

O'Hare Airport Commission
Health and Safety Update
November 17, 2015

1. \$3.1M of funding from US Dept of Transportation to analyze aircraft noise in Queens and Nassau Counties near JFK airport. Plan aims to identify areas most susceptible to noise and create a plan to mitigate that may be eligible for federal funding. The New York state Assembly and Senate passed legislation calling for the study in 2013.
2. "Residential Exposure to Air Toxins is Linked to Lower Grade Point Averages Among School Children in El Paso, Texas," Stepanie E. Clark-Reyna, Sara E. Grineski, Timothy W. Collins, *Population and Environment*. Researchers at University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) concluded that children living in highly polluted areas tended to have lower GPAs than their peers, after accounting for age, race, sex, household income, and other factors such as mother's education level and English proficiency. The evidence suggests that the pollutants cause illnesses such as asthma or that chronic exposure to toxins negatively affect children's neurological development. The study also found that primary sources of air pollution are from what the authors call "non-mobile road sources", which include trains, construction vehicles and airplanes.
3. "Airports, Air Pollution and Contemporaneous Health," Wolfram Schlenker and W. Reed Walker, *The Review of Economic Studies*. A data analysis study of areas surrounding the 12 largest airports in California found that a large proportion of air pollution is caused by airports and has an impact radius of about 6 miles. Hospital admissions for respiratory conditions such as asthma and also heart problems in these areas were 17% (respiratory) and 9% (heart) higher than the baseline average.