

Sample Evaluation Description

Agency: The Department of Societal Betterment

Agency Mission: Reduce societal nuisances that impact social well-being

Learning Agenda Question #1

What strategies are effective for reducing noise pollution?

Evaluation Summary

Name: Implementation and Impact Evaluation of *Turn Down the Noise!*

This evaluation is focused on a grant program in which the agency invested significant resources, and findings will help the agency carry out its mission.

Note: Describing why an evaluation met the criteria for “significant” is not required, but may be helpful in adding context to the summary.

Timeline: Fall 2030 – Spring 2034

Background: In 2030, the Office of Environmental Well-Being awarded grants to 25 cities to adopt a data-driven approach to reducing noise pollution to mitigate the associated negative impacts on physical and mental health. The Office’s *Turn Down the Noise!* program provides resources to cities for forming taskforces of public agencies, community organizations, and private businesses to conduct data analyses of their noise problems and develop strategies to reduce noise pollution in targeted neighborhoods. In 2026, the Department conducted a descriptive evaluation of the pilot implementation of this approach in three cities, the results of which suggested that the degree of collaboration in cities’ taskforces may impact program success. This finding has helped shape guidance for cities on governance structure.

Plan: The Department is proposing a quasi-experimental study to examine noise levels over time in participating cities compared to those of matched comparison localities over the same time period. As cities were granted flexibility in the approaches they took to addressing noise pollution, the Department will also conduct an implementation evaluation to understand the nature of the programs.

Legislation in 2025 required major cities to begin tracking noise levels at major traffic hubs in an attempt to better understand the extent of the problem. This study will draw on pre-intervention noise tracking data, as well as other demographic variables, to match participating cities with comparison cities. The evaluation will examine trends in noise pollution in the treatment and control cities. As the Department has sent a message nationwide that noise pollution reduction is a priority, it is possible that comparison cities received the deterrence message and begun to address the issue. We will ensure that such efforts in comparison cities are well documented.

The Department will leverage its pre-existing research relationship with the University of Maryland’s public health program to conduct this evaluation.

Findings from this study will be published on the Department’s website and distributed to key stakeholders, including grantees, via a one-page brief with key takeaways.

Legend

- ◀ OMB Requirement
- ◀ Optional Component

◀ Evaluation questions

◀ Rationale

◀ Describe the program

◀ What is already known?

◀ Methods

◀ Information needed

◀ Anticipated challenges

◀ Dissemination discussion