Consciousness of Individual Noise Pollution Behavior of the German Population

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ABSTRACT

The German study of environmental consciousness is a representative biannual survey of the German Environment Agency. It investigates the attitudes, beliefs and behavior of the German population with regard to various environmental issues. Noise is an integral part of this study. Until 2014, noise was only included with respect to annoyance by traffic noise, industrial noise and neighborhood noise. The latest version of the survey also introduced a section on the populations’ consciousness of their own noise polluting behavior (‘noise consciousness’). A 10-item questionnaire was implemented to investigate the factual knowledge of the German population about health impacts of environmental noise, as well as attitudes, awareness and behavior towards and about the individual noise emission. This contribution introduces and describes the methods of the survey and presents and discusses first results of the section on ‘noise consciousness’ in the current study about the environmental consciousness of the German population by the German Environment Agency.