



FOR THE PREVENTION OF ALCOHOL
AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Did You Know

April 2016

April is the month that houses the infamous day, 420. As an adult, 420 or April 20th may just seem like another day on the calendar, but to tweens and teens it is “National Weed Day.” National Weed Day, or 420, pronounced four-twenty, is thought to have begun back in the 1970s in California with a group of high school students who every day after school at 4:20pm went in search of an abandoned marijuana crop. With the help of High Times magazine the term quickly gained popularity and was a term often used and spread by Grateful Dead followers who traveled throughout the country to follow their beloved band. These days the term 420 is used by rap stars, high school students, and politicians alike.

Facts about 420:

- There are large-scale events held throughout the country each year on April 20th where people gather to smoke marijuana and get high.
- Some of the largest events take place in Colorado where recreational marijuana use has become legal.
- Many celebrities and even some politicians take part in these events.
- 420 is celebrated all around Western New York, but much more in secret than it is in other parts of the country. Every year you can hear students in schools all over WNY referring to the infamous day.
- Rap artists and musicians sing about it and some even have 420 tattoos!
- There are many myths about where and how the term “420” began, but the story above is the truth (according to several sources).
- Each member of the group of high school students who coined the term “420” are now in their late 50s and have successful careers. One of the original members, Steve Capper, explains why he rarely smokes pot anymore:

"I've got to run a business. I've got to stay sharp. It seems like everybody I know who smokes daily or many times in a week, it seems like there's always something going wrong with their life, professionally or in their relationships or financially or something."

What you can do:

- Understand what the term 420 means so if you hear a teen or tween talking about it you know what they are referring to.
- If you are a parent, talk to your child about the risks associated with marijuana. For more information on the risks, you can visit teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-facts/marijuana.
- If you are a member of school personnel, be on extra alert for students who may be taking part in 420 festivities.

Sources: www.huffingtonpost.com

USE for PRESS RELEASE More info: Erica J. Boyce 716-831-2298 ejboyce@eccpasa.org

The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Inc., publishes Did You Know, a regular update about alcohol & other drugs - - America's #1 public health problem. ECCPASA • 1625 Hertel Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216 • 716-831-2298 • www.eccpasa.org