

PART IV.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Registration of births, deaths, and Marriages. The system of compulsory registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Victoria has been in force since 1853, and the registers contain all necessary information bearing on the family history of the people.

The statutory duties under the Registration Acts are performed by the Government Statist, who has supervision over the registrars of births and deaths, the registrars of marriages, and (so far as regards their registration duties) the clergymen who celebrate marriages. Copies of entries certified by the Government Statist or by an Assistant Government Statist are *prima facie* evidence in the Courts of Australia of the facts to which they relate. At the Government Statist's Office there is kept for reference a complete collection of all registrations effected since 1st July, 1853, as well as originals or certified copies of all existing church records relating to earlier periods, as far back as 1837. Since the present system was instituted approximately 6,216,443 original entries have been made in the indexes, of which 1,860,054 relate to marriages, 2,921,158 to births, and 1,435,231 to deaths.

Law relating to marriages, births, and deaths. The various Acts relating to the registration of marriages, births, and deaths in Victoria were consolidated in 1928, since when the Marriage Act was amended by Acts No. 4561 and 4839 of 1938 and 1941 respectively, and the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act by Act No. 4553 of 1938 and 4858 of 1941.

Marriages may be celebrated by any minister of religion who ordinarily officiates as such in one of the religious denominations, and whose name is registered in the office of the Government Statist; also by the Government Statist, an Assistant Government Statist, or a duly appointed registrar of marriages. The Governor in Council may prohibit from celebrating marriages any minister who is proved guilty of any indictable offence, misconduct or impropriety in the celebration of any marriage, or who makes a business of celebrating marriages for the purpose of profit or gain. At least three clear days before the performance of any marriage, written notice of such marriage must be given to the proposed celebrant by the parties about to be married, but such notice may, in respect of a

marriage by a minister of religion, be dispensed with in the case of emergency by written permission of any Justice of the Peace. Marriage of minors is permissible only with the written consent of parents or guardian or, in certain circumstances, by permission of a Guardian of Minors; should a parent refuse consent, appeal may be made to a Stipendiary Magistrate. Marriage with a deceased wife's sister is valid. Marriages of Jews and Quakers are exempted in part from the law relating to marriages, and are deemed legal and valid if celebrated according to their respective usages. Certificates of such marriages must, however, be lodged with the Government Statist for record purposes. No marriage is invalid by reason of its having been celebrated by an unqualified person if either of the parties believed at the time that such person was qualified, or by reason of any formal defect or irregularity where the identity of the parties to the marriage is not in question.

A person whose husband or wife has been continually absent from such person for the space of seven years or over, and has not been known by such person to be living within that time, may marry without being liable to prosecution for bigamy (*see* sec. 61 of the Crimes Act); but such a marriage would be void, and the issue thereof illegitimate, if it should be subsequently discovered that the former wife (or husband) was alive at the date of the marriage.

Births of live children must, under a penalty not exceeding £10 for default without reasonable cause, be registered within 60 days. After 60 days and within twelve months, registration may be effected, after declaration, on the payment of a fee of 5s.; after twelve months and under seven years, only by authority of the Government Statist (fee 20s.); and after seven years by order of a Judge of a County Court or the Supreme Court (fee 30s.). The occupier of any house or place in which an illegitimate child is born, or in which an illegitimate child under the age of five years dies, is required to give notice of such birth or death to the district registrar within three to seven days, according to the locality of the event. If the mother is the occupier, the period of notification is extended to three weeks.

Deaths must, under a penalty not exceeding £10, be notified to the local registrar by the occupier of the house or tenement in which the death occurred. Registration of death must be effected within 21 days by a person present at the death or in attendance during the last illness of the deceased or, in the case of illness, inability or default of such person, by the occupier of the house or tenement in which the death occurred. The medical practitioner in attendance during the last illness is also required, under a penalty not exceeding £5, to report the death to the registrar, unless the death has been reported to the Coroner.

Summary of
Vital Statistics,
1948.

The principal numbers and rates relating to Vital Statistics are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1948.

Division.	Number of—				Rate per 1,000 of Population.*			Infantile Mortality.
	Mar- riages.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under One Year.	Mar- riage.	Birth.	Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.
Greater Melbourne ..	..	25,452	13,593	605	..	20·44	10·91	23·77
Remainder of the State	..	20,647	8,232	498	..	24·45	9·75	24·12
Victoria	20,035	46,099	21,825	1,103	9·59	22·06	10·44	23·93

* Subject to revision.

MARRIAGES.

Marriages—
Numbers and
rates.

Marriages in Victoria in 1948 numbered 20,035, a decrease of 402, as compared with the number registered in 1947. The rate per 1,000 of population in 1948 was 9·59, as compared with rates of 9·95 in 1947, 10·57 in 1946, 8·22 in 1945, and 8·97 in 1944. The highest rate recorded in Victoria was 12·06 in 1942; the lowest rate was 5·66 in 1931—a year of acute economic depression. From that year to 1942 there was a marked increase, the rate in 1942 being 113 per cent. higher than that in 1931.

The record number of marriages (23,636) in 1942 can be attributed to war-time conditions. The pronounced fall in the number celebrated in 1943 indicated that the influence of those conditions had passed its peak. In the years 1944 and 1945 further falls were recorded, the rate (8·22) in 1945 being the lowest recorded since 1934. In 1946 there was a large increase in the number of marriages, the rate (10·57) being 29 per cent. higher than the rate in 1945. The increase in the number in 1946 reflected the postponement of marriages during the latter years of the war. In each of the years 1947 and 1948 there was a decline in the number of marriages, the rate in 1948 being 9·59 per 1,000 of population.

The following table shows the number of marriages, the quarters in which they were registered, and the proportion per 1,000 of the population since 1854 :—

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES IN EACH QUARTER, 1855 TO 1948.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Marriages.	Quarter of Registration.				Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
		March.	June.	September.	December.	
1855-59 ..	4,362	*	*	*	*	10.24
1860-64 ..	4,418	1,068	1,166	1,079	1,105	8.16
1865-69 ..	4,533	1,123	1,144	1,113	1,153	6.94
1870-74 ..	4,823	1,168	1,299	1,131	1,225	6.40
1875-79 ..	5,023	1,239	1,307	1,207	1,270	6.21
1880-84 ..	6,296	1,528	1,611	1,483	1,674	7.07
1885-89 ..	8,208	1,899	2,196	1,915	2,198	8.04
1890-94 ..	7,945	1,995	2,100	1,838	2,012	6.88
1895-99 ..	7,627	1,816	2,074	1,778	1,959	6.44
1900-04 ..	8,201	2,000	2,252	1,930	2,019	6.78
1905-09 ..	9,209	2,185	2,548	2,182	2,294	7.36
1910-14 ..	11,244	2,664	3,000	2,644	2,936	8.29
1915-19 ..	10,908	2,437	2,754	2,815	2,902	7.62
1920-24 ..	13,598	3,252	3,578	3,152	3,616	8.64
1925-29 ..	13,301	3,136	3,603	3,047	3,515	7.72
1930-34 ..	12,019	2,929	3,123	2,727	3,240	6.64
1935-39 ..	16,406	3,699	4,484	3,414	4,809	8.84
1940-44 ..	20,609	5,089	5,383	4,812	5,325	10.56
1944 ..	17,857	4,101	4,794	4,479	4,483	8.97
1945 ..	16,501	4,241	3,987	3,669	4,604	8.22
1946 ..	21,405	5,289	5,707	4,678	5,731	10.57
1947 ..	20,437	4,973	5,386	4,374	5,704	9.95
1948 ..	20,035	5,311	5,070	4,174	5,480	9.59

* Not available.

The ordinary marriage rate—per 1,000 of the total population—like birth and death rates similarly estimated, is apt to be misleading in the early settlement stages of countries like Australia, but it affords a ready and approximate comparison between years not widely separated.

The following statement shows the marriage rate per 1,000 of the population in the Australian States and in New Zealand, for each of the five years 1944 to 1948 :—

Marriage rates
—Australian
States and
New Zealand.

MARRIAGE RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1944	8.97	9.15	10.67	9.72	9.36	7.88	9.33	8.43
1945	8.22	8.67	9.20	8.48	7.77	7.51	8.50	10.14
1946	10.57	10.76	10.70	10.55	10.49	10.51	10.64	12.38
1947	9.95	10.11	9.95	10.32	10.50	10.02	10.09	10.92
1948	9.59	9.96	9.01	10.18	10.07	9.18	9.71	9.93

The marriage rate in England and Wales in 1948 was 9.1.

The ages of bridegrooms and brides who were married in 1948 are shown in combination for various groups in the table which follows:—

VICTORIA—AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN COMBINATION, 1948.

Ages of Bridegrooms.	Ages of Brides.																		Total Bridegrooms.
	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.	50 to 54.	55 to 59.	60 to 64.	65 to 69.	70 and over.	
15
16	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
17	2	7	4	4	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
18	13	27	41	21	4	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	120
19	6	16	48	65	56	37	51	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	285
20	3	24	67	91	105	95	202	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	603
21 to 24	..	3	54	202	513	803	1,043	3,891	591	58	7	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,168
25 to 29	..	3	13	74	183	351	460	2,871	1,654	288	61	7	3	..	..	..	..	..	5,968
30 to 34	9	30	40	83	689	869	504	150	36	5	..	..	..	..	2,415
35 to 39	5	3	9	18	175	395	334	231	92	17	2	..	1	..	1,282
40 to 44	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	4	50	106	199	189	125	46	10	1	..	..	733
45 to 49	1	3	21	40	79	120	93	96	27	10	..	1	491
50 to 54	1	..	..	5	12	30	39	85	76	70	15	2	..	336
55 to 59	2	3	7	26	41	66	51	37	10	2	246
60 to 64	1	4	7	19	36	35	38	23	5	172
65 to 69	3	3	8	18	14	27	24	17	119
70 to 74	3	4	2	9	11	12	45
75 and over	1	..	..	..	1	3	10	5	25
Total Brides	..	16	125	439	933	1,392	1,751	7,972	3,693	1,507	833	512	367	212	140	81	42	20	20,035

Of every 1,000 men married during the year, 734 were older and 168 younger than their brides, and 98 were of the same age.

In 1948 the oldest bridegroom was aged 85 years, and the oldest bride 80 years. The youngest bridegroom was aged 16 years, and the youngest bride 15 years.

Proportion of marriages at various ages. The proportion of both sexes marrying in 1948 is shown, in varying age groups, in the following table:—

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN AGE GROUPS, 1948.

Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—		Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—	
	Bridegrooms.	Brides.		Bridegrooms.	Brides.
Under 16 ..	..	0·80	35 to 39 ..	63·99	41·58
16 ..	0·25	6·24	40 to 44 ..	36·58	25·55
17 ..	1·10	21·91	45 to 49 ..	24·51	18·32
18 ..	5·99	46·57	50 to 54 ..	16·77	10·58
19 ..	14·22	69·48	55 to 59 ..	12·28	6·98
20 ..	30·10	87·40	60 and over ..	18·02	7·14
21 to 24 ..	357·77	397·90			
25 to 29 ..	297·88	184·33		1,000·00	1,000·00
30 to 34 ..	120·54	75·22			

Marriages of minors. The number of minors marrying at each age and the proportion of each sex to the total marriages are given in the following table for each of the five years 1944 to 1948:—

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES OF MINORS.

Year.	Age in Years.							Total.	
	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
Bridegrooms.									
1944	1	2	30	141	282	525	981	5·49	
1945 .. ..	..	3	36	131	301	529	1,000	6·06	
1946	1	3	29	148	355	619	1,155	5·40	
1947	2	5	17	96	283	583	986	4·82	
1948 .. ..	..	5	22	120	285	603	1,035	5·17	
Brides.									
1944	1	13	85	287	1,301	1,705	4,144	23·21	
1945	1	14	87	280	704	1,110	3,591	21·76	
1946	2	23	124	396	977	1,449	4,865	22·73	
1947	2	23	112	386	941	1,483	4,689	22·94	
1948 .. ..	..	16	125	439	933	1,392	4,656	23·24	

The proportion of minors marrying steadily decreased from 1931 to 1936. There was little fluctuation during the following three years, but in 1940 there was an increase, mainly due to the number of brides who were under 21 years of age. A further increase was recorded during each year of the period 1941-44, the proportion of minors marrying in 1944 being 14·35 per cent. of the persons married in that year. There was little variation in the next four years. In 1948, the proportion was 14·20 per cent.

Of every 1,000 bridegrooms in 1948, 52 were under 21 years of age ; of every 1,000 brides, 232 were under 21 years of age.

Age at marriage. The mean ages at marriage, according to conjugal condition, are shown in the following table for each of the five years 1944 to 1948 :—

VICTORIA—MEAN AGE AT MARRIAGE, 1944 TO 1948.

Year.	Bridegrooms.				Brides.			
	Bachelors.	Divorced.	Widowers.	All Bridegrooms.	Spinsters.	Divorced.	Widows.	All Brides.
1944 ..	27·5	40·1	51·0	29·2	24·8	35·3	43·8	26·0
1945 ..	27·8	39·2	52·0	29·8	24·9	34·9	43·2	26·4
1946 ..	27·4	38·1	51·0	29·1	24·6	34·4	41·1	25·8
1947 ..	27·3	38·5	51·6	29·2	24·4	34·4	42·0	25·9
1948 ..	27·2	38·3	51·6	29·1	24·4	35·1	43·6	25·9

In 1948 the mean age at marriage of bridegrooms whose brides were under 45 was 27·9 years, while for brides under 45 the age was 24·7 years.

The most popular age at marriage for bridegrooms in 1948 was 23 years, and for brides 21 years.

Conjugal condition of persons marrying. In the following tables are given the number of persons in each conjugal condition marrying during each of the five years 1944 to 1948, and the proportions in each condition for periods since 1910.

VICTORIA—CONJUGAL CONDITION OF PERSONS MARRYING, 1944 TO 1948.

Period.	Bridegrooms.			Brides.			Total Marriages.
	Bachelors.	Widowers.	Divorced.	Spinsters.	Widows.	Divorced.	
1944 ..	16,198	925	734	16,378	691	788	17,857
1945 ..	14,544	967	990	14,720	817	964	16,501
1946 ..	19,209	1,046	1,150	19,287	981	1,137	21,405
1947 ..	18,101	1,015	1,321	18,196	971	1,270	20,437
1948 ..	17,736	1,029	1,270	17,906	872	1,257	20,035

VICTORIA—TOTAL MARRIAGES IN 1948 AND PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS MARRYING IN EACH CONJUGAL CONDITION, 1910 TO 1948.

Marriages Between—	1948.		Conjugal Condition.	Percentage of Total—			
	Num-ber.	Per-centage.		1910-19.	1920-29.	1930-39.	1948.
Bachelors and Spinsters ..	16,538	82.55	Bridegrooms. Bachelors Widowers Divorced Total	Bridegrooms.			
Bachelors and Widows ..	414	2.07		92.7	92.1		
Bachelors and Divorced Women ..	784	3.90		6.5	6.3	92.3	88.5
Widowers and Spinsters ..	514	2.57		0.8	1.6	5.5	5.1
Widowers and Widows ..	329	1.64	Total Spinsters Widows Divorced Total	100.0	100.0	2.2	6.4
Widowers and Divorced Women ..	186	0.93				100.0	100.0
Divorced Men and Spinsters	854	4.26		Brides.			
Divorced Men and Widows	129	0.65		94.2	93.6	94.4	89.4
Divorced Men and Divorced Women ..	287	1.43	Total	4.8	4.9	3.4	4.3
				1.0	1.5	2.2	6.3
Total Marriages ..	20,035	100.00		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The proportions of widowers and widows remarrying per 100 marriages declined from 6.5 and 4.7 respectively in 1910-14 to 5.2 and 4.5 in 1944-48. During the same period the proportion of remarriages of divorced men increased from 0.7 to 5.7 and of divorced women from 0.9 to 5.1. The increased proportion of divorced persons remarrying reflects the higher number of decrees for dissolution of marriage granted in recent years. The numbers of such decrees and of remarriages of divorced men and of divorced women for certain periods since 1900 are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—DIVORCED PERSONS REMARRYING SINCE 1900.

Period.	Decrees Granted.	Remarriages.	
		Divorced Men.	Divorced Women.
1900-09	1,208	418	554
1910-19	2,258	867	1,096
1920-29	4,392	2,125	2,116
1930-39	6,059	3,172	3,099
1940	817	591	623
1941	833	585	648
1942	953	696	675
1943	1,375	696	696
1944	1,670	734	788
1945	1,727	990	964
1946	1,619	1,150	1,137
1947	2,266	1,321	1,270

In 1948 decrees granted numbered 1,660, and remarriages of men and of women 1,270 and 1,257 respectively.

Marriages in religious denominations.

In 1948 the number of marriages celebrated by ministers of religion was 18,624, representing 93 per cent. of the total marriages. Civil marriages numbered 1,411, or 7 per cent. of the total.

The numbers and proportions of civil marriages and of marriages solemnized according to the rites of the principal religious denominations for the years 1928, 1938, and 1948 are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES, RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL.

	1928.		1938.		1948.	
	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.
Church of England ..	3,762	28·53	4,894	28·60	6,249	31·19
Roman Catholic Church	2,580	19·56	3,173	18·54	3,871	19·32
Presbyterian Church ..	2,304	17·47	3,762	21·98	3,964	19·78
Methodist Church ..	1,825	13·84	2,576	15·05	2,901	14·48
Baptist Church ..	542	4·11	666	3·89	404	2·02
Church of Christ ..	319	2·42	420	2·46	364	1·82
Congregational Church..	581	4·40	388	2·27	285	1·42
Hebrew ..	45	0·36	70	0·41	206	1·03
Salvation Army ..	67	0·51	116	0·68	98	0·49
Lutheran Church ..	59	0·45	91	0·53	94	0·47
Other Sects ..	89	0·67	187	1·09	188	0·94
Civil Marriages ..	1,013	7·68	770	4·50	1,411	7·04
Total	13,186	100·00	17,113	100·00	20,035	100·00

The following statement shows the numbers and proportions of civil marriages to total marriages performed for each of the ten years 1939 to 1948 :—

VICTORIA—CIVIL MARRIAGES, 1939 TO 1948.

Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
1939	988	5·69	1944.. ..	939	5·26
1940	1,329	5·96	1945.. ..	1,089	6·60
1941	1,478	7·07	1946.. ..	1,406	6·57
1942	1,203	5·09	1947.. ..	1,418	6·94
1943	898	4·89	1948.. ..	1,411	7·04

The succeeding statement gives the numbers and proportions of civil marriages performed in the office of the Government Statist during each of the ten years 1939 to 1948 :—

CIVIL MARRIAGES PERFORMED IN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT STATIST, 1939 TO 1948.

Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Civil Marriages.
1939	863	87·35
1940	1,199	90·22
1941	1,363	92·22
1942	1,145	95·18
1943	849	94·54
1944	895	95·31
1945	1,045	95·96
1946	1,310	93·17
1947	1,341	94·57
1948	1,351	95·75

The ministers qualified by registration to celebrate marriages numbered 2,204 on 31st December, 1947. The number of ministers in each denomination (excepting Jews and Quakers) was as follows :—

Registered
clergymen.

VICTORIA—REGISTERED MINISTERS IN EACH DENOMINATION, 1947.

Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.	Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.
Church of England ..	455	Open Brethren ..	3
Roman Catholic ..	618	Particular Baptists ..	3
Presbyterian ..	350	Free Presbyterian ..	3
Methodist ..	311	Reformed Presbyterian	
Baptist ..	123	Church of Ireland ..	3
Church of Christ ..	86	Catholic and Apostolic ..	1
Salvation Army ..	84	Ballarat Town Mission ..	1
Congregational ..	60	Unitarian ..	2
Lutheran ..	40	Latter Day Saints ..	1
Seventh Day Adventist ..	34	New Church ..	1
Latter Day Saints (Re- organized) ..	9	International Bible Students	1
Apostolic Church of Aus- tralia ..	3	Greek Orthodox Church ..	2
Assemblies of God in Aus- tralia ..	5	Australian Church ..	1
Welsh Calvinistic Methodists	2	Christian Israelites ..	1
		Syrian Orthodox ..	1
		Total ..	2,204

In 1947 there were 8 civil registrars of marriages in Victoria.

BIRTHS.

**Births—
Numbers and
Rates.** The number of births registered in Victoria during the year 1948 was 46,099. This was 1,267 less than the record number (47,366) registered for the preceding year. The rate per 1,000 of population in 1948 was 22·06 as compared with 23·06 in 1947. The year 1928 was the first year in which the birth rate per 1,000 of population in Victoria was under 20. After 1928 it declined steadily until 1935, when the record low rate of 15·17 was experienced. The rate slowly increased during the next five years. In 1941 it rose to 17·81; in 1942 to 18·33, and in 1943 to 19·82. There was little fluctuation in 1944, but in 1945 the rate increased to 20·53. This was followed by an exceptional rise in 1946, the rate (23·05) being the highest recorded for twenty-four years. There was little change in 1947, but in 1948 the rate dropped to 22·06. The increase in the birth rate followed the rise in the marriage rate which began in 1932 and continued until 1942. Stillbirths, which are excluded from both births and deaths, numbered 902 and correspond to a ratio of 19·57 per 1,000 infants born alive in 1948. There were 1,042 male to every 1,000 female births in 1948, as compared with 1,062 in 1947, 1,068 in 1946, 1,061 in 1945, and 1,048 in 1944.

In young communities, birth rates calculated per 1,000 of the population are to some extent misleading. In the earlier periods when, owing to immigration, the population consists for the most part of men and women at the reproductive period of life, such rates are naturally high. As time proceeds, notwithstanding that immigration of reproductive adults may be maintained, the proportion of such adults to the total population must diminish, and with it, consequently, the birth rate.

The following table shows the number of births—male and female—the quarters in which they were registered, and the proportion per 1,000 of the population since 1854:—

VICTORIA—BIRTHS IN EACH QUARTER, 1855 TO 1948.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Births.	Sex.		Quarter of Registration.				Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
		Males.	Females.	March.	June.	September.	December.	
1855-59 ..	17,154	8,742	8,412	*	*	*	*	39.49
1860-64 ..	24,060	12,379	11,681	5,614	5,991	6,534	5,921	43.29
1865-69 ..	25,963	13,219	12,744	6,027	6,543	7,105	6,288	39.77
1870-74 ..	27,359	13,944	13,415	6,478	6,769	7,467	6,645	36.35
1875-79 ..	26,584	13,639	12,945	6,333	6,686	7,211	6,354	32.85
1880-84 ..	27,286	13,965	13,321	6,374	7,025	7,300	6,587	30.64
1885-89 ..	32,941	16,883	16,058	7,824	8,289	8,814	8,014	32.27
1890-94 ..	36,945	18,901	18,044	8,669	9,604	9,735	8,937	31.99
1895-99 ..	31,675	16,213	15,462	7,746	8,078	8,323	7,528	26.76
1900-04 ..	30,316	15,544	14,772	7,384	7,682	7,880	7,370	25.08
1905-09 ..	30,994	15,879	15,115	7,489	7,832	8,076	7,597	24.76
1910-14 ..	34,500	17,717	16,783	8,329	8,619	8,850	8,702	25.42
1915-19 ..	33,101	17,014	16,087	8,228	8,336	8,514	8,023	23.13
1920-24 ..	36,022	18,549	17,473	8,729	8,970	9,367	8,956	22.89
1925-29 ..	34,892	18,013	16,879	8,732	8,728	8,856	8,576	20.24
1930-34 ..	29,429	15,075	14,354	7,383	7,409	7,361	7,276	16.27
1935-39 ..	29,467	15,113	14,354	7,285	7,154	7,466	7,562	15.87
1940-44 ..	36,154	18,539	17,615	8,873	8,611	9,211	9,459	18.53
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1944 ..	39,358	20,142	19,216	10,068	9,515	9,811	9,964	19.78
1945 ..	41,200	21,206	19,994	10,382	10,354	9,978	10,486	20.53
1946 ..	46,693	24,119	22,574	10,178	10,096	12,032	14,387	23.05
1947 ..	47,366	24,391	22,975	12,575	11,646	11,488	11,657	23.06
1948 ..	46,099	23,520	22,579	11,200	11,498	11,388	12,013	22.06

*Not available.

Birth rates—
Australian
States and
New Zealand.

The following statement shows the birth rate per 1,000 of the population in the Australian States and in New Zealand for each of the five years 1944 to 1948:—

BIRTH RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1944 TO 1948.

Year.		Vic- toria.	New South Wales.	Queens- land.	South Aus- tralia.	Western Aus- tralia.	Tas- mania.	Aus- tralia.	New Zealand.
1944	..	19.78	20.65	23.10	21.49	22.57	21.17	20.98	21.59
1945	..	20.53	21.13	24.81	22.37	21.88	23.27	21.73	23.22
1946	..	23.05	22.83	24.79	24.89	24.56	27.15	23.62	25.24
1947	..	23.06	23.24	25.66	25.24	25.59	27.70	24.06	26.42
1948	..	22.06	22.19	24.80	24.11	25.12	26.38	23.08	25.52

The birth rate in England and Wales in 1948 was 17.9.

The average ages of fathers and of mothers of nuptial children whose births were recorded in 1948 were 32.0 and 28.6 years respectively. These averages were 4.1 and 3.9 years respectively above the average ages of bridegrooms marrying brides under 45 years of age, and of such brides, for the year 1948. The proportions of both parents in various age groups are shown in the following table for the year mentioned :—

VICTORIA—PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS OF NUPTIAL CHILDREN IN AGE GROUPS, 1948.

Father.				Mother.			
Age Group.			Percentage of Total Parents.	Age Group.			Percentage of Total Parents.
Under 20	..	..	0.42	Under 20	..	..	3.69
20 to 24	..	..	14.16	20 to 24	..	..	27.05
25 to 29	..	..	29.75	25 to 29	..	..	31.92
30 to 34	..	..	25.89	30 to 34	..	..	22.17
35 to 39	..	..	17.07	35 to 39	..	..	11.68
40 to 44	..	..	8.45	40 to 44	..	..	3.28
45 to 49	..	..	3.07	45 and over	..	..	0.21
50 and over	..	..	1.19				
Total	..		100.00	Total	..		100.00

It will be seen that, on the experience of 1948, 58.97 per cent. of the mothers were between ages 20 and 30, and 33.85 per cent. between ages 30 and 40. The proportions of fathers at these ages were 43.91 and 42.96 per cent. respectively. Of every 1,000 nuptial births, about 37 were to mothers under 20 years and about 2 to mothers aged 45 years and upwards.

The following table shows the number of births (allotted to the place of usual residence of the mother) and the births per 1,000 of the mean population in Greater Melbourne, in cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and in the remainder of the State for the five-year periods 1928 to 1932, 1933 to 1937, 1938 to 1942, and for the year 1948 :—

Birth rates in
municipalities.

BIRTHS IN GREATER MELBOURNE, CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE, AND REMAINDER OF STATE.

Municipality.	Annual Number of Births.				Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.			
	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1948.	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1948.
Greater Melbourne—								
Melbourne	1,348	1,143	1,264	1,786	14.29	12.68	13.43	18.32
Box Hill	259	214	305	560	18.31	13.84	17.60	25.40
Braybrook (Part) ..	187	157	198	413	22.28	17.65	19.16	27.48
Brighton	394	358	534	752	13.37	11.69	15.47	18.48
Broadmeadows (Part) ..	†	†	†	222				26.84
Brunswick	974	790	939	1,174	17.52	14.53	16.92	20.13
Camberwell	865	759	1,210	1,502	17.85	14.58	19.01	19.32
Caulfield	941	807	1,091	1,437	14.87	12.14	15.21	17.77
Chelsea	127	121	156	350	18.66	17.46	20.94	27.73
Coburg	742	634	776	1,055	20.80	16.35	18.34	20.71
Collingwood	532	492	507	622	16.63	16.26	16.76	21.01
Essendon	766	578	799	1,253	16.59	12.47	16.36	22.44
Fitzroy	517	467	519	719	15.96	15.24	16.77	22.42
Footscray	875	698	862	1,199	19.13	14.97	16.36	22.31
Hawthorn	424	406	568	797	12.70	11.82	15.28	19.57
Heidelberg (Part) ..	413	340	465	800	16.93	14.02	16.84	23.15
Kelior (Part)	†	†	†	56				26.42
Kew	339	284	380	543	13.97	11.58	13.84	18.13
Malvern	499	470	578	827	11.46	10.66	12.49	16.76
Moortabbins	398	359	446	832	23.14	19.20	20.50	27.10
Mordialloc	148	132	199	377	15.37	13.64	18.74	25.02
Mulgrave	†	†	†	157				36.94
Northcote	727	576	680	882	17.27	13.55	15.56	19.59
Nunawading	†	†	†	338				30.92
Oakleigh	264	217	270	414	22.72	17.91	20.59	24.57
Port Melbourne	230	197	204	313	17.24	15.22	15.16	22.17
Prahran	696	624	828	1,131	13.26	11.84	14.75	18.80
Preston	703	581	716	1,004	23.87	18.05	19.30	21.78
Richmond	693	593	650	789	16.71	14.95	16.24	20.15
Ringwood	†	†	†	157				30.49
Sandringham	272	232	327	623	15.33	12.67	16.20	22.37
South Melbourne	660	551	594	773	15.06	12.81	13.61	17.78
St. Kilda	533	512	712	1,110	11.61	10.55	13.62	18.06
Williamstown	423	326	398	485	19.28	14.64	16.94	18.20
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne—								
Ballaarat	664	596	621	959	17.14	15.74	16.01	23.61
Bendigo	550	555	566	726	17.10	18.81	18.71	23.34
Geelong	844	693	726	1,031	19.26	17.52	17.85	22.79
Ararat	†	102	104	147		20.76	19.82	24.30
Castlemaine	105	98	104	114	15.16	18.70	19.40	19.55
Colac	†	106	125	198		20.42	21.22	30.28
Echuca	†	95	88	119		21.39	19.73	25.87
Hamilton	138	117	139	181	24.47	20.08	21.79	24.90
Horsham	†	118	125	150		22.13	21.76	22.97
Maryborough	118	111	108	139	21.35	19.62	18.61	22.03
Mildura	184	207	247	295	23.23	30.54	31.35	30.38
Sale	†	86	99	161		19.97	21.85	30.90
Shepparton	151	158	188	258	27.51	27.24	29.38	30.68
Stawell	92	85	85	112	19.46	17.75	17.52	22.72
Swan Hill	†	†	†	122				27.85
Wangaratta	†	107	123	234		22.21	22.36	33.05
Warrnambool	176	175	195	270	20.17	19.40	20.70	26.60
Wonthaggi	141	91	89	89	22.44	14.95	17.80	20.89
Summary—								
Greater Melbourne ..	15,949	13,618	17,175	25,452	16.03	13.55	16.00	20.44
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	3,163	3,500	3,732	5,305	19.22	18.90	19.42	24.76
Remainder of State ..	12,693	11,426	11,719	15,342	20.40	17.62	18.27	24.34
Victoria	31,805	28,544	32,626	46,099	17.85	15.52	17.11	22.06

† Included in Remainder of State.

Multiple
births.

The number of cases of multiple births and the proportion per 1,000 of the total cases of births in each of the five years 1944 to 1948 were as follows:—

VICTORIA—MULTIPLE BIRTHS.

Year.	Cases of Twins.	Cases of Triplets.	Total Multiple Cases.	Multiple Cases, per 1,000 of Total Cases.
1944	436	7	443	11.38
1945	478	2	480	11.78
1946	562	14	576	12.49
1947	559	10	569	12.15
1948	535	2	537	11.78

There was no case of quadruplets in 1948; the last case recorded in Victoria was in 1937.

On the average of the five years 1944-48, the proportion of mothers of twins was one in 85, of mothers of triplets, one in 6,235, and of mothers of all multiple births, one in 84 mothers.

The first Victorian provision for the legal adoption of children who have never married and for the registration of each adoption by the Government Statist was contained in the *Adoption of Children Act* 1928, No. 3605. An amending Act of 1942 (No. 4903) authorizes the transmission of copies of adoption orders made in another State or Territory of the Commonwealth concerning children born in Victoria, or made in Victoria concerning children born in such other State or Territory, and makes further provision for dealing with adoption orders so transmitted to Victoria in the same manner as adoption orders made in Victoria.

The first registration was effected on 14th October, 1929, and between that date and the end of the year 1948, the adoptions of 5,485 male and 6,422 female children were registered. During the five year period 1944-1948 there were 107 female for every 100 male adoptions.

The following table shows the number of adoptions—male and female—from 1929:—

VICTORIA—CHILDREN ADOPTED, 1929 TO 1948.

Period.	Number of Children Adopted.	
	Males.	Females.
1929	31	56
1930-1934	492	833
1935-1939	843	1,156
1940-1944	1,958	2,125
1945	511	509
1946	531	599
1947	547	571
1948	572	573

Children legitimated. The first Victorian provision for the legitimation of children was contained in the *Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act* 1903, No. 1835. Up to the end of 1948 legitimations numbered 5,554.

The table below shows the number of legitimations and the proportion per 100 ex-nuptial births from 1903:—

VICTORIA—LEGITIMATIONS, 1903 TO 1948.

Period.				Number of Legitimations.	Proportion per 100 Ex-Nuptial Births.
1903-1909	..	..	..	279	2·3
1910-1919	..	..	..	1,347	7·0
1920-1929	..	..	..	1,374	8·5
1930-1939	..	..	..	1,019	8·0
1940-1944	..	..	..	1,010	15·1
1945	..	..	..	139	9·4
1946	..	..	..	145	8·5
1947	..	..	..	138	8·5
1948	..	..	..	103	6·7

Legitimation Acts are in force in all the Australian States and in New Zealand, but there are marked differences in the numbers of legitimations resulting therefrom. In proportion to every 100 children born out of wedlock in 1948 the numbers of legitimations in the several States and in New Zealand during that year were as follows:—Victoria, 6·7; New South Wales, 9·1; Queensland, 18·2; South Australia, 5·7; Western Australia, 27·1; Tasmania, 27·1; and New Zealand, 30·9.

Ex-nuptial births in Victoria. The following table shows the number of ex-nuptial births and their percentage to total births since 1909:—

VICTORIA—EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS, 1910 TO 1948.

Period.			Average Annual Number of Births.	Average Annual Number of Ex-nuptial Births.			Percentage of Total Births.
				Male.	Female.	Total.	
1910-14	..	..	34,500	1,013	979	1,992	5·77
1915-19	..	..	33,101	941	912	1,853	5·60
1920-24	..	..	36,022	869	821	1,690	4·69
1925-29	..	..	34,892	806	752	1,558	4·47
1930-34	..	..	29,429	685	620	1,305	4·43
1935-39	..	..	29,467	613	615	1,228	4·17
1940-44	..	..	36,154	701	638	1,339	3·70
1945	..	..	41,200	773	713	1,486	3·61
1946	..	..	46,693	880	831	1,711	3·66
1947	..	..	47,366	797	828	1,625	3·43
1948	..	..	46,099	776	757	1,533	3·33

The proportion of ex-nuptial to total births declined in each quinquennial period from 1910 to 1945.

In 1913 the percentage of ex-nuptial to total births was 6·03; in 1948 the percentage was 3·33.

The percentages in the various States and in New Zealand in 1948 were as follows:—Victoria, 3·33; New South Wales, 4·17; Queensland, 5·44; South Australia, 3·12; Western Australia, 3·79; Tasmania, 4·01; Australia, 4·03, and New Zealand, 3·82.

DEATHS.

The following table shows the number of deaths—male and female—the quarters in which they were registered, and the proportion per 1,000 of the population since 1854:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS IN EACH QUARTER, 1855 TO 1948.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Deaths.	Sex.		Quarter of Registration.				Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
		Males.	Females.	March.	June.	September.	December.	
1855-59 ..	7,653	4,768	2,885	*	*	*	*	17·78
1860-64 ..	10,210	6,001	4,209	3,257	2,658	2,093	2,202	18·44
1865-69 ..	11,035	6,374	4,661	3,385	2,938	2,243	2,469	16·93
1870-74 ..	10,978	6,365	4,613	3,232	2,744	2,461	2,541	14·56
1875-79 ..	13,289	7,567	5,722	4,016	3,567	2,831	2,875	16·45
1880-84 ..	12,820	7,324	5,496	3,512	3,167	3,013	3,128	14·40
1885-89 ..	16,200	9,307	6,893	4,591	3,912	3,689	4,008	15·87
1890-94 ..	16,886	9,716	7,170	4,643	4,108	3,977	4,158	14·62
1895-99 ..	16,350	9,227	7,123	4,324	3,957	3,808	4,261	13·81
1900-04 ..	15,457	8,686	6,771	3,921	3,750	3,992	3,794	12·84
1905-09 ..	14,932	8,296	6,636	3,805	3,539	3,917	3,671	11·93
1910-14 ..	15,705	8,616	7,089	3,873	3,875	4,137	3,820	11·57
1915-19 ..	16,283	8,860	7,423	3,781	4,172	4,467	3,863	11·38
1920-24 ..	16,375	8,781	7,594	3,846	4,166	4,503	3,860	10·40
1925-29 ..	16,674	8,969	7,705	3,770	4,213	4,602	4,089	9·67
1930-34 ..	17,180	9,175	8,005	3,814	4,214	4,822	4,330	9·50
1935-39† ..	18,994	10,109	8,885	4,043	4,780	5,630	4,541	10·23
1940-44† ..	20,904	11,009	9,895	4,389	5,142	6,338	5,035	10·71
1944† ..	20,502	10,644	9,858	4,358	5,212	6,129	4,803	10·30
1945† ..	20,496	10,647	9,849	4,360	5,150	5,894	5,092	10·21
1946† ..	21,534	11,280	10,254	4,736	5,273	6,012	5,513	10·63
1947† ..	21,442	11,261	10,181	4,724	4,992	6,213	5,513	10·44
1948 ..	21,825	11,503	10,322	4,367	5,368	6,672	5,418	10·44

* Not available.

† Excludes deaths of defence personnel from September, 1939 to June, 1947.

The death rate gradually declined from 18·44 in 1860-64 to 9·50 in 1930-34 but, during the quinquennium 1935-39, it rose to 10·23. This was followed by a further rise to 10·71 during the quinquennium 1940-44. The lowest death rate (8·93) in the history of the State was recorded in 1930. There has been little fluctuation in the death rate in the last six years. In 1948, the rate was 10·44.

The number of deaths in 1948 was 21,825, which was 765 more than the average of the preceding five years.

The number in 1942 was the highest on record for the State.

In 1948 there were 1,114 male to every 1,000 female deaths, the average for the preceding five years being 1,094. The corresponding proportion of male to female births in the quinquennium was 1,058.

The following statement shows the death rate per 1,000 of the population in each of the Australian States and in New Zealand for each of the five years 1944 to 1948 :—

DEATH RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1944 TO 1948.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1944	10·30	9·23	8·84	9·66	9·30	10·15	9·52	9·87
1945	10·21	9·25	8·79	9·64	9·66	9·71	9·50	10·07
1946	10·63	9·70	9·77	10·17	9·64	10·11	10·00	9·70
1947	10·44	9·53	9·15	9·62	9·39	9·17	9·60	9·38
1948	10·44	10·04	9·31	10·25	9·10	9·55	9·96	9·13

In 1948 the death rate in England and Wales was 10·8.

Compiled on the basis of allotment of all deaths to the place of usual residence, the following table shows the number of deaths, and the deaths per 1,000 of the mean population in Greater Melbourne, in cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and in the remainder of the State, for the five-year periods 1928 to 1932, 1933 to 1937, 1938 to 1942, and for the year 1948 :—

Death rates in municipalities.

DEATHS IN GREATER MELBOURNE, CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE, AND REMAINDER OF STATE.

Municipality.	Annual Number of Deaths.				Deaths per 1,000 of Mean Population.			
	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1948.	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1948.
Greater Melbourne—								
Melbourne ..	1,091	1,120	1,204	1,163	11.57	12.42	12.79	11.93
Box Hill ..	125	155	179	250	8.81	9.99	10.33	11.34
Braybrook (Part) ..	56	58	75	104	6.70	6.57	7.26	6.92
Brighton ..	272	316	366	438	9.22	10.33	10.61	10.76
Broadmeadows (Part) ..	†	†	†	55	..	..	..	6.65
Brunswick ..	532	560	601	619	9.57	10.30	10.83	10.61
Camberwell ..	430	494	641	815	8.87	9.49	10.07	10.48
Caulfield ..	552	656	767	894	8.72	9.87	10.69	11.06
Chelsea ..	63	83	93	108	9.24	12.02	12.48	8.56
Coburg ..	287	317	367	436	8.06	8.19	8.68	8.56
Collingwood ..	363	377	399	370	11.36	12.47	13.19	12.50
Essendon ..	429	484	543	628	9.30	10.46	11.12	11.25
Fitzroy ..	446	452	502	505	13.77	14.74	16.22	15.75
Footscray ..	402	425	487	548	8.79	9.12	9.24	10.20
Hawthorn ..	357	409	467	499	10.67	11.90	12.56	12.25
Heidelberg (Part) ..	193	210	257	302	7.91	8.66	9.31	8.74
Keilor (Part) ..	†	†	†	10	..	..	..	4.72
Kew ..	220	246	276	357	9.08	10.06	10.05	11.92
Malvern ..	404	459	562	631	9.28	11.07	12.15	12.79
Moorabbin ..	130	157	178	235	7.55	8.39	8.18	7.65
Mordialloc ..	85	94	126	150	8.86	9.67	11.87	9.95
Mulgrave ..	†	†	†	50	..	..	..	11.76
Northcote ..	389	408	450	457	8.77	9.59	10.30	10.15
Nunawading ..	†	†	†	116	..	..	..	10.61
Oakleigh ..	101	115	130	168	8.72	9.49	9.91	9.97
Port Melbourne ..	137	156	152	161	10.26	12.08	11.30	11.40
Prahran ..	628	662	757	734	11.96	12.56	13.49	12.20
Preston ..	242	267	306	378	8.20	8.29	8.25	8.20
Richmond ..	464	465	490	472	11.20	11.73	12.24	12.66
Ringwood ..	†	†	†	48	..	..	..	9.32
Sandringham ..	161	177	224	307	9.08	9.63	11.10	11.02
South Melbourne ..	486	507	548	577	11.09	11.78	12.55	13.27
St. Kilda ..	452	538	660	767	9.84	11.09	12.62	13.10
Williamstown ..	211	219	262	241	9.63	9.81	11.15	9.04
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne—								
Ballaarat ..	475	501	565	541	12.28	13.23	14.56	13.32
Bendigo ..	421	441	463	449	13.08	14.93	15.30	14.43
Geelong ..	455	463	484	530	10.40	11.70	11.90	11.72
Araat ..	†	63	60	59	..	12.79	11.44	9.75
Castlemaine ..	73	64	69	66	10.61	12.20	12.87	11.32
Colac ..	†	54	63	78	..	10.42	10.70	11.93
Echuca ..	†	49	54	54	..	11.01	12.11	11.74
Hamilton ..	59	62	66	84	10.35	10.60	10.34	11.55
Horsham ..	†	62	60	71	..	11.72	10.45	10.87
Maryborough ..	59	73	74	71	10.66	12.98	12.75	11.25
Mildura ..	59	80	88	73	9.05	11.74	11.17	7.52
Sale ..	†	54	54	52	..	12.59	11.92	9.98
Shepparton ..	55	77	78	89	9.96	13.29	12.19	10.58
Stawell ..	51	53	64	65	10.87	10.98	13.19	13.18
Swan Hill ..	†	†	†	40	..	..	..	9.13
Wangaratta ..	†	62	62	63	..	12.81	11.27	8.90
Warrnambool ..	91	97	97	123	10.46	10.81	10.30	12.12
Wonthaggi ..	47	50	52	59	7.45	8.17	10.40	13.85
Summary—								
Greater Melbourne ..	9,688	10,616	12,069	13,593	9.74	10.56	11.24	10.91
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne ..	1,845	2,305	2,453	2,567	11.22	12.45	12.76	11.93
Remainder of State ..	5,311	5,469	5,841	5,665	8.63	8.44	9.11	8.99
Victoria ..	16,844	18,390	20,363	21,825	9.45	10.00	10.68	10.44

† Included in Remainder of State.

Particulars of the residence of persons who died in the public institutions of Victoria give a definite indication of the assistance rendered by such institutions to people in the various divisions of the State. The numbers and proportions of such deaths in the various municipalities are given below for 1948 :—

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1948.

Area.	Number of Deaths of Residents occurring in—		Percentage of Deaths of Residents occurring in—			Deaths of Residents occurring in Public Institutions per 1,000 of Population.
	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Total Public Institutions.	
GREATER MELBOURNE—						
Melbourne	394	95	33·88	8·17	42·05	5·02
Box Hill	55	11	22·00	4·40	26·40	2·99
Braybrook (Part) ..	27	5	25·96	4·81	30·77	2·13
Brighton	70	26	15·98	5·94	21·92	2·36
Broadmeadows (Part)	9	5	16·36	9·09	25·45	1·69
Brunswick	140	39	22·62	6·30	28·92	3·07
Camberwell	136	42	16·69	5·15	21·84	2·29
Caulfield	155	41	17·34	4·58	21·92	2·42
Chelsea	18	2	16·67	1·85	18·52	1·58
Coburg	96	25	22·02	5·73	27·75	2·37
Collingwood	105	31	28·38	8·38	36·76	4·59
Essendon	135	43	21·49	6·85	28·34	3·19
Fitzroy	174	54	34·46	10·69	45·15	7·11
Footscray	142	31	25·91	5·66	31·57	3·22
Hawthorn	103	28	20·64	5·61	26·25	3·22
Heidelberg (Part)	69	28	22·85	9·27	32·12	2·81
Keilor (Part)	2	..	20·00	..	20·00	0·94
Kew	68	21	19·05	5·88	24·93	2·97
Malvern	93	29	14·74	4·59	19·33	2·47
Moorabbin	49	23	20·85	9·79	30·64	2·35
Mordialloc	24	6	16·00	4·00	20·00	1·99
Mulgrave	7	2	14·00	4·90	18·00	2·12
Northcote	112	30	24·51	6·56	31·07	3·15
Nunawading	27	8	23·27	6·90	30·17	3·20
Oakleigh	34	10	20·24	5·95	26·19	2·61
Port Melbourne ..	55	13	34·16	8·07	42·23	4·82
Prahran	187	46	25·47	6·27	31·74	3·87
Preston	90	34	23·81	8·99	32·80	2·69
Richmond	129	37	27·33	7·84	35·17	4·24
Ringwood	5	2	10·42	4·16	14·58	1·36
Sandringham	58	14	18·89	4·56	23·45	2·59
South Melbourne ..	142	48	24·61	8·32	32·93	4·37
St. Kilda	176	38	22·95	4·95	27·90	3·65
Williamstown	76	15	31·54	6·22	37·76	3·41

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS,
OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1948—*continued*.

Area.	Number of Deaths of Residents occurring in—		Percentage of Deaths of Residents occurring in—			Deaths of Residents occurring in Public Institutions per 1,000 of Population.
	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Total Public Institutions.	
CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE—						
Ballaarat	173	72	31·98	13·31	45·29	6·03
Bendigo	157	28	34·96	6·24	41·20	5·95
Geelong	196	37	36·98	6·98	43·96	5·15
Ararat	36	7	61·02	11·86	72·88	7·11
Castlemaine ..	39	3	59·09	4·55	63·64	7·20
Colac	41	6	52·56	7·69	60·25	7·19
Echuca	32	3	59·26	5·55	64·81	7·61
Hamilton	40	6	47·62	7·14	54·76	6·33
Horsham	42	4	59·15	5·63	64·78	7·04
Maryborough ..	46	7	64·79	9·86	74·65	8·40
Mildura	44	5	60·27	6·85	67·12	5·05
Sale	34	3	65·38	5·77	71·15	7·10
Shepparton ..	47	4	52·81	4·49	57·30	6·06
Stawell	24	3	36·92	4·62	41·54	5·48
Wangaratta ..	31	7	49·21	11·11	60·32	5·37
Warrnambool ..	52	6	42·28	4·88	47·16	5·71
Wonthaggi ..	38	2	64·41	3·39	67·80	9·39
SUMMARY—						
Greater Melbourne ..	3,162	882	23·26	6·49	29·75	3·25
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	1,072	203	42·42	8·03	50·45	6·08
Remainder of State	1,813	275	31·78	4·82	36·60	3·29
Victoria	6,047	1,360	27·71	6·23	33·94	3·54

PERCENTAGE OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF GREATER MELBOURNE, OF REMAINDER OF STATE AND OF VICTORIA, OCCURRING IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN CERTAIN PERIODS FROM 1910.

—	1910-14.	19 0-24.	1925-29.	1930-34.	1947.	1948.
Greater Melbourne ..	24·3	27·0	29·5	27·7	23·4	23·3
Remainder of State ..	17·0	21·2	23·7	26·3	34·6	35·0
Victoria	20·4	24·3	27·0	27·1	27·6	27·7

In 1948 the number of deaths in all public institutions was 7,407, of which 4,044 were of residents of Greater Melbourne.

Deaths in
metropolitan
public
institutions.

The number of deaths in certain metropolitan public institutions in 1948 is given in the subjoined table :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS IN CERTAIN METROPOLITAN
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1948.

Institution.	No. of Deaths.	Institution.	No. of Deaths.
HOSPITALS—GENERAL—		SANATORIA—	
Royal Melbourne	919	Heatherton	16
Alfred	689	Greenvale	16
Hamilton Russell Com- munity	14	Gresswell	15
Children's	273	Health Department Annexe	16
St. Vincent's	639	Total Sanatoria	63
St. Vincent's Intermediate..	10		
Austin	140	BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS—	
Heidelberg House	14	Melbourne (Cheltenham)	
Women's	157	Asylum	210
Prince Henry's	324	Mount Royal	123
Fairfield	38	Convent of Little Sisters of the Poor	67
Queen Victoria	180	Old Colonists' Homes	3
Jessie McPherson Com- munity	18	Total Benevolent Insti- tutions	403
Williamstown	7		
Caulfield Convale cent ..	13	FOUNDLING HOMES, REFUGES—	
Eye and Ear	5	Broadmeadows	1
After Care Home	2	Carlton	1
Total General Hospitals ..	3,492	East Melbourne	5
		The Haven, Fitzroy .. ..	..
HOSPITALS—MENTAL—		Berwick .. ..	..
Janefield .. ..	..	Total Refuges, &c.	7
Kew	110		
Mont Park	134	Total Hospitals and other Institutions	4,386
Mental Hospital and Receiv- ing House, Royal Park ..	177		
Total Mental Hospitals ..	421		

Of the 4,386 deaths in the above institutions, 2,435 were of males and 1,951 were of females.

In Greater Melbourne, in the decade 1939-48, there was an average of 11.03 deaths per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 15.76 in the decennium 1892-1901. The reduction in the rate represents a saving of approximately 54,000 lives in the last ten years. A comparison of

Decrease in
metropolitan
death rate.

the death rates from tubercular and certain other diseases for the period 1939-48 with those for the decennium 1892-1901 is shown in the following table:—

DEATH RATES—GREATER MELBOURNE.

Cause of Death.	Average Annual Deaths per 1,000,000 of Population.		
	1892-1901.	1939-48.	Decrease.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	1,654	400	1,254
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	446	43	403
Typhoid Fever	293	4	289
Scarlet Fever	33	4	29
Measles	215	8	207
Diphtheria	196	18	178
Total	2,837	477	2,360

The figures show that the mortality from the six diseases mentioned declined by 83 per cent.—the decline representing a rate of 2,360 per million of the population.

The mortality from all causes showed a net decline of 4,730 per million of the population.

The mortality of children under one year, in proportion to births, reveals a constant decline since 1890—the deaths per 1,000 children born having fallen from 133 in 1885-89 to 27 in 1944-48—a reduction of 80 per cent. In other words, where 100 infants died in the earlier period, only 20 died in the latter.

The reduction has been contributed to by various health acts and educative measures, including the notification of infectious diseases, the regulation of the manufacture, sale, and distribution of foodstuffs and patent medicines, and the ensuring of a pure water supply. The passing of the Midwives Act in 1915 and the inauguration of the Infant Welfare movement in 1917 coincide with and, in a large degree, account for the reduction of the rate in latter years.

The infantile death rates for Greater Melbourne, for the remainder of the State, and for the whole State, for certain periods since 1879, are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1880 TO 1948.

Period.	Greater Melbourne.		Remainder of State.		Victoria.	
	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
1880-84 ..	1,649	170·1	1,626	92·3	3,275	120·0
1885-89 ..	2,576	178·5	1,812	97·9	4,388	133·3
1890-94 ..	2,311	140·4	1,926	94·9	4,237	114·7
1895-99 ..	1,650	131·5	1,913	100·0	3,563	112·5
1900-04 ..	1,417	116·5	1,565	86·2	2,982	98·2
1905-09 ..	1,209	96·5	1,307	71·5	2,516	81·2
1910-14 ..	1,345	84·2	1,201	64·9	2,546	73·8
1915-19 ..	1,302	76·2	886	55·4	2,188	66·1
1920-24 ..	1,328	71·6	1,024	58·6	2,352	65·3
1925-29 ..	1,034	58·4	863	50·2	1,897	54·4
1930-34 ..	674	47·3	618	40·7	1,292	43·9
1935-39 ..	543	37·9	574	37·9	1,117	37·9
1940-44 ..	738	36·4	594	37·5	1,332	36·8
1944 ..	705	31·0	553	33·3	1,258	32·0
1945 ..	637	26·9	518	29·6	1,155	28·0
1946 ..	729	27·0	539	27·3	1,268	27·2
1947 ..	725	26·8	520	25·6	1,245	26·3
1948 ..	605	23·8	498	24·1	1,103	23·9

The practice was introduced in 1923 of allotting all births and deaths to the place of usual residence of the parties. In the cases of births and infantile deaths the mother's residence is considered to be that of the child. This accounts for the slight increase in the rate for the remainder of the State in the period 1920-24, and the corresponding decrease in the rate for the metropolis.

During the period 1937-48 the infantile death rate was subject to considerable fluctuation. In 1937 it fell below 40 per 1,000 births for the first time on record. The rate in 1937 was 36·7 ; in 1942, the highest rate (41·6) for the period was experienced. Each year after 1942 a decrease was recorded, and new low records were established in 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948. The rate in 1948 was 23·9.

Infantile deaths in municipalities. Deaths of infants under one year of age, and the deaths per 1,000 births in Greater Melbourne, in cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and in the remainder

of the State for the five-year periods 1933-37, 1938-42, and for the years 1946, 1947, and 1948 were as follows:—

INFANTILE DEATHS IN GREATER MELBOURNE, IN CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE, AND IN REMAINDER OF STATE.

Municipality.	Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.					Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.				
	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne ..	55	53	49	70	45	48·45	42·25	24·10	35·70	25·20
Box Hill ..	8	10	11	15	20	38·25	32·77	20·95	28·09	35·71
Braybrook (Part) ..	8	7	16	15	8	49·68	36·36	41·13	40·98	19·37
Brighton ..	11	16	17	22	17	30·15	29·57	20·41	26·16	22·61
Broadmeadows (Part)	†	†	†	8	8	..	..	..	39·21	36·04
Brunswick ..	32	37	35	37	29	40·23	39·61	25·02	27·73	24·70
Camberwell ..	26	39	40	18	35	33·74	31·90	23·27	12·09	23·30
Caulfield ..	27	37	41	55	28	33·47	33·55	23·92	32·24	19·49
Chelsea ..	5	4	13	15	9	43·12	26·96	42·48	45·73	25·71
Coburg ..	26	27	26	35	15	40·38	34·80	21·70	31·27	14·22
Collingwood ..	28	22	19	20	18	57·27	43·75	24·74	28·13	28·94
Essendon ..	23	30	38	28	31	40·51	37·29	28·23	23·83	24·74
Fitzroy ..	26	27	23	18	26	56·98	52·04	29·41	23·47	36·16
Footscray ..	29	34	44	38	41	40·99	39·66	35·17	29·18	34·20
Hawthorn ..	18	22	28	20	10	44·31	38·76	31·60	21·88	12·55
Heidelberg (Part)	11	18	18	17	12	32·37	37·83	23·41	21·38	15·00
Keilor (Part) ..	†	†	†	1	1	..	..	..	25·00	17·86
Kew ..	9	13	17	11	14	30·32	33·14	27·29	19·16	25·78
Malvern ..	17	19	26	21	20	35·71	32·55	27·00	21·58	24·18
Moorabbin ..	14	16	17	21	21	37·93	35·86	25·72	28·65	25·24
Mordialloc ..	7	8	11	9	10	54·55	39·27	30·99	23·19	26·53
Mulgrave ..	†	†	†	3	4	..	..	..	24·19	25·48
Northcote ..	24	24	33	23	9	41·65	35·87	31·19	22·95	10·20
Nunawading ..	†	†	†	6	8	..	..	..	24·49	23·67
Oakleigh ..	9	6	8	12	12	43·36	23·00	19·32	27·90	28·99
Port Melbourne ..	11	7	11	8	7	56·91	36·24	35·37	26·49	22·36
Prahran ..	29	27	35	31	27	46·44	33·08	26·38	24·64	23·87
Preston ..	23	28	28	28	27	40·29	39·66	26·39	24·67	26·89
Richmond ..	29	25	31	20	14	49·27	38·79	32·02	23·15	17·74

† Included in remainder of State.

INFANTILE DEATHS IN GREATER MELBOURNE, IN CITIES AND
PRINCIPAL TOWNS OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE, AND IN
REMAINDER OF STATE—*continued.*

Municipality.	Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.					Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.				
	1933- 1937.	1938- 1942.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1933- 1937.	1938- 1942.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Greater Melbourne— continued.										
Ringwood ..	†	†	†	2	2	..	..	..	12·99	12·74
Sandringham ..	9	10	11	13	15	37·04	30·62	19·16	20·87	24·08
South Melbourne ..	30	28	32	30	20	54·77	46·46	34·48	34·09	25·87
St. Kilda ..	22	31	30	42	34	43·78	43·27	25·49	35·47	30·63
Williamstown ..	13	14	21	13	8	38·63	35·64	33·55	22·61	16·49
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne—										
Ballaarat ..	25	29	26	21	17	41·62	46·05	29·71	23·89	17·73
Bendigo ..	22	24	23	21	17	40·32	42·73	34·38	25·99	23·42
Geelong ..	34	30	30	27	23	48·77	41·32	31·45	26·26	22·31
Ararat ..	4	2	4	2	6	40·85	21·15	32·00	14·71	40·82
Castlemaine ..	4	3	..	3	6	38·62	32·69	..	24·19	52·63
Colac ..	5	4	7	7	4	45·63	28·71	42·68	39·11	20·20
Echuca ..	6	3	5	5	3	62·50	31·89	50·00	38·76	25·22
Hamilton	4	5	5	9	9	37·61	34·68	22·94	38·79	49·72
Horsham ..	..	4	11	3	4	40·95	31·90	65·09	19·74	26·66
Maryborough	..	4	4	2	3	41·59	35·12	28·78	13·70	21·58
Mildura ..	..	8	9	7	5	37·68	30·72	32·03	22·58	16·95
Sale ..	..	3	5	4	6	27·97	30·36	39·37	26·49	37·26
Shepparto	..	8	12	5	5	54·50	45·65	50·85	21·19	19·38
Stawell	..	3	5	7	2	47·06	30·52	46·30	71·43	17·86
Swan Hill	..	†	6	8	5	..	..	57·69	66·66	40·98
Wangaratta ..	7	8	7	8	5	63·91	66·56	45·16	41·45	21·37
Warrnambool ..	6	7	6	6	6	34·32	35·97	22·81	21·50	22·22
Wonthaggi ..	5	3	3	2	9	50·66	40·72	32·26	18·52	10·11
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	579	639	729	725	605	42·55	37·24	27·04	26·82	23·77
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	154	148	168	147	135	43·95	39·65	34·28	27·69	25·45
Remainder of State	437	438	371	373	363	38·24	37·38	25·02	24·82	23·66
Victoria ..	1,170	1,225	1,268	1,245	1,103	41·00	37·55	27·16	26·28	23·93

† Included in remainder of State.

Infantile
mortality at
certain
ages.

The decrease in the infantile death rate, since the earlier periods, has been shared proportionally by each age-group except that of "under one week". The rate per 1,000 births for infants "under one week" has varied from 21.5 in the quinquennium 1910-14 to 22.7 in 1925-29 and 16.7 in 1944-48. The rate for infants "one week and under one month" declined from 11.1 in 1910-14 to 3.4 in 1944-48, a decrease of 69 per cent., and that for infants "one month and under one year" from 41.2 to 7.2, a decrease of 83 per cent. Between the ages of one month and one year Victoria lost 64 out of every 1,000 children born in 1900-04, 33 in 1915-19, and seven in 1944-48. In 1948 the mortality of infants "under one week" comprised 61 per cent. of the total infantile mortality.

The rate for male infants is consistently higher than that for females, and in 1944-48 exceeded the female rate by 25.5 per cent.

The tables which follow show the proportion of deaths of infants at various ages under one year for certain periods since 1899, and the male and the female death rates at each age period for the year 1948 :—

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES, 1900 TO 1948.

Period.	Deaths Under One Year per 1,000 Births.							Males.	Females.
	Under One Week.	One Week and under One Month.	One Month and under Three Months.	Three Months and under Six Months.	Six Months and under Twelve Months.	Total under One Year.			
1900-04 ..	34.4		16.9	21.0	25.9	98.2	105.7	90.4	
1905-09 ..	33.0		13.8	15.1	19.3	81.2	89.3	72.6	
1910-14 ..	21.5	11.1	12.1	12.4	16.7	73.8	81.8	65.3	
1915-19 ..	23.3	10.1	10.5	9.4	12.8	66.1	73.0	58.7	
1920-24 ..	23.7	9.3	9.8	10.0	12.5	65.3	71.8	58.5	
1925-29 ..	22.7	7.7	6.9	6.7	10.4	54.4	60.7	47.6	
1930-34 ..	22.3	5.5	4.8	4.6	6.7	43.9	49.2	38.4	
1935-39 ..	21.1	5.1	3.7	2.9	5.1	37.9	42.0	33.6	
1940-44 ..	19.8	5.6	4.0	3.2	4.2	36.8	41.0	32.5	
1944 ..	18.8	4.3	3.3	2.5	3.1	32.0	34.9	28.9	
1945 ..	17.6	3.5	2.4	1.9	2.6	28.0	31.6	24.3	
1946 ..	16.8	3.4	2.4	2.1	2.5	27.2	29.0	25.2	
1947 ..	16.3	3.3	2.4	2.0	2.3	26.3	29.7	22.6	
1948 ..	14.6	2.5	2.3	1.9	2.6	23.9	27.2	20.5	

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES, MALES AND FEMALES, 1948.

Age.	Males.			Females.		
	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Percentage at each Age.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Percentage at each Age.
Under 1 week ..	393	16.71	61.31	280	12.40	60.61
1 week and under 1 month ..	64	2.72	9.98	53	2.35	11.47
1 month and under 3 months ..	60	2.55	9.36	47	2.08	10.17
3 months and under 6 months ..	49	2.08	7.65	39	1.73	8.44
6 months and under 12 months ..	75	3.19	11.70	43	1.90	9.31
Total under one year ..	641	27.25	100.00	462	20.46	100.00

An examination of the principal causes of infantile mortality over a period of years and at various ages reveals the direction in which improvement has been achieved, and discloses those causes and factors to which future investigations need to be directed if the decline in the rate is to be maintained. The infant mortality rates from the principal causes for certain periods since 1890 and for the years 1946, 1947 and 1948 are shown in the next two tables.

VICTORIA—INFANTILE DEATH RATES FROM CERTAIN CAUSES.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births in—						
	1891-93.	1901-10.	1911-20.	1921-30.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases ..	12.41	7.31	4.87	3.57	0.90	0.61	0.96
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	11.37	8.13	6.86	6.08	3.45	3.31	2.95
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	29.66	24.62	16.13	9.85	1.31	0.99	1.15
Congenital Malformations (157) ..	3.45	4.86	4.38	4.43	3.56	3.48	3.17
Congenital Debility (158) ..	22.24	12.74	13.09	6.77	0.56	0.36	0.37
Prematurity (159) ..	13.13	14.99	15.17	15.34	8.39	9.23	7.63
Injury at Birth (160) ..	21.51	12.77	7.98	2.57	3.45	2.93	3.27
Other Diseases of Early Infancy (161) ..				3.42	3.32	2.77	2.54
Other Diseases ..				4.42	1.32	1.73	1.24
Violence ..	3.16	2.47	1.07	0.80	0.90	0.87	0.67
Total, all Causes ..	116.93	87.89	69.55	57.25	27.16	26.28	23.93

VICTORIA—INFANTILE DEATH RATES, AT VARIOUS AGES,
FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1948.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.									
	Age Period.						Total.	Males.	Females.	Average Annual Rate, 1944-48.
	Under 1 Week.	1 Week and under 1 Month.	1 Month and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 12 Months.					
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases ..	..	..	0.33	0.19	0.44	0.96	0.89	1.02	0.90
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	0.54	0.72	0.59	0.39	0.71	2.95	3.19	2.70	3.41	
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	0.02	0.17	0.22	0.33	0.39	1.13	1.23	1.02	1.16	
Congenital Malformations (157) ..	1.24	0.63	0.54	0.35	0.41	3.17	3.53	2.79	3.59	
Congenital Debility (158)	0.28	..	0.07	0.02	..	0.37	0.47	0.27	0.55	
Prematurity (159) ..	7.09	0.50	0.02	0.02	..	7.63	8.59	6.64	9.04	
Injury at Birth (160) ..	2.93	0.30	0.04	..	..	3.27	3.82	2.70	3.23
Other Diseases of early Infancy (161) ..	2.24	0.13	0.04	0.09	0.04	2.54	2.98	2.08	3.07	
Other Diseases ..	0.11	0.09	0.30	0.35	0.39	1.24	1.70	0.75	1.58	
Violence ..	0.15	..	0.17	0.17	0.18	0.67	0.85	0.49	0.79	
Total, all causes ..	14.60	2.54	2.32	1.91	2.56	23.93	27.25	20.46	27.32	
Average Annual Rate, 1944-48 ..	16.76	3.37	2.53	2.08	2.58	27.32	30.31	24.15	..	

The mortality of infants under one year from pre-natal causes (malformations, congenital debility, prematurity, injury at birth, &c.) was 19.5 per 1,000 births in the period 1944-48 and represented 71 per cent. of the total infant deaths. Variations in classification in the earlier years prevent exact comparison but no appreciable decline is evident. The rate in 1948 was 17.0 of which 81 per cent. occurred in the first week of life.

The mortality from the chief preventable diseases—infectious, respiratory, and diarrhoeal—has declined from 40·1 per 1,000 births in 1901-10 to 27·9 in 1911-20 and 5·5 in 1944-48. Deaths from diarrhoeal diseases declined from 24·6 per 1,000 births in 1901-10 to 1·2 in 1944-48, the main respiratory diseases from 8·1 to 3·4 and the infectious from 7·3 to 0·9. It will thus be seen that, since the beginning of the century, mortality of infants from diarrhoeal diseases has been reduced by 95 per cent., the main respiratory diseases by 58 per cent., and the infectious by 88 per cent. Respiratory diseases have displaced diarrhoeal as the most fatal of the preventable infantile diseases. With a few exceptions the mortality rate of males from infantile diseases is consistently higher than that of females.

The following table shows the number of deaths from the principal causes, and the death rate of infants under one month, for Greater Melbourne and the whole State, for the years 1944 to 1948:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE MONTH,
1944 TO 1948.

GREATER MELBOURNE AND WHOLE STATE.

Cause of Death.	Greater Melbourne.					Victoria.				
	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases .. ..	..	2	2	1	..	..	2	4	1	..
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia	29	39	49	36	32	46	49	67	63	58
Diarrhoeal Diseases	11	8	12	11	6	21	11	15	15	9
Malformations, &c. (157) ..	59	55	54	69	44	120	102	113	114	86
Wasting Diseases (158) ..	11	4	12	3	4	30	17	22	14	13
Prematurity (159)	249	211	218	261	194	411	393	386	434	350
Injury at Birth (160)	65	78	92	71	82	117	140	155	138	149
Other Diseases of Early Infancy (161)	67	78	88	69	50	134	134	152	124	109
Other Diseases	11	10	6	13	5	23	16	16	20	9
Violence	6	3	9	3	6	9	6	13	5	7
Total, all Causes	508	488	542	537	423	911	870	943	928	790
Deaths per 1,000 Births ..	22·3	20·6	20·1	19·9	16·6	23·1	21·1	20·2	19·6	17·1

Stillbirths and infantile mortality. A survey of the mortality from pre-natal causes is not complete without taking into account the loss due to stillbirths. In Victoria stillbirths are not registered, but, in accordance with the provisions of the Cemeteries Act and of the (Commonwealth) *Social Services Consolidation Act*, 1947, cases are notified to registrars. After careful inquiry it can be stated that the percentage of stillbirths not notified is very small.

The following table contains information relating to stillbirths and infantile mortality in Victoria :—

VICTORIA—STILLBIRTHS (RECORDED) AND INFANT MORTALITY, 1939 TO 1948.

Year.	Percentage of Stillbirths to—		Deaths of Infants under One Year per 1,000 Births.			
	Living Births.	All Births.	Exclusive of Stillbirths.			*Inclusive of Stillbirths.
			Under One Month.	One Month and under Twelve Months.	Total under One Year.	
1939 ..	2.8	2.7	26.1	9.5	35.6	62.1
1940 ..	2.8	2.7	26.5	13.0	39.5	65.6
1941 ..	2.8	2.7	26.0	10.2	36.2	62.1
1942 ..	2.6	2.5	27.7	13.9	41.6	66.3
1943 ..	2.6	2.5	23.9	11.9	35.8	60.4
1944 ..	2.3	2.3	23.1	8.9	32.0	54.2
1945 ..	2.4	2.3	21.1	6.9	28.0	50.6
1946 ..	2.2	2.1	20.2	7.0	27.2	48.0
1947 ..	2.0	2.0	19.6	6.7	26.3	45.4
1948 ..	2.0	1.9	17.1	6.8	23.9	42.7

* In the computation of the rates for the numbers inclusive of stillbirths, the latter are taken into account in both births and deaths.

It will be seen that, as with other mortality due to pre-natal influences, the rate of stillbirths shows little tendency to decrease.

Nuptial and ex-nuptial infantile death rates. On the average of the last ten years, 48 in every 1,000 ex-nuptial infants died within a year, as against 31 in every 1,000 nuptial children. The proportion of ex-nuptial children who died before the age of one year is, therefore, 1.5 times that of nuptial children. In the year 1948 the mortality rate of nuptial infants was 23.6 per 1,000 births. Births and deaths of ex-nuptial children numbered 1,533 and 52 respectively, the death rate being thus 33.9 per 1,000 births. The mortality rates of the two classes are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES OF NUPTIAL AND EX-NUPTIAL INFANTS FROM CERTAIN CAUSES.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.							
	Nuptial.				Ex-Nuptial.			
	1904-08.	1914-18.	1924-28.	1948.	1904-08.	1914-18.	1924-28.	1948.
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	6·9	6·1	5·9	2·9	18·6	12·5	13·0	3·9
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	19·8	14·2	8·9	1·0	72·6	48·6	23·1	4·6
Prematurity, Congenital Malformations, Marasmus, &c.* ..	30·3	27·2	25·0	11·0	52·1	64·9	46·9	15·6
Other Causes ..	18·3	15·3	14·7	8·7	58·7	36·6	29·3	9·8
Total, all Causes	75·3	62·8	54·5	23·6	202·0	162·6	112·3	33·9

* Not including "Injury at Birth" and "Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy".

The rates for the last five years show that, of every 1,000 children born out of wedlock, 4·2 died from diarrhoeal diseases within a year, as compared with 1·0 deaths per 1,000 nuptial infants from the same cause. The rates from the respiratory diseases (bronchitis, broncho-pneumonia, and pneumonia) for ex-nuptial and nuptial children were 5·8 and 3·3 per 1,000 births respectively.

In 1948 pre-natal causes (malformations, congenital debility, prematurity, injury at birth, &c.) accounted for 29 deaths, or 56 per cent. of the total deaths of ex-nuptial infants.

The following statement shows the infantile death rate per 1,000 births in each of the Australian States and New Zealand for the years 1944 to 1948:—

INFANTILE DEATH RATE--AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1944 TO 1948.

Year.	Vic-toria.	New South Wales.	Queens-land.	South Aus-tralia.	Western Aus-tralia.	Tas-man-ia.	Aus-tralia.	New Zealand.
1944..	31·96	30·68	31·32	29·07	32·57	38·27	31·34	30·12
1945..	28·03	30·63	29·76	28·08	29·52	27·48	29·38	27·99
1946..	27·16	30·22	29·27	27·07	31·06	30·23	29·01	26·10
1947..	26·28	29·81	30·82	24·27	30·92	27·31	28·52	25·04
1948..	23·93	30·30	27·96	29·74	25·60	27·65	27·77	21·95

In the year 1948 the infantile mortality rates recorded for the Australian States showed that Victoria had the lowest rate and New South Wales the highest.

The infantile deaths per 1,000 births in the following capital cities in 1948 were:—Melbourne, 23·8; Sydney, 27·0; Brisbane, 30·0; Adelaide, 28·8; Perth, 22·6; Hobart, 21·4; and Wellington, 23·6.

Deaths of
children
under 5
years.

In 1948 the deaths of male and of female children in Victoria under 5 years of age numbered 780 and 566 respectively.

Ages at
death.

The ages of males and of females who died in each of the years 1946 to 1948 are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—AGES AT DEATH, 1946 TO 1948.

Ages.	1946.			1947.			1948.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year..	699	569	1,268	725	520	1,245	641	462	1,103
1 year ..	58	43	101	54	39	93	53	52	105
2 years ..	30	24	54	35	18	53	45	25	70
3 years ..	22	19	41	29	15	44	20	16	36
4 years ..	17	27	44	25	13	38	21	11	32
5 to 9 years	45	53	98	92	38	130	66	46	112
10 „ 14 „	45	29	74	47	34	81	55	33	88
15 „ 19 „	95	61	156	103	60	163	88	28	116
20 „ 24 „	121	97	218	141	105	246	140	74	214
25 „ 29 „	120	128	248	131	109	240	122	92	214
30 „ 34 „	146	140	286	142	140	282	151	124	275
35 „ 39 „	181	184	365	183	153	336	191	149	340
40 „ 44 „	275	212	487	295	206	501	264	201	465
45 „ 49 „	435	344	779	398	320	718	424	299	723
50 „ 54 „	637	480	1,117	676	491	1,167	621	539	1,160
55 „ 59 „	893	634	1,527	926	646	1,572	940	630	1,570
60 „ 64 „	1,092	775	1,867	1,146	820	1,966	1,178	803	1,981
65 „ 69 „	1,298	1,020	2,318	1,302	1,022	2,324	1,376	989	2,365
70 „ 74 „	1,387	1,311	2,698	1,335	1,242	2,577	1,453	1,284	2,737
75 „ 79 „	1,539	1,498	3,037	1,492	1,537	3,029	1,514	1,640	3,154
80 „ 84 „	1,273	1,431	2,704	1,129	1,420	2,549	1,247	1,509	2,756
85 „ 89 „	648	874	1,522	659	894	1,553	678	946	1,624
90 „ 94 „	194	256	450	166	288	454	182	326	508
95 years ..	9	16	25	15	30	45	10	11	21
96 „ ..	7	9	16	6	13	19	7	12	19
97 „ ..	5	9	14	1	9	10	4	9	13
98 „ ..	3	5	8	1	4	5	7	5	12
99 „ ..	2	2	4	..	5	5	2	4	6
100 „ ..	1	3	4	2	1	3	2	..	2
101 „ ..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..
102 „ ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
104 „ ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	2
105 „ ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
Unknown ..	3	..	3	5	1	6	1	..	1
Total ..	11,280	10,254	21,534	11,261	10,181	21,442	11,503	10,322	21,825

Of the 64,801 persons who died in Victoria during the last three years 14,343 (or approximately 22 per cent.) were aged 80 years and upwards, and 16—five males and eleven females—were stated as having attained or passed the age of 100 years. In 1898 deaths of persons aged 80 years and over represented about 6 per cent. of the total deaths in that year.

The changes that have occurred in the age distribution of the population over the last 50 years are reflected in the above figures.

The causes of death in Victoria and in Greater Melbourne according to the international abridged classification (1938 revision) for the year 1948 are shown in the following table:—

International Abridged Classification. (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses.)	Deaths—1948.			
	Victoria.		Greater Melbourne.	
	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers (1, 2) ..	5	2·39	2	1·61
2. Plague (3) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
3. Scarlet Fever (8)	1	0·48	..	..
4. Whooping Cough (9)	20	9·57	12	9·64
5. Diphtheria (10)	10	4·78	9	7·23
6. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System (13)	581	277·99	408	327·71
7A. Tuberculosis of the Meninges and Central Nervous System (14)	11	5·26	6	4·82
7B. All other forms of Tuberculosis (15-22) ..	49	23·44	38	30·52
8. Malaria (28)	1	0·48	..	..
9. Syphilis (30)	121	57·90	85	68·27
10A. Influenza with Respiratory Complications (33A)	33	15·79	24	19·28
10B. Influenza without Respiratory Complica- tions (33B)	32	15·31	10	8·03
11. Smallpox (34) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
12. Measles (35)	9	4·31	4	3·21
13. Typhus Fever (39) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
14. Other Infectious or Parasitic Diseases ..	110	52·63	70	56·22
15. Cancer and other Malignant Tumours (45-55)	2,895	1,385·17	1,914	1,537·35
16. Non-malignant Tumours or Tumours of Undetermined Nature (56-57)	62	29·67	41	32·93
17. Chronic Rheumatism and Gout (59, 60) ..	70	33·49	39	31·33
18. Diabetes Mellitus (61)	453	216·75	301	241·77
19. Chronic or Acute Alcoholism (77)	17	8·13	12	9·64
20. Vitamin-deficiency Diseases, other General Diseases, Diseases of the Blood, and Chronic Poisonings	223	106·70	138	110·84
21. Meningitis (non-meningococcal and Diseases of the Medulla and Spinal Cord (81, 82)	64	30·62	37	29·72
22. Intra-cranial Lesions of Vascular Origin (83)	2,446	1,170·33	1,597	1,282·73
23. Other Diseases of the Nervous System and Sense Organs	190	90·91	123	98·79
24. Disease of the Heart (90-95)	7,093	3,393·78	4,301	3,454·62
25. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	634	303·35	371	297·99
26A. Acute Bronchitis (106A and C)	26	12·44	15	12·05
26B. Chronic Bronchitis (106B and D)	109	52·15	68	54·62
27. Pneumonia and Broncho-pneumonia (107- 109)	1,242	594·26	832	668·27
28. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	296	141·63	189	151·81
29A. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years of age) (119)	59	28·23	42	33·73
29B. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (two years and over) (120)	52	24·88	30	24·10
30. Appendicitis (121)	74	35·41	33	26·51

International Abridged Classification. (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses.)	Deaths—1948.			
	Victoria.		Greater Melbourne.	
	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.
31A. Cirrhosis of Liver (124)	139	66·51	105	84·34
31B. Other Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Passages (125-127)	129	61·72	82	65·86
32A. Hernia, Intestinal Obstruction (122) ..	160	76·56	95	76·30
32B. Other Diseases of the Digestive System ..	275	131·58	189	151·81
33. Nephritis (130-132)	1,143	546·89	721	579·12
34. Other Diseases of the Genito-urinary sys- tem (133-139)	319	152·63	190	152·61
35. Puerperal Infection (140,147)	16	7·65	8	6·42
36. Other Diseases of Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium (141-146, 148-150)	47	22·49	21	16·87
37. Diseases of the Skin, Cellular Tissue, Bones, and Organs of Movement (151-156) ..	28	13·40	13	10·44
38. Congenital Malformations and Debility, Premature Birth, and Diseases peculiar to the First Year of Life (157-161) ..	819	391·87	435	349·40
39. Senility, Old-age (162)	585	279·90	320	257·03
40. Suicide (163, 164)	166	79·43	102	81·93
41. Homicide (165-168)	19	9·09	14	11·24
42. Automobile Accidents (all motor-driven road vehicles) (170)	392	187·56	274	220·08
43. Other Violent or Accidental Deaths ..	569	272·24	260	208·84
44. Causes of Death ill-defined, Unknown, or Unspecified (199, 200)	31	14·83	13	10·44
	21,825	10,442·58	13,593	10,918·07

**Typhoid
Fever.**

In 1948 deaths from typhoid fever numbered 5, being equivalent to a rate of 2·4 per million of population, as compared with rates of 1·5 in 1947, 1·0 in 1946, 3·0 in 1945, 2·0 in 1944, 31 in 1920-24, 108 in 1905-09, and 301 in 1895-99. Cases of typhoid fever reported in 1948 numbered 32 or 15 per million of population, as against 10 per million in 1947, 11 in 1946, 11 in 1945, 8 in 1944, 238 in 1943, 8 in 1942, 259 in 1920-24, 1,254 in 1905-09, and 2,884 in 1895-99.

The number of cases reported in 1944 was the lowest on record.

The Moorabbin outbreak in March accounted for 433 of the typhoid fever cases in 1943, and was responsible for 23 deaths.

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet fever reached its highest incidence in the last ten years in 1944, when 7,824 cases were reported. Since that year it has declined considerably. Both the case fatality, and the mortality per million of population are very low.

In 1948 there was 1 death from scarlet fever, which corresponded to a rate of 0·5 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 0·5 in 1947, 1·5 in 1946, 2 in 1945, 4 in 1944, and 7 in 1943. During 1948 there were 1,546 cases reported, as against 1,851 in 1947, 3,282 in 1946, 2,710 in 1945, and 7,824 in 1944.

For the five years 1944-48 the deaths were less than 1 per cent. of the cases. Forty-one per cent. of these deaths were of children under ten years of age.

Whooping Cough. Whooping cough was responsible for 20 deaths in 1948, which equalled a rate of 10 per million of the population at all ages, as compared with rates of 3 in 1947, 5 in 1946, 7 in 1945, and 9 in 1944. The infantile death rate is more affected than the general rate by this ailment, as it is practically confined to children. In the year under review 18 of the deaths were of infants under 1 year of age.

Diphtheria. A very great reduction has taken place since 1890 in the proportion of diphtheria cases which ended fatally. On the average of the five years 1944 to 1948, 46 per cent. of those who died were under 5 years, and 78 per cent. were under 10 years of age.

The appended table shows for Victoria and Greater Melbourne the reported cases of and deaths from diphtheria, their proportions to the population, and the ratios of deaths to cases for certain periods since 1894:—

DIPHTHERIA IN VICTORIA AND IN GREATER MELBOURNE, 1895 TO 1948.

Period.			Annual Cases Reported.		Annual Deaths.		Deaths per 100 Cases Reported.
			Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	
VICTORIA.							
1895-99	..	..	1,584	134·6	221	18·8	13·9
1900-04	..	..	1,680	139·0	159	13·2	9·5
1905-09	..	..	1,410	112·6	89	7·1	6·3
1910-14	..	..	4,612	339·1	212	15·6	4·6
1915-19	..	..	4,901	342·5	209	14·6	4·3
1920-24	..	..	5,739	364·6	179	11·4	3·1
1925-29	..	..	3,176	183·8	93	5·4	2·9
1930-34	..	..	5,645	312·1	124	6·8	2·2
1935-39	..	..	3,202	171·5	65	3·5	2·0
1940-44	..	..	1,590	81·4	45	2·3	2·8
1944	..	..	1,247	62·4	34	1·7	2·7
1945	..	..	899	44·7	39	1·9	4·3
1946	..	..	496	24·5	17	0·8	3·4
1947	..	..	405	19·7	13	0·6	3·2
1948	..	..	397	19·0	10	0·5	2·5

DIPHTHERIA IN VICTORIA AND IN GREATER MELBOURNE, 1895 TO 1948—*continued*.

Period.	Annual Cases Reported.		Annual Deaths.		Deaths per 100 Cases Reported.
	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	
GREATER MELBOURNE.					
1895-99	748	162.1	113	24.6	15.1
1900-04	686	136.9	58	11.6	8.5
1905-09	758	140.8	46	8.5	6.1
1910-14	2,343	374.3	114	18.3	4.9
1915-19	2,864	402.6	127	17.9	4.4
1920-24	2,555	314.6	78	9.7	3.1
1925-29	1,843	191.1	52	5.4	2.8
1930-34	3,151	315.9	68	6.8	2.1
1935-39	1,864	182.4	36	3.5	1.9
1940-44	914	80.9	25	2.2	2.8
1944	635	54.0	18	1.5	2.8
1945	610	51.2	28	2.4	4.6
1946	276	23.3	11	0.9	4.0
1947	277	22.6	10	0.8	3.6
1948	280	22.5	9	0.7	3.2

The number of cases (397) reported in Victoria in 1948 was the lowest ever recorded, the incidence rate being 19.0 per 100,000 of population.

The cases of diphtheria which occurred in the metropolitan area, the three principal cities outside Greater Melbourne and in the remainder of the State in each of the five years 1944 to 1948, and their proportions to the respective populations for the period 1910-19 and the years 1946, 1947, and 1948 are given in the subjoined table:—

VICTORIA—CASES OF DIPHTHERIA.

Locality.	Reported Cases of Diphtheria.					Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.			
	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1910-19.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Greater Melbourne	635	610	276	277	280	39.3	2.3	2.3	2.2
Ballaarat ..	7	4	5	2	3	24.3	1.2	0.5	0.7
Bendigo ..	60	29	21	7	9	84.6	6.8	2.3	2.9
Geelong ..	37	12	..	1	2	43.4	..	0.2	0.4
Remainder of State	508	244	194	118	103	25.7	2.7	1.7	1.4

Tuberculosis
(all forms)

The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1948 was 641, the rate per million of population being 307. This is the lowest rate recorded for Victoria.

Death rates from tuberculosis of the respiratory system.

The deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1948 numbered 581—367 being of males and 214 of females—and equalled a rate of 278 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 298 in 1947, 321 in 1946, 323 in 1945, 310 in 1944, 660 in 1918-22, 855 in 1908-12, and 1,365 in 1890-92. In 1948 tuberculosis of the respiratory system was responsible for 91 per cent. of the total deaths from tuberculosis.

The rates of mortality for Victoria at the last seven census periods per 10,000 of each sex, in age groups, are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULOSIS OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM IN AGE GROUPS.

Age Group.	Annual Mortality from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System per 10,000 of each Sex.						
	1880-82.	1890-92.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.	1932-34.	1946-48.
<i>Males.</i>							
Under 15 ..	1.74	0.90	0.38	0.46	0.42	.24	0.13
15 to 19 ..	6.88	5.41	5.06	3.71	2.67	1.07	0.35
20 to 24 ..	21.19	18.29	14.35	8.45	7.88	3.59	1.66
25 to 34 ..	30.33	23.70	20.31	13.11	9.70	5.44	2.20
35 to 44 ..	25.11	28.28	22.07	15.63	12.43	7.46	3.63
45 to 54 ..	28.65	31.17	25.05	18.07	13.94	9.05	7.13
55 to 64 ..	31.41	36.48	35.75	18.88	13.03	10.56	9.83
65 and upwards	18.08	25.40	31.07	13.55	8.65	7.80	11.89
All Ages ..	15.33	15.73	13.51	8.98	7.11	4.74	3.82
<i>Females.</i>							
Under 15 ..	1.76	1.43	0.93	0.97	0.38	0.23	0.15
15 to 19 ..	12.50	9.51	8.18	7.62	4.84	2.92	1.02
20 to 24 ..	21.00	18.49	12.79	12.68	10.20	6.60	2.79
25 to 34 ..	26.56	21.77	18.15	14.03	10.00	7.08	3.62
35 to 44 ..	24.06	22.53	17.74	11.51	9.15	5.26	3.02
45 to 54 ..	20.72	16.13	14.41	8.18	5.91	3.82	2.78
55 to 64 ..	14.26	12.35	12.52	7.47	4.95	3.78	2.19
65 and upwards	13.12	8.25	8.18	5.29	3.94	2.88	3.04
All Ages ..	12.75	11.51	9.72	7.61	5.55	3.70	2.18

A comparison of the mortality from tuberculosis of the respiratory system for the census periods 1932-34 and 1946-48 shows that, except in the age group 65 and upwards, lower death rates obtained in each age group in 1946-48 than in 1932-34.

Deaths from
tuberculosis of
the respiratory
system at
various ages.

The number of deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in each of the five years 1944 to 1948, and the age and sexes of the deceased, are given in the next table:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM AT VARIOUS AGES.

Age Group.	Males.					Females.				
	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
0-9	1	2	2	4	2	1	4	4	2	1
10-14 .. ..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	2	..	2
15-19	8	10	4	1	3	17	13	9	10	4
20-24	13	13	21	14	6	33	36	24	29	17
25-29	21	22	11	13	17	39	35	39	26	26
30-34	26	24	22	24	17	38	31	29	26	30
35-39	30	38	28	22	22	22	28	29	26	25
40-44	35	27	33	30	27	24	34	19	16	15
45-49	51	43	45	43	44	18	9	19	15	16
50-54	54	54	58	43	35	10	12	18	17	24
55-59	47	37	47	46	46	13	11	10	13	12
60-64	50	43	51	51	43	10	16	12	7	15
65-69	41	33	40	48	37	11	11	14	8	11
70 and over ..	45	36	41	52	67	20	27	18	26	16
Total	422	382	404	391	367	257	267	246	221	214

For the year 1948, the average age of those who died from tuberculosis of the respiratory system was 54·7 years for males and 43·7 years for females.

Tubercular diseases (tuberculosis of the respiratory system excepted).

In 1948 there occurred in Victoria 60 deaths from tubercular diseases (excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system). This number represented a rate of 29 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 32 in 1947, 30 in 1946, 40 in 1945, 37 in 1944, 134 in 1918-22, 182 in 1908-12, and 379 in 1890-92.

Tubercular death rates in Melbourne, Ballaarat, Bendigo, and Geelong.

In earlier periods, the death rate from tuberculosis was considerably higher in the Metropolis and in the mining centres of Ballaarat and Bendigo—Bendigo in particular—than in the rural portions of the State.

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULAR DISEASES IN MELBOURNE, BALLAARAT, BENDIGO, AND GEELONG.

Period.	Deaths per 10,000 of the Population.											
	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.				Other Tubercular Diseases.				All Tubercular Diseases.			
	Greater Melbourne.	Ballaarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Greater Melbourne.	Ballaarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Greater Melbourne.	Ballaarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.
1891-1900 ..	16·7	17·1	24·1	†	4·7	3·5	4·0	†	21·4	20·6	28·1	†
1901-05 ..	13·9	15·3	22·7	†	4·2	4·0	4·7	†	18·1	19·3	27·4	†
1906-10 ..	10·8	11·5	21·2	†	3·0	2·1	2·0	†	13·8	13·6	23·2	†
1911-15 ..	9·1	10·3	16·5	†	2·1	2·2	2·1	†	11·2	12·5	18·6	†
1916-20 ..	8·3	11·2	16·0	†	1·9	1·5	2·0	†	10·2	12·7	18·0	†
1921-25 ..	6·9	6·7	11·9	4·6	1·5	1·0	2·2	1·9	8·4	7·7	14·1	6·5
1926-30 ..	5·9	5·2	10·7	4·2	1·0	0·4	0·8	0·8	6·9	5·6	11·5	5·0
1944 ..	3·8	3·5	6·2	3·2	0·4	0·3	0·3	0·2	4·2	3·8	6·5	3·4
1945 ..	3·6	3·6	3·9	3·6	0·4	0·5	0·3	0·5	4·0	4·1	4·2	4·1
1946 ..	3·7	3·0	6·2	2·5	0·3	0·2	1·3	0·7	4·0	3·2	7·5	3·2
1947 ..	3·5	1·7	5·5	0·9	0·3	0·3	0·3	0·2	3·8	2·0	5·8	1·1
1948 ..	3·3	3·7	5·1	1·8	0·3	0·2	..	0·2	3·6	3·9	5·1	2·0

† Not available.

Influenza. The deaths from influenza in 1948 numbered 65. This corresponded to a rate of 31 per million of the population as compared with rates of 18 in 1947, 26 in 1946, 18 in 1945, 23 in 1944, 2,407 in 1919, 71 in 1913-17, 109 in 1908-12, and 381 in 1890-92.

The rate of mortality in 1948 was 15 per cent. above the rate of the previous quinquennium.

Of the deaths recorded in 1948, 51 per cent. were associated with specified respiratory complications.

Influenza has generally proved more fatal to elderly people than to those at middle or young ages. In the epidemic of 1919, however, 72 per cent. of the deaths were of persons between 20 and 50 years of age. In 1948 46 per cent. of the deaths were of persons under 50 years of age.

Small-pox— During the years 1853 to 1948, only 31 deaths occurred
Deaths from. from this cause. The last death from small-pox in Victoria occurred in 1921.

Measles. Although the mortality from measles has varied very considerably from period to period, there has been no very severe epidemic since 1898, when 671 deaths resulted from the disease. There were 9 deaths from measles in 1948. Rates per million of population were 4 in 1948, 7 in 1947, 6 in 1946, 7 in 1945, and 0 in 1944. The disease chiefly affects children. For the five years 1944-48 38 per cent. of those who died from the disease were under 2 years and 62 per cent. were under 5 years of age.

Other infectious and parasitic diseases. Deaths in 1948 from diseases included under this heading (cause No. 14, on page 208) were cerebro-spinal meningitis 16, tetanus 11, septicaemia 7, dysentery 6, acute poliomyelitis 5, acute infectious encephalitis 4, hydatid disease 14, Hodgkin's disease 26, and other diseases 21.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. Fifty-four cases were reported in 1948.

Deaths from cerebro-spinal meningitis numbered 16 in 1948, 11 in 1947, 20 in 1946, 21 in 1945, 23 in 1944, 76 in 1943, and 106 in 1942.

Poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis). The incidence of Poliomyelitis in Victoria has been recorded since the year 1916, when the disease was added to the list of compulsorily notifiable diseases. The highest incidence (until the 1937-38 epidemic) was 303 cases in 1918. Seven years later, in 1925, 140 cases were reported. In the 1937-38 epidemic there were 2,096 cases, the number of deaths being 113. Cases reported in 1947 and 1948 numbered 124 and 55 respectively.

Poliomyelitis was responsible for 5 deaths in 1948, 9 in 1947, 16 in 1946, 9 in 1945, 11 in 1944, 9 in 1943, 11 in 1942, 2 in 1941, 7 in 1940, and 9 in 1939.

Deaths from cancer in 1948 numbered 2,895, and represented a death rate of 1,385 per million of the whole population, as compared with rates of 1,416 in 1947, 1,400 in 1946, 1,367 in 1945, 1,331 in 1944, 934 in 1918-22, 833 in 1908-12, and 584 in 1890-92.

Cancer death rates, computed in relation to the general population in earlier and in later periods, are not comparable owing to the changed age distribution of the people. Satisfactory comparisons are obtained by relating the deaths with the number of persons in the community of the same sex, in age groups. This has been done for five census periods, when the numbers of the people in age groups were accurately known, and the results are given in the appended table:—

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES FROM CANCER IN AGE GROUPS.

Age Group.	Average Annual Deaths from Cancer per 10,000 of each Sex.				
	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.	1932-34.	1946-48.
<i>Males.</i>					
Under 5	0·30	0·73	0·46	0·27	0·60
5 to 9	0·42	0·25	0·13	0·20	0·34
10 to 14	0·20	0·16	0·14	0·24	0·24
15 to 19	0·22	0·15	0·30	0·37	0·61
20 to 24	0·33	0·71	0·64	0·73	0·69
25 to 34	1·26	0·96	0·76	0·93	1·20
35 to 44	3·69	3·16	3·31	3·04	3·00
45 to 54	14·14	16·03	13·94	10·13	11·65
55 to 64	36·00	36·36	40·46	37·25	32·73
65 to 74	59·04	74·15	78·21	85·19	80·46
75 and over ..	74·04	88·40	110·12	133·78	148·20
All Ages	7·52	8·50	9·52	11·63	13·51
<i>Females.</i>					
Under 5	0·26	0·19	0·39	0·38	0·48
5 to 9	0·04	0·10	0·17	0·17	0·18
10 to 14 .. ..	.. ..	0·27	0·05	0·08	0·40
15 to 19	0·28	0·44	0·15	0·17	0·04
20 to 24	0·23	0·41	0·30	·39	0·60
25 to 34	1·61	1·39	1·28	1·57	1·75
35 to 44	6·05	7·26	6·61	6·00	6·23
45 to 54	18·13	17·87	19·14	17·31	16·47
55 to 64	33·05	38·03	34·48	35·82	33·40
65 to 74	51·18	61·66	63·05	61·17	61·44
75 and over ..	62·70	86·19	92·86	106·19	111·49
All Ages	6·64	8·76	9·63	12·00	14·50

Deaths from cancer occur at all age periods, but the rates in the foregoing table show that it is essentially a disease of later life, increasing rapidly in the groups past middle age and reaching a maximum mortality rate in the oldest age group.

**Cancer—
Deaths at
certain ages.**

The number of deaths from cancer in certain age groups in each of the five years 1944 to 1948 is given below:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM CANCER AT CERTAIN AGES.

Age Group.	Males.					Females.				
	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
0-14	5	9	4	17	10	3	7	9	8	9
15-24	5	4	8	14	9	8	6	6	5	5
25-34	17	13	13	28	16	23	25	26	33	26
35-44	29	43	36	49	48	64	77	92	92	84
45-54	119	131	143	152	143	218	229	210	207	228
55-64	305	315	312	323	311	325	329	326	373	354
65-74	427	402	443	392	445	393	399	415	375	410
75-84	312	314	319	347	334	297	323	332	344	332
85 and over ..	49	53	61	67	66	60	72	81	82	65
Total	1,268	1,284	1,339	1,389	1,382	1,391	1,467	1,497	1,519	1,513

Ninety-three per cent. of the deaths from cancer in 1948 were at ages 45 years and upwards.

The widely different social and economic effects produced by the prevalence of and deaths from the two important diseases, cancer and tuberculosis of the respiratory system, are evidenced by the ages of their victims. For the year 1948 the average age of those who died from the former was 66·8 years for males and 64·9 years for females, while the corresponding averages for the latter were 54·7 years for males and 43·7 years for females.

Seat of cancer. The following table shows the seat of cancer in persons who died from this disease in 1948:—

VICTORIA—SEAT OF CANCER, 1948.

Seat of Cancer.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Buccal Cavity and Pharynx	69	18	87
Digestive Organs and Peritoneum—			
Oesophagus	43	13	56
Stomach and Duodenum	342	232	574
Intestines other than Duodenum or Rectum ..	172	225	397
Rectum	76	62	138
Liver and Biliary Passages	51	49	100
Pancreas	56	43	99
Peritoneum	13	8	21
Other Digestive Organs	1	..	1
Respiratory System	134	51	185
Uterus .. .. .	..	173	173
Other Female Genital Organs .. .. .	..	89	89
Breast	4	324	328
Male Genital Organs	170	..	170
Urinary Organs	88	49	137
Skin	34	33	67
Brain and other parts of the Nervous System—			
Glioma (not specified as benign)	8	5	13
Other	31	15	46
Other Unspecified Organs	90	124	214
	1,382	1,513	2,895

Hydatids. In 1948 there were 8 male and 6 female deaths from hydatids, of which 4 of males and 4 of females were attributed to hydatid tumour of the liver. The deaths from hydatids in 1948 were equivalent to a rate of 7 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 6 in 1947, 11 in 1946, 7 in 1945, 11 in 1944, 16 in 1918-22, 22 in 1908-12, and 51 in 1890-92.

Diabetes. During 1948 diabetes was responsible for 146 male and 307 female deaths, representing a rate of 217 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 213 in 1947, 213 in 1946, 208 in 1945, 203 in 1944, 130 in 1918-22, and 107 in 1908-12.

Vitamin-deficiency diseases, other general diseases, diseases of the blood, and chronic poisonings.

Deaths in 1948 from diseases in this category (cause No. 20 on page 208) were acute rheumatic fever 5, exophthalmic goitre 15, other diseases of the thyroid and parathyroid glands 17, pernicious and other hyperchromic anaemias 30, other anaemias 13, leukaemia 98, and other diseases 45.

Meningitis (non-meningococcal) and diseases of the medulla and spinal cord.

In 1948 deaths from these causes numbered 64, the rate per million of population being 31, as compared with rates of 40 in 1947, 33 in 1946, 36 in 1945, and 50 in 1944.

Intra-cranial lesions of vascular origin.

In 1948 982 male and 1,464 female deaths were ascribed to these causes, the total—2,446—corresponding to a rate of 1,170 per million of the population. Of the 2,446 deaths in 1948, 1,497 were due to cerebral haemorrhage, 18 to cerebral embolism, 805 to cerebral thrombosis, 26 to softening of the brain, and 100 to hemiplegia and unspecified paralysis.

Other diseases of nervous system and sense organs.

In this category (cause No. 23 on page 208) in 1948, were 12 deaths from encephalitis (non-epidemic), 35 from epilepsy, 18 from diseases of the ear and mastoid process, and 125 from other diseases.

Diseases of the heart.

During 1948 there were 7,093 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart, including 17 due to pericarditis, 358 to endocarditis, 3,965 to diseases of the myocardium, 2,252 to diseases of coronary arteries, 54 to angina pectoris, 100 to angina pectoris with record of coronary disease, and 347 to other diseases of the heart. The total causes in 1948 represented a rate of 3,394 per million of the population, the rates for previous years being 3,276 in 1947, 3,302 in 1946, 3,153 in 1945, 3,020 in 1944, 1,347 in 1922-26, and 1,441 in 1908-12.

Other diseases of the circulatory system.

Deaths under this heading (cause No. 25 on page 208) in 1948 were arterio-sclerosis 473, and other diseases 161. Of the deaths from arterio-sclerosis 81 per cent. were of persons aged 70 years and over.

Diseases of the respiratory system.

In 1948 the deaths from respiratory diseases numbered 1,673, which represented a rate of 800 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 775 in 1947, 829 in 1946, 777 in 1945, and 791 in 1944. Of the deaths in the year under

review, 26 were due to acute bronchitis, 109 to chronic bronchitis, 841 to broncho-pneumonia, 198 to lobar pneumonia, 203 to pneumonia unspecified, 19 to pleurisy, 165 to congestion, edema, embolism, &c., of lungs, 45 to asthma, and 67 to other diseases. Further details will be found under causes Nos. 26 to 28 on page 208.

In 1948 the greatest mortality from the respiratory diseases occurred during the month of July.

Diseases of the digestive system. In 1948 there were 525 male and 363 female deaths from digestive ailments, representing a proportion of 425 per million of the population, as against rates of 382 in 1947, 442 in 1946, 399 in 1945, 464 in 1944, 807 in 1922-26, and 2,382 in 1890-92. Deaths from principal diseases in 1948 were:—157 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 111 from diarrhoeal diseases, 74 from appendicitis, 64 from hernia, 96 from intestinal obstruction, 139 from cirrhosis of the liver, 55 from biliary calculi, 51 from other diseases of the gall bladder and biliary passages, and 141 from other diseases. Further rates and details are given under causes Nos. 29 to 32 on pages 208 and 209.

The 111 deaths from diarrhoeal diseases in 1948 correspond to a rate of 53 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 42 in 1947, 58 in 1946, 53 in 1945, 66 in 1944, 380 in 1922-26, 833 in 1908-12, and 1,342 in 1890-92. The age incidence of these diseases shows that they are heaviest at the extremes of life. In earlier years these diseases constituted one of the most fatal menaces to infant life: the decline in the mortality therefrom has, however, been progressive, and, since 1928, the rate has reached small proportions. Of the deaths at all ages in 1948, 52 were of infants under one year of age, 7 were between the ages of one and two years, while 27 were of persons aged 65 years and over. Infantile diarrhoea has been further dealt with in the section "Infantile Mortality".

Diseases of the genito-urinary system. In 1948 there were 1,462 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. This number represented a rate of 699 per million of the population, as against rates of 719 in 1947, 803 in 1946, 786 in 1945, 829 in 1944, 670 in 1918-22, and 700 in 1909-12. In 1948 nephritis was responsible for 1,143 deaths, other diseases of the kidney and ureters for 65, diseases of the prostate for 184, and other genito-urinary diseases for 70.

Maternal deaths.

The death rate of women in childbirth is usually ascertained by comparing the number of deaths of parturient women with the total number of live births. In the following table are given the proportions of deaths from puerperal infection and all other diseases of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium for each of the years 1944 to 1948, and the averages of previous periods back to 1871. The rates given for years prior to 1940 are not strictly comparable with those for subsequent years:—

VICTORIA—MATERNAL DEATHS, 1871 TO 1948.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Deaths from—						Rate per 10,000 Live Births from—					
	Puerperal Infection.			Total.			Puerperal Infection.			Total.		
	Infection during Childbirth and the Puerperium. (Detailed List No. 147).	Post-abortive Infection (Detailed List No. 140).		Other Diseases of Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium. (Detailed List No. 141-146, 148-150).	Including Criminal Abortion.	Excluding Criminal Abortion.	Infection during Childbirth and the Puerperium. (Detailed List No. 147).	Post-abortive Infection (Detailed List No. 140).		Other Diseases of Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium. (Detailed List No. 141-146, 148-150).	Including Criminal Abortion.	Excluding Criminal Abortion.
		Spontaneous, Therapeutic, or Unspecified.	Criminal Abortion.					Spontaneous, Therapeutic, or Unspecified.	Criminal Abortion.			
1871-1880		46		127	173		17.12			47.26	64.38	
1881-1890		64		121	185		20.48			38.71	59.19	
1891-1900		66		117	183		20.20			35.81	56.01	
1901-1910		52		114	166		16.93			37.12	54.05	
1911-1920		53		94	147		15.42			27.35	42.77	
1921-1925		43		102	145		11.96			28.37	40.33	
1926-29..	44	12	21	121	198	177	12.78	3.46	5.92	34.86	57.02	51.10
1930-34..	33	9	27	91	160	133	11.08	3.13	9.17	30.99	54.37	45.20
1935-39..	18	6	41	74	139	98	5.97	1.90	14.05	25.25	47.17	33.12
1940-44..	19	2	36	63	120	80	5.31	0.67	9.90	17.26	33.14	22.18
1944 ..	11	4	17	69	101	81	2.79	1.02	4.32	17.53	25.66	20.58
1945 ..	14	2	12	50	78	63	3.40	0.48	2.91	12.14	18.93	15.29
1946 ..	18	4	9	41	72	59	3.85	0.86	1.93	8.78	15.42	12.64
1947 ..	14	3	18	56	91	71	2.96	0.63	3.80	11.82	19.21	14.99
1948 ..	9	1	6	47	63	53	1.95	0.22	1.30	10.20	13.67	11.50

NOTE.—See following table regarding deaths from Criminal Abortion.

The following table gives information, in age groups, relating to the causes of death of women in childbirth, and the total number of children born to married mothers who died in childbirth, for the year 1948 :—

VICTORIA—MATERNAL DEATHS, 1948.

Causes of Death.	Ages at Death.						Number of Married Mothers.	Number of Un-Married Mothers.
	Under 20.	20 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 and Over.	Total.	
140. Post-abortion Infection—								
(a) Spontaneous, Therapeutic, or Un-specified .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
(b) Criminal Abortion .. .. .	..	1	2	1	1	1	6	..
141. Abortion without mention of Septic Conditions—								
(a) Spontaneous, Therapeutic, or Un-specified .. .. .	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	..
(b) Criminal Abortion	1	1	..	2	..	..	4	1
142. Ectopic Gestation .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	2	3	..
143. Haemorrhage of Pregnancy .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
144. Toxaemias of Pregnancy—								
(a) Eclampsia of Pregnancy .. .. .	..	1	..	..	2	..	3	..
(b) Albuminuria and Nephritis of Pregnancy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
(c) Acute Yellow Atrophy of Liver Associated with Pregnancy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(d) Other Toxaemias of Pregnancy .. .. .	..	..	2	..	..	1	3	..
145. Other Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	2	3	..
146. Haemorrhage of Childbirth and the Puerperium .. .. .	..	2	1	2	2	1	8	..
147. Infection during Childbirth and the Puerperium—								
(a) Puerperal Infections .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	2	3	..
(b) Puerperal Thrombophlebitis .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
(c) Puerperal Embolism and Sudden Death .. .. .	..	1	2	2	..	..	5	..
148. Puerperal Toxaemias—								
(a) Puerperal Eclampsia .. .. .	..	1	1	1	..	..	3	..
(b) Puerperal Albuminuria and Nephritis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(c) Acute Yellow Atrophy of Liver (Post-partum) .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
(d) Other Puerperal Toxaemias .. .. .	..	1	..	..	1	..	2	..
149. Other Accidents of Childbirth—								
(a) Laceration, Rupture, or other Trauma of Pelvic Organs and Tissue .. .. .	..	2	..	..	3	1	6	..
(b) Other Accidents of Childbirth .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
150. Other or Unspecified Diseases of Childbirth and the Puerperium—								
(a) Puerperal Diseases of the Breast .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(b) Others .. .. .	..	1	1	..	2	2	6	1
Total	1	12	9	15	12	14	63	4
Number of Married Mothers	1	10	8	15	11	14	59	..
Number of Unmarried Mothers .. .. .	..	2	1	..	1	..	4	..
Issue of Married Mothers	8	9	41	49	57	164	..	..

Of the 164 children born to the 59 married women who died, 160 were living at the time of their mothers' deaths, or an average of 2.7 children per mother.

First confinements were responsible for 24, or 40.7 per cent. of the total deaths of married mothers, as compared with 48.1 in 1947, 39.1 in 1946, 39.5 in 1945, and 44.6 in 1944.

The death rate of women in childbirth varies considerably at different ages, and is higher at older than at younger ages. The number of deaths of women in childbirth and the death rates in various age groups in Victoria for the period 1926-30 and the years 1946, 1947, and 1948 are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—MATERNAL DEATHS, 1926 TO 1948.

Age Group.	Mothers.							
	Deaths.				Deaths per 10,000 children born alive.			
	1926-30.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1926-30.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Under 20 years ..	41	2	2	1	47.1	11.4	9.9	5.1
20 to 24 years ..	150	13	19	12	39.1	10.9	14.7	9.6
25 to 29 „ ..	231	16	21	9	46.5	11.0	14.1	6.2
30 to 34 „ ..	226	17	29	15	56.8	15.3	27.6	14.8
35 to 39 „ ..	226	17	15	12	88.1	30.1	27.8	22.4
40 years and over	111	7	5	14	117.8	41.5	30.2	87.
Total ..	985	72	91	63	57.4	15.4	19.2	13.7

The experience of the years 1926-30 showed that, for the age period 35 years and upwards, the deaths of mothers in childbirth were 96 per 10,000 live births, as compared with 47 per 10,000 for those under that age. Corresponding figures for 1948 were 37 per 10,000 live births and 9 per 10,000 live births, respectively.

During the year 1948, the deaths of 252 men and 333 women were ascribed to senile decay, as compared with 237 men and 326 women in 1947. Prior to 1927, deaths from ill-defined causes, i.e., heart failure, debility, &c., of those persons over 65 years of age, were classified as senile decay. Since that year, however, only deaths of persons over 70 years of age from such causes were so classified.

Suicide. In the year 1948 126 males and 40 females took their lives. The deaths represented a rate of 79 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 79 in 1947, 91 in 1946, 65 in 1945, 61 in 1944, 87 in 1918-22, 102 in 1908-12, and 109 in 1890-92. Of the 126 male deaths in 1948 from suicide, 34 (27 per cent.) were connected with firearms. A much lower rate from suicide occurs among females than among males, the rate for the former, for the five-year period 1944-48, being 43 per cent. of that of the latter.

Homicide. The deaths ascribed to homicide in 1948 numbered 19, of which 12 were of males and 7 of females. These represented a rate of 9 per million of the population, as against rates of 5 in 1947, 6 in 1946, 6 in 1945, 10 in 1944, 14 in 1918-22, and 19 in 1908-12. Since 1930, deaths from criminal abortion have been excluded from this category and included with deaths from maternal causes.

Accidental deaths. In 1948 there were 961 accidental deaths (731 male, 230 female). These represented a rate of 460 per million of population. The rate for the previous five years was 402. The numbers of deaths from various accidents are given in the appended table:—

VICTORIA—ACCIDENTAL DEATHS, 1944 TO 1948.

Deaths from—	Number.						
	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.		
					Males.	Females.	Total.
Railway accidents (except collisions with motor vehicles) ..	32	35	29	36	30	5	35
Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	216	191	347	412	321	71	392
Other Road Transport Accidents ..	41	38	41	36	21	3	24
Water Transport Accidents ..	3	..	1	..	..	..	..
Air Transport Accidents ..	..	9	2	..	3	..	3
Accidents in Mines and Quarries ..	4	2	3	4	2	..	2
Agricultural and Forestry Accidents ..	14	20	28	23	18	..	18
Accidents caused by Machinery N.E.I. ..	3	4	7	7	12	..	12
Food Poisoning ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Accidental absorption of Poisonous Gases ..	6	9	10	6	3	8	11
Other Acute Accidental Poisoning ..	13	17	11	12	12	4	16
Conflagration ..	49	9	6	14	7	2	9
Accidental Burns ..	35	27	26	37	27	14	41
Accidental Mechanical Suffocation ..	17	15	26	28	15	7	22
Accidental Drowning ..	115	73	81	114	72	17	89
Accidental Injury by Firearms ..	10	13	17	19	19	2	21
Accidental Injury by Fall ..	155	142	136	140	89	84	173
Accidental Injury by Crushing ..	6	3	1	6	8	..	8
Injury by Animals ..	3	..	2	3	3	1	4
Excessive Cold ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Excessive Heat ..	..	8	7	4	..	1	1
Lightning ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Electricity ..	4	2	8	6	13	1	14
Snakebite ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Venomous Bites and Stings ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Accidents ..	50	54	62	74	56	10	66
	780	671	853	982	731	230	961

NOTE.—The high number of deaths recorded in 1944 from conflagration is directly related to the bush fires of that year.

For the five years, 1944-48 the female mortality rate from accidents was 35 per cent. of the rate for males.

Transport accidents. In 1948 deaths from transport accidents numbered 454, as against 484 in 1947, 420 in 1946, 273 in 1945, 292 in 1944, 302 in 1943, 439 in 1942, 510 in 1941, 551 in 1940, and 579 in 1939.

During the year 1948 deaths connected with transport represented 47 per cent. of the total deaths from accidents.

In the following table details are given of deaths due to collisions between various types of transport, and to other fatal accidents in which transport was concerned, for the year 1948:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM TRANSPORT ACCIDENTS, 1948.

		Collisions.										Other Accidents.		Males.	Females.	
		Railway vehicle.	Tramcar	Motor car.	Motor omnibus.	Motor lorry, &c.	Motor cycle.	Horse-drawn vehicle, &c.	Bicycle.	Animal.	Fixed object.	Total.	Total.			
Railway vehicle	..	2	..	2	..	2	1	..	..	..	7	33	*40	33	7	
Tramcar	..	..	..	4	..	2	1	..	..	..	7	9	16	14	2	
Motor car	9	..	29	15	..	26	1	11	91	131	222	170	52
Motor omnibus	4	..	..	1	1	6	8	14	12	2
Motor lorry, &c.	17	10	1	8	1	6	43	64	107	95	12
Motor cycle	3	..	3	6	31	37	34	3
Horse-drawn vehicle	8	8	8	..
Bicycle	1	1	..	..	2	5	7	6	1
Aeroplane	3	3	3	..
Total	..	2	..	15	..	50	31	2	38	3	21	162	292	454	375	79

* Includes rail accidents to four railway employees.

Accidental
deaths
involving
motor vehicles.

The number of motor vehicles (including motor cycles) registered in Victoria and the deaths in which they were involved, for the years 1939 to 1948, were as follows:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS INVOLVING MOTOR VEHICLES,
1939 TO 1948.

Year.	Number of Motor Vehicles (30th June).	Deaths Involving Motor Vehicles.		
		Number.	Per 10,000 Motor Vehicles.	Per 1,000,000 of Population.
1939	261,855	487	18·6	259
1940	266,677	471	17·7	248
1941	256,502	396	15·4	204
1942	224,293	350	15·6	178
1943	232,940	201	8·6	102
1944	243,450	216	8·9	108
1945	255,147	190	7·4	95
1946	272,050	347	12·8	171
1947	294,927	412	14·0	201
1948	321,443	392	12·2	188

The mortality per 10,000 vehicles was 11·2 for the period 1944-48, as compared with a rate of 15·3 in 1939-43. The mortality per million of population was 188 in 1948, 201 in 1947, 171 in 1946, 95 in 1945, 108 in 1944, 102 in 1943, 178 in 1942, 204 in 1941, 248 in 1940, and 259 in 1939. The mortality rate in 1939 was the highest on record.

On the average of the five years, 1944 to 1948, motor cars, &c., were involved in 11·3 deaths per 10,000 cars registered, and motor cycles in 21·8 deaths per 10,000 motor cycles registered.

NATURAL INCREASE.

Natural increase per 1,000 of population in Australian States and in New Zealand.

The average annual natural increase, i.e., the excess of births over deaths, per 1,000 of the mean population, in each Australian State, the Commonwealth of Australia, and in New Zealand, for certain periods since 1909, as well as detailed particulars for Victoria since 1879, are shown in the following tables :—

NATURAL INCREASE PER 1,000 OF THE MEAN POPULATION.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1910-14	13·85	18·38	18·51	17·68	18·61	19·35	17·03	16·80
1915-19	11·75	15·98	17·06	14·84	15·47	17·83	14·99	16·80
1920-24	12·49	15·73	16·13	13·75	13·96	16·66	14·60	14·01
1925-29	10·57	12·99	13·35	11·18	12·71	13·27	12·18	11·65
1930-34	6·77	9·52	10·56	6·89	10·26	11·05	8·78	9·19
1935-39*	5·64	7·91	10·06	6·12	9·85	10·36	7·67	8·37
1944*..	9·48	11·42	14·26	11·83	13·27	11·02	11·46	11·72
1945*..	10·32	11·88	16·02	12·73	12·22	13·56	12·23	13·15
1946*..	12·42	13·13	15·02	14·72	14·92	17·04	13·62	15·54
1947*..	12·62	13·71	16·51	15·62	16·20	18·53	14·37	17·04
1948 ..	11·62	12·15	15·49	13·86	16·02	16·83	13·12	16·39

VICTORIA.

Period.	Average Annual Excess of Births over Deaths.	Annual Rates per 1,000 of Mean Population.			Period.	Average Annual Excess of Births over Deaths.	Annual Rates per 1,000 of Mean Population.		
		Births.	Deaths.	Natural Increase.			Births.	Deaths.	Natural Increase.
1880-84	14,466	30·64	14·40	16·24	1925-29	18,218	20·24	9·67	10·57
1885-89	16,741	32·27	15·87	16·40	1930-34	12,249	16·27	9·50	6·77
1890-94	20,059	31·99	14·62	17·37	1935-39	10,473	15·87	10·23	5·64*
1895-99	15,625	26·76	13·81	12·95	1940-44	15,250	18·53	10·71	7·82*
1900-04	14,859	25·08	12·84	12·24	1944..	18,856	19·78	10·30	9·48*
1905-09	16,062	24·76	11·93	12·83	1945..	20,704	20·53	10·21	10·32*
1910-14	18,795	25·42	11·57	13·85	1946..	25,159	23·05	10·63	12·42*
1915-19	16,818	23·13	11·38	11·75	1947..	25,924	23·06	10·44	12·62*
1920-24	19,647	22·89	10·40	12·49	1948..	24,274	22·06	10·44	11·62

* Excess of births over civilian deaths in the Australian States from September, 1939, to June, 1947.