

PART VII.

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, 4839 and 5846 of 1938, 1941 and 1954 respectively, and the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act by Acts No. 4553 of 1938, 4858 of 1941, 5623 of 1952 and 5846 of 1954.

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.

Act No. 5623 of 1952 amended the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Acts by providing for the compulsory registration of still-born children; the Act defined a still-born child as any child born of its mother after the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy which did not at any time after being born breathe or show any other sign of life, and where the duration of pregnancy is not reliably ascertainable includes any foetus weighing not less than two pounds twelve ounces.

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, 1952 and 1953. The principal numbers and rates relating to Vital Statistics are given in the following tables:—

VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1952.

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 ..	..	27,933	14,189	612	..	20·77	10·55	20·27
Remainder of the State	..	25,805	9,133	586	..	25·84	9·15	24·88
Victoria	20,220	53,738	23,322	1,198	8·63	22·93	9·95	22·29

VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1953.

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 ..	..	27,560	13,731	544	..	20·06	9·99	19·74
Remainder of the State	..	26,001	8,919	589	..	25·44	8·73	22·65
Victoria	19,238	53,561	22,650	1,133	8·03	22·36	9·45	21·15

MARRIAGES.

Marriages—Numbers and Rates. Marriages in Victoria in 1953 numbered 19,238, a decrease of 982 as compared with the number registered in 1952. The rate per 1,000 of population in 1953 was 8·03 as compared with rates of 8·63 in 1952, 9·31 in 1951, 9·22 in 1950 and 9·38 in 1949. 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. The rate increased temporarily in 1951 to 9·31 but declined again in 1952 and 1953 to 8·63 and 8·03 respectively 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 1953.

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	9·20
1951 ..	21,117	5,731	5,041	4,426	5,919	9·28
1952 ..	20,220	5,194	5,208	4,042	5,776	8·63
1953 ..	19,238	4,639	4,845	3,999	5,755	8·03

*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 1949 to 1953:—

MARRIAGE RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1949	9.37	9.30	8.86	9.18	9.30	8.96	9.23	9.53
1950	9.20	9.41	8.65	9.28	9.74	9.18	9.24	9.19
1951	9.28	9.25	8.84	9.07	9.29	9.04	9.18	8.93
1952	8.63	8.78	8.01	8.27	8.97	8.56	8.59	8.55*
1953	8.03	8.14	7.66	7.92	8.10	7.91	8.01	8.41*

* Includes Maoris

The marriage rate in England and Wales in 1953 was 7.8.

Ages of Bridegrooms and Brides. The ages of bridegrooms and brides who were married in 1952 and 1953 are shown in combination for various groups in the tables which follow:—

VICTORIA—AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN COMBINATION, 1952.

Ages of Bridegrooms.	Ages of Brides.															Total Bridegrooms.			
	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 to 44	45 to 49.	50 to 54	55 to 59.		60 to 64.	65 to 69.	70 and over.
16	3	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
17	..	1	5	10	9	4	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
18	..	5	31	43	36	12	7	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	150
19	..	2	27	56	72	68	43	48	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	317
20	..	4	26	76	128	129	111	162	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	646
21 to 24	2	11	82	257	592	1,037	1,132	3,817	550	60	14	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,555
25 to 29	2	6	24	79	186	361	486	2,759	1,571	281	66	11	3	..	..	..	..	..	5,835
30 to 34	6	1	25	48	72	663	791	452	149	50	8	1	..	..	..	..	2,276
35 to 39	14	6	8	24	152	317	325	238	90	26	7	2	1	..	..	1,200
40 to 44	1	2	34	94	156	207	133	65	12	6	1	..	..	711
45 to 49	1	..	..	2	14	33	76	99	123	87	38	9	..	..	..	483
50 to 54	1	..	..	8	15	26	58	84	84	63	22	3	3	..	367
55 to 59	1	..	..	..	1	2	11	16	36	58	44	41	14	6	..	230
60 to 64	2	1	10	24	32	43	46	34	7	3	202
65 to 69	1	..	1	2	3	10	30	12	30	24	4	117
70 to 74	1	..	..	..	..	1	3	4	..	4	9	9	13	8	52
75 and over	1	..	..	..	..	5	2	6	9	7	7	37
Total Brides	4	29	204	539	1,057	1,668	1,883	7,679	3,386	1,391	862	559	378	244	153	101	61	22	20,220

VICTORIA—AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN COMBINATION, 1953.

Ages of Bridegrooms.	Ages of Brides.														Total Bridegrooms.				
	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.	50 to 54.		55 to 59.	60 to 64.	65 to 69.	70 and over.
16 ..	..	..	3	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
17 ..	2	5	5	17	4	5	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
18 ..	1	7	24	29	26	19	14	8	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
19 ..	..	2	30	60	60	62	30	44	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	295
20 ..	..	4	29	71	119	151	116	152	12	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	656
21 to 24	1	15	86	244	570	989	1,063	3,386	553	47	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,965
25 to 29	..	8	29	75	208	352	503	2,656	1,538	301	74	16	3	2	1	..	..	..	5,766
30 to 34	..	2	2	9	21	62	77	575	750	445	136	34	9	..	..	..	..	..	2,122
35 to 39	..	..	2	2	2	4	14	125	300	295	207	92	34	7	..	..	..	..	1,084
40 to 44	..	..	..	..	3	3	3	34	108	161	180	139	53	11	2	..	..	..	697
45 to 49	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	8	30	63	95	107	92	35	8	2	..	..	442
50 to 54	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	28	44	97	71	57	33	8	2	..	356
55 to 59	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	7	19	36	54	45	44	16	3	..	228
60 to 64	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	4	6	17	27	53	34	35	8	2	191
65 to 69	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	6	13	24	26	45	25	9	154
70 to 74	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	12	16	13	9	..	62
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	5	5	15	13	42
Total Brides	4	43	210	510	1,015	1,648	1,823	6,993	3,320	1,353	777	551	362	238	165	127	66	33	19,238

Of every 1,000 men married during 1952, 746 were older and 161 younger than their brides, and 93 were of the same age, whilst of every 1,000 men married during 1953, 742 were older, 165 younger than their brides, and 93 were of the same age.

In 1952 the oldest bridegroom was aged 90 years and the oldest bride 79 years; the youngest bridegroom was aged 16 years, and the youngest bride 14 years. In 1953 the oldest bridegroom was aged 95 years and the oldest bride 87 years; the youngest bridegroom was aged 16 years and the youngest bride 14 years.

The proportions of both sexes marrying in 1952 and 1953 are shown in varying age groups, in the following tables:—

Proportion of Marriages at Various Ages.

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN AGE GROUPS, 1952.

Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—		Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—	
	Bridegrooms.	Brides.		Bridegrooms.	Brides.
Under 16 ..	..	1·63	35 to 39 ..	59·35	42·63
16 ..	0·35	10·09	40 to 44 ..	35·16	27·65
17 ..	1·73	26·66	45 to 49 ..	23·89	18·69
18 ..	7·42	52·27	50 to 54 ..	18·15	12·07
19 ..	15·68	82·49	55 to 59 ..	11·37	7·57
20 ..	31·95	93·13	60 and over..	20·18	9·10
21 to 24 ..	373·64	379·77			
25 to 29 ..	288·57	167·46		1,000·00	1,000·00
30 to 34 ..	112·56	68·79			

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN AGE GROUPS, 1953.

Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—		Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—	
	Bridegrooms.	Brides.		Bridegrooms.	Brides.
Under 16 ..	..	2·44	35 to 39 ..	56·35	40·39
16 ..	0·31	10·92	40 to 44 ..	36·23	28·64
17 ..	2·18	26·51	45 to 49 ..	22·98	18·82
18 ..	6·76	52·76	50 to 54 ..	18·51	12·37
19 ..	15·33	85·66	55 to 59 ..	11·85	8·58
20 ..	34·10	94·76	60 and over..	23·34	11·75
21 to 24 ..	362·04	363·50			
25 to 29 ..	299·72	172·57		1,000·00	1,000·00
30 to 34 ..	110·30	70·33			

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 1949 to 1953 :—

Marriages of Minors.

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES OF MINORS.

Year.	Age in years.								Total.		
	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	
Bridegrooms.											
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
1952	7	35	150	317	646	1,155	5.71
1953	6	42	130	295	656	1,129	5.87
Brides.											
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
1952	4	29	204	539	1,057	1,668	1,883	5,384	26.63
1953	4	43	210	510	1,015	1,648	1,823	5,253	27.31

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 further increases in 1951, 1952 and 1953, when the proportions reached 15.64 per cent., 16.17 per cent. and 16.59 per cent. respectively.

Of every 1,000 bridegrooms in 1952, 57 were under 21 years of age; of every 1,000 brides, 266 were under 21 years of age. In 1953, 59 out of every 1,000 bridegrooms and 273 out of every 1,000 brides 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 1949 to 1953:—

VICTORIA—MEAN AGE AT MARRIAGE, 1949 TO 1953.

Year.	Bridegrooms.				Brides.			
	Bachelors.	Divorced.	Widowers.	All Bridegrooms.	Spinsters.	Divorced.	Widows.	All Brides.
1949 ..	27.1	39.0	51.9	29.0	24.2	34.4	44.8	25.8
1950 ..	27.1	39.3	52.9	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
1952 ..	26.9	40.0	53.3	29.0	24.1	36.1	45.3	25.8
1953 ..	26.9	40.5	54.7	29.2	24.1	36.1	47.0	26.0

In 1952 the mean age at marriage of bridegrooms whose brides were under 45 was 28.1 years, while for brides under 45 the age was 24.4 years. In 1953 the mean age at marriage of bridegrooms whose brides were under 45 was 27.6 years, while for brides under 45 the age was 24.4 years.

The most popular age at marriage for bridegrooms in 1952 was 23 years, and for brides 21 years. They were also the most popular ages in 1953.

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 1949 to 1953, and the proportions in each condition for periods since 1920 :—

VICTORIA—CONJUGAL CONDITION OF PERSONS MARRYING, 1949 TO 1953.

Period.	Bridegrooms.			Brides.			Total Marriages.
	Bachelors.	Widowers.	Divorced.	Spinsters.	Widows.	Divorced.	
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
1952 ..	18,009	930	1,281	18,000	870	1,350	20,220
1953 ..	17,034	930	1,274	17,033	859	1,346	19,238

VICTORIA—TOTAL MARRIAGES IN 1952 AND 1953 AND PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS MARRYING IN EACH CONJUGAL CONDITION, 1920 TO 1953.

Marriages Between—	1952.		1953.		Conjugal Condition.	Percentage of Total—			
	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.		1920-29.	1930-39.	1940-49.	1953.
						Bridegrooms.			
Bachelors and Spinsters	16,807	83·12	15,857	82·42	Bachelors	92·1	92·3	90·5	88·6
Bachelors and Widows	396	1·96	365	1·90	Widowers	6·3	5·5	4·9	4·8
Bachelors and Divorced Women	806	3·98	812	4·22	Divorced	1·6	2·2	4·6	6·6
Widowers and Spinsters	439	2·17	421	2·19					
Widowers and Widows	325	1·61	342	1·78	Total ..	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0
Widowers and Divorced Women	166	0·82	167	0·87					
Divorced Men and Spinsters	754	3·73	755	3·92					
Divorced Men and Widows	149	0·74	152	0·79					
Divorced Men and Divorced Women	378	1·87	367	1·91					
						Brides.			
					Spinsters	93·6	94·4	91·4	88·5
					Widows ..	4·9	3·4	3·9	4·5
					Divorced	1·5	2·2	4·7	7·0
Total Marriages	20,220	100·00	19,238	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 4·8 and 4·5 in 1949-53. 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 6·5. 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
1952	1,596	1,281	1,350
1953	2,096	1,274	1,346

In 1952 the number of marriages celebrated by ministers of religion was 18,663 representing 92 per cent. of the total marriages. Civil marriages numbered 1,557, or 8 per cent. of the total. In 1953 the numbers were 17,685 and 1,553 respectively, the percentages being the same as in 1952.

The numbers and proportions of civil marriages and of marriages solemnized according to the rites of the principal religious denominations for the years 1932, 1952, and 1953, are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES, RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL.

	1932.		1952.		1953.	
	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.
Church of England ..	3,096	26·36	5,695	28·17	5,140	26·72
Roman Catholic Church ..	2,158	18·38	4,410	21·81	4,380	22·77
Presbyterian Church ..	2,008	17·10	3,902	19·30	3,691	19·18
Methodist Church ..	1,680	14·30	2,869	14·19	2,682	13·94
Baptist Church ..	516	4·39	353	1·74	306	1·59
Church of Christ ..	279	2·38	324	1·60	319	1·66
Congregational Church ..	205	1·75	346	1·71	315	1·64
Lutheran Church ..	73	·62	197	·97	212	1·10
Hebrew ..	56	·48	213	1·05	212	1·10
Salvation Army ..	86	·73	88	·44	107	·56
Other Sects ..	72	·61	266	1·32	321	1·67
Civil Marriages ..	1,515	12·90	1,557	7·70	1,553	8·07
Total ..	11,744	100·00	20,220	100·00	19,238	100·00

The following statement shows the numbers and proportions of civil marriages to total marriages performed for each of the ten years 1944 to 1953:—

Civil marriages

VICTORIA—CIVIL MARRIAGES, 1944 TO 1953.

Year.	Number.	Percentage of total Marriages.	Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
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
1947 ..	1,418	6·94	1952 ..	1,557	7·70
1948 ..	1,411	7·04	1953 ..	1,553	8·07

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 1944 to 1953:—

CIVIL MARRIAGES PERFORMED IN THE OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNMENT STATIST, 1944 TO 1953.

Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Civil Marriages.
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
1952	1,503	96·53
1953	1,480	95·30

Registered clergymen. The ministers qualified by registration to celebrate marriages numbered 2,419 on 31st December, 1953. The number of ministers in each denomination (excepting Jews and Quakers) was as follows:—

VICTORIA—REGISTERED MINISTERS IN EACH
DENOMINATION, 1953.

Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.	Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.
Church of England	460	Reformed Presbyterian	2
Roman Catholic	826	Church of Ireland .. .. .	..
Presbyterian	334	Catholic and Apostolic .. .. .	..
Methodist	302	Ballarat Town and City	1
Baptist	127	Mission	2
Churches of Christ	89	Unitarian	2
Salvation Army	83	New Church	5
Congregational	46	International Bible Students	2
Seventh Day Adventists	40	Greek Orthodox Church	4
Evangelical Lutheran	27	Apostolic Church (Australia)	2
Church of Australia	15	Christian Israelites	1
United Evangelical Lutheran	1	Syrian Orthodox Church	4
German Evangelical	1	Wesleyan Methodist	3
Lutheran	2	Russian Orthodox Church	1
Swedish Evangelical	8	(Abroad)	2
Lutheran	2	Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox	1
Re-organized Church of	8	Church	2
Jesus Christ of Latter	2	Ukrainian Autocephal	1
Day Saints	3	Orthodox Church	1
Church of Jesus Christ of	3	Church of the Holy Spirit	1
Latter Day Saints	3	Liberal Catholic	1
Assemblies of God in Aus-	8	Latvian Evangelical	1
tralia	3	Lutheran	1
Welsh Calvinistic Methodists	3	Serbian Orthodox	4
Open Brethren	3	Assembly of Believers .. .. .	..
Particular Baptist	3		
Free Presbyterian Church of	2	Total	2,419
Victoria .. .. .	..	

The number of civil registrars of marriages in Victoria in 1953 was 7.

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 1953. 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, 1953.

	Petitions Filed by—			Decrees Granted to—		
	Husbands.	Wives.	Total.	Husbands.	Wives.	Total.
Dissolution of marriage	841	1,025	1,866	942	1,154	2,096
Judicial separation ..	..	2	2	..	1	1
Nullity of marriage ..	10	18	28	16	15	31
Total	851	1,045	1,896	958	1,170	2,128

The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the year 1953 were as set out in the following table :—

VICTORIA—DIVORCES, GROUNDS OF, 1953.

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	308	249	..	1	..	..
Bigamy with adultery ..	..	3	..	..	..	..
Cruelty and assault ..	..	9	..	..	..	..
Desertion	598	839	..	..	..	..
Desertion and adultery ..	24	19	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness (habitual)	2	5	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness and cruelty	1	23	..	..	..	..
Impotence .. ..	..	..	..	..	12	10
Insanity	9	3	..	..	..	..
Prior marriage .. ..	..	..	..	..	4	5
Sentences for crime ..	..	3	..	..	..	..
Other .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Total	942	1,154	..	1	16	15

Divorce. The following table shows the number of petitioners to whom decrees were granted in 1953, 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, 1953.

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.
17 .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
19 .. .. .	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1
20 .. .. .	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	1
21	4	8	..	..	..	..	..	8
22-25 .. .	42	127	..	..	..	3	3	111
26-29 .. .	149	197	..	..	2	2	126	200
30-34 .. .	196	247	..	..	6	2	172	285
35-39 .. .	183	209	..	..	2	3	215	287
40-44 .. .	156	165	..	..	2	2	161	240
45-49 .. .	91	90	..	1	1	..	118	154
50-54 .. .	57	61	..	..	2	2	80	122
55-59 .. .	32	27	..	..	1	..	55	33
60	4	2	..	..	..	..	11	3
61	5	1	..	..	..	..	13	3
62	5	2	..	..	..	..	10	2
63	2	2	..	..	..	..	9	1
64	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
65	6	..	..	..	..	..	7	..
66	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	3
67	3	..	..	..	..	..	8	..
69	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
70	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
74	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Not Stated ..	2	6	..	..	..	..	1	7
Total	942	1,154	..	1	16	15	1,022	1,466

* Of the total of 2,488, 2,478 relate to decrees for dissolution of marriage, 3 to decrees for judicial separation and 7 to decrees 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 1953 :—

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, PETITIONS GRANTED ; DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1953.

Duration of Marriage in Years.	Number of Children.											Total Dissolutions of Marriage	Total Children
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	11		
Under 1 year ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
1 year ..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..
2 ..	13	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	6
3 ..	23	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	8
4 ..	58	29	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92	40
5 ..	76	42	10	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	130	68
6 ..	77	53	10	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	145	88
7 ..	77	67	23	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	171	127
8 ..	50	72	20	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	148	130
9 ..	43	29	25	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	105	106
10 ..	42	41	25	10	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	119	125
11 ..	51	47	29	13	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	142	153
12 ..	37	38	26	10	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	116	142
13 ..	37	44	17	9	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	109	115
14 ..	25	16	22	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	70	85
15 ..	15	23	16	9	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	68	102
16 ..	21	27	24	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	83	110
17 ..	20	8	9	12	4	1	2	..	..	..	..	56	95
18 ..	18	16	22	6	3	..	..	1	..	..	1	67	108
19 ..	11	12	8	5	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	41	67
20 ..	7	9	11	8	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	38	71
21 ..	11	8	15	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	40	68
22 ..	6	8	8	5	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	30	52
23 ..	2	6	9	7	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	26	55
24 ..	4	7	14	2	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	30	56
25 ..	3	9	4	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	22	42
26 ..	3	5	8	3	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	23	51
27 ..	3	2	5	3	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	19	47
28 ..	5	2	3	4	6	..	1	..	..	..	..	20	44
29 ..	2	7	1	4	5	2	1	..	..	..	..	19	43
30 ..	2	7	4	2	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	19	43
31 ..	2	3	4	3	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	15	37
32 ..	2	4	5	3	4	1	1	..	..	..	..	19	45
33 ..	3	4	2	4	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	18	41
34 ..	1	2	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	10
35 ..	1	1	1	4	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	6	18
36 ..	..	2	2	1	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	8	26
37 ..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	9
38 ..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	8
39 ..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	8
40 ..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	6
41 ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	11
42 ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
44 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	5
48 ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
Total Dissolution of Marriage ..	760	665	388	175	69	19	10	6	1	1	2	2,096	..
Total Children ..	..	665	776	525	276	95	60	42	8	9	22	..	2,478

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 1953:—

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, PETITIONS GRANTED—AGES OF PARTIES, 1953.

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 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
21-25 ..	12	81	14	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	109
26-29 ..	4	121	151	22	4	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	304
30-34 ..	2	43	155	186	25	6	2	..	..	..	..	3	422
35-39 ..	..	..	9	50	171	155	32	3	..	..	..	1	421
40-44 ..	..	..	3	11	48	145	119	14	2	1	..	..	343
45-49 ..	..	..	1	5	24	35	80	46	12	2	..	..	205
50-54 ..	..	..	..	1	3	11	32	50	39	12	..	..	148
55-59 ..	..	..	..	..	2	1	6	14	35	16	5	..	79
60 and over ..	..	..	..	..	2	1	2	4	10	17	19	1	56
Not stated ..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	2	..	3	9
Total Wives ..	18	259	388	459	378	279	134	98	50	24	9	..	2,096

Divorces, 1861 to 1953 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, 1952 and 1953.

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS, 1861 TO 1953.

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
1953	2,096	1
Total—1891 to 1953	36,467	93
Total—1861 to 1953	36,815	164

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

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered in Victoria during the year 1953 was 53,561 as compared with 53,738 in 1952, which was the highest number registered in Victoria. The rate per 1,000 of population in 1953 was 22·36, as compared with 22·93 in 1952, 22·21 in 1951, 22·56 in 1950 and 21·88 in 1949. 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 22·56, but in 1951, the rate declined to 22·21. The rate increased to 22·93 in 1952 but declined again to 22·36 in 1953. Stillbirths, which are excluded from both births and deaths, numbered 919 and corresponded to a ratio of 17·10 per 1,000 infants born alive in 1952. The compulsory registration of still-born children became effective in 1953, during which there were

817 registrations corresponding to a ratio of 15·25 per 1,000 infants born alive. There were 1,045 male to every 1,000 female births in 1953, as compared with 1,046 in 1952, 1,061 in 1951, 1,053 in 1950 and 1,052 in 1949.

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 1953.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Births.	Sex.		Quarter of Registration.				Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
		Males.	Females.	March.	June.	Sep-tem-ber.	Decem-ber.	
1855-59 ..	17,154	8,742	8,412	*	*	*	*	39·49
1860-64 ..	24,060	12,379	11,681	5,614	5,991	6,534	5,921	43·29
1865-69 ..	25,963	13,219	12,744	6,027	6,543	7,105	6,288	39·77
1870-74 ..	27,359	13,944	13,415	6,478	6,769	7,467	6,645	36·35
1875-79 ..	26,584	13,639	12,945	6,333	6,686	7,211	6,354	32·85
1880-84 ..	27,286	13,965	13,321	6,374	7,025	7,300	6,587	30·64
1885-89 ..	32,941	16,883	16,058	7,824	8,289	8,814	8,014	32·27
1890-94 ..	36,945	18,901	18,044	8,669	9,604	9,735	8,937	31·99
1895-99 ..	31,675	16,213	15,462	7,746	8,078	8,323	7,528	26·76
1900-04 ..	30,316	15,544	14,772	7,384	7,682	7,880	7,370	25·08
1905-09 ..	30,994	15,879	15,115	7,489	7,832	8,076	7,597	24·76
1910-14 ..	34,500	17,717	16,783	8,329	8,619	8,850	8,702	25·42
1915-19 ..	33,101	17,014	16,087	8,228	8,336	8,514	8,023	23·13
1920-24 ..	36,022	18,549	17,473	8,729	8,970	9,367	8,956	22·89
1925-29 ..	34,892	18,013	16,879	8,732	8,728	8,856	8,576	20·24
1930-34 ..	29,429	15,075	14,354	7,383	7,409	7,361	7,276	16·27
1935-39 ..	29,467	15,113	14,354	7,285	7,154	7,466	7,562	15·87
1940-44 ..	36,154	18,539	17,615	8,873	8,611	9,211	9,459	18·53
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	22·56
1951 ..	50,553	26,019	24,534	12,477	12,497	13,190	12,389	22·21
1952 ..	53,738	27,472	26,266	13,325	12,853	13,404	14,156	22·93
1953 ..	53,561	27,368	26,193	13,824	12,724	13,376	13,637	22·36

* Not available.

Birth rates— The following statement shows the birth rate per 1,000 of the population in the Australian States and in New Zealand for each of the five years 1949 to 1953:—

BIRTH RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1949 TO 1953.

Year.	Victoria	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.*
1949	21.88	22.25	24.01	23.58	25.37	26.30	22.92	24.98
1950	22.56	22.42	24.37	24.39	25.50	25.98	23.31	24.67
1951	22.21	21.98	24.23	23.84	25.49	25.52	22.96	24.39
1952	22.93	22.20	24.65	23.69	25.66	26.53	23.35	24.77
1953	22.36	22.11	23.91	23.39	25.54	25.25	22.94	24.12

* Excludes Maoris.

The birth rate in England and Wales in 1953 was 15.5.

The average ages of fathers and of mothers of nuptial children whose births were recorded in 1953 were 31.6 and 28.3 years respectively. These averages were 4.0 and 3.9 years respectively above the average ages of bridegrooms marrying brides under 45 years of age, and of such brides, for the year 1953. 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, 1952 AND 1953.

Father.			Mother.		
Age Group.	Percentage of Total Parents.		Age Group.	Percentage of Total Parents.	
	1952.	1953.		1952.	1953.
Under 20	4.43	5.50	Under 20	3.98	4.05
20 to 24	13.63	13.55	20 to 24	27.11	27.22
25 to 29	32.81	32.84	25 to 29	34.26	33.77
30 to 34	25.71	26.26	30 to 34	21.17	21.47
35 to 39	15.59	15.16	35 to 39	10.38	10.28
40 to 44	7.85	7.79	40 to 44	2.90	3.02
45 to 49	2.84	2.79	45 and over ..	2.20	1.10
50 and over ..	1.14	1.11			
Total	100.00	100.00	Total	100.00	100.00

It will be seen that, on the experience of 1953, 60.99 per cent of the mothers were between the ages 20 and 30 and 31.75 per cent. between ages 30 and 40. The proportions of fathers at these ages were 46.39 and 41.42 per cent. respectively. Of every 1,000 nuptial births, about 41 were to mothers under 20 years and about 2 to mothers aged 45 years and upwards.

The following table shows the number of births (allotted to the place of usual residence of the mother) and the birth rates in municipalities, 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, 1938 to 1942, and for the years 1952 and 1953.

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.	1938-1942.	1952.	1953.	1928-1932.	1938-1942.	1952.	1953.
Melbourne Metropolitan Area								
Melbourne	1,348	1,264	1,636	1,595	14.29	13.43	16.68	16.28
Box Hill	259	305	762	796	18.81	17.60	24.58	24.38
Brighton	304	534	722	657	13.37	15.47	16.77	15.10
Broadmeadows (Part)	†	†	586	682	..	..	40.27	41.21
Erunswick	974	939	967	955	17.52	16.92	16.40	16.19
Camberwell	865	1,210	1,613	1,587	17.85	19.01	18.01	17.36
Caulfield	941	1,091	1,263	1,110	14.87	15.21	15.09	13.22
Chelsea	127	156	432	430	18.66	20.94	23.99	27.83
Coburg	742	776	1,296	1,278	20.80	18.34	21.60	20.68
Collingwood	532	507	605	568	16.63	16.76	21.04	20.00
Essendon	766	799	1,132	1,152	16.59	16.36	19.17	19.18
Witzroy	517	519	660	606	15.96	16.77	20.75	19.12
Footscray	875	862	1,186	1,170	19.13	16.36	20.73	20.12
Hawthorn	424	568	633	642	12.70	15.28	15.46	15.66
Heidelberg (Part)	413	465	1,146	1,133	16.93	16.84	25.58	24.21
Keilor (Part)	†	†	143	151	..	..	40.86	35.53
Kew	339	380	465	466	13.97	13.84	14.60	14.47
Malvern	499	578	776	709	11.46	12.49	15.32	13.92
Moorabbin	398	446	1,501	1,558	23.14	20.50	30.42	28.96
Mordialloc	148	199	475	538	15.37	18.74	25.54	27.73
Mulgrave	†	†	450	608	..	..	43.69	44.22
Northcote	727	680	841	754	17.27	15.56	18.01	16.06
Nunawading	†	†	623	630	..	..	38.70	34.62
Oakleigh	264	270	638	592	22.72	20.59	30.82	27.09
Port Melbourne	230	204	275	261	17.24	15.16	19.64	18.71

† 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.	1938-1942.	1952.	1953.	1928-1932.	1938-1942.	1952.	1953.
Melbourne Metropolitan Area—<i>continued.</i>								
Prahran	696	828	971	932	13.26	14.75	16.01	15.34
Preston	703	716	1,314	1,341	23.87	19.30	23.93	23.24
Richmond	693	650	760	732	16.71	16.24	20.16	19.73
Ringwood	†	†	322	329	..	..	37.01	31.33
Sandringham ..	272	327	623	607	15.33	16.20	19.78	18.79
South Melbourne ..	660	594	747	684	15.06	13.61	17.23	15.80
St. Kilda	533	712	929	837	11.61	13.62	15.81	14.21
Sunshine (Part)* ..	187	198	879	846	22.28	19.16	35.52	31.63
Williamstown ..	423	398	562	624	19.28	16.94	19.72	21.48
Cities and Principal Towns outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area—								
Ballaarat	664	621	988	1,001	17.14	16.01	23.04	23.13
Bendigo	550	566	747	815	17.10	18.71	22.91	24.46
Geelong	844	726	1,088	971	19.26	17.85	22.44	19.72
Ararat	†	104	170	162	..	19.82	24.05	22.50
Benalla	†	†	183	166	..	..	32.39	28.62
Camperdown ..	†	†	†	97	..	..	..	31.04
Castlemaine ..	105	104	138	153	15.16	19.40	22.12	23.81
Colac	†	125	213	219	..	21.22	28.40	28.53
Echuca	†	88	116	150	..	19.73	22.63	28.44
Hamilton	138	139	224	257	24.47	21.79	27.83	31.15
Horsham	†	125	169	160	..	21.76	23.15	21.48
Maryborough ..	118	108	142	146	21.35	18.61	20.88	21.01
Mildura	184	247	313	339	28.23	31.35	28.58	30.07
Sale	†	99	198	225	..	21.85	33.28	36.59
Shepparton ..	151	188	297	311	27.51	29.38	28.98	29.34
Stawell	92	85	140	125	19.46	17.52	26.54	23.47
Swan Hill	†	†	156	174	..	..	32.16	35.15
Wangaratta ..	†	123	287	261	..	22.36	31.18	26.77
Warrnambool ..	176	195	283	303	20.17	20.70	25.96	27.30
Wonthaggi ..	141	89	106	72	22.44	17.80	24.51	16.36
Summary								
Melbourne Metropolitan Area ..	15,949	17,175	27,933	27,560	16.03	16.00	20.77	20.06
Cities and Principal Towns outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area ..	3,163	3,732	5,958	6,107	19.22	19.42	24.89	24.67
Remainder of State ..	12,693	11,719	19,847	19,894	20.40	18.27	27.82	25.69
Victoria	31,805	32,626	53,738	53,561	17.85	17.11	22.93	22.36

* 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 1949 to 1953 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.
1949	526	3	1	530	11.43
1950	598	10	..	608	12.35
1951	606	5	1	612	12.25
1952	679	5	..	684	12.89
1953	700	5	..	705	13.33

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

On the average of the five years 1949-53, the proportion of mothers of twins was one in 81, of mothers of triplets, one in 8,982, of mothers of quadruplets, one in 125,744, and of mothers of all multiple births, one in 80 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 1953, the adoptions of 8,418 male and 9,251 female children were registered. During the five-year period 1949-1953 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 1953.

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
1945-1949	2,662	2,699
1950	518	524
1951	607	588
1952	656	620
1953	651	650

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 1953 legitimations numbered 6,072.

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

VICTORIA—LEGITIMATIONS, 1903 TO 1953.

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
1940-1949	1,641	11·3
1950	83	5·1
1951	109	6·5
1952	107	5·9
1953	113	6·1

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 1953 the numbers of legitimations in the several States and in New Zealand during that year were as follows:— Victoria, 6·1; New South Wales, 8·7; Queensland, 18·0; South Australia, 10·8; Western Australia, 25·0; Tasmania, 23·4; and New Zealand, 22·5

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 1953.

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
1952	53,783	895	913	1,808	3·36
1953	53,561	930	913	1,843	3·44

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 1953 the percentage was 3.44.

The percentages in the various States and in New Zealand in 1953 were as follows:—Victoria, 3.44; New South Wales, 4.02; Queensland, 4.92; South Australia, 3.34; Western Australia, 4.47; Tasmania, 3.70; Australia, 3.97, and New Zealand, 4.30.

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 1953.

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	10.11
1951 ..	23,446	12,662	10,784	4,654	5,811	6,774	6,207	10.30
1952 ..	23,322	12,590	10,732	5,256	5,802	6,662	5,602	9.95
1953 ..	22,650	12,168	10,482	4,764	5,486	6,640	5,760	9.45

* 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 was little fluctuation in the death rate from 1949 to 1951 when the death rate was 10·30. However, the rate reduced during 1952 and 1953 to 9·95 and 9·45 respectively.

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 spite of increasing population the number of deaths decreased during 1952 and 1953 to 23,322 and 22,650 respectively.

In 1953 there were 1,161 male to every 1,000 female deaths, the average for the preceding five years being 1,122. The corresponding proportion of male to female births in the quinquennium was 1,051.

Death rates— The following statement shows the death rate per 1,000 of the population in each of the Australian States and in New Zealand. New Zealand for each of the five years 1949 to 1953:—

DEATH RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1949 TO 1953.

Year.	Victoria	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.*
1949	10·26	9·49	8·79	9·37	8·99	8·84	9·52	9·09
1950	10·11	9·70	8·73	9·50	9·07	8·85	9·56	9·31
1951	10·30	9·74	9·07	9·81	9·11	8·90	9·71	9·56
1952	9·95	9·59	8·89	9·34	8·67	8·64	9·45	9·28
1953	9·45	9·36	8·55	8·97	8·17	8·33	9·09	8·84

* Excludes Maoris.

In 1953 the death rate in England and Wales was 11·4.

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, 1938 to 1942, and for the years 1952 and 1953:—

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.	1933-1942.	1952.	1953.	1928-1932.	1933-1942.	1952.	1953.
Melbourne Metropolitan Area—								
Melbourne	1,091	1,204	1,156	1,095	11·57	12·79	11·78	11·17
Box Hill	125	179	256	275	8·81	10·33	8·26	8·42
Brighton	272	366	448	395	9·22	10·61	10·41	9·08
Broadmeadows (Part) ..	†	†	91	93	..	..	6·25	5·62
Brunswick	532	601	612	570	9·57	10·83	10·38	9·66
Camberwell	430	641	875	881	8·87	10·07	9·77	9·64
Caulfield	552	767	918	900	8·72	10·69	10·97	10·72
Chelsea	63	93	128	146	9·24	12·48	8·59	9·46
Coburg	287	367	490	455	8·06	8·68	8·17	7·36
Collingwood	363	399	333	328	11·36	13·19	11·58	11·55
Essendon	429	543	694	665	9·30	11·12	11·75	11·07
Fitzroy	446	502	440	368	13·77	16·22	13·84	11·61
Footscray	402	487	543	502	8·79	9·24	9·49	8·63
Hawthorn	357	467	465	485	10·67	12·56	11·36	11·83
Heidelberg (Part) ..	193	257	376	324	7·91	9·31	8·39	6·92
Keilor (Part)	†	†	20	27	..	..	5·71	6·35
Kew.. ..	220	276	365	352	9·08	10·05	11·46	10·93
Malvern	404	562	632	576	9·28	12·15	12·48	11·31
Moorabbin	130	178	354	391	7·55	8·18	7·17	7·27
Mordialloc	85	126	167	181	8·86	11·87	8·98	9·33
Mulgrave	†	†	53	79	..	..	5·15	5·75
Northcote	369	450	498	440	8·77	10·30	10·66	9·37
Nunawading	†	†	151	152	..	..	9·38	8·35
Oakleigh	101	130	190	206	8·72	9·91	9·18	9·43
Port Melbourne	137	152	165	148	10·26	11·30	11·79	10·61
Prahran	628	757	745	705	11·96	13·49	12·28	11·60
Preston	242	306	418	449	8·20	8·25	7·61	7·78
Richmond	464	490	476	492	11·20	12·24	12·63	13·26

† 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.			
	1923-1932.	1933-1942.	1952.	1953.	1923-1932.	1933-1942.	1952.	1953.
Melbourne Metropolitan Area—<i>continued.</i>								
Ringwood ..	†	†	86	78	..	..	9.89	7.43
Sandringham ..	161	224	319	272	9.08	11.10	10.13	8.42
South Melbourne ..	486	548	560	530	11.09	12.55	12.92	12.24
St. Kilda ..	452	660	709	692	9.84	12.62	12.07	11.75
Sunshine (Part)* ..	56	75	172	181	6.70	7.26	6.95	6.77
Williamstown ..	211	262	284	298	9.63	11.15	9.96	10.26
Cities and Principal Towns outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area—								
Ballaarat ..	475	565	573	529	12.28	14.56	13.36	12.22
Bendigo ..	421	463	440	436	13.08	15.30	13.50	13.08
Geelong ..	455	484	500	490	10.40	11.90	10.31	9.95
Ararat ..	†	60	52	79	..	11.44	7.36	10.97
Benalla ..	†	†	83	61	..	..	14.69	10.52
Camperdown ..	†	†	†	51	..	..	..	16.32
Castlemaine ..	73	69	52	62	10.61	12.87	8.33	9.65
Colac ..	†	63	81	90	..	10.70	10.80	11.73
Echuca ..	†	54	61	57	..	12.11	11.90	10.81
Hamilton ..	59	66	85	84	10.35	10.34	10.56	10.18
Horsham ..	†	60	87	77	..	10.45	11.92	10.34
Maryborough ..	59	74	72	76	10.66	12.75	10.59	10.94
Mildura ..	59	88	82	97	9.05	11.17	7.49	8.60
Sale ..	†	54	61	61	..	11.92	10.25	9.92
Shepparton ..	55	78	106	89	9.96	12.19	10.34	8.40
Stawell ..	51	64	69	64	10.87	13.19	13.08	12.02
Swan Hill ..	†	†	58	51	..	..	11.96	10.30
Wangaratta ..	†	62	117	76	..	11.27	12.71	7.79
Warrnambool ..	91	97	145	130	10.46	10.30	13.30	11.71
Wonthaggi ..	47	52	43	44	7.45	10.40	9.94	10.00
Summary—								
Melbourne Metropolitan Area ..	9,688	12,069	14,189	13,731	9.74	11.24	10.55	9.39
Cities and Principal Towns outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area ..	1,845	2,453	2,767	2,704	11.22	12.76	11.56	10.92
Remainder of State ..	5,311	5,841	6,366	6,215	8.53	9.11	8.38	8.03
Victoria ..	16,844	20,363	23,322	22,650	9.45	10.68	9.95	9.45

* 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 for the years 1952 and 1953 in the following tables:—

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1952.

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 Metropolitan Area—						
Melbourne	408	91	35.29	7.87	43.16	5.09
Box Hill	49	13	19.14	5.08	24.22	2.00
Brighton	73	22	16.29	4.91	21.20	2.21
Broadmeadows (Part) ..	15	4	16.48	4.40	20.88	1.31
Brunswick	135	48	22.06	7.84	29.90	3.10
Camberwell	132	19	15.09	2.17	17.26	1.69
Caulfield	145	39	15.80	4.25	20.05	2.20
Chelsea	25	9	19.53	7.03	26.56	2.28
Coburg	118	30	24.08	6.12	30.20	2.47
Collingwood	127	22	41.47	6.61	48.08	5.18
Essendon	154	48	22.19	6.92	29.11	3.42
Fitzroy	157	48	35.68	10.91	46.59	6.45
Footscray	155	40	28.55	7.37	35.92	3.41
Hawthorn	73	21	15.70	4.52	20.22	2.30
Heidelberg (Part) ..	89	16	23.67	4.26	27.93	2.34
Keilor (Part)	5	..	25.00	..	25.00	1.43
Kew	69	21	18.90	5.75	24.65	2.83
Malvern	114	28	18.04	4.43	22.47	2.80
Moorabbin	86	21	24.29	5.93	30.22	2.17
Mordialloc	30	3	17.96	1.80	19.76	1.77
Mulgrave	16	..	30.19	..	30.19	1.55
Northcote	124	21	24.90	4.22	29.12	3.10
Nunawading	39	3	25.83	1.99	27.82	2.61
Oakleigh	44	12	23.16	6.32	29.48	2.71
Port Melbourne	54	16	32.73	9.70	42.43	5.00
Prahran	151	46	20.27	6.17	26.44	3.25
Preston	94	33	22.49	7.89	30.38	2.31
Richmond	140	30	29.41	6.30	35.71	4.51
Ringwood	12	6	13.95	6.98	20.93	2.07
Sandringham	49	19	15.36	5.96	21.32	2.16
South Melbourne	173	47	30.89	8.39	39.28	5.07
St. Kilda	155	39	21.86	5.50	27.36	3.30
Sunshine (Part)*	50	9	29.07	5.23	34.30	2.38
Williamstown	100	10	35.21	3.52	38.73	3.86

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

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS
OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1952—*continued.*

Area.	Number of Deaths of Residents occurring in—		Percentage of Deaths of Residents occurring in—			Deaths of Residents occurring in Public Institutions per 1,000 of Population.
	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Total Public Institutions.	
Cities and Principal Towns Melbourne Metropolitan Area—						
Ballaarat	179	95	31.24	16.58	47.82	6.39
Bendigo	138	36	31.36	8.18	39.54	5.34
Geelong	161	30	32.20	6.00	38.20	3.94
Ararat	28	1	53.85	1.92	55.77	4.10
Benalla	15	1	18.07	1.20	19.27	2.83
Castlemaine	24	10	46.15	19.23	65.38	5.45
Colac	35	3	43.21	3.70	46.91	5.07
Echuca	40	3	65.57	4.92	70.49	8.39
Hamilton	59	..	69.41	..	69.41	7.33
Horsham	59	3	67.82	3.45	71.27	8.49
Maryborough	44	4	61.11	5.56	66.67	7.06
Mildura	54	3	65.85	3.66	69.51	5.21
Sale	34	3	55.74	4.92	60.66	6.22
Shepparton	43	3	40.57	2.83	43.40	4.49
Stawell	41	1	59.42	1.45	60.87	7.96
Wangaratta	61	5	52.14	4.27	56.41	7.17
Warrnambool	64	5	44.14	3.45	47.59	6.33
Wonthaggi	25	1	58.14	2.33	60.47	6.01
Summary—						
Melbourne Metropolitan Area	3,360	834	23.68	5.88	29.56	3.04
Cities and Principal Towns outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area	1,104	207	39.93	7.63	47.56	5.50
Remainder of State	2,047	367	32.14	5.70	37.84	3.38
Victoria	6,511	1,408	27.92	6.04	33.96	3.39

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS
OF CERTAIN AREAS OCCURRING IN PUBLIC
INSTITUTIONS, 1953.

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 Metropolitan Area—						
Melbourne	381	103	34.79	9.41	44.20	5.15
Box Hill	63	14	22.91	5.09	28.00	2.27
Brighton	92	14	23.29	3.54	26.83	2.61
Broadmeadows (Part)	27	10	29.03	10.75	39.78	1.94
Brunswick	136	35	23.86	6.14	30.00	3.14
Camberwell	133	42	15.10	4.77	19.87	1.96
Caulfield	173	24	19.22	2.67	21.89	2.58
Chelsea	38	6	26.03	4.11	30.14	2.73
Coburg	116	30	25.49	6.59	32.08	2.40
Collingwood	95	21	28.96	6.40	35.36	4.25
Essendon	171	35	25.72	5.26	30.98	3.59
Fitzroy	139	20	37.77	5.43	43.20	5.21
Footscray	136	31	27.09	6.18	33.27	2.90
Hawthorn	84	32	17.32	6.60	23.92	3.08
Heidleberg (Part)	94	20	29.01	6.17	35.18	2.22
Keilor (Part)	6		23.08	..	23.08	1.08
Kew	70	16	19.89	4.55	24.44	2.72
Malvern	92	13	15.97	2.26	18.23	2.22
Moorabbin	88	14	22.51	3.58	26.09	1.71
Mordialloc	34	6	18.78	3.32	22.10	1.98
Mulgrave	18	2	22.79	2.53	25.32	1.23
Northcote	116	21	26.36	4.78	31.14	3.12
Nunawading	40	6	26.32	3.94	30.26	2.22
Oakleigh	55	10	26.70	4.85	31.55	2.86
Port Melbourne	47	10	31.76	6.75	38.51	4.30
Prahran	157	40	22.27	5.67	27.94	3.59
Preston	141	29	31.40	6.46	37.86	2.80
Richmond	141	32	28.66	6.50	35.16	4.85
Ringwood	15	3	19.23	3.85	23.08	1.66
Sandringham	60	8	22.06	2.94	25.00	2.18
South Melbourne	151	37	28.49	6.98	35.47	4.86
St. Kilda	169	24	24.42	3.47	27.89	3.57
Sunshine (Part)	54	10	29.84	5.52	35.36	2.02
Williamstown	99	10	33.22	3.36	36.58	3.77

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS
OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1953—*continued.*

Area.	Number of Deaths of Residents occurring in—		Percentage of Deaths of Residents occurring in—			Deaths of Residents occurring in Public Institutions per 1,000 of Population.
	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Total Public Institutions.	
Cities and Principal Towns Outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area—						
Ballaarat	146	55	27·60	10·40	38·00	4·64
Bendigo	151	50	34·63	11·47	46·10	6·03
Geelong	198	12	40·41	2·45	42·86	4·27
Ararat	37	7	46·84	8·86	55·70	6·11
Benalla	7	3	11·48	4·91	16·39	2·01
Camperdown	14	3	27·45	5·88	33·33	5·44
Castlemaine	29	4	46·77	6·46	53·23	5·14
Colac	42	1	46·67	1·11	47·78	5·60
Echuca	35	..	61·40	..	61·40	6·64
Hamilton	42	1	50·00	1·19	51·19	5·21
Horsham	44	1	57·14	1·30	58·44	6·04
Maryborough	44	..	57·89	..	57·89	6·33
Mildura	54	1	55·67	1·03	56·70	4·88
Sale	33	1	54·10	1·64	55·74	5·53
Shepparton	34	3	38·20	3·37	41·57	3·49
Stawell	42	4	65·63	6·25	71·88	8·64
Wangaratta	44	4	57·89	5·27	63·16	4·92
Warrnambool	53	4	40·77	3·08	43·85	5·14
Wonthaggi	21	..	47·73	..	47·73	4·77
Summary—						
Melbourne Metropolitan Area	3,431	728	24·99	5·30	30·29	3·03
Cities and Principal Towns outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area	1,070	154	39·64	5·70	45·34	5·06
Remainder of State	1,994	324	32·05	5·21	37·26	2·97
Victoria	6,495	1,206	28·68	5·32	34·00	3·21

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.	1930-34.	1940-44.	1952.	1953.
Melbourne Metropolitan Area	24·3	27·0	27·7	25·1	23·7	25·0
Remainder of State	17·0	21·2	26·3	29·3	34·5	34·4
Victoria	20·4	24·3	27·1	26·8	27·9	28·7

In 1953 the number of deaths in all public institutions was 7,701 of which 4,159 were of residents of Melbourne Metropolitan Area.

The number of deaths in certain metropolitan public institutions in 1952 and 1953 are given in the subjoined table :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS IN CERTAIN METROPOLITAN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1952 AND 1953.

Institutions.	Number of Deaths.		Institutions.	Number of Deaths.	
	1952.	1953.		1952.	1953.
HOSPITALS—GENERAL—			SANATORIA—		
Royal Melbourne ..	1,000	1,041	Heatherton ..	12	20
Alfred	740	700	Greenvale ..	4	6
Hamilton Russell Com- munity	19	20	Gresswell ..	7	4
Children's	245	268	Health Department Annexe .. .. .	..	..
St. Vincent's ..	600	654	Total Sanatoria	23	30
St. Vincent's Inter- mediate	2	10			
Austin	223	230	BENEVOLENT INSTI- TUTIONS—		
Heidelberg House ..	32	39	Melbourne (Chelten- ham) Asylum ..	275	297
Women's	200	190	Mount Royal ..	150	118
Prince Henry's ..	363	382	Convent of Little Sisters of the Poor	55	70
Fairfield	52	39	Old Colonists' Homes	3	3
Queen Victoria ..	183	156	Total Benevo- lent Insti- tutions	483	488
Jessie McPherson Com- munity	3	4			
Williamstown ..	55	68	FOUNDLING HOMES, REFUGES—		
Caulfield Convalescent	57	115	Broadmeadows ..	..	1
Eye and Ear	6	13	Carlton .. .. .	..	..
Police .. .. .	..	3	East Melbourne ..	..	1
After Care Home ..	..	..	The Haven, Fitzroy	1	..
Total General Hospitals	3,780	3,932	Berwick .. .. .	..	..
HOSPITALS—MENTAL			Total Refuges, &c.	1	2
Janefield	2	1			
Kew	112	111	Total Hospitals and other Institutions	4,653	4,770
Mont Park	178	134			
Mental Hospital and Receiving House, Royal Park	74	72			
Larundel .. .. .	..	..	
Total Mental Hospitals	366	318			

In 1952 there were 2,582 male and 2,071 female deaths in public institutions; in 1953 the numbers were 2,668 and 2,102 respectively.

In Melbourne Metropolitan Area, in the decade 1944-53, there was an average of 10.63 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 1944-53 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.	1944-53.	Decrease.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	1,654	268	1,386
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	446	26	420
Typhoid Fever	293	1	292
Scarlet Fever	33	1	32
Measles	215	3	212
Diphtheria	196	8	188
Total	2,837	307	2,530

The figures show that the mortality from the six diseases mentioned declined by 89 per cent.—the decline representing a rate of 2,530 per million of the population.

The mortality from all causes showed a net decline of 5,130 per million of the population.

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 22 in 1949-53—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 1953.

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
1952 ..	612	21·9	586	22·7	1,198	22·3
1953 ..	544	19·7	589	22·7	1,133	21·2

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 1937-53 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; the rate decreased in each of the next two years and in 1953 was 21·2.

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 1952 and 1953 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.	1952.	1953.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1952.	1953.
Melbourne Area—	Metropolitan								
Melbourne	..	55	53	45	37	48·45	42·25	27·51	23·20
Box Hill	..	8	10	14	17	38·25	32·77	18·37	21·36
Brighton	..	11	16	10	11	30·15	29·57	13·85	16·74
Broadmeadows (Part)	..	†	†	9	11	..	..	15·36	16·13
Brunswick	..	32	37	25	19	40·23	39·61	25·85	19·90
Camberwell	..	26	39	29	24	33·74	31·90	17·98	15·12
Caulfield	..	27	37	25	16	33·47	33·55	19·79	14·41
Chelsea	..	5	4	6	11	43·12	26·96	13·89	25·58
Coburg	..	26	27	29	23	40·38	34·80	22·38	18·00
Collingwood	..	28	22	19	14	57·27	43·75	31·40	24·65
Essendon	..	23	30	25	24	40·61	37·29	22·08	20·83
Fitzroy	..	26	27	19	10	56·98	52·04	28·79	16·50
Footscray	..	29	34	19	24	40·90	39·66	16·02	20·51
Hawthorn	..	18	22	7	18	44·31	38·76	11·06	28·04
Heidelberg (Part)	..	11	18	28	18	32·37	37·83	24·43	15·89
Keilor (Part)	..	†	†	3	3	..	..	20·98	19·87
Kew	..	9	13	15	11	30·32	33·14	32·26	23·60
Malvern	..	17	19	21	15	35·71	32·55	27·06	21·16
Moorabbin	..	14	16	41	38	37·93	35·86	27·32	24·39
Mordialloc	..	7	8	8	7	54·55	39·27	16·84	13·01
Mulgrave	..	†	†	11	11	..	..	24·44	18·09
Northcote	..	24	24	13	10	41·65	35·87	15·46	13·26
Nunawading	..	†	†	9	14	..	..	14·45	22·22
Oakleigh	..	9	6	8	9	43·36	23·00	12·54	15·20
Port Melbourne	..	11	7	8	9	56·91	36·24	29·09	34·48
Prahran	..	29	27	16	15	46·44	33·08	16·48	16·09
Preston	..	23	28	28	26	40·29	39·66	21·31	19·39
Richmond	..	29	25	27	21	49·27	38·79	35·53	28·69
Ringwood	..	†	†	11	5	..	..	34·16	15·20
Sandringham	..	9	10	12	8	37·04	30·62	19·26	13·18
South Melbourne	..	30	28	16	17	54·77	46·46	21·42	24·85
St. Kilda	..	22	31	18	20	43·78	43·27	19·37	23·89
Sunshine (Part) *	..	8	7	20	14	49·68	36·36	22·75	16·55
Williamstown	..	13	14	18	14	38·63	35·64	32·03	22·45

* 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.	1952.	1953.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1952.	1953.
Cities and Principal Towns outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area—								
Ballaarat	25	29	21	25	41·62	46·05	21·26	24·98
Bendigo	22	24	15	13	40·32	42·73	20·08	15·95
Geelong	34	30	26	29	48·77	41·32	23·90	29·87
Ararat	4	2	5	3	40·85	21·15	29·41	18·52
Benalla	†	†	8	5	..	..	43·72	30·12
Camperdown	†	†	†	2	..	..	..	20·62
Castlemaine	4	3	1	3	38·62	32·69	7·25	29·13
Colac	5	4	4	3	45·63	28·71	18·78	13·70
Echuca	6	3	1	5	62·50	31·89	8·62	33·33
Hamilton	4	5	8	5	37·61	34·68	35·71	19·46
Horsham	5	4	3	1	40·95	31·90	17·75	6·25
Maryborough	5	4	2	4	41·59	35·12	14·08	27·40
Mildura	8	8	4	5	37·68	30·72	12·78	14·75
Sale	2	3	3	7	27·97	30·36	15·15	31·11
Shepparton	8	8	8	10	54·50	45·65	26·94	32·15
Stawell	4	3	4	6	47·06	30·52	28·57	48·00
Swan Hill	†	†	1	4	..	..	6·41	22·99
Wangaratta	7	8	11	3	63·91	66·56	38·33	11·49
Warrnambool	6	7	5	8	34·32	35·97	17·67	26·40
Wonthaggi	5	3	2	..	50·66	40·72	18·86	..
Summary—								
Melbourne Metropolitan Area	579	639	612	544	42·55	37·24	21·91	19·74
Cities and Principal Towns outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area	154	148	132	141	43·95	39·65	22·16	23·09
Remainder of State	437	438	454	448	38·24	37·38	22·87	22·52
Victoria	1,170	1,225	1,198	1,133	41·00	37·55	22·29	21·15

† 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 13.6 in 1949-53. The rate for infants "one week and under one month" declined from 11.1 in 1910-14 to 2.2 in 1949-53, a decrease of 80 per cent., and that for infants "one month and under one year" from 41.2 to 5.8, a decrease of 86 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 1949-53. In 1953 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 1949-53 exceeded the female rate by 26.1 per cent.

The tables which follow show the proportion of deaths of infants at various ages under one year for certain periods since 1899,

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN
AGES, 1900 TO 1953.

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	2.3	1.9	2.4	25.4	28.4	22.3	
1950 ..	12.6	2.1	1.6	1.7	2.1	20.1	21.9	18.2	
1951 ..	13.9	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.5	22.6	25.3	19.8	
1952 ..	14.2	2.2	1.9	1.9	2.1	22.3	25.4	19.1	
1953 ..	13.1	2.6	1.8	1.6	2.1	21.2	23.0	19.2	

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES,
MALES AND FEMALES, 1952.

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 ..	448	16·31	64·28	315	11·99	62·87
1 week and under						
1 month ..	68	2·48	9·75	50	1·90	9·98
1 month and under						
3 months ..	58	2·11	8·32	46	1·75	9·18
3 months and under						
6 months ..	63	2·29	9·04	37	1·41	7·39
6 months and under						
12 months ..	60	2·18	8·61	53	2·02	10·58
Total under one year ..	697	25·37	100·00	501	19·07	100·00

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORALITY AT AT CERTAIN AGES,
MALES AND FEMALES, 1953.

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 ..	375	13·70	59·52	327	12·48	65·01
1 week and under						
1 month ..	92	3·36	14·60	47	1·79	9·34
1 month and under						
3 months ..	56	2·05	8·89	38	1·45	7·56
3 months and under						
6 months ..	49	1·79	7·78	34	1·30	6·76
6 months and under						
12 months ..	58	2·12	9·21	57	2·18	11·33
Total under one year ..	630	23·02	100·00	503	19·20	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 three tables show the infant mortality rates from the principal causes for certain periods from 1891 to 1949, and for the years 1952 and 1953.

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)	} 21·51	12·77	7·98	2·57	3·25	3·32
Other Diseases of Early Infancy (161)				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, 1952.

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)	..	·06	·09	·17	·33	·65	·73	·57		
Pneumonia and Bronchitis (490-493, 500-502)	..	..	·39	·50	·30	1·19	1·38	·99
Gastro-enteritis and Colitis, except Ulcerative, age four weeks and over (571)	..	..	·09	·07	·04	·20	·18	·23
Congenital Malformations (750-759)	1·81	·76	·71	·50	·50	4·28	4·41	4·15		
Certain Diseases of Early Infancy— Birth Injuries (760, 761)—										
(a) Without mention of Imma- turity	1·58	·17	·07	·02	..	1·84	2·26	1·41		
(b) With Immaturity	·89	·02	..	..	..	·91	1·20	·61
Postnatal Asphyxia and Ate- lectasis (762)—										
(a) Without mention of Imma- turity	1·14	·09	·04	..	..	1·27	1·42	1·10
(b) With Immaturity	2·59	·07	..	..	..	2·66	3·17	2·13
Infections of the Newborn (763-768)—										
Pneumonia of Newborn—										
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	·30	·26	..	..	..	·56	·76	·34
(b) With Immaturity	·15	·15	..	..	..	·30	·36	·23
Diarrhoea of Newborn—										
(a) Without mention of Immaturity .. .. .	..	·02	..	..	..	·02	..	·04
(b) With Immaturity .. .. .	..	·07	..	..	..	·07	·07	·08
Ophthalmia Neonatorum—										
(a) Without mention of Immaturity .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(b) With Immaturity .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pemphigus Neonatorum—										
(a) Without mention of Immaturity .. .. .	..	·02	..	..	..	·02	·04	..
(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	·76	·13	..	..	·06	·95	1·06	·84
(b) With Immaturity	·80	·07	·04	..	..	·91	·98	·84
Immaturity unqualified (776)	3·92	·13	·04	..	..	4·09	4·55	3·61
All other diseases	·13	·15	·41	·52	·71	1·92	2·40	1·41		
Accidents, Poisonings, and Violence	·13	·02	·06	·07	·17	·45	·40	·49		
Total, All Causes	14·20	2·19	1·94	1·85	2·11	22·29	25·37	19·07		

VICTORIA—INFANTILE DEATH RATES, AT VARIOUS AGES,
FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1953.

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)	..	·02	·07	·07	·28	·44	·37	·53	
Pneumonia and Bronchitis (490-493, 500-502)	..	..	·35	·28	·54	1·17	1·24	1·10
Gastro-enteritis and Colitis, except Ulcerative, age four weeks and over (571)	1·58	..	·11	·09	·11	·31	·40	·23	
Congenital Malformations (750-759)	1·58	·65	·60	·53	·49	3·85	4·09	3·59	
Certain Diseases of Early Infancy—									
Birth Injuries (760, 761)—									
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	1·12	·13	·04	·06	..	1·35	1·57	1·10	
(b) With Immaturity	·64	·07	..	..	..	·71	·95	·46
Postnatal Asphyxia and Atelectasis (762)—									
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	·93	·04	·02	..	..	·99	·88	1·10
(b) With Immaturity	2·89	·21	..	..	..	3·10	3·22	2·98
Infections of the Newborn (763-768)—									
Pneumonia of Newborn—									
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	·52	·49	..	..	..	1·01	1·32	·69
(b) With Immaturity	·17	·11	..	..	..	·28	·40	·15
Diarrhoea of Newborn—									
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	·04	..	..	..	..	·04	·07	..
(b) With Immaturity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum—									
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(b) With Immaturity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pemphigus Neonatorum—									
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	..	·02	..	..	..	·02	..	·04
(b) With Immaturity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Umbilical Sepsis—									
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	..	·02	..	..	..	·02	·04	..
(b) With Immaturity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Sepsis of Newborn—									
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	..	·02	..	..	..	·02	·04	..
(b) With Immaturity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy (769-775)—									
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	·85	·13	·06	·04	·02	1·10	1·46	·73	
(b) With Immaturity	·68	·26	·07	..	..	1·01	1·13	·88
Immaturity unqualified (776)	3·33	·20	..	..	..	3·53	3·47	3·59
All Other Diseases	·26	·22	·38	·43	·56	1·85	1·97	1·72	
Accidents, Poisonings, and Violence	·10	..	·05	·05	·15	·35	·40	·31	
Total, All Causes	13·11	2·59	1·75	1·55	2·15	21·15	23·02	19·20	

In 1953, 465 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 41 per cent. of the total infant deaths. Congenital malformations were responsible for 206, or 18 per cent., of the infant deaths. It will thus be seen that 59 per cent. of the total infant mortality in 1953 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 1952 and 1953:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE MONTH,
1952 AND 1953—MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN AREA
AND VICTORIA.

Cause of Death (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses).	Melbourne Metropolitan Area.		Victoria.	
	1952.	1953.	1952.	1953.
Infective and Parasitic Diseases (1-138).. ..	2	..	3	1
Pneumonia and Bronchitis (490-493, 500-502) .. ..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Malformations (750-759)	78	58	138	120
Certain Diseases of Early Infancy—				
Birth Injuries (760,761)—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	42	28	94	67
(b) With Immaturity	32	22	49	38
Postnatal Asphyxia and Atelectasis (762)—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	34	20	66	52
(b) With Immaturity	98	115	143	166
Infections of the Newborn (763-768)—				
Pneumonia of Newborn—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	11	28	30	54
(b) With Immaturity	7	6	16	15
Diarrhoea of Newborn—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity .. ..	..	..	1	..
(b) With Immaturity	2	2	4	2
Other Infections of Newborn—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity .. ..	..	1	1	2
(b) With Immaturity .. ..	..	1	..	1
Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy (769-775)—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	22	17	48	53
(b) With Immaturity	21	30	47	50
Immaturity unqualified (776)	92	63	218	189
All Other Diseases	6	14	15	26
Accidents, Poisonings, and Violence	5	1	8	5
Total, All Causes	452	406	881	841
Deaths per 1,000 Births	16.2	14.7	16.4	15.7

Nuptial and ex-nuptial infantile death rates. On the average of the last ten years, 33 in every 1,000 ex-nuptial infants died within a year, as against 24 in every 1,000 nuptial children. The proportion of ex-nuptial children who died before the age of one year is, therefore, 1.4 times that of nuptial children. In the year 1953 the mortality rate of nuptial infants was 21.0 per 1,000 births. Births and deaths of ex-nuptial children numbered 1,843 and 42 respectively, the death rate being thus 22.8 per 1,000 births. The mortality rates of the two classes for the years 1952 and 1953 are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES OF NUPTIAL AND EX-NUPTIAL INFANTS FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1952 AND 1953.

Cause of Death (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses).	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.			
	Nuptial.		Ex-nuptial.	
	1952.	1953.	1952.	1953.
Infective and Parasitic Diseases (1-138) ..	0.67	0.41	..	1.63
Pneumonia and Bronchitis (490-493, 500-502)	1.14	1.16	2.77	1.09
Gastro-enteritis and Colitis, except Ulcerative, age four weeks and over (571)	0.15	0.29	0.55	1.09
Congenital Malformations (750-759)	4.27	3.85	3.87	3.80
Certain Diseases of Early Infancy—				
Birth Injuries (760, 761)—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	1.85	1.39	1.66	..
(b) With Immaturity	0.91	0.68	1.11	1.63
Postnatal Asphyxia and Atelectasis (762)—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	1.23	0.93	2.21	2.71
(b) With Immaturity	2.58	3.09	4.98	3.26
Infections of the Newborn (763-768)—				
Pneumonia of Newborn—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	0.56	1.02	0.55	0.54
(b) With Immaturity	0.31	0.27	..	0.54
Diarrhoea of Newborn—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	0.02	..	..	..
(b) With Immaturity	0.08	0.04	..	..
Other Infections of Newborn—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	0.02	0.04	..	..
(b) With Immaturity .. ..	..	0.02	..	..
Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy (769-775)—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	0.96	1.12	0.55	0.54
(b) With Immaturity	0.91	1.02	1.11	0.54
Immaturity Unqualified (776)	4.16	3.62	2.21	1.09
All other Diseases	1.89	1.82	1.66	1.63
Accidents, Poisonings, and Violence ..	0.38	0.27	2.21	2.71
Total, All Causes	22.09	21.04	25.44	22.80

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 1949 to 1953:—

INFANTILE DEATH RATE—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1949 TO 1953.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.*
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
1952..	22·29	24·50	24·94	23·09	24·91	21·73	23·79	21·82
1953..	21·15	24·65	24·98	20·65	23·83	22·88	23·30	20·06

* Excludes Maoris

In the year 1953 the infantile mortality rates recorded for the Australian States showed that South Australia had the lowest rate and Queensland 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 AND INFANT MORTALITY,
1944 TO 1953.**

Year.	Stillbirths.		Deaths under One Month.		Deaths under One Month plus Stillbirths.		Deaths under One Year plus Stillbirths.	
	Number Notified.	Rate per 1,000 Births (live and still.)	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births (live and still.)	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births (live and still.)	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births (live and still.)
1944	924	22·94	911	22·61	1,835	45·55	2,182	54·17
1945	981	23·26	870	20·62	1,851	43·88	2,136	50·64
1946	1,021	21·40	943	19·76	1,964	41·16	2,289	47·97
1947	951	19·68	928	19·21	1,879	38·89	2,196	45·45
1948	902	19·19	790	16·81	1,692	36·00	2,005	42·66
1949	907	18·98	763	15·97	1,670	34·95	1,933	40·46
1950	963	18·96	733	14·43	1,696	33·39	1,964	38·67
1951	929	18·05	812	15·77	1,741	33·82	2,072	40·25
1952	919	16·81	881	16·12	1,800	32·93	2,117	38·73
1953	Number Registered.							
	817	15·02	841	15·47	1,658	30·49	1,950	35·86

The causes of the 817 stillbirths in Victoria in 1953, classified according to the International Statistical classification, are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF STILLBIRTHS, 1953.

Classification Number.	Cause of Stillbirth.	Number of Stillbirths.
Y 30 ..	Chronic disease in mother	14
Y 31 ..	Acute disease in mother	5
Y 32 ..	Diseases and conditions of pregnancy and childbirth	52
Y 33 ..	Absorption of toxic substance from mother .. .. .	..
Y 34 ..	Difficulties in labour	71
Y 35 ..	Other causes in mother	2
Y 36 ..	Placental and cord conditions	279
Y 37 ..	Birth injury	12
Y 38 ..	Congenital malformation of foetus	70
Y 39 ..	Diseases of foetus, and ill-defined causes	312
	Total	817

Deaths of children under 5 years. In 1953 the deaths of male and of female children in Victoria under 5 years of age numbered 791 and 630 respectively.

Ages at death. The ages of males and of females who died in each of the years 1951 to 1953 are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—AGES AT DEATH, 1951 TO 1953.

Ages.	1951.			1952.			1953.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year	657	486	1,143	697	501	1,198	630	503	1,133
1 year ..	78	60	138	57	63	120	70	56	126
2 years ..	37	32	69	37	32	69	42	31	73
3 ..	41	20	61	34	17	51	30	25	55
4 ..	28	22	50	23	17	40	19	15	34
5 to 9 years	63	57	120	74	66	140	89	51	140
10 .. 14 ..	48	31	79	51	27	78	45	31	76
15 .. 19 ..	101	38	139	102	35	137	83	37	120
20 .. 24 ..	191	71	262	161	57	218	156	63	219
25 .. 29 ..	165	91	256	166	72	238	159	67	226
30 .. 34 ..	147	132	279	169	118	287	136	75	211
35 .. 39 ..	218	147	365	209	140	349	194	144	338
40 .. 44 ..	307	192	499	290	208	498	272	173	445
45 .. 49 ..	443	294	737	472	319	791	435	257	692
50 .. 54 ..	686	433	1,119	710	479	1,189	675	445	1,120
55 .. 59 ..	1,051	603	1,654	1,027	608	1,635	917	585	1,502
60 .. 64 ..	1,345	838	2,183	1,392	961	2,353	1,316	869	2,185
65 .. 69 ..	1,489	1,071	2,560	1,529	1,118	2,647	1,526	1,076	2,602
70 .. 74 ..	1,554	1,396	2,950	1,584	1,360	2,944	1,622	1,359	2,981
75 .. 79 ..	1,592	1,603	3,195	1,529	1,526	3,055	1,463	1,512	2,975
80 .. 84 ..	1,317	1,587	2,904	1,236	1,487	2,723	1,172	1,484	2,656
85 .. 89 ..	813	1,087	1,900	772	1,049	1,821	816	1,109	1,925
90 .. 94 ..	237	408	645	228	388	616	248	431	679
95 years ..	12	37	49	18	33	51	16	26	42
96 ..	19	18	37	10	20	30	11	24	35
97 ..	10	10	20	3	13	16	11	8	19
98 ..	5	7	12	3	8	11	3	10	13
99 ..	1	3	4	1	5	6	1	5	6
100 ..	1	7	8	..	2	2	..	3	3
101 ..	1	1	2	..	2	2	..	..	..
102 ..	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	1	1
103 ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	2	3
104 ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	1
Unknown ..	5	1	6	3	1	4	10	4	14
Total ..	12,662	10,784	23,446	12,590	10,732	23,322	12,168	10,482	22,650

Of the 69,418 persons who died in Victoria during the above three years 16,246 (or approximately 23 per cent.) were aged 80 years and upwards, and 26—six males and twenty 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.

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 1952 and 1953 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 tables:—

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH, NUMBERS AND RATES, 1952.

Cause of Death. (Abbreviated International List, 1948 Revision.) (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses.)	Deaths—1952.			
	Victoria.		Melbourne Metropolitan Area.	
	Number.	Rate per 1,000,000 of Mean Popu- lation.	Number.	Rate per 1,000,000 of Mean Popu- lation.
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System (1—8) ..	303	129.3	201	149.4
2. Tuberculosis, other forms (10-19) ..	43	18.4	17	12.6
3. Syphilis and its sequelae (20-29) ..	64	27.3	43	32.0
4. Typhoid Fever (40) ..	1	.4	..	..
5. Cholera (43) ..	..	..	..	..
6. Dysentery, all forms (45-48) ..	20	8.5	14	10.4
7. Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat (50, 51) ..	..	..	..	..
8. Diphtheria (55) ..	10	4.3	9	6.7
9. Whooping cough (56) ..	5	2.1	1	.7
10. Meningococcal infections (57) ..	39	16.7	23	17.1
11. Plague (58) ..	..	..	..	..
12. Acute poliomyelitis (80) ..	20	8.5	13	9.7
13. Smallpox (84) ..	..	..	..	..
14. Measles (85) ..	1	.4	..	..
15. Typhus and other rickettsial diseases (100-108) ..	..	..	..	..
16. Malaria (110-117) ..	1	.4	1	.7
17. All other diseases classed as infective and parasitic ..	73	31.2	33	24.5
18. Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissues (140- 205) ..	3,323	1,417.9	2,118	1,574.8
19. Benign and unspecified neoplasms (210-239) ..	61	26.0	45	33.5
20. Diabetes mellitus (260) ..	410	175.0	271	201.5
21. Anaemias (290-293) ..	91	38.8	57	42.4
22. Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system (330-334) ..	3,241	1,382.9	2,104	1,564.4
23. Nonmeningococcal meningitis (340) ..	35	14.9	23	17.1
24. Rheumatic fever (400-402) ..	33	14.1	17	12.6
25. Chronic rheumatic heart disease (410-416) ..	243	103.7	155	115.2
26. Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease (420-422) ..	6,409	2,734.7	4,024	2,991.9
27. Other diseases of heart (430-434) ..	477	203.5	233	173.2
28. Hypertension with heart disease (440-443) ..	567	241.9	383	284.8
29. Hypertension without mention of heart (444-447) ..	410	175.0	269	200.0
30. Influenza (480-483) ..	35	14.9	13	9.7
31. Pneumonia (490-493) ..	732	312.3	377	280.3
32. Bronchitis (500-502) ..	271	115.6	173	128.6
33. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum (540, 541) ..	162	69.1	107	79.6
34. Appendicitis (550-553) ..	35	14.9	21	15.6
35. Intestinal obstruction and hernia (560, 561, 570) ..	116	49.5	56	41.6
36. Gastritis, duodenitis, enteritis and colitis, except diarrhoea of the Newborn (543, 571, 572) ..	98	41.8	47	35.0
37. Cirrhosis of liver (581) ..	131	55.9	92	68.4
38. Nephritis and nephrosis (590-594) ..	426	181.8	249	185.1
39. Hyperplasia of prostate (610) ..	212	90.5	119	88.5
40. Complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (640-652, 660, 670-689) ..	37	15.8	16	11.9
41. Congenital malformations (750-759) ..	296	126.3	162	120.5
42. Birth injuries, postnatal asphyxia and atelec- tasis (760-762) ..	359	153.2	210	156.1
43. Infections of the Newborn (763-768) ..	52	22.2	20	14.9
44. Other diseases peculiar to early infancy, and immaturity unqualified (769-776) ..	320	136.6	136	101.1
45. Senility without mention of psychosis, ill- defined and unknown causes (780-795) ..	415	177.1	190	141.3
46. All other diseases ..	2,240	955.8	1,404	1,043.9
47. Motor vehicle accidents (E810-E835) ..	630	268.8	333	247.6
48. All other accidents (E800-E802, E840-E962) ..	657	280.3	282	209.7
49. Suicide and self-inflicted injury (E963, E970- E979) ..	189	80.6	105	78.1
50. Homicide and operations of war (E964, E965, E980-E999) ..	29	12.4	23	17.1
Total ..	23,322	9,951.3	14,189	10,549.8

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH, NUMBERS AND RATES, 1953.

Cause of Death. (Abbreviated International List, 1948 Revision.) (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses.)	Deaths—1953.			
	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) ..	241	100·6	150	109·2
2. Tuberculosis, other forms (10-19) ..	38	15·9	21	15·3
3. Syphilis and its sequelae (20-29) ..	65	27·1	47	34·2
4. Typhoid Fever (40) ..	1	·4	..	..
5. Cholera (43) ..	..	..	..	..
6. Dysentery, all forms (45-48) ..	10	4·2	8	5·8
7. Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat (50, 51) ..	1	·4	1	·7
8. Diphtheria (55) ..	3	1·3	3	2·2
9. Whooping cough (56) ..	3	1·3	2	1·5
10. Meningococcal infections (57) ..	28	11·7	19	13·8
11. Plague (58) ..	..	..	..	..
12. Acute poliomyelitis (80) ..	14	5·8	6	4·4
13. Smallpox (84) ..	..	..	..	..
14. Measles (85) ..	10	4·2	4	2·9
15. Typhus and other rickettsial diseases (100-108) ..	..	..	..	..
16. Malaria (110-117) ..	..	..	..	..
17. All other diseases classed as infective and parasitic ..	67	28·0	29	21·1
18. Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissues (140-205) ..	3,366	1,404·9	2,175	1,583·0
19. Benign and unspecified neoplasms (210-239) ..	75	31·3	49	35·7
20. Diabetes mellitus (260) ..	413	172·4	273	198·7
21. Anaemias (290-293) ..	97	40·5	59	42·9
22. Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system (330-334) ..	3,071	1,281·8	1,940	1,412·0
23. Nonmeningococcal meningitis (340) ..	41	17·1	22	16·0
24. Rheumatic fever (400-402) ..	24	10·0	17	12·4
25. Chronic rheumatic heart disease (410-416) ..	242	101·0	154	112·1
26. Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease (420-422) ..	6,095	2,544·0	3,794	2,761·4
27. Other diseases of heart (430-434) ..	508	212·0	238	173·2
28. Hypertension with heart disease (440-443) ..	564	235·4	360	262·0
29. Hypertension without mention of heart (444-447) ..	370	154·4	247	179·8
30. Influenza (480-483) ..	47	19·6	25	18·2
31. Pneumonia (490-493) ..	659	275·1	352	256·2
32. Bronchitis (500-502) ..	270	112·7	180	131·0
33. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum (540, 541) ..	168	70·1	105	76·4
34. Appendicitis (550-553) ..	21	8·8	6	4·4
35. Intestinal obstruction and hernia (560, 561, 570) ..	140	58·4	76	55·3
36. Gastritis, duodenitis, enteritis and colitis, except diarrhoea of the Newborn (543, 571, 572) ..	102	42·6	61	44·4
37. Cirrhosis of liver (581) ..	112	46·7	79	57·5
38. Nephritis and nephrosis (590-594) ..	415	173·2	250	182·0
39. Hyperplasia of prostate (610) ..	215	89·7	114	83·0
40. Complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (640-652, 660, 670-689) ..	27	11·3	15	10·9
41. Congenital malformations (750-759) ..	308	128·6	168	122·3
42. Birth injuries, postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis (760-762) ..	329	137·3	187	136·1
43. Infections of the Newborn (763-765) ..	74	30·9	38	27·6
44. Other diseases peculiar to early infancy, and immaturity unqualified (769-776) ..	302	126·0	115	83·7
45. Senility without mention of psychosis, ill-defined and unknown causes (780-795) ..	440	183·6	207	150·7
46. All other diseases ..	2,259	942·9	1,388	1,010·2
47. Motor vehicle accidents (E810-E835) ..	533	222·5	290	211·1
48. All other accidents (E800-E802, E840-E962) ..	641	267·5	301	219·0
49. Suicide and self-inflicted injury (E963, E970-E979) ..	216	90·2	145	105·5
50. Homicide and operations of war E964, E965, E980-E999) ..	25	10·4	11	8·0
Total ..	22,650	9,453·8	13,731	9,993·8

Tuberculosis (all forms). The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1953 was 279, the rate per million of population being 116. 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 1953 numbered 241—174 being of males and 67 of females—and equalled a rate of 101 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 1952 tuberculosis of the respiratory system was responsible for 88 per cent. of the total deaths from tuberculosis. The corresponding figure in 1953 was 86 per cent.

The rates of mortality for Victoria at the last eight 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.	1953-55.
<i>Males.</i>								
Under 15 ..	1·74	0·90	0·38	0·46	0·42	0·24	0·13	0·02
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	0·01
25 to 34 ..	30·33	23·70	20·31	13·11	9·70	5·44	2·20	0·30
35 to 44 ..	25·11	28·28	22·07	15·63	12·43	7·46	3·66	0·74
45 to 54 ..	28·65	31·17	25·05	18·07	13·94	9·05	7·13	2·24
55 to 64 ..	31·41	36·48	35·75	18·88	13·03	10·56	9·83	4·15
65 and upwards	18·08	25·40	31·07	13·55	8·65	7·80	11·89	7·75
All Ages ..	15·33	15·73	13·51	8·98	7·11	4·74	3·82	1·35
<i>Females.</i>								
Under 15 ..	1·76	1·43	0·93	0·97	0·38	0·23	0·15	0·01
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	0·01
25 to 34 ..	26·56	21·77	18·15	14·03	10·00	7·08	3·62	0·41
35 to 44 ..	24·06	22·53	17·74	11·51	9·15	5·26	3·02	0·78
45 to 54 ..	20·72	16·13	14·41	8·18	5·91	3·82	2·78	0·61
55 to 64 ..	14·26	12·35	12·52	7·47	4·95	3·78	2·19	0·59
65 and upwards	13·12	8·25	8·18	5·29	3·94	2·88	3·04	1·39
All Ages ..	12·75	11·51	9·72	7·61	5·55	3·70	2·18	0·44

A comparison of the mortality from tuberculosis of the respiratory system for the census periods 1946-48 and 1953-55 shows that lower death rates obtained in each age group in 1953-55 than in 1946-48.

The number of deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in each of the years 1952 and 1953, the respiratory system at various ages, is given in the following table :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM AT VARIOUS AGES, 1952 AND 1953.

Age Group.	1952.		1953.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
0-9 .. .. .	..	..	..	..
10-14 .. .. .	..	..	..	1
15-19 .. .. .	..	1	..	..
20-24	2	3	1	..
25-29	5	3	3	3
30-34	4	12	4	5
35-39	9	9	9	9
40-44	13	13	9	5
45-49	16	2	18	8
50-54	25	7	20	5
55-59	38	8	22	5
60-64	26	3	28	3
65-69	28	10	22	9
70 and over	50	16	37	14
Age unknown .. .. .	..	..	1	..
Total	216	87	174	67

For the year 1952, the average age of those who died from tuberculosis of the respiratory system was 58.6 years for males and 51.1 years for females. The corresponding ages for the year 1953 were 58.4 years and 53.8 years respectively.

Tubercular diseases (tuberculosis of the respiratory system excepted).

In 1952 and 1953 there occurred in Victoria 43 and 38 deaths respectively from tubercular diseases (excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system). These numbers represented rates of 18 per million and 16 per million of the population respectively. Rates for previous periods were 21 in 1951, 26 in 1946-50, 134 in 1918-22, 182 in 1908-12, and 379 in 1890-92.

Typhoid Fever.

There was one death from typhoid fever in each of the years 1952 and 1953, the last previous death from this disease having occurred in 1948. Rates per million of population were 0.4 in 1952, 0.4 in 1953, 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 1952 and 1953 numbered 29 and 54 respectively, or 12 and 23 per million of population respectively, as against 4 per million in 1951, 8 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 1952, and one death from streptococcal sore throat occurred in 1953.

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. During each of the years 1952 and 1953 the incidence increased, the number of cases reported in 1953 was 2,470. 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 1949-53, 51 per cent. of those who died were under 5 years, and 82 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 1953.**

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
1950	326	14.8	12	0.5	3.7
1951	190	8.4	7	0.3	3.7
1952	245	10.5	10	0.4	4.1
1953	201	8.4	3	0.1	1.5
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
1950	171	13.1	6	0.5	3.5
1951	118	8.8	..	..	..
1952	168	12.5	9	0.7	5.4
1953	122	8.9	3	0.2	2.5

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

Whooping Cough. Whooping cough was responsible for 5 deaths in 1952 and 3 deaths in 1953, which equalled rates of 2 per million and 1 per million of population respectively. Rates for previous years were 5 in 1951, 0·5 in 1950, and 4 in 1949. The infantile death rate is more affected than the general rate by this ailment as it is practically confined to children.

Meningococcal Infections. In 1952 and 1953 deaths from meningococcal infections numbered 39 and 28 respectively, the corresponding rates per million of population being 17 and 12.

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. Since that year the cases reported were 202 in 1950, 420 in 1951, 309 in 1952 and 283 in 1953, the incidence per 100,000 of population being 9·2 in 1950, 18·5 in 1951, 13·2 in 1952 and 11·8 in 1953.

There were 20 deaths from poliomyelitis in 1952, and 14 deaths in 1953, which represented rates of 8·5 and 5·8 per million of population, respectively.

Poliomyelitis was responsible for 30 deaths in 1951, 21 in 1950, 48 in 1949, 5 in 1948, 9 in 1947, and 16 in 1946.

Small-pox—Deaths from. During the years 1853 to 1953, 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 was 1 death from measles in 1952 and 10 deaths in 1953 which equalled rates of 0·4 and 4 per million of population respectively. Rates per million of population were 5 in 1951, 4 in 1950, and 6 in 1949. The disease chiefly affects children. For the five years 1949-1953, 49 per cent. of those who died from the disease were under 2 years and 70 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 Aleukaemia, which were not formerly included with neoplasms. Deaths from malignant neoplasms numbered 3,323 in 1952 and 3,366 in 1953 and represented death rates of 1,418 and 1,405 per million of the whole population respectively. Rates for previous periods were 1,397 in 1951 and 1,456 in 1950.

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 six 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.	1953-55.
<i>Males.</i>						
Under 5	0.30	0.73	0.46	0.27	0.60	1.11
5 to 9	0.42	0.25	0.13	0.20	0.34	0.98
10 to 14	0.20	0.16	0.14	0.24	0.24	0.69
15 to 19	0.22	0.15	0.30	0.37	0.61	0.93
20 to 24	0.33	0.71	0.64	0.73	0.69	1.27
25 to 34	1.26	0.96	0.76	0.93	1.20	1.32
35 to 44	3.69	3.16	3.31	3.04	3.00	4.01
45 to 54	14.14	16.03	13.94	10.13	11.65	13.25
55 to 64	36.00	36.36	40.46	37.25	32.73	36.99
65 to 74	59.04	74.15	78.21	85.19	80.46	82.41
75 and over	74.04	88.40	110.12	133.78	148.20	163.06
All Ages	7.52	8.50	9.52	11.63	13.51	13.76
<i>Females.</i>						
Under 5	0.26	0.19	0.39	0.38	0.48	1.37
5 to 9	0.04	0.10	0.17	0.17	0.18	0.60
10 to 14 .. .. .	..	0.27	0.05	0.08	0.40	0.71
15 to 19	0.28	0.44	0.15	0.17	0.04	0.49
20 to 24	0.23	0.41	0.30	0.39	0.60	0.56
25 to 34	1.61	1.39	1.28	1.57	1.75	1.81
35 to 44	6.05	7.26	6.61	6.00	6.23	6.14
45 to 54	18.13	17.87	19.14	17.31	16.47	16.46
55 to 64	33.05	38.03	34.48	35.82	33.40	30.93
65 to 74	51.18	61.66	63.05	61.17	61.44	59.38
75 and over	62.70	86.19	92.86	106.19	111.49	117.02
All Ages	6.64	8.76	9.63	12.00	14.50	14.16

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 each of the years 1952 and 1953, classified according to sex and age groups, is given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS AT CERTAIN AGES, 1952 AND 1953.

Age Group.	1952.		1953.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
0-4	16	16	12	13
5-9	10	7	15	7
10-14	4	2	5	4
15-19	5	2	10	5
20-24	12	10	15	6
25-29	13	12	19	10
30-34	12	28	17	20
35-39	20	36	26	37
40-44	38	62	35	52
45-49	73	98	69	80
50-54	110	135	107	133
55-59	175	147	147	171
60-64	234	212	245	220
65-69	262	220	273	200
70-74	241	228	269	241
75-79	245	186	207	220
80-84	133	152	122	159
85 and over	69	96	81	114
Age Unknown	1	1	..	..
Total	1,673	1,650	1,674	1,692

Ninety-one per cent. of the deaths from malignant neoplasms in each of the years 1952 and 1953 were at ages 45 years and upwards.

For the year 1952, the average age of those who died from malignant neoplasms was 64.6 years for males and 63.7 years for females. Corresponding ages for the year 1953 were 64.1 for males and 64.8 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 1952 and 1953:—

VICTORIA—MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS, 1952 AND 1953.

Site of Disease.	1952.		1953.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Buccal Cavity and Pharynx ..	55	21	48	22
Oesophagus	48	26	57	28
Stomach	351	234	312	249
Intestine, except Rectum ..	174	234	178	220
Rectum	100	83	89	59
Larynx	14	1	24	6
Trachea, and Bronchus and Lung not specified as secondary ..	244	51	240	75
Breast	4	338	1	349
Cervix Uteri .. .. .	..	85	..	75
Other and Unspecified Parts of Uterus .. .. .	..	87	..	72
Prostate	179	..	177	..
Skin	31	29	35	18
Bone and Connective Tissue ..	15	17	27	15
All Other and Unspecified Sites ..	349	366	357	405
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia ..	65	51	67	56
Lymphosarcoma and Other Neo- plasms of Lymphatic and Haematopoietic System ..	44	27	62	43
Total	1,673	1,650	1,674	1,692

Diabetes Mellitus During 1952 diabetes was responsible for 150 male and 260 female deaths, representing a rate of 175 per million of the population. In 1953, this disease was responsible for 129 male and 284 female deaths, representing a rate of 172 per million of population. Rates for previous periods were 156 in 1951, 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 1952, 1,300 male and 1,941 female deaths were ascribed to these causes, the total—3,241—corresponding to a rate of 1,383 per million of the population. In 1953, deaths numbered 1,272 males and 1,799 females, the rate per million of population for the total of 3,071 deaths being 128. Of the 3,241 deaths in 1952, 120 were due to subarachnoid

haemorrhage, 1,699 to cerebral haemorrhage, 1,166 to cerebral embolism and thrombosis, and 256 to other vascular lesions. Of the 3,071 deaths in 1953, 94 were due to subarachnoid haemorrhage, 1,638 to cerebral haemorrhage, 1,073 to cerebral embolism and thrombosis, and 266 to other vascular lesions.

**Nonmeningococcal
Meningitis.**

In 1952 deaths from nonmeningococcal meningitis numbered 35, the rate per million of population being 15. In 1953, the number of deaths from this cause was 41, the rate per million of population being 17.

**Diseases of
the Heart.**

During 1952 there were 7,696 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart including 243 due to chronic rheumatic heart disease, 6,409 to arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease, 477 to other diseases of the heart, and 567 to hypertension with heart disease. The total causes in 1952 represented a rate of 3,284 per million of the population. During 1953, there were 7,409 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart including 242 due to chronic rheumatic heart disease, 6,095 to arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease, 508 to other diseases of the heart, and 564 to hypertension with heart disease. The total causes in 1953 represented a rate of 3,092 per million of population.

**Diseases of the
Respiratory
System.**

In 1952 and 1953 the deaths from respiratory diseases numbered 1,307 and 1,259 which represented rates of 558 and 525 per million of the population respectively. Of the deaths in 1952, 35 were due to influenza, 154 to lobar pneumonia, 451 to broncho-pneumonia, 127 to pneumonia, other and unspecified, 271 to bronchitis, 10 to empyema and abscess of lung, 6 to pleurisy, 48 to pulmonary congestion and hypostasis, 33 to bronchiectasis, and 172 to other diseases. Of the deaths in 1953, 47 were due to influenza, 169 to lobar pneumonia, 406 to broncho-pneumonia, 84 to pneumonia, other and unspecified, 270 to bronchitis, 10 to empyema and abscess of the lung, 5 to pleurisy, 50 to pulmonary congestion and hypostasis, 39 to bronchiectasis, and 179 to other diseases.

The 35 deaths in 1952 and the 47 deaths in 1953 from influenza corresponded to rates of 15 and 20 per million of the population respectively as compared with rates of 58 in 1951, 38 in 1950, 10 in 1949, 31 in 1948, 18 in 1947, 2,407 in 1919, 71 in 1913-17, 109 in 1908-12, and 381 in 1890-92.

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 1952, 20 per cent. of the deaths were of persons under 50 years of age, the corresponding proportion in 1953 being 13 per cent.

**Diseases of
the Digestive
System.**

In 1952 there were 441 male and 304 female deaths from digestive ailments, representing a proportion of 318 per million of the population. In 1953 there were 411 male and 315 female deaths from these diseases representing a rate of 303 per million of population. Rates for previous periods were 398 in 1951, 377 in 1950, 398 in 1949, 807 in 1922-26, and 2,382 in 1890-92. Deaths from these causes in 1952 were:—162 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 3 from gastritis and duodenitis, 35 from appendicitis, 116 from intestinal obstruction and hernia, 95 from gastro-enteritis and colitis, except diarrhoea of the newborn, 131 from cirrhosis of the liver, 84 from cholelithiasis and cholecystitis, and 119 from other diseases. Deaths from these causes in 1953 were:—168 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 3 from gastritis and duodenitis, 21 from appendicitis, 140 from intestinal obstruction and hernia, 99 from gastro-enteritis and colitis, except diarrhoea of the newborn, 112 from cirrhosis of the liver, 74 from cholelithiasis and cholecystitis, and 109 from other diseases.

**Diseases of the
Genito-urinary
System.**

In 1952 there were 772 deaths and in 1953 there were also 772 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. This number represented a rate of 323 per million of the population in 1952 and 322 per million in 1953. In 1952 nephritis and nephrosis were responsible for 423 deaths, infections of the kidney for 55, calculi of urinary system for 15, hyperplasia of prostate for 212 and other diseases of genito-urinary system for 64. In 1953, nephritis and nephrosis were responsible for 415 deaths, infections of the kidney for 69, calculi of the urinary system for 15, hyperplasia of prostate for 215, and other diseases of the genito-urinary system for 58.

**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 years 1950 to 1953, and the averages of previous periods back to 1871.

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM DELIVERIES AND COMPLICATIONS
OF PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, AND THE PUERPERIUM,
1871 TO 1953.

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									
1952 ..	4	13	4	3	6	7	37	0.74	2.42	0.74	0.56	1.12	1.30	6.88									
1953 ..	1	8	6	2	6	4	27	0.19	1.49	1.12	0.37	1.12	0.75	5.04									

The following tables give information, in age groups, relating to the causes of death of women in childbirth in Victoria for the years 1952 and 1953:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM DELIVERIES AND COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH AND THE PUERPERIUM, 1952.

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.			
640-649	Complications of Pregnancy—									
640, 641	Infections of genito-urinary tract during pregnancy	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
642	Toxaemias of pregnancy	..	5	1	1	3	1	11	11	
643, 644	Haemorrhage of pregnancy	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1
645	Ectopic pregnancy	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1
646-649	All other complications of pregnancy	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	2
650-652	Abortion—									
650	Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxaemia—									
	0—Spontaneous or unspecified	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1
	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	..	..	2	..	1	..	3	2
	1—Induced for medical or legal indications	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2—Induced for other reasons	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	3
	3—Other	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
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	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
660	Delivery without complication	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
670-678	Delivery with specified complication—									
670	Delivery complicated by placenta praevia or antepartum haemorrhage	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1
671	Delivery complicated by retained placenta	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
672	Delivery complicated by other postpartum haemorrhage	..	1	1	..	1	..	3	3	
674	Delivery complicated by disproportion or malposition of foetus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
673, 675-678	Delivery with all other complications of childbirth	..	..	2	..	1	..	3	3

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM DELIVERIES AND COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH AND THE PUERPERIUM, 1952—*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.			
680-689	Complication of the Puerperium—									
680	Puerperal urinary infection without other sepsis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
681	Sepsis of childbirth and the puerperium .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
682	Puerperal phlebitis and thrombosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
683	Pyrexia of unknown origin during the puerperium .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
684	Puerperal pulmonary embolism .. .. .	..	..	2	..	1	..	3	3
685	Puerperal eclampsia .. .. .	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	2
686	Other forms of puerperal toxæmia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
687	Cerebral hæmorrhage in the puerperium .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
688	Other and unspecified complications of the puerperium .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
689	Mastitis and other disorders of lactation .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total	6	13	5	10	3	37	35	2
	Number of married mothers	6	12	4	10	3	35
	Number of unmarried mothers	1	1	2

Of the 90 children born to the 35 married women who died 83 were living at the time of their mothers' deaths, or an average of 2.4 children per mother.

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM DELIVERIES AND COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH AND THE PUERPERIUM, 1953.

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.			
640-649	Complications of Pregnancy—									
640, 641	Infections of genito-urinary tract during pregnancy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
642	Toxaemias of pregnancy .. .. .	..	1	2	1	2	..	6	6
643, 644	Haemorrhage of pregnancy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
645	Ectopic pregnancy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
646-649	All other complications of pregnancy .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1
650-652	Abortion—									
650	Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia—									
	0—Spontaneous or unspecified .. .. .	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	1
	1—Induced for medical or legal indications .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2—Induced for other reasons .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	3—Other .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
651	Abortion with sepsis—									
	0—Spontaneous or unspecified .. .. .	..	1	..	2	..	..	3	3
	1—Induced for medical or legal indications .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2—Induced for other reasons .. .. .	..	2	..	1	..	..	3	2
	3—Other .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
652	Abortion with toxæmia but without mention of sepsis—									
	0—Spontaneous or unspecified .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1—Induced for medical or legal indications .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2—Induced for other reasons .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	3—Other .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
660	Delivery without complication .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
670-678	Delivery with specified complication—									
670	Delivery complicated by placenta prævia or antepartum hæmorrhage .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
671	Delivery complicated by retained placenta .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
672	Delivery complicated by other postpartum hæmorrhage .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
674	Delivery complicated by disproportion or malposition of foetus .. .. .	..	4	..	..	2	..	6	5
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, 1953.

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.			
680-689	Complications of the Puerperium—									
680	Puerperal urinary infection without other sepsis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
681	Sepsis of childbirth and the puerperium .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
682	Puerperal phlebitis and thrombosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
683	Pyrexia of unknown origin during the puerperium .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
684	Puerperal pulmonary embolism .. .. .	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1
685	Puerperal eclampsia .. .. .	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	2
686	Other forms of puerperal toxæmia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
687	Cerebral hæmorrhage in the puerperium .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
688	Other and unspecified complications of the puerperium .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
689	Mastitis and other disorders of lactation .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total	9	4	5	9	..	27	24	3
	Number of married mothers	7	4	5	8	..	24
	Number of unmarried mothers	2	1	..	3

Of the 53 children born to the 24 married women who died, 48 were living at the time of their mothers' deaths, or an average of 2.0 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 1951, 1952, and 1953 are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—MATERNAL DEATHS, 1926 TO 1953.

Age Group.	Mothers.							
	Deaths.				Deaths per 10,000 children born alive to mothers in each age group.			
	1926-30.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1926-30.	1951.	1952.	1953.
Under 20 years ..	41	..	..	..	47.1	..	..	..
20 to 24 years ..	150	11	6	9	39.1	7.9	4.1	6.2
25 to 29 „ ..	231	14	13	4	46.5	8.3	7.2	2.2
30 to 34 „ ..	226	17	5	5	56.8	16.4	4.4	4.4
35 to 39 „ ..	226	3	10	9	88.1	5.5	18.1	16.4
40 years and over	111	5	3	..	117.8	31.1	18.1	..
Total ..	985	50	37	27	57.4	9.9	6.9	5.0

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 1952 were 5 per 10,000 live births and 18 per 10,000 live births respectively. Corresponding figures for 1953 were 4 per 10,000 live births and 13 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 1944 to 1953, were as follows:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS INVOLVING MOTOR VEHICLES, 1944 TO 1953.

Year.	Number of Motor Vehicles (30th June).	Deaths Involving Motor Vehicles.		
		Number.	Per 10,000 Motor Vehicles.	Per 1,000,000 of Population
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	444,400	629	14.2	277
1952	533,226	630	11.8	263
1953	539,828	533	9.9	222

The mortality per 10,000 vehicles was 12·4 for the period 1949-53, as compared with a rate of 11·2 in 1944-48. The mortality rate (277) in 1951 was the highest on record.

On the average of the five years, 1949 to 1953, motor cars, &c., were involved in 11·8 deaths per 10,000 cars registered, and motor cycles in 37·4 deaths per 10,000 motor cycles registered.

In 1952 and 1953 deaths from transport accidents numbered 703 and 603 respectively, as against 692 in 1951, 640 in 1950, 539 in 1949, 454 in 1948, 484 in 1947, 420 in 1946, 273 in 1945 and 292 in 1944.

During the year 1952 deaths connected with transport represented 55 per cent. of the total deaths from accidents. The corresponding percentage in 1953 was 51.

In the following tables 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 years 1952 and 1953 :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM TRANSPORT ACCIDENTS, 1952.

	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	9	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	30	56*	43	13
Tramcar	6	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	8	12	20	16	4
Motor car	24	3	53	28	1	27	..	1	..	136	231	367	280	87
Motor omnibus	6	1	..	4	..	..	..	11	10	21	14	7
Other motor Vehicles (except motor cycle)	9	24	2	12	1	2	..	50	98	148	130	18
Motor cycle	1	1	2	6	10	..	20	42	62	57	5
Horse-drawn vehicle	1	2	2	2
Bicycle	1	..	1	6	7	6	1
Aeroplane	1	..	1	3	4	4	..
Water Transport	1	1	13	14	13	1
Animal	2	2	2	..
Other vehicle
Total ..	1	..	41	11	74	55	4	45	7	15	1	254	449	703	567	136

* Includes rail accidents to nine railway employees.

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM TRANSPORT ACCIDENTS 1953.

	Collisions.											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.				Total Deaths from Collisions.	Other Transport Accidents.
Railway vehicle	9	..	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	16	31	47*	38	9
Tramcar	4	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	7	15	22	20	2
Motor car	27	7	35	36	1	16	..	1	..	123	204	327	249	78
Motor omnibus	2	1	..	2	..	..	..	5	4	9	7	2
Other motor Vehicle (except motor cycle)	10	23	..	10	..	2	..	45	80	125	115	10
Motor cycle	7	2	1	2	..	..	12	38	50	46	4
Horse-drawn vehicle	1	1	1	..
Bicycle	1	..	1	6	7	5	2
Aeroplane	3	3	3	..
Water Transport	8	8	8	..
Animal	4	4	2	2
Total	40	7	54	69	3	30	2	4	..	209	394	603	494	109

* Includes rail accidents to eight railway employees.

Accidental deaths In 1952 there were 1,287 accidental deaths (952 male, 335 female), and in 1953 there were 1,174 accidental deaths (901 male and 273 female). These represented rates of 549 and 490 per million of population respectively. The rate for the period 1947 to 1951 was 489. The number of deaths from various accidental causes are given in the appended table :—

VICTORIA—ACCIDENTAL DEATHS, 1952.

Detailed List No.	Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
E800-E802 ..	Railway accidents	27	4	31
E810-E835 ..	Motor vehicle accidents	504	126	630
E840-E845 ..	Other road vehicle accidents	19	5	24
E850-E858 ..	Water transport accidents	13	1	14
E860-E866 ..	Aircraft accidents	4	..	4
E870-E888 ..	Accidental poisoning by solid and liquid substances	17	7	24
E890-E895 ..	Accidental poisoning by gases and vapours	2	2	4
E900-E904 ..	Accidental falls	80	90	170
E912	Accident caused by machinery	12	..	12
E914	Accident caused by electric current	11	7	18
E916	Accident caused by fire and explosion of combustible material	35	22	57
E917, E918 ..	Accident caused by hot substance, corrosive liquid, steam, and radiation	8	3	11
E919	Accident caused by firearm	28	2	30
E924, E925 ..	Accidental mechanical suffocation	6	3	9
E927	Accidents caused by bites and stings of venomous animals and insects .. .. .	..	..	..
E928	Other accidents caused by animals	5	..	5
E929	Accidental drowning and submersion	126	41	167
E935	Lightning	1	..	1
E910, E911, E913, E915, E920-E923, E926, E930-E934, E936, E940-E946, E950-E959, E960-E962	All other accidental causes	54	22	76
	Total	952	335	1,287

VICTORIA—ACCIDENTAL DEATHS, 1953.

Detailed List No.	Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
E800-E802 ..	Railway accidents	26	5	31
E810-E835 ..	Motor vehicle accidents	434	99	533
E840-E845 ..	Other road vehicle accidents	23	5	28
E850-E858 ..	Water transport accidents	8	..	8
E860-E866 ..	Aircraft accidents	3	..	3
E870-E888 ..	Accidental poisoning by solid and liquid substances	22	15	37
E890-E895 ..	Accidental poisoning by gases and vapours	9	8	17
E900-E904 ..	Accidental falls	112	73	185
E912	Accident caused by machinery	16	..	16
E914	Accident caused by electric current	10	2	12
E916	Accident caused by fire and explosion of combustible material	27	16	43
E917, E918 ..	Accident caused by hot substance, corrosive liquid, steam, and radiation	4	4	8
E919	Accident caused by firearm	34	3	37
E924, E925 ..	Accidental mechanical suffocation	3	2	5
E927	Accidents caused by bites and stings of venomous animals and insects	2	1	3
E928	Other accidents caused by animals	3	..	3
E929	Accidental drowning and submersion	106	23	129
E935	Lightning	1	..	1
E910, E911, E913, E915, E920-E923, E926, E930-E934, E936, E940-E946, E950-E959, E960-E962	All other accidental causes	58	17	75
	Total	901	273	1,174

For the five years 1949-53 the female mortality rate from accidents was 31 per cent. of the rate for males.

Suicide. In the year 1952, 136 males and 53 females and in 1953, 157 males and 59 females, took their lives. The deaths represented rates of 81 and 90 per million of the population in 1952 and 1953 respectively, as compared with rates of 79 in 1951, 84 in 1950, 74 in 1949, 87 in 1918-22, 102 in 1908-12, and 109 in 1890-92. Of the 136 male deaths in 1952 from suicide, 55 (40 per cent.) were connected with firearms and explosives. The corresponding figures relating to the 157 male deaths in 1953 were 46 (29 per cent.) A much lower rate from suicide occurs among females than among males, the rate for the former, for the five-year period 1949-53, being 40 per cent. of that of the latter.

Homicide. The deaths ascribed to homicide in 1952 numbered 28, (18 males and 10 females). In 1953, deaths numbered 24 (14 males and 10 females). These represented rates of 12 and 10 per million of the population in 1952 and 1953 respectively, as against rates of 16 in 1951, 9 in 1950, 3 in 1949, 9 in 1948, 14 in 1918-22, and 19 in 1908-12. Since 1930, deaths from criminal abortion have been excluded from this category and included with deaths from maternal causes.

NATURAL INCREASE.

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
1940-44*	7·80	9·36	12·01	9·05	11·37	11·47	9·52	11·49
1945-49*	11·77	12·77	15·70	14·31	15·30	16·82	13·41	15·65
1950 ..	12·44	12·72	15·64	14·89	16·40	17·13	13·75	15·36
1951 ..	11·91	12·24	15·16	14·03	16·38	16·61	13·24	14·83
1952 ..	12·98	12·62	15·75	14·35	16·99	17·89	13·90	15·49
1953 ..	12·90	12·75	15·36	14·42	17·37	16·93	13·84	15·28

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

VICTORIA.

Period.	Average Annual Excess of Births over Deaths.	Annual Rates per 1,000 of Mean Population.			Period.	Average Annual Excess of Births over Deaths.	Annual Rates per 1,000 of Mean Population		
		Births.	Deaths.	Natural Increase.			Births.	Deaths.	Natural Increase.
1880-84	14,466	30·64	14·40	16·24	1925-29	18,218	20·24	9·67	10·57
1885-89	16,741	32·27	15·87	16·40	1930-34	12,249	16·27	9·50	6·77
1890-94	20,059	31·99	14·62	17·37	1935-39	10,473	15·87	10·23	5·64*
1895-99	15,625	26·76	13·81	12·95	1940-44	15,250	18·53	10·71	7·82*
1900-04	14,859	25·08	12·84	12·24	1945-49	24,188	22·11	10·40	11·71*
1905-09	16,062	24·76	11·93	12·83	1950..	27,489	22·56	10·11	12·44
1910-14	18,795	25·42	11·57	13·85	1951..	27,107	22·21	10·30	11·91
1915-19	16,818	23·13	11·38	11·75	1952..	30,416	22·93	9·95	12·98
1920-24	19,647	22·89	10·40	12·49	1953..	30,911	22·36	9·45	12·90

* 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 Cremations 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
1952	1,975	3,363	5,338	23,322	22·89
1953	1,879	3,634	5,513	22,650	24·34