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SVEA HOVRÄTT

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Aktbilaga 88SVEA HOVRÄTT
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Svea hovrätt

Rotel 0601

Mark- och miljööverdomstolen (MMÖD)

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Mål nr M 5962-15

Swedavia AB (S):s ansökan om nytt tillstånd enligt Miljöbalken (MB) för verksamheten vid Göteborg Landvetter Airport (GOT), Härryda kommun

Ola Christenssons synpunkter på S:s yttrande den 30 oktober 2015. (MMÖD:s aktbilaga 69)

Jag vidhåller samtliga yrkanden och grunder, som jag anfört i Vänersborgs tingsrätt, Mark- och miljödomstolen (MMD) samt det jag anfört i mitt överklagande till MMÖD den 12 augusti respektive den 27 oktober 2015.

Jag bestrider S:s yrkanden i både MMD och MMÖD.

Jag följer uppställningen i S:s yttrande den 30 oktober 2015.

1.2 Skälen för inställningen...

s. 5 Första stycket

S:s påstående att LFV och S drivit på den tekniska utvecklingen är inte sant. Tvärtom har Sverige ofta varit sist vid införandet av ny teknik. S:s hänvisning till flygsäkerhet har varit och är den stående ursäkten.

Därtill kommer att begreppet "ny teknik" inte är detsamma som MB:s "bästa möjliga teknik", det vill säga miljövänlig teknik.

Ny teknik kan vara och är inte sällan miljöskadlig. Ett konkret exempel är den tidiga avvikelsen från SID i syfte att öka GOT:s trafikkapacitet. Den tillåter dels överflygning av tätorter dels högre maxbuller. Men det bekymrar inte S, som ömmar för flygbolagens skattebefriade bränslekostnader och ser dessa som vägande skäl för kortare flygvägar. De minskade utsläppen till luft vid tidig avvikelse från SID är emellertid marginella och uppväger inte det ökade flygbullret.

På s. 6 påstår S "att det inte finns något som indikerar att samhället i närtid avser att göra någon annan bedömning av vilka krav som bör ställas." Denna uppfattning torde S vara ensam om. Den har redan motbevisats av den nya forskningen om flygbullrets hälsoskadlighet..WHO har också aviserat nya rekommendationer för bullergränser. Mer härom nedan i avsnitt 2.2 Hälsospekter.

s. 9 Här hävdar S att det inte finns något skäl att meddela tidsbegränsat tillstånd. Jag hävdar motsatsen och hänvisar till den globala uppvärmningen, som orsakas av bl. a. trafikflygets utsläpp av växthusgaser. Utan restriktioner kommer GOT:s utsläpp från LTO-cykeln att fördubblas vid sökt och av MMD beviljad verksamhet. Se vidare nedan under avsnitt 7.4.10. / tr

2.1 Inställning...

s. 9 Här har Sunderlåtitt att redovisa mitt yrkande i mina synpunkter den 27 oktober 2015 s. 2, där jag skriver: "Den nya kunskapen om flygbullrets hälsoskadlighet innebär, att bullernivåer över 54 dB inte längre är godtagbara. Intill dess att trafikflyget klarar bullergränsen 54 dB, krävs trafikrestriktioner (bl. a. förbud mot tidigare avvikelser från SID) och bättre bullerisolering av fler fastigheter."

Jag bifogar en kopia av Correia's m. fl. artikel i BMJ den 8 oktober 2013. (Bilaga 1)

2.2 Skälen för inställningen...

s. 10 Som jag tidigare framhållit fick Malmö Airport sitt tillstånd, innan Correia's m. fl. forskningsresultat hade publicerats.

Arlandas tillstånd lutar sig mot SFS 2015:216, som uppenbarligen inte beaktat den nya kunskapen om flygbullrets stora hälsoskadlighet.

s. 11 Vad beträffar spridning "över ett större geografiskt område längre ut från flygplatsen" kan den

innebära en avlastning. Men denna måste ske med användning av bästa möjliga teknik, så att eventuella tätorter blir kringflugna. Beslut om spridning måste fattas i direkt samråd med berörda närboende. Kommunerna är i detta sammanhang olämpliga. All erfarenhet visar, att kommunerna runt GOT inte prioriterar trafikflygets miljöfrågor.

- s. 12 S hävdar att dess föreslagna metodik "skapar marginaler för att beakta de variationer av maximala ljudnivåer som uppstår på marken." Men dessa marginaler är otillräckliga. Det standardväder som S utgår ifrån inträffar bara vid enstaka tillfällen och beaktar inte variationerna i flygplanens totalvikt och motorpådrag.

Spridning i mätresultat...

- s. 15 S hävdar att den nya SID-proceduren inte kommer att ge upphov till en sådan variation av ljudnivåer till följd av spridning i höjdled, som redovisades i resultatet från immissionsmätningen 2012. Men för de närboende, som blir överflugna, kommer bullervariationerna att fortsätta dels mellan flygplan av samma klass på grund av olika startvikt och växlande väder men framför allt på grund av växlingen mellan flygplan från olika klasser. Maxbullret på marken kommer att växla mellan varje överflygning. Jag hänvisar till Håkan Jerenviks bullermätningar i Tollered. (MMD:s aktbilagor 145 och 151)

- s. 16 Hälsoaspekter

S vidhåller "att möjligheten att få lämna SID, utifrån ett miljömedicinskt perspektiv, inte får några effekter på boende runt flygplatsen."

1/10

Som jag tidigare påpekat har vetenskaplig miljömedicinsk forskning i USA för första gången (den 8 oktober 2013) publicerat bevis för ett statistiskt signifikant samband mellan flygbuller och allvarliga/dödliga hjärt- kärlsjukdomar (bl. a. stroke) från och med tröskelvärdet 55 dB. (Bilaga 1) En kopia av rapporten har också överlämnats till MMD som bilaga 6 till mitt yttrande den 13 januari 2015. (MMD:s aktbilaga 133)

Rapporten i BMJ den 8 oktober 2013 har i ett slag redovisat ny kunskap, som omintetgör alla S:s argument i flygbullerfrågan. Rapporten i BMJ är ett internationellt genombrott som innebär ett paradigmskifte.

Att S vägrar att acceptera detta är inte förvånande. Men det är uppseendeväckande att Regeringen i SFS 2015:216 inte beaktat den nya kunskapen. Förordningen är en förvaltningsskandal och den har över natt skapat ett folkhälsoproblem.

Till detta skall läggas tekniska rådets Joen Morales skiljaktiga mening i MMD:s deldom, där han inte utesluter strängare bullerrestriktioner. Jag antar att han syftar på WHO:s aviserade nya bullerrekommendationer. Redan år 2009 konstaterade WHO att nattbuller utomhus över 40 dB är hälsoskadligt. (Bilaga 2)

Exkurs: på sidan 17 i tredje stycket skriver S "försumlig". Jag antar att S menar försumbar.

- 4.1 Inställning till yrkanden...
 s. 21 Jag vidhåller mitt yrkande i tredje stycket.

4.2 Skälen till inställningen...

- s. 21 ~~EXFÄXÅÅ~~

S påstår att det inte finns några säkerställda resultat, som visar att barns hälsa påverkas i större utsträckning än vuxnas hälsa.

Men här underlåter S att nämna, att flygbuller påverkar barns inlärningsförmåga negativt. Detta är välkänt och det har fastställts i flera olika studier. Se NV:s yttrande 2014-09-04 s. 4-5. MMD:s aktbilaga 103. (Bilaga 3)

- s. 23 Detta är av stor betydelse för såväl förskolor som grundskolor under de nya utflygningsvägarna. Såvitt jag kan se, har S inte redovisat någon kartläggning.
- s. 23 Jag har efterlyst en precisering av begreppet "enstaka". Skälet är att ordet har olika valörer beroende på i vilket sammanhang det används, t. ex. enstaka flygrörelser per dygn (oberoende av flygplanstyp) eller per månad (mest bullrande flygplanstyp).

Mina yrkanden om kortare tidsfrister för buller-skyddsåtgärder är inte orimliga. S har hittills inte prioriterat dessa åtgärder. Nu måste bolaget skärpa sig och åtgärda behoven utan vidare dröjsmål. Det kanske krävs en eller ett parviss-tidsanställda medarbetare, men det är ett rimligt krav när de närboendes liv och hälsa står på spel.

Att skylla på väderlek och årstid är numera ett svepskäl ~~in~~ inom byggbranschen. Jag vidhåller alltså samtliga mina yrkanden om bullerskyddsåtgärder.

5. Bullermätning

5.1 Inställning...

- s. 24 Jag yrkar årliga bullermätningar och hänvisar till att många flygplatser i Europa och USA har kontinuerliga bullermätningar när flygplatsen är öppen.

Behovet av verkliga bullermätningar har tydligt visats av Tollereds byalags egna mätningar.
(MMD:s aktbilagor 145 och 151)

Samrådet måste innefatta flygbullergrupper, lokala föreningar och nätverk. Det räcker inte med kommuner, eftersom de ofta saknar kunskap och sätter arbetstillfällena före kommuninvånarnas hälsa.

S:s bestridande visar att S:s miljöengagement är nästintill obefintligt och att S:s egen miljöpolicy är en Potemkinkuliss.

5.2 Skälen för inställningen...

- s. 24 Med all respekt för tillsynsmyndigheten kan den inte ha den detaljkunskap som krävs. Jag hänvisar till exemplet Tollerred. S skall vara utförare, inte medbestämmande.

S:s påstående om god överensstämmelse mellan beräknade och uppmätta värden motsägs av Tollereds byalags egna mätningar år 2015. Där växlar maxvärdena mellan 80 och 101 dB. (MMD:s aktbilagor 145 och 151)

7 Övriga yrkanden...

7.4 Ola Christensson

7.4.1 MKB

s. 32 Jag har anfört sex exempel på allvarliga b/riste
i S:s MKB. (MMD:s aktbilaga 133, s. 2-7)

Jag vidhåller min uppfattning.

S bemöter mig på en enda punkt. S skriver att bolaget inte kan styra i vilken utsträckning flygholagen köper certifierat biobränsle. På min fråga till G/thenburg Fuelling Company (GFC) och tillsynsmyndigheten (Härryda kommun) har jag till dags dato inte fått något svar. Mer härom under avsnitt 7.4.10.

7.4.2 Villkor 1

s. 32 S bestrider mitt yrkande. Skälet är "praxis och inte en inaktuell kvarleva".

Men formuleringen gjordes, innan fasta flygvägar hade införts. Sedan har den hängt med av slentrian. Eftersom tolkningen kan tänjas efter behag, är den mycket olämplig i en villkorstext.

s. ~~34~~ 33 S hävdar vidare att mitt förslag till villkor skulle vara rättsosäkert, eftersom det är oklart, hur en bedömning av vad som är bästa möjliga teknik skall göras.

S tycks inte känna till varken förarbetena till MB eller den EG-lagstiftning, där "best available technique (BAT)" definieras. Jag hänvisar till NV:s brev till mig 2014-06-03. (Bilaga 4)

S säger sig inte heller förstå vad som menas med S:s mark. Såvitt jag vet, äger S marken där GOT:s flygplatsverksamhet bedrivs. Men

delar av denna mark är uthyrd till flyg, marktransport- och servicebolag. I dessa fall har S möjlighet att i hyresavtalen skriva in egna villkor.

/re

Eftersom många företag tävlar om att få hyresavtal med S, är det ingen svårighet för S att införa miljökrav i dessa avtal. Det krävs bara god vilja.

7.4.3 Huvudregel - Villkor 2

s. 33 S förstår inte mitt yrkande att tätorter inte skall få överflygas och anser att min hänvisning till bästa möjliga teknik är oklar och rättsosäker.

Detta är ännu ett bevis på S:s bristande goda vilja. Jag hänvisar till mina argument ovan i avsnitt 7.4.2 och den nya forskningen om flygbullrets hälsoskadlighet samt den nya teknik som gör det möjligt att genom förprogrammering av flygplanens FMS automatiskt kringflyga tätorter längs SID.

Vad beträffar den nya forskningen om flygbullrets hälsoskadlighet vidhåller S sin uppfattning, att Correia's m. fl. forskningsrapport i BMJ den 8 oktober 2013 inte tillför något nytt. Detta hoppnadsväckande påstående visar, att S inte fattat någonting.

/ä

Jag har tidigare konstaterat, att Correia's m. fl. forskningsrapport inte kan ha varit känd av Gösta Bluhm, när han skrev sin bedömning angående

GOT.

Forskningen fram till den 8 oktober 2013 hade visat att flygbuller innebar risk för vissa hjärt- kärl- sjukdomar t. ex. högt blodtryck. Correia's m. fl. forskningsrapport visade för första gången ett statistiskt signifikant samband mellan flygbuller och allvarliga hjärt- kärlsjukdomar (t. ex. stroke) med tröskelvärdet 55 dB.

Detta genombrott innebär ett paradigmskifte inom den miljömedicinska forskningen. Det är såvitt jag vet den hittills största studien. Den omfattar ca fyra miljoner äldre personer, som blivit inlagda på sjukhus och diagnosticerats där. Gemensamt för dem är att de var bosatta i närheten av en flygplats i USA.

S:s juridiska ombuds ställningstagande är ett intellektuellt haveri.

Föreskrifterna i SFS 2015:216 är en miljömedicinsk katastrof och måste snarast ersättas av en ny förordning, som beaktar den nya kunskapen.

Vad beträffar CDO-proceduren hänvisar jag till mina tidigare synpunkter. Dessutom vill jag fästa MMÖD:s uppmärksamhet på bestämmelserna vid Frankfurt am Mains flygplats, som föreskriver att en fullständig CDO-procedur skall tillämpas "whenever possible".

(MMD:s aktbilaga 169, bilaga 1)

Jag yrkar att samma formulering skall införas i AIP vid GOT. Den innebär att en pilot, som (på grund av risk t. ex. för isbildning) nekar att tillämpa en fullständig CDO-procedur, får dispens av flygtrafikledningen.

- s. 33 När det gäller nattstängning av GOT har S inte framfört ett enda argument för nattöppethållning.

Riksdagens transportpolitiska mål säger inget om nattstängning av flygplatser.

Med hänsyn till den nya miljömedicinska kunskapen om flygbullrets hälsoskadlighet och kravet på hållbar utveckling är det en stor samhällsekonomisk vinst att stänga GOT nattetid.

7.4.4 Ankommande trafik - Villkor 3

- s. 34 S:s argument är att tätorten Ingared i Alingsås kommun kommer att överflygas "mer sällan". För Tollered blir det bara en marginell förändring. Om förändringen inte genomförs, avlastas inte Ingared.

Ingared och Tollered har ca 1 200 invånare vardera. Självklart är det bra om Ingared kan avlastas, men inte till priset av en lägre inflygningshöjd i den smala korridoren mellan Tollered och nordöstra Floda. Det skulle öka flygbullret, som redan är oacceptabelt högt (80-101 dB).

Eftersom S:s förslag innebär att ICAO:s krav på rakbana före ILS slopas, måste Tollered kunna rundas på 3 000 fots höjd för att ansluta till ILS vid sjön Uspens nordspets, d. v. s. sydväst om FAP vid Lensjön. - Jag efterlyser storskaliga kartor, som visar detaljerad topografi!

- s. 34 Vad beträffar en glidbana med 3.2 graders lutning vid GOT hävdar S att det inte är möjligt att införa en sådan. Att det genomförts vid en annan flygplats "saknar därför betydelse". Detta är nonsens.

s. 35 CDO-procedur

Jag vidhåller mitt yrkande och hänvisar till vad jag anfört ovan.

7.4.5 Uppföljning av teknikutveckling - Villkor 3

s. 35 S hävdar att årliga redovisningar inte skulle vara rimliga. Som skäl anför S att teknikutvecklingen i regel inte går snabbt "då flygsäkerheten måste säkerställas".

Mitt yrkande om årliga redovisningar är både rimligt och angeläget. Om S inte skulle ha något att redovisa, räcker det med en kort notis, som det tar ett par sekunder att skriva.

7.4.6 Handlingsplan för utsläpp till luft - Villkor 11

s. 35 S bestrider och hävdar att det är omöjligt "att reglera att bästa möjliga teknik ska användas".

Jag hänvisar till mina argument ovan i avsnitt 7.4.2. Återigen är det den goda viljan, som saknas hos S.

7.4.7 Informationsorganet - Villkor 19

s. 36 S BESTRIDER MITT YRKANDE och anser att det är orimligt.

S skriver att tillsynsmyndighet och kommuner "får anses representera allmänna intressen". Ja men tillsynsmyndigheten har inte den detaljkunskap om hela närområdet som erfordras.

Vad beträffar kommunerna är det kommunstyrelsens politiska majoritet som avgör om kommunen vill lyssna på lokala intressen.

Att flygtrafiktjänsten får anses representera kompetens vad gäller flygvägar är en sak, men Naturvårdsverket besitter unik miljökunskap, som kan tillföra ny och viktig information.

S anser vidare att det är "både orimligt och olämpligt" att detaljreglera när informatiosorganet skall sammankallas. S anser också att det är "skäligt och lämpligt" att tillsynsmyndigheten och S i samråd bestämmer hur arbetet i organet skall bedrivas.

Det är en arrogant inställning. Den avslöjar att S är ett bolag, som är vant vid att få som det vill. Men självklart skall den som är satt under tillsyn inte bestämma.

Eftersom informatiosorganet endast sammanträder en gång om året, är det nödvändigt att mötet äger rum först när deltagarna har fått bolagets miljörapport (för föregående år) och hunnit läsa den. Då kan fler deltagare ställa relevanta frågor och förhoppningsvis få relevanta svar.

/ nt

7.4.8 Övriga villkor (kontrollprogram) - Villkor 25

s. 37 S vidhåller att den redovisning som sker i dag är fullt tillräcklig och att mitt yrkande är "helt orimligt" samt att det inte skulle tillföra något för en bedömning av miljöpåverkan. Jag hävdar motsatsen.

Som jag framhållit i samband med mitt yrkande sker en kontinuerlig uppföljning av alla flygrörelser vid GOT S:s två redovisningssystem ANOMS och TRISS. De producerar löpande detaljerad statistik över alla flygrörelser. (Systemhållaren Brühl & Kjaer kan leverera all slags statistik med anknytning till civil flygtrafik.)

Flygrörelsernas fördelning under trafikdygnet är av största vikt för att bedöma bullerbelastningen.

Därför är det oacceptabelt att S tillåts neka att redovisa den nuvarande nattrafikens omfattning. Sammanfattningsvis har S inte framfört några vägande skäl mot mitt yrkande.

7.4.9 Räddningstjänsten

- s. 37 S bestrider mitt yrkande och anför som skäl att S uppfyller gällande förordning.

Det är sant, eftersom förordningen inte säger ett ord om rökdykare. Men om jag är rätt informerad, har räddningstjänsten vid GOT tidigare haft utbildade rökdykare i sin tjänst. Nuvarande flygplatsledning har emellertid inte beviljat medel för att bibehålla denna kompetens.

Det är provocerande att Sveriges näst största flygplats inte anser sig ha råd att vidmakthålla en kvalificerad räddningstjänst.

Jag vidhåller mitt yrkande.

7.4.10 Villkor om inblandning av biobränsle...

- s. 37 S hävdar att bolaget inte hanterar flygbränsle och hänvisar till Fly Green Fund. Men så lätt kan S inte komma undan sitt ansvar.

Eftersom S har miljöansvar för trafikflygets utsläpp inom LTO-cykeln vid GOT, åligger det S ~~A~~ att med användning av bästa möjliga teknik minska utsläppen till luft från LTO-cykeln.

Detta kan ske genom ett nytt villkor, som föreskriver att flygplan som trafikerar GOT skall ha minst femtioprocentig inblandning av certifierat biobränsle i sina bränsletankar.

Vid den sökta och av MMD beviljade verksamheten kommer utsläppen av koldioxid från LTO-cykeln att fördubblas (från ca 40 000 ton till ca 80 000 *f* ton per år). En halvering av dessa utsläpp är en väsentlig reduktion av trafikflygets klimatskadliga utsläpp. *fel*

S:s hänvisning till Fly Green Fund är ett försök att komma ifrån det egna ansvaret. Det demonstrerar tydligt S:s ovilja att i handling minska trafik flygets klimatskadliga utsläpp.

Jag yrkar alltså ett nytt villkor, som föreskriver krav på femtioprocentig inblandning av certifierat biobränsle i de trafikflygplan, som landar på och startar från GOT.

Floda den 4 december 2015

Ola Christensson
Ola Christensson

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Bilaga 1

RESEARCH

Residential exposure to aircraft noise and hospital admissions for cardiovascular diseases: multi-airport retrospective study

OPEN ACCESS

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Abstract

Objective To investigate whether exposure to aircraft noise increases the risk of hospitalization for cardiovascular diseases in older people (≥65 years) residing near airports.

Design Multi-airport retrospective study of approximately 6 million older people residing near airports in the United States. We superimposed contours of aircraft noise levels (in decibels, dB) for 89 airports for 2009 provided by the US Federal Aviation Administration on census block resolution population data to construct two exposure metrics applicable to zip code resolution health insurance data: population weighted noise within each zip code, and 90th centile of noise among populated census blocks within each zip code.

Setting 2218 zip codes surrounding 89 airports in the contiguous states.

Participants 6 027 363 people eligible to participate in the national medical insurance (Medicare) program (aged ≥65 years) residing near airports in 2009.

Main outcome measures Percentage increase in the hospitalization admission rate for cardiovascular disease associated with a 10 dB

increase in aircraft noise, for each airport and on average across airports adjusted by individual level characteristics (age, sex, race), zip code level socioeconomic status and demographics, zip code level air pollution (fine particulate matter and ozone), and roadway density.

Results Averaged across all airports and using the 90th centile noise exposure metric, a zip code with 10 dB higher noise exposure had a 3.5% higher (95% confidence interval 0.2% to 7.0%) cardiovascular hospital admission rate, after controlling for covariates.

Conclusions Despite limitations related to potential misclassification of exposure, we found a statistically significant association between exposure to aircraft noise and risk of hospitalization for cardiovascular diseases among older people living near airports.

Introduction

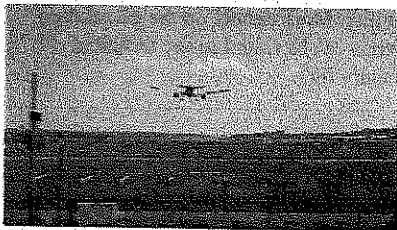
Exposure to aircraft noise has been associated with physiological responses and psychological reactions,^{1 2} such as sleep disturbances, sleep disordered breathing, nervousness, and annoyance.^{2 3} However, the extent to which exposure to aircraft noise might increase the risk of adverse health outcomes is not

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Extra material supplied by the author (see <http://www.bmj.com/content/347/bmj.f5561?tab=related#webextra>)

Technical appendix

Video on bmj.com (see also <http://bmj.com/video>)



Video abstract

well studied. Recent literature, primarily from one multicenter European study, has provided evidence of a relation between aircraft noise and hypertension outcomes, including incidence of hypertension,⁴ self reported hypertension,³ increased blood pressure,⁵⁻⁸ and antihypertensive medication use.¹⁻¹¹ These findings are supported by a broader literature, which evaluated the association between residential exposure to noise and cardiovascular disease and found substantial evidence for biological plausibility and positive associations between noise and hypertension, myocardial infarction, and ischemic heart disease.¹² Potential biological mechanisms may include induced release of stress hormones¹³⁻¹⁵ and indirect effects on sympathetic activity, which is associated with adverse metabolic outcomes.¹⁵⁻¹⁸

However, few studies of the relation between aircraft noise and cardiovascular disease have been conducted to date,¹ in part because these studies have small numbers of airports and therefore do not have sufficient statistical power. One study in the Netherlands examined a single airport and had somewhat inconsistent findings, with an association between airport noise and hospital discharge for myocardial infarction in women but not in men.¹⁹ A large national scale study in Switzerland found evidence of an association between exposure to aircraft noise and myocardial infarction mortality.²⁰ To our knowledge, no study has been conducted to date that includes a large study population across multiple airports to estimate the association between exposure to aircraft noise and hospital admissions for cardiovascular outcomes. The rigorous estimation of this association requires a sufficiently large number of airports with large surrounding populations, and sufficient variation in the exposure to aircraft noise. We applied statistical methods (hierarchical Poisson regression models) to estimate the association between zip code level exposure to aircraft noise and zip code level hospital admission rate for cardiovascular disease for each airport, and also to estimate this association by combining information across all the airports. The hierarchical Poisson regression model allows us to adjust for potential confounders both at the individual level and at the zip code level, and to estimate airport specific and overall associations between exposure to aircraft noise and health outcomes accounting for the clustering of the zip code level observations by airport.

In this study we use the large and nationally representative US population of Medicare enrollees to evaluate the association between airport related noise and the risk of hospital admission for cardiovascular disease in the population aged 65 years or more residing near airports in the contiguous states. Understanding the link between aircraft noise and cardiovascular disease outcomes is important in characterizing the potential benefits of intervention strategies.²¹

Methods

We obtained the study population from Medicare billing claims for the year 2009. In the United States, unless affected by some specific chronic condition, only people aged 65 or more are eligible for the national insurance program, Medicare. Our study population (6 027 363 people aged ≥ 65 years enrolled in Medicare and residing in the 2218 zip codes close to the 89 airports) corresponds to approximately 15% of the entire US population of older people.

From the claims, we extracted individual level information regarding the date of hospitalization, length of hospital stay, the associated primary and secondary diagnostic and procedure codes (international classification of diseases), and the costs

billed to Medicare. Additional individual level data included age, sex, race, and zip code of residence.

We examined five cause specific cardiovascular hospital admissions based on ICD-9 codes (international classification of diseases, 9th revision) for primary diagnosis: heart failure (ICD-9 428), heart rhythm disturbances (426 to 427), cerebrovascular events (430 to 438), ischemic heart disease (410 to 414, 429), and peripheral vascular disease (440 to 448). A variable for total cardiovascular disease admissions was calculated as the sum of hospital admissions for all these causes.

Noise exposure estimates

The US Federal Aviation Administration provided us with aircraft noise contours in decibels (dB) for 89 airports in the contiguous states. These noise levels were estimated at the centroid of each census block surrounding each of the 89 airports out to a minimum of 45 dB, where a census block is the smallest geographic entity for which population data are available in the US census. Noise contours were obtained using the Integrated Noise Model version 7.0a.²² The noise descriptor used was day-night sound level (DNL), which adds a 10 dB "penalty" to night time (that is, 10 pm-7 am).²³ Medicare data provide residential information at the zip (postal) code level only. Zip codes are larger geographical areas that are comprised of census blocks (on average there are 168 census blocks per zip code). Therefore, we aggregated the noise exposure across census blocks to obtain an estimate of zip code level (technically, zip code tabulation area) exposure to noise. More specifically, we constructed the following two exposure metrics at zip code level: population weighted average noise (arithmetic mean) among the census blocks within each zip code, where each census block was weighted by the size of the population aged 65 or more obtained from the 2010 US census, and the 90th centile noise exposure among the census blocks within each zip code that contained at least one person aged 65 or more.

Several zip codes were intersected by the 45 dB noise contour at their respective airports, meaning they were comprised of census blocks with noise exposures of both 45 dB or more and less than 45 dB. To calculate our noise exposure metrics for these zip codes, we assigned a value of 45 dB to the census blocks outside the 45 dB contour, whereas census blocks inside the 45 dB contour were assigned their actual value, as estimated by the Integrated Noise Model. We considered only zip codes with census blocks within the 45 dB contour with people aged 65 or more that had Integrated Noise Model estimates when constructing the 90th centile noise exposure variable; for the 90th centile noise exposure there were 1928 such zip codes, with a combined population of 5 523 788 people aged 65 or more. Since Integrated Noise Model estimates were made at census block centroids, some zip codes were excluded because all census block centroids were outside the 45 dB contour.

In our preliminary analyses we developed other candidate noise metrics, including the variance of noise exposure across census blocks within each zip code and percentage of population above various noise thresholds, but focused on the population weighted average and 90th centile noise exposure given their distribution of values and interpretability. More details on the calculation of our two exposure metrics can be found in the technical appendix (see supplementary file).

Outcomes

For each zip code included in the analysis, we calculated the number of hospital admissions and the number of people at risk (Medicare enrollees) separately by two age groups (>75 or ≤ 75).

sex, and race (white (non-Hispanic) or non-white). We conducted the analysis for hospital admissions for all cardiovascular diseases (our main analysis) and separately for cerebrovascular disease, ischemic heart disease, and heart failure. Preliminary analyses indicated that heart rhythm disturbances and peripheral vascular disease were too infrequent to analyze as stand alone outcomes.

Potential confounders

To adjust for the potential confounding effect of socioeconomic status, we extracted several zip code level variables from the 2000 US census. Extensive preliminary analyses led to the selection of percentage Hispanic and median household income as the two key variables that were included in the regression model. To adjust for the potential confounding effect of exposure to air pollution, we also calculated zip code level fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and ozone concentrations for 1165 and 779 zip codes, respectively, out of the 2218 zip codes included in the analyses. Air pollution data were obtained from the US Environmental Protection Agency's air quality system database, and we calculated zip code level averages by taking the average of the air pollution concentrations across all the monitors that fell in that zip code. In addition, as near-roadway air pollution and noise could both serve as confounders, we estimated zip code level road density. The technical appendix describes how road density was estimated (see supplementary file).

Statistical analysis

The dataset included hospital admission counts, number of people at risk, exposure to aircraft noise, and potential confounders for 2218 zip codes surrounding 89 airports. We used hierarchical Poisson regression models with airport specific random effects to estimate, for each airport and on average across airports, the percentage increase in the zip code level hospital admission rate associated with a 10 dB increase in the zip code level aircraft noise. We denote this percentage increase as the relative rate.

In more detail, the hierarchical Poisson regression model can be described in two stages. Firstly, we specified a Poisson regression model for zip code level data to estimate the relative rate as defined above for each airport adjusted by individual level variables (age, sex, and race) and zip code level potential confounders (socioeconomic status and air pollution). Secondly, we combined information across airports to estimate the relative rate on average across all airports. The model estimated airport specific relative rates and the average relative rate across all airports accounting for the clustering of the zip code level observations within each airport and for potential differences across airports in the association between noise and hospitalization rates. The technical appendix provides details on the mathematical formulation of the hierarchical Poisson regression model (see supplementary file).

To investigate the role of the potential confounding factors, we constructed three hierarchical Poisson regression models for each cardiovascular outcome and for each noise metric (population weighted average and 90th centile). Model 1 did not include any zip code level confounders and only controlled for individual level variables (age, sex, and race). Model 2 additionally controlled for zip code level socioeconomic status and demographic variables (median household income and percentage Hispanic). Model 3 additionally controlled for zip code level exposure to air pollution (fine particulate matter and ozone); model 3 was fitted to a substantially smaller dataset of 779 zip codes rather than the 2218 zip codes used for models 1

and 2, because of the limited availability of air pollution data. In secondary analyses of models 2 and 3 we evaluated the potential confounding effect of zip code level road density (a proxy for road noise and near-road air pollution).

Threshold analysis

We conducted additional analyses to quantify the evidence of a potential non-linearity in the association between exposure to aircraft noise and hospital admission rate for cardiovascular disease. We used total hospitalizations for cardiovascular disease as the outcome and the 90th centile noise exposure metric. In the hierarchical models, we replaced the aircraft noise exposure variable (originally defined as a continuous variable) by a categorical variable indicating low, medium, or high exposure to aircraft noise. A zip code was designated as low exposure for noise levels of 50 dB or less (47% of the study population), medium exposure for noise levels greater than 50 dB but 55 dB or less (30%), and high exposure for noise levels greater than 55 dB (23%). Under this model we could estimate three different percentage increases in hospital admission rates for cardiovascular disease corresponding to: medium versus high exposure, low versus high exposure, and low versus medium exposure. Categorizing the exposure in this way, we could detect evidence of a threshold effect if, for example, we found no evidence of an increase in the cardiovascular disease hospitalization rate when noise increases from low to medium, but statistically significant evidence of an increase in the cardiovascular disease hospitalization rate when noise increases from medium to high. Such a scenario would suggest that any relation between noise exposure and cardiovascular disease hospitalizations only occurs for noise exposures above 55 dB. All statistical analyses were performed using R version 2.15.2. The technical appendix provides more details regarding statistical methods (see supplementary file).^{24 25}

Population attributable fraction

To facilitate the interpretation of our findings, we estimated the population attributable fraction for aircraft noise as well as for fine particulate matter and ozone. The population attributable fraction can be interpreted as the percentage reduction in hospitalizations for cardiovascular disease that would occur if each of these risk factors was reduced to a level that represents theoretical minimum risk, termed the counterfactual exposure distribution.²⁶ For aircraft noise, we used the 90th centile exposure metric, and we considered the counterfactual level of exposure for all zip codes as 45 dB (the lowest level of exposure evaluated in our study). Similarly, for both fine particulate matter and ozone we used the minimum concentration within our domain as the counterfactual level of exposure (4.8 µg/m³ and 17.6 ppb, respectively). All relative risk estimates were taken from an expanded version of model 3, which incorporated additional zip code level covariates that could potentially confound air pollution effects but had no influence on the association between aircraft noise and hospitalization for cardiovascular disease. For each risk factor we estimated the population attributable fraction across all zip codes that had exposure data for that risk factor. To ensure that the population attributable fraction estimates were comparable to one another, given air pollution data from only a subset of zip codes, we also calculated the population attributable fraction for noise for the subset of zip codes with data on air pollution. More detail about the calculation is available in the technical appendix (see supplementary file).

Results

Overall, there were 2218 zip codes (779 with both fine particulate matter and ozone data) and 6 027 363 Medicare enrollees residing within the 45 dB contour level of the 89 airports. The number of zip codes (Medicare enrollees) surrounding each airport ranged from seven (n=8556) to 107 (n=482 200). The table¹ summarizes the population characteristics, and figure 1¹ provides a map presenting the 89 airports displayed by size of the population aged 65 or more within the 45 dB contour level.

Figure 2¹ shows the estimated relative rates for cardiovascular disease hospitalizations averaged across all airports for both the population weighted noise exposure and the 90th centile of noise exposure. For the 90th centile of noise exposure variable, controlling for age, sex, and race, an increase of 10 dB was associated with an increase of 2.9% (95% confidence interval 0.8% to 5.0%) in hospital admission rate (model 1). In model 2, which additionally controls for zip code level socioeconomic status and demographic variables, the estimated relative rate was only marginally significant (1.6%, 95% confidence interval -0.2% to 3.5%). In model 3, adding pollution variables to model 2, an increase in the 90th centile of noise of 10 dB was associated with an increase of 3.5% (95% confidence interval 0.2% to 7.0%) in the relative rate of having a cardiovascular disease hospitalization. Models 1 to 3, when fitted to only the 779 zip codes with both fine particulate matter and ozone data, yielded consistently positive and statistically significant estimates of the relative rate of cardiovascular disease hospitalizations associated with a 10 dB increase in the 90th centile of noise (fig 2). Figure 3¹ displays the airport specific and aggregated relative rates (for model 3) of having a cardiovascular disease hospitalization per 10 dB increase in the 90th centile of noise exposure. In secondary analyses (data not shown), we observed that the relation of noise to cardiovascular disease hospitalizations was almost entirely attributed to within airport and across zip code variations in noise exposure rather than to variations between airports. Indeed, the average within airport standard deviation of our 90th centile noise exposure was 4.7 dB, whereas the average between airport standard deviation of the 90th centile noise exposure was only 1.7 dB, indicating that most of the information used to estimate the noise-cardiovascular disease relation in our models was from variability in exposure within airports, rather than from variability in exposure between airports.

For population weighted noise exposure, there was an estimated 6.9% increase (95% confidence interval 2.4% to 11.6%) in the cardiovascular disease hospital admission rate associated with a 10 dB increase in noise in model 1; however, after controlling for socioeconomic status, demographic, and pollution variables (models 2 and 3), this association was no longer statistically significant. Figure 4¹ shows the airport specific estimated associations for model 3 for population weighted noise. The standard errors of the airport specific estimates were consistently larger than those estimated in models using the 90th centile of noise exposure, due potentially in part to the relatively limited variability of population weighted noise across zip codes within the dataset (see table). Because of this larger standard error in models using the population weighted noise exposure, we focused subsequent analyses on the 90th centile of noise exposure.

Considering subcategories of cardiovascular disease outcomes, we observed generally consistent patterns among models. For example, in model 1, an increase in the 90th centile of noise of 10 dB was associated with cerebrovascular disease and heart

failure, with a marginal association for ischemic heart disease. Relative rate estimates were similar across outcomes (fig 5¹). For model 2, relative rate estimates for all three outcomes declined in magnitude and lost statistical significance. Inclusion of pollution variables (model 3) led to stable or increased relative rate estimates for all three outcomes, relative to model 2. These estimates lacked statistical significance other than for ischemic heart disease but were similar in magnitude to the estimates from model 1. For the population weighted noise exposure, a similar pattern was observed (fig 5).

We found that associations were not sensitive to adjustment for our proxy for road noise and near-road air pollution (road density). In models 2 and 3, the overall estimates per 10 dB increase in the 90th centile of noise without road density were 1.6% (95% confidence interval -0.2% to 3.5%) and 3.5% (0.2% to 7.0%), respectively, and with road density the estimates were 1.6% (-0.4% to 3.5%) and 3.4% (0.3% to 6.7%), respectively.

Figure 6¹ summarizes the results using the categorized 90th centile noise exposure variable (low, medium, or high). In model 3—controlling for socioeconomic status, demographic, and pollution variables—we found statistically significant evidence of an increase in the hospital admission rate for cardiovascular disease when comparing high versus medium exposure and high versus low exposure, but we did not find statistically significant evidence of an increase when comparing medium versus low exposure. This indicates lack of an association between the 90th centile exposure to aircraft noise and hospital admission rate for cardiovascular disease for noise levels below 55 dB but evidence of an association for noise levels higher than 55 dB.

From the estimation of the population attributable fraction we found that, in total, 2.3% of hospitalizations for cardiovascular disease in our Medicare cohort were attributable to aircraft noise. Twenty three per cent of our Medicare cohort was exposed to greater than 55 dB using the 90th centile exposure metric, and this population contributed half of the attributable hospitalizations. In comparison, across the zip codes with air pollution data, 6.8% of hospitalizations for cardiovascular disease were attributable to fine particulate matter and 4.2% to ozone. The population attributable fraction for noise was similar in the subset of zip codes with air pollution data (2.2%).

Discussion

We estimated the association between residential exposure to aircraft noise and hospitalization rates for cardiovascular disease in the largest population of older people (≥ 65 years) in the United States studied to date. In models only controlling for individual demographics, we found that this association was positive and statistically significant using both of our noise exposure metrics. The results were attenuated after additionally controlling for area level socioeconomic status and demographic factors. However, the positive association generally persisted, with the most adjusted model accounting for individual level and zip code level variables as well as regional air pollution—particularly for the 90th centile of noise exposure variable, which had greater variability across zip codes than the population weighted average, and correspondingly had greater statistical significance. Positive associations were also observed for individual cardiovascular hospitalization outcomes, but statistical power was reduced.

Comparison with other studies

Our findings add to previous literature in several key ways. Firstly, we investigated the noise-cardiovascular hospitalization relation across gradients of airport noise exposure levels for the

largest number of airports and population of older people studied to date. We used administrative data capturing the majority of older US adults, who represent an age group at greater risk for cardiovascular disease. We thus had a large number of events, increasing our power to detect relations. We used hierarchical Poisson regression models to estimate airport specific associations while utilizing information from each airport for a pooled estimate. Secondly, we evaluated the relation of noise with cardiovascular hospitalization as the outcome, which, to our knowledge, has been rarely considered in previous noise studies. An ecological study of 62 municipalities around an airport in Amsterdam found no clustering of cardiovascular hospitalizations in areas close to the airport,^{27 28} but we improve on this study by assessing the relation for individual at risk people and by estimating the whole exposure-response relation. Thirdly, our study provides evidence within the United States, where the housing stock and other factors may differ from the European populations generally studied in the past. US studies have been more limited and have not yielded interpretable evidence. For example, the only major US study to date that investigated the relation between aircraft noise and mortality²⁹ was conducted more than 30 years ago, focused on a single airport, and was critiqued for inadequately controlling for age/sex/race, and other analytical flaws.³⁰ Fourthly, we accounted for the potential confounding of regional air pollution and near-road air pollution/noise.

The estimated associations of similar magnitude across several cardiovascular disease specific outcomes are broadly consistent with the literature. For example, in areas with more aircraft noise, more people were receiving medical treatment for heart trouble and had a "pathological heart shape."³¹ A 2009 review of epidemiological studies found sufficient evidence of positive relations between aircraft noise and high blood pressure and use of cardiovascular medication.³² One study included in this review investigated the relation between aircraft noise and incidence of hypertension and found a positive association, particularly in older people.³³ Hypertension is not typically a primary reason for hospital admission, so it was not specifically included in our analyses, but hypertension is associated with multiple cardiovascular sequelae that would contribute to hospitalizations.

Our study suggests that although an exposure-response relation exists between noise and cardiovascular admission rates, there may also be a threshold for the effect of noise exposure on cardiovascular disease hospitalizations. Results from our models using a categorized exposure variable showed consistent statistically significant associations in only the highest exposure group (>55 dB). These findings are broadly consistent with previous literature suggesting the possibility of a threshold effect for the aircraft noise-cardiovascular disease relation. In a categorical analysis, Huss and colleagues²⁰ observed significant mortality from myocardial infarction with aircraft noise only in the highest group of 60 dB (A weighted) or more. Other studies found associations with hypertension outcomes with levels 50 dB (A weighted) or more,^{4 33} but did not see results with categories further divided above 50 dB (A weighted) likely due to small numbers in higher categories.⁴ It should be noted that our noise exposure metrics were calculated differently from those in prior studies, given zip code level residential resolution, so the noise level at which effects are seen cannot be directly compared.

We did not find statistically significant evidence of heterogeneity in the relation between aircraft noise and cardiovascular hospitalization across airports. In addition we found that evidence of an association between aircraft noise and

cardiovascular hospitalization was mainly attributable to variation in noise exposure within airports and not differences between airports. As proposed elsewhere,¹¹ any observed heterogeneity may reflect differences across the country in sound transmission from outdoors to indoors (where most exposure would be anticipated to occur). This could include structural attributes of the housing stock, frequency of open windows, or degree of soundproofing. Heterogeneity may also reflect differences in the type of aircraft and the frequency of over-flights between airports, although this would be incorporated to some extent in Integrated Noise Model inputs and outputs.

In addition, although aircraft related noise has a different profile from that of traffic related noise, our findings are consistent with the traffic noise-cardiovascular disease health literature. For example, in models controlling for individual characteristics, zip code level socioeconomic status and demographics, and air pollution, we found the strongest association (positive and statistically significant) with hospitalizations for ischemic heart disease, consistent with conclusions of an expert report regarding likely mechanisms of noise related health effects.¹² Our findings were also consistent with studies looking jointly at noise and air pollution. For example, Beelen and colleagues³⁴ found excess cardiovascular mortality in the highest category of road traffic noise, which was reduced slightly after controlling for air pollution. Huss and colleagues¹⁷ found that the association between aircraft noise and mortality from myocardial infarction was not attenuated with adjustment for air pollution. De Kluienaar and colleagues³⁵ found that after controlling for particulate matter (PM₁₀), the relation between road traffic noise and hypertension became marginally significant. We found that controlling for air pollution and road traffic density did not attenuate the relative rate for both of the aircraft noise exposure metrics. It is worth noting that air pollution is less correlated with aircraft noise than it is with road traffic noise.²⁰

Limitations of this study

Our analysis has limitations. Although Medicare data covers nearly the entire US older population, this database was developed for administrative purposes and has been shown to be subject to misclassification^{36 37} and geographic variability in evaluation and management.^{38 39} We only used primary diagnosis, which should reduce misclassification of outcomes,⁴⁰ and our analyses of combined cardiovascular disease outcomes are unlikely to have significant misclassification.

Other limitations of the Medicare data include limited individual data on risk factors. For example, we were not able to control for smoking and diet, strong risk factors for cardiovascular disease. These variables would only confound the association between aircraft noise and hospitalization for cardiovascular disease if there were significant correlations between aircraft noise exposures and these risk factors. Noise contours display fairly sharp gradients and skew as a function of prevailing wind directions, given runway orientation, and arrival and departure patterns, which may limit spatial confounding. It is possible that socioeconomically patterned risk factors such as smoking are spatially correlated with aircraft noise, as property values have been found to relate to noise levels.⁴¹ However, property value is not simply tied to aircraft noise levels but is affected by a complex interplay of several factors (for examples, amenities).⁴² Our estimates were generally robust to socioeconomic status covariates at area level, but we lacked the individual level addresses and socioeconomic status characteristics to formally address this question. In addition, our zip code level socioeconomic status and demographic

variables were taken from census 2000 data because only limited socioeconomic status information from census 2010 was available at the zip code level at the time of our analysis. We thus assumed that patterns of zip code level socioeconomic status remained similar over that time. More generally, the availability of only zip code level address information can lead to exposure misclassification. Noise gradients are substantial at close proximity to airports, and we were unable to differentiate among individuals' noise exposure within zip codes. However, the use of a study population closely aligned with census data (given near universal enrollment of older people in Medicare) allowed us to reasonably estimate a representative zip code resolution population exposure, with error most likely to be Berksonian with unbiased regression coefficients and inflated standard errors. There remains the possibility of downward bias in our estimates due to aggregation effects, but bias has been shown to be limited when within area variance is small relative to between area variance.^{43 44} Between zip code variance in noise is larger than within zip code variance, especially for the 90th centile noise exposure, so we would not anticipate substantial bias. However, there is some chance for attenuated effect estimates for the population weighted noise exposure because of comparatively smaller between zip code variance in this exposure metric.

Using the Integrated Noise Model to predict noise exposure also has limitations. The model uses average annual input conditions. Therefore, values may lack precision because certain local acoustical variables, such as humidity effects, ground absorption, individual aircraft directivity patterns, and sound diffraction around terrain or buildings, are not averaged or may not be explicitly modeled.²² That said, the Integrated Noise Model is well established internationally⁴ and is the required noise assessment tool in the United States for airport noise compatibility planning and environmental assessments and impact statements.²² Each of our derived exposure metrics had its own inherent limitations, with the population weighted average potentially reducing the contrast between zip codes, and the 90th centile of noise exposure not capturing the exposure profile of the entire zip code. Our data were not separated by time of day, so we were not able to analyze the effect of night time noise. This is particularly relevant as recent studies found associations of night time noise on cardiovascular related outcomes^{5 9} suggesting that sleep interference may mediate the effect of noise on cardiovascular health. However, the Integrated Noise Model outputs did up-weight night time noise, partially accounting for this phenomenon.

Conclusions and future research

We found that aircraft noise, particularly characterized by the 90th centile of noise exposure among census blocks within zip codes, is statistically significantly associated with higher relative rate of hospitalization for cardiovascular disease among older people residing near airports. This relation remained after controlling for individual data, zip code level socioeconomic status and demographics, air pollution, and roadway proximity variables. Our results provide evidence of a statistically significant association between exposure to aircraft noise and cardiovascular health, particularly at higher exposure levels. Further research should refine these associations and strengthen causal interpretation by investigating modifying factors at the airport or individual level.

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and data interpretation. JIL contributed to the literature search, study design, data interpretation, and writing. SM contributed to data collection and data interpretation. FD (study guarantor) contributed to the study design, data analysis, data interpretation, and writing.

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Ethical approval: Studies using national data repositories and area level exposure data do not require ethical approval in the United States. All authors had full access to the data and take full responsibility for their integrity.

Data sharing: No additional data available.

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What is already known on this topic

- Noise has been associated with hypertension, myocardial infarction, and ischemic heart disease.
- Aircraft noise in particular has been associated with several hypertension outcomes.
- Few studies, however, have investigated the relation of aircraft noise to cardiovascular disease, in part because studies surrounding a small number of airports are not typically adequately powered.

What this study adds

- Long term exposure to aircraft noise is positively associated with hospitalization for cardiovascular disease.
- The association between aircraft noise and hospitalization for cardiovascular disease is not confounded by air pollution, road density, or area level socioeconomic status.
- There may be a threshold for the association between aircraft noise and hospitalization for cardiovascular disease.

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Table

Table 1 Distribution of zip code level exposure for 2218 zip codes and risk factor data for about six million national insurance plan (servicing those aged ≥ 65 years) enrollees residing near airports in United States, 2009. Values are percentages unless stated otherwise

Characteristics	Median (interquartile range)
>75 years old (among population aged ≥ 65)	42.7 (37.3-47.7)
Black ethnicity	5.5 (1.8-20.2)
Hispanic	6.2 (2.1-19.8)
Median household income (\$000s)	45.1 (34.9-57.3)
Graduated high school	82.9 (72.8-90.0)
Fine particulate matter (PM _{2.5} ; annual average, $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)*	10.2 (9.1-11.3)
Ozone (annual average, ppb)†	25 (22-28)
Population weighted noise (dB, DNL)	45.9 (45.1-48.6)
90th centile of noise among populated census blocks (dB, DNL)	50.3 (47.5-54.5)
Hospital admission rate per 100 000 population:	
All cardiovascular	6288.9 (5064.7-7697.6)
Cerebrovascular events (stroke)	1343.3 (1092.5-1652.2)
Ischemic heart disease	1568.2 (1173.7-1987.8)
Heart failure	1576.4 (1125.2-2142.9)
Heart rhythm disturbances	1222.8 (932.1-1531.2)
Peripheral vascular disease	421.9 (280.3-582.7)

DNL=day-night sound level.

*1165 zip codes with data for PM_{2.5}.

†779 zip codes with data for ozone.

Figures

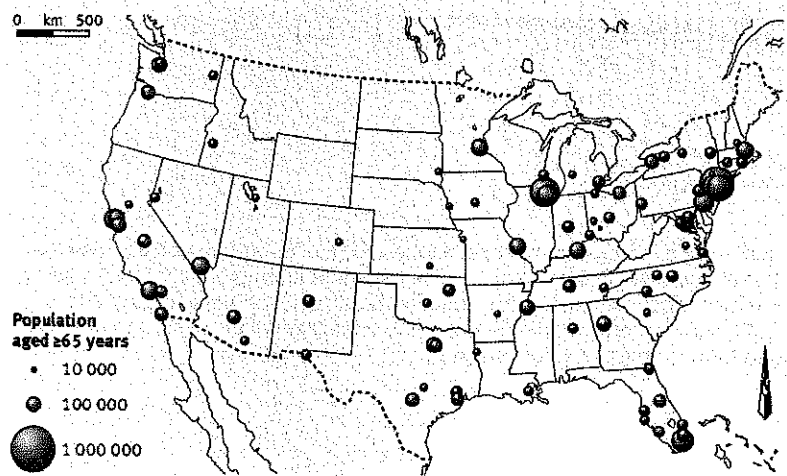


Fig 1 Map of 89 airports in contiguous states included in analysis. Size of circles is proportional to size of population aged 65 or more residing within 45 dB contour lines surrounding each airport

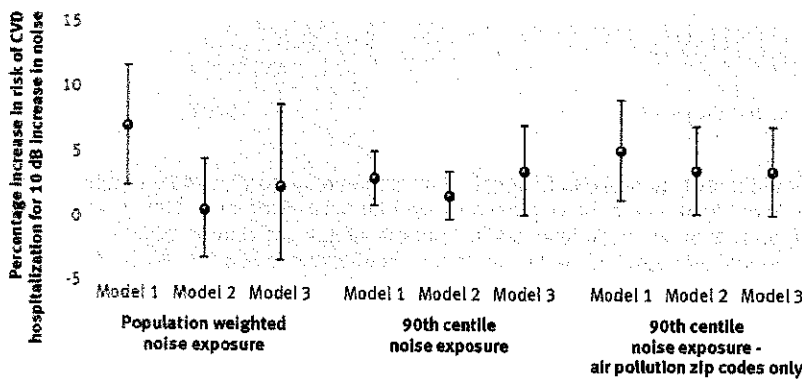


Fig 2 Overall estimates (averaged across 89 airports) of percentage increase in hospital admission rate for cardiovascular disease (CVD) associated with 10 dB (day-night sound level) increase in both exposure variables (population weighted noise exposure and 90th centile noise exposure) for each of the models. Model 1 controls for individual demographics (age, sex, and race); model 2 additionally controls for zip code level socioeconomic status and demographics (% Hispanic and median household income); and model 3 adds to model 2 by also controlling for annual average fine particulate matter and ozone levels. Panel 3 shows models 1 to 3 fitted to only the 779 zip codes with both air pollution variables

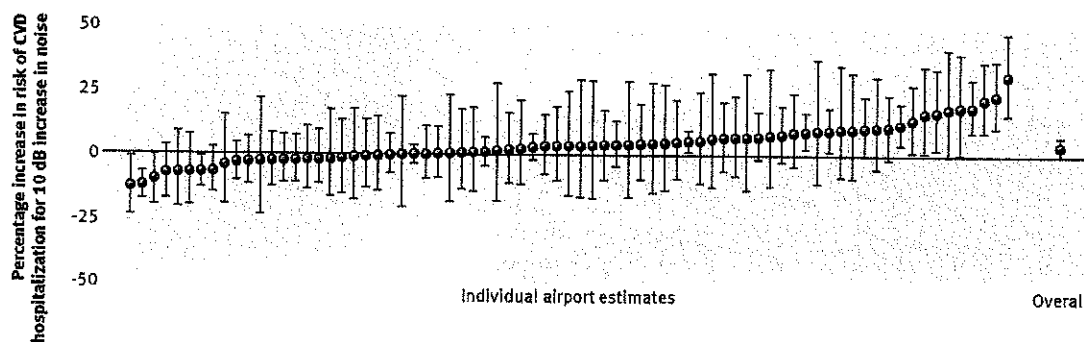


Fig 3 Airport specific and overall estimates of percentage increase in hospital admission rate for cardiovascular disease (CVD) associated with 10 dB (day-night sound level) increase in 90th centile noise exposure among census blocks within zip codes. Model controls for individual demographics (age, sex, and race), zip code level socioeconomic status and demographics (% Hispanic and median household income), and annual average fine particulate matter and ozone levels (model 3). Airport specific estimates are arranged from lowest to highest values

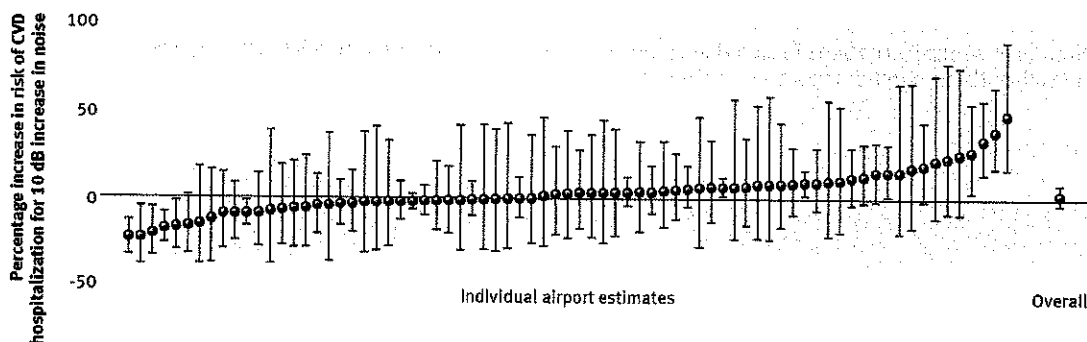


Fig 4 Airport specific and overall estimates of percentage increase in hospital admission rate for cardiovascular disease (CVD) associated with 10 dB (day-night sound level) increase in the population weighted noise exposure. This model controls for individual demographics (age, sex, and race), zip code level socioeconomic status and demographics (% Hispanic and median household income), and annual average fine particulate matter and ozone levels (model 3). Airport specific estimates are arranged from lowest to highest values

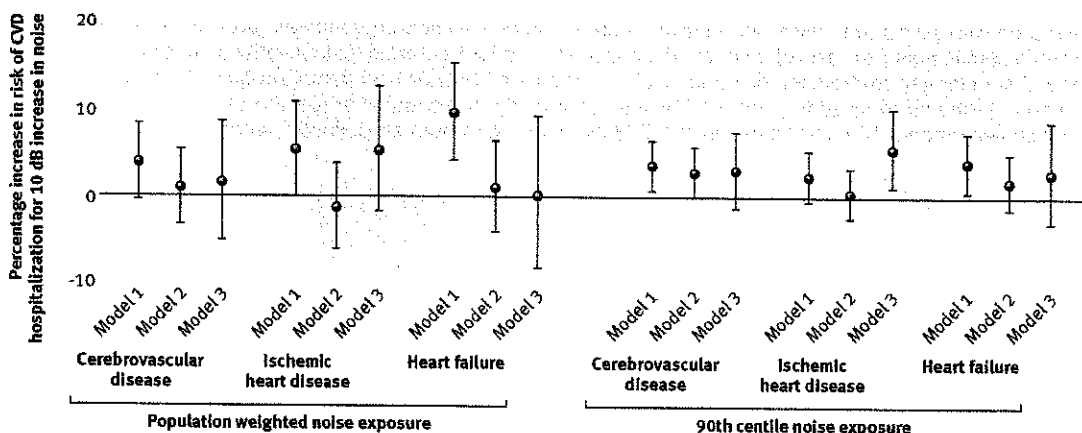


Fig 5 Overall estimates of percentage increase in hospital admission rate for specific cardiovascular diseases (CVD) associated with 10 dB (day-night sound level) increase in noise exposure. Results are reported for cerebrovascular disease (stroke), ischemic heart disease, and heart failure, and for both exposure variables (population weighted noise exposure and 90th centile noise exposure) for each of the three models. Model 1 controls for individual demographics (age, sex, and race); model 2 additionally controls for zip code level socioeconomic status and demographics (% Hispanic and median household income); and model 3 adds to model 2 by also controlling for annual average fine particulate matter and ozone

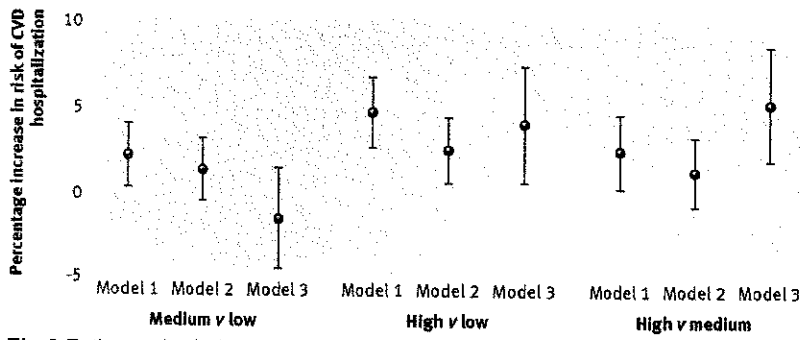


Fig 6 Estimated relative rates of cardiovascular disease (CVD) hospitalization from models using categorized 90th centile of noise exposure. Low noise indicates <50 dB, medium noise indicates 50-55 dB, and high noise indicates >55 dB. Model 1 controls for individual demographics (age, sex, and race), model 2 additionally controls for zip code level socioeconomic status and demographics (% Hispanic and median household income), and model 3 adds to model 2 by also controlling for fine particulate matter and ozone levels

Bilaga 2

Bilaga 2



EUROPE

**NIGHT NOISE
GUIDELINES
FOR EUROPE**

Keywords

NOISE - ADVERSE EFFECTS - PREVENTION AND CONTROL

SLEEP DEPRIVATION - ETIOLOGY

SLEEP DISORDERS - PREVENTION AND CONTROL

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

HEALTH POLICY - LEGISLATION

GUIDELINES

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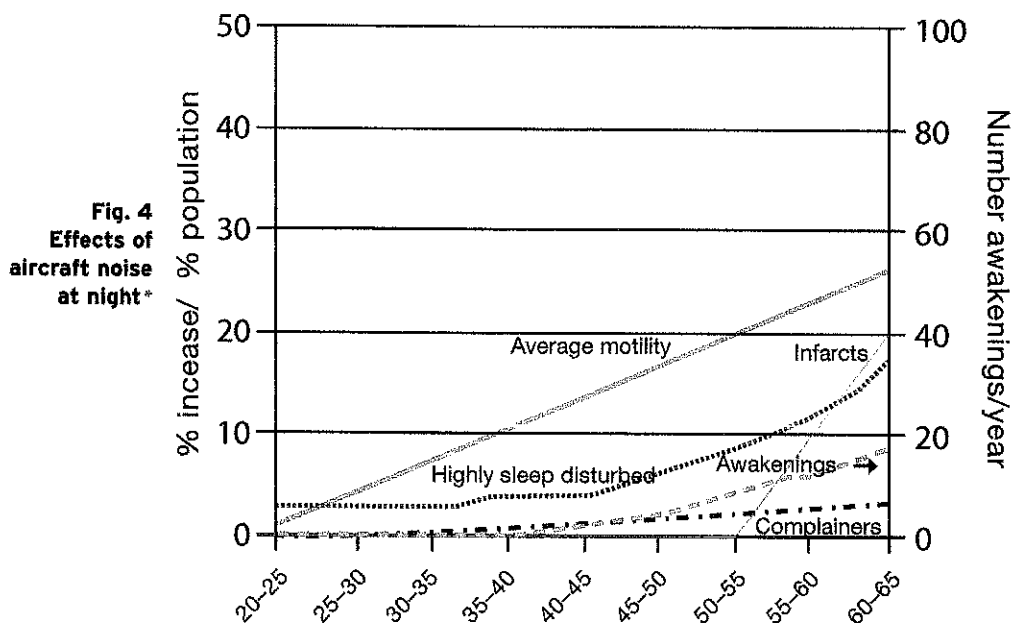
ABSTRACT

The WHO Regional Office for Europe set up a working group of experts to provide scientific advice to the Member States for the development of future legislation and policy action in the area of assessment and control of night noise exposure. The working group reviewed available scientific evidence on the health effects of night noise, and derived health-based guideline values. In December 2006, the working group and stakeholders from industry, government and nongovernmental organizations reviewed and reached general agreement on the guideline values and key texts for the final document of the *Night noise guidelines for Europe*.

Considering the scientific evidence on the thresholds of night noise exposure indicated by $L_{\text{night, outside}}$ as defined in the Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC), an $L_{\text{night, outside}}$ of 40 dB should be the target of the night noise guideline (NNG) to protect the public, including the most vulnerable groups such as children, the chronically ill and the elderly. $L_{\text{night, outside}}$ value of 55 dB is recommended as an interim target for the countries where the NNG cannot be achieved in the short term for various reasons, and where policy-makers choose to adopt a stepwise approach. These guidelines are applicable to the Member States of the European Region, and may be considered as an extension to, as well as an update of, the previous WHO *Guidelines for community noise* (1999).

RELATIONS WITH $L_{\text{NIGHT, OUTSIDE}}$

Over the next few years, the END will require that night 'noise' exposures are reported in $L_{\text{night, outside}}$. It is, therefore, interesting to look into the relation between $L_{\text{night, outside}}$ and adverse health effects. The relation between the effects and $L_{\text{night, outside}}$ is, however, not straightforward. Short-term effects are mainly related to maximum levels per event inside the bedroom: $L_{\text{Amax, inside}}$. In order to express the (expected) effects in relation to the single European Union indicator, some calculation needs to be done. The calculation for the total number of effects from reaction data on events (arousals, body movements and awakenings) needs a number of assumptions. The first that needs to be made is independence: although there is evidence that the order of events of different loudness strongly influences the reactions, the calculation is nearly impossible to carry out if this is taken into consideration. Secondly, the reactions per event are known in relation to levels at the ear of the sleeper, so an assumption for an average insulation value must be made. In the report a value of 21 dB has been selected. This value is, however, subject to national and cultural differences. One thing that stands out is the desire of a large part of the population to sleep with windows (slightly) open. The relatively low value of 21 dB takes this into account already. If noise levels increase, people do indeed close their windows, but obviously reluctantly, as complaints about bad air then increase and sleep disturbance remains high. This was already pointed out in the WHO *Guidelines for community noise* (1999).



*Average motility and infarcts are expressed in percent increase (compared to baseline number); the number of highly sleep disturbed people is expressed as a percent of the population; complainers are expressed as a % of the neighbourhood population; awakenings are expressed in number of additional awakenings per year.

source dependent. Although L_{night} gives a good relation for most effects, there is a difference between sources for some. Train noise gives fewer awakenings, for instance. Once source is accounted for, the relations are reasonably accurate.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HEALTH PROTECTION

Based on the systematic review of evidence produced by epidemiological and experimental studies, the relationship between night noise exposure and health effects can be summarized as below. (Table 3)

Below the level of 30 dB $L_{night, outside}$, no effects on sleep are observed except for a slight increase in the frequency of body movements during sleep due to night noise. There is no sufficient evidence that the biological effects observed at the level below 40 dB $L_{night, outside}$ are harmful to health. However, adverse health effects are observed at the level above 40 dB $L_{night, outside}$, such as self-reported sleep disturbance, environmental insomnia, and increased use of somnifacient drugs and sedatives.

Therefore, 40 dB $L_{night, outside}$ is equivalent to the lowest observed adverse effect level (LOAEL) for night noise. Above 55 dB the cardiovascular effects become the major public health concern, which are likely to be less dependent on the nature of the noise. Closer examination of the precise impact will be necessary in the range between 30 dB and 55 dB as much will depend on the detailed circumstances of each case.

Average night noise level over a year	Health effects observed in the population
$L_{\text{night, outside}}$	
Up to 30 dB	Although individual sensitivities and circumstances may differ, it appears that up to this level no substantial biological effects are observed. $L_{\text{night, outside}}$ of 30 dB is equivalent to the no observed effect level (NOEL) for night noise.
30 to 40 dB	A number of effects on sleep are observed from this range: body movements, awakening, self-reported sleep disturbance, arousals. The intensity of the effect depends on the nature of the source and the number of events. Vulnerable groups (for example children, the chronically ill and the elderly) are more susceptible. However, even in the worst cases the effects seem modest. $L_{\text{night, outside}}$ of 40 dB is equivalent to the lowest observed adverse effect level (LOAEL) for night noise.
40 to 55 dB	Adverse health effects are observed among the exposed population. Many people have to adapt their lives to cope with the noise at night. Vulnerable groups are more severely affected.
Above 55 dB	The situation is considered increasingly dangerous for public health. Adverse health effects occur frequently, a sizeable proportion of the population is highly annoyed and sleep-disturbed. There is evidence that the risk of cardiovascular disease increases.

Table 3
Effects of different levels of night noise on the population's health

A number of instantaneous effects are connected to threshold levels expressed in $L_{A_{\text{max}}}$. The health relevance of these effects cannot be easily established. It can be safely assumed, however, that an increase in the number of such events over the baseline may constitute a subclinical adverse health effect by itself leading to significant clinical health outcomes.

Based on the exposure-effects relationship summarized in Table 3, the night noise guideline values are recommended for the protection of public health from night noise as below.

Night noise guideline (NNG)	$L_{\text{night, outside}} = 40 \text{ dB}$
Interim target (IT)	$L_{\text{night, outside}} = 55 \text{ dB}$

Table 4
Recommended night noise guidelines for Europe

¹ $L_{\text{night, outside}}$ is the night-time noise indicator (L_{night}) of Directive 2002/49/EC of 25 June 2002: the A-weighted long-term average sound level as defined in ISO 1996-2: 1987, determined over all the night periods of a year; in which: the night is eight hours (usually 23.00 – 07.00 local time), a year is a relevant year as regards the emission of sound and an average year as regards the meteorological circumstances, the incident sound is considered, the assessment point is the same as for L_{den} . See *Official Journal of the European Communities*, 18.7.2002, for more details.

Bilaga 3



SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Målnr 3/11 2014

YTTRANDE

2014-09-04 Ärendnr:
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mmd.vanersborg@dom.se**Yttrande i målnr M 1030-13 angående ansökan om nytt miljötillstånd för verksamheten vid Göteborg Landvetter Airport**

Naturvårdsverket har beretts tillfälle att lämna synpunkter på rubricerad ansökan. Vi väljer att i princip avgränsa vårt yttrande till frågor gällande flygbuller och flygvägar.

Naturvårdsverkets ställningstaganden

- Vi anser att avgående flygplan inte bör få lämna flygvägen (SID) förrän beräknad maximalljudnivå 60 dB(A) vid marken underskrids.
 - Vi anser att bullerskyddsåtgärder ska vidtas i bostadsbyggnader (både permanent- och fritidsbostäder) samt vård- och undervisningslokaler som utomhus exponeras för FBN 55 dB(A) eller däröver, maximalljudnivåer 70 dB(A) eller däröver, minst 150 nätter per år med minst 3 flygrörelser per natt.
- Målet ska som lägst vara att uppnå 30 dB(A) ekvivalentljudnivå respektive 45 d(B)A maximalljudnivå nattetid inomhus för de bostadsbyggnader som används nattetid samt 45 dB(A) maximalljudnivå för vård- och undervisningslokaler som utomhus exponeras för maximalljudnivåer högre än 70 dB(A).
- Vi delar Länsstyrelsens i Västra Götalands bedömning angående tillståndets omfattning och anser således att tillståndet bör begränsas antingen vad gäller antalet flygrörelser eller i tid.
 - Vi anser att all flygplatsanknuten verksamhet ska ingå i tillståndet

miljön kan uppkomma medför skyldighet att vidta försiktighetsåtgärder. En olägenhet definieras i 9 kap. 3 § MB som en störning som enligt medicinsk eller hygienisk bedömning kan påverka hälsan menligt och som inte är ringa eller helt tillfällig.

Enligt förarbetena (prop. 1997/98:45 del 2 s.109) utgår man vid bedömningen från vad människor i allmänhet anser vara en olägenhet, men hänsyn ska tas till personer som är något känsligare än normalt t.ex. barn. Utifrån det perspektivet ifrågasätter vi varför bolaget begränsat slutsatserna i den miljömedicinska¹ bedömningen av flygbullrets hälsorisker till enbart vuxenbefolkningen, som uppskattas till 73,5% av totalbefolkningen. I samma dokument, s. 5 under rubriken "Exponeringsmetodik" anges att "Barn blir förstas också störda även om sannolikt i mindre omfattning, men de studier som är gjorda har gällt vuxenbefolkningen och det är alltså här vi har objektiva data." Vi saknar referens till detta påstående och ställer oss frågande till slutsatsen. Vi anser att bolaget bör redovisa om och hur den övriga delen om 26,5% av befolkningen, som t.ex. kan vara barn, störs. Vi delar inte påståendet att gjorda studier om flygbullrets störningar endast refererar till den vuxna befolkningen och inte hela befolkningen.

Därutöver vill vi framföra det att det finns flera studier om flygbuller och dess effekter på barn. Det finns t.ex. en studie som handlar om effekterna på barn som bodde runt omkring Munchens flygplats (den gamla och den nya). I en rapport² för Naturvårdsverket som hänvisar till denna studie skriver professor Staffan Hygge att i denna studie³ undersöktes ca 350 barn i en "longitudinell prospektiv studie" före och efter det att Munchens gamla flygplats lades ned 1992 och en ny flygplats utanför staden togs i bruk. I samma rapport nämner Hygge en annan studie, "RANCH-studien", från Stansfeld et al. (2005) där det redovisas tvärsnittsdata (motsats till longitudinella prospektiva studier) om läsförmåga för fler än 2800 barn runt flygplatserna London Heathrow, Amsterdam Schiphol och Madrid Barajas. I Lercher, Evans & Meis (2003) undersöktes barn som exponeras för vägtrafikbuller och tågbuller. Även om studierna är få finns det fog för slutsatsen att barns minne, inlärning och läsförmåga/läsförståelse försämras av kronisk bullerexponering och särskilt exponering för flygbuller, enligt professor Staffan Hygge⁴, Högskolan i Gävle.

Gösta Bluhm anger idén miljömedicinska bedömningen s. 5, avsnitt 1.1 "Upplevd störning", att "Allmänna störningseffekter av buller är koncentrationssvårigheter, irritation, nedstämdhet och initiativlöshet. Detta kan i samverkan med andra belastningsfaktorer och beroende på individens känslighet och förmåga att kunna hantera stress på längre sikt ge upphov till olika

¹ Miljömedicinsk bedömning av hälsorisker relaterade till flygbuller i samband med ny tillståndsprövning av Göteborg Landvetter Airport. Handläggare Gösta Bluhm Med, dr. Docent i miljömedicin 2013-02-20.

² Kunskapsläget om effekter av flygbuller på människor – En uppdatering och revidering av en rapport till LfV maj 2007. Slutversion 2009-06-18, Reviderad 2009-12-15. Staffan Hygge, Laboratoriet för tillämpad psykologi, Institutionen för teknik och byggd miljö, Högskolan i Gävle.

³ Hygge, Evans & Bullinger (2002)

⁴ Hygge, S. (2009). Kunskapsläget om effekter av flygbuller på människor – En uppdatering och revidering av en rapport till LfV maj 2007 (Slutversion 2009-06-18, sid. 30).

psykosomatiska besvär och psykosociala konsekvenser. Generellt bör man ta hänsyn till känsliga grupper som barn, varför skolor, daghem, och lekplatser bör skyddas i största möjliga utsträckning." Här anger Gösta Bluhm att barn är en känslig grupp, men begränsar antagligen barnens bullerkänslighet till vissa platser, skolor, daghem och lekplatser. Vi anser att denna begränsning är felaktig eftersom barns bullerexponering inte är begränsad till endast dessa platser.

I bebyggda områden som exponeras av flygbuller störs människor oavsett om de är vuxna eller barn. Vi anser därför att bolagets avgränsning till den vuxna befolkningens exponering är felaktig. Antalet exponerade personer som anges i underlaget ger därmed en felaktig bild av bullerstörningarnas omfattning och konsekvenser. Senare tids forskning har visat att det finns ett samband mellan graden av störning och hälsoeffekter. Vid bedömningen av lämpliga exponeringsvärden bör effekterna på bullerkänsliga individer vägas in. Barn har av WHO (2000) och Socialstyrelsen (2005) identifierats som särskilt känslig grupp med avseende på samhällsbullers negativa hälsoeffekter, vägas in. Det bör nämnas här att WHO:s första mål är att skydda känsliga individer och det andra målet är att skydda den allmänna befolkningen.

Flygbuller i boendemiljö orsakar en allmän upplevd bullerstörning och ger upphov till besvärreaktioner och hälsoeffekter av olika slag. De vanligaste negativa effekterna är samtalsstörning, effekter på vila och avkoppling, effekter på prestation och inläring samt sömnstörningar. Det ger även upphov till psykologiska och fysiologiska stressrelaterade symptom och påverkar därigenom det allmänna välbefinnandet.

De forskningsstudier som är specifikt inriktade på flygbullrets maximalljudnivå utomhus och dess ohälsoeffekter är begränsade. De flesta studier som gjorts är baserade på ekvivalenta ljudnivåer. Det finns dock många fler studier och undersökningar som är inriktade på buller från andra trafikslag. Det är väl belagt att störning av flygbuller är högre än för andra trafikslag vid likartad exponering. En bidragande orsak till detta kan vara att för flygbuller, till skillnad från väg- och spårbuller, är det svårt eller omöjligt att säkerställa en bullerdämpad sida av bostaden. Ett bullerdämpat bostadsrum eller en uteplats är därför svårare att uppnå. Ewy Öhrström m.fl. anger i en studie⁵ att tillgång till skyddade platser, t.ex. bostadsrum och uteplats belägna på en bullerdämpad sida, är faktorer som kan minska trafikbullerstörningen i boendemiljön. I en annan studie⁶ fann forskarna en kraftig minskning av störning vid balkong eller uteplats efter en minskning av vägtrafikbuller med upp till 17 dBA ekvivalentljudnivå, från som mest 71 dBA $L_{eq, 24h}$. Bland de boende med en minskad bullerexponering rapporterade 28 % att de oftare använde uteplats, balkong eller gård efter minskningen.

⁵ Öhrström, E., Gidlöf-Gunnarsson, A., Berglund, B., Kropp, W., Kihlman, T., Nilsson, M.E., et al (2008). "Ljudlandskap för bättre hälsa. Resultat och slutsatser från ett multidisciplinärt forskningsprogram." Göteborg, Sverige: Chalmers.

⁶ Öhrström, E., Svensson, H., & Holmes, M. (2006). "Effekter av Södra Länken. Före och efterstudie av störning, sömn och välbefinnande i samband med trafikomläggning i Stockholm." Göteborg: Sahlgrenska akademien vis Göteborgs Universitet.

Bilaga 4



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2 kap. 3 § första stycket miljöbalken anges:

Alla som bedriver eller avser att bedriva en verksamhet eller vidta en åtgärd skall utföra de skyddsåtgärder, iakta de begränsningar och vidta de försiktighetsmått i övrigt som behövs för att förebygga, hindra eller motverka att verksamheten eller åtgärden medför skada eller olägenhet för människors hälsa eller miljön. I samma syfte skall vid yrkesmässig verksamhet användas **bästa möjliga teknik**.

I förarbetena/lagmotiven till miljöbalken (prop. 1997/98:45, s. 216 f.) diskuteras begreppet bästa möjliga teknik. Bland annat sägs att: "Uttrycket bästa möjliga teknik inrymmer både den använda teknologin och det sätt på vilket en anläggning utformas, uppförs, underhålls, drivs samt avvecklas och tas ur bruk. Tekniken måste från teknisk och ekonomisk synpunkt alltså vara industriellt möjlig att använda inom branschen i fråga. Det innebär att den skall vara tillgänglig och inte bara förekomma på experimentstadiet. Den behöver dock inte finnas i Sverige."

Även begreppet bästa *tillgängliga* teknik diskuteras i förarbetena/lagmotiven (se nyss nämnda prop. s. 217 f.). Bland annat nämns att bästa tillgängliga teknik är ett internationellt vedertaget begrepp och att begreppet användes i det numera upphävda så kallade IPPC-direktivet (96/61/EG). Den definition av begreppet bästa tillgängliga teknik i IPPC-direktivet löd: "Det effektivaste och mest avancerade stadium vad gäller utvecklingen av verksamheten och tillverkningsmetoderna som anger en given tekniks praktiska lämplighet för att i princip utgöra grunden för utsläppsgränsvärden och som har till syfte att hindra,

och när detta inte är möjligt, generellt minska utsläpp och påverkan på miljön som helhet.”

IPPC-direktivet har ersatts av det så kallade IED-direktivet (2010/75/EU). Det svenska genomförandet av IED-direktivet har bland annat skett genom vissa ändringar i miljöbalken och genom införandet av industriutsläppsförordningen (2013:250). De nya reglerna berör cirka 1 000 industrianläggningar varav 140 större förbränningsanläggningar. IED-direktivet och industriutsläppsförordningen bygger på att de verksamheter som omfattas av kraven ska uppfylla de ”slutsatser om bästa tillgängliga teknik” (så kallade BAT-slutsatser) som löpande antas med stöd av IED-direktivet.

BAT-slutsatser kan ange att en viss teknik är BAT eller innehålla utsläppsvärden. BAT-slutsatser som innehåller utsläppsvärden är ofta angivna i ett intervall. Det högre värdet i intervallet anger den yttre gränsen för vad som är tillåtet enligt industriutsläppsdirektivet. Det lägre värdet motsvarar vad de bästa verksamheterna i, och även utanför, Europa klarar av och kan följaktligen användas som utgångspunkt för vad som utgör bästa möjliga teknik enligt 2 kap. 3 § miljöbalken. BAT-slutsatserna ska följas senast fyra år efter deras offentliggörande. Länsstyrelsens miljöprövningsdelegationer får under vissa förutsättningar ge dispens från kraven.



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