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SYDNEY CORONERS' COURTS:  
STATISTICS 1977.

Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research  
N.S.W. Department of the Attorney-General and of Justice  
Box 6, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W., 2001

City Coroner: L.J. Nash, Stipendiary Magistrate  
Assistant City Coroner: T.M. Weir, Stipendiary Magistrate  
Coroners Court  
44-46 Parramatta Road, Glebe, 2037

SYDNEY CORONERS' COURTS.

STATISTICS 1977.

City Coroner. L.J. Nash. S.M.  
 Assistant City Coroner. T.M. Weir. S.M.

	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
Inquests and Magisterial Inquiries.	1589	1446	1315
Fire Inquiries.	8	17	9
	<u>1597</u>	<u>1463</u>	<u>1324</u>

Findings as to Manner and Cause of Death.

	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
1. <u>Suicide.</u>	336	342	265
2. <u>Suicide while insane.</u>	1	5	2
3. <u>Open finding.</u>	181	130	124
4. <u>Accidental Drug Death.</u>	54	68	73
5. <u>Accidental Drowning.</u>	70	59	53
6. <u>Traffic</u> - Inquest adjourned and followed by committal proceedings when person charged with manslaughter or culpable driving.			
(a) Committed for trial.	47	40	30
(b) Discharged.	14	11	12
(c) Dealt with in Children's Court.	2	3	0
7. <u>Traffic</u> - Inquest adjourned when prima facie case of manslaughter or culpable driving established against a known person.	16	3	1
8. <u>Other Traffic Accidents.</u>	440	381	310
9. <u>Other Accidents.</u>	293	236	298
10(a) <u>Adjourned</u> and followed by committal proceedings when person charged with Murder or Non-traffic Manslaughter.	42	63	48
(b) <u>Adjourned</u> when prima facie case of Murder or Non-traffic Manslaughter established against a known person.	-	1	0
11. <u>Killed</u> by person since deceased or unknown.	13	13	14
12. <u>Excusable</u> and justifiable homicide.	1	1	0
13. <u>Natural Causes.</u>			
(a) Whilst driving a motor vehicle - not included in categories 6, 7 or 8.	0	24	14
(b) Others.	79	66	71
	<u>1589</u>	<u>1446</u>	<u>1315</u>

SUICIDE FINDINGS - Categories 1 & 2.

Total. 267

1.	<u>SEX.</u> Male.	184
	Female.	<u>83</u>
		267
2.	<u>AGE</u> to 12 years	-
	13 to 19 years	18
	20 to 29 "	53
	30 to 39 "	51
	40 to 49 "	47
	50 to 59 "	42
	60 to 69 "	33
	70 and over	21
	Not stated.	<u>2</u>
		267
3.	<u>MARITAL STATUS.</u>	
	Married	113
	Married but separated	12
	Single	95
	Divorced	19
	Widow/widower	26
	Not stated	<u>2</u>
		267
4.	<u>METHOD.</u>	
	<u>OVERDOSE.</u>	<u>75</u>
	Barbiturate	37
	Barbiturate plus alcohol	18
	Other sedative	14
	Morphine	2
	Insulin	1
	Anti depressants	3 (75)
	<u>SHOOTING.</u>	40
	<u>HANGING.</u>	49
	<u>GAS.</u> Appliance	25
	" exhaust	20
	<u>JUMPING FROM HEIGHT.</u>	23
	<u>POISON.</u> Insecticide	1
	Others.	3
	<u>LIE OR JUMP UNDER</u> <u>TRAIN.</u>	8
	<u>STABBING.</u>	1
	<u>DROWNING.</u>	9
	<u>BURNING.</u>	2
	<u>ELECTROCUTION.</u>	2
	<u>SUFFOCATION.</u>	2
	<u>CUT THROAT.</u>	5
	<u>LIE IN FRONT OF CAR.</u>	1
	<u>CRASH CAR</u>	<u>1</u>
		(192)
5.	<u>ALCOHOL (blood)</u>	
	Nil	184
	Below .08%	21
	.08% plus	46
	Not stated.	<u>16</u>
		267

6.	<u>SUICIDE NOTE.</u>		
	Yes.		85
	No.		182
			<u>267</u>
7.	<u>ANY TREATMENT OF PSYCHIATRIC NATURE.</u>		
	Yes.		83
	No.		167
	Not stated.		17
8.	<u>PREVIOUS INDICATIONS.</u> ie attempts or threats.		
	Yes.		111
	No.		136
	Not stated.		20
9.	<u>COUNTRY OR ORIGIN.</u>		
	Australia.		208
	England.		17
	Yugoslavia		3
	Ireland		3
	Hungary		2
	New Zealand		2
	Germany		2
	France		2
	India		2
	Lebanon		2
	Greece		1
	Italy		1
	Poland		1
	Czechoslovakia		1
	Scotland		1
	Finland		1
	Holland		1
	Russia		1
	Canada		1
	Egypt		1
	Lethuania		1
	U.S.A.		1
	Sicily		1
	Bermuda		1
	Japan		1
	Malta		1
	Hong Kong		1
	Unknown		7
10.	<u>OCCUPATION.</u>		
	<u>MALES.</u>		
	Professional	12	
	Commercial	15	
	Clerical	4	
	Tradesman	36	
	Unskilled	25	
	Pensioner	32	
	Unemployed	22	
	Retired	6	
	Student	4	
	Factory	8	
	Prisoner	3	
	Computer Operator	1	
	Salesman	5	
	Journalist	2	
	Nurse	3	
	Doctor	1	
	Priest	1	
	Not stated	4	
	<u>FEMALES.</u>		
	Home duties		30
	Pensioner		22
	Nurse		3
	Office		4
	Factory		4
	Student		3
	Unemployed		3
	Teacher		1
	Waitress		1
	Writer		1
	Librarian		2
	Restuarant Propt.		2
	Prostitute		2
	Prisoner		1
	Not stated		4

OPEN FINDINGS - Category 3.

No evidence of manner and cause of death or either.	29
Left "open" as between suicide or accidentally.	<u>95</u>
Total	124

OPEN - SUICIDE OR ACCIDENTAL.

1. <u>SEX.</u>		
Male		57
Female		<u>38</u>
		95
2. <u>AGE.</u>		
To 12 years		-
13 to 19 years		9
20 to 29 years		17
30 to 39 years		20
40 to 49 years		20
50 to 59 years		14
60 to 69 years		8
70 years plus		5
Not stated		2
3. <u>METHOD OF DEATH.</u>		
<u>OVERDOSE.</u>		
Barbiturate		17
" plus alcohol		10
Other sedative		15
Anti-depressant		4
Alcohol		2
Heroin		2
Others		1
FALL FROM HEIGHT		17
DROWNING		8
GASSING		3
TRAIN - struck by or fall from		1
HANGING		2
SHOOTING		2
ELECTROCUTION		1
HEAD INJURY		1
Unascertainable		6
Not known		3
4. <u>OPINION AS TO MORE LIKELY MANNER.</u>		
SUICIDE		19
ACCIDENT		37
EQUIVOCAL		36
NATURAL CAUSES		33
5. <u>REASON FOR OPEN FINDINGS.</u>		
LACK OF EVIDENCE OF INTENTION		44
INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE		36
MENTAL ILLNESS FACTOR		1
ALCOHOL FACTOR		7
ADDICTED OR HABITUATED TO DRUGS		2
POSSIBLE NATURAL CAUSE		3
DECOMPOSITION		2

ACCIDENTAL (NON-INTENDED) DRUG DEATHS. Category 4. Total 73

1.	<u>HARD DRUGS.</u>								
	Herion								13
	Morphine								13
	Pethidine								1
	Methadone								1
	Palfium								1
									<hr/> 29
2.	<u>SEDATIVES-DEPRESSANTS (alone)</u>								
	Chloral Hydrate.								
	Elix-nocte								5
	Dormel								1
	Barbiturates								12
	" plus bromide								1
	Thiordazine								2
									<hr/> 21
3.	<u>SEDATIVES plus ALCOHOL</u>								
	Barbiturates								6
	Diazepam								2
									<hr/> 8
									Blood/alcohol readings from .095% to .235%
4.	<u>ALCOHOL (alone)</u>								12
	Blood/alcohol %								
	.255. .270. .290. .310. .315. .345.								
	.375. .410. .460. .510. .495. .560.								
5.	<u>OTHERS.</u>								
	Dextroproxyphene								1
	Paracetamol								1
	"Pure and simple"								1
									<hr/> 3
6.	<u>SEX.</u>	Male							53
		Female							20
7.	<u>AGE.</u>	To 12 years							1
		13 years to 19 years							7
		20 to 29 years							30
		30 to 39 years							11
		40 to 49 years							14
		50 to 59 years							8
		60 to 69 years							1
		70 years plus							1
8.	<u>ADDICTED OR HABITUATED TO DRUGS</u> (including alcohol)								
	Yes								62
	No								5
	Not known								6
									<hr/> 73

9. THE EXPANSION OF THE HARD DRUG SCENE  
TOTAL "ACCIDENTAL" DRUG DEATHS.

<u>DRUG.</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
Morphine	6	7	13
Heroin	2	10	13
Methadone	1	4	1
Cocaine	-	1	-
Palfium	-	-	1
Pethidine	-	-	1
Totals	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 22	<hr/> 29

ACCIDENTAL DROWNINGS - Category 5.

Total 53

1.	<u>SEX.</u>	Male	40
		Female	13
2.	<u>AGE.</u>	To 5 years	11
		6 to 12 years	5
		13 to 19 years	6
		20 to 29 years	9
		30 to 39 years	3
		40 to 49 years	3
		50 to 59 years	3
		60 to 69 years	6
		70 years plus	7
3.	<u>SWIMMING ABILITY.</u>		
		Good	7
		Fair	11
		Slight	8
		Nil, including children	10
		Not known	4
		Not applicable	13
4.	<u>COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.</u>		
		Australia	39
		England	7
		Italy	2
		Greece	1
		Yugoslavia	1
		Denmark	1
		Austria	1
		Lebanon	1
5.	<u>ALCOHOL (in blood)</u>		
		Nil, including children	45
		below .08%	4
		.08% plus	4
		Not known	4
6.	<u>CIRCUMSTANCES.</u>		
		<u>PUBLIC POOLS.</u>	
		Under 5 years of age -	-
		Others	5
		<u>HOME POOLS.</u>	
		Under 5 years of age	10
		Others	2
		<u>SCHOOL POOL.</u>	1
		<u>ROCK FISHERMAN.</u>	3
		<u>OPEN SEA.</u>	3
		" following epileptic fit	1
		<u>SURF.</u>	3
		<u>SKIN DIVER.</u>	2
		<u>RIVER.</u>	7
		<u>BOTANY BAY.</u>	1
		<u>ACCIDENTAL FALL INTO TANK OF FLUID.</u>	1
		<u>DRUNKEN FALLS.</u>	
		Into river.	1
		<u>BOATING AND CANOEING.</u>	3
		<u>THROWN FROM BOAT IN COLLISION.</u>	2
		<u>BATH.</u>	
		Children under 5 years.	1
		Others.	6
		<u>AUTO EROTISIM.</u>	1
7.	<u>HOME POOL DROWNINGS.</u>		
		Children under 5 years	1975 21 1976 10 1977 10
		Total accidental drownings.	70 59 53
		Proportion.	30% 17% 19%

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT DEATHS. Categories 6, 7 and 8.

Status	Driver	Passenger	Motor cycle rider	Pillion	Pedal cycle/scooter	Pedestrian	Total	
Totals	90	82	38	5	5	118	338	
SEX	Male	78	41	37	5	5	78	244
	Female	12	41	1	-	-	40	94
AGE	To 12 years	-	7	-	-	2	20	29
	13-19 years	9	16	16	3	2	8	54
	20-29 years	29	24	21	2	-	8	84
	30-39 years	20	8	-	-	-	9	37
	40-49 years	12	6	1	-	-	3	22
	50-59 years	9	7	-	-	-	21	37
	60-69 years	7	5	-	-	1	19	32
	70 years plus	4	9	-	-	-	30	43
ALCOHOL	Not Known	12	12	1	1	-	19	45
	Nil, including children	41	47	24	2	5	75	194
	Below .08%	5	10	3	2	-	1	21
	.08%-150%	9	6	2	-	-	6	23
	.151%-250%	15	4	8	-	-	10	37
	.251% plus	8	3	-	-	-	7	18

The figures understate the alcohol factor. Many victims survive for considerable periods after injury. Where death occurs more than 24 hours after injury, blood alcohol analysis is not ordered. Survival even for a few hours will result in a lower reading and may result in a "nil" reading.



OTHER ACCIDENTS. - Category 9.  
(ie., excluding accidental drug, drowning and road traffic deaths)

CIRCUMSTANCES.

	Total	298
1. <u>FALLS.</u>	Total	100
Drunken		27
At work		3
From train		3
On footpath		1
At home		4
From building		6
From cliff		3
From ladder		2
From window		3
Down stairs		9
Down stairs by infant		1
From horse		2
At sport		1
Others (mostly aged persons.)		34
2. <u>BURNS.</u>	Total	27
Smoking in bed or chair		12
House on fire		1
Burning rubbish		1
In bath		2
Radiator		3
Gas fire		1
Electric blanket		1
At work		2
Old person playing with matches		1
Young child playing with petrol		1
Petrol exploded		2
3. <u>SUFFOCATION.</u>	Total	8
Smoke from fire in house		4
Car fell off jack		2
Buried in trench		1
Buried in barley stock pile		1
4. <u>INJURIES.</u>	Total	92
Hit or run over by train		7
Falling fence		1
From lawnmower		1
Train derailment ("Granville Rail Disaster")		83
5. <u>FACTORY &amp; SHIP.</u>	Total	12
Smoke inhalation after fire on ship		2
Crushed		5
In silo		2
Hit by machinery		3
6. <u>GASED.</u>	Total	9
Stove left on		4
Faulty appliance		2
Car exhaust in garage		3

OTHER ACCIDENTS. - Category 9 (continued.)

7.	<u>ELECTROCUTION.</u>	Total	23
	Faulty appliance		20
	Home renovations		3
8.	<u>CHOKING ON FOOD, ETC.</u>	Total	14
	Food		11
	Bottle top		1
	Ball in mouth		1
	Teat from baby bottle		1
9.	<u>STRANGULATION.</u>	Total	3
	Auto Eroticism		1
	Young person playing with rope		1
	Others		1
10.	<u>OTHERS.</u>	Total	9
	Shooting		1
	Ingestion of poison		1
	After anaesthetic		1
	Electric grinder		1
	Hit by plane propellor		1
	Cardiac arrest after playing football		1
	Hit by rotary clothes line		1
	Hang glider crash		1
	Tractor overturned		1

