

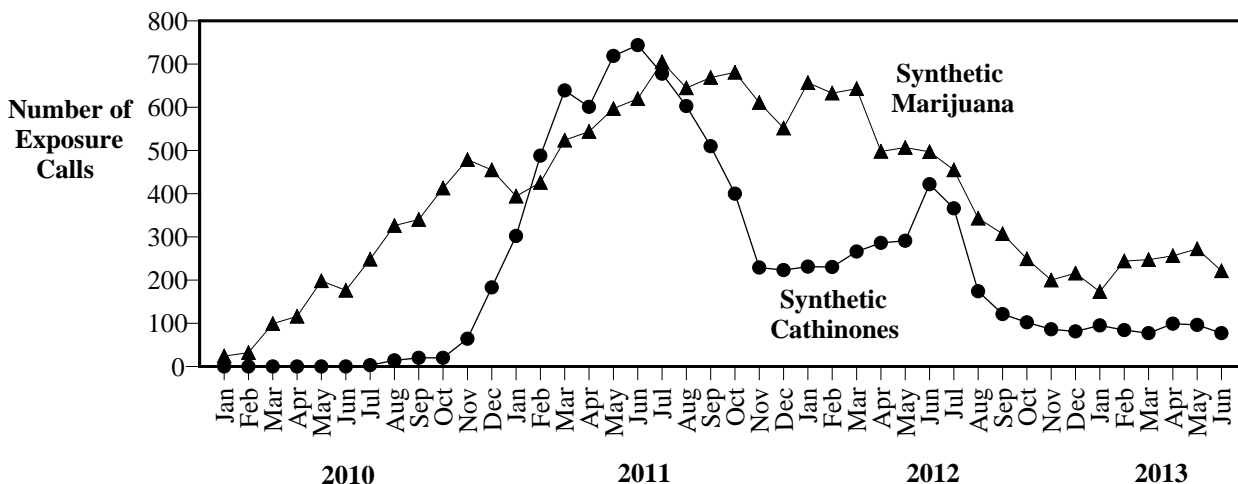
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

### *Number of Calls to U.S. Poison Control Centers About Exposure to Synthetic Marijuana and Synthetic Cathinones Stable at Lower Levels Than Recent Years*

The number of calls to U.S. poison control centers about exposure to synthetic marijuana and synthetic cathinones remained relatively stable in the first six months of 2013, according to data from the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC). After peaking in July 2011 at 705 calls, the number of calls for synthetic marijuana, also known as spice or K2, began to decline in 2012, reaching 173 in January 2013. Since then the number of calls for exposure to synthetic marijuana have remained relatively stable at around 250 calls per month, with a slight decrease from May to June 2013 (from 272 calls to 221 calls). A similar pattern emerged for synthetic cathinones, also known as bath salts. After peaking in June 2011 at 744 calls, the number of poison center calls for synthetic cathinone exposure declined sharply during the rest of 2011, stabilized for the first part of 2012, then declined again after a brief rise. The number of calls for exposure to synthetic cathinones has remained around 90 calls per month since September 2012. The decreases in exposure calls for synthetic marijuana and bath salts since 2011 may be related to the heightened media exposure about the negative effects of these drugs as well as recent federal and state legal bans on the substances.

**Number of Calls to U.S. Poison Control Centers About Exposure\* to Synthetic Cathinones and Synthetic Marijuana, January 2010- June 2013<sup>†</sup>**



\*The term exposure means someone has had contact with the substance in some way; for example, ingested, inhaled, absorbed by the skin or eyes, etc. Not all exposures are poisonings or overdoses.

<sup>†</sup>AAPCC data for 2012 and 2013 are considered preliminary because it is possible that a poison center may update a case anytime during the year if new information is obtained. In the fall of each year, the data for the previous year is locked, and no additional changes are made.

SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC), *Synthetic Marijuana Data June 30, 2013*, 2013. Online at [https://aapcc.s3.amazonaws.com/files/library/Synthetic\\_Marijuana\\_Data\\_for\\_Website\\_6.30.2013.pdf](https://aapcc.s3.amazonaws.com/files/library/Synthetic_Marijuana_Data_for_Website_6.30.2013.pdf); and AAPCC, *Bath Salts Data June 30, 2013*, 2013. Online at [https://aapcc.s3.amazonaws.com/files/library/Bath\\_Salts\\_Data\\_for\\_Website\\_5.31.2013.pdf](https://aapcc.s3.amazonaws.com/files/library/Bath_Salts_Data_for_Website_5.31.2013.pdf).