Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of hearing loss induced by high sound pressure levels among people working with sound systems and general population in Brazil: a cross-sectional study.

Version: 1 Date: 18 October 2007

Reviewer: Peter Rabinowitz

Reviewer's report:

General
This is an important topic, but in a cross sectional study like this, the selection and validation of the control group needs much more explanation and justification.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1) Define how controls were selected
2) Justify why the controls should be a comparable group, in terms of educational, economic, other socioeconomic factors.
3) If any information about ototoxic exposures was obtained from the controls, this should be presented.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
4) Check grammar and the usage of numerous words such as "exposal" rather than "exposure" Would have manuscript proofed by a native english speaker.
5) mention is made of noise measurements taken in workplace- were these spot measurements or 8 hour time weighted average? This will make a difference. Noise measurements should be in results, not discussion.
6) The discussion should mention how this study compares to other studies of hearing loss in musicians. My impression is that the effect of music on hearing was found to be greater in this study than in some other studies. If this is so, why?

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have
responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests