

# NATIONAL SYNTHETIC DRUGS ACTION PLAN

*The Federal Government Response to the  
Production, Trafficking, and Abuse of Synthetic  
Drugs and Diverted Pharmaceutical Products*



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**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY  
Washington, D.C. 20503**



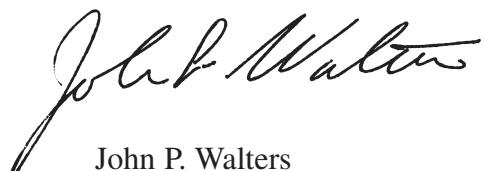
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The United States faces an array of drugs of abuse. Many, such as cocaine, heroin, and marijuana have confronted us for decades. We have developed programs and initiatives to combat these drugs—to prevent use, treat the addicted, and disrupt production and the marketplace for drugs. The significant threat to the nation posed by synthetic drugs, especially methamphetamine and MDMA, or “Ecstasy,” is a more recent phenomenon. Initial efforts to confront synthetic drugs are already showing results. As demonstrated by the findings of the most recent National Survey on Drug Use and Health (formerly known as the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse) and the 2003 Monitoring the Future study, when we collectively push back, the synthetic drugs threat also will decline.

A related threat is the growth in nonmedical use of pharmaceutical controlled substances. Diversion of these legitimate drugs is fueled in part by easy access over the Internet. The most recent NSDUH and other data indicate that we continue to confront increased use of such drugs, notably pain relievers and tranquilizers. This document recommends some new approaches to address this challenge.

This Action Plan is designed both to convey the seriousness of the challenges posed by synthetic drugs and diverted pharmaceuticals and to outline specific steps the federal government will take in the future to capitalize on recent successes and accelerate our national efforts against these harmful substances. Through the recommendations in this Action Plan and with the active engagement of our partners in state and local government, we intend to move aggressively in the coming years. To facilitate follow-up, this Action Plan creates a high-level interagency working group to ensure that these recommendations are implemented as effectively and rapidly as possible.

This document is a product of the hard work of the Department of Justice Criminal Division’s Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Section, in cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Administration and several other agencies, and in consultation with various components of the Department of Health and Human Services. We are grateful for their efforts. The Action Plan represents an important step forward in our nation’s effort to control dangerous synthetic drugs and pharmaceutical products and, moreover, in the continued achievement of the objectives set forth in the President’s National Drug Control Strategy.



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