

## NOTHING TO SMILE ABOUT

Illegal drugs are well known for having unusual names, but perhaps none is as ironic or creepy as the new synthetic drug called “smiles.” This dangerous, unpredictable substance is cropping up across the country, as it causes users to inflict severe harm on themselves and even take their own lives. In the continuing battle that law enforcement fights against synthetic drugs, smiles seems to be even more dangerous than recent well-known versions like bath salts and spice. While the intended effects of smiles are bad enough, the high risk of overdose and harm to other people make it one of the greatest drug threats to young people today.

## WHAT IT'S MADE OF

The technical name of this compound is 2C-I, an abbreviation of its chemical makeup. Smiles is particularly dangerous because it combines several different chemicals, each of which produces a different, unnatural effect on the body or mind. It is primarily a hallucinogen, causing the user to see, hear, feel, and experience things outside reality. The other component of the drug is a stimulant, which boosts the body's energy, anxiety, and adrenaline. The hazards of this

combination are obvious: a person that is on a hallucinogenic high but also feels an unnatural increase in energy is highly likely to do things that put himself and others in danger.

## APPEARANCE

It can be difficult to recognize smiles as opposed to other synthetic drugs. It comes in the form of a coarse white grain and looks a lot like table salt, just as many similar drugs do. In fact, mistaken identity among synthetic drugs is a common cause of overdosing. Because there is no regulation of production or consequences for those that make mistakes when selling the drugs, anyone who takes what they think is smiles is putting himself in danger before a high even starts.



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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Go to [www.intheknowzone.com](http://www.intheknowzone.com) for more information on substance abuse. Increase your knowledge using the information, statistics, images, and links. Test your understanding with a quick quiz.

**Don't stay in the dark.  
Get In the Know!**

**in the know**

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**SMILES**  
*Synthetic Fear*





EFFECTS

When the drug works “according to plan,” the user loses touch with reality for anywhere between four and twelve hours. During this period, the mental effects are unpredictable; many people report that their hallucinations quickly switch from pleasant to terrifying. To onlookers, the most obvious physical symptoms are dilated eyes and relaxed muscle activity. Because the drug increases blood pressure, the risk for heart problems like stroke rises greatly with use.

Organ damage and uncontrollable seizures are well-documented long-term effects of using smiles. The brain easily becomes addicted to the feeling of a high and feels like it needs more in order to be happy. There are certainly many other negative effects on

health, but since the drug is fairly new and research is limited, we may not know about them until enough victims have suffered them. Don’t let yourself be one of those test subjects!



SECONDARY DANGERS

The dangers of being high on smiles are illustrated by many disturbing examples. Young people have watched in horror as their friends took their own lives violently, beating themselves against the ground or objects around them until their bodies simply shut down. As many hallucinogenic drugs do, smiles causes its victims to see a skewed version of reality and do things that are irrational and dangerous to themselves and others. Experimenting with this drug threatens not just you, but everyone around you as well: the only thing worse than dying from the effects of a drug is waking up to find that you have killed an innocent victim while under its influence.

The first hit of 2C-I might be offered to you free of charge, but rest assured that won’t be the case in the future. A victim of smiles will often do whatever it takes, including hurting others, in order to get enough money for the next drug fix.

OVERDOSE

As powerful as smiles is under normal circumstances, an overdose is almost always disastrous. Tragically, the unsupervised nature of illegal drug manufacturing and sale means that people make mistakes or intentionally mislabel drugs before they make it into the hands of the final users. You may think you are only taking a very small dose, but if the maker of the drug didn’t get his proportions just right, you could



easily end up getting far more than you planned on. Are you really willing to trust a criminal you don’t even know with the power to send you to a horrible, violent death?

LEGAL ISSUES

While many synthetic drugs are technically legal for a brief amount of time before the government classifies them, 2C-I is automatically a Schedule I drug (illegal under all circumstances) because of the chemicals in it. Using it, selling it, and simply owning it are punishable by very severe fines, jail time, and mandatory treatment programs. These consequences wreak havoc on one’s ability to finish school or get a job—even many years after the incident occurred.

PEER PRESSURE

Because smiles is the “new” drug making the rounds at parties and clubs right now, there is a high level of peer pressure associated with it. If you are approached by

someone that suggests you try it for yourself, make sure you balance the pros and cons of doing so. If you decide to try the drug, you might enjoy some temporary acceptance into a group of people that clearly have no concern for your safety, health, or future. But the legal and physical consequences of using smiles are very high, even when compared to other drugs, and those are just the consequences we know about so far.

STAY AWAY FROM SMILES

Synthetic drugs give the impression of being “safer” than more well-known substances like cocaine, heroin, and LSD. The truth is that they are often even more dangerous, due to their unpredictable effects, less than careful manufacturing, and the ease of overdosing or mistaking the drug for something else. Take the advice of the United States, the Eurozone, and countries all over the world that have taken an absolute no-tolerance stand on smiles: putting your life and your friends’ lives at risk by getting high on it is never worth it.



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