

Besides advantages of climate, New Zealand possesses a population younger in age-constitution than that of most other countries—conditions favourable to a low rate of mortality. Another table is given comparing death-rates at twelve age-periods for 1908 with those of England and Wales. Here the extremely low rate of mortality among children under five years of age is remarkable, and the difference at some of the groups at the more advanced ages is considerable. The New Zealand rate for males is higher than that for females at all groups excepting 10–15, 25–35, and 85 and upwards, while for England and Wales the female rate equals that for males at 5–10 and 10–15 years, and is lower in every other instance.

Death-rate per 1,000 Persons living, according to Sex, for the Year 1909, compared with England and Wales.

Ages.	Deaths per 1,000 Persons living.			
	New Zealand.		England and Wales.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 5 years	20·7	16·7	40·3	33·2
5 years and under 10 years	1·9	2·02	3·2	3·3
10 .. 15	1·3	1·4	1·9	2·0
15 .. 20	2·6	1·8	2·8	2·6
20 .. 25	3·2	2·9	3·7	3·1
25 .. 35	4·4	4·4	5·3	4·4
35 .. 45	6·6	6·9	9·1	7·4
45 .. 55	10·3	8·9	16·4	13·0
55 .. 65	19·5	15·9	32·8	25·7
65 .. 75	43·2	41·7	73·5	61·4
75 .. 85	127·2	92·2	141·8	129·9
85 and upwards	236·2	202·5	321·4	300·0
All ages	10·2	8·1	15·4	13·7

Index of Mortality in New Zealand for 1910.

Ages.	Estimated Mean Population, 1910.	Number of Deaths, 1910.	Death-rate per 1,000, 1901.	Percentage of Population of Sweden, 1890 (Standard).	Index of Mortality in New Zealand per 1,000.
Under 1 year	24,919	1,760	70·63	2·55	1·80
1 and under 20 years	365,153	983	2·69	39·80	1·07
20 and under 40 years	375,378	1,675	4·46	26·96	1·20
40 and under 60 years	157,260	1,389	8·83	19·23	1·70
60 years and upwards... .. .	70,092	3,832	54·67	11·46	6·27
Totals	992,802	9,639	9·71	100·00	12·04

A similar calculation for the States of the Australian Commonwealth has been made for 1908. 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 1909.	
						Index.	Actual.
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	...	13·44	9·85
Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	13·74	11·24
Queensland	...	...	...	...	...	13·80	9·79
South Australia	...	...	...	...	...	12·57	9·37
Western Australia	...	...	...	...	...	15·07	9·98
Tasmania	...	...	...	...	...	13·14	10·00
New Zealand	...	...	...	...	...	11·30	9·22