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THE INFLUENCE OF NOISE POLLUTION ON HUMAN HEALTH
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There is no doubt that the problem of noise is serious. Large segments of the population and industrialized society are exposed to high levels of noise, not only at their place of work, but also in their residences and in their leisure activities. Current conditions expose tens millions of people to sound levels capable of causing hearing loss, but also are known to induce tinnitus, hypertension, vasoconstriction and other cardiovascular impacts.

Although noise is an integral part of civilization, it would appear that unless some definite steps are taken to reduce the present inordinate levels in both industry and community generally, more people will become auditory cripples.

Earphones are used while walking or running on noisy easy streets rather than in the privacy of the home or other relatively quiet area where the listener did not wish to disturb others. Now the volume must be turned up to overcome the noise of city traffic. A similar result occurs to users in noisy factory or industrial environments. Since to these people, louder is better, the makings for an epidemic of hearing loss are at hand.

High levels of aircraft noise that commonly exist near major commercial airports are known to increase blood pressure and contribute to hearing loss. Some researches indicate that it contributes to heart diseases, immune deficiencies, neurodermatitis, asthma and other stress related diseases.

As research unfolded, a host of psychological and behavioral effects is considered to result from elevated sound levels, including sleep disturbance, reading development in children, stress, mental health.

Significant progress has been achieved over the last decade in understanding how hearing loss may be caused by environmental factors such as noise, drugs, and other chemical toxins. Being one of the most industrialized countries, the United States of America is known to remain hearing loss as a prevalent occupational disease. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, at least one million USA workers in manufacturing are estimated to have sustained job-related hearing impairment, half of whom have moderate severe hearing impairment.