Industrial wind turbines and adverse health effects

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INTRODUCTION Some people living in the environs of wind energy infrastructure experience negative health effects. Reported effects include annoyance, sleep disturbance, stress-related health impacts and reduced quality of life. (1-12) [...]
Introduction: Some people living in the environs of industrial wind turbines (IWTs) report experiencing adverse health and socioeconomic effects. This review considers the hypothesis that annoyance from audible IWTs is the cause of these adverse health effects. Methods: We searched PubMed and Google Scholar for articles published since 2000 that included the terms 'wind turbine health,' 'wind turbine infrasound,' 'wind turbine annoyance,' 'noise annoyance' or 'low frequency noise' in the title or abstract. Results: Industrial wind turbines produce sound that is perceived to be more annoying than other sources of sound. Reported effects from exposure to IWTs are consistent with well-known stress effects from persistent unwanted sound. Conclusion: If placed too close to residents, IWTs can negatively affect the physical, mental and social well-being of people. There is sufficient evidence to support the conclusion that noise from audible IWTs is a potential cause of health effects. Inaudible low-frequency noise and infrasound from IWTs cannot be ruled out as plausible causes of health effects.

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