

**Table 3 Ten leading causes of death in females by country income group, 2004**

World					Low-income countries				
Rank	Cause	Deaths (000s)	%		Rank	Cause	Deaths (000s)	%	
1	Ischaemic heart disease	3371	12.2		1	Lower respiratory infections	1397	11.4	
2	Stroke	3051	11.1		2	Ischaemic heart disease	1061	8.7	
3	Lower respiratory infections	2014	7.3		3	Diarrhoeal diseases	851	7.0	
4	COPD*	1405	5.1		4	Stroke	749	6.1	
5	Diarrhoeal diseases	1037	3.8		5	HIV/AIDS	742	6.1	
6	HIV/AIDS	1013	3.7		6	Maternal conditions	442	3.6	
7	Diabetes mellitus	633	2.3		7	Neonatal infections**	426	3.5	
8	Prematurity and low birth weight	567	2.1		8	Prematurity and low birth weight	405	3.3	
9	Neonatal infections**	546	2.0		9	Malaria	404	3.3	
10	Hypertensive heart disease	530	1.9		10	COPD*	404	3.3	

  

Middle-income countries					High-income countries				
Rank	Cause	Deaths (000s)	%		Rank	Cause	Deaths (000s)	%	
1	Stroke	1842	16.4		1	Ischaemic heart disease	650	15.8	
2	Ischaemic heart disease	1659	14.8		2	Stroke	459	11.2	
3	COPD*	875	7.8		3	Alzheimer and other dementias	195	4.7	
4	Lower respiratory infections	451	.0		4	Lower respiratory infections	165	4.0	
5	Hypertensive heart disease	319	2.8		5	Breast cancer	163	4.0	
6	Diabetes mellitus	309	2.8		6	Trachea, bronchus and lung cancers	159	3.9	
7	HIV/AIDS	264	2.4		7	Colon and rectum cancers	130	3.2	
8	Breast cancer	231	2.1		8	COPD*	126	3.1	
9	Stomach cancer	201	1.8		9	Diabetes mellitus	123	3.0	
10	Trachea, bronchus and lung cancers	191	1.7		10	Hypertensive heart disease	91	2.2	

\*Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

\*\*Includes severe neonatal infections and other non-infectious causes arising in the perinatal period.

Source: World Health Organization.<sup>1</sup>