

The impact of the M74 motorway extension on road accident trends in Glasgow

We compared 3 areas of the city to examine accidents occurring on streets, roads and motorways, which contained:

New motorway 

M74 extension - South Glasgow
Opened June 2011



Existing motorway 

M8 - East Glasgow



No motorway 




North Glasgow



KEY MESSAGES

Overall, each area in the study experienced substantial decreases in the numbers of accidents but... we found no evidence that the M74 extension altered this trend.

SERIOUS AND FATAL CASUALTIES HAVE FALLEN BY:

Road user type	New motorway	Existing motorway	No motorway
 Pedestrian	↓ 52%	↓ 65%	↓ 69%
 Driver/rider	↓ 50%	↓ 48%	↓ 68%
 Passenger	↓ 79%	↓ 66%	↓ 85%

This research is part of a wider evaluation of the M74 extension which includes impacts on active travel, physical activity, wellbeing and community perceptions.

For more info visit: www.cedar.iph.cam.ac.uk/research/directory/traffic-health-glasgow

Health impacts of the M74 motorway extension - community engagement



Alongside our research on the health impacts of the M74 extension, we conducted a programme of community engagement with the help of the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC).

WHAT DID WE DO?

In 2013 before the wider study took place, we invited 18 local community organisations to share their feelings and concerns



In the second phase in 2016 we organised a series of community events to share emerging study findings

These included informal 'pop-up' events and a stakeholder event using interactive methods including a talking wall and world café

Attendees included representatives from government, community groups and local residents

WHAT DID WE FIND?

Different communities, different audiences and different individuals had vastly different opinions about the motorway, ranging from positive to neutral to negative views



WHAT DIFFERENCE DID THIS MAKE?

Our public engagement activities helped us to make sure that our research questions were relevant to local communities, to policy makers and practitioners

Together we generated ideas for future research such as assessment of noise, air pollution, disturbed sleep, or a formal economic evaluation

We learned more about how to incorporate community perspectives into research

For more info visit: tinyurl.com/m74-study

Health impacts of the M74 motorway extension



A new five-mile section of the M74 was opened in Glasgow in 2011

We found out about road traffic accidents, travel patterns and wellbeing in the local area, and explored if and how these changed as a result of the motorway

WHAT DID WE DO?

Two postal surveys in 2005 and 2013 with around 2000 responses



Gave 200 survey participants activity monitors to track movement patterns



Analysed official statistics on travel and road traffic accidents

Interviewed 30 survey participants who lived within 400 metres of the new motorway



WHAT DID WE FIND?

The new motorway seems to have promoted car use

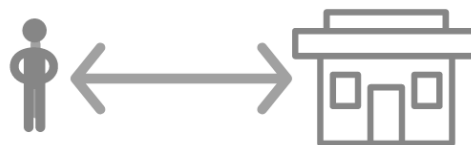


There is no evidence that it has affected the number of road traffic casualties



People living nearer to the motorway have experienced poorer mental wellbeing over time

It has helped to connect some local residents with amenities and other places



The motorway does not seem to have affected active travel (walking or cycling for transport)

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Some of the benefits claimed for this type of investment **may not be achieved** or be **achieved for some at the expense of others**



This should be taken into account in future transport planning

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