

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

| | Death-rate per 1,000 of Population. | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|----|----|------|
| Auckland City | .. | .. | .. | 1.10 |
| Auckland Metropolitan Area | .. | .. | .. | 0.93 |
| Wellington City | .. | .. | .. | 0.60 |
| Wellington Metropolitan Area | .. | .. | .. | 0.63 |
| Christchurch City | .. | .. | .. | 0.95 |
| Christchurch Metropolitan Area | .. | .. | .. | 0.94 |
| Dunedin City | .. | .. | .. | 1.05 |
| Dunedin Metropolitan Area | .. | .. | .. | 0.96 |

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

| | 1917. | 1918. | 1919. | 1920. |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Auckland Metropolitan Area | 1.00 | 1.67 | 0.90 | 0.93 |
| Wellington Metropolitan Area | 0.65 | 5.81 | 0.84 | 0.63 |
| Christchurch Metropolitan Area | 1.08 | 1.81 | 1.04 | 0.94 |
| Dunedin Metropolitan Area | 0.83 | 2.81 | 0.98 | 0.96 |

The total births registered for the four metropolitan areas amounted to 775, as against 825 in November—a decrease of 50. The deaths in December were 364—a decrease of 67 as compared with the previous month. Of the total deaths males contributed 199, females 165. Sixty-four of the deaths were of children under five years of age, being 17.31 per cent. of the whole number. Forty-eight 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, 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 .. | 14 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 14 | 8 | 52 | 34 |
| 5 and under 10 years.. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | .. | 1 | 6 | 4 |
| 10 .. 15 .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. |
| 15 .. 20 .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| 20 .. 25 .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | 4 | 5 |
| 25 .. 30 .. | 1 | 4 | .. | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 12 |
| 30 .. 35 .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | .. | 4 | .. | .. | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| 35 .. 40 .. | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 4 | 4 |
| 40 .. 45 .. | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | .. | 1 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 9 |
| 45 .. 50 .. | 3 | 3 | 3 | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | .. | 9 | 7 |
| 50 .. 55 .. | 4 | 4 | 7 | .. | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 22 | 9 |
| 55 .. 60 .. | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | .. | 17 | 7 |
| 60 .. 65 .. | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | .. | 3 | 7 | 2 | 17 | 15 |
| 65 years and over .. | 35 | 30 | 12 | 6 | 16 | 18 | 14 | 16 | 20 | 19 | 97 | 89 |
| Unknown or not stated .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. |
| Totals.. .. | 73 | 62 | 42 | 22 | 49 | 47 | 35 | 34 | 57 | 37 | 256 | 202 |

The deaths of 186 persons of 65 years and upwards were registered for the four metropolitan and nine suburban areas during the month of December, 1920, as against 195 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 | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | 2 | 4 | |
| 66 .. | 2 | 3 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | |
| 67 .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | 4 | 9 | .. | |
| 68 .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | 2 | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | 3 | 5 | |
| 69 .. | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | 4 | 4 | |
| 70 .. | 1 | 3 | .. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 10 | |
| 71 .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 3 | |
| 72 .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | |
| 73 .. | 4 | 4 | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 | |
| 74 .. | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | 5 | 5 | |
| 75 .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 6 | 2 | |
| 76 .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | 3 | 1 | |
| 77 .. | 1 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 2 | 1 | 2 | 9 | |
| 78 .. | 1 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 5 | |
| 79 .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | 5 | |
| 80 .. | 5 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 7 | 2 | |
| 81 .. | 3 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 5 | 2 | |
| 82 .. | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | 5 | 2 | |
| 83 .. | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 7 | 3 | |
| 84 .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | |
| 85 .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 86 .. | 3 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 | 1 | .. | 6 | 5 | |
| 87 .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 3 | .. | |
| 88 .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | |
| 89 .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | |
| 90 .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | 3 | |
| 98 .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | |
| 99 .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | |
| Totals .. | 35 | 30 | 12 | 6 | 16 | 18 | 14 | 16 | 20 | 19 | 97 | 89 |