

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 On this date the Act superseded the marriage laws of all the States, the two mainland Territories, and Norfolk Island.

Statistical summary

The principal numbers and rates relating to vital statistics in Victoria from 1970 to 1974 are given in the following table :

VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Year	Number				Rate per 1,000 of mean population			Infant death rate (deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)
	Marriages	Live births	Deaths	Infant deaths (a)	Marriages	Live births	Deaths	
1970	31,729	73,019	30,335	1,060	9.20	21.16	8.79	14.5
1971	32,386	75,498	30,598	1,107	9.23	21.51	8.72	14.7
1972	31,206	71,807	29,856	1,048	8.77	20.18	8.39	14.6
1973	30,203	67,123	30,696	958	8.40	18.66	8.53	14.3
1974	29,708	66,201	30,875	989	8.15	18.17	8.47	14.9

(a) Included in deaths.

Marriages

Marriages in Victoria in 1974 numbered 29,708, a decrease of 495 on the number registered in 1973. The rate per 1,000 of mean population in 1974 was 8.15, compared with 8.40 in 1973. 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.
1970	42,928	31,729	16,082	10,864	9,227	3,535	501	1,200	116,066
1971	43,038	32,386	16,538	10,833	9,382	3,578	485	1,397	117,637
1972	41,520	31,206	16,066	10,829	9,120	3,426	490	1,372	114,029
1973	40,722	30,203	16,490	10,806	9,102	3,395	513	1,469	112,700
1974	39,327	29,708	16,086	10,769	9,295	3,567	566	1,355	110,673

AUSTRALIA—MARRIAGE RATES

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.(a)	A.C.T.(a)	Aust.
1970	9.48	9.20	8.96	9.38	9.28	9.11	6.3	9.1	9.26
1971	9.33	9.23	9.03	9.21	9.09	9.15	5.6	9.7	9.20
1972	8.88	8.77	8.58	9.10	8.63	8.71	5.3	8.7	8.78
1973	8.64	8.40	8.59	8.99	8.49	8.55	5.4	8.7	8.56
1974	8.26	8.15	8.17	8.82	8.46	8.88	5.7	7.5	8.27

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

VICTORIA—RELATIVE AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES, 1974

Ages of bridegrooms (a) (years)	Ages of brides (a) (years)														Total bridegrooms
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	25	30	35	40	45	50	
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	8	158	450	1,386	2,374	2,877	5,711	629	62	9	2	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	..	..	1	1	4	7	5	32	92	131	109	98	58	26	564
45 to 49	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	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—1973.

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

A feature of Victorian marriages since the end of the Second World War has been the increase in the proportion of marriages which involve minors. In 1947, 4.82 per cent of bridegrooms and 22.94 per cent of brides were under 21 years of age. In 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	BRIDES				
Widowers and divorcees	223	0.7	Spinsters	91.4	89.2	91.2	89.8
Divorcees and spinsters	1,148	3.9	Widows	3.9	4.4	3.6	3.4
Divorcees and widows	228	0.8	Divorcees	4.7	6.4	5.2	6.8
Divorcees and divorced women	758	2.5	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total marriages	29,708	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 per 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* 1961–1973.

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

Divorce

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

The following table gives the number of petitions filed by husbands and wives, respectively, and the number of dissolutions of marriage and nullities of marriage granted during the year 1974. 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, 1974

Petition for—	Petitions filed by—			Decrees granted to—		
	Husbands	Wives	Total	Husbands	Wives	Total
Dissolution	(a)2,479	(b)4,086	6,565	1,651	2,597	(c)4,257
Nullity	2	3	5	4	10	14
Judicial separation	..	1	1	..	1	1
Total	(a)2,481	(b)4,090	6,571	1,655	2,608	(c)4,272

(a) Includes two petitions for dissolution or nullity.

(b) Includes seven petitions for dissolution or nullity.

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

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

Year	Petitions filed			Decrees granted		
	Dissolution (a)	Nullity	Judicial separation	Dissolution	Nullity	Judicial separation
1970	3,675	14	2	2,591	13	..
1971	4,256	13	2	3,072	6	1
1972	4,518	11	4	3,584	9	..
1973	5,164	15	1	3,200	11	1
1974	6,565	5	1	4,257	14	1

(a) Includes fourteen petitions for dual relief in both 1970 and 1971, fifteen in 1972, six in 1973, and nine in 1974.

VICTORIA—DIVORCE: GROUNDS ON WHICH DECREES
WERE GRANTED, 1974

Grounds on which granted	Dissolution		Nullity		Judicial separation	
	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions
Adultery	750	826	..	..	..	1
Adultery and desertion	6	8	..	..	..	..
Cruelty	2	77	..	..	..	..
Desertion	581	1,182	..	..	..	..
Separation	308	441	..	..	..	..
Desertion and separation	1	7	..	..	..	..
Other grounds	3	56	4	10	..	..
Total	1,651	2,597	4	10	..	1

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

VICTORIA—DIVORCE : DECREES GRANTED : AGES OF
PETITIONERS (AT DATE OF DECREE) AND ISSUE, 1974

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	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	2
20-24	41	243	..	2	..	..	25	193
25-29	357	596	1	3	..	..	276	659
30-34	315	482	2	3	..	..	403	850
35-39	251	363	..	..	..	..	471	910
40-44	192	329	..	..	..	..	423	792
45-49	184	261	1	..	..	..	310	382
50-54	148	173	..	1	..	..	182	147
55-59	86	97	..	1	..	1	53	47
60 and over	77	50	..	..	..	..	12	6
Total	1,651	2,597	4	10	..	1	2,155	3,988

(a) Of the total of 6,143 children shown above, seventeen children were the issue of marriages for which nullities were granted and one child was the issue of a marriage for which a judicial separation was granted. In addition to the above, there were nine 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), 1974**

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	4	92	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	113
25-29	2	288	504	48	6	..	..	..	..	..	848
30-34	..	30	413	349	36	3	2	1	..	..	834
35-39	..	7	83	288	236	36	4	1	..	..	655
40-44	..	1	16	66	222	183	42	6	5	..	541
45-49	..	..	3	21	77	180	178	42	10	1	512
50-54	..	..	..	2	12	64	133	131	15	5	362
55-59	..	..	..	2	4	16	36	76	73	15	222
60 and over	..	..	..	..	2	2	8	28	52	78	170
Total wives	6	418	1,036	776	595	484	403	285	155	99	4,257

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : DECREES GRANTED :
DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1974**

Duration of marriage (years)	Number of children							Total dis- solutions	Total children (a)
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 and over		
1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
2	17	2	..	..	..	..	..	19	2
3	62	12	4	..	..	..	..	78	20
4	149	60	14	1	2	..	1	227	107
5	153	108	29	2	..	..	..	292	172
6	114	106	60	6	3	1	..	290	261
7	94	85	68	7	1	..	..	255	246
8	74	70	64	18	4	1	..	231	273
9	59	76	81	17	4	2	..	239	315
10	44	56	76	30	11	1	..	218	347
11	26	40	69	29	10	2	..	176	315
12	27	26	60	23	9	..	1	146	257
13	24	27	57	37	12	..	..	157	300
14	22	27	42	34	12	3	..	140	276
15-19	64	66	174	172	77	24	17	594	1,466
20-24	89	77	119	111	64	31	17	508	1,179
25-29	133	101	76	44	12	3	5	374	478
30-34	136	31	18	7	2	1	..	195	101
35-39	74	8	..	..	1	..	1	84	18
40 and over	32	1	..	..	..	..	..	33	1
Total dissolutions of marriage	1,394	979	1,011	538	224	69	42	4,257	..
Total children	..	979	2,022	1,614	896	345	278	..	6,134

(a) Of the total of 6,134 children, 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 1974 was 66,201.

Stillbirths, which are excluded from births and deaths, numbered 787 and corresponded to a ratio of 11.76 per 1,000 births live and still in 1974. 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 1970 to 1974 :

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1970	88,448	73,019	37,530	22,617	21,618	8,185	2,624	3,475	257,516
1971	98,466	75,498	39,970	22,996	24,239	8,321	2,832	4,040	276,362
1972	95,278	71,807	39,251	21,844	22,177	7,824	2,722	4,066	264,969
1973	87,332	67,123	38,067	20,407	20,510	7,326	2,808	4,096	247,669
1974	86,162	66,201	37,852	20,181	20,207	7,398	2,808	4,368	245,177

AUSTRALIA—BIRTH RATES

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.(a)	A.C.T.(a)	Aust.
1970	19.52	21.16	20.90	19.52	21.74	21.09	33.1	26.4	20.55
1971	21.35	21.51	21.84	19.55	23.50	21.27	32.8	28.0	21.62
1972	20.39	20.18	20.95	18.37	20.99	19.90	29.7	25.9	20.39
1973	18.52	18.66	19.83	16.97	19.12	18.46	29.3	24.2	18.81
1974	18.09	18.17	19.23	16.53	18.39	18.42	27.6	24.2	18.33

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

The following table shows the number of births by sex, the ratio of male to female births, and the average ages of parents, in each year from 1970 to 1974:

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)
1970	37,350	35,669	73,019	104.71	30.1	26.9	23.1
1971	38,432	37,066	75,498	103.69	29.8	26.7	23.0
1972	36,842	34,965	71,807	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

(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.

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, 1974

Age group of mother (years)	Number of married mothers with previous issue numbering—											Total married mothers	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 and over		Not stated
Under 20	3,230	628	47	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,905
20-24	11,196	7,430	1,674	252	35	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	20,595
25-29	7,318	9,779	4,779	1,374	311	83	14	6	2	..	..	..	23,666
30-34	1,485	2,772	2,556	1,434	549	228	88	49	11	9	2	..	9,183
35-39	410	669	696	618	339	186	112	59	33	21	14	..	3,157
40-44	83	100	93	116	75	67	48	38	32	20	20	..	692
45-49	4	..	3	5	7	7	4	2	3	2	4	..	41
50 and over	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Age not stated	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5
Total	23,731	21,378	9,848	3,799	1,316	576	269	154	81	52	40	1	61,245
Proportion of total married mothers	38.75	34.91	16.08	6.20	2.15	0.94	0.44	0.25	0.13	0.08	0.07	..	100.00

VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS :
NUMBER OF MOTHERS IN AGE GROUPS,
TOTAL ISSUE, AND AVERAGE ISSUE, 1974

Age group of mother (years)	Number of mothers	Total issue	Average issue
Under 20	3,905	4,649	1.19
20-24	20,595	32,487	1.58
25-29	23,666	49,142	2.08
30-34	9,183	25,863	2.82
35-39	3,157	11,100	3.52
40-44	692	3,175	4.59
45-49	41	251	6.12
50 and over	1	1	1.00
Age not stated	5	4	0.80
Total	61,245	126,672	2.07

VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS : RELATIVE
AGE GROUPS OF PARENTS, 1974

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	641	108	1	..	..	..	..	..	750
20-24	2,490	8,054	886	54	2	..	..	..	11,486
25-29	667	10,252	12,688	922	76	6	..	..	24,611
30-34	82	1,798	8,030	4,411	355	24	1	..	14,701
35-39	16	296	1,643	2,825	1,401	85	..	..	6,266
40-44	3	62	303	759	959	335	3	..	2,424
45-49	1	6	77	158	290	178	20	..	730
50 and over	1	7	27	51	70	62	17	1	236
Not stated	4	12	11	3	4	2	..	5	41
Married mothers	3,905	20,595	23,666	9,183	3,157	692	41	6	61,245

VICTORIA—NUPTIAL FIRST BIRTHS : AGE GROUP OF MOTHER AND
DURATION OF MARRIAGE, 1974

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	31	85	112	219	351	570	466	135	93	142	139	128	606	124	25	4	..	3,230
20-24	19	43	50	111	221	391	365	182	187	370	317	310	3,459	2,943	1,528	534	166	11,196
25-29	8	14	18	19	34	47	76	48	64	137	114	124	1,116	1,377	1,442	1,248	1,432	7,318
30-34	6	10	10	10	12	18	22	20	16	43	31	39	316	212	173	122	425	1,485
35-39	1	3	2	4	3	5	7	6	10	14	13	9	98	54	29	30	122	410
40-44	..	3	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	2	2	20	13	12	4	22	83
45-49	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	4
50 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Not stated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	4
Total	65	158	193	363	622	1,032	936	392	370	707	616	612	5,615	4,725	3,209	1,944	2,172	23,731

On the average of the five years 1970 to 1974, mothers of twins were one in 96 of all mothers whose confinements were recorded, mothers of triplets one in 12,499, and mothers of all multiple births one in 96.

VICTORIA—MULTIPLE CONFINEMENTS (a)

Year	Cases of twins	Cases of triplets	Total multiple cases	Multiple cases per 1,000 total confinements
1970	772	10	(b)783	10.84
1971	790	3	793	10.61
1972	771	5	776	10.92
1973	703	7	710	10.69
1974	593	3	596	9.08

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

(b) Includes one case of quadruplets.

The following tables show details of ex-nuptial births in each State and Territory for the years 1970 to 1974 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.
1970	7,455	4,420	4,251	1,715	2,316	650	426	134	21,367
1971	9,674	5,010	4,859	1,782	2,720	722	664	198	25,629
1972	9,766	5,001	5,185	1,803	2,632	695	356	221	25,659
1973	8,726	4,611	5,241	1,800	2,497	743	383	197	24,198
1974	8,371	4,394	4,955	1,879	2,352	788	458	211	23,408

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.
1970	8.43	6.05	11.33	7.58	10.71	7.94	16.23	3.86	8.30
1971	9.82	6.64	12.16	7.75	11.22	8.68	23.45	4.90	9.27
1972	10.25	6.96	13.21	8.25	11.87	8.88	13.08	5.44	9.68
1973	9.99	6.87	13.77	8.82	12.17	10.14	13.64	4.81	9.77
1974	9.72	6.64	13.09	9.31	11.64	10.65	16.31	4.83	9.55

VICTORIA—AGES OF MOTHERS OF EX-NUPTIAL CHILDREN

Age of mother (years)	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
12	1	..	..	..	..
13	5	1	2	3	5
14	11	16	18	16	19
15	95	98	105	113	116
16	228	250	307	278	270
17	419	423	514	461	448
18	507	582	550	503	515
19	525	517	523	436	393
20	410	506	456	385	349
21-24	962	1,172	1,156	1,026	925
25-29	590	750	685	765	757
30-34	320	377	366	325	323
35-39	218	206	196	189	190
40-44	83	58	60	70	46
45 and over	4	5	7	6	3
Not stated	4	2	2	4	2
Total	4,382	4,963	4,947	4,580	4,361

VICTORIA—ADOPTIONS AND LEGITIMATIONS

Year	Number of children—	
	Adopted (a)	Legitimated (b)
1970	2,147	601
1971	2,084	558
1972	1,878	545
1973	1,766	596
1974	1,490	551

(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 1961-1973*, 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 1970 to 1974:

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF DEATHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1970	43,601	30,335	17,055	10,138	7,543	3,174	608	594	113,048
1971	41,691	30,598	16,339	9,686	7,806	3,295	637	598	110,650
1972	41,652	29,856	16,598	9,764	7,441	3,227	553	669	109,760
1973	41,122	30,696	16,732	9,835	7,845	3,347	580	665	110,822
1974	43,999	30,875	18,128	10,236	7,778	3,484	575	758	115,833

AUSTRALIA—DEATH RATES

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T. (a)	A.C.T. (a)	Aust.
1970	9.62	8.79	9.50	8.75	7.59	8.18	7.7	4.5	9.02
1971	9.04	8.72	8.93	8.23	7.57	8.42	7.4	4.1	8.66
1972	8.91	8.39	8.86	8.21	7.04	8.21	6.0	4.3	8.45
1973	8.72	8.53	8.72	8.18	7.31	8.44	6.0	3.9	8.42
1974	9.24	8.47	9.21	8.39	7.08	8.68	5.7	4.2	8.66

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

Causes of death

Classification

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

Major changes have been made in several sections of the International Classification of Diseases, namely, infective and parasitic diseases, mental disorders, diseases of the circulatory system, congenital malformations, diseases and conditions peculiar to the perinatal period, and the nature of injury and external causes in respect of accidents, poisonings, and violence. A summary of these changes is given on pages 152-3 of the *Victorian Year Book 1971*.

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH: NUMBERS AND RATES, 1974

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	72	0.23	20
B5	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	010-012	39	0.13	11
B6	Other tuberculosis, including late effects	013-019	13	0.04	4
B8	Diphtheria	032	1	(d)	(d)
B11	Meningococcal infection	036	4	0.01	1
B14	Measles	055	1	(d)	(d)
B17	Syphilis and its sequelae	090-097	4	0.01	1
B18	All other infective and parasitic diseases	(b)	102	0.33	28
B19	Malignant neoplasms—				
	Digestive organs and peritoneum	150-159	1,933	6.26	530
	Lung	162	1,121	3.63	308
	Skin	172, 173	127	0.41	35
	Breast	174	503	1.63	138
	Genital organs	180-187	639	2.07	175
	Urinary organs	188, 189	260	0.84	71
	Leukaemia and aleukaemia	204-207	202	0.66	55
	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	(c)	970	3.14	266
B20	Benign and unspecified neoplasms	210-239	53	0.17	15
B21	Diabetes mellitus	250	627	2.03	172
B22	Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency	260-269	31	0.10	9
B23	Anaemias	280-285	64	0.21	18
B24	Meningitis	320	16	0.05	4
B25	Active rheumatic fever	390-392	3	0.01	1
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	393-398	247	0.80	68
B27	Hypertensive disease	400-404	446	1.45	122
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	410-414	9,209	29.83	2,527
B29	Other forms of heart disease	420-429	1,164	3.77	319
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	430-438	4,274	13.84	1,173
B31	Influenza	470-474	96	0.31	26
B32	Pneumonia	480-486	683	2.21	187
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	490-493	1,260	4.08	346
B34	Peptic ulcer	531-533	171	0.55	47
B35	Appendicitis	540-543	9	0.03	2
B36	Intestinal obstruction and hernia	550-553, 560	80	0.26	22
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	571	290	0.94	80
B38	Nephritis and nephrosis	580-584	144	0.47	40
B39	Hyperplasia of prostate	600	51	0.17	14
B41	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	{ 630-639 }			
		{ 650-678 }	2	0.01	1
B42	Congenital anomalies	{ 740-759 }	396	1.29	109
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	{ 764-768 }			
		{ 772, 776 }	148	0.52	41
		{ 760-763 }			
		{ 769-771 }			
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	{ 773-775 }	328	1.06	90
		{ 777-779 }			
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	780-796	121	0.39	33
	General arteriosclerosis	440	772	2.50	212
B46	Other diseases of circulatory system	441-458	485	1.57	133
	Other diseases of respiratory system	{ 460-466 }			
	All other diseases	{ 500-519 }	218	0.71	60
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	Residual	1,330	4.26	365
BE48	All other accidents	E810-E823	915	2.96	251
		{ E800-E807 }			
		{ E825-E849 }	694	2.25	190
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injury	E950-E959	381	1.24	105
BE50	All other external causes	E960-E999	176	0.57	48
Total all causes			30,875	100.00	8,472

(a) No deaths were recorded in the following categories in 1974: 1. Cholera (000), 2. Typhoid fever (001), 3. Bacillary dysentery and amoebiasis (004, 006), 7. Plague (020), 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.

(d) Too small to register within the limits of the table.

Deaths in 1974 comprised 16,704 males and 14,171 females.

The following table shows deaths in 1974, in certain age groups, detailing the selected main causes of death within those age groups:

VICTORIA—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, 1974

International Classification of Diseases Code	Age group and cause of death	Deaths from specified cause			
		In age group		At all ages	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent (a)
Under 1 year					
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	327	33.1	328	99.7
B42	Congenital anomalies	290	29.3	396	73.2
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	145	14.7	148	98.0
B46 (part)	Other diseases of respiratory system	59	6.0	218	27.1
B18	All other infective and parasitic diseases	22	2.2	103	21.4
B32	Pneumonia	19	1.9	683	2.8
1-4 years					
BE48	All other accidents	45	21.3	694	6.5
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	38	18.0	915	4.2
B42	Congenital anomalies	35	16.6	396	8.8
B19	Malignant neoplasms	28	13.3	5,755	0.5
B46 (part)	Other diseases of respiratory system	8	3.8	218	3.7
B4	Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	8	3.8	72	11.1
5-14 years					
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	63	26.0	915	6.9
B19	Malignant neoplasms	39	16.1	5,755	0.7
BE48	All other accidents	36	14.9	694	5.2
B42	Congenital anomalies	18	7.4	396	4.5
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	10	4.1	1,260	0.8
BE50	All other external causes	9	3.7	176	5.1
15-24 years					
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	307	50.3	915	33.6
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	60	9.8	381	15.7
BE48	All other accidents	53	8.7	694	7.6
B19	Malignant neoplasms	52	8.5	5,755	0.9
BE50	All other external causes	29	4.8	176	16.5
B42	Congenital anomalies	16	2.6	396	4.0
25-34 years					
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	129	25.6	915	14.1
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	73	14.5	381	19.2
B19	Malignant neoplasms	66	13.1	5,755	1.1
BE48	All other accidents	41	8.1	694	5.9
BE50	All other external causes	26	5.2	176	14.8
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	24	4.8	9,209	0.3
35-44 years					
B19	Malignant neoplasms	203	25.9	5,755	3.5
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	153	19.5	9,209	1.7
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	72	9.2	915	7.9
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	58	7.4	381	15.2
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	36	4.6	4,274	0.8
BE48	All other accidents	34	4.3	694	4.9
45-54 years					
B19	Malignant neoplasms	713	28.8	5,755	12.4
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	706	28.5	9,209	7.7
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	199	8.0	4,274	4.7
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	88	3.5	290	30.3
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	84	3.4	915	9.2
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	68	2.7	1,260	5.4
55-64 years					
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	1,724	36.5	9,209	18.7
B19	Malignant neoplasms	1,289	27.3	5,755	22.4
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	412	8.7	4,274	9.6
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	212	4.5	1,260	16.8
B29	Other forms of heart disease	98	2.1	1,164	8.4
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	71	1.5	915	7.8
65-74 years					
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	2,680	35.4	9,209	29.1
B19	Malignant neoplasms	1,705	22.5	5,755	29.6
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	1,027	13.5	4,274	24.0
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	429	5.7	1,260	34.0
B21	Diabetes mellitus	219	2.9	627	34.9
B29	Other forms of heart disease	200	2.6	1,164	17.2

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

VICTORIA—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, 1974—*continued*

International Classification of Diseases Code	Age group and cause of death	Deaths from specified cause			
		In age group		At all ages	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent (a)
75 years and over					
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	3,922	30.8	9,209	42.6
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	2,574	20.2	4,274	60.2
B19	Malignant neoplasms	1,657	13.0	5,755	28.8
B29	Other forms of heart disease	743	5.8	1,164	63.8
B46 (part)	Arteriosclerosis	667	5.2	772	86.4
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	486	3.8	1,260	38.6

(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 1974 there were 10,926 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart including 1 due to rheumatic fever with heart involvement, 247 due to chronic rheumatic heart disease, 305 to hypertensive heart disease, 5,984 to acute myocardial infarction, 3,225 to other ischaemic heart disease, and 1,164 to other forms of heart disease. The total of these causes in 1974 represented a rate of 2,998 per million of the mean population. Only a small proportion of deaths from heart diseases occurs at ages under 45 years. However, as the table above shows, ischaemic heart disease is the major cause of death at ages 55 and over. Deaths in 1974 from this cause by sex and age group are given in the following table:

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HEART DISEASES BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1974

Cause of death (a)	Sex	Age group (years)					Total
		Under 45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	
Rheumatic fever with heart involvement (391)	M	..	1	..	..	..	1
	F	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chronic rheumatic heart disease (393-398)	M	7	18	33	30	26	114
	F	8	18	28	32	47	133
Hypertensive heart disease (402, 404)	M	2	10	15	30	54	111
	F	..	3	11	41	139	194
Acute myocardial infarction (410)	M	72	328	824	1,203	1,072	3,499
	F	16	73	307	715	1,374	2,485
Other ischaemic heart disease (411-414)	M	75	247	454	485	623	1,884
	F	14	58	139	277	853	1,341
Other forms of heart disease (420-429)	M	38	36	53	105	265	497
	F	29	20	45	95	478	667
Total	M	194	640	1,379	1,853	2,040	6,106
	F	67	172	530	1,160	2,891	4,820

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

Malignant neoplasms

Since the introduction of the Eighth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases in 1968, deaths classified as malignant neoplasms include deaths from polycythaemia vera and myelofibrosis. These were not previously included with neoplasms. Deaths from malignant neoplasms in 1974 numbered 5,755 and represented a rate of 1,579 per million of the mean population.

Deaths from malignant neoplasms are prominent at most age periods, but the rates in the table below show characteristic increases with age, reaching a maximum mortality rate in the oldest age group. Ninety-three per cent of the deaths from malignant neoplasms in the year 1974 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 given in the following table :

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS
IN AGE GROUPS

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

The following table shows deaths from malignant neoplasms recorded in 1974 in age groups according to the site of the disease:

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1974

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	2	3	43	43	91
	F	..	1	8	27	36
Oesophagus (150)	M	..	1	41	53	95
	F	..	..	11	31	42
Stomach (151)	M	..	5	82	174	261
	F	1	4	31	127	163
Intestine, except rectum (152, 153)	M	..	13	93	179	285
	F	..	9	104	291	404
Rectum and rectosigmoid junction (154)	M	..	10	53	86	149
	F	..	3	37	69	109
Trachea, bronchus, and lung (162)	M	1	24	372	550	947
	F	..	7	76	91	174
Breast (174)	M	..	..	2	2	4
	F	..	40	231	228	499
Cervix uteri (180)	F	1	9	58	38	106
Other and unspecified parts of uterus (181, 182)	F	..	2	20	46	68
Ovary, fallopian tube, and broad ligament (183)	F	3	10	84	68	165
Prostate (185)	M	..	1	28	237	266
Bladder (188)	M	..	1	17	70	88
	F	..	1	10	40	51
Other and unspecified urinary organs (189)	M	3	5	37	37	82
	F	2	1	18	18	39
Brain and other parts of nervous system (191, 192)	M	15	23	43	22	103
	F	14	9	29	16	68
Leukaemia (204-207)	M	25	13	28	58	124
	F	22	6	13	37	78
Other neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic system (200-203, 208, 209)	M	9	8	57	89	163
	F	1	3	43	93	140
All other and unspecified sites	M	16	32	215	244	507
	F	7	25	118	298	448
Total	M	71	139	1,111	1,844	3,165
	F	51	130	891	1,518	2,590

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

Cerebrovascular disease

In 1974, 1,678 male and 2,596 female deaths were ascribed to cerebrovascular diseases, the total corresponding to a rate of 1,173 per million of the mean population. The table on pages 252 and 253 shows that cerebrovascular diseases appear as one of the leading causes of death at ages from 35 years and over; they have become an increasing proportion of deaths at higher ages accounting for 60 per cent of deaths at ages 75 years and over. Deaths from this cause according to sex and age are given below:

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1974

Cause of death (a)	Sex	Age group (years)					Total
		Under 45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	
Subarachnoid haemorrhage (430)	M	22	25	23	18	6	94
	F	17	42	35	25	12	131
Cerebral haemorrhage (431)	M	6	38	65	122	127	358
	F	5	32	50	107	279	473
Cerebral infarction (432-434)	M	2	10	57	98	219	386
	F	4	7	25	109	491	636
Acute but ill-defined cerebrovascular disease (436)	M	2	24	84	210	333	653
	F	3	19	53	239	684	998
Other and ill-defined cerebrovascular diseases (435, 437, 438)	M	..	1	8	52	126	187
	F	1	1	12	47	297	358
Total	M	32	98	237	500	811	1,678
	F	30	101	175	527	1,763	2,596

(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 1974 deaths from diseases of the respiratory system numbered 2,257, which represented a rate of 619 per million of the mean population. Of these deaths in 1974, 96 were due to influenza, 76 to other acute respiratory infections, 683 to pneumonia, 1,260 to bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma, and 142 to other diseases.

The 96 deaths from influenza in 1974 represented a rate of 26 per million of the mean population. Eighty-six per cent of the deaths were of persons aged 50 years or over.

Diseases of the digestive system

In 1974 there were 488 male and 322 female deaths from diseases of the digestive system, representing a rate of 222 per million of the mean population. Deaths from causes in this group in 1974 were: 171 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 10 from gastritis and duodenitis, 9 from appendicitis, 80 from intestinal obstruction and hernia, 21 from chronic enteritis and ulcerative colitis, 290 from cirrhosis of the liver, 50 from cholelithiasis and cholecystitis, and 179 from other diseases.

Diabetes mellitus

During 1974 diabetes was responsible for 281 male and 346 female deaths, representing a rate of 172 per million of the mean population.

The rates for previous periods were 174 in 1973, 162 in 1972, 161 in 1971, 183 in 1970, and 181 in 1969.

Diseases of the genito-urinary system

In 1974 there were 394 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. This number represented a rate of 108 per million of the mean population. In 1974 nephritis and nephrosis were responsible for 144 deaths, infections of the kidney for 101, calculi of the urinary system for 9, hyperplasia of prostate for 51, and other diseases of the genito-urinary system for 89.

Tuberculosis

The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1974 was 52, the rate per million of mean population being 14.

Deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1974 numbered 39 and equalled a rate of 11 per million of the mean population. Rates for earlier periods were 130 for 1950-1954, 294 in 1945-1949, 660 in 1918-1922, 855 in 1908-1912, and 1,365 in 1890-1892. In 1974 tuberculosis of the respiratory system was responsible for 75 per cent of the total deaths from tuberculosis. Of the 29 males and 10 females dying from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1974, only 1 female was under the age of 45 years.

Deaths from external causes

Deaths in 1974 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 1974 male deaths from external causes were 66 per cent of the total deaths in this category.

Accidental deaths involving motor vehicles

The number of motor vehicles (including motor cycles) registered in Victoria and the deaths in which they were involved were as follows for the years 1970 to 1974:

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
1970	1,314,400	1,097	8.3	318
1971	1,379,200	1,064	7.7	303
1972	1,442,300	964	6.7	271
1973	1,516,600	985	6.5	274
1974	1,563,600	915	5.9	251

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

(b) Deaths of pedestrians included in this column numbered 254, 257, 263, 238, and 213, respectively.

Transport accidents

In 1974 deaths from all transport accidents numbered 962 as against 1,032 in 1973, 1,024 in 1972, 1,126 in 1971, and 1,158 in 1970. During 1974 deaths connected with transport represented 60 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 1974 totalled 84.

Suicide and self-inflicted injury

In 1974 deaths from suicide or wilfully self-inflicted injury numbered 268 males and 113 females. These deaths represented a rate of 105 per million of the mean population. Of the 268 male deaths in 1974, 95 were connected with firearms and explosives, and 60 with poisoning by solid or liquid substances. The latter accounted for 73 of the 113 female deaths.

Homicide

The number of deaths ascribed to homicide and registered in 1974 was 80 (54 males and 26 females).

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HOMICIDE (a)

Year	Males	Females	Total
1970	25	23	48
1971	44	12	56
1972	33	19	52
1973	34	24	58
1974	54	26	80

(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 17 in 1970-1974 (a reduction of 87 per cent). In other words, of every 100 infants who died in the earlier period, only 13 would have died in the latter.

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

The following tables show the number of infant deaths and the infant death rate per 1,000 live births in each of the Australian States and Territories for the years 1970-1974 :

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF INFANT DEATHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1970	1,743	1,060	672	367	459	116	126	61	4,604
1971	1,710	1,107	766	366	464	114	170	80	4,777
1972	1,663	1,048	697	367	348	127	113	67	4,430
1973	1,491	958	666	276	394	137	100	63	4,085
1974	1,428	989	606	312	327	123	103	70	3,958

AUSTRALIA—INFANT DEATH RATES (a)

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1970	19.7	14.5	17.9	16.2	21.2	14.2	48.0	17.6	17.88
1971	17.4	14.7	19.2	15.9	19.1	13.7	60.0	19.8	17.29
1972	17.5	14.6	17.8	16.8	15.7	16.2	41.5	16.5	16.72
1973	17.1	14.3	17.5	13.5	19.2	18.7	35.6	15.4	16.49
1974	16.6	14.9	16.0	15.5	16.2	16.6	36.7	16.0	16.14

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

The infant death rates for the Melbourne Statistical Division, for the remainder of the State, and for the whole State, for the years 1970 to 1974, are shown in the following table. Figures relate to the Melbourne Statistical Division as defined for the 1971 Census (see pages 219-20).

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS

Year	Melbourne Statistical Division		Remainder of State		Victoria	
	Number of deaths under one year	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number of deaths under one year	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number of deaths under one year	Rate per 1,000 live births
1970	721	13.7	339	16.7	1,060	14.5
1971	843	15.5	264	12.6	1,107	14.7
1972	764	14.8	284	14.1	1,048	14.6
1973	681	14.1	277	14.7	958	14.3
1974	708	14.9	281	14.9	989	14.9

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 1974 the rate was 14.9 with the lowest ever recorded in Victoria being 14.3 in 1973.

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 1970-1974, a decrease of 89 per cent, and that for infants "one month and under one year" from 41.2 to 4.0, a decrease of 90 per cent. Between the ages of one month and one year, Victoria lost 64 out of every 1,000 children born in 1900-1904, 33 in 1915-1919, and 4 in 1970-1974. The rate per 1,000 live births for infants "under one week" has declined from 21.5 in the quinquennium 1910-1914 to 9.4 in 1970-1974. In 1974 the mortality of infants "under one week" comprised 62 per cent of the total infant mortality.

The following tables show mortality rates at certain ages under one year for the years 1970 to 1974:

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	
1970	9.5	1.1	1.6	1.2	1.0	14.5
1971	9.3	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.2	14.7
1972	9.8	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.3	14.6
1973	9.2	1.1	1.4	1.7	1.0	14.3
1974	9.3	1.6	1.2	1.6	1.3	14.9

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS AT CERTAIN AGES BY SEX, 1974

Particulars	Under one week	One week and under one month	One month and under three months	Three months and under six months	Six months and under twelve months	Total under one year
Males—						
Number	364	54	46	67	47	578
Rate (a)	5.5	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.7	8.7
Percentage of total	63.0	9.3	8.0	11.6	8.1	100.0
Females—						
Number	250	52	33	38	38	411
Rate (a)	3.8	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	6.2
Percentage of total	60.8	12.7	8.1	9.2	9.2	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 1970-1974 exceeded the female rate by 22 per cent.

In 1974, 348 or 35 per cent of infant deaths were attributed to maternal conditions or complications of pregnancy or labour. Other perinatal causes, including anoxic and hypoxic conditions not elsewhere classified, accounted for 124 deaths. Congenital anomalies were responsible for 290 or 29 per cent and pneumonia for 19 or 2 per cent of infant deaths.

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS AT CERTAIN AGES, BY CAUSE, 1974

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)	6	1	..	..	..	7
Other maternal conditions unrelated to pregnancy (761)	21	..	1	..	..	22
Toxaemias of pregnancy (762)	26	1	..	..	..	27
Maternal ante- and intrapartum infection (763)	5	..	..	..	..	5
Difficult labour (764-768)	31	..	..	1	..	32
Other complications of pregnancy and childbirth (769)	153	2	..	..	..	155
Conditions of placenta (770)	66	..	..	..	..	66
Conditions of umbilical cord (771)	10	1	..	..	..	11
Birth injury and termination of pregnancy without mention of cause (772, 773)	7	3	1	..	..	11
Haemolytic disease of newborn (774, 775)	10	1	1	..	..	12
Anoxic and hypoxic conditions, not elsewhere classified (776)	100	1	1	..	..	102
Immaturity, unqualified (777)	15	1	..	..	..	16
Other conditions of newborn (778, 779)	2	2	1	1	..	6
Congenital anomalies (740-759)	146	73	29	16	26	290
Infections (000-136)	5	11	9	11	5	41
Pneumonia (480-486)	7	1	1	4	6	19
Other diseases (140-474, 490-738, 780-796)	2	6	33	67	44	152
Inhalation or ingestion of food or other object causing obstruction or suffocation, and accidental mechanical suffocation (E911-E913)	2	1	2	1	..	6
Other external causes (E800-E910, E914-E999)	..	1	..	4	4	9
Total all causes	614	106	79	105	85	989

(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 (a)	Neonatal deaths			Total perinatal deaths
		Under 1 week	One week but less than 1 month	Total neonatal deaths	
1970	782	697	81	778	(a) 1,560
1971	760	701	81	782	(a) 1,542
1972	842	707	72	779	1,621
1973	802	615	74	689	1,491
1974	787	614	106	720	1,507

(a) Stillbirth totals for the years 1970 and 1971 relate to stillbirths of 28 weeks or more gestation. The figures for 1972, 1973, and 1974 include all stillbirths of 20 weeks or more gestation and are therefore not strictly comparable with those for earlier years. (See definitions above.)

VICTORIA—PERINATAL DEATH RATES (a)

Year	Stillbirths	Neonatal deaths			Total perinatal deaths
		Under 1 week	One week but less than 1 month	Total neonatal deaths	
1970	10.6	9.5	1.1	10.7	21.1
1971	10.0	9.3	1.1	10.4	20.2
1972 (b)	11.6	9.8	1.0	10.8	22.3
1973 (b)	11.8	9.2	1.1	10.3	22.0
1974 (b)	11.7	9.3	1.6	10.9	22.5

(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 1970 to 1974 is shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—CREMATIONS AND DEATHS

Year	Total cremations	Total deaths	Percentage of cremations to deaths
1970	11,265	30,335	37.14
1971	11,134	30,598	36.39
1972	11,226	29,856	37.60
1973	11,667	30,696	38.01
1974	11,841	30,875	38.35

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