Bath Salts and Synthetic Cannabinoids
What Are Bath Salts?

• Collectively called ‘Bath Salts,’ sold as Purple Wave, Vanilla Sky, Bliss, etc.

• May be sold as bath salts, but not the same chemical compound as Epsom Salt (magnesium sulfate) or other legitimate water-soluble therapies.
What Are Bath Salts?

• Bath Salts are used similar to amphetamine.
• Made synthetically.
• Chemically designed to mirror cathinones (triggers release of dopamine in user).

Cathinone

Amphetamine
Derived from Catha edulis plant

KHAT
(aka: Arabian tea, qat, gat, qaat, jaad, chat or jimma)

Contains natural cathinone.
Cathinone Origin

• Chewed since the 14th century throughout Middle East and Africa.

• An amphetamine-like central nervous system stimulant.
Synthetic Cathinones

• Mephedrone
  – 4-methylephedrone or 4-MMC.
  – 1929 first synthesized.
  – Reintroduced in 2003.
  – Found in illicit “Bath Salts” and other products (2008-present).
MDPV (Methylenedioxypyrovalerone)

- First synthesized in 1968, patented to counteract chronic fatigue.
- Problems of abuse and dependence.
- Found in illicit “Bath Salts” (2009-present).
How Do Bath Salts Appear?

- Powder form in small plastic or foil packages containing 200-500mg.
- One hit is about 10mg.
- Mephedrone is a fine white, off-white, or slightly yellow powder.
- Also found in tablet and capsule form.
- Mislabeled to appear as legal products.
How Do Bath Salts Appear?

• Herbal treatment.
• Incense.
• Plant food or fertilizer.
• Insect repellant.
• Pond cleaner.
• Vacuum freshener.
How Are They Used?

• They are usually ingested by sniffing/snorting.
• Taken orally.
• Smoked.
• Made into a solution and injected intravenously.
What Are The Desired Effects of Bath Salts?

• An euphoric high with a rush, similar to cocaine, Ecstasy, or methamphetamine.
• Appetite suppression.
• Stimulant used by students as a study aid.
What Are The Adverse Effects?

- Foaming at the mouth
- Breathing rapidly
- Extremely rapid heart rate
- Resisting treatment
- Incoherent Speech
- Combative
- Hallucinating
- Anxious and paranoid
- Increase in body temperature
- Continuous movement
Synthetic Cannabinoids

• Better known as “fake marijuana.”
• Made up of plant material (herbs, flowers, stems, leaves).
• Sprayed with chemicals that mimic tetrahydrocannabinol or THC.
• Chemical attaches itself to the cannabinoid, or CB, receptors in the brain.
Synthetic Cannabinoids
New Emerging Drug
"Pump-It Powder"

- Latest synthetic drug to be manufactured.
- Trade names such as Geranamine and Floradrene known as methylhexanamine.
- Developed April 1944, Eli Lilly and Co. as a nasal decongestant.
- Two soldiers died in 2010 had methylhexanamine in their system.
- Popular in the Midwest and plains states.
Side Effects

- Seizures.
- Hallucinations.
- Paranoia.
- Heart rate, body temperature, and the internal clock will all be accelerated.
- Pupils will dilate and may exhibit sluggishness in response to direct light.
Concerns

• $30 for a tin container packed with the powder.

• Snorted or "bumped," injected, or smoked:
  – drug's high is somewhat delayed.
  – prompts users to "bump" a double or triple dose because the onset of effects is not felt right away.
  – high will last for 4-6 hours.
Law Enforcement Action

• Some local sellers on a voluntary basis gave up their supply of synthetics which totaled over $100,000 worth of product.
• Continuing with seizure of synthetics from possession or distribution.
• Placing appropriate criminal charges when presented.
• Continue with Public Education and Awareness.
Law Enforcement Action

• July 9, 2012 President signed a Bill banning several types of synthetic drugs, including synthetic marijuana.
• Outlaws similar compounds that may be produced in the future.
• Prohibits any other synthetics that may have different chemical formulas but produce the same effects.
Law Enforcement Action

• The law enumerates 30 compounds that are explicitly banned, including...
  – 20 from the list are synthetic marijuana varieties.
  – 10 that are bath salts.
Law Enforcement/Public Concern

• No consistency of same chemical compound in same packaging.
• Manufacturers continue to alter the chemical compounds to stay ahead of Federal/State Laws.
• Internet orders.
• Black Market distribution.