

FAKE DRUGS POSE REAL PROBLEMS

Lawmakers are acting quickly to curb the growing popularity of two new manufactured drugs known as "Spice" or "K2" and "bath salts." These drugs can cause violent reactions in users, including hallucinations, severe anxiety, paranoia, suicidal thoughts and combative behavior.

As of March 1, 19 states had banned Spice and six had banned bath salts, either through legislative or administrative action; and 38 state legislatures had introduced legislation on the legality of these substances.

Spice is a chemically engineered synthetic

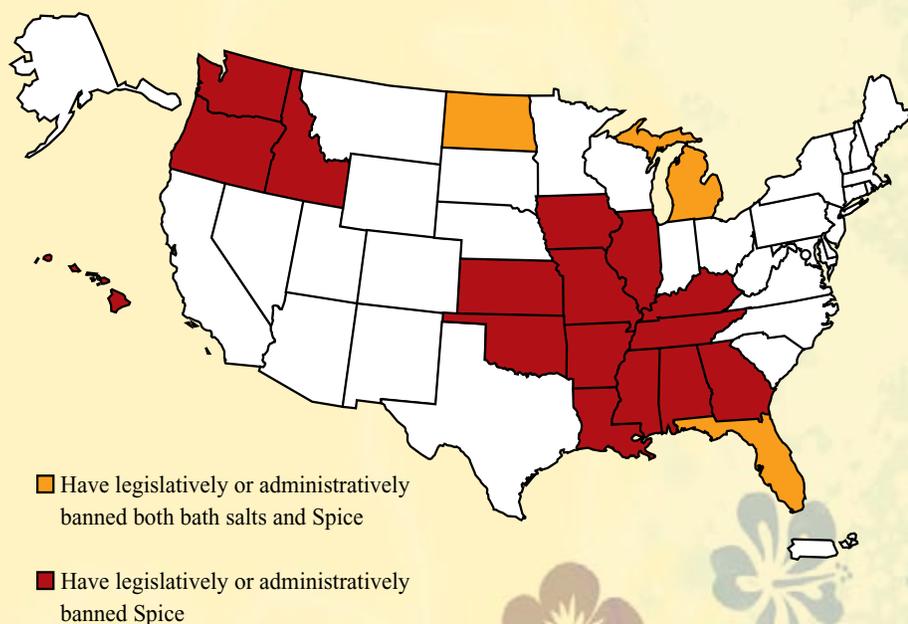
cannabinoid, similar to THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. When smoked or ingested, it can produce a marijuana-like high.

MDPV and mephedrone are the active ingredients in drugs created in laboratories and marketed as "bath salts," according to the U.S. Department of Justice. These substances are structurally similar to the African plant khat that gives a stimulant buzz when chewed or made into tea. Bath salts are typically sold as a white powder and smoked, injected or snorted, giving users effects similar to cocaine, meth or ecstasy.

OTHER FACTS ON FAKES

- ◆ Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Romania, Sweden and the United Kingdom have banned Mephedrone and/or MDPV.
- ◆ Austria, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, Sweden and the United Kingdom have banned synthetic cannabinoids.
- ◆ Congress, in early February, considered legislation to ban Spice-related substances.
- ◆ The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, on March 1, 2011, banned five chemicals used to make Spice.

STATE BANS ON SPICE AND BATH SALTS



Source: NCSL, 2011

BY THE NUMBERS

14
Calls received by U.S. poison control centers in 2009 related to Spice.

2,500
Calls received in 2010 related to Spice.

291
Calls received by U.S. poison control centers in 2010 related to bath salts.

373
Calls received in the first six weeks of 2011 related to bath salts.

Source: Association of Poison Control Centers, 2011

SL ONLINE

Learn more about legislation affecting manufactured drugs at www.ncsl.org/magazine.

