

Dealing with the four metropolitan areas only, it is found that the inclusion of the suburban portions lowers the death-rate in Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin, Auckland not being affected.

	Death-rate per 1,000 of Population.	
	1917.	1918.
Auckland City	0.90	0.90
Auckland Metropolitan Area	0.85	0.84
Wellington City	1.13	1.04
Wellington Metropolitan Area	1.12	0.98
Christchurch City		
Christchurch Metropolitan Area		
Dunedin City		
Dunedin Metropolitan Area		

Including the suburban portions, the rate at Christchurch is the highest, Dunedin, Auckland, and Wellington in that order. Compared with December, 1917 and 1918, the results are—

	1917.	1918.	1919.
Auckland Metropolitan Area	1.00	1.67	0.90
Wellington Metropolitan Area	0.65	5.81	0.84
Christchurch Metropolitan Area	1.08	1.81	1.04
Dunedin Metropolitan Area	0.83	2.81	0.98

The total births registered for the four metropolitan areas amounted to 819, as against 666 in November—an increase of 153. The deaths in December were 364—an increase of 34 as compared with the previous month. Of the total deaths males contributed 193, females 171. Forty-six of the deaths were of children under five years of age, being 12.64 per cent. of the whole number. Thirty-five 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, 1919:—

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 ..	11	8	7	3	8	2	3	4	8	5	37	22
5 and under 10 years..	4	..	3	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	8	2
10 " 15 " ..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	2	2
15 " 20 " ..	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	..	..	..	5	5
20 " 25 " ..	1	1	..	3	..	1	..	3	1	..	2	8
25 " 30 " ..	..	1	3	2	1	..	1	2	1	1	6	6
30 " 35 " ..	..	3	3	1	2	2	1	2	3	3	9	11
35 " 40 " ..	4	..	3	1	2	3	1	3	..	..	10	7
40 " 45 " ..	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	1	3	1	15	9
45 " 50 " ..	5	..	2	1	2	3	2	..	2	1	13	5
50 " 55 " ..	2	3	3	..	3	2	1	..	1	2	10	7
55 " 60 " ..	4	4	2	2	1	2	2	1	4	1	13	10
60 " 65 " ..	6	8	3	1	3	2	2	3	2	2	16	16
65 years and over ..	22	25	13	15	21	25	17	13	19	13	92	91
Unknown or not stated ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Totals..	63	58	46	34	50	46	34	33	46	30	239	201

The deaths of 183 persons of 65 years and upwards were registered for the four metropolitan and nine suburban areas during the month of December, 1919, as against 162 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	..	4	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	3	5
66	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	2
67	..	1	1	1	..	1	2	1	..	..	3	4
68	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	2	3
69	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
70	1	..	2	2	2	..	..	..	1	..	6	2
71	..	1	1	1	..	3	2	..	..	..	3	5
72	2	..	..	1	..	2	..	1	1	..	3	4
73	1	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	2	1	6	2
74	1	1	..	1	1	1	..	3	1	1	5	4
75	..	4	..	1	2	..	1	..	..	1	3	6
76	1	2	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	3	4
77	3	1	..	1	..	1	2	..	2	..	7	3
78	..	..	..	..	1	4	..	1	1	..	2	5
79	1	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	4
80	4	..	..	1	..	2	2	1	1	..	7	4
81	5	..	..	1	3	2	1	..	2	2	9	5
82	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2	..	2	2
83	..	3	..	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	1	6
84	1	2	..	..	3	1	2	1	1	1	7	5
85	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	1	1	..	4	2
86	..	1	..	1	3	..	..	2	..	..	3	4
87	1	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	1
88	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	4	1
89	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	3
91	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
92	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
93	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
99	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Totals ..	22	25	18	15	21	25	17	13	19	13	92	91