

New User? Register | Sign In | Help

Make Y! Your Homepage

Yahoo!

Mail

YAHOO! NEWS

Search

Web Search

HOME U.S. BUSINESS WORLD ENTERTAINMENT SPORTS TECH POLITICS SCIENCE HEALTH OPINION MOST POPULAR

Health Video Weight Loss Sexual Health Medications/Drugs Parenting/Kids Seniors/Aging Diseases/Conditions Vitality

Search All News

News Search

TRENDING NOW:

brett favre

egg recall

gm recall

five guys burgers

china

southwest airlines



SECOND ACT: A sandwich that lasts a year? It's called a 'Candwich'

Study: 1 in 5 US teenagers has slight hearing loss

AP Associated Press

Buzz up! 69 votes

Share

retweet 55

Email

Print

By CARLA K. JOHNSON, AP Medical Writer – Tue Aug 17, 9:31 pm ET

CHICAGO – A stunning one in five teens has lost a little bit of hearing, and the problem has increased substantially in recent years, a new national study has found.

Some experts are urging teenagers to turn down the volume on their digital music players, suggesting loud music through earbuds may be to blame — although hard evidence is lacking. They warn that slight [hearing loss](#) can cause problems in school and set the stage for hearing aids in later life.

"Our hope is we can encourage people to be careful," said the study's senior author, Dr. Gary Curhan of Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

The researchers analyzed data on 12- to 19-year-olds from a nationwide health survey. They compared hearing loss in nearly 3,000 kids tested from 1988-94 to nearly 1,800 kids tested over 2005-06.



AP — In this Aug. 13, 2010 photo, Matthew Brady, 17, of Foxborough, Mass., poses for a portrait in his home ...

The prevalence of hearing loss increased from about 15 percent to 19.5 percent.

Most of the hearing loss was "slight," defined as inability to hear at 16 to 24 decibels — or sounds such as a whisper or rustling leaves. A teenager with slight hearing loss might not be able to hear water dripping or his mother whispering "good night."

Extrapolating to the nation's teens, that would mean about 6.5 million with at least slight hearing loss.

Those with slight hearing loss "will hear all of the vowel sounds clearly, but might miss some of the consonant sounds" such as t, k and s, Curhan said.

"Although speech will be detectable, it might not be fully intelligible," he said.

While the researchers didn't single out iPods or any other device for blame, they found a significant increase in high-frequency hearing loss, which they said may indicate that noise caused the problems. And they cited a 2010 Australian study that linked use of personal listening devices with a 70 percent increased risk of hearing loss in children.

"I think the evidence is out there that prolonged exposure to loud noise is likely to be harmful to hearing, but that doesn't mean kids can't listen to MP3 players," Curhan said.

The study is based on data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey conducted by a branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The findings appear in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Loud music isn't new, of course. Each new generation of teenagers has found a new technology to blast music — from the bulky headphones of the 1960s to the handheld Sony Walkmans of the 1980s.

Today's young people are listening longer, more than twice as long as previous generations, said Brian Fligor, an audiologist at Children's Hospital Boston. The older technologies had limited battery life and limited music storage, he said.

Apple iPod users can set their own volume limits. Parents can use the feature to set a maximum volume on their child's iPod and lock it with a code.

One of Fligor's patients, 17-year-old Matthew Brady of Foxborough, Mass., recently was diagnosed with mild hearing loss. He has trouble hearing his friends in the school cafeteria. He ends up faking comprehension.

"I laugh when they laugh," he said.

Top Stories

[Seattle's Judge Judy suspended over courtroom insults](#)

[Tweeting while driving to blame for celeb surgeon's death?](#)

[7 times you shouldn't take a vacation](#)

[Lindsay Lohan facing grim career options?](#)

[NYC woman to Google: Who's posting trash about me?](#)

[Mind-controlling parasites date back millions of years](#)

[Georgia archaeologists find Confederate POW camp](#)

[More Top Stories »](#)

PANTENE

NEW CUSTOMIZED SOLUTIONS
MAKE THE HAIR YOU LOVE
LAST AND LAST

NEW GET YOUR FREE SAMPLE >

sponsored links

Obama Urges Homeowners to Refinance

If you owe less than \$729k you probably qualify for Obamas Refi Program
www.SeeRefinanceRates.com

Drivers With No DUI Are Paying Too Much

If you haven't had a DUI you are paying too much for Auto Insurance.
Auto-Insurance-Experts.com

Invest in Gold - Learn How with Free Kit

Gold Delivered to Your Door Since 1960. Get Your Free Investor Kit Now.
Goldline.com/Gold

Featured



Pentagon prayer

Mosque debate skips Pentagon: Muslims pray near 9/11 site.
[» More from ABC News](#)



Watch Who Knew?:

There's a new way to get the news.
[» More Who Knew? videos](#)

[Top Stories on Facebook](#)

"Do not blare your iPod," he said. "It's only going to hurt your hearing. I learned this the hard way."

Follow Yahoo! News on [Twitter](#), become a fan on [Facebook](#)

Buzz up! 69 votes | **Share** retweet **55** Email Print

[More Slideshows »](#)



Aid begins to flow into flood-ravaged Pakistan



Gulf shrimp season off to slow start



Miss Haiti gives hope to devastated country



Photo highlight of the day

More...

Health Video: **Balt. Co. Community Works To Save Teen With Cancer** WJZ 13 Baltimore

681 Comments

Show: Newest First ▼

[Post a Comment](#)

Comments 1 - 10 of 681 First Prev Next Last

Gdsgsds Afdsfdx 54 seconds ago | [Report Abuse](#)

 WELCOME <http://www.stefsclothes.net>

----- ~ □  
 ~ HANDBAG 35\$

,)))) ,") ~~, " ~)
 / / SHOES 35\$

| 田 | 田 | | 田 | 田 | CLOTH 15\$

2010 NEW

input this URL:

(<http://www.stefsclothes.net>)

you can find many cheap and fashion stuff

(jor dan s-h-o-e-s)

(NBA NFL NHL MLB j-e-r-s-e-y)



» [Join our Facebook page here](#)



» Follow @YahooNews here!

Education



Find out which skills you can transfer to the growing, in-demand health care field!



See how online training can get you into this hot, high-paying job fast!

ADVERTISEMENT

