

Comparative Death-rate for the Period 1895 to 1905.

Country.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
New Zealand ...	9.91	9.10	9.14	9.84	10.24	9.43	9.81	10.50	10.40	9.57	9.27
Queensland ...	11.38	12.10	11.33	12.66	12.07	11.73	11.88	12.08	12.38	10.11	...
New South Wales ...	11.79	12.30	10.88	12.48	11.82	11.16	11.68	11.95	11.59	10.62	10.13
Victoria ...	13.25	13.35	12.90	15.94	14.28	12.75	13.22	13.40	12.90	11.92	12.10
South Australia*	11.25	11.48	11.24	13.06	12.14	10.64	11.11	11.79	10.71	10.22	10.14
Western Australia	17.78	16.45	16.97	16.05	13.76	12.92	13.36	13.63	12.60	11.91	10.83
Tasmania ...	11.38	11.63	11.53	13.51	12.25	11.05	10.45	10.84	11.92	11.01	10.23
England and Wales	18.7	17.0	17.4	17.5	18.2	18.2	16.9	16.2	15.4	...	...
Scotland ...	19.4	16.6	18.4	18.0	18.1	18.5	18.0	17.2	16.6	...	...
Ireland ...	18.4	16.6	18.4	18.1	17.6	19.6	17.8	17.5	17.5	...	...
Denmark ...	16.8	15.6	16.5	15.5	17.3	16.9	15.8	14.6	14.6	...	...
Norway ...	15.7	15.2	15.3	15.3	16.9	15.9	14.9	13.9	14.8	...	...
Sweden ...	15.2	15.6	15.4	15.1	17.7	16.8	16.0	15.4	15.1	...	...
Austria ...	27.7	26.4	25.6	24.9	25.4	25.2	24.2	24.7	...	...	...
Hungary ...	29.7	28.9	28.5	28.0	27.2	26.9	25.4	27.0	26.1	...	...
Switzerland ...	19.1	17.7	17.6	18.2	17.6	19.3	18.0	17.2	17.6	...	...
German Empire ...	22.1	20.8	21.3	20.5	21.5	22.1	20.7	19.4	...	...	...
Netherlands ...	18.6	17.2	16.9	17.0	17.1	17.8	17.2	16.3	15.6	...	...
France ...	22.2	20.0	19.5	20.9	21.1	21.9	20.1	19.5	19.2	...	...
Italy ...	25.0	24.0	21.9	22.9	21.8	23.8	21.9	22.1	22.2	...	...

* Excluding the Northern Territory.

In this statement New Zealand is conspicuous as showing the lowest death-rate. The rates for the principal Australian States are a little higher, but, generally speaking, far below those for the United Kingdom, or the European Continental States mentioned in the table.

Perfect accuracy in comparing one country or colony with another can only be attained by the use of what is termed an "index of mortality." The proportions of the living vary in regard to the different age-groups, and the ordinary death-rate—which is calculated on the population as a whole—does not afford a true means of judging of the relative healthiness of the places compared. But by taking a population like that of Sweden, and applying the percentage at each age-group to the death-rates, a standard of health or index of mortality can be arrived at. This has been done for New Zealand, in accordance with a resolution of the Statistical Conference held at Hobart in 1902, and the result is expressed in tabular form.

Index of Mortality in New Zealand for 1905.

Ages.	Estimated Mean Population, 1905.	Number of Deaths, 1905.	Death-rate per 1,000, 1905.	Percentage of Population of Sweden, 1890 (Standard).	Index of Mortality in New Zealand per 1,000.
Under 1 year ...	20,706	1,599	77.22	2.55	1.97
1 and under 20 years ...	365,226	867	2.37	39.80	0.94
20 and under 40 years ...	286,491	1,242	4.34	26.96	1.17
40 and under 60 years ...	138,765	1,271	9.16	19.23	1.76
60 years and upwards ...	58,812	3,082	52.40	11.46	6.01
Totals ...	870,000	8,061	9.27	100.00	11.85

A similar calculation for the States of the Australian Commonwealth has been made for 1904. The results, when compared with the actual rates, exhibit to what degree the age-constitution of the population affects the death-rate. The figures for New Zealand are also given.

Year 1904.						Index.	Actual.
Queensland...	...	...	...	...	...	13.23	10.01
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	...	14.10	10.62
Victoria ...	...	...	...	...	...	14.29	11.92
South Australia	...	...	...	...	...	13.32	10.22
Western Australia	...	...	...	...	...	15.60	11.91
Tasmania ...	...	...	...	...	...	14.36	11.01
New Zealand	...	...	...	...	...	12.04	9.57
" (1905) ...	...	...	...	...	...	11.85	9.27

Deaths and Death-rates of the Four Principal Cities and their Suburbs.

In the earlier annual reports on the vital statistics of the four chief towns the central boroughs alone were dealt with, particulars respecting the suburbs not having been obtained. But this omission was held to be a grave defect, as the suburban death-rate may differ much from the death-rate at the