

# SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS (INCLUDING 5F-ADB)

## WHAT IS IT?

Synthetic cannabinoids bind to the same brain receptors as CBD and THC. But, they are artificially produced, often to avoid legal restrictions on cannabis.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Synthetic cannabinoids mimic natural cannabinoids like CBD and THC, but are much more potent cannabinoid receptor agonists. Some may have additional activity in the body on serotonin and NMDA receptors.

## DOSAGE

Dosage varies greatly based on the synthetic cannabinoid used, and how it is consumed. Most synthetic cannabinoids appear to be roughly 10x the strength of THC, making these potent at doses of under 1 mg.

## ONSET / DURATION

Synthetic cannabinoids have quick onset and offset if smoked or vaporized – the total duration is about 1 hour. If taken orally, the duration is likely closer to 2 hours.

## EFFECTS

At low doses, synthetic cannabinoids likely behave similarly to THC or CBD to provide relaxation, euphoria, and mild psychedelic effects. At higher doses they can result in anxiety and paranoia. In very severe cases they can cause seizures and overdoses.

## WHAT ARE WE FINDING?

Recently, we have found the synthetic cannabinoid 5F-ADB in down samples. These samples would typically only contain fentanyl, sometimes benzodiazepines, and caffeine and sugars. These mixtures can result in very high dosages of synthetic cannabinoids when using a typical 'point' of down (100mg), even if they are present at only trace concentrations. We have never found synthetic cannabinoids sprayed onto cannabis bud or in cannabis edibles. At substance, analysis of samples with this much organic matter or spread throughout gummies that are mostly syrup and gelatin can be challenging. However, we always recommend testing cannabis samples with adverse effects or any other samples you suspect may contain synthetic cannabinoids.

## HARM REDUCTION

- Start low and go slow! There is very little dosage information on synthetic cannabinoids.
- If you can, use around someone you trust. If the person with you is also using substances, consider staggering your use so you can be more alert to support each other.
- Create an environment where you feel comfortable and safe, if possible.
- Avoid mixing with other substances. Mixing with other psychedelics and stimulants (cocaine, amphetamines, etc.) can increase the risk of anxiety.
- Test cannabis products for the presence of synthetic cannabinoids if you are unsure of their source.


## MORE INFO

- [https://psychonautwiki.org/wiki/Synthetic\\_cannabinoid](https://psychonautwiki.org/wiki/Synthetic_cannabinoid)
- <https://psychonautwiki.org/wiki/AB-FUBINACA>

## CONTACT US

**Call/text:** 250-415-7637

**Website:** [substance.uvic.ca](https://substance.uvic.ca)

 : @SubstanceUVic

 : @drugcheckingvi

