

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

	Death-rate per 1,000 of Population.	
Auckland City	0.72	
Auckland Metropolitan Area		0.73
Wellington City	0.70	
Wellington Metropolitan Area		0.68
Christchurch City	0.82	
Christchurch Metropolitan Area		0.69
Dunedin City	0.86	
Dunedin Metropolitan Area		0.87

Including the suburban portions, the rate at Dunedin is the highest and at Wellington the lowest. Compared with February, 1917, 1918, and 1919, the results are—

	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
Auckland Metropolitan Area	0.80	0.64	0.64	0.73
Wellington Metropolitan Area	0.70	0.83	0.92	0.68
Christchurch Metropolitan Area	0.78	0.60	0.61	0.69
Dunedin Metropolitan Area	0.95	0.74	0.74	0.87

The total births registered for the four metropolitan areas amounted to 734, as against 893 in January—a decrease of 159. The deaths in February were 306—a decrease of 29 as compared with the previous month. Of the total deaths males contributed 167, females 139. Forty-five of the deaths were of children under five years of age, being 14.71 per cent. of the whole number. Thirty-four 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 February, 1920:—

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 ..	5	8	9	7	2	5	5	4	11	5	32	29
5 and under 10 years..	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	4	3
10 " 15 " ..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	3	3
15 " 20 " ..	..	2	..	..	1	1	2	1	..	1	3	5
20 " 25 " ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	1	1	4	3
25 " 30 " ..	2	1	..	..	2	3	..	1	1	2	5	7
30 " 35 " ..	4	2	3	1	1	1	2	..	3	1	13	5
35 " 40 " ..	5	..	1	2	4	1	4	1	1	2	15	6
40 " 45 " ..	3	3	1	3	3	1	..	1	1	1	8	9
45 " 50 " ..	6	..	1	5	2	1	3	4	..	3	12	13
50 " 55 " ..	2	2	2	1	5	1	..	1	1	2	10	7
55 " 60 " ..	4	4	1	2	3	2	..	1	2	1	10	10
60 " 65 " ..	3	..	6	4	1	2	2	..	4	1	16	7
65 years and over ..	22	20	13	6	9	17	15	12	22	17	81	72
Unknown or not stated	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Totals.. ..	61	44	37	31	35	35	34	29	50	40	217	179

The deaths of 153 persons of 65 years and upwards were registered for the four metropolitan and nine suburban areas during the month of February, 1920, as against 153 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	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	1
66	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	4	2
67	2	2	1	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	3	5
68	3	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	6	2
69	1	..	..	..	2	1	2	..	..	..	5	1
70	..	1	2	..	..	1	..	1	5	..	7	3
71	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	2
72	2	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	3	4
73	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	3
74	1	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	..	3	2
75	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	2	2	5
76	2	2	1	..	..	1	1	..	2	1	6	4
77	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	2
78	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	3	3	4
79	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	..	4	3
80	..	..	1	1	..	2	2	..	1	..	4	3
81	1	1	1	..	..	2	..	1	..	2	2	6
82	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	4	..
83	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	2	1	5	3
84	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	2
85	..	2	1	..	2	..	..	1	..	2	3	5
86	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	1	3
87	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	2	3
88	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
89	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
91	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
92	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1
100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Totals ..	22	20	13	6	9	17	15	12	22	17	81	72