

# Coroners Court

# Monthly Suicide Data Report

November 2021 update

22 December 2021





**WARNING:** This following report includes information on suicides.

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## Purpose

This report presents the November 2021 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 within particular cohorts. 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 30 November each year for the period 2017-2021.

**Table 1:** Year to date (30 November) suicide frequency by sex, Victoria 2017-2021.

Sex	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Male	451	471	480	488	470
Female	166	170	155	173	154
<b>Total</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>624</b>

## 2. Monthly frequency

Table 2 shows the monthly frequency and aggregate monthly<sup>1</sup> frequency of Victorian suicides for January 2017 through to November 2021.

**Table 2:** Monthly frequency and aggregate monthly frequency of Victorian suicides, January 2017 to November 2021.

Month	Monthly frequency					Aggregate monthly frequency				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	60	46	70	66	56	60	46	70	66	56
February	51	49	61	64	52	111	95	131	130	108
March	69	65	50	74	69	180	160	181	204	177
April	50	62	49	54	49	230	222	230	258	226
May	49	55	67	58	54	279	277	297	316	280
June	54	50	53	57	56	333	327	350	373	336
July	64	66	56	63	53	397	393	406	436	389
August	59	58	57	57	54	456	451	463	493	443
September	38	54	56	49	50	494	505	519	542	493
October	64	65	65	51	69	558	570	584	593	562
November	59	71	51	68	62	617	641	635	661	624
December	67	62	65	52		684	703	700	713	

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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 3a shows the Victorian suicide frequency by deceased sex and age group as at 30 November each year for the period 2017-2021.

**Table 3a:** Year to date (30 November) suicide frequency by sex and age group, Victoria 2017-2021.

Age group by sex	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Male</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>470</b>
Under 18	10	11	12	14	10
18 to 24	36	56	57	57	47
25 to 34	90	94	103	83	87
35 to 44	89	81	99	90	86
45 to 54	91	95	75	83	87
55 to 64	64	67	75	83	64
65 and over	71	67	59	78	89
<b>Female</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>154</b>
Under 18	5	4	8	3	12
18 to 24	18	19	17	15	23
25 to 34	32	36	22	42	36
35 to 44	27	35	26	34	26
45 to 54	35	24	32	26	22
55 to 64	22	29	24	25	17
65 and over	27	23	26	28	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>624</b>
Under 18	15	15	20	17	22
18 to 24	54	75	74	72	70
25 to 34	122	130	125	125	123
35 to 44	116	116	125	124	112
45 to 54	126	119	107	109	109
55 to 64	86	96	99	108	81
65 and over	98	90	85	106	107

To assist in interpreting this data, Table 3b was collated (over page) showing Victoria's annual suicide frequency by sex and age group for the complete years 2017-2020. Table 3b illustrates that, while there may be quite substantial short-term fluctuations in suicide frequencies within particular groups, these usually even out over time.

**Table 3b:** Annual suicide frequency by sex and age group, Victoria 2017-2020.

Age group by sex	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Male</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>531</b>
Under 18	11	11	13	16
18 to 24	43	62	64	62
25 to 34	99	99	110	92
35 to 44	96	89	109	97
45 to 54	106	106	89	92
55 to 64	70	76	78	90
65 and over	79	76	67	82
<b>Female</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>182</b>
Under 18	5	5	9	3
18 to 24	18	20	17	16
25 to 34	34	41	27	44
35 to 44	33	36	28	36
45 to 54	38	24	33	28
55 to 64	23	31	26	26
65 and over	29	27	30	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>713</b>
Under 18	16	16	22	19
18 to 24	61	82	81	78
25 to 34	133	140	137	136
35 to 44	129	125	137	133
45 to 54	144	130	122	120
55 to 64	93	107	104	116
65 and over	108	103	97	111

## 4. Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria

Table 4a shows the year to date suicide frequency as at 30 November in Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria, for the years 2017 to 2021. Table 4b (over page) shows the same data but represented as proportions of all suicides rather than as frequencies.

**Table 4a:** Year to date (30 November) suicide frequency by location of fatal incident, Victoria 2017-2021.

Location of fatal incident	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Metropolitan Melbourne	426	423	404	442	399
Regional Victoria	191	218	231	219	224
<b>Total</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>624</b>

**Table 4b:** Year to date (30 November) suicide proportion by location of fatal incident, Victoria 2017-2021.

Location of fatal incident	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Metropolitan Melbourne	69%	66%	64%	67%	64%
Regional Victoria	31%	34%	36%	33%	36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

To assist in interpreting this data, Tables 4c and 4d show the annual suicide frequency and proportion in Metropolitan Melbourne compared to Regional Victoria for the complete years 2017-2020.

**Table 4c:** Annual suicide frequency by location of fatal incident, Victoria 2017-2020.

Location of fatal incident	2017	2018	2019	2020
Metropolitan Melbourne	467	466	450	472
Regional Victoria	217	237	250	241
<b>Total</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>713</b>

**Table 4d:** Annual suicide proportion by location of fatal incident, Victoria 2017-2020.

Location of fatal incident	2017	2018	2019	2020
Metropolitan Melbourne	68%	66%	64%	66%
Regional Victoria	32%	34%	36%	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>