

Although 15,838 infants (under one year) were lost to the colony by death during the decade, and 20,297 children under five, the third table shows much more satisfactory results for this colony than for New South Wales or Victoria in the matter of the preservation of infant life. Dealing with averages of five years, in New Zealand only 77 infants under one year are found to die out of every 1,000 born, against 102 in New South Wales and 98 in Victoria.

Year.	Proportion of Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age to every 1,000 Births.		
	New Zealand.	New South Wales.	Victoria.
1900	75.2	103.3	95.3
1901	76.3	103.7	102.9
1902	82.9	109.7	108.6
1903	81.1	110.4	106.4
1904	71.0	82.4	77.6
Means of five years ...	77.3	101.9	98.2

European countries show still higher mortality of infants than the principal Australian States: England and Wales, 152 (under one year) to every 1,000 births; France, 152; Italy, 167; Hungary, 214. Sweden (98) and Norway (91) are notable exceptions.

The principal causes of mortality in children under one year for New Zealand are given, with the numbers of deaths for five years from such causes. Premature birth stands first in order of importance, marasmus or debility coming next.

Deaths under One Year.—Principal Causes.

Principal Causes of Deaths of Infants.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Miasmatic diseases	41	92	191	36	20
Diarrhoeal diseases	95	176	122	152	92
Premature birth	264	303	301	291	360
Convulsions	91	82	103	95	96
Bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy	207	235	241	149	208
Enteritis	116	154	167	231	193
Marasmus, &c.	260	294	270	273	258

A table is added to show that higher mortality obtains in the large towns than in New Zealand as a whole and two States of Australia.

Year.	Wellington and Suburbs.			Sydney and Suburbs.			Melbourne and Suburbs.		
	Total Births.	Deaths of Infants under 1 Year.	Proportion of Deaths of Infants under 1 Year to 1,000 Births.	Total Births.	Deaths of Infants under 1 Year.	Proportion of Deaths of Infants under 1 Year to 1,000 Births.	Total Births.	Deaths of Infants under 1 Year.	Proportion of Deaths of Infants under 1 Year to 1,000 Births.
1900	1,243	91	73.2	12,127	1,322	109.0	12,067	1,364	113.0
1901	1,326	133	100.3	12,601	1,517	120.4	12,375	1,536	124.1
1902	1,321	172	130.2	13,002	1,457	112.1	12,498	1,590	127.2
1903	1,520	141	92.8	12,749	1,483	116.3	12,012	1,493	124.3
1904	1,479	141	95.3	13,215	1,300	98.4	11,886	1,102	92.7
Means of five years	1,378	136	98.4	12,739	1,416	111.1	12,168	1,417	116.5