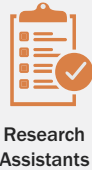


A multi-disciplinary team



A collaborative effort

The NOISE study is a collaborative effort between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) to address research questions important to the U.S. military.



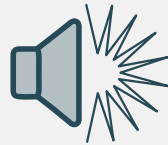
“I am happy to participate in the NOISE study and help other service members protect their hearing.”

—NOISE study participant



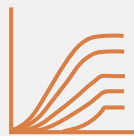
Study findings and impact

Veterans with blast exposure are more likely to report decreased sound tolerance compared to Veterans without blast exposure (Theodoroff et al, 2019).



For both active duty service members and Veterans, the presence of tinnitus has effects on job performance, concentration, anxiety, depression, and sleep (Henry et al, 2019).

The average annual rate of hearing threshold change during the initial period of military service was impacted by occupational noise exposure (Reavis et al, 2021).



NOISE study data was used to validate the shortened version of the speech reception-in-noise test (SPRINT), which is used in the Army to determine hearing fitness (Brungart et al, 2017).



Data collection and follow-up



NOISE study questionnaire data is now collected online. This improves study-team efficiency and participant follow-up rates.

76%
FOLLOW-UP RATE

Follow-up rates are maximized by:

- Reminder e-mails, post mail, and phone calls
- Study memorabilia at five-year visit
- Funding travel to the study site for those who have moved away



Future of the study

1. Secure funding to continue study until 20-year milestone.



2. Determine if exposures in the military cause hearing loss and tinnitus years after separation.

20
YEARS

3. Contextualize study findings amidst larger global health initiatives.



FIGURE 2. NOISE study accomplishments.