



LFN, unrecognized environmental problem



Self reporting in 2012 and 2013

Symposium LOW FREQUENCY NOISE: facts, Myths and how we deal with hem
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Programme

- About Leefmilieu (Eng: Human environment)
- Numbers from 2012 en 2013
- Behind the numbers
- Our perspective

About Leefmilieu

- Organisation
 - From 1991
 - Volunteers
 - Focus on Health and Environment issues
 - Supporting grassroots groups
- Diversity of subjects:
 - Air pollution
 - Intensive animal farming
 - Low Frequency Noise



History of the selfreporting

- Till 2012 dedicated organisation
 - Meldpunt Gezondheid en Milieu
 - Detailed procedures, intake by phone
 - Subsidized by national government
 - Scientific aspirations
- From 2012 Leefmilieu continued
 - Hardly any means
 - Simple procedure by website
 - No scientific ambitions, but reports as indicators for policy (and partly priority setting for Leefmilieu)

Simple form

Soort milieuoverlast*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> luchtvervuiling | <input type="checkbox"/> bodemvervuiling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> watervervuiling | <input type="checkbox"/> geur |
| <input type="checkbox"/> geluid | <input type="checkbox"/> laagfrequent geluid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> elektromagnetische velden | <input type="checkbox"/> radioactiviteit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> chemische stoffen | <input type="checkbox"/> asbest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> virussen, schimmels, bacterien | <input type="checkbox"/> plaagdieren |
| <input type="checkbox"/> overige | |

Gezondheidsklacht

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ademhalingsklachten | <input type="checkbox"/> hoofdpijn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> misselijkheid | <input type="checkbox"/> duizeligheid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> geïrriteerde ogen | <input type="checkbox"/> oorklachten |
| <input type="checkbox"/> keel- of neusklachten | <input type="checkbox"/> huidklachten |
| <input type="checkbox"/> buik- of maagpijn | <input type="checkbox"/> gewrichts- of spierklachten |
| <input type="checkbox"/> tintelen of doof gevoel | <input type="checkbox"/> vermoeidheid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> slecht slapen | <input type="checkbox"/> concentratieproblemen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> allergie | <input type="checkbox"/> hart- en vaatandoeningen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> kanker | <input type="checkbox"/> stress |
| <input type="checkbox"/> overige | |

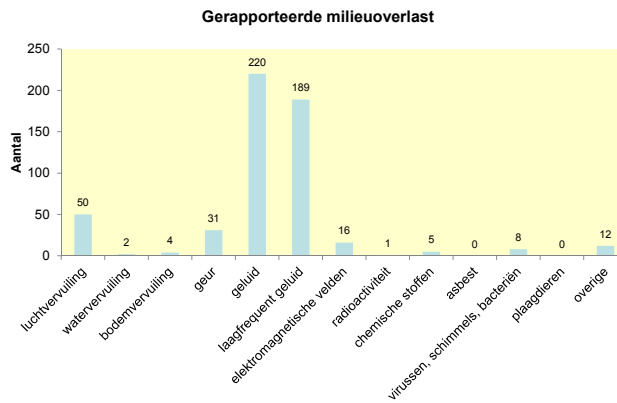
Figures

- 2012: Total of 179 reports, 111 on LFN
- 2013: Total of 264 reports, 189 on LFN

Table from 2013

LNG reporters:
- 69 men
- 120 woman

All over the country



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<http://www.leefmilieu.nl/kaart>



- Search on map, e.a.:
- Health complaint
 - Environmental nuisance
 - Year

Figure
LNG 2014 till now

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Figures

- As this figures are selfreported, they are only indications, no scientific data

Certainly underreporting because:

- Internet is not for everyone
- People do not want to report in the open



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Behind the numbers

- From the details given in the free text field on the website and in (lengthy) conversations at the phone
- In a considerable amount of cases the sources of LFN are known (mostly generators, pumps, ships, coolers, air conditionings, ventilators)
- Overall picture: people who suffers from LFN had extensive contact with authorities before they reported at our site
- Local authorities and health officials are not able to act on the LFN nuisance, because of:
 - Lack of equipment to measure (local level)
 - Lacking regulations (all levels)
 - Blinding perspective: the environmental problem is seen as a private health problem

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Behind the numbers

- People suffer double: from LFN **AND** from the feeling of powerlessness, they are often desperate.
- The problem effects seperate individuals
- As they have health complaints
→ Therefore hard to form local groups

Our perspective

- Equip a lab in which individuals can find out which frequencies cause health complaints
- Inform the relevant professionals on LNG
- Make is easier for affected people to find each other
- Solve the “easy” cases in which the sources are known and learn from those cases
- Make regulations to be able to cope with LFN nuisance