

Teens who listen to 'stoner music', with lyrics about marijuana use, more likely to smoke pot: study

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Barbara Peacock Teens who listen to songs that mention marijuana are nearly twice as likely to have tried the drug than their peers, a recent study found.

If your teen's music tastes run toward lyrics that mention marijuana, he's more likely to smoke pot, new research suggests.

Teens who listen to music that mentions the drug often are much more likely to use it, according to the study, which was reported on [Msnbc.com](#).

The study, published online in the journal *Addiction*, focused on 959 ninth-graders. The average study participant listened to 21.8 hours of music weekly and heard some 40 marijuana references daily, according to [Msnbc.com](#).

Some 12% of the participants said they were current marijuana users, and 32% said they had tried the drug previously.

"Students who listen to music with the most references to marijuana are almost twice as likely to have used the drug than their peers whose musical tastes favor songs less focused on substance use," said [University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine](#) researcher [Dr. Brian Primack](#), the study leader.

The researchers noted that exposure to marijuana in music was not associated with other high-risk behaviors such as excessive alcohol consumption. "This suggests that there is a real link between the marijuana lyrics and marijuana use," Primack said.

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Does that mean you should start to monitor (and censor) your kid's music? No, said [Dr. Shari Corbitt](#), senior executive director at [Promises Treatment Centers](#). Other factors such as peer pressure and disruptions in the family's routine are much more likely to encourage smoking pot, she said.

"Just listening to music lyrics in isolation is not the specific problem," Corbitt said. "Kids aren't listening to certain music lyrics and running out and buying bags of marijuana. What we find is that the great influencing factors for pot use with adolescents are peer groups and disruptions in their family or origin."

Family problems could be anything from a divorce to medical issues with a parent, she said.

"The study suggests that certain music lyrics gives the whole culture of smoking marijuana a certain positive cachet," Corbitt said. "It is more likely to be family problems, isolation and the lack of support from parents who may be dealing with their own stressors and who may not know how to reach out and access services for their teen."

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