

## Noise Pollution is a Serious Concern for Both Human Health and the Environment

Romain Mordello\*

iMedPub, London, UK

\*Corresponding author: Romain Mordello, iMedPub, London, UK, E-mail: [Romain\\_m@gmail.com](mailto:Romain_m@gmail.com)

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**Figure 1:** A number of studies indicate that environmental noise, particularly road traffic noise, remains a major environmental issue affecting the health and well-being of millions of peoples. Twenty percent of the population of Europe was exposed to noise levels that are detrimental to their health in the long term. Long-term exposure to noise can cause many health effects including discomfort, sleep disruption, harmful effects on the cardiovascular and metabolic processes, as well as cognitive decline in children. We estimate that ambient noise leads to 48,000 new cases of ischaemic heart disease each year, as well as 12,000 premature deaths, based on current evidence. Not only does rising noise impact animals on land, it is also a growing concern for those who live in the ocean. Ships, oil drills, sonar devices, and seismic tests have made the once tranquil marine environment loud and chaotic. Noise pollution especially affects whales and dolphins.