# Family campaign sparks after tragic death linked to aerosol inhalant trend among teens



The tragic death of Nicky Lowther, a 13-year-old boy from Canterbury, has brought to light the alarming trend of 'chroming,' where teenagers inhale aerosol substances for a quick high. Found unconscious by his mother on June 27 of last year, Nicky was surrounded by twelve aerosol cans at the time of his fatal incident. This shocking reality highlights the dangerous behaviours that are gaining reckless popularity among youth, particularly through social media platforms.

Nicky's family was initially unaware of this hazardous trend, which they described as shocking and dangerous. His aunt, Toni Lowther, is now advocating for heightened awareness among parents and children alike. She expressed her heartbreak by stating, “We found out he’d been inhaling aerosols but I didn’t know the severity of it.” This tragic event underscores a growing crisis where the allure of quick highs results in devastating consequences.

Similar cases continue to emerge globally, showcasing the risks associated with chroming. Another incident in South Yorkshire involved a 12-year-old boy who suffered a life-threatening cardiac arrest after inhaling antiperspirant. Reports indicate that individuals engaging in this behaviour face severe health risks, including cardiac arrest, seizures, brain damage, and even death. The sheer ease of access to aerosol products exacerbates the issue; currently, anyone can purchase these items without restriction, a reality that unnerves many advocates for change.

Toni has launched an online petition aimed at prohibiting the sale of aerosol products to underage individuals, garnering over 5,000 signatures in support. “It was so preventable, which is the hardest part,” she lamented, emphasising the lost opportunities her nephew will never experience, such as prom, passing his driving test, and starting a family. Her fight aims not only to honour Nicky's memory but also to prevent other families from enduring similar heartbreak.

The trend of chroming has gained traction, particularly via TikTok, where videos demonstrate the practice in a seemingly innocuous manner. These visuals can mislead teens into underestimating the dangers involved. In Australia, another heartbreaking case unfolded when 13-year-old Esra Haynes died after inhaling deodorant chemicals. Such incidents underscore an urgent need for widespread education about the risks associated with inhaling aerosol substances and the role that social media plays in propagating dangerous behaviours.

Several experts recommend that parents and caregivers initiate open conversations with their children about the dangers of substances like aerosols. Until now, many parents, like Toni, may not have considered discussing the safe use of everyday products because the potential for abuse seemed minimal. Yet, as these tragic stories demonstrate, it’s increasingly apparent that awareness is crucial.

In a world where social media can both educate and mislead, the responsibility falls on families, educators, and communities to collectively combat this growing concern. Nicky's story, alongside those of other victims, serves as a stark reminder of the potential dangers lurking behind trends painted as harmless fun. By raising awareness and implementing preventive measures, there is hope that more children can be saved from the devastating consequences of chroming.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: 1, 2, 4
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Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14702337/Schoolboy-13-dies-surrounded-aerosol-cans-warning-issued-deadly-chroming-social-media-trend.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/technology/social/what-is-chroming-the-deadly-social-media-trend-behind-a-12-year-olds-cardiac-arrest/articleshow/113103891.cms> - An article from the Times of India discusses the dangers of 'chroming,' a social media trend where individuals inhale aerosol substances for a quick high. The piece highlights a case in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, where a 12-year-old boy suffered a life-threatening incident after inhaling antiperspirant. The article explains that chroming involves inhaling volatile substances, leading to severe health risks like cardiac arrest and seizures. It also notes the trend's popularity on platforms like TikTok and emphasizes the need for awareness and preventive measures.
3. <https://www.iol.co.za/lifestyle/health/chroming-trend-girl-13-suffers-brain-damage-after-inhaling-deodorant-chemicals-0760f683-7949-4910-a8ef-dd319ca78776> - This article from IOL reports on the tragic case of 13-year-old Esra Haynes, who died after inhaling chemicals from an aerosol deodorant can during a sleepover. The piece explains that chroming involves inhaling fumes from substances like aerosol cans and paints to achieve a quick high, leading to severe health consequences such as cardiac arrest and brain damage. It also discusses the increasing popularity of this dangerous trend among teenagers and the need for education and preventive measures.
4. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/tiktoks-deadly-chroming-challenge-trend-growing-crisis-among-gen-z-and-gen-alpha/articleshow/113111868.cms> - An article from the Times of India examines the rise of the 'chroming' challenge on TikTok, where users inhale aerosol substances for a quick high. The piece highlights tragic incidents, including the death of 13-year-old Esra Haynes in Australia and 14-year-old Sarah Mescall in Ireland, both linked to this trend. It discusses the health risks associated with chroming, such as cardiac arrest and brain damage, and the role of social media in promoting dangerous behaviors among youth.
5. <https://www.parents.com/what-is-chroming-7508182> - This article from Parents.com discusses the dangers of 'chroming,' a practice where individuals inhale aerosol substances to achieve a quick high. The piece highlights cases of children hospitalized after participating in this trend, including a 12-year-old boy who collapsed after inhaling antiperspirant. It explains that chroming can lead to severe health issues like cardiac arrest and brain damage and emphasizes the need for parents to be aware of this trend and its risks.
6. <https://www.ibtimes.com/what-chroming-13-year-old-girl-dies-after-inhaling-toxic-chemicals-while-trying-viral-trend-3695296> - An article from the International Business Times reports on the death of 13-year-old Esra Haynes in Melbourne, Australia, after inhaling toxic chemicals from a deodorant can as part of the 'chroming' trend. The piece explains that chroming involves inhaling fumes from substances like aerosol cans and paints to achieve a quick high, leading to severe health consequences such as cardiac arrest and brain damage. It also discusses the increasing popularity of this dangerous trend among teenagers and the need for education and preventive measures.
7. <https://www.firstpost.com/explainers/what-is-chroming-the-fatal-tiktok-trend-that-claimed-the-life-of-a-13-year-old-australian-girl-12665482.html> - This article from Firstpost explains the 'chroming' trend, where individuals inhale aerosol substances for a quick high, leading to severe health risks like cardiac arrest and brain damage. The piece highlights the case of 13-year-old Esra Haynes in Australia, who died after participating in this trend. It discusses the role of social media platforms like TikTok in promoting such dangerous behaviors and emphasizes the need for awareness and preventive measures.