

Coroners Court

Monthly Suicide Data Report

June 2023 update

14 July 2023

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WARNING: This following report includes information on suicides.

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Purpose

This report presents the June 2023 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 by sex and age group. 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 June each year, for the years 2019-2023.

Table 1: Year to date (month end June) suicide frequency by sex, Victoria 2019-2023.

Sex	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Male	269	265	261	245	262
Female	84	82	84	105	100
Total	353	347	345	350	362

2. Monthly frequency

Table 2 shows the monthly frequency and aggregate monthly¹ frequency of Victorian suicides for January 2019 through to June 2023.

Table 2: Monthly frequency and aggregate monthly frequency of Victorian suicides, January 2019 to June 2023.

Monthly frequency						Aggregate monthly frequency				
Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	70	62	59	56	68	70	62	59	56	68
February	61	60	51	54	62	131	122	110	110	130
March	50	68	70	65	56	181	190	180	175	186
April	51	54	51	57	68	232	244	231	232	254
May	69	51	56	55	65	301	295	287	287	319
June	52	52	58	63	43	353	347	345	350	362
July	56	56	55	55		409	403	400	405	
August	57	59	54	70		466	462	454	475	
September	55	49	51	75		521	511	505	550	
October	65	51	73	75		586	562	578	625	
November	48	68	60	66		634	630	638	691	
December	65	53	54	68		699	683	692	759	

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 June each year, for the years 2019-2023.

Table 3: Year to date (month end June) suicide frequency by sex and age group, Victoria 2019-2023.

Age group by sex	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Male					
Under 18	3	9	6	0	11
18 to 24	31	32	26	27	21
25 to 34	71	44	49	44	50
35 to 44	58	51	48	48	55
45 to 54	41	43	50	56	52
55 to 64	36	42	38	22	37
65 and over	29	44	44	48	36
Total	269	265	261	245	262
Female					
Under 18	2	2	7	2	8
18 to 24	8	5	8	10	8
25 to 34	11	18	18	16	20
35 to 44	16	16	15	21	22
45 to 54	16	11	15	21	19
55 to 64	14	11	12	11	9
65 and over	17	19	9	24	14
Total	84	82	84	105	100
All people					
Under 18	5	11	13	2	19
18 to 24	39	37	34	37	29
25 to 34	82	62	67	60	70
35 to 44	74	67	63	69	77
45 to 54	57	54	65	77	71
55 to 64	50	53	50	33	46
65 and over	46	63	53	72	50
Total	353	347	345	350	362

4. Year to date frequency by location of fatal incident

Table 4a shows the suicide frequency as at the end of June in Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria, for the years 2019 to 2023. Table 4b shows the same data but represented as proportions of all suicides rather than as frequencies.

Table 4a: Year to date (month end June) suicide frequency by location of fatal incident, Victoria 2019-2023.

Location of fatal incident	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Metropolitan Melbourne	227	233	227	236	236
Regional Victoria	126	114	118	114	125
Total	353	347	345	350	362

Table 4b: Year to date (month end June) suicide proportion by location of fatal incident, Victoria 2019-2023.

Location of fatal incident	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Metropolitan Melbourne	64%	67%	66%	67%	65%
Regional Victoria	36%	33%	34%	33%	35%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%