**Supplementary Table 1**. Representative cross-sectional studies providing data on prevalence of either any tinnitus (AT) or chronic/frequent tinnitus (CT) or severe tinnitus (ST) on adults.

| **Publication (author, yr)** | **Country** | **Study period** | **Study design**  **Assessment of tinnitus** | **Sample size** | **Age group; Sex** | **Percent prevalence** | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **AT** | **CT** | **ST** |
| **Americas** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cooper, 1994 [8] | USA | 1971-1975 | Sample: HANES; multistage stratified probability sampling; nationally representative sample (25-74 yrs)  CT: Defined as “frequent, bothersome tinnitus” assessed by the following set of questions: At any time over the past few years, have you ever noticed ringing in your ears, or have you been bothered by other funny noises in your ears? Does it bother you? (just a little OR quite a bit) | 6342 | 25-74 yrs  25-74 yrs; M  25-74 yrs; F |  | 14.9%  12.6%  17.1% |  |
| Hoffman and Reed, 2004 [9] | USA | 1990 | Sample: NHIS; household multistage probability sampling survey; nationally representative sample (≥20 yrs)  AT: Have you been bothered by ringing in the ears or other funny noises in the head in the past 12 months? (yes) | 59,343 | ≥20 yrs  ≥50 yrs | 8.4%  12.1% |  |  |
| Hoffman and Reed, 2004 [9] | USA | 1994-1995 | Sample: NHIS; household multistage probability sampling survey; nationally representative sample (≥20 yrs)  CT: Do you have now a ringing, roaring buzzing in the ears that has lasted for at least three months? (yes) | 99,435 | ≥20 yrs  ≥50 yrs |  | 4.4%  7.6% |  |
| Shargorodsky, et al., 2010 [10] | USA | 1999-2004 | Sample*:* NHANES; nationally representative sample (≥20 yrs)  AT: In the past 12 months, have you ever had ringing, roaring, or buzzing in your years? (yes)  CT: How often did this happen? (almost always OR at least once a day) | 14,178 | ≥20 yrs  ≥20 yrs; M  ≥20 yrs; F  ≥80 yrs | 25.3%  26.1%  24.6%  28.1% | 7.9%  9.4%  6.5%  12.5% |  |
| Oiticica and Bittar, 2014 [11] | Brazil | 2012 | Sample: Cluster household sampling, representative of the municipality of Sao Paolo (≥18 yrs)  AT: Do you have tinnitus in your ears? (yes)  CT: Is this ringing constant, i.e., do you perceive it every day? (yes)  ST: Does your tinnitus bother you? (from mildly to severely annoying) | 1960 | ≥18 yrs  ≥18 yrs; M  ≥18 yrs; F  >65 yrs | 22%  17%  26%  36% | 7%  6%  7%  - | 14%  9%  19%  - |
| **Australia** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sindhusake et al., 2003 [12] | Australia | 1997-1999 | Sample: BMHS; representative sample of West of Sidney area (≥55 yrs)  AT: Have you experienced any prolonged ringing buzzing or other sounds in your ears or head within the past year that is, lasting for five minutes or longer? (yes) | 2015 | ≥55 yrs  ≥55 yrs; M  ≥55 yrs; F  ≥80 yrs | 30.3%  32.2%  28.6%  25.4% |  |  |
| **Europe** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Davis, 1989 [13] | UK | 1982 | Sample: NSH; nationally representative household sample (17-80 yrs)  CT: “prolonged spontaneous tinnitus” defined as tinnitus that lasts for more than five minutes and occurs not only after loud sounds | 10,778 | 17-80 yrs |  | 7.1% |  |
| McCormack et al., 2014 [14] | UK | 2006-2010 | Sample*:* Likely representative sample (40-69 yrs)  AT: Do you get or have you had noises (such as ringing or buzzing) in your head or in one or both ears that lasts for more than five minutes at a time? (yes from some to all of time)  ST: How much do these noises worry, annoy or upset you when they are at their worst? (moderately OR severely) | 172,621 | 40-69 yrs  40-69 yrs; M  40-69 yrs; F | 16.2%  18.4%  14.1% |  | 3.8%  4.1%  3.5% |
| Ottaviani et al., 1983 [24] | Italy | 1981 | Sample: Sample representative of the municipality of Milan (≥18 yrs)  AT: current or previous self-reported tinnitus  CT: tinnitus every day  ST: tinnitus which causes severe annoyance | 1473 | ≥18 yrsa  ≥18 yrs; M  ≥18 yrs; F | 29.6%  36.0%  23.2% | 11.8%  12.0%  11.6% | 3.4%  4.2%  2.7% |
| Quaranta et al., 1996 [25] | Italy | 1989-1991 | Sample: Sample representative of 5 Italian provinces (≥18 yrs)  CT: Do you have a sensation of sounds in the ear or in the head without any relevant external stimulus? (every day) | 2216 | ≥18 yrs |  | 14.5% |  |
| **Gallus et al., 2015 (present study)** | Italy | 2014 | DOXA survey: CAPI; multistage-random sampling; nationally representative sample (≥18 yrs)  AT: In the past 12 months, have you been bothered by ringing or buzzing in your ears or head that lasted for 5 minutes or more? (yes)  CT: How long have you been bothered by this ringing or buzzing in your ears or head? (3 months or more)  ST: How much of a problem is this ringing or buzzing in one or both ears or in your head? (a big problem OR a very big problem) | 2952 | ≥18 yrs  ≥18 yrs; M  ≥18 yrs; F  ≥45 yrs  ≥65 yrs | 6.2%  6.0%  6.4%  8.7%  12.3% | 4.8%  4.9%  4.8%  7.4%  11.1% | 1.2%  0.8%  1.6%  2.0%  3.2% |
| Pilgramm et al., 1999 [15] | Germany | 1998-1999 | Sample: Random sampling; nationally representative sample (≥10 yrs)  AT: noise in the ear at the time of the study  CT: Ear noise lasting longer than one month | 3049 | ≥10 yrs | 3.9% | 3.6% |  |
| Hasson et al., 2010 [16] | Sweden | 2008 | Sample: Sample representative of the working and non-working population (16-64 yrs)  AT: Have you during the most recent time experienced sound in any of the ears, without there being an external source (so-called tinnitus) lasting more than 5 min? (yes)  ST: How much do you feel that tinnitus sounds worry, bother or upset you? (severely) | 11,441 | 16-64 yrsa  16-64 yrs; Ma  16-64 yrs; Fa | 26.1%  31.5%  21.8% |  | 1.5%  -  - |
| Engdahl et al., 2012 [5] | Norway | 1996-1998 | Sample: HUNT; population-based cohort study; representative of the general working population (≥20 yrs)  AT: Are you bothered by ringing in ears? (yes) | 49,948 | ≥20 yrsa  ≥20 yrs; M  ≥20 yrs; F  ≥65 yrsa | 14.1%  16.4%  12.1%  20.7% |  |  |
| **Asia** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Michikawa et al., 2010 [17] | Japan | 2006 | Sample: Karabuchi Study: face-to-face survey; nationally representative sample (≥65 yrs)  AT: In the past year have you experienced any ringing, buzzing, or other sounds (tinnitus) in your ears? (yes)  ST: Have these sounds interfered with your concentration or ability to sleep? (yes) | 1320 | ≥65 yrs  ≥65 yrs; M  ≥65 yrs; F | 18.6%  18.0%  19.0% |  | 3.0%  2.6%  3.4% |
| Xu et al., 2011 [18] | China | 2005-2006 | Sample: Participants from Jiangsu Province using a probability proportional to size method (≥10 yrs). Age-standardized rates are provided  AT: In the past year have you had noises in your ears or head which lasted longer than 5 minutes? (yes) | 6333 | ≥10 yrs | 12.4% |  |  |
| Jalessi et al., 2013 [19] | Iran | 2009 | Sample: Sample likely representative of the Tehran province population (≥7 yrs)  AT: Participants who had sound perceptions without external source which was lasting more than five minutes  ST: Tinnitus with severe and intolerable annoyance | 3207 | ≥7 yrs  ≥7 yrs; M  ≥7 yrs; F | 4.6%  5.6%  3.7% |  | 1.2%  -  - |
| Park and Moon, 2014 [20] | Korea | 2010-2011 | Sample: KNHANES; face-to-face survey; stratified multistage clustered probability design; nationally representative sample (≥20 yrs)  AT: In the past year have you ever had ringing, roaring, or buzzing in your ears? (yes)  ST: How much these sounds cause annoyance in your life? (annoyed and bothered OR have problems getting to sleep) | 10,061 | ≥20 yrs  ≥20 yrs; M  ≥20 yrs; F  ≥40 yrsa  ≥60 yrsa | 21.4%  19.5%  22.8%  23.3%  30.0% |  | 7.3%  6.8%  7.7%  8.9%  13.8% |
| Park et al., 2014 [21] | Korea | 2009-2011 | Sample: KNHANES; face-to-face survey; stratified multistage clustered probability design; nationally representative sample (≥12 yrs)  AT: Within the past year, did you ever hear a sound (buzzing, hissing, ringing, humming, roaring, machinery noise) originating in your ear? (yes)  ST: How severe is this noise in daily life? (annoying OR severely annoying) | 21,893 | ≥12 yrs  ≥12 yrs; M  ≥12 yrs; F  ≥40 yrsa  ≥70 yrs | 19.7%  17.7%  21.7%  23.5%  32.1% |  | 5.8%  5.0%  6.5%  9.2%  16.6% |
| **Africa** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Khedr et al., 2010 [22] | Egypt | 2008-2009 | Sample: Multistage stratified cluster sampling; nationally representative household sample (≥6 yrs)  AT: Participants with a perception of sound in the absence of external acoustic stimulation  ST: Tinnitus Handicap Inventory ≥58 (i.e., severe or catastrophic handicap) | 8484 | ≥6 yrs  ≥6 yrs; M  ≥6 yrs; F  ≥60 yrs | 5.2%  5.4%  5.0%  17.7% |  | 0.8%  -  -  - |
| Lasisi et al., 2010 [23] | Nigeria | 2008 | Sample: Multistage stratified probability sampling; nationally representative household sample (≥65 yrs)  AT: Do you have a perception of ringing, swishing, humming, or other type of noise in the ear or head without an external source of sound? (yes) | 1302 | ≥65 yrs  ≥65 yrs; M  ≥65 yrs; F | 14.1%  14.7%  13.4% |  |  |

M: males; F: females; HANES: Health And Nutrition Examination Study; NHIS: National Health Interview Survey; NHANES: National Health And Nutrition Examination Study; BMHS: Blue Mountains Hearing Study; NSH: National Study of Hearing; KNHANES: Korean National Health And Nutrition Examination;

a Estimated from available data.