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One In Five French Teens Has Bad Hearing


Agence-France Presse

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PARIS - Up to one French teenager in five suffers from hearing problems because of exposure to excessively loud volumes on personal stereos and at night-clubs and rock concerts, a leading expert warned. "Company doctors have noticed an increase in poor hearing among young people applying for jobs in which a good ear is required. And suppliers of hearing aids all agree their clients are getting younger," professor Christian Huggonet, an acoustic engineer, told Le Figaro newspaper. One of the most serious problems is the standardization of sound "compression" in which weak signals are boosted to the level of stronger ones. The technique is now the norm in MP3 and other music formats popular with young people, according to

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