

# ROAD TRAFFIC NOISE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM IN GREATER CAIRO, EGYPT

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**Abstract** This study concerns road traffic noise in Greater Cairo, the capital of Egypt, largest city and biggest 11<sup>th</sup> cities in the world. Measurements taken in latest year for traffic noise in Greater Cairo, indicated that noise levels in city were higher than those set by Egyptian noise standards and policy to protect public health and welfare in residential areas,  $L_{Aeq} = 85$  dB and higher were recorded, while maximum permissible level was 65 dB. As part of a social survey dealing with noise nuisance caused by road traffic, 1000 residents at 21 sites in Cairo were interviewed; represented different land uses and types of roads. Results of which show that most residents consider road traffic noise an environmental nuisance, (75 %) of respondents feeling highly or moderately disturbed by it. This feeling appeared strongest in the most crowded activity areas and in roadside of major roads. Many of respondents contended that road traffic noise had psychological effects on them (37%), however physiological effects were less significant (18%). Residents of Cairo suffer levels of annoyance and disturbance and therefore prefer to move away and live in quieter area (31.7 %). Most people (70.8 %) wanted road traffic noise nuisance legally controlled.