

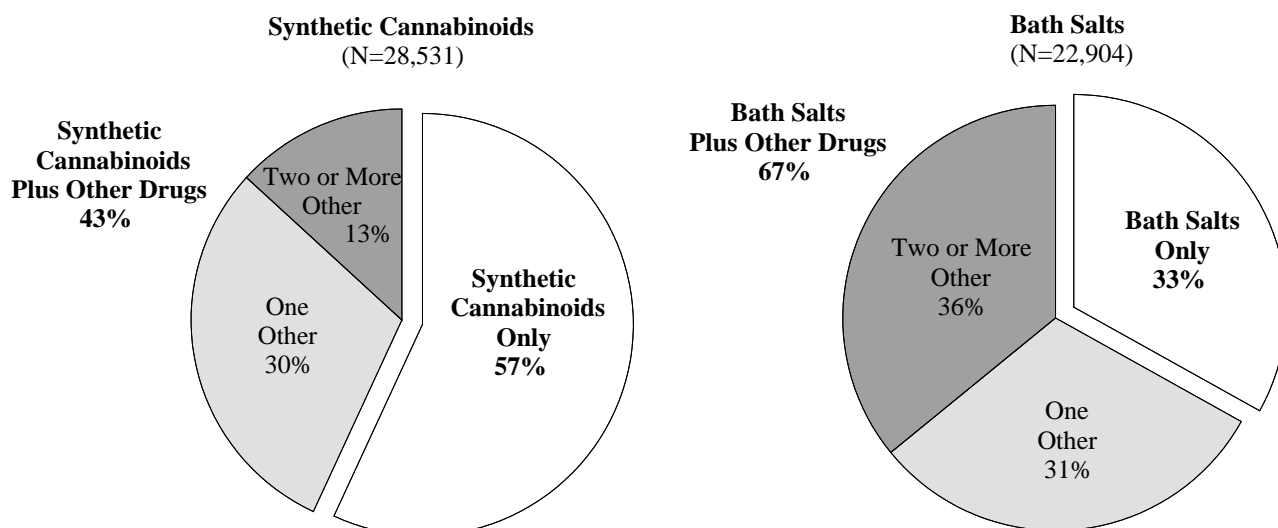
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

### *More Than Half of Synthetic Cannabinoid-Related Emergency Department Visits Involve No Other Drugs; Bath Salt-Related Visits More Likely to Involve Multiple Substances*

The majority of synthetic cannabinoid-related emergency department visits in 2011 involved no other drugs, according to recently released data from the national Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN). Of the estimated 28,531 ED visits involving a synthetic cannabinoid product<sup>1</sup>, 57% were for synthetic cannabinoids alone, and only 13% involved two or more substances in addition to the synthetic cannabinoids. In contrast, only one-third (33%) of the estimated 22,904 bath salt-related ED visits involved bath salts<sup>2</sup> alone, while more than one-third (36%) involved two or more substances combined with bath salts—nearly three times the rate for synthetic cannabinoid-related ED visits involving two or more other substances.

#### **Estimated Percentage of U.S. Emergency Department Visits Involving Synthetic Cannabinoids and Bath Salts Alone and With Other Drugs, 2011**



<sup>1</sup>The synthetic cannabinoid drug category was introduced in 2010. In the 2010 DAWN report, the authors note that “because of limited availability of tests for synthetic cannabinoids, data collection efforts in the ED may have missed visits in which they were involved” (p. 4).

<sup>2</sup>The bath salt drug category was introduced in 2011 and includes only substances that were specifically documented as ‘bath salts’ in the ED records.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive, online analysis of the 2011 Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) data set, conducted 9/18/2013. The SAMHDA is available online at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/SAMHDA>.