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Social survey of community response to a step change in aircraft noise exposure

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Abstract

Community response to a step change in aircraft noise exposure associated with the opening of a new runway at Vancouver International Airport was documented in two rounds of telephone interviews. One round of interviews was conducted 15 months prior to the start of operations on the new runway, while a second round of interviews was undertaken 21 months after the start of operations. The proportion of respondents who described themselves as "very" or "extremely" annoyed by aircraft noise in a residential area with increased aircraft noise exposure after the runway opening was markedly greater than that predictable from well-known dosage-response relationships. Analysis suggests that a good part of the "excess" annoyance is attributable to the net influence of nonacoustic factors.

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