

The inclusion of the suburban boroughs tends to lower the rate at Auckland, Wellington, and Dunedin, but raises it at Christchurch.

	Death-rates per 1,000 of Population.	
Auckland City and seven suburban boroughs	0.95	0.94
Wellington City and four suburban boroughs	0.89	0.86
Christchurch City and five suburban boroughs	0.67	0.70
Dunedin City and five suburban boroughs	0.90	0.81

Including the suburbs, the rate at Auckland is the highest, and at Christchurch the lowest.

Compared with December, 1912, the results are,—

	1912.	1913.
Auckland and suburbs	1.06	0.94
Wellington and suburbs	0.54	0.86
Christchurch and suburbs	0.82	0.70
Dunedin and suburbs	0.84	0.81

The total births in the four chief cities and their suburban boroughs amounted to 635, against 617 in November—an increase of 18. The deaths in December were 244—an increase of 21 as compared with last month. Of the total deaths males contributed 137, females 107. Fifty-two of the deaths were of children under five years of age, being 21.31 per cent. of the whole number; 44 of these were under one year of age.

There were 69 deaths of persons of 65 years and upwards in the four chief cities and their suburban boroughs, as against 65 in November. The following table shows the classification:—

Age.	Auckland.		Wellington.		Christchurch.		Dunedin.		Total.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
66	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	1
67	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	2	2
68	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	1	2
69	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
70	..	1	1	2	..	1	..	..	1	4
71	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1
72	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	2
73	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2
74	..	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	4	..
75	1	2	3	1	1	..	..	..	5	3
76	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	1	2	2
77	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
78	..	1	1	..	1	1	1	..	3	2
80	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	3	1
81	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	1	2	2
82	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
83	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..
84	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
85	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
86	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
89	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1
94	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Totals ..	10	10	9	8	7	5	12	8	38	31

TABLE showing the Causes of the Deaths of Persons at the Four Centres registered during December, 1913.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	AUCKLAND AND SUBURBAN BOROUGHS.		WELLINGTON AND SUBURBAN BOROUGHS.		CHRISTCHURCH AND SUBURBAN BOROUGHS.		DUNEDIN AND SUBURBAN BOROUGHS.		TOTAL.
	Under 5 Years.	5 Years and over.	Under 5 Years.	5 Years and over.	Under 5 Years.	5 Years and over.	Under 5 Years.	5 Years and over.	
I.—GENERAL DISEASES.									
(a.) Epidemic Diseases.									
1. Enteric Fever	1	..	..	..	1
7. Scarlet Fever	1	..	1
8. Whooping Cough	6	..	3	..	3	..	1	13
9. Diphtheria	1	..	..	..	..	1
(b.) Other General Diseases.									
24. Tetanus	1	..	..	..	..	1
28. Phthisis	5	..	7	..	3	24
30. Tubercular Meningitis	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	3
35. General Tuberculosis	1	..	1