

Statistical Bulletin No. 18

April, 1982

SYDNEY CORONERS' COURTS:

STATISTICS 1981

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

City Coroner: Mr. N.F. Walsh, Stipendiary Magistrate.  
Assistant Coroner: Mr. T. Forbes, Stipendiary Magistrate.

Coroners Court

## INTRODUCTION

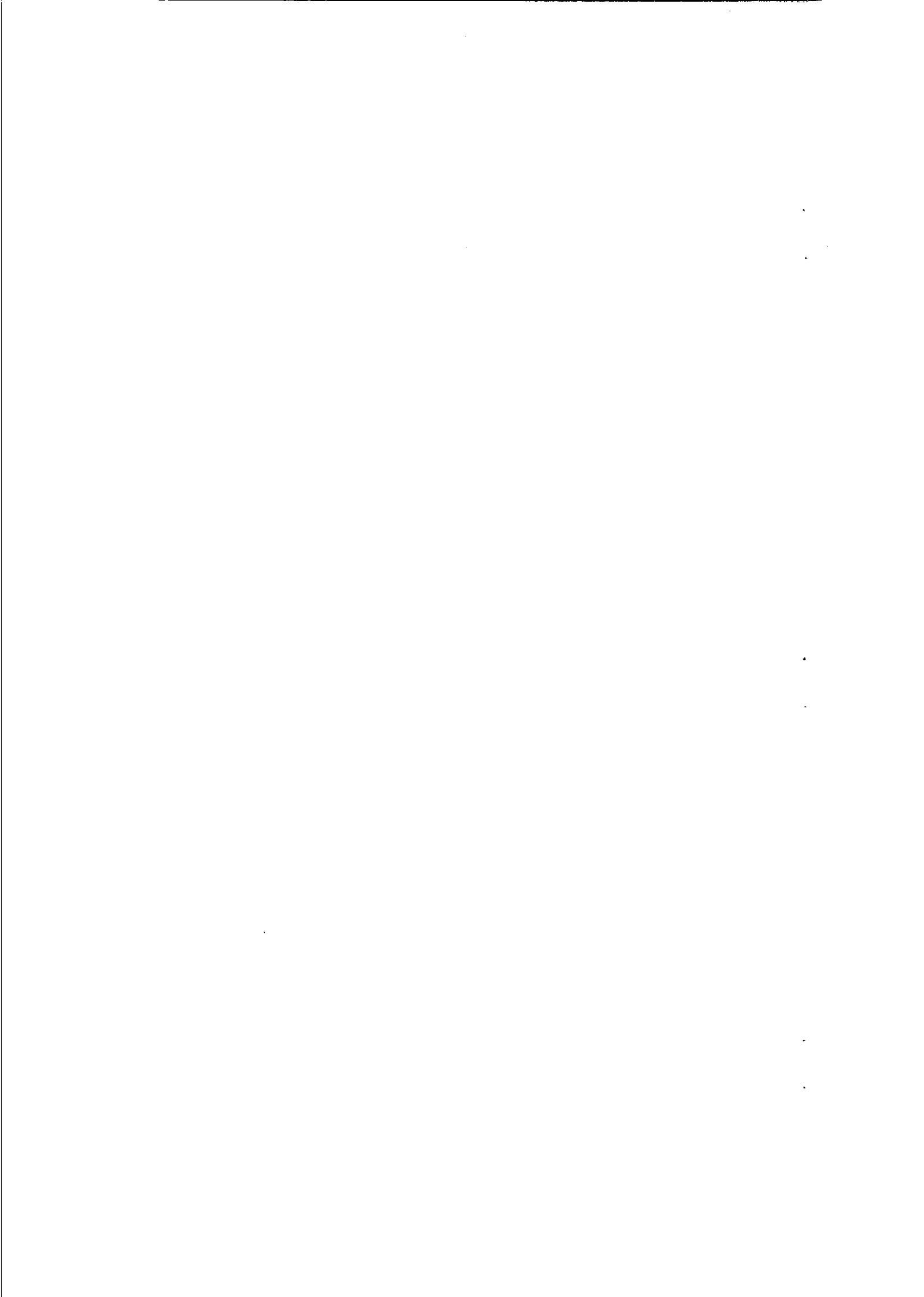
This report has been prepared from inquests and inquiries heard before the City Coroner's Court, Glebe, which deals with approximately one third of coronial inquiries in N.S.W. each year.

The figures relate to inquiries conducted and finalised in 1981, not to deaths occurring in that year.

On the 16th April, 1980, a new Coroners Act was assented to, which replaced the Coroners Act of 1960. "Suspected deaths" have been included in the new legislation thus dispensing with the need for a "Magisterial inquiry" in cases where a body has not been recovered.

Coroners now have discretion under S.14(2) as to whether they will hold or dispense with an inquest. For this reason figures for Inquests Held and Inquests Dispensed With are shown in this report.

The new Act came into effect on 1st July, 1980, and was taken into account in compiling "Sydney Coroner's Courts Statistics 1980". Comparisons with figures prior to that publication may be inhibited due to the legislative changes.



SUMMARY  
CORONER'S STATISTICS  
1977 - 1981

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Inquests and Magisterial Inquires held	1315	1308	1273	941	341
Inquests dispensed with	N.A	N.A	N.A	215	825
Inquests Terminated (or adjourned under previous act)	91	124	80	146	196
Total	1406	1432	1353	1302	1362
Fire inquires held	9	18	6	12	10
Inquests held before a Jury	-	1	3	2	1

SUMMARY: FINDINGS AS TO MANNER AND CAUSE OF DEATH - 1981 ONLY.

	<u>Inquest held</u>	<u>Inquest Dispensed with</u>	<u>Inquest Terminated</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Suicide	26	327	-	353
2. Open Finding	57	-	-	57
3. Misadventure	1	-	-	1
4. Accidental (non-intended) drug death	19	101	-	120
5. Accidental drowning	12	34	-	46
6. <u>Traffic - inquests terminated and followed by committal proceedings when person charged with culpable driving or manslaughter -</u>				
a) Committed for trial	-	-	114	114
b) Discharged	-	-	24	24
c) Dealt with in Children's Court	-	-	5	5
7. <u>Traffic - inquest held but terminated when 'prima facie' case of manslaughter or culpable driving established by Coroner against a known person</u>	6	-	-	6
8. <u>Traffic - inquest terminated when paper forwarded to Attorney General's Office ... Section 19</u>	-	-	-	-
9. <u>Traffic - inquest terminated and followed by committal proceedings when young person dealt with in children's court and committed or discharged</u>	-	-	-	-
10. Other traffic accidents	97	185	-	282
11. <u>Inquest terminated and followed by committal proceedings when person charged with murder or non traffic manslaughter</u>	-	-	53	53
12. <u>Inquest held but terminated when 'prima facie' case of murder or non traffic manslaughter established by coroner against a known person</u>	3	-	-	3
13. <u>Inquest terminated and followed by committal proceedings when young person charged with murder or non-traffic manslaughter dealt with in children's court and committed or discharged</u>	-	-	-	-
14. <u>Inquest terminated when papers forwarded to the children's court for committal hearing</u>	-	-	-	-
15. <u>Inquest terminated when papers forwarded to the Attorney General's office under Section 19 in cases of murder or non traffic manslaughter</u>	-	-	-	-
16. Other accidents	53	142	-	195
17. Killed by a person since deceased or unknown	-	-	-	-
18. Excusable or justifiable homicide	1	-	-	1
19. Death by natural cause	9	36	-	45
20. Death by natural cause in Government institution Section 13(3) (1)	47	-	-	47
21. Fires	10	-	-	10
Total	341	825	196	1362

COMPARISON OF 1981 FINDINGS AS TO MANNER AND CAUSE OF DEATH WITH PREVIOUS YEARS:-

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
1. Suicide	265	293	323	256	353
2. Open Finding	124	113	145	106	57
3. Misadventure	-	-	-	2	1
4. Accidental (non-intended) drug death	73	46	86	76	120
5. Accidental drowning	53	49	45	37	46
6. Traffic - inquests terminated and followed by committal proceedings when person charged with culpable driving or manslaughter -					
a) Committed for trial	30	55	31	99	114
b) Discharged	12	11	6	9	24
c) Dealt with in Children's Court	-	3	2	-	5
7. Traffic - inquest held but terminated when 'prima facie' case of manslaughter or culpable driving established by Coroner against a known person	1	1	1	12	6
8. Traffic - inquest terminated when paper forwarded to Attorney General's Office .... Section 19	-	-	-	-	-
9. Traffic - inquest terminated and followed by committal proceedings when <u>young person dealt with in childrens court and committed or discharged</u>	-	-	-	-	-
10. Other traffic accidents	310	395	330	320	282
11. Inquest terminated and followed by committal proceedings when person charged with murder or non traffic manslaughter	48	34	40	26	53
12. Inquest held but terminated when 'prima facie' case of murder or non traffic manslaughter established by coroner against a known person	-	20	-	-	3
13. Inquest terminated and followed by committal proceedings when <u>young person charged with murder or non-traffic manslaughter dealt with in children's court and committed or discharged</u>	-	-	-	-	-
14. Inquest terminated when papers forwarded to the children's court for committal hearing	-	-	-	-	-
15. Inquest terminated when papers forwarded to the Attorney General's office under Section 19 in cases of <u>murder or non traffic manslaughter</u>	-	-	-	-	-
16. Other accidents	298	221	201	165	195
17. Killed by a person since deceased or unknown	14	12	7	10	0
18. Excusable or justifiable homicide	-	1	3	-	1
19. Death by natural cause	14	6	-	-	45
20. Death by natural cause in Government institution Section 13(3) (1)	71	48	53	38	47
21. Fires	9	18	6	12	10
Total	<u>1322</u>	<u>1326</u>	<u>1279</u>	<u>1168</u>	<u>1362</u>

1981 - STATISTICS(1-) SUICIDE FINDINGS

	<u>INQUEST HELD</u>	<u>INQUEST DISPENSED WITH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
A. <u>SEX</u>			
Male	18	220	238
Female	8	107	115
	<u>26</u>	<u>327</u>	<u>353</u>
B. <u>AGE</u>			
to 12 years	0	0	0
13-19	3	12	15
20-29	2	74	76
30-39	6	60	66
40-49	7	54	61
50-59	3	52	55
60-69	3	37	40
70+	1	38	39
Unknown	1	0	1
	<u>26</u>	<u>327</u>	<u>353</u>
C. <u>MARITAL STATUS</u>			
Single	9	111	120
Married	11	131	142
Defacto	1	2	3
Separated	1	8	9
Divorced	0	34	34
Widow/Widower	3	34	37
Not Known	1	7	8
	<u>26</u>	<u>327</u>	<u>353</u>
D. <u>METHOD</u>			
Overdose of 1 drug	4	57	61
Overdose of 1 drug and alcohol	0	8	8
Overdose of several drugs	0	15	15
Overdose of several drugs and alcohol	0	9	9
Shooting	5	50	55
Hanging	5	39	44
Gassing from car	1	41	42
Gassing from appliance	1	21	22
Jumping from height	5	17	22
Poisoning	0	14	14
Lie/Jump under train	1	15	16
Stabbing	0	6	6
Drowning	3	15	18
Burning	1	4	5
Electrocution	0	4	4
Suffocation (strangulation)	0	0	0
Cut throat	0	1	1
Lie in front of car	0	0	0
Crash car	0	0	0
Fall	0	3	3
Hit by object	0	0	0

SUICIDES (CONTINUED)

	<u>INQUEST HELD</u>	<u>INQUEST DISPENSED WITH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Asphyxia	0	2	2
Inhalation of poisonous substance	0	0	0
Injuries	0	5	5
Slash wrist	0	1	1
	<u>26</u>	<u>327</u>	<u>353</u>
E. <u>ALCOHOL IN BLOOD</u>			
Nil	19	205	224
Below .08	4	46	50
0.08 plus	2	64	66
Not stated	1	12	13
	<u>26</u>	<u>327</u>	<u>353</u>
F. <u>SUICIDE NOTE LEFT</u>			
Yes	8	122	130
No	16	181	197
Not stated	2	24	26
	<u>26</u>	<u>327</u>	<u>353</u>
G. <u>ANY PRIOR TREATMENT OF PSYCHIATRIC NATURE</u>			
Yes	12	127	139
No	7	174	181
Not stated	7	26	33
	<u>26</u>	<u>327</u>	<u>353</u>
H. <u>PRIOR INDICATION OF SUICIDE</u>			
Yes	6	90	96
No	8	140	148
Not stated	12	97	109
	<u>26</u>	<u>327</u>	<u>353</u>
I. <u>COUNTRY OF ORIGIN</u>			
Australia	18	214	232
England	-	23	23
Italy	1	8	9
Poland	1	4	5
Germany	-	8	8
Yugoslavia	1	9	10
Greece	1	3	4
New Zealand	2	11	13
Hungary	-	4	4
Finland	-	3	3
Ireland	1	2	3
U.S.A.	1	2	3
Czechoslovakia	-	1	1
Lebanon	-	1	1
China	-	2	2



SUICIDES (CONTINUED)

	<u>INQUEST HELD</u>	<u>INQUEST DISPENSED WITH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Belgium	-	1	1
Uruguay	-	2	2
Holland	-	3	3
U.S.S.R.	-	2	2
Sweden	-	2	2
Romania	-	1	1
Egypt	-	1	1
Thailand	-	1	1
Malaya	-	1	1
Switzerland	-	1	1
South America	-	1	1
Scotland	-	2	2
Latvia	-	1	1
Sicily	-	2	2
Sudan	-	1	1
Indonesia	-	1	1
Vietnam	-	1	1
Argentina	-	1	1
Not known	-	7	7
	<u>26</u>	<u>327</u>	<u>353</u>

J. OCCUPATIONS

	<u>MALES</u>		<u>FEMALES</u>	
	<u>INQUEST HELD</u>	<u>INQUEST DISPENSED WITH</u>	<u>INQUEST HELD</u>	<u>INQUEST DISPENSED WITH</u>
Professional/Managerial	2	14	-	1
Semi-professional middle management	5	18	-	3
Skilled/Clerical	1	50	-	18
Unskilled	2	40	1	14
Student	-	1	-	3
Pensioner	3	61	4	32
Domestic	-	-	3	31
Unemployed	2	32	-	5
Not stated	3	4	-	-
	<u>18</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>107</u>

(2-) OPEN FINDINGS

These figures relate to cases where there was no evidence of manner and cause of death or where the finding was left "open" as between suicide or accidental death. For there to be an "open finding" an inquest is always held:

A. <u>SEX</u>	
Male	36
Female	21
	<u>57</u>
B. <u>AGE</u>	
to 12 years	0
13 to 19 years	0
20 to 29 years	9
30 to 39 years	4
40 to 49 years	10
50 to 59 years	12
60 to 69 years	12
70 +	8
Not known	2
	<u>57</u>
C. <u>METHOD OF DEATH</u>	
Overdose of 1 drug	3
Overdose of 1 drug and alcohol	4
Overdose of several drugs	1
Overdose of several drugs and alcohol	-
Shooting	2
Jumping from height	1
Poisoning	1
Fall from train	2
Drowning	1
Suffocation (strangulation)	2
Fall	4
Drunken Fall	1
Injuries	4
Unascertainable	31
	<u>57</u>
D. <u>REASON FOR OPEN FINDING</u>	
-Lack of evidence of intent	8
-Insufficient evidence	12
-Mental illness factor	5
-Decomposition	31
-Addicted to or habituated to drugs	1
	<u>57</u>

---

(4-) ACCIDENTAL (non-intended) DRUG DEATHS  
1st 6 months of 1981 1/1/81 to 30/6/81

	<u>INQUEST HELD</u>	<u>INQUEST DISPENSED WITH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
A. <u>Hard drugs</u>			
Heroin	1	7	8
Morphine	-	5	5
Methadone	-	1	1
Palfium	-	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>
B. <u>Sedatives/Depressants</u>			
Chloral Hydrate elix nocte	2	8	10
Barbiturate plus alcohol	3	10	13
Diazepam plus alcohol	-	1	1
	<u>5</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>24</u>
C. <u>Alcohol alone</u>			
Alcohol poisoning	-	2	2
D. <u>Other drugs</u>			
Pentobarbitone	3	-	3
Amitripline	1	-	1
Trialuoperazine	1	-	1
Sinequam	1	-	1
Oxazepam	1	-	1
Quinalbarbitone	1	-	1
Tuinal	1	1	2
Digesic	-	1	1
Mandrax	-	1	1
Seconal	-	3	3
Petab	-	1	1
Pohypnol	-	1	1
Carbrital	-	1	1
Valium	-	1	1
Brufen	-	1	1
Doxequin	-	1	1
Dormel	-	1	1
	<u>9</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>22</u>
E. <u>Addicted to / habituated to drugs or alcohol</u>			
Yes	6	27	33
No	-	17	17
Not known	9	4	13
	<u>15</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>63</u>

ACCIDENTAL (non-intended) DRUG DEATHSDate from 2nd half of year 1981.1/7/81 to 31/12/81

	<u>INQUEST HELD</u>	<u>INQUEST DISPENSED WITH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
F. <u>Type of Drugs</u>			
Alcohol alone	0	16	16
Opiates and derivatives	3	24	27
Synthetic narcotic analgesics	0	10	10
Barbiturates	0	12	12
Hypnotics, sedatives, tranquillisers	1	25	26
Cocaine	0	1	1
Other psycho-stimulants	0	0	0
Hallucinogenics	0	1	1
Compound analgesics	0	0	0
Poisons - non pharmaceutical production	0	2	2
Other drugs which do not readily fit into above categories	0	3	3
	<u>4</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>98</u>

Includes 1 unknown.

TOTALS BASED ON NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS

STATISTICS FOR FULL YEAR 1981

G. <u>SEX</u>			
Male	9	64	73
Female	10	37	47
	<u>19</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>120</u>
H. <u>AGE</u>			
to 12 years	-	-	0
13 to 19	3	5	8
20 to 29	8	50	58
30 to 39	5	8	13
40 to 49	1	15	16
50 to 59	2	14	16
60 to 69	-	7	7
70 +	-	2	2
Unknown	-	-	-
	<u>19</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>120</u>

(5-) ACCIDENTAL DROWNINGS

	<u>INQUEST HELD</u>	<u>INQUEST DISPENSED WITH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
A. <u>SEX</u>			
Male	9	23	32
Female	3	11	14
	<u>12</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>46</u>
B. <u>AGE</u>			
to 5 years	2	2	4
6 to 12 years	-	-	-
13 to 19 years	-	1	1
20 to 29 years	2	7	9
30 to 39 years	2	6	8
40 to 49 years	1	3	4
50 to 59 years	3	6	9
60 to 69 years	1	6	7
70 +	-	3	3
Not known	1	-	1
	<u>12</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>46</u>
C. <u>COUNTRY OF ORIGIN</u>			
Australia	7	23	30
England	-	2	2
Scotland	-	-	-
Lebanon	-	-	-
Poland	1	-	1
Phillipines	1	-	1
Korea	-	1	1
Tonga	-	1	1
Canada	-	2	2
Yugoslavia	-	1	1
Italy	1	1	2
New Zealand	1	-	1
Malta	-	1	1
Not known	1	2	3
	<u>12</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>46</u>
D. <u>ALCOHOL IN BLOOD</u>			
Nil (incl. children)	5	19	24
Below .08	0	4	4
0.08 +	1	8	9
Not known	6	3	9
	<u>12</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>46</u>

N.B. The keeping of details as to the circumstances of drownings (ie. Bath, Private Pool etc.) has been discontinued. For precise information in this regard see the Annual Report of the Water Safety Council.

(16) OTHER ACCIDENTS

This section consists of information from hand tallies for the period 1/1/81 - 30/6/81 and information from computerised collection for period 1/7/81 - 30/12/81. Because of differences in the two collections some categories of the circumstances refer only to the general nature of the accident.

CIRCUMSTANCES

	<u>INQUEST HELD</u>	<u>INQUEST DISPENSED WITH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>A. FALLS</u>			
Drunken	2	5	7
Over balcony	-	1	1
At work	-	1	1
From train	-	3	3
From bus	-	1	1
From building	1	3	4
From ladder	-	1	1
From roof	-	1	1
Whilst walking	5	6	11
Down stairs	-	7	7
In bathroom	-	1	1
In shed	-	1	1
From chair	-	1	1
Epileptic	-	1	1
Fall from garbage truck	-	1	1
Over cliff on bike	-	1	1
Whilst boarding ferry	-	1	1
From tree whilst pruning	-	1	1
From scaffolding	-	2	2
From chair-fixing light bulb	-	1	1
Fall (unknown)	<u>5</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>32</u>
	13	67	80
<u>B. BURNS</u>			
House on fire	1	2	3
Bath	1	1	2
Radiator	-	2	2
Set fire to self	-	1	1
Machine exploded	2	-	2
Burn (unknown)	<u>3</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>
	7	18	25
<u>C. SUFFOCATION</u>			
Smoke from fire in house	-	2	2
Buried whilst digging trench	-	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	0	3	3
<u>D. INJURIES</u>			
Crushed by truck	1	-	1
Hit by train	3	9	12
Other	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
	5	13	18
<u>E. AT FACTORY OR SHIP</u>			
Run over by front end loader	-	1	1
Cut into two by flying disc	-	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	0	2	2

OTHER ACCIDENTS (CONTINUED)

	<u>INQUEST FIELD</u>	<u>INQUEST DISPENSED WITH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
F. <u>GASSED</u>			
Gas left on and not ignited	3	8	11
Gassing from car	-	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>3</u>	9	12
G. <u>ELECTROCUTION</u>			
Vehicle in contact with over head lines	-	1	1
Working at home	-	2	2
Faulty extension cord	-	1	1
Attempt to correct a light	-	1	1
Inhalation of vomitus	1	-	1
Electrocution (unknown)	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
	3	9	12
H. <u>FOOD</u>			
Choking	2	3	5
I. <u>OTHERS</u>			
Poisoning	6	9	15
Following medical operation	2	-	2
Scaffolding collapsed	2	-	2
Asphyxia	2	4	6
Gunshot wound to head	2	-	2
Blood loss from fight	1	-	1
Hit by mooring rope	1	-	1
Struck by fork lift truck	1	-	1
Crushed by machinery	1	-	1
Respiratory failure	-	1	1
Drowning	1	2	3
Motor vehicle	<u>1</u>	-	<u>1</u>
	20	16	36

THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO INFORMATION COLLECTED UNDER THIS CATEGORY (OTHER ACCIDENTS) FROM 1/7/81 TO 30/12/81 NOW AVAILABLE BECAUSE OF COMPUTERISATION.

J. <u>SEX</u>			
Male	17	50	67
Female	<u>8</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>34</u>
	25	76	101
K. <u>AGE</u>			
to 12 years	1	7	8
13-19 years	6	8	14
20-29 years	5	10	15
30-39 years	1	6	7
40-49 years	2	1	3
50-59 years	2	7	9
60-69 years	4	20	24
70+	<u>4</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>21</u>
	25	76	101

OTHER ACCIDENTS (CONTINUED)

	<u>INQUEST HELD</u>	<u>INQUEST DISPENSED WITH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
L. <u>BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVEL</u>			
Nil (incl. children)	8	27	35
Up to 0.05	0	0	0
0.05 to 0.155	3	7	10
0.156 to 0.225	2	4	6
0.226 +	2	7	9
Not known	<u>10</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>41</u>
	25	76	101
M. <u>OCCUPATION</u>			
Professional	-	-	-
Semi-professional	0	1	1
Skilled	1	19	20
Unskilled	4	7	11
Student	4	7	11
Pensioner	11	32	43
Domestic duties	2	5	7
Unemployed	1	3	4
Not known	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
	25	76	101

---



TRAFFIC ACCIDENT DEATHS

STATUS	DRIVER			PASSENGER			MOTOR CYCLE RIDER			PILLION PASSENGER			PEDAL CYCLF PEDESTRIAN OR SCOOTER RIDER			TOTAL									
	SEX	AGE	ALCOHOL <sup>1</sup>	IH	IDW	TOT	IH	IDW	TOT	IH	IDW	TOT	IH	IDW	TOT	IH	IDW	TOT							
																			MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL				
				10	57	67	7	15	22	15	30	45	1	1	2	3	6	9	32	45	77	68	154	222	
				4	16	20	13	5	18	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	1	13	21	33	43	76	
				0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	4	6	8	10	11	21	
				5	10	15	6	12	18	4	11	15	1	1	2	1	1	3	4	4	6	10	22	40	
				3	29	32	3	5	8	10	14	24	1	2	3	1	0	1	3	6	9	21	56	77	
				2	13	15	0	0	0	1	3	4	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	5	19	24
				1	9	10	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	12	7	16	23
				3	3	6	4	2	6	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	12	11	15	26
				0	5	5	3	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	20	14	15	29
				0	4	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	11	19	30	11	25	36
				14	73	87	20	20	40	16	30	46	2	2	4	4	16	10	45	66	110	100	197	298	
				2	5	7	8	0	8	2	2	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	7	13	20	20	20	40
				3	9	12	2	2	4	3	5	8	0	0	0	2	3	5	5	10	16	26	20	35	55
				0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	0	3	5	2	7
				1	3	4	1	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	4	6	10
				1	11	12	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4	12	16
				0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	4	5
				7	31	38	12	2	14	7	10	17	1	0	1	3	4	7	24	32	56	54	79	133	
				2	6	8	4	0	4	2	4	6	0	1	1	0	1	1	9	8	17	17	20	37	
				3	11	14	3	6	9	5	7	12	0	0	0	1	1	2	10	12	22	22	37	59	
				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
				2	13	15	1	12	13	1	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	7	7	5	36	41
				0	9	9	0	0	0	1	3	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	4	4	2	16	18
				0	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	1	9	10
				7	42	49	8	18	26	9	20	29	1	2	3	1	2	3	21	34	55	47	118	165	
				TOTAL																					

1) Hand tallied from 1/1/81 to 30/6/81 2) From 1/7/81 to 31/12/81

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 given for a few fours will result in a lower reading and in fact may result in a nil reading.