

CHEMICAL HEALTH TREND CORNER:

Synthetic Drug Spice/K2

Synthetic marijuana known as K2 or spice is still around despite regulatory and legal control. States are seeing people arriving in the emergency rooms in alarming numbers and the synthetic drug has been linked to deaths around the country. Spice is 800 times stronger than real marijuana and causes severe hallucinations and elevated heart rates.

Colorado has been struggling and health professionals are saying; "If you see that a love one has any of these packages, beg them not to consume it". [Read Full Article:](#)

Our teenage girls are at risk: Human Sex Trafficking in Minnesota



Trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation is occurring at alarming rates in the United

States and in Minnesota. It has been found that the average age of a girl's entry into prostitution/sex trafficking is between 12 and 14 years old and according to one service provider, between 8,000 and

12,000 people are estimated to be involved in prostitution/sex trafficking in Minnesota every day.

It is very difficult, however, to truly know or grasp the reach of trafficking in Minnesota for several reasons, including, the clandestine nature of the crime; a misunderstanding of the definition of sex trafficking under Minnesota law; lack of reporting; barriers that victims face when seeking help; a general lack of awareness; or a lack of understanding or training by law enforcement and/or service providers on how to recognize a trafficked person, as well as the resistance of a trafficked person to self-identify or report.

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Still a concern: Synthetic "LSD," "smiles" or "N-bomb"

The emergence of an LSD-like drug has been linked to several medical emergencies among Loudoun County teens in the last several weeks, according to the county sheriff's office.

Authorities believe the drug responsible is 25i, commonly referred to as "LSD," "smiles" or "N-bomb," according to the sheriff's office. The drug mimics the appearance of LSD and has been found soaked on small squares of blotter paper, making it easier to distribute, authorities said. It can also be ingested in powder form or injected. [Read Full Article:](#)

E-cigarette - Gateway to Addiction?



A Survey of Popular Electronic Cigarette Manufacturers and their Targeted Marketing to Youth has been done. This report concludes that e-cigarette marketing, currently unregulated, is preying on kids and teens. It was based on information provided by eight e-cigarette companies as part of an investigation launched by the lawmakers last September. [Read Full Article:](#)

65 Suspected Heroin Dealers in Minnesota Arrested in 'Operation Exile'

Officials say they've struck at the heart of international drug cartels trafficking heroin in Minnesota.

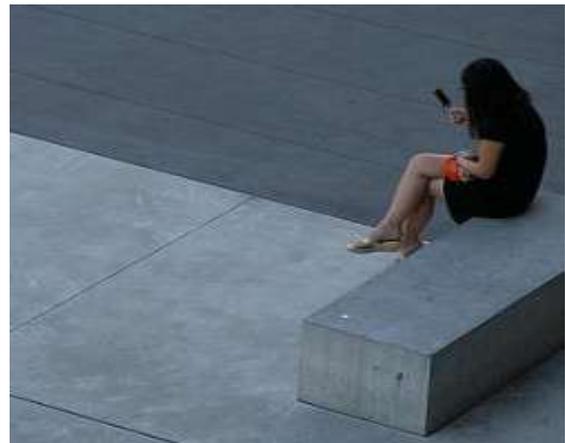
The preparation took weeks. The raids took one day. By Thursday afternoon, law enforcement agencies across Minnesota had made 65 arrests in seven counties and

seized almost five pounds of heroin along with seven firearms and \$250,000 in cash. Those numbers are expected to climb.

"Today, we sent a clear message to heroin dealers -- we do not want you in Hennepin County, they don't want you in Ramsey County, Dakota, Anoka, you name it," said Richard Stanek, the Hennepin County Sheriff. [Read Full Article:](#)

5 Signs Your Teen Is Addicted to the Smartphone

The symptoms seen in teens addicted to cell phones are similar to those observed in previous studies of people addicted to gaming and the Internet.



New research shows that teen smartphone addicts are more aggressive, anxious, withdrawn, depressed and less able to concentrate than their counterparts.

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Tracing the U.S. Heroin Surge Back South of the Border as Mexican Cannabis Output Falls

By [Nick Miroff](#)



Reuters - A soldier holds poppy plants used to make heroin during an operation in Sierra de Culiacan in the state of Sinaloa

With the wholesale price of marijuana falling — driven in part by decriminalization in sections of the United States — Mexican drug farmers are turning away from cannabis and filling their fields with opium poppies.

Along the border with Mexico, U.S. authorities seized 2,162 kilos of heroin last year, a record amount, up from 367 kilos in 2007.

The needle habit in the United States has made a strong comeback as heroin rushes into the country. Use of the drug in the United States increased 79% between 2007 and 2012, according to federal data, triggering a wave of overdose deaths and an “urgent and growing public health crisis,” Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. [warned last month.](#)

Although prescription painkillers remain more widely abused and account for far more fatal overdoses, heroin has been “moving all over the country and popping up in areas you didn’t see before,” said Carl Pike, a senior official in the Special Operations Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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Minnesota Takes Key Steps in Fight Against Opiate Abuse

Efforts to curb a wave of prescription drug abuse and addiction to other opiates marked the first full year of the Minnesota State Substance Abuse Strategy.

2013 also brought laws tightening regulations around methadone treatment centers, three new drug courts, stronger DWI sanctions and other changes in state laws and policies that align with the strategy. In addition, the Minnesota Department of Human Services and Twin Cities Public Television advanced public awareness of the issue by producing “Heroin at Home,” a three-part documentary available on the tpt and DHS websites.

“Substance abuse and its effects on health, public safety, families and the workplace are among the most critical issues facing Minnesota,” said Human Services Commissioner Lucinda Jesson.

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