

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES

Registration

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 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 (295 Queen Street, 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.

Legislation

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 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 Australian 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 On this date the Act superseded the marriage laws of all the States, the two mainland Territories, and Norfolk Island.

Summary

The principal numbers and rates relating to vital statistics in Victoria from 1969 to 1973 are given in the following table :

VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Year	Number				Rate per 1,000 of mean population			Infant death rate (deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)
	Marriages	Live births	Deaths	Infant deaths (a)	Marriages	Live births	Deaths	
1969	30,860	71,035	28,976	1,066	9.11	20.96	8.55	15.0
1970	31,729	73,019	30,335	1,060	9.20	21.16	8.79	14.5
1971	32,386	75,498	30,598	1,107	9.23	21.51	8.72	14.7
1972	31,206	71,807	29,856	1,048	8.77	20.18	8.39	14.6
1973	30,203	67,123	30,696	958	8.40	18.66	8.53	14.3

(a) Included in deaths.

Marriages

Marriages in Victoria in 1973 numbered 30,203, a decrease of 1,003 on the number registered in 1972. The rate per 1,000 of mean population in 1973 was 8.40, compared with 8.77 in 1972. The highest rate ever recorded in Victoria is 12.06 in 1942, and the lowest 5.66 in 1931.

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF MARRIAGES

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1969	41,286	30,860	15,669	10,599	8,993	3,532	413	1,118	112,470
1970	42,928	31,729	16,082	10,864	9,227	3,535	501	1,200	116,066
1971	43,038	32,386	16,538	10,833	9,382	3,578	485	1,397	117,637
1972	41,520	31,206	16,066	10,829	9,120	3,426	490	1,372	114,029
1973	40,722	30,203	16,490	10,806	9,102	3,395	513	1,469	112,700

AUSTRALIA—MARRIAGE RATES

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.(a)	A.C.T. (a)	Aust.
1969	9.29	9.11	8.88	9.30	9.41	9.17	5.6	9.2	9.16
1970	9.48	9.20	8.96	9.38	9.28	9.11	6.3	9.1	9.26
1971	9.33	9.23	9.03	9.21	9.09	9.15	5.6	9.7	9.20
1972	8.88	8.77	8.58	9.10	8.63	8.71	5.3	8.7	8.78
1973	8.64	8.40	8.59	8.99	8.49	8.55	5.4	8.7	8.56

(a) Based on too few events to warrant calculation to second place of decimals.

VICTORIA—RELATIVE AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES, 1973

Ages of bridegrooms (a) (years)	Ages of brides (a) (years)														Total bridegrooms
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 to 44	45 to 49	50 and over	
16	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
17	6	14	4	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
18	..	4	109	176	163	79	31	25	1	..	..	..	..	..	588
19	2	1	109	232	338	272	130	117	14	1	..	..	..	..	1,216
20	..	1	88	220	518	578	496	412	27	5	..	1	..	..	2,346
21 to 24	1	11	196	486	1,355	2,307	2,959	6,034	633	60	13	1	1	..	14,057
25 to 29	..	3	59	136	272	526	725	3,275	1,579	282	47	14	5	1	6,924
30 to 34	3	7	27	60	86	525	729	312	102	42	6	2	1,901
35 to 39	8	8	10	94	232	236	145	56	30	10	829
40 to 44	2	2	4	45	102	129	116	99	66	30	595
45 to 49	2	15	42	62	84	98	98	79	480
50 to 54	1	..	..	5	10	33	43	62	93	118	365
55 to 59	4	9	10	39	58	168	288
60 to 64	1	..	1	5	6	41	173	227
65 and over	2	1	1	6	8	337	355
Total brides	3	20	570	1,272	2,688	3,838	4,444	10,548	3,375	1,131	566	424	406	918	30,203

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

Of every 1,000 men who married during 1973, 756 were older and 138 were younger than their brides, and 107 were of the same age. In 1973 the oldest bridegrooms were aged 85 and the oldest brides were aged 83 years.

**VICTORIA—PERCENTAGES OF BRIDEGROOMS
AND BRIDES IN AGE GROUPS, 1973**

Age group (years)	Percentage of total		Age group (years)	Percentage of total	
	Bride- grooms	Brides		Bride- grooms	Brides
14	..	(a)	30 to 34	6.3	3.7
15	..	0.1	35 to 39	2.7	1.9
16	(a)	1.9	40 to 44	2.0	1.4
17	0.1	4.2	45 to 49	1.6	1.3
18	1.9	8.9	50 to 54	1.2	1.1
19	4.0	12.7	55 to 59	1.0	0.7
20	7.8	14.7	60 and over	1.9	1.2
21 to 24	46.5	34.9			
25 to 29	22.9	11.2	Total	100.0	100.0

(a) Less than 0.1.

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES OF MINORS (a)

Year	Age in years							Total	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Number	Percentage of all marriages
	BRIDEGROOMS								
1969	..	..	1	36	517	1,242	1,937	3,733	12.10
1970	..	..	5	50	589	1,294	2,244	4,182	13.18
1971	..	..	3	44	636	1,414	2,452	4,549	14.05
1972	..	..	2	51	621	1,342	2,353	4,369	14.00
1973	..	..	1	31	588	1,216	2,346	4,182	13.85
	BRIDES								
1969	1	18	495	1,192	2,577	3,506	4,200	11,989	38.85
1970	2	20	566	1,339	2,552	3,928	4,463	12,870	40.56
1971	..	13	656	1,491	2,766	4,011	4,720	13,657	42.17
1972	3	24	632	1,443	2,651	3,994	4,341	13,088	41.94
1973	3	20	570	1,272	2,688	3,838	4,444	12,835	42.50

(a) An amendment to the Australian *Marriage Act* 1961-1973, 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).

A feature of Victorian marriages since the end of the Second World War has been the increase in the proportion of marriages which involve minors. In 1947, 4.82 per cent of bridegrooms and 22.94 per cent of brides were under 21 years of age. In 1973 these percentages were 13.85 and 42.50, respectively, and in 12.85 per cent of marriages both parties were under 21 years of age.

VICTORIA—MEAN AGE AT MARRIAGE

Year	Bridegrooms				Brides			
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorcees	All bride- grooms	Spinsters	Widows	Divorcees	All brides
1969	24.8	56.8	41.0	26.7	22.3	50.5	37.5	23.9
1970	24.7	57.3	40.6	26.5	22.2	50.2	37.1	23.8
1971	24.7	56.7	40.2	26.5	22.1	50.5	36.8	23.8
1972	24.7	56.9	40.2	26.5	22.1	51.4	36.5	23.9
1973	24.6	57.9	39.6	26.7	22.1	50.7	36.0	24.0

In general terms, the age in relation to which approximately half the number of bachelors was younger, and approximately half was older (the median age), was 23.4 years. The corresponding age for spinsters was 21.2 years. More bachelors were married at 22 years and spinsters at 20 years (the modal ages) than at any other age.

The following tables show the previous marital status of bridegrooms and brides marrying from 1969 to 1973 and the proportions by previous marital status for periods since 1940 :

VICTORIA—PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES

Period	Bridegrooms			Brides			Total marriages
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorcees	Spinsters	Widows	Divorcees	
1969	28,308	965	1,587	28,324	1,023	1,513	30,860
1970	29,191	909	1,629	29,163	984	1,582	31,729
1971	29,549	1,001	1,836	29,587	1,045	1,754	32,386
1972	28,403	929	1,874	28,369	1,037	1,800	31,206
1973	27,165	951	2,087	27,147	1,044	2,012	30,203

VICTORIA—BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS, NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES, 1940 TO 1973

Marriages between—	1973		Previous marital status	Percentage of total—			
	Number	Percentage		1940-1949	1950-1959	1960-1969	1973
BRIDEGROOMS							
Bachelors and spinsters	25,857	85.6	Bachelors	90.5	89.5	91.6	89.9
Bachelors and widows	292	1.0	Widowers	4.9	4.5	3.4	3.1
Bachelors and divorcees	1,016	3.4	Divorcees	4.6	6.0	5.0	6.9
Widowers and spinsters	214	0.7	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Widowers and widows	486	1.6	BRIDES				
Widowers and divorcees	251	0.8	Spinsters	91.4	89.2	91.2	89.9
Divorcees and spinsters	1,076	3.6	Widows	3.9	4.4	3.6	3.5
Divorcees and widows	266	0.9	Divorcees	4.7	6.4	5.2	6.7
Divorcees	745	2.5	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total marriages	30,203	100.0					

The following table shows the number of civil marriages and proportion to total marriages performed for each of the five years 1969 to 1973. The number of civil marriages performed in the Office of the Government Statist and the proportion of these to total civil marriages are also shown.

VICTORIA—CIVIL MARRIAGES

Year	Total civil marriages		Performed in the Office of the Government Statist	
	Number	Percentage of total marriages	Number	Percentage of total civil marriages
1969	2,376	7.70	2,041	85.90
1970	2,479	7.81	2,070	83.50
1971	2,815	8.69	2,300	81.71
1972	3,505	11.23	3,008	85.82
1973	3,927	13.00	3,376	85.97

NOTE. In August 1971 the Melbourne location for civil marriages was moved to new premises where it became possible to perform more ceremonies per year.

In 1973 the number of marriages celebrated by ministers of religion was 26,276, representing 87.00 per cent of total marriages. Civil marriages numbered 3,927 or 13.00 per cent of the total.

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES, RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL, 1973

Category of celebrant	Number	Proportion of total marriages
Ministers of religion :		
Recognised denominations (a)—		
Roman Catholic Church	8,775	29.05
Church of England in Australia	6,197	20.52
The Presbyterian Church of Australia	4,212	13.95
The Methodist Church of Australasia	2,740	9.07
Orthodox Churches (b)	1,146	3.79
Churches of Christ in Australia	589	1.95
The Baptist Union of Australia	566	1.87
Unitarians	393	1.30
Congregational Union of Australia	378	1.25
Lutheran Church (b)	275	0.91
Jewry	229	0.76
The Salvation Army	179	0.59
Jehovah's Witnesses	79	0.26
Seventh-day Adventist Church	64	0.21
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	51	0.17
Christian Brethren	34	0.11
Other recognised denominations	163	0.54
Other ministers	206	0.68
Total ministers of religion	26,276	87.00
Civil officers	3,927	13.00
Total marriages	30,203	100.00

(a) Under authority of the Australian *Marriage Act* 1961-1973.

(b) Includes churches grouped under this heading in the proclamation made under the Australian *Marriage Act* 1961-1973.

Divorce

Until the operation of the *Matrimonial Causes Act* 1959 from 1 February 1961, the law in Victoria in regard to divorce was contained in the *Marriage Act* 1958. As the new Act introduced changes in provisions on divorce, figures since the date of operation of the Australian Act may not be comparable with those of earlier years.

The following table gives the number of petitions filed by husbands and wives, respectively, and the number of dissolutions of marriage and nullities of marriage granted during the year 1973. Every decree of dissolution of marriage is in the first instance a decree *nisi* and is generally not made absolute until the expiration of not less than three months thereafter.

VICTORIA—DIVORCE, 1973

Petition for—	Petitions filed by—			Decrees granted to—		
	Husbands	Wives	Total	Husbands	Wives	Total
Dissolution	(a)2,092	(b)3,072	5,164	1,200	1,991	(c)3,200
Nullity	6	9	15	1	10	11
Judicial separation	..	1	1	..	1	1
Total	(a)2,098	(b)3,082	5,180	1,201	2,002	(c)3,212

(a) Includes one petition for dissolution or nullity.

(b) Includes five petitions for dissolution or nullity.

(c) Includes nine petitions granted to both parties of marriage.

VICTORIA—DIVORCE : PETITIONS FILED AND DECREES GRANTED :
DISSOLUTION, NULLITY, AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION

Year	Petitions filed			Decrees granted		
	Dissolution (a)	Nullity	Judicial separation	Dissolution	Nullity	Judicial separation
1969	3,058	9	1	2,220	15	..
1970	3,675	14	2	2,591	13	..
1971	4,256	13	2	3,072	6	1
1972	4,518	11	4	3,584	9	..
1973	5,164	15	1	3,200	11	1

(a) Includes nine petitions for dual relief in 1969, fourteen in both 1970 and 1971, fifteen in 1972, and six in 1973.

VICTORIA—DIVORCE : GROUNDS ON WHICH DECREES
WERE GRANTED, 1973

Grounds on which granted	Dissolution		Nullity		Judicial separation	
	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions
Adultery	566	631	..	..	..	1
Adultery and desertion	4	10	..	..	..	..
Cruelty	2	52	..	..	..	..
Desertion	425	851	..	..	..	..
Separation	199	396	..	..	..	..
Desertion and separation	1	2	..	..	..	..
Other grounds	3	49	1	10	..	..
Total	1,200	1,991	1	10	..	1

NOTE. In addition to the above there were nine instances where dissolutions were granted to both parties.

VICTORIA—DIVORCE : DECREES GRANTED : AGES OF
PETITIONERS (AT DATE OF DECREE) AND ISSUE, 1973

Ages of petitioners (years)	Dissolution (a)		Nullity		Judicial separation		Number of children (a)	
	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions
Under 20	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
20-24	45	156	..	2	..	..	21	148
25-29	249	435	..	2	..	..	187	476
30-34	240	390	1	..	..	..	326	693
35-39	154	297	..	2	..	..	295	676
40-44	160	237	..	2	..	..	340	556
45-49	145	234	..	1	..	..	228	344
50-54	97	131	..	..	..	..	97	110
55-59	54	67	..	..	..	..	24	31
60 and over	56	42	..	1	..	1	13	13
Total	1,200	1,991	1	10	..	1	1,531	3,050

(a) Of the total of 4,581 children shown above, five children were the issue of marriages for which nullities were granted and one child for which a judicial separation was granted. In addition to the above, there were nine instances involving a total of twenty-one children where dissolutions were granted to both parties.

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : DECREES GRANTED :
AGES OF PARTIES (AT DATE OF DECREE), 1973

Ages of husbands (years)	Ages of wives (years)										Total husbands
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over	
20-24	5	81	16	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	103
25-29	..	186	395	21	1	..	..	..	..	..	603
30-34	..	18	281	288	32	5	1	..	..	..	625
35-39	..	3	48	217	183	20	4	..	1	..	476
40-44	..	1	9	48	179	153	32	8	1	..	431
45-49	6	16	48	126	174	34	5	..	409
50-54	1	2	17	38	89	99	15	8	269
55-59	1	..	3	5	28	50	49	13	149
60 and over	2	6	18	20	32	55	133
Total wives	5	289	757	593	465	353	346	211	103	76	(a)3,198

(a) Excludes one petition where the age of the husband was not stated but the age of the wife was 53 at the time of dissolution and one petition where the age of the wife was not stated but the age of the husband was 54 at the time of dissolution.

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : DECREES GRANTED :
DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1973

Duration of marriage (years)	Number of children								Total dis- solutions	Total children (a)
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 and over			
1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
2	16	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	18	3
3	46	12	3	..	..	..	..	..	61	18
4	115	40	6	2	1	..	..	..	164	62
5	118	87	21	2	1	1	..	..	230	144
6	88	73	45	4	..	1	..	..	211	180
7	68	73	36	11	..	..	..	..	188	178
8	62	68	54	16	3	2	..	..	205	246
9	38	52	53	21	3	..	..	..	167	233
10	24	40	51	16	9	1	..	..	141	231
11	25	36	48	32	7	1	..	..	149	261
12	17	24	36	26	12	3	1	..	119	243
13	14	15	36	25	15	3	1	..	109	244
14	14	14	41	30	9	1	..	..	109	227
15-19	58	61	140	105	57	20	11	..	452	1,058
20-24	63	58	106	83	49	15	13	..	387	877
25-29	117	84	47	20	8	4	4	..	284	319
30-34	83	30	10	2	1	1	..	..	127	65
35-39	44	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	49	6
40 and over	28	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	1
Total dissolutions of marriage	1,039	773	735	395	175	53	30	..	3,200	..
Total children	..	773	1,470	1,185	700	265	203	..	..	4,596

(a) Of the total of 4,596 children, twenty-one children were the issue of marriages for which dissolutions were granted to both parties.

Births

The number of births registered in Victoria during the year 1973 was 67,123.

Stillbirths, which are excluded from births and deaths, numbered 802 and corresponded to a ratio of 11.81 per 1,000 births live and still in 1973. The compulsory registration of stillborn children became effective in 1953.

The following tables show the number of births and rates per 1,000 of mean population in each State and Territory from 1969 to 1973 :

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1969	86,036	71,035	36,576	21,977	20,754	8,445	2,274	3,079	250,176
1970	88,448	73,019	37,530	22,617	21,618	8,185	2,624	3,475	257,516
1971	98,466	75,498	39,970	22,996	24,239	8,321	2,832	4,040	276,362
1972	95,278	71,807	39,251	21,844	22,177	7,824	2,722	4,066	264,969
1973	87,332	67,123	38,067	20,407	20,510	7,326	2,808	4,096	247,669

AUSTRALIA—BIRTH RATES

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.(a)	A.C.T.(a)	Aust.
1969	19.35	20.96	20.73	19.28	21.72	21.93	31.1	25.3	20.38
1970	19.52	21.16	20.90	19.52	21.74	21.09	33.1	26.4	20.55
1971	21.35	21.51	21.84	19.55	23.50	21.27	32.8	28.0	21.62
1972	20.39	20.18	20.95	18.37	20.99	19.90	29.7	25.9	20.39
1973	18.52	18.66	19.83	16.97	19.12	18.46	29.3	24.2	18.81

(a) Based on too few events to warrant calculation to second place of decimals.

The following table shows the number of births by sex, the ratio of male to female births, and the average ages of parents, in each year from 1969 to 1973 :

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

Year	Males	Females	Total	Masculinity (a)	Average age		
					Nuptial births		Ex-nuptial births
					Father	Mother	Mother (b)
1969	36,421	34,614	71,035	105.22	30.2	27.0	23.3
1970	37,350	35,669	73,019	104.71	30.1	26.9	23.1
1971	38,432	37,066	75,498	103.69	29.8	26.7	23.0
1972	36,842	34,965	71,807	103.37	29.7	26.7	22.8
1973	34,405	32,718	67,123	105.16	29.6	26.6	23.0

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

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

The following tables relating to confinements show age group of mother together with previous issue, average issue, relative age of father, and duration of marriage:

VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS : AGE GROUP OF MOTHER AND PREVIOUS ISSUE, 1973

Age group of mother (years)	Number of married mothers with previous issue numbering—										Total married mothers	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10 and over
Under 20	3,514	697	41	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,255
20-24	11,319	7,605	1,799	291	36	5	..	..	..	..	..	21,055
25-29	6,965	9,401	4,673	1,432	380	107	28	11	2	..	..	22,999
30-34	1,447	2,498	2,638	1,525	684	297	116	56	25	3	4	9,293
35-39	371	587	793	577	383	260	136	90	43	26	21	3,287
40-44	93	110	142	145	112	80	71	38	29	22	38	880
45-49	5	4	6	8	5	6	6	3	4	6	4	57
Age not stated	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Total	23,716	20,904	10,093	3,981	1,600	755	357	198	103	57	67	61,831
Proportion of total married mothers	38.36	33.81	16.32	6.44	2.59	1.22	0.58	0.32	0.17	0.09	0.11	100.00

VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS :
NUMBER OF MOTHERS IN AGE GROUPS,
TOTAL ISSUE, AND AVERAGE ISSUE, 1973

Age group of mother (years)	Number of mothers	Total issue	Average issue
Under 20	4,255	5,074	1.19
20-24	21,055	33,474	1.59
25-29	22,999	48,623	2.11
30-34	9,293	27,355	2.94
35-39	3,287	12,348	3.76
40-44	880	4,124	4.69
45-49	57	335	5.88
Age not stated	5	9	1.80
Total	61,831	131,342	2.12

VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS : RELATIVE
AGE GROUPS OF PARENTS, 1973

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	Not stated	
Under 20	703	115	2	..	..	..	..	..	820
20-24	2,790	8,340	931	46	4	2	..	1	12,114
25-29	653	10,382	12,194	844	43	5	..	..	24,121
30-34	94	1,807	7,869	4,416	352	31	1	..	14,570
35-39	10	318	1,607	2,927	1,453	113	5	1	6,434
40-44	1	63	297	821	1,031	402	8	..	2,623
45-49	1	13	52	185	305	255	29	..	840
50 and over	..	8	36	48	92	72	14	..	270
Not stated	3	9	11	6	7	..	..	3	39
Married mothers	4,255	21,055	22,999	9,293	3,287	880	57	5	61,831

VICTORIA—NUPTIAL FIRST BIRTHS : AGE GROUP OF MOTHER AND
DURATION OF MARRIAGE, 1973

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	38	81	138	236	392	716	572	159	79	141	127	117	583	118	14	..	3	3,514
20-24	31	57	65	122	263	539	478	191	193	381	356	316	3,580	2,740	1,395	454	158	11,319
25-29	11	9	16	16	36	55	75	54	67	136	119	122	1,176	1,297	1,402	1,044	1,330	6,965
30-34	8	6	8	5	13	16	29	18	16	43	23	22	304	206	152	130	448	1,447
35-39	..	1	2	..	6	9	6	9	5	10	14	18	92	42	25	23	109	371
40-44	..	..	1	1	..	2	3	4	2	2	3	..	17	16	5	5	32	93
45-49	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	5
Not stated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Total	88	154	230	380	710	1,338	1,163	435	362	713	642	595	5,753	4,420	2,993	1,656	2,084	23,716

On the average of the five years 1969 to 1973, mothers of twins were one in 94 of all mothers whose confinements were recorded, mothers of triplets one in 11,823, and mothers of all multiple births one in 93.

VICTORIA—MULTIPLE CONFINEMENTS (a)

Year	Cases of twins	Cases of triplets	Total multiple cases	Multiple cases per 1,000 total confinements
1969	742	7	(b)751	10.68
1970	772	10	(c)783	10.84
1971	790	3	793	10.61
1972	771	5	776	10.92
1973	703	7	710	10.69

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

(b) Includes two cases of quadruplets.

(c) Includes one case of quadruplets.

The following tables show details of ex-nuptial births in each State and Territory for the years 1969 to 1973 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.
1969	6,860	4,098	3,835	1,508	2,231	647	315	91	19,585
1970	7,455	4,420	4,251	1,715	2,316	650	426	134	21,367
1971	9,674	5,010	4,859	1,782	2,720	722	664	198	25,629
1972	9,766	5,001	5,185	1,803	2,632	695	356	221	25,659
1973	8,726	4,611	5,241	1,800	2,497	743	383	197	24,198

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.
1969	7.97	5.77	10.49	6.86	10.75	7.66	13.85	2.96	7.83
1970	8.43	6.05	11.33	7.58	10.71	7.94	16.23	3.86	8.30
1971	9.82	6.64	12.16	7.75	11.22	8.68	23.45	4.90	9.27
1972	10.25	6.96	13.21	8.25	11.87	8.88	13.08	5.44	9.68
1973	9.99	6.87	13.77	8.82	12.17	10.14	13.64	4.81	9.77

VICTORIA—AGES OF MOTHERS OF EX-NUPTIAL CHILDREN

Age of mother (years)	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
12	..	1	..	..	..
13	1	5	1	2	3
14	17	11	16	18	16
15	69	95	98	105	113
16	194	228	250	307	278
17	344	419	423	514	461
18	446	507	582	550	503
19	448	525	517	523	436
20	360	410	506	456	385
21-24	990	962	1,172	1,156	1,026
25-29	575	590	750	685	765
30-34	314	320	377	366	325
35-39	212	218	206	196	189
40-44	81	83	58	60	70
45 and over	4	4	5	7	6
Not stated	7	4	2	2	4
Total	4,062	4,382	4,963	4,947	4,580

VICTORIA—ADOPTIONS AND LEGITIMATIONS

Year	Number of children—	
	Adopted (a)	Legitimated (b)
1969	2,125	488
1970	2,147	601
1971	2,084	558
1972	1,878	545
1973	1,766	596

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

(b) Legitimations registered. Under the provisions of the Australian *Marriage Act 1961-1966*, which came into operation on 1 September 1963, a child whose parents were not married to each other at the time of its birth becomes legitimated on the subsequent marriage of its parents. The legitimation takes place whether or not there was a legal impediment to the marriage of the parents at the time of the child's birth and whether or not the child was still living at the time of the marriage, or in the case of a child born before 1 September 1963 at that date.

Deaths

The following tables show the number of deaths and the death rates per 1,000 of the mean population in each of the Australian States and Territories for each of the five years 1969 to 1973 :

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF DEATHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1969	40,665	28,976	15,786	9,337	7,350	3,309	485	588	106,496
1970	43,601	30,335	17,055	10,138	7,543	3,174	608	594	113,048
1971	41,691	30,598	16,339	9,686	7,806	3,295	637	598	110,650
1972	41,652	29,856	16,598	9,764	7,441	3,227	553	669	109,760
1973	41,122	30,696	16,732	9,835	7,845	3,348	580	665	110,823

AUSTRALIA—DEATH RATES

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T. (a)	A.C.T. (a)	Aust.
1969	9.15	8.55	8.95	8.19	7.69	8.59	6.6	4.8	8.68
1970	9.62	8.79	9.50	8.75	7.59	8.18	7.7	4.5	9.02
1971	9.04	8.72	8.93	8.23	7.57	8.42	7.4	4.1	8.66
1972	8.91	8.39	8.86	8.21	7.04	8.21	6.0	4.3	8.45
1973	8.72	8.53	8.72	8.18	7.31	8.44	6.0	3.9	9.42

(a) Based on too few events to warrant calculation to second place of decimals.

Causes of death

Classification

The Eighth (1965) Revision of the International List of Causes of Death was used for the first time in 1968, replacing the Seventh (1955) Revision, which had been used from 1958 to 1967.

Major changes have been made in several sections of the International Classification of Diseases, namely, infective and parasitic diseases, mental disorders, diseases of the circulatory system, congenital malformations, diseases and conditions peculiar to the perinatal period, and the nature of injury and external causes in respect of accidents, poisonings, and

violence. A summary of these changes is given on pages 152-3 of the *Victorian Year Book 1971*.

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH: NUMBERS AND RATES, 1973

International Classification of Diseases Code	Cause of death (a)	International List numbers	Number of deaths	Proportion of total	Rate per 1,000,000 of mean population
B4	Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	008-009	74	0.24	21
B5	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	010-012	38	0.12	11
B6	Other tuberculosis, including late effects	013-019	7	0.02	2
B11	Meningococcal infection	036	4	0.01	1
B14	Measles	055	1	(d)	(d)
B17	Syphilis and its sequelae	090-097	5	0.02	1
B18	All other infective and parasitic diseases	(b)	91	0.30	25
B19	Malignant neoplasms—				
	Digestive organs and peritoneum	150-159	1,812	5.90	504
	Lung	162	1,081	3.52	301
	Skin	172, 173	137	0.45	38
	Breast	174	524	1.71	146
	Genital organs	180-187	661	2.15	184
	Urinary organs	188, 189	229	0.75	64
	Leukaemia and aleukaemia	204-207	221	0.72	61
	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	(c)	976	3.18	271
B20	Benign and unspecified neoplasms	210-239	51	0.17	14
B21	Diabetes mellitus	250	627	2.04	174
B22	Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency	260-269	29	0.09	8
B23	Anaemias	280-285	70	0.23	19
B24	Meningitis	320	19	0.06	5
B25	Active rheumatic fever	390-392	2	0.01	1
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	393-398	253	0.82	70
B27	Hypertensive disease	400-404	441	1.44	123
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	410-414	9,158	29.83	2,546
B29	Other forms of heart disease	420-429	1,257	4.09	349
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	430-438	4,318	14.07	1,201
B31	Influenza	470-474	47	0.15	13
B32	Pneumonia	480-486	648	2.11	180
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	490-493	1,179	3.84	328
B34	Peptic ulcer	531-533	176	0.57	49
B35	Appendicitis	540-543	22	0.07	6
B36	Intestinal obstruction and hernia	550-553,560	101	0.33	28
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	571	247	0.80	69
B38	Nephritis and nephrosis	580-584	136	0.44	38
B39	Hyperplasia of prostate	600	63	0.21	18
B41	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium	{ 630-639 } { 650-678 }	3	0.01	1
B42	Congenital anomalies	740-759	309	1.01	86
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour, and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	{ 764-768 } { 772-776 } { 760-763 } { 769-771 } { 773-775 } { 777-779 }	144	0.47	40
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	780-796	355	1.16	99
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	780-796	131	0.43	36
	General arteriosclerosis	440	890	2.90	247
	Other diseases of circulatory system	441-458	551	1.80	153
B46	Other diseases of respiratory system	{ 460-466 } { 500-519 }	236	0.77	66
	All other diseases	Residual	1,143	3.72	318
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	E810-E823	985	3.21	274
BE48	All other accidents	{ E800-E807 } { E825-E949 }	751	2.45	209
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injury	E950-E959	350	1.14	97
BE50	All other external causes	E960-E999	143	0.47	40
	Total all causes		30,696	100.00	8,534

- (a) No deaths were recorded in the following categories in 1973 : 1. Cholera (000), 2. Typhoid fever (001), 3. Bacillary dysentery and amoebiasis (004, 006), 7. Plague (020), 8. Diphtheria (032), 9. Whooping cough (033), 10. Streptococcal sore throat and scarlet fever (034), 12. Acute poliomyelitis (040-043), 13. Smallpox (050), 15. Typhus and other rickettsioses (080-083), 16. Malaria (084), and 40. Abortions (640-645).
 (b) 002, 003, 005, 007, 021-031, 035, 037-039, 044-046, 051-054, 056, 057, 060-068, 070-079, 085-089, 098-136.
 (c) 140-149, 160, 161, 163, 170, 171, 190-199, 200-203, 208, 209.
 (d) Too small to register within the limits of the table.

Deaths in 1973 comprised 16,562 males and 14,134 females.

The following table shows deaths in 1973, in certain age groups, detailing the selected main causes of death within those age groups :

VICTORIA—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, 1973

International Classification of Diseases Code	Age group and cause of death	Deaths from specified cause			
		In age group		At all ages	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent (a)
	Under 1 year				
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	354	37.0	355	99.7
B42	Congenital anomalies	212	22.1	309	68.6
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour, and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	141	14.7	144	97.9
B46 (part)	Other diseases of respiratory system	82	8.6	236	34.7
B32	Pneumonia	35	3.7	648	5.4
B18	All other infective and parasitic diseases	18	1.9	91	19.8
	1-4 years				
BE48	All other accidents	48	22.4	751	6.4
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	35	16.4	985	3.6
B42	Congenital anomalies	31	14.5	309	10.0
B19	Malignant neoplasms	24	11.2	5,641	0.4
B46 (part)	Other diseases of respiratory system	14	6.5	236	5.9
B4	Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	11	5.1	74	14.9
	5-14 years				
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	86	33.5	985	8.7
B19	Malignant neoplasms	51	19.8	5,641	0.9
BE48	All other accidents	33	12.8	751	4.4
B42	Congenital anomalies	17	6.6	309	5.5
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	8	3.1	1,179	0.7
BE50	All other external causes	7	2.7	143	4.9
	15-24 years				
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	310	53.6	985	31.5
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	64	11.1	350	18.3
B19	Malignant neoplasms	51	8.8	5,641	0.9
BE48	All other accidents	47	8.1	751	6.3
BE50	All other external causes	19	3.3	143	13.3
B42	Congenital anomalies	10	1.7	309	3.2
	25-34 years				
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	135	28.7	985	13.7
B19	Malignant neoplasms	88	18.7	5,641	1.6
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	44	9.3	350	12.6
BE48	All other accidents	36	7.6	751	4.8
BE50	All other external causes	31	6.6	143	21.7
B30	Cerebrovascular diseases	17	3.6	4,318	0.4
	35-44 years				
B19	Malignant neoplasms	196	22.7	5,641	3.5
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	176	20.3	9,158	1.9
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	94	10.9	985	9.5
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	65	7.5	350	18.6
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	51	5.9	4,318	1.2
BE48	All other accidents	42	4.9	751	5.6
	45-54 years				
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	737	30.3	9,158	8.0
B19	Malignant neoplasms	685	28.2	5,641	12.1
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	195	8.0	4,318	4.5
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	87	3.6	247	35.2
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	76	3.1	985	7.7
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	71	2.9	1,179	6.0
	55-64 years				
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	1,651	36.2	9,158	18.0
B19	Malignant neoplasms	1,294	28.3	5,641	22.9
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	420	9.2	4,318	9.7
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	181	4.0	1,179	15.4
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	102	2.2	985	10.4
B29	Other forms of heart disease	88	1.9	1,257	7.0
	65-74 years				
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	2,653	35.5	9,158	29.0
B19	Malignant neoplasms	1,684	22.5	5,641	29.9
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	1,000	13.4	4,318	23.2
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	390	5.2	1,179	33.1
B29	Other forms of heart disease	240	3.2	1,257	19.1
B21	Diabetes mellitus	200	2.7	627	31.9

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

VICTORIA—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, 1973—*continued*

International Classification of Diseases Code	Age group and cause of death	Deaths from specified cause			
		In age group		At all ages	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent (a)
	75 years and over				
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	3,924	30.5	9,158	42.8
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	2,624	20.4	4,318	60.8
B19	Malignant neoplasms	1,564	12.1	5,641	27.7
B29	Other forms of heart disease	805	6.3	1,257	64.0
B46 (part)	Arteriosclerosis	765	5.9	890	86.0
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	503	3.9	1,179	42.7

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

Diseases of the heart

During 1973 there were 10,975 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart including 1 due to rheumatic fever with heart involvement, 253 due to chronic rheumatic heart disease, 306 to hypertensive heart disease, 6,298 to acute myocardial infarction, 2,860 to other ischaemic heart disease, and 1,257 to other forms of heart disease. The total of these causes in 1973 represented a rate of 3,051 per million of the mean population. Only a small proportion of deaths from heart diseases occurs at ages under 45 years. However, as the table on pages 255 and 256 shows, ischaemic heart disease is the major cause of death at ages 45 and over. Deaths in 1973 from this cause by sex and age group are given in the following table :

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HEART DISEASES BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1973

Cause of death (a)	Sex	Age group (years)					Total
		Under 45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	
Rheumatic fever with heart involve- ment (391)	M	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F	..	..	..	1	..	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease (393-398)	M	11	17	33	23	24	108
	F	15	22	29	39	40	145
Hypertensive heart disease (402, 404)	M	..	5	10	37	61	113
	F	1	1	10	29	152	193
Acute myocardial infarction (410)	M	89	420	879	1,197	1,102	3,687
	F	16	79	310	757	1,449	2,611
Other ischaemic heart disease (411- 414)	M	74	200	372	467	578	1,691
	F	14	38	90	232	795	1,169
Other forms of heart disease (420- 429)	M	38	38	52	128	300	556
	F	27	21	36	112	505	701
Total	M	212	680	1,346	1,852	2,065	6,155
	F	73	161	475	1,170	2,941	4,820

(a) Figures in parentheses are in respect of the Eighth Revision of the International List of Causes of Death.

Malignant neoplasms

Since the introduction of the Eighth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases in 1968, deaths classified as malignant neoplasms include deaths from polycythaemia vera and myelofibrosis. These were

not previously included with neoplasms. Deaths from malignant neoplasms in 1973 numbered 5,641 and represented a rate of 1,569 per million of mean population.

Deaths from malignant neoplasms are prominent at most age periods, but the rates in the table below show characteristic increases with age, reaching a maximum mortality rate in the oldest age group. Ninety-three per cent of the deaths from malignant neoplasms in the year 1973 were at ages 45 years and over.

Satisfactory comparisons of death rates relating to malignant neoplasms are only obtained by relating the deaths to the number of persons in the community of the same sex, in age groups. This has been done for periods centred around the past six censuses, when the numbers of persons in age groups were accurately known, and the results are given in the following table :

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS
IN AGE GROUPS

Age group (years)	Average annual death rates from malignant neoplasms per 10,000 of each sex in each age group						
	1920-1922	1932-1934	1946-1948	1953-1955	1960-1962	1965-1967	1970-1972
	MALES						
Under 5	0.46	0.27	0.60	1.11	1.06	0.79	0.79
5-9	0.13	0.20	0.34	0.98	0.85	0.95	0.76
10-14	0.14	0.24	0.24	0.69	0.59	0.57	0.55
15-19	0.30	0.37	0.61	0.93	0.95	0.86	0.76
20-24	0.64	0.73	0.69	1.27	0.86	1.25	1.33
25-34	0.76	0.93	1.20	1.32	1.34	1.62	1.55
35-44	3.31	3.04	3.00	4.01	3.93	4.50	4.42
45-54	13.94	10.13	11.65	13.25	14.54	14.64	17.21
55-64	40.46	37.25	32.73	36.99	41.16	42.09	48.40
65-74	78.21	85.19	80.46	82.41	90.40	98.12	111.07
75 and over	110.12	133.78	148.20	163.06	161.58	170.73	189.34
All ages	9.52	11.63	13.51	13.76	14.15	14.90	16.43
	FEMALES						
Under 5	0.39	0.38	0.48	1.37	1.04	0.68	0.81
5-9	0.17	0.17	0.18	0.60	0.92	0.66	0.74
10-14	0.05	0.08	0.40	0.71	0.64	0.46	0.39
15-19	0.15	0.17	0.04	0.49	0.66	0.71	0.64
20-24	0.30	0.39	0.60	0.56	0.99	0.82	0.78
25-34	1.28	1.57	1.75	1.81	1.88	1.50	1.78
35-44	6.61	6.00	6.23	6.14	5.76	5.38	5.49
45-54	19.14	17.31	16.47	16.46	15.02	16.40	17.20
55-64	34.48	35.82	33.40	30.93	30.20	30.30	34.04
65-74	63.05	61.17	61.44	59.38	50.34	57.01	58.09
75 and over	92.86	106.19	111.49	117.02	103.68	96.93	109.94
All ages	9.63	12.00	14.50	14.16	13.12	13.00	13.90

The following table shows deaths from malignant neoplasms recorded in 1973 in age groups according to the site of the disease :

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**VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1973**

Site of disease (a)	Sex	Age group (years)				Total
		Under 25	25-44	45-64	65 and over	
Buccal cavity and pharynx (140-149)	M	1	5	42	43	91
	F	1	1	12	28	42
Oesophagus (150)	M	..	2	29	52	83
	F	..	..	12	36	48
Stomach (151)	M	..	6	81	179	266
	F	..	6	55	113	174
Intestine, except rectum (152, 153)	M	..	8	93	167	268
	F	2	20	97	258	377
Rectum and rectosigmoid junction (154)	M	..	5	46	71	122
	F	..	1	28	71	100
Trachea, bronchus, and lung (162)	M	..	16	355	530	901
	F	..	9	93	78	180
Breast (174)	M	..	..	3	..	3
	F	..	47	226	248	521
Cervix uteri (180)	F	..	7	58	53	118
Other and unspecified parts of uterus (181, 182)	F	1	..	22	38	61
Ovary, fallopian tube, and broad ligament (183)	F	2	3	74	65	144
Prostate (185)	M	..	..	36	268	304
Bladder (188)	M	..	..	19	48	67
	F	..	..	7	33	40
Other and unspecified urinary organs (189)	M	1	1	25	35	62
	F	3	3	18	36	60
Brain and other parts of nervous system (191, 192)	M	14	15	37	11	77
	F	11	12	26	19	68
Leukaemia (204-207)	M	28	10	37	49	124
	F	22	6	25	44	97
Other neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic system (200-203, 208, 209)	M	10	24	52	70	156
	F	3	13	44	80	140
All other and unspecified sites	M	21	38	190	257	506
	F	10	26	137	268	441
Total	M	75	130	1,045	1,780	3,030
	F	55	154	934	1,468	2,611

(a) Figures in parentheses are in respect of the Eighth Revision of the International List of Causes of Death.

Cerebrovascular disease

In 1973, 1,705 male and 2,613 female deaths were ascribed to cerebrovascular diseases, the total corresponding to a rate of 1,201 per million of the mean population. The table on pages 255 and 256 shows that cerebrovascular diseases appear as one of the leading causes of death at ages from 35 years and over; they have become an increasing proportion of deaths at higher ages accounting for 20 per cent of deaths at ages 75 years and over. Deaths from this cause according to sex and age are given below:

**VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1973**

Cause of death (a)	Sex	Age group (years)					Total
		Under 45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	
Subarachnoid haemorrhage (430)	M	15	30	17	16	4	82
	F	25	38	36	21	11	131
Cerebral haemorrhage (431)	M	13	44	81	107	140	385
	F	15	34	52	106	269	476
Cerebral infarction (432-434)	M	2	5	35	130	217	389
	F	3	5	27	121	524	680
Acute but ill-defined cerebrovascular disease (436)	M	3	19	73	201	333	629
	F	3	16	71	204	670	964
Other and ill-defined cerebrovascular diseases (435, 437, 438)	M	..	2	21	45	152	220
	F	..	2	7	49	304	362
Total	M	33	100	227	499	846	1,705
	F	46	95	193	501	1,778	2,613

(a) Figures in parentheses are in respect of the Eighth Revision of the International List of Causes of Death.

Diseases of the respiratory system

In 1973 deaths from diseases of the respiratory system numbered 2,110, which represented a rate of 587 per million of the mean population. Of these deaths in 1973, 47 were due to influenza, 109 to other acute respiratory infections, 648 to pneumonia, 1,179 to bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma, and 127 to other diseases.

The 47 deaths from influenza in 1973 represented a rate of 13 per million of the mean population. Eighty-one per cent of the deaths were of persons aged 50 years or over.

Diseases of the digestive system

In 1973 there were 455 male and 326 female deaths from diseases of the digestive system, representing a rate of 217 per million of the mean population. Deaths from causes in this group in 1973 were: 176 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 3 from gastritis and duodenitis, 22 from appendicitis, 101 from intestinal obstruction and hernia, 17 from chronic enteritis and ulcerative colitis, 247 from cirrhosis of the liver, 59 from cholelithiasis and cholecystitis, and 156 from other diseases.

Diabetes mellitus

During 1973 diabetes was responsible for 286 male and 341 female deaths, representing a rate of 174 per million of the mean population.

The rates for previous periods were 162 in 1972, 161 in 1971, 183 in 1970, 181 in 1969, and 209 in 1968.

Diseases of the genito-urinary system

In 1973 there were 380 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. This number represented a rate of 106 per million of the mean population. In 1973 nephritis and nephrosis were responsible for 136 deaths, infections of the kidney for 86, calculi of the urinary system for 13, hyperplasia of prostate for 63, and other diseases of the genito-urinary system for 82.

Tuberculosis

The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1973 was 45, the rate per million of mean population being 13.

Deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1973 numbered 38 and equalled a rate of 11 per million of the mean population. Rates for earlier periods were 130 for 1950-1954, 294 in 1945-1949, 660 in 1918-1922, 855 in 1908-1912, and 1,365 in 1890-1892. In 1973 tuberculosis of the respiratory system was responsible for 84 per cent of the total deaths from tuberculosis. Of the 25 males and 13 females dying from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1973, only 2 males and 1 female were under the age of 45 years.

Deaths from external causes

Deaths in 1973 from external causes, including suicide and homicide, represented approximately 7 per cent of total deaths. Accidents and violence feature as the main cause of death after the first year of life until middle age, but in age groups from 40 years onward they progressively assume a less prominent position. In 1973 male deaths from external causes were 66 per cent of the total deaths in this category.

Accidental deaths involving motor vehicles

The number of motor vehicles (including motor cycles) registered in Victoria and the deaths in which they were involved were as follows for the years 1969 to 1973 :

VICTORIA—DEATHS INVOLVING MOTOR VEHICLES

Year	Number of motor vehicles on register at 30 June	Deaths involving motor vehicles (a)		
		Number (b)	Per 10,000 motor vehicles	Per 1,000,000 of mean population
1969	1,247,900	1,087	8.7	321
1970	1,314,400	1,097	8.3	318
1971	1,379,200	1,064	7.7	303
1972	1,442,300	964	6.7	271
1973	1,516,600	985	6.5	274

(a) Deaths are those registered during the calendar year.

(b) Deaths of pedestrians included in this column numbered 287, 254, 257, 263, and 238, respectively.

Transport accidents

In 1973 deaths from all transport accidents numbered 1,032 as against 1,024 in 1972, 1,126 in 1971, 1,158 in 1970, and 1,137 in 1969. During 1973 deaths connected with transport represented 59 per cent of the total deaths from accidents.

Injury undetermined whether accidentally or purposely inflicted

In many cases it is not possible to determine whether death from an external cause was accidentally or purposely inflicted, i.e., whether the death was due to accident, suicide, or homicide. Before 1968 such deaths had been included with known accidental deaths. With the introduction of the Eighth Revision of the International List of Causes of Death a separate category was created to include cases where the mode of infliction was undetermined. Deaths allocated to this category in 1973 totalled 84.

Suicide and self-inflicted injury

In 1973 deaths from suicide or wilfully self-inflicted injury numbered 242 males and 108 females. These deaths represented a rate of 97 per million of the mean population. Of the 242 male deaths in 1973, 87 were connected with firearms and explosives, and 53 with poisoning by solid or liquid substances. The latter accounted for 64 of the 108 female deaths.

Homicide

The number of deaths ascribed to homicide and registered in 1973 was 58 (34 males and 24 females).

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HOMICIDE (a)

Year	Males	Females	Total
1969	20	10	30
1970	25	23	48
1971	44	12	56
1972	33	19	52
1973	34	24	58

(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 revealed a remarkable decline. The infant death rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) has fallen from 133 in 1885–1889 to 15 in 1969–1973 (a reduction of 89 per cent). In other words, of every 100 infants who died in the earlier period, only 11 would have died in the latter.

A significant part of the improvement in the rate in recent years has been effected in relation to deaths of infants during the first four weeks of life, commentary on which appears on the following pages.

The following tables show the number of infant deaths and the infant death rate per 1,000 live births in each of the Australian States and Territories for the years 1969 to 1973 :

AUSTRALIA—INFANT DEATHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1969	1,625	1,066	691	347	453	139	103	58	4,482
1970	1,743	1,060	672	367	459	116	126	61	4,604
1971	1,710	1,107	766	366	464	114	170	80	4,777
1972	1,663	1,048	697	367	348	127	113	67	4,430
1973	1,491	958	666	276	394	137	100	63	4,085

AUSTRALIA—INFANT DEATH RATES (a)

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1969	18.9	15.0	18.9	15.8	21.8	16.5	45.3	18.8	17.92
1970	19.7	14.5	17.9	16.2	21.2	14.2	48.0	17.6	17.88
1971	17.4	14.7	19.2	15.9	19.1	13.7	60.0	19.8	17.29
1972	17.5	14.6	17.8	16.8	15.7	16.2	41.5	16.5	16.72
1973	17.1	14.3	17.5	13.5	19.2	18.7	35.6	15.4	16.49

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

The infant death rates for the Melbourne Statistical Division, for the remainder of the State, and for the whole State, for the years 1969 to 1973, are shown in the following table. Figures relate to the Melbourne Statistical Division as defined for the 1971 Census (see pages 219–20).

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS

Year	Melbourne Statistical Division		Remainder of State		Victoria	
	Number of deaths under one year	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number of deaths under one year	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number of deaths under one year	Rate per 1,000 live births
1969	730	14.5	336	16.2	1,066	15.0
1970	721	13.7	339	16.7	1,060	14.5
1971	843	15.5	264	12.6	1,107	14.7
1972	764	14.8	284	14.1	1,048	14.6
1973	681	14.1	277	14.7	958	14.3

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

Infant death rates have shown a decrease in each quinquennial period from 1885 onwards. In 1954 the rate fell below 20 per 1,000 live births for the first time. In 1973 the rate was 14.3, the lowest ever recorded in Victoria.

The decrease in the infant death rate since the earlier periods has been shared proportionally by each age group except that of "under one week". The rate for infants "one week and under one month" declined from 11.1 in 1910-1914 to 1.1 in 1969-1973, a decrease of 90 per cent, and that for infants "one month and under one year" from 41.2 to 4.0, a decrease of 90 per cent. Between the ages of one month and one year, Victoria lost 64 out of every 1,000 children born in 1900-1904, 33 in 1915-1919, and 4 in 1969-1973. The rate per 1,000 live births for infants "under one week" has declined from 21.5 in the quinquennium 1910-1914 to 9.5 in 1969-1973. In 1973 the mortality of infants "under one week" comprised 64 per cent of the total infant mortality.

The following tables show mortality rates at certain ages under one year for the years 1969 to 1973 :

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	
1969	9.7	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.4	15.0
1970	9.5	1.1	1.6	1.2	1.0	14.5
1971	9.3	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.2	14.7
1972	9.8	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.3	14.6
1973	9.2	1.1	1.4	1.7	1.0	14.3

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS AT CERTAIN AGES, BY SEX, 1973

Particulars	Under one week	One week and under one month	One month and under three months	Three months and under six months	Six months and under twelve months	Total under one year
Males—						
Number	339	41	52	58	36	526
Rate (a)	9.9	1.2	1.5	1.7	1.0	15.3
Percentage of total	64.4	7.8	9.9	11.0	6.8	100.0
Females—						
Number	276	33	42	53	28	432
Rate (a)	8.4	1.0	1.3	1.6	0.9	13.2
Percentage of total	63.9	7.6	9.7	12.3	6.5	100.0

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

The rate for male infants is consistently higher than that for females, and in the period 1969–1973 exceeded the female rate by 21 per cent.

In 1973, 371 or 39 per cent of infant deaths were attributed to maternal conditions or complications of pregnancy or labour. Other perinatal causes, including anoxic and hypoxic conditions not elsewhere classified, accounted for 124 deaths. Congenital anomalies were responsible for 212 or 22 per cent and pneumonia for 35 or 4 per cent of infant deaths.

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS AT CERTAIN AGES, BY CAUSE, 1973

Cause of death (a)	Deaths under one year					Total
	Under one week	One week and under one month	One month and under three months	Three months and under six months	Six months and under twelve months	
Chronic circulatory and genito-urinary disease in mother (760)	4	..	..	..	..	4
Other maternal conditions unrelated to pregnancy (761)	18	1	..	..	..	19
Toxaemias of pregnancy (762)	26	..	..	..	..	26
Maternal ante- and intrapartum infection (763)	8	1	..	..	..	9
Difficult labour (764–768)	29	4	..	..	..	33
Other complications of pregnancy and childbirth (769)	160	4	..	..	..	164
Conditions of placenta (770)	78	3	..	..	..	81
Conditions of umbilical cord (771)	11	..	..	..	..	11
Birth injury and termination of pregnancy without mention of cause (772, 773)	10	2	..	1	..	13
Haemolytic disease of newborn (774, 775)	10	1	..	..	..	11
Anoxic and hypoxic conditions, not elsewhere classified (776)	88	6	1	..	..	95
Immaturity, unqualified (777)	23	1	..	..	..	24
Other conditions of newborn (778, 779)	4	..	1	..	..	5
Congenital anomalies (740–759)	125	33	27	15	12	212
Infections (000–136)	3	6	6	10	5	30
Pneumonia (480–486)	3	3	6	17	6	35
Other diseases (140–474, 490–738, 780–796)	12	7	47	61	34	161
Inhalation or ingestion of food or other object causing obstruction or suffocation, and accidental mechanical suffocation (E911–E913)	..	1	4	2	..	7
Other external causes (E800–E910, E914–E999)	3	1	2	5	7	18
Total all causes	615	74	94	111	64	958

(a) Figures in parentheses refer to the Eighth Revision of the International List of Causes of Death.

NOTE. From 1 May 1971 onwards a new type of death certificate has been used in Victoria for infant deaths under 28 days of age, and stillbirths. The additional information obtained on the new certificate has made possible a more precise identification of the underlying cause of death. Consequently the figures in this table relating to deaths under one month of age are not strictly comparable with those for previous years.

Perinatal deaths

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

Perinatal deaths comprise :

Stillbirths. Any child born of its mother after the twentieth week of pregnancy which did not at any time after being born breathe or show any other sign of life, and where the duration of pregnancy is not reliably ascertainable, includes any foetus weighing not less than 400 grams.

Neonatal deaths. The death within one month (28 days) after birth of any liveborn infant.

VICTORIA—PERINATAL DEATHS

Year	Stillbirths (a)	Neonatal deaths			Total perinatal deaths
		Under 1 week	One week but less than 1 month	Total neonatal deaths	
1969	761	691	86	777	(a) 1,538
1970	782	697	81	778	(a) 1,560
1971	760	701	81	782	(a) 1,542
1972	842	707	72	779	1,621
1973	802	615	74	689	1,491

(a) Stillbirth totals for the years 1969 to 1971 relate to stillbirths of 28 weeks or more gestation. The figures for 1972 and 1973 include all stillbirths of 20 weeks or more gestation and are therefore not strictly comparable with those for earlier years. (See definitions above.)

VICTORIA—PERINATAL DEATH RATES (a)

Year	Stillbirths	Neonatal deaths			Total perinatal deaths
		Under 1 week	One week but less than 1 month	Total neonatal deaths	
1969	10.6	9.7	1.2	10.9	21.4
1970	10.6	9.5	1.1	10.7	21.1
1971	10.0	9.3	1.1	10.4	20.2
1972 (b)	11.6	9.8	1.0	10.8	22.3
1973 (b)	11.8	9.2	1.1	10.3	22.0

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

(b) Rates for stillbirths and total perinatal deaths are not comparable with those for earlier years.
See note (a) to previous table.

Cremations

There are four crematoria in Victoria, three in the metropolitan area and one in Ballarat. The number of cremations in relation to total deaths from 1969 to 1973 is shown in the following table :

VICTORIA—CREMATIONS AND DEATHS

Year	Total cremations	Total deaths	Percentage of cremations to deaths
1969	10,617	28,976	36.64
1970	11,265	30,335	37.14
1971	11,134	30,598	36.39
1972	11,226	29,856	37.60
1973	11,667	30,696	38.01