

## VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, AND DIVORCES

#### Legal provisions

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

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

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 On this date, the Act superseded the marriage laws of all the States, the two mainland Territories, and Norfolk Island.

#### Statistical summary

The principal vital statistics in Victoria from 1976 to 1980 are shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Year	Number registered			Infant death rate (deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	Crude rates				
	Marriages	Live births	Deaths		Infant deaths (a)	Marriages (b)	Live births (b)	Deaths (b)	Infant deaths (c)
1976	28,760	60,667	30,753	702	11.6	7.67	16.19	8.21	11.6
1977	27,558	59,518	29,478	653	11.0	7.29	15.74	7.79	11.0
1978	27,178	58,861	29,096	616	10.5	7.12	15.42	7.62	10.5
1979	27,019	57,767	29,078	652	11.3	7.01	14.99	7.55	11.3
1980	27,724	58,206	29,374	592	10.2	7.13	14.97	7.56	10.2

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

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

(c) Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births.

### Marriages

Marriages registered in Victoria in 1980 numbered 27,724, an increase of 705 on the number registered in 1979.

#### AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF MARRIAGES

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1976	38,487	28,760	16,703	10,902	9,517	3,477	541	1,586	109,973
1977	36,159	27,558	15,737	10,126	10,063	3,166	618	1,491	104,918
1978	35,904	27,178	15,431	9,800	9,404	3,148	576	1,517	102,958
1979	36,906	27,019	16,082	9,778	9,239	3,254	553	1,565	104,396
1980	38,965	27,724	17,157	10,064	9,594	3,433	661	1,642	109,240

#### VICTORIA—RELATIVE AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES, 1980

Ages of bridegrooms (a) (years)	Ages of brides (a) (years)														Total bridegrooms	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 to 44	45 to 49	50 and over		
16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17	—	—	1	3	5	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
18	—	1	26	44	63	44	18	17	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	217
19	—	1	25	65	151	177	81	79	15	5	—	—	—	—	—	599
20	—	—	25	82	237	347	334	267	35	7	—	—	—	—	—	1,334
21 to 24	1	3	63	193	655	1,477	1,916	5,352	744	85	23	7	2	—	—	10,521
25 to 29	—	2	20	38	167	336	524	3,560	2,212	447	72	19	4	2	—	7,403
30 to 34	—	—	1	8	24	45	121	745	1,188	772	225	49	20	4	—	3,202
35 to 39	—	—	—	—	6	9	17	139	385	480	256	100	23	13	—	1,428
40 to 44	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	44	128	208	229	159	56	32	863
45 to 49	—	—	1	1	1	1	4	13	38	99	134	160	112	78	—	642
50 to 54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	10	44	84	96	129	158	—	527
55 to 59	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	5	20	19	37	80	220	—	385
60 to 64	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	6	6	13	21	186	—	234
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	4	13	335	—	358
Total brides	1	7	162	434	1,310	2,437	3,022	10,228	4,761	2,177	1,053	644	460	1,028	—	27,724

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

#### VICTORIA—MARRIAGES OF PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE (a)

Year	Age in years					Total	
	14	15	16	17	18	Number	Percentage of all marriages
BRIDEGROOMS							
1976	—	—	1	28	429	458	1.59
1977	—	—	4	22	334	360	1.31
1978	—	—	2	16	275	293	1.08
1979	—	—	—	9	236	245	0.91
1980	—	—	—	11	217	228	0.82
BRIDES							
1976	1	17	363	862	2,229	3,472	12.07
1977	1	11	289	679	2,017	2,997	10.88
1978	4	4	227	597	1,775	2,607	9.59
1979	1	8	189	510	1,446	2,154	7.97
1980	1	7	162	434	1,310	1,914	6.90

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

#### VICTORIA—AVERAGE AGE AT MARRIAGE (a)

Year	Bridegrooms				Brides			
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced men	All bridegrooms	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced women	All brides
1976	25.1	57.7	39.4	28.6	22.6	51.2	35.4	25.7
1977	25.1	57.6	38.5	28.6	22.7	50.1	34.8	25.7
1978	25.3	57.9	38.4	28.8	22.8	51.6	34.8	26.0
1979	25.5	58.0	38.6	28.9	23.0	51.7	35.0	26.2
1980	25.5	58.5	38.2	28.8	23.1	51.7	34.9	26.2

(a) Arithmetic mean.

The age in relation to which approximately half the number of bachelors was younger, and approximately half was older (the median age), was 24.1 years in 1979 and 24.3 years in 1980. The corresponding age for spinsters was 22.0 years and 22.1 years. More bachelors were married at 22 years and spinsters at 21 years (the modal ages) than at any other age in both years.

For tables showing the previous marital status of bridegrooms and brides marrying and the proportions by previous marital status reference should be made to the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication *Demography* (3102.2).

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

## VICTORIA—CIVIL MARRIAGES

Year	Total civil marriages		Performed in the Office of the Government Statist in Melbourne	
	Number	Percentage of total marriages	Number	Percentage of total civil marriages
1976	7,812	27.16	2,954	37.81
1977	8,174	29.66	2,363	28.91
1978	8,852	32.57	2,094	23.66
1979	9,221	34.13	1,999	21.68
1980	9,411	33.95	1,865	19.82

## VICTORIA—MARRIAGES: RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL, 1980 (a)

Category of celebrant	Number	Proportion of total marriages
Ministers of religion —		
Recognised denominations (b) —		
Roman Catholic Church	6,532	23.56
Uniting Church in Australia	4,235	15.28
Church of England in Australia	3,992	14.40
Orthodox Churches (c)	742	2.68
Presbyterian Churches (c)	461	1.66
Churches of Christ in Australia (c)	517	1.86
The Baptist Union of Australia (c)	407	1.47
Lutheran Churches (c)	218	0.79
Jewry	197	0.71
The Salvation Army	184	0.66
Unitarians	125	0.45
Jehovah's Witnesses	75	0.27
Seventh Day Adventist Church	66	0.24
Islam	63	0.23
Other denominations	499	1.80
Total ministers of religion	18,313	66.05
Civil officers	9,411	33.95
Total marriages	27,724	100.00

(a) Denominations where the number of marriages registered for the latest year was less than 50, have been grouped in the category "other denominations".

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

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

## Divorce

The Commonwealth *Family Law Act* 1975 came into operation throughout Australia on 5 January 1976, repealing the previous Matrimonial Causes legislation which had been operative since 1 February 1961. A Family Court of Australia was established to administer Family Law, including applications for dissolution of marriage and nullity of marriage. Under this new Act, there is only one ground for divorce — that of irretrievable

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

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

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

Statistics of divorces granted on an annual basis do not necessarily indicate precise trends in divorce rates as the figures may be affected from year to year by various administrative factors, for example, the occurrence of law vacations, and the availability of courts or judges (i.e., a rise in one year may be due wholly or in part to the clearing of a backlog of cases from an earlier period).

During 1980, 5,410 females and 3,797 males applied for divorce, and 9,207 decrees of dissolution were granted.

#### AUSTRALIA — DIVORCES (DECREES GRANTED)

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1976 —									
Matrimonial Causes	5,148	3,712	2,961	1,407	1,774	331	35	375	15,743
Family Law	17,009	12,921	6,658	4,741	3,044	1,430	388	1,333	47,524
1977	15,785	10,859	7,302	4,422	3,975	1,134	345	1,353	45,175
1978	13,806	10,830	6,110	3,806	3,387	1,132	291	1,271	40,633
1979	12,615	9,471	5,817	3,797	3,397	1,167	263	1,346	37,873
1980	13,449	9,207	6,219	4,203	3,073	1,285	298	1,524	39,258

#### VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: DECREES GRANTED: AGES OF PARTIES (AT DATE OF DECREE), 1980

Ages of husbands (years)	Ages of wives (years)										Total husbands
	Under 21	21-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 and over	Not stated	
Under 21	5	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
21-24	61	349	49	5	1	—	—	—	—	1	466
25-29	22	646	1,139	127	9	3	1	—	—	5	1,952
30-34	11	111	848	985	85	23	5	—	—	4	2,072
35-39	3	11	138	648	553	61	17	2	1	2	1,436
40-44	—	5	33	152	456	372	52	7	3	2	1,082
45-49	2	1	9	38	101	335	261	37	10	2	796
50-54	—	1	2	12	24	100	223	182	49	5	598
55 and over	—	—	4	3	18	36	86	171	434	12	764
Not stated	—	5	2	4	2	6	3	1	3	2	28
Total wives	104	1,137	2,224	1,974	1,249	936	648	400	500	35	9,207

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: DECREES GRANTED:  
DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1980**

Duration of marriage (years)	Number of children							Total dissolutions	Total children
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 and over		
1	80	12	3	2	—	—	—	97	24
2	360	63	22	8	4	1	—	458	152
3	415	152	35	6	2	—	—	610	248
4	401	172	61	4	4	2	—	644	332
5	326	150	82	13	—	1	—	572	358
6	256	150	128	27	4	2	—	567	513
7	197	152	126	25	3	3	—	506	506
8	143	116	162	44	9	1	—	475	613
9	100	122	216	59	11	4	—	512	795
10	101	90	206	58	16	1	—	472	745
11	59	55	182	67	15	1	1	380	692
12	43	51	177	67	19	1	—	358	687
13	27	42	157	79	20	8	1	334	719
14	26	48	123	62	26	—	—	285	584
15-19	84	135	403	282	127	29	22	1,082	2,585
20-24	207	246	229	97	34	11	9	833	1,249
25-29	319	131	50	14	3	1	2	520	302
30 and over	444	45	11	2	—	—	—	502	73
<b>Total dissolutions of marriage</b>	<b>3,588</b>	<b>1,932</b>	<b>2,373</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>9,207</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Total children</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,932</b>	<b>4,746</b>	<b>2,748</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>11,177</b>

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

### Births

Births registered in Victoria during 1980 numbered 58,206, an increase of 439 on the number registered in 1979.

### AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1976	78,492	60,667	35,243	18,947	20,670	6,702	2,607	4,482	227,810
1977	77,996	59,518	34,935	19,260	20,651	6,735	2,558	4,638	226,291
1978	77,773	58,861	34,465	18,558	20,611	6,788	2,692	4,433	224,181
1979	77,134	57,767	35,195	18,478	20,469	6,757	2,843	4,487	223,130
1980	79,459	58,206	34,972	18,499	20,607	6,735	2,587	4,466	225,531

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

Year	Males	Females	Total	Masculinity (a)	Confinements average age (b)		
					Nuptial		Ex-nuptial
					Father	Mother	Mother (c)
1976	31,068	29,599	60,667	104.96	29.7	26.8	23.3
1977	30,803	28,715	59,518	107.27	29.9	27.0	23.2
1978	30,202	28,659	58,861	105.38	30.1	27.3	23.2
1979	29,709	28,058	57,767	105.88	30.3	27.5	23.3
1980	29,848	28,358	58,206	105.25	30.4	27.6	23.7

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

(b) Arithmetic mean.

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

**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: AGE GROUP OF MOTHER AND PREVIOUS, TOTAL, AND AVERAGE ISSUE, 1980**

Age group of mother (years)	Number of married mothers with previous issue numbering—								Total married mothers	Total issue	Average issue	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 and over				Not stated
Under 20	1,456	286	13	1	—	—	—	—	—	1,756	2,079	1.18
20-24	8,187	4,574	1,117	164	20	4	1	—	—	14,067	21,588	1.53
25-29	8,167	8,190	4,128	973	175	37	9	4	—	21,683	42,241	1.95
30-34	2,584	3,683	3,288	1,356	385	131	33	25	—	11,485	28,550	2.49
35-39	548	688	728	458	230	111	45	63	1	2,872	8,676	3.02
40-44	66	94	75	65	48	32	26	44	—	450	1,773	3.94
45-49	2	3	1	4	3	3	—	4	—	20	105	5.25
50 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not stated	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	14	1.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,014</b>	<b>17,520</b>	<b>9,352</b>	<b>3,021</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>52,341</b>	<b>105,026</b>	<b>2.01</b>
Proportion of total married mothers	40.15	33.47	17.86	5.77	1.64	0.61	0.22	0.27	—	100.0	..	..

**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: RELATIVE AGE GROUPS OF PARENTS, 1980**

Age group of father (years)	Age group of mother (years)								Total fathers	
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50 and over		Not stated
Under 20	214	45	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	265
20-24	1,102	5,106	711	67	7	1	—	—	—	6,994
25-29	347	7,010	11,042	1,145	105	1	—	—	2	19,652
30-34	69	1,551	8,188	6,219	497	21	—	—	3	16,548
35-39	14	258	1,381	3,163	1,277	68	1	—	1	6,163
40-44	5	60	237	648	703	190	2	—	—	1,845
45-49	—	20	72	169	202	118	11	—	—	592
50 and over	2	12	38	67	78	51	6	—	—	254
Not stated	3	5	10	5	3	—	—	—	2	28
<b>Married mothers</b>	<b>1,756</b>	<b>14,067</b>	<b>21,683</b>	<b>11,485</b>	<b>2,872</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>52,341</b>

**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL FIRST BIRTHS: AGE GROUP OF MOTHER AND DURATION OF MARRIAGE, 1980**

Age group of mother (years)	Duration of marriage															Total nuptial first births		
	Months										Years							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	3		4	5 and over
Under 20	14	30	52	99	174	240	124	40	40	78	52	66	368	71	7	1	—	1,456
20-24	20	35	63	116	190	300	211	104	119	212	204	201	2,265	1,879	1,233	701	334	8,187
25-29	16	24	29	39	62	103	95	50	69	109	116	119	1,237	1,144	1,226	1,141	2,588	8,167
30-34	7	19	17	24	31	50	52	20	24	47	61	53	485	341	237	172	944	2,584
35-39	2	9	4	7	18	16	9	11	8	14	18	10	113	83	47	32	147	548
40-44	—	—	1	4	—	1	2	—	1	3	1	1	14	6	5	4	23	66
45-49	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
50 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>4,484</b>	<b>3,525</b>	<b>2,755</b>	<b>2,051</b>	<b>4,038</b>	<b>21,014</b>

**VICTORIA—MULTIPLE CONFINEMENTS (a)**

Year	Cases of twins	Cases of triplets	Total multiple cases	Total confinements	Multiple cases per 1,000 total confinements
1976	663	5	(b) 669	60,017	11.15
1977	524	5	(b) 530	58,992	8.98
1978	610	12	622	58,248	10.68
1979	573	5	578	57,202	10.10
1980	609	7	(c) 617	57,584	10.71

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

(b) Includes 1 case of quadruplets.

(c) Includes 1 case of quintuplets.

On the average over the five years 1976 to 1980, mothers of twins were one in 98 of all mothers whose confinements were recorded, mothers of triplets were one in 8,590, and mothers of all multiple births were one in 97.

The following tables show details of ex-nuptial births in each State and Territory for the years 1976 to 1980 and the ages of mothers of ex-nuptial children in Victoria:

## AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1976	7,991	<b>4,426</b>	4,664	1,789	2,621	706	614	253	23,064
1977	8,219	<b>4,391</b>	4,656	1,896	2,528	783	577	264	23,314
1978	8,612	<b>4,718</b>	4,836	2,050	2,654	877	703	294	24,744
1979	9,036	<b>5,033</b>	5,128	2,098	2,783	934	781	318	26,111
1980	10,077	<b>5,300</b>	5,443	2,301	2,833	950	802	370	28,076

## AUSTRALIA—EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS: PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1976	10.18	<b>7.30</b>	13.23	9.44	12.68	10.53	23.55	5.64	10.12
1977	10.54	<b>7.38</b>	13.33	9.84	12.24	11.63	22.56	5.69	10.30
1978	11.07	<b>8.02</b>	14.03	11.05	12.88	12.92	26.11	6.63	11.04
1979	11.71	<b>8.71</b>	14.57	11.35	13.60	13.82	27.47	7.09	11.70
1980	12.68	<b>9.11</b>	15.56	12.44	13.75	14.11	31.00	8.28	12.45

## VICTORIA—AGES OF MOTHERS OF EX-NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS

Age of mother (years)	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
13	—	3	3	3	—
14	18	20	12	15	7
15	102	94	89	63	60
16	233	243	216	245	209
17	388	404	381	390	349
18	403	420	471	484	519
19	433	404	482	478	506
20	325	366	403	455	473
21-24	1,031	973	1,183	1,271	1,321
25-29	822	834	806	944	1,017
30-34	412	381	409	448	536
35-39	171	159	171	153	190
40-44	37	35	40	22	47
45 and over	1	6	1	2	3
Not stated	9	4	—	7	6
Total	4,385	4,346	4,667	4,980	5,243

## VICTORIA—ADOPTIONS AND LEGITIMATIONS

Year	Number of children	
	Adopted year ended 30 June (a)	Legitimated year ended 31 December (b)
1976	1,032	517
1977	908	415
1978	951	407
1979	956	433
1980	914	423

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

(b) Legitimations registered. Under the provisions of the Commonwealth *Marriage Act 1961*, which came into operation on 1 September 1963, a child whose parents were not married to each other at the time of its birth becomes legitimated on the subsequent marriage of its parents.

## Deaths

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

## AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF DEATHS

Year of registration	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1976	42,122	<b>30,753</b>	17,239	9,999	7,740	3,389	567	853	112,662
1977	40,380	<b>29,478</b>	16,408	9,784	7,899	3,269	784	788	108,790
1978	40,394	<b>29,096</b>	16,619	9,763	7,794	3,311	536	912	108,425
1979	38,817	<b>29,078</b>	16,388	9,661	8,020	3,167	595	842	106,568
1980	40,283	<b>29,374</b>	16,496	9,580	8,166	3,393	510	892	108,694

## Causes of death

## Classification

Causes of death in Australia from 1979 onwards have been classified according to the Ninth (1975) Revision of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) International Classification of Diseases (ICD9). Particulars relate to the underlying cause of death, which WHO has defined as the disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death. Accidental and violent deaths are classified according to external cause, that is, to the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury, rather than the nature of the injury.

In 1980, 16,047 male and 13,327 female deaths were registered in Victoria.

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH (ABBREVIATED LIST):  
NUMBERS AND RATES, 1980

Cause of death (a)	ICD9 category code numbers	Number of deaths	Proportion of total	Rate per 1,000,000 of mean population
S1-10 <i>Infectious and parasitic diseases</i>	001-139	149	0.51	38
S1 Intestinal infectious diseases	001-009	29	0.10	7
S2 Tuberculosis	010-018	19	0.07	5
S4 Meningococcal infection	036	4	0.01	1
S6 Septicaemia	038	51	0.17	13
S8 Measles	055	1	—	—
S10 All other infectious and parasitic diseases	(b)	45	0.15	12
S11-20 <i>Malignant neoplasms</i>	140-208	6,652	22.65	1,711
S11 Malignant neoplasm of stomach	151	433	1.47	111
S12 Malignant neoplasm of colon	153	766	2.61	197
S13 Malignant neoplasm of rectum, rectosigmoid junction, and anus	154	287	0.98	74
S14 Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus, and lung	162	1,414	4.81	364
S15 Malignant neoplasm of skin	172,173	171	0.58	44
S16 Malignant neoplasm of female breast	174	545	1.86	140
S17 Malignant neoplasm of cervix uteri	180	84	0.29	22
S18 Malignant neoplasm of prostate	185	339	1.15	87
S19 Leukaemia	204-208	224	0.76	58
S20 All other malignant neoplasms	(c)	2,389	8.13	615
S21 Benign neoplasms and neoplasms of unspecified nature	210-239	59	0.20	15
S22 Diabetes mellitus	250	523	1.78	135
S24 Other protein-calorie malnutrition	262,263	5	0.02	1
S25 Anaemias	280-285	59	0.20	15
S26 Meningitis	320-322	20	0.07	5
S27 Acute rheumatic fever	390-392	1	—	—
S28 Chronic rheumatic heart disease	393-398	119	0.41	31
S29 Hypertensive disease	401-405	492	1.67	127
S30-31 <i>Ischaemic heart disease</i>	410-414	7,936	27.02	2,041
S30 Acute myocardial infarction	410	5,595	19.05	1,439
S31 Other ischaemic heart disease	411-414	2,341	7.97	602
S32 Other forms of heart disease	{ 415, 416,420-429 }	1,742	5.93	448



VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH (ABBREVIATED LIST):  
NUMBERS AND RATES, 1980—continued

Cause of death (a)	ICD9 category code numbers	Number of deaths	Proportion of total	Rate per 1,000,000 of mean population
S33 Cerebrovascular disease	430-438	3,682	12.53	947
S34 Atherosclerosis	440	622	2.12	160
S35 All other diseases of circulatory system	417,441-459	476	1.62	122
S36 Pneumonia	480-486	475	1.62	122
S37 Influenza	487	20	0.07	5
S38 Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	490-493	682	2.32	175
S39 All other diseases of the respiratory system	{ 460-478, } { 494-519 }	794	2.70	204
S40 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	531-533	204	0.69	52
S41 Appendicitis	540-543	7	0.02	2
S42 Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	571	336	1.14	86
S43 Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis	580-589	174	0.59	45
S44 Hyperplasia of prostate	600	40	0.14	10
S45-47 <i>Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium</i>	630-676	6	0.02	2
S46 Direct obstetric deaths	{ 640-646 }	6	0.02	2
S48 Congenital anomalies	740-759	254	0.86	65
S49-51 <i>Certain conditions, originating in the perinatal period</i>	760-779	231	0.79	59
S49 Birth trauma	767	5	0.02	1
S50 Hypoxia, birth asphyxia and other respiratory conditions	768-770	161	0.55	41
S51 Other conditions originating in the perinatal period	{ 760-766, } { 771-779 }	65	0.22	17
S52 Signs, symptoms, and ill-defined conditions	780-799	147	0.50	38
S53 All other diseases	Residual	1,365	4.65	351
S54-56 <i>Accidents and adverse effects</i>	E800-E949	1,542	5.25	397
S54 Motor vehicle traffic accidents	E810-E819	835	2.84	215
S55 Accidental falls	E880-E888	326	1.11	84
S56 All other accidents and adverse effects	(d)	381	1.30	98
S57 Suicide	E950-E959	438	1.49	113
S58 Homicide	E960-E969	82	0.28	21
S59 All other external causes	E970-E999	40	0.14	10
<b>Total all causes</b>		<b>29,374</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>7,556</b>

(a) No deaths were recorded in the following categories in 1980: S3. Whooping cough (033), S5. Tetanus (037), S7. Smallpox (050), S9. Malaria (084), S23. Nutritional marasmus (261), S45. Abortion (630-639), and S47. Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium (647,648).

(b) 020-032, 034, 035, 039-049, 051-054, 056-083, 085-139.

(c) 140-150, 152, 155-161, 163-172, 175, 179, 181-184, 186-203.

(d) 800-807, 820-879, 890-929.

VICTORIA—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, 1980

Age group and cause of death	Deaths from specified cause			
	In age group		At all ages	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent (a)
<b>Under 1 year</b>				
S49-51 Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	230	38.9	231	99.6
S48 Congenital anomalies	187	31.6	254	73.6
S52 Signs, symptoms, and ill-defined conditions	112	18.9	147	76.2
S1-10 Infectious and parasitic diseases	9	1.5	149	6.0
S26 Meningitis	7	1.2	20	35.0
<b>1-4 years</b>				
S56 All other accidents	38	31.7	381	10.0
S54 Motor vehicle traffic accidents	20	16.7	835	2.4
S48 Congenital anomalies	17	14.2	254	6.7
S11-20 Malignant neoplasms	16	13.3	6,652	0.2
S58 Homicide	4	3.3	82	4.9
<b>5-14 years</b>				
S54 Motor vehicle traffic accidents	63	33.7	835	7.5
S11-20 Malignant neoplasms	33	17.6	6,652	0.5
S56 All other accidents	31	16.6	381	8.1
S48 Congenital anomalies	17	9.1	254	6.7
S26 Infectious and parasitic diseases	5	2.7	149	3.4

VICTORIA—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, 1980—*continued*

Age group and cause of death	Deaths from specified cause			
	In age group		At all ages	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent (a)
<b>15-24 years</b>				
S54 Motor vehicle traffic accidents	276	48.2	835	33.1
S57 Suicide and self-inflicted injury	91	15.9	438	20.8
S56 All other accidents	59	10.3	381	15.5
S11-20 Malignant neoplasms	41	7.2	6,652	0.6
S55 Accidental falls	10	1.7	326	3.1
<b>25-34 years</b>				
S54 Motor vehicle traffic accidents	122	23.1	835	14.6
S57 Suicide and self-inflicted injury	98	18.5	438	22.4
S11-20 Malignant neoplasms	90	17.0	6,652	1.4
S56 All other accidents	44	8.3	381	11.5
S32 Other forms of heart disease	18	3.4	1,742	1.0
<b>35-44 years</b>				
S11-20 Malignant neoplasms	196	27.8	6,652	2.9
S30-31 Ischaemic heart disease	102	14.5	7,936	1.3
S57 Suicide and self-inflicted injury	72	10.2	438	16.4
S54 Motor vehicle traffic accidents	68	9.7	835	8.1
S56 All other accidents	50	7.1	381	13.1
<b>45-54 years</b>				
S11-20 Malignant neoplasms	684	33.9	6,652	10.3
S30-31 Ischaemic heart disease	521	25.8	7,936	6.6
S33 Cerebrovascular disease	142	7.0	3,682	3.9
S32 Other forms of heart disease	87	4.3	1,742	5.0
S42 Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	77	3.8	336	22.9
<b>55-64 years</b>				
S11-20 Malignant neoplasms	1,465	35.0	6,652	22.0
S30-31 Ischaemic heart disease	1,235	29.5	7,936	15.6
S33 Cerebrovascular disease	341	8.2	3,682	9.3
S32 Other forms of heart disease	142	3.4	1,742	8.2
S42 Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	125	3.0	336	37.2
<b>65-74 years</b>				
S30-31 Ischaemic heart disease	2,385	32.4	7,936	30.1
S11-20 Malignant neoplasms	2,076	28.2	6,652	31.2
S33 Cerebrovascular disease	816	11.1	3,682	22.2
S32 Other forms of heart disease	287	3.9	1,742	16.5
S38 Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	208	2.8	682	30.5
<b>75 years and over</b>				
S30-31 Ischaemic heart disease	3,674	28.0	7,936	46.3
S33 Cerebrovascular disease	2,324	17.7	3,682	63.1
S11-20 Malignant neoplasms	2,046	15.6	6,652	30.8
S32 Other forms of heart disease	1,166	8.9	1,742	66.9
S34 Atherosclerosis	554	4.2	622	89.1

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

*Diseases of the heart*

During 1980, there were 10,168 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart including 119 due to chronic rheumatic heart disease, 370 to hypertensive heart disease, 5,595 to acute myocardial infarction, 2,341 to other ischaemic heart disease, 53 to pulmonary heart disease and 1,689 to other forms of heart disease. Deaths in 1980 from this cause by sex and age group are shown in the following table:

## VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HEART DISEASES BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1980

Cause of death (a)	Sex	Age group (years)						Total
		Under 45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	Not stated	
Rheumatic fever with heart involvement (391)	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chronic rheumatic heart disease (393-398)	M	6	5	8	11	12	—	42
	F	3	9	18	19	28	—	77
Hypertensive heart disease (402,404)	M	4	23	35	53	58	—	173
	F	2	7	19	42	127	—	197

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HEART DISEASES BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1980—*continued*

Cause of death (a)	Sex	Age group (years)						Total
		Under 45	45-49	55-64	65-74	75 and over	Not stated	
Acute myocardial infarction (410)	M	63	289	693	1,154	1,142	1	3,342
	F	12	52	190	607	1,392	—	2,253
Other ischaemic heart disease (411-414)	M	38	139	279	412	484	2	1,354
	F	5	41	73	212	656	—	987
Pulmonary heart disease (415-416)	M	2	1	6	5	9	—	23
	F	—	2	5	4	19	—	30
Other forms of heart disease (420-429)	M	47	64	89	157	421	—	778
	F	11	20	42	121	717	—	911
Total	M	161	521	1,110	1,792	2,126	3	5,713
	F	33	131	347	1,005	2,939	—	4,455

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD9 category code numbers.

*Malignant neoplasms*

Since the introduction of the Ninth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD9) in 1979, deaths classified as malignant neoplasms do not include deaths from polycythaemia vera and myelofibrosis. Deaths from malignant neoplasms in 1980 numbered 6,652.

Deaths from malignant neoplasms are prominent at most age periods, but, as the table below shows, they characteristically increase with age, reaching a maximum number in the two oldest age groups. Ninety-four per cent of the deaths from malignant neoplasms in 1980 were at ages 45 years and over.

## VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1980

Site of disease (a)	Sex	Age group (years)				Total
		Under 25	25-44	45-64	65 and over	
Lip, oral cavity, and pharynx (140-149)	M	1	1	46	46	94
	F	—	1	14	24	39
Oesophagus (150)	M	—	—	43	61	104
	F	—	—	22	39	61
Stomach (151)	M	—	4	96	182	282
	F	—	4	35	112	151
Intestine, except rectum (152, 153)	M	1	10	119	221	(b) 352
	F	1	14	108	307	430
Rectum and rectosigmoid junction and anus (154)	M	—	2	59	109	170
	F	—	4	41	72	117
Trachea, bronchus, and lung (162)	M	—	16	421	700	1,137
	F	—	8	115	154	277
Breast (174,175)	M	—	1	1	3	5
	F	—	45	211	289	545
Cervix uteri (180)	F	—	16	29	39	84
Body of uterus and unspecified parts of uterus (179,182)	F	—	2	20	47	69
Ovary and other uterine adnexa (183)	F	1	7	66	84	158
Prostate (185)	M	—	—	31	308	339
Bladder (188)	M	—	2	20	102	124
	F	—	—	6	44	50
Other and unspecified genito-urinary organs (181,184,186,187,189)	M	2	8	32	44	86
	F	1	1	18	40	60
Brain and other unspecified parts of nervous system (191,192)	M	9	15	50	35	109
	F	8	10	31	31	80
Leukaemia (204-208)	M	17	12	21	71	121
	F	15	8	22	58	103

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS  
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1980—*continued*

Site of disease (a)	Sex	Age group (years)				Total
		Under 25	25-44	45-64	65 and over	
Other neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic system (200-203)	M	9	16	55	82	162
	F	1	9	40	107	157
All other and unspecified sites	M	13	40	232	386	671
	F	15	30	145	325	515
Total	M	52	127	1,226	2,350	(b) 3,756
	F	42	159	923	1,772	2,896

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD9 category code numbers.

(b) Includes one male of unspecified age.

*Cerebrovascular diseases*

In 1980, 1,525 male and 2,157 female deaths were ascribed to cerebrovascular diseases. The table on page 188 shows that cerebrovascular diseases first appear as one of the main causes of death at ages 45 years and over; they become an increasing proportion of deaths in the older age groups accounting for 17 per cent of deaths from all causes at ages 75 years and over. Deaths from these diseases by age group and sex are shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES  
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1980

Cause of death (a)	Sex	Age group (years)					Total
		Under 45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	
Subarachnoid haemorrhage (430)	M	16	12	20	17	9	74
	F	15	18	28	22	9	92
Cerebral haemorrhage (431,432)	M	12	38	62	79	98	289
	F	7	25	41	70	195	338
Cerebral occlusion (433-434)	M	1	5	32	80	152	270
	F	1	5	16	81	353	456
Acute but ill-defined cerebrovascular disease (436)	M	2	20	83	236	418	759
	F	3	13	49	187	769	1021
Other and ill-defined cerebrovascular diseases, including late effects (435,437,438)	M	2	3	4	28	96	133
	F	—	3	6	16	225	250
Total	M	33	78	201	440	773	1,525
	F	26	64	140	376	1,551	2,157

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD9 category code numbers.

*Diseases of the respiratory system*

In 1980, deaths from diseases of the respiratory system numbered 1,971. Of these deaths, 20 were due to acute respiratory infections, 475 to pneumonia, 20 to influenza, 682 to bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma, 610 to chronic airways obstruction not elsewhere classified, and 164 to other diseases.

*Diseases of the digestive system*

In 1980, there were 539 male and 432 female deaths from diseases of the digestive system. Deaths from causes in this group in 1980 were: 204 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 7 from appendicitis, 80 from intestinal obstruction and hernia, 88 from non-infective enteritis and colitis, 336 from chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, and 256 from other diseases.

*Diabetes mellitus*

During 1980, diabetes was responsible for 238 male and 285 female deaths.

*Diseases of the genito-urinary system*

In 1980, there were 345 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis were responsible for 174 deaths, infections of the kidney for 57, calculi of the urinary system for 10, hyperplasia of prostate for 40, and other diseases of the genito-urinary system for 64.

*Tuberculosis*

The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1980 was 19. Deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1980 numbered 15.

*Deaths from external causes*

External causes of death such as accidents, poisonings, and violence, including homicide and suicide, accounted for 7 per cent of all deaths registered in 1980. However, these causes were responsible for 65 per cent of the deaths of persons aged 1 to 34 years.

The table "Main causes of death in age groups" on pages 187 and 188 shows that external causes (cause groups S54-56) predominate in the various age groups after the first year of life to middle age, but become progressively less prominent in the older age groups. In 1980, 66 per cent of all deaths from external causes were male.

*Transport accidents*

In 1980, registration of deaths from all transport accidents numbered 926 compared with 1,011 in 1979, 956 in 1978, 1,106 in 1977, and 960 in 1976. During 1980, deaths connected with transport represented 60 per cent of the total deaths from accidents. Of the 926 deaths, 853 involved motor vehicles.

*Injury undetermined whether accidentally or purposely inflicted*

In many cases it is not possible to determine whether death from an external cause was accidentally or purposely inflicted, i.e., whether the death was due to accident, suicide, or homicide. The Ninth Revision has a separate category to include cases where the mode of infliction was undetermined. Deaths allocated to these categories in 1980 totalled 40.

*Suicide and self-inflicted injury*

In 1980, deaths from suicide or wilfully self-inflicted injury numbered 320 males and 118 females. Of the 320 male deaths in 1980, 123 were connected with firearms and explosives, and 63 with poisoning by solid or liquid substances. The latter accounted for 59 of the 118 female deaths.

*Homicide*

The number of deaths registered in 1980 ascribed to homicide was 82 (51 males and 31 females).

## VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HOMICIDE (a)

Year	Males	Females	Total
1976	37	16	53
1977	38	27	65
1978	27	22	49
1979	37	22	59
1980	51	31	82

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

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

*Infant deaths*

The mortality of children under one year, in proportion to live births, has declined markedly in both Australia and Victoria. The infant death rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) in Victoria has fallen from 133 in 1885-1889 to 11 in 1976-1980. A significant part of the reduction in the rate in recent years has been due to fewer infants dying within the first four weeks of life.

## AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF INFANT DEATHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1976	1,152	702	535	276	273	77	59	76	3,150
1977	953	653	478	221	251	99	107	59	2,821
1978	1,004	616	445	227	231	97	53	62	2,735
1979	878	652	380	166	249	95	64	52	2,536
1980	844	592	393	p187	239	79	40	39	p2,413

## AUSTRALIA—INFANT DEATH RATES (a)

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1976	14.7	11.6	15.2	14.6	13.2	11.5	22.6	17.0	13.83
1977	12.2	11.0	13.7	11.5	12.2	14.7	41.8	12.7	12.47
1978	12.9	10.5	12.9	12.2	11.2	14.3	19.7	14.0	12.20
1979	11.4	11.3	10.8	9.0	12.2	14.1	22.5	11.6	11.37
1980	10.6	10.2	11.2	p10.1	11.6	11.7	15.5	8.7	10.70

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

Infant death rates have shown a decrease in each quinquennial period from 1885 onwards. In 1954, the rate fell below 20 per 1,000 live births for the first time. In 1980, the rate was 10.2.

## VICTORIA—INFANT DEATH RATES BY AGE

Year	Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births					Total
	Under one week	One week and under one month	One month and under three months	Three months and under six months	Six months and under twelve months	
1976	6.9	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.0	11.6
1977	6.5	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	11.0
1978	6.0	1.2	1.1	1.3	0.8	10.5
1979	5.8	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.1	11.3
1980	5.3	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.1	10.2

## VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS AT CERTAIN AGES BY SEX, 1980

Particulars	Under one week	One week and under one month	One month and under three months	Three months and under six months	Six months and under twelve months	Total under one year
<b>Males—</b>						
Number	176	37	34	50	29	326
Rate (a)	5.9	1.2	1.1	1.7	1.0	10.9
Percentage of total	54.0	11.3	10.4	15.3	8.9	100.0
<b>Females—</b>						
Number	130	38	30	32	36	266
Rate (a)	4.6	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.3	9.4
Percentage of total	48.9	14.3	11.3	12.0	13.5	100.0

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

The rate for male infants is consistently higher than that for females, and in the period 1976–1980 exceeded the female rate by 24 per cent.

*Perinatal deaths*

In accordance with a recommendation of the Ninth Revision Conference (1975) of the World Health Organisation (WHO) the statistical definition of a perinatal death was amended in 1979 to the following:

- (1) *Stillbirths*. Any child born weighing at least 500 grams at delivery (or, when the birthweight is unavailable, a period of gestation of at least 22 weeks) which did not, at any time after being born, breathe or show any other sign of life.
- (2) *Neonatal deaths*. The death of a live born child who had a birthweight of at least 500 grams (or when the birthweight is unavailable, a gestational period of at least 22 weeks) within 28 days of birth.

Statistics in the tables below relate to this revised definition.

### VICTORIA—PERINATAL DEATHS

Year	Stillbirths	Neonatal deaths			Total perinatal deaths
		Under one week	One week but less than one month	Total neonatal deaths	
1976	536	399	91	490	1,026
1977	505	353	72	425	930
1978	510	328	72	400	910
1979	452	314	87	401	853
1980	447	284	75	359	806

### VICTORIA—PERINATAL DEATH RATES (a)

Year	Stillbirths	Neonatal deaths			Total perinatal deaths
		Under one week	One week but less than one month	Total neonatal deaths	
1976	8.8	6.6	1.5	8.1	16.8
1977	8.4	5.9	1.2	7.1	15.5
1978	8.6	5.6	1.2	6.8	15.3
1979	7.8	5.4	1.5	6.9	14.7
1980	7.6	4.9	1.3	6.2	13.7

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

### Cremations

There are four crematoria in Victoria — three in the Melbourne metropolitan area and one in Ballarat. The number of cremations in relation to total deaths from 1976 to 1980 is shown in the following table:

### VICTORIA—CREMATIONS AND DEATHS

Year	Total cremations	Total deaths registered	Percentage of cremations to deaths registered
1976	12,097	30,753	39.34
1977	11,699	29,478	39.69
1978	11,644	29,096	40.02
1979	11,683	29,078	40.18
1980	11,805	29,374	40.19

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