

# Coroners Court

## Monthly Suicide Data Report

December 2024 update

26 February 2025





**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 December 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 December each year, for the years 2020-2024.

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

Sex	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Male	507	507	561	569	563
Female	161	171	208	226	209
<b>Total</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>772</b>

## 2. Monthly frequency

Table 2 shows the monthly frequency and aggregate monthly<sup>1</sup> frequency of Victorian suicides for January 2020 through to December 2024.

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

Month	Monthly frequency					Aggregate monthly frequency				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	61	58	55	71	80	61	58	55	71	80
February	61	51	54	61	83	122	109	109	132	163
March	64	66	64	56	69	186	175	173	188	232
April	53	50	58	69	57	239	225	231	257	289
May	50	52	56	66	45	289	277	287	323	334
June	52	57	66	47	60	341	334	353	370	394
July	57	55	57	64	63	398	389	410	434	457
August	61	50	73	62	81	459	439	483	496	538
September	44	50	73	72	64	503	489	556	568	602
October	48	74	77	86	66	551	563	633	654	668
November	66	60	65	71	53	617	623	698	725	721
December	51	55	71	70	51	668	678	769	795	772

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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 December each year, for the years 2020-2024.

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

Age group by sex	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Male					
Under 18	16	9	10	15	6
18 to 24	60	50	51	53	56
25 to 34	88	89	110	105	90
35 to 44	93	90	94	119	113
45 to 54	84	103	114	106	101
55 to 64	85	74	72	86	94
65 and over	81	92	110	85	103
<b>Total</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>563</b>
Female					
Under 18	3	12	4	10	8
18 to 24	13	27	16	19	23
25 to 34	42	38	36	45	42
35 to 44	29	28	35	47	43
45 to 54	24	24	42	40	36
55 to 64	23	23	32	27	25
65 and over	27	19	43	38	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>209</b>
All people					
Under 18	19	21	14	25	14
18 to 24	73	77	67	72	79
25 to 34	130	127	146	150	132
35 to 44	122	118	129	166	156
45 to 54	108	127	156	146	137
55 to 64	108	97	104	113	119
65 and over	108	111	153	123	135
<b>Total</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>772</b>

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

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

Location of fatal incident	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Metropolitan	442	434	501	517	510
Regional	225	244	268	278	261
Unknown	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>772</b>

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

Location of fatal incident	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Metropolitan	66%	64%	65%	65%	66%
Regional	34%	36%	35%	35%	34%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>