

**Table 4 Direct causes of sudden death according to death certificates (2000 to 2005)**

Rank	Direct cause	No. of cases (n = 223)	%
1	Cardiovascular disease	132	59.2
	<i>Coronary artery disease including acute myocardial infarction</i>	49	22.0
	<i>Hypertension</i>	38	17.0
	<i>Stroke</i>	16	7.2
	<i>Cardiogenic shock</i>	16	7.2
	<i>Life-threatening cardiac arrhythmia</i>	13	5.8
2	Respiratory disease	55	24.7
	<i>Pneumonia</i>	29	13.0
	<i>Respiratory failure</i>	6	2.7
	<i>Bronchial asthma</i>	4	1.8
	<i>Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease</i>	4	1.8
3	Diabetes mellitus	53	23.8
4	Liver disease	52	23.3
5	Infectious disease	45	20.2
6	Renal disease	37	16.6
7	Congenital anomaly	36	16.1
8	Cancer	36	16.1
9	Prematurity	28	12.6
10	Neuropsychiatric disease	10	4.5
11	Haematological disease including sickle-cell disease and haemophilia	5	2.2
12	Immunological disorder including systemic lupus erythematosus and rheumatoid arthritis	5	2.2