

Coroners Court

Monthly Suicide Data Report

July 2024 update

14 Aug 2024

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WARNING: This following report includes information on suicides.

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Purpose

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

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

Sex	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Male	304	293	292	316	335
Female	96	96	117	118	118
Total	400	389	409	434	453

2. Monthly frequency

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

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

Month	Monthly frequency					Aggregate monthly frequency				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	62	58	55	72	79	62	58	55	72	79
February	61	51	54	61	82	123	109	109	133	161
March	64	67	64	56	67	187	176	173	189	228
April	53	49	58	69	58	240	225	231	258	286
May	50	53	56	66	46	290	278	287	324	332
June	53	57	66	46	59	343	335	353	370	391
July	57	54	56	64	62	400	389	409	434	453
August	60	51	73	62		460	440	482	496	
September	45	50	73	72		505	490	555	568	
October	48	74	77	86		553	564	632	654	
November	68	60	65	72		621	624	697	726	
December	51	55	71	70		672	679	768	796	

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 July each year, for the years 2020-2024.

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

Age group by sex	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Male					
Under 18	10	5	2	10	3
18 to 24	35	28	29	26	38
25 to 34	52	54	51	64	57
35 to 44	56	55	53	66	70
45 to 54	48	56	68	63	58
55 to 64	50	43	32	46	47
65 and over	53	52	57	41	62
Total	304	293	292	316	335
Female					
Under 18	2	7	2	7	6
18 to 24	7	13	11	8	12
25 to 34	23	21	18	23	23
35 to 44	19	17	22	29	21
45 to 54	12	16	24	23	23
55 to 64	13	12	13	13	15
65 and over	20	10	27	15	18
Total	96	96	117	118	118
All people					
Under 18	12	12	4	17	9
18 to 24	42	41	40	34	50
25 to 34	75	75	69	87	80
35 to 44	75	72	75	95	91
45 to 54	60	72	92	86	81
55 to 64	63	55	45	59	62
65 and over	73	62	84	56	80
Total	400	389	409	434	453

4. Year to date frequency by location of fatal incident

Table 4a shows the suicide frequency as at the end of July 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 July) suicide frequency by location of fatal incident, Victoria 2020-2024.

Location of fatal incident	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Metropolitan	266	252	279	284	304
Regional	133	137	130	150	149
Total	400	389	409	434	453

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

Location of fatal incident	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Metropolitan	67%	65%	68%	65%	67%
Regional	33%	35%	32%	35%	33%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%