



*behavior research center's*

# *Rocky Mountain Poll*

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## NOISE POLLUTION IN ARIZONA AFFECTS HALF OF POPULATION:

### LOUDEST COMPLAINTS IN MARICOPA COUNTY

#### MOST ANNOYING: BOOM BOXES, CARS, HELICOPTERS & BARKING DOGS

Phoenix, Arizona, May 9, 2003. Half of Arizonans complain that there are one or more sources of noise pollution affecting the areas in which they reside. Boom boxes, noise from car traffic, barking dogs and helicopters are at the top of the list of offending noise pollution sources. As might be expected, urban residents, and particularly those in Maricopa County, are the most likely to view noise pollution as significant (53%), but 41 percent of residents in the rural counties complain as well, as do 47 percent of Pima County residents.

Survey results also make it clear that noise related to vehicles is the leading irritation to those who complain about noise pollution (86 percent identifying it as a problem and 37 percent saying it is a serious problem in their area). Within this category, loud boom boxes and car stereos are identified as a pollution source by 70 percent and as a serious problem to over a fifth. Car traffic noise from accelerating cars, loud mufflers, and horns register at about the same level.

Although aircraft noise is generally not rated as a serious problem (only 20 percent overall), noise from helicopters ranks as number three on the list of all noise pollution sources and accounts for more than 80 percent of complaints about aircraft noise. More specifically, of the 20 percent who complain about aircraft noise, fully 17 percent say helicopters used by news stations, law enforcement and the medical industry is a significant source of noise pollution in their area.

Noisy neighbors rank second overall, with eight of ten labeling such things as barking dogs, loud music, loud neighbors and noise from lawn mowers, blowers and trimmers as sources of noise pollution and 27 percent saying these things are a significant noise pollution sources. Barking dogs get top billing in this category (15 percent a significant problem).

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 700 adults across Arizona conducted between April 7<sup>th</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003, by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona as part of the Center's independent and non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll series. The public is welcome to visit [www.brcpolls.com](http://www.brcpolls.com) to read this and other recent polls.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2003-I-06) is based on 700 telephone interviews with adults, conducted from April 7<sup>th</sup> through April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003 throughout Arizona. In the overall sample, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 3.8 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed. The Rocky Mountain Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

**ENCLOSED:** Statistical data for reference.

For this and other polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results).

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**STATISTICAL DATA**

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*“Now, I would like to talk specifically about noise as a quality of life issue. Using a zero to 10 scale where zero means it is not a problem and 10 means it is a very serious problem, how would you rate each of the following as noise problems in your area.”*

	STATE	MARICOPA	PIMA	RURAL
<u>NOISE POLLUTION IN MY AREA</u>				
Not a problem (Zero)	7%	4%	7%	15%
A problem, but not major (1-5)	44	43	46	44
A significant problem (6+)	<u>49</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>41</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%

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**STATISTICAL DATA**

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NOISE POLLUTION IN RESPONDENT  
AREA CONSIDERED TO BE

|                                   | Zero<br>(0)  | Minor<br>(1-5) | Significant<br>(6+) |               |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| <u>VEHICLE RELATED (ANY)</u>      | <u>(14%)</u> | <u>(49%)</u>   | <u>(37%)</u>        | <u>(100%)</u> |
| Cars with loud boom boxes/stereos | 30           | 48             | 22                  | (100)         |
| Car traffic noise                 | 30           | 52             | 18                  | (100)         |
| Emergency vehicle sirens          | 35           | 55             | 10                  | (100)         |
| Noise from trucks                 | 38           | 52             | 10                  | (100)         |
| Motorcycle noise                  | 42           | 48             | 10                  | (100)         |
| <u>NEIGHBOR RELATED (ANY)</u>     | <u>(18%)</u> | <u>(55%)</u>   | <u>(27%)</u>        | <u>(100%)</u> |
| Barking dogs                      | 32           | 53             | 15                  | (100)         |
| Loud music/loud neighbors         | 50           | 38             | 12                  | (100)         |
| Mowers, blowers, trimmers         | 42           | 51             | 7                   | (100)         |
| <u>AIRCRAFT (ANY)</u>             | <u>(26%)</u> | <u>(54%)</u>   | <u>(20%)</u>        | <u>(100%)</u> |
| Helicopter noise                  | 25           | 58             | 17                  | (100)         |
| Commercial aircraft               | 45           | 44             | 11                  | (100)         |
| Small private aircraft            | 43           | 47             | 10                  | (100)         |
| <u>GUNFIRE AT NIGHT (ANY)</u>     | <u>(75%)</u> | <u>(22%)</u>   | <u>(3%)</u>         | <u>(100%)</u> |

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