult to provide alcohol to someone else’s child even with the permission of that child’s parent.



Youth who drink alcohol are more likely to experience:
School problems, such as higher absence and poor or failing grades.
Social problems, such as fighting and lack of participation in youth activities.
Legal problems, such as arrest for driving or physically hurting someone while drunk.

DEA Releases 2016 National Heroin Threat Assessment Summary

Problems resulting from abuse of opioid drugs continue to grow

JUN 27 (WASHINGTON) - The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) released the 2016 National Heroin Threat Assessment Summary - Updated (NHTA) today. The report outlines the expanding public health crisis afflicting America due to the use and abuse of heroin and other opioid drugs. Some key facts:

- The number of people reporting current heroin use nearly tripled between 2007 (161,000) and 2014 (435,000).
- Deaths due to synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl and its analogues, increased 79 percent from 2013 to 2014.
- Deaths involving heroin more than tripled between 2010 (3,036) and 2014 (10,574) – a rate faster than other illicit drugs.

New to this year's summary is information on a recent phenomenon—fentanyl disguised as prescription pills—something allegedly responsible for the death of 19 people in Florida and California during the first quarter of 2016. Motivated by enormous profit potential, traffickers are exploiting high consumer demand for illicit prescription painkillers, tranquilizers, and sedatives by producing inexpensive counterfeits containing fentanyl that can be sold on the street.

“We tend to overuse words such as ‘unprecedented’ and ‘horrific,’ but the death and destruction connected to heroin and opioids is indeed unprecedented and horrific,” said DEA Acting Administrator Chuck Rosenberg. “The problem is enormous and growing, and all of our citizens need to wake up to these facts.”

The number of users, treatment admissions, overdose deaths, and seizures from traffickers all increased over those reported in last year's summary. In addition, heroin was the greatest drug threat reported by 45 percent (up from 38% last year and 7% in 2007) of state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies responding to the 2016 National Drug Threat Survey, an annual survey of a representative national sample of 2,761 agencies. And while the heroin threat is particularly high in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Midwest areas of the United States, law enforcement agencies in cities across the country report seizing larger than usual quantities of heroin. National Seizure System data show an 80 percent increase in heroin seizures in the past five years, from 3,733 kilograms in 2011 to 6,722 kilograms in 2015.

Many users of Controlled Prescription Drugs (CPDs) become addicted to opioid medications originally prescribed for a legitimate medical purpose. The reasons an individual shifts from one opiate to another vary, but today's heroin is higher in purity, less expensive, and can be easier to obtain than illegal CPDs. The NHTA is a document prepared in close collaboration with federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies throughout the country, and is intended to provide policymakers, law enforcement personnel, and prevention and treatment specialists with strategic drug intelligence to help formulate counterdrug policies, establish law enforcement priorities, and allocate resources. The [2016 National Heroin Threat Assessment Summary](#) can be viewed online.



HEROIN addiction starts here...

CombatHeroin.ny.gov

New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

For help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, call

1-877-8-HOPENY
(1-877-846-7369)

 **NEW YORK STATE** | **Combat Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse**

