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VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES

Legal provisions

The system of compulsory registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Victoria has been in force since 1853. The statutory duties under the Registration Act are performed by the Government Statist, who has supervision over registration officers, registrars of marriages, and (relating to their registration duties) the clergymen who celebrate marriages. Copies of entries certified by the Government Statist or by an Assistant Government Statist or an authorised registration officer are *prima facie* evidence in the courts of Australia of the facts to which they relate. At the Government Statist's Office in Melbourne there is kept for reference a complete collection of all registrations effected since 1 July 1853, as well as originals or certified copies of all existing church records relating to earlier periods, as far back as 1837.

The various Acts relating to the registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Victoria were consolidated in 1958.

In November 1959, a Bill was placed before the Victorian Parliament to reorganise the system of registration of births and deaths in Victoria. This new legislation, known as the *Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act 1959*, which came into operation on 1 October 1960, was designed to allow registrations of births and deaths to be effected by post instead of through those persons who previously held office as Registrars of Births and Deaths. No alteration, however, was made to the system of registration of marriages. In 1961, the Commonwealth Parliament passed the *Marriage Act 1961*. A few minor provisions (relating mainly to certain extensions of the application of the prohibited degrees) came into operation on the date the Act received the Royal Assent (6 May 1961), and the remainder of the Act came into operation on 1 September 1963. On this date, the Act superseded the marriage laws of all the States, the two mainland Territories, and Norfolk Island.

Statistical summary

The principal vital statistics in Victoria from 1974 to 1978 are shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Year	Number registered				Infant death rate (deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)
	Marriages	Live births	Deaths	Infant deaths (a)	
1974	29,708	66,201	30,875	989	14.9
1975	27,806	61,897	29,499	806	13.0
1976	28,760	60,667	30,753	702	11.6
1977	27,558	59,518	29,478	653	11.0
1978	27,178	58,861	29,096	616	10.5

(a) Included in deaths. An infant death is the death of a live born child under one year of age.

Marriages

Marriages registered in Victoria in 1978 numbered 27,178, a decrease of 380 on the number registered in 1977.

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF MARRIAGES

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1974	39,327	29,708	16,086	10,769	9,295	3,567	566	1,355	110,673
1975	36,958	27,806	15,230	9,843	9,026	3,242	406	1,462	103,973
1976	38,487	28,760	16,703	10,902	9,517	3,477	541	1,586	109,973
1977	36,159	27,558	15,737	10,126	10,063	3,166	618	1,491	104,918
1978	35,904	27,178	15,431 ^a	9,800	9,404	3,148	576	1,517	102,958

VICTORIA—RELATIVE AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES, 1978

Ages of bridegrooms (a) (years)	Ages of brides (a) (years)													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 and over
16	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
17	—	—	3	6	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
18	—	1	28	68	79	51	16	27	5	—	—	—	—	—	275
19	1	1	38	108	215	156	100	89	16	2	—	—	—	—	726
20	—	—	32	124	317	398	327	273	29	2	2	1	—	—	1,505
21 to 24	2	1	94	220	889	1,636	2,036	4,778	632	110	25	3	2	—	10,428
25 to 29	1	1	25	64	219	374	541	3,090	1,949	386	80	28	6	—	6,764
30 to 34	—	—	2	5	36	67	91	660	1,151	635	212	56	18	9	2,942
35 to 39	—	—	2	2	5	17	10	161	409	438	221	85	38	11	1,399
40 to 44	—	—	2	—	5	2	7	44	123	214	216	130	63	36	842
45 to 49	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	11	60	99	125	133	143	91	666
50 to 54	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	9	20	48	71	102	136	194	582
55 to 59	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	9	14	29	39	87	218	399
60 to 64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	6	11	12	31	202	267
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	6	18	335	365
Total brides	4	4	227	597	1,775	2,705	3,129	9,145	4,407	1,957	995	595	542	1,096	27,178

(a) The marriage of bridegrooms under 18 years of age and brides under 16 years of age is restricted by the provisions of the Commonwealth *Marriage Act* 1961.

VICTORIA—PERCENTAGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN AGE GROUPS, 1978

Age group (years)	Percentage of total	
	Bridegrooms	Brides
14	—	0.01
15	—	0.01
16	0.01	0.84
17	0.06	2.20
18	1.01	6.53
19	2.67	9.95
20	5.54	11.51
21 to 24	38.37	33.65
25 to 29	24.89	16.22
30 to 34	10.82	7.20
35 to 39	5.15	3.66
40 to 44	3.10	2.19
45 to 49	2.45	1.99
50 to 54	2.14	1.59
55 to 59	1.47	0.92
60 and over	2.33	1.52
Total	100.00	100.00

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES OF PERSONS UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE (a)

Year	Age in years							Total	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Number	Percentage of all marriages
BRIDEGROOMS									
1974	—	—	4	48	582	1,299	2,407	4,340	14.61
1975	—	—	5	36	443	1,165	2,297	3,946	14.19
1976	—	—	1	28	429	943	1,982	3,383	11.76
1977	—	—	4	22	334	816	1,779	2,955	10.72
1978	—	—	2	16	275	726	1,505	2,524	9.29
BRIDES									
1974	7	20	512	1,180	2,845	3,967	4,304	12,835	43.20
1975	2	17	419	1,030	2,605	3,574	3,900	11,547	41.53
1976	1	17	363	862	2,229	3,209	3,490	10,171	35.37
1977	1	11	289	679	2,017	2,925	3,402	9,324	33.83
1978	4	4	227	597	1,775	2,705	3,129	8,441	31.06

(a) An amendment to the Commonwealth *Marriage Act* 1961, which came into effect on 1 July 1973, redefined a minor as "a person who has not attained the age of eighteen years" (previously 21 years).

VICTORIA—AVERAGE AGE AT MARRIAGE (a)

Year	Bridegrooms				Brides			
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced men	All bridegrooms	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced women	All brides
1974	24.6	57.1	39.4	26.7	22.1	50.7	36.3	24.1
1975	24.8	57.5	39.2	27.2	22.2	51.0	36.1	24.5
1976	25.1	57.7	39.4	28.6	22.6	51.2	35.4	25.7
1977	25.1	57.6	38.5	28.6	22.7	50.1	34.8	25.7
1978	25.3	57.9	38.4	28.8	22.8	51.6	34.8	26.0

(a) Arithmetic mean.

The age in relation to which approximately half the number of bachelors was younger, and approximately half was older (the median age), was 23.8 years in 1977 and 24.0 years in 1978. The corresponding age for spinsters was 21.5 years and 21.7 years. More bachelors were married at 22 years and spinsters at 21 years (the modal ages) than at any other age in both years.

The following tables show the previous marital status of bridegrooms and brides marrying from 1974 to 1978 and the proportions by previous marital status for periods since 1940:

VICTORIA—PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES

Period	Bridegrooms			Brides			Total marriages
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced men	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced women	
1974	26,628	946	2,134	26,677	1,015	2,016	29,708
1975	24,386	922	2,498	24,392	1,035	2,379	27,806
1976	22,990	1,019	4,751	23,146	1,151	4,463	28,760
1977	21,778	912	4,868	22,033	1,019	4,506	27,558
1978	21,223	882	5,073	21,460	1,040	4,678	27,178

VICTORIA—BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS: NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES, 1940 to 1978

Marriages between—	1978		Previous marital status	Percentage of total			
	Number	Percentage		1940-1949	1950-1959	1960-1969	1978
BRIDEGROOMS							
Bachelors and spinsters	19,126	70.4	Bachelors	90.5	89.5	91.6	78.1
Bachelors and widows	220	0.8	Widowers	4.9	4.5	3.4	3.2
Bachelors and divorced women	1,877	6.9	Divorced men	4.6	6.0	5.0	18.7
Widowers and spinsters	145	0.5	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Widowers and widows	433	1.6	BRIDES				
Widowers and divorced women	304	1.1	Spinsters	91.4	89.2	91.2	79.0
Divorced men and spinsters	2,189	8.1	Widows	3.9	4.4	3.6	3.8
Divorced men and widows	387	1.4	Divorced women	4.7	6.4	5.2	17.2
Divorced men and divorced women	2,497	9.2	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total marriages	27,178	100.0					

For many years civil marriage ceremonies have been performed at certain country centres and at the Office of the Government Statist in Melbourne. This situation changed during 1973 and 1974 with the appointment of a number of additional civil celebrants, the majority of whom operate in the Melbourne metropolitan area. Civil celebrants may marry couples at any location.

VICTORIA—CIVIL MARRIAGES

Year	Total civil marriages		Performed in the Office of the Government Statist in Melbourne	
	Number	Percentage of total marriages	Number	Percentage of total civil marriages
1974	4,449	14.98	3,069	68.98
1975	5,459	19.63	r2,767	r50.69
1976	7,812	27.16	r2,954	r37.81
1977	8,174	29.66	r2,363	r28.91
1978	8,852	32.57	2,094	23.66

In 1977, the number of marriages celebrated by ministers of religion was 19,384, representing 70.34 per cent of total marriages. Civil marriages numbered 8,174, or 29.66 per cent of the total. In 1978, the former numbered 18,326, representing 67.43 per cent of total marriages, while the latter numbered 8,852 or 32.57 per cent of the total.

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES: RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL, 1978 (a)

Category of celebrant	Number	Proportion of total marriages
Ministers of religion —		
Recognised denominations (b) —		
Roman Catholic Church	6,359	23.40
Uniting Church in Australia (c)	4,524	16.65
Church of England in Australia	3,883	14.29
Orthodox Churches (d)	828	3.05
The Presbyterian Church of Australia (c)	500	1.84
Churches of Christ in Australia	453	1.67
The Baptist Union of Australia	412	1.52
Lutheran Churches (d)	228	0.84
Jewry	173	0.64
The Salvation Army	156	0.57
Unitarians	113	0.42
Jehovah's Witnesses	85	0.31
Seventh-day Adventist Church	68	0.25
Islam	67	0.25
Other denominations	477	1.76
Total ministers of religion	18,326	67.43
Civil officers	8,852	32.57
Total marriages	27,178	100.00

(a) This table shows only denominations where the number of marriages for the latest year exceeded 50. Those with less than 50 marriages registered have been grouped in the category "other denominations".

(b) Under authority of the Commonwealth *Marriage Act* 1961.

(c) The Uniting Church in Australia was formed in June 1977 joining the Methodist, Congregational, and Presbyterian Churches into one body. The Methodist Churches have unanimously joined the Uniting Church; however, some Congregational and Presbyterian Churches have elected to remain autonomous.

(d) Includes churches grouped under this heading in the proclamation made under the Commonwealth *Marriage Act* 1961.

Divorce

The Commonwealth *Family Law Act* 1975 came into operation throughout Australia on 5 January 1976, repealing the previous Matrimonial Causes legislation which had been operative since 1 February 1961. A Family Court of Australia was established to administer Family Law, including applications for dissolution of marriage and nullity of

marriage. Under this new Act, there is only one ground for divorce — that of irretrievable breakdown of a marriage (i.e., irretrievable breakdown of a marriage is established under the law if the husband and wife have separated and have lived apart from each other for a continuous period of not less than twelve months immediately preceding the date of the filing of the application for dissolution of marriage and there is no reasonable likelihood of reconciliation). The adoption of a single ground for dissolution of marriage (where fault is no longer taken into account) contrasts strongly with the previous Matrimonial Causes legislation which provided that a dissolution could be granted on one or more of fourteen grounds (e.g., adultery, desertion, cruelty, etc).

The Act provides that all applications for nullity of marriage shall be based on the ground that the marriage is void. A void marriage is invalid because of failure to meet a legal requirement, for example, the requirement that parties must not be lawfully married to another person. The Family Law Act makes no provisions for applications for nullity of voidable marriage, as did the Matrimonial Causes legislation.

Successful applicants for decrees of dissolution of marriage are, in the first instance, awarded a decree nisi. A decree nisi becomes absolute at the expiration of a period of one month from the making of the decree, unless it is rescinded, appealed against, or the court is not satisfied that proper arrangements have been made for the welfare of children of the marriage. Decrees nisi are not awarded in respect of proceedings for nullity of marriage.

At the commencement of the Family Law Act in January 1976, there were a significant number of pending applications for dissolution or nullity of marriage which had been submitted under the previous Matrimonial Causes legislation. Family Law legislation provided that such applications could be dealt with under either the new or the old legislation.

During 1976, 3,712 decrees were granted under Matrimonial Causes legislation and 12,921 decrees were granted under Family Law legislation in Victoria. The total figure for 1976 shows a marked increase over figures for previous years. However, caution should be used in interpreting this figure, since part of the increase may be due to deferment of applications for divorces pending the introduction of the new legislation. As well, statistics of divorces granted on an annual basis do not necessarily indicate precise trends in divorce rates as the figures may be affected from year to year by various administrative factors, for example, the occurrence of law vacations, and the availability of courts or judges (i.e., a rise in one year may be due wholly or in part to the clearing of a backlog of cases from an earlier period).

AUSTRALIA — DIVORCES (DECREE GRANTED)

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1973	7,434	3,313	1,700	1,588	1,428	444	86	273	16,266
1974	7,139	4,465	1,844	1,566	1,761	536	64	369	17,744
1975	10,737	5,683	2,689	1,819	2,241	591	87	460	24,307
1976 —									
Matrimonial Causes	5,148	3,712	2,961	1,407	1,774	331	35	375	15,743
Family Law	17,009	12,921	6,658	4,741	3,044	1,430	388	1,333	47,524
1977	15,785	10,859	7,302	4,422	3,975	1,134	345	1,353	45,175
1978	13,806	10,830	6,110	3,806	3,387	1,132	291	1,271	40,633

VICTORIA — DIVORCE: DECREES GRANTED (FAMILY LAW ACT 1975): DISSOLUTION AND NULLITY OF MARRIAGE, 1977 and 1978

	1977			1978		
	Dissolution	Nullity	Total	Dissolution	Nullity	Total
Males	4,057	—	4,057	4,158	4	4,162
Females	6,794	8	6,802	6,663	5	6,668
Persons	10,851	8	10,859	10,821	9	10,830

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: DECREES GRANTED
(FAMILY LAW ACT 1975): AGES OF PARTIES (AT DATE OF DECREE), 1977**

Ages of husbands (years)	Ages of wives (years)									Total husbands	
	Under 21	21-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 and over		Not stated
Under 21	7	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
21-24	72	402	68	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	549
25-29	35	684	1,203	104	12	2	—	—	—	1	2,041
30-34	1	132	982	987	95	16	1	2	—	1	2,217
35-39	—	18	174	763	558	71	12	2	3	2	1,603
40-44	1	5	24	184	524	429	68	20	4	—	1,259
45-49	—	1	11	51	131	429	411	84	24	1	1,143
50-54	—	2	8	12	36	139	338	301	81	—	917
55 and over	—	1	4	5	18	38	125	275	628	1	1,095
Not stated	—	—	6	3	1	—	1	1	—	1	13
Total wives	116	1,251	2,481	2,114	1,375	1,124	956	685	740	9	10,851

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: DECREES GRANTED
(FAMILY LAW ACT 1975): AGES OF PARTIES (AT DATE OF DECREE), 1978**

Ages of husbands (years)	Ages of wives (years)									Total husbands	
	Under 21	21-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 and over		Not stated
Under 21	8	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
21-24	83	424	72	8	1	—	—	—	—	1	589
25-29	36	858	1,309	144	12	4	—	—	—	4	2,367
30-34	11	110	983	984	83	13	1	—	—	2	2,187
35-39	—	18	139	717	630	58	13	4	1	4	1,584
40-44	2	5	31	166	503	387	66	15	7	—	1,182
45-49	—	2	10	48	129	391	370	88	19	—	1,057
50-54	—	1	3	14	45	116	282	299	75	1	836
55 and over	—	—	3	5	16	35	111	265	555	1	991
Not stated	1	7	2	1	1	2	1	—	1	—	16
Total wives	141	1,429	2,552	2,087	1,420	1,006	844	671	658	13	10,821

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: DECREES GRANTED
(FAMILY LAW ACT 1975): DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1977**

Duration of marriage (years)	Number of children						Total dis- solutions	Total children	
	0	1	2	3	4	5			6 and over
1	44	9	2	—	—	—	55	13	
2	309	63	9	5	1	—	387	100	
3	383	148	31	1	3	—	567	231	
4	387	240	58	15	1	—	701	405	
5	335	229	108	9	3	—	685	490	
6	220	207	164	19	5	—	615	612	
7	207	190	203	37	8	—	645	739	
8	170	132	228	55	7	1	593	786	
9	120	118	192	74	14	2	520	790	
10	87	97	229	61	14	4	493	820	
11	54	89	177	86	21	4	431	805	
12	49	73	177	84	31	8	423	849	
13	39	46	118	90	35	5	335	729	
14	29	52	116	95	33	12	342	793	
15-19	153	178	390	335	171	61	1,323	3,179	
20-24	309	349	307	131	49	15	1,168	1,677	
25-29	522	192	79	34	4	7	839	509	
30 and over	630	77	17	4	1	—	729	127	
Total dissolutions of marriage	4,047	2,489	2,605	1,135	401	119	55	10,851	..
Total children	—	2,489	5,210	3,405	1,604	595	351	..	13,654

NOTE. Children are those living and under 18 at the time of the petition. Includes children deemed to be children of the marriage in accordance with section 5 of the Commonwealth *Family Law Act 1975*.

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: DECREES GRANTED
(FAMILY LAW ACT 1975): DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1978

Duration of marriage (years)	Number of children							Total dissolutions	Total children
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 and over		
1	79	8	8	—	—	—	—	95	24
2	390	88	16	2	3	—	—	499	138
3	463	166	37	4	4	1	1	676	279
4	464	209	71	12	2	—	—	758	395
5	324	243	119	15	1	1	2	705	547
6	261	214	151	31	6	—	1	664	639
7	173	204	188	38	4	1	—	608	715
8	146	137	241	42	13	1	—	580	802
9	130	119	211	63	12	1	—	536	783
10	71	81	202	90	22	1	2	469	860
11	60	70	195	77	17	4	1	424	786
12	40	51	179	115	26	7	—	418	893
13	44	35	141	100	33	8	1	362	796
14	42	35	118	84	28	11	4	322	715
15-19	121	138	428	365	173	53	19	1,297	3,168
20-24	276	309	243	101	42	16	12	999	1,425
25-29	435	208	74	22	4	6	1	750	474
30 and over	574	65	13	4	2	—	1	659	118
Total dissolutions of marriage	4,093	2,380	2,635	1,165	392	111	45	10,821	..
Total children	—	2,380	5,270	3,495	1,568	555	289	..	13,557

NOTE. Children are those living and under 18 at the time of the petition. Includes children deemed to be children of the marriage in accordance with section 5 of the Commonwealth *Family Law Act 1975*.

Births

The number of births registered in Victoria during 1978 was 58,861.

Stillbirths, which are excluded from births and deaths, numbered 575 and corresponded to a rate of 9.67 per 1,000 births live and still in 1978. The compulsory registration of stillborn children became effective in 1953.

The following table shows the number of births in each State and Territory from 1974 to 1978:

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1974	86,162	66,201	37,852	20,181	20,207	7,398	2,808	4,368	245,177
1975	80,918	61,897	36,403	19,986	20,338	6,982	2,118	4,370	233,012
1976	78,492	60,667	35,243	18,947	20,670	6,702	2,607	4,482	227,810
1977	77,996	59,518	34,935	19,260	20,651	6,735	2,558	4,638	226,291
1978	77,773	58,861	34,465	18,558	20,611	6,788	2,692	4,433	224,181

VICTORIA—BIRTHS BY SEX, MASCULINITY, AND AVERAGE AGE OF FATHER AND MOTHER

Year	Males	Females	Total	Masculinity (a)	Confinements average age (b)		
					Nuptial		Ex-nuptial
					Father	Mother	Mother (c)
1974	33,993	32,208	66,201	105.54	29.6	26.6	23.0
1975	31,904	29,993	61,897	106.37	29.6	26.7	23.2
1976	31,068	29,599	60,667	104.96	29.7	26.8	23.3
1977	30,803	28,715	59,518	107.27	29.9	27.0	23.2
1978	30,202	28,659	58,861	105.38	30.1	27.3	23.2

(a) Number of male births per 100 female births.

(b) Arithmetic mean.

(c) Information is not available to allow the calculation of the average age of fathers of ex-nuptial children.

VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: AGE GROUP OF MOTHER AND PREVIOUS ISSUE, 1978

Age group of mother (years)	Number of married mothers with previous issue numbering--										Total married mothers
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 and over	
Under 20	1,880	441	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,342
20-24	8,262	5,520	1,291	201	29	4	—	—	—	—	15,307
25-29	7,511	8,704	4,455	1,158	193	51	7	3	1	—	22,083
30-34	2,181	3,370	3,157	1,382	392	131	51	21	4	7	10,696
35-39	432	606	652	433	272	129	72	37	17	9	2,659
40-44	89	83	79	66	43	33	26	21	14	14	468
45-49	1	2	5	1	6	2	2	1	—	5	25
50 and over	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Total	20,356	18,726	9,660	3,241	935	351	158	83	36	35	53,581
Proportion of total married mothers	37.99	34.95	18.03	6.05	1.75	0.66	0.29	0.15	0.07	0.07	100.00

VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: NUMBER OF MOTHERS IN AGE GROUPS, TOTAL ISSUE, AND AVERAGE ISSUE, 1978

Age group of mother (years)	Number of mothers	Total issue	Average issue
Under 20	2,342	2,844	1.21
20-24	15,307	24,282	1.59
25-29	22,083	44,529	2.02
30-34	10,696	27,454	2.57
35-39	2,659	8,561	3.22
40-44	468	1,816	3.88
45-49	25	145	5.80
50 and over	1	6	6.00
Total	53,581	109,637	2.05

VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: RELATIVE AGE GROUPS OF PARENTS, 1978

Age group of father (years)	Age group of mother (years)									Total fathers
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50 and over	Not stated	
Under 20	287	61	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	352
20-24	1,469	5,636	753	72	8	—	—	—	—	7,938
25-29	459	7,550	11,425	1,116	76	8	—	—	—	20,634
30-34	108	1,685	8,147	5,670	437	20	—	—	—	16,067
35-39	14	282	1,377	2,938	1,155	87	2	—	—	5,855
40-44	2	55	261	678	684	187	5	—	—	1,872
45-49	2	17	71	160	218	122	12	—	—	602
50 and over	—	10	34	57	81	42	6	1	—	231
Not stated	1	11	11	5	—	2	—	—	—	30
Married mothers	2,342	15,307	22,083	10,696	2,659	468	25	1	—	53,581

VICTORIA—NUPTIAL FIRST BIRTHS: AGE GROUP OF MOTHER AND DURATION OF MARRIAGE, 1978

Age group of mother (years)	Duration of marriage															Total nuptial first births		
	Months										Years							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	3		4	5 and over
Under 20	30	57	87	122	188	269	169	55	61	90	91	76	479	95	7	4	—	1,880
20-24	34	45	66	111	164	290	205	103	145	202	200	238	2,185	1,951	1,432	660	231	8,262
25-29	27	32	36	44	56	73	80	63	99	106	103	115	1,107	1,039	1,170	1,239	2,122	7,511
30-34	13	11	16	27	31	29	37	18	40	49	39	41	441	279	202	177	731	2,181
35-39	2	3	7	4	—	17	12	4	7	13	10	10	119	44	36	20	124	432
40-44	—	2	—	—	1	2	2	1	2	1	4	4	15	18	11	3	23	89
45-49	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
50 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	106	150	212	308	440	680	505	244	354	461	447	484	4,347	3,426	2,858	2,103	3,231	20,356

VICTORIA—MULTIPLE CONFINEMENTS (a)

Year	Cases of twins	Cases of triplets	Total multiple cases	Total confinements	Multiple cases per 1,000 total confinements
1974	593	3	596	65,606	9.08
1975	573	6	579	61,315	9.44
1976	663	5	(b) 669	60,017	11.15
1977	524	5	(b) 530	58,992	8.98
1978	610	12	622	58,248	10.68

(a) Excludes confinements where the births were stillborn children only.

(b) Includes 1 case of quadruplets.

On the average of the five years 1974 to 1978, mothers of twins were one in 103 of all mothers whose confinements were recorded, mothers of triplets one in 9,812, and mothers of all multiple births one in 102.

The following tables show details of ex-nuptial births in each State and Territory for the years 1974 to 1978 and the ages of mothers of ex-nuptial children in Victoria:

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1974	8,371	4,394	4,955	1,879	2,352	788	458	211	23,408
1975	8,291	4,395	5,034	1,943	2,527	758	495	262	23,705
1976	7,991	4,426	4,664	1,789	2,621	706	614	253	23,064
1977	8,219	4,391	4,656	1,896	2,528	783	577	264	23,314
1978	8,612	4,718	4,836	2,050	2,654	877	703	294	24,744

AUSTRALIA—EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS: PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1974	9.72	6.64	13.09	9.31	11.64	10.65	16.31	4.83	9.55
1975	10.25	7.10	13.83	9.72	12.43	10.86	23.37	6.00	10.17
1976	10.18	7.30	13.23	9.44	12.68	10.53	23.55	5.64	10.12
1977	10.54	7.38	13.33	9.84	12.24	11.63	22.56	5.69	10.30
1978	11.07	8.02	14.03	11.05	12.88	12.92	26.11	6.63	11.04

VICTORIA—AGES OF MOTHERS OF EX-NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS

Age of mother (years)	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
13	5	—	—	3	3
14	19	16	18	20	12
15	116	87	102	94	89
16	270	291	233	243	216
17	448	409	388	404	381
18	515	462	403	420	471
19	393	404	433	404	482
20	349	336	325	366	403
21-24	925	960	1,031	973	1,183
25-29	757	795	822	834	806
30-34	323	398	412	381	409
35-39	190	158	171	159	171
40-44	46	41	37	35	40
45 and over	3	1	1	6	1
Not stated	2	3	9	4	—
Total	4,361	4,361	4,385	4,346	4,667

VICTORIA—ADOPTIONS AND LEGITIMATIONS

Year	Number of children	
	Adopted (a)	Legitimated (b)
1974	1,490	551
1975	1,229	489
1976	1,130	517
1977	1,179	415
1978	991	407

(a) Legal adoptions registered under the provisions of the Commonwealth *Adoption of Children Act 1964*.

(b) Legitimations registered. Under the provisions of the Commonwealth *Marriage Act 1961*, which came into operation on 1 September 1963, a child whose parents were not married to each other at the time of its birth becomes legitimated on the subsequent marriage of its parents. The legitimation takes place whether or not there was a legal impediment to the marriage of the parents at the time of the child's birth and whether or not the child was still living at the time of the marriage, or in the case of a child born before 1 September 1963, at that date.

Deaths

By law, deaths occurring in Australia must be registered in the State in which they occur. The following statistics have been prepared from cause of death information supplied by medical practitioners and coroners for persons whose deaths were registered in the calendar years shown:

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF DEATHS

Year of registration	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1974	43,999	30,875	18,128	10,236	7,778	3,484	575	758	115,833
1975	40,497	29,499	16,421	9,947	7,972	3,339	610	736	109,021
1976	42,122	30,753	17,239	9,999	7,740	3,389	567	853	112,662
1977	40,380	29,478	16,408	9,784	7,899	3,269	784	788	108,790
1978	40,394	29,096	16,619	9,763	7,794	3,311	536	912	108,425

Causes of death

Classification

Causes of death in Australia from 1968 onwards have been classified according to the Eighth (1965) Revision of the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Classification of Diseases (ICD8). Particulars relate to the underlying cause of death, which WHO has defined as the disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death. Accidental and violent deaths are classified according to the external cause, that is, to the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury, rather than to the nature of the injury.

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH: NUMBERS AND RATES, 1978

World Health Assembly List B cause group	Cause of death (a)	ICD8 category code numbers	Number of deaths	Proportion of total	Rate per 1,000,000 of mean population
B4	Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	008,009	32	0.11	8
B5	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	010-012	31	0.11	8
B6	Other tuberculosis, including late effects	013-019	7	0.02	2
B9	Whooping cough	033	1	(d)	(d)
B11	Meningococcal infection	036	3	0.01	1
B14	Measles	055	1	(d)	(d)
B17	Syphilis and its sequelae	090-097	6	0.02	2
B18	All other infective and parasitic diseases	(b)	60	0.21	16
B19	Malignant neoplasms—				
	Digestive organs and peritoneum	150-159	2,094	7.20	548
	Lung	162	1,243	4.27	326
	Skin	172,173	174	0.60	46
	Breast	174	507	1.74	133
	Genital organs	180-187	715	2.46	187
	Urinary organs	188,189	269	0.92	70
	Leukaemia and aleukaemia	204-207	228	0.78	60
	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	(c)	1,024	3.52	268

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH: NUMBERS AND RATES, 1978—*continued*

World Health Assembly List B cause group	Cause of death (a)	ICD8 category code numbers	Number of deaths	Proportion of total	Rate per 1,000,000 of mean population
B20	Benign and unspecified neoplasms	210-239	47	0.16	12
B21	Diabetes mellitus	250	644	2.21	169
B22	Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency	260-269	20	0.07	5
B23	Anaemias	280-285	66	0.23	17
B24	Meningitis	320	16	0.05	4
B25	Active rheumatic fever	390-392	4	0.01	1
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	393-398	226	0.78	59
B27	Hypertensive disease	400-404	406	1.40	106
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	410-414	8,503	29.22	2,227
B29	Other forms of heart disease	420-429	1,164	4.00	305
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	430-438	3,582	12.31	938
B31	Influenza	470-474	24	0.08	6
B32	Pneumonia	480-486	554	1.90	145
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	490-493	1,380	4.74	361
B34	Peptic ulcer	531-533	138	0.47	36
B35	Appendicitis	540-543	12	0.04	3
B36	Intestinal obstruction and hernia	550-553,560	70	0.24	18
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	571	288	0.99	75
B38	Nephritis and nephrosis	580-584	147	0.51	39
B39	Hyperplasia of prostate	600	34	0.12	9
B41	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium	{ 630-639 } { 650-678 }	4	0.01	1
B42	Congenital anomalies	740-759	287	0.99	75
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour, and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	{ 764-768 } { 772,776 }	63	0.22	17
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	{ 760-763 } { 769-771 } { 773-775 } { 777-779 }	178	0.61	47
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	780-796	173	0.59	45
B46	General arteriosclerosis	440	619	2.13	162
	Other diseases of circulatory system	441-458	586	2.01	153
B46	Other diseases of respiratory system	{ 460-466 }	159	0.55	42
	All other diseases	{ 500-519 } Residual	1,216	4.18	318
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	E810-E823	894	3.07	234
BE48	All other accidents	{ E800-E807 } { E825-E949 }	743	2.55	195
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injury	E950-E959	373	1.28	98
BE50	All other external causes	E960-E999	81	0.28	21
Total all causes			29,096	100.00	7,621

(a) No deaths were recorded in the following categories in 1978: 1. Cholera (000), 2. Typhoid fever (001), 3. Bacillary dysentery and amoebiasis (004, 006), 7. Plague (020), 8. Diphtheria (032), 10. Streptococcal sore throat and scarlet fever (034), 12. Acute poliomyelitis (040-043), 13. Smallpox (050), 15. Typhus and other rickettsioses (080-083), 16. Malaria (084), and 40. Abortion (640-645).

(b) 002, 003, 005, 007, 021-031, 035, 037-039, 044-046, 051-054, 056, 057, 060-068, 070-079, 085-089, 098-136.

(c) 140-149, 160, 161, 163, 170, 171, 190-199, 200-203, 208, 209.

(d) Too small to register within the limits of the table.

In 1978, 15,911 male and 13,185 female deaths were registered.

VICTORIA—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, 1978

World Health Assembly List B cause group	Age group and cause of death	Deaths from specified cause			
		In age group		At all ages	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent (a)
Under 1 year					
B42	Congenital anomalies	200	32.5	287	69.7
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	178	28.9	178	100.0
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	110	17.9	173	63.6
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour, and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	63	10.2	63	100.0
B32	Pneumonia	16	2.6	554	2.9
B4	Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	9	1.5	32	28.1
1-4 years					
BE48	All other accidents	39	31.0	743	5.2
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	19	15.1	894	2.1
B42	Congenital anomalies	19	15.1	287	6.6

VICTORIA—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, 1978—*continued*

World Health Assembly List B cause group	Age group and cause of death	Deaths from specified cause			
		In age group		At all ages	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent (a)
B19	Malignant neoplasms	12	9.5	6,254	0.2
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	8	6.3	173	4.6
B4	Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	5	4.0	32	15.6
5-14 years					
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	46	24.0	894	5.1
B19	Malignant neoplasms	42	21.9	6,254	0.7
BE48	All other accidents	37	19.3	743	5.0
B42	Congenital anomalies	15	7.8	287	5.2
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	8	4.2	1,380	0.6
B29	Other forms of heart disease	4	2.1	1,164	0.3
15-24 years					
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	343	53.1	894	38.4
BE48	All other accidents	68	10.5	743	9.2
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	63	9.8	373	16.9
B19	Malignant neoplasms	38	5.9	6,254	0.6
BE50	All other external causes	16	2.5	81	19.8
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	15	2.3	1,380	1.1
25-34 years					
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	124	24.5	894	13.9
B19	Malignant neoplasms	101	20.0	6,254	1.6
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	74	14.6	373	19.8
BE48	All other accidents	37	7.3	743	5.0
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	23	4.5	3,582	0.6
BE50	All other external causes	19	3.8	81	23.5
35-44 years					
B19	Malignant neoplasms	209	28.6	6,254	3.3
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	108	14.8	8,503	1.3
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	81	11.1	894	9.1
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	66	9.0	373	17.7
BE48	All other accidents	47	6.4	743	6.3
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	45	6.2	3,582	1.3
45-54 years					
B19	Malignant neoplasms	688	33.5	6,254	11.0
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	555	27.0	8,503	6.5
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	127	6.2	3,582	3.5
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	81	3.9	894	9.1
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	73	3.6	288	25.3
B29	Other forms of heart disease	70	3.4	1,164	6.0
55-64 years					
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	1,498	33.6	8,503	17.6
B19	Malignant neoplasms	1,444	32.4	6,254	23.1
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	321	7.2	3,582	9.0
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	206	4.6	1,380	14.9
B29	Other forms of heart disease	125	2.8	1,164	10.7
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	93	2.1	288	32.3
65-74 years					
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	2,482	34.3	8,503	29.2
B19	Malignant neoplasms	1,906	26.3	6,254	30.5
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	786	10.8	3,582	21.9
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	459	6.3	1,380	33.3
B21	Diabetes mellitus	218	3.0	644	33.9
B29	Other forms of heart disease	199	2.7	1,164	17.1
75 years and over					
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	3,840	30.7	8,503	45.2
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	2,272	18.1	3,582	63.4
B19	Malignant neoplasms	1,810	14.5	6,254	28.9
B29	Other forms of heart disease	717	5.7	1,164	61.6
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	623	5.0	1,380	45.1
B46 (part)	Arteriosclerosis	541	4.3	619	87.4

(a) Deaths in this age group from the stated cause expressed as a percentage of deaths at all ages from that cause.

Diseases of the heart

During 1978, there were 10,153 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart including 226 due to chronic rheumatic heart disease, 257 to hypertensive heart disease, 5,687 to acute

myocardial infarction, 2,816 to other ischaemic heart disease, and 1,164 to other forms of heart disease. Only a small proportion of deaths from heart diseases occurs at ages under 45 years. However, as the previous table shows, ischaemic heart disease is the major cause of death at ages 55 years and over. Deaths in 1978 from this cause by sex and age group are shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HEART DISEASES BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1978

Cause of death (a)	Sex	Age group (years)					Total
		Under 45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	
Rheumatic fever with heart involvement (391)	M	1	1	—	—	—	2
	F	1	—	—	—	—	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease (393-398)	M	4	12	31	22	34	103
	F	5	11	16	36	55	123
Hypertensive heart disease (402,404)	M	—	5	13	29	46	93
	F	—	2	4	31	127	164
Acute myocardial infarction (410)	M	64	275	772	1,145	1,072	3,328
	F	9	63	241	623	1,423	2,359
Other ischaemic heart disease (411-414)	M	45	184	383	476	571	1,659
	F	10	33	102	238	774	1,157
Other forms of heart disease (420-429)	M	36	49	84	93	269	531
	F	17	21	41	106	448	633
Total	M	150	526	1,283	1,765	1,992	5,716
	F	42	130	404	1,034	2,827	4,437

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD8 category code numbers.

Malignant neoplasms

Since the introduction of the Eighth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD8) in 1968, deaths classified as malignant neoplasms include deaths from polycythaemia vera and myelofibrosis. These were not previously included with neoplasms. Deaths from malignant neoplasms in 1978 numbered 6,254.

Deaths from malignant neoplasms are prominent at most age periods, but, as the table on page 214 shows, they characteristically increase with age, reaching a maximum number in the two oldest age groups. Ninety-four per cent of the deaths from malignant neoplasms in 1978 were at ages 45 years and over.

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1978

Site of disease (a)	Sex	Age group (years)				Total
		Under 25	25-44	45-64	65 and over	
Buccal cavity and pharynx (140-149)	M	—	5	48	34	87
	F	—	1	19	23	43
Oesophagus (150)	M	—	1	44	56	101
	F	—	—	19	40	59
Stomach (151)	M	—	5	81	161	247
	F	—	8	40	114	162
Intestine, except rectum (152, 153)	M	3	11	115	221	350
	F	—	15	120	282	417
Rectum and rectosigmoid junction (154)	M	—	7	56	93	156
	F	1	2	37	70	110
Trachea, bronchus, and lung (162)	M	1	26	395	573	995
	F	—	5	97	146	248
Breast (174)	M	—	—	—	1	1
	F	—	47	226	233	506
Cervix uteri (180)	F	—	9	41	57	107
Other and unspecified parts of uterus (181, 182)	F	—	3	26	49	78
Ovary, fallopian tube, and broad ligament (183)	F	—	7	75	84	166
Prostate (185)	M	—	—	37	297	334
Bladder (188)	M	—	1	26	96	123
	F	—	—	7	37	44
Other and unspecified urinary organs (189)	M	—	1	30	32	63
	F	—	1	9	29	39

**VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1978—continued**

Site of disease (a)	Sex	Age group (years)				
		Under 25	25-44	45-64	65 and over	
Brain and other parts of nervous system (191,192)	M	15	18	43	25	101
	F	8	6	37	25	76
Leukaemia (204-207)	M	22	11	32	68	133
	F	15	9	17	54	95
Other neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic system (200-203, 208, 209)	M	6	15	43	101	165
	F	4	12	36	86	138
All other and unspecified sites	M	15	56	219	322	612
	F	6	28	157	307	498
Total	M	62	157	1,169	2,080	3,468
	F	34	153	963	1,636	2,786

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD8 category code numbers.

Cerebrovascular diseases

In 1978, 1,449 male and 2,133 female deaths were ascribed to cerebrovascular diseases. The table on pages 211 and 212 shows that cerebrovascular diseases (cause group B30) first appears as one of the main causes of death at ages 25 years and over; they become an increasing proportion of deaths in the older age groups accounting for 18 per cent of deaths at ages 75 years and over. Deaths from these diseases by age group and sex are shown in the following table:

**VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1978**

Cause of death (a)	Sex	Age group (years)					Total
		Under 45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	
Subarachnoid haemorrhage (430)	M	19	22	10	17	3	71
	F	31	24	37	26	17	135
Cerebral haemorrhage (431)	M	8	20	52	79	108	267
	F	5	21	37	79	189	331
Cerebral infarction (432-434)	M	3	6	25	81	160	275
	F	4	3	14	54	393	468
Acute but ill-defined cerebrovascular disease (436)	M	—	19	90	206	380	695
	F	3	11	52	194	711	971
Other and ill-defined cerebrovascular diseases (435, 437, 438)	M	2	—	2	31	106	141
	F	1	1	2	19	205	228
Total	M	32	67	179	414	757	1,449
	F	44	60	142	372	1,515	2,133

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD8 category code numbers.

Diseases of the respiratory system

In 1978, deaths from diseases of the respiratory system numbered 2,117. Of these deaths, 24 were due to influenza, 14 to other acute respiratory infections, 554 to pneumonia, 1,380 to bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma, and 145 to other diseases. Of the 24 deaths from influenza in 1978, eighty-three per cent were at ages 50 years and over.

Diseases of the digestive system

In 1978, there were 468 male and 293 female deaths from diseases of the digestive system. Deaths from causes in this group in 1978 were: 138 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 3 from gastritis and duodenitis, 12 from appendicitis, 70 from intestinal obstruction and hernia, 11 from chronic enteritis and ulcerative colitis, 288 from cirrhosis of the liver, 35 from cholelithiasis and cholecystitis, and 204 from other diseases.

Diabetes mellitus

During 1978, diabetes was responsible for 302 male and 342 female deaths.

Diseases of the genito-urinary system

In 1978, there were 322 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. Nephritis and nephrosis were responsible for 147 deaths, infections of the kidney for 61,

calculi of the urinary system for 9, hyperplasia of prostate for 34, and other diseases of the genito-urinary system for 71.

Tuberculosis

The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1978 was 38. Deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1978 numbered 31 (82 per cent of the total deaths from tuberculosis). Of the 18 males and 13 females dying from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1978, none were under the age of 45 years.

Deaths from external causes

External causes of death such as accidents, poisonings, and violence, including homicide and suicide, accounted for 7 per cent of all deaths registered in 1978. However, these causes were responsible for 60 per cent of the deaths of persons aged 1 to 34 years.

The table "Main causes of death in age groups" on pages 211 and 212 shows that external causes (cause groups BE 47-50) predominate in the various age groups after the first year of life to middle age, but become progressively less prominent in the older age groups. In 1978, 66 per cent of all deaths from external causes were male.

Transport accidents

In 1978, registration of deaths from all transport accidents numbered 956 compared with 1,106 in 1977, 960 in 1976, 938 in 1975 and 962 in 1974. During 1978, deaths connected with transport represented 58 per cent of the total deaths from accidents. Of the 956 deaths, 894 involved motor vehicles.

Injury undetermined whether accidentally or purposely inflicted

In many cases it is not possible to determine whether death from an external cause was accidentally or purposely inflicted, i.e., whether the death was due to accident, suicide, or homicide. Before 1968, such deaths had been included with known accidental deaths. With the introduction of the Eighth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases, a separate category was created to include cases where the mode of infliction was undetermined. Deaths allocated to these categories in 1978 totalled 31.

Suicide and self-inflicted injury

In 1978, deaths from suicide or wilfully self-inflicted injury numbered 260 males and 113 females. Of the 260 male deaths in 1978, 105 were connected with firearms and explosives, and 56 with poisoning by solid or liquid substances. The latter accounted for 65 of the 113 female deaths.

Homicide

The number of deaths ascribed to homicide and registered in 1978 was 49 (27 males and 22 females).

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HOMICIDE (a)

Year	Males	Females	Total
1974	54	26	80
1975	33	15	48
1976	37	16	53
1977	38	27	65
1978	27	22	49

(a) Deaths from injuries inflicted by another person with intent to injure or kill, by any means.

NOTE: Deaths from criminal abortion are excluded from this category and included with deaths from maternal causes.

Infant deaths

The mortality of children under one year, in proportion to live births, has declined markedly in both Australia and Victoria. The infant death rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) in Victoria has fallen from 133 in 1885-1889 to 12 in 1974-1978 (a reduction of 91 per cent). In other words, of every 100 infants who died in the earlier period, only 9 would have died in the latter.

A significant part of the reduction in the rate in recent years has been due to fewer infants dying within the first four weeks of life.

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF INFANT DEATHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1974	1,428	989	606	312	327	123	103	70	3,958
1975	1,231	806	547	222	271	128	58	62	3,325
1976	1,152	702	535	276	273	77	59	76	3,150
1977	953	653	478	221	251	99	107	59	2,821
1978	1,004	616	445	227	231	97	53	62	2,735

AUSTRALIA—INFANT DEATH RATES (a)

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1974	16.6	14.9	16.0	15.5	16.2	16.6	36.7	16.0	16.14
1975	15.2	13.0	15.0	11.1	13.3	18.3	27.4	14.2	14.27
1976	14.7	11.6	15.2	14.6	13.2	11.5	22.6	17.0	13.83
1977	12.2	11.0	13.7	11.5	12.2	14.7	41.8	12.7	12.47
1978	12.9	10.5	12.9	12.2	11.2	14.3	19.7	14.0	12.20

(a) Number of deaths under one year of age per 1,000 live births.

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS

Year	Melbourne Statistical Division		Remainder of Victoria		Victoria (a)	
	Number of deaths under one year	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number of deaths under one year	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number of deaths under one year	Rate per 1,000 live births
1974	r685	r14.5	r284	r15.5	989	14.9
1975	r580	r13.3	r209	r11.9	806	13.0
1976	r471	r11.2	r214	12.0	702	11.6
1977	r456	r11.0	182	10.4	653	11.0
1978	410	10.1	191	10.9	616	10.5

(a) The figures for Victoria include deaths registered in Victoria where the mother's usual residence was interstate, unknown, or overseas. In previous *Year Books*, these registrations have been included in the Melbourne Statistical Division or the Remainder of Victoria columns.

NOTE: Births and deaths registered in Victoria are allotted to the place of usual residence of the parties. In the cases of births and infant deaths, the mother's residence is considered to be that of the child.

Infant death rates have shown a decrease in each quinquennial period from 1885 onwards. In 1954, the rate fell below 20 per 1,000 live births for the first time. In 1978, the rate was 10.5, the lowest ever recorded in Victoria.

The decrease in the infant death rate since the earlier periods has been shared proportionally by each age group except that of "under one week". The rate for infants "one week and under one month" declined from 11.1 in 1910-1914 to 1.4 in 1974-1978, a decrease of 87 per cent, and that for infants "one month and under one year" from 41.2 to 3.6, a decrease of 91 per cent. Between the ages of one month and one year, Victoria lost 64 out of every 1,000 children born in 1900-1904, 33 in 1915-1919, and 4 in 1974-78. The rate per 1,000 live births for infants "under one week" has declined from 21.5 in the quinquennium 1910-1914 to 7.3 in 1974-1978. In 1978, the mortality of infants "under one week" comprised 57 per cent of the total infant mortality.

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATH RATES BY AGE

Year	Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births					Total
	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	
1974	9.3	1.6	1.2	1.6	1.3	14.9
1975	7.5	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.1	13.0
1976	6.9	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.0	11.6
1977	6.5	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	11.0
1978	6.0	1.2	1.1	1.3	0.8	10.5

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS AT CERTAIN AGES BY SEX, 1978

Particulars	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
Males—						
Number	200	37	35	43	25	340
Rate (a)	6.6	1.2	1.2	1.4	0.8	11.3
Percentage of total	58.8	10.9	10.3	12.6	7.4	100.0
Females—						
Number	153	35	32	32	24	276
Rate (a)	5.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.8	9.6
Percentage of total	55.4	12.7	11.6	11.6	8.7	100.0

(a) Number of deaths in each age group per 1,000 live births for each sex.

The rate for male infants is consistently higher than that for females, and in the period 1974–1978 exceeded the female rate by 28 per cent.

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS AT CERTAIN AGES, BY CAUSE, 1978

Cause of death (a)	Deaths under one year					Total
	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	
Chronic circulatory and genito-urinary disease in mother (760)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other maternal conditions unrelated to pregnancy (761)	9	—	—	—	—	9
Toxaemias of pregnancy (762)	16	1	—	—	—	17
Maternal ante- and intrapartum infection (763)	3	—	—	—	—	3
Difficult labour (764–768)	14	1	—	—	—	15
Other complications of pregnancy and childbirth (769)	109	2	—	—	—	111
Conditions of placenta (770)	21	2	—	—	—	23
Conditions of umbilical cord (771)	2	1	—	—	—	3
Birth injury and termination of pregnancy without mention of cause (772, 773)	1	—	—	—	—	1
Haemolytic disease of newborn (774, 775)	6	—	—	—	—	6
Anoxic and hypoxic conditions, not elsewhere classified (776)	42	3	2	—	—	47
Immaturity, unqualified (777)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other conditions of newborn (778, 779)	5	1	—	—	—	6
Congenital anomalies (740–759)	110	45	17	12	16	200
Infections (000–136)	2	9	2	5	1	19
Pneumonia (480–486)	8	2	2	—	4	16
Other diseases (140–474, 490–738, 780–796)	5	5	43	57	25	135
Inhalation or ingestion of food or other object causing obstruction or suffocation, and accidental mechanical suffocation (E911–E913)	—	—	1	—	—	1
Other external causes (E800–E910, E914–E999)	—	—	—	1	3	4
Total all causes	353	72	67	75	49	616

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD8 category code numbers.

Perinatal deaths

Legislation was passed in Victoria in 1971 which introduced a new definition of a perinatal death and a new type of death certificate which doctors were required to use for all perinatal deaths occurring on or after 1 May 1971.

Perinatal deaths comprise:

(1) *Stillbirths*. Any child born of its mother after the twentieth week of pregnancy which did not, at any time after being born, breathe or show any other sign of life; and where the duration of pregnancy is not reliably ascertainable, and includes any foetus of 400 grams weight or more.

(2) *Neonatal deaths*. The death of a live born child within 28 days of birth, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy.

VICTORIA—PERINATAL DEATHS

Year	Stillbirths	Neonatal deaths			Total perinatal deaths
		Under one week	One week but less than one month	Total neonatal deaths	
1974	787	614	106	720	1,507
1975	713	463	83	546	1,259
1976	616	418	91	509	1,125
1977	567	386	72	458	1,025
1978	575	353	72	425	1,000

VICTORIA—PERINATAL DEATH RATES (a)

Year	Stillbirths	Neonatal deaths			Total perinatal deaths
		Under one week	One week but less than one month	Total neonatal deaths	
1974	11.7	9.3	1.6	10.9	22.5
1975	11.4	7.5	1.3	8.8	20.1
1976	10.1	6.9	1.5	8.4	18.4
1977	9.4	6.5	1.2	7.7	17.1
1978	9.7	6.0	1.2	7.2	16.8

(a) Number of stillbirths and perinatal deaths per 1,000 births (live and still) and number of neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births.

Cremations

There are four crematoria in Victoria — three in the Melbourne metropolitan area and one in Ballarat. The number of cremations in relation to total deaths from 1974 to 1978 is shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—CREMATIONS AND DEATHS

Year	Total cremations	Total deaths registered	Percentage of cremations to deaths registered
1974	11,841	30,875	38.35
1975	11,508	29,499	39.01
1976	12,097	30,753	39.34
1977	11,699	29,478	39.69
1978	11,644	29,096	40.02

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