



Crime Analysis Report



511 S. State St. Room 205, Syracuse, NY

ocaccancel@syracusepolice.org

315-442-5645

Syracuse Police Department: Approach to Synthetic Drugs (SPIKE) Problem

Beginning in 2013 the Syracuse Police Department (SPD) responded to an increase in use and subsequent overdoses of synthetic marijuana (spike). SPD implemented various means of tracking the problem in addition to the police response to it. In 2015 Syracuse saw the largest number of overdoses from use of synthetic marijuana; the largest number of overall calls for service, calls for service related to overall overdoses and persons down; and also made the largest number of arrests related to the substance. Specific actions taken by SPD as well as measurements of the problem are listed below, and supporting documents are attached.

Spike Overdose Report

-In 2013 SPD created the Overdose Report (Form 13.9) to track spike-related overdoses in the RMS. In September 2014 this report was discontinued after a more efficient process was created.

-see *MO 2014-16_Overdose Report (pg3)* // *MO 2014-16 Discontinued Overdose Report (pg4)*

Court Information

-In April 2014 SPD circulated the Court Information for NYS Public Health Law 229.00 Sanitary Code Violation as well as a DEA publication to inform Officers of existing knowledge regarding spike.

-see *DOC043014 (pg5-6)*

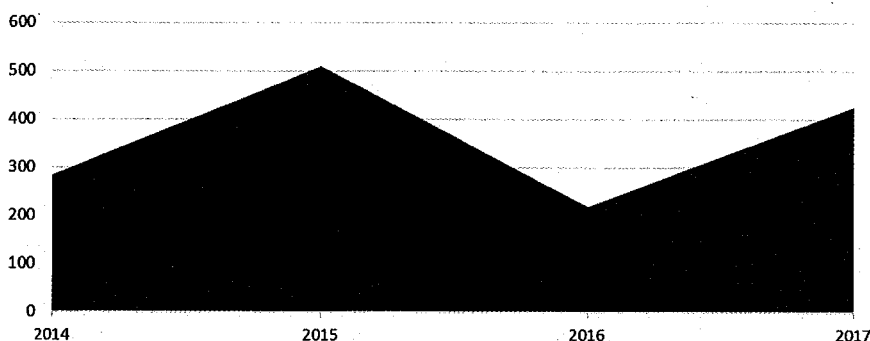
Local Law Ticket

-In July 2014 SPD created an arrest appearance ticket (simplified court information) for synthetic drugs to aid in documentation and the ability of Officers to make arrests.

-see *MO 2014-24 (pg7)* and *Spike 29_38 (pg8)*

-Overall, from 2014 to 2017 there were 1436 arrests for this charge

Spike Arrests



HIDTA Intelligence Report

In April 2015 an Intelligence Report was drafted by a local HIDTA representative regarding the recent increase in spike overdoses. Information from NYS Poison Control indicated there were 30 overdoses in two days. A possible source of dangerous spike was identified and a bulletin was released to local law enforcement.

-see *IntelApril2015 (pg9-10)*

Consequences & Notice to Businesses

-In May 2015 the District Attorney sent a letter to local businesses warning them of the dangers of spike and the consequences for their involvement in its distribution

-see *DA Letter (pg11)*

-In May 2015 spike and bath salt charges were added to Nuisance Abatement and Certificate of Use

-see *Nuisance Abatement (pg12)* and *Certificate of Use (pg13-14)*

Lab Analysis

-In May 2015 the Center for Forensic Sciences reported that a spike substance recovered did qualify as a controlled substance listed in the NYS Public Health Law

-see *Lab Result (pg15)*

Narrative continued on pg2



315-442-5645

Crime Analysis Report

ocaccancel@syracusepolice.org

511 S. State St. Room 205, Syracuse, NY

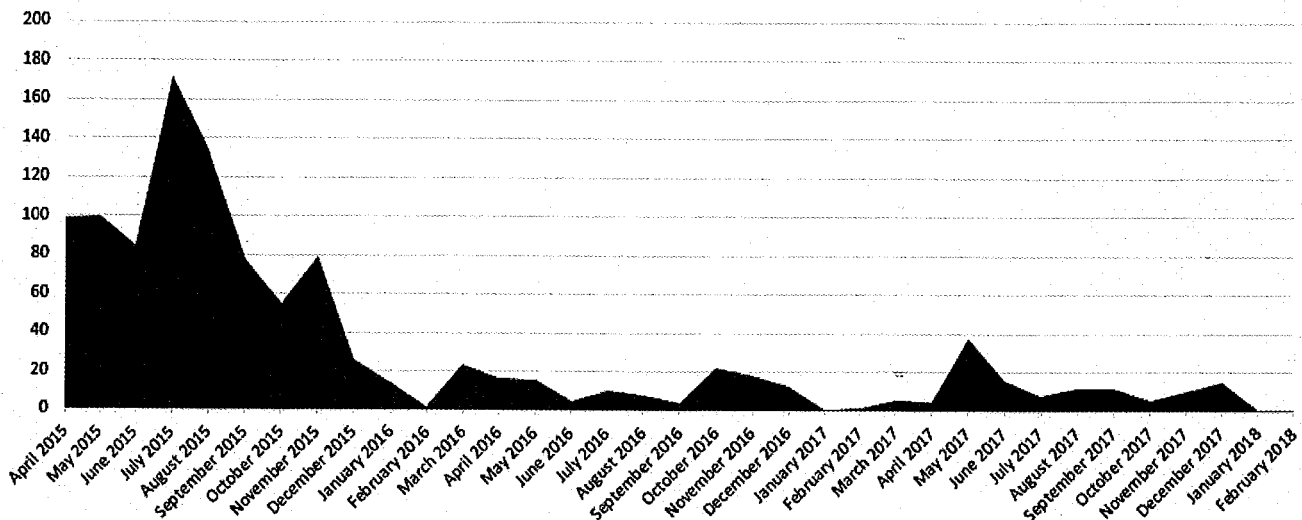


Syracuse Police Department: Approach to Synthetic Drugs (SPIKE) Problem

Tracking Overdoses

-In April 2015 SPD and the Onondaga Crime Analysis Center (OCAC) created a database to track all overdoses that were reported to the police. The data includes spike and other drug overdoses, and is maintained currently by a HIDTA Analyst at OCAC. The highest amount of spike overdoses occurred in the summer of 2015.

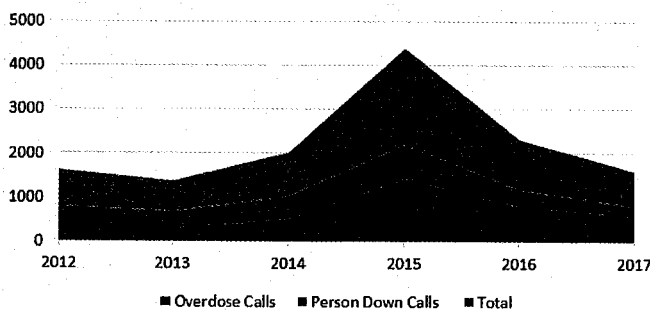
Total "Spike" Overdoses by Month
from 4/13/2015 - 2/15/2018



Tracking Police Response to Overdoses

-SPD and the Onondaga Crime Analysis Center (OCAC) track police reports of overdoses and persons down based on calls for service data. The data includes all types of overdoses and reasons for a person down. The peak in the number of related calls coincides with the peak in reported overdoses of spike overall. There was also a peak in calls for service of all types during the same time frame.

Overdose and Person Down Calls for Service by
Year



Total Calls for Service by Year

