

Overdoses from synthetic drug spur state of emergency in N.H.

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(HealthDay)—New Hampshire has declared a state of emergency after 44 overdoses linked to a synthetic marijuana-like product sold in convenience stores as potpourri. Nearly all of the overdoses that occurred in people who smoked or ingested a product called "Smacked" occurred in the Manchester area. None of the overdose patients died, *NBC News* reported.

Under the state of emergency, public health authorities have the power to investigate stores and quarantine the product. So far, police have found Smacked in three [convenience stores](#), which had their business licenses revoked.

Smacked is a potpourri-like substance sprayed with artificial substances similar to tetrahydrocannabinol, the [active ingredient](#) in marijuana, officials said.

In 2012, the federal government introduced a ban on compounds found in synthetic marijuana products and [bath salts](#), and New Hampshire and most other states implemented similar bans. However, the laws are difficult to enforce because makers can make slight alterations to the chemical make-up of their products, *NBC News* reported.

More information: [Health Highlights: Aug. 15, 2014](#)

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