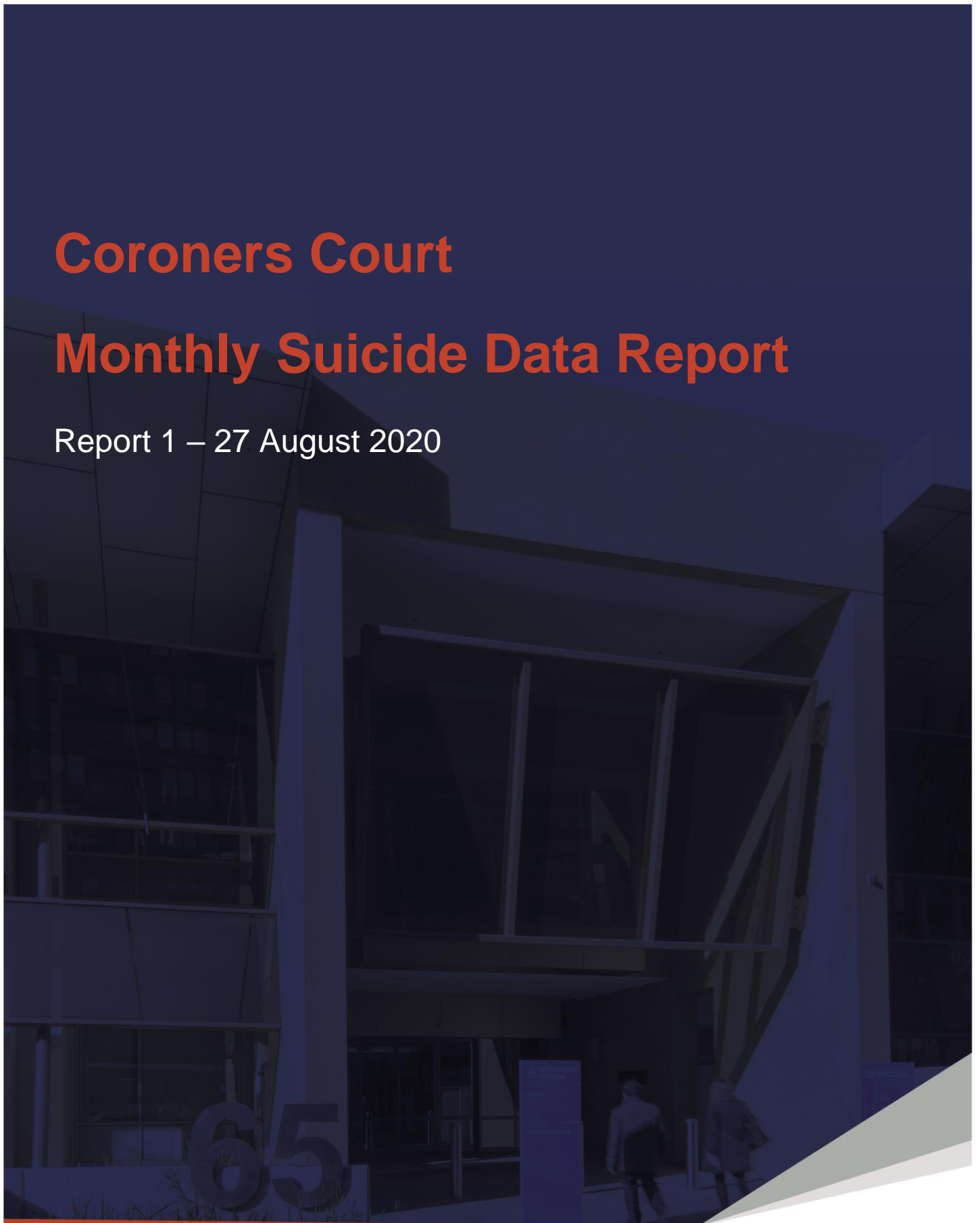


Coroners Court

Monthly Suicide Data Report

Report 1 – 27 August 2020



Coroners Court
of Victoria



WARNING: The 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 provides an overview of suicides that have occurred in Victoria from 1 January 2016. The report is the first of ongoing monthly public reports aimed at providing accessible data on the numbers of suicides 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 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 data reported from the VSR may change over time. However, data changes are usually quite minor: analyses have shown that over time, the VSR coding team are consistently better than 95% accurate in identifying the cohort of deaths that are ultimately determined to be suicides.

The VSR is the most accurate and timely data source for suicide in Victoria. VSR data is regularly shared with the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Victoria Police, health services, and other bodies engaged in suicide prevention to inform their work.

Table 1. Annual frequency

Table 1 shows the annual frequency of Victorian suicides as at 26 August each year for the period 2016-2020. This year to date frequency has been relatively steady over the past five years, with the year to date 2020 frequency slightly lower than in 2019.

Table 1: Year to date suicide frequency in Victoria by deceased sex, to 26 August, 2017-2020

Sex	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Male	310	319	346	355	350
Female	110	130	115	113	116
Total	420	449	461	468	466

Table 2. Monthly frequency

Table 2 shows the monthly suicide frequency and aggregate monthly frequency (the sum of frequencies for all months so far in each year) for January 2016 through to August 2020. The monthly frequencies fluctuated quite substantially, between 40 suicides (September 2017) and 76 suicides (November 2018). However, the monthly aggregate frequency data shows that these monthly fluctuations tend to even out over the course of the year. This demonstrates the importance of not attributing too much significance to the suicide frequency in any one month; instead the broader trend should be examined.

Table 2: Monthly frequency and monthly aggregate frequency of Victorian suicides, 2016-2020 (*August 2020 frequency is part-year to 26 August.)

Month	Monthly frequency					Aggregate monthly frequency				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January	60	62	53	73	63	60	62	53	73	63
February	51	48	51	61	63	111	110	104	134	126
March	61	72	67	54	73	172	182	171	188	199
April	44	51	64	57	52	216	233	235	245	251
May	59	52	54	65	57	275	285	289	310	308
June	49	50	54	54	55	324	335	343	364	363
July	48	67	70	54	57	372	402	413	418	420
August	58	59	56	61	46*	430	461	469	479	466*
September	61	40	54	54		491	501	523	533	
October	49	61	67	66		540	562	590	599	
November	57	62	76	55		597	624	666	654	
December	56	63	63	64		653	687	729	718	

Table 3. Age group by sex

Table 3 shows the annual suicide frequency by sex and age group for each year 2016-2020, with 2020 data being part-year to 26 August 2020. Approximately three out of four suicides each year were among males, with most suicides occurring among those aged between 25 and 55.

Table 3: Annual suicide frequency by sex and age group, Victoria 2016-2020 (*2020 data is part-year to 26 August 2020.)

Age group by sex	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Male	476	499	542	544	350
Under 18	14	11	12	14	11
18 to 24	70	44	63	64	41
25 to 34	108	98	101	109	63
35 to 44	79	96	97	114	61
45 to 54	73	106	109	94	58
55 to 64	51	67	83	79	57
65 and over	81	77	77	70	59
Female	177	188	187	174	116
Under 18	3	5	5	8	1
18 to 24	21	19	21	19	11
25 to 34	31	35	41	27	26
35 to 44	31	32	34	29	25
45 to 54	38	43	26	31	15
55 to 64	30	24	32	26	16
65 and over	23	30	28	34	22
Total	653	687	729	718	466