

Coroners Court

Monthly Suicide Data Report

November 2022 update

16 December 2022



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 November 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 November each year, for the period 2018-2022.

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

Sex	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Male	468	478	474	474	512
Female	167	156	163	164	174
Total	635	634	637	638	686

2. Monthly frequency

Table 2 shows the monthly frequency and aggregate monthly¹ frequency of Victorian suicides for January 2018 through to November 2022.

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

Month	Monthly frequency					Aggregate monthly frequency				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	46	70	63	59	56	46	70	63	59	56
February	50	61	59	51	54	96	131	122	110	110
March	65	50	69	70	65	161	181	191	180	175
April	61	50	54	51	56	222	231	245	231	231
May	54	68	52	55	56	276	299	297	286	287
June	50	53	52	58	60	326	352	349	344	347
July	64	56	61	55	54	390	408	410	399	401
August	56	57	59	53	69	446	465	469	452	470
September	54	55	49	52	77	500	520	518	504	547
October	64	64	51	74	74	564	584	569	578	621
November	71	50	68	60	65	635	634	637	638	686
December	63	65	53	55		698	699	690	693	

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 November each year, for the period 2018-2022.

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

Age group by sex	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Male					
Under 18	11	12	14	10	11
18 to 24	56	57	56	48	47
25 to 34	94	103	83	85	96
35 to 44	80	96	87	86	85
45 to 54	94	75	78	89	109
55 to 64	67	75	80	65	61
65 and over	66	60	76	91	103
Total	468	478	474	474	512
Female					
Under 18	4	7	3	12	4
18 to 24	18	17	14	23	15
25 to 34	35	22	43	37	32
35 to 44	34	26	30	28	28
45 to 54	24	32	23	23	37
55 to 64	29	24	25	21	23
65 and over	23	28	25	20	35
Total	167	156	163	164	174
All people					
Under 18	15	19	17	22	15
18 to 24	74	74	70	71	62
25 to 34	129	125	126	122	128
35 to 44	114	122	117	114	113
45 to 54	118	107	101	112	146
55 to 64	96	99	105	86	84
65 and over	89	88	101	111	138
Total	635	634	637	638	686

4. Year to date frequency by location of fatal incident

Table 4a shows the suicide frequency as at the end of November 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 November) suicide frequency by location of fatal incident, Victoria 2018-2022.

Location of fatal incident	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Metropolitan Melbourne	418	404	428	410	450
Regional Victoria	217	230	209	228	236
Total	635	634	637	638	686

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

Location of fatal incident	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Metropolitan Melbourne	66%	64%	67%	64%	66%
Regional Victoria	34%	36%	33%	36%	34%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%