

# Drug Policy Alliance

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

**<https://drugpolicy.org/resource/novel-psychoactive-substances-nps-establish-restrictions-dont-criminalize-them>**

## Policy Issue Resources

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A series of synthetic products have emerged that simulate the effects of prohibited drugs like marijuana, ecstasy (MDMA), opioids, cocaine and methamphetamine. Often called legal highs or research chemicals and largely unregulated, these drugs may cause considerably more harm than the substances they are designed to mimic. While states and Congress have rushed to prohibit these chemicals, manufacturers have simply invented new variations of the same substances to skirt the bans. DPA advocates for the responsible regulation of new synthetic drugs and for ending drug war policies like marijuana prohibition that have led to the emergence of these substances.

Sign up to receive action alerts and news about drug policy reform.

Get tips for covering the war on drugs and download DPA staff photos, logos, marijuana stock photos and b-roll video.

Our new strategic plan takes bold steps to dismantle this war on drugs and our communities. Join us in seeing this vision through.

Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter to get an inside look at DPA and the world of drug policy reform.

**We are  
the Drug  
Policy  
Alliance.**