

## VITAL STATISTICS

### 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 On this date, the Act superseded the marriage laws of all the States, the two mainland Territories, and Norfolk Island.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 vital statistics in Victoria from 1973 to 1977 are shown in the following table:

#### VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Year	Number registered				Infant death rate (deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)
	Marriages	Live births	Deaths	Infant deaths (a)	
1973	30,203	67,123	30,696	958	14.3
1974	29,708	66,201	30,875	989	14.9
1975	27,806	61,897	29,499	806	13.0
1976	28,760	60,667	30,753	702	11.6
1977	27,558	59,518	29,478	653	11.0

(a) Included in deaths.

## Marriages

Marriages registered in Victoria in 1977 numbered 27,558, a decrease of 1,202 on the number registered in 1976.

## AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF MARRIAGES

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1973	40,722	<b>30,203</b>	16,490	10,806	9,102	3,395	513	1,469	112,700
1974	39,327	<b>29,708</b>	16,086	10,769	9,295	3,567	566	1,355	110,673
1975	36,958	<b>27,806</b>	15,230	9,843	9,026	3,242	406	1,462	103,973
1976	38,487	<b>28,760</b>	16,703	10,902	9,517	3,477	541	1,586	109,973
1977	36,159	<b>27,558</b>	15,737	10,126	10,063	3,166	618	1,491	104,918

## VICTORIA—RELATIVE AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES, 1976

Ages of bride-grooms (a) (years)	Ages of brides (a) (years)															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	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
17	—	—	7	10	7	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28
18	—	3	56	112	115	70	32	33	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	429
19	—	3	64	144	284	261	102	74	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	943
20	—	2	73	157	412	545	414	349	28	1	—	1	—	—	—	1,982
21 to 24	1	6	106	329	1,111	1,846	2,215	4,994	663	75	23	3	—	—	1	11,373
25 to 29	—	3	50	96	261	401	621	2,990	1,834	393	85	19	8	3	3	6,764
30 to 34	—	—	5	11	33	66	84	606	954	488	153	43	14	3	2,460	
35 to 39	—	—	2	1	4	11	18	135	386	375	231	101	37	12	1,313	
40 to 44	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	55	137	221	190	131	67	46	853	
45 to 49	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	18	56	131	137	181	167	99	795	
50 to 54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	25	45	69	126	170	201	642	
55 to 59	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	4	17	36	56	95	225	436	
60 to 64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	8	16	38	234	303	
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	9	7	19	397	438	
Total brides	1	17	363	862	2,229	3,209	3,490	9,264	4,106	1,758	941	684	615	1,221	28,760	

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

## VICTORIA—RELATIVE AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES, 1977 (a)

Ages of bride-grooms (a) (years)	Ages of brides (a) (years)															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	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
17	—	—	7	4	6	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
18	—	1	54	71	99	54	23	29	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	334
19	—	—	56	102	255	188	106	94	11	4	—	—	—	—	—	816
20	—	4	54	132	364	503	375	320	24	3	—	—	—	—	—	1,779
21 to 24	1	4	84	277	1,012	1,739	2,192	4,659	646	95	21	4	3	—	10,737	
25 to 29	—	2	28	74	240	369	592	2,995	1,833	427	85	10	2	4	6,661	
30 to 34	—	—	5	15	34	57	83	700	1,057	602	165	46	11	2	2,777	
35 to 39	—	—	—	2	3	10	17	134	359	393	222	80	44	8	1,272	
40 to 44	—	—	—	1	3	—	7	46	119	196	195	153	66	40	826	
45 to 49	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	17	63	104	148	155	139	100	732	
50 to 54	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	6	20	64	66	109	132	160	559	
55 to 59	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	6	6	18	23	51	95	209	410	
60 to 64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	6	12	18	26	192	261	
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	6	6	18	333	368	
Total brides	1	11	289	679	2,017	2,925	3,402	9,012	4,146	1,916	943	632	536	1,049	27,558	

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

**VICTORIA—PERCENTAGES OF BRIDEGROOMS  
AND BRIDES IN AGE GROUPS, 1976 AND 1977**

1976			1977		
Age group (years)	Percentage of total		Age group (years)	Percentage of total	
	Bride- grooms	Brides		Bride- grooms	Brides
14	—	(a)	14	—	(a)
15	—	(a)	15	—	(a)
16	(a)	1.26	16	0.01	1.05
17	0.10	3.00	17	0.08	2.46
18	1.49	7.75	18	1.21	7.32
19	3.28	11.16	19	2.96	10.61
20	6.89	12.13	20	6.46	12.34
21 to 24	39.54	32.21	21 to 24	38.96	32.70
25 to 29	23.52	14.28	25 to 29	24.17	15.04
30 to 34	8.55	6.11	30 to 34	10.08	6.95
35 to 39	4.57	3.27	35 to 39	4.62	3.42
40 to 44	2.97	2.38	40 to 44	3.00	2.29
45 to 49	2.76	2.14	45 to 49	2.66	1.94
50 to 54	2.23	1.66	50 to 54	2.03	1.52
55 to 59	1.52	1.05	55 to 59	1.49	0.90
60 and over	2.58	1.53	60 and over	2.28	1.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

(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									
1973	—	—	1	31	588	1,216	2,346	4,182	13.85
1974	—	—	4	48	582	1,299	2,407	4,340	14.61
1975	—	—	5	36	443	1,165	2,297	3,946	14.19
1976	—	—	1	28	429	943	1,982	3,383	11.76
1977	—	—	4	22	334	816	1,779	2,955	10.72
BRIDES									
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
1975	2	17	419	1,030	2,605	3,574	3,900	11,547	41.53
1976	1	17	363	862	2,229	3,209	3,490	10,171	35.37
1977	1	11	289	679	2,017	2,925	3,402	9,324	33.83

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

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

Year	Bridegrooms				Brides			
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced men	All bridegrooms	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced women	All brides
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
1975	24.8	57.5	39.2	27.2	22.2	51.0	36.1	24.5
1976	25.1	57.7	39.4	28.6	22.6	51.2	35.4	25.7
1977	25.1	57.6	38.5	28.6	22.7	50.1	34.8	25.7

(a) Arithmetic mean.

The age in relation to which approximately half the number of bachelors was younger, and approximately half was older (the median age), was 23.7 years in 1976 and 23.8 years in 1977. The corresponding age for spinsters was 21.4 years and 21.5 years. More

bachelors were married at 22 years and spinsters at 20 years (the modal ages) than at any other age in both years.

The following tables show the previous marital status of bridegrooms and brides marrying from 1973 to 1977 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	Divorced men	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced women	
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
1975	24,386	922	2,498	24,392	1,035	2,379	27,806
1976	22,990	1,019	4,751	23,146	1,151	4,463	28,760
1977	21,778	912	4,868	22,033	1,019	4,506	27,558

#### VICTORIA—BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS: NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES, 1940 to 1977

Marriages between—	1976		1977		Previous marital status	Percentage of total				
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage		1940-1949	1950-1959	1960-1969	1976	1977
<b>BRIDEGROOMS</b>										
Bachelors and spinsters	20,748	72.1	19,678	71.4	Bachelors	90.5	89.5	91.6	79.9	79.0
Bachelors and widows	248	0.9	210	0.8	Widowers	4.9	4.5	3.4	3.5	3.3
Bachelors and divorced women	1,994	6.9	1,890	6.9	Divorced men	4.6	6.0	5.0	16.5	17.7
Widowers and spinsters	182	0.6	160	0.6	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Widowers and widows	472	1.6	426	1.5	<b>BRIDES</b>					
Widowers and divorced women	365	1.3	326	1.2	Spinsters	91.4	89.2	91.2	80.5	80.0
Divorced men and spinsters	2,216	7.7	2,195	8.0	Widows	3.9	4.4	3.6	4.0	3.7
Divorced men and widows	431	1.5	383	1.4	Divorced women	4.7	6.4	5.2	15.5	16.4
Divorced men and divorced women	2,104	7.3	2,290	8.3	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total marriages	28,760	100.0	27,558	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. Civil celebrants 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
1973	3,927	13.00	3,376	85.97
1974	4,449	14.98	3,069	68.98
1975	5,459	19.63	3,342	61.22
1976	7,812	27.16	3,430	43.91
1977	8,174	29.66	2,828	34.60

In 1976, the number of marriages celebrated by ministers of religion was 20,948, representing 72.84 per cent of total marriages. Civil marriages numbered 7,812, or 27.16

per cent of the total. In 1977, the former numbered 19,384, representing 70.34 per cent of total marriages, while the latter numbered 8,174 or 29.66 per cent of the total.

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES: RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL, 1976 AND 1977

Category of celebrant	1976		1977	
	Number	Proportion of total marriages	Number	Proportion of total marriages
Ministers of religion —				
Recognised denominations (a) —				
Roman Catholic Church	7,021	24.41	6,790	24.64
Uniting Church in Australia	—	—	2,035	(b) 18.34
The Presbyterian Church of Australia	3,337	11.60	1,715	
The Methodist Church of Australasia	2,267	7.88	1,177	
Congregational Union of Australia	339	1.18	128	
Church of England in Australia	4,616	16.05	4,069	14.77
Orthodox Churches (c)	891	3.10	850	3.08
Churches of Christ in Australia	576	2.00	503	1.83
The Baptist Union of Australia	483	1.68	438	1.59
Presbyterian Church of Australia (Continuing)	—	—	245	0.89
Lutheran Church (c)	219	0.76	212	0.77
Jewry	149	0.52	206	0.75
The Salvation Army	173	0.60	172	0.62
Unitarians	210	0.73	167	0.61
Jehovah's Witnesses	66	0.23	104	0.38
Islam	85	0.30	85	0.31
Seventh-day Adventist Church	57	0.20	80	0.29
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	42	0.15	51	0.19
Christian Brethren	20	0.07	34	0.12
Other denominations	397	1.38	323	1.17
Total ministers of religion	20,948	72.84	19,384	70.34
Civil officers	7,812	27.16	8,174	29.66
Total marriages	28,760	100.00	27,558	100.00

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

(b) The Uniting Church in Australia was formed in June 1977 joining the Methodist, Congregational, and Presbyterian Churches into one body. The Methodist Churches have unanimously joined the Uniting Church; however, some Congregational and Presbyterian Churches have elected to remain autonomous.

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

### Divorce

The Commonwealth *Family Law Act 1975* came into operation throughout Australia on 5 January 1976, repealing the previous Matrimonial Causes legislation which had been operative since 1 February 1961. A Family Court of Australia was established to administer Family Law, including applications for dissolution of marriage and nullity of marriage. Under this new Act, there is only one ground for divorce — that of irretrievable breakdown of a marriage (i.e., irretrievable breakdown of a marriage is established under the law if the husband and wife have separated and have lived apart from each other for a continuous period of not less than twelve months immediately preceding the date of the filing of the application for dissolution of marriage and there is no reasonable likelihood of reconciliation). The adoption of a single ground for dissolution of marriage (where fault is no longer taken into account) contrasts strongly with the previous Matrimonial Causes legislation which provided that a dissolution could be granted on one or more of fourteen grounds (e.g., adultery, desertion, cruelty, etc).

The Act provides that all applications for nullity of marriage shall be based on the ground that the marriage is void. A void marriage is invalid because of failure to meet a legal requirement, for example, the requirement that parties must not be lawfully married to another person. The Family Law Act makes no provisions for applications for nullity of voidable marriage, as did the Matrimonial Causes legislation.

Successful applicants for decrees of dissolution of marriage are, in the first instance, awarded a decree nisi. A decree nisi becomes absolute at the expiration of a period of one

month from the making of the decree, unless it is rescinded, appealed against, or the court is not satisfied that proper arrangements have been made for the welfare of children of the marriage. Decrees nisi are not awarded in respect of proceedings for nullity of marriage.

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

During 1976, 3,712 decrees were granted under Matrimonial Causes legislation and 12,921 decrees were granted under Family Law legislation in Victoria. The total figure for 1976 shows a marked increase over figures for previous years. However, caution should be used in interpreting this figure, since part of the increase may be due to deferment of applications for divorces pending the introduction of the new legislation. As well, statistics of divorces granted on an annual basis do not necessarily indicate precise trends in divorce rates as the figures may be affected from year to year by various administrative factors, for example, the occurrence of law vacations, and the availability of courts or judges (i.e., a rise in one year may be due wholly or in part to the clearing of a backlog of cases from an earlier period).

As the number of divorces granted under the Matrimonial Causes legislation in 1976 represents a considerable proportion of all divorces granted in 1976, the following tables show data separately for the two legislations:

VICTORIA—DIVORCE: DECREES GRANTED:  
DISSOLUTION AND NULLITY OF MARRIAGE,  
1976

Decrees granted	<i>Matrimonial Causes Act 1959</i>	<i>Family Law Act 1975</i>	Total
Dissolution	3,706	12,919	16,625
Nullity	6	2	8
Total	3,712	12,921	16,633

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: DECREES GRANTED  
(MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACT 1959): AGES OF PARTIES  
(AT DATE OF DECREE), 1976

Ages of husbands (years)	Ages of wives (years)										Total husbands
	Under 21	21-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 and over	Not stated	
Under 21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21-24	9	69	15	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	96
25-29	4	166	416	36	1	—	—	—	—	—	623
30-34	1	26	369	387	37	3	3	—	—	—	826
35-39	—	3	55	307	238	27	3	—	1	—	634
40-44	—	—	12	58	214	155	33	9	2	—	483
45-49	—	—	3	17	45	151	154	30	8	—	408
50-54	—	—	—	3	16	28	102	117	21	—	287
55 and over	—	—	1	3	4	16	46	94	185	—	349
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total wives	14	264	871	814	555	380	341	250	217	—	3,706

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: DECREES GRANTED  
(FAMILY LAW ACT 1975): AGES OF PARTIES (AT DATE OF DECREE), 1976**

Ages of husbands (years)	Ages of wives (years)										Total husbands
	Under 21	21-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 and over	Not stated	
Under 21	13	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
21-24	89	502	67	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	662
25-29	43	977	1,654	166	12	6	1	—	—	3	2,862
30-34	4	139	1,209	1,014	98	10	3	3	1	1	2,482
35-39	1	29	205	789	678	78	12	5	5	3	1,805
40-44	—	6	27	210	580	461	90	19	6	2	1,401
45-49	—	2	11	61	199	447	467	97	33	2	1,319
50-54	—	1	6	15	51	170	360	342	111	2	1,058
55 and over	1	1	4	7	23	42	142	351	714	8	1,293
Not stated	1	2	9	3	—	—	2	3	—	3	23
<b>Total wives</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>1,660</b>	<b>3,192</b>	<b>2,267</b>	<b>1,642</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>12,919</b>

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: DECREES GRANTED  
(MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACT 1959): DURATION OF MARRIAGE  
AND ISSUE, 1976**

Duration of marriage (years)	Number of children							Total dis- solutions	Total children
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 and over		
1	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	2
2	26	3	1	—	1	—	—	31	9
3	26	13	2	—	—	—	—	41	17
4	77	34	6	1	2	—	—	120	57
5	92	77	29	4	—	2	—	204	157
6	97	93	41	4	—	1	—	236	192
7	75	95	64	15	1	1	—	251	277
8	53	94	72	14	6	—	—	239	304
9	39	69	76	18	12	—	—	214	323
10	34	45	72	31	5	3	—	190	317
11	22	47	79	28	14	2	1	193	361
12	16	22	60	39	16	8	—	161	363
13	12	31	59	39	13	3	—	157	333
14	12	19	45	42	8	5	3	134	310
15-19	55	67	170	160	72	29	14	567	1,408
20-24	52	61	111	86	50	20	12	392	921
25-29	131	75	58	28	12	5	3	312	367
30 and over	200	41	9	7	1	—	1	259	90
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total dissolutions of marriage</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>3,706</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Total children</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>1,548</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>5,808</b>

NOTE: Children are those living and under 21 at the time of petition. Includes children deemed to be children of the marriage in accordance with section 6 of the Commonwealth *Matrimonial Causes Act 1959*.

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: DECREES GRANTED  
(FAMILY LAW ACT 1975): DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1976**

Duration of marriage (years)	Number of children							Total dis- solutions	Total children
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 and over		
1	59	6	—	1	—	—	—	66	9
2	311	76	8	1	—	—	—	396	95
3	560	184	36	3	1	—	—	784	269
4	559	298	73	7	5	—	3	945	503
5	478	350	130	12	4	—	—	974	662

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: DECREES GRANTED  
(FAMILY LAW ACT 1975): DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1976—*continued*

Duration of marriage (years)	Number of children							Total dissolutions	Total children
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 and over		
6	413	293	167	19	3	1	—	896	701
7	282	258	194	44	6	1	1	786	813
8	193	207	242	60	9	2	—	713	917
9	122	149	225	72	11	2	1	582	875
10	108	130	225	68	21	3	—	555	883
11	76	107	196	94	19	3	2	497	884
12	65	70	145	84	31	6	—	401	766
13	47	57	164	93	39	9	3	412	884
14	40	39	125	75	36	13	6	34	759
15-19	186	226	467	394	209	59	41	1,582	3,726
20-24	372	338	286	133	53	27	4	1,213	1,682
25-29	623	207	84	23	13	—	2	952	508
30 and over	737	73	16	4	—	—	—	830	117
Not stated	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total dissolutions of marriage	5,232	3,068	2,783	1,187	460	126	63	12,919	..
Total children	—	3,068	5,566	3,561	1,840	630	388	..	15,053

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

### Births

The number of births registered in Victoria during the year 1977 was 59,518.

Stillbirths, which are excluded from births and deaths, numbered 567 and corresponded to a rate of 9.44 per 1,000 births live and still in 1977. The compulsory registration of stillborn children became effective in 1953.

The following table shows the number of births in each State and Territory from 1973 to 1977:

### AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1973	87,332	<b>67,123</b>	38,067	20,407	20,510	7,326	2,809	4,096	247,670
1974	86,162	<b>66,201</b>	37,852	20,181	20,207	7,398	2,808	4,368	245,177
1975	80,918	<b>61,897</b>	36,403	19,986	20,338	6,982	2,118	4,370	233,012
1976	78,492	<b>60,667</b>	35,243	18,947	20,670	6,702	2,607	4,482	227,810
1977	77,996	<b>59,518</b>	34,935	19,260	20,651	6,735	2,558	4,638	226,291

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

Year	Males	Females	Total	Masculinity (a)	Confinements average age (b)		
					Nuptial		Ex-nuptial
					Father	Mother	Mother (c)
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	29.6	26.7	23.2
1976	31,068	29,599	60,667	104.96	29.7	26.8	23.3
1977	30,803	28,715	59,518	107.27	29.9	27.0	23.2

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

(b) Arithmetic mean.

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



**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: AGE GROUP OF MOTHER AND PREVIOUS ISSUE, 1977**

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	2,233	433	22	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,691
20-24	9,020	6,003	1,409	216	25	3	—	—	—	—	—	16,676
25-29	7,220	8,989	4,552	1,104	234	42	12	6	1	—	—	22,160
30-34	2,024	3,102	2,953	1,256	365	157	51	19	6	7	—	9,940
35-39	431	580	624	471	240	153	64	49	18	22	—	2,652
40-44	91	87	74	46	63	41	29	22	17	24	—	494
45-49	6	2	6	4	3	3	1	—	—	5	—	30
50 and over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Age not stated	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,027</b>	<b>19,197</b>	<b>9,640</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>54,646</b>
Proportion of total married mothers	38.48	35.13	17.64	5.67	1.70	0.73	0.29	0.18	0.08	0.11	—	100.00

**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS:  
NUMBER OF MOTHERS IN AGE GROUPS,  
TOTAL ISSUE, AND AVERAGE ISSUE, 1977**

Age group of mother (years)	Number of mothers	Total issue	Average issue
Under 20	2,691	3,186	1.18
20-24	16,676	26,390	1.58
25-29	22,160	45,012	2.03
30-34	9,940	25,636	2.58
35-39	2,652	8,735	3.29
40-44	494	2,037	4.12
45-49	30	142	4.73
50 and over	1	2	2.00
Age not stated	2	2	1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,646</b>	<b>111,142</b>	<b>2.03</b>

**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: RELATIVE AGE GROUPS OF PARENTS, 1977**

Age group of father (years)	Age group of mother (years)								Total fathers	
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50 and over		Not stated
Under 20	388	70	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	460
20-24	1,648	6,133	779	63	6	1	—	—	1	8,631
25-29	517	8,434	11,628	1,057	86	8	—	1	1	21,732
30-34	108	1,666	7,936	5,137	395	31	1	—	—	15,274
35-39	20	287	1,443	2,822	1,108	87	1	—	—	5,768
40-44	4	52	270	651	756	173	5	—	—	1,911
45-49	2	12	71	152	234	142	15	—	—	628
50 and over	1	11	25	52	64	51	8	—	—	212
Not stated	3	11	7	5	3	1	—	—	—	30
<b>Married mothers</b>	<b>2,691</b>	<b>16,676</b>	<b>22,160</b>	<b>9,940</b>	<b>2,652</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>54,646</b>

VICTORIA—NUPTIAL FIRST BIRTHS: AGE GROUP OF MOTHER AND  
DURATION OF MARRIAGE, 1977

Age group of mother (years)	Duration of marriage															Total nuptial first births		
	Months										Years							
	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	3		4	5 and over
Under 20	25	55	79	167	227	312	209	70	80	108	101	102	572	105	18	2	1	2,233
20-24	35	27	45	96	150	265	204	118	135	236	248	229	2,451	2,357	1,525	647	252	9,020
25-29	18	20	26	40	56	94	72	52	71	108	101	114	1,076	1,109	1,217	1,178	1,868	7,220
30-34	9	15	10	16	23	38	28	25	41	51	48	50	385	255	215	177	638	2,024
35-39	4	4	1	2	7	4	6	12	11	22	12	20	103	57	32	23	111	431
40-44	—	—	2	2	1	1	3	2	—	3	2	5	17	8	13	5	27	91
45-49	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	1	1	6
50 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Total	91	121	163	323	464	714	522	279	338	528	512	520	4,606	3,895	3,020	2,033	2,898	21,027

VICTORIA—MULTIPLE CONFINEMENTS (a)

Year	Cases of twins	Cases of triplets	Total multiple cases	Total confinements	Multiple cases per 1,000 total confinements
1973	703	7	710	66,411	10.69
1974	593	3	596	65,606	9.08
1975	573	6	579	61,315	9.44
1976	663	5	(b) 669	60,017	11.15
1977	524	5	(b) 530	58,992	8.98

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

(b) Includes 1 case of quadruplets.

On the average of the five years 1973 to 1977, mothers of twins were one in 102 of all mothers whose confinements were recorded, mothers of triplets one in 12,013, and mothers of all multiple births one in 101.

The following tables show details of ex-nuptial births in each State and Territory for the years 1973 to 1977 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.
1973	8,726	<b>4,611</b>	5,241	1,800	2,497	743	383	197	24,198
1974	8,371	<b>4,394</b>	4,955	1,879	2,352	788	458	211	23,408
1975	8,291	<b>4,395</b>	5,034	1,943	2,527	758	495	262	23,705
1976	7,991	<b>4,426</b>	4,664	1,789	2,621	706	614	253	23,064
1977	8,219	<b>4,391</b>	4,656	1,896	2,528	783	577	264	23,314

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.
1973	9.99	<b>6.87</b>	13.77	8.82	12.17	10.14	13.63	4.81	9.77
1974	9.72	<b>6.64</b>	13.09	9.31	11.64	10.65	16.31	4.83	9.55
1975	10.25	<b>7.10</b>	13.83	9.72	12.43	10.86	23.37	6.00	10.17
1976	10.18	<b>7.30</b>	13.23	9.44	12.68	10.53	23.55	5.64	10.12
1977	10.54	<b>7.38</b>	13.33	9.84	12.24	11.63	22.56	5.69	10.30

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

Age of mother (years)	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
13	3	5	—	—	3
14	16	19	16	18	20
15	113	116	87	102	94
16	278	270	291	233	243
17	461	448	409	388	404
18	503	515	462	403	420
19	436	393	404	433	404
20	385	349	336	325	366
21-24	1,026	925	960	1,031	973
25-29	765	757	795	822	834
30-34	325	323	398	412	381
35-39	189	190	158	171	159
40-44	70	46	41	37	35
45 and over	6	3	1	1	6
Not stated	4	2	3	9	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,580</b>	<b>4,361</b>	<b>4,361</b>	<b>4,385</b>	<b>4,346</b>

## VICTORIA—ADOPTIONS AND LEGITIMATIONS

Year	Number of children	
	Adopted (a)	Legitimated (b)
1973	1,766	596
1974	1,490	551
1975	1,229	489
1976	1,130	517
1977	1,179	415

(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

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

## AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF DEATHS

Year of registration	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1973	41,122	<b>30,696</b>	16,732	9,835	7,845	3,347	580	665	110,822
1974	43,999	<b>30,875</b>	18,128	10,236	7,778	3,484	575	758	115,833
1975	40,497	<b>29,499</b>	16,421	9,947	7,972	3,339	610	736	109,021
1976	42,122	<b>30,753</b>	17,239	9,999	7,740	3,389	567	853	112,662
1977	40,380	<b>29,478</b>	16,408	9,784	7,899	3,269	784	788	108,790

## Causes of death

## Classification

Causes of death in Australia from 1968 onwards have been classified according to the Eighth (1965) Revision of the World Health Organization's (WHO) International

Classification of Diseases (ICD8). Particulars relate to the underlying cause of death, which WHO has defined as the disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death. Accidental and violent deaths are classified according to the external cause, that is, to the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury, rather than to the nature of the injury.

## VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH: NUMBERS AND RATES, 1977

World Health Assembly List B cause group	Cause of death (a)	ICD8 category code numbers	Number of deaths	Proportion of total	Rate per 1,000,000 of mean population
B4	Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	008,009	54	0.18	14
B5	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	010-012	29	0.10	8
B6	Other tuberculosis, including late effects	013-019	9	0.03	2
B11	Meningococcal infection	036	2	0.01	1
B14	Measles	055	3	0.01	1
B17	Syphilis and its sequelae	090-097	3	0.01	1
B18	All other infective and parasitic diseases	(b)	56	0.19	15
B19	Malignant neoplasms—				
	Digestive organs and peritoneum	150-159	1,993	6.76	527
	Lung	162	1,258	4.27	333
	Skin	172,173	150	0.51	40
	Breast	174	507	1.72	134
	Genital organs	180-187	639	2.17	169
	Urinary organs	188,189	239	0.81	63
	Leukaemia and aleukaemia	204-207	214	0.73	57
	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	(c)	1,003	3.40	265
B20	Benign and unspecified neoplasms	210-239	51	0.17	13
B21	Diabetes mellitus	250	502	1.70	133
B22	Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency	260-269	16	0.05	4
B23	Anaemias	280-285	63	0.21	17
B24	Meningitis	320	12	0.04	3
B25	Active rheumatic fever	390-392	5	0.02	1
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	393-398	256	0.87	68
B27	Hypertensive disease	400-404	398	1.35	105
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	410-414	8,645	29.33	2,286
B29	Other forms of heart disease	420-429	1,186	4.02	314
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	430-438	3,673	12.46	971
B31	Influenza	470-474	21	0.07	6
B32	Pneumonia	480-486	594	2.02	157
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	490-493	1,269	4.30	336
B34	Peptic ulcer	531-533	169	0.57	45
B35	Appendicitis	540-543	10	0.03	3
B36	Intestinal obstruction and hernia	550-553,560	76	0.26	20
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	571	311	1.06	82
B38	Nephritis and nephrosis	580-584	174	0.59	46
B39	Hyperplasia of prostate	600	48	0.16	13
B41	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium	{ 630-639 } { 650-678 }	4	0.01	1
B42	Congenital anomalies	740-759	321	1.09	85
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	{ 764-768 } { 772,776 }	72	0.24	19
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	{ 760-763 } { 769-771 } { 773-775 } { 777-779 }	198	0.67	52
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	780-796	145	0.49	38
	General arteriosclerosis	440	741	2.51	196
	Other diseases of circulatory system	441-458	564	1.91	149
B46	Other diseases of respiratory system	{ 460-466 } { 500-519 }	158	0.54	42
	All other diseases	Residual	1,256	4.26	332
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	E810-E823	1,048	3.56	277
BE48	All other accidents	{ E800-E807 } { E825-E949 }	777	2.64	205
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injury	E950-E959	450	1.53	119
BE50	All other external causes	E960-E999	106	0.36	28
Total all causes			29,478	100.00	7,794

(a) No deaths were recorded in the following categories in 1977: 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. 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.

In 1977, 16,168 male and 13,310 female deaths were registered.

VICTORIA—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, 1977

World Health Assembly List B cause group	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>					
B42	Congenital anomalies	216	33.1	321	67.3
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	198	30.3	198	100.0
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	81	12.4	145	55.9
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour, and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	71	10.9	72	98.6
B4	Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	20	3.1	54	37.0
BE48	All other accidents	9	1.4	777	1.2
<b>1-4 years</b>					
BE48	All other accidents	30	22.7	777	3.9
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	28	21.2	1,048	2.7
B42	Congenital anomalies	23	17.4	321	7.2
B19	Malignant neoplasms	10	7.6	6,003	0.2
B32	Pneumonia	7	5.3	594	1.2
B46 (part)	Other diseases of respiratory system	4	3.0	158	2.5
<b>5-14 years</b>					
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	72	33.3	1,048	6.9
BE48	All other accidents	36	16.7	777	4.6
B19	Malignant neoplasms	33	15.3	6,003	0.5
B42	Congenital anomalies	24	11.1	321	7.5
BE50	All other external causes	6	2.8	106	5.7
B18	All other infective and parasitic diseases	5	2.3	56	8.9
<b>15-24 years</b>					
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	376	56.9	1,048	35.9
BE48	All other accidents	74	11.2	777	9.5
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	71	10.7	450	15.8
B19	Malignant neoplasms	38	5.7	6,003	0.6
BE50	All other external causes	16	2.4	106	15.1
B42	Congenital anomalies	12	1.8	321	3.7
<b>25-34 years</b>					
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	149	27.6	1,048	14.2
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	93	17.2	450	20.7
B19	Malignant neoplasms	84	15.6	6,003	1.4
BE48	All other accidents	47	8.7	777	6.0
BE50	All other external causes	22	4.1	106	20.8
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	21	3.9	8,645	0.2
<b>35-44 years</b>					
B19	Malignant neoplasms	193	25.2	6,003	3.2
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	125	16.3	8,645	1.4
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	85	11.1	1,048	8.1
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	64	8.3	450	14.2
BE48	All other accidents	48	6.3	777	6.2
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	48	6.3	3,673	1.3
<b>45-54 years</b>					
B19	Malignant neoplasms	736	31.8	6,003	12.3
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	660	28.5	8,645	7.6
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	138	6.0	3,673	3.8
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	94	4.1	311	30.2
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	93	4.0	450	20.7
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	81	3.5	1,048	7.7
<b>55-64 years</b>					
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	1,502	34.2	8,645	17.4
B19	Malignant neoplasms	1,347	30.7	6,003	22.4
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	314	7.2	3,673	8.5
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	191	4.3	1,269	15.1
B29	Other forms of heart disease	113	2.6	1,186	9.5
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	98	2.2	311	31.5
<b>65-74 years</b>					
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	2,568	35.5	8,645	29.7
B19	Malignant neoplasms	1,784	24.7	6,003	29.7
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	887	12.3	3,673	24.1
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	404	5.6	1,269	31.8
B29	Other forms of heart disease	205	2.8	1,186	17.3
B46 (part)	Other diseases of circulatory system	167	2.3	564	29.6

VICTORIA—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, 1977—*continued*

World Health Assembly List B cause group	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	3,768	30.0	8,645	43.6
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	2,261	18.0	3,673	61.6
B19	Malignant neoplasms	1,771	14.1	6,003	29.5
B29	Other forms of heart disease	760	6.0	1,186	64.1
B46					
(part)	Arteriosclerosis	661	5.3	741	89.2
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	568	4.5	1,269	44.8

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

*Diseases of the heart*

During 1977, there were 10,348 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart including 256 due to chronic rheumatic heart disease, 259 to hypertensive heart disease, 5,595 to acute myocardial infarction, 3,050 to other ischaemic heart disease, and 1,186 to other forms of heart disease. 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 1977 from this cause by sex and age group are shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HEART DISEASES  
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1977

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	—	—	1	—	—	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease (393-398)	M	14	11	26	37	26	114
	F	6	15	31	45	45	142
Hypertensive heart disease (402,404)	M	—	3	18	34	49	104
	F	—	2	10	25	118	155
Acute myocardial infarction (410)	M	52	331	761	1,162	1,047	3,353
	F	16	61	238	624	1,303	2,242
Other ischaemic heart disease (411- 414)	M	72	227	379	506	554	1,738
	F	7	41	124	276	864	1,312
Other forms of heart disease (420- 429)	M	30	48	66	115	264	523
	F	13	17	47	90	496	663
Total	M	168	620	1,250	1,854	1,941	5,833
	F	42	136	451	1,060	2,826	4,515

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD8 category code numbers.

*Malignant neoplasms*

Since the introduction of the Eighth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD8) 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 1977 numbered 6,003.

Deaths from malignant neoplasms are prominent at most age periods, but, as the table on page 204 shows, they characteristically increase with age, reaching a maximum number in the two oldest age groups. Ninety-four per cent of the deaths from malignant neoplasms in the year 1977 were at ages 45 years and over.

**VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS  
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1977**

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	3	55	35	94
	F	—	2	23	20	45
Oesophagus (150)	M	—	—	46	59	105
	F	—	—	17	37	54
Stomach (151)	M	—	6	88	148	242
	F	—	6	33	137	176
Intestine, except rectum (152, 153)	M	—	18	110	208	336
	F	1	12	105	259	377
Rectum and rectosigmoid junction (154)	M	—	10	57	84	151
	F	—	2	29	79	110
Trachea, bronchus, and lung (162)	M	1	21	404	608	1,034
	F	—	11	94	119	224
Breast (174)	M	—	1	2	4	7
	F	—	40	211	249	500
Cervix uteri (180)	F	—	4	39	35	78
	F	—	1	15	45	61
Other and unspecified parts of uterus (181, 182)	F	—	11	70	78	159
	F	—	1	33	271	305
Ovary, fallopian tube, and broad ligament (183)	M	—	2	17	75	94
	F	—	—	9	38	47
Other and unspecified urinary organs (189)	M	—	1	23	32	56
	F	1	1	16	24	42
Brain and other parts of nervous system (191,192)	M	8	19	40	19	86
	F	7	9	37	21	74
Leukaemia (204-207)	M	18	12	40	45	115
	F	18	6	27	48	99
Other neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic system (200-203, 208, 209)	M	7	13	60	87	167
	F	5	7	41	62	115
All other and unspecified sites	M	17	38	212	327	594
	F	4	20	130	302	456
Total	M	52	445	1,187	2,002	3,386
	F	36	132	896	1,553	2,617

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD8 category code numbers.

*Cerebrovascular diseases*

In 1977, 1,453 male and 2,220 female deaths were ascribed to cerebrovascular diseases. The table on pages 203 and 204 shows that cerebrovascular diseases (cause group B30) first appears as one of the main causes of death at ages 35 years and over; they become an increasing proportion of deaths in the older age groups accounting for 18 per cent of deaths at ages 75 years and over. Deaths from these diseases by age group and sex are shown in the following table:

**VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES  
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1977**

Cause of death (a)	Sex	Age group (years)					Total
		Under 45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	
Subarachnoid haemorrhage (430)	M	23	16	13	14	3	69
	F	27	29	31	26	14	127
Cerebral haemorrhage (431)	M	8	27	33	90	86	244
	F	7	21	40	81	218	367
Cerebral infarction (432-434)	M	—	12	32	108	165	317
	F	1	1	20	87	375	484
Acute but ill-defined cerebrovascular disease (436)	M	5	21	75	220	353	674
	F	2	9	58	194	676	939
Other and ill-defined cerebrovascular diseases (435, 437, 438)	M	—	2	4	38	105	149
	F	—	—	8	29	266	303
Total	M	36	78	157	470	712	1,453
	F	37	60	157	417	1,549	2,220

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD8 category code numbers.

*Diseases of the respiratory system*

In 1977, deaths from diseases of the respiratory system numbered 2,042. Of these deaths, 21 were due to influenza, 23 to other acute respiratory infections, 594 to pneumonia, 1,269 to bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma, and 135 to other diseases. Of the 21 deaths from influenza in 1977, eighty-one per cent were at ages 50 years and over.

*Diseases of the digestive system*

In 1977, there were 497 male and 311 female deaths from diseases of the digestive system. Deaths from causes in this group in 1977 were: 169 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 3 from gastritis and duodenitis, 10 from appendicitis, 76 from intestinal obstruction and hernia, 12 from chronic enteritis and ulcerative colitis, 311 from cirrhosis of the liver, 38 from cholelithiasis and cholecystitis, and 189 from other diseases.

*Diabetes mellitus*

During 1977, diabetes was responsible for 237 male and 265 female deaths.

*Diseases of the genito-urinary system*

In 1977, there were 383 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. Nephritis and nephrosis were responsible for 174 deaths, infections of the kidney for 82, calculi of the urinary system for 8, hyperplasia of prostate for 48, and other diseases of the genito-urinary system for 71.

*Tuberculosis*

The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1977 was 38. Deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1977 numbered 29 (76 per cent of the total deaths from tuberculosis). Of the 23 males and 6 females dying from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1977, none were under the age of 45 years.

*Deaths from external causes*

External causes of death such as accidents, poisonings, and violence, including homicide and suicide, accounted for 8 per cent of all deaths registered in 1977. However, these causes were responsible for 66 per cent of the deaths of persons aged 1 to 34 years.

The table "Main causes of death in age groups" on pages 203 and 204 shows that external causes (cause groups BE 47-50) predominate in the various age groups after the first year of life to middle age, but become progressively less prominent in the older age groups. In 1977, 65 per cent of all deaths from external causes were male.

*Transport accidents*

In 1977, registration of deaths from all transport accidents numbered 1,106 compared with 960 in 1976, 938 in 1975, 962 in 1974 and 1,032 in 1973. During 1977, deaths connected with transport represented 61 per cent of the total deaths from accidents. Of the 1,106 deaths, 1,048 involved motor vehicles.

*Injury undetermined whether accidentally or purposely inflicted*

In many cases it is not possible to determine whether death from an external cause was accidentally or purposely inflicted, i.e., whether the death was due to accident, suicide, or homicide. Before 1968, such deaths had been included with known accidental deaths. With the introduction of the Eighth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases, a separate category was created to include cases where the mode of infliction was undetermined. Deaths allocated to these categories in 1977 totalled 39.

*Suicide and self-inflicted injury*

In 1977, deaths from suicide or wilfully self-inflicted injury numbered 316 males and 134 females. Of the 316 male deaths in 1977, 107 were connected with firearms and explosives, and 47 with poisoning by solid or liquid substances. The latter accounted for 81 of the 134 female deaths.



*Homicide*

The number of deaths ascribed to homicide and registered in 1977 was 65 (38 males and 27 females).

## VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HOMICIDE (a)

Year	Males	Females	Total
1973	34	24	58
1974	54	26	80
1975	33	15	48
1976	37	16	53
1977	38	27	65

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

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

*Infant deaths*

The mortality of children under one year, in proportion to live births, has declined remarkably. The infant death rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) has fallen from 133 in 1885-1889 to 13 in 1973-1977 (a reduction of 90 per cent). In other words, of every 100 infants who died in the earlier period, only 10 would have died in the latter.

A significant part of the reduction in the rate in recent years has been due to fewer infants dying within the first four weeks of life.

## AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF INFANT DEATHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1973	1,491	<b>958</b>	666	276	394	137	100	63	4,085
1974	1,428	<b>989</b>	606	312	327	123	103	70	3,958
1975	1,231	<b>806</b>	547	222	271	128	58	62	3,325
1976	1,152	<b>702</b>	535	276	273	77	59	76	3,150
1977	953	<b>653</b>	478	221	251	99	107	59	2,821

## AUSTRALIA—INFANT DEATH RATES (a)

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1973	17.1	<b>14.3</b>	17.5	13.5	19.2	18.7	35.6	15.4	16.49
1974	16.6	<b>14.9</b>	16.0	15.5	16.2	16.6	36.7	16.0	16.14
1975	15.2	<b>13.0</b>	15.0	11.1	13.3	18.3	27.4	14.2	14.27
1976	14.7	<b>11.6</b>	15.2	14.6	13.2	11.5	22.6	17.0	13.83
1977	12.2	<b>11.0</b>	13.7	11.5	12.2	14.7	41.8	12.7	12.47

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

## 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
1973	681	14.1	277	14.7	958	14.3
1974	702	14.8	287	15.2	989	14.9
1975	591	13.5	215	12.0	806	13.0
1976	486	11.2	216	12.0	702	11.6
1977	471	11.2	182	10.4	653	11.0

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 1977, the rate was 11.0, 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 1.4 in 1973-1977, a decrease of 87 per cent, and that for infants "one month and under one year" from 41.2 to 3.8, a decrease of 91 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 1973-77. The rate per 1,000 live births for infants "under one week" has declined from 21.5 in the quinquennium 1910-1914 to 7.9 in 1973-1977. In 1977, the mortality of infants "under one week" comprised 59 per cent of the total infant mortality.

#### 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	
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
1976	6.9	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.0	11.6
1977	6.5	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	11.0

#### VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS AT CERTAIN AGES BY SEX, 1977

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	222	47	52	41	39	401
Rate (a)	7.2	1.5	1.7	1.3	1.3	13.0
Percentage of total	55.4	11.7	13.0	10.2	9.7	100.0
<b>Females—</b>						
Number	164	25	21	22	20	252
Rate (a)	5.7	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7	8.8
Percentage of total	65.1	9.9	8.3	8.7	7.9	100.0

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

The rate for male infants is consistently higher than that for females, and in the period 1973-1977 exceeded the female rate by 27 per cent.

#### VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS AT CERTAIN AGES, BY CAUSE, 1977

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)	1	—	—	—	—	1
Other maternal conditions unrelated to pregnancy (761)	6	—	—	—	—	6
Toxaemias of pregnancy (762)	25	1	—	—	—	26
Maternal ante- and intrapartum infection (763)	1	—	—	—	—	1
Difficult labour (764-768)	20	—	—	—	—	20
Other complications of pregnancy and childbirth (769)	116	2	—	—	—	118

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS AT CERTAIN AGES, BY CAUSE, 1977—*continued*

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	
Conditions of placenta (770)	28	1	—	—	—	29
Conditions of umbilical cord (771)	7	1	—	—	—	8
Birth injury and termination of pregnancy without mention of cause (772, 773)	1	—	—	—	—	1
Haemolytic disease of newborn (774, 775)	2	—	—	—	—	2
Anoxic and hypoxic conditions, not elsewhere classified (776)	45	3	2	—	—	50
Immaturity, unqualified (777)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other conditions of newborn (778, 779)	5	1	1	—	—	7
Congenital anomalies (740-759)	112	44	28	19	13	216
Infections (000-136)	4	13	4	2	2	25
Pneumonia (480-486)	5	—	—	2	—	7
Other diseases (140-474, 490-738, 780-796)	4	5	35	37	39	120
Inhalation or ingestion of food or other object causing obstruction or suffocation, and accidental mechanical suffocation (E911-E913)	1	—	3	1	2	7
Other external causes (E800-E910, E914-E999)	3	1	—	2	3	9
Total all causes	386	72	73	63	59	653

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD8 category code numbers.

*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 20th 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 of 400 grams weight or more.
- (2) *Neonatal deaths*. The death of a live born child within 28 days of birth, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy.

## VICTORIA—PERINATAL DEATHS

Year	Stillbirths	Neonatal deaths			Total perinatal deaths
		Under one week	One week but less than one month	Total neonatal deaths	
1973	802	615	74	689	1,491
1974	787	614	106	720	1,507
1975	713	463	83	546	1,259
1976	616	418	91	509	1,125
1977	567	386	72	458	1,025

## 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	
1973	11.8	9.2	1.1	10.3	22.0
1974	11.7	9.3	1.6	10.9	22.5
1975	11.4	7.5	1.3	8.8	20.1
1976	10.1	6.9	1.5	8.4	18.4
1977	9.4	6.5	1.2	7.7	17.1

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

**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 1973 to 1977 is shown in the following table:

**VICTORIA—CREMATIONS AND DEATHS**

Year	Total cremations	Total deaths registered	Percentage of cremations to deaths registered
1973	11,677	30,696	38.04
1974	11,841	30,875	38.35
1975	11,508	29,499	39.01
1976	12,097	30,753	39.34
1977	11,699	29,478	39.69

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