

# Coroners Court

## Monthly Suicide Data Report

July 2023 update

15 Aug 2023

65





**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 July 2023 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 July each year, for the years 2019-2023.

**Table 1:** Year to date (month end July) suicide frequency by sex, Victoria 2019-2023.

Sex	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Male	309	304	300	293	314
Female	98	96	100	112	118
<b>Total</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>432</b>

## 2. Monthly frequency

Table 2 shows the monthly frequency and aggregate monthly<sup>1</sup> frequency of Victorian suicides for January 2019 through to July 2023.

**Table 2:** Monthly frequency and aggregate monthly frequency of Victorian suicides, January 2019 to July 2023.

Month	Monthly frequency					Aggregate monthly frequency				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	70	62	61	56	69	70	62	61	56	69
February	61	60	51	54	63	131	122	112	110	132
March	50	67	70	64	55	181	189	182	174	187
April	51	52	50	57	70	232	241	232	231	257
May	68	51	56	55	65	300	292	288	286	322
June	51	52	57	63	43	351	344	345	349	365
July	56	56	55	56	67	407	400	400	405	432
August	57	59	52	72		464	459	452	477	
September	56	49	51	73		520	508	503	550	
October	64	51	73	77		584	559	576	627	
November	48	68	60	65		632	627	636	692	
December	64	53	54	69		696	680	690	761	

---

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 July each year, for the years 2019-2023.

**Table 3:** Year to date (month end July) suicide frequency by sex and age group, Victoria 2019-2023.

Age group by sex	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Male					
Under 18	5	10	6	2	11
18 to 24	41	35	28	30	26
25 to 34	77	53	58	50	64
35 to 44	61	56	54	54	65
45 to 54	47	48	56	68	63
55 to 64	43	49	43	31	46
65 and over	35	53	55	58	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>314</b>
Female					
Under 18	3	2	8	2	8
18 to 24	9	8	13	10	9
25 to 34	13	24	22	17	22
35 to 44	16	17	17	21	29
45 to 54	23	12	16	24	22
55 to 64	15	13	12	13	12
65 and over	19	20	12	25	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>118</b>
All people					
Under 18	8	12	14	4	19
18 to 24	50	43	41	40	35
25 to 34	90	77	80	67	86
35 to 44	77	73	71	75	94
45 to 54	70	60	72	92	85
55 to 64	58	62	55	44	58
65 and over	54	73	67	83	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>432</b>

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

Table 4a shows the suicide frequency as at the end of July in Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria, for the years 2019 to 2023. Table 4b shows the same data but represented as proportions of all suicides rather than as frequencies.

**Table 4a:** Year to date (month end July) suicide frequency by location of fatal incident, Victoria 2019-2023.

Location of fatal incident	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Metropolitan	264	268	260	279	281
Regional	143	132	139	126	151
<b>Total</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>432</b>

**Table 4b:** Year to date (month end July) suicide proportion by location of fatal incident, Victoria 2019-2023.

Location of fatal incident	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Metropolitan	65%	67%	65%	69%	65%
Regional	35%	33%	35%	31%	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>