



17th St. & Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
United States of America

Organization of American States

P. 202.458.3000
www.oas.org

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION **CICAD**

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

FIFTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION
November 28 - 30, 2012
San José, Costa Rica

OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.52
CICAD/doc.1980/12
27 November 2012
Original: English

SYNTHETIC DESIGNED DRUGS
JOHN SCHERBENSKE
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA)



The United States Department of Justice

Drug Enforcement Administration



SYNTHETIC DESIGNER DRUGS

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission
CICAD

San Jose', Costa Rica

November 29, 2012

Synthetic Drug Threat

Designer Drugs

These drugs are perceived as being 'legal' alternatives to marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, MDMA and LSD.

- These drugs are being marketed and sold as:
 - incense
 - bath salts
 - glass cleaner
 - shoe deodorizer
 - plant food

PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

- Dependence
- Anxiety/Agitation
- Disorientation
- Delusions
- Hallucinations
- Stroke
- Loss of Consciousness
- Organ Failure/Permanent Organ Damage
- Toxicity Resulting in Death



PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

- ▣ Overdoses – 11,000 to 12,000 ER Admissions in 2011
- ▣ Violent Behavior
- ▣ Assaults/ Attacks
- ▣ Homicides
- ▣ Suicides
- ▣ DUIs with Fatalities and Severe Injuries
- ▣ Media Reports – bizarre behavior
 - MS - Self Mutilation
 - IA – Man Eats Dirt
 - NJ – Priest Stabbed
 - PA – Stabbing of Friend
 - MN – Overdose Death (2C-E)
 - SC – Overdose Death (Mix of Spice Compounds)
 - LA – Suicide
 - ND – Overdose deaths

Compounds Encountered in U.S. Since 2009

- ▣ >180 Synthetic
Compounds

- ▣ From 8 Classes of Drugs

CLASSES OF SYNTHETIC DESIGNER DRUGS

Cannabinoids (Spice/K2/Herbal Incense)

- Aminoalkylindoles (Depressants/Hallucinogens) – JWHs & AMs
- Cannabicyclohexanols (Depressants/Hallucinogens)
- FAAH Inhibitors (Depressants/Hallucinogens)
- Other Synthetic Cannabinoids

Phenethylamines

- Synthetic Cathinones - Bath Salts (Stimulants/Hallucinogens)
- Amphetamines (Stimulants)
- 2-C Series Compounds (Hallucinogens)
 - 25I-NBOMe
- D-Series Compounds (Hallucinogens)
- Aminoindanes (Hallucinogens)

Synthetic Encounters

- ▣ First reported encounter typically at a Port of Entry
- ▣ Suspicious manifest prompts a quarantine and analysis
- ▣ Source Country
 - China



Manifest: Detergent
Found: Pentadrone
December 2011



Synthetic Cannabinoids

- Unregulated and unlicensed industry
- Multiple manufacturers



- Full disclosure of ingredients typically not present
- Significant batch to batch variance (i.e. “hot spots”)
- Labeled “Not for Human Consumption”

SYNTHETIC CANNABINOID



SOLVENTS



Bulk Plant Material



Damiana Leaves



Mix the product



Cannabinoid Drying



Sort by Flavor



Packaging Center



To your Local Smoke Shop or Convenience Store or Head Shop



Next to the Candy Bars and Gum



Specifics of Suspected DUID

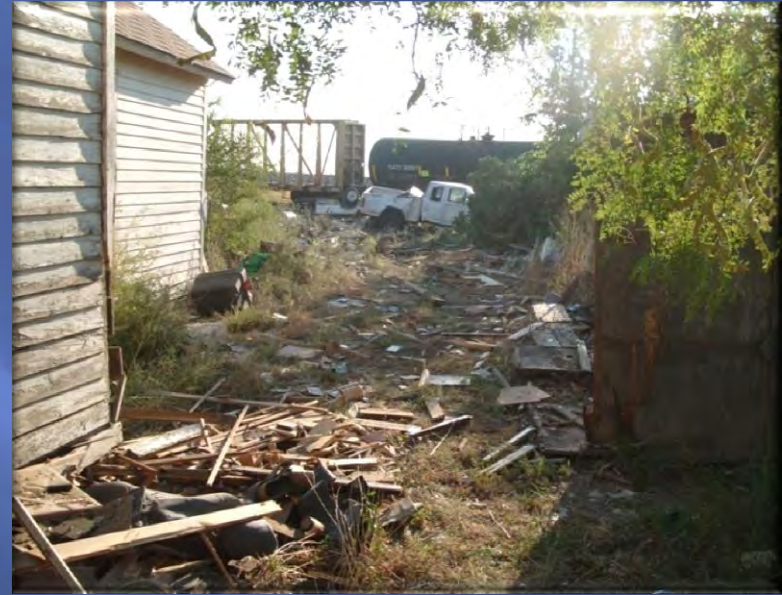
Sidney, Nebraska – September 2010

- ▣ 16-year old male
- ▣ No memory of incident
- ▣ Drove by an elementary and high school at high rates of speed
- ▣ Hospital drug screen no other drugs found
- ▣ Pipe, product, and urine analyzed – JWH-018



Suspected DUI

Sidney, Nebraska – September 2010



BATH SALTS, PLANT FOOD, WINDOW CLEANER, ETC.



Synthetic Cathinones

a/k/a Bath Salts, Glass Cleaner, plant food

- Structurally and pharmacologically similar to amphetamine, Ecstasy (MDMA), cathinone and other related substances.
- Are central nervous system (CNS) stimulants and have stimulant and psychoactive properties similar to U.S. schedule I and II amphetamine type stimulants.
- Often **more dangerous** than the illicit drugs they are purported to mimic

Synthetic Cathinones

- Like the cannabinoids, unregulated and unlicensed industry
- Full disclosure of ingredients typically not present
- Significant batch to batch variances “Hot Spots”



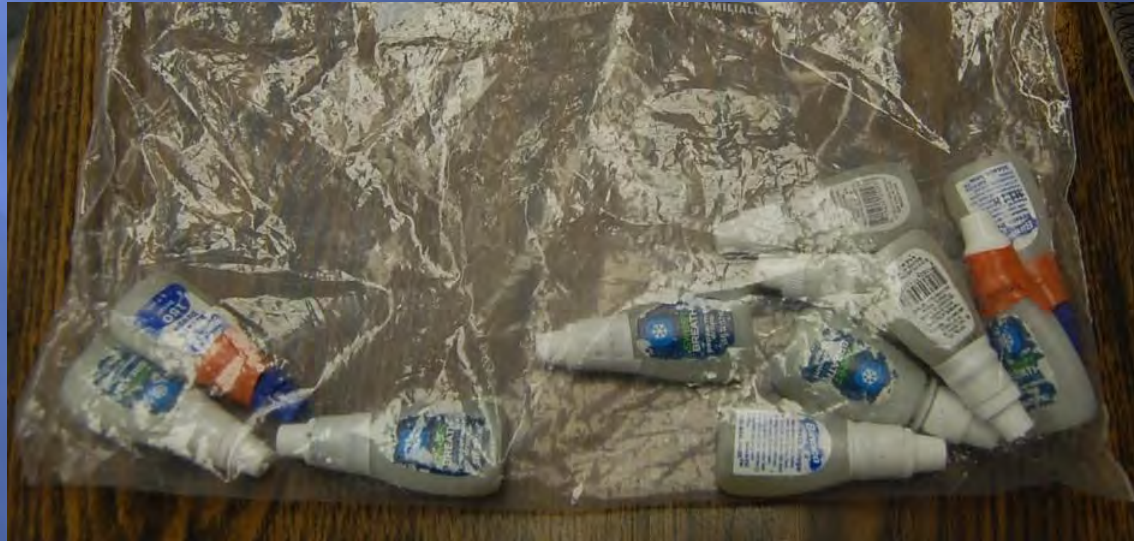
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
Operations Division / Office of
Diversion Control

Phenethylamines

- ▣ This group of hallucinogenic substances falls under the phenethylamine class of drugs, and is often marketed as MDMA and LSD
- ▣ 2-C Series compounds are powerful hallucinogens often in tablet form
- ▣ 2-C-E caused the overdose illnesses of several teenagers and young adults as well as overdose deaths.
- ▣ 25I-NBOMe - (Legal Acid, N-Bomb) often dosed on blotter paper or from “eye dropper” into mouth

25I-NBOMe and 25C-NBOMe “N-BOMB”

- ❑ Hallucinogen, abused orally or through nasal passages
- ❑ Encountered on blotter paper and in dropper bottles
- ❑ Taken as a substitute for LSD
- ❑ Linked to recent deaths



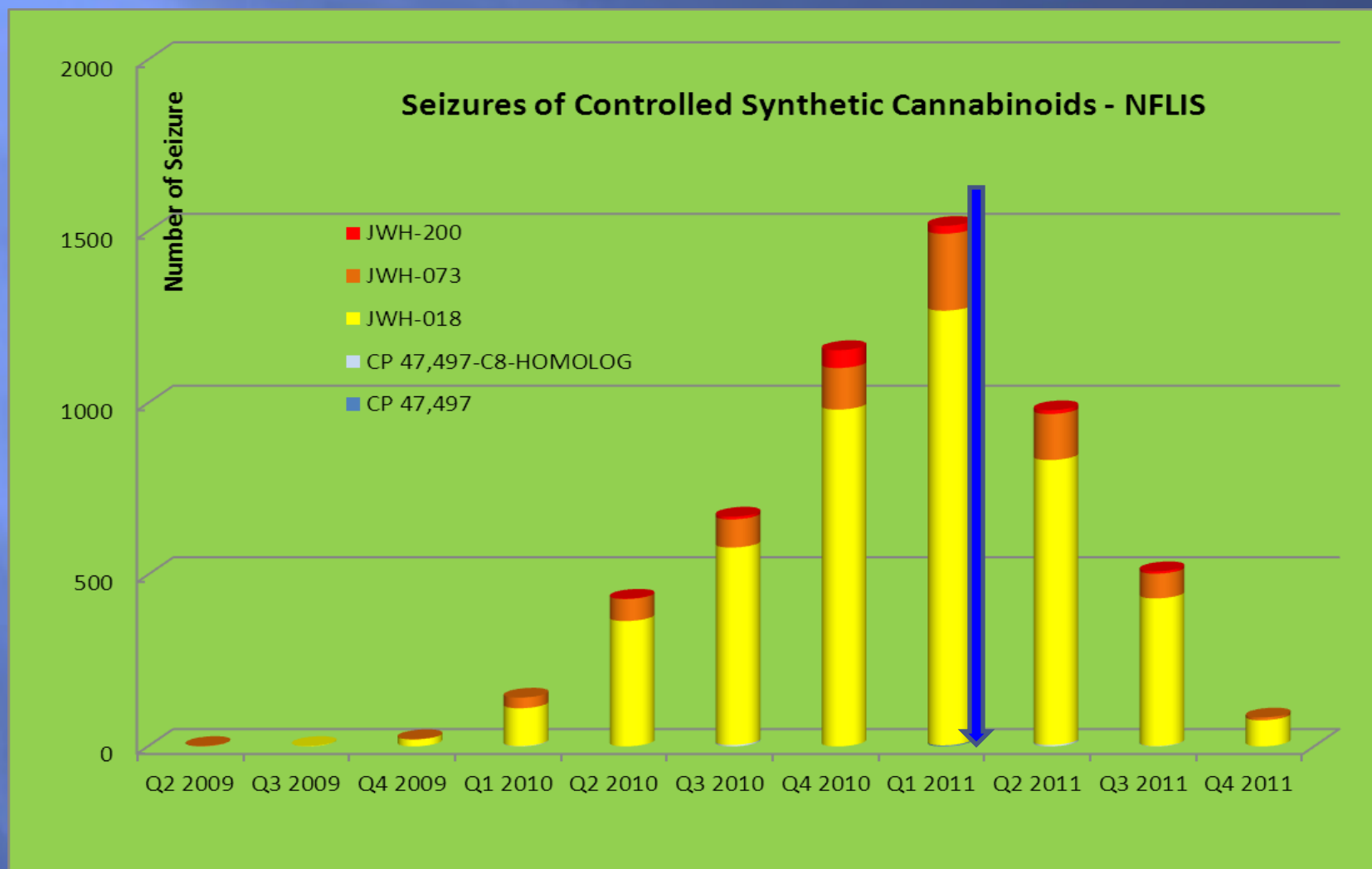
DEA Emergency Scheduling Authority

- ▣ AG finding that the scheduling of a substance in schedule I on a temporary basis is **necessary to avoid an imminent hazard to the public safety**

- ▣ Emergency (Temporary) Scheduling by DEA
 - 5 Cannabinoid Compounds (Spice)
 - March 31, 2011

 - 3 Cathinone Compounds (Bath Salts)
 - October 20, 2011

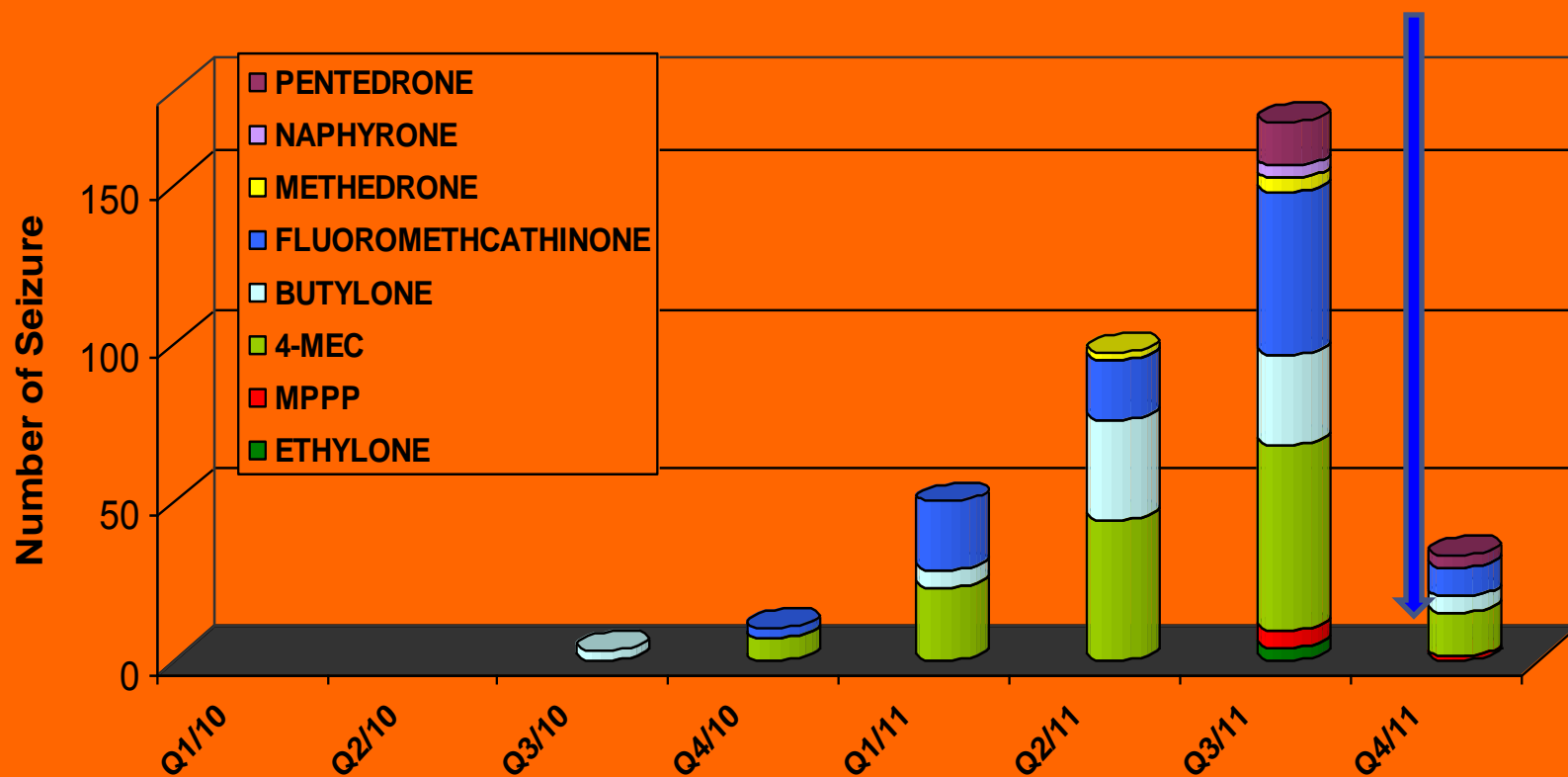
Synthetic Cannabinoids - Enforcement Encounters/Seizures/Cases



EMERGENT DRUGS - Control, Scheduling and Analogue provision
Office of Diversion Control, DEA

Synthetic Cathinones-Enforcement Encounters/Seizures/Cases

Seizures of Other Synthetic Cathinones - NFLIS



EMERGENT DRUGS - Control, Scheduling and Analogue provision
Office of Diversion Control, DEA

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Synthetic Drug Abuse Prevention Act of 2012

- signed July 9, 2012
- Fifteen (15) Synthetic Cannabinoids (Spice)
- Two (2) Substitute Cathinones (Stimulant/Hallucinogens)
 - MDPV & Mephedrone
- Nine (9) 2-C Compounds (Hallucinogens)

Plant Food, Mieow, Meow,
Meph, Mephedrone, MCAT, 4MMCa

**We don't know
the long term
effects...**

Do you?





Questions/Thank You!