Noise Induced Hearing Loss in Recreational Firearm Users

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**Study Title:** Noise Induced Hearing Loss in Recreational Firearm Users
 IRB #1647120  **Invitation** You are invited to take part in this research study to look into the attitudes of local firearm users towards hearing protection and hearing loss, along with the difference between adult age groups. You may take part in the study if: you are at least 18 years old and must have shot either a handgun, rifle or shotgun in the last 18 months, for hunting, target practice, skeet shooting, or at a shooting range. If you decide you do not want to continue in this study, your information and answers will be left out of the study.   **A. WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THIS STUDY?** The reason this research is being done is to find attitudes and habits of firearm users related to hearing protection and hearing loss. The differences between adult shooters of different ages will be compared. This information will help us to create educational materials for recreational shooters.   **B. WHAT WILL MY PARTICIPATION INVOLVE?** If you choose to take part in this study, you will be asked to complete a short survey that asks questions over hearing protection, your firearm use, your age range, hearing loss due to noise, etc.   ***Research Survey.*** This survey should take around 10 minutes to finish. The survey will be done privately through Ball State’s Qualtrics system online. Answers will then be looked at by researchers to see if there any trends in attitudes towards hearing protection, noise exposure, hearing loss, etc. exist. This information will be used to help create educational materials that will be handed out later.   **C. ARE THERE ANY BENEFITS TO ME?** There are no benefits for taking part in this study. Your answers may help others in the future by helping us learn local thoughts towards hearing protection for adult firearm users, helping us to create better information to hand out that may be useful to lower hearing loss due to noise exposure in firearm use.   **D. WILL I BE PAID FOR MY TAKING PART OF THE STUDY?** You will not be paid for taking part in the study.   **E. ARE THERE ANY COSTS?** There are no expected expenses for participating in this study.   **F. ARE THERE ANY RISKS TO ME?** There are no expected risks for taking part in this study.   **G. HOW WILL MY PRIVACY BE PROTECTED AND WHO WILL USE MY HEALTH INFORMATION?** All information will be anonymous. No identifying information will be collected.   **H. CAN I SAY NO OR CHANGE MY MIND DURING THE STUDY?** Taking part in this study is completely up to you and you are free to take away your approval at anytime for any reason without penalty or disadvantage from the researchers. Please feel free to ask any questions of the researchers before clicking “yes” and agreeing to participate in this study.   **I. WHO TO CONTACT IF THERE ARE QUESTIONS?** If any questions come up at any time, please contact the head researcher or student assistants with the information listed at the bottom of the page.   For you rights as a in taking part in this study, you may contact the following: For questions about your rights as a subject, please contact the Director, Office of Research Integrity, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306, (765) 285-5070 or at irb@bsu.edu.   **Consent** I agree to take part in this research project named, Noise Induced Hearing Loss in Recreational Firearm Users, I have had the study explained to me and my questions have been answered to my understanding. I have read the description of this study and give my permission to join. I understand that I will get a copy of this informed consent form to keep for future reference.   To the best of my knowledge, I meet the requirements for taking part (explained on the first page) in this study.

**Researcher Contact Information:**

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* I am 18 years or older, I meet the inclusion criteria and I agree to take this survey.
* I do not agree to participate in this survey or I do not meet the inclusion criteria.

1. What age range do you fall in?

* 18- 40 years old
* 41-60 years old
* 61+ years old

2. Do you have a known hearing loss?

* Yes I have a hearing loss
* No I do not have a hearing loss
* Not sure

3. Have you ever served in a branch of the military?

* Yes
* No

4. How often do you shoot firearms?

* A few times a year
* A few times a month
* A few times a week
* Everyday
* Never
* Other (Please explain): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. How often do you wear hearing protection when you shoot?

* Never
* Almost Never
* About half the time
* Most of the time
* Always

6. What kinds of guns do you shoot? (Select all kinds that you shoot)

* Handguns/Pistols
* Shotguns
* Rifles
* Other (Please list): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. Would you wear hearing protection when shooting if not told to do so?

* Yes
* Maybe
* No

8. How harmful do you think shooting a firearm is to your hearing?

* Very harmful
* Harmful
* Unsure
* Only a little harmful
* Not harmful at all

9. Would you like to know more about how shooting can hurt your hearing?

* Yes
* No

10. Do you feel that you should not have to wear hearing protection when you shoot?

* Yes
* No

11. What type of hearing protection do you use when you shoot? (Check all that you wear)

* Over the ear or Earmuff Style
* Foam earplugs
* Custom Earplugs
* None
* Other (Please list): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12. Would you like to learn more about hearing protection?

* Yes
* No
* Not Sure

13. Do you ever have ringing in your ears (tinnitus) after you shoot?

* Yes
* Sometimes
* No

14. If you ever have ringing in your ears after you shoot, how long does it last?

* A few minutes
* A few hours
* A few days
* A few weeks
* None at all

15. Do you feel that firearm use has negatively impacted your hearing?

* Definitely yes
* Probably yes
* Might or might not
* Probably not
* Definitely not

16. Where do you usually shoot?

* Indoors
* Outdoors
* Both indoors and outdoors

17. What type of environment do you shoot in the most?

* At an indoor range
* At an outdoor range
* On private property
* While hunting only
* Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

18. How much time do you usually spend shooting?

* 30 minutes or less
* 30 minutes to an hour
* 1 hour to 2 hours
* 2 hours or more
* Not sure

19. How long have you used firearms?

* Less than one year
* 1 to 5 years
* 5 to 10 years
* 10 years or more

20. Do you usually shoot by yourself or with other people?

* By myself
* With other people