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.

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Reviewer: Peter Rabinowitz

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions:

1) The authors should clarify their definition of NIHL, and be consistent. What they are really doing is identifying audiograms where the hearing at 2,3, or 4KHZ was at least 25dB worse than other frequencies. (See page 8). But does this mean it was worse than the average of .5,1,2, and 8KHz? Or worse than only one of those frequencies? The authors should clarify exactly what they did so that others can repeat such a study.

I suggest that the authors use the term "high frequency hearing loss consistent with noise exposure", as for example in the abstract:

A statistically significant difference in (HIGH FREQUENCY HEARING LOSS CONSISTENT WITH NOISE EXPOSURE) was observed between the groups: 50% among the professionals and 10.5% among the controls.

Conclusion: The sound technicians presented a higher prevalence of (HIGH FREQUENCY HEARING LOSS CONSISTENT WITH NOISE EXPOSURE) levels than did the general population,

2) Where sound pressure levels are referred to, the units should be dBA, not dB (pages 7,10,12, and 15)

3) REferences need to be checked. Reference #6 (page 4) is actually Nelson et al (listed in reference list as #5). In reference to this article, text now reads that "approximately 16% of the world’s population endures NIHL caused by occupational exposure to noise(6)."

I believe that the Nelson article actually concludes that 16% of disabling hearing loss is due to occupational noise- the authors should correct this use of the reference.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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'