

Coroners Court

Monthly Suicide Data Report

May 2024 update

11 June 2024

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WARNING: This following report includes information on suicides.

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Purpose

This report presents the May 2024 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 May each year, for the years 2020-2024.

Table 1: Year to date (month end May) suicide frequency by sex, Victoria 2020-2024.

Sex	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Male	225	211	197	235	240
Female	65	69	89	89	88
Total	290	280	286	324	328

2. Monthly frequency

Table 2 shows the monthly frequency and aggregate monthly¹ frequency of Victorian suicides for January 2020 through to May 2024.

Table 2: Monthly frequency and aggregate monthly frequency of Victorian suicides, January 2020 to May 2024.

Month	Monthly frequency					Aggregate monthly frequency				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	62	59	54	72	79	62	59	54	72	79
February	61	51	55	61	81	123	110	109	133	160
March	64	67	63	56	65	187	177	172	189	225
April	53	49	58	69	58	240	226	230	258	283
May	50	54	56	66	45	290	280	286	324	328
June	52	58	66	46		342	338	352	370	
July	56	54	56	64		398	392	408	434	
August	59	51	73	63		457	443	481	497	
September	46	50	72	73		503	493	553	570	
October	50	74	77	87		553	567	630	657	
November	68	60	66	73		621	627	696	730	
December	52	54	70	69		673	681	766	799	

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 May each year, for the years 2020-2024.

Table 3: Year to date (month end May) suicide frequency by sex and age group, Victoria 2020-2024.

Age group by sex	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Male					
Under 18	8	4	0	10	2
18 to 24	27	21	19	20	26
25 to 34	38	37	36	41	39
35 to 44	42	38	40	49	56
45 to 54	37	38	48	45	44
55 to 64	42	37	18	36	32
65 and over	31	36	36	34	41
Total	225	211	197	235	240
Female					
Under 18	2	5	2	6	3
18 to 24	4	8	10	7	9
25 to 34	12	16	15	20	18
35 to 44	12	13	16	22	16
45 to 54	11	12	16	14	17
55 to 64	9	12	10	10	11
65 and over	15	3	20	10	14
Total	65	69	89	89	88
All people					
Under 18	10	9	2	16	5
18 to 24	31	29	29	27	35
25 to 34	50	53	51	61	57
35 to 44	54	51	56	71	72
45 to 54	48	50	64	59	61
55 to 64	51	49	28	46	43
65 and over	46	39	56	44	55
Total	290	280	286	324	328

4. Year to date frequency by location of fatal incident

Table 4a shows the suicide frequency as at the end of May in Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria, for the years 2020 to 2024. Table 4b shows the same data but represented as proportions of all suicides rather than as frequencies.

Table 4a: Year to date (month end May) suicide frequency by location of fatal incident, Victoria 2020-2024.

Location of fatal incident	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Metropolitan	196	179	196	208	225
Regional	93	101	90	116	103
Total	290	280	286	324	328

Table 4b: Year to date (month end May) suicide proportion by location of fatal incident, Victoria 2020-2024.

Location of fatal incident	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Metropolitan	68%	64%	69%	64%	69%
Regional	32%	36%	31%	36%	31%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%