



American Academy of Nursing

transforming health care policy and practice through nursing knowledge

Barry Eisenberg
202-777-1174
Barry_Eisenberg@aannet.org

American Academy of Nursing Announces Position Statement on the Reduction of Environmental Noise

Academy Recommends Federal Effort to Reduce Harmful Impact of Noise on Health

Washington, D.C. (September 7, 2016) — The American Academy of Nursing today announced its position statement supporting the reduction of environmental noise, which is defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as “unwanted or disturbing sounds” within a person’s environment.

Sources of environmental noise may include loud household or workplace equipment, public events such as music concerts, and traffic associated with airports, highways, and railways. The negative health impacts of environmental noise are not always immediately noticed, and can build gradually over time. Well-documented, these effects include hearing loss, tinnitus, heart disease, stroke, anxiety, stress, depression, learning difficulties, poor job performance, sleep disorders, and reduced cognitive abilities.

The Academy’s position statement, “Harmful Effects of Environmental Noise Exposures,” was published in the July/August 2016 issue of the Academy’s journal, *Nursing Outlook*.

"The Academy is pleased to publish this important position statement on reducing exposure to harmful noise and highlighting the negative effects that noise has on health," said Academy President, Bobbie Berkowitz, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN. "More than an annoyance, environmental noise is a public health hazard, and this position statement is consistent with the Academy’s overall advocacy for improving the health of the population."

The Academy recommends a coordinated federal effort in reducing exposure to environmental noise, including the reestablishment of the Office of Noise Abatement and Control within the EPA. The Academy also supports the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health’s promotion of Buy Quiet programs, which encourage companies to purchase or rent quieter machinery to reduce their worker’s exposure to harmful environmental noise.

Read the full position statement at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.outlook.2016.06.001>.

###

About the American Academy of Nursing

The American Academy of Nursing (www.AANnet.org) serves the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. The Academy’s more than 2,400 fellows are nursing’s most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice, and research. They have been recognized for their extraordinary contributions to nursing and healthcare.