

# Synthetic pot sends hundreds to ERs in past month

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Synthetic marijuana, also called spice, is sold illegally in convenience stores. Officials said there have been 227 spice-related emergency department visits in Mississippi since April 2, and 98 suspected spice-related emergency department visits in Alabama in the past month, *ABC News* reported.

Short-term effects include seizures, hallucinations, increased heart rate, anxiety attacks, uncontrollable rage, and [suicidal thoughts](#), while the long-term effects are unknown, according to Alabama state health officer

Donald Williamson, M.D. "We want the public to be aware of the toxic effects and other dangers associated with [synthetic marijuana](#) use," he said in a news release, *ABC News* reported.

Spice contains "unpredictable" chemicals that can also result in coma, according to [health officials](#). In Hampton, Va., one woman died and six others were hospitalized over one weekend after using spice. Last August, New Hampshire officials declared a state of emergency after 20 people who used synthetic marijuana sought hospital treatment, *ABC News* reported.

**More information:** [Usage of synthetic cannabinoids \(spice\) on the rise in Alabama](#)

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