

# Coroners Court

## Monthly Suicide Data Report

November 2023 update

18 Dec 2023

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

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## Purpose

This report presents the November 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 November each year, for the years 2019-2023.

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

Sex	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Male	477	466	467	514	523
Female	155	161	160	181	206
<b>Total</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>729</b>

## 2. Monthly frequency

Table 2 shows the monthly frequency and aggregate monthly<sup>1</sup> frequency of Victorian suicides for January 2019 through to November 2023.

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

Monthly frequency						Aggregate monthly frequency				
Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	70	61	60	56	71	70	61	60	56	71
February	61	60	51	54	62	131	121	111	110	133
March	50	67	67	64	56	181	188	178	174	189
April	51	53	49	57	70	232	241	227	231	259
May	68	51	54	55	66	300	292	281	286	325
June	51	52	57	66	46	351	344	338	352	371
July	56	56	54	56	66	407	400	392	408	437
August	57	59	52	73	63	464	459	444	481	500
September	56	49	50	72	73	520	508	494	553	573
October	64	51	72	77	86	584	559	566	630	659
November	48	68	61	65	70	632	627	627	695	729
December	65	53	54	70		697	680	681	765	

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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 November each year, for the years 2019-2023.

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

Age group by sex	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Male					
Under 18	12	14	10	10	16
18 to 24	57	55	45	50	51
25 to 34	103	81	84	98	96
35 to 44	96	85	87	86	108
45 to 54	75	77	88	107	97
55 to 64	75	78	66	62	78
65 and over	59	76	87	101	77
<b>Total</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>523</b>
Female					
Under 18	7	3	12	4	10
18 to 24	17	14	23	15	20
25 to 34	21	43	36	32	40
35 to 44	25	29	27	30	45
45 to 54	32	23	22	39	38
55 to 64	24	23	22	25	20
65 and over	29	26	18	36	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>206</b>
All people					
Under 18	19	17	22	14	26
18 to 24	74	69	68	65	71
25 to 34	124	124	120	130	136
35 to 44	121	114	114	116	153
45 to 54	107	100	110	146	135
55 to 64	99	101	88	87	98
65 and over	88	102	105	137	110
<b>Total</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>729</b>

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

Table 4a shows the suicide frequency as at the end of November 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 November) suicide frequency by location of fatal incident, Victoria 2019-2023.

Location of fatal incident	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Metropolitan	402	420	403	458	478
Regional	230	207	224	237	251
<b>Total</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>729</b>

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

Location of fatal incident	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Metropolitan	64%	67%	64%	66%	66%
Regional	36%	33%	36%	34%	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>