The Dangerous Decibels Virtual Exhibit

Oregon Health & Science University Prevention Research Center

A Prevention Research Center Tool Showing Evidence of Effectiveness

FAST FACTS:

- Initiated in 1986, PRCs do practical public health research with at-risk communities to promote health and prevent diseases, such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, HIV/AIDs, and obesity.
- The PRC program currently consists of 26 centers nationally, which are housed within a school of public health or a medical school that has a preventive medicine residency program.
- For every $1 invested by CDC in 2014, PRCs received an average of $8.60 in additional funds allowing for additional research projects and more innovation in public health.

OVERVIEW

The Dangerous Decibels Virtual Exhibit is an interactive online tool for school-aged children. The exhibit focuses on reducing noise-induced hearing loss and preventing tinnitus. The Oregon Health and Science University developed Dangerous Decibels as a classroom presentation, after which the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry adapted it as the first museum exhibit of its kind.

When the exhibit closed in 2011, the museum turned its interactive elements into the internet-based exhibit. The online tool, available in English and French, engages participants through games, demonstrations, and activities that consider the following topics:

- Sources of loud noises.
- The effects of listening to loud noises.
- Types of protection from dangerous sounds.

RESEARCH RESULTS

One study compared the online tool to the museum and classroom programs. The study found that the classroom program resulted in the most significant changes, but the virtual online and museum exhibits were also effective in altering children's understanding, attitudes, and behaviors about sound exposure and strategies for protection.[1]

TOOL LOCATION

http://dangerousdecibels.org/

REFERENCES

1. Martin WH, Griest SE, Sobel JL, Howarth LC. Randomized trial of four noise-induced hearing loss and tinnitus prevention interventions for children. *Int J Audiol*. 2013;52(S1):S41–S49.