

TABLE showing the Causes of the Deaths of Persons at the Four Metropolitan Areas, and Total for Nine Suburban Areas, registered during the Year 1917—*continued*.

Causes of Death.	Auckland Metropolitan Area.		Wellington Metropolitan Area.		Christchurch Metropolitan Area.		Dunedin Metropolitan Area.		Nine Suburban Areas.		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.	Under 5 Years.	5 Years and over.	
XII.—OLD AGE.											
154. Senility	150	..	46	..	111	..	86	..	116	509
XIII.—EXTERNAL VIOLENCE.											
155. Suicide—Poisoning	3	..	3	..	2	..	..	..	1	9
156. " Asphyxia	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	4
157. " Hanging or Strangulation	5	..	2	..	5	..	1	..	4	17
158. " Drowning	2	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	6
159. " Firearms	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	4
160. " Cutting or Piercing Instruments	4	..	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	10
161. " Jumping from High Place	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
163. Other Suicides	1	..	..	1
164. Poisoning by Food	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
165. Other Acute Poisonings	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	5
166. Accident—Conflagration	1	..	1	..	6	..	..	..	..	8
167. " Burns (other than Conflagration)	2	2	1	2	..	1	1	..	3	2	14
168. " Absorption of Deleterious Gases	3	1	1	..	1	3	..	1	1	2	13
169. " Drowning	10	..	8	2	4	2	8	3	16	53
170. " Firearms	5	5
172. " Fall	6	..	8	..	3	..	3	..	6	26
174. " With Machinery	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
175. " Other Crushing (Vehicles, Railways, Landslides, &c.)	1	13	1	7	..	4	..	5	1	21	53
176. Injuries by Animals	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4
179. Effects of Heat	1	..	..	..	1
181. Electricity	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
182. Homicide by Firearms	2	2
184. " Other Means	1	..	..	..	..	1	2
185. Accident—Fractured Femur	1	..	1	..	2	..	4	..	1	9
185. " " Spine	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
185. " " Dislocated Shoulder	1	..	..	..	..	1
185. " " Fractured Ribs	1	..	..	..	1	2
185. " " Tibia	1	1
185. " " Humerus	1	1
185. " " Leg	1	1
185. " " Ankle	1	..	..	..	..	1
185. " " Skull	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
185. " " Hip-joint	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	1
186. Other External Violence	2	1	1	1	..	..	2	..	1	8
Totals	7	62	4	44	5	41	4	26	9	72	274
XIV.—ILL-DEFINED.											
188. Sudden Death	3	..	5	..	..	..	1	9
189. Ill-defined or not stated	5	10	..	11	..	9	2	15	2	15	69
Totals	5	10	..	14	..	14	2	15	2	16	78
Grand Totals	260	1,137	189	703	155	869	87	709	222	906	5237

Commencing with January, 1917, a new system of collection of monthly vital statistics was inaugurated. Metropolitan areas have been created at each of the four chief centres, and suburban areas at nine of the more important secondary centres. Each area includes, in addition to the central boroughs, a considerable non-municipalized area adjacent to and contingent on the centre.

An objection to the old system of publishing statistics for municipal areas only was that these were constantly being extended or otherwise altered, and no proper comparison could be made between one period and another, and no satisfactory record kept of the social condition and progress of the community. The creation of fairly extensive areas fixed for a long period will remove these disabilities. There was also the consideration that the populations of the various boroughs used in the old system were too small to give any satisfactory periodic comparison, especially when the period treated was only one month. The new system considers only the central borough of the metropolitan or suburban area, the remainder of that area, and the total.

The populations of these areas at the census of October, 1916, were as follow:—

Auckland Metropolitan Area	133,712	Wanganui Suburban Area	19,517
Wellington Metropolitan Area	95,235	Palmerston North Suburban Area	14,006
Christchurch Metropolitan Area	92,733	Nelson Suburban Area	9,962
Dunedin Metropolitan Area	68,716	Grey Valley Boroughs Suburban Area	8,373
Gisborne Suburban Area	12,660	Timaru Suburban Area	13,716
Napier Suburban Area	15,131	Invercargill Suburban Area	17,862
New Plymouth Suburban Area	9,795		

The total population covered by the present investigations therefore amounts to 511,418 persons, or a little less than one-half the population of the Dominion at the census of 1916 (excluding Maoris and the residents of Cook and other Pacific islands).