TREATMENT ADMISSIONS WITH MARIJUANA AS THE PRIMARY SUBSTANCE OF ABUSE

Ages 12-17 (142,646 people)

*Source: SAMHSA, 2005 Treatment Episode Data Set*

Here are the Facts …

* The teen brain is more vulnerable to damage from substances since their brains are not fully developed until age 25.
* Marijuana use among youth can decrease I.Q. up to 8 points.
* 1 in 6 adolescents who try marijuana will become addicted to it.

 **Myths vs. Facts**

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| Marijuana is Harmless | Marijuana is more potent than ever before and leads to a host of problems at a crucial time in the lives of young people. |
| You Can’t Get Addicted | Scientific Research shows marijuana leads to dependency and addiction. |
| It is just a plant | Research shows marijuana use causes changes to the brain, problems with learning, effects on mental health and lung damage. |
| It doesn’t make you lose control | It affects many skill required for safe driving and other tasks and can last for up to 4 hours. Research shows a link between frequent use and violent behavior. |
| It isn’t popular among youth | Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug in the United States. |
| There isn’t much parents can do to stop youths from experimenting | Parents are the most powerful influence. 2/3 of all youths (13-17) say losing their parents’ respect is a main reason not to use drugs. |

As another April 20 approaches, we are faced with concerns from students, parents, and community members about a repeat of prior year's 4/20 events –

Where does “420” come from and what does it mean?

There are many myths and rumors but the truth is many pot smokers around the world celebrate every April 20. 420 started somewhere in San Rafael, California in the late '70s. It started as the police code for Marijuana Smoking in Progress. After local heads heard of the police call, they started using the expression 420 when referring to herb – ‘Let's Go 420, dude!’ The origin of 420 had nothing to do with a police code, though the San Rafael part was dead-on. A group of five San Rafael High School friends known as the Waldos -- by virtue of their chosen hangout spot, a wall outside the school -- coined the term in 1971. It started with 4:20 pm as the time to meet to smoke pot. It evolved into the ‘code’ 420 so parents, teachers and others wouldn’t know what they were planning!

***Be aware if you hear your teen or their friends discussing “420” - - - they may be up to something!***