



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Alabama hospital visits for synthetic cannabinoid use in Alabama decline, ADPH discontinues weekly case reporting

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Alabama Department of Public Health has discontinued the reporting of synthetic cannabinoid (spice) usage due to the decline in numbers of cases seen over the past weeks.

Assistant State Health Officer Dr. Mary McIntyre said, "We have reached what we believe to be a baseline in numbers of people seen for suspected cannabinoid use in Alabama hospitals. If hospitals see an upsurge in patients reporting these symptoms, however, we are asking that public health be contacted. We continue to urge people not to use these dangerous substances."

During the week of May 19-26, Alabama hospitals reported seeing 27 patients suspected of using synthetic cannabinoids known as spice, and 13 were hospitalized. These unsafe illegal substances are being used alone or in combination with other drugs. A total of 58 patients had been seen and 22 hospitalized in Alabama during the previous week, May 12-18.

People under the influence of synthetic cannabinoids may exhibit bizarre and violent behavior that can endanger not only themselves but others around them.