

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, AND DIVORCES

Legal provisions

The system of compulsory registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Victoria has been in force since 1853. The statutory duties under the Registration Act are performed by the Government Statist, who has supervision over registration officers, registrars of marriages, and (relating to their registration duties) the clergymen who celebrate marriages. Copies of entries certified by the Government Statist or by an Assistant Government Statist or an authorised registration officer are *prima facie* evidence in the courts of Australia of the facts to which they relate. At the Government Statist's Office in Melbourne there is kept for reference a complete collection of all registrations effected since 1 July 1853, as well as originals or certified copies of all existing church records relating to earlier periods as far back as 1837.

The various Acts relating to the registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Victoria were consolidated in 1958.

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 On this date, the Act superseded the marriage laws of all the States, the two mainland Territories, and Norfolk Island.

Statistical summary

The principal vital statistics in Victoria from 1977 to 1981 are shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Year	Number registered				Crude rates			
	Marriages	Live births	Deaths	Infant deaths (a)	Marriages (b)	Live births (b)	Deaths (b)	Infant deaths (c)
1977	27,558	59,518	29,478	653	7.18	15.51	7.68	11.0
1978	27,178	58,861	29,096	616	7.03	15.23	7.53	10.5
1979	27,019	57,767	29,078	652	6.96	14.87	7.49	11.3
1980	27,724	58,206	29,374	592	7.09	14.88	7.51	10.2
1981	28,648	59,513	29,034	562	7.25	15.07	7.35	9.4

(a) Included in deaths. An infant death is the death of a live born child under one year of age.

(b) Number of events per 1,000 of estimated mean population.

(c) Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births.

Marriages

Marriages registered in Victoria in 1981 numbered 28,648, an increase of 924 on the number registered in 1980. Marriages of persons under 18 years of age for brides has shown a steady decline over the five years 1977 to 1981; whereas a slight increase has been noticed for bridegrooms from 1979 to 1981.

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF MARRIAGES

Year	N.S.W.	Vic	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1977	36,159	27,558	15,737	10,126	10,063	3,166	618	1,491	104,918
1978	35,904	27,178	15,431	9,800	9,404	3,148	576	1,517	102,958
1979	36,906	27,019	16,082	9,778	9,239	3,254	553	1,565	104,396
1980	38,965	27,724	17,157	10,064	9,594	3,433	661	1,642	109,240
1981	40,679	28,648	18,305	10,252	10,111	3,515	719	1,676	113,905

VICTORIA—RELATIVE AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES, 1981

Ages of bridegrooms (a) (years)	Ages of brides (a) (years)														Total bridegrooms
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 to 44	45 to 49	50 and over	
16	—	—	3	—	—	—	22	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
17	—	—	—	42	49	46	22	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	205
18	—	4	21	36	60	144	136	83	14	6	—	—	—	—	557
19	—	—	20	75	215	313	321	291	34	6	—	—	—	—	1,281
20	—	3	64	169	634	1,380	1,973	5,517	784	102	24	9	—	—	10,660
21 to 24	4	—	20	36	160	377	569	3,666	2,433	493	91	22	—	—	7,876
25 to 29	—	—	—	27	40	86	771	1,355	790	227	58	15	4	—	3,378
30 to 34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	41	136	229	242	167	67	23	912
35 to 39	—	—	4	6	3	13	23	186	438	483	289	126	29	12	1,605
40 to 44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	41	136	229	242	167	67	23	912
45 to 49	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	48	98	114	137	112	65	597
50 to 54	—	—	—	—	4	4	5	13	16	47	68	97	126	154	524
55 to 59	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	17	23	58	77	215	402	402
60 to 64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	15	20	36	175	260
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	8	6	4	16	352	379
Total brides	4	7	168	388	1,236	2,312	3,082	10,612	5,271	2,279	1,104	698	487	1,000	28,648

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

VICTORIA—AVERAGE AGE AT MARRIAGE (a)

Year	Ages of bridegrooms (years)				Ages of brides (years)			
	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	All bridegrooms	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	All brides
1977	25.1	57.6	38.5	28.6	22.7	50.1	34.8	25.7
1978	25.3	57.9	38.4	28.8	22.8	51.6	34.8	26.0
1979	25.5	58.0	38.6	28.9	23.0	51.7	35.0	26.2
1980	25.5	58.5	38.2	28.8	23.1	51.7	34.9	26.2
1981	25.7	58.7	38.4	29.0	23.3	51.9	35.0	26.3

(a) Arithmetic mean.

The age in relation to which approximately half the number of bachelors was younger, and approximately half was older (the median age), was 24.3 years in 1980 and 24.5 years in 1981. The corresponding age for spinsters was 22.1 years and 22.3 years. More bachelors were married at 22 years and spinsters at 21 years (the modal ages) than at any other age in both years.

For tables showing the previous marital status, of bridegrooms and brides marrying and the proportions by previous marital status, reference should be made to the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication *Demography* (3102.2).

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

VICTORIA—CIVIL MARRIAGES

Year	Total civil marriages		Performed in the Office of the Government Statist in Melbourne	
	Number	Percentage of total marriages	Number	Percentage of total civil marriages
1977	8,174	29.66	2,363	28.91
1978	8,852	32.57	2,094	23.66
1979	9,221	34.13	1,999	21.68
1980	9,411	33.95	1,865	19.82
1981	10,190	35.57	1,866	18.31

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES: RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL, 1981 (a)

Category of celebrant	Number	Proportion of total marriages
Ministers of religion—		
Recognised denominations (b) —		
Roman Catholic Church	6,645	23.20
Uniting Church in Australia	4,126	14.40
Church of England in Australia	3,915	13.67
Orthodox Churches (c)	938	3.27
Churches of Christ in Australia (c)	500	1.75
The Baptist Union of Australia (c)	447	1.56
Presbyterian Churches (c)	430	1.50
Lutheran Churches (c)	225	0.79
The Salvation Army	204	0.71
Jewry	190	0.66
Jehovah's Witnesses	88	0.31
Islam	87	0.30
Unitarians	77	0.27
Seventh Day Adventist Church	59	0.21
Other denominations	527	1.84
Total ministers of religion	18,458	64.44
Civil officers	10,190	35.56
Total marriages	28,648	100.00

(a) Denominations where the number of marriages registered for the latest year was less than 50 have been grouped in the category "other denominations".

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

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

Divorces

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

Successful applicants for decrees of dissolution of marriage are, in the first instance, awarded a decree nisi. A decree nisi becomes absolute at the expiration of a period of one month from the making of the decree unless it is rescinded, appealed against, or the court is not satisfied that proper arrangements have been made for the welfare of children of the marriage. Decrees nisi are not awarded in respect of proceedings for nullity of marriage.

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

Statistics of divorces granted on an annual basis do not necessarily indicate precise trends in divorce rates as the figures may be affected from year to year by various administrative factors, for example, the occurrence of law vacations, and the availability of courts or judges (i.e., a rise in one year may be due wholly or in part to the clearing of a backlog of cases from an earlier period).

During 1981, 9,769 decrees of dissolution were granted, 5,766 had been applied for by the wife and 4,003 by the husband.

AUSTRALIA—DIVORCES (DECREES GRANTED)

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1977 (a)	15,781	10,851	7,293	4,419	3,975	1,134	345	1,352	45,150
1978 (a)	13,797	10,821	6,106	3,805	3,387	1,131	291	1,270	40,608
1979 (a)	12,606	9,471	5,811	3,794	3,397	1,167	262	1,346	37,854
1980	13,449	9,207	6,219	4,203	3,073	1,285	298	1,524	39,258
1981	14,512	9,769	6,470	4,132	3,481	1,139	393	1,516	41,412

(a) Figures for 1979 and earlier years have been revised to show dissolutions only and to exclude nullities (which have not been collected since 1979).

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: DECREES GRANTED: AGES OF PARTIES (AT DATE OF DECREE), 1981

Ages of husbands (years)	Ages of wives (years)										Total husbands
	Under 21	21-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 and over	Not stated	
Under 21	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
21-24	51	304	59	10	{ 13	{ 4	—	—	—	1	428
25-29	28	673	1,252	106	{ 133	{ 22	{ 5	—	—	3	2,079
30-34	3	118	903	999	133	22	5	6	—	5	2,192
35-39	{ 4	21	153	737	599	82	10	5	{ 4	2	1,614
40-44	{ 4	9	31	147	482	384	53	14	—	4	1,125
45-49	{ 4	{ 3	{ 9	41	121	317	259	44	14	1	804
50-54	—	{ 3	{ 9	14	42	117	246	225	49	1	700
55 and over	—	4	6	7	28	45	87	189	422	11	799
Not stated	1	4	3	2	2	3	1	1	—	—	17
Total wives	94	1,140	2,416	2,063	1,420	974	661	484	489	28	9,769

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: DECREES GRANTED: DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1981

Duration of marriage (years)	Number of children					Total dis- solutions	Total children
	0	1	2	3	4 and over		
1	113	24	3	3	—	143	39
2	395	84	26	5	9	519	192
3	428	156	29	9	6	628	274
4	432	172	87	{ 12	{ 14	717	450
5	340	167	76	{ 33	{ 4	598	366
6	280	172	115	{ 32	{ 7	589	473
7	211	148	152	32	7	550	580
8	172	121	170	38	3	504	587
9	119	104	196	58	16	493	735
10	89	91	197	58	10	445	705
11	43	75	204	82	18	422	806
12	53	63	194	85	28	423	825
13	37	49	152	82	28	348	722
14	24	28	148	76	28	304	671
15-19	93	147	422	345	170	1,177	2,767

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: DECREES GRANTED:
DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1981—continued**

Duration of marriage (years)	Number of children					Total dissolutions	Total children
	0	1	2	3	4 and over		
20-24	231	264	227	87	38	847	1,148
25-29	325	157	52	24	4	562	352
30 and over	442	44	9	5	—	500	77
Total dissolutions of marriage	3,827	2,066	2,459	1,034	383	9,769	..
Total children	—	2,066	4,918	3,102	1,683	..	11,769

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

Births

Live births registered in Victoria during 1981 numbered 59,513, an increase of 1,307 on the number registered in 1980.

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1977	77,996	59,518	34,935	19,260	20,651	6,735	2,558	4,638	226,291
1978	77,773	58,861	34,465	18,558	20,611	6,788	2,692	4,433	224,181
1979	77,134	57,767	35,195	18,478	20,469	6,757	2,842	4,487	223,129
1980	79,455	58,206	34,972	18,499	20,607	6,735	2,587	4,466	225,527
1981	81,530	59,513	38,834	19,351	21,877	7,188	3,080	4,469	235,842

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

Year	Males	Females	Total	Masculinity (a)	Confinements average age (b)		
					Nuptial		Ex-nuptial
					Father	Mother	Mother (c)
1977	30,803	28,715	59,518	107.27	29.9	27.0	23.2
1978	30,202	28,659	58,861	105.38	30.1	27.3	23.2
1979	29,709	28,058	57,767	105.88	30.3	27.5	23.3
1980	29,848	28,358	58,206	105.25	30.4	27.6	23.7
1981	30,361	29,152	59,513	104.15	30.5	27.7	23.7

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

(b) Arithmetic mean.

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

**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: AGE GROUP OF MOTHER AND
PREVIOUS, TOTAL, AND AVERAGE ISSUE, 1981**

Age group of mother (years)	Number of married mothers with previous issue numbering—									Total married mothers	Total issue	Average issue
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 and over	Not stated			
Under 20	1,355	276	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,642	1,946	1.19
20-24	8,313	4,411	1,046	121	20	—	—	—	—	13,911	20,971	1.51
25-29	8,408	8,359	4,077	1,033	172	44	6	1	—	22,100	42,912	1.94
30-34	2,798	4,025	3,442	1,397	348	112	48	19	—	12,189	29,825	2.45
35-39	592	746	746	500	233	107	50	42	—	3,016	8,898	2.95
40-44	78	85	81	61	40	36	19	36	—	435	1,536	3.53
45-49	{ 7	{ 4	{ 3	{ 61	{ 40	{ 4	{ 4	{ 11	—	{ 34	{ 176	{ 5.18
50 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not stated	2	5	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	11	17	1.55
Total	21,553	17,911	9,406	3,112	814	303	128	109	2	53,338	106,281	1.99
Proportion of total married mothers	40.41	33.58	17.63	5.83	1.53	0.57	0.24	0.20	—	100.0

**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: RELATIVE
AGE GROUPS OF PARENTS, 1981**

Age group of father (years)	Age group of mothers (years)								Total fathers
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 and over	Not stated	
Under 20	169	49	{ 703	{ 64	—	—	—	—	223
20-24	1,084	5,119	8,260	6,715	5	—	—	2	6,972
25-29	296	6,913	11,336	1,196	91	7	—	1	19,840
30-34	{ 87	1,503	8,260	6,715	501	19	{ 4	1	17,074
35-39	{ 6	240	1,439	3,261	1,384	73	{ 18	2	6,414
40-44	{ 6	59	263	711	735	176	{ 18	2	1,955
45-49	—	13	62	165	213	110	{ 12	—	578
50 and over	—	10	32	72	85	49	{ 12	—	260
Not stated	—	5	5	5	2	1	—	4	22
Married mothers	1,642	13,911	22,100	12,189	3,016	435	34	11	53,338

**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL FIRST BIRTHS: AGE GROUP OF MOTHER AND
DURATION OF MARRIAGE, 1981**

Age group of mother (years)	Duration of marriage																	Total nuptial first births
	Months											Years						
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	3	4	5 and over	
Under 20	22	39	49	105	135	202	117	32	52	64	81	43	353	51	9	{ 698	{ 318	1,355
20-24	28	41	72	113	213	327	257	107	137	226	208	219	2,313	1,818	1,219	{ 1,162	{ 200	8,313
25-29	22	26	33	54	73	128	119	68	83	109	110	107	1,229	1,239	1,162	{ 1,192	{ 2,654	8,408
30-34	8	20	18	20	43	61	51	38	38	49	55	56	499	353	227	41	1,062	2,798
35 and over	7	8	9	9	13	17	17	6	17	15	27	12	146	84	62	—	187	677
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Total	87	134	181	301	477	736	561	251	327	463	481	438	4,540	3,545	2,679	2,131	4,221	21,553

VICTORIA—MULTIPLE CONFINEMENTS (a)

Year	Cases of twins	Cases of triplets	Total multiple cases	Total con- finements	Multiple cases per 1,000 total confinements
1977	524	5	(b) 530	58,992	8.98
1978	610	12	622	58,248	10.68
1979	573	5	578	57,202	10.10
1980	609	7	(c) 617	57,584	10.71
1981	601	8	609	58,908	10.34

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

(b) Includes 1 case of quadruplets.

(c) Includes 1 case of quintuplets.

On the average over the five years 1977 to 1981, mothers of twins were one in 99 of all mothers whose confinements were recorded, mothers of triplets were one in 8,000, and mothers of all multiple births were one in 97.

The following tables show details of ex-nuptial births in each State and Territory for the years 1977 to 1981 and the ages of mothers of ex-nuptial children in Victoria:

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1977	8,219	4,391	4,656	1,896	2,528	783	577	264	23,314
1978	8,612	4,718	4,836	2,050	2,654	877	703	294	24,744
1979	9,036	5,033	5,128	2,098	2,783	934	r780	318	r26,110
1980	10,077	5,300	5,443	2,301	2,833	950	802	370	28,076
1981	10,898	5,615	6,373	2,492	3,300	1,063	1,049	410	31,200

AUSTRALIA—EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS: PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1977	10.54	7.38	13.33	9.84	12.24	11.63	22.56	5.69	10.30
1978	11.07	8.02	14.03	11.05	12.88	12.92	26.11	6.63	11.04
1979	11.71	8.71	14.57	11.35	13.60	13.82	27.45	7.09	11.70
1980	12.68	9.11	15.56	12.44	13.75	14.11	31.00	8.28	12.45
1981	13.37	9.43	16.41	12.88	15.08	14.79	34.06	9.17	13.23

VICTORIA—AGES OF MOTHERS OF EX-NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS

Age of mother (years)	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
13	3	3	3	—	3
14	20	12	15	7	13
15	94	89	63	60	69
16	243	216	245	209	205
17	404	381	390	349	411
18	420	471	484	519	493
19	404	482	478	506	539
20	366	403	455	473	482
21-24	973	1,183	1,271	1,321	1,472
25-29	834	806	944	1,017	1,067
30-34	381	409	448	536	568
35-39	159	171	153	190	194
40-44	{ 41	{ 41	22	47	44
45 and over	{ 4	{ —	{ 9	3	{ 10
Not stated				6	
Total	4,346	4,667	4,980	5,243	5,570

VICTORIA—ADOPTIONS AND LEGITIMATIONS

Year	Number of children	
	Adopted year ended 30 June (a)	Legitimated year ended 31 December (b)
1977	908	415
1978	951	407
1979	956	433
1980	914	423
1981	711	442

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

(b) Legitimations registered. Under the provisions of the Commonwealth *Marriage Act 1961* which came into operation on 1 September 1963, a child whose parents were not married to each other at the time of its birth becomes legitimated on the subsequent marriage of its parents.

Deaths

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

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF DEATHS

Year of registration	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1977	40,380	29,478	16,408	9,784	7,899	3,269	784	788	108,790
1978	40,394	29,096	16,619	9,763	7,794	3,311	536	912	108,425
1979	38,817	29,078	16,388	9,661	8,020	3,167	595	842	106,568
1980	40,283	29,374	16,496	9,580	8,166	3,393	510	892	108,694
1981	39,959	29,034	17,175	9,706	7,993	3,320	854	962	109,003

Causes of death

Classification

Causes of death in Australia from 1979 onwards have been classified according to the Ninth (1975) Revision of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) International Classification of Diseases (ICD9). Particulars relate to the underlying cause of death, which WHO has defined as the disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death. Accidental and violent deaths are classified according to external cause, that is, to the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury, rather than the nature of the injury.

In 1981, 15,691 male and 13,343 female deaths were registered in Victoria.

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH (ABBREVIATED LIST):
NUMBERS AND RATES, 1981

Cause of death (a)		ICD9 category code numbers	Number of deaths	Proportion of total	Rate per 1,000,000 of mean population
S1-10	<i>Infectious and parasitic diseases</i>	001-139	150	0.53	38
S1	Intestinal infectious diseases	001-009	32	0.12	8
S2	Tuberculosis	010-018	23	0.08	6
S4	Meningococcal infection	036	3	0.01	1
S5	Tetanus	037	1	—	—
S6	Septicaemia	038	37	0.13	9
S10	All other infectious and parasitic diseases	(b)	54	0.19	14
S11-20	<i>Malignant neoplasms</i>	140-208	6,765	23.30	1,713
S11	Malignant neoplasm of stomach	151	394	1.36	100
S12	Malignant neoplasm of colon	153	740	2.55	187
S13	Malignant neoplasm of rectum, rectosigmoid junction, and anus	154	346	1.19	88
S14	Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus, and lung	162	1,367	4.71	346
S15	Malignant neoplasm of skin	172,173	190	0.65	48
S16	Malignant neoplasm of female breast	174	547	1.88	138
S17	Malignant neoplasm of cervix uteri	180	121	0.42	31
S18	Malignant neoplasm of prostate	185	351	1.21	89
S19	Leukaemia	204-208	234	0.81	59
S20	All other malignant neoplasms	(c)	2,475	8.52	627
S21	Benign neoplasms and neoplasms of unspecified nature	210-239	47	0.16	12
S22	Diabetes mellitus	250	600	2.07	152
S24	Other protein-calorie malnutrition	262,263	8	0.03	2
S25	Anaemias	280-285	58	0.20	15
S26	Meningitis	320-322	22	0.08	6
S27	Acute rheumatic fever	390-392	4	0.01	1
S28	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	393-398	115	0.40	29
S29	Hypertensive disease	401-405	484	1.67	123
S30-31	<i>Ischaemic heart disease</i>	410-414	7,962	27.42	2,016
S30	Acute myocardial infarction	410	5,558	19.14	1,407
S31	Other ischaemic heart disease	411-414	2,404	8.28	609
S32	Other forms of heart disease	{ 415, 416, 420-429 }	1,564	5.39	396
S33	Cerebrovascular disease	430-438	3,613	12.44	915
S34	Atherosclerosis	440	587	2.02	149
S35	All other diseases of circulatory system	417, 441-459	514	1.77	130
S36	Pneumonia	480-486	454	1.56	115
S37	Influenza	487	6	0.02	2
S38	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	490-493	669	2.30	169
S39	All other diseases of the respiratory system	{ 460-478, 494-519 }	865	2.98	219
S40	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	531-533	165	0.57	42
S41	Appendicitis	540-543	11	0.04	3
S42	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	571	300	1.03	76
S43	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis	580-589	190	0.65	48
S44	Hyperplasia of prostate	600	19	0.07	5
S45-47	<i>Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium</i>	630-676	4	0.01	1
S46	Direct obstetric deaths	{ 640-646, 651-676 }	4	0.01	1
S48	Congenital anomalies	740-759	249	0.86	63
S49-51	<i>Certain conditions, originating in the perinatal period</i>	760-779	223	0.77	57
S49	Birth trauma	767	6	0.02	2
S50	Hypoxia, birth asphyxia and other respiratory conditions	768-770	150	0.52	38

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH (ABBREVIATED LIST):
NUMBERS AND RATES, 1981—*continued*

Cause of death (a)		ICD9 category code numbers	Number of deaths	Proportion of total	Rate per 1,000,000 of mean population
S51	Other conditions originating in the perinatal period	{ 760-766, } 771-779	67	0.23	17
S52	Signs, symptoms, and ill-defined conditions	780-799	158	0.54	40
S53	All other diseases	Residual	1,489	5.13	377
S54-56	Accidents and adverse effects	E800-E949	1,245	4.29	315
S54	Motor vehicle traffic accidents	E810-E819	702	2.42	178
S55	Accidental falls	E880-E888	226	0.78	57
S56	All other accidents and adverse effects	(d)	317	1.09	80
S57	Suicide	E950-E959	425	1.46	108
S58	Homicide	E960-E969	41	0.14	10
S59	All other external causes	E970-E999	28	0.10	7
Total all causes			29,034	100.00	7,354

(a) No deaths were recorded in the following categories in 1981: S3. Whooping cough (033); S7. Smallpox (050); S8. Measles (055); S9. Malaria (084); S23. Nutritional marasmus (261); S45. Abortion (630-639); and S47. Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium (647,648).

(b) 020-032, 034, 035, 039-049, 051-054, 056-083, 085-139.

(c) 140-150, 152, 155-161, 163-172, 175, 179, 181-184, 186-203.

(d) 800-807, 820-879, 890-929.

VICTORIA—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, 1981

Age group and cause of death		Deaths from specified cause			
		In age group		At all ages	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent (a)
Under 1 year					
S49-51	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	223	39.7	223	100.0
S48	Congenital anomalies	186	33.1	249	74.7
S52	Signs, symptoms, and ill-defined conditions	108	19.2	158	68.4
S54	Motor vehicle traffic accidents	7	1.2	702	1.0
S26	Meningitis	5	0.9	22	22.7
1-4 years					
S56	All other accidents	29	23.6	317	9.1
S11-20	Malignant neoplasms	20	16.3	6,765	0.3
S54	Motor vehicle traffic accidents	16	13.0	702	2.3
S48	Congenital anomalies	12	9.8	249	4.8
S36-39	Diseases of the respiratory system	9	7.3	1,994	0.5
5-14 years					
S54	Motor vehicle traffic accidents	39	25.3	702	5.6
S11-20	Malignant neoplasms	28	18.2	6,765	0.4
S56	All other accidents	26	16.9	317	8.8
S48	Congenital anomalies	11	7.1	249	4.4
S38	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	6	3.9	669	0.9
15-24 years					
S54	Motor vehicle traffic accidents	233	44.4	702	33.2
S57	Suicide and self-inflicted injury	79	15.0	425	18.6
S56	All other accidents	60	11.4	317	18.9
S11-20	Malignant neoplasms	40	7.6	6,765	0.6
S27-35	Diseases of the circulatory system	15	2.9	14,843	0.1
25-34 years					
S54	Motor vehicle traffic accidents	128	23.5	702	18.2
S11-20	Malignant neoplasms	90	16.5	6,765	1.3
S57	Suicide and self-inflicted injury	90	16.5	425	21.2
S27-35	Diseases of the circulatory system	60	11.0	14,843	0.4
S56	All other accidents	58	10.6	317	18.3
35-44 years					
S11-20	Malignant neoplasms	239	33.6	6,765	3.5
S30-31	Ischaemic heart disease	114	16.0	7,962	1.4
S57	Suicide and self-inflicted injury	65	9.1	425	15.3
S54	Motor vehicle traffic accidents	55	7.7	702	7.8
S56	All other accidents	30	4.2	317	9.5

VICTORIA—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, 1981—*continued*

Age group and cause of death		Deaths from specified cause			
		In age group		At all ages	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent (a)
45-54 years					
S11-20	Malignant neoplasms	670	36.2	6,765	9.9
S30-31	Ischaemic heart disease	484	26.1	7,962	6.1
S33	Cerebrovascular disease	118	6.4	3,613	3.3
S42	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	80	4.3	300	26.7
S57	Suicide and self-inflicted injury	80	4.3	425	18.8
55-64 years					
S11-20	Malignant neoplasms	1,481	35.5	6,765	21.9
S30-31	Ischaemic heart disease	1,242	29.8	7,962	15.6
S33	Cerebrovascular disease	338	8.1	3,613	9.4
S32	Other forms of heart disease	141	3.4	1,564	9.0
S38	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	98	2.3	669	14.6
65-74 years					
S30-31	Ischaemic heart disease	2,399	32.9	7,962	30.1
S11-20	Malignant neoplasms	2,101	28.9	6,765	31.1
S33	Cerebrovascular disease	797	10.9	3,613	22.1
S32	Other forms of heart disease	229	3.1	1,564	14.6
S38	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	194	2.7	669	29.0
75 years and over					
S30-31	Ischaemic heart disease	3,698	28.3	7,962	46.4
S33	Cerebrovascular disease	2,299	17.6	3,613	63.6
S11-20	Malignant neoplasms	2,090	16.0	6,765	30.9
S32	Other forms of heart disease	1,086	8.3	1,564	69.4
S34	Atherosclerosis	528	4.0	587	89.9

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

Diseases of the heart

During 1981, there were 10,008 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart including 119 due to rheumatic heart disease, 363 to hypertensive heart disease, 5,558 to acute myocardial infarction, 2,404 to other ischaemic heart disease, 65 to pulmonary heart disease, and 1,499 to other forms of heart disease. Deaths in 1981 from this cause by sex are shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HEART DISEASES BY SEX, 1981

Cause of death (a)	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
Rheumatic heart disease (391,393-398)	51	68	119
Hypertensive heart disease (402,404)	160	203	363
Acute myocardial infarction (410)	3,323	2,235	5,558
Other ischaemic heart disease (411-414)	1,379	1,025	2,404
Pulmonary heart disease (415-416)	28	37	65
Other forms of heart disease (420-429)	620	879	1,499
Total	5,561	4,447	10,008

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD9 category code numbers.

Malignant neoplasms

Since the introduction of the Ninth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD9) in 1979, deaths classified as malignant neoplasms do not include deaths from polycythaemia vera and myelofibrosis. Deaths from malignant neoplasms in 1981 numbered 6,765. Deaths in 1981 from these diseases by sex are shown in the following table.

Deaths from malignant neoplasms are prominent at most age periods, but, as the table below shows, they characteristically increase with age, reaching a maximum number in the two oldest age groups. Ninety-four per cent of the deaths from malignant neoplasms in 1981 were at ages 45 years and over.

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS
BY SEX, 1981

Site of disease (a)	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
Lip, oral cavity, and pharynx (140-149)	125	42	167
Oesophagus (150)	118	60	178
Stomach (151)	251	143	394
Intestine, except rectum (152, 153)	351	403	754
Rectum and rectosigmoid junction and anus (154)	199	147	346
Trachea, bronchus, and lung (162)	1,104	263	1,367
Breast (174, 175)	4	547	551
Cervix uteri (180)	—	121	121
Body of uterus and unspecified parts of uterus (179, 182)	—	81	81
Ovary and other uterine adnexa (183)	—	181	181
Prostate (185)	351	—	351
Bladder (188)	105	49	154
Other and unspecified genito-urinary organs (181, 184, 186, 187, 189)	92	76	168
Brain and other unspecified parts of nervous system (191, 192)	101	67	168
Leukaemia (204-208)	137	97	234
Other neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic system (200-203)	181	148	329
All other and unspecified sites	692	529	1,221
Total	3,811	2,954	6,765

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD9 category code numbers.

Cerebrovascular diseases

In 1981, 1,449 male and 2,164 female deaths were ascribed to cerebrovascular diseases. Deaths from these diseases by sex are shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES
BY SEX, 1981

Cause of death (a)	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
Subarachnoid haemorrhage (430)	69	112	181
Cerebral haemorrhage (431, 432)	229	322	551
Cerebral occlusion (433-434)	267	416	683
Acute but ill-defined cerebrovascular disease (436)	730	1,085	1,815
Other and ill-defined cerebrovascular diseases, including late effects (435, 437, 438)	154	229	383
Total	1,449	2,164	3,613

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD9 category code numbers.

Diseases of the respiratory system

In 1981, deaths from diseases of the respiratory system numbered 1,994. Of these deaths, 22 were due to acute respiratory infections, 454 to pneumonia, 6 to influenza, 669 to bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma, 667 to chronic airways obstruction not elsewhere classified, and 176 to other diseases.

Diseases of the digestive system

In 1981, there were 526 male and 402 female deaths from diseases of the digestive system. Deaths from causes in this group in 1981 were: 168 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum; 11 from appendicitis; 28 from intestinal obstruction and hernia; 98 from non-infective enteritis and colitis; 300 from chronic liver disease and cirrhosis; and 323 from other diseases.

Diabetes mellitus

During 1981, diabetes was responsible for 260 male and 340 female deaths.

Diseases of the genito-urinary system

In 1981, there were 334 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis were responsible for 190 deaths, infections of the kidney for 62, calculi of the urinary system for 8, hyperplasia of prostate for 19, and other diseases of the genito-urinary system for 55.

Tuberculosis

The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1981 was 23. Deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1981 numbered 19.

Deaths from external causes

External causes of death such as accidents, poisonings, and violence, including homicide and suicide, accounted for 6 per cent of all deaths registered in 1981. However, these causes were responsible for 43 per cent of the deaths of persons aged 1 to 34 years.

The table "Main causes of death in age groups" on pages 186 and 187 shows that external causes (cause groups S54-56) predominate in the various age groups after the first year of life to middle age, but become progressively less prominent in the older age groups. In 1981, 68 per cent of all deaths from external causes were male.

Transport accidents

In 1981, registration of deaths from all transport accidents numbered 775 compared with 926 in 1980, 1,011 in 1979, 956 in 1978, and 1,106 in 1977. During 1981, deaths connected with transport represented 62.5 per cent of the total deaths from accidents. Of the 775 deaths, 729 involved motor vehicles.

Injury undetermined whether accidentally or purposely inflicted

In many cases it is not possible to determine whether death from an external cause was accidentally or purposely inflicted, i.e., whether the death was due to accident, suicide, or homicide. The Ninth Revision has a separate category to include cases where the mode of infliction was undetermined. Deaths allocated to these categories in 1981 totalled 27.

Suicide and self-inflicted injury

In 1981, deaths from suicide or wilfully self-inflicted injury numbered 317 males and 108 females. Of the 317 male deaths in 1981, 122 were connected with firearms and explosives, and 59 with poisoning by solid or liquid substances. The latter accounted for 48 of the 108 female deaths.

Homicide

The number of deaths registered in 1981 ascribed to homicide was 41 (21 males and 20 females).

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HOMICIDE (a)

Year	Males	Females	Total
1977	38	27	65
1978	27	22	49
1979	37	22	59
1980	51	31	82
1981	21	20	41

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

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

Infant deaths

The mortality of children under one year, in proportion to live births, has declined markedly in both Australia and Victoria. The infant death rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) in Victoria has fallen from 133 in 1885-1889 to 10 in 1977-1981. A significant part of the reduction in the rate in recent years has been due to fewer infants dying within the first four weeks of life.

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF INFANT DEATHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1977	953	653	478	221	251	99	107	59	2,821
1978	1,004	616	r444	227	r230	97	53	62	r2,733
1979	878	652	380	166	r247	95	64	52	r2,534
1980	r847	592	r394	187	239	79	40	39	r2,417
1981	809	562	425	157	193	86	70	45	2,347

AUSTRALIA—INFANT DEATH RATES (a)

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1977	12.2	11.0	13.7	11.5	12.2	14.7	41.8	12.7	12.47
1978	12.9	10.5	12.9	12.2	11.2	14.3	19.7	14.0	r12.19
1979	11.4	11.3	10.8	9.0	r12.1	14.1	22.5	11.6	r11.36
1980	r10.7	10.2	r11.3	10.1	11.6	11.7	15.5	8.7	r10.72
1981	9.9	9.4	10.9	8.1	8.8	12.0	22.7	10.1	9.95

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

Infant death rates have shown a decrease in each quinquennial period from 1885 onwards. In 1954, the rate fell below 20 per 1,000 live births for the first time in Victoria. In 1981, the rate was 9.4.

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATH RATES BY AGE

Year	Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births					Total
	Under one week	One week and under one month	One month and under three months	Three months and under six months	Six months and under twelve months	
1977	6.5	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	11.0
1978	6.0	1.2	1.1	1.3	0.8	10.5
1979	5.8	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.1	11.3
1980	5.3	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.1	10.2
1981	4.9	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.9	9.4

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS AT CERTAIN AGES BY SEX, 1981

Particulars	Under one week	One week and under one month	One month and under three months	Three months and under six months	Six months and under twelve months	Total under one year
Males—						
Number	162	39	48	33	27	309
Rate (a)	5.3	1.3	1.6	1.1	0.9	10.2
Percentage of total	52.4	12.6	15.5	10.7	8.7	100.0
Females—						
Number	132	36	30	30	25	253
Rate (a)	4.5	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.9	8.7
Percentage of total	52.2	14.2	11.9	11.9	9.9	100.0

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

The rate for male infants is consistently higher than that for females, and in the period 1977–1981 exceeded the female rate by 25 per cent.

Perinatal deaths

In accordance with a recommendation of the Ninth Revision Conference (1975) of the World Health Organisation (WHO) the statistical definition of a perinatal death was amended in 1979 to the following:

(1) *Stillbirths*. Any child born weighing at least 500 grams at delivery (or, when the birthweight is unavailable, a period of gestation of at least 22 weeks) which did not, at any time after being born, breathe or show any other sign of life.

(2) *Neonatal deaths*. The death of a live born child who had a birthweight of at least 500 grams (or when the birthweight is unavailable, a gestational period of at least 22 weeks) within 28 days of birth.

Statistics in the tables below relate to this revised definition.

VICTORIA—PERINATAL DEATHS

Year	Stillbirths	Neonatal deaths			Total perinatal deaths
		Under one week	One week but less than one month	Total neonatal deaths	
1977	505	353	72	425	930
1978	510	328	72	400	910
1979	452	314	87	401	853
1980	447	284	75	359	806
1981	443	280	75	355	798

VICTORIA—PERINATAL DEATH RATES (a)

Year	Stillbirths	Neonatal deaths			Total perinatal deaths
		Under one week	One week but less than one month	Total neonatal deaths	
1977	8.4	5.9	1.2	7.1	15.5
1978	8.6	5.6	1.2	6.8	15.3
1979	7.8	5.4	1.5	6.9	14.7
1980	7.6	4.9	1.3	6.2	13.7
1981	7.4	4.7	1.3	6.0	13.3

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

Cremations

There are four crematoria in Victoria—three in the Melbourne metropolitan area and one in Ballarat. The number of cremations in relation to total deaths from 1977 to 1981 is shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—CREMATIONS AND DEATHS

Year	Total cremations	Total deaths registered	Percentage of cremations to deaths registered
1977	11,699	29,478	39.69
1978	11,644	29,096	40.02
1979	11,683	29,078	40.18
1980	11,805	29,374	40.19
1981	11,762	29,034	40.51

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