



Local partnerships promoting wellness
by addressing substance abuse statewide.

March 14, 2011

Bonnie Smith, President, Connecticut Prevention Network
620 Norwich/New London Turnpike • Uncasville, CT 06382 • www.ctprevention.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1098-
AN ACT REGULATING THE SALE AND POSSESSION OF SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA AND
SALVIA DIVINORUM.

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, Members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in **support of Raised Bill #1098**. My name is Bonnie Smith and I am the President of the Connecticut Prevention Network, which makes up the thirteen Regional Action Councils for substance use in Connecticut. It is part of our mission to reduce the impact of substance abuse in our communities. We do this through data-informed prevention planning and collaboration with community members and grassroots organizations.

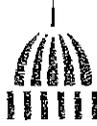
Safety concerns about the drugs, Salvia and K2 (also known as Spice, Spice Gold...etc), have existed for several years. In the past two years, there has been an increased urgency expressed by local police, school systems, parents, colleges, and youth serving organizations to address the issue as there have been many serious medical emergencies related to the use of these drugs. Although these drugs have been marketed as natural and harmless they are mind-altering and dangerous. They are sold at our corner convenience stores and smoke shops, next to drug paraphernalia such as pipes and rolling papers. There are no restrictions on the purchase of these products.. The availability of these drugs must be controlled for the safety of communities.

These dangers have resulted in over twenty states across the country taking action to establish laws concerning the sale and possession of both salvia and synthetic marijuana and most recently the DEA instituted a temporary emergency ban of the five synthetic marijuana compounds in this bill. Unfortunately, this is not enough to keep these harmful products out of stores and Connecticut must act.

Documented effects of Salvia use include: disorientation, dysphoria, loss of coordination, hallucinations and loss of consciousness. Synthetic Cannabis (K-2/spice) use can affect: judgment, coordination, learning and memory, mental and physical health. And currently there is no way to test for these substances. **Because of the urgency of this matter we have attached language that we believe the Committee should incorporate into the bill that would provide that the commissioner prints notice of the intent to adopt the regulations in the Connecticut Law Journal not later than twenty days after the date of implementation ensuring that these regulations go into effect as soon as possible.**

Additionally, we have attached several news articles discussing the issue and its impact nationally and in Connecticut (See articles in the Hartford Courant and The Day). You may have seen both drugs making national news headlines. The Arizona man who shot Representative Giffords and killed community members had a history of using salvia. Towards the end of 2010 Miley Cyrus, a teen idol, was videotaped using Salvia, sending an inaccurate message to youth about the safety and pleasure related to its use. And

Sec. 62. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2006*) (a) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the provisions of sections 52 to 61, inclusive, of this act. The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may implement policies and procedures necessary to administer the provisions of said sections 52 to 61, inclusive, while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures as regulations, provided the commissioner prints notice of the intent to adopt the regulations in the Connecticut Law Journal not later than twenty days after the date of implementation. Such policies and procedures shall be valid until the time final regulations are adopted.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

Synthetic Cannabinoid Legislation

(January 18, 2011)

Synthetic cannabinoids also known as “designer cannabinoids,” K2, or Spice exhibit similar effects to THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) the active ingredient found in marijuana. Law enforcement in states across the country have reported use among high school and college students, as well as adults on probation and parole. Specific synthetic cannabinoids listed in state statutes include:

- **CP 47, 497** and homologues: 2-[(1R,3S)-3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-5-(2-methyloctan-2-yl)phenol)
- **HU-210**: [(6aR,10aR)-9-(hydroxymethyl)-6,6-dimethyl-3-(2-methyloctan-2-yl)-6a,7,10,10a-tetrahydrobenzo[c] chromen-1-ol]]
- **HU-211**: dexanabinol, (6aS,10aS)-9-(hydroxymethyl)-6,6-dimethyl-3-(2-methyloctan-2-yl)-6a,7,10,10a-tetrahydrobenzo[c]chromen-1-ol
- **JWH-015**: (2-methyl-1-propyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-1-naphthalenyl-methanone
- **JWH-018**: 1-pentyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole
- **JWH-019**: 1-hexyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole
- **JWH-073**: 1-Butyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole
- **JWH-200**: 1-(2-(4-(morpholinyl)ethyl))-3-(1-naphthoyl) indole
- **JWH-250**: 1-pentyl-3-(2-methoxyphenylacetyl)indole
- **JWH-398**: 1-pentyl-3-(4-chloro-1-naphthoyl)indole

In 2010, at least 11 states added certain synthetic cannabinoids to the state's statutes on controlled substances.

2010 Enacted Legislation:

Alabama HB 697

Makes it illegal to possess HU-210, JWH-018, JWH-073, and salvia divinorum or salvinorum A.

Georgia HB 1309

Adds the synthetic cannabinoids HU-210, JWH-018, and CP 47,497 and homologues; in any material, compound, mixture or preparation to the list of schedule I drugs.

Illinois HB 6459

Adds JWH-018 and JWH-073 to the list of schedule I controlled substances.

Kansas HB 2411

Adds the synthetic cannabinoids HU-210, JWH-018, and JWH-073; and the components of synthetic ecstasy N-Benzylpiperazine (trade name: BZP) and 1-(3-[trifluoromethylphenyl]) piperazine (trade name: TFMPP) to the list of controlled substances as schedule I drugs.

Kentucky HB 265

Creates the crime of trafficking in synthetic cannabinoid agonists or piperazines and makes it a class A misdemeanor. Creates the crime of possession of synthetic cannabinoid agonists or piperazines and makes it a class B misdemeanor. Creates the crime of manufacturing a synthetic cannabinoid agonists or piperazines and makes it a class A misdemeanor. Defines synthetic cannabinoid agonists or piperazines as any chemical compound that contains Benzylpiperazine, Trifluoromethylphenylpiperazine, dexanabinol, HU-210, JWH-073, JWH-018, or HU-211 and excludes synthetic cannabinoids that require a prescription, that are approved by the USDA, and are dispensed in accordance with state and federal law. Adds synthetic cannabinoids to the list of schedule I drugs. Excludes synthetic cannabinoids from the crimes of selling controlled substances to a minor, trafficking controlled substances in a school zone, possession of a controlled substance, possession of a firearm while in the commission of an offense, unlawful transaction with a minor. Permits persons found guilty of possession of a synthetic cannabinoid to be sentenced to a treatment facility. Permits a conviction for possession of a synthetic cannabinoid to be set aside upon successful completion of treatment, probation or other sentence. Stipulates that any misdemeanor offense for synthetic cannabinoids is not subject to forfeiture.

Louisiana HB 121

Adds the synthetic cannabinoids HU-210, JWH-018, JWH-073 and CP 47,497 and its C6, C7, C8 and C9 homologues to the list of controlled substances as schedule I drugs. Applies to the possession of synthetic cannabinoids the penalties for the possession of marijuana.

Louisiana HB 173

Adds the synthetic cannabinoids HU-210, JWH-018, JWH-073 and CP 47,497 and its C6, C7, C8 and C9 homologues to the list of controlled substances as schedule I drugs. Applies to the possession of synthetic cannabinoids the penalties for the possession of marijuana. Adds section on the unlawful production, manufacturing, distribution, or possession of prohibited plant products. Defines homeopathic drug.

Louisiana SB 37

Adds the synthetic cannabinoids HU-210, JWH-018, JWH-073, and CP 47,497 and its C6, C7, C8, and C9 homologues to the list of controlled substances as schedule I drugs. Applies to the possession or distribution of synthetic cannabinoids the penalties for the possession or distribution of marijuana.

Michigan HB 6038

Adds CP 47,497; HU-210; JWH-015; JWH-018; JWH-073; JWH-200; and JWH-250 to the list of schedule I controlled substances. Adds BZP, MCPP, TFMPP, 4-MMC, MPBP, KHAT, Cathinone, salvia divinorum, salvinorin A and 2C-B-BZP to the list of schedule I controlled substances. Adds Cathine to the list of schedule IV controlled substances.

Mississippi SB 2004

Adds the synthetic cannabinoids JWH-018; HU-210; CP-47, 497; JWH-073; JWH-200; JWH-250; JWH-019; and JWH-398 to the list of schedule I hallucinogenic controlled substances. Mandates all retailers in possession of synthetic cannabinoids have until October 1, 2010, to dispose of such synthetic cannabinoids by returning such synthetic cannabinoids to the distributor or otherwise legally disposing the synthetic cannabinoids. Applies criminal penalties applicable to marijuana to synthetic cannabinoids.

Missouri HB 1472

Adds HU-211; Indole or JWH-018; Indole or JWH-073 and Phenol CP 47, 497 and homologues; and 5-MeO-DMT or its isomers, salts, and salts of isomers to the list of controlled substances as schedule I drugs. Creates a class C felony for possession of more than 35 grams of HU-211, JWH-018, JWH-073, CP 47, 497 and homologues. Creates a class A misdemeanor for possession of 35 grams or less of HU-211, JWH-018, JWH-073, and CP 47, 497 and its homologues.

**Oklahoma SB 3241**

Adds TFMPP, JWH-073, JWH-018, and HU-210 to the list of schedule I controlled substances.

Tennessee SB 2982

Creates a Class A misdemeanor to knowingly produce, manufacture, distribute, possess or possess with intent to produce, manufacture, or distribute the synthetic cannabinoids JWH-018, JWH-073, HU-211 and HU-210. Excludes synthetic cannabinoids lawfully prescribed or substances approved by the federal food and drug administration.

NCSL's Criminal Justice Program is in Denver, Colorado, at 303-364-7700; or cj-info@ncsl.org. Statutes & bills may be edited or summarized; full text can be retrieved through: <http://www.ncsl.org/public/leglinks.cfm>

Legal Status

No Federal statutes control or regulate distribution of Salvia. So far, at least 21 states have felt the need to act, passing laws ranging from banning possession or sale for minors to outright bans. Some states have classified Salvia as a Schedule 1 substance, modeled after the federal Controlled Substances Act, where Schedule 1 substances are considered to have a high potential for dependency and no accepted medical use.

State Laws Regulating Salvia Divinorum (Last Updated May 6, 2010)	
California <u>Penal Code Section 379</u>	Every person who sells, dispenses, distributes, furnishes, administers, gives, or offers to sell, dispense, distribute, furnish, administer, or give Salvia divinorum or Salvinorin A, or any substance or material containing Salvia divinorum or Salvinorin A, to any person who is less than 18 years of age, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, or by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.
Delaware <u>16 Del.C. § 4714</u>	Lists Salvia as a Schedule I controlled substance.
Florida <u>Annotated Title XLVI, Crimes Chapter 893. Drug Abuse Prevention and Control 893.03.</u>	Lists Salvia as a Schedule I controlled substance.
Illinois <u>Illinois Compiled Statutes Annotated, Chapter 720. Criminal Offenses, Act 570. Illinois Controlled Substances Act, Article II. Schedules of Controlled Substances</u>	Lists Salvia as a Schedule I controlled substance.
Kansas <u>Statute 61-4104, Controlled Substances</u>	Lists Salvia as a Schedule I controlled substance.
Kentucky <u>Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 218</u>	Lists Salvia as a Schedule I controlled substance.
Louisiana <u>Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 40— Public Health and Safety. Chapter 4— Food and Drugs. Part X. §989.1</u>	Lists Salvia as a Schedule I controlled substance.
Maine <u>Maine Revised Statute Title 17: CRIMES. Chapter 70: Salvia Divinorum</u>	A person may not transfer Salvia divinorum to a minor. A minor may not Purchase, possess or use Salvia divinorum

Maryland <u>Annotated Code of Maryland Courts and Judicial Proceedings Section 10-130 through 10-133</u>	Prohibits a person from distributing Salvia divinorum or Salvinorin A to an individual under the age of 21 years; prohibits a person under the age of 21 years from possessing Salvia divinorum or Salvinorin A;
Minnesota <u>Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 152.027</u>	A person who unlawfully sells any amount of salvia divinorum or salvinorin A is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. A person who unlawfully possesses any amount of salvia divinorum or salvinorin is guilty of a misdemeanor.
Mississippi <u>Miss. Code Ann. § 41-29-113</u>	Lists Salvia as a Schedule I controlled substance.
Missouri <u>Missouri Revised Statutes, Chapter 195, Drug Regulations, Section 195.017</u>	Lists Salvia as a Schedule I controlled substance.
North Dakota <u>CHAPTER 19-03.1, UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT</u>	Lists Salvia as a Schedule I controlled substance.
Nebraska <u>Nebraska Revised Statutes 28-405</u>	Lists Salvia as a Schedule I controlled substance.
North Carolina <u>North Carolina General Statutes Annotated 14-401.23</u>	<p>(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly or intentionally manufacture, sell or deliver, or possess with intent to manufacture, sell or deliver Salvia divinorum or Salvinorin A.</p> <p>(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly or intentionally possess Salvia divinorum or Salvinorin A.</p>
Ohio <u>Ohio Revised Code Title 37, Chapter 3719.41, Controlled substance schedules.</u>	Lists Salvia as a Schedule I controlled substance.
Oklahoma <u>Oklahoma Statutes Citationized Title 63, Public Health and Safety Chapter 2 - Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, Article 2 - Standards and</u>	Lists Salvia as a Schedule I controlled substance.

<p><u>Schedules, Section 2-204 - Schedule I</u></p>	
<p>South Dakota <u>South Dakota Codified Laws 22-42-22</u></p>	<p>Possession of <i>Salvia divinorum</i> or salvinorin A prohibited--Felony or misdemeanor. No person may knowingly possess <i>Salvia divinorum</i> or salvinorin A. It is a Class 1 misdemeanor to possess two ounces or less of <i>Salvia divinorum</i> or salvinorin A. It is a Class 6 felony to possess more than two ounces of <i>Salvia divinorum</i> or salvinorin A.</p>
<p>Tennessee <u>Tennessee Code Annotated 39-17-438</u></p>	<p>(a) It is an offense to knowingly produce, manufacture, distribute, possess or possess with intent to produce, manufacture, or distribute the active chemical ingredient in the hallucinogenic plant <i>Salvia divinorum</i> A.</p> <p>(b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the possession, planting, cultivation, growing, or harvesting of the hallucinogenic plant strictly for aesthetic, landscaping, or decorative purposes.</p> <p>(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any dosage form that is legally obtainable from a retail establishment without a prescription and is recognized by the Federal Food and Drug Administration as a homeopathic drug.</p> <p>(d) A violation of subsection (a) is a Class A misdemeanor.</p>
<p>West Virginia <u>Code of West Virginia</u> <u>560A-4-413</u></p>	<p>It is unlawful for any person to knowingly or intentionally manufacture or possess an extract, compound, concentrate, or other processed substance intended for human consumption which contains <i>Salvia divinorum</i>, unless the substance was obtained directly from, or pursuant to, a valid prescription or order of a licensed physician or dispensed by a pharmacist for a recommended or medically necessary therapeutic use. Any person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor, and disposition may be made under section four hundred seven of this article, subject to the limitations specified in said section, or upon conviction, such person may be confined in jail not more than six months, or fined not more than \$1,000, or both. Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, any first offense for possession of <i>Salvia divinorum</i> shall be disposed of under section four hundred seven of this article.</p> <p>The provisions of this section shall not apply to licensed physicians, pharmacists, and accredited hospitals and teaching facilities engaged in the research or study of <i>Salvia divinorum</i>, and shall not include any person participating in clinical trials involving the use of <i>Salvia divinorum</i>.</p>
<p>Wisconsin <u>Wisconsin Statute 941.318</u></p>	<p>Except as provided in sub. (3), whoever manufactures, distributes, or delivers salvinorin A with intent that it be consumed by an individual may be fined not more than \$10,000.</p> <p>(3) (a) Subsection (2) does not apply to the manufacture</p>

of any dosage form of salvinorin A that may be obtained from a retail establishment without a prescription and that is recognized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as a homeopathic drug.

(b) Subsection (2) does not apply to the distribution or delivery to an individual who is 18 years of age or older of any dosage form of salvinorin A that may be obtained from a retail establishment without a prescription and that is recognized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as a homeopathic drug.

Fake Pot Concerns Officials and Health Workers

February 08, 2011 | By WILLIAM WEIR, bweir@courant.com, The Hartford Courant

Extreme anxiety, racing heart and paranoia are among the symptoms patients have complained of after smoking synthetic marijuana.

All were teenagers or people in their early 20s, said Dr. Danyal Ibrahim, director of toxicology at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, and at least one had hallucinations. The most recent patient, he said, was sweaty, agitated, and "felt a sense of doom and felt that he was going to die."

More commonly known as "spice" or K2, synthetic marijuana is easy to buy — at gas stations, convenience stores, head shops and online. A small envelope was selling for \$9.99 at one Hartford gas station.

The package touts "an exotic herbal incense blend composed of rare plants and herbal extracts." The chemical that's sprayed on the leaves — a synthetic form of THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol), the active ingredient in marijuana — is what's selling the product. Doctors at St. Francis and at Hartford Hospital said they first started seeing cases involving synthetic marijuana in the middle of last year.

While the products are sold as incense and bear the label "not for human consumption," Barbara Carreno, a spokeswoman with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, said everything else about the marketing makes it obvious that the contents are meant to be consumed.

For instance, many packages are marked "for 18 years and over" and websites boast that it can't be traced in drug tests. That means it could run afoul of the Federal Analog Act of 1970, which regulates synthetic substances designed to mimic the effects of currently prohibited drugs.

In November, the DEA announced it would put synthetic marijuana under a 12-month ban. The temporary ban has not yet been enacted, but Carreno said it will be "any day."

At least seven states have banned the sale of synthetic marijuana. Several more states, including Connecticut, are considering bans.

State Rep. Michelle Cook, D-Torrington, is a co-sponsor of one of two proposed measures to prohibit the sale of the product. Cook said she first heard of synthetic marijuana when local police officers told her they were concerned about a surge in its use among young people. Cook and the police urged businesses in Torrington to withdraw the products from sale, but only one went along.

"There were a couple that said, 'We'll ID, we won't sell to anyone under 21,'" she said. "Even though it's legal, it's deadly."

If the state does enact a ban, she said, the real work will be keeping on top of the situation to keep the law effective.

"The manufacturing agencies are much smarter and quicker than we are," Cook said, "and they can dance around the bans that we've made by coming up with different chemical mixes."

Bad Reactions

The Connecticut Poison Control Center at the UConn Health Center has received "at least a couple dozen calls" from people reacting badly to synthetic marijuana, said Charles McKay, the center's associate director. And at Hartford Hospital, where he is director of toxicology, McKay said he has treated "a handful" of cases. Symptoms typically include paranoia and tachycardia, an unusually fast heart rate.

McKay said he generally treats patients with benzodiazepine, an anti-anxiety medication, and they usually are OK after a few hours under supervision. He said the effects of synthetic marijuana resemble those of natural marijuana: a sense of ease and heightened sensations. But other times, usually when synthetic pot is taken in greater doses, it has the opposite effect, he said.

Ibrahim said synthetic marijuana is much more dangerous than the natural substance. Although he has treated three people for fake pot in the past six months, Ibrahim said he has never treated anyone for a bad reaction to natural marijuana in the six years that he has worked in toxicology. For the people who have bad reactions to the synthetic version, he said, the symptoms are closer to those caused by cocaine and other stimulants.

Ibrahim and McKay both said none of the patients faced life-threatening conditions and in all cases, they were released within 24 hours. There have been reports elsewhere that the substances induced seizures, but neither Ibrahim nor McKay have seen that.

Medicinal Research

The chemicals used in synthetic marijuana are modeled after cannabinoids, the active agents in natural marijuana (THC is the most well-known). They're based on chemicals first developed in the 1980s at Clemson University and Hebrew University to research the medicinal use of cannabinoids. Because several papers on these studies have been published in science and medical journals, the public has had access to details about the substances' chemical makeup.

In Europe, synthetic marijuana first appeared in the middle of the last decade; in Connecticut in the last year or so. Exactly who is manufacturing it, Carreno said, is difficult to trace.

"The substances, a lot of them come from overseas — China, Middle East, Europe, all kinds of places," she said. "There are many different suppliers with different names and different contents."

Paul Armentano, deputy director of the marijuana legalization group NORML, said regulations will be hard to enforce and could possibly backfire.

"Most likely, the clampdown will likely only make the situation more dangerous from both a legal standpoint and from a health standpoint to the consumer," he said in an e-mail.

Carreno said the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommended the 12-month ban to allow time to test the chemicals on human subjects in clinical trials, something that's never been done before.

Carreno also acknowledged that regulating synthetic substances is difficult because federal drug laws have to be very specific. In this case, the ban names the five most commonly used chemicals in synthetic marijuana. For instance, the chemical JWH-018 is named in the ban, but JWH-073 — a slight variation — is not. Tweaking a banned chemical, even minimally, can be enough to skirt regulations.

The letters JWH come from the initials of John W. Huffman, a Clemson University scientist who first developed synthetic cannabinoids in the 1980s. He did so to study their effects on animals and explore the chemicals' potential for treating such conditions as osteoporosis, liver disease and certain cancers. He developed JWH-018 and other chemicals in his lab with funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

In an e-mail, Huffman stressed that these chemicals have not been tested on humans and could have toxic effects on people.

"They absolutely should not be used as recreational drug," Huffman said.

[Back](#)

Article published Feb 4, 2011

Sailors face stiff penalties for using legal substances that have been outlawed by the Navy

By [Jennifer McDermott](#) Day Staff Writer

'Spice' among items available at stores branded as off-limits

Groton - A sailor could get kicked out of the Navy for going inside Cory's Petroleum.

The gas and service station on Route 12, about 2 miles from the Naval Submarine Base, sells pouches of *Salvia divinorum*, an herb that produces hallucinogenic effects when chewed or smoked.

Salvia is legal for purchase by anyone over 18, but the chief of naval operations has ordered that sailors not use it. They are also prohibited from using so-called "fake pot" products that mimic the effects of marijuana, commonly sold as Spice but also marketed under a variety of names and sold legally to adults.

The Navy placed several southeastern Connecticut locations on the off-limits list for service members, and officers and sailors who go into these establishments can face stiff penalties under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for failing to obey an order.

A yellow box prominent on the base's website names the establishments: Cory's Petroleum, Northern Lights on Long Hill Road, Connecticut Barber Shop on the Gold Star Highway and Old Glory Music & Entertainment in Old Saybrook. The barber shop is on the list because of reports of drug-related activity and bootleg DVDs. The other three are listed because of Spice and general drug paraphernalia, according to the base.

"Putting something off-limits is not to 'catch sailors,'" said Chris Zendan, base spokesman. "It's to make them aware that these establishments are involved in activity that is unsafe for them and their careers. ... We don't have active shore patrol that stake out the off-limits establishments for sailors. We don't have that."

Salvia and Spice have been available in the United States for years but lately have become trendy among young adults. Teen star Miley Cyrus was recently shown in a leaked videotape smoking *Salvia*.

The Drug Enforcement Administration plans to ban five synthetic cannabinoid chemicals found in these designer drugs, which would make Spice illegal but not *Salvia* since it is a natural rather than a synthetic product. The DEA considers *Salvia* a "drug of concern" that may later be banned, according to a spokesman.

The agency has not yet issued the final order banning the chemicals under the Controlled Substances Act. The Navy has a zero-tolerance policy for the substances, and a guilty party faces a reduction in pay or rate, separation from the Navy, a dishonorable discharge and even jail time.

At the Groton base and submarine school, five to 10 people were caught using or possessing Spice in the past year, and all had to leave the service. One sailor was found guilty at a special court-martial in a case involving Spice and one of the off-limits establishments, meaning he left the Navy with a federal conviction on his record, said Lt. Natasha Bode, command services attorney at the base.

"The number of incidents of designer-drug usage is rising at an alarming rate in our Navy," Adm. John C. Harvey Jr., commander of U.S. Fleet Forces Command, said in a statement in January. He noted that 151 sailors were accused of using or possessing Spice or a similar drug in the past four months.

Also in January, the U.S. Naval Academy in Maryland expelled seven midshipmen for using or selling Spice. Five cadets at the Air Force Academy in Colorado have also been expelled, and another 25 are under investigation for using Spice.

No cadets at the Coast Guard Academy in New London have gotten into trouble for Spice, according to the academy. The Coast Guard has prohibited its personnel from using or possessing substances that produce psychoactive effects, including natural substances and products containing synthetic cannabinoid compounds, such as Spice, Genie, Blaze, Dream, Ex-Ses, Spark, Dark Knight, Yucatan Fire and K2.

At Cory's Petroleum, a gram of Salvia retailed for \$44.99 or \$59.99. The more expensive version, by Club13 Herbals, advertised on the packaging that it was the strongest extract made, "a tool for self exploration." Cory's had it in natural, peach, watermelon and strawberry flavors, near the fried chicken whose smell permeated the store.

A flier on top of the glass case explained the drug's effects: "When used in small doses the user feels a relaxing state of mind, altered light perception and uncontrolled fits of laughing. When used in larger amounts, intense laughter and meditational epiphanies can occur."

In bold lettering, the flier states that Salvia "will not show up in urine, hair or blood drug tests." Cory, of Cory's, would not answer questions but said in a voice-mail message that "we sell everything legal."

Old Glory Music & Entertainment used to sell Spice at the Old Saybrook boutique but took it off the shelves in anticipation of the federal ban, according to an employee. Both the owners of Northern Lights and the Connecticut Barber Shop said they have never sold Spice, Salvia or anything like it.

"We had no idea what was in it," said Robert Cromwell, co-owner of Northern Lights. "Some places are making thousands selling it, but we never felt comfortable."

Cromwell said his store receives calls daily from people looking for it, but the store is sticking with tobacco. The smell of incense permeates the shop on Long Hill Road, where clothing, posters and pipes of all shapes, sizes and colors are sold. The sub base, he said, was not a major draw to opening in the area last year so it would not be worth trying to get removed from the list.

"We're a tobacco shop, and we found a nice, big place to open," Cromwell said. "There wasn't too much competition, and there's so much traffic on the street. We have great visibility. It had nothing to do with the sub base."

The owner of Connecticut Barber Shop, on the other hand, says the list is hurting his business and he wants off. Jay Brown said his store got into trouble two years ago for illegal DVDs, then he received a letter about the off-limits list with instructions on how to get reinstated by the commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic.

"My lawyer replied, and we were told they would have a meeting at the end of 2010, but we've yet to hear anything," said Brown, who added that the shop used to have a "big Navy following." "It has hurt a lot, that's a lot of clientele we would definitely have," he said.

Brown also heard that the Navy thinks his shop sells Spice, a claim he says is absurd.

"I would never sell anything Cory's is selling," he said. "How would I compete? That's like selling egg rolls when the China House is down the street."

A spokesman for the DEA could not say precisely when the final order will be issued to make the chemicals used in these products illegal. It could be days or weeks, Rusty Payne said. "Just because something is not illegal, that doesn't make it safe," he said. "We've seen the harm to users, and we've been able to review enough data to determine that this stuff is bad and needs to be controlled."

The ban would last for at least one year before a final decision would have to be made on whether there is enough evidence that these chemicals should be permanently controlled, Payne said.

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Ryan Santanna smoked salvia before leaping to his death from Roosevelt Island balcony

BY KERRY WILLS AND BARRY PADDOCK
DAILY NEWS WRITERS

Originally Published: Tuesday, March 8th 2011, 4:00 AM

Updated: Tuesday, March 8th 2011, 11:04 AM

The father of a film student who apparently jumped from a Roosevelt Island balcony after smoking salvia said Tuesday that the hallucinogenic plant should be banned.

"I would like to have it illegalized because of the effect it causes and the loss of life," said Lauro Santanna, whose son Ryan leapt to his death Sunday. "I'll do everything in my power to get this thing out of the market.

"They say, 'We can't do anything until something happens.' Well, something happened. It cannot be legal anymore," he said.

Ryan Santanna, 21, was hanging out Sunday with ex-girlfriend Benazir Balani on his bedroom balcony smoking the hallucinogenic substance, she said.

Balani said he then lay down on his stomach, pretending to swim like an animal on the 15th-floor balcony.

"He stared at me but it was like he wasn't seeing me; it was just a blank stare," she said.

Then he jumped.

"He just ran and hopped over the fence," said Balani, 20, of Queens. "He had no idea who he was, what he was doing."

Salvia - a member of the mint family that provides a quick, potent high and is legal in New York - made headlines in December when Miley Cyrus was caught smoking it on video.

But Santanna's father says people don't know that it is dangerous.

"Like my son, I think a lot of people don't understand what this is," Lauro Santanna said. "Sometimes the only way to stop people is to make them afraid. I want people to be afraid of this stuff."

Ryan Santanna was a film production student at the Art Institute of New York City set to graduate in the spring. His father said classmates will finish a film he was making.

"I want people to know he was a happy person," said Santanna's weeping mother, Vera Cordiero Santanna, 50.

Santanna had no history of mental problems, police sources said. His death is being investigated as a possible suicide, and the city medical examiner said the initial autopsy was inconclusive.

With Rocco Parascondola

Read more: http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2011/03/08/2011-03-08_smoked_salvia_before_leaping_to_death.html#ixzz1GXPyjKg

Ban of 5 chemicals in fake pot starts March 1

The Associated Press

Monday, February 28, 2011; 4:39 PM

WASHINGTON -- An emergency plan to outlaw the sale of five chemicals used in herbal blends to make synthetic marijuana becomes official Tuesday.

The Drug Enforcement Administration filed a final notice Monday that the chemicals used in so-called incense will be banned for sale for at least a year. The order will be published in the Federal Register Tuesday.

The fake marijuana, sold in drug paraphernalia shops and on the Internet, is marketed under various brands including Spice, K2, Blaze and Red X Dawn. The products contain organic leaves coated with chemicals that provide a marijuana-like high when smoked.

Federal drug officials announced plans for the emergency measure in November, amid increasing reports of bad reactions to the chemicals - including seizures, hallucinations and dependency.