

factsheet Designer Drugs

THE DRAMATIC RISE IN DESIGNER DRUGS

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Drug use has changed dramatically over the last 5 years. Today in addition to common drugs such as Cannabis and Cocaine, we have seen an enormous rise in the use of "Designer Drugs" which are chemically created to be even more potent than the drugs they mimic. Traditionally developed for audiences who wanted to test negative during random workplace drug testing their use is now widespread and with it the destruction of families.

What are Designer Drugs?

In 1988 Gary L Henderson PhD wrote his prediction for the drugs of the future which he called, designer drugs. It is likely that the future drugs of abuse will be synthetics rather than plant products. They will be synthesized from readily available chemicals, may be derivatives of pharmaceuticals, will be very potent and will be marketed very cleverly".

- 236 new drugs since 2005
- Cheaper than organic drugs
- Up to 100 times more potent
- Ordered online (693 shops)
- Limited enforcement
- Sourced outside EU
- Not actually legal
- Not detected by current drug tests

One of the important aspects is that in care proceedings as with workplace drugs testing, designer drugs are not regularly tested for and therefore are the perfect drug of choice for people seeking to avoid a positive drug result but still continue their habit.

Synthetic Cannabis

Spice, K2 and over 56 others

First detected in 2005 Synthetic cannabis is in effect plants that have been dried and then sprayed with a chemical mixture designed to provide the consumer with a drug that mimics

cannabis but with the added hallucinogenic aspect. Originally sold under the brand name "Spice" there are now new versions appearing each month. These drugs have been shown to be over 100 times more potent than medical grade cannabis.

Designer Drugs

Benzo Fury & 130 others

Benzo Fury is one of the most common designer drugs, it is a powder like substance with effects similar to amphetamines and cocaine. With over 130 known versions of these drugs and counting underground labs tweak with the formula as soon as one is detected and made illegal.

Co-Drugs

The next range of drugs hitting the market are called "Co-Drugs" such as Opioid-cannabinoids with enhanced analgesic and pharmacokinetic profiles. Which is basically a drug designed to combine the effects of heroin, cannabis and pain killers.

In other words people are no longer satisfied with traditional drugs and are looking for something more. Given that Pain killers are the most abused drug after alcohol in makes sense for them to be included in these co-drugs.

With Care Proceedings

Responsibility

One of the aspects of consideration is the ability for the parent to be responsible and take care of the child. For this reason many cases involve hair drug testing to determine if an individual has been abusing drugs.

However designer drugs and synthetic cannabis is not often considered let alone ordered by court due to a lack of awareness of this growing shift in drug abuse.

With these drugs being just as potent if not more potent than their organic relatives, it is perhaps worth more consideration when determining what should be tested.

Can an individual on an unknown concoction of designer drugs really be fit to care for a child unless they get the help and support to come off?

The other aspect is when one partner is sure the other is abusing a drug yet a test comes back negative, could it be a designer drug is being used?



Testing Options

Synthetic Cannabis

A wide screen for over 24 synthetic cannabis compounds is available through DNA Worldwide in hair, blood and urine.

Designer Drugs

With new testing methods coming online weekly the current screen offers 34 different designer drug compounds covering the most abused substances at present.



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