

ONE

PUNCH

FATALITIES

in Australia (2000-2012)



A recent review of “King hit” fatalities in Australia between January 2000 and December 2012 revealed that there has been at least **90 cases involving a fatal king hit to the head, neck or chest** (Pilgrim, Gerostamoulos, & Drummer, 2014).

Cause of death?

Most common cause of death was head or facial injury, followed by intracranial haemorrhage (bleeding into the brain), and secondary brain trauma (complications).

86

4



The victims of these one-punch fatalities were **86 males and 4 females, between the ages of 17 and 78 years (median age of 33 years).**

Drug and alcohol involvement

Alcohol intoxication was detected in 79% of cases with median BAD reading of .14. Involvement of other drugs was less common, with cannabis next prevalent (9 cases). Circumstances surrounding the assaults are outlined in the figures below, including location, day, and timing of incidents.



Where did they occur?

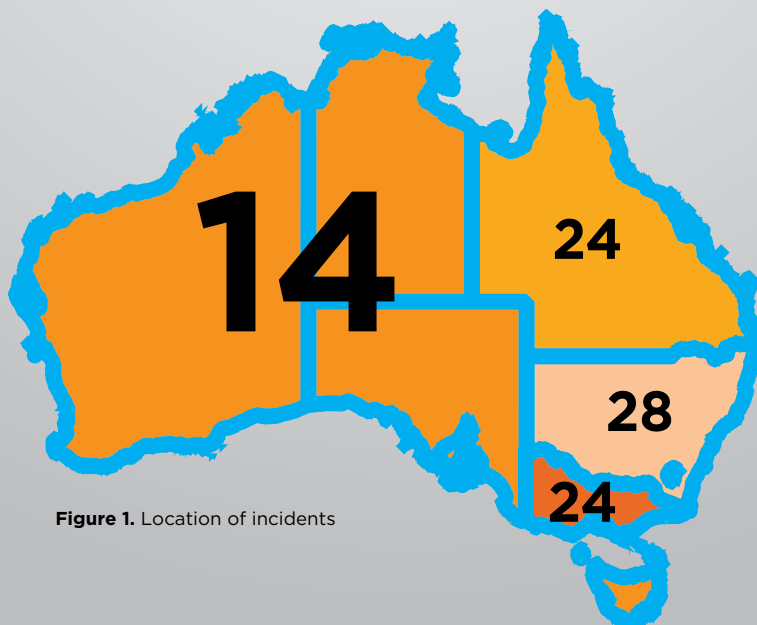


Figure 1. Location of incidents



Type of punch?

85

fatalities involved single punches

2 cases involved 2 consecutive, rapid, punches

3 cases involved 3 consecutive punches.

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**In summary,
the graphs illustrate that:**

- most cases occurred at a **hotel/pub or in a public space** (public space includes 7 incidents where the assault occurred shortly after the deceased had left a licensed venue where they had been drinking)

most assaults (73%) occurred **between Friday and Sunday**, and between the **hours of 12am and 3am**.

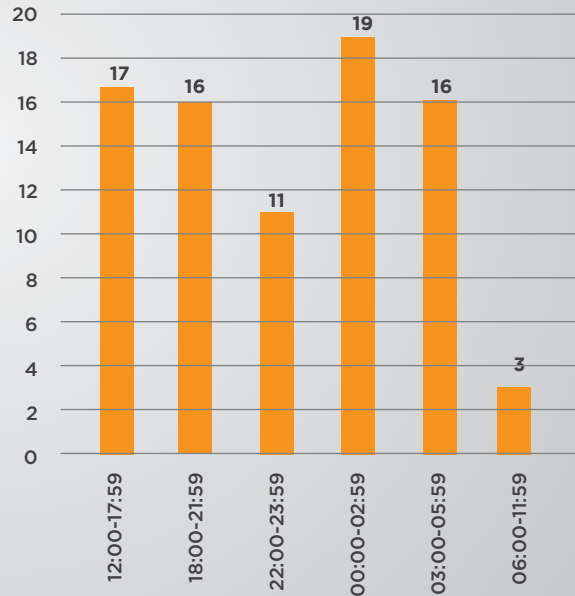
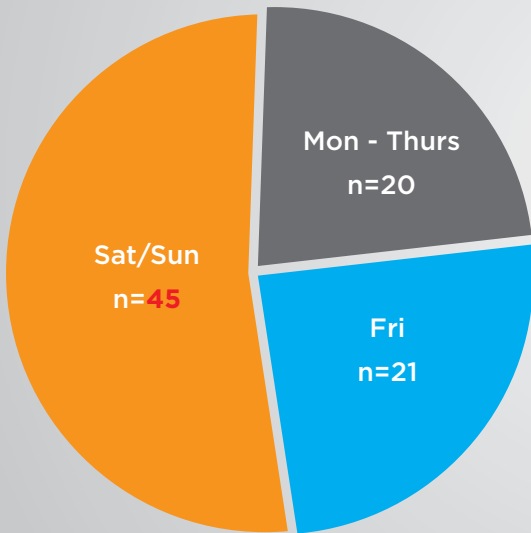


Figure 2.

Day of incident
(occurring from 00:01-23:59 each day)

Figure 3.

Time of incident

It should be noted that the figures outlined above are sourced from coroner's toxicology reports, and do not include cases of individuals found deceased without evidence to suggest details of assault. Therefore it is likely they underestimate the true number of cases.

Reference

Pilgrim, J.L., Gerostamoulos, D., & Drummer, O.H. (2014). "King hit" fatalities in Australia, 2000-2012: The role of alcohol and other drugs. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 135, 119-132.



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