



Erica Walker, Researcher  
[Erica@noiseandthecity.org](mailto:Erica@noiseandthecity.org) | [edw266@mail.harvard.edu](mailto:edw266@mail.harvard.edu)  
617-459-3890  
[www.noiseandthecity.org](http://www.noiseandthecity.org)



**HARVARD T.H. CHAN**  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Greater Boston Neighborhood Noise Survey

**BOSTON, MA – November 16, 2015** Erica Walker, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Environmental Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, is now conducting the **Greater Boston Neighborhood Noise Survey** a survey aimed at gauging residents' attitudes and behavioural and health responses to noise in their communities. The survey will run until April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

"The highway, the trains,  
the planes, it just feels...  
hopeless. "

--Savin Hill Resident

The primary aim of her dissertation work is building a model of noise levels in the city of Boston, which will allow her to assign decibel levels to any location in the city. However, while out in the field collecting noise measurements, residents routinely approached her to vent their frustration about noise

in their community. Her goal for developing and conducting the **Greater Boston Neighborhood Noise Survey** is to address what she feels to be an ignored aspect of urbanization—noise pollution and, in particular, the human response to environmental noise. The survey gives residents an anonymous space to express their feelings about noise in their community as well as any physical and psychological reactions they may experience as a result of their exposure.

"Currently, there is no outlet for  
city residents to describe how  
and to what extent noise is  
impacting their lives"

--Erica Walker

Erica plans to administer the survey annually and compile the data into a yearly **Neighborhood Noise Report**. The goal of the report is to be able to describe the state of noise issues within the many Greater Boston Area communities. She wants the report to be a living document that both city officials and residents can use to get a clearer picture of exactly how and to what extent community noise is impacting the health and wellbeing of its residents.

The survey is available online at [www.noiseandthecity.org](http://www.noiseandthecity.org) and will take less than 5 minutes to complete. It is open to residents of Greater Boston Area over the age of 18. The survey is available in English and Spanish, with Chinese and Vietnamese translations available shortly. Survey kits (survey hard copies + self-addressed, stamped envelopes + promotional materials) are also available. She encourages you to share this information with as many residents and community stakeholders as possible. For more information about noiseandthecity.org, please visit [www.noiseandthecity.org](http://www.noiseandthecity.org) or contact Erica Walker, Researcher, at [Erica@noiseandthecity.org](mailto:Erica@noiseandthecity.org) or [edw266@mail.harvard.edu](mailto:edw266@mail.harvard.edu). Her phone number is 617 459 3890.