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Subject: Measuring noise levels

Posted by [lilbill](#) on Tue, 18 Dec 2018 09:23:55 GMT

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We all risk exposure to harmful noises which could have an effect on the sensitive structure of the inner ear. I use the Decibel X app to measure the intensity of sound but then how accurate can the free apps be?

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Subject: Re: Measuring noise levels

Posted by [Trilling Me Softly](#) on Thu, 20 Dec 2018 19:26:44 GMT

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I haven't tried the app you mentioned. I use the free app that was created by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). It seems accurate to me.  
<https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2017/01/17/slm-app/>

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Subject: Re: Measuring noise levels

Posted by [mamoss](#) on Fri, 11 Jan 2019 19:47:54 GMT

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I think that we often get exposed to dangerous noise levels, without even realizing it. I would easily go for the NIOSH Sound Level Meter app that meets certain testing criteria. It is equally important to settle on accurate app.

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Subject: Re: Measuring noise levels

Posted by [musicluvr](#) on Mon, 01 Jul 2019 13:45:56 GMT

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The apps have been tested by researchers and the results showed that the apps built for the Android platform weren't as reliable as those built for the iOS platform. The tests also showed that the age of the phone affected the outcome as well. Newer models do a better job of measuring noise levels. These tests were conducted around 2014-2015. There might be something more current that I'm not aware of. I learned about it at work. I'll try to see if I can locate the info or at least a link to the study.

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Subject: Re: Measuring noise levels

Posted by [Madison](#) on Tue, 02 Jul 2019 12:43:53 GMT

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Musiclvr, I'd love to read it if you do manage to find it. I've wondered about whether those apps are reliable. It's amazing how far technology has come!

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Subject: Re: Measuring noise levels

Posted by [musicluvr](#) on Wed, 03 Jul 2019 03:07:35 GMT

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Madison, I can only find part of the handout from work, but it cites the study. The link is [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/289502743\\_Testing\\_the\\_accuracy\\_of\\_smartphones\\_and\\_sound\\_level\\_meter\\_applications\\_for\\_measuring\\_environmental\\_noise](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/289502743_Testing_the_accuracy_of_smartphones_and_sound_level_meter_applications_for_measuring_environmental_noise)

As quickly as technology changes, it's possible that both Android and iOS both measure sound equally well now. I guess their testing methods could have been disproved by now too, but at least at that time, that particular study found these apps were pretty reliable.

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