

PART III.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Registration
of births,
deaths, and
marriages.

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 Acts are performed by the Government Statist, who has supervision over the registrars of births and deaths, the registrars of marriages, and (so far as regards their registration duties) the clergymen who celebrate marriages. Copies of entries certified by the Government Statist or by an Assistant Government Statist are *prima facie* evidence in the Courts of Australia of the facts to which they relate. At the Government Statist's Office there is kept for reference a complete collection of all registrations effected since 1st July, 1853, as well as originals or certified copies of all existing church records relating to earlier periods, as far back as 1837. Since the present system was instituted approximately 5,398,420 original entries have been made in the indexes, of which 1,541,820 relate to marriages, 2,590,990 to births, and 1,265,610 to deaths.

Since 1st August, 1932, all registrations of births and deaths occurring within the area of Greater Melbourne have been effected at the office of the Government Statist.

Persons desirous of obtaining information as to any birth, death or marriage registered in Victoria may apply to the Government Statist to have a search made against the records in the registers. They should furnish particulars, as complete as possible, including the date and place of the event, the names of the parties (if a marriage), age (if a death) and, in the case of a birth or death, the parentage. A fee of 2s. 6d. is charged for each search of a period of not more than five years and an additional fee of 2s. 6d. for each additional

search period of five years or part thereof. A search fee is not charged in any case where an application for a certificate is lodged within three months of the date of registration of the event. There is no extra charge for an extract of an entry but, for a certificate, a further sum of 5s. is payable. For a search of the early church records, prior to 1st July, 1853, the fee is 1s., a further sum of 1s. being payable if a certificate be required.

Law relating to marriages, births, and deaths. The various Acts relating to the registration of marriages, births, and deaths in Victoria were consolidated in 1928, since when the Marriage Act was amended by Acts No. 4561 and 4839 of 1938 and 1941 respectively, and the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act by Act No. 4553 of 1938 and 4858 of 1941.

Marriages may be celebrated by any minister of religion who ordinarily officiates as such in one of the religious denominations, and whose name is registered in the office of the Government Statist; also by the Government Statist, an Assistant Government Statist, or a duly appointed registrar of marriages. The Governor in Council may prohibit from celebrating marriages any minister who is proved guilty of any indictable offence, misconduct or impropriety in the celebration of any marriage, or who makes a business of celebrating marriages for the purpose of profit or gain. At least three clear days before the performance of any marriage, written notice of such marriage must be given to the proposed celebrant by the parties about to be married, but such notice may, in respect of a marriage by a minister of religion, be dispensed with in the case of emergency by written permission of any Justice of the Peace. Marriage of minors is permissible only with the written consent of parents or guardian or, in certain circumstances, by permission of a Guardian of Minors. Marriage with a deceased wife's sister is valid. Marriages of Jews and Quakers are exempted in part from the law relating to marriages, and are deemed legal and valid if celebrated according to their respective usages. Certificates of such marriages must, however, be lodged with the Government Statist for record purposes. No marriage is invalid by reason of its having been celebrated by an unqualified person if either of the parties believed at the time that such person was qualified, or by reason of any formal defect or irregularity where the identity of the parties to the marriage is not in question.

A person whose husband or wife has been continually absent from such person for the space of seven years or over, and has not been known by such person to be living within that time, may marry without being liable to prosecution for bigamy (*see* sec. 61 of the Crimes Act); but such a marriage would be void, and the issue thereof illegitimate, if it should be subsequently discovered that the former wife (or husband) was alive at the date of the marriage.

Births of live children must, under a penalty not exceeding £10 for default without reasonable cause, be registered within 60 days. After 60 days and within twelve months, registration may be effected, after declaration, on the payment of a fee of 5s. ; after twelve months and under seven years, only by authority of the Government Statist (fee 20s.); and after seven years by order of a Judge of a County Court or the Supreme Court (fee 30s.). The occupier of any house or place in which an illegitimate child is born, or in which an illegitimate child under the age of five years dies, is required to give notice of such birth or death to the district registrar within three to seven days, according to the locality of the event. If the mother is the occupier, the period of notification is extended to three weeks.

Deaths must, under a penalty not exceeding £10, be notified to the local registrar by the occupier of the house or tenement in which the death occurred. Registration of death must be effected within 21 days by a person present at the death or in attendance during the last illness of the deceased or, in the case of illness, inability or default of such person, by the occupier of the house or tenement in which the death occurred. The medical practitioner in attendance during the last illness is also required, under a penalty not exceeding £5, to report the death to the registrar, unless the death has been reported to the Coroner.

Summary of
Vital Statistics,
1940.

The principal numbers and rates relating to Vital Statistics are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1940.

Division.	Number of—				Rate per 1,000 of Population.			Infantile Mortality.
	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under One Year.	Marriage.	Birth.	Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.
Greater Melbourne ..	..	16,501	12,076	655	..	15·54	11·37	39·69
Remainder of the State	..	15,461	8,217	606	..	18·53	9·85	39·20
Victoria	22,299	31,962	20,293	1,261	11·76	16·86	10·70	39·45

MARRIAGES.

Marriages—Numbers and rates. Marriages in Victoria in 1940 reached the record figure of 22,299, an increase of 4931 over the previous high record number (17,368) registered in 1939. The rate per 1000 of population in 1940 was 11·76 as compared with rates of 9·23 in 1939, 9·16 in 1938, 8·74 in 1937 and 8·61 in 1936. The rate for 1940 was the highest recorded in Victoria. The lowest rate recorded in the history of the State was 5·66 in 1931—a year of acute economic depression. There has been a marked increase since that year, the rate in 1940 being 108 per cent. higher than that in 1931.

The following table shows the number of marriages, the quarters in which they were registered, and the proportion per 1,000 of the population, since 1854:—

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES IN EACH QUARTER, 1855 TO 1940.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Marriages.	Quarter of Registration.				Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
		March.	June.	September.	December.	
1855-59..	4,362	*	*	*	*	10·24
1860-64..	4,418	1,068	1,166	1,079	1,105	8·16
1865-69..	4,533	1,123	1,144	1,113	1,153	6·94
1870-74..	4,823	1,168	1,299	1,131	1,225	6·40
1875-79..	5,023	1,239	1,307	1,207	1,270	6·21
1880-84..	6,296	1,528	1,611	1,483	1,674	7·07
1885-89..	8,208	1,899	2,196	1,915	2,198	8·04
1890-94..	7,945	1,995	2,100	1,838	2,012	6·88
1895-99..	7,627	1,816	2,074	1,778	1,959	6·44
1900-04..	8,201	2,000	2,252	1,930	2,019	6·78
1905-09..	9,209	2,185	2,548	2,182	2,294	7·36
1910-14..	11,244	2,664	3,000	2,644	2,936	8·29
1915-19..	10,908	2,437	2,754	2,815	2,902	7·62
1920-24..	13,598	3,252	3,578	3,152	3,616	8·64
1925-29..	13,301	3,136	3,603	3,047	3,515	7·72
1930-34..	12,019	2,929	3,123	2,727	3,240	6·64
1935-39..	16,406	3,699	4,484	3,414	4,809	8·83
1936 ..	15,915	3,448	4,776	3,240	4,451	8·61
1937 ..	16,226	4,223	3,934	3,326	4,743	8·74
1938 ..	17,113	3,844	4,994	3,454	4,821	9·16
1939 ..	17,368	3,527	4,452	3,751	5,638	9·23
1940 ..	22,299	5,001	5,430	5,896	5,972	11·76

* Not available.

The ordinary marriage rate—per 1,000 of the total population—like birth and death rates similarly estimated, is apt to be misleading in the early settlement stages of countries like Australia, but it affords a ready and approximate comparison between years not widely separated.

Marriage rates — Australian States and New Zealand. The following statement shows the marriage rate per 1,000 of the population in each of the Australian States and in New Zealand, for the last five years :—

MARRIAGE RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1936	8·61	8·57	8·49	8·82	9·43	8·97	8·66	9·25
1937	8·74	8·61	8·44	9·06	9·18	8·73	8·70	9·55
1938	9·16	9·03	8·85	9·26	9·03	8·83	9·05	10·09
1939	9·23	9·27	8·99	9·51	9·02	9·51	9·23	11·12
1940	11·76	10·95	10·09	11·66	11·25	10·36	11·11	11·28

Ages of bridegrooms and brides.

The ages of bridegrooms and brides who were married in 1940 are shown in combination for various groups in the table which follows :—

VICTORIA—AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN COMBINATION, 1940.

Ages of Bridegrooms.	Ages of Brides.														Total Bridegrooms.				
	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.	50 to 54.		55 to 59.	60 to 64.	65 to 69.	70 and over.
16	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
17	2	3	5	6	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
18	3	9	20	25	13	3	10	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	88
19	2	10	41	52	42	34	40	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	226
20	2	11	39	74	82	73	133	12	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	428
21 to 24 ..	1	3	43	153	371	587	745	3,321	817	77	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,127
25 to 29	5	14	85	170	334	441	3,612	2,972	453	58	9	3	..	..	..	..	..	8,156
30 to 34	1	10	15	37	78	102	916	1,467	792	179	28	7	3	..	..	..	..	3,635
35 to 39 ..	1	1	1	4	5	13	19	229	490	489	326	95	27	4	..	..	..	1	1,705
40 to 44	1	..	2	3	7	55	139	185	176	117	51	15	4	1	..	..	756
45 to 49	4	..	17	34	74	118	89	73	29	6	2	2	1	449
50 to 54	6	21	23	52	55	53	43	13	4	..	2	273
55 to 59	1	..	1	2	9	9	18	32	35	31	23	7	1	1	170
60 to 64	1	..	..	..	1	7	11	16	17	17	20	15	3	2	110
65 to 69	5	3	12	10	11	17	10	1	69
70 to 74	1	..	1	2	5	6	9	7	12	8	51
75 and over	1	..	..	2	5	6	9	5	..	6	34
Total Brides	2	19	102	363	744	1,158	1,426	8,344	5,970	2,114	953	448	288	165	95	58	29	21	22,299

Of every 1,000 men married during the year, 722 were older and 179 younger than their brides, and 99 were of the same age.

In 1940 the oldest bridegroom was aged 83 years, and the oldest bride 80 years. The youngest bridegroom was aged 16 years and the youngest bride 14 years.

Proportion of marriages at various ages. The proportions of both sexes marrying in 1940 is shown, in varying age groups, in the following table:—

VICTORIA—PROPORTIONS OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN AGE GROUPS, 1940.

Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—		Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—	
	Bridegrooms.	Brides.		Bridegrooms.	Brides.
Under 16 ..	..	·94	35 to 39 ..	76·46	42·74
16 ..	·13	4·57	40 to 44 ..	33·90	20·09
17 ..	·85	16·28	45 to 49 ..	20·14	12·92
18 ..	3·95	33·36	50 to 54 ..	12·24	7·40
19 ..	10·14	51·93	55 to 59 ..	7·62	4·26
20 ..	19·19	63·95	60 and over	11·84	4·84
21 to 24 ..	274·77	374·19			
25 to 29 ..	365·76	267·73		1,000·00	1,000·00
30 to 34 ..	163·01	94·80			

Marriages of minors. The number of minors marrying at each age and the proportion of each sex to the total marriages are given in the following table for each of the five years 1936 to 1940.

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES OF MINORS.

Year.	Age in Years.							Total.		
	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	
Bridegrooms.										
1936	14	54	165	269	502	3·15	
1937	2	16	73	147	304	542	3·34	
1938	5	19	89	180	252	545	3·18	
1939	2	18	72	151	295	538	3·10	
1940	3	19	88	226	428	764	3·43	
Brides.										
1936	2	17	99	261	590	818	2,493	15·66	
1937	1	21	104	316	518	714	2,568	15·83	
1938	4	24	99	307	577	785	2,681	15·67	
1939	2	17	94	286	596	844	2,743	15·79	
1940	2	19	102	363	744	1,158	3,814	17·10	

The proportion of minors marrying steadily decreased from 1931 to 1936. There was little fluctuation during the following three years, but in 1940 an increase was recorded, mainly due to the number of brides who were under 21 years of age.

Age at marriage. The mean ages at marriage, according to conjugal condition, are shown in the following table for each of the last five years :—

VICTORIA—MEAN AGE AT MARRIAGE, 1936 TO 1940.

Year.	Bridegrooms.				Brides.			
	Bachelors.	Divorced.	Widowers.	All Bridegrooms.	Spinsters.	Divorced.	Widows.	All Brides.
1936 ..	28·41	40·30	49·80	29·76	25·58	35·81	44·97	26·37
1937 ..	28·39	39·43	50·01	29·81	25·47	36·64	45·47	26·42
1938 ..	28·05	40·15	49·35	29·49	25·13	35·20	44·99	26·05
1939 ..	27·97	39·41	49·31	29·36	25·06	34·83	44·90	26·00
1940 ..	27·64	38·57	49·58	28·90	24·80	34·89	44·16	25·71

In 1940 the mean age at marriage of bridegrooms of brides under 45 was 28·08 years, while for brides under 45 the age was 24·89 years.

The most popular age at marriage in 1940 for bridegrooms was 24 years and for brides 21 years.

Birthplaces of persons marrying. Marriage records for 1940 show that 89·5 per cent. of the bridegrooms and 93·5 per cent. of the brides married in Victoria were Australian born, while 7·8 per cent. of the grooms and 4·7 per cent. of the brides were born in Great Britain and Ireland. Of all persons married 91·5 per cent. were born in Australia, 7 per cent. in New Zealand, 6·3 per cent. in Great Britain and Ireland, and 3 per cent. in other British Possessions. Only a small proportion (1·2 per cent.) were natives of foreign countries. The birthplaces of the people married in Victoria in the years 1920 and 1940 are shown in the subjoined table :—

BIRTHPLACES OF PERSONS MARRIED, 1920 AND 1940.

Where Born.	Bridegrooms.		Brides.	
	1920.	1940.	1920.	1940.
Australia	13,116	19,964	13,602	20,849
New Zealand	100	175	75	142
England and Wales	1,126	1,247	811	760
Scotland	204	379	225	236
Ireland	121	123	66	56
Other British Possessions	49	96	42	47
Germany	22	47	5	26
Russia	23	6	8	7
Italy	16	75	5	44
United States	30	22	15	13
Other Foreign Countries and unspecified	91	165	44	119
Total	14,898	22,299	14,898	22,299

Conjugal
condition
of persons
marrying.

In the following tables are given the number of persons in each conjugal condition marrying during each of the five years 1936 to 1940, and the proportions in each condition for periods since 1900.

VICTORIA—CONJUGAL CONDITION OF PERSONS
MARRYING, 1936 TO 1940.

Period.	Bridegrooms.				Brides.				Total Mar-riages.
	Bach- clors.	Wid- owers.	Di- vorced.	De- serted.	Spin- sters.	Widows.	Di- vorced.	De- serted.	
1936 ..	14,769	810	331	5	15,107	471	322	15	15,915
1937 ..	14,952	843	428	3	15,270	538	405	13	16,226
1938 ..	15,763	902	439	9	16,088	554	460	11	17,113
1939 ..	16,018	882	462	6	16,304	585	463	16	17,368
1940 ..	20,724	975	591	9	20,950	705	623	21	22,299

VICTORIA—TOTAL MARRIAGES AND PERCENTAGE OF
PERSONS MARRYING IN EACH CONJUGAL CONDITION,
1910 TO 1940.

Marriages Between—	1940.		Conjugal Condition.	Percentage of Total—			
	Num- ber.	Per- centage.		1910-19.	1920-29.	1930-39.	1940.
Bachelors and Spinsters ..	19,872	89·12	Bachelors Widowers Divorced	Bridegrooms.			
Bachelors and Widows ..	376	1·69		92·7	92·1	92·3	93·0
Bachelors and Divorced Women ..	476	2·13		6·5	6·3	5·5	4·4
Widowers and Spinsters ..	609	2·73		·8	1·6	2·2	2·6
Widowers and Widows ..	278	1·25	Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0
Widowers and Divorced Women ..	88	·39	Spinsters Widows Divorced	Brides.			
Divorced Men and Spinsters	469	2·10		94·2	93·6	94·4	94·0
Divorced Men and Widows	51	·23		4·8	4·9	3·4	3·2
Divorced Men and Divorced Women ..	80	·36		1·0	1·5	2·2	2·8
Total Marriages	22,299	100·00	Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

NOTE.—In this table deserted men are included with bachelors and deserted women with spinsters.

The proportions of widowers and widows remarrying per 100 marriages, declined from 6·5 and 4·7 respectively in 1910-14 to 5·0 and 3·2 in 1936-40. During the same period the proportion of remarriages of divorced men increased from ·7 to 2·5, and of divorced women from ·9 to 2·6. The increased proportion of divorced persons remarrying reflects the higher number of decrees for dissolution of

marriage granted in recent years. The numbers of such decrees and of remarriages of divorced men and of divorced women for various periods since 1900 are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—DIVORCED PERSONS REMARRYING SINCE 1900.

Period.	Decrees Granted.	Remarriages.	
		Divorced Men.	Divorced Women.
1900-09	1,208	418	554
1910-19	2,258	867	1,096
1920-29	4,392	2,125	2,116
1930-39	6,059	3,172	3,099

In 1940 decrees granted numbered 817, and remarriages of men and women 591 and 623 respectively.

In 1940 the number of marriages celebrated by ministers of religion was 20,970 representing 94 per cent. of the total marriages. Civil marriages numbered 1329, or 6 per cent. of the total.

The numbers and proportions of civil marriages and of marriages solemnized according to the rites of the principal religious denominations for the years 1920, 1930, and 1940, are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES, RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL.

	1920.		1930.		1940.	
	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.
Church of England	4,403	29·56	3,211	27·58	6,817	30·57
Roman Catholic Church	2,618	17·57	2,238	19·23	4,296	19·27
Presbyterian Church	2,865	19·23	1,965	16·88	4,194	18·81
Methodist Church ..	2,061	13·84	1,577	13·55	3,332	14·94
Baptist Church ..	687	4·61	565	4·85	826	3·70
Church of Christ ..	325	2·18	272	2·34	547	2·45
Congregational Church	1,179	7·91	312	2·68	336	1·51
Salvation Army ..	64	·43	62	·53	155	·70
Lutheran Church ..	39	·26	69	·59	100	·45
Hebrew ..	38	·26	44	·38	139	·62
Other Sects ..	170	1·14	102	·88	228	1·02
Civil Marriages ..	449	3·01	1,224	10·51	1,329	5·96
Total ..	14,898	100·00	11,641	100·00	22,299	100·00

Civil marriages. The following statement shows the numbers and proportions of civil marriages performed for each of the last ten years:—

VICTORIA—CIVIL MARRIAGES, 1931 TO 1940.

Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
1931	1,143	11·23	1936	1,398	8·78
1932	1,515	12·90	1937	1,058	6·52
1933	1,340	10·58	1938	770	4·50
1934	1,156	8·34	1939	988	5·69
1935	1,373	8·91	1940	1,329	5·96

CIVIL MARRIAGES PERFORMED IN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT STATIST.

Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Civil Marriages.
1937	409	38·66
1938	570	74·03
1939	863	87·35
1940	1,199	90·22

NOTE.—The number of marriages performed in the office of the Government Statist has increased since 1938 mainly because of the abolition of office of certain former registrars of marriages in the metropolitan area.

Registered clergymen. The ministers qualified by registration to celebrate marriages numbered 2,076 on 31st December, 1940. The number of ministers in each denomination (excepting Jews and Quakers) was as follows:—

VICTORIA—REGISTERED MINISTERS IN EACH DENOMINATION, 1940.

Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.	Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.
Church of England	428	Welsh Calvinistic Methodists	3
Roman Catholic	563	Catholic and Apostolic Unitarian	2
Presbyterian	338	Open Brethren	2
Methodist	312	Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland	2
Baptist	116	Ballarat Town Mission	2
Church of Christ	88	Particular Baptists	2
Congregational	62	Free Christian	1
Salvation Army	67	New Church	1
Lutheran	38	Greek Orthodox Church	1
Seventh Day Adventist	22	Syrian Orthodox	1
Pentecostal	6	International Bible Students' Association	1
Latter Day Saints	5		
Apostolic Church, Australia	4		
Latter Day Saints (Re-organized)	3		
Free Presbyterian	3		
		Total	2,076

In 1940 there were 13 civil registrars of marriages.

BIRTHS

Births—Numbers and rates. The number of births registered in Victoria during the year 1940 was 31,962. This was 1,469 more than the number registered for the preceding year. The rate per 1,000 of population was 16·86. The lowest rate recorded was 15·16 in 1935. Stillbirths, which are excluded from both births and deaths, numbered 895, and correspond to a ratio of 28·0 per 1,000 infants born alive in 1940. There were 1,053 male to every 1,000 female births in 1940, as compared with 1,065 in 1939, 1,063 in 1938, 1,047 in 1937, and 1,050 in 1936.

In young communities, birth rates calculated per 1,000 of the population are to some extent misleading. In the earlier periods when, owing to immigration, the population consists for the most part of men and women at the reproductive period of life, such rates are naturally high. As time proceeds, notwithstanding that immigration of reproductive adults may be maintained, the proportion of such adults to the total population must diminish, and with it, consequently, the birth rate. It is clear, however, that other powerful factors are tending to reduce the birth rate.

The following table shows the number of births—male and female—the quarters in which they were registered, and the proportion per 1,000 of the population since 1854:—

VICTORIA—BIRTHS IN EACH QUARTER, 1855 TO 1940.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Births.	Sex.		Quarter of Registration.				Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
		Males.	Females.	March.	June.	September.	December.	
1855-59	17,154	8,742	8,412	*	*	*	*	39·49
1860-64	24,060	12,379	11,681	5,614	5,991	6,534	5,921	43·29
1865-69	25,963	13,219	12,744	6,027	6,543	7,105	6,288	39·77
1870-74	27,359	13,944	13,415	6,478	6,769	7,467	6,645	36·35
1875-79	26,584	13,639	12,945	6,333	6,686	7,211	6,354	32·85
1880-84	27,286	13,965	13,321	6,374	7,025	7,300	6,587	30·64
1885-89	32,941	16,883	16,058	7,824	8,289	8,814	8,014	32·27
1890-94	36,945	18,901	18,044	8,669	9,604	9,735	8,937	31·99
1895-99	31,675	16,213	15,462	7,746	8,078	8,323	7,528	26·76
1900-04	30,316	15,544	14,772	7,384	7,682	7,880	7,370	25·08
1905-09	30,994	15,879	15,115	7,489	7,832	8,076	7,597	24·76
1910-14	34,500	17,717	16,783	8,329	8,619	8,850	8,702	25·42
1915-19	33,101	17,014	16,087	8,228	8,336	8,514	8,023	23·13
1920-24	36,022	18,549	17,473	8,729	8,970	9,367	8,956	22·89
1925-29	34,892	18,013	16,879	8,732	8,728	8,856	8,576	20·24
1930-34	29,429	15,075	14,354	7,383	7,409	7,367	7,276	16·27
1935-39	29,467	15,113	14,354	7,285	7,154	7,466	7,562	15·85
1936 ..	28,883	14,796	14,087	7,151	6,936	7,448	7,348	15·63
1937 ..	29,731	15,209	14,522	7,116	7,335	7,617	7,663	16·02
1938 ..	30,344	15,636	14,708	7,416	7,401	7,668	7,859	16·25
1939 ..	30,493	15,728	14,765	7,725	7,446	7,646	7,876	16·20
1940 ..	31,962	16,393	15,569	7,807	7,381	8,065	8,709	16·86

* Not available.

**Birth rates—
Australian
States and
New Zealand.** The following statement shows the birth rate per 1,000 of the population in each of the Australian States and in New Zealand for the last five years:—

**BIRTH RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND,
1936 TO 1940.**

Year.	Vic- toria.	New South Wales.	Queens- land.	South Aus- tralia.	Western Aus- tralia.	Tas- mania.	Aus- tralia.	New Zealand.
1936 ..	15·63	17·31	19·17	15·17	18·84	19·84	17·13	16·64
1937 ..	16·02	17·63	19·36	15·25	18·95	20·69	17·43	17·29
1938 ..	16·25	17·39	18·98	15·88	19·87	20·82	17·46	17·93
1939 ..	16·20	17·46	20·08	16·13	19·43	21·03	17·65	18·73
1940 ..	16·86	17·81	20·02	16·80	19·60	20·90	18·02	21·20

The birth rate in England and Wales in 1940 was 14·6.

**Birthplaces
of parents
of nuptial
children.** The birth records of children born in wedlock show that, in Victoria in 1940, 83 out of every 100 children were born to Australian parents, and 96 out of every 100 to one or both parents born in Australia. Of the total fathers, the percentages born in the States or countries mentioned hereafter were as follows:—78·5 in Victoria; 87·7 in Australia; 0·7 in New Zealand; 6·3 in England and Wales; 1·8 in Scotland; 0·6 in Ireland; 0·6 in other British Possessions; and 2·3 in foreign countries. The corresponding percentages for mothers were:—Victoria, 82·1; Australia, 92·2; New Zealand, 0·6; England and Wales, 3·9; Scotland, 1·0; Ireland, 0·3; other British possessions, 0·3; and foreign countries, 1·7.

**Ages of
parents of
nuptial
children.** The average ages of fathers and of mothers of nuptial children whose births were recorded in 1940 were 31·95 and 28·32 years respectively. These averages were 3·87 and 3·43 years respectively above the average ages of bridegrooms marrying brides under 45 years of age, and of such brides, for the year 1940. The proportions of both parents in various age groups are shown in the following table for the year mentioned:—

VICTORIA—PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS OF NUPTIAL CHILDREN IN AGE GROUPS, 1940.

Father.				Mother.			
Age Group.		Percentage of Total Parents.	Age Group.		Percentage of Total Parents.		
Under 20	.. ..	0·49	Under 20	.. ..	4·05
20 to 24	.. ..	10·83	20 to 24	.. ..	23·78
25 to 29	.. ..	28·86	25 to 29	.. ..	33·53
30 to 34	.. ..	28·62	30 to 34	.. ..	23·26
35 to 39	.. ..	18·39	35 to 39	.. ..	11·38
40 to 44	.. ..	8·05	40 to 44	.. ..	3·70
45 to 49	.. ..	3·27	45 and over	.. ..	0·30
50 and over	.. ..	1·49				
Total	.. ..	100·00	Total	.. ..	100·00

It will be seen that, on the experience of 1940, 57·31 per cent. of the mothers were between ages 20 and 30, and 34·64 per cent. between ages 30 and 40. The proportions of fathers at these ages were 39·69 and 47·01 per cent. respectively. Of every 1,000 nuptial births, about 40 were to mothers under 20 years and about 3 to mothers aged 45 years and upwards.

The following table shows the number of births (allotted to the place of usual residence of the mother) and the births per 1,000 of the mean population in Greater Melbourne, cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and the remainder of the State for the five-year periods 1928 to 1932 and 1933 to 1937, and for the last three years :—

Birth rates in municipalities.

BIRTHS IN GREATER MELBOURNE, CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE, AND REMAINDER OF STATE.

Municipality.	Annual Number of Births.					Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.				
	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne ..	1,348	1,143	1,156	1,105	1,257	14.29	12.68	12.81	12.22	13.86
Box Hill ..	259	214	244	261	267	18.31	13.84	15.30	15.98	15.85
Braybrook (Part) ..	187	157	130	171	190	22.28	17.65	14.16	18.19	19.49
Brighton ..	394	358	416	464	509	13.37	11.69	12.92	14.07	15.04
Brunswick ..	974	790	874	876	833	17.52	14.53	15.93	15.91	15.06
Camberwell ..	865	759	938	1,056	1,224	17.85	14.58	16.56	17.80	18.98
Caulfield ..	941	807	942	969	1,047	14.87	12.14	13.58	13.80	14.71
Chelsea ..	127	121	118	172	139	18.66	17.46	16.74	24.16	19.04
Coburg ..	742	634	672	665	751	16.59	12.47	14.73	16.33	18.11
Collingwood ..	532	492	462	494	497	16.63	16.26	15.46	16.55	16.65
Essendon ..	766	578	695	706	771	16.59	12.47	14.73	14.83	15.98
Fitzroy ..	517	467	489	485	532	15.96	15.24	16.10	15.98	17.49
Footscray ..	875	698	778	788	782	19.13	14.97	16.33	16.33	15.26
Hawthorn ..	424	406	465	507	516	12.70	11.82	13.17	14.20	14.24
Heidelberg (Part) ..	413	340	389	412	432	16.93	14.02	15.65	16.30	16.80
Kew ..	339	284	331	346	335	13.97	11.58	13.04	13.48	12.84
Malvern ..	499	470	487	536	545	11.46	10.66	10.77	11.78	11.85
Moorabbin ..	398	359	410	374	475	23.14	19.20	20.97	18.65	22.84
Mordialloc ..	148	132	174	174	178	15.37	13.64	17.40	17.06	17.00
Northcote ..	727	576	602	610	660	17.27	13.55	14.02	14.17	15.21
Oakleigh ..	264	217	243	238	253	22.72	17.91	19.52	18.84	19.61
Port Melbourne ..	230	197	190	180	195	17.24	15.22	14.65	13.85	14.66
Prahran ..	696	624	699	719	798	13.26	11.84	12.93	13.18	14.43
Preston ..	703	581	609	649	699	23.87	18.05	18.44	19.33	20.45
Richmond ..	693	593	644	553	640	16.71	14.95	16.24	13.92	16.05
Sandringham ..	272	232	270	298	320	15.33	12.67	14.23	15.42	16.16
South Melbourne ..	660	551	571	544	591	15.06	12.81	13.25	12.60	13.63
St. Kilda ..	533	512	562	643	666	11.61	10.55	11.03	12.58	12.91
Williamstown ..	423	326	347	344	399	19.28	14.64	15.39	15.14	17.20
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne										
Ballarat ..	664	596	586	531	617	17.14	15.74	15.28	13.79	15.96
Bendigo ..	550	555	559	519	578	17.10	18.81	18.61	17.25	19.13
Geelong ..	844	693	686	655	741	19.26	17.52	17.16	16.27	18.26
Ararat ..	†	102	114	110	95	..	20.76	22.94	22.00	19.04
Castlemaine ..	105	98	120	94	99	15.16	18.70	22.68	17.74	18.57
Colac ..	†	106	115	120	131	..	20.42	20.91	21.74	23.52
Echuca ..	†	95	91	80	91	..	21.39	20.40	17.90	20.36
Hamilton ..	138	117	139	148	129	24.47	20.08	23.44	24.79	21.43
Horsham ..	†	118	116	145	124	..	22.13	21.32	26.22	22.26
Maryborough ..	118	111	114	111	115	21.35	19.62	20.00	19.37	19.90
Mildura ..	184	207	258	275	249	28.23	30.54	36.70	38.46	35.32
Sale ..	†	86	93	90	133	..	19.97	21.33	20.50	30.65
Shepparton ..	151	158	173	186	215	27.51	27.24	29.08	30.74	35.13
Stawell ..	92	85	84	82	108	19.46	17.75	17.46	16.98	22.27
Swan Hill ..	†	†	†	†	108	..	..	..	..	21.82
Wangaratta ..	†	107	100	139	133	..	22.21	20.58	28.42	26.81
Warrambool ..	176	175	183	189	187	20.17	19.40	20.04	20.52	20.17
Wonthaggi ..	141	91	93	76	78	22.44	14.95	14.24	11.67	11.98
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	15,949	13,618	14,907	15,339	16,501	16.03	13.55	14.48	14.73	15.54
Cities and Principal towns outside Greater Melbourne	3,163	3,500	3,624	3,550	3,931	19.22	18.90	19.25	18.74	20.13
Remainder of State	12,698	11,426	11,813	11,604	11,530	20.40	17.62	18.18	17.82	18.04
Victoria ..	31,805	28,544	30,344	30,493	31,962	17.85	15.52	16.25	16.20	16.86

† Not recorded.

Multiple
births.

The number of cases of multiple births and the proportion per 1,000 of the total cases of births in the last five years were as follows:—

VICTORIA—MULTIPLE BIRTHS.

Year.	Cases of Twins.	Cases of Triplets.	Cases of Quadruplets.	Total Multiple Cases.	Multiple Cases, per 1,000 of Total Cases.
1936 ..	298	4	..	302	10·57
1937 ..	335	3	1	339	11·53
1938 ..	291	2	..	293	9·75
1939 ..	317	3	..	320	10·60
1940 ..	321	2	..	323	10·21

On the average of the five years 1936–40, the proportion of mothers of twins was one in 96, of mothers of triplets one in 10,706, of mothers of quadruplets one in 149,889, and of mothers of all multiple births one in 95 mothers.

A case of quadruplets (3 males and 1 female) was recorded in the metropolitan area in the third quarter of 1937. This was the first case of quadruplets in Victoria since 1917.

Adoption of children. The Adoption of Children Acts make provision for the legal adoption of children under 21 years of age who have never married and for the registration of each adoption by the Government Statist.

The first registration was effected on 14th October, 1929, and, between that date and the end of the year 1940, the adoptions of 1639 male and 2,349 female children were registered. During 1940, adoptions registered comprised 273 male and 304 female children.

Children legitimated. Provision for the legitimation of children is made in the Births, Deaths, and Marriages Acts. Up to the end of 1940 advantage was taken of these Acts to legitimate 4,164 children, of whom 279 were registered in the years 1903 to 1909, 1,347 in 1910 to 1919, 1,374 in 1920 to 1929, and 1,019 in 1930 to 1939.

Legitimations during 1940 numbered 145.

Legitimation Acts are in force in all the Australian States and in New Zealand, but there are marked differences in the numbers of legitimations resulting therefrom. In proportion to every 100 children born out of wedlock in 1940 the numbers of legitimations in the several States and in New Zealand during that year were as follows:—Victoria, 13·1; New South Wales, 29·2; Queensland, 29·9; South Australia, 16·7; Western Australia, 43·6; Tasmania, 32·5; and New Zealand, 40·2.

Ex-nuptial
births in
Victoria.

The following table shows the number of ex-nuptial births and their percentage to total births since 1909 :—

VICTORIA—EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS, 1910 TO 1940.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Births.	Average Annual Number of Ex-nuptial Births.			Percentage of Total Births.
		Male.	Female.	Total.	
1910-14	34,500	1,013	979	1,992	5·77
1915-19	33,101	941	912	1,853	5·60
1920-24	36,022	869	821	1,690	4·69
1925-29	34,892	806	752	1,558	4·47
1930-34	29,429	685	620	1,305	4·43
1935-39	29,467	613	615	1,228	4·17
1936	28,883	636	636	1,272	4·40
1937	29,731	594	637	1,231	4·14
1938	30,344	647	654	1,301	4·29
1939	30,493	611	538	1,149	3·77
1940	31,962	571	535	1,106	3·46

There has been an appreciable decrease in the proportion of ex-nuptial births to total births in Victoria since 1913, the percentage having fallen from 6·03 in that year to 3·46 in 1940.

The percentages in the various States and in New Zealand in 1940 were as follows:—Victoria, 3·46; New South Wales, 3·80; Queensland, 4·68; South Australia, 2·76; Western Australia, 3·57; Tasmania, 4·19; Australia 3·78; and New Zealand, 3·89.

Ex-nuptiality
in town and
country.

A larger proportion of ex-nuptiality prevails among residents of Greater Melbourne and of the cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne than in the rural districts of Victoria. During the year 1940, the proportion of ex-nuptial births to total births was 4·03 per cent. in Greater Melbourne, 3·43 in the cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and 2·65 in the rural districts.

DEATHS.

The following table shows the number of deaths—male and female—the quarters in which they were registered, and the proportion per 1,000 of the population since 1854:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS IN EACH QUARTER, 1855 TO 1940.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Deaths.	Sex.		Quarter of Registration.				Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
		Males.	Females.	March.	June.	September.	December.	
1855-59..	7,653	4,768	2,885	*	*	*	*	17·78
1860-64..	10,210	6,001	4,209	3,257	2,658	2,093	2,202	18·44
1865-69..	11,035	6,374	4,661	3,385	2,938	2,243	2,469	16·93
1870-74..	10,978	6,365	4,613	3,232	2,744	2,461	2,541	14·56
1875-79..	13,289	7,567	5,722	4,016	3,567	2,831	2,875	16·45
1880-84..	12,820	7,324	5,496	3,512	3,167	3,013	3,128	14·40
1885-89..	16,200	9,307	6,893	4,591	3,912	3,689	4,008	15·87
1890-94..	16,886	9,716	7,170	4,643	4,108	3,977	4,158	14·62
1895-99..	16,350	9,227	7,123	4,324	3,957	3,808	4,261	13·81
1900-04..	15,457	8,686	6,771	3,921	3,750	3,992	3,794	12·84
1905-09..	14,932	8,296	6,636	3,805	3,539	3,917	3,671	11·93
1910-14..	15,705	8,616	7,089	3,873	3,875	4,137	3,820	11·57
1915-19..	16,283	8,860	7,423	3,781	4,172	4,467	3,863	11·38
1920-24..	16,375	8,781	7,594	3,846	4,166	4,503	3,860	10·40
1925-29..	16,674	8,969	7,705	3,770	4,213	4,602	4,089	9·67
1930-34..	17,180	9,175	8,005	3,814	4,214	4,822	4,330	9·50
1935-39..	18,994	10,109	8,885	4,043	4,780	5,630	4,541	10·22
1936 ..	18,778	9,996	8,782	4,070	4,800	5,454	4,454	10·16
1937 ..	18,613	9,890	8,723	3,833	4,990	5,311	4,479	10·03
1938 ..	18,955	10,026	8,929	4,016	4,605	5,774	4,560	10·15
1939 ..	20,169	10,779	9,390	4,320	5,048	5,982	4,819	10·72
1940 ..	20,293	10,930	9,363	4,427	4,841	6,150	4,875	10·70

* Not available.

The death rate gradually declined from 18·44 in 1860-64 to 9·50 in 1930-34, but during the quinquennium, 1935-39, it rose to 10·22. The lowest death rate (8·93) in the history of the State was recorded in 1930. It remained low for the following three years, but in 1934 it rose to its maximum since 1923. There was little fluctuation during the four years following 1934, but the rates for 1939 and 1940 were high, being 10·72 and 10·70 respectively.

The number of deaths in 1940 was 20,293, which was 1,299 more than the average of the preceding five years.

In 1940 there were 1,167 male to every 1,000 female deaths, the average for the last five years being 1,142. The corresponding proportion of male to female births in the quinquennium was 1,056. The natural increase for the five-year period was 54,605 (males, 26,141—females, 28,464).

Death rates— The following statement shows the death rate per 1,000 of the population in each of the Australian States and New Zealand. and in New Zealand for the last five years :—

DEATH RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1936 TO 1940.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1936	10·16	9·14	8·78	9·30	9·40	10·33	9·43	8·75
1937	10·03	9·36	9·10	8·91	8·95	9·51	9·44	9·08
1938	10·15	9·59	9·19	9·35	9·20	9·71	9·64	9·71
1939	10·72	9·75	9·40	9·63	9·32	10·19	9·93	9·20
1940	10·70	9·43	9·03	9·57	9·64	9·99	9·75	9·25

In 1940 the death rate in England and Wales was 14·0—non-civilian male deaths excluded.

Death rates in municipalities. Compiled on the basis of allotment of all deaths to the place of usual residence, the following table shows the number of deaths, and the deaths per 1,000 of the mean population in Greater Melbourne, cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and the remainder of the State, for the five-year periods 1928 to 1932 and 1933 to 1937, and for the last three years.

DEATHS IN GREATER MELBOURNE, CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE, AND REMAINDER OF STATE.

Municipality.	Annual Number of Deaths.					Deaths per 1,000 of Mean Population.				
	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne ..	1,091	1,120	1,135	1,208	1,209	11·57	12·42	12·58	13·36	13·33
Box Hill ..	125	155	160	156	176	8·81	9·99	10·03	9·55	10·45
Braybrook(Part)..	56	58	55	65	83	6·70	6·57	5·99	6·91	8·51
Brighton ..	272	316	324	343	386	9·22	10·33	10·06	10·40	11·40
Brunswick ..	532	560	570	582	621	9·57	10·30	10·39	10·57	11·22
Camberwell ..	430	494	571	587	627	8·87	9·49	10·08	9·89	9·72
Caulfield ..	552	656	718	783	755	8·72	9·87	10·35	11·15	10·61
Chelsea ..	63	83	92	85	92	9·24	12·02	13·05	11·94	12·60
Coburg ..	287	317	328	357	385	8·06	8·19	8·19	8·76	9·28
Collingwood ..	363	377	391	407	428	11·36	12·47	13·09	13·63	14·34
Essendon ..	429	484	520	521	550	9·30	10·46	11·02	10·94	11·40
Fitzroy ..	446	452	458	516	496	13·77	14·74	15·08	17·00	16·31
Footscray ..	402	425	459	432	504	8·79	9·12	9·63	8·95	9·83
Hawthorn ..	357	409	439	461	462	10·67	11·90	12·44	12·91	12·75
Heidelberg(Part)..	193	210	230	235	241	7·91	8·66	9·26	9·30	9·37
Kew ..	220	246	262	251	263	9·08	10·06	10·32	9·78	10·08
Malvern ..	404	489	508	571	552	9·28	11·07	11·24	12·55	12·00
Moorabbin ..	130	157	156	171	199	7·53	8·39	7·98	8·53	9·57
Mordialloc ..	85	94	103	130	133	8·86	9·67	10·30	12·74	12·70
Northcote ..	369	408	415	452	435	8·77	9·59	9·67	10·50	10·03
Oakleigh ..	101	115	118	114	127	8·72	9·49	9·48	9·03	9·84
Port Melbourne ..	137	156	147	162	121	10·28	12·08	11·33	12·46	9·10
Prahran ..	628	662	664	780	732	11·96	12·56	12·28	14·29	13·24
Preston ..	242	267	265	262	300	8·20	8·29	8·03	7·80	8·78
Richmond ..	464	465	459	476	477	11·20	11·73	11·58	11·98	11·96
Sandringham ..	161	177	192	213	227	9·08	9·63	10·12	11·02	11·46
South Melbourne ..	486	507	517	523	550	11·09	11·78	11·99	12·11	12·68
St. Kilda ..	452	538	604	612	682	9·84	11·09	11·85	11·98	13·22
Williamstown ..	211	219	244	264	263	9·63	9·81	10·82	11·62	11·34
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne—										
Ballarat ..	475	501	528	591	543	12·28	13·23	13·77	15·35	14·04
Bendigo ..	421	441	468	453	432	13·08	14·93	15·61	15·06	14·30
Geelong ..	455	463	422	450	485	10·40	11·70	10·56	11·18	11·95
Ararat ..	†	63	56	58	58	..	12·79	11·27	11·60	11·62
Castlemaine ..	†	64	68	75	57	10·61	12·20	12·85	14·15	10·69
Colac ..	†	54	56	56	65	..	10·42	10·18	10·14	11·67
Echuca ..	†	49	52	48	55	..	11·01	11·66	10·74	12·30
Hamilton ..	50	62	66	68	60	10·35	10·60	11·13	11·39	9·97
Horsham ..	†	62	47	72	61	..	11·72	8·64	13·02	10·95
Maryborough ..	59	73	58	80	64	10·66	12·98	10·18	13·96	11·07
Mildura ..	59	80	79	88	79	9·05	11·74	11·24	12·31	11·21
Sale ..	†	54	66	53	46	..	12·59	15·14	12·07	10·60
Shepparton ..	55	77	65	67	72	9·96	13·29	10·92	11·07	11·76
Stawell ..	51	53	64	60	73	10·87	10·98	13·32	12·42	15·05
Swan Hill ..	†	†	†	†	51	..	..	..	..	10·30
Wangaratta ..	†	62	60	63	65	..	12·81	12·34	12·88	13·10
Warrnambool ..	91	97	97	95	96	10·46	10·81	10·62	10·31	10·36
Wonthaggi ..	47	50	51	49	60	7·45	8·17	7·81	7·53	9·22
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	9,688	10,616	11,104	11,719	12,076	9·74	10·56	10·78	11·26	11·37
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	1,845	2,305	2,303	2,426	2,422	11·22	12·45	12·23	12·81	12·40
Remainder of State	5,311	5,469	5,548	6,024	5,795	8·53	8·44	8·54	9·25	9·07
Victoria ..	16,844	18,390	18,955	20,169	20,293	9·45	10·00	10·15	10·72	10·70

† Not recorded.

Particulars of the residence of persons who died in the public institutions of Victoria give a definite indication of the assistance rendered by these institutions to people in the various divisions of the State. The numbers and proportions of such deaths in the various municipalities are given below for 1940 :—

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1940.

Area.	Number of Deaths of Residents occurring in—		Percentage of Deaths of Residents occurring in—			Deaths of Residents occurring in Public Institutions per 1,000 of Population.
	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Total Public Institutions.	
GREATER MELBOURNE—						
Melbourne ..	450	119	37·22	9·84	47·06	6·27
Box Hill ..	31	11	17·61	6·25	23·86	2·49
Braybrook (Part) ..	23	7	27·71	8·43	36·14	3·08
Brighton ..	59	18	15·28	4·66	19·94	2·27
Brunswick ..	183	44	29·47	7·08	36·55	4·10
Camberwell ..	98	23	15·63	3·67	19·30	1·88
Caulfield ..	146	43	19·34	5·69	25·03	2·66
Chelsea ..	20	10	21·74	10·87	32·61	4·11
Coburg ..	100	17	25·97	4·42	30·39	2·82
Collingwood ..	143	41	33·41	9·58	42·99	6·16
Essendon ..	121	24	22·00	4·36	26·36	3·01
Fitzroy ..	185	63	37·30	12·70	50·00	8·15
Footscray ..	192	24	38·10	4·76	42·86	4·21
Hawthorn ..	86	33	18·62	7·14	25·76	3·28
Heidelberg (Part) ..	79	14	32·78	5·81	38·59	3·62
Kew ..	35	13	13·31	4·94	18·25	1·84
Malvern ..	85	28	15·40	5·10	20·50	2·46
Moorabbin ..	48	15	24·12	7·54	31·66	3·03
Mordialloc ..	34	7	25·56	5·27	30·83	3·92
Northcote ..	130	27	29·89	6·21	36·10	3·62
Oakleigh ..	33	9	25·98	7·09	33·07	3·26
Port Melbourne ..	40	10	33·06	8·26	41·32	3·76
Prahran ..	195	57	26·64	7·79	34·43	4·56
Preston ..	99	15	33·00	5·00	38·00	3·34
Richmond ..	152	42	31·86	8·81	40·67	4·86
Sandringham ..	49	12	21·58	5·29	26·87	3·08
South Melbourne ..	191	36	34·73	6·54	41·27	5·23
St. Kilda ..	175	32	25·66	4·69	30·35	4·01
Williamstown ..	88	12	33·46	4·56	38·02	4·31

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1940—*continued.*

Area.	Number of Deaths of Residents occurring in—		Percentage of Deaths of Residents occurring in—			Deaths of Residents occurring in Public Institutions per 1,000 of Population.
	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Total Public Institutions.	
CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE—						
Ballarat	169	46	31·12	8·47	39·59	5·56
Bendigo	149	34	34·49	7·87	42·36	6·06
Geelong	163	20	33·61	4·12	37·73	4·51
Ararat	28	8	48·28	13·79	62·07	7·21
Castlemaine ..	24	8	42·11	14·03	56·14	6·00
Colac	32	10	49·23	15·38	64·61	7·54
Echuca	28	4	50·91	7·27	58·18	7·16
Hamilton	30	2	50·00	3·33	53·33	5·32
Horsham	26	4	42·62	6·56	49·18	5·39
Maryborough ..	34	6	53·13	9·37	62·50	6·92
Mildura	45	5	56·96	6·33	63·29	7·09
Sale	22	2	47·82	4·35	52·17	5·53
Shepparton ..	27	5	37·50	6·94	44·44	5·23
Stawell	30	5	41·10	6·85	47·95	7·22
Wangaratta ..	34	3	52·31	4·61	56·92	7·46
Warrnambool ..	37	4	38·54	4·17	42·71	4·42
Wonthaggi ..	23	2	38·33	3·33	41·66	3·84
SUMMARY—						
Greater Melbourne ..	3,270	806	27·08	6·67	33·75	3·84
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne ..	901	168	38·00	7·09	45·09	5·47
Remainder of State ..	1,584	306	27·10	5·23	32·33	2·92
Victoria	5,755	1,280	28·36	6·31	34·67	3·69

PERCENTAGE OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF GREATER MELBOURNE, REMAINDER OF STATE AND VICTORIA, OCCURRING IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN CERTAIN PERIODS SINCE 1910.

—	1910-14.	1920-24.	1925-29.	1930-34.	1939.	1940.
Greater Melbourne ..	24·3	27·0	29·5	27·7	25·5	27·1
Remainder of State ..	17·0	21·2	23·7	26·3	24·7	30·2
Victoria	20·4	24·3	27·0	27·1	25·2	28·4

In 1940 the number of deaths in all public institutions was 7,035, of which 4,076 were of residents of Greater Melbourne.

Deaths in
metropolitan
public
institutions.

The number of deaths in each metropolitan public institution in 1940 is given in the subjoined table :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS IN METROPOLITAN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1940.

Institution.	No. of Deaths.	Institution.	No. of Deaths.
HOSPITALS—GENERAL—		SANATORIA—	
Royal Melbourne	836	Heatherton	25
Alfred	709	Greenvale	29
Hamilton Russell Com- munity	41	Gresswell	30
Children's	271	Total Sanatoria	84
St. Vincent's	550		
St. Vincent's Intermediate ..	41		
Austin	469		
Women's	256	BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS—	
Prince Henry's	153	Melbourne (Cheltenham)	
Infectious Diseases	110	Asylum	262
Caulfield Repatriation	128	Victorian Homes for Aged and Infirm	205
Queen Victoria	101	Convent of Little Sisters of the Poor	69
Jessie McPherson Com- munity	39	Old Colonists' Homes	6
Williamstown	62	Total Benevolent Institu- tions	542
Caulfield Convalescent	6		
Eye and Ear	7		
Police	2		
After Care Home	5		
Total General Hospitals	3,786	FOUNDLING HOMES, REFUGES—	
		Broadmeadows	11
		East Melbourne	3
HOSPITALS—MENTAL—		The Haven, Fitzroy	1
Kew	65	Children's Welfare Depot ..	1
Mont Park	71	Total Refuges, &c.	16
Receiving House, Royal Park	90		
Repatriation—Bundoora	5	Total Hospitals and other Institutions	4,659
Total Mental Hospitals	231		

Of the 4,659 deaths in the above institutions, 2,729 were of males and 1,930 were of females.

In Greater Melbourne, in the decade 1931-40, there was an average of 10·58 deaths per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 15·76 in the decennium 1892-1901. The reduction in the rate represents a saving of approximately 53,000 lives in the last ten years. The improvement in the hygienic conditions of the metropolis is evidenced by a comparison of the death rates from tubercular and certain other diseases for the period 1931-40 with those for the decennium 1892-1901.

Decrease in
metropolitan
death rate.

DEATH RATES—GREATER MELBOURNE.

Cause of Death.	Average Annual Deaths per 1,000,000 of Population.		
	1892-1901.	1931-40.	Decrease.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	1,654	473	1,181
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	446	67	379
Typhoid Fever	293	5	288
Scarlet Fever	33	11	22
Measles	215	9	206
Diphtheria	196	49	147
Total	2,837	614	2,223

The figures show that the mortality from the six diseases mentioned declined by 78 per cent.—the decline representing a rate of 2,223 per million of the population.

The mortality from all causes showed a net decline of 5,180 per million of the population.

The mortality of children under one year, in proportion to births, reveals a constant decline since 1890—the death per 1,000 children born having fallen from 133 in 1885-89 to 38 in 1936-40—a reduction of 71 per cent. In other words, where 100 infants died in the earlier period, only 29 died in the latter.

The reduction has been contributed to by various health acts and educative measures, including the notification of infectious diseases, the regulation of the manufacture, sale, and distribution of foodstuffs and patent medicines, and the ensuring of a pure milk and water supply. The passing of the Midwives Act in 1915 and the inauguration of the Infant Welfare movement in 1917 coincide with and, in a large degree, account for the reduction of the rate in later years. Particulars of the Infant Welfare movement will be found in Part "Social Condition" of this volume.

The infantile death rates for Greater Melbourne, the remainder of the State, and the whole State, for various periods since 1879, are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1880 TO 1940.

Period.	Greater Melbourne.		Remainder of State.		Victoria.	
	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
1880-84..	1,649	170·1	1,626	92·3	3,275	120·0
1885-89..	2,576	178·5	1,812	97·9	4,388	133·3
1890-94..	2,311	140·4	1,926	94·9	4,237	114·7
1895-99..	1,650	131·5	1,913	100·0	3,563	112·5
1900-04..	1,417	116·5	1,565	86·2	2,982	98·2
1905-09..	1,209	96·5	1,307	71·5	2,516	81·2
1910-14..	1,345	84·2	1,201	64·9	2,546	73·8
1915-19..	1,302	76·2	886	55·4	2,188	66·1
1920-24..	1,328	71·6	1,024	58·6	2,352	65·3
1925-29..	1,034	58·4	863	50·2	1,897	54·4
1930-34..	674	47·3	618	40·7	1,292	43·9
1935-39..	543	37·9	574	37·9	1,117	37·9
1936 ..	605	44·1	617	40·7	1,222	42·3
1937 ..	538	37·1	553	36·3	1,091	36·7
1938 ..	508	34·1	530	34·3	1,038	34·2
1939 ..	495	32·3	590	38·9	1,085	35·6
1940 ..	655	39·7	606	39·2	1,261	39·5

The system was introduced in 1923 of allotting all births and deaths to the place of usual residence of the parties. In the cases of births and infantile deaths the mother's residence is considered to be that of the child. This accounts for the slight increase in the rate for the remainder of the State in the period 1920-24, and the corresponding decrease in the rate for the metropolis.

During the last decade the infantile death rate declined from 44·5 in 1931 to 39·5 in 1940, a decrease of 11 per cent. During each year of the period 1931 to 1936 the rate was over 40, but in 1937 a pronounced fall occurred, the rate dropping to 36·7. This was followed by a further drop in 1938, the new record low rate of 34·2 being recorded. In 1939 the rate rose to 35·6, and was followed by a further rise to 39·5 in 1940.

Infantile deaths in municipalities. Deaths of infants under one year of age, and the deaths per 1,000 births in Greater Melbourne, cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and the remainder of the State

for the five-year periods 1928-32 and 1933-37, and for the last three years, were as follows:—

INFANTILE DEATHS IN GREATER MELBOURNE, CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE, AND REMAINDER OF STATE.

Municipality.	Annual Number of Deaths under One Year					Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.				
	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne ..	86	55	46	40	67	63·95	48·45	39·79	36·20	53·30
Box Hill ..	10	8	13	8	63	37·04	38·25	53·28	30·65	11·24
Braybrook (Part) ..	6	8	6	4	10	33·19	49·68	46·15	23·39	52·63
Brighton ..	15	11	8	18	17	39·11	30·15	19·23	38·79	33·40
Brunswick ..	60	32	31	24	42	61·63	40·23	35·47	27·40	50·42
Camberwell ..	30	26	34	25	33	34·68	33·74	36·25	23·67	26·96
Caulfield ..	39	27	24	31	39	41·87	33·47	25·48	31·99	37·25
Chelsea ..	6	5	2	3	4	47·32	43·12	16·95	17·44	23·78
Coburg ..	33	26	23	17	25	44·47	40·38	34·23	25·56	33·29
Collingwood ..	38	28	19	18	27	71·78	57·27	41·13	36·44	54·33
Essendon ..	33	23	26	28	22	42·83	40·51	37·41	39·66	28·53
Fitzroy ..	41	26	25	19	33	79·33	56·98	51·12	39·17	62·03
Footscray ..	41	29	25	34	48	47·34	40·99	32·13	43·15	61·38
Hawthorn ..	16	18	15	12	22	37·23	44·31	32·26	23·67	42·64
Heidelberg (Part) ..	20	11	13	10	15	49·37	32·37	33·42	24·27	34·72
Kew ..	15	9	9	8	18	43·66	30·32	27·19	23·12	53·73
Malvern ..	19	17	13	14	15	38·91	35·71	26·69	26·12	27·52
Moorabbin ..	14	14	13	13	17	34·17	37·93	31·71	34·76	35·79
Mordialloc ..	8	7	8	10	6	55·48	54·55	45·98	57·47	33·71
Northcote ..	38	24	13	15	27	51·73	41·65	21·59	24·59	40·91
Oakleigh ..	12	9	8	3	1	46·18	43·36	32·92	12·60	3·95
Port Melbourne ..	16	11	5	9	4	71·24	56·91	26·32	50·00	20·52
Prahran ..	41	29	23	28	19	58·62	46·44	32·90	38·94	23·81
Preston ..	31	23	21	14	32	44·08	40·29	34·48	21·57	45·78
Richmond ..	46	29	19	20	30	65·63	49·27	29·56	36·17	46·88
Sandringham ..	17	9	7	9	11	35·95	37·04	25·93	30·20	34·38
South Melbourne ..	40	30	26	26	19	70·87	54·77	45·53	47·79	32·15
St. Kilda ..	22	22	20	27	34	41·67	43·78	35·59	41·99	51·05
Williamstown ..	19	13	13	8	15	44·44	38·63	37·46	23·26	37·59
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melb.—										
Ballarat ..	34	25	19	26	33	51·84	41·62	32·42	48·96	53·48
Bendigo ..	33	22	22	21	24	60·00	40·32	39·36	40·46	41·52
Geelong ..	49	34	21	27	30	53·56	48·77	30·61	41·22	40·49
Ararat ..	†	4	3	3	2	..	40·85	26·32	27·27	21·05
Castlemaine ..	†	4	6	3	1	47·80	38·62	50·00	31·92	10·10
Colac ..	†	5	4	3	4	..	45·63	34·78	25·00	30·53
Echuca ..	†	6	2	1	2	..	62·50	21·98	12·50	21·98
Hamilton ..	†	4	6	6	2	34·63	37·61	43·16	40·54	15·50
Horsham ..	†	5	3	8	1	..	40·95	25·86	55·17	8·06
Maryborough ..	†	5	4	..	5	45·84	41·59	35·09	..	43·48
Mildura ..	†	8	6	13	6	47·83	37·68	23·26	47·27	24·20
Sale ..	†	2	6	2	3	..	27·97	64·52	22·22	22·56
Shepparton ..	†	8	8	10	9	54·16	54·50	46·24	53·76	41·86
Stawell ..	†	3	3	2	4	28·26	47·06	35·71	24·39	37·04
Swan Hill ..	†	†	†	†	12	..	..	..	..	111·11
Wangaratta ..	†	7	9	12	10	..	63·91	90·00	86·33	75·19
Warrnambool ..	†	6	8	6	3	52·33	34·32	43·72	31·75	16·04
Wonthaggi ..	†	5	2	4	1	53·67	50·66	21·50	52·64	12·82
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	812	579	508	495	655	50·94	42·55	34·08	32·27	39·69
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	168	154	132	147	152	53·24	43·95	36·42	41·41	38·67
Remainder of State	535	437	398	443	454	42·12	38·24	33·69	38·18	39·38
Victoria ..	1,515	1,170	1,038	1,085	1,261	47·65	41·00	34·21	35·58	39·45

† Not recorded.

Infantile
mortality at
certain
ages.

An investigation into the experience in regard to infantile mortality over a period of years discloses that the decrease in the infantile death rate, since the earlier periods, has been shared proportionately by each sex, and also by each age period, except that of "under one week." The rate per 1,000 births of infants "under one week," which, in 1940, comprised 53 per cent. of the total infantile mortality, has varied from 21·5 in the quinquennium 1910-14 (the earliest years for which the information is available) to 23·7 in 1920-24 and 20·9 in 1936-40. Between 1910-14 and 1936-40, the mortality of infants "one week and under one month" decreased by 55 per cent. and that of infants "one month and under one year" by 72 per cent. Victoria lost, between the ages of one month and one year, 64 out of every 1,000 children born in 1900-04, 33 in 1915-19, and twelve in 1936-40.

On the average of the years, 1936-40, the total rate for males was higher than that for females by 27·6 per cent.

The tables which follow show the proportion of deaths of infants at various ages under one year for certain periods since 1899, and the male and the female death rates at each age period for the year 1940 :—

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES, 1900 TO 1940.

Period.	Deaths Under One Year per 1,000 Births.							Males.	Females.
	Under 1 Week.	1 Week and under 1 Month	1 Month and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 12 Months	Total under 1 Year.			
1900-04 ..	34·4		16·9	21·0	25·9	98·2	105·7	90·4	
1905-09 ..	33·0		13·8	15·1	19·3	81·2	89·3	72·6	
1910-14 ..	21·5	11·1	12·1	12·4	16·7	73·8	81·8	65·3	
1915-19 ..	23·3	10·1	10·5	9·4	12·8	66·1	73·0	58·7	
1920-24 ..	23·7	9·3	9·8	10·0	12·5	65·3	71·8	58·5	
1925-29 ..	22·7	7·7	6·9	6·7	10·4	54·4	60·7	47·6	
1930-34 ..	22·3	5·5	4·8	4·6	6·7	43·9	49·2	38·4	
1935-39 ..	21·1	5·1	3·7	2·9	5·1	37·9	42·0	33·6	
1936 ..	21·1	5·5	5·1	4·0	6·6	42·3	46·4	38·0	
1937 ..	21·2	4·9	3·3	2·9	4·4	36·7	41·0	32·2	
1938 ..	20·8	3·9	3·2	2·3	4·0	34·2	38·8	29·3	
1939 ..	20·7	5·4	2·8	2·2	4·5	35·6	39·2	31·8	
1940 ..	20·9	5·6	4·6	3·5	4·9	39·5	44·9	33·7	

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES, MALES AND FEMALES, 1940.

Age.	Males.			Females.		
	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Percentage at each Age.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Percentage at each Age.
Under 1 week ..	386	23.55	52.45	283	18.18	53.91
1 week and under 1 month ..	105	6.40	14.27	72	4.62	13.71
1 month and under 3 months ..	89	5.43	12.09	58	3.73	11.05
3 months and under 6 months ..	65	3.97	8.83	48	3.08	9.14
6 months and under 12 months ..	91	5.55	12.36	64	4.11	12.19
Total under one year ..	736	44.90	100.00	525	33.72	100.00

Infantile death rates from certain causes.

An examination of the principal causes of infantile mortality over a period of years and at various ages reveals the direction in which an improvement has been achieved, and discloses those causes and factors to which future investigations need to be directed if the decline in the rate is to be maintained. The infant mortality rates from the principal causes for various periods since 1890 and for 1940 are shown in the next two tables.

VICTORIA—INFANTILE DEATH RATES FROM CERTAIN CAUSES.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births in—						
	1891-93.	1901-10.	1911-20.	1921-30.	1938.	1939.	1940
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases ..	12.41	7.31	4.87	3.57	.75	1.15	3.47
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	11.37	8.13	6.86	6.08	4.38	4.17	5.13
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	29.66	24.62	16.13	9.85	1.06	1.64	1.78
Congenital Malformations (157) ..	3.45	4.86	4.38	4.43	4.08	3.57	4.54
Congenital Debility (158) ..	22.24	12.74	13.09	6.77	1.48	1.64	.97
Prematurity (159) ..	13.13	14.99	15.17	15.34	11.40	12.46	12.92
Injury at birth (160) ..	} 21.51	12.77	7.98	3.42	4.72	3.34	3.94
Early Infancy (161) ..							
Other diseases ..							
Violence ..	3.16	2.47	1.07	.80	.83	.82	.72
Total, all Causes ..	116.93	87.89	69.55	57.25	34.21	35.58	39.45

VICTORIA—INFANTILE DEATH RATES, AT VARIOUS AGES,
FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1940.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.									
	Age Period.						Total.	Males.	Females.	Average Annual Rate, 1936-40.
	Under 1 Week.	1 Week and under 1 Month.	1 Month and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 12 Months.					
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases ..	..	·13	1·03	·78	1·53	3·47	3·42	3·53	2·03
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	·47	1·03	1·16	·75	1·72	5·13	6·28	3·92	5·02	
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	..	·56	·44	·34	·44	1·78	2·13	1·41	1·66
Congenital Malformations (157) ..	1·85	·91	·55	·82	·41	4·54	5·61	3·41	4·06	
Congenital Debility (158)	·50	·25	·19	·03	..	·97	1·04	·90	1·73	
Prematurity (159) ..	11·23	1·53	·13	·03	..	12·92	14·40	11·37	11·93	
Injury at Birth (160) ..	3·03	·28	·03	·04	..	3·38	4·21	2·51	3·26	
Early Infancy (161) ..	3·41	·34	·16	·03	..	3·94	4·03	3·85	4·26	
Other Diseases ..	·31	·44	·63	·56	·66	2·60	3·29	1·86	2·87	
Violence ..	·13	·06	·28	·16	·09	·72	·49	·96	·80	
Total, all Causes ..	20·93	5·53	4·60	3·54	4·85	39·45	44·90	33·72	37·62	
Average Annual Rate, 1936-40 ..	20·94	5·05	3·78	2·97	4·88	37·62	42·05	32·95	..	

The mortality of infants under one year from pre-natal causes (malformations, congenital debility, prematurity, injury at birth, &c.) was 25·2 per 1,000 births in 1936-40 and represented 67 per cent. of the total infant deaths. Variations in classification in the earlier years prevent exact comparison but no appreciable decline is evident. The rate in 1940 was 25·7, of which 78 per cent. occurred in the first week of life.

The mortality from the chief preventable diseases—infectious, respiratory, and diarrhoeal—has declined from 40·1 per 1,000 births in 1901–10 to 27·9 in 1911–20 and 8·7 in 1936–40. Deaths from diarrhoeal diseases declined from 24·6 per 1,000 births in 1901–10 to 1·7 in 1936–40, the main respiratory diseases from 8·1 to 5·0 and the infectious from 7·3 to 2·0. It will thus be seen that, since the beginning of this century, mortality of infants from diarrhoeal diseases has been reduced by 93 per cent.; the main respiratory diseases by 38 per cent.; and the infectious by 72 per cent. Of recent years respiratory diseases have displaced diarrhoeal as the most fatal of the preventable infantile diseases. With few exceptions the mortality rate of males from infantile diseases is consistently higher than that of females.

The following table shows the number of deaths from the principal causes, and the death rate of infants under one month, for Greater Melbourne and the whole State, for the years 1936 to 1940.

VICTORIA—DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE MONTH,
1936 TO 1940.

GREATER MELBOURNE AND WHOLE STATE.

Cause of Death.	Greater Melbourne.					Victoria.				
	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases	2	3	1	3	3	4	4	1	7	4
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia	29	28	30	26	25	47	45	37	45	48
Diarrhoeal Diseases	2	1	.	3	16	3	2	2	6	18
Malformations, &c. (157)	40	31	32	37	47	104	72	83	74	88
Wasting Diseases (158)	12	16	10	9	2	41	50	32	34	24
Prematurity	140	156	156	184	215	321	328	339	371	408
Injury at Birth	44	63	42	56	65	81	100	80	120	106
Early Infancy (161)	74	79	76	41	55	134	130	139	101	120
Other Diseases	7	16	13	15	10	22	36	25	30	24
Violence	6	7	7	2	4	11	10	12	7	6
Total, all Causes	356	400	367	376	442	768	777	750	795	846
Deaths per 1,000 Births	25·9	27·6	24·6	24·5	26·8	26·6	26·1	24·7	26·1	26·5

Stillbirths and infantile mortality. A survey of the mortality from pre-natal causes is not complete without taking into account the loss due to stillbirths. In Victoria stillbirths are not registered, but, in accordance with the provisions of the Cemeteries Act and the (Commonwealth) Maternity Allowance Act, cases are notified to registrars. After careful enquiry it can be stated that the percentage of stillbirths not notified is very small.

The following table contains information relating to stillbirths and infantile mortality in Victoria.

VICTORIA--STILLBIRTHS (RECORDED) AND INFANT MORTALITY, 1931 TO 1940.

Year.	Percentage of Stillbirths to--		Deaths of Infants under One Year per 1,000 Births.				*Inclusive of Stillbirths.
	Living Births.	All Births.	Exclusive of Stillbirths.				
			Under One Month.	One Month and under Twelve Months.	Total under One Year.		
1931 ..	2·8	2·7	28·6	15·9	44·5	70·4	
1932 ..	2·9	2·8	27·2	15·8	43·0	69·9	
1933 ..	2·9	2·8	27·6	12·8	40·4	67·1	
1934 ..	3·1	3·0	27·7	16·9	44·6	73·6	
1935 ..	3·0	2·9	27·6	13·6	41·2	69·5	
1936 ..	2·9	2·8	26·6	15·7	42·3	69·0	
1937 ..	2·7	2·6	26·1	10·6	36·7	61·6	
1938 ..	3·0	2·9	24·7	9·5	34·2	61·9	
1939 ..	2·8	2·7	26·1	9·5	35·6	62·1	
1940 ..	2·8	2·7	26·5	13·0	39·5	65·6	

* In the computation of the rates for the numbers inclusive of stillbirths, the latter are taken into account in both births and deaths.

It will be seen that, as with other mortality due to pre-natal influences, the rate of stillbirths shows little tendency to decrease.

On the average of the last ten years, 72 in every 1,000 ex-nuptial infants died within a year, as against 39 in every 1,000 nuptial children. The proportion of ex-nuptial children who died before the age of one year is, therefore, 1·8 times that of nuptial children. In the year 1940 the mortality rate of nuptial infants was 39·2 per 1,000 births. Births and deaths of ex-nuptial children numbered 1,106 and 51 respectively, the death rate being thus 46·1 per 1,000 births. The disproportion in the mortality rates of the two classes is manifested in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES OF NUPTIAL AND EX-NUPTIAL INFANTS FROM CERTAIN CAUSES.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.							
	Nuptial.				Ex-nuptial.			
	1904-08.	1914-18.	1924-28.	1940.	1904-08.	1914-18.	1924-28.	1940.
Bronchitis, Broncho-Pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	6·9	6·1	5·9	4·9	18·6	12·5	13·0	12·6
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	19·8	14·2	8·9	1·8	72·6	48·6	23·1	1·8
Prematurity, Congenital Malformations, Marasmus, &c.* ..	30·3	27·2	25·0	18·4	52·1	64·9	46·9	18·1
Other Causes ..	18·3	15·3	14·7	14·1	58·7	36·6	29·3	13·6
Total, all Causes ..	75·3	62·8	54·5	39·2	202·0	162·6	112·3	46·1

* Not including "Injury at Birth" and "Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy."

The rates for the last five years show that, of every 1,000 children born out of wedlock, 5·9 died from diarrhoeal diseases within a year, as compared with 1·4 deaths per 1,000 nuptial infants from the same cause. Owing to a larger proportion of the former children being deprived of breast food, a higher mortality from these diseases might be expected than amongst nuptial infants, but the striking differences in the death rates from this cause and from the chief respiratory diseases indicate considerable neglect in the rearing of ex-nuptial infants. The rates from the respiratory diseases (bronchitis, bronchopneumonia, and pneumonia) for ex-nuptial and nuptial children were 14·7 and 4·6 per 1,000 births respectively.

In 1940 pre-natal causes (malformations, congenital debility, prematurity, injury at birth, &c.) accounted for 26 deaths, or 51 per cent. of the total deaths of ex-nuptial infants.

The following statement shows the infantile death rate per 1,000 births in each of the Australian States and in New Zealand, for the last five years.

INFANTILE DEATH RATE—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1936 TO 1940.

Year.	Vic-toria.	New South Wales.	Queens-land.	South Aus-tralia.	Western Aus-tralia.	Tas-man-ia.	Aus-tralia.	New Zealand.
1936	42·31	43·47	36·20	31·09	42·22	49·55	41·16	30·96
1937	36·70	40·68	35·64	33·06	37·52	41·73	38·06	31·21
1938	34·21	41·84	41·28	30·50	33·80	39·74	38·26	35·63
1939	35·58	41·02	35·48	34·93	40·84	40·57	38·23	31·14
1940	39·45	39·02	35·32	35·54	44·18	35·24	38·43	30·36

In the year 1940, the infantile mortality rates recorded for the Australian States showed that Tasmania had the lowest rate and Western Australia the highest.

The infantile deaths per 1,000 births in the following capital cities in 1939 were:—Melbourne, 32·3; Sydney, 34·3; Brisbane, 33·7; Adelaide, 34·8; Perth, 38·2; Hobart, 48·0; and Wellington, 36·3.

In 1940 the infantile death rate in England and Wales was 55.

Deaths of children under 5.

In 1940 the deaths of male and of female children in Victoria under 5 years of age numbered 899 and 641 respectively.

Ages at death.

The ages of males and of females who died in each of the last three years are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—AGES AT DEATH, 1938 TO 1940.

Ages.	1938.			1939.			1940.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year	607	431	1,038	616	469	1,085	736	525	1,261
1 year	55	80	135	74	72	146	79	50	129
2 years	49	44	93	38	30	68	33	26	59
3 "	34	20	54	23	24	47	28	23	51
4 "	33	20	53	26	20	46	23	17	40
5 to 9	96	62	158	101	67	168	83	68	151
10 " 14	102	48	150	87	60	147	86	66	152
15 " 19	146	100	246	150	90	240	130	89	219
20 " 24	151	141	292	183	142	325	182	155	337
25 " 29	182	183	365	200	160	360	186	145	331
30 " 34	179	175	354	202	174	376	186	160	346
35 " 39	239	230	469	239	223	462	242	182	424
40 " 44	301	249	550	309	265	574	288	263	551
45 " 49	433	369	802	463	373	836	500	373	873
50 " 54	544	423	967	596	437	1,033	644	477	1,121
55 " 59	709	537	1,246	747	523	1,270	792	513	1,305
60 " 64	878	671	1,549	895	646	1,541	993	743	1,736
65 " 69	1,145	975	2,120	1,222	1,069	2,291	1,168	989	2,157
70 " 74	1,433	1,254	2,687	1,461	1,238	2,699	1,464	1,248	2,712
75 " 79	1,342	1,301	2,643	1,548	1,476	3,024	1,520	1,446	2,966
80 " 84	920	916	1,836	1,047	1,046	2,093	1,038	1,083	2,121
85 " 89	313	471	784	410	541	951	390	495	885
90 " 94	109	179	288	115	183	298	104	190	294
95	7	20	27	10	20	30	8	11	19
96 ..	5	9	14	5	17	22	5	11	16
97 ..	5	7	12	4	13	17	5	4	9
98 ..	3	5	8	4	7	11	4	3	7
99 ..	1	5	6	2	..	2	5	2	7
100 ..	..	2	2	..	2	2	2	3	5
101 ..	..	1	1	1	1	2	..	..	..
102 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3
103 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
104 ..	1	1	2	..	2	2	1	..	1
105 ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
106 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Unknown	3	..	3	1	..	1	1	..	1
Total ..	10,026	8,929	18,955	10,779	9,390	20,169	10,930	9,363	20,293

NOTE.—Ages of very old people are frequently overstated; where particulars are available these are verified from official records.

Of the 59,417 persons who died in Victoria during the last three years 9,782 (or approximately 16 per cent.) were aged 80 years and upwards, and 25—ten males and fifteen females—were stated as having attained or passed the age of 100 years. In 1888 deaths of persons aged 80 years and over represented about 3 per cent. of the total deaths in that year.

The changes that have occurred in the age distribution of the population over the last 50 years are reflected in the above figures.

Causes of death.

The causes of death in Victoria and Greater Melbourne according to the international abridged classification (1938 revision) for the year 1940 are shown in the following table:—

International Abridged Classification. (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses.)	Deaths—1940.			
	Victoria.		Greater Melbourne.	
	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers (1, 2) ..	3	1·6	1	·9
2. Plague (3) ..	..	..	..	..
3. Scarlet Fever (8) ..	..	..	..	..
4. Whooping Cough (9) ..	15	7·9	12	11·3
5. Diphtheria (10) ..	120	63·3	80	75·4
6. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System (13)	26	13·7	17	16·0
7A. Tuberculosis of the Meninges and Central Nervous System (14) ..	727	383·4	477	449·3
7B. All other forms of Tuberculosis (15-22) ..	27	14·2	14	13·2
8. Malaria (28) ..	57	30·1	33	31·1
9. Syphilis (30) ..	1	·5	..	..
10A. Influenza with Respiratory Complications (33A) ..	140	73·8	101	95·1
10B. Influenza without Respiratory Complications (33B) ..	51	26·9	23	21·7
11. Smallpox (34) ..	29	15·3	17	16·0
12. Measles (35) ..	..	..	..	..
13. Typhus Fever (39) ..	14	7·4	3	2·8
14. Other Infectious or Parasitic Diseases ..	..	..	..	..
15. Cancer and other Malignant Tumours (45-55)	113	59·6	53	49·9
16. Non-malignant Tumours or Tumors of undetermined Nature (56, 57) ..	2,528	1,333·2	1,589	1,496·6
17. Chronic Rheumatism and Gout (59, 60) ..	117	61·7	72	67·8
18. Diabetes Mellitus (61) ..	62	32·7	37	34·9
19. Chronic or Acute Alcoholism (77) ..	381	200·9	230	218·6
20. Vitamin-deficiency Diseases, other General Diseases, Diseases of the Blood, and Chronic Poisonings ..	16	8·4	13	12·2
21. Meningitis (non-meningococcal) and Diseases of the Medulla and Spinal Cord (81, 82) ..	312	164·5	192	180·8
22. Intra-cranial Lesions of Vascular Origin (83)	101	53·3	59	55·6
23. Other Diseases of the Nervous System and Sense Organs ..	1,719	906·5	1,045	984·3
24. Diseases of the Heart (90-95) ..	192	101·3	120	113·0
25. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System ..	5,094	2,686·4	3,064	2,885·9
26A. Acute Bronchitis (106 A and C) ..	775	408·7	523	492·6
26B. Chronic Bronchitis (106 B and D) ..	45	23·7	19	17·9
27. Pneumonia and Broncho-pneumonia (107- 109) ..	198	104·4	125	117·7
28. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System ..	1,366	720·4	780	734·7
29A. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years of age) (119) ..	317	167·2	174	163·9
29B. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (two years and over) (120) ..	73	38·5	41	38·6
30. Appendicitis (121) ..	68	35·9	38	35·8
31A. Cirrhosis of Liver (124) ..	116	61·2	58	54·6
31B. Other Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Passages (125-127) ..	109	57·5	77	72·5
32A. Hernia, Intestinal Obstruction (122) ..	146	77·0	92	86·7
32B. Other Diseases of the Digestive System ..	175	92·3	97	91·4
33. Nephritis (130-132) ..	304	160·3	192	180·8
34. Other Diseases of the Genito-urinary System (133-139) ..	1,310	690·8	799	752·6
35. Puerperal Infection (140, 147) ..	377	198·8	234	220·4
36. Other Diseases of Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium (141-146, 148-150) ..	70	36·9	50	47·1
37. Diseases of the Skin, Cellular Tissue, Bones, and Organs of Movement (151-156) ..	58	30·6	24	22·6
38. Congenital Malformations and Debility, Pre- mature Birth, and Diseases peculiar to the First Year of Life (157-161) ..	76	40·1	51	48·0
	846	446·1	435	409·7

International Abridged Classification. (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses.)	Deaths—1940.			
	Victoria.		Greater Melbourne.	
	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.
39. Senility, Old-age (162)	794	418·7	348	327·8
40. Suicide (163, 164)	144	75·9	70	65·9
41. Homicide (165-168)	12	6·3	10	9·4
42. Automobile Accidents (all motor-driven road vehicles (170))	471	248·4	311	292·9
43. Other Violent or Accidental Deaths	537	283·2	261	245·8
44. Causes of Death Ill-defined, Unknown, or Unspecified (199, 200)	61	32·2	15	14·1
	20,293	10,701·7	12,076	11,373·9

Typhoid fever. In 1940, deaths from typhoid fever numbered 3, being equivalent to a rate of 1·6 per million of population, as compared with rates of 4 in 1939, 3 in 1938, 5 in 1937, 5 in 1936, 31 in 1920-24, 108 in 1905-09, and 301 in 1895-99. Cases of typhoid fever reported in 1940 numbered 25, or 13 per million of population, as against 259 in 1920-24, and 2,884 in 1895-99.

The figures show that the mortality from typhoid has been reduced to very small proportions.

Scarlet fever. In 1940 the deaths from scarlet fever numbered 15, which corresponded to a rate of 8 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 5 in 1939, 5 in 1938, 3 in 1937, 8 in 1936, and 3 in 1935. During 1940 there were 4,363 cases reported as against 3,020 in 1939, 1,714 in 1938, 2,567 in 1937, and 2,122 in 1936. For the five years mentioned the deaths were less than 1 per cent. of the cases. Fifty-one per cent. of these deaths were of children under 10 years of age.

Whooping cough. Whooping cough was responsible for 120 deaths in 1940, which equalled a rate of 63 per million of the population at all ages, as compared with rates of 1 in 1939, 3 in 1938, 20 in 1937, and 27 in 1936. The rate in 1940 was the highest recorded since 1926. The infantile death rate is more affected than the general rate by this ailment, as it is practically confined to children. In the year under review 89 of the deaths were of infants under 1 year, and all except seven of the deaths were of children under 5 years of age.

Diphtheria. A very great reduction has taken place since 1890 in the proportion of diphtheria cases which ended fatally. On the average of the five years 1936 to 1940, 50 per cent. of those who died were under 5 years, and 84 per cent. were under 10 years of age.

The appended table shows for Victoria and Greater Melbourne the reported cases of and deaths from diphtheria, their proportions to the population, and the ratios of deaths to cases for different periods since 1894:—

DIPHTHERIA IN VICTORIA AND GREATER MELBOURNE, 1895 TO 1940.

Period.	Annual Cases Reported.		Annual Deaths.		Deaths per 100 Cases Reported.
	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	
VICTORIA.					
1895-99	1,584	134·6	221	18·8	13·9
1900-04	1,680	139·0	159	13·2	9·5
1905-09	1,410	112·6	89	7·1	6·3
1910-14	4,612	339·1	212	15·6	4·6
1915-19	4,901	342·5	209	14·6	4·3
1920-24	5,739	364·6	179	11·4	3·1
1925-29	3,176	183·8	93	5·4	2·9
1930-34	5,645	312·1	124	6·8	2·2
1935-39	3,202	171·5	65	3·5	2·0
1936	5,218	282·4	99	5·4	1·9
1937	3,040	163·8	52	2·8	1·7
1938	1,824	97·7	36	1·9	2·0
1939	1,617	85·9	42	2·2	2·6
1940	1,365	72·0	26	1·4	1·9
GREATER MELBOURNE.					
1895-99	748	162·1	113	24·6	15·1
1900-04	686	136·9	58	11·6	8·5
1905-09	758	140·8	46	8·5	6·1
1910-14	2,343	374·3	114	18·3	4·9
1915-19	2,864	402·6	127	17·9	4·4
1920-24	2,555	314·6	78	9·7	3·1
1925-29	1,843	191·1	52	5·4	2·8
1930-34	3,151	315·9	68	6·8	2·1
1935-39	1,864	182·4	36	3·5	1·9
1936	3,299	325·8	57	5·6	1·7
1937	1,683	165·0	28	2·7	1·7
1938	962	93·4	13	1·3	1·4
1939	915	87·9	23	2·2	2·5
1940	824	77·6	17	1·6	2·1

The cases of diphtheria which occurred in the metropolitan area, the three principal cities outside Greater Melbourne and the remainder of the State in each of the last five years, and their proportions to the respective populations, for the period 1910-19 and the years 1938, 1939, and 1940, are given in the subjoined table:—

VICTORIA—CASES OF DIPHTHERIA.

Locality.	Reported Cases of Diphtheria.					Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.			
	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1910-19.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Greater Melbourne	3,299	1,683	962	915	824	39·3	9·3	8·8	7·8
Ballarat ..	159	49	38	26	11	24·3	9·9	6·8	2·9
Bendigo ..	63	43	19	53	32	84·6	6·3	17·6	10·6
Geelong ..	206	182	157	116	51	43·4	39·3	28·8	12·6
Remainder of State	1,491	1,083	648	507	447	25·7	8·9	6·0	6·2

Tuberculosis (all forms). The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1940 was 811, the rate per million of population being 428. The lowest rate for Victoria is 409, recorded in 1938.

Death rates from tuberculosis of the respiratory system. The deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1940 numbered 727—436 being of males and 291 of females—and equalled a rate of 383 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 402 in 1939, 362 in 1938, 384 in 1937, 412 in 1936, 660 in 1918-22, 855 in 1908-12, and 1,365 in 1890-92. In 1940 tuberculosis of the respiratory system was responsible for 90 per cent. of the total deaths from tuberculosis.

Deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system at various ages. The number of deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in each of the last five years, and the ages and sexes of the deceased, are given in the next table:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM AT VARIOUS AGES.

Age Group	Males.					Females.				
	Year.					Year.				
	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
0-9	4	8	1	3	9	7	2	2	4	5
10-14	1	2	..	..	..	2	2	2	2	3
15-19	8	7	4	5	8	27	15	22	16	20
20-24	21	23	13	23	19	57	41	41	42	34
25-29	26	19	25	22	26	60	52	49	51	44
30-34	35	33	27	32	31	53	41	49	47	38
35-39	37	44	42	35	39	34	42	26	31	26
40-44	54	47	36	54	39	40	20	30	24	28
45-49	52	51	48	52	54	18	26	14	24	13
50-54	40	48	31	49	45	17	13	17	16	16
55-59	35	36	46	48	47	10	14	14	14	11
60-64	33	40	32	39	45	13	12	12	10	13
65-69	29	27	31	34	32	16	9	12	13	12
70 and over ..	19	25	34	37	41	14	14	16	29	28
Unknown .. ..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Total	394	410	371	433	436	368	303	306	323	291

For the year 1940, the average age of those who died from tuberculosis of the respiratory system was 48.1 years for males and 39.6 years for females.

Tubercular diseases (tuberculosis of the respiratory system excepted).

In 1940 there occurred in Victoria 84 deaths from tubercular diseases (excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system). This number represented a rate of 44 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 48 in 1939, 47 in 1938, 51 in 1937, 59 in 1936, 134 in 1918-22, 182 in 1908-12 and 379 in 1890-92.

Tubercular death rates in Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo, and Geelong.

In earlier periods, the death rate from tuberculosis was considerably higher in the Metropolis and the mining centres of Ballarat and Bendigo—Bendigo in particular—than in the rural portions of the State.

DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULAR DISEASES IN MELBOURNE, BALLARAT, BENDIGO, AND GEELONG.

Period.	Deaths per 10,000 of the Population.											
	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.				Other Tubercular Diseases.				All Tubercular Diseases.			
	Greater Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Greater Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Greater Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.
1891-1900 ..	16.7	17.1	24.1	†	4.7	3.5	4.0	†	21.4	20.6	28.1	†
1901-05 ..	13.9	15.3	22.7	†	4.2	4.0	4.7	†	18.1	19.3	27.4	†
1906-10 ..	10.8	11.5	21.2	†	3.0	2.1	2.0	†	13.8	13.6	23.2	†
1911-15 ..	9.1	10.3	16.5	†	2.1	2.2	2.1	†	11.2	12.5	18.6	†
1916-20 ..	8.3	11.2	16.0	†	1.9	1.5	2.0	†	10.2	12.7	18.0	†
1921-25 ..	6.9	6.7	11.9	4.6	1.5	1.0	2.2	1.9	8.4	7.7	14.1	6.5
1926-30 ..	5.9	5.2	10.7	4.2	1.0	4.4	.8	.8	6.9	5.6	11.5	5.0
1936 ..	5.0	1.3	10.4	3.8	.6	.5	1.0	.7	5.6	1.8	11.4	4.5
1937 ..	4.4	3.7	9.4	6.5	.6	.5	1.3	.3	5.0	4.2	10.7	6.8
1938 ..	4.4	4.2	9.3	2.3	.6	1.0	.3	.5	5.0	5.2	9.3	2.8
1939 ..	4.6	7.5	7.3	4.7	.5	.5	.3	1.0	5.1	8.0	7.6	5.7
1940 ..	4.5	5.9	8.3	3.9	.4	.3	.3	.5	4.9	6.2	8.6	4.4

† Not calculated.

Influenza. The deaths from influenza in 1940 numbered 80. This corresponded to a rate of 42 per million of the population as compared with rates of 106 in 1939, 53 in 1938, 43 in 1937, 45 in 1936, 2,407 in 1919, 71 in 1913-17, 109 in 1908-12, and 381 in 1890-92.

The rate of mortality in 1940 was 44 per cent. below the average of the previous quinquennium.

Of the deaths recorded in 1940, 64 per cent. were associated with specified respiratory complications.

With the exception of the 1919 epidemic, when 72 per cent. of the deaths were of persons between 20 and 50 years of age, influenza has always proved more fatal to elderly people than to those at middle or young ages. In 1940, 61 per cent. were of persons over 50 years of age.

Small-pox—Deaths from. Persons suffering from small-pox have arrived at Victorian ports on many occasions, but, as they were at once quarantined, the disease has never spread among the people of the State. During the years 1853 to 1940, only 31 deaths occurred from this cause. The last death from small-pox in Victoria occurred in 1921.

Measles.

Although the mortality from measles has varied very considerably from period to period, there has been no very severe epidemic outbreak since 1898, when 671 deaths resulted from the disease. There were 14 deaths from measles in 1940, representing a rate of 7 per million of population. Rates per million of population were 35 in 1939, 0 in 1938, 1 in 1937, and 1 in 1936. The disease chiefly affects children. On the average of the five years, 1936 to 1940, 26 per cent. of those who died from the disease were under 2 years, and 51 per cent. were under 5 years of age.

Other infectious and parasitic diseases.

Deaths in 1940, from diseases included under this heading (cause No. 14, on page 103) were cerebro-spinal meningitis 9, erysipelas 7, tetanus 14, septicaemia 16, dysentery 6, acute poliomyelitis 7, acute infectious encephalitis 2, hydatid disease 17, hodgkin's disease 26, and other diseases 9.

Poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis).

The incidence of Poliomyelitis in Victoria has been recorded since the year 1916, when the disease was added to the list of compulsorily notifiable diseases. The highest incidence (until the 1937-38 epidemic) was 303 cases in 1918. Seven years later, in 1925, 140 cases were reported. The years 1928 to 1931 were all years of high incidence. The disease assumed epidemic proportions in 1931, 1934, and 1937. In the 1937-38 epidemic there were 2,096 cases, the number of deaths being 113.

Poliomyelitis was responsible for 7 deaths in 1940, 9 in 1939, 41 in 1938, 77 in 1937, 4 in 1936, 7 in 1935, 9 in 1934, 7 in 1933, 4 in 1932, and 16 in 1931.

Hydatids.

In 1940, there were 9 male and 8 female deaths from hydatids, of which 6 of males and 6 of females were attributed to hydatid tumour of the liver. The deaths from hydatids in 1940 were equivalent to a rate of 9 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 16 in 1939, 6 in 1938, 11 in 1937, 9 in 1936, 16 in 1918-22, 22 in 1908-12, and 51 in 1890-92.

**Cancer—
Death rates.** Deaths from cancer in 1940 numbered 2,528, and represented a death rate of 1,333 per million of the whole population, as compared with rates of 1,332 in 1939, 1,226 in 1938, 1,267 in 1937, 1,238 in 1936, 934 in 1918-22, 833 in 1908-12, and 584 in 1890-92.

**Cancer—
Deaths at
various ages.** The number of deaths from cancer in various age groups in each of the last five years is given below :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM CANCER AT VARIOUS AGES.

Age Group.	Males.					Females.				
	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
0-14	9	6	4	6	9	3	4	6	4	5
15-24	6	4	3	5	9	9	4	5	1	4
25-34	20	17	24	19	15	14	18	16	17	21
35-44	29	50	50	35	49	90	95	88	94	67
45-54	114	113	119	128	130	194	177	190	196	222
55-64	252	227	263	241	266	304	260	237	274	283
65-74	436	429	413	422	390	338	371	377	418	394
75-84	221	276	268	295	322	189	236	252	281	274
85 and over ..	25	25	14	29	32	35	39	36	42	36
Total	1,112	1,147	1,158	1,180	1,222	1,176	1,204	1,207	1,327	1,306

Ninety-three per cent. of the deaths from cancer in 1940 were at ages 45 years and upwards.

The widely different social and economic effects produced by the prevalence of and deaths from the two important diseases, cancer and tuberculosis of the respiratory system, are evidenced by the ages of their victims. For the year 1940 the average age of those who died from the former was 65·9 years for males and 64·1 years for females, while the corresponding averages for the latter were 48·1 years for males and 39·6 years for females.

Seat of cancer. The following table shows the seat of cancer in persons who died from this disease in 1940 :—

VICTORIA—SEAT OF CANCER, 1940.

Seat of Cancer.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Buccal Cavity and Pharynx	78	20	98
Digestive Organs and Peritoneum—			
Oesophagus	56	26	82
Stomach and Duodenum	329	220	549
Intestines other than Duodenum or Rectum	161	171	332
Rectum	77	61	138
Liver and Biliary Passages	38	58	96
Pancreas	45	38	83
Peritoneum	10	4	14
Other Digestive Organs	1	..	1
Respiratory System	86	28	114
Uterus .. .. .	..	183	183
Other Female Genital Organs .. .. .	..	71	71
Breast	6	269	275
Male Genital Organs	146	..	146
Urinary Organs	56	43	99
Skin	41	31	72
Brain and other parts of the Nervous System—			
Glioma (not specified as benign)	11	9	20
Other	6	..	6
Other or Unspecified Organs	75	74	149
	1,222	1,306	2,528

Diabetes. The rate of mortality from diabetes shows a marked increase, the average of the last five years being 76 per cent. higher than that for the period 1908–12.

During 1940 diabetes was responsible for 150 male and 231 female deaths, representing a rate of 201 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 206 in 1939, 199 in 1938, 164 in 1937, 168 in 1936, 130 in 1918–22, and 107 in 1908–12.

Vitamin-deficiency diseases, other general diseases, diseases of the blood, and chronic poisonings. Deaths in 1940 from diseases in this category (cause No. 20 on page 103) were acute rheumatic fever 81, exophthalmic goitre 38, other diseases of the thyroid and parathyroid glands 13, pernicious and other hyperchromic anaemias 47, other anaemias 19, leucaemia 53, and other diseases 61.

Meningitis (non-meningococcal) and diseases of the medulla and spinal cord.

In 1940, deaths from these causes numbered 101, the rate per million of population being 53, as compared with rates of 42 in 1939, 60 in 1938, 46 in 1937, and 48 in 1936.

Intra-cranial lesions of vascular origin.

In 1940, 698 male and 1,021 female deaths were ascribed to these causes, the total—1,719—corresponding to a rate of 906 per million of the population. Of the 1,719 deaths in 1940, 1,028 were due to cerebral haemorrhage, 19 to cerebral embolism, 510 to cerebral thrombosis, 16 to softening of the brain, 131 to hemiplegia and unspecified paralysis, and 15 to other intra-cranial effusions.

Other diseases of nervous system and sense organs.

In this category (cause No. 23 on page 103) in 1940 were 16 deaths from encephalitis (non-epidemic), 31 from epilepsy, 28 diseases of the ear and mastoid process, and 117 from other diseases.

Diseases of the heart.

During 1940 there were 5,094 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart, including 8 due to pericarditis, 541 to endocarditis, 3,047 to disease of the myocardium, 1,010 to diseases of coronary arteries, 105 to angina pectoris, 76 to angina pectoris with record of coronary disease, and 307 to other diseases of the heart. The total causes in 1940 represented a rate of 2,686 per million of the population, the rates for previous years being 2,663 in 1939, 1,347 in 1922-26, and 1,441 in 1908-12.

Other diseases of the circulatory system.

Deaths under this heading (cause No. 25 on page 103), in 1940 were arterio-sclerosis 637, and other diseases 138. Of the deaths from arterio-sclerosis, 71 per cent. were of persons aged 70 years and over.

Diseases of the respiratory system.

In 1940 the deaths from respiratory diseases numbered 1,926, which represented a rate of 1,016 per million of the population as compared with rates of 883 in 1939, 893 in 1938, 881 in 1937, and 977 in 1936. Of the deaths in the year under review, 45 were due to acute bronchitis, 198 to chronic bronchitis,

786 to broncho-pneumonia, 281 to lobar pneumonia, 299 to pneumonia unspecified, 66 to pleurisy, 144 to congestion, edema, embolism, etc., of lungs, 55 to asthma, and 52 to other diseases. Further details will be found under causes Nos. 26 to 28 on page 103.

In 1940 the greatest mortality from the respiratory diseases occurred during the months of July, August, and September.

Diseases of the digestive system. In 1940 there were 543 male and 448 female deaths from digestive ailments, representing a proportion of 523 per million of the population, as against rates of 536 in 1939, 523 in 1938, 524 in 1937, 572 in 1936, 807 in 1922-26, and 2,382 in 1890-92. Deaths from the principal diseases in 1940 were: 198 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 141 from diarrhoeal diseases, 116 from appendicitis, 61 from hernia, 114 from intestinal obstruction, 109 from cirrhosis of the liver, 70 from biliary calculi, 55 from other diseases of the gall bladder and biliary passages, and 127 from other diseases. Further rates and details are given under causes Nos. 29 to 32 on page 103.

The 141 deaths from diarrhoeal diseases in 1940 correspond to a rate of 74 per million of the population as compared with rates of 81 in 1939, 81 in 1938, 81 in 1937, 108 in 1936, 380 in 1922-26, 833 in 1908-12, and 1,342 in 1890-92. The age incidence of these diseases shows that they are heaviest at the extremes of life. In earlier years these diseases constituted one of the most fatal menaces to infant life. The decline in the mortality therefrom has, however, been progressive, and since 1928 the rate has reached small proportions. Of the deaths at all ages in 1940, 57 were of infants under one year of age, 16 were between the ages of one and two years, 4 between two and five years, while 25 were of persons aged 65 years and over. Infantile diarrhoea has been further dealt with in the section "Infantile Mortality."

Diseases of the genito-urinary system. In 1940 there were 1,687 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. This number represented a rate of 890 per million of the population, as against rates of 891 in 1939, 803 in 1938, 787 in 1937, 762 in 1936, 670 in 1918-22, and 700 in 1909-12. In 1940, acute and chronic nephritis were responsible for 1,310 deaths, other diseases of the kidney and ureters for 81, diseases of the prostate for 201, and other genito-urinary diseases for 95.

Maternal deaths.

The death rate of women in childbirth is usually ascertained by comparing the number of deaths of parturient women with the total number of live births. In the following table are given the proportions of deaths from puerperal infection and all other diseases of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium for the year 1940 and the averages of previous periods back to 1871. The rates given for years prior to 1926 are not strictly comparable with those for subsequent years.

VICTORIA—MATERNAL DEATHS, 1871 TO 1940.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Deaths from—						Rate per 10,000 Live Births from—					
	Puerperal Infection.			Other Diseases of Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium. (Detailed List No. 141-146, 148-150).	Total.		Puerperal Infection.			Other Diseases of Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium.	Total.	
	Infection during Childbirth and the Puerperium. (Detailed List No. 147).	Post-abortion Infection (Detailed List No. 140).			Including Criminal Abortion.	Excluding Criminal Abortion.	Infection during Childbirth and the Puerperium. Detailed List No. 147).	Post-abortion Infection (Detailed List No. 140).			Including Criminal Abortion.	Excluding Criminal Abortion.
		Spontaneous, Therapeutic, or Unspecified.	Criminal Abortion.					Spontaneous, Therapeutic, or Unspecified.	Criminal Abortion.			
1871-1880	46			127	173		17·12			47·26	64·38	
1881-1890	64			121	185		20·48			38·71	59·19	
1891-1900	66			117	183		20·20			35·81	56·01	
1901-1910	52			114	166		16·93			37·12	54·05	
1911-1920	53			94	147		15·42			27·35	42·77	
1921-1925	43			102	145		11·96			28·37	40·33	
1926-29..	44	12	21	121	198	177	12·78	3·46	5·92	34·86	57·02	51·10
1930-34..	33	9	27	91	160	133	11·08	3·13	9·17	30·99	54·37	45·20
1935-39..	18	6	41	74	139	98	5·97	1·90	14·05	25·25	47·17	33·12
1940 ..	19	1	50	58	128	72	5·95	·31	15·64	18·15	40·05	22·53

Note—See following table regarding deaths from Criminal Abortion.

The following tables give information in age groups for the year 1940 relating to the causes of death of women in childbirth, and the total number of children born to married mothers.

VICTORIA—MATERNAL DEATHS, 1940.

Causes of Death.	Ages at Death.						Total.	No. of Married Mothers.	No. of Unmarried Mothers.
	Under 20.	20 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 and over.			
140. Post-abortive Infection—									
(a) Spontaneous, Therapeutic or Unspecified	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..
(b) Criminal Abortion	..	..	..	9	4	5	50	32	18
141. Abortion without mention of Septic Conditions—									
(a) Spontaneous, Therapeutic or Unspecified	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..
(b) Criminal Abortion	..	2	1	..	2	1	6	6	..
142. Ectopic Gestation	..	..	2	1	2	1	6	6	..
143. Haemorrhage of Pregnancy	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	2	..
144. Toxaemias of Pregnancy—									
(a) Eclampsia of Pregnancy	..	2	3	..	..	1	6	5	1
(b) Albuminuria and Nephritis of Pregnancy	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..
(c) Acute Yellow Atrophy of Liver Associated with Pregnancy	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(d) Other Toxaemias of Pregnancy	..	..	2	1	1	..	4	4	..
145. Other Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	2	..
146. Haemorrhage of Childbirth and the Puerperium	..	3	1	1	1	2	8	7	1
147. Infection during Childbirth and the Puerperium—									
(a) Puerperal Infections	..	2	3	3	..	2	10	9	1
(b) Puerperal Thrombophlebitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(c) Puerperal Embolism and Sudden Death	..	..	2	4	3	..	9	9	..
148. Puerperal Toxaemias—									
(a) Puerperal Eclampsia	2	3	..	1	..	2	8	8	..
(b) Puerperal Albuminuria and Nephritis	..	..	1	2	..	..	3	3	..
(c) Acute Yellow Atrophy of Liver (Post-partum)	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
(d) Other puerperal Toxaemias	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	2	..
149. Other Accidents of Childbirth—									
(a) Caesarean Section	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..
(b) Other Surgical Operations and Instrumental Delivery	1	..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..
(c) Others	..	1	..	..	3	..	6	5	1
150. Other or Unspecified Diseases of Childbirth and the Puerperium—									
(a) Puerperal Diseases of the Breast	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(b) Others	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	8	30	33	25	16	16	128	106	22
No. of Married Mothers	4	19	31	22	14	16	106	..	..
No. of Unmarried Mothers	4	11	2	3	2	..	22	..	..
Issue of Married Mothers	6	17	51	51	53	71	249	..	..

Of the 249 children born to the 106 married women who died, 238 were living at the time of their mother's death, or an average of 2.2 children per mother.

First confinements were responsible for 37, or 34·9 per cent. of the total deaths of married mothers, as compared with 37·1 per cent. in 1939, 37·1 per cent. in 1938, 38·4 per cent. in 1937, and 36·3 per cent. in 1936.

The death rate of women in childbirth varies considerably at different ages, and is higher at older than at younger ages. The number of deaths of women in childbirth and the death rates in various age groups in Victoria for the period 1926-30 and the years 1938, 1939, and 1940, are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—MATERNAL DEATHS, 1926 TO 1940.

Age Group.	Mothers.							
	Deaths.				Deaths per 10,000 children born alive.			
	1926-30.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1926-30.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Under 20 years ..	41	5	4	8	47·1	31·1	24·0	51·6
20 to 24 „ ..	150	27	27	30	39·1	35·7	36·6	38·9
25 „ 29 „ ..	231	32	23	33	46·5	33·5	23·4	31·2
30 „ 34 „ ..	226	32	28	25	56·8	47·3	41·2	34·3
35 „ 39 „ ..	226	31	25	16	88·1	86·5	69·7	44·6
40 years and over	111	9	11	16	117·8	69·8	87·4	125·5
Total ..	985	136	118	128	57·4	44·8	38·7	40·0

The experience of the years 1926-30 showed that, for the age period 35 years and upwards, the deaths of mothers in childbirth were 96 per 10,000 live births, as compared with 47 per 10,000 for those under that age.

Senile decay. During the year 1940, the deaths of 467 men and 427 women were ascribed to senile decay, as compared with 413 men and 423 women in 1939. Prior to 1927, deaths from ill-defined causes, *i.e.*, heart failure, debility, &c., of those persons over 65 years of age, were classified as senile decay. In that year, however, only deaths of persons over 70 years of age from such causes were so classified.

Suicide. In the year 1940, 109 males and 35 females took their lives. The deaths represented a rate of 76 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 77 in 1939, 73 in 1938, 86 in 1937, 107 in 1936, 87 in 1918-22, 102 in 1908-12, and 109 in 1890-92. Of the 109 male deaths in 1940 from suicide, 45 or 41 per cent., were connected with firearms. A much lower rate from suicide obtains among females than among males, the rate for the former, on the average of the last five years, being 28 per cent. of that of the latter.

Homicide. The deaths ascribed to homicide in 1940 numbered 12, of which 10 were of males and 2 of females. These represented a rate of 6 per million of the population, as against rates of 8 in 1939, 13 in 1938, 10 in 1937, 10 in 1936, 14 in 1918-22, and 19 in 1908-12. Since 1930 deaths from criminal abortion have been excluded from this category and included with deaths from maternal causes.

Accidental deaths. In 1940 there were 1,008 accidental deaths (757 male, 251 female). These represented a rate of 532 per million of population. This proportion was approximately 6 per cent. below the rate (564) for the previous five years. The numbers of deaths from various accidents are given in the appended table:—

VICTORIA—ACCIDENTAL DEATHS, 1936 TO 1940.

Deaths from—	Number.						
	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.		
					Males.	Females.	Total.
Accidents on Railways	36	35	22	26	23	2	25
Motor Vehicle Accidents	395	456	441	487	370	101	471
Other Road Transport Accidents	65	60	59	54	25	13	38
Water Transport Accidents	6	10	6	3	7	..	7
Air Transport Accidents	6	7	23	9	9	1	10
Accidents in Mines and Quarries	14	28	20	9	8	..	8
Agricultural and Forestry Accidents	*	*	*	*	23	..	23
Accidents caused by Machinery, N.E.I.	14	10	10	15	7	2	9
Food Poisoning	2	..	3	2	1	..	1
Accidental Absorption of Poisonous Gases	3	5	9	11	1	3	4
Other Acute Accidental Poisoning	5	4	7	10	10	4	14
Conflagration	5	3	10	74	10	2	12
Accidental Burns	49	44	50	30	22	19	41
Accidental Mechanical Suffocation	6	10	8	16	5	10	15
Accidental Drowning	128	125	127	131	98	31	129
Accidental Injury by Firearms	25	30	29	29	35	4	39
Accidental Injury by Fall	108	128	100	162	55	45	100
Accidental Injury by Crushing	20	17	14	21	4	2	6
Injury by Animals	4	2	10	6	3	..	3
Excessive Cold	3	..	1	3	1	..	1
Excessive Heat	2	4	1	33	1	..	1
Lightning	2	1	1	..	..	..	..
Electricity	2	11	8	9	10	..	10
Snakebite	1	1	3	2	..	1	1
Other Venomous Bites and Stings	2	..	..	..	29	..	..
Other Accidents	87	59	79	103	..	11	40
	990	1,050	1,041	1,245	757	251	1,008

* Not available.

Note.—The high number of deaths recorded in 1939 from conflagration and effects of heat are directly related to the bush fires and heat wave of January of that year.

On the average of the last five years, the female mortality rate from accidents was about 32 per cent. of the rate for males.

Transport accidents. In 1940 deaths from transport accidents numbered 551 as against 579 in 1939, 551 in 1938, 568 in 1937, 508 in 1936, 440 in 1935, 385 in 1934, 350 in 1933, 350 in 1932, and 373 in 1931.

During the year 1940, deaths connected with transport represented 55 per cent. of the total deaths from accidents.

In the following table details are given of deaths due to collisions between various types of transport and other fatal accidents in which transport was concerned, for the year 1940.

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM TRANSPORT ACCIDENTS, 1940.

	Collisions.										Other Accidents.	Total.	Males.	Females.	
	Railway vehicle. Tramcar.	Motor car.	Motor lorry, &c.	Motor cycle.	Horse-drawn vehicle, &c.	Bicycle.	Horse.	Fixed object.	Aeroplane.	Other Vehicle.					Total.
Railway vehicle	5	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	8	*24	32	30	2	
Tramcar	6	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	10	12	22	16	6	
Motor-car	19	25	32	5	32	..	29	..	142	181	323	239	84	
„ omnibus	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	7	10	8	2	
„ lorry, &c.	1	16	1	14	..	6	..	38	43	81	70	11	
„ cycle	4	1	2	2	7	..	17	24	41	37	4	
Horse - drawn vehicle	1	..	1	12	13	10	3	
Bicycle	1	..	..	1	11	12	8	4	
Aeroplane	1	..	1	9	10	9	1	
Water transport	7	7	7	..	
Total	30	31	55	7	50	3	44	..	1	221	330	551	434	117

* Includes rail accidents to 7 railway employees.

Accidental
deaths
involving
motor vehicles.

The number of motor vehicles (including motor cycles) registered in Victoria and the deaths in which they were involved, for the years 1931 to 1940, were as follows :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS INVOLVING MOTOR VEHICLES,
1931 TO 1940.

Year.	Number of Motor Vehicles (30th June.)	Deaths Involving Motor Vehicles.		
		Number.	Per 10,000 Motor Vehicles	Per 1,000,000 of Population
1931	168,231	296	17·6	165
1932	167,952	262	15·6	145
1933	179,602	255	14·2	140
1934	188,256	294	15·6	161
1935	200,759	338	16·8	184
1936	219,925	395	18·0	214
1937	233,573	456	19·5	246
1938	250,455	441	17·6	236
1939	261,855	487	18·6	259
1940	266,677	471	17·7	248

The mortality per 10,000 vehicles was 18·3 for the period 1936–40 as compared with a rate of 16·0 in 1931–35. The mortality per million of population was 248 in 1940, 259 in 1939, 236 in 1938, 246 in 1937, 214 in 1936, and 172 in 1930. The mortality rate in 1939 was the highest on record.

On the average of the five years, 1936 to 1940, motor cars, &c., were involved in 18·6 deaths per 10,000 cars registered, and motor cycles in 33·4 deaths per 10,000 motor cycles registered.

NATURAL INCREASE.

Natural increase per 1,000 of population in Australian States and in New Zealand.

The average annual natural increase, i.e., the excess of births over deaths, per 1,000 of the mean population, in each Australian State, the Commonwealth of Australia, and New Zealand, for various periods since 1909, as well as detailed particulars for Victoria since 1879, are shown in the following tables:—

NATURAL INCREASE PER 1,000 OF THE MEAN POPULATION.
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1910-14	13·85	18·38	18·51	17·68	18·61	19·35	17·03	16·80
1915-19	11·75	15·98	17·06	14·84	15·47	17·83	14·99	16·80
1920-24	12·49	15·73	16·13	13·75	13·96	16·66	14·60	14·01
1925-29	10·57	12·99	13·35	11·18	12·71	13·27	12·18	11·65
1930-34	6·77	9·52	10·56	6·89	10·26	11·05	8·78	9·19
1935-39	5·63	7·91	10·06	6·12	9·85	10·36	7·67	8·37
1936 ..	5·47	8·17	10·39	5·87	9·44	9·50	7·70	7·89
1937 ..	5·99	8·27	10·26	6·34	10·00	11·18	7·99	8·21
1938 ..	6·10	7·80	9·79	6·53	10·67	11·11	7·82	8·22
1939 ..	5·48	7·71	10·68	6·50	10·11	10·84	7·72	9·53
1940 ..	6·16	8·38	10·99	7·23	9·96	10·91	8·27	11·95

VICTORIA.

Period.	Average Annual Excess of Births over Deaths.	Annual Rates per 1,000 of Mean Population.			Period.	Average Annual Excess of Births over Deaths.	Annual Rates per 1,000 of Mean Population.		
		Births.	Deaths.	Natural Increase.			Births.	Deaths.	Natural Increase.
1880-84	14,466	30·64	14·40	16·24	1925-29	18,218	20·24	9·67	10·57
1885-89	16,741	32·27	15·87	16·40	1930-34	12,249	16·27	9·50	6·77
1890-94	20,059	31·99	14·62	17·37	1935-39	10,473	15·85	10·22	5·63
1895-99	15,625	26·76	13·81	12·95					
1900-04	14,859	25·08	12·78	12·30	1936 ..	10,105	15·63	10·16	5·47
1905-09	16,062	24·76	11·93	12·83	1937 ..	11,118	16·02	10·03	5·99
1910-14	18,795	25·42	11·57	13·85	1938 ..	11,389	16·25	10·15	6·10
1915-19	16,818	23·13	11·38	11·75	1939 ..	10,324	16·20	10·72	5·48
1920-24	19,647	22·89	10·40	12·49	1940 ..	11,669	16·86	10·70	6·16