

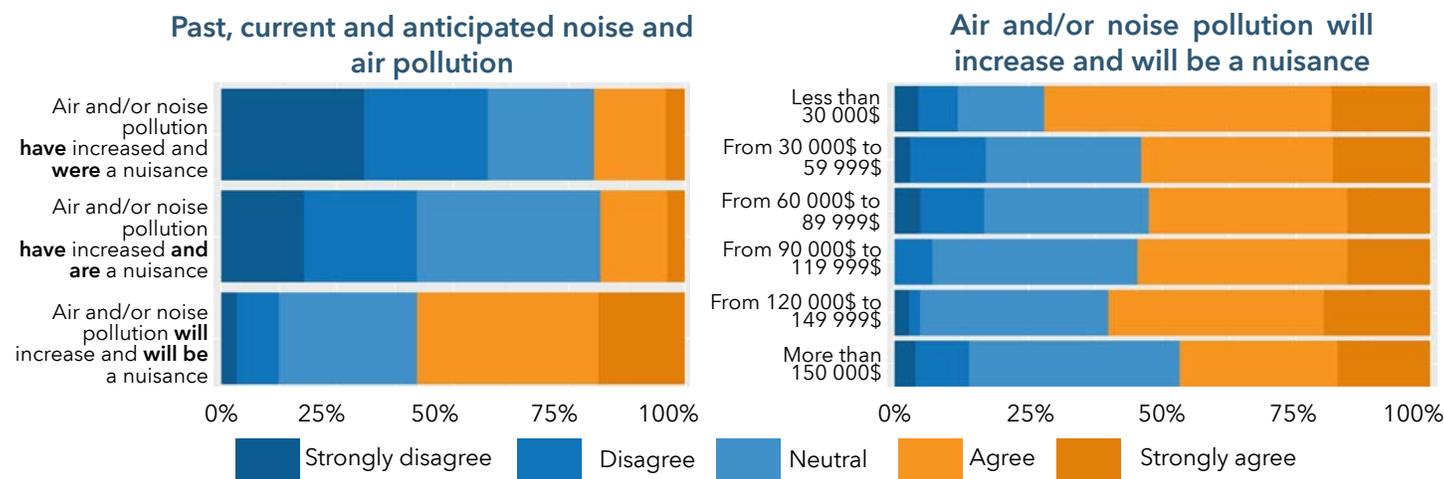
Noise and air pollution impacts of REM construction sites

The Issue

While the REM is expected to benefit Montreal residents, there are potential disadvantages to living near REM stations while they are under construction. Construction sites affect local populations in their everyday life. For instance, air pollution and excessive noise may affect nearby residents' quality of life. A bilingual survey was conducted to examine the ongoing and anticipated impacts of the REM construction on the population living near current and future construction sites.

Findings

- Air and noise pollution was found to be of greater concern for those living in a radius of 2 km of a REM construction site.
- Close to 60% of respondents living close to a future REM construction site anticipate that noise and air pollution will increase due to construction and negatively affect their quality of life.
- The impacts of noise and air pollution is found to be significantly less than anticipated. Approximately 20% of residents living near a current or past construction site stated that air and/or noise pollution were a nuisance.
- Almost 75% of low income households (less than 30 000\$) anticipate negative consequences from air and noise pollution, while 50% of all other income households, on average, anticipate these negative impacts
- The nuisance caused by pollution of previous construction sites was higher near respondents' place of work than near their homes.



Policy Recommendations

- » Given that air pollution and excessive noise are the greatest causes of concern, **implement measures and regulations** to control for the negative consequences caused by construction.
- » Since actual nuisances from air and noise pollution are lower than anticipated, **clearly communicate the measures** taken to mitigate air and noise pollution to nearby residents
- » **Conduct a deeper analysis** to better understand why a higher proportion of low income households anticipate that air and noise pollution will be a nuisance.
- » **Listen** to residents' anticipated concerns and **react** accordingly.
- » Because the survey was distributed before COVID-19, it would be interesting to examine the relationship between teleworking and concerns about air and noise pollution.