

# Coroners Court

# Monthly Suicide Data Report

September 2022 update

14 October 2022



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

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## Purpose

This report presents the September 2022 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 the end of September each year, for the period 2018-2022.

**Table 1:** Year to date (month end September) suicide frequency by sex, Victoria 2018-2022.

Sex	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Male	364	386	387	381	407
Female	136	134	132	123	142
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>549</b>

## 2. Monthly frequency

Table 2 shows the monthly frequency and aggregate monthly<sup>1</sup> frequency of Victorian suicides for January 2018 through to September 2022.

**Table 2:** Monthly frequency and aggregate monthly frequency of Victorian suicides, January 2018 to September 2022.

Month	Monthly frequency					Aggregate monthly frequency				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	46	71	63	59	58	46	71	63	59	58
February	50	61	59	51	54	96	132	122	110	112
March	65	50	69	70	66	161	182	191	180	178
April	61	50	53	51	56	222	232	244	231	234
May	54	67	53	55	56	276	299	297	286	290
June	50	53	53	58	60	326	352	350	344	350
July	64	56	61	55	54	390	408	411	399	404
August	56	57	59	53	69	446	465	470	452	473
September	54	55	49	52	76	500	520	519	504	549
October	64	64	51	73		564	584	570	577	
November	71	50	68	61		635	634	638	638	
December	62	65	53	55		697	699	691	693	

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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 September each year, for the period 2018-2022.

**Table 3:** Year to date (month end September) suicide frequency by sex and age group, Victoria 2018-2022.

Age group by sex	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Male					
Under 18	9	8	12	9	6
18 to 24	43	46	44	37	34
25 to 34	76	88	69	70	79
35 to 44	67	81	67	68	66
45 to 54	73	57	61	72	90
55 to 64	51	61	65	52	51
65 and over	45	45	69	73	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>407</b>
Female					
Under 18	4	5	2	9	2
18 to 24	14	14	11	15	11
25 to 34	29	19	36	28	23
35 to 44	25	21	25	20	25
45 to 54	21	30	14	21	28
55 to 64	25	20	20	15	21
65 and over	18	25	24	15	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>142</b>
All people					
Under 18	13	13	14	18	8
18 to 24	57	60	55	52	45
25 to 34	105	107	105	98	102
35 to 44	92	102	92	88	91
45 to 54	94	87	75	93	118
55 to 64	76	81	85	67	72
65 and over	63	70	93	88	113
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>549</b>

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

Table 4a shows the year to date suicide frequency as at the end of September in Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria, for the years 2018 to 2022. Table 4b shows the same data but represented as proportions of all suicides rather than as frequencies.

**Table 4a:** Year to date (month end September) suicide frequency by location of fatal incident, Victoria 2018-2022.

Location of fatal incident	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Metropolitan Melbourne	329	333	344	321	362
Regional Victoria	171	187	175	183	187
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>549</b>

**Table 4b:** Year to date (month end September) suicide proportion by location of fatal incident, Victoria 2018-2022.

Location of fatal incident	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Metropolitan Melbourne	66%	64%	66%	64%	66%
Regional Victoria	34%	36%	34%	36%	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>