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ADOLESCENT COGNITIVE, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND BEHAVIORAL INTERACTION
WITH SEXUAL IMAGERY IN POPULAR MUSIC VIDEO AND SONG: A REVIEW OF
THE LITERATURE

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A pervasive conclusion in the most recently published studies pertaining to adolescent interaction with sexual imagery in popular music video and song is that there is no simple causal relationship between a given song and the behavior or attitudes of some "universal listener." Instead, data falls into categories delineated by gender and background characteristics. Research suggests that sexually demeaning and reckless images in popular music did not appear there spontaneously. Certain sets of experiences make some listeners perceive extreme sexual messages as less shocking than affirming of their own conclusions and experiences. Further research may pursue the role of mediating factors in determining adolescent receptiveness to these messages. However, this research, albeit necessary, is more likely to complicate than simplify the issue, if previous research is any indication.