

What are some effects of rap music on kids?

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Rap music has been around for a few decades and in the most recent years has become much more popular and has had an effect upon those who listen to it, particularly kids. Now that it is much more popular, kids are exposed to it and it has effects on them. Some of the effects rap music has on them can be negative such as the way in which girls view themselves from a young age. Some other negative effects are how Americans view law and government officials, and how their language and vocabulary is affected by rap. One good effect to come from rap, however, is how kids are able to use it as artistic expression as a way to express their feelings.

The first and probably the most harmful effect is the way in which artists display themselves treating women. This has an effect on young girls because they think that it is okay to be treated poorly and also shows young men that they can treat girls poorly. This is seen in the lyrics and music videos as well in the real lives of the rappers. This is shown in the song “Psycho” (Post Malone, 2018) in which there are lyrics such as “You should see the whip, promise I can take yo bitch / Dolla ridin' in an old school Chevy, it's a drop top / Boolin' with a thot-thot, she gon' give me top-top / Just one switch, I can make the ass drop.” In these lines, Ty Dolla \$ign is saying is that women are just objects that you can please with a nice car and have under your control. This sets a bad example to guys because it makes them believe that if they have a nice car they can have a woman under their control. It also teaches girls to be impressed when a guy has a nice car and to let themselves be treated like objects. According to an article by the American Academy of Pediatrics (2009), “in a study performed by Fischer and Greitemeyer, men who listened to misogynistic lyrics showed increased aggressive responses toward women as well as a more negative perception of them” (P.1490). This shows that the lyrics in songs by rap artists do have an effect on men and how they treat and view women. According to another article by Herd (2015), “For the most part, scholars agree that images of manhood in rap music

are hypersexual, misogynistic, and violent” (p. 581). This is bad for kids growing up because they listen to these lyrics and treat women the way they see it in rap and women can let themselves be treated that way.

A problem in our society is the way politics and laws affect the people in the U.S. This relates to rap and has an effect on kids because they listen to the rap that is against the way politics and laws are in the U.S. This creates a sense of fear and distrust in young kids towards any form of law enforcement or government official. Since the beginning of rap was heavily influenced and continues to be heavily influenced by the African American community. This has an effect on the kids because through their music, they spread their beliefs. Although African Americans are not the only ones that rap against the law and government, they face injustice by the government and law officials. In a video segment by 60 minutes called Stop Snitching (2007), it is mentioned how the belief of snitching is seen as something bad, it has been seen in small and poor communities for a really long time, however the rap music now spreads this belief into other communities. These rappers that have anti-police messages in their music, create distrust in the citizens, many of them young kids, towards the law officials. This affects the solved crime rate of many police departments because no one steps forwards to witness because they will be seen as snitches which hurts street credit, therefore, less crimes are solved. The more popular songs displaying anti-police messages become and the more they are heard by people from different cultures and communities, the more distrust in government law and officials is spread. There are also numerous songs that display this belief of distrust in government and law officials One song is “Snitch” (Lil Wayne, 2004) one line that is part of the hook says “Don't let your mouth open up / Cuz you don't wanna see the handgun open up” This further proves the point that snitching will damage street credit and can even result in death. This can really affect

kids because they can learn this at a young age and not want to trust in the government and law officials.

Another effect that can be a result of rap music on children is violence and it can actually also stem from the two previous effects mentioned, the way young girls grow up thinking they should be treated, and also the constant dispute between the law and rappers. There are many songs with lyrics of violence and this is bad because many young people listen to rap and they see the people they listen to and look up to commit acts of violence. There have been research studies done which show that kids that listen to rap music containing violent lyrics, are more likely to accept violence and to see it as a thing that isn't so bad. According to Jipguep & Sanders-Phillips (2003), "Research findings also show that rap music can be related to a greater acceptance of violence among low-income minority youth, as well as predictions that they themselves would engage in violence" (p. 386). This piece of research information shows that there is a relation between rap music and the acceptance of violence. One example that also displays that violence is okay is the song "Cop Killer" (Ice-T, 1992) in the song there's a line which says, "I'm 'bout to bust some shots off / I'm 'bout to dust some cops off" This shows violence wanted to be committed against cops. This song was created in effect of the riots that broke out in Los Angeles after a videotape showed LAPD officers beating a black motorist. When kids listen to this type of rap music with violent lyrics, they grow up thinking violence is okay and that in some cases it is appropriate, and this is of course a bad thing for kids to learn.

One effect that is also bad but not as bad as the previous effects mentioned is the effect that rap music might have on the language of a child. I believe it's a little less harmful for the language of rap music to rub off on a kid than the actual actions, but either way this is a negative effect. There is so much bad language in rap music, whether it be about violence, sex, alcohol or

drugs. This language can rub off on the kids because they may listen to rap music a lot or have friends that do. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (2009), “Most recently, some rap music has been characterized by the presence of explicit sexual language in its lyrics as well as messages of violence, racism, homophobia, and hatred toward women. Drug, tobacco, and alcohol use also tend to be glorified in these songs” (p. 1489). This piece of research shows that the language is present in the lyrics of rap music and young kids are listening to it. One song example is “Drips” (Eminem & Obie Trice, 2002) in this song there are lyrics such as “All these bitches on my dick / That’s how dudes be getting’ sick / That’s how dicks be getting’ drips / Fallin’ victims to this shit.” Other lyrics in the song include “pussy residue was on my penis, Denise from the cleaner’s” Drips is referring to the symptoms of STD’s and this is of course what the whole song is about. The language throughout is very explicit and kids listen to these songs especially back when it came out in the 2000s when Eminem was more popular. Listening to these lyrics as young kids has an effect on them because they will rap the lyrics because they know the songs and get used to using those kinds of words in their everyday life.

The last effect to discuss is the effect that rap music can have on kids and their artistic expression. Although rap music has more negative effects than positive ones, this one has positively affected kids. This effect is a good effect because it shows kids that music can be a way to express themselves and to let out their feelings. It’s also a good coping mechanism because when a child is going through something, they can listen to music and get distracted by it and as a result feel better. There have been studies using music therapy and rap has become a part of this study as well. According to Brown (2006), “Music has the power to move the listener toward an alternate reality. Harmonious musical beats accompanied by emotive lyrics can almost create an inviting escape to an abstract paradise of the listener's choice” (p. 50). This

is significant because this means that rap music can be used as a positive and helpful tool to kids going through certain situations.

Although there are definitely good effects and bad effects as a result of rap music, the bad effects seem to outweigh the good. The bad effects have a long-lasting effect on our society. For example, the fact that American citizens don't trust the government and law officials can have a long-lasting effect because this is our country and if justice isn't served the right way, our country's morals might get lost. Another example is the way women are treated or think they should be treated, this can also have a long-term effect by affecting the way relationships in the coming decades are. The lyrics in rap music kind of show taking a step towards misogyny, instead of feminism, which seems like a step backward. Rap has some positive effects for the fact that it is music and has the potential to have a positive influence on kids, but the negative effects outweigh the positive ones.

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