

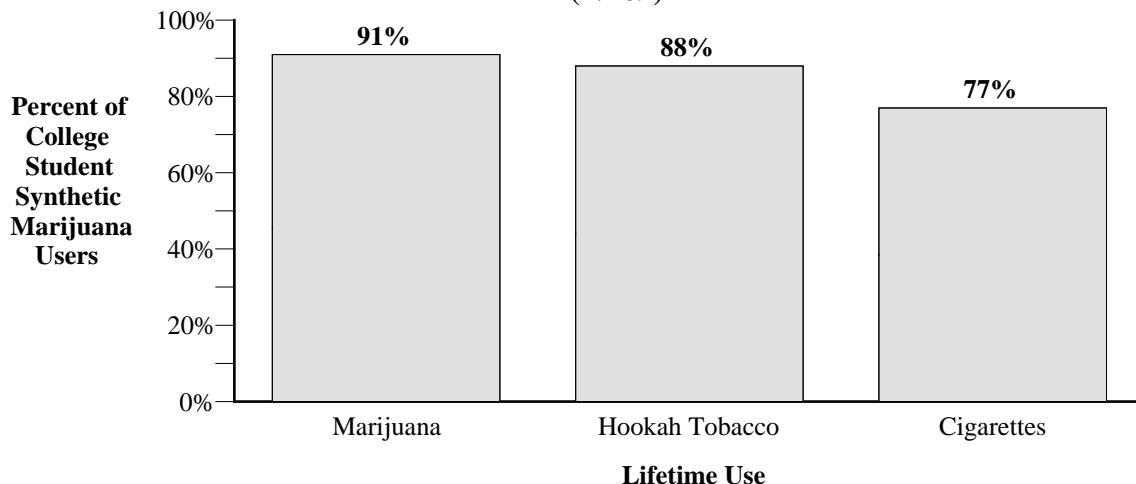
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

### *Nearly One in Ten College Students Have Ever Used Synthetic Marijuana; Nearly All Also Report Using Marijuana, Cigarettes, and Hookah*

Nearly one in ten University of Florida college students (8%) reported ever using synthetic marijuana, according to the first study of lifetime prevalence of synthetic marijuana in college students. Synthetic marijuana, also known as K2 or spice, is an herbal blend sprayed with one or more synthetic cannabinoids with effects similar to marijuana when smoked (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 20, Issue 17 to learn more about synthetic marijuana). Among these synthetic marijuana users, 77% reported smoking cigarettes, 91% reported smoking marijuana, and 88% reported smoking hookah tobacco. In addition, this study found that males and early college students (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year) were more likely to have ever used synthetic marijuana (data not shown). Unfortunately, “the latest national ban of five synthetic cannabinoids does not necessarily indicate the end of K2 or ‘spice’. For example, K2 manufacturers have already started to produce and sell a new generation of K2 products that are claimed to be ‘completely legal everywhere’ (using a similar product with another, not yet illegal, synthetic cannabinoid)” (p. 3).

### **Percentage of College Students Who Have Ever Used Synthetic Marijuana Who Also Reported Smoking Cigarettes, Marijuana, or Hookah Tobacco in Their Lifetime, 2010 (N=69)**



NOTE: Data was collected from 852 University of Florida students who responded to an email survey conducted in September 2010.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Hu, X., Primack, B.A., Barnett, T.E., and Cook, R.L., “College Students and Use of K2: An Emerging Drug of Abuse in Young Persons,” *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy* 6(16), 2011. Available online at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3142218>. For more information, contact Xingdi Hu at [qmshjwhx@phhp.ufl.edu](mailto:qmshjwhx@phhp.ufl.edu).