• **What are Designer Drugs?**
  
  Designer drugs are narcotic or hallucinogenic substances manufactured through the use of various chemicals. Designer drugs mimic the effects of illegal drugs, such as marijuana and cocaine.

• **Are Designer Drugs Safer than Illegal Drugs Derived From Plants?**
  
  No! Designer drugs, which include bath salts, synthetic marijuana and other products, are a serious public health threat.

  For example, of the 146 cases of synthetic marijuana exposure reported to the New Jersey Poison Information and Education Center in 2011, 92 percent resulted in symptoms alarming enough to require treatment in a healthcare facility.

• **Are Designer Drugs Legal?**
  
  No. The Office of the Attorney General through its Division of Consumer Affairs has taken action that makes designer drugs illegal to manufacture, sell or possess.

• **What is synthetic marijuana?**
  
  Synthetic marijuana is a psychoactive chemical product that mimics the effects of cannabis. It is commonly sold as K2 and Spice, among other branding.

  Synthetic marijuana is the third most commonly abused drug by high school seniors, after marijuana and abused prescription drugs, according to the 2011 Monitoring the Future Study, funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

  Nationwide, poison control centers received 7,000 calls related to synthetic marijuana exposure – a 139 percent increase from 2010, according to the American Association of Poison Control Centers.

  Synthetic marijuana has been linked to side effects including convulsions, anxiety attacks, dangerously elevated heart rates, increased blood pressure, vomiting, agitation, confusion, and hallucinations, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the National Institute on Drug Abuse.
Published reports indicate users have committed suicide or suffered fatal injuries after suffering panic attacks caused by synthetic marijuana use. Reports published in peer-reviewed journals indicate synthetic marijuana use may be associated with psychosis in some patients.

In 2010, the most recent year for which comprehensive data is available, poison control centers received reports about five deaths nationwide associated with synthetic marijuana.