

Noise Pollution

Noise pollution **disrupts** mental, emotional, and physical capabilities in **humans and wildlife**.¹

- **One in twenty heart attacks** in cities can be linked to noise pollution.²
- In addition to **heart disease**,³ noise has been linked to **diabetes and even cancer**.⁴
- By some estimates, there are only roughly **one dozen places** in the entire United States where one can listen for 15 minutes without hearing a man-made sound.⁵

Noise pollution is “**pervasive**” in the U.S., even in protected areas.⁶

- Noise pollution doubled in 63% of protected areas over the last century; and
- increased 10-fold in 21% of protected areas, including 14% of critical habitats for endangered species.⁷

Noise pollution has **increased** in the United States along with human activities.⁸

¹ Buxton, McKenna, Mennitt, Frstrup, Crooks, Angeloni, and Wittemyer, Noise pollution is pervasive in U.S. protected areas, *Science*, May 5, 2017. <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.aah4783>

² American College of Cardiology, *Living Near Noise Pollution Tied to Greater Risk of Heart Attack* [Press Release], Mar 23, 2022 <https://www.acc.org/About-ACC/Press-Releases/2022/03/22/19/59/Living-Near-Noise-Pollution-Tied-to-Greater-Risk-of-Heart-Attack>

³ American Heart Association, *Chronic exposure to excess noise may increase risk for heart disease, stroke* [Press Release], November 5, 2018, <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/11/181105081749.htm>

⁴ Münzel T, Sørensen M, Schmidt F, Schmidt E, Steven S, Kröller-Schön S, Daiber A. The Adverse Effects of Environmental Noise Exposure on Oxidative Stress and Cardiovascular Risk. *Antioxid Redox Signal*. 2018 Mar 20;28(9):873-908. doi: 10.1089/ars.2017.7118. PMID: 29350061; PMCID: PMC5898791.

⁵ Jess Bidgood, "Seeking America's Quietest Spots: The Quest for Silence in a Loud World," *The New York Times*, Sept. 23, 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/23/us/silence-escapes-noise-pollution-travel.html>

⁶ Buxton (N 1)

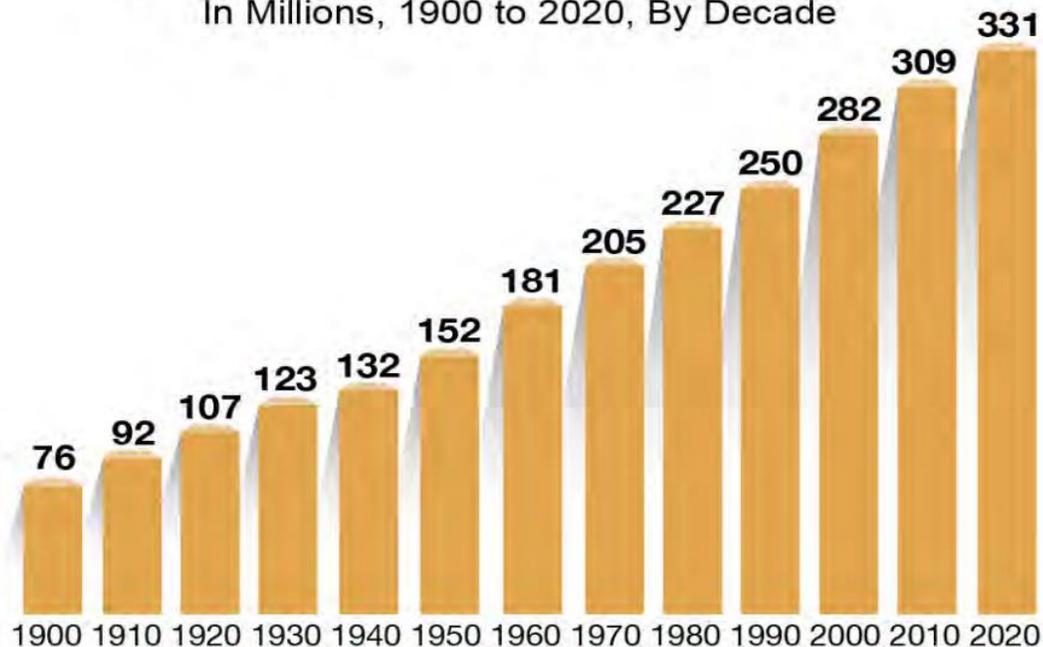
⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

- [Housing](#) growth poses the main threat to protected areas in the United States, as development in close proximity may severely limit the efficacy of protected areas.⁹
- If trends continue over the long term, another one million housing units would be built within 1 km of protected areas by 2030 (and 17 million housing units within 50 km), greatly [reducing their value for wildlife](#) and biodiversity conservation.¹⁰
- Whether or not this population and development trend continues is [entirely](#) in the hands of the federal government. The Census Bureau projects the U.S. population to grow by 79 million people between 2017-2060, with roughly 90 percent of that growth resulting from Congress' [immigration](#) policies.¹¹

U.S. Population Growth

In Millions, 1900 to 2020, By Decade



⁹ Volker C. Radeloff, Susan I. Stewart, Todd J. Hawbaker, Urs Gimmi, Anna M. Pidgeon, Curtis H. Flather, Roger B. Hammer, and David P. Helmers. 2010. Housing growth in and near United States protected areas limits their conservation value. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 107 (2): 940-945.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/41040447_Housing_growth_in_and_near_United_States_protected_areas_limit_their_conservation_value

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Sandra Johnson, A Changing Nation: Population Projections Under Alternative Immigration Scenarios, February 2020, U.S. Census.

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p25-1146.pdf>