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CHAPTER 8

VITAL STATISTICS

The tables in this chapter are confined to the principal characteristics of vital statistics for Australia and relate, in the main, to the year 1974 for marriages and divorces, 1973 and 1974 for births and 1973 for deaths and infant deaths. Comparisons have been restricted, in general, to the individual years 1970 to 1974 and the five year periods 1946-50 to 1966-70, while age data have been shown in five-year groups. Comparisons over longer periods, together with more detailed figures such as single age particulars and cross-classifications of various characteristics, were published in the annual bulletins, *Demography* (4.9) and *Causes of Death* (4.7). Current information is published in the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* (1.4), the mimeograph bulletins *Births* (4.4), *Deaths* (4.8), *Marriages* (4.10), *Divorce* (13.1) (annual) and *Vital and Population Statistics* (quarterly) (4.11).

In most tables the statistics of births, deaths and marriages exclude particulars of full-blood Aborigines for years before 1966. Differences between the statistics now published and those formerly published which implied exclusion of Aboriginal vital events cannot be taken as reliable statistics of births, deaths, or marriages among full-blood Aborigines, because in many areas no satisfactory administrative or other basis existed for distinguishing vital events of full-blood Aborigines from those of part-Aborigines or the rest of the population.

Birth, death and marriage rates for certain countries of the world are set out in International Vital Statistics at the end of this chapter.

Provisions for registration and compilation of statistics

In Australia, statistics of births, deaths and marriages are compiled from information supplied for the registration of the event. Each State and Territory has an independent system of registration. Provisions for the civil registration of births, deaths, and marriages have been in force in Tasmania from 1839, in Western Australia from 1841, in South Australia from 1842, in Victoria from 1853, and in New South Wales and Queensland (then part of New South Wales) from 1856. Registration in the Territories is administered by the Commonwealth Government, registration having been taken over from South Australia in 1911 in respect of the Northern Territory and from New South Wales in 1930 in respect of the Australian Capital Territory. The authority responsible for the registration of births, deaths, and marriages occurring within his particular State or Territory is the Registrar-General (the Government Statist in Victoria) or the Principal Registrar.

The statistics of births, deaths and marriages in this chapter refer to events registered by the State and Territorial registrars during the year shown. There is usually an interval of at least several days between the occurrence and the registration of an event. As a result of the delay in registration some events occurring in one year are not registered until the following year. Events which are registered more than ten years after date of occurrence are excluded from the statistics.

For tables showing statistics of births, deaths and marriages for the States and Territories, figures are compiled from registrations of events which took place in each State and Territory. Some events take place in States other than the State in which the persons concerned (e.g. mother, deceased, bride/groom) usually resided. The effect of such interstate registrations on State totals however is slight. See page 181.

Statistics of divorce are compiled from petitions filed with and decrees granted by the Supreme Court of a State or Territory.

Marriages

The *Marriage Act* 1961-1966 came into operation on 1 September 1963, placing the marriage laws of all States, the mainland Territories and Norfolk Island on a uniform basis. Provision is made for the celebration of marriage by ministers of religion registered with the Registrar of Ministers of Religion appointed in each State and Territory by the Attorney-General, and by certain civil officers, in most cases district registrars. In each State or Territory the authorised celebrant is required to register particulars of the parties married with the appropriate registering authority as soon as practicable and in any case not later than fourteen days after the marriage.

The minimum marriageable age at which a person is legally free to marry is 18 years for males and 16 years for females. The marriage of a female between 16 and 18 years of age is not permissible without the consent of her parents or guardians or, where this is not obtainable of a magistrate or other prescribed authority. A judge or magistrate may, in exceptional circumstances, make an order authorising a male who has attained 16 years or a female who has attained 14 years to marry a person of marriageable age.

Numbers of marriages and crude marriage rates

MARRIAGES(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Annual average—									
1946-50	30,162	20,453	10,666	6,581	5,205	2,529	114	181	75,891
1951-55	28,483	20,007	10,171	6,290	5,232	2,539	146	234	73,102
1956-60	28,432	20,422	10,254	6,517	5,145	2,573	190	321	73,854
1961-65	31,788	23,262	11,437	7,514	5,768	2,700	248	533	83,250
1966-70	39,216	29,481	14,717	9,920	8,147	3,330	394	983	106,188
Annual total—									
1970	42,928	31,729	16,082	10,864	9,227	3,535	501	1,200	116,066
1971	43,038	32,386	16,538	10,833	9,382	3,578	485	1,397	117,637
1972	41,520	31,206	16,066	10,829	9,120	3,426	490	1,372	114,029
1973	40,722	30,203	16,490	10,806	9,102	3,395	513	1,469	112,700
1974	39,327	29,708	16,086	10,769	9,295	3,567	566	1,355	110,673

(a) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1966.

CRUDE MARRIAGE RATES(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Average annual rate—									
1946-50	9.90	9.72	9.41	9.87	10.01	9.56	9.39	9.36	9.77
1951-55	8.41	8.34	7.91	8.11	8.44	8.35	9.13	8.20	8.29
1956-60	7.70	7.50	7.14	7.26	7.36	7.69	8.63	7.51	7.50
1961-65	7.86	7.64	7.27	7.42	7.43	7.49	8.09	7.26	7.63
1966-70	8.96	8.84	8.49	8.82	8.87	8.76	5.81	8.68	8.81
Annual rate—									
1970	9.48	9.20	8.96	9.38	9.28	9.11	6.32	9.10	9.26
1971	9.33	9.23	9.03	9.21	9.09	9.15	5.60	9.68	9.20
1972	8.89	8.78	8.58	9.10	8.63	8.71	5.26	8.67	8.78
1973	8.64	8.40	8.59	8.99	8.49	8.55	5.35	8.69	8.56
1974	8.26	8.15	8.17	8.82	8.46	8.88	5.56	7.52	8.27

(a) Number of marriages per 1,000 of mean population. Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1966.

Previous marital status

In most years about ninety per cent of grooms and brides are single at marriage, seven per cent divorced and three per cent widowed.

PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES: AUSTRALIA, 1974

<i>Previous marital status of bridegrooms</i>	<i>Previous marital status of brides</i>			<i>Total bridegrooms</i>
	<i>Spinsters</i>	<i>Widows</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	
Bachelors . . .	92,367	1,118	4,387	97,872
Widowers . . .	714	1,685	968	3,367
Divorced . . .	4,950	961	3,523	9,434
Total brides . . .	98,031	3,764	8,878	110,673

Age and previous marital status at marriage

There were 18,171 males under 21 years of age married during 1974, while the corresponding number of females was 50,312.

AGE AND PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES AUSTRALIA, 1974

<i>Age at marriage (years)</i>	<i>Bridegrooms</i>				<i>Brides</i>			
	<i>Bachelors</i>	<i>Widowers</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Spinsters</i>	<i>Widows</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 20 . . .	8,472	..	..	8,472	34,733	7	13	34,753
20-24 . . .	57,814	18	227	58,059	49,268	107	787	50,162
25-29 . . .	22,471	81	1,863	24,415	9,853	263	2,414	12,530
30-34 . . .	5,300	99	2,009	7,408	2,314	235	1,848	4,397
35-39 . . .	1,719	147	1,490	3,356	836	276	1,140	2,252
40-44 . . .	904	191	1,173	2,268	362	369	934	1,665
45-49 . . .	536	380	1,027	1,943	252	485	845	1,582
50-54 . . .	301	483	780	1,564	159	556	487	1,202
55-59 . . .	152	501	455	1,108	113	499	237	849
60-64 . . .	112	516	217	845	69	454	111	634
65 and over . . .	91	951	193	1,235	72	513	62	647
Total . . .	97,872	3,367	9,434	110,673	98,031	3,764	8,878	110,673

RELATIVE AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES: AUSTRALIA, 1974

<i>Age of bridegroom (years)</i>	<i>Age of bride (years)</i>								<i>Total bridegrooms</i>
	<i>Under 15</i>	<i>15-19</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-29</i>	<i>30-34</i>	<i>35-39</i>	<i>40-44</i>	<i>45 and over</i>	
Under 20 . . .	9	7,001	1,389	63	7	1	2	..	8,472
20-24 . . .	7	23,300	32,074	2,345	267	44	15	7	58,059
25-29 . . .	2	3,800	13,525	5,766	1,023	230	57	12	24,415
30-34 . . .	2	490	2,376	2,704	1,263	400	116	57	7,408
35-39 . . .	..	94	535	997	861	514	227	128	3,356
40-44 . . .	..	33	162	375	522	466	381	329	2,268
45-49 . . .	..	8	65	181	264	332	399	694	1,943
50-54 . . .	..	6	19	62	114	177	267	919	1,564
55-59 . . .	..	..	9	22	52	56	126	843	1,108
60-64 . . .	..	..	3	10	14	21	54	743	845
65 and over . . .	..	1	5	5	10	11	21	1,182	1,235
Total brides	20	34,733	50,162	12,530	4,397	2,252	1,665	4,914	110,673

The median age at marriage of brides and bridegrooms has declined during recent years. The median ages, in years, of brides for each of the five years to 1974 were: 1970, 21.46; 1971, 21.39; 1972, 21.41; 1973, 21.41 and 1974, 21.37. The median ages, in years, of bridegrooms were: 1970, 23.74; 1971, 23.78; 1972, 23.80; 1973, 23.85; and 1974, 23.83. The difference in the median age at marriage between brides and bridegrooms is generally about two years, the difference in 1974 being 2.46 years. The median age is the age at which half of the bridegrooms or brides were younger and half were older than that age. It gives a better indication of the most common age at marriage than the mean age.

Countries of birth of persons marrying

RELATIVE COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES: AUSTRALIA, 1974

Country of birth of bridegroom	Country of birth of bride										Total bridegrooms	
	Australia	New Zealand	United Kingdom and Ireland	Germany	Greece	Italy	Malta	Netherlands	Yugoslavia	Other European		Other and un-specified
Australia	73,898	482	4,939	534	85	306	193	547	101	483	1,415	82,983
New Zealand	896	139	103	9	1	4	2	13	..	15	37	1,219
United Kingdom and Ireland	6,741	111	2,137	110	14	48	39	106	27	108	345	9,786
Germany	983	16	129	136	3	8	3	21	8	73	82	1,462
Greece	367	8	33	..	1,250	10	3	3	10	13	107	1,804
Italy	1,491	12	105	23	12	1,252	20	8	25	46	108	3,102
Malta	419	1	43	6	1	9	272	4	2	8	13	778
Netherlands	979	6	115	15	1	8	3	129	2	11	42	1,311
Yugoslavia	312	3	31	25	17	24	4	11	1,136	39	40	1,642
Other European	934	18	149	73	9	28	7	25	50	629	162	2,084
Other and un-specified	1,933	43	288	44	65	39	9	40	21	87	1,933	4,502
Total brides	88,953	839	8,072	975	1,458	1,736	555	907	1,382	1,512	4,284	110,673

Celebration of marriages

Marriages may be celebrated by a minister of religion registered as an authorised celebrant, by a district registrar or by other persons authorised by the Attorney-General. Notice of the intended marriage must be given to the celebrant at least seven days before the marriage. Most of the marriages are celebrated by ministers of religion although the proportion of civil marriages has been increasing. The registered ministers in 1974 belonged to more than fifty different religious denominations.

MARRIAGES BY AUTHORISED CELEBRANTS: 1974

Category of authorised celebrant	Australia									Proportion of total	
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	No.		
Registered ministers of recognised religious denominations—											
Roman Catholic	10,618	8,544	4,208	2,138	2,289	693	121	398	29,009	26.21	
Church of England	10,812	5,992	3,473	1,796	2,381	1,350	64	317	26,185	23.66	
Methodist	3,852	2,624	2,262	2,240	956	440	34	40	12,448	11.25	
Presbyterian	3,320	3,922	1,802	295	481	135	43	112	10,110	9.14	
Orthodox	979	1,046	113	164	93	8	19	17	2,439	2.20	
Baptist	735	547	329	260	141	84	4	18	2,118	1.91	
Lutheran	171	274	453	607	41	6	9	18	1,579	1.43	
Churches of Christ	178	569	202	289	231	22	6	8	1,505	1.36	
Congregational	336	314	127	262	88	51	5	6	1,189	1.07	
Salvation Army	162	164	86	68	60	38	5	3	586	0.53	
Other	809	1,016	448	221	280	130	16	19	2,939	2.66	
Other authorised celebrants—											
Ministers of religion	242	247	55	64	96	9	5	10	728	0.66	
Civil officers	7,113	4,449	2,528	2,365	2,158	601	235	389	19,838	17.92	
Grand Total	39,327	29,708	16,086	10,769	9,295	3,567	566	1,355	110,673	100.00	
Proportion of total (per cent)—											
Ministers of religion	81.91	85.02	84.28	78.04	76.78	83.15	58.48	71.29	82.08	..	
Civil officers	18.09	14.98	15.72	21.96	23.22	16.85	41.52	28.71	17.92	..	

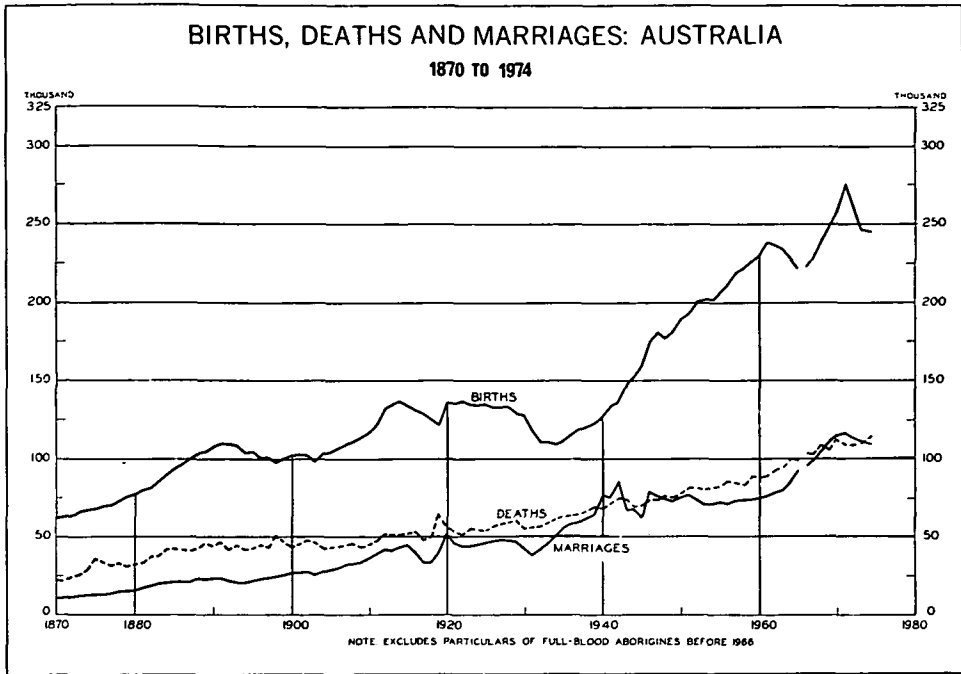


PLATE 28

Divorce and other matrimonial causes

The *Matrimonial Causes Act* 1959 came into operation on 1 February 1959, placing the divorce laws of all States and Territories on a uniform basis. Under this legislation a court may grant decrees of dissolution of marriage (divorce), nullity of marriage, judicial separation, restitution of conjugal rights, and jactitation of marriage (i.e., that a person should refrain from making a false claim that a marriage has taken place between him and another person). Orders may be made for maintenance, the custody and welfare of children, the settlement of property, and damages for adultery. The following statistics refer only to petitions for, and decrees of, dissolution, nullity, and judicial separation. A description of legislation governing divorce and other matrimonial causes in Australia is contained in Year Book No. 55, page 580.

Petitions filed

Statistics of petitions exclude cross-petitions contained in answers by respondents. The following table shows the number of petitions for dissolution of marriage, nullity of marriage, and judicial separation filed in each State and Territory during 1974.

PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION, NULLITY, AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION, 1974

Petition for—	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution—									
By husband	3,533	2,477	1,238	855	1,015	307	57	186	9,668
By wife	7,229	4,079	2,248	1,405	1,212	441	82	388	17,084
Total	10,762	6,556	3,486	2,260	2,227	748	139	574	26,752
Nullity—									
By husband	8	2	5	1	1	2	..	..	19
By wife	31	3	7	2	1	2	1	1	48
Total	39	5	12	3	2	4	1	1	67
Dissolution or nullity—									
By husband	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
By wife	2	7	..	2	..	..	..	..	11
Total	4	9	..	2	..	..	..	..	15
Judicial separation—									
By husband . . . . .	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..
By wife	4	1	4	6	3	1	..	1	20
Total	4	1	4	6	3	1	..	1	20
All petitions—									
By husband	No. 3,543	2,481	1,243	856	1,016	309	57	186	9,691
per cent	33	38	35	38	46	41	41	32	36
By wife	No. 7,266	4,090	2,259	(a)1,416	1,216	444	83	390	(a)17,164
per cent	67	62	65	62	54	59	59	68	64
Grand total	10,809	6,571	3,502	(a)2,272	2,232	753	140	576	(a)26,855

(a) Includes one petition for dissolution or judicial separation.

Decrees granted

Statistics of decrees granted refer to decrees *nisi* made absolute except for the following cases, where no decree *nisi* is granted.

- (i) Decrees of judicial separation, which do not dissolve the marriage and may be discharged on resumption of cohabitation.
- (ii) Decrees of nullity of void marriage, as distinct from nullity of voidable marriage. A void marriage is invalid because of failure to meet a legal requirement, and the original decree of nullity is final. A valid marriage is voidable on proof of one or more of the grounds set out in Section 21 of the *Matrimonial Causes Act 1959-1966*, e.g. that either party is incapable of consummating the marriage.

The following tables show the number of dissolutions of marriage, nullities of marriage, and judicial separations granted in each State and Territory during 1974 classified according to petitioner, and the grounds on which decrees were granted during the years 1970 to 1974.

DECREES FOR DISSOLUTION, NULLITY, AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION, 1974

Decree of—	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution—									
To husband	2,502	1,651	730	605	771	240	34	132	6,665
To wife	4,615	2,597	1,103	956	982	295	30	235	10,813
To both . . . . .	..	9	..	..	8	..	..	..	17
Total	7,117	4,257	1,833	1,561	1,761	535	64	367	17,495
Nullity—									
To husband	3	4	..	2	..	..	..	..	9
To wife	16	10	4	2	..	1	..	1	34
Total	19	14	4	4	..	1	..	1	43
Judicial separation—									
To husband . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
To wife	3	1	7	1	..	..	..	1	13
Total	3	1	7	1	..	..	..	1	13
All decrees—									
To husband	No. 2,505	1,655	730	607	771	240	34	132	6,674
per cent	35	39	40	39	44	45	53	36	38
To wife	No. 4,634	2,608	1,114	959	982	296	30	237	10,860
per cent	65	61	60	61	56	55	47	64	62
To both	No. ..	9	..	..	8	..	..	..	17
Grand total	7,139	4,272	1,844	1,566	1,761	536	64	369	17,551

DECREES FOR DISSOLUTION, NULLITY, AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION, GROUNDS: AUSTRALIA

<i>Ground</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1972</i>	<i>1973</i>	<i>1974</i>
DISSOLUTION					
Single grounds—					
Desertion	5,098	5,076	5,814	5,891	6,371
Adultery	3,419	3,977	5,088	5,490	6,074
Separation	2,023	2,243	2,442	2,186	2,468
Cruelty	942	983	1,368	1,660	1,717
Drunkenness	142	165	203	224	265
Intoxication by drugs	5	4	5	3	3
Non-compliance with resti- tution decree	2	1	3	5	1
Refusal to consummate	42	29	39	41	26
Insanity	6	3	1	4	2
Frequent convictions	25	15	19	14	11
Imprisonment	3	8	7	5	10
Other single grounds	15	20	19	16	21
Dual grounds—					
Desertion and adultery	90	87	80	80	94
Desertion and separation	96	79	106	85	78
Desertion and cruelty	59	49	68	75	60
Desertion and drunkenness	14	10	10	14	9
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	3	6	2	3	2
Desertion and other	7	5	3	5	3
Adultery and separation	4	3	7	5	4
Adultery and cruelty	17	14	26	22	16
Adultery and other	2	1	3	3	2
Separation and other	3	..	3	1	2
Cruelty and drunkenness	160	146	237	226	237
Cruelty and other	5	1	3	3	2
Other dual grounds	1	8	6	7	4
Three grounds or more	15	14	22	27	13
<i>Total</i>	<i>12,198</i>	<i>12,947</i>	<i>15,584</i>	<i>16,095</i>	<i>17,495</i>
NULLITY					
Bigamy	15	23	9	15	20
Invalid marriage . . . . .	..	1	3	1	1
Incapacity to consummate	29	15	34	44	20
Other grounds	1	4	3	3	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>43</i>
JUDICIAL SEPARATION					
Desertion . . . . .	..	1	..	4	1
Adultery	3	2	2	2	3
Cruelty . . . . .	..	5	1	..	5
Other grounds	3	4	..	1	4
<i>Total</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>13</i>
ALL DECREES					
Grand total	12,249	13,002	15,636	16,165	17,551

Divorced persons at each census, 1921 to 1971

The following table shows the number and proportion of divorced persons in Australia as recorded from returns supplied at each census from 1921 to 1971. A classification of divorced persons by ages for the censuses from 1891 to 1947 appeared in earlier issues of the Year Book (*see* No. 39, page 269). The number of divorced persons at the 1911 Census is shown in Year Book No. 58, page 453. Before 1911 no record was made of divorced persons in South Australia, so comparisons cannot be made prior to that date.

DIVORCED PERSONS AT CENSUS DATES: AUSTRALIA, 1921 TO 1971

Sex	Number							Number per 10,000 of males or females 15 years of age and over						
	1921	1933	1947	1954	1961	1966	1971	1921	1933	1947	1954	1961	1966	1971
Males .	4,233	10,298	25,052	32,389	38,640	42,908	61,479	23	42	89	100	105	105	136
Females .	4,304	10,888	27,516	36,650	43,339	51,174	71,421	24	46	96	115	119	125	157

Births and fertility

Information concerning a birth is required to be supplied to the registration authority within 28 days in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, and 60 days in the States.

Information is required in all States and Territories concerning what have been commonly known as 'stillbirths'. These are excluded from all the tables of births and deaths in this chapter and are included only in the special tables on stillbirths shown on pages 190-1.

Number of live births**LIVE BIRTHS(a)**

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Annual average—									
1946-50 .	68,856	47,372	28,003	16,270	13,130	7,064	289	734	181,718
1951-55 .	73,737	53,770	30,983	18,045	15,724	7,774	468	922	201,423
1956-60 .	79,613	61,279	34,171	19,977	16,922	8,517	694	1,286	222,459
1961-65 .	82,896	65,193	35,357	21,377	16,861	8,439	897	1,932	232,952
1966-70 .	82,560	68,755	35,378	21,310	19,426	7,979	2,134	2,783	240,325
Annual total—									
1970 .	88,448	73,019	37,530	22,617	21,618	8,185	2,624	3,475	257,516
1971 .	98,466	75,498	39,970	22,996	24,239	8,321	2,832	4,040	276,362
1972 .	95,278	71,807	39,251	21,844	22,177	7,824	2,722	4,066	264,969
1973 .	87,332	67,123	38,067	20,407	20,510	7,326	2,809	4,096	247,670
1974 .	86,162	66,201	37,852	20,181	20,207	7,398	2,808	4,368	245,177

(a) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1966.

Masculinity of live births

MASCULINITY(a) OF LIVE BIRTHS REGISTERED: AUSTRALIA 1946-1974

	1946-50	1951-55	1956-60	1961-65	1966-70	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Total births	105.60	105.19	105.65	105.83	105.41	105.12	104.34	105.47	105.19	106.24
Ex-nuptial births	104.46	103.36	104.49	106.88	105.11	106.96	106.05	106.38	104.69	108.79

(a) Number of males born for every 100 female births. Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1966.

Crude birth rates

The simplest method of measuring fertility is to relate the number of births to the mean population, which gives the crude birth rate. The crude birth rate measures the rate per thousand persons (irrespective of age or sex) at which the population has added to its numbers by way of births during a given period. Other methods of measuring fertility are shown on pages 183-5. The difference between the crude birth rate and the crude death rate is the rate of natural increase (the hatched area in plate 29, page 182). In the past 100 years the crude birth rate has shown a general downward trend. From 1967 to 1971 there was a small upward movement, as a consequence of the increasing number of young women from the postwar baby boom reaching maturity. There was again a decline after 1971.

CRUDE BIRTH RATES(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Average annual rates—									
1951-55	21.78	22.42	24.11	23.25	25.37	25.58	29.37	32.22	22.86
1956-60	21.55	22.52	23.80	22.27	24.20	25.45	31.49	30.10	22.59
1961-65	20.49	21.42	22.49	21.11	21.71	23.41	29.30	26.31	21.34
1966-70	18.87	20.63	20.41	18.94	21.14	21.00	31.49	24.60	19.95
Annual rates—									
1970	19.52	21.16	20.90	19.52	21.74	21.09	33.09	26.36	20.55
1971	21.35	21.51	21.84	19.55	23.50	21.27	32.69	28.00	21.62
1972	20.39	20.20	20.95	18.37	20.99	19.90	29.23	25.68	20.39
1973	18.52	18.66	19.83	16.97	19.12	18.46	29.30	24.24	18.81
1974	18.09	18.17	19.23	16.53	18.39	18.42	27.60	24.25	18.33

(a) Number of births per 1,000 of mean population. Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1966.

The birth rates in the table above are based on *live births registered in the respective States and Territories*. Some confinements, however, take place in States other than the State in which the mother usually resides, particularly in areas near State borders. The variations thus caused in the birth rates for the States and Territories by *referring the birth registrations to the mother's usual residence* are shown by the following corrected rates for 1973 and 1974 respectively—New South Wales, 18.61, 18.16; Victoria, 18.60, 18.11; Queensland, 19.75, 19.19; South Australia, 16.90, 16.48; Western Australia, 19.14, 18.42; Tasmania, 18.55, 18.53; Northern Territory, 30.33, 28.07; and Australian Capital Territory, 23.60, 23.40.

Fertility rates

Changes in the crude birth rate are in general indicative of changes in fertility. However, they may result from changes in the proportion of women of childbearing age in the population. Changes in the proportion of such women who are married may also affect fertility and the crude birth rate.

The fertility rates in the following table are for the census years 1881 to 1971. The births for the three years around the census are related to women of childbearing age as enumerated at each census. Although the childbearing age has been taken to be 15-44 years, births to younger and older women are included in the computations. Nuptial births are related to married women aged 15-44 years to give married fertility rates.

Although married fertility fell by 58 per cent between 1880-82 and 1970-72, total fertility and the crude birth rate fell by only 41 per cent. The effect of a decline in the fertility of married women

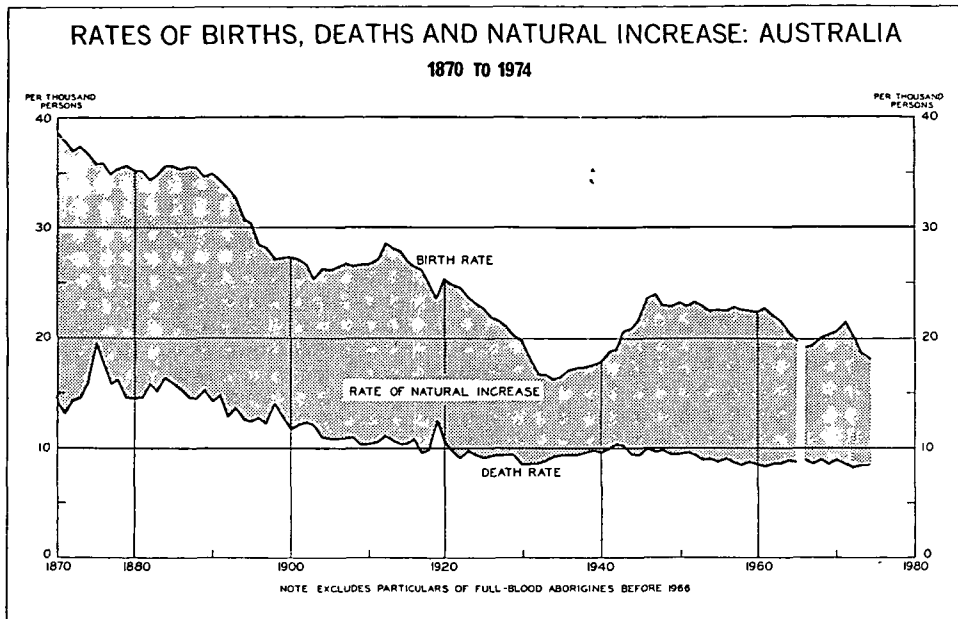


PLATE 29

on total fertility and the crude birthrate is partly offset by an increase in the proportion of such women in the population. In 1881 only 51 per cent of females aged 15-44 were married but in 1966, 68 per cent were married. Also during this time births to unmarried women increased from 14 to 29 per thousand for single, widowed and divorced females aged 15-44.

CRUDE BIRTH RATES AND FERTILITY RATES: AUSTRALIA, 1880-82 TO 1970-72(a)

Period	Average annual rates			Index Nos (Base: 1880-82=100)		
	Crude birth rate(b)	Fertility rates		Crude birth rate(b)	Fertility rates	
		Births per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years	Nuptial births per 1,000 married women aged 15-44 years		Births per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years	Nuptial births per 1,000 married women aged 15-44 years
1880-82 . . .	35.3	170	321	100	100	100
1890-92 . . .	34.5	159	332	98	94	103
1900-02 . . .	27.2	117	235	77	69	73
1910-12 . . .	27.2	117	236	77	69	74
1920-22 . . .	25.0	107	197	71	63	61
1932-34 . . .	16.7	71	131	47	42	41
1946-48 . . .	23.6	104	160	67	61	50
1953-55 . . .	22.7	109	149	64	64	46
1960-62 . . .	22.5	112	154	64	66	48
1965-67 . . .	19.5	95	132	55	56	41
1970-72 . . .	20.8	100	134	59	59	42

(a) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1965-67.

(b) Number of births per 1,000 of mean population.

Age-specific birth rates

Fertility within the childbearing group varies considerably, as may be seen from the five-year age-specific rates in the following table. These rates were obtained by dividing births according to age of mother by the estimated number of women in the corresponding five-year age group.

Total fertility is obtained by summing single age specific rates or by summing five-year age-specific rates and multiplying by 5. This total, divided by 1000, represents the hypothetical number of children a woman would bear during her lifetime if she experienced the rates of the year shown. Total fertility rose to a peak in 1961, of 3.4 children per woman, declined to 2.8 in 1967 and to 2.40 in 1974.

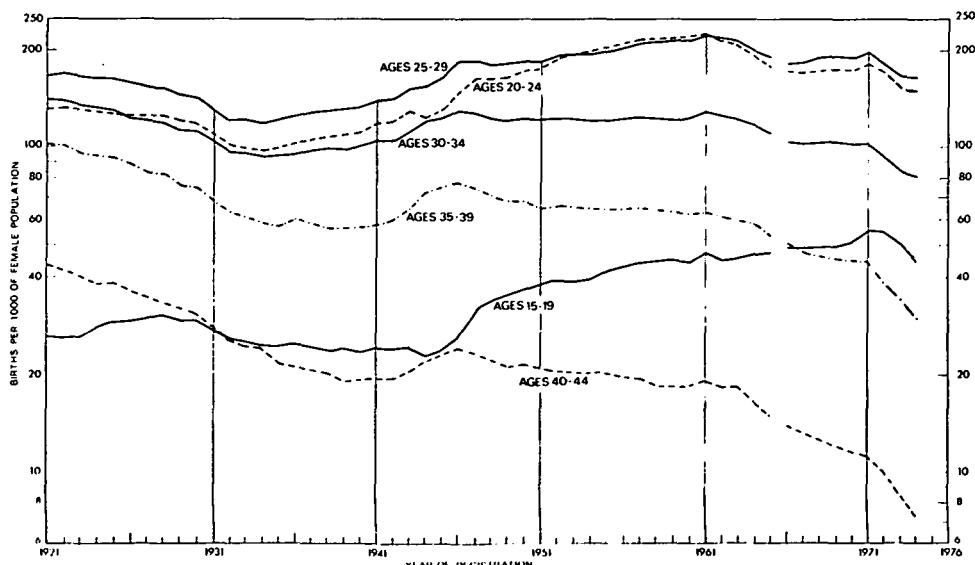
AGE-SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES(a): AUSTRALIA

Period	Age group (years)							Total fertility
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
1946-50(b)	33.05	164.22	183.29	126.56	72.33	22.71	1.76	3.020
1951-55(b)	39.54	192.81	192.97	123.51	65.05	20.50	1.53	3.180
1956-60(b)	44.20	216.42	211.47	126.06	63.91	18.96	1.45	3.412
1961-65(b)	46.50	203.95	207.15	122.38	59.18	17.54	1.19	3.289
1966-70(b)	49.32	172.65	187.64	103.00	46.85	12.86	0.99	2.867
1970	51.13	171.99	188.63	101.24	44.29	11.69	0.78	2.849
1971	55.50	181.87	193.50	101.78	44.15	11.31	0.78	2.944
1972	54.44	168.66	181.65	94.03	38.87	10.01	0.74	2.742
1973	49.04	155.35	166.91	84.16	33.62	8.42	0.60	2.491
1974	45.24	150.08	164.49	81.46	30.01	7.37	0.46	2.396

(a) Number of births per 1,000 women in each age group. Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1966.
 (b) Average annual rates.

**AGE SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES: AUSTRALIA
 1921 TO 1974**

(NUMBER OF BIRTHS PER 1000 OF FEMALE POPULATION IN EACH AGE GROUP)



NOTE (1) The vertical scale is logarithmic, and the curves rise and fall according to the rate of increase and decrease, actual numbers are indicated by the scale.
 (2) Prior to 1966 birth registrations identified as those of full blood Aborigines were excluded.

Gross and net reproduction rates

The gross reproduction rate is derived from total fertility and the ratio of female to total births. It indicates the number of female children who would be born on average to women supposing the rates from which it was calculated were to apply throughout the reproductive period. It is an indication of the extent to which the population is reproducing itself except that it does not allow for females who failed to survive to the end of the childbearing period. The net reproduction rate allows for such mortality. It is obtained by multiplying the age-specific rates by the survivor proportions in the corresponding age group of the stationary or life table population. Mortality in childhood and young adulthood is now so low that there is little difference between current gross and net reproduction rates.

GROSS AND NET REPRODUCTION RATES(a): AUSTRALIA

Year	Gross reproduction rate	Net reproduction rate	Year	Gross reproduction rate	Net reproduction rate
1947	1.494	(b)1.416	1970	1.389	(e)1.347
1954	1.559	(c)1.499	1971	1.441	(e)1.397
1961	1.728	(d)1.672	1972	1.334	(e)1.294
1968	1.402	(e)1.359	1973	1.214	(e)1.177
1969	1.402	(e)1.359	1974	1.156	(e)1.121

(a) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1966. (b) 1946-1948 mortality experience used. (c) 1953-1955 mortality experience used. (d) 1960-1962 mortality experience used. (e) 1965-1967 mortality experience used.

In the following table a comparison is given of the gross and net reproduction rates recorded recently for various countries. The registration of vital events has not been fully established in many countries and consequently details for the calculation of reproduction rates for those countries are not available.

GROSS AND NET REPRODUCTION RATES: VARIOUS COUNTRIES

(Source: *Population Index*, April-June 1975, Office of Population Research, Princeton University)(a)

Country	Period	Reproduction rate		Country	Period	Reproduction rate	
		Gross	Net			Gross	Net
Venezuela	1970	2.73	2.44	Belgium	1970	1.09	1.06
Panama	1972	2.40	2.14	Norway	1973	1.08	1.06
Ireland	1970	1.96	1.88	England and Wales	1972	1.06	1.03
Trinidad and Tobago	1971	1.73	1.55	Czechoslovakia	1971	1.04	1.00
Hong Kong	1971	1.66	1.60	German, Dem. Rep.	1971	1.04	1.00
New Zealand	1970	1.49	1.45	Malta	1973	1.02	0.96
Singapore	1970	1.49	1.40	Denmark	1972	0.99	0.97
France	1971	1.21	1.19	United States of America	1972	0.99	0.96
Australia	1973	1.21	1.12	Canada	1973	0.94	0.91
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	1972-73	1.19	1.14	Austria	1973	0.94	0.90
Romania	1973	1.18	1.12	Sweden	1972	0.93	0.92
Poland	1973	1.10	1.05	Hungary	1972	0.93	0.89
Yugoslavia	1970	1.10	1.03	Germany, Fed. Rep.	1971	0.93	0.89
				Finland	1970	0.89	0.86

(a) Source for statistics other than Australia.

Fertility of marriages

Estimates of the fertility of marriages may be made by relating nuptial births in each year to the marriages from which they could have resulted. Births to women of a certain number of years duration of marriage are related to the number of marriages taking place that number of years previously and the resulting rates are added to give a total for all durations, namely, the index of current marriage fertility.

The figure for a particular year gives the estimated number of children which a thousand marriages would produce according to the fertility conditions of that year.

Births are omitted from the calculation if the marriage did not take place in Australia. Births which occur overseas to Australian marriages cannot be included and hence some understatement is present.

The following table gives an analysis of the index, shown in the total column, according to duration of marriage, expressing the results as births per thousand marriages.

DURATION-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES(a): AUSTRALIA

Births occurring in—	Duration of marriage (years)										Total
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	Total under 5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20 and over	
1962	389	318	324	290	247	1,568	781	308	101	22	2,780
1963	384	307	318	288	241	1,538	756	302	105	24	2,725
1964	368	288	296	275	231	1,458	712	283	99	21	2,573
1965	341	275	287	261	222	1,386	662	260	90	19	2,417
1966	324	258	282	260	215	1,339	633	238	84	19	2,318
1967	308	251	273	268	222	1,322	648	239	80	18	2,307
1968	308	247	280	267	235	1,337	668	234	79	17	2,335
1969	290	246	279	270	231	1,316	688	233	75	17	2,329
1970	278	236	275	262	231	1,282	675	230	75	16	2,278
1971	282	240	279	270	235	1,306	694	231	75	15	2,321
1972	257	220	260	258	225	1,220	638	203	64	15	2,140
1973	228	201	240	246	214	1,129	581	170	54	12	1,946
1974	206	202	240	242	215	1,105	572	152	45	9	1,883

(a) Number of births per thousand marriages. From 1966 includes births of Aborigines where parents were legally married and excludes births of tribal marriages.

The summation of duration-specific rates for a particular year without reference to changing patterns in age at marriage or age of parents contributes to the hypothetical nature of the index. It is more satisfactory, therefore, to express the rates in cohort form by following the experience of marriages of a particular year cumulated over successive durations of marriage.

Since the fertile period of a marriage has a duration of up to some thirty years, completed fertility can only be determined with certainty for marriages occurring before 1940. Fortunately, because of the concentration of births in the early years of marriage the ultimate level of fertility and the size of family can be assessed with a fair degree of precision by the end of the fifteenth year. The most recent cohort to reach this duration was that of 1959-60.

To determine the relevant marriage cohorts from which births can have derived, a system of quarterly weights is applied. Births in 1969 to marriages in their third year, for example, could have arisen from marriages in any one of the eight quarters of 1966 and 1967. Proportions of the marriages in each of these quarters, namely $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{2}{8}$, $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{4}{8}$, $\frac{5}{8}$, $\frac{6}{8}$, $\frac{7}{8}$, and $\frac{8}{8}$ respectively, are summed to arrive at the total marriages in the 1966-67 cohort. This method is applied to all marriages of completed durations three or more years. The first two years of marriage are weighted on a monthly basis.

CUMULATED DURATION-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES, MARRIAGE COHORTS(a), AUSTRALIA

Marriages of year—	Completed duration of marriage (years)						
	1	2	3	4	5	10	15
1955-56	352	674	983	1,262	1,511	2,262	2,497
1956-57	367	685	1,001	1,289	1,543	2,262	2,495
1957-58	365	684	1,001	1,291	1,538	2,219	2,441
1958-59	379	701	1,029	1,319	1,560	2,216	2,435
1959-60	382	714	1,038	1,326	1,557	2,210	2,417
1960-61	403	721	1,039	1,314	1,536	2,194	..
1961-62	389	696	992	1,253	1,468	2,125	..
1962-63	384	672	959	1,219	1,441	2,109	..
1963-64	368	643	925	1,193	1,428	2,089	..
1964-65	341	599	872	1,139	1,370	2,001	..
1965-66	324	575	855	1,125	1,356	..	..
1966-67	308	555	834	1,096	1,331	..	..
1967-68	308	554	829	1,099	1,324	..	..
1968-69	290	526	805	1,063	1,277	..	..
1969-70	278	518	778	1,024	1,239	..	..
1970-71	282	502	742	984	..	..	..
1971-72	257	458	698	..	..	..	..
1972-73	228	430	..	..	..	..	..
1973-74	206	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a) Cumulated number of births per thousand marriages. From 1966 includes births of Aborigines where parents were legally married and excludes births of tribal marriages.

A more detailed analysis of the figures in the above table and of earlier cohorts has been made by tabulating the number of births within each duration of marriage which were first, second, third or subsequent births to the marriages under consideration. Details then derived of relative family size at each duration of marriage have enabled the computation of duration-parity-specific fertility rates.

Ex-nuptial live births

A birth is registered as ex-nuptial if the parents were not married to one another at the time of the confinement. Births to tribally-married Aborigines are classified as nuptial. Ex-nuptial births comprised 9.77 per cent of all births in 1973 and 9.55 per cent in 1974. The variations in the proportions of ex-nuptial live births as between the individual States and Territories for 1972 and for Australia at intervals from 1946 to 1972 are shown in the following tables. The high ex-nuptial birth rate for the Northern Territory is due in part to difficulties in identifying births where parents were tribally married. It is suspected that a substantial number of ex-nuptial births for the Northern Territory are in fact births to women adhering to tribal marriage systems.

EX-NUPTIAL LIVE BIRTHS: NUMBER AND PROPORTION, 1972

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Number—									
1973	8,726	4,611	5,241	1,800	2,497	743	383	197	24,198
1974	8,371	4,394	4,955	1,879	2,352	788	458	211	23,408
Proportion of total births %—									
1973	9.99	6.87	13.77	8.82	12.17	10.14	13.63	4.81	9.77
1974	9.72	6.64	13.09	9.31	11.64	10.65	16.31	4.83	9.55

EX-NUPTIAL LIVE BIRTHS: NUMBERS, PROPORTION AND RATES(a): AUSTRALIA

	Annual average					1966-70	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
	1946-50	1951-55	1956-60	1961-65							
Number	7,349	7,999	10,027	13,798	18,937	21,367	25,629	25,659	24,198	23,408	
Rates(b)	0.95	0.91	1.02	1.25	1.57	1.71	2.01	1.97	1.84	1.75	
Proportion of total births %	4.04	3.97	4.51	5.92	7.88	8.30	9.27	9.68	9.77	9.55	

(a) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1966. (b) Number of ex-nuptial births per 1,000 of mean population.

A further measure of ex-nuptiality is obtained by calculating the number of ex-nuptial births per thousand of the single, widowed and divorced female population aged from 15 to 44 years. On this basis, the number of ex-nuptial births per 1,000 unmarried women of ages 15 to 44 is as follows: 1946-48, 11.45; 1953-55, 14.45; 1960-62, 18.49; 1965-67, 20.96; and 1970-72, 28.59. Ex-nuptial births to married women, which are not recorded separately, are included in these figures and it is not possible to determine to what extent they influence the trend shown.

Legitimations

Under the provisions of the Commonwealth *Marriage Act* 1961-1966, which came into operation on 1 September 1963, a child whose parents were not married to each other at the time of its birth becomes legitimised on the subsequent marriage of its parents. The legitimisation takes place whether or not there was a legal impediment to the marriage of the parents at the time of the child's birth and whether or not the child was still living at the time of the marriage, or in the case of a child born before 1 September 1963, at that date. Prior to the introduction of this Act, legitimations took place under Acts passed in the several States to legitimise children born before the marriage of their parents, provided that no legal impediment to the marriage existed at the time of birth. On registration in accordance with the provisions of the Legitimation Acts, any child who came within the scope of their purposes, born before or after the passing thereof, was deemed to be legitimate from birth by the post-natal union of its parents and entitled to the status of offspring born in wedlock. The number of children legitimised in Australia was 3,747 during 1973 and 3,509 during 1974.

Multiple births

Because the current Australian birth statistics are based only on those confinements which resulted in a live-born child, the number of confinements for multiple births for Australia is understated—firstly, because in cases where all children of a multiple birth are stillborn the confinement is excluded, and secondly, because some cases of multiple births in which only one child was live-born are registered as single births.

Number of confinements

The following table shows the number of single and multiple confinements and the number of live births. The table includes only those confinements resulting in at least one live birth.

LIVE BIRTHS AND CONFINEMENTS, 1974									
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
LIVE BIRTHS									
Single births	84,334	65,010	37,146	19,786	19,855	7,273	2,751	4,282	240,437
Twins	1,794	1,182	691	385	347	125	57	86	4,667
Other multiple	34	9	15	10	5	..	..	..	73
Total	86,162	66,201	37,852	20,181	20,207	7,398	2,808	4,368	245,177
<i>Of which—</i>									
Males	44,465	33,993	19,605	10,489	10,282	3,760	1,444	2,257	126,295
Females	41,697	32,208	18,247	9,692	9,925	3,638	1,364	2,111	118,882
STILLBIRTHS ASSOCIATED WITH MULTIPLE BIRTHS INCLUDED ABOVE									
Twins	34	4	15	1	7	3	1	2	67
Other multiple	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	4
CONFINEMENTS RESULTING IN BIRTHS SHOWN ABOVE									
Nuptial	76,978	61,245	32,592	18,119	17,701	6,554	2,324	4,116	219,629
Ex-nuptial	8,282	4,361	4,912	1,863	2,333	783	456	210	23,200
Total	85,260	65,606	37,504	19,982	20,034	7,337	2,780	4,326	242,829

NOTE. Owing to the registration procedure adopted in some States, it is possible that in some cases where one child only of a multiple pregnancy was liveborn, the confinement has been treated as a single birth. However, the numbers of multiple births are not significantly affected. See also page 189.

Multiple births recorded during 1974 comprised 2,367 cases of twins, 23 cases of triplets, and 2 cases of other multiple births; the resulting number of live-born and still born children respectively was 4,667 and 67 for twins, 65 and 4 for triplets, and 8 and nil for other multiple births. This represents an average of 9.75 recorded cases of twins and 0.09 recorded cases of triplets per 1,000 confinements or, alternatively, mothers of twins represented 1 in every 100 mothers and mothers of triplets 1 in every 10,558. Total cases of multiple births represented 9.85 per 1,000 confinements or 1 in every 102 mothers.

Confinements—relative ages of parents

The relative ages of the parents of children whose births were registered in 1974 have been tabulated separately for total nuptial confinements and for nuptial multiple confinements in *Births*, 1974 (4.4).

CONFINEMENTS, BY RELATIVE AGES OF PARENTS: AUSTRALIA, 1974

Age of father (years)	Age of mother (years)								Total	
	Under 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 and over		
Under 20	3	2,935	504	10	2	..	..	..	2	3,456
20-24	8	10,489	30,310	3,322	204	12	2	..	..	44,347
25-29	4	2,532	36,356	44,513	3,525	286	29	1	..	87,246
30-34 . . . . .	..	427	6,358	27,459	15,650	1,303	95	4	..	51,296
35-39	1	106	1,135	5,620	9,479	4,358	323	7	..	21,029
40-44 . . . . .	..	31	247	1,177	2,659	3,145	1,064	20	..	8,343
45-49 . . . . .	..	6	70	352	611	966	672	72	..	2,749
50-54	2	5	36	101	181	239	158	36	..	758
55-59 . . . . .	..	1	11	31	56	57	35	11	..	202
60-64 . . . . .	..	2	5	11	15	11	18	5	..	67
65 and over(a)	2	26	34	31	15	14	7	2	5	136
Total nuptial	20	16,560	75,066	82,627	32,397	10,391	2,403	158	7	219,629
Total ex-nuptial	148	9,408	7,068	3,733	1,762	792	235	17	37	23,200
Total	168	25,968	82,134	86,360	34,159	11,183	2,638	175	44	242,829

(a) Includes 110 confinements in which the age of the father was not stated.

Confinements—relative countries of birth of parents

The following table shows the relative countries of birth of parents of children whose births from nuptial confinements were registered during 1974.

**NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS, BY RELATIVE COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OF PARENTS
AUSTRALIA, 1974**

Country of birth of father	Country of birth of mother										Total fathers	
	Australia	New Zealand	United Kingdom and Ireland	Germany	Greece	Italy	Malta	Netherlands	Yugoslavia	Other European		Other and unspecified
Australia	139,449	893	7,976	1,264	132	530	406	1,391	132	726	2,007	154,906
New Zealand	1,118	478	131	21	2	8	9	16	1	12	42	1,838
United Kingdom and Ireland	10,171	189	7,693	229	12	69	78	189	20	187	495	19,332
Germany	1,889	28	271	520	16	28	21	56	23	148	136	3,136
Greece	498	7	36	18	5,182	19	7	9	19	31	209	6,035
Italy	2,324	19	231	62	26	6,254	75	43	46	111	171	9,362
Malta	663	4	122	24	3	17	1,458	19	3	10	47	2,370
Netherlands	2,031	24	214	58	3	23	20	715	2	32	96	3,218
Yugoslavia	588	9	94	84	63	62	16	24	3,958	83	54	5,035
Other European	1,577	36	266	211	33	49	22	58	59	1,562	225	4,098
Other and unspecified	2,641	79	422	100	146	79	38	82	33	145	6,534	10,299
Total mothers	162,949	1,766	17,456	2,591	5,618	7,138	2,150	2,602	4,296	3,047	10,016	219,629

Confinements—age, duration of marriage and issue of mothers

The total number of nuptial confinements resulting in live births in 1974 was 219,629, comprising 217,455 single births, 2,149 cases of twins, 23 cases of triplets and two cases of other multiple births. The following tables relating to previous issue exclude the issue of former marriages and stillborn children. On the other hand, they include in some States children by the same father who were born to the mother prior to the marriage. Children born at the present confinement are included in the calculation of average issue shown.

The following table shows that in 1974 the average size of family increased fairly uniformly with the duration of the marriage. However, the average issue relates only to those women who gave birth in 1974. The table should not be interpreted to mean that, for example, *all* women who have been married for over ten years have an average of more than four children or those married twenty years, six children. The average issue of all married mothers who bore children in 1974 was 2.06 compared with 2.12 in 1973, 2.17 in 1972, 2.22 in 1971, and 2.27 in 1970.

**NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS BY DURATION OF
MARRIAGE, AND AVERAGE ISSUE OF MOTHERS
AUSTRALIA, 1974**

Duration of marriage	Total nuptial confinements	Average issue of mother
Under 1 year	24,238	1.05
1 year	24,339	1.22
2 years	29,524	1.49
3 "	30,133	1.72
4 "	26,487	1.96
5 "	21,332	2.21
6 "	15,902	2.48
7 "	11,769	2.72
8 "	9,009	2.96
9 "	6,531	3.21
10-14 years	14,546	3.81
15-19 "	4,311	4.96
20-24 "	882	6.33
25 years and over	64	8.02
Not stated	562	3.48
Total	219,629	2.07

**NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS, BY AGE OF MOTHER AND PREVIOUS ISSUE
AUSTRALIA, 1974**

Previous issue	Age of mother (years)							45 and over	Not stated	Total married mothers
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44				
0	13,380	39,475	25,815	5,758	1,475	319	21	5	86,248	
1	2,959	27,720	33,501	9,482	2,024	298	11	1	75,996	
2	225	6,453	16,594	8,956	2,215	354	13	..	34,810	
3	13	1,179	4,986	4,876	1,908	382	18	..	13,362	
4 . . . . .	..	193	1,181	1,903	1,181	308	18	..	4,784
5 . . . . .	..	34	370	841	687	244	19	..	2,195
6 . . . . .	..	4	121	317	409	176	11	..	1,038
7 . . . . .	..	1	39	148	223	110	12	..	533
8 . . . . .	..	..	10	58	128	85	13	..	294
9 and over . . . . .	..	..	4	55	140	127	22	..	348
Not stated	3	7	6	3	1	..	..	1	21
Total married mothers	16,580	75,066	82,627	32,397	10,391	2,403	158	7	219,629	

Multiple births—previous issue of mothers

Of married mothers of twins in 1974, 759 had no previous issue either living or dead, 722 had one child previously, 381 had two previous issue, 166 had three, 52 had four, 25 had five, 19 had six, 9 had seven, 7 had eight, 7 had nine or more and 2 had unknown previous issue. Of the 23 cases of nuptial triplets and 2 cases of other multiple births registered during 1974, 13 mothers had no previous issue, 4 had one, 4 had two, 2 had three and 2 had four previous issue.

Nuptial first births

A nuptial first birth is defined as the first birth to the existing marriage. About two-thirds of first births occur to women aged under 25, and about half occur within the first two years of marriage (in 1974, 27 per cent in the first and 23 per cent in the second year).

The following table shows the number of nuptial first births classified by grouped ages of mothers and grouped durations of marriage of mothers.

**NUPTIAL FIRST BIRTHS, BY AGE OF MOTHER AND DURATION OF MARRIAGE
AUSTRALIA, 1974**

Duration of marriage	Age of mother (years)							45 and over	Not stated	Total
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44				
Under 8 months	8,425	5,426	1,227	401	126	34	1	1	15,641	
8 months	383	686	249	91	30	2	..	..	1,441
9 "	496	1,066	418	144	41	6	..	..	2,171
10 "	492	1,069	385	141	37	3	..	..	2,127
11 "	465	1,019	365	125	50	7	..	..	2,031
Total under 1 year	10,261	9,266	2,644	902	284	52	1	1	23,411	
1 year and under 2 years	2,491	11,532	4,110	1,254	344	77	3	..	19,811	
2 years " " 3 "	439	10,037	4,621	884	218	41	2	2	16,244	
3 " " " 4 "	73	5,761	4,835	601	121	33	3	..	11,427	
4 " " " 5 "	12	2,128	4,165	491	86	18	4	..	6,904	
5 " " " 10 "	3	717	5,349	1,314	212	39	5	2	7,641	
10 " " " 15 " . . . . .	..	..	82	296	142	22	1	..	543
15 years and over . . . . .	..	..	..	12	62	36	2	..	112
Not stated	101	34	9	4	6	1	..	..	155
Total	13,380	39,475	25,815	5,758	1,475	319	21	5	86,248	

The following table shows for nuptial confinements, a comparison between the numbers of mothers having their first confinement and those having a subsequent confinement.

**NUPTIAL FIRST BIRTHS AND SUBSEQUENT CONFINEMENTS^(a)
AUSTRALIA**

Period	Nuptial confinements			Proportion of first to total nuptial confinements (per cent)
	First	Other	Total	
Annual average—				
1946-50	63,413	109,044	172,457	36.77
1951-55	63,062	128,176	191,238	32.98
1956-60	65,695	144,352	210,047	31.28
1961-65	69,280	147,549	216,829	31.95
1966-70	81,103	138,000	219,103	37.02
Annual total—				
1970	88,412	145,227	233,639	37.84
1971	95,418	152,820	248,238	38.44
1972	91,683	145,272	236,955	38.69
1973	85,707	135,575	221,282	38.73
1974	86,248	133,381	219,629	39.27

(a) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1966.

Stillbirths

From 1972, statistics of stillbirths have been compiled on the basis of amended legislation which provides for all foetal deaths of at least twenty weeks gestation (or 400 grammes weight) to be registered. The dates on which the legislation came into effect for each State are as follows: New South Wales, January 1969; Victoria, May 1971; Queensland, October 1967; South Australia, January 1968; Western Australia, January 1968; Tasmania, March 1967; Northern Territory, September 1964; Australian Capital Territory, September 1969. Comparisons of the figures and rates prior to 1972 are affected by the differences in the definitions adopted by the various states.

STILLBIRTHS^(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Annual average—									
1946-50	1,405	949	626	368	274	161	n.a.	12	(b)3,795
1951-55	1,239	849	581	290	271	139	8	16	3,393
1956-60	1,253	839	558	274	235	109	6	19	3,293
1961-65	1,104	794	468	264	194	87	17	18	2,946
1966-70	876	767	341	215	192	86	(c)39	27	2,543
Annual total—									
1970	888	782	312	200	211	80	(c)30	29	2,532
1971	893	760	329	199	206	67	(c)24	41	2,519
1972	1,151	842	429	229	258	88	(c)44	48	3,089
1973	1,028	802	387	244	272	98	(c)40	53	2,924
1974	1,036	787	406	236	274	82	(c)51	42	2,914

(a) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1966. (b) Excludes Northern Territory. (c) Figures from 1966 include foetal deaths occurring in remote localities for which the period of gestation was not known. The numbers of such cases were: 1970, 14; 1971, 3; 1972, 11; 1973, 5; 1974, 13. The Registration Ordinance requires registration of any foetal death of at least twenty weeks gestation.

PROPORTION OF STILLBIRTHS^(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Average annual rate—									
1946-50	20.0	19.6	21.9	22.1	20.5	22.3	n.a.	16.3	(b)20.5
1951-55	16.5	15.5	18.4	15.8	17.0	17.5	17.2	17.1	16.6
1956-60	15.5	13.5	16.1	13.5	13.7	12.6	8.6	14.3	14.6
1961-65	13.1	12.0	13.1	12.2	11.4	10.2	18.4	9.3	12.5
1966-70	10.5	11.0	9.5	10.0	9.8	10.7	18.3	9.7	10.5
Annual rate—									
1970	9.9	10.6	8.2	8.8	9.7	9.7	11.3	8.3	9.7
1971	9.0	10.0	8.2	8.6	8.4	7.9	8.4	10.0	9.0
1972	11.9	11.6	10.8	10.4	11.5	11.1	15.9	11.7	11.5
1973	11.6	11.8	10.1	11.8	13.1	13.2	14.0	12.8	11.7
1974	11.9	11.7	10.6	11.6	13.4	11.0	17.8	9.5	11.7

(a) Number of stillbirths per 1,000 of all births (live and still). Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1966. (b) Excludes Northern Territory.

NOTE. Because of the smallness of the numbers of stillbirths occurring in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory the rates for these Territories are subject to considerable fluctuation.

Mortality

This section contains statistics of general mortality and infant mortality. Statistics of foetal deaths (stillbirths) are shown separately in the preceding section. For the registration of a death the period allowed is 8 days in Tasmania, 14 days in South Australia, Western Australia, Australian Capital Territory, and Northern Territory, 21 days in Victoria, and 30 days in New South Wales and Queensland.

Number of deaths

The following table shows the number of deaths registered in each State and Territory. Stillbirths, although registered as both births and deaths in some States are excluded from the death statistics.

DEATHS^(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust
Annual average—									
1946-50 ^(b)	29,552	21,827	10,357	6,507	4,802	2,459	76	103	75,683
1951-55	32,135	22,900	11,187	7,182	5,263	2,576	109	131	81,483
1956-60	34,002	24,254	12,008	7,732	5,523	2,668	117	184	86,488
1961-65	37,514	26,569	13,570	8,388	6,043	2,939	152	290	95,465
1966-70	41,249	29,265	15,711	9,562	7,208	3,231	540	497	107,263
Annual total—									
1970	43,601	30,335	17,055	10,138	7,543	3,174	608	594	113,048
1971	41,691	30,598	16,339	9,686	7,806	3,295	637	598	110,650
1972	41,652	29,856	16,598	9,764	7,441	3,227	553	669	109,760
1973	41,122	30,696	16,732	9,835	7,845	3,347	580	665	110,822
1974—									
Males	24,168	16,704	10,365	5,728	4,550	1,954	396	434	64,299
Females	19,831	14,171	7,763	4,508	3,228	1,530	179	324	51,534
Persons	43,999	30,875	18,128	10,236	7,778	3,484	575	758	115,833

(a) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1966. (b) Excludes deaths of defence personnel and of internees and prisoners of war from overseas for the period September 1939 to June 1947.

NOTE. Annual averages for each five-year period from 1861 to 1950 were published in Year Book No. 39, page 597.

Crude death rates

The simplest method of measuring mortality is to relate the number of deaths for a given period to the mean population for that period, which gives the crude death rate. This rate for a given period measures the number per thousand of population by which the population is depleted through deaths during that period.

CRUDE DEATH RATES(a)

<i>Period</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
Average annual rate—									
1946-50(b)	9.70	10.37	9.13	9.76	9.23	9.30	6.27	5.31	9.74
1951-55	9.49	9.55	8.71	9.25	8.49	8.48	6.86	4.58	9.25
1956-60	9.20	8.91	8.36	8.62	7.90	7.97	5.32	4.31	8.78
1961-65	9.27	8.73	8.63	8.28	7.78	8.15	4.95	3.94	8.75
1966-70	9.43	8.78	9.07	8.50	7.84	8.50	7.97	4.40	8.90
Annual rate—									
1970	9.62	8.79	9.50	8.75	7.59	8.18	7.67	4.51	9.02
1971	9.04	8.72	8.93	8.23	7.57	8.42	7.37	4.15	8.66
1972	8.91	8.39	8.86	8.21	7.04	8.21	6.04	4.26	8.45
1973	8.72	8.53	8.72	8.18	7.31	8.43	6.05	3.93	8.42
1974—									
Males	10.14	9.18	10.45	9.41	8.11	9.72	7.21	4.71	9.58
Females	8.34	7.77	7.95	7.37	6.01	7.63	3.82	3.68	7.73
Persons	9.24	8.47	9.21	8.39	7.08	8.68	5.65	4.21	8.66

(a) Number of deaths per 1,000 of mean population. Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1966.
 (b) Excludes deaths of defence personnel, etc., from September 1939 to June 1947.

A graph showing the crude death rate for each year from 1870 to 1974 is shown on plate 29 page 182.

The crude death rate is affected by the particular sex and age composition of the population. While it is an element in the rate of natural increase of the population it cannot validly be used to compare the relative incidence of mortality in different populations. The crude death rate will tend to be low if the community contains a large proportion of young people and high if the population is elderly. Age specific death rates and true death rates are a guide to comparative mortality.

True death rates

A composite measure of mortality unaffected by the age structure of the population can be obtained from life tables. The basic life table functions include expectation of life remaining at each year of age. The reciprocal of the expectation of life at birth is known as the true death rate, since, if the expectation of life of a person at birth is say, fifty years, then each person will on the average die fifty years after birth, so that in a stationary population one person in fifty or twenty per thousand, will die each year. The true death rate for a given period is unaffected by the particular age distribution of that period and is determined solely by the mortality experience of the period as manifested in the rate of mortality from each year of age to the next. The next table sets out true death rates for the periods covered by Australian life tables.

TRUE DEATH RATES: AUSTRALIA

Period	True death rate(a)	
	Males(b)	Females(c)
1946-48 . . .	15.14	14.16
1953-55 . . .	14.89	13.75
1960-62 . . .	14.72	13.48
1965-67 . . .	14.79	13.49
1969	14.81	13.40
1970	14.84	13.49
1971	14.72	13.42
1972	14.66	13.34
1973	14.66	13.30

(a) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1965-67. (b) Number of deaths per 1,000 males in stationary population. (c) Number of deaths per 1,000 females in stationary population.

The crude death rates of Australia and the more populous countries of the world for the latest available year are shown in the table in International Vital Statistics at the end of this chapter.

Australian Life Tables

It has been the practice at each census from 1911 onwards to prepare complete life tables representative of the mortality experience of Australia. The mortality of the Australian population for the thirty years from 1881 to 1910 inclusive was investigated in 1911 by the Commonwealth Statistician. Tables were compiled for each State and for Australia as a whole in respect of each sex for each of the decennial periods 1881-90, 1891-1900 and 1901-10. These compilations furnished a comprehensive view of Australian mortality in respect of sex, time, and geographical distribution, and practically superseded all life tables prepared in Australia prior to 1911. For subsequent censuses the official life tables have been prepared only for Australia as a whole. They have been based upon recorded census population and the deaths of the three years around the census. The 1965-67 life tables included particulars of Aborigines for the first time. The 1920-22 life tables were prepared by the Commonwealth Statistician, those of 1932-34, 1946-48, 1953-55, 1960-62 and 1965-67 by the Commonwealth Actuary. Full particulars of the data used and the methods of construction are to be found in the reports of the Commonwealth Actuary.

COMPLETE EXPECTATION OF LIFE (e_x^0) AT SELECTED AGES

Age (x)	Males				Females			
	1901-10	1953-55	1960-62	1965-67(a)	1901-10	1953-55	1960-62	1965-67(a)
0	55.20	67.14	67.92	67.63	58.84	72.75	74.18	74.15
10	53.53	59.53	59.93	59.50	56.38	64.78	65.92	65.75
20	44.74	50.10	50.40	49.98	47.52	55.06	56.16	56.00
30	36.52	40.90	41.12	40.72	39.33	45.43	46.49	46.34
40	28.56	31.65	31.84	31.44	31.47	35.99	36.99	36.85
50	21.16	22.92	23.13	22.76	23.69	27.03	27.92	27.83
60	14.35	15.47	15.60	15.27	16.20	18.78	19.51	19.52
70	8.67	9.59	9.77	9.52	9.96	11.62	12.19	12.23
80	4.96	5.47	5.57	5.51	5.73	6.30	6.68	6.72

(a) Includes particulars of full-blood Aborigines.

NOTE. e_x^0 = complete expectation of life at specified ages.

The progress towards lower mortality rates evident over the past sixty years or more, did not continue in the 1960s. Expectation of life at birth was slightly less in 1965-67 than in 1960-62 for both males and females. The detailed 1965-67 life tables show that lower mortality rates were experienced only at ages 0-14, 28-32 and over 88 for males and at ages 0-13 and over 72 for females.

Age distribution at death

Age at death is recorded for statistical purposes in days for the first week of life, in weeks for the first four weeks, in months for the first year and in completed years of life thereafter. These ages are usually combined in groups for publication, the most common being weeks for the first four weeks, months or groups of months for the first year, single years of age for the first five years, and thereafter the five-year groups 5-9 years, 10-14 years, etc. A summary in this form is given for Australia in the following table.

DEATHS, BY AGE AT DEATH AND SEX: AUSTRALIA, 1973

<i>Age at death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Fe- males</i>	<i>Per- sons</i>	<i>Age at death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Fe- males</i>	<i>Per- sons</i>
Under 1 week	1,537	1,083	2,620	5-9 years	270	192	462
1 week and under 2 weeks	87	67	154	10-14 "	250	155	405
2 weeks and under 3 weeks	47	39	86	15-19 "	900	330	1,230
3 weeks and under 4 weeks	40	27	67	20-24 "	1,003	296	1,299
<i>Total under 4 weeks</i>	<i>1,711</i>	<i>1,216</i>	<i>2,927</i>	25-29 "	716	291	1,007
4 weeks and under 3 months	244	185	429	30-34 "	632	330	962
3 months and under 6 months	227	198	425	35-39 "	821	477	1,298
6 months and under 12 months	174	130	304	40-44 "	1,399	755	2,154
<i>Total under 1 year</i>	<i>2,356</i>	<i>1,729</i>	<i>4,085</i>	45-49 "	2,484	1,377	3,861
1 year	195	161	356	50-54 "	3,483	1,817	5,300
2 years	139	85	224	55-59 "	4,772	2,515	7,287
3 "	101	65	166	60-64 "	6,750	3,388	10,138
4 "	78	58	136	65-69 "	7,974	4,241	12,215
<i>Total under 5 years</i>	<i>2,869</i>	<i>2,098</i>	<i>4,967</i>	70-74 "	8,400	5,933	14,333
				75-79 "	7,480	7,331	14,811
				80-84 "	6,349	8,149	14,498
				85 years and over	5,027	9,549	14,576
				Age not stated	9	10	19
				Total all ages	61,588	49,234	110,822

There are different mortality rates at various stages of life, and the actual number of deaths in any period is related to the numbers living at the respective stages. Changes in the number of deaths from one period to another are associated with changes in the rate of mortality in the various age groups and by the changed proportions of persons living in the different groups. The combined effect of various influences, i.e. the decline in the rate of mortality, the long term decline in the birthrate, and the effects of past and present migration on the age distribution of the population, is shown in the following table, which shows the proportion of deaths in various age groups in five-year periods and for the latest available year.

PROPORTION OF DEATHS IN EACH AGE GROUP: AUSTRALIA
(Per cent)

<i>Age at death (years)</i>						1973		
	1946-50	1951-55	1956-60	1961-65	1966-70	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Under 1 year	6.48	5.77	5.41	4.74	4.06	3.83	3.51	3.69
1-4 years	1.46	1.48	1.19	0.96	0.81	0.83	0.75	0.80
5-19 "	1.89	1.85	1.76	1.76	1.83	2.31	1.38	1.89
20-39 "	5.69	5.18	4.64	4.26	4.12	5.15	2.83	4.12
40-59 "	18.72	17.54	17.02	17.28	17.37	19.71	13.13	16.79
60-64 "	9.61	9.63	8.75	8.74	8.87	10.96	6.88	9.15
65 and over	56.12	58.52	61.20	62.24	62.92	57.20	71.50	63.56
Age not stated	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

(a) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1966.

A table showing these proportions for males and females separately for the period 1901 to 1950 was published in Year Book No. 39, page 614.

Age-specific death rates

In previous issues of the Year Book, average annual age-specific death rates, i.e. the average number of deaths per 1,000 of population in each age group, were given for each State and Australia for the periods 1932-1934, 1946-1948, 1953-1955, 1960-1962 and 1965-1967 (see Year Books, No. 37, pp. 778-9, No. 39, pp. 615-6, No. 44, pp. 640-1, No. 52, p. 253, and No. 55, p. 189). These rates were based on the age distribution of the population at the relevant censuses.

AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES(a): 1973

Age group (years)	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
MALES							
Under 1(c)	19.59	15.29	19.40	16.61	22.83	18.70	18.56
1-4	0.99	0.83	1.10	1.02	1.08	0.92	0.98
5-9	0.38	0.51	0.47	0.36	0.38	0.62	0.44
10-14	0.34	0.41	0.59	0.21	0.44	0.23	0.39
15-19	1.35	1.18	2.10	1.67	1.71	1.81	1.52
20-24	1.68	1.54	2.41	1.33	1.99	1.92	1.77
25-29	1.30	1.17	1.65	1.25	1.41	1.34	1.33
30-34	1.44	1.19	1.88	1.26	1.64	1.06	1.46
35-39	2.04	1.99	2.63	1.83	2.13	2.93	2.13
40-44	3.89	3.21	3.95	2.73	3.35	3.76	3.55
45-49	6.28	6.31	6.85	5.38	5.59	6.29	6.21
50-54	10.05	9.28	10.24	9.38	8.74	10.24	9.74
55-59	16.11	15.80	16.76	15.43	13.84	18.52	16.00
60-64	28.17	25.13	26.73	24.57	24.16	25.18	26.36
65-69	43.11	42.31	38.36	41.60	39.27	43.01	41.60
70-74	66.58	66.41	56.84	64.26	62.53	62.96	64.18
75-79	99.55	108.66	90.78	94.46	99.72	99.95	100.06
80-84	148.43	162.45	132.73	146.57	160.13	143.53	149.87
85 and over	231.70	255.35	204.35	234.21	223.76	244.41	233.45
FEMALES							
Under 1(c)	14.42	13.20	15.52	10.27	15.37	18.70	14.32
1-4	0.64	0.67	1.00	0.67	0.83	0.45	0.73
5-9	0.31	0.33	0.37	0.26	0.30	0.32	0.33
10-14	0.26	0.28	0.16	0.21	0.27	0.44	0.25
15-19	0.58	0.46	0.76	0.53	0.65	0.48	0.58
20-24	0.55	0.52	0.66	0.40	0.50	0.44	0.54
25-29	0.59	0.58	0.59	0.39	0.53	0.63	0.57
30-34	0.91	0.74	1.08	0.55	0.50	0.85	0.81
35-39	1.35	1.14	1.64	0.88	1.32	1.42	1.30
40-44	2.16	1.89	2.34	1.87	1.70	1.79	2.05
45-49	3.71	3.31	4.57	3.19	3.18	2.92	3.62
50-54	5.32	5.07	5.50	4.57	5.09	4.61	5.16
55-59	8.54	7.99	8.41	6.83	8.38	9.11	8.22
60-64	12.74	12.84	11.71	12.02	13.24	11.53	12.53
65-69	20.45	20.30	17.80	19.00	17.42	18.12	19.60
70-74	34.63	36.23	32.37	32.40	31.08	40.14	34.48
75-79	59.34	60.99	54.56	55.13	57.94	61.18	58.67
80-84	102.82	108.18	100.25	93.91	92.87	106.68	102.55
85 and over	192.12	214.16	178.91	186.67	185.29	190.24	195.58

(a) Number of deaths per 1,000 of population in each age group. (b) Includes the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. (c) Infant deaths per 1,000 live births registered.

AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES(a)(b): AUSTRALIA

Age group (years)	1946-48 (c)	1953-55 (c)	1960-62 (c)	1965-67 (c)	1970-72 (c)	1970	1971	1972	1973
MALES									
Under 1(d)	31.71	25.18	22.36	20.85	19.50	20.60	19.02	18.95	18.56
1-4	2.09	1.69	1.15	1.08	1.00	1.07	0.94	0.99	0.98
5-9	0.92	0.67	0.52	0.45	0.46	0.47	0.47	0.44	0.44
10-14	0.77	0.63	0.48	0.46	0.42	0.40	0.46	0.41	0.39
15-19	1.41	1.51	1.23	1.33	1.54	1.52	1.58	1.47	1.52
20-24	1.73	1.82	1.62	1.67	1.83	1.88	1.88	1.72	1.77
25-29	1.69	1.68	1.49	1.48	1.39	1.43	1.47	1.26	1.33
30-34	2.02	1.79	1.69	1.64	1.52	1.56	1.59	1.44	1.46
35-39	2.66	2.40	2.26	2.45	2.29	2.37	2.34	2.19	2.13
40-44	4.12	3.64	3.67	3.82	3.49	3.65	3.37	3.46	3.55
45-49	6.86	6.01	5.96	6.14	6.08	6.19	6.12	6.14	6.21
50-54	11.39	10.44	10.01	10.45	10.05	10.60	10.02	9.70	9.74
55-59	17.58	17.03	16.57	16.96	16.80	17.39	16.81	16.36	16.00
60-64	27.43	26.58	26.44	27.59	27.13	27.94	26.44	27.08	26.36
65-69	42.42	41.28	41.68	43.66	42.72	45.52	41.98	41.11	41.60
70-74	63.69	64.53	63.04	66.84	65.21	67.67	64.76	64.94	64.18
75-79	99.65	98.77	94.43	99.77	102.26	107.13	100.60	100.29	100.06
80-84	149.31	145.88	141.83	146.95	148.51	153.27	147.97	147.14	149.87
85 and over	253.48	248.14	243.69	241.98	239.96	244.46	240.49	239.04	233.45
FEMALES									
Under 1(d)	24.96	19.88	17.57	16.35	14.96	15.02	15.48	14.37	14.32
1-4	1.72	1.35	1.08	1.14	0.79	0.80	0.79	0.77	0.73
5-9	0.64	0.50	0.38	0.34	0.33	0.34	0.32	0.33	0.33
10-14	0.52	0.37	0.29	0.27	0.27	0.33	0.22	0.26	0.25
15-19	0.70	0.58	0.50	0.54	0.61	0.58	0.68	0.55	0.58
20-24	1.08	0.67	0.60	0.63	0.59	0.56	0.65	0.59	0.54
25-29	1.50	0.83	0.71	0.72	0.66	0.69	0.67	0.62	0.57
30-34	1.77	1.11	0.95	0.98	0.91	0.92	0.95	0.87	0.81
35-39	2.42	1.74	1.47	1.54	1.43	1.66	1.38	1.29	1.30
40-44	3.31	2.55	2.26	2.31	2.23	2.31	2.26	2.16	2.05
45-49	4.92	4.19	3.65	3.86	3.64	3.63	3.79	3.56	3.62
50-54	7.63	6.43	5.55	5.87	5.59	5.85	5.54	5.47	5.16
55-59	10.46	9.25	8.14	8.67	8.51	8.77	8.47	8.40	8.22
60-64	16.52	14.75	13.31	13.56	13.15	13.96	13.04	12.68	12.53
65-69	26.17	23.89	21.99	21.94	21.29	22.39	20.50	20.34	19.60
70-74	45.84	40.93	37.14	37.47	36.12	35.76	36.65	34.65	34.48
75-79	75.14	69.72	63.18	62.37	62.35	64.78	62.62	59.64	58.67
80-84	123.46	117.36	105.10	107.93	103.78	108.01	103.65	102.28	102.55
85 and over	222.12	213.69	210.20	119.73	194.37	198.59	197.22	188.82	195.58

(a) Number of deaths per 1,000 of population of the same age group and sex. The populations used in the calculation of these rates are based on census populations at 30 June 1947, 1954, 1961, 1966 and 1971. (b) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines prior to 1965. (c) Average annual rate per 1,000 of census population, based on deaths in the three year period, i.e. census year and the years preceding and following it. (d) Infant deaths per 1,000 live births registered.

Infant deaths and death rates—States and Territories

The next table shows for each State and Territory the number of deaths under one year of age and the rates of infant mortality under one year. Rates for Australia and the more populous countries of the world for the latest available year are shown in the table International Vital Statistics at the end of this Chapter.

INFANT MORTALITY UNDER ONE YEAR(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Annual average—									
1946-50	1,990	1,129	770	431	370	187	11	14	4,902
1951-55	1,852	1,113	730	407	384	184	17	14	4,701
1956-60	1,770	1,205	717	410	362	176	25	18	4,683
1961-65	1,685	1,168	696	408	350	156	28	34	4,524
1966-70	1,567	1,071	669	354	393	127	117	51	4,349
Annual total—									
1970	1,743	1,060	672	367	459	116	126	61	4,604
1971	1,710	1,107	766	366	464	114	170	80	4,777
1972	1,663	1,048	697	367	348	127	113	67	4,430
1973	1,491	958	666	276	394	137	100	63	4,085
1974	1,428	989	606	312	327	123	103	70	3,958
Annual average rate(b)—									
1946-50	28.91	23.82	27.49	26.50	28.15	26.53	37.37	19.89	26.98
1951-55	25.11	20.70	23.58	22.55	24.41	23.67	36.28	15.40	23.34
1956-60	22.24	19.67	20.99	20.50	21.42	20.62	36.00	13.68	21.05
1961-65	20.32	17.92	19.69	19.07	20.73	18.46	30.76	17.80	19.42
1966-70	18.99	15.57	18.90	16.60	20.25	15.94	54.91	18.25	18.10
Annual rate(b)—									
1970	19.71	14.52	17.91	16.23	21.23	14.17	48.02	17.55	17.88
1971	17.37	14.66	19.16	15.92	19.14	13.70	60.03	19.80	17.29
1972	17.45	14.59	17.76	16.80	15.69	16.23	41.51	16.48	16.72
1973	17.07	14.27	17.50	13.52	19.21	18.70	35.60	15.83	16.49
1974	16.57	14.94	16.01	15.46	16.18	16.63	36.68	16.03	16.14

(a) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1966. (b) Number of deaths of children aged under one year per 1,000 live births registered.

Because of the smallness of the numbers of these deaths occurring in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, the rates for these Territories (i.e. number of such deaths per thousand live births) are subject to considerable fluctuation.

Infant deaths and death rates—Australia

The fact that out of 664,335 male infants born from 1969 to 1973, 12,919 (19.45 per 1,000) died during the first year of life, while of 632,358 female infants only 9,459 (14.96 per 1,000) died during the first year, accords with the universal experience that during the first few years of life the higher death rate of male infants tends to counteract the excess of male births. Stillbirths, for which masculinity is also higher, are not included in any of the tables relating to deaths.

As shown by the following table, the disparity is greater during the first four weeks of life, termed the neonatal period, than during the remainder of the first year of life, or the post-neonatal period.

INFANT DEATHS AND MORTALITY RATES(a): AUSTRALIA

Period	Age at death											Total under one year					
	Days		Total under one week	Weeks			Total under four weeks	Months				Males	Females	Persons			
	Under 1	1-6		1	2	3		1-2 (b)	3-5	6-8	9-11						
Annual average—																	
1946-50	1,717	1,297	3,014	259	138	103	3,514	404	415	318	251	2,808	2,094	4,902			
1951-55	1,631	1,250	2,881	237	109	86	3,313	396	431	316	245	2,683	2,018	4,701			
1956-60	1,737	1,195	2,932	221	116	84	3,353	398	457	271	204	2,662	2,021	4,683			
1961-65	1,709	1,187	2,896	191	102	71	3,260	426	417	245	176	2,596	1,928	4,524			
1966-70	1,696	1,125	2,821	160	88	72	3,141	407	420	226	155	2,515	1,834	4,349			
Annual total—																	
1969	1,755	1,151	2,906	155	110	69	3,240	407	432	241	162	2,584	1,898	4,482			
1970	1,857	1,150	3,007	160	90	71	3,328	459	454	215	148	2,718	1,886	4,604			
1971	1,907	1,121	3,028	177	85	74	3,364	488	494	250	181	2,684	2,093	4,777			
1972	1,924	954	2,878	141	89	67	3,175	456	450	223	126	2,577	1,853	4,430			
1973	1,718	902	2,620	154	86	67	2,927	429	425	195	109	2,356	1,729	4,085			
Annual average rate(c)—																	
1946-50	9.45	7.14	16.59	1.43	0.76	0.56	19.34	2.22	2.29	1.75	1.38	30.08	23.70	26.98			
1951-55	8.09	6.20	14.29	1.18	0.54	0.43	16.44	1.97	2.14	1.57	1.22	25.99	20.56	23.34			
1956-60	7.81	5.37	13.18	0.99	0.52	0.38	15.07	1.79	2.06	1.22	0.92	23.29	18.69	21.05			
1961-65	7.34	5.09	12.43	0.82	0.44	0.30	13.99	1.83	1.79	1.05	0.76	21.67	17.03	19.42			
1966-70	7.06	4.68	11.74	0.66	0.37	0.30	13.07	1.69	1.75	0.94	0.65	20.40	15.67	18.10			
Annual rate(c)—																	
1969	7.02	4.60	11.62	0.61	0.44	0.28	12.95	1.63	1.73	0.96	0.65	20.14	15.57	17.92			
1970	7.21	4.47	11.68	0.62	0.35	0.27	12.92	1.78	1.76	0.84	0.58	20.60	15.02	17.88			
1971	6.90	4.06	10.96	0.64	0.31	0.27	12.17	1.77	1.78	0.90	0.65	19.02	15.48	17.29			
1972	7.26	3.60	10.86	0.53	0.34	0.25	11.98	1.72	1.70	0.84	0.48	18.95	14.37	16.72			
1973	6.94	3.64	10.58	0.62	0.35	0.27	11.82	1.73	1.72	0.79	0.44	18.56	14.32	16.49			

(a) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1966. (b) Age four weeks and under three months. (c) Number of deaths of children aged under one year per 1,000 live births registered.

Plate 31 below, shows infant mortality rates for each year from 1910 to 1973.

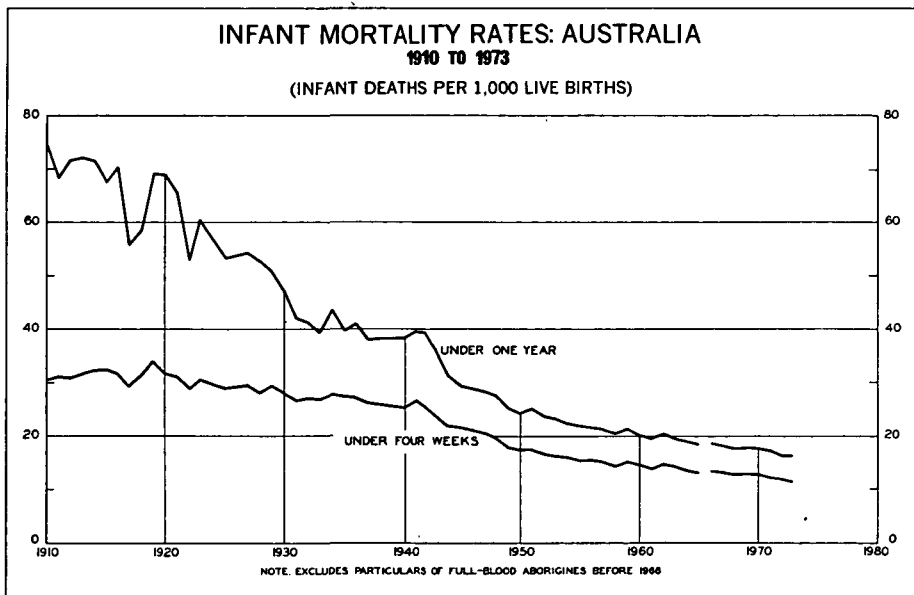


PLATE 31

Causes of death

Causes of death in Australia are classified according to the International Classification of Diseases (I.C.D.) produced by the World Health Organization. The classification is periodically revised and in Australia the Eighth Revision was adopted for use from 1968. Hence, cause of death figures for 1968 and subsequent years are not strictly comparable, for some causes, with those for 1967 and earlier years.

The following two tables show the number of deaths in 1973 according to the Abbreviated List of 50 causes for tabulation of mortality recommended by W.H.O. with some large categories sub-divided to show further details. Table A shows the total number of males and females who died, the death rates per million of mean population, and the percentage of total deaths. Table B shows deaths for males and females, classified by age groups. More detailed data on causes of death will be found in the bulletin *Causes of Death* (4.7), No. 10.

A. CAUSES OF DEATH: NUMBERS, PROPORTIONS AND CRUDE RATES(a), MALES AND FEMALES, AUSTRALIA, 1973

ABBREVIATED LIST OF 50 CAUSES WITH CERTAIN SUB-DIVISIONS

Cause of death	Males			Females			
	ICD numbers	Number of deaths	Percentage of total	Crude rates(a)	Number of deaths	Percentage of total	Crude rates(a)
B 1 Cholera	000	..	..	..	..	..	..
B 2 Typhoid fever	001	..	..	..	..	..	..
B 3 Bacillary dysentery and amoebiasis	004, 006	2	(b)	(c)	4	(b)	1
B 4 Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	008, 009	145	0.2	22	150	0.3	23
B 5 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	010-012	64	0.1	10	21	(b)	3
B 6 Other tuberculosis, including late effects	013-019	29	(b)	4	12	(b)	2
B 7 Plague	020	..	..	..	..	..	..
B 8 Diphtheria	032	2	(b)	(c)	1	(b)	(c)
B 9 Whooping cough	033	..	..	..	2	(b)	(c)
B10 Streptococcal sore throat and scarlet fever	034	..	..	..	..	..	..
B11 Meningococcal infection	036	15	(b)	2	5	(b)	1
B12 Acute poliomyelitis	040-043	..	..	..	..	..	..
R13 Smallpox	050	..	..	..	..	..	..
B14 Measles	055	2	(b)	(c)	4	(b)	1
B15 Typhus and other rickettsioses	080-083	..	..	..	..	..	..
R16 Malaria	084	..	..	..	..	..	..
B17 Syphilis and its sequelae	090-097	8	(b)	1	10	(b)	2
B18 All other infective and parasitic diseases	Remainder of 000-136	180	0.3	27	130	0.3	20
B19 Malignant neoplasms—							
(i) Digestive organs	150-159	3,341	5.4	505	2,978	6.0	454
(ii) Lung	162	3,079	5.0	466	564	1.1	86
(iii) Skin	172, 173	311	0.5	47	202	0.4	31
(iv) Breast	174	15	(b)	2	1,607	3.3	245
(v) Genital organs	180-187	1,133	1.8	171	1,190	2.4	181
(vi) Urinary organs	188, 189	545	0.9	82	320	0.6	49
(vii) Leukaemia and aleukaemia	204-207	452	0.7	68	325	0.7	50
(viii) Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	Remainder of 140-209	1,900	3.1	287	1,434	2.9	219
<i>Total, B19</i>		10,776	17.5	1,630	8,620	17.5	1,314
B20 Benign neoplasms and neoplasms of unspecified nature	210-239	101	0.2	15	106	0.2	16
B21 Diabetes mellitus	250	828	1.3	125	963	2.0	147
B22 Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency	260-269	48	0.1	7	38	0.1	6
B23 Anaemias	280-285	89	0.1	13	127	0.3	19
B24 Meningitis	320	55	0.1	8	33	0.1	5
B25 Active rheumatic fever	390-392	5	(b)	1	9	(b)	1
B26 Chronic rheumatic heart disease	393-398	361	0.6	55	411	0.8	63
B27 Hypertensive disease	400-404	621	1.0	94	843	1.7	129
B28 Ischaemic heart disease	410-414	19,810	32.2	2,997	13,178	26.8	2,009
B29 Other forms of heart disease	420-429	2,040	3.3	309	2,475	5.0	377
B30 Cerebrovascular disease	430-438	6,581	10.7	996	9,351	19.0	1,426
B31 Influenza	470-474	80	0.1	12	70	0.1	11
B32 Pneumonia	480-486	1,413	2.3	214	1,203	2.4	183
B33 Bronchitis, emphysema and asthma	490-493	3,290	5.3	498	827	1.7	126
B34 Peptic ulcer	531-533	423	0.7	64	198	0.4	30
B35 Appendicitis	540-543	32	0.1	5	44	0.1	7
B36 Intestinal obstruction and hernia	550-553, 560	188	0.3	28	209	0.4	32
B37 Cirrhosis of liver	571	655	1.1	99	272	0.6	41
B38 Nephritis and nephrosis	580-584	384	0.6	58	342	0.7	52
B39 Hyperplasia of prostate	600	212	0.3	32	..	..	..
B40 Abortion	640-645	..	..	..	1	(b)	(c)

For footnotes see end of table next page.

A. CAUSES OF DEATH: NUMBERS, PROPORTIONS AND CRUDE RATES(a), MALES AND FEMALES, AUSTRALIA, 1973—continued

ABBREVIATED LIST OF 50 CAUSES WITH CERTAIN SUB-DIVISIONS—continued

Cause of death	Males			Females			
	ICD numbers	Number of deaths	Percentage of total	Crude rates(a)	Number of deaths	Percentage of total	Crude rates(a)
B41 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium. Delivery without mention of complication	630-639, 650-678 740-759	627	1.0	95	27	0.1	4
B42 Congenital anomalies	764-768, 772, 776	382	0.6	58	220	0.4	34
B43 Birth injury, difficult labour and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	Remainder of 760-779	887	1.4	134	660	1.3	101
B44 Other causes of perinatal mortality	780-796	499	0.8	75	440	0.9	67
B45 Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	440	957	1.6	145	1,424	2.9	217
B46 (i) Arteriosclerosis	441-448, 450-458	1,182	1.9	179	763	1.5	116
(ii) Other diseases of circulatory system	460-466, 500-508, 510-519	444	0.7	67	310	0.6	47
(iii) Other diseases of respiratory system	Remainder of 240-738	2,205	3.6	334	2,354	4.8	359
(iv) All other diseases		4,788	7.8	724	4,851	9.9	740
Total, B46		2,822	4.6	427	1,003	2.0	153
BE47 Motor vehicle accidents	E810-E823	1,829	3.0	277	1,151	2.3	175
BE48 All other accidents	E800-E807, E825-E949	1,036	1.7	157	492	1.0	75
BE49 Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	E950-E959	279	0.5	42	164	0.3	25
BE50 All other external causes	E960-E999						
All causes		61,588	100.0	9,317	49,234	100.0	7,507

(a) Number of deaths per million of estimated mean population. (b) Less than 0.05. (c) Less than 0.5.

B CAUSES OF DEATH: MALES AND FEMALES IN AGE GROUPS, AUSTRALIA, 1973

ABBREVIATED LIST OF 50 CAUSES (BASED ON THE EIGHTH REVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LIST)

Cause of death(a)	Sex	Number of deaths in age groups (years)											Total		
		Under 1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	Not stated			
B 3 Bacillary dysentery and amoebiasis	M	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
	F	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
B 4 Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	M	45	23	3	3	1	4	3	8	23	32	..	..	..	145
	F	42	25	2	..	1	..	3	6	15	56	..	..	..	150
B 5 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
	F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
B 6 Other tuberculosis, including late effects	M	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
	F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
B 8 Diphtheria	M	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
	F	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
B 9 Whooping cough	M	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
	F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
B11 Meningococcal infection	M	7	..	..	..	1	3	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	15
	F	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
B14 Measles	M	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
	F	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
B17 Syphilis and its sequelae	M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
	F	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
B18 All other infective and parasitic diseases	M	33	11	9	9	13	15	17	28	24	21	..	..	..	180
	F	20	9	8	5	7	1	11	20	15	34	..	..	..	130
B19 Malignant neoplasms—															
(i) Digestive organs	M	..	..	2	3	27	99	339	797	1,099	975	..	..	..	3,341
	F	1	..	..	2	30	85	288	533	791	1,248	..	..	..	2,978
(ii) Lung	M	..	..	..	..	4	57	391	877	1,161	588	1	..	..	3,079
	F	..	..	..	..	3	22	90	180	153	116	..	..	..	564
(iii) Skin	M	..	1	..	11	19	27	50	75	66	62	..	..	..	311
	F	..	..	..	8	12	16	46	39	39	42	..	..	..	202
(iv) Breast	M	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	5	4	4	..	..	..	15
	F	..	..	..	..	21	124	322	395	357	388	..	..	..	1,607
(v) Genital organs	M	..	..	..	12	17	13	22	115	388	566	..	..	..	1,133
	F	..	..	..	8	16	44	211	319	305	287	..	..	..	1,190
(vi) Urinary organs	M	..	3	3	1	2	5	56	122	197	156	..	..	..	545
	F	..	5	3	1	1	4	28	61	86	131	..	..	..	320
(vii) Leukaemia and aleukaemia	M	3	23	39	25	21	29	49	70	102	91	..	..	..	452
	F	2	14	31	19	17	12	31	53	55	91	..	..	..	325
(viii) Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M	6	25	40	46	73	111	280	477	513	329	..	..	..	1,900
	F	1	15	26	28	36	67	174	323	377	387	..	..	..	1,434
Total, B19	M	9	52	84	98	163	342	1,188	2,538	3,530	2,771	1	..	..	10,776
	F	4	34	60	66	136	374	1,190	1,903	2,163	2,690	..	..	..	8,620

For footnote see end of table next page.

B. CAUSES OF DEATH: MALES AND FEMALES IN AGE GROUPS, AUSTRALIA, 1973—continued
 ABBREVIATED LIST OF 50 CAUSES (BASED ON THE EIGHTH REVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LIST)

Cause of death(a)	Sex	Number of deaths in age groups (years)										Not stated	Total
		Under 1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over		
B20 Benign neoplasms and neoplasms of unspecified nature	M	2	..	4	7	6	5	15	25	22	15	..	101
	F	2	2	1	4	3	10	17	23	18	26	..	106
B21 Diabetes mellitus	M	1	..	..	1	6	20	47	159	289	305	..	828
	F	..	1	3	5	13	18	39	122	289	473	..	963
B22 Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency	M	3	1	..	..	..	1	2	9	15	17	..	48
	F	1	..	..	1	..	..	2	3	6	24	..	38
B23 Anaemias	M	1	1	1	3	2	3	2	7	16	53	..	89
	F	1	2	1	3	..	3	4	9	23	81	..	127
B24 Meningitis	M	30	6	3	..	2	4	..	3	5	2	..	55
	F	11	2	2	3	1	..	4	4	4	2	..	33
B25 Active rheumatic fever	M	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	5
	F	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	1	2	..	..	9
B26 Chronic rheumatic heart disease	M	..	..	..	3	14	24	59	110	85	66	..	361
	F	..	..	2	2	7	19	51	87	111	132	..	411
B27 Hypertensive disease	M	..	..	..	..	1	13	51	112	189	255	..	621
	F	..	..	..	..	2	16	51	78	159	537	..	843
B28 Ischaemic heart disease	M	..	..	..	4	55	534	2,244	4,803	6,180	5,989	1	19,810
	F	..	..	..	1	18	120	499	1,566	3,453	7,517	4	13,178
B29 Other forms of heart disease	M	7	3	5	18	24	52	109	222	437	1,162	1	2,040
	F	4	6	4	9	16	29	53	114	368	1,871	1	2,475
B30 Cerebrovascular disease	M	1	3	3	14	31	119	418	938	1,957	3,097	..	6,581
	F	4	1	8	12	33	130	353	741	1,799	6,268	2	9,351
B31 Influenza	M	4	4	1	1	..	3	5	12	22	28	..	80
	F	2	..	1	1	1	1	4	3	15	42	..	70
B32 Pneumonia	M	108	30	4	14	20	48	119	149	274	647	..	1,413
	F	91	25	7	9	13	21	50	65	147	775	..	1,203
B33 Bronchitis, emphysema and asthma	M	1	9	19	10	6	23	179	556	1,160	1,326	1	3,290
	F	1	2	7	19	14	34	94	149	222	285	..	827
B34 Peptic ulcer	M	..	..	..	1	4	12	49	97	119	141	..	423
	F	..	..	..	..	2	8	13	27	48	100	..	198
B35 Appendicitis	M	..	1	..	1	2	3	5	7	5	8	..	32
	F	..	1	1	3	1	3	3	3	9	20	..	44
B36 Intestinal obstruction and hernia	M	35	2	..	2	4	2	8	28	34	73	..	188
	F	11	..	1	..	1	3	13	19	49	112	..	209
B37 Cirrhosis of liver	M	..	5	2	1	16	74	192	213	112	40	..	655
	F	..	..	1	1	8	32	83	79	49	18	1	272
B38 Nephritis and nephrosis	M	2	1	3	2	14	14	38	80	125	105	..	384
	F	..	..	1	4	6	23	66	70	75	97	..	342
B39 Hyperplasia of prostate	M	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	9	45	156	..	212
B40 Abortion	F	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
B41 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium. Delivery without mention of complication	F	..	..	..	7	12	8	..	..	..	..	..	27
B42 Congenital anomalies	M	436	65	35	17	11	8	13	24	12	6	..	627
	F	406	48	28	14	14	10	12	18	3	14	..	567
B43 Birth injury, difficult labour and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	M	377	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	382
	F	217	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	220
B44 Other causes of perinatal mortality	M	886	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	887
	F	659	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	660
B45 Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	M	169	10	4	21	28	22	36	40	38	128	3	499
	F	114	8	3	12	10	14	10	21	37	209	2	440
B46 (i) Arteriosclerosis	M	..	..	..	..	..	2	6	31	174	744	..	957
	F	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	15	121	1,283	..	1,424
(ii) Other diseases of circulatory system	M	2	1	..	5	11	23	67	221	396	456	..	1,182
	F	1	..	3	6	9	17	34	87	173	433	..	763
(iii) Other diseases of respiratory system	M	90	17	8	5	1	13	27	55	88	140	..	444
	F	47	7	7	1	8	10	25	25	29	151	..	310
(iv) All other diseases	M	30	34	50	73	64	125	301	379	528	621	..	2,205
	F	23	29	45	40	62	98	201	369	495	992	..	2,354
Total, B46	M	122	52	58	83	76	163	401	686	1,186	1,961	..	4,788
	F	71	36	55	47	79	126	264	496	818	2,859	..	4,851
HE47 Motor vehicle accidents	M	6	64	170	1,119	427	263	246	242	175	109	1	2,822
	F	10	58	97	255	83	75	110	98	103	114	..	1,003
BE48 All other accidents	M	64	155	96	246	208	200	231	209	150	270	..	1,829
	F	49	91	44	39	31	40	49	66	105	637	..	1,151
BE49 Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	M	..	..	4	171	155	199	214	145	104	43	1	1,036
	F	..	..	..	71	75	86	111	87	47	15	..	492
BE50 All other external causes	M	3	8	10	53	57	42	56	30	13	7	..	279
	F	3	8	8	30	31	24	27	17	11	5	..	164
All causes	M	2,356	513	520	1,903	1,348	2,220	5,967	11,522	16,374	18,856	9	61,588
	F	1,729	369	347	626	621	1,232	3,194	5,903	10,174	25,029	10	49,234

(a) Categories of the Abbreviated List for which no deaths were recorded in 1973 have been omitted from this table. For deaths of such categories see Table A, pages 199-200.

Causes of death—children under one year

Causes of death of children under one year of age should be considered in relation to age at death because the emphasis on various causes changes rapidly as age at death varies, the majority of deaths in the first week of life being due to conditions arising during pregnancy and birth. A summary for 1973, of deaths of children under one year of age, classified according to principal causes of death and age at death, is given in the following table.

DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE, BY CAUSE OF DEATH
AUSTRALIA, 1973

Inter- national Classifi- cation of Diseases number	Cause of death	Age at death										
		Days		Total under one week	Weeks			Total under four weeks	Months			Total under one year
		Under 1	1-6		1	2	3 weeks		1-2 (a)	3-5	6-11	
760	Chronic circulatory and genito- urinary diseases in mother	14	4	18	1	..	..	19	..	..	..	19
761	Other maternal conditions un- related to pregnancy	66	32	98	..	5	2	105	1	..	..	106
762	Toxaemias of pregnancy	62	42	104	1	..	..	105	..	..	..	105
763	Maternal ante and intrapartum infection	21	7	28	5	..	..	33	..	..	..	33
764-768	Difficult labour	79	46	125	1	3	1	130	2	..	..	132
769	Other complications of pregnancy and childbirth	441	159	600	10	4	..	614	2	..	..	616
770	Conditions of placenta	230	93	323	10	2	..	335	..	..	..	335
771	Conditions of umbilical cord	24	8	32	..	..	..	32	..	..	..	32
772, 773	Birth injury without mention of cause	19	30	49	3	1	1	54	1	1	..	56
774, 775	Haemolytic disease of newborn	32	9	41	1	1	..	43	1	..	..	44
776	Anoxic and hypoxic conditions not elsewhere classified	217	168	385	9	6	2	402	4	1	..	407
777	Immaturity unqualified	168	38	206	5	..	..	211	2	..	..	213
778, 779	Other conditions of newborn	22	11	33	2	1	1	37	2	2	..	41
740-759	Congenital anomalies	268	185	453	77	37	23	590	110	71	71	842
000-136	Infections	3	13	16	8	5	6	35	29	47	46	157
480-486	Pneumonia	6	12	18	3	9	8	38	57	74	30	199
(b)	Other diseases	38	42	80	17	8	16	121	182	193	117	613
E911-E913	Inhalation or ingestion of food or other object causing obstruction or suffocation, and accidental mechanical suffocation	1	2	3	..	1	5	9	31	24	15	79
(c)	Other external causes	7	1	8	1	3	2	14	5	12	25	56
	All causes	1,718	902	2,620	154	86	67	2,927	429	425	304	4,085

(a) Age four weeks and under 3 months.

(b) 140-474, 490-738, 780-796.

(c) E800-E910, E914-E999.

Deaths from certain important causes

As can be seen from the preceding tables, infective and parasitic diseases (Nos B1-B18) no longer cause many deaths in Australia, being responsible for only 0.7 per cent of total deaths. Of far greater importance are diseases of the circulatory system causing 54.2 per cent, malignant neoplasms causing 15.9 per cent and accidents, poisonings and violence causing 7.9 per cent of all deaths in 1973.

Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissues (B19). Deaths classified under this heading according to the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Revisions of the International List (used in Australia for deaths registered since 1950) are not directly comparable in total with those on the Fifth Revision basis (see Year Book No. 39, p. 628).

The most common sites of malignant neoplasms causing death in 1973 are identified in Table B (pages 200-1). Malignant neoplasms are predominantly diseases of advanced age, but leukaemia and aleukaemia frequently cause death at early ages.

Deaths in age groups and age-specific death rates for males and females who died from malignant neoplasms are given in the table on the following page.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATES FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS(a), BY AGE GROUP AND SEX AUSTRALIA (b)

Age group (years)	1953				1963				1973			
	Number		Rate(c)		Number		Rate(c)		Number		Rate(c)	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 15	113	94	9	8	136	88	8	6	145	98	8	5
15-29	125	88	13	10	134	127	11	11	173	118	10	7
30-44	318	404	32	43	411	548	36	51	430	458	35	40
45-54	635	721	124	152	923	973	145	158	1,188	1,190	157	162
55-64	1,368	1,249	361	307	1,870	1,369	414	303	2,538	1,903	458	330
65 and over	3,411	2,981	1,044	748	4,493	3,703	1,135	689	6,301	4,853	1,366	756
Total	5,970	5,537	134	127	7,968	6,808	145	126	10,776	8,620	163	131
					(d)				(d)			

(a) Includes neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissues. (b) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines prior to 1967. (c) Number of deaths per 100,000 of population at risk. For the individual age groups, the population at risk is that estimated at 30 June. For the total of all ages, the population at risk is the calendar year mean population. (d) Includes 1 male, age not stated.

Death rates from malignant neoplasms per 100,000 of mean population for Australia and for various other countries as shown in the 1973 United Nations Demographic Year Book are as follows: Israel (1972) 117.2; Japan (1972) 120.4; South Africa (white population) (1970) 137.0; Poland (1972) 144.1; Australia (1972) 145.0; Canada (1972) 147.9; United States of America (1971) 160.6; Italy (1970) 179.1; Netherlands (1971) 194.8; France (1970) 207.4; England and Wales (1972) 242.6; Scotland (1972) 247.9.

Diseases of the circulatory system (B25-B30, part B46). This class is the largest among causes of death, representing 54 per cent of total deaths in 1973. The following table shows the number of deaths and death rates per 100,000 of mean population from diseases of the circulatory system for the years 1950-73. Comparability of the figures is not significantly affected by the various revisions of the International Classification of Diseases.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATES FROM DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM BY SEX: AUSTRALIA (a)

Year	Cerebrovascular disease				Heart disease(b)				Other diseases of circulatory system				Total			
	Number		Rate(c)		Number		Rate(c)		Number		Rate(c)		Number		Rate(c)	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1950	4,035	5,351	98	132	14,687	10,256	356	253	1,736	1,802	42	44	20,458	17,409	496	429
1955	4,811	6,224	103	137	16,382	11,303	352	249	1,843	1,886	40	42	23,036	19,413	495	427
1960	5,183	6,659	100	131	18,654	13,173	359	259	2,068	1,970	40	39	25,905	21,802	499	429
1965	5,809	7,835	101	139	21,843	15,546	381	275	2,029	2,071	35	37	29,681	25,452	517	450
1970	6,508	9,178	103	148	23,639	17,269	376	278	2,266	2,516	36	40	32,413	28,963	515	466
1971	6,497	9,234	101	145	22,980	17,176	358	270	2,271	2,454	35	39	31,748	28,864	494	454
1972	6,621	9,148	101	142	22,769	16,673	349	258	2,187	2,336	34	36	31,577	28,157	484	436
1973	6,581	9,351	100	143	22,584	16,643	342	254	2,392	2,460	36	38	31,557	28,454	477	434

(a) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines prior to 1967. (b) Includes hypertensive heart disease. (c) Per 100,000 of mean population.

As can be seen from Table B (page 201), these conditions predominantly affect people of advanced age, only 9.1 per cent of deaths being at ages under 55 years in 1973.

Accidents, poisonings and violence (BE47 to BE50). Deaths in this class are classified according to external cause and not according to nature of injury. The classification provides sub-groups for accidents, including adverse reactions to prophylactic inoculations, therapeutic misadventures and late effects of accidental injury; suicide; homicide and injuries purposely inflicted by other persons; injuries undetermined whether accidentally or purposely inflicted; and injury resulting from operations of war, including delayed effects.

While not as numerically important as the above two groups in total this class of causes of death has a much greater influence at the younger ages, being responsible for 75 per cent of all deaths at ages 15-24 years in 1973.

The following table, showing the death rates in the main sub-groups per 100,000 of mean population, indicates that the death rate from violence is between two and three times as great for males as for females. The low level of the rates and proportions for the years 1941-45 is due largely to the exclusion of deaths of defence personnel from accidents, suicide and homicide, though the rates have been based on total mean population (including defence personnel). A further contributing factor is the decrease during this period in the number of automobile accidents. From July 1947 deaths of defence personnel from accidents, etc., have again been included.

**ACCIDENTS, POISONINGS, AND VIOLENCE: DEATH RATES(a), BY SEX
AUSTRALIA**

Period	Death rate from—										All external causes as a percentage of total deaths	
	Motor vehicle accidents		Suicide		Homicide(c)		Other external causes(d)		All external causes		Male	Female
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
1941-45	19	5	11	5	1	1	48	21	79	31	7.30	3.48
1946-50	30	6	14	5	1	1	46	21	91	33	8.44	3.83
1951-55	38	9	15	5	2	1	44	22	99	37	9.64	4.53
1956-60	37	11	17	6	2	1	38	20	93	39	9.57	4.95
1961-65	38	13	19	9	2	1	34	19	93	42	9.54	5.50
1966-70	43	15	17	9	2	1	33	20	95	45	9.61	5.71
1967	42	14	19	11	2	1	35	20	98	47	10.08	6.11
1968	43	14	17	8	2	1	34	21	95	45	9.43	5.51
1969	44	16	17	8	2	1	30	18	92	43	9.54	5.65
1970	46	17	17	8	2	1	32	19	97	45	9.67	5.58
1971	45	15	18	9	2	1	31	18	96	44	10.09	5.61
1972	40	15	17	8	2	1	32	18	91	42	9.71	5.62
1973	43	15	16	8	2	2	30	18	90	43	9.69	5.71

(a) Number of deaths per 100,000 of mean population. (b) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1967. (c) Includes deaths from injury purposely inflicted by other persons (not in war) and legal intervention. (d) Includes deaths from injury undetermined whether accidentally or purposely inflicted.

In 1973 the total number of deaths from *accidental causes* (BE47, BE48) was 6,805 (4,651 males and 2,154 females). Over half of the accidental deaths were the result of transport accidents. Of these, the numbers attributable to the major causes, and the percentages of the total accidental deaths in each case, were as follows: Motor vehicle traffic accidents, 3,694 (54.28 per cent); motor vehicle non-traffic accidents, 131 (1.93 per cent); other road vehicle accidents, 46 (0.68 per cent); railway accidents, 75 (1.10 per cent); water transport accidents, 108 (1.59 per cent); aircraft accidents, 28 (0.41 per cent); a total of 4,082 (59.99 per cent). Other important causes were accidental falls, 1,153 (16.94 per cent); accidental drowning (not in transport), 437 (6.42 per cent); accidents caused by fires and flames, 174 (2.56 per cent); and accidental poisonings, 113 (1.66 per cent).

Deaths from *suicide* (BE49) in 1973 numbered 1,528 (males, 1,036; females, 492). Poisoning, other than by gases, occurred in 546 cases (35.73 per cent of total deaths by suicide). Other important modes adopted, together with the numbers and relevant percentages, were as follows: firearms and explosives, 407 (26.64 per cent); poisoning by gases, 207 (13.55 per cent); hanging or strangulation 166 (10.86 per cent); submersion (drowning), 60 (3.93 per cent); other than unspecified modes, 142 (9.29 per cent). Of the 1,036 males who committed suicide, 376 (36.29 per cent) used firearms or explosives. For females the most common mode was poisoning (other than by gases). This was used in 307 cases (62.40 per cent).

Of the 443 deaths assigned in 1973 to all other external causes (BE50), there were 253 deaths from homicide and injury purposely inflicted by other persons, 3 deaths from legal intervention by firearms, 184 deaths from injury indetermined whether accidentally or purposely inflicted (of which 75 were due to poisoning other than by gases) and 3 deaths from late effects of injury due to operations of war.

Vital statistics of External Territories

The following table shows, for the year 1974, the number of marriages, births and deaths registered in the External Territories under the control of Australia. More detailed information will be found in *Demography*, Bulletin No. 86.

EXTERNAL TERRITORIES: VITAL STATISTICS, 1974

Territory	Marriages	Births	Deaths
Christmas Island	12	32	4
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	1	12	6
Norfolk Island	20	16	11

International vital statistics

Vital statistics rates for selected countries with relatively complete civil registration data are shown in the following table. The source of this information is the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook*. The yearbook contains rates for most countries and identifies the qualifications of the data applicable to different countries. The crude marriage, birth and death rates shown represent the number of 'events' per 1,000 of the population. Infant mortality rates are the number of deaths which occurred under one year of age per 1,000 live births. An explanation of the meaning of 'expectation of life at birth' is shown on page 193.

VITAL STATISTICS RATES: CERTAIN COUNTRIES—LATEST AVAILABLE YEAR(a)

(Source: United Nations *Demographic Yearbook*, 1973)

Country	Year	Rates(a)				Year	Expectation of life at birth	
		Marriage	Birth	Death	Infant mortality		Male	Female
Australia	1973	8.6	18.8	8.4	16.5	1973	68.2	75.2
Canada	1973	8.9	15.5	7.4	16.8	1965-67	68.8	75.2
Czechoslovakia	1973	9.7	18.8	11.5	21.2	1970	66.2	72.9
France	1973	7.7	16.4	10.7	12.9	1971	68.5	76.1
Germany, Federal Republic of	1972	6.7	11.4	11.8	20.4	1968-70	67.2	73.4
Greece	1972	7.1	15.5	8.6	27.8	1960-62	67.5	70.7
Hungary	1973	9.8	15.0	11.8	33.5	1970	66.3	72.1
Italy	1973	7.6	16.0	9.9	25.7	1964-67	67.9	73.4
Japan	1973	10.4	19.4	6.5	11.7	1972	70.5	75.9
Netherlands	1973	8.0	14.5	8.2	11.6	1972	70.8	76.8
New Zealand	1973	8.9	20.5	8.5	16.2	1960-62	68.4	73.8
Poland	1972	9.3	17.4	8.0	28.5	1970-72	66.8	73.8
Romania	1972	7.6	18.8	9.2	40.0	1970-72	66.3	70.9
Spain	1973	7.7	19.2	8.5	15.1	1960	67.3	71.9
Sri Lanka	1972	6.9	29.5	7.7	45.1	1967	64.8	66.9
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	1973	10.1	17.7	8.7	26.3	1970-71	65.0	74.0
United Kingdom	1972	8.6	15.0	12.1	17.5	1969-71	68.8	75.1
United States of America	1973	10.9	15.0	9.4	17.6	1972	67.4	75.2
Yugoslavia	1973	8.8	18.0	8.7	43.3	1970-71	65.3	70.1

(a) Source for statistics other than Australia.

