

# MONITORING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AROUND AMSTERDAM AIRPORT SCHIPHOL

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**Abstract** In the light of the expansion of Schiphol airport from four to five runways in 2003, a monitoring programme on environmental health was started in 2002.<sup>1</sup> The primary aim is to keep a finger on the pulse of the expansion's impact on health, and to provide the government with information that is necessary for the decision-making process on the development of air traffic in the Netherlands. The monitoring programme requires assessment of possible changes in environmental quality and the environmentally related health status of residents in the vicinity of the airport. Data on environmental exposure is obtained from existing environmental quality monitoring programmes. The data on indicators for health are collected from national health registries as well as from social surveys on self-reported health status and well-being. The monitoring programme is the third phase of the research programme Health Impact Assessment Schiphol airport (HIAS), which started 10 years ago.

The first activity in 2002 was a postal questionnaire survey on annoyance, sleep disturbance, perceived health, and residential satisfaction. The survey was carried out from April until November 2002, among roughly 13,000 adults, age 18 years and older, living in an area of 25 kilometres surrounding the airport (Figure 1). The questionnaires were collected in 4 tranches throughout the year, in order to take into account the seasonal variations. To examine possible selective non-response, a follow-up survey was carried out among 300 non-respondents. From the group of respondents, a selection of about 600 persons is followed up in a panel survey. The panel subjects are stratified according to the expected change in aircraft noise level after opening of the fifth runway.

**Keywords** aircraft noise, annoyance, sleep disturbance, perceived health, monitoring, health impact assessment.

## References

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**Figure 1** Study area for monitoring programme Health Impact Assessment Schiphol airport.

