

## PART XI.

## 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.

**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 Acts No. 4553 of 1938, 4858 of 1941 and 5623 of 1952.

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, 1951** The principal numbers and rates relating to Vital Statistics are given in the following table:—

## VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1951

Division.	Number of—				Rate per 1,000 of Population.*			Infantile Mortality.
	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under One Year.	Marriage.	Birth.	Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.
Melbourne Metropolitan Area .. ..	..	26,382	14,047	549	..	19·57	10·42	20·81
Remainder of the State	..	24,171	9,399	594	..	26·25	10·21	24·57
Victoria .. ..	21,117	50,553	23,446	1,143	9·31	22·28	10·33	22·61

\* Subject to revision.

## MARRIAGES.

**Marriages—Numbers and rates.** Marriages in Victoria in 1951 numbered 21,117, an increase of 797 as compared with the number registered in 1950. The rate per 1,000 of population in 1951 was 9·31, as compared with rates of 9·22 in 1950, 9·38 in 1949, 9·59 in 1948, and 9·95 in 1947. 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 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 1947 there was an appreciable decline in the number of marriages, the rate falling to 9·95 per 1,000 of population. During the following three years there was little fluctuation in the number, the rate, however, continued to decline, and in 1950 was 9·22 per 1,000 of population. In 1951 there was an increase in the number of marriages, the rate increasing to 9·31 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 1951.

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
1945-49 ..	19,689	4,995	5,057	4,205	5,432	9·54
1950 ..	20,320	4,982	5,296	4,472	5,570	9·22
1951 ..	21,117	5,731	5,041	4,426	5,919	9·31

\* 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.

**Marriage rates**—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 1947 to 1951:—

**MARRIAGE RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND**

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.*
1947 .. ..	9.95	10.11	9.95	10.32	10.50	10.02	10.09	10.94
1948 .. ..	9.59	9.96	9.01	10.18	10.07	9.18	9.71	9.96
1949 .. ..	9.38	9.23	8.92	9.27	9.29	8.88	9.23	9.53
1950 .. ..	9.22	9.31	8.74	9.40	9.73	9.07	9.24	9.19
1951 .. ..	9.31	9.14	8.96	9.23	9.27	8.90	9.17	8.93

\* Excludes Maoris

The marriage rate in England and Wales in 1951 was 8.2

**Ages of bridegrooms and brides.** The ages of bridegrooms and brides who were married in 1951 are shown in combination for various groups in the table which follows:—

**VICTORIA—AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN COMBINATION, 1951.**

Ages of Bridegrooms.	Ages of Brides.														Total Bridegrooms.					
	13.	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.
16 .. ..					1															4
17 .. ..	1	1	3	10		4			1											25
18 .. ..		2	23	24	22	21		9	8											110
19 .. ..		7	40	59	69	84		36	56	6										357
20 .. ..	1	3	35	81	127	146		135	167	19	3									718
21 to 24	2	10	73	261	587	954	1,148	3,985	659	63	19	2								7,763
25 to 29		3	21	71	168	375	542	2,978	1,636	341	73	9								6,220
30 to 34		1	3	7	29	43	79	611	802	435	167	34	3							2,222
35 to 39			1	3	7	17	19	184	336	325	264	86	36	5						1,283
40 to 44					2	4	4	31	121	194	223	157	41	22						806
45 to 49						1		20	40	72	130	129	79	30	10					513
50 to 54								7	18	31	59	103	80	62	25	7	2			394
55 to 59										10	18	44	64	76	50	24	3	1		293
60 to 64						1			1	3	6	11	26	30	39	32	34	3		186
65 to 69												4	10	17	20	31	28	2		135
70 to 74													3	3	9	13	7	11	7	53
75 and over														6	6	4	10	9		35
<b>Total Brides</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>1,649</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>8,049</b>	<b>3,644</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21,117</b>

Of every 1,000 men married during the year, 736 were older and 169 younger than their brides, and 95 were of the same age.

In 1951 the oldest bridegroom was aged 89 years and the oldest bride 82 years. The youngest bridegroom was aged 16 years, and the youngest bride 13 years.

**Proportion of marriages at various ages.** The proportion of both sexes marrying in 1951 is shown, in varying age groups, in the following table:—

### VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN AGE GROUPS, 1951.

Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—		Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—	
	Bridegrooms.	Brides.		Bridegrooms.	Brides.
Under 16 ..	..	1·52	35 to 39 ..	60·76	45·84
16 ..	0·19	9·57	40 to 44 ..	38·17	28·55
17 ..	1·18	24·67	45 to 49 ..	24·29	17·10
18 ..	5·21	48·11	50 to 54 ..	18·66	12·83
19 ..	16·91	78·09	55 to 59 ..	13·87	8·10
20 ..	34·00	93·43	60 and over..	19·37	8·38
21 to 24 ..	367·62	381·16			
25 to 29 ..	294·55	172·56		1,000·00	1,000·00
30 to 34 ..	105·22	70·09			

**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 1947 to 1951:—

### VICTORIA—MARRIAGES OF MINORS.

Year.	Age in years.								Total.	
	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
Bridegrooms.										
1947 ..	..	..	2	5	17	96	283	583	986	4·82
1948 ..	..	..	..	5	22	120	285	603	1,035	5·17
1949 ..	..	..	..	..	29	126	296	647	1,098	5·47
1950 ..	..	1	..	7	33	124	317	685	1,167	5·74
1951 ..	..	..	..	4	25	110	357	718	1,214	5·75
Brides.										
1947 ..	..	2	23	112	386	941	1,483	1,742	4,689	22·94
1948 ..	..	..	16	125	439	933	1,392	1,751	4,656	23·24
1949 ..	..	2	19	133	381	1,010	1,554	1,795	4,894	24·39
1950 ..	..	1	28	142	460	940	1,545	1,828	4,944	24·33
1951 ..	1	4	27	202	521	1,016	1,649	1,973	5,393	25·54

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, but in 1949 the proportion increased to 14·93 per cent. This was followed by a slight increase in 1950, the proportion of minors marrying being 15·04 per cent. and a further increase in 1951, when the proportion reached 15·64 per cent.

Of every 1,000 bridegrooms in 1951, 57 were under 21 years of age; of every 1,000 brides, 255 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 1947 to 1951:—

VICTORIA—MEAN AGE AT MARRIAGE, 1947 TO 1951.

Year.	Bridegrooms.				Brides.			
	Bachelors.	Divorced.	Widowers.	All Bridegrooms.	Spinsters.	Divorced.	Widows.	All Brides.
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
1949 ..	27·1	39·0	41·9	29·0	24·2	34·4	44·8	25·8
1950 ..	27·1	39·3	52·	29·1	24·3	35·7	44·6	25·9
1951 ..	27·0	39·8	53·1	29·1	24·2	35·8	44·5	25·9

In 1951 the mean age at marriage of bridegrooms whose brides were under 45 was 27·8 years, while for brides under 45 the age was 24·6 years.

The most popular age at marriage for bridegrooms in 1951 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 1947 to 1951, and the proportions in each condition for periods since 1910.

**VICTORIA—CONJUGAL CONDITION OF PERSONS  
MARRYING, 1947 TO 1951.**

Period.	Bridegrooms.			Brides.			Total Marriages.
	Bachelors.	Widowers.	Divorced.	Spinsters.	Widows.	Divorced.	
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
1949 ..	17,817	985	1,264	17,905	909	1,252	20,066
1950 ..	18,023	1,001	1,296	18,083	932	1,305	20,320
1951 ..	18,719	1,016	1,382	18,780	998	1,339	21,117

**VICTORIA—TOTAL MARRIAGES IN 1951 AND PERCENTAGE  
OF PERSONS MARRYING IN EACH CONJUGAL  
CONDITION, 1910 TO 1951.**

Marriages Between—	1951.		Conjugal Condition.	Percentage of Total.—			
	Num-ber.	Per-centage.		1910-19.	1920-29.	1930-39.	1951.
Bachelors and Spinsters ..	17,432	82.55	Bachelors Widowers Divorced	Bridegrooms.			
Bachelors and Widows ..	475	2.25		92.7	92.1	92.3	88.6
Bachelors and Divorced Women ..	812	3.85		6.5	6.3	5.5	4.8
Widowers and Spinsters ..	471	2.23	0.8	1.6	2.2	6.6	
Widowers and Widows ..	355	1.68	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Widowers and Divorced Women ..	190	0.90	Spinsters Widows Divorced	Brides.			
Divorced Men and Spinsters ..	877	4.15		94.2	93.6	94.4	88.9
Divorced Men and Widows ..	168	0.79		4.8	4.9	3.4	4.7
Divorced Men and Divorced Women ..	337	1.60		1.0	1.5	2.2	6.4
Total Marriages ..	21,117	100.00	Total	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 5.0 and 4.6 in 1947-51. During the same period the proportion of remarriages of divorced men increased from 0.7 to 6.4 and of divorced women from 0.9 to 6.3. 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
1948 .. ..	1,660	1,270	1,257
1949 .. ..	1,766	1,264	1,252
1950 .. ..	1,591	1,296	1,305
1951 .. ..	1,714	1,382	1,339

**Marriages in religious denominations.**

In 1951 the number of marriages celebrated by ministers of religion was 19,463 representing 92 per cent. of the total marriages. Civil marriages numbered 1,654, or 8 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 1931, 1941, and 1951, are shown in the following table :—

## VICTORIA—MARRIAGES, RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL.

	1931.		1941.		1951.	
	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.
Church of England ..	2,836	27·85	6,578	31·48	6,072	28·76
Roman Catholic Church ..	1,805	17·73	4,144	19·83	4,376	20·72
Presbyterian Church ..	1,674	16·44	3,623	17·34	4,119	19·51
Methodist Church ..	1,315	12·92	2,940	14·07	2,995	14·18
Baptist Church ..	496	4·87	762	3·65	376	1·78
Church of Christ ..	226	2·22	470	2·25	358	1·70
Congregational Church ..	217	2·13	307	1·47	345	1·63
Lutheran Church ..	90	0·88	69	0·33	209	0·99
Hebrew ..	66	0·65	117	0·56	232	1·10
Salvation Army ..	54	0·53	184	0·88	95	0·45
Other Sects ..	260	2·55	225	1·07	286	1·35
Civil Marriages ..	1,143	11·23	1,478	7·07	1,654	7·83
Total .. ..	10,182	100·00	20,897	100·00	21,117	100·00

**Civil marriages**

The following statement shows the numbers and proportions of civil marriages to total marriages performed for each of the ten years 1942 to 1951 :—

**VICTORIA—CIVIL MARRIAGES, 1942 TO 1951.**

Year.	Number.	Percentage of total Marriages.	Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
1942 .. ..	1,203	5·09	1947 .. ..	1,418	6·94
1943 .. ..	898	4·89	1948 .. ..	1,411	7·04
1944 .. ..	939	5·26	1949 .. ..	1,431	7·13
1945 .. ..	1,089	6·60	1950 .. ..	1,547	7·61
1946 .. ..	1,406	6·57	1951 .. ..	1,654	7·83

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 1942 to 1951 :—

**CIVIL MARRIAGES PERFORMED IN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT STATIST, 1942 TO 1951.**

Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Civil Marriages.
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
1949 .. ..	1,378	96·30
1950 .. ..	1,501	97·03
1951 .. ..	1,589	96·07

**Registered clergymen.** The ministers qualified by registration to celebrate marriages numbered 2,287 on 31st December, 1951. The number of ministers in each denomination (excepting Jews and Quakers) was as follows:—

VICTORIA—REGISTERED MINISTERS IN EACH DENOMINATION, 1951.

Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.	Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.
Church of England ..	444	Particular Baptist ..	3
Roman Catholic .. ..	735	Free Presbyterian Church of Victoria .. ..	3
Presbyterian .. ..	327	Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland ..	2
Methodist .. ..	294	Catholic and Apostolic ..	1
Baptist .. ..	125	Ballarat Town and City Mission .. ..	1
Churches of Christ ..	97	Unitarian .. ..	2
Salvation Army .. ..	78	New Church .. ..	2
Congregational .. ..	48	International Bible Students	5
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia ..	29	Greek Orthodox Church ..	2
United Evangelical Lutheran	14	Apostolic Church (Australia)	4
German Evangelical Lutheran .. ..	1	Christian Israelites ..	1
Swedish Evangelical Lutheran .. ..	2	Syrian Orthodox Church ..	2
Re-organized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints .. ..	7	Wesleyan Methodist ..	5
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints ..	1	Russian Orthodox Church (Abroad) .. ..	4
Assemblies of God in Australia .. ..	7	Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church .. ..	1
Welsh Calvinistic Methodists	3	Ukrainian Autocephal Orthodox Church ..	1
Open Brethren .. ..	3	Church of the Holy Spirit Liberal Catholic ..	1
		Total .. ..	2,287

In 1951 there were 5 civil registrars of marriages in Victoria.

**DIVORCE.**

The present law in regard to divorce is contained in the *Marriage Act 1928*, as amended by the *Marriage (Divorce) Act 1933*

The following table gives the number of petitions filed by husbands and wives respectively, and the number of decrees granted for dissolution of marriage, judicial separation, and nullity of marriage during the year 1952. Every decree of dissolution of marriage is in the first instance a decree *nisi* and is not made absolute till the expiration of not less than three months thereafter.

**VICTORIA—DIVORCES, 1952.**

	Petitions Filed by—			Decrees Granted to—		
	Husbands.	Wives.	Total.	Husbands.	Wives.	Total.
Dissolution of marriage	827	993	1,820	696	900	1,596
Judicial separation ..	..	6	6	..	3	3
Nullity of marriage ..	16	11	27	6	11	17
Total .. ..	843	1,010	1,853	702	914	1,616

The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the year 1952 were as set out in the following table:—

**VICTORIA—DIVORCES, GROUNDS OF, 1952.**

Grounds on which Granted.	Dissolution of Marriage.		Judicial Separation.		Nullity of Marriage	
	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.
Adultery .. ..	187	192	..	1	..	..
Cruelty .. ..	..	5	..	1	..	..
Desertion .. ..	488	651	..	1	..	..
Desertion and adultery	13	15	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness (habitual)	1	9	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness and cruelty .. ..	..	24	..	..	..	..
Impotence .. ..	..	..	..	..	4	8
Insanity .. ..	7	2	..	..	..	..
Prior marriage ..	..	..	..	..	2	3
Sentences for crime ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Other .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Total .. ..	696	900	..	3	6	11

**Divorce.** The following table shows the number of petitioners to whom decrees were granted in 1952, the ages of such petitioners and the number of their issue as at date of decree:—

VICTORIA—DIVORCE PETITIONS GRANTED, AGES OF PETITIONERS AND ISSUE TO EXISTING MARRIAGE, 1952.

Ages of Petitioners (Years).	Dissolution of Marriage.		Judicial Separation.		Nullity of Marriage.		Number of Children.*	
	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husband's Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.
19 .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
20 .. ..	1	3	..	..	..	..	1	2
21 .. ..	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	4
22-25 ..	33	78	..	..	..	2	19	68
26-29 ..	76	144	..	..	1	3	40	128
30-34 ..	161	216	..	..	1	1	142	243
35-39 ..	127	169	..	..	3	2	128	214
40-44 ..	122	121	..	1	1	1	144	192
45-49 ..	74	84	..	2	..	1	105	135
50-54 ..	42	49	..	..	..	1	91	67
55-59 ..	30	17	..	..	..	..	84	33
60 .. ..	4	2	..	..	..	..	6	1
61 .. ..	6	1	..	..	..	..	16	..
62 .. ..	3	3	..	..	..	..	2	6
63 .. ..	3	3	..	..	..	..	4	6
64 .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	5	..
65 .. ..	4	3	..	..	..	..	13	2
66 .. ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
68 .. ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	6	..
69 .. ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
70 .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
71 .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
72 .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
80 .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	696	900	..	3	6	11	808	1,106

\* Of the total of 1914, 1906 relate to decrees for dissolution of marriage, 7 to decrees for judicial separation and 1 to a decree for nullity of marriage.

Dissolution of Marriage—Duration and Issue

In the following table particulars are given of the duration of marriage and the issue in respect of the petitions granted for dissolution of marriage during 1952:—

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, PETITIONS GRANTED; DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1952.

Duration of Marriage in Years.	Number of Children.										Total Dissolutions of Marriage	Total Children	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			10
Under 1 year	2											2	
1 year	10	1										11	1
2 "	19	7										26	7
3 "	44	19	4	1								68	30
4 "	71	38	6	1								116	53
5 "	53	48	11	3								115	79
6 "	52	48	14	1	1							116	83
7 "	42	30	11	2								85	58
8 "	40	38	22	5		1						106	102
9 "	56	41	20	3	1							121	94
10 "	34	22	21	5	3							85	91
11 "	30	28	21	6	1	1						87	97
12 "	16	26	11	7	1	1						62	78
13 "	19	20	19	3	4	2						67	93
14 "	9	8	14	7	2	1						41	70
15 "	9	8	12	6	5	2	3					45	98
16 "	12	15	12	9	1	1						50	75
17 "	6	10	9	6								31	46
18 "	7	10	11	6	1	1						36	59
19 "	6	8	12	6	2							34	58
20 "	5	8	8	5	4	1						31	60
21 "	3	9	9	4	5	1	1					33	77
22 "	3	5	11	7	3							29	60
23 "	2	7	3	3		1						16	28
24 "	6	6	4	5		1				1		23	43
25 "	6	7	7	3	1			1				25	41
26 "	5	5	13	3	1	2						29	54
27 "	5	5	5	3	2		1					16	38
28 "	3	2	3	4	1	1						14	29
29 "	3	3	3	4		1						11	26
30 "	1	1	2	1	1	1					1	6	25
31 "	5		4	2		1		1				13	26
32 "		3	1	1	1						1	7	22
33 "	2		3	1	2			1				9	24
34 "	1	1	1			1						4	8
35 "	1	1	1			1						3	8
36 "	1	1	1		2							6	15
37 "	1	2	1	1	1					1		7	20
38 "	1			1	1							3	7
39 "			1	1		2						4	15
40 "			1		1							2	6
41 "			1									1	2
42 "			1										
43 "													
44 "													
Total Dissolution of Marriage	580	491	315	125	48	22	7	4		2	2	1,596	
Total Children		491	630	375	192	110	42	28		18	20		1,906

**Dissolution  
of marriage—  
Ages of  
Parties**

The following table shows the ages of the parties concerned in the decrees for dissolution of marriage, petitions for which had been granted during 1952 :—

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, PETITIONS,  
GRANTED—AGES OF PARTIES, 1952.**

Ages of Husbands in Years.	Ages of Wives in Years.											Total Husbands.
	Under 21.	21-25.	26-29.	30-34.	35-39.	40-44.	45-49.	50-54.	55-59.	60 and Over.	Not Stated.	
Under 21 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
21-25 ..	5	39	8	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	54
26-29 ..	2	78	88	27	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	199
30-34 ..	1	27	138	164	28	3	2	..	..	..	..	363
35-39 ..	..	11	35	121	113	22	4	1	..	..	1	308
40-44 ..	..	2	10	46	102	84	14	..	..	..	2	260
45-49 ..	..	..	3	10	28	58	60	10	1	1	..	171
50-54 ..	..	..	..	2	11	26	40	29	6	3	..	117
55-59 ..	..	..	..	1	5	4	18	18	16	..	..	62
60 and over ..	..	..	..	1	1	1	4	16	12	20	..	55
Not stated ..	..	1	2	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	6
Total Wives ..	9	158	284	372	294	200	143	74	35	24	3	1,596

**Divorces,  
1861 to 1951**

In 1861 jurisdiction was conferred on the Supreme Court of Victoria in matrimonial matters. The *Divorce Act* 1889, which received the Royal Assent on 13th May, 1890, considerably extended the grounds upon which divorce might be granted.

The following is a statement of the number of decrees granted in Victoria for dissolution of marriage and for judicial separation during the period 1861 to 1890, for the decennial periods 1891-1900 to 1941-50, and for the years 1951 and 1952.

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS, 1861 TO 1952.**

Years Ended 31st December.	Decrees Granted for—	
	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.
1861-1890 .. .. .	348	71
1891-1900 .. .. .	949	14
1901-1910 .. .. .	1,255	6
1911-1920 .. .. .	2,499	14
1921-1930 .. .. .	4,403	16
1931-1940 .. .. .	6,495	16
1941-1950 .. .. .	15,460	22
1951 .. .. .	1,714	1
1952 .. .. .	1,596	3
Total—1891 to 1952 .. ..	34,371	92
Total—1861 to 1952 .. ..	34,719	163

NOTE.—For decrees granted for Dissolution of Marriage during each year since 1921, see *Statistical Summary* of this *Year-Book*.

### BIRTHS.

**Births—**  
**Numbers and Rates**

The number of births registered in Victoria during the year 1951 was 50,553. This was the highest number registered in Victoria. The rate per 1,000 of population in 1951 was 22·28, as compared with 22·61 in 1950, 21·92 in 1949, 22·06 in 1948, and 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 17·80, 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. The increase in the birth rate followed the rise in the marriage rate which began in 1932 and continued until 1942. There was little change in 1947, but in each of the years 1948 and 1949 the birth rate declined. An increase was recorded in 1950, the rate being 22·61, but in 1951, the rate declined to 22·28. Stillbirths, which are excluded from both births and deaths, numbered 929 and corresponded to a ratio of 18·38 per 1,000 infants born alive in 1951. There were 1,061 male to every 1,000 female births in 1951, as compared with 1,053 in 1950, 1,052 in 1949, 1,042 in 1948, 1,062 in 1947, and 1,068 in 1946.



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 1951.

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	8,811	9,211	9,459	18·53
1945-49 ..	45,646	23,453	22,193	11,185	10,919	11,366	12,176	22·11
1950 ..	49,830	25,554	24,276	12,426	12,083	12,591	12,730	22·61
1951 ..	50,553	26,019	24,534	12,477	12,497	13,190	12,389	22·28

\* Not available.

**Birth rates—** The following statement shows the birth rate per 1,000 Australian States and New Zealand. of the population in the Australian States and in New Zealand for each of the five years 1947 to 1951:—

**BIRTH RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1947 TO 1951.**

Year.	Victoria	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.*
1947 .. ..	23·06	23·25	25·65	25·25	25·60	27·70	24·06	26·47
1948 .. ..	22·06	22·19	24·80	24·11	25·12	26·38	23·08	25·59
1949 .. ..	21·92	22·10	24·18	23·80	25·35	26·08	22·91	24·98
1950 .. ..	22·61	22·20	24·62	24·72	25·47	25·66	23·29	24·67
1951 .. ..	22·28	21·72	24·56	24·25	25·44	25·11	22·93	24·39

\* Excludes Maoris.

The birth rate in England and Wales in 1951 was 15·5.

**Ages of parents of nuptial children.** The average ages of fathers and of mothers of nuptial children whose births were recorded in 1951 were 31·8 and 28·4 years respectively. These averages were 4·0 and 3·8 years respectively above the average ages of bridegrooms marrying brides under 45 years of age, and of such brides, for the year 1951. 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, 1951.**

Father.			Mother.		
Age Group.		Percentage of Total Parents.	Age Group.		Percentage of Total Parents.
Under 20 .. ..		0·49	Under 20 .. ..		3·94
20 to 24 .. ..		13·39	20 to 24 .. ..		27·25
25 to 29 .. ..		32·33	25 to 29 .. ..		33·95
30 to 34 .. ..		25·53	30 to 34 .. ..		20·78
35 to 39 .. ..		16·19	35 to 39 .. ..		10·88
40 to 44 .. ..		7·99	40 to 44 .. ..		3·01
45 to 49 .. ..		2·99	45 and over .. ..		0·19
50 and over .. ..		1·09			
Total .. ..		100·00	Total .. ..		100·00

It will be seen that, on the experience of 1951, 61·20 per cent of the mothers were between the ages 20 and 30 and 31·66 per cent. between ages 30 and 40. The proportions of fathers at these ages were 45·72 and 41·72 per cent. respectively. Of every 1,000 nuptial births, about 39 were to mothers under 20 years and about 2 to mothers aged 45 years and upwards.

**Birth rates in municipalities.** 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 Melbourne Metropolitan Area, in cities and principal towns outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area, 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 1951.

**BIRTHS IN MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN AREA, CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS OUTSIDE MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN AREA, AND REMAINDER OF STATE.**

Municipality.	Average Annual Number of Births.				Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.			
	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1951.	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1951.
<b>Melbourne Metropolitan Area—</b>								
Melbourne .. ..	1,348	1,143	1,264	1,720	14.29	12.68	13.43	17.50
Box Hill .. ..	259	214	305	769	18.31	13.84	17.60	26.79
Brighton .. ..	394	358	534	616	13.37	11.69	15.47	14.48
Broadmeadows (Part) ..	†	†	†	473	..	..	..	35.17
Brunswick .. ..	974	790	939	977	17.52	14.53	16.92	16.60
Camberwell .. ..	865	759	1,210	1,550	17.85	14.58	19.01	17.78
Caulfield .. ..	941	807	1,091	1,322	14.87	12.14	15.21	15.85
Chelsea .. ..	127	121	156	401	18.66	17.46	20.94	27.94
Coburg .. ..	742	634	776	1,195	20.80	16.35	18.34	20.62
Collingwood .. ..	532	492	507	595	16.63	16.26	16.76	20.38
Essendon .. ..	766	578	799	1,127	16.59	12.47	16.36	19.36
Fitzroy .. ..	517	467	519	638	15.96	15.24	16.77	19.97
Footscray .. ..	875	698	862	1,120	19.13	14.97	16.36	19.96
Hawthorn .. ..	424	406	568	648	12.70	11.82	15.28	15.86
Heidelberg (Part) ..	413	340	465	983	16.93	14.02	16.84	23.18
Keilor (Part) .. ..	†	†	†	87	..	..	..	30.53
Kew .. ..	339	284	380	469	13.97	11.58	13.84	14.91
Malvern .. ..	499	470	578	736	11.46	10.66	12.49	14.65
Moorabbin .. ..	398	359	446	1,374	23.14	19.20	20.50	30.50
Mordialloc .. ..	148	132	199	451	15.37	13.64	18.74	25.63
Mulgrave .. ..	†	†	†	300	..	..	..	41.67
Northcote .. ..	727	576	680	766	17.27	13.55	15.56	16.58
Nunawading .. ..	†	†	†	470	..	..	..	32.75
Oakleigh .. ..	264	217	270	544	22.72	17.91	20.59	27.68
Port Melbourne.. ..	230	197	204	270	17.24	15.22	15.16	19.22

† Included in Remainder of State.

BIRTHS IN MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN AREA, CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS OUTSIDE MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN AREA, AND REMAINDER OF STATE—*continued.*

Municipality.	Average Annual Number of Births.				Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.			
	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1951.	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1951.
<b>Melbourne Metropolitan Area—<i>continued.</i></b>								
Prahran .. ..	696	624	828	927	13·26	11·84	14·75	15·31
Preston .. ..	703	581	716	1,184	23·87	18·05	19·30	22·75
Richmond .. ..	693	593	650	700	16·71	14·95	16·24	18·28
Ringwood .. ..	†	†	†	265	..	..	..	36·05
Sandringham ..	272	232	327	630	15·33	12·67	16·20	20·55
South Melbourne ..	660	551	594	708	15·06	12·81	13·61	16·29
St. Kilda .. ..	533	512	712	986	11·61	10·55	13·62	16·80
Sunshine (Part)* ..	187	157	198	759	22·28	17·65	19·16	33·51
Williamstown.. ..	423	326	398	622	19·28	14·64	16·94	22·37
<b>Cities and Principal Towns outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area—</b>								
Ballaarat .. ..	664	596	621	976	17·14	15·74	16·01	23·06
Bendigo .. ..	550	555	566	758	17·10	18·81	18·71	23·56
Geelong .. ..	844	693	726	980	19·26	17·52	17·85	20·63
Ararat .. ..	†	102	104	183	..	20·76	19·82	26·89
Benalla .. ..	†	†	†	167	..	..	..	30·93
Castlemaine .. ..	105	98	104	110	15·16	18·70	19·40	18·14
Colac .. ..	†	106	125	186	..	20·42	21·22	25·57
Echuca .. ..	†	95	88	127	..	21·39	19·73	25·53
Hamilton .. ..	138	117	139	208	24·47	20·08	21·79	26·67
Horsham .. ..	†	118	125	162	..	22·13	21·76	22·74
Maryborough .. ..	118	111	108	170	21·85	19·62	18·61	25·56
Mildura .. ..	184	207	247	289	28·23	30·54	31·35	27·14
Sale .. ..	†	86	99	208	..	19·97	21·85	36·49
Shepparton .. ..	151	158	188	323	27·51	27·24	29·38	32·96
Stawell .. ..	92	85	85	111	19·46	17·75	17·52	21·24
Swan Hill .. ..	†	†	†	144	..	..	..	30·28
Wangaratta .. ..	†	107	123	264	..	22·21	22·36	30·48
Warrnambool .. ..	176	175	195	308	20·17	19·40	20·70	28·79
Wonthaggi .. ..	141	91	89	98	22·44	14·95	17·80	22·79
<b>Summary</b>								
Melbourne Metropolitan Area .. ..	15,949	13,618	17,175	26,382	16·03	13·55	16·00	19·57
Cities and Principal Towns outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area .. ..	3,163	3,500	3,732	5,772	19·22	18·90	19·42	24·68
Remainder of State .. ..	12,693	11,426	11,719	18,399	20·40	17·62	18·27	26·78
Victoria .. ..	31,805	28,544	32,626	50,533	17·85	15·52	17·11	22·28

\* Shire of Braybrook declared City of Sunshine on 16th May, 1951.

† 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 1947 to 1951 were as follows:—

## VICTORIA—MULTIPLE BIRTHS.

Year.	Cases of Twins.	Cases of Triplets	Cases of Quadruplets.	Total Multiple Cases.	Multiple Cases per 1,000 of Total Cases.
1947 .. ..	559	10	..	569	12.15
1948 .. ..	535	2	..	537	11.78
1949 .. ..	526	3	1	530	11.43
1950 .. ..	598	10	..	608	12.35
1951 .. ..	606	5	1	612	12.25

There was one case of quadruplets in 1949 and one case in 1951.

On the average of the five years 1947-51, the proportion of mothers of twins was one in 84, of mothers of triplets, one in 7,932, of mothers of quadruplets, one in 118,976, and of mothers of all multiple births, one in 83 mothers.

**Adoption of children.** 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. An amending Act of 1954 (No. 5851) made provision for the adoption of children irrespective of their conjugal condition.

The first registration was effected on 14th October, 1929, and between that date and the end of the year 1951, the adoptions of 7,111 male and 7,981 female children were registered. During the five-year period 1947-1951 there were 98 female for every 100 male adoptions.

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

## VICTORIA—CHILDREN ADOPTED, 1929 TO 1951.

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
1949 .. ..	501	447
1950 .. ..	518	524
1951 .. ..	607	588

**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 1951 legitimations numbered 5,852.

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

## VICTORIA—LEGITIMATIONS, 1903 TO 1951.

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
1949 .. .. .	106	6·9
1950 .. .. .	83	5·1
1951 .. .. .	109	6·5

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 1951 the numbers of legitimations in the several States and in New Zealand during that year were as follows :— Victoria, 6·5; New South Wales, 10·4; Queensland, 20·9; South Australia, 7·3; Western Australia, 31·2; Tasmania, 24·5; and New Zealand, 20·8

**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 1951.

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
1945-49 .. .. .	45,646	801	777	1,578	3·46
1950 .. .. .	49,830	816	801	1,617	3·25
1951 .. .. .	50,553	845	830	1,675	3·31

The proportion of ex-nuptial to total births declined in each quinquennial period from 1910 to 1949.

In 1913 the percentage of ex-nuptial to total births was 6·03 : in 1951 the percentage was 3·31.

The percentages in the various States and in New Zealand in 1951 were as follows :—Victorian, 3·31 ; New South Wales, 4·15 ; Queensland, 4·84, South Australia, 2·90 ; Western Australia, 4·14 ; Tasmania, 3·66 ; Australia, 3·91, and New Zealand, 4·33.

**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 1951.**

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
1945-49† ..	21,458	11,299	10,159	4,558	5,262	6,300	5,338	10·40
1950 ..	22,341	11,781	10,560	4,977	5,393	6,581	5,390	10·14
1951 ..	23,446	12,662	10,784	4,654	5,811	6,774	6,207	10·33

\* 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, but during the quinquennium 1945-49, the rate declined to 10·40. There has been little fluctuation in the death rate since 1949, the rate in that year being 10·28. In 1951 the rate was 10·33.

The lowest death rate (8·93) in the history of the State was recorded in 1930.

The number of deaths (23,446) in 1951 was the highest on record for the State, and was 1,619 more than the average of the preceding five years.

In 1951 there were 1,174 male to every 1,000 female deaths, the average for the preceding five years being 1,119. The corresponding proportion of male to female births in the quinquennium was 1,055.

**Death rates—** The following statement shows the death rate per 1,000 Australian States and New Zealand. of the population in each of the Australian States and in New Zealand for each of the five years 1947 to 1951:—

**DEATH RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1947 TO 1951.**

Year.	Victoria	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.*
1947	10·44	9·53	9·15	9·62	9·39	9·17	9·69	9·39
1948	10·44	10·04	9·31	10·25	9·10	9·55	9·96	9·16
1949	10·28	9·43	8·85	9·45	8·99	8·76	9·51	9·09
1950	10·14	9·60	8·82	9·63	9·05	8·74	9·55	9·31
1951	10·33	9·62	9·20	9·98	9·09	8·76	9·70	9·56

\* Excludes Maoris.

In 1951 the death rate in England and Wales was 12·5.

**Death rates in municipalities.** 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 Melbourne Metropolitan Area, in cities and principal towns outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area, 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 1951:—



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

Municipality.	Average Annual Number of Deaths.				Deaths per 1,000 of Mean Population.			
	1928- 1932.	1933- 1937.	1938- 1942.	1951.	1928- 1932.	1933- 1937.	1938- 1942.	1951.
<b>Melbourne Metropolitan Area—</b>								
Melbourne .. ..	1,091	1,120	1,204	1,240	11·57	12·42	12·79	12·61
Box Hill .. ..	125	155	179	256	8·81	9·99	10·33	8·92
Brighton .. ..	272	316	366	462	9·22	10·33	10·61	10·86
Broadmeadows (Part) ..	†	†	†	92	..	..	..	6·84
Brunswick .. ..	532	560	601	604	9·57	10·30	10·83	10·26
Camberwell .. ..	430	494	641	810	8·87	9·49	10·07	9·29
Caulfield .. ..	552	656	767	900	8·72	9·87	10·69	10·79
Chelsea .. ..	63	83	93	133	9·24	12·02	12·48	9·27
Coburg .. ..	287	317	367	450	8·06	8·19	8·68	7·77
Collingwood .. ..	363	377	399	356	11·36	12·47	13·19	12·19
Essendon .. ..	429	484	543	557	9·30	10·46	11·12	9·57
Fitzroy .. ..	446	452	502	405	13·77	14·74	16·22	12·68
Footscray .. ..	402	425	487	571	8·79	9·12	9·24	10·18
Hawthorn .. ..	357	409	467	488	10·67	11·90	12·56	11·95
Heidelberg (Part) ..	193	210	257	348	7·91	8·66	9·31	8·21
Keilor (Part) .. ..	†	†	†	15	..	..	..	5·26
Kew .. ..	220	246	276	353	9·08	10·06	10·05	11·22
Malvern .. ..	404	489	562	610	9·28	11·07	12·15	12·14
Moorabbin .. ..	130	157	178	320	7·55	8·39	8·18	7·10
Mordialloc .. ..	85	94	126	152	8·86	9·67	11·87	8·64
Mulgrave .. ..	†	†	†	50	..	..	..	6·94
Northcote .. ..	369	408	450	505	8·77	9·59	10·30	10·93
Nunawading .. ..	†	†	†	128	..	..	..	8·92
Oakleigh .. ..	101	115	130	182	8·72	9·49	9·91	9·26
Port Melbourne .. ..	137	156	152	187	10·26	12·08	11·30	13·31
Prahran .. ..	628	662	757	752	11·96	12·56	13·49	12·42
Preston .. ..	242	267	306	450	8·20	8·29	8·25	8·65
Richmond .. ..	464	465	490	487	11·20	11·73	12·24	12·72

† Included in remainder of State.

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

Municipality.	Average Annual Number of Deaths.				Deaths per 1,000 of Mean Population.			
	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1951.	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1951.
<b>Melbourne Metropolitan Area—<i>continued.</i></b>								
Ringwood .. .. .	†	†	†	76				10·34
Sandringham .. .. .	161	177	224	306	9·08	9·63	11·10	9·98
South Melbourne .. .. .	486	507	548	547	11·09	11·78	12·55	12·59
St. Kilda .. .. .	452	538	660	747	9·84	11·09	12·62	12·73
Sunshine (Part)* .. .. .	56	58	75	102	6·70	6·57	7·26	7·15
Williamstown .. .. .	211	219	262	346	9·63	9·81	11·15	12·45
<b>Cities and Principal Towns outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area—</b>								
Ballaarat .. .. .	475	501	565	619	12·28	13·23	14·56	14·62
Bendigo .. .. .	421	441	463	465	13·08	14·93	15·30	14·45
Geelong .. .. .	455	463	484	643	10·40	11·70	11·90	13·54
Ararat .. .. .	†	63	60	75		12·79	11·44	11·02
Benalla .. .. .	†	†	†	85				15·74
Castlemaine .. .. .	73	64	69	74	10·61	12·20	12·87	12·20
Colac .. .. .	†	54	63	85		10·42	10·70	11·68
Echuca .. .. .	†	49	54	60		11·01	12·11	12·06
Hamilton .. .. .	59	62	66	96	10·35	10·60	10·34	12·31
Horsham .. .. .	†	62	60	90		11·72	10·45	12·63
Maryborough .. .. .	59	73	74	82	10·66	12·98	12·75	12·33
Mildura .. .. .	59	80	88	113	9·05	11·74	11·17	10·61
Sale .. .. .	†	54	54	72		12·59	11·92	12·63
Shepparton .. .. .	55	77	78	106	9·96	13·29	12·19	10·82
Stawell .. .. .	51	53	64	74	10·87	10·98	13·19	14·16
Swan Hill .. .. .	†	†	†	64				13·46
Wangaratta .. .. .	†	62	62	113		12·81	11·27	13·05
Warrnambool .. .. .	91	97	97	124	10·46	10·81	10·30	11·59
Wonthaggi .. .. .	47	50	52	54	7·45	8·17	10·40	12·56
<b>Summary—</b>								
Melbourne Metropolitan Area .. .. .	9,688	10,616	12,069	14,047	9·74	10·56	11·24	10·42
Cities and Principal Towns outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area .. .. .	1,845	2,305	2,453	3,094	11·22	12·45	12·76	13·23
Remainder of State .. .. .	5,311	5,469	5,841	6,305	8·53	8·44	9·11	9·18
Victoria .. .. .	16,844	18,390	20,363	23,446	9·45	10·00	10·68	10·33

\* Shire of Braybrook declared City of Sunshine on 16th May, 1951.

† 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 1951:—

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1951.

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.	
MELBOURNE METRO-POLITAN AREA—						
Melbourne .. .. .	399	116	32·18	9·35	41·53	5·24
Box Hill .. .. .	37	6	14·46	2·34	16·80	1·50
Brighton .. .. .	90	37	19·48	8·01	27·49	2·98
Broadmeadows (Part) ..	24	4	26·09	4·35	30·44	2·08
Brunswick .. .. .	131	39	21·69	6·46	28·15	2·89
Camberwell .. .. .	131	30	16·17	3·71	19·88	1·85
Caulfield .. .. .	182	37	20·22	4·11	24·33	2·63
Chelsea .. .. .	32	9	24·06	6·77	30·83	2·86
Coburg .. .. .	89	28	19·78	6·22	26·00	2·02
Collingwood .. .. .	111	26	31·18	7·30	38·48	4·69
Essendon .. .. .	119	23	21·36	4·13	25·49	2·44
Fitzroy .. .. .	130	38	32·10	9·38	41·48	5·26
Footscray .. .. .	165	37	28·90	6·48	35·38	3·60
Hawthorn .. .. .	92	37	18·85	7·58	26·43	3·16
Heidelberg (Part) ..	73	22	20·98	6·32	27·30	2·24
Keilor (Part) .. .. .	6	1	40·00	6·67	46·67	2·46
Kew .. .. .	51	30	14·45	8·50	22·95	2·58
Malvern .. .. .	93	24	15·25	3·93	19·18	2·33
Moorabbin .. .. .	78	16	24·38	5·00	29·38	2·09
Mordialloc .. .. .	24	3	15·79	1·97	17·76	1·53
Mulgrave .. .. .	14	4	28·00	8·00	36·00	2·50
Northcote .. .. .	124	28	24·55	5·55	30·10	3·29
Nunawading .. .. .	38	4	29·69	3·12	32·81	2·93
Oakleigh .. .. .	41	17	22·53	9·34	31·87	2·95
Port Melbourne .. .. .	64	11	34·23	5·88	40·11	5·34
Prahran .. .. .	190	45	25·27	5·98	31·25	3·88
Preston .. .. .	101	30	22·44	6·67	29·11	2·52
Richmond .. .. .	141	31	28·95	6·37	35·32	4·49
Ringwood .. .. .	15	3	19·73	3·95	23·68	2·45
Sandringham .. .. .	51	12	16·67	3·92	20·59	2·06
South Melbourne .. .. .	165	38	30·16	6·95	37·11	4·67
St. Kilda .. .. .	192	42	25·70	5·62	31·32	3·99
Sunshine (Part)* .. .. .	47	9	29·01	5·56	34·57	2·47
Williamstown .. .. .	122	13	35·26	3·76	39·02	4·86

\* Shire of Braybrook declared City of Sunshine on 16th May, 1951.

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1951—*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.	
<b>CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS OUTSIDE MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN AREA—</b>						
Ballaarat .. .. .	204	109	32·96	17·61	50·57	7·40
Bendigo .. .. .	152	55	32·69	11·83	44·52	6·43
Geelong .. .. .	224	55	34·84	8·55	43·39	5·87
Ararat .. .. .	49	4	65·33	5·34	70·67	7·79
Benalla .. .. .	7	2	8·24	2·35	10·59	1·67
Castlemaine .. .. .	42	4	56·76	5·40	62·16	7·58
Colac .. .. .	43	9	50·59	10·59	61·18	7·15
Echuca .. .. .	34	2	56·67	3·33	60·00	7·24
Hamilton .. .. .	54	4	56·25	4·17	60·42	7·44
Horsham .. .. .	54	3	60·00	3·33	63·33	8·00
Maryborough .. .. .	40	3	48·78	3·66	52·44	6·47
Mildura .. .. .	57	13	50·44	11·51	61·95	6·57
Sale .. .. .	39	4	54·17	5·55	59·72	7·54
Shepparton .. .. .	42	3	39·62	2·83	42·45	4·59
Stawell .. .. .	41	5	55·40	6·76	62·16	8·80
Wangaratta .. .. .	64	12	56·64	10·62	67·26	8·78
Warrnambool .. .. .	54	9	43·55	7·26	50·81	5·89
Wonthaggi .. .. .	30	2	55·56	3·70	59·26	7·44
<b>SUMMARY—</b>						
Melbourne Metropolitan Area .. .. .	3,362	850	23·93	6·05	29·98	3·12
Cities and Principal Towns outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area .. .. .	1,230	298	40·59	9·84	50·43	6·67
Remainder of State .. .. .	2,138	267	33·57	4·19	37·76	3·48
Victoria .. .. .	6,730	1,415	28·70	6·04	34·74	3·59

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

	1910-14.	1920-24.	1925-29.	1930-34.	1950.	1951.
Melbourne Metropolitan Area .. .. .	24·3	27·0	29·5	27·7	24·4	23·9
Remainder of State .. .. .	17·0	21·2	23·7	26·3	35·6	35·8
Victoria .. .. .	20·4	24·3	27·0	27·1	28·7	28·7

In 1951 the number of deaths in all public institutions was 8,145 of which 4,212 were of residents of Melbourne Metropolitan Area.

Deaths in metropolitan public institutions

The number of deaths in certain metropolitan public institutions in 1951 is given in the subjoined table :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS IN CERTAIN METROPOLITAN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1951.

Institution.	No. of Deaths.	Institution.	No. of Deaths.
<b>HOSPITALS—GENERAL —</b>		<b>SANATORIA—</b>	
Royal Melbourne .. ..	960	Heatherton .. ..	11
Alfred .. ..	803	Greenvale .. ..	3
Hamilton Russell Com- munity .. ..	17	Gresswell .. ..	12
Children's .. ..	273	Health Department Annexe	1
St. Vincent's .. ..	656	<b>Total Sanatoria .. ..</b>	<b>27</b>
St. Vincent's Intermediate ..	4		
Austin .. ..	147	<b>BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS—</b>	
Heidelberg House .. ..	22	Melbourne (Cheltenham) Asylum .. ..	207
Women's .. ..	158	Mount Royal .. ..	148
Prince Henry's .. ..	378	Convent of Little Sisters of the Poor .. ..	70
Fairfield .. ..	48	Old Colonists' Homes .. ..	4
Queen Victoria .. ..	172	<b>Total Benevolent Insti- tutions .. ..</b>	<b>429</b>
Jessie McPherson Com- munity .. ..	8		
Williamstown .. ..	78	<b>FOUNDLING HOMES, REFUGES—</b>	
Caulfield Convalescent .. ..	93	Broadmeadows .. ..	1
Eye and Ear .. ..	6	Carlton .. ..	..
After Care Home .. ..	1	East Melbourne .. ..	..
<b>Total General Hospitals ..</b>	<b>3,824</b>	The Haven, Fitzroy .. ..	1
<b>HOSPITALS—MENTAL</b>		Berwick .. ..	..
Janefield .. ..	1	<b>Total Refuges, &amp;c. ..</b>	<b>2</b>
Kew .. ..	168		
Mont Park .. ..	111	<b>Total Hospitals and other Institutions .. ..</b>	<b>4,714</b>
Mental Hospital and Receiv- ing House, Royal Park ..	151		
Larundel .. ..	1		
<b>Total Mental Hospitals ..</b>	<b>432</b>		

Of the 4,714 deaths in the above institutions, 2,645 were of males and 2,069 were of females.

**Decrease in metropolitan death rate.** In Melbourne Metropolitan Area, in the decade 1942-51, there was an average of 10·78 deaths per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 15·76 in the decennium 1892-1901.

A comparison of the death rates from tubercular and certain other diseases for the period 1942-51 with those for the decennium 1892-1901 is shown in the following table:—

#### DEATH RATES—MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN AREA.

Cause of Death.	Average Annual Deaths per 1,000,000 of Population.		
	1892-1901.	1942-51.	Decrease.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	1,654	328	1,326
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	446	33	413
Typhoid Fever .. ..	293	3	290
Scarlet Fever .. ..	33	2	31
Measles .. .. .	215	6	209
Diphtheria .. .. .	196	11	185
Total .. .. .	2,837	383	2,454

The figures show that the mortality from the six diseases mentioned declined by 86 per cent.—the decline representing a rate of 2,454 per million of the population.

The mortality from all causes showed a net decline of 4,980 per million of the population.

**Infantile mortality** The mortality of children under one year, in proportion to births, reveals a remarkable decline since 1890—the deaths per 1,000 children born having fallen from 133 in 1885-89 to 23 in 1947-51—a reduction of 83 per cent. In other words, where 100 infants died in the earlier period, only seventeen 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 Melbourne Metropolitan Area, 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 1951.

Period.	Melbourne Metropolitan Area.		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
1945-49 ..	643	25·0	516	25·9	1,159	25·4
1950 ..	512	19·4	489	20·9	1,001	20·1
1951 ..	549	20·8	594	24·6	1,143	22·6

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 1937-51 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 (41·7) for the period was experienced. Each year from 1942 to 1950

a decrease was recorded, and new low records were established in each year of the period 1944-50, the rate in 1950 being 20·1. This was followed by an increase in 1951, the rate being 22·6.

**Infantile deaths in municipalities.** Deaths of infants under one year of age, and the deaths per 1,000 births in Melbourne Metropolitan Area, in cities and principal towns outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area, and in the remainder of the State for the five year periods 1933-37, 1938-42, and for the years 1949, 1950, and 1951 were as follows:—

**INFANTILE DEATHS IN MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN AREA, IN CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS OUTSIDE MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN AREA, AND IN REMAINDER OF STATE.**

Municipality.	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.					Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.				
	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1949.	1950.	1951.
<b>Melbourne Metropolitan Area—</b>										
Melbourne ..	55	53	34	39	54	48·45	42·25	18·99	21·51	31·40
Box Hill ..	8	10	7	13	11	38·25	32·77	11·15	18·81	14·30
Brighton ..	11	16	14	11	14	30·15	29·57	20·09	15·71	22·73
Broadmeadows (Part) ..	†	†	6	4	8	..	..	22·64	9·88	16·91
Brunswick ..	32	37	27	21	18	40·23	39·61	23·24	19·14	18·42
Camberwell ..	26	39	35	24	28	33·74	31·90	22·71	15·27	18·06
Caulfield ..	27	37	29	19	24	33·47	33·55	20·35	13·75	18·15
Chelsea ..	5	4	3	6	9	43·12	26·96	9·09	15·79	22·44
Coburg ..	26	27	28	25	31	40·38	34·80	23·99	21·03	25·94
Collingwood ..	28	22	15	21	15	57·27	43·75	25·13	32·06	25·21
Essendon ..	23	30	25	17	22	40·51	37·29	21·35	14·79	19·52
Fitzroy ..	26	27	18	11	10	56·98	52·04	27·23	16·39	15·67
Footscray ..	29	34	20	27	34	40·90	39·66	17·14	24·11	30·36
Hawthorn ..	18	22	17	14	12	44·31	38·76	22·25	19·42	18·52
Heidelberg (Part) ..	11	18	17	24	16	32·37	37·83	19·10	25·00	16·28
Keilor (Part) ..	†	†	..	1	3	..	..	..	12·66	34·48
Kew ..	9	13	4	13	6	30·32	33·14	7·59	24·16	12·79
Malvern ..	17	19	14	17	13	35·71	32·55	16·57	20·53	17·66
Moorabbin ..	14	16	24	21	27	37·93	35·86	23·98	16·59	19·65
Mordialloc ..	7	8	15	7	12	54·55	39·27	38·27	16·99	26·61
Mulgrave ..	†	†	3	2	7	..	..	20·27	9·80	23·33
Northcote ..	24	24	11	17	17	41·65	35·87	13·45	21·38	22·19
Nunawading ..	†	†	5	6	10	..	..	13·74	13·70	21·28
Oakleigh ..	9	6	3	13	13	43·36	23·00	6·45	25·24	23·90
Port Melbourne ..	11	7	3	4	6	56·91	36·24	11·28	14·29	22·22
Prahran ..	29	27	14	25	12	46·44	33·08	13·85	24·49	12·95
Preston ..	23	28	31	31	25	40·29	39·66	28·11	27·19	21·11
Richmond ..	29	25	26	8	10	49·27	38·79	32·42	10·74	14·29
Ringwood ..	†	†	5	2	3	..	..	25·64	9·80	11·32
Sandringham ..	9	10	15	10	8	37·04	30·62	22·56	15·58	12·70
South Melbourne ..	30	28	15	13	17	54·77	46·46	20·38	17·98	24·01
St. Kilda ..	22	31	24	29	18	43·78	43·27	24·00	29·93	18·25
Sunshine (Part) * ..	8	7	3	9	21	49·68	36·36	6·37	14·33	27·67
Williamstown ..	13	14	9	8	15	38·63	35·64	20·59	16·19	24·12

\* Shire of Braybrook declared City of Sunshine on 16th May, 1951.  
† Included in remainder of State.



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

Municipality.	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.					Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.				
	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1949.	1950.	1951.
<b>Cities and Principal Towns outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area—</b>										
Ballaarat ..	25	29	17	19	30	41·62	46·05	18·10	20·49	30·74
Bendigo ..	22	24	18	18	15	40·32	42·73	25·28	21·58	19·79
Geelong ..	34	30	21	21	34	48·77	41·32	19·23	20·94	34·69
Ararat ..	4	2	3	3	5	40·85	21·15	21·90	19·73	27·32
Benalla ..	†	†	†	7	5	..	..	..	36·27	29·94
Castlemaine ..	4	3	4	1	5	38·62	32·69	36·70	6·94	45·45
Colac ..	5	4	2	5	7	45·63	28·71	10·15	26·04	37·63
Echuca ..	6	3	3	2	6	62·50	31·89	25·64	15·88	47·24
Hamilton ..	4	5	7	1	6	37·61	34·68	34·15	5·03	28·85
Horsham ..	5	4	4	4	9	40·95	31·90	24·24	21·98	55·55
Maryborough ..	5	4	1	5	1	41·59	35·12	6·54	32·47	5·88
Mildura ..	8	8	7	11	8	37·68	30·72	23·33	34·59	27·68
Sale ..	2	3	4	2	2	27·97	30·36	23·26	8·62	9·62
Shepparton ..	8	8	8	5	3	54·50	45·65	30·77	18·65	9·29
Stawell ..	4	3	3	2	2	47·06	30·52	22·90	14·93	18·02
Swan Hill ..	†	†	2	5	6	..	..	16·26	30·49	41·66
Wangaratta ..	7	8	8	3	8	63·91	66·56	36·70	11·32	30·30
Warrnambool ..	6	7	9	10	7	34·32	35·97	35·86	37·31	22·73
Wonthaggi ..	5	3	3	6	2	50·66	40·72	27·78	54·54	20·41
<b>Summary—</b>										
Melbourne Metropolitan Area ..	579	639	519	512	549	42·55	37·24	20·27	19·37	20·81
Cities and Principal Towns outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area ..	154	148	124	130	161	43·95	39·65	23·01	22·17	27·89
Remainder of State	437	438	383	359	433	38·24	37·38	24·11	20·47	23·53
Victoria ..	1,170	1,225	1,026	1,001	1,143	41·00	37·55	21·89	20·09	22·61

† 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 14·3 in 1947-51. The rate for infants "one week and under one month" declined from 11·1 in 1910-14 to 2·4 in 1947-51, a decrease of 78 per cent., and that for infants "one month and under one year" from 41·2 to 6·2, a decrease of 85 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 6 in 1947-51. In 1951 the mortality of infants "under one week" comprised 62 per cent. of the total infantile mortality.

The rate for male infants is consistently higher than that for females, and in 1947-51 exceeded the female rate by 28·5 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 female death rates at each age period for the year 1951:—

**VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES, 1900 TO 1951.**

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	
1945-49 ..	15·9	2·9	2·2	1·9	2·5	25·4	28·4	22·3	
1950 ..	12·6	2·1	1·6	1·8	2·0	20·1	21·9	18·2	
1951 ..	13·9	2·1	1·9	2·2	2·5	22·6	25·3	19·8	

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES, MALES AND FEMALES, 1951.

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 ..	416	15.99	63.32	289	11.78	59.46
1 week and under						
1 month ..	59	2.27	8.98	48	1.96	9.88
1 month and under						
3 months ..	48	1.84	7.31	48	1.96	9.88
3 months and under						
6 months ..	68	2.61	10.35	42	1.71	8.64
6 months and under						
12 months ..	66	2.54	10.04	59	2.40	12.14
Total under one year ..	657	25.25	100.00	486	19.81	100.00

**Infantile death rates from certain causes.** 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. Since 1950 infant deaths have been classified according to the Sixth (1948) Revision of the International Classification of Diseases. Owing to the change in classifications, figures since 1950 are not exactly comparable with figures for previous years.

The next two tables show the infant mortality rates from the principal causes for certain periods from 1891 to 1949, and for the year 1951.

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.	1931-40.	1941-49.
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases ..	12.41	7.31	4.87	3.57	2.51	1.23
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia						
Pneumonia ..	11.37	8.13	6.86	6.08	5.58	3.84
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..	29.66	24.62	16.13	9.85	1.98	1.31
Congenital Malformations (157) ..	3.45	4.86	4.38	4.43	4.29	3.75
Congenital Debility (158) ..	22.24	12.74	13.09	6.77	2.30	0.73
Prematurity (159) ..	13.13	14.99	15.17	15.34	12.40	9.69
Injury at Birth (160) ..				2.57	3.25	3.32
Other Diseases of Early Infancy (161) ..	21.51	12.77	7.98	3.42	4.39	3.30
Other Diseases ..				4.42	2.58	1.77
Violence ..	3.16	2.47	1.07	0.80	0.83	0.75
Total, all Causes ..	116.93	87.89	69.55	57.25	40.11	29.69

The mortality from epidemic, endemic and infectious diseases, the main respiratory diseases, and diarrhoea and enteritis declined from 40.1 per 1,000 births in 1901-10 to 6.4 in 1941-49, a decrease of 84 per cent.

VICTORIA—INFANTILE DEATH RATES, AT VARIOUS AGES, FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1951.

Cause of Death. (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses).	Deaths under One year per 1,000 Births.								
	Age Period.						Total.	Males.	Females.
	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.				
Infective and Parasitic Diseases (1-138)	0.02	0.04	0.14	0.21	0.42	0.83	0.92	0.73	
Pneumonia and Bronchitis (490-493, 500-502)	..	..	0.42	0.60	0.51	1.53	1.58	1.47	
Gastro-enteritis and Colitis, except Ulcerative, age four weeks and over (571)	..	..	0.06	0.29	0.20	0.55	0.42	0.69	
Congenital Malformations (750-759)	1.51	0.83	0.69	0.55	0.51	4.09	4.61	3.55	
Certain Diseases of Early Infancy— Birth Injuries (760, 761)—									
(a) Without mention of Imma- turity	1.74	0.12	0.02	..	..	1.88	2.19	1.55	
(b) With Immaturity	0.67	0.08	..	..	..	0.75	0.96	0.53	
Postnatal Asphyxia and Atelectasis (762)—									
(a) Without mention of Imma- turity	1.33	0.02	..	0.04	..	1.39	1.65	1.10	
(b) With Immaturity	2.29	0.10	0.02	..	..	2.41	2.69	2.12	
Infections of the Newborn (763-768)—									
Pneumonia of Newborn—									
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	0.34	0.25	..	..	..	0.59	0.69	0.49	
(b) With Immaturity	0.18	0.18	..	..	..	0.36	0.38	0.33	
Diarrhoea of Newborn—									
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	..	0.06	..	..	..	0.06	0.08	0.04	
(b) With Immaturity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum—									
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
(b) With Immaturity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Pemphigus Neonatorum—									
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
(b) With Immaturity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Umbilical Sepsis —									
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
(b) With Immaturity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Other Sepsis of Newborn	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
(b) With Immaturity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy (769-775)—									
(a) Without mention of Imma- turity	0.99	0.08	0.02	0.02	0.02	1.13	1.27	0.98	
(b) With Immaturity	0.57	0.14	0.04	..	..	0.75	0.81	0.69	
Immaturity unqualified (776)	3.90	0.06	0.02	..	..	3.98	4.54	3.38	
All other diseases	0.20	0.14	0.31	0.38	0.67	1.70	2.00	1.39	
Accidents, Poisonings, and Violence	0.21	0.02	0.16	0.08	0.14	0.61	0.46	0.77	
Total, All Causes	13.95	2.12	1.90	2.17	2.47	22.61	25.25	19.81	

In 1951, 417 deaths were connected with immaturity, either directly or in association with other causes, and all except four of these deaths were of children under one month of age. The deaths connected with immaturity represented 36 per cent. of the total infant deaths. Congenital malformations were responsible for 207, or 18 per cent., of the infant deaths. It will thus be seen that 54 per cent. of the total infant mortality in 1951 was related to immaturity and congenital malformations.

The following table shows the number of deaths from the principal causes, and the death rate of infants under one month, for Melbourne Metropolitan Area and Victoria for the years 1950 and 1951:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE MONTH,  
1950 AND 1951—MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN AREA  
AND VICTORIA.

Cause of Death (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses).	Melbourne Metropolitan Area.		Victoria.	
	1950.	1951.	1950.	1951.
Infective and Parasitic Diseases (1-138) ..	3	2	4	3
Pneumonia and Bronchitis (490-493, 500-502) ..	1	..	1	..
Congenital Malformations (750-759) ..	47	60	94	118
Certain Diseases of Early Infancy—				
Birth Injuries (760,761)—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	39	50	80	94
(b) With Immaturity ..	28	24	45	38
Postnatal Asphyxia and Atelectasis (762)—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	26	33	70	68
(b) With Immaturity ..	71	68	89	121
Infections of the Newborn (763-768)—				
Pneumonia of Newborn—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	16	17	32	30
(b) With Immaturity ..	7	11	8	18
Diarrhoea of Newborn—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	..	3	3	3
(b) With Immaturity ..	1	..	2	..
Other Infections of Newborn—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	3	..	4	..
(b) With Immaturity ..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy (769-775)—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	21	20	51	54
(b) With Immaturity ..	20	14	44	36
Immaturity unqualified (776) ..	87	70	185	200
All Other Diseases ..	11	13	16	17
Accidents, Poisonings, and Violence ..	2	7	5	12
Total, All Causes ..	383	392	733	812
Deaths per 1,000 Births ..	14·5	14·9	14·7	16·0

**Nuptial and  
ex-nuptial  
infantile  
death rates.**

On the average of the last ten years, 42 in every 1,000 ex-nuptial infants died within a year, as against 27 in every 1,000 nuptial children. The proportion of ex-nuptial children who died before the age of one year is, therefore, 1.6 times that of nuptial children. In the year 1951 the mortality rate of nuptial infants was 22.4 per 1,000 births. Births and deaths of ex-nuptial children numbered 1,675 and 48 respectively, the death rate being thus 28.7 per 1,000 births. The mortality rates of the two classes for the years 1950 and 1951 are shown in the following table:—

**VICTORIA—DEATH RATES OF NUPTIAL AND EX-NUPTIAL  
INFANTS FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1950 AND 1951.**

Cause of Death (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses).	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.			
	Nuptial.		Ex-nuptial.	
	1950.	1951.	1950.	1951.
Infective and Parasitic Diseases (1-138) ..	0.54	0.80	0.62	1.79
Pneumonia and Bronchitis (490-493, 500-502)	1.39	1.49	2.47	2.39
Gastro-enteritis and Colitis, except Ulcerative, age four weeks and over (571) .. ..	0.35	0.53	0.62	1.19
Congenital Malformations (750-759) .. ..	3.24	4.11	3.71	3.58
Certain Diseases of Early Infancy—				
Birth Injuries (760, 761)—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	1.64	1.92	1.86	0.60
(b) With Immaturity .. .. ..	0.89	0.76	1.23	0.60
Postnatal Asphyxia and Atelectasis (762)—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	1.41	1.35	1.86	2.39
(b) With Immaturity .. .. ..	1.66	2.35	5.56	4.18
Infections of the Newborn (763-768)—				
Pneumonia of Newborn—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	0.63	0.59	1.24	0.60
(b) With Immaturity .. .. ..	0.17	0.35	..	0.60
Diarrhoea of Newborn—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	0.04	0.06	0.62	..
(b) With Immaturity .. .. ..	0.04	..	..	..
Other Infections of Newborn—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	0.08	..	..	..
(b) With Immaturity .. .. ..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy (769-775)—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	1.16	1.11	..	1.79
(b) With Immaturity .. .. ..	0.91	0.76	1.86	0.60
Immaturity Unqualified (776) .. .. ..	3.73	4.05	3.71	1.79
All other Diseases .. .. ..	1.66	1.70	1.23	1.79
Accidents, Poisonings, and Violence ..	0.31	0.47	0.62	4.77
 Total, All Causes .. .. ..	 19.85	 22.40	 27.21	 28.66

**Infantile mortality Australian States and New Zealand.**

The following statement shows the infantile death rate per 1,000 births in each of the Australian States and in New Zealand for the years 1947 to 1951 :—

**INFANTILE DEATH RATE—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1947 TO 1951.**

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.*
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
1949..	21.89	27.29	24.72	27.68	26.42	23.91	25.31	23.78
1950..	20.09	27.04	24.77	24.04	27.13	23.75	24.47	22.75
1951..	22.61	26.29	25.66	24.51	28.73	26.64	25.24	22.78

\* Excludes Maoris

In the year 1951 the infantile mortality rates recorded for the Australian States showed that Victoria had the lowest rate and Western Australia the highest.

**Stillbirths and infantile mortality.**

Registration of stillbirths did not come into operation in Victoria until 1953. Prior to this date, however, in accordance with the provisions of the Cemeteries Act and of the (Commonwealth) *Social Services Consolidation Act 1947*, cases were notified to registrars.

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

**VICTORIA—STILLBIRTHS (RECORDED) AND INFANT MORTALITY, 1942 TO 1951.**

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.	
1942 ..	2.64	2.58	27.75	13.89	41.64	66.33
1943 ..	2.62	2.56	23.98	11.78	35.76	60.41
1944 ..	2.35	2.29	23.14	8.82	31.96	54.17
1945 ..	2.38	2.33	21.11	6.92	28.03	50.64
1946 ..	2.19	2.14	20.20	6.96	27.16	47.97
1947 ..	2.01	1.97	19.59	6.69	26.28	45.45
1948 ..	1.96	1.92	17.14	6.79	23.93	42.66
1949 ..	1.94	1.90	16.28	5.61	21.89	40.46
1950 ..	1.93	1.90	14.71	5.38	20.09	38.67
1951 ..	1.84	1.80	16.06	6.55	22.61	40.25

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

**Deaths of children under 5 years.** In 1951 the deaths of male and of female children in Victoria under 5 years of age numbered 841 and 620 respectively.

**Ages at death.** The ages of males and of females who died in each of the years 1949 to 1951 are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—AGES AT DEATH, 1949 TO 1951.

Ages.	1949.			1950.			1951.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year	591	435	1,026	560	441	1,001	657	486	1,143
1 year ..	51	46	97	67	62	129	78	60	138
2 years ..	39	22	61	51	27	78	37	32	69
3 ..	33	16	49	30	23	53	41	20	61
4 ..	18	15	33	29	11	40	28	22	50
5 to 9 years	68	49	117	76	45	121	63	57	120
10 .. 14 ..	42	30	72	54	35	89	48	31	79
15 .. 19 ..	89	43	132	87	45	132	101	38	139
20 .. 24 ..	145	76	221	168	80	248	191	71	262
25 .. 29 ..	156	78	234	152	94	246	165	91	256
30 .. 34 ..	133	102	235	138	96	234	147	132	279
35 .. 39 ..	225	157	382	189	144	333	218	147	365
40 .. 44 ..	282	204	486	281	220	501	307	192	499
45 .. 49 ..	469	325	794	401	285	686	443	294	737
50 .. 54 ..	619	460	1,079	642	449	1,091	686	433	1,119
55 .. 59 ..	968	646	1,614	938	641	1,579	1,051	603	1,654
60 .. 64 ..	1,224	822	2,046	1,277	886	2,163	1,345	838	2,183
65 .. 69 ..	1,431	1,040	2,471	1,396	1,097	2,493	1,489	1,071	2,560
70 .. 74 ..	1,465	1,321	2,786	1,478	1,303	2,781	1,554	1,396	2,950
75 .. 79 ..	1,494	1,488	2,982	1,444	1,581	3,025	1,592	1,603	3,195
80 .. 84 ..	1,242	1,469	2,711	1,307	1,485	2,792	1,317	1,587	2,904
85 .. 89 ..	792	947	1,739	795	1,087	1,882	813	1,087	1,900
90 .. 94 ..	186	333	519	176	356	532	237	408	645
95 years ..	15	27	42	18	20	38	12	37	49
96 ..	7	9	16	12	14	26	19	18	37
97 ..	4	13	17	3	7	10	10	10	20
98 ..	7	7	14	4	15	19	5	7	12
99 ..	4	7	11	2	2	4	1	3	4
100 ..	1	..	1	..	3	3	1	7	8
101 ..	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
102 ..	1	..	1	1	2	3	..	1	1
103 ..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..
107 ..	..	..	..	2	1	3	..	..	..
Unknown ..	1	..	1	2	..	2	5	1	6
Total.	11,803	10,188	21,991	11,781	10,560	22,341	12,662	10,784	23,446

Of the 67,778 persons who died in Victoria during the last three years 15,971 (or approximately 24 per cent.) were aged 80 years and upwards, and 28—nine males and nineteen females—were stated as having attained or passed the age of 100 years. In 1900 deaths of persons aged 80 years and over represented about 7 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.



Causes of death.

The Sixth (1948) Revision of the International List of Causes of Death was adopted for use in 1950.

The Revision introduced international rules for a uniform method of selecting the main cause of death to be tabulated if more than one cause is stated on the death certificate.

The comparability of statistics for years subsequent to 1950 with those for years prior to 1950 will be affected by the adoption of the new method.

The causes of death in Victoria and in Melbourne Metropolitan Area for 1951 according to the abbreviated List of the Sixth (1948) Revision of the International List of Causes of Death and the rate per million of population are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH, NUMBERS AND RATES.

Cause of Death. (Abbreviated International List, 1948 Revision.)  (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses.)	Deaths—1951.			
	Victoria.		Melbourne Metropolitan Area.	
	Number.	Rate per 1,000,000 of Mean Population.	Number.	Rate per 1,000,000 of Mean Population.
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System (1-8) ..	359	158.22	231	171.36
2. Tuberculosis, other forms (10-19) ..	48	21.15	28	20.77
3. Syphilis and its sequelae (20-29) ..	66	29.09	48	35.61
4. Typhoid Fever (40) ..	..	..	..	..
5. Cholera (43) ..	..	..	..	..
6. Dysentery, all forms (45-48) ..	14	6.17	10	7.42
7. Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat (50, 51) ..	..	..	..	..
8. Diphtheria (55) ..	7	3.09	..	..
9. Whooping cough (56) ..	11	4.85	7	5.19
10. Meningococcal infections (57) ..	46	20.27	24	17.80
11. Plague (58) ..	..	..	..	..
12. Acute poliomyelitis (80) ..	30	13.22	9	6.68
13. Smallpox (84) ..	..	..	..	..
14. Measles (85) ..	12	5.29	4	2.97
15. Typhus and other rickettsial diseases (100-108) ..	..	..	..	..
16. Malaria (110-117) ..	..	..	..	..
17. All other diseases classed as infective and parasitic ..	73	32.17	29	21.51
18. Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissues (140-205) ..	3,169	1,396.64	2,028	1,504.38
19. Benign and unspecified neoplasms (210-239) ..	67	29.53	46	34.12
20. Diabetes mellitus (260) ..	353	155.57	215	159.49
21. Anaemias (290-293) ..	112	49.36	70	51.93
22. Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system (330-334) ..	2,860	1,260.45	1,784	1,323.38
23. Nonmeningococcal meningitis (340) ..	35	15.42	22	16.32
24. Rheumatic fever (400-402) ..	97	42.75	55	40.80
25. Chronic rheumatic heart disease (410-416) ..	176	77.57	113	83.83
26. Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease (420-422) ..	6,228	2,744.79	3,744	2,777.32
27. Other diseases of heart (430-434) ..	531	234.02	270	200.29

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH, NUMBERS AND RATES—*continued.*

Cause of Death. (Abbreviated International List, 1948 Revision.) (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses.)	Deaths—1951.			
	Victoria.		Melbourne Metropolitan Area.	
	Number.	Rate per 1,000,000 of Mean Popu- lation.	Number.	Rate per 1,000,000 of Mean Popu- lation.
28. Hypertension with heart disease (440-443) ..	696	306.74	449	333.07
29. Hypertension without mention of heart (444-447) ..	359	158.22	234	173.58
30. Influenza (480-483) ..	131	57.73	64	47.48
31. Pneumonia (490-493) ..	970	427.50	564	418.38
32. Bronchitis (500-502) ..	307	135.30	187	138.72
33. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum (540, 541) ..	207	91.23	127	94.21
34. Appendicitis (550-553) ..	49	21.60	19	14.09
35. Intestinal obstruction and hernia (560, 561, 570) ..	114	50.24	66	48.96
36. Gastritis, duodenitis, enteritis and colitis, except diarrhoea of the Newborn (543, 571, 572) ..	168	74.04	87	64.54
37. Cirrhosis of liver (581) ..	146	64.34	112	83.08
38. Nephritis and nephrosis (590-594) ..	515	226.97	298	221.06
39. Hyperplasia of prostate (610) ..	222	97.84	126	93.47
40. Complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (640-652, 660, 670-689) ..	50	22.04	24	17.80
41. Congenital malformations (750-759) ..	276	121.64	151	112.01
42. Birth injuries, postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis (760-762) ..	325	143.23	178	132.04
43. Infections of the Newborn (763-768) ..	51	22.48	31	23.00
44. Other diseases peculiar to early infancy, and immaturity unqualified (769-776) ..	296	130.45	107	79.37
45. Senility without mention of psychosis, ill-defined and unknown causes (780-795) ..	535	235.78	275	204.00
46. All other diseases ..	2,310	1,018.06	1,441	1,068.94
47. Motor vehicle accidents (E810-E835) ..	629	277.21	339	251.47
48. All other accidents (E800-E802, E840-E862) ..	576	253.85	295	218.83
49. Suicide and self-inflicted injury (E963, E970-E979) ..	180	79.33	108	80.12
50. Homicide and operations of war (E964, E965, E980-E999) ..	40	17.63	28	20.77
Total ..	23,446	10,333.07	14,047	10,420.16

**Tuberculosis (all forms).** The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1951 was 407, the rate per million of population being 179. 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 1951 numbered 359—259 being of males and 100 of females—and equalled a rate of 158 per million of the population. Rates for previous periods were 178 in 1950, 294 in 1945-49, 660 in 1918-22, 855 in 1908-12, and 1,365 in 1890-92. In 1951 tuberculosis of the respiratory system was responsible for 88 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	0.24	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	3.66
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 1951, classified according to sex and age groups, is given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM AT VARIOUS AGES, 1951.

Age Group.				Males.	Females.
0-9	..	..	..	..	1
10-14	..	..	..	..	..
15-19	..	..	..	1	1
20-24	..	..	..	3	8
25-29	..	..	..	1	6
30-34	..	..	..	7	10
35-39	..	..	..	11	14
40-44	..	..	..	18	12
45-49	..	..	..	22	8
50-54	..	..	..	36	7
55-59	..	..	..	37	7
60-64	..	..	..	42	7
65-69	..	..	..	40	7
70 and over	..	..	..	41	12
Total .. ..				259	100

For the year 1951, the average age of those who died from tuberculosis of the respiratory system was 58·0 years for males and 47·0 years for females.

**Tubercular diseases (tuberculosis of the respiratory system excepted).** In 1951 there occurred in Victoria 48 deaths from tubercular diseases (excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system). This number represented a rate of 21 per million of the population. Rates for previous periods were 18 in 1950, 30 in 1945-49, 134 in 1918-22, 182 in 1908-12, and 379 in 1890-92.

**Tubercular death rates in Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and remainder of State.**

The following table shows the death rates from tubercular diseases in Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and the remainder of the State.

**VICTORIA—DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULAR DISEASES IN MELBOURNE, BALLARAT, BENDIGO, GEELONG, AND THE REMAINDER OF THE STATE, 1951.**

Year.	Deaths per 10,000 of the Population.														
	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.					Other Tubercular Diseases.					All Tubercular Diseases.				
	Melbourne Metropolitan Area.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Remainder of the State.	Melbourne Metropolitan Area.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Remainder of the State.	Melbourne Metropolitan Area.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Remainder of the State.
1951 ..	1.7	2.1	3.1	1.1	1.3	0.2	0.5	..	0.4	0.2	1.9	2.6	3.1	1.5	1.5

**Typhoid Fever.**

There were no deaths from typhoid fever in the years 1949 to 1951. Rates per million of population were 2.4 in 1948, 1.5 in 1947, 1.0 in 1946, 3.0 in 1945, 31 in 1920-24, 108 in 1905-09, and 301 in 1895-99. Cases of typhoid fever reported in 1951 numbered 9, or 4 per million of population, as against 8 per million in 1950, 7 in 1949, 15 in 1948, 10 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 Moorabbin outbreak accounted for 433 of the typhoid fever cases in 1943, and was responsible for 23 deaths.

**Scarlet Fever and Streptococcal Sore Throat.**

There were no deaths from these diseases in 1951.

In Victoria, in the last ten years, scarlet fever reached its highest incidence in 1944, when 7,824 cases were reported. Since that year it has declined considerably, and in 1950 a new low level of incidence was reported. The incidence in 1951 was slightly higher than that in 1950. Both the case fatality, and the mortality per million of population are very low.

**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 1947-51, 44 per cent. of those who died were under 5 years, and 76 per cent. were under 10 years of age.

The appended table shows for Victoria and Melbourne Metropolitan Area 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 MELBOURNE  
METROPOLITAN AREA, 1895 TO 1951.**

Period.	Average Annual cases Reported.		Average 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
1945-49 .. ..	520	25·2	19	0·9	3·7
<hr/>					
1950 .. ..	326	14·8	12	0·5	3·7
1951 .. ..	190	8·4	7	0·3	3·7
MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN AREA.					
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
1945-49 .. ..	347	28·4	14	1·1	4·0
<hr/>					
1950 .. ..	171	13·1	6	0·5	3·5
1951 .. ..	118	8·8	..	..	..

The incidence rate of 8·4 per 100,000 of population is the lowest on record in Victoria.

The cases of diphtheria which occurred in the Melbourne Metropolitan Area, the three principal cities outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area and in the remainder of the State in each of the five years 1947 to 1951, and their proportions to the respective populations for the period 1910-19 and the years 1949, 1950, and 1951 are given in the subjoined table:—

## VICTORIA—CASES OF DIPHTHERIA.

Locality.	Reported Cases of Diphtheria.					Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.			
	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1910-19.	1949.	1950.	1951.
Melbourne Metropolitan Area ..	277	280	291	171	118	39·3	2·3	1·3	0·9
Ballarat .. ..	2	3	2	3	..	24·3	0·5	0·7	..
Bendigo .. ..	7	9	9	9	1	84·6	2·9	2·8	0·3
Geelong .. ..	1	2	1	..	19	43·4	0·2	..	4·0
Remainder of State	118	103	98	143	52	25·7	1·3	1·8	0·7

**Whooping Cough.**

Whooping cough was responsible for 11 deaths in 1951, which equalled a rate of 5 per million of population. Rates for previous years were 0·5 in 1950, 4 in 1949, 10 in 1948, and 3 in 1947. The infantile death rate is more affected than the general rate by this ailment as it is practically confined to children.

**Meningococcal Infections.**

In 1951 deaths from meningococcal infections numbered 46, the rate per million of population being 20.

**Acute Poliomyelitis.**

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 were reported. In the 1937-38 epidemic there were 2,096 cases, the number of deaths being 113. In the period 1940-48 the cases reported were 20 in 1940, 51 in 1941, 23 in 1942, 9 in 1943, 9 in 1944, 238 in 1945, 247 in 1946, 124 in 1947, and 55 in 1948. An epidemic of poliomyelitis occurred in the year 1949. Seven

hundred and sixty cases were reported during the year, the incidence rate being 35.5 per 100,000 of population. The number of cases of poliomyelitis reported in 1950 was 202, an incidence of 9.2 per 100,000 of population. In 1951, cases numbered 420, the incidence being 18.5 per 100,000 of population.

There were 30 deaths from poliomyelitis in 1951, which represented a rate of 13.2 per million of population.

Poliomyelitis was responsible for 21 deaths in 1950, 48 in 1949, 5 in 1948, 9 in 1947, and 16 in 1946.

**Small-pox—  
Deaths from.** During the years 1853 to 1951, only 31 deaths occurred 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 12 deaths from measles in 1951 which equalled a rate of 5 per million of population. Rates per million of population were 4 in 1950, 6 in 1949, 4 in 1948, and 7 in 1947. The disease chiefly affects children. For the five years 1947-51, 46 per cent. of those who died from the disease were under 2 years and 71 per cent. were under 5 years of age.

**Malignant Neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissues—  
Death rates.** Deaths classified under this heading since 1950 include deaths from Hodgkins' disease and Leukaemia and Aleukae-mia, which were not formerly included with neoplasms. Deaths from malignant neoplasms in 1951 numbered 3,169 and represented a death rate of 1,397 per million of the whole population. Rates for previous periods were 1,456 in 1950, 1,455 in 1949, 1,385 in 1948, 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.

**Malignant Neoplasms—  
Death rates at different ages.** Death rates relating to malignant neoplasms, 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 MALIGNANT  
NEOPLASMS IN AGE GROUPS.**

Age Group.	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	0·39	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 malignant neoplasms 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.

**Malignant  
Neoplasms,  
including  
neoplasms of  
lymphatic and  
haematopoietic  
tissues—  
Deaths at  
certain ages.**

The number of deaths from malignant neoplasms in 1951, classified according to sex and age groups, is given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS  
AT CERTAIN AGES, 1951.

Age Group.	Males.	Females.
0-4 .. .. .	22	11
5- 9 .. .. .	5	8
10-14 .. .. .	4	2
15-19 .. .. .	13	3
20-24 .. .. .	9	6
25-29 .. .. .	13	10
30-34 .. .. .	19	24
35-39 .. .. .	28	28
40-44 .. .. .	32	59
45-49 .. .. .	63	87
50-54 .. .. .	126	113
55-59 .. .. .	155	173
60-64 .. .. .	223	200
65-69 .. .. .	228	184
70-74 .. .. .	243	240
75-79 .. .. .	211	191
80-84 .. .. .	123	136
85 and over .. .. .	78	99
Total .. .. .	1,595	1,574

Ninety-one per cent. of the deaths from malignant neoplasms in 1951 were at ages 45 years and upwards.

For the year 1951, the average age of those who died from malignant neoplasms was 64·5 years for males and 64·8 years for females.

**Malignant Neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissues.**

The following table shows the site of the disease in persons who died from malignant neoplasms in 1951 :—

VICTORIA—MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS, 1951.

Site of Disease.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Buccal Cavity and Pharynx .. ..	50	22	72
Oesophagus .. ..	52	19	71
Stomach .. ..	332	230	562
Intestine, except Rectum .. ..	182	240	422
Rectum .. ..	95	71	166
Larynx .. ..	18	6	24
Trachea, and Bronchus and Lung not specified as secondary .. ..	171	58	229
Breast .. ..	1	292	293
Cervix Uteri .. ..	..	86	86
Other and Unspecified Parts of Uterus .. ..	..	86	86
Prostate .. ..	172	..	172
Skin .. ..	34	25	59
Bone and Connective Tissue .. ..	21	16	37
All Other and Unspecified Sites .. ..	352	340	692
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia .. ..	57	49	106
Lymphosarcoma and Other Neoplasms of Lymphatic and Haematopoietic System .. ..	58	34	92
Total .. ..	1,595	1,574	3,169

**Diabetes Mellitus**

During 1951 diabetes was responsible for 123 male and 230 female deaths, representing a rate of 156 per million of the population. Rates for previous periods were 167 in 1950, 213 in 1945-49, 130 in 1918-22, and 107 in 1908-12.

The sudden fall in the rate for 1950 was due to the change in the method of selecting the underlying cause of death.

**Vascular Lesions affecting Central Nervous System**

In 1951, 1,148 male and 1,712 female deaths were ascribed to these causes, the total—2,860—corresponding to a rate of 1,260 per million of the population. Of the 2,860 deaths in 1951, 104 were due to subarachnoid haemorrhage, 1,581 to cerebral haemorrhage, 963 to cerebral embolism and thrombosis, and 212 to other vascular lesions.

**Nonmeningococcal Meningitis.**

In 1951 deaths from nonmeningococcal meningitis numbered 35, the rate per million of population being 15.

**Diseases of the Heart.** During 1951 there were 7,631 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart including 176 due to chronic rheumatic heart disease, 6,228 to arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease, 531 to other diseases of the heart, and 696 to hypertension with heart disease. The total causes in 1951 represented a rate of 3,363 per million of the population.

**Diseases of the Respiratory System.** In 1951 the deaths from respiratory diseases numbered 1,661 which represented a rate of 732 per million of the population. Of the deaths in the year under review, 131 were due to influenza, 208 to lobar pneumonia, 587 to broncho-pneumonia, 175 to pneumonia, other and unspecified, 307 to bronchitis, 11 to empyema and abscess of lung, 9 to pleurisy, 62 to pulmonary congestion and hypostasis, 30 to bronchiectasis, and 141 to other diseases.

The 131 deaths from influenza in 1951 corresponded to a rate of 58 per million of the population as compared with rates of 38 in 1950, 10 in 1949, 31 in 1948, 18 in 1947, 26 in 1946, 2,407 in 1919, 71 in 1913-17, 109 in 1908-12, and 381 in 1890-92.

The rate of mortality in 1951 was 132 per cent. above the rate of the previous quinquennium.

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 1951 19 per cent. of the deaths were of persons under 50 years of age.

In 1951 the greatest mortality from the respiratory diseases occurred during the months of September and October.

**Diseases of the digestive system.** In 1951 there were 519 male and 384 female deaths from digestive ailments, representing a proportion of 398 per million of the population, as against rates of 377 in 1950, 398 in 1949, 425 in 1948, 382 in 1947, 442 in 1946, 807 in 1922-26, and 2,382 in 1890-92. Deaths from these causes in 1951 were :—207 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 9 from gastritis and duodenitis, 49 from appendicitis, 114 from intestinal obstruction and hernia, 159 from gastro-enteritis and colitis, except diarrhoea of the newborn, 146 from cirrhosis of the liver, 92 from cholelithiasis and cholecystitis, and 127 from other diseases.

**Diseases of the genito-urinary system.**

In 1951 there were 889 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. This number represented a rate of 392 per million of the population. In 1951 nephritis and nephrosis were responsible for 515 deaths, infections of the kidney for 62, calculi of urinary system for 14, hyperplasia of prostate for 222, and other diseases of genito-urinary system for 76.

**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 number of maternal deaths and the proportion per 10,000 live births for the year 1951, and the averages of previous periods back to 1871.

**VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM DELIVERIES AND COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, AND THE PUERPERIUM, 1871 TO 1951.**

Period.	Average Annual Number of Deaths from—							Total.	Rate per 10,000 Live Births from—							Total.
	Sepsis of Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium (640, 641, 681, 682, 684).	Toxaemias of Pregnancy and the Puerperium (642, 652, 685, 686).	Haemorrhage of Pregnancy and Childbirth (643, 644, 670-672).	Abortion without mention of Sepsis or Toxaemia (650).	Abortion with Sepsis (651).	Other Complications of Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium (645-649, 673-680, 683, 687-689).	Sepsis of Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium (640, 641, 681, 682, 684).		Toxaemias of Pregnancy and the Puerperium (642, 652, 685, 686).	Haemorrhage of Pregnancy and Childbirth (643, 644, 670-672).	Abortion without mention of Sepsis or Toxaemia (650).	Abortion with Sepsis (651).	Other Complications of Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium (645-649, 673-680, 683, 687-689).			
1871-1880			173				173				64.38				64.38	
1881-1890			185				185				59.19				59.19	
1891-1900			183				183				56.01				56.01	
1901-1910			166				166				54.05				54.05	
1911-1920			147				147				42.77				42.77	
1921-1925			145				145				40.33				40.33	
1926-1929			198				198				57.02				57.02	
1930-1934			160				160				54.37				54.37	
1935-1939			139				139				47.17				47.17	
1940-1944			120				120				33.14				33.14	
1945-1949			69				69				15.12				15.12	
1950 ..	4	15	3	3	8	10	43	0.80	3.01	0.60	0.60	1.61	2.01		8.63	
1951 ..	3	19	8	2	10	8	50	0.59	3.76	1.58	0.40	1.98	1.58		9.89	

The following table gives information, in age groups, relating to the causes of death of women in childbirth in Victoria for the year 1951:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM DELIVERIES AND COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH AND THE PUERPERIUM, 1951.

Detailed List. No.	Cause of Death.	Ages at Death.						Total.	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.			
<b>640-649</b>	<b>Complications of Pregnancy—</b>									
640, 641	Infections of genito-urinary tract during pregnancy .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
642	Toxaemias of pregnancy .. ..	..	3	4	7	..	1	15	15	
643, 644	Haemorrhage of pregnancy .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	2	
645	Ectopic pregnancy .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
646-649	All other complications of pregnancy .. ..	..	1	..	1	..	1	3	3	
<b>650-652</b>	<b>Abortion—</b>									
650	Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxaemia—									
	0—Spontaneous or unspecified .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	1—Induced for medical or legal indications .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	2—Induced for other reasons .. ..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	2	
	3—Other .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
651	Abortion with sepsis—									
	0—Spontaneous or unspecified .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	
	1—Induced for medical or legal indications .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	
	2—Induced for other reasons .. ..	..	1	5	1	1	..	8	6	
	3—Other .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	
652	Abortion with toxaemia but without mention of sepsis—									
	0—Spontaneous or unspecified .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	1—Induced for medical or legal indications .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	2—Induced for other reasons .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	3—Other .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
<b>660</b>	<b>Delivery without complication</b>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
<b>670-678</b>	<b>Delivery with specified complication—</b>									
670	Delivery complicated by placenta praevia or antepartum haemorrhage .. ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	
671	Delivery complicated by retained placenta .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	
672	Delivery complicated by other postpartum haemorrhage .. ..	..	2	1	..	..	1	4	4	
674	Delivery complicated by disproportion or malposition of foetus .. ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	
673, 675-678	Delivery with all other complications of childbirth .. ..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	3	

VICTORIA — DEATHS FROM DELIVERIES AND COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH AND THE PUERPERIUM, 1951—*continued.*

Detailed List. No.	Cause of Death.	Ages at Death.						Total.	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.			
<b>680-689</b>	<b>Complication of the Puerperium—</b>									
680	Puerperal urinary infection without other sepsis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
681	Sepsis of childbirth and the puerperium .. .. .	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	
682	Puerperal phlebitis and thrombosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	
683	Pyrexia of unknown origin during the puerperium .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
684	Puerperal pulmonary embolism .. .. .	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	
685	Puerperal eclampsia .. .. .	..	4	..	..	..	..	4	4	
686	Other forms of puerperal toxæmia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
687	Cerebral hæmorrhage in the puerperium .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	
688	Other and unspecified complications of the puerperium .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
689	Mastitis and other disorders of lactation .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	Total .. .. .	..	11	14	17	3	5	50	48	2
	Number of married mothers .. .. .	..	..	11	12	17	3	5	48	..
	Number of unmarried mothers .. .. .	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	..

Of the 92 children born to the 48 married women who died 88 were living at the time of their mothers' deaths, or an average of 1.8 children per mother.

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 1949, 1950, and 1951 are shown in the following table:—

## VICTORIA—MATERNAL DEATHS, 1926 TO 1951.

Age Group.	Mothers.							
	Deaths.				Deaths per 10,000 children born alive.			
	1926-30.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1926-30.	1949.	1950.	1951.
Under 20 years ..	41	3	2	..	47·1	14·4	9·2	..
20 to 24 years ..	150	6	6	11	39·1	4·7	4·4	7·9
25 to 29 „ ..	231	12	15	14	46·5	7·9	8·9	8·3
30 to 34 „ ..	226	9	9	17	56·8	9·3	9·0	16·4
35 to 39 „ ..	226	6	6	3	88·1	11·1	10·8	5·5
40 years and over	111	5	5	5	117·8	31·1	30·4	31·1
Total ..	985	41	43	50	57·4	8·7	8·6	9·9

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 1951 were 11 per 10,000 live births and 10 per 10,000 live births respectively.

**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 1942 to 1951, were as follows:—

## VICTORIA—DEATHS INVOLVING MOTOR VEHICLES, 1942 TO 1951.

Year.	Number of Motor Vehicles (30th June).	Deaths Involving Motor Vehicles.		
		Number.	Per 10,000 Motor Vehicles.	Per 1,000,000 of Population
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
1949 .. ..	351,428	461	13·1	216
1950 .. ..	403,965	563	13·9	255
1951 .. ..	444,522	629	14·2	277



The mortality per 10,000 vehicles was 13·5 for the period 1947–51, as compared with a rate of 10·6 in 1942–46. The mortality per million of population was 277 in 1951, 255 in 1950, 216 in 1949, 188 in 1948, 201 in 1947, 171 in 1946, 95 in 1945, 108 in 1944, 102 in 1943, and 178 in 1942. The mortality rate (277) in 1951 was the highest on record.

On the average of the five years, 1947 to 1951, motor cars, &c., were involved in 13·0 deaths per 10,000 cars registered, and motor cycles in 36·0 deaths per 10,000 motor cycles registered.

**Transport accidents.** In 1951 deaths from transport accidents numbered 692, as against 640 in 1950, 539 in 1949, 454 in 1948, 484 in 1947, 420 in 1946, 273 in 1945, 292 in 1944, 302 in 1943, and 439 in 1942.

During the year 1951 deaths connected with transport represented 57 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 1951 :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM TRANSPORT ACCIDENTS, 1951.

	Collisions.										Total Deaths from Collisions.	Other Transport Accidents.	Total Deaths from Transport Accidents.	Males.	Females.	
	Railway Vehicle.	Tramcar.	Motor Car.	Motor Omnibus.	Other Motor Vehicle (except motor cycle).	Motor Cycle.	Horse-drawn Vehicle, &c.	Bicycle.	Animal.	Fixed Object.						Other Object.
Railway vehicle ..	1	..	11	11	2	5	..	..	..	..	30	20	50*	37	13	
Tramcar ..	..	..	6	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	10	13	23	20	3	
Motor car ..	..	..	17	8	48	44	..	33	1	19	..	170	213	383	307	76
Motor omnibus ..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	2	..	..	..	6	13	19	16	3
Other motor Vehicles (except motor cycle)	..	..	..	..	11	23	1	7	..	5	..	47	78	125	102	23
Motor cycle ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	21	..	25	39	64	60	4
Horse-drawn vehicle ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	7	7	..
Bicycle ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	5	6	5	1
Aeroplane ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	3	1
Water Transport ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	6	6	..
Animal ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	3	1
Other vehicle ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..
Total ..	1	..	34	19	61	79	1	47	1	46	..	289	403	692	567	125

\* Includes rail accidents to six railway employees.

**Accidental deaths**

In 1951 there were 1,205 accidental deaths (923 male, 282 female). These represented a rate of 531 per million of population. The rate for the previous five years was 468. The numbers of deaths from various accidental causes are given in the appended table:—

**VICTORIA—ACCIDENTAL DEATHS, 1951.**

Detailed List No.	Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
E800-E802 ..	Railway accidents .. .. .	19	2	21
E810-E835 ..	Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	511	118	629
E840-E845 ..	Other road vehicle accidents .. .. .	28	4	32
E850-E858 ..	Water transport accidents .. .. .	6	..	6
E860-E866 ..	Aircraft accidents .. .. .	3	1	4
E870-E888 ..	Accidental poisoning by solid and liquid substances .. .. .	17	5	22
E890-E895 ..	Accidental poisoning by gases and vapours .. .. .	6	2	8
E900-E904 ..	Accidental falls .. .. .	97	85	182
E912 .. .. .	Accident caused by machinery .. .. .	11	..	11
E914 .. .. .	Accident caused by electric current .. .. .	6	3	9
E916 .. .. .	Accident caused by fire and explosion of combustible material .. .. .	25	19	44
E917, E918 ..	Accident caused by hot substance, corrosive liquid, steam, and radiation .. .. .	6	1	7
E919 .. .. .	Accident caused by firearm .. .. .	20	1	21
E924, E925 ..	Accidental mechanical suffocation .. .. .	3	3	6
E927 .. .. .	Accidents caused by bites and stings of venomous animals and insects .. .. .	1	..	1
E928 .. .. .	Other accidents caused by animals .. .. .	4	..	4
E929 .. .. .	Accidental drowning and submersion .. .. .	110	15	125
E935 .. .. .	Lightning .. .. .	2	..	2
E910, E911, E913, E915, E920-E923, E926, E930-E934, E936, E940-E946, E950-E959, E960-E962 .. .. .	} All other accidental causes .. .. .	48	23	71
	Total .. .. .	923	282	1,205

For the five years 1947-51 the female mortality rate from accidents was 30 per cent. of the rate for males.

**Suicide.**

In the year 1951, 124 males and 56 females took their lives. The deaths represented a rate of 79 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 84 in 1950, 74 in 1949, 79 in 1948, 79 in 1947, 91 in 1946, 87 in 1918-22, 102 in 1908-12, and 109 in 1890-92. Of the 124 male deaths in 1951 from suicide, 43 (35 per cent.) were connected with firearms and explosives. A much lower rate from suicide occurs among females than among males, the rate for the former, for the five-year period 1947-51, being 39 per cent. of that of the latter.

**Homicide.**

The deaths ascribed to homicide in 1951 numbered 37, of which 22 were of males and 15 of females. These represented a rate of 16 per million of the population, as against rates of 9 in 1950, 3 in 1949, 9 in 1948, 5 in 1947, 6 in 1946, 14 in 1918-22, and 19 in 908-12. Since 1930, deaths from criminal abortion have been excluded from this category and included with deaths from maternal causes.

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
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
1949 ..	11.64	12.67	15.33	14.35	16.36	17.32	13.40	15.89
1950 ..	12.47	12.60	15.80	15.09	16.41	16.92	13.73	15.36
1951 ..	11.95	12.10	15.36	14.27	16.35	16.35	13.23	14.83

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	1920-24	19,647	22.89	10.40	12.49
1885-89	16,741	32.27	15.87	16.40	1925-29	18,218	20.24	9.67	10.57
1890-94	20,059	31.99	14.62	17.37	1930-34	12,249	16.27	9.50	6.77
1895-99	15,625	26.76	13.81	12.95	1935-39	10,473	15.87	10.23	5.64*
1900-04	14,859	25.08	12.84	12.24	1940-44	15,250	18.53	10.71	7.82*
1905-09	16,062	24.76	11.93	12.83	1945-49	24,188	22.11	10.40	11.71
1910-14	18,795	25.42	11.57	13.85	1950..	27,489	22.61	10.14	12.47
1915-19	16,818	23.13	11.38	11.75	1951..	27,107	22.28	10.33	11.95

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

**CREMATION.**

There are two crematoria in Victoria—one at Springvale and the other at the New Melbourne General Cemetery, Fawkner. The history of their establishment is contained in an article published in the *Year-Book* 1942-43, page 307.

The numbers of cremations in relation to total deaths are shown in the following table:—

**CREMATION IN VICTORIA.**

Year.	Cremations at Fawkner.	Cremations at Springvale.	Total Cremations.	Total Deaths.	Percentage of Crema- tions to Deaths.
1927	32	..	32	16,773	·19
1928	84	..	84	17,708	·47
1929	151	..	151	16,717	·90
1930	162	..	162	15,959	1·02
1931	201	..	201	17,033	1·18
1932	199	..	199	16,805	1·18
1933	369	..	369	17,456	2·11
1934	499	..	499	18,648	2·68
1935	596	..	596	18,456	3·23
1936	358	400	758	18,778	4·04
1937	387	596	983	18,613	5·28
1938	415	752	1,167	18,955	6·16
1939	436	873	1,309	20,169	6·49
1940	571	1,053	1,624	20,293	8·00
1941	662	1,164	1,826	20,425	8·94
1942	753	1,246	1,999	21,973	9·09
1943	850	1,348	2,198	21,327	10·31
1944	892	1,502	2,394	20,502	11·68
1945	965	1,639	2,604	20,496	12·70
1946	1,030	1,920	2,950	21,534	13·69
1947	1,159	2,003	3,162	21,442	14·75
1948	1,293	2,349	3,642	21,825	16·69
1949	1,515	2,642	4,157	21,991	18·90
1950	1,568	2,857	4,425	22,341	19·81
1951	1,739	3,069	4,808	23,446	20·51