

The total births registered for the urban areas amounted to 996 as against 1,103 in November—a decrease of 107. The deaths in December were 450, a decrease of 14 as compared with the previous month. Of the total deaths males contributed 243, females 207. Sixty-three of the deaths were of children under five years of age, being 14.00 per cent. of the whole number. Fifty-three of these were under one year of age.

The rates per 1,000 of mean population in December, 1922 and 1923, were as follows:—

Urban Area.	Birth Rate.		Death Rate.	
	December, 1922.	December, 1923.	December, 1922.	December, 1923.
Auckland	1.67	1.48	0.77	0.67
Wellington	1.56	1.65	0.63	0.65
Christchurch	1.46	1.58	0.61	0.74
Dunedin	1.20	1.63	0.76	0.85
Hamilton	1.40	2.08	0.47	0.59
Gisborne	1.94	2.12	0.27	0.60
Napier	1.41	1.45	0.45	0.84
Hastings	2.22	1.17	0.37	0.87
New Plymouth	1.48	1.65	0.81	0.65
Wanganui	1.32	1.55	0.91	0.78
Palmerston North	1.94	1.29	0.69	0.73
Nelson	2.21	1.60	0.92	0.53
Timaru	2.31	1.03	0.44	0.49
Invercargill	2.04	1.83	0.71	0.84
Totals for all areas	1.59	1.57	0.68	0.71

The following table shows the deaths in various age-groups occurring in the urban areas during the month of December, 1923:—

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	10	3	5	3	9	4	5	3	11	10	40	23
5 and under 10 years .. .. .	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	1	..	2	3
10 " 15 " .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	1
15 " 20 "	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	..	4	2	9	5
20 " 25 "	2	5	1	1	1	2	..	..	1	2	5	10
25 " 30 "	3	3	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	5	5
30 " 35 "	2	3	1	1	1	1	2	..	6	..	12	5
35 " 40 "	3	1	..	2	1	2	2	1	2	5	8	11
40 " 45 "	4	2	1	2	3	2	2	1	2	1	12	8
45 " 50 "	2	1	3	1	2	2	2	..	2	2	11	6
50 " 55 "	2	4	4	1	1	1	3	2	3	1	13	9
55 " 60 "	4	6	1	2	4	..	2	1	4	4	15	13
60 " 65 "	7	5	1	2	8	5	4	6	4	2	24	20
65 years and over	22	16	16	18	16	15	9	17	22	22	85	88
Totals	62	50	37	36	47	37	32	32	65	52	243	207

The deaths of 173 persons of 65 years and upwards were registered for the urban areas during the month of December, 1923. 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 .. .. .	..	..	3	1	2	1	..	..	..	1	5	3
66	2	..	3	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	7	2
67	2	..	3	..	1	2	..	..	1	1	7	3
68	1	..	2	2	..	2	..	2	3	1	6	7
69	1	2	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	3	4
70 .. .. .	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	5
71	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	3	2
72	1	1	..	2	3	..	..	1	2	..	6	4
73 .. .. .	..	2	..	2	..	1	1	..	1	1	2	6
74 .. .. .	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	4	1
75	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	2
76 .. .. .	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	2	2	6
77	2	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	1	2	5	3
78	2	2	..	2	..	2	..	1	1	2	3	9
79	2	2	..	1	1	1	1	1	..	1	4	6
80 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	2	1
81	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	2	3	5
82	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	4	1	1	5	5
83	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	2	3	5
84	1	..	2	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	4	3
85 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
86 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
87 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	1
88 .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
89 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
90 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
91 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	..
92	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
97 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Total	22	16	16	18	16	15	9	17	22	22	85	88