

Coroners Court

Monthly Suicide Data Report

October 2024 update

3 December 2024





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 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 October each year, for the years 2020-2024.

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

Sex	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Male	414	421	462	472	483
Female	137	141	171	182	184
Total	551	562	633	654	667

2. Monthly frequency

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

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

Month	Monthly frequency					Aggregate monthly frequency				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	61	57	55	71	80	61	57	55	71	80
February	61	51	54	61	83	122	108	109	132	163
March	64	66	64	56	69	186	174	173	188	232
April	53	50	58	69	57	239	224	231	257	289
May	50	52	56	66	45	289	276	287	323	334
June	52	57	66	47	60	341	333	353	370	394
July	57	55	57	64	63	398	388	410	434	457
August	61	50	73	62	81	459	438	483	496	538
September	44	50	73	72	63	503	488	556	568	601
October	48	74	77	86	66	551	562	633	654	667
November	66	60	65	71		617	622	698	725	
December	51	55	71	70		668	677	769	795	

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 years 2020-2024.

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

Age group by sex	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Male					
Under 18	12	8	9	13	5
18 to 24	49	40	40	44	54
25 to 34	71	76	89	91	81
35 to 44	73	74	76	99	95
45 to 54	67	83	101	92	85
55 to 64	69	61	58	67	76
65 and over	73	79	89	66	87
Total	414	421	462	472	483
Female					
Under 18	2	9	3	10	8
18 to 24	9	17	14	15	20
25 to 34	36	35	28	35	32
35 to 44	28	22	28	42	38
45 to 54	18	21	37	35	34
55 to 64	19	20	25	20	24
65 and over	25	17	36	25	28
Total	137	141	171	182	184
All people					
Under 18	14	17	12	23	13
18 to 24	58	57	54	59	74
25 to 34	107	111	117	126	113
35 to 44	101	96	104	141	133
45 to 54	85	104	138	127	119
55 to 64	88	81	83	87	100
65 and over	98	96	125	91	115
Total	551	562	633	654	667

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 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 October) suicide frequency by location of fatal incident, Victoria 2020-2024.

Location of fatal incident	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Metropolitan	370	358	416	436	444
Regional	180	204	217	218	223
Total	551	562	633	654	667

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

Location of fatal incident	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Metropolitan	67%	64%	66%	67%	67%
Regional	33%	36%	34%	33%	33%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%