

WHO evidence review of the cardiovascular and metabolic effects of environmental noise: blood pressure in children

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ABSTRACT

In 1999 and 2009, WHO had published reviews dealing with the scientific evidence on noise and health and made recommendations for protecting human health from environmental noise exposure. In addition, recommendations were included, aiming to reduce environmental noise exposure in settings where most children spend part of their time. However, none of these guidelines dealt with the cardiovascular effects of noise in children. This is remarkable, since children are considered as a vulnerable group to the effects of noise. Moreover, it could be possible when people are exposed to high levels of noise from an early age on, they might be at higher risk for cardiovascular problems in later life. Furthermore, the number of studies investigating the impact of noise on children's blood pressure has increased substantially. For these reasons, it was decided to include the effects of noise on children's blood pressure in the WHO evidence review dealing with the cardiovascular and metabolic effects of noise. This paper presents the results of the review dealing with the impact of noise on children's blood pressure.