

The background of the cover is a dark, low-angle photograph of a modern building with large glass windows and a prominent overhang. The building is dimly lit, and the sky is a deep blue. In the foreground, there are some blurred figures of people walking. A large, semi-transparent number '65' is visible in the lower-left area of the image.

# Coroners Court

## Monthly Suicide Data Report

October 2022 update

21 November 2022



**WARNING:** This following report includes information on suicides.

For help or information contact **beyondblue** on 1300 224 636, or **Lifeline** on 13 11 14.

## Purpose

This report presents the October 2022 update to Victorian suicide statistics. This report was produced under the Coroners Court of Victoria's initiative to release timely and accessible data on suicide across the state.

## Victorian Suicide Register

In Victoria all deaths from suspected non-natural causes including suspected suicides are required to be reported to the Coroners Court of Victoria. The Coroners Court reviews newly reported deaths on a daily basis to identify those that occur in circumstances consistent with suicide and adds these deaths to the Victorian Suicide Register (VSR).

The VSR has been in operation since 2012 and is the most accurate and timely data source for suicide in Victoria. VSR data is regularly shared with the Victorian Department of Health, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Victoria Police, health services, and other bodies engaged in suicide prevention to inform their work.

## Considerations when interpreting the data

Victoria's suicide frequency varies quite substantially from month to month. Additionally, there can be substantial variation in the monthly and annual frequency of suicides within particular cohorts. This variation, which is not unique to Victoria but is a feature of suicide data around Australia and internationally, usually results from random factors rather than underlying systemic issues or emerging clusters. The data therefore should be interpreted cautiously, with great care taken in drawing conclusions about any apparent increase or decrease that is observed.

## Changes in reported frequencies over time

The deaths included in the VSR are regularly reviewed as coroners' investigations progress and more is learned about the circumstances in which they occurred. Deaths may be removed from the VSR if investigation establishes they are likely not to be suicides; likewise, deaths initially missed may be added to the VSR as new evidence consistent with suicide is gathered. This is why some data reported here may be different to what was reported in previous months.

However, data changes are usually minor: VSR analyses have shown that over time, there is consistently less than 5% difference between the number of suicides initially identified as suicides, and the number of deaths ultimately confirmed as suicides.

# Monthly data update

## 1. Year to date frequency by sex

Table 1 shows the frequency of Victorian suicides by deceased sex as at the end of October each year, for the period 2018-2022.

**Table 1:** Year to date (month end October) suicide frequency by sex, Victoria 2018-2022.

Sex	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Male	414	439	421	432	462
Female	150	146	148	145	159
<b>Total</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>621</b>

## 2. Monthly frequency

Table 2 shows the monthly frequency and aggregate monthly<sup>1</sup> frequency of Victorian suicides for January 2018 through to October 2022.

**Table 2:** Monthly frequency and aggregate monthly frequency of Victorian suicides, January 2018 to October 2022.

Monthly frequency						Aggregate monthly frequency				
Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	46	71	63	59	56	46	71	63	59	56
February	50	61	59	51	54	96	132	122	110	110
March	65	50	69	70	66	161	182	191	180	176
April	61	50	54	51	56	222	232	245	231	232
May	54	68	52	55	56	276	300	297	286	288
June	50	53	52	58	60	326	353	349	344	348
July	64	56	61	55	54	390	409	410	399	402
August	56	57	59	53	69	446	466	469	452	471
September	54	55	49	52	77	500	521	518	504	548
October	64	64	51	73	73	564	585	569	577	621
November	71	50	68	61		635	635	637	638	
December	62	65	53	55		697	700	690	693	

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1 The aggregate monthly frequency is the sum of frequencies for all months so far in each year. For example, the aggregate monthly frequency in March of a year is the sum of the monthly frequencies in January, February and March for that year.

### 3. Year to date frequency by age group and sex

Table 3 shows the Victorian suicide frequency by deceased sex and age group as at the end of October each year, for the period 2018-2022.

**Table 3:** Year to date (month end October) suicide frequency by sex and age group, Victoria 2018-2022.

Age group by sex	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Male					
Under 18	9	12	12	9	10
18 to 24	47	53	50	42	39
25 to 34	86	98	74	80	86
35 to 44	72	90	74	74	75
45 to 54	88	68	68	84	102
55 to 64	58	67	71	60	56
65 and over	54	51	72	83	94
<b>Total</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>462</b>
Female					
Under 18	4	5	2	10	3
18 to 24	17	16	11	17	13
25 to 34	31	20	39	36	27
35 to 44	29	24	30	23	26
45 to 54	23	32	20	22	34
55 to 64	27	22	22	19	22
65 and over	19	27	24	18	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>159</b>
All people					
Under 18	13	17	14	19	13
18 to 24	64	69	61	59	52
25 to 34	117	118	113	116	113
35 to 44	101	114	104	97	101
45 to 54	111	100	88	106	136
55 to 64	85	89	93	79	78
65 and over	73	78	96	101	128
<b>Total</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>621</b>

## 4. Year to date frequency by location of fatal incident

Table 4a shows the suicide frequency as at the end of October in Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria, for the years 2018 to 2022. Table 4b shows the same data but represented as proportions of all suicides rather than as frequencies.

**Table 4a:** Year to date (month end October) suicide frequency by location of fatal incident, Victoria 2018-2022.

Location of fatal incident	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Metropolitan Melbourne	371	371	385	369	409
Regional Victoria	193	214	184	208	212
<b>Total</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>621</b>

**Table 4b:** Year to date (month end October) suicide proportion by location of fatal incident, Victoria 2018-2022.

Location of fatal incident	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Metropolitan Melbourne	66%	63%	68%	64%	66%
Regional Victoria	34%	37%	32%	36%	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>