

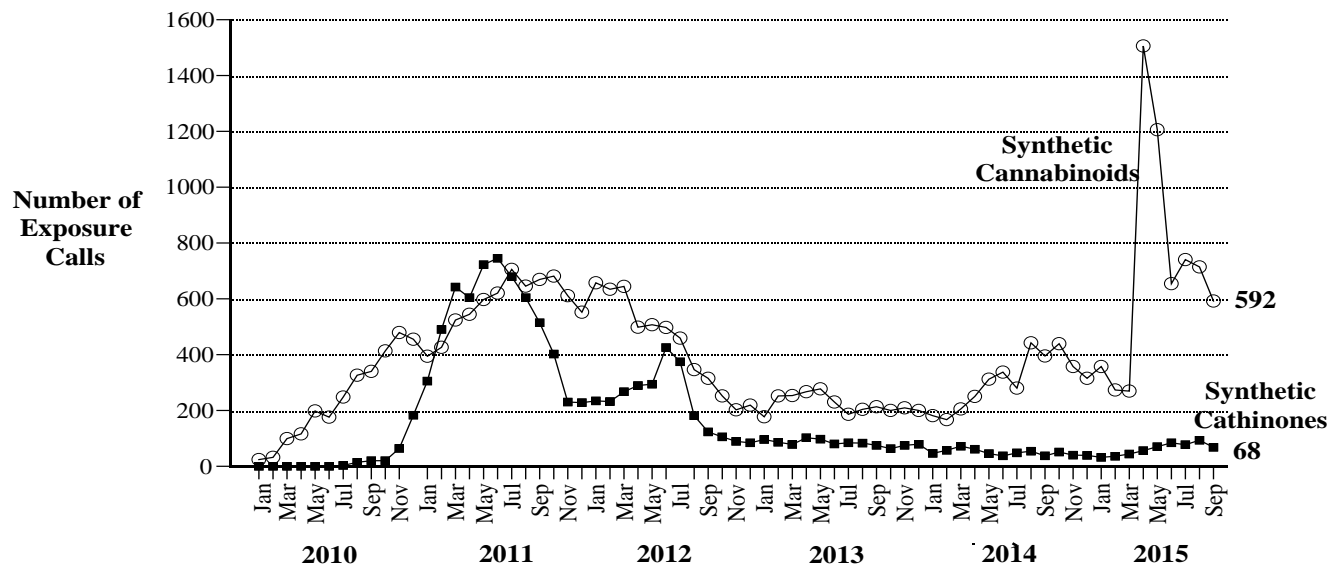
A Publication from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Number of Synthetic Cannabinoid Exposure Calls to U.S. Poison Control Centers Spike in 2015; Synthetic Cathinone Calls Remain at Low Levels Since 2011

The number of calls to U.S. poison control centers for human exposure to synthetic cannabinoids reached 1,506 during the month of April 2015, an increase of over 450 percent from the previous month, according to data from the National Poison Data System (NPDS) of the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC). After peaking at 705 in July 2011, the number of calls involving synthetic cannabinoids declined gradually during 2012, then remained relatively stable in 2013 at around 200 calls per month. Synthetic cannabinoid calls increased briefly in 2014, then declined to 269 in March 2015 before spiking to 1,506 in April. The number of synthetic cannabinoid calls have since declined to 592 in September of this year. In contrast, the number of calls for exposure to synthetic cathinones, also known as bath salts, have remained stable at lower levels for the last three years. Synthetic cathinone calls peaked in 2011 (at 425) and again in 2012 (at 425), and have averaged 55 cases per month since the beginning of 2014. Information about poison control center exposure calls, including regularly updated call data, is available at www.aapcc.org.

Number of Calls to U.S. Poison Control Centers Involving Human Exposure to Synthetic Cannabinoids or Synthetic Cathinones, January 2010-September 2015



NOTES: The term human 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.

AAPCC data for 2014 and 2015 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 are locked, and no additional changes are made.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC), *Synthetic Cannabinoid Data: September 30, 2015, 2015*; and AAPCC, *Bath Salts Data: September 30, 2015, 2015*. For more information, contact Naya McMillan at mcmillan@aapcc.org.

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