

C-MARC Overview

1. What Is C-MARC?

The Curtin Monash Accident Research Centre (C-MARC) is a safety research centre, established in 2009. Initially supported by the State Government of Western Australia, C-MARC represents a significant partnership between Curtin University and Monash University's renowned Accident Research Centre.

Recognising that WA has unique safety issues, C-MARC has been established to:

- conduct research into the causes of road trauma in WA;
- identify new, and evaluate existing, safety measures for WA;
- research the prevention of injuries;
- research improvements to occupational safety;
- provide information to government, industry and the public to reduce trauma in WA; and
- develop a strong, local research capacity in this vital area.

C-MARC brings together the latest findings and practices from WA, from Australia generally and from around the world to ensure the best advice is available for successful action.

2. Activities

C-MARC undertakes research to reduce the consequences of crashes and other injury events. Initially this research is to improve road safety.

C-MARC researches a variety of topics, and many research projects are multi-disciplinary. This research requires a diversity of perspectives and skills. So, C-MARC collaborates with others in the School of Public Health, Health Sciences, other faculties and other individuals and organisations.

C-MARC actively promotes its research outcomes for practical application in government industry and the general community, and is a proactive public voice in promoting safety and reducing the consequences of accidents.

3. Research Areas

C-MARC's research will change over time as projects are completed and in response to emerging safety issues affecting WA.

Transport safety (or accident safety generally) is not a single discipline academically. In practice, accident and safety research requires many different disciplines, often collaborating on the same project. Key disciplines include:

- engineering;
- injury prevention;
- human factors;
- economics;
- public health;
- occupational safety;
- education & marketing;
- legal & regulation;
- enforcement; and
- technology.

Similarly, accident research requires a diversity of areas to be investigated including;

- strategy;
- planning;
- design;
- implementation;
- evaluation;
- analysis;
- information capture;
- project management; and
- communication.

C-MARC's work includes:

- evaluation of policy, regulation, campaigns or other interventions;
- various types of qualitative and quantitative assessment as appropriate;
- injury prevention;
- investigation of psychological aspects;
- economic assessment;
- health influences on transport safety (eg cataracts); and
- general and specific transport safety investigations.

4. Skills and Capacity

Much of the research program is carried out by scientists employed at either Curtin or Monash universities, thereby optimising the collective expertise across a range of disciplines. A nucleus of full-time staff are being recruited to form the backbone of WA expertise, to take the State into the future. C-MARC currently has access to a wide variety of research skills including:

- psychological perspectives;
- evaluation;
- general transport safety analysis;
- health links to transport safety;
- traffic and transport engineering;
- epidemiology;
- strategic assessment and planning;
- policy development;
- land transport perspectives; and
- economic analysis.

5. Current Research

C-MARC's current research program includes:

- preparation and publication of a series of fact sheets on key road safety issues;
- a stocktake of existing road safety (and related) research capacity;
- a stocktake of agencies capacity and knowledge in road safety policy and programs;
- development of a series of short courses in Towards Zero principles, practices and delivery;
- exploration of the attitudes of young drivers in WA to increase understanding of risk-taking;
- examining the relationships between traffic system design and operation in WA, and the incidence of inadvertent driver error on the one hand and deliberate violations on the other
- promoting both the media profile of road safety in WA and the calibre of the public debate;
- critical examination of the crash and injury databases in WA;
- modelling the take-up of new vehicle safety features, and forecasting rates of permeation through the WA fleet under a range of counter-measure scenarios;
- the effect of cataracts on road safety; and
- local government speed enforcement.

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See www.c-marc.curtin.edu.au for more information
