

French have hearing problems from loud music

By Henry Samuel in Paris

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As many as one French adolescent in five suffers hearing problems from loud music, an acoustic scientist has claimed.

Prof Christian Huggonet said young people were being exposed to excessively loud volumes on MP3 players and in clubs and rock concerts.

The professor said the generalised use of "compressed" sound in modern media - in which weak signals are boosted to the level of stronger ones - is changing the way people speak.

"We believe that between 10 and 20 per cent of adolescents have poor hearing," he told [Le Figaro newspaper](#).

"Suppliers of hearing aids all agree their clients are getting younger."

advertisement One of the most serious problems is the standardisation of sound "compression".



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"Once the ear has got accustomed to this kind of sound, it finds it very hard to return to sounds of weak intensity," Prof Huggonet said.

"Young children used to watching cartoons with compressed sound can end up speaking in the same loud, monotone way."

At rock concerts and nightclubs, musicians wear ear plugs because of the dangers of high volumes.

He said: "The audience does not realise what is happening, and the risk of the inner cells exploding grows without any pain."

•The French president's eldest son, Pierre Sarkozy, has been revealed to be a hip hop producer going by the name of Mosey to avoid being linked to his father, Nicolas.

The Parisian rapper Poison said Pierre, 22, wrote La Rue, a song on his album Mec de Tess (Guy from the Estates).

Poison said he had no idea that Pierre, whom he has known for five years, was the president's son until "six or seven months ago".

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