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Alcohol and Drugs Abound in Pop? Who Knew?

By THE NEW YORK TIMES

Lyrics about drugs, alcohol and tobacco pervade popular music in the United States, according to a study published in the journal Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, Reuters reported. The report of a team led by Dr. Brian Primack of the [University of Pittsburgh](#) School of Medicine and released on Monday calculated that Americans from ages 15 to 18 listening to 2.4 hours of music a day hear 84 references to substances daily and more than 30,000 annually. About two-thirds of the references put drugs, alcohol and tobacco in a positive light by associating them with sex, partying and humor, the study said. Some genres, like rap and country in comparison with pop, have more references than others. The team used Billboard charts to identify the most popular songs of 2005, based on sales and airplay. They selected the 279 most popular from country, pop, R&B, rap and rock to examine for references to drugs, alcohol and tobacco. One third had explicit references; 42 percent had some kind of substance abuse reference. Jonathan Lamy, a spokesman for the [Recording Industry Association of America](#), said, "While we have not had the opportunity to thoroughly assess the study, it's important to note that music is generally a reflection of society." He noted that albums carry parental advisory logos.

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