

## VITAL STATISTICS

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### BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES

#### Legal provisions

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.

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 On this date the Act superseded the marriage laws of all the States, the two mainland Territories, and Norfolk Island.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 numbers and rates relating to vital statistics in Victoria from 1971 to 1975 are shown 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	
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
1974	29,708	66,201	30,875	989	8.15	18.17	8.47	14.9
1975	27,806	61,897	29,499	806	7.55	16.81	8.01	13.0

(a) Included in deaths.

Marriages

Marriages in Victoria in 1975 numbered 27,806, a decrease of 1,902 on the number registered in 1974. The rate per 1,000 of mean population in 1975 was 7.55, compared with 8.15 in 1974. The highest rate ever recorded in Victoria was 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.
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
1974	39,327	29,708	16,086	10,769	9,295	3,567	566	1,355	110,673
1975	36,958	27,806	15,230	9,843	9,026	3,242	406	1,462	103,973

AUSTRALIA—MARRIAGE RATES

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.(a)	A.C.T.(a)	Aust.
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
1974	8.26	8.15	8.17	8.82	8.46	8.88	5.7	7.5	8.27
1975	7.69	7.55	7.61	7.95	8.01	7.97	4.6	7.6	7.68

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

No further details of marriages for 1975 were available at the time of publication; the following tables in this section, therefore, relate to 1974 and earlier years.

VICTORIA—RELATIVE AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES, 1974

Ages of bride-grooms (a)	Ages of brides (a)													Total bride-grooms		
	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	..	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
17	..	..	13	17	11	2	1	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
18	1	5	95	135	203	66	33	39	4	..	..	..	1	..	..	582
19	2	4	91	220	381	335	140	117	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,299
20	..	2	98	212	530	626	498	408	30	2	1	..	..	..	..	2,407
21 to 24	..	2	158	450	1,386	2,374	2,877	5,711	629	62	9	2	1	1	1	13,670
25 to 29	1	1	48	127	289	484	660	3,158	1,549	264	69	15	1	..	..	6,666
30 to 34	1	..	6	14	30	64	69	557	666	343	102	29	8	3	..	1,892
35 to 39	..	..	..	3	8	7	17	105	242	217	128	58	21	10	..	816
40 to 44	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	92	131	109	98	58	26	..	564
45 to 49	..	..	1	1	4	7	5	15	36	65	76	96	112	82	..	486
50 to 54	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	4	10	29	45	83	109	147	..	429
55 to 59	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	9	12	29	60	169	..	286
60 to 64	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	2	6	13	28	177	..	231
65 and over	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	2	..	5	12	305	..	328
Total brides	7	20	512	1,180	2,845	3,967	4,304	10,154	3,277	1,126	557	429	410	920	29,708	

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

Of every 1,000 men who married during 1974, 752 were older and 137 were younger than their brides, and 111 were of the same age. In 1974 the oldest bridegroom was aged over 90 years and the oldest bride was aged 85 years.

VICTORIA—PERCENTAGES OF BRIDEGROOMS  
AND BRIDES IN AGE GROUPS, 1974

Age group (years)	Percentage of total		Age group (years)	Percentage of total	
	Bride- grooms	Brides		Bride- grooms	Brides
14	..	(a)	30 to 34	6.37	3.79
15	..	(a)	35 to 39	2.75	1.88
16	(a)	1.72	40 to 44	1.90	1.44
17	0.16	3.97	45 to 49	1.64	1.38
18	1.96	9.58	50 to 54	1.44	1.22
19	4.37	13.35	55 to 59	0.96	0.73
20	8.10	14.49	60 and over	1.88	1.15
21 to 24	46.02	34.18			
25 to 29	22.44	11.03	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								
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
1974	..	..	4	48	582	1,299	2,407	4,340	14.61
	BRIDES								
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
1974	7	20	512	1,180	2,845	3,967	4,304	12,835	43.20

(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).

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 1974 these percentages were 14.61 and 43.20, respectively, and in 12.54 per cent of marriages both parties were under 21 years of age.

VICTORIA—AVERAGE AGE AT MARRIAGE (a)

Year	Bridegrooms				Brides			
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorcees	All bride- grooms	Spinsters	Widows	Divorcees	All brides
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
1974	24.6	57.1	39.4	26.7	22.1	50.7	36.3	24.1

(a) Arithmetic mean.

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 23.8 years. The corresponding age for spinsters was 21.8 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 1970 to 1974 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	
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
1974	26,628	946	2,134	26,677	1,015	2,016	29,708

VICTORIA—BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS :  
NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES, 1940 TO 1974

Marriages between—	1974		Previous marital status	Percentage of total—			
	Number	Percentage		1940-1949	1950-1959	1960-1969	1974
				BRIDEGROOMS			
Bachelors and spinsters	25,306	85.2	Bachelors	90.5	89.5	91.6	89.6
Bachelors and widows	287	1.0	Widowers	4.9	4.5	3.4	3.2
Bachelors and divorcees	1,035	3.5	Divorcees	4.6	6.0	5.0	7.2
Widowers and spinsters	223	0.7	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Widowers and widows	500	1.7					
Widowers and divorcees	223	0.7					
Divorcees and spinsters	1,148	3.9					
Divorcees and widows	228	0.8					
Divorcees and divorced women	758	2.5					
				BRIDES			
			Spinsters	91.4	89.2	91.2	89.8
			Widows	3.9	4.4	3.6	3.4
			Divorcees	4.7	6.4	5.2	6.8
Total marriages	29,708	100.0	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

## 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
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
1974	4,449	14.98	3,069	68.98

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

In 1974 the number of marriages celebrated by ministers of religion was 25,259, representing 85.02 per cent of total marriages. Civil marriages numbered 4,449, or 14.98 per cent of the total.

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES : RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL, 1974

Category of celebrant	Number	Proportion of total marriages
Ministers of religion—		
Recognised denominations (a)—		
Roman Catholic Church	8,544	28.76
Church of England in Australia	5,992	20.17
The Presbyterian Church of Australia	3,922	13.20
The Methodist Church of Australasia	2,624	8.83
Orthodox Churches (b)	1,046	3.52
Churches of Christ in Australia	569	1.92
The Baptist Union of Australia	547	1.84
Unitarians	396	1.33
Congregational Union of Australia	314	1.06
Lutheran Church (b)	274	0.92
Jewry	250	0.84
The Salvation Army	164	0.55
Jehovah's Witnesses	87	0.29
Seventh-day Adventist Church	65	0.22
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	35	0.12
Christian Brethren	34	0.12
Other recognised denominations	149	0.50
Other ministers	247	0.83
Total ministers of religion	25,259	85.02
Civil officers	4,449	14.98
Total marriages	29,708	100.00

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

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

**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 Commonwealth Act may not be comparable with those of earlier years.

The following table shows 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 1975. 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, 1975

Petition for—	Petitions filed by—			Decrees granted to—		
	Husbands	Wives	Total	Husbands	Wives	Total
Dissolution	(a)2,215	(b)4,113	6,328	2,219	3,439	(c)5,663
Nullity	6	13	19	5	11	16
Judicial separation	..	2	2	..	4	4
Total	2,221	4,128	6,349	2,224	3,454 (c)	5,683

(a) Includes one petition for dissolution or nullity.

(b) Includes one petition for dissolution or nullity.

(c) Includes five 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
1971	4,256	13	2	3,072	6	1
1972	4,518	11	4	3,655	9	..
1973	5,164	15	1	3,301	11	1
1974	6,565	5	1	4,450	14	1
1975	6,328	19	2	5,663	16	4

(a) Includes fourteen petitions for dual relief in 1971, fifteen in 1972, six in 1973, nine in 1974, and two in 1975.

VICTORIA—DIVORCE : GROUNDS ON WHICH DECREES  
WERE GRANTED, 1975

Grounds on which granted	Dissolution		Nullity		Judicial separation	
	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions
Adultery	1,023	1,090	..	..	..	1
Adultery and desertion	37	29	..	..	..	..
Cruelty	2	105	..	..	..	1
Desertion	764	1,592	..	..	..	2
Separation	338	458	..	..	..	..
Desertion and separation	37	71	..	..	..	..
Other grounds	18	94	5	11	..	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,219</b>	<b>3,439</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>4</b>

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

VICTORIA—DIVORCE : DECREES GRANTED : AGES OF  
PETITIONERS (AT DATE OF DECREE) AND ISSUE, 1975

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	8	..	..	..	..	2	12
20-24	78	292	1	1	..	..	50	229
25-29	463	868	1	5	..	1	348	984
30-34	509	631	3	3	..	1	631	1,121
35-39	334	509	..	..	..	..	607	1,176
40-44	234	381	..	2	..	..	500	883
45-49	196	349	..	..	..	..	343	495
50-54	170	206	..	..	..	1	179	167
55-59	110	118	..	..	..	1	103	34
60 and over	123	77	..	..	..	..	22	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,219</b>	<b>3,439</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2,785</b>	<b>5,114</b>

(a) Of the total 7,899 children shown above, eleven children were the issue of marriages for which nullities were granted and six children were the issue of a marriage for which a judicial separation was granted. In addition to the above, there were five instances involving a total of nine children where dissolutions were granted to both parties.

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : DECREES GRANTED :  
AGES OF PARTIES (AT DATE OF DECREE), 1975

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	7	145	25	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	180
25-29	..	352	726	69	5	2	..	..	..	..	1,153
30-34	..	56	600	518	54	2	..	..	..	..	1,230
35-39	..	9	98	371	340	50	8	4	..	..	880
40-44	..	..	16	85	262	236	52	9	1	..	661
45-49	..	..	3	20	74	216	224	32	4	3	576
50-54	..	..	..	5	16	51	171	164	32	9	448
55-59	..	..	..	..	5	16	46	98	70	19	254
60 and over	..	..	1	1	..	6	26	37	74	136	281
Total wives	7	562	1,469	1,072	756	578	527	344	181	167	5,663

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : DECREES GRANTED :  
DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1975

Duration of marriage (years)	Number of children							Total dis- solutions	Total children (a)
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 and over		
1	7	1	2	..	..	1	..	10	5
2	33	9	1	2	..	..	..	46	22
3	93	26	2	1	..	..	..	122	33
4	207	62	19	2	..	1	..	291	111
5	234	127	29	4	1	..	..	395	201
6	189	144	61	8	4	3	..	409	321
7	133	135	98	18	2	2	1	389	410
8	120	114	93	25	6	1	1	359	407
9	73	97	118	34	6	..	..	330	470
10	47	68	109	29	12	1	2	268	438
11	48	55	102	38	15	1	..	259	438
12	31	37	70	49	24	3	1	215	441
13	30	20	69	43	22	2	3	189	403
14	23	20	67	53	16	5	1	185	408
15-19	105	104	232	170	103	27	32	773	1,829
20-24	99	84	166	114	75	27	15	580	1,287
25-29	200	119	78	36	17	3	7	460	515
30-34	141	38	25	6	4	1	..	215	127
35-39	100	6	4	2	..	..	..	112	20
40 and over	54	1	..	..	1	..	..	56	5
Total dissolutions of marriage	1,967	1,267	1,345	634	308	78	64	5,663	..
Total children	..	1,267	2,690	1,902	1,232	390	410	..	7,891

(a) Of the total of 7,891 children shown above, nine 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 1975 was 61,897.

Stillbirths, which are excluded from births and deaths, numbered 713 and corresponded to a rate of 11.39 per 1,000 births live and still in 1975. 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 1971 to 1975 :

### AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
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
1974	86,162	66,201	37,852	20,181	20,207	7,398	2,808	4,368	245,177
1975	80,918	61,897	36,403	19,986	20,338	6,982	2,118	4,370	233,012

## AUSTRALIA—BIRTH RATES

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.(a)	A.C.T.(a)	Aust.
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
1974	18.09	18.17	19.23	16.53	18.39	18.42	27.6	24.2	18.33
1975	16.84	16.81	18.20	16.15	18.05	17.17	23.9	22.7	17.21

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

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 1971 to 1975:

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

Year	Males	Females	Total	Masculinity (a)	Average age (b)		
					Nuptial births		Ex-nuptial births
					Father	Mother	Mother (c)
1971	38,432	37,066	75,498	103.69	29.8	26.7	23.0
1972	36,842	34,965	71,807	105.37	29.7	26.7	22.8
1973	34,405	32,718	67,123	105.16	29.6	26.6	23.0
1974	33,993	32,208	66,201	105.54	29.6	26.6	23.0
1975	31,904	29,993	61,897	106.37	(d)	(d)	(d)

(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.

(d) Not available at time of publication.

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, 1975

Age group of mother (years)	Number of married mothers with previous issue numbering—										Total married mothers	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 and over		Not stated
Under 20	2,803	625	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,454
20-24	10,081	6,751	1,471	192	18	1	..	..	..	..	..	18,514
25-29	7,039	9,472	4,577	1,208	218	76	18	5	..	..	..	22,613
30-34	1,611	2,843	2,587	1,270	422	191	70	19	10	3	..	9,026
35-39	381	569	609	489	276	181	92	51	23	32	..	2,703
40-44	76	76	99	97	84	60	38	27	20	32	..	609
45-49	3	2	5	2	6	3	5	1	4	3	..	34
50 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Age not stated	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	21,995	20,338	9,374	3,258	1,024	512	223	103	57	70	..	56,954
Proportion of total married mothers	38.62	35.71	16.46	5.72	1.80	0.90	0.39	0.18	0.10	0.12	..	100.00



**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS :  
NUMBER OF MOTHERS IN AGE GROUPS,  
TOTAL ISSUE, AND AVERAGE ISSUE, 1975**

Age group of mother (years)	Number of mothers	Total issue	Average issue
Under 20	3,454	4,144	1.20
20-24	18,514	29,005	1.57
25-29	22,613	46,494	2.06
30-34	9,026	24,265	2.69
35-39	2,703	9,397	3.48
40-44	609	2,713	4.45
45-49	34	192	5.65
50 and over	..	..	..
Age not stated	1	1	1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,954</b>	<b>116,211</b>	<b>2.04</b>

**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS : RELATIVE  
AGE GROUPS OF PARENTS, 1975**

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	478	94	3	..	..	..	..	..	575
20-24	2,205	7,249	826	56	4	1	..	..	10,341
25-29	632	9,212	12,286	992	67	15	..	..	23,204
30-34	112	1,586	7,572	4,388	334	25	1	..	14,018
35-39	17	290	1,574	2,723	1,178	94	2	..	5,878
40-44	5	54	241	650	799	234	5	..	1,988
45-49	..	15	75	159	240	196	19	..	704
50 and over	2	7	25	53	79	44	7	..	217
Not stated	3	7	11	5	2	..	..	1	29
<b>Married mothers</b>	<b>3,454</b>	<b>18,514</b>	<b>22,613</b>	<b>9,026</b>	<b>2,703</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>56,954</b>

**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL FIRST BIRTHS : AGE GROUP OF MOTHER AND  
DURATION OF MARRIAGE, 1975**

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	41	55	96	153	307	431	353	90	87	132	136	130	662	108	17	4	1	2,803
20-24	28	34	51	93	175	288	293	140	183	311	301	290	3,133	2,512	1,512	555	182	10,081
25-29	12	17	17	19	39	56	61	55	54	128	92	109	1,080	1,210	1,332	1,168	1,590	7,039
30-34	1	7	3	11	19	15	29	13	33	43	34	31	333	225	177	142	495	1,611
35-39	..	4	2	6	5	6	6	11	10	10	11	100	45	32	22	105	..	381
40-44	..	3	..	..	3	..	2	..	..	4	2	6	20	10	7	3	15	76
45-49	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	3
50 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Not stated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>5,331</b>	<b>4,110</b>	<b>3,077</b>	<b>1,894</b>	<b>2,388</b>	<b>21,995</b>

On the average of the five years 1971 to 1975, mothers of twins were one in 99 of all mothers whose confinements were recorded, mothers of triplets one in 14,128, and mothers of all multiple births one in 98.

## VICTORIA—MULTIPLE CONFINEMENTS (a)

Year	Cases of twins	Cases of triplets	Total multiple cases	Multiple cases per 1,000 total confinements
1971	790	3	793	10.61
1972	771	5	776	10.92
1973	703	7	710	10.69
1974	593	3	596	9.08
1975	573	6	579	9.44

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

The following tables show details of ex-nuptial births in each State and Territory for the years 1971 to 1975 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.
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
1974	8,371	4,394	4,955	1,879	2,352	788	458	211	23,408
1975	8,291	4,395	5,034	1,943	2,527	758	495	262	23,705

## 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.
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
1974	9.72	6.64	13.09	9.31	11.64	10.65	16.31	4.83	9.55
1975	10.25	7.10	13.83	9.72	12.43	10.86	23.37	6.00	10.17

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

Age of mother (years)	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975(a)	
12	..	..	..	..	} 2,965	
13	1	2	3	5		
14	16	18	16	19		
15	98	105	113	116		
16	250	307	278	270		
17	423	514	461	448		
18	582	550	503	515		
19	517	523	436	393		
20	506	456	385	349		
21-24	1,172	1,156	1,026	925		
25-29	750	685	765	757		795
30-34	377	366	325	323		398
35-39	206	196	189	190		158
40-44	58	60	70	46		41
45 and over	5	7	6	3	1	
Not stated	2	2	4	2	3	
Total	4,963	4,947	4,580	4,361	4,361	

(a) Individual ages of mothers under 25 not available at time of publication.

## VICTORIA—ADOPTIONS AND LEGITIMATIONS

Year	Number of children—	
	Adopted (a)	Legitimated (b)
1971	2,084	558
1972	1,878	545
1973	1,766	596
1974	1,490	551
1975	1,229	489

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

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

## Deaths

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 1971 to 1975 :

## AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF DEATHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
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	3,347	580	665	110,822
1974	43,999	30,875	18,128	10,236	7,778	3,484	575	758	115,833
1975	40,497	29,499	16,421	9,947	7,972	3,339	610	736	109,021

## AUSTRALIA—DEATH RATES

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T. (a)	A.C.T. (a)	Aust.
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	8.42
1974	9.24	8.47	9.21	8.39	7.08	8.68	5.7	4.2	8.66
1975	8.43	8.01	8.21	8.04	7.08	8.21	6.9	3.8	8.05

(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 can be found on pages 152-3 of the *Victorian Year Book* 1971.

## VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH : NUMBERS AND RATES, 1975

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	75	0.25	20
B5	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	010-012	23	0.08	6
B6	Other tuberculosis, including late effects	013-019	9	0.03	2
B11	Meningococcal infection	036	5	0.02	1
B17	Syphilis and its sequelae	090-097	4	0.01	1
B18	All other infective and parasitic diseases	(b)	69	0.23	19
B19	Malignant neoplasms—				
	Digestive organs and peritoneum	150-159	1,965	6.66	533
	Lung	162	1,078	3.66	293
	Skin	172, 173	124	0.42	34
	Breast	174	498	1.69	135
	Genital organs	180-187	665	2.25	181
	Urinary organs	188, 189	242	0.82	66
	Leukaemia and aleukaemia	204-207	186	0.63	50
	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	(c)	1,020	3.46	277
B20	Benign and unspecified neoplasms	210-239	51	0.17	14
B21	Diabetes mellitus	250	569	1.93	155
B22	Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency	260-269	21	0.07	6
B23	Anaemias	280-285	67	0.23	18
B24	Meningitis	320	11	0.04	3
B25	Active rheumatic fever	390-392	4	0.01	1
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	393-398	296	1.00	80
B27	Hypertensive disease	400-404	422	1.43	115
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	410-414	8,779	29.76	2,384
B29	Other forms of heart disease	420-429	1,148	3.89	312
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	430-438	4,008	13.59	1,088
B31	Influenza	470-474	40	0.14	11
B32	Pneumonia	480-486	546	1.85	148
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	490-493	1,202	4.08	326
B34	Peptic ulcer	531-533	148	0.50	40
B35	Appendicitis	540-543	7	0.02	2
B36	Intestinal obstruction and hernia	550-553, 560	78	0.27	21
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	571	289	0.98	78
B38	Nephritis and nephrosis	580-584	140	0.48	38
B39	Hyperplasia of prostate	600	42	0.14	11
B41	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	{ 630-639 650-678 }	{ 4 4 }	{ 0.01 0.01 }	{ 1 1 }
B42	Congenital anomalies	740-759	312	1.06	85
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	{ 764-768 772, 776 760-763 769-771 }	{ 92 92 }	{ 0.31 0.31 }	{ 25 25 }
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	{ 773-775 777-779 }	{ 264 264 }	{ 0.90 0.90 }	{ 72 72 }
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	780-796	151	0.51	41
	General arteriosclerosis	440	829	2.81	225
	Other diseases of circulatory system	441-458	481	1.63	131
B46	Other diseases of respiratory system	{ 460-466 500-519 }	{ 192 192 }	{ 0.65 0.65 }	{ 52 52 }
	All other diseases	Residual	1,274	4.32	346
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	E810-E823	894	3.03	243
BE48	All other accidents	{ E800-E807 E825-E949 }	{ 703 703 }	{ 2.38 2.38 }	{ 191 191 }
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injury	E950-E959	367	1.24	100
BE50	All other external causes	E960-E999	105	0.36	29
Total all causes			29,499	100.00	8,010

(a) No deaths were recorded in the following categories in 1975 : 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), 14. Measles (055), 15. Typhus and other rickettsioses (080-083), 16. Malaria (084), and 40. Abortion (640-645).

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

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

Deaths in 1975 comprised 16,034 males and 13,465 females.

The following table shows deaths in 1975, in certain age groups, detailing the selected main causes of death within those age groups :

## VICTORIA—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, 1975

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)
<b>Under 1 year</b>					
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	263	32.6	264	99.6
B42	Congenital anomalies	210	26.1	312	67.3
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	93	11.5	151	61.6
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	91	11.3	92	98.9
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	25	3.1	1,202	2.1
B46 (part)	Other diseases of respiratory system	20	2.5	192	10.4
<b>1-4 years</b>					
BE48	All other accidents	39	22.9	703	5.5
B42	Congenital anomalies	31	18.2	312	9.9
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	25	14.7	894	2.8
B19	Malignant neoplasms	19	11.2	5,778	0.3
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	10	5.9	1,202	0.8
B46 (part)	Other diseases of respiratory system	7	4.1	192	3.6
<b>5-14 years</b>					
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	45	24.1	894	5.0
B19	Malignant neoplasms	40	21.4	5,778	0.7
BE48	All other accidents	30	16.0	703	4.3
B42	Congenital anomalies	19	10.2	312	6.1
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	5	2.7	367	1.4
BE50	All other external causes	3	1.6	105	2.9
<b>15-24 years</b>					
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	343	55.4	894	38.4
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	56	9.0	367	15.3
BE48	All other accidents	56	9.0	703	8.0
B19	Malignant neoplasms	54	8.7	5,778	0.9
BE50	All other external causes	16	2.6	105	15.2
B42	Congenital anomalies	11	1.8	312	3.5
<b>25-34 years</b>					
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	116	25.8	894	13.0
B19	Malignant neoplasms	71	15.8	5,778	1.2
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	65	14.4	367	17.7
BE48	All other accidents	37	8.2	703	5.3
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	24	5.3	8,779	0.3
BE50	All other external causes	20	4.4	105	19.0
<b>35-44 years</b>					
B19	Malignant neoplasms	171	21.1	5,778	3.0
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	158	19.5	8,779	1.8
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	74	9.1	894	8.3
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	62	7.7	4,008	1.5
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	60	7.4	367	16.3
BE48	All other accidents	45	5.6	703	6.4
<b>45-54 years</b>					
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	737	31.2	8,779	8.4
B19	Malignant neoplasms	705	29.8	5,778	12.2
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	180	7.6	4,008	4.5
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	78	3.3	289	27.0
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	77	3.3	367	21.0
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	74	3.1	894	8.3
<b>55-64 years</b>					
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	1,606	35.2	8,779	18.3
B19	Malignant neoplasms	1,319	28.9	5,778	22.8
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	405	8.9	4,008	10.1
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	196	4.3	1,202	16.3
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	99	2.2	289	34.3
B29	Other forms of heart disease	92	2.0	1,148	8.0
<b>65-74 years</b>					
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	2,650	36.2	8,779	30.2
B19	Malignant neoplasms	1,710	23.4	5,778	29.6
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	932	12.7	4,008	23.3
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	390	5.3	1,202	32.4
B29	Other forms of heart disease	188	2.6	1,148	16.4
B21	Diabetes mellitus	183	2.5	569	32.2

VICTORIA—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, 1975—*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)
<b>75 years and over</b>					
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	3,604	29.6	8,779	41.1
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	2,404	19.7	4,008	60.0
B19	Malignant neoplasms	1,686	13.8	5,778	29.2
B29	Other forms of heart disease	763	6.3	1,148	66.5
B46 (part)	Arteriosclerosis	703	5.8	829	84.8
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	484	4.0	1,202	40.3

(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 1975 there were 10,499 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart including 3 due to rheumatic fever with heart involvement, 296 due to chronic rheumatic heart disease, 273 to hypertensive heart disease, 5,682 to acute myocardial infarction, 3,097 to other ischaemic heart disease, and 1,148 to other forms of heart disease. The total of these causes in 1975 represented a rate of 2,851 per million of the mean population. Only a small proportion of deaths from heart diseases occurs at ages under 45 years. However, as the previous table shows, ischaemic heart disease is the major cause of death at ages 55 years and over. Deaths in 1975 from this cause by sex and age group are shown in the following table :

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HEART DISEASES  
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1975

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	..	..	1	..	..	1
	F	..	..	..	2	..	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease (393-398)	M	10	19	23	28	33	113
	F	11	22	42	45	63	183
Hypertensive heart disease (402, 404)	M	4	1	14	30	47	96
	F	..	2	9	37	129	177
Acute myocardial infarction (410)	M	62	345	824	1,183	1,028	3,442
	F	18	83	262	654	1,223	2,240
Other ischaemic heart disease (411- 414)	M	84	269	395	546	556	1,850
	F	18	40	125	267	797	1,247
Other forms of heart disease (420- 429)	M	34	37	66	106	283	526
	F	17	17	26	82	480	622
Total	M	194	671	1,323	1,893	1,947	6,028
	F	64	164	464	1,087	2,692	4,471

(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 1975 numbered 5,778 and represented a rate of 1,569 per million of the mean population.

Deaths from malignant neoplasms are prominent at most age periods, but the rates in the following table show characteristic increases with age, reaching a maximum mortality rate in the oldest age group. Ninety-four per cent of the deaths from malignant neoplasms in the year 1975 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 seven censuses, when the numbers of persons in age groups were accurately known and the results are shown 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 by age group						
	1920-1922	1932-1934	1946-1948	1953-1955	1960-1962	1965-1967	1970-1972
<b>MALES</b>							
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
<b>FEMALES</b>							
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 1975 in age groups according to the site of the disease :

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS  
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1975

Site of disease (a)	Sex	Age group (years)				Total
		Under 25	25-44	45-64	65 and over	
Buccal cavity and pharynx (140-149)	M	..	5	48	38	91
	F	..	2	14	20	36
Oesophagus (150)	M	..	1	34	55	90
	F	..	..	11	46	57
Stomach (151)	M	..	9	75	151	235
	F	1	4	38	122	165
Intestine, except rectum (152, 153)	M	..	11	117	202	330
	F	1	12	114	269	396
Rectum and rectosigmoid junction (154)	M	..	4	63	85	152
	F	1	2	42	65	110
Trachea, bronchus, and lung (162)	M	2	15	353	537	907
	F	..	4	82	85	171
Breast (174)	M	..	..	3	2	5
	F	..	54	203	236	493
Cervix uteri (180)	F	1	3	51	51	106
Other and unspecified parts of uterus (181, 182)	F	..	4	27	58	89
Ovary, fallopian tube, and broad ligament (183)	F	4	5	73	51	133
Prostate (185)	M	..	..	31	259	290
Bladder (188)	M	1	..	21	81	103
	F	..	2	10	29	41
Other and unspecified urinary organs (189)	M	3	2	22	27	54
	F	1	1	17	25	44
Brain and other parts of nervous system (191, 192)	M	18	14	45	21	98
	F	14	6	28	19	67
Leukaemia (204-207)	M	21	6	17	44	88
	F	16	6	21	55	98
Other neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic system (200-203, 208, 209)	M	6	17	55	75	153
	F	2	7	64	88	161
All other and unspecified sites	M	15	31	208	292	546
	F	9	15	137	308	469
Total	M	66	115	1,092	1,869	3,142
	F	50	127	932	1,527	2,636

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

*Cerebrovascular disease*

In 1975, 1,609 male and 2,399 female deaths were ascribed to cerebrovascular diseases, the total corresponding to a rate of 1,088 per million of the mean population. The table on pages 266 and 267 shows that cerebrovascular diseases appear as one of the leading causes of death at ages 35 years and over; they have become an increasing proportion of deaths at higher ages accounting for 60 per cent of deaths at ages 75 years and over. Deaths from this cause according to sex and age are shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES  
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1975

Cause of death (a)	Sex	Age group (years)					Total
		Under 45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	
Subarachnoid haemorrhage (430)	M	24	33	21	13	7	98
	F	18	30	27	19	23	117
Cerebral haemorrhage (431)	M	20	30	79	96	117	342
	F	9	29	52	119	248	457
Cerebral infarction (432-434)	M	2	6	40	102	192	342
	F	2	11	21	105	448	587
Acute but ill-defined cerebrovascular disease (436)	M	5	27	86	219	317	654
	F	6	10	62	188	672	938
Other and ill-defined cerebrovascular diseases (435, 437, 438)	M	..	1	11	41	120	173
	F	1	3	6	30	260	300
Total	M	51	97	237	471	753	1,609
	F	36	83	168	461	1,651	2,399

(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 1975 deaths from diseases of the respiratory system numbered 1,980, which represented a rate of 538 per million of the mean population. Of these deaths in 1975, 40 were due to influenza, 41 to other acute respiratory infections, 546 to pneumonia, 1,202 to bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma, and 151 to other diseases.

The 40 deaths from influenza in 1975 represented a rate of 11 per million of the mean population. Eighty-three per cent of the deaths were of persons at ages 50 years and over.

*Diseases of the digestive system*

In 1975 there were 428 male and 348 female deaths from diseases of the digestive system, representing a rate of 211 per million of the mean population. Deaths from causes in this group in 1975 were: 158 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 2 from gastritis and duodenitis, 7 from appendicitis, 78 from intestinal obstruction and hernia, 13 from chronic enteritis and ulcerative colitis, 289 from cirrhosis of the liver, 43 from cholelithiasis and cholecystitis, and 186 from other diseases.

*Diabetes mellitus*

During 1975 diabetes was responsible for 275 male and 294 female deaths, representing a rate of 155 per million of the mean population.

The rates for previous periods were 172 in 1974, 174 in 1973, 162 in 1972, 161 in 1971, and 183 in 1970.

*Diseases of the genito-urinary system*

In 1975 there were 348 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. This number represented a rate of 94 per million of the mean population. In 1975 nephritis and nephrosis were responsible for 140 deaths, infections of the kidney for 78, calculi of the urinary system for 9, hyperplasia of prostate for 42, and other diseases of the genito-urinary system for 79.

*Tuberculosis*

The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1975 was 32, the rate per million of mean population being 9.

Deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1975 numbered 23 and equalled a rate of 6 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 1975 tuberculosis of the respiratory system was responsible for 72 per cent of the total deaths from tuberculosis. Of the 17 males and 6 females dying from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1975, only two males were under the age of 45 years.

*Deaths from external causes*

Deaths in 1975 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 1975 male deaths from external causes were 64 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 for the years 1971 to 1975 are shown in the following table:

## 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
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
1974	1,563,600	915	5.9	251
1975	1,652,100	894	5.4	243

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

(b) Deaths of pedestrians included in this column numbered 257, 263, 238, 225, and 201 respectively.

*Transport accidents*

In 1975 deaths from all transport accidents numbered 938, compared with 962 in 1974, 1,032 in 1973, 1,024 in 1972 and 1,126 in 1971. During 1975 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 1975 totalled 55.

*Suicide and self-inflicted injury*

In 1975 deaths from suicide or wilfully self-inflicted injury numbered 243 males and 124 females. These deaths represented a rate of 100 per million of the mean population. Of the 243 male deaths in 1975, 96 were connected with firearms and explosives, and 47 with poisoning by solid or liquid substances. The latter accounted for 72 of the 124 female deaths.

*Homicide*

The number of deaths ascribed to homicide and registered in 1975 was 48 (33 males and 15 females).

## VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HOMICIDE (a)

Year	Males	Females	Total
1971	44	12	56
1972	33	19	52
1973	34	24	58
1974	54	26	80
1975	33	15	48

(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 14 in 1971-1975 (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 in 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 1971 to 1975:

#### AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF INFANT DEATHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
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
1974	1,428	989	606	312	327	123	103	70	3,958
1975	1,231	806	547	222	271	128	58	62	3,325

#### AUSTRALIA—INFANT DEATH RATES (a)

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
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
1974	16.6	14.9	16.0	15.5	16.2	16.6	36.7	16.0	16.14
1975	15.2	13.0	15.0	11.1	13.3	18.3	27.4	14.2	14.27

(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 Victoria, and for the whole of Victoria, for the years 1971 to 1975, are shown in the following table. Figures relate to the Melbourne Statistical Division as defined for the 1971 Census (see pages 232-3).

#### VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS

Year	Melbourne Statistical Division		Remainder of Victoria		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
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
1974	708	14.9	281	14.9	989	14.9
1975	591	13.5	215	12.0	806	13.0

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 1975 the rate was 13.0, 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 1.2 in 1971-1975, a decrease of 89 per cent, and that for infants "one month and under one year" from 41.2 to 4.1, 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 1971-75. The rate per 1,000 live births for infants "under one week" has declined from 21.5 in the quinquennium 1910-1914 to 9.1 in 1971-1975. In 1975 the mortality of infants "under one week" comprised 57 per cent of the total infant mortality.

The following tables show mortality rates at certain ages under one year for the years 1971 to 1975:

## 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	
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
1974	9.3	1.6	1.2	1.6	1.3	14.9
1975	7.5	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.1	13.0

## VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS AT CERTAIN AGES BY SEX, 1975

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	271	51	48	69	36	475
Rate (a)	4.4	0.8	0.8	1.1	0.6	7.7
Percentage of total	57.1	10.7	10.1	14.5	7.6	100.0
<b>Females—</b>						
Number	192	32	37	37	33	331
Rate (a)	3.1	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	5.3
Percentage of total	58.0	9.7	11.2	11.2	10.0	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 1971-1975 exceeded the female rate by 23 per cent.

## VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS AT CERTAIN AGES, BY CAUSE, 1975

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)	3	..	..	..	..	3
Other maternal conditions unrelated to pregnancy (761)	18	1	..	..	..	19
Toxaemias of pregnancy (762)	29	1	..	..	..	30
Maternal ante- and intrapartum infection (763)	4	..	..	..	1	5
Difficult labour (764-768)	17	1	..	..	..	18
Other complications of pregnancy and childbirth (769)	135	7	..	..	..	142
Conditions of placenta (770)	37	1	..	..	..	38
Conditions of umbilical cord (771)	9	..	..	..	..	9
Birth injury and termination of pregnancy without mention of cause (772, 773)	1	..	..	..	..	1
Haemolytic disease of newborn (774, 775)	3	..	..	..	..	3
Anoxic and hypoxic conditions, not elsewhere classified (776)	69	1	..	2	..	72
Immaturity, unqualified (777)	11	..	..	..	..	11
Other conditions of newborn (778, 779)	2	..	..	..	1	3
Congenital anomalies (740-759)	107	52	22	16	13	210
Infections (000-136)	8	12	4	5	2	31
Pneumonia (480-486)	4	2	5	6	2	19
Other diseases (140-474, 490-738, 780-796)	6	5	51	75	43	180
Inhalation or ingestion of food or other object causing obstruction or suffocation, and accidental mechanical suffocation (E911-E913)	..	..	1	..	1	2
Other external causes (E800-E910, E914-E999)	..	..	2	2	6	10
<b>Total all causes</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>806</b>

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

*Perinatal deaths*

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

Perinatal deaths comprise:

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

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

## VICTORIA—PERINATAL DEATHS

Year	Stillbirths	Neonatal deaths			Total perinatal deaths
		Under one week	One week but less than one month	Total neonatal deaths	
1971	(a)760	701	81	782	(a)1,542
1972	842	707	72	779	1,621
1973	802	615	74	689	1,491
1974	787	614	106	720	1,507
1975	713	463	83	546	1,259

(a) Stillbirth totals for 1971 relate to stillbirths of 28 weeks or more gestation. The figures for 1972 to 1975 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 one week	One week but less than one month	Total neonatal deaths	
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
1974 (b)	11.7	9.3	1.6	10.9	22.5
1975 (b)	11.4	7.5	1.3	8.8	20.1

(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 footnote (a) to previous table.

## 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 1971 to 1975 is shown in the following table :

## VICTORIA—CREMATIONS AND DEATHS

Year	Total cremations	Total deaths	Percentage of cremations to deaths
1971	11,134	30,598	36.39
1972	11,226	29,856	37.60
1973	11,667	30,696	38.01
1974	11,841	30,875	38.35
1975	11,508	29,499	39.01

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