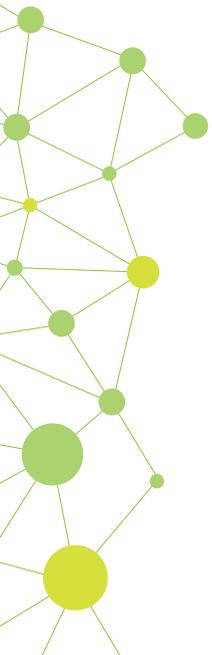




مجلس البحث العلمي
The Research Council

Road safety research program



في صميم الابتكار
at the heart of innovation



Road safety research program

Road safety research program is one of the strategic research program which established with the collaboration between TRC and Royal Oman Police. The main objective of the program, to promote scientific research and to build national research capacity in road safety as well as to support decision makers through conducting different activities held by the program.

The Research Council report (2007) identifies road safety as one of five major social challenges in the Sultanate of Oman. Due to the importance of the issue, a steering committee has been formed to implement and supervise a research program on road safety. The steering committee will determine research priority areas, ensure that research proposals are of high scientific quality and meet the situation in Oman and international standard.

The Steering Committee of the research program

- 1 Royal Oman police
- 2 Ministry of Health
- 3 Ministry of Transport and communication
- 4 Ministry of Regional Municipalities
- 5 Ministry of Housing
- 6 Ministry of Social Development
- 7 The Research Council
- 8 Sultan Qaboos University
- 9 Muscat Municipality
- 10 Petroleum Development Oman

Mission of The Road Safety Program

Reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by building knowledge and capacity in road safety research methods and facilitating the development of evidence-based road safety interventions.

Goals of Road Safety Research Program

1. Encourage researchers from inside and outside the Sultanate to provide research proposals aimed at reducing the problem of traffic accidents in Oman.
2. Increase research capacity in the field of road safety by supporting graduate students working in the approved research proposals.
3. The provision of scientific research results to decision makers in the relevant authorities for use in the preventive measures and planning to reduce the problem of traffic accidents.

Main Themes Of Concentration

Crash Analysis

Falls under this axis are a number of research areas including

1. Development of scientific approach for road accident data collection leading to objective analysis to achieve more effective road safety measures.
2. In depth analysis of the causes of traffic crashes and traffic fatalities.
3. Mapping out traffic crashes across the country to quantify their pattern.
4. Road characteristic and traffic operation issues related to traffic incidents.
5. Prediction models for the likelihood of traffic crashes on specific road sections.



Theme 2 Behavior and Social Issues.

1. Falls under this axis are a number of research areas including
2. Assessment of drivers skills, knowledge, and behavior.
3. Social and cultural behavior factors fostering unsafe road usage.
4. Social impact of traffic incidents and the role of the family.
5. Effectiveness of awareness programs.

Theme 3: legal and compliance Issues.

Falls under this axis are a number of research areas including

1. The impact of driving rules and regulation on mitigating road accidents.
2. Effectiveness of law enforcement in mitigating road accidents and their sequel.
3. The relationship between – provision for insurance companies and number of accident.

Theme 4: Trauma Care Services.

Falls under this axis are a number of research areas including

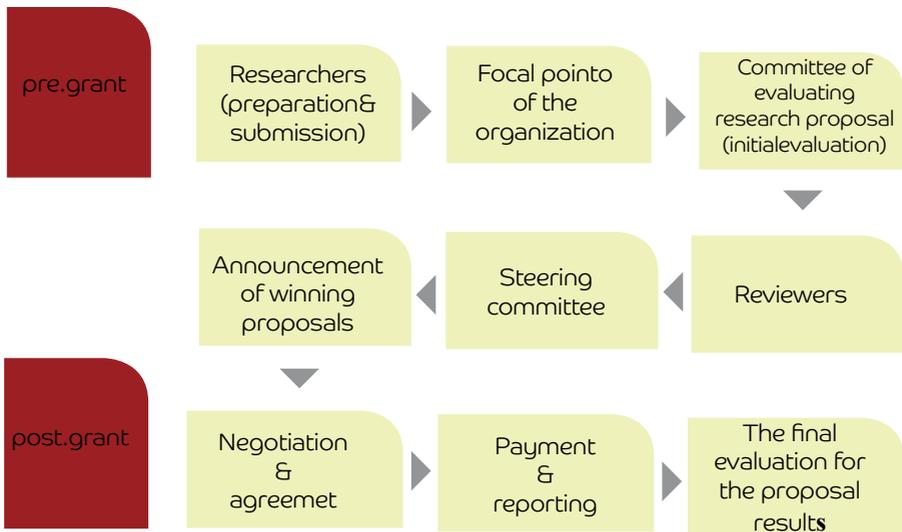
1. Injuries handling and transportation.
2. Rescuing speeds.
3. Effectiveness of available medical services.
4. Impact on morbidity and mortality.



The method of requesting / submitting research proposal

1. The research council accounted the call calls for competitive research proposals on the website of the research council (www.trc.gov.om). Researchers can submit pre-proposals in the themes of the program using the Research Electronic Submission System (TREES).
2. The steering committee of the program may also assign or commission research directly to a specialized researchers or institution based on a previously set terms of reference.

Call for proposal cycle



Developing the Road Accidents Database in the Sultanate of Oman

The Research Council is working on developing a national level database will be utilized in developing the database, taking into account the most rigorous international standards.

The aim of the traffic crashes database is to establish a scientific approach to study the traffic accidents in the Sultanate through collecting data that could analyze these crashes in an objective way. The data will be integrated and accessible for specialist researchers, academics, policy makers, and engineers.

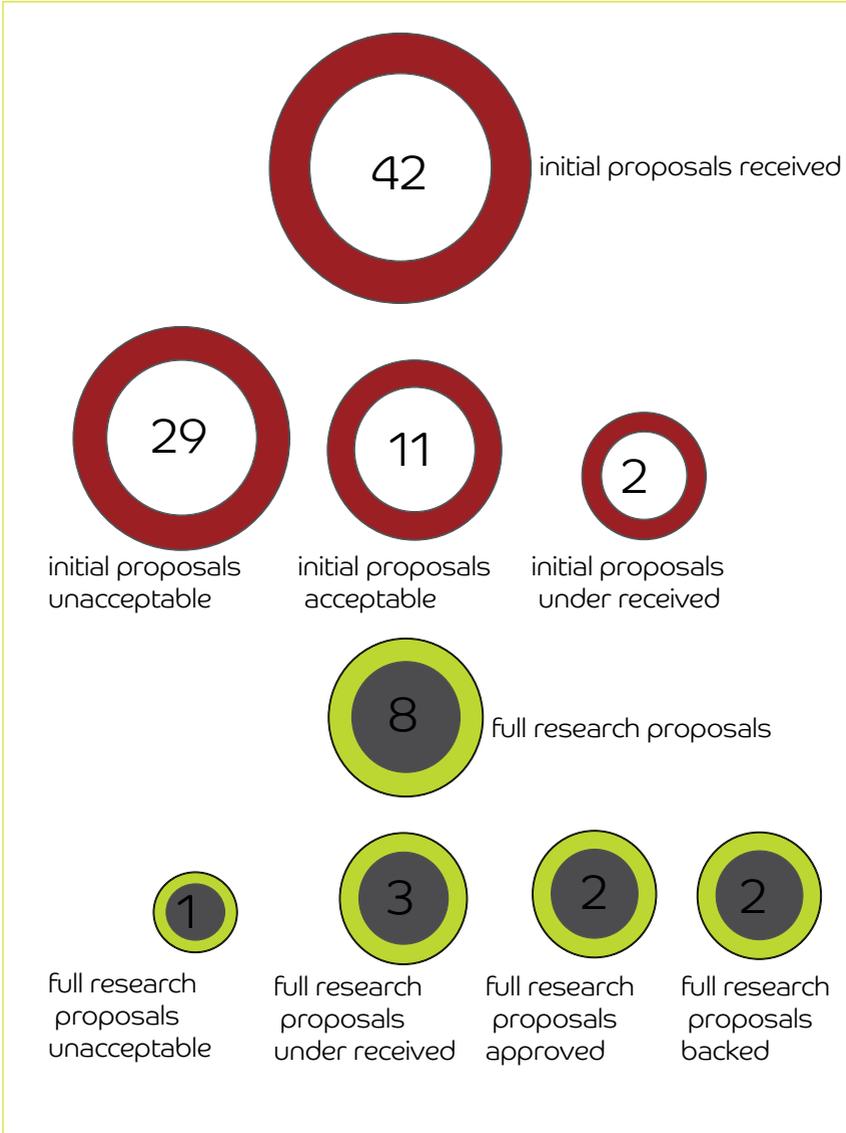
The an analysis of data from crash sites and care systems for those involved in crashes will be the basis on which effective measures for road safety will be developed.

Data regarding the causes of traffic deaths in the Sultanate is also critical in reducing death and injury. Once data are systematically identified interventions and counter measures can be developed and evaluated.

The database project has been completed in the first quarter of 2013, which was in collaboration with the Transport Research Laboratory. It contains data on road traffic accidents over a period of five years. The database will provide a lot of statistics and information where interested researchers in road accidents may use in their research.

TRC is also in the process to start several research projects based on the output of the database.

Statistical research proposals for road safety program 2010 – 2013



Summaries of approved projects





Proposal Title: Heavy Vehicle (Truck).

Submitted Organization: Queensland University and Sultan Qaboos University.

The proposed research is to quantify crashes of heavy vehicle fleet in Oman. It also proposes to review national policy/legislation and enforcement practices and organizational structures currently operating within industry to manage the fleet. The project will survey knowledge, attitudes and perception in heavy vehicle drivers. Using this research, the project proposes to develop evidence-based guidance's for both government and industry to order to heighten intervention, compliance and self-adherence to safer heavy vehicle operations.

Proposal Title: Novice driver safety.

Submitted Organization: Queensland University and Sultan Qaboos University.

The proposed research aims to take a holistic approach to improve the safety of novice drivers by examining novice driver behavior and licensing practice in Oman. The overall aim is to understand novice drivers they risk they entail from different perspective including cultural, social, familial which have implication for effective countermeasures to reduce traffic accident in Oman. The proposed research has four key aims associated with improving the safety of novice drivers in Oman. Understand key risk factors for motor vehicle crashes and associated injuries among novice drivers.

1. Inform countermeasure development (including graduated driver licensing).
2. Provide information to benchmark and monitor progress in novice driver safety.
3. Provide the tools for researchers to undertake future research into novice driver safety.

Proposal Title: Improving Trauma Care Systems to Reduce the Burden of Road Traffic Injuries in the Sultanate of Oman.

Submitted Organization: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in cooperating with Ministry of Health.

Road traffic injuries (RTIs) have recently emerged as a major health concern in the Sultanate of Oman. While the overall number of crashes began to decrease between 1998 and 2008 (from 8,049 to 7,982), the number of injuries and deaths resulting from the crashes has risen. In 1998, close to 8,000 RTIs were reported in Oman and by 2008 this had grown to 10,558. Moreover, the number of deaths during the same time period increased from 614 to 951.

As the Sultanate moves forward in its efforts to reduce RTIs, it is important to recognize the critical role trauma systems can and do play. Research has shown that efficient trauma care systems can significantly reduce mortality from road traffic crashes. This collaborative proposal between the Johns Hopkins International Injury Research Unit (IIRU) and the Injury Focal Point of the Omani Ministry of Health will evaluate, enhance capacity and improve the quality of trauma care in the Sultanate of Oman. It is expected that the data collected and personnel trained will contribute to sustainable trauma care improvements, and help curb the rising burden of RTIs in the Sultanate of Oman.

To reduce the morbidity and mortality from road traffic crashes in the Sultanate of Oman, the Johns Hopkins International Injury Research Unit proposes to work closely with the Omani Ministry of Health and assist the Sultanate improve its trauma care system.

This goal will be achieved through the following three objectives:

1. Perform a comprehensive evaluation of the Sultanate of Oman's existing trauma care system.
2. Assist in the development of a trauma care surveillance system to explore the changing burden of trauma injuries and better inform cost-effective and sustainable trauma care improvements.

Train current hospital-based Omani ER staff and build capacity within the current trauma care system.

Proposal Title: Prevent Accidents and Injuries on the Road -PAIR – Strengthening Preventive Efforts and Enforcing Speed Management in Oman.

Submitted Organization: Karolinska Institutet in cooperating with Sultan Qaboos University.

This research proposal is based on the Green Model and aims to conduct a number of “diagnoses” (assessments) essential for the contextualization of road traffic safety interventions in present-day Oman. Its ultimate goal is to contribute significantly to the reduction of road traffic injury mortality and morbidity in the country. Research activities are planned to take place over a two-year period during which several concurrent goals will be pursued through a series of complementary assessments, with special focus on speed management as a risk behavior among drivers and including educational, environmental, and behavioral components. An exploration will take place of the norms and values of individuals, alongside an examination of the individual and collective practices in different road environment settings.

The point of departure for this research is to contextualize the problems of speeding in Oman. However, speeding reflects a number of individual, community-based and societal values and priorities which are important to understand when speed reduction and change to safer traffic practices are the objective. This research will therefore include research questions related to different segments of and behaviors in the Omani society as follows:

- What are the enablers for and obstacles to the adoption of safe practices on the road, including speed reduction?
- What are reasonable objectives/targets that can be set (impact and outcome) for future road traffic safety interventions deployed in Oman?