

Dealing with the four metropolitan areas only, it is found that the inclusion of the suburban portions lowers the death-rate in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch.

	Death-rate per 1,000 of Population.	
Auckland City	2.08	
Auckland Metropolitan Area	1.67	
Wellington City	6.62	
Wellington Metropolitan Area	5.81	
Christchurch City	2.09	
Christchurch Metropolitan Area	1.81	
Dunedin City	2.64	
Dunedin Metropolitan Area	2.81	

Including the suburban portions, the rate at Wellington is the highest and at Auckland the lowest.

Compared with December, 1917, the results are—

	1917.	1918.
Auckland Metropolitan Area	1.00	1.67
Wellington Metropolitan Area	0.65	5.81
Christchurch Metropolitan Area	1.08	1.81
Dunedin Metropolitan Area	0.83	2.81

The total births registered for the four metropolitan areas amounted to 724, as against 597 in November—an increase of 127. The deaths registered in December were 1,137—a decrease of 666 as compared with the previous month. Of the total deaths, males contributed 673, females 464. One hundred and one of the deaths were of children under five years of age, being 8.88 per cent. of the whole number. Fifty-two of these were under one year of age.

The following table shows the deaths in various age-groups occurring in the four metropolitan and total of nine suburban areas during the month of December, 1918:—

Age-group.	METROPOLITAN AREA.								NINE SUBURBAN AREAS.		Total.	
	Auckland.		Wellington.		Christchurch.		Dunedin.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.				
Under 5 years ..	15	8	33	21	7	8	3	4	19	18	77	59
5 and under 10 years..	2	..	1	..	2	2	..	2	4	..	9	4
10 " 15 " ..	2	..	3	3	..	2	..	2	2	2	7	9
15 " 20 " ..	3	2	14	8	4	7	3	5	6	6	30	28
20 " 25 " ..	11	7	13	17	5	3	4	11	4	10	37	48
25 " 30 " ..	12	13	51	36	6	11	7	6	14	17	90	83
30 " 35 " ..	8	7	63	32	11	10	15	9	11	9	108	67
35 " 40 " ..	11	4	57	13	3	7	16	10	17	8	104	42
40 " 45 " ..	6	3	35	12	9	8	9	2	13	6	72	31
45 " 50 " ..	8	8	24	13	4	2	9	2	11	5	56	30
50 " 55 " ..	5	7	12	12	4	4	3	5	5	9	29	37
55 " 60 " ..	4	3	8	3	4	3	6	6	5	10	27	25
60 " 65 " ..	4	7	8	5	1	2	7	8	4	9	24	31
65 years and over ..	41	21	17	17	22	17	20	19	25	24	125	98
Unknown or not stated	..	1	18	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	5
Totals..	132	91	357	196	82	86	102	91	140	133	813	597

The deaths of 223 persons of 65 years and upwards were registered for the four metropolitan and nine suburban areas during the month of December, 1918, as against 301 in the previous month. The following table shows the classification:—

Age.	METROPOLITAN AREA.								NINE SUBURBAN AREAS.		Total.	
	Auckland.		Wellington.		Christchurch.		Dunedin.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.				
65	3	..	2	..	2	..	1	1	1	2	9	3
66	..	..	4	..	..	3	..	..	3	..	7	3
67	1	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	1	2	5	3
68	2	2	1	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	5
69	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	3	5
70	5	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	8	1
71	1	1	..	..	2	1	3	1	..	..	6	3
72	1	2	1	1	2	1	..	1	..	..	4	5
73	3	1	2	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	5	4
74	3	5	1	3	..	1	..	..	1	1	5	10
75	2	..	2	..	2	3	1	1	1	2	8	6
76	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	2	2	5
77	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	2	1	..	3	4
78	..	1	..	3	2	1	..	1	2	2	4	8
79	..	1	..	1	2	1	4	2	2	2	8	7
80	..	1	2	..	..	1	5	1	1	..	8	3
81	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	4	2
82	2	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	2	4	4
83	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	1	2	4	5
84	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	5	1
85	2	..	..	2	1	..	2	1	..	..	5	3
86	3	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	5	1
87	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0
88	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	4	1
89	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	2
90	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
91	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
93	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	0	1
94	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0
95	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1
Totals ..	41	21	17	17	22	17	20	19	25	24	125	98