

Happy Summer from the NOISE Study Team!

Thank you for participating in the NOISE Study and for your continuous support to the study! Your valuable data is instrumental in advancing our understanding of hearing loss among Service members and Veterans. Through your contributions, we are unraveling the connections between military service experiences and hearing health. The insights gained are crucial for researchers working towards improving outcomes for both current Service members and Veterans. Thank you for being an integral part of this initiative!

Follow up data

Since this is a longitudinal study, your commitment extends to following Service members and Veterans throughout their careers for an extended duration. In this regard, we may reach out to you for any necessary clarifications regarding the data collected through the annual follow-up surveys. Your continued cooperation is invaluable, and your insights contribute significantly to the success and depth of this long-term study. We appreciate your ongoing involvement and look forward to your continued support.


Respectfully,
The NOISE team


Study Website


Feel free to explore our website for the latest information, updated regularly throughout the year.
<https://www.noisestudy.org/>

How's the NOISE Study going?

The NOISE Study has about 20 team members at sites in 3 states!

 **Portland, Oregon:**
National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research (NCRAR) - Portland VA Medical Center
730 participants have enrolled at NCRAR site

 **San Antonio, Texas:**
DoD Hearing Center of Excellence (HCE) - Joint Base San Antonio
540 participants have enrolled at HCE site

 **San Diego, California:**
Naval Medical Center San Diego, Naval Base San Diego, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, and Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton
105 participants have enrolled at San Diego

New contact information?

If you have updated contact information, please let us know!

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Team Highlight

Hannah Famili, Au.D.

Hannah earned her doctorate in Audiology from the University of Pittsburgh and completed her externship with the San Diego VA Healthcare System. She is currently the research audiologist for the NOISE study at the San Diego sites. Hannah is interested in understanding the impact of hearing loss and tinnitus from a public perspective. She is passionate about improving the lives of service members and enhancing clinical care by understanding the long-term effects of noise and other military exposures.



Site Visits

The NOISE study recently conducted site visits to our locations in San Diego, CA, and San Antonio, TX. This helps maintain a standardized approach and ensures the reliability of our data collection process. These visits not only served to verify the proper implementation of protocols but also provided a valuable opportunity for our team to share diverse ideas, fostering collaboration in refining processes for enhanced efficiency and improved data collection.



San Diego Site Visit

The NOISE team carried out a site visit to the San Diego on June, 2023. The team visited Naval Medical Center San Diego, Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, 32nd Street Naval Base, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, and Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

San Antonio Site Visit

In October 2023, the NOISE team conducted a visit to the San Antonio site, where they explored various facets of the study. During this visit, the team had the opportunity to visit HCE and observe explosives training at Camp Bullis. This hands-on observation provides valuable insights into the experiences of Service members and Veterans, contributing to the comprehensive understanding of factors impacting hearing health in military contexts.



Enrollment Milestones!

Over 500 Participants Enrolled in San Antonio

The San Antonio team has achieved a significant milestone by successfully enrolling over 500 participants. This accomplishment marks a substantial achievement for the team, reflecting their dedication and efforts in contributing to the success of the NOISE study. We extend our congratulations to the San Antonio team for reaching this noteworthy milestone and appreciate their commitment to advancing our understanding of hearing health in Service members and Veterans.

First 10-Year visit!

The Portland team has achieved a significant milestone by successfully completing their first 10-year follow-up visit. This longitudinal data is of paramount importance to the team as they continue their research on Hearing Loss and Tinnitus. It represents a valuable resource that will contribute greatly to our understanding of these conditions over time. Congratulations to the Portland team on this remarkable achievement!

Enrollment begins in San Diego, CA

Enrollment for the NOISE Study in San Diego commenced in March 2023, and we're thrilled to announce that the recruitment and enrollment efforts have proven to be highly successful. We have already welcomed over 100 participants into the study. Despite this achievement, the San Diego team remains dedicated to ongoing recruitment efforts and is actively seeking additional participants. If you know of anybody interested in participating, please don't hesitate to refer them to our dedicated research team. Your support in expanding our participant community is greatly appreciated!

New findings from the NOISE Study

NOISE study findings are published in scientific journals. Check out these publications from the past year:

Prevalence and Risk Factors of Self-reported Dizziness in Post-9/11 Service Members and Veterans

Dizziness is frequently associated with exposure to explosions and traumatic brain injury (TBI), yet the individual contributions of each factor remain uncertain. This study seeks to unravel the prevalence of dizziness among post-9/11 Service members and Veterans, aiming to discern the impact of military TBI history and blast exposure on self-reported dizziness. The findings from this research contribute to enhancing the validity and reliability of a survey instrument, potentially aiding clinical efforts to identify other Service Members and Veterans experiencing tinnitus.

(Sonstroem, A., Thapa, S., Pigott, K., Henry, J. A., Schultz, J., Esquivel, C., Carlson, K. F., Hullar, T. E., & Reavis, K. M. (2023). **Prevalence and Risk Factors of Self-Reported Dizziness in Post-9/11 Service Members and Veterans.** *Military Medicine Vol 188*)

Tinnitus Screener: Short-Term Test-Retest Reliability

Our study focused on assessing the consistency of the six-question Tinnitus Screener when administered on two occasions. Additionally, we explored whether reliability varied based on factors such as age, gender, military status, or the presence of hearing loss. The results revealed that the updated version of the Tinnitus Screener demonstrates reliability, affirming its effectiveness as a dependable instrument for informing clinical decision-making processes.

(Thielman, E. J., Reavis, K. M., Theodoroff, S. M., Grush, L. D., Thapa, S., Smith, B. D., Schultz, J., & Henry, J. A. (2023). **Tinnitus Screener: Short-Term Test-Retest Reliability.** *American Journal of Audiology*)