

2.4.1 Table 2.3A represents the top 10 leading causes of deaths in the country for the period 2021-2023. Overall, the leading cause of deaths is cardiovascular disease (31.0%) followed by respiratory infections (9.3%) and Malignant and other Neoplasms (6.4%). The proportion of deaths due to Malignant and other neoplasm is higher in females i.e. 6.9% vis-à-vis 6.0% than in males. Notable differences by gender are seen with digestive diseases accounting for 6.7 percentage proportion of male deaths against 3.2 percentage proportion for female deaths and ill-defined/all other symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings accounting for 13.4 percent of female deaths versus 8.5 percent of male deaths. Chart 13 shows the top 10 causes of deaths in the Country during 2021-23.

Table 2.3A – Top 10 Causes of Deaths in India: 2021-2023

Rank	Cause of Death	Proportion of death		
		Male	Female	Person
1	Cardiovascular diseases	32.4	29.1	31.0
2	Respiratory infections	8.9	9.9	9.3
3	Malignant and other Neoplasms	6.0	6.9	6.4
4	Respiratory diseases	5.6	6.0	5.7
5	Digestive diseases	6.7	3.2	5.3
6	Fever of unknown origin	4.1	6.0	4.9
7	Unintentional injuries: Other Than Motor Vehicle Accidents	3.8	3.6	3.7
8	Diabetes mellitus	3.1	4.1	3.5
9	Genito-urinary diseases	3.3	2.6	3.0
10	Ill-defined/All other symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings	8.5	13.4	10.5
	All Other Remaining Causes	17.6	15.2	16.6

Note: Symptoms, Signs and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory Findings Not Elsewhere Classified (NEC) (R00-R99) are causes which can't be properly diagnosed. So, it may not be considered as the second leading cause group.