ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

MEDIA RELEASE

Massive drop in facial fractures and single punch attacks in Sydney CBD and Kings Cross

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A study led by surgeons at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney has shown that serious facial trauma admissions have dropped by around 60 per cent since liquor law reforms were introduced.

In total, there were 145 facial trauma patients who received operations in the two years before the laws were introduced, compared with 58 patients in the two years afterwards.

Of the single punch attacks that were known to be alcohol-related, there were 26 in the two years prior, compared with four in the two years after the reforms.

Lead researcher Dr Elias Moisidis from the Department of Plastic, Reconstructive and Maxillofacial Surgery at St Vincent's says the deformity, chronic pain and disability that can result from serious facial trauma can lead to lifelong issues for the patient and their family.

"It's reasonable to assume that the NSW Government's laws changed the dynamics and resulted in a significant reduction in patients presenting to St Vincent's with facial injuries requiring operations," Dr Moisidis says.

"The most notable reduction regarding the location of injuries was in the Kings Cross and city areas where the liquor law reforms were implemented.

"The greatest reduction regarding the time of injuries was between 10pm and 6am.

"This will likely reduce the socio-economic burden on the public healthcare system."

This research is being presented today at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress in Brisbane.

About RACS

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