

Full-Time College Students Less Likely to Use Synthetic Cannabinoids than Other Young Adults



Young adults not in college are more than twice as likely to report using synthetic cannabinoids or synthetic cathinones than those attending college full time, according to the most recent data from the national Monitoring the Future survey.

Nearly one in ten high school graduates who were one to four years out of high school reported using synthetic cannabinoids, also known as spice or K2, in the past year, compared to 4.3% of full-time college students.

Similarly, 3.5% of young adults not attending college reported using synthetic cathinones, also known as bath salts, compared to 0.2% of full-time college students.

While there are currently 18 synthetic cannabinoids and 3 synthetic cathinones illegal at the federal level, these laws are often circumvented by the production, sale, and use of new synthetic cannabinoid and cathinone metabolites not covered by current legislation.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Johnston, L.D., O'Malley, P.M., Bachman, J.G., and Schulenberg, J.E., Monitoring the Future National Survey Results on Drug Use, 1975-2012, Volume 2: College Students and Adults Ages 19-50, 2013.