

The total births registered for the fifteen urban areas amounted to 1,005, as against 1,102 in November—a decrease of 97. The deaths in December were 423, a decrease of 24 as compared with the previous month. Of the total deaths males contributed 222, females 201. Fifty-one of the deaths were of children under five years of age, being 12.06 per cent. of the whole number. Thirty-nine of these were under one year of age. The rates per 1,000 of mean population in December, 1921 and 1922, were as follows:—

Urban Area.	Birth Rate.		Death Rate.	
	December, 1921.	December, 1922.	December, 1921.	December, 1922.
Auckland	1.71	1.67	0.89	0.77
Wellington	1.76	1.56	0.81	0.63
Christchurch	1.83	1.46	0.60	0.61
Dunedin	1.97	1.20	0.93	0.76
Hamilton	*	1.40	*	0.47
Gisborne	2.28	1.94	0.97	0.27
Napier	1.69	1.41	0.93	0.45
Hastings	*	2.22	*	0.37
New Plymouth	1.82	1.48	0.55	0.81
Wanganui	1.87	1.32	0.60	0.91
Palmerston North	1.78	1.94	0.71	0.69
Nelson	1.98	2.21	1.03	0.92
Grey Valley boroughs	1.55	2.02	0.60	0.36
Timaru	1.55	2.31	0.64	0.44
Invercargill	2.08	2.04	0.78	0.71
Totals for all areas	1.80†	1.59	0.79†	0.67

* Not available. † Exclusive of Hamilton and Hastings urban areas.

The following table shows the deaths in various age-groups occurring in the fifteen urban areas during the month of December, 1922:—

Age-group.	URBAN AREAS.										Total.	
	Auckland.		Wellington.		Christchurch.		Dunedin.		Others.		Males.	Females.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		
Under 5 years	9	7	6	4	5	2	3	1	6	8	29	22
5 and under 10 years..	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	2	3	5	5
10 " 15 "	2	1	..	..	1	2	1	1	..	2	4	6
15 " 20 "	1	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	4	2
20 " 25 " .. .. .	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	3	2	4	4
25 " 30 " .. .. .	..	2	..	2	2	1	1	..	1	3	4	8
30 " 35 "	3	2	..	1	2	..	2	..	2	..	9	3
35 " 40 "	1	7	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	1	9	12
40 " 45 "	2	3	3	4	2	1	1	..	5	1	13	9
45 " 50 "	5	4	2	3	2	..	1	3	6	1	16	11
50 " 55 "	2	4	..	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	7	10
55 " 60 "	3	4	5	1	..	..	..	3	1	5	9	13
60 " 65 "	2	4	4	3	3	3	4	2	6	4	19	16
65 years and over	27	29	9	15	18	14	16	9	20	13	90	80
Totals	59	68	33	37	40	27	32	24	58	45	222	201

The deaths of 170 persons of 65 years and upwards were registered for the fifteen urban areas during the month of December, 1922. The following table shows the classification:—

Age.	URBAN AREAS.										Total.	
	Auckland.		Wellington.		Christchurch.		Dunedin.		Others.		Males.	Females.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		
65	2	2	..	..	2	..	2	..	3	..	9	2
66	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	3	1
67	..	2	1	..	5	..	2	..	2	..	10	2
68	2	1	1	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	4	4
69	2	1	..	2	1	1	..	1	1	..	4	5
70	1	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	4	1
71	1	4	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	6
72	3	1	1	1	..	..	2	..	1	2	7	4
73	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
74	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	3
75	2	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
76	..	..	1	1	1	1	2	..	..	1	4	3
77	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	2
78	2	2	..	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	3	5
79	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	1	4	3
80	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	2	2	5
81	1	3	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	6
82	2	2	..	..	1	2	..	..	2	3	5	7
83	1	..	1	1	2	..	1	..	1	..	6	1
84	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	2
85	..	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	4
86	..	1	..	1	1	1	1	..	1	1	3	4
87	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	4	..
88	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	3
89	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	3	1
90	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
94	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
95	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
96	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	27	29	9	15	18	14	16	9	20	13	90	80