i. Five principal causes of death

- Ischaemic heart diseases remained as the principal causes of death

Ischaemic heart diseases remained as the principal causes of death, 17.0 per cent of the 109,155 medically certified deaths in 2020. This was followed by Pneumonia (11.4%), Cerebrovascular diseases (8.3%), Transport accidents (2.9%) and Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung (2.5%).
ii. Five principal causes of death by sex

- **Ischaemic heart diseases remained as the principal causes of death for males**

  Ischaemic heart diseases remained as the principal causes of death for males at 19.3 per cent of the 65,918 medically certified deaths in 2020. This was followed by Pneumonia (11.1%), Cerebrovascular diseases (7.7%), Transport accidents (4.1%) and Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung (2.8%).

- **Ischaemic heart diseases become the principal causes of death for females**

  Ischaemic heart diseases became the principal causes of death for females at 13.4 per cent of the 43,237 medically certified deaths in 2020. This was followed by Pneumonia (11.7%), Cerebrovascular diseases (9.3%), Malignant neoplasm of breast (4.5%) and Diabetes mellitus (2.5%). Previously, Pneumonia was the principal causes of death for females.
### iii. Five principal causes of death by stratum

The principal causes of death in urban and rural areas in 2020 was Ischaemic heart diseases at 17.2 per cent and 16.5 per cent, respectively. Ischaemic heart diseases become the principal causes of death in rural areas starting 2018 after Pneumonia was the principal causes of death in 2015 to 2017.

#### Urban

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ischaemic heart diseases</td>
<td>Ischaemic heart diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebrovascular diseases</td>
<td>Cerebrovascular diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport accidents</td>
<td>Transport accidents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung</td>
<td>Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Rural

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ischaemic heart diseases</td>
<td>Ischaemic heart diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebrovascular diseases</td>
<td>Cerebrovascular diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport accidents</td>
<td>Transport accidents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic lower respiratory diseases</td>
<td>Chronic lower respiratory diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
iv. Five principal causes of death by major ethnic group

- **Ischaemic heart diseases remained as the principal causes of death for Bumiputera**

  Ischaemic heart diseases remained as the principal causes of death for Bumiputera at 16.6 per cent of the 69,612 medically certified deaths in 2020. This was followed by Pneumonia (11.1%), Cerebrovascular diseases (9.1%), Transport accidents (3.2%) and Chronic lower respiratory diseases (2.4%).

- **Ischaemic heart diseases remained as the principal causes of death for Chinese**

  Ischaemic heart diseases remained as the principal causes of death for Chinese at 16.0 per cent of the 27,216 medically certified deaths in 2020. This was followed by Pneumonia (12.1%), Cerebrovascular diseases (7.3%), Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung (3.9%) and Malignant neoplasm of colon, rectum and anus (3.3%).

- **Ischaemic heart diseases remained as the principal causes of death for Indians**

  Ischaemic heart diseases remained as the principal causes of death for Indians at 22.8 per cent of the 9,598 medically certified deaths in 2020. This was followed by Pneumonia (10.7%), Cerebrovascular diseases (6.0%), Transport accidents (4.3%) and Diseases of the liver (2.9%).

v. Five principal causes of death for maternal

- **Obstetric embolism recorded as the principal causes of death for maternal**

  Obstetric embolism was recorded as the principal causes of death for maternal in 2020 at 18.8 per cent followed by Postpartum haemorrhage (16.2%), Gestational [pregnancy-induced] hypertension with significant proteinuria (6.8%), Ectopic pregnancy (6.0%) and Eclampsia (6.0%).
vi. Five principal causes of death for infant

- Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period remained as the principal causes of death for infant in 2020 at 43.7 per cent followed by Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities (32.4%), Pneumonia (2.3%), Cerebrovascular diseases (0.6%) and Diseases of the liver (0.5%).
### 10 Principal Causes of Death 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ischaemic heart diseases</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebrovascular diseases</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport accidents</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic lower respiratory diseases</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignant neoplasm of colon, rectum and anus</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertensive diseases</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignant neoplasm of breast</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** 18,515

- Ischaemic heart diseases (68.6%) 12,707
- Transport accidents (31.4%) 5,808

### The principal causes of death by age group

- Transport accidents 0-14 years: 3.0%
- Transport accidents 15-49 years: 16.8%
- Ischaemic heart diseases 41-59 years: 20.0%
- Ischaemic heart diseases 60 years and over: 18.0%

### The causes of death due to Ischaemic heart diseases by major ethnic group

- Bumiputra: 16.6%
- Chinese: 16.0%
- Indians: 22.8%

### The principal causes of maternal death

- Obstetric embolism: 18.8%

**Note:** The analysis is based on medically certified causes of death.

**Source:** Statistics on Causes of Death, Malaysia, 2021, Department of Statistics Malaysia
Top 3 Administrative Districts death due to Ischaemic heart diseases

**JOHOR**
- Johor Bahru: 601
- Batu Pahat: 346
- Muar: 294

**KEDAH**
- Kuah Muda: 437
- Kota Setar: 339
- Kulim: 299

**KELANTAN**
- Kota Bharu: 443
- Pasir Mas: 234
- Tumpat: 211

**MELAKA**
- Melaka Tengah: 458
- Jasin: 168
- Alor Gajah: 133

**NEGERI SEMBILAN**
- Seremban: 381
- Port Dickson: 127
- Jempol: 120

**PAHANG**
- Kuantan: 247
- Temerloh: 116
- Bentong: 127

**PERAK**
- Kinta: 790
- Larut & Matang: 406
- Hilir Perak: 257

**PULAU PINANG**
- Timur Laut: 460
- S.P. Tongah: 284
- S.P. Utara: 262

**SABAH**
- Sandakan: 82
- Tawau: 62
- Kota Kinabalu: 61

**SARAWAK**
- Kuching: 192
- Mei: 97
- Sibu: 90

**SELANGOR**
- Petaling: 769
- Ulu Langat: 496
- Klang: 401

**TERENGGANU**
- Besut: 156
- Kemaman: 116
- K. Terengganu: 140

**PERLIS**
- Permatang: 120

**W.P. KUALA LUMPUR**
- Kuala Lumpur: 984

**W.P. LABUAN**
- Labuan: 27

**W.P. PUTRAJAYA**
- Putrajaya: 37

Source: Statistics on Causes of Death, Malaysia, 2021, Department of Statistics Malaysia