

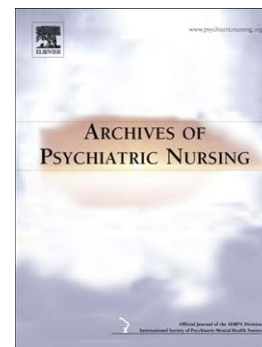
## Accepted Manuscript

Designer Drugs and the Impact on the Adolescent User

Sandra Lavelle

PII: S0883-9417(16)00019-4  
DOI: doi: [10.1016/j.apnu.2016.01.009](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apnu.2016.01.009)  
Reference: YAPNU 50813

To appear in: *Archives of Psychiatric Nursing*



Please cite this article as: Lavelle, S., Designer Drugs and the Impact on the Adolescent User, *Archives of Psychiatric Nursing* (2016), doi: [10.1016/j.apnu.2016.01.009](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apnu.2016.01.009)

This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting proof before it is published in its final form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

Sandra Lavelle

8200:663

### Designer Drugs and the Impact on the Adolescent User

When one hears the phrase “designer drugs,” often times one draws to mind the newest drug craze that has hit the streets. However, there is a much deeper essence of designer drugs. American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language defines a designer drug as one that is synthesized to have properties similar to a known hallucinogen or narcotic but having a slightly altered chemical structure, usually in order to evade restrictions against illegal substances (2011). Designer drugs have their earliest emersion in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century with the discovery of Heroin. Heroin was introduced as the “safe, non-addictive” alternative to Morphine – which had already proven to be a social problem due to its lack of regulation and widespread use (Moore, 2014).

Then in the 60s and 70s, new synthetic drugs were introduced. Of the more note-worthy were LSD (Lysergic acid diethylamide) and PCP (Phencyclidine.) No medical use for LSD was ever incorporated and PCP, used initially until 1965 as an anesthetic was also subjected to being “re-synthesized” as ketamine – a derivative of PCP – which is still utilized today as an anesthetic and in treatment resistant major depression (Leister, 2014 & Morris & Wallach, 2014).

When the term “designer drug” was first coined in the 1980s it was amid the War on Drugs and the Controlled Substances Penalties Amendment Act of 1984. During this time drugs like Ecstasy and the resurgence of crystal meth were seen as the new dangers of the times with the synthesizing of the amphetamine molecule (TheDEA.org: The History of MDMA & [http://www.crystalmethaddiction.org/History\\_of\\_Crystal\\_Meth.htm](http://www.crystalmethaddiction.org/History_of_Crystal_Meth.htm)).

All the rage in 21<sup>st</sup> century, designer drugs are intended to produce a more intense high, using less drug and lasting longer than the natural substance. Of the popular natural substances being synthesized are those of the khat plant found indigenously in Somalia and marijuana (Venhuis, Blok-Tip, & deKaste, 2008).

Even as recent as this year new drugs are becoming popular synthesizing the natural chemical cathinone found in the khat plant. Flakka, the cousin of so-called “bath salts” has been made available recently in the state of Florida (<http://www.physiciansbriefing.com/Article.asp?AID=698492>). What makes bath salts and flakka so dangerous is the inhibition of re-uptake of dopamine and norepinephrine. This results in an excited delirium coupled with the dysregulation of body temperature resulting in extreme fevers as high as 106 degrees, resulting in muscle damage, cardiac and brain damage.

Additionally, use of synthetic cannabinoids have been on the rise. Cannabinoids known as “Spice,” “K2,” and “Dabs” have been reported as being steadily increasing in popularity with increased abuse reported from January 2011 through April of 2012 (Burke, 2013). These synthetic cannabinoids are reported to be anywhere from 4 -800 times more potent than the THC found in marijuana. This results in an exaggerated psychoactive state with frightening, unwanted and at times life-threatening hallucinations (Harris & Brown, 2013). Along with these hallucinations, abusers can also experience seizures, hypertension, tachycardia, increased risk for

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/314865>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/314865>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)