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The national noise map of the Netherlands A trend in exposure since 1990

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Noise maps according to the environmental noise directive have been provided by several actors in the Netherlands. The results of the noise maps show the significance of each of the source types, as well as the distribution within and outside agglomerations. In the Netherlands 2.7 million people are exposed to noise levels above 55 dB(A). In some cases up to 4000 people are exposed to level higher than 75 dB(A). In the night period 2.3 million people are exposed to noise levels higher than 50 dB(A). Road noise is the dominant source for annoyance and sleep disturbance. Within agglomerations road noise is responsible for 88% of the highly annoyed population. Major roads, outside agglomerations, contribute less than 10% to the total annoyance due to road traffic. Railways are second source in producing annoyance and sleep disturbance. 57% of the high annoyance due to railways is produced outside agglomerations. The results of the noise maps for road traffic noise have been compared with results for a selection of cities in 1990. The results show that the total number of exposed people has increased. However, the exposition to the higher bands has decreased.